



Colchester Archaeological Group

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SALT WEEKEND 1974

The full report of this Conference, which will include an extended Bibliography, will be published in April 1975. This was one of the most ambitious - and most successful - projects the Group has undertaken and its success was largely due to the Chairmanship of Mr. Hugh Thompson. His summing up of the proceedings is given below -

"I think we are all left with the impression of the high quality of the contributions made. These have been one of the finest features of the Conference which has been one of the more successful of any we have attended. Conferences are made up of various parts; this one I see as a combination of good quality papers, an exhibition of material, a visit this afternoon on which I hope the sun will shine, and then eventually, the publication of the Proceedings themselves. That should achieve a complete and wholly successful conference and let us hope that that is how it will work out.

The papers themselves have made their appeal to all those who attended. To the professional who is interested in salt production they have shed a great deal of light, I am sure, on areas other than those with which they are dealing; while for those who are more generally interested in archaeology and the position of the salt industry within man's general activities they have yielded a considerable body of information. One of the nice things is the way in which both professional and amateur have been represented here this weekend. I am not a great believer in professionalism in archaeology and I am delighted that we have had contributions from those engaged full time in other work and yet can offer so much. (Hear, hear). We have heard of these interesting similarities, over such a wide area, in this basic human need and the processes and means of satisfying it and its problems. Professor Kondo's contribution was the most striking. We saw briquetage which had such remarkable affinities with what we are looking at from Europe itself. Then, one's thoughts immediately spring to ideas of diffusion or parallel development; I do not think there is any necessity to argue one way or another, though the point could be seized upon by protagonists of either point of view.

A general impression of my own is of a basic process of salt preparation, but within that, the utmost diversity depending on the initial quality of the raw material. Clearly, as with Frau Kleinmann's description of Saale, one has a high quality brine which gives the economic edge and so evaporation and crystallisation processes are correspondingly speeded up. Elsewhere we have seen the difficulties of achieving a concentrated brine from sea water or from the ashes of roots or plants or from salt impregnated soil and so there is a great deal of diversity in the original sources of the brine. Then the evaporation and crystallisation process and finally the conversion of the "slush" - I suppose the best term one can think of - into the dried cake which could then be transported. There is a great deal for us to discuss, the briquetage still remains a problem, the mounds still remain a problem to some extent, although Dr. Goultetquer has clearly shown the growth of debris into a miniature Monte Testaccio in his West African sites. But whether this was the same in Essex perhaps we have still to learn".

NOTE:- 'SALT' The Study of An ancient Industry
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Tel: Laver de la Haye 274

GROUP NOTICES 1975.

The following social activities have been arranged:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Saturday, 19 th April | Essex Congress Annual General Meeting at Burnham on Crouch. 10.30 for 11.00. The lectures in the afternoon will include one on ancient British coins. |
| Monday, 5 th May. | An evening walk round old Colchester under the leadership of Mr. D.T. D. Clark MA FSA. Meet outside the Public Library at 6.45 p.m. |
| Saturday, 7 th June. | Archaeological tour of the City of London. This will be a day trip travelling by coach leaving the Old Cattle Market car park at 9.00 a.m. Details from Mr. G.M.R. Davies to whom application should be made on the enclosed forms. |
| Monday, 2 nd June. | You are invited to an Art Exhibition at Herds Pasture, Mount Bures at 7 p.m., by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. T.P.D. Ward. Coffee & biscuits will be served afterwards at Fen House, Mount Bures for which a small charge will be made in aid of Group funds. |
| Saturday, 21 st June. | An all day outing to the Churchill Memorial Museum at Chartwell, the Roman Villa at |

Lullingstone and Wrotham, Kent. Details and application form enclosed.

Monday, 7th July. An evening outing to Cressing Temple Barns. Assemble at the Old Cattle Market car park at 6.20 for departure at 6.30 sharp.

Monday, 21st July. Cheese & Wine party at Abberton Cottage, Laver de la Haye, by kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs Doncaster. Tickets at the gate 50p to include one glass of wine. The party begins at 8 p.m. Parking for cars in the lane.

Monday, 29th September Holiday Slides Party in the Vicar's Room at Ardleigh Church Hall at 8.00 p.m. Coffee & biscuits will be served.

Monday 13th October, Annual General Meeting and the beginning of the Winter season of weekly lectures on Monday evenings.

EXCAVATIONS - Arrangements for these are not yet completed; for details apply to Mr. P.R. Holbert, St. Anthony's, Fordham Heath, TN. 240612.

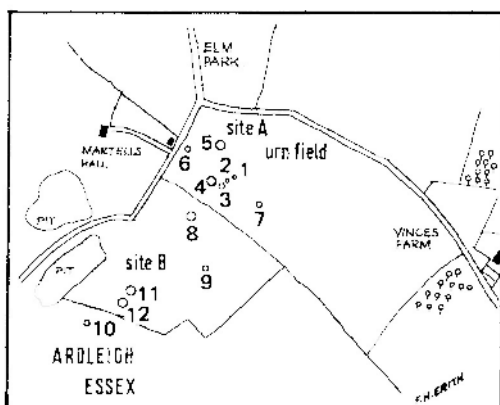
Work on the Peldon Red Hill will begin again at Easter. For details of this and any other enquiries apply to Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Laver de la Haye, Colchester CO2 0LE. T.N. Layer 274.

ARDLEIGH RING FIVE

F.H. Erith

In the dry summer of 1960 Cdr. R.H. Farrands took some photographs of cropmarks at Vincennes Farm, Ardleigh, and published an account of them in the C.A. G. Bulletin No. 3 (1960). Some of these cropmarks were of circles, being ring ditches in Springhead field, south of Elm Park. Subsequently further ring ditches were discovered as cropmarks in an adjoining field belonging to Martells Hall, which is now being taken as a gravel-pit.

This whole assemblage was plotted by Mrs. Ida McMaster, as one of 25 sites in the Stour Valley region, in an article entitled "Cropmarks; an Appeal for Conservation and Observation". C.A.G. Bulletin Vol. 14 (1971) pages 3-20. The Ardleigh sites are on Maps 23-5, and Map 23 is reproduced here, Fig. 1.



TM056284
TM055284 24 ft.
TM055284 24 ft.
TM055284 38 ft.
TM054284 67 ft.

TM055285 66 ft.
TM054284 31 ft.
TM056283 25 ft.

TM054283 66 ft.
TM055281 33 ft.
TM051280 33 ft.
TM053281 60/70 ft.
TM053281 60/70 ft.

VINCENNES FARM, ARDLEIGH, ESSEX. (Site A.)

Site of the great Bronze Age Urnfield. 100 cremations. P.P.S. 1960

Ring 1. Two L.B.A. Urn cremations at the centre.
Ring 2. Two L.B.A. Urn cremations at the centre.
Ring 3. L.B.A. Urn at the centre. 27 Cremations.
Ring 4. One central cremation. 3 others.

L.B.A. sherds.

Ring 5. Not yet excavated.
Ring 6. Fragment of B.A. pottery and bone in centre.
Ring 7. L.B.A. sherds in circular ditch.

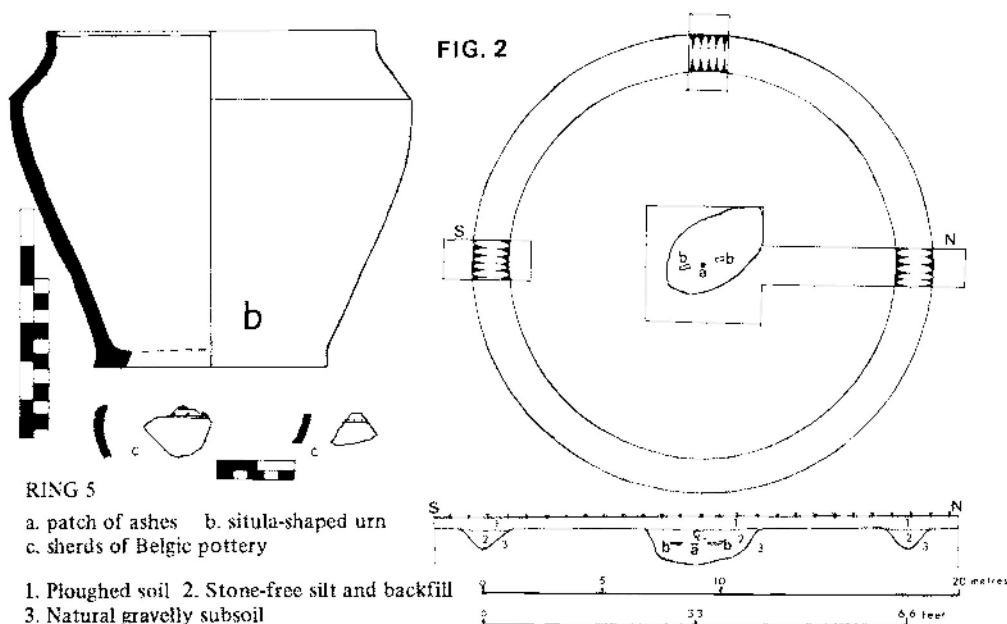
MARTELLS HALL, ARDLEIGH, ESSEX. (Site B.)

Ring 8. (For details of all rings on
Ring 9. (Map 23 see C.A.G. II No. 3,
Ring 10. (III. Nos. 2, 3, 4, IV. Nos. 1, 3, 4,
Ring 11. (V. Nos. 3, VI. Nos. 1, 4,
Ring 12. (VIII. No. 3. IX. No. 1

Figure 1.

All the rings on Vincennes Farm have been previously investigated except Ring 5, the most northerly one on Map 23, and the nearest to Elm Park. This had the faintest cropmark, and it was only in the intense drought of the 1974 summer that it was again identified. In July a piece of slate was dropped into the standing barley at the estimated centre. The diameter of the circle was stepped out as being 22 paces.

In the autumn of 1974 excavation began with the digging of three trial trenches radiating from the estimated centre, in order to pick up and section the circular ditch. In all three cases the circular ditch was found to be 33 feet from the estimated centre, thus confirming it as the true centre. The depth of all these three sections was 2.5 feet. The topsoil was then removed over an area 14 feet square around the centre; this revealed a pit of irregular shape containing stone-free earth or silt, contrasting with the more orange-brown gravelly natural. See plan below.



