RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES IN KENT

SPRINGHEAD: A SECOND INTERIM NOTE

Following the completion of limited and largely non-invasive investigations begun in 1991, some 2000 square metres of the Springhead Nurseries site were surveyed by resistivity meter in 1992. From this, many anomalies were found, but the results have yet to be analysed. The investigations suggest that the road R2 terminates after 100 m. in straight line into the Nurseries. A short section of a previously unknown road (now designated R 16) was found on the south-west side of R2. R2 and R16 appear to be associated with, or served, extensive adjacent flint cobbled areas.

A watching brief was maintained on a trench cut by the South-Eastern Electricity Board through the present narrow road (on the site of an old coach road) which immediately fronts the southern boundary of the Nurseries. The terminating points of this trench were M3 and M5 on the ‘Springhead – Map of Discoveries’.\(^1\) R2 had been completely cut through close to M5 and provided a useful cross section, with traces of a chalk foundation laid on a clay agger. Archaeological layers were otherwise not damaged by the trench. Limited trawelling at intervals along the trench before infilling by SEEB revealed traces of rich occupation deposits, a cobbled area and a wall of a previously unknown building (now designated B20).

R9 was also found in this trench, together with an adjacent chalk surface.

An illustrated report for *Arch. Cant.* is in preparation. This may include a re-issue of the Springhead map.

V.T.C. SMITH

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\(^1\) W.S. Penn, ‘Springhead – Map of Discoveries’, *Arch. Cant.*, lxxx (1965), pp. 108.
RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

INTERIM REPORT ON CURRENT PLEISTOCENE RESEARCH IN THE EBBSFLEET VALLEY, NORTH-WEST KENT

FRANCIS WENBAN-SMITH

INTRODUCTION

The Ebbsfleet is a small tributary stream joining the Lower Thames from the south at Northfleet, just upstream of Gravesend. The Ebbsfleet Valley (N.G.R. TQ 615735) has periodically been a focus of Pleistocene research since the late nineteenth century when F.C.J. Spurrell\(^1\) first discovered deposits there containing fossils and artefacts. Three main phases of research have taken place this century: by Smith in 1908–9,\(^2\) by Burchell in the 1930s,\(^3–7\) and by Kerney and Sieveking in the 1960s and early 1970s.\(^8–11\) In 1911, Smith produced a classic paper on one particular site in the Ebbsfleet Valley (known as Baker’s Hole) which integrated its fauna, geology and archaeology, and established this site in the Palaeolithic literature as Britain’s main Levalloisian site.\(^12\) However, publication of subse-

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\(^1\) F.C.J. Spurrell, ‘Palaeolithic implements found in West Kent’, *Arch. Cant.*, xv (1883), 89–103.

\(^2\) R.A. Smith, ‘A Palaeolithic industry at Northfleet, Kent’, *Archaeologia*, lxii (1911), 515–32.

\(^3\) J.P.T. Burchell, ‘The Northfleet 50 ft. submergence later than the Coombe Rock of post-Early Mousterian times’, *Archaeologia*, lxxiii (1933), 67–91.


\(^8\) G. de G. Sieveking, ‘Northfleet (Baker’s Hole)’, in *Archaeological Excavations 1969*, (1970), 44.


\(^12\) Levalloisian is a strategy for knapping flint which involves the preparation of one surface of a large core prior to removal from that surface of a flake whose form has been predetermined. See F.F. Wenban-Smith, *Papers from the Institute of Archaeology*, 3 (1992), 1–10, for more details on the history and definition of the term Levalloisian.
quent research carried out in the Ebbsfleet Valley has been rather limited, with a notable absence of detail on: the locations of the sites discussed, the full range of archaeological and faunal material recovered, the geological contexts of this material, and the chronostratigraphic relationships of the sequences at different sites both to each other and to other important Pleistocene deposits in the Lower Thames region. However, faunal remains, lithic artefacts, and documents relating to both Burchell’s and Kerney and Sieveking’s work in the Ebbsfleet Valley are still stored by the Natural History Museum and the British Museum. The objective of the current phase of research in the Ebbsfleet Valley is to collate the results of all the previous work in order to (a) produce a synthesis of the Pleistocene environmental history and archaeology of the Ebbsfleet Valley, and (b) establish the chronological relationship of the Pleistocene deposits of the Ebbsfleet Valley with other Pleistocene deposits, both in the Lower Thames region and also nationally. This work is being carried out by the writer as part of a Ph.D. thesis funded by the British Academy and based at Southampton University.

CURRENT RESEARCH

A small-scale field-survey and sampling programme has been under way since 1990, in combination with extensive museum and archival research in order to try and resolve the problems outlined above. This programme has to a large extent been successful, leading to the identification (on paper) of the location of the main sites examined by other workers,¹³ the identification (on the ground) of remnants of many of these sites, and to the discovery in museums of much useful faunal, artefactual, and archival material. However, the results of work already done have raised issues which require further fieldwork. The focus of this fieldwork is the accurate recording of the sequences of Pleistocene deposits remaining in the Ebbsfleet Valley, the examination of these deposits for new or remnant Palaeolithic archaeological sites, and the recovery of well-provenanced faunal material (large mammals, small mammals, and molluscs) from different locations for both absolute dating and biostratigraphic correlation. The Kent Archaeological Society has supported parts of this research programme, providing funding in 1992 for (i) the detailed analysis of a series of molluscan samples taken in 1990 from Kerney and Sieveking’s Site A, and (ii) the examination and record-

ing of the section of a hitherto unknown block of Pleistocene sediments fortuitously preserved close to Smith's 1909 site.

RESULTS OF THE 1992 WORK

1. Molluscan analysis. The analysis (by Dr R. Mount, CHEP, Southampton University) of a well-provenanced sequence of molluscan samples from Kerney and Sieveking's Site A (N.G.R. TQ 61127431) supplemented the molluscan analysis done at Site A by Kerney in the 1960s, the conclusions from which are discussed by Kerney and Sieveking in their 1977 note, but the details of which remain unpublished. In particular, the correlation of Kerney's molluscan sequence with the more recently taken molluscan sequence allowed Kerney's sequence to be more accurately located vertically within the sequence of sands and silts remaining at the site.

The results of the amino-acid dating of shells of Lymnaea recovered from Kerney and Shieveking's Deposit 4 – ‘freshwater silts (Ipswichian)’ at Site A were also received from Prof. D.Q. Bowen (University College of Wales, Aberystwyth). Eighteen shells were analysed, producing a D:L isoleucine ratio of 0.174 ± 0.029, suggesting a Stage 7 date, 240,000–190,000 BP, rather than a Stage 5e date, 130,000–120,000 BP in accordance with the geological evidence and the faunal evidence from the site.

