

INVESTIGATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS DURING THE YEAR

I. REPORTS ON EXCAVATIONS SUPPORTED BY THE SOCIETY

Interim Report by Mr. A. P. Detsicas, M.A., F.S.A., on the Excavations at the Eccles Roman Villa.

The seventh season of work, on behalf of the Eccles Excavation Committee, was begun last Easter and completed at the end of October; work was undertaken every week-end and for a continuous fortnight in August when a training course, attracting many people from all over the country and abroad, was conducted in conjunction with the Kent Archaeological Society.

The work was financially supported by the Kent Archaeological Society, the Society of Antiquaries of London, the Haverfield Bequest of the University of Oxford, and by private donations. This year's work was concentrated in the area of the villa's living quarters and results may provisionally be summarized as follows:

(i) It is now established that the original house (Period IV, c. A.D. 65-120) may have been provided with a corridor along its north-eastern façade and, very likely, along its south-western frontage as well. Several rooms of this building have now been recorded, all laid with tessellated pavements.

(ii) In Period V (c. A.D. 120-180) a corridor, in part at least laid with a tessellated floor, was constructed at a higher level over the presumed earlier one along the south-west front of the house; this corridor will clearly turn to front the south-eastern wing of the villa which awaits excavation.

(iii) Another and more substantial corridor was laid in Period VI (c. A.D. 180-290) at the back of the villa and over the earlier one; this corridor, too, had been laid with a tessellated floor, of alternating strips of red and buff *tesserae*.

(iv) Occupation of the villa in the fourth century A.D. was known from pottery, coins and some structures post-dating Period VI and recovered in earlier seasons of work. This year, it was confirmed that the villa had undergone further modifications in Period VII (*post c. A.D. 290*) when the north-eastern corridor was subdivided into several rooms by the construction of partition walls across its tessellated floor (it is worth noting that several lumps of mosaic were found deposited as hard core in the bedding trenches for these partition walls); one of these rooms had been provided with an E-shaped channel hypocaust

serviced by a furnace to its south-east. A coin of late third-century date was found embedded in the wall of this stokehole and some 65 coins, ranging from c. A.D. 250-380, in the soot and ashes it contained.

(v) Further modifications at the extreme eastern limit of the excavated area, consisting of a room with an apsidal recess laid with *opus signinum*, suggest yet another period in the history of the villa.

(vi) A system of ditches, mostly of pre-Roman date, is still under investigation.

Training Course

A training course in Romano-British Archaeology was conducted between 27th July and 11th August, 1968, at the site of the Roman villa at Eccles. It was jointly organized by the Kent Archaeological Society and the Eccles Excavation Committee and directed by Mr. A. P. Detsicas, M.A., F.S.A., assisted by Mr. A. C. Harrison, B.A., and Mr. I. J. Bissett.

The course attracted many people not only from this country but also from abroad, and it was solely due to the lack of suitable local accommodation that only thirty-six members could be accepted from rather more than one hundred firm enquiries received.

Besides training in excavation techniques and background talks at noon and in the evenings on the recording of the evidence, electric resistivity surveying, coarse pottery and samian ware, small finds and site lay-out, a panel of visiting lecturers, including Lt.-Col. G. W. Meates, F.S.A., and Messrs. J. E. L. Caiger, R. G. Foord and P. J. Tester, F.S.A., lectured on Christianity in Roman Britain, archaeological surveying, site photography, the Eccles Roman villa, pre-historic and Iron Age Kent, Romano-British Kent, and Kent in the post-Roman period. The course also visited the Roman fort at Richborough, and Canterbury Museum, Maidstone Museum, the city of Rochester, Lullingstone Roman villa and the Roman site at Springhead.

Both the Kent Archaeological Society and the Eccles Excavation Committee are grateful for the combined efforts of many people who made this course such an outstanding success.

Interim Report by Mr. J. H. Parfitt on the Excavations at Leigh, near Tonbridge.

This is the third season of excavation in the moated enclosure at Moat Farm, Leigh (N.G.R. TQ555466). Work began in January to complete the excavations on the northern third of the site so that the land could be returned to agricultural use. Fortunately, the mild dry weather experienced from January to March permitted work on most

week-ends, and in fact, these proved to be better conditions than those experienced during the season proper. The rough stone footings indicate a timber-frame building 21 ft. by 45 ft. lying approximately east-west and parallel to the moat. Three outer walls are clearly defined, but only slight traces of the footings of the fourth wall are found. The building was divided into three bays of approximately 15 ft., the divisions being indicated by four substantial flat stones, each 5 ft. inside the outer walls, which presumably supported the main timber uprights for the roof. The western bay probably had a solar floor as there are here two further flat support stones across the interior—not matched across the interior of the eastern bay. The building had a tiled hipped roof. The very considerable finds of pottery fragments (late thirteenth to fourteenth century) together with cooking refuse suggest that the building was for human habitation, although it is almost certainly not the main building on the site. The pottery consists mainly of cooking pots and dishes and jugs of the West Kent type, with some fragments of green-glaze pottery. The potsherds are similar to those recently found at excavations (of the same period) at Fawkham and at Glottenham, near Robertsbridge.

In the summer, work was begun on the eastern central area of the site, where partial excavations were carried out a few years ago. This has revealed stone footings of walls of a similar kind to those described above and the pottery finds are of the same period. The building here, however, appears to be more irregular in shape and by the end of the season had been only partly uncovered. The footings of this part of the site are only a few inches below the surface although they appear to have suffered surprisingly little disturbance.

II. REPORTS FROM LOCAL SECRETARIES AND GROUPS

Ashford

Ashford Archæological Society Excavations Group. Mr. J. Bradshaw reports:

Aldington

Mesolithic. The whole area noted below as Romano-British and centred on N.G.R. TR07480376 has a scatter of flint implements, Mesolithic in form, and struck from small Tertiary pebbles. Finds include hollow, discoidal, and end-scrapers, broken blades and two points. *Romano-British.* Deep ploughing of a field at Knoll Farm during 1968 revealed differences in soil colour, and Mr. F. Newington, of 'Blue Haze', Aldington, reported the finding of broken pottery. Several sherds were identified as first- and second-century Roman coarse ware, and the area was systematically searched. Probing in the original find-spot area at N.G.R. TR07453465 gave no indications of buildings and a test-hole

showed only a layer of darker soil with charcoal, vegetable matter and sherds. This stratum was $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick at a depth of 1 ft. A black soil patch at N.G.R. TR07383458 may have been the corner of a rubbish pit containing pieces of bones, an iron spike, and two sherds of second-century ware. Occasional sherds are to be found over the whole 18 acres of the field.

Boughton Aluph

The Rev. Dr. S. G. Brade-Birks was presented some years ago with a stone implement which was found in the vicinity of the spring, in the south-west corner of the moat at Buckwell, N.G.R. TR032482. It is a Mesolithic mace-head of pink quartzite, made from a pebble 3 in. long, $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. wide, and almost 1 in. thick. The perforation is of the 'hour-glass' category, the diameter of the central hole being $\frac{1}{2}$ in., and the outer edges of the hole on both sides 1 in. Both ends of the implement are slightly bruised from hammering, but as it was found in 1909 and not presented to Dr. Brade-Birks until 1959, it may possibly have suffered this damage during those years. A similarly perforated pebble, now in the Beane Institute, Canterbury, was found on the surface of a field at Tophill Farm, Lenham, N.G.R. TQ907536 by Mr. J. Witherden in 1946.

