



# Colchester Archaeological Group

Registered Charity No. 1028434

## ANNUAL BULLETIN VOL. 12 1969

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*Honorary Secretary  
Colchester Archaeological Group  
c/o 27 Alexandra Road  
Colchester  
Essex CO3 3DF*

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS 1969.

- Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> May - an evening outing to visit Little Wenham Hall, Suffolk, by kind permission of Major & Mrs. Binny. (NOTE:-THERE WILL BE A CHARGE OF 2/6 PER HEAD.) Meet outside the Friends Meeting House, Shewell Road, Colchester, at 6.20 pm for departure at 6.30 pm sharp. If time a visit will also be made to the church. As usual lifts will be arranged for those without cars.
- Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> June -an all day outing by coach to visit Orford Castle, Burgh Castle, Blythburgh and Southwold. Meet at the Corporation 'Bus Park at 8. 45 am for departure at 9. 00 am sharp. Tickets £1 each to include entrance fees and tea. Application to be made on slip attached to enclosed leaflet to reach the Secretary before 24th May.
- Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> July - a Cheese & Wine Party will held at Threshelfords Farm, Feering, Kelvedon, by kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. B. A. Bonner who are well-known seed farmers and the seedfields should be in full bloom at this time. A leaflet giving details and directions with application form will be included in our June issue.

### EXCAVATION ARRANGEMENTS.

Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> April - and thereafter every Saturday & Sunday at Mount Bures Church where cars may be parked and a footpath leads to the site. An exploratory trench will be laid down across the Bailey area by kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. McMaster. The large Norman Motte is unique in Essex mainly because no equivalently substantial outer structures remain visible. It is of course a protected monument but permission to excavate at a future date has been given by the Ministry of Works. The sloping field to the south-west of the Motte is thought to be the Bailey Area. From this rectangularly banked terrace much Roman pottery and a bronze figure of Mercury have been recovered in the past so it is thought that some trenches through the remaining 6-8 feet bank might ascertain the type of structure and perhaps the date. If a solid Norman bretaschia (stockade) guarded the perimeter it should be possible to find postholes also the formation of the outer ditch. All the usual facilities will be provided.

July/August - A ring-ditch at Ardleigh will be excavated. Details will be given in our June Bulletin.

All enquiries and articles for the Bulletin to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Colchester. Telephone Layer de la Haye 274 (evenings).

### ARDLEIGH RING THREE and MILL HILL, ACTON.

#### Two Bronze-Age Cemeteries compared

by F.H. Erith F.S.A.

Members may recollect that the Colchester Archaeological Group excavated a levelled barrow, which we called "Ardleigh Ring Three", during the summer of 1961. This was reported in the C.A.G. Bulletins Vol. IV Nos 3 & 4 (1961). The pottery consisted of a primary urn, 24 secondary or satellite urns, and 4 accessory vessels. They are all now in the Colchester Castle Museum.

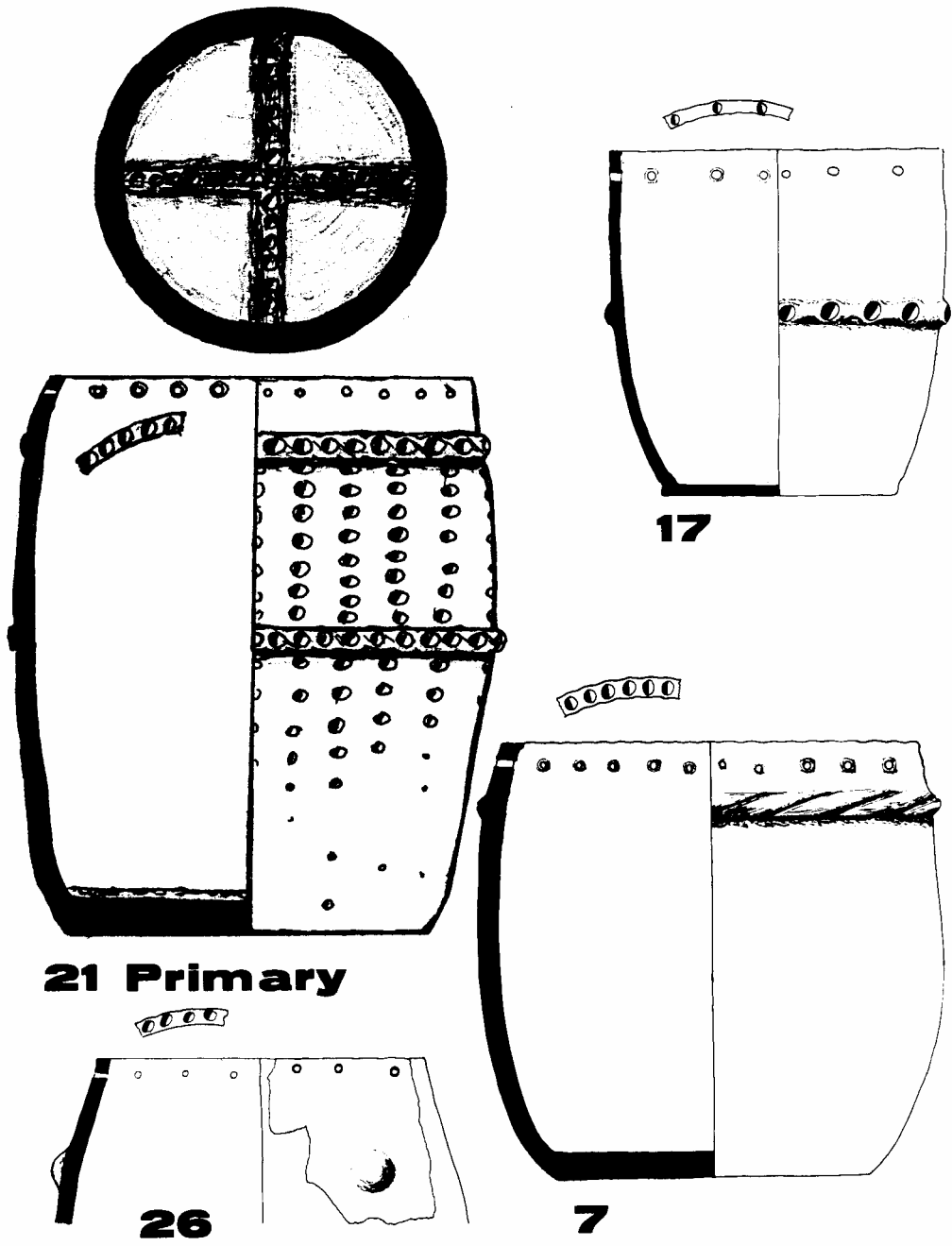
Although this pottery was mostly of the standard L.B.A. bucket or cylindrical types, it differed in many ways from that of the adjoining Urnfield (of over 100 urns) and from the urns of Rings One and Two.

The most characteristic difference was the row of pierced holes or perforations a half-inch or an inch below the rim. This feature occurred in 18 of the 20 urns where the rims survived.

The Primary Urn (No. 21) had in addition two other unusual features: (a) besides the customary finger-tipped "plastic" cordon round the shoulder, there was another cordon round the waist and (b) a cross of applied finger tipped "plastic" on the inside of the base. (The finger-tipping on the body of the urn is fairly widespread in the Ardleigh Urnfield, as is also the finger-tip decoration on the top of the rims).

From the other cinerary urns of "Ardleigh Ring Three" were the following unusual features:

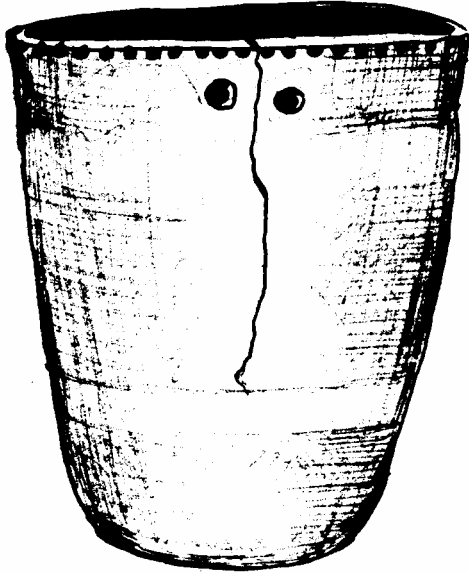
- Urn No. 7 Cable decoration on Cordon
- Urn No. 17 Applied cordon at waist instead of at shoulder. Widely-spaced finer-tipping on rim and on cordon
- Urn No. 26 Bosses or nipples in place of the usual cordon.  
(This fragment was found in the circular ditch and was presumed to be the remains of a cinerary urn which had been shovelled into the ditch when the barrow was levelled in antiquity).



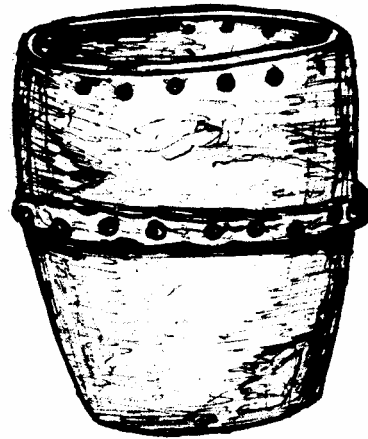
**ARDLEIGH RING THREE**

**The MILL HILL Cemetery**

All the above "unusual features" (except the cross on base) are paralleled from a cemetery of four urns from Mill Hill Park, Acton, Middlesex. They were found "with burnt bones, when making excavations for houses". Our illustrations are copied, with permission from the Clarendon Press, from Abercrombie's "Bronze Age Pottery", Vol. II (1912) Nos. 470-470c. Urn 470c is 16½" high, a very large urn, comparable with the Primary Urn of Ardleigh Ring Three. It has a row of finger-tipping just below the rim, and a repair hole on either side of a crack. A close examination of the illustration in "Abercrombie" shows two faint bands, one at the shoulder and one a little below the waist, revealing where two "plastic" cordons were originally applied, but had since peeled off.



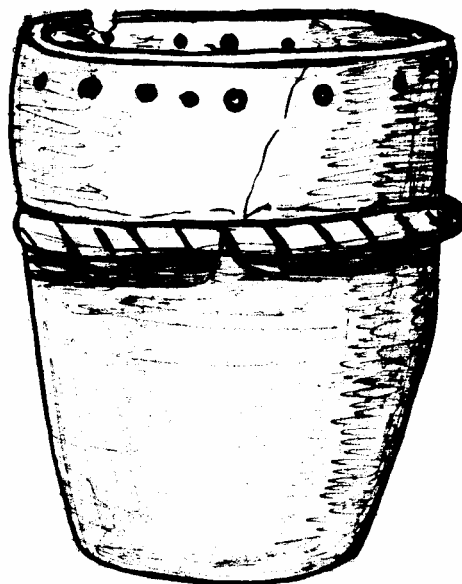
**470c**



**470**



**470b**



**470a**

**MILL HILL**

Below is a table comparing the four urns from Mill Hill with four urns from Ardleigh Ring Three:

Urn	Height inches	Perforations	Other "unusual features"
Ardleigh 21 (Primary)	18½	Yes	Two wide-apart cordons Cross on inside of base
Mill Hill 470c	16½	No	Two wide-apart cordons
Ardleigh 17	10½	Yes	Cordon at waist Wide-apart finger-tipping on cordon & rim
Mill Hill 470	11	Yes	Cordon at waist Wide-apart finger-tipping on cordon
Ardleigh 7	13	Yes	Cable cordon
Mill Hill 470a	12	Yes	Cable cordon
Ardleigh 26	?	Yes	Bosses in place of cordon
Mill Hill 470b	9	No	Bosses in place of cordon

The parallels are sufficiently remarkable to show that there must be some very close connection between these two cemeteries, albeit sixty miles apart. They also suggest that the urns must have been purpose-built as cinerary urns, rather than being taken from the everyday domestic supply. The seemingly meaningless "unusual features" must have had a special significance, and presumably were intentionally applied as part of the funerary ritual. A certain kind of person had to have a certain kind of urn.

It would be interesting to know if the Mill Hill urns are still in existence, so that the textures of the pottery from the two sites could be compared., and also to see if there was a cross on the base of the Mill Hill urn No. 470c.

Conclusions:

Perhaps these two cemeteries represent some off-shoot culture of the Late Bronze Age - possibly of a superior social status, since the Ardleigh Ring Three Urns were in a barrow, and exclusive from the adjoining urnfield.

It would appear that the culture emanated from Ardleigh, rather than from Mill Hill, as the Ardleigh pottery is more neatly fashioned, more decorated, and has more original shapes.

Concerning the date of the Ardleigh material see "Report on the Bronze Fragment from (Urn 20 of) Ardleigh Ring Three" by Professor C. F. C. Hawkes, who suggested 1000 BC - ornament horizon. (C.A. G, Bulletin Vol VIII No. 3.)

An analysis of the bones from the Ardleigh urns was made by Mr. H. E. P. Spencer, of Ipswich (C.A.G. Bulletin Vol. IV No. 4.)

- Primary Urn No. 21 - Not fully adult female, and child with milk teeth.
- Urn No. 17 - Adult and child.
- Urn No. 7 - Adult phalanges and child's maxillary.

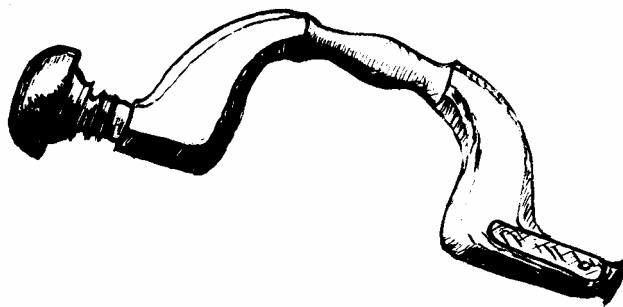
## THE WHEELWRIGHT : HIS TOOLS AND METHODS.

by L.S. Harley, F.S.A.

Boxford in West Suffolk, a few miles over the Essex border, had a wheelwright's shop until early 1957. For over three-quarters of a century this workshop had been equipped for building and repairing the wooden wheels of farm wagons: indeed, the work went far beyond wheels. Some small tumbrils were built there in the first decade of this century and wooden ploughs were often ordered in earlier days.

By 1957 the construction of new wheels had long been a rare event, and the dwindling amount of repairs and the advancing age of the owner, Mr. Frank Self, forced him regretfully to close the business. Mr. Self's father himself had taken over this once-flourishing country craft from an old wheelwright established elsewhere, so that much ancient lore remained in the family, and, for that matter, some old-fashioned century-old tools.

Not long before Mr. Frank Self's death, I was able fortunately to have long talks with him and to obtain some of the old tools, which I here illustrate. The tools are (from top to bottom):

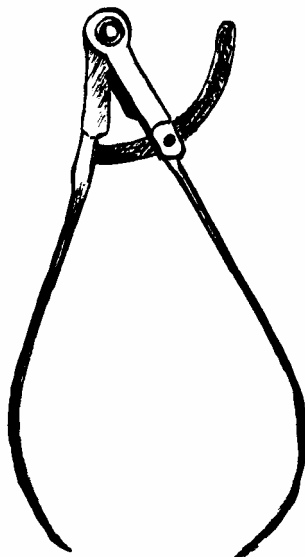


"SWAY" (or Brace)  
"BRISSET" (or Gouge)  
CALLIPERS (Blacksmith-made, but quite adequate for transferring timber dimensions)

The wood used for wagon-wheels was most carefully selected since a broken wheel could be not only an expensive disaster for the farmer but often fatal to the wagoner or his team.



