Colchester Archaeological Group

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Editorial

The 1980 Bulletin is the second volume with the new look. Despite rising costs we are still managing to print. Another excellent series of winter lectures has been arranged by Mrs de Brisay and is listed on the back cover. Please come and also invite your friends to these talks.

In view of his long and valuable service to the Group the Committee have invited Mr Peter Holbert to become an Honorary Member and we all send him our best wishes.

The Editorial Sub-committee+ is glad to consider material for publication and a page of guide lines for contributors is available on request.

Editor

+Mrs K de Brisay FSA
Mr G.M.R. Davies MA, AMA
Mrs K.A. Evans.

Excavations

It is hoped to put down a trench to verify last years field walking if this can be fitted in with the farmer's programme and then a second at the supposed Roman road near Easthorpe.

Graveyard surveys will continue as long as weather permits. Anyone interested in taking part in these activities please contact the Hon. Secretary.

C.A.G. Bulletins - Back numbers

Back numbers are available of all issues except:
Vols. 1/4, 7/3, 7/4, 8/1 and 11/2

Anyone wishing to buy a particular issue please contact Hon. Treasurer.

FIELDWORK IN THE ROMAN RIVER CONSERVATION ZONE

G M R Davies and K de Brisay

Background

The establishment of a conservation zone in the valley of the Roman River had been the subject of discussion for some time before a meeting was called by Colchester Borough Council's Planning Department on 26th November, 1975. Here it was determined that the area to be included within the zone should stretch from Stanway Green to the confluence of the Roman River with the River Colne at Rowhedge. In due course the boundaries were agreed and three working groups were formed to deal with three specific aspects; nature conservation, recreation and landscape management; archaeology and history. The zone was, in fact, formally adopted by the Borough Council in January 1976 and an interim statement of principles issued in May of that year.

The first meeting of the Archaeological and Historical Working Group was held in February 1976 under the chairmanship of Mr Rupert Knowles, representing the farming interests, with Mr David Green of the Borough Planning Department as Secretary. Among the other interests involved were Colchester and District Federation of Amenity Societies (C A D F A S), the Colchester and Essex Museum, the councils of the parishes within the Zone, the Colchester Archaeological Group and, for a short time, the Army.

This committee has met regularly ever since and its first achievement was a survey of historic buildings, as a preliminary to updating the statutory list of buildings of architectural and historic interest made by the Department of the Environment, for the area of the former Lexden and Winstree RDC. This was extended to cover the whole of the new Colchester District as part of a general survey being conducted throughout Essex on the DOE's behalf by Mr M C Wadhams and Mr C A Hewitt of the Historic Buildings Section of the County Council's Planning Department. Members of the C A G and other local amenity organisations contributed to this work and relevant buildings, thus recorded, were subsequently included in a new map of the Conservation Zone, together with archaeological sites compiled from existing records, local knowledge and aerial photographs.

It was then decided to check some of these sites on the ground, the most significant being the Gosbeck's area, which had originally been excluded from the Zone. Steps were taken, however, to adjust the northern boundary to include the whole of this extremely important site which was formally adopted by the Borough Council in November 1977.

Roman Roads

The existence of Roman roads crossing the Zone was considered next and a small excavation was undertaken to test the Easthorpe spur of the London to Colchester road (Margary 1967, 254 No 320 and Christy 1923, 97-100) at TL 92 92202152, but this proved negative. However, it was subsequently picked up one and a quarter miles further east in Fountain Field as it crossed the Roman River and entered Gol Grove. Here its course can be traced in the developed, and thus clearly visible, form of a hollow way with a secondary track cut along the steepest part of its climb to the higher ground. It is planned to survey and section this in the near future.

On emerging from the wood the road follows a double hedge-line before crossing Warren Lane (TL 912 94722220). The next section has been completely destroyed by mineral extraction, but an extension of its known line would project it just south of the five-acre Roman fort which was discovered at Well House in 1976, lying just within the Heath Farm dyke on the edge of the Gosbecks complex (Davies, 1977, 23; Wilson 1977, 185-187). Aerial photographs of cropmarks in the area between Warren Plantation and Grymes Dyke show possible, though as yet inconclusive, traces of this road (Mrs I McMaster's collection).

Field-walking at Copford Plains

The Site: Roman remains were first noted at Copford Plains in December 1949, when Mr G W Ridyard of the Archaeological Branch of the Ordnance Survey observed flue-tile and roof-tile fragments together with first and second century pottery (Hull 1963, 123). The finds were made in three specific areas and according to the landowner, Mr. Harrison of Street Farm, Stanway two of these areas had been ploughed up that autumn for the first time in about two centuries. In 1974 a complete combed box flue-tile was ploughed up and

brought to Colchester Museum for identification (1).

The site apparently covers two fields on both sides of an unmade road north of the early 12th century church of St Michael and All Angels at Copford, whose structure contains much Roman brick (RCHM 1922 76). The site lies almost equidistant from Stane Street (Margary 1967, 252 No. 32) and the Roman road mentioned above, straddling the one hundred foot contour towards the top of rising ground immediately west of the Roman River. Aerial photographs record cropmarks of ditches running along side trackways and at field boundaries in this area (Mrs I McMaster's collection).

Fieldwork: An initial inspection of these fields while under plough, made by members of the working group on 30th December 1979, revealed a widespread scatter of Roman pottery and tile, particularly on the west side of the road. Since so little work had previously been done on the site, it was decided that an intensive field-walking exercise was necessary to determine the extent and general nature of the archaeological remains.

Field-walking, under the direction of Mr G M R Davies of the Colchester and Essex Museum, took place over six weekends between 20th January and 2nd March 1980 inclusive until the land was required for drilling. Conditions under foot were heavy at first, though they became much easier in the last two weeks as the ground dried out. However the visibility of finds was helped throughout the period by rain which could not be avoided during the actual walking on two particular occasions.

The field was laid out with a grid using a basic unit of ten metres, which enabled both walking along successive strips of that width and provided reference points for surveying. All the finds, numbering over 1500, were thus individually plotted on a plan of the site, except for the tile which was collected and recorded by the square. But since only a proportion of the latter could be cleared in the time available, this aspect will receive closer attention when work is resumed. The finds and the plan of their find-spots are in the care of the Colchester and Essex Museum (Accession no. 118.80).

The Finds: The following is a general summary of the finds. A waste flint of typically neolithic manufacture is the earliest datable artefact; otherwise there is nothing from the prehistoric period. The vast majority of material is Roman, almost all of the pottery being coarse ware dating between the later first century and at least the end of the third century AD. There are, however, a number of mainly plain Samian sherds, ranging in date from the Flavian period to the later second century (2), a few pieces only of colour-coated ware and some amphora sherds (Dressel 20). Among the roofing tile (mostly tegulae) are some fragments of hypocaust flue-tile with combed outer faces.

Two fragments of upper quern stones were made of Niedermendig lava from Andernach in Germany. Of the numerous pieces of metal work the most outstanding is a finger-ring made of bronze with a raised central part, presumably for a setting that has become detached. There are also nails and various pieces of ironwork and lead, all possibly of Roman origin. Two recognizable bronze coins are barbarous radiates of the later third century.

A few sherds of medieval pottery were recovered and there was a general spread of post-medieval material over the site, though not to any great number, or in any specific pattern of intensity. These include pottery, glass, clay-pipe fragments and ironwork, the latter mainly derived from agricultural activity.

Conclusions and discussion

The evidence so far obtained from this site suggests that occupation was purely Roman and took the form of a villa, no doubt comprising various ancillary buildings in addition to the house itself and with trackways and field enclosures in the immediate vicinity. There is, however, nothing to indicate the Romanization of an earlier native farmstead, since it seems to have been established in the later first century (Flavian period) and continued in use until at least the beginning of the fourth century with no particular pretensions to grandeur, except for a hypocaust system of central heating, as attested by fragments of flue-tiles. But there is no other structural evidence for this, nor were any tesserae found as evidence of mosaic or tessellated pavements.

Only excavation will reveal the extent to which the building remains have survived, their method of construction and whether the floor-levels still lie below the plough-line or have been destroyed without any traces showing in the plough soil. Certainly the presence of Roman material in Copford church makes it highly unlikely that this site avoided the attentions of the Norman builders.

This location is ideally situated for a villa with its good natural position lying between two main roads,

the one just over half a mile to the north and the other some three quarters of a mile to the south. Both led to the colonia at Colchester, four and a half miles away to the east, which undoubtedly provided the market for produce from this and other villas in the region(3).

How much authority the colonia exercised over the surrounding countryside, the extent of its territorium, and the juxtaposition of property owned by Roman and native landowners in the area are subjects that have long provoked discussion(Davies 1977). Although the owner of this villa may well have been a Roman, it is also possible that he was a wealthy Trinovantian, since Britons of property and standing are not unknown(4). However, native ownership would be more likely if there had been continuity from pre-Roman occupation.

As a result of aerial reconnaissance further extensions to the road system in the western approaches to the colonia have recently been suggested and it has also been put forward that these alignments could have provided a basis for centuriation - standard plots of land apportioned to the colonists (Jones 1979, 59-62)(5). It would be unusual to find a villa within a centuriated area, unless perhaps it was there first. Otherwise, if this theory is accepted, centuriation, which would have been inaugurated with the colonia in AD 49, must have been abandoned within a short time or was soon radically modified to allow the establishment of this villa within its area.

There are many wider issues relating to the villas in the region of the colonia that need to be considered, but it will be some while before these are resolved. Nevertheless, as far as this site is concerned, it is proposed to continue the work commenced as soon as circumstances allow.

Acknowledgements

Appreciation and grateful thanks are here recorded to the farmer, Mr G E Folkard, for allowing access to his land and for his interest in the project.

Thanks are due to all who participated, not only by fieldwalking, but also in taking a turn at such activities as bagging, labelling and plotting the finds, as well as other more menial tasks. These are Mr P Adkins, Mr K Adkins, Mrs Ballard, Miss C Barnard, Mrs J-A Buck, Mr B A Bonner, Master R G Davies, Mr A A Doorne, Mr A B Doncaster, Mrs K A Evans, Mr A J Fawn, Mr & Mrs Gordon, Mrs A Hampton, Mr R M Knowles, Mr A Koval, Miss M Maxwell, Mrs I McMaster, Mr H W Palmer, Mr & Mrs Proud, Mr J M Rodgers, Mrs I Sarlvik, Mr & Mrs A R West, Mr L West, Master V West and Miss H Wilson.

Washing and marking of the finds was undertaken by Mrs K de Brisay with invaluable support from several of the above named. It is unfortunate that nowhere as yet exists where the processing of finds can be done as a Group activity, which would be advantageous to all concerned. However, it is hoped that in due course the museum will be able to provide appropriate facilities.

The most rewarding aspect of this exercise, apart from the knowledge and experience gained, was the co-operation enjoyed by the Group with C A D F A S and the help and interest of the local inhabitants of Copford and other friends. It should also be mentioned that use was made of metal detectors owned by two members who have recently joined the Group. The detectors were used for two reasons; firstly to aid the recovery of those metal finds which are difficult to detect solely with the naked eye; secondly, and more important, to ensure that those very objects which would attract the predatory attentions of treasure hunters were recovered intact - thus preserving the integrity of the archaeological record. Clearly, only if they are needed for an archaeologically acceptable purpose, and then used under the strictest control by those for whom the principles of archaeology are paramount, should these instruments be allowed on archaeological sites, whether known or potential.

