

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Late in 1977, I initiated a long-term scheme with the above title and the following objects:

1. To make detailed textual, diagrammatic and photographic records of the structural features of selected vernacular buildings in the rural area surrounding Sevenoaks.
2. To interpret and date such features in the light of modern scholarship.
3. To make the results available to specialist bodies, local authorities and others, including owners and occupiers of the buildings.

The present intention is to concentrate on structures which are at least partly pre-Georgian, but it is hoped to include examples of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century special types such as oast-houses and barns.

During the period to the time of writing (July 1978), ten buildings have been fully inspected to assess their merits. Three were considered to be of low priority and five of the remaining seven, all houses with some degree of timber framing, have been recorded in the greatest practicable detail. Having reached that point, I am deferring further fieldwork in order to deal with the presentation of results. These will take the form of a numbered series of typewritten descriptive and interpretative studies illustrated by photographs and scale drawings. Copies will be supplied to the K.A.S. Library, besides Sevenoaks Library and other local repositories. Brief notes on all buildings which are the subject of completed studies will be published in future volumes of *Archaeologia Cantiana*.

From the start this work has proved extremely worthwhile, yielding hitherto unsuspected and sometimes highly interesting evidence of the original form and subsequent alterations of each structure, though of course it is not always possible to ascribe dates with as much confidence and precision as one would wish. It is my hope that, as with similar work elsewhere, the studies will lead to better understanding

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

of the region's vernacular buildings, individually and collectively, and will provide a useful basis for occasional publications.

I am indebted to the Society for generous financial backing, without which the scheme could not have been undertaken. Grants from other sources are being sought so that the measure of support for future operations can be gauged. I shall always be glad to hear from fellow-members who feel able to help by facilitating access to buildings of interest in the area.

ANTHONY D. STOYEL

CANTERBURY MUSEUMS

Among recent acquisitions the following are of significant Kentish interest:

1. Oil canvas (7 ft. 3 in. × 5 ft. 7 in.) of *The Murder of Becket in Canterbury Cathedral*, by John Opie, R.A.; painted in 1793 for an illustration to Bowyer's 1806 edition of Hume's *History of England*. Acquired with aid from the Victoria & Albert Museum, National Art-Collections Fund, and Friends of the Royal Museum, Canterbury.
2. Oil panel (11 in. × 3 ft. 1 in.) of *The Canterbury Pilgrims*, by Thomas Stothard, R.A.; painted in 1817. A companion piece to that by Stothard, now in the Tate Gallery. Acquired with aid from the Victoria & Albert Museum and National Art-Collections Fund.
3. Pen and wash drawing (10 in. × 1 ft. 4 in.) of *Richborough Roman Amphitheatre*, by William Stukeley, M.D., F.R.S. Acquired with aid from the Beecroft Bequest.
4. Gold pendant ($2\frac{3}{4}$ in. × 2 in.) with enamelled classical group of deities personifying health and the sea, identified by the inscription: 'Esculapius conducts Hygeia and Telesphorus to Neptune.' Under is the word MARGATE and the date MDCCLXXII. The pendant bears the mark, registered at Goldsmiths' Hall, of James Morisset of London, and is the earliest known work of this major English enameller. The precise event commemorated is not yet known. Acquired as a gift from the Victoria and Albert Museum, National Art-Collections Fund and the Friends of the Royal Museum Canterbury.
5. Watercolour ($7\frac{3}{4}$ × $13\frac{3}{4}$ in.) drawing of *North West View of the Ruins of Richborough Castle, Kent*, by J. C. Buckler, 1810.

K. REEDIE

A SKETCH-PLAN OF BOXLEY ABBEY

I am indebted to Mr. D. B. Kelly for drawing my attention to an item in the Stanhope papers now in the County Archives Office at Maidstone (File no. U 1590 C 570/2) relating to Boxley Abbey. It is a photographic reproduction of a sketch-plan mentioned by F. C. Elliston-Erwood in his notes on the Abbey in *Arch. Cant.*, lxvi (1953) and which he attributed with some hesitation to Hubert Bensted. There is no date or signature and it is entitled 'Boxley Abbey. Rough ground plan out of proportion'. No doubt it was made at the time of George Payne's excavations in 1897-8 and for want of a better record is of interest as showing – however inadequately – what he discovered. It should be compared with the plan drawn by the late John Caiger in connection with the K.A.S. excavations in 1971-2 (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxxviii (1973)) when at first sight certain apparent discrepancies occur. Allowing for the lack of scale or proportion in the sketch-plan, the points of similarity in the two drawings are, however, reassuring. It is mainly in the internal division of the transepts that serious differences appear.

The north transept is shown divided into two eastern divisions whereas the evidence of the 1971-2 excavations suggested strongly that there were three transept chapels. On the sketch-plan the north and west walls are indicated in broken lines and there is an adjacent note 'Dotted lines restoration'. So Payne apparently did not trace the full length of the transept and ceased near the junction with the wall dividing the central and northern chapels. This would explain the disturbance noted at that point in 1972, this being presumably the back-filling of Payne's trench. The curious and improbable division of the transept into four rectangular compartments is due to the incorrect assumption that the foundation across the entrance to the inner chapel supported a wall, and also that the standing garden wall running E—W across the site of the transept, in line with the outer wall of the aisle, reproduces an ancient feature.

The arrangement of the south transept clearly indicates the division into three chapels, as mentioned in Bensted's letter to Payne quoted in the 1973 report, though it is not apparent why one of the partition walls is shown terminating just short of the east wall, nor why it continues in an unlikely fashion across the transept, unless this is intended for a reconstruction to match the (wrongly) assumed division of the north transept.

Some other features of this plan have already been discussed in the 1973 report – in some instances to confirm and in others to refute – use being made of another copy in the National Buildings Record. In my view there is nothing in this rough plan to cast serious doubt on the

