

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

FURTHER NOTES ON THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERY AT ORPINGTON

A recent note by Mr. David Brown in *The Antiquaries Journal*, lvii (1977), 95–7, draws attention to the fact that a familiar feature of early Anglo-Saxon women's graves is a small clutch of objects on the left side of the hip or thigh. It is accepted that these objects were kept in a bag or purse suspended from the waist-belt, a conclusion which agrees with my own in describing Graves 19, 21 and 29 of the Orpington cemetery published in *Arch. Cant.*, lxxxiii (1968). Mr. Brown enlarges on the theme, however, and points out that the objects often comprise merely odds and ends of apparent rubbish for which no useful function can be suggested and are therefore supposed to have been kept as amulets endowed with a significance above their material worth. Rings of iron, bronze or ivory are often associated and are believed to have formed part of the purse construction. Among the contents, other rings and ring-shaped objects are common and appear to have had some significance. There is often an object much older than the period of the burial – of Roman or even Iron Age origin.

All this fits very well with the Orpington evidence: in the Grave 19 purse-group were a loop of bronze wire and a finger ring as well as two iron rings now recognized as part of the purse; two bronze rings of similar purpose occurred in Grave 21 with a piece of bronze tube; Grave 29 had two iron purse-rings associated with bronze tweezers – probably Roman and therefore a characteristic old object as referred to above – and a bronze ring. Grave 39 had a Roman key on the left side of the waist in a position suggesting that its significance was similar to the other cases mentioned. Roman objects also came from Graves 32, 35 and 67 and in all these instances there can be little doubt that they had once belonged to the occupants of the adjoining Roman building lately discovered by Mrs. S. Palmer. Its existence was inferred in 1968 and it is now seen to lie in part just west of the Roman pit adjoining Bellefield Road shown on the plan accompanying the second report on the cemetery (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxxiv (1969)), in an area not available for investigation during the 1965–8 excavation, and Mrs. Palmer has stated that the foundations continue southward under the road (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxxix (1974), 220).

The photograph of Grave 36 in the 1968 report shows the skeleton of

a young warrior with crossed ankles as though bound together at the time of burial. This, added to the fact that a knife was found at his throat and not in his belt and that his shield had been laid flat over his head and chest, has led me to speculate on the possibility that this evidence may indicate a murder or ritual killing. Similar sinister evidence has come from pagan Anglo-Saxon burials elsewhere. In the case of the Orpington warrior, the subject was obviously a person of importance as shown by the occurrence in the grave of a sword – an indication of rank in those times.

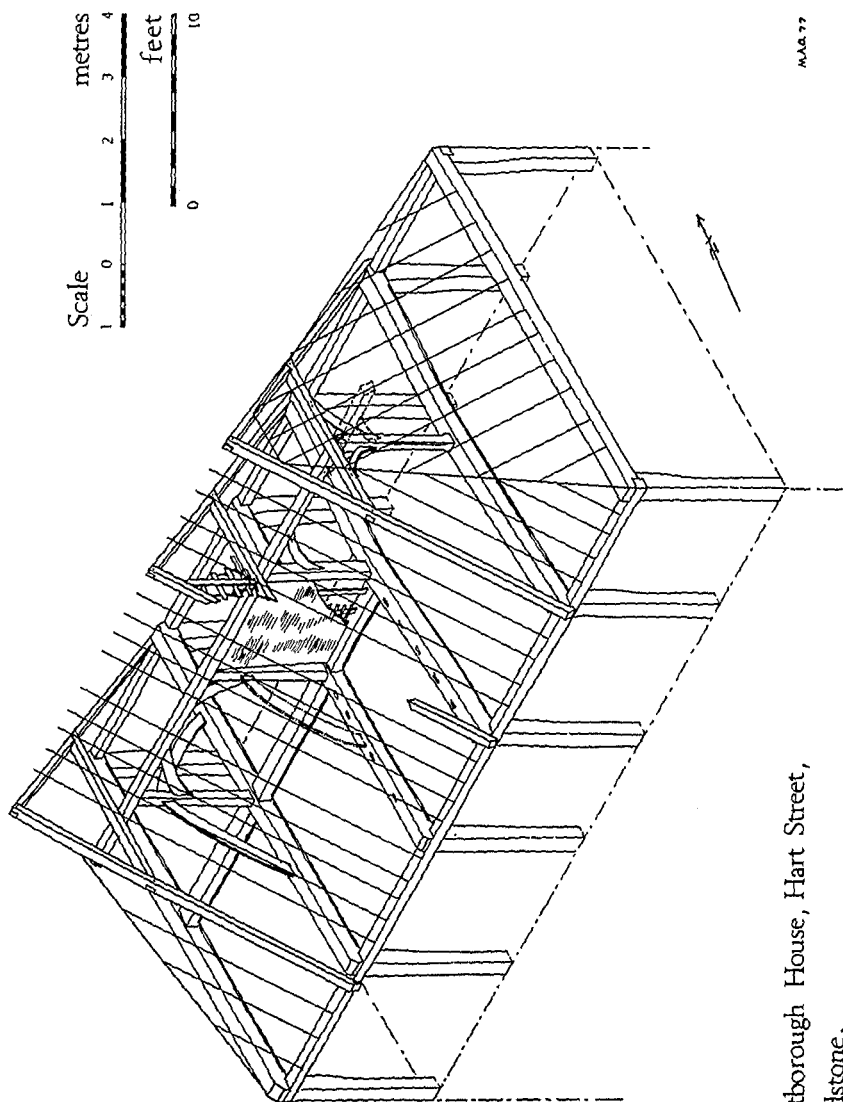
Orpington Grave 58 contained a pot with distinctive *stehende Bogert* decoration dated by Dr. J. N. L. Myres to the first half of the fifth century, but with it were two disc brooches apparently of the sixth century, and the conflict of evidence is still unresolved. The matter has been raised in an article by Mr. M. G. Welch in *The Antiquaries Journal*, lv (1975) in discussing an apparently similar disparity at Mitcham where in Grave 205 a carinated pedestal-based bowl dated by Dr. J. Morris and Dr. Myres to the end of the fourth or the beginning of the fifth century was associated with a pair of applied brooches thought to belong to the first half of the sixth century. An attempt is made to solve the Mitcham problem by arguing that as the continental antecedents of the applied brooches may be dated to the first quarter of the fifth century, the examples from Grave 205 could be placed *c.* 450, and this would bring the dating of the pot (*c.* 400 by Myres) and brooches closer together.