Notes

1) Information from records in the Colchester and Essex Museum and from the Ordnance Survey. The site is marked as a find of Roman material on the OS map of Roman Britain, 1978.
2) Details were kindly supplied by Mr G D Marsh of the Museum of London while on secondment to Colchester from the Department of Museum Studies, University of Leicester.
3) For a brief summary of villas in the vicinity of Colchester see Clarke and Davies, 1980, 45.
4) For example, a wealthy native called Aesubilinus was commemorated by his freedman on an inscription at Colchester (R I B 193 Clarke and Davies, 1980, 35).
5) The suggested road alignment running east of and parallel to the Marks Tey to London road coincides with the course of a water main.

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COUNTY AMENITY AWARD SCHEME

It will be remembered that the Group has twice won a prize in this competition - once for the SALT REPORT and once for an ALBUM OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS. It has been suggested that we enter again with another album; this time to include a collection of old photographs and postcards of the countryside in the vicinity of Colchester as it was before and at the time of the First World War. This will make an important contribution to local history and be of great interest to posterity.

We are already promised some pictures of Kelvedon, also of the Crab and Winkle Railway and of a Zeppelin grounded in front of the old Berechurch Hall.

Please search your attic and your grandmother's photograph album to see if you have any pictures to lend us. These will be carefully copied and returned. If possible please include any historical details and interesting anecdotes to go with them. Old buildings now gone, farm machinery, old cars and bicycles, styles of dress and portraits of famous local dignitaries will be particularly welcome.

Your name and address should be clearly marked on the reverse of each item and should be sent to the Hon. Secretary:

Mrs K.W. de Brisay,
Corner Cottage,
Layer de la Haye,
COLCHESTER CO2 0LE,
Telephone Layer 274.

KYDELLS, WEARES, WEIRS, PUCHERS, PUTT-RANKS, STEWES

Kay de Brisay

The strange names in the title all refer to various ways of catching fish. To the older inhabitants of Mersea Island the term KIDDLE is well-known and when the severe storms and high winds of the winter of 1978/9 scoured Cooper's Beach at East Mersea many odd shaped depressions were revealed. Well down the beach stretching for some 500 yards between two old breakwaters, they were readily identified. Some of the depressions were complete in outline being in some cases circular and some rectangular. The edges seemed to be of some organic material and excavation revealed that this extended across the bases under the water. Samples of the organic matter have been sent for identification to Cambridge and the result is awaited. Cursory examination would suggest remains of marsh plants with some remains of the Gastropod Hydrobia Ulvae.

A search of the Manorial Rolls of East Mersea failed to reveal any mention of Kiddles, though some interesting details of some of the customs are given below. However two wills from Foulness refer to "one SUMMERKEDELL called SATURDAYE" and a half moiety of "one Keddell called THE HALFE-EBBE" and another called THE PLECKES dated 1586 - 1596. Another will of 1596 mentions two WEARES called THE FRIGGE AND THE MOULE and a WEIR called THE DROVER, both in Great Clacton.

Henry Laver (1) describes KETTLE or KEDDELL fishing at Shoeburyness and on the Maplin Sands at Foulness. He likens them to a "fixed seine net" in the form of a letter V with the apex, which is fitted with a "purse", pointing away from the shore. These are set either singly or two or more in a line; fixed into position with stakes and are about 120 yards long and four feet high. The fish are carried in by the rising tide and trapped on the ebb. Turbot was the prime fish caught in this way.

Keddells take many forms in different parts of the country. Some have traps made of woven willow withies set on posts and another form is composed of V shaped wattle fences guiding the fish into traps. WEARES or WEIRS are more usually employed across the mouths of estuaries as are PUTCHERS or PUTT-RANKS. STEWES are pits dug on the landward side of sea walls where freshly caught fish are stored alive till required. Valuable fish, such as turbot, would have a string attached to their tails with a cork on the other end so that they could more easily be netted without being damaged. Fish Street in Goldhanger leads to such a pit near Fish Pit Marsh, though this is on the seaward side of the present sea wall.

To return to the Manorial Rolls of East Mersea. That of 1732 refers to "All that oyster laying lying in a certain channel in the Salt Marsh called the Great Marsh - to Marmaduke Randon for eleven years from the Feast of St Michael the Archangel and the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin - payment one pound ten shillings. "At the Court Leet of 1734 a Common Fine to the Lady of the Manor (Dame Rachel Creffield) of fifteen shillings and fourpence was recorded; also the election of Bread and Ale Tasters for the ensuing year - John Lawrence and Henry Clay. A conveyance dated 24th August 1748 is recorded;- Robert Durell to Hannah Dyer Spr., copyhold of lands etc., STONELANDS-LOROCKS-MANNUDENS-EASTLANDS-MOTTS-BOGGORELLS-SHRAILS-PAUL FREEMAN'S- and SOUTHWICKS.

Reference

Laver H. The Mammals, Reptiles and Fishes of Essex. Essex Field Club Special Memoirs III (1898) 101 Rhombus Maximus Turbot.

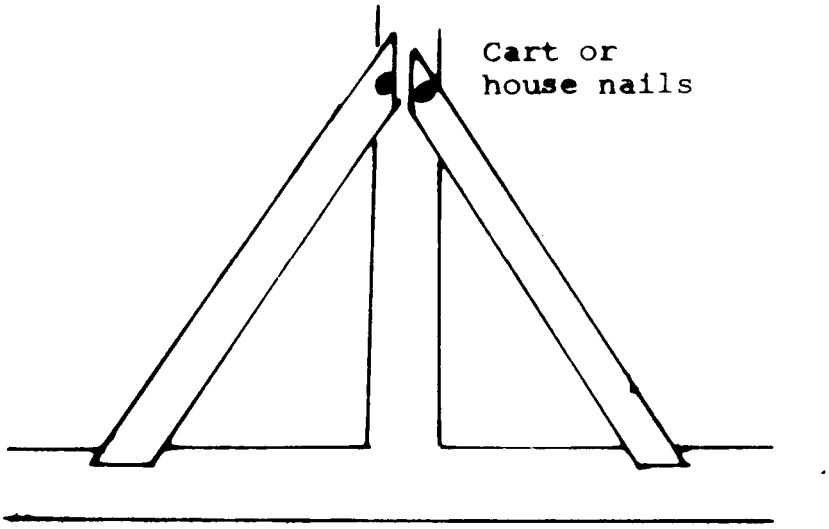
THE HIGHFIELD SITE, ABBERTON

A. A. Doorne

1) Remains of an ancient building

Highfield, OS TM1004195, is field no. 108 on the accompanying map. The discovery of pieces of pottery, tile, a harness buckle, a rusted iron cart or house nail and some spent cartridge cases first aroused interest in the site. Other nails and cartridge cases had previously been found and one of the cartridge cases was identified as having been manufactured about 1900. Highfield is now an orchard and for some years it has been noticed that whenever replacement trees are planted tile, pottery and odd nails are brought to the surface particularly from the centre of the field and towards its western edge. Highfield slopes steeply towards its western edge and where it meets the adjoining field it appears that a hanger(1) has been formed; this may or may not be natural. The adjoining field continues the downward slope towards Layer Road, Abberton.

It was possible to identify the obviously hand forged nail found in Highfield on a visit to a timber and plastered house elsewhere. There, supporting a post on the second floor, were a pair of braces nailed into joints in the post (see sketch below). The nails used were a similar type of hand forged nail and the date of the building was around 1600-1700. It seems that hand forged nails only ceased to be made in the early 19th century, so it could be postulated that the remains of a building on Highfield would be no later than about 1820. There were four forges within a short distance of the site where the nails might have been made, at Layer de la Haye, Peldon, Fingringhoe and Abberton.



Sketch showing use of hand forged nails

The nearest early 19th century building to the site is The Maltings (see map D) a listed building in Abberton. The roof is tiled with what are commonly called "unidentified medieval" tiles and the tile scatter from Highfield is predominantly of this type. Old maps gave no clue that there was a similarly old building on Highfield. A one time owner of The Maltings understood that there was a malting house within the precincts of his property but that it had been destroyed by the earthquake in April 1884. The present red brick cottage probably replaced it, as malting had long since ceased to be a local industry. However, in this connection records(2) show that a Richard Cuddon, brewer and maltster lived in Abberton and the tithe map shows a field called The Hop Garden(field 104) near the Maltings.

The explanation of the building debris in Highfield would seem that broken tile, plaster and pottery from a medieval building destroyed by the earthquake was tipped down the slope of the field just below its highest point. The debris has since been washed down or moved down by ploughing over the course of the years. The pottery, some of it of an earlier date (a piece of Bellamine was found) was, I suggest, probably part of some family heirloom destroyed at the same time as the building and dumped.

2) Other clues to the early history of the area, in particular the use of field names

Although knowledge of the earthquake in 1884 explained the presence of building debris in Highfield many other questions concerning the ancient past of the district remain unanswered.

Field names in the area indicate a much earlier organised settlement. Map studies indicate that the Langenhoe and Abberton villages which we know today are probably not the villages referred to in old records. Langenhoe of today is possibly no more than 150 years, if as old; whereas the original village has probably existed for more than 2,000 years and some of the early sites are still occupied today. The bulk of the original settlement has all but disappeared but the field evidence for a small nucleated village is still there just below the plough surface. The few surviving early properties in the village now were probably once isolated and remote from the main centre. Abberton, apart from one or two old properties of more than 400 years old, dates mainly from late 1700s and the tithe map of 1838 seems to show properties remote from the church. Today the church is more than a kilometer from the main centre of population around the cross roads.

To the west of Highfield is a field called Clay Hill (field 113), yet there is no hill! John Field (3) suggests that the name Clay Hill usually denoted an area of heavy clay soil or a spot where clay was dug. Examination at the western edge of Highfield shows that at some time clay has been dug out, though this activity probably ceased in late medieval times. Brick and tile manufacture is known to have taken place at what I will, for want of a better name, call Manwood Kiln (see map B), as late as 1800 (4) and even today wasters can be found in the vicinity of the kiln. Oyster shell (5) has also been found there, but it is difficult to know its particular use. A potter's kiln is said to have existed in the grounds of Roman Hill House (see map A), only a few hundred yards from Manwood Kiln (6). Was local clay used at this kiln? It is unlikely that the kiln would have been built at a great distance from the supply of clay. It would be helpful if both the pottery and tile could be analysed to see if the clay comes from a common source.

