



ANNUAL BULLETIN VOL. 26 1983

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EDITORIAL

One of the highlights of the local archaeological year for 1983 was the discovery of the Roman coin hoard at Olivers Orchard. The Group was very glad to be associated with this exciting excavation and two articles concerning it appear in this issue.

We are happy to welcome several new contributors this year, they write on varying activities and at least three of them demonstrate what useful work can be done single-handed.

Our grateful thanks go to Martin Winter for having arranged another winter of excellent talks. He has now carried out this onerous task for two and a half years and will be handing it over to another member for the future. We thank him most sincerely for all his efforts. Our thanks also go to Harry Palmer who has so assiduously kept the notes of Winter meetings. The notes are particularly useful for reference and to refresh our memories.

THE OLIVERS ORCHARD HOARDS

G. M. R. Davies

The Gosbecks site lies 2½ miles (4km.) to the south-west of the colonia at Colchester and is bounded by a series of protective dykes, the innermost and earliest of which is the Heath Farm dyke dating from the 1st century BC. Although some excavation has been undertaken there in the past, the area is best known from the remarkable complex of cropmarks recorded during many seasons of aerial reconnaissance. Its Roman features include a fort, a temple and a theatre, and there are field systems and a possible royal enclosure from before the Claudian conquest. Here, then, exists important archaeological evidence relating to the occupation of pre-Roman Camulodunum and which also reflects some of the influences exerted by the citizens of the colonia on the lives of the native population.

Most of the area consists of arable farmland, but the southern part is covered by Olivers Orchard, which, other than casual finds of Roman pottery, has hitherto presented a blank on the archaeological record. However, in 1982 part of the orchard was removed and the land ploughed for the first time since 1946. On Monday, 9th May, 1983, ploughing again took place, this time with a slightly larger plough reaching to a maximum depth of 11 inches (28cm.), which resulted in a number of Roman coins being brought to the surface. Fortunately they were at once spotted by the keen eye of Brian Wade, who was carrying out the work. He marked the spot and reported his find to Rupert Knowles, Managing-Director of Olivers Orchard Ltd., who in turn telephoned Colchester Museum.

The coins were apparently all 'antoniniani', dating in the main to the third quarter of the 3rd century AD., and preliminary investigation of the find-spot led to the immediate discovery of others close by, together with some freshly broken sherds. It was then readily agreed that an emergency excavation should be undertaken to locate what else of the assumed hoard might remain.

An area 2m. square was marked out and the ploughsoil carefully removed with the aid of a sieve. Since the direction of the plough was known, it was possible to calculate almost the exact spot from whence the first coins had been dislodged. At the bottom of the ploughsoil, under a scatter of sherds and coins, lay a large, pear-shaped jar, deposited in the sandy gravel below. Soil-marks in this substratum indicated that the tips of the two ploughshares had passed on either side of the vessel making a fairly clean break across its shoulders, although further damage from the crushing effects of the ploughing became evident when the pot was lifted. At first it seemed that the vessel might have been buried upside down, since there was a lead bung filling a narrow 'neck' at the bottom of the deposit. However, subsequent reconstruction of the sherds has shown that the jar originally had a pedestal foot, which was broken off in antiquity and made good with lead poured in from the top to contain the coins.

Pot 1 contained some 4061 coins in all, including those that had been dispersed. The ones still in the pot were carefully put into separate numbered bags, containing 100 coins each, in case detailed numismatic analysis could throw light on how long it had taken to amass the hoard.

An open-ended timetable for the archaeological work was not possible since sweet corn had to be planted on the site within a few days. To save time, therefore, and as a further check it was decided to call in our member, Pat Adkins, to determine with his metal detector whether any more dispersed coins had been spread beyond the excavated area. In fact this survey not only located a scatter of additional coins but it also led to the discovery of another group of 80 coins in the ploughsoil, off-line from the main deposit. As these coins were unlikely to have come from the same source as the others a second 2m. square was opened up adjacent to the former area on the north side. This work was supervised by Paul Sealey and resulted in the discovery of a second, smaller, grey pot 2.5m. away from the first. It had already been damaged on some previous occasion and lay on its side with coins and sherds spread in a shallow depression, 0.75m. long, running at right angles to the plough lines.

A total of 1558 coins, including those that had been dispersed, were attributed to Pot 2. Some of the sherds were later found during washing and examination at the museum to belong to a grey bowl, which had possibly served as a lid. In due course the second square was extended by 0.5m on the eastern side, and when its excavation had been substantially completed, a third pot was uncovered, 2m. to the east of Pot 2 and 3.5m from Pot 1. It lay in a slight depression cut into the sandy gravel below the ploughsoil and had been shattered into numerous pieces. Pot 3, a narrow necked grey jar, contained 496 coins, but only one of these had been dispersed slightly from the rest of the hoard. This part of the excavation was supervised by Martin Winter.

Excavation of the site was completed on Saturday, 14th May, 1983, when the last of the coins dispersed from the first two pots came to light. However, no archaeological features were discovered, such as walls or floors, with which the hoards might have been associated, so it must be concluded, in the lack of other evidence, that the three pots were buried out of doors. Nevertheless, it seems unlikely that the pots would have been concealed far from the owner's house or out of sight of his everyday place of work. There will no doubt originally have been some significant nearby landmark from which the location of the pots could have been measured, although, if this was a tree, no traces of it remained within the excavated area. But an interesting point to bear in mind is that the find spots of these coin hoards lie quite close to the projected line of the Roman road that led north-westwards to the colonia.

The close proximity of the three pots to one another suggests that they are likely to have been concealed by the same person, or at least that the location of the first hoard was known when the other two were deposited. Detailed analysis of the coins by Dr Ian Carradice of the British Museum, although not yet complete, has already revealed that the latest coins from Pot 1 and Pot 3 were issued by the Emperors Tetricus I and II (AD 271-4), while those from Pot 2 were no later than the final year of Postumus' reign, AD 269. Pot 2, therefore, will have been buried soon after AD 270, and the other two only a few years later.

Far too often coin hoards are recovered in circumstances which either ignore or do not allow proper archaeological investigation of their find-spots, so that much essential information is completely lost in the heat of the moment. It is all the more pleasing, therefore, to be able to record with gratitude the exemplary help and co-operation of all concerned in the discovery and excavation of the Olivers Orchard hoards, thus allowing the widest possible range of interests to be served. Particular thanks are due to Brian Wade (finder), Martin and Rupert Knowles (trustee landowners), and Jenny Knowles, Kath Evans, James Fawn, Pat Adkins, Paul Sealey and Martin Winter, all of whom took part in the excavation, also Dinah Beckett and Anne-Maria Bojko, who helped to restore the pots, which are being studied by Robin Symonds.

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Dunnett, B.R.K., The Excavation of the Roman Theatre at Gosbecks, *Britannia* II (1971), 27-47.
Hull, M.R., Roman Colchester, Soc. of Antiqu. Res. Rep. XX (1958) 259-271.
Wilson, D.R., A first-century fort near Gosbecks, Essex, *Britannia* VIII (1977), 185-7

FIGURE 1 PLAN OF THE CROPMARKS AT GOSBECKS
(by courtesy of Colchester Archaeological Trust)



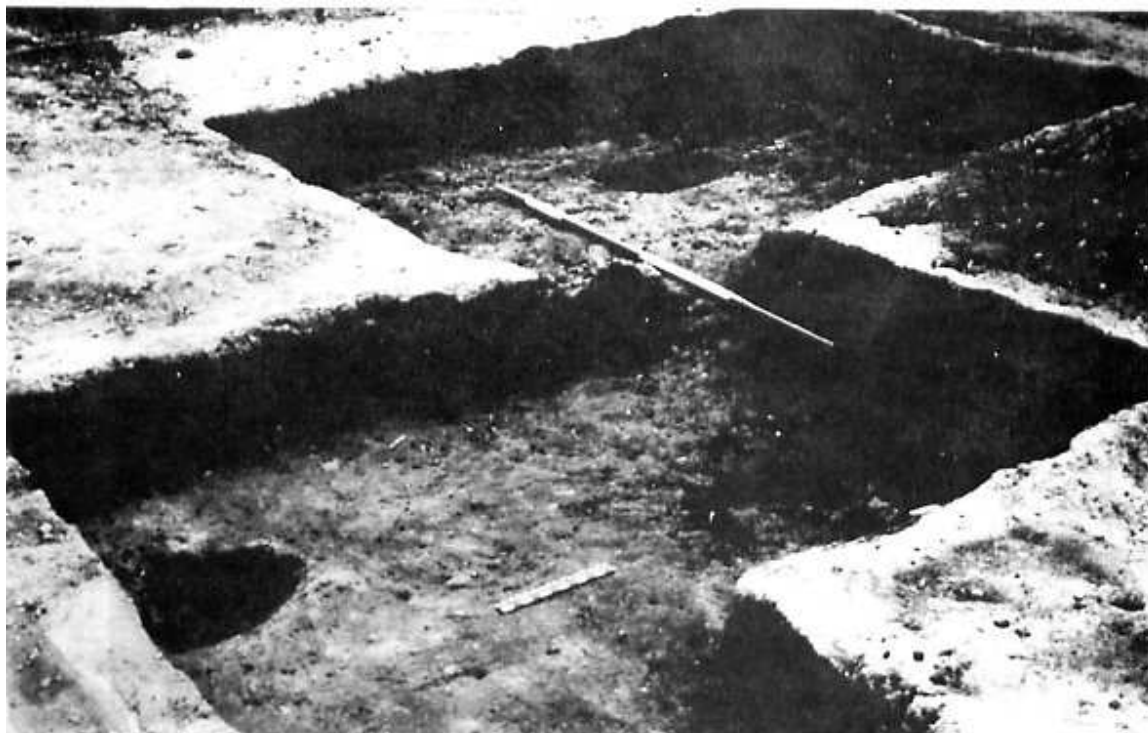


FIGURE 2

THE EXCAVATED AREA
showing the relative positions of the three coin hoards
- Pot 1 (upper), Pot 2 (right), Pot 3 (left)



FIGURE 3

POT 1 AFTER REMOVAL OF A SCATTER OF SHERDS AND
COINS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PLOUGHSOIL

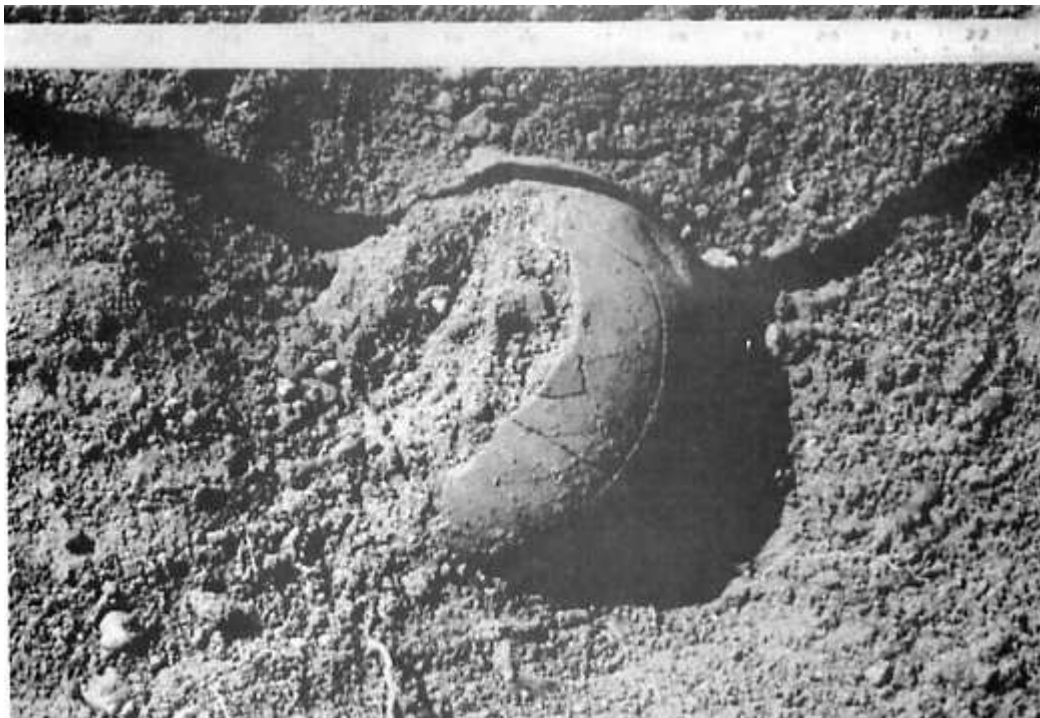


FIGURE 4 POT 2 LEANING OVER ON ONE SIDE, THE UPPER PART HAVING BEEN DAMAGED BY THE PLOUGH



FIGURE 5 POT 3, COMPLETELY SHATTERED BY THE PLOUGH, LYING IN A SLIGHT DEPRESSION WITH ITS COINS

THE INQUEST ON THE OLIVERS ORCHARD COIN HOARD

R. M. KNOWLES

"Please be upstanding in court!"

An uneasy hush fell over the court as the Coroner made his entrance. Soon the speculation of the last two weeks would be ended and we should know whether, or not, the Olivers Orchard Hoard was to be declared Treasure Trove.

Since May, when the Hoard was upturned by the plough, the 6,000 antoniniani had been in the British Museum where Dr Ian Carradice was painstakingly cleaning and sorting them. This was the first chance for everyone to see the coins glinting silver and copper. Samples of coins from each pot were in little heaps on the table in front of the Coroner, giving a clear visual impression of the wide range of the silver content. The three pots were also on display for the first time since their careful restoration by members of CAG.

Once the eight members of the Jury (why eight and why were they all men?) had been sworn in, the Coroner removed his black rimmed glasses and explain their duties to them. In particular he outlined the three decisions they must take regarding the Hoard:

- 1) Was it buried intentionally?
- 2) Is the owner traceable?
- 3) Are the coins silver or gold?

Then the three witnesses were called in turn. We were asked to speak slowly so that the Coroner could write in longhand and to address our remarks to the Jury. I was called first, and after being sworn in, I gave a brief account of the main events in the week of the Hoard's excavation.

May 9 th 1983	10.00 am. 80 coins ploughed up and position marked by Brian Wade. 11.00 am. Mark Davies and Kath Evans informed. 12.00 am. Excavation started.
May 10 th	Pot I excavated by Mark Davies, Martin Winter, Kath Evans and Jenny Knowles.
May 11 th	Press Day. Coverage on National News 1.00 pm. and local television and radios. Evening. Pat Adkins and Rupert Knowles metal detect spoil heap and surrounds.
May 12 th	Digging recommenced but rained off. Coroner's Officer called.
May 13 th	Digging all day with other CAG members. Two more pots discovered.
May 14 th	Cleaning up.
May 17 th	Coins delivered to the British Museum.