2. Recording of section near Smith's 1909 site. The precise location of Smith's site is unrecorded, as the bench-mark he used to locate the site is not marked on any O.S. maps. However, it is highly likely that the section recorded passes within 20 m. or so of Smith's site. The section shows two distinct super-imposed units of Coombe Rock, each with a convoluted ‘festooned’ surface containing pockets of red/ochrous loam. These units lie directly on top of chalk bed-rock, with its surface highly degraded at the interface. The upper unit of Coombe Rock is overlain by approximately 1–2 m. of homogeneous ‘brickearth’. One of the objectives of the 1992 project was to establish whether this section genuinely showed in situ Pleistocene deposits, as there are numerous locations in the Ebbsfleet Valley where deposits have been dumped and then levelled or buried due to

14 Kerney and Sieveking, op. cit., in n. 11, p. 47.
16 D. Bridgland, pers. comm.
17 A. Currant, pers. comm.
late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century quarrying. The detailed field examination confirmed that these deposits were genuine. An identically convoluted Coombe Rock surface could be observed in another section in the Ebbsfleet Valley known to show genuine Pleistocene deposits, as well as in Lowe and Walker. Furthermore, the lithology of the lower Coombe Rock unit corresponded exactly to the description by Reid of the artefact-bearing deposit at Smith's site.

Another objective was to determine whether any of the artefact-bearing portion of the Coombe Rock was still preserved. Disappointingly, no flint artefacts were found either in the section examined, or in a 2 m. sq. test-pit dug down into the Coombe Rock, although a battered mammoth/elephant tooth (probably *Palaeoloxodon antiquus*) was found. The tooth enamel on such teeth can be used for ESR dating. In 1909, Smith also found several such teeth, and considered them derived from deposits of the 'Boyn Hill' terrace through which the Ebbsfleet Valley is cut. The battered state of the tooth, in contrast to the good condition of some mammoth teeth recovered by Smith from the Baker's Hole Coombe Rock and still stored in the Natural History Museum, supported the idea that it was derived. Therefore, no attempt is being made to date its enamel. However, a unifacially flaked 'Mousterian' core was found in a nearby section, which appears to be another part of the north-west edge of the quarry which provided the lithic assemblage recovered by Smith in 1909. It is intended to examine this latter section more fully in 1993.

**FUTURE WORK**

There are three remaining priorities for fieldwork in the Ebbsfleet Valley. Firstly, it is necessary to obtain a sample of the small mammal fauna from the freshwater silts at Kerney and Sieveking's Site A. According to Currant the small mammal fauna from Stage 7 is very poorly known, yet could play an important part in resolving the chronostratigraphy of several problematic sites in the Lower Thames.

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region such as Crayford, Ilford, and Aveley. Given the independent evidence that Site A is Stage 7, and the recovery of 2 teeth of *Microtus agrestis* (morph.) and several post-cranial fragments of *Microtus sp.* from one part of the Site A silts, it seems essential to take advantage of the current accessibility of the site and recover a large enough sediment sample to provide a representative Stage 7 small mammal assemblage.

Secondly, it is necessary to do some more research on Kerney and Sieveking's Site B (Burchell's Temperate Bed Site), which was the source of sizeable, but as yet unpublished, collections of lithic artefacts by both Kerney and Sieveking and Burchell. Although the climatic history of the geological sequence at Site B and the provenance of the artefacts to separate geological units is quite well-recorded, the relationship of the Site B sequence to the Site A silts is not properly established. The recovery of shells for amino-acid dating and a small mammal assemblage from Site B would allow the Site B sequence to be dated, and the archaeological remains recovered from the site to be placed in their proper chronological context.

Thirdly, it is desirable to do further research in the area of Smith's 1909 Levalloisian site to try and establish whether some part of it is still preserved. If a part still is preserved, it would be possible to recover a sample of the site's lithic industry using modern excavation techniques which would ensure a well-provenanced and unbiased recovery of all artefactual material. It is almost certain that Smith's assemblage, now preserved in the British Museum, includes material of dubious provenance, and excludes small debitage and crude-looking cores and debitage which would not have been considered important enough to recover in the early twentieth century.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

EXCAVATIONS AT CHARTHAM CHURCH 1991

St. Mary's Church is situated in the village of Chartham where the River Stour begins to cut its way through the foot of the north slope of the Downs three miles south-west of Canterbury. It is a cruciform aisleless structure of the 1290s with a west tower of c. 1490, although there was certainly an earlier building: a church is mentioned in Domesday and there are fragments of Caen stone with the axed tooling typical of Norman date to be seen in the south wall of the nave.

The chancel with its split-cusped 'Kentish' traceried windows, which retain much of their original stained glass, is an important example of architecture in the early Decorated period, in contrast to the transept and aisles which architecturally are much more humble. However, there is some suggestion that the church was not built as originally conceived: buttresses to the chancel hint that stone vaulting may have been intended there, and that the nave was to be either shorter than at present or that its construction was temporarily halted is indicated by several features. These are: the termination of a plinth two-thirds of the way to the west of the north wall with a quoin-stone over in conjunction with a vertical joint above; a similar joint opposite in the south wall; the Roman tile visible elsewhere is absent west of these joints and also, of the four sets of paired lancet windows in the nave, that to the north-east with its plain heads and internal hood-moulding would seem perhaps a decade earlier than the others, which have trefoiled heads. However, the timber scissor-beam roof which uniformly covers the entire church is certainly of one build and c. 1300 – a king strut halfway down the nave supported by buttresses bonded subsequently to the walls but, unfortunately, it has been removed at some unknown later date as has its associated tie. The Quinquennial Survey of December 1988 had revealed, amongst other defects, cracking around the quoin-stones to the south transept, the corners of which were bulging outwards slightly. This had worsened subsequently necessitating the installation of temporary shoring to restrain the walls.

Prior to remedial works being carried out it was deemed necessary to examine the existing foundations and ascertain whether or not they were contributing to the structural problems. Accordingly a Faculty was obtained and on Saturday 26th January, 1991, an excavation under controlled archaeological conditions was carried out along the west side of the south transept.

A trench 1 m. wide × 2.52 m. long was cut revealing soil deposits which were found to be thoroughly disturbed, all containing human bone with no obvious indication of undisturbed graves.
A narrow mortared flint ‘foundation’ of uncertain purpose 0.17 × 0.16 m. high running approximately east–west, resting on the natural gravel and sealed by soil deposits, was discovered abutting the west transept wall at an angle. It was formed of flints set in a grey mortar matrix with chalk grits and may represent a portion of grave or vault of post-medicinal date.

The foundations to the transept walls comprised five courses of rough-squared chalk blocks to a depth below ground level of 1.20 m.
firmly bedded on natural river gravel, set in an orange-brown sandy mortar with fine chalk and flint grits and with flint packing stones in the wider joints. There was a levelling layer of natural flint nodules at ground level immediately below the chamfered plinth course, and the whole foundation was offset with respect to the wall above, projecting some 0.25 m. at the south-west corner, reducing to 0.15 m. at the internal angle with the nave. No indications of an earlier church were discovered.

No sign of settlement or other structural distress was noted in the foundations so it seems probable that the cracks to the wall are a consequence of undue settlement to the rubble core forcing out the outer leaf at an unrestrained corner. Repairs are currently being carried out to stabilise the structure.