Elm was used for the hub: rock-elm, not wych-elm, was selected, preferably a little "crossed in grain". The spokes, usually twelve in number, were made of riven oak: the oak should not be sawn, although often it is sawn in these days, because that breaks the longitudinal fibres of the timber and weakens the spoke. The circumference of the wheel was constructed of arcs known in Suffolk as 'fellies'. The 'fellies' or 'felloes' were of ash and were six in number, each carrying two spokes. Although nowadays, the holes made in the fellies to receive the spokes are drilled and therefore circular in section, they used to be cut to a rectangular mortise, since that shape of hole weakens the rim of the wheel less than circular holes. A special tool, like a V-shaped gouge, called a 'brisset' was used to clear the corners of each mortise to true rectangularity (see illustration).



In the old days of the craft, the fellies were made long enough for their butt joints to be a little 'proud' above the true circularity of the circumference. The reason for this was to ensure that when the red-hot iron tire was dropped over the finished wooden wheel in the smithy yard,

and then doused with cold water, the contraction of the iron tire would grip and compress the sections of the rim (the fellies) one against the other, and give a tight and rigid circumference to the wheel.

More than a hundred years ago, certainly in the eighteenth century, it was unusual or difficult to make completely circular iron tires, and iron "strakes" (arcs of circles) were fitted separately on to the rim, covering the joints of the

fellies. When the strakes were fitted hot and pinned to the fellies, it was thought wise to quench the ends of each strake before the middle part covering the joint in the two adjoining fellies, in order to tighten over the "proud" joints and pull up the rim to a taut whole, as previously described for the practice of a century later, when completely circular tires could be made. These practices are equivalent to the modern use of pre-stressed concrete but must have anticipated it by a couple of centuries.

Often the rough treatment of farm wagons led to their becoming unfit for use or repair, while the wheels remained in good condition and could be reused. Thus it is not uncommon to find at least one pair of wagon-wheels even older than the vehicle itself, though now both wagon and wheels are likely to rest rotting in some corner of a field or shed. Within the last twenty years, there had been brought into Mr. Self's shop for repair, ancient wheels, sometimes built long before the vehicle they carried, and perhaps 150 years old. Then it was found that the spokes had been driven into the hub-mortices with cow-dung as a lubricant during assembly and as a most effective glue and wood-preserved thereafter.

I asked why wagon wheels were "dished", expecting the usual answer "to give additional strength against sideways rocking, so damaging in the rutty roads of the past". But although this was conceded as one reason, the real purpose seems to have been a partial evasion of the early nineteenth century tax on vehicles according to axle-length; a wheel which came down vertically from hub to road, but spread outwards above the hub, clearly made possible a somewhat wider body above the floor of the cart, thereby gaining a few untaxed inches.

Again, I asked why were the leading wheels inclined slightly inwards towards the front, and the answer was because, so made, they "ran in" and did not wear the linch-pins, especially when wooden axles were in use.

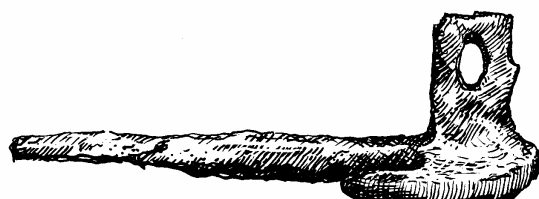
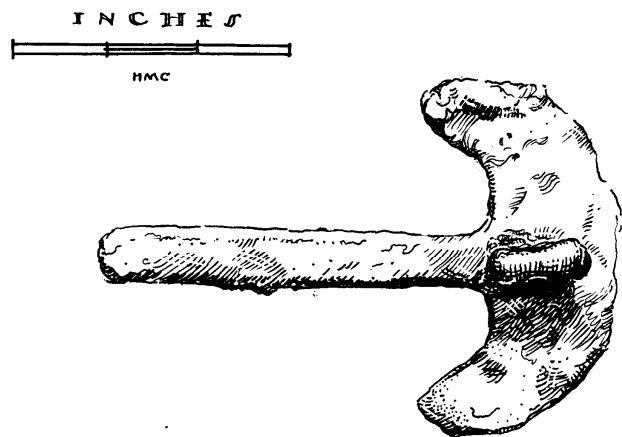
In fact, most parts of these ancient wagons and their wheels have deliberate "offsets", usually almost imperceptibly small, to achieve some practical advantage. The chamfering, or reduction in section of wagon timbers by bevelling the arrises with a spoke-shave, was not solely to provide a decorative surface, but to reduce weight where it was not needed. Although sometimes at fault, the instinct of wagon-builders and wheelwrights for good design was generally in accordance with all that a modern engineer could have taught them about "bending-moments".

These minor inventions, the result of much pondering by bygone generations of wheelwrights, are now almost forgotten and they seemed to me worthy of record, the memorial of men for the most part illiterate but by no means unintelligent.

### IRON LINCH - PIN FROM GESTINGTHORPE by H.P. Cooper.

During the nineteenth year of excavation at the Gestingthorpe Romano-British industrial village site, an iron linch-pin was recovered in a very good state of preservation. (See illustration). I believe this linch-pin had been used in a military vehicle, because it has a hole for attachment to the axle of the wagon or cart, so that it could not be lost. If its use was agricultural it would not have had a hole for attaching chain. I have used many farm carts and wagons of all types in my younger days and not one had any chain for retaining the pin in the axle; the main reason being that the weight of the pin is sufficient to stop it jumping out, even on bumpy ground, and a speed of 2½ to 3 miles an hour would seldom have been exceeded with oxen or horses.

The military vehicle, however, must be so equipped as to be readily dismantled in case of being "bogged down" or sometimes manhandled across rivers or streams, in which case, the wheels could be removed and carried separately while, at the same time, poles could be placed under the cart which could then be carried on perhaps a dozen men's shoulders and in this



way the contents could be kept dry.

Whilst doing all this, how easy it would be to lose the linch-pins if they were not chained back into place after the wheels were removed.

Military vehicles would sometimes be driven at full gallop when the linchpins would certainly jump out if not chained; in an ambush the object of the ambushers would be to immobilise any vehicle by removing the linch-pins so that the wheels came off, hence the need to have them chained in securely.

I think, therefore, a good case can be made out to show that the pin was very probably part of a military vehicle.

There are wear marks on the pin showing where the side thrust of the wheel was taken up; this indicates that the axle was two and a quarter inches in diameter.

From the same strata as the pin burnt Samian ware was recovered indicating a date somewhere between 50 and 100 A.D.

### **WINTER MEETINGS 1969.**

On the 13<sup>th</sup> of January Dr. John Alexander of The University of London gave an illustrated lecture to the Group on "Beginnings of Cambridge: Excavations. 1956-1969". He showed how a natural river crossing became successively the site of a Iron Age Settlement, a Roman walled town, a Saxon and Danish burgh and then a Norman town with castle, the forerunner of the medieval city. Recent Excavations in the city and its outskirts have uncovered such features as Iron Age ditches, an early Roman fortified post, the Roman main roads and the line of walls, Saxon fortifications and the ditch of the Norman castle. Of particular interest was an Iron Age settlement site comparable with the one at Ardleigh excavated by the Group last year.

One of Colchester's new buildings, the telephone exchange, occupies the site of a Roman fort which must also have been prominent in its day for early Roman Colchester grew round it. Miss Rosalind Dunnett B.A., who has conducted many excavations for the Colchester Excavation Committee, described how they have contributed substantially to the history of the Roman town in her lecture on the 20<sup>th</sup> January. The early town in the North Hill area, which had the first piped water supply in the country, metalled streets and substantial buildings with tiled roofs and decorated plasterwork, was undefended when burnt by Boudicca in A.D. 60. Defences constructed afterwards were filled in by 120 A.D. after a period of expansion culminated in several public buildings around the area of the Temple of Claudius, now covered by the Castle. During another boom of private house building, in the second half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century, a school of mosaics flourished as the pavements found on North Hill show. By 220 A.D. the community was wealthy enough to undertake the expense of constructing the town walls with the elaborate Balcerne Gate, more for civic pride than for defense.

At the lecture on the 27<sup>th</sup> January, the Group heard the well-known folklorist, Mr. G. Ewart Evans, describe "East Anglian Customs and Dialect". The coming of the farm tractor has meant the death of the country life and customs that used to be associated with the horse. But some people still remember these days on the farm before the 1914-18 war and Mr. Ewart Evans has listened to and recorded their accounts first-hand. During an evening of Norfolk and Suffolk folklore the Group was given a recipe for enticing horses and was told how Nayland got its name. Finally Mr. Ewart Evans played a recording in rich Suffolk dialect of life on the farm in the early 1900's.

On the 3rd of February, the Group had the pleasure of listening to its Vice Chairman, Mr. H. M. Carter, who gave a talk on "Building Materials in Essex". Beginning with a geological map of the county, Mr. Carter linked the materials to the growing skills of the builders and illustrated these developments with coloured slides.

Roman baths were much more elaborate than our modern tubs because soap was unknown. Thus, in a system similar to a Turkish bath, bathers entered a hot room to cleanse their pores by sweating, were then scraped by a slave, and then plunged into a cold bath, to close the pores again. Mr. A. P. Detsicas of the Eccles Excavation Committee, in his lecture on the 10<sup>th</sup> February on "Excavations at the Eccles Roman Villa, near Aylesford, Kent" described the elaborate baths which had been found. The excavation, which will continue for several years, has enabled a reconstruction of four generations of buildings to be drawn, containing about eighty rooms. The development of the villa over the 350 years of its existence has been dated from pottery finds and from approximately 180 coins. The fragments of decorated wall plaster and tessellated pavement indicate that the owners of the villa were wealthy men who probably allowed their less fortunate tenants and neighbours living in smaller nearby houses to use their baths.



Owing to its position at the head of six rivers Kings Lynn expanded rapidly between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries to become one of the most important ports in the country. On the 17<sup>th</sup> February Mr. Alan Carter, of the Kings Lynn Excavation Committee, described some of the recent discoveries made as part of the medieval Survey of the town. Redevelopment has revealed old streets that had been built over, ancient buildings hidden beneath more recent construction and several generations of wharves which have shown the extent to which silting-up has occurred. A unique medieval tile pavement has been found in good condition. From the types of pottery it has been deduced that the port traded with most of Europe, especially the Baltic countries.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> February Mr. P. Ashbee, of the British Museum, described discoveries made during the 1967/68 excavation at the site of the famous Sutton Hoo treasure ship burial. A plaster cast has now been made of the ship, originally excavated in 1939, and it is now being moulded in plastic to show details of construction for public display. A careful examination of the 1939 spoil heaps has revealed missing gold fragments of the treasure including binders for the shield, pieces of the helmet and part of the sword. There are more barrows on the site, five of which may contain ships burials. Mr. Ashbee also described recent archaeological work in the Scilly Isles which has shown that until about 600 A.D. the numerous islands were all one.

A study of local medieval timber-framed buildings has revealed that it may be possible to date them by the techniques of carpentry used. Mr. C.A. Hewett, who has made the study, spoke to the Group on 3<sup>rd</sup> March about the "Timber Buildings of Essex". With illustrations of the frameworks of many fine houses, barns and churches, he showed the development of roof and floor construction between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The types of joints used appear to be attributable to closely-defined periods of time and are therefore of considerable interest to the medieval archaeologist.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> March, Mr. W. R. Powell, Editor of the Victoria History of Essex, lectured to the Group on "Essex Domesday". The famous Book compares statistics of people, animals and land in 1085, when it was compiled, with those of 1066. The figures indicate that Essex became more prosperous during the early years of the Norman occupation, the most prosperous and densely occupied are being the north-west as it was in Roman times. Mr. Powell demonstrated the continuity of county history by commenting on the names of places and families which have survived to the present day.

At the last meeting of the winter season on the 17<sup>th</sup> March, Mr. Michael Avery of the Queen's University of Belfast described "Recent Excavations of the Lake Village at Meare, Somerset". These have shown that Meare has a history from the Bronze Age to the Roman period and that contrary to previous opinion, it is not a true lake village because houses were built when the underlying peat was dry land. The site should help to establish the development of Iron Age cultures in the south of England since it reveals a transfer from agricultural to industrial environment indicative of the greater use of iron.

### **THE WALTON ON NAZE RECORDS OFFICE.**

On Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> February 1969, at Church Hall, High Street, the Walton on Naze Records Office was opened by Councillor H.S. Humphrey J. P. Councillor T.G. Rainbird, Chairman of the proceedings, welcomed the guests and later, most ably assisted by various schoolboy officials, escorted groups of guests to inspect the collection which is housed in a room in Mill Lane nearby. This project has been undertaken on the sole resource of three schoolboys - Peter Boyden, Jon Hipkin and Eric Boyden, who have gathered an assortment of old photographs, prehistoric flints, clay pipes, old mill timber and other historical objects. They plan to record finds, buildings and sites. Walton Council have kindly supplied the room and the organisers hope that people from the surrounding districts will add objects to the collection. Several cheques were presented towards the expenses of the Records Office, and congratulations expressed to the three young people for such a useful and praiseworthy effort.

I. McM.

### **RESCUE DIGS IN COLCHESTER.**

An emergency situation may arise at any time when volunteers are required. Will any member who would like to help at such a time please send his or her name, address and telephone number to Miss R. Dunnett, Castle Museum, Colchester, who will contact them direct.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS 1969

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July - A Cheese and Wine Party for members and their friends will be held at Threshelfords, Feering, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Bonner. TICKETS 10/- EACH entitle the holder to one glass of wine and food. Additional glasses of wine may be obtained at 2/6 each. Please apply to MRS. BONNER, THRESHELFORDS, KELVEDON, COLCHESTER, ESSEX - BEFORE 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE stating how many tickets are required and enclosing payment.

To reach Threshelfords leave the Kelvedon By-pass (A. 12) and enter the village. Take the Tiptree Road at the Anchor Hotel from whence the house is the first farm on the left hand side. When applying, please state if you have no transport and we will arrange for you to have a lift.

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July - An evening outing to visit Bevills by kind permission of Lieut. Colonel and Mrs. Probert. This large Tudor mansion is situated at Bures. Afterwards we have permission to look at the exterior of Gernons at Wormingford. This is a moated farmhouse on an interesting site. Meet outside the Friends Meeting House in Shewell Road, Colchester, at 6.20 pm for departure at 6.30 pm sharp. As usual lifts will be arranged for those without cars.

Excavations - Mount Bures & Ardleigh - The dig at Mount Bures is still going on. The site has proved most interesting but also puzzling. It has not been decided how much longer this will continue but 'diggers' will be notified of the date of the beginning of the excavation at Ardleigh when this is known.

Winter Programme - This will open on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> of October with the Annual General Meeting. Lecturers for the following meetings are being arranged and it is hoped there will be subjects of interest to all members. The full programme will be published in the September issue of the Bulletin.

Articles and notes for the Bulletin - and many more are wanted, especially from those who have not contributed before - should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Colchester, Essex. Telephone - Layer de la Haye 274 (evenings). All enquiries should be sent to the same address.

### "WORTHIE SIR JOHN" by H.M. Carter.

In an American book:- CRYPTOGRAPHY : LAWRENCE DWIGHT SMITH : pp. 24-5 : First published in the United Kingdom by George Allen and Unwin in 1944, I recently came across the following Cryptogram:

"Worthie Sir John:- Hope, that is ye best comfort of ye afflicted, cannot much, I fear me, help you now. That I would say to you, is this only: if ever I may be able to requite that I do owe you, stand not upon asking me. 'Tis not much that I can do: but what I can do, be ye verie sure I wille. I know that, if dethe comes, if ordinary men fear it, it frights not you, accounting it for a high honour, to have such reward of your loyalty. Pray yet that you may be spared this so bitter, cup. I fear not that you will grudge any sufferings; only if bie submission you can turn them away, 'tis the part of a wise man. Tell me, an if you can, to do for you anthinge that you would have done. The general goes back on Wednesday. Restinge your servant to command - R. T.

