



Colchester Archaeological Group

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ANNUAL BULLETIN VOL. 27 1984

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COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

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EDITORIAL

From the editorial point of view the best thing that happened in 1984 was that Mrs. Jenny Knowles, in answer to our appeal, volunteered to type the Bulletin. It is plain from this issue that this injection of expert help has much improved the Bulletin. We are all most grateful to Mrs. Knowles, particularly the Editor who previously spent many hours struggling with the typing for which she had not the skill.

A second major happening was that in October 1984 Dennis Tripp took over the Honorary Secretary's post from Mrs. Ida McMaster who is now arranging Winter Meetings. We are most grateful to both of them for their work on our behalf.

In this Bulletin we have another 'first time' contributor in Mr. Vic. Scott. He has written about what he has observed from his own doorstep together with other discoveries already recorded in his area, so increasing the knowledge of the history of his village.

Mr. Pat. Adkins shows us in his article what one pair of hands can do to record an important site doomed to destruction in the near future. As he is unemployed he has time but his financial resources are restricted; we all much admire what he is doing.

Also in this issue is an appreciation of the late Mr. Rex. Hull, Curator of the Castle Museum from 1926 to 1963. We are grateful to our Chairman for this article and it is particularly apposite that the Bulletin should carry it since the Group was formed in 1957 by students of a three year WEA class taken by Mr. Hull. Sad to say there are now only one or two of the founder members still with us.

We are sad indeed to have to report the death of Mr. Dick Farrands, we last saw him at the party in January 1984. He was a fine archaeologist, has published in many journals and made a great contribution to the Group. An obituary is on page 32.

We are now coming to the end of another year's excellent talks, we thank Mrs. Ida McMaster for arranging them and Mr. Harry Palmer for producing the useful notes on them as reminders.

The Editorial Personnel are now Kath Evans, Mark Davies and Jenny Knowles. Contributions are welcome and help with composition, illustrations and layout is provided if needed. We should particularly like to know about individual local 'finds' or observations you may have made.

Editor

Christmas Party 1985

This postponed party will now take place on Monday 25th March 1985 at St. Peter's Church Hall, North Hill, Colchester at 7.30 p.m. Please come, new members are especially welcome as this is an opportunity to meet others.

M. R. H.

D. T-D. Clarke

This personal appreciation of Rex Hull was designed to accompany Christopher Tewkes' obituary for "The Times" which was reprinted in its unedited form in "Essex Archaeology and History" volume 14, but there was not space for it.

Day by day, as we consult Rex Hull's notes, refer to his letters, and rely on his publications, we never cease to be amazed at the amount of work which he achieved. Working first of all in Gray's old library, then in the prison-like room in the north-east turret, and ultimately in the never-properly-finished offices, he must have read and absorbed everything written about Colchester, let alone Roman Britain and the Romans generally. In addition, he worked personally on many long-term excavations and, almost single-handed, recorded the results. It is an astonishing achievement.

One evening after he had retired, Hull gave a talk to John Blyth's Archaeological Research Group in the "Clarendon". He told how, when he arrived in 1926 he found the museum well ordered, as indeed it was, by his predecessor, A.G. Wright, and he recognised that what Colchester needed was research in the field. The chance soon came. Philip Laver, a member of the family which had been, for over half a century, the embodiment of archaeology in Colchester, organised excavations at Duncan's Gate and subsequently, conducted by Hull, in the Hollytrees Meadow. The building, first known as the "tank" and later as the "Mithraeum" (an attribution that no longer seems tenable), was discovered. Laver then went on to dig the foundations in front of the Castle, which were subsequently left exposed.

Meantime, Hull was able to bring Harold Poulter in as Assistant Curator. Poulter, who had a fascinating past - the story goes that he had worked a mine in Central America and so mistrusted the locals that he accompanied the mule convoys to the coast himself, equipped with two horse pistols - had helped Hull when he was digging the signal station at Scarborough.

Poulter was installed in the flat in the Hollytrees and developed the main room in the cellar as a laboratory, one of the first museum labs in the Country. It was said that Poulter would never buy anything if he could make it himself, even if it took a long time. Some of his methods seem extraordinary to us now (we have his recipe book), but at least many items were saved, and we still treasure his models of the ship and the temple.

Hull had long been interested in the pottery we now call (or used to call) Belgic of which examples had been found in the gravel quarry at Sheepen Farm where there was also a section exposed of a huge ditch. The building of the Colchester by-pass afforded the opportunity for investigation, and Hull and Christopher Hawkes, then an assistant Keeper at the British Museum, carried out one of Britain's first major rescue excavations. Finance was raised by public appeal, and almost everyone who was anyone in British archaeology worked on the site or visited it. It was there that Hawkes first met and later married Jacquetta, a visitor from Cambridge.

The excavations, carried out over several years, generated a vast amount of material, and were terminated by the outbreak of war. Hull eventually obtained the use of Mumford's old factory in Culver Street and there, on a miscellany of tables, sorted the pottery and recorded it on the principles we now know as the CAM series. It was a revolutionary system and became, as it remains, an essential reference work. One's only regret is that it was not numbered on a system which could be expanded as new discoveries were made.

While all this was going on the Castle vaults began to collapse (Hull wrote "I got the impression that the vaults were closing in on me") and on his initiative the then Office of Works moved in and consolidated the structure. The task called for no little skill and nerve, but I am not aware that the workmen ever received any official credit. The canopy was built over the castle ruins and the museum was thus greatly enlarged. Its spacious cases were much in advance of their time and all the new displays had to be set out while digging was going on at Sheepen. Post-Roman objects, including some medieval ones, were still regarded as bygones, and were housed in the Hollytrees.

Poulter, having a leaning towards the ingenious, collected Victoriana, and E.J. Rudsdale, the Museum Assistant, began to assemble rural life material, to such good effect that the museum was asked to do an Old English Farm at the Royal Show in 1938. It is sometimes forgotten that this was the predecessor of our present farm museums, and photographs show how very good it was.

During the war the exhibits were stored in the vaults and Hull undertook Civil Defence duties. He caused consternation by removing physically the Swynbourne brass from Little Horkesley church after it was

demolished by a land mine, and also by finding a Roman drain in a hole made by a bomb in the castle bailey before it had been declared safe.

The castle was used for temporary exhibitions and the long nights of watching doubtless afforded time for work on the Sheepen report and for assembling material for its planned successor "Roman Colchester". William Wire's journal was transcribed and extracted, and the comprehensive scrapbooks, originally intended to form the text of this latter volume and one on the archaeology of Essex, were built up. Hull had recognised that the prehistoric section of VCH I was inadequate, and that archaeology needed to be studied as a whole, but unfortunately it was decided that the volume should be confined to Roman Essex and even so the manuscript was cut, as also was Roman Colchester. A notable omission from the Essex volume was the reference to Claudian remains at Chelmsford, which has subsequently proved to be correct.

The amount of work in all this was immense, and the scrapbooks continue to be an essential source for any query relating to the county's archaeology. Other scrapbooks cover the museum collections, Roman sites generally, theatres, temples and the grave groups. There are card indexes of Samian stamps, street names, inns and other subjects. Add to all this a series of annual reports, illustrated with drawings, which acted as publications of recent finds, and one wonders how there was ever time to do it all.

In due course the two reports were published and Hull was able to get back to his cherished project of digging the kilns in the Warren Field, but not before he had organised, and written the catalogue for, the exhibition of Roman metalwork which marked the town's 19th centenary in 1950. The publication of the kilns occupied the remaining years of his service.

Even so, this was not all. Post-war pressures for urban redevelopment reached Colchester later than some towns, but became apparent in 1956 when All Saints, St. Martin's, St. Giles' and St. Nicholas' churches were declared redundant. St. Nicholas', to Colchester's eternal shame, was demolished, and Hull carried out a rescue dig in conditions of extreme difficulty, revealing a complex site, which if we could have done it today in more favourable circumstances, would have proved to be of outstanding interest. There was also a proposal to cut a hole in the Roman wall to make a car park where the Mercury Theatre now is, and Hull gave evidence against the Council at the enquiry. Alas, this was never forgiven by the bureaucracy.

The Council continued Poulter's appointment until he died, it is said because they felt he had no resources for retirement. Relations between him and Hull became somewhat strained and when Poulter died he left £30,000 to the incipient University and £1,000 to the museum.

Retirement gave Hull the opportunity to devote his time to his other cherished project, a corpus of Romano-British brooches. Aided by a grant from the British Academy he toured the museums of Britain, drawing nearly 10,000 brooches in his usual meticulous style. He was, in fact, an artist of some ability, and various agenda papers still bear witness to his originality. The first part of the corpus was set in galley proof, but it was edited by relatively youthful persons who amended all the traditional-style references to the new scheme then being promulgated by the CBA. For this and other reasons the Academy decided not to continue and this important work of reference remains unpublished.

It is, therefore, no idle claim that Hull put Colchester on the international archaeological map. We marvel at his insight in locating the theatre, and predicting that Temple II might be dedicated to Jupiter, as has since been proved by an inscription. It is also good to know that he saw the discovery of the fortress under Lion Walk.

A memorial was discussed, but never created. We still have a chance: publish the brooch book.

CROPMARKS 1984

Ida McMaster

Following extreme drought conditions in the West Country we were told that aerial archaeologists were able to photograph many cropmarks there which had never appeared before. This was not by any means the case in East Anglia where the flying season was considered to be comparatively uneventful, due no doubt to the very wet soil conditions in early spring. Certainly, several flights undertaken in north east Essex by various members of C.A.G. failed to provide many new sites and most of these were of a small isolated nature. The cropmark formation in July was extremely short lived particularly in the River Chelmer valley where a number of sites did show briefly for about a week.

Elsewhere one or two known sites revealed themselves vividly, notably the odd portion of the Freston neolithic causewayed camp on the Shotley peninsula, together with its accompanying, later, rectangular enclosure (1, 2). Only one or two separate quarters of the great interrupted ditch usually show in any one season; someone should persuade the farmer to plant all the four or five relevant fields with cereals in one year but even then a wet season could thwart the project of obtaining photographs of the entire circuit. There can be little doubt that the Shotley peninsula was a most favoured place for prehistoric dwellers, placed as it is between the two rivers and well watered by tributary streams. Its undulating valleys are largely unspoilt today suggesting an unmistakable atmosphere of isolation.

Out of a total of five flights the present writer made two of them in July to cover the proposed new Braintree by-pass circuit. Maps of the planned routes were kindly supplied by the County Archaeological Section but, unfortunately, nothing of archaeological significance was observed. At the time, winter barley was due to be cut and the wheat should, by then, have been showing some early signs of developing cropmarks.

By contrast, on the second of these flights, an area of the River Chelmer north of Maldon did, in fact, reveal a reasonable complex of sites in the region bounded by Fords Farm - Langford Park - Howells Farm and Grapnells Farm. Further north-west along the river towards Danbury / Little Baddow were one or two isolated cropmarks.

One particular and somewhat enigmatic site (TL 775095) is in a sloping field near the north bank of the Chelmer on the Boreham / Hatfield Peverel parish boundary. Its outline, photographed in a rape crop, appears to give the impression of a building divided into a number of small square rooms. The present hedge-line angles itself around the cropmark on three sides as if something obstructed the original line of hedge. A photograph taken in a previous year by the NMR (3) shows the same site but without crop marks although other fields adjoining on either side, and obviously under different crop conditions, reveal several ancient enclosures of a Romano-British type. The landowner confirmed that no modern trial ground had occupied the site of the conjectured building. Ground search provided only one or two small pieces of Roman tile which lay along the nearby headland. Boreham Church contains a quantity of Roman tile in its fabric and lies just over a mile to the west. Also an existing straight track leads from the church to the rape field. This track is partly shown on Chapman and Andre's map of Essex (1777) but it does not reach the rape field. To the north-east lies Hatfield Peverel Priory and the known Roman road to London. If this crop mark proves to be an agricultural fluke it would be helpful to know what conditions or activities caused its formation.

The site of the Roman coffin excavation at Fordham was also seen from the air but, apart from the trench remains in situ, the growth of the sugar beet crop was not at a point to show definite crop marks; although with the eye of faith a few vague enclosures might be postured. A photograph seen by the writer (4) draws attention to interesting crop marks in this field and, in a field to the south across the River Colne, shows a very clear trackway, perhaps leading to a ford or bridge, which appears to continue into the coffin field on the north side of the river.

Finally, a note of warning. It is now obvious that gravel extraction at the east end of Warren Lane near Grymes Dyke is rapidly encroaching on the site of the large square crop marks of possible Iron Age enclosures which adjoin the Gosbecks Roman fort. These enclosures look extremely important and they have been watched for many seasons by most flyers. An excavation is due to be carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust when this site is reached, and the next drag-line slice will certainly cut across the outer ditch of one of these vital complexes. There are several vague outer features which will probably be lost first in any case; but since the Trust is already fully stretched at present it is to be hoped that the gravel company concerned will not be extending its line during the next few months.

Boxted, Essex	TM 015327	In land situated south of the road and due west of the henge type crop mark which has been recorded previously (5) it was possible to see various additional linear features and faint enclosures together with a parallel ditched trackway.
Colchester, Essex	TL 97752570	A cropmark continuation of Glen Avenue is clearly visible across the by-pass in the field bordering the River Colne where there are known to be large scatters of Roman tiles (6). A magnetometer survey indicated the presence of kilns and the Group also excavated a Roman tile kiln a little to the north-east (7). These sites lie a short distance inside Lexden dyke.
Elmstead, Essex	TM 071237	Linear parallel ditches were recorded here (8) travelling north-west from Frating Brook and perhaps continuing a known line of Roman road from St. Osyth. Additional complicated crop marks could be seen this year with also a very large pit of the kind often evident alongside Roman roads and used for metallurgical repairs to the surface.
Fordham, Essex	TL 930275	Site of the Roman coffin excavation (see page 44).
Great Braxted, Essex	TL870154	A length of parallel linear ditches emerge from woodland, cross one field and extend beyond the road into a second field. Their width apart is an average measurement for a Roman road and, to the south-east, two lines of parish boundary at TL 890134 and at TL 900125 continue the possible extension of its course. The Goldhanger and Tollesbury Red Hill sites of Romano-British salt production lie beyond, and their number is reason enough for the presence of such a road. To the north-west its line would reach Crabbs Farm, Kelvedon on the London Roman road where crop marks and Roman urns are recorded (9). Not far away is the important site of Rivenhall.
Great Totham, Essex	TL873092	An area east of Slough House Farm was recorded which, so far, has not been included in the extensive gravel works spreading remorselessly to the south at Lofts Farm. One small ring ditch and a larger one cut by a hedge-line were visible together with linear ditches, enclosures, and a large D-shaped outline. Much rescue work has been undertaken in this area by the Maldon Group and by our member, Pat Adkins.
Hatfield Peverel, Essex	TL 775095	Site of the possible building outline described in the text above.
Kelvedon, Essex	TL 840195	Strong crop marks of comparatively recent removed fields which also contain one or two small enclosures and tracks of a possibly earlier date.
Langford, Essex	TL845088	This site needs further photography on the west side of Heybridge Wood where a vague rectangular enclosure can be discerned. It appears to be partitioned off at one end - and, perhaps, double ditched.
Langford, Essex	TL 850095	Situated north of the last site is another complex of various rectangular enclosures, the smallest of which has possible pits or postholes within it, plus a few scattered around outside.
Langford, Essex	TL 853092	An ancient trackway can be seen to the south travelling in a north-west/south-east direction.

Langford, Essex	TL 832095	Ford Farm lying a short distance south of the River Chelmer is thought to be the possible site of a Romano-British farmstead. It adjoins an existing straight stretch of road which could well be of Roman origin. Several significant field divisions separated by a series of track-ways were visible this year in arable land adjoining the river bank.
Little Baddow, Essex	TL 765064	Two or possibly three ring ditches lie along the course of this stream by Great Graces Walk.
Little Baddow, Essex	TL 760059	Close by to the south is a small enclosure of typical Iron Age form.
Mistley, Essex	TM 117305	Light markings in the crop here might be indicative of buried foundations, therefore, future examination is most necessary. The surrounding areas are well known for prehistoric crop marks.
Panfield, Essex	TL 740245	An outline of the probable original extent of Panfield Wood could be seen and anyone interested in this type of research could perhaps compare this with older maps.
Panfield, Essex	TL 745256	A short length of a light coloured linear feature was recorded running close to Little Priory Farm. (? Pipe).
Woodham Walter, Essex	TL 804073	A considerable length of ancient track-way travels north-north-east from Gunhill Farm towards the site of the Hoemill Barns prehistoric and Romano-British encampment which has already been partly excavated, (10).
Wormingford, Essex	TL940333	At the beginning of this century an old timber framed house called Bowdens was dismantled and taken to America. This must be the site recorded here and which, now, shows as a large square with interior markings. <u>Not</u> in fact a Roman Temple!

References

- (1) Farrands R.H. Crop marks 1978. CAG Bulletin 21(1978) 24: describes the enclosure as a square at TM 16603763.
- (2) Numismatic Chronicle 7th Series. 12(1972) 145:
reports 4th century coin hoard found 1959 at TM 16493758. This site is less than 100 m. from enclosure which may, therefore, be Roman: or, at least, was probably visible as an earthwork when the hoard was buried.
- (3) NMR. print No. TL 7709/4/117 dated 8.6.1976.
- (4) Going C. Photograph taken by him in 1976 seen by the writer.
- (5) McMaster I. A crop mark at Boxted. CAG Bulletin 26 (1983) 33.
- (6) Fawn A.J. Roman Tile Kiln sites at Lexden Lodge Farm. CAG Bulletin 26(1983) 36.
- (7) Holbert P.R. Excavation of Roman Tile Kilns at Moat Farm, Lexden 1969/70. CAG Bulletin 14(1971) 21.
- (8) McMaster I. & Farrands R.H. Crop marks in the year of the drought. CAG Bulletin 20(1977) 15.
- (9) McMaster I. A further four years' aerial survey 1970/74. CAG Bulletin 18(1975) 20 Fig. 10.
- (10) Hedges J.D. & Buckley D.S. Excavation of a crop mark complex at Woodham Walter, Essex. East Anglian Archaeology in press.

STUTTON HALL, SUFFOLK
Visited by the Group on Monday 30th July, 1984

Jo-Ann Buck

This fine evening found us over the border in East Anglia, at Stutton Hall, across the Stour estuary in Suffolk and just outside Stutton Village.

Having driven along the half-mile approach known as The Walk, we were confronted on the southern side by an elegant brick mansion that seemed all-of-a-piece, on rising ground, overlooking the River Stour a short distance away across the Park. But was the house what it seemed?

