



Colchester Archaeological Group

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GROUP NOTICES 1976

The following social activities have been arranged:

Saturday, 10 th April	Essex Congress Annual General Meeting, The Town Hall, Waltham Abbey. 10.30 for 11.00 a.m. The business meeting will be followed by lectures in the afternoon.
Monday, 3 rd May	An evening outing by car to the Munnings House at Dedham. Meet outside Ardleigh church at 6.45 p.m.
Saturday, 12 th June	A day outing to Greenwich. Details and application form enclosed.
Monday, 5 th July	An evening outing by car to Moulshams Manor and 14th century Great Wigborough Church. Meet at Maypole Green, Colchester, at 6.20 for departure at 6.30 p.m. sharp.
Monday, 26 th July	Cheese and Wine Party at Oxley House, Tolleshunt D'Arcy, by kind invitation of Mrs. Hampton. The house is situated on Oxley Hill, midway between Tolleshunt D'Arcy and Tiptree. Tickets at the gate 50p to include one glass of wine. The party begins at 8.00 p.m.
Monday, 27 th September	Holiday Slides Party in the Vicar's Room, Ardleigh Church Hall at 8.00 p.m. Coffee and biscuits will be served. Tickets at the door.
Monday, 11 th October	Annual General Meeting and the beginning of the Winter season of weekly lectures on Monday evenings.

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BULLETIN BACK NUMBERS, up to and including Vol. 18 and indices up to and including Vol. 13, may be obtained from the Hon. Librarian, Mr. F. C. Dick, 36 Queen Anne Road, West Mersea. Telephone 3560.

NOTE: - still available - "SALT". The Study of An Ancient Industry. Published by Colchester Archaeological Group 1975. Edited by K. W. de Brisay and K. A. Evans. PRICE: £4, packing and postage 27p. (See address below.)

EXCAVATIONS AND FIELD-WORK Plans for these are not yet settled. When the route of the Eastern By-Pass is finalised and marked out there will be seven miles of field-walking to be done: not only in the preliminary stages but as required during the building of this road. If you are interested in this and in digging please keep in touch with the Secretary at the address given below.

Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Colchester CO2 OLE. Telephone: Layer de la Haye 274.

TREASURE-HUNTING AND CASUAL FINDS

The casual discovery of objects of archaeological interest has stimulated many to seek a deeper understanding of man's past history by attending W.E.A. lectures or University extra-mural courses, or studying for degrees and, if they are inclined towards practical application, by taking part in organized fieldwork and excavations. Not everyone, though, is able to devote the necessary time to such activities, even when the opportunity is readily available. This makes the role of the local society particularly important in promoting archaeological principles, as well as transmitting current information, and channeling support into carefully assessed projects.

Despite numerous possible ways of making a positive contribution, however small, to British Archaeology, there are regrettably many who deliberately or through ignorance choose to disregard current archaeological needs and indulge purely in their own selfish interests. On the fringe are those who excavate not simply just for the fun of it but without a necessary sense of discrimination or prepared policy when more important sites are being destroyed without record: However, the experience of recent years should have emphasized to all but the most defiantly unrealistic the need for excavations to be undertaken according to strict priorities.

Particularly disquieting is the activity of treasure-hunting which is usually undertaken by those whose real interest may only be in amassing private collections, almost always undocumented, or in making financial gain from the disposal of their finds. In either case considerable loss of potential information occurs if objects are removed from archaeological contexts by damaging stratified levels which might be excavated scientifically at some later stage, however far in the future that may be. Even if such finds are recorded and the details made available it is extremely difficult to relate them adequately to subsequent controlled excavation, particularly when the objects can no longer be traced.

Metal detectors are frequently used in this destructive way and often illegally, though this is not always appreciated or properly recognized by prosecution. Where legally admissible their justifiable use in archaeological circumstances is extremely limited, if not totally unacceptable. So it is essential that everyone should exercise the utmost vigilance and act promptly to prevent any possible damage to known or potential sites. Even scheduled sites, though protected by the law, cannot be kept immune from damage without constant surveillance. Any instances of suspected treasure-hunting or other damage to archaeological monuments and sites should be reported to the local museum as soon as possible, particularly where public property is concerned.

Many individual finds, nevertheless, come to light casually and often in areas lacking previous archaeological evidence. At best, these may lead to the recognition of new sites which will need immediate protection or to be excavated on some future occasion, when threatened or for research. At least, they will provide some information, if properly recorded, which will help towards the appreciation of human activity in that particular area. Here again information about such finds is welcomed at the museum so that full details can be added to the archaeological record and their implications assessed for appropriate action.

NOTE

A licence is required for a metal detector Under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949. Without one the user would be guilty of an offence under the Act and liable to prosecution.

A DECORATED SAMIAN FRAGMENT FROM FINGRINGHOE

F. H. Erith

In 1966 a piece of samian pottery came into the possession of Mr. Peter Holbert, who stated that it had been found at Fingringhoe. He has donated it to the Colchester and Essex Museum: Accession No. 3.1976.

It is part of a Dr.37 bowl, with a diameter of 22 cm. The fragment is decorated in relief with an ovolo and parts of two panels, in each of which is a figure-type.

The ovolo is similar to those of the earlier Central Gaulish potters; with expansive well-rounded loops, and corded tongues terminating in prominent rosettes.

The extremely fine beadrow below the ovolo is found on some sherds attributed to the styles of DONNAVCVS and IOENALIS in Central Gaulish Potters, such as the bowl from Colchester stamped "IOENALIS F" on its base, Plate 35, No. 412; or Plate 48 No. 562 in the style of DONNAVCVS.

The small medallion (diam. 1.5 cm.) in which there is a six-petalled rosette is shown on examples of DONNAVCVS style; Pl. 44, 507 and Pl. 49, 590. A similar rosette is used to terminate the large vertical beadrow which divides the figuretypes.

This small medallion with six-petalled rosette was copied by later potters such as DIVIXTUS, C.G.P. Pl. 1 16, 8. It was also used by a potter "Style dit de SACER" illustrated on Pl. XLVII, No. 10034 of J. R. Terrisse's treatise on *Mart res-de-Veyre* (XIXe supplement a "GALLIA"). The difficulty of separating the work of DONNAVCVS and SACER is discussed in C.G.P. pages 47 and 164.