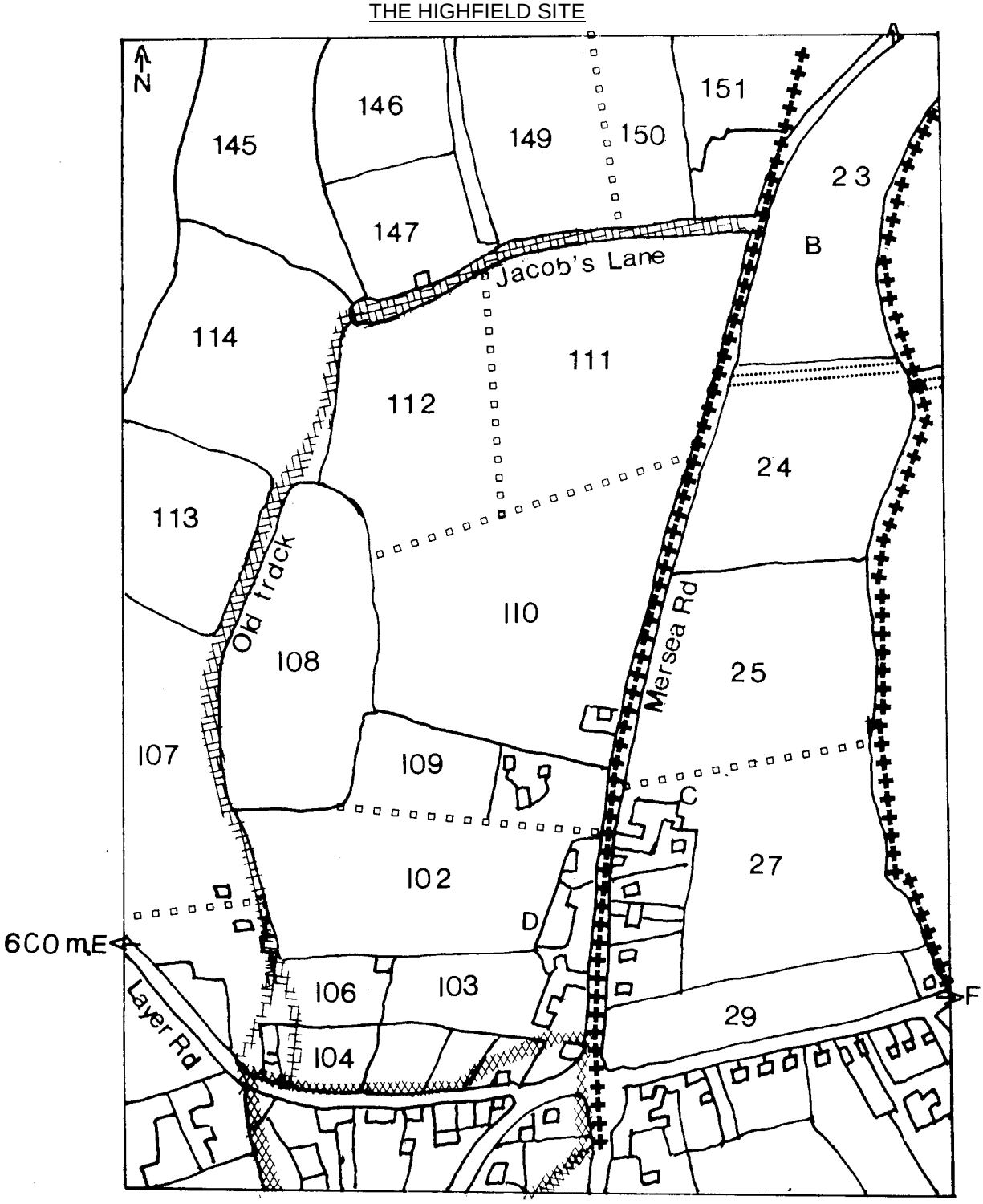
Among the tile finds from Highfield was a heavier piece of much different quality. It was suggested that this might be a piece of hip tile and this led me to wonder whether it was a stray from the Roman Cemetery at Woodfield (field 151) close by which was excavated in 1933 (7). Judging from the experience of the excavation at Maldon Road (8), one might expect to find some sort of building attached to a burial ground. Is it likely that there was a road either from the possible Roman road via Abberton Church, or from the camp at Fingringhoe Wick, or even from both directions? Sections of the road west of the cemetery are unlikely to exist now due to clay working (unless Jacobs Lane was part of it) but I understand that the road can still be found to the east(9).

The field name Manwood provided my next clue. The name means a wood where commoners could cut and take wood, an old manorial custom (the right of Estovers). This manorial wood extended to both sides of the Mersea Road (10), from Manwood Bridge southwards as far as the footpath to Fingringhoe, eastwards as far as the deep valley (the western side of which is the parish boundary) and westwards as far as the parish boundary of Langenhoe. Is it possible that these are ancient estate boundaries that have later become parish boundaries? There are pollarded oaks along the eastern boundary a sign, it is said, of attempts to establish eternal trees, although oaks were pollarded in some areas to keep up supplies of firewood.

The valley is unusual for the area; its southern end seem to take an abrupt right turn across the field towards Manwood Farm (see map C). If this line were continued it would lead to Abberton Church which stands on a small mound alongside the possible Roman road. In his circumvallation theory Mr C.F. Hall (11) suggested that the line of the dyke or rampart was along the Abberton-Fingringhoe Road, but this valley could, in fact, be the dyke.

The boundary of the old Abberton Green (see map) which was known in 1800 as Langenhoe Green or Common seems to line up with the edge of Highfield. To the north there is map evidence of the remains of what appears to have been a track about 3 metres wide which can be linked with Jacobs Lane by following the field edges. The field enclosed by Jacobs Lane and the old trackway was, at the time of the 1838 Tithe map, divided into three smaller fields (see map), fields which would have been large by medieval standards. There were also other smaller fields in the area. Having regard to the ancient use of Manwood and its position in relation to Highfield, is this large field the Great Field of an old manor? Dr Hart (12) draws attention to the bounds of the manor or Pete according to Dr J.A. Matthews who suggests one of the boundary points is possibly Roman River by Manwood Bridge. If this is correct is this valley or part of it a Saxon, or earlier, boundary that has since become a parish boundary? Would this mean that the area could have been part of the manor of Pete?

THE HIGHFIELD SITE



Parish boundaries

1838 field lines, now gone

1838 boundary of old Abberton Green

Boundary of possible Great Field

Foot-path

210 metres

A Roman Hill House
B Manwood Kiln
C Manwood Farm
D The Maltings
E Church
F Langenhoe

Information collected in this way illustrates the use of historical study, and the study of field names in particular. Such "tools" are most useful for archaeologists and conservationists. The indications are that in the Abberton and Langenhoe area a widespread, large and well organised population was settled over a long period of time.

Fields with known names numbered on map

25 Barn Field
103 Little Field
107 Hanging Field
112 Upper Spring Field
146 Grove Field
27 Camp Field
104 The Hop Garden
108 High Field
113 Clay Hill Field
147 Little Spring Field
151 Woodfield
29 Lion Field
106 Cross path Field
111 Milestone Field
114 Lower Spring Field
150 Sand Pit Field

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1. Hanger - steep slope or ridge covered with trees or hedges; Old English - Hangra.
2. White William, History & Gazeteer of Essex 1863 Ed. Leader & Sons
3. Field John, English Field Names - A Dictionary David & Charles 48
4. Brown A.F.J., Essex People (1750-1900) Joseph Page, Farmer of Fingringhoe 1799-1803 97, Essex County Archives Office.
5. Found by the late Mr Lloyd Davies of Hay Farm when digging a well.
6. Hearsay from three different sources.
7. Colchester Museum.
8. Colchester Archaeological Trust Catalogue (1980) 6
9. Local worker - personal communication.
10. Chapman & Andre map 1777 & confirmed by present tenant of Manwood - shown on his deeds.
11. Hall C.F. - unpublished notes
12. Hart Cyril, The Early Charters of Essex - Norman Period Dept. Local History Occasional Papers (1957) 11, App.III -23 Leics. University Press.

1979 CROPMARKS

R. H. Farrands

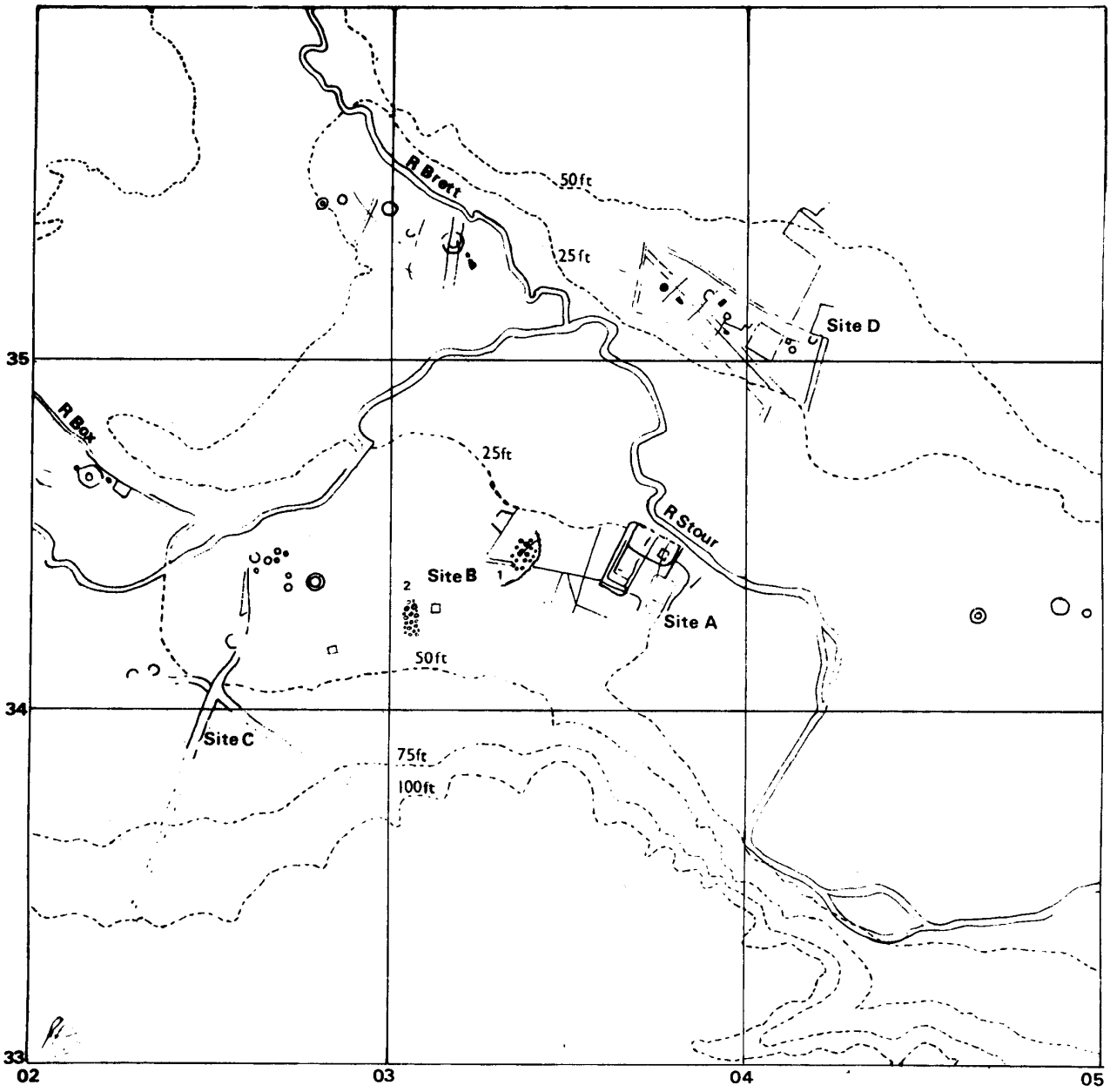
A combined list of cropmarks photographed from the air by Ida McMaster and R.H. Farrands during 1979. The list is confined to those which have not been recorded in previous Annual Bulletins of the Colchester Archaeological Group.

