Colchester Archaeological Group

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Colchester Archaeological Group

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Notes from the editor

Once again we must thank Ida McMaster for an excellent list of speakers, everyone who helped with the projector and Harry Palmer for his weekly lecture summaries. I must also thank Margaret Hill for word-processing this bulletin and Andy Roper for producing the layout.

Summer Outings 1991

Monday 20th May: Landguard Fort and Museum.

It was a fine early summer evening when the group visited Landguard fort. About 20 people arrived by car and were shown round by two local guides. The buildings ranged in date from eighteenth century to the Second World War. A particular notable feature was the underground powder magazines with their recesses for candles.

Monday 3rd June: Iron Age Fort at Clare,Suffolk.

About 25 people this huge earthwork enclosing seven acres with banks still some nine feet high. The site is quite unspoilt as it has not been cultivated since it was given to the poor of Clare by a Queen of England. We were shown round by a local guide who explained such features as the supposed site of the chieftain's hut and spring which supplies water all the year.

Saturday 15th June: Historic Kings Lynn and Castle Rising.

About 30 people went by coach to Kings Lynn. There was a conducted tour round the town led by Richard Shackle. The tour which was on foot stopped to look at various old buildings. Coffee was taken in the splendid vaulted cellar of St Georges Guildhall. Buildings looked at included Thoresby College, Hampton Court and The Greenland Fishery. Lunch was taken at the Lattice House a marvellous medieval building converted into a public house. After lunch the party took the coach to Castle Rising, where they enjoyed a short exploration of the castle which was only slightly marred by heavy rain.

THE RED HILLS OF ESSEX - PUBLICATION UPDATE

The Group book published in October is going well and our debts are repaid. We have sold almost half the quantity produced and, although we expect sales to continue only slowly, from now on we shall be in profit.

We have been able to make a donation of £100 to the Essex Heritage Trust, one of the bodies which made grants towards our publication costs. Any further proceeds from the book are to be devoted to suitable projects which will advance our knowledge of local archaeology.

The book was entered for two Awards for books concerning Essex produced by a local Society. In the Essex County Amenity Award Scheme we were awarded the second prize of £100 and in The Friends of Historic Essex Award we were the runners-up.

Several readers have kindly sent information on Red Hills not previously known to us.

Kath Evans

WATER LANE COTTAGE, BURES HAMLET (TL 90383409)

by Leigh Alston.

A survey is being made of all pre-1600 buildings in the parish of Bures St Mary, Suffolk, and Bures Hamlet, Essex. The building described in this article is of particular interest given its compact and functional design. Its original occupant was evidently a little lower down the social scale than usual. It appears, moreover, to reflect an intermediary stage in the development of the medieval hall towards the post-medieval lobby-entrance house. At a time when several important timber framed buildings in the area have recently been dwarfed by their new extensions, this house is also worthy of attention for the remarkably well preserved integrity of its original structure.

THE BUILDING

Water Lane Cottage is a three bay building comprising the usual central hall flanked by in-line service and parlour bays, beneath a hipped roof of collared rafters without purlins. The entire house is however, no more than 34 feet in length. As the accompanying plans demonstrate, the original door did not abut the storey post, making a screen passage unlikely, but opened directly into the hall. Single doors positioned centrally in each partition wall gave access to the flanking rooms, with a separate stair door leading from the hall to the solar above the parlour. The common joists of the service end to the east are unfortunately plastered, and their pegs do not penetrate to the soffit of the bridging joist, so we have no clue to the arrangement of this bay; given the single entrance door it clearly did not reflect the standard buttery/pantry division, and its ascription to a service, i.e. a secondary function, rests entirely on the positions of the primary entrance and staircase leading to the hall. The apparent presence of a door in the eastern end of this room, which may have led to a detached kitchen, together with its compass bearing, seems to support this interpretation. The position of the parlour window in the end wall must be conjectural, but appears assured since it is conspicuous by its absence from both front and rear walls. Plaster covers the lower face of the western mid-plate and prohibits positive identification. The staircase led directly to a likely gardrobe site, though the reflection of this displaced brace in the opposite framing (section C-G) can have no such explanation; perhaps symmetry is a sufficient reason for this. Note that this treatment of the wall bracing may be repeated in the eastern gable end (section H-E) where any relevant peg hole would be either obscured (by a radiator beneath the window) or removed (by cutaways for, presumably, a later window). The gap in the framing of section C-G at point' is not wide enough to accommodate a man, and stands directly above the stair trap. The communication door between the solar and the chamber over the hall must therefore have been in the centre of the truss, where a modern door performing the same function obscures any indication thereof. Modern windows occupy the same positions as the original windows in the gable ends, though in both instances shutter grooves remain exposed. The windows in the front wall too were shuttered; the recess above the service window in this elevation represents a cut away groove, while a small fraction of the groove above the hall window is visible. The presence of shutters by no means demonstrates an absence of glass, but in a building of this quality we can, I think, safely assume it. A fragment of window sill incorporating diamond mortices is found in the present staircase. No windows appear in the north wall, indicating either the presence of outshots, or, perhaps more probably an aversion to the north wind. The illumination of the chamber over the hall is problematic as both top plates are obscured by strengthening timbers bolted to their faces, leaving just sufficient room to determine the nature of the scarf joints with the aid of a probe. The evidence for the reconstruction of the front wall (section A-D) is nonetheless persuasive, while the rear wall (section E-H) is less certain. No trace survives of the original method of heating. The existing brick stack, though remodelled, could well date from the seventeenth century and is intruded through the roof, well to the rear of the ridge, by the removal of part of a rafter. The rafters themselves are clean and unsooted, and there is no evidence of a smoke bay or any other contemporary flue mechanism in the roof. The original fireplace,

