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COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Anna Moore

As you will see when you read through this year's Bulletin, CAG has enjoyed another active year. The excavations at Marks Hall, near Coggeshall, have uncovered the footprint of the Jacobean mansion, as expected, but then further investigations have revealed evidence of the Tudor and medieval buildings that pre-dated the mansion. The Cropmark Survey team has continued to explore the very extensive evidence of prehistoric and later activity in the Stour Valley between Bures and Wormingford. This year's hot, dry summer has proved to be particularly useful in allowing more aerial photography to be added to the existing archive. The temporary closure of Colchester Castle has revealed further graffiti on the walls, the recording of which was started some years ago by Group members and continued during this last year.

For the first time since the founding of the Group, the winter lecture season was held in a venue away from the Castle. The room in the Lion Walk URC has proved to be very popular, with attendance numbers holding up well, and we shall continue to use the same room for the 2013-14 season. The library was successfully moved into temporary premises in Roman Circus House, thanks to the generous offer of a room by Phillip Crummy of the Colchester Archaeological Trust.

After many years of the Group's online presence being hosted by Jess Jephcott, our new independent website has now been up and running for several months. Up to date information on Group activities is available by logging on to www.caguk.net, and from there you can link to the Facebook page for more informal comments and photographs. Thanks go to Philip Cunningham and his team for bringing this to completion.

The reports on two longstanding projects have finally been brought to fruition. James Fawn sadly died before he could complete reports on the excavations on the site of the Longinus tomb in Beverley Road, Colchester, and on the Roman Road in Great Tey, but he left copious notes and drawings. The reports based on these notes have now been completed by John Mallinson and are available for viewing on the website.

We enjoyed a varied Summer Programme, beginning with a visit to the empty shell of Colchester Castle, once the museum had been cleared of exhibits and furniture in advance of a major refurbishment. A coach trip to the British Museum took us to see the exhibition Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum, and later in the same month we enjoyed an afternoon visit to four churches in Suffolk. The annual residential weekend was based in Chichester, from where we visited the Isle of Wight as well as many interesting sites on the mainland. A coach trip in June took us to St Albans, where we visited the remains of Verulamium and the museum, as well as the (comparatively) modern town centre, returning via Great Warley to see the Arts and Crafts Church of St Mary. Later in June, Mark Davies led an evening walk around Colchester's Roman Walls. On a beautiful warm July evening, our annual Summer Party was held, by kind invitation of the Trustees of Marks Hall, in the Coach House, their very attractive events venue. Finally, in August, we were invited by Geoffrey Probert of Bevills in Bures, on a tour of his Tudor manor house and gardens, and the Chapel of St Stephen, also in Bures.

We look forward to as varied and active a year in 2013-14.

EDITORIAL

Pat Brown

Now that we have our own website much of the material in the Bulletin will be appearing there, so that the future form of the Bulletin is uncertain. However we are well aware that many members will still like to have a printed Bulletin and so this will be available in the foreseeable future, thanks to our ever helpful printers, Mailbox. This Bulletin would never have reached you without Anna Moore's help in sorting out my many technical problems—for which I am extremely grateful.

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY 2013

Report by John Camp

The CBA year can best be described as one of steady progress.

The first good news is the success of the bursaries scheme operated in conjunction with English Heritage and CADW, with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a programme to provide skills for the future. Half of the 51 bursaries offered to date are aimed at young people. Since 2011 it has helped train people for Community Archaeology including involvement in the British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme. Students receive on the job training focussed on developing interpersonal, organisational, analytical and personal skills.

Another programme the CBA has been running in partnership with English Heritage and CADW has been support for archaeological research projects using "Challenge Funding". This encourages independent, voluntary effort to study and care for the historic environment by awarding grants up to £1000. The nearest recipient to Colchester is the Cambridge Archaeology Field Group to assess a lithic assemblage from field walking at Oily Hall Lode.

The CBA has had a busy year including dealing with a caseload of 4000 Listed Building applications in England and Wales. It saved the Mast House, a Grade II* listed building, at Sheerness Dockyard from demolition by developers who wanted to build a wind turbine factory on the site. Its annual Festival of Archaeology is now in its 22nd year. Its winter meeting was held over 3 days in York. The Young Archaeologists Club celebrated 40 years with parties across the country. Next year, to align with the Centenary of the outbreak of World War I, it is embarking on a new project to bring together a more comprehensive database of WWI related sites and safeguard them for the future.

The reorganised regional group CBA East is now fully functioning holding a variety of events. The AGM in May was held in Cambridge, followed by a tour of historical sites led by Nick James. In June there was a tour of Saffron Walden and Audley End. Finally, in September they organised a conference on "Recent Anglo-Saxon Research in the East of England" at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral. The group is well worth joining and the annual fee is £5.00. There is no requirement to join the national body. Details can be found on www.archaeologyuk.org/cbae or contact alison.tinniswood@hertscc.gov.uk. In addition, the national bi-monthly magazine "British Archaeology" is well worth the annual subscription of £27. Alternatively, a subscription to the national CBA, costing £34, includes this magazine.

YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS' CLUB

Report by Barbara Butler

Colchester Young Archaeologists re-started at St Martin's Church, West Stockwell Street, on a cold day in October 2012, with six keen members and three volunteers. From then, the membership has increased to more than twenty seven. We have six enthusiastic volunteer leaders and are now settled into Roman Circus House for most of our meetings. Our first meeting there included looking at and identifying local finds with Emma Holloway, who took us on a tour of the Trust's Butt Road dig. Bad weather disrupted meetings early this year. We have had a most enjoyable field-walking in Wormingford organised by Amanda Findlay and Howard Brooks. This was followed up with a flint identification session led by Adam Wightman of CAT. "I've never see a group of children completely fascinated by stones for two hours", remarked one of the parents, who stayed for the session. We had a time line going back from the 21st century which, Adam said, to go back to palaeolithic would have to go through the door and out of the room. One of our best attended meetings was the dig at Mark's Hall in July, where the children were given a section of a medieval midden pit to dig, and sorted and identified their finds. They were reluctant to leave and go home. The members will be circulated with a programme for 2014, when it is planned to have a chronological year, starting with the Mesolithic.

OBITUARY

Mick Matthews March 1947 – February 2013

Bernard Colbron and Ida MacMaster

We were all sorry and shocked to hear that Mick Matthews had passed away. At the time he seemed in good health and was digging at his sites when the weather was favourable.

