

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

TRIAL EXCAVATION AT DEANERY GATE, ROCHESTER

A small trial excavation was carried out in the garden of Deanery Gate, during the winter of 1973-74, at the request of the Succentor of Rochester Cathedral, the Rev. W. E. R. Wilkinson.

The trench was a ft. square situated parallel to the wall on the High Street side of the garden and 2 ft. from it; the distance from the end furthest from the house to the wall at the far end of the garden was 15 ft. Excavation was continued to a depth of about 5 ft. at which depth a mortar floor was revealed, which continued over the whole area.

The evidence obtained may be summarised as follows:

1. A layer of builders' rubble containing eighteenth-century pottery fragments and a Roman coin of the Emperor Valens. 2. A second about 1 ft. thick, containing eighteenth-century pottery and a clay-pipe bowl. 3. This layer covered a rectangular pit, with vertical sides about 2 ft. deep and containing in its filling a clay-pipe bowl datable to 1660-1710 and various objects datable to the latter half of the seventeenth century, including a large part of a storage jar glazed on the inside, the neck and upper part of a green glass bottle, fragments of the bowl of a wine glass and some Venetian glass fragments showing purple spiral ribbing as well as another clay-pipe bowl datable to 1650-1680. 4. The rest of the trench was again divided into two main areas. Nearer the house was a thick layer of orange sandy clay, similar to the natural brickearth of the area. Below this was a layer of rubble consisting of a mixture of stones, flints and medieval glazed tiles, containing a few sherds and some decayed glass. The most modern sherds were of Tudor type demonstrating the rubble to be sixteenth-century date or later and strongly suggesting a soakaway, which must be earlier than the pit which cuts into it and later than the sherd of stoneware in the top layer of the undisturbed area (see below). These together would imply a date in the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century for its construction. 5. The remaining undisturbed part of the site was divided into upper and lower portions by a rammed chalk floor covering the whole area. The highest part of the upper portion contained part of the neck of a seventeenth-century stoneware vessel thus dating the construction of the soakaway. The next layer, c. 6 in. deeper and 3 in. thick, contained a variety of tiles, some glazed and broken *in situ*; the latest sherd was of Tudor date. The appearance of this layer suggests

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demolition rubble from the dissolution of St. Andrew's Priory. The 3-in. yellow-brown soil over the chalk floor and the floor itself contained sherds of Tudor date and earlier. 3 in. below the chalk floor was a layer of crushed shells, c. 3 in. thick. No datable finds were made in these layers. Between the shelly layer and the earliest mortar floor all sherds were of medieval date. Also present were two corroded nails, some fragments of glass, irregular globules of melted copper and a variety of stone chippings implying that workshops of various kinds were nearby.

My thanks are due to Messrs. A. C. F. L. Harrison, B.A., F.S.A., M. I. Moad and P. J. Tester, F.S.A., for helpful advice and encouragement, and to Mrs. A. Tasker, for typing the manuscript.

P. HAYES

LATE-BELGIC POTTERY FROM COURT LODGE FARM, TESTON

Trial trenches dug by the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group in April/May 1972 and June 1973 at Court Lodge Farm, Teston, near Maidstone, uncovered sherds of late-Belgic pottery and traces of a probable ditch and pit. The work was undertaken with the kind permission of the landowner Mr. P. Evenden. Mr. D. B. Kelly, of Maidstone Museum, has provided many valuable comments on the finds, which were made in an orchard south of the Maidstone-Tonbridge Road (A26); N.G.R. TQ 69835024. The site is about 30 m. above O.D. and lies on a south-facing slope overlooking the River Medway.

The Ordnance Survey plan shows, near the site at N.G.R. TQ 69785316, the antiquities symbol for the remains of a Romano-British building partially excavated in 1872.¹ Trial trenches dug by the Group at this spot, and in the immediate vicinity, produced no evidence of ancient remains. Several trenches were excavated to subsoil depth; another excavation revealed a shallow circular depression in the subsoil, about 45 cm. in diameter, and a shallow ditch about 30 cm. wide. Between these two features was a post-hole 25 cm. in diameter, 20 cm. in depth. The potsherds were found mainly in the filling of the depressions and post-hole; the circular depression also contained several flints which had been subjected to heat.

The majority of the sherds were from six pots (fig. 1):

1. A bead-rim bowl in gritty coarse dark grey ware (10 cm. diameter);
2. A corrugated bowl; hard gritty buff ware, with dark grey surface and traces of combed decoration;
3. A bowl; porridge grey ware, slightly gritty.
4. A bowl; porridgy pinkish-grey ware; slightly gritty with lattice decoration, black burnishing on neck and rim.