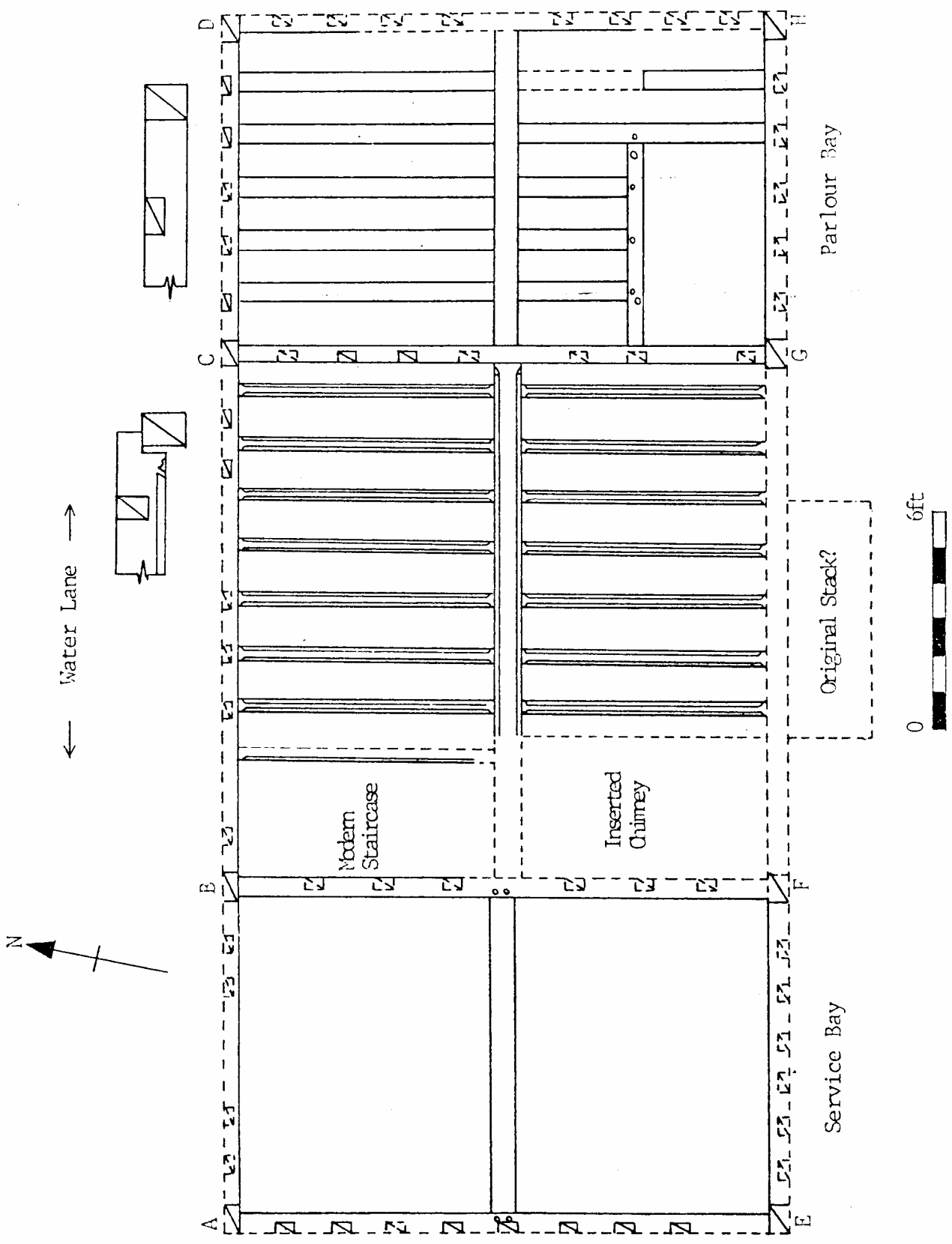

Fig. 1 Overhead Elevation

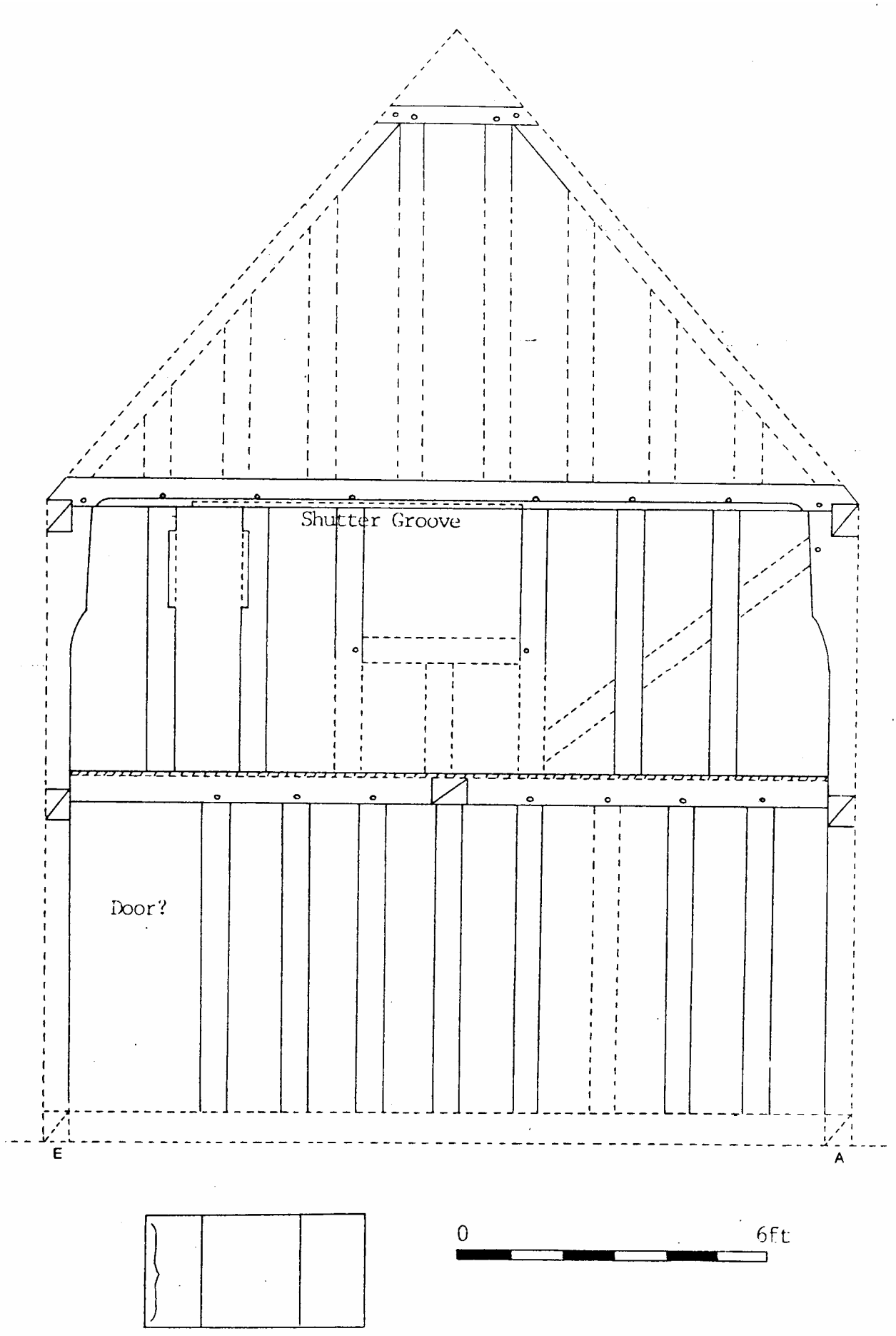

Fig. 2 Section A - E

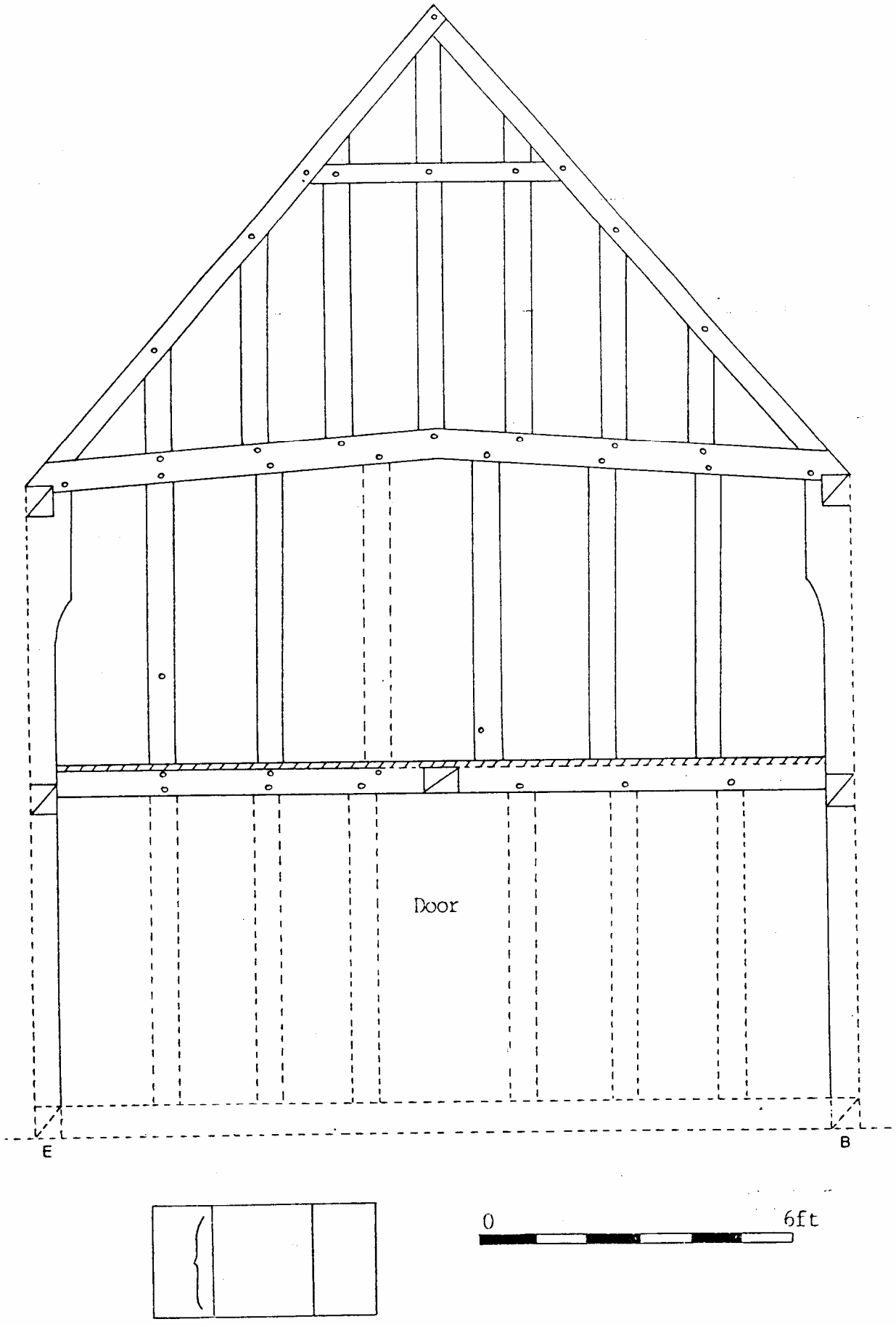

Fig. 3 Section B - F

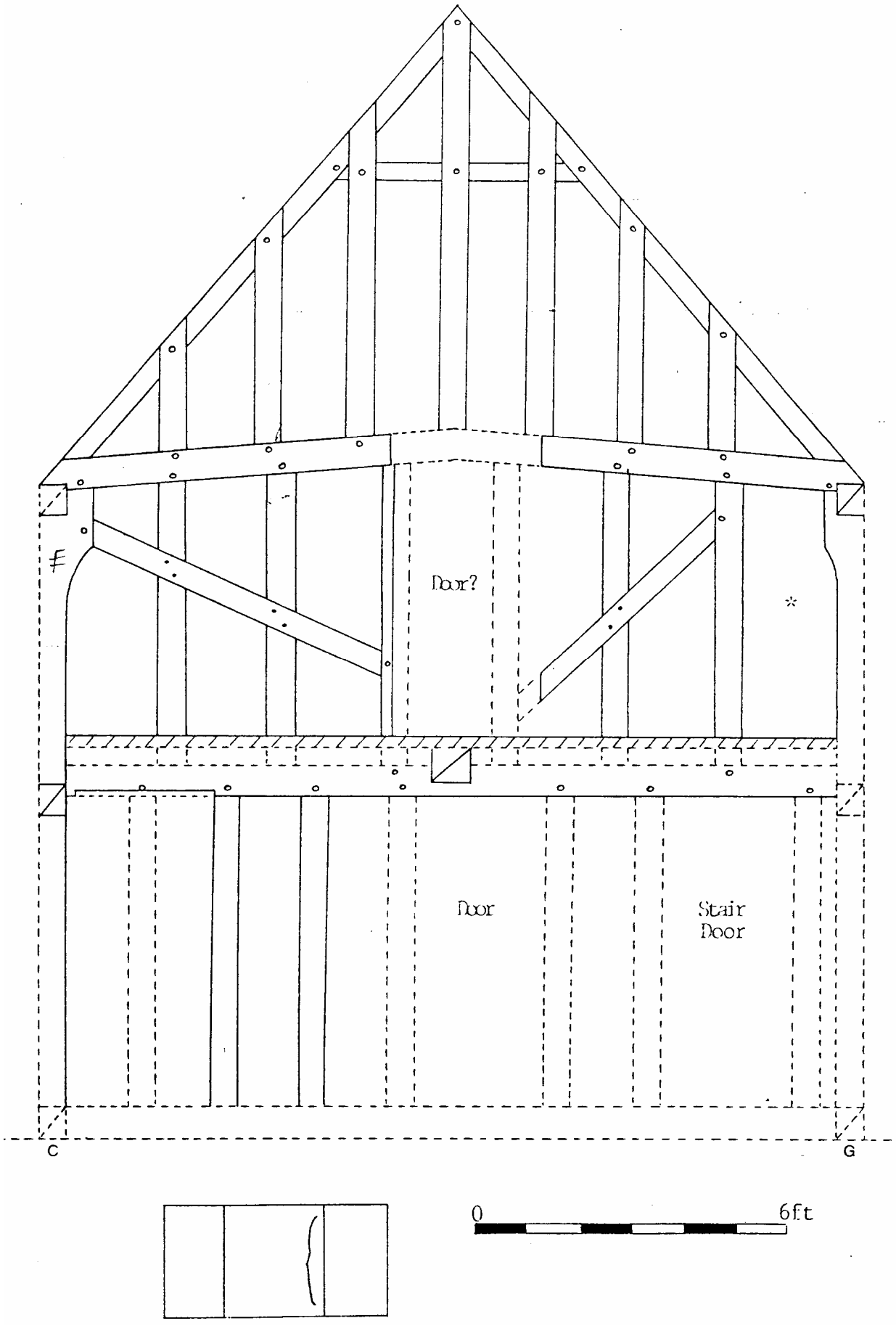

Fig. 4 Section C - G

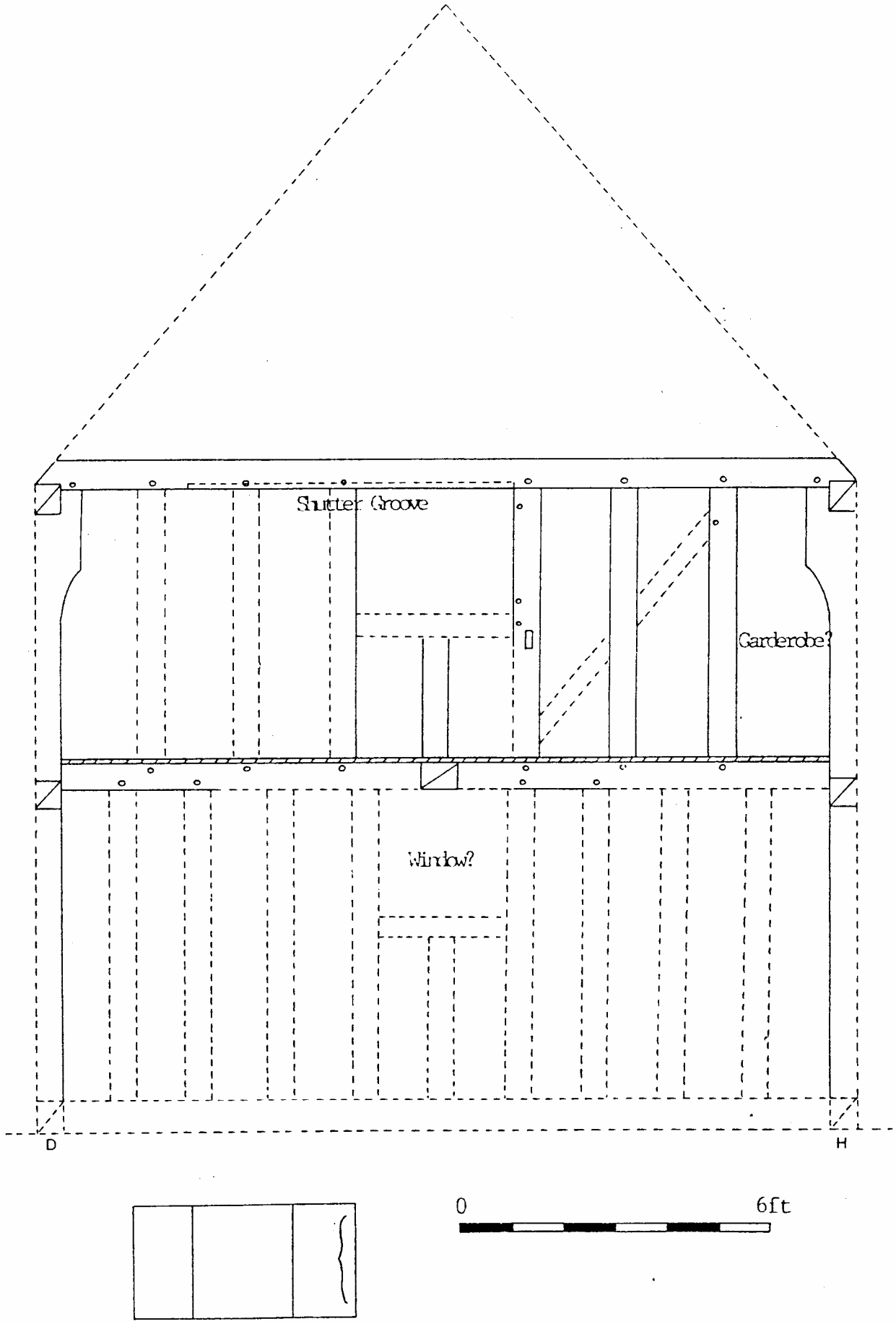

Fig. 5 Section D - H

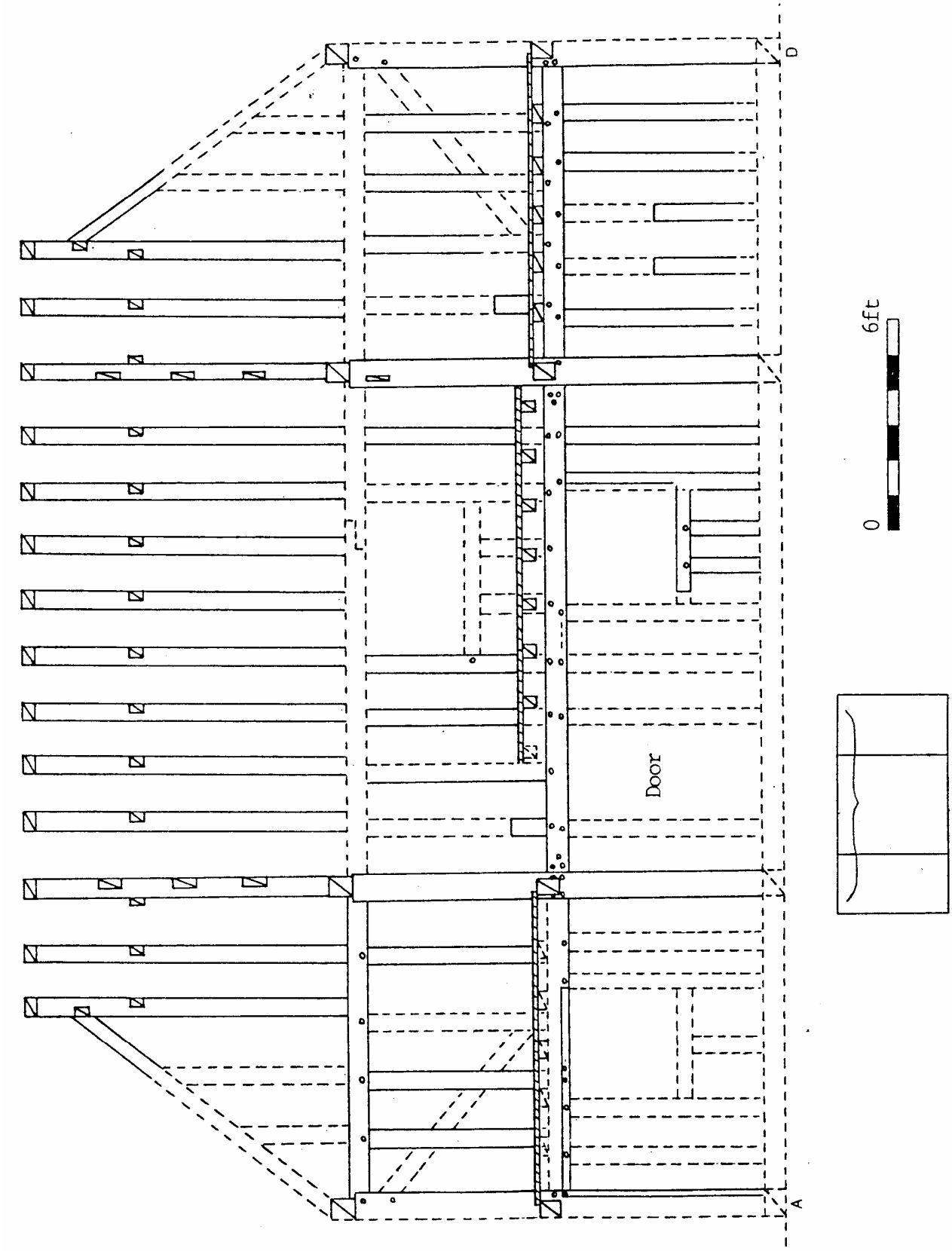

Fig. 6 Front Elevation (A – D)

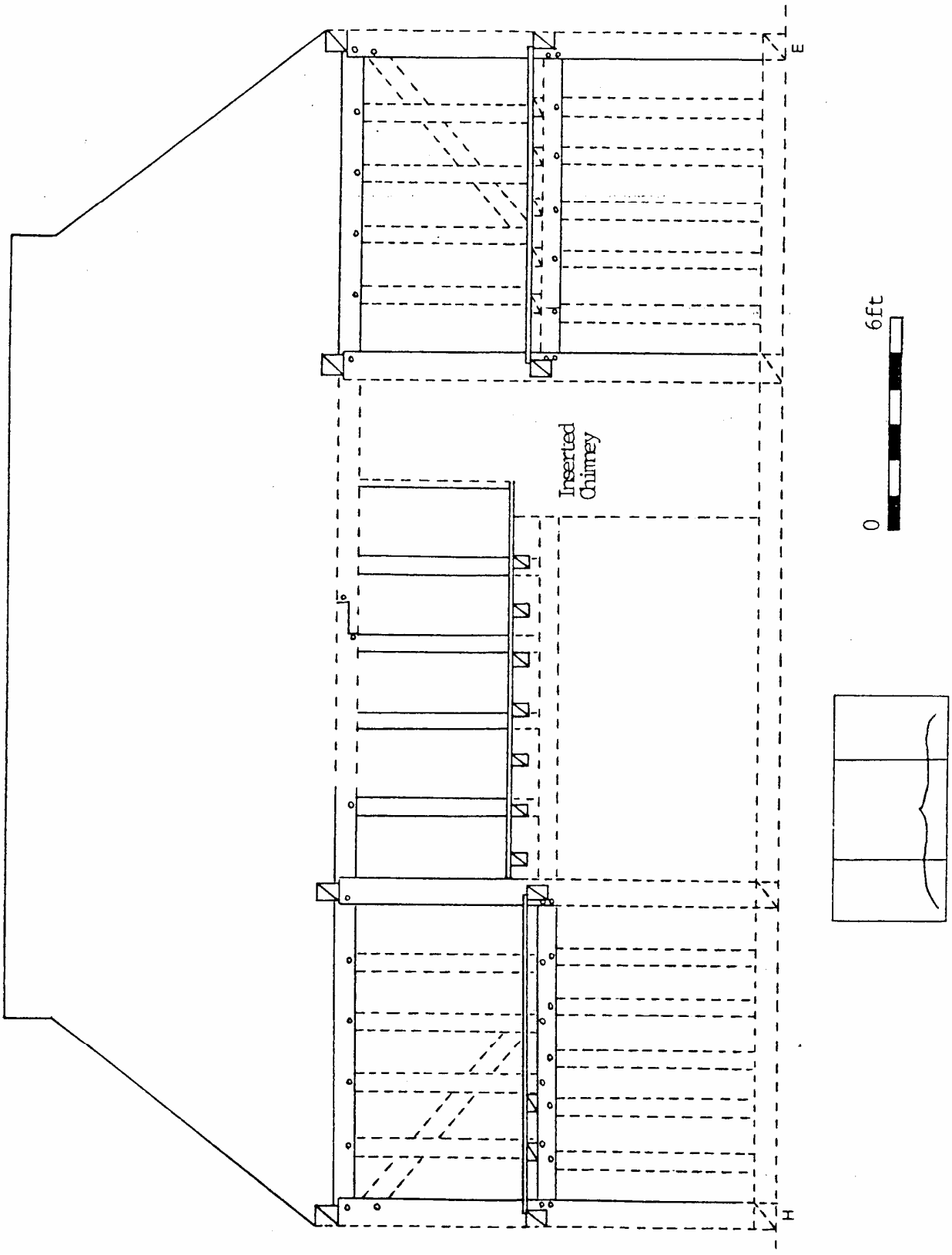

Fig. 7 Rear Elevation (E – H)

of plaster or brick, must therefore have stood against the northern wall of the hall where open access is now given to a small extension. The present stack conceals any remaining evidence of a rear door opposite the original entrance, though ample width is afforded for both door and fireplace. It seems clear that the present hall joists, deep sectioned and chamfered with lamb's tongue stops, replace an earlier floor. The bridging joist is laid over the mid plates as shown, and the common joists rest some three inches above the long-wall mid plates, with the resulting gap covered by modern boarding. The joist which supports the present staircase partition (the framing of which appears seventeenth century or later) lacks its lamb's tongue chamfer. This suggests that it has never formed part of the hall ceiling but is contemporary with the insertion of the staircase at this point; it rests upon a crude length of timber. The parlour and service wing floors are entirely plain, in keeping with the complete lack of elaboration elsewhere in the house, and are framed with simple soffit tenons in the normal way. The hall floor apparently employs housed central tenons, though positive identification is difficult due to the tightness of the joints. In conclusion two curious aspects of the framing should be noted. The studding of the ground floor is consistently closer than that of the first floor, with five studs beneath the parlour and service bay mid plates and four above, representing gaps of twelve and fifteen inches respectively. This may arise from the perceived need for a stronger frame on the ground floor, or simply from aesthetic considerations. A rare use of free tenons occurs at both ends of the front hall mid-plate (the rear plate is obscured). This implies that the plate was inserted subsequent to the erection of the storey posts. In the absence of any indication of re-use in this timber, one wonders whether the carpenter specialised in the erection of buildings at the lower end of the economic scale and was unfamiliar with the use of mid plates!

DATING

Since this building perversely ignores the dictates of fashion and boasts no decoration whatsoever the task of dating it is a difficult one. So functional a building may well have appeared on this site at any time between 1450 and 1550, even while stud spacings of no more than four inches were *de rigeur a* quarter of a mile away in the High Street. The roof structure occurs elsewhere in the hamlet in conjunction with heavy sooting, and given that side purlins were adopted quickly in Bures during the early sixteenth century a date in the first half of this range seems the more likely.

HISTORICAL EVIDENCE

A house of this nature is at home in its context. Water Lane has ever been a Bures backwater. While now neatly divided by the county boundary (the river Stour) medieval Bures was a Suffolk settlement with just a scattering of buildings on the Essex bank, which was, as it remains, liable to flood. As its name implies Bures Hamlet was no more than a hamlet within the greater parish of Bures St Mary alias Magna Bures. Only with the enclosure of the water meadow common land for building purposes during the latter half of the seventeenth century did "Bures Hamlet" come to describe the entire Essex part of the parish. In consequence, the buildings of the hamlet rarely reflect the cloth-based wealth of Babergh Hundred, as do those of Bures St Mary. Few of the latter escaped substantial rebuilding during the period 1450-1550, while on the Essex side of the river several fourteenth and early fifteenth century open halls have survived largely unmolested into the present century. Within this context the situation of Water Lane was doubly undesirable. Known in 1600 as "the watrie lane" its name remains descriptive; a stream still runs in a shallow channel some six feet before Water Lane Cottage's front wall, sufficient to drive a fulling mill in the later middle ages, and sufficient no doubt to have rendered the neighbourhood somewhat damp. Certainly nothing survives of the cottage's groundsill. By the census returns of the nineteenth century it is clear that Water Lane, by then replete with brick cottages, is reserved for the village's most needy inhabitants, many of whom received poor relief. A manuscript map of the area in c 1600 survives in the Essex Record Office, with each house individually drawn, albeit to a standard form. The map shows only three houses in the relevant part of Water Lane, and indicates that Water Lane Cottage was then in the occupation of one John Hackford, with a tenement occupied by John Lorkin to the east and the message of Wiliam Fisher called "Blanches" to the west. A 1577 rental of Netherhall manor in Bures, also in the Essex Records Office (ERO), describes the building to the west of John Lorkin's tenement as "chapman's tenement", then held by Peter Whyte. Whyte

was a man of some property and at that time heir to much more; he is unlikely to have made his home here. Water Lane Cottage can, with some confidence, be identified with Chapman's tenement, though little is gained by so doing. While the numerous other names associated with it, and with its neighbours, are very familiar in the context of surviving sixteenth century records, that of Chapman is notable by its absence therefrom. The manors of Pebmarsh and Henny owned tenements in Water Lane, as did Netherhall; Chapman's tenement may have been held of another alien manor for which records have yet to be traced. The area is dominated by the mansion of the Fisher family, who were the Sprygns or Paycockes of Bures. In 1577 William Fisher held the large tenterfield to the north of Water Lane in addition to Blanches and at least one other unidentified tenement in the lane. His mansion, then called "Nowers" and today "Secretaries" stands just seventy yards from Water Lane Cottage, and it is sorely tempting to regard the latter as a satellite of the Fisher empire, built to house a trusty retainer. This would certainly explain its functional nature. In the absence of further documentary evidence, however, the origins of Chapmans tenement, alias Water Lane Cottage, must remain sadly obscure.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to Major Christopher Robinson for tolerating my bizarre antics in his loft with consummate grace, and to Richard Shackle for his enthusiasm.

A Herbal Remedy from Aldham

by Richard Shackle

Bentalls Cottage, Green Lane, Aldham, is a timber framed building with a clay tile roof. There is a date on the outside wall of 1615 but I think it is earlier. Some years ago when Mr and Mrs Crane were renovating the building, they found buried in the wattle and daub wall, a small piece of paper wrapped round a twig. It had obviously been deliberately hidden.

It is a piece of good quality paper about ten by six inches. The ink has faded to an iron brown colour. Some of the text is missing where the paper is worn away along the folds, where it was wrapped round the twig.

The writing is now very faded and hard to read but Miss A Green, a retired archivist, has typed out a transcript and provided some notes. She has kindly allowed me to publish these. The entire transcript and notes are as follows.

A DRINK FOR CONSUMPTION

A quarter of an ounce of maidenhair [1], one good handful of hartstongue[2], cut the leaves off the stalks on both sides. One handful of Liverwort one handful of leaves of comfrey, one handful of Burnet[3], one handful of strawberry and violet leaves together, one handful of knot grass and shepherd's purse together, one handful of Balm, one handful of Parsley & fennel roots together, tops of sweet marjoram, Rosemary, (mari)gold flowers, horehound[4], of these half a handful; a porringer full of the pith of an ox, half an ounce of Ghene[s] infused by itself in water ; a quarter of a pound of (dates?) sliced, quarter of a pound of blue figs, a quarter of a pound of raisins of the sun, stoned, a quarter of a pound of blue currants, a quarter of an ounce of liquorice sliced? a quarter of an ounce of ann(iseed), a blade or two of mace, …… of hartshorn? Boil all of these together in (3 quarts?) of running water in a new pipkin till the third part be consumed, then strain it out, not wring it. Put it into the pipkin again, put to it one (quart?) of the best white (wine), a pound of best loaf sugar & set (line missing) quarter of an hour (part of line missing) when? you put? the Ghene was (missing) boils skim it when --- the sugar when it (is) cold put in bottles & let the …….drink a po... at night …… in the morning ……be taken of b----.

NOTES

1. Fern
2. Ditto
3. Salad Burnet a herb.
4. Pith or marrow of the spine. The Oxford English Dictionary has a quotation from a work published in 1741; "Take a Quantity of the Pith of an Ox".
5. Ghene may be Geen, the wild cherry, but it is more likely to be Genoa; the Dictionary gives Geane or Gene for Genoa, from which various goods were exported to England, including "treacle of Gene" and the place-name was used for the goods exported.

Spelling and punctuation have been modernised. The words whose spelling Miss Green has modernised are :

Stranber =	Strawberry
leverwort =	liverwort
purs =	purse
marjorom=	marjoram
liceris =	liquorice

This herbal remedy probably dates from the eighteenth or early nineteenth century. It was probably used by a local `wise woman', who gave medical advice to local people who could not afford proper doctors or perhaps did not trust them. She probably knew the recipe by heart but kept a copy hidden in the wall just in case: where any rivals would not find it.

I should like to thank Mr and Mrs Tuson for allowing me to examine the original piece of paper with the herbal remedy on it.

A Neolithic Settlement on the North Bank of the River Blackwater

K.P. and P.C. Adkins.

Introduction

In the mid 1970's, whilst flying over the northern terrace of the river Blackwater, Kelvin Adkins and his father Pat photographed and recorded several complex crop mark sites. In 1980 they recorded new sites in the area and during an on-ground follow up visit to Chigborough Farm, Little Totham, they were given the opportunity by the farmer Mr L P Sampson to survey and excavate one of the sites. Parts of the excavation and survey have already been published:

> 'A Neolithic cooking pit at Chigborough Farm, Little Totham', *Colchester Archaeological Group Bulletin, 27,* pp 33-44.
> 'Saxon loom weights and Roman pottery from Chigborough Farm, Little Totham', *CAG Bulletin,* **28,** pp 44-56.

It is intended in this article to report on the remaining Neolithic features and to make some assessment of the inhabitants' way of life, population and the landscape at the time of occupation.

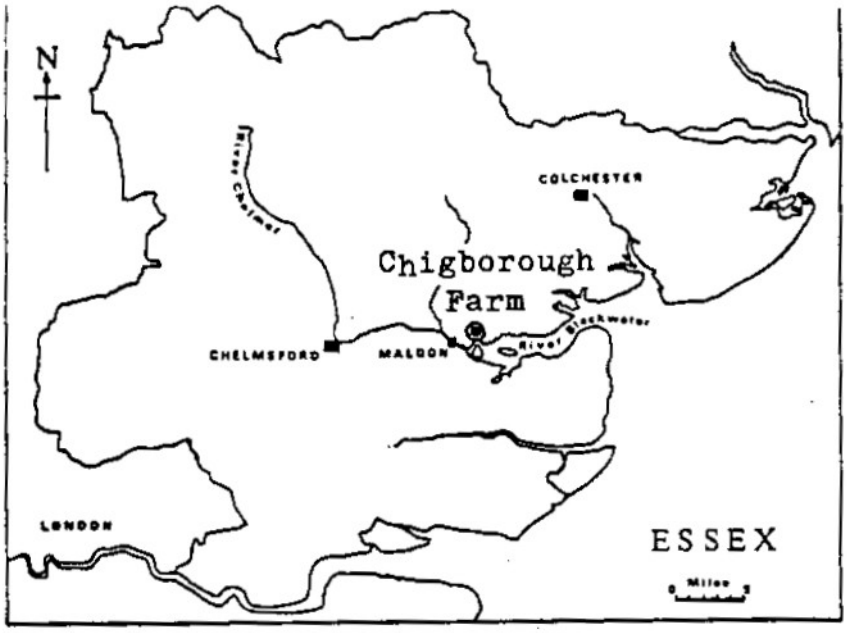

Fig 1. LOCATION OF CHIGBOROUGH FARM, LITTLE TOTHAM.