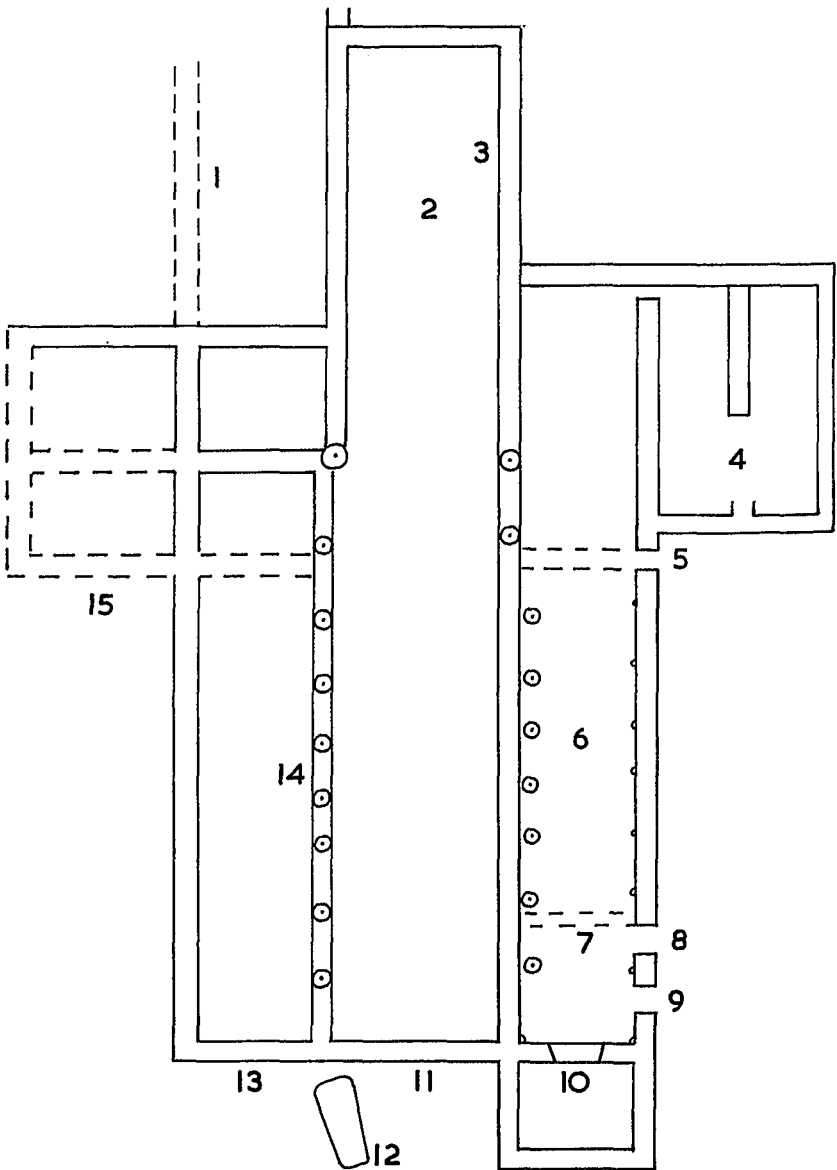


Fig. 1. Sketch Plan of Boxley Abbey

general accuracy of the reconstruction shown in Figs. 1 and 7 of the report in *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxviii (1973).

P. J. TESTER

EXCAVATIONS AT WHITING'S YARD, OSPRINGE, KENT, 1978

Excavations in Whiting's Yard, Ospringe (TR 00156090: Site Code 20) were undertaken in 1978 prior to development by Messrs. G. Wimpey and Co. Ltd. No substantial archaeological remains were located.

The site was previously excavated (*Whiting, Hawley, May, 1931*) and revealed a number of Roman burials. Whiting's Yard formed part of the Roman cemetery astride Watling Street, the present A2, and was the most easterly point at which burials were discovered.

A small amount of prehistoric pottery and flint tools were found in disturbed topsoil. The pottery comprises two rim sherds (Fig. 2) both with decoration, one with oblique incisions or cord impressions (no. 3), the other with a single oblique line of fingernail impressions (no. 4). Both rims are slightly inturned, but differ sufficiently to make it improbable that they belong to the same vessel. The ware is flint-gritted and a dull brown colour; the exterior of no. 3 is cream brown.

The flint tools are both awls, produced from flakes, retouched from one side along both edges (Fig. 2, nos. 1, 2).

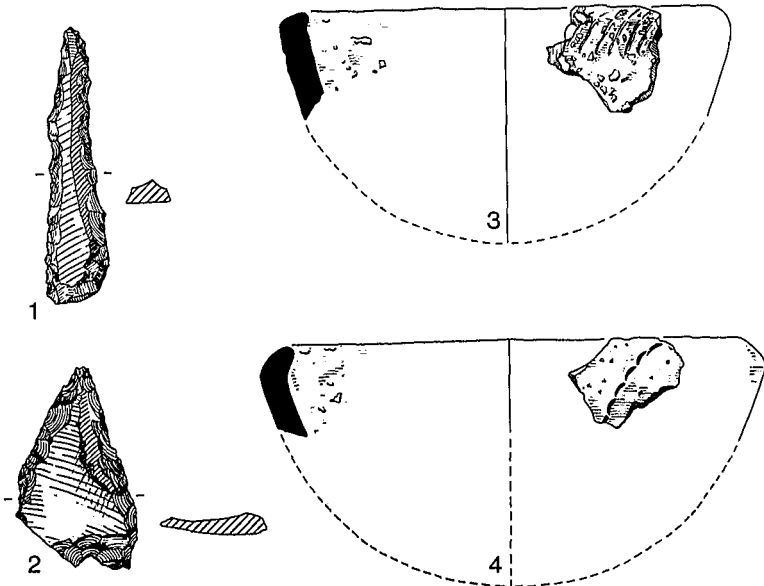


Fig. 2. Prehistoric Finds: Flint, nos. 1, 2 (Scale: $\frac{2}{3}$), and Pottery, nos. 3, 4 (Scale: $\frac{1}{3}$).

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

These finds cannot be more closely dated than to the Neolithic or Bronze Age, and are not necessarily associated together. They imply the presence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to thank the following: Dr. G. J. Wainwright, Dr. C. Young, Mr. J. S. Jefferies, Mr. N. Balaam, Miss G. Walker, Mr. P. Addison, Miss S. Fordham, Mr. P. Gresswell and Mr. D. Santer. The finds were kindly drawn by Mr. J. C. Thorn, DoE Drawing Office. The author would like to thank Messrs. G. Wimpey and Co. Ltd., for permission to excavate the site prior to development and for their kind co-operation throughout. The co-operation of the local archaeological groups is recognized with gratitude; the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, and especially Brian Philp and the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit have given much help and advice. The finds together with a copy of the excavation archive are stored at Dover Castle, Kent.

EDWARD HIGGINBOTHAM

ALLHALLOWS

An Acheulian hand-axe was found on the beach at Allhallows (TQ 838789) in 1975 by Mr. R. A. Taylor of Bexley. It is unpatinated but slightly rolled with a mottled lustrous surface and is $4\frac{3}{4}$ in. in length. A close parallel in form is an implement from Cuxton illustrated in *Arch. Cant.*, lxxx (1965), 49, no. 6.

The only other hand-axe recorded from this area is in the British Museum and came from the general locality of St. Mary's Hoo (D. A. Roe, *A Gazetteer of Lower and Middle Palaeolithic Sites*, C.B.A. Research Report 8, 1968, 173).

P. J. TESTER

A STANDING STONE AT EYNSFORD

Sarsen stones are common on the North Downs. They are usually of large dimensions, grouped to form burial chambers of the Neolithic culture as at Kit's Coty, Coldrum, and elsewhere in the Medway Valley. But small, artificially shaped, sarsens placed upright at points of topographical importance are not so usual; they remain unnoticed because they are small and usually having been thrown down in past ages lie prone, almost buried from sight.

Such a stone was recently recognized at Eynsford, situated (TQ 540655) in a direct line between the ancient ford and the church,

60 ft. east of the former and 130 ft. west of the latter. The stone is also situated 220 ft. south-south-east of a Roman building (discovered by the author in 1971) on the further side of the ford. The stone is thus grouped with three topographical objects, a Roman building, a ford, and a church.

It had lain, probably for centuries, embedded in the ground on its side, with only a small part showing; and when Mr. James Sidonio, the owner of Bridge House, outside the north wall of which the stone could be seen, decided to erect an exterior wall there and to pave a strip next to it, he very kindly agreed with the author to re-erect the stone so that its dimensions and shape might be discovered. It now stands in an upright position, firmly set in concrete, as it probably originally appeared.

The stone is sarsen, 29 in. high, of approximately square section, though one side is convex. Roughly hewn, it tapers regularly from 10 by 9 in. at the base to 5 by 4 in. at the top, upon which is a shallow, roughly circular, central depression. Photographs of the stone, with its relationship with the ford, were very kindly provided by Mr. Christopher Bowles, of Hawley, near Dartford.