¹ *J.B.A.A.*, 1 ser., xxviii (1873), 45-7.

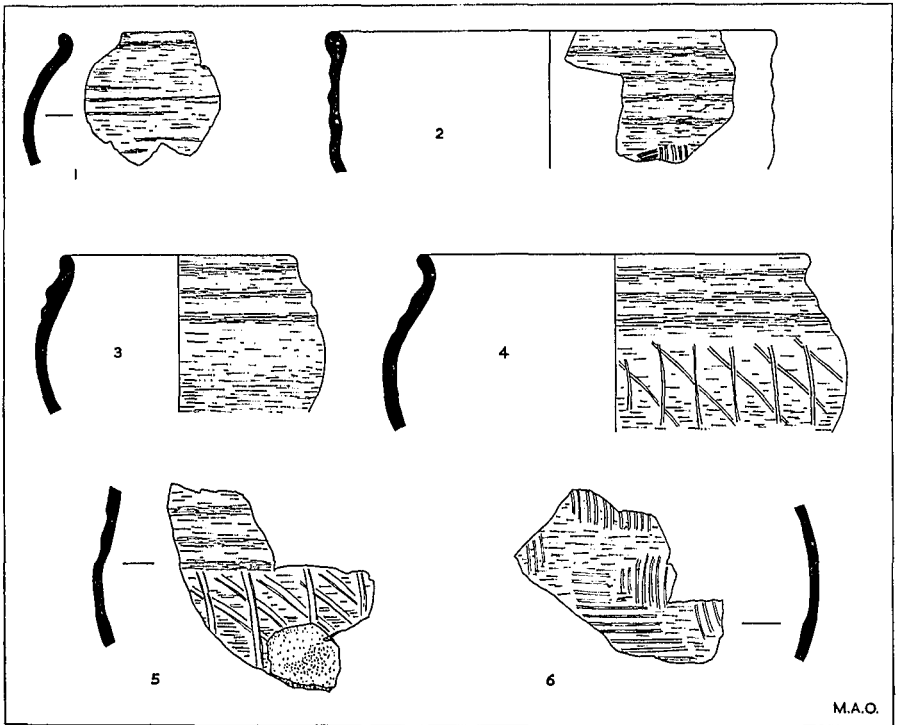


FIG. 1.

5. A sherd from a jar; porridgy pinkish-grey ware, cordons on neck and lattice decoration. 6. A sherd; gritty coarse dark grey ware, with combed decoration.

The group is typical of late-Belgic pottery from East Kent and elsewhere, and may be compared with that found in Rose Lane, Canterbury;² at Five Watering Sewer, Snargate;³ at Quarry Wood Camp, Loose, Maidstone;⁴ and at Detling.⁵ The finds have been deposited in Maidstone Museum.

M. A. Ocock

² *Arch. Cant.*, lxxviii (1954), 104-114.

³ *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxiii (1968), 265-6.

⁴ *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxvi (1971), 55-84.

⁵ *K.A.R.*, no. 15, 12.

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

BARMING

In the churchyard of St. Margaret's, to the north-west of the tower, is a granite vault of vast size, commensurate with the importance of the members of the Ellis family who lie therein. The virtual founder of the family's fortunes was James Ellis, of Barming House, who died on 9th February, 1845, aged 75 years. His wife Jane (*née* Day and formerly married to William Selby, of Barming) died on 9th August, 1826, aged 66 years. Ellis was possibly the earliest of the hop 'barons' and an extremely wealthy man; at one time, he possessed £70,000-worth of hop-poles and employed 4,000 persons during the hop-picking season (J. M. Russell, *The History of Maidstone*, 1881. Russell quotes George Dodd's *The Food of London*, 1856; see also, Elizabeth Melling's *Kentish Sources, Aspects of Agriculture and Industry*, 1961, 77, for more details of James Ellis). The *Maidstone Gazette*, of 2nd February, 1836, reported that Mr. Ellis gave his usual annual dinner to his labourers 'in one of his immense store-houses'. From 300 to 400 labourers, their wives and families dined and were 'regaled with plenteous supplies of a mixture of cyder, rum and sugar'. There may be some connection between this statement and the fact that Jane's brother John was landlord of The Bull at Barming.