Next, Brian Wade Foreman at Olivers Orchard, described how he was ploughing the field for sweet corn when he noticed something blue on the surface. He stopped the tractor alongside to investigate and put the blue discs in his pockets. At break he showed them to the other workers and decided that he had better tell Mr. Knowles. When asked by the Coroner whether he took part in the excavation he replied "I went back from time to time but I was supposed to be at work". The court tittered! Dr Ian Carradice was called. He explained the history of the period; how the Empire was in disarray and the Gallic Empire was established by Postumus, General of the Rhine Legions. This led to inflation and to the gradual reduction in silver content of the antoninianus until a dramatic debasement around 268 AD. After this time the silver was merely a wash to preserve the appearance of the coin.

Dr Carradice handed to the court, a detailed breakdown showing the composition of the hoard(s). Confusingly for us, he named the contents of Pot 1, Hoard II and pot 2, Hoard I, because the contents showed that Pot 2 was buried for four or more years before the other two and that the coins in it had a greater silver content than the other two, most of them dating from before debasement. He stated that in recent cases hoards of this period had been declared Treasure Trove. On the other hand, hoards similar to

Pot 1 Hoard II and Pot 3 Hoard III were not normally considered Treasure Trove. The Jury questioned Dr Carradice on several points of detail.

Before summing-up the Coroner invited anyone else in the court with an interest to make a statement. Martin Knowles introduced himself as a Trustee landowner of the field where the discovery was made and a one-third beneficiary of the Trust. He drew the Jury's attention to the case of a similar hoard at Overton Farms which went to Appeal before Lord Denning in 1981. Lord Denning ruled that the Crown's right to Treasure Trove was limited to objects of gold and silver and that for an article to be so described it had to contain a substantial amount of precious metal. Lord Denning said that 50% or more could be described as 'substantial'.

However, Martin Knowles said that we, as landowners, also agreed with Lord Denning that the law on Treasure Trove was thoroughly unsatisfactory and that we shared everyone's disappointment that the 1982 Antiquities Bill never reached the Statute Book. He handed the Jury a dossier containing, amongst other things, a statement of the Trustees' intentions regarding the disposal of the coins were they returned to the landowners.

In his summing-up the Coroner told the Jury that there could be no doubt that the Hoards were buried intentionally and that their rightful owner could not be traced. The jury had only to decide which of the coins were silver and which were not. Pointing to the heaps of coins on the table in front of him, he said that the coins from Pot 2 Hoard I, on the whole, looked silver whereas those from Pot 1 Hoard II and Pot 3 Hoard III did not. He commended everyone for making this a model Hoard; in particular Brian Wade for handing in his original find to his employer and the landowners for calling in the Museum authorities to handle the excavation properly.

A copy of Dr Carradice's provisional summary of the contents of the hoard is on the following page.

The Jury deliberated for about half an hour during which time the court room had a certain cocktail party atmosphere. Many were crowding round the table to glimpse the coins and pots. Others were vigorously debating the evidence for themselves.

The Jury's verdict was somewhat unexpected. Whereas the British Museum's evidence was persuading them to declare the whole of Pot 2 Hoard I Treasure Trove and not the remainder, the Jury decided to take the date of debasement as the dividing line. In effect, regardless of which hoard they were in, all coins thought to be pre-debasement and over 15% silver were declared Treasure Trove. The remainder were to be returned to the landowners.

The court disbanded amid general hubbub. Some were elated, others disappointed. The pots were whisked away to the safety of the Castle for further study. All the coins were returned to the British Museum for analysis to be completed.

Practically speaking the Treasure Trove declaration has made little difference to the final outcome. Coins that are Treasure Trove are the property of the Crown. In this country the Crown normally rewards the finder full value. The value is determined by a panel of three - including one approved coin dealer and a British Museum representative. The Crown's interest is handled by the British Museum which offers the coins to other interested Museums around the United Kingdom. The British Museum, or any other Museum, has first option to buy any coins from the Crown. Any coins not wanted by Museums are normally returned to the finder as a reward. For coins retained by the museums the finder is rewarded financially. I was relieved that, in this case, the Coroner firmly declared Brian Wade and me to be the finders. Thus the majority of the Treasure Trove coins will probably be returned to us both. The British Museum has returned the non Treasure Trove coins to us and they have been divided equally between myself and my two brothers.

The British Museum will publish a full report on the coins about two years hence, it will include a description by Mark Davies of the Hoards' archaeological context. Martin Knowles, a keen amateur numismatist, is studying the different mints and I hope to produce a study of the significance of the enormous diversity of reverse types on the coins. I hope that a temporary display of pots and coins will shortly be mounted in the Castle and that a similar display can be manned at the Roman River Conservation Zone Open Day on April 15th when some coins will be on sale to the public. I should like to thank all the members of the CAG, Colchester and Essex Museum and the British Museum who have helped in so many ways. I have derived enormous pleasure and excitement in this discovery and look forward to many further happy hours of study.

OLIVERS ORCHARD HOARDS: COMPOSITION

Emperor	Date	% Ag	Hoard I		Hoard II		Hoard III	
			Pot 2		Pot 1		Pot 3	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Denarii	AD 80-235	45-90	15	1.0	3	-		
Ants. - Alex.Sev.	-235	45-50	1	-				
Gordian III	238-244	40-50	55	3.6				
Philip I - II	244-249	35-45	53	3.5				
Traj. Decius, etc.	249-251	35-45	35	2.3	2	-		
Treb. Gall. & Volusian	251-252	35-45	31	2.0	3	-		
Aemilian	252-253	35-45	3	-	1	-		
Valerian & Gallienus	253-260	35(Gallic)	357	23.4	46	1.1		
Valerian & Gallienus	253-260	25-30 (Others)	80	5.2	70	1.7	11	2.2
Postumus (Pre-debasement)	260-268	15-20	878	57.5	386	9.5	17	3.4
DEBASEMENT							DEBASEMENT	
Postumus (Post-debasement)	AD268-269	4- 8	6	0.4	159	3.9	17	3.4
Laelian	269	5			3	-		
Marius	269	5			25	0.6	3	0.6
Victorinus	269-271	1- 6			1578	38.9	139	28.0
Tetricus I & II	271-274	1			483	11.9	55	11.1
Gallienus	260-268	2-15	3	-	652	16.1	120	24.2
Quietus	268	2			1	-		
Claudius II	268-270	2			499	12.3	92	18.6
Divus Claudius	270	2			44	1.1	11	2.2
Quintillus	270	2			79	1.9	20	4.0
Aurelian	270-	2			2	-	1	-
Barbarous			8		20		9	
Aes.			3					
			1528 + 30 dispersed		4057 + 4 dispersed		495 + 1 dispersed	

Summary:

Hoard I	99.6% pre-debasement:	0.4% post-debasement
Hoard II	12.3% pre-debasement:	87.7% post-debasement
Hoard III	5.6% pre-debasement:	94.4% post-debasement

ST. CLERE'S HALL, ST. OSYTH

Visited by the Group 12th September, 1983

Jo-Ann Buck

By the kindness of the resident owners, Mr & Mrs Craig, we visited this gracious and well-maintained 14th century home in the early evening; it stands on lowish but not marshy ground half a mile from St Osyth Abbey.

The house, once the linch-pin of a large manorial estate, lies within a nearly complete broad moat; the site, at one time, probably being divided into two 'islands' by a north-to-south cross-arm of the moat. Mrs Craig had been told by a local inhabitant that there had once been a gatehouse to the north of the moat, but that this had been demolished during the 19th century; it seems likely that this stood near to where the present footbridge is, and it may be that a footpath going north from the bridge (the path clearly shown on the late 19th century 25" OS map) was originally the southern part of the driveway to the site. The present drive takes a kink and now enters the site at the north-west corner, where the moat is partially filled in (aerial photographers please keep a keen lookout).

The building, the front of which faces north, is timber-framed, the central hall is still open to the ridge, having been constructed in the last quarter of the 14th century (1) with two aisles. Both aisles are still there with a contemporary jettied service cross-wing on the west, now underbuilt and perhaps partly rebuilt at the front at some time, its timbers being integrated with those of the hall, and with three service doorways between. To the east, adjoining the 'high' end of the hall, there is a slightly smaller cross-wing, thought to be a replacement of the original, for which the evidence is still there, a generation or two younger than the service-wing; this eastern cross-wing was later extended at the back(south). The upper room of this solar or parlour wing was not initially ceiled, and some of the yellow ochre with which the interior of the roof was coated remains in the roof space, through which some of us carefully crawled. A feature rare to survive is a 16th century brick 'garderobe' which served the upper floor of this wings the cubicle is now a cupboard.

Inside the hall, at the 'high' end, there is evidence of a draught-screen once having been in position(2) and also parts of a moulded and embattled plate just above head-height across this end of the room, where also is a 16th century linen-fold paneled door. The octagonal oak principal posts with their moulded capitals came in for some admiration, and a stop-splayed scarf-joint with bridled abutments and two edge-curved pegs could clearly be seen on one of the arcade-plates. Moulded curved braces to the main roof-truss remain, though the truss itself is no longer there. There is a side-purlin roof to the open hall, which roof is constructed in reversed assembly order at the eaves; that is, the tie-beams pass under, instead of over, the top-plates. Arch-braces between the aisle-plates and the central tie-beam were fitted with plank spandrels to give the illusion of solid knees, apparently a fashion at the time.

Part of the 'low' end of this central hall is taken up by a large brick Tudor chimney-stack inserted where the original cross-entry or screens passage once was? sooted timbers from the pre-stack period survive. The present staircase to the western cross-wing incorporates what appear to be some Jacobean balusters, and the upper chamber in this wing is open to the ridge.

Cecil Hewett suggests that the house may have been built for John St Clere whose family had held land in St Osyth from 1273; a Carbon14 test from the University of California has shown that the house was built circa 1350(+/- 3.0 years), and from various points of its styling Mr Hewett sets a date of approximately 1380.

The shape and type of windows are often among the first features to be changed in an old house, and the owners have it in mind to replace some of the present ones with a style more in keeping with the medieval construction of the house.

We are indeed grateful to our very hospitable hosts for giving us the opportunity of seeing this important house; let words from one of Cecil Hewett's books sum up: 'An honest building, in advanced architectural style ...adequately financed and wrought according to the highest standards of the carpenter.'

References:

- 1) Various technical and dating details from books and articles by Cecil A. Hewett.
- 2) Information from John McCann.

A CORN-GRINDING WHEEL FROM TOLLESHUNT D'ARCY

P.C. Adkins

Some members will already know the gravel extraction site at Hill Farm, Tolleshunt d'Arcy (TL 922116), where throughout November and December, 1983 I carried out a watching brief discovering, excavating and recording features exposed by mechanical box scraper. The site location is shown in Figure 1.

Because of the speed at which the scraper worked and because so many features were being revealed, it became necessary for me to invite help from Group members who in turn called upon Staff and volunteers from Colchester Archaeological Trust. With this assistance it was possible to record details of a Romano-British kiln (F67), a hut circle (F27), to cut a section across one ditch (F64) of the multi-ditched enclosure, and examine a possible Saxon hut (F37). All are indicated on the plan on Figure 1. The help of CAG and CAT members gave me time to concentrate on other areas of the site leading to the recognition of many other features containing finds such as the corn-grinding wheel which is the subject of this preliminary report.

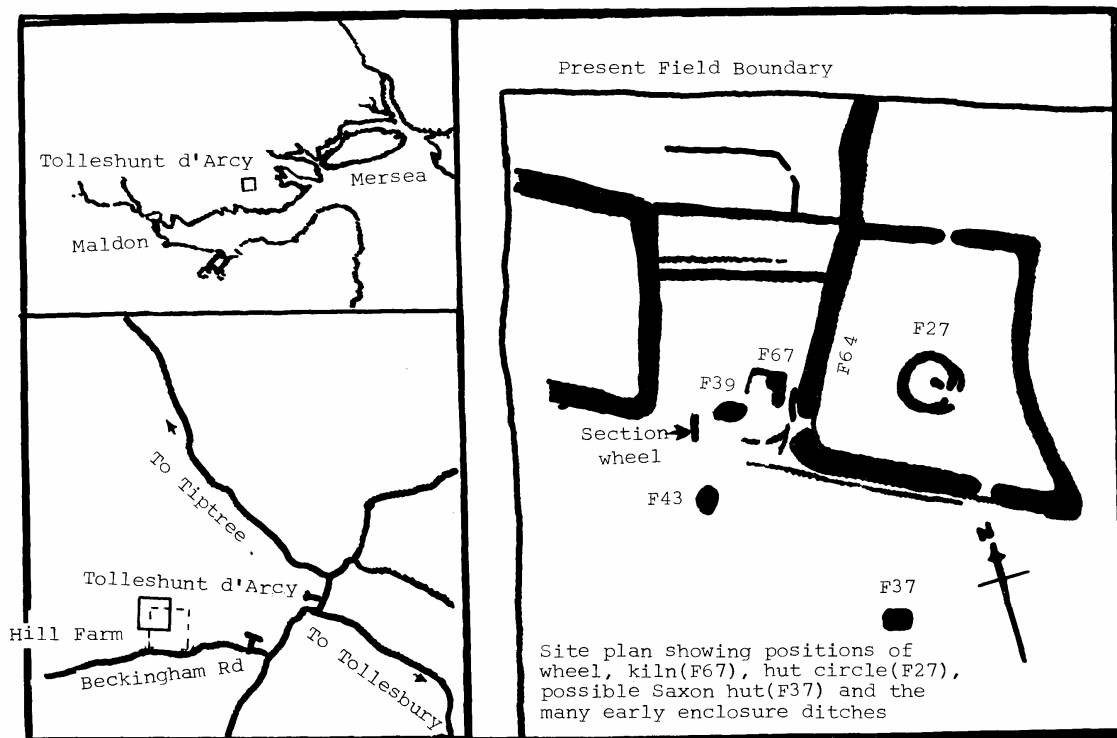
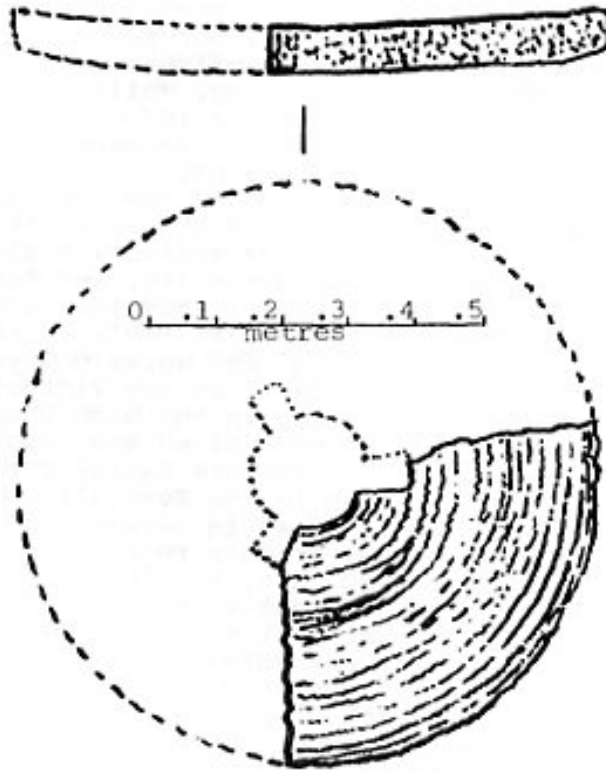


FIGURE 1 LOCATION MAP AND PLAN OF SITE

On Wednesday 30th November, in the late afternoon, a section was cut, under rescue conditions, across a group of features near F39 and F43 (see Figure 1). The Section (see Figure 2) cut across the three features, F137, F68 and F138, and within the section they appear as a ditch and two pits respectively. Several pot sherds were found in the upper levels of F68 and what, at first, appeared to be a large block of modern concrete was partially uncovered. Trowelling revealed that the object was of natural stone and, as excavation progressed next day, it became clear that the stone was a large segment, virtually a quadrant, of a corn-grinding wheel (see Figure 3).