Ten inches below plough depth two small iron age fine-ware sherds were found. In the precise centre, and at a depth of 22 inches below ground level was a patch of black ashes with two small fragments of bone. The patch was about 6 inches in diameter and about a quarter of an inch thick. At the same level and about a foot to the north were some large pieces of pottery, being about a third of a pot, complete in section from rim to base. It lay horizontally with the inside uppermost. At the same distance from the ashes, but to the south, was another similar concentration of pottery. Both lots were later found to belong to the same pot and fitted together, forming two-thirds of a situla shaped Urn, Fig. 2b. The pit continued down to a depth of four feet, but nothing else was found in it.

The two sherds of finer ware, Fig. 2c, came from a pot with a curving profile, and a cordon indented with regular stabbings. The exterior colour was chocolate-brown, and the interior a dark grey-brown, burnished. They should be contemporary with the urn.

INTERPRETATION

There can be little doubt that the situla-shaped pot was intended to contain the ashes of a primary interment, but it is not so easy to postulate a reconstruction of what had originally happened. Why had the Urn only been buried at a depth of 22 inches when a pit four feet deep had been prepared for it? And why had the Urn parted into three portions, one of which was not discovered?

The first problem, concerning inadequate burial depth, has been encountered before, since the central urns of Rings 1, 2 and 6 were deposited much higher than the bottoms of the pits dug out for them. The solution then suggested was that the ring ditch and central holes were prepared sometime before the death occurred, and silting or natural backfilling by time and weather had reduced the size and depth of the holes.

As to the Urn being in fragments, it is possible that the urn cracked or collapsed when it was being removed from the locality of the funeral pyre, so that the only thing the attendant mourner could do was to bundle the fragments up as best he could, drop them in the hole prepared, and then to fill in with earth immediately.

The situla-shaped urn has the form and texture of the earliest Iron Age. The core is black, and firmer and less crumbly than the Bronze Age urns from Ardleigh Rings 1 and 2. The exterior is relatively smooth with a bright red-brown colour.

The proximity of Ring 5 to the other rings in the same field suggests a continuity from the Bronze Age to the Iron Age. However the dating of Bronze Age bucket urns has now been put into the Middle Bronze Age, 1000 to 1200 B.C., whereas situla-shaped Iron Age pottery cannot be earlier than 700 B.C.

Further confirmation, however, was obtained in studying the photographs of an air survey carried out for the Potato Marketing Board in 1972 and 1974 when several more sections of two parallel straight lines could be seen on the alignment. Mr. Erith refers to the distance apart of the two parallel lines on Lawford House Farm, section 'I', as being 20 paces. A study of the crop marks on the Potato Marketing Board photographs which were taken from 3750 feet appear to indicate that the distance apart varies from 35 to 50 feet approximately. Mr. I.D. Margary (1) states that the material for roads was generally derived from broad scoop ditches along one side or both sides of the road and sometimes from a series of pits along them. Study of the cropmarks on the Colchester to Mistley alignment does show three pits on section 'H' and one on section 'I'. These four pits lie outside the parallel ditches but the ditches form a straight side to each of them. It would seem probable that these were pits dug to obtain gravel material for surfacing the road.

What was the function of this road? Obviously for some well defined purpose and this most probably would be for the use of Mistley as a supply port for Colchester. No doubt the Colne was also used and there have been arguments for Fingringhoe and the Hythe although the site of the latter has never been proved archaeologically. At the present day, Mistley Quay provides a site of much easier access than the Hythe for shipping. This would have been an advantage in Roman times when shipping transport would have to rely in the main on sail propulsion. The broad estuary of the Stour would give ample room for sailing ship handling whereas the Colne in its upper reaches would restrict manoeuvrability to the extreme.

By a strange coincidence this autumn, I had to pilot a small ship from the sea to Mistley Quay in the absence of Peter Horlock, the Mistley Pilot, who was away on holiday. I no doubt had an easier time than if I had been required to take the same ship up to the Hythe; a daunting task in the days of square sails. At the present time ships of up to 13 feet in draught are able to berth at Mistley and the Hythe on the top of spring tides; but of course it may be argued that the navigable fairway in the Stour Estuary may have changed since Roman days. Navigable fairways in estuarial approaches do not remain static in many cases and have a habit of changing their course and depths over a long period. Depths would also have changed due to the relative datum levels of sea and land pertaining then. However it is significant that the navigable fairway at Mistley today impinges on the shoreline adjacent to ground rising to 100 feet. It is probable that geological reasons dictate this approach to the shore here and these would still have been applicable in Roman times. Another factor which would have led to an easier approach in Roman times is the fact that above Manningtree a barrage across the Stour restricts the tidal flow in and out of the estuary. Without the barrage, an increased flow would have resulted in a deeper channel and less siltation and in fact borings in the bed of the fairway between Wrabness and Mistley indicate two feet of fine mud over glacial gravel.

Making a start of going by foot over the length of the road, it was observed that the alignment passed through Laundry Wood at the edge of the slope down to Mistley. In the wood was an area surrounded by a large ditch which did not turn out to be as old as was hoped. It was learnt later that the ditch was part of the ha-ha which surrounded the old Mistley Hall of the Rigbys. The Hall was pulled down in 1844 and the present one built some 600 yards to the south west. Also adjacent to the wood was an obvious cambered road surface running under the grass in Mistley Park but on a different alignment to the Roman road and crossing it at an angle. After referring to the Mistley survey of 1788 and the Tithe Map, it was found to be the road from Mistley to Lawford thence London in the days of the Rigbys. It ran from Mistley close west of the old Mistley Hall; then down to the present Mistley Hall after which it turned east crossing the B 1035 road and fields south of Lawford and joining up with the Colchester road at Lawford again. It was possible to verify this road as a crop mark in grass in Mistley Park and in the fields south of Lawford.

It is hoped to cover the rest of the alignment of the Roman road and to see whether sounding with a steel probe can locate the surface in certain areas.

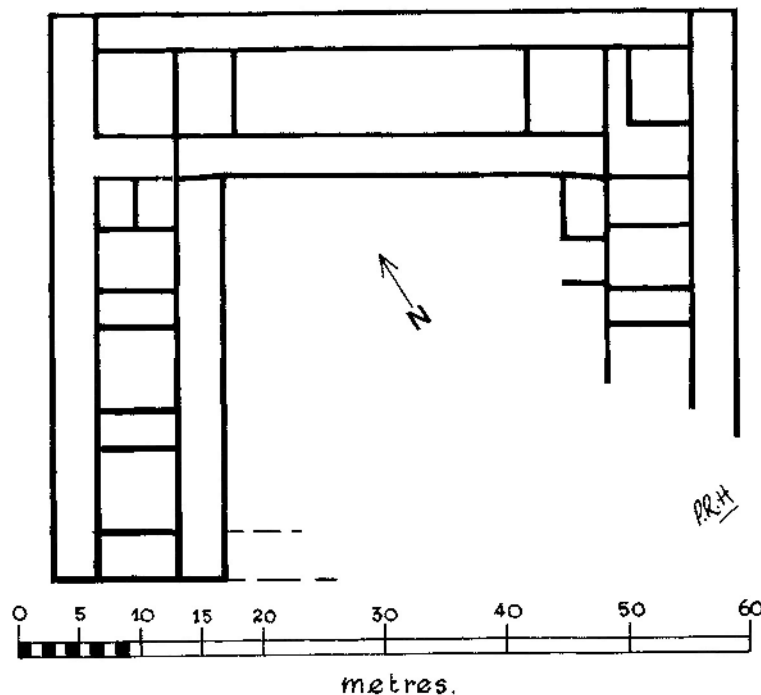
1. Margary, I.D. Roman Roads in Britain Vol. 1 1955. 15.

THE ROMAN VILLA AT CHIGNALL ST. JAMES, ESSEX

Ida McMaster

Situated beside the north bank of the River Can, near Chelmsford, this new Roman Villa site was first noticed by two agricultural workers, Mr. B. O'Halloran and Mr. N. Smith, in course of their work. Their excellent description could point to only one thing - a large courtyard villa and this is what it proved to be.

It was difficult to obtain a completely satisfactory photographic record as one wing was too faint to capture on an aerial photograph. The field was in wheat at the time and other obscure marks of what may prove to be subsidiary buildings may become more visible under a barley crop in the future.



The plan, shown above, has been prepared by using all the detailed prints of the many aerial photographs, although, inevitably, some foreshortening of the outlines caused some problems due to the oblique angles. Fortunately, however, the cropmark showed up with remarkable clarity at ground level in the growing crop and the scale of the plan has been based on measurements taken on the ground. Much Roman debris was present and, for obvious reasons, no Grid reference is given here.

The west wing was clearly defined and measures 46 metres overall. So approximately does the main block and also the east wing. The corridors are 3.5 metres wide and the square rooms enclosed within them measure nearly 7 metres.

Larger courtyard villas are known in Essex, as at Alresford, Ridgewell and Rivenhall, though the plan of none of these has been defined so clearly either by aerial photography or excavation. Like Alresford, this villa has a corridor running round the outside of the building as well as on the inside next to the courtyard.

The Roman bricks in Chignall St. James church, nearly a mile to the south, may well have come from this site. Further investigation of the surrounding fields needs to be undertaken to define the position of possible related buildings, also tracks and roads associated with the villa.

