

DOVER : STEMBROOK AND ST. MARTIN-LE-GRAND, 1956

By PHILIP A. RAHTZ

SUMMARY

THIS report describes the structures and objects found during mechanical excavations on two sites in Dover, Stembrook and St. Martin's. Indications of Roman buildings were seen on the latter site, while at Stembrook were remains probably of a quay and jetty, associated in both cases with the former estuary of the River Dour.

INTRODUCTION

Towards the end of 1955, two large scale building operations began at Dover, in the angle between Church Street and Stembrook Street (Stembrook), and on the west side of the market square (St. Martin's). The structures and objects found were reported in the local press and were examined by Messrs. F. Jenkins and Paul Woodfield, the latter, together with the Borough Surveyor, being responsible for the plan of the medieval walls at St. Martin's. The writer visited the site in February, 1956, on behalf of the Ministry of Works, and observed further excavation on both sides. The present report is an amalgam of the information obtained by all the parties involved.<sup>1</sup>

It would appear that the St. Martin's site lies on the boundary between the alluvium of the Dour Valley and the brickearth exposed on the ground rising from it on either side. The Stembrook site lies entirely on the alluvium (information from Mr. S. C. A. Holmes, Geological Survey and Museum).

PREVIOUS EXPLORATION

Finds from Dover up to that date were summarized by Amos and Wheeler in 1929.<sup>2</sup> In the 1939-45 war several sites were cleared by

<sup>1</sup> Acknowledgements are due to the contractors and staff of the excavations, who were unfailingly helpful; to the Borough Surveyor, who prepared a plan of the structures at St. Martin's; to Mr. D. Philpott, the Quantity Surveyor on the Stembrook site, who made measured drawings of the quay and jetty; to Mr. C. Morecraft, the Clerk of Works; to Frank Jenkins for his notes on the coarse pottery and to L. G. Harris for drawing it; to Miss S. Butcher and Miss D. Charlesworth for notes on the Stembrook samian, and Brian Hartley for notes on that from St. Martin's; to Eric Higgs for his note on the flints; to Paul Woodfield for the appendix on the St. Martin's tomb and for several helpful suggestions; and to L. Biek, of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, for technical advice (Appendix D and footnotes "L.B.").

<sup>2</sup> *Arch. Journ.*, Vol. LXXXVI, 2nd series, Vol. XXXVI, pp. 47-58, hereafter referred to as "Amos & Wheeler, 1929." See also *V.C.H.*, III, 42; *J.R.S.*, XXXVI (1946), 146; XXXVIII (1948), 98 f.; XLI (1951), 140; XLII (1952), 102 f. (material collected by Miss M. V. Taylor for Professor Haverfield).

enemy action, and were explored by the Dover Excavation Committee<sup>1</sup>; trenches were dug at Stembrook in 1945-47, and on St. Martin's in 1950. On the Stembrook site the previous trenches were not extended far enough eastwards to locate the wooden piles of the "quay", nor the chalk revetment behind; nor were the same depths encountered. No finds are recorded from this area previously, except the massive wall<sup>2</sup> from the south end of Church Street. The St. Martin's site has received attention frequently; a large Roman building, with hypocausts and a tessellated pavement, was noted here in 1881,<sup>3</sup> and parts of probably the same building were located in trenching in 1950.<sup>4</sup> The Roman levels on this site were overlaid by the massive foundations of the Norman Church of St. Martin-le-Grand<sup>5</sup> which have been identified in the present excavation, and those of 1950.<sup>6</sup>

### STEMBROOK (Figs. 1 and 2)

The excavations shown on the plan (Fig. 1) were for stanchions and a boiler house for a new block of buildings erected by Dover Borough Council. The holes were dug during the autumn and winter of 1955-56. Only parts of 9-15, dug in February, 1956, were seen by the writer, and most of the measurements were taken by Mr. D. V. Philpott.<sup>7</sup> The site is low-lying ground (about 20 ft. above O.D.) on the west side of the present course of the River Dour, below the Market Square. Some 200 yards to the south-east a large timber and shingle foundation was discovered in 1857, interpreted by Wheeler as a quay, causeway or slipway.<sup>8</sup> The relationship of this structure to the Roman channel of the Dour is uncertain.

Two timber and chalk structures have been located at Stembrook at a distance of some 60 ft. from each other. "A" was a structure of piles and planking on the edge of a wedge-shaped mass or platform of chalk blocks—this is interpreted as part of a *quayside*. "B" was a smaller isolated chalk platform surmounted by timber staging and planking, interpreted as a *jetty*.

"A"—the *quayside*—was seen mainly in the boiler house excavation. The section (Fig. 2) shows that the basal very compact gravel (Layer E) slopes gradually to east and south, from 4.5 ft. *above* O.D. near Church Street to 2.4 ft. *below* O.D. in Hole 5 near Castle Street. The lower part of this slope was made up to a level surface by a platform of chalk

<sup>1</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, LXIV (1951), hereafter referred to as Dover, 1945-47.

<sup>2</sup> Amos and Wheeler, 1929, p. 50, No. 9.

<sup>3</sup> Amos and Wheeler, 1929, p. 49, No. 5.

<sup>4</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, LXXI (1957), pps. 14 ff.

<sup>5</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, IV, pp. 1-26.

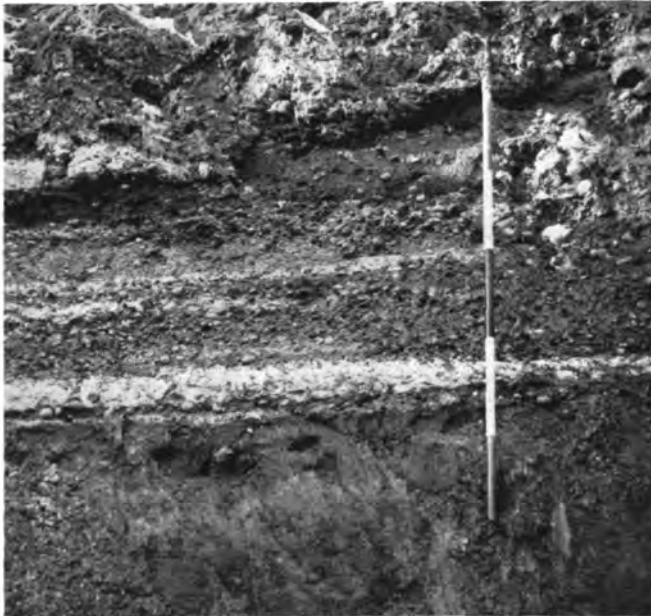
<sup>6</sup> Also Amos and Wheeler, No. 10.

<sup>7</sup> Details of the stratification of these holes are in the Ministry's records.

<sup>8</sup> Amos and Wheeler, 1929, No. 10, p. 52.



Dover, St. Martins : General View of pit.



Dover, St. Martins : Lower Layers in Section D.

PLATE III

LENGTH 40 ins.



Dover, Stembrook : Timber No. 13.