A Neolithic Building at Chigborough

The most important discovery at the site was of a Neolithic building, probably a house. Figure 2 shows the whole of the site at Chigborough, with the site being discussed being at the bottom of site one. Figure 3 is a detailed plan of the features of site one. Figure 4 shows the southern part of site one, called area one.

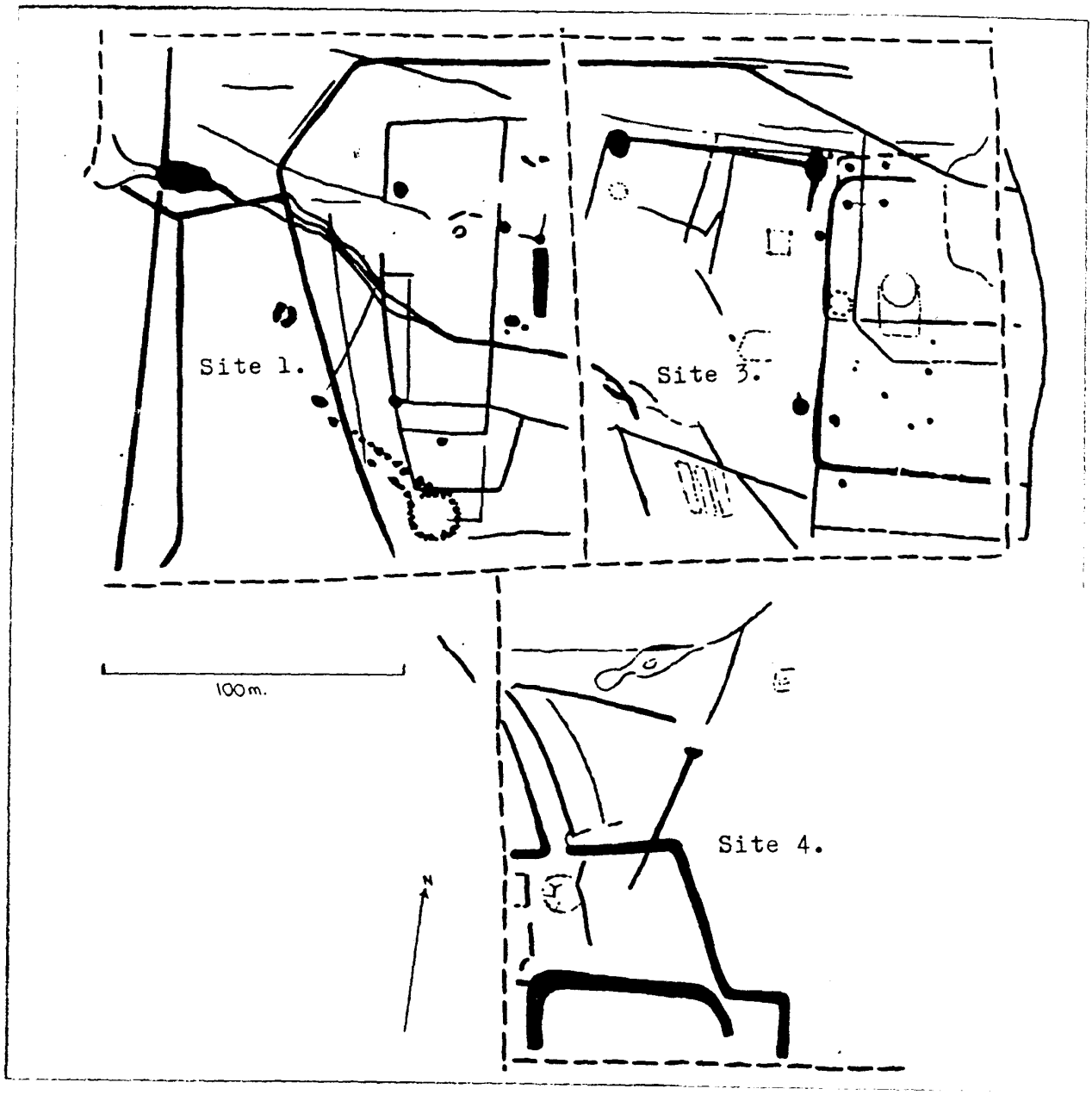

Fig 2. CROP-MARK COMPLEX AT CHIGBOROUGH FARM

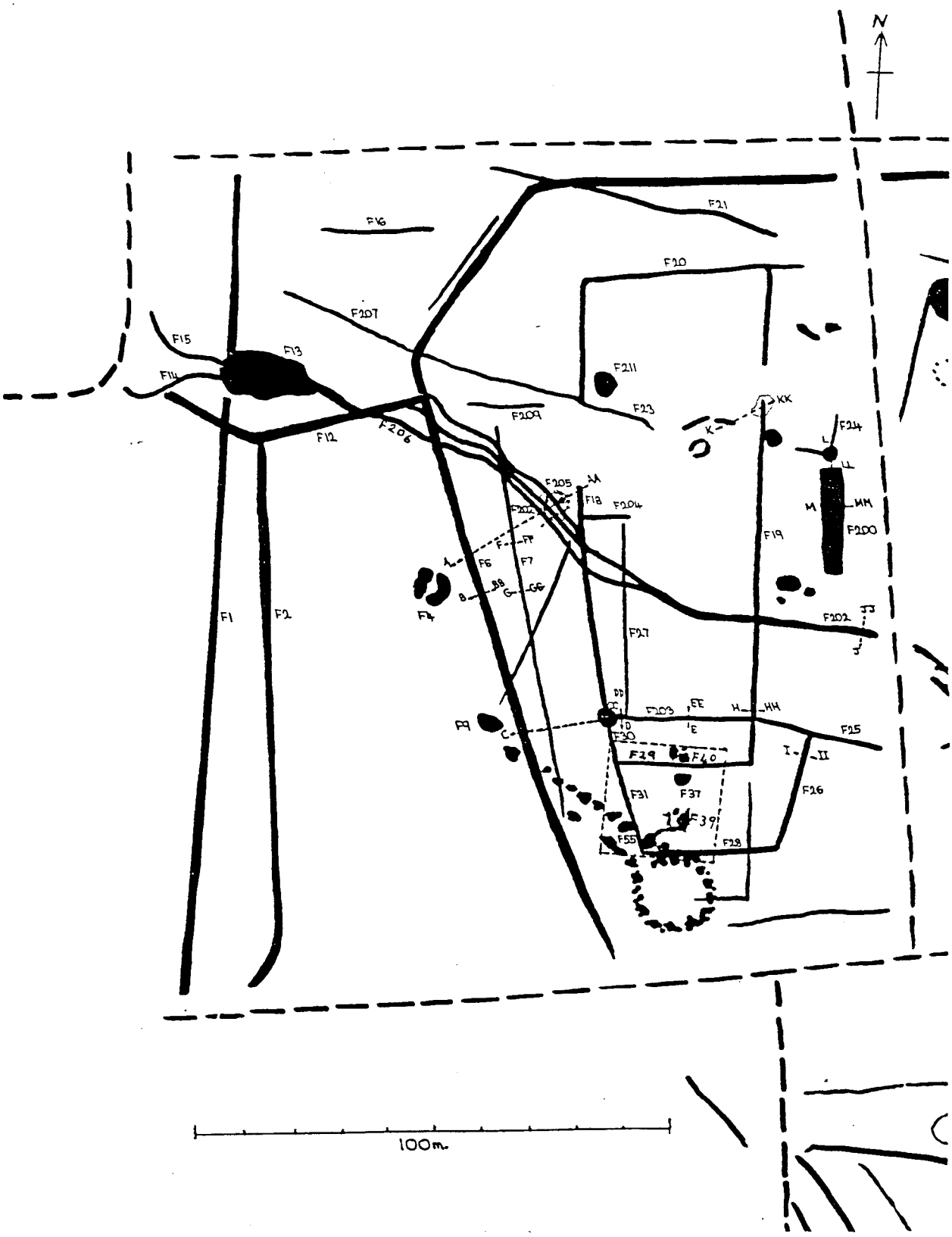

Fig 3. PLAN OF MAJOR CROPMARKS AT SITE ONE.
Chigborough Farm showing exploratory trenches (large dashed lines) and Area 1 (small dashed lines).

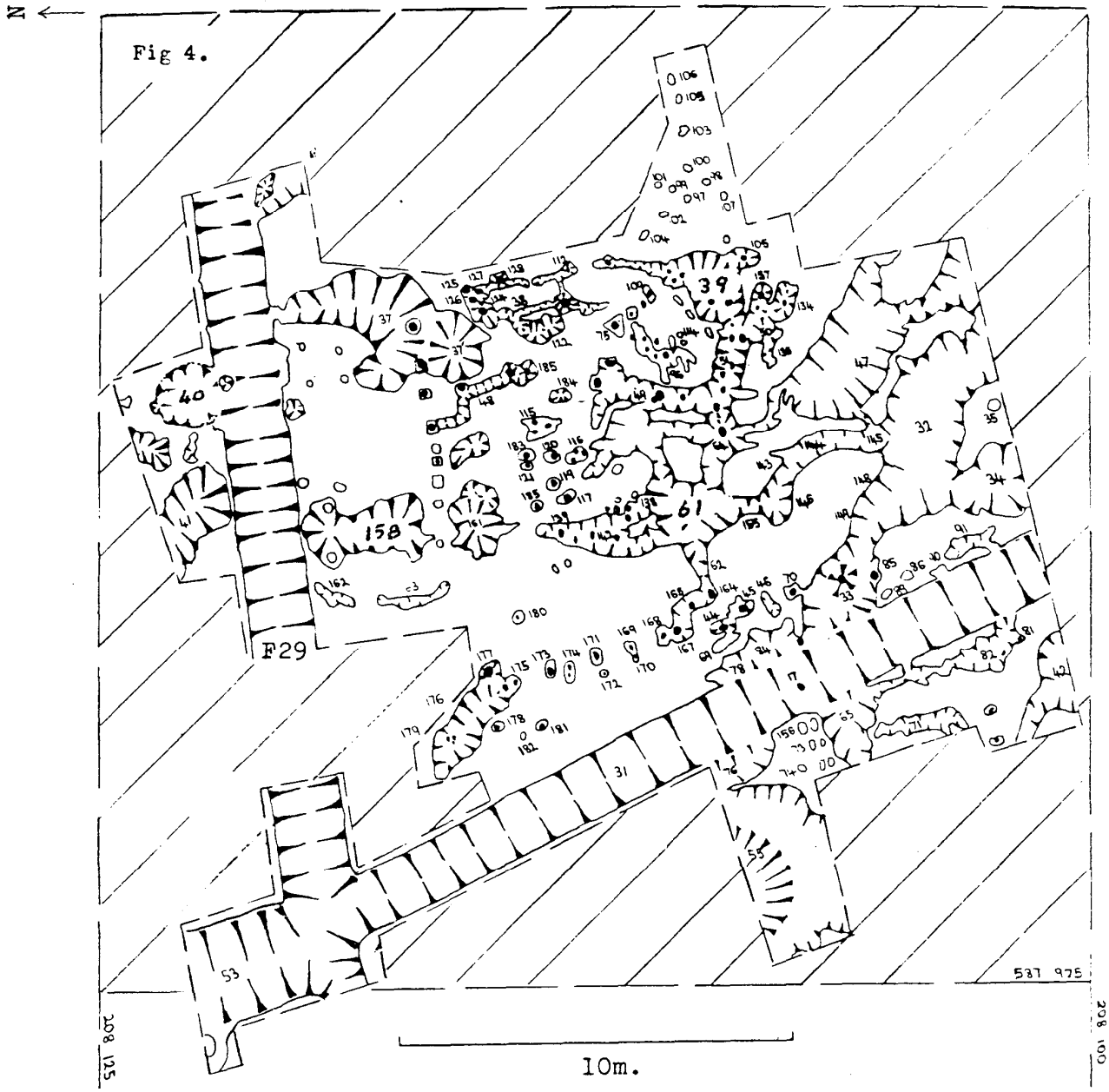

Fig 4. PLAN OF AREA 1.
Features evident at depth 0.31m.

Area One: Features, Fills and Finds

Feature F39 (see Fig 6)

A horseshoe shaped gully with possible post holes penetrating the underlying gravels represents a hut (fig 6). Post holes were also evident across the open north end of the gully. The gully was bridged in the south east corner by a narrow causeway. Some small post or stake holes may in the hut may represent internal features such as partitions or furniture such as a bed or bench. The south and west part of the gully was `U-shaped' in profile and was about 0.5m deep and 0.8m wide. The eastern portion was similar with the outer edge bowed out along its length and in transverse section sloped out at approximately 45 degrees.

The gully contained the following four layers with occasional lens of other material.

Layer F39-1 - A reddish-brown fine loamy fill forming a domed capping over the feature. This layer is not illustrated in any of the drawings. There were several finds similar to those in F39-2.
Layer F39-2 - Virtually stone-free grey brown fine friable fill with some specks charcoal/ash. **Finds:** many fragments of grit tempered pot, a few heat cracked off-white/grey stones, chips of charcoal, small red stones, many napped flint flakes and worked flint.
Layer F39-2a - Sections B-BB & FF-F. A'U-shaped' lens of black humus soil with specks of charcoal/ash.
Layer F39-3 - A wedge of stony light brown soil. Some medium to large (50-75mm) stones were found lying close to the gravel bank of the gully.
Layer F39-4 - The primary fill, a fine grey silt probably wind deposited. **Finds:** One large "core" of grey flint was found at the base of this primary fill (see Fig 9a).

Two very high concentrations of worked flint were located (Fig 5, points A & B) with finds similar to those in F39-2. One of the flint rich areas was immediately west of the narrow causeway. The finds include a perfectly "micro-napped" flint borer (see Fig 9b). The second flint concentration was located 1.0m west of the hut adjacent to a shallow part of the gully. Many microliths were recovered from this feature.

Feature F37 (see Fig 7)

A large 'comma-shaped' pit having a shallow basin feature at its head. Its purpose is as yet unknown. The inner north western bank was undercut in places. The outer edge sloped at an angle of approximately 45 degrees. There was evidence of two post holes in the primary fill at one end of the pit.

The four main layers of fill, 1, 3, 6 & 7, were similar to 1, 2, 3 & 4 respectively of F39. This fill sequence was typical of the other shallow features on the site.

Layer F37-1 - A shallow layer of reddish brown fine soil forms a domed capping over the feature.
Layer F37-2 - A sloping channel cutting into layer 3 contains brown stony fill.
Layer F37-3 - A grey brown fine fill with some stone inclusions. Most of the finds were from this layer. Layer F37-4 - A grey brown fill flecked with crumbs of consolidated mineral salts.
Layer F37-4a -(B-BB). This was possibly a post pit. It contained dark brown pockets of organic material and the charcoal flecked fill may have been the remains of posts.
Layer F37-5 - A grey brown fine fill flecked with rust staining.
Layer F37-6 - A wedge shaped stony fill similar to layer 2.
Layer F37-7 - A very fine grey wind blown silt which had partly leached into the underlying gravel. Layer F37-8 - Natural golden gravel.

Despite considerable effort trying to interpret F37, it has posed more questions than have been answered.

Question: Was this large pit used to collect water or drain water away from the huts? A gully running from the adjoining hut F39 towards the south east (F37) could have taken the surface water away from the north side of the larger posted building F38-F142.

Question: Was pit F37 originally dug in search of flint? Flint had certainly been worked nearby.

Question: Was the pit the source of clean gravel used to cover the mud in around the hut, thereby creating a dry hard floor? There was evidence that clean gravel had been placed over dirtier soil in the area around F38.

Question: Had the pit been used as a "live fish or shell fish larder"? F37 was situated close to the cooking pit F40[11] but did not appear to have been lined or waterproofed although the bottom contained a layer of fine grey loamy silt which had leached into the natural gravel.

Feature F38 (see Fig 5)

F38 is interpreted as the main entrance to the hut complex. It consisted of kidney shaped staggered channels linking a cluster of post holes. There was evidence in the region between the channels in this 'possible doorway' that clean gravel had been placed over muddier levels below.

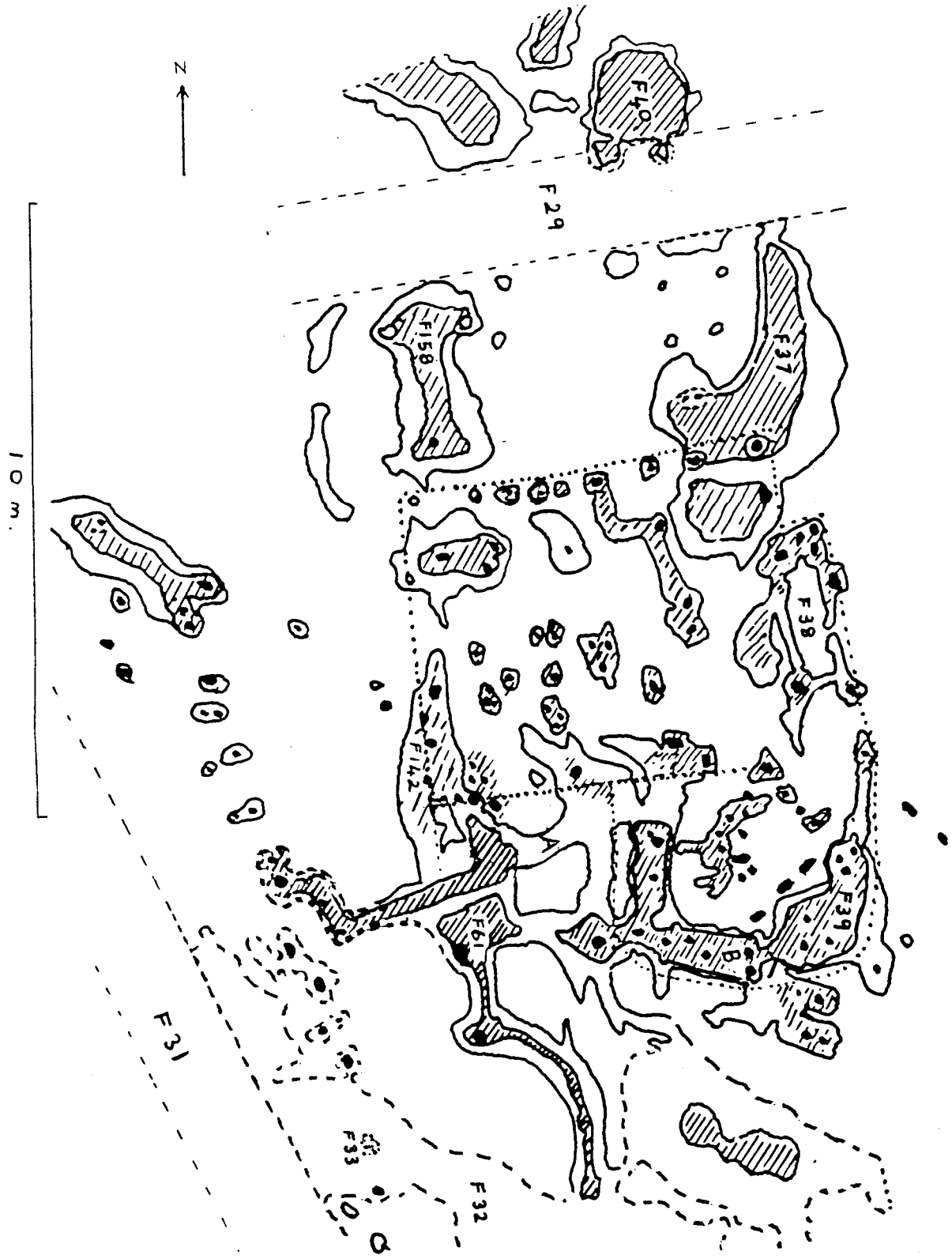

Fig 5. THE MAIN FEATURES CONTAINING EVEIDENCE OF NEOLITHIC OCCUPATION.
Features associated with the hut complex (F39, F38 - F142) are shown and the floor areas of both buildings are delineated by dotted lines.
Hatched areas are features recorded at 0.45m deep. Features not considered to be of Neolithic origin are shown in dashed outline.