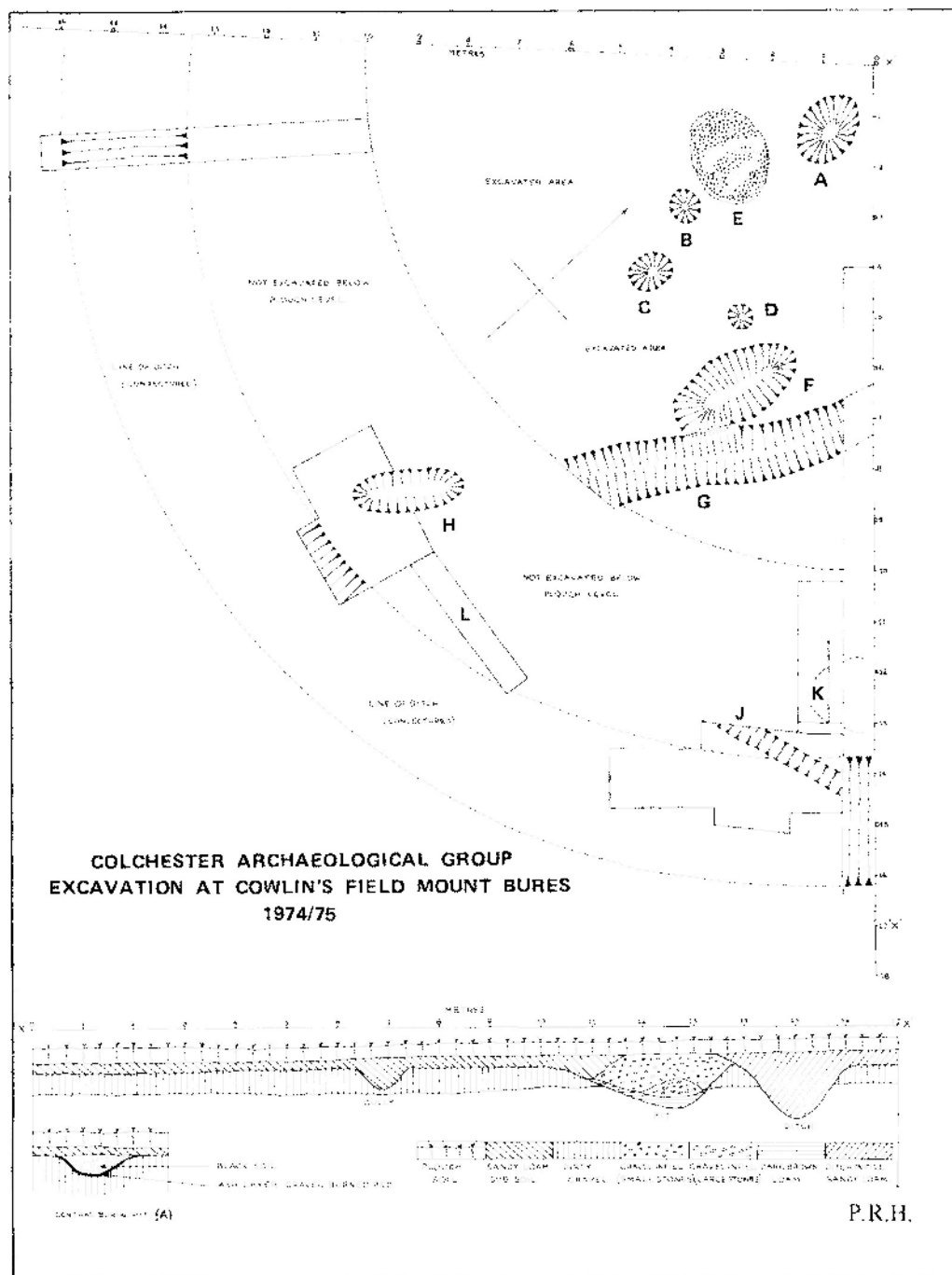
I am indebted to Mr. P.R. Holbert who drew the plan.

A RING DITCH EXCAVATION AT MOUNT BURES, ESSEX

P.R. Holbert and I. McMaster

Lying just below the 100 feet contour at TL 91253308 the ring ditch arrowed on Map 4a/6a was first discovered from the air in early summer 1974. One month later five more rings surrounding it also became visible. The first one could be seen clearly in the growing crop and its ditch and centre were marked. By kind permission of Mr. H.C. Cowlin, the farmer, a quadrant was stripped of topsoil by machine and a limited excavation of the area was carried out, during time available before ploughing, by members of the Group.

A trench dug along the approximate north south radius revealed the ditch in section and another trench dug at right angles along the approximate east-west radius confirmed its presence. The entire quadrant area ten metres from the presumed central burial was carefully examined and over the whole of this a sandy loam layer of between 15 - 20cms was gradually removed. Almost at the base of this layer several specific areas of charcoal flecks appeared together with sherd fragments having a typical Bronze Age fabric. Beneath the sandy loam layer was a natural stoney gravel of dirty colour and loose composition, probably water laid.



The charcoal flecks revealed pits at A, B, C, and D on the accompanying plan and these were cut into the stony gravel and were filled with blackened soil to a depth of 55, 56, 50 and 46 cms respectively below plough level. The pottery fragments lay mostly over or close to these positions.

The central pit A (large enough to have contained a crouched adult), had cremated human bones mixed with the black soil. At the bottom was a much darker layer of ash and beneath this a thin film of the basic yellow gravel had been reddened by burning (see report on Soils below). Pits B and D also contained bone though lacked the burnt gravel base. Pit C contained no bone or burnt gravel. A large heap of upcast, perhaps from the central burial is shown at E.

Gullies and pits at F, G, and H were empty of finds and deemed to be natural pockets in the subsoil though some fragments of pottery were found along the lip of gully F close to its junction with G; perhaps indicating that these pockets were not entirely silted up by the date of the barrow construction. Gully G evidently did not continue southwards since it did not appear in either the square or trench at L which were opened up in order to ascertain this.

The pit outlined at K, also possibly a natural pocket, was seen primarily in the trench section and followed to ascertain its extent. A small shallow gully at J was perhaps a contemporary feature since it joined the ring ditch and the

infill of both was continuous. One worn sherd fragment was found in the bottom of the ring ditch.

All the bones, relatively few in effect, were taken to the Department of Physical Anthropology at Cambridge University where Mr. C.B. Denston kindly examined them. No sherds were large enough for close dating. See Report below.

We hope to continue the excavation at a future date and meanwhile extend our thanks to those members who assisted and generally gave support.

REPORT ON BONES FROM MOUNT BURES RING DITCH

C.B. Denston

Central Pit A

Colour of Fragments: Light brown-white

Number of Individuals: One

Length of fragments: 6- 51 mm.

Sex: Male

Total Weight: 199.1 gm.

Age at death: Adult

Summary

As far as could be ascertained no duplicate portions of specific bones were present, or a dissimilarity in the general robustness of the fragments so suggesting that the remains were of a single individual.

The general robustness of the fragments plus a certain feature of the superior margin of a fragment of a right orbit, suggested a greater affinity with bones of a male skeleton than those of a female.

The approximate proportions of the total weight of the remains were 140.7 gm., representing postcranial remains were four fragments of the shaft of tibiae, one displaying the nutrient foramen, and two of the remaining fragments articulating at broken surfaces. The fragments of skull all came from the cranium (cranium = skull minus mandible). At least five fragments of cranium displayed vestiges of suture, one suture displaying evidence of closure so indicating an adult individual.

Pit B

Colour of fragments: Light brown-white

Sex: Indeterminable

Length of fragments: 5 - 69 mm.

Age at death: Possibly adult

Total weight: 59.5 gm.

Summary

These remains were fragments of human bones, all from the postcranial portion of the skeleton and mainly of long bones.

REPORT ON SOILS FROM MOUNT BURES RING DITCH

M. S. Tite

Sample	Susceptibility (x_o) ($\times 10^6$ emu/g)	Susceptibility after heating (x_n) ($\times 10^6$ emu/g)	Percentage conversions (c) (per cent)
Ditch fill	18	1063	1.7
Burnt fill from pit C.	47	1335	3.5
Red soil from central pit A.	58	1594	3.6

The effect of burning on the soil is to convert the iron oxides in the soil to a more strongly magnetic form and as a result soils which have been subjected to burning exhibit a higher magnetic susceptibility (x_o). The percentage conversion (c), which provides a measure of the extent of the conversion of the iron oxides through burning, is given by the ratio of the observed magnetic susceptibility (x_o) to the susceptibility (x_n) after heating in a laboratory furnace.

The higher values for the magnetic susceptibility (x_o) and the percentage conversion (c) observed for the fill from pit 3 as compared to the ditch fill are therefore due to the fact that the former has been subjected to burning.

The fact that the red soil from the central pit exhibits a similar magnetic susceptibility (x_o) and percentage conversion (c) to that of the filling from pit 3 justifies the assumption that the red soil has also been subjected to burning.

A FURTHER FOUR YEARS AERIAL SURVEY 1970-1974

by *Ida McMaster*

If 1970 was the year of the Cropmarks, then by that standard 1974 may be termed the year of the Cropmark Spectacular. Drought in early spring produced immediate results, the most notable perhaps being the discovery of a new Roman villa site at Chignall St. James, some three miles from Chelmsford, and also the additional network of Romano British pits, enclosures, hut circles, etc. which appeared in the 100 acre field north of the Ardleigh urn field complex. Mr. F.H. Erith drew attention to these possibilities some while back (*CA. G. Vol. 12, No. 3, page 401969*). See Map below.

Between April and September eleven flights were made by the Group, each of which was arranged, as weather and crop conditions permitted, by the writer who was fortunate enough to take part in all, and hereby expresses hearty appreciation to those members who contributed financially and also participated, often at very short notice, Thanks also to the friendly pilots, Terry Morrell of Mount Bures, and Bill Ireland of Rowhedge, whose expertise made the recording possible even when bonfire smoke largely obscured the villa site on one annoying occasion when we arrived overhead!

The visibility sequence of the cropmarks was extremely interesting since it is clear that ploughed out banks or ramparts show up distinctly at a very early stage - April/early May - and are bright golden bands in the fresh green growth. These, (c.f. Colchester dykes at Gosbecks and Pitchbury Ramparts) faded rapidly and completely away. Next appeared the ditched features which darkened in outline as the crop ripened, then in turn disappeared when the crop matured completely. A few linear marks remained as very pale streaks in the darker gold of the ready crops. After light harrowing of the stubble in late September the ramparts vividly appeared again. Several flights over Gosbecks produced this picture, and where strangely enough the very last features to emerge just before the harvest was the substantial temple site itself, albeit only faintly. Also, amid the positive profusion of vivid marks there, the excavated Theatre site understandably now shows merely as a vague smudge. Several years may elapse before such a sequence is seen again, and other regions may produce different results. A study of the effects of the underlying geology on aerial photography will be a subject of its own in the future.

In early May a Roman road was observed, its parallel lines light golden where we would have expected a dark colour for both ditches: probably we were seeing the remains of their outer banks? Many old sites were rechecked, one or two inexplicably incorporating extra new complexes (see maps 4a and 6a, here the sites being numbered the same as the *C.A.G. 1971 Vol. 14* survey).