Regarding the parallel difficulty at Orpington, Mr. Welch offers the suggestion that the vessel may have been kept for a time as an heirloom, or else perhaps it had been dug up with a cremation burial and re-used. To this I can only observe that the vessel is in a remarkably fresh and unworn condition, quite inconsistent with its having been long in use or roughly disinterred. Moreover, Dr. Myres has stated, in a note appended to Welch's article, that the heirloom theory invoked in explanation of such awkward anomalies is never plausible in the case of a pottery vessel, especially one in a fresh condition.

P. J. TESTER

WESTBOROUGH HOUSE, HART STREET, MAIDSTONE

In March 1977, the building in Hart Street, Maidstone, formerly known as Westborough House, was seriously damaged by fire and soon afterwards demolished. In 1975, it had been examined and surveyed by members of the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group and drawings and photographs were subsequently deposited with the R.C.H.M. National Monuments Record.



Westborough House, Hart Street,
Maidstone.

Fig. 1. The extant Portion of the late-medieval Timber Frame.

M.A.G. 77

The building, almost square on plan, consisted of a late-medieval house standing at right angles to the street, with an eighteenth-century extension of similar size along its north side. The east elevation had been re-fronted, which did much to disguise the earlier structure. It then appears to have remained largely unaltered until a few years ago when the entire ground floor was converted into a showroom. In the late-nineteenth century, the property was owned by the family of our member, Mr. R. F. Amies, and the plan, attached to a lease¹ of 1910, shows Westborough House between 'a new warehouse' and the White Hart, with the Elephant & Castle P.H. occupying the corner of Hart Street and the Broadway.

Plate IA shows the east elevation of the building which is dwarfed by the Warehouse. The late medieval structure lies behind the left and centre bays. In Plate IB, a later partition, erected for a staircase built when the house was extended, can be seen to the left of the soot-encrusted smoke-bay partition, other fragments of which can be seen at the top of the picture. Fig. 1 illustrates the extant portion of the late-medieval timber frame. Large timber beams were found running across the two most northerly bays, but it was not possible to ascertain whether these had been a late insertion. Timbers in the roof were soot-encrusted over the centre bay and the two bays to the south.

My thanks are due to Mr. I. C. Sibley, of Messrs. Walter & Forknall, Maidstone, for permission to survey the property and for taking such an interest in our work, to Mr. R. F. Amies, for his support and for supplying many interesting facts about the locality and the house when it was still used as such, and to members of the Maidstone Archaeological Group, particularly for their help and perseverance in surveying the less-easily accessible parts of the building.

M. A. COCK

EXCAVATIONS AT ST. AUGUSTINE'S ABBEY, CANTERBURY

Excavations for the Department of the Environment under the direction of the author were continued during July, westwards from the area dealt with in 1976 (*Arch. Cant.*, xcii (1976), 228–9).

The principal structure investigated was the easterly of the two side-by-side towers in the south-west corner of the Abbey church, the western structure having been excavated by Andrew Saunders between 1955 and 1957 (*Society for Medieval Archaeology Monograph*, forthcoming).

The tower is shown as a ruin on the drawing by Daniel King (1655), and also appears on the plan by Thornton, where it is described as 'a

¹ Given to Maidstone Museum by Mr. Amies in 1973.

Plate IA.



Westborough House, east Elevation.

Plate IB.



The Roof looking East, showing Smoke-bay Partition and Crown Post.

large Mass of leaning Ruin, supposed to have been part of a steeple' *The Gentleman's Magazine* for July 1793 gives a graphic account of the tower, which was in 'a very inclined position', being pulled down by 200 men.

The evidence of the excavation is that this was done from the south, on which side the face and a large part of the flint corework has been wrenched away from the surviving base and foundations. The eastern wall of the tower survives to a height of 2.31 m. above Norman ground level and is 3.65 m. wide. Both faces survive, the east face being dressed with ragstone ashlar toothed into the corework in characteristic Norman style. The core is of flint bonded with an extremely hard orange mortar.

To the east of the tower there was a substantial build-up of the ground above the Norman surface, but even in the lowest layers of the build-up there was eighteenth-century pottery. Along the east face of the east wall of the tower two separate trenches had been dug, each containing two scaffold-bases. Though they were clearly of different dates, both trenches cut the eighteenth-century build-up and so must both be eighteenth-century. It seems probable that the scaffolding was erected to rob ashlar facing stones from the tower before it was pulled down. The trenches were backfilled, and finally a third trench was dug, cutting the backfill of the second scaffolding trench. It can be surmised that this was dug after the demolition of the tower to rob the facing stones below the eighteenth-century ground surface from the surviving stump of masonry. Only the bottom course of facing stones has been left.

From the seventh bay west of the Rood Screen the south wall of the south aisle has been robbed, and a cutting was laid down across the turfed area which indicates the level of the Norman floor to see if anything survived of the foundations. In the area excavated, it was found that the core of the wall had been robbed right down to the foundation raft, which is 1.07 m. below floor level. The facing stones on the south side survived. The robbing can be dated on ceramic and clay-pipe evidence to the eighteenth century.

The junction of this stretch of the south aisle wall, built by Abbot Wido (1087-99), and the tower did not survive, so their relationship cannot be determined. Nonetheless, the opening of this cutting did expose the full north-south length of the tower, which is 7.1 m.

Seven burials were excavated in the lay cemetery, six of which were of the sixteenth century and one of the eighteenth. Two further skeletons were exposed by the excavation of the back-fill of a ragged hole, which appears to have been dug for the purpose of looting.

HUMPHREY WOODS

EYNSFORD

A bronze chisel (Fig. 2) was recovered from flood-plain gravel at Eynsford, on the east bank of the river Darent (N.G.R. TQ 528639), close to the find of a late Bronze Age spearhead (*Arch. Cant.*, lxxxiv (1969), 251).

