

## INVESTIGATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS DURING THE YEAR

### REPORTS FROM LOCAL SECRETARIES AND GROUPS

*Fawkham and Ash Archaeological Group.* Mr. R. A. Cockett reports:

Work this year has included further excavation at the Scotgrove medieval site in Hartley, surveillance during topsoiling of the Wrotham–West Kingsdown section of the M20 and also the following:

#### ASH

Remains of an apparently medieval banked enclosure measuring 245 m. by at least 100 m. with a central division, have been found in Nine Horse Wood at N.G.R. TQ 610657 on a hill slope. Two successive ploughing lynchets conceal the southern boundary and a large yew tree straddles the eastern boundary bank. There would appear to be a small building near the south-east corner and an entrance in the north-west. The northern margin coincides with the parish boundary.

#### SOUTHFLEET

Excavation in a field at N.G.R. TQ 59386980, immediately north of Martin's Quarry, following a ditch visible in the quarry face, revealed a 50-m. length of ditch, draining into a natural depression in the chalk. The few sherds found were compatible with the early Romano-British date of the adjacent site (which falls in Longfield parish).

#### WEST KINGSDOWN

Excavation beneath the west wall foundation of the fifteenth-century Crowhurst Farm at N.G.R. TQ 58516312 produced the base and rim of a large pot comparable with phase B from Eynsford Castle and attributable to the mid-thirteenth century.

*Kent Manorial and Moated Sites Group.* Mr. Tim Tatton-Brown, B.A., reports:

During 1977 the above group was formed to study medieval manors (both moated and unmoated) in Kent. The aim of the group is to

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encourage local societies in Kent to look more closely at manorial sites in the county both from a documentary and from an archaeological point of view.

Initially, we have compiled a list of known moated sites in the county as part of the work of the Moated Sites Research Group, who are listing all known moated sites in Britain, county by county. We have also been looking at threatened sites with a future research policy in mind.

Below is a list of known moated sites in Kent, with details of any publications on the site and whether the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. A card index of all these sites exists in London at the National Monuments Record and copies of these cards are also kept by the writer in Canterbury, who would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in partaking in our work. All correspondence should be addressed to 92a Broad Street, Canterbury.

### KENT MOATED SITES - DECEMBER 1977

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>N.G.R.</i>
Ash (by Sandwich)	Chequer Court	TR 283591
Ash (by Sandwich)	Moat Farm	TR 288582
Ashford	Parsonage Barn	TR 013434
Benenden	Hempsted	TQ 801338
Benenden	Manor House	TQ 806332
Benenden	Moat Farm	TQ 789335
Biddenden	Washenden Manor	TQ 864383
Bilsington	Court Lodge Farm	TR 042343
Bilsington	Priory	TR 043356
Boughton Aluph	Wilmington	TR 03064641† <sup>1</sup>
Boughton Aluph	Buckwell Farm	TR 043482
Boughton Malherbe	Coldbridge Farm	TQ 885478
Boughton Malherbe	Greatbaker Farm	TQ 859474
Boughton Malherbe	Thornden	TQ 861464
Blean	Moat House	TR 12845949
Blean	Butler's Court	TR 121616
Blean	Amery Court	TR 126616
Blenchley	Moatlands	TQ 674 432
Bromley	Bromley Palace	TQ 407691
*Bromley	Simpson's Moat	
Brook	Court Lodge	TR 066442†
Canterbury	The Moate or Wyke	TR 180582
Capel	Badsell	TQ 657447
Capel	Moat Farm	TQ 645458
Charing	The Moat	TQ 954493
Charing	Wootton Manor (ex Yew Tree House)	TQ 963478

<sup>1</sup> *Kent Archaeological Review*, 40, 290.

