



Colchester Archaeological Group

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ANNUAL BULLETIN VOL. 36 1993

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Notes from the editor

Once again we must thank Pat Brown and helpers for an excellent list of speakers, everyone who helped with the projector and Harry Palmer for his weekly lecture summaries. I must thank Andy Roper for producing the layout.

THE RED HILLS BOOK

There is a healthy balance in the Red Hills Book account. A donation of £250 was given to the Victoria County History appeal.

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY: ESSEX, Volume ix, *The Borough of Colchester*

The latest volume of The Victoria History of the counties of England, Essex, covering Colchester was published in July 1994. The editor Dr Janet Cooper, has generously allowed the Group to purchase a copy at a reduced price. This copy will be placed in the group library. Members can purchase their own copies, until 1997, from Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford, OX2 6DP, at a cost of £70.00. The ISBN is 0197277848.

With the publication of volume ix, the editor Dr Janet Cooper, is turning her attention to surrounding parishes. If any member knows of historical material or information which may be suitable or useful background for the volumes listed below, she would be pleased to hear of it. Her address is:

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Any members who are uncertain as to whether their material is relevant or of sufficient import are invited to consult the Bulletin Editor, Richard Shackle, in the first instance.

Parishes to be included in Vol X. Lexden Hundred (part)

Aldham; West Bergholt; Great and Little Birch; Boxted; Earls Colne; Colne Engaine; Wakes Colne; White Colne; Copford; Dedham; East Donyland; Easthorpe; Fordham; Great and Little Horkesley; Langham; Mount Bures; Stanway; Wivenhoe; Wormingford.

Parishes to be included in Vol XI. Lexden Hundred (part) and Winstree Hundred

Lexden Hundred: Great Coggeshall; Feering; Inworth; Markshall; Messing; Pattiswick; Great, Little and Marks Tey.

Winstree Hundred: Abberton; Fingringhoe; Langenhoe; Layer Breton; Layer-de-la-Haye; Layer Marney; East and West Mersea; Peldon; Salcott; Virley; Great and Little Wigborough.

Total 22 parishes (4 of them tiny); one medium sized town.

Summer Outings 1993

WALK ALONG THE COLCHESTER DYKES AND THE ROMAN RIVER

Monday 10th May

Mark Davies led an evening walk along a stretch of the dykes starting at Brickwall Farm. Later we followed the upper part of the Roman River ending up at Little Birch church; an interesting ruin in a wood. About 20 members participated and enjoyed the walk, though just a few would have preferred a somewhat shorter route.

INWORTH AND MESSING CHURCHES.

Monday 24th May

We made an evening visit to Inworth and Messing churches. The recently uncovered wall-paintings at Inworth were of great interest and we particularly enjoyed the wood carving in Messing.

COACH TRIP TO ROCHESTER

Saturday 19th June

Some 29 of us went by coach to Rochester in Kent for the day. En route we visited Temple Manor, a 13th century hall house, later extended in the 17th century, built by the Knights Templar as a stopping place for travellers on their way to the Holy Land. The particularly enthusiastic guide made the visit most enjoyable. The remainder of the day was spent in Rochester. Mark Davies was our guide around the castle and also pointed out many historic associations between Rochester and Colchester. During the afternoon members took themselves to places of interest amongst the many museums and ancient buildings.

THE SUMMER PARTY

Monday 12th July

The summer party was at West Mersea at the home of Beryl Stevens. Over 40 members attended and the weather was kind enough for the hardy to dash around the garden on a treasure hunt. The usual good food was organised by Hazel West and Pat Brown and provided by members. Around £40 was taken on the raffle, again, prizes provided by members.

VISIT TO PLESHEY CASTLE

Monday 19th July

A final evening visit was made to Pleshey Castle near Chelmsford. This early castle of the Manderville family dates from around 1140 and the motte, two baileys and the town enclosure can still be seen. Nick Wickenden explained the site to us and told us about the various archaeological digs which had taken place there.

Kath Evans

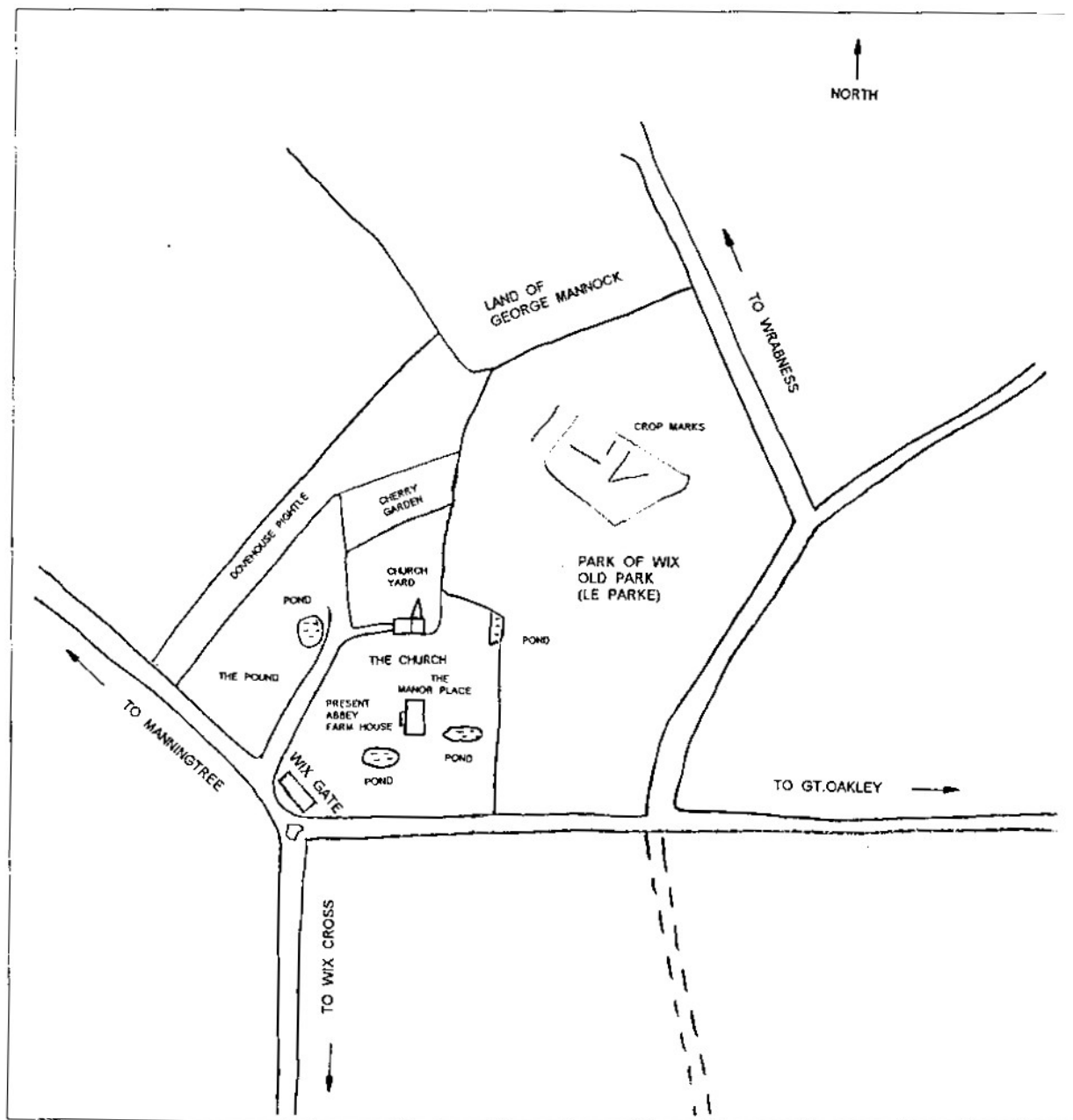
The Site of Wix Priory

by Don Budds

Wix Priory, dedicated to St Mary was founded during the reign of King Henry I by Walter Mascherell and his brother Alexander de Waham (or Wix), at the request of their sister Edith, as a convent for Benedictine Nuns.

The early Ordnance Survey Map shows its position in a field to the north-east of the Parish Church of St Mary, Wix. This is presumably as a result of the description of the site given by Hohnan¹ followed by Morant² who state "The nunnery did not stand where is now Wics Hall, built by the Veseys, on the south side of the church; but it stood in a field not far off where the moats are, or lately were, still visible, and on the site of it large trees were grown up".

The field referred to is presently called Old Park (referred to as Le Parke in early ancient deeds); there are indeed large earthworks shown up as crop marks from aerial photographs in the area. However, an examination of the evidence which has become available over recent years suggest that the priory buildings were sited to the south of the parish church.



THE SITE OF WIX PRIORY

Figure 1. A Sketch Map of Part of Wix Priory Demesne as described in the Survey c1528

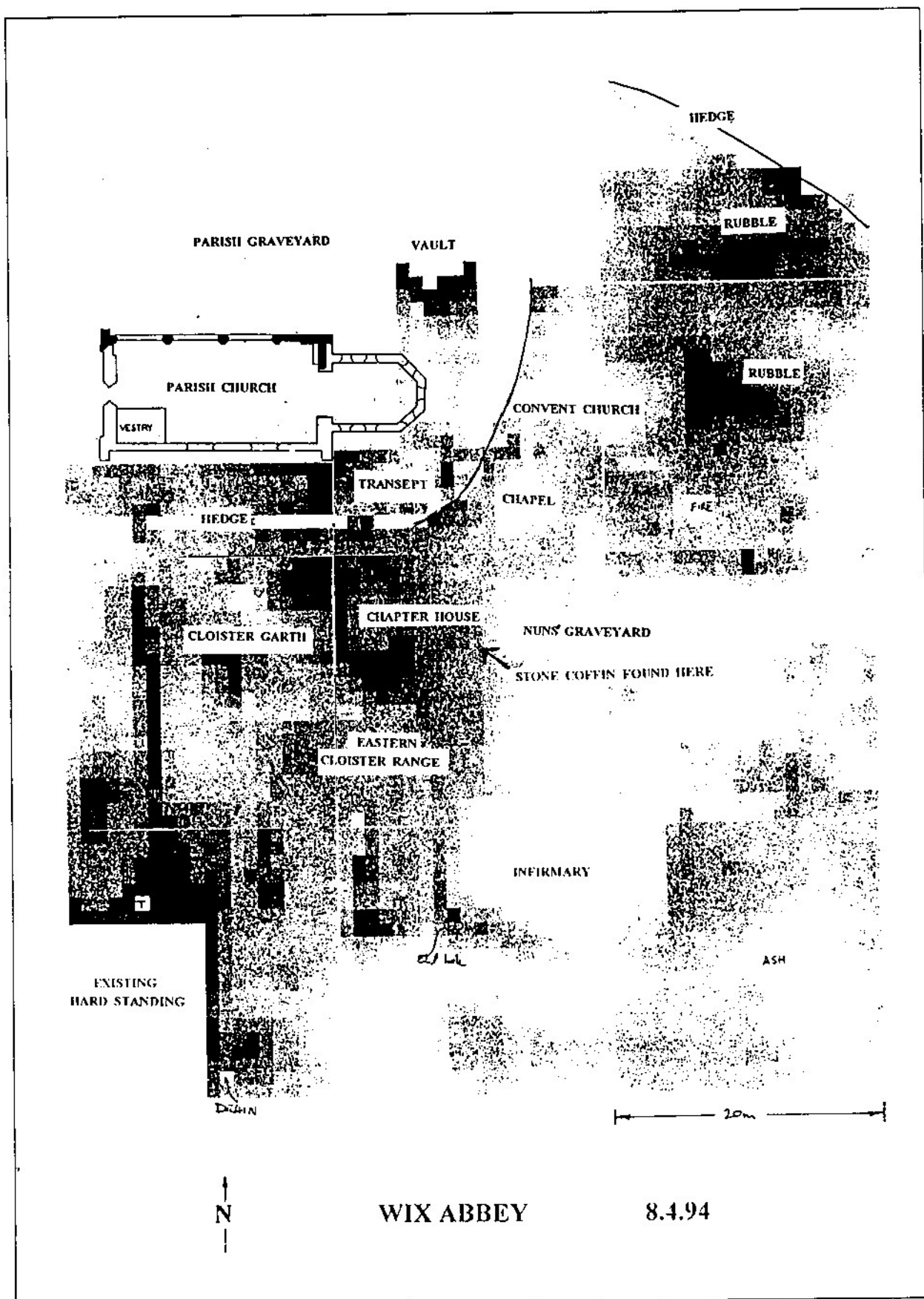
There are five main reasons for believing the latter site to be more likely.

- 1) Ancient Deed, (E40/1391, PRO)
 - 2) E36 136ff, 99. Treasury of the Receipt Miscellaneous Books. Survey of lands apparently in possession of Thomas Wolsey c1528.
 - 3) An archaeological dig reported in the EAST Vol I. 1961-65, page 105 entitled 'stone coffin found at Wix Abbey' by Bryan P Blake and a ground resistivity survey by Peter Cott in April 1994, 4) Consistory Court tithe disputes E 135, 17/20, ERO
 - 5) The conditions of the original endowment. Ancient Deeds E42/316 and E40/5276'
- 1) Ancient Deed E40/13961 is concerned with the exchange of land between the priory and Philip Basset, an early lord of the manor of Wix Park Hall, in 1247. The nuns are asked to exchange 36 acres of wood which they own, abutting upon Philip Basset's wood called Le Parke (the early name for Old Park), indicating that Le Parke, the priory site suggested by Holman and Morant, was in fact a wood at that time.
 - 2) A survey (c1528) of demesne land (see sketch map) taken just after the suppression (1525) begins by reciting "First the Scyte and Manor place of the Manor or lordship there, with other houses, orchards, gardeyns, courts, ponds and yards conteyning in all together seven acres lying between the Parke of Wykes (i.e. Le Parke) towards the east, and a pightell called Dofhouse Pightell towards the west, and abuttyth upon the highwaye leading to Oakley towards the south and Wykes Park (i.e. Le Parke) towards the north". This may easily be identified as the area to the south of the present parish church upon which was built the present Abbey Farm House during the late 16th century. There are in fact, still four (fish?) ponds shown on the modern day Ordnance Survey Map, one in each corner of the site, and the Wix tithe map shows an area adjoining called Cherry Garden. In the survey 'the Parke' (i.e. Le Parke) is described as a field lying between the place of Wykes towards the south, the land of George Mannoke, Squire, towards the north, and abuttyth upon highway leading to Wrabness towards the east, and Dofhouse Pyghtell, the churchyard and Cherry Garden towards the west. The 'Wykkes Gate' (likely to have been the Gate House to the priory) is also mentioned in the survey, located to the south of the church. All of which suggest the priory site to the south of the church.
 - 3) The archaeological dig of 1961 was prompted by the ploughing up of a stone coffin, with lid, to the south of the church, subsequently dated to the early 12th century. The dig also revealed the outline of the foundations of an early chancel to the east of the present parish church and other evidence of occupation to the south of the church was also found. Large blocks of septaria and ironstone were found to the west of the uncovered chancel suggesting the presence of a tower. A tile and gravel wall or path was found running north south and foundations of large septaria boulders were uncovered which, at the time, was considered to be the base of a monument.

A ground resistivity survey made by Mr Peter Cott in April 1994 generally agrees with these findings and considerably adds to them. The survey revealed the position of the early chancel (now believed to be the conventual church of St Mary attached to the parish church of St Michael by a central tower), a chapel to the south, the southern transept, the chapter house of the priory, and the possible site of the infirmary. The position of the discovered stone coffin would coincide with the usual position of the nuns graveyard, or even the chapter house of the priory. The name of the area where the coffin was found was Orchard Pightle and is shown on the 1842 Wix tithe map. It was often the case that the nuns' graveyard was also used as an orchard. At least two other stone coffins presently lying in the churchyard were presumably found in the same area in the past.

Morant describes the parish church, in the 18th century, as a rectangular building, tiled, with the nave and chancel in one piece, and a tower at the east end - a most unusual feature, which gives a clue as to its original layout. There are two possibilities; the building found during the 1961 excavations could have been the whole extent of the original church of St Mary, having a tower at the west end. The nuns, having been given the church as part of the foundation grant, would have used this as the convent church which remained dedicated to St Mary. A nave was then built on to the west end of the tower, to provide a church for the parishioners which was dedicated to St Michael. The other possibility is for the whole church, central tower with transepts and east end chancel all to have been built at the same time in the early 12th century. The nuns would have taken over the east end chancel as their convent church, and the parishioners had use of the west end nave, which was rededicated to St Michael. At the suppression of the priory in 1525, the convent church would have been destroyed along with the other priory buildings, leaving the parish church together with a tower, then at the east end, as described by Morant. The foundations found in the 1961 dig would have been the remains of the destroyed convent church.

- 4) Tithe disputes between the priory and certain local land owners were heard in the Consistory Courts between the years 1440 and 1522. In one of these disputes the following phrase describes the relationship between the parish church and the convent church: "Firstly that the aforesaid conventual church canonically united, annexed and incorporated and canonically given and granted in perpetual possession to their own use" which strongly suggest the two churches were physically attached, again placing the buildings to the south of the parish church.



THE SITE OF WIX PRIORY

Figure 2. Ground Resistivity Survey of Wix Abbey (08/04/94)

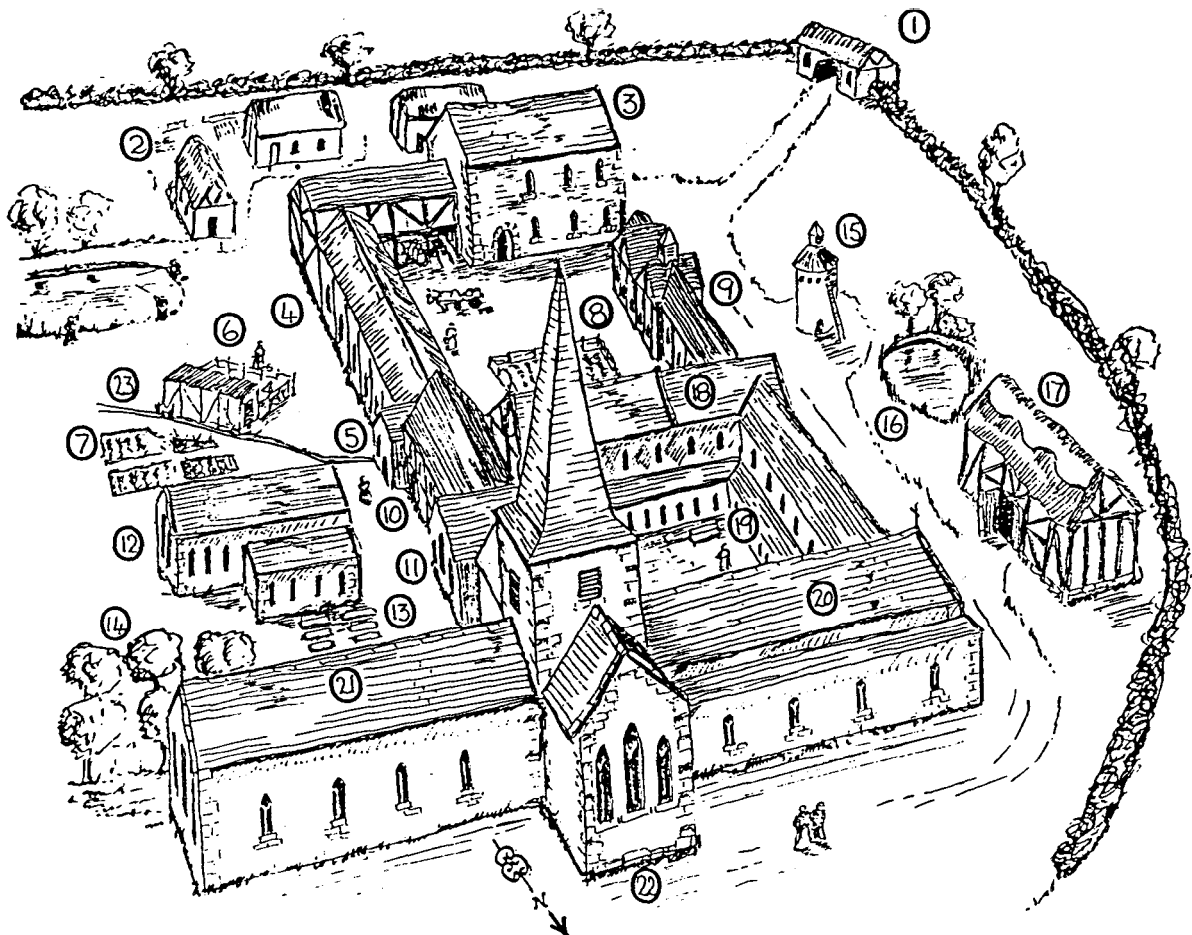
- 5) The original founders of the priory granted their church of St Mary Wix, and the 'mansio' and garden round the church, to found a nunnery. It seems unlikely that the nuns would not have made use of the church and its surrounds particularly since the original foundation grant was not over generous.

Often after a parish church had been given by its owner to a monastery the convent took over the chancel whilst the parish retained the use of the nave; the church then becoming part conventual and part parochial'. Many such examples may be cited such as Wilberfoss Priory near York, Wyndham and Binham in Norfolk, Bungay in *Suffolk* and Hatfield Broad Oak, Little Dunmow and Blackmore in Essex, and this seems most likely to be the case at Wix Priory with conventual buildings to the south of the church.

As for the earthworks in Old Park field, the crop marks have not so far been identified, but it was field walked by a local historian when trenches had been dug for drainage some years ago, and nothing was found to indicate any occupation or building foundations.

