Colchester Archaeological Group

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Colchester Archaeological Group

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Committee 2003/04

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Chairman's Introduction

The strikingly rich archaeological heritage which Colchester enjoys means, in theory at least, that there should never be any lack of interesting projects for the Group and its members to participate in. However, opportunity has to be harnessed with careful planning and application if lasting benefit is to be derived from what is undertaken. During the past year much hard work has been done on various fronts and the fruits of some of it can be seen on the following pages.

Our busy weekly lecture programme at the Castle continues to be the mainstay of the Group's activities. Attendance at these during the winter of 2003-04 averaged around a third of the membership, which now stands at 184 – a slight, but healthy, increase on the previous year. Their range of subject and quality of presentation never cease to impress and we are extremely grateful to all our speakers for coming to keep us up to date with the latest views on their particular subjects.

The Group's Committee thought hard and long about the most appropriate way to commemorate the work of our late Secretary, Dennis Tripp, who kindly left us a small legacy. Specialist analysis of the cremated remains from the lead canister associated with the well-known tombstone of the legionary centurion, Marcus Favonius Facilis, seemed most appropriate in various ways – not least in that they had both served as well-travelled soldiers. The report on that work by Bill White of the Museum of London's Specialist Services gives a fascinating glimpse of one of Colchester's early Roman military occupants and itself in turn leaves a lasting memorial to Dennis.

Several, though not all, of our members' recent practical projects are covered in this Bulletin. Excavations have continued each week to unravel the buried features of the site at Great Tey, the two recording surveys of graveyard memorials in the town and graffiti in the Castle have progressed productively and individuals have followed their individual as well as Group interests. The Group has also contributed to the activities of other organizations, both archaeological and otherwise, at various levels and it is hoped that all these activities will result in benefit not only to those interested in archaeology, but also to the wider community in a lasting way.

Mark Davies
Chairman

Colchester Young Archaeologists' Club Report 2003-04

Colchester YAC has had another enjoyable year with a wide variety of visits and activities. We joined the field-walking exercise organized by CAG at Marks Hall, investigated part of the Roman River area as if we were landscape archaeologists, and were led on a walk around World War II Sites in Colchester by Philip Wise. Further afield we visited the Archive Centre of the Museum of London, and had a coach trip to Dover. At the Archive Centre in London we were given a tour by the Curator, and were then invited to handle a number of artefacts. After a break for lunch the Young Archaeologists spent an enjoyable hour with worksheets in the Ceramics section. We were invited to make a return trip to see other Sections in the Centre. On the coach trip to Dover we were joined by many members of CAG, families and friends. We first visited the Bronze Age Boat Gallery at Dover Museum, then the Roman Painted House where some of our party found it difficult to tear themselves away from the Roman games on display! Some braved the climb to Dover Castle to be spoilt for choice with the number of tours available across the centuries - but sadly by then time was running out.

In the winter we had sessions on stained glass windows, the Treasures of Sutton Hoo, and Caroline McDonald gave a talk on her new job as Finds Liaison Officer. Our Christmas party had an Aztec theme - with popcorn, hot chocolate, and chocolate cake and we played the team game of 'Wrap the Mummy' which must be included at our parties whatever the theme! During the summer YAC were represented at National Archaeology Day, at a Fair at Elmstead School and at a 'Hobbies Day' at Old Heath School.

Pat Brown would like me to thank all our leaders and helpers, and the parents who bring our enthusiastic young archaeologists to the sessions, some travelling a long way from Colchester. We are delighted to report that the numbers of children attending the sessions has increased this year. We are also grateful to the staff of Colchester Castle who are always so welcoming. We look forward to another successful year, and have planned an interesting programme for 2004-05.

Rita Bartlett

Dennis Tripp's legacy; the Examination of the Bones of Facilis

In 2000 Dennis Tripp who had been our secretary from 1984 to 1991 generously left the Group a sum of money which, together with donations from his funeral, amounted to £436. The total was made up to £500 by drawing from another legacy, that of Tony Doncaster who gave a number of archaeological pamphlets for sale to the Group's benefit.

When considering options for a use of the legacy the Committee agreed that it should provide a lasting tribute to Dennis and Tony which they would have appreciated; a project making a significant contribution to archaeology in general and particularly that of Colchester.

The fine tombstone of the Roman centurion, Marcus Favonius Facilis, is one of the major exhibits in the Castle Museum, Colchester. It has the distinction of being the one appearing most often in published photographs and it provides a remarkable depiction of Roman military dress. When the stone was found in 1868 a lead cinerary urn containing partially cremated bones was recovered close to it and this is placed adjacent to the monument in the museum's display on the assumption that the remains were those of Facilis. There is no record of an examination of the bones hitherto and so the Committee considered that a study by an expert using modern techniques and knowledge would be a suitable and interesting use of the legacy.

The museum readily agreed to the proposition and so the curator of archaeology, Philip Wise, and the conservator, Anne-Marie Bojko, took the bones in a separate container to the Museum of London where they were examined by Mr Bill White of the museum's Specialist Services, Environmental Archaeological Section.

According to the 1876 1/500 OS map of Colchester the stone was found on a plot of land in Beverley Road, in what is now the front garden of number 17, built subsequently. The urn had the same location, being 3ft south of the stone.

Dennis Tripp

Tony Doncaster

Mr White's report follows.

Report on the cremated remains from Colchester Museum
Bill White September 2003

Provenance
A quantity of burnt bone from a ceramic vessel in Colchester Museum was submitted for analysis.

Method statement
The cremated bone was examined as recommended by Jackie McKinley (1989). Thus, the weight and colour of the bones were recorded. The former has a bearing on the type of sampling and therefore the type of commemoration intended and the latter relates to the temperature achieved by the funeral pyre.

The sizes of bone fragments were measured and attempts made to identify the bones. Finally, any identified human bones were examined in order to determine the age and sex of the deceased, where possible.

Results of the analysis.
Appearance
The burnt bone was off-white to white in colour, showing that the temperature reached by the funeral pyre was the maximum possible using the known technology, viz. >600°C (McKinley 2000a). There were some grey/ black patches caused by localised charring and one bone (part of a left scapula) showed green staining. The calcined bone showed typical concentric fissuring but the degree of shrinkage did not seem great.

The available bone weighed 459.6 grams. This is only about one-quarter the average weight of bone from the cremation of a human adult body and, therefore, at best it is merely a representative sample of the total remains of the deceased (McKinley 2000a: 269-70). Many of the fragments of bone were large (up to 130mm), allowing ready identification of skeletal elements.

Fragmentation
Identified fragments of bone weighed 340.1 grams, i.e. 74.0% of the burnt bone present. These consisted of the skull (33 fragments -- including part of the mandible and two tooth crowns -- up to 63mm; 42.9g), the torso (51 fragments up to 80mm; 50.9g), the upper limbs (20 fragments up to 100mm; 112.3g) and the lower limbs (20 fragments up to 120mm; 134.0g).

Minimum number of individuals
Identifiable human bone was found from every region of the body. No skeletal elements were duplicated, therefore it appeared that the cremation burial was that of a single individual. There was no sign of admixture with faunal remains, as is sometimes observed.

Sex
The bone from the pelvic area of the body was too comminuted to allow reconstruction for the determination of the sex of the deceased. However, a fragment of the left temporal bone showed a prominent supra-orbital ridge and a sloping forehead, suggesting that the sex was male (McKinley 2000b: 411-3). This was confirmed by the dimensions of the glenoid cavity of the left scapula (GL 43mm, GB >30mm). Even without allowing for the shrinkage caused by heat the glenoid cavity length is large enough to fall within the male range (Bass 1995: 129).

Age
The deceased was fully adult, with no unfused epiphyses (although some of the sacral vertebrae remained only partially fused). The mandible contained no teeth but the roots of the right lower first premolar and of the right lower first molar were present. The tooth sockets were inspected and it was seen that the right lower second molar had been lost during life. An age in the upper part of the range 26 to 35 years was indicated.

Palaeopathology
Apart from the observed ante mortem tooth loss (possibly the consequence of dental caries infection) there was no evidence for dental pathology. There were osteophytes on two cervical vertebrae and two of the lumbar vertebrae. The osteoarthritis evident would not be suggested as necessarily age-related but probably was occupational in origin.

Discussion
The remains were of Romano-British date but, although other cremated remains have been excavated in Colchester, the small total of published results do not invite comparisons (Crummy *et al.*, 1993; Mays and Anderson 1995).

There was no evidence for the type of funeral pyre used. The green stain on the left scapula suggests that at some time this shoulder was in contact with a copper alloy item of jewellery or some other object.

Conclusion
The cremation burial studied was of a single individual: a man, who died probably in his early thirties. He had lost at least one tooth in life and his spine showed some degenerative changes.

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The Site of the Facilis Tombstone
James Fawn

In August 1868 George Joslin found the tombstone and the accompanying cylindrical lead cinerary urn on a piece of land on the east side of Beverley Road, which he had purchased for the specific purpose of excavation to see what he could find.

Joslin joined the Essex Archaeological Society in the same year. He did not publish an account of the find himself, but left it to others; a pity since he would surely have added detail to what is recorded, meagrely even by the standards of the day.

Until 1859 the site was part of the estate of Beverley Lodge of 1809, now Gurney Benham House which still stands in the grounds of Colchester Royal Grammar School. The estate comprised the house, its garden, and a paddock of about eight acres which extended to the property of the original West Lodge house, next door to the west along Lexden Road. By 1859 Henry Wolton, five times mayor of Colchester, had acquired the house with garden from William Hoy and lived in it until he died in 1874. Hoy apparently retained the paddock, as he was involved in its sale in 1859 and 1860 as building plots on either side of a new road named Beverley Road. Between 1862 and 1868 houses, present numbering 11, 12, 13, 16 and 18, had been built on the east side.

According to the OS 1/500 map of 1876 the tombstone was found on a plot between 16 and 18. The plot remained vacant until number 17 was built on it in 1890 and obviously it was the piece of ground purchased by Joslin. Since he lived until 1898 he would have had ample time to correct the recorded location if wrong.

The correspondent of the Essex Archaeological Society to the Society of Antiquaries, the Rev. J H Pollexfen, gave the first published account of the find in a letter to the Antiquaries (Pollexfen 1869). The letter and the find was also discussed at a meeting of the EAS in Colchester (Essex Standard 1869) when Joslin was present as a new member. His only reported comment was to agree to the preparation of a drawing of the stone for the EAS Transactions and so he presumably also agreed to what was disclosed in the letter.

Pollexfen wrote principally about the appearance of the stone, its inscription and its postulated date. As for the site, he said that Joslin "was not as successful as was anticipated in finding the more common funereal deposits which are familiar to us here". He continued "About three feet to the south of the stone was found a leaden box or cist, with a lid. It was quite cylindrical, closely resembling a Stilton cheese, and is 13 inches high by 10

inches in diameter. Besides burnt bones, it contained a bottle of pale green transparent glass, of rather common form, almost globular, being 6¼ inches in height and 4 inches in diameter with a longish neck; and a cup of greyish ware, of superior quality, extremely thin, 4 inches in diameter and 2 inches in height. The latter was almost, but not quite, perfect, and as the missing piece could not be found amongst the bones, although carefully searched for, it may be presumed that the cup was accidentally broken before it was deposited." He gave no further information about the site.

The EAS Transactions gave a brief notice of the find in 1869 and the Rev. B Lodge published a fuller account four years later (Lodge 1873). He points out that the stone was found in a cemetery in which an "immense number" of cinerary urns had been deposited on the south of the road between Colchester and Lexden. He regrets the lack of memorial stones to go with them and surmises, no doubt correctly, that they "were taken away early to serve for humbler uses than to adorn Museums and become a subject of discussion at Archaeological meetings."

Towards the end of his account he describes the grave goods, differing slightly from Pollexfen; "a white glass bottle 6½ inches high and 4 inches in diameter", and an "earthen cup of a dark gray colour, 4 inches in diameter and 2 inches deep". Near enough. Perhaps the vessels contained sustenance for the journey to the next world, but the collation would be a strange send-off for a set of cremated bones. Alternatively, they may have been items which Facilis treasured. The bottle glass is a greenish white and so the difference between the two accounts may be judged acceptable.

Earlier in the account he gives details which are relevant to the site. He states that the stone was found "a small distance to the west of the spot where the Sphinx was discovered in 1821," actually about 265 metres. "It was lying about three feet below the surface in two separate pieces. The base appeared to be in its original position, facing the north; the upper part had fallen on to the gravel with the face downwards;" The two pieces were joined shortly after their discovery, as is shown by the photograph accompanying Lodge's account (which may have taken by Joslin), and remain so today. The join between the two pieces of the stone is plainly visible at the foot of the figure and above the inscription. If the account is correct, it suggests that the base or stump including the inscription was still upright in the ground when found.

This raises the question of the level of the ground. The level today in the gardens along the south side of the modern Lexden Road is up to one metre higher than the level of the road. Indeed, the bank is plain to see from the County Hospital to Vint Crescent. In part this may be because the road metal rests quite properly on the sandy gravel subsoil, as observation of occasional service trenches shows, and any dark loam soil that was above has been removed long ago.

However, the fact remains that the thickness of loam in the undisturbed gardens is about one metre. Several excavations have shown this; the discovery of the Longinus tombstone (Hull 1928); on the site of the new West Lodge on the west side of West Lodge Road by the CAG in 1993; in the rear garden of 3 Beverley Road by the CAG in 1997; in the garden of the former headmaster's house at the Grammar School by the CAG in 1999; in the rear garden of 19 Beverley Road by the Colchester Archaeological Trust in 2003; in the front and rear gardens of 15 West Lodge Road by the Colchester Archaeological Trust in 2004.

The stratification at 3 Beverley Road was typical. The depth of loam above the sandy gravel subsoil was 1.58m. Of this the bottom 0.33m (one foot) contained only finds of Roman date indicating that it was of that period. The upper 1.25m of loam contained medieval and modern pottery as well as Roman showing that it was a much later deposit of the 19th or 20th centuries. The owner of the premises at the time, the late Mr Currey, remarked that topsoil from the site of an adjacent electricity substation had been added to his garden. The stratification suggested that the consequent rise in level was about 0.5m. The remainder of loam layer, about 0.75m, seems likely to be the original topsoil from the paddock plus what may have transferred during road-making and house-building in the vicinity.

The above example illustrates the surmising that is necessary even when stratification and dating evidence is available; the difficulties are compounded when it is not, but surmises are part and parcel of archaeology. If the base of the Facilis tombstone was found upright, it must surely have been buried, more than likely deliberately, for it to have survived with its inscription in such fine condition. Lodge states that the upper part had fallen to the gravel. The gravel may have been the subsoil, or the south track of the road mentioned by Lodge, or a prepared surface like some attached to a modern grave. A reasonable explanation is that the upper part was also deliberately buried, in a hole that was dug to the subsoil. Both parts would then be covered with loam, to a height above the inscription, say 0.30m, and more.

An accident during the re-deposition might account for the missing piece of the cup, which was not found inside the urn. It is possible that the bottle and the cup were not in the urn, but buried separately originally.

Lodge stated that the pieces of stone were found three feet below the surface so that probably further soil had accumulated by 1868. Natural increase, airborne and cultivation, would account for some of it, but human activity is also possible. As stated above, several houses had then been built on the east side of Beverley Road and there were others on the west side. These would provide more surplus topsoil than an electricity substation.

Lodge provides further tantalising information. He states "The Roman road between Lexden and Colchester ran ten feet to the north of these remains, the solid materials composing it may be distinctly traced at the same distance from the surface," (ie three feet). Obviously this cannot have been anything to do with the modern Lexden Road which runs about 100m north of the find-spot.

When the second of the museum's fine tombstones, that of Longinus, was found about 55m west of that of Facilis in 1928, it was on the south side of a Roman road. Rex Hull, the Colchester museum curator and many years later the Group's first chairman, regarded the road as "a discovery of the highest importance" (Hull 1928) and, referring to Roman Colchester, wrote "One begins to wonder whether at long last we have not some evidence of the first occupation of the site by the Romans." He will surely have read Lodge's account, but appears not to have made the connection with the latter's reference to the road nearly sixty years earlier. That the two sightings were of the same road was confirmed in the 1930s when excavations at the Grammar School again uncovered the road further east on the same alignment and subsequent investigations, some by the Group, have added further support.

The Grammar School excavations showed that the road had three tracks, a metalled central one, with a lightly metalled one to north and a sandy one to the south. A similar arrangement was disclosed at the Longinus tombstone site in 1997. When Lodge wrote that the "solid materials" of the road ran ten feet to the north of the Facilis stone, he was probably referring to the central track. The ten feet gap would be part of the sandy track, which, to the uninitiated observer, would appear to be the natural subsoil. The Longinus stone was deposited at the edge of southern edge of the sandy track and the Facilis stone would appear to have been found at the same boundary.

This leads to the final surmise. Joslin excavated the Facilis stone near the north edge of his own plot, which was to become 17 Beverley Road. The Roman road remains identified by Lodge, "ten feet to the north," would run through the next property, No 18, Beverley Villa, which had already been built by 1862. Its construction may have been the occasion of the road's discovery. Be that as it may, there was probably no opportunity for further investigation and the sighting was soon forgotten – except by Lodge.

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The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Essex: Good news for Museums.
Caroline McDonald, Finds Liaison Officer, Essex

The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Essex (PAS) has just passed its first year anniversary and I am pleased to report, that with many hundreds of records for Essex on the scheme's database, that it has got off to an auspicious start. I hope to share with the group many of these interesting finds when I give my talk in February.

However, I would like to take this opportunity to note some of the objects that were initially recorded with the scheme and that have subsequently entered into museum collections. In many of these cases the finder knew very little about the artefact that they had found. I am heartened that upon learning of its historic value through the Find's Liaison Officer's report, that these objects were generously made available for acquisition by the local museum.

Earlier this year a copper alloy terminal in the form of the Roman Goddess Minerva was found in Suffolk and subsequently reported in Essex. Made in the mid-first century AD, this Minerva, it has to be said, is far from pretty, but therein lies her charm! She was made, not by a Roman craftsperson, but probably by a native Briton trying to copy the Roman style. Not only is this figure an interesting piece of art, but it comments on the changing social situation of Britain at that time.

