

## NOTES ON KENTISH EARTHWORKS.

BY W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE.

THE following notes are the results of an examination of more than fifty, out of about seventy, earthworks and reputed remains, referred to in various maps and works on Kent; and it is desirable to give a brief report on the present state of the early remains of this county, as they have not yet been thus treated collectively.

Surveys were made of many of the works, and the plans were exhibited at the Society's annual meeting at Bromley, in illustration of these notes; most of those plans are here reproduced on a scale of one-twelfth of the original sheets, merely to shew the forms, and not professing to retain the full accuracy of the large plans.

It may be convenient to state the exact distance of each work from the nearest village, as much time is wasted in identifying the positions of remains from the usually loose descriptions.

The CAMPS may be taken as the first and most important class of earthworks. Of these, plans were exhibited at Bromley of Castle Hill, one and a half miles N.W. of Folkestone\* (recently excavated by General Lane Fox); Shottenden Mill, three quarters of a mile S. of Selling;\* a fragment of a camp half a mile N.W. of Blackheath;\* another fragment half a

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mile N.N.W. of Charlton;\* and a work S.W. of Stockbury Church, which probably retains a pre-mediæval form, though something has been built in it. At half a mile E. of Ewell near Dover (prompted by the name of *Lousyberry* wood), I found some defensive works on a hill with three tumuli.\* There were similar works on a hill opposite to it, which are now destroyed. There are other camps around Coldred Church; at Bigberry Wood, three miles W. of Canterbury (already published in *Archæologia Cantiana*); Iffins Wood, two miles S.S.W. of Canterbury; perhaps at Whitehall, one mile W. of Canterbury; Judd's Hill, one and a quarter miles W. of Faversham; Oldbury, one mile W. of Ightham; Fossberry, one and a quarter miles E.S.E. of East Malling; at half a mile N.E. of Keston; one mile E.N.E. of Cobham; Castle Hill, two miles S.E. of Tunbridge, and Perry Wood, one mile S.W. of Selling. These have mostly been surveyed already, and they are nearly all impossible to re-survey more accurately, without some clearing of the woods. An interesting rectangular camp, half a mile E.S.E. of Queenborough, has recently been cultivated, and will soon disappear entirely. In the Ordnance Map there is the "site of camp" at Tolsford Hill, one mile S.E. of Postling, which I could not visit; and also "site of a British camp" near Wye Racecourse, one mile E. of Wye. Some authority for this description is required, for there is no bank or fortification, and the pits are none of them of the character of pit dwellings, but rather of flint-digger's pits; being deep and conical, not saucer-shaped, and having the earth thrown out in irregular heaps.

The second class of works consists of the MOATS

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AND MOAT CAMPS, which abound in Kent and Sussex perhaps more than in any other district. Surveys were exhibited of Castle Rough, three quarters of a mile E.N.E. of Milton by Sittingbourne, said to be made by Alfred; (there is said to have been a Danish entrenchment at Bayford near Sittingbourne), also a camp, half a mile E. of Queenborough;\* and a similar site one and a quarter miles E.N.E. of Newenden,\* which has a large tripartite mound at one corner, and which has been considered Roman. Castle Bank, one and a half miles S. of Staplehurst, and Castle Hill, one mile N.E. of Brenchley, are also large moats, the latter yet retaining water, though some way up a hill-side; both of these are in such thick woods that I could not survey them. There is also a moat at half a mile W. of Sevington; and an entrenchment at Kennardington is perhaps of the same character.

Many sites on which camps are stated to have existed are now cultivated. At Preston, Each near Ash, Sandwich, Ripple, and Richborough Hill, there are no remains of any camps; at Kingsdown, near Walmer, I did not see any; at Dover, the camp, N.W. of the Castle, has been destroyed for a modern fort; and at Statenborough, though the ground is not cultivated, there is no camp to be seen.