Footnotes

- ¹ Holman MSS, Essex Record Office, T/P195/8/15 p39.
- ² Morant, History and Antiquities of the County of Essex. p468.
- ³ See Episcopal Charters for Wix Priory by C.N.L.Brooke. Pipe Roll Society. N536 (1960) p45 for discussion of genuine and forged charters of Wix Priory.
- ⁴ Church and Manor. A study in English Economic History by Sidney Oldall Addy, MA.



THE SITE OF WIX PRIORY

Figure 3. Artist's Impression of Wix Priory during the 13th Century (see Key below)

1 Gate House	7 Vegetable Garden	12 Infirmary	18 Refectory
2 Cottages	8 Herb Garden for Kitchen	13 Nun's Graveyard	19 Cloister
3 Granary	9 . Kitchen, Bakery, Brew House	14 Orchard	20 . Parish Church of St. Michael
4 Workshops	10 Warming House,	15 Dovecote	21 . Convent Church of St. Mary
5 Rere Dorter	Dormitory Over	16 Fishpond	22 Lady Chapel
6 Chicken Coop	11 Chapter House	17 Tithe Barn	23 Drain

Two sections across a supposed Roman Road, Stanway, Colchester

by James Fawn

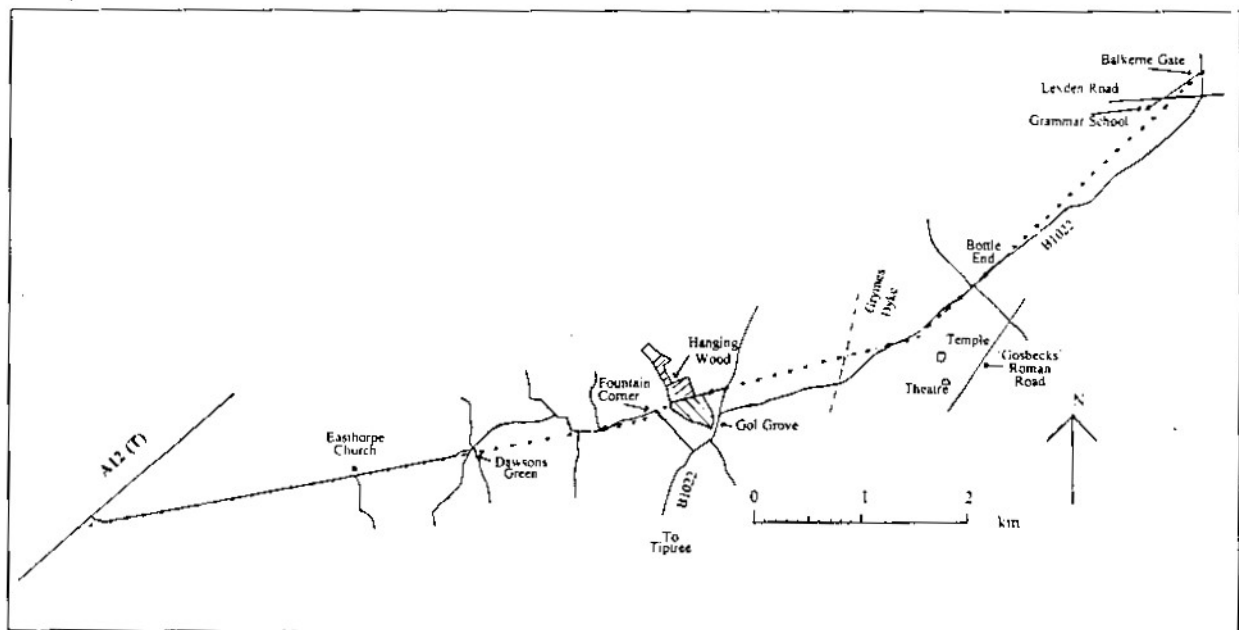
"We badly need a squad of enthusiasts who will cut sections on probable lines of roads until we can say that we have found the actual road plan, not by the old and doubtful method of looking at the ground or map and building up theories, but by actually uncovering the road so that it can be seen, described and measured."

**M R Hull, past chairman and president of the Group, in
an address to The Roman Essex Society, 1947.**

Introduction

About three kilometres to the north-east of Kelvedon a minor road leaves the A12 (T) in an east north-east direction and after two kilometres runs through Easthorpe where it forms the village street. Not surprisingly perhaps, its straightness has led to the suggestion that it is Roman in origin (Miller Christy, 1922, 1924).

However, the straight section has a length of only 3½ kilometres before the modern road joins a network of lanes at Dawsons Green beyond the village (Fig 1). From this point, Miller Christy continues the line with a footpath, a hedgerow and a minor road, Fountain Lane until the latter turns south-east at Fountain Cottage (where there is a spring) and continues towards Heckford Bridge. At the turn another field boundary, a trackway which was lined with a few pollarded elms in Miller Christy's day, takes the course of the road to the west bank of the Roman River (note 1).



TWO SECTIONS ACROSS A SUPPOSED ROMAN ROAD, STANWAY, COLCHESTER

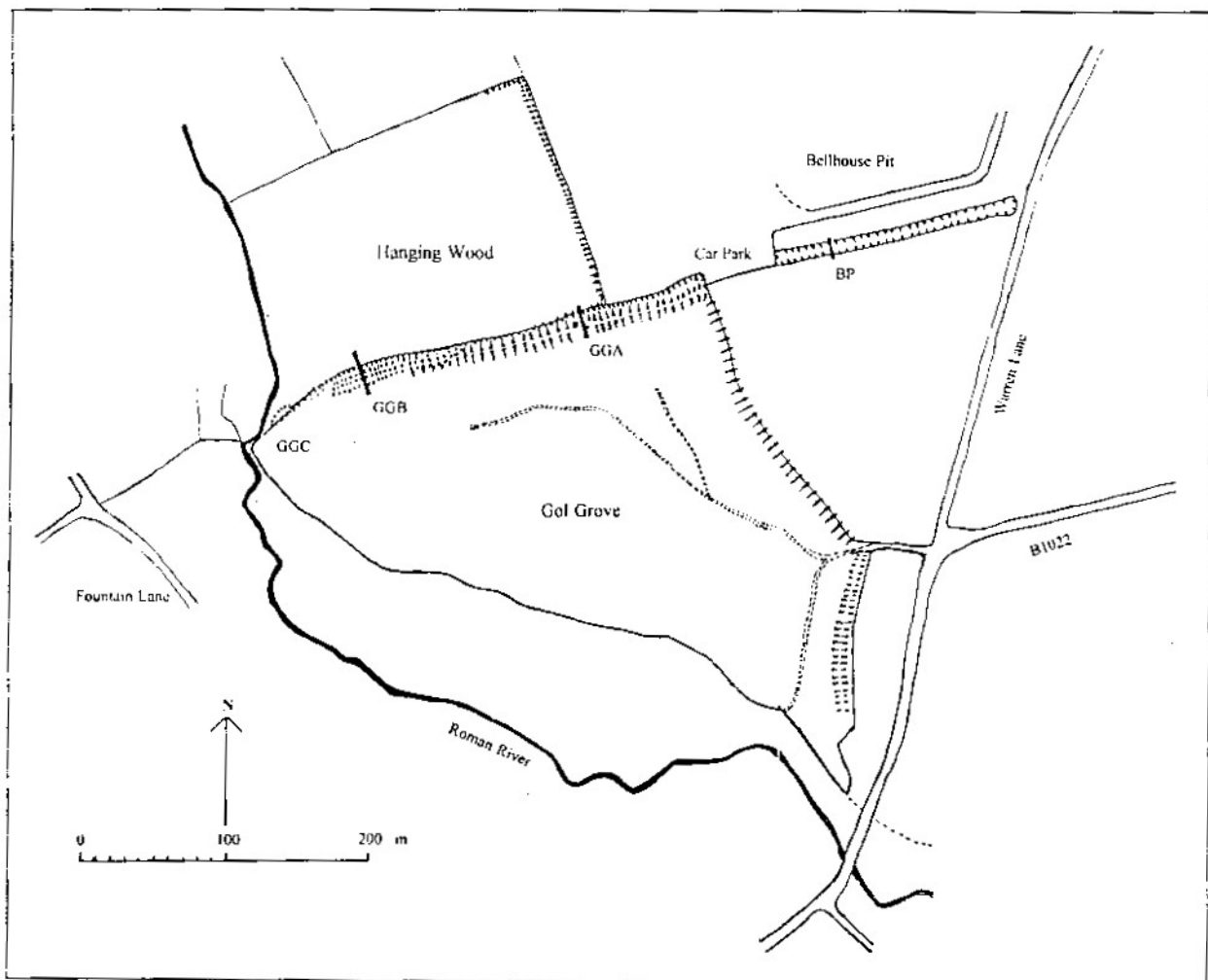
Figure 1. Miller Christy's suggested line for Roman Road, via Easthorpe

On the east bank a system of holloways and banks climbing through the wood called Gol Grove and an avenue of small trees continue the line to Warren Lane (Hull 1958, 6a). Beyond, Miller Christy assumed a continuing straight line north of the modern B 1022 Tiptree to Colchester road, eventually joining the latter at Bottle End, but diverging later to reach the Balkerne Gate in Colchester (Fig 1).

The Group has previously excavated on the line of the supposed road. Prior to 1980 trenches in the modern road verge at Dawsons Green, TL 92202152, revealed only disturbed earth with no sign of an earlier road (West 1989, 8; Davies and de Brisay 1980, 2; de Brisay 1980, 41). In 1980 or 1981 two trenches dug across a parallel pair of holloways on the line rising through Gol Grove revealed no evidence of a formal road structure and no dating material for the features (Davies and de Brisay 1980, 2; Knowles 1981, 51). The work was not completed and only briefly recorded.

In view of the inconclusive results of these excavations an opportunity was taken in 1993/4 to investigate further

the supposed line of the road by sectioning at two sites, with the kind permission of the landowners; the first in the avenue at Bellhouse gravel pit between Gol Grove and Warren Lane, the second partly in Gol Grove and partly in the adjacent Hanging Wood. They are shown in Fig 2.



TWO SECTIONS ACROSS A SUPPOSED ROMAN ROAD, STANWAY, COLCHESTER

Figure 2. Bellhouse Pit and Gol Grove, Site Locations

Bellhouse Pit (BP) Excavation

The gravel pit began operating in 1969 on what had previously been open farmland. The strip of land between the two lines of trees forming the 'avenue' was not disturbed by the pit operations and, being somewhat lower than the surroundings, had the appearance of a holloway between two low banks to the north and to the south.

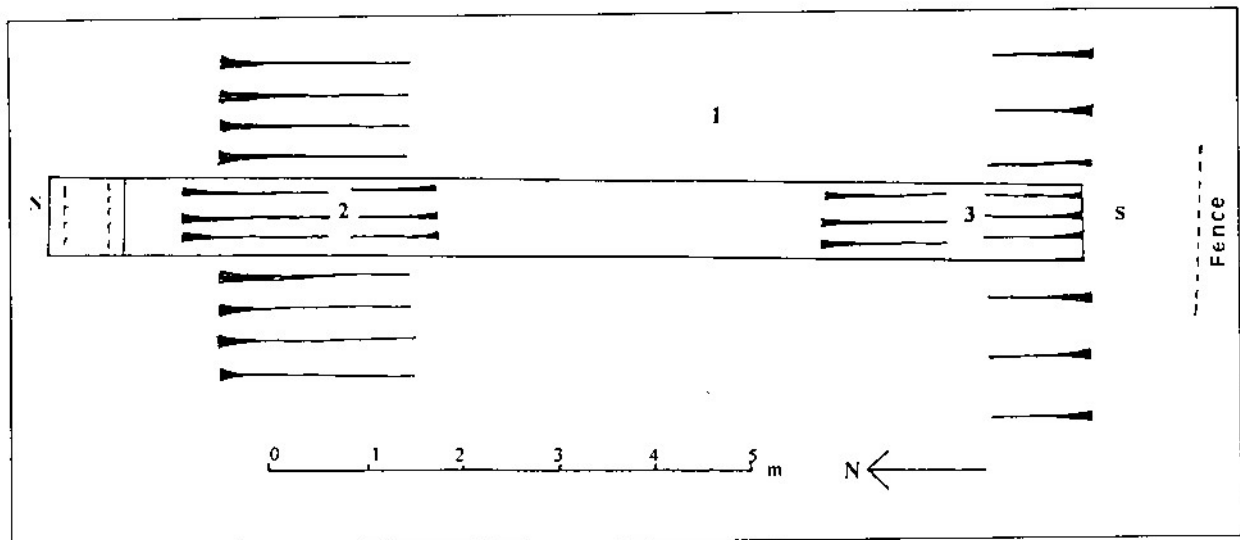
The north bank had been raised and widened considerably in recent years to prevent it from being traversed and churned up by gravel lorries (note 2). The south bank was much slighter; a boundary fence separating the pit from a neighbouring field under cultivation ran upon it parallel to the 'avenue'.

At a point free of trees a trench, 11 metres long and 0.8 metres wide, was dug and trowelled across the 'holloway' and continued into the banks to provide as long a section as possible, (Figs 3 and 4). The constraints on its length were a line of computer cables buried in the north bank and the boundary fence on the south bank.

The section (Fig 4) shows the main features exposed in the east side of the trench. At the edges of the 'holloway', context 1, one north ditch 2 and one south ditch 3 were found, their depth of about one metre being sufficient to take them into the sandy gravel subsoil 7. Between the inner edges of the ditches the 'holloway' section displayed three layers of loamy sod 4, 5, 6 on top of the yellow gravel 7. The uppermost 4 consisted of grass, roots and other humic matter with some recent datable artifacts such as drink cans, cigarette packets and crisp packets. The next layer 5 was a dark loam in which no dating material was found. The third layer 6 was a lighter loam than 5 with more flints and it contained a

small fragment of red brick or tile. Careful examination of the sandy gravel 7 revealed no evidence of ruts or churning

to suggest that it had been used as a road surface.



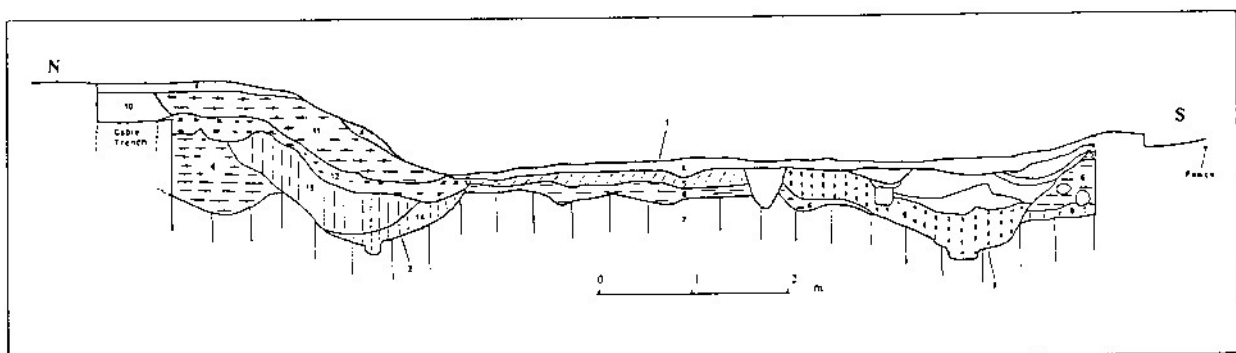
TWO SECTIONS ACROSS A SUPPOSED ROMAN ROAD, STANWAY, COLCHESTER

Figure 3. Bellhouse Pit, BP. Excavation Plan

The section revealed that the width of the 'holloway' which appeared to be nearly six metres between the banks on the surface was actually only four metres between the ditches. The latter were about two metres wide and were partially covered by the banks. Some of the trees of the 'avenue' were growing in the ditches.

The humic layer 4 overlay the south ditch fill and the south bank. Under the top of the bank at the end of the trench the dark layer 5 and the lighter layer 6 were visible, the latter being twice as thick as it was over the 'holloway'. Beneath these lay natural yellow sandy silt 8 and the sandy gravel 7. Under the humic layer 4 in the ditch fill, animal burrows and tree roots had caused considerable disturbance, shown as unnumbered layers and pockets without hachures in the section. Below these, a dark brown layer 9 appeared to be free from disturbance and contained two artefacts, a small and a medium-sized fragment of Roman tile. A root produced a hollow in the ditch floor, visible in the section.

Beneath the humic layer 4 on the north bank a stony loam 10 and a yellowish brown loam 11 were clearly the material added to raise the bank in recent years, the boundary between 11 and the next layer 12 below being marked by a piece of blue polythene sack. Under 10 the fill outlining the computer cable trench could be seen. Layer 12 was a dark loam and appeared to be the equivalent of layer 5, although of later date since it cut into the latter. Beneath it light loam layer 13 represented the bulk of the ditch fill while a stonier loam layer 14 appeared to be a primary fill which was dated by the presence of a late nineteenth century cartridge case (note 3). As elsewhere in the section, yellow sandy gravel 7 underlay the ditch. Again a root produced a hollow in the ditch floor layer 6, apparently a natural stratum north of the ditch, was similar in appearance and thickness to the corresponding layer next to the south ditch and more than twice as thick as the corresponding layer in the holloway.



TWO SECTIONS ACROSS A SUPPOSED ROMAN ROAD, STANWAY, COLCHESTER

Figure 4. Bellhouse Pit, BP. Section N-S

Bellhouse Pit Interpretation

The section shows that before the recent deposition of materials 10 and 11 on the north bank, the 'avenue' was a linear hollow bordered by two filled parallel ditches of roughly equal width and depth. The nature of the soil in the ditches, although disturbed by roots and animals, suggested that they had been deliberately backfilled. Since the trees in the ditches can only have grown since the back-filling, the feature may not have been an avenue when it was in use before the back-filling.

The excavation evidence suggests a lane or track, a conclusion which will be amply supported by documentary evidence discussed later. The width of the holloway between the ditches was about four metres, clearly enough for a single cart-way. The excavation produced no evidence of metallurgy, but the observation that the thickness of layer 6 inside the ditches was less than half that outside may be evidence that material, perhaps metallurgy for reuse elsewhere, had been removed, resulting in the holloway. Such metallurgy would almost certainly have been flint as no other type of stone was found. The presence of the small fragment of brick or tile in layer 6 is an indication that the layer had been disturbed perhaps during the removal of the material above.

The evidence could be interpreted as indicating that the two ditches were of different dates, one being back-filled in the Roman period and the other in the nineteenth or twentieth century. However, this is extremely unlikely as they were similar in profile and depth, had similar fills below the level of disturbance and obviously bounded the one feature, the track. The trees in the ditches were sufficiently regularly spaced to indicate deliberate planting in one operation, which supports the presumption that both ditches were back-filled at the same time, after the deposition of the nineteenth century cartridge. The two fragments of Roman tile in the south ditch must therefore have been residual, having entered with the fill. Although separated in the fill, they were found to fit together on removal, a further indication that they entered the ditch within a short space of time rather than during a gradual silting.

The conclusion from the excavation evidence is that the 'avenue' was a ditched trackway, not necessarily bordered by trees when in use, with a width adequate for a single cart and perhaps with flint metallurgy. It was in use towards the end of the nineteenth century and possibly in the beginning of the twentieth. If it was ever a Roman road, no structural features have survived to support such a dating.

Documentary evidence has provided further information which is given under 'Discussion' after the following description of the second excavation, in Gol Grove.

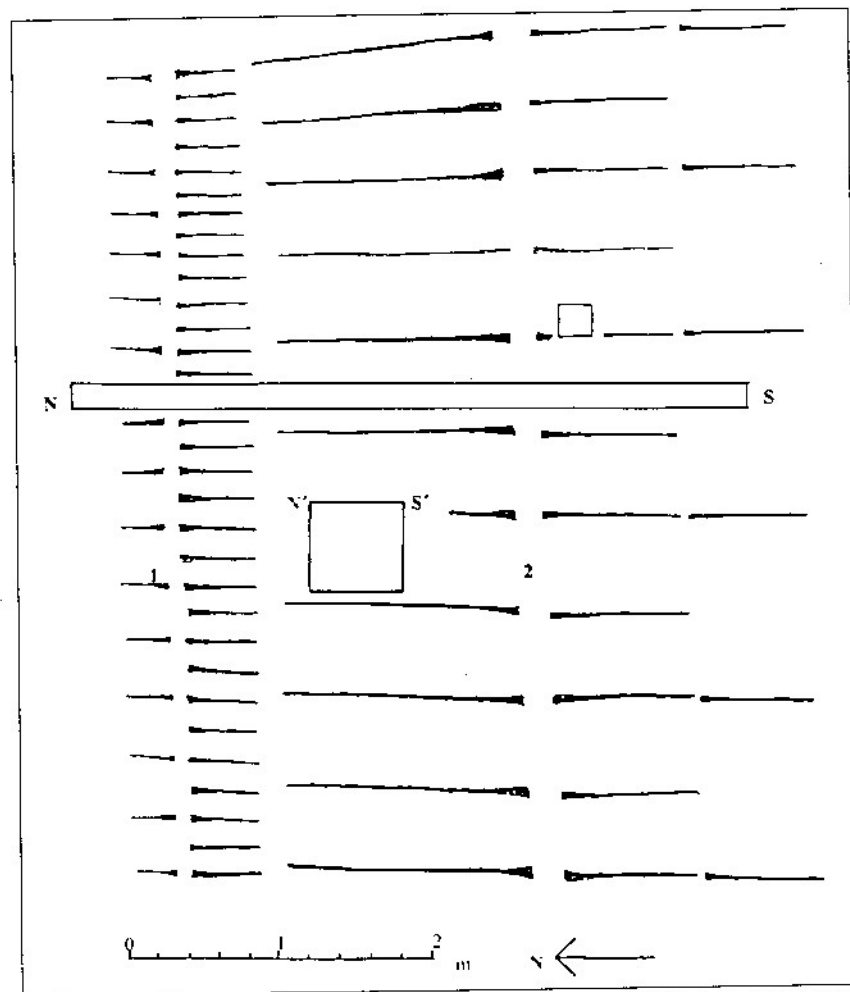
Gol Grove, Site A (GGA) Excavation

The grove is a sub-triangular area of woodland of about 7 ha covering the north-east slope of the Roman River valley near Heckford Bridge, (Fig 2). It is adjacent to Bellhouse Pit at the north-east corner and the continuation of the line of the 'avenue' forms the northern boundary of the wood. The western end of the 'avenue' within the pit property is covered by a car park, but inside the wood two banks with a holloway between are again visible. However, the features differ in appearance from those of the 'avenue'. The north bank is now a lynchet marking the boundary with the pit and with Hanging Wood until it reaches the Roman River to the west. The south bank has become much wider and, starting at the foot of the north bank, extends over about 12 metres. The holloway no longer lies on the level between the two banks but on the north slope of the south bank. The latter and the holloway run down the valley towards the Roman River for about 180 metres until they are succeeded by two deeper holloways of a quite different character which continue towards the river.

