

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

A NOTE ON THE EXCAVATIONS AT CANTERBURY CASTLE,  
1971

ALL that survives above ground of Canterbury Castle at the present day is the rectangular keep and a small portion of the bailey wall which runs along the north side of Rheims Way. It has been realized since the end of the eighteenth century<sup>1</sup> that the keep conformed to the usual Norman pattern and originally had a first-floor entrance via a forebuilding. Part of the south jamb of the first-floor opening can still be seen in the west wall, while part of the north wall of the forebuilding is shown in a drawing of the castle dating from 1800.<sup>2</sup> The foundations of a later forebuilding with two round towers, leading to a ground-floor entrance, on the east side of the keep, were excavated by Graham Webster in 1939.<sup>3</sup> The line of these foundations is at present roughly marked out with stone blocks.

In 1971, in advance of landscaping on the west side of the keep, it was decided that excavations should be undertaken by the Canterbury Archaeological Society with the aid of a grant from the Department of the Environment, in the hope of discovering the plan of the original forebuilding. It was not known how much, if any, of the foundations would have survived, owing to eighteenth- and nineteenth-century building on this side of the castle, and the activities of the Gas and Water Company which acquired the keep for use as a coke store in the early nineteenth century. A trial-trench was dug by machine to establish the existence of medieval foundations and was then expanded into two trenches for detailed investigation.

The foundations of the forebuilding were found to exist in relatively good condition to a height of about 1 ft. 6 in., and to consist of a rectangular gatehouse building placed centrally with regard to the west wall of the keep, and a staircase support wall running parallel with the keep from the north wall of the gatehouse and returning to meet the plinth on the north side of the keep (see Fig. 1). These walls were all of one build and were not bonded to the keep walls. They were made of

<sup>1</sup> Dorothy Gardiner, *The Story of Canterbury Castle*, Canterbury, 1951, 13.

<sup>2</sup> North-west view of Canterbury Castle, wash drawing by M. Thomas, 1800; Royal Museum Print Coll. no. 410. A contemporary engraving from this drawing is published by Gardiner on p. 13.

<sup>3</sup> G. Webster, 'Notes on the Discovery of the Foundations of a Gatehouse at the Norman Castle, Canterbury, 1939', *Arch. Cant.*, liii (1941), 143-5.

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coursed flints set in hard, pale yellow mortar, similar to that used in the keep plinth, and had dressed blocks of Caen stone at the exterior corners. The internal faces of the walls were rendered with mortar. A small additional wall of coursed flints set in yellow mortar ran long the external face of the south gatehouse wall. It has been suggested by Mr. S. E. Rigold that this might have formed a support for decorative arcading. The foundations of the keep plinth were found to extend to a depth of 3 ft. below the present ground surface. They were built of roughly shaped stone blocks set in mortar and rested on a gravel raft cut into the deposits of black post-Roman build up. The forebuilding walls had similar ballast layers beneath them about 2 ft. in depth. In one place, below the west wall of the gatehouse, the ballast included some dressed stone fragments that had probably been prepared for use on the plinth. The keep wall was too much damaged for it to be possible to determine whether or not the plinth continued above ground in the region of the gatehouse.

Within the forebuilding walls, there were various levels associated with the building of the foundations. They consisted of alternate layers of orange clay and gravel and black soil overlying the post-Roman

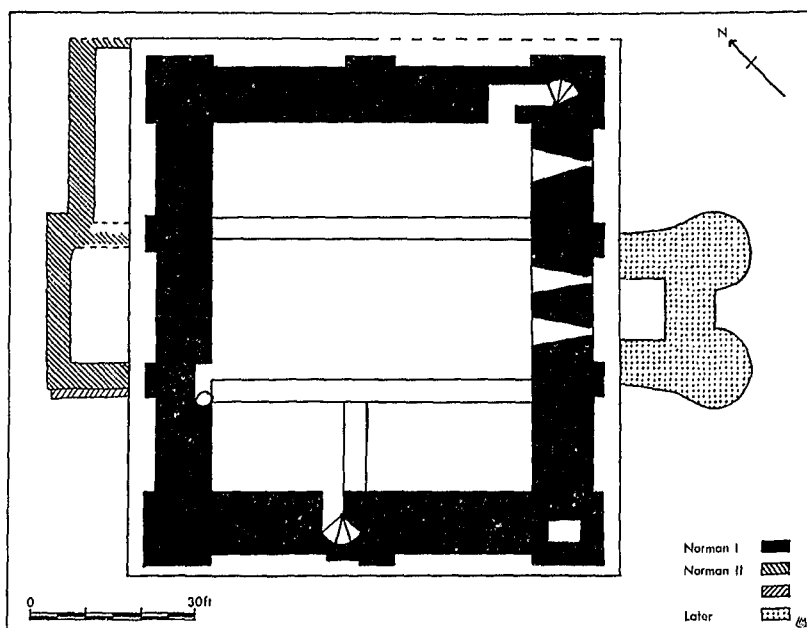


FIG. 1. Ground floor plan of the keep of Canterbury Castle showing the foundations of the original forebuilding excavated in 1971 and the foundations of the later forebuilding excavated by G. Webster in 1939. Based on the plan in D. F. Renn, *Norman Castles in Great Britain*, London and New York, 1968.

build-up. These levels were covered with a patchy mortar spill that merged with the foundation walls of forebuilding and keep. Above this, there was a mixed level of mortar and medieval occupation débris that was in turn overlain by recent layers. The foundations were in a good state of preservation with the exception of the north gatehouse wall which had been substantially robbed, presumably during the installation of pipes by the Gas and Water Company. The north end of the staircase wall had also been disturbed by nineteenth-century pits, and it was not possible to establish the north edge of the staircase return wall or its relation to the north plinth of the keep, as this lies underneath the present Gas Street.

The levels associated with the construction of the forebuilding produced some pottery, including shell-gritted sherds as well as the more usual sandy ware. Sherds from a tripod pitcher-like vessel were found in the later medieval levels within the gatehouse, and a sherd of polychrome ware was found in the overlying disturbed levels.