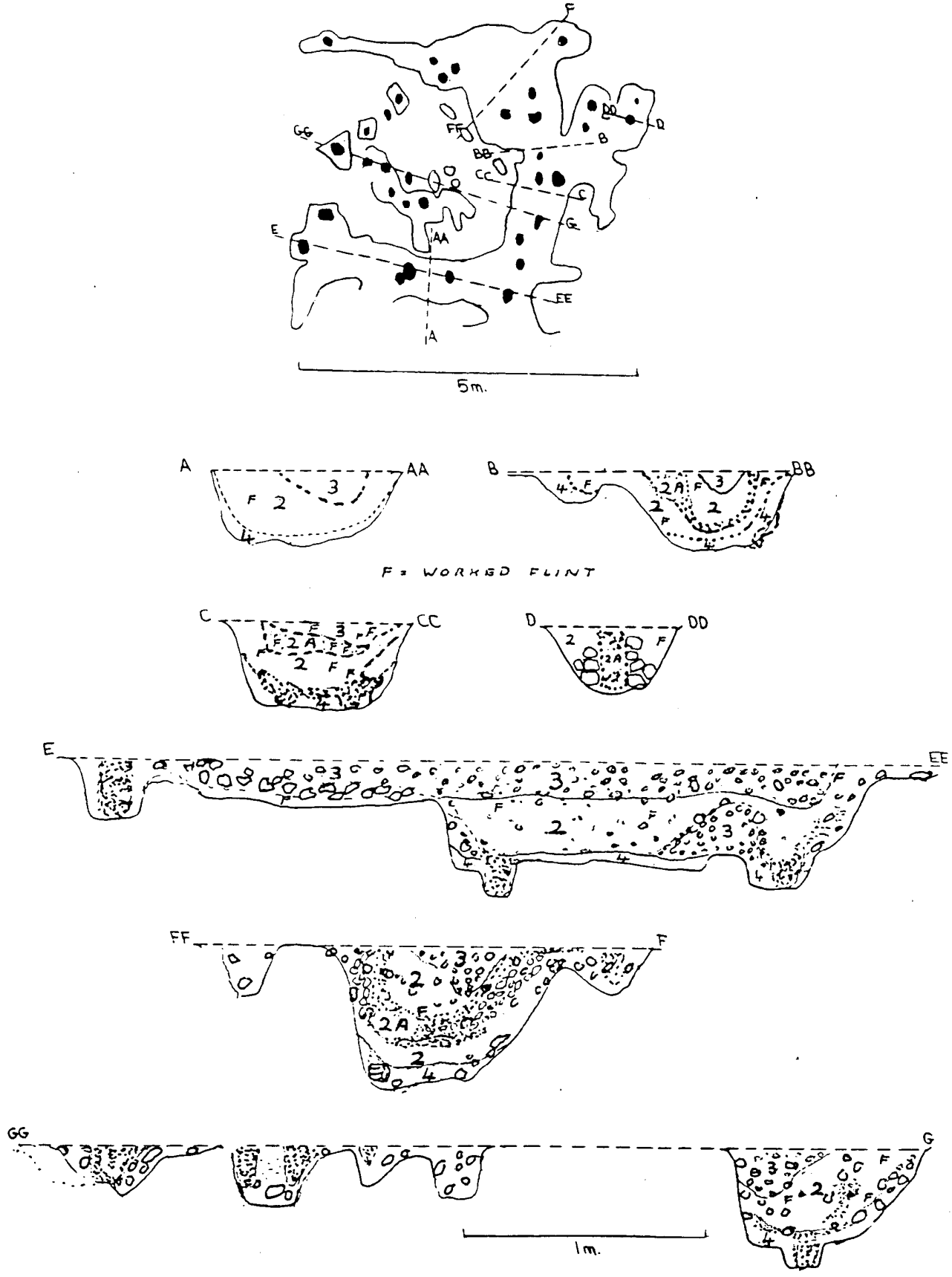

Fig 6. DETAILED SECTION DRAWINGS OF HUT F39.

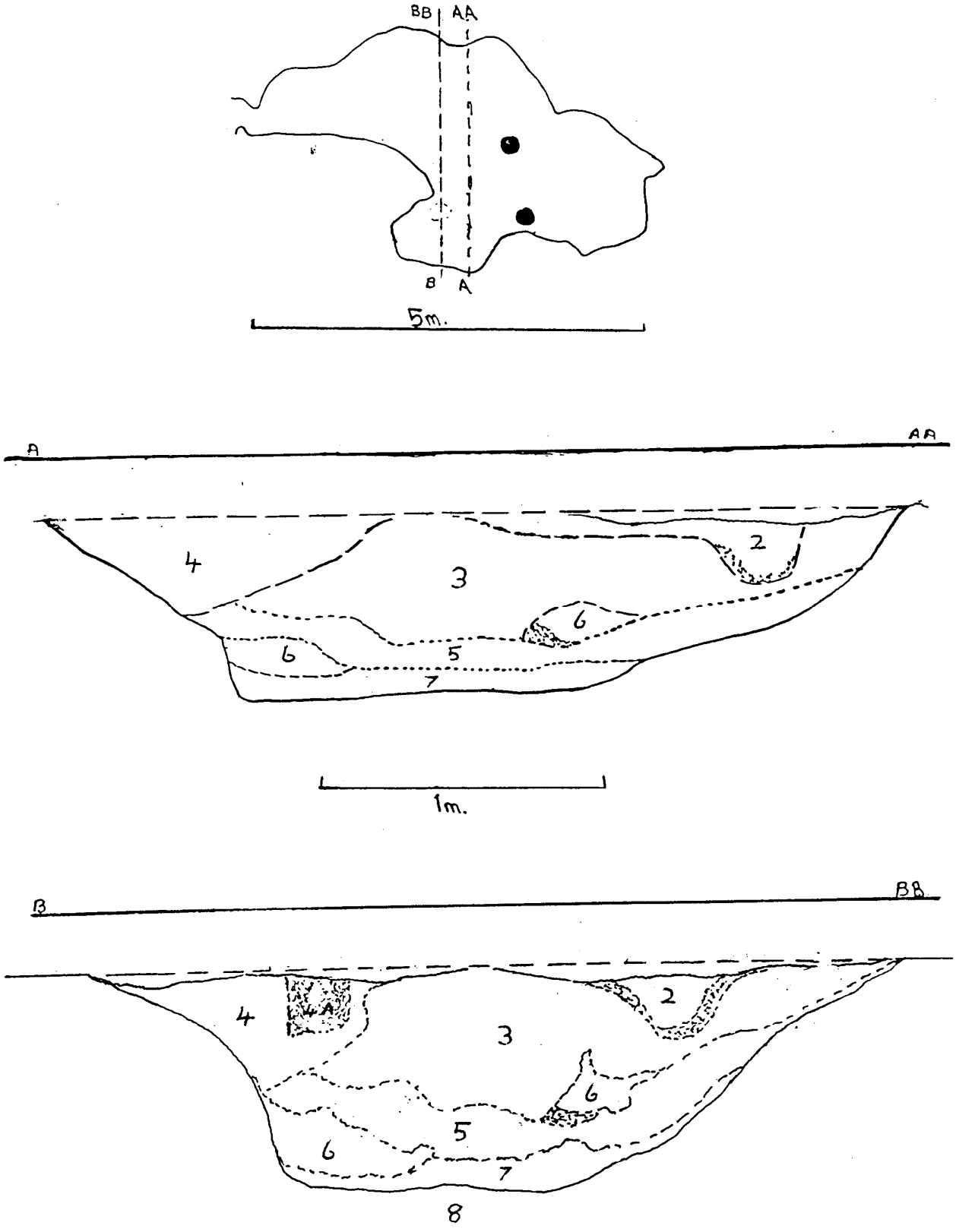

Fig 7. DETAILED SECTION DRAWINGS OF PIT F37.

Fig 8 SAMPLES OF WORKED FLINT FINDS FROM HUT GULLY F39.

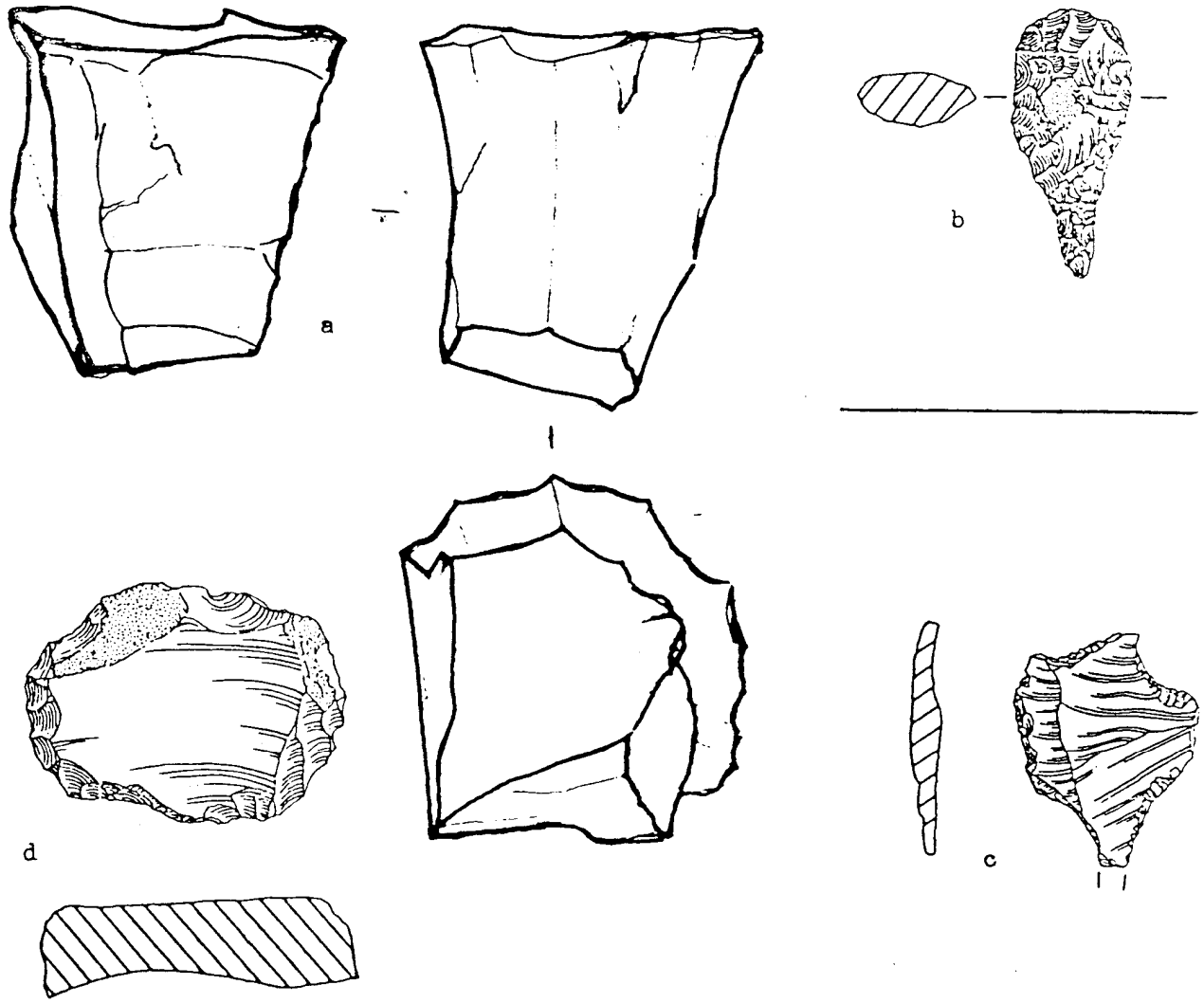

Fig 9. MORE EXAMPLES OF WORKED FLINT FINDS FROM F39
(a) a flint core from the base of the gully, and (b) a micro-napped flint borer.

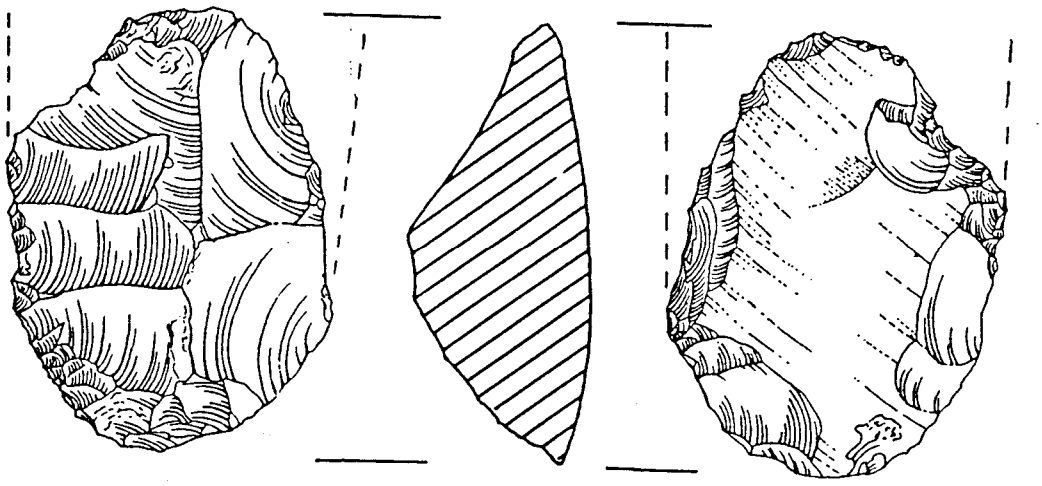

Fig 10. A NEOLITHIC FIND FROM ONE OF THE OTHER FEATURES ON THE SITE. A grey flint core which originated from a fragment of polished axe.

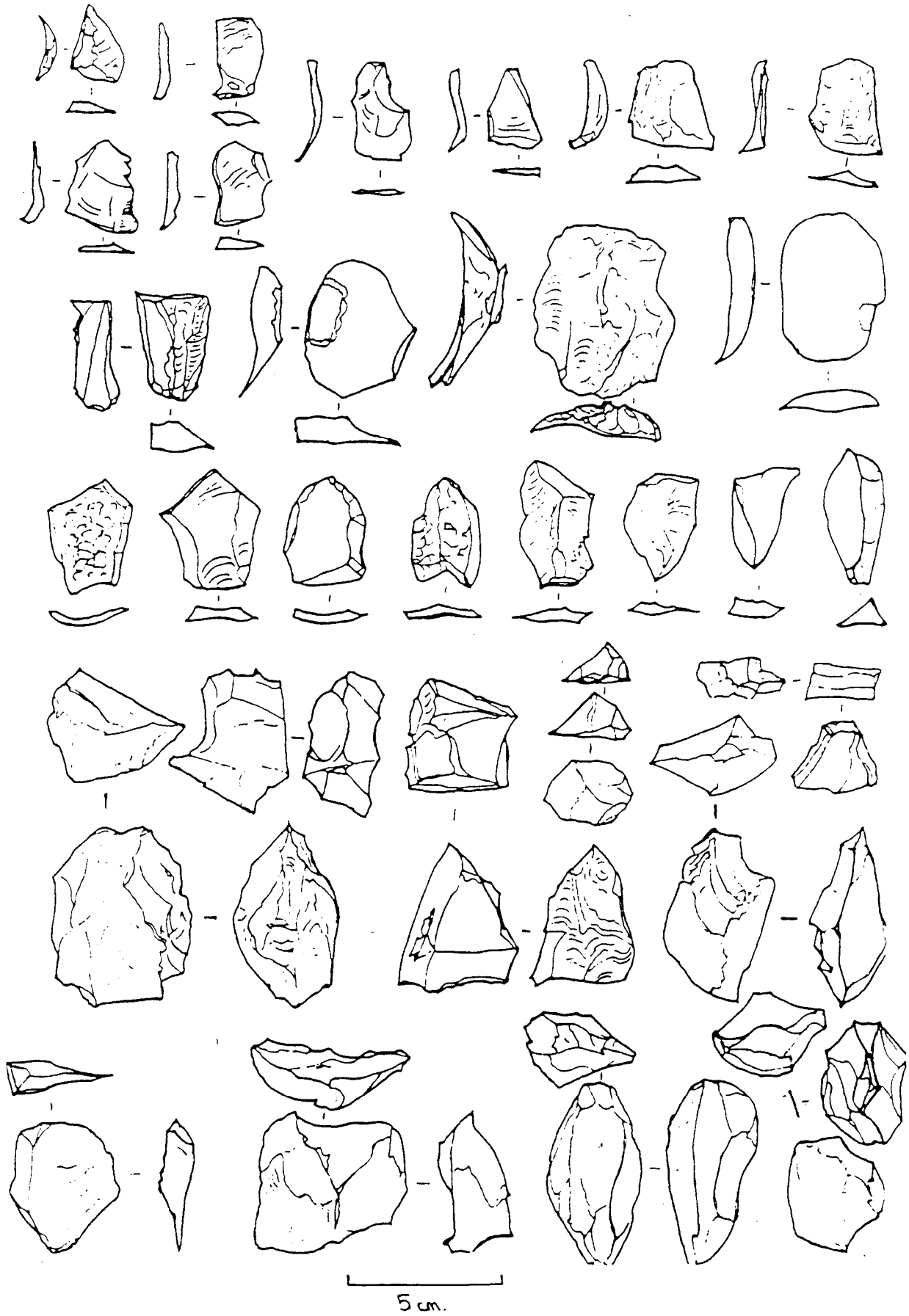

Fig 11. FURTHER EXAMPLES OF FLINT FINDS FROM THE REMAINING NEOLITHIC FEATURES.

Layer F38-1 - A slightly domed capping of reddish brown fine fill.
Layer F38-2 - A fine brown friable fill with some finds.
Layer F38-3 - A dark brown "dirty" sandy loamy gravel.
Layer F38-4 - A light grey fine silt.

Features F34, F41, F47, F61, F67, F129, F142, F158, F161 & F176 (see Fig 4)

All are shallow pit features. The majority contained specks of charcoal, fragments of grit tempered pot, heat cracked stones and crumbs of iron pan salts. These features also contained worked flint implements and worked flakes. This group of features appears to be associated with the main neolithic features close by.

Features F32, F64 & **F145**

Many finds typical of those from the main features were discovered only in the upper level (capping layer) of features F32, F64 & F145. The underlying layers of these features contained very few finds and their fills were almost clean sand speckled with iron salt stains.

The Neolithic buildings F39, F38-F142 (see Fig 5)

Over 140 post or stake holes were recorded on this small site. Twenty six of these are believed to form part of a Saxon building. Thirty five are within the perimeter of hut feature F39 and probably form part of that Neolithic structure. Twenty two shallow stake holes and 8 post holes do not appear to have been associated with any building. The remaining post and stake holes, collectively known as F38-F142 are situated within a rectangular area cornered by F39, F61, F158 and F37 (see Fig 5). The fills of the stake and post holes in this rectangular area are virtually consistent throughout. It is suggested that they all form part of the same structure.

Within the limitations imposed by the relatively small area excavated interpretation of possible structures is inevitably tentative. However, considerable time and effort has gone into an attempt at unravelling the layout of the buildings, resulting in the conclusion that there were two buildings. The first was the gulleyed hut F39. The second building was more than double the size of the first and had an entrance at F38. This building was in two parts with a common dividing wall and probably had an interconnecting doorway. Figure 5 shows the suggested outline of both buildings.

Dating

The flint assemblage has been dated to the earlier Neolithic (3,100-2,700 BC)[9]. The pottery has been dated to the middle Neolithic (2,700-2,000 BC)[10]. Limited finances have prevented T/L or Carbon-14 dating of other finds from the same context. We therefore have a Neolithic site which was occupied some time between the third and second millennium BC.

Discussion

Natural resources

The life style of these people could have been a relatively relaxed one. The fertile valley would have produced sufficient food for a high populace. It had lush marshland[1] rising onto free draining gravel terraces which opened out to lightly wooded plain[2]. Fresh water spring-fed streams flowed into the saline estuary. Fish, wild fowl, small mammals, seaweed, shellfish and salt would have been abundant in the estuary. Larger animals and birds could have been hunted or trapped. Fruit, herbs, roots and honey would probably have been gathered. Grasses and crops may have been cultivated on the plain.

Furs, skins, grasses and reeds would have provided raw material for clothing and bedding. There would have been ample timber and reeds for building materials and flint for tools and weapons.

If and when the plains flooded there was the high gravel ridge td the north and the hill where Maldon now stands to retreat to until the floods receded.

Neolithic settlement patterns and population on the north bank of the river

The evidence of Neolithic activity in the excavated area of site 1 indicates that several people, possibly up to ten in number, occupied this site. Further Neolithic features have been recorded on other parts of the Chigborough Farm site[4,5]. Evidence of small Neolithic sites were also found at Lofts Farm[3], Slough House Farm[6] and Rook Hall, site 2, where no less than three occupation sites were recorded[7]. All these sites are within one kilometre of Chigborough Farm site. Evidence of Neolithic occupation has been recorded at Chapel Farm and Little London Farm, Little Totham, Carringtons Farm Tollesbury and Hill Farm Tolleshunt D'arcy[8].

It is not certain how many of the occupation sites were occupied at any one time. Assuming that each group of features supported 10 people (4 adults & 6 children) and that there were an average of two such sites per square kilometre, in a two kilometre band along the river, then the population living directly off this side of the valley would be in the region of some 280 adults and children.

Evidence from sites investigated on the North bank of the river Blackwater (see above list of sites) indicates that the Neolithic generally utilised natural features (e.g. streams) to partly enclose their settlements, whilst the Bronze Age farmers dug purpose designed enclosure systems.

It is almost certain that when the hill site at Maldon became the predominate site with a commanding position over the surrounding area, it would have been supplied not only from farmsteads inland, and in the fertile valley to the east but also from river trade. These riverside dwellers may have been responsible for building the early trade routes along the coast[13].

Methods of excavation

The top soil was removed entirely by hand to achieve total control, although this was a difficult and laborious task. This technique resulted in almost complete finds recovery and was imperative to the identification of the shallow scooped features characteristic of Neolithic sites in the region [12]. The occupation level was situated immediately below the plough soil. The average thickness of the sub-soil and brickearth combined was 0.050m. This thin layer contained 90 % of the occupation evidence in the form of finds in the upper levels of features. If machinery had been used to remove the top soil it is certain that a large proportion of the finds would not have been recovered in context.

Notes

1 Evidence for lush reed growth was recovered from the base of F148, a Bronze Age feature excavated at Heybridge Basin sailing lake by P C Adkins 1986.

2. Environmental analysis by P Murphy of samples from pit F49 at Site 2, Rook Hall, Little Totham. (P C Adkins excavations 1982-88), suggests an open slightly wooded landscape.

3 *Pers Comm,* Paul Brown MAG "Lofts Farm Project".

4 *Pers Comm,* Mags Waughman, E C C Arch Sect.