The Goddess was acquired, at her true market value, by Ipswich Museum, despite significant and inflated financial interest from abroad. Minerva was, if you like, 'saved' for her local community and she can currently be seen on display at the museum.

Similarly Colchester Museums has also had its collections expanded by finders making initial contact with the Portable Antiquities Scheme. An extremely important 8th century Saxon penny was recently acquired by the museum when it was discovered, via the scheme, to be only the second of its type known.

Not only is the coin now available to future researchers, but it has made an important contribution to Colchester's Saxon collection as Saxon finds are rare in north-east Essex and as a result under-represented in the museum's collections.

Given this fact, the museum was extremely pleased by the donation of two gilded copper alloy, Anglo-Saxon brooches from the north-east of the county. One is a lovely example of a 5th century button brooch, initially thought to be a child's badge by the finder. In good nature, the brooch was shown to myself and Philip Wise, Curator of Archaeology at Colchester Museums, initially as a practical joke! The finder was amazed when we told him that he did in fact have something significant, which goes to prove that it is always worth showing someone your discovery, as you never know what it might be!

The button brooch was donated to the museum as the finder wished to share in its discovery. This was also the case for three friends who found a 6th century Saucer brooch. Remarkably the brooch had been found in two halves almost two years apart.

Like the Anglo-Saxon brooches, some artefacts are not rare in themselves, but are often not in local museum collections. For instance, 10th century Anglo Scandinavian lobed sword pommels are well represented in the collections of the British Museum and in archaeological literature. However, until the donation of such a pommel recorded with the PAS, Colchester Museums did not have one in their collections. Again this is a period under represented in the Museum and this object will have much to add to our picture and interpretation of that time in Essex's past.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme was set up to record archaeological objects found by members of the public. In doing this we have a vast 'virtual' collection of objects from around the country that is available for research now and for future generations. The acquisition and donation of objects recorded with the scheme is a welcome and unexpected bonus and one that the 100,000 annual visitors to Colchester Museums can all share in.

Minerva is currently on display at Ipswich Museum, High Street, Ipswich, Suffolk. The sceat, brooches and pommel are currently on display at Colchester Castle Museum, Castle Park, Colchester Essex.

Minerva

8th century penny

Button brooch

Saucer brooch

Sword pommel

Romans at Barber's Point?

David and Aline Black

Barber's Point (TM 433572) is a promontory on the north side of the river Alde approximately two miles west of Aldeburgh, fig. 1. An area of about 1ha at the north west corner of the Point is significantly higher ground than the surrounding marshland. The amount of Roman pottery that has been found in the vicinity suggested that this high ground, which commands a good view of the river, was occupied at some stage.

At the request of Richard Newman on behalf of the Aldeburgh and District Local History Society and with the permission of the landowners, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, in summer 2003 we carried out a magnetometer survey of ca. 0.5ha of the high ground, fig.2.

Steel fencing to the north and west, marking the edge of the 'sea wall' which now protects Barber's Point, limited the area which could be surveyed, as did the large pile of granite boulders to the south west (granite is magnetically active).

Colchester Borough Council, who own the magnetometer we use (a Fluxgate FM18), gave permission for the magnetometer to be taken outside Essex.

The survey area was marked out mainly in 20m square grids. It is preferable that these grids are aligned north-south, but here an alignment some 15 deg west of north better fitted the site. In each grid the operator walked in the south to north direction along tracks 1.0m apart, taking readings every 0.25m. The data was downloaded into a laptop computer and processed on site using InSite software from Geoquest.

Results

The site proved to be magnetically very active as can be seen in fig. 3. Fig. 4 is a drawing of fig. 3 with specific features labelled for discussion below. The striking dark linear features ***A*** and ***B*** are ditches. In the SW-NE direction they run parallel but, whilst ***A*** turns through approximately 90º at the southern end, ***B*** continues in the SW direction. There is some evidence that one or both these ditches also turn through 90° at the northern end. If ditch ***A*** was the defensive ditch of, say, a square site, the area enclosed would be ca. 0.16ha. (This is well within the range of sizes of known Roman 'fortlets' such as some built to defend the Antonine wall). Within this ditched enclosure there are some very strong irregular signals. They could come from granite rocks - there are certainly some on the surface in this area. The only comparable image that we have seen came from the fired clay (briquetage) of a redhill at Great Wigborough resulting from ancient salt production. Whilst salt workings have been found on the banks of the Alde, there was no sign here of the characteristic soil redness.

There are two further linear features, ***C*** and ***D***. Whilst ***C*** is probably an ancient ditch, ***D*** appears as a line of dots, possibly the sites of post holes for a relatively modern fence, no longer there.

E again looks like part of an ancient ditch. Features ***F***, ***G***, ***H*** and ***I*** are likely to be pits.

Since ***J*** occurs in an area of low lying ground which could easily be marshy in wet weather, the strong signal here is most probably the result of a build-up of silt over the centuries.

Conclusion

Whilst some of the features at Barber's Point are probably due to the natural silting up of watercourses and the consequence of the dumping of granite rock for sea defence, there is clear evidence of human occupation of the site; possibly as a lookout or defensive position to safeguard a crossing point (ferry or ford?) of the River Alde. Sadly, most of the north western part of this 'fortlet' or ditched enclosure is either covered by the modern sea defences or was washed away prior to their construction.

Postcript

In summer 2004 some 300 sq.m. of the western side of the site were excavated. Ditches A and B proved to be over 1.5m. deep - so apparently for serious defence, and evidence of occupation of the site from Palaeolithic to Saxon times was found.

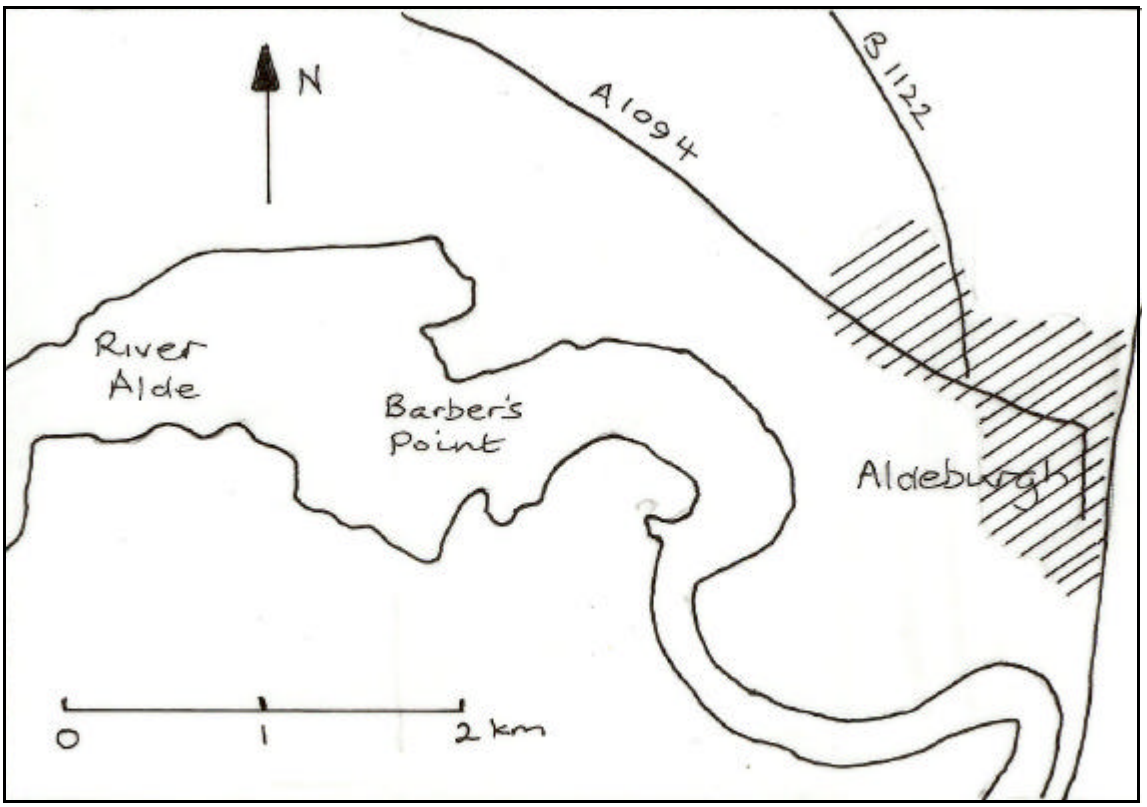
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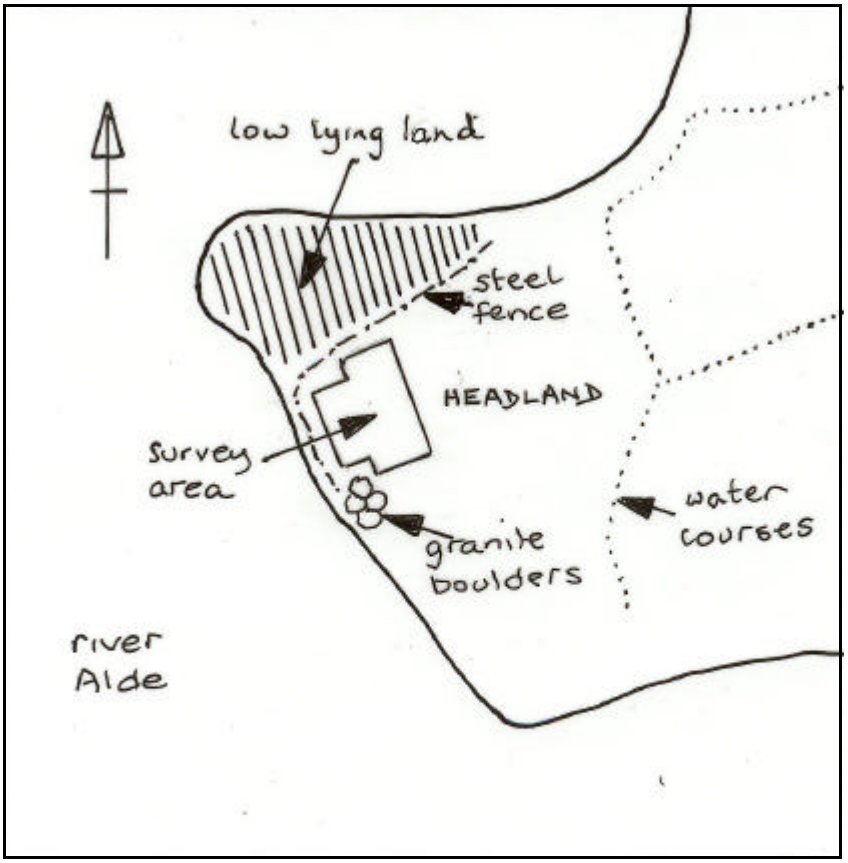
Fig. 1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river
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Fig. 2

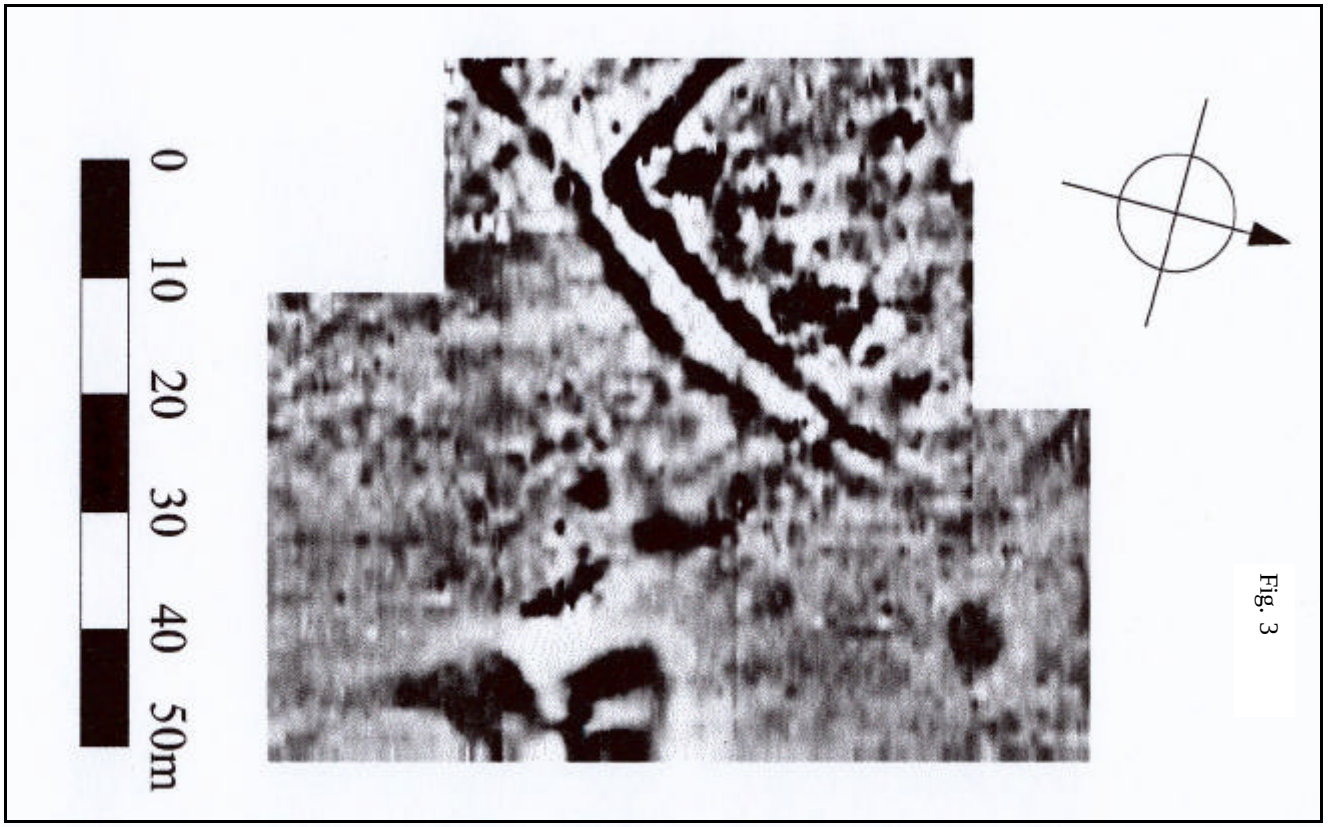


Fig. 3

Fig. 4

A Bronze Age Hoard

Francis Nicholls
Drawings by A Moore

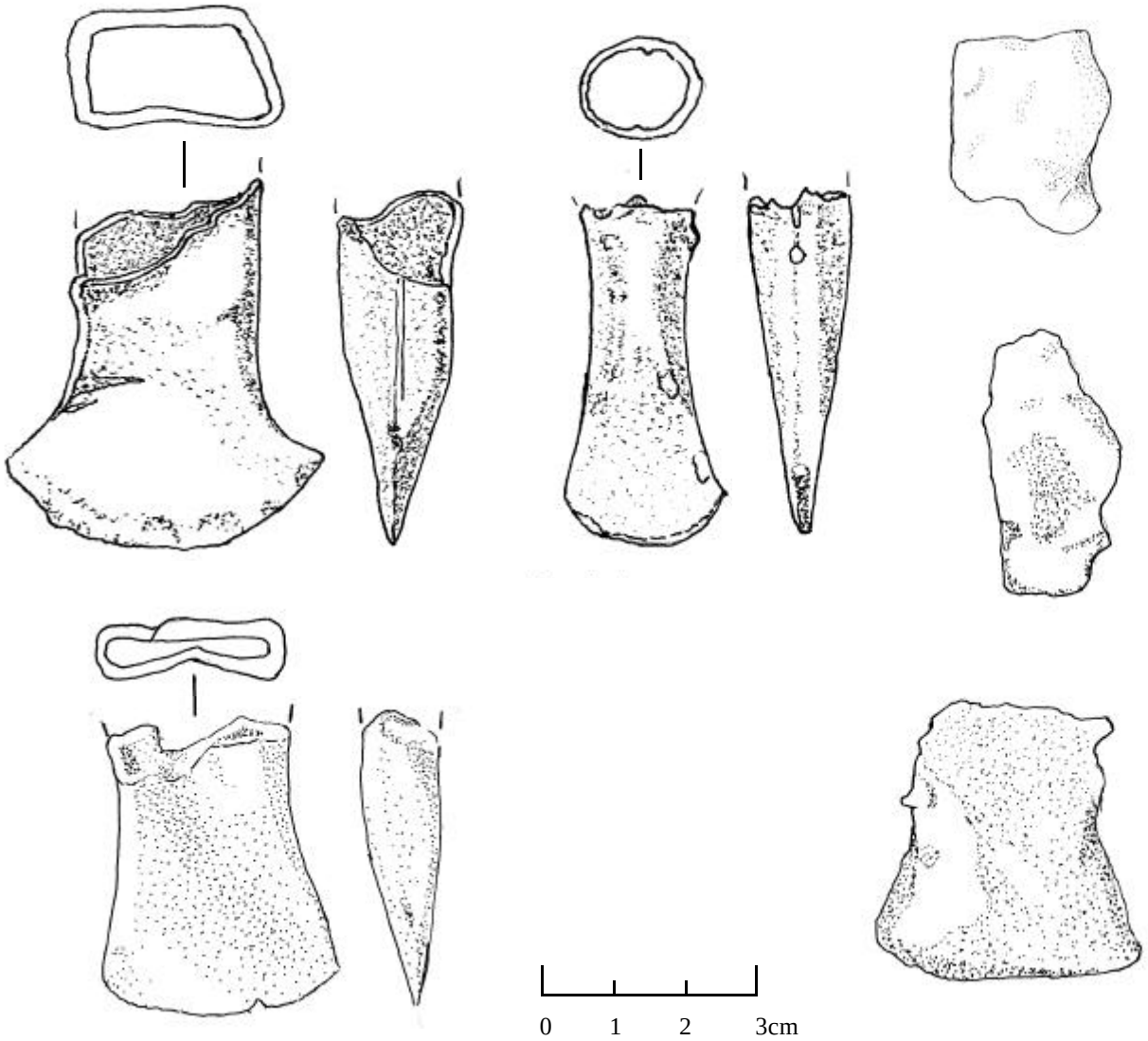
Three late Bronze Age axeheads, together with three uncast bronze ingots, were found in a ploughed field by use of a metal detector in Autumn 1998. The field was near Coggeshall, about ¾ mile north of the A120 (Stane Street). The finds were taken for recording to the Essex County Council Field Unit at Braintree and returned to me in Spring 1999.