Abberton, Essex	TL 995196	Linear features and possible double ditched enclosure.
	TL 995198	Small ring ditch in the general area of a possible continuation of Berechurch Dyke, (McMaster I, Aerial Archaeology 1978 2, 51)
Ardleigh, Essex	TM 055284	Cover was obtained of additional fields near the Urn Field, and also of the long hedge line which commences at High Woods, Colchester. This crosses the area shortly due for development and then travels to the Ipswich road where it appears to continue as the northern parish boundary of Ardleigh. The latter is also a continuous hedge line which in turn is continued by another formed by Ardleigh - Elmstead eastern boundary. If these are ancient features it begins to look as if the Ardleigh complex was a territory in its own right.
Ashen, Essex	TL 759445	Large ring ditch and ovoid enclosure.
Barham, Suffolk	TM12025101	Ring ditch.
Belchamp St Paul, Essex	TL 803437	Large double ditched oval enclosure. Possibly a moated site, but a ring ditch adjoins it.
	TL 787454	One very large double concentric ring ditch with two small rings to north and south.
	TL 787450	One ring ditch with large rectangular enclosure.
Birch, Essex	TL 940200	Small ring ditch with vague subsidiary ditches adjoining a tributary stream.
	TL 936204	Large rectangular enclosure with a possible north east entrance.
Borley, Essex	TL 856430	Medium ring ditch.
Bradfield, Essex	TM 143303	Possible ring ditch.
Bramford, Suffolk	TM 104473	Parallel linear ditches travelling east west.
Brantham, Suffolk	TM 117337	Junction of several ditched features. Possible tracks/roads; other trackways adjoin to the east and burials lie at Marsh Farm to the south (Clarke R, Arch. J XCV1 1937 90; Clarke J.G.D. PPSEA Vl 1931 356; Gilmour R. PSlA XXX111.2 116; Maynard G, Ant.J. V 1925 73)
Brightlingsea, Essex	TM 100174	Faint ring ditch and two vague enclosures.
Bucklesham, Suffolk	TM 237419	Two ring ditches additional to a group mentioned in C.A.G. 21(1978) 24
	TM 233423	Two small square enclosures with entrances on west side similar to those mentioned C.A.G. 22 (1979) 19, l.1km to the south west. Many linear features and trackways in the close vicinity.
Bures St Mary, Suffolk	TL 904357	One small ovate and one small sub-rectangular enclosure.

Cavendish, Suffolk	TL 815463	Five very large ring ditches - two double concentric, with four smaller rings and various pits.
	TL 796453	Rectangular enclosure, one side cut by parallel linear ditches leading to the River Stour.
Chilton Street, Suffolk	TL 759470	Large ring ditch with dark central core (recorded tumulus on OS map).
Claydon, Suffolk	TM 127492	Two ring ditches.
Coddenham, Suffolk	TM 115547	Ring ditch.
	TM 109531	Complex of ditched enclosures.
	TM 114526	Site of two Roman forts comprehensively photographed resulting in further additional features.
Colchester, Essex	TL 978245	Possible Roman road site crossing the playing field of the Girls High School.
	TL 983259	An impressive rectangular enclosure divided into compartments with several entrances. The ditches are of great depth and about 5m wide. An excavation across one ditch provided medieval pottery (Applebee J.S. Colchester Museum Report 1954 22)
Copford, Essex	TL 930216	Small sub-rectangular enclosure on the line of the possible Roman road to Easthorpe.
Creeting St Mary, Suffolk	TM10625468	Ring ditch.
Foxearth, Essex	TL 851438	One ring ditch.
Great Bentley,	TM 118196	Ditches of an early field system. Essex
Great Horkesley, Essex.	TL 989314	Small square enclosure and field system.
	TL 982302	Fields and track way near the site of medieval pottery kilns.
Harkstead, Suffolk	TM 197340	An older enclosure adjoins existing farm buildings.
	TM 199335	Linear ditches and enclosures over the site of the vanished St Clements Church.
	TM 202335	Parallel ditches of a curving track. .
	TM 203348	Fields with service corridors.
Higham, Suffolk	TM 042354	Complex of ditched fields or enclosures.
Holbrook, Suffolk	TM 180347	Trackways and enclosures.
	TM 159360	Ring ditch.
Lamarsh, Essex	TL 900350	Ovate enclosure in addition to the ring ditch- C.A.G. 14 (1971) 3.
Langham, Essex	TM 031342	A second cluster of small ring ditches (see site B2, map p 14) with a sub square enclosure. These lie SW of the first cluster (see site B1 on map) and both are probably associated with the Romano British farmstead to the east (see C.A.G. 20 (1977) 16). These clusters are very similar to those of the Ardleigh Urn Field.
Lawford, Essex	TM 083315	A large rectangular enclosure lies east of the four rings already recorded -C.A.G. 18 (1975) 24.
Layer de la Haye, Essex	TL 962198	Linear ditches with a small ring ditch/hut circle close to Chest Wood Dyke.
Liston, Essex	TL 852450	Two ring ditches possibly more.

Levington, Suffolk	TM24794043	Ring ditch.
Long Melford, Suffolk	TL 863462	Large ring ditch with inner feature and nearby linear ditches.
	TL 844462	One medium ring ditch.
Middleton, Essex	TL 882401	Faint ring ditch and small enclosures.
	TL 880396	One medium ring ditch.
Mistley, Essex	TM12282730	Ring ditch adjacent to one mentioned - C.A.G. (1975) 25.
Mount Bures, Essex	TL 907322	Two cropmarks appeared in the area of the Welwyn burial. One appeared to be rectangular in outline and the other vaguely cruciform. These proved to be old pipe lines but within the former is a shallow ditch which contains Iron Age sherds.
Nacton, Suffolk	TM 218413	Wide trackway close to the Seven Hills tumulus group. Possible cursus.
	TM 220411	One small ring ditch.
Raydon, Suffolk	TM 037385	One ring ditch SW of Barrow Hill.
Shotley, Suffolk	TM22933522	Double concentric ring ditch.
	TM02233522	Small irregular ovate.
	TM229352	Double concentric ditch and trackway.
Stoke by Nayland, Suffolk	TL98593495	Additional ring ditch - C.A.G. 14 (1971) 10, map 9 and C.A.G. 20 (1977) 18
	TM02233522	Small irregular ovate.
Stratford St Mary, Suffolk	TM 063343	Small field system east of the large ring complex - C.A.G. 14 (1971) 15 map 18
Tattingstone, Suffolk	TM 145392	Trackway travelling east-west, perhaps original extent of Holbrook Park.
	TM146379	One ring ditch.
	TM145382	Large D shaped enclosure. The entire area south east of Holbrook Park is covered with cropmarks and must denote a site of equal importance to Ardleigh.
Tendring, Essex	TM 130235	Trackways and field enclosures south of the Class 2 Henge already recorded - C.A.G. 18 (1975) 24, Little Bentley.
Trimley St Martin, Suffolk	TM 251401	Trackway and field ditches. Suffolk
Wherstead, Suffolk	TM15504095	Ring ditch.
	TM 167402	One side of a double ditched enclosure with opposed entrances through each ditch. The inner ditch appears to have a rounded corner, on the outside of which is a very distinct square post hole building. Some distance away is a second rectangular post-hole building. The site has the appearance of Roman origin.
Wormingford, Essex	TL 923327	The possible cursus is now seen to curve at its north end, thereby travelling not necessarily to the River Stour but probably on a parallel course.

CROP MARKS - AREA TM



The ring clusters at Site B above are illustrated only approximately due to their numbers and small size.

ESTIMATING THE HEIGHTS OF MOUNDS

A.J. Fawn

It is the nature of archaeology that remains commonly lie beneath the ground and nothing is visible above except perhaps for a cropmark. Particular examples are the Bronze Age ring ditches excavated by the Group at Ardleigh, Great Bromley and Mount Bures. We know what Bronze Age barrows look like, in their present form at least, because there are a fair number still standing. If we assume that our flattened mounds were originally of the same general shape, can we estimate their height and so reconstruct them on paper from the excavation evidence?

When the shape and dimensions of a ring ditch are known from excavation it is not a difficult calculation to estimate the volume and height of the mound provided that we assume:

1) That all the soil from the ditch is in the mound.
2) Where the original ground level lay.
3) Shapes for the mound and ditch which are mathematically amenable.

Formulae for the volumes of a mound and two shapes of ring ditch are given in the appendix. With the provisos listed above we may assume that the volume of the ditch V_D is equal to the volume of the mound V_M and so use the formulae to obtain expressions for the height of the mound h.

It is apparent from the published sections that the Ardleigh, Great Bromley and Mount Bures ditches are approximately V-shaped and therefore we may use the formulae

$$V_D = \frac{\pi D w p}{2} \qquad \text{and} \qquad h = \frac{4D w p}{d^2}$$

to give the values for V_D and h in Table 1 which also lists the relevant dimensions.

Table 1 Original Surface at Plough Depth

Ring	Reference CAG Bull.	Ditch dimensions D ft.	w ft.	p ft.	d ft.	Estimated V cu ft	h ft.
A 1	III.4.53	22.13	6.76	3.25	15.37	764	8.2
A 2	III.2.25	21.46	6.36	2.61	15.10	560	6.2
A 3	IV.3.41	37.44	6.86	3.10	30.58	1251	3.4
A 4	IX.1. 4	63.95	5.58	2.21	58.37	1239	0.9
MB	18.10	90.40	8.23	4.34	86.09	5074	1.7
GB	20.11	31.91	4.37	2.00	27.54	438	1.5

The Table shows that, whereas the estimated heights of mounds for rings A 1 and A 2 are substantial at just over 8 and 6 feet respectively, the others are much smaller and, if correct, the mounds would be rather insignificant monuments. Now Table 1 assumes the original ground surface to be at plough depth. If the original surface was above this level, the original ditch would have been not only deeper but wider at the surface so that both p and w would be increased in the same proportion. Thus volume V_D increases rapidly as the square of the depth of the ditch and so does the height of the mound.

Table 2 gives recalculated figures on the assumption that the original surface was the same as the present day surface, thus being higher than in Table 1 by plough depth, about 1 foot. It shows that mounds A 1 and A 2 become absurdly high for their diameters, A 3 becomes a reasonable size but A 4, MB and GB remain rather low.

Table 2 Original Surface at Present Surface

Ring	Reference CAG Bull.	Ditch dimensions				Estimated	
		D ft.	w ft.	p ft.	d ft.	V_D cu. ft.	h ft.
A 1	111.4.53	22.13	8.88	4.27	13.25	1318	19.1
A 2	111.2.25	21.46	8.82	3.62	12.64	1076	17.1
A 3	IV.3.41	37.44	9.18	4.15	28.26	2241	7.1
A 4	IX.l. 4	63.95	7.17	4.13	56.78	2975	2.3
MB	18.10	90.43	9.97	5.26	80.46	7450	2.9
GB	20.11	31.91	6.49	2.97	25.42	966	3.8

It is therefore clear that lack of knowledge of the original ground level and the uncertainties of the other provisos prevent an accurate estimation of the volume and heights of mounds. However, the calculations are not completely useless since they enable us to make the following speculations.

One way to achieve a higher mound without having to do more digging is to provide a berm, the belt of ground left between the perimeter of the mound and the inner edge of the ditch which surrounds it. The diameters of the mounds in both Tables are given on the assumption there are no berms and therefore d is smaller than the ditch mean diameter D only by the width of the ditch. However, if d is assumed to be smaller still to allow for a berm, the formulae remain valid.