Being a long term member of CAG he occasionally brought in his finds and there were intense discussions, over a pint or two, about them. All his finds and drawings were meticulously noted; drawn and inscribed which left no doubt as to when, where and in what state they were found.

He had been using his detector on Ida McMaster's farm land for a number of years and we found it most interesting. There was a very fine Roman kiln right beside the TV pylons at Great Cornard which I know he spent a great deal of time on. Nearly all of Mick's excavations were in Suffolk and full reports are held by Suffolk Archaeology.

They have laid Mick to rest in the churchyard of the exquisite Little Cornard church, a smaller edifice than even Mount Bures. Mick's four grandchildren's photographs and words accompany him for comfort and he was beloved by all his family members.

A fine man indeed, he will be missed by many of us, as will his talks to the Group.

COWLINS FIELD, MOUNT BURES: EXCAVATION OF A NEOLITHIC LONGBARROW

Anna Moore, Denise Hardy

Introduction

A series of impressive cropmarks along the valley of the River Stour, which separates Essex from Suffolk, has been known about for some time ¹. In 1974/5, one of a group of ring-ditches (TL91253308) lying on land belonging to Mr H C Cowlin at Mount Bures, Essex, i.e. south of the river, was excavated by members of the Colchester Archaeological Group ². Cremated bone and sherds of probable Bronze Age pottery were recovered during this excavation. Close by this group lies a monument that has been interpreted from the cropmarks as a longbarrow (TL91353310).

An aerial photograph (hereafter the **AP**) taken in 1996 and published in 'Essex from the Air' by David Strachan showed two parallel lines of cropmarks some 45m long and 22m apart, most probably ditches, with two lines of pits between them (Illustration 1). Strachan suggested that "the lines result from quarry ditches from an earthen longbarrow and that the pits supported timber posts of a structure covered by the mound." The AP also showed other linear features that look like ditches to the north of the 'longbarrow' that may, or may not, be associated with it.

Illustration 1 Cowlins Field cropmarks from 'Essex From the Air'. Copyright of Essex County Council.



In April 2011, a fieldwalk was carried out in the fields containing both the ringditch and longbarrow cropmarks, and a number of flints were found which were identified as Neolithic, but not close enough to the supposed longbarrow to be linked with it ³.

On the surface of the same field as the longbarrow cropmarks and just a few metres away from them, in 1984 the landowner found a late Neolithic flint adze (Martingell 2011).

In September 2011, the landowner David Cowlin (son of Mr H C Cowlin), kindly invited Colchester Archaeological Group to excavate the longbarrow site.

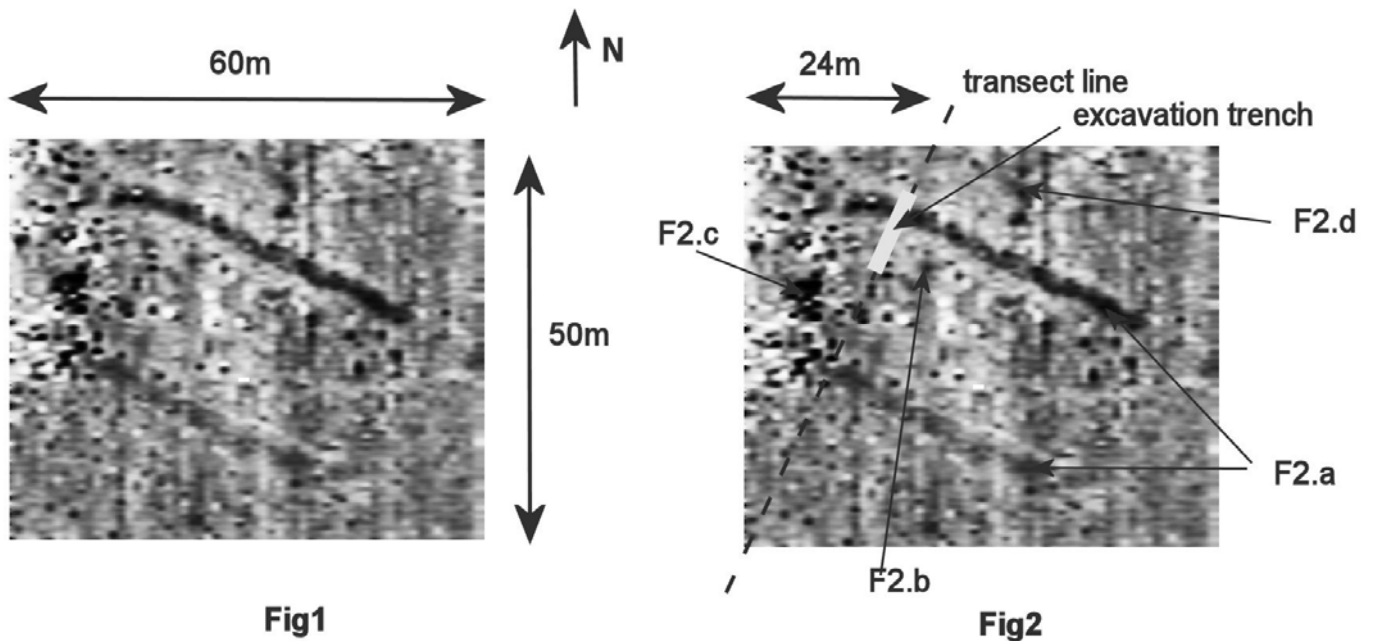
Geophysical survey - Method and Results.

The objectives of this geophysical survey were:

- (i) to locate the main features on the ground with sufficient accuracy to support an informed decision as to where to carry out an excavation; and,
- (ii) to identify any features that were not apparent on the AP.