The function of these single standing stones is uncertain, but their antiquity is undoubted. Their erection, perhaps as early as the Bronze Age, in the words of Professor Grahame Clark, ' . . . can only have been undertaken under the influence of some compelling motive.'¹ In the case of the Eynsford stone, two motives may be considered. It might have been erected as a mark-stone for the exact location of the ford, the verges of the river having once been marshy and difficult to traverse; or it may have had some religious purpose, perhaps connected with fertility—its phallic shape may suggest this. The possible religious aspect may further be considered.

Eynsford (Aegen's Ford) was inhabited in both Roman and Anglo-Saxon times, and the earliest church was scarcely sited fortuitously. The churches at Dartford, Darenth, Farningham and Shoreham are also placed near to and overlooking fords through the river Darent, and at all five places Roman buildings existed nearby. If the earliest buildings of Christian worship stood near the fords, they were small, insubstantial structures of timber and thatch, shrines where the traveller could pray and receive a blessing for his onward journey. Here and there such a place may once have been devoted to pagan ritual, later purified, its idols thrown out, and dedicated to the service of the true God.

Such a building was recognized at Stone-by-Faversham in 1967,² an

¹ G. Clarke, *Prehistoric England*, London, 1940, 103.

² *Antiq. Journ.*, xlix (1969), 273-94, and lvii (1977), 67-72.

example of the purpose recorded in the letter sent by Pope Gregory to Abbot Mellitus for the information of St. Augustine in Britain – ‘. . . the temples of the idols in that country should on no account be destroyed. He is to destroy the idols, but the temples are to be aspersed with holy water, altars set up, and relics enclosed in them.’³ Gregory’s letter suggests that such places were still numerous in Britain when Augustine came to re-introduce the Faith to Englishmen in A.D. 597.

This standing stone at Eynsford may be a relic of those early days, and some who pass over or through the river today may pay it the tribute of a glance and perhaps ponder its enigmatic presence.

G. W. MEATES

CLIFFE

Mr. M. Moad, Curator of Rochester Museum, has kindly given me details of a medieval brass signet ring which was found in Cliffe and brought to the Museum in September 1977 by Mr. G. T. Martin, of Rochester. It is 1 in. in diameter and 0.4 in. across the octagonal bezel which bears a crowned capital letter I, flanked by leaves for differencing.

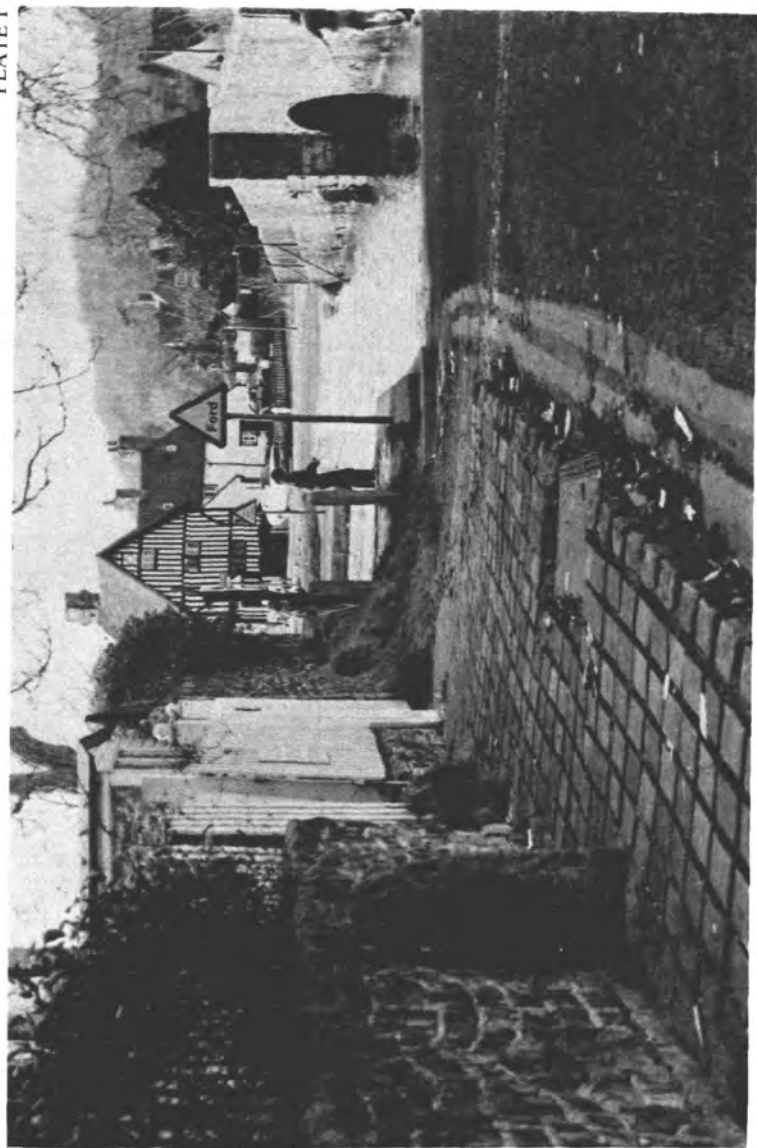
I have dealt with the dating and meaning of such rings in *Arch. Cant.*, lxvi (1953), 154. Crowned letters first appeared in numbers about the beginning of the fifteenth century and continued throughout that century. The initial is probably that of the first owner (*Berks. Arch. Journ.*, xli, 40–1).

HOLLINGBOURNE

Our member Mr. Stuart Rigold has recently summarized knowledge of the medieval lead seal matrices and dated the series from the late twelfth to the late thirteenth century and ‘seldom much afterwards’ (*Antiq. Journ.*, lvii (1977), 324–9). Therefore interest in them is now mainly confined to their local significance. An example (Fig. 3) found by Mr. V. J. Newbury in late August 1977 and now in his possession is in this category. It was a surface find in the field which lies south-east of the main road which ascends Hollingbourne Hill from the Pilgrims’ Way and is on the west side of Hollingbourne Cricket Field.

The obverse of the matrix is in excellent condition with the incision still sharp. On the reverse there is some rubbing and much use has obscured the clarity of the fleur-de-lis derived design in relief. The inscription +. S’ .WILÆ. FIÆ. BENCEI: (Seal of William son of Bence) has four diamond-shaped stops between the initial cross and

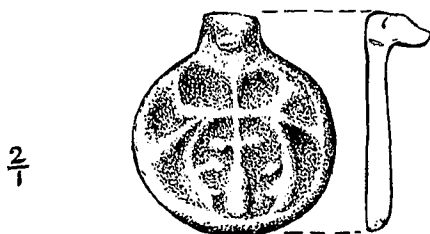
³ Bede, *A History of the English Church and People*, trans. Leo Sherley-Price, ch. 30.



Eynsford: Standing Stone (l.) and Ford, looking West.



Eynsford: Standing Stone, looking South-West.



✦ ◊ S' WILLE FIL ◊ BENCEI :

Fig. 3. Lead Seal from Hollingbourne.

BENCEI. One is tempted to place a late date on the matrix in view of the non-Lombardic appearance of the lettering (Roman N and E and a W with crossed central strokes) and the diamonds which appear as stops, so very like the mascle stops on Henry VI's coinage. But a similar W appears on the Tealby pennies of Henry II and Stuart Rigold's Caldecote example of the mid- to late-thirteenth century has similar stops.