Grateful thanks are due to the Canterbury Archaeological Trust for their support, to Tim Tatton-Brown for his advice and to the Dover Archaeological Group who carried out the excavation.

HOWARD JONES

THE TRUST FOR THANET ARCHAEOLOGY: EXCAVATIONS AND EVALUATIONS 1990-91

The Thanet Way Improvement Scheme. Phase (II): Potten Street to Monkton Roundabout

These road works, mentioned in a previous issue of Arch. Cant., were finally concluded in Spring 1991. The two most interesting areas, A and B, were to the north and east of the evaluation at St. Nicholas Court Farm reported previously. (See Fig. 1.)

Several occupation horizons, represented by building remains, ditches, pits, etc., were observed in both areas. Spot-dated pottery found in association with these structural remains has enabled a datable sequence of occupation to be determined.

Early Iron Age pottery c. 550–350 B.C. formed the overwhelming proportion of the sherds found. The distribution of this fabric throughout Area A suggests a fairly extensive occupation level of that date. It is of interest to note that similar pottery was found to the south, on the other side of the Thanet Way during an evaluation prior to development at St. Nicholas Court Farm in 1989. Whether this

1 Arch. Cant., cviii (1990), 271.
represents an extension of the Iron Age occupation horizon seen in Area A or is a separate contemporary area of settlement cannot at the moment be decided.

Of more than passing interest is the presence of sherds of 'rusticated' ware among the Early Iron Age material, a subject which will be treated more fully in the final report currently being prepared.

Other pottery from area A consists of 'Belgic', Romano-British wares of the first to third century A.D. These sherds came from pits containing building remains and were mixed with the ubiquitous Early Iron Age pottery. This was due to the earlier Iron Age features being disturbed during the earlier centuries A.D. by trenches being cut for wall foundations, etc. Much of the later material has been lost through erosion and ploughing, not to mention local inhabitants finding convenient sources of building stones.

In the third area, C, the occupation levels encountered were separated by a thousand years from the latest settlement horizons in Area A for the sherds recovered were predominantly thirteenth and fourteenth century A.D. This is of interest because it would tie this particular occupation site into the period of primary settlement of the St. Nicholas-at-Wade village, c. 1310 to 1360 A.D., a demographic change that probably brought about the decline of the church of All Saints, Shuart. The building of the church of St. Nicholas commenced in 1354, replacing an earlier Chapel of Ease, no doubt in response to the growing population. (pers. comm. Alan M. Kay).

The gradual silting up of the Wantsum Channel at this time not only disrupted traditional patterns of communication, but also opened up a new opportunity for contact between Thanet and mainland Kent at the site of the village of St. Nicholas. Here access to and from the rest of Kent could be made by crossing the ford or 'Wade'.

_Sarre first time drainage scheme_

The course of this pipe route was close to and parallel with the A253, anciently known as Dunstrete. Important archaeological remains could be expected, especially Jutish burials near Sarre Mill and a prehistoric settlement site known to lie some 500 m. east of the village of Sarre. Accordingly, the Trust for Thanet Archaeology carried out evaluation excavations at the site of the Jutish burial ground and requested a watching brief from the developers, the Southern Water Authority. This was granted, together with funding to cover some of the labour costs. Additional funding towards post-excavation work came from the Thanet District Council.

A section was cut through the whole of area E which extended
Fig. 1. Thanet: Potter Street to Monkton roundabout.
from Tollgate Cottage to Perkin's Chalk Pit. (See Fig. 1). A 
subsidiary pipe-line was laid through the gardens of houses and that 
of Tollgate Cottage to a junction near the mill. This was carefully 
scrutinised because of its proximity to the Jutish cemetery. No graves 
were found, but a large pit containing medieval pottery in glazed 
fourteenth- and fifteenth-century fabric was encountered. Its size and 
the construction schedule precluded any further investigation of this 
feature. Further to the east, a ditch was observed running obliquely 
through the section. The only find from the ditch was located by 
metal detector; it was a ninth-century Saxon silver hooked tag with 
rather a crude design of a Trewhiddle style bird in niello inlay. The 
two holes at the top of the plate were for fixing to cloth or leather and 
would be used in the manner of a hook and eye fastening. Decorated 
hook tags first appear in the seventh century A.D. and seem to have 
continued in unbroken use until the late medieval period. Their 
continuing popularity was probably due to their multi-purpose use. 
Two pairs having been found associated with coin hoards suggesting 
an attachment for securing purses, while another two pairs were 
found in graves at Winchester and Castledyke, Humberside, where 
they appear to have been attached to garters. This is perhaps the 
second example from Sarre.³

An unusual burial was encountered by the mechanical digger 
cutting the pipe trench just to the north of the section. The grave was 
in the form of a round vertical shaft about 0.70 m. in diameter, 
tapering slightly to a rounded bottom at a depth of 1.20 m. The 
skeleton appeared 'cocooned' in a stiff blue-grey clay like mixture 
containing worked flint flakes (some burnt), sea-shells and much 
charcoal. The body appeared to have been interred in the sitting 
position. A full report of the skeletal remains is in preparation.

A sunken floored hut or Grubenhaus was discovered at Feature 3 
in area F (east of Perkin's chalk pit to the brow of the ridge). The hut, 
previously reported in Arch. Cant.⁴, was 4.40 m. long × 3.12 m. wide 
and had a maximum depth of 0.60 m. The floor, although cut into a 
chalk slope of 1 in 13, was quite level.

The remains of a sixteenth/seventeenth-century building were 
uncovered in Feature 4, these included foundations of local sand-
stone and seventeenth-century brick. A quantity of sixteenth- and 
seventeenth-century potsherds were present as were a 'jetton' token 
and a 'Rose' farthing of Charles I.

³ Arch. Cant., xcix (1983), 21. The hook tag described here was part of the John 
Brent collection and may well have been found at Sarre.
139-66.
Evidence confirming the existence of an Early Iron Age settlement site, 500 m. east of Sarre came from Area G (From the brow of the hill, east of Perkin’s Chalk pit to the Sarre/Monkton parish boundary.).

Many large pits and ditches containing potsherds in many fabrics were unearthed during the investigation. The total number of recorded sherds was 1,122. Of the 721 Early to mid Iron Age sherds (550–300 B.C.) rusticated ware accounted for 622. Sherds of last century B.C. and first century A.D. made up the remaining quarter of the total sherd count while pottery of the eleventh and twelfth centuries A.D. formed only an insignificant percentage.

These proportions of sherds of different periods bear a striking resemblance to those obtained from Areas A, B, C and D during Phase II of the Thanet Way Improvement Scheme (see above) and tell the same story of an Early Iron Age site c. 550–300 B.C. being reoccupied in the last century B.C. and first century A.D.

Two Archaeological Evaluations: Dumpton Gap and South Dumpton Down. Broadstairs, May 1992

The evaluations were recommended by the County Archaeologist, and the work was funded by the landowners, Kent County Council, who intend disposing of their fields (currently arable) as land for urban development.