The excavations at site A were designed to investigate the nature of the north bank, south bank and holloway at an area clear of Bellhouse Pit where a gap in the trees allowed a trench to be dug across the features (Figs 2 and 5).

An initial test pit in the south bank north of the trench (Fig 3) revealed varying soil layers but otherwise nothing of obvious significance. The trench, 22 metres by 0.8 metres, provided a section long enough to include the surface features and some of the ground on either side. It was dug largely by trowel to optimise the chances of finding dating evidence and carried down to the underlying natural yellow sandy gravel for much of its length (Fig 6). West of the trench a second pit, 3 metres by 4 metres, gave an additional viewing and section of a bed of hard gravel observed in the trench (Figs 5 and 7).

Several sherds of nineteenth or twentieth century decorated and plain white tableware, post-medieval tile or brick, iron perhaps from a horseshoe and some fragments of oyster shell were found in the four layers of soil revealed in the trench to the north of the north bank context 4, i.e. in Hanging Wood. The bulk of the bank produced no finds, but beneath its foot a fragment of tile, another of brick, and the brass end of a 12 bore cartridge were recovered. The remainder of the trench, cutting through the holloway 3 and south bank 2 in Gol Grove, contained only four artefacts; a fragment of clay pipe stem in an upper layer, a small fragment of very soft brick which broke up on removal and two worn fragments of prehistoric pottery which could not be precisely dated.



TWO SECTIONS ACROSS A SUPPOSED ROMAN ROAD, STANWAY, COLCHESTER

Figure 5. Gol Grove GGA. Excavation Plan

The excavation showed that a variety of soils lay beneath the surface of the banks and they are most easily described simultaneously with their interpretation, as follows.

Gol Grove A Interpretation

The section N-S taken from the east face of the trench (Fig 6) indicates the dimensions of the banks, contexts 1 and 2, and of the holloway 3 between. The finds clearly indicate a difference in date between the two banks which therefore may be discussed separately, the evidence associated with the north bank 1 and the area to the north of it 4 will be discussed first

As stated above, at 4 the trench produced nineteenth century sherds and peg tile in the top four of the six strata visible in the section. The uppermost strata consisted of recent leaf litter 5 and a dark humic layer 6 resulting from the decomposition and incorporation of 5. These woodland strata were present elsewhere over the whole of the site. At 4 the strata immediately beneath were a lighter brown loam 7 and another loam of similar colour 8, but with more flints than 7. These lay on another light brown gravelly loam 9 which in turn lay on the natural sand and gravel 10.

The mixture of fairly numerous finds in strata 7 and 8 suggested that they were plough soils, 7 being the ultimate ploughing before the area became a wood and 8 being the accretion of previous ploughings. As will be discussed later, this conclusion is entirely consistent with topographical and documentary evidence. Stratum 9 appeared to be the mixture of sandy loam and flint known as hogging which lies over the sand and gravel throughout the locality.

The north bank 1 lay on and provided a fill 11 for a substantial buried ditch. Lying between two properties, this feature appeared to be a boundary ditch which preceded the building of the bank. The presence of the brass cartridge end in the bank indicates that the latter event was not earlier than the last decades of the nineteenth century.

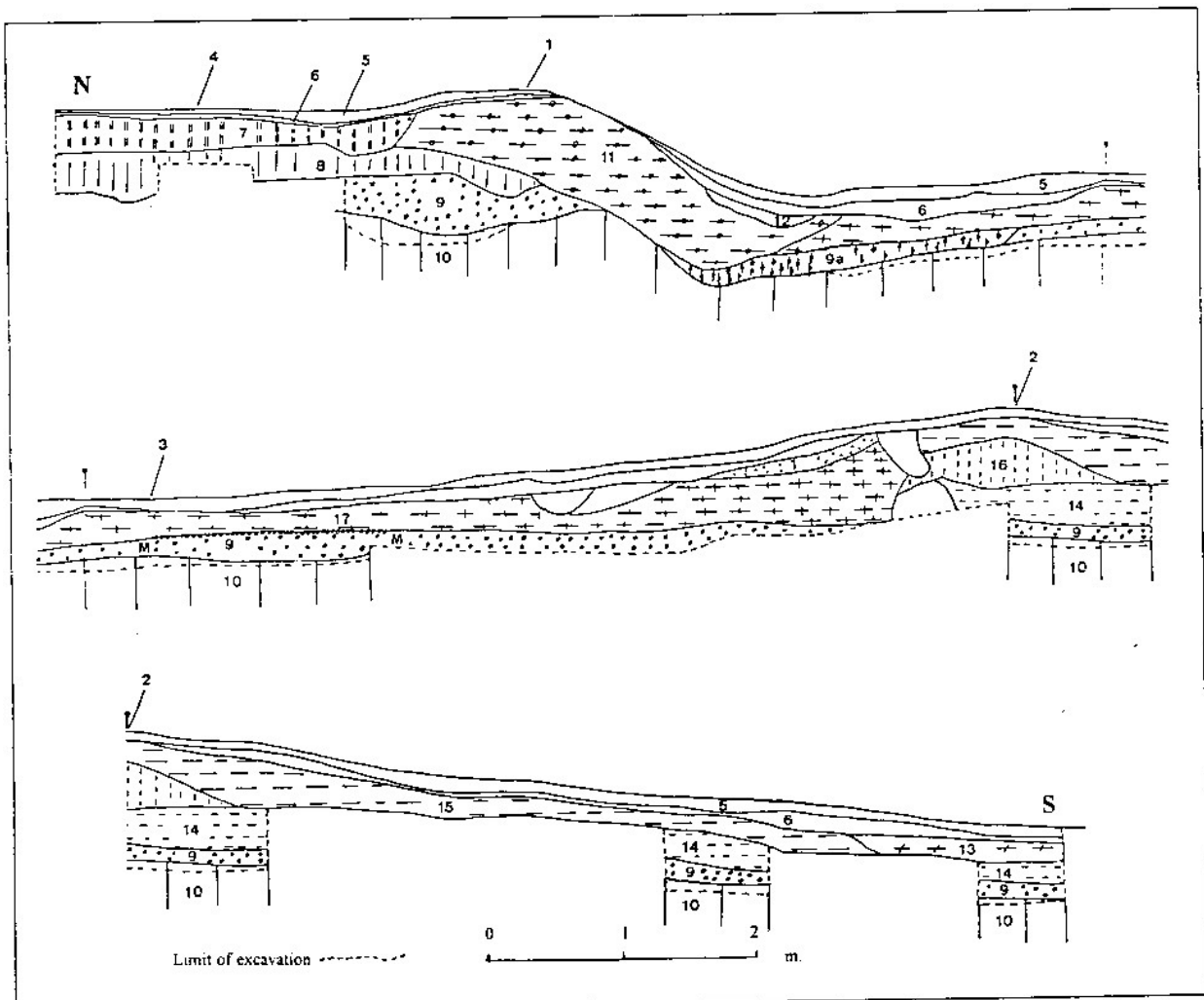
A small filled ditch 12 lying beneath the recent woodland layers 5 and 6 at the foot of the bank may represent a

more recent action to delimit the property boundary. Since leaves tend to concentrate in hollows where there is less air movement, a band of litter was clearly evident in this ditch, marking the line of the boundary.

The section clearly shows that the profile of the south bank 2 is quite different to that of the north bank 1. It rises to a rounded ridge and then falls to the south on to ground which is also falling away, so that the southern edge is not readily discernible in the drawing. On the ground, however, it is more obvious in a position marked by the change in the underlying strata from 13 to 15.

The trench was taken down to the natural yellow gravel subsoil in pits at three places to the south and in the southernmost of these the section showed strata which were assumed typical of the wood away from the bank. Uppermost were the leaf litter 5 and the dark humic layer 6, thicker than in Hanging Wood. Beneath these was a dark loam layer with a faint purplish tinge, 13. This appeared to ride over the tail of the bank 15 and would therefore be the build-up of soil since the Tatter's construction. Beneath 13 lay a brown loam 14 and then the hogging 9 on top of the yellow gravel 10.

In the next pit to the north on the tail of the bank, the surface layers 5, 6 and the lowest layers 14, 9 and 10 were still present, but layer 13 was replaced by a light brown loam layer 15 which with 17 extended over most of the bank and evidently constituted a bulk of deposited material. Above the third pit at the highest point, the section showed an additional loam stratum 16 which may have been an early small predecessor of the bank which was subsequently enlarged to its present size.



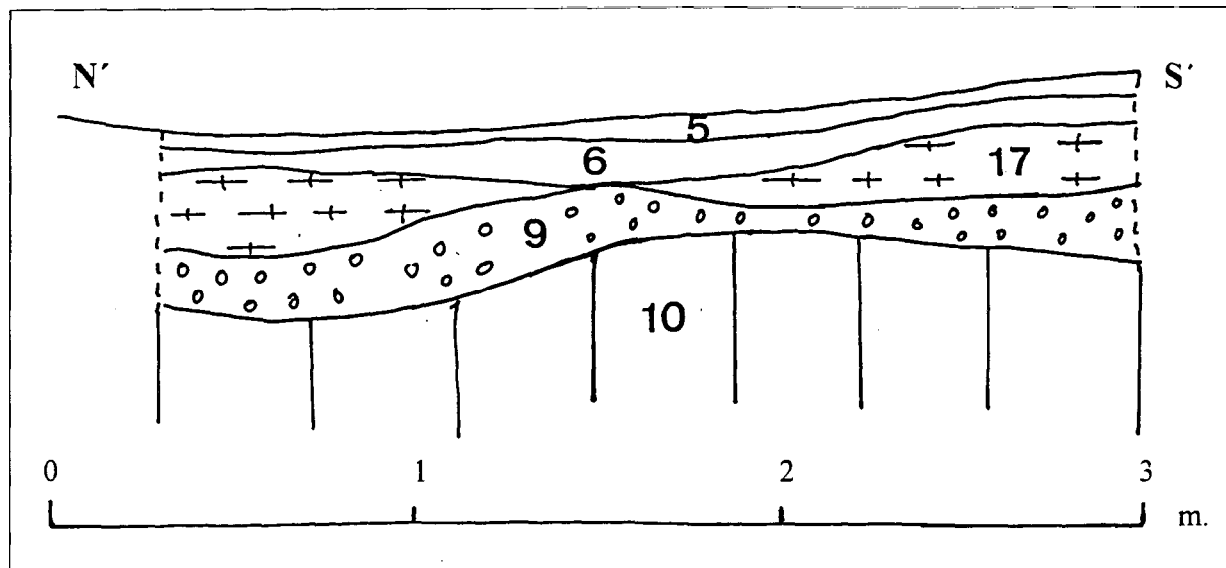
TWO SECTIONS ACROSS A SUPPOSED ROMAN ROAD, STANWAY, COLCHESTER

Figure 6. Gol Grove GGA. Section N-S

Roots and animal burrows had disturbed the stratification in the north side of the south bank, but the surface layers 5, 6 and the hogging 9 and yellow gravel 10 appeared to be similar to corresponding layers of the south side. A

brown loam layer 17 forming the core appeared to be similar in colour and texture to 15 on the south side.

Between M-M (Fig 6) the surface of the hogging 9 under the loam 17 was compacted and had the appearance of a road or path surface with flint metalling. The pit to the west of the trench (Fig 5) was dug to further check this feature. It showed that the compacted area was localised since the hogging on the same east-west line had a loose gravelly surface similar to that found elsewhere in the trench. However, the section obtained from the east side of the pit (Fig 7) confirmed that the subsoils fell to a lower level on the north side of the bank as in the trench.



TWO SECTIONS ACROSS A SUPPOSED ROMAN ROAD, STANWAY, COLCHESTER

Figure 7. Gol Grove GGA. Section N'-S'.

The presence of the cartridge end (note 4) in the north bank indicates that the bank is not earlier than the late nineteenth century. The post-medieval brick and pottery in the trench north of the bank indicates that Hanging Wood was formerly a ploughed field and the finds are not inconsistent with the proposition that it was planted in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. The ditch beneath the bank would appear to have belonged to the former field. In shape the bank partially resembles a lynchet as might be expected from the ploughing of the field, but with the slightly raised summit it must represent a woodland bank. In fact it forms part of the boundary bank which follows the major proportion of Hanging Wood's circumference. Since boundary banks tended to become narrower and steeper from medieval times onwards, its small width and steep sides are consistent with the proposed dating (Rackham 1976, 117).

Some of the material extracted to form the field ditch may have been added to the south bank. However, presumably the original soil for the bank was taken from and above the part of the section occupied by the layer 9a which was similar to 9, but contained more sand and some larger flints. The field ditch therefore appears to have been later than the south bank.

Superficially the depression between the two banks may have the appearance of a holloway, but the evidence shows that it resulted from the formation of first the south and then the north bank. The possibility that it has been used for light traffic, pedestrian, horse and the occasional cart, cannot be excluded, although the excavation revealed no recognisable traces of a trackway formation, apart from the localised area of compacted hogging M-M

The south bank consists entirely of loam layers with a stone content too small to indicate use as a road agger and there is no indication of side ditches as found in the Bellhouse Pit excavation. Its shape, width and location suggest not a road, but an early, perhaps medieval, wood bank (Rackham 1976, 115) belonging to Gol Grove. The artefacts found in it do not provide good dating evidence; the prehistoric pottery fragments are clearly residual, the soft brick is not datable, the clay pipe fragment in the humic layer 6 is presumably a comparatively recent discard and the post-prehistoric pottery fragment in the humic layer of the pit to the west of the trench does not afford precise dating of the bank.

The Topographical and Documentary Evidence for both sites

For discussion, the line of the supposed road may be conveniently divided into three sections.

The westernmost section from the A12 junction to Dawsons Green is clearly of some antiquity, since it constitutes Easthorpe village street. It passes the parish church of St Mary which dates from the early twelfth century (RCHM 1922, 91). The name Easthorpe is thought to be of Danish origin and the existence of the village by the late eighth or early ninth century has been suggested (West 1989, 9). The church fabric contains Roman brick (RCHM 1922, 91) but this provides no such date for the road and the possibility of obtaining good evidence must await an opportunity to explore beneath the modern road surface.

The easternmost section from Warren Lane to the Balcerne Gate is entirely speculative, apart from the short length from Colchester Grammar School to the Gate. The latter, a link road between the Gate and a three lane road thought to be the main Roman road to London, has been found at a number of sites (Hull 1958, 3, 4; Edwards 1958; Crummy 1984; Lockwood and Tripp 1985). Excavations at the Grammar School (Hall 1930s and 1940s) produced evidence of another road, appearing to be 26 ft wide and composed of material 12-18 inches thick, which, although not continuous with the link road and not on the same alignment, ran to the south-west (Hull 1958, 8). Hall pointed out that it was on the same line as the Roman road passing through the Gosbecks site for which satisfactory evidence exists. However, a slight swing to the west would bring it into the Miller-Christy line or alternatively the Miller-Christy line could form a junction with the Gosbecks road at some point. Opportunity to investigate this eastern section of the line is now limited for the built up area of the borough extends out to Brickwall Farm beyond the Bottle End cross-roads.

Just to the south-west of Brickwall Farm lies the Roman fort found by aerial photography in 1976. The Miller-Christy line should clip the south-east of the fort, but no evidence of it appears on the photographs. Further along the line to the south-east, the road should cross Grymes Dyke, but there is no gap in the Dyke for it to pass through. Beyond the Dyke the line passes immediately to the south of the recently excavated burial enclosures at Stanway dating from the pre and early Roman periods (Crummy 1993). The aerial photographs of this site show the enclosure ditches and the later field boundaries, but reveal no evidence of the road line. An opportunity to test the line on the ground will occur when the fifth enclosure is excavated in the future although as Miller-Christy suggests, the road may have been ploughed out. Meanwhile, on balance, no evidence exists to vindicate the eastern section of the proposed line between Warren Lane and the Grammar School.

An alternative possibility is that the immediate destination of the supposed road was the Gosbecks temple area rather than Colchester (Hull 1958 2b). Indeed, the line of Easthorpe Street, if extrapolated from Dawsons Green, runs south of the Miller-Christy line directly to the vicinity of the temple (Fig 1). The middle section of the route is of some interest, therefore, and the interpretation of features in Gol Grove on and to the south of the Miller-Christy line is very relevant.

Chapman and Andre's map of Essex shows that Gol Grove existed in 1774, whereas the adjacent part of Hanging Wood is shown as field rather than woodland. Ordnance Survey maps starting with the first 1805 edition show a similar pattern during the nineteenth century and estate maps refer to Hanging Field. Not until the OS 1923 1:2500 map do trees start to appear among the depiction of rough grazing. The Hanging Wood bank may well be no earlier than this century, therefore, and the ditch beneath it probably belonged to Hanging Field.

Miller-Christy would have seen the comparative youth of Hanging Wood as he walked through Gol Grove in spring, 1923, but he was evidently more interested in the bank in the Grove. He wrote to A C Wright, then Curator of the Colchester and Essex Museum; "My inspection of the Roman Road from Colchester, via Easthorpe, to the Great Road (A12) was entirely satisfactory and more than justified all that I said of it. I had not previously been through Gol Grove, Stanway, but explored it on Friday and find the clearest signs of the road having run through it as I say. There is an excellent piece of banking, with a corresponding ditch beside it, along the northern edge of the Grove. You should see it if you don't know it, as it is close to you." Wright's response is not known.

Fig 2 shows the sub-triangular shape of Gol Grove. To the south-west, it falls steeply to a small water-course which separates it from Gol Grove water meadow and, beyond, the Roman River. The steep part of the northern boundary is marked not by the bank, but by the pair of deep holloways mentioned in paragraph c. Above the holloways the slope eases, the bank appears and continues to the north-east corner. It then turns to run along the major part of the north-east side, as shown in Fig 2, to an entrance into the wood from the B 1022 road. The remainder of the north-east side is marked by a single deep holloway, similar in appearance to the pair on the north side and running down the slope.

The continuation of the bank along the north-east side is strong support for the conclusion from the excavation, that the feature is a wood bank and not the agger of a Roman road. The Bellhouse Pit avenue cuts through it at the north-east corner appearing as a brief length of holloway which rises steadily until it fades out about thirty metres into the wood. The Bellhouse Pit avenue therefore appears to be later than the bank, not unexpectedly and obviously provided an entrance into the wood from Warren Lane. It is more than 200 years old for it appears on Chapman and Andre's map and on a slightly earlier Stanway Hall estate map of 1771 (ERO Colch D/DU 893/1. Acc no 5561) which depicts it as a hedged lane with a gate at the entrance to the wood. The excavation evidence suggests that it was in use until the early years

of the twentieth century. Ordnance Survey maps support this dating as the 1923 1:2500 edition is the first to show it as overgrown. Miller Christy refers to it as an existing lane in 1924 (Miller Christy 1924, 99), but it was probably no longer in continuous use by then.

A brief note on changes in property ownership will be of interest, although the information will be more relevant to part 2 of this report, to be published in a future issue of the Annual Bulletin after the completion of current excavations. In the first part of the eighteenth century, the Bellamy family owned 'the maners of Stanway and Belhouse, which have gone long together, and been lookd upon as one' (Morant 1768, 2, 192), but by 1771 Stanway Hall and farms was in the possession of the De Home family, Thus the 'avenue' or lane, and the northern side of Got Grove changed from being a boundary between two farms on a single estate to one between two estates, by 1771. Belhouse Farm was bought by the Harrisons of neighbouring Copford Hall, across the Roman River, in 1790 [ERO Colch. D/D T299(3)].

Further Work

The investigation so far is incomplete because the other features in Got Grove invite examination. The trenches across the two parallel holloways by the Group in 1981 have been re-opened (Fig 2, site GGB) and the Miller-Christy line near the Roman River (GGC) is being examined. Disused paths in the wood (Fig 2) may be successors to earlier routes. Searches for more documentary evidence and more field walking should prove fruitful.

Notes

- 1) Readers who are not local residents may be interested to know that the Roman River, a stream some three metres wide at Gol Grove, is not named after our former conquerors, but after the family of John Romain (c. AD 1377).
- 2) Many of the trees in the avenue were diseased and have been removed since the completion of the excavation. A substantial number of those in the east row and four or five in the west row remain. New trees have been planted on the west bank which has been partially lowered. Features will still be present beneath the levelled surface, however.
- 3) The cartridge end is of local interest as it bears the stamp BOREHAM COLCHESTER John S Boreham is listed in Kelly's directory as a gun manufacturer at 150 High Street, Colchester, during the latter half of the nineteenth century. The business was taken over by Kenneth Dudley Radcliffe in 1892-3 and is still trading at the same premises today. We are grateful for the information that the cartridge was a standard centre fire type introduced in 1861 and in popular use by the 1870s.
- 4) This cartridge end is stamped W J JEFFREY & CO LONDON. The firm is thought to have moved to Guildford in the 1920s. A more precise date is not known.