Figure-types

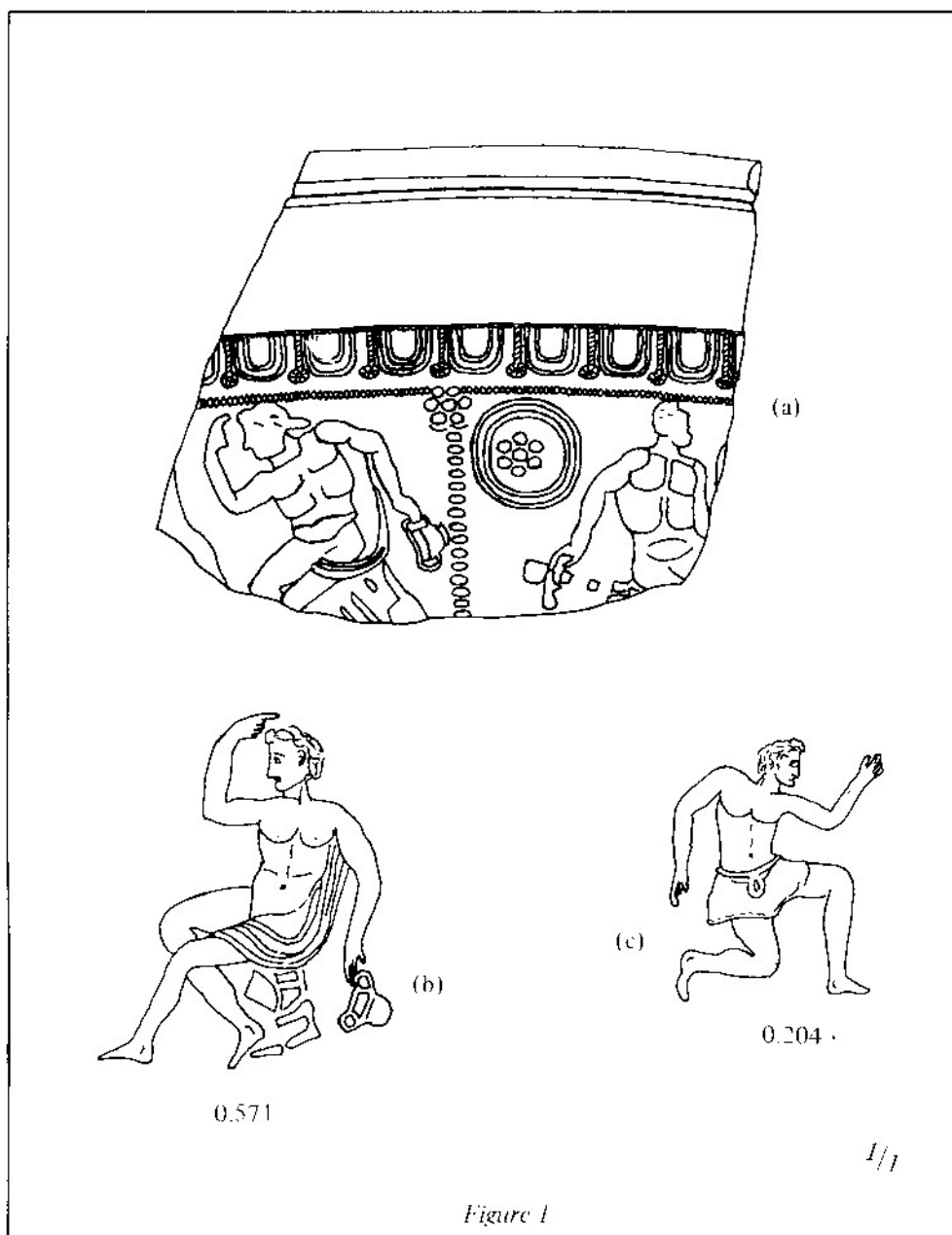
The left-hand figure is 0.571⁽¹⁾ = D 534a,⁽²⁾ depicting Bacchus sitting on a rock. His left hand holds a scyphos, or two-handled drinking vessel, and his right hand is pointing to his head, perhaps to explain that he is fuddled. This figure-type was only used by the Anchor potter, IOENALIS and DONNAVCVS, of the Trajanic potters.

The right-hand figure is of a "warrior" 0.204⁽¹⁾ = D 394;⁽²⁾ both catalogues depict him without anything in his right hand, but some other examples show him with a beaded spear in his right hand and a small circular shield in his left hand.

See the bowl from Straubing C.G.P.⁽³⁾ Pl. 42, No. 487 (attributed to DONNAVCVS). The four large beads showing on this Fingringhoe sherd are larger and more spaced out than the Straubing example. DONNAVCVS was the only Trajanic potter to have used figure-type 0.204. C.G.P. Page 60.

From the foregoing it would appear that this Fingringhoe sherd was made by DONNAVCVS or someone in his style, whose working date (according to C.G.P. Pl. 170) was A.D. 100-12.

A DECORATED SAMIAN FRAGMENT

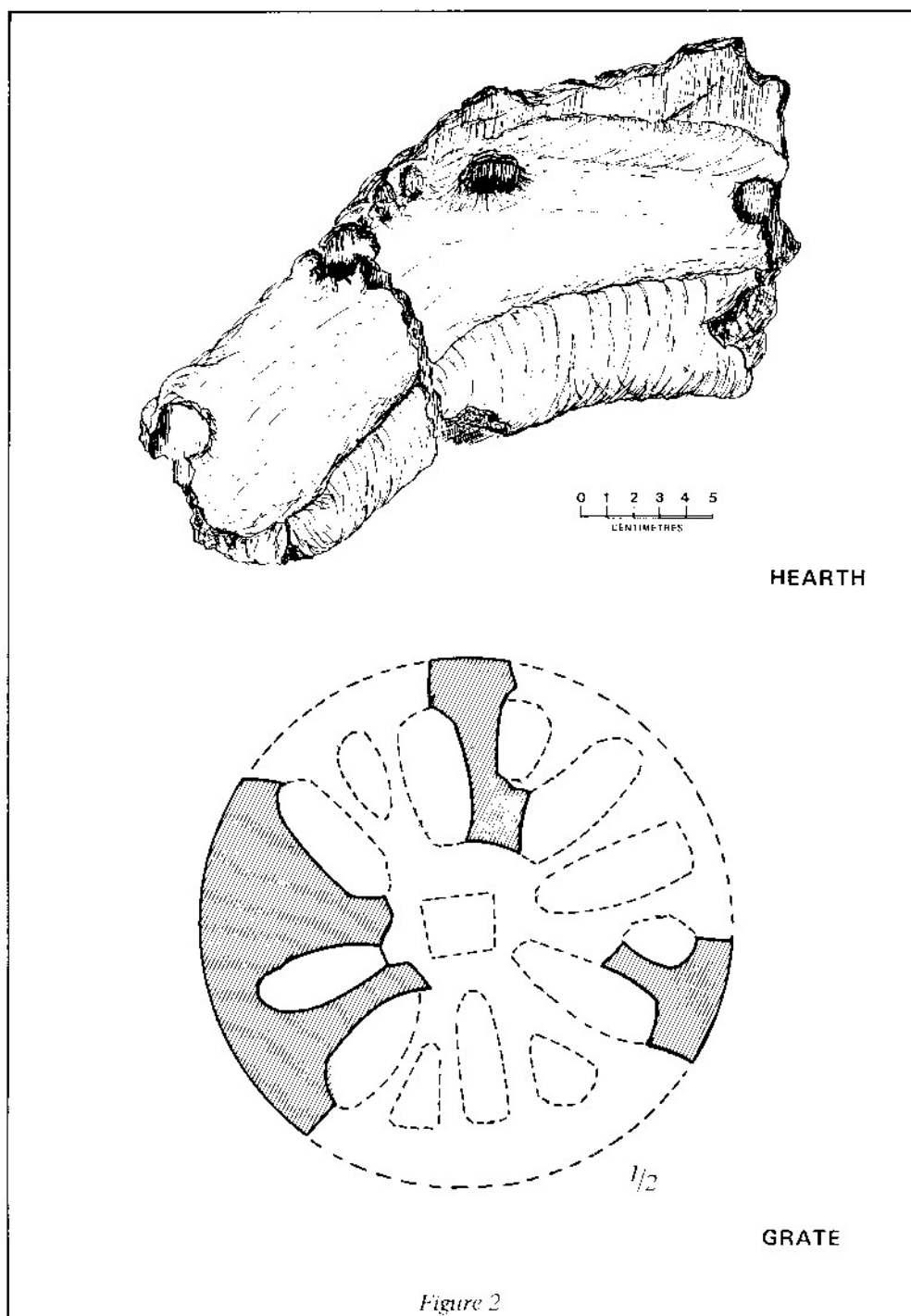


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1. Oswald, F. Index of Figure-Types on Terra Sigillata (1937).
2. Dechelette, J. Les Vases Ceramque Ornes de la Gaule romaine (1904).
3. Stanfield, J. A. & Simpson, Grace. Central Gaulish Potters (1958).

FRAGMENT OF A HEARTH OR OVEN FROM CANVEY ISLAND, ESSEX

Kay de Brisay



The object illustrated above was found just below the surface of the beach to the seaward side of the Red Hill at Leigh Beck, Canvey Island. The beach has been formed by the erosion of the Red Hill and is about a metre or more below the present surface. Abundant sherds of Iron Age and early Roman pottery are found at the same level. The material is loosely knit red clay containing flint grits and signs of organic admixture. If the existing circumference is continued it would produce a circular object representing a large ring with an outer diameter of 18 cm and an inner diameter of 9 cm; the surface has been smoothed and there appears to have been a raised lip round the outer edge. Four large circular holes have been pierced at regular intervals through the clay from the underside before firing and, if these were continued round the complete circle, there would have been twelve in all. The thickness of the clay is 6-7 cm and the inner surface of the ring is rounded and shows signs of blackening as if from a fire. However, there is no evidence that this was used as a hearth for the crystallisation of salt; indeed it is impossible to say whether the smoothed surface is

the upper side; it could be reversed in which case it might be the top of an oven. A similar object was found at Little Woodbury (J. Brailsford. 'Excavations at Little Woodbury' *PPS* 15 (1949) 160 figs 2-).