Since the ditches of the small barrows A 1 and A 2 provide more than enough soil for a good-sized mound we may postulate that they did not have berms. Or the original ground surface may have been well below the present one and near the present plough level. Or some of the ditch soil may have been used to provide an outer bank.

A 3 seems to be a reasonable size for a bowl barrow without a berm and with an original ground level between the present surface and plough depth.

A 4 and MB have large diameter ditches which are not deep enough to provide sufficient soil for a good-sized mound. Possible explanations are that the builders were happy with a low barrow, that the barrows had berms, that the original ground level was even higher than the present surface and that soil was obtained from elsewhere. The calculation does not tell us which of the explanations is correct, but at least it indicates that there is a query to be answered.

The excavated pit of the GB barrow was very shallow and may have been the bottom of the original deeper pit for the burial. The shallowness suggests that the original surface may have been at least as high as the present surface and the estimated height for the barrow in Table 2 is supporting evidence for this.

Summarising, this use of mathematics in archaeology seems to have its limitations but it may be more effective if the calculations are made during excavation when it may be possible to check theories by looking for physical evidence; for example signs of berms or external banks.

Appendix

Formulae for the Volume of a Mound

It is assumed that the shape of the mound is a segment of a sphere, like the top cut from an orange.

Let d be its diameter
h be its height
V_M be its volume

The volume of the segment is $$V_M = \frac{\pi h}{6}\left(\frac{3d^2}{4} + h^2\right)$$

For most archaeological mounds h is small enough compared with d for the term h to be ignored without significant loss of accuracy and then the expression simplifies to

$$V_M = \frac{\pi h d^2}{8}$$

Formulae for the Volume of a Circular Ditch

Let w be its width at the surface
p be its depth
D be its mean diameter
V_D be its volume

For a V-shaped ditch $V_D = \frac{\pi D w p}{2}$

For a ditch with a semi-circular cross section $V_D = \frac{\pi^2 D w^2}{8}$

Formulae for the Height of a Mound

Assuming that $V_M = V_D$

With a V-shaped ditch $h = \frac{4D w p}{d^2}$

With a semi-circular ditch $h = \frac{\pi D w^2}{d^2}$

THE ANGLO-SAXON CAUSEWAY AT MERSEA

P. Crummy

The Strood, a causeway linking Mersea Island with the mainland has for many years, been regarded as Roman but a recent discovery has provided new and surprising information about its date. In 1978, when the Anglian Water Authority was laying a pipeline across the Strood, a number of large oak piles were discovered. These were square in section with tapered ends and were, on average, about 8 feet long. They had been driven into the natural clay and were sealed by an accumulation of road surfaces five feet thick. Tree-ring analysis applied to samples from four of the piles has provided an estimated date for the felling of the tress concerned, and hence the construction of the causeway, of AD 693- 9 (yet to be confirmed). The density of the piles is such that probably many thousands were used to build the Strood. Clearly this must have been a major undertaking and implies the existence of something on the island important enough to merit such a task. There was, in Anglo-Saxon times, a minster at St Peter's West Mersea and it seems highly likely that the causeway was built to provide easy communication with the mainland and so that the priests could carry out their work more effectively.

Access roads to Mersea Island

In our last Bulletin(1) Mr Doorne suggested three possible routes to the island. He referred to the dating of the piles removed from the Strood, the present causeway across to the island which has previously been thought to be of Roman origin. We are now most grateful to Mr P. Crummy of the Colchester Archaeological Trust for his report, given above, on the dating of the piles. He suggests that the causeway was built in Saxon times and further support for this date might come from Mr Doorne's suggestion that the word Strood is derived from the high German.

Reference

1) Doorne A A Access Roads to Mersea Island CAG Bulletin 22 (1979) 15

CARVED BENCH ENDS

Illustrated by those in Ixworth Thorpe Church, Suffolk.

Kath Evans

The Group visited the church at Ixworth Thorpe in June this year. Mrs Jane Wilson of Manor Farm, the curator of the church, kindly showed us round and described some of the notable features. It is a small thatched church of Saxon origin. The main doorway is of the Norman period and the Piscina and Priests' doorway are 12th century. The porch is Tudor, built of brick and flint, and the small wooden bell tower probably replaced an earlier one of Tudor brick and flint. The one bell in the turret was cast in 1723, although at the time of the Reformation and up to 1553 two bells are recorded. Windows range from Early English, Decorated to Perpendicular. The church contains the Armorial bearings of George III and, what is said to be the best copy, of the Degrees of Marriage. The beautifully carved bench ends date to the 15th century.

We were particularly charmed by the delightful bench end carvings and at least two of us have been spurred to further activity concerning them. Tony Bonner went back with his camera and some of his splendid photographs illustrate this article. The author went to the literature to try to discover: a) whether carvings of this sort are rare; b) if there are reasons why they should have been undertaken in the 15th century; c) why these particular figures are depicted and d) who were the carvers?

The photographs show 1) A lady taking her dog for a walk; 2) A thatcher with his thatching rake and knife (most appropriate for a thatched church); 3) ? A dolphin - identity is for further study, any suggestions from readers will be welcome; 4) A unicorn and 5) A mermaid, probably holding a now broken off mirror.

Such varied, imaginative and often humorous carvings of men, animals, birds, reptiles and mythical beasts are a distinctive feature of East Anglian churches. They are found at the ends of the benches which themselves are usually finished in an upright or finial. The finial is usually carved around the top into a floral design which is described as a "poppyhead" (nothing to do with poppies but from the Latin puppis, the poop of a ship). Beneath the poppyhead the upright swells out into rounded shoulders (partly seen in figure 5) below which comes the arm rest where carvings appear, sometimes on the outer or aisle face only, usually on both sides and on occasion also up the shoulders. A few bench ends are traceried only and there are other variants but the majority have poppyheads, rounded shoulders and creatures, perhaps only 20cms high, carved upon them and it is these which have particularly interested the author.

a) Are such carvings rare?

According to Gardner(1958) there are more than 1000 ancient churches in Norfolk and Suffolk and over 100 of them are known to have remains of ancient bench ends. It seems that a full survey has not yet been made but probably 30 churches in Suffolk alone contain carved figures on bench ends today and in no region other than East Anglia are such carvings to be found in considerable numbers. There are some in the West Country and a few in the Midlands, rather different in style and with perhaps a smaller proportion depicting symbolic animals. So that, although rare countrywide, carved bench ends are a relatively common characteristic of East Anglian churches. Some of the finest examples are at Wiggenhall St Mary in Norfolk but good examples nearer home are at Hadleigh (a wolf with the head of St Edmund in his mouth), at Belchamp St Paul (a seated king and an ecclesiastic placed on a kind of pedestal opposite each other) and at Writtle (a seated hawk).

b) Reasons why the carvings appear to date from 15th century

Gardner considers that the carvings can be related to the many social changes which were taking place. The feudal nobles were less dominant than previously, they were busy fighting each other and were building fewer great churches and monasteries. Monasteries had been decimated by the Black Death and their rules relaxed (perhaps some of their craftsmen were free to undertake other work - in Suffolk there were monasteries close to Ixworth Thorpe at Ipswich, Bury, Thetford, Eye and Colchester to mention a few). Peasants were less downtrodden than they had been under Norman rule and a new middle class of wealthy

traders, merchants, shippers and farmers was emerging. Trade with the Low Countries had brought great riches to East Anglia and amongst other things, the well-to-do citizens wanted more comfort and luxury in

Bench end carvings at Ixworth Thorpe Church, Suffolk

Photographs by Tony Bonner

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2

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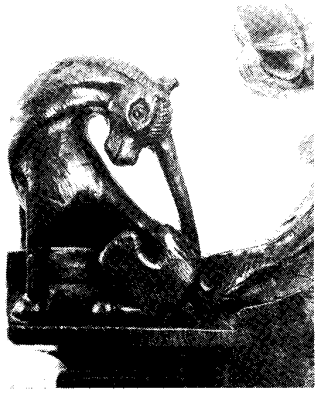

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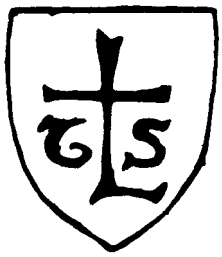
5

their churches. They enlarged them; added bigger windows; often the great hammer-beam roofs, as well as putting in seating. Wood was plentiful and so screens and pulpits, often richly carved, transformed the inside of the churches. An example is Lavenham church rebuilt to its present magnificence by John de Vere, Earl of Oxford in collaboration with the Spryngs, a rich family of clothiers (Cautley 1975). Adequate seating in the churches had become the more necessary since the coming of the Friars to preach and, additionally, the Lollards whose arguments meant that preaching became more important and sermons were longer. Previously the only seating had been stone benches around the walls of the' church, the congregation, like those of the Eastern church today, mostly stood and only the sick or feeble could sit; hence the saying "the weakest goes to the wall".

The Merchant's Mark of THOMAS SPRYNG(1)



c) <u>The figures depicted</u>

The figures vary from church to church, some representations are more common than others and, in general, in East Anglia symbolic beasts outnumber human figures. Figures frequently represent religious characters such as saints, who may point a moral. Few beasts were just pictorial, most symbolic and probably taken from the medieval manuscripts of the Bestiaries, or books of beasts. The Bestiary was a type of illustrated religious natural history book.(Anderson 1971, Druce 1909). The text gave descriptions of animals, their nature and habits and quotations from the scriptures about them, the whole combining to convey some moral or religious lesson. Some books contained as many as 100 birds, beasts, reptiles etc. To a non-reading population these symbolic carvings must have been important visual aids to learning about religion.

At Ixworth Thorpe symbolic figures include the Unicorn, Mermaid, Cocatrice and Squirrel. Other commonly seen beasts include the tiger, monkey, pelican, elephant , lion, dragon, centaur and sciapod. The legends attaching to some of them appear at the end of the article.

d) <u>Who were the carvers?</u>

The names of some of the carvers of the great churches of the 16th century in the northern and western counties are known (Purvis, 1935) but it seems there are no known records of the carvers in the small Suffolk churches. One wonders who these men were; whether they appreciated the significance of the beasts they carved and what they used as models; presumably few had seen a tiger, lion or elephant.

Was it just a few experts who carved these creatures; were the experts the local craftsmen? We cannot know how many churches once had carved bench ends in Suffolk, but looking at those which remain today they seem to fall into four distinct geographical groups. First, what might be called a NW central group, the largest, all around Ixworth. A second, or NE central group of about 6 or 7 churches around Athelington and Tannington; below them a third group in the SE of perhaps 3 churches around Ufford and finally in the SW a group of 4 around Denston. Blythborough and Lakenheath seem somewhat isolated, though perhaps Lakenheath belongs to a Norfolk group. At first sight one certainly has the impression of a regional variation in style of carving and choice of subject between these groups and this aspect might repay further study.