The late Dr. P. H. Reaney in his book *A Dictionary of British Surnames* (1976) gave several early examples of the name Bence and commenced the sequence with the Osmund Benz mentioned in the Derbyshire section of *Domesday Book*. In 1175, an Ernisius filius Bence occurred in the *Pipe Rolls* (Yorkshire). Further south, in Oxfordshire, a William Bence had appeared by 1279 (*Rotuli Hundredorum*). Dr. Reaney derived the name from Old German *Benzo* and rounded off his account of the family by quoting a female diminutive *Bencelina* who was mentioned in 1207 as being in Kent (*Curia Regis Rolls*).

Description: Diameter: 1 in. Thickness: $\frac{1}{8}$ in. There is a central eightfoil design on the face.

HOO

On loan to Rochester Museum is a lead seal found by Mr. J. V. Tree, of 14 Walters Road, Hoo, in the garden at that address in July 1977. Mr. M. Moad, the Curator, has allowed me to inspect the seal and make the following notes: Diameter: $\frac{7}{8}$ in. Height: $\frac{5}{16}$ in. Inscription (with Lombardic Es and H and a Roman M): + S' THOME LE BOT (Seal of Thomas Le Bot). There is a central eightfoil design on the face whilst the back has a plain projection across half the diameter. Date: Thirteenth century.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

Mr. Moad informs me that a Thomas Bote was churchwarden at All Hallows, Hoo, in 1584 and 1585 (F. J. Hammond, *The Story of an Outpost Parish*, 152). Dr. P. H. Reaney, in his *A Dictionary of British Surnames* (1976), derives the name of the Bott mentioned in *Domesday Book* (Kent) from Alrebot or Aldred Bot 'clearly a nickname from Old French *bot* "toad" and also concerned with a personal name, probably Old English *Botta*.'

L. R. A. GROVE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

BOXLEY

A medieval lead seal matrix (Fig. 4, no. 1 shows an impression) was found in August, 1978, by Mr. N. Nicholls by the Pilgrims' Way between Boxley and Detling (TQ 785589): + S' ROG'D' hORP' (seal of Roger d'Horp). The lettering, between two incised circles, is crudely cut¹ and surrounds a four-leaf design. The reverse is plain and there is an unperforated tag at the top. Diam. $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. Thirteenth century.

EAST FARLEIGH

A *denarius* of Septimius Severus (RIC 78a) was found by Mr. R. C. Adams on a small-holding just South of Forge Lane (TQ 743529).

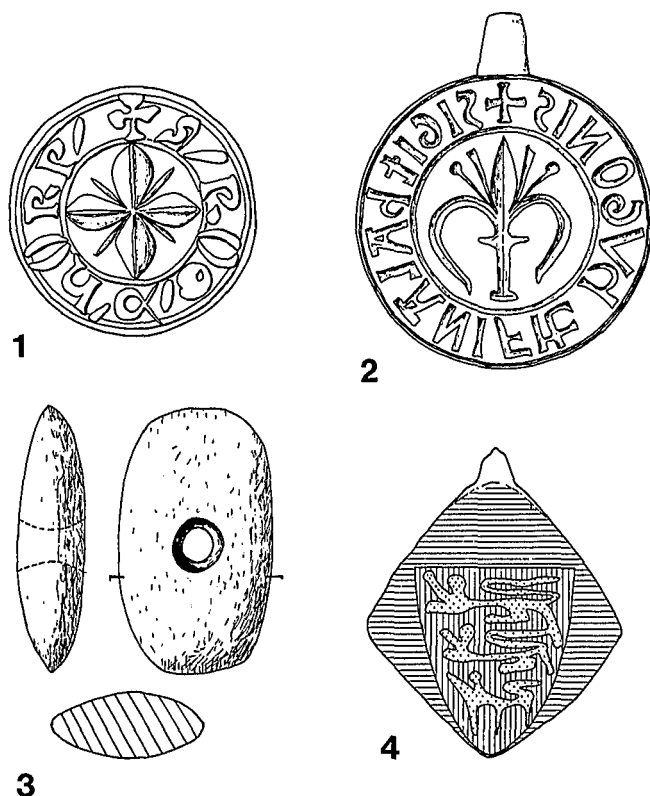
EGERTON

An Acheulian twisted ovate was found by Mr. T. Jones of Jennings Farm, Pluckley, in August 1978, while ploughing a field near Stonebridge Green (TQ 915478). It is of a dark brown, mottled flint and one side is partially covered by a creamy-white patina. Later, perhaps in the Neolithic period, the hand-axe was re-worked at the tip and on one side into a scraper, the re-working cutting through the patina. Length 3.1 in.; width 2.4 in.; max. thickness 0.9 in.

FRINDSBURY

A penny of Cnut was found by Mr. B. Dugmore in March, 1978, during road construction at Four Elms Hill (TQ 756717). BMC. type xvi, London mint, moneyer Edred; as BMC. 438, but with stop ∙ after RECX and LVNDE.

¹ I am grateful to Mr. S. E. Rigold for his help in reading this.



D.B.K.

Fig. 4. 1. Boxley: Medieval Seal Impression (†); 2. Wichling: Medieval Lead Seal Matrix (†); 3. Marden: Late Neolithic Stone Adze (‡); 4. Langley: Medieval Harness Pendant (†).

GILLINGHAM

A small Romano-British flagon, of degenerate ring-neck type and cream-buff ware, was found by Mr. G. Peters, of Sittingbourne, in December 1977, on Nor Marsh (TQ 818696). Early second-century in date it presumably came from a burial.

LANGLEY

A medieval harness pendant (Fig. 4, no. 4) was found in King's Wood (TQ 817514) by Mr. R. D. Attwell in April, 1978. Although the bronze was badly corroded nearly all the enamelling survived. It bears

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

a crude representation of the royal arms of England, three leopards in gilt on a heater shield of red enamel, the enamelling of the shield being complete except for a small portion above the uppermost leopard. Much of the blue enamel surround of the shield survives. Length $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.; width $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. The pendant is of Ward Perkins type III,² fourteenth–fifteenth centuries. A pendant bearing the royal arms is in the Museum of London.³

LEEDS

A bronze copy of a 'tribute penny' of Tiberius (PONTIF MAXIM reverse) was found some years ago on Merriam's Farm during the digging of drainage trenches (approx. TQ 807537). The coin is well worn and is perhaps a counterfeit made at about the time of Nero's reduction of the weight and fineness of the *denarius*, when the older imperial silver would be especially valued.⁴

MARDEN

A stone perforated adze (Fig. 4, no. 3) of Late Neolithic (Beaker)—Early Bronze Age date was found at Little Sheephurst Farm (TQ 716437) in about 1962 by Mr. P. Tompsett: length 7.3 in., width at shaft-hole 3.1 in. It is the tenth example of the type recorded from the county and its number in the Implement Petrology Survey is Kent 48.

The owner kindly allowed the adze to be sectioned and this was done at the British Museum (Natural History) by Dr. A. R. Woolley, who reported as follows: 'A gabbro consisting of abundant relatively fresh pyroxene (there may be two pyroxenes present, a Ca-rich and a Ca-poor one) forming anhedral, often sub-ophitic crystals. Plagioclase is very turbid and difficult to distinguish but appears to be relatively sodic. A little quartz as rather angular crystals is present and an opaque phase (? leucoxene) is abundant. There is much secondary, pale green amphibole and chlorite.' Dr. Woolley stated that although the rock differed in certain respects from Group I, it bore a strong family resemblance to it and that he was sure it originated in South-west England.

² *London Museum Medieval Catalogue* (1940), 118–121.

³ *L.M. Med. Cat.* (1940), 121, Fig. 40,3.