The sites are: Area H, Dumpton Gap Road, Broadstairs, centred at N.G.R. TR 3940 6665, and Area J, between Dumpton Park Drive and Seven Stones Estate, Broadstairs, centred at N.G.R. TR 3920 6630. This latter site is referred to herein as South Dumpton Down; this is not a map name or postal address, but a topographical description.

Evaluation was recommended on the grounds that important and extensive remains had been found between and adjacent to the two sites. The two evaluations gave widely different results. Area H contained few features of interest, but its topsoil contained a rich and varied scatter of artefacts, the surface material having come there by downhill drift after severe plough attrition on the hillside south of it. Part of Area J, however, although only 200 m. away exhibited much evidence of concentrated long-term prehistoric settlement. The importance and extent of these remains make excavation imperative unless the threat posed by either the planned development or a return to agriculture is removed.
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The Evaluations

1. Area H. Dumpton Gap Road.

Method:
The evaluation was conducted by field walking, metal detecting and
the machine cutting of 340 sq. m. of a system of sections.

Finds:
Fieldwalking produced some nodules of calcined flint, a number of
waste flakes, and four scrapers of Neolithic-Early Bronze Age type.
Also found were fragments of querns and a number of pottery sherds
from all periods from Neolithic to modern. Metal artefacts and coins
dated to the fourteenth and seventeenth centuries were also recov-
ered. The only archaeological features encountered were a section of
ditch, three post-holes and a small pit. The fill of both pit and ditch
yielded small sherds of flint-tempered prehistoric pottery.

The evaluation of area H suggests that it is unlikely to contain
features or horizons of archaeological importance.

2. Area J. South Dumpton Down:

Method:
The same methods were used as those employed in Area H above,
although in this case fieldwalking and metal detecting were con-
siderably hampered by the presence of an abandoned crop of
cauliflowers. A system of sections, totalling 400 sq. m. in extent, was
cut by machine.

Although fieldwalking was rendered difficult by the standing crop,
a scatter of Iron Age sherds were observed.

Twenty-two archaeological features were encountered. These were
mostly pits, post-holes and ditches and associated, in the main, with
Iron Age potsherds, calcined flint and midden material including
bones, shells and daub, etc. The burial of an adolescent was
discovered cut into an horizon of Iron Age midden material.

While most of the finds and features were consistent with an Early
to Middle Iron Age settlement site and in that sense unremarkable,
there were, however, two points of high interest. The first was a
Beaker burial associated with a multi-phase Beaker period burial
group consisting of at least seven crouched burials. The depositions
appear to have been made in four phases, some of the skeletons

5 The cemetery was of unknown extent because bones of another interment were
seen protruding from the western face of the baulk.
being in a disarticulated condition due to disturbance by later burials. Two skulls were missing, one from a skeleton so tightly flexed as to suggest it had been bound during burial.

The Beaker's form suggests an early type of vessel and is in a dark gray gritted fabric and decorated by horizontal and vertical parallel rows of round bird bone impressions. There is no closely comparable vessel in Clarke. Sherds of another vessel, presumably complete when interred, was found under one of the early burials.

The second high point of interest came just as the evaluation was being brought to a close. This came about as the result of a visit to the site by Mr Trevor Beale, who made his discovery while carrying out an emergency sweep of the site after the Trust had discovered that it was being disturbed before backfilling could be arranged. South-west of the Iron Age settlement, in the excavated floor of the section and just below the topsoil/subsoil interface he discovered the first of a hoard of five palstaves. It was lying flat and had a small (child's?) undecorated bronze bracelet placed on the blade; this was photographed in situ. The presence of further metal objects was indicated and trawelling down a little way soon revealed a large piece of tabular flint, partially covering four further palstaves. These had been neatly arranged on edge with blade points together in such a way as to form a fan shape. A fuller report will be forthcoming.

L.A. JAY

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Sarre First Time Drainage Scheme: The Trust gratefully acknowledges the funding by the Southern Water Authority to cover some of the labour costs and the additional funding towards post-excavation work that came from Thanet District Council.

Dumpton Gap and South Dumpton Down, Broadstairs: The Trust for Thanet Archaeology gratefully acknowledges funding from Kent County Council.
RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

NOTE ON A BEAKER SHERD FROM WYE

The illustrated sherd (Fig. 1) was found by Mr J. Duffield in 1980 in the Broad Downs area of the high chalk downland just south-east of Wye (N.G.R. TR 07744545). It was passed to Mr J. Bradshaw, who kindly gave the author permission for it to be drawn, analysed and published, and it has now been donated to the Royal Museum, Canterbury (Accession No. CAN.CM:1992.55). The piece was sent to Dr Alex Gibson for assessment, and he has kindly supplied the following note.

'A substantial rim sherd and neck angle of a bulbous barbed-wire (BW) Beaker. The decoration has been made by loose-whipped cord and both the fibre impressions in the 'barbs' and the core material or 'wire' are clearly visible. The decoration does not extend up to the rim, but stops c. 1 cm. below it, forming a thin but distinct undecorated band. The fabric is very high quality, fine and well-made. It has red-brown surfaces with traces of burnishing visible both externally and internally, the core of the sherd is black and the fabric appears to contain finely crushed grog inclusions (few of which break the surfaces), together with very sparse fine flint. The rim is everted, simple in profile, with a slight thinning on the inside.

The Barbed Wire group is one of the better represented of Clarke's Beaker groups in Kent (Clarke 1970). Vessels are known from Folkestone (no. 400), Canterbury (no. 390) and Tovil (no. 413). The latter two appear to differ considerably from the Wye vessel in that they have either zoned decoration (Canterbury) or combine Barbed-Wire impressions with fingertip impressions (Tovil). The profile and decoration of the Wye sherd would seem to bear a close resemblance to that from Folkestone (Clarke 1970, no. 400), which similarly has an undecorated band below the rim. Too little survives of the Wye vessel to be certain whether we are dealing with an All-Over-Decorated or a Zone-decorated vessel. If we search amongst the East

![Fig. 1. Beaker sherd from Wye (Scale: ½)](image)
Anglian Beaker group, which shares the same form characteristics of the BW group, formal parallels are found at Erith (nos. 398 and 399), Great Mongeham (no. 406) and Preston (no. 409). It has already been stated elsewhere that the majority of the Kentish Beakers appear early in the stylistic sequence (Perkins and Gibson 1990, 23–4), though it is impossible to imply what this means in terms of absolute chronology. There are presently no radiocarbon dates available for BW Beakers and in any case, radiocarbon dates and stylistic sequences are at present difficult to reconcile (Kinnes and Gibson et al. 1991).’

A. GIBSON and N. MACPHERSON-GRANT

REFERENCES


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A LATE LA TÈNE BROOCH FROM SPITAL STREET, DARTFORD

Description

The spring is housed in a case formed by closing two flaps round it. The front of the case has a panel with moulded borders on each side and the top, a punched-dot line closing the bottom on each side of the bow. In the panel are three basically triangular punched-dot areas radiating from the head of the bow. This is short and plain, with an arris down the middle, and runs down to a disc and fantail plate. The junction of the disc with both bow and fantail has prominent ridges, two at the top and one at the bottom. The latter is beaded and there are traces of this on the equivalent ridge above the disc which has a beaded border on each side formed by using a stamp. In the centre is a rivet with a large boss at the top. There are traces of a decorated repoussé sheet covering the centre of the disc, but there is not enough left to tell what the scheme may have been. A detached piece of the sheet came from the dimple in which the boss sat. The surviving lateral circular projection has a dot-and-circle motif in relief formed by a stamp. The fantail foot has three flutes each separated from another by a sunken bead-row.