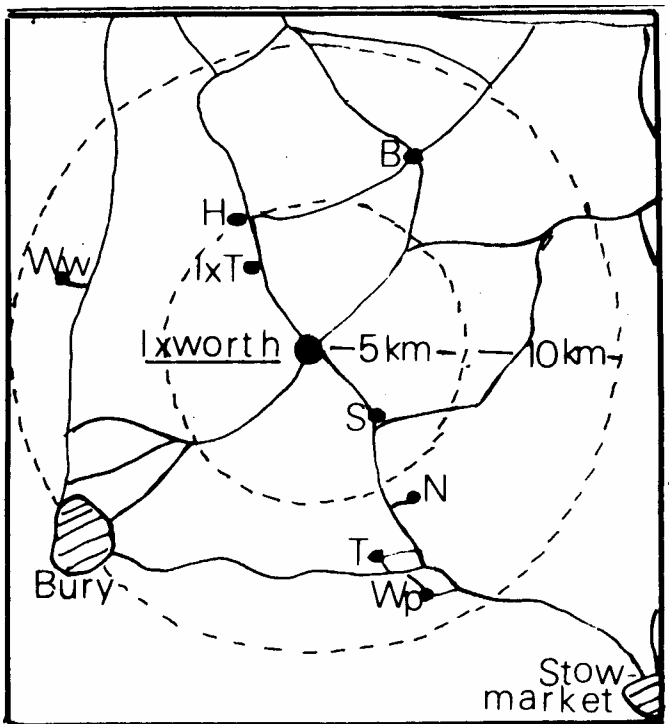
There are plainly strong likenesses between some of the carvings in individual churches. Gardner can see similarities in Wilton (Norfolk) and Lakenheath churches, four miles apart; and again between Barningham, Wordwell and Woolpit churches, all close as shown on the sketch map.

Looking more closely at the carvings in the churches shown on the map, even the inexpert eye (such as the author's) is struck by the likenesses in style and final appearance of the representations - these are seen particularly well in photographs. The cocatrice at Ixworth Thorpe seems almost a twin to the one at Tostock and there is a third at Stowlangtoft. Ixworth Thorpe and Tostock have unicorns so alike that one feels that they must have come from the same hand and both Stowlangtoft and Honnington also have unicorns. The man praying at Norton is quite like the figures at Stowlangtoft and Barningham. The faces of the thatcher, the woman with the dog and the mermaid at Ixworth Thorpe as well as the piper at Honnington and the ? centaur at Stowlangtoft are all remarkably similar. And all of them within a few kilometers of each other.

In all the carvings described in the Ixworth group the subject is straddled over the rounded top of the arm rest (seen well in plates 2, 3 and 5). This rounded top seems to appear very infrequently, if at all, in the

other groups.

Churches within 10 km of Ixworth which contain bench ends



Considering the proximity of the churches shown on the map it might have been possible for one man to have carved the bench ends of all or several of the churches, all within 10 kilometers of Ixworth at the centre. In the face of the seeming lack of records could he have been Thomas Vile of Ixworth who, in his will of 1472, left his carpenter's tools to his son? (Harvey 1954). Carver or not he was sufficiently successful to become an acknowledge benefactor of Ixworth church where today one can read, inscribed over the West door, THOME VYAL GAF TO THE STEPIL - lllj 6; on the South wall are two inscribed tablets and one has the date of 1472, the year in which Vile's will was proved (Cautley 1975).

B = Barningham, H = Honnington,
Ww = Wordwell, IxT = Ixworth Thorpe,
S = Stowlangtoft, T = Tostock
Wp = Woolpit

Some Bestiary Legends

Mermaid: She probably represented all mans' worldly temptations. The legend, as now, was that her singing would lure the sailors to their deaths; the moral being to beware those who speak sweet words but do evil deeds. When shown holding a fish she is an evil one holding a soul.
Unicorn: A symbol of Christ who was born of a pure virgin; derived from the story that the unicorn met with a young virgin in a wood, was so much attracted by her that he put his head in her lap and went to sleep so becoming an easy prey for the hunters (the devils). The whole story can be seen depicted on misericords but, of course, would have been too much for a bench end where it is represented by the unicorn alone. He was usually carved in a contorted position so that he could tuck in his horn to prevent it being snapped off.
Cocatrice: Has the head and wings of a cock, tail of a serpent and was hatched by a toad from an egg laid by a seven year old cock. If it saw a man the man died, but if the man saw it first the cocatrice died. The best way to meet it was from behind a mirror when it saw itself with fatal results.
Tiger or tigress: Was usually shown chasing a cub which was being carried off by hunters. The hunters strew mirrors in the tiger's path so that he would think his own image was in fact his cub. The tiger was also represented as vain and would spend his time admiring himself in the mirror forgetting to pursue his cub. The moral was that the tiger represented man, his cub man's soul and the mirrors the distractions of earthly life - feasting, beautiful clothes, horses, women and objects of sin.
Pelican: Is the symbol of piety and so a symbol of Christ. In her piety she drew blood from her own breast to feed her young and this is how she is represented. She is sometimes shown with her chicks which she is said to kill.
Elephant: Was said to have no joints in the legs and so shown leaning against a tree. The hunters (devils) cut through the tree and the elephant falls. Other elephants (the prophets) try unsuccessfully to raise the fallen elephant and finally a young elephant (Christ) puts his trunk under the fallen one and raises him up - perhaps to represent the resurrection. The elephant was thought to be a mild and gentle creature, virtuous and modest and man could learn much from him.
Pig: Was often shown as a musician and frequently dancing. At Stowlangtoft he is carved on a bench end playing a sort of harp and in Ripon Cathedral he has bagpipes.

Squirrel: It was believed that he had crossed water sitting on a piece of wood representing the Christian crossing the troubled seas of life on a cross.

Ape: He was thought quite horrible, ugly and indecent, typified indecorum and often represented the Devil. Quite differently, but often seen, is the doctor represented as an ape, usually with a container for urine. One nice carving (Cartmel Priory, Lancs.) shows the fox in bed covered with blankets as the patient and the ape bending over him as the doctor.
Wolf: Was said to bite his own paws to make them tread more quietly. When shown guarding a crowned head refers to St Edmund resisting the Viking army. When St Edmund was killed the faithful wolf guarded his head through the night allowing no Viking near it.
Fox: Usually shown shamming dead to trap birds, particularly geese; when shown stealing poultry symbolises the Devil capturing souls. The preaching fox is a common subject.
Ibis: Was said to feed on carrion and snakes in shallow water because it cannot swim out to clean food - symbolising a man who will not leave his sins.

Note

1) The Merchant's Mark of Thomas Spryng is seen in his early work at Lavenham. Work completed after his death in 1523 is denoted by his coat of arms which he must have acquired - perhaps because of his benefactions. A situation with which we are familiar.

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OBITUARY

Mr. A.E. Nicholls MBE

We are most sorry to learn of the recent death of Mr A.E. Nicholls for many years a member of the Group. Several of us remember "Nick", as he was affectionately called, when the energetic digs were in progress; particularly those at the Osea Road Red Hill and the Roman Tile Kiln. For all his large stature "Nick" made a very successful foray into the firing chamber of one of the kilns causing some concern for his safety. He was always on hand to undertake administrative work and although ill-health had prevented his participation over the last few years he will be sadly missed by those who were privileged to know him.

Our sympathy goes out to his wife and family

I.McM.

WINTER MEETINGS 1979 - 1980

Opening Meeting 22nd October

As usual the winter season began with the showing of holiday slides which were presented, firstly by Mrs Ida McMaster who showed beautiful pictures of the Water gardens at Goodnestone, and of Oxburgh Hall; secondly by Mr Tony Bonner who took us on a whirlwind tour of some of the sites which he has visited both as an archaeologist and as a tourist. The sites included Luxor and the Abu Simbel tombs, the rock shelters at Tassili and an expedition to Thailand.

Recent Excavations in the City of London 29th October
Mr Brian Hobley, BA, AMA, FSA, Museum of London

On a welcome return visit Mr Hobley explained that the new Museum had been in operation for 6 years with a staff now of 70 trained archaeologists. The Museum is responsible for the rescue archaeology for the whole of London; particularly Roman Londinium which covered 330 acres. The most important area was the Thames waterfront where the river was narrower and at a lower level in Roman times. Mr Hobley considered that the Thames had been a barrier between warring tribes in prehistoric times, evidenced by finds of military equipment from the river bed, including the famous Battersea shield. The Romans appreciated the strategic importance of the Thames for trade and immigration and, of course, as a source of fresh water for drinking and fishing. Slides were shown of a 2nd century wharf where Billingsgate now stands, it had 18' square timbers with perfectly dovetailed joints; near the Mermaid site were massive oak piles dating to the 4th century, they were packed with chalk blocks making a three course wall capped with ragstone. Riverside walls were undoubtedly constructed as defences against Saxon invaders and one of these was found in Upper Thames Street. Incorporated in it were large blocks, carved in relief with figures and ornamental foliage, which were thought to have come from an important building date late 2nd or early 3rd century. North of St Paul's several domestic sites were excavated, they exposed two circular dwellings in the native tradition and two rectangular huts of wattle and daub with ovens-and hearths; also exposed were traces of a road lined with shops and a collapsed Hadrianic building of stone. A late Roman graveyard of more than twenty skeletons was found on the site of St Bartholemew's Hospital. The Saxon period yielded evidence of an embryo road system and a dry dock and harbour.

Numismatics and Religion 5th November
Dr. R.M. Reece, BSc, D Phil, FSA, Institute of Archaeology

Dr Reece illustrated his paper with a fine series of slides of coins beginning with those from the isolated temple sites of the 3rd century, particularly that of Uley, raised in praise of Mercury and overlooking the Bristol channel. He pointed out that coins from excavations are fortuitous finds whereas those found on religious sites have a uniformity with the decree of the Emperor, who when dead, became a God to whom gold and silver were sacrosanct. Further slides were shown; the first was from the reign of Constantius father of Constantine (the first Christian Emperor) through to coins of the late 4th and 5th centuries where motives and symbols reflected changing attitudes to religion generally and Christianity in particular. Dr Reece explained that the frequency of gold and silver coins found in temples was due to payment to priests for putting up a token or a curse to appease the God of the temple. Coins found in wells were also put there to appease the Gods, particularly in times of stress and danger; it was also at such times that coin hoards were hidden.

Recent Fieldwork in the Fens 12th November
Mr D. N. Hall MA, Fenland Field Officer, Cambridge.

Mr Hall described his work in the Fens in a territory within an area bounded by Wisbech and Kings Lynn, Cambridge and Peterborough and Downham Market. His slides illustrated the problems of erosion and emphasised the strange beauty of the unique landscape. Geological maps showed what lay beneath and demonstrated the many changes in land and sea level which have taken place during the centuries. In Mesolithic times, when much of the sea-water was locked in the Polar ice caps, the fens were thickly forested, mainly with great oaks; but in the Neolithic period, about 4,000 BC, the ice caps had largely melted raising the level of the sea and flooding nearly all the land. By 3,000 BC a shallow salt lagoon had formed;

only the higher gravel mounds remaining as islands. It is to this period that the bog oaks belong, many of which are still being ploughed up. The rotted vegetation formed what has eventually become the peat levels. The boundaries of the Wash were many miles inland from those of today; vast estuaries ran inland notably the river Welland where Wisbech early became a thriving port. The deposition of organic matter continued so that the waterways became choked and vegetation began to grow again. This dried the peat and it began to shrink and the little patches of gravel became firm dry islands. It is on these islands that many traces of Bronze and early Iron Age man have been found. The Roman armies were responsible for the first artificial draining of the fens. Car Dyke was built from Cambridge to Lincoln mainly for transport of military supplies to northern bases. Drainage channels as such were constructed from the late 15th century onwards, this had a marked effect on the ground surface and, as the waterlogged peat dried out and shrank, the ground level fell. This is illustrated by the Holme Post in Denton Fen where a wrought iron post was sunk into the peat, its top level with the ground surface, in 1852. Today more than 12 feet of it are exposed. An interesting effect of the shrinkage was that it left the silt of the old watercourses at a higher level than the land on both sides; the higher levels are called roddons. Excavation on the gravel island sites has exposed a 20 acre Iron Age settlement and artefacts found have included flints, jet and amber beads, a Bronze Age sword, a golden votive plaque and a statue of Minerva together with salt-making equipment and briquetage.