⁴ G. C. Boon, 'Counterfeit Coins in Roman Britain', in *Coins and the Archaeologist*, edit. J. Casey and R. Reece, B.A.R. 4 (1974), 100.

OTHAM

A *sestertius* of Marcus Aurelius (RIC. 861) was found after ploughing at Otham Street near Stoneacre (approx. TQ 799535).

SITTINGBOURNE

In 1955, it was reported⁵ that 'an emergency excavation of a late Celtic cemetery' had been undertaken at Highsted on land belonging to A.P.C.M. Ltd., and that a report would be published. The pottery was brought to Maidstone Museum by the archaeological assistant at that time, but, together with the drawings, had to be returned and was subsequently stolen, so that no report was published nor is likely to be. The cemetery was discovered during the extension of the A.P.C.M. chalk quarry and the approximate grid reference is TQ 908618.

The only record of the excavation in the museum is a set of six photographs presented by the late Mr. A. N. Berry, of Tunstall, who took part in the excavation. One shows a number of graves, some still containing inhumation burials, and the others individual graves with pots accompanying the skeletons. Mr. Berry stated that there were twenty inhumation and six cremation burials, with Belgic pottery and a La Tène (presumably III) brooch. Such pottery as is clearly identifiable in the photographs is Belgic: two small bowls with 'S' profile and a single cordon below the neck and a narrow-mouthed globular jar.

In September, 1977, Miss Helen Whitehouse, of the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, informed me that three pots from the Highsted cemetery had been offered to the museum as a gift. The donor was insistent that they should go to Edinburgh rather than Maidstone, but Miss Whitehouse kindly sent photographs and details of four pots, the fourth being retained by the donor. The pots are not necessarily some of those excavated in 1955, but three of them presumably come from the Belgic cemetery, the fourth coming from the adjacent late Roman cemetery originally reported in 1934.⁶

1. Butt beaker, dark grey-brown ware; height 13.3 cm.; rim diam. 8.2 cm. Registered number of Royal Scottish Museum 1978.373.
2. Small 'S' profile jar, with single cordon at base of neck; dark grey ware; height 8.9 cm.; rim diam. 7 cm. 1978.375.
3. Globular beaker, with bead rim and groove above belly; red ware; height 12.2 cm.; rim diam. 10.9 cm. In private possession.
4. Flanged bowl, late Roman; grey/brown-ware; height 6.9 cm.; rim diam. 16 cm. 1978.374.

⁵ *Arch. Cant.*, lxi (1955), xlvi.

⁶ *Antiq. Journ.*, xv (1935), 208-213.

WICHLING

A medieval lead seal matrix (Fig. 4, no. 2) found in May 1978 (TQ 917559) was brought to the museum by Mr. R. Nurse. It is inscribed + SIGIĒ hALANI FIĒ hVGONIS (seal of Alan FitzHugo), the legend being between two incised circles surrounding a stylized fleur-de-lys. Diameter $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.; plain reverse. Thirteenth century.

WORMSHILL

Mr. E. J. Harrington brought to the museum an Acheulian hand-axe dug up in his garden, Blacksmith's Cottage (TQ 878571). The tip is missing and a thick white patina covers the implement, including the break. Length 4 in.; max. width $2\frac{5}{8}$ in.; maximum thickness $1\frac{3}{8}$ in.

D. B. KELLY

EXCAVATIONS IN THE TWO IRON AGE HILL-FORTS ON CASTLE HILL,
 CAPEL, NEAR TONBRIDGE 1965 AND 1967-71
 SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE

My report on excavations in the two forts (N.G.R. TQ 608439) was published in *Arch. Cant.*, xci (1975), 61-85. Since then some doubt has been cast on the proposition that there were two small but separate forts. Hugh Thompson,¹ for example, while accepting the existence and plan of Fort II, as shown in Fig. 1 of the report, questions the existence of south-western defences appertaining to Fort I. Indeed he argues for the earlier existence of Fort II, which was later enlarged to become an enclosure of about 8-9 acres (3.5 hectares), of roughly the same shape and size as that shown in Winbolt's inaccurate plan.²

In support of my original suggestion, however, the air photograph showing the partly demolished ramparts of both forts as light coloured strips across the ploughed field is here published (Plate III), side by side with the plan (Fig. 5), which is partly based on it and is now contoured more accurately than Fig. 1 of the 1975 report.

In order to re-check the evidence on the ground I visited Castle Hill in March 1978 with two colleagues (Anthony Streeten and Andrew Webster). The whole of the central area had been recently ploughed and we were unanimous on the following points:

- (i) Despite recent disturbance at the north-east and south-west corners of Fort I, there is no evidence at all of defences joining

¹ H. Thompson, 'Kentish hill-forts', *Kent Archaeological Review*, 51 (1978), 2-6.

² S. E. Winbolt, 'Castle Hill Camp, Tonbridge', *Arch. Cant.*, xli (1929), 193-5.

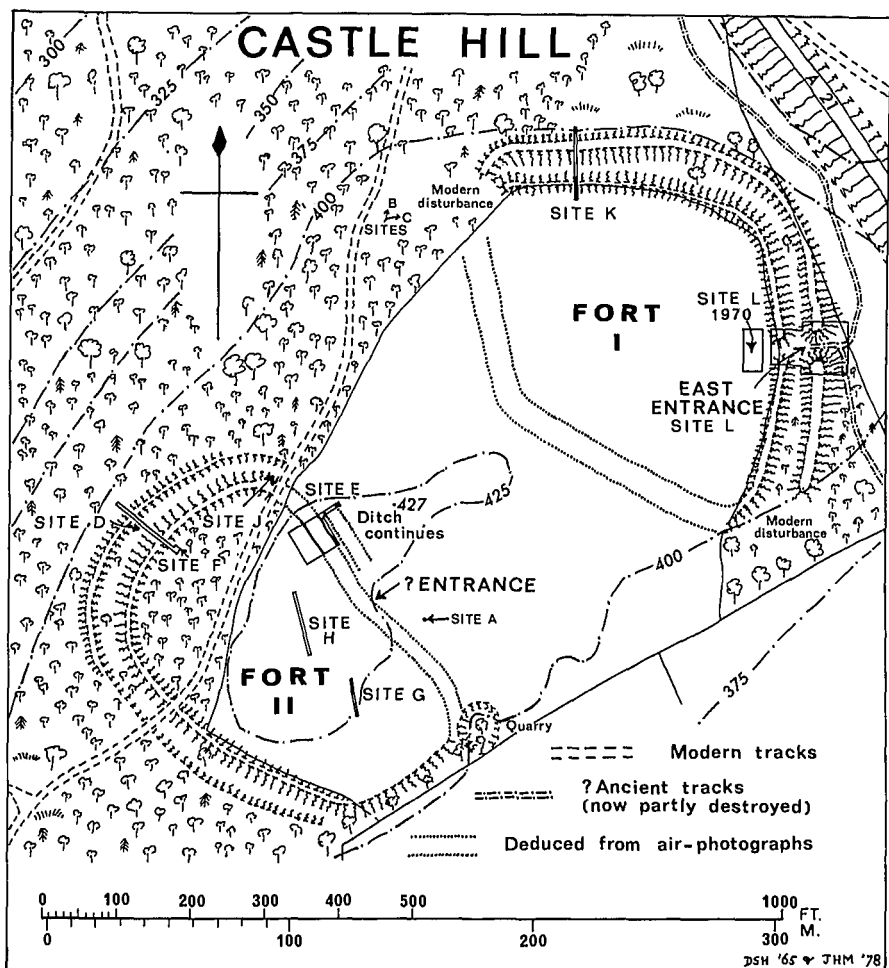


Fig. 5. Site Plan.