On the back of the disc, and upside-down in relation to the conventional way of representing brooches, is a stamp tentatively read here as DRIMELIO. The M and E are ligatured and the last letter is not completely assured as it is cramped by the end of the panel.

Discussion

The form and decoration are unusual: the disc and fantail are typical of fairly late Rosettes in which the two have been reduced to a shaped plate covered with a repoussé plate (e.g. Feugère 1985, Pls. 106–108, 1389–1403), but the projections on each side of the disc have not otherwise been recorded by the writer. The presence of the spring-case shows that the brooch lies at the earlier end of the use of the single-plate disc-and-fantail (e.g., ibid., Pls. 106–107, 1389–1398), before the introduction of the hinged pin. The bow bears some resemblance to the upper part of the ultimate derivative of the lion's body found on the Léontomorphe type (ibid., 278, Pls. 101–103,

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¹ Excavations carried out by Canterbury Archaeological Trust, see Interim Report, pp. –. The brooch was recovered from a Roman occupation level overlying a road surface and ditch.
RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

Fig. 1. Late La Tène brooch from Spital Street, Dartford (Scale: 1:1).

1324–1346; specifically, 1326–1332). Feugère only has one related brooch with a stamp (Feugère 1985, 293, 295, Pl. 106, 1389). Neither name is listed by Behrens (1950), and it is obvious that maker's marks as such were always rare.

The only really useful dating in this country comes from the King Harry Lane cemetery (Stead and Rigby 1989). The following brooches from the cemetery belong to the same stage of the Rosette's development to which the present example is related: grave 67, phase 2 (Fig. 99); grave 122, unphased. The dating given to phase 2 is 30–55 B.C. (ibid., 84). The earliest possible date for the cemetery is given as 15 B.C. (ibid., 83) but the report only offers dating from A.D. 1. There are, however, features which suggest that this is very conservative. If the cemetery really does carry on through the decade 50–60 and beyond, why is there only one Colchester Derivative (Grave 316, phase 3 (ibid., Fig. 154, 316.4)) and no Hod Hill? Both brooch types are relatively abundant down the road in Verulamium. The samian also fails to reflect the dating (ibid., 113) given to the phases: three vessels before A.D. 25; none in the period 25–50, only two in the period 45–65+ and the last is dated 120–150. The conclusion was that the supply of samian was very restricted in the period following the conquest, something which did not apply in Verulamium itself (ibid., 113–15). If, however, it is accepted that the earliest possible reason-
able date is in fact 15 B.C., the whole of the phasing can be moved back. The writer suggests that the following dating is more likely: phase 1, 15 B.C.–A.D. 30; phase 2, A.D. 20–40; phase 3, 35–45; phase 4, 45+. This not only fits the perceived dating of the Colchester and the earliest Derivative forms, but would also allow for the general absence of the latter, the total absence of Hod Hills, these not being known from pre-conquest contexts yet (pace Stead and Rigby 1986, 120, Fig. 47, 112). It also allows the late Colchesters to fall into their correct chronological horizon as they had all but passed out of use by 55/60. It could also be argued that the restriction in the supply of samian is not actually post-conquest, there now being very few graves which can really be called that, but belongs to the period c. A.D. 25 to the conquest itself. One dated grave is hardly the basis for assigning a date to the present example, but, following the revised dating suggested above, the type could have come into being somewhere between 20–40, possibly surviving to c. 50/55 by which time virtually all late Rosettes had passed out of use. However, the latest Rosettes are those in which the spring-case had been replaced by a crude hinged-pin system. The writer would prefer to see the present brooch as being essentially pre-conquest in manufacture and use.

REFERENCES

Behrens 1950

Feugère 1985

Stead and Rigby 1985

Stead and Rigby 1989

D.F. MACKRETH
In his report on the late Iron Age cemetery at Aylesford Sir Arthur Evans recorded the finding of three stone cists in a line running from the south-east to the north-west at about 10 yards distance from each other.\(^1\) They were constructed of slabs of tufa, though two had a single slab of sandstone, and each contained a crouched inhumation, but no grave goods. Despite the absence of grave goods the cists are generally attributed to the early part of the Bronze Age on account of the crouched inhumations,\(^2\) and in the same gravel pit were found two further crouched inhumations, one with a flat axe and two daggers of bronze, now in the museum.

The slabs from cist no. 1 were given to the museum and were there when N.C. Cook compiled the archaeological gazetteer in the early 1930s. They could not be found when the collections were catalogued in 1960–61 and perhaps were lost during the war years. Cist no. 3 was set up on the bank near the pit office when it was discovered in 1889 and Plate I shows a photograph taken in that year. The cist was still in position as late as the early years of the Second World War, when it was seen by our member Dr Paul Ashbee, but at some time after this it was removed.

In 1982, the new owner of a house in Croydon offered a stone cist set up in the garden to the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society. The previous owner of the house, W.H. Bennett, had been a member of the society and a collector of antiquities. Mrs. Muriel Shaw, a member of the Croydon society, had been told by Bennett that the cist came from Kent and identified it as cist no. 3 described by Evans. Through the good offices of Mrs. Shaw and the Hon. Curator of the Croydon society, Mr K. Woodhams, the cist was presented to Maidstone Museum (accession no. 39.1983), where it will eventually be displayed.

\(^1\) Archaeologia, li (1890), 325–7.

Early Bronze Age cist, re-erected outside office of Wagon Pit, Aylesford. Photograph taken in 1899.
RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

BOXLEY

(a) N.G.R. TQ 7658. A fragment of a Late Bronze Age socketed axe, found by S. Phillips. Part of moulded rim and handle; 50 × 20 mm. (b) N.G.R. TQ 7659. A La Tène III brooch (Fig. 1, 1) of copper alloy found by B. Austin. The bow has a knob and below this a step, decorated with two groups of incised lines; spring of four coils and internal chord; catchplate incomplete, but with triangular opening; pin missing; length 46 mm. A comparable brooch was found at Lenham,³ and the type has been discussed by I.M. Stead.⁴ Second half at first century B.C.

CELTIC COINS

Impressions in Maidstone Museum and Institute of Archaeology, Oxford.