As Brown and Colvin have pointed out,<sup>4</sup> it is difficult to establish the date of the keep from documentary sources. Although there are plenty of references to the castle from the reign of Henry II onwards, they mostly relate to parts of buildings which have now disappeared. The castle is known to have been in existence by 1086, by which date over 40 houses had been cleared to make room for it.<sup>5</sup> Further compensation for land taken by the castle was paid in 1169, and over £100 was spent, possibly on repairs to the keep, in 1173-4.<sup>6</sup> It seems reasonable to suppose that the keep is in fact Norman in date<sup>6</sup> and formed part of the castle buildings existing in 1086. The keep was clearly designed to have a first-floor entrance, and though the forebuilding was not bonded to the keep, it must have been built at about the same time. Enderby has suggested that the upper storey of the forebuilding may have housed a chapel.<sup>7</sup> The existence of a chapel in the castle is shown by references to repairs to it in 1221<sup>8</sup> and 1274, and to the appointment of a chaplain.<sup>7</sup> If Enderby's suggestion is correct, the forebuilding would still have been standing at this time.

The date of the later forebuilding with its ground floor entrance is equally difficult to establish, as there seems to be no specific documentary evidence referring to it, in spite of a series of sums of money spent on the castle from 1190-1274. During the reigns of Edward I

<sup>4</sup> H. M. Colvin (ed.), *The History of the King's Works. The Middle Ages II.* London, 1963, 588.

<sup>5</sup> W. Urry, *Canterbury under the Angevin Kings*, London, 1967, 190. See also 66, 117, 187.

<sup>6</sup> Colvin, *op. cit.*, 588.

<sup>7</sup> H. M. Enderby, *The Norman Keep: Canterbury Castle*. Lecture to Canterbury Archaeological Society, Canterbury, 1932, 10.

<sup>8</sup> Colvin, *op. cit.*, 589.

and Edward II, there are only records of minor sums being spent on the castle and, by 1335, it was apparently in a semi-ruinous condition. No major repairs were undertaken though in 1390, £200 was allotted for repairs to the 'dongeoun', that is, to the keep. However, the money was apparently not received and the work not done. The only other sum recorded as having been spent on the castle is £2 10s. in 1406-7.<sup>9</sup> Since the building of the later forebuilding seems not to have been recorded, two possible suggestions can be made as to its date. One is about 1293, when the castle first began to be used as a prison and when, perhaps, a ground-floor entrance may have been thought necessary.<sup>10</sup> The other, in spite of the apparent non-arrival of the money allotted in 1390, is at the end of the fourteenth century, when the keep was clearly in need of repair and when the original forebuilding may have been among those parts of the castle in a ruinous state necessitating the construction of a new entrance.

L. MILLARD

WALL PAINTING OF A SIXTEENTH-CENTURY SHIP  
IN ST. DUNSTAN'S CHURCH, SNARGATE, ROMNEY MARSH

When visiting this church I was astonished to see on the north wall opposite the main door a terracotta coloured painting (5 ft. by 4 ft.) of a ship of about the year 1500, which I considered to be a contemporary picture of a carrack. I thought that I was familiar with all such rare representations but this one was quite unknown to me though it bore an uncanny likeness to the reconstruction of a carrack in Bjorn Landstrom's famous book *The Ship*.

Miss Anne Roper, and the Rev. N. G. O'Connor, Rector of the Marsh Parishes, have kindly told me about the discovery, and it would appear that the painting, which had been hidden under a layer of whitewash, came to light when work was being done on the church some three years ago.

Mr. O'Connor consulted an authority on mural paintings, Mrs. Baker, who considered it a sixteenth-century work, and her assistant, Mr. David Perry, later cleaned and restored it.

There would appear to be no description of this ship by past writers on churches in the Marsh. Miss Roper tells me that Seymour, writing on Snargate church in 1783, Ireland in 1829 and Canon Scott Robertson in 1880, make no mention of it, and Mr. A. G. Veysay, Flintshire County Archivist, says that that great describer of churches, Sir

<sup>9</sup> *Idem.*, 590.

<sup>10</sup> Webster, *op. cit.*, 144.



Wall Painting in St. Dunstan's Church, Snargate.

Stephen Glynn, visited St. Dunstan's in 1866 but said nothing about any paintings. Dr. Felix Hull says that the Snargate Parish records in his care do not throw any light on the matter, so it is reasonable to suppose that the painting has been hidden for many years.

The ship is very difficult to photograph but reasonable prints were submitted to Mr. George Naish—for many years Keeper and Head of the Department of Ships and now Historical Consultant to the National Maritime Museum.

He suggested that 'Great Ship' would be a better description than 'Carrack' but he agreed that she belonged to the period 1480-1520 and this opinion was supported by Captain Lovegrove, R.N., of Winchelsea, an expert on this period who was very surprised at seeing this hitherto unknown painting. It should be noted that the term 'Great Ship' did not merely mean a very large ship but denoted a definite type which was an advance on the carrack.

The ship depicted is a large four-masted vessel of perhaps 800 tons with forecastle, upper deck, half-deck and quarter-deck. Although the spars and rigging are defective in parts, it can be seen that she was rigged with two square sails—a course and a topsail—on the fore and main masts and lateen type fore and aft sails on the mizzen and bonaventure-mizzen masts. The yards of all these sails are shown in the lowered positions and the sails themselves are furled under the yards in the rather baggy way which resulted from the men having to sit astride the yards before the invention of footropes. Unfortunately, the head gear—bowsprit, forestay, spritsail and possibly a beakhead—is completely missing.

A large round 'top' can be seen on fore and main masts and was probably present on the other two masts. From these tops some of the sail handling was done and missiles were hurled down on an enemy's deck 'in time of fight'.

The arch type decoration of the forecastle and aftercastle is interesting and gives the ship a distinct resemblance to the well-known contemporary representation of the *Ark Royal*—Lord Howard of Effingham's flagship in the Armada campaign.

There is a tradition that the painting of a ship on the north wall and opposite the main door of a Marsh church meant that the church was a safe place in which to hide smuggled goods.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge my debt to all those people mentioned in these notes who have generously given their time and knowledge to answer my many questions about this fascinating discovery.

G. NESBITT-WOOD

## FLINT ARTIFACTS FROM FOLKESTONE

The use by prehistoric farming communities of a sheltered coombe in the North Downs, one mile north of Folkestone, has seemed possible, but no finds of flint artifacts from this area have previously been reported. There are two neolithic polished adzes in the Folkestone Museum, one from a short distance east of it (Sidney Street) and half a mile to west (Cherry Garden coombe). A field of arable land extending across the coombe is farmed by Messrs. H. W. Snape of Capel-le-Ferne and was ploughed in May/June 1972. The writer made several visits before it was prepared for sowing, and by observing some of the soil upturned by the plough, collected 57 miscellaneous flint artifacts and 40 waste flakes.