The axeheads were cast at some stage between 1000 - 700BC. The hoard was undoubtedly left hidden for security reasons in the ground, probably by a travelling smelter who failed to return to his site. The axeheads are all fractured and were likely to have been deliberately acquired for recasting into new axeheads.

As an example of the diversity of the field, I found a lovely medieval book clasp and hinge about 30/40 metres from the bronze axehead site. All finds were within the normal plough depth and it is quite amazing how these metal artefacts were not damaged by modern ploughing (or even worse, by powered cultivators).

I can be pretty certain that I found the entire hoard, as I:

a) discriminated for greater depth on the machine in the area, afterwards allowing the detector to look up to 25 - 30cm deep, and
b) I worked round the site to a radius of about 25m and nothing else was located.



A timber framed building at Middleborough Colchester
By Richard Shackle

In 2004 Globe News at 8 Middleborough, an unlisted building, underwent major alterations to make it more spacious and modern. Two large timber posts near the counter and all the upper floor were removed. The owner kindly allowed me to record and publish the beams exposed during the alterations. The medieval timber work at the back of the shop is AB – EF on Fig1. DJ is the flank of a medieval building to the north of Globe News. EI is the end elevation of another medieval building to the south. The plan suggests that building AB – EF was set back from the buildings on either side but may have had a pentice in front of it supported by the corbel on one of the posts.

When fully exposed, the timbers by the counter appeared as in Fig 2. There were two large posts more than one foot across and about two feet apart. Morticed into the sides of the posts were three mid plates. These mid plates originally had studs morticed into them both above and below. The studs above the mid plates were mostly still in situ, those below had all been removed. The left hand post was much thicker than the right hand one, as can be seen in the down-through view of the posts at the bottom of the page. The left hand post also has a large mortice in its rear face for a rising brace. The right hand post has a wooden corbel and pilaster as part of the post.

The upper parts of the posts were hidden in a wall on the upper floor but their full height could be estimated. Figure 3 shows what the timbers would look like if all the posts and studs were visible. The mortice on the back of the large post suggests that there had been an arch brace running from the post to the tie beam (Fig 4). This was probably matched by another arch brace on the opposite post. This small building, AB-EF, with a central arch braced tie beam, may have been a small hall or a kitchen. The corbel and pilaster on one of the posts suggest a structure, perhaps a pentice, projecting forward towards the street.

When the top of the building was removed a large tie-beam (Fig 5) was revealed. It was lying detached, at the back of the site, when seen by the author but it must have come from the building to the south at C – I on Fig 1. On Fig 5 you can see the tie beam and lower parts of posts E and C. Note also the carpenters marks on the tie beam. These tell the carpenter which stud goes in which mortice.

During the alterations two large trenches were dug in the floor. These showed the two layers beneath the shop. At the top was a layer of sandy gravel about one foot thick. This contained three small cattle horn cores. These cores suggest that the area had once been used for either a tannery or for the workshop of a horn worker. Below the gravel were black river deposits at least two foot thick. These deposits looked so fresh it made one wonder if the area had only been developed in the early medieval period.

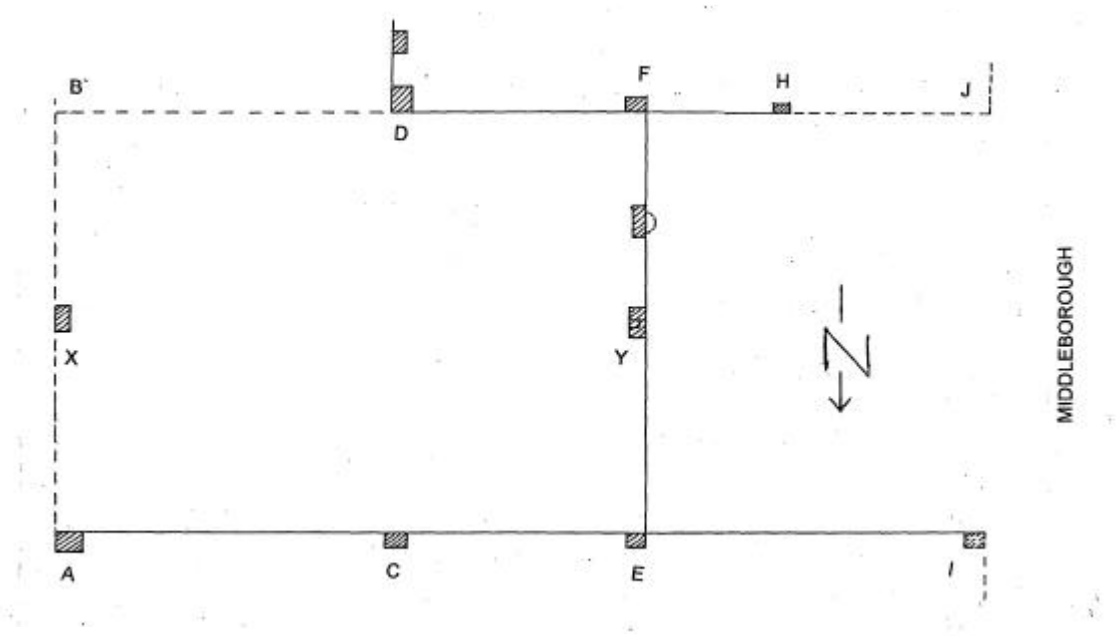


Fig. 1

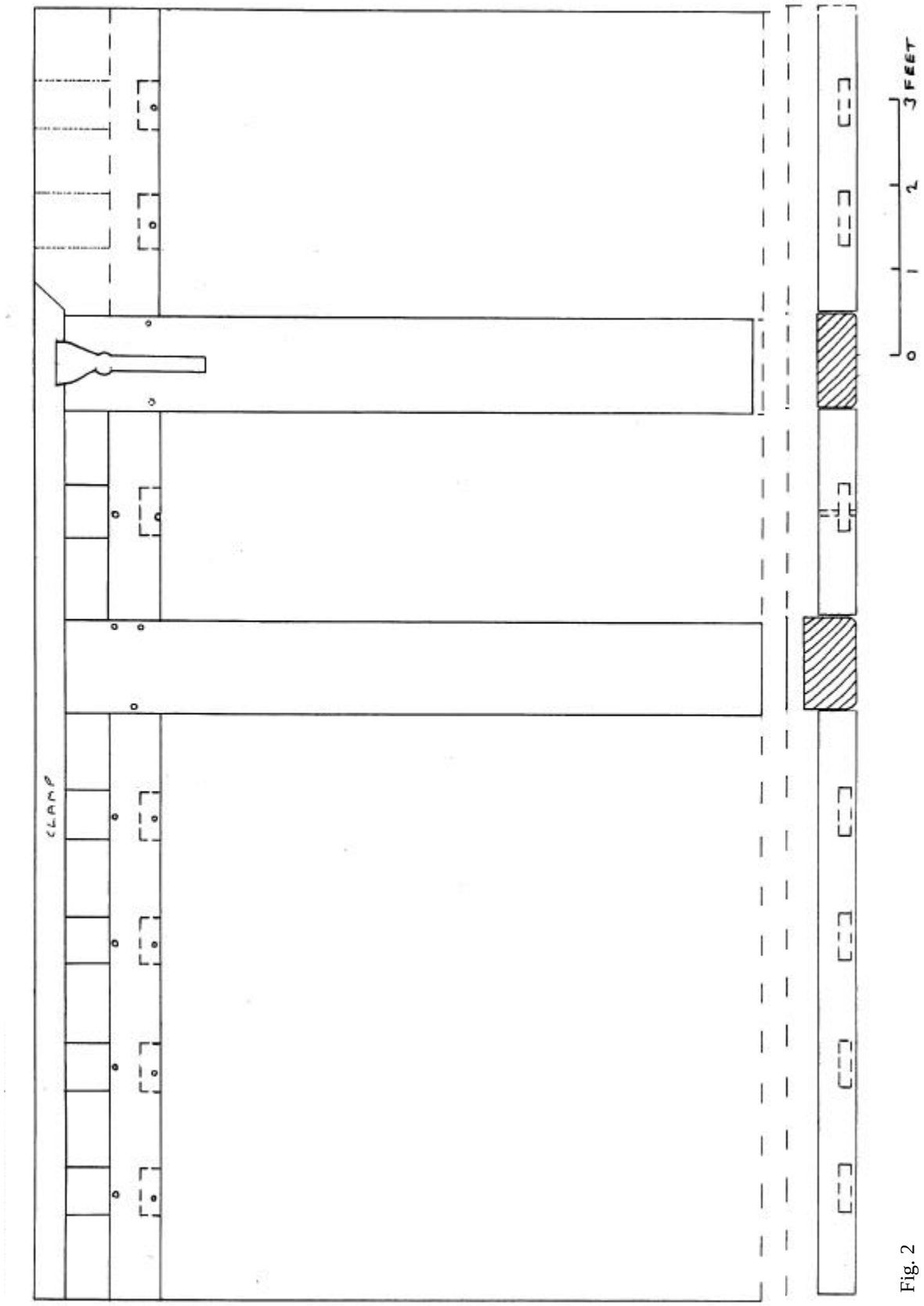


Fig. 2

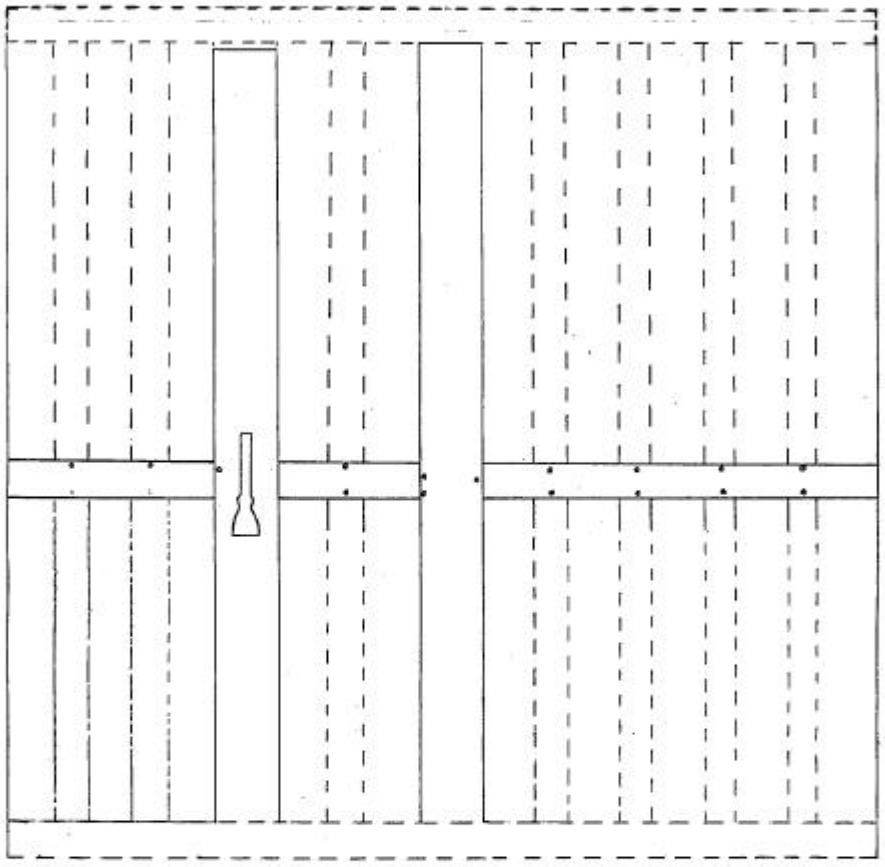


Fig. 3

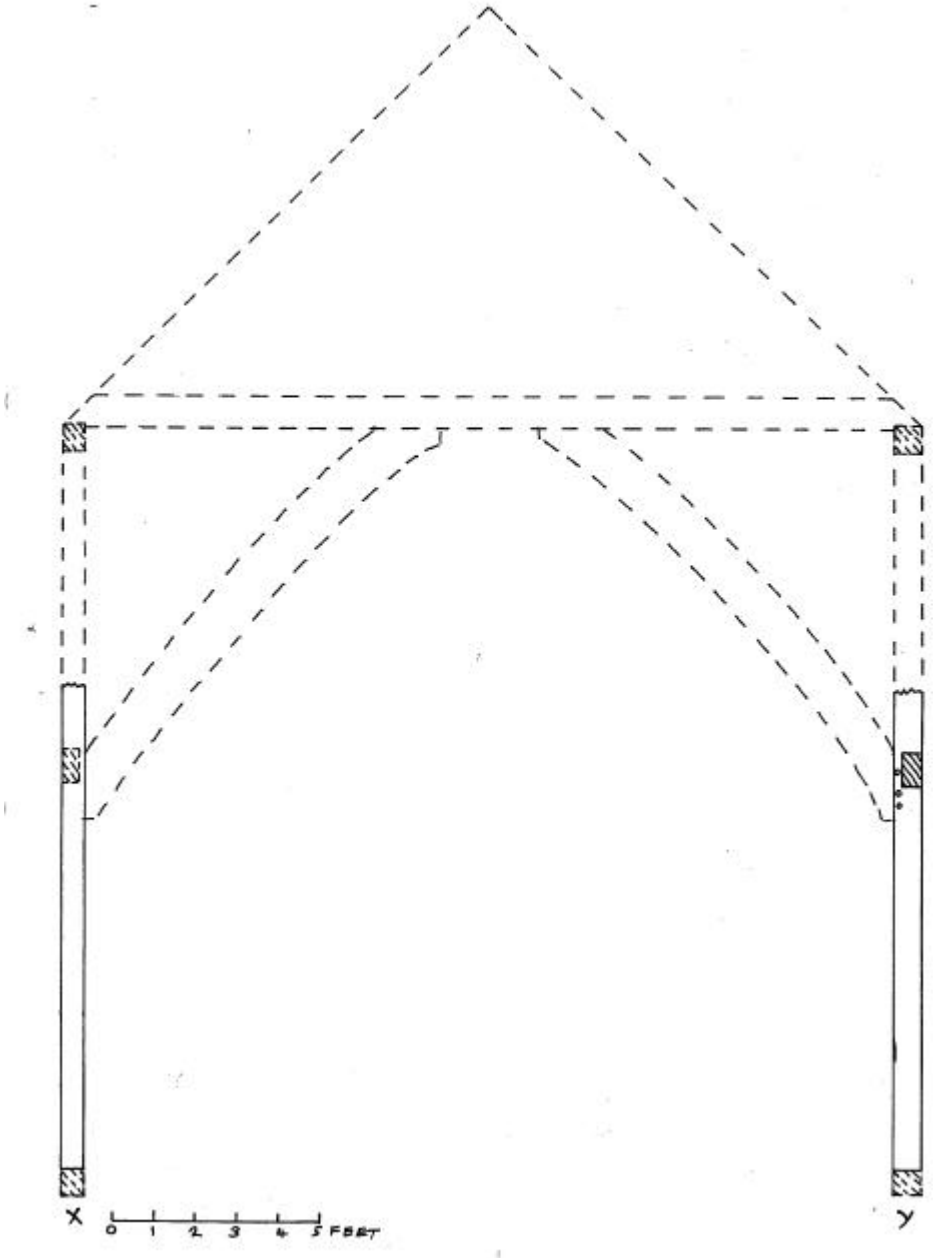


Fig. 4

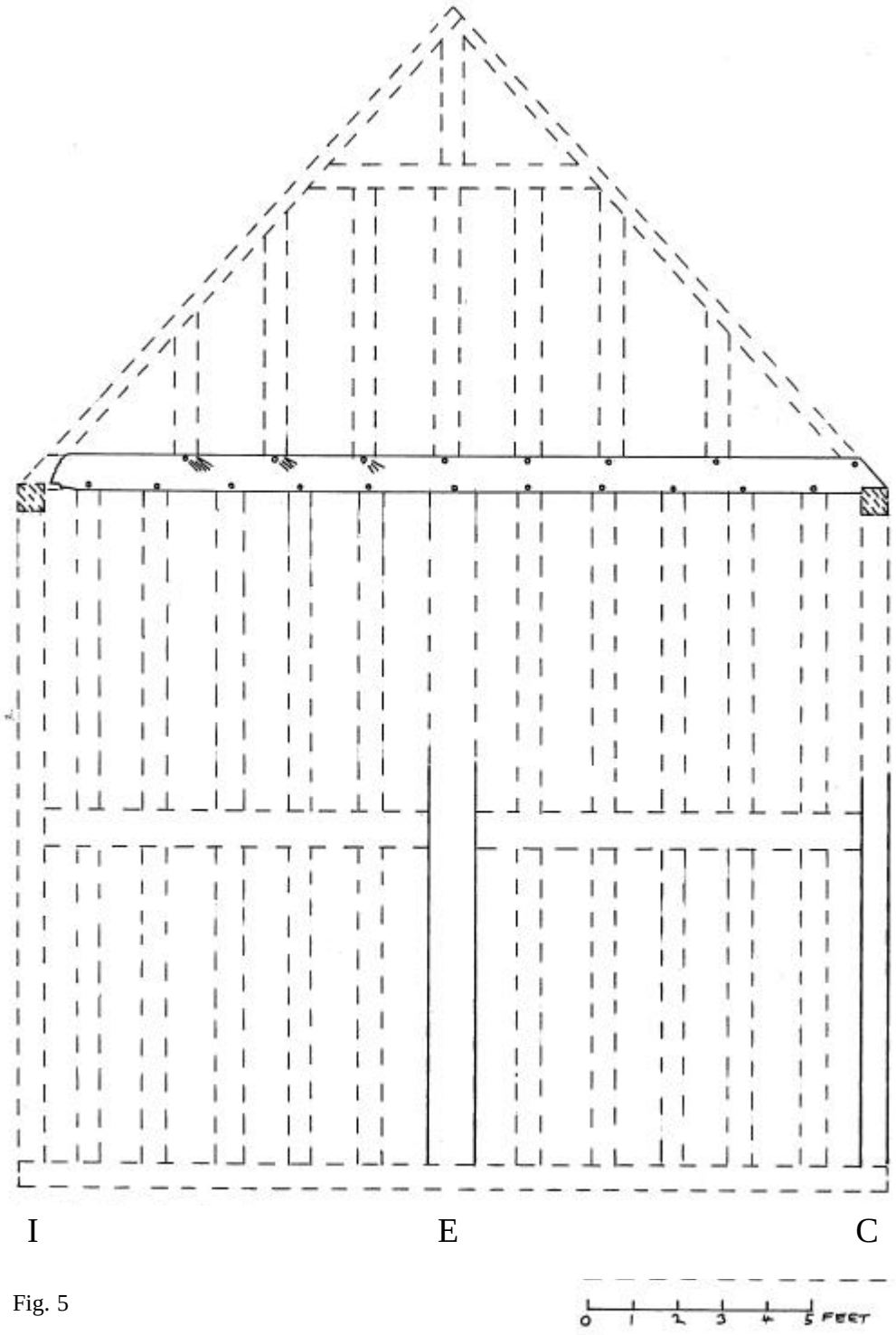


Fig. 5

Reconstruction of gable end
Middleborough, Colchester
Richard Shackle 30/9/2004

Short notes
by Richard Shackle

1) Roman brooch
An enamel bronze brooch (Fig 1) was found by Norman Bone on the St Mary's Hospital site in 2003. It is in the shape of a shield, that is a disc with a hollow boss in the middle. It is decorated on the outside with small triangular panels of enamel in blue and red. Round the edge is a circle of small projections like the teeth of a gear wheel. There are two semicircular projections, one on either side of the disc. On the back (Fig 2) is the hollow of the boss and a bronze catch. (Fig 3) shows the brooch in profile. The brooch is 34 mm.