In 1958 Mr. F. H. Erith and Cmdr. R. H. Farrands excavated a rubbish pit at Vines Farm, Ardleigh. Beneath a layer of Iron Age pottery, about 9 cm thick, they found three pieces of shaped buff-coloured clay, fired hard and about 2 cm thick, which appeared to be part of an Iron Age grate or oven grid. With their kind permission we reproduce a copy of the possible reconstruction here. (*C.A.G. Bulletin* 2 (1959) 5). The pieces were lodged in Colchester Castle Museum. (Ref. C.15 Accession No. 769/57). A similar object, described as a spoked wheel of clay varying in colour from orange-red to brown and black and having the characteristic soapy surface of Belgic pottery. Diameter 8 inches with six "spokes" and a central opening 3/8 inches in diameter. This was found at a depth of about 4 feet in association with Belgic pottery (A. D. Lacaille. 'A Belgic Clay Pot Stand' *Ant. J* 23 (1943) 58-9). A smaller example of coarse, flint-gritted, hand-made ware, having a diameter of only 4½ inches and pierced with four holes, was found on an occupation site in association with Hallstatt/ Iron Age pottery and triangular clay loom weights, perforated at the corners. (A. G. Lowther. 'Object of gritted hand-made ware from Ashstead, Surrey' *Ant. J* 21 (1941) 347).

FIFTH CENTURY ANGLO-SAXON POTTERY FROM LITTLE OAKLEY

R. H. Farrands

In the Colchester Archaeological Group's Bulletin for December 1958, Volume 4, No. 1, a short report was included on the excavations carried out on a Romano-British villa at Little Oakley, map reference TM 222292. In this report reference was made to two large pits of Anglo-Saxon date found some 400 feet to the north-east of the villa. In view of the fact that M. Corbishley has undertaken to carry out an excavation on the villa later this year when the pre-fabs covering most of the site are taken down, it may be of interest to describe briefly the Anglo-Saxon finds excavated from the two pits in 1956/7. (TM.22302916).

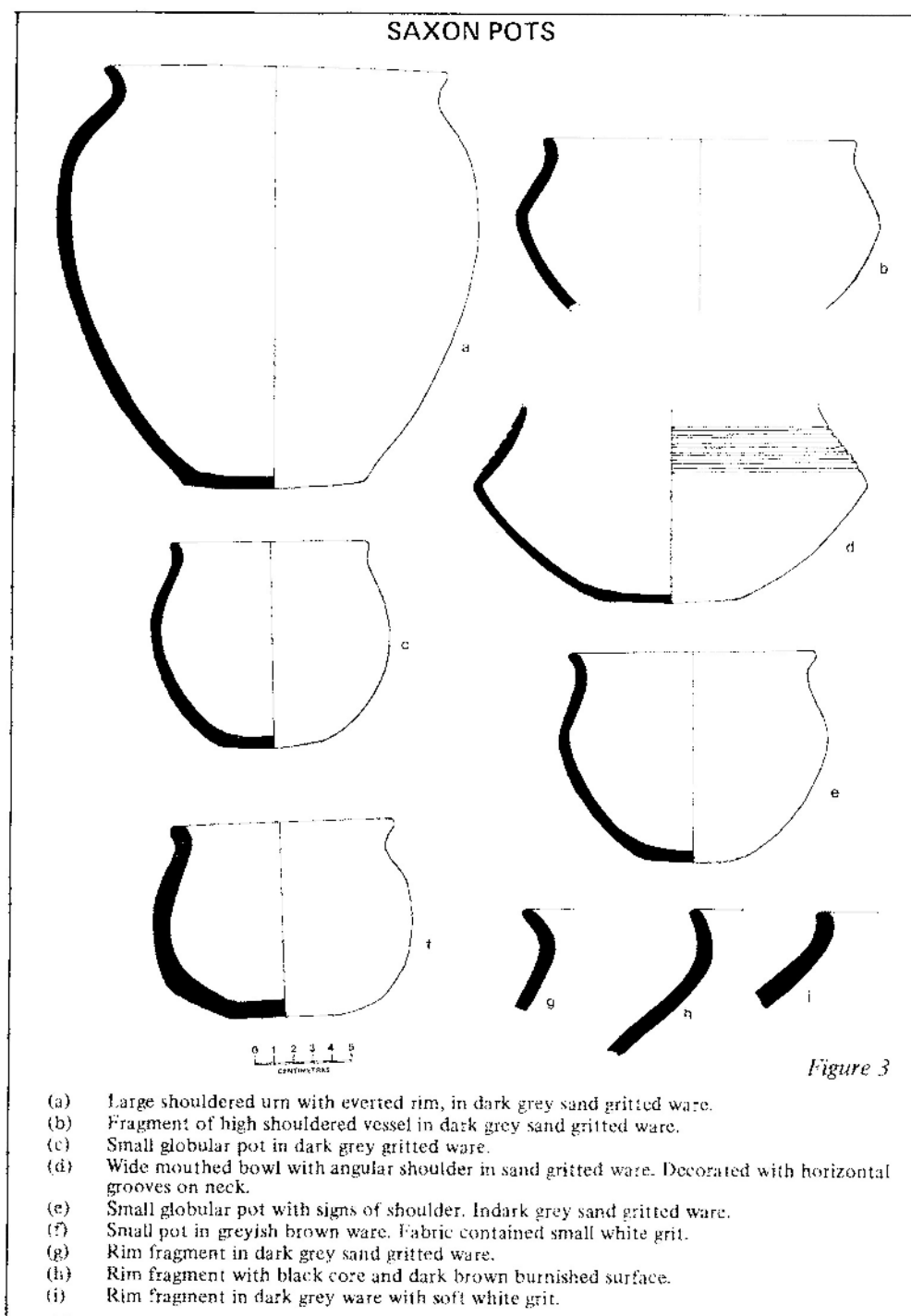
In the winter of 1956/7, an excavation was carried out with the help of sixth formers from Harwich High School on a complex of field ditches to the north-east of the villa on land belonging to Mr. E. Strachan of Little Oakley Hall. The complex contained Iron A and C as well as Romano-British ditches and it was considered that such a site would be ideal for a small amateur group to investigate. Enough work had been carried out on allotments to establish the presence of a Romano-British villa and it was thought that sectioning field ditches on the perimeter of the villa area would be a worthwhile contribution to the history of the site. The group were fortunate in that Mr. E. Strachan allowed them use of this area which would otherwise have been cultivated that year.

The group were employed in sectioning two parallel demarcation ditches in the top half of which was a considerable amount of late first century pottery and bone refuse from an adjacent occupation site. A section, 30 feet from the last section and on the alignment of the two ditches, produced at first a hearth with coarse hand-made pottery and bone refuse. The delight in apparently having found an Iron Age A occupation site changed to puzzlement when some Romano-British sherds were found under the hearth and occupational silt. Various suggestions such as rabbit activity to account for the inversion did not seem very plausible. So it was a relief from further mental gymnastics when it was realised that the hand-made ware was, in fact, Anglo Saxon pottery. Further stripping revealed an occupation area of some 9 feet in diameter which in addition to pottery contained a bone spindle whorl and a bone needle. The pottery found is illustrated in Fig. 3, b, c, e, g, h, i, Fig. 4d. Fig. 4c was found in the topsoil above this area. (See pp. 6/7.)

Subsequent excavation showed the occupation area lying in the top of a large pit some 6 feet in diameter and dug down through Walton Crag deposits to the top of the London Clay. No further Anglo-Saxon ware was found below the occupation layer. Remaining pottery in the pit was Iron Age and Romano-British which had silted in from the surrounding area.