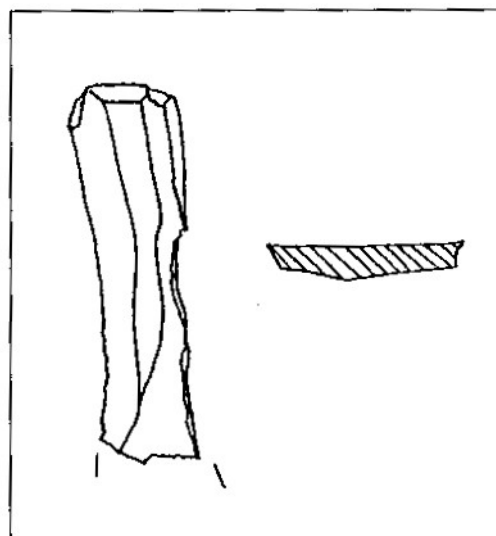
Addendum

The lack of small finds in Got Grove compared with hanging Wood has been remarked upon and the pit dug to the west of the main trench produced only two artefacts, both at the bottom of leaf litter so that they could be classed as surface finds. One was a worn fragment of grey pot (GGA 13) which could not be dated more precisely than post-prehistoric.

The other was a fragment of worked flint (GGA 14), 23 x 1 1/2 mm, with a sharp edge (Fig 8), which Mr Peter Berridge, Curator of Archaeology at Colchester Museum, has kindly examined. He describes it as the mid-segment of a bladelet which would have had an original length of about 50 mm. Its form and blue-greyish patina suggests that it belongs to the Mesolithic period, although a later date cannot be excluded.

Conclusions and Summary

Eight Excavations near and in Gol Grove, Stanway, on the line of the suggested Roman road between Colchester and Easthorpe, and relevant documentation have indicated that a track and wood banks



TWO SECTIONS ACROSS A SUPPOSED ROMAN ROAD, STANWAY, COLCHESTER
Figure 8. Mesolithic Flint Scaper, Gol Grove, Stanway. (Scale 2:1)

at TL 94622224 and TL 9445221 are of post-medieval date or medieval date, with no evidence of Roman origin. The line and possible variations of it are discussed. Work is continuing on other features on the line.

Acknowledgements

The Group is most grateful to Tarmac Roadstone Ltd and to Mr Neil Bromwich for permission to excavate at Bellhouse Pit; to Mr John MacLachlan of Messrs Smith Gore, agents for the owners, for permission to excavate in Hanging Wood. The late Mr E Brace readily allowed the Group to resume excavating in Gol Grove after an interval of twelve years and our thanks are due to Mrs Brace who has kindly permitted us to continue.

Mr T Slaven and Mr Reg Hilton of Messrs Tarmac have provided most useful local information when needed. Mr Hilton as Bellhouse Pit manager has kindly allowed us to use the pit car park even after activity has moved on to the other sites in Gol Grove.

We thank Nigel Brown of the County Archaeology Section for his opinion on the dating of the early pottery from Gol Grove A.

Group members Dennis Tripp and Michael Matthews cheerfully excavated at Bellhouse pit, Dennis Tripp at Gol Grove A.

Drawing of flint bladelet by Richard Shackle.

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Also *pens comm* from excavators, Mrs K Evans and Mrs H West. The site was in the vee between Easthorpe Street and the lane to Hogget's.

NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY DAY - Sunday 11th September 1994

by Jill Hamblin

CAG members celebrated in fine style on a gloriously clear, warm day in Mount Bures. Ida McMaster and Kath Evans had spent weeks planning a series of events, which proved to be overwhelmingly successful.

Members, friends, spouses (or should it be spice?) and children, many of them members of the Young Archaeologists Club, met at noon in the Village Hall to view a magnificent exhibition of archaeological work in and around Bures. Palaeolithic axe heads were on display, as were drawings of timber framed houses, including 'Abrams', belonging to Mr and Mrs Sayer, Lord and Lady of the Manor; there were photographs taken on field walks, aerial photographs of Iron Age structures, sites plotted on maps, manorial documents and much more; the CAG book stall did a roaring trade too.

At 12:30 pm, Ida McMaster welcomed everyone and the Lady of the Manor gave her welcoming address. Part of this was a warm invitation to visit her own house, restored by her husband and herself. Then the first real socialising of the day began: lunchtime. Groups of sun-seeking archaeologists sat outside consuming filled rolls and fruit juice, whilst those who wished to be nearer the exhibition, and the coffee remained inside.

At 1:45pm, Kath Evans outlined the afternoon's programme: visits to the church, the motte, the site of the Saxon watermill and to 'Abrams', and fieldwalking. No-one was expected to tackle everything, but some did, before returning for a wondrous tea provided by Ida's daughter Pam and Bettie Young.

Mark Davies conducted groups around the church, approached by a footpath across McMaster fields. The Ardleigh CAG contingent was interested to see that here was another beneficiary of Thomas Love's charitable bequests, whilst all members remarked on the use of Roman bricks in the walls. Mark explained the different building phases, showing everyone the now-plain interior, including the memorial to Canon Collins. It was, in a way, sad to realise that the interesting looking spire was a replacement of an earlier, plainer, type.

Richard Shackle welcomed those who sprang nimbly up the steep, thorn bedecked path to the top of the motte. He was equally welcoming to those who hauled themselves up laboriously on the guide ropes provided! He pointed out the strategic position of the mound and explained its construction. It was an important place in Norman times; now it is picturesque, a place of memories.

James Fawn showed members the putative sites of the Saxon water mill recorded in Domesday, on the stream running at the bottom of Ida's field. It is an awesome thought, that the whole of the water meadow was probably once the mill pond. The retaining banks are still there, now sliced through by the road, but enabling visitors to see that where they stood would once have been eight feet deep water.

Valerie Sayer welcomed Group members to her house to see the conversion work on the timber frame building, providing a hospitable and fascinating venue for the afternoon. Many of the younger members, however, spent most of the time field walking with Michael Matthews and Pat Brown. In the warm autumnal sunshine, this was a rewarding experience: young enthusiasts and their attendant adults picked up bags full of Roman pottery, as they made their way across country.

Cloth Armour from Hatfield Peverel

by Richard Shackle

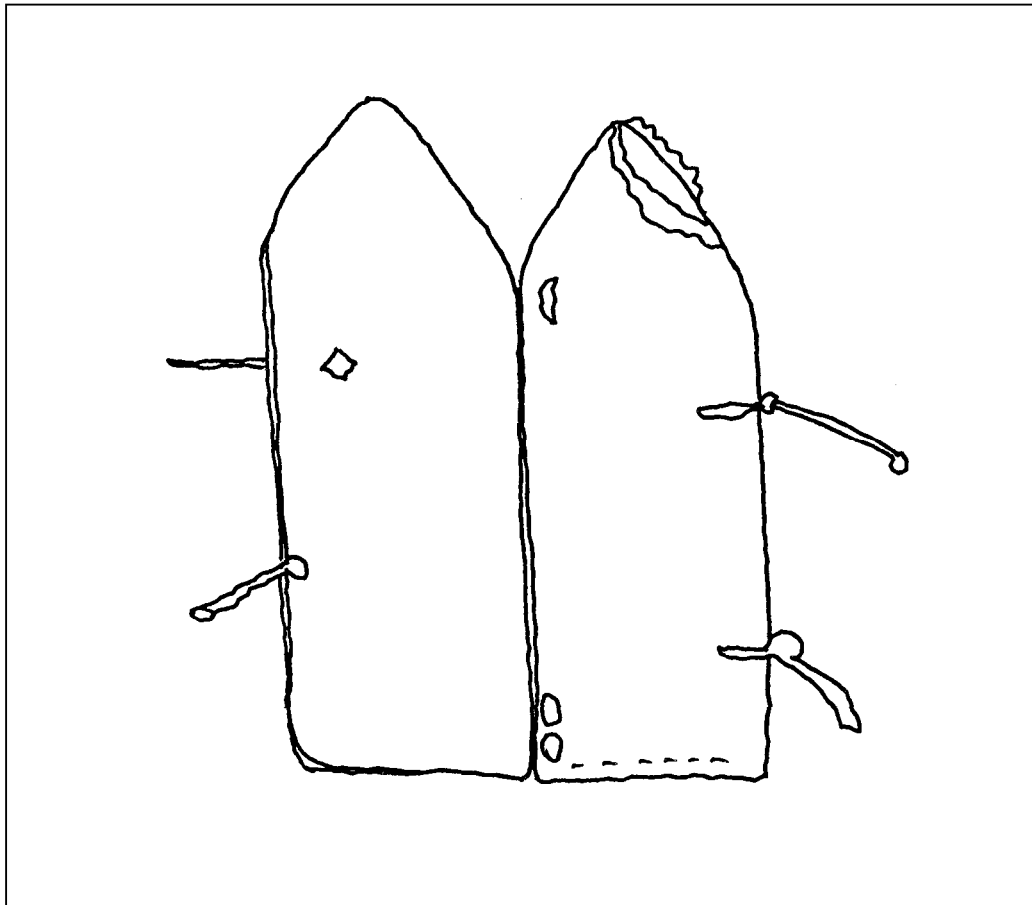
In the book by T. M. Hope called Township of Hatfield Peverel, published in 1930 are the following paragraphs:

"Also found at Toppingho some years ago were several articles of the early seventeenth century; i.e. a dagger, fragments of cloth armour and a leather pouch, these being discovered under the floor of the attic by a boy looking for mice who were eating his chestnuts stored there. The dagger is of foreign workmanship, probably German; the handle is of lignum vitae, and the terminals of the brass guard take the form of a head wearing a round cap. The leather scabbard is also tipped with brass on which is engraved a grotesque face made up of circles and lines, and the steel is marked on both sides with a conventional crested serpent. The whole dagger is 18 inches long, and is a well-balanced serviceable weapon though no great work of art.

The cloth armour is made up of several layers of material, dark brown taffetas, corded silk, Isabella coloured damask patterned in cream and brown, canvas and again waste silk, all quilted between canvas, with twine for attaching it round the arm or leg. The leather pouch does not call for any comment."

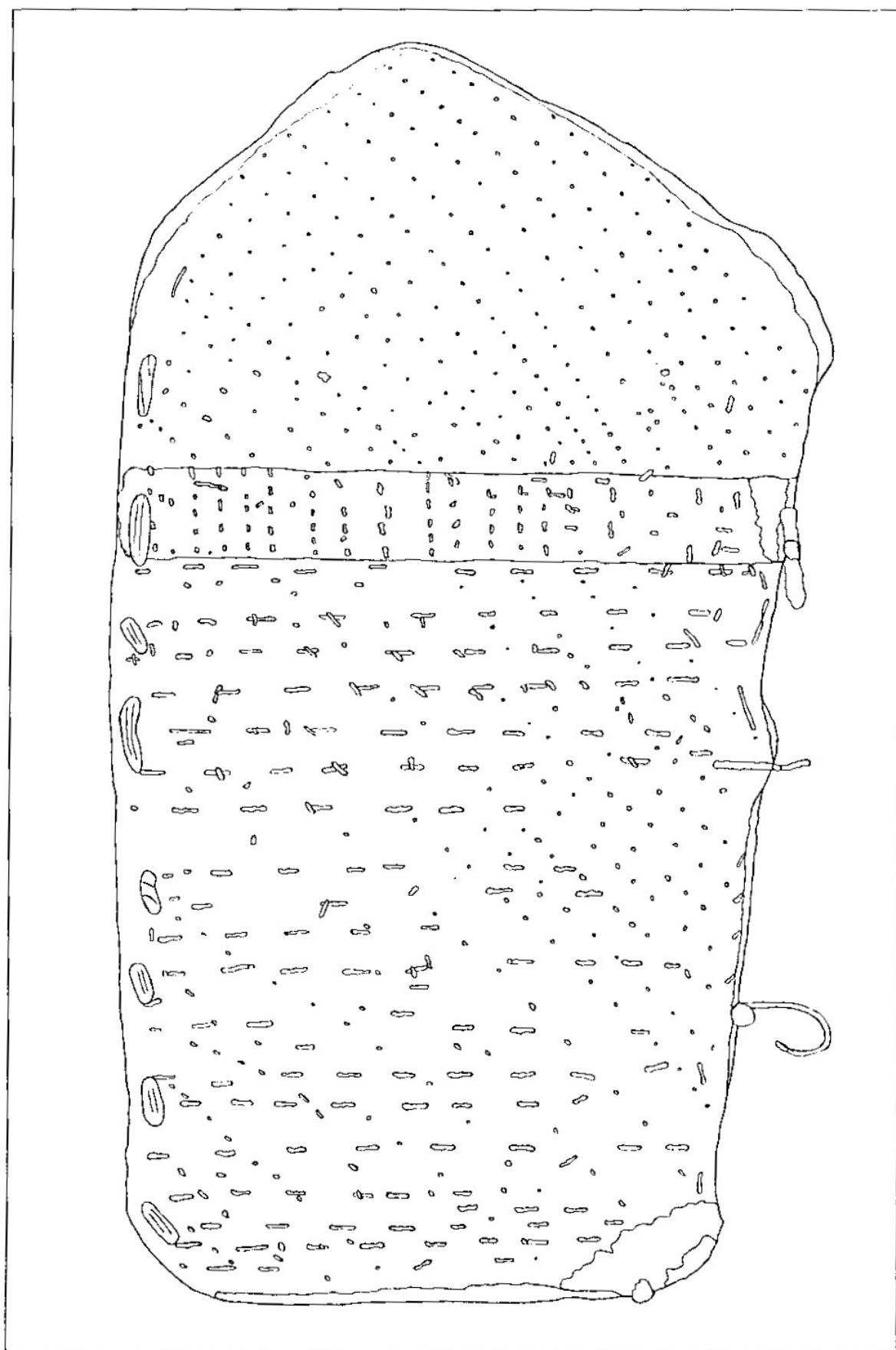
The cloth armour was purchased by Mr Charles Townsend at an antique shop in Harwich. It had a note attached to it saying it was the same piece as mentioned above. Mr Townsend kindly lent me the armour and I made the drawings.

As T M Hope thought it was seventeenth century, perhaps it was made during the Civil War. It might even have been used during the siege of Colchester.



CLOTH ARMOUR FROM HATFIELD PEVEREL

Figure 1. Cloth Armour from Hatfield Peverel shown opened out (not to scale)



CLOTH ARMOUR FROM HATFIELD PEVEREL

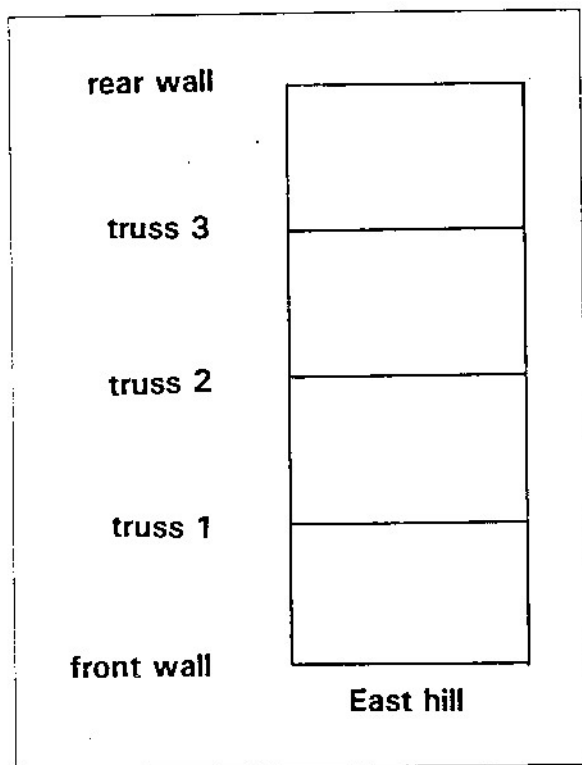
Figure 2. Cloth Armour from Hatfield Peverel (Detail)

An Eighteenth Century Warehouse in Colchester

by Richard Shackle

Number 77, East Hill Colchester formerly the Tudor Halt Restaurant was extensively renovated during the summer of 1994. During its conversion to a cafe with two flats above, the owner kindly allowed me to record the building.

The ground floor has been totally replaced probably earlier this century; but the upper floor is substantially intact. It appears to be an eighteenth century warehouse made up of reused medieval timbers, some of them quite substantial.



AN 18th CENTURY WAREHOUSE IN COLCHESTER.

Figure 1. Plan of Building

The roof rafters are very large, $3\frac{1}{2} \times 7$ inches. They all have mortices for collars, so probably came from a crown post roof. Every fourth rafter has a mortice for a large collar, each mortice being double pegged (see Fig 2). This means that the warehouse was almost certainly built with a side purlin roof. It has a side purlin roof now, but this is a crude alteration done so that rooms could be made in the attic.

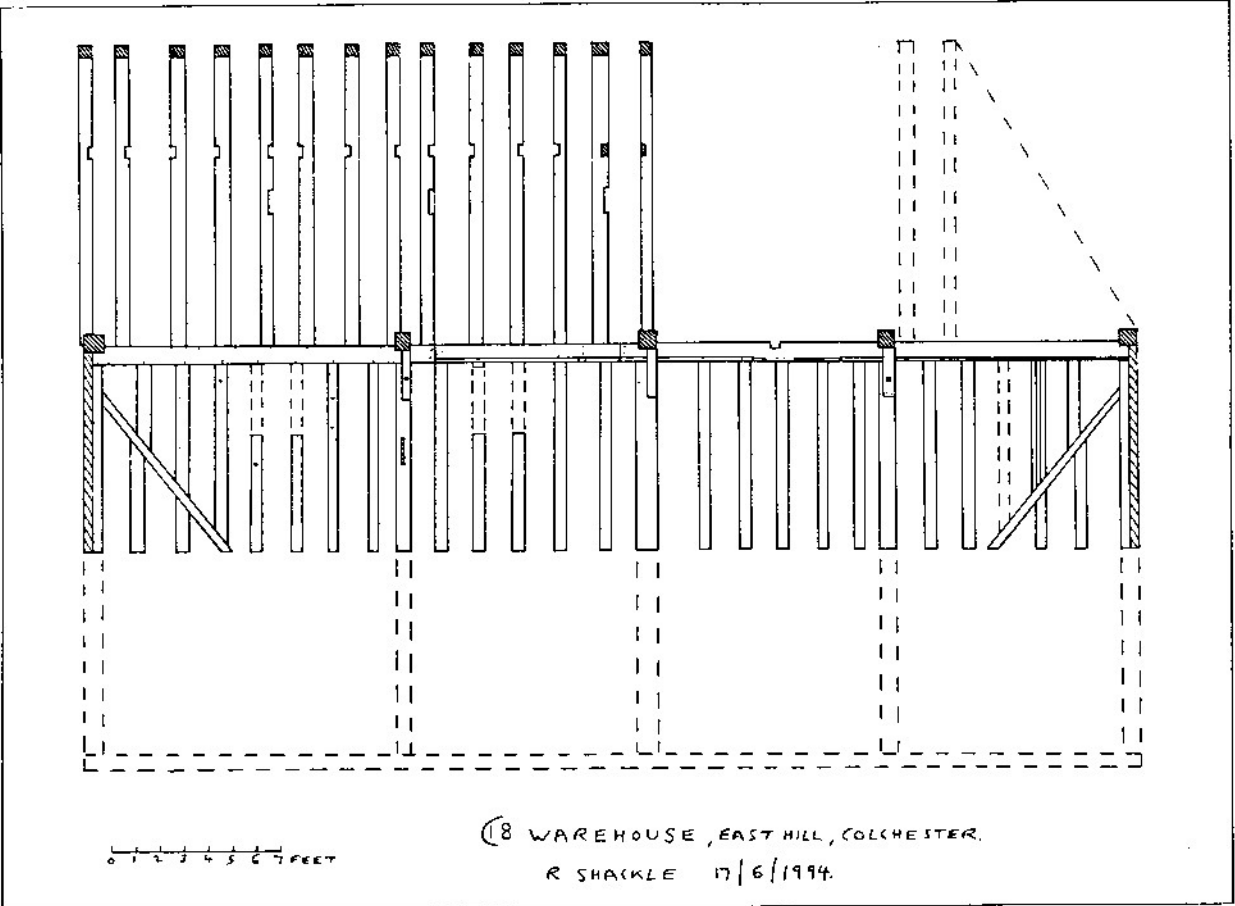
If we examine the long reused top plate in (Fig 2), we can partly reconstruct the medieval building it came from (Fig 5). For the right hand pair of windows we have four diamond shaped mortices and shutter runners to the left and right. For the left hand pair of windows, we have one and a bit diamond mortices and a long shutter runner to the right. This suggests that it was not possible to have a shutter runner to the left, probably because there was a door there. Using this evidence I have tried to reconstruct the building this top plate came from. The matching pairs of windows and the door suggest a large room with a door, possibly an upper room with an outside staircase. This might be a guild hall or a merchant's showroom.

If it was an eighteenth century warehouse, it might have belonged to a Bay and Say merchant. I asked John Bensusan-Butt if any Bay merchants lived nearby and he told me that James Mansfield (senior and junior) lived almost immediately opposite on East Hill. A directory in the Local Studies Library in Colchester Central Library dated 1790 gives James Mansfield Baize maker.