Brook

A Witch-Bottle. During alterations to a large open fireplace at Yew Tree House, Brook, during 1966, workmen found a bottle buried upright beneath the floor of the hearth at the right-hand side of the fire. The bottle was taken out, and when cleaned, was found to contain what the owners, Mr. and Mrs. R. Green, describe as 'dark, fine ash, unrelated to the compact grey soil that adhered to the outside'. No seal or plug was present in the mouth of the bottle. The bottle is a mottled stoneware vessel of the 'Bellarmine' group, and the face of the mask narrow, with wide-open eyes, prominent moustache, the lips parted. The beard is narrow and the end convex, giving an amiable expression to the mask in general rather than the grotesque examples of early and mid-sixteenth-century types. In the centre of the body of the bottle and below the mask is a medallion $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. in diameter, encircled by a wide band of simulated rope, of which design the medallion is quartered in the shape of a St. Andrew's cross. The left quarter contains what might be an unfinished Gothic small letter 'a', the top a crescent-moon on its back, and the right a reversed capital letter 'E', stylized in form with five horizontal strokes. The bottom quarter is chipped but appears to be a group of nine dots roughly in the shape of a triangle or irregular capital letter 'A'. Obviously not a coat-of-arms or an heraldic figure, the medallion is described in full in the hope that should it be a merchant's mark, further examples might be noted in similar circumstances.

In the absence of evidence to indicate a Rhenish origin for the bottle, its shape and decoration are in keeping with *Holmes' Type IX*, probably manufactured in this country by the firm of Rous and Cullen, in imitation of the continental types. A tentative dating is between 1660 and 1680, Mr. J. E. L. Caiger favouring the earlier date, a drawing and description having been submitted to him; his opinion is much appreciated. The superstitious practice of burying bottles containing personal effects beneath the hearth or doorstep of the house in which an afflicted person dwelt is believed to have been a common practice, but actual instances of this form of 'sympathetic magic' are rare in Kent, as noted by Mr. E. Tilley in *Arch. Cant.*, lxxx, pp. 252-6. The bottle is retained by Mr. Green, who is a member of the Kent Archæological Society, and to whom we are indebted for permission to publish this note.

Challock Forest

Work has continued on the survey of existing woods and plantations belonging to the Forestry Commission and neighbouring land-owners, to plot areas which may be of archæological interest. During the last two years particular success has been met with in the area of Lyminge and Denge Wood, where probable bowl-barrows have been found in the parishes of Crundale, Chartham, Elham and Petham, a total of eight in all. Due to vandalism, two barrows in the woods, whose whereabouts were published, have been completely spoiled, and as a matter of policy it is not intended to publish grid references of new sites. This also applies to a probable long-barrow in a wood that has been placed under a preservation order, and two areas in the Forest of Blean, one an iron-working site and the other a travelling earthwork which may be Belgic in origin. The author will conduct members of the Kent Archæological Society around them if requested.

Godmersham

Variations in the soil structure at 'Salterfen', Canterbury Road, induced the Ashford Archæological Society to cut a trench at right-angles to the work carried out in 1966 (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxxi, p. liii). This strictly limited excavation led to the finding of a second contracted inhumation burial unaccompanied by grave-goods and therefore of uncertain date. The skeleton was laid in a shallow hole 3 in. deep, on its spine, the knees drawn up tightly towards the chin. After burial a group of unworked flints had been placed across the lower part of the face, and the corpse had been almost completely covered with a shell of compacted chalk.

Stouting

During the winter of 1967-68 extensive bulldozing took place in the area N.G.R. TR123426, described by Mr. R. Jessup, F.S.A., as 'occupied by a series of banks and ditches of a puzzling nature' (*Archæology of Kent*, pp. 160-1). Whatever the origins, no evidence was found that would give an indication of their purpose, but several large holes in the chalk hillside may have served as quarries for material to make up the adjacent public road. The incidence of flint flakes and scrapers of Neolithic-Bronze Age types was no greater than in the surrounding fields.

London Borough of Bexley

Mr. P. J. Tester, F.S.A., reports:

The intended road-widening through North Cray (A223) will regrettably necessitate the demolition of several old houses and cottages. Last December I had the opportunity of investigating the interior of one of them (N.G.R. TQ48817229) and found that underlying all the modern accretions it was basically a very complete and instructive example of a medieval four-bay timber hall-house. Bexley Borough Council, who had previously purchased the property for demolition, took a keen interest in the discovery, and after the ancient features had been revealed by internal stripping, undertaken in January by voluntary labour, the Council agreed to have the house carefully dismantled with a view to its re-erection elsewhere in its original form. It is hoped that it will eventually stand on a new site in the grounds of Hall Place where it could form a show-place and museum of medieval social life. Dismantling has taken place this autumn (1968) under the direction of Mr. John Warren, M.Litt., A.R.I.B.A., and myself. All the timbers have been numbered and placed in store until funds are available for the reconstruction. It is gratifying to record the enlightened action of the Local Authority in this matter, but disquieting to observe that the house had never been included in the Ministry of Housing and Local Government list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. There are grounds for thinking that the building may date from the end of the fourteenth century.

In Foots Cray the threatened destruction of a Wealden-type hall-house, now known as 'Tudor Cottages', has been prevented. As the result of a public enquiry held at Sidcup on 26th September, 1967, the Minister of Housing and Local Government confirmed a Building Preservation Order made three months earlier by the G.L.C., and dismissed an appeal against it by the owners who wished to demolish and build shops and flats on the site.

Mr. J. E. L. Caiger reports:

During the unusually heavy rainfall of the 14th and 15th September, 1968, eight partially filled-up denehole shafts reopened in the gardens of properties situated in Baldwyn's Park, Bexley, an area formerly known as Stankey Wood. One of these recently opened deneholes was examined and surveyed on 27th October and found to be similar to that illustrated and described in *Arch. Cant.*, lxiv, p. 153.

At the end of the last century, F. C. J. Spurrell examined and also surveyed all the open shafts in Stankey Wood. His plan, published in 1882, shows 21 such shafts and many others which had fallen in and were left as deep depressions in the ground. He states in his accompanying paper how inexpertly these deneholes were filled up at that time due to labourers being unfamiliar with the large cavern space below. Since 1882, in excessively wet weather conditions other unrecorded denehole shafts have opened. The present recorded total now exceeds 40 in this built-up residential part of Bexley. A large cluster of underground caves formerly existed at Cavey Springs just half a mile away; these deneholes, unlike those at Baldwyn's Park, have now been carefully located and solidly filled against any possible collapse in the future (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxxii (1967), p. lviii).

Crambrook, Tenterden and Benenden

Mrs. M. C. Lebon, M.A., reports:

For several months during the cutting of a gas-main trench across the west end of Tenterden frequent visits were made to inspect for archaeological interest, but nothing significant was discovered. In particular, the Roman road between St. Michael's and Brown's Corner was not revealed. Nor could it be found by means of the Society's resistivity meter which was used over several fields where Mr. I. D. Margary has traced it. In such situations the slag or stones of an old road are likely to have been scattered by the plough long ago. The search was therefore turned to a stretch of green lane between hedges, no longer passable by vehicles, which lies west of a large millpond and once served the now vanished mill.

With permission of the Kent County Council's Roads Department, the writer, assisted by Mr. Malcolm Dunstall and other volunteers from Tenterden and Benenden, made several trial excavations across the track at N.G.R. TQ864349. A full section was made and recorded at a point about 150 yards from the entrance to Reighton Wood, where the pathway is on more or less level ground before the descent to the mill site. Here, immediately under the turf, the excavation cut through a road 8 ft. 10 in. wide, between 2 and 6 in. deep, and composed of beach pebbles. Such was the normal road material used locally in the eighteenth century, according to the Tenterden Surveyors' Accounts.