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA

(a) N.G.R. TQ 7751. Two AE coins found by K. Parker.⁵
1. Head right/horse galloping left, four legs displayed, an annulet above its back and between the legs. Diam. 12 mm.
2. Horse galloping left, two legs displayed with dot-in-circle between, prominent, bushy tail/? horse galloping left. Diam. 12 mm.
(b) N.G.R. TQ 7651. AR coin of Cunobeline found by W.F. Lambert; the edge damaged or missing. Diam. c. 16 mm.
Obv. Capricorn right, below CVNO, within beaded circle.
Rev. (struck off-centre) a cross, one arm formed by a double line with beading between, the other a plain line, within a beaded circle; in the surviving quarters C, V, part of N.-. The only previous example known was also found at Brishing.⁶

³ Arch. Cant., cviii (1990), 281.
⁵ For Celtic coins previously found see Arch. Cant., civ (1987), 353; cv (1988), 303; cvii (1989), 398.
Fig. 1. 1–8 all from Boxley: 1. La Tène III brooch; 2. Roman or Anglo-Saxon tweezers; 3. Anglo-Saxon saucer brooch; 5. ansate brooch; 6. pin; 4, 7, 8. impressions from medieval seal-dies; 9. West Malling, belt chape. All actual size.
RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

BOXLEY

(a) N.G.R. TQ 7559. Six potin/AE coins found by D. Applegate (no. 1) and B. Austin (nos. 2–6) within an area of about twenty square yards.

1. Prototype potin coin: head left/bull right. The bull is well formed and charging right, its front legs drawn back towards the belly, the tail curving over the body. Diam. 17 mm. (19 mm. with tongs). 2–4. Three coins of Van Arsdell’s Thurrock cast bronze type, which he names Trinovantian A and dates to 100–90 B.C. 7 All have obverse of head left and reverse of bull charging right, its head down. Nos. 3 and 4 have well formed laureate heads and from their yellow appearance contain a high proportion of copper. The diameters are 18/19, 17 and 16/18 mm. All three appear to be of Van Arsdell’s ‘Apollo Head’ variety.

5. Potin coin of Allen’s H3 type; 8 diam. 17 mm.; single tang remaining.

6. Potin coin; ‘star of David’ (two superimposed triangles with central dot)? schematic bull. Diam. 16 mm. (17 mm. with tangs).

SNODLAND

N.G.R. TQ 6863. Cast bronze coin of Thurrock type (see above and note 7), Apollo head variety, found by F.S. Wyatt. Diam. 16 mm.

ROMAN

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA

N.G.R. TQ 7651. Three incomplete brooches, copper alloy, found by W.F. Lambert.

1. Dolphin brooch, but with spring arrangement and catchplate like a Colchester B brooch; the arms have astragaloid decoration and the upper part of the bow a prominent ridge decorated with horizontal and vertical lines; catchplate with triangular perforation; pin missing. Length 36 mm.; arms 20 mm. M.R. Hull describes a comparable Dolphin brooch from Richborough. 9

9 Richborough, v (Oxford, 1968), 80, no. 25.
2. Arms and upper part of bow of Colchester B brooch; length 22 mm.
3. Foot and lower part of bow of a large Colchester brooch; triangular opening on catchplate; bow with central ridge between cavetto mouldings; length 47 mm.

BOXLEY

N.G.R. TQ 7659. One arm of a pair of tweezers (Fig. 1, 2) found by S. Phillips. Copper alloy and from tweezers made in one piece; decorated with ring-and-dot stamps, four in a line on the upper part of the arm and three arranged in triangle at the end; length 49 mm. Late Roman or Anglo-Saxon. Tweezers with ring-and-dot decoration were found in the Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at Buckland, Dover (grave 41) and Sarre (grave 86).  

WEST MALLING

N.G.R. TQ 6857. Langton Down brooch of Hull’s class B found by B. Austin. Copper alloy; spring, pin and part of catchplate missing. Length 35 mm.

ROMAN COINS

BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA

N.G.R. TQ 7751. Eight coins found by K. Parker. Worn Legionary denarius of M. Antony; denarii of Hadrian, R.I.C. 121, 137a and 299 (bust d); Julia Domna, R.I.C. 560; Caracalla, R.I.C. 100 or 110; Julia Mamaea, R.I.C. 360; antoninianus of Philip I, R.I.C. 32b.

BOXLEY

N.G.R. TQ 7659. Antoninianus of Gallienus (joint reign), R.I.C. 159, found by B. Austin.

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SNODLAND

N.G.R. TQ 7162. Two coins found by C. Hunt; Republican AE semis, Sydenham 482; denarius of Geta, R.I.C. 23.

ANGLO-SAXON

BOXLEY

(a) N.G.R. TQ 7659. Cast saucer brooch (Fig. 1, 3) found by J. Cox. Copper alloy, traces of gilding remaining on outlines of design; diam. 27 mm. A single, perforated lug on the back has a small patch of corroded iron on one side, presumably the remains of the pin, which is missing. Design of four spirals issuing from the corners of a central square containing a roundel; the spaces between the spirals filled by a leg-shaped motif; the border surrounding the design is plain. The design is flat and in shallow relief, unlike the sharp chip-carving which occurs on early saucer brooches with spiral designs, and this, with the use of leg ornament, suggests a date in the first half of the sixth century.

(b) N.G.R. TQ 7658. Ansate brooch (Fig. 1, 5) found by D. Applegate. Made, including the catchplate and lugs, from a single, thin sheet of copper alloy. The pin is missing, but the hole in one of the lugs is filled with corroded iron. The bow is sharply humped, the arms expand from their junction with the bow towards the ends and have a three- or, if the edges are included, a five-sided section. The arms are decorated all over with ring-and-dot ornament and the bow with ring-and-dot and grooves. The rear arm is damaged and incomplete. Length 45 mm.

A comparable brooch comes from Domburg, though this has a different arrangement of ring-and-dot and grooved decoration and a semi-circular section.\(^\text{13}\) A. Roes places these ansate brooches with such sharply humped bows in the first half of the ninth century.\(^\text{14}\)

(c) N.G.R. TQ 7659. Pin (Fig. 1, 6) found by B. Austin. Copper alloy, length (bent) 60 mm.; faceted head decorated all over with ring-and-dot ornament. Many bronze pins with heads in a variety of shapes, but all decorated with ring-and-dot ornament, have been found in York and at the Saxon monastery of Whitby, and from both places come examples like the Boxley pin with faceted heads. The

\(^{13}\) T. Capelle, _Die frühgeschichtlichen Metallfunde von Domburg auf Walcheren_ (Nederlandse Oudheden 5), no. 76.

two from York\textsuperscript{15} are unassociated finds, the four from Whitby\textsuperscript{16} from disturbed layers, though belonging to the Saxon monastery, which was occupied from the middle of the seventh to the third quarter of the ninth century. The excavator of Whitby suggests that from the distribution of the coin series and the many bronze tags found the likely date of the pins is the ninth century.\textsuperscript{17} A similar pin with faceted head was found at Canterbury,\textsuperscript{18} though not closely dated, coming from a pre-fourteenth century occupation layer.

MEDIEVAL

AYLESFORD

N.G.R. TQ 728590. A stone mortar (Fig. 2, 1) was found in her garden at 60 High Street by Miss C. Reeves in April, 1991. She took it to show her teacher, Mrs. P. Edwards, who brought it to the museum for identification. Miss Reeves has generously presented the mortar to the museum (accession no. 1991–17).