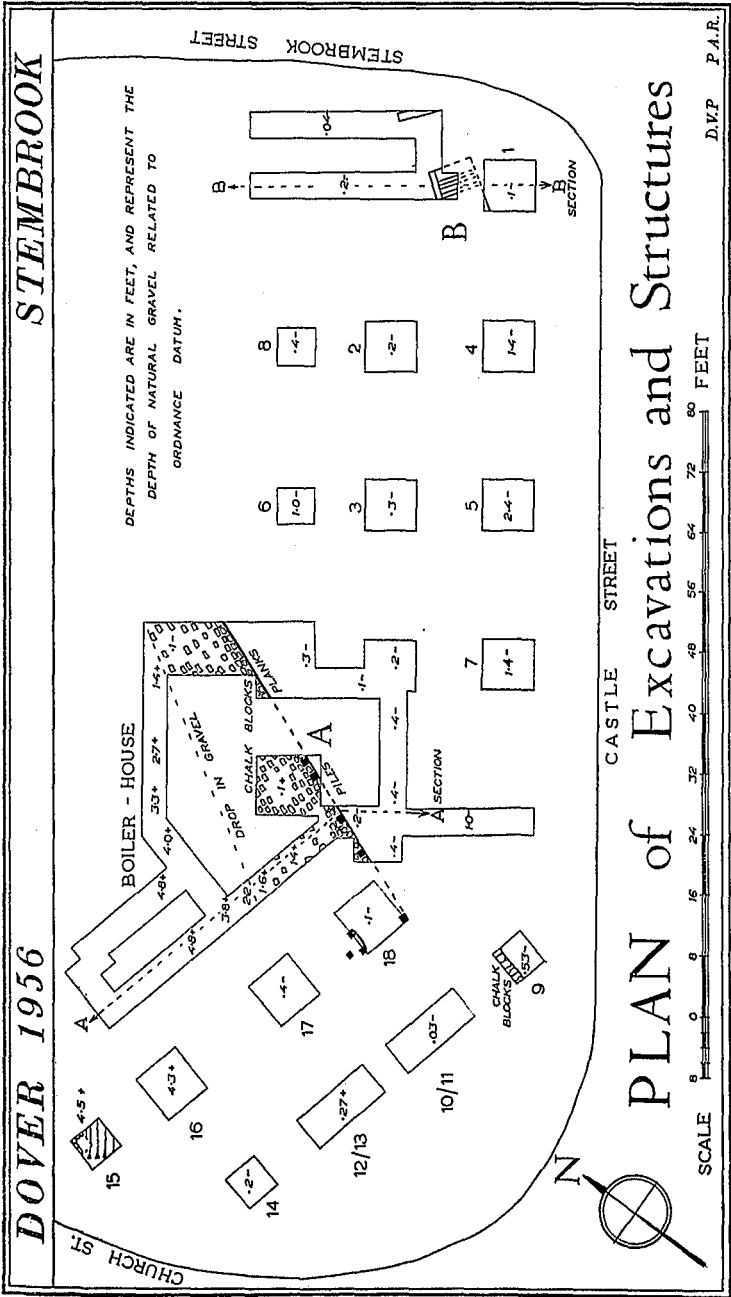


Fig. 1.

blocks, averaging 1 ft. 6 in. by 9 in. by 9 in., roughly coursed, without mortar. These were held in place mainly by their own weight, and the edges secured by piles.<sup>1</sup> One was possibly a re-used ship's timber (Pl. III and Appendix D). Only a few were found *in situ* and their original spacing is uncertain. Planking was nailed to their heads apparently as a further support for the top of the chalk platform. In the boiler house area the chalk platform was continuous, with a well defined eastern edge, but in Hole 18, although a pile was seen on the original alignment at its south-east corner, there was no firm coursing of chalk blocks ; there were three further piles near to the south-west corner, with a curved plank nailed to two of them. Furthermore, there is clearly a sharp drop from the boiler house area towards Hole 17 of nearly 4 ft. It seems likely, therefore, that the quayside turned westwards in the vicinity of Hole 18, though further chalk blocks are recorded from Hole 9. The surface of the chalk platform was level with the top of the piles at 6 ft. above O.D., and may have been the original quay surface, though it is possible that planking was laid on the chalk, as on structure "B", and perhaps further timbering on the edge.

"B"—the *jetty*—was 60 ft. N.E. of "A", and consists of a platform of chalk blocks 6 ft. 9 in. from east to west. On this was laid a framework of timbers enclosing an area of planking. No piles were found holding this chalk in place, though two, not *in situ*, were seen in Hole 1. A further plank, shown on the plan, was found further to the north, loose in the filling. It will be seen from the section (Fig. 2) that the timber framework was secured by means of a half-joint on the plank, resting on an off-set formed by a double timber on the edge. Only the north, east and west edges of the *jetty* were found ; it cannot have extended far to the south or it would have been seen in Hole 4. It may have turned eastwards between Holes 1 and 4, or may have been an isolated "island".

#### STRATIFICATION (see Sections Fig. 2)

*Layer A* is the most recent, from houses recently demolished.

*Layer B* is probably post-Roman silt and debris ; no pottery was recorded as coming from this layer, and the dating of its accumulation is uncertain ; in the hand-cut trenches of 1945-47, a similar layer was mostly medieval. It continued without any apparent change down to the level of the quayside, blacker and lower in the vicinity of the *jetty*.

<sup>1</sup> Nine piles and seven other timbers ; piles 4-7 feet in length with an average section of 6 inches, usually squared ; squared tapered ends culminating often in a battered end with "shoulder", where driven into basal gravel. (See Fig. 10 and Pl. III.)

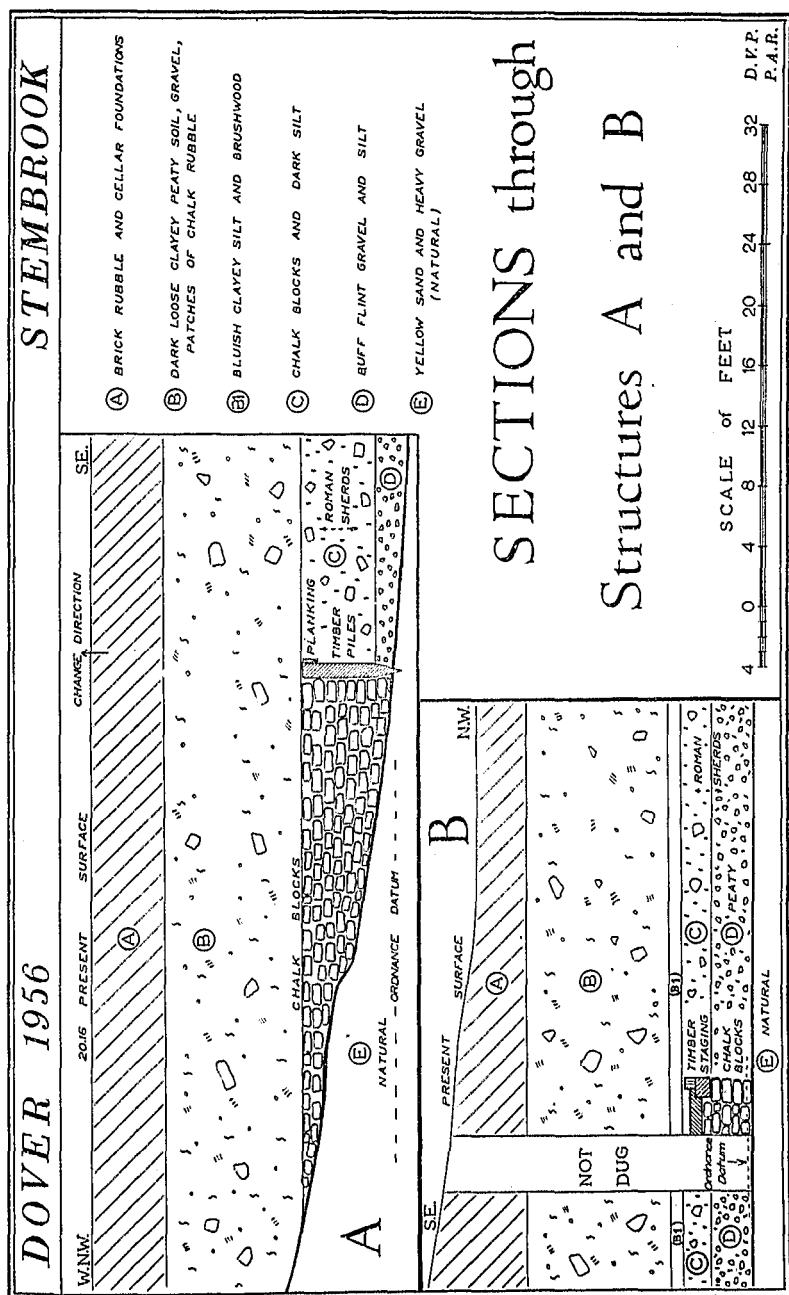


Fig. 2.

*Layer B.1* was only found near the jetty, and seems to be a post-Roman silt.

*Layer C* occurred east of the quay and thinly over and around the jetty. It is probably debris of Roman, or perhaps partly immediately post-Roman, date. Most of the Roman pottery came from the middle of this layer east of the quay and from its base and the top of Layer D near the jetty.

*Layer D* was not clearly demarcated from C, but was cleaner and more gravelly, with some peaty soil and sherds only near the jetty.

#### DATING

Most of the pottery (pp. 131 to 135) is recorded only as coming mainly from the level shown on the sections. It was not recorded individually by area or depth, and only the obvious pieces were kept by the workmen, such as samian, which comprised two-thirds of the sherds. The general dating is to the later first-second centuries A.D., with very few later sherds. Its connection with the use of the quay and jetty, however, is less certain. Indeed, as suggested on p. 131, it is likely to be secondary to these structures; the predominantly second century dating of the pottery makes it reasonable to date the structures to the later 1st-early second centuries A.D.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The Stembrook evidence, though rather limited, confirms what was already suspected from earlier finds, namely that the area west of the market square was outside the eastern limit of the Roman town and was the site of the Roman harbour and dock installations; the structure found in 1856<sup>1</sup> was probably a major feature of these and was found at a greater depth (20 ft. from the then surface). The present structures are difficult to interpret without knowing more of the area around them, but it is reasonable to suppose that the quayside "A" lay on the eastern fringe of the Roman street area, which, as shown by the discoveries of St. Martin's, was on considerably made up levels on the slope of the old estuary bank. To the east and south of "A" is a uniformly deeper area, apparently with isolated structures, such as the jetty "B". This would presumably be a waterfilled channel at high tide, but probably not the main course of the Dour. The maximum depth of this is unlikely to have been normally more than 4 ft.; any higher level would flood the jetty "B", and 6 ft. of water would flood the quay "A". While this might not have been important at exceptional tides, it is clear that Roman high tide level cannot normally have been much higher than 4 ft. above O.D., the level of the jetty

<sup>1</sup> Amos and Wheeler, 1929, No. 10.



surface. The present-day high tide level in Dover Harbour averages some 8 ft. above O.D.,<sup>1</sup> so that the present evidence would seem to show that Roman sea level was some feet below that of the present day.