This is said to have been sent to a royalist, Sir John Trevanion, imprisoned in Colchester after the siege.

The third letters after punctuation marks spell:

"PANEL AT EAST END OF CHAPEL SLIDES"

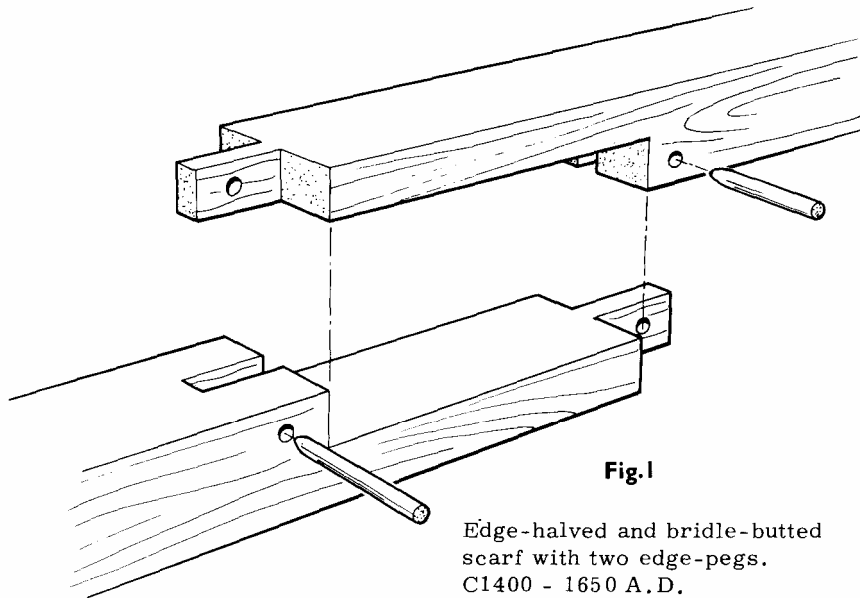
Trevanion is said to have got permission to spend a night in the chapel, and to have escaped.

Unfortunately for the story, the east end of the chapel projects on an outside wall with a forty foot drop to the ditch. I wonder if any of our members can shed any light on worthie Sir John or his exploits?

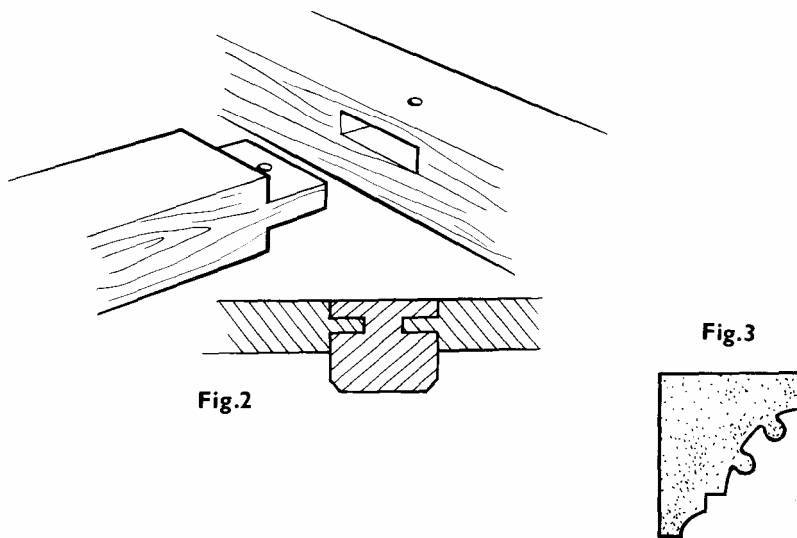
## TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY HALL

by Cecil Hewett.

The main block of this house, examined by me this spring, must date from c. 1500 A. D. This description may be a little at variance with the character of the very fine crown-post roof above it, but is one firmly endorsed by the use of (a), the scarf (fig. 1) to the top plates, (b), the joist end-joints used for its first floor (fig. 2) and (c) the mouldings worked on the timbers of both screens and cross-passage doorways.



The roof is, as already stated, of crown-post and collar-purlin construction and has braced collars. The whole assembly is painted with yellow-ochre and has always been entirely free from soot and smoke. Roofs of this type and visual style are known in Essex c. 1300 (Prior's Chamber, Prittlewell Priory) until c. 1490, as may be seen at Mortimers, Chipping Hill, Witham. The dates of these two examples being tolerably secure, in the first, from both structural method and documentary evidence, and in the second, from its peculiarly closely-dateable floor-joist and joint.



The D'Arcy Hall example can be dated by the scarf, twice used to produce top-plates of adequate length. This is of the edge halved and bridle-butt category (fig. 1) not known outside the date range c. 1400-1650 A.D. - (the latter example being date-incised, at Rickling Hall barn). In the present case no face-pegs are used, and thus a date towards the end of the range must be assumed. The first floor is cornered by binding-joists fitted into their storey-posts with pairs of single-tenons, and the common-joists above both buttery and pantry areas are fitted by central-tenons without any refinements. This last evidence,

for a saving of expense at floor-level, was to become a common-place through the declining years of carpentry.

The moulding worked upon all door-jambs at the service-end is: seated, return, and two rolls within a scotia. (fig. 3). This is very close to mouldings in Paycock's House, of c. 1500, at Coggeshall.

The absence of soot inside the roof shows that the structure must date from the erection of the existing brick chimney-stack of the sixteenth century.

## BRONZE AGE RING AT TENDRING

by David F. Grayston.

Location:

O.S. TL139235. on farmland owned by Mr. A. Young, Bretts Hall, Crown Lane, Tendring, Clacton on Sea.

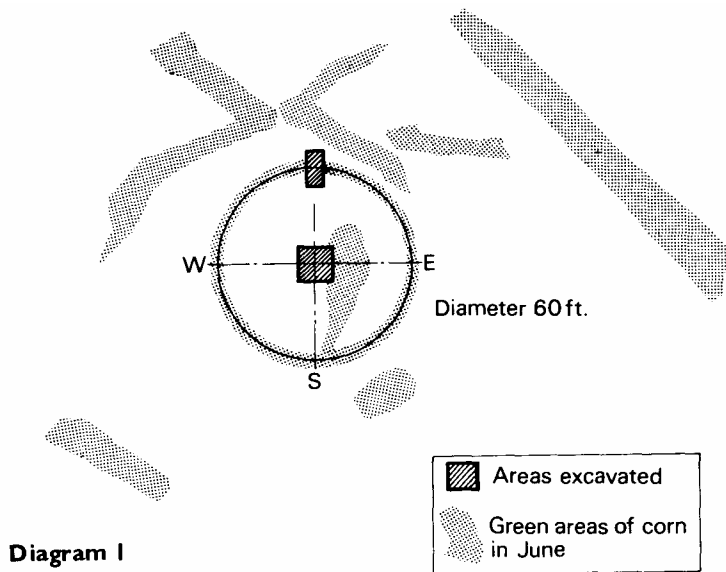
1) Background:

In the hot June of 1959 I was working in the above field, then carrying barley, and noticed a circle of green barley in an otherwise parched crop. It was not until June 1968 that I returned to the field to find the circle again. It was a hot, dry June again and the field was down to barley so the crop mark was easily found. The field contains some very infertile, gravelly areas so it is easy to imagine many other false crop marks.

The ring of dark green corn was exactly sixty feet in diameter and a complete circle. There was a patch of dark green corn within the circle and many asymmetrical patterns without. (See diagram 1).

I put some stones into the soil at the centre of the circle and a flag in the headland, thirty yards south of centre. I returned after harvest in late August. I had limited time available and also did not wish to delay cultivations too long, although Mr. Young was prepared not to cultivate that section of the field at all, should anything come to light of particular interest.

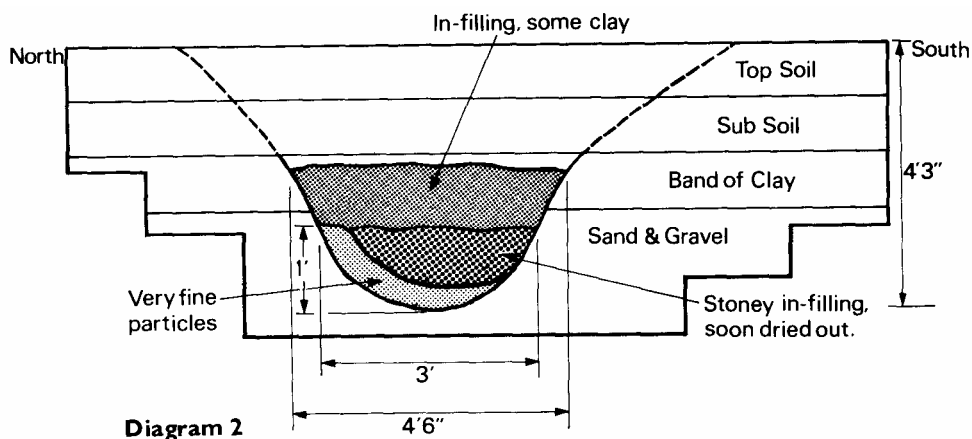
I decided, therefore, to dig a section through the north of the ring and a twelve foot square about the centre.



**Diagram 1**

2) Section Through Ring:

The section through the ring on the north side was to establish the absence or presence of a ditch, by examination of the soil profile. The section was two feet wide and ten feet long. This exposed the following profile. (See diagram 2). In the spoil from the section were some pieces of charcoal about the size of an acorn, found about three feet down.



**Diagram 2**

The spoil from the ditch was darker and richer in humus than the surrounding material, with the exception of the curve of very fine particles at the bottom of the ditch.

I am inclined to suggest that the spoil from the ditch was deposited outside the circle, rather than inside it. I say this because on the basal curve of the ditch there was a stratum, about four inches thick, of very fine particles, mainly deposited on the outside of the ditch (See diagram). Had the spoil been used to form a mound inside the circle I would

have expected to find a similar curve of out-washed particles on the inside of the ditch. I should be pleased to hear other explanations for this curved layer.

In any event, the soil profile did reveal the existence of a ditch as the spoil was darker due to the presence of humus and was in contrast both in texture and colour to the surrounding sub-soil.

### 3 ) Centre of Ring:

The field had been ploughed up to twelve inches deep on recent occasions and also sub-soiled at five foot centres and two feet deep. I removed the top soil from a twelve foot square about the centre; finding nothing, and then removed soil until I came to the parent material - sandy gravel. Nothing by way of cremated bone or sherds was found.

On the east of the square, running north to south, was a patch of less gravelly soil - loamy, in fact. Removing this revealed nothing of interest. This loamy soil area coincided with the pseudo crop mark in Diagram 1 and was probably one of the geological irregularities of the field.

Although nothing spectacular was found in the small area excavated it was a most interesting and exciting exercise, finding and confirming the existence of a ring ditch, which I am informed, is of Bronze Age origin.

I should like to thank Mr. F. H. Erith, F. S. A. for his advice given before starting the dig and Mr. A. Young, of Bretts Hall, Tendring, for allowing me to dig in this field and for mechanically infilling the area when I had finished.

## **CLAUDIAN BUILDING MATERIAL FROM COLCHESTER CASTLE** **by H.M. Carter**

Many members will have noticed two holes, or excavations, in the floor of the Castle last winter, made by the Ministry of Works to repair the vault, which had been cracked for many years.

By the kindness of the Curator, Mr. D. T. D. Clarke, and Miss Williams, I was able to get samples of mortar from the Roman structure, the podium or platform of the temple of Claudius. These were examined and reported on by the research department of the Cement and Concrete Association, to whom I must record my thanks.

It is not always easy to get reliable samples of ancient materials of this sort, so much work has been refaced or repointed, nor could one expect custodians to welcome such depredations!

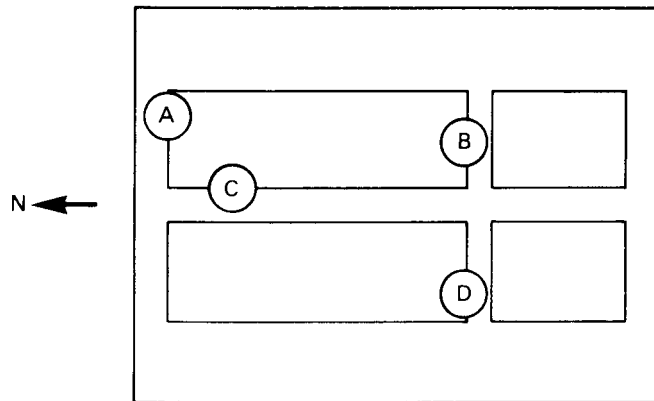
The particular interest of these specimens lies in the technical practices of Roman builders, whose larger works depended on great quantities of concrete. This manner of building did something to ensure the remarkable uniformity of style throughout the Roman world, differences of local materials have little effect on design. It made possible the construction of very large arches, vaults and domes quite rigidly, avoiding all the problems of thrust, (and consequently of buttressing), which are at the root of Gothic construction. But a binding agent with much more tensile strength than lime was needed, and the Romans made use of a discovery made by the Greeks but not much exploited by them. This was the addition of volcanic ash to the lime/sand mixture, providing the silicates and aluminates which in commercial Portland cement are supplied by the addition of burnt and ground clay or shale. It is therefore reasonable to call the Roman materials, cement and concrete, as against the lime-based mortar and mortar-rubble.

Besides tensile strength, hardness and rigidity, cement mixture have another advantage over lime. Lime mortar hardens only as it dries, because the carbon released when the lime is burnt is gradually replaced from the air to take the place of water, producing eventually a carbonate of lime similar to the Upper Chalk from which most lime in Essex is derived. (There are various geological formations which provide nearly a "balanced ration", but these do not concern us here). Cement, on the other hand, produces on setting a material much more complex than its constituents and including much of the water with which it is mixed to form hydrates of silica and aluminium.

Probably the slowness of setting of lime-rubble is partly responsible for the slow rate of building shown in surviving building accounts for Norman keeps - about eleven feet a year. (WRENN, Journal B. A. A. XXII 2).

Volcanic ash is found in several places in the Mediterranean, and in the upper Rhine basin, where it gets its commercial name of trass. It must have been imported into this country for certain purposes, as in the very hard tessellated pavements found by Miss Dunnett in North Hill.

Concrete has been used for temple podia since at least B. C. 121. (DAVY. History of Building Materials. 1961. 122) and no doubt it would have been used at Colchester had it been available. Samples were taken as shown on the plan below-



It was described as “a siliceous gravel very similar in appearance to the sands from the Thames valley”. The material passing a 52 mesh screen was weighed and then analysed for acid insoluble CaO and CO<sub>2</sub>.

**Results**

	A	B	C	D
% Aggregate +52	71.0	83.5	82.5	73.0
-52	16.5	8.5	9.5	13.5
Total	87.5	92.0	92.0	86.5
% CaCO <sub>3</sub>	9.7	6.4	6.9	11.1
% other soluble material	2.8	1.6	1.1	2.4
Assuming the non-calcareous soluble material is unchanged from its original state, the calculated aggregate/impure Ca(OH) <sub>2</sub> ratio is:-	88/1	4.6/1	14.9/1	8.1/1

- Notes** - 1. The CaO and CO<sub>2</sub> correlate with each other.  
 2. The 'aggregate' fraction contained some chalk particles but the method of test reduced to a minimum their solution in the acid wash solution. We could not detect any traces of any kind of cement.