The chisel has a splayed blade, a square tang with a centre stop between and is 11.5 cm. in length. It is similar in size and shape to an example found in the Nottingham Hill hoard, which was dated to the late Bronze Age (*Antiquity*, xlvi, 1974), and it would seem probable that a similar date could be put on the Eynsford chisel.

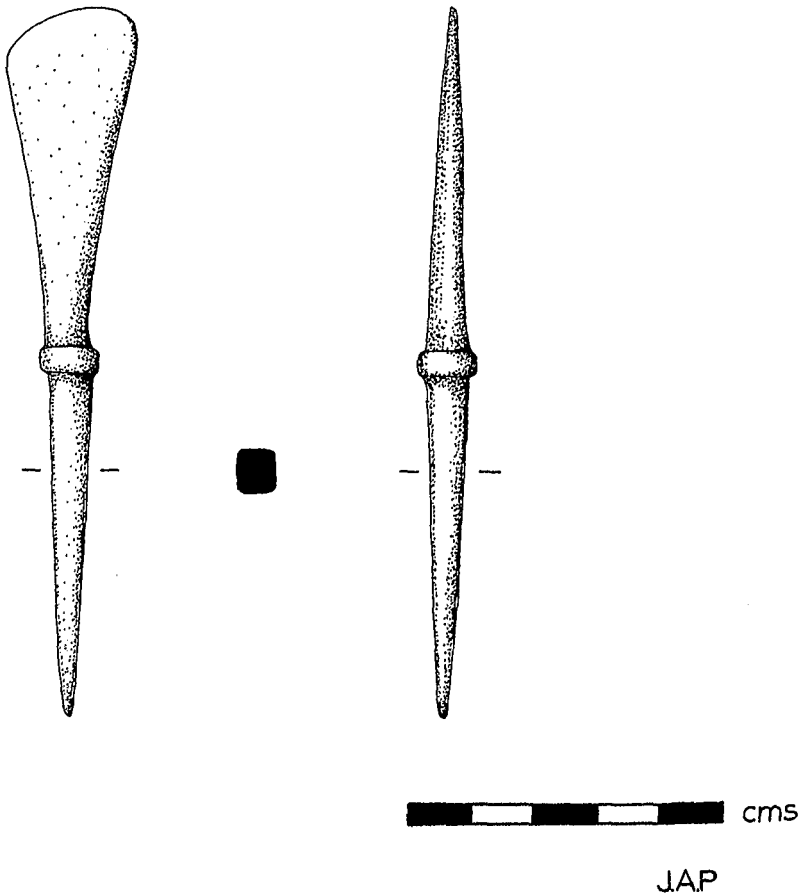


Fig. 2



Signet Ring from Sheerness. (*Top*: Signet ring (†); *bottom*: wax impression of gem (†).)

The area has since been made into a lake and any further investigation of the site is impossible. I would like to thank Mr. I. Gardiner, of Otford, who found the chisel and now retains it, for showing me the site.

J. A. PYKE

A ROMAN SIGNET-RING FROM SHEERNESS

A bronze ring, of late second-century type, was found at (or near) Sheerness in 1964 by a man engaged in roadworks¹ (Plate II). Roman material appears to be somewhat scarce in Sheppey and so the find is of some importance.² The ring has a ribbon-hoop (width across bezel 18 mm.) and has an external diameter of 22 mm. (internal diameter 19 mm.).³ It contains an ovoid, convex stone apparently orange in colour but almost entirely covered with an opaque white film; 'Burnt cornelian' can be produced by chemical leaching during burial as well as through the action of fire, so this is not in itself of any significance. The gem is 13 mm. in length and has a breadth of 10.5 mm.

An intaglio device portraying a pair of stylized, confronted birds, one of them holding a spray of leaves in its beak, is probably meant to symbolize the fecundity of nature. A paste from Richborough shows a similar barnyard scene while a fine cornelian found with other jewellery and coins in a pot near Upchurch (Slayhill Saltings) depicts a cock with two ears of corn in front of him.⁴

MARTIN HENIG

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM MAIDSTONE MUSEUM

AYLESFORD

A stone perforated adze, or hoe (Fig. 3, 7), was found in the garden of 107 Hall Road by Mr. D. R. Hawkins in August, 1975 (N.G.R. TQ 725583): length 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ in., width at shaft-hole 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ in. These implements are not uncommon in south-east England, nine being recorded from Kent, and are late Neolithic (Beaker) to early Bronze Age in date.

The owner kindly allowed the implement to be sectioned at the British Museum (Natural History) by Dr. A. R. Woolley and it proved

¹Information from Mr. T. E. Hudson. The ring has unfortunately been sold.

²Cf. *Arch. Cant.*, xxv (1902), lxxii, for a gold coin of Severus found between Minster-in-Sheppey and Warden; *ibid.*, xci (1975), 195, for a coin of Maximianus actually from Sheerness.

³For the type, M. Henig, *A Corpus of Roman engraved Gemstones from British Sites*, BAR 8, 1974, I, Fig. i, Type V (II, pl. xxxvii, 391).

⁴*Ibid.*, II, 90 and pls. xxi and xliii, nos. 681 and 679.

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to be 'a hornfels characterized by the presence of the mineral cordierite', a metamorphic rock found in south-west England, the Lake District and southern Scotland. The stone is an ungrouped one and Dr. Woolley was unable to match it exactly; he drew attention, however, to the reference in the fourth report of the Sub-Committee of the South-Western Group of Museums and Art Galleries on the Petrological Identification of Stones Axes¹ to twenty-two implements of 'spotted slate' and suggested that the Aylesford adze might well prove to be of the same rock and have a Cornish source.

DETLING

An iron key, $3\frac{3}{4}$ in. long (Fig. 3, 2), was dug up in the grounds of the Primary School (N.G.R. TQ 792583) in March, 1977, and brought to the Museum by Mr. P. S. Hart. It is of Ward Perkins type IV² with a solid shank, which has a flattened oval section as far as the bit, when it becomes round. The type is not closely dateable, but the tothing on the fore edge of the bit, which projects beyond the shank, suggests a thirteenth–fourteenth century date.