The channel must have been kept clear of debris while in use, and it seems clear that Layer C, and possibly part of Layer D, are the result of deliberate tipping after the quay and jetty had gone out of use.

### ST. MARTIN'S (Figs. 3-7.)

The site lies on the west side of the Market Square, on the site of part of the Collegiate Church of St. Martin-le-Grand. During the weeks preceding February, 1956, a pit had been dug mechanically, about 70 by 80 ft., and averaging 16 ft. deep. During the earlier stages of this work some of the walls of St. Martin's had been observed, and a chalk tomb (see Appendix A) and a well had been discovered. Observation in February was confined to the widening of the pit on its west side.<sup>2</sup> Sections A, B, C and D are composite reconstructions of the sections of the sides of the pit, built up from such measurements as could be taken at intervals from ladders, and recorded photographically. The layers are separately lettered in each of the four sections, and correlations are shown in the keys below. Many sherds were recovered in dressing down the sections.

#### SUMMARY OF FEATURES OBSERVED

The most striking feature shown by the pit was the original slope of the west bank of the Dour estuary, sloping steeply towards the Market Place,<sup>3</sup> which must have been a made-up area in Roman times. On the top of the estuary bank is a prehistoric occupation layer of uncertain date (see p. 137) continuing into a peaty layer at the base of the slope. There are extensive Roman levels of the first and second centuries A.D., the earlier ones of the later first century lying on the old pre-Roman land surfaces, and others of the first half of the second century A.D. at a much higher level on top of a make-up some 8 ft. thick which obscured the original estuary bank. Roman buildings have been observed on this site before<sup>4</sup> and the walls seen in the pit

<sup>1</sup> 6.2 ft. (Neap)-10.2 ft. (Spring) (maximum 16.3 ft.), information from Dover Harbour Board.

<sup>2</sup> This unfortunately coincided with a spell of very severe weather; heavy snowfalls obscured the sections and hard frost caused much detritus. A sewer emptied into the pit, and water necessitated continual pumping. Under these conditions careful measurement of the ragged edges of the pit was impossible.

<sup>3</sup> The sections show the depths to which this was observed in February, 1956. Subsequently borings were made, and these showed flints and gravel in a chalk matrix, with an increasing proportion of chalk down to chalk bedrock at 31 ft. from street level.

<sup>4</sup> *Arch. Journ.*, XXXVIII, 432; *Arch. Cant.*, XX, 120; *Amos and Wheeler*, p. 49 (5).

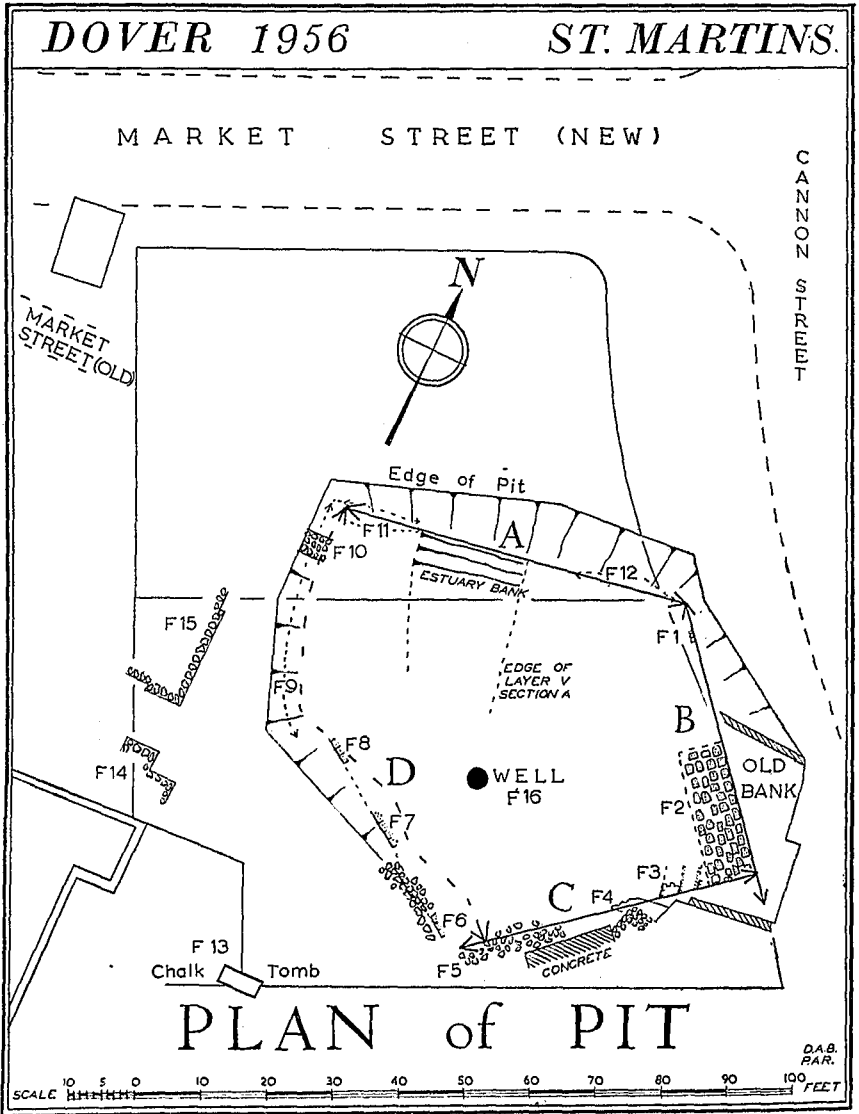


FIG. 3.

doubtless form part of them. The massive chalk foundation (F2) of second century or later date, does not seem to have been encountered before. All these features and their destruction levels are overlaid by the foundations of St. Martin-le-Grand, which were finally demolished in 1881 ; two periods of construction were seen in these walls.

#### COMMENTS ON SECTIONS A-D

*Section A* shows the western slope of the Dour estuary ; Layer V is the pre-Roman peaty soil,<sup>1</sup> with some Roman tile fragments in its upper level ; it also contained worked flints (Appendix E), probably derived from the occupation of level F.11<sup>2</sup> (Layer S) on the top of slope, undated but probably prehistoric, being separated from the lowest Roman layers (P Q) by a sterile layer (R). Layers P Q equate with the lowest part of the floors F.9 (Section D) ; in Section A, P Q dip under some 8 feet of make-up (Layers N and O), which were laid down in the later first or earlier second century A.D. (Flavian samian 6 in Layer O3, late first-century sherds in layers N1 and top of V, Fig. 9, Nos. 2 and 3). The first well-defined floor-level on the make-up is F.12, containing sherds probably of the first half of the second century A.D. (Fig. 9, Nos. 4 to 8). Layer E separates the Roman layers from the medieval floor levels D.1-D.3, which yielded a few thirteenth century sherds. Late Roman levels may have been removed in this area.

#### *Section A—North side of pit*

*Key to layers in drawn Section (Fig. 4)*

- A Tarmac.
- A1 Brickbats and recent debris.
- A2 Flint, chalk and dirty gravelly soil=D(N).
- B Dirty brown soil and gravel=B(D).
- C Loose chalk blocks to West merging into puddled clay and chalk to East=B(D).
- D Disturbed dark clayey soil=B(D).
- D1 Buff clay=B(D).
- D2 Grey-green charcoal-flecked soil=B(D).
- D3 Dark brown charcoal-flecked soil (scraps of medieval pottery) =B(D).

<sup>1</sup> Organic silty loam ; probably not estuarine ; a relatively high organic content, though without definable structure (L.B.). N.B.—This and other footnotes are based on the results of analyses made by Mr. Bielik in consultation with Dr. R. M. S. Perrin of the School of Agriculture, University of Cambridge ; for method see Wachter, J. S. (in the press). *Proc. Suffolk Arch. Inst., Excavations at Wattisfield, 1956.* Scientific Note by L. Bielik.