Some 20 feet to the north-west, another large pit was found some 8 feet in diameter and 7 feet deep. Again the top of the pit contained an occupation area resting on a fine grey clay flooring and containing amongst the sherds those illustrated in Fig. 3a and Fig. 4a. In a silt layer some 2 feet below the flooring, pottery shown in Fig. 3d and Fig. 4b. Again this pit was dug through Crag deposits down to the start of the London Clay. A bonus in this pit however was that some kind Anglo Saxon had thrown in a practically complete pot where it rested on the bottom just above the London Clay. This pot is shown in Fig. 3f. (See pp. 6/7.)

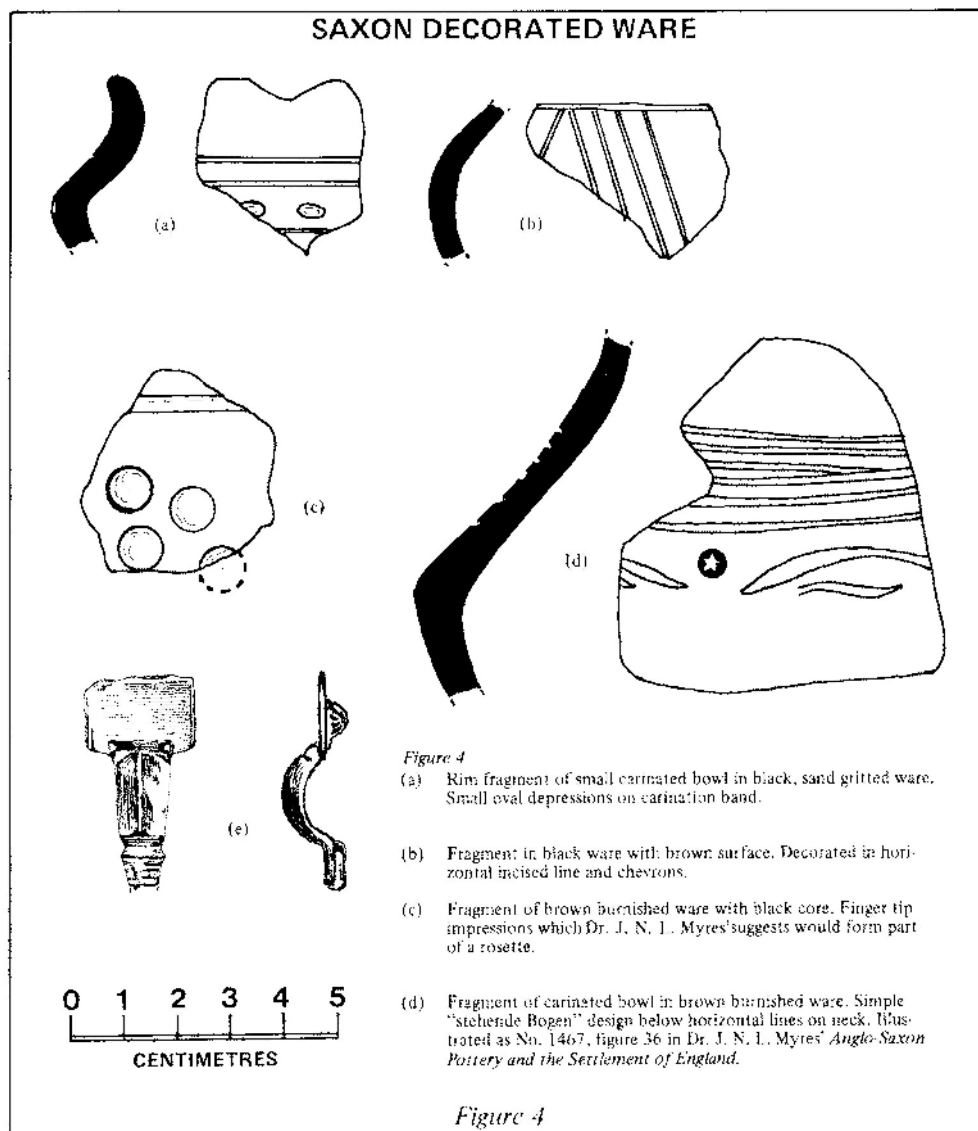
Most of the undecorated ware was of a dark grey to black fabric and sand gritted. A few pieces contained soft white grit in place of sand and one or two pieces were grass tempered. A few small pieces were decorated with "finger pinched" rustication similar to those at Northfleet⁽²⁾ Lackford⁽³⁾ and Sutton Courtenay⁽⁴⁾ A small "long brooch"⁽⁵⁾ was found on the surface some 200 feet from the pits and illustrated in Fig. 4.



Although the pits contained sherds of Romano-British ware up to the late 4th century, there did not appear to be any continuity between Romano-British and Anglo-Saxon occupation of the area.

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2. Burchell, J. P. T. & Brailsford, J.P.: 'Pottery from Northfleet' *Ant. J.* 28 (1948).
3. Lethbridge, T. C. 'A Cemetery at Lackford' *Camb. Ant. Soc.* (1951).
4. Leeds, E. 'A Saxon Village near Sutton Courtenay' *Archaeologia* LXVIII (1923).
5. Fox, C. 'Archaeology of the Cambridge Region' C.U.P. (1951).



MEASURED DRAWINGS OF COPFORD CHURCH

Adrian S. Koval

The measured drawings which architectural students prepare form a very valuable contribution to the national record. European Architectural Year (1975) saw an enthusiastic interest in our built environment - particularly the ancient churches here in Essex.

Copford seemed the ideal choice - a very informative book, *Copford church and its wall paintings*, by Prof. Tristram, provided the foundation for a more detailed architectural study. Pevsner, in his "Buildings of Essex" series (Essex), described Copford Church as "the most remarkable Norman parish church in the county".

The Norman vault, which covered the nave was indeed remarkable. Norman vaults in parish churches were rare but at Copford we had something rarer still - not a ribbed crossed vault but a tunnel vault, groined where the window splays met the tunnel vault. But for the London Tower Chapel, no other tunnel vault church nave exists.

The whole nave vaulting system was taken down in 1400, leaving only the springers. The only unaltered piece we have left is the apse, described by Arthur Mee in his *Kings England (Essex)* as "one of the most remarkable apses we have ever seen, a veritable masterpiece of antiquity"