Pevsner (1) says that 'the walls were rebuilt of brick in the 19th century' but, perhaps, 'encased' would be a better description for, once inside, it was obvious that we were within a substantial timber-framed house of the 16th century, said to have been built by Sir Edmund Jermy (or possibly Sir John) in 1553, whose family had acquired the manor of Stutton a few years previously; following a disputed will, the papers of that family (known in Norfolk in the 14th century) had been scattered in the 18th century, but their pedigree has been traced back to a 13th century knight. Down the ages the family has included a 15th century member at Agincourt, a 16th century High Sheriff, a 17th century settler in Virginia, and at naval hero and also a smuggler executed at Tyburn in the 18th century. After this time they could perhaps no longer be described as landed gentry but members were in Suffolk and Norfolk until at least the 19th century.

The manor and estate was later in the hands of the Tollemache family and others, and early in the present century belonged to the Fison family, Suffolk landowners and J.P.s and now to the Honourable Peter and Mrs. Strutt, respectively a former High Sheriff of Suffolk and a member of the Fison family by birth; the Fison and Strutt families both have, or had, close connections with Essex.

In a book published in 1818 (2), an engraving by T. Higham shows the north side of the Hall as it was then. Davy (3) who stayed at Stutton parsonage during the 1820s and 30s, mentions in his diary that he rubbed some Jermy brasses in the church and, on one occasion, 'walked to the Hall' – but, irritatingly, fails to comment on it. White's Gazetteer of 1855 referred to it as 'a farmhouse' and by 1885 it was said to have been in 'a sad state'. It was, however, 'thoroughly renovated' in 1892, and alterations made in 1912, when a further wing was added to the west and the timber house encased with bricks, made, it is believed, with brickearth from Stutton Ness, a little to the south east. Approaching the house on foot or horseback from the Brantham Road, the north garden (a brick-walled enclosure with battlemented and pinnacled top) can be entered through a 15th century brick gateway, very like that at Erwarton Hall further along the estuary, with rubbed brick pilasters on its south side. It seems likely that there would have been an entrance doorway in the north wall of the house - opposite this grand gateway - but there is no such evidence to be seen.

The present house was built of timber (and, possibly, lath and plaster, but the infill is no longer visible) as a two-storeyed building with attics on top. Integral chimneys terminate in decorative shafts of moulded brick, although Sandon (4) suggests that these may be of the Henry VII or VIII period. It would seem unlikely that they were there when any earlier house may have stood on the site. A small cellar under part of the house contains a re-used beam - from where?

The main room on the ground floor is the Great Hall, which contains some fine decorative plasterwork and, at the east end, an archway of two pillars, said to have come from Cardinal Wolsey's College in Ipswich, as also are some of the windows on the south side. A commemorative brochure marking Wolsey's 450th anniversary says that some of the stone (and, presumably, other items) from the College was 'sold off locally'.

Above the Great Hall is the Great Chamber - perhaps the main glory of the house - having six coved panels on the ceiling patterned with ribs and pendants, and the walls being wainscotted in chestnut (some say walnut), and with a vine patterned frieze. 'Curious' carvings which were once there were removed by a former owner. Behind the present pilasters can be made out the original timber storey-posts and also, elsewhere, are revealed pieces of the 16th century timber structure.

Three of the original 16th century brick chimneys remain, one fireplace on the ground floor (as well as one at the west end of the first floor) containing the arms of Jermy carved in stone, a lion rampant guardant, impaling Teye, a fess, in chief three martlets, in base a chevron - the impaling marking marriage with a female Tey(e). In another upstairs room, on the east, a stone frieze above the fireplace shows an armorial shield - sable, a bend or, and in sinister Chief a leopard's face of the last. Although the colouring has

probably been incorrectly repainted at some time in the past, (the sable, or black, now appears as green), this shield has been identified since our visit as being the arms of Isack(e) of Brakesborne, Kent. Coppinger (5) states that, in 1650, the manor passed to John Jermy (second son of Sir John Jermy) 'who married Margaret, daughter and co-heir of Edward Isacke of Well Court, in Kent'.

The main manor of the parish of Stutton, at the time of the Great Inquisition in 1086, was part of the lands of Robert Gernon well known to us East Saxons as an Essex landowner. It was then said to consist of approximately 240 so-called 'acres' and having enough woodland to support 16 swine, a mill, two salt pans and the half share of a church. Jumping to the Tithe Commutation Award of 1844, we find that, although then owned by John Tollemache, it was tenanted by George Stanford who farmed its 267 acres. The acreages appearing in these two manuscripts are similar to the present area of farmland and park.

You'd like a ghost, reader? Well, a man's head is said to have been seen 'flitting through' the kitchen - perhaps just hungry without a stomach to nourish it? But, with such hospitable hosts as we know the present owners to be, I doubt if the head - or its owner - has appeared lately.

We extend thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Strutt for the charming welcome they gave our large and 'curious' (another sense from that of the missing carvings) party.

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1. Nikolaus Pevsner 'The Buildings of England: Suffolk'. (Penguin, 1974 edition).
2. Thomas Kitson 'Cromwell 'Excursions in the County of Suffolk' (Longman Hurst, 1818).
3. David Elisha Davy 'A Journal of Excursions through the County of Suffolk, 1823 - 1844'. (Suffolk Records Society 1982).
4. Eric Sandon 'Suffolk Houses'.
5. W. Copinger 'The Manors of Suffolk'.
6. F.A. Crisp 'Some Account of the Parish of Stutton' (1881).

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1844 Tithe Documents at Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich Branch.

Some details in the notes are gratefully acknowledged from Mr. and Mrs. Strutt, Mr. Victor Scott, Mr. Richard Allnutt and Mr. Cedric Holyoake.

THE MIRROR REVERSAL OF ARMS IN WISSINGTON CHURCH, SUFFOLK

E. J. Russell

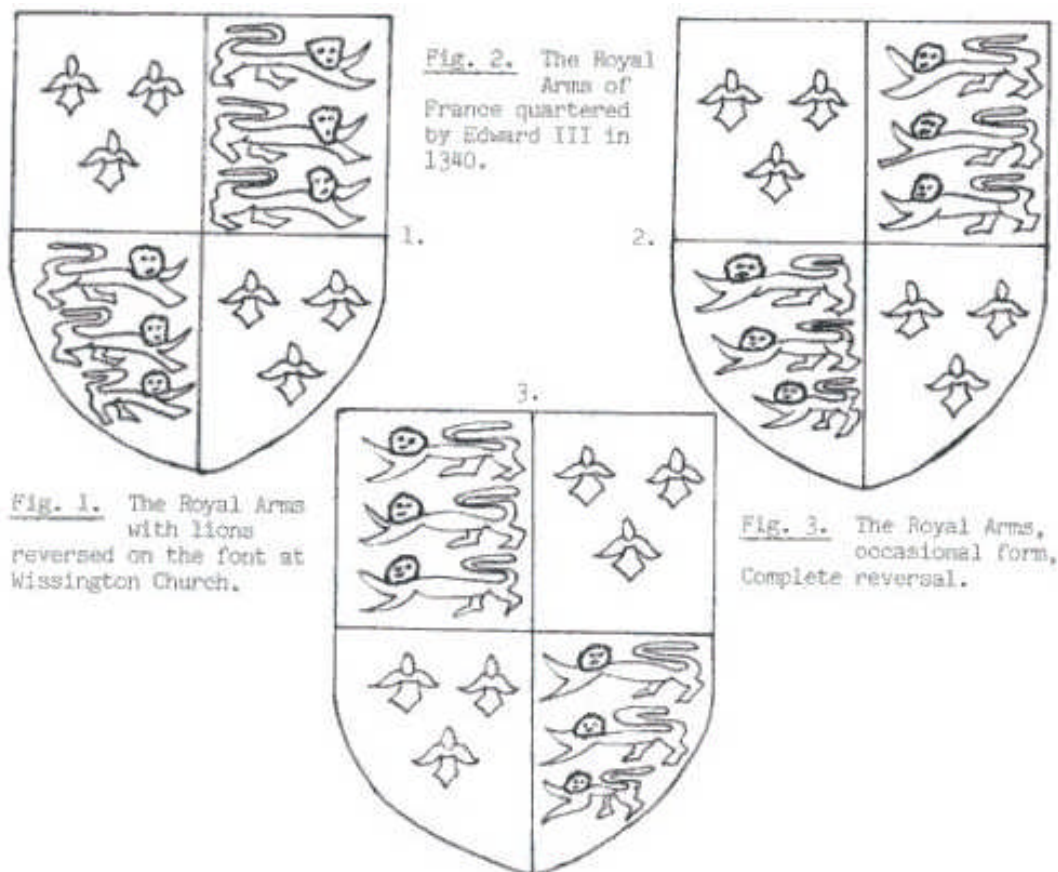
Our last Annual Bulletin, Vol. 26, 1983, has an article on mirror reversals of arms in the churches at Stoke-by-Nayland and at Wissington. The Group visited Wissington Church on Monday evening, the 18th June, 1984, and Mrs. Jo-Ann Buck observed that the Royal Arms, on the eastern face of the font, carried the lions reversed. Those Arms, quarterly, are France Modern 1 and 4, and England 2 and 3 (the lions reversed, Fig 1.)

Edward III quartered the Arms of France in 1340. The marshalling is given on p. 209 of Boutell's Heraldry (Brook-Little, Richmond Herald of Arms, 1973 Edition) as from c. 1400 to 1603: and in his booklet, Royal Heraldry, p. 13 (Fig. 2.)

Were it not for a sentence about the Arms in the 1973 Boutell, p. 208, "They are occasionally found in the form, Quarterly England and France Modern" it might be thought that the mason (who had reversed the arms of de Vere and Swynborne on the south and north faces respectively) was reversing the lions only, and not the whole shield.

However, if the mason were working from a sketch showing the "occasional" form (Fig. 3), then the Royal Arms on the eastern face of the Wissington font are a complete reversal.

It will be helpful if this unusual font can be commented upon by someone who has made a study of mediaeval fonts, or by someone who has worked on late mediaeval heraldry in churches.



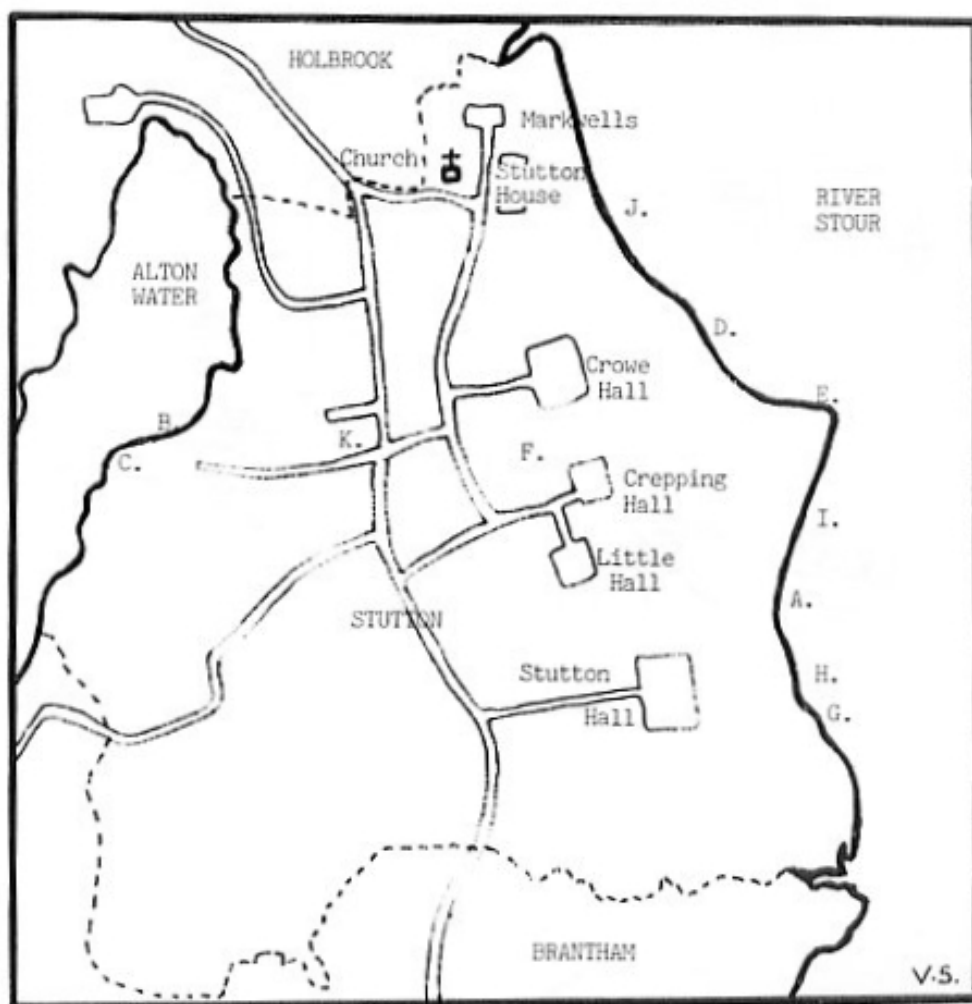
SURFACE FINDS FROM STUTTON SUFFOLK

V. M. Scott

The village of Stutton spreads over high ground on the north bank of the River Stour between Brantham and Holbrook, and consists, mainly, of wooded areas and arable land. The southern boundary is defined by the Stour and is of eroding Pleistocene gravel and brickearth, the cliffs varying in height up to approximately eight feet. The foreshore is sand and stones with a large percentage of flints, and septaria are also common. There are several large halls and houses around the village, mostly overlooking the river. Some manors are mentioned in the Domesday book and the present large houses range from the Tudor to the Georgian period. A few timber-framed cottages survive, they are mostly on the road to St. Peter's Church; one timber cottage has pargetting on the plaster work.

Observations by the writer over the past ten years have led to finds of many periods, adding to the already known ancient history of the village. A selection of the finds are described and illustrated below and the find-spots indicated on the map (Fig. 1.).

FIGURE 1. STUTTON, SUFFOLK. Plan indicating sites of finds



Prehistoric Finds

The foreshore is a well-known source of fossils and extinct animal bones. A large collection, including red deer and elephant is to be seen in the Ipswich Museum. The writer has collected a number of such bones from site A (Fig. 1.) as they become exposed by cliff falls, winter gales and high tides.

During the past few years the valley on the boundary of Stutton and Tattingstone has been flooded to construct the present Alton Water reservoir, a dam being built at the Holbrook end. After excavation and landscaping of the site, large areas of red crag sea-bed were exposed, and sharks' teeth, ray teeth and many fossilised shells were collected by the writer at site B. (Fig. 1) and are illustrated in Fig. 2. In the same area (site C) an undamaged, bifacially worked leaf-shaped Neolithic arrow-head was picked up (Fig. 3.) Other Neolithic flakes have been picked up at sites D and E, one flake having developed a heavy white patina, probably from constant immersion in sea water (see Fig. 4.) Two Neolithic end scrapers and several flakes have recently been picked up at site F. (see Fig. 5), and, in 1981, a Mesolithic flint core and several blades and flakes were discovered at site G. (see Fig. 6.).

FIGURE 2.

Teeth found at Site B.

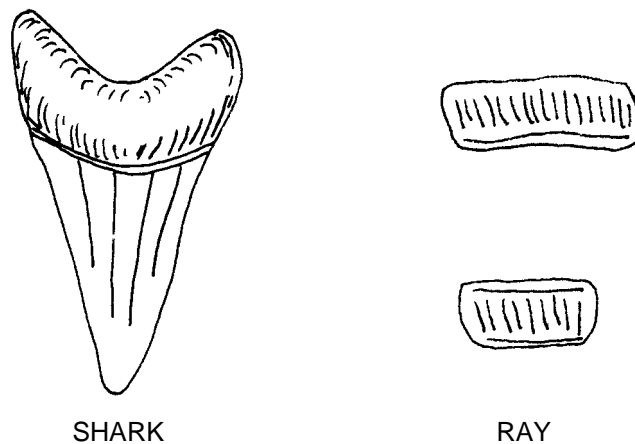


FIGURE 3.

Leaf-shaped arrow-head (white flint) from Site C.



scale 1/1

FIGURE 4.

Neolithic Flints from Sites D and E

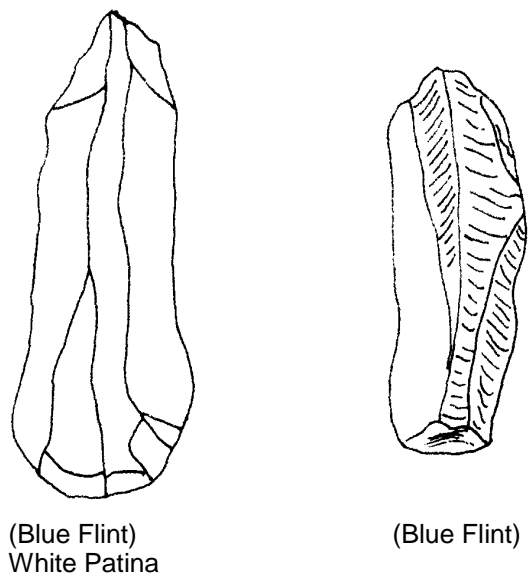


FIGURE 5.

Site F. Neolithic End Scrapers and Flakes

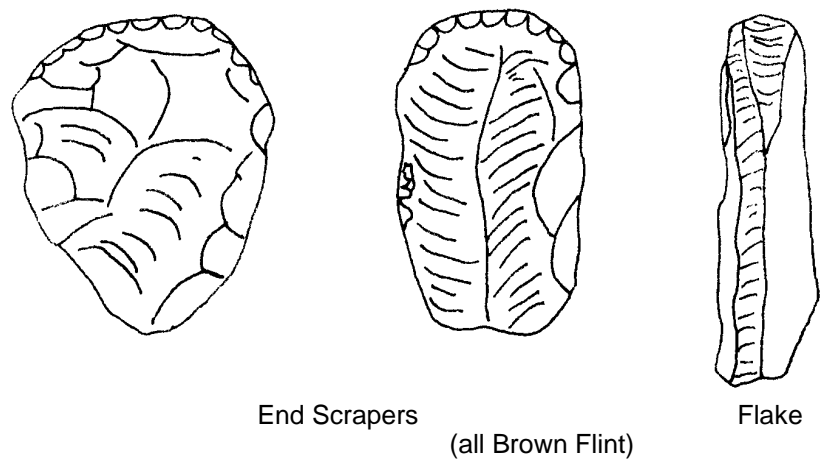
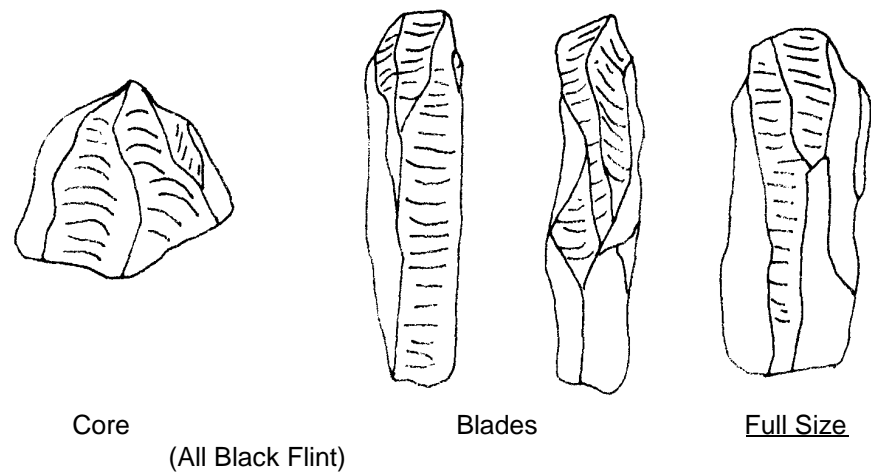


FIGURE 6.