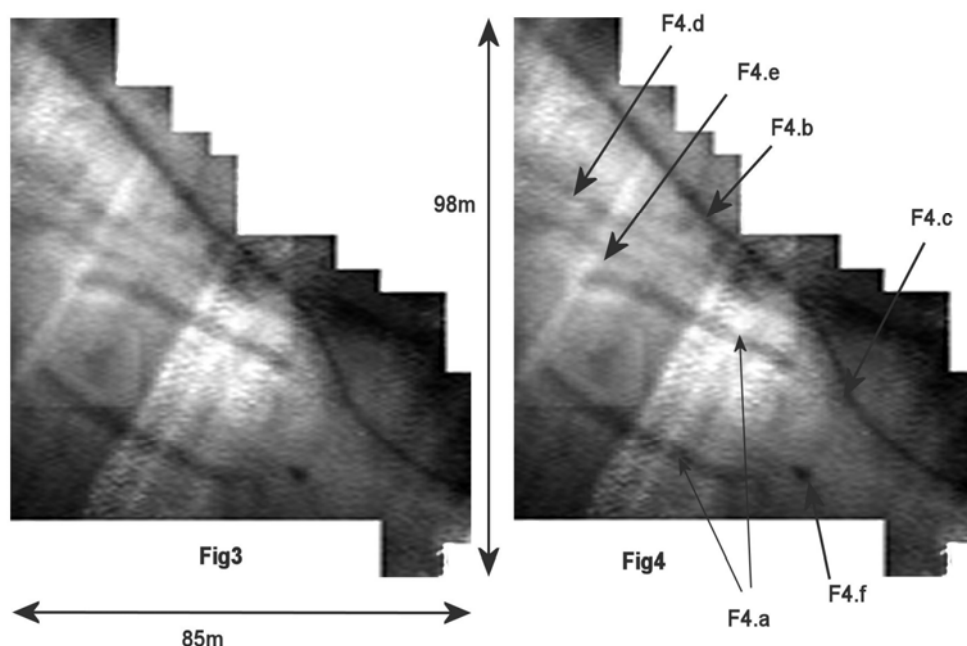
Two geophysical survey techniques were used; magnetometry, followed by resistance; using the same baseline for both surveys.

The magnetometry survey of an area 60m by 50m was carried out in March 2011 using a Geoscan Research FM 18 Fluxgate Gradiometer. Each grid was surveyed in a south to north direction along lines 1m apart, taking four readings per metre along each line. **Fig 1** shows the geophysical image from the magnetometry survey (hereafter the **magplot**). **Fig 2** is the same magplot, annotated to identify the more significant features. Also marked on Fig 2 is the location of the excavation trench which was subsequently dug.



The resistance survey commenced in September 2011 using a CIA/TR Systems resistance meter. Readings were taken every 0.5m along lines 1m apart. Completion was delayed until mid October, when the crop was lifted, by the presence of several rows of potatoes running diagonally across the centre of the site. In the meantime the opportunity was taken to extend the survey to the north and east of the area as far as the field boundaries allowed. **Fig 3** shows the geophysical image from the resistance survey (hereafter the **resplot**). **Fig 4** is the same resplot, annotated to identify some of the more significant features.

Throughout this report on a magplot **dark** represents a strong magnetic field; on a resplot **dark** repre-



sents low resistance. Using this convention physical features such as ditches and pits tend to appear as dark features on both types of plot. Both the magplot and resplot are printed at the same scale (1:1,000).

Discussion

The magplot **Fig1** covered the area containing the main feature that was the target of the survey. Unfortunately, much of this site turned out to be magnetically 'noisy', due to the ground being contaminated with ferrous junk (common on farm sites) and bonfire debris, both of which tend to obscure the underlying archaeology. Whilst the main ditches of the feature were readily identified on the magplot, none of the 'postholes' could be located with certainty.

The two curvilinear features **F2.a** on the magplot correspond closely to features on the AP thought by Strachan to be the remains of the quarry ditches of an earthen longbarrow. Feature **F2.b** appears to be one of several pits or 'postholes' (which unfortunately do not show up as clearly or as evenly spaced on the magplot as on the AP) that Strachan suggested may have supported timber posts of a structure covered by the mound. The transect line of the **excavation trench** was chosen with the intention of cutting through both the NW section of the 'quarry ditch' and one of the more convincing 'postholes' on the magplot. The irregular dark feature **F2.c**, one of several in the NW quadrant of the plot, may be evidence of burning which, given the close proximity to farm buildings and nearby remains of 'bonfires', may well be recent in origin. Scattered across the plot, but again most noticeable in the NW quadrant, are numerous 'iron spikes', isolated dark spots each closely coupled with a white flare, typically caused by ferrous junk, most likely of recent agricultural origin.

Resistance measurement is unaffected by ferrous junk and burning, which partly explains why the corresponding NW quadrant on the resplot **Fig3** is much less cluttered. The faint white (higher resistance) traces which run SW to NE across the resplot follow the line of modern ploughing (and of the potatoes) and are probably agricultural rather than archaeological in origin. The two curvilinear ditches **F4.a** are readily identifiable, as on the magplot **F2.a**, but strangely there is no clear evidence on the resplot for the 'postholes' that appear on the AP. The most noticeable feature **F4.b** on the resplot is a ditch, some 120m in length, running diagonally across the plot from the NW to SE corner. There is a distinct kink, or change in direction, in this ditch at **F4.c** as it passes the open eastern end of the 'longbarrow', suggesting that the latter was extant when the ditch was constructed. The eastern section of this ditch, with its kink, is not visible on the AP, because at that time there was a different crop in this part of the field. Two smaller and fainter linear features **F4.d** and **F4.e** are ditches that also appear on the AP. Only a small part of the ditch feature **F4.b**, about 10m in length, appears faintly as **F2.d** on the magplot. Finally, there is an irregular feature **F4.f** on the resplot, just outside the open eastern end of the 'longbarrow', which appears to be a pit about 2m across. With the eye of faith this pit-like feature can be seen, albeit faintly, on the magplot.

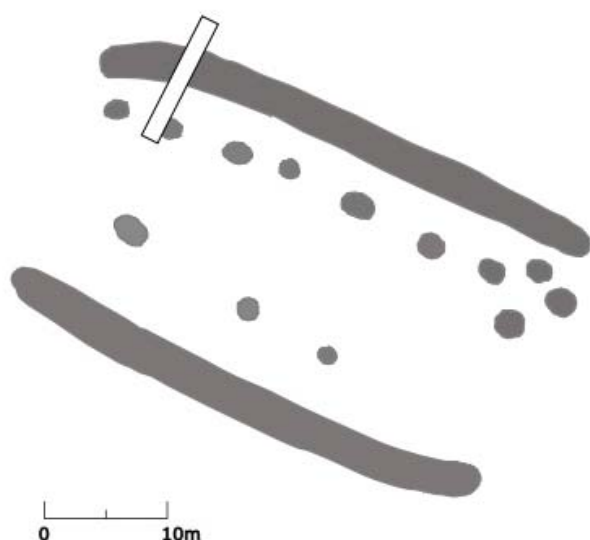


Illustration 2 Plan of the ditches and pits with the excavation trench marked

Excavation

An exploratory trench was dug in order to establish the width and depth of the ditch, the depth and shape of one of the pits/postholes, and to recover any datable material. The trench was placed towards the west end of the northern ditch, taking in the largest of the pits/postholes (Illustration 2). All excavation was carried out by hand, with no machining. About 300mm of modern ploughsoil was removed; beneath this was a layer of subsoil, consisting of between 300mm-400mm of orange sandy loam, which was also removed.