COPFORD CHURCH

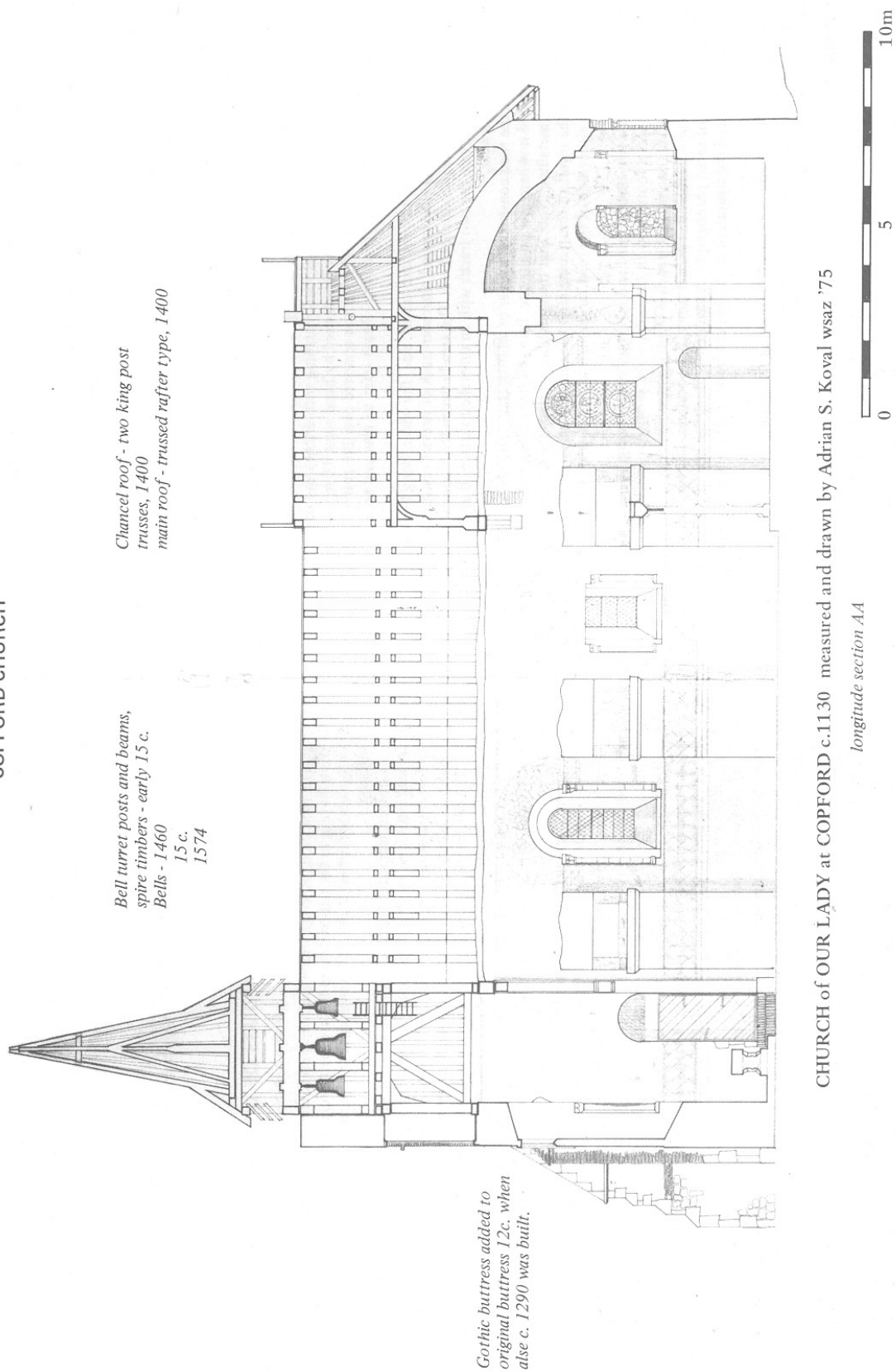


Figure 5

To disguise the earthly solidarity of this powerful architectural statement, dark and expressive, the interior was painted by Byzantine artists - the privileged luxury of the London Bishops. Undoubtedly, the paintings formed a unified theme, probably "the battle of the soul", educating the illiterate common folk to the established church teachings.

The drawing shown here, one of a complete set, shows a longitudinal section as it exists today. Within a hundred years of the erection of the timber roof (1400) came everything else we see today. The 19th century porch is a copy of the original. Although the 12th century church was more French than English, the tradition of Essex timber construction made its impact. The belfry and massive supporting posts express a confidence, a direct sturdiness comparable with the ancient Essex barns, of the Middle Ages.

Thus this little church, with its shingled spire and long, sweeping, red, plain-tiled roof, may look very "19th century picturesque", standing with the Georgian mansion in the great park, but is beyond doubt one of the most enchanting 12th century churches.

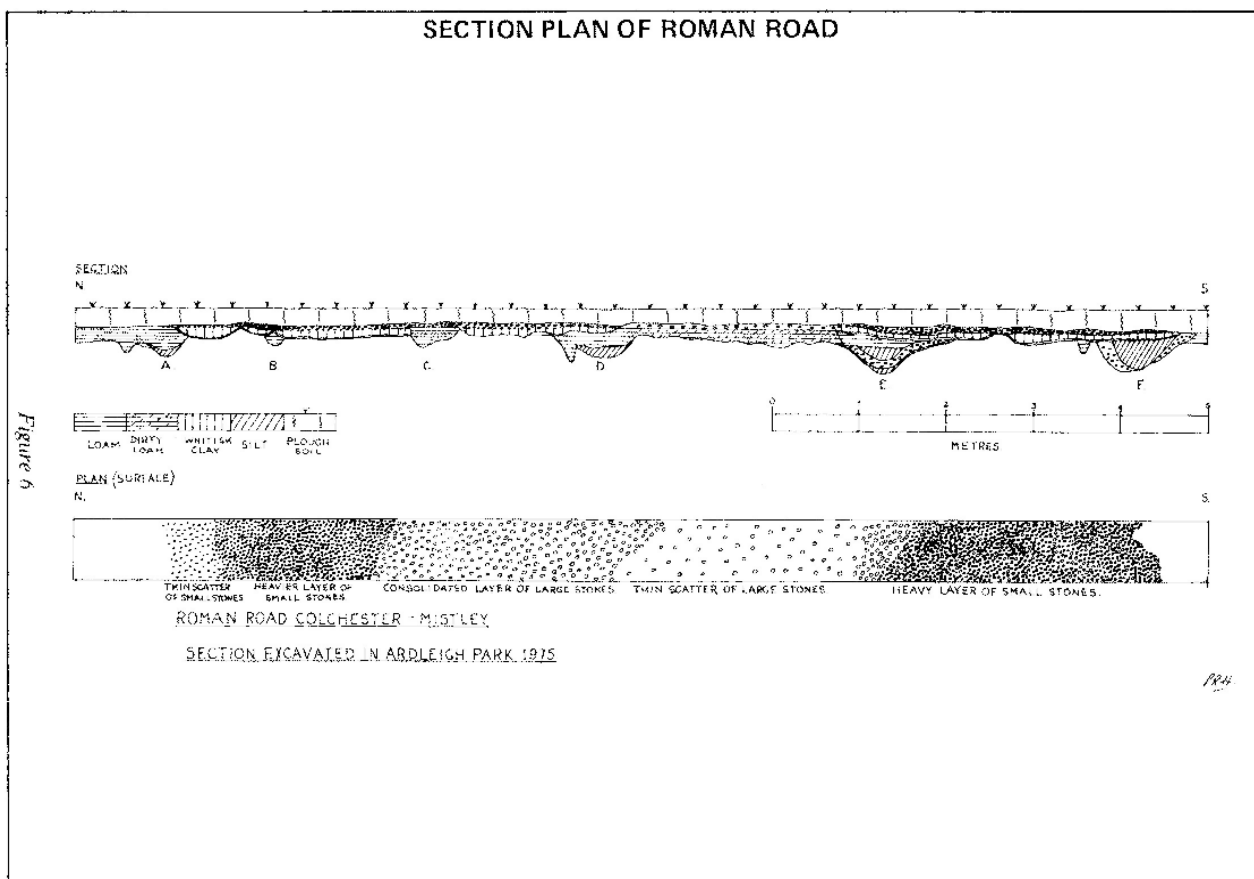
EXCAVATION OF A SECTION ACROSS THE ROMAN ROAD LINKING COLCHESTER AND MISTLEY. 1975

P. R. Holbert

This recently discovered Roman road was first indicated from sets of parallel straight lines showing as cropmarks on aerial photographs of the area to the west of Mistley by Mr. F. H. Erith.

The line was confirmed in further lengths seen from the air, and from existing aerial photographs by Commander R. H. Farrands. A survival of the Roman line has been preserved in the present straight length of modern road which runs across Crockleford Heath. This section has previously been suggested as a possible Roman road.

With the approval of Colonel G. R. Judd of Ardleigh Park an excavation was planned in the orchard at a point on the predicted line of the road. Map reference TM 054275.



The initial trench, machine cut and organised by Mr. Erith, revealed on cleaning up, a rather fragmentary section of gravel road metalling with ditches and other intrusions. The trench was subsequently lengthened by hand

some 10 metres southeast and a strip of topsoil 75 centimetres wide was removed over the entire width of the road to reveal the surface of the metalling. Please refer to plan and section above.

It will be seen that there are two distinct tracks, one, the wider, lying between the rather slight ditches A-D. The second narrower track of heavier construction lying between the much deeper ditches E-F. The area between D-E consisting of dirty loam appears to divide the two tracks with an unmetalled surface. B and C are intrusions or perhaps wear.

Construction of the road consists of a layer of whitish clay, certainly artificial as this material appeared nowhere else on the site. Into this layer of clay was set the surface of the gravel metalling. Note that the metalling overlaps the ditches in all cases, this could be the result of resurfacing after the ditches had silted up. The excavation extended either side of the road far enough to ensure that there were no other outlying ditches.