This road overlay a soil accumulation of depth varying between 3 and 7 in. Beneath was a layer of bloomery slag 2 to 5 in. deep and extending to a width of 10 ft. 8 in. The 3-ft. wide trench revealed a divergence of about 18 degrees in the alignments of the Roman road and the mill road. This may explain why a trench cut in another position further east, where the track begins to descend, showed only the mill road material and no underlying slag. Presumably the Roman crossing of the stream was not at the mill site and may well have been at a point now covered by the very large pond, Breeches Pond. Further evidence would lie to the north in an adjoining field, if not already destroyed by ploughing.

Resistivity work to detect a buried road was also undertaken in Benenden at various points between Hemsted and the Roman ford at Iden Green; but the records did not produce a meaningful pattern. In places where the road is most likely to have remained intact there are usually obstructions which impede the setting up of the apparatus when used in the recommended way to record traverses across a linear feature. Moreover, it may well be that a resistivity meter does not perform well on Wadhurst clay and is a more useful instrument in districts which have lighter soils.

Dartford

Mr. H. J. Balls reports:

The phenomenal rainfall of 15th September caused several deno-holes to be visible and these were examined and recorded by Mr. J. E. L. Caiger. The historic mansion, Sutton Place, at Sutton-at-Hone, was demolished, but Mr. M. Tallents and Dr. P. H. G. Draper kept a careful scrutiny of the demolition. They discovered (and preserved) a Tudor window of the earlier building and fragments of similar ones. The oldest relic was a piece of a late fourteenth- or early fifteenth-century tile. Both prior to and during the demolition they made a complete photographic record of the building.

Edenbridge

Mr. J. C. Irwin reports:

A very successful exhibition entitled *Edenbridge in History* was organized by Edenbridge and District Historical Society, between 7th and 14th April, at the Primary School Hall, Edenbridge. More than 2,000 paid to attend the exhibition, and a report on its scope, organization and finances is published under the title 'Exhibiting Parish History' in the *Parish Councils' Review*, summer issue, 1968.

Edenbridge and District Historical Society has been invited by the Ministry of Public Building and Works to submit a draft survey of

houses of historic interest in the area, to be used by them as a starting-point for the revision of the list of scheduled buildings.

Gravesend. Shorne

Mr. A. F. Allen reports:

During repair work at Shorne Church, an underground system of heating by brick ducts was found. This was quite extensive, and so far as enquiry and investigation can trace, it is in fact only a nineteenth-century system; but it is recorded here for future reference.

Springhead

The late Mr. W. S. Penn, B.Sc., reported:

One of the most important features of the excavations in 1968 was the study of the main road (R1—Map of Springhead) through the town. This is a well-metalled road on a substantial flint *agger*. There appears to be a continuous ditch on the south side of it in which was found two ox-skulls and one horse-skull and many third/fourth-century coins, apart from the usual pottery.

The north side of the road was particularly interesting. There is a substantial flint kerb alongside it and traces of a footpath behind it. Two large, lined depressions, possibly to contain water for animals, had been dug beside it as well as several aligned, flint-lined post-holes. It is difficult to be sure yet whether or not these represent a portico by the side of the road or part of a building.

In the 'agricultural' area another corn-drying kiln has been found. Further excavation next year will determine the type, but it is well made with bricks which have been subjected to intense heat.

A puzzling 'working area' is also being excavated nearby. It contains considerable amounts of iron slag (with furnace-brick clinging to some of it) and yet the furnace itself has not been discovered. At the same time, several badly corroded bronze objects have been discovered in the slag area and give the impression that bronze-working took place there. Nevertheless, there is no sign of any fragment of a crucible. Work will continue in the area.

The other important find was another stratified Belgic coin. This was under the Roman levels and we are exploring a large ditch in the vicinity. We may be very near the long-sought-for Belgic settlement. Work will continue here until the area has been systematically examined.

Kent Archaeological Research Groups Council

Mr. M. A. Ocock, Hon. Sec., reports:

Mr. Norman Cook, B.A., V.P.S.A., was elected Chairman at the beginning of the year in succession to the late Mr. W. S. Penn, B.Sc.

Two new societies have been recently elected to the Council and the scope of the Council's activities continues to grow. The 92-page report by Mr. B. J. Philp on the Excavations at Faversham of the Royal Abbey, the Roman Villa and the Belgic farmstead, was published in May as the Council's first research report.

In March the fourth annual conference was held at Faversham and was attended by delegates from all parts of the County. Sir Thomas Neame opened the proceedings and speakers from several groups gave interesting reports on their recent work in the field. A gift of surveying equipment was received from Mr. Ronald Jessup, F.S.A., and a differential proton magnetometer was purchased with the aid of a grant from the Carnegie U.K. Trust.

The circulation of the *Kent Archaeological Review*, which is published quarterly, has continued to increase, and a panel of lecturers has been established to serve member groups. The emergency scheme has worked well and more gas pipelines have been surveyed following the receipt of routes from the South Eastern Gas Board. The Essay Award Scheme, designed to encourage the younger members of affiliated groups, is being extended, and other plans for the future include a comprehensive insurance scheme to cover member societies' field activities.

Orpington

Mrs. M. Bowen, B.A., reports:

The present site of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery in Orpington has now been fully excavated, bringing the total number of graves up to 70. Roman pottery and coins continue to appear in small quantities. The report of the first two years' work by Mr. P. J. Tester, F.S.A., appears in this volume. It may be possible to excavate further on an adjacent site at a later date.

A noteworthy coin found in Orpington should be recorded. The coin was found 20 years ago by Mr. N. Farrow near Footbury Hill in Orpington but it has only recently been identified. It is an *as* of the Roman Republic dating from about 100 B.C. with the head of Janus on the obverse and the prow of a ship on the reverse. Mr. Norman Cook, Director of the Guildhall Museum, reports that there is one other coin of this type known in Kent, found at Bluebell Hill, and now in Maidstone Museum.

Rochester

Mr. A. C. Harrison, B.A., reports:

A further excavation was carried out at the Common, Rochester, just to the east of the site reported in *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxii, with the main

objective of seeing whether the semicircular indentations observed last year in the concrete raft of the Roman city wall continued in that direction (N.G.R. TQ74286879). This proved not to be the case, however, and the feature remains an isolated phenomenon. A *denarius* of Marcus Aurelius, dated A.D. 161-165, was, however, found stratified in the wall-bank, and this, with pottery from the ground surface sealed under the bank, provides valuable dating evidence.

Trenches opened for gas-mains just north of Rochester Bridge were observed. Roman occupation debris was noted approximately 11 ft. below the present road level but no trace of any structural remains. One almost complete jar with an everted rim and lattice decoration, of fine, hard paste and polished fabric was recovered, which may be dated to the first half of the second century A.D. (see A. P. Detsicas 'An Iron Age and Romano-British Site at Stone Castle Quarry, Greenhithe', *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxi (1966), 165, No. 127, for a close parallel). Colonel E. T. L. Baker reports that this jar is kept in the Bridge Chamber, The Esplanade, Rochester, and can be inspected on request.

A double line of elm-wood piles, approximately 15 in. in diameter and 4 ft. apart, with a capping of ragstone slabs may have been part of a wharf of comparatively late date, as the piles had been driven through a late medieval tiled floor. The tiles, which measured 9 in. by 9 in., were plain with red, yellow, and black glaze. The position of the piles has been plotted, and also that of one pile on the Strood bank which was disclosed during a trial boring made between the Strood bridge approach and the disused railway viaduct.