The Wheel

The wheel was fashioned from millstone grit, which probably came from Yorkshire. Its diameter was 0.875m and its thickness 70mm. It was an upper stone with a concentric grooved dressing on the grinding surface. Altogether there were 18 major grooves at 19mm intervals as well as two smaller grooves added between the three that are innermost. From the segment it can be seen that the wheel had three rectangular holes cut through the centre to accept a turning device, perhaps a post with three legs attached which was fastened to the stone in such a way as to leave the centre clear for the grain to be fed in.



KAY De BRISAY MEMORIAL – REDHILL BOOKLET

Work on the booklet is going on well, though as is usual in such situations, taking longer than anticipated. We hope to have the task completed in 1984.

CHURCHES IN EAST LONDON (or WEST ESSEX)

D. T-D Clarke

Some years ago Fr. Evers, Rector of Thaxted, arranged a tour of Victorian churches in East London where he had previously been a minister, for the Essex Archaeological Society. I was unable to go on this trip and have welcomed the opportunity to recreate it with the Group.

With the passing of time it is now easier to see Victorian architecture in its context. Like all great movements it was followed by a reaction, and as with art itself, our personal preferences will also affect our judgement. The confidence of the Victorian age may appear to some of us to be smug, while to others it will seem to reflect a golden past. Neither is, of course, wholly true, and this is why the study of history is so mentally and spiritually rewarding to succeeding generations.

The Victorians were themselves reacting to the preceding Georgian period. Graceful as its church buildings were, the Church of England had (with honorable individual exceptions) fallen into a general decline which led first to the Methodist, and later to the Baptist movements. For non-church people, this issue, which has been with Christianity since the days of St Paul, is the relationship between faith (what you believe) and works (how you behave) and what emphasis is placed on either. In the Victorian period these points of view were reflected in the High Church and Evangelical movements. The High Church emphasized the importance of the Communion service, and sought to restore Catholic ritual with rich vestments and furnishings, while the Evangelical preferred simplicity of worship and the belief in personal salvation through the Bible, as the word of God. Neither rejected the need for personal work among those in need and, though it may seem strange to us, the Victorians felt it right to construct in East London churches of great architectural quality as offering a contrast to the dreary housing of their expanding parishes. We were thus able to see in one day churches designed by several architects, and able to see in the eighty odd years which these buildings spanned, how not only each architect stamped his personal image on the traditional styles, but how the styles themselves evolved in new and unusual ways. It is therefore logical to list the subjects of our study in broadly chronological order.

When St Johns, Loughton, was built in 1846 the Norman style was still fashionable, (cf St Botolphs and St James the Less, Colchester). Seddon carried it out in white brick with stone dressings. Recently it has been refurnished, and the very heavy altar and reredos, all marble and mosaic, made at the end of the century by an Italian artist, have been offset by gilding the main roof bosses. It was a most successful example of how a building can be 'brought up-to-date' without losing its atmosphere. I also suspect that the east windows are by Burne-Jones.

By 1867 when All Saints, Chigwell Row, was built by Seddon, the taste had changed to gothic, though with something of an Italian flavour, with a porch more readily described as a narthex. This may well have been due to the influence of Ruskin. As with other public buildings the full design had never been completed.

Holy Innocents', High Beech, (an unusual dedication) 1873, was originally an 'estate church' for the scattered population of Epping Forest. Though still gothic it was clear that Sir Arthur Blomfield had felt it necessary to reflect the surrounding woodland, and had given it a high pitched roof elaborately structured in oak.

Curiously, the next in date, St Michael's, Walthamstow. 1885 by James Bignall, is not mentioned in Pevsner's book. Outside it is dull, but inside the tall brick arches carried through to the roof are extremely impressive, and even now, though grimy, inspired a feeling of reverence and a complete contrast to the rows of terraced houses outside. The problems of present day life were sharply brought home to us by the rows of parked cars, which made it impossible for the bus to remain nearby, and the Rector, emerging from a vast house in the same style, told us of some of his problems in an area with a substantial Asian population. However, they clearly had flourishing community activities throughout the week, and had raised the astonishing sum of £25,000 to repair the roof.

It was difficult to realise that St John the Baptist, Epping, was begun only five years later. Designed by Bodley and Garner and built in stone, with faithful gothic detail, it could, none the less, only belong to the end of the century when the recession of the 1870's was being replaced by what we now see as the golden

age of Imperial Britain. The tower, also designed by Bodley and built in 1908/9, is superbly sited and dominates the main street of a former market town, which, in spite of its shop fronts, still represents an independent community with a life of its own.

By 1902 however the influence of William Morris and the Arts and Crafts movement (closely related to Walthamstow in any case) was being felt. Simplicity of design, coupled with careful attention to detail and the return to native traditions were the main themes. At St Barnabas, Walthamstow, by J. Caroë, these themes were illustrated by the columns and the superb doors with their, celtic bronze handles. At Upshire, on the edge of Epping Forest, the church exterior was much like that of many central Essex churches with its little bell-cote, but inside the massive oak columns harked back to the barns which are even now a feature of our countryside. Freeman and Ogiivy were the architects.

The following year Sir Arthur Blomfield was confronted with the problem of extending SS Peter and Paul, Chingford. The existing church had been built in flint by Vulliamy in 1844 - the outside fairly ordinary and inside the plain box was distinguished by a low pitched timber roof, quite unmedieval, but very original. Blomfield's answer was to build another church on to it, using stone columns with aisles, in fact a chancel within a chancel. Light and friendly, it could certainly be regarded as successful.

So at the end of our series and at the end of our day, we came to St Gabriel's, Aldersbrook. Brick outside and with stone columns and a panelled roof of west country style within, it had a peaceful atmosphere of space and light. An initial contretemps with the Rector's vast dog was soon offset by the friendliness of the parishioners, who were just packing up their summer bazaar, but insisted on giving us tea and cakes in the church hall. Naturally, we were deeply grateful for this manifestation of one of the seven works of mercy.

The final visit of the day to St. Luke's, Ilford, did not materialize as the Vicar had been on holiday and had not received our letter. However, we could at least admire it through the windows. In all a busy but enjoyable and unusual day and congratulations to a patient driver who had to reverse several times with only inches to spare. Thanks also to Ken Bascombe whose notes in Essex Archaeological News (Winter 1979) made the detailed planning possible.

FIELD-WALKING AT STANWAY FORT

In December 1982 and January 1983, members of the Group walked the site of the first century Roman fort at Stanway (TL 963227). The site was first seen on aerial photography in 1961 and clearly seen again from the air in 1976(1). The fort is small, about 2.2 hectares (5½ acres) in area and the western edge follows the line of the Iron Age dyke. The object of the field-walking was to try to confirm the presence of the fort on the ground from material remains or structures such as post-holes, we laid a 10 metre grid over most of the area of the fort and picked up any man-made material within each square. All walkers were allowed precisely seven minutes to inspect and collect from each square. We have now sorted the material into periods and further study of it may give an indication of the presence of early buildings. Any such buildings may bear no relation to the fort which was early and likely to have been constructed of earth and timber.

At the time of the field-walking a crop had recently been removed but ploughing had not taken place. Since we plan to walk again in 1984 after ploughing, we shall be able to compare the quantity of surface remains on ploughed and unploughed land.

- 1) Wilson D.R., A First-century fort near Gosbecks, Essex. Britannia VIII (1977)185-7

A SURVEY OF COLCHESTER CAST-IRON WORK

E. J. Russell

There is much cast-iron work to be seen readily in Colchester, not all of it necessarily made there. It is also possible to see examples of work made in Colchester further afield. Between 1978 and 1983 I have recorded and photographed the items listed below. The list is not, of course, comprehensive; it does not include, for example, columns used in shops and industrial buildings. As time goes by these cast-iron records of the past will continue to disappear; meantime if members could tell me of any more items for my records, I should be most grateful. My address is 50, Mile End Road, Colchester C04 5BX, Tel: 842568.

Street Plate Names These were put up under the Town Clauses Improvement Act, T847. Now only 15 seem to remain. They are:-

Albert Street; Bretts Buildings (Magdalen Street); Beaconsfield Avenue; Charles Street; Cistern Yard (North Hill); Culver Street; Grays Cottages (East Street); Hythe Hill; Myrtle Terrace (Myrtle Grove); New park Street; North Hill; Queen Street; Roman Road; St Peter's Street; Vineyard Street.

Cast Iron Royal Arms In all 27 have been recorded, all from the same pattern by an unknown, superb carver for Joseph Wallis, of the High Street Foundry, the first foundry in Essex. They are:-

All Saints Church; Christ Church (from St Mary's); Council Chamber; Customs House; Castle Museum (from St Nicholas).
Outside Colchester: Belchamp Often; Birch; Birdbrook; Bradfield; Boxted (Essex); Dovercourt; Fordham; Great Tey; Godmanchester; Knodishall; Little Bentley; Little Bromley; Llanthony (Gwent); Middleton (Suffolk); Mistley; Mount Bures; Nayland; Rowhedge; Stanmer (Brighton); Stowupland; West Bergholt; Wrabness.

Borough Arms. Those on the street furniture of the Colchester Electricity undertaking include feeder pillars which are ornate; they and the fuse boxes which are on posts and walls were cast locally.

A) Feeder pillars: East Wall of Park by Castle Road, Lower Park (by bowling green entrance); Braiswick; North Station roundabout (arms removed); Gladwin Road; Mersea Road (by Bourne Road).

B) Fuse Boxes: Culver Street West (3); Head Street(at Gas Office); The Kings Arms (Crouch Street); Shewell Road; Queen Street?; St Botolphs Street; St Johns Street (Liberal Club); footpath at Bourne Mill.

Foliated Tie-plates. The oval plates were made in the High Street Foundry; the earliest date is 1809 (North Hill) and the latest 1902 (Evangelical. Church in Abbeygate Street).

Square: Opposite Town Hall

Circular: 26,27 Castle Road(10); St Johns Green; 12 Wellesley Road (tarred over); Reeman and Dansie, Headgate; Sir Isaacs Walk.

Oval: 5, North Hill, East Mills; Ryegate Road; Nunns Road; 9, East Stockwell Street; 2, Queen Street; yard off East end of Vineyard Street; Abbeygate Street; Evangelical Church; 4.8, St Johns Street (Traders); 14, Priory Street; 73/75 Bergholt Road; Tymperleys (rear); Rowhedge River front; 34, Albion Street; Rowhedge; Shelley Church tower; East Bergholt Church tower; Dedham, east end of Main Street; Wivenhoe Dock Co. (Bath Street); Wakes Colne Mill; Bures House, Lexden Road, West Bergholt; Chelsworth, bridge over River Brett.

Short Lamp Standards These are set on gate pillars. They are at:-

Butt Road, Barrack Gates; Park Road, Education Office; Wellesley Road(2) and St Peters Church (2) same pattern.

Wall Lamp Brackets The Chapel Street North (Old Headgate Church) are the finest, others are:-

High Street (Martins); Chapel Street, Eld Lane Baptist Church.

Windows The 10-house terrace, in Barrack Street has cast-iron window sills as well as lintels.

Bay supports: 54-56, 64-66 Bergholt Road; 12, Mersea Road; 57, North Hill.

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Lintels: Cullingford's. High Street; 39, North Station Road; 9-11, Bergholt Road; 39-5:7, Barrack Street; 51, Bergholt Road.

Bollards They are at:-

Scheregate(Catchpool, Mumford); Cambridge Road/Inglis Road Folley (Mumford); Mill Street/Mersea Road Folley (Mumford); bottom of North Hill (Mumford); Kendall Road(Joslin); Hythe Quay(Mumford); Maidenburgh Street, now used in the new work (Joslin and Mumford); not full 360°.

Ironmongers (not founders) shown on Street furniture:-

Bunting and Seabrook; Beard; Blomfield; Evans(High Street); Joslin; Rist; Williams.

Builders' inspection covers These are recorded by rubbings, not photography. The covers seem to be commonest between the two world wars. A retired builders' clerk explained that salesmen for foundries would offer to put the buyers names on covers when the order was for more than about two dozen.

Appleton and Moss; Appleton and Son; G and R Baker; R Beaumont and Son; C M Cadjan; W Chambers and Sons; F W Clampin and Sons; A T Clarke; J Collie; Chas. Deaves; W Deaves and Sons; Diss; G Dobson and Sons; F Hutton and Son; Johnson and Son; J H Johnson; F C Macer; W Rogers; John Tovell; J W Trudgett; Vaughan and Sons; Thomas John Ward; Wakelin and Rampling.

Named Lamp Standards Pattern Approximately 601 are still in use:

Stanford and Co. (223); Mumford (115); Bennell (78); Truslove (54) ; Brackett(50); Catchpool (22); Schlimper (13); Un-named (46).

The author would also be glad to know if anyone has pictures of:

Hythe Maltings; St Runwalds cemetery; Cavalry Barracks, from Abbey Fields.

OBITUARY

Laurence Shepheard Harley

We report, with much regret, the death of Mr Laurence Shepheard Harley on 5th November, 1983 aged 82 years. He was by training an engineer and a physicist and his other interests included archaeology. His career began in radio, moved on to the fields of radar, then into the Cabinet Office and the Diplomatic Service. His archaeological achievements included being a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, President of the Stour Valley Antiquarian Society, President of the Essex Congress of Archaeology and History, President of the Essex Field Gun Club and Founder President of the British Brick Society. He and Mrs Harley were long-standing members of the Group and he was our recognized expert on ancient brick work. As recently as 1981 he contributed an original article to the Bulletin on the names of ancient buildings containing the word 'White', e.g. White House, White Farm etc., and their possible connection with local ancient routes for transporting salt. Unhappily he was not able to attend meetings regularly during the last 2 or 3 years, but we shall always remember his scholarly contributions as well as remembering his dignity and quiet charm.