Obvious affinities in certain of the cropmarks became apparent: the continuous 'rope ladder' effect of enclosures photographed at Alton Hall, Holbrook, Suffolk; Crabbs Farm Kelvedon; and Ardleigh, Essex. Curious swirling, radiating lines beside Thorington Church and Copford Hall, with another similar effect southwest of Great Bromley church, these latter perhaps of geological origin. Nevertheless four separate recorded finds of flint implements at the Thorington site, together with a trackway and other features there, must leave the question open for the present.

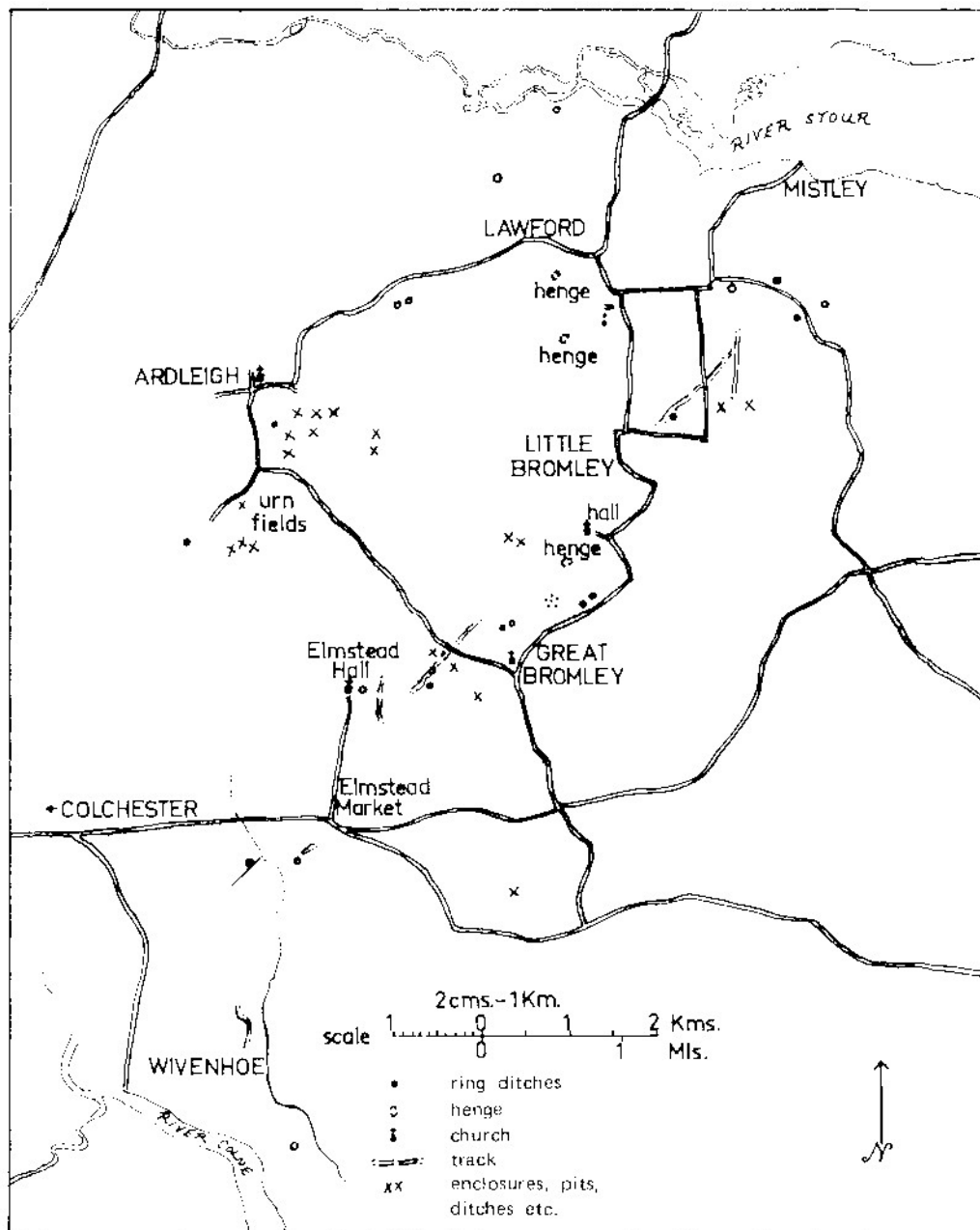
More in evidence than usual were the trackways or 'droveways', specific stretches of undulating parallel lines, usually dark and slightly broken in outline, which appear quite different from the Roman roads. The width of the former, 10 metres and more seems rather too much for dual-ditched ploughed out farm hedge lines, and if this was their origin they might be expected to be seen much more frequently. One cannot ignore the fact that these trackways occur mainly in association with ring ditches, and mere coincidence is increasingly ruled out. For instance a trackway and two ring combination lies close to Freston Tower on the river Orwell. Another leads past the rings and huge double concentric circle lying east of Wasses Farm, Stoke by Nayland. A third is associated with the group of rings near Ford Farm, Mistley. Even the great Stratford henge has a trackway running roughly North South beside it; however there is an existing footpath close by and one wonders whether the path originally ran along that route and was ditched or if in fact the footpath evolved along an ancient way.

And there are more; the most relevant being the NE/SW track recorded by Mr. Erith lying to the west of Dickley Hall (*C.A.G. 1971 pages 38-40*). He conjectured that this trackway might lead to the Little Bromley henge. Certainly this years records have produced several more stretches of trackway lying close to this alignment and associated with more circles. (See Map below). Habitation surely lay somewhere within the vicinity of these ring ditches and so one begins to obtain an impression of extended communication. For people who anciently lived mainly along the river terraces, as the many Bronze Age ring ditches suggest, a connection overland especially for winter months, would be the obvious development of inland settlers. Should the above trackways be seen to continue in future records, they may well connect the river Colne near Wivenhoe to the river Stour at Mistley.

Here and there more recent ploughed out hedge lines, having a straighter form, may be seen to cut the more ancient 'trackways'. No doubt the latter, whatever their age, will prove of interest to some future line of research.

A good selection of slides and prints of other sites was obtained:- the Peldon Red hill, the Dykes around Gosbecks, and Pitchbury Ramparts etc.. Rather doubtfully we recorded a wide cursus which travelled from the direction of the river Orwell and intersected, of all places, the Ipswich Airport runway! On the other hand we were sadly unable to locate an unusual bottle necked enclosure seen earlier by another flyer during a landing circuit. Future photographers please note in case this has not been recorded elsewhere.

PRELIMINARY DISTRIBUTION MAP

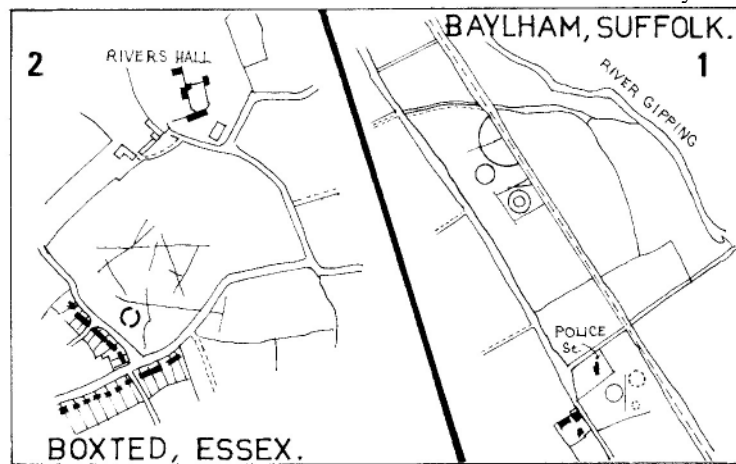


The above map shows possible 'track' formations which lie on a loose alignment between the River Stour and the River Colne. These 'tracks' often appear to be associated with ring ditches.

CROP MARK SITES SELECTED AND PLOTTED

Ida McMaster

The following maps are based on a scale of 6in mile as in the C.A.G Vol. 14 1971 survey.



Map 1. Baylham, Suffolk.

- TM 108529 (100 metres) There are three impressive ring ditches close to the mill
- TM 108528 (40 metres) and the site of Combretovium. A little to the south,
- TM 109527 (35 metres) beside the Police house is yet another huge ring, plus
- TM 110524 (30 metres) two more faint ones. (Cmdr. Farrands lists two others
- (approx.) beyond the main road. (See page 23)

Map 2. Boxted, Essex.

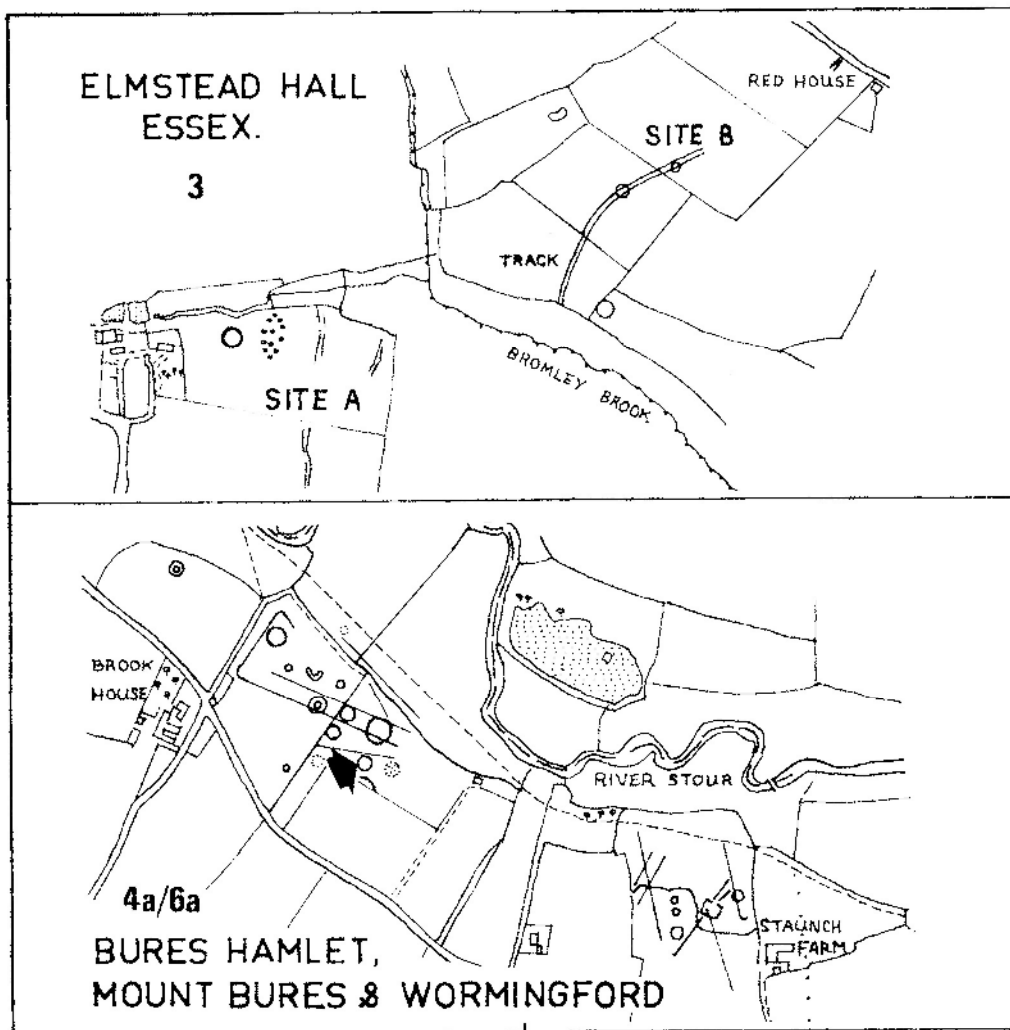
- TM 00853270 (30 metres) A Class 11 henge with a wide somewhat ploughed out ditch. Various linear ditches are near, together with prolific variegated 'field outlines' of glacial subsoil cracking which extends into the next field southwards. The ditch terminals of the south west entrance to the henge appear to be wider than the general run of the ditch, say 4 - 5 metres.