Numerous sites which once bore a camp or fort, by their name of *bury*, are now bare of any remains. The following were examined; Downbury Farm, near Pembury; Hockenbury and Dunbury, near Staplehurst; Tattlebury, near Headcorn; Tatlingbury, near Capel; and Perry Hill, near Cooling; and there are certainly no remains at these places as far as can be seen. At Pembury, Frindsbury, Wateringbury, and

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Bury Court Wood, near Cooling, I could not see any remains. At Glassenbury, one and three quarter miles E.S.E., and Bedgebury, two miles S. of Goudhurst, and Scadbury, three quarters of a mile E. of Chislehurst, there are moats and water defences which are probably the ancient *burys*. The following I have left for future examination; Berry Court, Smarden; Scadbury, Southfleet; Goodbury Farm, Shoreham; Bury's Farm, Cudham; Newberry near Lynsted; Eastbury near Cooling; Howbury near Erith; Castle Wood, N.E. of Newnham; Camp Hill, near Penshurst (close to Chiddingstone Causeway which is a suggestive name); and Ealdburie, mentioned in 1465 as being in Boughton under Blean. Footbury Hill at Orpington (close to *Perry Hall*) is apparently so called after Godwin Fot, the Saxon, from whom the neighbouring village of Foot's Cray takes its name.

There are in all thirty-six places which bear, or are stated to have borne, fortifications; and twenty-two more, whose names shew their military origin.

Of Earthworks which may have been connected with Mediaeval Castles (?) there are remains at Sheppy, Stockbury, Tonge, Binbury, and Thornham, some of which are apparently earlier works accommodated to later wants. Large mounds are stated to exist at Woodnesborough and Addington.

Of TUMULI plans were exhibited of the survivors of the Greenwich park group;\* also of Julaber's grave, half a mile E.S.E. of Chilham, and the Giant's grave, one mile E. of Wye, which each have three curious transverse grooves across them. Those on Sugar-loaf Hill, one mile and a half N. of Folkestone, and Rubry Butts, one mile and a half N.W. of Sibertswold, are

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well known, as also the single tumuli of Harty, Queenborough, Shorne, and Berstead.

On the Ordnance Map there are "caves" marked at Ashenfield Common, and near Wye Racecourse; at present these are nothing but deep conical holes in the ground. There are two deep well-like pits to be seen, some distance apart, on the west side of the road from Binbury to Maidstone, between Binbury and the racecourse; they are so thickly lined with bushes that the bottom is invisible, but is at least twelve or fifteen feet deep.

Of other EARTHWORKS several plans were exhibited at the Bromley Meeting. The circle, half a mile S.E. of Chilham, is one of the most perfect, regular, and delicately executed works in existence; nearly equaling the very best of the Wiltshire remains, as it has an average error of under four inches from a true circle, on a diameter of about one hundred and thirty feet. Its object must have been religious or sepulchral, but there is no mound or pit in the centre. The works on Barham Down, half a mile N.E. of Kingston,\* appear to be ancient; there are many slight square pits about half a mile from these, which, from all their details, are probably foundations of modern huts. About three quarters of a mile S.E. of Coldred, in a little wood, there are some banks which from their outline look recent; but their construction and appearance on the ground is rather ancient than modern, especially their considerable height, in some parts as much as six feet.

The works on St. Paul's Cray Common, half a mile S.E. of Chislehurst,\* are interesting in some details; but those on Hayes Common\* (from three

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quarters S.W. to one mile S.E. of Hayes) enclosures, entrenchments, pit-villages, and tumuli, are the finest in Kent for their extent, their preservation, and the great number of pit dwellings, exceeding one hundred and fifty. In fact they cannot probably be matched nearer than Wiltshire or Dorsetshire.