The field is bounded on the south by the A20 by-pass road, on the east and west by Sugarloaf Hill and Castle Hill respectively, and on the north by the footpath of the lower Pilgrims' Way which follows the foot of the Downs near the 200-ft. contour A.O.D. Springs rise nearby at Holy Well in the north-east corner and also below Round Hill. The former existence of a round barrow on the west side of Sugarloaf Hill (noted by Flinders Petrie in 1880, *Arch. Cant.*, xiii (1880), 11) suggests a nearby settlement of indeterminate date. The soil is a marl of comminuted chalk mixed with brickearth, with occasional flint nodules.

The artifacts may be classified in two groups, differing in patination and style of retouch. Those in Group 1 are of black or light-brown flint with either no patina or slightly discoloured bluish-white, buff cortex, and steeply retouched. They are of the following types: 1 broken adze of chipped flint, small, with rounded and well-used cutting edge, probably broken at the haft; 1 ovate scraper; 2 keeled-and-pointed scrapers; 5 small cores, all retouched for use as thick scrapers.

Artifacts of Group 2 were more plentiful. Their characteristics are opaque white patination which obscures the black flint; they have shallow surface-flaking lengthwise or transverse, made prior to detachment from core; the bulb side is plain; buff cortex at butt unless broken. Retouching of edges is absent from some specimens and is irregular in others, being less steep than those of Group 1. The types are: 1 flake adze or hoe, tranchet flaked, with curved section and flat sole; 30 scrapers, rounded, pointed, and irregular shapes; 8 broken blades; 3 borers, and 3 cores—having flake scars and later made into implements.

The industry of Group 1 is comparable with the style of neolithic specimens from Elham (Dreals Farm) in Canterbury Museum. Group 2 appears more primitive and in the mesolithic tradition.

A. H. GIBSON

## A SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY SKILLET FROM WHITEFRIARS AT SANDWICH

In 1936 Mr. W. P. D. Stebbing, F.S.A., partially excavated the site of Whitefriars Friary at Sandwich, on which he published a short note with a list of some of the small finds in *Arch. Cant.*, xlviii (1936), 225-7. The Carmelite friary was founded about 1272, and with enlargements to the building flourished until the dissolution of monastic establishments in 1538. Subsequently, the site was re-excavated in order to recover its complete plan and structural details, and a full report has been published by Mr. S. E. Rigold, F.S.A., in *Arch. Cant.*, lxxx (1965), 1-28.

In post-medieval times the more adaptable and still standing buildings of the friary remained in use until the seventeenth century. To this period belong a number of hearths and minor structures, mostly in the region of the South Court. The small finds of this date include some pottery, iron keys, a pewter spoon, part of a polychrome canchevron bead, and coins of James I, Charles I, a farthing token and Nüremberg jettons. These finds were deposited by Mr. Stebbing in the Town Hall Museum at Deal, and more recently were transferred to the Museum of Local Antiquities in Deal Castle. One object, however, was retained by Mr. Stebbing at his house, Fiveways, Upper Deal, and has thus remained unnoticed and separate from the other finds. It is a skillet of bell-metal, still in the possession of Mrs. P. E. Stebbing, to whom I am grateful for permission to make the drawing and publish this note. The skillet is accompanied by a label in Mr. Stebbing's handwriting, which records that this 'Small bell-metal skillet was found on the hearth'.

The skillet (Fig. 2) is complete and in excellent condition. The bowl is 4 in. in rim diameter and 2.5 in. high; it stands on three splayed legs, each with a groove down opposite sides, and ending in stylized feet; the total height is 4 in. The handle, semi-circular in section, is 4.9 in. long, and slopes upwards with the end rising above rim-level of the bowl. It tapers slightly to the rounded end, and the only decoration is a shallow groove along the sides and across the end.

Bronze skillets of this type are medieval in origin, and date from the thirteenth century onwards.<sup>1</sup> These cooking utensils continued, with only slight variations, into post-medieval times until the seventeenth century; the later examples are usually cast in bell-metal. It may be added that numerous pieces of baked clay moulds of about this date, used for casting skillets with fluted legs and long strip-handles, were found beneath the foundations of some cottages adjoining King

<sup>1</sup> *London Museum Medieval Catalogue* (1940), 202-7, Pl. lv and fig. 68, 4. G. C. Dunning, 'The bronze Skillet from Stanford in the Vale', *Berks. Arch. Journ.*, lx (1962), 98-100, Pl. i and fig. 1.



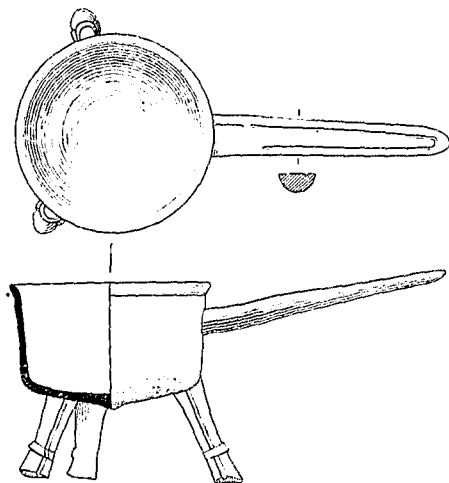


FIG. 2. Skillet of Bell-metal from Whitefriars, Sandwich. ( $\frac{1}{4}$ )

John's House at Romsey, Hampshire.<sup>2</sup> In the seventeenth century bronze and bell founders produced a number of domestic objects, including mortars and pestles, skillets and cauldrons.

G. C. DUNNING

#### CHURCH WOOD, WEST KINGSDOWN

In Church Wood, West Kingsdown, there is a complex pattern of earthworks which appears to be all that remains of a small medieval manor and its associated fields.

The writer is grateful to our member, Mr. J. Bradshaw, for drawing his attention to the site and also to the Forestry Commission for allowing a complete survey of the banks and ditches to be made. The parish of Kingsdown is two and a half miles in length from north-south and one mile in width, and the church of St. Edmund, probably built in the latter part of the twelfth century, stands in the centre of Church Wood. Hasted states that towards the end of the thirteenth century the manor of West Kingsdown was divided into moieties, and Philipott observes that on this division there were two manors, North-Court and South-Court. The whole of this estate was held by the Fitzbernard family until the sixth year of King Edward II, when one of the manors passed by marriage to Guncelin de Badlesmere. The church of St.

<sup>2</sup> H. de S. Shortt, 'Bronze Founder's Moulds from Romsey', *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club*, xvii (1949), 72-6, figs. 1-12.