Site G. Mesolithic Core and Blades

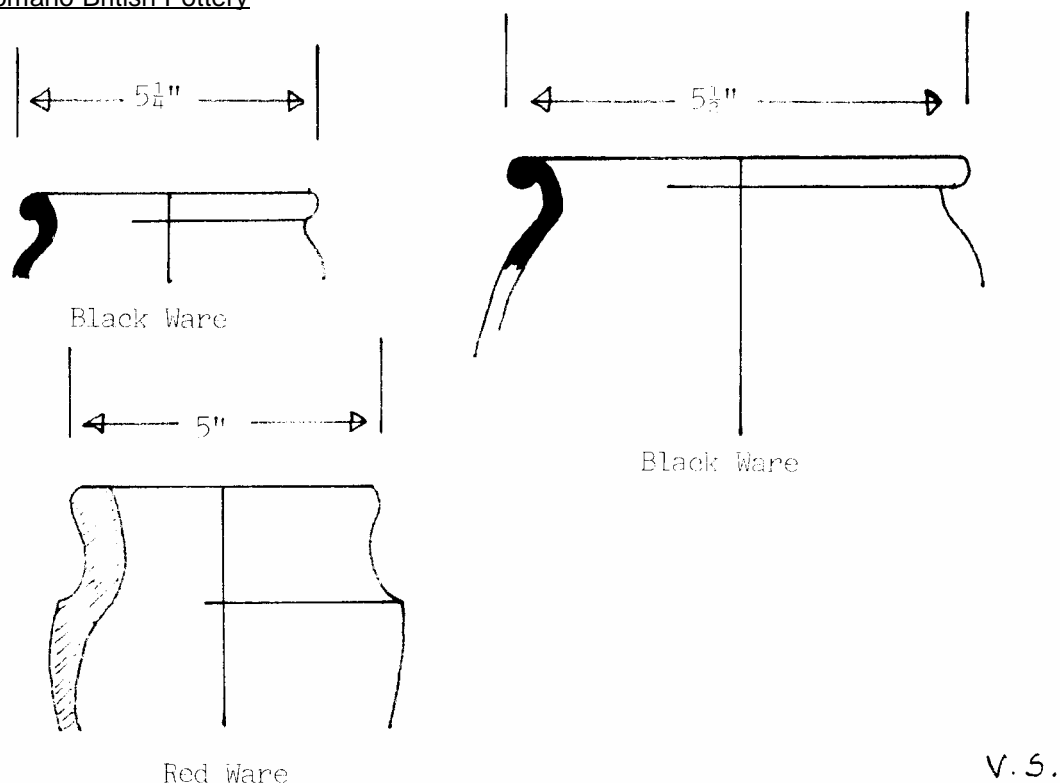


Iron Age and Roman Finds

In 1933 below the foreshore level at site H. (Fig. 1.) an Iron Age 'hut urn' (1) was exposed under a cairn of septaria, inside it was a small Iron Age pot and, at a little distance away, a triangular loom weight and some briquetage. Rainbird Clarke (2) reported the remains of an Iron Age clay oven used for parching corn in Stutton and the writer has found Iron Age pot sherds at site H. and Romano-British pottery at site I., this includes grass tempered grey, black and red ware and rims, bases and body sherds are all represented. (See Fig. 7).

FIGURE 7.

Site I. Romano-British Pottery



V. 5.

Saxon and later Finds

Two complete Saxon pots, probably found by grave diggers in the recent past, have now been presented to Ipswich Museum after several years spent in the church vestry. A large piece of rim from an Ipswich ware pot was picked up recently at site J. From subsequent periods many fragments collected include a rim of a Saxon/Norman vessel from the writer's garden, and medieval Victorian and modern china. From the flints and pottery found, all periods are well represented and organised field-walking should be rewarding.

References.

1. The so-called 'hut urn' is a reconstruction from some straight sided pieces of pottery which could not be made into a conventional curved urn or pot. The pieces form a rectangular container for a cremation. The 'hut urn' can be seen in Ipswich Museum. Present thinking is that its material is more likely to be briquetage of the salt making industry than a container. I am grateful to Ms. H.A. Feldman of Ipswich Museum for this information.
2. Rainbird Clarke R. East Anglia. Thames & Hudson, p. 96.

A KILN AT OLIVERS, STANWAY, 1984

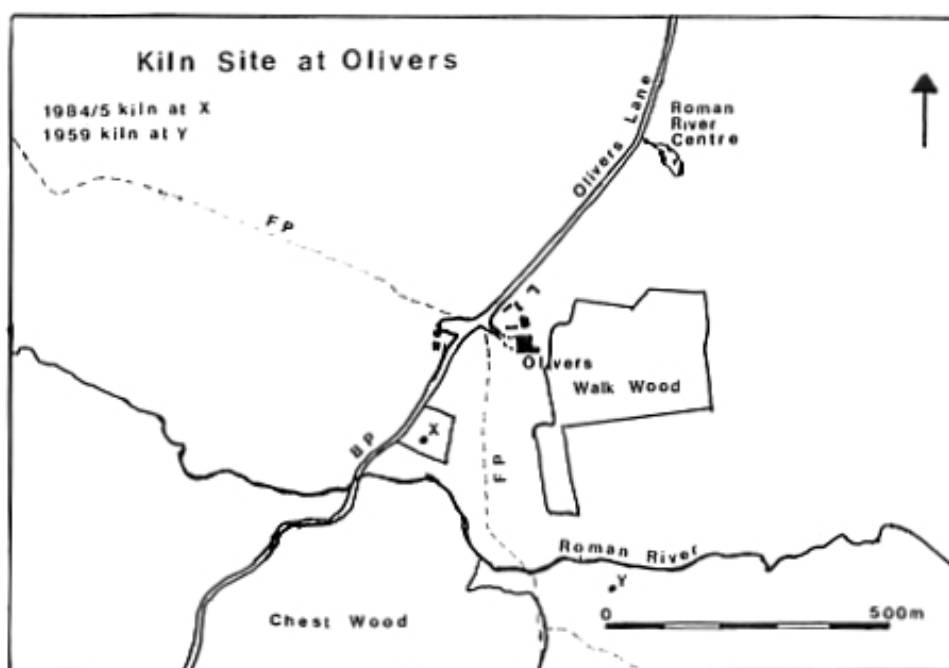
A. J. Fawn

Olivers is a house situated on the northern lip of the Roman River Valley 5 kilometres south-west of Colchester. Named after its first owners, the Oliver family, it dates from the 15th century but the original house was extensively altered and extended in the 17th and 18th centuries so that, today, the fine 18th century brick west and south fronts are, perhaps, its most notable external features.

The house is within the Roman River Conservation Zone. When some trees were being felled prior to replanting in a small wood about 250 metres south-west of the house the owner, David Edwards, noticed an appreciable quantity of brick in the cavities of the stumps which indicated that there might be a kiln in the vicinity. He asked the Roman River Valley Conservation Zone Advisory Group whether it should be investigated and an invitation to do so was made to the C.A.G. Accordingly, on March 11th, several members of the C.A.G. assembled on the site to begin an excavation which lasted throughout the summer and will be continued in 1985.

FIGURE 1.

Map showing Olivers and Kiln Sites marked at X and Y.



The wood (see Figure 1) occupies an area of 0.5 hectares adjacent to a bridle-path which, as a continuation of Olivers Lane, descends the north slope of the valley and crosses the river by a ford before ascending the southern slope.

Several of the trees have been coppiced. In addition to the bricks found beneath the trees which have been felled, a few bricks are visible protruding from the ground surface. There is a tradition that local inhabitants came to the area to dig whenever they required a few bricks although, judging by the Group's experience, they cannot have found many whole ones.

In the south-eastern part of the wood there are two large depressions which appear to have been clay pits. A short distance away, two adjoining U-shaped hollows with slightly raised rims and south-facing mouths running out with the slope of the valley appeared to be the most likely locations of kilns and, therefore, the excavation was begun on them, covering an area of approximately 10 x 10 square metres, (see X on Fig. 1. TL 965212).

The western-most hollow was found to contain the remains of, not one but, two kilns. A considerable part of the below-ground brick structure belonging to the later of the pair, kiln no. 2, is still existent, with walls, flue arches, part of the floor and two fire tunnels. Only part of one wall of the earlier kiln, no. 1, lying just outside no. 2, has been uncovered so far and it is obvious that most of it was destroyed when no. 2 was built. The walls of no. 2 are entirely of brick, the mortar being clay, whereas the wall of no. 1 is partially of brick and partially of clay which was unfired initially and became fired with use of the kiln. It is possible that no. 1 was the first kiln on the site when there were few bricks available for its construction.

Excavation of the eastern hollow produced features which are less striking but more puzzling than those of the western hollow. The rims of both hollows consisted largely of jumbled broken bricks and tiles and, while that of the western hollow may be the debris of the upper structure of kiln 2, excavation revealed no sign of a kiln to produce such a rim around the eastern hollow. Instead, an east-west section showed a succession of alternate layers of clean yellow clay and broken brick. One brick layer is associated with kiln 1 and the others with kiln 2 so that they appear to belong to different periods. Their purpose remains to be established. The brick layers may be working floors and the clay may indicate puddling activity although this is not likely to have been located next to the kilns, as here. Moreover, the layers are not horizontal but slope with the lie of the land to the south, so that they would not be convenient for either use.

As the kilns were built into the side of the valley, it is likely that the stoke pit was not a pit but a platform opening to the south on to the valley bottom. It has been partly excavated to reveal the entrances to the two fire tunnels and further work is contemplated but to clear it completely would be too great a task.

Figure 2, although not to scale and incomplete in detail, shows the main features of an up-draught kiln similar to kiln 2. The upper part above ground is the chamber in which the bricks are fired. Below the floor of the chamber at ground level lie the fire tunnels and flue system, buried so that the surrounding soil gives support and heat insulation.

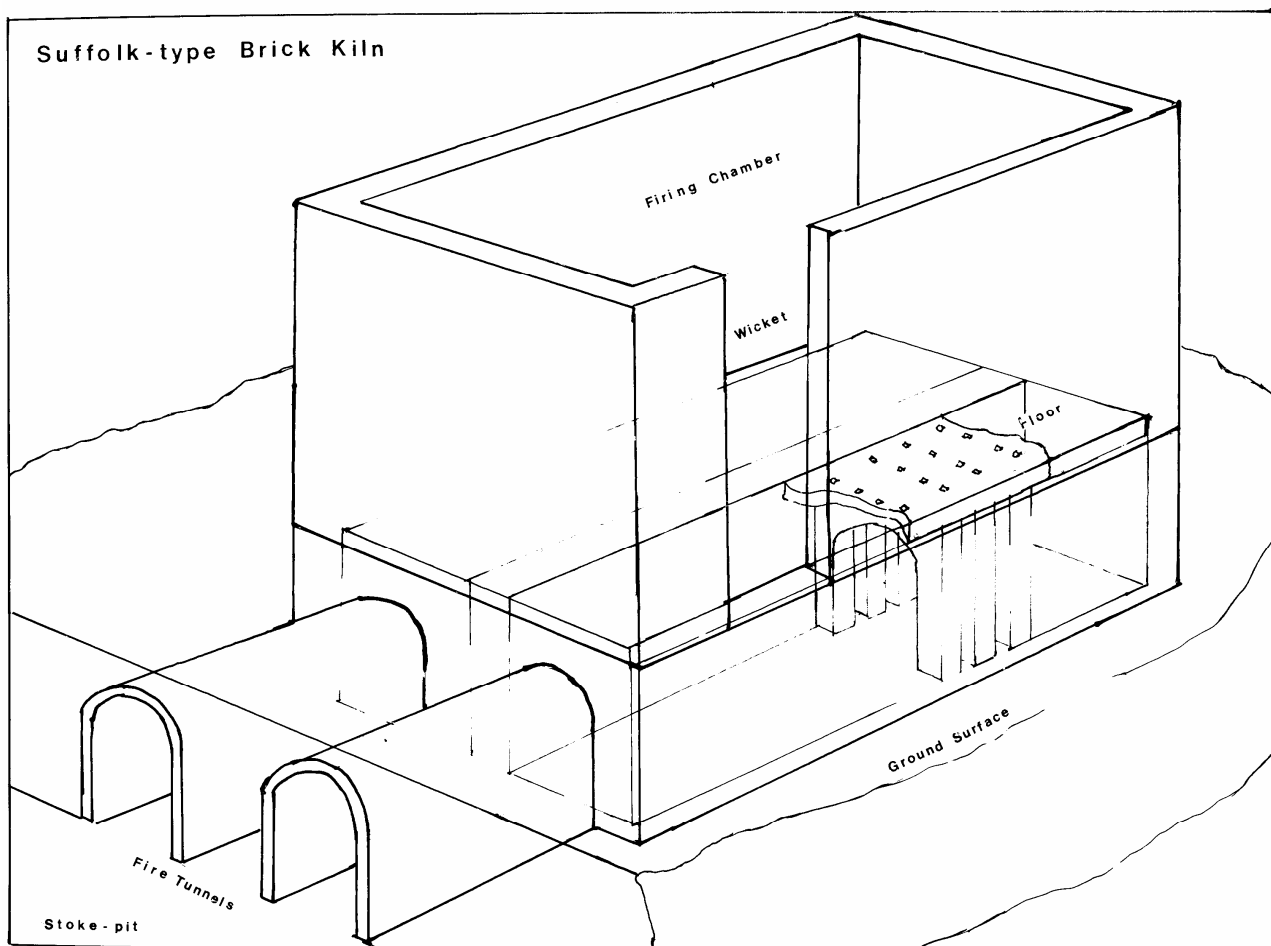


Figure 2 A Suffolk-type Brick Kiln

Where the present ground level is highest at the northern end of the excavation, the floor of kiln 2 is one metre below the surface and the bottom of the flue is 1.2 metres lower still so a considerable quantity of the valley side, mostly clay, must have been removed to build the kilns. The west wall of the excavation shows in section a mass of broken brick one metre deep and it would appear that a substantial proportion of the hill-side surrounding the kilns is not natural but built up of wasters and kiln debris. On the evidence of the broken brick visible in the cavities of the fallen trees mentioned earlier, the debris may cover a substantial area and one possibility is that the kilns were built in a then existing clay pit. If so, kiln 1 may not have been the earliest in the area.

Figure 2, although not to scale and incomplete in detail, shows the main features of an up-draught kiln similar to kiln 2. The upper part above ground is the chamber in which the bricks are fired. Below the floor of the chamber at ground level lie the fire tunnels and flue system, buried so that the surrounding soil gives support and heat insulation.

During loading the dried bricks are stacked in the upper chamber with intervening spaces to allow hot gas to circulate and are partially covered with brick or tile wasters. Fires (of wood in kiln 2) are lit in the two tunnels and the hot gases are drawn along the two main flues which are a series of spaced brick arches supporting the floor of the upper chamber. The gases pass upwards through the spaces and through holes let in the floor into the chamber where they fire the bricks at a temperature of 1000° C or more. The gases leave the top of the kiln which thus acts as a chimney.

In kiln 2 most of the firing chamber has been destroyed but sufficient of the walls remains to establish the dimension and form of construction.

As stated previously much of the lower structure survives and a detailed description will be given in the final report in the next Bulletin.

The finds offer some dating evidence. It is obvious that the kilns may have been used intermittently, according to demand, over a considerable period, perhaps hundreds of years, and, therefore, the finds would be expected to cover such a period. In order of increasing age they are as follows:

- a) On, and within, 5 cms. of the surface, expended 0.303 rifle shells and mortar bombs. The army used the area for practice in 1939-45 but there is no sign that they disturbed the ground, or the kiln.
- b) Felled trees. A count of the rings indicated that the oldest were about 100 years old. The 1876 and 1897 O.S. maps show the area wooded and so does the 1839 commutation of tithes.
- c) In the stokepit filling, a corroded squared tin can (bully beef?) and the remains of an implement resembling a large builders trowel. Tin cans were made in England by 1814 but this one has a sophistication which was not present until after 1850. The stokepit fill has two basic strata. The lower consists principally of ash and brick debris, obviously associated with initial collapse or destruction of the kiln. The upper layer, which contained the can and trowel, consists of black earth including considerable ash and appears to have been dumped to fill the stokepit - perhaps to landscape the area prior to the planting of trees. The can suggests a date for this in the last half of the 19th century.
- d) The bricks and tiles. A large heap of broken brick and tile forms part of the excavation spoil. A few whole and several part bricks including specialised varieties such as plinth and coping and floor tiles have been selected and await assessment. In addition, there are the bricks in the remains of the kilns. The difficulty of dating bricks by size alone is generally acknowledged. The largest selected (part-brick) is - x 140 x 63 mm and the smallest (whole brick) is 216 x 100 x 46 mm. The roof-tiles have two holes and appear to be all the same size, 253 x 158 x 12 mm. The floor tiles are 228 x 215 x 44 mm. The quantity of roof tiles on the site is appreciable but whether they were regularly manufactured or whether they were used to make a shelter over the kiln or the ancillary brickmaking processes is a matter for conjecture.
- e) Two horse skeletons in the fill of the eastern half of kiln 2. They lay below the kiln floor level on top of debris from the part of the floor and the arches beneath that had collapsed. Seven heavy horseshoes have been retrieved so far and they provide some indication for the last use of the kiln. Further assessment is required but two appear to be of the tongue type c. 1700-1815 and two of the keyhole type c. 1650-1800. The others do not appear to be of a more recent period.

- f) Four pieces of pipe stem. A wide-bore (3.4 mm.) piece, from one of the clay layers on the eastern half of the site which may be associated with kiln 2 in date, is perhaps from the 17th century. The other three, which are of narrower bore (2.6 mm.) and may be from the 18th century, were found buried with the horses and in the eastern fire tunnel.
- g) A pipe bowl with milled half-ring at top. This is Oswald's type G.6.c.1660-80 (1).
- h) A large fragment of a tall narrow jar in red earthenware found in the same clay layer as the wide-bore pipe stem. A date range of c. 1575-1675 has been suggested (1).

More dating evidence is to be found in the Essex Record Office where there is a photostat of a map showing the Manor of Olivers in 1658. This shows that the site area was then known as Kell or Kill Field and is not shown as being wooded although other areas on the map are. Kell and Kill are obsolete spellings of kiln. Furthermore, there is a small square shown in the field at the place where the kilns are today. This is, therefore, strong evidence that a kiln was in operation by 1658. It would be natural to assume that the kilns provided bricks for the extensions of Olivers in the 17th and 18th centuries and one of the tasks for next season will be to compare the bricks found at the kiln with those in the house. It is interesting to note that the field to the east of the wood is referred to as Part Kiln Field on the 1840 tithe apportionment so that it may also have contained a kiln or kilns at some period before 1840.