I do not think the differences in the samples are significant, as the presence of larger or smaller pebbles among the sand particles would be enough to upset : the percentages, and there seems nothing to suggest different building periods. No doubt at this early period of Roman occupation there was insufficient transport to bring trass from the Mediterranean, and local materials were used at the start, or else the decision to build and the start of the work were hurried, with no time to place import orders. In any case the lime/aggregate ratio is in all samples much too low, and this and the presence of unburnt fragments of chalk suggest either incompetent or hurried work, or both. As Mr. Clarke remarked, “No wonder it cracked”.

**THE MAY OUTING**

We were lucky enough to have a fine, warm evening for our first outing this year on Monday the 5th May when a party of twenty-eight visited Little Wenham Hall.

On arrival we were welcomed by the owner, Major Binny, who conducted us across smooth green lawns to the Norman Manor House. This unique fortified house was built in the thirteenth century and is the earliest example in the country to be built of brick.

We entered by the ground floor into a long stone-paved room with narrow windows from whence a turret stair leads to the main hall on the first floor and off which is a small chapel dedicated to Saint Petronilla. The bed-chamber is also at this level. Many objects were on display which dated from the period and aroused much interest. Above this floor the stair leads to the roof and through the crenellations an excellent view is obtained of the church, the sixteenth century red-brick and timbered barn and extensive stretches of the moat.

Afterwards we visited the church, the main body of which is contemporary with the Hall. The fourteenth century

murals have been carefully restored recently and saved from destruction and the lower half of a stone screen still remains. Major Binny explained that there was no heating and lighting is by oil lamps so that now services are held only at Easter and Harvest Festival.

The sun was setting as we walked across the churchyard through the cowslips to the main drive and thanked Major Binny for a very pleasant and interesting evening.

## NOTES & COMMENT

### Mr. H. A. Palmer writes:

Readers of Mr. Erith's article on the Bronze Age pottery from Ardleigh Ring Three and Mill Hill in the March Bulletin may be interested to hear that another parallel exists.

In the great Museum of Ceramic Art at Faenza (Italy) there is part of a Bronze Age urn apparently similar to those illustrated by Mr. Erith. The fragment (some six or eight inches across) has a row of perforations (strikingly like those on the Ardleigh urns) below the rim.

As in so many Italian museums, the labelling is almost "non est". If an Italian-speaking member of the Group is in Faenza this summer perhaps enquiry of the curator would throw more light on the subject.

### Mr. L. S. Harley, F. S. A. writes:

In VOL. 11, No.3 (September 1968) of the Quarterly Bulletin, I wrote a short article on "Thatchers' Distinctive Patterns" and illustrated it with a sketch of several patterns which were confirmed to me by Mr. Death of Thorington Street. I find that Mr. Joseph Stiff, now of Lower Raydon (the next village to Layham) has found it desirable to use the following modification to the pattern ascribed to him in my article: i.e., instead of pairs of V's only, a scallop (or 'half-round') followed by two V's, the whole repeated, if necessary. I much regret that I did not check from Mr. Stiff himself the pattern which he has used for some time, and which must be regarded as his authentic 'trade-mark'.

PART 3 SEPTEMBER 1969

## WINTER MEETINGS 1969/70

In the Lecture Room, Colchester Castle, at 7.30 p.m.  
GUESTS ARE WELCOME BUT NON-MEMBERS ARE ASKED  
TO CONTRIBUTE 2/6 A VISIT TOWARDS EXPENSES.

### **1969**

- 13<sup>th</sup> October - Annual General Meeting, after which coffee and biscuits will be served.
- 20<sup>th</sup> October - F. H. Erith, F. S. A. THE IRON AGE 'A' FARMSTEAD SITE AT ARDLEIGH.
- 27<sup>th</sup> October - J. S. Wachter, F. S. A., Department of Archaeology, University of Leicester EXCAVATIONS AT BROUGH ON HUMBER.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November - Kenneth Hudson, M. A. , F. S. A., Senior Lecturer, Bath University of Technology TELFORD, BRUNEL & STEPHENSON : THE STATUS & PRESTIGE OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY ENGINEER.
- 10<sup>th</sup> November - Nicholas Thomas, M.A., F.S.A., F.M.A., Department of Archaeology and Ethnography, City Museum, Birmingham; EXCAVATIONS AT SNAIL DOWN.
- 17<sup>th</sup> November - Dr. M. C. D. Speight, Ph. D., F. R. E. S., Department of Environmental Archaeology, University of London BEETLES UNDER WOAD : INSECTS IN ARCHAEOLOGY.
- 24<sup>th</sup> November - Miss C. M. Mahany, B. Sc., Director of Excavations, Stamford Archaeological Research Committee: EXCAVATION OF THE SAXON AND MEDIEVAL TOWN AT STAMFORD.

## Colchester Archaeological Group Bulletin 12 1969

- 1<sup>st</sup> December - Cyril Everard, M. Sc., F. R. G. S., F. G. S., Senior Lecturer in Geography, Queen Mary College, University of London: OUR SWINGING SEA LEVEL.
- 8<sup>th</sup> December - Peter Wade-Martins, M. A.: EXCAVATIONS NEAR THE SAXON CATHEDRAL, NORTH ELMHAM, NORFOLK, 1967/8.
- 15<sup>th</sup> December - CHRISTMAS SOCIAL. A MUSICAL EVENING.  
There will be refreshments with wine and coffee.  
Your help is requested with the BRING AND BUY STALL.  
TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE at the three previous meetings, also from the Secretary and treasurer.
- 1970**
- 12<sup>th</sup> January - D. T-D. Clarke, M. A., F. S. A., F. M. A., Curator of the Colchester and Essex Museums : THE MUSEUM AND ITS FUTURE.
- 19<sup>th</sup> January - The Rev. I. G. D. Dunlop, M. A., F. S. A., Vicar of Bures St. Mary : THE CHATEAUX OF THE LOIRE.
- 26<sup>th</sup> January - GROUP EXCAVATIONS AND FUTURE PLANS.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> February - Dr. Lawrence Barfield, M. A. , Ph. D. , Department of Ancient History & Archaeology, University of Birmingham : NEOLITHIC EXCAVATIONS IN NORTHERN ITALY.
- 9<sup>th</sup> February - D. G. Benson, M. A. , of the Field Department, Oxford City and County Museum : THE NEOLITHIC SITE AT ASCOTT-UNDER- WYCHWOOD.
- 16<sup>th</sup> February - Miss D. Charlesworth, M. A., F. S. A., Ministry of Public Buildings & Works, : HOUSESTEADS FORT : A HISTORY OF THE SITE.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February - Miss Hilda Grieve, B. E. M. ,B. A. , F. R. Hist. S. , F. S. A. (Scot) : WRITING URBAN HISTORY.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Dr. Peter Warren, M. A., F. S. A., Department of Classics, University of Durham : MYRTOS : AN EARLY BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENT IN CRETE.
- 9<sup>th</sup> March - A.A. Round, B. Sc., South Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society : EXCAVATION OF THE EARLY ROMAN FORTS AT LETOCETVM, NEAR WALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.
- 16<sup>th</sup> March - W. G. Simpson, M. A., F. S. A., Department of Archaeology, the Queen's University of Belfast : THE WELLAND VALLEY EXCAVATION.

## THE JUNE EXCURSION

On Saturday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of June, a party of thirty-six members and their friends went on an all day outing into Suffolk and Norfolk. Blessed with a perfect day of unbroken sunshine, we travelled in one of Mr. Osborne's more opulent coaches on what was in effect a tour of ancient and more or less decayed ports, all of them still beautiful in their ruin. In this connection, members may like to note that on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December we are having a lecture on "Our Swinging Sea Level" by Mr. Cyril Everard of the University of London, in which he will discuss the changing sea levels of East Angila and Southern England.

First we visited Orford, a quaint and pleasing little town with its three inns, the Jolly Sailor, the King's Head and the Crown and Castle dating from the days of the first Elizabeth. The ghosts of deserted streets can still be seen in the gardens and allotments. There are fine brasses in the church and remains of the earlier Romanesque building can be seen outside.

We saw the impressive twelfth century keep, built of Barnack and Septaria and the energetic climbed the spiral stair past the two halls, to be rewarded with a magnificent view of the coastline and silted-up estuary.

When we went on to Blythburgh, another once thriving town and port, now deserted by the sea, we found unexpected activity, as the Maltings had been burnt down three days before, and much of the Aldeburgh festival music had been transferred to this building - and our national talent for improvisation was much in evidence. Having admired



the exquisite flintwork of the exterior, and hearing celestial strains from within, we managed to find our way in, and for a time Stephen Goldberg and the Northern Symphony Orchestra put all archaeological thoughts from our minds. The effect of hearing Bach so unexpectedly in the enormous cool church lit with great slants of sunshine, was unforgettable.

We paused at Haddiscoe for the Saxon round tower with triangular windows reminiscent of Holy Trinity, Colchester, and then proceeded to picnic at Herringfleet, where we had river craft on the Waveney to entertain us.

On our way to Burgh Castle, we passed several windmills, some for draining, some for grinding, and arrived at our third Saxon Shore fort in three years, hot in the unaccustomed blaze of sunshine. It was interesting to note the change of material for the "stone course" - flints instead of rag or septaria: one wonders if some of the large flints came from the Grimes Graves area. Three walls of this fort remain and the position is very impressive, looking down over yet another silted-up estuary, this time of the river Yare. The interior was carpeted with young green corn and we could only examine the walls with their bastions, one of which has a ballista socket, and gaze across the marshes and the river with more windmills and a toy train in the distance.

Back once more to the coach, we took the coast road to Southwold. Here we had a good tea at the Dutch Barn on the Harbour Road, after which members went their separate ways, some to look at the lighthouse, the fifteenth century church of St. Edmund with its unique painted screen, magnificent roof, medieval pulpit, seven-sacraments font and "Jack-Smite-the-Clock" and nearby the excellent little museum. Here there are many finds from eroded cliffs, ancient farm implements, historical prints and pictures and various relics of the old Southwold to Halesworth narrow gauge railway, closed in 1929. An imaginative touch was the Victorian wall post-box, brilliantly repainted, into which visitors were invited to drop contributions to the upkeep of the museum.

On a hill to the south of the town we were privileged to gaze in passing upon the School on which our Secretary once shed the light of her youth. Members were deeply moved. Several expressed surprise that there appeared to be no memorial of this, but were satisfied by the vice-chairman's explanation that anything of the sort would undoubtedly be situated in some undisclosed place.

Eventually the wandering members were collected and counted and we returned to Colchester only ten minutes behind schedule after a very happy and memorable day.

## **THE JULY OUTING**

On Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> July, twenty-eight members foregathered at the Eight Bells Inn, Bures. From here Mrs. McMaster led the party through the village on to the Sudbury road off which, hidden by trees, we discovered Bevills, a delightful Tudor mansion. The owner, Colonel Probert, showed us round and gave us the history of the many interesting paintings and Mrs. Probert told us about the china and jewellery. The beautifully landscaped garden with its trees of contrasting greens, its statuary and lily pond, backed by rising ground, were very pleasing in the evening light. After this, by a dusty and devious lane from Wormingford, we came to Gernons (or Garnons) where we were welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Gray. The house is set on a very interesting mounded site in the midst of water meadows. Having inspected this and the moat, also the old brew-house, Mrs Gray refreshed us with coffee and biscuits which was very welcome; then we travelled through the summer countryside homewards where a sharp contrast awaited some of us - the arid wastes of the moon.

## **THE SUMMER PARTY**

The annual Cheese and Wine party was held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July at Threshelfords, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bonner. The weather was uncertain so the food and drink was set out inside - not only bread and cheese but delicious savoury "dips" and luscious cakes, with the crowning glory of strawberries and cream. Members sauntered round the spacious lawns bordered with many varieties of trees and shrubs and also crossed the road to admire the fields of many-coloured flowers stretching away into the distance. Our grateful thanks to our host and hostess for a very happy evening.

## **EXCAVATIONS**

The dig at Mount Bures finished on 20<sup>th</sup> July and we should like to thank Mr. McMaster for allowing us to dig on his land, particularly as we were there much longer than anticipated; also for providing a mechanical digger for excavating three trenches, one of which was very long and very deep and for filling in afterwards. Without this assistance we could have achieved nothing. The report of this excavation by Mrs. Ida McMaster is included in this issue and our thanks are due to her for her excellent organisation, not only on the site itself but also for the provision of a hut with facilities for making hot drinks. We look forward to our next excavation at Mount Bures which we hope will be a Roman kiln site.

Usually we publish the reports of our excavations promptly and we feel we should explain why no report of the Iron Age farmhouse site at Ardleigh has appeared. The reason for this is because we wish to make further investigations and digging will be continued this autumn.

## **DIGGING IN THE SUDAN**

Tony Bonner, a member of our Committee, spent the month of January with the University of Khartoum excavations in the Sudan at Meroe which is situated about 120 miles north of Khartoum. This dig was led by Professor Peter L. Shinnie and assisted by six European archaeologists and 175 local diggers.

The Royal town of Meroe lies about 1 km. from the Nile and is about 1 km. by 1.5 km. in extent. Kitchener's railway from Wadi Hailfa to Khartoum passes through the eastern edge of the site cutting one of the many slag heaps where iron was smelted.

The earliest settlement is about 700 B. C. and became a Royal city in about 600 B. C. when the government was moved from Napata. The temple area of the site was dug by Garstang between 1909 and 1913. Excavations, which are now in the second year, are in the industrial and domestic area of the town.

Progress was made through various occupational levels to a depth of about twenty feet and will continue next year. The main finds were pottery, bone, beads and artifacts.

## **THE HISTORY OF SMOKING EXHIBITION AT THE ESSEX SHOW**

**by Leonard H. Gant**

As direct result of a suggestion made by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex to the chairman of Carreras Limited, the Basildon cigarette manufacturers and a member of the world-wide Rembrandt Group, an exhibition depicting the history of smoking in Essex was mounted for the Essex Show, held on the permanent site at Great Leighs in June, 1969.

Mr. T. F. C. Dimmick, archivist to Carreras Limited, consulted me, and a rough scheme was worked out. This was perfected over many months and the exhibition mounted at Basildon and photographed prior to its journey to the Show Ground, where, thanks to the intervention of a Director, the whole exhibit was admirably staged with new modern show cases and related boards, having built-in strip lighting and spot lamps.

The story began with material dating from 1580 and included many of the known Colchester makers of the 17<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, with such imported pipes and material as might well be found in the county during that time. The "oldest tobacco leaf in the world", found in Colchester in 1968 was on show, and pipes having foot marks and symbols, including the "Gauntlett" pipe, found on the site of one of Colchester's old coaching inns, were shown.