IRON AGE DITCHES AT MOUNT BURES

THIRD REPORT

A.J. Fawn

The second report, published 1982 (1), gave a description of four ditches found at Hall Farm, Mount Bures and discussed their possible relationship with the Iron Age burial vault discovered during the construction of the nearby railway in 1849. Roach Smith reported its excavation (2) but did not give sufficient information to enable the site to be located again. It would be of some interest to do so because, as Roach Smith himself said, the vault was not fully explored and it is very probable that the immediate vicinity of the spot may contain other remains.

In 1983 the intention was to trench part of the headland adjacent to the farm track alongside Middle Field. However, an abnormally wet spring was followed by an equally dry summer which quickly turned the Mount Bures clay and gravel to concrete, and so little progress was made until the autumn when the trench, 1 metre wide and 83 metres long, was started. It is now being deepened to below plough depth. Some features have been found in the bottom of the trench, but so far they are not of archaeological interest.

Since digging activity was so constrained attention was turned to a search for documentary evidence for the location of the site. Some of the evidence from railway, estate and tithe maps was given in the Second Report. According to Roach Smith the small triangular 1849 excavation straddled a then existing ditch at the boundary between the railway property and the adjacent farm about a quarter of a mile south-east of the Mount. In the Second Report it was suggested that during construction in 1849 the boundaries were not about 30 metres apart, as they are now on either side of the completed track-bed, but 180 metres apart corresponding to the limits of deviation shown on the Parliamentary railway plan (3) and that the vault might, therefore, be at one of the points of intersection of the then field boundaries with either of the wider railway boundaries. However, information kindly supplied by British Rail Property Board (4) indicated that the usual practice in the last century was to build railways using a working area confined to the land purchased for the track-bed. (It is interesting to note that in Victorian times men, horses and locomotives were able to operate within the confines, whereas nowadays a wider strip is required for the use of modern earth-moving equipment). This would mean that the railway property boundaries during construction were as they are now, 30 metres apart, and that the vault would lie along one of them and not along the limits of deviation as suggested in the Second Report.

As stated in the Second Report there are drainage ditches along the present boundaries on both sides of the railway. They are on railway property, are overgrown and are running with water so they cannot be investigated directly. Pits have been dug on the farm land adjacent to the boundary without success. The problem is to decide where to investigate since the length of boundary lying within the description of about a quarter of a mile south-east of the Mount is considerable.

However the search for documentary evidence has produced some more valuable information. John Oxley Parker was the land agent for the then owner of the property, General Bouchier, and was responsible for the negotiations for the sale of the necessary land to the Stour Valley Railway. The Essex Records Office has some correspondence concerning the sale including his 1847 estimate (5) for the amount and value of the land taken. The amount is close to the amount actually taken. To his annoyance General Bouchier had to wait for his money until after the railway had opened in 1849 and the British Rail title deed dates from this year.

J.O. Parker also kept a diary (6) in which he made brief notes on his business activities not only for General Bouchier but for his many other clients. There are numerous references to the transactions with the SVR and among them the following are relevant. Mr Downes was the SVR Surveyor and Mr Bruff was the Engineer.

April 3rd 1847

Met Mr Downes. Arranged claim on behalf of Gen. Bouchier for land at Mount Bures taken by SVR. Agreed at £1000.

May 4th 1847

Walked over line of railway in course of construction

May 16th 1848

Wrote to Gen. Bouchier in reply to letter respecting the delay of the SVR in settling for land at Bures.

May 29th 1848

Wrote to Mr Downes complaining of alteration of level of crossing on Mount Hall Farm and claiming archway under line.

June 13th 1848

Test of quantities of land taken by SVR to ascertain the additional land occupied by the approaches to crossing and by alteration of road in Tanners Field. Found the crossing about 12' high with approaches occupying nearly a rood of ground and nearly a rood also taken without notice in Tanners Field.

August 5th 1848

Attended at Colchester by appointment and met Mr Downes respecting crossing made over embankment on Mount Hall Farm and as to additional land taken without notice on land in Hugh Pettit's occupation. Claimed archway under line in No 41 and payment for additional taken pro rata with amount paid for original quantity. Mr Downes would not admit that the level crossing at 41 was not to be more than 4' high as stated by him to be the agreement with him but allowed also that the contractors have acted incorrectly in taking the other land in. Stated that I was willing to accept either an archway or compensation but that, unless a satisfactory offer was made on that, I would use the legal hold which the land taken without notice gave me on the company.

September 5th 1848

Met Downes and Bruff. Agreed for crossing on Mount Hall - 12' high and 12' wide, 1½ acres of additional land £180 and for temporary use of 3 acres for ballast and the same to be restored to the tenants at Dec.31st 1849 at £50 per acre.

General Bouchier had two tenants on his Mount Bures property, William Pettit who occupied Mount Hall farm and Hugh Pettit who occupied the adjacent land to the south towards Chappel which included Tanners Field. Mr Parker was therefore concerned with three separate items in these extracts; the crossing in No 41, the additional land taken in Tanners Field from Hugh Pettit and the temporary use of 3 acres for ballast.

The items show that, with and without permission, the SVR took more land than was originally allowed for and therefore the position of parts of the railway boundaries during the construction is open to speculation in spite of what has been written above about the working area of Victorian railways and in spite of the evidence of the title deed.

The 1½ acres in Tanners Field may be disregarded as far as the position of the vault is concerned because it is considerably more than a quarter of a mile from the Mount. The road referred to bridges the railway which is in a cutting at this point, the bridge being the second to the south of the public road level-crossing at Mount Bures.

The use of land for ballast is interesting. At the half-yearly meeting of the SVR in August 1848 (7) Mr Bruff reported to the shareholders that work on the line was drawing to a close with embankments nearly complete and most of the culverts and works in masonry and timber completed. The contractor, Jackson, was about to employ 500 men, 70 horses and one powerful locomotive to ballast the line. (That is, to lay down the top layer of material in which the track was embedded). He expected the line to open by the end of the year.

Bruff was too optimistic. The SVR was short of cash. At the next meeting on Feb. 27th 1849 (8) he again said that the works were fast drawing to completion but added that had sufficient funds been placed at the disposal of the contractor during the previous autumn the line might have been open for general traffic by the end of 1848. This explains a newspaper report of January 12th (9) that 'The portion of the line between Chappel and Bures St Mary upon which operations have been suspended for some months past is again in progress...'

Whether work had stopped completely on the line and what Jackson was doing with his work force is not clear, but he had another problem apart from insufficient funds. At the March 2nd meeting Bruff stated that excavation of the material from the summit cutting between Mount Bures and Chappel was proving so difficult that Jackson was resorting to blasting to expedite progress and that he was at work on both sides removing the earth towards Chappel and towards Bures. The completion of the cutting was the measure of time for opening the railway as, until this was done, the ballast which was to come from the Stour valley side of the summit level could not be laid to the junction at Marks Tey.

The summit cutting starts about a third of a mile south from the area of the vault site, and at this point there is still a large excavation adjacent to the line and to Mount Hall property. Bruff's remarks suggest that this may be part of the 3 acres taken for ballast which was not restored to the tenants. If so the vault is unlikely to have been discovered during the use of the land for ballast since the excavation is considerably more than a quarter of a mile from the Mount and the discovery on January 29th was nearly five weeks earlier than Bruff's statement.

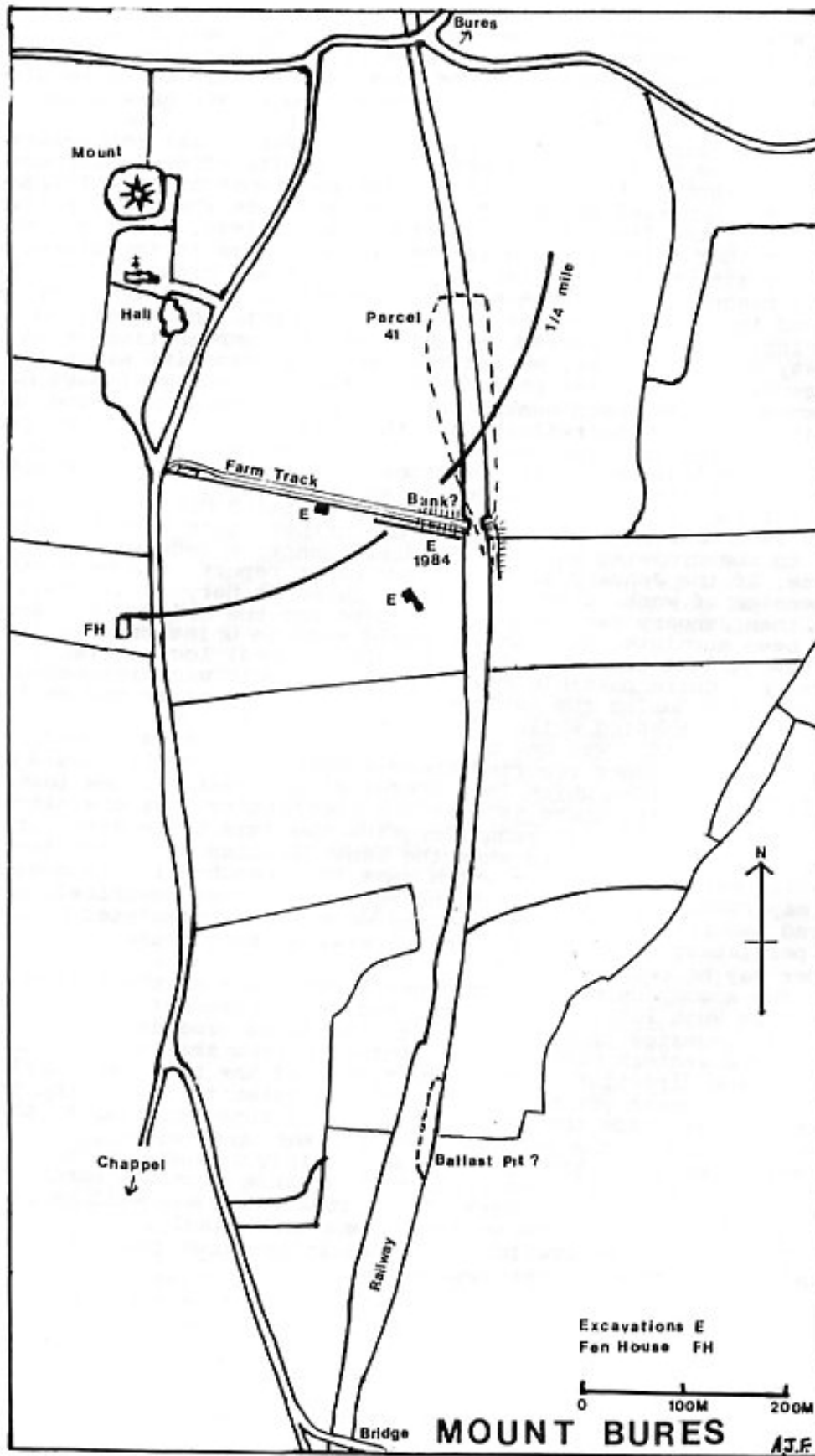
Where the earth removed from the cutting towards Bures was dumped is not known, but Parker's diary entry for June 13th 1848 shows that the embankment in the area of the vault was then already at its final height so that the material must have gone elsewhere and the removal is, therefore, not relevant.

The remaining item of concern to Mr Parker was the crossing in No 41. The strip of land between the limits of deviation was separated into plots or parcels on the Parliamentary plan (3). Each parcel was numbered and No 41 was the parcel in which the railway now crosses the farm track alongside Middle Field. There can be no doubt that this crossing is the one mentioned in the diary.

The situation is clear. The embankment was higher than originally planned and Jackson had taken nearly a rood ($\frac{1}{4}$ acre) of extra ground in constructing the banks to lead up to the specified level crossing. Parker protested, claiming either compensation or an archway under the line. He got the second alternative since the bridge exists today (BR No 16/889) so that Jackson must have had to remove the approach banks, cut through the embankment and build a bridge to take the railway over the farm track. In railway parlance the term crossing may be one on the level or as an over-bridge. The diary entry for September 5th 1848 refers to an agreed crossing 12' high and 12' wide, ie an overbridge.

The question is, when did Jackson do this? Obviously it was after September 5th but there are no further diary entries referring to the crossing so that the date cannot be deduced from that source. If the January 12th 1849 newspaper report of some month's suspension of work from Chappel to Bures St Mary is literally true, then January was the earliest date for the bridge. It cannot have been much later for Jackson would need an uninterrupted track for his ballast train propelled by his powerful locomotive. It is, therefore, quite possible that the burial vault was discovered on January 29th during the making-good operations, after the replacement of the crossing while 'deepening a ditch'.

If the ditch was one of the two existing railway boundary ditches the evidence reported above suggests the vault should be close to the bridge, which is a useful step forward in the investigation.



However, there is also the possibility that the ditch was the one which still runs alongside the farm track since it would have to be restored when the banks leading up to the level crossing were removed. In which case the trench which is now being dug may reveal more than just the ancient ditches described in the

Second Report. It is hoped that the work may be completed before any persistent dry weather otherwise, as Jackson found, blasting powder may be required.

The accompanying plan of Mount Bures shows at the bottom the bridge on Hugh Pettit's land, the suggested site for the ballast pit and the suggested approach banks to the level crossing for the farm track. The western bank projects outwards from the railway embankment in the direction of the farm track. If the bank ran parallel to the embankment yet more land would be taken to divert the track. On the eastern side the present farm track runs parallel to the embankment and so the eastern bank is shown parallel also. But the eastern direction taken by the track in 1849 is unknown and the eastern bank may well have projected outwards from the embankment in line with the western bank. The burial vault may well be on the eastern side although the western seems more likely.

The two past excavations recorded in previous reports are shown and also the current 1984 trench.

Two more interesting items of documentary information are to be found in the records held at the Colchester and Essex Museum.

The only artifact still identifiable from the 1849 excavation is the andiron on display in the Museum. The rector of Stanway, near Colchester, in 1849 was the Rev. Henry Jenkins who published a catalogue of books and material presented by him to the Museum in 1870 (10). The andiron is listed in it so that it was in Jenkin's possession in 1870.