<sup>2</sup> Probably A1 horizon of an old land surface, if S, T, W are in fact pedologically continuous, as they appear to be. In that case, T would be the A2 (leached) and W the B/C (illuvial) horizon of a moderately well developed podzol. The conditions under which such a profile might be expected to develop would include fairly high rainfall and good drainage, and possibly heathland vegetation. (L.B.)

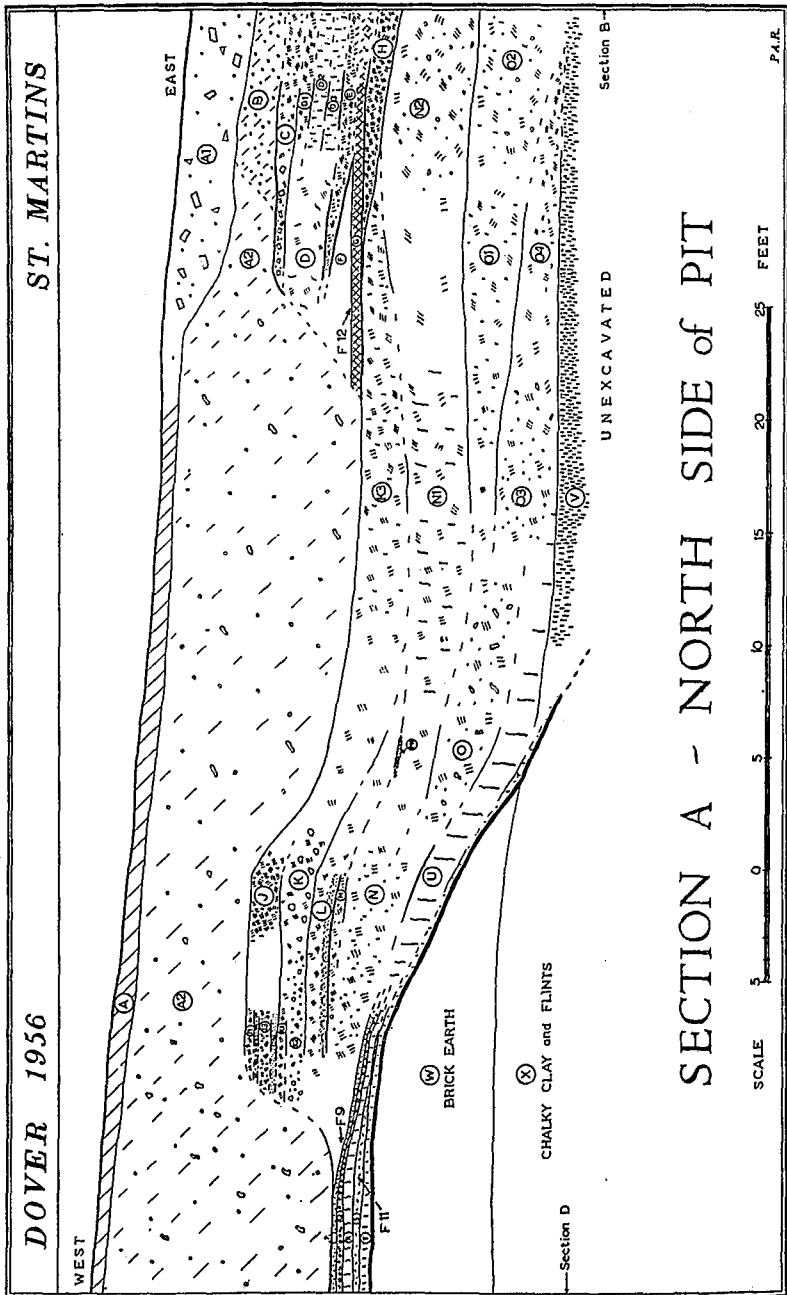


FIG. 4.

- E Puddled clay and chalk, merging with G at base=B(S).  
 F Buff orange chalky clay.  
 G Black-brown soil and charcoal (F12 Roman floor)=B(S).  
 H Buff-brown clay, less clayey to East=B(J).  
 J Compact buff and grey clay, charcoal-flecked.  
 J1 Buff clay.  
 J2 Chalk and clay  
 J3 Charcoal-flecked grey and grey-buff clay (as J).  
 J4 Puddled chalk.  
 K Buff clay and chalk rubble.  
 K1 Grey-buff clay.  
 K2 Chalky gravel.  
 K3 Dirty brown and buff clay, charcoal-flecked.  
 L Buff clay, with orange straw at base.  
 M Chalky clay.  
 M1 Dark brown chalky clay.  
 N Buff-brown chalky charcoal-flecked clay.  
 N1 Orange earth and buff chalky clay.  
 N2 Buff-yellow chalky clay=B(L).  
 N2 Buff-yellow chalky clay=B(L).  
 O Brown clay with some chalk and flint.  
 O1 Charcoal-flecked brown clay.  
 O2 Grey-buff clay, charcoal-flecked, some chalk.  
 O3 Brown clay, charcoal-flecked, chalk flint and gravel.  
 O4 Very dark brown clayey soil, frs. oyster and Roman brick.  
 P Puddled chalk  
 Q Clay, chalk and pebbles } =Roman floors F9.=D(J).  
 R Brown soil (pre-Roman soil)\*=D(O).  
 S Dark grey-brown soil with charcoal and many pot-boilers=F.11  
 (prehistoric occupation level)\*.  
 T Buff-grey soil (old soil line under S)\*.  
 U Brown sticky soil merging into T.  
 V Chocolate-brown fibrous sticky peat\* with some flint and scraps  
 of Roman tile.  
 W Orange-brown brick earth (natural).\*  
 X Chalky clay and flints (natural).

*Section B.* The make-up continues into Section B, but only Layer L can be directly equated with Layer N.2 in Section A. Layers M-P cannot be thus equated, but should be of similar date (Flavian samian 1 in Layer O). The massive chalk foundation F.2 probably cuts these and layers J and K above them, though K yielded ?Antonine samian 5

<sup>1</sup> For layers R, S, T, V, W see footnotes on pp. 119 and 124.

and may abut on F.2, which is itself dated to Trajanic-Hadrianic times or later by samian (Nos. 20, 21, 22) in Layers W and X below it. It may indeed be much later: of the three coarse sherds sealed beneath it in layers W and X, two are late first-early second, but the third (Fig. 9, No. 9) might be much later. Wall F.1, however, limits the continuation of the second century occupation level F.12 seen in Section A, and should itself be of that date or earlier. Layer G appears to represent the destruction of F.2, and itself contained Hadrianic samian (No. 2); a similar layer (H), above F.2, contained Hadrianic-Antonine and Antonine samian (4, 25, 26).

Layer E is presumably a floor-level laid on all these destruction layers, and may be medieval. On the right of the section no clear edge was seen to F.2 and R may be similar to G.

*Section B—East side of Pit*

*Key to layers in drawn Section (Fig. 5)*

- A Concrete and modern disturbance.
- B Dirty gravel—modern make-up.
- C Dirty soil and gravel—modern sewer trench filling.
- D Dark soil with some flint and chalk gravel—late Roman, medieval and later debris=A(B)-(D).
- E Compact yellow clay—? medieval floor level.
- F Buff-orange clay with few chalk blocks—post-Roman destruction of Roman structure?
- G Chalk rubble and dirty clay —? destruction of structure F.2.
- H Chalk blocks in buff-orange clay=C(A).
- I Buff-orange clay with little chalk.
- J Brown orange clayey soil=A(H).
- K Charcoal and black soil.
- L Chalky buff-orange clay=A(N2).
- M Dark grey-buff clayey chalky soil.
- N Yellow gravel.
- O Brown clayey soil with some flint.
- P Puddled chalk—some flint.
- Q Chalk blocks in dirty buff clay=F.2 structure.
- R Smaller chalk rubble.
- S Laminated chalk and gravel layers (=Roman floor F.12)=A(E) and (G).
- T Chalk blocks=wall F.1.
- V Dirty flint gravel.
- W Dark brown clayey soil, charcoal-flecked.
- X Flint and chalk gravel, ochreous-stained, with dirty clay and oyster-shell.