Map 3. Elmstead Hall, Essex.

- TM 06602600 (Site A) (30 metres approx.) This ring ditch has a particularly wide dark outline indicating perhaps a deep ditch of at least 4 metres width. Some forty metres due east is a cluster of indistinct smaller rings numbering twelve or more.
- TM 07252605 (Site B) (25 metres) East of the above site and on the other side of
- TM 07302625 (13 metres) Bromley Book lie three more rings with a stretch of
- TM 07402635 (10 metres) possible track or driveway intersecting two of them. (approx.) This track travels over several fields and is seen again to the north of Red House, Great Bromley. It may connect with the stretch showing by the Blue Gate Farm ring ditches at the next brook to the east. (See map following). Here, of course, commences the huge complex which includes the Little Bromley henge, and also the cluster of rings northwest of Badley Hall which can now be seen to number no less than twenty rings.
- TM 08402765 In the field to the north of the henge is an interesting rectangle lying on the eastern fringe of Manning Grove and beside the brook there. It has many pits plus other vague outlines nearby. (See map page 14) for the general distribution of the above complex.)

Map 4a/6a Mount Bures, Essex.

- TL 91153330 An additional ring ditch complex mentioned above in the introduction. TL 91253308 (East of Brook House).
- TL 91793278 Additional enclosure and linear features also mentioned above at Staunch Farm. The first site was recorded originally on Map 4. Site B; the second on Map 6. Site C., both in *C.A.G. Vol. 14. 1971.*



Map 5. Great Bromley, Essex.

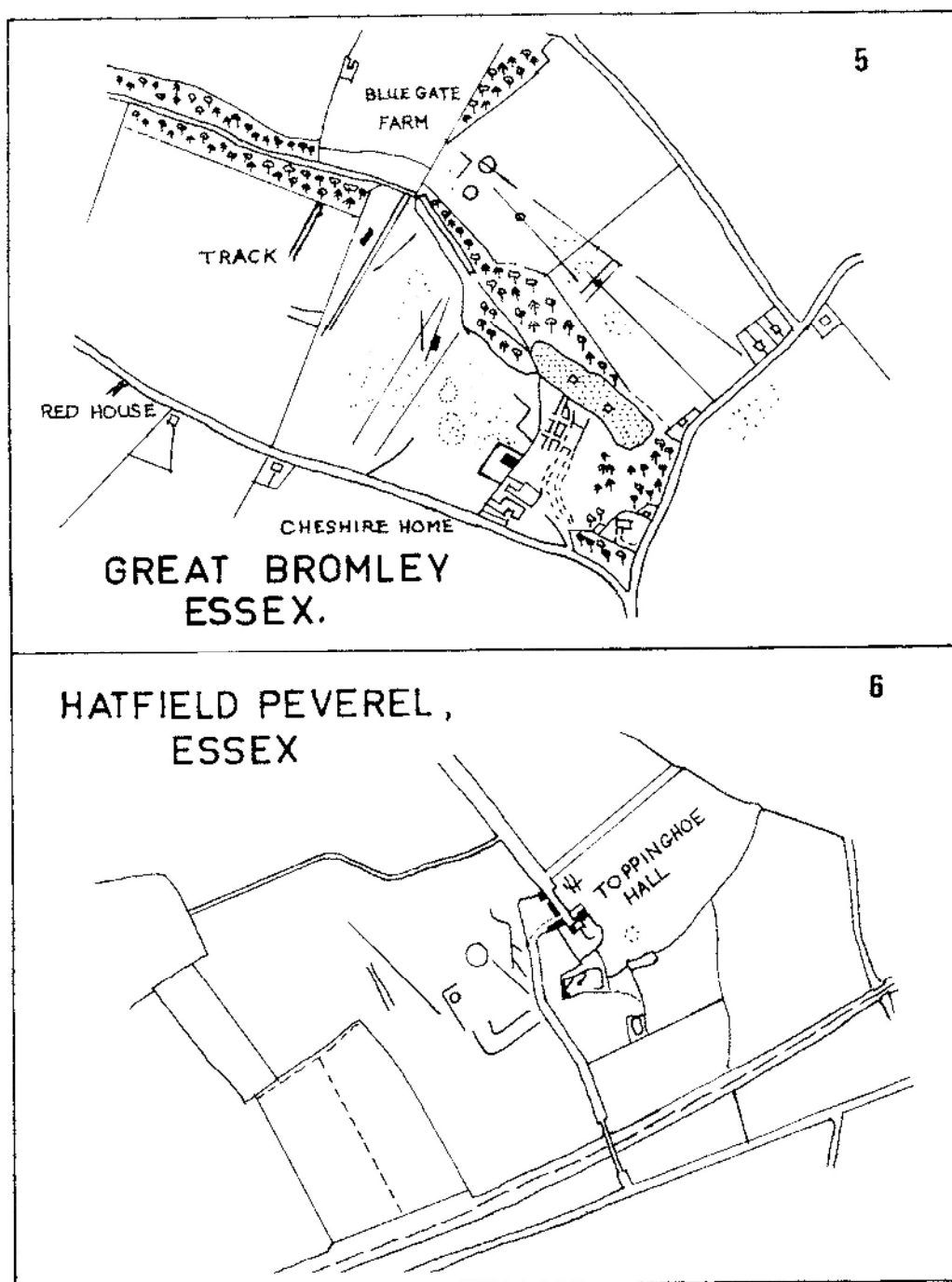
- TM 081265 A great scatter of pit marks is evident in the field adjoining the Cheshire Home and amongst these are the probable outlines of two hut circles; their perimeters defined mainly by post holes with possible gullies blending in. The smaller one appears to have a porch, and the larger one a definite square, four posted structure within it. Closer study will no doubt reveal more of these apparently typical Iron Age structures.
- TM 079268 At the end of the field westwards is the trackway stretch mentioned above, together with the Blue Gate Farm rings previously recorded (C.A.G. Vol. 6. No. 4.)

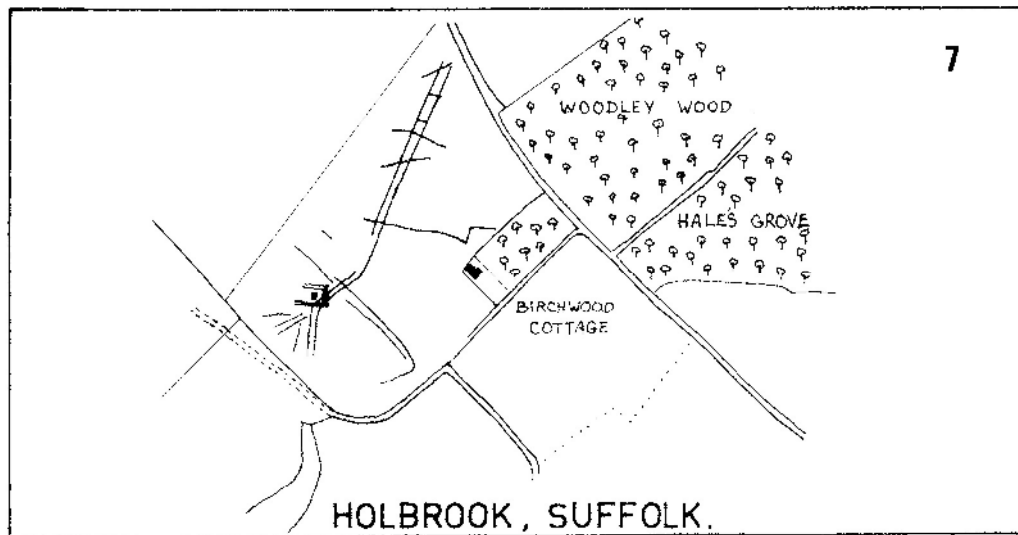
Map 6. Hatfield Peverel, Essex.

- TL 77151155 (25 metres approx.) One large ring ditch lies to the west of Toppinghoe Hall where, despite the fact that the crop was somewhat laid the ditch shows a width of roughly 4 metres. Various linear features are present, one appearing to lead to the ring. Pairs of parallel lines may be the double ditches of a sizeable enclosure. Other faint marks show in land east of the Hall. The subsoil is extremely 'patterned' and some of the land previously contained orchard; perhaps better agricultural conditions will produce more of this interesting site.

Map 7. Holbrook, Suffolk.

- TM 148370 Linear ditches and enclosures lie west of the woodland here; also a track or road of some width cuts a very faint double ditched enclosure which may even be a building of earlier date since other squared features show within it. Along one side appear buttress type projections of some kind; possibly large post hole additions?





Map 8. Holbrook, Suffolk.