In 1959 the Group excavated a 17th century tile kiln on the opposite bank of the Roman River (TL 968209) about 400 metres downstream from the present site and the excavation report (2) mentions that there may have been another tile kiln in an adjoining field. All these industrial ventures are near enough to have provided materials for the house and there may, of course, be others, so that perhaps not many of the house bricks may have originated from kilns 1 and 2.

At a Roman River Valley Open Day on Sunday 15th April, approximately 300 visitors came to see the excavation which was then at an early stage.

Work for the 1985 season includes further excavation of the stoke pit, fire tunnels, the east half of the site and the north-west corner, a further search for historical records and surveying of the site in preparation for the final report.

The Group wishes to thank Mr. and Mrs. Edwards for their invitation to excavate and for their continued interest during the work.

References.

- (1) I am indebted to Ms. C.M. Cunningham for dating these finds.
- (2) Anon. Kiln at Roman River. CAG Bulletin 11.2. (1959) P.17.

Relevant booklets in the Group Library are:

Hammond M. Bricks and Brickmaking. p.111
Sparkes I.G. Old Horseshoes, p.112.
Ayto E.G. Clay Tobacco Pipes, p.110.

PUZZLE OF OLIVERS ORCHARD

Dr. Ian Carradice, of the British Museum

One of the most interesting recent finds of the period of the Gallic Empire, when Britain broke away from the Roman Empire in AD 260-274, has been a large hoard of coins found last year near Colchester.

The hoard, from Oliver's Orchard Farm, lies in the middle of an Iron Age and Roman complex at Gosbecks, which before the Roman conquest was probably part of the capital of the ruler Cunobelinus, Shakespeare's Cymbeline.

The find, dating from a period when Roman power in Britain was weakening, consisted of three hoards in separate pots buried close together and containing 6,115 coins. This is by no means the largest find dating from this particular period of Romano-British history; it is dwarfed, for instance, by the Cunetio hoard of just under 55,000 coins uncovered near Marlborough, Wiltshire, in October 1978, the largest hoard ever found in Britain.

The Oliver's Orchard hoards are important though because, thanks to the responsible attitude of the finder and his employer, who immediately alerted the local museum at Colchester, the site was excavated by archaeologists under professional supervision.

Consequently, the contents of the three pots were carefully brought to the surface and recorded, enabling the composition of each hoard to be reconstructed with a greater degree of accuracy than is normally possible with hoards contained in more than one vessel.

The hoards were buried during one of the "darkest" periods of Roman history. The IMPERIUM GALLIARUM included the western provinces of Gaul, Spain and Britain, which Postumus (AD 260-269) and his successors (Laelian, Marius, Victorinus, Tetricus I and II) were able to hold independent from Rome at a time of deep political and economic crisis for the Empire.

The third century Roman coinage reflects the Empire's economic decline: the standard silver coin, which during the reign of Gordian III (238-244) contained 40-50% silver, was rapidly debased until during the reign of Gallienus (260-268) it fell to 5% and less silver.

Meanwhile, the coinage of the usurper Postumus was at first noticeably finer than that produced by the legitimate Roman Emperor, but towards the end of his reign, in about 268, he also had to reduce the silver in his coinage to about 5%.

The coins of both "Empires" then continued to decline in purity until in the early 270s few pieces contained more than 1 or 2% silver.

The chief interest of the Oliver's Orchard hoards, which, according to the date of issue of the latest dateable coins in each pot, were buried separately in about the years 269, 273 and 274, is that they provide a clear illustration of the shifting character of coin distribution in Britain during this dark period.

The earliest pot contained 1,560 coins, of which all but nine were silver coins issued before the major debasements of the 260s.

By contrast, the second and third hoards, of 4,060 and 495 coins, included an overwhelming majority (88 per cent and 94 per cent) of the very debased later coins. These hoards suggest that in the late 260s the inferior coinage of the central empire was either not circulating in Britain, or at least not being hoarded, whereas after Postumus's debasement this coinage quickly established itself and was hoarded alongside the now equally (or even more) base "Gallic" coinage of Victorinus and the Tetrici.

We are left to speculate on why so many coins were hoarded, concealed, and then not recovered by their owners, in Britain in the early 270s. These were troubled times: Aurelian was preparing to recapture the "Gallic Empire" for Rome (he succeeded in 274); he was also about to reform the currency in order to stabilize the monetary turbulence.

There may also have been special regional or local factors which could have induced an individual such as the unlucky saver of the Oliver's Orchard hoards to bury money.

However, the simplest explanation might be that the coins of the early 270s were of so little intrinsic value that very large numbers had to be issued to meet financial requirements, and so we should not be surprised to find so many turning up in hoards.

The above is a copy of an article which appeared in The Times of 24th August, 1984 and is reprinted here by permission of the Editor.

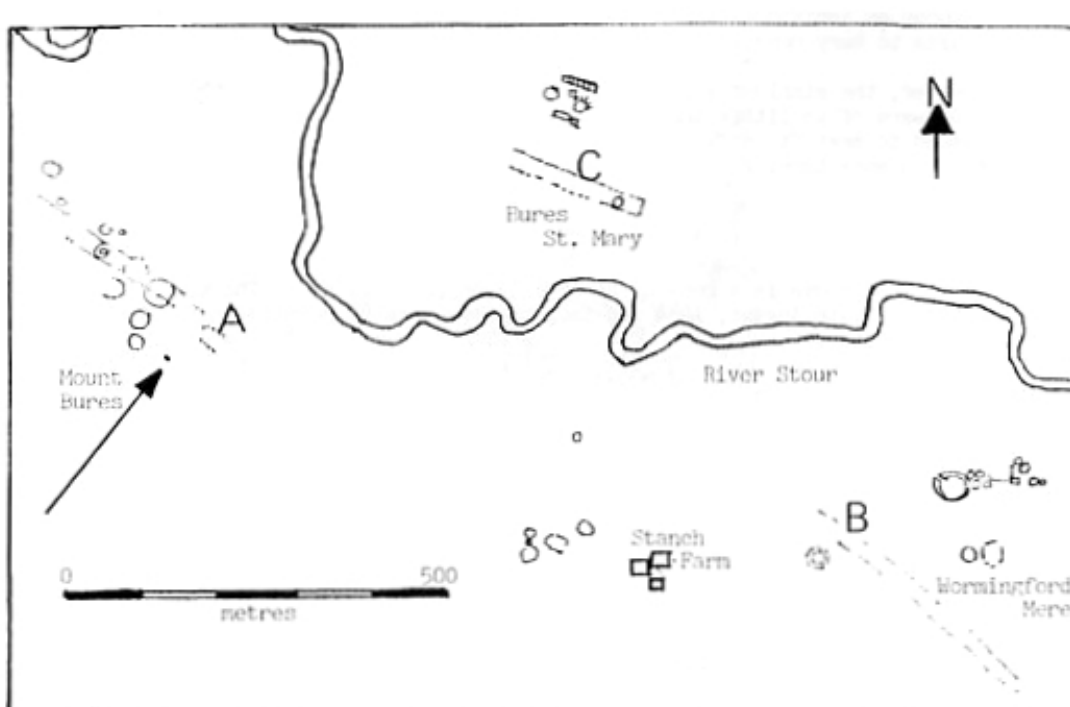
A THIRD NEOLITHIC FLINTAXE FROM MOUNT BURES AND SOME THOUGHTS ON THE POSSIBLE CURSUS NEAR WHICH IT WAS FOUND

Ida McMaster

A third flint axe from Mount Bures (TL 91303305) was found after ploughing by Mr. David Cowlin who farms the land. The find-spot is marked by an arrow on the map (Figure 1) and is close to the River Stour in a field already well known for its many Bronze Age ring ditches recorded by aerial photography. Ring ditches can be seen on the map (Figure 1) and one of the larger ones was excavated by the Group in 1974 (1). Also seen on the map are other crop marks published by the writer in recent years (2,3).

FIGURE 1.

Map showing the find-site of the Neolithic axe and crop marks in the area of Bures and Wormingford

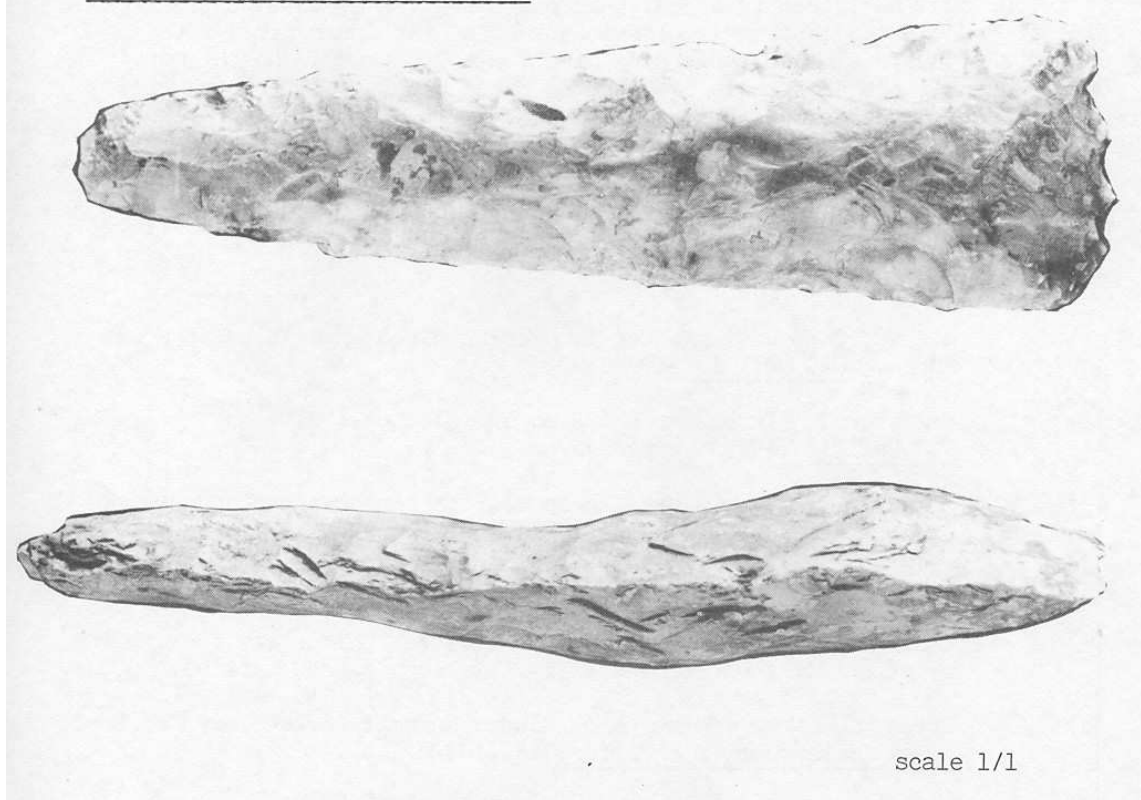


The find-spot is less than a kilometre from where the first two Neolithic axes were found: one of them polished and the other a substantial working implement which was almost certainly hafted (4). This third axe, or pick, is noticeably thinner and looks more delicate than the other two. It is chipped at the narrower working end along one side at the point where it may have been hafted. The flint is of a light sandy colour and appears rather brittle and flaky in texture. It is illustrated in Figure 2.

An interesting cropmark feature, marked A on the map, which was seen from the air and recorded in 1979, lies about 50 m. from where the third flint axe was found. The feature is two parallel ditches which appear to curve inwards at the north-west end to form a wide entrance way. This could be the outline of a long barrow (5) or it might possibly be the conventional terminal of a cursus. Furthermore, running to the north-west from close to point A is a faint outline of double ditches running for about 300 m. which Priddy (6) has discussed as a possible, though perhaps unlikely, cursus monument. It is particularly tempting to suggest a cursus since some 700 m. to the east at Wormingford Mere, marked B on the map, is another cropmark feature which also suggests a cursus. It was thought from the first aerial photographs of supposed cursus B that it might be travelling directly towards the river, but better subsequent photographs suggest that it may run parallel with the river in a north-west direction possibly linking with the ditches at A., and/or the more north-westward continuation.

FIGURE 2.

A Neolithic Axe from Mount Bures.



However, as discussed by Priddy (6), when referring to these two sites (A and B on the map) there are dangers in interpreting such crop marks too readily and one must wait until such times as further crop marks showing connections between ditches A and B may show up.

It is curious that directly opposite across the River Stour on the Suffolk side at Mount Bures is a small classic cursus of the Springfield type complete with its similar inner ring ditch. It is marked C on the map. One wonders if status symbols between the Essex and Suffolk tribes were commonplace - even in Neolithic times. If the A/B cursus is ever proved, and it would be unusual to find two so close, it will be plain that the Essex folk had the wider and probably longer cursus. They also certainly had a fine henge monument which would have overlooked both cursus monuments from the high ground at Ferriers some 1½ kms. to the west (7).

References.

- (1) Holbert P.R. and McMaster I. A ring ditch excavation at Mount Bures. CAG Bull 18 (1975) 9.
- (2) McMaster I. Cropmarks selected and plotted. CAG Bull 18 (1975) 16 map 4a/6a.
- (3) McMaster I. Cropmarks: An appeal for conservation and observation. CAG Bull 14 (1971) 5 maps 5 & 6.
- (4) in local finds. CAG Bull 13.2 (1971) 34 and CAG Bull 22 (1979) 26
- (5) I am grateful to Roy Loveday of Leicester University for drawing my attention to the possibility of a long barrow outline.
- (6) Priddy D. Work of the Essex County Council Archaeology Section. Essex Archaeology and History 14 (1982) 114.
- (7) McMaster I. Cropmarks: an appeal for conservation and observation. CAG Bull 14 (1971) 5 map 2.

Caerleon and Caewent

We are planning a weekend trip to these two sites and as much else as can be fitted in on 20/21/22 September 1985. This trip was first scheduled for March 1985 but has now been postponed to September when the weather should be better. Further details will be circulated soon.

FIRST DAYS IN COLCHESTER

D. T-D Clarke

I had only been to Colchester once before. That was in 1950 for the Centenary Conference when Bob Abbott, my technical assistant, and I stayed in the "George". Also there were Wheeler and Richmond, to us then famous names, to be listened to respectfully on the edge of the circle after dinner. It was a great occasion. Rex Hull, the Museum Curator, had assembled a major exhibition of metalwork from all over Roman Britain; the precursor - though we could not know it - of the series of "blockbusters" which still continues. It was a remarkable achievement, both in its organisation in a Britain still recovering from the war, and in its scholarly catalogue which Hull himself compiled. It was held in the Castle court, and housed in every conceivable kind of showcase which did not, we felt, set off some of the exhibits to best advantage.

We duly paraded for lectures by Hawkes, Wheeler, Hull, Jocelyn Toynbee and several others at the Moot Hall, where Harold Poulter - complete with skull cap - operated the old lantern (we still have it) like some Mephistopheles, peering under the little curtains, which protected its modesty, when it overheated. We were marched round the walls in the charge of schoolgirls to visit the main monuments, where the guides stood awaiting each party. Geoffrey Martin was at Duncan's Gate, using his immaculately rolled umbrella to indicate features of interest. We scrambled over the dykes, and inspected a rather uninformative series of trenches cut into the hallowed ground of the C.R.G.S. ticket field, showing it was equally revered in antiquity as the Temple of Silvanus. Still a shade unconvinced, we were entertained to a real school tea with those sugar-coated buns known to me as "Noah's Arks".

In his vote of thanks Wheeler referred, but briefly, to the excavation and praised the carved overmantel in the room - a manifest Victorian creation. The point was not lost on the audience.

It was great fun. I can remember the fusty smell when I looked inside St. Nicholas' Church, little realising that its days were numbered. We had lent the Mountsorrel Bucket from the Leicester Collection, and it was duly returned to us by the then Borough Treasurer, who carried it into the hall holding it by the handle! My shriek of alarm reduced the adjacent visitors to respectful silence.

Thirteen years later it was February, and snowing, when I came for my interview for the post of Curator of the Museum. At the station it was impossible to see in which direction the town lay, but I was comforted by the sign outside - TO THE CASTLE AND MUSEUM. It has since disappeared and I have, so far, failed to get it replaced. I trudged up North Hill, and after supper crawled into a cold bed in the "Lion" wishing I was back in my semi-detached in Leicester. I felt no better in the morning, when I pulled back the curtain and saw the snow falling from a dull grey sky onto the castle cupola.

After breakfast I called on Hull - to a welcome that rather matched the weather - and was shown round by Bryan Blake. Poulter had recently died, and preparations were in hand to move the Archaeological Society upstairs into the flat which he had occupied. Nothing had been painted for years and the overall atmosphere was grim.

The interview was in the afternoon. The two other candidates were Essex curators. I did not find out until later that the committee had not short-listed a candidate who has since become a leading figure in British archaeology. We duly paraded, and made nervous conversation outside.

By now I had had enough. My shoes were leaking and I was longing to go home. I would not make much on my salary (about £1,370).

"Mr. Clarke, please". I respectfully returned.

"We have decided to offer you the job".

"Very well" I said, determined to put the matter in the hands, of fate, "but I would like the top of the salary. I will give you a good museum, but it will cost money".

"How much" they asked.

"Another £10,000 a year" I said. (The costs were then £14,000).

"We will try" said the Chairman - Alderman Dansie, who was to prove such a wonderful support in years to come.

So that was that. My Leicester colleagues gave me a splendid party and a present "since you will now no longer be one of Us, but one of Them".

Where to live? We sold our house rapidly, but with a completion date; and various house hunting visits to Colchester proved fruitless. The sands were running out. Then the agent told me about a house called Gurney Vale in Wivenhoe. (Where?)

I had some childhood association with the name Gurney which I did not like. However, I went to see it. The orchard, untended for years, was a mass of blossom. Even though the house needed a great deal of work, the choice was obvious.

So I took up my duties on May 12th I lodged on East Hill and spent the summer evenings walking around the town, guide-book in hand, pushing my way to bed up the spiral staircase through the Alsatian dogs.

The first evening I walked round the Castle after the staff had left. Ancient cases, filthy floors, thousands of wonderful objects. How would I ever cope?

Next day I said to the admirable Head Attendant, Mr. Rush "Let us start by polishing the floor in the lecture room" (as it is now). "It is impossible" he said.

"Please get me a bucket" I said.

"We haven't got one" he replied.

I gave him a ten shilling note and told him to get one, a scrubbing brush and some polish. Then I got down on my knees and scrubbed and polished a square yard or so.

"Now," I said "I want the rest of it like that". By the end of the day it was!

Immediate and visible change was imperative. Blake and I removed some of the worst cases in the castle. In retrospect we ought to have photographed them first, as no one now believes what they were like. The Hollytrees was easier. I disposed of the plans for the first floor and designed the costume gallery. I insisted on choosing the colour schemes, an apparently unheard of arrogance which I sometimes feel was never entirely forgiven.