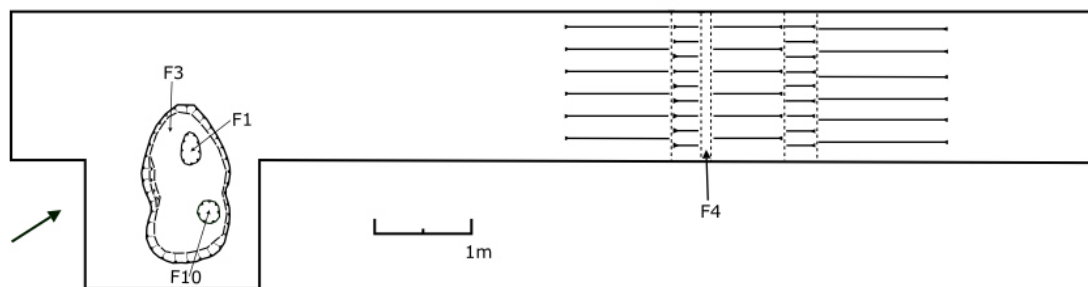


Illustration 3 Plan of the trench, showing the ditch and pit

The Ditch

The fill of the ditch (F4) was a light sandy silt; lower down were layers of gravel and a thick layer of black organic material (F9), which contained charcoal. A small sherd of prehistoric pot (Neolithic or Bronze Age) was found close to the northern edge of the ditch, at the bottom of the subsoil. The cut of the ditch was steeper on the southern edge than the northern; at its deepest it was 1.64m from the bottom of the subsoil. Given the wide gap between the north and south ditches, the northern ditch did not seem to be of sufficient size to have supplied enough earth for a substantial mound.

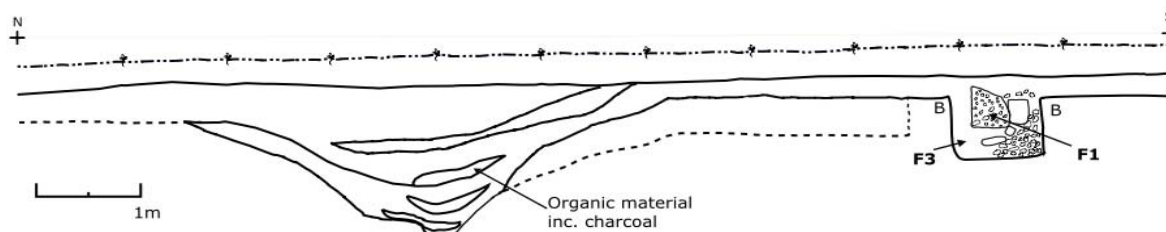


Illustration 4 Ditch and pit: Section showing layer of charcoal; Pit (F3) with posthole (F1)

The Charcoal

The charcoal was sent for analysis to Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC). The sample produced a determination of 4770 ± 30 BP, dating this activity to 3641-3516calBC.

The Pit

The pit or posthole (F3) was a 'waisted' oval in plan, 1m60cm long and 77cm wide at its narrowest point, with a depth of between 1m18cm - 1m20cm. The sides were almost vertical, although there had been a slump of sandy gravel on the south edge. The fill was a stone-free yellow-brown sandy silt. Two later possible postholes had been cut into the fill of the pit (F1 & F10). F1 was visible above the level of the top of pit F3; the top of F10 was level with the top of F3. The fill of posthole F1 was a dark, thick gravel; the fill of posthole F10 was a dark, much finer gravel. The postholes were located roughly one at each end of F3 and it is possible that F3 represents two circular pits, one of which had been cut into the other, and each with a later posthole. However, there was no indication of a later cut, and the fill of the pit was uniform throughout. F3 also contained a number of other possible stakeholes.

Two sherds of probably Neolithic or Bronze Age pottery and a small piece of cremated, probably human bone was found in the fill of F3, close to but below the bottom of posthole F1. The pot and bone were found at the same level, but otherwise not associated with each other. Both are assumed to be residual.

A number of worked flints were found in the upper layers as well as in the ditch and in the pit. The flints report follows.

A ground level survey across the site was conducted and it showed a very slight rise over the area of the longbarrow before the ground fell away to the hedge which bordered the northern edge of the field.

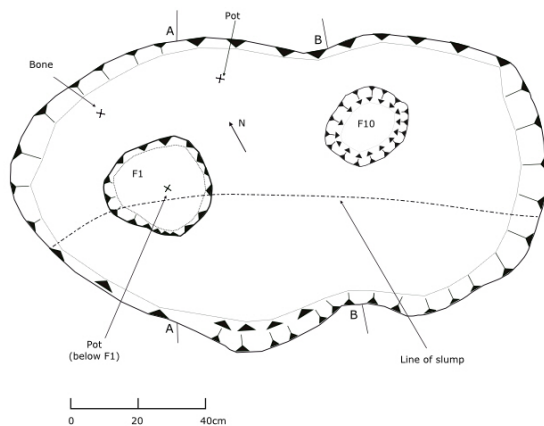


Illustration 5 Plan of pit showing two possible postholes

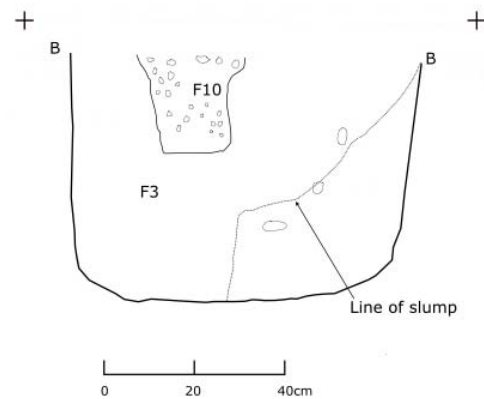


Illustration 6 Pit F3; section showing possible posthole F10

Conclusions

The ditches of the monument measure approximately 45m from end to end, and are about 22m apart. The long axis is roughly parallel to the river and on rising ground above the flood plain, so that the best view of the monument would have been from the valley bottom or from the opposite side of the river.