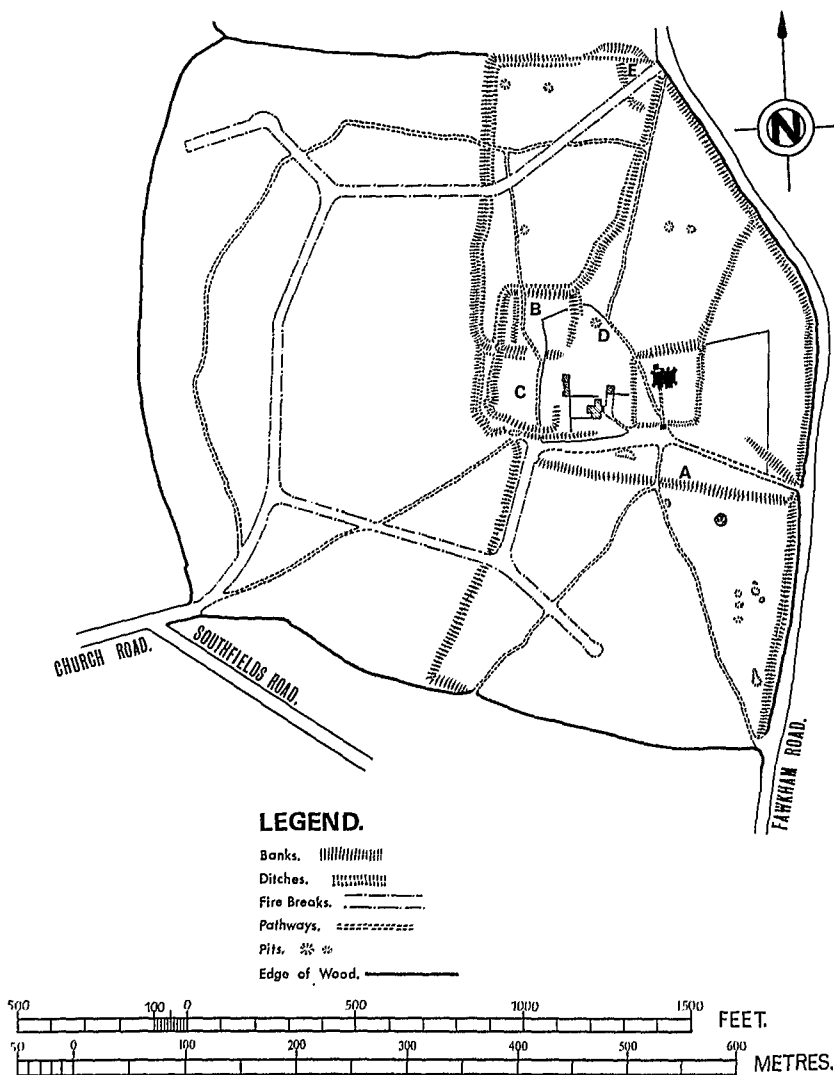
Edmund stands in the northern part of the parish, so the conclusion could be drawn that the earthworks surrounding it represent the remains of North-Court, whilst the remains of South-Court lie somewhere in the present village of West Kingsdown, a quarter of a mile away to the south. In the west of the parish, about one and a quarter miles away are still to be seen the ruins of another ancient building; the church of Maplescombe.

The site in Church Wood lies on high ground, 500 ft. A.O.D. and the soil is rather heavy clay-with-flints. The area of the wood is approximately 78 acres and the N.G.R. is TQ 579633. A check with the O.S. plans and Tithe Award map showed that the site had not previously been recorded and so an instrumental survey of the entire wood was made in the early months of 1972. From the accompanying plan it will be noted that all the earthworks are located in the eastern part of the wood.

The general shape of the outer earthwork resembles the earthworks in Chapel Wood, Hartley (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxxii (1967), 286), although the total area enclosed is much greater. The land within the outer banks is divided about halfway on its north-south axis by a transverse bank, A on plan. The modern fire-break made by the Forestry Commission has probably been cut at the original point of entry between the north and south enclosures. Another fire-break breaches the western bank of the south enclosure. Garden cultivation has largely destroyed the extreme southern enclosing bank and ditch, but enough of the right-angle turn exists at the lower left-hand corner for its true course to be gauged.

Apart from a few pits of uncertain date and a pond, there is little of topographical interest in this southern enclosure; it is the northern enclosure which contains the most interesting features of this site. Within the northern enclosure is the church of St. Edmund, King and Martyr, shown on the plan and shaded black. It is entirely surrounded by a rectangular bank, strongly marked on its north side but only faintly showing on the south and west sides. Linked to the east side of the church enclosure is a larger area enclosed by a bank, part of which has been defaced by burials within the modern graveyard. To the west of the church are two more rectangular enclosures, B and C, separated by a dividing bank and ditch. It is possible that some buildings were formerly sited within these two enclosures as small fragments of roofing-tile were noted on the ground during the survey of this area. The west bank and ditch of the main northern enclosure are still very well defined, and the bank stands some 3 ft. above the normal ground level along much of its course. The plan shows several banks radiating from the possible building area. The building shown cross-hatched on the plan and now known as Church Cottage, is

# EARTHWORKS IN CHURCH WOOD, WEST KINGSDOWN.



Surveyed & Drawn J.E.L. CAICER, 1972.

FIG. 3.

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occupied by the church verges. This, and the two buildings, previously formed part of a smallholding and cultivation of the surrounding land has undoubtedly defaced further small banks in this immediate area. The pit, D, is shown on the Tithe Award map as a well, and the present occupier of the cottage informed the writer that there is also a disused well under the former scullery floor of the cottage. At the extreme north of the site, E on the plan, there are to be seen in the south face of the ditch some courses of flint foundations set in lime mortar. Although these were noted during the survey, it is believed that they are the remains of a rough flint wall, built to reinforce the earth bank against possible collapse. A surface drainage pond had at one time been constructed here, probably to keep the road free from water. The outline of the pond is shown on the Tithe Award and 1909 O.S. 6 in. = 1 mile map.