5 *Pers Comm,* Mathew Beamish, E C C Arch Sect

6 *Pers Comm,* Steven Wallis, E C C Arch Sect.

7 The Rook Hall Excavations 1982-1989. P C Adkins.

8 Sites excavated and/or recorded by P C Adkins 1981-8

9 *Pers Comm,* Dr Robin Holgate who studied the flint

10 *Pers Comm,* Dr Buckley E C C, Arch Sect.

11 Ref : *CAG Bull, 27,* pp33-44 Cooking pit F40 PCA.

12 Similar 'scooped pit' features have often been described as "periglacial natural shallow scooped depressions" and archaeologically written off in the past.

13 Early track ways and possible trade routes have been recorded by I McMaster, K P & P C Adkins from aerial photography north of the river Blackwater.

Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks to the farmer Mr L P Sampson without whose kind permission to excavate, these features and probably the whole area of the sites would have disappeared under the quarrying machines without record.

To Hall Aggregates R M C (Eastern Counties) Ltd. for their co-operation throughout.

To the late Mrs K de Brisay on whose recommendation we were entrusted to excavate the site. To Betty for long suffering the cluttered rooms, the dirt, finds and muddy clothes. (There is no such a person as an Archaeological widow!) .

To Sue Holden for the illustration figures 9 and 10.

To Paul Brown, M A G members, Dr A Wittle, Dr Robin Holgate, Kath Evans, Ida McMaster, CAG members, David Buckley and staff at Essex County Council Archaeology Section, and to all who visited.

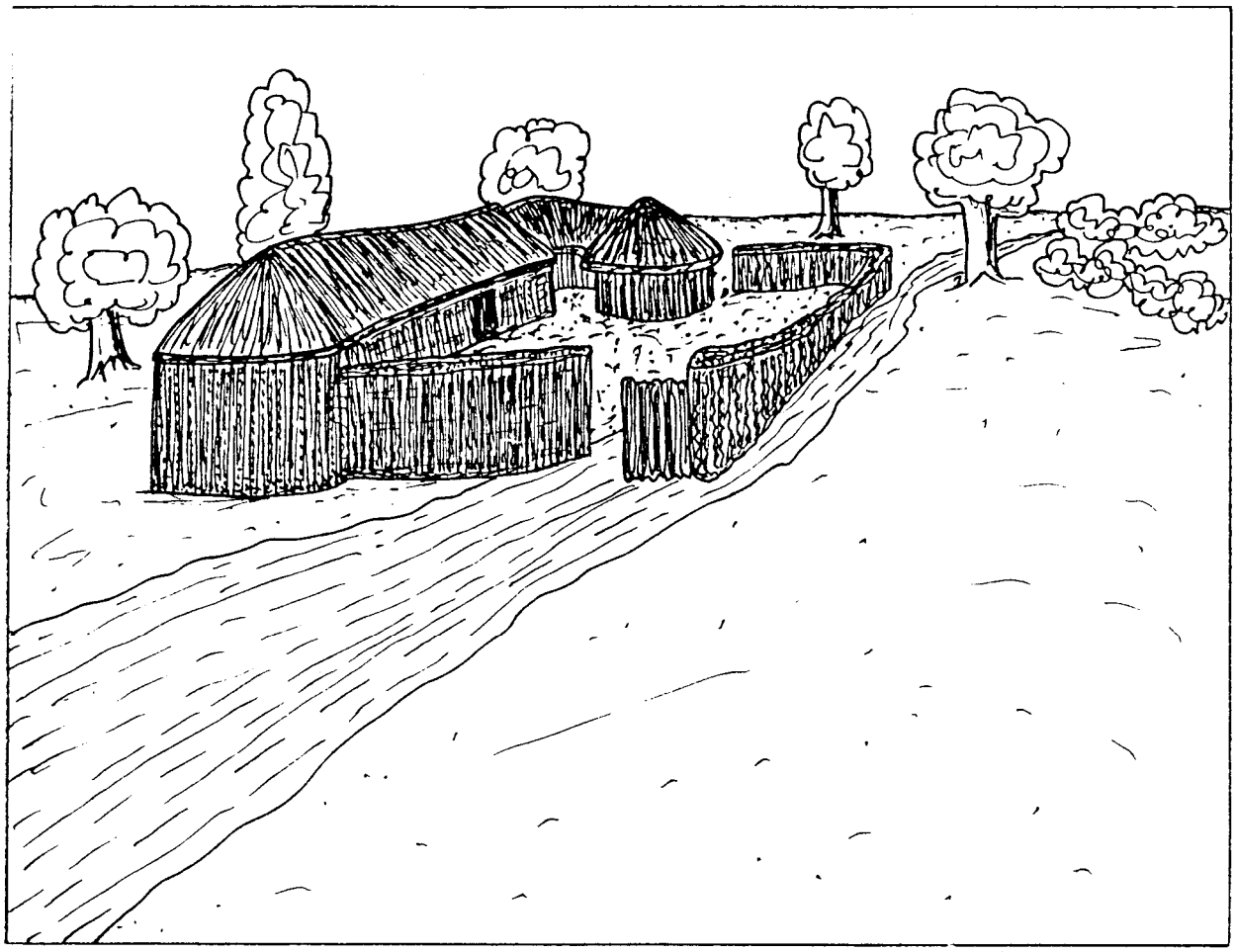

Fig 12. PROPOSED RECONSTRUCTION OF THE NEOLITHIC BUILDINGS.

A Roman Road at Teybrook Farm, Great Tey

by James Fawn

SUMMARY

A section excavated across the line of a crop-mark at Teybrook Farm has confirmed the existence of a three-track Roman road running northwards from the A120. The features of the road are described and its possible course is discussed.

INTRODUCTION

A modern road to Great Tey leaves the A120 at a point about two kilometres from the Marks Tey junction with the A12 and runs northward for a straight length of about one kilometre before taking a more sinuous course to the village (fig 1). From the northern end of the straight section, and in line with it, a double tramline crop-mark is visible on certain aerial photographs (RAF 4625 30.7.63; RHCM NMR TL 8824/1; McMaster I, coll). It runs northwards over two fields belonging to Teybrook Farm. No trace of it beyond the two fields has been found on aerial photographs taken further along the alignment, presumably because the crop conditions were unsuitable.

The crop-mark has always been recognized as being typical of the pattern given by the four ditches of a three-track Roman road. Such roads are fairly common, but have usually suffered so much disturbance that their original construction has been obscured. The well-defined crop-mark indicated that the main features of' the supposed road might be intact and so leave was sought from Mr Roger and Mr Richard Browning to trench across the alignment at a point (TL 89102464) shown in fig 1.

Permission was readily given and the excavation took place from October 1990 to July 1991. The objectives were to confirm the existence of the road, to obtain a section across it and to record its dimensions and other characteristics.

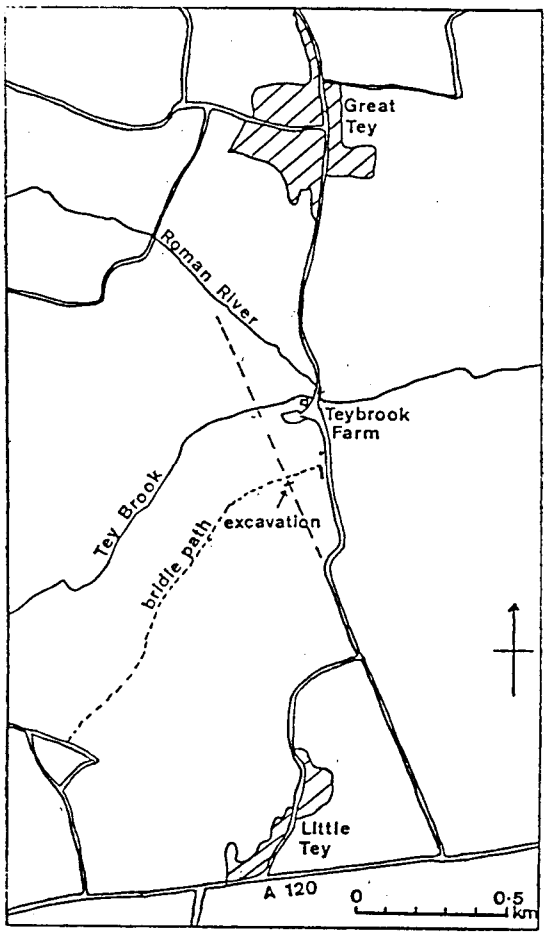

Fig 1. Location of Teybrook Farm, Great Tey. .

THE SITE

The excavation trench was about 200 metres northwards from the point at which the modern road deviates from the straight line. It lay on a plateau close to the southern edge of a shallow valley shared by the Roman River and its tributary, the Tey Brook. The crop-mark of the road continues down the valley slope and into the field between the two streams which it must have crossed. Mr M J Campean, who conducted one of the excavations of the nearby Roman villa in 1956, found tile or brick which might have been evidence for a crossing, but its location and nature were not recorded (Mr A B Doncaster, *pers com*). A recent search for the location was not successful, although some Roman tile and brick was found along the south bank of the Roman River.

The subsoils on the plateau, revealed by the excavation, are typical of the area, as described in a survey for the Halstead district (Allen and Sturdy 1986). They consist of a deposit of Chalky Boulder Clay, several metres thick, capped with a much thinner layer, perhaps 20-30 cm, of non-chalky till. The former is a clay containing up to 84% of chalk while the latter contains no visible chalk. At the site the plough soil was above these two strata. The trench lay alongside a bridle path which was formerly a field boundary and is now part of the Essex way.

THE EXCAVATION

Initially a limited strip, 11 by 2 metres, across half the supposed road was investigated in order to identify quickly the features giving rise to the crop-mark. The top-soil was removed by spade to a depth of about 25 cms and then the northern half of the strip, 11 by 1 metre, was excavated wholly by trowel, while the southern half was left for later examination.

The clearing of the plough-soil revealed that the tramlines corresponded with the fills of the ditches about 1.6-2.Om wide, containing Roman and earlier pottery sherds. With such encouraging evidence, the trench was then extended both westwards and eastwards across all four tramlines, and slightly beyond so that the underlying strata on either side of the road could be examined. In order to keep the labour involved and the disturbance of the crop to a minimum, the western half of the investigated area was not excavated to the full 2 metre width, as fig 2 shows. The final length of the trench was 22.5 metres.

Within the trench the four ditches (contexts 5, 6, 7, 8) and the intervening areas were excavated to give the section (fig 3). Below the recent plough-soil three lower strata 2,3 and 4 were distinguished. To make sure that no part of the road was left uninvestigated, layers 2 and 3 were removed along the length of the trench leaving 4, an obviously natural stratum, exposed throughout.

Thin layers of flint were visible in the section on the face of the trench and so the southern half of the stripped area was carefully trowelled to just below plough level to reveal them in plan (fig 2). They were present only at the edges of the central area, between ditches 6 and 7.

The excavation uncovered a gully 20 and two hollows 21 and 22 dug down into layer 4 to the west of the westernmost ditch 8. They ran into the walls of the trench and their further extent was not investigated.

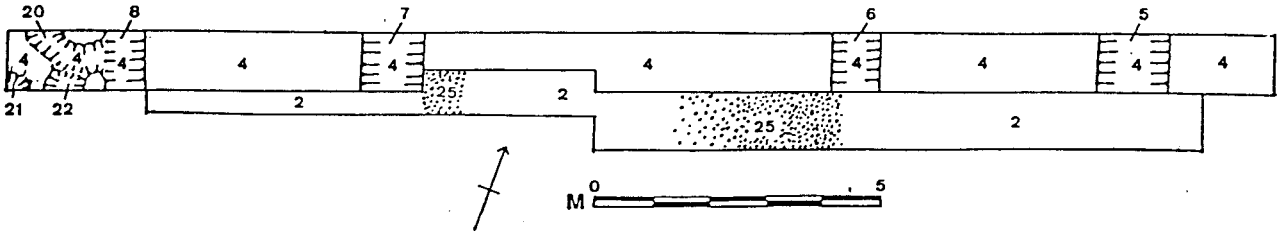

Fig 2. Plan of Excavation.

THE FEATURES

The confirmation that the crop-mark was due to four parallel ditches with a characteristic overall width of about 20 metres (nominal 62 feet) was sufficient evidence that it represented a Roman road with one central and two side tracks. The features may therefore be described and considered in the light of this conclusion.

As shown in fig 3, the bottoms of the ditches, about 1.2 metres below the present surface, penetrated layer 4 which was identified as Chalky Boulder Clay since it was an off-white clay containing lumps of chalk.

Layer 3 was a reddish-brown clay turning to yellow-brown near its interface with layer 4. It contained no visible chalk lumps and so was identified as non-chalky till. As mentioned previously, it was removed completely in the trench and the total lack of artefacts in it supported the identification as natural clay till.

Furthermore it was found outside the road area at both ends of the trench, where it would not have been part of the road.

Layer 2 was a brown loam, 10 centimetres thick or less, appreciably lower in clay content than layer 3 and lighter in colour than the modem plough-soil 1. It contained artefacts similar in nature and number to those found in the ditches and it extended outside as well as over the road area. It was assumed to be an early plough-soil.

The modern plough-soil 1 was not examined closely except for a small area which was removed by trowel rather than by spade. It contained a limited amount of medieval or post-medieval brick and tile, but no earlier material similar to that found in layer 2. A cursory inspection of the plough surface also disclosed only medieval or later material, which suggested that field-walking would not have produced much useful information concerning the road, perhaps because the ground has been drilled for planting rather than ploughed in recent years.

As mentioned previously, the metalling was found at the edges of the central track. The flints were fairly small, the majority having a diameter about 2-3 centimetres with some reaching 10 centimetres maximum dimension. They were set in a binding material of loam similar to that found in layer 2. The absence of metalling in the middle of the track may have been due to ploughing or robbing or a combination of the two. The number of stones found in the plough-soil 1 and 2 was not exceptional, as might be expected if the road had been disturbed merely by ploughing, and robbing, particularly of the larger flints, may be the reason. Robbing may also account for the sparseness of stones in the ditches 6 and 7 where they might otherwise have been found in some quantity, having fallen off the edges of the cambered metalled surface. Ploughing, on the other hand, no doubt was responsible for a thin layer of stones dragged part-way across the surface of the filling of ditch 6 (fig 2).

Examination of the sections and of the surfaces of the side tracks revealed the odd flint, but not the concentration seen on the centre track. Roman side tracks are usually found to be lower than the central roadway and so ploughing would be less likely to remove metalling from them. The assumption was that, as robbing was unlikely to be any more thorough than it was for the centre track, the side tracks had never been metalled. Indeed, there was little evidence to indicate that their surfaces were different from the original ground. The upper fills of ditches 5 and 8 contained small chalk particles which could have come from material extracted from the ditches, deposited on the side tracks and later used for back-filling. The benefit of using Chalky Boulder Clay as a track surface, however, is not obvious as it is a tenaciously sticky material.

At the edges of the ditches, particularly 6 and 7,(fig 3) layer 3 seemed to have been shaped to the central and side track cambers and the layer of flints on the central track appeared to continue up through layer 2 on the camber. These observations suggest that preparation for the metalling was confined to shaping the existing top-soil and subsoil and that no additional material was laid down as part of the road-bed to form an agger.

Layers 12 and 14 on the east edges of the centre track and eastern side track were of a loam which was slightly more sandy than layer 2. They may represent some repair material introduced to replace that which had been eroded into the ditches.

Four field drains 23 running at an angle across the trench. (figs 2 and 3) were small V-shaped ditches, dug to a depth just below the modern plough-soil and containing a layer of small vitrified cinder lumps in the bottom. Such drains were common before they were superseded by tile drains from about 1840 onwards.

THE DITCHES

Although some stratification of the ditch fills was observed, the differentiation was not marked and so is indicated by hatched lines (fig 3).

In ditch 5 the lowest layer 11 had a significant clay content which might have resulted from erosion of the non-chalky till at the edges of the ditch, although the configuration was not that which normally results from erosion. Layer 10 contained more chalk which may have come from material originally extracted from

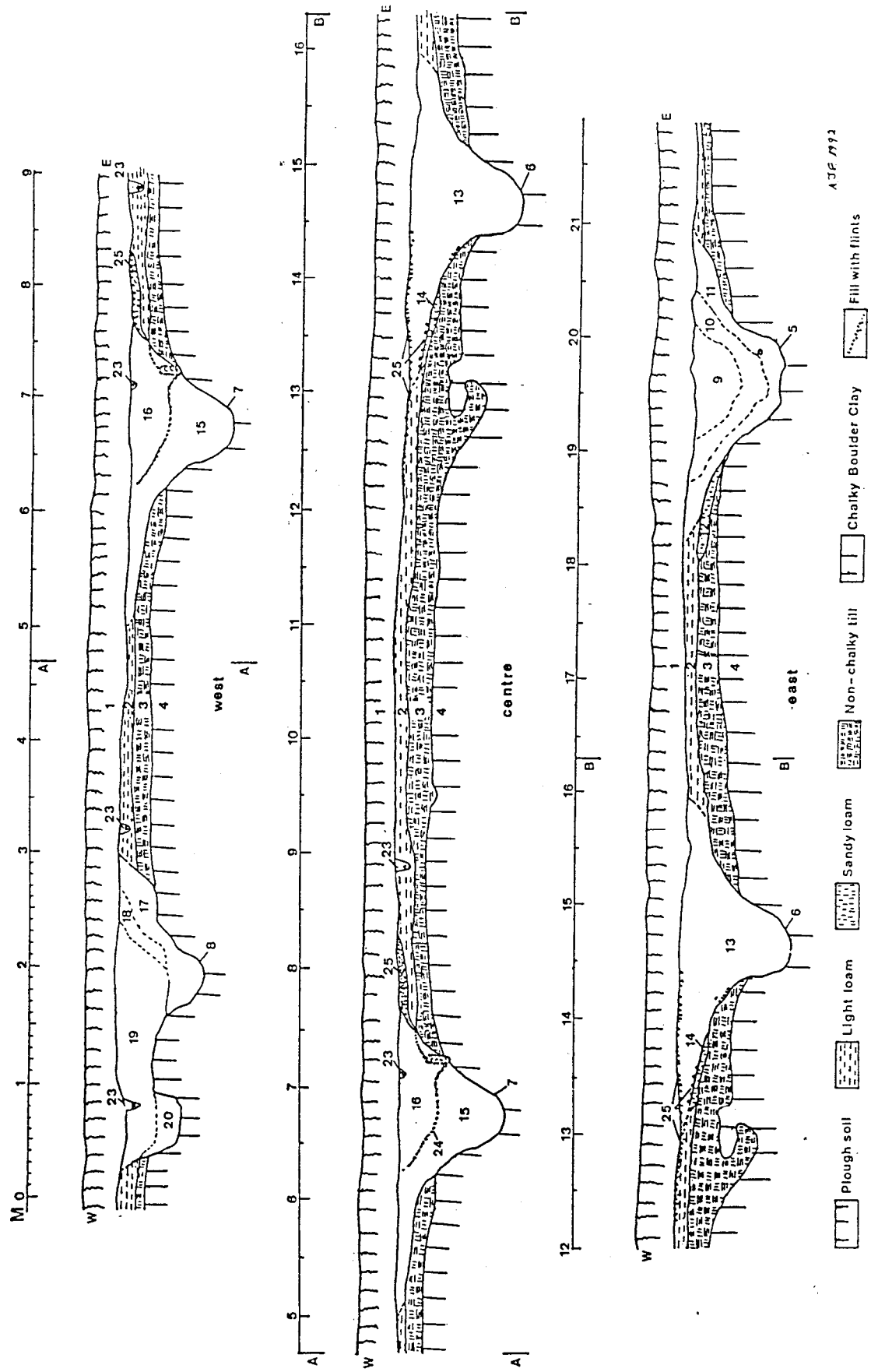

Fig 3. Roman Road. Sections of west, centre and east tracks. Overlaps indicated by AA and BB.

the ditches near-by, perhaps on the side track as discussed above. Layer 9 so resembled layer 2 that it was difficult to distinguish between them. This similarity between layer 2 and the underlying stratum was observed in the other ditches; the issue of whether the ditches cut through the early plough soil or were sealed by it therefore remained unresolved.

The fill of ditch 6 was loamy at the top and contained more flint and chalk at the bottom, but the change in character was gradual. No separate strata could be distinguished.

The section (fig 3) of ditch 7 showed a thin layer of charcoal 24 in the upper half of the fill. The level of this layer dropped sharply within the width of the excavation trench, indicating that the fill soil 15 on which it rested had been dumped unevenly in the ditch and was not a gradual accumulation. Part of the skull of a young fox was found at the bottom of layer 15 and the ditch may have been deliberately back-filled at this point in order to cover the remains. Layer 16 above the charcoal was a soil of uniform character and whether it was a similar made deposit or an accumulation could not be determined.

Ditch 8 had obviously had a more complicated history than the others. The lower fill 17 was not unlike that of ditch 5 and the next layer 18 contained small chalk particles like 10 in ditch 5. Context 19, broader than the ditch, appeared to have been a hollow cut at a later date into the fills of the ditch and into its western edge. The reason for this feature is uncertain; as the fill contained two fragments of peg tile as well as Roman and pre-Roman sherds, it may have been a later intrusion, associated perhaps with the bridle path and not the Roman road.

Gully 20 (fig 2) ran into the west side of ditch 8 and did not emerge from the latter within the excavation. From the stratification it appeared to be an earlier feature than the ditch. Its fill and those of hollows 21 and 22 contained only pre-Roman pottery sherds similar to those found in the early plough-soil layer 2 and all three features were cut into layers 3 and 4, but not into 2. It appeared, therefore, that they pre-dated the road.