Of other Kentish earthworks, the faint banks at Hawkshill Close, joining the S. side of the Castle grounds at Walmer, seem decidedly not for defensive works, but rather like the ancient field boundaries so common on the Wiltshire Downs, and only known in Kent at Hayes. The raised ground, S. of Ringwold Church, is certainly artificial, but very vague, and without any well defined details, though there are possibly some faint ditches and pits on it. The banks in the wood, one mile and a quarter S.W. of Nettleded, and in Chingley and Shearingfold Woods, two miles S. and S.E. of Lamberhurst, are fairly shewn in the twenty-five inch Ordnance survey, and the wood precludes any re-survey. The thickness of the Woods N. of Key-Coll Hill, three quarters of a mile E. of Newington, also prevents any survey of the remains said to exist in them. The "Danes Pits" at Ripple (half a mile S.W. of Walmer), have nearly vanished under the plough; those at Wingleton Oak are apparently in the same plight; and the earthworks opposite Judd's Hill, one mile and a quarter W. of Faversham, seem quite gone. Chartham Down tumuli and banks have given place to a County Lunatic Asylum. There is said to be a fosse around Walmer Church, and an entrenchment at Denge Wood, E. of Julaber's grave, but both of these escaped my observation.

This finishes all the earthworks, and sites of earth-

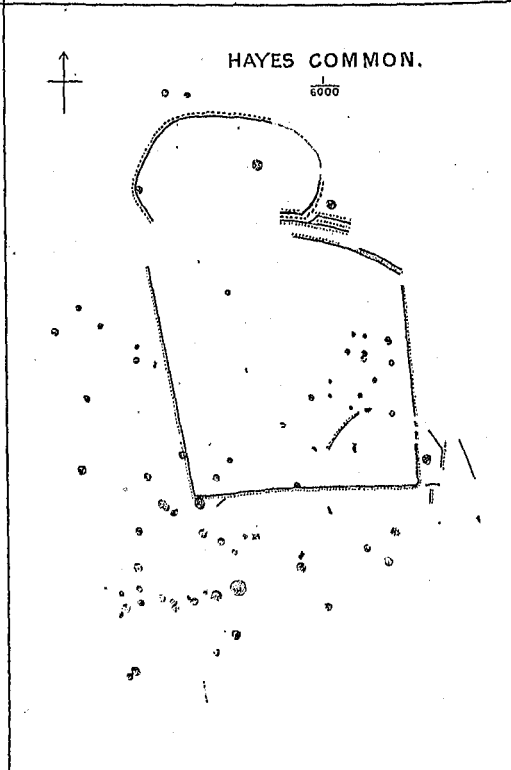
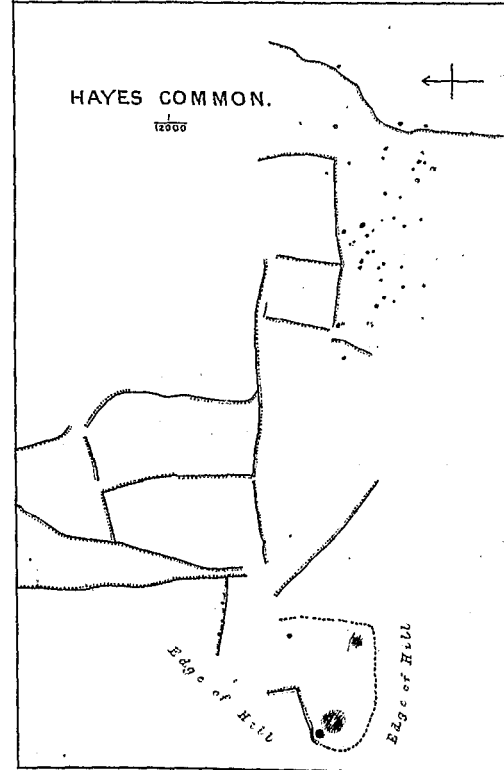
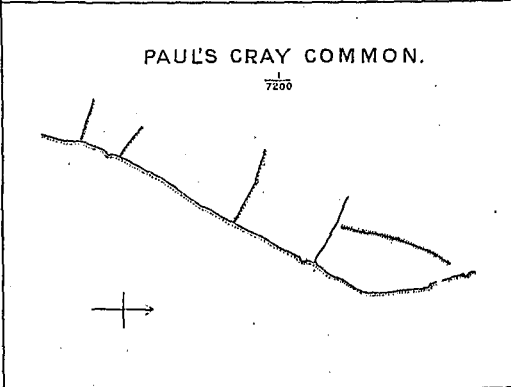
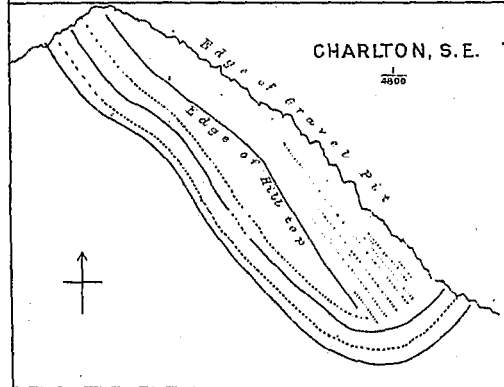
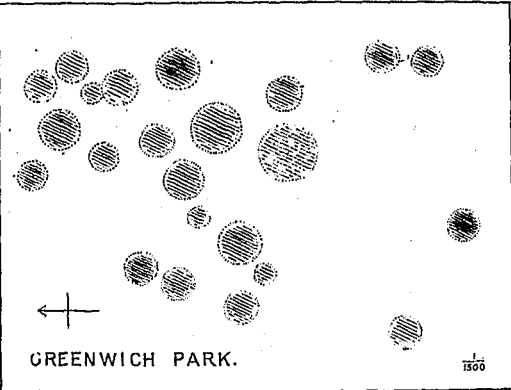
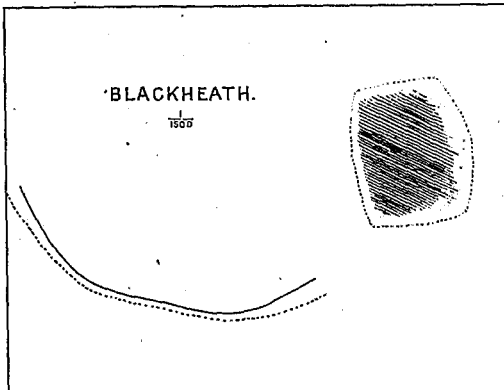