2) Roman brooch
The second bronze brooch (Fig 4) found by Norman Bone close to the first one. It is in the form of a hare with enamel panels, left to right, in blue, yellow and green? On the back is a catch similar to that on the first brooch (Fig 5). There may have been a small dot of red enamel on the head, to represent the eye. The brooch is almost complete except that it has lost part of its ear. The length of the brooch is 30 mm.

3) Bronze object
This small piece of worked bronze (Fig 6) , 13 by 3.5 by 2.5 cm, was found by Norman Bone in similar circumstances to the brooches at St Mary's hospital. This carefully shaped object is probably post medieval and was probably part of some mechanism such as a clock. You can see from its profile that it has a slight taper. The "x"s on the base are either roman numerals or cuts to provide friction for something to grip on.

4) Bronze object
Figure 7 shows the front, side and rear views of a small carefully made bronze object found by Mr Dines in the Colchester area. It consists of a ring with two little wings and folded over flap at the top. The beautifully curved wings would have been symmetrical but one of the wings has been damaged. The curved flap has been damaged at the rear. The shape suggests a piece of horse harness with one rope passing through the eyelet and another running under the flap to support the eyelet and rope. The wings suggest an Iron Age La Tene date.

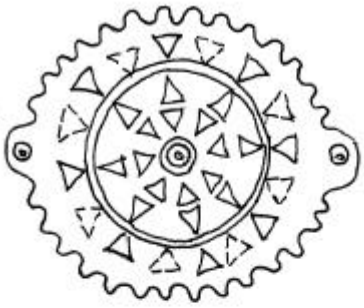


Fig. 1

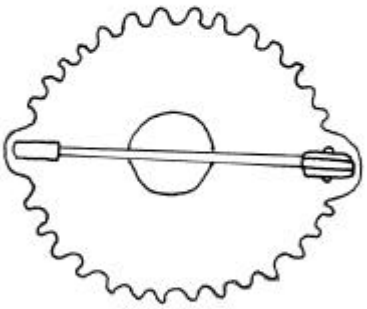
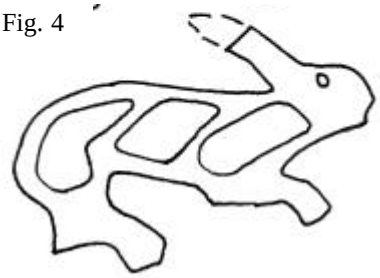


Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Fig. 4



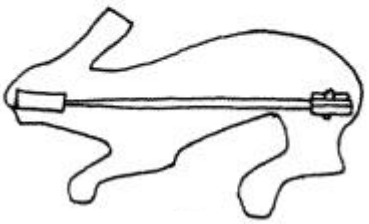


Fig. 5

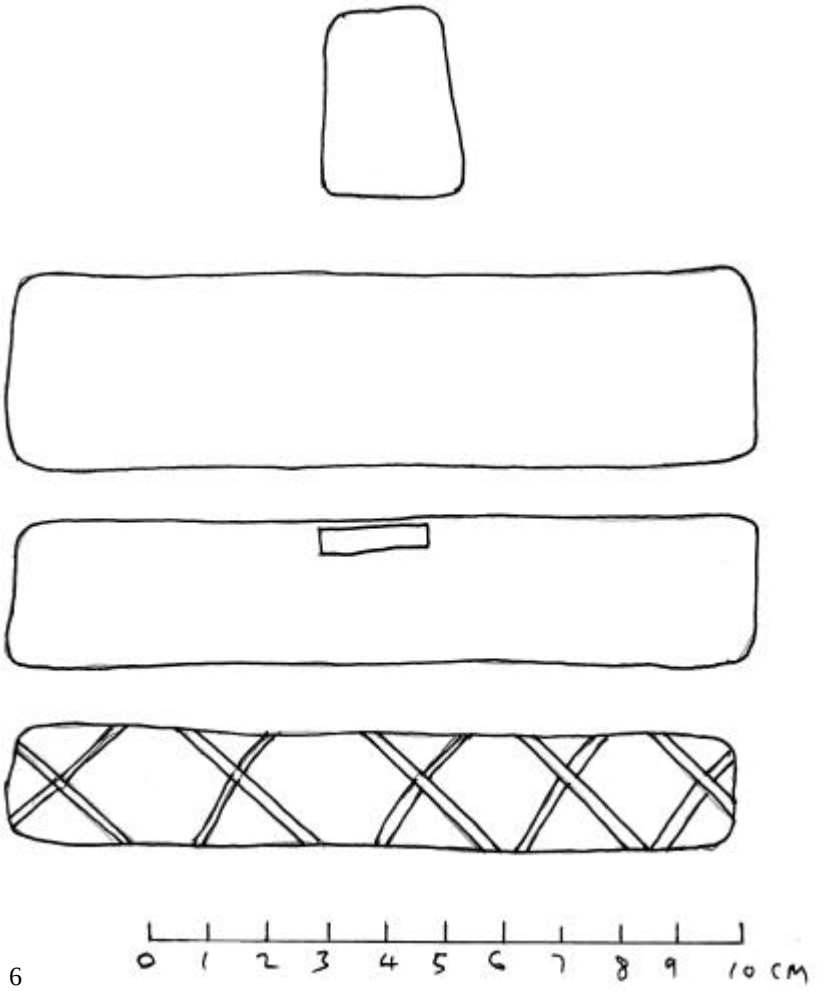


Fig. 6

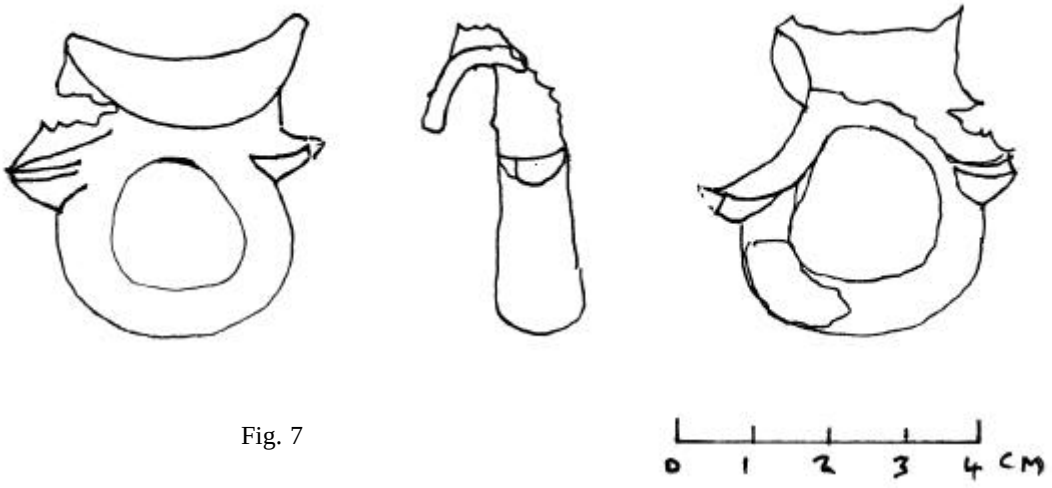


Fig. 7

Textiles in Roman times
Freda Nicholls

The Romans were quick to utilize the weaving arts of the lands they conquered. Large quantities of cloth were needed for the army as well as for civilian use. Greek weavers were brought to Rome; Coptic weavers were sent to Gaul to teach the people to weave the tapestry bands used to ornament Roman clothing, thus starting the tapestry industry in southern France. Egyptian weavers supplied Rome with linen thread and cloth; and the weavers of the Near East turned out luxury fabrics for the Roman nobility. The Romans were the first "foreigners" to set up looms in Britain, possibly introducing the foot-treadle loom when they installed weaving centres into southern Europe.

Cotton is believed to have been first grown in India in the third millenium BC but was probably not grown in the Mediterranean area until several centuries later. The Romans were using cotton awnings at the time of the Apollinarian games, 63 BC, presumably manufactured from imported cloth or thread.

There is an interesting ancient textile technique known as meshwork. Whilst excavating at Claterna, near the old Roman city of Bologna archaeologists came upon a set of bobbins lying in pairs which could have been used for mesh making. In this technique, threads are attached to the top of the work frame to form a warp (there is no weft with this method). Each thread is then weighted down in front of the weaver with a bobbin made of bone or, in some cases, clay. The threads are then twisted in pairs across the warp – this is done by throwing the two bobbins over one another twice. On the next row, the warp pairs are separated and each thread is combined with one thread of an adjacent pair – the right one with the left warp of the adjacent pair and the left one with the right warp on the left-hand side. The two pairs are combined by throwing the bobbins over each other (it probably requires an odd number of threads to make it work and must have been immensely tedious to fiddle around with).

Dyeing is another important aspect of textile production. The most cherished dye of the ancient Near East was Tyrian purple - a dye extracted from *Murex brandoris* and *Murex trunculus*, shellfish similar to snails. Legend has it that about 1000B.C. a young couple on the coast near Tyre noticed that their dog's throat was spattered with a purplish-red dye after killing a shellfish - an event that is supposed to have led to the discovery of the dye. A colourless liquid, found in a little vein in these particular shellfish, oxidizes in air to become a red-purple.

Plutarch told of Greek soldiers finding purple fabrics stained with this dye in the tomb of Darius; the fabrics had still retained their beautiful colour after 190 years. It is said that 12,000 of the little shellfish were needed to produce 1.5 gms of colouring matter, which meant that purple dye became very expensive. In 301 AD an edict in Rome set the price of wool coloured with it at about £250 per pound and decreed that only members of the nobility could wear purple.

The Romans also used a blue dye which they called Indicum and later came to be known as Indigo. The indigo plant, *lndigofera tinctoria,* when crushed, yields a yellow fluid that oxidizes to blue upon exposure to air. For commercial use the blue fluid must be reduced back to yellow before yarn or cloth is dipped into it for dyeing. To achieve this the Romans used fermented urine as the reducing agent. When they arrived in Britain the Romans found that the indigenous people used Woad to obtain a blue dye. Woad, *lsatis tinctoria,* is treated in much the same way as indigo.

To decorate their textiles the Romans used stick stamps to create their designs. The method they used was rather cumbersome, most of their designs requiring an assortment of stamps. For example, instead of making a diamond design of one solid block, they made a stick stamp equal to one side of the diamond and used it four times to print a diamond pattern. The stamps were made from dowel sticks and a small knife or chisel was used for carving out the design. Similar to stamp printing was block printing, probably introduced by the Chinese around 500 BC, and used by the Romans throughout their empire. Finally another method, stencilling, that had been used by the Egyptians as early as 2500 BC was used by the Romans to decorate their fabrics although little is known of their techniques.

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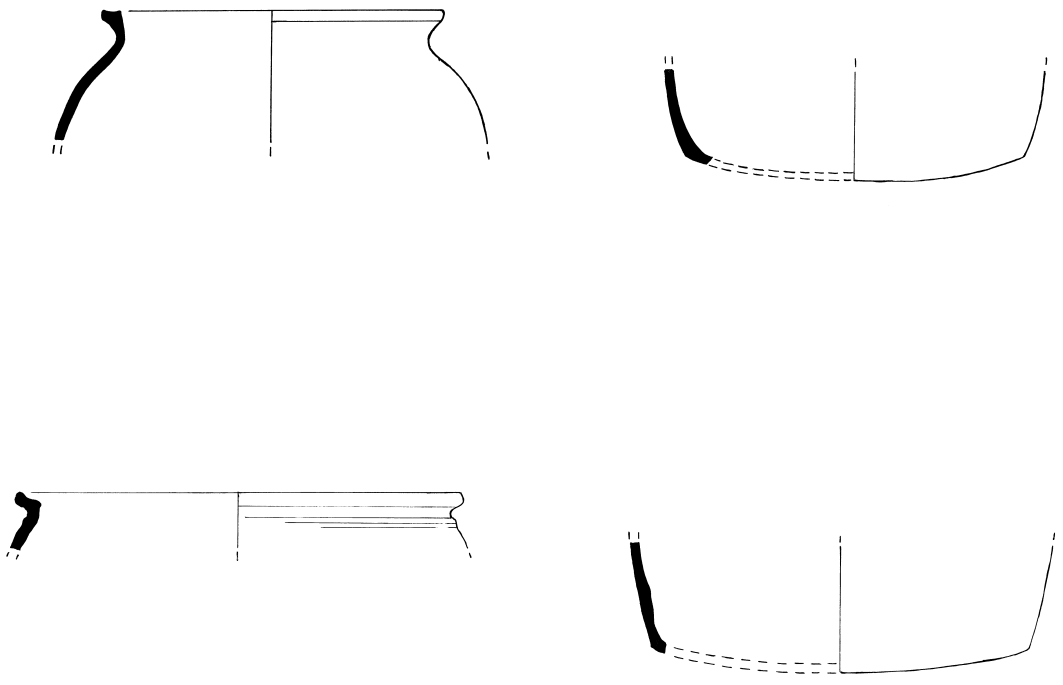
Forbes, RJ, Studies in Ancient Technology, Brill, Leiden, Netherlands, 1956

Medieval pottery from Easthorpe
Anna Moore

A number of fragments of pottery were found in the garden of a house in Easthorpe in 1970. They are of medieval greyware, and are the remains of at least three Fabric 20 cooking pots, dating from between 1175 - 1400. The thickened, flat-top rim and short neck tend to indicate a date earlier in the range rather than later. Some of the fragments contain inclusions of flint and all of them contain considerable amounts of mica. Fabric 20 cooking pots are distinguished by their hardness and uniform firing compared to earlier types. These pots were often made by hand-building the body of the pot and adding a wheel-thrown neck and rim and some of the Easthorpe fragments show this technique.

Source: Colchester Archaeological Report 7
With thanks to Howard Brooks of the Colchester Archaeological Trust



Scale 1:4

Memorial Recording for St Nicholas Churchyard

Freda Nicholls

Archaeological evidence suggests a 10th century Anglo-Saxon church once stood on the site now occupied by JJB Sports equipment in Colchester High Street. The Anglo-Saxon church seems to have been adapted from a much earlier Roman building. There was no official record of this church until the 13th century which was rebuilt in the 14th century complete with a bell tower. Around 1700 the tower collapsed destroying the roof. Some twenty years later the roofs over the west end of the nave and the south aisle were repaired but the rest of the church remained in ruins. Between 1875-76 the church was repaired and greatly enlarged in Gothic style by Sir George Gilbert Scott. It was finally demolished in 1955. Some of the memorials from the churchyard were transferred to the small burial ground of St Runwald's church in West Stockwell Street, others were placed around the walls of a small open area located between St. Nicholas Street and St. Nicholas Passage. All of these memorials are displaced; many had been truncated before being arranged around a low brick wall and are in a poor state of repair. Very few of the inscriptions are legible . The records compiled by Frederick Arthur Crisp in the latter part of the 19th century describe a variety of Altar tombs, Coffin tombs and Coped stones. No tombs are recognizable today and only three Coped stones. The Local Studies department of the Library has a collection of photographs of the church yard just prior to its demolition. The survey carried out by F.A. Crisp is also in the Local Studies department.

Analysis of F.A. Crisp's Survey:

Flat Stones	47	All inscriptions legible	Head Stones	44	All inscriptions legible
Altar Tombs	15	"	Coffin Tombs	9	"
Table Tombs	1	"	Coped Stones	5	"
Pedestal Tomb	1	"			
Total number of memorials		122			

Results of 2004 survey carried out by Mary Coe, Jean Roberts, John Mallinson and Freda Nicholls:

In many instances it was difficult to identify the type of memorial remaining. All the stones are displaced, most have been cut into various shapes and sizes allowing them to be arranged in the small space remaining. None are in their original setting. Very few inscriptions remain legible.

Analysis of the 2004 Survey:

Flat stones	28	Head Stones	37
Coped Stones	3	Foot Stones	3
Total number of memorials	71		

Some of the flat stones recorded are probably components of dismantled tombs. No tombs remain today but are clearly visible in the photographs taken at the time of the demolition of the churchyard.