This appears to be a two-tracked road and is certainly interesting. Perhaps the narrow heavier track was a footway, with the wider track serving as a way for wheeled traffic. However, one narrow trench is insufficient evidence on which to base the supposition of a dual road. There is some slight evidence in support; on careful examination of aerial photographs at two points along the line of the cropmarks a similarly spaced configuration of ditches can be seen. There were no datable finds.

Acknowledgments: We are obliged to Col. G. R. Judd for inviting us to investigate this site and for filling-back; also to Mr. Edward Halsall for excavating the original trench by machine and to members of the C.A.G.

REFERENCES

- Farrands, R. H. 'Evidence for a Roman road linking Mistley with Colchester' *C.A.G. Bulletin Vol. 18* (1975).
Erith, F. H. 'The Lawford Neolithic Complex' *C.A.G. Bulletin Vol. 14* (1971).
McMaster, L 'Cropmarks: an Appeal for Conservation and Observation' *C.A.G. Bulletin Vol. 14* (1971).

NOTES ON TWO POSSIBLE ROMAN ROADS AND CROPMARKS. 1975

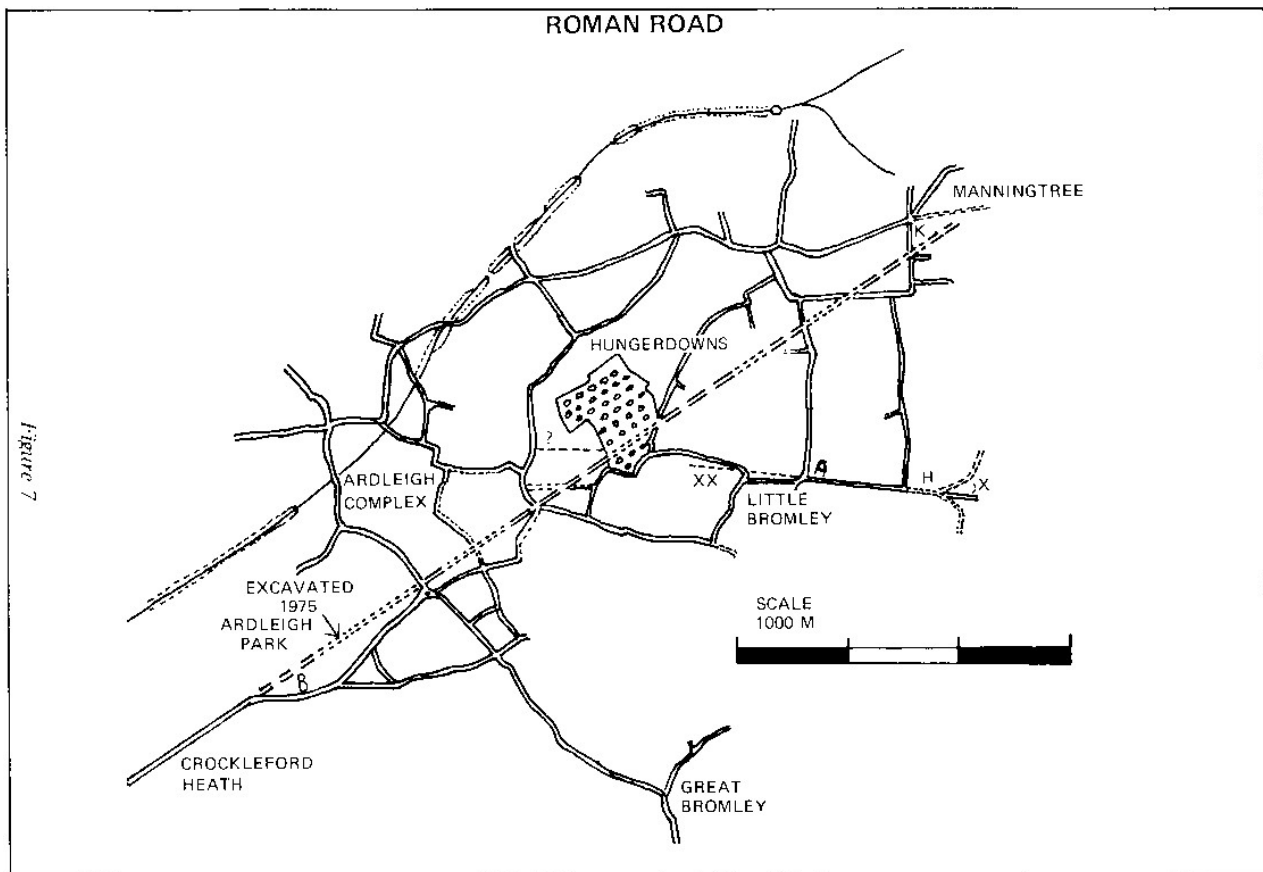
Ida McMaster

No trace of the Colchester to Mistley road found by Commander Farrands was, visible from the air during the period June to October 1975 when several surveys were undertaken. See B-K on Map, Fig 7, page 11. This is a part of his alignment of the road, the reproduction of which is gratefully acknowledged by both writers using it here.

However a possible line of Roman road crossing it was observed in the form of an existing straight stretch of road travelling west-north-west - east-south-east through Little Bromley village (see A and H on the above map on page 11). At the western end of this latter road the possible line is continued from A to XX by means of a track which is seen to carry on also as a cropmark across the next field. The parish boundary runs along here and loops curiously where the cropmark ends as though to avoid something. If the line continues it should intersect Farrand's road at approximately TM 079292 in the orchard by Hungerdowns. Beyond this point two ploughed out hedge lines may well mark its course westward towards the renowned Ardleigh Complex which would thus be contained within the angle formed by the crossing of these two roads.

In the opposite direction, near Chequers Farm, the existing Little Bromley road turns sharply north to Manningtree, but a cartway continues the line until the way forks. Here in the division a crop mark (see X on map on page 11) carries the alignment further until a change of crop ends all trace of it for the present. The distance covered is some four kilometres. A projected line would take it towards Wix and Great Oakley, whilst north of the River Stour there appears to be its counterpart in the shape of the East Bergholt - The Grange, East End straight road. Chapman and Andre's map indicates that the Little Bromley road is old and an aerial panoramic view of it gives a strong impression of Roman origin.

To the west of Colchester at TL 896234, the Little Tey road leaves the A120 (Stane Street) and proceeds along a significant, straight course to Little Tey House where it veers sharply right. Here again is good evidence of the line continuing as a cropmark in the field adjoining to the north. Projected, it would pass through Chalkney Wood where there is already a note of the presence of a Roman road, and continuing, it would line up with another stretch at TL 865310 Countess Cross, White Colne.



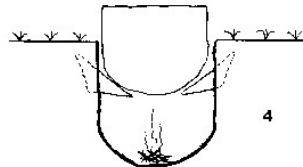
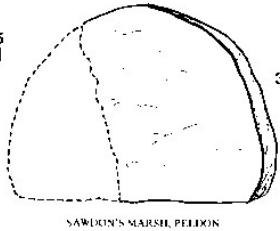
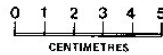
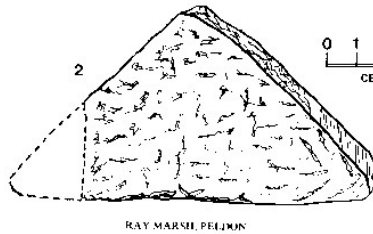
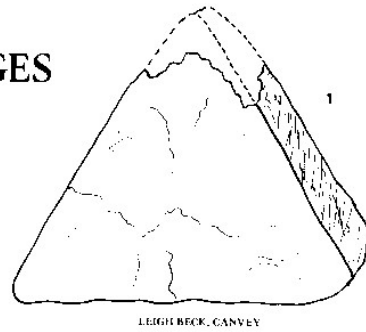
Several of the main Roman roads join one another with approximately the same angle of intersection; the Coggeshall -- Marks Tey; the A12 Kelvedon - Marks Tey; and the Easthorpe roads all join one another in this way (as would Farrands and the Little Bromley roads form a similar angle). None of them conforming to any accepted right-angled pattern of centuriation. Could it be that Colchester acquired an unusual road system because of its already established layout as a tribal capital?