works in Kent, that I have yet seen published; though Mr. Spurrell has now brought forward a valuable account of the remains near Dartford. Plans were exhibited at Bromley of the stones at Addington,\* which with extraordinary perversity have been hitherto described as forming a circle, though they appear to be very plainly in two lines: also of the stones at Coldreham,\* one mile E.N.E. of Trottescliffe, in which one explorer has seen an oval, not including the cist or chamber, though they rather seem to form a rectilineal enclosure around the chamber.

There seems to be a type in these Kentish works; at Kits Coty, in Stukeley's time, there was a long mound, with the chamber at one end; at Addington, there is a chamber at one end of a long mound, which has a row of stones along it; and at Coldreham there is similarly a chamber, and a row of stones leaning in against a slight elevation of earth around it, in both cases the chamber being at the East end of the long group. With regard to the reputed cromlech at Cobham, I could not learn anything of it from the labourers about there; a large block of indurated gravel between the railway and Cobham Lodge Farm was pointed out, and some stones in Shorne Wood, N. of Cobham Park, consisting of one small piece of Sarsen stone, and one or two squared pieces of building stone; all the others lately removed from the wood were squared likewise.

Some Sarsen stones are to be seen as far off as a mile E. of Faversham, and at Judd's Hill, and some on the greensand, near Penenden Heath, a mile and a half from the chalk hills, but these are apparently the most scattered blocks.

\* Reproduced here.