Tina Blake did the typing, served at the bookstall and operated the telephone, an historic device with a generator, little dials which dropped down, and jacks and cords. (We should have kept it in the collection). Susan Robinson acted as general help at an abysmal salary, but worked diligently on the costume collection. Clifford Owen reigned in All Saints, which he had created on £250 and had just raised £4,000 to buy Fingringhoe Wick. He shared the premises with various polecats to whose lack of personal hygiene he was, fortunately, impervious. We had five attendants, who also took tours of the vaults. Two, of course, were in the branches, so sometimes there was only one man in the whole castle. Still, it was fun, and we got by.

At last, the removal van arrived, and I drove over from St. Albans to unload it, briefly, but gratefully, interrupted by Miss Chamberlain, the Congregational Minister, who came to see what was going on. I drove back in the evening and next day our treasured red car (why does one always remember one's oldest cars with affection?) arrived with the family. We hastily hooked up some curtains for James' afternoon sleep.

We had arrived. The Council voted £250 - technically for next year - but I blew it at once on a new desk and various minor alterations. No one ever noticed the irregularity.

Next year the estimate was increased to £25,000 and I was upgraded. Things have never been the same since - but that is the way with honeymoons.

For the rest, is it not written in our Annual Reports?

A NEOLITHIC COOKING PIT AT CHIGBOROUGH FARM, LITTLE TOTHAM

P.C. and K. P. Adkins

Aerial reconnaissance along the course of the River Blackwater showed extensive crop marks at Chigborough Farm, near Maldon, OS Grid Reference: TL880082. (Figure 1). After the flight, and with the kind permission of Mr. L.P. Sampson, the farmer, the area of the crop marks was 'walked' - which involved dowsing - by the farmer - and the use of metal detectors. Dowsing accurately located the main crop mark features and Roman coins and Roman and Medieval pottery was found.

Early settlement by man in the surrounding area is well known from the multi-period sites reported by Adkins at Tolleshunt d'Arcy (1) and Brown at Lofts Farm, Maldon (2). The extensive crop mark site at Chigborough Farm will be destroyed by gravel working within a few years and so, despite extremely limited financial resources and manpower, one of us (PCA) under-took excavation.

FIGURE 1.

Location Maps. Chigborough Farm, Little Totham

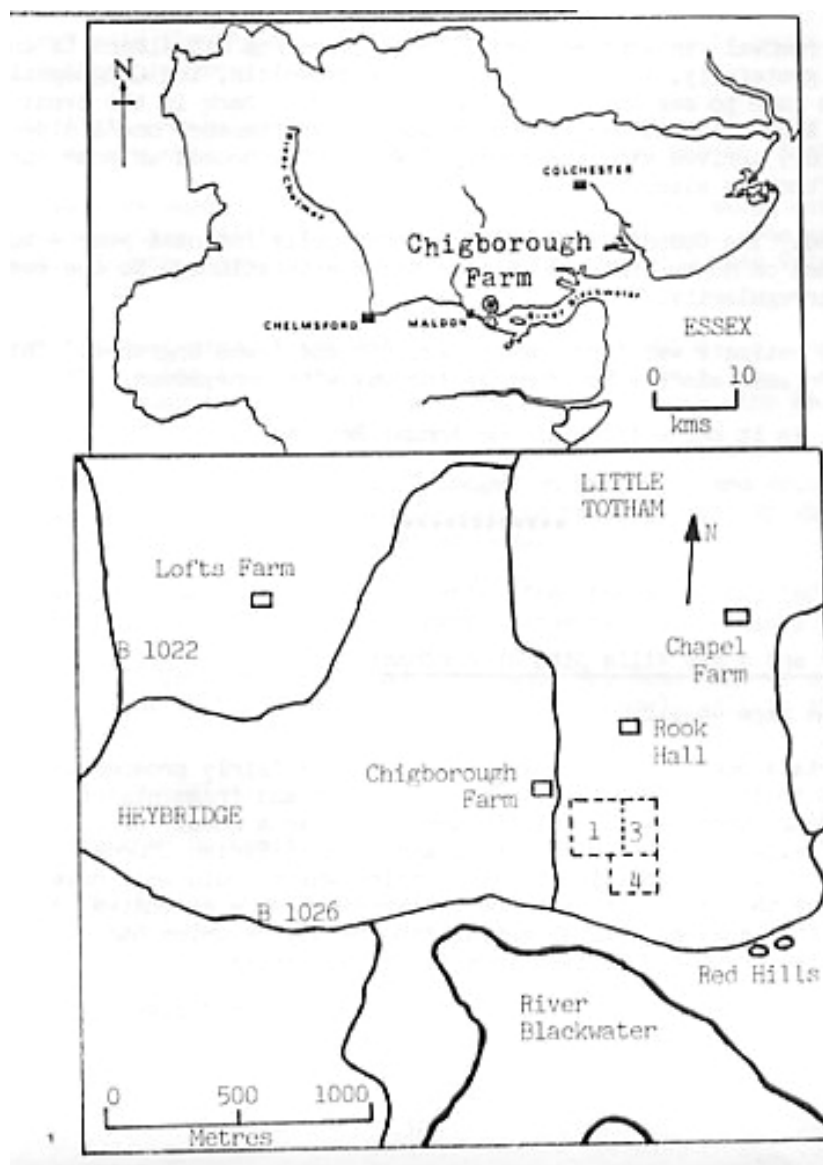
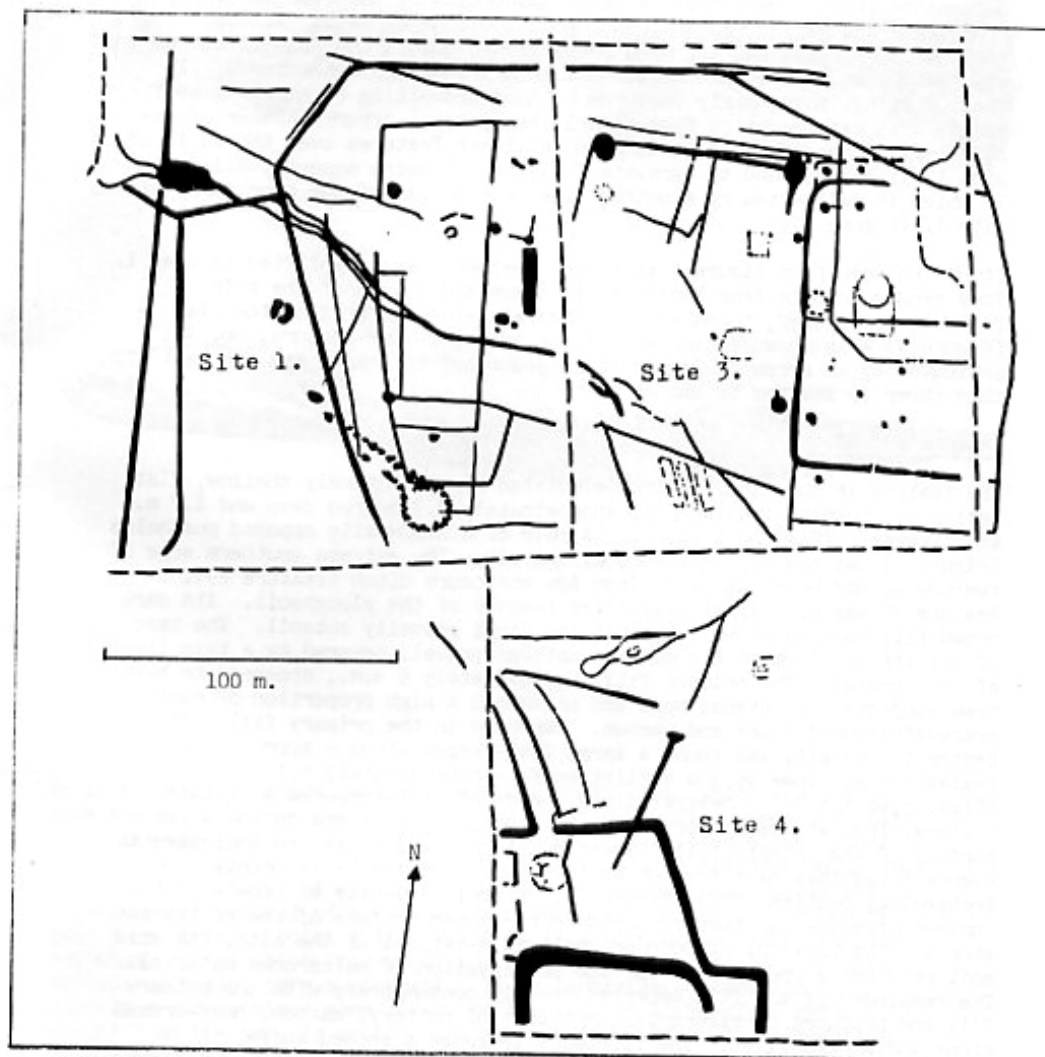


FIGURE 2.

Crop Marks at Chigborough Farm, Little Totham



A plan of all the crop marks is shown in Figure 2 where they are divided into three separate sites (1, 3 and 4) only because they belong to different farmers. All three will be fully reported in due course.

Site 1

We report here on Site 1 only where some 2,000 man hours were worked and, because of lack of resources, a large proportion of the time was spent removing - and replacing - by hand, some 300 tons of soil. Although the soil moving was tedious and hard work, it did enable the full extent of any feature at the ploughsoil/subsoil interface to be determined. In fact, distinguishing early features by hand trowelling became progressively easier with experience by feel as well as by eye. After a number of exploratory trenches had been cut through linear features over the whole of site 1, it was decided to excavate fully the 25 metre square (called area 1) which is delineated by a dotted line on the plan of the crop marks of site 1. (Figure 3).

It can be seen from Figure 4 that many features were identified in area 1. They ranged in date from Neolithic to Saxon and a list of the main features recognised, together with the reference number from the plan - (Figure 4) - is shown at the end of the article. One feature, no. 40, indicated by an arrow on Figure 4, is described in detail and the rest of this paper is devoted to it.

Feature No. 40.

The feature in question, no. 40, consisted of a relatively shallow, flat bottomed, roughly circular pit, approximately 0.3 metres deep and 1.7 m. in diameter. (Figures 5 and 6.) A pair of diametrically opposed pestholes (Figure 5) cut the circumference of the pit. The extreme southern edge of feature 40 had been cut by an Iron Age enclosure ditch (feature 29). Feature 40 was clearly visible after removal of the plough soil. Its dark brown fill contrasted well against the light gravelly subsoil. The base of the pit was formed of compacted natural gravel, covered by a thin layer of fine gravel. The primary fill, approximately 5 cm., appeared to have been subjected to intense heat and contained a high proportion of heat crazed/fractured stone and carbon. Embedded in the primary fill, off-centre to the pit, was found a large flat-topped stone – approximately 24x14x15 cm. close by and a flint knife - approximately 6.1 x 2.1 cm. (Figs. 5,6c and 8a). Several large sherds of grit-tempered Neolithic pottery, from at least four different vessels, were found on the upper surface of the primary fill. Their positions in the pit are indicated in Figure 5 and they have been drawn by a member of the Essex County Archaeology Section (HMJ) (Figure 7). A small quantity of bone - (unidentified) - was found adhered to the inner surface of one of the pot sherds. The survival of bone or shell is atypical of the site, its acid soil provides a poor medium for the preservation of calcareous material. The remainder of the fill appeared broadly contemporary with the primary fill and produced considerable quantities of pottery, carbon, heat-crazed stone and worked flint. The flintwork included a second knife, approximately 6.0 x 2.4 cm. (Figure 8b), a hammer stone/'strike a light', approximately 7.4 x 6.0 c.m. (Figure 8c), a scraper, burins, points and various other retouched tools. The flintwork is characteristic of Early Neolithic industries of the Thames Valley.

The pottery, including those pieces illustrated in Figure 7, some of which retains a mechanical slip, is comparable to the Middle Neolithic pottery from the Orsett causewayed enclosure, South Essex, attributed to the eastern England Mildenhall regional style (3).

Interpretation

It is tempting to speculate on the original function of feature 40. Much of the evidence suggests that the pit was used for cooking purposes. The sunken hearth may originally have been surrounded by a small bank supporting a wattle windbreak which would have provided some wind protection, facilitating control of the fire in the site's exposed situation.

The large flat-topped stone was possibly used as a hot-plate for a cooking pot. This would provide gradual and even heat dissipation to the pot base thus reducing the chances of heat damage to the vessel. The pair of diametrically opposed post holes may have held stakes, forming a spit-like structure, on which large carcasses could have been roasted.

The flintwork from the feature suggests that food was being prepared and/or eaten close to the pit, and that other activities such as knapping and hide preparation were being pursued.

Professional assistance in the form of micro-wear analysis of the flint implements would be greatly welcomed. Analysis by thermo-luminescence of the large stone may substantiate the theory that it had been used as a hot-plate and may also produce a definitive date for the flint from the hearth. Considerable quantities of fill have been retained for environmental analysis by any interested parties.

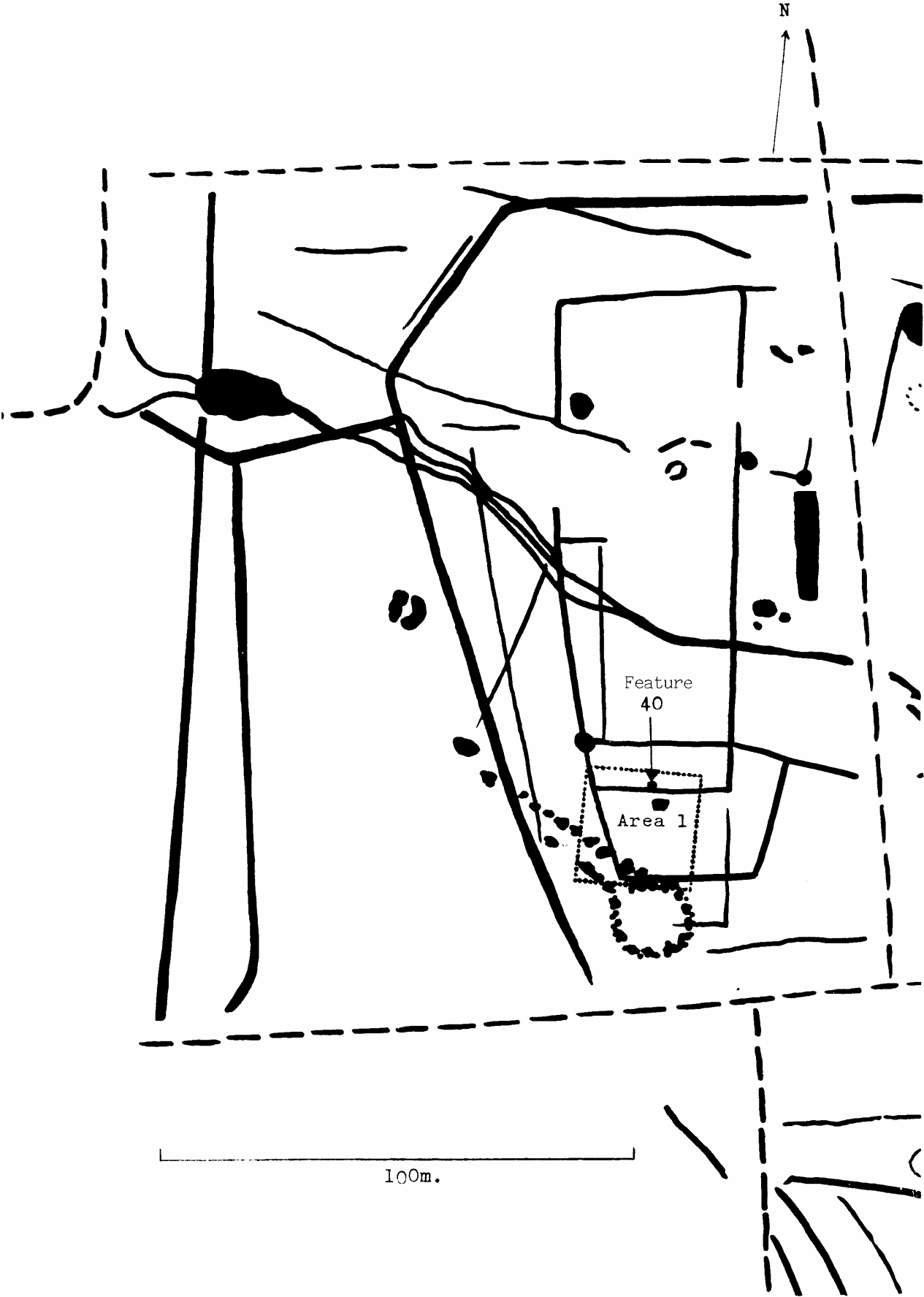


FIGURE 3.
Plan of major cropmarks at Chigborough Site 1. Area 1 is shown by dotted line and feature 40 is indicated.