Index:

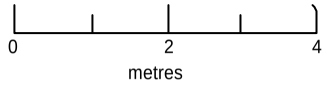
Bland Charles	Cenery John
Cockrell Mary	Dennis George
Great C	Great M
Hast Catherine	Hast Philip
Joslin Elizabeth	Joslin George
Keeling John	Keeling Grace
Keeling John (Jnr)	Keeling Sarah
King William	Rand Samuel
Rand Stephen Chamberlain	Rand William
Richardson C	Smith John
Watson Charles	Wolton Rebecca

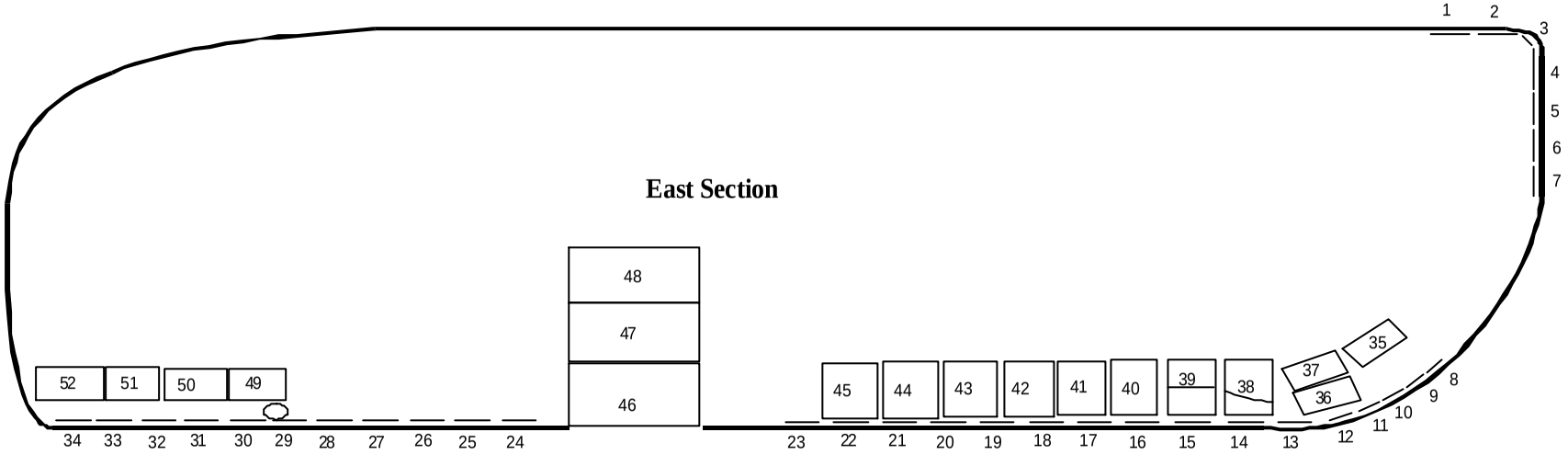
Total Recorded Memorials 22

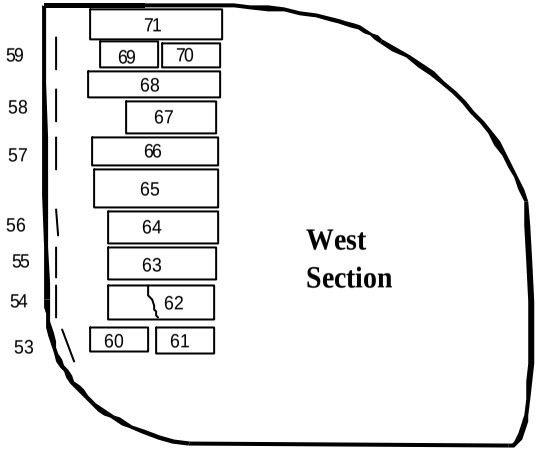
Thus 69% of inscriptions are now missing from the extant but displaced stones in what was St Nicholas church yard.

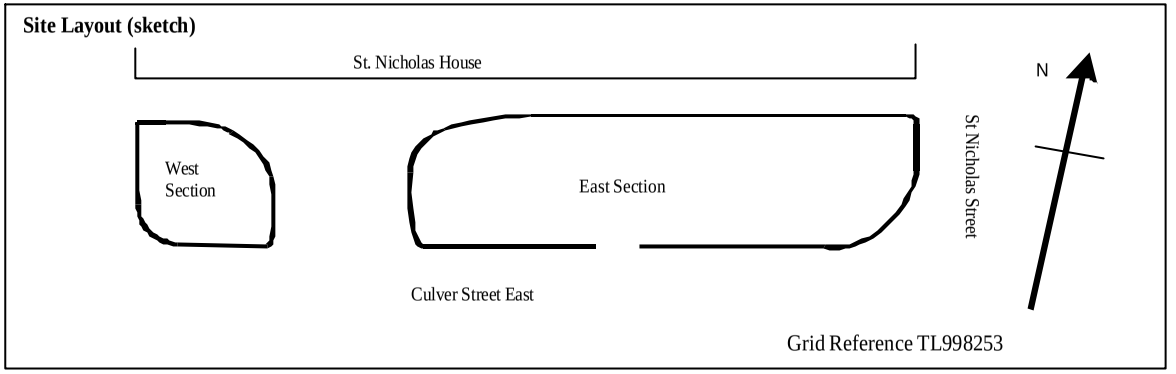
St. Nicholas Graveyard (site of)

Stones repositioned following demolition
of St Nicholas Church.









John Mallinson May 2004

Winter Lectures 2003 - 2004

The Care of our Archaeological Heritage and its Interpretation
Mark Davies
6 October 2003
Notes taken by John Mallinson

Mark began by asking the question "What is our Archaeological Heritage?" Rather than provide a direct answer he cited a range of examples. Monuments, such as Castle Acre Priory, provide obvious instances, but these are part of a something wider. He drew on examples from Italy and France to illustrate how archaeological remains are seen as part of a cultural heritage, and showed many fine examples of how they have been presented in their landscape, supported by excellent museums and interpretative centres, to provide the public with a rich and enjoyable experience of their history. Nearer home he cited Sutton Hoo as an example of how something as apparently uninspiring as "a few humps and bumps" could be presented and interpreted so as to be an attractive and enriching experience for all, at whatever level they chose to use it.

He contrasted the situation in Colchester, which he perceived as being one of lost opportunities and unfulfilled promises. He expressed particular concern about the plans for the Visual Arts Facility and the development of the St Botolph's Quarter. There was the opportunity to present and interpret the town wall and our other heritage attractions to the benefit of residents and visitors alike. Instead the plans seemed to diminish and override our heritage in favour of short term commercial gain. He ended with another question: "What do we want to do with our heritage?" Does it merely get in the way, or do we want it to be an integral part of our future? We were left in no doubt as to what he thought the answer to that should be.

Copped Hall, Epping: its History and Archaeology
Alan Cox, architect in charge of the restoration of the house and garden
13 Oct 2003
Notes taken by John Mallinson

The speaker is architect in charge of the restoration and garden of Copped Hall, and has been involved with the project from its inception. Not only was he able to give a detailed and authoritative account of the history of the site, he was also able to explain the circumstances through which the Copped Hall Trust was able to buy the property, and to explain progress and future plans for its restoration.

The lands on which Copped Hall was built had been in the hands of the Abbots of Waltham since at least the 12th century. On the dissolution of the monasteries, the land passed into private hands, and the first great house was started in 1567, built around earlier existing buildings. It was a u-shaped building in Tudor brick, with a magnificent long gallery along one arm of the U. There were formal gardens to the rear. When the property passed into the hands of the Conyers family in 1739, it was not long before this original house was demolished, and replaced in 1753 by a fine Georgian house, which forms the central core of the current structure. Fortunately the new house was built on a site well removed from the old house, the outlines of some of which can still be seen in the rock garden. Ongoing excavations have further confirmed the plan of the old house, and it is planned to expose remaining foundations to show its layout.

The Georgian house was subject to only minor alterations until it passed into the hands of the Wise family, who in 1895 began an extensive programme of extension and alteration, bringing the house and gardens to their final form. This was short lived for the house was destroyed by fire in 1917. Although some of the ancillary buildings remained occupied, the house and grounds began a slow decline. Bits and pieces of the fabric were sold and dispersed, and vandals did their worst on what was left.

In 1990 developers offered £13 million for the house and grounds to be developed for commercial use. A local pressure group, the Friends of Copped Hall, rallied support against these proposals. With lobbying, assistance from several public bodies (not least the City of London, who bought the surrounding estate), and a good deal of financial astuteness, they formed the Copped Hall Trust and were able to acquire the buildings "very cheaply" in 1995. Since then, and despite lack of funds, they have been able to move forward with a programme of restoration. The gardens have been cleared and partially restored, the service buildings have been sold into private ownership, but with strict conditions regarding their restoration and maintenance, the double squash rackets court has been restored, and work has begun on re-roofing the main house and restoring the interior. The work continues.

The Royal Forests of Essex
Rob Brooks, Local Historian
20 October 2003
Notes taken by John Mallinson

Royal Forests are a Norman creation. Anglo-Saxon kings had hunted, but on their own demesne lands. The Norman kings designated large tracts of England, as Royal Forest. The areas designated were not necessarily wooded, but were subject to Forest Law, which gave the king the right to hunt deer in them, irrespective of their actual ownership, and imposed heavy penalties on anyone who interfered with the deer, or who damaged or failed to maintain the fabric of the Forest. In practice, most kings were too busy to hunt regularly, but used the Forest Law to extract income from the inhabitants through fines and dues, and as a source of venison and other game for the royal table. Originally much of Essex was subject to Forest Law.

Forest Law was naturally very unpopular and a separate judiciary was necessary to enforce it. Led by a Chief Justice of all the Royal Forests, each Forest had its own Forest Warden, supported by various officials such Foresters, who protected the deer, Verderers, who looked after the fabric of the forest, Regarders, who looked after the boundaries, and Agisters who collected the dues.

Fortunately kings were often short of cash, and would be willing to allow disafforestation to any landowner who could find sufficient money. By the end of the Middle Ages only fragments remained, of which Hatfield, Epping, Writtle, Kingswood, Hainault and Wintry Wood are the most recognizable survivors in Essex. All of these show at least some of the features associated with Forests – boundary and deer banks, coppice areas, pillow mounds, pollards and, of course, ancient trees. Of these the most notable and complete is Hatfield Forest, which has largely survived in its medieval form as a result of a series of fortunate ownership, or disputed ownership circumstances, culminating in acquisition by the National Trust in 1924.

Roman Scotland
Roger Goodburn, Oxford University Department of Continuing Education
27 October 2003 at Greyfriars. East Hill, Colchester
Notes taken by Peter Constable

The invasion of Britain by the Roman Emperor Claudius with 40,000 troops under the command of Aulus Plautius took place in the year 43AD, roughly 100 years after the first invasion by the Emperor Julius Caesar. In 61 AD, Boudica destroyed the Roman towns of Camulodunum, Londinium and Verulamium, which encouraged Roman forays of revenge to the south west, west and north, mainly by troops under the command of Julius Agricola, as described in a detailed biography by Tacitus. Among the earliest of the actions to the north, was the construction of a fortress at Chester and the moving of Legion 9 from Lincoln to York in about 75AD.

From these two centres, one west of the Pennines and one to the east, Agricola advanced northwards roughly along the routes now marked by the M6 and A1, with east-west communications crossing the Pennines. This strategy of two simultaneous attacking military thrusts is still being used in modern warfare. By 79AD the Borders had been taken and the River Tay had been reached. Much evidence of the campaigns in both the east and the west still exists, vis-a-vis the foundations of hill forts and dry stone dwellings that would have had thatched roofs and turf supports.

Around this time, the Emperor Vespasian died and was succeeded by Titus, who ordered the campaign to continue, the object bring to defeat the Caledonii, the tribe living north of the Clyde. In about 81 AD, while in Galloway, Agricola viewed Ireland across the sea to the west, but decided to continue northwards, and although there have been claims that the Romans did enter Ireland, it currently appears unlikely. The west of Scotland, however, was difficult terrain to cover, so the Roman troops based there, were moved to the eastern side, for a concentrated thrust.

The Clyde-Forth territory was gained, and to assist the supply of the land-based army, Agricola's fleet sailed the eastern coast of Scotland, assisting the push northwards. In 82 AD much hard fighting took place around Aberdeen, and at the 144 acre site at Durno, two army groups merged to make a combined strength of 15,000 men. They were needed - the Caledonii mustered some 30,000. It was a tough battle, encirclement eventually winning the day, with many hostages being taken. Stonehaven, the most northern point captured, marked one of the outposts of the largest area ever held by the Romans in Britain.

A camp was under construction at Inchtuthil when the Roman forces were recalled. Problems elsewhere in the Empire - on the Danube - meant a re-deployment of troops. The incomplete camp was destroyed and over

1 million nails buried, to prevent them from being used as weaponry by the Caledonii. Eventually, the troops were withdrawn all the way back to Hadrian's Wall, excavations in many sites proving an orderly abandonment.

It is easy to appreciate why the Romans were keen to take Scotland, The good agricultural land between the Clyde and Tay rivers was well worth having, and while the Caledonii were living in very bleak conditions, the evidence uncovered in many different sites suggest that by comparison, the Romans were comfortably housed.

The lecture was very well illustrated with many excellent colour slides taken in different locations, (often in typically inclement weather), and they were complemented with detailed maps and diagrams by a speaker that bought his subject to life, showing the precise location of each site, naming its original excavator and the date of excavation.

Mr Goodburn both deserved and received warm approbation from a very appreciative audience.

Death, Disease and the Past
Tony Waldron, consultant palaeopathologist
3 November 2003
Notes taken by Denise Hardy

Tony began his interesting talk by showing us a chart displaying some biological and anthropological features that can be found from archaeological remains. These are as follows:-

Anatomical	Anthropological	Pathological
Normal Variants, Autopsy.	Age, Sex, Height, Non-metric traits, Skeletal indices.	Types of diseases present of skeleton/teeth. Cause of death, Medical care.
Biochemical	**Epidemiological**	
D.N.A. studies, Human bacterium, Viral, Protein - normal and abnormal, Biomarks of disease.	Prevalence of disease, Changes of prevalence over time, Case control	

The sexing of juveniles, unlike adults, is extremely difficult, but with the advancement of D.N.A this information can now sometimes be retrieved. However, it is very expensive. In the majority of cases the skeletal remains very rarely disclose the cause of death, but certain diseases of the soft tissues can effect the bones which could be indicative to how the diseased died.

Tony started his visual presentation with a slide showing two tons of disarticulated bones retrieved from two pits found at the adjoining Anglo-Saxon churches of St. Peter's and St. Mary's, in Barton on Humber, North Lincolnshire. The bones comprised 3,000 skeletons ranging from the late Anglo-Saxon to the early 19th C. and although their numbers reflect a large populated area, this only works out to two burials a year.

Further slides shown were of skeletons in their coffins, including a well-preserved Anglo-Saxon in an oak coffin containing willow wands, which was found in water logged conditions. Very often the skeletons show signs of movement in extraordinary ways during decomposition. It is also very rare to find a complete skeleton. Even after excavation care has to be taken with the bones before they get to the specialists, as damage is caused during lifting, cleaning, bagging, boxing and transportation.

Fractures, which are the cause of 10% of traumas, are often found skilfully reset. Various different diseases of the bone were shown. In some cases there were attempts at pain relief, such as the use of a metal truss for a *Hernia*. Another case showed severe *arthritis* of the hips, where the joints had fused together. This poor person would have been unable to move their legs. One skeleton, of late 18th/early 19th C lay in his coffin with his spinal column completely removed and in its place a wooden board, presumably placed there by the undertaker to stiffen his body.

From the same period, one skeleton showed clear evidence that an autopsy had been performed on the skull, indicated by the slicing of the top of the head. The presumption is that the person had died from an ailment of

the nervous system which required getting to the spinal cord. This had to be done within a day to a day and a half after death as the cord disintegrates into mush.

Also shown were two 'named' skeletal remains, one in the vault of one William Goye of Bath. Although quite well preserved, various bones were missing. There was a fair amount of movement: his ribs had fallen into the pelvic bone and his jaw had been damaged at the front. The second was one Mary Fawley, who had a disease of the spine called D.I.S.H. (*Diffuse idiopathic skeletal hyperostosis*) of which she was probably completely unaware. This disease can effect up to 8-10% of the elderly population, although nowadays chest x-rays can identify it.

It is also possible see signs of disease of teeth caused by caries, and in certain circumstances occupational activities can be interpreted through dental wear. Teeth survive very well in the archaeological record, but it is rare to find dental disease in the Palaeolithic to Iron Age periods due mainly to their diet. It slowly rises due to the introduction of sugars into the diet, although in modern times, it has decreased due to fluoridation of drinking water.

Examples of diseases, mainly *Osteoarthritis*, were shown in various joints. Before 1500 A.D. *Osteoarthritis* was found more in the hip than the knee. After 1500 the reverse happened. This was caused by changes in diet and obesity. *Osteoarthritis* is the third main cause of disease found in the archaeological record.

Gout, where uric acid crystallises around the joints of the toe and hands and causes inflammation and pressure around the bone, leading to deformation, is also common. In the 18th c A.D. this was often caused by lead poisoning through wine, when lead was added to make the wine sweeter, or by the lead shot used to clean out the bottles, especially port, by shaking them up and down. This caused the shot to be lodged in the gutter around the bottom of the bottle.

An infected wrist shown was probably caused by *Tuberculosis*. Here the fingers were fused, which meant the person could not have made a fist. There is a myth that TB can come from cattle. Although cattle do get a type called bovine TB, this is mainly an airborne disease of the lungs which can spread into the bones, especially the spine. It replaces normal bone tissue with tubercular tissue which collapses to produce 'Pots' disease of the spine. However DNA tests can prove if the person had contracted human or bovine TB, and in all cases that observed has been human and not bovine.