# KENTISH EARTHWORKS.



CREST OF BANK ———
BOTTOM OF DITCH - - - - -
MOUND 
PIT

*Watkinson & Bristow, Photo Litho London.*



Having thus briefly catalogued the Kentish earthworks, a few remarks may be added on the plans. These are a part of a series of more than a hundred plans of remains in the south of England, surveyed by the writer with a good deal of care during the last few years, mainly to ascertain the regularity and symmetry of the prehistoric remains. The original plans are shaded in brown for the banks and mounds, and green for the ditches and pits; by far the best method for manuscript work. The system of representing the works by lines along the centres of the banks and ditches, was adopted in these reductions to avoid the equivocal nature of the ordinary hill shading and to give greater accuracy of the dimensions. These reductions are correct to one-hundredth of an inch. The thickening of the lines in some parts implies the greater strength of the features they represent.

*Blackheath.* The rest of the camp has been destroyed, and all the ground in it disturbed by gravel digging. The tumulus is later than the camp, as its ditch is perfect on the side where the bank would have joined it; and if coeval, it would have been placed symmetrically on the bank.

*Greenwich* tumuli are within half a mile of the Blackheath camp. Twelve other tumuli were destroyed in making the reservoir.

*Charlton, S.E.* The banks along the side are on the slope of the hill below the edge. The faint ditches in the area are singular.

*Paul's Cray Common.* This seems to have been added to from the N. end southwards; and yet the ditches are on the N. side of the banks, though the main ridge has its ditch outside.

*Hayes Common.* The pits seem coeval with the banks in the first plan; as, though there are thirty-eight close outside the enclosures, there is only one inside; probably the banks are field divisions. These banks have been much curtailed by the grounds of Hayes Court; and by the Parish cricket ground. In the second plan, the pits seem later than the banks, as they are arranged quite irrespective of them. One pit is cut partly into the bank of the oval enclosure, which proves that it cannot be earlier than that;

and the oval enclosure is certainly later than the straight enclosure, as part of the bank of the latter has been utilized for the former; unhappily the rest of the junction of these works is obliterated by cottages and a road. There is then here proof of a rectilinear work made before an oval work, and both of them pre-Roman, as pit dwellings were used subsequently to them, which would hardly be the case in post-Roman times, close to the Roman site of Keston and near London. The distinct lines in which the pits lie shew the course of the paths along which they seem to have been placed.

*Newenden.* This lies on the tail of a hill, sloping down in the water meadows near a branch of the Rother.

*Queenborough.* This is not a high work; it lies in the marshes of Queenborough Creek.

*Ewell.* This is only an approximate plan, by pacing and compass.

*Barham.* The ground slopes to the S.W.; the main ridge is just below the top of the hill; there are no pit dwellings.