It is strange to find that James Ellis was not armigerous until 1819 and stranger still to discover that the arms he acquired then are difficult to find in any of the standard heraldic reference works. This gap can now be filled as the original grant of arms has recently been presented to Maidstone Museum (Acc. no. 12.1974). The relevant parts of the grant, dated 15th November, 1819, are as follows:

'Whereas James Ellis . . . of Barming near Madistone in the County of Kent Esquire . . . being desirous of bearing Armorial Ensigns and being unwilling to use any without lawful Authority he therefore requested the favour of His Lordship's Warrant for Our devising granting and exemplifying such Arms and Crest as may be proper to be borne by him and his Descendants And the Memorialist having intermarried with Jane daughter of John Day of Maidstone widow of William Selby of Barming aforesaid Gentlemand deceased he further requested the favour of His Lordship's Warrant for Our granting and assigning in the same Patent such Arms for Day as may be proper to be borne by her and her Descendants . . . Know ye therefore that We the said GARTER and CLARENCEUX in pursuance of His Lordship's Warrant and by Virtue of the Letters Patent of Our several Offices to eacu of Us respectively granted have devised and do by these Presents grant and exemplify unto the said James Ellis the Arms following that is to say Gules on a cross engrailed Ermine a Branch of Hop fructed proper in the first and fourth Quarters a crescent Or in the second and thrid a Bezant and for the Crest on a Wreath of the Colours An Antelope's Head earsed proper charged on the Neck with a

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Bezant in the Mouth a Branch of Hop fructed also proper . . . And by the Authority aforesaid We do further grant and assign the Arms following for DAY that is to say Per Cheveron nebuly Or and Azure three Estoiles radiated (the manuscript is damaged here, but the marginal drawing shows them countercharged). Isaac Heard Garter Principal King of Arms

George Harrison Clarenceux King of Arms
(Endorsed) Solicited by James Cathron—Somerset Herald.

BOXLEY

A medieval hone (Fig. 1, no. 2) was found, in February, 1972, near Grove Green (O.S. 6-in. Sheet XLII NE—approximately 400 ft. north of Grove Green School; acc. no. 12.1972). Mr. S. E. Ellis has sectioned it

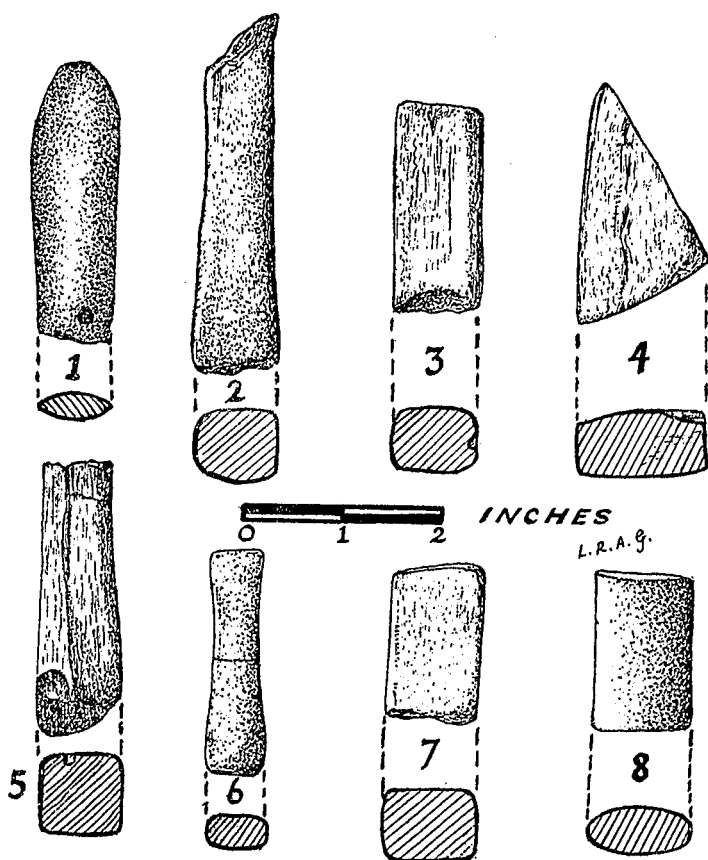


FIG. 1. 1 Romney Marsh; 2 Boxley, Grove Green; 3 Cooling; 4 Cooling, CBF/HV; 5 Lower Halstow; 6 Cooling, CBF/FG, U/5; 7 Cooling, CBF/GP; 8 Cooling, CBF/HA.

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and finds it is a typical medieval schist hone, i.e. a mullion in mica-quartz-schist, containing accessory tourmaline; it is of Ellis Type IA(1), which has been traced to Eidsborg, Telemark, Norway (S. E. Ellis, 'The Pterography and Provenance of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval English Honestones', *Bull. Brit. Mus. Nat. Hist. (Miner.)*, ii (1969), no. 3).