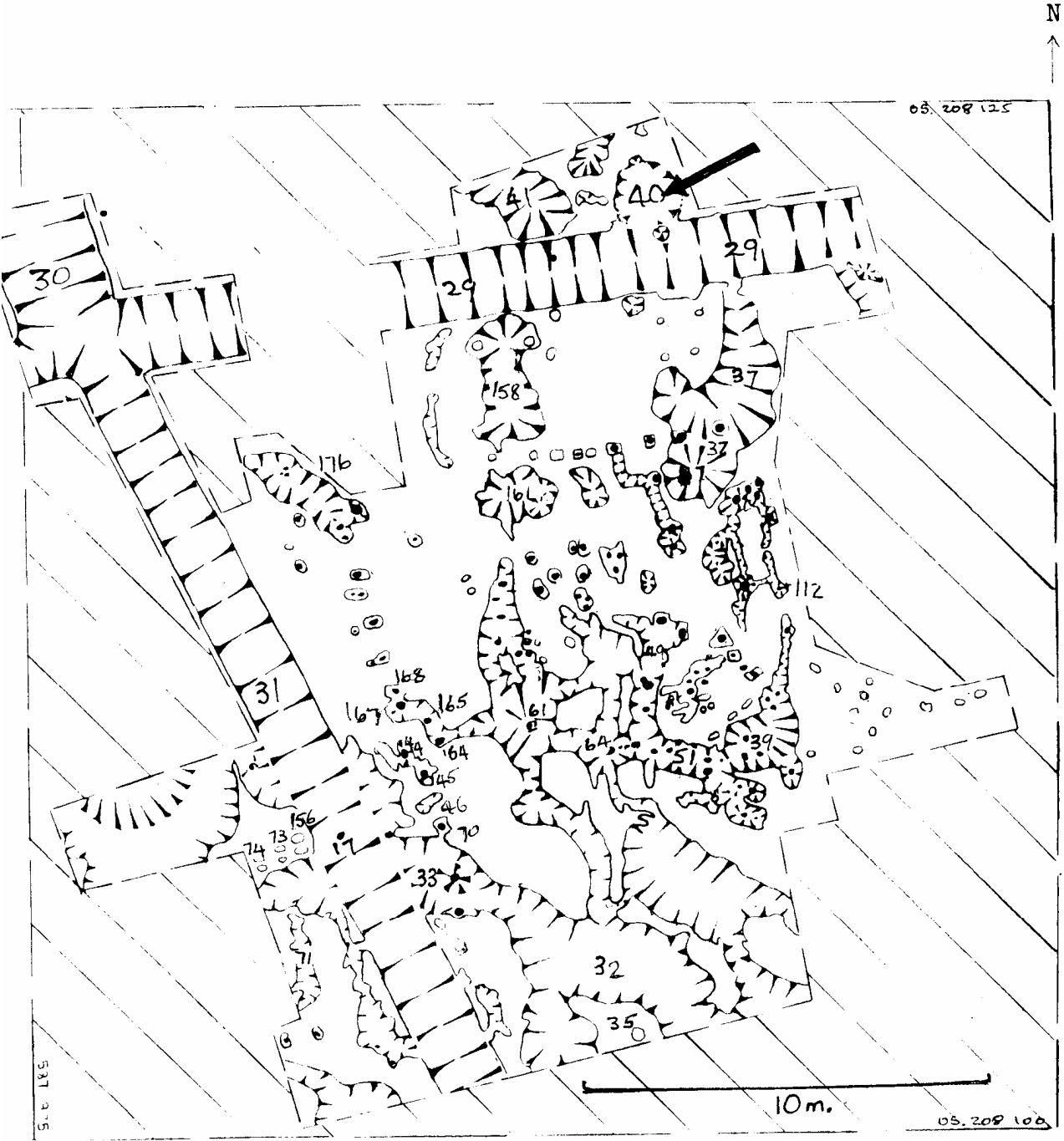
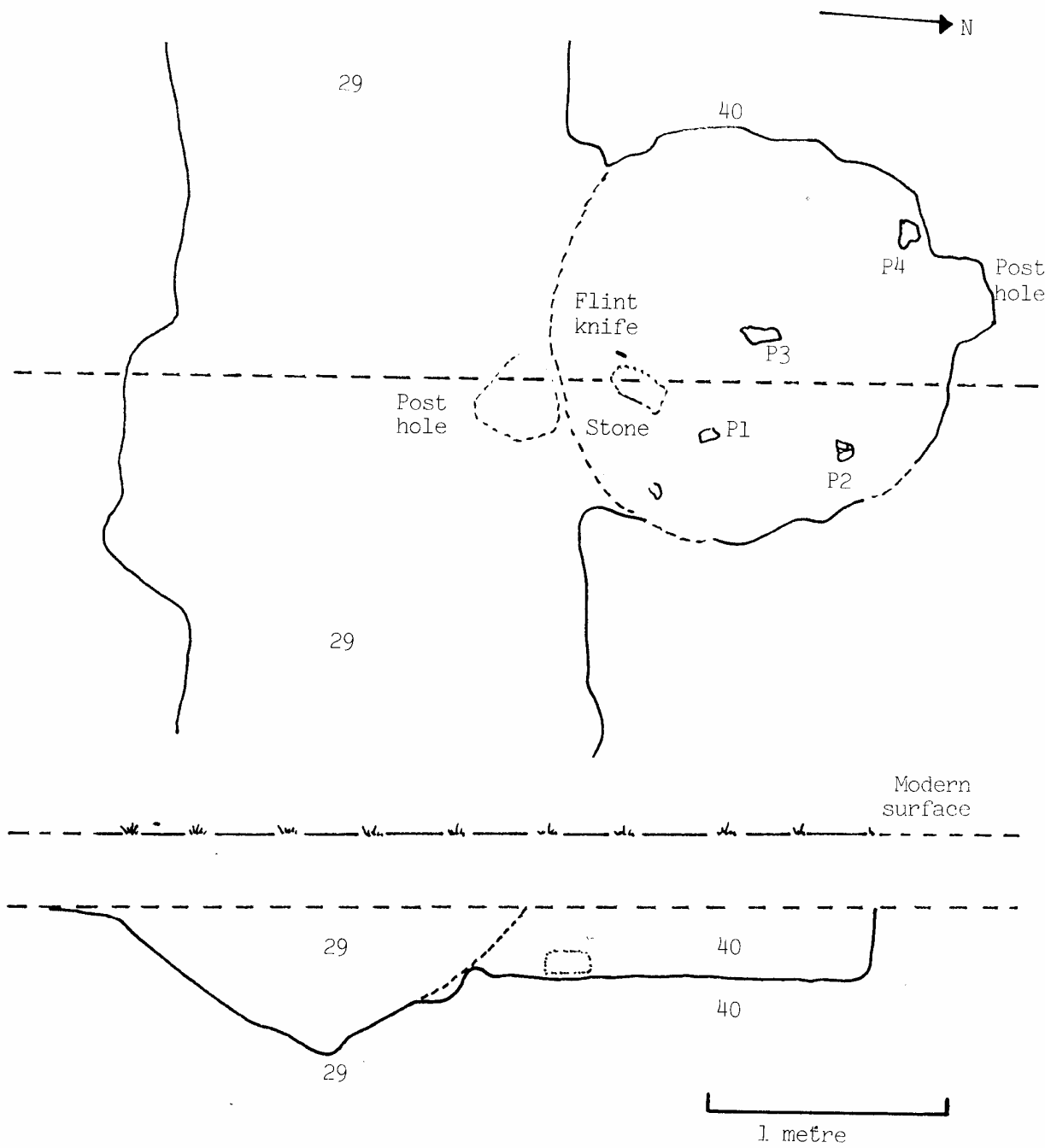


FIGURE 4.
Plan of Area 1 showing features evident at depth 0.31m

FIGURE 5.

Plan and section of feature 40, a Neolithic 'cooking-pit' and
feature 29, an Iron Age enclosure ditch



P in feature 40 refers to pottery seen in Figure 7.

FIGURE 6. Two Views of features 40 and 29 and the large stone and flint knife in situ.



(a)
View of features
40 and 29
looking W to E.



(b)
View of features
40 and 29
looking N. to S.



(c)
Large stone
& flint knife
at base of
feature 40.

FIGURE 7.

Middle Neolithic Pottery from feature 40

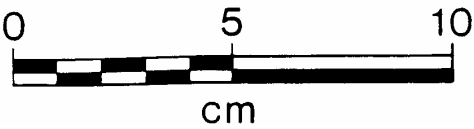
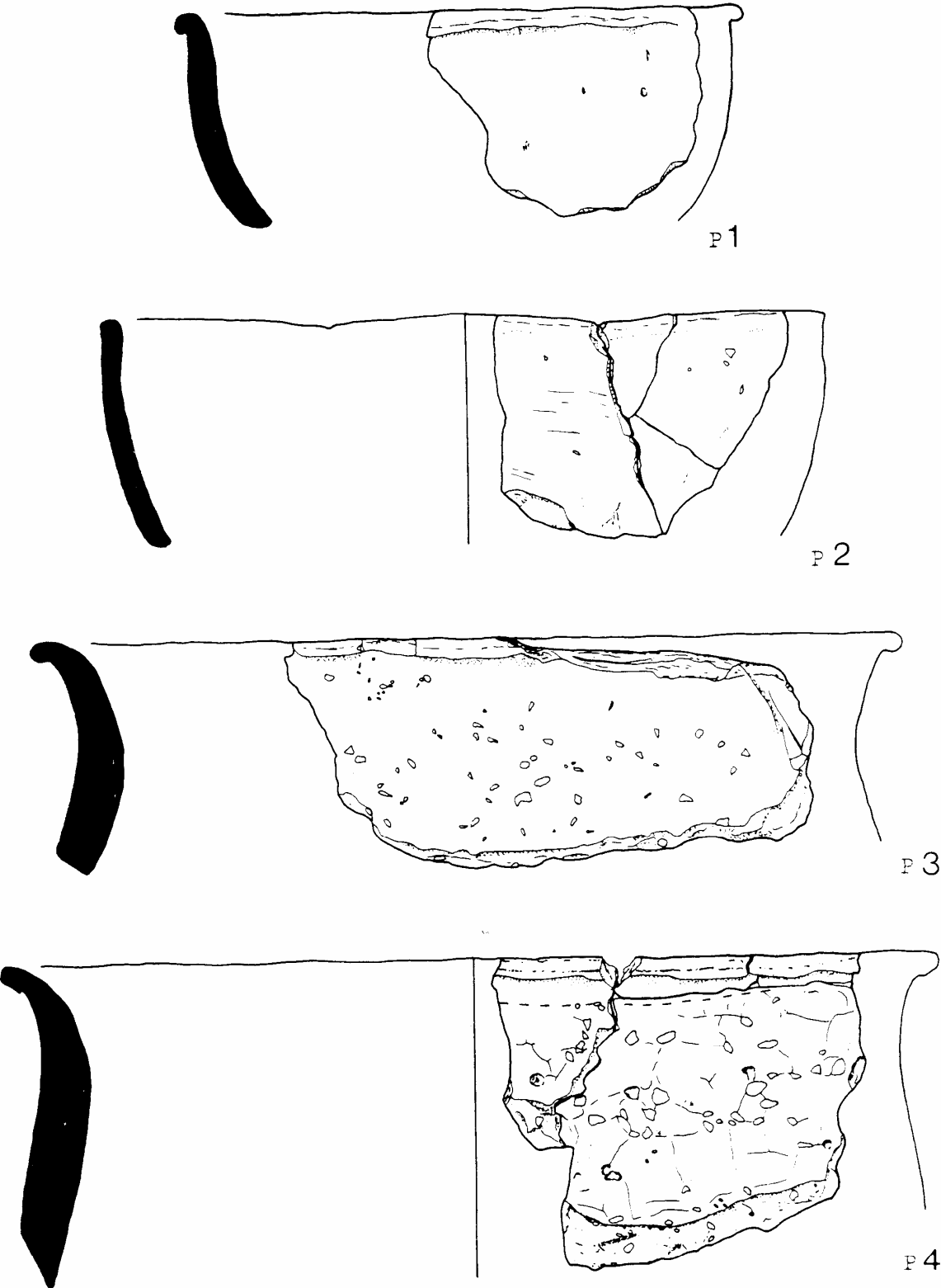


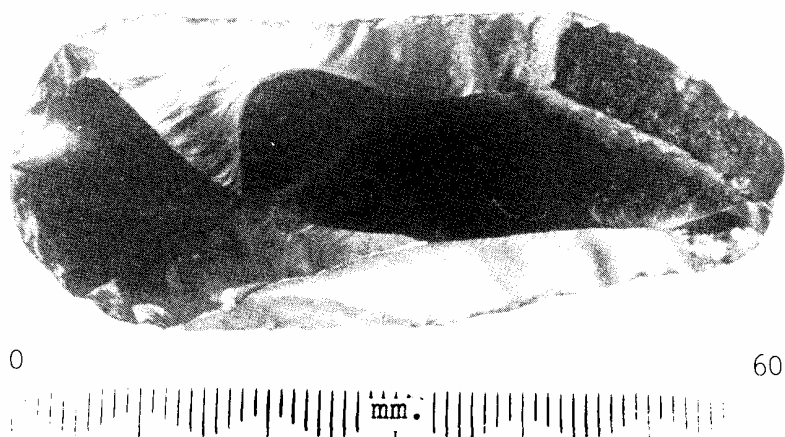
FIGURE 8.

Two flint knives and the hammer stone from feature 40.

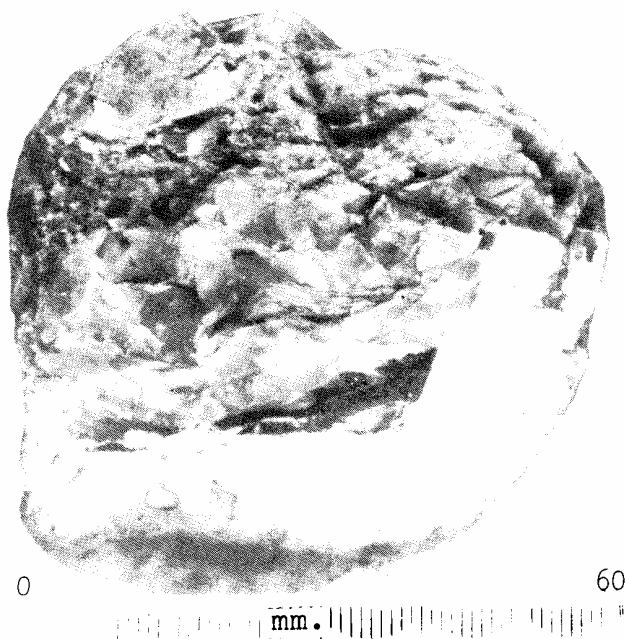
(a) Flint knife from base of feature 40.



(b) Flint knife from fill of feature 40.



(c) Hammer stone - feature 40.



Main features, by period, recognised in Area 1.

<u>Number of feature on Figure 4.</u>	<u>Description and finds</u>
<u>Neolithic</u> 32	Water way, used by man, probably natural. Neolithic Flint in upper layers
39, 51, 49	Gulley of Neolithic hut containing worked flint tools of early Neolithic period (3100 - 2700 B.C.)
64, 61	Possible overflow gulley from 39, eventually reaches 32.
37, 158, 161, 41, 176, 34, 82	Scooped features containing dateable Neolithic finds.
<u>Bronze Age</u> 112	B.A. pot sherds in a small pit/post hole.
Iron Age and Roman 29, 30	I.A. linear ditches, recut in Roman period. Contained late I.A. potsherds and Roman pot in upper levels.
31	Linear ditch containing many Roman finds, all broken and appear to have been severely burnt. Also, together with Roman pottery briquetage and salt glazed material. [Red hills of ancient salt making less than a kilometre away.]
<u>Saxon</u> 71	Possible Saxon burial.
33	8 clay loom weights.
70, 45, 44, 167, 168	Post holes from a (probable) Saxon building.
165, 164	Post holes (possibly Saxon).
46, 17, 156, 73, 74	Possible partition to a Saxon building.
35	Small pit containing cremated bones - date unknown

In sum Site 1 generally, but area 1 in particular, represents an addition to the small known number of Essex sites of the Middle Neolithic period.(4).

A detailed report covering all of the work carried out on Site 1 is currently being prepared and it is hoped that a D.O.E. grant can be secured to finance further rescue excavation of this important multi-period site.

Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks are due to the farmer of Site 1, Mr. L.P. Sampson; all concerned at Essex County Council Archaeology Section for identification and drawing of the ceramics; to Mr. R. Holgate, Institute of Archaeology at Oxford, for examining the flint artefacts; to those C.A.G. and M.A.G. members who assisted/visited on site; and finally, to the late Mrs. Kay de Brisay, without whose encouragement and recommendation, the site may well have remained totally unexplored.

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ROMAN BURIALS AND AN NEW VILLA SITE AT FORDHAM

G. M. R. Davies.

Exploratory fieldwork and a small excavation, undertaken by members of the Group in association with students from the London University extra-mural class studying for the certificate in Field Archaeology at Chelmsford, have resulted in the recognition of a previously unknown villa at Fordham near Colchester.

The site lies on rising ground, just above the 33m. contour, on the north side of the Stour Valley some 4 miles (6.5km.) upstream from the colonia, whose walls are visible in the distance. It was discovered with metal detectors by Mr. R.D. Page and Mr. J.E. Davis, who subsequently took part in the archaeological work. When they unexpectedly located a large lead object on land belonging to Fordham Hall Farm, their discovery was immediately reported to the Colchester and Essex Museum by Mr. John Jinks, the farm manager, who readily agreed to an excavation once the significance of the site had been assessed.

A trench, 4m. square, was laid out and the plough soil removed on Friday 31st March, 1984. On this, and the following two days, despite wintry showers of sleet and rain, two Roman burials were excavated. The earlier one consisted of a rectangular lead coffin, 140cm. long, 40cm. wide and 31cm. deep, enclosed within a wooden coffin of which only the nails survived. The grave itself was 0.5m. deep from the bottom of the plough soil and measured 2.1m. by 1.2m. Dark staining showed that it had been lined with timber shuttering and there were traces of 2 planks lying across the bottom on which the outer wooden coffin would originally have rested.

The lead coffin was plain except for a decorative border running round the edges of the lid in the form of a single 'bead and reel' moulding. The orientation of the grave was north-east to south-west, the head being at the former end. Associated with the burial were 3 pottery vessels - one at the bottom of the grave at the head end and the others towards the opposite end, but on top of the lead coffin along its south-eastern side.

The skeleton of the deceased was badly crushed because soil pressure had forced the lid of the coffin down almost to the bottom. However, examination at the Museum has so far revealed that the body lay with arms crossed, a small glass vessel having been placed to the left of the skull and another at the feet. Two bone hairpins, situated close to the crown of the skull, suggest that the person was female and, thus, probably a teenaged girl since her height was about 1.53m.

The second burial was stratigraphically later and consisted of the badly decomposed skeleton of a child, whose original height would slightly have exceeded 1m. It lay immediately below the plough soil at right angles to the foot of the lead coffin with its head towards the north-west. Several sherds from one of the vessels in the other grave were associated with it.

These two burials suggest the likely existence of a fairly prosperous Roman villa with its own cemetery. Pottery sherds and fragments of tiles, including hypocaust flue-tiles, were found as a result of exploratory fieldwork in the same field, and Fordham Parish Church contains considerable quantities of Roman brick which could well have been taken from the site. It is hoped to carry out more extensive fieldwork in this area as well as aerial reconnaissance which has already revealed crop marks derived from field boundaries.

CAPTAIN R. H. FARRANDS, D.S.C., R.N.R.



On the 27th December, 1984, the Group suffered a very sad loss on the death of Dick Farrands. He had been a Trinity House Pilot operating at Harwich where his main duties were to take vessels up the Thames to the London docks. For many years he was a member of the Committee of the CAG, and was also a member of the Council of Management of the Colchester Archaeological Trust and a founder member of the Committee for Archaeological Aerial Photography (Anglian Region).

His interest in archaeology began when as a boy at Brighton School, he assisted in excavations of prehistoric sites on the Sussex Downs. For a time, he served in the Merchant Navy, but when the Second World War came he was a Royal Naval Reserve Officer and commanded corvettes on convoy duties and tank landing ships in the invasion of Normandy and elsewhere for which he received the D.S.C.

On moving to Dovercourt after the war ended, he joined the Essex and Suffolk Archaeological Societies as well as the Prehistoric Society. At that time things locally were rather in the doldrums, and anyone living on the Harwich peninsula had to operate almost on his own. However, by 1955, he had found work in plotting and recording Redhills in the Hamford Water, publishing a report in the Bulletin (Volume 2, 25-27) which listed twenty Redhills. This was pioneer work on that subject at that time.