The mortar is made of a local sandstone, greensand from the Hythe beds. The walls are vertical and there are two lugs, but no handles or spout. It is complete, except for the base, of which about half is missing, and the outer surface shows chisel marks overall. Height 172 mm., overall diameter 180 mm., rim 160 mm., base 145 mm.

Two of the other mortars in the museum’s collection are of greensand, but of a different type, the mortar from Appledore being of Dunning’s type 2 and that from Detling a devolved type 2, dated to the thirteenth-fourteenth and fourteenth centuries, respectively. The shape of the Aylesford mortar is unusual. Most medieval mortars can be assigned to one or other of Dunning’s four types,\textsuperscript{19} but many, perhaps the majority, are the products of large workshops and made of Purbeck marble or burr-stone or are imported mortars of Caen stone. Although smaller workshops using other stones made mortars of these standardised types,\textsuperscript{20} they would perhaps, serving a smaller market, not confine themselves to these. A number of mortars of

\textsuperscript{15} Archaeologia, xcvi (1959), 78–9 and fig. 11, nos. 7 and 12.
\textsuperscript{16} Archaeologia, lxxvii (1943), 63–4, figs. 13 and 14.
\textsuperscript{17} ibid., 46–7.
\textsuperscript{18} The Archaeology of Canterbury, vii (Maidstone, 1983), 171 and fig. 61, 11.
\textsuperscript{20} E.g. type 1 of Quarr stone (Arch. Cant., xciii (1977), 210); types 1 and 4 of Magnesian limestone (Yorks. Arch. Journ., xlviv (1972), 93).
Fig. 2. Medieval: 1. Aylesford, mortar; 2. Boxley, ring brooch; 3. Lydd-on-Sea, roundel; 4. Sandling, harness pendant; 5. Boxley, harness pendant. All actual size, except 1 (4).
unusual form are known and, given that by the fifteenth-century stone mortars were increasingly giving way to metal ones, a thirteenth- or fourteenth-century date seems likely for the Aylesford mortar.

BOXLEY

(a) N.G.R. TQ 7658. Copper alloy seal-die (Fig. 1, 4) found by S. Phillips. Oval; conical, hexagonal handle with pierced trefoil terminal; part of edge missing through corrosion; height 25 mm., die 22 × 18 mm. *AVE MARIA GRA. The Annunciation: B.V.M. and angel facing each other, a lily between them. Cf. an early fourteenth-century example in the British Museum.22

(b) Seal-die and brooch found by D. Applegate.
1. N.G.R. TQ 7759. Lead seal-die (Fig. 1, 8) of slightly pointed oval shape, 36 × 25 mm. S' hENR' TINCTOR' (seal of Henry Dyer) surrounding a cross flory with lanceolate leaves between the arms. Late twelfth-thirteenth century.
2. N.G.R. TQ 7659. Ring brooch (Fig. 2, 2): thin copper alloy, the upper surface convex and decorated with arcs; diam. 19 mm. A similar but larger brooch from London is illustrated in the London Museum Medieval Catalogue (1940), Pl. LXXVII, 6. Fourteenth century.

(c) N.G.R. TQ 7659. A seal-die and harness pendant found by J. Cox.
1. Oval copper alloy seal-die (Fig. 1, 7), 26 × 19 mm.; ring handle at top of reverse. S' IOL'IS DE SEYNDENIS, followed by leaf stop, between beaded borders. Design of an eagle, its body in the form of a human head, displayed between two bull's heads. Thirteenth-fourteenth century. The leaf used as a stop-gap at the end of the legend occurs on a round copper alloy die of William Plese, found at Shorne23 and on one from London,24 which suggests that the dies were made in the same workshop.

2. Pelta-shaped harness pendant (Fig. 2, 5). Copper alloy with traces of gilding; 46 × 43 mm. It is stamped with five bands or swags of very

21 E.g. of Sussex marble, from London (Norfolk Arch., xxxviii (1981), 72); inferior oolite, from Worthing (Sussex A.C., ci (1963), 26. The museum has an unusual mortar of Caen stone, conical and originally with two large handles.
small annulets, which probably served as a key for gilding. If so the pendant would have been part gilt, the gilt bands contrasting with the copper, and was perhaps intended to represent a scallop shell. The two points shown by the dotted lines are present, but are bent over to the back of the pendant.

HOPE

N.G.R. TR 0425. Among medieval coins found by J. Moss was a Scottish penny of John Baliol (1292–96), imposed as King of Scotland by Edward I.
+ IOhANNES DEI GR. / + REX SCOTORVM.

LYDD-ON-SEA

A copper alloy roundel (Fig. 2, 3) was found on the beach by I. Woiwod; diam. 49 mm. The surface is worn, no gilding or enamel remaining. The face is slightly convex, but this may be due to the crushing of the oval stud on the back, which is just off-centre. In its present state the top of this stud is only 3 mm. from the back of the roundel, suggesting that it was probably fastened to leather, perhaps a harness strap.

The roundel bears a central heater shield, which shows a cross-staff surmounted by a pall. Despite the absence of the four crosses on the pall, a representation of the arms of the Province of Canterbury is probably intended. The field of the shield, the petals of the octofoil and their interstices are keyed to take enamel. A comparable roundel from Otford was published by L.R.A. Grove.²⁵

SANDLING

N.G.R. TQ 7558. Harness pendant (Fig. 2, 4) found by S. Phillips. Copper alloy, Ward Perkins type V, 41 × 33 mm; corroded and damaged. Design of shield of arms with, presumably, four lozenges. The three lozenges still visible carry traces of red enamel and the shield was perhaps edged with red enamel. Traces of blue enamel outside the sinister side of the shield.

²⁵ Arch. Cant., lxxvi (1972), 223–5 and fig. 6, 2.
WEST MALLING

N.G.R. TQ 6857. Belt chape (Fig. 1, 9) found by B. Austin. Copper alloy, 54 × 30 mm. A circular attachment plate with a leaf-shaped terminal. The front of the attachment plate has a circular opening to show the cloth or leather; the back plate is made separately and fastened to the front by four iron rivets. Traces of gilding survive. It is like a belt chape found at Snargate, but the Snargate chape is smaller (45 × 30 mm.), having a shorter terminal, and its back plate is soldered and not fastened by rivets. Both are to be classed with the St. Christopher and holy monogram belt chapes with foliate terminals distinguished by J.B. Ward Perkins and dated by him to about 1390–1410.

D.B. KELLY

FIELDWORK AT MOATENDEN PRIORY, HEADCORN

Recent fieldwork at the site of the former Trinitarian Priory of 'Motynden' or 'Mottenden', (N.G.R. TQ 818464), has included a comprehensive survey of the remaining medieval features, such as a moated site, earthworks, and fishponds. The monastic precinct has been identified principally through the use of aerial photographs, from various sources, followed by a ground level survey. The boundary of the priory seems to have been marked by a ditch and bank arrangement, which enclosed an area of about 35 acres and would have represented the 'outer-court' of the monastery. At the centre of this precinct was a square moated area which enclosed some four acres; this is now known to have contained the priory church along with certain of the other claustral buildings, usually termed the 'inner-court'.