REFERENCES

- Farrands, R. H. 'Evidence for a Roman road linking Mistley with Colchester' *C.A.C. Bulletin Vol. 18* (1975).
 Crummy, P. 'Not only a matter of time' (1975) Colchester Excavation Committee.
 Aerial photographs from the following sources were used: Potato Marketing Board (1974); R.A.F. (old series) and the writer's private collection.

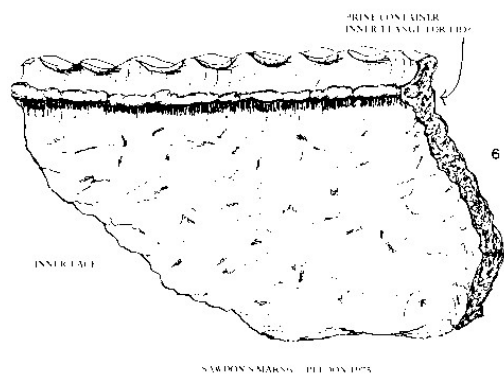
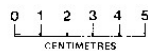
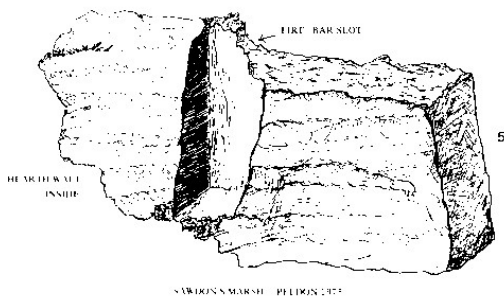
RECENT FINDS FROM RED HILLS

WEDGES



The three wedges illustrated here provide an extension of this form of salt-making artifact and would seem to confirm its common use on some sites. Although the actual method is not certain, it has been suggested that this could have been something like that shown in 4. Such round based pots with blackened bases are found in Poland. The material of which the wedges were made is as follows:

- 1 - Buff coloured clay with a smoothed surface. No organic admixture.
- 2 - Red clay except for the point on the right which is fired white. This could confirm the method shown in 4 in which case the broken point would have been in the wall.
- 3 - Smooth dense red clay. No organic admixture. This is the first example of this rounded type.



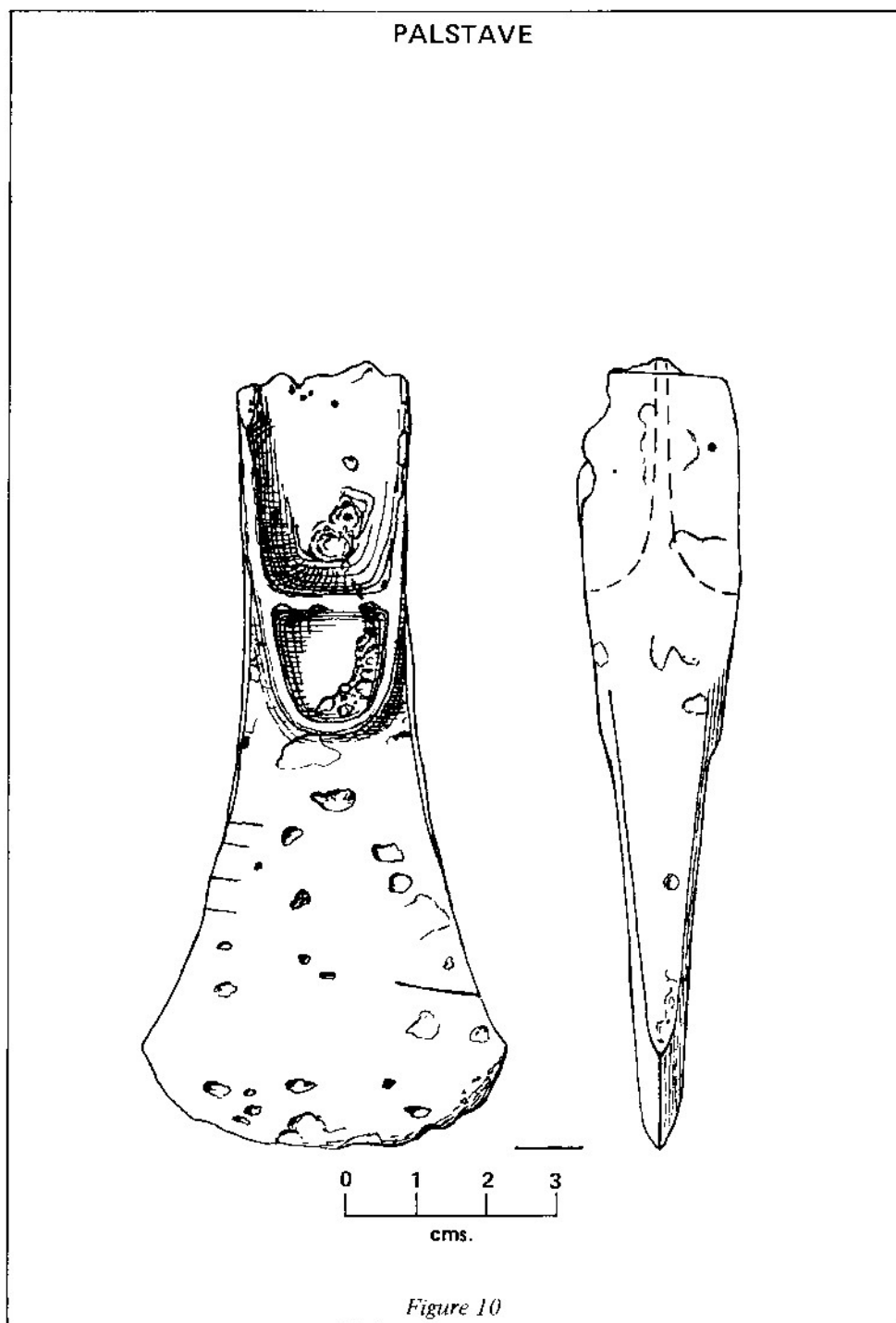
- 5 - An important new discovery confirming the use of firebars. This fragment of hearth wall has a deep slot in the fired clay lining into which the point of a firebar can be fitted exactly.
- 6 - Another finger-tipped rim from a brine container with a pronounced flange on the inner face presumably to support a lid.
- 7 - Another example of a rectangular pedestal. These seem to be much shorter than the cylindrical pedestals from Osea Road and, as they have no mushroom base or boat-shaped head, it is probable they were not designed to withstand so much vertical thrust.

A PALSTAVE FROM TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY

G. M. R. Davies

In July 1975 a damaged palstave was found lying on the surface of field No. 389 at Tolleshunt D'Arcy (N. G. Ref. TL 90601415) by the farmer, Mr. D. A. Ashcroft of High Hall Farm, who subsequently donated it to the Colchester and Essex Museum (Acc. No. 7.1976).⁽¹⁾

The discovery was made at the southern end of the field immediately after the removal of a hedge which had divided it from a bridle-way running S.W. to N.E. along the 75 foot plateau from Clarke's Barn to Oxley Green. The palstave may have been cast up either during this activity or when land-drains were being put in at the same time. Otherwise it would have come to light as a result of ploughing, though the disc plough used in recent years is thought unlikely to have caused any damage to the subsoil.



Bronze Age finds in the immediate vicinity are not common, the nearest being a bronze spear and possible Bronze Age pottery found 1½ miles further south at Freme Farm, Tolleshunt D'Arcy. Two miles to the N.W. a M.B.A. looped palstave of "transitional" type was ploughed up near, Windmill Hill, Tiptree in 1959 (C.M. Acc. No. 85.1961).⁽²⁾

Description

The palstave (Fig. 10) is unlooped with flanges thickening down into the rounded septum floor. These continue in low relief below a shallow ridge-stop to form a "shield pattern", which is enhanced by a slightly sunken, plain field. The sides begin to widen at the stop so that the blade is well expanded at its termination in a crescentic, though slightly damaged, cutting-edge. The illustrated face of the blade shows some traces of lateral indentation.