The Colchester antiquarian, William Wire, corresponded regularly with Roach Smith and the letters are in the Museum records. On 26th September 1849 he wrote (11) that, during a visit to Stanway, the Rev. Jenkins had shown him the iron implements found at Mount Bures and had told him that Roach Smith was going to publish them in the *Collectanea*. The implements obviously included one or both of the andirons found and the letter shows that Jenkins was a source of information to Roach Smith about the finds and by inference about the excavation. A search for records left by Jenkins might therefore be rewarding.

References:

- 1) McMaster I & Fawn A J, Iron Age Ditches at Mount Bures -Second Report. CAG Bulletin 25(1982) 6
- 2) Roach Smith C, Roman Remains found at Mount Bures near Colchester. Collectanea Antiqua 2 (1852) 25
- 3) Public Record Office, Kew, Surrey Document RAIL 124/3 S BC 2086
- 4) Communication to AJF from Estate Surveyor & Manager, British Rail Property Board, Eastern Region, Kings House, 236/240 Pentonville Road, London N1.
- 5) Essex Records Office, Chelmsford. Cat. mark of Doc, D/DOP/B92/2.
- 6) Essex Records Office, Chelmsford. Microfilm TB 225/12 & 13 see also J. Oxley Parker. The Oxley Parker Papers. Benham & Co. 1964
- 7) The Essex Standard & Eastern Counties Advertiser, Sept.1st 1848
- 8) " " " " " " " " " Mar. 2nd 1849
- 8) " " " " " " " " " Jan. 12th 1849
- 10) Catalogue of the Books on Archaeology & Natural History Presented to the Colchester Museum by Rev.H. Jenkins BD, FGS, Rector of Stanway AD 1870.
- 11) Unpublished letter from W. Wire to C. Roach Smith 24th Sept., 1849. Wire Manuscripts, Colchester & Essex Museum.

SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORDING

Despite the rather poor response to my plea for assistance last year in the recording, by parish, of information we have on sites and monuments, a satisfactory amount of progress has been made. The efforts of Rosemary Oliver in particular and of Dinah Beckett have meant that all of the parishes in the Colchester Borough Council District have now been covered. The next step is to start recording those parishes contained in the Tendring Hundred District and parishes adjacent to the Borough of Colchester.

If anyone else is interested in this work would they please contact me at the Museum (Colchester 577475). Any offers of help would be most welcome.

M.J.Winter

**MIRROR REVERSALS OF ARMS IN THE CHURCHES AT
STOKE-BY-NAYLAND, AND AT WISS1NGTON, CO. SUFFOLK**

E.J. Russell

Stoke-by-Nayland St Mary

At the eastern end of the southern nave arcade is a small carving (on the capital) of the arms of Margaret Boteler; i.e. Boteler quartering Carbonell. The arms are repeated on the capital of the easternmost column in the northern arcade, but as a mirror reversal of the carving on the south. The Suffolk Institute Proceedings, (1) deal with Margaret Boteler's tomb in Newton Green Church. She held the manor there from 1393 to 1410, from her father Ralph Boteler, who had married Alice Carbonell of Waldingfield.

Wissington St Mary

On the font:

Facing east	France modern, and England quartered
" north	Swinborne, but as a mirror reversal
" west	A plain cross
" south	De Vere, but as a mirror reversal

Woodward (2) states:-

It was customary in early times for the escutcheons on monuments etc. in churches to have the arms so painted as that the charges faced to the High Altar. (Thus, in the Chapel of the Chevaliers de la Toison D'Or, at Dijon, the arms of the knights whose stalls were on the north side are all arranged in this way, or apparently reversed). In our own Chapel of St George at Windsor, the stall plates of the early knights of the Garter have the helmets and shields of those on the north side thus arranged. So also

are the coats emblazoned on the stalls upon the north side of the Choir in the Cathedral at Haarlem.

Gt. Cornard St Andrew's, also in the Stour valley, has on its font's west face a coat (bearer untraced) with an engrailed bend sinister.

France Modern (i.e., three fleur-de-lis only) is on the English Royal Arms from c. 1405. The last Swinborne, Sir William, died in 1412.

Boteler of Newton; arg. 3 covered cups sable between two bendlets gules

Carbonell of Waldingfield: gules, a cross arg. within a bordure engrailed or

Swinborne of Horkesley: gules, 3 boars' heads coupé and semé of crosses botonee arg.

It is thought that arms depicted in reverse must now be rare, so that it is of interest that these several examples are to be seen close at hand. Could this be of local significance? If members know of other local examples the author would be very glad to hear about them.

References:

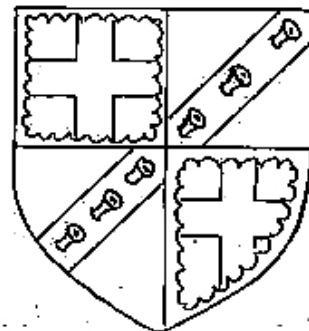
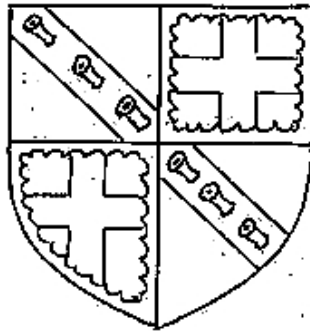
- 1) Suffolk Institute Proceedings IX (1896) 262-70.
- 2) Woodward J., A Treatise on Heraldry, British & Foreign 1896 2nd Ed., Johnson, Edinburgh & London.

STOKE BY NAYLAND ST. MARY

Margaret Boteler

Reversed

Correct arms



Reversed arms

South Arcade

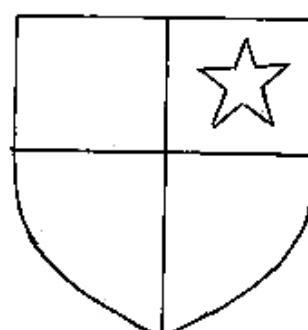
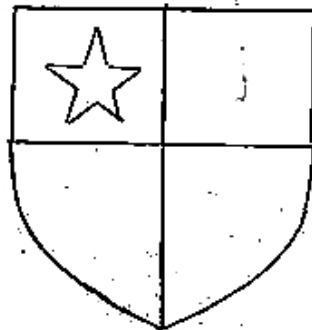
North Arcade

WISSINGTON ST. MARY - THE FONT

De Vere

reversed

Correct arms



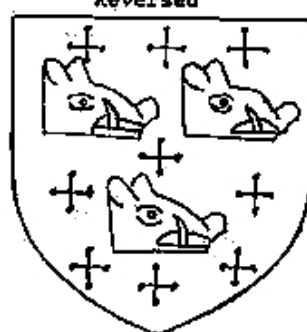
Reversed arms

Facing South

Swynborna

Reversed

Correct arms



Reversed arms

Facing North

To be seen on a brass in Lt. Horkeley church

ROMAN VILLA SITE – LAYER BRETON

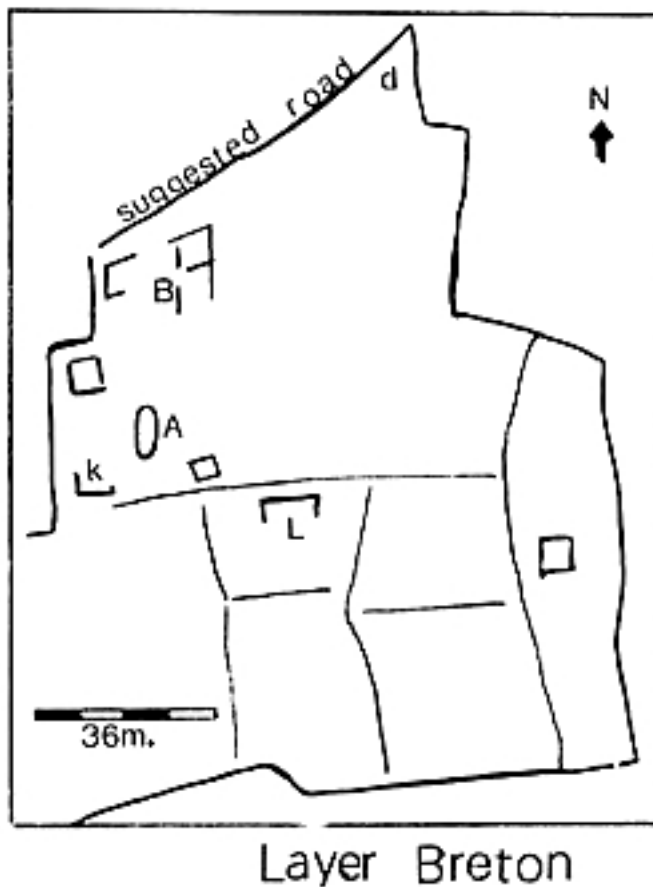
Dinah Beckett

The probable presence of a Roman villa site at Layer Breton was reported in the last Bulletin (1). Its presence has been further corroborated in recent months by aerial photography and more field-walking.

Aerial photography

As shown in Figure 1 below, aerial photography of the 20 acre site shows many crop-marks including the outlines of several buildings.

Figure 1 CROP-MARKS SEEN AT LAYER BRETON 1983



Pottery and tile

The pottery and tile has been picked up when field-walking, mostly by the author, over a period of about 1½ years. The distribution of it indicates a pattern of habitation which agrees with the position of the buildings shown on the aerial photographs.

The majority of the pottery is rough grey ware and the numerous bases and rims reflect the multitude of pots used on the site. The pottery has been valuable in trying to date the villa and the sequence of habitation. So far, there is no evidence of pre-Roman habitation, all material is from about 250 AD, although there are residual shards which include one piece of South Gaulish samian ware of 1st century, and a reeded rim bowl and shards of Roman white flagon bases, all of the 2nd century.

Amongst the 2000 shards picked up only four are samian ware. There are, however, shards from various parts of Britain and from Europe and North Africa. They include examples of colour-coating, both black and red, from the Nene Valley; black colour-coating from Hadham and Oxford, and mortaria in the form

of flanged bowls. From the Rhineland there is a piece of 4th century Mayen ware - a honey jar, and from Tunisia an amphora handle, from an amphora used for olive oil.

Pottery and aerial photographs combined

Looking at the aerial photographs together with the date and distribution of the pottery and tile, it is possible to build up a projected plan of the villa site. The quantity of the earliest pot and the variety of the non-rough grey pot seems to suggest a main villa at L, although from the photographs alone, one might speculate that this would be at B where there is perhaps a suggestion of a corridor building. At A the exceptionally large concentration of tile, tesserae of three different sizes, together with the oval shaped crop-mark, may indicate a bath house well away from the main villa. At K there is an area suggestive of metal working in the form of slag deposits. There is, too, much more tile scattered over the surface of the 20 acres, but it has no obvious concentrations.

Of the probable buildings four, L, B, A and d (no crop-mark) display tesserae, combed flue tiles of hypocausts and roof tiles. A few fragments of Roman glass have also been found in these areas.

An interesting feature, which may in fact be natural and so coincidental, is that the buildings are linked by a gravel spread, possibly indicating a courtyard in what is heavy clay land.

Post-Roman occupation

Along the hedge-line which is the suggested road (2) which may connect Gosbecks with the port at Heybridge, shards of Saxon and post-Conquest pot have been found; and although it is here that the Byzantine coin was found, there is nothing so far to indicate that there was a dwelling of this period. There is, however, ample evidence from medieval peg tiles and pot shards of a medieval dwelling. The remainder of the site appears to contain no Saxon, post-Conquest or medieval pot.

Summary

It seems, therefore, on the basis of the work to date, that the site was not in use prior to 225 AD and that it is probably a late Imperial Estate. Why established so late in this area remains a mystery. Absence of surface coins and the few pieces of samian ware suggest it may not have been a wealthy site. The impression is that any habitation since Roman times has been along the road only. Much further study of the site is needed and warranted, particularly using more aerial photographs.

I should like to thank the following persons for their expert assistance and for many helpful discussions: P. Sealey, N. Smith, R. Symonds and M. Winter. I am most grateful to the owner of the land for allowing me to walk over it.

References:

- 1) CAG Bulletin 25 (1982) 16
- 2) Hull M.R., Roman Colchester, Soc. of Antiqu. Res. Rep. XX (1958) 9

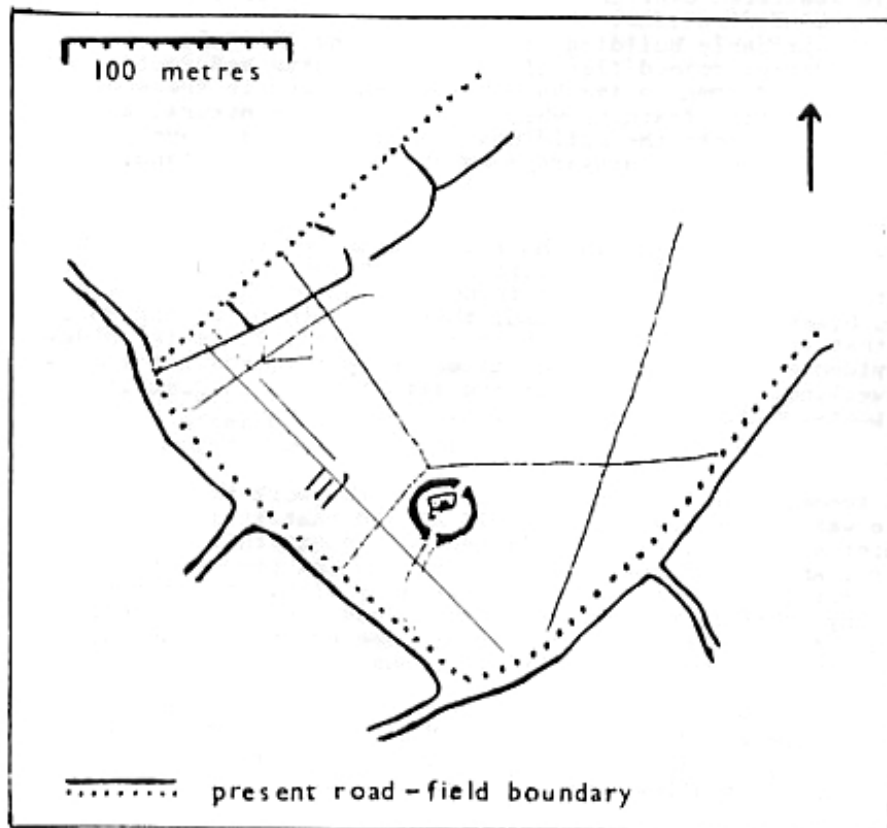
A CROP MARK AT BOXFORD

Ida McMaster

The wet spring of 1983 proved somewhat detrimental to the production of crop-marks. A few known sites appeared briefly here and there as the crops ripened. Later in the year, after ploughing, a variety of potential sites could be vividly seen, with even an odd ring ditch showing in those fields where the new green crops were beginning to cover again. This late effect was, of course, the result of the hot dry summer.