Infections of the bone: *Osteomylitis* is caused by skin tissue getting infected - i.e. boils. The infection gets into the blood stream and into the bone marrow where it multiplies and produces a lot of pus in the cavity. This eventually causes a hole in the bone which lets the pus out, but it could take many years. In the 18th C, the death rate caused by the necessity to amputate was 97%.

Poliomyelitis shows up by one leg bone being slightly thinner and shorter that the other. This is because the nerve cells infect and die resulting in paralysing of the muscles that support the nerves, causing the bone to shrink.

The evening came to a close with a slide of an elderly lady's skull, her only remaining skeletal bone identified amongst a huge pile if disarticulated bones. This was full of holes, and X-rays showed that her probable cause of death was cancer of the breast, which had spread from her chest.

Several questions were asked including one about evidence of *Syphilis* found in the archaeological record. Tony squashed the rumours of Columbus bringing it back from the 'New World' as it goes back well into the Roman period. Venereal form of *Syphilis* is mainly found in the skull with lesions of the frontal bone, the nasal cavity and the tibia, which shows signs of being bowed and heavy due to the extra laying down of new bone on the frontal surface.

Raising the Dead: Interpreting Sutton Hoo
Chris Hudson, museum and exhibition designer
10 November 2003
Notes taken by Freda Nicholls

Despite competition from the Town and Gown Lecture at the Town Hall it was "full house" at the Charles Gray room for an entertaining and thought provoking lecture from Chris Hudson. If we thought we were going to hear further speculations as to the presence of the body of King Raedwald in mound 1, it was not so. We were

first asked what it was we wished to hear about the site. "What happened to the boat that had been in the open courtyard?" was the first question. Chris explained that the boat did not belong to the National Trust, but to the builder Edwin Gifford. At the same time he explained that the courtyard has been designed as the possible future site of a boatyard which would add another attraction to Sutton Hoo.

Chris, a designer with the National Trust, has worked for three years directly with the museum's curator Angus Wainwright. Chris was appointed the museum's designer within a few weeks of the actual architects' arrival but throughout the project achieved good collaboration with them. Before undertaking the project he had to read a great deal about the period around 700 A. D., talk to experts in Anglo-Saxon history and archaeology, and visit other museums. His researches made him decide to create something that would show how different the life and values of that time were in comparison with those of our own. He wanted Sutton Hoo to reflect the opposites of opulence and poverty, and to evoke the Saxon period rather than trying to recreate it.

The reception area at the site displays some large banners. These are intended to prime visitors before they enter the museum proper. In the reception area is a display case containing a large rivet - the clue that told Basil Brown what he was about to unearth. It also gives a clue to the visitors, telling them what they are about to see. At the entrance to the museum itself visitors are confronted with an enlarged, mysterious, and somewhat menacing reconstruction of an Anglo-Saxon warrior's helmet. Just inside this entrance there Is a small room with a video display intended to create an atmosphere of life and culture in 6th. and 7th. century East Anglia.

Chris's brief was to create a tableau of a ship burial. At first it was hoped to use an existing plaster cast of the imprint of the ship as discovered by Basil Brown; lottery funds would not however cover this expense, and so it was decided to build a model of the ship and then to align it in an East-West orientation within the exhibit, to mimic the orientation of the actual burial vessel. On completion of the model vessel it became obvious that it would have to be lowered into the ground within the museum, which would then be built around it. The exhibition hall has a very high roof to create the impression of a Saxon Hall.

Slides were shown of rounded plinths for standing exhibits, meant to suggest waves on the sea. Ash screens representing spears are in place to guide visitors around the exhibits. Within the model ship are replicas of some of the everyday things found in such a high status burial. Raedwald, if indeed he was buried at Sutton Hoo, is portrayed as a ghostly figure of transparent plastic, suggesting that we know very little about who was actually interred within the ship. There are three dimensional exhibits displayed outside the show cases. These include a magnificent and skilful replica of the helmet found in the burial chamber, and a "wolfskin" cloak (in truth not actually skin from a wolf) evoking the name of Raedwald's royal house, the Wuffingas. The display also contains replicas of the sand figures excavated in the mound vicinity which are presumed to show the location of warrior or other bodies of lower standing than the one in the chamber itself.

The exhibit titles have been carefully thought out, to encourage viewers to ask questions. The exhibits are set out at heights accessible to visitors in wheel-chairs and to children. The sound system is not as successful as had been hoped but if more funds become available in the future it is hoped to upgrade it. An annexe off the main exhibition hall houses the amazing collection of gold framed jewellery set with cloisonne garnets. All the artifacts in this room are on loan from the British Museum's collection and these exhibits are changed from time to time. The route from the exhibition hall to the burial mounds has been carefully planned to ensure that, although the land surrounding the existing mounds is disturbed as little as possible,the path is visitor friendly.

The lecture concluded with a number of questions from the floor which indicated the interest which had been aroused by Chris' talk and topic.

Ritual Deposition and Iron Age Coinage
Mark Curteis, Heritage Education Officer, Essex County Council
17 November 2003
Notes taken by John Mallinson

We know that coins were in circulation in the late Iron Age. They had a monetary value, but that was not their only use. Mark Curteis proposed that their distribution in the ground was not random, as might be expected from accidental loss, but was the result of deliberate, ritual, action. Based on a detailed study of a large number of sites in the East Midlands, and elsewhere, he presented a series of statistical analyses in support of his thesis.

Few coins were found in domestic locations. Most were found in ditches, pits and entrances, usually in temples or other sites of religious significance, or along property boundaries. They were usually found as part of assemblages of other precious objects, such as brooches, rings, metal working items, weaponry and even stone-age implements. Further, there was a tendency for them to be in the upper levels of ditches and pits, which

appeared to have been already deliberately and partially back-filled with sterile earth. There was also some indication that the images on the coins were significant, particular images being dominant on some sites.

Investigations into "Charlie Brown's"
Leigh Alston, architectural historian
24 November 2003
Notes taken by Jean Roberts

"Charlie Brown's" was for many years a hardware store in East Street, Colchester, trading under the name Charles Brown and Sons. The building had for many years looked dilapidated, but when the shop closed and developers bought it, a fascinating story was to be revealed. The building had a major overhaul in the 19th century, and nothing is left of the ceiling, and only part of the walls of the medieval period survive. Most of the dating evidence comes from the upper floor, roof and internal walls. It is rumoured that the building was badly damaged in the earthquake of 1884, and this may explain some of the loss of wall structure. Documents show that the area around East Street in Medieval Colchester, was a small hamlet, possibly associated with the fulling and tanning trades.

The earliest phase detected in the building was the mid 14th century hall, showing that a very high-status building, with an open hall and stunning features, was here. The gateway, with its high arch seems to be a 15th century extension. The rest of the building is 17th century, constructed in two phases.

Evidence for a high status building in the 14th century comes from a moulded jetty, projecting from the parlour cross-wing, into the hall, over the high end, and a magnificent carved tracery window-head, found behind wall-paper, lath and plaster and then mud and straw. This window was blocked off by the 15th century extension and as a result the carving has remained crisp and sharp. An archaeological dig, in what would have been the open hall, gave confusing evidence. It was hoped to locate central hearth, and one hearth was uncovered, but had only partial burning, not consistent with a well-used central hearth. A 15th century rubble wall was uncovered running across the hall.

The wing attached to the archway juts out, and inserted into the side wall is a narrow window, which would have given a view towards the east part of the town. Inside the archway, the top of a ground floor window was also discovered, this too having a carved quatrefoil head. At the back of the building is another jetty, which would be unusual in a domestic dwelling, being more usually associated with an inn or a commercial dwelling, having a rear courtyard.

The 17th century addition was an open hall with two gables, one of which has been removed. In the further part are ornate jetty brackets, below a moulded jetty bressummer. This timber frame was made of inferior timber and was never meant to be seen, but probably meant to have pargetted plaster over it. In the front of the building is a combination of curved and straight beams, which is a puzzle.

This interesting talk whetted our appetites to learn more of this intriguing building as more discoveries are made.

An Early Roman Cemetery at Great Dunmow
Mark Atkinson, E.C.C. Field Archaeological Unit
1 December 2003
Notes taken by Vic Scott

The excavation of the cemetery was undertaken a year ago by the ECC Field Archaeological Unit. The site was on the outer edge of Dunmow on an important line of communication with Colchester. Dunmow itself sits on a spur overlooking a road and river crossing. Initially five evaluation trenches were dug on what had been a highways site. Subsequently a 20 metre square area was excavated, which entailed stripping off a concrete surface.

The trial trenches had missed the cremation cemetery, and the Roman cremation burials were found below the concrete. There was very little else on the site apart from the burials. Some of the cremation pots had been truncated by medieval ploughing. They were also on tight clusters, which went some way to explaining why the trial trenches missed them.

The simpler cremations consisted of bone remains deposited in a hole in the ground. There was a high percent-

age of bone remains, though some had burnt shards of pottery mixed with them, which suggests offerings accompanying the body. Some of the cremation pots had other pots with them, and some had smaller pots inside them.

20 to 30 of the pits were full of burnt debris – possibly from the pyres as no bone was found. In all 110 to 115 burials were excavated. Some of the pits were square cut, some showed signs of a wooden lining – possibly a box, and others had the carbonized remains of plank linings.

It was possible to reconstruct some of the pots. Many were Roman, but some were Iron Age, suggesting a period of use from 40 to 70 AD. They included a range of flagons and Terra Nigra platters, some of which were from Colchester and Verulamium. There was also early Samian from South Gaul, amongst which was a rare Samian cup from Lezoux, dating to the 1st century AD.

Artefacts included early brooches, iron knife blades, a few glass vessels, and bone dice made from long bones with the marrow removed and the ends plugged with pieces of carved bone. A small metal disc was identified as a tinned mirror, and another such was found with a handle.

Not a lot is known about Roman Dunmow, partly because it was much built on during the Victorian period. More sites to excavate are needed, particularly occupation sites, to give a better idea of its character. This cemetery would appear to be a simple cremation cemetery for Romanised locals.

Cremations and Decapitations: recent osteological findings at the Museum of London Specialist Services.
Natasha Powers, Human Osteologist, Museum of London Specialist Services
19 January 2004
Notes taken by Mary Coe

Natasha began with an overview of her work, following this with three case studies. She did not speak about cremations, as the analysis was not complete. Her ideal would be a full set of bones, but usually she has only disarticulated bones, or partial sets. Bone fragments in cremations can give some information.

Bone analysis gives a picture of the person, and data about the population. Comparisons can be made across different areas and time periods, showing changes in patterns of disease. Assessment involves cataloguing all the material. A record is made of each bone, giving an estimation of age and sex. The bones are measured to give an indication of stature. Other non-metrical traits are recorded, as are pathological changes. Few diseases show up, and it is unusual to find the exact cause of death.

The sex of the individual can be ascertained from the shape of the pelvis. The use of the skull for this purpose is less accurate. As most features looked at are muscle attachments, a robust female can have the features of a male. It is impossible to sex a set of bones if the pelvis and cranium are missing.

Age is difficult to determine. Juveniles are aged by the fusion of certain bones, and by dental development. Teeth are not affected by health, unlike growth. For adults there are other clues, such as pubic symphysis, auricular surfaces, dental wear and cranial suture closure. As many means as possible are used but even this will only give an estimate.

The sites under study in London include St Pancras (Post Medieval), Spitalfield Market (Roman and Medieval) and Blossom's Inn (Roman). Other sites are at Hitchin (Late Roman and Saxon) and Co. Meath in Ireland (Early Medieval). The Wellcome Trust is funding a re-analysis of work done at a number of sites in the past, now that techniques have improved. Cremation sites are in East London (Prehistoric and Roman) and Milton Keynes (Roman). These have not yet been fully assessed.

Three Case Studies of Burials from the cemetery in Co. Meath:
It is possible to tell if a bone was cut prior to burial, or whether it was broken later. If cut, the edge is the same colour as the rest of the bone, and the surface is smooth, possibly showing serrations.

The cemetery contained about 200 burials, many of them intercutting. Because of this, and plough damage, the remains are often fragmentary. There was a double inhumation of two robust adult males, one of which was fairly well preserved. The cervical vertebrae on this had three or four cuts from front to back. The first did not cut into the spinal cavity, but a second cut higher up severed the spinal cord. The final cut, close to the skull, removed the head, and part of the mandible. All the cuts are parallel and suggest blows from behind and from the left. The second burial differed from the first in that the head, neck and some vertebrae were missing. A single vertibra,

with a cut mark, was found in the grave fill, and may have belonged to the body. The head may have been removed as a trophy. In an adjacent grave was third decapitation. As there were no other injuries, execution is the likely explanation.

In the same cemetery was an adult male with cranial trauma. Preservation was not good. The skull was in pieces and incomplete. On the right side were four parallel cuts penetrating into the brain cavity. An oval piece of bone had been removed. There were fine cuts on the jaw, one of which had cut a tooth. There were also fine cuts on the back of the head on the inside of the skull. The left side had fewer cuts, only some radiating fractures. These wounds were probably made from above. A different weapon had been used for decapitation, which had left cut marks on the cervical vertebrae. The head is a common area for attack, and this particular attack may have happened in battle or during an assault with weapons.

In answer to questions, Natasha told us more about the cemetery. It was mixed male and female, with a few juveniles, so there was nothing unusual about it. Juveniles were under-represented, but they may have been buried in an area not yet excavated. The last individual was in an area which was densely packed, but the other decapitations were in a less dense area. The double burial was the only one of its kind so far found, and it is possible that the two individuals were buried at the same time.

Members Activities
26 January 2004
Notes taken by Gill Shrimpton

We were fortunate to have four very informative and interesting speakers.

Jeffreys Jewellers, High Street, Colchester
Richard Shackle

Richard spoke about recent investigations he had carried out at Jeffreys, the jewellers in Colchester High Street. He was able to look in detail at the timber framing. It was originally a 15th Century construction built as two shops with separate front entrances and living/storage areas behind and above. The building was extensively altered during the 19th Century but much of the original timber framing survives in remarkably good condition showing that the building was double jettied with some fine mouldings. Window openings could be located. There were also medieval cellars still surviving. It is always interesting to hear about the origins of our local familiar buildings.

The Big Dig
Christian Leppich, Young Archaeologists Club

Using projection equipment Christian took us step by step through the BIG DIG on 29th June in the garden of 172 Lexden Road. The members opened three trenches and excavated layer by layer. Several finds were made which he brought to show us. The site had been mapped and drawn and the finds washed and recorded. Spoil heap material was carefully sieved. Due to high levels of charcoal and iron it was concluded that the excavation site had been burnt – perhaps a bonfire site. Part of a clay pipe was an exciting find.

A geophysical survey of the Lexden Tumulus
Tim Dennis

This was a fascinating demonstration of the latest techniques available to archaeologists. Mr Dennis began by introducing the site with reference to old maps and earlier excavation records, together with some interesting old photographs. The tumulus, which is approximately 54ft in diameter had, in the past, been circled by large Wellingtonia conifers, some of which remain. The left side had been partially cut away to allow for construction of a dwelling. Recent building work on the site has allowed further surveys to take place using magnetometry, resistivity and ground penetrating radar. This has resulted in accurate measurement of the ditch and bank. At present the tumulus stands about 2m., an elevation determined by contour plotting. It is late iron age, and finds from the earlier excavation are displayed in the castle Museum. It was clearly a high status grave.

Recent excavations at Great Tey
James Fawn

After summarising work in earlier years, James brought members up to date on the two active digs at Great Tey.

Work on the Roman Road had progressed slowly, and towards the end of the summer finds in a new trench further to the north and west of previous work suggested that the continuation of the road may at last have been found. Unfortunately, before this could be confirmed the trench became waterlogged. A dry spring is eagerly awaited.

Most available effort has been devoted to the Bronze Age burial site, with up to eight members digging on a regular basis. To date at least 14 burials have been found, most of them in urns. All are within the southern-most segment of the ring ditch, whose position, size and Bronze Age date have now been confirmed. Three sections across the east-west linear ditch have established its dimensions – approximately 3.m wide and 1.2m deep, and although finds have been scarce, a few pieces of tegula suggest it is of Roman date. Further geophysical work has suggested that the ditch extends only a few meters east into the adjacent field before stopping at what appears to be the line of a north-south bank, now ploughed out.

Agreement has been reached with the landowner to remove the pile of topsoil covering the northern half of the ring ditch. This will allow the contours of the ditch to be defined along its full circumference, and the full area within it to be examined for further burials. Both excavation and post-excavation work continue.

The Work of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Suffolk
Helen Geake, Finds Advisor, Portable Antiquities Scheme
2 February 2004
Notes taken by Vic Scott

In the 1880s it was felt desirable to control and restrict access to resources belonging to everyone, including, for example, archaeology. Initially this started with the protection of 50 ancient monuments in the country, which, with the exception of one medieval site, were all prehistoric. Subsequently the concept of Treasure Trove was introduced applied to artifacts of silver and gold. The items found were offered for sale to museums, and rewards were given to the finders. An inquest was always held, at which the coroner would establish whether, in the opinion of expert archaeologists, the owners would be coming back to retrieve their belongings. For example, the Sutton Hoo treasure was not classified as Treasure Trove as it was agreed that the owner would not be returning!!

The law did not work well, and in many instances was totally pointless. The landowner never got a share of the value of any hoards found. Through the 1980's there were many failed attempts to alter the law.

In 1993 a survey of metal detectorists was undertaken. This showed that the hobby was too widespread to outlaw, and that at least 400,000 finds were being made by metal detectorists every year.

In 1996 the new Treasure Act was passed, which defined treasure as any item at least 300 years old with a gold or silver content of 10% or more. Coins are treated separately. There must be two or more gold or silver coins together, or ten bronze, to be classed as treasure. However, pots or other articles found in association with the coins would also be included. Local museums were given first claim on the finds, but had to pay the agreed reward. This would usually be the full current market value of the finds, and would be split evenly between landowner and finder.

To help make the act work, five county Portable Antiquities Officers were appointed before 2003. The Heritage Lottery Fund paid for eleven others, and later agreed to fund more.