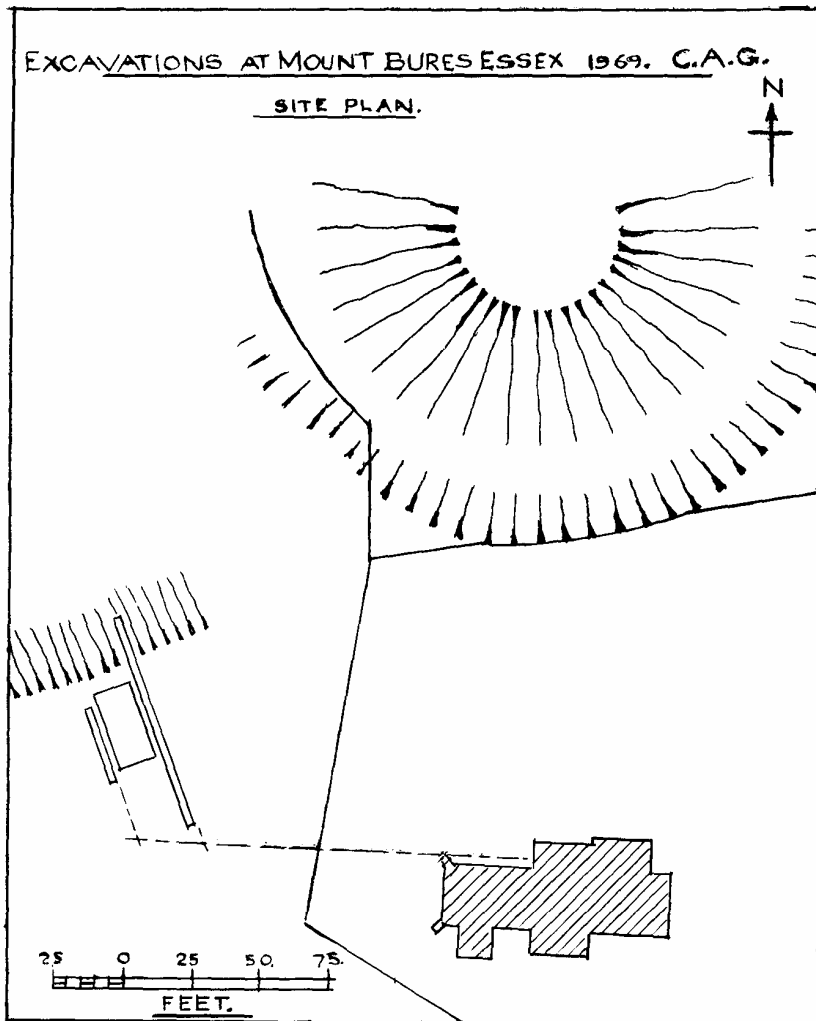
Reproductions of contemporary engravings, original documents and the history of Carreras Limited, with colourful displays of packets and advertising matter from the parent and associated firms made an unusual and unique display.

The exhibition was re-formed and on show at Berk House, Baker Street, London, in July, when it was visited by the Directors of Carreras and many notable people in the tobacco trade.

## A MEDIEVAL EXCAVATION AT MOUNT BURES 1969

by Ida McMaster

### Location



In the early months of this summer a Group excavation was carried out to the south-west of the presumed Norman motte which gives the prefix to that upper village of Bures which lies two-thirds of a mile from the River Stour, on the Essex side. (O. S. TL. 904325). Approximately thirty feet in height, this man-made mound lies on soft sandy gravel and covers an area of about one and a half acres.

To the south-west is a sloping terrace, which, because of its eight to ten foot banked outline, has been described as the possible bailey. To the west of the Mount the land slopes steeply downwards and the absence of moat here falsifies the apparent base of the Mount, making it appear much more impressive than on the eastwards side.

It was decided to put down some exploratory trenches through the bank of the supposed bailey in search of outer fortifications of a scale commensurate with the size of the Motte.

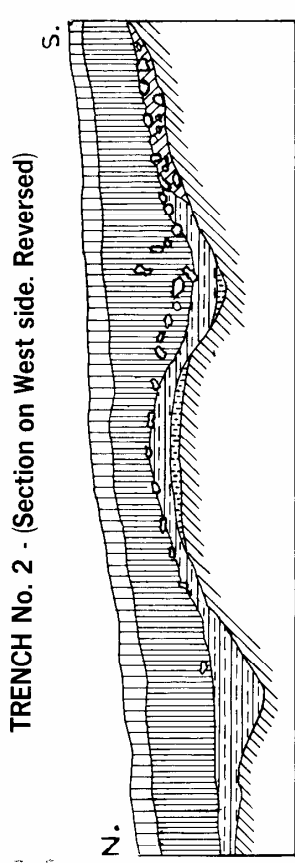
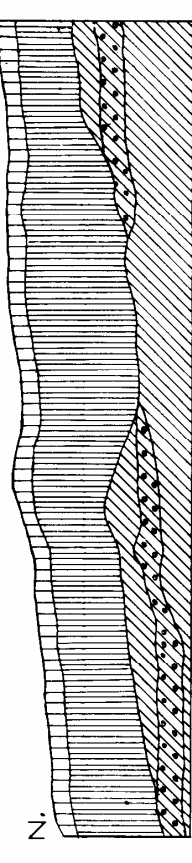
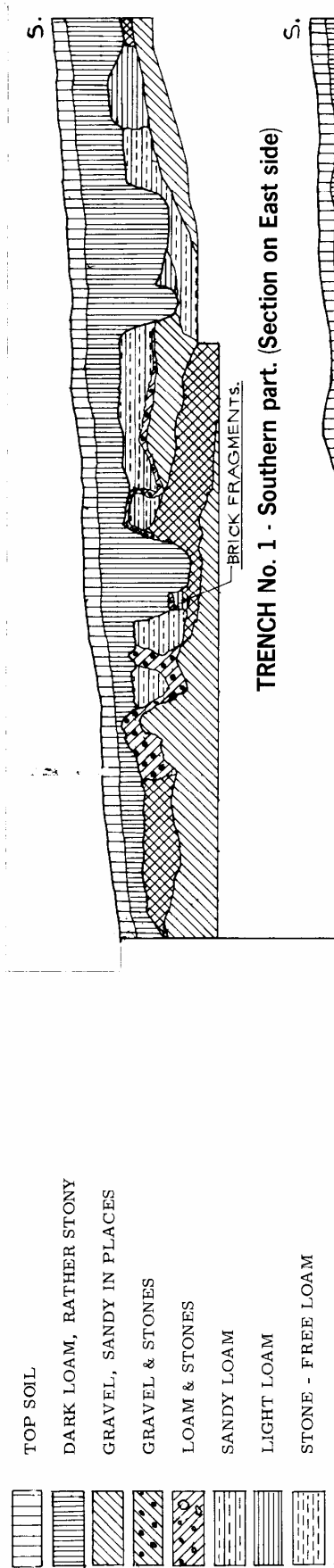
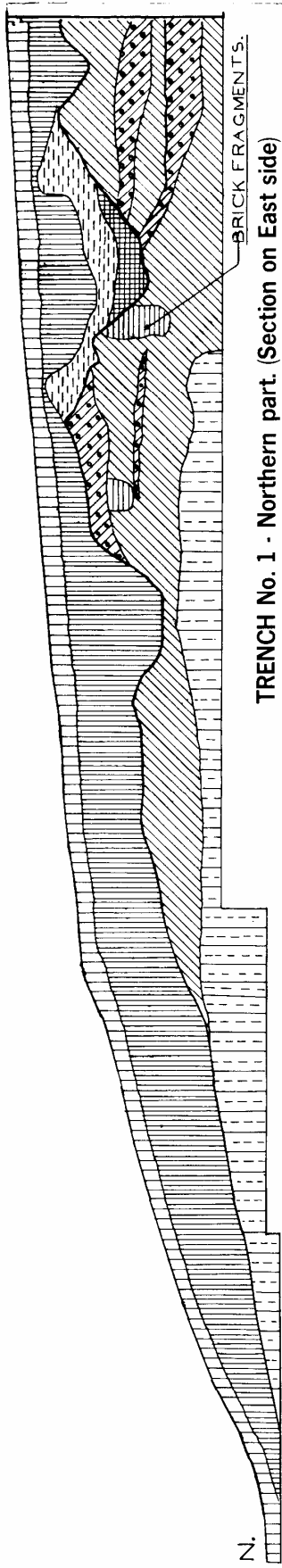
### History of the site

The Motte is thought to have been constructed by the Norman Sackvilles during the reign of Stephen. Previously the Manor of Mount Bures

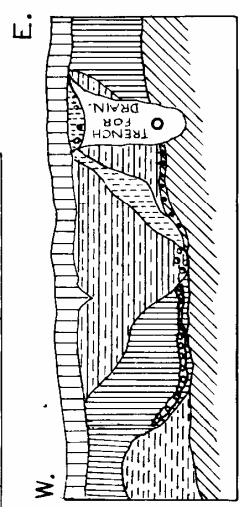
was held at Domesday by Roger of Poitou, who soon lost his possessions by his supposed perfidy. He was captured at Argentan in 1094 by Robert of Normandy. An example of such vast earth moving in order, perhaps, to place a wooden keep on the summit implies a certain amount of insecurity, from whatever source, on the part of the constructor. But this does not quite ring true with the well-placed Sackvilles. Robert, the first recorded member of this family to hold Mount Bures, appeared to be a constant companion of Stephen, both as Count of Mortain and as king. (See footnote).

In addition, the family had been under-tenants of the powerful Eudo Dapifer, whose illustrious relations by marriage, the de Clares and the de Valones, were neighbouring lords around Mount Bures. Both Roger of Poitou and the early Sackvilles had larger complexes of manors in Suffolk and elsewhere; therefore it is difficult to imagine why either should choose - as the Mount implies - the comparatively minor manor of Mount Bures with West Bergholt to be the capital demesne. Perhaps the usual theory applies - that there already existed on the site a tumulus or other ancient earthwork which they utilised by adding the moat which even now is ten feet deep on the south and east, although destroyed by gravel-digging to the north and west. In addition there is ample evidence of Roman occupation adjoining the site; a bronze figure of Mercury, now in the British Museum., Roman tiles in the church nearby, a kiln site, and many sherds of Roman pottery and tiles in neighbouring fields.

NOTE:- Both Robert and the Count of Mortain were saved from the disaster of the White Ship in 1120 because, by chance, they left the boat and so escaped the fate of Duke William (heir of Henry I) who was drowned. Robert several times during his life witnessed charters of Stephen and there 'was a strong hint in one of these that Robert and his son were Keepers of the Seal.



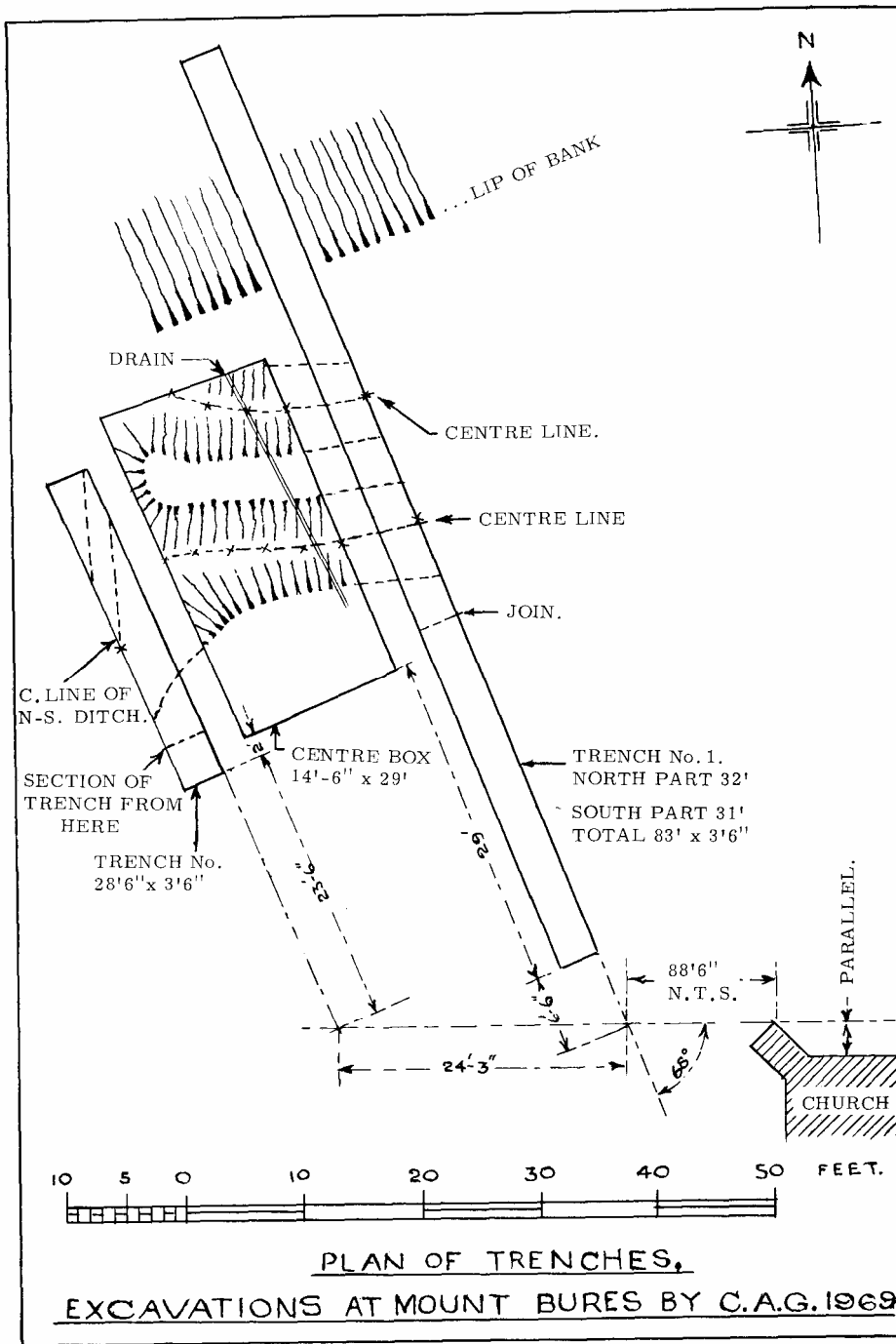
- TOP SOIL
- DARK LOAM, RATHER STONY
- GRAVEL, SANDY IN PLACES
- GRAVEL & STONES
- LOAM & STONES
- SANDY LOAM
- LIGHT LOAM
- STONE - FREE LOAM
- CLOSELY PACKED STONES
- WHITE SAND
- DIRTY SAND
- STONY IN-FILL



**EXCAVATIONS AT  
MOUNT BURES ESSEX  
by C.A.G. 1969**

E.S.M.

**The Excavation**



E. S. M.

Three trenches were cut mechanically. Numbers One and Three through the slope of the bank and number Two on the top of the terrace. Trenches One and Two were approximately twenty-one and a half feet apart and ran north to south, whilst Trench Three ran east to west (see plan on page 19 for One and Two). All trenches were taken down to natural (in most cases to a depth of four feet) which proved to be a soft silver sand overlaid here and there by orange sandy gravel with bands of stones. In Trench One nothing appeared in the Section north of the slope of the bank except for patches of scrub roots. To the South of this point, however, were two clear ditches both approximately four feet in depth. Well below the infill at the bottom of the most southern ditch it was noticed that the natural silver sand dipped suddenly in a "U" shape to over seven feet from the surface level, appearing rather in the nature of a large fortification ditch. But the level bands of gravel and stones in this lower stratum appeared to be glacial, so this feature was probably a dip in the sandy lower layer. Elsewhere in this field, sand is a very shallow

depth, for moles constantly throw it up. Trench One only was continued southwards for a further thirty-one feet at a depth of two foot six inches and showed various ambiguous intrusions into the sandy gravel of dark loam and tight packed stones.

Trench Two (depth four feet) ran southwards from the lip of the hank slope on the north and showed dark loam to a depth of two feet. From the south this sloped down ditch-like towards the end of the north baulk, disappearing beneath it almost at the bottom of the trench in both sections. On an aerial photograph a faint linear mark showed here, running transversely across the site and would have intersected the line of this trench over most of its length.