Some years ago a crop-mark was recorded at Boxted Cross, TM 00853270 (1). Its outline was that of a Class II henge, some 30 metres in diameter, with the two entrances not precisely opposed; by comparison the classic Little Bromley and Great Wigborough henges have exactly opposed entrances, in August 1983 the site at Boxted appeared more clearly, revealing an off-centre dark feature enclosed by a fainter rectangular ditch, see Figure 1 below.

FIGURE 1 Plan showing the henge type and other crop-marks



BOXTED ESSEX

In addition a faint trackway could be seen issuing from the south-west entrance/causeway in the substantial outer ditch and travelling in the direction of the present road there. The linear ditches of a ploughed-out road or track of obviously different date were visible running roughly parallel to the same existing road, and were in turn, cut at right angles by three other parallel ditches, an arrangement reminiscent of a typical Roman field layout. Old field boundaries of more recent date could be clearly distinguished lying to the north. Despite the off-set nature of the two entrances at the Boxted henge, the entrance to the south-west, with its trackway, seems unlikely to be a later causeway cut for a different purpose.

However, such a possibility cannot be entirely overlooked. Dick Farrands has already drawn attention to the possibility of a ring ditch containing a central cross feature which may be a windmill foundation (2). The well known Mucking and Great Linford windmill excavation (3, 4) both revealed cross beam trenches which once held the timber foundations for post mills. Tom Jones also commented on some extant records which showed the real value of old timbers removed from various disused mills. All these interesting findings pose questions about the nature of the dark inner feature within the Boxted henge. Although the feature has no discernible shape, it appears to have been formed by a typical act of excavation and could be a large robber pit of some kind.

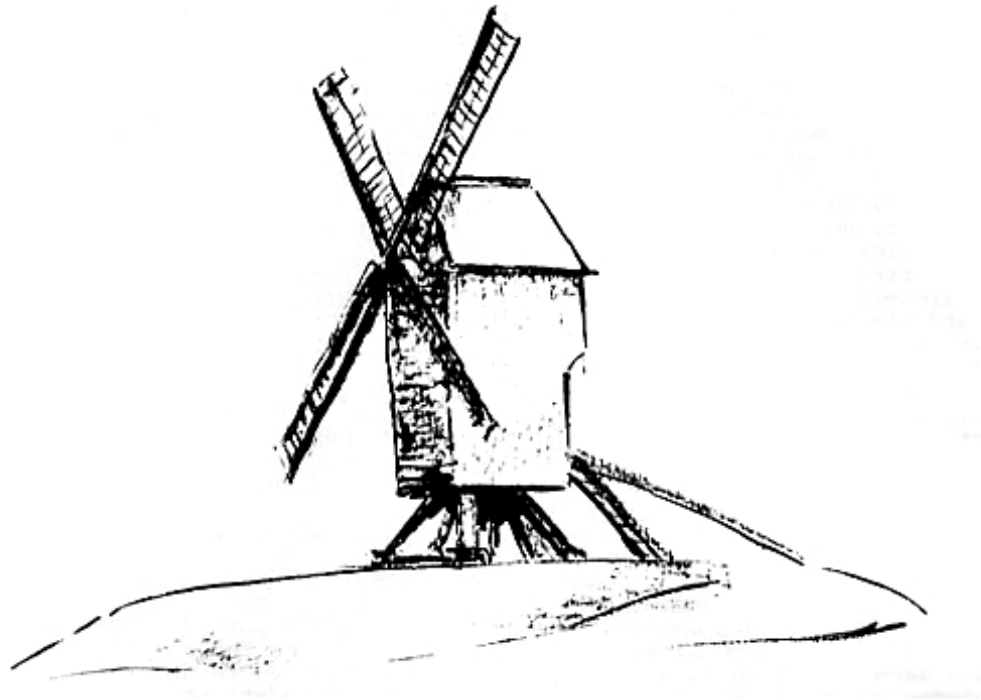
In certain circumstances the slighted remaining banks of a small henge might provide an opportunity to cart earth inwards for the purpose of mounding up or stabilizing a partly sunken post mill foundation. A barrow mound, if large enough, might make the task easier. Convenient for such a purpose many ancient tumuli were sited on high ground, although the majority are seen to lie in river valleys. Alternatively, where no prehistoric structure lay readily to hand, mill foundations were often stabilized with earth taken from an encircling ditch, extra height being obtained at the same time if the ditch were substantial.

Several small henge crop-marks occur in north-east Essex and south Suffolk and these should all be looked at carefully to consider whether they might be mill mounds. It cannot be sufficiently stressed that return flights over a period of years are a necessity for all sites.

A fine mounded windmill in a perfect state of preservation lies just outside Abbeville in Normandy (see Figure 2). This provides a clear example of the type of earthwork in common use in East Anglia in the past. Indeed many remnants of these still remain in Essex (5), although they have not yet been examined by the author. No encircling ditch remains at Abbeville but total silting could have occurred. On the other hand, a ditch was not strictly necessary if a natural knoll could be found. At Abbeville this might have been the case and the process of leveling the top of the knoll, and adding earth from vertical spit digging, would have produced the effect of its very decided pudding basin shape. In this situation some form of shoring up may also have been required.

FIGURE 2

THE ABBEVILLE WINDMILL



At Boxted nothing remains at ground level where the site is now quite flat. However, it is on the higher ground of the village and situated on the 46 metre contour above the River Stour. A curious comparison is the Great Wigborough henge which is of larger diameter, 50 metres approximately, and is, unaccountably, still mounded in the centre to a height of about one metre; it is near Salcott Creek and on low ground. The ditch there appears, from the crop-mark, to be substantial and there is no central feature to suggest a windmill. But how is it that the outer banks or ramparts of an apparent henge came to be pushed to the centre to produce a considerable mound? Such are the questions raised by aerial photography. Perhaps further research into documentary evidence will provide some answers. At least no mill site is shown on the 1777 Chapman and Andre map for Boxted and so, if such a structure was ever extant, it should be of an early date.

My thanks are due to Hazel West for the excellent illustration of the Abbeville mill and to Michael Organ for his help with mill references.

References:

- 1) McMaster I., Crop-mark sites selected and plotted. CAG Bulletin18, (1975) 15
- 2) Farrands R.H. & McMaster I., 1977 Cropmarks. CAG Bulletin 21(1978) 26
- 3) Jones W.T., The Mucking Windmill. Panorama 34(1979) 42-46
- 4) Zeepvat R., Gt. Linford Mill Mound. Int. Molinological Society Newsletter. (Milton Keynes Development Corp.)
- 5) Farries K.G., Essex Windmills, Millers & Millwrights. 1981 1 Skitton, London.

ROMAN TILE KILNS SITE AT ESSEX LODGE FARM

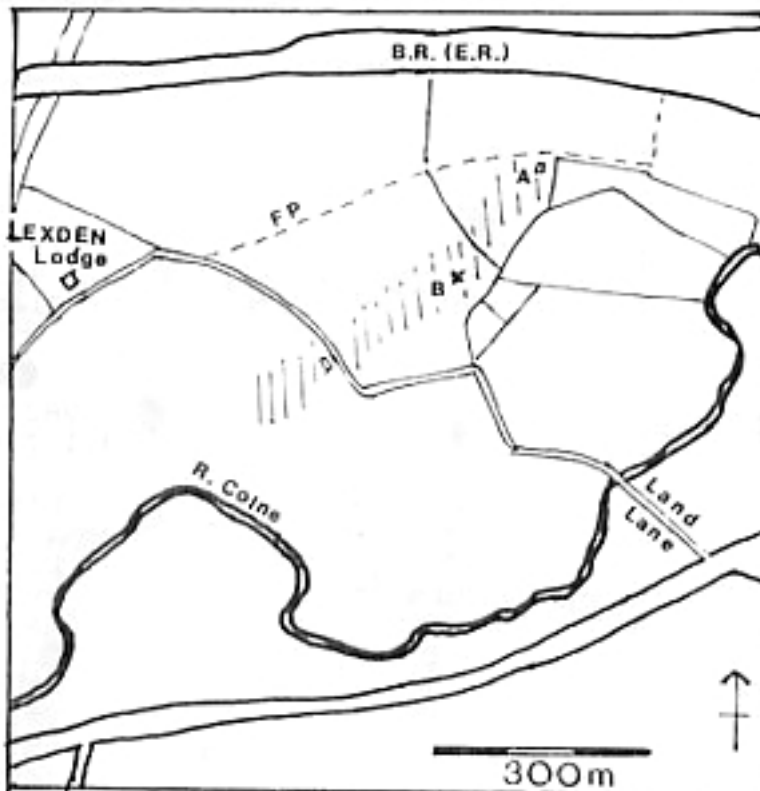
A. J. Fawn

On a cold afternoon last December Dennis Tripp, Frank Lockwood and I walked the site of the tile kilns at Lexden Lodge (formerly Moat) Farm with the kind permission of the owner Mr Andrews. Our purpose was to collect fragments to help Frank with the study of Roman tile which he is currently making and we had no difficulty in selecting samples of both tile and pottery from the quantity which was lying on the ploughed surface.

This is the site where the Group excavated a kiln (I) in 1969/70 at point A on the accompanying plan. On this occasion we found comparatively little material at point A, but there was an abundance elsewhere along the slope rising from the flood plain of the Colne as shown by the shaded area on the plan.

The Colchester and Essex Museum has a record of the site. In such a large area of debris there are likely to be several other kilns but it is worth noting that we found a particular concentration of material at B (TL 982262) where a kiln may, therefore, be located.

FIGURE 1 PLAN SHOWING TILE KILN DEBRIS AT LEXDEN LODGE FARM
(shaded area indicates concentration of debris)



Reference:

- 1) Holbert P.R. Excavation of Roman Tile Kilns at Moat Farm, Lexden, Colchester 1969-1970. CAG Bulletin 14 (1971) 21

WINTER MEETINGS 1982-3

Recent Excavations in Canterbury 18th October 1982

Mr T. Tatton-Brown, Director, Canterbury Archaeological Trust

Mr Tatton-Brown spoke of excavations in and around the site of the Marlow theatre, nearby the Roman theatre found in the 70s by Shepherd Frere. Both on the site and in the city many Celtic coins, especially potin ones, have been found. More Gaulish coins occur in the city than in all the rest of Kent. Some are marked 'CAM' and some 'CAN'.

By Flavian times the street grid of the town was established; excavations revealed a longish street with buildings alongside and a sewer (and probably wooden water-pipes); a large building with a hypocaust with floors suspended on box tiles (unusual as these were not robust) and large T-shaped iron clamps with cotton reel shaped spacers joined the inner and outer walls of the hot room. Close by were massive public bath remains; fallen walls of box tiles lay on the ground. These buildings had been put over a large swimming bath. The road later became covered with silt which showed a pattern of plants and stake holes - very late Roman (5th Century). Nearby a family burial disclosed an adult female with a chatelaine and beads. There were also several bracelets; it was a 5th century interment. To the west of this was a colonnaded court with a mass of decorated stone fragments - apparently a 2nd century temple, which probably succeeded a Celtic temple. Over 40 Saxon huts, some built over Roman roads, others in gaps between Roman buildings, showed a break in civil life in the town. These huts were late 6th century or early 7th.

Finally recent researches at the Archbishop's palace were described. The great hall (160' x 68') was demolished in 1650, but it is now found that the large kitchen and parts of other buildings remain; they are disguised as houses now. Documentary evidence shows that there were 22 churches in the early middle ages, but much depopulation caused many to disappear after the Black Death.

Recent Excavations in Lincoln 25th October 1982

Mr M.J.Jones, Director, Lincoln Archaeological Trust.

The River Witham cuts the Jurassic Way at Lincoln. There was some Iron Age occupation but the real importance of Lincoln began in Roman times. The known fortress is Neronian but an earlier one may exist. Unusually the fortress has timber revetted walls.

The site described was the former St-Mary-in-the-Bail where there were post pits of legionary date. The fortress faced east. Overlying this was an aisled hall and courtyard. The courtyard was paved and had a base suitable for an equestrian statue; it was colonnaded - shown by pillar bases around it forming a portico. Behind this was a double range of rooms. This complex must have been the Forum and the nearby 'Mint Wall', still 25' high, may be a basilica. An inscription suggests a temple nearby. To the south of the fortress remains of the 2nd century colonia wall were found. Towers had been added later and had been thickened about 200 AD.

A possibility of continuity of a religious nature is suggested by traces of an early church (7th century) where a hanging bowl, decorated with milleflore, and Christian graves, at present carbon-dated to 3rd century, were found.

After a period of decline from late Roman times, Danish settlement brought a revival in the late 9th century when Lincoln was the most important of the 'Five Boroughs'. The later street plan dates from this era, not, as previously expected, from Roman times. The Flaxengate site has remains of stone houses (c.f. The Jews House) over timber houses and this (late 9th-11th centuries) was when the street system was replanned. The wide commercial network of this period is attested by fragments of Chinese and Syrian pottery. At this time copper, jet and bone working took place. By the 13th century there were 47 churches and several religious houses but in the decline of the 14th and 15th centuries many of these were demolished. The decline may have been due to silting of the river Witham causing trade to move downstream.

Recent Excavations in Norwich 1st November, 1982

Mr B Ayres, Field Officer (Norwich), Norfolk Archaeological Unit

Apart from slight traces of Roman occupation the history of the city dates from 8th-9th centuries. A pagan Saxon cemetery has been identified and at the crossing place of the two early roads Ipswich ware sherds were found. Three centres of settlement grew up in the bend of the River Wansum and in late Saxon times these expanded. It appears there was a burgh in the Tombland district and probably a Danish (defended) area north of the river. However, the former was largely destroyed when the castle was built (1067-) and a new 'French' settlement built to the west of this. The castle truncated the road to the east, over Bishop's Bridge, so in Norman times the port moved down river. Rainbird Clarke, in 1962, found continental pottery of late Saxon date in a small dig near St Martin-at-Palace. The adjacent bridge is a replacement of the oldest bridge in the city; a site for a dig was available here and the speaker explained that at a depth of 4m was a 'hard' where ships could be beached and unloaded just below the bridge. The hard was made of brushwood, dung, straw etc., and was retained by a brushwood fence about 18" high, similar to one in Jutland. Quantities of Saxon pottery were also found. Towards the street three late Saxon skeletons were discovered suggesting there had been a late Saxon church nearby. The most exciting part of the excavation was a 12th century wall, nearly 3m high. It proved to be part of an undercroft with internal dimensions 22' x 44'. It had a substantial cess pit which had been fitted with a sluice for flushing out by the tide as required. One long wall of the undercroft was blank, the other had three windows. There was no direct access from the hall above. The walls still had a dressing of coloured mortar - preserved by the rubble which fell when the building collapsed about 1300AD. The history of the building, as far as is as present known, is undocumented. It has been compared with the Jew's House, or related to the Cathedral nearby, or may even be connected with Canterbury which held St Martins-at-Palace for a time in the middle ages. The structure is to be conserved and a new Magistrates' Court built above it, making it accessible to visitors.