COOLING

During excavations at Eastborough Farm (Broomhey Farm), under the direction of Mr. A. Miles (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxxvi (1971), 242), five hones (Fig. 1, nos. 3-4 and 6-8) were found. Mr. S. E. Ellis describes this collection as a typical Romano-British assemblage.

- (a) (Fig. 1, no. 3) Weathered greywacké-grit, with leached biotite mica. Ellis Type IIB (7). Probable provenance is the Carboniferous of Devon or Cornwall or, possibly, Brittany; it might have come from some other area of folded Palaeozoic rocks. Similar hones have been found at Studland, Hurstbourne-Tarrant and Bath;
- (b) (Fig. 1, no. 4) Sandy limestone without fossils, but with occasional flakes of mica (muscovite and biotite). Ellis Type IVC (3), but of coarser grain. The probable provenance is the Isle of Purbeck or (just possibly) a non-typical Kentish Rag;
- (c) (Fig. 1, nos. 6-8) Sandy limestones, with lustre-mottling, containing echinoid spines and ostracod valves, and glauconite. Ellis Type IVB (1). Probable provenance: Kentish Rag of the Maidstone area.

LOWER HALSTOW

(Fig. 1, no. 5) A hone found, by Mrs. J. R. Weber, in the estuarine during the summer of 1972 (Acc. no. 52.1973). Mr. S. E. Ellis reports that it is a medieval schist hone (cf. the Boxley hone, above), but not quite typical. Accessory minerals are sphene, zircon, apatite and epidote. However, its provenance is almost certainly Eidsborg, Telemark, Norway.

ROMNEY MARSH

(Fig. 1, no. 1) A hone was found on Bishops Marsh (*vide* Mr. J. Bradshaw); it has an incomplete perforation for suspension. A medieval schist hone. For geological description, see under Boxley, above.

SHOLDEN

I am indebted to Mr. R. J. Amos, of Chattenden, for giving me the opportunity to inspect a circular lead seal of thirteenth-century date

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and found, by Mr. I. Stewart, on his property at Sholden. It bears an inscription in late Lombardic:

* S': SI(M)ONIS DANIEL

The seal has been bent and broken, and the damage has almost obliterated the fourth letter of the inscription, which encircles a cross raguly; its reverse has a projection or handle placed to make correct alignment. Greatest diameter = 1 in.; average thickness = 3/32 in.

SNODLAND

Through the kind offices of Mr. A. Daniels, there has recently been given to Maidstone Museum (Acc. no. 2.1974) a bronze purse-mount (Fig. 2, no. 1) found, in February 1974, by Mr. P. Still, the donor, in the bed of the River Medway (O.S. 6-in. Sheet XXXI NW—approximately 500 ft. south-east of All Saints' Church).

Medieval purse-mounts have been discussed at some length by Dr. J. B. Ward Perkins in the *London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, 1954, but little has been done for their descendants in the sixteenth and

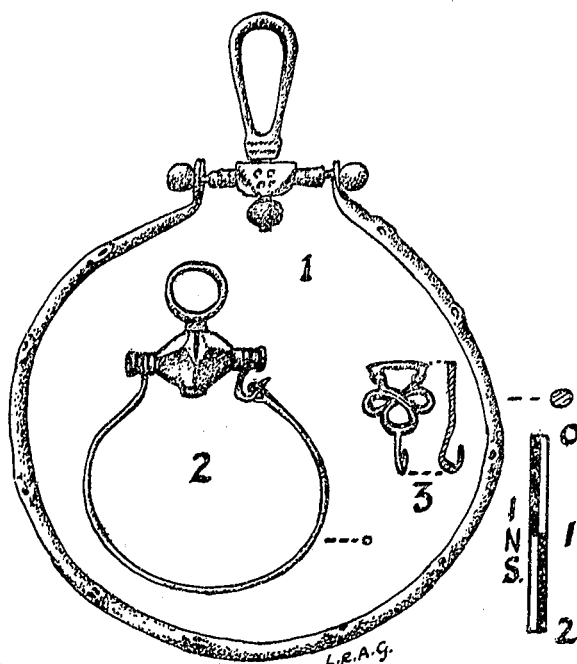


FIG. 2. 1 Purse-mount, Snodland.
2 Purse-mount, Ruins Barn, Tunstall.
3 Medieval hook, Fawkham.

seventeenth centuries. The Snodland purse-mount belongs to Ward Perkins B Grouping, with relative shortness of bar and pendant loop or loops of circular section and hanging directly from the bar; they began to appear soon after 1500. The Snodland purse-mount's central boss has a degenerate form of the normal shield; it probably dates from the middle of the sixteenth century. To be specially noted as an unusual feature is the shaping of the sewing-holes round the loop. Stamped ornament occurs, and this is typical of Ward Perkins' late types B7 and B8.