Leaving three and a half foot baulks, a box measuring twenty-nine feet by fourteen feet six inches between Trenches One and Two was excavated by hand in order to follow the run westwards of the two ditches showing in Trench One. These two ditches emerged from under the eastern baulk of the box and ran roughly parallel, the southernmost one almost to the western baulk whilst the other ran into the north-west corner. It appeared that both these ditches linked up ultimately with the supposed large ditch shown on the aerial photograph. If this is the case, it would seem that the

eastern lip of this feature emerged a few feet inside the north-west corner of the box, continuing southwards to merge with the southern ditch. To clarify the position it would have been necessary to continue the excavation at the northern end of Trench Two and remove the baulk between it and the box. Unfortunately it was not possible to do this.

Several large sherds of pottery were found at a depth of four feet at the western end of the south ditch, also where the northern ditch appeared to merge into the unexcavated feature. Elsewhere in the box pottery sherds were scanty and found at higher levels in both ditches.

In the east section of the box there appeared to be traces of upcast from the two ditches delineated by large isolated flints. Similar large flints were also found near the lips of the two parallel ditches.

Just below the top-soil and lying on the infill of the ditches, a tile drain was found running roughly parallel with the eastern baulk and some two foot six inches to the west of it. From the southern side of the lip of the northern ditch the drain consisted of the old inverted "U" shape laid on separate flat tiles of the same material, the joints of the "U" and base tiles being "staggered". The material was an attractive pale buff and Mr. Minter, of the Bulmer Brickworks, considers these tile drains were made at Great Cornard, in Suffolk from whence clay of similar appearance was found. He gave a date of about two hundred years ago and explained how they were made by hand, being shaped over wooden moulds. Where the old drains ceased their place was taken by modern circular red-ware drainage pipes; the trench made for the insertion of these showed clearly in the section on the northern baulk of the box suggesting that either the original run of old drain had to be extended at a later date or this portion had to be replaced due to lack of efficacy. The old drains which remained were only partially silted up and, no doubt, would to some extent serve their purpose still. The question arises as to why drainage pipes were needed at all on land such as this and which, in any case, had a natural slope. Were they perhaps for roof drainage from the church or possibly for cattle effluent?

The church is recorded in the Valuations of Norwich as being in existence before 1300. It has 12<sup>th</sup> century features, one of which, a blocked Norman doorway, was the original entrance to the nave and would have faced the Mount just forty yards distant. Perhaps a flying bridge over the moat to the Mount summit was aligned with that door. No below-water causeway foundation as excavated at Abinger is apparent although the moat is still very deep at this point. Like Abinger though, there is a spring which may have filled the moat.

Trench Three, isolated as it was from the other two, was taken down to natural and showed in section a possible pit or ditch just above the lip of the bank. Its eastern end terminated in an old filled-in pond containing modern farm debris. At the base of the slope, beneath the bank edge at its western end was a small farm ditch or hedge root-run. Unfortunately water seepage and consequent subsidence caused this trench to be abandoned almost immediately.

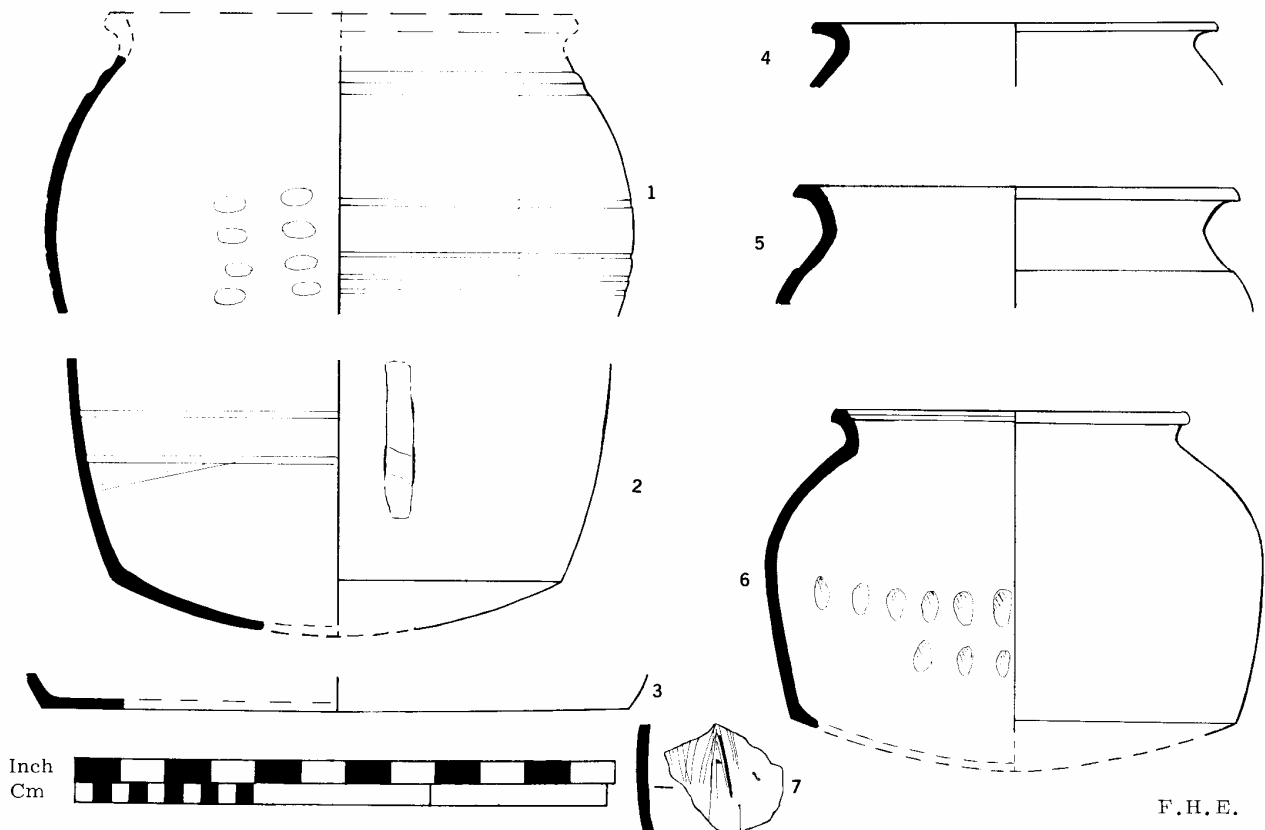
### **The Pottery**

The colour ranges from brick-red to light brown. The core is buff-pink with a few flint grits. The pottery, therefore, differs from Ipswich Ware and Thetford Ware which are predominately grey. In describing Ipswich Ware, Mr. S. E. West says it was – "Turned on a slow wheel, that is, some form of tournet which was turned by hand while the vessel was built up.....The bases often have internal indentations made by the potter's knuckles preparatory to raising the sides, as the slow wheel would not have enough momentum to allow the whole mass of clay to be drawn up." Excavations at Cox Lane, Ipswich, in Vol. XXIX Proc. Suffolk Inst. Arch. 1963 pages 246-7.

Vessels with large diameters were presumably storage jars, rather than cooking pots, though blackening on the underside of the bases implies they were used for the latter.

There are several rims other than those illustrated, the general pattern of which is consistent throughout. This is everted, flanged, flattened and hollowed above with a sharp internal angle. Some have slight internal hollowing below the angle. The external profile is rounded as opposed to the later squared sections. The combination of the rather gritty ware and with the rather flanged rims would appear to indicate the latter part of the thirteenth century. One or two sherds may well be earlier; one rim is a Thetford ware type but in a medieval fabric which suggests a late twelfth - early thirteenth century date. Similar rims were found in the battle ditches at Saffron Walden. (Trans. E. A. S. Vol. I Part 3 - 3rd series 1962 - page 149.)

There is one exception to those described above. This is a single sherd of scratch-marked ware, grey-brown in colour but with an interior surface of darker grey. This was found at a depth of two feet seven inches close to the angle of the north-west corner of the centre box. This pottery apparently had a life of only about fifty years, c. 1080 - 1130, very early Norman. The entire surface is usually covered by fine scratch markings, generally horizontal with loops or return strokes at various levels. The markings appear to have been caused by grits as the potter's fingers smoothed the rough hand-made pottery. See S. C. Dunning in Arch. Journal CVII 1950.



### The pottery illustrated

1. Large fragment showing faint horizontal grooving on the exterior and some knuckle markings on the interior.
2. Lower part of a storage jar with sagging base and traces of a flat thumb-pressed applied strip. Some internal groove markings.
3. Fragment of a very large storage jar (possibly elliptical) with flat base.
4. Top part of a storage jar with flat everted rim.
5. Top part of a storage jar with flat everted rim and slight carination at the shoulder.
6. Large cooking pot with sagging base and some internal knuckle markings.
7. Fragment of scratch-marked ware.

### The Bones

The bones are (i) part of a rear left tibia, (ii) a complete right metatarsal, both from a small horse, possibly the same animal. It would seem that the horse died or was butchered on the spot since no one would use the metatarsal for meat. The rest of the animal may well be buried nearby and, as we do not know the age of the bones, it may just be a farm casualty.

### Conclusions

A much larger area needed to be uncovered to find more definite traces of medieval occupation. No sign of a stockade or major fortification ditches was found, However, it has been suggested that the two parallel ditches may indicate a double palisade; the posts stepped into the ditches which were then filled in and made firm, after which the centre portion between the posts was also filled in. This would explain the lack of pottery in these ditches and the presence of large flints may mean they were used for packing. The lack of any other trace of this could be explained if these supposed fortifications were part of an adulterine castle in which case they would have been forcibly removed in

the time of Henry II.

From the greater depth of dark loam at the bank edges beneath the topsoil of the field, which has been pasture always within living memory, it might seem that this loam had been dragged down from higher levels, either by old-time horse ploughing or by natural erosion. Probably this occurred because the terrace area was enclosed by a hedge or ditch, or both, at some time; before which it was a normal stretch of sloping land; the enclosing agent causing the earth to build up behind it, so forming a bank. The tithe map, probably for this reason, showed the area marked off as a hay pasture; though Professor Pevsner, in his "Buildings of Essex" (1954) states:- 'The bailey lay to the south-west, that is west of the church'.

It would seem that the site merits further investigation and, before the small trees now growing on the summit of the Mount grow too large, an official excavation of this scheduled site seems vital. For, if the theory of Mr. Hope-Taylor in his excavation of the Motto at Abinger in Surrey is correct - that, as on the Bayeux Tapestry, a wooden keep or watchtower was constructed on stilt-like legs, earth then being piled around the base to stabilise the whole - then there might well be some lengths of post-holes left, despite past erosion. A section through the moat would be of great interest and if the site of the causeway or bridge could be determined it could well point the way to the position of the bailey in relation to the motte.

#### **Acknowledgements :**

I should like to thank all those who have helped in the excavation; digging has been hard and arduous with little apparent result. My thanks are due also to my husband for his forbearance and for producing a comprehensive photographic record, to Mr. Peter Holbert for supervising the dig, to Mr. May for drawing the plans and sections, to Mr. Felix Erith for drawing the pottery, to Mr. Jeremy Heath for his geological advice and for identifying the bones, and especially to Mr. Brian Davison who made a special journey from his home in Sussex to inspect the site and for his recent inspection of the pottery. Lastly, my grateful thanks to Mr. Stanley West who also inspected the pottery and suggested it was closely linked to that found at Brome in Suffolk, though he thought it to be of a slightly later date. The friendly interest shown by Mr. Davison and Mr. West is much appreciated and most encouraging to a Group of amateurs embarked on what was to them, an unfamiliar period.

## **THE THREATENED BELGIC SITE AT ARDLEIGH**

**by F. H. Erith F.S.A.**

Archaeological sites on arable land are generally considered "safe" from destruction by the workings of agriculture. "Safe", however, is now only a relative term, since deeper cultivations by ever more powerful machines are inevitably eroding nearly all such sites. But when a site is threatened with complete destruction, then it is necessary to bring its particulars to the attention of the Authority concerned.

A Belgic or very early Roman settlement site lies in the 100-acre field O. S. 0003 at Ardleigh. The western edge of this field is about 300 yards due east of Ardleigh Station. An application has been made for the extraction of gravel from the whole of this field, which, if allowed, will mean the total destruction of the archaeological site.

#### **Site discovered by deep ploughing**

An account of the discovery of this site appeared in the C. A. G. Bulletin for March 1960, Vol. III, No. 1, page 3.

"Messrs. E. Abbott & Sons Ltd. , having just purchased a deep plough, had been working in part of their 100-acre field.....As orange-coloured soil was coming up to the surface I asked permission to walk over the field and was amazed to see Belgic pottery practically everywhere. I asked Mr. Bryan Blake (of the Colchester Museum) to come and survey this place and we pin-pointed seventeen main sites where the pottery was most concentrated and put the sherds round about to the nearest surveyed site..... The area covered about ten acres ....."

The pottery is now in the Colchester Castle Museum. Museum Report 1956-62, Accession 138.59. Pottery brought up by the plough will consist of the top inch or two of any concentrations. Over 90% of the pottery will still be buried in the pits or trenches below plough depth. Among the pieces recovered was a fragment of Saurian Drag. 29, dateable to the first century.



### Aerial photography

Two photographs of this site were taken from the air on the 13th July 1962, and exhibited at the Tendring Hundred Agricultural Show on the following day.

The first photograph "A" shows Elm Park, Ardleigh, in the foreground, and adjoining it in the centre of the picture is Parkfield, belonging to Vincens Farm; this field shows many crop-marks of dark lines & etc., as well as a meander, presumably an underground stream in the gravel, which crosses the road and emerges at "Springhead" corner to form a tributary of the Salary Brook.

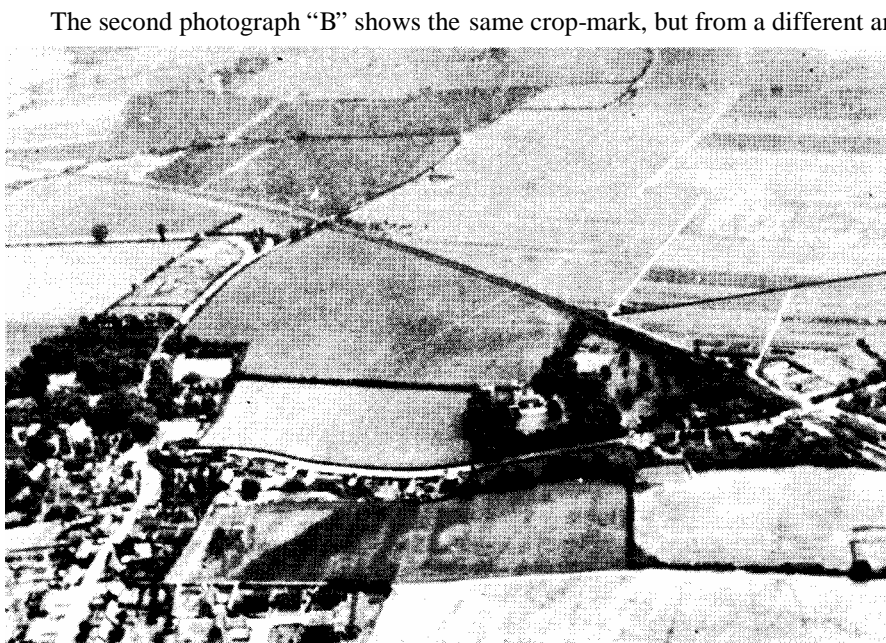
Abbott's 100-acre field is all that part of the photograph between Parkfield and the orchard just showing at the top left.