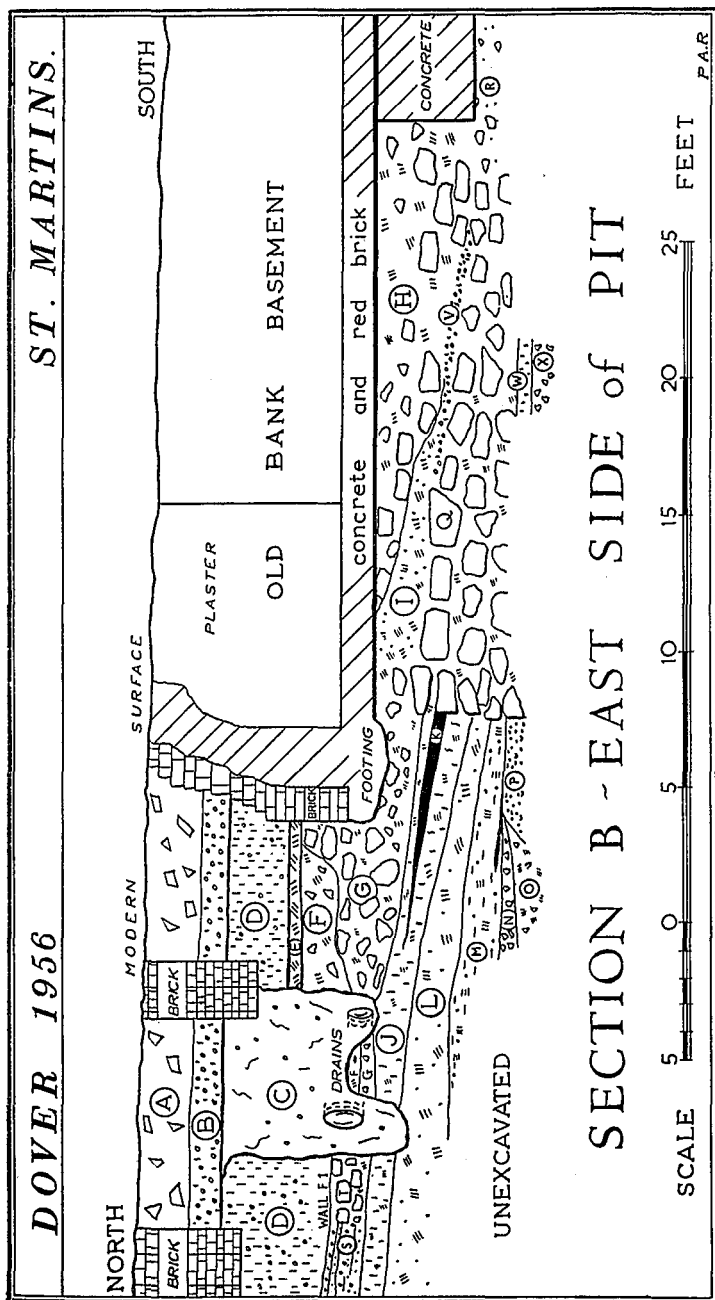


FIG. 5.

*Section C.* The west slope of the estuary is again seen here ; the lowest layer N<sup>1</sup> was not seen elsewhere, though equating in depth with Layer V in section A. Layer M is apparently a destruction layer of a timber and daub structure of the first century A.D., destroyed probably before the end of the century (samian 11-17 and coarse sherds of similar date). It may be from the timber superstructure of wall F.3 ; Layer E, which should be the destruction layer of this wall, contained only Flavian samian (Nos. 18 and 19). Layer D, filling the space to the east of F.3, is of second century or later date (samian 8-10, Hadrian-Antonine and Antonine) and confirms a second century or later date for F.2, which cuts Layer D, part of which could be seen in the interstices of the chalk blocks of F.2. The make-up Layer C may be similar to that in Section A, and should be of late first-second century date, as also should the wall F.6 which cuts it at the S.W. end of the section.

F.4 and F.5 are presumably part of St. Martin's Church, and each shows evidence of a rebuild ; the old bank wall is inserted alongside F.4.

*Section C—South-east side of Pit*

*Key to layers in drawn Section (Fig. 6)*

- A Heavy chalk rubble and buff clay, shell in top +B(H).
- B Dirty clay (part of L(D) to right)=(packing of F2).
- C Buff chalky clay=D(C).
- D Dark brown clayey soil, charcoal, burnt clay, red-painted plaster, fr. glass bottle.
- F Puddled or trodden chalk.
- G Charcoal-flecked buff and brown clay=D(B).
- H Chalk rubble.
- M Dark brown clayey soil, much oak charcoal and burnt red clay.
- N Fine clean grey silt.

*Section D* had a very ragged curving face. The buried soil (Layer O)<sup>2</sup> lies uniformly on the brick-earth. F.7 and F.8 were apparently all part of the same wall, whose N.E. face was destroyed. It was later than the lowest Roman layer (J), but appeared to limit the laminated floors F.9 on its S.W. side. H, E, F are perhaps destruction layers of an earlier building. F.10 is on the alignment of the church walls, and cut floors F.9. Layer D may be the wall-trench

<sup>1</sup> Highly calcareous very fine sand ; no evidence of definite bedding ; could be either natural or man-laid, but more likely the former, possibly due to solifluxion ; probably not estuarine. (L.B.)

<sup>2</sup> "brickearth" (very fine sand or silt loam) with some "fresh" angular flint ; similar to layer R in Section A. Such a grade of basic material is very commonly deposited by wind, but that has not been proven here. (L.B.)



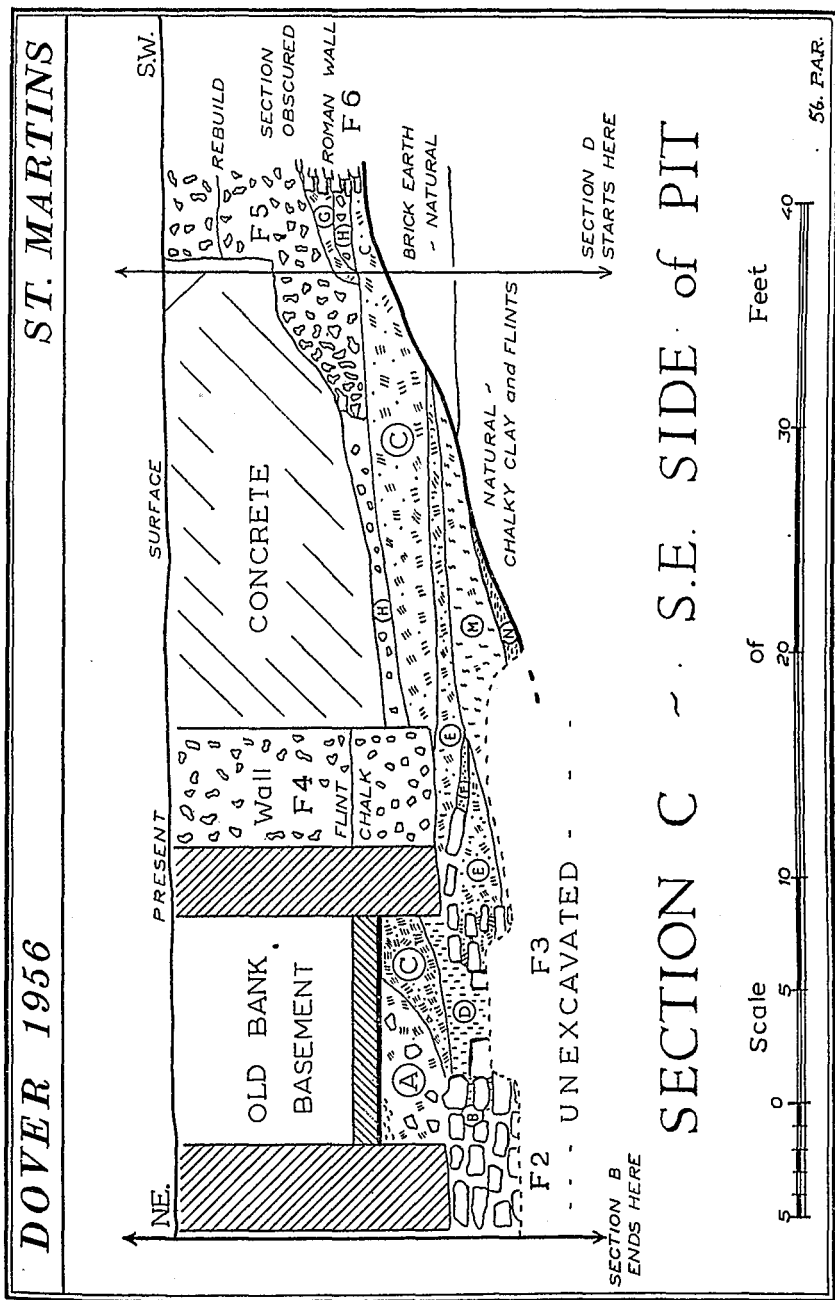


Fig. 6.

cut to insert the foundations of F.5, which probably lie deeper further back in the section.