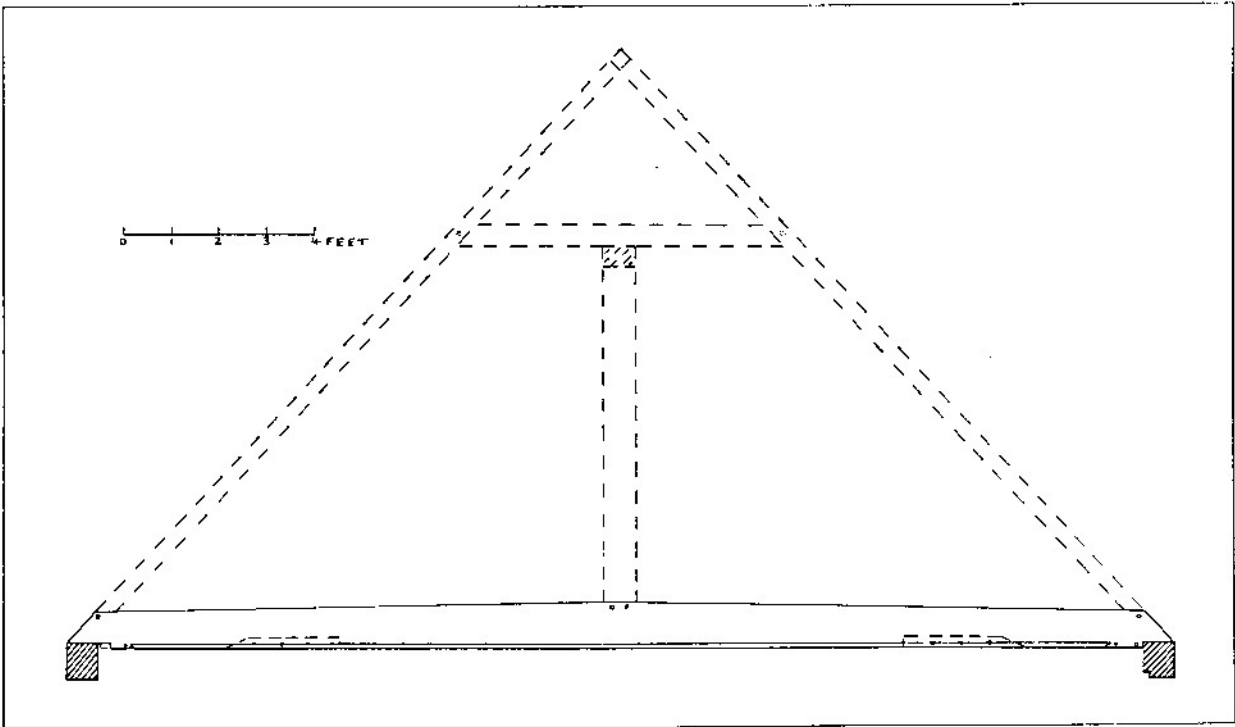
The warehouse is of four bays (Fig 1 and Fig 2), the bays being divided by large reused tiebeams, each tiebeam being 23 feet long. The tiebeam of truss no 1 (Fig 3), was formerly in a building with a crown post roof, note the central mortice for a crown post. This tiebeam also has mitred chamfer stops, which suggests that it is quite early and came from a high quality building. The tie beam for truss no 2 (Fig 4), also came from a crown post building but has very plain chamfer stops. The tiebeam from truss no 3 (Fig 4), has neither a crown post mortice nor brace mortices on its underside, which suggests that either it was specially made for this building or that in its former use the building had a side purlin roof. The tiebeam in the rear wall was fully framed as can be seen by the pegged mortices (Fig 4).

All the tie beams are strengthened with wooden knees, even where they had perfectly usable brace mortices. Knees were probably used because they give more unencumbered space in a warehouse. Many medieval barns had their braces replaced by knees in the eighteenth century to give more room for the storage of crops.

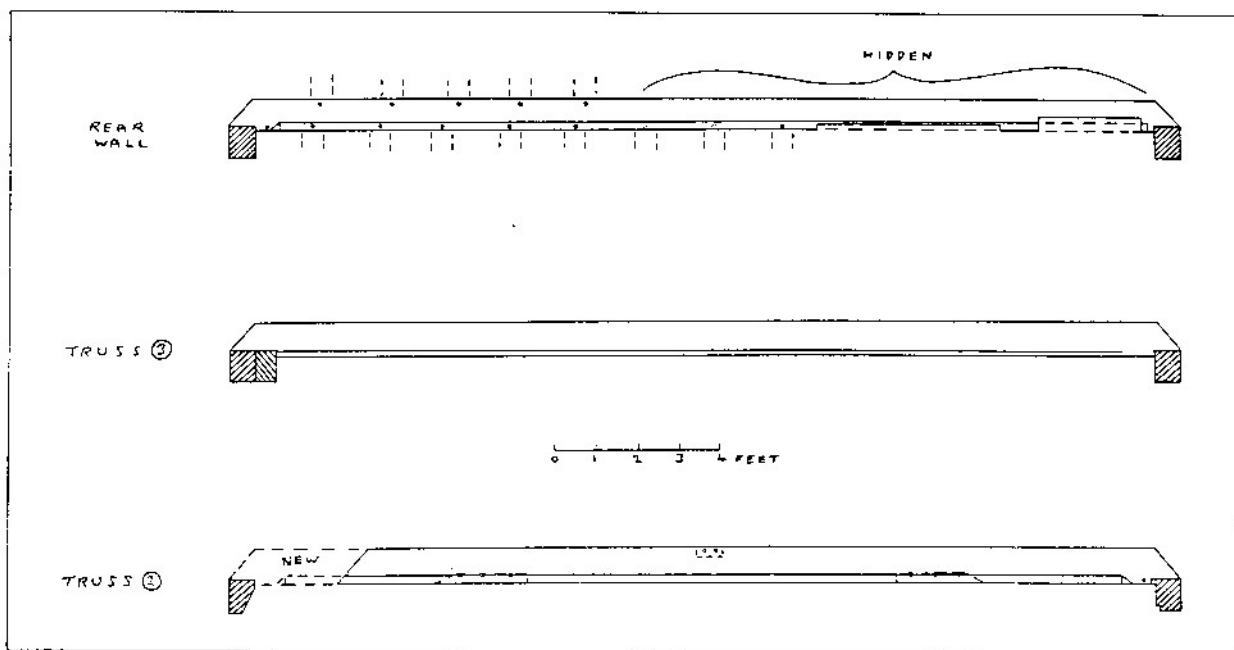
The walls of the building had large studs with primary bracing, where the studs are nailed to the braces, unlike medieval braces where the braces are trenched across the studs. The building was weather boarded at least on the east side, but was later concealed by being plastered over.



AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY WAREHOUSE IN COLCHESTER
Figure 2. Section through Building

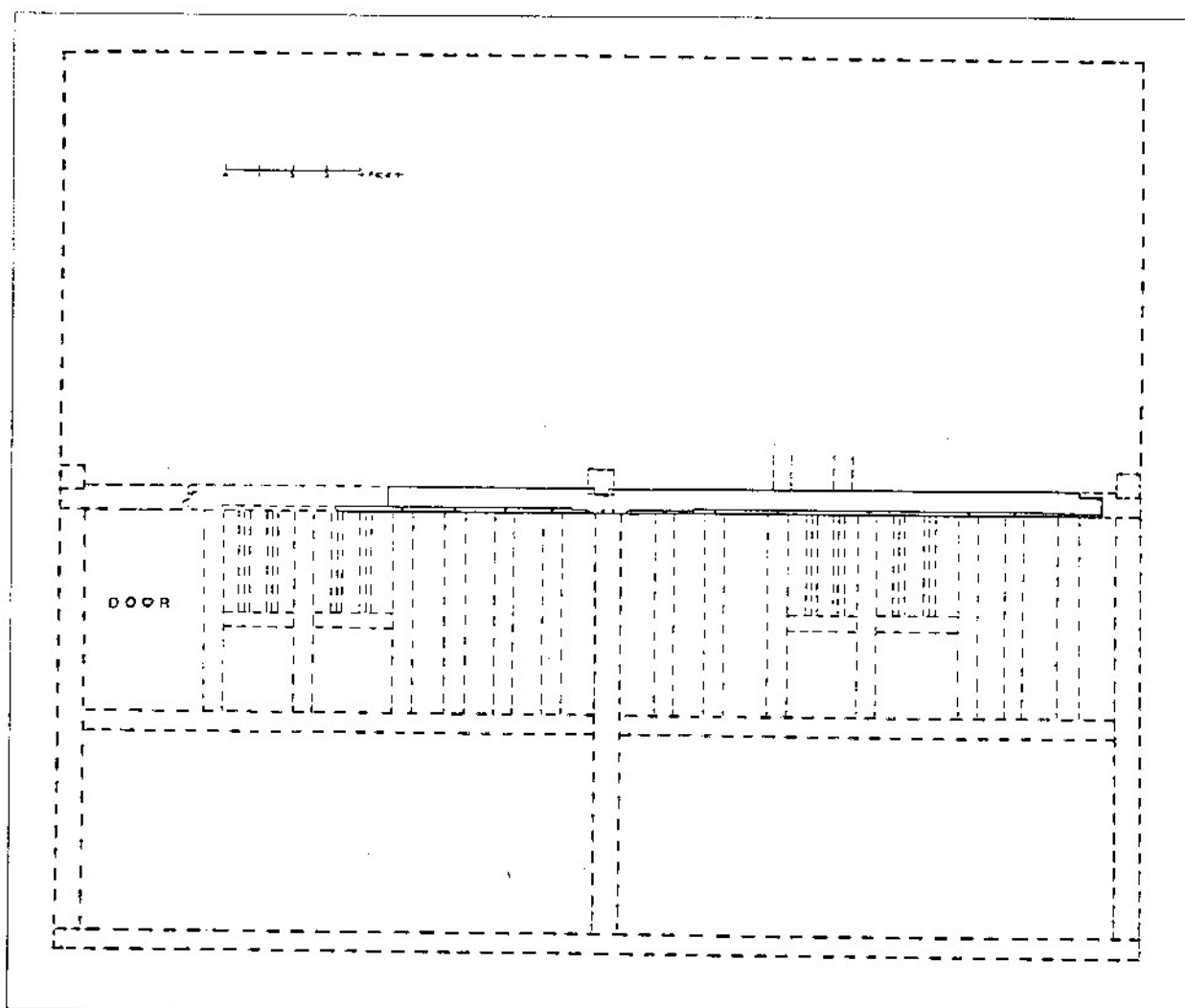


AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY WAREHOUSE IN COLCHESTER
Figure 3. Truss 1



AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY WAREHOUSE IN COLCHESTER

Figure 4. Three Tie Beams



AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY WAREHOUSE IN COLCHESTER

Figure 5. Reconstruction of Building showing windows.

Metal artefacts and pottery from Easthorpe

by Richard Shackle and Inger Partner

Over many years Inger Partner has been collecting pottery, metal objects and other artefacts from a field close to her home at Kildegard, Easthorpe, Essex. The objects are all unstratified but none the less worth recording, they will be discussed class by class according to material.

POTTERY

The pottery was found mostly in one particular part of the field where there was said to have been a cottage at one time; but it is just as likely that broken pottery was put on the dung heap and then spread on the fields during manuring.

Most of the pottery is medieval coarse ware. A few pieces were shown to Paul Sealey at the Castle Museum Colchester who dated them between the 13th and 16th centuries. Some of the sherds had soot blackening on the outside so presumably had been used for cooking. There was also some pottery in a red fabric with red, brown and black glazes which probably dates to the eighteenth century. Medieval roof tile was also common, of the pieces with holes, some had round holes and some had square holes.

Only a few pieces of the pottery have been illustrated.

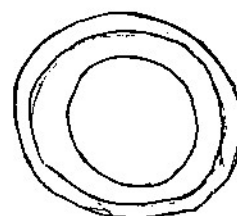
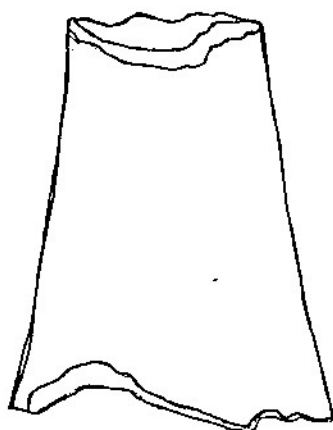
- (1) Neck of a pitcher?, Orange fabric with traces of a green glaze.
- (2) Jug handle, orange fabric with small area of white glaze.
- (3) Jug handle, orange fabric, with stab mark decoration.
- (4) Jug handle, orange fabric with patches of green glaze. This may have been a more expensive piece.
- (5) Jug handle, grey fabric.
- (6) Jug handle, grey fabric.
- (7) Bowl rim, grey fabric.
- (8) Bowl rim, grey/brown fabric.
- (9) Jug with handle, orange fabric.
Paul Sealey says this piece is wheel thrown coarse ware made between 1250 and 1350 approximately.
- (10) Bowl base?, orange /brown fabric, note thumb mark on base.
- (11) Bowl base?, orange brown fabric.
- (12) Bowl base?, grey fabric.
- (13) Bowl rim, orange fabric.
- (14) Beaker base?, red fabric.
- (15) Bowl rim, orange /brown fabric, looted on outside.
- (16) Pottery fragment, orange fabric with decoration.
- (17) Pottery fragment, gray fabric with raised band of decoration.

COINS

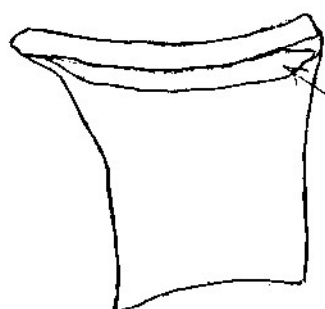
The coins were identified by Mike Bonser.

- (1) Roman coin, copper?, head and illegible inscription
- (2) Silver penny, Edward IV, second reign, slightly clipped. The mint is 'civitas london'. It has an amulet and is type 14 dating from 23 Feb 1472 to mid 1473. (North 16-41)
- (3) Silver halfpenny or farthing, Edward I. The head has a trifoliate crown. The mint mark reads 'ensis', standing for 'Londonensis'.
- (4) Copper coin weight for a quarter ryal. A figure on a shield on a ship with a rose in its side. The weight which is slightly eroded weighs 22%z grains which takes it close to the official quarter ryal weight of 30 grains. The quarter ryal was introduced in 1464 and is no longer found after 1470.
- (5-6) Silver shillings of William III.
- (7) Copper traders token of Colchester.
- (8-9) Copper traders tokens, very corroded.
- (10-12) Copper 'rose' farthings of Charles I.

1) NECK OF PITCHER



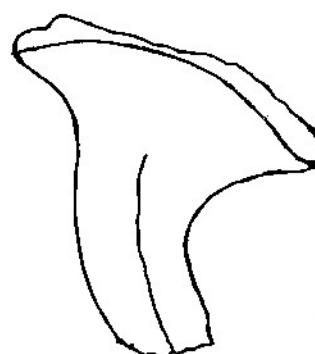
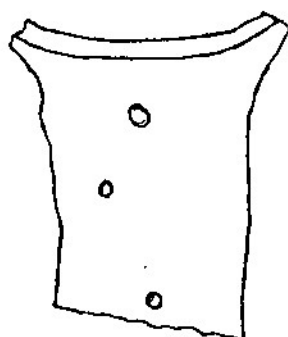
2) JUG HANDLE



white slip



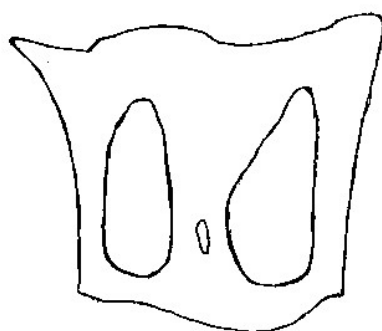
3) JUG HANDLE



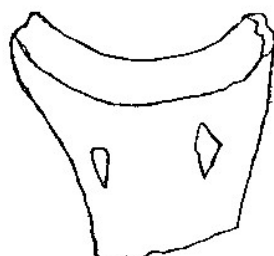
METAL ARTEFACTS AND POTTERY FROM EASTHORPE

Figure 1. Pottery Finds (1)

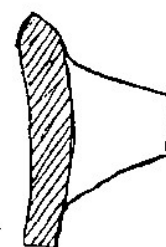
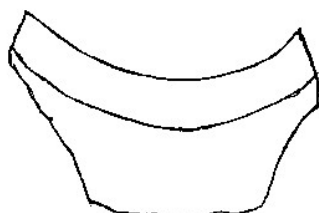
4) JUG HANDLE



5) JUG HANDLE



6) JUG HANDLE



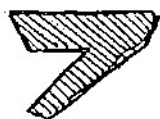
7) BOWL RIM



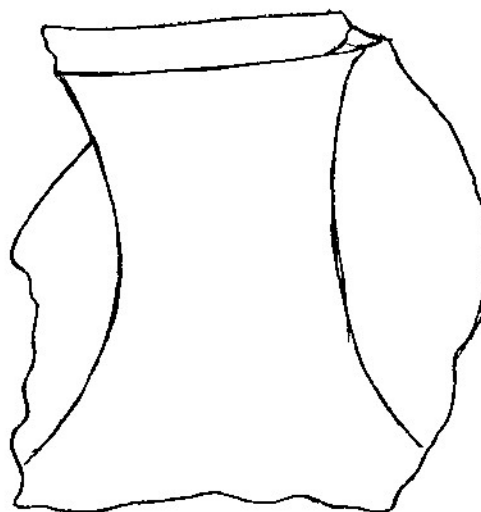
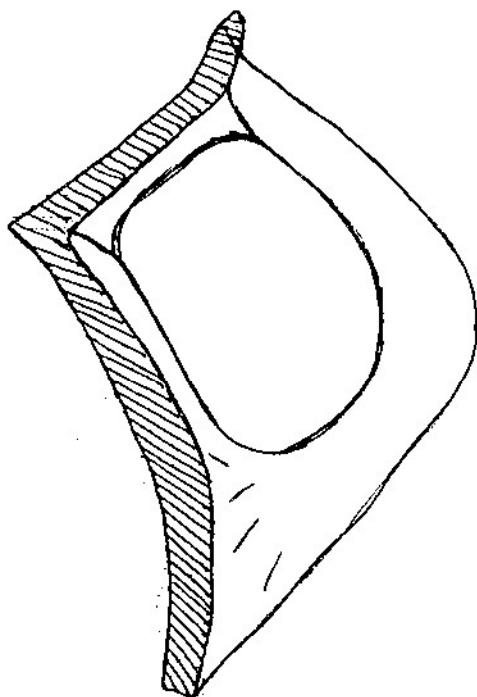
METAL ARTEFACTS AND POTTERY FROM EASTHORPE

Figure 2. Pottery Finds (2)

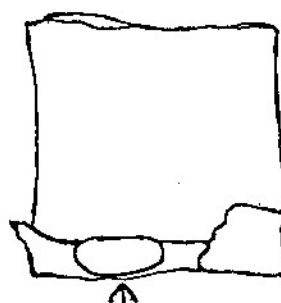
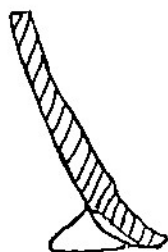
8) BOWL RIM



9) JUG WITH HANDLE



10) BOWL BASE

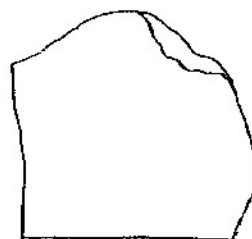
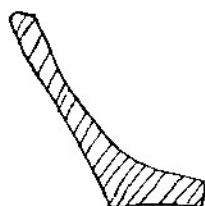


thumb mark

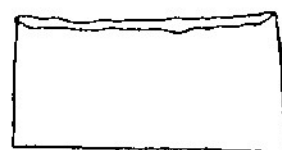
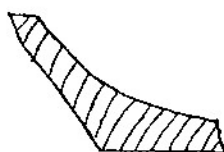
METAL ARTEFACTS AND POTTERY FROM EASTHORPE

Figure 3. Pottery Finds (3)

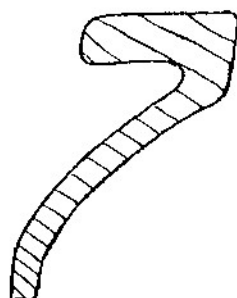
11) BOWL BASE



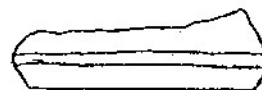
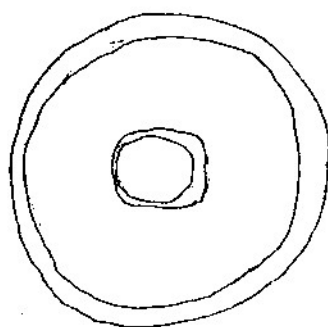
12) BOWL BASE



13) BOWL RIM



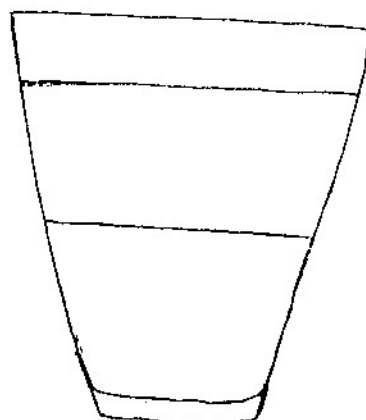
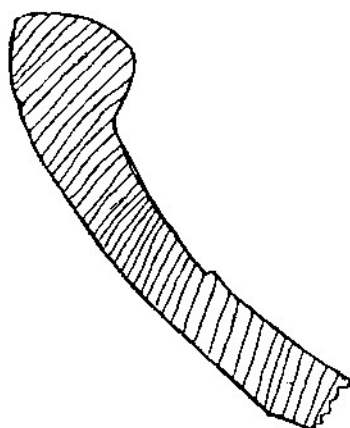
14) BEAKER BASE



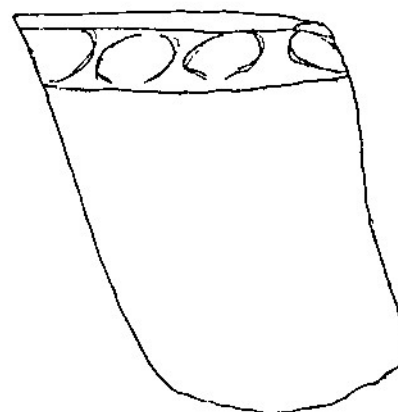
METAL ARTEFACTS AND POTTERY FROM EASTHORPE

Figure 4. Pottery Finds (4)

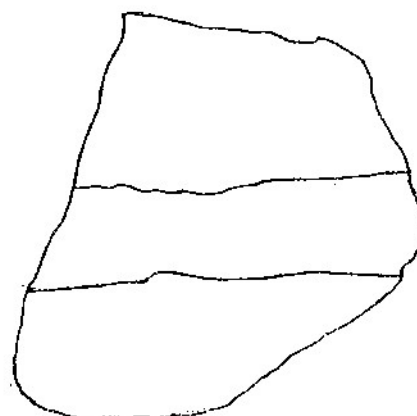
15) BOWL RIM



16) POTTERY FRAGMENT



17) POTTERY FRAGMENT



METAL ARTEFACTS AND POTTERY FROM EASTHORPE

Figure 5. Pottery Finds (5)

LEAD

- (1) Oblong weight with hole through middle, probably used in net for catching birds.
- (2) Weight with suspension hole and flat base, weighs exactly eight ounces.
- (3) Small lead container, upper parts much damaged, with two lugs on the base. This may be a pilgrim's ampulla for carrying holy water. There may have been symbols representing the shrine it came from, on the missing upper parts.
- (4) Lead shot, 1.0 to 1.4cm in diameter. Some pieces have a centre line, suggesting that they were made by pressing.