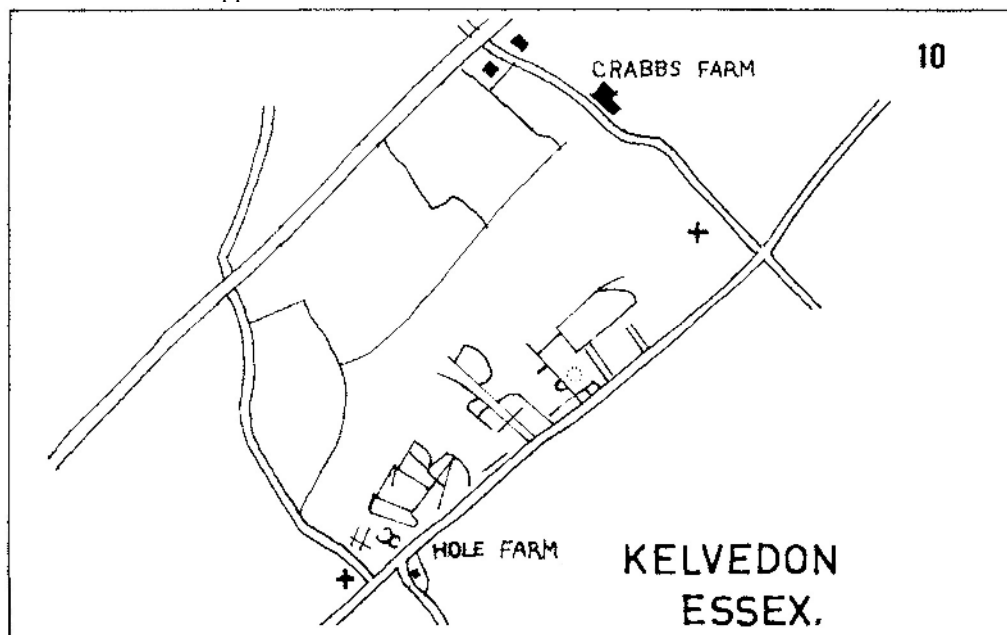
- TM 158361 (20 metres) Encircling Alton Hall to north, south and east is a
 TM 157362 (15 metres) variety of cropmarks; three large ring ditches, one
 (10 metres) being double concentric; and a rope ladder of narrow (approx.) enclosures close
 by them. An old stream bed, some linear ditches and another ring, plus several possible rings.
 Further observation needed here.

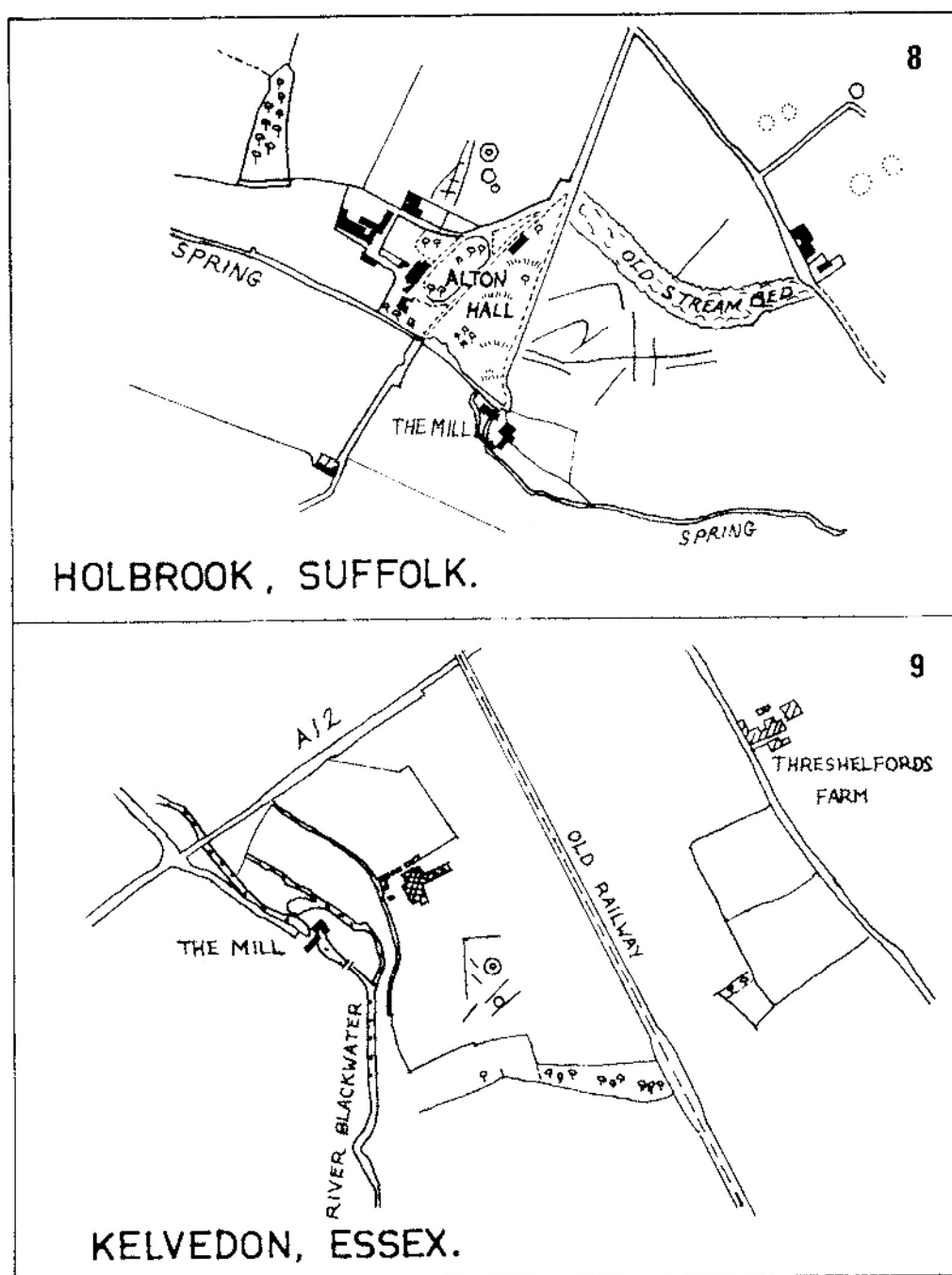
Map 9. Kelvedon, Essex.

- TL 869190 (18 metres) Nursery land beside the River Blackwater and South (5 metres) west of
 Threshelfords Farm, somewhat surprisingly (approx.) revealed two ring ditches, the larger
 one is double concentric. Possible enclosure lines.

Map 10. Kelvedon, Essex.

- TL 848175 1½ miles from the Rivenhall Roman villa, and lying along-side the A12 Roman road is a stretch of
 cropmarks with features once more similar to Ardleigh; a wide splayed rope ladder of possible
 field enclosures; and a large sub rectangular outline divided off, and probably so formed by
 overlaid enclosures. Finds of Roman cremation urns have been discovered at either end of this
 interesting stretch. An amphora was found one mile along the A 12 at Rivenhall End. - TL
 84151635 approx.





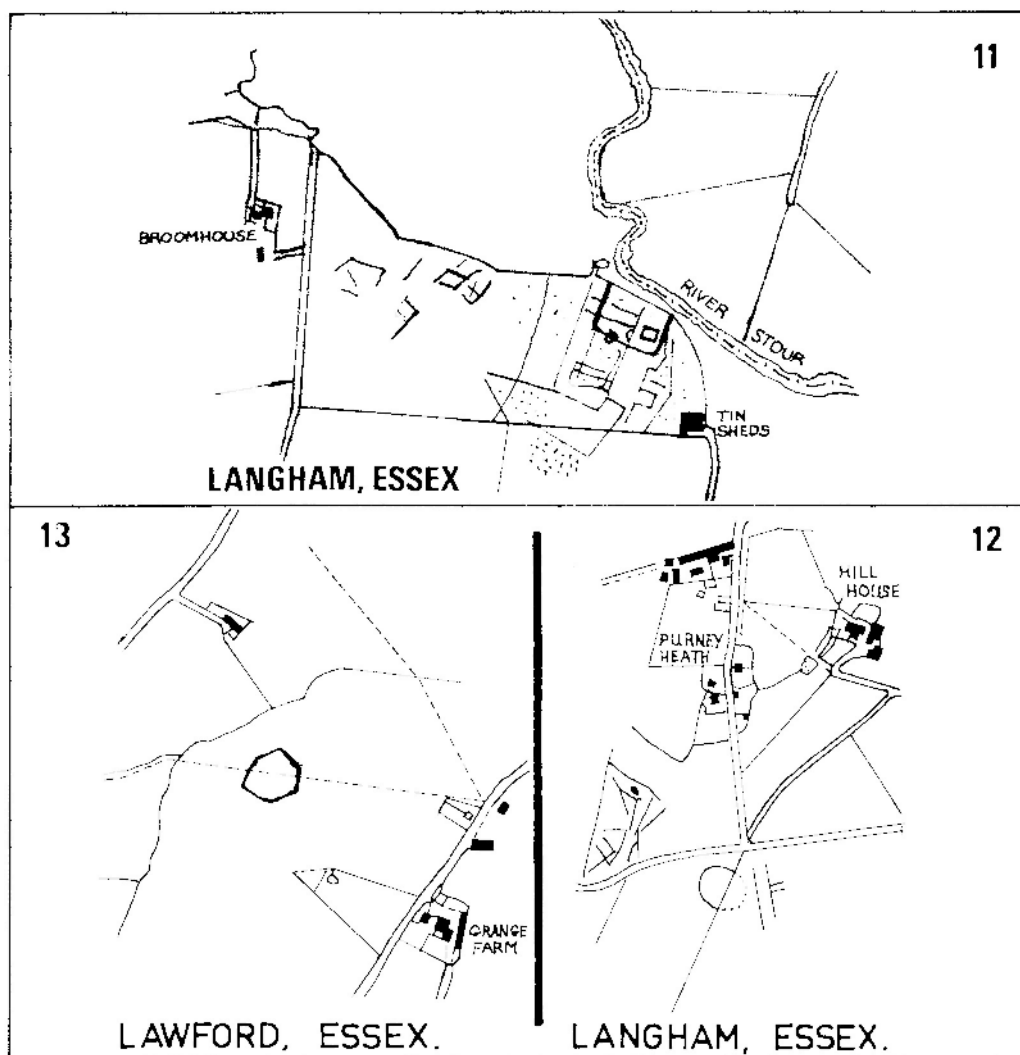
Map 11. Langham, Essex.