*Section D—South-west side of Pit*

*Key to layers in drawn Section (Fig. 7)*

- (A) Concrete and modern disturbance.
- (B) Charcoal-flecked buff and brown clay.
- (C) Buff chalky clay.
- (D) Dirty brown soil and gravel (? packing of medieval wall-trench of F.5).
- (E) Dark soil and charcoal.
- (F) Dark soil and burnt daub.
- (G) Dirty brown soil and gravel.
- (H) Chalky clay and gravel.
- (J) Puddled chalk and pebbles=A(P) and (Q).
- (K) Dark brown gravelly soil.
- (L) Laminated floor on exterior surfaces (F.9) as in details on right of section.
- (M) Brick debris.
- (N) Dark soil and chalk rubble=A(A.2).
- (O) Grey-brown soil (old soil line)=A(R).

*Description of Features in Pit (F Numbers)*

- F.1. *Section B.* Roman wall of chalk blocks set in clay ; limits floor-levels B(S) and A(G) (F.12). Hadrianic or Antonine (sherds in F.12 and samian 3 in make-up below).
- F.2. *Sections B and C.* Massive foundation of chalk blocks set in silty chalky clay<sup>1</sup> ; seen to extend over area shown on plan ; cuts wall F.3 and its neighbour to East ; Trajanic-Hadrianic or later (samian 20-22 in Layers W and X of Section B).
- F.3. *Section C.* Roman wall of chalk blocks in clay, with narrow passage, flue, or drain on East side ; late first (samian 18-19 in Layer E).
- F.4. *Section C.* Medieval wall, on church alignment, primarily chalk and mortar, secondarily flint and mortar.
- F.5. *Sections C and D.* Medieval wall, two periods, as F.4.
- F.6, 7, 8. *Sections C and D.* Roman wall North-West to South-East, probably contemporary with part of whole of F.9 ; not dated.
- F.9. *Sections D and A.* Laminated Roman levels, details as in enlarged section on right of Section D ; probably exterior levels ; not dated.

<sup>1</sup> Not a lime-mortar residue. (L.B.)

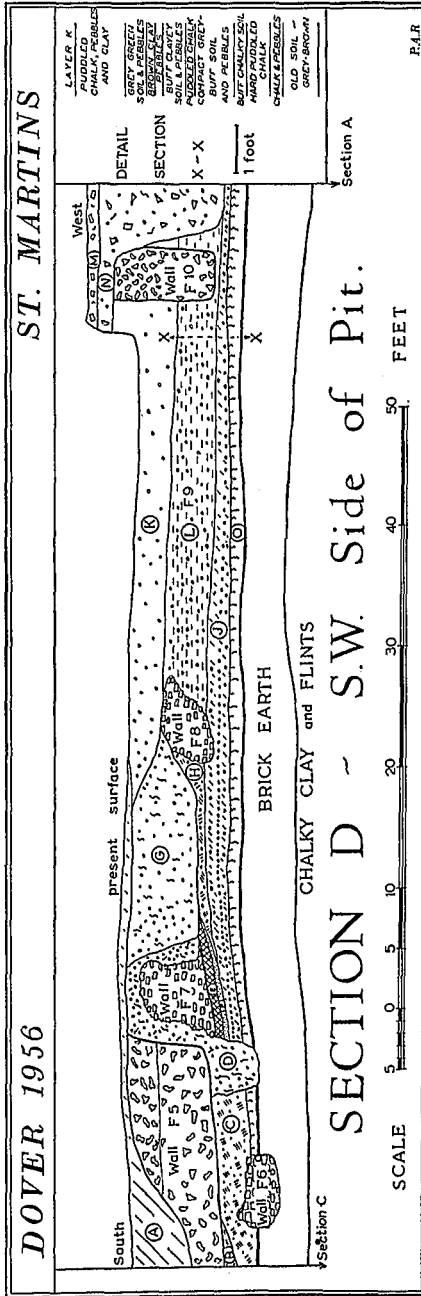


Fig. 7.

- F.10. *Section D.* Medieval wall of flint and mortar, on church alignment.
- F.11. *Section A.* Prehistoric occupation layer of dark soil and burnt flint pot-boilers, lying on top of bank of Dour estuary; traceable as flint and dark soil scatter down slope; some worked flints at base of slope in top of Layer V (Appendix E).
- F.12. *Section A (Layer G).* Roman occupation level, with much burnt material and some pottery. Merges to East with Layer (S) in Section B. Probably first half of second century A.D. (coarse sherds in Layer G, Fig. 9, Nos. 4-8).
- F.13. Medieval tomb of chalk blocks. Removed and stored for re-erection, and described by Mr. Woodfield in Appendix A.
- F.14 and 15. Flint and mortar foundations, upper courses only visible on West side of pit.
- F.16. Well, destroyed before February, 1956, said to have been deeper than the pit, chalk-lined, and apparently recently cleaned out.

#### APPENDIX A

#### ST. MARTIN-LE-GRAND, DOVER, KENT

REPORT UPON EXCAVATION OF TOMB ADJOINING THE CHURCH ON  
11TH JANUARY, 1956 (Fig. 8)

By PAUL WOODFIELD

#### SITE

Recent clearance by a mechanical excavator of the site of the Church of St. Martin-le-Grand, Dover (Grid Ref. TR 319414), prior to the rebuilding of demolished properties, revealed a vaulted tomb. As its position coincided with a proposed wall between the site of the new National Provincial Bank and the adjoining site to the south, there was no alternative but to carry out a rescue excavation with an object of recording and dismantling the tomb for possible future re-erection. In the course of the work it was found that the mechanical excavator had displaced the north wall of the tomb and disturbed the end of the vault.

The site of St. Martin-le-Grand was first occupied by a religious house when Wihthred installed monks there in the latter half of the eighth century. It would seem, however, that the Church was rebuilt between c. 1070 and c. 1110 on the Norman tri-apsidal chevet plan, very similar to the Church at Vignory, Hte. Marne (1030). This plan

is not rare in Britain, e.g. Norwich (1096), Lewes (1100). The Church of St. Martin-le-Grand was destroyed during the Dissolution, 1540. The tomb appears to have been situated outside the Chancel wall, south side.

The discovery upon the site of certain piers and walls only confirm the hitherto conjectured plan (*Arch. Cantiana*, 1861). Unfortunately, no traces of the building that preceded the Norman rebuilding have been noted.

#### STRUCTURE (Fig. 8)

The tomb, which was aligned east-west (75 degrees), was constructed in large axed chalk blocks on which stood a vault of chalk blocks, roughly square in section, leaning together to form a triangular arch, each block having been curved on its inner face. The internal dimensions of the tomb averaged 5 ft. 6 in. by 1 ft. 2 in. by 2 ft. 6½ in. to the apex of the vault. The tomb was built upon a hard chalk-mortar floor and the jointing material throughout appeared to be puddled chalk with the addition of a fine aggregate.

It proved to be very difficult to relate the tomb to the complex series of floors which appeared in the immediately surrounding area, due to the prior removal of all surrounding earth before excavation took place and inclement weather causing deep mud and water, but the tomb appeared to have been either cut through or built prior to a series of floors.

#### INTERIOR

On being opened, the tomb was found to contain a well-preserved skeleton lying with its head to the western end. Unfortunately, however, the whole of the body above the fourth vertebra was completely disarranged, partly by the caving inwards of the side chalk blocks, the skull, with other bones, having been removed. It seemed probable that the skeleton had been subject to interference before the disturbance of the area by the building works. Parts of one hand were found *in situ*, indicating that the arms were laid at the side of the body. Underneath the skeleton and in the sides and corners of the tomb there were traces of wood in patches, and also 24 round headed iron nails 2¼ in. long were recovered. These lay around the internal edges, close up against the walls and near the floor, at times appearing to be at 3½ in. intervals, pointing inwards. In the disturbed material over the neck a small unidentified piece of bronze, 17 by 13 mm. was located, pierced with a long rectangular hole.

A small piece of a second century samian bowl was also recovered from the earth covering the skeleton, situated about the knees.