Sidcup. Ruxley Church

Mr. P. J. Tester, F.S.A., reports:

The medieval church at Ruxley (N.G.R. TQ48537024), desecrated in 1557 and subsequently used as a barn, has been described by the late Mr. F. C. Elliston-Erwood, F.S.A., in *Arch. Cant.*, lx, p. 18. Lately the building has become seriously delapidated and various attempts to arouse official interest in its preservation have been unavailing despite the fact that it is scheduled as an Ancient Monument by the Ministry of Public Building and Works. A group known as The Archae-Numis Research and Development Club has recently been attempting repairs with the consent of the owners, Messrs. H. Evans & Sons Ltd. In the course of this they have excavated the interior with interesting results. The work has been sanctioned by the Ministry on condition that Lt.-Col. G. W. Meates, F.S.A., and myself act in a general supervisory capacity. The chalk and flint rubble footings of an earlier church have been revealed, occupying approximately the same site as the existing structure which is considered to date from the late thirteenth century.

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The earlier church is now shown to have consisted originally of an unaisled nave with a short, square-ended chancel, like numerous churches built in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. At a later period a south aisle, about 8 ft. wide internally, appears to have been added to the nave. This whole structure was levelled when the existing building was erected and only its north wall stands partly upon the older foundations.

As usual, the plan was somewhat irregular, but the main internal dimensions may be stated as follows:

Length of church	46 ft.
Nave	29 ft. by 18 ft.
Width of chancel	14 ft.

Generally the footings were about 3 ft. 4 in. thick, except for the west wall which was 4 ft. This west wall lay 10 ft. west of the corresponding wall of the existing building, measured from the outer face in both instances. The chancel showed a slight inclination to the north although certainly constructed at the same time as the nave. Several burials have come to light, two of which were partly overlaid by the early footings. They lay west-east and were presumably Christian burials associated with a still earlier church of which no direct evidence can now be traced. It may have been a pre-Conquest timber building. A plan and further details will be published in due course.

Stone-next-Faversham

Lt.-Col. G. W. Meates, F.S.A., reports:

A second season of excavation at the site of this ruined church was directed by the Rt. Hon. Sir Eric Fletcher, F.S.A., M.P., and the writer, from 1st June to 22nd September, 1968. The central portion having been proved as a result of last season's excavations to be of Roman date, work was directed to investigation of any evidence to demonstrate the existence of a Saxon building. This evidence was found. Compact chalk and flint foundations that had supported a wooden nave wall came to light beneath the medieval nave wall, and the wooden walls were found also to have been erected against the west face of the Roman building, while within the nave, and within the Roman building, traces of the Saxon floor-levels were recognized. The dating of this wooden nave is as yet uncertain, but the following finds were made of the Anglo-Saxon period:

- (1) A silver *sceatta*, dated A.D. 730-735. Found at Roman floor level within the Roman building.
- (2) An amber bead of truncated-pyramidal form, dated first half of the tenth century. Found at Saxon level within the nave.

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- (3) Sherds of Anglo-Saxon pottery, one of which has been dated to the fifth to sixth centuries, and was associated with the foundation of the wooden wall of the earlier nave.

An Anglo-Saxon nave of wood had been added to the Roman building, the latter providing the chancel during that period, and the finds suggest continuity. A third season of excavation will take place during the summer of 1969 to investigate the wooden nave and to solve the Anglo-Saxon problem. The work of members of the Sittingbourne and Swale, and the Faversham, Archæological Research Groups was much appreciated.

Thanet

Mr. D. G. Scurrall reports:

The Isle of Thanet Archæological Society and St. Peters and Broadstairs Societies have continued to function with increasing membership. Series of lectures and visits to places of special interest have been made and there has been continued interest shown.

The fund to restore Drapers Mill, Margate, has received support from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. The restoration of its smock and cap are in progress in 1968.

In Ramsgate a Civic Society is active in preserving Georgian buildings, and in Margate a similar society is being formed to encourage interest in Georgian and Regency buildings.

The demolition in Cecil Square area of Margate for redevelopment has revealed that buildings occupied the site before the Regency and Victorian development, and that Wellclose Square had been excavated to provide chalk for a lime-kiln nearby. A foundation stone, with a document embedded in it, dating from 1859, was found at the corner of Queen Street and High Street and mentioned an earlier building on that site.

Tunbridge Wells

Mrs. V. M. F. Desborough and Mrs. M. E. Davies, B.A., report:

The spring meeting of the Tunbridge Wells Branch of the Kent Archæological Society was held on 6th April, when Commander G. W. R. Harrison, Curator of Michelham Priory, Sussex, gave an informative and interesting talk, illustrated with slides, on Monastic Buildings.

The annual outing, on 14th August, was to Puttenden Manor, Edenbridge. The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Brian Thompson, kindly showed us through the timbered house, the main part of which dates from 1477. The middle portion, with its Horsham stone roof, was built in 1677 and a smaller back wing was added in 1905, using oak from the estate.

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Many of our Branch members were among the appreciative audience at the one-day Conference on The Weald, arranged jointly by Groups 11A and 11B of the Council for British Archaeology, at the Spa Hotel, Tunbridge Wells, on 5th October.

Membership of the Branch slightly increased during the year.

This is the last year in office of Mrs. V. M. F. Desborough, who has been secretary of the Branch since 1948, and who is retiring for various reasons. Mrs. M. E. Davies, B.A., who has been helping her for the last three years, will become Secretary from 1st January, 1969—her address is 14 Victoria Road, Southborough Common, Tunbridge Wells, and her telephone number is Tunbridge Wells 29857.

G. W. MEATES, Lt.-Col.,
General Secretary.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

CHARING

(i) A large Neolithic unpolished flint axe was found in July, 1967, by Sgt. B. Darnley in Thistledown Field at the top of Charing Hill (N.G.R. TQ971512) and kindly given by him to the museum (Acc. No. 59.1968). Length: 8 in.; max. width: $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.

(ii) A stone Neolithic polished adze was found by our member, Mr. V. J. Newbury (N.G.R. TQ916482) in February, 1968. Length: $4\frac{3}{8}$ in.; max. width: $2\frac{1}{16}$ in. Mr. Newbury kindly allowed the adze to be sectioned under the scheme run by the S.E. Federation of Museums. It was examined by Dr. F. S. Wallis and Mr. E. D. Evens, who identified the stone as a greenstone, but not attributable to one of the known groups. Their report was as follows: "A coarse-grained rock composed of fairly fresh plagioclase prisms with fibrous hornblende between them and very irregular grains of black iron ore scattered over the section." The county number of the adze is Kent 41.

CRANBROOK

In 1952 a magnificent curved flint blade, $9\frac{3}{8}$ in. long, was presented to the museum by Mr. R. Moxham and illustrated in the museum notes for that year,¹ where it was suggested that it might be of the Mesolithic period. Its size and pronounced triangular section, however, made this improbable and in a recent note² J. D. Cowen describes a similar, though shorter, "curved angle-flake" from Darlington. Such fabricators

¹ *Arch. Cant.*, lxx, 192.

² *Arch. Ael.*, 4th ser., xlv, 209-10 and pl. XIV.

PLATE I



B. S. Worthington
B. Frittenden, Romano-British urn. Height 15 in.



B. S. Worthington
A. Frittenden, Romano-British urn. Height 15½ in.

INVESTIGATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS DURING THE YEAR

or daggers—their use is uncertain—made from Grand Pressigny flint have a wide distribution in Northern France and the Channel Islands and, like the Darlington example, the Cranbrook blade is a local English imitation of these Pressigny daggers, datable to the Early Bronze Age.