JOHN E. L. CAIGER

### BRONZE AGE PALSTAVE FROM SIDCUP

A Middle Bronze Age palstave was found recently by Mr. W. E. Smith in his garden at no. 89A Longlands Road, Sidcup, N.G.R. TQ 45567246, and is figured herewith by courtesy of the finder. It

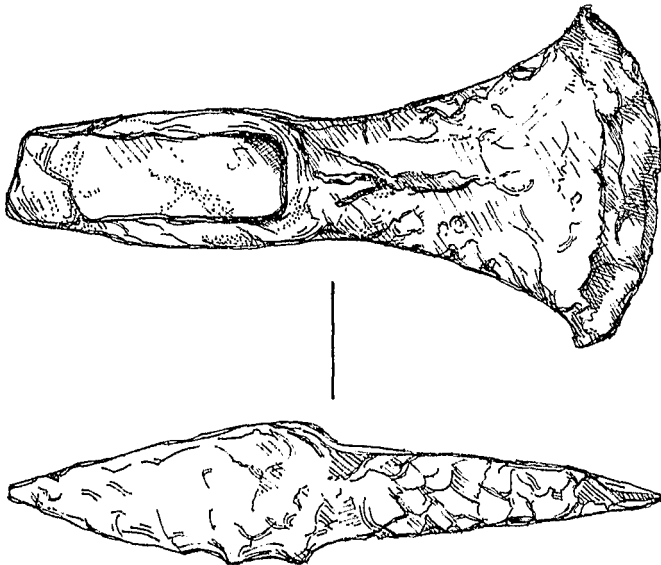


FIG. 4. Bronze Age Palstave from Sidcup. Length 4·7 in.  
(Drawn by W. E. Smith.)

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occurred 2–3 ft. deep and there were no significant archaeological associations. Deep pitting covers the surface except for a curved band on each side bordering the cutting edge. The find spot lies in an area of Blackheath Beds close to an outlier of London Clay.

P. J. TESTER

### PLUCKLEY

Beneath the arms displayed on the sign outside the 'Dering Arms' public house is the motto '*Semni ne semni*', Latin sounding, but not Latin. It appears in Burke's *Peerage and Baronetage* from 1858 onwards and perhaps in earlier editions,<sup>1</sup> as the Dering family motto, but without a translation. In the 1962 edition, however, a translation is provided: 'I can do nothing without God'.<sup>2</sup>

In the 1848 edition of Burke the Dering motto appears as '*terrere nolo, timere nescio*' and this is the motto given in *The English Baronetage* of 1741. In the seventeenth century, the motto was in Anglo-Saxon, presumably devised by the scholar and antiquary Sir Edward Dering,<sup>3</sup> who knew Anglo-Saxon and had a collection of Anglo-Saxon charters in his library at Surrenden. It appears as the motto on a drawing of the supporters, crest and arms confirmed to Sir Edward Dering by Sir William Segar, Garter Principal King of Arms.<sup>4</sup> The motto reads 'ðepinz onðpædað na ðepinz', which means 'Dering dreads nothing' or, perhaps, 'Dering fears no harm', the name Dering and the Anglo-Saxon *derung*, meaning harm or injury, being used in a pun.

The Latin motto translates the Anglo-Saxon as though the second 'dering' was a verb: '*terrere nolo, timere nescio*'. It presumably came into use in the eighteenth century, when Latin would be thought more suitable for a motto than a barbarous tongue. The Anglo-Saxon version was still used, however, by Dame Deborah Dering, second wife of the sixth baronet, who died in 1818.

In a MS. book of Dering *Memoranda*,<sup>5</sup> put together in 1880 by the Rev. Francis Haslewood, is reproduced a coat-of-arms dated 1630, its scroll bearing a shortened version of the Anglo-Saxon motto: 'ðepinz na ðepinz'. Evidently, at some time in the nineteenth century, this was misunderstood and copied as '*semni ne semni*', the 'd' becoming 's' and the lond 'r' and 'i' being joined to become 'm'. How this motto

<sup>1</sup> I have not seen the Burkes for the years between 1848 and 1858.

<sup>2</sup> The 1970 edition omits the translation.

<sup>3</sup> *Ant. J.*, xxvii (1947), 13.

<sup>4</sup> Reproduced in *Arch. Cant.*, x (1876), 329, from Le Neve's *Barts.*, ii, 48. The date of the confirmation is not given, but Sir Edward was created a baronet on 1st February, 1626/7.

<sup>5</sup> In Maidstone Museum.

in an unknown tongue came to be translated is a matter for wonder and Haslewood notes that Sir Edward Dering, in 1866, referred to it as absurd.

D. B. KELLY

#### ROMANO-BRITISH BUILDING AT THE MOUNT, MAIDSTONE

Rescue excavations were undertaken in the summer of 1970 and the spring of 1971 by the Maidstone Area Archæological Group, at the request of the Department of the Environment, on the site of the Romano-British building at The Mount, near the East Station, Maidstone (N.G.R. TQ 757562), threatened by industrial development and the Fairmeadow-Springfield section of the Maidstone inner ring-road scheme.

The site was excavated in 1844 by Dr. T. Charles,<sup>1</sup> who discovered a Romano-British building at The Mount, on the east bank of the Medway, near Pybus's Wharf. The published plan<sup>2</sup> shows a building some 35 ft. by 65 ft., with buttresses on the east and south sides, while towards the river were several detached lengths of wall. There were numerous finds but these have not survived. Unfortunately, Pybus's Wharf was destroyed during the construction of the High Level Bridge, when the London, Canterbury and Dover Railway was built, sometime before the opening of the line in 1874. It was commonly thought that the Romano-British building was also destroyed at this time and its exact location lost.

However, examination of Brown and Son's map of Maidstone, dated 1821, and J. Tootal's map of Maidstone and its Environs, dated 1848,<sup>3</sup> shows that the line of the barracks' wall and the garden boundary alongside the towpath are still substantially unchanged, and it is possible that the plot marked on J. Tootal's map alongside the barracks' wall was in fact the orchard in which Dr. Charles was unable to pursue his excavations.<sup>4</sup> A survey of the site, now vacant, revealed that it had formerly been used as a coalyard and goods sidings, for which purpose the ground had been levelled, raising the surface near the garden-wall by some 13 ft. above the 1844 garden-level. Probably, the spoil which raised the site came from the railway tunnel. Therefore, excavation was limited to a narrow strip on each side of the garden-wall.

Trial-trenches were dug outside the garden wall alongside the towpath, revealing foundations of a wall running parallel with the river for 80 ft., but no signs of the detached lengths of wall as seen on the

<sup>1</sup> *J.B.A.A.*, ii (1847), 86-9; *Arch. Cant.*, i (1858), 170-2; *V.C.H., Kent*, iii (1932), 99.

<sup>2</sup> *J.B.A.A.*, ii (1847), 87.