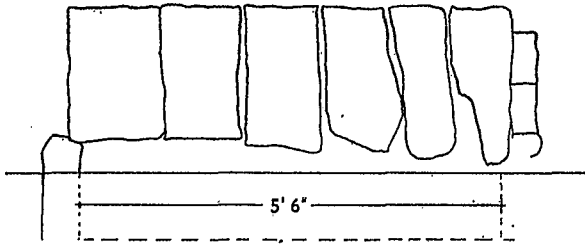
# ST. MARTIN-LE-GRAND, DOVER

EXCAVATION OF TOMB

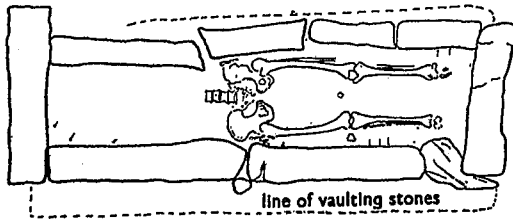
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C. T. R. WOODFIELD

## SOUTH ELEVATION



## PLAN



## SECTION

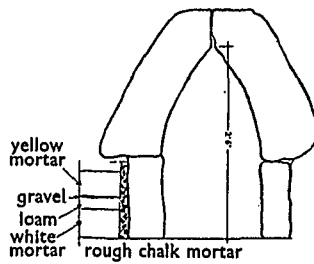


FIG. 8.

## CONCLUSIONS

It is concluded that the tomb could probably be dated to the twelfth century on account of the execution of the stonework. The skeleton was laid, face upwards, with feet towards the east in the normal manner. The evidence seems to suggest some sort of coffin having been used. The small piece of bronze could possibly belong to the original burial, although it probably is an intrusion as was the samian sherd.

The recent works on the site do not seem to be an entirely satisfactory explanation for the condition of the west end of the grave. The damaged vault was evidently ancient and it is probable that the tomb was broken into at this point and robbed.

The nails, etc. have been deposited with Dover Museum.

## APPENDIX B

## THE SAMIAN WARE

## STEMBROOK

The samian from Stembrook, which could not be removed from the Museum, has been examined at Dover by Miss D. Charlesworth and Miss S. Butcher of the Inspectorate, whose detailed list may be referred to at the Ministry. Most of the sherds were unstratified, but are said to have come mainly from depths represented by Layer C, and the top of Layer D, in the section (Fig. 2), and might represent the gradual silting and/or blocking of the channel by the quayside. One vessel (No. 27 in list below)<sup>1</sup> was represented by virtually all its sherds, and this suggests dumping of rubbish rather than water-carried debris. Of 44 dated pieces, only one could be earlier than Flavian, four are dated to the later first century and the remainder are evenly distributed throughout the second century, though only two need be Antonine or later. It would appear, therefore, that the blocking or silting was in progress in the second century A.D.

## ST. MARTIN'S

The samian from the St. Martin's site, unlike that from the Stembrook site, was available for detailed examination by Mr. Brian Hartley, M.A., F.S.A., whose report is appended, together with that on No. 27 from Stembrook.<sup>1</sup>

(Provenances after each piece are section and layer letters.)

1. Form 30 (?). South Gaulish. Flavian. (B/O.)
2. Form 18/31, rouletted. Central Gaulish. This variety of the form seems to be especially characteristic of the Hadrianic

<sup>1</sup> Photographs of this were sent to Mr. Hartley.

- period. Several examples were found in the deposit of that date in the Birdoswald Alley (*OW*2, xxx), for instance. (B/G).
3. Form 18/31 or 31. Central Gaulish. Probably first half of the second century (B/J).
  4. Form 31 (Sb). Central Gaulish. Antonine. (B/H, South end.)
  5. Form 31 (Sb). Central Gaulish. Antonine (?). (B/K—upper.)
  6. Form 18 or 18/31. South Gaulish. Flavian. (A/O3.)
  7. Form 37. Central Gaulish. Good quality ware with glossy slip. The acanthus leaves and kneeling figure (Osw. 204 = Déch. 394) are commonly found together on the work of DOECCVS, but the free rings and small beads are not. The general style is more like that of ATTIANVS, who used the acanthus leaves. If this tentative attribution is right, the piece would belong to his later period *c. A.D.* 140-160 ; in any event, the piece is certainly Antonine. (C/A.)
  8. Form 27. Central Gaulish. Hadrianic-Antonine. (C/D.)
  9. Form 33. Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or Antonine. (C/D.)
  10. Form 37. Central Gaulish. Poor orangy fabric and slip. The ovolo is one of the most common ones used by the prolific potter CINNAMVS. (The fragmentary figure-type is not identifiable) *c. A.D.* 150-190 (C/D.)
  11. Form 27. South Gaulish. Flavian. (C/M.)
  12. Form 30. South Gaulish. Flavian (?). (C/M.)
  - 13-14. Form 18. South Gaulish. Flavian. (C/M.)
  15. Form 36. South Gaulish. Probably Flavian. (C/M.)
  16. Form 37. South Gaulish. The ovolo has a characteristic tongue with four prongs, such as was used by CRVCVRO and M. CRESTIO. *c. A.D.* 75-85. (C/M.)
  17. Form 37. South Gaulish. Panel decoration with Pan (O.714) over conventional grass-tuft. Style of MASCVVS or BIRAGILLVS, more probably the latter, as the straight wreath below the panels is characteristic of his work. Cf. Knorr, *Rottweil* 1907, Taf. XV, 6, for the same figure and general arrangement. *c. A.D.* 85-100. (C/M.)
  18. Form 37. South Gaulish. Although I cannot quote any precise parallel for this fragment, the bold wavy line shows that it is of Vespasianic date, *c. A.D.* 70-85. (C/E, upper part.)
  19. Form 18. South Gaulish. Flavian. (C/E, upper part.)
  20. Form 37. Central Gaulish. Coarse fabric and poor, dull surface. The piece bears the retrograde stamp LIBERTI. Figure-types : Déch. 70 (O.114) and Déch. 369 (O.599), neither previously recorded on his stamped work.



Although LIBERTVS is a well-known potter, his fame rests rather on finds from Lezoux, where his workshops appear to have been found, than on the British material, which is rather sparse. (It is sometimes difficult to distinguish his work from that of BVTRIO, which is more common in Britain.) It seems possible that his importance as an originator of figure-types has been over-stressed, but this point can only be cleared up when his activity has been more firmly dated. At present we only have pieces dated by external evidence from the Stanegate forts at Corbridge and Chesterholm, presumably earlier than c. A.D. 125, though these are attributed on stylistic grounds and are not signed (*Central Gaulish Potters*, 627, 636 and 637). It is even possible that some of them are the work of BVTRIO. However, as this potter was attached in some fashion to the workshop of LIBERTVS, it seems that it was functioning before A.D. 125, but how long before we do not know. A dating of c. A.D. 120-140 would not be impossible, but we must not exclude the possibility of activity under Trajan, the date commonly accepted. (B/X.)

21. Form 37. South Gaulish. Ovolo only, with a blurred trident tongue and poor fabric. c. A.D. 85-100. (B/W.)
22. Form 18/31. Central Gaulish. Trajanic or Hadrianic. (B/W.)
23. Form 18. South Gaulish. Flavian. (C/C.)
24. Form 37. Central Gaulish. Base only, with an unusual rounded footring. Probably early second-century. (C/C.)
25. Form 31 (Sa). Central Gaulish. Antonine (B/H.)
26. Form 31 (Sa). Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early Antonine. (B/H.)
27. The complete bowl is Form 37. Central Gaulish. Style of CINNAMVS. Ovolo, *Central Gaulish Potters*, Fig. 47, 4. Stag, Déch. 847 (O.1704), bird O.2315. Cf. *C.G.P.*, Pl. 162, 60. c. A.D. 150-180. (Stembrook; for graffito see *J.R.S.*, XLVII (1957), p. 233, no. 33.)

## APPENDIX C

## THE COARSE POTTERY (Fig. 9)

The coarse pottery has been kindly examined by Mr. Frank Jenkins, and the following notes include his observations. Only one (No. 1) is from the Stembrook site; it is of interest in that its graffito is probably

the same as that on the samian f.37 recovered from the same site,<sup>1</sup> and probably belonged to the same owner.

STEMBROOK

1. Rim and base sherds of everted-rim jar ; tooled discontinuous lattice ; fine hard micaceous, slight metallic sheen, laminated grey core, black ext. surface. Two letters of graffito on shoulder, probably last two of IVLLI as on samian No. 27 (c. A.D. 150-180).