- the two sets of earthworks, as shown in Winbolt's plan; indeed at the north-east corner of Fort II, the return of the well-preserved rampart and ditch clearly demonstrates that these defences could not have formed part of a larger enclosure;
- (ii) on the south-east side between Forts I and II there is a shallow but distinct re-entrant on a gentle slope, which, if enclosed within defences, would have constituted a serious weakness;
- (iii) seen from this direction the two forts stand apart on crests on either side of the re-entrant;

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

- (iv) viewed in favourable conditions the demolished ramparts of both forts show up as slight swellings on the ground and as light-coloured bands against the darker brown soil of the ploughed field; in each case the filled-in ditch is visible as a slight depression in front of the swelling.

Whether the two forts were contemporary, or one followed the other, and, if so, which, cannot be determined from the earthworks themselves. I have little to add to the arguments set out on p. 64 of the 1975 report, which are based on the albeit limited sample of two radiocarbon dates:

BM - 810 315 \pm 50 b.c. (Fort I)
BM - 809 225 \pm 61 b.c. (Fort II)

I still consider it more likely that Fort I was earlier, if only because it stood in a commanding position at the end of the promontory and dominated the north-west to south-east route (now followed by the A21). If contemporary with Fort II, it would have been the more important, for the same reasons.

J. H. MONEY

INTERIM REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS IN 1978 BY THE CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

During 1978 four major excavations were carried out by the Trust in the City in advance of various redevelopments. As well as this, a whole series of smaller sites were investigated (Fig. 6) as the need arose and, besides sites in the city and district of Canterbury, two sites were investigated at Sandwich. Both these sites are the subject of separate reports in this volume. Building recording work has also been undertaken and measured drawings were made of all surviving medieval features of the 'Aula Nova' or North Hall of Christ Church Priory, Canterbury. A full report on this survey will be published with the excavation report on the "Norman Staircase" site,¹ which is now in preparation. During the summer the Trust also made a detailed series of drawings of the walls of St. Martin's Church (with a grant of £100 from the Society of Antiquaries of London). We were able to include details of the walls below ground as revealed in the 1890's and now covered or destroyed, because Canon G. M. Livetts' original drawings of 1896 were re-discovered by the Trust. These drawings have now been deposited in Canterbury Cathedral Library. Finally, detailed elevation drawings were made of the Keep of Canterbury Castle and

¹ See *Arch. Cant.*, xciii (1977), 217.



Aerial View of Castle Hill, showing Marks of demolished Defences in the arable Field. (Reproduced by permission of Aerofilms Ltd.)

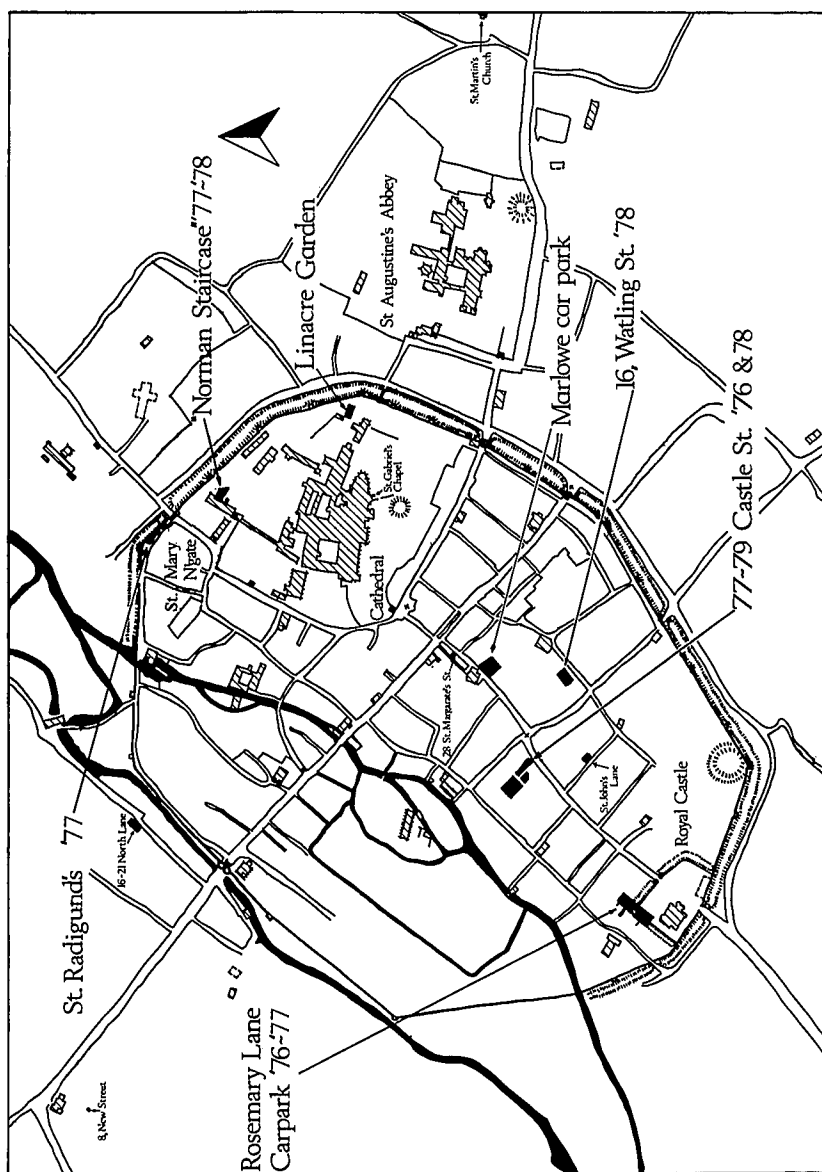


Fig. 6. Canterbury, Sites excavated 1976-78.

these will be published in the excavation report, which is also now in preparation.

Of the four major excavations carried out in 1978 two are still in progress (Marlowe Car Park and Linacre Gardens sites), and work will continue on these sites throughout the winter and spring of 1978-9.

The Marlowe Car Park site is a large area in central Canterbury next to the Marlowe Theatre and between St. Margaret's Street and Rose Lane. The site is due to be developed as a major new shopping precinct and excavations on this site in advance of the redevelopment will take place continuously for eighteen months during 1978 and 1979. Some small trenches were dug in this area in 1946 and the early 1950's by Professor S. S. Frere (as yet unpublished)² and part of a Roman public bath building was found as well as portions of other large Roman buildings and a street. Our excavations are intended to look at the site as a whole and to recover as much as is possible before the redevelopment takes place. Already an enlarged area of the probable *caldarium* of the baths has been uncovered and a large layer of box-flue tiles (still partly 'articulated') lying horizontally within the building has been excavated showing that the walls of the building were still standing long after the hypocaust floor had been torn out.

On the southern side of the site a late-medieval and post-medieval lane with its flanking buildings has been excavated. This lane was enclosed and covered over in the nineteenth century when it became the yard of the Fountain Hotel, and the whole area was finally destroyed by bombing in 1942.

The Linacre Gardens site, which is situated in the Cathedral precincts between "Meister Omers" and the Deanery gardens, only started at the end of November 1978 and work continues here until May 1979. The excavations are in advance of the building of a new boarding house for the King's School and are entirely financed by the School. The site itself is situated on and immediately outside the twelfth-century boundary wall of Christ Church Priory. This area which is within the City walls was acquired by the Priory in the thirteenth century and incorporated in the Priory precincts. The excavations should find the remains of some of the twelfth- and thirteenth-century properties that fronted onto Queningate Lane and are now only known from contemporary rentals.³

TIM TATTON-BROWN

² But see *JRS*, xxix (1949), 110.