TM 03753445 This site was recorded by Mr. M. Glover in 1972 and is a typical Roman farmstead system of overlaid fields. It showed in far greater detail this season, particularly the small slightly trapezoid enclosure with the entrance.

TM 03303450 Obviously it also has other outworks further west near Broomhouse

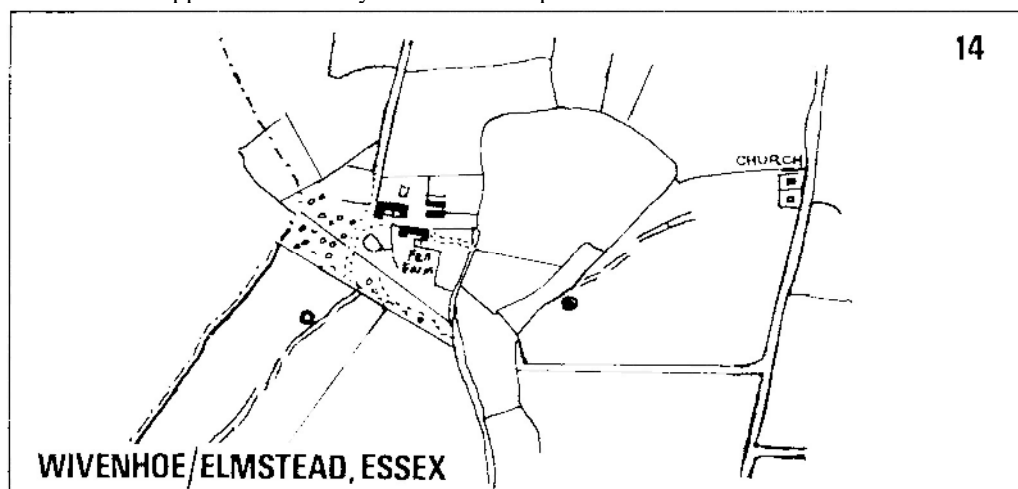
Map 12. Langham/Dedham, Essex.

TM 04003135 (80 metres) A really large, slightly elliptical outline was noted by Mr. B.A. Bonner two seasons back and this year it was seen to lie close to other interesting linear features and enclosures which could not be wholly recorded because they ran into an unreceptive crop. (A pipe line or possible road shows faintly nearby, travelling in the Colchester direction).



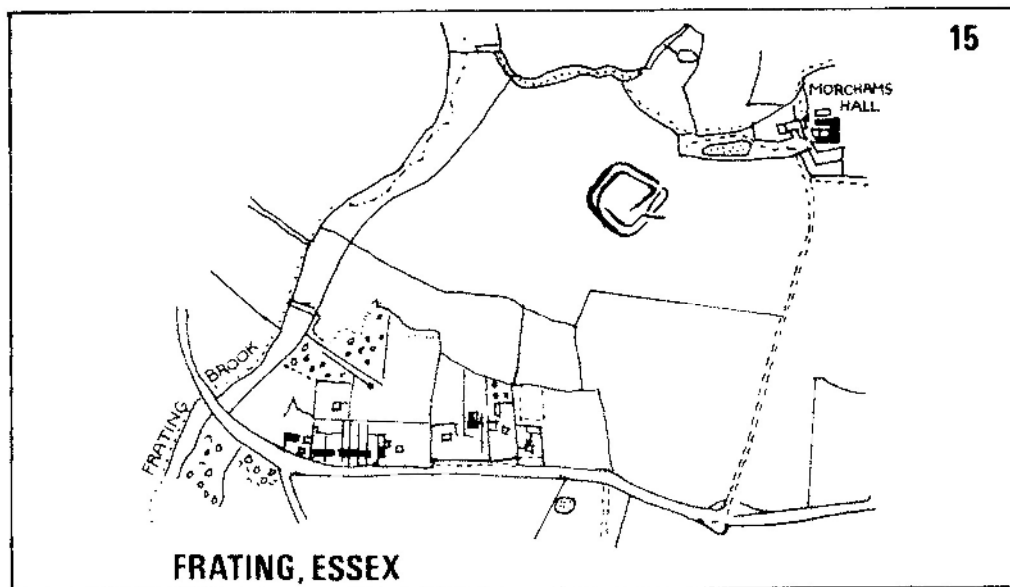
13. Lawford, Essex.

TM 08403040 West of Grange farm appears an odd shaped enclosure, roughly six sided and measuring between 80 - 90 metres across. In view of the fact that it must predate the footpath now crossing the site, it is thought best to include this information, especially as there is other varied archaeology in the near vicinity. *See C.A.G. Vol. 14., 1971.* The enclosure had a good strong ditch around it, and does not appear to be merely a fenced cattle pen.



Map 14. Wivenhoe/Elmstead, Essex.

TM 05332403 (15 metres) Close to the border of these two parishes is a small
 TM 05772405 (15 metres) stream which flows into the River Colne near Alresford (approx.) Grange where some Bronze Age urns were found. Higher up stream are the two ring ditches recorded here, one on each side to the brook. A stretch of trackway passes each ring though not on the same alignment. However they both lead north east in the general direction of Great Bromley which is a little over two miles distant. Along this line the journey between the river Colne and the river Stour is less than nine miles, no very great distance for trading or visiting. It is most interesting to see how repetitively these ancient people tucked their ring ditches and presumably themselves at high up points along all convenient little waterways.
 Undoubtedly some track stretches may be seen to pass or form a boundary of sorts to certain field enclosures of prehistoric appearance. Something in the nature of a service corridor for cattle perhaps, though of a far longer run than in any large scale modern pig unit for instance.



SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF CROPMARK SITES TO DATE

The following sites are those discovered by Cmdr. R.H. Farrands during 1962 and 1974 which have not been recorded previously. Also included in the list are a few sites discovered by Mrs. I. McMaster. None of these appear on the maps of this present survey or on those of the *CA. G. Vol. 14*. 1971 survey except those on page 23 and 27. Photographs have been obtained of all sites mentioned; together with many additions to the main Ardleigh site.

Ardleigh, Essex.	TM 056278 North east of Slough Farm there are linear features and possible circles which may be a continuation of the Elm Park complex shown on page 26.
Alresford, Ex.	TM 073197 A vague rectangular cropmark. Not far away is the well known villa site.
Alresford, Ex.	TM 065197; 071194; 075193. Three ditched mounds each surmounted by a single tree. They present a barrow outline but are probably drainage attempts to preserve the trees. TM 05752075. One ring ditch
Barking, Sfk.	TM 10405333. One ring ditch.
Baylham, Sfk.	TM 10555288; 10435268. One ring at each site.
Bradfield, Ex.	TM 13932945; 14152925; 13931432. One ring at each site
Bradfield, Ex.	TM 12922983. Two circular enclosures conjoined. Overall measurement 280 by 310 feet approx.
Bradfield, Ex.	TM 142291; 142293. One ring at each site.
Bramford, Sfk.	TM 121475. 121473. One ring at each site.
Bramford, Sfk.	TM 12394702. 12504697. Two rings.
Brightlingsea, Ex.	TM 080193; 078192. One ring at each site. - Possible ovate enclosure at the latter.