The production of Medieval Tiles 8th November, 1982

Mr B Johnson, Conservator, Norton Priory Museum, Runcorn.

During excavations at Norton Priory, Runcorn, in 1971 a large area of medieval floor tiling was found. This led Mr Johnson to use local clay in an effort to see if light could be thrown on the way medieval tile makers obtained their results. The following year the lower part of the medieval kiln was found. As it had been burnt hard in use it could be cut into blocks and transferred to the museum. Mr Johnson and students dug a pit and built a clay kiln the same size as the original 14th century one. It had twin flues, these were formed on wooden arches which would burn away in use. There had been nothing to indicate how the upper structure had been made, so he built a miniature bottle kiln on top, strengthened by a spine wall built along the partition between the flues. A hole had to be cut temporarily in the 'bottle' to permit the kiln to be loaded. By burning brushwood a temperature of 1000F was achieved.

The tiles he made were stamped with designs resembling those used on the originals. Then they were covered with slip and in due course this was pared away leaving the stamped depression filled with the slip. As the conditions in the kiln varied a pleasing variety of finishes was achieved.

The following year 3000 tiles were made in this kiln so that a larger one could be built with them. They were laid in clay so that when the kiln was in use it would be fired to make a virtually monolithic structure. This kiln, however, had no 'bottle' over it, instead it was loaded with both tiles and pottery and covered merely with waste tiling, old chimney pots etc., in order to retain heat and provide a proper atmosphere. It was found that about 5cwt of brushwood was needed per hour, i.e. about 3 tons per firing. Some of the tiles were used to re-floor a Georgian summer house nearby and 500 to tile a display platform at Stoke-on-Trent museum.

Prehistoric Leicestershire 15th November, 1982

Mr P.N. Clay, Field Officer, Leicester Museums' Field Archaeological Officer.

It is now found that the clay lands of the county in BA times were not covered with thick oak forest to such a degree as previously thought. There has been recent search for prehistoric monuments where early soils can be examined for environmental data (pollen, molluscs etc.).

A series of BA barrows on limestone in the north-east of the county included one, now much diminished, from which the farmer had moved many large stones. A dig begun at Sproxton in 1978 showed a

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series of phases. The original soil showed at 3000 BC approximately, the clearing of woodland by burning. The earlier snail shells were characteristic of open arable land, later ones of a pastoral landscape (sheep teeth were found at this phase). The central burial had a cremation of a man (c. 35 years). His body had been exposed and partially defleshed then cremated by a bonfire built over him, then covered by turfs and surrounded by a ring of stakes (early BA - c.1800 BC), with 4 stake circles (? hurdles) added. Next the mound was extended and two stone kerbs added. Finally a fairly shallow ditch was dug to provide limestone to give the barrow a white finish. Associated with this capping were secondary incomplete cremations in pits and a female cremation in a collapsed urn - these dated about 1480-1450 BC.

Another site at Eaton was examined but hopes of finding a buried soil with pollen grains were disappointed as the barrow was found to be on a natural mound, the original soil having been ploughed away. However, the mound itself had been used for burials for 500 years - some were in coffins. Fragments of beaker were in the mound.

Mr Clay's other priority was to research into the origin of Leicester. When the Roman mosaic preserved under Central Railway Station was removed to the Museum, a valuable late IA site was revealed. It contained a crouched inhumation. The high status of late IA Leicester is shown by fragments of a coin mould and good quality imported Gaulish pottery. Also a Camulodunum butt beaker (early 1st century AD). Maybe the Gaulish pottery was distributed to Leicester via Camulodunum. Very little of this pottery is found north of Leicester - a cultural frontier oppidum. So far no ramparts have been found.

An Historical Survey of Northampton 22nd November, 1982

Mr J. Williams, Archaeological Officer, Northampton Development Corporation.

Our speaker referred briefly to early sites in the fertile area round the present town - Duston Causeway Camp, Hansbury Hill-fort, and a small Roman town - these all seem to focus on the site of Northampton which, because of its accessibility by water, was developed by Saxons in their early settlement. Dating is difficult as the pottery types show little change over 400 years but recent excavations near St Peter's church have revealed 3 grubenhausen of 6-7th century.

A major find was the site of a 30m timber hall with an annexe at each end. The surveying done when the posts were set up was extremely accurate. When demolished some posts had been removed, leaving voids - the site resembled Royal ones elsewhere. Later, a stone hall 37.5m x 11.5m was built on the site - the largest known secular building in the country. It had an asymmetrically placed annexe at the west end. Contemporary with it was found the site of a stone church which extends under the existing St Peter's church and a few objects having religious associations. The most interesting finds were remains of large mortar mixers consisting of 6' - 9' bowls of basket work with a central post which acted as the axle for a capstan-like structure which propelled paddles round the bowls for mixing the mortar. These mixers are extremely rare in Britain but several have been found in Germany, Switzerland and Belgium on 8 - 10th century sites. They were not known to Roman or Medieval builders. Everywhere they are associated with 'high status' sites. Mr Williams related a legend connecting St Peter's with the family of St Edmund and considers that the existence (till recently) of dependent chapels in the area indicates St Peter's was originally a minster church. This accords with the large hall being a Royal palace, a belief supported by finds showing silver working, a mint, as well as iron working, textile and bone working. Hones from Norway also occurred.

It appears that the Saxon town had a 'loose' lay out - interspersed were yards and cultivated areas. It is first referred to in the AS chronicles as being a Danish settlement and grew rapidly under Edward the Elder. Rectilinear elements in the street plan are due to its situation where two through roads crossed at right angles, and to constraints imposed by the siting of the castle (not due to Roman planning).

The town had a boom period after the Norman conquest and in medieval times was always one of the principal towns in England.

Colchester Castle 29th November, 1982

Mr P.J. Drury, Chelmsford Archaeological Trust.

Colchester Castle and the Roman Temple, occupying Insula 22, lie in an extension of the Fortress made when the town became a Colonia in AD 49. The boundary of the temple temenos is still seen fossilized in the Roman street plan. Massive foundations found on the south, superceding earlier structures, date from C.200AD and represent a grand architectural screen. Other remains indicate the great altar, statue bases

and great drains to serve a large paved area. Stucco fragments from columns one metre diameter show that the temple dominated the area. About 200AD there was much rebuilding after a serious fire.

Religious changes in the 4th century are shown by a raft of tiles etc., in front of the temple and the building of a big wall and it seems that this indicates conversion to a great audience hall (cf. Trier) with an Apse. Pottery finds show use to early 5th century and during this time the porticos in the temenos wall were turned into rooms. Altogether the buildings seem to have become a defensible residence of a cantonal chief - vaguely remembered in the King Cole legend. Property boundaries to the west of the site show the minimum core of the later Saxon town, and there are thick black occupation layers in front of the temenos entrance. The area became a focus for burials. Adjacent, Middleborough Street is part of 10th century replanning, St Helen's chapel is of that date (2 walls on the Roman theatre). The chapel remains in front of the Castle, originally apsidal, were Saxon too, but were later rebuilt. No buildings were demolished to accommodate the castle when it was built in 11th century. From Saxon times the area was a royal manor.

The original castle was built to first floor level and completed to the third some years later. The original crenellations can be traced in the upper walls. The present entrance replaces an earlier small one, approached by small fore buildings. Foundations of massive fore buildings were found, entry being gained by a stairway. The demolished 3rd floor chapel probably had a simple barrel vault. Odo probably built the first phase for the King, the 2nd for himself; the Danes being perceived as the enemy. The Tower of London, much the same size, derives the apse and other features from Colchester.

For about a year (1215-16) the castle was occupied by the French. After the 14th century its importance declined and it became a prison - the graves of many prisoners have been found. It is impossible to do justice to Mr Drury's account of this subject. Members who are interested in the subject eagerly await his full account to be published shortly.

Archaeology in Buckinghamshire 6th December, 1982

Mr M.E. Parley, Field Archaeologist, Buckingham County Museum

Mr Parley, outside of Milton Keynes, one of the only two full time archaeologists in the county, told the group of the main features of archaeological work in Buckinghamshire in the past decade, taking his topics in historical order.

A field walking programme has shown that even areas of clay-with-flints could reveal considerable density of occupation in BA times and earlier. No henge monuments or causewayed camps had been found but air photos showed several BA barrows in the Ouse valley. One, excavated at Ravens tone, had an interrupted ditch. It contained a female burial with a very fine Beaker and bronze awl overlying a coffin grave quite empty except for an antler spatula c. 1800 BC. Two BA hoards have also come to light, the Aylesbury one of c. 600 BC (carp's tongue type) reflects continental contacts as did a surface find of same date - a socketed sickle.

Rather later is a 'new' hill fort very near Ivinghoe Beacon seen on air photo; also (at Woodham) a pipe line ditch yielded 4th century BC bones, pottery, and pollen showing open land, even on heavy clay, at this early date, as did Pennylands at Milton Keynes.

Bierton (near Aylesbury) had substantial ditches and round houses with pottery just pre-Roman conquest on a site which also had the cellar and stairs of an 18th century house. Dorton, near Brill yielded the first Welwyn type burial found in Bucks when a pipe line was laid. It contained remains of wood and a large iron ring of unknown purpose, also 3 amphorae (c. 20 - 15 BC) and 3 flagons from central Gaul. The chief find was remains of a wooden box containing cremation remains and a bronze mirror with 'Celtic' handle (c.f. Great Chesterford).

Four Roman villas have recently been located as well as a small town with late 2nd century defences and iron working (Bletchley). A Romano-British temple site with a complex of roads (near a ford) appeared to have been a religious focus for a very long time Other Roman finds were several kilns in the north of the county and many 4th century burials near High Wycombe. Then, in 5th - 7th centuries Walton (near Aylesbury) had grubenhausen, small halls, a few rubbish pits with a rotary quern - not usual at this period. The site showed long occupation as finds went on to the end of the Saxon period.

The area round St Mary's church. Aylesbury, had many burials from c. 750 AD when the church was probably a Minster. These were overlain by medieval buildings.

Brill, a nearby Royal site, produced good quality pottery as found on other high status sites. Pottery making continued here in simple kilns into the 19th century. There are many deserted villages in the county and a great many parishes show house platforms, reflecting shrinking villages in medieval times. Finally, Mr Farley discussed chalk mining; he is sure there are several dene holes still to be identified. One was still being exploited in 1910.

Recent Excavations in South Essex 31st January, 1983

Miss P.A. Greenwood, Asst. Curator, Archaeology & Local History, Passmore Edwards Museum, Stratford.

Miss Greenwood spoke first of a rescue dig at Waltham Abbey. The present church founded by Henry II as part of his penance for the death of Becket is the successor of an earlier church founded by Harold (1060 AD) and that followed an even earlier church. Her remit was to excavate a rectangular area to a depth of 4' and the most recent feature found was a road of c. 1500.

A rubble layer covered the site and an area of tile was found which had slid off derelict monastic buildings after the dissolution, and there was much pottery. A wide rut with pieces of good stone from pillars suggest the use of a heavy single wheeled (? wheel-barrow) vehicle.

The remains of a Tudor building - not a dwelling, with a well came to light. The most interesting find was a large amount of broken leaded glass (c.1300AD) some of which has been cleverly restored and shows an eagle, St Mark's emblem, and other designs. In the well, which had a timber lining, were spurs, a glass bowl, pottery and pieces of cloth. Large, well made, pits may have been connected with the brewing referred to in documents. One was cut by a lead pipe (? Abbey water supply). Under a clay spread was industrial slag from Saxon or early Norman iron working. The footings of a stone apse with Saxon - early Norman pottery may be part of the earlier church.

The other site Miss Greenwood described was a multi-period settlement dug at Rainham 1979-81. It was a rescue dig in advance of gravel extraction.

The site was a gravel 'peninsular' just above flood level, so it had defensive potential. The area she excavated was near a previously excavated Neolithic ring ditch and other reported early features. Air photographs showed intensive crop marks of late Bronze to late Roman Ages. The two main features were a late BA - early IA cemetery and an enclosure surrounded with triple ditches and ramparts, in the cemetery the urn fragments almost all came from rims, so the urns must have been inverted. A few calcined flints were with them and the speaker thought that each urn originally had a mound over it.

The triple ditched enclosure seemed to have expanded from the innermost ditch. Each ditch had its rampart on the outer side; the middle having a slot in its bottom for part of its length. Pottery in a well in the enclosure is dated to early 1st century AD. The well also produced spindle whorls, a strainer, a Roman Brooch. So-called Belgic bricks and parts of four brooches were found in the ditches. There were no signs of occupation. In addition, not far away, was a Roman farmyard where there was a well, a 4th century oven, and what was probably a foundation trench for a large barn. The well was timber lined in the same manner as the lining now at Colchester Castle Museum. There were a number of pits which were considered 'failed wells' and a pit eight metres long with hardly any finds but a great number of stake holes, possibly related to a tannery. The finds are exhibited in the Passmore Edwards Museum.

Excavations at Thetford 7th February, 1983

Mr A.K. Gregory, Field Officer, Norfolk Archaeological Unit.

The lecture was on the Gallows Hill site on the outskirts of Thetford which has been written up in the press as Boudicca's (or Prasutagus') Palace. It lies next to the Travenol factory site where a late Roman treasure had been lately discovered, but the structures found on Mr Gregory's site were early first century AD. Here the main feature was a triple ditched rectangular enclosure. The central area of about an acre had an entrance in the middle of the east side, and as in other such sites known in Norfolk, the mid-most ditch appeared the oldest and was separated from the outermost by a considerable space occupied by gullies, appearing to represent pallsades, parallel to the ditches. Their function seems more likely to be display than defence. It is estimated that digging out the ditches 12,000 tons of soil would have been moved and that the pallsades needed 70 miles of timber. Near the treasure site were three Iceni coins and several bronze brooches, as well as coin making apparatus in which bronze had been used, suggesting the making of fake coins which would be covered with silver.

The central area had three house circles, one exceptionally large for an IA house where post holes for roof support were also very large. The outermost ditch enclosed 13 acres and is part of the third phase of the site. The house was phase II. In the third phase a massive monumental gateway was erected and other massive posts set up which were probably part of a mortuary platform (c. 50AD), presumably for the King or aristocrat who had lived in the big house. The platform would have been seen as one entered the gateway. Mr Gregory is not prepared to say that the site is the palace referred to at the start of this account, as similar structures may come to light in the Iceni area.