Aerial Reconnaissance 19th November
Mr. D.R. Wilson, B.Litt. FSA. Chairman, Committee for Aerial Photography

Mr Wilson's area includes Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk. He showed us slides of natural phenomena such as land on Walton Common in Norfolk, unchanged since the last Ice Age, silted up valleys, the course of old rivers such as the Great and Little Ouse, fen-land farms perched on roddons and then progressed to the earliest known man-made cropmarks, Grimes Graves, the Neolithic flint mines in Norfolk. Also from this period we saw slides of causewayed camps at Orsett, Essex, Freiston, north-east of Ipswich, and Deddington on the river Stour. A late Neolithic cursus between Springfield and Hengrave was shown stretching away for its length, 675m.

The next period illustrated was the Iron Age with its plethora of ring ditches; Hill forts were also described, an early example is Pitchbury near Colchester and a later, Amesbury Banks, west of Royston. Ditched trackways and enclosures showed up at Cambridge and at Shelford where there has been extensive excavation. A Roman military site, inside the Camulodunum dyke system, clearly showed palisade pits; another fort, probably dating to the AD 45-60 emergency, appears at Longthorpe on the River Nene; the important river crossing at Chesterford is guarded by a Roman fort and another has been preserved in the extensive Peterborough plan by laying out a golf course over it. At Brancaster, a 4th century Saxon Shore Fort, displays a regular rectangular plan enclosing civic buildings. Roman field systems in the Fens show the extent of agriculture at that time. The most important Saxon find was the Sutton Hoo ship burial, near Woodbridge, where nine mounds still await investigation. Many sites show marks of large circular pits which may indicate sunken houses (grubenhausen). Notable medieval sites are the Devil's Ditch at Newmarket, Ixburgh Priory, St. Mary's Abbey at Tilney, Coggeshall Abbey, Pleshey, Castle Acre, Bury St. Edmunds and the ruined church of St Giles at Fornham.

A new look at the Lexden Tumulus 26th November
Miss Jennifer Foster BA, British Museum

Miss Foster's careful research and lucid discussion brought to life a site with which many of us have lived so long as to take it almost for granted. An early pencil drawing showed the mound standing in open country surrounded by trees. It made one wish that the present rules for conservation of ancient monuments had been operative in 1923. At this time Dr. Philip Laver was a member of the Museum Committee and also of the Essex Archaeological Society of which he was later to become President. His brother Captain Henry Laver who was home from Shanghai on leave was involved with the excavation and whilst Dr. Philip was responsible for the Report, Captain Henry kept the site notes and then drew the sections and plans. Two trenches were put down and finally it was possible to open up the whole of the central area which measured 28 x 13 feet. Two burial pits were revealed, slightly off centre, at a maximum depth of 13 feet from the surface. Miss Foster commented on the expertise of two virtually amateur excavators who measured finds laterally and vertically and numbered and plotted them onto the plan. Finds were stored in airtight containers and labelled and numbered both inside and out. This attention to detail has enabled Miss Foster to send off a soil sample for analysis. Bones have been identified as belonging to a male of about 40 years of age, and some thinner skull bones may have belonged to a woman or a child. Bronze sheets decorated with silver studs which had been enamelled were found; there was evidence of chain mail and some pieces of gold wire

suggested a fine woven garment. Four iron hoops, two iron feet and some fragments of wood in a central position could have been a funeral bier. There was a notable collection of bronze which included the head of a griffin, a boar, a cupid and a little bull. Other finds included a pair of barley ears delicately made in silver and similar to the ear of barley shown on the Cunobelin coin. There were remains of 15 amphorae, four of which were Dressel Form I; there was also a bronze palstave wrapped in cloth, perhaps the treasured possession of the important person who was buried here; the evidence almost certainly indicates that it was Cunobelin himself.

Recent work of the CBA Churches Committee 3rd December
Mr R.K. Morris, Research Officer

In a lively, well illustrated lecture Mr Morris told us of his work. In 1971 the CBA decided to set up a working committee to investigate the problem of redundant churches. It was soon evident that many churches still in use, but in danger of serious deterioration, must also be included. As churches are excluded from the Ancient Monuments Act it has been left to the ecclesiastical bodies and local interest to take care of them.

Mr Morris described six important aspects of the problems

1) To make archaeological provision for excavation in and or around redundant churches where necessary.
2) There are 17,500 churches still in use in England alone; many of medieval origin and some as early as Saxon or Roman.
3) Approximately 7,000,000 people use these churches and steps should be taken to educate the users as to the points of interest, either historical or architectural, of their particular church.
4) Ecclesiastical control should be tightened up with the possible inclusion of an archaeological member or advisor on the committee.
5) Research into the archaeology of the church and its surroundings should be carried out and put on record.
6) Graveyards should be recorded, plans made, gravestones surveyed for damage and repair and a note made of inscriptions. The removal of gravestones was not recommended; modern equipment existed which would cut grass close to stones.

National monuments such as abbeys and priories could be set aside as provision was already made for their upkeep. When the CBA Churches Committee was set up it was estimated that 3,000 churches would become redundant by the end of the century; but this was an over estimate as only 800 have reached this state so far. Archaeological surveys need not always be underground; stratification existed in the fabric of standing buildings where alterations, additions and changes of alignment could be surveyed and recorded.

Redundant churches present a real problem today mainly because of senseless vandalism. As soon as the last incumbent leaves the building and graveyard come under the care of the Redundant Churches Uses Committee. Then follows a period of "Waiting Time" which lasts for a minimum of one year and a maximum of three. During this time Church Commissioners, through the Diocesan Advisory Board, consider the future prospects of the building. It may be re-used as a place of worship for another denomination, youth centre, club or dwelling place, or possibly demolished and the site sold for re-development. Where a redundant church stands in a statutory "green belt" or conservation area a completely different set of laws apply. A further problem of redundant churches is when the freehold of the building is vested in the incumbent; this frequently leads to serious neglect. Mr Morris showed us pictures of ruined churches, which if not specified as redundant, count as being in use. We saw a church in Norfolk completely buried in ivy and another with a forest growing in a roofless nave; while all that remains of a church at Eccles is the base of a round tower protruding from the shingle beach.

The Geology of the Stour River 10th December
Mr Colin Ranson, Deputy Regional Officer of Nature Conservancy Council, East Anglia

We heard how the rivers of Britain and Europe drain down into a low lying area of the seas between the two coastlines known to have been present for the past 120 million years. Sea shore lines have been greatly changed from time to time, but the low lying sea area has remained constant and the draining of rivers into it has influenced the geology of East Anglia. In the past, perhaps 120 million years ago, when sea levels were high and temperatures warm (sea temperature around 70 degrees F.) shells of the plentiful sea creatures accumulated on the sea bed to form chalk to a depth of 1,000 to 5,000 feet. Earth movements, such as Africa and India moving towards Europe, squeezed the chalk up into folds forming high lands, both mountains and ridges, such as the North Downs in Kent and the high ridge running down East Anglia. When

the Ice Age which followed was over the melting ice washed clay down over the chalk on both land and rivers, and then from rivers into the sea. Consequently over East Anglia there is much clay which varies in depth from 80 to 400 feet. However, there is little clay in the Stour valley though the reasons for this are not fully understood. In fact, the Stour valley is remarkable for the amount of chalk present; it is called White ballast and geological mapping shows that below it there are many deep channels which are probably ancient river beds. Deposits also indicate that the present Stour river has been on the same course for the past half million years.

Mr Ranson showed a series of slides which illustrated dramatically the changes of strata in the Stour valley as well as variation in crops and crop marks over differing underlying deposits.

It seems there is little written on this subject but Mr Ranson recommended the History of the London Underground which describes geological findings in the building of the underground railway, and a survey made by the Institute of Geological Sciences about 4 years ago which maps mineral resources in the area (particularly sand and gravel) on a 2½ inch map.

A Survey of Hedgerows 28th January
Mr M D Astor, RHS, Dip Hort, Monmouth

We were delighted to welcome Mike Astor, a Group member for many years. In his talk he attributed the beginning of hedges to the feudal system as a demarcation of fields and as a barrier to enclose sheep. However, woodlands increased in the 14th century due to the Great Plague and continued increasing somewhat until the Enclosure Acts of the 18th century when hedges became established, albeit it in a somewhat haphazard manner; later to be straightened and regularised. Since this time 50 per cent of hedges have disappeared and this is continuing so it is important that hedges be dated and recorded.

Twenty years ago Dr Cooper of the Ordnance Survey stated that for every species of plant in a hedge a period of 100 years should be allowed. Mr Astor explained the basic method of hedge dating. Having first obtained the farmer's consent, a representative length of hedge should be selected and within this the different species should be noted.

Standard trees, whether alive or dead, should be included and the diameter of the bole measured. Garden shrubs should be discounted. A measured length of hedge containing nine species would be considered to be very early; three to five being more usual. One should note banks and lynchets, and the appearance of the adjacent fields or old trackways following the line of the hedge. The small-leafed lime, known as "Pry" was one of the earliest trees. Among those established in the 19th century were two species of hawthorn, broom which was used for yellow dye, elderberry was used for tanning. Dog rose, field rose and the blackberry, of which 500 species are known, were later. The sweet chestnut was imported by the Romans; small in diameter, it proved to be a durable hedge tree. The spindle tree was used for orange dye, or if iron was added, green, it is now only found in hedges 600 years old. Hornbeam dates back 500 years and was often used as a boundary tree; field maple, found in parkland, dates back 400 years. Although the art of laying a hedge is now almost unknown, surprisingly, the modern method of hedge cutting using a tractor with a culling arm, although it produced an ugly look, did in fact, encourage more intensive growth.

For further reading Mr Astor recommended:- Hooper on Hedges and Local History, Hooper & Hoskins on Hedge Dating and Oliver Rackham on Trees and Woodlands.

Excavations in the vicinity of the Roman Villa at Chignall St James 4th February
Mr C P Clarke, BA, Field Officer, Essex County Planning Dept.

The exceptionally large courtyard building at Chignall St James was first recognised by Mrs McMaster on aerial photography. The site is now being quarried for gravel and staff of the County Archaeological section have been excavating following the removal of topsoil. So far 2.5 hectares to the south west of the building have been examined. The site seems important for several reasons. The building is on a slope some 300m from the river Cam and the nearest Roman settlement would have been Chelmsford, about-four miles away. No Roman roads are known and it is postulated that travel between the site and Chelmsford might have been by river. Excavation shows continuous occupation from the late Mesolithic period but dating is poor and finds are still being examined. Flint finds are plentiful, the earliest being late Mesolithic and early Neolithic; they include microliths; an axehead and some 250 cores suggesting a flint industry on the site. Earliest pottery so far is late Neolithic grooved ware; there is also some Bronze Age and pre-Roman Iron Age ware. Coin finds of the late Iron Age are few though there are more of

the 3rd and 4th centuries, all found in rubbish pits.