*A. Elm Park, Ardleigh, is in the foreground. A cropmark of paler corn is to the left of centre of the picture. It consists of two adjoining rectangles containing other divisions.*

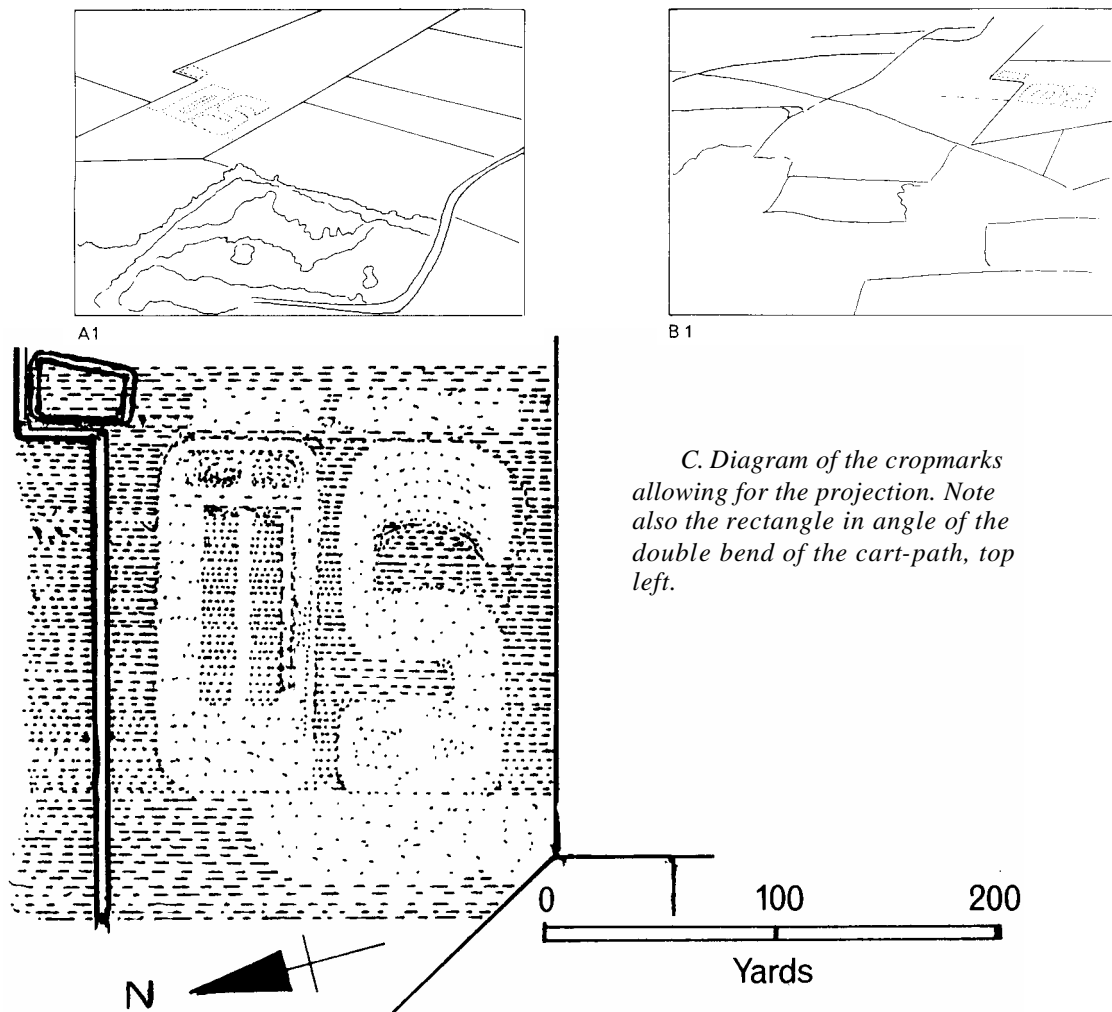
Through the middle of the 100-acre field ran a cart path which had a double bend about half way along. The area where the pottery was found is contained in a square between the cart-path and Parkfield; and also in a rectangle about the size of a tennis court within the angle of the double bend of the cart-path. At the time this photograph was taken that part of the field was cropped with barley.

Covering this area there seems to be a crop-mark of paler corn, showing as a square divided into two rectangles and other lesser divisions, but the outside corners appear to be slightly rounded.



*B. The same cropmarks from a different angle. Two rectangles side by side looking rather like the letters "O S" show on a field top right.*

The second photograph "B" shows the same crop-mark, but from a different angle. The railway line runs obliquely across the middle of the picture, the Station being at the right. On the left is Ardleigh village, the church tower being plainly visible. The photograph was actually taken to show the Bronze Age ring-ditch near the bottom right-hand corner of the field in the middle of the picture. Abbott's 100-acre field is at the top right-hand side of the photograph, and the cart-path with the double bend shows up clearly. The crop-mark over the Belgic pottery appears foreshortened owing to the projection, but the two rectangles looking rather like the letters "O S" are clear enough on the extreme right.



**Alternative explanation of the crop-mark**

It has been suggested that this may not be a crop-mark of an archaeological nature, since the rectangle is parallel to the field boundaries, and consequently might be the marks of agriculture. We cannot agree with this view, especially when the crop is corn and the period mid-July. Whilst the crop mark on Photograph "A" might conceivably represent the workings of agriculture, the more oblique view of Photograph "B" could only reflect the variations in the different heights of corn, the paler sections being where the crop was not so high. The marks are also far too regular to be of a geological nature.

It may be that when this land was enclosed in the sixteenth century there were still some traces of the old site to be seen, and the boundaries were planned accordingly; and this may account also for the double bend in the cart-path avoiding the outlying rectangle. The site so exactly conforming to the finding of the pottery is the best evidence for it being a genuine archaeological crop-mark.

**Later history of the 100-acre field**

Abbott's 100-acre field was put up for auction in 1964, and the successful bidder was the owner of Ardleigh Hall. Two years later it changed hands again when the Ardleigh Hall estate was sold. The cart-path was then ploughed up, but its whereabouts should still be detectable for a few years by its texture. A letter has been sent to the Clark of the Tendring Rural District Council pointing out the importance of this site and going on:

"It is not generally the policy of Archaeologists to ask the Ministry of Works for a Protection Order, restraining anyone from destroying such a site, unless it is threatened. This is just to inform you with the fact that should this site be passed for gravel extraction, then a Protection Order would probably be demanded".

An acknowledgement has been received stating that our views on the matter will be taken into consideration when this application is determined.

## 17th CENTURY FINDS AT ROCK FARM, BERECHURCH

by Leonard H. Gant.

Thanks to the vigilance and trained eye of a naturalist friend, Mr. Brian E. Frost, I recently received a mid-seventeenth century clay tobacco pipe, marked on the round foot with a horizontal bar, made with the roulette wheel which decorated the rim of the bowl. This was immediately recognised as being from the kiln in George Street, Colchester, material from which, exposed in digging the hole for a diesel fuel tank has also recently come to me.

As this clay pipe pre-dated the farmhouse, under the ground floor of which it was found, by at least a century, I was interested to examine the site and to learn from Mrs. Bowyer, the tenant of Rock Farm, Berechurch, the circumstances of the discovery.

It appears that a floor decayed and the owners, the Military Authorities, decided to take out the wooden floor and concrete the space. It was found that the joists rested upon the earth, and the top soil was levelled, and thrown out over the front garden, where the pipe was seen and recovered.

Careful culling of all the spread of earth and material from under the floor revealed another clay pipe bowl and stem of the type common in the area between 1680 - 1720, which may well be taken as a terminus pro quem since the farmhouse and the farm date from about 1720, when James Smyth, of Upton, West Ham, obtained the former Audley estates and proceeded to make farms out of the extensive parkland surrounding the old house of Berechurch Hall, which suffered during the Civil War, and is recorded as "having been reduced to a farmhouse".

That a house existed on the site of Rock Farm seems evident by the great variety of pottery, glass and other objects recovered. The earliest pottery is a shard of a "pie crust" foot jar, unglazed, and a fragment of a large red ware dish, also unglazed. Numerous examples of 17th century yellow and orange glazed ware were found, and part of thick green glass wine flagon. A silicone coated piece of window glass, with the mark of the fixing leads, square hand-made nails and heavily limed wood, and thin domestic pottery indicated comfortable living.

Fragments of ribbed Stock ware tygs and slip decorated Metropolitan ware (made at Harlow) and the upper section of a candlestick in buff ware, with green glaze, typical of the period, and well documented, and holed thin roofing tiles completed the variety of material.

## GROUP NOTICES

### Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Lecture Room at Colchester Castle on MONDAY, OCTOBER 13th 1969 at 7.30 p.m. Coffee and biscuits will be served at the end of the business meeting.

Please make every effort to attend - your comments and suggestions are necessary so that meetings, outings etc may be arranged to your liking. Also, if you have finished with any books on archaeology and its kindred sciences or anything to do with local or county history, we should be most grateful if you could bring them with you to add to the Group Library.

### NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

The present officers and committee are willing to stand for re-election. Please send your nominations for officers and committee to the Hon Secretary to reach her before October 6<sup>th</sup> 1969.

The address is:- Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Colchester, Essex,

### Subscriptions

The annual subscription falls due on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1969. The rates are as follows;

Single subscription	£1. 0. 0. per annum
Second member of a family	10 0
Junior member 16 years and under	10 0.
Bulletin only	10 0
Half-year rates from 1 <sup>st</sup> April.	

Colchester Archaeological Group Bulletin 12 1969

Please send of the Hon. Treasurer:- Miss Dorothy Jones,  
Farthing Garden,  
Layer Breton Heath,  
Colchester, Essex.

It will be greatly appreciated if these are paid promptly.

If a subscription is not renewed by December 1969, the membership will be taken to have lapsed.

PLEASE NOTE:- in the interests of economy NO REMINDERS WILL BE SENT.

PART FOUR DECEMBER 1969

**WINTER MEETINGS 1969/70**

In the Lecture Room, Colchester Castle, at 7.30 pm.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME BUT NON MEMBERS ARE  
ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE 2/6d A VISIT TOWARDS EXPENSES.

- 12<sup>th</sup> January - D. T-D, Clarke, M. A., F.S.A., F.M.A., Curator of the Colchester & Essex Museums  
THE MUSEUM AND ITS FUTURE.
- 19<sup>th</sup> January - The Rev. L G. D. Dunlop, M.A., F.S.A., Vicar of Bures St. Mary : THE CHATEAUX OF  
THE LOIRE.
- 26<sup>th</sup> January - GROUP EXCAVATIONS AND FUTURE PLANS.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> February - Dr. Lawrence Barfield, M. A., Ph.D., Department of Ancient History & Archaeology,  
University of Birmingham NEOLITHIC EXCAVATIONS IN NORTHERN ITALY,
- 9<sup>th</sup> February - D.G. Benson, M.A., of the Field Department, Oxford City & County Museum THE NEOLITHIC  
SITE AT ASCOTT-UNDER-WYCHWOOD.
- 16<sup>th</sup> February - Miss D. Charlesworth, M.A., F.S.A., Ministry of Public Buildings & Works HOUSESTEADS  
FORT : A HISTORY OF THE SITE.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February - Miss Hilda Grieve, B.E.M., B. A., F.R. Hist. S., F.S.A.(Scot), WRITING URBAN HISTORY.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Dr. Peter Warren, M.A., F. S.A., Department of Classics, University of Durham MYRTOS :  
AN EARLY BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENT IN CRETE.
- 9<sup>th</sup> March - A. A. Round, B.Sc., South Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society EXCAVATION  
OF THE EARLY ROMAN FORTS AT LETOCETVM, NEAR WALL, STAFFORDSHIRE.
- 16<sup>th</sup> March - W.G. Simpson, M.A., F.S., Department of Archaeology, the Queen's University of Belfast  
THE WELLAND VALLEY EXCAVATION.

## A BONE FIGURINE FROM GESTINGTHORPE

by H.P. Cooper

This little figurine was recovered from the small rubbish pit twelve feet from the north-east corner of the largest building on the Roman site at Gestingthorpe. (O.S. 82822870).

It is carved in bone, the workmanship being particularly fine. There is a small hole just above the head so it may have been attached to something as an ornament. It does not appear to have been in contact with any metal parts as there are no stain marks. There was little dateable material and therefore it is impossible to give a date.

It was thought at first that the carving was of Bacchus, the Roman God of Wine, but it now seems more likely that it is Cupid and that the 'blobs' at the bottom are lion's claws.

The lion's foot on the leg of a table or chair is an ancient motif derived from Egypt and this custom might well have been used on a smaller object such as a casket.

Cupid generally has wings, but not always, and the bow is an alternative identification; one could perhaps say that our little carving is holding a bow in his right hand and that there is a quiver on his left hip.

Bacchus almost invariably has vine - either a wreath or grapes in his hand, once or twice ivy. He is generally a young man while Cupid is almost always a child. Each is once or twice associated with pineapple, the emblem of Cybele.

Any comment or suggestion from our readers will be very welcome.

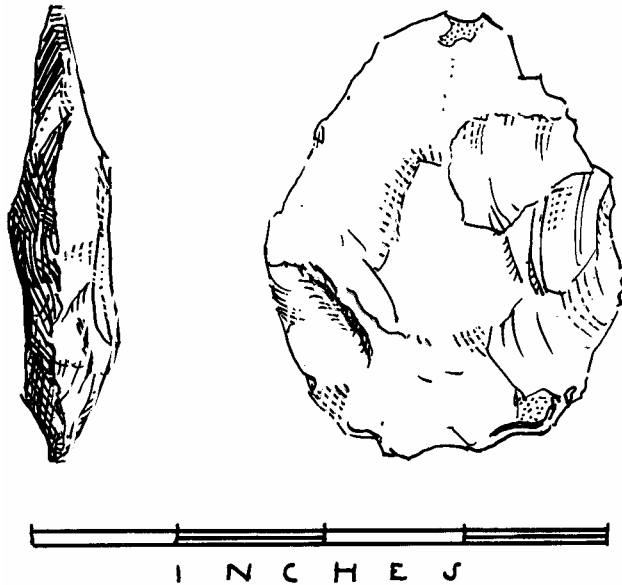


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O N E I N C H

## HAND AXE FOUND AT MONTAGNE, MOUNT BURES

by Ida McMaster.

The hand axe illustrated below was found in the front garden of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Fox. (O/S.9050/3265).



Earth moving operations in the bank at the front of the house or the digging of a telegraph post hole may have thrown up this attractive white-patinaed flint, for it was found on the surface. The garden lies immediately north of the Mount (within a stone's throw, in fact) and on high land above the River Stour from which it is half a mile distant.

Mr. Gareth Davies, Assistant Curator at Colchester Museum, has kindly supplied his identification notes as follows:

Small cordate hand axe (Wymer type J.) Lower Palaeolithic.

The specimen has the neat, symmetrical, standardised shape characteristic of cordate hand axes.

Made on a large primary flake it exhibits the reversed S twist edges again common to this type

(i. e. it is twisted spirally by a few degrees, anti-clockwise along its major axis).

A small flake has been detached from the centre of one face at a much later date.

The hand axe is of late Middle Acheulian type, probably belonging to an interstadial of the Gipping Glaciation.

## A CAST IRON GARDEN SEAT

by E.S. May.

The editor of our Bulletin has asked me to put on record what I know of the history of the cast iron garden seat shown in the drawing below. In the first place, it was "discovered" by Mrs. de Brisay and Mrs. McMaster who kindly arranged to have it photographed.

Until 1915 the seat was in the garden of my grandparents at Ipswich where it stood at the foot of a large Acacia tree facing a circular fountain which is shown in the picture together with the contemporary gardener, and here it seems to have always stood.