FRITTENDEN

Through the good offices of our member, Mrs. M. C. Lebon, Frittenden Parochial Church Council have lent the two large urns (Plate I, A and B), previously kept in the vestry of Frittenden church, to the museum, where they are now displayed. The urns were discovered in 1857 or 1858 and drawings of them were exhibited by Mr. R. C. Hussey at a meeting of the Archæological Institute on 5th February, 1858.³ They were found in “a hole filled up with decayed vegetable matter” at a depth of about 15 ft. below the surface. This pit was said to be in part timber-lined and comparable to that found at Bekesbourne.⁴ It may have been a well or a shaft serving some sepulchral or ritual purpose. Two such large and narrow-mouthed jars would hardly have been used for drawing water or dropped into a well accidentally, but when Mrs. Lebon and I visited the site of the find in 1967 with the owner of the property we found that it was now a large pool of water, artificially formed during the landscaping of the grounds, so that there could have been a well on the site. Although the original account of the discovery does not mention it, the urns were probably discovered during the making of this artificial pool.

The urns are of dark grey ware, globular and with omphalos bases. They both have a single cordon at the junction of neck and shoulder and the smaller of the two (B) has traces of black burnishing on the neck and upper part of the shoulder. The larger urn is 15½ in. high and 15 in. in diameter, the smaller 15 in. high and 12 in. in diameter. They are enlarged versions of the globular pots with omphalos bases well known from the latter part of the Iron Age, like those in the museum from Barming and Maidstone. A third pot in the museum, from Plaxtol,⁵ was found among interments around the edge of a Romano-British barrow. Ward Perkins, in his paper ‘An Early Iron Age Site at Crayford, Kent’,⁶ illustrates the Maidstone and Plaxtol pots as examples of the omphalos-bowls with curvilinear decoration which he includes in his South-Eastern B complex. Unfortunately the vague description of the Plaxtol barrow site makes it impossible to be certain whether the pot was really secondary to the barrow and thus to

³ *Arch. J.*, xv, 165; *Arch. Cant.*, ix, pp. xc-xci.

⁴ *Arch. Cant.*, ii, 43-8.

⁵ *Arch. Cant.*, ii, 6.

⁶ *P.P.S.*, iv, 167 and figs. 10, 5 and 11, 3.

INVESTIGATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS DURING THE YEAR

ascertain its age. It seems likely that the Frittenden urns, of native descent, are to be dated early in the Roman period, to the first century A.D.⁷

The urns were discovered on the site of the pool shown on the O.S. map in Legg's Wood (N.G.R. TQ803405). This is about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile east of the Roman road from Rochester to Hastings and the find perhaps indicates that this route was opened fairly early in the Roman occupation.

MAIDSTONE

(i) A partly polished Neolithic axe, of grey mottled flint, was found in July, 1968, by Mr. F. A. Pooley on his allotment in Brishing Lane (N.G.R. TQ782518). Length: $5\frac{9}{16}$ in.; max. width: $2\frac{7}{8}$ in.

(ii) A tanged and barbed flint arrowhead was found in April, 1967, by Mr. D. Brunger on his allotment at the top of Old Loose Hill (N.G.R. TR758523).

MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

The museum has purchased the following Kent prehistoric antiquities from the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum (Acc. Nos. 51.1968 (a)-(d)):

(a) Bronze socketed axe, single loop; part of blade missing and rim damaged at the time of casting; length: $3\frac{5}{8}$ in. Late Bronze Age. Upnor.

(b) Bronze socketed axe, single loop; length: $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. Late Bronze Age. Upnor.

(Salisbury Museum Nos. B.375 and B.374: Brackstone Collection, 1867.)

(c) Bronze spearhead, leaf-shaped, socket continuing for the whole length of the blade; lower part of socket and tip of point missing; length: $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. Late Bronze Age. Buckland, Dover.

(d) Belgic pedestal urn; grey ware; narrow cordon at base of neck and above foot, otherwise undecorated; height: $10\frac{3}{4}$ in., rim: 6 in. Upchurch. Found 1907.

(Salisbury Museum No. 57/47.)

RAINHAM

In January, 1968, a Roman gold *aureus* was brought to the museum for identification: Claudius and Agrippina, R.I.C.92. It was dug up in a garden at Rainham and remains in the possession of the finder. (N.G.R. TQ8165.)

⁷ A very similar urn, but with a flat base, found between Hothfield and Ashford, is apparently of second-century date. (*Arch. J.*, ci, 58, fig. 6, 1.)

SHIPBOURNE

A Mesolithic macehead was found (N.G.R. TQ593517) in March, 1968, by Mr. B. J. Beeching, of London, and presented by him to the museum (Acc. No. 30.1968). It is made from a quartzite pebble, of flattish, oval shape, $3\frac{5}{8} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ in., and has an hour-glass perforation. In his list of these quartzite pebble maceheads in England,⁸ W. F. Rankine lists three from Kent. To these should be added one from Eccles, in the museum, which is almost identical with the Shipbourne example.

SNARGATE

In March, 1966, and early in 1968 Mr. R. S. Body found sherds of Belgic pottery in Five Watering Sewer on his land (N.G.R. TQ979283). The pottery came from the bottom of the sewer and was only visible at the lowest water level, where it was found above the peat.

Sherds from at least fifteen pots were found (Fig. 1):

1. Large jar; porridgy grey ware, with heavily combed decoration and burnished neck.
2. Jar; pinkish-buff ware, slightly gritted.
3. Jar; porridgy grey ware, with buff striated surface.
4. Jar; porridgy grey ware; shoulder burnished and showing slight brush striations; body with heavily combed decoration. (Only one (illustrated) of the three sherds belonging to this pot shows the body combing; on the others the surface has disintegrated.)
5. Jar; orange-red ware.
6. Jar; orange-red ware, striated surface.
7. Jar; porridgy grey ware, with buff-grey striated surface.
8. Bead-rim jar; thin porridgy grey ware; shoulder above groove burnished and showing brush striations which may have been present on the rest of the sherd.
9. Jar; porridgy grey ware, pinkish-buff surface.
10. Corrugated bowl; orange-red ware, slightly gritted.
11. Corrugated bowl; thin, porridgy grey ware; black burnishing on neck and rim.
12. Bowl, with two cordons on neck; thin, gritty buff ware.
13. Butt-beaker; porridgy grey ware; traces of burnishing inside and out.
14. Carinated bowl; grey ware, slightly gritty; buff-grey surface, burnished on shoulder above the incised decoration.
15. Hard, buff ware, burnished above the incised decoration.

The group is typical of late Belgic pottery in East Kent and comparable, for example, with that from the Rose Lane site in Canterbury,⁹ dated to the second quarter of the first century A.D.

D. B. KELLY

⁸ *A.N.L.*, iv, No. 4, 53-5.

⁹ *Arch. Cant.*, lxviii, 104-114.