My first meeting with Dick was in the autumn of 1957 when he helped to excavate a small pit at Ardleigh in which was much Iron Age pottery and a pottery fire-grate. But, by 1958, he had organised a full-size excavation of a villa at Little Oakley of Iron Age and Romano-British appearance, which included a surprise collection of 5th century or Saxon pottery. In June, 1959, he hired a plane to look for crop marks on this Little Oakley site but, finding none, he diverted to fly over Ardleigh where deep ploughing had revealed much Roman pottery. There he made spectacular discoveries over Vinces Farm - the ring ditches, Iron Age farmstead and Belgic occupation sites he photographed have since been excavated with copious results.

At about this time Dick, regrettably, felt that he must abandon his archaeological researches to organise the Sea Pilots' profession and put it on a business footing. When, after five years or so, this had been satisfactorily concluded, he felt he could give his spare time again to archaeology. For his work for the European and United Kingdom Pilots Association, he was ultimately awarded a gold medal - only a month before he died - but he was too ill to receive this in person. The only other Englishman to receive this award was Mr. James Callaghan, ex Prime Minister.

In the 1960s and 70s Dick took to flying on several days each summer and photographed crop marks as they occurred in Essex and Suffolk. His training and careful attention to detail made him the ideal person for this work which, at that time, was undertaken by very few people. He flew over and published the location of countless sites for the CAG Bulletin in the years 1975, 1980 and 1981. By a fortunate coincidence, Mrs. Ida McMaster had also been flying over Essex and Suffolk, and their joint results confirmed and complimented each other's findings. When the flying was over the work of deciphering and evaluation of the sites began. Use was also made of photographs taken from the air for quite different purposes, such as by the R.A.F. and for agriculture. By chance he heard of, and obtained, prints of a series of photographs commissioned by the Potato Marketing Board to see if farmers had been overplanting their permitted acreages.

As a result of this he published a brilliant article in the CAG Bulletin (Volume 18, March 1975) entitled "Evidence for a Roman Road linking Mistley with Colchester". In this he made use of various air photographs taken at different times and for different reasons, proving convincingly the presence of a, hitherto unsuspected, road over eight miles of mostly arable country.

Dick Farrands was a quiet man, but also enthusiastic, helpful and accurate. He has not yet really been sufficiently appreciated for what he has achieved, but in both his profession and his hobby he has fulfilled himself.

He died aged 68 after a very distressing illness. He will be greatly missed.

F.H.E

WINTER MEETINGS 1983/1984

October 10th, 1983 Following the Annual General Meeting of the Group, the re-elected Chairman, Mr. David Clarke, Curator of the Museum, gave a talk on Florence, beginning with a slide of the near-by well preserved Roman Theatre at Fiesole which is approximately the same size as the one at Colchester. Roman remains in Florence itself are scanty as the later buildings cover the site densely. Most of his talk contrasted the early development of architecture and other arts in Renaissance Florence with the state of things in 13th and 14th century Britain.

In some of the treasures still to be seen in Florence the heritage of Roman styles is obvious, for example, the della Robbia choir gallery now in the Cathedral Museum. Elsewhere are works of a Gothic nature, for example, the south door of the Baptistry which contrasts with the marvellous north door by Ghiberti where the panels of scriptural scenes, shallow bronze castings, display remarkable depths by perspective.

The great marble clad Campanile of Giotto near the magnificent Cathedral shows the cultural level of 14th century Florence, but, across the River Arno, is the splendid abbey church of San Miniato built on classical lines in the 11th century.

Mr. Clarke then spoke of the early development of painting - in the Uffizi Gallery are the masterpieces of Botticelli (1444-1510). Those of his audience who had been to Florence expressed a wish to revisit the City at the end of his talk and, doubtless, others who had not been there must have resolved to do so!

Excavations at Lofts Farm, Maldon. 17th October, 1983
P.N. Brown, Director, Maldon Archaeological Group.

Mr. Paul Brown told, in historical sequence, of the excavations at Lofts Farm which were prefaced by the appearance of mammoth remains in the course of gravel working at this 120 acre site.

His earliest finds were flint flakes and a number of mid-neolithic pottery pieces from the fill of a shallow pit (dated c. 3000 B.C.) followed by two shallow wells with some pottery and a penannular ring ditch surrounding a smaller ring in which were cremation remains and scanty remains of other cremations. The few pottery fragments include beaker sherds. He now came to the early occupation site whose crop mark suggested the 'dig'. Here were ring ditches and post holes (one ring, a succession of small hollows - the other had the foundation ditch for a hut with a little pit outside the entrance). Close by, a later ring had three equidistant post holes. 'Finds' were few, but some hearths were uncovered.

However, another later hut produced pieces of bronze sword chapes and a further hut, just off centre of an earlier hut, proved to be Belgic and had a sunken floor. Two 'four poster' huts were also found with large pieces of pottery, and a well of the same period. An area with a scooped out and burnt appearance suggested a corn drying kiln. The pottery resembled Little Waltham finds as did a loom weight and spindle whorl.

The block of earth containing the sword chapes was removed entire and X-rayed prior to treatment at the Museum. Two ditched trackways crossed the site, each with a shallow ditch fairly near one side. The earlier track was winding - the other quite straight. The latter headed directly for Heybridge, whence Roman remains, now in the Museum come; perhaps the other led to the somewhat earlier salt workings?

Two Roman coins were found in the track. Post Roman, no Saxon remains were found and the Medieval field system is unrelated to what can be found of the Roman field system.

However, in south-west of the site was a moated enclosure situated at a sharp change of direction of the parish boundary. Before more recent sea-wall building, this would have been liable to occasional flooding and may well be the site of the original Lofts farmhouse, now on rather higher ground. It appears to be 14th century.

The early occupation of the site is paralleled by a series of early sites up the Chelmer Valley to Chelmsford, if not further. At Lofts Farm the excavations by Mr. Brown and his group were a Rescue Dig in advance of gravel working and were, perforce, often hurried but have produced a very useful idea of the varied peoples who occupied the area in the past five thousand years.

Recent Excavations at Chester. 24th October, 1983

T.J. Strickland, Field Officer, Grosvenor Museum, Chester.

Mr. Strickland spoke mainly of his excavations at Princes Street in the north-west quarter of the Roman Fortress. Chester has good communications as a port and on the road system and was first used by the army c. 50 A.D. But first important evidence comes from the 70s when Legion II built a fort with box ramparts, as they had previously done at Lincoln. This fort contained well built barrack blocks etc. and there is evidence of wall plaster painted in the contemporary Pompeii Style B. This Legion was transferred to the Danube in the late 80s, leaving a 'care and maintenance' detachment behind, but in the event the Legion did not return and in the 90s XXth Legion from Wroxeter took over. The wooden work of the first fort now needed replacement so a turf and timber rampart was built with buildings of timber on dwarf sandstone walls. These buildings were stuccoed over and had colonnaded verandas with stone pillars carrying carved capitals.

Between 100-125 A.D. a grandiose scheme was launched to rebuild the entire complex in stone. Foundation trenches 10 feet deep were dug, but suddenly the whole project was abandoned as the Legion was moved north and engaged on building Hadrian's Wall. At Chester a big iron working industry was set up, presumably to supply the needs of the northern frontier. However, in c. 170 the building works were resumed. Stone was plentiful and the fortress walls were the finest in Britain. Stone from the earlier wall was buried in the berm.

In the fort two huge buildings have been identified. One a store, the other thought to be a hospital (170 yards x 70 yards), this must have had an upper storey as the foundations were five feet deep and the stone work of very good quality.

Around 170-230 A.D. was the heyday of Roman Chester. The XXth Legion, which returned c. 100 A.D. was still there in the early 3rd century (making tiles) and remained until about the end of the century, by which time the bank inside the wall had been removed, leaving the wall free-standing and it seems to have been extended to include a sizeable civil settlement which had grown up outside the fortress.

A slow progress of abandonment and dereliction set in but occupation is shown by a gold coin of Magnentius (353 A.D.) and a crucible for gold melting, as well as 5th and 6th century pottery.

Parts of the large stone buildings were still standing in the 10th century. The speaker instanced a similar survival of a Roman fort in Trans-Jordan which is still used as dwellings by Bedouin to this day.

Medieval Pottery in Essex. 31st October, 1983

Ms. Carol Cunningham, Field Officer, Chelmsford Archaeological Trust.

Ms. Cunningham spoke briefly first of the Saxon Period, instancing pottery from graves at Heybridge. This early stage was followed by the 'aceramic' period in which little pottery has been found. What has been found is shell tempered (e.g. Saffron Walden). After this came the Ipswich ware - a hand made but kiln fired type and from the ninth century Thetford ware which was made in various places, including Ipswich and, after the Conquest, in many villages. This was a well-made wheel turned pottery with everted rims (cooking pots, spouted pitchers, storage jars etc.) This was followed by an early glazed ware - the Saxon-Norman Stamford ware, but a return was then made to a clamp fired, shell tempered ware with slip decoration and carinated rims from St. Neots. It is found mainly in north-west Essex, also at Rivenhall (none in Colchester).

The next type - with different forms from St. Neots ware - shows a chronological progression in tempering: first with shell, then shell and sand, then sand, appears up to the 13th century. No kilns have been found, it was probably clamp fired - a likely site is Blounts Hall, Witham. Like most of the previous types it is found at Colchester.

The speaker then explained the distribution of known medieval kiln sites in the County, which are commonest round Colchester and fall into three main periods.

At Middleborough were at least seven up draught kilns from the second half of the 12th century to the mid 13th century. The products included spouted pitchers, buckets, wide bowls, etc. and featured sagging bases. Production then moved to kilns at Mile End (early 13th to 14th century) which provided sandy grey wares with well developed rims and strap handles rising from them. Wide shallow bowls are notable products.

Similar articles were made at Great Horkesley (although the kiln has not yet been found) and in clamps in Suffolk.

The great days of Medieval pottery production in Essex were 13th - 15th centuries with Hedingham and later Mill Green wares. The former is found almost entirely in the north of the County and in places in East Anglia. It had polychrome decoration and strips, finger painting, etc. copying French originals. Some (Rivenhall) had twisted handles. Much is found at Chelmsford but during the later 13th century was displaced by Mill Green ware as it was in the south of the County, though finds in north and north-east Essex show production at Hedingham continued into the 14th century.

Mill Green ware was marketed especially in London and sales elsewhere were incidental. Colchester Museum has a good squat jug. At Mill Green the pots were well thrown and well fired, however, production ceased in the mid 14th century owing to competition from Surrey.

Wasters from an unknown kiln (mid. 13th century) producing similar goods, with a rough sandy fabric containing quartz grains have been found at Colchester.

Especially interesting are the expertly made louvred chimney pots made at Colchester and similar pots for fixing on the ridges of open-hall houses. They throw light on the architecture of the period.

Ms. Cunningham finished her lecture with an account of various imported ceramics found in the County up to the 18th century.

Trinovantium - The Archaeology of Legendary London. 7th November, 1983

J. Clark, Senior Assistant Keeper, Department of Medieval Antiquities, London Museum.

Mr. Clark began by comparing the legends of London's origins with Colchester's King Coel legend and distinguishing between oral traditions and attempts to explain surviving earlier remains. He discounted Stuart Piggott's suggestion that folk memories of Stonehenge's Blue Stones survive in Geoffrey of Monmouth's story of Merlin.

Most of the London legends are derived from Geoffrey's 12th century 'History of the Kings of Britain' which he claimed to find in a 'ancient book in the British Language'. However, they seem to have been inspired by the (then) massive ruins of Caerleon. In brief, his origin of London is described as due to Brutus, grandson of Aeneas, who liberated Trojan POW's in Greece and set off to found a new Trojan nation on an island. He landed at Totnes, drove off the local giants, founded New Troy, (Trinovantium) - later 'Lud's Town' - according to a later addition in 1103 B.C. In some versions Brutus was the long lost brother of Romulus and Remus, in others a descendant of Aeneas. In either case, London is so provided with a long and noble pedigree.

This concoction was supported by the existence of London Wall and frequent Roman finds when quarrying in Roman footings. The accounts of triumphal gateways probably derive from tales of Rome brought back by pilgrims.

Many such tales developed about the St. Paul's area. A late 14th century story of St. Erkenwald (7th century) describes graves of men in rich robes found during building work at the east end. The story is, however, a picture of 14th century life.

Londoners always believed St. Paul's was sited over a Roman Temple site (Temple of Diana, according to Camden). The belief that the site was a pagan religious one was supported by various finds, including a pit with 100 ox heads (c.f. a similar find on the Saxon site at Yeavering, Northumbria).

St. Peter's Cornhill, alleged to have been founded as the seat of an archbishop in 179 A.D. by the legendary King Lucius is on part of the site of a 2nd century basilica whose foundations were found mingled with those of the medieval Ledden Hall when the latter was demolished in 1880. Perhaps, here, there is a folk memory which mistook the basilica remains for those of a basilica church of the Anglo-Saxon period, but the speaker says that all the other stories are unscholarly speculations to 'explain' facts and finds.

An Iron Age Warrior Burial from Kelvedon, Essex. 14th November, 1983

C.J. Going, Field Officer, Chelmsford Archaeological Trust.

Mr. Going told us that a farmer, removing gravel at Kelvedon in 1982, came upon the burial and, although the actual location is still secret, it may be made public soon. At the discovery, an amateur archaeologist rescued the finds and investigated the pit, for which purpose he had to be lowered into the water in the steep sided pit in a J.C.B. bucket. Recovered were: two near complete pedestal urns, sherds of a third, one bronze vessel, several fragments of bronze and iron, which proved to be a sword scabbard and a sword bent at right-angles: (The sword had been withdrawn from the scabbard and wrapped in cloth) and the remains of two broken spears.

Although no bone remained (bone survival has been minimal in other Kelvedon excavations) the deposit is essentially funerary.

There are no real parallels to this discovery in Essex where there are 26 similar burials. All 26 contain swords and, where spears are present, they are beside the body. Some are crouched, some extended burials, the oldest are late 3rd and 2nd century B.C. Those with weapons are somewhat later. There was pottery dating from about 50 - 30 B.C. The nearest parallel in England is at Owlesbury in Hampshire.

The Evolution of Rhenish Wares. 21st November, 1983

R. Symmons, Pottery Analyst, Colchester Archaeological Trust.

'Rhenish' wares are related to Samian, they came from the same workshops in Central France and the Rhineland. The Central French workshops – most importantly round Lezoux - produced the early Samian ware (1st century A.D.) and, to meet an increasing demand for black ware with Samian forms, this new industry was developed, at first in less fine ware and increasingly in an expert way. As time went on the ware was produced in East Gaul and then in the Rhine area (Cologne, Trier, etc.) leading from Samian forms to Hunt Cups, black beakers, (or finger bowls?) with pedestal bases, etc.

The vessels were mostly decorated with barbotine, then coated with a black slip, although later ones had white barbotine on black. Later workshops in Central Gaul (3rd century A.D.) produced pots with stamped decoration on the rims - many can be seen in Moulins Museum. Other later makers developed excised decorations on their ware. Alesia and Dijon, particularly, attracted a considerable range of fine pottery.

Mr. Symmons showed slides of an attempt to produce a silvery vase with classical scenes, and another that looked very like the Colchester vase with a hunt scene. In the 3rd century Trier was the only producer of Rhenish ware in East Gaul as can be proved by the matching of chemical constituents of the pottery with East Gaul Samian ware. The basic form has indentations – some long and narrow, others rounder. Yet others have white decorations and inscriptions (BIBE and similar encouragements to drink). The end of the word normally marked with a 'triangular' design.

Indented jars have shoulders, but no attempt to indent straight sided vessels was made.

Some Rhenish ware is decorated with heads of grain, perhaps suggesting beer drinking. A much more common barbotine decoration is a scroll. Most of these types have been found on British sites, but a carafe shape made in the Rhineland has not been found here yet.

Two very fine vessels shown were one with four classical deities, the other with two handles. Even after Trier was overrun, the industry continued and Rhenish pottery of the period, although of a rather coarser quality, is found in the 4th century cemeteries. These later productions are also found in Britain.

Aerial Archaeology. 28th November, 1983

J. Pickering, A.E.G., E.S.A., F.G.S.

Mr. Pickering defined the aim of Aerial Archaeology to be a study of the total landscape so that the community could be appreciated as a 'going concern'. The survival of ancient monuments in relief is a typical of what was there, and like the search for something specific, can result in other features being ignored.

Unlike photographs taken vertically for aerial survey, (which may show crop marks), Aerial Archaeology studies an area from an oblique angle, by recording it under various crops, at different seasons, etc. He showed many pictures of the same sites, which, under varying conditions, showed different remains.

Photographs taken at a fair height revealed ancient earthworks etc. running across later features. Some showed the still observable boundaries of estates, or political boundaries. An experienced eye is needed to identify features, some may only be photographed at a low angle, e.g. interior divisions in Hill Forts, former stone walling on moorland; others e.g. ploughed out ridge and furrow, may best be seen under wind-blown light snowfall.

It was thought at one time that the big ritual monuments on sites such as Salisbury Plain or the Pennine Moors indicated settlement areas at such periods, then the theory spread that observable sites along river valleys were centres of population. Mr. Pickering shows that it was the areas between these belts which, right back in early times, were the main areas of settlement and the more noticeable remains on hills and in river valleys are there to see because they were marginal lands - being on easily flooded or poor farm land - and were not destroyed by later cultivation to a great extent. His pictures of a vast number of Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age sites in the Midland Plain, taken with great skill and persistence confirms this.

One very interesting type of earthwork in the east-west orientated system of enclosures related to a massive treble ditch system, some of great depth which underlie many later features in these plains, some a mile long.

Similar treble ditches were dug to isolate river meanders in neolithic times. These, he thinks, were to contain livestock.

The Fenland edge is rich in signs of early occupation. Romano-British enclosures and occupation sites usually overlie Bronze Age ones and, as the water level rose in mid-Roman times, and again later, the sites were not destroyed - especially as ploughing was not resumed until fairly lately.

Generally, Mr. Pickering considers that farming spread over the cultivatable area of the Country in Neolithic times and, in most parts, continued up to the present time.

The Aerial Photographer aims to build up a cumulative picture of past landscapes 'our most valuable document' for studying the past, and the series of remarkable slides we saw showed Mr. Pickering's great contribution to this work.

New Light on the Wine Trade with Roman Colchester. 5th December, 1983

Dr. P.P. Sealey, Assistant Keeper, Antiquities, Colchester & Essex Museum.

The trade goes back to c. 225 B.C. and amphorae of that era are found on the south coast, (especially Hengistbury Head), at places associated with the export of tin. These early types developed into the Dressel I form found plentifully in Brittany and in this Country in the Southampton district, Essex and Hertfordshire at mid- 1st century sites.

Since World War II 500-600 shipwrecks have been located in the Mediterranean. These were capable of carrying 300-400 tons and show how important the wine trade was.

Some amphorae have their source painted on them, e.g. EALL(ernium), LOLL(ius). A house at Pompeii is decorated with merchant ships and other tokens of trading. It belonged to Lollius and was destroyed in 79 A.D. so may well be the wine producer referred to on the amphora.