BRONZE

All the bronze except the crotal bell could be prehistoric, suggesting that there could have been bronze age settlement in the Easthorpe area.

- (1) Smooth piece of bronze with a shaped cutting edge, may have been part of a cutting implement or weapon.
- (2) Bronze buckle?, one projecting arm broken off. It has a hole which may have allowed a leather strap to pass through it.
- (3) Curved piece of smooth bronze, hammered in three planes. The centre part is flat, the parts on either are tapered. It may just be a piece of scrap bronze left over from the manufacture of something else.
- (4) Piece of flat bronze with a small rib running across it. It has a rough patina. It may have been part of a bronze vessel.
- (5) Piece of bronze with a rounded edge and a very pitted surface. It is slightly curved and could have come from a roughly made bronze vessel.
- (6) Crotal bell with an iron clapper inside. It has a decorated pattern and the initials A G. Crotal bells were worn on the necks of sheep.

OTHER MATERIALS

- (1) Small fluted object. It is made from a very fine grained material probably bone or pottery. It might be a hone for sharpening tools or knives.
- (2) Small blue oval to go in a jewellery setting. Martin Winter of Colchester Museum says it is made of colour altered quartz but it may be made of a type of glass.
- (3) Heavy slag. This had enough metal in it to be found with a metal detector.
- (4) Light slag this had the same dark colour as the heavy slag but seemed to have more bubbles in it.

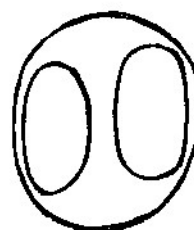
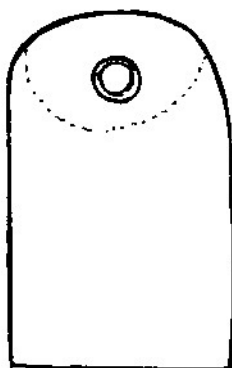
CONCLUSION

The finds suggest that this part of Easthorpe has been settled from at least the bronze age. The medieval pottery gives us a rare glimpse of the ordinary cooking and eating vessels of the medieval villager. Until there is a proper archeological excavation, this examination of finds from the topsoil is one of the few ways, apart from aerial photography, of looking at the archaeology of Easthorpe.

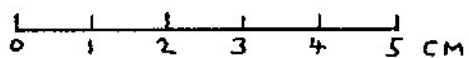
1) WEIGHT



2) WEIGHT, EXACTLY 8 OZ



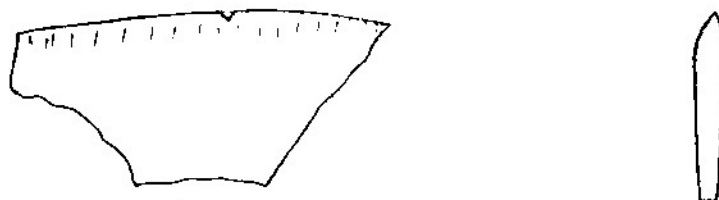
3) LEAD AMPULLA



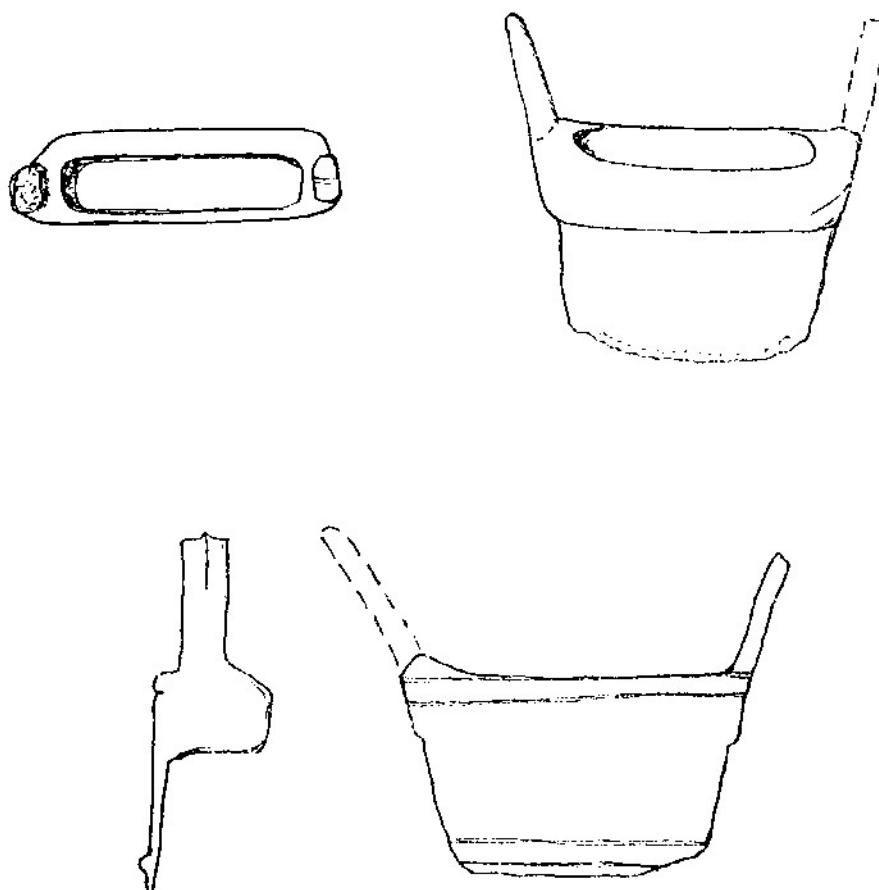
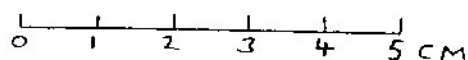
METAL ARTEFACTS AND POTTERY FROM EASTHORPE

Figure 6. Lead Artefacts

1) FRAGMENT OF BRONZE BLADE

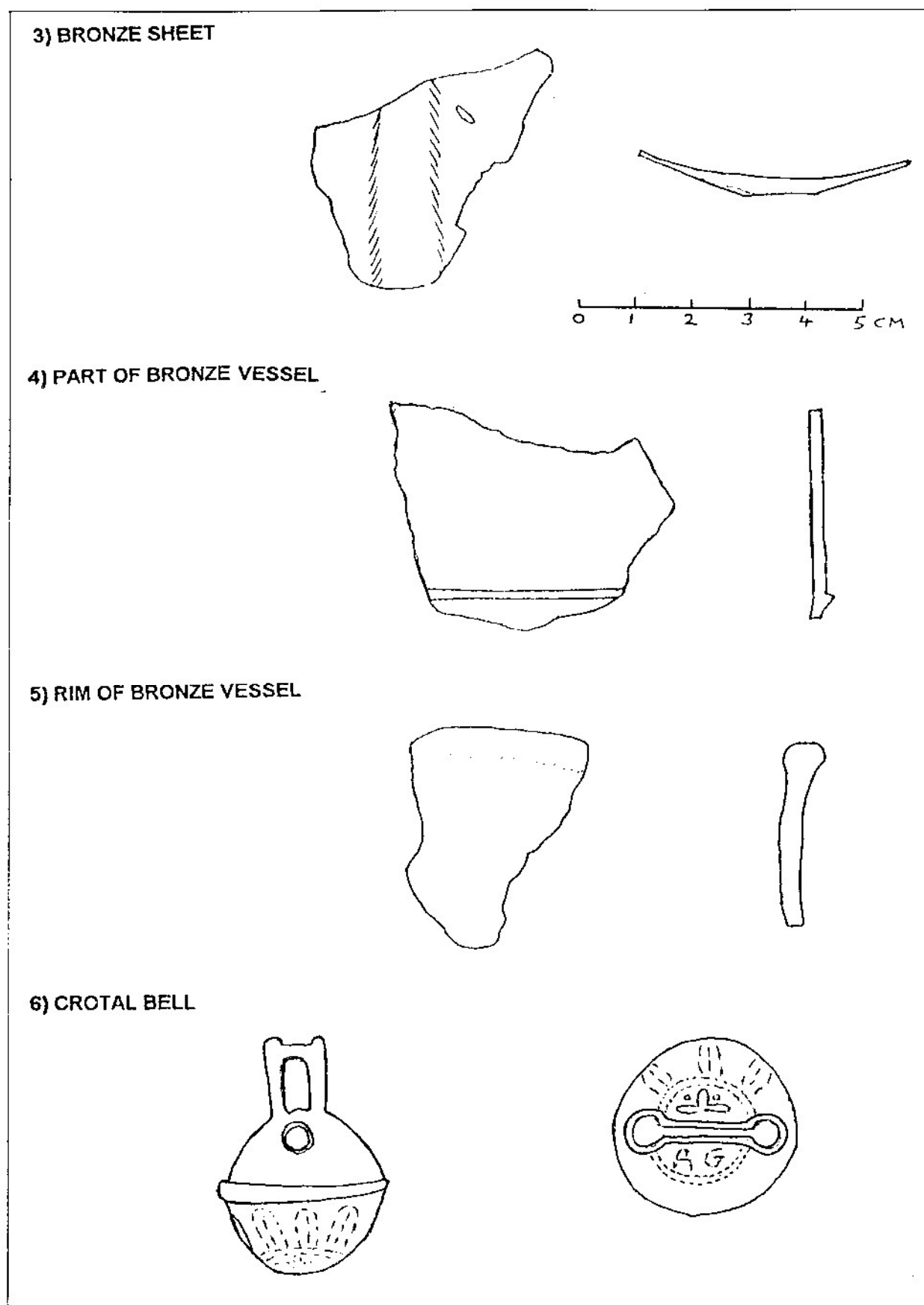


2) BRONZE BUCKLE



METAL ARTEFACTS AND POTTERY FROM EASTHORPE

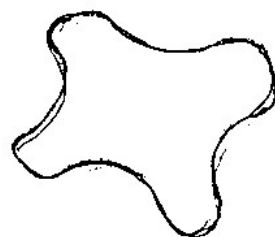
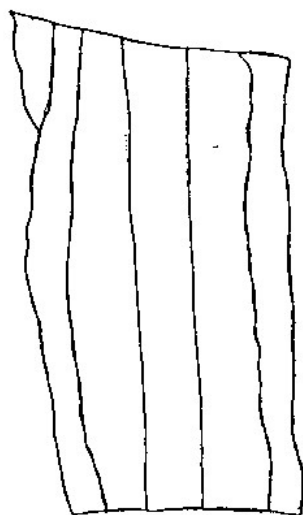
Figure 7. Bronze Artefacts (1)



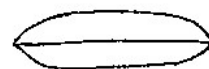
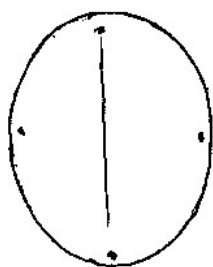
METAL ARTEFACTS AND POTTERY FROM EASTHORPE

Figure 8. Bronze Artefacts (2)

1) HONE



2) JEWELLERY



METAL ARTEFACTS AND POTTERY FROM EASTHORPE

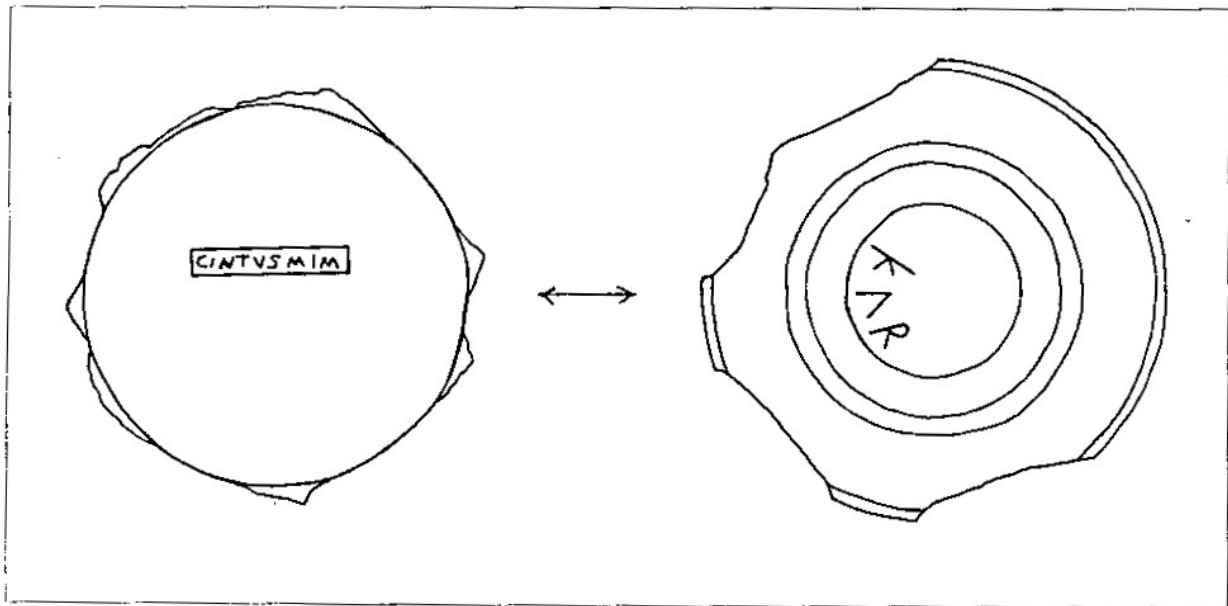
Figure 9. Other Materials

Short Notes

ROMAN POTTERY WITH GRAFFITI

This piece of Samian ware, which was found by Mr Norman Bone near St Mary's Hospital in Colchester, has a potters mark, CINTVSMIM, on the inside of the base. In Thomas Mays book Catalogue of the Roman pottery in the Colchester and Essex Museum (1930), there are two potters stamps on sigillata with similar names, CINTVS and CINTS SS.A, The first whose stamps have been found beside kilns at St Bonnet, Lavoye, Ittenweiler and Rheinzabern, dated AD 117-190. The second is found in Central Gaul and is dated 150-200 AD.

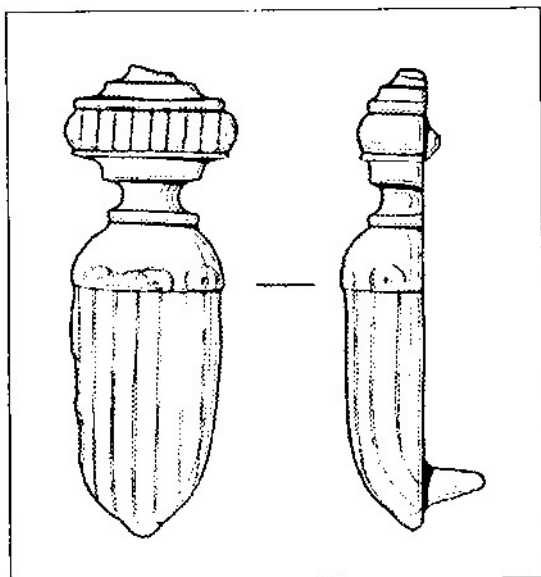
On the underside of the base is a graffiti mark 'k A.R'? This word which could be Latin or Greek, was added after the pot was fired and is probably an owners mark.



SHORT NOTES

Figure 1. Roman Pot with Graffiti from Colchester

TWO UNUSUAL FINDS FROM THE ESSEX SUFFOLK BORDER by M. J. Matthews



SHORT NOTES

Figure 2. 1st century Military Cavalry Harness
Acorn Mount

(1) Cavalry Harness Mount

This unusual mount was found during a field survey. I showed it to Mark Davies who confirmed that it was Roman. I then asked Christine Jones to help find out more about it Christine thinking it was military sent it to the editor of ARMA (A Roman Military Armour Journal), Mike Bishop who identified it as Roman military equipment of the 1st century AD. It seems that the acorn is quite common on pre-Flavian cavalry harness fittings (e.g. BISHOP, 1988) but not so the decorative, moulded, horizontal bar which is found on a few cavalry pendants (e.g. BISHOP, 1988).

Nick Griffiths came up with a plainer example but a good match (Hod Hill, Vol 1, p3, No A 47). If the enamel in the lower bands had been niello then it was probably Claudio-Neronian. There has been other evidence of that date on the site.

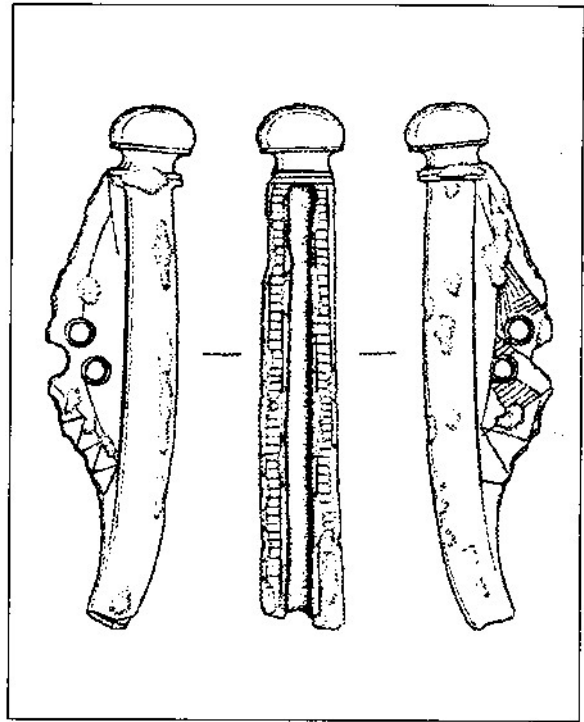
The mount was sent to Judith Plouviez at the Suffolk Archaeology Unit where it was drawn. The copper alloy mount is solid cast with a flat back with one projecting spike and the

remains of another. An elongated acorn shape joins a squarish moulding, which if the mount was symmetrical, had a further acorn attached to the other end. There are small fragments of white metal (silver or tinned?) on the moulding and on the acorn still remaining. The acorn is decorated with lightly incised and indistinct dot and circle motifs. There are similar incised lines on the broadest part of the moulding. The surviving mount is 32mm in length and 11.1mm max width. Originally the mount would have been 55mm long if symmetrical.

I would be interested to find out more about the origins of the mount, perhaps it originated in Thrace, as the ALA 1 THRACUM was thought to have been at Colchester during the reign of Claudius, or the COHORS VI THRACUM EQ. If anybody has more information on this type of mount I would be interested to hear from them.

(2) Unusual 1st Century Bow Brooch

This brooch was also found on the same site, it has geometrical patterns incised on each side of the catch plate which was pierced by at least three circular holes. The bow has deep central groove with transverse hatching each side. Was this groove designed to take decoration of some kind? There is a solid spherical knob and the metal probably had a high lead content as denoted by the grey colour.



SHORT NOTES

Figure 3. First century Bow Brooch Fragment

Both the drawings are courtesy of The Suffolk Archaeological Unit.

The Detector used as a tool for the archaeologist

These unusual finds were discovered while carrying out a field survey using the normal archaeological practice of field walking plus detecting at the same time. These finds add more information to the archaeological archive. They also give an insight into the use of the site over the ages, and the fashions and trade of the times, when taken in context with other results of the field.

A PARISH LIBRARY AT LITTLE HORKESLEY

Simon Taylor of Greyfriars Bookshop, East Hill, Colchester, recently came across the book *A commentary upon the prophecy and lamentations of Jeremiah* by William Lowth. 1718. Simon has kindly provided the following notes. On the inside cover, in English, is written 'Little Horkesley Library'. On page 146 in the margin is a comment on the text in a different hand. The words on the inside cover suggest that Little Horkesley had a parish library in the church. These libraries which contained mostly theological works, were set up by clergymen to educate their parishioners. The clergyman most likely to have set up this library is the Rev James Husbands, (1693- 1749), (son of Edward Husbands, died 1736 aged 79, Lord of the manor, who rebuilt Little Horkesley Hall). James Husbands was a fellow of Caius College, Cambridge (LL.B 1715; LL.D 1724), rector of Ashdon (1729-30), Fordham (1743-49) and Vicar of Little Horkesley. He married Mary Sindrey of Cambridge and inherited his father's estate. Dying without issue he put an entail on his estate which passed via his niece to the Blair family. He died in either 1749 or 1750. A Rev Jas Husbands subscribed for a copy of Morant's Colchester in 1748 (Morant was rector of Aldham from 1745).