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<i>Parish</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>N.G.R.</i>
Chart Sutton	Moat Farm	TQ 798478
Chartham	Court Lodge or Deanery Farm	TR 101551
Chevening, Chipstead	Moat Farm	TQ 498563
Chislehurst	Scadbury	TQ 459701
Chislet	Gray's Farm	TR 228677
Cooling	Cooling Castle	TQ 753760
Cowden	The Moat	TQ 483409
Cranbrook	Bettenham	TQ 817392
Cranbrook	Furnace Farm	TQ 739349
Cranbrook	Glassenbury	TQ 747367
Cranbrook	Sissinghurst Castle	TQ 809383
Crayford	Howbury	TQ 527767†
*East Wickham, Bexley	Moat House	
East Sutton	East Sutton Park	TQ 829493
Edenbridge	Broxham	TQ 457484
Edenbridge	Devil's Den	TQ 43814521+ <sup>2</sup>
Edenbridge	Great Browns	TQ 42434726
Egerton	Warden	TQ 888453
Eltham	The Palace	TQ 424740
Eltham	Well Hall	TQ 424751
Folkestone	Park Farm	TR 225370
Goodnestone	Crixhall Farm	TR 266557
Great Chart	The Moat	TQ 974414
Great Chart	Singleton	TQ 988417†
Hadlow		TQ 625508
Harty	Sayes Court	TR 023663
Hawkhurst	Conghurst	TQ 763280
Headcorn		TQ 827432
Headcorn	Moat Farm	TQ 842454
Herne	Hawe Farm	TR 189662
Hever	Hever Castle	TQ 478453
Hildenborough	St. Julian's Farm	TQ 552518
Hoath	Ford Manor (later an AB's Palace)	TR 205 657
Hollingbourne	Ripple	TQ 819566
Horsmonden	Share Farm	TQ 715393†
Horsmonden	Spivers	TQ 694399
Hoo St. Werburgh	Abbot's Court	TQ 794721 <sup>3</sup>
Ightham	The Moat	TQ 584535
Ightham	The Court	TQ 595575
Ivychurch	Moat House	TR 022287
Iwade	Moat Farm	TQ 886674
Kingsnorth	Manor House	TR 012396
Kingsnorth	Court Lodge	TQ 993397
Lamberhurst	Scotney Castle	TQ 689353
Leigh	Great Barnetts (Moat Farm)	TQ 556466 <sup>4</sup>
*Leigh	Leigh Park Farm	TQ 535477
Leigh	Old Vicarage	TQ 550466

<sup>2</sup> *Kent Archaeological Review*, 41, 20.

<sup>3</sup> *Archaeologia Cantiana*, 78 (1963), 165.

<sup>4</sup> *Archaeologia Cantiana*, 92 (1976), 173.

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<i>Parish</i>	<i>Site</i>	<i>N.G.R.</i>
Leybourne	Leybourne Castle	TQ 688589
Maidstone	Moate House	TQ 781551
Marden	Moat Farm	TQ 738467
Mereworth	Mereworth Castle	TQ 669532
Mersham	Quarrington	TR 059412
Milton (nr. Sittingbourne)	Great Norwood	TQ 875663
Milton (nr. Sittingbourne)	Castle Rough	TQ 918660
Nettlestead	Moat Wood	TQ 673514
Newenden	Lossenham	TQ 840275
Old Romney	Manor House	TR 033255
Pluckley	Pivington	TQ 922465 <sup>5</sup>
Queenborough	E. of Sheppey Castle	TQ 914723
Rolvenden	Halden Place	TQ 850337
Rolvenden	Lowden Manor	TQ 854295
Sevington	Park Barn Farm	TR 030403†
Sevington	The Moat (Boys Hall)	TR 030407†
Sevington	Swanton Court	TR 039394
Shadoxhurst	Moat Farm	TQ 973363
Shipbourne	The Park	TQ 590520
Shoreham	Filston Hall	TQ 516608
Sittingbourne	Bayford Court	TQ 911640
Speldhurst	Groombridge Place	TQ 533377
Stanford	Westenhanger	TR 122373
Staplehurst	Brattle	TQ 775424
Staplehurst	Castle Bank	TQ 784407
Staplehurst	Lovehurst Manor	TQ 778413
Stone	Great Prawls	TQ 925267
Strood	Temple Manor	TQ 733686
Sundridge, Ide Hill	Henden Manor	TQ 483504
Sutton at Hone	St. John's	TQ 559705
Sutton Valence	Moatenden	TQ 818464
Thanington	Tonford Manor	TR 124570
Tonge	Tonge Castle	TQ 933636† <sup>6</sup>
Tunbridge Wells (Frant)	Moat Farm	TQ 580374†
Ulcombe		TQ 844 489
Walmer	Walmer Court (Old Manor House)	TR 367504
Westerham	Crockham Grange (formerly Spoat Farm)	TQ 447500 <sup>7</sup>
Wittersham	Palstre Court	TQ 882283
Woodnesborough	Grove Manor	TR 313567
Woodnesborough	Polton Manor	TR 281577
Wrotham	Moat Farm/Hotel	TQ 623588
Yalding	Cheveney	TQ 704498

<sup>5</sup> *Archaeologia Cantiana*, 77 (1962), 27–47.

<sup>6</sup> *Archaeologia Cantiana*, 79 (1964), 207–80; (1965), 265.

<sup>7</sup> *Kent Archaeological Review*, 41, 18.