<sup>3</sup> In Maidstone Museum.

<sup>4</sup> *J.B.A.A.*, ii (1847), 87.

published plans<sup>5</sup> were found. At this stage, it was noted that considerable disturbance had been caused by four armoured electricity cables, a 14-in. water-main and a bomb crater; these had removed the southern corner of the building, destroyed the northern end of the outer wall and obliterated some 30 ft. of inner wall, thus accounting for the lack of stratified remains. Inside the garden-wall, another wall, 2 ft. 6 in. wide, was discovered running parallel with the previous wall, which possibly continued, apart from being interrupted by the bomb crater, into the barrack field for a distance of 130 ft. At its south end, where both walls were shown by excavation to turn east to make a corridor, a small room 12 ft. 3 in. by 14 ft. 2 in. had been formed by partition walls. From this evidence, it would seem a reasonable assumption that on the southern side of the building, we have a corridor with later partitioning.

The inner north-south wall excavated by us is that shown to the east of the garden-wall, on the Victoria County History plan<sup>6</sup> of Dr. Charles's excavations, as a continuous 2 ft. thick outer wall. It was found that the walls on our plan and that of Dr. Charles did not coincide. Luckily, preserved in Maidstone Museum among the Charles Collection of Etchings and Drawings is the original plan with measurements, but not to scale, of The Mount building. From these measurements it was possible to produce a scaled plan, which, although differing from the published plans, fitted accurately onto the plan of the foundations found during the 1970-71 excavations. The wall to the east of the garden boundary is still shown as a continuous wall 1 ft. 8 in. wide, but evidence from our excavations and water colours by Dr. Charles<sup>7</sup> would suggest that the 1844 spoil was piled against the garden-wall, and thus prevented close investigation of this area leading to an error in measurement. Clearly, the main 1844 excavations stopped some 8 ft. from the boundary, while work was not pursued on the towpath because of the public right of way and so the outer north-south wall was missed. No sign of the detached lengths of wall was found, and one can only assume there has been some local subsidence and they have slipped into the river, as much of the Maidstone area is on disturbed Hythe Beds which give rise to cambering and landslips.<sup>8</sup> This possibly would explain why the inner north-south wall heading into the barracks is on a different alignment.

Although the excavations were of a limited nature, we have here a substantial Romano-British building with a frontage to the Medway

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*; *V.C.H., Kent*, iii (1932), 99, fig. 19.

<sup>6</sup> The *V.C.H.* plan would seem to be the more accurate of the two published plans.

<sup>7</sup> The Charles Collection of Etchings and Drawings, i, f. 56 and 57.

<sup>8</sup> *Geology of the Country around Maidstone* (Memoirs of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, 1963), 127-33.

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of well over 150 ft. With the exception of the area excavated by Dr. Charles and the disturbance caused by the public utilities, the site is mainly undisturbed, and it would be unfortunate if it were developed without prior excavation. At the present moment, the 13 ft. of railway spoil over most of the site precludes any major rescue excavation, but the road-works necessary for the inner ring-road will remove the greater part of this, and it may then be possible to excavate the threatened portion.

Permission for the excavation was readily given by Mr. A. F. Davis of the Post Office, and Major D. A. Johnson, of the Royal Engineers, to whom my grateful thanks are due. I am also indebted to Mr. L. R. A. Grove, B.A., F.S.A., F.M.A., for bringing to my notice the Charles Collection of Etchings and Drawings and helping in various ways to locate the site, and to Mr. D. B. Kelly, B.A., A.M.A., who gave valuable help and advice.

A. MILES

### IRON AGE HILL-FORTS ON CASTLE HILL, TONBRIDGE

An interim report on the final season of work at Castle Hill was published in *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxvi (1971), 233–4. Since then the British Museum Laboratory has undertaken radio-carbon tests on charcoals collected from the old land surface under, and presumably contemporary with, the ramparts of the two forts. The results are as follows (5,570 years half-life and uncorrected for any possible C-14 reservoir fluctuations):

Larger fort:  $2,265 \pm 50$  years B.P. (c. 315 B.C.) (BM-810)

Smaller fort:  $2,178 \pm 61$  years B.P. (c. 228 B.C.) (BM-809)

If the two forts were contemporary (there are certain similarities in the types of construction) the median date would be around 270 B.C. If one followed the other, the dates suggest that the larger fort was the earlier. This proposition is to some extent supported by the discovery in 1971 of tumbled revetting—stones and burnt timbers beside the entrance of the larger fort. Whether this destruction was deliberate or accidental, it can reasonably be argued that the local inhabitants, when faced with the need to construct a new fort, chose the only remaining position suitable for defence and built new but smaller fortifications to the south-west.

J. H. MONEY

### TWO CHALKWELLS AT NORTHFLEET

On 10th October, 1972, in the course of building operations on a new housing estate in 'The Drove Way', off Istead Rise, Northfleet,



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two comparatively shallow chalkwells were broken into by the contractors. Their position is located at N.G.R. TQ 63427037, near the 200-ft. contour.

Their underground plan was rather unusual, for although these chalkwells had the customary three chambers leading off the shafts, the third chamber from each shaft had been deliberately made into a common one which linked the two shafts together. The chambers were also considerably longer than is usual with these shallow type of chalkwells and their extreme length must have necessitated the use of a wheelbarrow below ground to bring the chalk from the remote working faces along to the base of the shafts. Each of the headings was approximately 11 ft. high from floor to vault, 6 ft. wide, whilst the longest measured 41 ft. from working face to shaft. Other chalkwells have previously been found in the locality, notably in Court Wood,