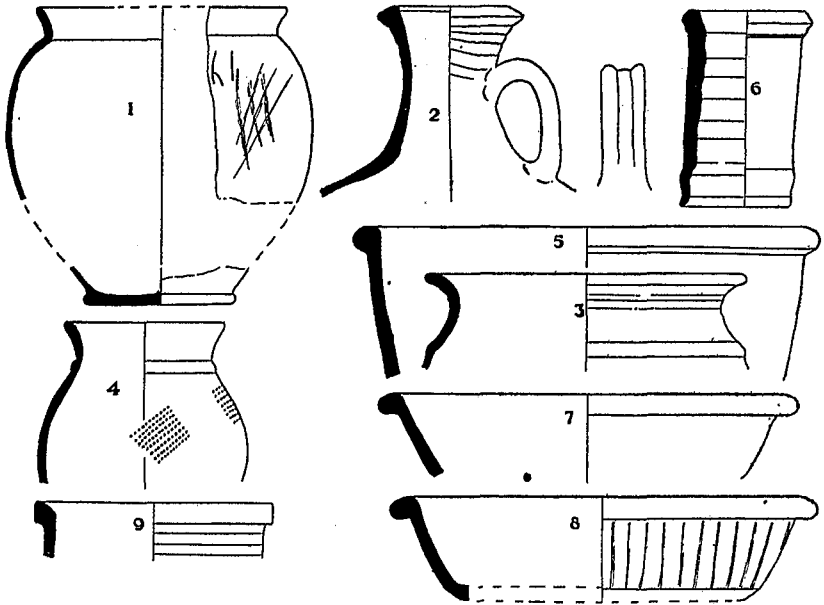


FIG. 9. Dover, Coarse Pottery ; 1 Stembrook ; 2-9 St. Martin's (pp. 134-5).  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

ST. MARTIN'S

2. Rim and handle of flagon : hard pink-buff. Section A, top of Layer V ; cf. Richborough 374 (A.D. 70-90).
3. Rim sherd of cordon-shouldered jar : hard thin grey, darker core, smoothed surface. Section A, layer N.1. ; cf. Richborough 275 (A.D. 50-70).
4. Rim and body sherds of jar ; hard grey, smooth surface ; panel of raised dots and cordon at junction of neck and body. Section A, Layer G (floor F.12) ; cf. Richborough 306-308 (A.D. 80-140).
5. Rim sherd, bowl : sandy dark grey, smooth grey-brown surface ; A/G as last.

<sup>1</sup> See *J.R.S.*, XLVII (1957), p. 233, no. 33.

6. Pipe section or bellows nozzle ; wheel-turned ; dark brown smooth buff slip ; rilled interior. A/G as last ; cf. Chew Valley Lake (H.M.S.O. pub. forthcoming), RP 263-264 (bellows nozzles of 2nd-3rd century A.D.).<sup>1</sup>
7. Rim sherd of bowl : hard grey, darker smooth surface. A/G as last ; cf. Richborough 339 (A.D. 80-120). (F.J.—“ Bowls of this type appear in Canterbury in the Flavian period and persist well into the second century. The trace of chamfer suggests an Antonine date as at Verulamium.”)
8. Section of bowl : hard fine black, red-brown surface. A/G as last ; cf. Richborough 46 for general type (late first-early second).
9. Rim sherd of jar : grey sandy, pink-buff surface. Section B, Layer W (sealed under F.2). (F.J.—“ Unusual type but reminiscent of products of kiln at Overwey,<sup>2</sup> may be of fourth century date.”) Cf. Richborough 470, general type (fourth century first half).

#### APPENDIX D

#### SUMMARY OF REPORT ON THE TIMBERS<sup>3</sup>

By J. F. LEVY and L. BIEK

Fourteen large timbers were examined near the site. None of them were seen *in situ*. All were of oak (*Quercus sp.*). One (No. 13) was brought to the Laboratory and examined in detail (Pl. III), others are shown in Fig. 10.

In general, the condition of the timbers was similar to that of other material of the same kind found in such circumstances. The high iron content (4-5 per cent.) is remarkable. Very tough and good timber, usually but not always “stringy”, is often present alongside “rotten”<sup>4</sup> wood even on the same piece. From their state of preservation, all the timbers appear to have been under essentially waterlogged conditions for almost the entire period since their insertion into the places where they were found. There was thus probably never a significant period

<sup>1</sup> See also *Arch. Cant.* vol. LXXI, 1957, fig. 11, nos. 7, 8, 9, which came from the same area in the 1950 excavations.

<sup>2</sup> *Surrey Archaeological Collections*. Vol. LI.

<sup>3</sup> The full report is in the records of the Ancient Monuments Laboratory, Ministry of Works.

<sup>4</sup> “Rotten” in this connection is a relative term intended to denote the spongy condition characteristic of wood decaying in a waterlogged medium. It should not be associated with phenomena produced by “dry rot” or “wet rot” as commonly understood.

during which they were not protected from the air, either by tidal water or by effective burial. Hence it would seem that the structure of which they formed a part was either deliberately and fairly rapidly buried, or was silted up almost completely while the water level remained high enough.

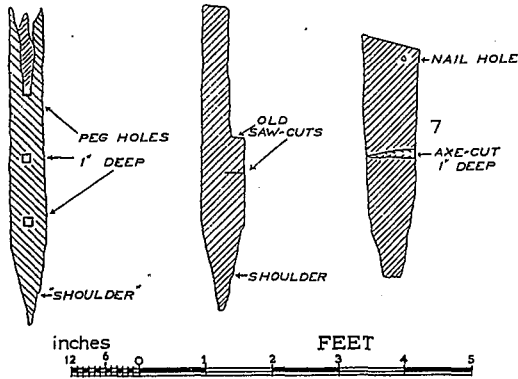


FIG. 10. Dover, Stembrook: Oak Piles (p. 135).

Timber No. 13 (Pl. III) is about 3 ft. 6 in. long and of sub-rectangular section with maximum width about 9 in. At one end (K) it is pointed in one plane while retaining a width of about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. in the other. The other end shows the face (ABCD) of a (most probably modern) saw cut. All sides of the timber have been worked to some extent, in places most carefully to produce a gentle curvature or some chamfer. Across the middle of one side a wide, shallow "slot" (FGHJ) has been cut away. From the same side six "tunnels" (1-6) and a truncated seventh (E), each about  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. diameter, penetrate through the thickness of the timber to the opposite side.

Some iron objects had clearly been present in these tunnels at some time. They would appear to have been kept in place by wedges or annular plugs of oak. It is highly unlikely that any of this iron was in the wood when it was placed in the position in which it was found. There must have been a (fairly short) period during which the timber with the iron in it was exposed to a different set of conditions, predominantly moist and aerobic. After that the iron was withdrawn.

This and other evidence strongly suggests that No. 13 was not made as a pile. It may have been a ship's timber but could not be identified.<sup>1</sup> It could have been the stock of an anchor.<sup>2</sup>

We are indebted to the following for examining timber No. 13 and making valuable suggestions:

<sup>1</sup> Mr. G. P. B. Naish, National Maritime Museum.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. G. F. Campbell, Naval Architect, London County Council.

APPENDIX E

THE FLINTS

By ERIC HIGGS

1. Piece of flint ; over whole of one face, which is worn and patinated a matt blue-grey, flakes have been detached by thermal action. The opposing surface is mostly covered with cortex and partly with thermal fracture scars. The edge shows scraper flaking in two places. The larger of these shows two concavities, the smaller is convex. The scraper facets are sharp and more recent than the thermal fractures.

2. A heavy horseshoe scraper made on a struck flake of black flint, and partly patinated blue-grey. The bulb of percussion has been thinned by the removal of small secondary flakes, which, with similar flakes taken from the dorsal surface, have eliminated the striking platform. The characteristic secondary scraper flaking scars cover half of the perimeter of the flake and are at the distal end and on one side. Flat flakes have been removed all round the edge on the main flake surface, either intentionally or by utilization. There are numerous utilization scars, some subsequent to the removal of the flat flakes. The step scraper edge retains a small area of cortex. There is some resolved flaking. The scraper is in fresh condition.

3. A rectangular block of flint with a blue-grey patina showing flaking scars struck from various directions. Possibly used at one stage as a strike-a-light. One long concave side has been trimmed, and there are a number of utilization scars.

4. A grey flake side-scraper with a prominent bulb of percussion. The secondary flaking scars are flecked with a blue patina. The scraper is in sharp condition. The secondary scraper flaking scars pass down the whole of one side and round the top of the flake to form a nose. The remainder of the opposing side shows evidence of utilization. The main flake surface has evidence of utilization and one small secondary scar, most of the dorsal surface is covered with cortex.

5. A long black and grey flint flake with a prominent bulb of percussion and a single faceted striking platform. There are areas of utilization on the flake edge and the flake is notched in two places, the one from the dorsal surface, and the other from the main flake surface.

CONCLUSIONS

There is, unfortunately, no clear diagnostic feature about this collection. There is some iron-staining, but patina does not vary so much as to indicate a mixture of industries. The heavy thick scraper (No. 2) could be mesolithic but would be more at home in a neolithic context, or even later, and so would No. 4, with its somewhat finer workmanship. There is not sufficient evidence of scale-flaking, however, to indicate a post-neolithic date.