³ See W. Urry, *Canterbury under the Angevin Kings* (1967), 206.

16 WATLING STREET, CANTERBURY

During the summer of 1978 excavations took place to the rear of no. 16 Watling Street in advance of the Marlowe Car Park redevelopment scheme.

The earliest occupation on the site was represented by a curving length of Belgic ditch, 13 m. long and up to 0.80 m. deep, running north-west/south-east with a butt-end and possible entrance to the north-west. It may perhaps enclose structures further to the east under the Marlowe Car Park. Pottery from the primary fill suggests a pre-conquest date. Not long after the conquest the ditch was back-filled and the area extensively quarried for clay, presumably as a raw material for the construction of early Roman buildings in the area.

Roman buildings first appeared on the site in the late first century, with a sequence of two superimposed timber-framed structures. By the end of the second century, three other timber buildings and one masonry building, with tessellated floor and fine dressed tufa quoinstones, had been constructed. Not long after, the remaining first-century timber building was repaired and yet another timber building added to the already complex sequence of timber structures on site. Finally, in the late fourth century, another masonry building was constructed of coursed flint and brick, with a tessellated corridor. The walls of this building survived until the twelfth century when they were robbed to their foundations.

Overlying the destruction levels to the Roman buildings was a 0.20 m.-thick layer of black loam, built up during the abandonment of the area in the fifth century. Probably the most interesting phase of the site is represented by seven Saxon sunken-floored huts which cut through this loam and were sometimes enclosed by the walls of extant ruined Roman buildings (see Fig. 2). Nos. 1 to 6 are probably of a sixth- or seventh-century date, whilst no. 7, a developed type with six posts, is probably of a slightly later Saxon date. Of particular significance is hut no. 6 which was constructed within the building with tufa quoins, and cut through 0.40 m. of collapsed wall material to re-use the tessellated floor of the Roman building. This hut had an interesting porch-like entrance structure to the north (see Fig. 7 and Plate IV). Overlying hut 1 was a small late Saxon timber building with a clay floor and stakes. This was in turn superseded by a large timber building dated to the eleventh–twelfth century. A property boundary and pits containing smithing waste were associated with a later phase of this building.

By the end of the thirteenth century a large stone building, with a narrow metalled street running parallel to its long axis, was constructed. During its life (sometime in the fourteenth century) it was

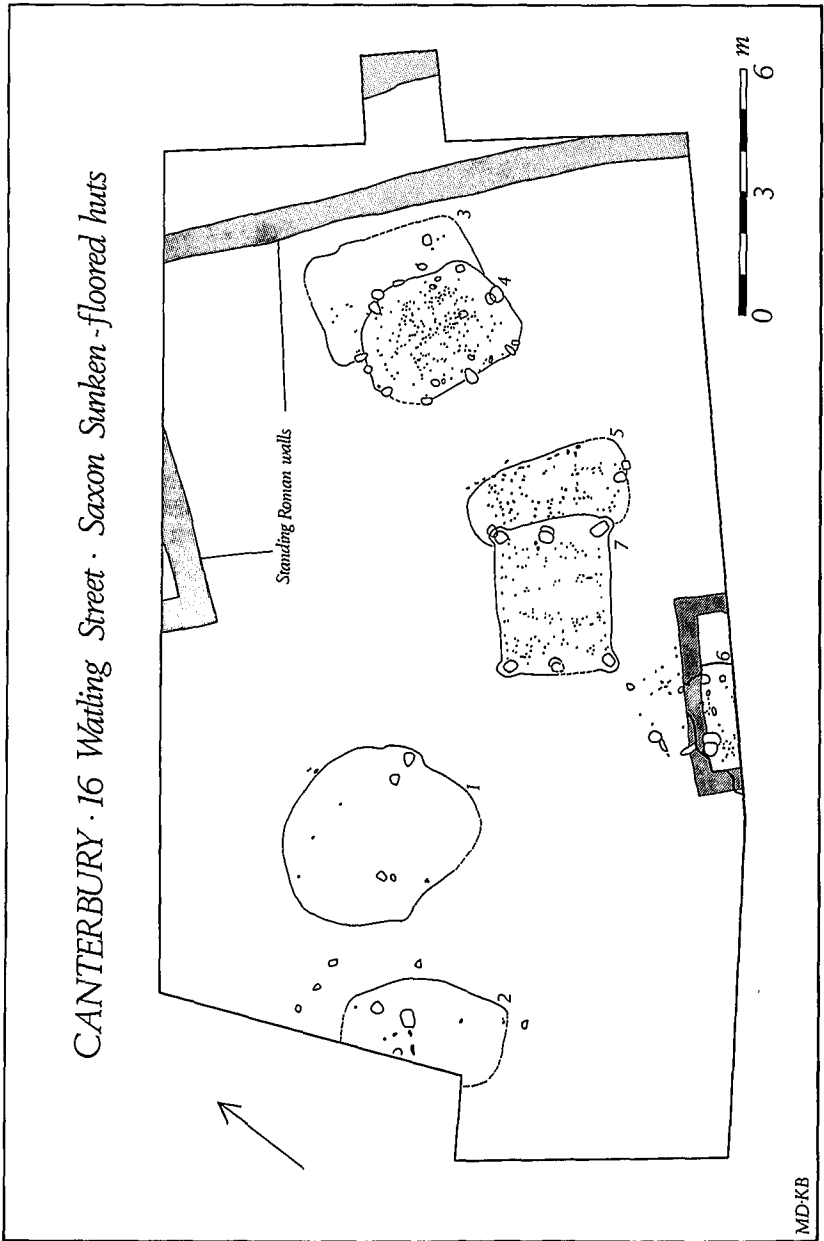


Fig. 7. Plan of sunken Huts, 16 Watling Street.



Saxon sunken Hut inside a Roman Building, 16 Watling Street.



Eighth-Century Saxon Object, 77-79 Castle Street.

extended to the south by a timber addition. After this building had been robbed and the ground levelled, large quantities of garden soil were imported and during the late sixteenth or the first half of the seventeenth century, a substantial brick wall was built around the site and a formal knot garden laid out.⁴

KEVIN BLOCKLEY AND MARION DAY

77-79 CASTLE STREET, CANTERBURY. STAGE II

The recent excavations in the area behind 78-79 Castle Street were a continuation of those conducted in 1976.⁵ The excavation, undertaken in advance of the building of an extension to St. James' House, was financed by the developer, Messrs. London and Manchester Securities Ltd. (Fig. 8).

The earliest features encountered dated to c. A.D. 50-70. A narrow Roman street, barely 2.10 m. (7 ft.) wide, was aligned north-east/south-west. This road, parallel to and 25 m. (82 ft.) west of the major Roman street found in 1975, may be an extension of the minor Roman road found on the Rosemary Lane site in 1976. A number of wheel-ruts and horses' hoof impressions were found cutting the road surface.

3 m. (9 ft. 9 in.) to the west of the road was another linear metalling. This surfacing was aligned roughly north-south. The relationship between the two metallings is unknown, though the surfacing to the west of the road may be associated with a 'Belgic' or early Roman structure.

The earliest features were sealed by a courtyard surface. A total of six surfacings were excavated, probably dating from the late first to the third century A.D. These courtyards were associated with the large colonnaded building found to the west of the major Roman road in 1976. Over 1,100 fragments of marble veneering and a number of architectural and inscribed fragments were recovered from the courtyards during excavation.