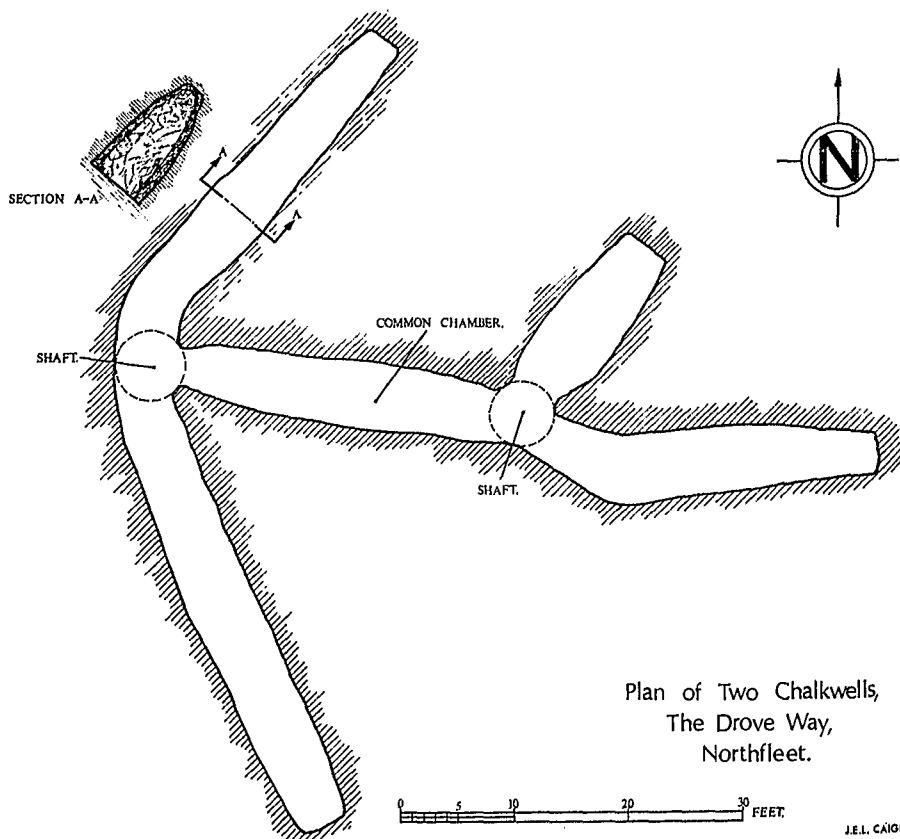


FIG. 5.

at Hook Green and Nurstead Hill Farm. All of these, however, had small chambers only, radiating from the shaft, in contrast to the longer headings of the pair just described. The contractor's men stated that when they first broke into these chalk workings one of the chambers still retained a wall of flints which had been deliberately set up to block its entrance from the shaft. It seems likely that the other headings, too, had originally been sealed off with flints before the shaft was filled in with soil and the chalkwells abandoned. Although there were plentiful pick-mark impressions remaining on the sides and vaults of the chambers they were all of the form made by a square-section iron pick. Nothing was found in these chalkwells which would serve to date the period of their construction.

The site has now been rendered safe and stable against future collapse by entirely filling the headings with concrete.

The writer is grateful to Mr. E. Tilley for kindly arranging his visit to the site and for help with the underground survey.

J. E. L. CAIGER

#### A CHARING 'MISSING' MANOR

Eversley was one of several manors grouped around the main manor of Charing. According to Hasted it lies above the hills within the bounds of this parish (Charing), and partly in that of Stalisfield. Though now of little note, yet was antiently of some consequence, as being one of the mansions of Bryan de Eversley, a man of much eminence in the reigns of Henry III and Edward I who is mentioned in the ledger book of Faversham abbey as having been a benefactor to it.' The Eversley family appears to have originated in Hampshire from the village of Eversley, south of Reading. There are various spellings, the most usual being de Everslee, or de Everesle, or de Everle.

No reference to Bryan de Eversley was found, but in 1244 a  $\frac{1}{3}$  fee was held by Geoffrey de Eversley at Evegate in Smeeth. In 1253 (*Feet of Fines, Kent Records*) Bartholomew de Eversle was claiming a messuage and 60 acres of land in Throwley, Stalisfield, Charing and Westwell. Bartholomew's wife, Agnes, was nurse to Beatrice, daughter of Henry III (*Calendar of Patent Rolls*, IV, 50). She and her husband were granted 10 marks yearly in 1249. Edward I ratified the grant in 1279, and it was demised for the use of their sons, Edmund and John (*ibid.*, I). In 1265 a John de Everle was in the munition of the castle of Dover (*ibid.*, V, 466), and in 1271, John de Everle, king's yeoman, went overseas in aid of the Holy Land (*ibid.*, VI). In 1256, Henry de Porta of Charing, sold an estate of some size to Stephen, parson of Eastling, one of the witnesses being John the Smith of Eversle (*ibid.*, IV, 526).

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It seems that it was Bartholomew who held the estate at Charing. The fact that so many parishes were involved has complicated the research, but has also narrowed the field when looking for probable sites. The 1840 Charing Tithe Map, together with maps of Stalisfield and Westwell, showed an unusually large area crossing all three parishes, 'above the hills', all called Chapel Wood. Immediately to the north of Chapel Wood, from east to west, were areas named respectively, Monkary Farm, Pound Springs, Stable Field, a part of which was called Braky Forstall, and Manor Field. To the north again were Eversley Woods with Rushmere Farm to the east. To the far north was Heel Farm. This area included Throwley, Stalisfield, Charing and Westwell.

The estate eventually became the property of the Sondes family of Lees Court, Sheldwich. Amongst the documents deposited in Kent County Archives, are four rent rolls of Eversley and Darbies Court, the latter being a manor of Stalisfield. The earliest one, c. 1300, is very faded, but shows the name Peyforer in a later hand, across the top left-hand corner. According to Hasted, the Peyforers owned Eversley manor in the reign of Edward III, 1327-1377, so this rental may be the takeover of the estate. There are two for c. 1500, and one for 1508/9, when according to Hasted, the Aucher family possessed it. This last rental is headed 'Nicholas Hughson and Thomas Hildersham—the rents of the Lords of the Manors of Eversley and Darbies Court in Stalisfield, Westwell, Little Chart and Charing'. The lands mentioned include Priestland, Maltland, Helderoft or Heldfield, Southfield, and Heghisley. One abutment states that Southfield was south of the wood held by the Archbishop of Canterbury called Rushmere. A Robert Sandes had a piece of land formerly belonging to Richard Latimer, and before that Benedictus at Town, inherited from Richard Rushmere. There is still a farm called Rushmere to the north of Monkary Farm. All four rent rolls are to be found under U791, in the manorial section. Amongst the Quit Rentals of Westwell in 1697 was the mention of the Manor of Eversley in Westwell (*Archives*, P390). An entry in the 1821 Rental of the Manor of Charing says 'The Manor of Eversley and the demesne lands thereunto belonging situate lying and being in the several parishes of Charing and Westwell in the occupation of William Chapman'. Someone has written '(Monkary Farm now)' in pencil under this entry (*Archives*, U55). The Charing Manor Court Rolls of 1906 (*K.A.O.*), speaking of Eversley, say, 'the Manor House whereof has many years since disappeared leaving only now visible a few trees showing the direction and former site of the carriage drive thereto the demesne lands and woodland having long since ceased to be separately distinguishable the former site of the whole premises consisting now of a field called Manor Field and a wood known as Eversley Wood

being No. 827 and No. 829 on Tithe Map'. The mill-mound just to the north-east of Manor Field, was excavated in 1959 and was thought to be of thirteenth-century date. The Charing and District History Society are at present investigating a site in Chapel Wood to the south of Stable field. Until recently this land was in the parish of Westwell. The flint walls are thought to be medieval and the potsherds are mainly thirteenth century, none earlier as yet.