EAST MALLING

A Roman bronze coin of Maximianus (Trier mint, R.I.C. 358b) was found in Catlyn Close (N.G.R. TQ 701578).

HOLLINGBOURNE

A 'potin' coin of Allen's type A³ was found by our member, Mr. V. J. Newbury, north of the Pilgrims' Way (N.G.R. TQ 846555). The type is dated by Allen to the early part of the first century B.C.

LARKFIELD

A Roman bronze coin of Constantine I (Trier mint, R.I.C. 316) was dug up on an allotment (N.G.R. TQ 702586).

LEEDS

Two medieval harness pendants were brought to Maidstone Museum for identification. The first (Fig. 3, 5) was found in December, 1976, in

¹*P.P.S.*, XXVIII (1962), 230.

²*London Museum Medieval Catalogue* (1940), 138–9.

³D. F. Allen: 'British Potin Coins: a Review', in *The Iron Age and its Hill-Forts* (Eds. M. Jesson and D. Hill), Southampton (1971), 127–154.

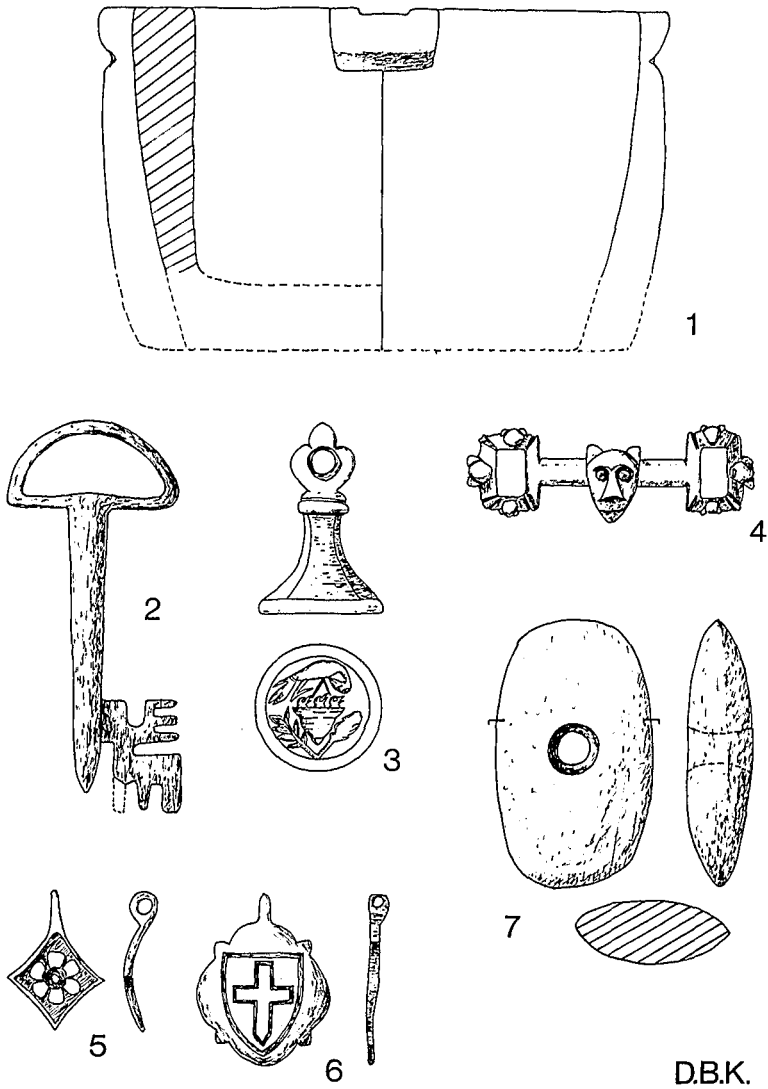


Fig. 3. Scale: 1, $7\frac{1}{4}$; 2, 4, 5, $6\frac{1}{2}$; $3\frac{1}{4}$.

the garden of 20 Wickham Close (N.G.R. TQ 824532) by Mr. G. Ireland. It is of bronze, diamond-shaped, with slightly concave sides, bearing a sexfoil design; the background was presumably enamelled: length $1\frac{3}{8}$ in.

The second pendant (Fig. 3, 6) was found in February, 1977, by Mrs. I. Scammell in the garden of 1 Foley Hill (N.G.R. TQ 822531). It is of gilt bronze, bears an incised cross with pointed lower limb within a shield and is $1\frac{3}{4}$ in. long. The pendants are, respectively, of Ward Perkins type II and V⁴ and dated to the fourteenth–fifteenth centuries. The find-spots are so close that it is tempting to regard the pendants as lost from the same harness.

LOOSE

A circular medieval seal matrix (Fig. 3, 3) was found by Mr. P. Fairbank near the Loose stream below Cripple Street (N.G.R. TQ 758535). It is of gilt bronze, showing the Pelican in her piety: a pelican piercing her breast over a nest with three fledglings, between two branches. The conical handle is hexagonal, its trefoil terminal pierced by a round hole; height 1 in., diam. $\frac{5}{8}$ in., fourteenth–fifteenth century.⁵

MAIDSTONE

A Roman *dupondius* of Trajan (R.I.C. 676) was found in the garden of 3 Stockett Lane, Tovil (N.G.R. TQ 754533) by Mrs. M. Baker in June, 1977.

ROCHESTER

Through the good offices of our member, Mr. D. Williams, a medieval mortar (Fig. 3, 1), once outside the door of George Payne's house, no. 2 The Precincts, was brought to the Museum. Although unprovenanced, it seems likely to have been found in Kent and presumably in the Rochester area. It is of Dunning's type I,⁶ dated to the thirteenth–fourteenth centuries; three lugs are prolonged to the base by ribs, the place of a fourth taken by the spout; diameter $11\frac{1}{2}$ in.; base missing. A fragment was sent to Mr. Martyn Owen, of the Geological Museum, and identified by him as Quarr Stone, from the Bembridge Limestone of the Isle of Wight, a building stone used extensively in medieval times and earlier in Hampshire and along the Sussex coast as far as Lewes (Priory). The quarries appear to have been worked out by the middle of the fourteenth century.⁷

⁴ *L.M. Med. Cat.* (1940), 118–121 and pl. XIX.