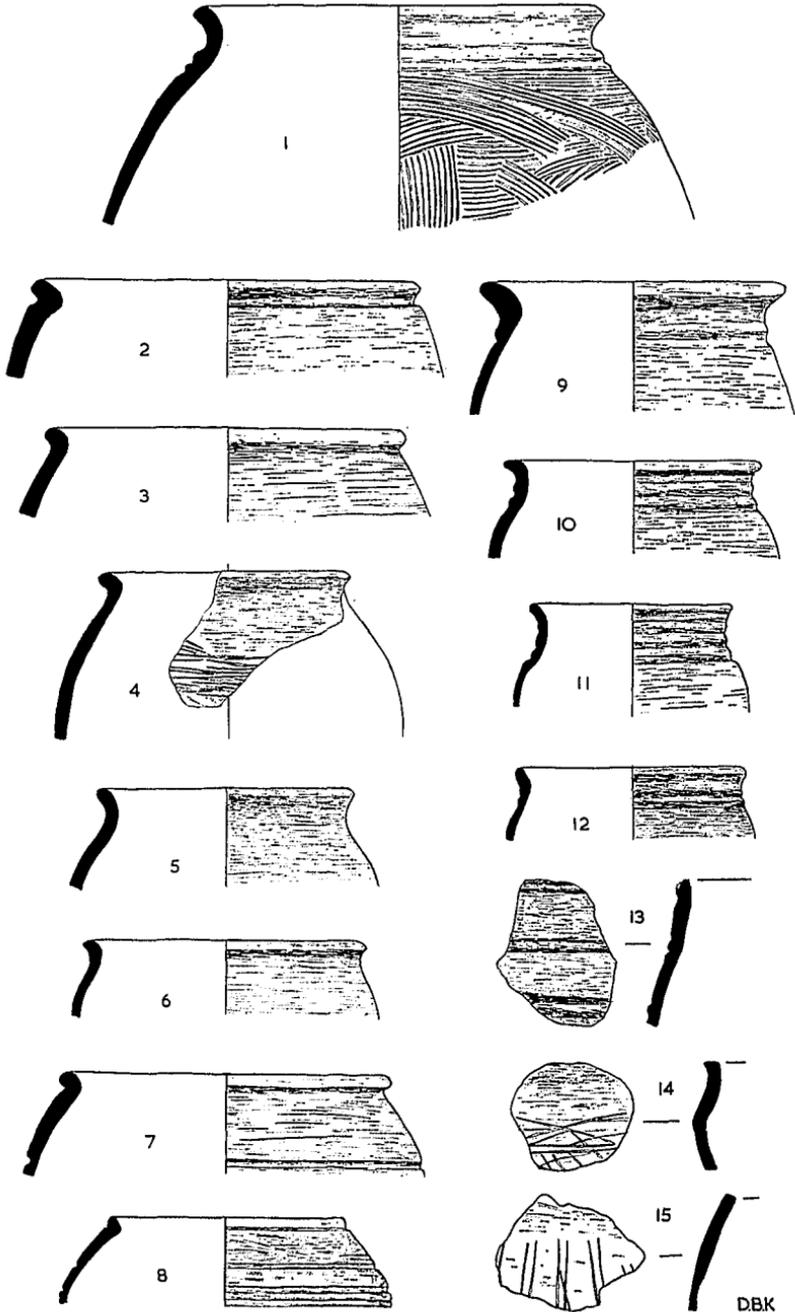


FIG. 1.
Belgic pottery from Snargate. ($\frac{1}{2}$)

INVESTIGATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS DURING THE YEAR
NOTES FROM CANTERBURY MUSEUM

CANTERBURY

In June, 1968, a late thirteenth- to fourteenth-century pottery money box of Tyler Hill ware was recovered from the building site on the west side of the Beaney Institute, Canterbury. It is biconical in shape, truncated by a flat base. The sandy fabric is orange/grey in colour and the vessel, including the base, is almost completely covered with fairly good quality olive green glaze that shows some pitting. The pot is complete and unused. The slit for coins is situated half-way up the body of the pot and is of suitable size to take medieval silver pennies. The top of the money box is finished with a flat knob that has a circular hole at the centre. Pottery money boxes of this date are not common. A base sherd from an apparently similar though unglazed vessel was found at the thirteenth-century kiln site of Olney Hyde, Buckinghamshire.¹⁰ (Fig. 2.) Royal Museum no. 9223.

L.M.

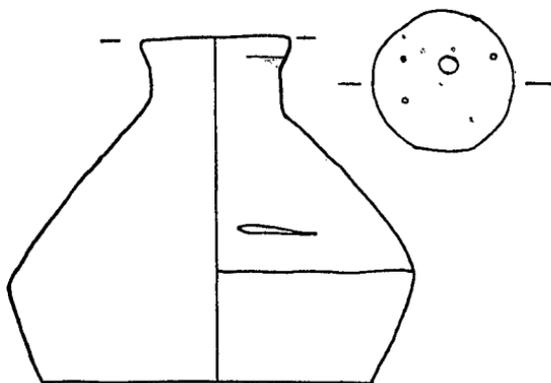


FIG. 2.

Pottery money box from Canterbury. Height 4 in.

CLOWES WOOD

In September, 1967, when a land drain was being dug at the edge of Clowes Wood, near Canterbury (TR.126639), a mass of tile apparently representing debris from a tile kiln was discovered. Two pieces of tile from the site were brought into the Royal Museum. These pieces are identical to the slipped and glazed incised tiles that form what appears to be the earliest pavement at Faversham Abbey and are dated by S. E. Rigold to the early thirteenth century.¹¹

¹⁰ Verbal information from Mr. D. Mynard, Ministry of Public Building and Works.

¹¹ *Excavations at Faversham 1965*, K.A.R.G.C., 1968, Part 1, pp. 44-7, figs. 14 and 15.

INVESTIGATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS DURING THE YEAR

1. Rigold no. 9. Apparently part of a cross pattee. The slipped portion is green in colour and the unslipped background is greenish-brown. There are some patches of glaze on the fractured surface at the back of the tile which is clearly a waster.

2. Not illustrated in the Faversham report. The slipped portion, a diagonal band $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide, is yellow in colour and the unslipped background is brown. (Fig. 3.)
Royal Museum no. 9185.

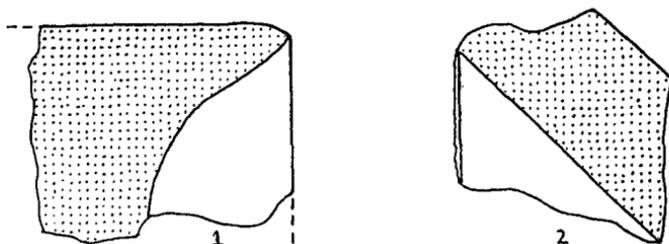


FIG. 3.

Tile pieces from Clowes Wood, near Canterbury.
Length of no. 1 3 in.

AYLESHAM

A middle Acheulian hand axe was found by Mr. H. Vosper in the garden of his house, 46 Newman Road, Aylesham (TR223523). The hand axe is pyriform in shape with a thin cross section and a pebble butt. It is well made and finished and has a thick white patina. Its maximum measurements are: Length $4\frac{1}{4}$ in.; breadth $2\frac{1}{4}$ in.; thickness $1\frac{1}{4}$ in.

Royal Museum no. 9198.

WESTBERE

In February, 1968, two sherds of medieval pottery were discovered in Brett's Quarry, Westbere. They were found by Mr. Bromley at a depth of 20 ft. and had presumably dropped into the gravel pit from a higher point on the face. The sherds were from the neck and base of a small jug of hard buff/grey sandy fabric with a well-marked lip, small strap handle springing from the rim and a strongly splayed flat base. The internal groove of the lip is marked with an incised line and there is a similar line down the centre of the handle which forms part of an incised star at its base. There is a single spot of greenish glaze near the lip of the jug and a thin applied band round the neck that may be

connected with the shaping of the lip. The jug is probably of fourteenth-century date and it has been suggested by Mr. S. E. Rigold that it could have been made at Rouen. (Fig. 4.)