It seems there are three possible sites for the 'mansion' of Bartholomew. First, in the region of Manor field, in which potsherds have been found of similar dating to those of both the mill-mound, and the Chapel Wood site. Second, is the building known as Monkary Farm the original 'Eversley'? It has been dated to the fourteenth century and possibly earlier. It has two magnificent medieval barns, the largest and finest could possibly be of thirteenth-century date. Third, is it the buildings in Chapel Wood? It has not yet been established whether the ruins are of domestic habitation or the 'chapel' of local legend.

I would like to acknowledge the help I received from Mr. P. Ryan in translating the rent rolls.

P. M. WINZAR

## ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

### LINTON (LODDINGTON)

A medieval key (Fig. 6.1) was found on the 3rd May, 1972, by Mr. D. Saunders whilst digging the garden of Ranters, Loddington Lane, Linton (O.S. 6-in. Kent Sheet LII NE,  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile to the south-west of Chapel Field Shaw).

It is made of bronze and has a pale green patination. The tube of the stem becomes solid  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. from the opening. There is no trace of a mould line, and it appears to have been cast in one piece. The wards are one with the stem. They are possibly given a finish by chiselling. There is a worn notch at the apex of the bow.

Because of the solid construction of the bit, the open, tubular shank and the circular bow, the key would seem to belong to Ward Perkins type III (London Museum, *Medieval Catalogue*, 136). The wards, perpendicular to the stem, are of a kind usually associated with late medieval keys. A circular bow may be as early as the mid-thirteenth century and as late as the early fifteenth.

### OTFORD

A medieval copper roundel with attachment projection (Fig. 6.2) was found by Mr. M. J. Jeffrey, in 1970, on the surface of one of the

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demesne fields approximately 1,000 yards due west of St. Bartholomew's church, Otford (O.S. 6-in. Kent Sheet XXIX SW) and consequently not far from the Archbishop's manor house there.

The roundel is approximately  $1\frac{5}{8}$  in. in diameter and  $\frac{1}{16}$  in. thick. It shows a pallium and cross staff in slight relief with a background roughened to provide a keying for enamel of which there remains a very small quantity, difficult to distinguish from the green patina. In its original condition the roundel probably portrayed the arms of Canter-

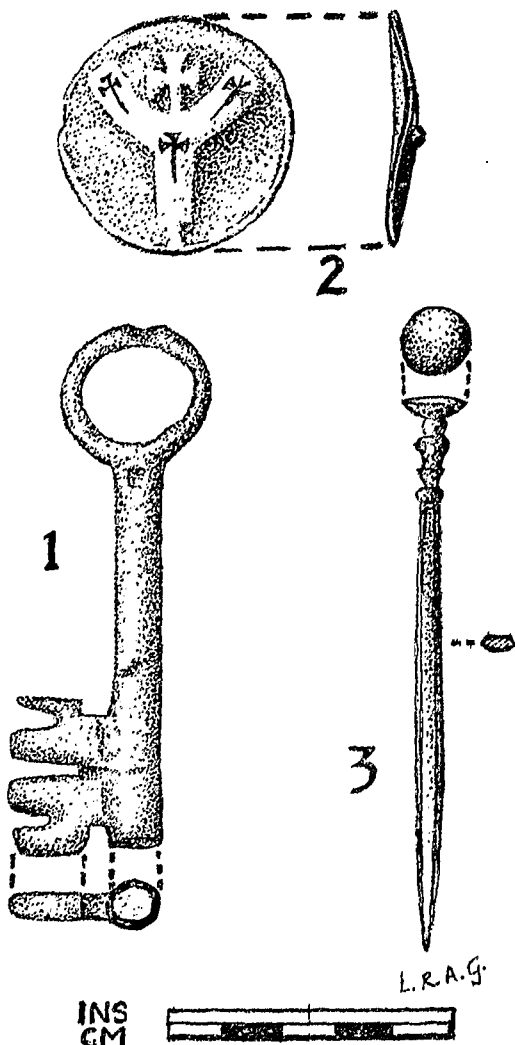


FIG. 6.

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bury see (azure a cross staff gold with its cross silver and over all a pall silver charged with three crosses formy sable).

The pallium is noteworthy in two ways. It has three crosses formy fitchy instead of the four found normally on a Canterbury see shield. Secondly, the shoulder sections are curved. The latter feature is not of useful dating significance, but parallels to the three crosses are to be found on the Courtenay (Messenger 7/21) and Arundel (Messenger 9/21 and 10/21) bosses in the Great Cloister of Canterbury Cathedral.<sup>1</sup> One pallium.

### WALDESLADE

On the 15th July, 1972, Mr. B. M. Newton, of 41 Prince Charles Avenue, Walderslade (O.S. 6-in. Kent Sheet XXXL NE., approximately 500 yards E.S.E. of Walderslade Bottom in Dargets Wood), whilst digging into a bank in his garden, found a bronze pin (Fig. 6.3) which on first sight, because of its overall dark green patina, seemed to be of prehistoric date. However, a closer examination showed that it had been formed from a sixteenth- to early seventeenth-century seal top spoon from which the bowl was broken or removed.

L. R. A. GROVE

### OTFORD

One lead bull of Pope Lucius III (1181-5) and five lead bulls of Pope Urban III (1185-7) were found in the garden of Mr. C. H. Mansell, at 5 Bubblestone Road, Otford, during the excavation of a small part of the foundations of the archiepiscopal manor house, carried out by the archaeological section of the Otford and District Historical Society in September 1969. The bulls were recovered from a sewer which was almost certainly in use in the twelfth century, but not apparently incorporated in the palatial reconstruction of the house in the sixteenth century.<sup>2</sup>

R. D. CLARKE

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<sup>1</sup> A. W. B. Messenger, *The Heraldry of Canterbury Cathedral*, 1947. of the Arundel bosses (Messenger 22/21) has rounded shoulders to the

<sup>2</sup> Birch, *Catalogue*, vi, 266, BM. 21726; 267, BM. 21730.