On that side (i.e. on the Suffolk side) appears the cropmark of a cursus, the western end of which has been truncated by the digging of a quarry. The cursus also stood on rising ground above the flood plain of the river, and so, assuming that the monuments were contemporary with each other, would almost certainly have been visible from the longbarrow.

Recent investigations of longbarrows have suggested that the stages of construction were as follows: a mortuary enclosure was built at which some sort of ritual took place, and bones were deposited; this structure was then extended some time later, usually to the west, so that the mortuary structure ended up being at the east end of the monument; then ditches were dug and a mound formed over the top of the structure, which also sealed the entrance; this effectively ended its function as a place of burial, although the bones of the ancestors were left interred

However, it seems unlikely that the pits at the Bures monument represent the remains of a structure. The line of pits alongside the northern ditch is not matched by a similar number on the southern side; neither are the pits on the southern side parallel with the ditch as they are on the northern side, but appear more random. Also, the line of pits in the north are about 5m apart and about 12m in distance from those in the south, which would seem to be too far apart to support a roofed building. At the eastern end of the

monument and just inside the curve of the northern ditch, a group of pits forms a rough square, and this may represent some type of 'mortuary enclosure'. If so, it may be that instead of being extended as a structure, a line of pits was dug to the west, which then stood in isolation for some time, possibly containing posts as markers. These would have been clearly visible from the cursus on the northern bank of the river.

At some point, the pits were filled in, possibly at the same time that the ditches were dug. In the pit (or pits) that was excavated, posts were inserted in the fill of the pit, and these were later removed and the postholes backfilled. The earth from the ditches may have been used to create a mound, but given the size of the ditches compared to the area of the monument, earth would have to have been brought in from elsewhere to create the size of mound suggested by the cropmarks. Another possibility is that a narrower mound, made from the earth from the ditches could have been erected, possibly in the centre between the rows of pits. The 300-400mm of subsoil could represent a ploughed-out barrow.

Given the limited nature of the excavation, it is not possible to say whether the pits are contemporary with each other, or whether the two ditches were dug at the same time. Any future excavation could be concentrated on the eastern end to try to establish the presence of a mortuary enclosure.

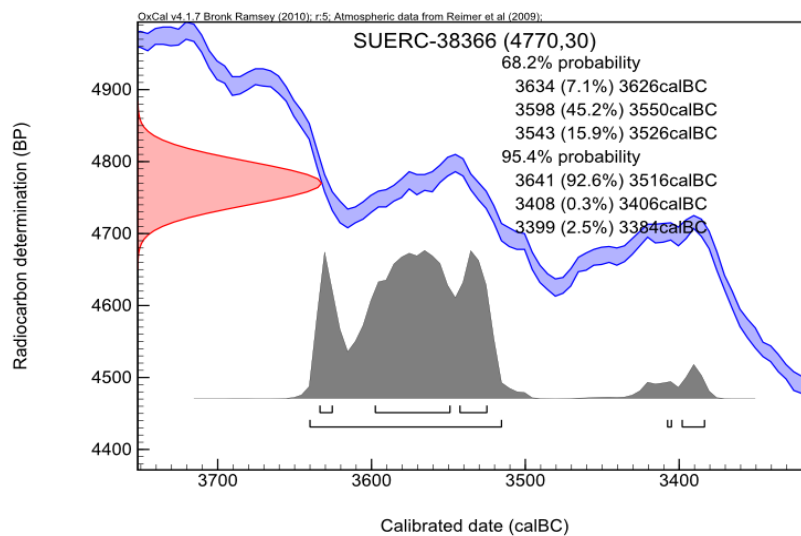


Illustration 7 Radiocarbon report on the charcoal



Illustration 8 The bone and pot from F3

Flints Report
Denise Hardy

Context No.	Feature/Trench/Layer No.	Description
1 (1 of 2)	T1 L1	Stone showing signs of hammering;* -
1 (2 of 2)	T1 L1	1-blade; 1- retouched natural piece; 1-flake;1-debitage; 1-secondary flake; 2-tertiary flakes; 8- chippings.
2		1-Blade –repatenated – Mesolithic/early Neolithic; 1-retouched flake; 1-notched bladelet; 1-core fragment; 1-small pot lid retouched and repatenated; 2-flake fragments; 1-retouched piece; 1-retouched natural.* 7-debitage; 4-chippings; 2-waste flakes; 2-burnt flints.
3 (1 of 2)		3- pot boilers; 1- small burnt flint; 1- chipping, primary.
3 (2 of 2)		1-blade- early Neolithic, good; 1-retouched notched flake; 1-retouched pointed piercer; 1-flaked natural; 1-retouched natural, patination reformed; 1-retouched flake; 1-burin on blade? 3-retouched naturals, 1-notched flake fragment; 1-small scraper, 1-flake fragment; 1-blade fragment; 1-undiagnosed piece; 1-waste piece.*
4 (1 of 2)	T1 L1 topsoil	1-core; 8-debitage; 2-primary flakes; 9-secondary flakes; 7-tertiary flakes; 10-chippings; 1- burnt flint (pot boiler?).
4 (2 of 2)	T1 L1 topsoil	1-blade core; 1-retouched irregular shaped natural piece; 1-retouched natural; 1- retouched flake; 1- notched flake; 1-small piercer, 1-denticulated broken piece, 1-burnt piece. Chippings; 1- burnt flint.*
6	T1 L1	1-piercer; 2- chippings; 3-flakes; 4-debitage; *
6 (2 of 2??)		1-chipping; 1-burnt flint (pot boiler?)
7	T1 L2	2-cores; 1-bladelet; 1-flake, good; 1-scraper on natural, 1-flake;3- retouched naturals, 1-debitage; 2-tertiary debitage; 3-chippings.*
8		1- awl; 2-cores; 1-notched flake, tertiary; 1-reworked flake; 5 - primary debitage; 5-secondary debitage; 4-tertiary debitage; 3-flake chips.
8 (2 of 2)		2-retouched naturals; 1-retouched flake; 1-bladelet; 1-flake fragment.*
11 (1 of 2)		1- Core; 3- flakes, primary; 7–flakes, secondary; 5 - flakes, tertiary.
11 (2 of 2)		2-piercers; 4-retouched natural; 2-flakes; 1-flake fragment; 1-retouched flake. *
11 (3 of 3)		Burnt flint.
12	F4 T1 L1	1-broad blade, Mesolithic/early Neolithic; 1-flake; 3- debitage; 5-waste flakes.
13	F4 T1 L1	1-chipping.
16 (1 of 2)		2- small cores; 3 ½ bladelets; 2- debitage; 2- flakes, primary; 14- flakes, secondary; 3- flakes, tertiary; 9-flake chippings, tertiary.
17	T1 L1	1-retouched notched piece;1-debitage; 2-flakes; 2-chippings.*
18	F3 L1	1- notched piece, good; 1-reworked flake; 2– chippings; 1-reworked primary flake; 1-secondary flake, 4-debitage; 7-chippings.
23		2-cores; 1-peircer; 1-burin, Neolithic,1-blade; 4-debitage. *