A resistivity survey was carried out during the early part of 1992 across part of the site, with the aim to attempt to locate the priory church together with any other buildings. The preliminary results of this survey were encouraging and confirmed that the church was aligned with the surrounding moat rather than towards true east, which seems to suggest that they are probably contemporary and may both date from the foundation of the priory c. 1224.

26 Arch. Cant., civ (1987), 366 and fig. 9, 2.
27 Ibid., fig. 9, 4; Arch. Cant. cix (1991), 00.
RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

The house, situated in the centre of the moated site, has been investigated in some detail, and it appears likely that it is located, at least partly, on the site of the 'western range' of the priory. Although it has been previously thought that the stone windows and outer door, (of sandstone, from the Lower Sandstone beds), were re-used materials from the priory structures, it now seems more likely that they, together with the diapered brickwork at the northern end of the building, are in fact contemporary, and represent the remaining portion of a house built soon after the dissolution of the priory. This mid sixteenth-century house originally extended at least one bay further to the north. It is most probable that this house was built by Sir Anthony Aucher, of Otterden Place; he was the purchaser of the site in 1540 after leasing it for two years. However, within this part of the building there is a stone door serving hatch arrangement, which appears to have no obvious function in a Tudor house. Moreover, it is obvious from the mouldings that one side of it was originally an external face. It is suggested that this arrangement could well be part of the Trinitarian priory's 'western range' surviving in situ. The remainder of the house appears to be a mainly early seventeenth-century timber-framed structure with later brick cladding probably mid-nineteenth century.

To the south-west of the house is a 'horseshoe'-shaped 'pond'; however, this is, almost certainly, the remains of an early medieval moat pre-dating the one built to enclose the thirteenth-century priory. It could be the site of the manor associated with the de Rokesley family who were the founders of the religious house here. At least two monastic fishponds remain, situated to the west of the site and connected to a small water-course. The largest of the moats is usually still water-filled and averages 11 m. in width.

Work continues on the site and when this has been completed a full paper will be prepared for Arch. Cant.

ROMAN ROAD – CHART SUTTON

Part of the metalling of the minor Roman road north of Staplehurst (N.G.R. TQ 786484 was revealed during a period of prolonged rain in a ditch at the western side of the road known as Forge Lane, Chart Sutton. The site is just to the south of the road's junction with Hermitage Lane. To the north the Roman road descends the ragstone escarpment in a deep coombe known locally as 'Deadmans Lane'.

The force of water passing through a culvert under the road had scoured away the bank of the ditch to reveal part of what was
assumed to be the metalling of the Roman highway. This comprised ragstone slabs associated with fragments of Roman brick or tile.

This road ran from Rochester to serve the ironworking area around Hastings.

KENARDINGTON

(N.G.R. TQ 976323)

The enigmatic earthworks sited to the east of the parish church have often been identified with either an Anglo-Saxon or Danish fortification, erected at some time during the ninth century. Edward Hasted includes a somewhat obscure plan of them in his eighteenth century history.¹ This has more recently been reproduced by Boyle,² but the features depicted at Kenardington are impossible to relate to anything to be seen at the present time. Recent fieldwork has been conducted to attempt to ascertain whether the two low banks in the field close to the church are in fact the supposed ninth-century earthworks.

The results of a resistivity survey were disappointing, as was fieldwalking of the adjacent farmland (the site itself is under pasture). The two banks form an L-shaped plan on the hill slope between the church and the marshland. A separate earthwork at the edge of the marsh is probably connected with more recent reclamation or 'inning'.

Nothing to date the features was found, although a flint-working site of probable Mesolithic date was recorded at the base of the hill slope (N.G.R. TQ 978322).

It is suggested that the features formerly associated with the Anglo-Saxon period are more likely to be the remains of a medieval settlement that may have existed somewhat closer to the parish church than the present village.

N.R. ALDRIDGE

RESEARCHES AND DISCOVERIES

INVESTIGATIONS AND EXCAVATIONS DURING THE YEAR

Dartford District Archaeological Group. Mr C. Baker reports:

The Group has continued to carry out small-scale exploratory excavations in Dartford Borough as well as some rescue work on selected sites.

In 1988, a fairly large-scale excavation, involving the use of a JCB, was carried out on the site of Manor Farm at Swanscombe. The building which it was believed dated back to medieval times was demolished in early 1960s. On the site were built Council offices, which were opened in 1964. The Group’s work concentrated on the grounds to the rear of the offices in an effort of relocating the foundations of its medieval predecessor. Most of the building remains found, including a large cellar, were of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century in date. However, evidence of a corner of a flint building was found as well as a set of steps leading to another cellar. Neither of these features frustratingly could be uncovered further as they disappeared under the still upstanding modern offices. These offices have now been demolished and evaluation work on the site was carried out by the Canterbury Archaeological Trust in 1992. The site has now been developed for housing.

Small-scale excavations were also carried out ahead of development on the Mason’s Arms site, Spital Street, Dartford. In arrangement with the developers as well as the County Archaeologist, two areas were examined. Medieval and Roman deposits were found, but no associated features.

Across the Street at the rear of Cobden House, a small exploratory excavation revealed a large quantity of fairly sizeable sherds of Roman pottery. The adjacent site (east side) was later the subject of an evaluation excavation by C.A.T. in 1991.

At the end of 1991 the Group obtained permission to carry out trial trenching on a large open building site to the east of the remains of Henry VIII’s Dartford Manor House. The machine-dug trenches revealed a demolition layer of post-Tudor date within which were found fragments of medieval stamped floor-tiles, which possibly came from Dartford Priory. The Priory was demolished to make way for the building of Henry’s Manor House in 1541–44. Some worked stone and shaped bricks were also found during our work, but no further foundations were uncovered with the exception of part of the east boundary wall near Hythe Street.
Other sites worked on by the Group included land to the rear of
Broomfields in Dartford’s High Street, which revealed medieval and
Roman material, but no features. An attempt was made to relocate a
supposed Anglo-Saxon cemetery off Darenth Road, but no evidence
came to light with the exception of one or two sherds of possible
Roman date and a brooch of Colchester ‘B’ type.

At the time of writing the Group is involved in an exploratory
evacuation at Lower Hythe Street, Dartford, in which we have
reached medieval deposits. A small number of our members are
assisting the owner of an eighteenth/nineteenth-century ice well at
Hawley Manor, near Dartford, to empty out accumulated rubbish
prior to its restoration.

Further work is planned in Dartford close to the Westgate of
Henry VIII’s Manor House as well as land close to Watling Street,
Dartford, formerly used as allotments but now due for development.
The allotment holders have been allocated space on a new site in
Gore Road, Darenth.

Prior to the field being laid out for allotments, Dartford Borough
Council kindly allowed the Group access to the site. Unfortunately,
no early finds or features were uncovered in our trial trenching.

Finally, Group members are working on a follow-up to the popular
'Rediscovering Dartford' book which we produced in 1986 and is now
long out of print. The new publication is due out in 1993 to mark the
Group’s 21st birthday.