Not much pottery was found on the site, but 24 Roman brooches (not pre AD) and Roman military equipment was found. The timber used in the structure had all been ripped out, possibly by the troops who left the military equipment. The ditches had been back filled too, suggesting systematic demolition. The well-surveyed right angles of the earthworks suggest the copying of Roman work, perhaps even the enlistment of Romans in the undertaking.

The very acid soil precluded finding burials, but several pits, just the size for graves, were found. The sandy soil has been much blown away, as shown by BA burial urns now being left to a few inches only, the top foot having been ploughed away. Mr Gregory estimates that at least 18 inches of the top soil has gone and allowance for this must be made in estimating the original depth of the ditches, making the middle one 8-9' deep and 20' wide.

Recent excavations in Essex 14th February, 1983

Mr J.D. Hedges, County Archaeological Officer, Essex.

This lecture dealt with the three periods revealed at the Springfield gravel terrace in the Chelmer valley. The site is now celebrated for its cursus, a rare feature in Essex, seen from aerial photographs. This cursus has a perfectly straight ditch on the north, whilst the south ditch shows a kink around a circular crop mark. The purpose of a cursus is still unknown, they are often associated with stone circles and when the east end of this one was stripped of top soil a semi-circle of large round timber post-holes (probably part of a circle) was seen. The structure was too large to have been roofed and seems to have been a timber version of a stone circle. Pottery from post holes and the east terminal ditch was late Neolithic and a reconstituted pot showed many decorative techniques. Beyond the east terminal there had been a strange crop mark suggesting a ploughed out long barrow. Beyond the opposite end of the cursus was a ring ditch with no central burial and little dating evidence. To the north of the cursus was a circular enclosure with an interior bank and five causeway entrances. This was dated as late BA, though a scatter of neolithic arrow heads was found. At the east causeway, in the ditch, was a large collection of clay moulds for casting bronze swords (mid BA) and a twisted sword was found in the upper layers of a BA pit.

A similar circular enclosure was found to the south of the cursus. Pairs such as these are an Eastern seaboard feature (cf. Mucking).

The third period investigated at this site was Saxon. Here the chief feature was a large timber hall of post-hole construction with a hearth and interior partitions (similar to a Saxon hall at Cheddar). Attached to it was a lean-to, possibly a latrine. Nearby was a beam slot (? for a timber tower) and a post-in-slot building with opposed entrances. This structure also has a parallel at Cheddar. Besides the structures was a Saxon cemetery which yielded a number of finds including; saucer brooches; glass and amber necklaces; two silver disc brooches; a garnet inlaid brooch of gilt copper; a silver-plated iron shield boss; an iron spearhead; iron keys; a re-used late Roman strap end and several Saxon jars. These finds testified to a rich Saxon settlement of the type more often found in the Upper Thames Valley and Kent than in Essex or East Anglia.

Windmills and Watermills in Essex 21st February, 1983

Mr M.R. Organ, mill enthusiast and owner of Ramsey Mill.

Mr Organ began with a resume of the history of milling. His earliest reference he found in Genesis - probably to saddle-stones. This early form of hand milling was followed by the rotary quern. Two people were needed, one to mill, the other to feed in the grain. Larger, animal-driven, mills first appear about 200BC and the water-powered 'Vetrurian' mill about 20BC. One near Naples was 7' in diameter.

In Britain, even in Roman times, there were few water mills as slave labour was still cheap. In Saxon times mills are mentioned near Dover (762AD), Tamworth, Old Windsor and by Domesday mills were quite common and Lords of Manors prohibited querns to force peasants to use their mills.

By about 1200AD windmills became common in NW Europe but remains are few because of wooden construction. One is depicted on a boss in Norwich cathedral and one on a pew end at Thornham, Norfolk. Mucking had an 18' diameter mill mound on a burial mound. These were post mills with the post sunk in the ground. The last known one of this type remains at Warton, Lancs. By the 18th century sunk posts gave way to above-ground structures in round houses – e.g. Drinkstone (a later fan tail added here to keep the mill head to wind). John Smeaton worked on improving sails and using iron in mill construction. Saxton has a superb example of this period. Patent sails were invented and Britain led the world, (Heyday 1760-1860). Tower mills of this period were built to great heights and became more sophisticated. Multi-sail mills (eg Boston) and the uncopied Annular mill of Haverhill are of this time.

Mr Organ then reviewed milling in the Tendring hundred which had eight (all water) mills in 1086. Chapman and Andre" in 1777 show 19 and by early 19th century there were about 30. It was not uncommon for mills to be moved, for example, Brightlingsea mill moving by water to Fingringhoe.

Other Tendring hundred mills were at Gt. Bentley (tall tower), Tendring (also a tall tower), Weeley (owner a German, interned in 914, then the mill decayed). Thorrington, Bradfield (burnt down 1911). The fine tide mill at St Osyth was 'officially vandalised'. Spring Valley, Ardleigh, looks in good order, but the wheel is askew. There were two other mills on Salary Brook, one being used for chemical making which had 'edge-runners' used for mixing fluids. Walton had adjacent wind and tide mills with 13 pairs of stones, all that remains are brick piers, now under the yacht club. Harwich had a long succession of Town mills from 1500. The last one (went 1807) is depicted in a carving in the 'lock-up'.

Finally Mr Organ related the history of his windmill at Ramsey where there have been watermills since 1086. The Ramsey mill was built by Robert Brooks in 1842; the upper part was brought from Woodbridge, and the substructure was said to have come from Wivenhoe. Robert Brooks's father, also Robert, was a miller at Little Bentley. He had 12 children, six of them born at Ramsey. One of them, Robert Brooks Jnr., later owned both Little Bentley and Ramsey mills, the latter being run by his brother John. John bought Ramsey mill for £725 and ran it for 60 years. Many millers had financial difficulties but John was successful and added an engine-driven mill, stores and a granary, and he kept pigs on his milling offals. He had six daughters but no sons. Eventually he sold to Scotts of Ipswich who kept the engine mill running to make flour for ships biscuits during the war. Finally the mill became derelict and passed into the hands of Mr Organ. He was advised that it had become dangerous but his interest was aroused and for five years conservation and massive repairs were carried out by working parties. Ultimately it appeared in the attractive state in which it can be seen today.

Roman Cambridgeshire 28th February, 1983

Miss A. Taylor, County Archaeological Field Officer, Cambridgeshire.

Cambridgeshire is not a well defined geographical area but made up of bits and pieces of several historic counties; it has little recorded history in Roman times when it was chiefly valued for its farming qualities. The Fens were an imperial Estate and were surrounded by a large number of prosperous villas. The sites of about 70 villas are known, but those which have been excavated were dug in Victorian times in an "unsatisfactory" way. On the actual fens large numbers of farming sites have been seen on aerial photography. The only industrial area was the potteries of the Nene Valley. There were two major roads. Ermine Street, going north via Godmanchester, and another towards Colchester. Use was made of waterways. Roman towns were strategically placed on the roads, at Cambridge, Godmanchester and Durobrivae, near Peterborough. Cambridge, which originated as a fort was always quite small.

Control of the Fens was exercised from Stonea (see CAG Bull. 1982, p.37), and fen farming concentrated on sheep. All farm sites seem to be late IA or Roman and are 8' to 10' above sea level. All post-Roman peat has gone so the sites are exposed and finds in good condition. Finds include, iron tools (Soham), keys for barrel locks, net weights for fishing and large clumsy storage jars (near Cardyke). Many finds from the villa areas around the Fen edge are known, but their find spots are uncertain.

Finds of religious significance included the Minerva plaque from Stonea; a caldron depicting Vulcan found with a burial; a triple Goddess head-dress from Godmanchester. A major find showing support for Christianity was the 4th century silver hoard, including a probable chalice, found a few years ago. Three lead vats about 4' diameter were found at Burwell, apparently with Christian associations. Their use is doubtful.

The Wine Trade in the Roman Period 7th March, 1983

Dr. Paul Sealey, Assistant Keeper, Antiquities, Colchester & Essex museum

The lecture was mainly concerned with the period 50BC-5AD and followed the wine trade by a study of amphorae, in the main, for the classical authors who describe the production of wine have little to say about the wine trade.

Previous to 50BC amphorae were imported to the south coast of England, but the trade developed after Julius Caesar's expedition here - very likely because the treaty he forced on British kings had clauses to encourage trade. The amphorae. Dressel 1 type, are found mainly in Essex, Herts., and southern France. Each held c. 24 litres and often had the place of origin and/or date of filling painted on them. Much light has been thrown on the subject by discoveries of many ship-loads in the wrecks in the Mediterranean.

Miss Dunnett's excavations (1970) at the Sheepen site showed a timber pit under a 'house' - an early wine cellar. Sherds from 170 different amphorae were found - representing a capacity of c.1600 litres (c.f. 14,400 litres on one Mediterranean wreck). Dr. David Williams' study of the clay used showed that the wine came from 19 regions, e.g. Barcelona, S. Spain, Pompeii - the last has horizontal marks on the body and has a dense scatter of black volcanic sand. The importance of the Sheepen amphorae is that they are closely dated, 43-60AD, so the vessels throw light on the wine trade in a closely dated short period.

One amphora carried the letters AA - presumably the wine was two years old. Another had 'FAL LOLL', Falernian was a well esteemed wine, it was in a vessel from Pompeii and the Lollius family had a house there with rich wall paintings of ships - possibly the exporters of this amphora to Britain. About 45 of the Sheepen amphorae had come from the Rome/Naples area. About 52 had come from Rhodes and these had a handle with a peak to it. The Roman fort near Gloucester, dated 47-65AD, had several Rhodian examples, probably reflecting the reparations extracted from the island after some Roman citizens had been lynched in 44AD.

Besides wine, a boiled down syrup was put into amphorae (de fruitum), but olive oil was put into large globular vessels, not amphorae. The spike on the foot of an amphora served as a handle when pouring. A number of objects were used in wine serving. Wine from an amphora would be poured into a flagon and perhaps drunk from samian cups. The silver ladle, from Mildenhall, perhaps was used for diluting wine. Roman and Greek writers refer to adding herbs to wine, and then straining them out. However, Dr Sealey does not believe that straining bowls such as those found at Ardleigh, were used for this; he considers such strainers were for a native drink such as beer.

Excavations at Hen Domen Motte and Bailey Castle 14th March 1983

Mr P.A. Barker FSA, Staff Tutor in Archaeology, Dept. of Extra-mural Studies, Univ. of Birmingham.

Work at this site began in 1960. The motte is one of a large number on the Welsh border and commanded a crossing of the Severn. It was built about 1074 by Roger, Earl of Arundel, later Earl of Shrewsbury, from Montgomerie in France. Though only about 30' high, it had a double ditch round the motte and similarly round the bailey, as Roger held it in a vice-regal capacity. An initial trench across the ditch showed the bridge to the motte, then turf was removed from an adjacent part of the bailey and a series of stone settings for vertical timbers revealed. There was no cobbled area but stones showed where the slippery slope had been given a series of wooden steps. Other stones showed by their distribution a tripartite apsidal building - a chapel probably, confirmed by a stone stoup. Careful examination of this difficult site revealed a number of other wooden buildings. One was a tower, which had been burnt down. The bailey contained many buildings, all constructed of substantial timber and laid out so that the space was divided by a range of them into two parts. Each had a hall, that in the 'socially superior' part, shown by some surviving timbers found in the ditch, to have been of more than one storey, and probably jettied. There were so many buildings that there would have been little room for horses. Mr Barker thinks there would have been only one or two knights except in times of tension, and about a dozen 'other ranks'.

Though the lords of the castle were not peasants, so far there have been no rich finds, to date half the bailey has been excavated. The bailey rampart showed by holes and trenches that it had been provided with a wattle and clay fence, protected on the outside, at the corners, by a series of stakes. A water supply was ensured by gutters leading to a cistern, and granaries gave a reserve of food. On the ramparts had been a series of towers. At various times some of the buildings had been burnt down and there had been piecemeal rebuilding, but there had been no general firing of the castle, though it is known that the garrison had

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been slaughtered in 1095. To man the ramparts the defenders would have had to have been considerably reinforced.

After a time the castle passed out of royal hands and its importance declined when Henry III built a stone castle at Montgomery in 1223; however, Hen Dolmen served as an early warning castle till about 1300.

At present the motte and half the bailey remain unexcavated and Mr Barker is continuing a programme of summer digs in the latter part of the site.

HP.

Note: This set of informal notes is produced as an 'aide memoire', they are not reports which have been seen by the lecturers.

WINTER MEETINGS 1983-84

In the Lecture Room, Colchester Castle at 7.30 pm

1983

- October 10th Annual General Meeting – followed by a short talk
- “ 17th EXCAVATIONS AT LOFTS FARM, MALDON
P. N. Brown, Director, Maldon Archaeological Group
- “ 24th RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT CHESTER
T.J. Strickland, Field Officer, Grosvenor Museum, Chester
- “ 31st MEDIEVAL POTTERY IN ESSEX
Ms Carol Cunningham, Field Officer, Chelmsford Archaeological Trust
- November 7th TRINOVANTUM – THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF LEGENDARY LONDON
J. Clark. Senior Asst. Keeper, Dept. Medieval Antiquities, London Museum
- “ 14th AN IRON AGE WARRIOR BURIAL FROM KELVEDON, ESSEX
C.J. Going, Field Officer, Chelmsford Archaeological Trust
- “ 21st THE EVOLUTION OF ‘RHENISH’ WARES
R. Symonds, Pottery Analyst, Colchester Archaeological Trust
- “ 28th AERIAL ARCHAEOLOGY
J. Pickering, AFC, FSA, FGS
- December 5th NEW LIGHT ON THE WINE TRADE WITH ROMAN COLCHESTER
Dr P.R. Sealey, Asst. Keeper, Antiquities, Colchester and Essex Museum

1984

- January 23rd XMAS PARTY
- “ 30th POULARISING POST HOLES
M. Corbishley, CBA Education Officer
- February 6th SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORDING IN ESSEX
Ms D. Priddy, Field Officer, Essex County Council, Archaeology Section
- “ 13th EXCAVATIONS OF ROMAN BURIAL GROUNDS IN COLCHESTER
P. Crummy, Director, Colchester Archaeological Trust
- “ 20th EXCAVATIONS AT CULVER STREET
N. Smith, Field Officer, Colchester Archaeological Trust
- “ 27th ROMANO-BRITISH SUFFOLK. RECENT EXCAVATIONS
Ms J. Plouviez, Field Officer, Suffolk County Council, Archaeology Section
- March 5th LATER BRONZE AGE DOWNLAND ECONOMY & EXCAVATIONS AT BLACK PATCH, E. SUSSEX
P. Drewett, Institute of Archaeology, London
- “ 12th ROMAN AND MEDIEVAL CARDIFF
P. Webster, Lecturer in Archaeology, Dept. Extramural Studies, Cardiff