Royal Museum no. 9199.

L.M.

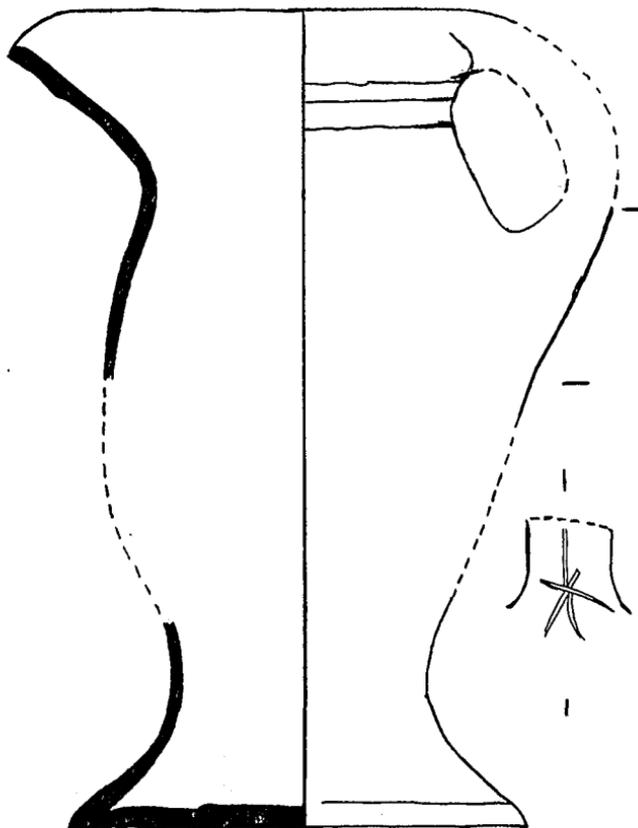


FIG. 4.

Medieval pottery from Westbere. Approx. height 9 in.

A BEAKER FROM CLIFFSEND, RAMSGATE

In September, 1967, a bell beaker was found in a drainage trench dug by Foreland Construction Limited, at Cliffview Road, Cliffsend, near Ramsgate, approximately 80 ft. from the junction with Clive Road (N.G.R. TR34576481). The beaker and some fragments of leg bone, reputedly from a contracted inhumation burial, came from a 6-ft. grave cut 2 ft. into the natural chalk, and covered by a further 2-ft. deep layer of build-up and topsoil. There were no apparent traces of a barrow.

The beaker itself is almost complete, except for a portion of the rim and a piece missing from just above the base. It stands, rather lopsidedly, 7·10 in. high, with a recurved rim—the neck sloping away to a fairly marked shoulder at just under half its height. The pot is made of a brown-red fabric, medium hard and with a grey-black core in the breaks, and tempered with a fairly even scattering of grits. The rather worn external surface varies in colour from a patchy red-orange and buff to a dirty brown-red; internally the surface is smooth, light iron-brown and patchily coated with a whitish residue.

The decoration is of alternate plain and patterned zones encircling the body; seven, possibly eight, bands occur, consisting of a series of horizontal lines made with comb impressions. The impressions are poor in quality and generally indistinct, particularly near the base, where the lines are worn and smudged. The best series come from the first band of four lines just beneath the rim. Working down the pot, the next five zones are all evenly spaced and made up of four lines, except for the second which has five—the untidy overlap in the sixth zone is probably an attempt at repeating this. Finally comes the seventh band with only two rough lines, and possibly a very faint single line for the last. The average length of the comb used in decorating the vessel is from 2·2·5 in. (Fig. 5.)

The closest parallels in East Kent to the Ramsgate beaker, come from a bell beaker in Folkestone Museum,¹² which has five, more expanded, zones of similar decoration; and less closely on a barrel beaker (B2) from Dover.¹³ The simple multiple zones of decoration, without an inter-zonal elaboration, suggest an early date in the British beaker chronology, as does the fairly low shoulder which has a tendency towards the angularity of some Cord-zoned beakers. On decoration alone, the Ramsgate beaker should best be considered as belonging to Clarke's European Bell Beaker Group, probably arriving in Britain with, or a little later than Cord-zoned beakers.¹⁴ A date, therefore, of between c. 1950-1900 B.C. would not be out of place for this beaker.

The beaker is in the possession of the Public Library, Ramsgate.

NIGEL MACPHERSON-GRANT

SHERD FROM HASTINGLEIGH

This is part of a strap handle from a large medieval pitcher. It is thirteenth century in date. The rather rough fabric and finish suggest that it may be early thirteenth century. Most of the pottery from this

¹² No provenance. Believed Folkestone area.

¹³ Found 1833 in Maison Dieu Fields, Connaught Park, Dover. Presumed lost. Poor photograph in Jessup, *Arch. Cant.*, (1933), p. 175.

¹⁴ D. L. Clarke: 'A Tentative Reclassification of British Beaker Pottery in the Light of Recent Research', *Palaeohistoria*, xii, 179-98.

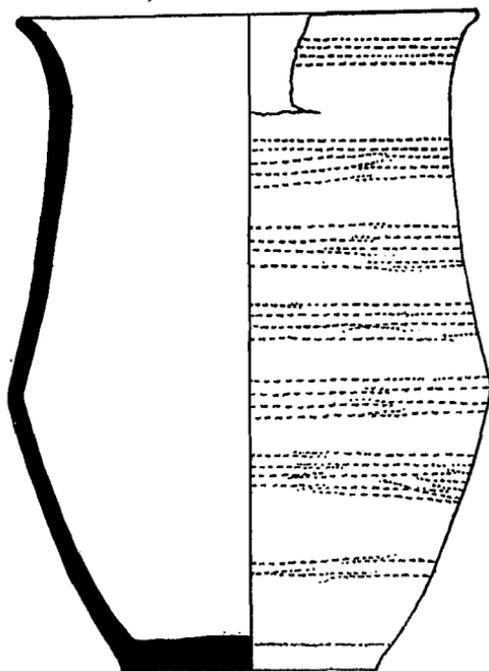


FIG. 5.
Beaker from Cliffsend, Ramsgate. Height 7.1 in.

area at this sort of date comes either from the Tyler Hill kilns, Canterbury, or from the Potters Corner kilns, Ashford. The wares from both these sites are typically rather finer than this handle, neither are such elaborate handles typical of these sites. They are, however, rather later, being late thirteenth-fourteenth century in date. Another source should probably be sought for this handle, presumably to the south or west of this area. It was found by Master J. Page in the garden of Lyddendane farmhouse.

L. MILLARD

COBHAM HALL

RECENTLY a builder's trench was dug across the west court exposing sixteenth-century brick walls about 2 ft. down, and midway between the two wings. In this position a gatehouse might be expected and a good deal of broken roof tiles suggest that it was a roofed building in 1600, when the rest was still incomplete.

Further excavation would show when it was pulled down and how it joined on to the wings, which show no signs of alteration.

So little is known about the state of the sixteenth-century buildings that I think this should be on record. There was a hard frost at the time which limited all digging.

A. BAKER

ROMANO-BRITISH SALT-PANNING HEARTHES AT CLIFFE

DURING the autumn of 1964, the Archæology Division of the Ordnance Survey reported to Maidstone Museum the exposure of Romano-British hearths¹⁵ by river erosion on the foreshore at Cliffe Creek (N.G.R. TQ70827718). I examined the site in January, 1965, and again in March of the same year when opportunity was taken of the low neap tide to excavate these structures, and it was possible, working under rather difficult conditions, to obtain a plan and sections of the hearths. These were carefully constructed oval hollows in the alluvial clay, probably lined with puddled clay, the larger hearth 2½ ft. × 4 ft. and the other 2 ft. × 3 ft. The floor of the hearth sloped gently upwards, probably to facilitate the removal of ash; a darkened arc of debris was noted at this end.