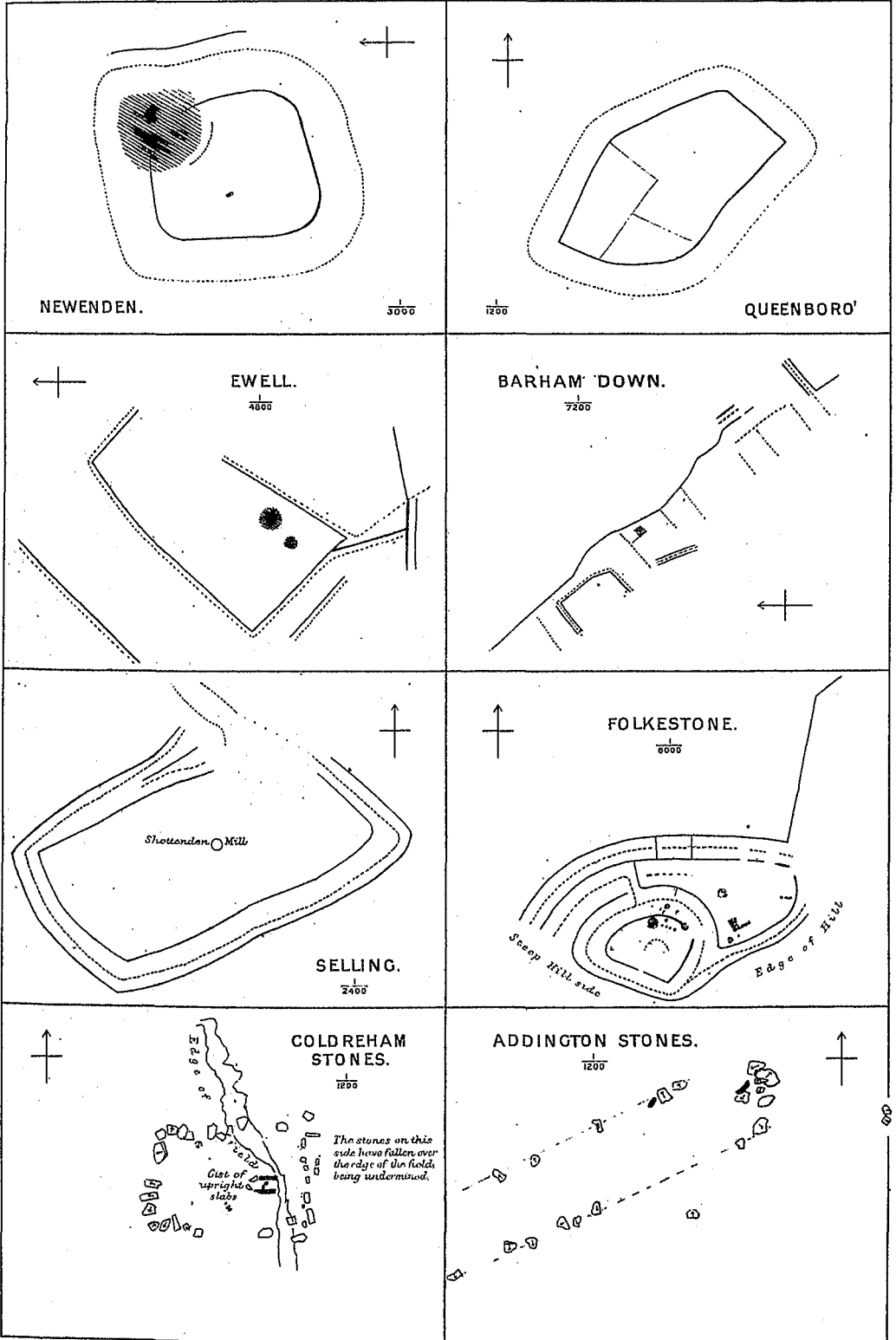
*Selling.* The hill slopes steeply all around this, except where it joins a lower hill on the N.E. The N. corner is not fully surveyed, owing to the thick wood.

*Folkestone.* This is on an isolated hill, connected with the main chain by a plateau on the N. side. The square pit is remarkable for its regularity.

*Coldreham.* None of the fallen stones on the E. side were surveyed, except the two northern; the rest are only sketched, as they are all displaced, having fallen from the field above. The side slabs of the central chamber are upright, 7 feet 3 inches and 7 feet 5 inches high. Hardly any probing has been done, so the buried parts of the stones are uncertain. The arrows on the stones shew the direction of their dip.

*Addington.* All the stones were probed for, so as to give the true outline. The broken lines shew the probable alignment of the stones originally. A long low mound, about 5 feet high, occupies the ground between the lines (now cut across by a carriage road), and the stones apparently leaned inward against the mound. Perhaps there was a slight wide ditch beyond the stones, around the whole. The arrows shew the direction of the dip of the stones.

KENTISH EARTHWORKS.



CREST OF BANK ——— BOTTOM OF DITCH - - - - - MOUND PIT