24			8-secondary flakes; 4-tertiary flakes; 7-chippings, 4-Cores; 1-debitage; 1-chipping, primary; 24- chippings, secondary; 29- chippings, tertiary; 1-debitage.
24 (2 of 2)			1-debitage; 8-chippings; 1-burnt flint chip.
25	T1 L2		1-retouched circular piece, possibly piercer; 1-retouched natural; 1-retouched flake; 1-awl retouched along one side on natural piece; 1-debitage; 3-chippings.*
26			1-secondary debitage; 1-primary chipping; 2 – tertiary flakes; 3-tertiary chippings.
27			1-large Core; 1- small Core; 1-retouched natural; 2-retouched flakes; 1-primary debitage; 2- secondary debitage; 4-tertiary debitage; 1-waste chip.
28	F7 T1		1-notched flake; 1-chipping; 1-secondary flake; 1-chipping.*
31 (1 of 2)	??	F3a T1 L1	1-chipping.***
32		F3a T1 L1	1-notched piece, secondary; 1-flake, secondary; 1-primary debitage; 1-secondary debitage; 3- chippings.
33 (1 of 1)			2 – Cores; 1- small retouched piece, primary; 16 –debitage; 2- flakes, primary; 7- flakes, secondary; 2-flakes, tertiary; 6- chippings.
33 (2 of 2)			2-waste pieces; 1-large retouched block; 2-retouched natural; 1-pointed end of small blade; 1-small blade; 1-notched pot lid; 1-utilised pot lid; 4-retouched flakes; 1-waste block; 2- retouched on natural; 1-natural with utilised edge; 1-pointed flake; 2 retouched piece; 1-blade like piece; 1-utilised flake; 1- piercer; 1-burin on natural fracture (4 burin removals by break) 1-borer on large flake. All non diagnostic*
34			1-blade, broken Mesolithic/early Neolithic; 1-primary debitage; 1-secondary debitage; 1-chipping.*
35			2-flake chippings.
36	F3a L2		1-notched Flake;*
37	T1 L2		1-Debitage, tertiary.
40			1-broken blade piece with end scraper – Neolithic/Bronze; 1-abandoned core with the possibility of use; 1-rough core, 1-flake fragment; 2-tertiary flakes; 1-tertiary debitage; 3-secondary debitage.*
41	F3 L1		1-point retouched natural piece; 1-flake; 5-chippings.*
42			1-fine retouched natural; 1-end bladelet; 1-notched(?) flake; 1-secondary debitage.*
43	F1		1-trimming.*
44	F9		1-utilised end of flake; *1-core; 1-notched flake; 1-debitage.
48	F3 L1		1-primary notched piece; 1-debitage; 1-chipping.
49			1-retouched piercer on natural; 1-retouched natural; 1-waste piece. 1-primary debitage; 4-secondary debitage; 2-tertiary debitage; 5-flake chippings.*
50	T1 north end L2		1-re-utilised piercer.*
52			1-utilised natural; 1-retouched flake; 1-piercer which could have also been used as a scraper; 1-terTiary debitage; 1-waste flake.*
53			1-fragment of chisel ended piece; *1-primary debitage; 3-secondary debitage; 3- flake chippings.

54		1-pot lid with fine retouch*.
58	F3 L1	1-Blade removal debitage, tertiary; 1- piercer; 1 chipping; 2- debitage, primary; 2- debitage, secondary.
59		H** 1-retouched natural; 1-piercer on retouched natural.
61 (1 of 2)		1-end scraper on square sectioned flint- Iron Age; 1-retouched flake – semi circular, retouched at widest end.non diagnostic;1-flake chipping.*
62		2-natural retouched flakes; 1-bladelet; 1- secondary debitage; 1-flake; 1-chipping.*
63	F11	1-retouched fragment possible knife; 1-retouched pot lid; 1- small piercer; 3-debitage.*
64	F4	1-Core –;1-blade core; 1-flake; 2-notched on natural pieces; 1-retouched natural piercer; 1-piercer on natural; 1-chipping.*
64 (2 of 2)		1-scraper on natural piece; 1-flake, good; 1-chipping.
65	F11 under pebbles	1-tertiary flake; 2-tertiary chippings.
65 (2 of 2)		1- retouched edge on natural; 1- retouched natural; 1- denticular blade; 1- flake fragment.*
No Label		2- secondary debitage; 1-tertiary debitage.
Unstratified		2-secondary debitage; 4-burnt flint pieces.
Unstratified – in bone bag		1-retouched natural; 1-retouched and utilised natural Block. 1-core.*
Sub-soil	T1 L2/split f	1-flint nodule with flaked pointed end, possibly used or hammer stone.*

Unless otherwise stated all flints are non diagnostic.

* Hazel Martingell helped me in diagnosing many pieces within the assemblage.

**Flint to be shown to geological expert: Large flint with two surfaces formed at one date, then two others at different times. Knapped at some stage – Mid Palaeolithic??. Is it possible to date when breakages occurred as possibly two middle Palaeolithic flake removals.

***Probable core with recent damage – See a Geologists

Identified periods of worked flints:

Mesolithic/early Neolithic:

- 1 Repatenated blade
- 1 Broad blade

Neolithic:

- 1 Early Neo. Blade
- 1 Burin

Neolithic/early Bronze:

- 1 Broken blade piece on end scraper.

Iron Age:

- 2 Scrapers, 1 of which is on the end of a square sectioned flint.

Unidentified periods of worked flints:

- 26 Cores
- 8 ½ Bladelets (Including 1 notched)
- 1 Denticular blade
- 1 Denticular broken blade piece

7	Blades/fragments
1	Burin on Blade
1	Retouched fragment possibly knife
1	Borer on large flake
1	Awl
1	Fragment of chisel end piece
11	Piercers of which 1 could have been used as a scraper.
11	Notched flakes and pieces, including 1 notched pot lid.
4	Retouched pot lids
18	Retouched flakes, block and pieces
41	Natural flint pieces/flakes which has been worked
2	Scrapers on natural pieces
1	Burin on natural fracture (4 other burin removals by natural fracture)
4	Piercers on natural flint
1	Awl retouched on natural piece
1	Large flint showing signs of hammering
1	Flint nodule with flaked pointed end possibly used as a hammer stone.
400	Approx; Flakes, Chippings and larger debitage pieces.