FINDS AND DATING

The pottery sherds found in the ditches and early plough layer were worn and small, maximum dimension 4cm and less, and they had the appearance of having been in ploughed soil for a lengthy period.

The majority of the sherds were of a coarse brown-dark grey ware, not wheel-made, and containing flint temper. The maximum thickness was 11 millimetres. None of the fragments were large enough for forms to be deduced. They were dated to the Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age.

Other fragments were darker in colour with smaller temper particles and were dated to later in the Iron Age, while a few wheel-made pieces originated from the Romano-British period. A small sherd of white flagon was found in the upper fill of ditch 6.

A substantial fragment of tegula, including flange, was also found in ditch 6. Its clean bright red appearance suggested that it might have been unused when it found its way into the ditch. Numerous pieces of Roman tile have been found on the surface in the adjacent field northwards and the presence of the villa near-by is the obvious reason.

The principal evidence for the date of the road was its four-ditch configuration and its connection with a known Roman road. The pottery, being no later than Roman in date, supported the broad dating, but did not provide a more precise figure for its period of use.

DISCUSSION

The evidence from the excavation indicated that the crop-mark was of a road with four ditches and an overall width of 19-20 metres, close to the nominal width of 62 feet for a Roman "second-class" road (Margary 1957,16). The metalling was confined to the central track and appeared insubstantial for such a highway. The finds supported the Roman date.

Roman roads with three tracks have been reported from many parts of Britain and there are undoubtedly others which have not been recognized as such because they have not survived in good condition or have not been fully excavated. Some are "first-class" roads with a nominal width of 84ft such as

Sussex Stane Street (Margary 1939) and Ermine Street near Stamford (Green, Rahtz 1959). Others are "second-class" with a nominal width of 62ft such as London-Lewes (Margary 1939) and Chichester-Silchester (Kenny 1985). Three-track roads closer to Colchester are the 84ft London road (Hall 1942, Hull 1958, Holbert 1967, Sheldon 1971) and the 62ft Gosbecks road (VCH 1963, PL IB; Colchester Archaeological Trust forthcoming).

Investigation of many Roman roads is difficult because for the most part they are still in use, much modified and carrying heavy traffic. An example is Stane Street, the modern A120, which is of interest since the Great Tey road is an adjunct of it. Little is known of its construction in Essex, but sections cut across a length near Braughing in Hertfordshire, where it diverges from the modern road, have revealed no evidence of "the elaborate layout associated with many roads; side tracks, boundary ditches, heavy agger, and metalled surfaces." (Barr and Gillam 1964). The Braughing sections may not be representative of Stane Street as a whole, since such a major route is unlikely to have been less impressive than its Great Tey off-shoot. If the side tracks of the Great Tey road were not metalled, those of some roads certainly were, the Colchester-London highway being an example. At Colchester the north track was surfaced with pebbles set in loam in a similar manner to the centre track. The south track carried a layer of sand In London, at Old Ford, the centre track was metalled; one of the side tracks became disused, but the other was built up and then metalled to form a second track. This early dual carriage-way was apparently in use until the late fourth century.

These two examples demonstrate that the two side tracks did not necessarily have the same surface and that they were sometimes modified to suit traffic requirements. Opinions as to the use of the tracks vary, but the general assumption is that the centre track was used by slow traffic, carts and pedestrians, and the side tracks by riders on horseback. The Colchester north track example given above appears to be an exception to this rule, but it may have been metalled to suit pedestrian traffic on the outskirts of the town and the south track would perhaps be more representative of the softer going suitable for horses. The suggestion made above, that the original ground surface was used for the side tracks at Teybrook Farm, would seem feasible if the traffic was light.

An alternative possibility is that the ‘side tracks' were grass verges. Modern country roads usually have verges that run between the ditches and the metalling and allow some margin of safety for vehicles that stray off the road. The design of Teybrook road makes no such concession and travellers must have driven or ridden with some care to avoid falling into the ditches, especially when passing. Such an inconvenient arrangement of a fairly deep ditch on either side of a ‘side track' seems likely to have been provided for drainage with the intention that the track was to be used for traffic. Moreover, even if the tracks were verges, they almost certainly would have been used by horsemen and drovers, thus becoming tracks *de facto.*

The slope of the camber visible in the section indicates that the highest point of the central track lay within the range of the modern plough soil. If so, the ground level in the area of the excavation must have risen since Roman times, in spite of the site being near the brow of a slope. The fact that the early ploughsoil 2 could be seen below the modern plough soil, supported this conclusion, because otherwise the deeper modern plough would have removed all traces of the early plough layer. A precise estimate of the rise in level cannot be given, but a range of 10-20 centimetres is suggested.

Layer 2 represents only the lowest part of the early plough soil since the modern plough has disturbed the upper portion. Since the distinction between the two layers was so clear, there may have been a considerable intervening period when the field was not cultivated and the ground level rose owing to the accumulation of humus. The early layer contained pottery ranging in date from the Late Bronze Age to the Roman period. The Bronze Age material may have originated from the area of a sub rectangular crop-mark about 100 metres west of the excavation site, which has the appearance of a Bronze Age enclosure (SMR 8799). The Roman pottery provided only a terminus post quem and in theory the last ploughing of the layer may have taken place at any time up to the insertion of the field drains. However, the conspicuous lack of material later than Roman in the layer suggests that the last ploughing could have been earlier than in the medieval period.

The reason for the building the road is a matter for conjecture. One possibility is that it was a private approach to the near-by villa (Blyth, 1965) and perhaps other properties in the vicinity. The apparently light metalling and lack of evidence of heavy use might perhaps be considered indicative of an estate road. The failure to find the road north of Teybrook Farm on aerial photographs may be because it led only to the villa.

On the other hand, the four-ditch construction at what seems to be a regulation width is more in keeping with a public highway. As such, it may have originated further south than Stane Street, from either the Colchester to London or Colchester to Heybridge roads, providing a short cut to the north which avoided Colchester. On its way north it would have met or crossed the Colchester to Cambridge road, for which three routes have been proposed, but not tested. One lies to the south of the Colne valley (Rackham 1980), another follows more or less the modern road in the valley (Laver 1889) and the third is to the north of the valley (Christy, Miller, 1924). The relative merits of these routes will not be discussed here, but to join the two the Teybrook road would have had to descend into the Colne valley. Inspection of the terrain suggests that it would probably have deviated from its straight alignment in order to lessen the gradients involved. If, in typical Roman fashion, it resumed its former alignment after the valley, it may be represented by a straight length of modern lane beginning at Countess Cross (TL 866310, Mrs McMaster *pers comm)* where evidence for a "Roman house" has been found (VCH 1963 22, 122). Further extrapolation of the line to the limits of prudent speculation leads to a hypothetical junction with the Chelmsford to Long Melford road in the vicinity of the known settlement at Gestingthorpe.

The evidence of the excavation suggested that the investigated length of road was in use for a short period only; the ditches had not been re-cut unless to their original profile, no ruts were found in the metalling or the non-chalky till beneath, there were no signs of substantial repairs and at least one of the ditches appeared to have been back-filled deliberately rather than by slow silting. In contrast the adjacent length of modern road is still carrying traffic nearly two thousand years later. At some time therefore, the original route was not thought worth maintaining and part was deflected east of the villa site to Great Tey.

An obvious reason is that it provides a shorter route to the village, for which the earliest date must be sought. The structure of the church of St Barnabas, mentioned in Domesday Book, incorporates Saxon work (Taylor 1965) and therefore it is quite feasible that the deviation dates from the Saxon period. However, it may be even earlier; if the length of modern road has never been out of use and the investigated length became disused in Roman times as the evidence suggests, the deviation must have been made in the Roman period. The whole of the modern road would thus be of Roman origin. It is of interest to note a reference to a possible early settlement in the vicinity of Teybrook Farm (Morant 1768, 207), which might have been on the course of the deviation. Morant, who had no knowledge of the villa, gave no details of the date of the settlement, but refers to "a cluster of tenements or a little village", presumably medieval or early post-medieval.

A comparison between the widths of the Roman road and the straight length of the modern Great Tey road may be made. The figures given for the metalled widths are approximate because the original edges of the Roman centre track had been eroded and those of the modern road may have been covered by encroaching vegetation. However, the Roman metalling at 6.00 metres (19.6 ft = 20.2 Roman ft) was very similar to that of its modern successor at 5.7 metres (18.7 ft), which suggests that the former was designed like the latter to take two way traffic, a point against it merely being an estate road. The widths of the Roman side tracks were about 3.0 metres (9.8 ft = 10.2 Roman ft) whereas the widths of the west and east grass verges of the modern road were 4.5 metres (14.8 ft) and 1.7 metres (5.6 ft) respectively at the point of measurement. Obviously these figures did not represent a valid comparison for there was no reason for the Roman dimensions to have been perpetuated and those of the modern verges varied considerably along their length. However, it is interesting to note that overall the Roman road at 18.9 metres (62 ft = 64 Roman ft) was much wider than its modern counterpart, 11.9 metres (39 ft) at the point of measurement.

A few comments on the excavation procedure may be of interest. As the investigation was used to provide experience for Group members, it was undertaken at a rather more leisurely pace than is usual and it thus provided an opportunity to observe the effects of the penalty of Adam on the state of an Essex site throughout the year. Work started in October following the harvest and continued satisfactorily until Christmas. In the New Year the ground was often either frozen or waterlogged and sticky, making evaluation of the features difficult or impossible. After snow in February, winds in March dried out the site so that work could begin again, but in the absence of rain the boulder clay soon hardened, cracked and crumbled in spite of the use of a water spray. Evaluation of the features remained difficult throughout the dry spring and summer and it was evident that what was required was a periodic soaking of the ground surface so that the subsoil remained moist. These are probably the optimum conditions for most archaeological sites, but they are particularly desirable for clay areas. With the present climatic pattern, autumn is likely to be the best time for excavation, although diggers may not always agree. One effect of the progressive drying of the soil throughout the year was a noticeable shrinkage in thickness of the upper strata of the section, a change not likely to be observed in the course of a less prolonged excavation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Group wishes to thank Mr Roger and Mr Richard Browning for their kindness and interest in allowing the excavation and for back-filling the trench. Mrs McMaster kindly drew attention to the cropmark which is visible on several photographs in her collection. Grateful thanks are due to Nigel Brown and Philip Crummy for examining and dating the pottery, and to Jeremy Heath and Jeremy Bowdrey for examining the bones and the snails.

The following members of the Group took part in the excavation, often enduring cold windy weather with seeming cheerfulness; Chris Behn, Harry Hale, Marc Hale, Jane Marshall, Michael Matthews, Ida McMaster, Jonathan Oldham and Hazel West.

APPENDIX - MISCELLANEOUS FINDS

Find Number

26	Iron pyrites.
29	Toe bone, rabbit. From early plough soil.
30	Fragment of humerous, bovine.
32	Leg bone fragment, bovine.
34	Indeterminate mammal bone fragment
39	Indeterminate mammal bone fragment
41	Rib fragment? bovine.
42	Femur, sheep.
43	Rib fragment? bovine.
46	Rib fragment? bovine.
48	Calcite crystals.
54b	Rib fragment, sheep.
102	Lower end of rabbit femur at modem plough depth.
105	Cannon bone, lamb.
150	Rib of bird, chicken size.
153	Indeterminate mammal bone fragment.
157	Fragments, juvenile fox skull, first autumn, near bottom of ditch 7. Also oyster shell and sheep molar. Snails found in ditch fills almost to the bottom; Cepeae (hortensis), white lipped hedge snail. A common hedgerow species.

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A Red Hill at Great Oakley

James Fawn

Since the publication of "The Red Hills of Essex" a number of sites which had not been listed in the gazetteer have been reported for inclusion in the Essex Sites and Monuments Record.

In a letter received in August 1991, Dr W C G Baldwin of Dovercourt drew attention to a Red Hill on the premises of Messrs Exchem PLC, Great Oakley, near the shore of Hamford Water. He recalled that many years ago the late Dick Farrands had visited the factory. Dick found many handfuls of sherds in an area about 100-200 yards from the Red Hill site, although apparently he remained unaware of the latter. At the time, the sherds were thought to be 15th century and, if so, would not be directly associated with the Red Hill.

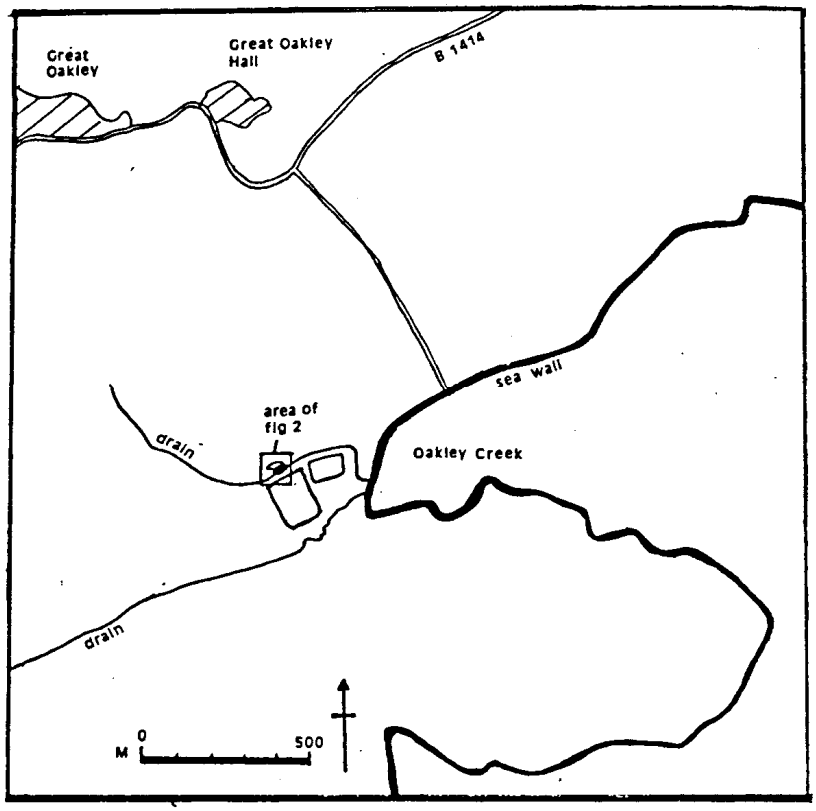

Fig 1. Location of Red Hill at Great Oakley

In October 1991, Dr Baldwin kindly arranged for AJF to visit the site, there being no access for the general public. It is about 20 metres to the north-west of the larger of two reservoirs serving the works, which are shown on the current OS 1:25,000 (TM 12/22) and 1:50,000 (Sheet 169) maps. The Red Hill is at NGR 208270. Because the area is under grass, an auger was used to determine the approximate extent of the red earth which was found to be divided by a drainage ditch (figs 1 and 2) running parallel to the NW wall of the reservoir. On the SW bank of the ditch much of the soil has been removed to form the reservoir wall, but red earth was found outwards from the bank for several metres. To the NW of the ditch, a flat mound, under a metre high and of irregular shape, is visible. Use of the auger indicated that it contains red earth in an area alongside the ditch for about 20 metres, but its NW part does not and consists of unfired clay. It therefore seems to be a dump of excavated material which happens to contain red earth and is not the mound of the Red Hill itself. Thus the site is that of a Red Hill which has been much disturbed by fairly recent activity.

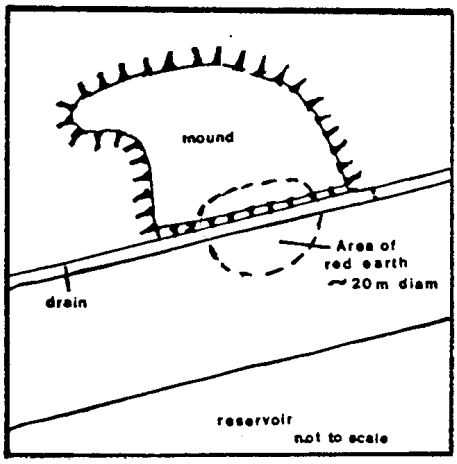

Fig. 2 Diagram of Red Hill

No large briquetage pieces were visible, but later examination of samples of the red earth revealed numerous small fragments of soft briquetage, perhaps hearth material.

Dr Baldwin said that the smaller and more northerly of the two reservoirs was formerly a decoy pond, the pipes having been filled in and the banks raised. The pond with the pipes (NGR 209270) and a second one (not seen) on the premises are shown on older maps, for example OS 1:10560 TM 22 NW, 1958 edition.

Red Hills Briquetage: "short rods"

James Fawn

Among the less common forms of briquetage described in The Red Hills of Essex are short hand-fashioned rods of fired clay with a length of up to 18 cm and a diameter of about 3 cm (Fawn, Evans *et al,* 1990, 14). Only four examples have been recorded, all by Reader from his excavations at Langenhoe RH 89 and Goldhanger RH 169 (Reader 1908, 200, 206). Two nearly complete rods and two part rods are in the Colchester Museum collection. The identification of one part rod, from RH 89, is doubtful; it may be a rim fragment.

The two nearly complete rods from RH169, shown in Fig 1, have appreciable curvature. The ends of the lower example and one end of the upper one appear to bear the impression of a rounded surface on one side and of a finger on the other, suggesting that they have been pressed on to some objects before firing. The lower rod is twisted in haphazard fashion so that the impressions at the ends make no obvious alignment with each other. The upper rod appears to be less complete since it has only one impressed end. Both rods have been well fired. Reader suggests that they might be handles and referred to them as such. However, although their shape is a suitable one for grasping their impressed ends do not have the appearance of having been designed to give the strong adhesion to other surfaces that is required for load-bearing handles. Instead they suggest that light finger pressure only was applied to create a weak bond which could be easily broken subsequently. The twisted rod may be an example which broke away prematurely and became distorted during firing, a rod `waster'.

Fig. 1. The two most complete short rods from Goldhanger RH 169

What the rods were attached to is the puzzle and Fig 2 perhaps provides a clue which comes from France. It shows an auget on the left, an example of a vessel used in the manufacture of salt in southern Brittany around the period of the Red Hills. The vessel was brought to Essex and described by H Wilmer in an article appended to Reader's report (211-212). It is long and narrow like a pouch and its sides slope inwards towards its opening. Augets are thought to have been used for the drying of wet salt to produce a cake which was subsequently extracted by breaking the vessels since it could not have been removed through the restricted opening.

Small bow-shaped lengths of clay have been found in association with augets and some are shown under the vessels in Fig 2. Evidently they were placed across the mouths of the vessels during their manufacture to brace the thin walls and to keep the apertures open. The Colchester Museum vessel has chips on its rim which indicate that four such bridging pieces were used, presumably during its drying and firing.

Although the short rods are nearly ten times the size of the auget supports, their

Fig. 2. Augets, salt-drying vessels from Britanny

shape is generally similar and so they may also have served as detachable bridging pieces, used to support the sides of the comparatively large Red Hill vessels during their drying and firing. As the latter were more massive and sturdier than the augets, the need for such supports is less evident and the use of more than one per vessel seems unlikely. Perhaps they were favoured by just a few briquetage makers, which may be why only four have been found at Red Hills to date.

Inspection of the ends of the rods suggests that they were applied so that they bowed downwards rather than upwards as shown in Fig 1. The length of about 18cm indicates that this may have been the approximate width of the vessel on which they were used, but other vessels may have been wider or smaller, with rod lengths to match. The bulk and thickness of the briquetage fragments that have been found would be entirely consistent with such a vessel width.

An assemblage of briquetage in the Somerset County Museum at Taunton, from a site at East Huntspill, includes a curved rod of fired clay (Leech, Bell and Evans 1983, fig 74, 11). Unfortunately it has lost its ends, but what remains is similar to the Red Hills examples. It may therefore have performed the same function and, if so, may be evidence that the use of such supports was widespread and not confined to the Red Hills.

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Obituary - Felix Erith

When the members of a WEA course formed themselves into the Colchester Archaeological Group in March 1957, one of the first to join them was Felix Erith. He gave the new study and discussion group an absorbing account of the Bronze Age urn field which had started to come to light on his farm at Ardleigh in 1955. These remarkable discoveries were first briefly recorded in the Group's second Quarterly Bulletin, published in June 1958, while full publication appeared only two years later in the Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society Vol 26 (1960) under his joint authorship with Dr Ian Longworth, now keeper of the Prehistoric and Roman Department of the British Museum.

Felix Erith's careful and meticulous approach to the recovery of archaeological evidence at Vince's Farm stood as a shining example to the fledgling society in its formative years and also for many years thereafter. His constant, kindly and generous support for the Group, and the friendship that he shared with its members, meant that they were able to enjoy a specially close association with all the subsequent excavations at Ardleigh. These were duly recorded in the Group's Annual Bulletin, which includes various other articles by Felix on archaeological discoveries elsewhere in the area. He always maintained a close watch for any new information about local sites and was a tactful archaeological ambassador among the farming community.

From as early as 1958 Felix Erith was a member of the Group's committee and in 1960 he was elected Vice-Chairman. When Rex Hull, under whose professional curators guidance the Group had been established, was made the first President in 1961, the obvious person to succeed him as Chairman was Felix Erith. For nine years from 1957 to 1966 Felix served as a representative of the Essex Archaeological Society on Colchester Borough Council's Museum Committee. Although his natural modesty and unassuming nature would not allow it to appear so, he was in fact a major benefactor of the Colchester and Essex Museum in that, almost without exception, the whole collection of finds from Vince's Farm was generously donated by him to the Museum for the benefit of the public.