The latest courtyard surface was sealed by a 0.15 m. deposit of black loam. This layer, encountered elsewhere in Canterbury, may be an abandonment deposit post-dating Roman activity in the City and pre-dating resettlement in the Saxon period.

This 'abandonment' level was sealed by a rough horizon of broken Roman roofing-tiles, bricks and flints, possibly indicating open rough ground. Mixed with this deposit were large quantities of iron slag and a number of Saxon features dating from the eighth and ninth centuries.

⁴ See unpublished early seventeenth-century map of Canterbury in the Cathedral Library.

⁵ See *Arch. Cant.*, xci (1976), 238-40.

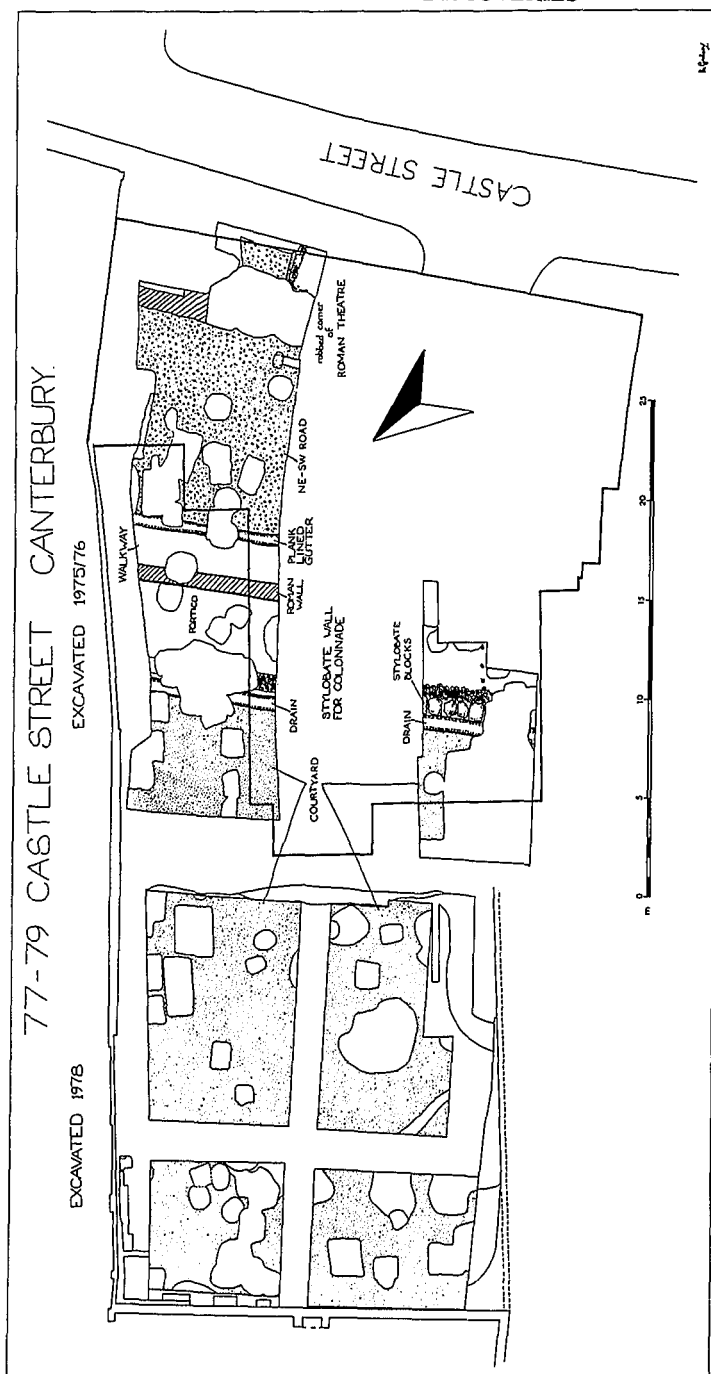


Fig. 8. Plan of main Roman Features, 77-9 Castle Street.

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

These included the remains of a flimsy timber building, three possible drainage ditches, a number of small rubbish pits and a large, possible clay extraction pit. One rubbish pit contained six bun-shaped loom weights. The upper fill of the clay extraction pit contained a number of fragmented bone weaving combs, and a unique bronze object bearing an eighth-century zoomorphic design. (Plate V.) Two eighth-century *sceattas* were also found in the same general horizon.

The levels overlying the Saxon horizon were very much disturbed and may have aggregated during agricultural processes. A large number of twelfth- to fourteenth-century rubbish pits cut through the Roman and Saxon levels.

The remains of a clay-floored, probable timber-framed structure, dating to around the fourteenth century was excavated; possibly associated with the later phases of this structure were a number of fifteenth- to eighteenth-century rubbish pits. The sequence was completed with a number of nineteenth-century pits and features associated with the previous occupants of this site: the Cakebread and Robey Builders Merchants.

PAUL BENNETT

OTHER SITES

A small excavation in advance of the lowering of the basement of 28 St. Margaret's Street was undertaken by the Trust from the 14th to the 17th of January, 1978.

Following the clearance of the old cellar foundations and a number of medieval rubbish pits, an intact deposit of black loam was discovered. This deposit, encountered elsewhere in Canterbury during large-scale excavations, seems to have been an abandonment deposit, post-dating Roman activity in the City and pre-dating resettlement in the Saxon period. This deposit contained a large deposit of late-Roman pottery.

The 'abandonment' level sealed a sequence of burnt clay floors which may possibly be associated with a stoke-house for a heated Roman building. In one small area the floors were removed. These sealed a thick demolition deposit consisting of decomposed mud walling mixed with red and white painted plaster.

Underlying the deposit was a clay floor and the remains of a narrow mud wall, rendered on both sides with white painted plaster. The mud wall was probably a partition wall associated with an early Roman building.

PAUL BENNETT

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

During February 1978, a 'watching brief' was undertaken during the construction of the foundations of a new house in the back garden of no. 5 Castle Street (Lullingstone House), in an area fronting St. John's Lane. A number of Roman and 'Belgic' features were recorded during the cutting of the foundation trenches, but most of the later levels were just 'black soil' levels, indicating that there was perhaps little occupation in this area in the post-Roman period and that the later agricultural use of this area had cut into and disturbed the earlier levels.

In October 1978, a small trench was cut on the south side of the Cathedral immediately outside the south-east corner of the chapel of St. Gabriel. This was done for the Surveyor to the fabric of Canterbury Cathedral, Mr. Peter Marsh, so that he could examine the foundations of the chapel which badly need damp-proofing. The trench uncovered the north side of the fifteenth-century brick drain and also the early twelfth-century foundations of St. Gabriel's Chapel. In between were found several inhumation burials, one of which was in a stone-lined grave. This area is, of course, well within the monastic cemetery. Beneath these levels, a series of Roman layers was excavated though no major features (walls, pits, etc.) were found. The natural brickearth was cut into by a series of Belgic or early Roman hollows. Further work in this area will take place in the spring of 1979.

Finally, the Trust examined and recorded an inhumation burial found within an eighteenth-century brick-lined vault at Sheepcourt Farm seven miles south of Canterbury (N.G.R. TR 119471). The bones of a child were discovered but no recorded explanation as to why the grave was not in the churchyard could be found.

TIM TATTON-BROWN

Kent Archaeological Society is a registered charity number 223382
© Kent Archaeological Society 9th August 2014