Only one flange still remains to its full height, the other three having been damaged to varying degrees, while the surface of the implement is much pitted by corrosion, especially in the septum illustrated. The palstave has been broken at 3 centimetres above the stop so that about 4 centimetres of the haft-end are now missing. Small holes, showing in section at the break, reveal a fundamental weak point in its metal structure.

Comment

The characteristics of this palstave place it in M. A. Smith's "Middle Bronze Age type" of South British palstaves⁽³⁾ and more specifically in the Class I ("shield pattern") of C. B. Burgess, who recognised this as the earliest British type.⁽⁴⁾ It falls chronologically, therefore, into the Acton Park phase of the Middle Bronze Age,⁽⁵⁾ named by Burgess after the Denbighshire hoard which is so far alone in including all the typical tools of this period. The Acton Park phase is considered to have lasted for most of the 14th and 13th centuries B.C.

The evidence of a more elaborate palstave of this type and an associated amber bead (C.M. Acc. No. 916.1937) found at Glen Avenue, Colchester, was interpreted by D. G. Davies⁽⁶⁾ as suggesting a possible starting date for Group I palstaves in the transitional phase between the Early Bronze Age and Middle Bronze Age immediately prior to 1400 B.C.

The lateral indentations on the blade of our specimen clearly relate to its manufacture. They might have been imprinted from an imperfectly prepared mould, which would have had two pieces most probably made of stone. More likely they were caused during the finishing process, after removal from the mould_ when the unwanted casting-seams were trimmed and the blade sharpened.

That the palstave was broken in antiquity is evident from the poor quality and condition of the bronze at the point of fracture. The small holes visible here will have caused such a serious weakness that the haft eventually gave way under the constant strain to which it would have been subjected during use.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. It was originally brought in for identification and recording by Mrs. A. Hampton. Details of the find-spot were transmitted from Mr. Ashcroft by Mrs. K. de Brisay. The help of those named is much appreciated.
2. The information about these finds is recorded in the archaeological archives of the Colchester and Essex Museum.
3. Smith, M. A., *P.P.S.* XXV, 1959, 144-187.
4. Burgess, C. B., *Monmouthshire Antiquary*, 1, pt. iv, 1964, 117-124.
5. Burgess, C. B., *British Prehistory* (ed. Renfrew, C.) 1974, 200-202.
6. Davies, D. G., *Antiquaries Journal*, XLVIII, 1968, 1-5.

THE OLD CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL, MILE END (PRELIMINARY NOTE)

G. M. R. Davies

The building of flats for elderly people in 1975 at Rectory Close, Mile End Road, entailed landscaping the graveyard of the old church of St. Michael which had been demolished in the nineteenth century and incorporated into the garden of Myland Rectory. All standing tombstones were removed in August, 1975, when the area was levelled and covered with additional topsoil ready for seeding. The more notable gravestones were later replaced in the S.W. corner of the churchyard.

When enough walling was found to have survived either at or just above ground level, the Group undertook to prepare the foundations of the church for conservation and to ensure that related archaeological levels were protected for the future. On six successive week-ends in October and November some 17 members in all helped to clean the walls, level up the interior for turfing and grade the external ground-surface up from the walls to the new level.

All previous references to this building have been scanty. According to Morant "the church is of one pace with the chancel and very small", while the R.C.H.M. (N.E. Essex), published in 1922, mentions "remains of the rubble foundations of the nave about 18 feet wide and of indeterminate length; the chancel has entirely disappeared".

The nave is now known to be 18 ft. 9 in. wide and 32 ft. 9 in. long with walls varying from 2ft to 2 ft. 6 in. in width. The north doorway had been blocked and that on the south side was entered by a porch (8 ft. 6 in. long by 6 ft. 6 in. wide), in which were found the damaged remains of an octagonal font made of rendered brick. "The chancel is 15 ft. 10 in. wide and the top of its walls (2 ft. 9 in. wide) were cleared 12 ft. 6 in. eastwards on the north side and nearly 15 ft. on the south. The east wall was not reached, though this may be possible when work resumes early in 1970. A simple, but much rebuilt, post-conquest church seems to be indicated.

CROPMARKS

In 1972 and 1974 the Potato Marketing Board commissioned aerial surveys of north-east Essex. The survey, taken from a height of 3750 feet, revealed cropmarks in plenty, especially those of 1974 which were taken early in the morning with a low sun. The photographs revealed many of the cropmarks already reported in the previous Bulletins of the Colchester Archaeological Group and also, in addition, the following which have not been previously recorded. Also included in the list below are new sites discovered by private aerial survey.

Alresford	TM 06532015	One ring. 24 metres diameter.
Ardleigh	TM 03922961	Polygonal shaped enclosure. Entrance on east side. Width 90 metres.
Beaumont-cum -Moze	TM 19882445	Broad ditched ring. 26 metres diameter.
Bradfield	TM 13492862	Circular ditched enclosure. 135 metres diameter.
Brightlingsea	TM 10021738	One ring. 20 metres diameter.
Elmstead	TM 05322401	One ring. 16 metres diameter.
Feering*	TL 86752050	Large rectangular enclosure, clear rectangular pit, linear and other features.
	TL 86852055	Ring ditch near above.
Fingringhoe	TM 02691982	Ovate enclosure with entrance on east side. 55 x 61 metres.
	TM 03721981	One ring.
	TM 03471965	One ring.
Frating	TM 08502235	Ditched enclosure. 100 metres diameter.
Great Bentley	TM 12482081	Irregular ring. 15 metres diameter.
Great Bromley	TM 10182475	Ditched rectangular enclosure. 60 x 50 metres.
	TM 07592705	Ditched rectangular enclosure. 50 x 30 metres. with internal ring, 19 metres diameter.
	TM 071 12665	One ring. 8 metres diameter.
Great Oakley	TM 17352623	Broad ditched rectangular enclosure. 90 x 70 metres.
	TM 17622704	Group of four rings.
Lawford*	TM 07403115	One of the so-called "Neolithic long barrow" outlines such as that recorded by Mr. Erith at Stratford Hall (C.A.G. Bulletin 14 (1971), etc. and the one mentioned here at Rivenhall. Several ring ditches in its near vicinity are recorded.
Little Bentley	TM 11902430	One ring. 30 metres diameter.
Little Bromley*	TM 08002735	Overlaid rectangular field outlines obviously associated with the enclosure lying the other side of Manning Grove. (C.A.G. Bulletin 18 (1975) p. 16).
Manningtree**	TM 08553250	Very long pear-shaped enclosure with possible internal features. Rings and other cropmarks adjoining.
Mistley*	TM 10603000	This field and several to the south and west are covered with a profusion of pits, linear ditches and tracks on a scale to rival the Ardleigh Complex.
	TM 11903035	Overlaid small enclosures, ditch lines and track.
	TM 11753040	Ring ditch.
	TM 11803055	Ring ditch.
		Other rings recorded to the south-east, south-west and north-east in adjoining fields.
Ramsey	TM 20432976	One ring. 15 metres diameter.
Rivenhall*	TL 84751670	Another "Neolithic long barrow" outline as above.
	TL 84801665	Ring ditch close to the above.
Tattingstone, Suffolk*	TM 14803720	Additions to this site beside Birchwood Cottage. A large complex running into the unreceptive crop of the adjoining field. (C. A. G. Bulletin 18 (1975) p. 18).
Tendring	TM 14662404	One ring. 15 metres diameter.
	TM 14822392	One ring. 20 metres diameter
	TM 15112379	One ring. 24 metres diameter
	TM 15092385	One ring. 9 metres diameter
	TM 15112385	One ring. 10 metres diameter.
	TM 15082392	Two concentric rings. 40 and 25 metres diameter.
Thorrington	TM 09992065	One ring. 40 metres diameter.
Weeley	TM 16602115	One ring. 19 metres diameter.
Wrabness	TM 17503159	One ring. 20 metres diameter.

NOTE: The majority of the sites listed above have been contributed by R. H. Farrands except for those indicated thus:

* By Ida McMaster.

** By R.A.F. (old series).