The scope of the Act was extended slightly in 2003, to cover prehistoric base metal hoards. Two or more items – for example socketed hand axes - found together now have to be reported.

Metal detectorists and archaeologists *can* work together!! There are three metal detector clubs in Suffolk, and these meet monthly to have their finds identified and recorded by the Finds Liaison Officer. Additional help is provided by the Suffolk Portable Antiquities Officer, Faye Minter, and other experts at the Suffolk Archaeological unit can carry out identification on all periods. If necessary the finds can be examined by experts from

the British Museum. A similar system operates in Essex.

Planning archaeologists need to know of new sites, and it is possible to do this from study of items found and recorded. Find records go into the Sites and Monuments record, and can be accessed by anyone, although the exact location of the find is not included.

During an excavation, topsoil is often scraped off by machine and dumped. Metal detectorists, like field walkers, examine the surface as it is stripped. 95% of all Iron Age coins have been found in this way by metal detectorists, and the location of the coins has helped greatly in determining such features as tribal boundaries.

From the Roman period metal finds (up to 400,000) have indicated a much larger population than was previously thought. Metal detecting is beginning to show that much more of the land was in general use over the millennia, rather than the rather patchy occupation indicated by known archaeology.

During the Medieval period there were regulations (Sumptuary Laws) defining what items of clothing, gold, silver and jewellery could be worn by different classes, so metal finds can indicate who was living where. Until recently the general belief was that in the middle ages the common man didn't or couldn't write. But most people would have owned a seal matrix to sign documents written for them. About fifty of these seals are found in Norfolk each year. Most date to the 13th century.

Metal detectorists also make important contributions on archaeological sites by finding small items which otherwise be missed by archaeologists. Many finds by detectorists have been brought to the surface by agricultural activity, which is often destroying otherwise unrecognized archaeological deposits.

Finds by metal detectorists add considerable knowledge, and responsible detectorists do no damage to archaeological sites.

More Romans at Gresham Street
Julian Ayres, Project Officer, Museum of London Archaeological Service
9 February 2004
Notes taken by Aline Black

The title is misleading - Medieval, Anglo Saxon (well, dark earth), Roman, Iron Age - this Gresham Street site had the lot! Near the fort and the amphitheatre and with the N-S road to the fort expected to cross the site, intersecting an E-W road, much was expected by the archaeologists when they got access in 2000. The dig lasted two years and generated 13,500 context sheets.

The site, ca.60m x 40m, is unusual in the City of London in that nearly half had been a car park and so there was a chance of reasonably undisturbed archaeology. The other half had a deep-piled thirteen storey building on it which was demolished over the archaeologists heads as they dug eighteen trenches in the basement!

In the basement there were few post-medieval remains. Very substantial chalk wall foundations of a medieval building, some 16m x 8m, were found. As the site had belonged to the Goldsmiths' Company since the 13th century, could this have been the home of an important goldsmith? Sadly no floor surfaces were found.

The remains of the tower of St Michaels, Wood Street were also uncovered, fitting almost exactly the Agas map ca. 1540. The church itself was built in 1160, the tower being added in 1421. The church had an unfortunate history - destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666, rebuilt, damaged twice more and finally demolished in 1900 as 'having no architectural merit'. The tower foundations were so strong that the archaeologists had to wait until the building above was demolished in order to get a big enough digger in.

Other medieval finds included a cess-pit with a beautifully built internal dividing wall ('his' and 'hers'??) and several pits with general domestic remains as well as a number of crucibles which suggest that there could have been metalworking on the site.

On stripping away the medieval, dark earth, an interleaved mixture, some 4th century, some 16th century, was found. Beneath this, some 240 pits of varying date and lots of gravel - there was the N-S Roman road, right on target, a 25m length, 5m wide (very wide for a road in town), slightly cambered, made of highly compacted gravel, in places 2.5m deep. The surface was in remarkably good condition, no potholes, no wheel ruts, obviously efficiently maintained. As this road leads to the fort, could the military have had the responsibility for its

maintenance? Either side of the road were narrow ditches over 1m deep, with timber revetment in places, which householders either side of the road would have to negotiate. Two householders apparently found the state of the road outside their properties not to their liking. One had filled a hole with oyster shells, the other with broken tile.

The E-W road was narrower, only half a metre thick and the surface was poor and muddy. Presumably it was a less important route. Only four pieces of very eroded pottery were found in all the gravel dug and so this road was difficult to date; its dating to late 1st and early 2nd century relies on finds underneath it and to the dating in general of this part of London.

A substantial sequence of buildings of varying types was found either side of the N-S road, mostly mud brick or brick earth construction, perhaps then timber framed. Floors were mainly trampled brick earth. One building close to the fort had stone foundations. A few hob-nails and one or two other military items were found here. In all the buildings there was quite a complex sequence of floors and occupation debris and several fire horizons. Some of these were restricted to one house, others more extensive (as was the one dated 60AD initiated by a certain lady from Norfolk). The alleys between the houses were badly kept; surfaces included trampled oyster shell and crushed pot.4500 pottery sherds were collected.

Unfortunately there were only a few Roman pits and so not as many finds as expected. The most interesting were a gold finger ring, an intaglio and odd pots including a piece of terracotta, just the shape of a modern garden label, inscribed 'via pompos'. There were 20 to 30 brooches, nothing spectacular, and 125 coins, less than a third of which were identifiable even as to century. The bones of two dogs, so small that they must have had to rely on human nurture, suggests that they were a luxury item - lap dogs.

The houses had a variety of hearths. A shower tray size structure with an amphora 1.5m deep carefully inserted up to its shoulders in one wall is a puzzle (any ideas what it might have been?).

At the southern end of the site part of a spectacular mosaic was found - red, yellow grey and black - enough of the original 1.5m square (partly destroyed by modern building) to work out the whole design - and to note the tiler's errors. Dated around 120AD, it is quite early for a coloured mosaic. It was surrounded by an 80cm band of red tesserae to give an imposing dining room floor. The 7,000 red tesserae are now in 'Education Packs' for London schools. Coloured wall plaster lay face up on the floor, presumably fallen in from the adjacent passageway. The other side should surely be the decorated dining room side: turning the plaster over was not easy - and there was nothing at all on the other side! Had the owners taken the paintings with them on leaving? An adjacent room proved spectacular. Apparently a store, there were the remains of 18 jugs and 8 or 9 pots, many with food residue, all destroyed in a single fire. The kitchen of this property was identified and it also had a veranda at the rear with a waist-high wall looking onto a courtyard. Overall, a substantial layout of an early 2nd century Roman town house.

Stripping off the road gravel, expecting to find brick earth, the site held another surprise. Because the road was early, it had protected a shallow but clear sequence of previous activity - eleven Iron Age roundhouses, with diameters ranging from five to fifteen metres. But London doesn't 'do' the Iron Age! (three roundhouses were found on the old GPO site in 1975 and some on Cheapside in 1990, but that is all).

Two of the roundhouses had entrances on the east side, and a number had hearths. Some pots were buried in the floor. There was very little occupation debris to determine their use, but they seem to have been associated with a single Roman longhouse in their midst. Were they ancillary buildings for working in? Had Iron Age families moved into the city to work, or was the complex a social statement of master and servants? Surprisingly they showed no evidence of the fire of AD60.

Two ditches limited the site of the roundhouses. Intriguingly, the northern ditch had angled stakes on the side facing inwards to the roundhouses. Whatever for? Glass beads still with clay plugs in them evidenced industrial activity on the site, as did a lot of early Roman glass, raw material for bead making.

The southern end of the site sloped naturally to a river tributary. The Romans appear to have built banks to manage and collect the water. Some timber structures in the embankment could have been sluices. Down the bank a final puzzle awaited: a 2m wide circular feature. A ditch surrounded the 1m diameter central area which was packed with domestic animal bones. There were no associated post-holes, so what was it?

A lively question session followed:
speculation about the use of the 'shower tray';
nothing earlier than Iron Age found;
one pit had Anglo Saxon pottery;
the site predates the fort (which is dated 120 - 160AD), but was active throughout the second century and perhaps into the third.

Fraud and Financial Wizardry: a 13th Century Essex Scandal
Chris Thornton, Editor, Victoria County History
16 February 2004
Notes taken by Rosemary Oliver

This lecture centred around the life of Adam of Stratton, date of birth unknown. By 1250 he is in the employ of the Earl of Devon & is employed by the Earl's sister Isabella, Countess of Aumale.

By 1256 Adam becomes clerk to the Royal Exchequer & then is promoted to being Isabella's deputy as chamberlain of the royal Exchequer of Audit. By the 1260's Adam is on his way, a money lender in the City of London, an unpopular job normally carried out by the Jews, who were allowed to practise usury.

Eleven years later Adam advances money to Bermondsey Priory on security of manors in Oxfordshire, of which he subsequently gets control. 12 years later he makes further loans to the Priory, and within 4 years the monks are in difficulties with repayment.

Adam is now in charge of Isabella's estates. In 1279 The Abbot of Quarr on the Isle of Wight accuses Adam of tampering with the seals on a charter. This incident is investigated, and Adam is imprisoned, but he regains his office when his friends pledge 500 marks for his release from prison.

He resumes his money lending activities, and as an Exchequer official. By 1288 Bermondsey Priory owes him 6000 marks. Adam now takes over the leases of the Priory manors of Monkbury (Little Hallingbury) and Quickbury (Sheering) in Essex. In 1289 Edward I returns to England and sets up a commission to investigate the corruption in government. By 1290 Adam is deprived of his office and all his lands and is imprisoned, having been found guilty of forgery and extortion. However in 1291 he makes peace with Edward I, confesses his crimes and is fined 500 marks. His property, worth 50,000 marks, is confiscated. Unfortunately in 1292 the King finds out that Adam was guilty of forging the deed which illegally transferred Monkbury and Quickbury to his ownership. He is sent to the Tower of London. Adam dies in 1294 on either Tower Hill by public execution, or in a dungeon at the Tower.

In conclusion we were fortunate to find out more about the manors in Essex, and more about extracts from the Domesday book of 1086, the manorial survey of Monkbury in Little Hallingbury in 1276, with its tithing membership of 1275, and finally the manorial accounts of the same parish. All helped to complete the picture of life all that time ago.

Open Field Systems in Essex and the South-east
David Hall, Landscape Archaeologist specializing in field systems
23 February 2004
Notes taken by John Wallace

The Speaker has published several books on field systems, mainly confined to the Midlands. He has recently widened his research to include comparisons with the South West, but this evening he was comparing and contrasting the Midlands with Essex.

He showed a number of excellent slides illustrating medieval settlement areas in the Midlands, having surrounding open fields with furlong strips, and some aerial photographs showing ridge and furrow strips still visible in the landscape. The areas illustrated included a number of Midland parishes including Colly Weston, (with maps showing open fields before enclosure), Doddington and Kislingborough. These settlements tended to be nucleated with large surrounding field systems.

Slides were shown of several Essex parishes, including Writtle and Waltham, and a map from a survey of the demesne around the Abbey of Saffron Walden in the 14th century, showing open fields and their sizes. The speaker drew attention to the fact that the Midlands had large areas of strip fields with settlements widely

spaced, whereas Essex had a large number of settlements but with less land around them. A great source of documentary evidence is contained in Court Rolls, Manorial Surveys and Extents, detailing field names, sizes and occupation.

Taking a broader view, the geological drift map of the whole country showed little difference between Midlands and Essex in the types of soil and land on which areas of strip fields were located. It would appear though that the Strip Fields in Essex were generally closer to the settlements.

In Essex the early medieval period saw the development of manorial demesnes, which took in land from the waste and woodland for cultivation. The coming of the Enclosure Act did not affect them greatly as by then most were already enclosed. The Midlands were affected to a much greater extent as there was still a lot of open land.

Slides were also shown of the way ridge and furrow strips were ploughed. These shapes can still be seen today widely throughout the Midlands, whereas very few if any remain in Essex. The strips were allocated on some form of 'rotational' basis, whereby the differing quality of soils over an area of land was fairly distributed over the years. There were many slides clearly illustrating the rectilinear field systems, ridge and furrow, and also how modern hedge patterns can be used to reconstruct earlier field systems.

Community Archaeology in London
Nicole Weller, Portable Antiquities Liaison Officer and Community Archaeologist for Greater London
1 March 2004
Notes taken by Anna Moore

Nicole was appointed to her present post at the Museum of London in August 2003, having previously worked for the Colchester Archaeological Trust. She divides her time between two part-time posts, Portable Antiquities Liaison Officer and Community Archaeologist. For her talk, Nicole concentrated on the latter. In this role, she deals with Archaeological Societies in the Greater London Area, of which there are about 35, and is currently working around meeting them all.

There is a criticism of current British archaeology, in that there is a growing divide between professionals and amateurs and that there is very little opportunity for amateurs to do any work. Nicole's role as Community Archaeologist was funded by English Heritage in order to encourage local societies and interested individuals. This encouragement takes the form of several initiatives:

Communication between societies through the Forum for Archaeology, which is open to everyone, both individuals and societies.

Demographic diversity, through Young Archaeologists Clubs, which hopefully will continue into adult societies. TV programmes on archaeology have high viewing figures and encourage interest.

Field work is generally unavailable in central London, although is occasionally undertaken at Copped Hall near Epping, and there is some opportunity on the Thames foreshore; Birkbeck College conducts an annual training dig; Industrial Archaeology provides other opportunities. Local societies are encouraged to identify features in their area which can affect planning applications.

Training is provided by Birkbeck College, either centrally or locally; seminars are arranged. Training is available to assist with publication of reports.

Outreach visits to local communities encourage visits to museums, and Nicole's background in social work helps to reach out to otherwise excluded groups. Artefacts are used as a resource to stimulate interest in local areas. Visits to schools and colleges encourage archaeological workshops in deprived areas.

Nicole is being encouraged to develop a radical outlook, e.g. setting up an excavation project in the gardens of a high-rise block, which created enormous interest among the residents; setting up "street libraries", which involves taking books and artefacts into a deprived area and waiting for people to come and investigate, hopefully encouraging the residents to visit museums in the future.

In these ways, Nicole is hoping to encourage a sense of place in local communities, particularly among young people and ethnic minorities.

Excavations at Flixton Quarry, nr. Bungay

Stuart Boulter, Senior Project Officer, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

8 March 2004

Notes taken by Christopher J Hunt

Flixton Park Quarry lies on the south side of the Waveney Valley in Suffolk where it takes advantage of the high quality river terrace sands and gravels. The quarry has been operating for over 50 years and it is clear that significant archaeology has been destroyed. However, all soil stripping is now monitored and this has been found to be very successful as it allows the archaeology of a whole landscape to be put into its overall context. By this method a remarkable sequence of archaeology from the Palaeolithic to Twentieth Century has been revealed.

The quarry sands and gravels belong to the Bytham River formation. There have been reports of various faunal deposits being recovered during quarrying with Mammoth tusks and teeth included in the assemblage. Three hand-axes have been found, two directly from the gravel and one a residual find in an early Anglo Saxon Sunken Featured Building (SFB), and it is an intriguing possibility that this artefact had already been found and treasured prior to it being lost again. There is very little from the Neolithic – flints and concentrations of Grooved Ware pottery, but in 1997 a previously excavated post-hole was found to form part of an 18 metre diameter, sub-circular, but apparently geometrically laid out enclosure, with an entrance to the north-east and a centrally placed rectangular structure. Interpretations (which include stock enclosure, excarnation platform, or lunar observatory!) cannot be positively corroborated. It seems likely that the structure represents a late Neolithic timber monument.

Except for a few isolated pits containing pottery and worked flints the only features attributed to the Bronze Age were all associated with ring ditches, of which nine have now been excavated. The diameters range from 5 metres to over 40 metres (the largest being a double ditch), with one penannular example and another with evidence for an internal berm and external bank. Burials have included unurned cremations, one in a small pit, and another in a large grave shaped pit. The immediate pre-conquest Iron Age (1st century BC) saw the beginnings of occupation on part of the site which appeared to continue through into at least the 3rd century AD, and possibly a little later. At this time the first man-made landscape divisions recognized on the site began to appear in the form of a rectilinear ditched field system extending along the base of the north facing slope which effectively marks the boundary between the clay soils of the Lowestoft Till to the south and the Bytham Sands and Gravels to the north.

The most commonly recorded structures and features associated with the Iron Age were pits and both four and six post structures (possibly granaries or platforms) while finds included three coins of the Iceni tribe. However two more enigmatic and as yet unparalleled structures were recorded: a 27 metre diameter pallisaded circle and a large post hole structure. These may have been stock enclosures but two pits containing clay sling bullets, loom-weights and two pots, suggest that something more unusual may have been occurring.

Activity continued during the Roman period with evidence of two aisled buildings and well-preserved pottery kilns. Archaeomagnetic dating of the kilns showed that while the features were within 10 metres of each other, there was a separation of at least 100 years between the final firing of each structure.

Another unusual feature that almost certainly dates to the Roman period was a burial containing four bodies (two men, one woman and a teenager of indeterminate sex) stacked head to foot in a relatively small grave cut into a large rubbish pit. One of the bodies had its head removed prior to burial. Certain genetic traits present may indicate a family relationship between the individuals. This stacked inhumation burial is unusual, even given the diverse nature of Roman burial customs.

The first evidence for Early Anglo Saxon activity in the area was uncovered in 1990 when the excavation of an Early Bronze Age ring-ditch in the adjacent quarry recovered evidence for a number of 6th century burials. Since that time over two hundred inhumation burials have been found and the range of assemblage is typical of that for a moderately successful settlement of the period. Since 2001 further evidence of Early Saxon occupation has been found which includes over twenty SFB's and a large post-holed 'hall'. The dating of the finds suggest that occupation spanned the 6th century.

The medieval period is the least well represented in the archaeological deposits excavated at Flixton being limited to metal detector finds recovered from the subsoil close to a series of parallel ditches that mark the line of a former road. This road was rerouted during the 19th century, but is likely to have had medieval origins.