At the first visit one hearth was still partly stratified in the clay cliff of the saltings with saltern debris and no evidence could be found for any superstructure. A section through the hearth showed a succession of colour changes through the wall ranging from dull buff on the outside through orange red and purple, to white with salt glaze on the inside, showing that it had withstood considerable heat. Another layer of white fired clay was noted at a higher level, presumably due to the relining of the hearth at a later date. Above this were the typical salt-panning wedges, saltern debris and green slag stratified with charcoal. Displaced portions of baked clay lining suggested that some reconstruction had taken place.

All evidence would point to the hearths¹⁶ being used in the extraction of salt from sea-water.¹⁷ Their construction is typical of many found in association with saltern debris,¹⁸ and a close parallel can be found at

¹⁵ *Arch. Cant.*, lxxx, 278.

¹⁶ The absence of potsherds and the presence of saltern debris rules out the likelihood of these structures being the remains of pottery kilns.

¹⁷ For a summary of the process, see Karl Riehm, 'Prehistoric Salt Boiling in Antiquity', in *Antiquity*, xxxv, 181-91.

¹⁸ For a description of saltern debris, see F. W. Reader, 'Report of the Redhills Exploration Committee, 1906-1907', *P.S.A.*, xxii, 164-207; *Ibid.*, 1908-1909, xxiii, 66-96; R. A. Smith, 'The Essex Redhills as Saltworks', *P.S.A.*, xxx (1918), 36-53; S. J. Hallam, 'Romano-British Salt Industry in South Lincolnshire', *Lincs. Archit. and Arch. Soc.*, vii, new series (1959-1960), 35-75.

Ingoldmells¹⁹ where an important salt industry had been established since Early Iron Age A times with continuance into the first century A.D.

The dating of this site is rather difficult owing to the absence of stratified pottery. The wedges, crudely made of fire clay and vegetable matter, are of a type found in first-century contexts such as Redhill III, Langenhoe.²⁰

In conclusion I wish to thank Mr. D. B. Kelly, B.A., for his assistance and advice, along with Mr. T. Ithell at the excavation.

A. MILES

THE ROMAN WORTHGATE AT CANTERBURY

IN May, 1961, deep trenching for a new gas main along the south-east side of Castle Street, as a preliminary to the construction of the new road junction with Wincheap and Rheims Way, provided an interesting cross-section of the city defences, outside No. 28 Castle Street (Castle House). Here it was seen that the foundations of the city wall, 15 ft. wide, were built of large flints well laid in courses in mortar. The three lowest of these were laid in a trench about 1 ft. 6 in. deep cut into a deposit of dark loamy soil on the front, and the gravel metalling of the Roman street at the rear of the structure. This street was 2 ft. 3 in. thick and rested on a band of greyish brown loam representing the earliest occupation soil which extended under the foundations, and in turn rested on the natural brick-earth. (Fig. 6.)

Based on the front and rear edges of the flint foundations respectively, were two large roughly hewn blocks of Kentish ragstone, placed one on top of the other without mortar. Between the lowest front and rear blocks was a space 6 ft. long filled with mixed black soil up to modern ground level. At the bottom of this were three courses of flints laid in mortar capped by a single course of Roman tiles covered with a thin spread of mortar. The inner lip of the city ditch lay at a distance of about 7 ft. out from the off-set at the base of the front of the foundation (i.e. at the contemporary ground level). As seen in section the ditch measured 82 ft. 3 in. wide at the top with sides sloping inwards to the 10 ft. level (i.e. the bottom of the modern trench). Due to this the complete profile could not be determined, but it is reasonable to think that the outer side had been modified by more recent landscaping and is not therefore the Roman work.

¹⁹ F. T. Baker, *Lincs. Archit. and Arch. Soc.*, vii, new series (1959-1960), 26-34.

²⁰ F. W. Reader, *P.S.A.*, xxii, 191-93, fig. 18, 7.

ROMAN WORTHGATE CANTERBURY

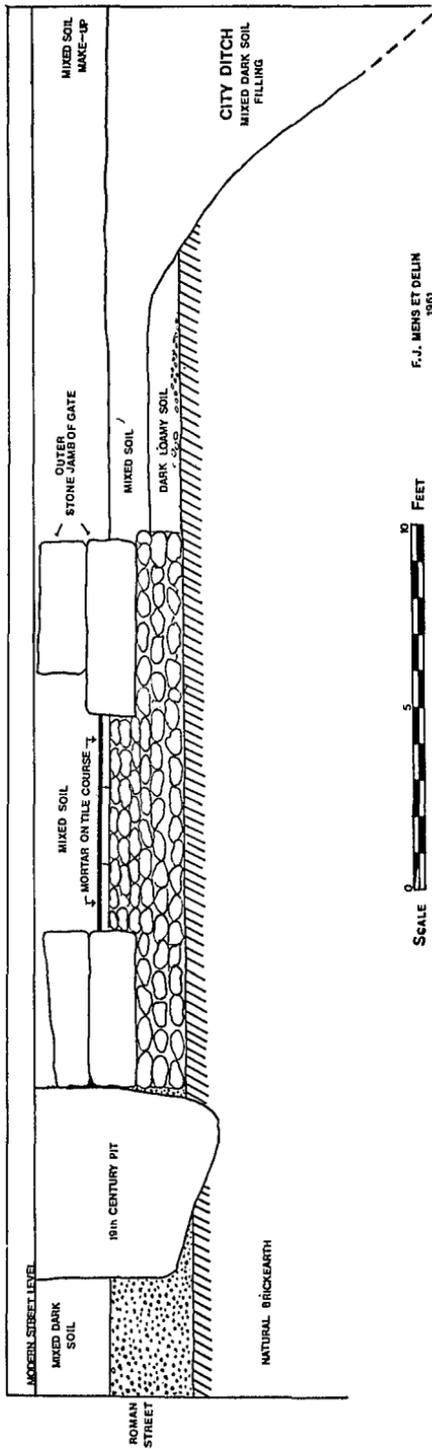


Fig. 6.

INVESTIGATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS DURING THE YEAR

It is clear that what has been revealed is the south-east side of the Roman Worthgate through which ran the road to Lympne (*Portus Lemanis*), Stone Street and also joined the road which crossed the Chartham Downs. The gate was mured up in 1548 and prior to its demolition in 1791, was seen and drawn by William Stukeley who published the drawing in his *Itinerarium Curiosum* (1724). This shows that the jambs of the gate were built of large blocks of stone, the two lowest courses of which survive today on the south-east side. As the tile course between the blocks in the thickness of the wall is at the same level as the surface of the Roman street it seems that it formed the floor of the guard chamber on that side of the gate and was not a bonding course, for the walls of Roman Canterbury lack that structural feature. It is also certain that the gate was a simple arched opening flush with the wall, and, according to Gostling who saw the blocked arch still standing, had a width of 12 ft. 6 in. and a height at the centre of the arch of some 13 ft. 7½ in. or more.

FRANK JENKINS, M.A., F.S.A.

MARGATE TOKEN

A HALFPENNY token of Richard Langley of Margate, 1667 (Williamson's *Boyne* No. 408), was recently found on the beach at West Kingsdown. It was submitted to the Kent Numismatic Society for identification.

P. E. OLDHAM