Total of 150 ½ worked flint flakes, pieces and blocks.

Tools of convenience

In conclusion from the Cowlin Field assemblage it is not possible to date the 'Long Barrow' or Funerary Monument by the flints alone. There is not enough evidence of Neolithic or any other period of flint found within the north west section of the ditch and post hole. It also has to be taken into account that this monument lies parallel to the river which over the millennia has flooded and possibly deposited flints, natural or otherwise. However, there are a lot of natural freeze thaw flakes most with retouch and/or flake removals (natural pieces modified). These pieces were picked up and modified for convenience. Unfortunately all are non diagnostic.

Within the academic world there is a great debate over these natural pieces as to whether these re-touched/flake removals are done by our ancestors or by nature. Looking at these flints in greater detail it is obvious that there is strong evidence that nature has not caused these retouches.

Throughout the prehistoric period, especially with the hunter gatherers, would it not be feasible for our ancestors to make use of any pieces that come to hand, a quick modification and a tool, albeit a 'rough out', could be used, then thrown away. Therefore eliminating the necessity of carrying these, often heavy objects, around. Further study of this theory is needed.

My grateful thanks go to Hazel Martingell who has helped me considerably in putting this report together.

Denise Hardy, Colchester Archaeological Group.

HALSTEAD: THE COURTAULD LEGACY

John Moore

On Tuesday 9th October 2012, agents for Tesco Stores Ltd submitted a planning application to Braintree District Council for the “Erection of a food store and car park on land to the east of High Street, Halstead”. Nothing unusual there, as Tesco marches inexorably onward. What was slightly unusual was the vehemence of the opposition to the plan, with over 170 letters of objection, far exceeding any previous planning application to the Council. One of the grounds for opposition particularly caught my eye, which was the planned destruction of an Air-Raid Warden’s Communications Hut and 8 of the 16 World War 2 underground air-raid shelters on the site. It transpired that they had been privately built by Courtaulds in late 1939 for the protection of up to 500 of their factory workers.



Air-Raid Shelter, built 1939,
with the access hatch open



Looking down the access hatch



Air Raid Warden's
Communications Hut

These would have been among the last buildings constructed by a company that had dominated the town since the arrival of Samuel Courtauld in the 1820s, and it made me wonder how much else of Courtauld's ‘footprint’ still survives in the town – as you pass through there is plenty of evidence of its’ former importance.



Prior to the nineteenth century, the cloth industry had dominated Halstead, which, in the county of Essex, was second only to Colchester in the manufacture of bay cloth. This industry went into deep decline during the late eighteenth century in the face of competition from northern cotton mills, and by 1800 all cloth-makers in Halstead had ceased operations, resulting in around 2,000 unemployed handloom weavers out of a population of just over 3,300. The arrival of Samuel Courtauld was therefore a godsend to the town, and by 1861 the population had doubled, mainly due to the employment opportunities offered by the Courtauld factory. As the major employer in the town for over 150 years, Courtaulds played a significant role in many aspects of urban life. Apart from industrial buildings, the company and/or individual members of the Courtauld family provided houses for factory employees, a Cottage Hospital, a school, a library and institute, a nursery, retirement homes, a sports club, the Jubilee Fountain, a hostel, public gardens and of course the air-raid shelters.

The Huguenot Courtauld family, like many other French Protestants, emigrated to England in the 1680s. Augustine Courtauld, born in 1685, became a notable silversmith in London, a trade taken up by his sons and grand-sons. His great-grandson George, however, did not follow in the family footsteps, but took up an apprenticeship with a Spitalfields silk weaver in 1775, before setting up independently as a silk throwster (one who prepares and twists raw silk into thread for weaving). During one of several trips to America he married, and a son Samuel was born in 1783. Shortly after Samuel's birth the family returned to the silk industry in England. From the age of fourteen Samuel worked for his father, who unfortunately turned out to be an incompetent businessman. By 1816 the family was in serious financial difficulties, and Samuel, intent upon restoring the family fortunes (and their social standing), set up his own business as a silk throwster in a small mill at Bocking. His father returned to America, where he died in 1823. In 1825 Samuel assisted the owner of Townsford Mill in Halstead, a water-powered corn mill on the River Colne built in 1788, in converting it to a silk mill. He also assisted in its’ conversion to steam power two

years later. When the owner became bankrupt later that year, Samuel took the opportunity to buy the mill, and in 1828 'Samuel Courtauld & Co' (consisting of Samuel in partnership with his younger brother George and his cousin Peter Taylor) came into being. The mill, still standing today, would be their main base of operations for only four years, as the Company decided to add hand-loom weaving to their silk-throwing business. This took place in both the mill and cottages near the mill, some of which can still be seen in Weaver's Row. Weaving took place on the first floor, as can be seen from the size of the windows. From around 1830, a rapid period of expansion took place, helped in no small part by a new addition to the Company's operations - the weaving, dyeing and finishing of black silk mourning crape. A huge demand for black crape had developed in Victorian England as the ritual of mourning was



Townsford Mill, built 1799



Weaver's Row, built circa 1850

formalised and commercialised. To meet the growing demand, a power-loom factory was built on the north side of the river in 1832, and by the 1850s Courtaulds was the largest producer of black crape in the country, with over 240 looms in operation. In 1861, the crape industry was given a boost following the death of Prince Albert. For the next year, members of the Court would not appear in public unless they were dressed in black, and Queen Victoria herself would wear Courtauld's black silk for the next forty years. By 1891 the number of looms had increased to over 1000, and around 1400 people, mainly women, were employed in the factory.

During their major expansion during the second half of the nineteenth century, Courtaulds provided a number of buildings and facilities for the town of Halstead. In Factory Lane East stand two terraces built in 1872 for spinners and weavers. The houses are of three storeys, with a scullery, coal house and W.C. on the ground floor and a living room, parlour and four bedrooms on the upper floors. Mains water was laid on to the sculleries and stair landings of each house. Other examples of workers' housing can be found in the Causeway. These were built around 1883 for 'mechanics and overseers', and consist of a pair of semi-detached houses, a terrace and the former communal dining room (now the British Legion Club), designed by the Ingatestone architect George Campbell Sherrin (1843-1909).