I have taken the opportunity to figure (Fig. 2, no. 2) a still later form of purse-mounts, which occurs amongst the George Payne material at Maidstone Museum (Acc. no. 462). This purse-mount, made of silver, came from Ruins Barn, Tunstall (G. Payne, *Collectanea Cantiana*, 1893, 203-4), a mansion of the Cromers, which was erected at the beginning of the reign of King James I. When the foundations of this building were destroyed in the nineteenth century most of the miscellaneous items found were of late-sixteenth and early-seventeenth century date, and there is no good reason for doubting that this purse-mount was included. It is distinguished from its predecessors by its diamond-shaped central boss and the hook which fits into a ring at one end of the loop.

TUNSTALL

See under Snodland, above.

WROTHAM

On 15th April, 1973, there was found, at Yew Tree Cottage, Wrotham (N.G.R. TQ 61335955), by members of the Fawkham and Ash Archaeological Group, a bronze hook (Fig. 2, no. 3), such as may be seen on late-medieval military brasses; such hooks were commonly used to link into the suspension ring of the sword, and a very clear illustration of this use, approximately dated to the period 1335-40, is shown in the Royal Manuscripts, E.ix, fol. 20, at the British Museum (*Yorks. Arch. Journ.*, xxxiv (1939), 357).

On 8th April, 1973, there was discovered, at the same find-spot, a late-medieval bronze belt-fitting, which is paralleled by an example from Broken Wharf, Thames Street, in the London Museum (*London Museum Medieval Catalogue*, 1954, 268-9, fig. 85, no. 1); such fittings are dated by Dr. Ward Perkins to the period c. 1390-1410, and discussed in *Antiq. Journ.*, xix (1939), 197-9.

I am much indebted to Mr. E. P. Connell, for allowing me to study this material.

L. R. A. GROVE

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BARMING

A globular jar was found, in 1966, by Messrs. A. E. Alldridge and K. Whitehead near a quarry at the south-east edge of Oaken Wood (approx. N.G.R. TQ 712545). Until 1974, it was on loan to the museum. The ware is buff, slightly gritted, and preserves traces of a black-burnished slip. It is decorated on the shoulder with a row of seven incised arcs and has an omphalos base. It contained a cremation burial and was accompanied by a globular Belgic jar, about 6 in. in height, decorated with a double groove on its shoulder and a single groove round its belly. Two small Belgic jars were found in the vicinity in 1931 and 1963, and the site appears to have held a Belgic cemetery.

The jar belongs to a group of pottery named South-eastern B by Ward Perkins in 1938 (*P.P.S.*, iv (1938), 151-68) and regarded by him as intrusive. In association, however, this pottery is always found with Belgic types. Its main distribution lies in East Sussex, with smaller numbers in Kent, mainly west of the Medway, and south-east Essex and its ancestry is to be found in wares made in Sussex and the Weald from the third to the first centuries B.C. Professor B. Cunliffe names the group Eastern Atrebatie and suggests some form of trans-Weald contact (Barry Cunliffe, *Iron Age Communities in Britain*, London, 1974, 89-92). Alternatively, these pots could be the work of a pre-Belgic or Wealden element in the population.

ERITH

The circular Roman brooch (Fig. 3) was found in Erith (precise location not known) by Mr. J. Hounsome. It is of bronze and the face

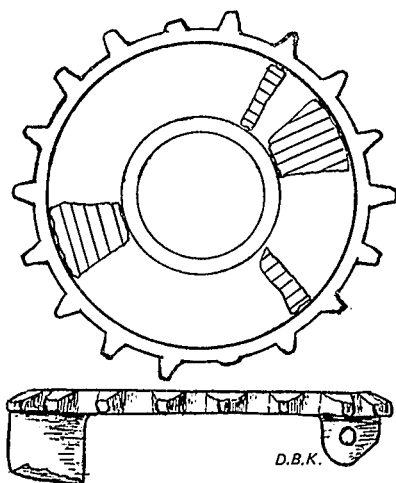


FIG. 3. Roman Brooch ($\frac{1}{2}$)

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retains traces of its decorative wedges of red and blue enamel, the central hole perhaps originally holding a stud of coloured glass or a stone. Brooches of this type are generally dated to the second or third centuries A.D. The nearest parallel I can find is from Leicester (Kathleen M. Kenyon, *Excavations at the Jewry Wall Site, Leicester*, Oxford, 1948, 251, and fig. 82, 3). From level VI, dated to about A.D. 220.

D. B. KELLY

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