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† Scheduled.

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*London Borough of Bromley.* Mrs. S. L. Palmer, M.Phil., A.M.A., reports:

A few additional areas of the Romano-British/Anglo-Saxon site at Poverest Road were explored by the London Borough of Bromley Museum with the help of volunteers. Another Anglo-Saxon burial of a male was found, together with a few grave goods, including a dagger or knife; the skeleton was very fragmentary. It is envisaged that work on the site will soon cease so that conservation of the Romano-British building can be undertaken.

### *Orpington and District Archaeological Society*

Romano-British burials at Northfield (*Arch. Cant.*, xlvii (1935), 240), an unusual alignment of local roads and the regular recovery of Romano-British potsherds from the topsoil of allotments in Lower Road, Orpington, led to a series of trial excavations, under the direction of Mr. M. E. Fisher, in an area comprising some 17 acres at St. Mary Cray (N.G.R. TQ 47036744) in October 1975. The area is occupied by a nineteenth-century New Town scheduled in 1975 by the Borough Council for re-development.

Trenches were excavated on vacant sites in Anglesea, Wellington, Kent and Lower Roads in an effort to determine both the area of the sealed Romano-British layer first located on the allotments and its origin. Romano-British pottery of *c.* second century A.D. was recovered, including samian and Patch Grove wares, as well as building material and animal bones. Small finds from these sites during 1977 included a damaged bronze key-ring, two coins (a 33 mm. *sestertius* of Trajan and a 15 mm. AE4, minted at Trier, of Helena) and a bronze brooch of dolphin type of *c.* second-century date; all these have been deposited at Bromley Museum.

A structure, consisting of chalk blocks, tiles and flints laid upon the chalk subsoil, has been located in one of these trenches; the tiles appear to be *imbrices*, very hard and well-fired, and have been used to form short pipes by laying several of them together. A flint wall appears to surround this structure on at least three sides. A full-scale excavation of the area by the Society is to begin early in 1978.

*London Borough of Greenwich.* Mr. D. T. Jones reports:

The Borough Council have undertaken an excavation at a post-medieval site close to the old approach road to the Woolwich Ferry (N.G.R. TQ 43307927). Mr. Humphrey Woods has continued his

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excavations at Eltham Palace. The location of the reports of these excavations will be reported after publication.

A report will appear in the next issue of the *Transactions of the Greenwich and Lewisham Antiquarian Society* of excavations carried out by the writer at Lansdowne Lane, Charlton (N.G.R. TQ 41637810). Three vaulted brick underground rooms were examined, with associated features. These belonged to a building known as 'The Old Rectory' which was in existence by 1712, the brick work would seem to be late-seventeenth-century. The house was the home, at different times, of Mrs. Fitzherbert, and of Princess Caroline. The *Transactions* will also include a report on a limited investigation carried out at St. Nicholas Church, Deptford (N.G.R. TQ 37407774). Part of the late-seventeenth century vaults was examined at their junction with the medieval tower.

The next issue of the *Transactions of the Woolwich Antiquarian Society* will include a report of the excavations at Middle Park Farmhouse (N.G.R. TQ 41534508). The site contained fallow deer antler and late-sixteenth to early-seventeenth-century pottery in pits, no doubt from the alleged use of the site as a hunting lodge of Eltham Palace nearby. There was a period of desertion during the Commonwealth, followed by the building of a large brick building in the late seventeenth century. This was replaced in the late eighteenth century by the Middle Park Farm familiar to historians for horse racing; this was pulled down in 1973. The work was carried out in association with the Eltham Society.

Work is currently in progress at a site on the top of Shooters Hill (N.G.R. TQ 43587648) in association with the Shooters Hill History Group. This is the reputed location of an early inn, the 'Catherine Wheel'. So far a little Tudor pottery has been found, and a substantial building dating to c. 1660, brick built with an unusually large cellar. This would seem to be the inn. The foundations of 'Hazelwood House', built on the site in 1778 have also been located. Work will continue.

The site records, and the finds from the above excavations have been passed to the Borough Museum.

*Maidstone Area Archaeological Group.* Mr. P. E. Oldham, M.A., reports:

Excavation work continues on the sites of Romano-British buildings at Brishing and Teston, whilst Mr. D. B. Kelly, B.A., A.M.A., has concentrated on the north wing of the Romano-British building at The Mount, Maidstone. Part of a hypocaust and a massive foundation, 5 ft. wide, have been found. Work on the medieval moated site at Mott Hall, Bearsted, has revealed signs of another wooden building.