Post medieval archaeology mainly relates to Flixton Hall and its landscaped park. This includes brick drains, deer park boundaries, a barn and a ditch indicating a possible folly. The second phase of post-medieval activity came as a surprise. It became clear that during WW1 a large area of Flixton Park was used as an army training ground. This resulted in the excavation of a full range of military earthworks, and a line of a zig-zag trench still survives as an open feature. In addition finds included ammunition, brandy bottles, and dozens of square latrine pits filled with the camp's rubbish.

Work is continuing at Flixton and it is likely that there are a few more surprises in store.

Weekend trip to North Yorkshire 7th - 10th May 2004
Notes by Dorothy and David Townend

A group of 41 left Colchester at 8am on Friday 7th May. Our first stop was at Lincoln where Mark Davies led a tour to outline the position of the walls and gateways of the Roman fort. There was also time to visit the Cathedral and look at other interesting buildings.

We travelled north over the Humber Bridge, stopping at St Peters Church, Barton-upon-Humber, to see its well-preserved Saxon tower. Then on to Beverley Minster, where we split into two groups, those with a head for heights going up into the roof, where they were able to explore the fascinating timber structure, and were treated to a demonstration of the treadwheel which had been installed to carry material up into the roof space (and continues to do so). The other group stayed below to hear the excellent Minster guides explain the wonderful stone carvings. We then continued our journey to Scarborough, arriving at the Royal Hotel at about 6pm. It was in a lovely position overlooking the harbour and castle.

On Saturday, we headed towards York. On the way, twelve members of the group were dropped off at Wharram Percy, where they spent a happy couple of hours exploring the extensive remains of Britain's most famous Deserted Medieval Village. Once in York, Mark led a group to look at the extent of the Roman fortress walls, including excavations near the multi-angular tower in the Museum gardens. Members dispersed around York to visit museums and various other interesting sites. On our way back to Scarborough, we stopped at Pickering to see the well-preserved 15th century murals in the church.

On Sunday, in grey and misty weather, we dropped off a group at Pickering to travel by steam train on the North Yorkshire Railway to Grosmont and then on to Whitby. The rest of the party continued to Rievaulx, a Cistercian Abbey set in a beautiful and peaceful valley. We visited the excellent Information Centre before walking around the impressive Abbey ruins. From Rievaulx, we travelled over the moors to Whitby. Our first stop was Whitby Abbey, again an excellent Information Centre, and the Abbey ruins atmospherically shrouded in mist. Many of us then visited the Church of St Mary with its 18th century box pews, after which there was time to explore Whitby before returning to Scarborough.

On Monday, we began our journey south via Rudston, with its 25ft monolith, the tallest in the country, said to be 4000 years old. We continued on to Southwell in Nottinghamshire, to visit the 19th century Workhouse, the best surviving example in Britain. With the help of audio-guides, we were able to relive the conditions there. From there we went to Southwell Minster, a beautiful Norman church full of interesting stone carvings, but also containing mosaic tiles and a ceiling painting taken from a nearby Roman villa. We arrived back in Colchester at about 6pm after a very interesting and enjoyable weekend.

The Group's Chairman, Mark Davies, in the treadwheel at Beverley Minster

Caesar's Conquest and its Legacy in Northern Gaul
An archaeological tour: Saturday 26 June - Monday 5 July 2004

Notes by Ron Cattrell, John Mallinson, Jean Roberts and Gill Shrimpton

Led by Mark Davies, a party of 28 members and others spent 10 days visiting north-eastern France, Belgium, Holland and Germany to see sites, monuments and museums associated with Caesar's conquest of Gaul and the subsequent Romanisation of the area.

The first overnight stop was at **Auxerre**, which dates back to Roman times. Seen from the north it now presents a fine picture of medieval splendour, with half timbered houses rising from the river in narrow streets framed by the Cathedral of St Etienne and the Abbey St Germain.

Sunday saw the start of the campaign proper with a visit to **Sens** (Agedincum to we Romanists), close to where Caesar assembled his troops at the start of his campaign in 52 BC. Today Sens has many medieval buildings, and is surrounded by the remains of the Roman wall. A walking tour took us to visit the best preserved parts of the wall after which we walked into the centre of the town to visit the Romanesque Cathedral of St Etienne and the local museum. This last proved to be a little gem. Housed in the archbishop's palace it was built on the remains of a Gallo-Roman villa, which had been excavated and incorporated into the museum.

Although the site of a Gallo-Roman sanctuary, **Vezelay** is now best known and most visited for its reconstructed Romanesque abbey church. It is one of the main stopping points on the pilgrimage route to Compostella, and on a Sunday it was naturally packed with tourists. The abbey is of very simple design, and beautifully proportioned – a point more easily recognised by the absence of furniture in the nave. Unfortunately the climb to the abbey, which is on top of a hill at the end of the village street, was longer than advertised, so by the time exhausted climbers had been rounded up, and ice creams eaten, we were well behind schedule. This forced us to miss a visit to the Roman camp at **Cora**, which was a pity, because on arrival at **Escolives-Ste-Camille** the site of the villa and bath house was closed. Undeterred we peered through fencing at the substantial remains, and under Mark's imaginative guidance we were able to get a clear idea of the lay-out of the site. Before leaving many of the group sought solace in the village market, which was in full swing, and where could be bought large quantities of local grown cherries at knock down prices.

On Monday morning we visited **Mount Beuvray**. This is the site of Bibracte, the hill top capital of the Aedui in the 1st and 2nd centuries BC. The Aedui were one of the most powerful tribes in Gaul, and amongst the first to accept Romanisation. Although they took part in the rebellion of Vercingetorix in 52 BC, they were soon forgiven, and it is said that Caesar wrote part of his History of the Gallic wars while staying at Bibracte. The vast (135 ha) site is protected all round by vast ramparts, parts of which have been recreated and give a clear idea of how impressive they would have looked. Inside the fortress, numerous international excavations continue to be carried out, and these are building up a picture of how the town was arranged through the Iron Age and into Roman times. At the foot of the hill is splendid new museum, which tells the story of Bibracte, and through dioramas and finds displays gives a clear idea of the daily life of the Aedui.

A few decades after the conquest, the Aedui moved their capital to **Autun**, where they constructed a typical Roman town. Time (the ever present enemy) permitted us only a drive by view, but if we craned our necks in the right direction, and got lucky, we got glimpses of the walls, the Roman gate of Porte-de-St. André (which, as Mark never tires of telling us, is how the Balkerne gate might have looked), the "Temple of Janus", the Roman theatre and much, much more.

The afternoon stop was at **Nuits St. Georges**, which (forget the wine and get your priorities right) was the site of the important Gallo-Roman sanctuary site of Les Bolards. After a flying visit to the small but beautifully presented museum at Nuit St. Georges we drove to the Les Bolards site. Surprise, surprise, the custodian had locked up and gone home early. But we were able to get a splendid eagle's eye view from the coach, this time over the fence, and with Mark's help and the plans he provided, get an excellent idea of the layout of the sanctuary site. Although in some ways a typical Gallo-Roman temple it was enclosed within an apsoidal colonnade, and had a frontal podium with covered gallery. There was also a separate Mithraeum to the north. And so to Dijon.

On Tuesday the morning visit was to **Alesia**, where, in 52 BC, Caesar laid siege to the settlement and eventually forced Vercingetorix to surrender, effectively ending the Gallic War. Standing on top of the hill, we could appreciate just what Caesar's army had achieved, building two lines of fortifications around the oppidum. The

present village has a small, interesting museum and at the summit, above the village, are remains of the post siege, romanised town, showing a theatre, temple, basilica and forum, together with commercial and residential districts.

In the afternoon we visited **Fontenay**, a Cistercian abbey, founded in 1118 by St. Bernard, with its stark interior, associated dormitory, cloisters and beautiful gardens. On our way back to Dijon we saw the source of the Seine. Unfortunately the archaeological sanctuary was closed and completely overgrown, and only the Napoleon III grotto, complete with statue, was visible. Before leaving **Dijon** on Wednesday, we had time to explore the City or visit the Archaeological Museum, where there were artefacts from Bibracte and votive offerings from the source of the Seine.

In **Chatillon-sur-Seine** we were amazed by the 6th century BC Vix burial. When excavated in 1953, archaeologists found a huge metal Krator with elaborate handles and embossed frieze, and a burial cart, as well as other precious objects.

After lunch we travelled to the village of **Grand**, which was a major sanctuary site of Apollo Grannus, said to have been visited by the Emperors Caracalla and Constantine. We saw the large mosaic, which covered the floor of the Basilica, and walked through the village to see the semi-restored amphitheatre, built originally between 80 and 120 AD, and which seated 17,000 spectators. Today two thirds of it has been covered by wooden seating, which both protects the stonework and makes the theatre usable for musical and other events.

The visit to **Metz** was one of the highlights of CAM Ventures' tour which gave a vivid insight into how Caesar had expanded the gallic oppidum into the City of "Divodurum Mediomatricorum" by the utilisation of the natural resources of salt, iron and the development of the wine, glass and pottery industries which kept the economy of the province prosperous until the middle of the third century when it was ruined by the Barbarian invasion. The development of the Roman city is aptly illustrated by the remains of the city baths (see Musee de la Cour d'Or), amphitheatres and the provision of fresh water supplies to the township via the Gorze aqueduct which is a unique and excellent example of Roman engineering. The influence of the church in the Middle Ages was there to be appreciated in the magnificent Gothic cathedral of St. Etienne with its 126 ft vaulted roof and the beautiful stained glass windows dating from the 13th to the 20th century. St. Martin's church has part of the Roman wall incorporated in its structure. The city has a distinct German architectural influence which was created by the annexation of the Lorraine and Alsace provinces in the Franco-Prussian war of 1871. The railway station which was constructed between 1905 and 1908 is an excellent example of Germanic design of a facility built for both domestic and military use being at the confluence of the rivers Moselle and Seille which was strategically placed for either purpose. A ride on the miniature train gave an excellent visual insight into the various architectural periods which have shaped the City of Metz.

The tour continued to **Arlon** (Orolaunum Vicus), one of the oldest Roman towns in Belgium, which was an important Roman trading post on the route from Reims to Trier. It has various Roman remains such a section of the town wall and baths as well an excellent museum and churches from the Middle Ages. A more modern aspect in the centre of the town is the model of an American tank which was used in the American counter-offensive that relieved Bastogne at the end of 1944.

In complete contrast was a visit to the Archaeological Park of **Montauban** near Buzenol. The steep climb to this site revealed an iron-age earth rampart which was later replaced by a Gallo-Roman fort built as a defence against the Franks. Although little remains, it illustrates the limits of an early Celtic defence structure to the much more superior Roman fort design of the late 2nd century AD.

The visits to Metz, Arlon and the Archaeological Park has given a wonderful insight into how the immediate hinterland had developed over many centuries since the Roman conquest and in its cultural development promoted in the main by the Christian church in the Middle Ages.

Saturday saw us in **Maastricht** (Hotel Mabi), where Mark took us on a tour of the city (Roman name – Traiectum ad Mosam). There are traces of a late Iron Age settlement. Several Roman buildings have been identified within a "castellum" built on the west side of the river including a temple (now beneath the present 10th cent. church) a bathhouse and a grain store. We were also able to visit the cathedral.

After lunch we travelled a few kilometres to see an excavated bathhouse at **Heerten** (Coriovallum) where the whole structure has been revealed and interpreted. Coriovallum lies at the intersection of two major roman roads shown on the Peutinger map and it developed into an important Roman trading centre until it was de-

stroyed by invaders from the north. From there we went on to visit the wonderful 8th cent. cathedral at Aachen, build as part of Charlemagne's palace complex and where he was later buried. A wonderful building richly decorated in an eastern style with many beautiful mosaics.

On Sunday we journeyed to **Tongeren** ((Atuatuca Tungrorum). In 15 BC this was a stronghold of the Eburones a Belgic tribe. We were able to walk round part of the 2.5 miles of walls built in the 2nd cent. and to see the oldest temple/basilica in Belgium. It is built unusually in Italian classical style and would have been very imposing. After the barbarian invasions in the 4th cent. many buildings were demolished to build an inner fortification. Tongeren also has a very fine Gallo-Roman museum.

Monday was the last day of our trip. We left Maastricht and travelled to **Bavay** (Bagacum) where almost an entire forum has been excavated. Situated on a pivotal point of two Roman roads it was the "civitas" of the warlike Nervii. After the Gallic wars it became an important Roman strategic centre with a population around 15000 and military defences.

The next stop was **Arras** (Nemetacum) civitas of the Belgic Atrebates where work is being done at the site of a temple and shrine including a bathhouse and town walls. It was later re-fortified in the late roman period and subsequently became a Merovigian centre. After a short stop to take on supplies we returned to Colchester via Calais.

Altogether a wonderful trip giving us an insight into the unification of Roman Gaul and the later collapse of the empire in the west.

We are indebted to Mark Davies for his preparation of the tour, his knowledge and the very useful maps and background information to help our understanding.

A tower in the Roman Wall at Sens (Agedincum)

Obituaries

Kathleen Arragon Evans 1919-2004

We record with sadness that Kath Evans died peacefully in her sleep at Penarth on 8^{0}' March 2004.

Kath became an outstanding member of the Group from the early days of Red Hill investigation; notably at the (1971-2) Osea Road, Maldon excavations. She was living then at Peldon but during the week was a valued member of the staff at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, London. Kath shared Kay de Brisay's great interest in Iron Age Salt Production along the Essex Coast since Kath found she also had her own Red Hill at the bottom of her Peldon Garden.

This site was soon the subject of a full excavation by members of the Group from 1973-4 and it also formed the main exhibit at an ambitious weekend conference held at the University of Essex later that year. From lecturers' papers came "Salt" the first publication compiled by Kay de Brisay and Kath as a Group publication in 1975.

A part of Kath's life she rarely mentioned and of which few people were aware, disclosed the fact that she was the widow of Lt. Ernest Frederick Evans Royal Engineers, who died in World War II in Holland at Nijmegen at the very end of hostilities in 1945. This place was very close to Arnhem, the tragic sites commemorated in the famous film "A Bridge Too Far".

Many members of the Group will remember Kath's son Dr Edward Evans, based at Cardiff University. Edward warmly welcomed the Group to a conference held there at which he had arranged some of the activities for us.

When Kath retired, her drive, organisational prowess and enthusiasm soon saw the position of Chairman and also of honorary Editor of the Bulletin 1979 placed upon her shoulders. This she carried out with her usual thoroughness until her final years when a move to Penarth near her son and his family seemed desirable.

With James Fawn, Treasurer of the Group, Kath was a leading light in the production of the book "The Red Hills of Essex" published in 1990 after many years of research. Numerous visits to museums, being of utmost importance for purposes of comparison and illustrations of briquetage types, the vital remains of salt making utensils and hearths. Finally the work was completed. Extra help was provided by other members and outside bodies. It was truly a great achievement with Kath's effort being a major part of it. Future students of the ancient salt industry both here and abroad will gain benefit from its publication.

No resting on her laurels for Kath however. She immediately set about encouraging this present writer to carry out a long cherished desire to produce "Mount Bures: Its lands and its People", a village history that had been researched for over two decades. Within several years (1996) Kath and I achieved this aim. Here I gratefully acknowledge that without Kath's direction and expertise there would have been no publication. Kath was remorseless in her own special, gentle manner; but what fun we had along the way! "Rewrite that section", she would say, "I can't understand a word of it!" and I meekly did so without question.
We will not be alone in missing Kath's rock-like support. She gave enormous spirit to the Group. Everyone who knew her will remember Kath with affection and admiration.

Our sympathy goes to Kath's large family in Cardiff, her son Edward, his wife Judith, three grandchildren and four great grandchildren. And to her sister Beryl at West Mersea, hostess to several Group summer parties over the years.

Ida McMaster

Rosemary York-Moore

Rosemary York-Moore moved from near Kidderminster to Prettygate, Colchester in 1991, in order to be near her married daughter and family.

She joined the Colchester Archaeological Group about ten years ago and soon became a regular at the evening meetings at the Castle, usually sitting with her two friends in or near the front row. She did not want to miss anything a rather quietly spoken lecturer might say.

She came to our Summer and Christmas parties, usually contributing a particularly delicious pudding - a pav-

lova. She enjoyed several of our four-day spring trips to various parts of the country.

In recent years she was a cheerful and hard-working member of the group, recording grave stones, cellars and graffitti in the Castle. She was always friendly and interested in everybody.

She was taken ill in February of this year and died on 20th May. She is much missed.

Pat Adkins 1933-2003

The Group lost a very long-standing member with the death of Pat Adkins on 29th December 2003.

With his son, Kelvin, Pat regularly did all the projecting at the winter lectures for several years. Kelvin has already written a splendid obituary about his father's activities and family history in Essex Archaeology and History News for Spring 2004. This present tribute would endorse everything described by Kelvin. Whatever Pat did, he did to the best of his ability. Several anecdotes have stayed in this writer's memory; how in his Fire Brigade service, for instance, he and his colleagues were called out in the October 1987 hurricane to rescue an elderly man whose roof had blown off. Pat and his team battled to get through, chopping down trees across their route to the coast. It took them a long time. "Did you reach him, Pat?" I asked. "Yes" replied Pat, with a rueful twinkle, " but the old fellow just would not leave his home."

One of Pat's sisters suffered an irreparable brain injury in a most tragic bicycle accident when she was only 19. Pat promised his mother that he would visit his sister as long as she lived. He kept that promise scrupulously, even during the years when he himself was fighting his own terminal lung condition. That was the kind generous man he was.

Pat, sometimes with Kelvin, made a number of contributions to our Annual Bulletin between 1983 and 1993, and also wrote for other journals on his archaeological activities, which included aerial photography. Having had the pleasure of sharing flights with Pat and Kelvin to photograph crop-marks, I will always remember Pat's enthusiasm for the numerous archaeological features we were privileged to record and also his ready willingness to a subsequent exchange of slides to help one another's particular interest in a site. Not only was Pat a true "salt of the earth", but also fair-minded in any undertaking. Truly one of life's real gentlemen.

Our sympathy is extended to Betty, Kelvin and their family.