Felix Erith's support for local archaeology and especially for the Group will be greatly missed, as will the warmth of his personality towards all those who knew him. He died at Ardleigh on 14th June, 1991, two days before his eighty-fifth birthday, and our sincere condolences go to his widow, Mrs Barbara Erith, and to their two sons and daughter. The following obituary, written by his son Robert Erith, appeared in The Independent and The Daily Telegraph.

> "Felix Erith was a distinguished farmer, antiquarian and archaeologist. He had the good fortune to discover one of the largest Bronze Age sites in England on his own land and the patience and scholarship to catalogue and chronicle these remarkable fords.
>
> Felix Erith was born in Hackney in 1906, the second son of Charles Erith, an engineer and businessman. His elder brother, Raymond, was a noted classical architect. Felix was educated at Clifton, where his contemporaries included the society photographer Baron and Sir Roger Hollis of MI5 fame. On leaving school he worked in the City for 13 years, but did not enjoy commercial life. In 1937 he bought a farm at Ardleigh, near Colchester in North Essex. Although his fore-bears had been farmers on the Essex/Suffolk borders for centuries, Erith had no practical knowledge of agriculture. Farming was still in the grip of depression and entirely geared to working with horses. Erith was determined to modernise his farm and to introduce the most up-to-date practices then available.
>
> By the mid-1950s farming had recovered substantially and amongst the new inventions acquired was a single-furrow reversible plough, which turned the soil some four inches deeper than any previous implements. This led to the discovery of a range of archaeological treasures which might have been ignored by less informed and interested farmers, for the only immediate evidence was a certain amount of broken pottery amongst the fresh topsoil. In September 1955 the new plough had brought up sherds of Roman pottery and a group of eight Bronze Age urns, but the full extent of the

urnfield was not made clear until the following year when further discoveries brought the total to over 100, the largest find of its type on any farm in England.

Aerial photography revealed many other adjacent sites and over the next 20 years numerous artefacts dating from Neolithic to Saxon times were discovered and excavated. These included a rare Iron Age Settlement and cemetery and Roman Kilns, convincing evidence that the land had been continuously inhabited and farmed for at least the past 4,000 years. The discoveries were recorded by Erith and Dr Ian Longworth in the Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society for 1960, completed with Erith's beautifully-drawn diagrams, a gift of draughtsmanship which Erith shared with his brother Raymond.

All his finds were given to museums, some going to the British Museum and the Archaeology and anthropology Museum in Cambridge, but most remaining in Colchester Castle. He was elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in January 1968, a rare distinction for an amateur in modem times.

In 1977 Erith, who had for many years been active in the local community, wrote a book about his village, Ardleigh in 1796, drawn from a record produced by the then vicar in anticipation of a Napoleonic invasion, which gave a vivid and meticulous account of its farms and local government. Erith was a cultivated but retiring man who took little interest in business or social life. He was happiest with his family or small groups of friends, watching cricket, reading Jane Austen or Trollope and studying history."

Robert Erith

WINTER LECTURES 1990/91

Recent work at Ipswich - *Monday 16th October 1990*

Mr Tom Loader, BB, Assistant Field Officer, Suffolk Archaeological Unit

The speaker reviewed the main results of the past sixteen years work in the old part of Ipswich which he considered as consisting of three parts:

(A) The original Saxon settlement in the dockside area.
(B) The Buttermarket district.
(C) The part between the above two.

Settlement in the present Dock area can be dated as originating in the seventh century. It was at the lowest point on the Orwell capable of being bridged and was expanded into a smaller settlement, (Stoke), at the bridgehead on the opposite bank.

The earliest finds here were accompanied by hand-made pottery and imported wheel made pottery. The two seventh century buildings with post holes and slightly sunken floors have been identified.

Later (seventh to ninth centuries), the local Middle Saxon "Ipswich Ware" wheel-made pottery appeared. This was made in area A as well as area C and had a wide distribution mainly up the Suffolk river valleys and beyond, but the manufacture of this type of pottery was always confined to Ipswich.

Developments soon followed in the present Buttermarket area where a cemetery was in continuous use until the beginning of the ninth century. As at Sutton Hoo the burials were of various types, some had grave goods and some had none. The speaker remarked that the deposition of grave goods continued into the Christian Times. The soil, being very acid normally did not leave any bones except where the `fill' of the graves consisted of top soil, but wooden coffins could be identified - some resembling 'dug out' boats. Two or three of the graves excavated were surrounded by ring ditches. The richest grave had a shield boss, a sword and scabbard, belt buckles etc. and a small silver chain - all the signs of a warrior's funeral. Eighty one graves were identified in this cemetery, which had no marked boundaries. The latest find was a coin of Offa (850-900 AD). Other burials have been found beyond the original town on what was then heath land.

Growth of the town was slow until the ninth century when there was sudden growth in area (A). Excavations in St Stephen's lane revealed the sites of several houses and commercial activity such as metalworking and highly skilled bone working. The School Street site also evidenced similar activities. There was a massive iron working (smithy) hearth where 200kg of iron slag was removed by excavators - and on the other side of the town a similar, but bigger site, was unearthed. Loom weights confirmed cloth making and a pottery which produced high quality bottles is the earliest post Roman kiln of this type known in the country. About 910-920 AD the first town defences were built, consisting of a bank and ditch they took over the site of buildings.

Over forty buildings with cellars (with clay floors) were identified. Many had been burnt down in the mid eleventh century. Their ashes had carbonised basketwork and "buns".

Little is known of Ipswich castle site which may be west of Buttermarket. The town defences were improved about 1204 AD. The town stagnated from the mid-twelfth century and Area (B) was occupied by three religious houses and the central area continued so until the Dissolution. From then it continued to be under-developed for many years

The speaker concluded by saying that the history of the pottery industry in the town deserved further research in the future, as it had been of such importance.

Field Walking in Suffolk - *Monday 22nd October 1990*

Mike Hardy, Secretary, Suffolk Institute of Archaeology Field Group.

The speaker has now "field-walked" 65,000 acres in Suffolk - mainly in the Waveney Valley. Ring ditches are numerous and Bronze Age polished axe heads frequently found by farmers. The Iron Age sites in

the county are mainly clustered along river valleys and the fen edge (where tanged barbed arrow heads are often found). The earth works of the Iron Age, fairly common, are usually ploughed away or built over. Settlement sites, beginning in the Iron Age, in the Bungay to Scole area produce bonfire fired smokey coloured pottery until the Belgic period when wheel turned kiln fired pottery appears.

In the Roman period there was a population explosion and settlement spread from the valleys to higher heavy clay land with some farms approaching 100 acres. The population density became comparable to that in the medieval period. Good supplies of wood and clay resulted in numerous, clamp brickworks, and the production of loom weights, hypocaust tiles, floor tiles etc.

Field walking in the Scole area (Villa Faustina) has recovered the towns Roman street plan and identified the building materials etc then in use. At that time the river was much wider and the Norfolk side had wharfs. At Flixton, the gravel terrace above the river has revealed Pagan Saxon burials. One site shows from its pottery continuous use till the conquest. The middle-Saxon "Ipswich type" pottery was made almost exclusively in the Ipswich area and had a wide distribution.

The speaker has investigated the Elmham parishes, so important in the later Saxon period, and the site of the Saxon bishopric. After the conquest the see was transferred to Norwich and the land holdings became part of the new cathedral's estate, continuing so for many years.

Other features referred to included the ruined Sibton Abbey, the only Cistercian abbey in the county. It still displays its splendid arches.

In the "saints" area All Saints round tower was built on a Roman site. The only buildings near by were the manor house and the steward's house so it was considered to be the relics of a Deserted Medieval Village but research now shows that the parish population lived remote from the church near to an Abbey (to the south of the parish). It formerly had a huge green.

St Peters Hall is a fine house adorned with architectural features from the former nearby priory, thus having a somewhat ecclesiastical look. The family later moved to Flixton and built an even finer house now in a very bad state.

Wingfield Castle gatehouse, another fine building with a sixteenth century dovecote. The foundations of a fine gatehouse were found when the moat of South Elmham Hall was recently cleaned out, and the numerous village greens of the county were other features referred to.

Prehistoric London - *Monday 29th October 1990*

N J Merriman MA, PhD, AMA, Department of Prehistoric & Roman Antiquities, The Museum of London

Dr Merriman began his talk by illustrating the great length of time between the formation of the London Basin and historic times. In 500,000 BC the Proto-Thames flowed through the Vale of St Albans an thence through Harwich probably.

The advent of the Ice Age with its great ice sheet dammed up the Vale and eventually forced the river to adopt a more southerly course.

South of the 1,000 foot thick ice sheet was a Tundra landscape capable of supporting large animals (e.g. mammoths and wooly rhinos) and the first men to live in the London area. The Swanscombe man and his very early flint axes of about 350,000 BC relate to this period.

Successive cold and mild phases caused the sea level to fall and rise, so rivers in colder periods cut into the gravels deposited by the outrush of water from glaciers. The rivers were thus bounded by gravel terraces suitable for human settlement by Homo Erectus and Neanderthal Man - the latter being evidenced by finds of his flint implements.

In the colder phases sea level was so low that Britain was a peninsula of the European mainland so early man could walk here. At least six gravel terraces have been noted in the London area and in 1690 AD mammoth bones and a flint handaxe were found near Kings Cross. A larger find of flint implements was found at Stoke Newington at the end of the nineteenth century.

The long cold phase from 297,000-130,000 BC with its great effect on London landscape gave way

to much milder climate evidenced by elephant remains in Trafalgar Square, Pall Mall and St James' Square and lions, red deer, hippopotomuses show what the landscape must have been like.

But the last glacial period (110,000-13,000 BC) gradually set in. Towards the end of this period Homo Sapiens gradually made his way here from the continent and from 13,000 BC it seems the country has been continually occupied rather than supporting merely seasonal hunting parties.

Finds of temporary camps (one c 8,000 BC and another c 6,000 BC) on the river Colne terraces in west London had blade tools with animal bones. The blades had been made at the site as their cores were found, so presumably the meat was jointed and carried to more permanent quarters.

The landscape was at first one of pine and hazel forest with areas of heath and shrub, gradually giving way to a warmer type supporting aurochs, red deer, etc which could cope with thicker forest cover. These involved different hunting methods so Mesolithic man used bows and arrows and domesticated hunting dogs. Sometimes they cleared patches of forest to assist in hunting.

Rising sea levels cut Britain off from the continent by *c* 6,000 BC and the London basin became marshy with meandering streams and gravel islands and the population spread to the confines of the basin. Causeway-ed camps are found at this period and microlith artefacts, flint adzes and axes.

By about 4,500 BC the Neolithic primitive agricultural way of life is evidenced in Britain but not in the London basin, perhaps because early Neolithic site are buried deeply in river silts. However by the middle Neolithic grooved ware is found - the earliest sites are at Staines and Runnymede.

Somewhat later (3,000-2,500 BC) is the four kilometre cursus at Heathrow and ritual deposits. Then followed the early Bronze age. By then the aurochs was rare and the bones of one (minus horns), cut up and buried at Heathrow is probably a ritual deposit. Middle Bronze Age urns have been found and (1200-700 BC) a land surface at Bermondsey had an ard-scored surface. In this late Bronze Age period the population increased and there was a temporary hardening of the climate and military bronze ware, including horse gear is found. Long distance trading routes were established.

Bronze gave way to iron for many uses and by c 650 BC. Iron was being worked in the London area and in a century iron works were numerous. The typical Iron Age hill forts are now scarce to find in the London area though late Iron Age ones are found in Epping Forest and Surrey and a very large one (c 100 BC) by the River Roding, together with roundhouses and a smithy. By the Roman conquest the main native centre of importance was near St Albans.

Historic Food and Cookery - *5th November 1990*

Barbara Green, BSc, FSA, FMA

The speaker began with a slide of the kitchen in the Bayeux Tapestry - the subject of recent contention as it showed meat being cooked shish-kebab style on skewers which, it was said, was not introduced into Western Europe until 1722. Miss Green however had slides of tenth century carvings showing this being done, and which demolished the argument that the tapestry must be a fake.

Evidence of medieval cookery comes largely from material found in waste pits and cesspits and is mostly relating to well-to-do households. Piers Plowman however gives a list of foods available to the less well off and sources mention the difference between bread made for the masters and that made for their boon labourers. Cheese was rather despised by the well off. The lesser gentry had their food mainly cooked on a central fire in the hall but the prosperous soon went in for separate kitchens (because of fires) and then fires with wall chimneys, often with louvred lantern openings. Brewery and bake houses similarly became separate buildings. Twelfth century descriptions show that kitchens for the more prosperous often had water laid on and hot water systems as well as ways of removing kitchen waste. Fish could be kept in an aquarium.

Bread was generally used for trenchers, mustard was much used and mustard mills existed in some kitchens. Cooking vessels were usually made of pottery before the thirteenth century, when cast bronze vessels, more easily cleaned, became the vogue. Double boilers were in use at least in late medieval times and cauldron cranes for raising or lowering cauldrons over the fire were used.

Several items of food could be cooked at one time in the cauldrons. Many wooden articles could be found in the kitchen-bowls for pottage, spoons, boxes etc - also horn spoons. Unlike the French at that time,

the English were very fond of sauces-they also used much spice. Food in these big houses was served with much ceremony as shown by surviving illustrations and books of etiquette. In the early middle ages the rich ate little in the way of vegetables but this gradually changed. Also the number of feast days diminished but the authorities always encouraged fish eating as this ensured a good supply of mariners.

In big houses a great number of people had to be catered for and this number was unpredictable. Dame Alice's household books have survived. She lived in the big house at Acton, near Sudbury - now demolished. Her brass is in Acton church. These record the practical side of her life - the purchasing of salt from Colchester, engaging a harpist to provide music at a feast, the consumption of rabbits, pigs, pheasants, herons, stockfish, herrings in vast numbers etc.

Much food came from her estates but much also from surrounding towns and villages with a great shopping expedition to Stourbridge Fair near Cambridge, when cartloads of food were brought back. Some food was obtained from the fishmonger who made frequent calls. There were strict laws about the sale of fish which resulted in many court cases.

An interesting point is that the introduction of rabbits to this country was not without some difficulty as it took some time for a strain to develop resistance to the cold English winter. The speaker concluded by describing some of the recipes surviving from the middle ages.

Anglo-Saxon cemetries at Barrington and Haddenham, Cambs. - *12th November 1990*

Tim Mallin BA, Field Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council.

Both these cemeteries are of about the same age and they contain skeletons with good teeth as is common with Anglo-Saxon remains, as contrasted with Roman skulls which usually have bad teeth. A fair number of Anglo-Saxon cemeteries have been located and many chance finds of brooches, shield bosses etc but settlement sites are more rare and have not been located here.

The Haddenham site had a double burial each with the head on a pillow stone and crossed legs. The male - older than the female - with a shield boss, spear head of the 6th century type etc. She, with iron chatelaine, spindle whorl, brooch etc and a sound skeleton. They had no common ancestry so were presumably a married couple. The male had abscesses caused by manual work. In addition there was a jumble of bones representing eleven persons whose remains had been disturbed by later digging.

At Barrington the site had been known since 1840. The date is about the same as another Anglo-Saxon cemetery in the village. but the finds and bones (where kept) are in several museums and not well documented. The current dig - to continue next year - has lasted two years. The graves are often shallow now but a greater depth of soil is recorded a century ago, and the site is a chalk knoll protruding into the clay belt. The main aim at present is to find the extant and number of burials - which is considerable, twenty eight have been found this year and some are of kindred groups it appears. One group had four women and another three males. One grave of a woman had the iron fittings from a bed burial, only nine of which were known before. The men were nearly all six foot or over and the women 5'0" to 5'9".

A group of males all had "open sutures" - unusual in well nourished tall men and indicating a family trait. Some graves showed that the bones had been disturbed after burial - a practice still found in some societies (e.g. Mexico).

Grave goods, including cruciform brooches and square headed brooches, belt fastenings, beads etc are found in many graves (but less commonly in those of younger persons) up to the late seventh century AD. One find was of Kentish or Frankish origin.

Below the cemetery level were late Iron Age ditches, stake holes, pits with stake holes - probably for some industrial purpose such as retting, and early Roman pottery.

At Morton, near by, a likely site for a settlement, field walking of nearly 100 acres produced no evidence of settlement but this is not unexpected as Saxon huts leave no great remains on the land surface.

Much may be learnt from studding the bones, about the population of these Saxons - a contrast with the meagre remains found in the acid sandy Suffolk sites. Efforts to find finance to purchase the site have come to naught and modern agriculture is likely to damage the unexcavated areas.

An exhibition was mounted in Wimpole Hall (National Trust) and caused considerable interest and this year about a thousand children visited the site in spite of cuts in the money for school visits.

Pastures New :The First Farmers in South East England - *19th November 1990.*
Robin Holgate, BA, PhD, Principal Keeper, Luton Museum.

The Neolithic Period in this country extends approximately from 3,500 BC-2,000 BC and implements then made came from rock as far away as Switzerland. The carvings on the underside of a capstone in Brittany show the hallmarks of the Neolithic, i.e. round based pots, corn ears, domesticated animals.

The early Neolithic people constructed long barrows for the burial of their chiefs - the West Kennett chambered tombs, where the bones had been sorted into different chambers is a prime example. Some of the slabs used there showed grooves made where roughly chipped implements had been ground down to make polished sharp axe heads. There are some tombs, where stone was not available, which were not communal.

Other sites of the period are causewayed camps with an interior interrupted ditch in which bones have been found - Windmill Hill is a prime example here. These are not found on defensive positions and were built for ritual purposes, (c 2,700 BC).

Later oval barrows were made, these were not communal and contain grave goods. The Springfield cursus, about a mile long, built for ceremonial processions, belongs to this period, as do Henge monuments, such as Avebury.

Several smaller examples of such sites have been found in East Anglia. Flint mines - Grimes Graves, Cissbury, Carrow Hill - have also produced objects which have a ritual significance.

Up to the 1980's Neolithic habitation sites were practically unknown but several have now been identified by careful field walking and excavation on sites shown in air photographs.

It appears that such sites were not villages but settlements of one or two families who built rectangular huts. These were successively replaced leaving traces of different generations, represented by the four types of Neolithic pottery – i.e. (1) Round plain pots, (2) Decorated round pots, (3) Peterborough Ware, (4) Grooved Ware. Flint working was often carried out on middens, away from the houses, where in the living part of the site the fragments were carefully gathered up and dumped on middens or in disused storage pits.

The earliest settlements were near rivers (in the late mesolithic), then on gravel terraces and rising land and in a population explosion in the late Neolithic on other available sites.

Throughout the climate seems to have been much the same - about two degrees warmer than now- and the landscape one of deciduous trees and shrubs, gradually getting reduced by the ravages of increasing cattle stock and man, assisted by fungal diseases in some cases.

The crops grown, as shown from monument sites overlying the Neolithic land surface, were chiefly wheat and barley though apples and legumes are also testified. Impressions on pottery also testify to the crops.

The speaker referred to Avebury, Abingdon, the Crouch estuary and the Chilterns as sites where Neolithic research has been productive, as also the Stansted airport site. He stressed the importance of careful field walking on sites revealed by air photographs as likely ones. Concentrations of flint objects and flint waste, properly mapped, would be good guides towards Neolithic habitation sites.

Continental Positions in the Lower Palaeozoic *-26th November 1990*
Robin Cocks, DSc, Keeper of Palaeontology, Natural History Museum, London.

The position of the continents in the remote past can now be deduced by studying the fossil remains in the rocks. Some of these fossils are very small, only to be studied microscopically and all represent life in water, as land scarcely existed.

The period the speaker was concerned with extended roughly from 400-600 million BC, and begins

with the Lowest Cambrian followed by the Ordovician and then the Silurian. This study can sometimes be furthered by investigating the direction of magnetism in sea floor rocks of those ages.

At the beginning of the period the continents were part of a super-continent in Antarctic regions but gradually separated by the movement of their underlying plates caused by convection currents in the magma below. A movement which still continues and is most rapid in Indonesia at 18 cm per annum.

At the start of this period the Baltic area, Laurentia (most of the USA, Canada,) Spitzbergen, North Britain, Norway etc were adjacent - as shown by their similar fauna. A particular indicator being a Trilobite about one centimetre long. Generally the sea level was considerably higher than today as the polar ice was much reduced, and would have been higher still save for the opening of profound ocean trenches. However, at the end of the Ordovician there was much glaciation, as shown by the rocks in the Hernant Quarry near Bala. Identical features and fauna remains found in many places round the world confirm their former positions as part of one zone fringing one land mass.

The movement of the continents resulted in collisions causing the formation of mountain ranges. It also moved them into different climatic belts so causing changes in the life they supported - evidenced by fossil remains - thus, by Silurian times Britain had moved to a warm enough zone to support the sea creatures which formed the carbonate rocks we can see today. The movement of the continents is too big a subject for this short report. The speaker referred members to "The Story of the Earth" (published by the Geological Museum) as a good introduction to this fascinating subject.

The Deverel-Rimbury Cemetery, Brightlingsea - *3rd December 1990*

Philip Clarke BA, Essex County Council Archaeological Unit

This site on the highest point in the peninsular overlooking the Colne has been known since the early 1970's. The lowest part near the river, is of clay but the cemetery is on brickearth in part, and partly on sand and gravel. No crop marks can be seen on the clayland but they are numerous on the higher land where the barrows would have been obvious to anyone sailing up the Colne. In the vicinity are Roman remains, the parish church overlies one Roman site.