The survey of Bradbourne House, East Malling, by members of the Buildings Section has identified several periods of work prior to the 1713 re-fronting. Reports on a medieval timber-framed house on Bearsted Green, on a fourteenth-century shop in the High Street, Maidstone, and on Millgate Park, Thurnham, are being prepared. The industrial archaeology section has recorded the building and machinery of a nineteenth-century manufacturing chemists' mill off Bank Street, Maidstone, prior to demolition and a survey of the industrial monuments of mid-Kent has started.

After repairs and re-decoration, the headquarters of the Group has moved to a former working men's club room in Tonbridge Road, Barming, from part of the hall house in London Road, Larkfield.

*Sevenoaks Branch.* Mr. P. E. Leach reports:

A watching brief has recently been concluded on excavations for a swimming pool, and other alterations, at the moated site of Henden Manor, near Ide Hill; no stratified material was found, but a scatter of pottery, ranging from one piece of Bellarmine to modern pottery, was in the topsoil. The moat, which was also dredged, disclosed nothing of interest. Thanks are due to the contractors, Messrs. Durnells, for their help.

Following discovery of brickwork during fencing operations at the St. Clere Estate, Wrotham, an excavation has been started, with the help of the Sevenoaks School Archaeological Group, which continues. A massive brick wall, of probable medieval date, has been found. A further report will be issued in due course.

The Otford and District Archaeological Group resumed excavation at Greenhill Road, Otford, for a second season of work on the site of the Middle Bronze Age burial (*Arch. Cant.*, xcii (1976), 259). Several pits and a post-hole have been found in association with flint scrapers and pottery sherds. The pottery from last season has been examined by Dr. I. H. Longworth, of the British Museum, who identified Beaker and Peterborough wares and suggested a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date between 2000–1700 B.C. Mr. J. A. Pyke has undertaken the direction of this work.

The Sevenoaks School Group, directed by Mr. A. L. Cubberley, in addition to assisting at St. Clere, has continued the digging of a section through the old line of the Sevenoaks/Tonbridge road in Knole Park. The section reveals hard packed graded gravel laid directly onto natural earth with no foundation. No dating was possible.

*Shepway.* Rev. A. H. Gibson reports:

During 1977, the Museum at the Folkestone Public Library was taken over by the Kent County Museum Service for care and maintenance. The curatorial assistant, Miss Mary Wunsch, B.A., has been examining the various collections, making a new catalogue and checking information on provenance; conservation work has also been in progress on some of the antiquities, and some display cabinets have been re-arranged.

The Museum was started in 1868 by the Folkestone Natural History Society. Some collections, mainly of local fossils, minerals and other geological specimens, were temporarily housed in the former Town Sessions Hall in the Old High Street. When the Public Library and Museum was built in 1888, the Society continued to enrich the collections, which were augmented with prehistoric artefacts from the district. Belgic and Romano-British finds were added and a collection of early Anglo-Saxon ironwork, with some jewellery, was added in 1907 from a cemetery near the top of Dover Road hill. After the discovery of the Roman villa on East Cliff in 1923–24 by S. E. Winbolt, the Museum gained many of the finds from the site and to these were added the finds from the Cheriton Romano-British cemetery, excavated in 1948 by H. F. Bing and P. J. Tester.

Miss Wunsch reports that the Museum has little medieval material, though it is known that an interesting collection, recovered by Pitt-Rivers when excavating on Castle Hill in 1878, is preserved at the Pitt-Rivers Museum in Oxford.

*London Borough of Bexley.* Mr. P. J. Tester, F.S.A., reports:

The hall-house from North Cray, dismantled in 1968 and retained in store at Crayford for the last ten years (*Arch. Cant.* lxxxvii (1972), 9–14) has now been presented by the Borough of Bexley to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton, Sussex. It is learned from the Museum's publication that it is intended to reconstruct it as part of a small urban grouping of buildings surrounding the restored market hall from Titchfield. Seeing there was no prospect, after this long interval, of having the North Cray house re-erected in its own locality, its removal to Singleton may be regarded as a satisfactory outcome of the efforts made to ensure the preservation and proper treatment of this interesting building.

The problem of restoring the Georgian mansion and stables in Danson Park is still unresolved and these buildings are now in a deplorable state of dilapidation.

In May 1976, the Mayor of Bexley formally unveiled a plaque on the



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front of Highstreet House in Bexley village, recording the fact that it was the home of the famous Kentish antiquary, John Thorpe (1715–1792). It was here that he wrote his *Custumale Roffense*, and the grave of his wife is in the churchyard adjoining the garden of Highstreet House.

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