Almost exactly a hundred years ago my grandfather inherited the property, along with the seat, from his uncle who was a keen pioneer amateur photographer. Many of his photos have survived from which it would seem that he started about 1845 using the calotype process paper-negatives. This process was superseded about 1855. I have found several prints in which the seat appears but only one paper-negative and this is clearly of the same period as the photo from which the drawing was made, so that the seat was probably in existence in, say, 1850. This date is also suggested by the form of the above mentioned fountain which underwent several changes about this time.

The Victorian Gothic Revival design of the seat also suggests that it was not very old in 1850. The back of the seat and the valance could easily be early fourteenth century.

The seat is made of cast iron in five flat sections; the back, the part one sits on, two end pieces and the valance.

Dimensions:-  
Seat: 4ft. 6ins. x 1ft. x 4ins.  
Overall height: 2ft. 10ins.

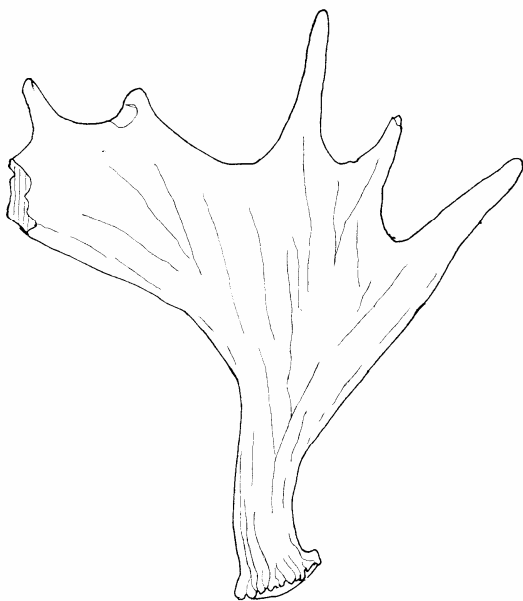


To sum up. It must have been a very good clean piece of foundry work, and, being over a hundred years old, it ranks as an antique.

Do these qualifications make it a subject for Industrial Archaeology ? I hope so.

### AN ANTLER OF AN ELK OR MOOSE .

by J.J. Heath



The illustration shows the antler of an Elk or moose (*Alces alces*) which was found by Master David Pilgrim of Sunnyside, High Street, Bures, on the bank of the River Stour in mud dredged from the bed of the river and dumped on the Essex bank. David found the antler on the 20th October 1969 and he has now presented it to the Colchester Natural History Museum.

It is a naturally "shed" antler from a young male animal. Moose became extinct in the British Isles during the Bronze Age. Their remains are plentiful in Scotland but become scarcer further south where this northern species gradually improved after the last ice age.

The only other known remains in Essex are from the Lea Valley where they were found during the construction of the Walthamstow Reservoir during the early part of the nineteenth century.

### WINTER MEETINGS 1969.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> October Mr. Felix Erith, F. S. A., gave his eagerly awaited report on the Ardleigh Iron Age 'A' site. Situated on his Vinces Farm, the site was first recorded by Mr. Erith after deep ploughing in 1955 when much pre-historic pottery was uncovered. Subsequent aerial photographs revealed a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure which Professor C.F. C. Hawkes, the well known authority on the Iron Age, considered might contain bronze implements or domestic pottery of the sparsely documented 500 - 200 B. C. period. In fact excavations by the Group in 1967 and 1968 revealed the remains of a palisaded hut circle, fifty feet in diameter, clearly defined by ditches and post-holes and showing a continuous sequence of occupation pottery from 500 B. C. to the first century A. D. . Mr. Erith compared his hut enclosure with two other similar sites - West Harling in Norfolk and Little Woodbury in Wiltshire. He went on to describe his Ardleigh finds; clay loom-weights, a bronze awl and some incised pottery of unusual design which may well depict an outline of the hut type of that culture. He brought alive the whole period by a conjectural reconstruction of the hut which probably had thatched eaves reaching down to the ground, these being supported on a circular framework. His lecture was much appreciated by members.

Mr. J. H. Wachter, F. S. A., of the Department of Archaeology, University of Leicester, gave a most interesting lecture on the 27<sup>th</sup> October. His subject - the excavation during 1958 - 1961 on the Roman site at Brough on the north bank of the Humber. Here lay supposedly the site of Petuaria, civitas capital of the Parisii tribe and probably the old crossing point of the river. Geologically the original earth-walled settlement there lay on a limestone spur. Coins found indicated occupation during the first century although the four and a half acre enclosure was abandoned for a time under Agricola's governorship. Later, however, the fortified town became replaced sometime during the late second or early third century by a Naval base or similar operational undertaking. Massive stone walls were then carefully laid in the cut-away portions of the old earth embankments and a commemorative inscription to a Roman quartermaster (pilot) bore out the maritime influence. As did the long strip timber buildings, some sixty to seventy feet in length, together with evidence of ships' chandler activities. Apparently a guard-room with a terminal date of 350 A. D. denoted the finish of armed occupation, which latter event resulted almost certainly from the rising sea-level, estimated at approximately seven feet to present levels. In support of this theory was the fact that harbourwards the stone wall was missing at the south-west corner, no doubt washed away by the tides. Unique constructions added to the stone walls in the late third or early fourth century were semi-circular drum towers, placed each side of the north gate entrance. Also, on the harbour side, a late fourth century western gate tower of rare design was built which can only be paralleled at the Saxon Shore fort of Richborough. Occupation deduced from coin finds was greatest during the period 253 - 275 A. D. followed by a sharp fall until the second busy period 324 - 348 A. D. This was in turn followed by a lull until 383 A. D. after which date no further coins were found. Mr. Wachter suggested that the Supervenientum garrison, later known to have occupied nearby Morton may earlier have formed a reserve unit at Brough on Humber.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> November Mr. Kenneth Hudson, M. A., F. S. A., Senior Lecturer of Technology at Bath University, expounded his views on the "Status and Prestige of the Nineteenth Century Engineer". He quoted Sir Denning Pearson's lecture in 1965 which suggested that today teamwork in engineering prevented personalities from emerging as famous figureheads in our twentieth century - unlike the famous Telford, Brunel and Stephenson of the last century. Who knows the names of the men who are now designing some of our outstanding bridges and motorways for instance? He called it the "disease of team spirit" where engineering geniuses are faceless. None of the great nineteenth century engineering heroes mentioned above thought of themselves as engineers particularly - the military of those days had that distinction. But Smiles, writing about 1850 - 1860, said that they deserved the title of "constructive heroes" for adding to the nation's wealth by their great undertakings of canals, tool making and railway construction; every bit as much as the famous hero adventurer; looters of the past are perhaps described as "destructive heroes"! Such people as Joseph Bramah (1749 - 1814), Thomas Brassey (1805 - 1870), James Brindley (1716 - 1772) and John Smeaton (1724-1792) were prestige men because of their general virtue and moral character so completely necessary in those times, quite apart from their genius. They were not just wealthy "bums" but really earned their positions from every angle. This does not appear to work nowadays and is an outmoded concept. Public finance today kills large ideas. Probably the old heroes of engineering would have wilted and died from frustration had they lived now. It seems specialisation diminishes prestige?

For many of the Group the lecture on the 10<sup>th</sup> November by Mr. Nicholas Thomas, M.A., F. S. A., F. M. A., of the Department of Archaeology and Ethnography, City Museum, Birmingham, had especial interest. His excavations during the 1950's on the Bronze Age Cemetery at Snail Down on the northern edge of Salisbury Plain showed an interesting sequence from the Beaker period up to the late Bronze Age. The great Chidbury Hill nearby, he thought must have constituted a sacred land mark for the many varied burial mounds of the prehistoric settlement there. Perhaps they even gardened their cemetery for some of the mounds would have been stark, white, chalk mounds surrounded by a flat berm of grass which was, in turn, encircled by a wide bottomed white chalk ditch - most impressive as the number of graves increased. The earliest barrow, circa 1650 B. C. was simply a mound, with no ditch, but post-holes showed that a palisade had kept the earth of the mound in place. Two barrows, one a saucer, the other a pond type, had the



unusual feature of a burial pit within a pit. Many contained urns and other vessels. One grave containing cremated bones, had, carefully included within, an unburnt disc from a missing skull which had obviously been trepanned. Another skeleton showed unmistakable signs of eye disease which must have proved fatal. A scattered array of post-holes round the central burial in one mound plus nearby pellets from birds of prey suggested several alternative sinister rites. It was interesting to note that later prehistoric farmers respected the presence of the cemetery by directing their ranch boundary ditches around it.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> November we enjoyed what was probably our most unusual lecture of the season when Dr. M. C. D. Speight, Ph. D., F. R. E. S., of the Department of Environmental Archaeology, University of London, spoke on "Beetles under Wood or Insects in Archaeology", certainly in its forward looking prospects a subject of outstanding use in environmental archaeology. The weight of insects on the earth would be greater than that of animals if decomposition did not take place - an astonishing thought. Fortunately biological activity takes place and stops such preservation of insects. Microfungi act in acid soil and bacteria in alkaline; also the physical action of being trampled on or eaten helps! From an excavator's point of view a good sample of insect count would not be obtained from an old land surface which had been ploughed - biological activity seems always too great and yet, unbelievably, a cess-pit has no parallel in geology for being one of the best preservers of insects. It is not known why. Unlike pollen which is best preserved in peat, insects are not necessarily so. Insect impressions on jewellery which has adorned a corpse are discovered occasionally in graves due to fossil type preservation. Also on travertine deposits in caves etc. an example of which Dr. Speight showed to the Group. He described the method of separating earth from samples in order to leave just the insect parts which, in the case of beetle wing sections, were extraordinarily beautiful when magnified many times on a colour slide. They had many variations of patterns and striations and, as Mr. Carter suggested, would constitute a valuable new art form if captured by an artist on canvas. Unploughed virgin land beneath a coal mine had given a good environmental picture and a variety of things is essential in the sample for this purpose; e. g. seeds, snails, beetles etc. Grass from a piece of prehistoric turf extracted from the centre of Silbury Hill had obviously been grazed for example, because of the presence of dung beetle parts. A great range of insects had been obtained from this, some showing little difference to similar modern examples, but there was only one grasshopper jaw and no flies!

The excavations in the Saxon and Medieval towns of Stamford was the subject of Miss C. M. Mahany's lecture on the 24th November. As well as the excavations she showed slides of the modern town and of some of the pottery for which medieval Stamford is a well-known type-site. The glazed ware is thought to be some of the finest in Europe and one example, decorated with birds, a recurring design which may have been a trade-mark, was particularly striking; similar vessels have been found in south-west France. The Saxon and Danish Burghs on opposite sides of the Welland River were connected by the old ford. Unfortunately traces of most of the old timber Saxon buildings were overlaid by later heavy Norman foundations. Stamford contained many medieval cess-pits constructed solidly and with great expertise. Buildings built of the local coarse shelly stone weathered attractively in unusual striations. Bishop Wilfred's foundation (according to Bede) of the moderately sized St. Leonard's Abbey had been largely excavated and was shown to have the usual monastic requirements. The earliest portion of the present building is circa 1080. One of the most interesting slides showed a kiln of the period 850 - 1150 which had the inner walls inset with pottery sherds. A Saxo-Norman iron working and a malt-drying kiln were photographed exceptionally clearly by Miss Mahany who, in addition, gave us much historical information on this most important little town.

"Our Swinging Sea Level" was the intriguing title of the lecture given by Mr. Cyril Everard, M. Sc., F. R. G. S., F. G. S., Senior Lecturer in Geography at Queen Mary College, University of London on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. Over the last 500,000,000 years sea levels have changed in the order of several hundred feet. Glacial action on the earth's crust has caused pressure and tilting in some areas, notably our own south-east part of Britain which appears to be tilting downwards and which Mr. Everard called the "hinge area". For instance, the sea level at Sheerness is higher than at Aberdeen. Because the earth's crust ripples, over the geological ages, and the sea level changes, it is almost impossible to take accurate measurements over a long period. Due to ice moving northwards the rain belts have shifted and deserts are now larger than in the past; this, coupled with a rising sea level, points to the fact that we are now roughly at mid-point in an interglacial period. Enlarging on this aspect, Mr. Everard outlined the climatic changes which have taken place during the period under discussion. The red desert sandstone on the Devon coast showed how desert conditions prevailed there when the country was once near the Permian equator. In contrast, the ice ages in this country were centred on the main mountain masses of Snowdonia, the Pennines and the Grampians from whence the ice spread in all directions and shrank back as the ice age waned. Recent research has shown that the ice limits were as far south as the north coast of Devon and Cornwall. Another interesting theory was the tidal bore action which must have prevailed in what is now the English Channel and North Sea when England the Continent were connected by land. Mr. Everard posed the interesting question as to what happened to all the sea water which has dropped several hundred feet in level since the Calabrian epoch. As the Chairman commented, it was a very thought provoking evening and we were left with the earth quaking under our feet.

Mr. Peter Wade-Martins gave the last lecture of the first half of our winter series on the 6<sup>th</sup> December when he gave an account of his excavations near the Saxon Cathedral at North Elmham in Norfolk. This was the site of the Bishop's See until 1071 but was moved in 1095 to Thetford. St. Felix settled at "Dunoc" which was thought to have been at Dunwich but which is now believed to have been at Walton Castle, near Felixstowe. Large Roman and Saxon settlements have been found at Worthing, near North Elmham, showing continuous occupation of the area over a long period of time. Aerial photographs show a disused road passing through the park which, with two currently used roads, form a triangle which may have been the perimeter of the cathedral precincts. The cathedral remains have recently been preserved by the Ministry of Works. The road diversions or alterations probably took place because of large scale sixteenth century banked fortifications around the cathedral. Excavations between 1967 - 69 in the park uncovered large Saxon living areas, amongst which were twenty-one timber buildings to date. Also the outline of a very large building believed to be a tenth century Bishop's palace which was clearly defined by slots made by sleeper beams of the foundations (some thirty feet wide in the main wing). There was evidence of a distinctive curved gable end to two of the smaller houses and one slide showed clear shadows of posts in the timber slots. Documentary records corresponded well with the eighth-eleventh century findings. An unusual boat shaped building was only the second such to be noted in East Anglia. A massive forty foot deep well was entirely excavated with rather disappointing lack of finds but the square timber-framed well shaft was unique in size (of that Saxon period). It seemed to have been rebuilt at a certain period and almost immediately abandoned due to the collapse of the new part. A very extensive burial ground with several hundred skeletons was uncovered. Finds included a seventh century coin, a ninth century strap end, tenth century amber dice, bone combs, a bone flute etc. Also Mid-Saxon pimply Ipswich ware and an example of rare Tating ware which has only a few parallels in this country. Rouletted Thetford ware with the potter's 'cheese wire' marks on the bases were also encountered. More work remains to be done to gain a clearer picture of this dark period in our history and we look forward to hearing more about this very interesting site as excavations proceed.

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No one should be tempted by the lavish and well chosen illustrations (332) to think of this book as other than a serious work on a very entertaining subject.

Dr. Cunnington is well-known to some of our members and, of course, Major Mansfield is a former Chairman of the group. The hand of his wife is apparent in the line drawings, and we must congratulate all three on this handsome work.

H. M. C.

#### GROUP ACTIVITIES - 1970

There will be two evening outings and one all day outing next summer also a Cheese and Wine party. Dates and details of these together with plans for the continuation of our excavation of the Roman kiln will be published in our March Bulletin.

All enquiries and articles for inclusion in the Bulletin should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Kay de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Laver de la Haye, Colchester. Telephone:- Laver de la Haye 274 (evenings).