⁵ *L.M. Med. Cat.* (1940), 295 and Fig. 90, 3.

⁶ *Med. Arch.*, v (1961), 279–84.

⁷ *Med. Arch.*, viii (1964), 115–7.

SNODLAND

A medieval harness fitting of bronze (Fig. 3, 4) was found by Mr. N. Bradley on the downs west of Snodland adjacent to the Pilgrims' Way (approx. N.G.R. TQ 668622). It is $2\frac{7}{8}$ in.-long and consists of a bar with a rectangular loop at each end. There is a central leopard head boss and each loop is decorated with three small animal heads. The back of the boss is slightly hollowed and bears no trace of a stud or fastening.

In his paper on 'bridle spurs',⁸ Reginald Smith illustrated four objects very like our piece,⁹ allegedly Romano-British, and suggested that they were devolved 'bridle spurs', the spines now reduced to a mere knob, which were used as decorative cheek-pieces at each end of the bit. It is difficult, however, to see how these objects could be attached to the bit and the projecting knobs on the loops make it improbable that they hung from rings at the ends of the bit. Moreover, two other examples, from Old Sarum¹⁰ and Basingstoke¹¹ are, like ours, meant to be seen in a horizontal position; the latter, published by L. R. A. Grove, has a central boss with an animal head reminiscent of the Snodland piece.

The only way our fitting could be fastened to the harness without hiding the animal heads on the loops is by straps round the bar on each side of the central boss and, since the loops are presumably functional, it must be assumed that the reins or straps passed through them. Mr. Brian Spencer, of the Museum of London, has suggested that the fitting is a martingale, stitched or strapped to the breast collar, the reins passing through the loops to keep the horse's head down and he has seen such martingales in fourteenth- and fifteenth-century illustrations.

This seems to me the right explanation of the use of our fitting and of the few similar ones, none of which, I believe, is proven earlier than the medieval period. Alternatively, these martingales might have been used like the modern Irish martingale, of which they are reminiscent, although smaller. The Irish martingale consists of a short strap with a ring at each end through which the reins pass. It is fitted below the horse's chin to stop him jerking the reins over his head and is not fastened to the harness in any way.

The Snodland martingale has been purchased from the finder by the Museum Auxiliary Fund: acc. no. 55-1977.

⁸ *Proc. Soc. Ant. Lond.*, (2nd series), xxix (1916-17), 24-41.

⁹ *Ibid.*, Figs. 8-11.

¹⁰ *Antiq. Journ.*, xvii (1937), 438-40.

¹¹ *Proc. Hants. F.C.*, xiii, pt. 2, 179-80.

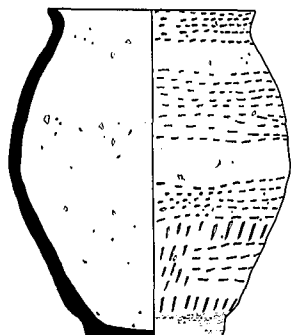
STAPLEHURST

A narrow polished flint Neolithic axe was found by Mr. J. E. Cope in a field at Baldings Farm (approx. N.G.R. TQ 778441). It is of brown flint, presumably from river gravels, and has traces of cortex on one side. The tip of the butt is missing; length 6 in., max. width $1\frac{5}{8}$ in., max. thickness $\frac{7}{8}$ in. Mr. Cope kindly presented the axe to the Museum (acc. no. 18-1977).

D. B. KELLY

BEAKER FROM SWALECLIFFE

The beaker, which was reported on last year (*Arch. Cant.*, xcii (1976), 235), is here illustrated (Fig. 4) as it has now been conserved. The beaker was in fact found in October 1975 (not 1974), *in situ* at N.G.R. TR 136677.

Fig. 4 (Scale: $\frac{1}{4}$)

It should also be noted that in *c.* 1800 B.C., when the beaker was interred, the coastline would have been several miles away to the north as erosion of the London Clay low cliffs is very rapid at this spot.

TIM TATTON-BROWN

EXCAVATIONS IN 1977 BY THE CANTERBURY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

During 1977 four major excavations were carried out by the Trust as well as a series of smaller excavations and the recording of archaeological levels in service trenches and on builders' sites. The Trust has also undertaken the task of making measured drawings of various medieval buildings in advance of restoration or rebuilding work.