Evidence of well organised farming comes from a rectilinear field system and grain storage pits (no signs of granaries) and post holes for an early rectangular building which was later demolished (Phase 1). A second phase reveals other rectangular buildings grouped together where previously mortared tiles were used for post hole packing. No wells or hearths were recognised so the buildings are unlikely to have been domestic. A third phase (probably late 4th century) shows a series of connecting paddocks, thought to be for herding, and animal bones have been found. These three major phases were all basically agricultural. Apart from finds already mentioned, bone-headed pins and jewellery finds suggest a rich and prosperous community. There is an intriguing suggestion, from the distribution of the finds, that the wealth was rejected or abandoned in some way - almost as though the inhabitants no longer valued worldly goods. Excavation will be continuing in 1980.

Colchester Bays and Says 11th February
Mr A F J Brown MA.

Colchester was already a textile centre in the 17th century when immigrants from the Netherlands played an important part in the development of the wool trade in the County. Wool from the backs of English sheep was exported to the Netherlands and returned after treatment to the weavers of Colchester and London. Many Flemish wool merchants came here to work and Coggeshall became a thriving centre where they settled.

Paycockes House was the home of one of them and many large Churches such as those at Long Melford and Lavenham were built. Expert workers were encouraged to teach their trade in Colchester; a centre was set up in Head Street and workers organised themselves. They had Friendly Societies to which they contributed each week and which met in public houses, hence such names as The Woolpack and The Weavers Arms.

Bays consisted of raw wool, chestnut in colour. Says were sergings when twill thread was passed over threads of wool. The warp was worsted and the weft woollen and on one side was fulled or washed in Fullers earth and soap. Worsted yarns came from long wool sheep in Lincolnshire and were brought by sea to London and thence by wagon. On arrival the wool was closely inspected and was returned if below standard. Once accepted it was beaten by rods, at first by hand, but later by horse powered mills. After beating it was combed and sent to spinners. Each weaver used eleven spinners and sixteen weavers supplied one clothier. Cloth was officially inspected and stamped at each stage before being sent to the fulling mills. Two of these mills stood on the Roman river. The site of one is shown on modern maps as Bat Mill cottages; another three mills were on Salary Brook. After fulling cloth was stretched on tenterhooks between two parallel bars, then brushed with teazles or stiff brushes - later this was done in a roughing mill - in order to raise the nap which was then sheared. No dying took place. The finished cloth was inspected at the White Hall, then baled, sealed and transported on hoys at Wivenhoe or sent off by road. The cloth warehouses were in Leadenhall and the material was shipped as far afield as Spain and the West Indies. There is no known sample of Essex cloth to be seen today.

A Roman Water-mill in Kent 18th February
Dr C J Young MA, FSA Inspector of Ancient Monuments

Water-mills were in use in Greece and in the south of France in prehistoric times and Roman remains have been found in England at Fullerton, Walbrook Fleet, the Leet at Darenth, near Ixworth and at Chesters on Hadrian's Wall a bridge abuttment shows signs of a double sluice which could have been used for a mill.

Mills are usually found near to a centre of population or a military establishment. In 1974, while observing gravel extraction at the village of Ickham on the River Stour in Kent, the local Archaeological Society found signs of Roman occupation. Clearly this was of some importance as the site is equidistant between Canterbury and the Roman Fort of Richborough. The site was also linked to the Little Stour, the then navigable Wantsum Channel, thus providing a passage to Reculver. In addition to a 4th century Roman fort a Roman road was close to the site. Further, the remains of a Roman building on a substantial island in mid stream and signs of a wharf on the bank contiguous to the village were discovered. The building on the island proved to be a water-mill with two channels, lined with wood, through which the river could have been diverted. Two massive oak beams in the centre of the building connected by a solid oak plank were found; presumably providing the foundation of the mill. Two mill stones were also discovered, apparently of German origin, together with some 2nd century military equipment. The mill seemed to have been in working order for

a considerable time as evidence was found suggesting it had been used to operate a hammer in the 4th century.

From the Iceni to the Boudiccan Revolt 25th February
Mr T Gregory MA, AMA, Norfolk Field Unit .

The story of Boudicca, Queen of the Iceni, is part of the East Anglian folklore, but Mr Gregory, after extensive research, considers the tribal name of the Iceni to be of a relatively recent date in the history of the Iron Age in eastern England. Whereas early Iron Age peoples can be dated in other parts of the country by their occupation of hill forts, the low lying lands of Norfolk and Suffolk provide few hills, as such, on which to build forts. Any occupational dating, must therefore be gathered from defensible sites of the same period. Mr Gregory cited finds from many type sites which suggest that a large number of very efficient Iron Age peoples lived in the areas as early as 1,000 BC and the pottery and artefacts in East Anglia of the 7/6th centuries BC are equivalent to the 9/8th centuries material from the Continent; similarities point to considerable trade between the two. It is probably that the early population consisted of many small tribes and it was not until the 1st century AD that they united into one and called themselves the Iceni; probably due to the influence of a strong Royal ruling family.

Important type sites have yielded fine metal work such as decorated bridle bits, La Tene type brooches, round-headed pins, triangular bridle bits, a possible razor, a steel-yard, stamps for use in metal work and, at Snettisham, a beautiful gold torque and several gold coins. A hoard, dating from 194-70 BC, of gold, silver and electrum coins, the reverse side of some of which bore the Icenian horse were also found with over 140 Potin coins.

Traces of houses were found on many of these habitations; some were round, measuring 70-80 feet in diameter surrounded by ditches, 8-12 feet wide. Others were rectangular, one with a ditch 15 feet wide and 4 feet deep. Defensive sites were also found at Narborough, South Creake and Holkham where it stood on a spit of land, probably to accommodate a harbour, with a similar configuration at Blakeney Point. Another Iron Age Fort of an early date was at Warham St Mary on a bank of the river Stiffkey near the coast. Finally, Mr Gregory mentioned . the defeat of Queen Boudicca in Warwickshire.

Religion and Magic 3rd March
Mr M W C Hassall FSA Institute of Archaeology

On Mr Hassall's third visit to the Group he explained the difficulty in deciding where magic ended and religion began. The latter was so often wrapped in the God-like image of the Emperor. Mr Hassall vividly described many different tablets illustrating the Romans ideas and approach to religion and magic - priests making sacrifices; efforts to appease Gods and ritual dances. At temples in Britain bronze plaques representing Celtic deities were sold; one could buy there curses calling down bad health on, for instance, a debtor. Amulets to ward off evil spirits were worn; particular Gods gave protection in certain situations so that a ring worn to ward off bad health would be dedicated to Hygea. From the interest shown and the number of questions asked it was clear that we could have listened spellbound all night and those who wore St Christopher medallions or copper bracelets must have wondered whether we have really made any progress in our superstitions!

Excavations at Ardleigh 1979/80 10th March
Mr J Hinchliffe, Central Unit, Department of the Environment

A record attendance greeted Mr Hinchliffe to hear of his progress at Ardleigh. It is some twenty years since some of us cut our archaeological teeth on Mr Erith's prolific sites at Ardleigh and Mr Hinchliffe generously paid tribute to this by showing slides taken from our bulletins of that time.

Mr Hinchliffe introduced his paper by explaining that he was only halfway through his excavations and that his findings so far must be taken as provisional. He discussed the famous urnfield where Mr Erith found over 100 late Bronze Age urns and the adjoining field where five ring ditches were excavated. A slide of a recent aerial photograph of this area revealed many rings in the erstwhile urnfield and a long meandering double ditched trackway running across the whole area and, surprisingly, linking up with a modern farm track called Home Farm Lane; it was notable that this track does not impinge on to any of the rings. There are also marks of many enclosures presumably of Iron Age date. A ditched feature with a closed end 300m long and 30m wide appears to the north-west, the other end has already been destroyed by gravel extraction; it is possible that this might indicate a so-called cursus. The course of a stream is also shown traversing the site, and this too, avoids all the marks mentioned above. Both the marks of the trackway and the

stream appear to encircle Elm Park which seems to lie on high ground. However, there are no signs of structures or any other marks in the grounds of Elm Park; if there ever were any they must have been obliterated by modern development. A trench was cut across the trackway showing the ditches on each side which appear to be comparatively shallow. A patch of rough cobbling was found probably where the track encountered marshy ground; one sherd of Iron Age pottery was also recovered.

The whole of this important site now appears to cover over 1km square. One of the problems to be resolved is whether there was continuous occupation here or a series of localised settlements; the other is to ascertain what plough damage is being sustained on the original land surface. The absence of burials in the rings south of Elm Park is considered to be due to cultivation in early, probably Roman, times. Charcoal found of the rings has been sent to Harwell for radio carbon dating. Among the grave goods recovered so far is a necklace and a small flagon of 3/4 century date. Some traces of plough damage have been found but this is thought to be from a modern subsoiler.

Some members of the Group were privileged to help with washing pottery and we hope we shall be able to take part again in the coming season. Mr Hinchliffe has already agreed to give us a second lecture next year and we look forward to hearing his final assessment of a site in which we feel we have a personal interest.

K. de B.

Note: These informal notes are produced as "aides memoires", they are not reports which have been seen by the lecturers.

WINTER MEETINGS 1980/1981

In the Lecture Room, Colchester Castle at 7.30pm

1980	
13th October	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
20th October	Members will show slides of recent holidays
27th October	J. Hinchliffe BA, Central Excavation Unit, DOE: EXCAVATIONS AT BRANCASTER 1977
3rd November	Sebastian Payne MA, Cambridge, recently British Institute of Archaeology, Ankara: EARLY FARMERS AND THEIR ANIMALS
10th November	Dr. J. Percival MA, D.Phil, FSA, Dept. of Classics, University College, Cardiff: BRITONS, ROMANS & VILLAS
17th November	P.V. Addyman BA, FSA, York Archaeological Trust: VIKING YORK
24th November	David Miles, Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit: THE PATTERN OF THE LANDSCAPE
lst December	A.D. McWhirr BSc, MA, FSA: ROMAN TILE MAKING & KILNS
8th December	Mrs. H Paterson: WHAT IS A FIELD MONUMENT WARDEN?
15th December	M.W. Pitts, Curator, Alexander Keiller Museum, Avebury: RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT STONEHENGE
22nd December	CHRISTMAS PARTY, VILLAGE HALL, LAYER DE LA HAYE
1981	
26th January	Jonathan Oldham, Flatford Mill Educational Centre: THE BARR HILL FORT ON THE ANTONINE WALL
2nd February	F.M.M. Pryor MA, Cambridgeshire Archaeological Unit: RECENT EXCAVATIONS IN THE WELLAND VALLEY
9th February	Dr. J.A. Alexander, MA, PhD, FSA, University of Cambridge: QASR IBRIM: AN ISLAND FORTRESS ON THE NILE
16th February	A.T. Herbert BSc, Special Project Officer to the Ironbridge Trust: THE IRONBRIDGE PROJECT
23rd February	P.L. Murphy BSc, MPhil: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EAST ANGLIAN LANDSCAPE
2nd March	Dr. M.G. Fulford BA, PhD, FSA, University of Reading: RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT SILCHESTER
9th March	J. Hinchliffe BA, Central Excavation Unit DOE: THE ARDLEIGH PROJECT
16th March	P.R. Sealey, Assistant Keeper of Antiquities, Colchester Castle Museum: THE GOLD JEWELLERY OF THE EAST ANGLIAN IRON AGE
23rd March	GROUP EXCAVATIONS & FUTURE PLANS

Non-members are welcome - entrance per meeting 50p.