A DUTCH GRAVESTONE AT ST MARTIN'S COLCHESTER

There is a gravestone to a Dutch baymaker in St Martin's churchyard. It is not mentioned in the series of volumes recording all the gravestones and memorials in Colchester churches published about 1857. It is often pointed out by the town guides, when showing tourists St Martin's church as being the only gravestone in Colchester to a Dutch weaver.

Ken Cooke, former Mayor seeing that the stone is now illegible has arranged for the lettering to be recut. He has given me the following reading of the stone.

It has a carved skull and cross bones at the top.

*"Here lyes intered the
body of Jacab Ringer
Bays Maker who departed
this life January the 20
in the yeare 1680 "*

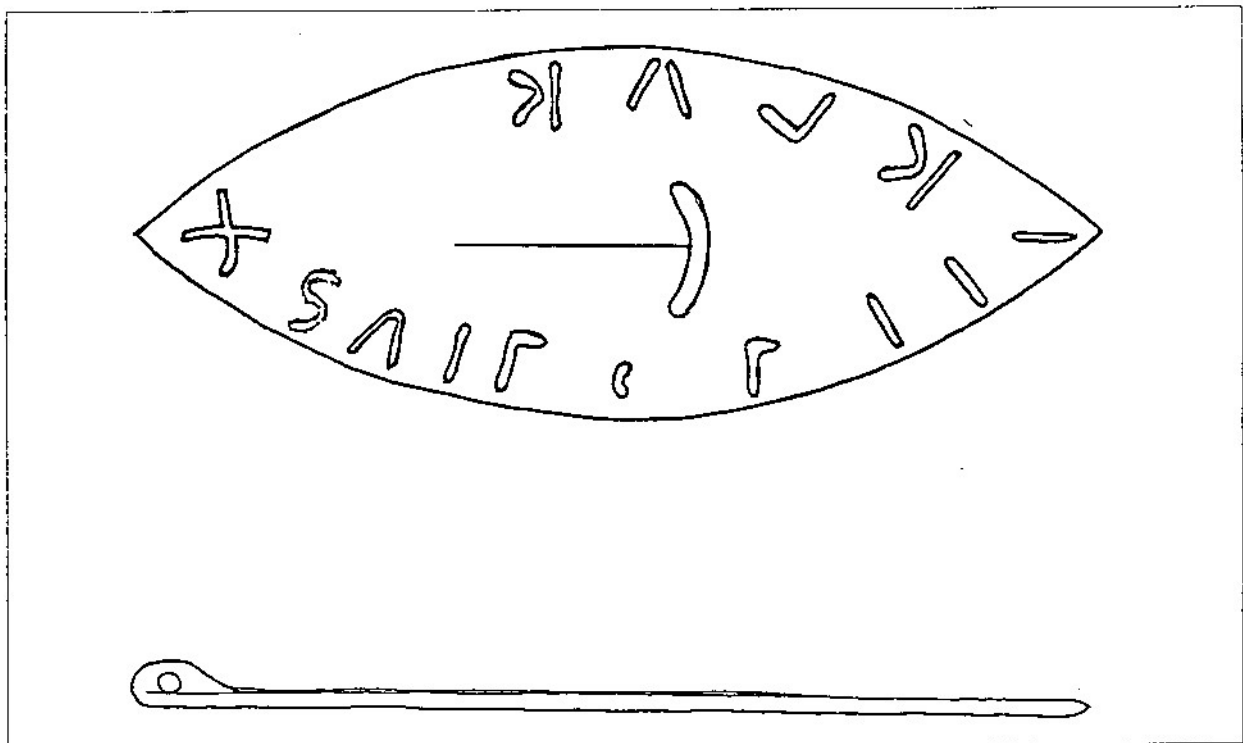
TWO SEAL MATRICES FROM LITTLE CORNARD, SUFFOLK.

In 1993 Albert Grimwood, using a metal detector, found two seal matrices at Little Cornard. They were shown to the Suffolk Archaeological Unit who recorded them. The notes below are based on reports given by the Unit to the finder.

1) Bronze Seal Matrix

It is 3cm high, flat, pointed oval shape with a suspension loop at one end of the spinal ridge on the reverse. The die is very worn, the central horizontal crescent with a vertical line arising from its middle may represent a ship. The inscription probably reads S'VILELMI KLAK (The seal of William? Klak). The name Klak can almost certainly be translated as Clerk. The matrix is 13th or 14th century.

Leigh Alston has given me the following notes. William Clark of Great Bures appears as tenant of Peacock Hall, Little Cornard, in the manoral Court of 17th September 1355 (court roll in private collection). A family of the same name (Clerk or Le Clerk) held land of the same manor during the 14th century. The name is of course a very common one.



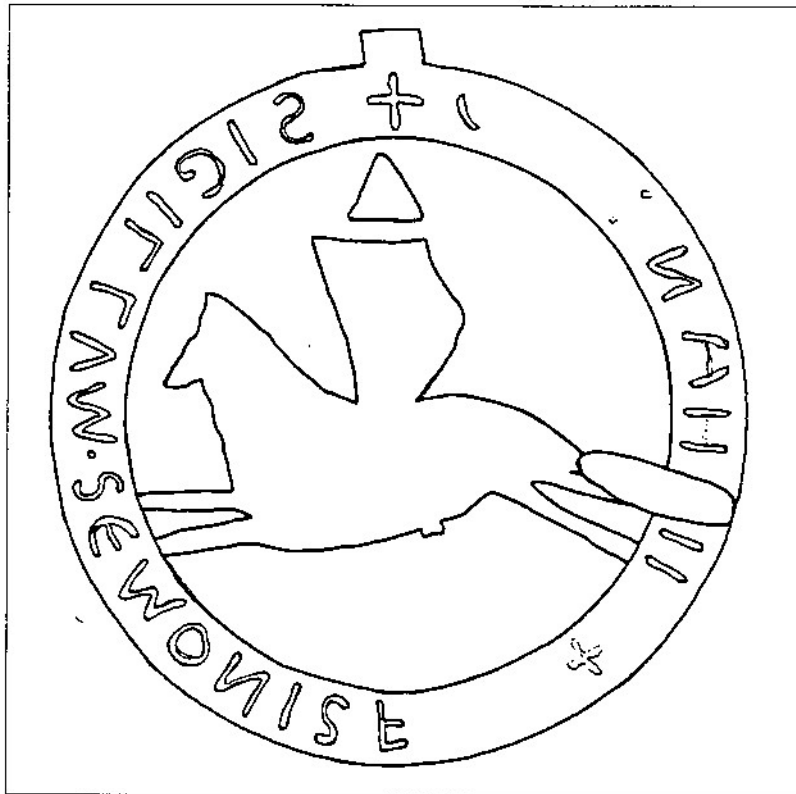
SHORT NOTES

Figure 4. Bronze Seal Matrix from Little Cornard

2) Lead Seal Matrix

An unusually large (5.2cm diam) circular seal matrix. It is flat with the stub of a suspension loop or lug on one side. It is very worn and damaged. The central figure of a knight on horseback is very worn. The inscription reads + SIGILLVM SEMONIS F I I I N .(The seal of Semon the son of John?). It is probably 13th century. The design is copied from equestrian royal and baronial seals of the late 12th to 14th centuries.

The drawings are by Richard Shackle.



SHORT NOTES

Figure 6. Lead Seal Matrix from Little Cornard

OBITUARIES

Harry Kenneth Hale

We were shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden death of our chairman, Harry Hale, on December 19, at the age of 45. He joined the group in 1989 and from then on he and Carole constantly attended our Monday lecture meetings, our field events and our outings. Although work and family commitments prevented him from participating regularly in excavations, he did take part in the investigation of the Roman road at Great Tey and in so doing displayed the necessary characteristics of an inquiring mind, patience and optimism in clearing a feature which became known as Harry's ditch.

He was elected a member of the committee in 1993 and was rapidly promoted to Vice-chairman. He became chairman in October 1994 and quickly demonstrated his ability to deal with proceedings at lecture evenings and at the one committee meeting which was allowed him. As a group we last saw him at the Christmas party where he made a brief appropriate speech of appreciation and thanks to the organisers.

If one were allowed only one word to describe Harry, that word must surely be genial. With his large smile he always seemed to take matters in his stride and we miss him as a member, Chairman and friend.

His passing at such an early age is a great blow and we offer our deepest sympathy to his family and to Carole, who have suffered such a tragic and unexpected loss

Gordon Moorse

We were saddened to learn of the death of Gordon Moorse in January 1995 at the age of 69. He was the district manager of the Co-operative Insurance Society for 27 years. He served on the committee of The Colchester Archaeological Group from 1989 until his death. He was an active member of the lectures sub committee and used his insurance skills to look at the insurance policy of the group, which he found to be good. We send our deepest sympathy to his family.

Winter Lectures 1992-93

ESSEX ASSOCIATIONS OF JOHN CONSTABLE

19 October 1992, *Nancy Briggs, MA, FSA, Essex Record Office (retired Senior Assistant Archivist)*

Constable's antecedents and life are well documented. He came from a prosperous family of millers on the Suffolk side of the Stour but had many friends and patrons on the Essex side of the river. His adult life is accessible through the large number of letters which he wrote and were published in 1863 - six years after his death - by his close friend C. R - Leslie, who also wrote a biography of the artist after visiting many of his close friends and obtaining information from them.

Even as a schoolboy at Dedham school he was deeply in love with painting. His father wanted him to become a miller but by 1795 yielded and allowed him to go to London to study art and in 1802 he exhibited for the first time at the Royal Academy - though with no great enthusiasm from the PRA

His portrait of Dr Thomas Grimwood, the head at Dedham school, is now in the Minories collection and his patrons at this time were General Rebow of Wivenhoe Park and Sir George Beaumont. His portrait of the General's daughter and landscapes of scenes in the park are widely spread now, some in this country others in the USA and Australia. It was Claude's landscape of *Hagar and Ishmall* gave him inspiration when he saw it in Sir George's collection.

He also found a good friend in the Rev Driffeld who held the livings of Southchurch and Feering. Driffeld took him for a visit to Southchurch from Feering and Constable's letters at this time enthuse over the scenery he saw in that part of Essex, especially along the South Essex coast: At this time he first saw Hadleigh Castle- later the subject of his most famous paintings.

However he was always most charmed by the scenery of the Dedham and Langham valleys where he painted *The Cornfield*, *The Haywain*, *The Leaping Horse* and *Dedham Vale*. He did not stick to the landscape he could see from any particular viewpoint For example the mill wheel at Dedham, which is a feature of the painting of Flatford mill was not visible though shown. Also, he brought Dedham church tower into several paintings though it was not visible.

He married Mary Bicknell in 1816 and in due course had six or seven children, with attendant money problems until various legacies, including £20,000 from Mr Bicknell made him comfortably off Sadly, his wife died soon after.

He sketched and painted several scenes in NE Essex including East Hill, Colchester, Harwich Lighthouse, Stairway Mill, Colchester Castle, and Mistley - where some of his family were interested in the port development. His later life was spent at Hampstead, where he was buried in 1837.

AN ALBIGENSIAN CRUSADE

2 November 1992, *Helen Paterson, ALFA, English Heritage Field Monument Warden.*

In 1208 Pope Innocent iii called for a crusade against the Albigensians of South West France, a district very disaffected by its struggle against the northern French and the disgust raised by the luxurious life style of Catholic church dignitaries. They adopted a simple life style and abandoned belief in the sacraments, except for one called the Consolamentum - shared among the adepts (the Perfecti) and administered to the Credentes - the believers - on their death beds. They preached pacifism and practised vegetarianism. There were other heresies in South France but none so widely held.

Gathered together by the offering of indulgences, the hope of loot, or of acquiring land, a huge army of all classes from archbishops to blacksmiths and cooks invaded the South led by Simon de Montfort (father of the English character of the same name). They attacked the Albigensian towns - beginning with Beziers - and the numerous castles on rocky peaks and outcrops; massacring those who resisted with fire and sword. The castles were mostly impregnable, but crowded with refugees, short of food, blazing sun and water shortages forced their surrender. The bloodshed is remembered to this day.

It is only fair to say that two years before the 'Crusade' the Pope had made efforts to convert the population by a preaching 'blitz' led by Dominic de Guzman, who adopted the ascetic life style of the Albigensians, and he was meeting with some success until the Pope's legate was killed at St Gilles and this act set the whole 'Crusade' into action.

The speaker described the rolling countryside in the northern part of the region with terracing dating from Roman times or before, and the upland region, with deep gorges further south. The Occitan language, more akin to Spanish than French, marked the people off from the Northern French but is not very common today.

The towns mostly had strong defences - Carcassonne, Cordes, Conques, are good examples, and much of the soil is very productive and now notable for the wine it produces.

There is a vast number of splendid churches with beautiful carvings. Especially notable is the huge red brick fortress like Cathedral of St Cecilia at Albi built soon after the end of the 'Crusade'. Some of the churches owe their size to being on the pilgrimage route to the tomb of St James in Spain (Moissac).

The Inquisition was instituted in the area in 1233 and managed to extirpate the Albigensian heresy and the Albigensian culture. The last refuge was the castle at Monsegur which fell in 1243, after a nine month siege. Two hundred Albigensians were burned alive in a great fire.

THE STUDY OF MEDIEVAL STONEMWORK

9 November 1992, *Andrew Pharris, MPhil, Archaeological Structure Analyst.*

There are two aspects of this topic - (1) as part of the Architectural History of England and (2) more importantly, the study of surviving stonework including fragments in ruins, found in excavations or littering the sites of former buildings. Though pieces of stone found in this way are often neglected they are frequently more revealing than pottery finds. They are properly studied by drawing sections, as this may well show the original and any secondary uses.

On some sites little remains more than piles of small stones, but their distribution relative to the ground plan may well throw light on the structure of the former building and the dating of various parts of the building. Fragments of exotic stone generally come from former monuments - these may be marble, Purbeck marble or other expensive stone.

In East Anglia common materials are flint or Barnack stone, both hard wearing and used for exteriors. Clunch - a soft, easily weathered chalky stone from Cambridgeshire was used in many instances for interiors. Good stone from earlier buildings was frequently re-used and can often be identified by showing the original carving on one face in the section drawing.

Barnack stone, full of shelly remains, was not suitable for carving but ideal for ashlar, when it should be laid in the same way as the strata had been formed when it was laid down. Fragments of string courses are a great help in dating some of the features of a vanished building.

The tooling of the surface may reveal the date of the stonework, especially diagonal tooling, which is closely dated to the twelfth century.

The thirteenth century shows tooling with a serrated tool and later claw tooling appears but these two finishes are not so tightly dated as diagonal tooling and not so reliable for dating.

The speaker illustrated his points with slides of buildings, mainly in East Anglia, of various periods. Women were sometimes employed in labouring jobs on medieval buildings - one slide showed a picture of a well dressed lady doing this but was unrealistic as they were only patrons of the building.

Mason marks are not always visible on stones in surviving buildings. The great pillars of churches and cathedrals were ashlar round rubble cores and some mason marks may be concealed. Their purpose is not altogether clear, they may be connected with payments to workers by a master mason or to assist in the siting of stones in the structure.

In answer to questions the speaker concluded by saying Barnack stone had a long period of use. The earliest standing building using it is of late eleventh century. The quarry closed in the fifteenth century.

Purbeck marble - not a real marble - was in use in Roman times and throughout medieval times except for a period when it met competition from the similar Tournai stone. Its use continued into modern times (An almost similar stone from the East of England was sometimes used in that vicinity.)

WAS ESSEX THE ANGOLA OF BRITAIN? (SALT, TRADE AND IMPERIALISM)

16th October 1992, *John Alexander, MA, PhD, FSA, Department of Archaeology, Cambridge.*

When Portuguese explorers reached the present site of Luanda in the 1470's further inland - up the river - was a kingdom with a flourishing salt trade which enabled the king and the elite to live in style. The salt was mined and also produced by evaporation in briquetage which was then broken up to release the salt. In exchange for luxury goods the product was then sent on well established salt trade routes over very considerable distances.

The Portuguese by degrees seized the kingdom and used the salt network of routes to exchange metal goods, alcoholic drinks (gin) etc for slaves and other goods from the hinterland.

The speaker drew parallels with developments in Essex. The great number of red hills on the Essex coast must have produced a great excess over local needs. It seems highly probable that this was conveyed over a number of routes along river valleys as production changed from being on a basis of individuals supplying their own needs - mainly in the summer. These valley routes led to the Icknield Way and the belt of land between the Way and the coast shows cultural features of likeness across its length in the late Tene iii period. The pottery, metal goods, cremation practice all show a unity of culture in late Pre-Roman times too, as traders followed up the older salt trading routes. The salt trade fell under the sway of powerful chiefs among the Trinovantes who enjoyed the imports of amphorae and other luxuries. Caesar speaks of them being the most civilized of the British tribes, and of their relation with the Celts across the Channel.

The main settlement of the Trinovantes was at Camulodunum and when they succumbed to the Catuvellauni their conquerors removed their centre from its one near St Albans to Camulodunum - a more desirable site as the prosperous entrepot for trade between Britain and Gaul.

After the Roman conquest the 'Essex' Celts were largely left alone until they threw in their lot with Boudicca. The rich Welwyn Type tombs found in the belt between the Icknield Way and the coast are evidence of a cultural unity.

However the rise of London as a trading and political centre with its network of new Roman roads caused Camulodunum to be relegated to the role of a prosperous provincial town - still the centre for trade on the old (originally) salt road system. Its former political importance seems to have influenced the political set up in Saxon times.

All this effect of a salt industry in early Britain is thus reflected in Angola where the Portuguese trade and political development followed routes conveniently established by the early salt traders.

THE COMING FLOOD: THE IMPACT OF THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT ON ESSEX WILDLIFE

23.November 1992, *Dr Chris Miles, Conservation Officer, Essex Wildlife Trust.*

Carbon dioxide, methane, etc - are carbon gases which are increasing in the atmosphere largely as a result of burning fossil fuel and the felling of tropical forests which supply the means of removing CO₂ from the air. A moderate amount of carbon gases in the air made earth habitable but the 98% present in Venus' atmosphere has resulted in terrific heat there. In our atmosphere carbon is increasing now at 2.5% per annum.

Until the industrial revolution the volume of those gases released into the air was balanced by a similar amount removed by tree growth etc and by ocean deposits.

The global effects of this are predictable. In spite of variations from year to year the atmosphere will carry more and more (heat) energy which will exhibit itself in many 'Extreme Weather Events', e.g. the blazing summers, infrequent not so very long ago will occur about once in three years, and intense rainfall storms will be more frequent.

All this in spite of counter-influences such as an increase in algae growth (which will be limited by lack of nutrients) and increase in vegetative growth. The thawing of polar ice-caps will result in rising sea levels, though this may be somewhat reduced by increased precipitation of snow. However the volume of the oceans will be increased further by

their rising temperatures resulting in rising sea levels which are already observable. It is calculated that the melting of the Greenland ice sheet - to take an extreme and unlikely event - would cause a three metre sea level rise.

Most of the world's great cities and densely populated areas are little above sea level now. They are also often in very fertile areas which would be threatened. These sea level changes will be rapid, unlike the slow changes in and after ice ages.

Essex has one of the very important coastal wild life habitats, much of it protected by planning and other provisions. In winter 250,000 waders, including 40,000 Brent geese arrive. Rising sea levels and more stormy weather events have disastrous effects on saltings and mudflats which provide feeding grounds for the birds. Unless we limit the discharge of carbon gases into the atmosphere all these habitats on the Essex coast will have gone by next mid-century.

Away from the coast oxlips (already rare) and bluebells will find the changes adverse as will the ice age floral relics in the Cairngorms and the few remaining bog habitats in this country.

On the bright side these climatic changes might make opportunities for some plants and birds to settle here from warmer areas and for some of our native ones to move to areas further north or higher latitudes but these gains will be vastly over shadowed by the alterations for wild life and people - especially in Essex with its general low coastline.

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK IN HARLOW

30 November 1992, *Richard Bartlett, BA, Curator, Arts and Recreation, Harlow Museum.*

The most important site in Harlow is the temple site. Excavations were carried out there by Mortimer Wheeler in 1927, but much more was done subsequently in 1947 and 1963 when the foundations of the cella were found at just a spade's depth and the ambulatory, with its gateway to the south and subsidiary buildings excavated.

In the courtyard were found a great number of Roman coins in good condition, native coins and also pottery. Underlying the cella was a circular shrine dating back to 200 BC. The native coins - which included some gold ones, may have been deposited in early Roman times. Five fakes - iron discs - were also found.

A vast number of votive offerings were made here, many were carefully made miniature objects e.g. a three inch gladius. Besides a range of miniature military objects, below the loam on the 'natural' were massive deposits of iron strips, possibly votives by smiths, and a Minerva sculpture. She was revered by craftsmen and smiths.

In the courtyard were cremation sites and the only Pond Barrow (Middle Bronze Age) known in East England. In the barrow was burnt gravel indicating a 'corpse building'.

Paleolithic axes and Neolithic ones were deposited in Roman times. The temple went out of use in the 4th century. One find depicted Christian symbols - The Tree of Life between peacocks. The Roman wall is said to have been visible in the middle ages.