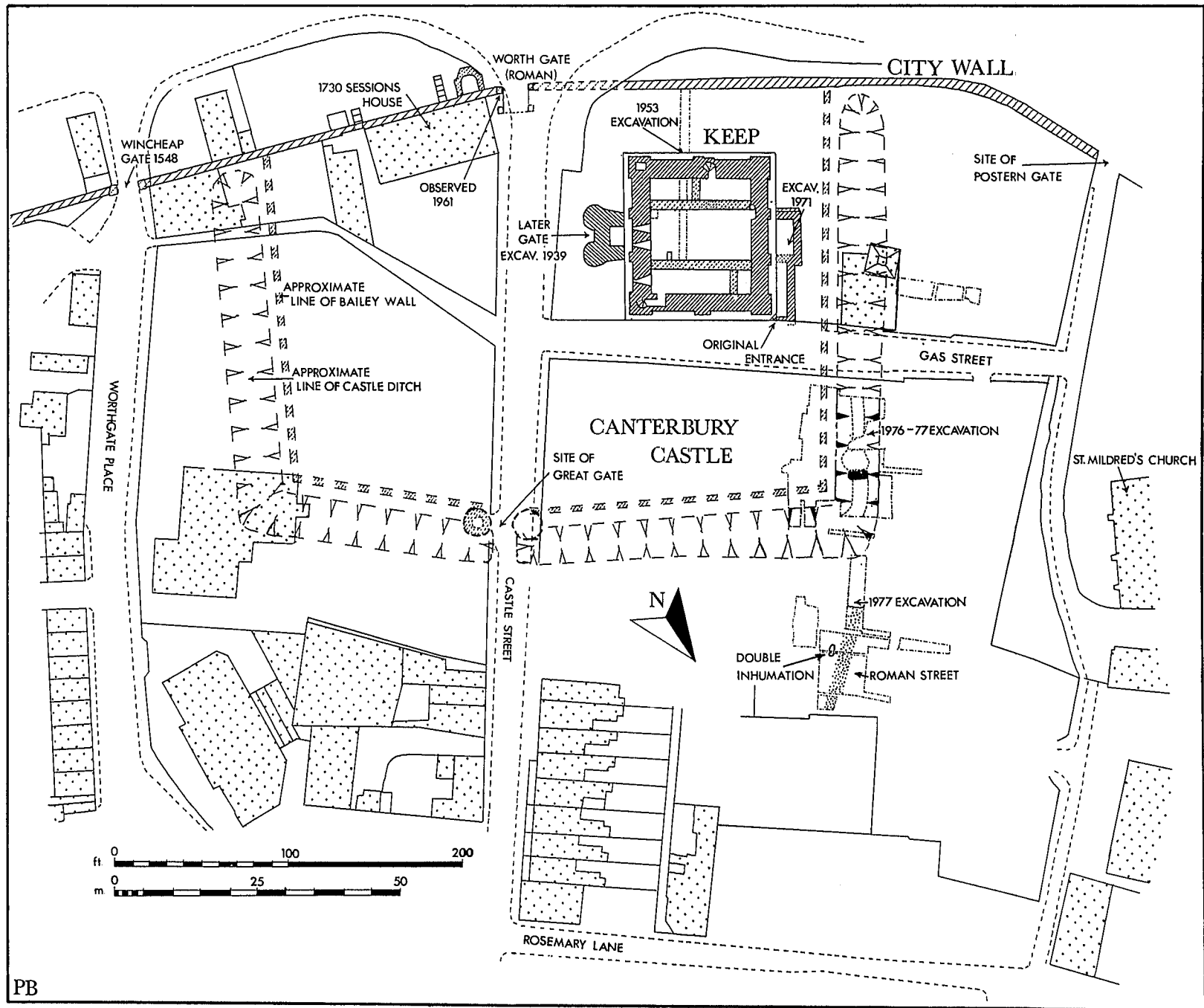


Fig. 5.

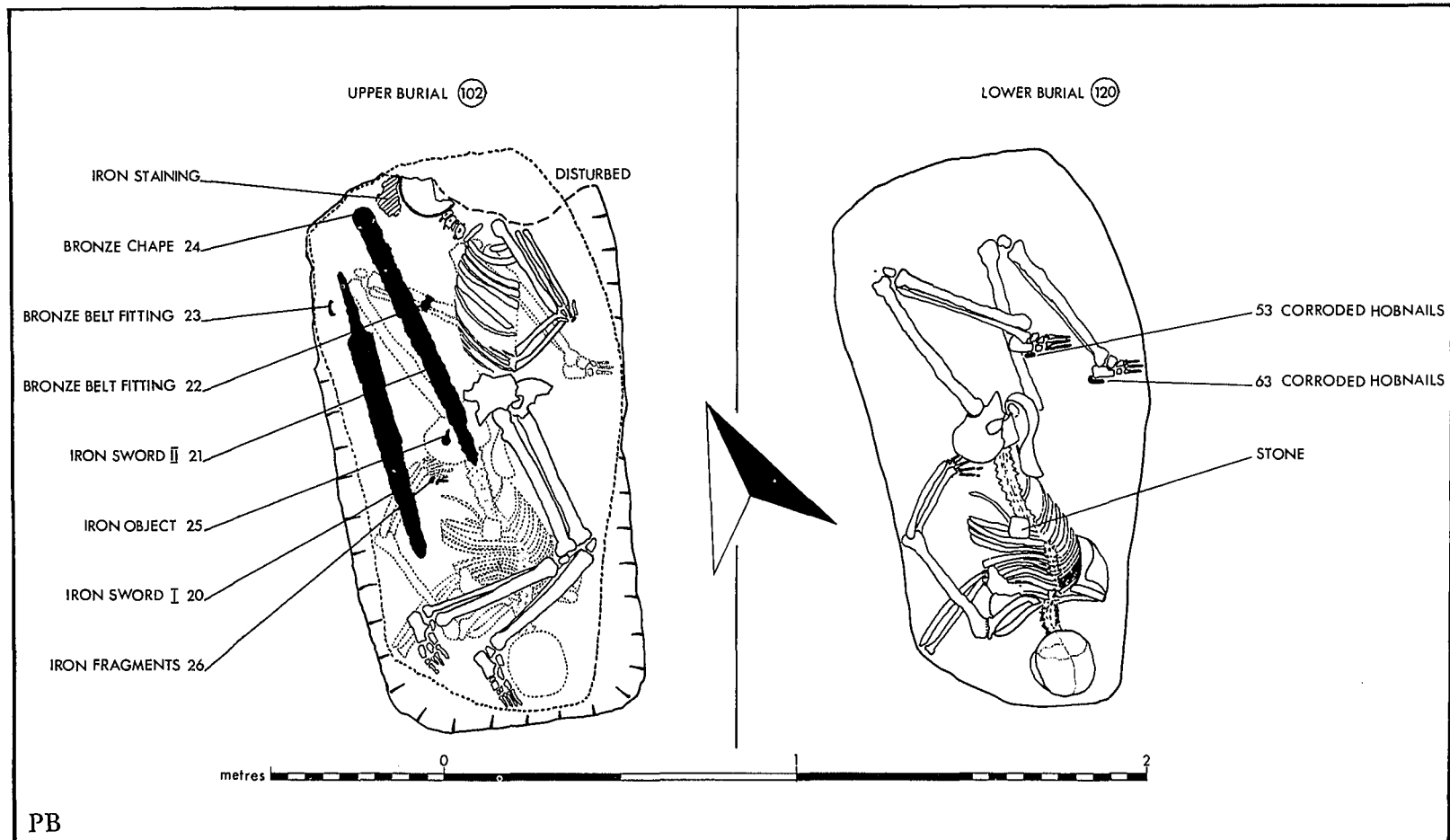


Fig. 6.