Gravel working has destroyed much of the site and planning permissions will ensure further damage, but the cemetery itself has a preservation order and excavations were carried out from October 1989-February 1990. A long straight ditch ran across the site is unrelated to the Bronze Age burials which appear to have begun in the SE part and spread to the NW. These early ones were in Ardleigh type urns, some at least were previously used for domestic purposes and were found in barrow rings. One urn contained an accessory vessel. Of the 46 burials found, 33 were in urns (about half inverted). The barrow rings filled rapidly with sterile material - blown sand, in this bleak situation. In many cases no pots or burials were found because the burials were shallow and the sandy coverings blown away. None of the barrow rings cut another and the other burials, thought to be later, respected the rings and each other. These other urnless burials were cremations - some found as secondary burials in the barrow sites themselves. The amount of bones which were found in the burials varied from none to a good deal and none had grave goods.

The urns were fragile and to lift them entailed enlarging the pit and strengthening with polyurethane foam, covering with tinfoil and then binding with cardboard before undercutting and lifting. This particular Bronze Age style of vessel - the Ardleigh type - is found in the north of the county, not in the south.

The environment when the cemetery was developed was rough grassland, perhaps arable land, which had fallen out of use.

The habitation sites connected with the cemetery have yet to be located but extensive field walking in the vicinity has found about 10,000 flint specimens - half burnt, half struck, with concentrations in some areas which may indicate habitation sites or industrial ones.

Courtship and marriage through the ages - *21st January 1991*

Richard Wood, MA, BEd, Education officer, Norfolk Museums Service.

There are now sixteen Museums in Norfolk and Mr Woods post is to interpret the articles they hold. Many old 'magical' beliefs still survive among children concerning omens as to whom they may marry etc, e.g. burning ears, cracking fingers and rhymes such as "drop a spoon, your love will come soon" and it has

been said that the origin of the honeymoon was to give time for the animosity roused by alleged ‘marriage by capture' to die down.

Moore's "Utopia" had the custom of the couple being exposed naked to each other in the presence of a chaperon to give them a chance to see if they really liked each other and the same sort of thing gave rise in some areas to the practice of 'bundling'.

Obviously there is a large element of chance in pairing and superstition sought to counteract the chance of evil choices by considering some months more propitious than others for weddings. September to November were considered lucky months, May a bad month.

Buttonholes, a sweep, shoes, showers of grain (now confetti) all brought luck to the couple, as they do today! So do church bells frighten off evil spirits. The groom and best man wore similar clothes to baffle the spirits.

Many of these beliefs are shown in Van Eyke's painting of "The Arnolfini Wedding". The artist, who was present at the wedding, depicts the crucial moment when the couple took hands and exchanged vows. The dog (fidelity) the flowers, lighted candles (representing Christ's presence) shoes and other elements are all present in this 1475 painting and the speaker's slides showed a woodcut of early seventeenth century where they mostly occur again.

In these early days marriages were still commonly not held in churches and could lawfully be made by declaration. The Paston papers give an account of the daughter of the family contracting a marriage with their steward. The mother objected to this and appealed to the Bishop of Norwich to declare the marriage invalid, but in spite of his wish to oblige her, after consideration he found he had no grounds to do so. The legality of such marriages lasted much later in Scotland - hence the habit of runaway couples having Gretna Green marriages to thwart parents objections.

In the middle ages the lady's hair flowed free at the wedding and continued to do so until 17th-18th century when veils, as in Roman times, returned in fashion. "Bride Smock weddings" are recorded. Here the bride attended dressed only in a smock so the groom could hot be accused of accepting any debts with her.

The age of consent in medieval times was 12 for girls, 14 for boys. Among the wealthy where marriages were arranged for dynastic or property reasons, however, betrothals were frequently arranged at a much younger ages. Though the marriage could not take place below the age of consent, these betrothals often resulted in great pressure being put on the young couples to proceed to a marriage willy-nilly.

The status of women was low, but among the propertied class they were protected to some extent by the provision of jointures - if the husband died first they had a third of the estate for life.

Unconventional weddings, but lawful ones, were carried out by clerics who were prisoners in the fleet prison. Some of these even kept a register of sorts. During the Commonwealth when some parishes had no incumbent and the church was perhaps closed, the law requiring bands to be read was observed by having them read in the market place, so making sure of the desirable publicity of intended marriages.

The custom of giving a ring - originally of iron - is of great antiquity. It signifies eternity (or some say a shackle). The ring is seen in a Matthew Paris picture (13th century) but is of pagan origin. The speaker concluded by displaying a number of gifts which the young man would have given his intended. These tokens included Welsh Spoons and Knitting sheaths. •

Colchester under the Romans: The History of a Roman city - *28th January 1991*

Paul Sealey, PhD, Colchester and Essex Museum Services

The speaker began by paying tribute to Philip Crummy as the source for his material.

As a Roman city Colchester began with the visit of Claudius in A. D. 43 which enabled him to have a 'Triumph' in Rome and resulted in the set up of a Legionary Fortress by the 20th Legion, whose presence here is confirmed by the tombstone of Facilis and the type of kiln 2b at Endsleigh School site. The presence of ala 1 Thracum is shown by the tombstone of Longinus and a fragment of stone records the 1st Cohort of Varingians.

By AD 49 Roman rule seemed well established, the troops moved to the new frontiers and a settlement of ex-soldiers - probably called Colonia Claudia established on the former fort where the buildings were converted to their use. But the cruel behavior of the veterans and their eviction of the natives resulted in the local Trinovantes throwing in their lot with the Iceni in Boudicca's rebellion, the Colonia was burnt down (and so preserved many features for archaeology) and their was slaughter of the Romans. The savagery of the revolt at Colchester was not equalled in London or St Albans where the Britons had not such great grievances. The revolt was put down in AD 61, forts were placed in East Anglia, the Colonia was re-established as Colonia Victrensis and the town wall built 65-68 AD to incorporate the twin arches of the monumental Triumphal Gateway at the entrance. The site of the new city was much larger than the original fortress.

This second city was a great success and by the early 2nd century had a flourishing pottery industry run by Celts and Romans. The potters had big army contracts and their mortaria are found in Scotland - a quarter of all found there. An influx of potters c 175 AD imitated the manufacture of Samian Ware. The prosperity is testified by the high quality mosaics found. By 200 AD however urban potteries had been largely replaced by rural ones.

Uneasy times followed. About 250 AD the Town Wall was strengthened and the ditches deepened. An inscription relating to a Caledonian soldier suggests drafts of recruits may have come here prior to service on the continent.

By the end of the century Naval forts round the coast (Bradwell, Walton, near Felixstowe etc) staved off the Saxon threats, and the Naval commander Carausius who set himself up as Emperor had gold coins minted in the city - as did his successor Alectus.

The city now entered on a period of slow decline but some people were still prosperous as shown by the high quality mosaic from Lion Walk. However, the population declined, some houses fell down or were pulled down and their sites used for crop growing - a barn was discovered in excavations in the town centre. The so-called Mithraeum in Holly Trees meadow - really a large tank, part of the town's water system - was used as a rubbish dump, and wooden houses were erected over Roman sites circa 425 AD. However Christianity had found a considerable footing, an apsidal addition to the south of the Roman temple may have been a church and the recently discovered Butt Road church serviced a large Roman cemetery. A Chi-Rho pot has also been found from the rubbish in the temple precinct.

The uneasy times resulted in many coin hoards being buried but there are no signs of pillaging. The only likely signs of violence at this time are evidences of two fires at Duncan's gate. The general picture is one of slow decay with Saxon settlers moving in, in small numbers compared with the number of people who had lived in the town in its palmy days.

Caesarea: Ancient Harbour Excavation Project - *4th February 1991*

Douglas Barrett, BA, retired headmaster

Chance favours the prepared mind, for many years I had intended when I retired to study the medieval wool trade, then one day I heard that the Mary Rose Trust were looking for teachers to give lectures on the Mary Rose. I did some lecturing for them and became hooked on sub-aqua diving. I learnt to dive, hoping to go down on to the Mary Rose but was never allowed to. One day I heard on Radio 4 a programme called "Diving for the past", all about the ancient harbour at Caesarea. Professor Hosfelder was talking about the kind of people who become volunteers on the project. I wrote to the BBC and actually joined the project in 1984. I also went in 1986, 1988 and 1990.

King Solomon had a city here. In AD 14, King Herod was sailing past and saw a ruined tower. He decided to restore it, and built a beautiful palace and harbour. The harbour is described in great detail by the Jewish historian Josephus, who described how enormous stones were used to build the harbour.

These can be fierce storms on this coast, and each season the dig barge has been wrecked. The harbour was called by its Greek name Sebosos. Just along the coast is the piscinae or fish farm built by Herod. The harbour has a sluice to enable the sea to flush out the sift from the harbour. The city was 164 acres with colonnaded streets and an underground drainage system. There was an aqueduct six and a half miles in length. There is a Roman theatre built in Roman concrete. Pontius Pilate built a temple dedicated to the Emperor Tiberius. After the Romans, Caesarea became a centre of Jewish and Christian learning.

In 1251 the Crusaders came and built a fortress and walled city. Roman columns were reused in the walls where they can be seen. In 1884 Muslim refugees from Bosnia came and founded a settlement, they built a mosque with a minaret near the harbour.

In aerial views of the harbour, you can see great masses of underwater stonework. In 1960 Mr Link, an American engineer first came to Caesarea with his diving boat, and diving has gone on ever since. Since 1970 Professor B Hosfelder has been diving with his team. The diving barge is collapsible so it can be stored on land in winter when the coast is very inhospitable. Sometimes diving is done from rubber dinghies. Underwater writing pads are used to take notes. Airbags are used to lift heavy stones. Surveyors draw up plans of the excavations. The team recorded a Roman merchant ship which was wrecked along the coast.

Urban Archaeology in Suffolk and recent work in Sudbury - *18th February 1991*

John Newman, BA, AIFA, Assistant Field Officer, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Unit

Opportunities for urban archaeology in Suffolk tend to be restricted to the larger towns, since there is not much development in the small towns which are often saved by being full of listed buildings. Ipswich, Dunwich, Eye, Sudbury, Beccles, Bungay, and Clare all had burgesses in Domesday book, while Bury St Edmunds was probably a town in the 11th century, although not mentioned as such in Domesday. It was a monastic centre from the 6th century and has an interesting street grid, but little has been excavated. Probably the Saxon trading centre was under the present Abbey gardens.

Clare and Eye became towns between 1066 and 1086. There is no sign of Saxon settlement at Eye, but it could have been destroyed by the building of the Norman castle. Dunwich was one of the largest towns, according to Domesday, and finds of Ipswich ware show Middle Saxon settlement, though whether it was the site of the episcopal see of Dommoc is unsure. There was an early medieval mint which could have started in Late Saxon times.

John Newman's main topic was Sudbury, which has more potential for finding out about Iron Age and Saxon settlement than any other small town in Suffolk. In Saxon times it was the third most important town. The semi-circular street pattern suggests defences, probably late Saxon. St Gregory's (often an early dedication) could have been a minster church, with St Peter's as a chapelry. In 973 Edgar allowed burghal fortified towns to have mints, and in Aethelred II's reign one was established. The name "bury" indicates a pre-Saxon fortified site, and Iron Age defences have been found , while "Sud" refers to south of Bury St Edmunds.

On the Stour House site Bronze Age material - pottery, pits, post-holes - is followed by late Iron Age (decorated bone combs - very rare in Suffolk), a group of sling-bullets of baked clay (usually found on high-status sites), together with a bronze button-and-loop dress fastener of high quality. Thus Iron Age Sudbury appears to have been an important settlement. Two Iron Age and one early Roman ditch run across the site. Late Saxon activity was represented by two rubbish pits containing Thetford ware, raising the possibility that Sudbury was a production centre, though dating cannot be exact since Thetford ware continues until the late 12th century. An early medieval fence line on the same alignment as the as the Iron Age ditches was replaced in the 14th or 15th century by a flint and mortar wall, indicating a property boundary which had remained the same for centuries.

In 1977 Keith Wade found late Saxon, medieval and Iron Age pottery on a very small site in St Gregory's Street, probably part of the middle/late Saxon *settlement. But recent excavation at Walnut Tree Hospital on a large site near St Gregory's church proved disappointing since the area had been quarried away in the nineteenth century. So finds were mainly residual, with pottery of Iron Age, Roman, mid-Saxon and Early Medieval date. Two large rubbish pits, one containing Ipswich ware, gave confirmation of Middle Saxon occupation. Early medieval bone thread pickers were evidence of the cloth industry for which Sudbury later became notable.

The Rose Theatre - *25th February 1991*

Julian Bowsher, Museum of London

The Bankside area was little developed, except on the river frontage until Tudor times when it attracted enterprises which could not easily be carried on in the City area opposite for social reasons, such as theatres, bordellos, etc.

The Rose was the first theatre, built in 1587, on the Little Rose estate on the north side of Maiden

Lane by Philip Henslowe whose careful records have been carefully kept till this day. He presented plays by Marlow and in 1591, Henry VI, Part I which is at least in part by Shakespeare.

Redevelopment of the site has allowed partial excavation and shown that the building had two phases.

Phase I

In Phase I, an outer wall was built on chalk pile caps carrying a brick parapet supporting timber uprights which carried three galleries facing the stage through the inner parallel wall which was fretted to allow the stage to be seen. Between this structure and the stage was a yard for the groundlings. This had a mortared floor which was frail and developed a gully from the drips from the galleries. These latter were approached from stairs inside the theatre and required an extra fee.

The main doorway was in Maiden Lane. The stage was of brick and timber - only a foot high now remains. The yard sloped down to the stage and the mortar continued under it and was eroded in front of the stage.

Phase II

The owner's records show that a large sum was expended for building material (1592) to enlarge the northern side of the theatre but the southern (Maiden Lane) side was not much altered. Two pillar bases show that the stage was roofed and a new earthen floor strengthened with a vast number of hazel nuts provided. This floor had a lesser slope than its predecessor. The drip line showed the roof projected in front of the stage and remains showed the ceiling was rendered on laths - while plastering in the theatre used wattles. It was this roof which made it necessary to push back the northern side of the theatre to make it possible to see the stage from the galleries. Finds during the excavations included a Baltic pine drain- which existed during both phases, a Tudor spur, and a turtle carapace.

The excavations proved that the style of the building was not on Vetruvius' classic models as previously thought but was of vernacular origin. It was also established that the stage was of trapezoidal shape and not rectangular, this was confirmed in a Dutch visitor's sketch in the museum at Utrecht.

The last performance at the Rose was in 1603. The remains are conserved under the new building.

The buildings of Wivenhoe: Their Archaeology and History - *4th March 1991*

David Clarke, MA, FSA, FMA, FRNS, former Curator of the Colchester and Essex Museum.

Wifa's Hoe - Wifa's Ridge - is a gravel ridge at the lowest fordable place on the Colne and here Bronze Age sherds, a BA spear head, also Iron Age sherds, have been found on the highest part of the ridge just beyond the parish boundary. The church tower stands on reused Roman brick and the West end has a piece of Roman flooring built into it, suggesting a Roman building was in the vicinity.

The church is partly 15th century - the north wall is original but the building was extended to the south in 1860. The chancel arch, then removed, is recorded as being narrow which suggests it may have been Norman. The present chancel arch has 1860 angels at the base and a good east window of unknown designer (cf glass in All Saints, Colchester) of that period. The brasses include a splendid one of Elizabeth, Countess of Oxford, 1537 (parts of vestments she left to the church are now in the V & A).

The river was formerly nearer the town than now. In East Street a 15th century (Nonesuch House) was built just above the tide line and a warehouse type of building shows successive extension towards the river as the water retreated.

Several houses of that period conceal their dates by extensions in the front which take in the space under their overhangs. Inside, the two doorways of screen passages exist in several of them – e.g. Falcon Inn and "Scruples" on Anchor Hill. The Baker's house upstairs has remains of wall paintings which seem to have had figures removed systematically from them - perhaps depicting saints. In East Street Garrison House with its splendid display of pargetting seems to have had a communal use originally. Though dated 1684 the parge is of James I period.

Some of the 15th century houses which have disappeared have left the line of their steep roofs on adjacent properties. Nothing of Wivenhoe Hall survives, it was demolished in the 1920's when pottery fragments from the cellar of 16-17th century Delft ware and blue glaze pottery of George II-George III was found. On the Colchester Road is Toad Hall the workhouse of c 1720. The house next door was the master's house later doubled in size. A 15-16th century West Street house was a very early meeting place for Congregationalists. Their later very urban style chapel is now flats.

Wivenhoe grew rapidly when the railway cut through the town as it enabled the yachting fraternity to arrive easily and the also local fishermen to dispatch their catch to London. Unfortunately the interesting features of the Station such as the canopy and splendid cast iron fireplaces have all gone. It is still possible to discern the bay where the Brightlingsea trains (which had no access to the Clacton-Colchester line) pulled in.

Other features of the town which have disappeared are many of the twenty-two public houses, the lock-up, or ‘cage', and the rope work - though the office of this remains next to a large house with a good 18th century front. The alms houses have lost their pleasant feature of a network pattern of tiles since being re-roofed and the 19th century hotels built for the visiting yachtsmen are now merely public houses.

Priors Hall, Widdington, Essex - *11th March 1991*

Nicola Smith, BA, PhD, FSA, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, English Heritage

This house is next to a barn in the care of English Heritage. The barn of eight bays, and built of oak dates probably from c 1379 when the estate on which it stands was given by William of Wykeham New College, Oxford. The history of the estate is well documented from pre-conquest ownership by Thorkel, to the convent at St Valery, Normandy, then - in 1307 - to William. The house and barn were encircled by a moat, part of which remains.

In the course of her work at the barn Dr Smith was invited to view the house by its owner and occupier. Formerly known as Stone House, it has a long E-W Frontage with a narrow lean to extension at the east end and beyond that a stone shed. The lean to includes a staircase. The shed is essentially a below stairs cupboard and here Dr Smith observed part of a ‘long and short' work arch with limestone dressing. Mr George Ballard of Geotechnics Ltd, was asked to apply his Radar method which showed the stones were single ones right through the wall to the outer rendering. Altogether there were three arches.

The interested owner had already decided to have the rendering renewed and this renewal was put in hand quite soon. The flint fabric was found to contain fragments of Roman tile - the nearest Roman villa is 4 miles away at Wendens Ambo. One or two Roman coins have been found near Priors Hall. It was found that the ‘long and short' work extended from the ground to the eves at the NE corner and a similar feature was found mid way along the North front. From there to the NW corner was a timber extension partly using re-used timber and of late 18th century date.

The Saxon work used Barnack stone and showed the building was of high status. Two early windows remain and investigation showed there had been an eastern extension.

Two early churches at one time existed at Widdington, there is only one now and there is little doubt that the stone part of Priors Hall was originally the nave of the vanished church and that Priors Hall is the oldest inhabited house known in Essex, if not in the country. There are other churches with Saxon features in near by parishes, e.g. Strethall, Chickney, Hadstock and Reed in Hertfordshire.

The conversion of the Widdington church to being a house is likely to have taken place in the 11th century. The re-rendering of the house has left the 'long and short' work still exposed - a fascinating feature for an occupied house.

Colchester before the Romans - *18th March 1991*

Philip Crummy, MA, FSA, Director of Colchester Archaeological Trust.

There have been three `towns' at Colchester - the Celtic Camulodunum, the Roman town, the medieval one. The earliest written version of the name is inscribed is inscribed on British coins and implies the fortress nature of the site with its 15 miles of dykes mainly between the Roman River and the River Colne, though some continued beyond the rivers. These represent a fantastic investment of man power in their construction, often being 15ft deep, and are the largest complex of dykes in the country. They survived

to a considerable height till the early 19th century. Two antiquarians produced a good measured description of the visible remains and this was used by Morant to make a map of them. In 1842 Jenkins studied the earthworks, he thought Gosbecks Temple was a villa site but overlooked the nearby British theatre. He also noted Lexden Tumulus.

Excavations in the 1930's and later identified two centres of British life inside the fortified area-the Sheepen one being a commercial one with industry and waterborne trade, the other being Gosbecks - a centre of British culture with a fortified farmhouse, around which were many small fields with drove-ways. Against a dyke a small Roman fort was established. The occupier of the settlement was on good terms with the Roman authorities and was able to 'modernise' the boundary of his farm with sub-rectangular dykes - not so massive as the early ones - and a breach made by recent developers in Grimes Dyke disclosed the dyke overlay a pit with Samian fragments etc. It seems that the dyke is a British parallel to the wall building by the Romans round the Roman town.

No round houses have been identified at Gosbecks, no doubt their shallow remains have been ploughed away. Mr Crummy estimates the British population there to have been a few hundred, and the Sheepen site was not residential.

He considers the purpose of the dyke complex was as a defence against chariot borne tribesmen and to provide barriers to give the defenders a chance to escape. The dykes which cross the rivers are by fordable places and provide defence against attacks, and escape routes if the occupiers of Camulodunum were obliged to withdraw.

Mr Crummy concluded by showing slides depicting the serious deterioration of the dykes in this century with the great increase of wear and tear by the expansion of the town. He hopes the establishment of an archaeological park at Gosbecks would have a beneficial effect on the remaining monuments.