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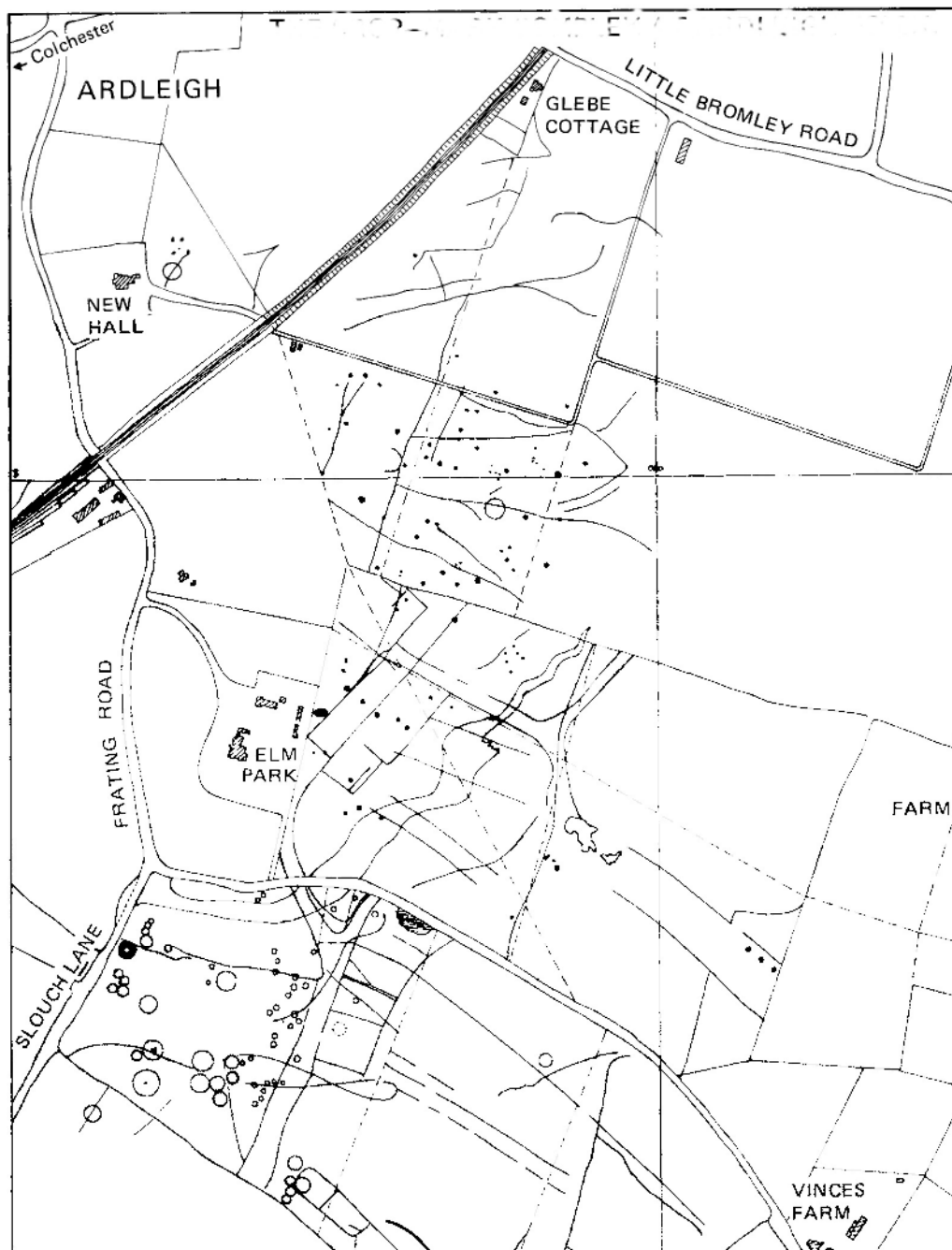
Brightlingsea, Ex.	TM 073178; 068186. One ring at the first site. Two rings at the second site now destroyed by gravel digging.
Bucklesham, Sfk.	TM 23874075; 24784172; 26104107. One ring at each site.
Bucklesham, Sfk.	TM 24044140; 23904130. One rectangular enclosure at each site.
Coddenham Sfk.	TM 113529. The Roman road, London to Norwich.
Colchester, Ex.	TM 021242. Four rings. Adjacent to the River Colne.
Colchester, Ex.	TI 959209. One ring ditch, south bank of Roman river.
Colchester, Ex.	TL 955262. One ring cut by a linear feature lies east of Chitts Hill where on the other side of the road Deverel Rimbury cremation cemetery was excavated in 1973 ahead of gravel extraction.
Colchester, Ex.	TL 978257 Some dark patches may indicate kiln sites one of which has been provisionally identified by surface debris and magnetometer survey.
Creeping St. Mary, Sfk.	TM 19713605. One ring.
Creeping St. Peter, Sfk.	TM 07915635; 07735692. One ring at each site.
Elmstead, Ex.	TM 048222. One ring and enclosure.
East Mersea, Ex.	TM 025138. Possible building outline.
East Mersea, Ex.	TM 058148. Four ring ditches recorded originally by Mr. J.B. Bennett from ground observation.
Frating, Essex.	TM 083237. A large double ditched enclosure having an intricate system of entrances. This site is of particular interest and needs investigating before plough damage takes its toll. (see page 23)
Freston, Sfk.	TM 17813728; 174368; 17783745. One ring at each site.
Freston, Sfk.	TM 172393. Three rings.
Great Braxted, Ex.	TL 850150. Vague cropmarks. Roman sherds were found (adjoining field and vegetable garden).
Great Clacton, Ex.	TM 15311428; 15341429; 15511428. One ring at each site.
Great Clacton, Ex.	TM 15501423. A double concentric ring.
Great Clacton, Ex.	TM 160142. Two rings, one of which is double concentric and now destroyed by gravel digging. The other is under the gravel pit spoil.
Great Clacton, Ex.	TM 158154; 156154. Two rings, (82 feet diameter).
Great Clacton, Ex.	TM 157148. One enclosure.
Great Oakley, Ex.	TM 18512625. One ring.
Harkstead, Sfk.	TM 19553595; 19703583; 19713605. One ring at each site.
Hatfield Peverel, Ex. TL	779105. Linear features and one ring lie close to the river Ter.
Holbrook, Sfk.	TM 162375. Pits and enclosures.
Langham, Ex.	TM 02773435. In addition to the rings already shown <i>C.A.G. 1971 Map 11.</i> , there now appear three more rings at 02703433; 02673441; 02693445.
Lawford, Ex.	TM 077312. One ring close to the brook feeding the disused mill. Excavated henge not far distant.
Lawford, Ex.	TM 080314. Four rings.
Levington, Sfk.	TM 23864073. One ring.
Little Bentley, Ex.	TM 123242; 130241. One ring at each site, the second having two possible entrances.
Little Clacton, Ex.	TM 15901903; 15901901. One ring at each site. Diameters 80 feet and 77 feet respectively.
Little Oakley, Ex.	TM 220295; 21642873. One ring at each site.
Little Oakley, Ex.	TM 222292. Iron Age, Romano/British and Pagan Saxon settlement.
Manningtree, Ex.	TM 08703275. Four rings grouped.
Mistley, Ex.	TM 109306. Four rings. Trackways. (See map page 27)

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Mistley, Ex.	TM 11683023. One ring.
Mistley, Ex.	TM 124301; 122272. One possible ring at each site.
Nacton, Sfk.	TM 209417. Three rings almost touching one another
Nacton, Sfk.	TM 199413. One double concentric ring.
St. Osyth, Ex.	TM 12281745; 13791432. One ring at each site.
St. Osyth, Ex.	TM 12351775. One ring in an enclosure. See map 16 below
St. Osyth, Ex.	TM 12411735. Two sub rectangular enclosures conjoined.
St. Osyth, Ex.	TM 12451485; 12211483. One ring at each site.
Stoke by Nayland, Sfk.	TL 984348; 984349. One double concentric ring separated by the road from an accompanying cluster of small rings, numbering seven. These must comprise the site mentioned in <i>Antiquity 1973</i> (St. Joseph); where unfortunately the location was misprinted. (Film was obtained of the Wissington site mentioned in the same publication, also a cluster but with two large rings.
Stratford St. Mary, Sfk.	TM 04903430; 04503395; 04453380. The largest ring at the first site (<i>CA. G. Vol. 14. 1971. Map 18</i>) is now seen to contain a smaller ring within it lying close to the perimeter ditch. Large enclosures are close by to the north and west. Further south west at the second site is another enclosure showing pits. Linear features continue towards the river where, at the third site, another enclosure and two ring complex is cut by a modern pipe line. Nothing could be seen of the query 'long barrow' outline, though it was photographed again in ploughed land last season. (Ditto Site C, Map 18 is now corrected to a double concentric ring at TM 04663425).
Tendring, Ex.	TM 140236. One ring.
Tendring, Ex.	TM 14652600. Two double ditched ovals about 10 metre apart The larger having a possible annexe.
Thorrington, Ex.	TM 09751965. Linear intersecting short ditches form a sign of the Zodiac outline! A trackway and vague enclosure flank the curious swirling lines mentioned above in the introduction. Four various flint finds recorded.
Wherstead, Sfk.	TM 161414. Probable hill top ditched site.
Wix, Ex.	TM 163290. Wix Abbey church from the south east. Shows original extent of the medieval Priory church footings to the east of the present church.
Wolverston, Sfk	TM 179384. Two well defined large rings; others possible nearby.

THE CROP-MARK COMPLEX AT ARDLEIGH, ESSEX

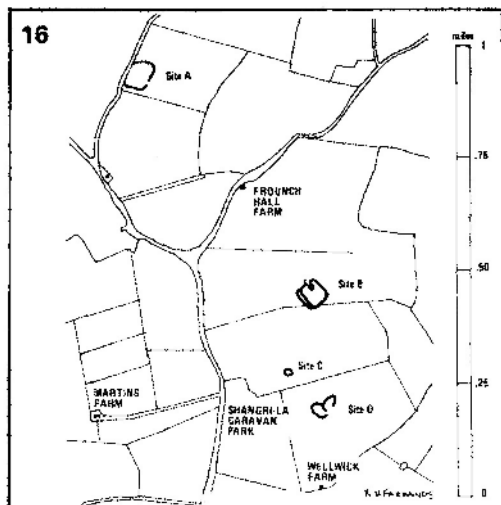
P.R. Holbert



Ardleigh, Essex. TM 060290. This great site is under constant threat of gravel extraction. Many linear features were seen in a beet crop in 1973; this season the whole nucleus of the settlement was set out before our eyes. The 100 acre field occupied by Mr. P. Moorehouse lies south of the railway line and adjoins Mr. Felix Erith's land which lies to the east of Elm Park

CROP MARKS AT ST OSYTH, GT. BENTLEY & MISTLEY

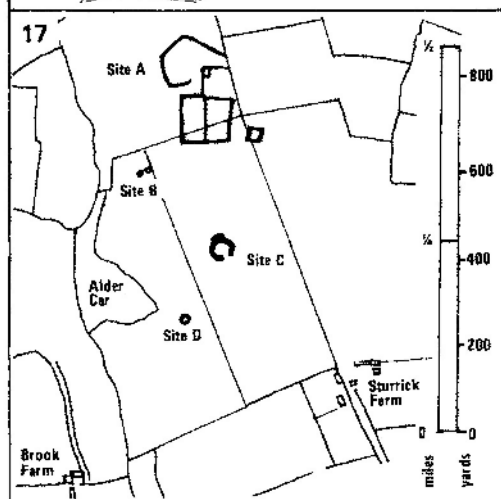
R.H. Farrands



Map 16

St Osyth

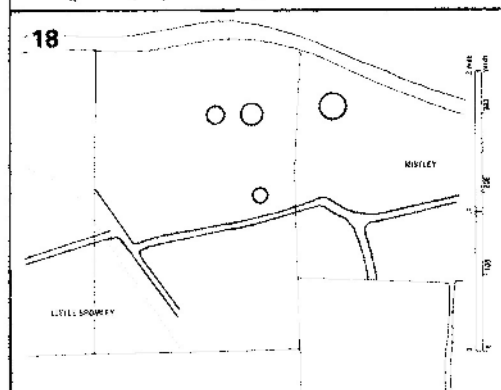
- Site A TM 11731854 Enclosure with entrance in eastern side. Plotted from photograph of Potato Marketing Board No. 50 72 133 of 21.6.1972.
- Site B TM 12351775 Square enclosure with with north western side. Ring just inside entrance. Plotted from Farrands photographs Nos. 103.5 and 103.4
- Site C TM 12281745 Ring 84 feet diameter. Plotted from Farrands photographs Nos. 103.3 and 103.6
- Site D TM 12411735 Two enclosures conjoined. Plotted from Farrands photographs Nos. 103.3 and 103.6



Map 17

Gt. Bentley

- Site A TM 104228 Enclosures.
- Site B TM 10282268 Two rings. Both 25 feet diameter.
- Site C TM 10422251 Broad ditched ring. Entrance on south side. Protrusion on north side. 95 feet diameter.
- Site D TM 10372235 Ring. 50 feet diameter
Sites plotted from Potato Marketing Board photographs Nos. 038 74 222 and 038 74 221 of 18.6 1974



Map 18

Mistley

- TM 11053063 One ring. 95 feet diameter.
- TM 10963062 One ring. 80 feet diameter.
- TM 10923062 One ring. 62 feet diameter.
- TM 10973053 One ring. 50 feet diameter.
- Ditched trackways to the south of rings.
- Plotted from Farrands photographs Nos. 101.2, 101.3 and 101.4 of 16.7.1962.