Pottery which may be Pagan Saxon or Iron Age has been found and also Anglo-Saxon brooches.

Like the temple site other sites are known. On the south side of the River Stort in Milton Keynes the sites are subject to planning permission, though the recession has halted development. These sites are Church Langley, New Hall Farm and Gilden Way.

On the North bank of the Stort there has been little archaeological work done and on the Essex side there are still various unexcavated farmstead sites, none apparently very grand.

In Roman times Harlow lay between two main roads and its main significance was religious - as it had been for a long time. The Roman development was at its maximum towards the end of the Roman Period.

EVOLUTION OF A COASTAL HABITAT

7 December 1992, *Bob Crump, BEM, Chairman - Foulness Archeological Society*

Foulness is much the largest of the islands in this area. Chance finds in 1848 at Shelford in the south of the island showed some Roman occupation, but more persistent examination waited until 1945 when interest was aroused by remains disclosed where a JCB was at work on a Roman burial site.

Here had been salt working, there are very many red hills now known on the islands. The one referred to showed occupation between mid-second century to mid-third century when flooding may have caused its abandonment.

Much field walking has been undertaken and similar sites located on New England, Pottton, and Havengore, having similar dates. The Society is now assessing sites round Great Wakering and Shoeburyness to see if there is any site relating to the earlier ones, where finds are mainly briquetage and pottery. Occupation sites on the islands were all small and after the Roman period seem to have been abandoned until the Middle Ages. (c 1100 AD) Then the land was divided into holdings by five of the nearby mainland manors, two of which held courts on Foulness. A set back occurred when the River Roach breached the sea wall at Horseshoe Corner and caused serious flooding in 1348.

The island is divided by a number of interior sea walls to minimise the extent of any flooding. Progressively more and more strips of land were recovered from the sea - mainly towards the NE, until the present outline of the island was achieved in the early nineteenth century. The interior walls, once well established became tracks or roadways.

The Napoleonic Wars called for more agriculture and methods improved - there was a change from pastoral to arable production, which in turn supported a much bigger population rising for a time to over 800. Many of the incomers had unsavoury records and the life on the island became tough and rough.

Efforts were made by incumbents to improve matters, in 1806 a school was built, for the first time fresh water was made available more readily, etc but by mid-century the population declined as people moved to employment on the mainland - especially in the growing brickworks.

Transport had always been mainly by Thames barges. It was thus that vast amounts of Kentish chalk arrived for wall building. Other access was by the Broomway over the mudflats. Eventually the islands were acquired by the War Office (now MOD) who built a roadway (with bridges over the creeks) to the mainland.

There are several quite substantial houses on the island built in the nineteenth century boom years, many incorporating earlier smaller farmsteads. These houses are being recorded by the Society. An interesting note is that the lock-up was used also used as the mortuary!.

IRON AGE CENTRES IN THE FENLAND - EXCAVATIONS AT THE COVENEY RINGWORK

25 January 1993, *Christopher Evans, BA, MA, MIFA, Director of Cambridge Archaeological Unit, University of Cambridge.*

In the lowland Fen area the population was small in the Bronze and Iron Age and it was considered to be a cultural and material backwater. But now the Fenland Edges are regarded as important populated sites in the Iron Age with a great number of important local sites in the Iron Age landscape - these being mainly ringworks; much remains to be excavated even though modern farming methods have resulted in many being blown away.

A recent 'dig' near Cambridge, Arbury Camp by David Trump (using systematic sampling methods) of a large circular camp which had originally a deep ditch and high ramparts revealed little Iron Age material but some Roman sherds. Attached to the ring was a sub-rectangular enclosure. There was a 20 metre gap between the butt ends of the ringwork and four very large post holes showed there had been a tower there. The whole site appeared to be mainly concerned with stock raising but had obvious defensive potential. Remains of iron working evidence has been sent to the British Museum for research.

There are many such perfectly circular ringworks round the fen edges - they were at one time falsely ascribed to Hereward's struggles against the Normans, but they frequently precede the Saxon field system. A good example is Wandlebury Camp on a chalk downland site SE of Cambridge and another is the fairly recently excavated Stonea Camp on an 'island' in the fens.

The Coveney enclosure by Wardy Hill (A clay spur) has been lately investigated by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit with much field walking to indicate features. One part has produced 700 Bronze Age burnt flints (5 Kg per square metre). These had been brought to the site from elsewhere; perhaps to produce material for pot tempering or for use as pot boilers.

The high phosphate content in the soil testifies to stock raising. Modern agriculture has reduced the landscape by 20cm - the rampart was a visible until the first world war.

This was a bivallate structure with outworks joining the ring, only part of further occupation stretching up to the clay spur. Two round houses had been built in the ring, together with subsidiary structures. The trench round the older house

had been used as a midden. Many human bones were found and some remains of prestige articles. It seems that the inhabitants consisted of an extended family who must have had authority over the local population who would have provided manpower for the construction of the earthworks. It is noticeable that food relics show that the food resources of the nearby marshland were not used until Roman settlers arrived; (a matter of taste).

The late Iron Age life style resembled the much earlier Wessex one generally. Only 20% of pottery was wheel turned. Being off trade routes no Gallo-Roman pottery arrived before the Roman conquest, showing that the absence of wheel turned pottery does not necessarily indicate an early dating.

Another Cambridgeshire research site - the Haddenham Project - shows a very similar site, though there the inhabitants used the marshlands more, and were fish eaters.

Mr Evans concluded by pointing out that artifacts normally found on Bronze Age sites may be found in isolated places sometimes on Iron Age sites.

HUMAN EVOLUTION

1 January 1993, *Dr Robert Foley, Director of the Duckworth Laboratory, University of Cambridge.*

It is becoming more and more convincing that humans are more nearly related to chimpanzees than any others of the Ape family - the branching off occurred about 7 million years ago. Going further back in time are the gorillas, orang-utangs and baboons - the most remote of our 'cousins'. This has been confirmed by recent advances in molecular biology comparing the DNA codes (the genetic structures) of man and apes. There is now little doubt that man descends from African Apes, the common ancestors of man and chimpanzees and gorillas.

The most important fossil remains come from the great Rift Valley of East Africa's fault scarps. Volcanic activity (showing ash), preserved fossils very well. The earliest ancestors found (about 5 million years old) had small brains, heavy brows and were more apelike than human. Later in date is Leakey's find of 'Lucy' (1970) - one of the most complete hominid skeletons, about 5 to 3 million years old. She well qualifies to be the 'Missing Link', being bipedal, whose pelvis, vertical column, legs, all reflect upright posture. Ape like features are small cranium and hands reaching to knees. Fossil footsteps in volcanic ash (among other animals) show bipedalism of similar form to 'Lucy's' (5-3 million years).

Later (1½ million years ago) fossils show big brows, crest on skull, small face. This marks the start of a huge variation of hominid forms - a sort of trial and error of evolution to suit local conditions, perhaps engineered by the great climate changes in the Ice Ages, as other animals evolved considerably at the same time.

Hominids such as Neanderthal man now began to expand out of Africa and between 1m and 1½m years ago spread into North Africa, Asia, and Europe. They had thick bones and by 150,000 years ago lived in many places reached by no earlier hominids.

Homo sapiens is the only survivor from all these earlier hominids, his bigger cranium compensating for his less robust build. He is a 'young' species - about 140,000 years old, the heir to a period of great evolutionary change. Research in molecular biology shows that all present races of man must descend from an 'Eve' in Africa - a common ancestress. Variations between existing races are trivial.

An interesting continuation of this is made by research into the number of languages etc found in different parts of the world. This shows a long migration from Africa northwards.

REFUSE RUBBISH IN BRONZE AGE EAST ANGLIA

8 February 1993, *Colin Pendleton (Suffolk Archaeological Unit)*

It has been thought for many years that finds of bronze artefacts - swords, rapiers etc - in rivers and meres testified to religious practices in the Bronze Age such as throwing them in to please water gods or to accompany the disposal of corpses ceremonially thrown in to the river. There were also believers that some such artefacts were thrown in to impress people in the owner's wealth.

For the past six years the speaker has been researching the distribution and provenance of bronzes classed as finds from rivers in NW Suffolk and adjacent areas in Norfolk. Finds - especially before this century - generally did not have their find spots accurately recorded. Since then a great concentration of finds along the Fen edges have been recorded, notably along the little Ouse valley, but this concentration can be accounted for by the spread of arable farming in this

area and the consequent increase in casual finds along the river banks and by increased dredging.

However the course of Fenland rivers have altered markedly since the Bronze Age; also river banks were raised at one time by piling up soil (and later clay from elsewhere) consequently erosion of the banks would bring any artefacts in these banks into the river.

It is also probable that casual finds in adjacent fields might also be thrown into rivers as so much rubbish. The speaker compared the proportion of Bronze Age swords found in rivers in Suffolk (24%) with the proportion of Saxon ones found in rivers (40%).

In England it is estimated that approximately 75% to 80% of Medieval swords found have come from rivers. The lecturer concluded that these figures showed no concentration of Bronze Age finds in rivers supported the idea of Bronze Age ritual deposit there. Further some actually found there may have been accidentally lost there or resulted from boating accidents.

He has investigated carefully finds on some of the actual peat fen and each case he has inspected has found that the artefacts had most probably been ploughed up from underlying 'sand hills' covered by later peat deposits, so originally were not disposed of in 'wet fens'. Another cause of some bronze being found in rivers is the digging of ditches on the land side of river banks; the spoil being used to raise the banks, if it came from Bronze Age settlements, may well hold bronzes which by erosion would easily finish up in the river.

He concluded by saying that the statistics give no support for the belief that in this East Anglian region - whatever happened in other regions - was the practice of ritual deposition (or ostentatious display) practised in Bronze Age times.

ROMAN JEWELLERY IN BRITAIN

15 February 1993, *Christine Ward, MA, PhD, FR Hist S (Lecturer in History, Goldsmith College, University of London)*

The lecturer began by pointing out that in Roman times, as now, 'jewellery' was worn for various reasons - as personal adornment - to show contacts with a group - as status symbols. Even in pre-Roman times the torques - such as those found at Snettisham - showed the high status of the weavers - and though normally worn only by males. Boudicca probably wore one when leading the Iceni in the rebellion. Later examples showed Augustus, never crowned, but framed to show his importance, and Empress Theodora adorned to show power and wealth.

In the late republic and early empire only the Senatorial class were allowed to use gold jewellery but by the end of the second century it was used by those who could afford it. A somewhat similar spread to the 'lower orders' was the production of torque bracelets for women.

Gold was not used much by provincials whose jewellery was more flamboyant than in Rome itself, but was made to produce a beautiful effect by inlaying with coloured material.

Roman upper class ladies had elaborate 'hairdos' entailing the use of expensive hair pins with carved heads, so showing wealth and status.

Brooches were functional, to hold up dresses, but also well crafted and decorated. No attempt was made to match up brooches where two or three were used at the same time. As time went on brooches became less used, probably signifying a change in dress styles. Specialist styles of brooch may be found with small toilet sets attached. The 'cross bow' brooch spread from the 'upper crust' to be used by lower orders.

Finger rings were used as sealing objects by merchants etc and also used with lucky emblems by all classes, e.g. Roman soldiers often had rings depicting Hercules (bravery) palms (victory). These emblems, and many others had a religious significance and in graves would imply victory over evil in the next world. Some had inscriptions - 'long life', 'eternity' or stars, betokening eternity.

Jet ornaments had a magical significance and were used only by women. The speaker discussed a large number of objects found in a women's burial. There were especially eleven coins, apparently in a box at her feet. These had clearly been collected from those minted over a considerable period and each displayed gods or symbols intended to help the lady in the next world.

Anklets are rarely found, though a woman wearing one is shown on a sculpture from Neumagen. Many other slides were shown to illustrate the speakers points but space is inadequate to record them all here.

NOBLEWOMEN OF EASTERN ENGLAND IN THE LATE MIDDLE AGES

22 February 1993, *Jennifer Ward, MA, PhD, Hist S., Lecturer in History, Goldsmiths College, University of London.*

The section of Late Middle Ages society which can be regarded as 'noble' ranged from the aristocracy, with kinship to the Royal family, through those called to meetings of the Lords down to Knights. Recently there has been more study of the position of women of this class and new information extracted from a close study of old sources.

These noblewomen ranged in wealth from Elizabeth de Burgh (d1360) with an annual income of *E2,500* down to the comfortably-off Pastons.

Generally, all children came under the jurisdiction of the fathers - boys till 21, girls until marriage. Girls and women who inherited property in the absence of sons of the deceased, lost control of the property on marriage so those who became heiresses were sought after as wives and often those who were very rich, including rich widows, might have pressure on them from the King to marry someone favoured by the king.

Similarly boys and girls normally had arranged marriages as parts of deals between noble families. The age of consent was 12 for girls, 14 for boys. If any marriages were arranged before these ages they had to receive the consents of the young people who reached that age, or the marriage was declared invalid. Occasionally run - away marriages took place, e.g. Margaret Paston's daughter ran away with the estate's bailiff and persisted in spite of the Bishop of Norwich. Eventually Margaret was reconciled with the couple.

Little is known of the upbringing of girls. Some were sent to convents, where they might learn to read, but not to write.

The average size of families among nobility was not very large. Many noblemen went off to the wars - this was the time of the Hundred Years War - and left young widows, others, like the Pastons, were away from home following up prolonged law suits, or perhaps busy at court.

An interesting case is Elizabeth de Burgh - married at 12 a widow at 17, then remarried but a widow again a short time later. Then pressed by the king to marry one of his favourites.

Though these weddings were arranged ones they generally engendered the confidence of husbands as the wives were usually executors of their wills, and of course had the administration of large estates during the many absences of the husbands. Some households - such as Elizabeth's were fantastically large. Hers included 15 knights, 7 ladies, 45 yeomen, chaplains, cooks, butlers, stable staff etc. They often entertained many friends and neighbours of their own class as well as travelling friars etc.

For religion, they normally resorted to their own chapels and only occasionally to the parish church, though funerals took place there and gifts were given to the poor, whose prayers for the deceased were greatly valued. They rarely started fresh religious foundations but supported those founded by their late husband's, or their father's family. Exceptionally Clare College and Pembroke College were founded with good endowments by noblewomen.

All these features - and many others - of noblewomen's lives were supported by references to contemporary accounts, wills etc which the speaker gave.

SUFFOLK WATERMILLS AND WINDMILLS

1 March 1993, *Mark Barnard, Conservation Officer Suffolk County Council.*

Mr Barnard has studied windmills and watermills for twenty-five years and has also been concerned with mill repairs. In their heyday in the 19th century there were more than 400 mills in Suffolk; at the end of the century a rapid decline had reduced the numbers to 200 and by 1939 only 13 wind and watermills remained working - more water than wind powered ones, as they were easier to maintain. Many mills were rebuilt at the beginning of the 19th century, small ones were abandoned before the larger ones. About 36 windmills remain (about 15 more or less complete) and 54 watermills - most derelict. A considerable number have been converted into houses.

The millers were generally a prosperous part of the population so their houses, adjacent to mills, mostly remain as attractive dwellings.

The speaker then spoke of the watermills on the River Stour. The one nearest the source is at Kedington. Converted to a house in 1970, the machinery still remains - a contrast to Clare mill which left only traces after a fire in 1979. It had been extended in 1865 to become a steam mill.

Going downstream we come to Long Melford which had two mills - one brick built, now a house - the machinery removed. Further downstream is Clovers Mill at Sudbury. This was very substantial with 15 pairs of stones and also rollers. Steam and diesel power were employed in its later life - (now a hotel).

At Cornard the timber framed mill of the 1870's is still used for milling with roller plant (1911). It produces pet food. Next was Bures Mill, part very old. It closed 30 years ago and is likely to become housing. Flour was loaded direct into barges while navigation continued on the Stour.

Smallbridge and Nayland mills were both adapted to produce electricity; Stratford St Mary mill (demolished 1947-8), a very substantial building, in its later stage produced macaroni!

Famous Flatford Mill was provided with an alarm bell to warn of dangerous high tides. Other mills on the Stour included Brantham - burnt out in 1968.

Along the Brett were mills at Kersey, Aldham (Hadleigh), Toppesfield, Bridge Street at Hadleigh and Layham. Kersey Mill, now mostly derelict, was the most important mill in Suffolk. It started with three pairs of stones on a 'table', finally had nine pairs.

There was a good deal of investment in this mill; it had a dust extractor, more or less automatic working removed the flour and other products separately. One product was white flour. It was not maintained after 1930.

Other noteworthy mills were Euston Mill - built as a 'folly', Mildenhall - a large complex (one turbine still produces electricity) Barton Mills - a very large milling complex, Fornham St Martins - worked in conjunction with two wind mills. Pakenham Mill (1816), after a public enquiry has been restored by a trust and is still working. Cavenham was noteworthy as being a very small mill.

MAPPING ESSEX ESTATES

8 March 1993, *A Stuart Mason, MD, FRCP, Author of Essex on the Map*

Estate maps are a particularly English phenomenon, largely due to English land tenure customs. A large number of Essex ones survive and as enclosures took place early in this county are of interest as showing boundaries (which can still be observed on the ground) frequently.

Early maps were of a rather sketchy nature. The unit of measurement - the rod, pole, or perch, varied wildly in length from place to place, and fields were often known as the '5 acre' or '10 acre' field for generations after a crude survey.

The work of Sexton (1574-79) employed a much better technique, and this was employed by later map makers. In the 1580's Estate maps began to be produced in conjunction with written descriptions of the estates, and their production was a socially acceptable occupation. The large estates held by Oxford and Cambridge colleges, hospitals, etc encouraged this trend.

In Essex Israel Hamey JP, agent for Lord Burleigh produced good surveys and then the Walkers (John and his nephew), taught by Hamey, followed. Walker was a builder in the Hanningfields. The descriptions which went with maps were elaborately produced to give the impression that they were legal documents. A large number of Walker maps survive.

John Norden produced excellent Estate maps and drew them on a grid - a great innovation. He was followed by Speed (c1611) who used Norden's work. His titles on the maps were embellished with strapwork.

Seventeenth century maps were frequently illustrated with little drawings, many very accurate, of the larger houses, and with beautiful borders and other decorative features, all designed to flatter the landowner.

Few estate maps were made during the Civil War and the ensuing few years when there was a general backward looking by the mapmakers, but by the Restoration came the development of mapmaking of small estates, farms etc. Private schools run by Roman Catholics, and more often Nonconformists taught Mathematics, Navigation, and Surveying. These produced 'artisan' map makers. The legal look was dropped, and maps were given useful features such as scales of perches and compasses. Map makers of the 18th century included John Lee - farmer and surveyor, the Kendalls (astrologist and algebraist etc) and John Rock, a London man of Dutch origin who made a large business of his craft, especially in Ireland. He seems to have made only two estate maps in England. A pupil of Rock made a very detailed map of Mistley showing relief. One of Rock's maps was used as late as 1880 in evidence in a tithe dispute.

Map making fell into decline in the Napoleonic Wars and subsequent agricultural depression, though the production of Tithe maps (1836) gave employment to map makers - often descendants of earlier mapmakers.

Up to this period there was no profession of surveyor - the work was done by people of other occupations such as farmers, teachers, timber merchants etc. Mostly they were very talented and produced skilful and decorative work. For more information see the speakers book.

ACTIVITIES OF GROUP MEMBERS 15 March 1993

Some of our members have been giving assistance to the Colchester Archeological Trust, others, including James Fawn have been conducting other excavations. James reported on four of these:

(1) Red Hill No 168, Blackwater Estuary

This feature is being slowly eroded. No structure was found. The 'hill' is about one metre high of red debris capped with a clay layer deposited when the sea level was higher. Pieces of the pans used in evaporation (but no fire bars) were found. A hearth was unearthed under the deposit.

(2) The Easthorpe-Colchester Roman road

This road from the A12 is straight to Easthorpe village but ill-defined near the Roman River crossing. An excavation established two ditches with a small piece of Roman tile. However, the find of a cartridge case of approx 1870 showed that the site had been much disturbed in Victorian times. The large bank in Gol Grove is very possibly the original Roman Road, as a road of such importance would have been wider than four metres.

(3) Roman Road from A120 to Great Tey

Excavations made a year earlier had established a wide road with four ditches in the field south of Teybrook Farm. It has been suggested that the straight stretch of road north from Countess Cross on the same alignment may possibly be the continuation of the Great Tey road, but this has not yet been confirmed by aerial photographs. The recent excavations were directed to establish if the road crossed the Tey Brook by a ford or a bridge. A section of the road near the brook showed good metalling and the road continued sloping down to the stream, thus showing the crossing had been by means a ford. Augering in the stream bed showed that the level was much the same in Roman times as now. Alluvium had been deposited on the metalling during times of flooding.

(4) Site of Northgate, Colchester

James Fawn had observed recent trenching for gas pipelines and looked into accounts relating to the vicinity - lately in the news because of a painting by Eyre acquired for the Castle Museum. This shows the gateway in 1775. It had been decided in 1774 to improve the Colchester - Bury road by removing the gateway which was a 'bottleneck'. A drawing of 1697 showed that the gateway then had a decidedly unmilitary look. M R HULL had observed (1944) the laying of an electricity main across the road and recorded a stone plinth which he surmised to be part of a Roman gateway with a single carriage arch like Duncan's Gate.

James Fawn observed that the gas pipe laying had revealed a course of stonework with brickwork above it. He thinks this may be part of the medieval gate way.

The Eyre painting shows as a prominent feature a steelyard nearby. Only two of these now remain in England (at Woodbridge, and in a poor state, at Soham, Cambs). There are several very old buildings still remaining between the gateway and the Marquis of Granby.