CANTERBURY CASTLE

During the early part of 1977, the second stage of our excavation on the old Gas Works site north of the Norman Keep was carried out. Despite a great deal of very heavy pollution of the ground, we were able to carry out some extremely interesting work. The excavations, supervised by Mr. Paul Bennett, were in the area immediately north of the 1976 excavations (see Fig. 5) where nineteenth century foundations had cut less deep than in other places and a complete Roman sequence was excavated which had been overlain by the usual dark soil. This deposit, which is perhaps post-Roman plough soil has been found in several other parts of the city as well as in many other Roman and medieval cities in Britain.

Down the centre of the area ran a fine Roman street which had been in use throughout the Roman period, with many re-surfacings of the street. On either side of this street from the Flavian period were ditches which appear to have bounded fields. The field on the east side of the road contained a small late-first century cremation cemetery which had been overlain by late Roman timber buildings and cut through by later pits and a fine timber-lined well. The most interesting find (Plate 1 and Fig. 6), however, was what appeared to be a later intrusion into the cremation cemetery before it was covered by the late Roman buildings. This consisted of a double inhumation burial in a small shallow and roughly dug grave. The two corpses had been thrown into the grave very roughly, one on top of the other. The lower skeleton was face downwards and had its lower limbs bent backwards while the upper was lying on its side with its legs and head bent back to fit into the grave (see Fig. 6). Both skeletons were of fully grown males and had no signs on them of how death had occurred. Of particular interest, however, was that in the upper fill of the grave were two swords in their scabbards (with chapes), and various iron and bronze fittings alongside. The swords, which probably date from the later second or early third century, were long swords, perhaps auxiliary *spathae*, and have now been cleaned and conserved by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory (Fig. 7). To find weapons in Roman burials is extremely rare and one wonders whether this Canterbury burial is the result of some irregular scene – murder or ‘ritual’?

The earliest feature to be excavated on the site was the long, straight, possibly military, ditch mentioned in last year’s report. In the ditch, much more of which was excavated in 1977, were a series of rapid infilling deposits containing a dead horse and several fragments of human skeletons including an isolated skull. In two cases the bones displayed possible sword cuts. A fine collection of samian including seventeen stamped pieces (kindly examined for us by Brian Hartley and

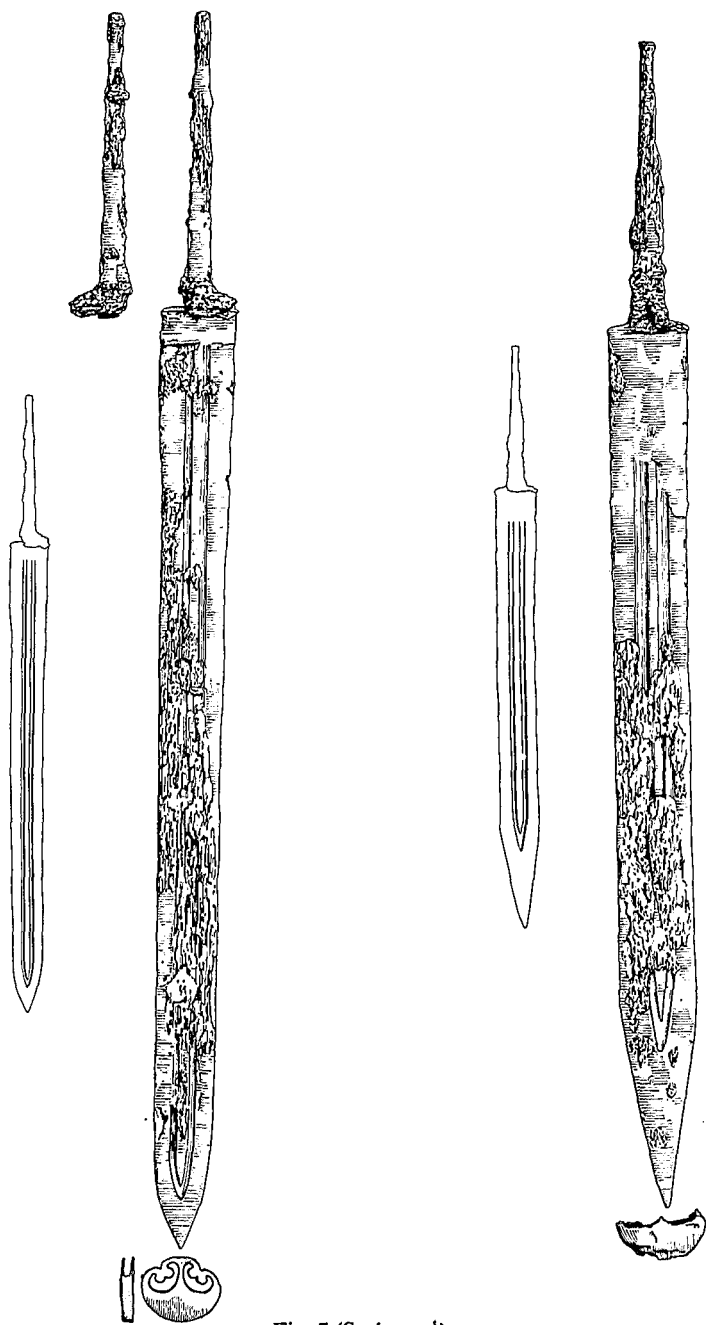


Fig. 7 (Scale: $c. \frac{1}{8}$).

Plate IIIA



Photo. Fisk-Moore Studios

Double Inhumation Burials as first found, showing the northern End of the upper Burial with the two Swords.

Plate IIIB



Photo. Kentish Gazette

View of 'buried' Crenellations in the north Wall of St. Mary Northgate Church, Canterbury. (Note bricked-up twelfth-century round-headed window above.)

Brenda Dickinson) suggest a date of around A.D. 60. If this represents the aftermath of the Boudiccan revolt, then it is the first positive evidence from Canterbury.

19 POUND LANE, AND CHURCH LANE, CANTERBURY

During 1977 we also continued our examination of the northern city wall of Canterbury with a brief excavation at 19 Pound Lane and a large scale excavation on a site between Church Lane and St. Radigund's Street adjacent to the now disused church of St. Mary, Northgate.