The Sheepen site, occupied 43-60 or 61 A.D. contained, in one section alone, sherds of 19 fabrics and represented enough amphorae to hold 1300 litres from 19 areas. All the Italian fabrics come from the area between Rome and Pompeii. Those from the latter town show black sand in the fabric - volcanic sand from the Vesuvius district. Other fabrics represent amphorae from Catalonia and Rhodes. These Rhodian amphorae have horned handles and are widely distributed on sites connected with Roman military occupation. Amphorae at the Sheepen site were 15 Rhodian. The Dressel I form gradually developed into later forms which were thinner and so more economic to transport.

A special amphora had a groove round the top; one found at Culver Street (75-125 A.D.) and another from the Thames, near Whitstable. The latter contained 6000 olive pips. Olives were sometimes 'pickled' in De Frutum, a boiled down wine which became a syrup. A similar amphora at Soissons is inscribed: OLIVA NIG EX DEF PEN M. CRASSI SERVANDIONIS - showing that it contained black olives in this syrup.

The production of amphorae at Brockley Hill suggests a Roman vineyard in the neighbourhood but it has not been located.

The speaker thinks it possible that some amphorae may have been shipped back to the Mediterranean, but this cannot be established unless a wreck can be identified as having a cargo of 'returned empties'. He also noted that Duncan Jones (1974) established that in the 1st century A.D. investment in viticulture was profitable, giving a yield of 7-10% so there was a great increase in production about the time when military occupation began in Britain.

Popularising Post-Holes. 30th January, 1984
M. Corbishley, C.B.A. Education Officer.

Not only post holes however - Mr. Corbishley's theme was the need to develop a wide popular informed interest in archaeology. He began with a resume on the interest shown in the subject from the time of early 19th century antiquarians with their crude digs and interest in upstanding monuments. These led to the formation of County Societies of those attracted to archaeology and history.

General Pitt Rivers was the great improver in the methods of excavation and publication but also an enlightened populariser. He built a museum with an adjacent pleasure ground. Thousands came and, of these, 12½ thousand visited the museum in one year.

The next notable figure in this connection was Mortimer Wheeler - a great archaeological showman of the 30s and 40s whose approach was 'We dig up things to find real people'. This new public for archaeology queued up in thousands to see the Mithras Temple when it was discovered in London, and many of the local societies such as the C.A.G. grew out of this interest.

The general public meets archaeology in three ways: in museums, at visible monuments etc. and through the media.

Museums 'being collections of objects with graphics', presenting the development of man's life in the past, are of limited success in creating interest in a large public. Of more use are 'interpretive centres' - often largely of reconstructions - such as the Queen Elizabeth Country Park (Butser), or the display at the Roman Fort in Manchester. In spite of shortcomings, a point of approach to archaeology for the uninformed is provided in this way.

Many visible monuments are not well displayed and urban excavations attract a considerable public for whom excavation may be incomprehensible. Most archaeology units now try to interest the public with displays, open days, guided tours etc. Many people have difficulty in relating plans to the confused sites they see - models would be better but are rarely practicable because of the temporary nature of the operation.

As for the media, very little British archaeology is shown on television now. What is wanted is a new Mortimer Wheeler to enthuse the uninformed. The press often gives a good coverage to interesting excavations even though many excavators are not expert in giving instant accounts of their work to reporters. The Mary Rose work and the York digs are outstanding instances.

Mr. Corbishley concluded by urging the archaeological world to 'get at the next generation'. There, he thinks, the seeds of a new informed public may be raised.

Sites and Monuments Recording in Essex. 6th February, 1984
Ms. D. Priddy, Field Officer, Essex County Council. (Archaeology Section).

The Sites and Monuments Recording Section was established about ten years ago and now has over 7000 sites and monuments on record, each entered on a 2½" O.S. map and given a unique record number. Of these, over 4000 are on record cards but the aim now is to put them all on a computer; when this is achieved it will be possible to produce catalogues of sites on a geographic (e.g. parish) basis or on a type basis (e.g. barrow, castle, etc.) Very many of these sites are known only from air photographs - the speaker mentioned the valuable work of Mrs. McMaster and Commander Farrands, both members of this group.

The most extensive piece of work carried out by the County Archaeological Unit has been in connection with sites which lie on ground which would be affected if Stansted Airport were built - not only on the actual airport site but also in the expansion of urban settlement in places reaching from Chelmsford and Braintree into Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire. John Hedges produced the 'proof of evidence' to put before the Enquiry on behalf of the three affected counties. His map of the threatened area showed an amazing number of sites - many still only known from air photographs. An object of special concern is the great number of moated and other medieval sites which would be lost if the scheme goes ahead. A crucially important one is the, already partially destroyed, ring enclosure at Bassingbourn Hall. The British Airport Authority is prepared to fund excavation at known sites, but not at the large number which will come to light as construction is carried out.

Ms. Priddy discussed certain types of sites - computerisation will facilitate comparative study in each type. She said that although there are few surviving barrows in Essex, even some years ago 1547 ring ditches had been noted - very few of these are scheduled. Then there are ring enclosures which appear to fall into two classes. The larger ones, with diameters up to about 70 metres, seem to be mainly Bronze Age domestic sites. The smaller ones, 30-40 metres diameter, sometimes have two opposed entrances and are referred to, often, as 'henges'.

Another type of site is the rectangular enclosure (e.g. Orsett, Rainham, Woodham Walter). Both types of site are often found with more than one ditch - this does not prove a strongly fortified place, normally it shows more than one phase of development. An interesting class of crop mark is the elongated one (about ten in Essex), often associated with ring ditches. It has been suggested they are the remains of long barrows but this is not established for lack of excavation.

Finally, Ms. Priddy discussed castles, ranging from substantial remains, as at Hedingham and Colchester, to Motte and Bailey sites found frequently in north-west Essex. It is difficult to draw the line between small Motte and Bailey sites and 'moated sites'.

Resume of some recent work in Colchester. 13th February, 1984
Philip Crummy, Director, Colchester Archaeological Trust.

An extraordinarily large number of skeletons has been uncovered in Colchester. Wire saw 200 in the 19th century and M.R. Hull compiled a catalogue of 700. The total to date is now about 1500 and 700 of these were found in the recent Butt Road dig. These last bones are now having expert examination at Lyons and will throw light on diet, expectation of life, stature, health etc. in Roman times. The findings will be published in both French and English.

Ninety seven of the 700 Butt Road burials were in substantial blank coffins, with stout nails. Among the others were two which seemed to be dug out tree trunks and a child's decorated lead coffin - a 'twin' to one already in the castle - which had been deposited in a wooden coffin. An adult's coffin had a lead lining. The burials appear to be in family groups, one interment had taken place over an existing one, but a long time later. There were three wooden vaults, with few nails, so they must have been assembled on site. Grave goods were few: some had bone combs by the head, others (mainly childrens') had bracelets etc. A wooden casket with bracelets, necklace of jet, shale, glass, was found at the feet of one skeleton. The majority of the graves were Christian but a few were pagan and contained pottery or glass vessels placed upright, showing the coffin must have been open at the time of burial and these were north-south orientated. The 630 Christian graves were orientated east-west. On the site had been a cemetery chapel and the structure close by (excavated by M.R. Hull in the 30s) is now regarded as the grave of a bishop or other dignitary of the Church in spite of its north-south orientation. There are likely to have been several thousand graves originally in the cemetery but many disappeared in sand digging.

Other cemetery sites Mr. Crummy spoke of were under the former A.S. Church on the St. John's Abbey site - excavated in 1972 - at least half the burials here had grave goods with them; and the Maldon Road roundabout site which was contemporary with the Butt Road site had a grave with three good pots outside the coffin.

Many, many children died soon after birth and had shallow graves within the town - these are rarely found. Those who survived this perinatal stage seem to have had a life expectancy of about 30 years, and only about one in twelve reached 45 years.

In addition, six skulls and a few other human bones were found, together with dog bones, in the back fill of the ditch near the west gate. These had been hacked and seem to be the products of executions.

Excavations at Culver, Street, Colchester. 20th February, 1984
N. Smith, Field Officer, Colchester Archaeological Trust.

Mr. Smith began with his oldest find - under all the Roman levels was a pit containing a collection of pieces of Neolithic (grooved ware) vessels.

The main area of his excavation was in the original Roman fortress, about the same size, and similar to, the one at Caerleon. The building stretched from a cross road near the entrance to the former library towards the south. On one side of the north-south street were barrack blocks (end on) with centurions' quarters at the road end. On the other side of the street were the tribunes' houses and houses where proof of metal working appeared - this may have been carried on, however, before the houses were built. Crucibles used in brass making were found.

When the army moved out the centurions' houses were adapted for civilian use. Clay blocks used in the lower part were preserved by being fired in the Boudiccan revolt, they rested on pebble and mortar plinths which still showed the shuttering marks made in their construction. The tribunes' houses were demolished and a street extended through their site, which had also contained raised hearths, probably domestic.

To the east were several small buildings, unlike the earlier ones, these timber framed buildings were supported on gravel filled pits. Here, in a drain, was found a smashed Spanish amphora (now reconstructed). The 'tribunes' site had produced a ten foot deep cesspit which had been in use for some time as it had been deepened in successive emptyings. In the pit was a large amount of broken egg-shell ware.

The later buildings all across the site had better construction than the early ones - they had mortar floors, better bases etc. In the barrack block part, houses encroached on the street and alley to form courtyard houses. Courtyard type houses also appeared after the revolt to the east of them. The site of the, now vanished, mosaic (found in 1881) was discovered and another mosaic 2½ metres square was found but is still unexcavated.

Partly excavated was a massive building represented by substantial post holes. This must have been a public building of some kind as it took in the sites of several houses and parts of streets. It resembles a similar structure at Lincoln. A coin find shows it is post 390 A.D. and it is possible it is an early church.

With the decay of civilisation after the Roman period it seems that the site was deserted and gradually grassed over. In the 7th century occupation is shown by the find of a Grubenhaus with much grass-tempered baggy pottery, but there was no continuity with Roman Colchester. A late Saxon skeleton was found, too. The head was missing due to disturbance in medieval times.

Romano-British Suffolk, Recent Excavations. 27th February, 1984
Ms. J. Plouviez, Field Officer, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Section.

Coin finds in Suffolk show a predominance of those of the Trinovantes influence in the south and of the Iceni in the north of the County at the end of the Iron Age period to which belongs the Thetford enclosure site, another to the south of it and a third, showing Belgic influence, at Woodbridge.

To the Conquest period belong two forts at Coddensham - not excavated - but one is likely to be related to the Boudiccan revolt. At Pakenham, a fort is to be excavated prior to by-pass building and another fort has recently been seen as a crop mark at Long Melford - all parts of a ring of forts around the Iceni area.

A pottery kiln at Stowmarket, midway between two forts, had pottery with a Belgic look about it.

The growth of civil settlements was stimulated by the military presence at forts, or by administrative centres. There is a general distribution through the County, though thin on the sandy coastal area and on the heavy boulder clay belt. They are of three types:

1. Semi urban - all at road focal points or river crossings; nowhere in Suffolk is over twelve miles from one - they served as market centres.

2. Villas - assumed to be centres of estates; one is at Long Melford. Their relation to Iron Age farmsteads is uncertain as earlier digs tended to ignore Iron Age finds and environmental evidence. The speaker noted that the only Roman evidence in the Ipswich area is the Whitton Villa. At Hadleigh, two adjoining rectangular enclosures produced 1st century pottery and an Iron Age corn drying kiln used for Spelt wheat.

3. Religious centres - Icklingham has a big Roman site with 4th century cemetery and what appears to be a church with a baptistry. A stone coffin was found and lead tanks. Also a chi-rho, but under all this were human skulls in a pit and a short stone pillar, suggesting the church succeeded a pagan temple.

Lackford, just across the river had a pagan Saxon cemetery. It is the probable find spot of three crowns. A gold ring and coins have also been lately found. The site was occupied in the Iron Age and Roman period and a 1st - 2nd century building was found with painted wall plaster fragments and probably a well.

Finally, the speaker said future efforts will be concentrated on south-east Suffolk. Here, Roman sites seem to be often near medieval churches.

Later Bronze Age Downland Economy and Excavations at Black Patch, E. Sussex

5th March, 1984. P. Drewett, The Institute of Archaeology, London.

The Later Bronze Age in Sussex runs from about 1000 B.C. - 700 B.C and since the settlement site at Itford Hill was excavated, much information on the economy of the South Downs area has been gained. Unfortunately, intensive ploughing has reduced many features to little more than crop marks.

Black Patch is on the Downs between the Ouse and Cuckmere valleys. It features a series of rectangular fields with lynchets linked by trackways and closely clustered round hut platforms levelled into the hillside. Further away from the fields were barrow cemeteries - all except three barrows are now ploughed out.

'Hut Platform 4' had two large huts and two smaller ones, an arrangement common on the Downs. Hut 1 had a ring of interior post holes and the reconstruction would show that at the back of the hut the roof timbers were ground-fast and, at the front, they were supported by a porch and low wall. On account of the windy site, the roofs were probably low and turf covered (rather than thatched). A considerable amount of pottery, quern stone, whetstone, was found here.

Hut 2 was much smaller, and Hut 3 the biggest with a big porch - here, in the best lit part, was a line of loom weights and, in the dark part, a store of burnt flints for use in pottery making and storage pits (one with a large store of carbonized barley). Several pieces of bronze were found, including a razor.

Hut 4 had more pottery than 2 or 3 and a store of fire burnt flints.

Besides the huts small enclosures were found with depressions, likely to be ponds or pig wallows, but possibly threshing floors. The fence posts round them had had large packing stones.

'Hut Platform 1' - very different from 4, had almost no artefacts which suggests the owners had removed to nearby taking their effects with them. However, a strange pit with a dump of grain was found.

The barrows at Black Patch were mostly much older than the settlement, being Beaker period, but the cemetery was still in use at the time of the huts.

Fifty six kg. of seeds - mainly barley and beans were found by flotation, and in the pits. The other seeds (nettles, goose-grass, blackberry etc.) may be due to weeds or reflect use in diet.

Not much bone was found, perhaps because of the very shallow soil but cattle, sheep, pig and red deer were present. Probably the space between the fields and the barrows was pasture and the excavator found hollow ways leading down to the spring line where the stock could be taken to water.

The pottery, hut types and other features, show a great similarity with those found at other Sussex Downland sites.

Mr. Drewett concluded by giving a graphic account of the life style (use of huts, diet etc.) of the Later Bronze Age people of Black Patch and a calendar of their likely activities through the seasons. Besides subsisting they had produced enough surplus to get whetstones, querns, bronze etc. from outside their Downland environment.

Roman and Medieval Cardiff. 12th March, 1984

P. Webster, Lecturer in Archaeology, Department of Extramural Studies, University College, Cardiff.

There are several military parallels between Colchester and Cardiff and it is known that the army units which left Colchester about 50 A.D. went westwards. In order to press on into Wales to overcome the Silures, they built a number of small forts all fairly close together.

The present outlines of Cardiff Castle are probably the same as those of the 4th and last Roman fort here. Excavations by the speaker and his team have revealed at least four phases of the fort.

Excavating has been difficult and piecemeal since the castle is in regular use for horse shows and fetes. The first phase must have belonged to the Neronian period when it was a frontier post for making war on the Silures; its outline has been delineated and the fort must have been 10 - 13 acres in area.

A second, much smaller, fort can be recognised from the main axial road and the main gateway, this would have been around 7 acres. A 3rd phase, when Cardiff was no longer the frontier post but part of a network of forts for Welsh defences, shows that the gateway was moved back and the main axial road made shorter and the area would have been about five acres. In the 4th phase it was smaller again when the outline would have been as now (slightly off square). The same main axial road still runs through the fort and there are remains of Roman housing on it, though now, outside the walls.

After the 4th phase there is no evidence of further occupation until the Normans came, when the buildings must have been very dilapidated. The Normans built the motte and bailey within the walls, originally the tower of the motte would have been timber but was later replaced by stone. Outlines of some of the administrative buildings can still be seen, including the large Shire Hall which was in use up to the 18th century.

This set of informal notes is produced as an 'aide memoire'. The reports have not been seen by the lecturers.

COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP WINTER MEETINGS 1984/1985

In the Lecture Room, Colchester Castle at 7.30 p.m. – Non Members welcome

1984

- October 15th Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk on Roman Medicine by Mark Davies, MA, AMA.
- October 22nd RECENT EXCAVATIONS NEAR LONDON BRIDGE. B. Hobley, BA, AMA, FSA. Chief Urban Archaeologist, The Museum of London.
- October 29th THE HULLBRIDGE BASIN SURVEY. T.J. Wilkinson, BA, Project Director, Essex County Council Planning Department, Archaeological Section.
- November 5th SEXUAL THEMES IN GREEK AND ROMAN ART: SIGNIFICANCE AND `` INTERPRETATION. C.M. Johns, MA, FSA. Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities, The British Museum.
- November 12th THE EARLY MESOLITHIC VIEWED FROM THE RUBBISH DUMP: EXCAVATIONS AT SEAMER CARR, NORTH YORKSHIRE.
T.Schadla-Hall, MA, AMA, Cert. Ed. Principal Keeper, Kingston-upon-Hull Museums and Art Galleries.
- November 19th ICE AGE HUNTERS: THE EARLIER PREHISTORY OF HENGISTBURY HEAD, DORSET.
Nick Barton, Donald Baden Powell Quaternary Research Centre, Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford.
- November 26th ROMAN TILE AND BRICK.
Dr. A.G.N. Brodribb, MA, FSA. Excavator of the Roman Bath House at Beauport Park, nr. Battle.
- December 3rd ENGLISH STAINED GLASS. D.M. Archer, MA, FSA. Deputy Keeper, Department of Ceramics, Victoria and Albert Museum.
- December 10th THE MINOANS. D.T-D. Clarke, MA, FSA, FMA, FRNS.

1985

- January 21st New Year Party at Ardleigh Village Hall.
- January 28th THE ANGLO-SAXON CHURCH OF BARTON ON HUMBER: ARCHAEOLOGY ABOVE AND BELOW GROUND. Dr. Warwick Rodwell, MA, D.Phil, DLC, FSA. Consultant Archaeologist and Architectural Historian.
- February 4th MEDIEVAL COLCHESTER. Dr. G.H. Martin, MA, D.Phil, FRHistS, FSA. Keeper of Public Records, Public Record Office, London.
- February 11th THE NORMANS AS BUILDERS. Professor C.N.L. Brook, MA, FBA, FSA. Vice President, Faculty of History, West Road, Cambridge.
- February 18th 19th CENTURY CAST IRON WORK IN AND AROUND COLCHESTER.
E.J. Russell.
- February 25th THE ANGLO-SAXONS AS ARTISTS.
Joan R. Clarke, MA, FSA, AMA.
- March 4th THE VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT IN ESSEX. 1797-1908.
A.C. Wright, AMA, Curator of Southend-on-Sea Museum.
- March 11th HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND THEIR CONTENTS IN THE CARE OF THE NATIONAL TRUST. M.D. Drury, Historic Buildings Secretary, The National Trust.
- March 18th Group Activities and Research.