At 19 Pound Lane, a house which had once been a square late-fourteenth century tower on the city wall was being restored and we were, thanks to the kindness of the owner, able to excavate it one weekend before restoration work took place. The whole of the extremely fine battered plinth on the west side of the tower was uncovered down to the water-table as well as the north-west corner and part of the north wall of the tower. As at 16 Pound Lane (reported on in last year's volume) the lower part of the tower was entirely made of large ashlar blocks of Kentish Rag and in this case so also was the refaced city wall. Behind the ashlar masonry was a very thick core of chalk block and very hard mortar. No. 19 Pound Lane now has little surviving above ground level of its north and west walls (the east wall is still inaccessible), but on the south, much of the core of the city wall with its offset at parapet level still survives and this was examined when the rendering was removed. This tower was the western of the two towers on the north wall that flanked the 'water-lock', the triple series of arches (with portcullises) that carried the wall over the River Stour just north of the Abbot's Mill. Gostling¹ records that the whole of this section of the city wall was built in ashlar masonry and was demolished in 1769.

Our excavations at the other site beside Church Lane, supervised by Mr. Simon Pratt, were continued for several months and here for the first time on the northern city wall we were able to excavate a large section immediately inside the wall as well as a section through the upper fills of the medieval city ditch. At the same time a 110-ft. length of city wall was examined and recorded which had been hidden until fairly recently by nineteenth-century buildings. Much of the wall had been pulled down in 1830, but where the city wall acted as the north wall of St. Mary Northgate Church, it still stood to its full height of nearly 30 ft. As well as doing the excavations, we were able to clean off much later plaster from the outer face of the wall and to make

¹W. Gostling, *A Walk in and about the City of Canterbury* (1774), 14 and plate opposite.

detailed elevation drawings. The wall itself, as at 16 and 19 Pound Lane, had been largely re-built, or at least re-faced, in the late fourteenth century obviously because at that time the Roman wall was in poor condition. However, where it had become the north wall of the nave of the church (at least by the twelfth century) the Roman wall and its face remained intact to about 21 ft. above the old ground level. Along the top of the Roman wall and below the twelfth-century heightening, a crenellation was clearly visible which may well be the surviving Roman parapet. If this is so, it is probably the only known Roman parapet still surviving in Britain. If it is not Roman it must be late Saxon or early Norman.

In the area behind the City Wall and cutting the Roman rampart were a series of deep middle Saxon pits which contained bun-shaped loom-weights and waterlogged organic material at the bottom (Fig. 4). Overlying this were the very substantial remains (layers of packed flints) of the late Saxon and early medieval intra-mural street. This street in turn was cut by a series of graves from the small churchyard of St. Mary Northgate and overlying this were the building levels for the reconstruction of the City Wall in the late fourteenth century. Good documentary evidence exists for this, and we found that the medieval builders had in some places completely re-built the wall while elsewhere they had only re-faced the Roman core. After re-building was complete, the intra-mural street (called Church Lane here) was moved slightly southwards to its present position and houses were built on the surface of the old street up against the City Wall. These were finally destroyed in 1830 when the whole area was effectively razed to the ground to allow the construction of many new houses and light industrial premises.

THE OLD PALACE, BEKESBOURNE

The excavation at this site which was begun last year (see 1976 report) was continued during 1977.

We have now been able to understand more of the details of a western wing of the great sixteenth-century brick-built Archiepiscopal Palace and the underlying remains of a substantial thirteenth- and fourteenth-century L-shaped building. This latter building, which had walls and foundations in flint and chalk, contained a cellar in one part and in the neighbouring room a large tile-on-edge fireplace built into a side wall. Below this and cut into the natural gravels and chalky silts of the Nailbourne flood-plain was a large flat-bottomed pit which contained Roman wheel-made and coarse hand-made (? early Anglo-Saxon) pottery.

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'NORMAN STAIRCASE' SITE, CANTERBURY

Our final major excavation this year took place within the Cathedral precincts (now part of the grounds of the King's School) close to the main gate of the Benedictine Priory and just behind the unique Norman Staircase which led originally into the Almonry or North Hall. This great first-floor hall which was built in the mid-twelfth century was over 150 ft. long and sadly most of it was pulled down in 1730. Part of the site of the north end of the hall is now due to be built on and the King's School are financing an excavation, supervised by Mrs. Sarah Campbell, in advance of this re-development. Consequently, an area excavation was carried out in the latter part of 1977, which looked at all the levels in this area down to the natural brick-earth about 8 ft. below modern ground level.

The most important structural remains that were found date from the mid-twelfth century and consist of the east wall of the vaulted undercroft of the Almonry Hall and further to the east the great monastic drain which led from the *necessarium* on the south side of the Green Court to the northern City ditch. Parallel to the drain and on its east side another large flint wall that was found may well be the early Priory boundary wall. Below the twelfth-century building levels were the remains of earlier Norman and late Saxon houses and pits as well as the hard metal surface of a small lane, which must have led off the intra-mural street nearby. Good structural remains of the earlier Saxon and Roman periods were, unfortunately, not forthcoming and this is probably because this part of the town was not densely occupied at the time.

OTHER RECORDING WORK IN 1977

The Trust have also recorded two more large brick walls of the Roman Theatre in a trench in Castle Street as well as a hitherto unknown Roman building containing a hypocaust which was found in a service trench under the pavement in front of no. 77 Castle Street. In St. Margaret's Street two other large Roman walls and an *opus signinum* floor were observed and recorded in a sewer trench opposite the Marlowe car park. This must be part of the Roman public bath building excavated by Professor Frere in the 1950's.

At the site of Moat House, Rough Common (in Blean Parish, N.G.R. TR 12845949) a new housing estate has destroyed the southern corner of the filled-in moat and a plan and sections were made of this during the trenching and building work.

At no. 8 High Street, Canterbury (Dewhurst's) a hitherto unknown (and unlisted) medieval timber-framed building was uncovered and

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measured drawings were made in advance of restoration work. This fine building, which is on a stone cellar, is a double-jettied, five-bay house with a side-passage. It is set end-on to the street and at the back the house is in remarkably good condition with the remains of medieval windows, which once had sliding shutters, and some of the yellow-brick infilling of the timber-frame. Three very fine examples of a stop-splayed and tabled scarf with under-squinted butts were also recorded which may indicate a date in the fourteenth century.

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