Factory Terrace, built 1872



Workers' Housing, The Causeway, built 1883,
with the former communal Dining Room



Cottage Hospital, Heddingham
Road, built 1884

The following year Sherrin also designed the Cottage Hospital in Heddingham Road for George Courtauld, son of Samuel, who had succeeded his father as Company Chairman. George funded the building of the hospital as a memorial to his late wife, Susannah Elizabeth, but he did make a proviso, however, that the townspeople should furnish, maintain and run the hospital thereafter. Three years later, George celebrated Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee by presenting the town with a drinking fountain at the top of Market Hill. Some houses he commissioned remain in Sloe Hill. He died in 1920, and his daughter, Dr Elizabeth Courtauld funded an extension to the hospital in his memory.

By the end of the nineteenth century, mourning rituals had become much more relaxed and crape prices had fallen, so an alternative product was required. In 1904 Courtaulds acquired the patent to produce artificial silk from woodpulp, known as Rayon, and production initially took place in the Halstead factory. Shortly afterwards, in 1908, another Samuel Courtauld (George's nephew) became General Manager of the Company, succeeding his uncle as Chairman in 1921. This Samuel is best remembered today as an art collector, founding the Courtauld Institute of Art in London in 1932 and bequeathing his entire collection to it on his death in 1947.



Drinking Fountain
built 1887



Almshouse, Heddingham Road,
built 1923



17 Pretoria Street, built for the
District Nurse, 1923

From 1920 he started building houses under his own name, but he also maintained the Company tradition of providing amenities for Halstead, starting with a sports club in the Colchester Road, now the Courtauld Halstead Bowls Club. In 1923, he demolished the Town Workhouse and replaced it with a series of Almshouses, five blocks with four houses in each, as well as providing a house for the District Nurse. The following year he funded the building of the Neo-Tudor brick St Andrew's Church Hall in Parsonage Street.



Church Hall, Parsonage Street,
built 1924



Box Mill Cottages, Box Mill Lane,
built 1924



'Fanny Burney', Colchester Road,
built 1927

Around this time the Company built a number of houses in Vicarage Meadow, specifically for Factory Managers, and other houses in Box Mill Lane. Samuel himself lived around $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from Halstead town centre, in a turning off the Heddingham Road, and from 1920 he had decided to 'improve' his approach to the town by knocking down a number of old cottages and replacing them with modern houses, all named, dated and bearing the initials 'SAC'. His major building period was between 1927 and 1929, when he built a series of houses named after the novels of Jane Austen, a particular favourite of his. During this period he also built houses in other parts of the town, including Colchester Road and Mallows Field.



'Sense' and 'Sensibility',
Heddingham Road, built 1928



'Emma', Heddingham
Road, built 1928



'Evalina', Mallows Field,
built 1928

Although Courtaulds took up the manufacture of man-made fibres and became a major international company, intense foreign competition forced the Halstead operation to cease in 1982. The factory, which had been extended on several occasions, and had grown to cover a huge area of central Halstead, was demolished in 1986 (the Co-op Supermarket and car park covers part of the site today). Just a few ancillary industrial buildings remain, these being a 20-bay brick range, the boiler house of 1922, the former Smithy of 1904, and the Winding and Cleaning Shop of 1912. Both the latter two buildings have been converted into retail premises.



Former Factory Forge,
Weaver's Court, built 1904



Former Factory Winding &
Cleaning Shop, Weaver's
Court, built 1912



Former Factory Boiler House,
Factory Lane West, built 1922

As you will see from the next page, I have only been able to illustrate a small number of the buildings that owe their existence to Courtaulds, either the Company or individual members of the family. Armed with this list, a map and some comfortable footwear, you can discover for yourself the extent of the Courtauld legacy to Halstead. You may well find other buildings that I have missed! Oh, and in case you were wondering, on 22nd January 2013, Tesco's planning application was rejected.

Principal Sources:

Braintree District Council Planning Department

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Coleman, Donald - 'Courtaulds: An Economic and Social History Volume 1' 1969

English Heritage - 'Statutory List of Buildings of Architectural or Historical Interest'

Essex County Council Planning Department - 'Halstead Historic Town Assessment Report' 1999

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HALSTEAD: THE COURTAULD LEGACY
Buildings & other sites still standing in August 2013

Year Built	Building & Location	Number of buildings	Purpose
1788	Townsford Mill, The Causeway, bought by Samuel Courtauld in 1828)	1	Industrial
1850 (circa)	7-18 Weavers Row	12 (terrace)	Workers' Housing
1872	Factory Terrace, 1-16 Factory Lane East	16 (2 x terraces)	Workers' Housing
1883	1-2 The Causeway	2 (semi-detached)	Workers' Housing
1883	3-12 The Causeway	10 (terrace)	Workers' Housing
1883	Communal Dining Room (now British Legion Hall), The Causeway	1	Benevolent
1884	Cottage Hospital, Heddingham Road	1	Benevolent
1887	Drinking Fountain, Market Hill	1	Benevolent
Pre-1900	'Fairfield Villa', Heddingham Road (owned by George Courtauld in 1900)	2 (semi-detached)	
1901	Public Gardens, Trinity Street		Benevolent
1904	Factory Smithy, Weaver's Court	1	Industrial
1912	Factory Winding & Cleaning Shop, Weaver's Court	1	Industrial
1914	24,26,28 & 30 Sloe Hill	4 (2 x semi-detached)	Workers' Housing?
Early 1920's	1-6 & 13-16 Vicarage Meadow	10 (5 x semi-detached)	Workers' Housing
1920	Cottage Hospital Extension, Heddingham Road	1	Benevolent
1920	'Abel Cottages', Heddingham Road	2 (semi-detached)	Speculative
1921	Sports Ground, Colchester Road		Benevolent
1922	Factory Boiler House, Factory Lane West	1	Industrial
1922?	Factory 20-Bay Brick Range, Weaver's Court	1	Industrial
1922	'Box Mill Cottages', Box Mill Lane	4 (2 x semi-detached)	Workers' Housing
1923	Almshouses, Heddingham Road	20 (5 blocks, 4 homes in each)	Benevolent
1923	17 Pretoria Road	1	Benevolent(for District Nurse)
1924	St. Andrew's Church Hall, Parsonage Street	1	Benevolent
1924	'Clare Cottages', Heddingham Road	2 (semi-detached)	Speculative
1925	'St Martin Cottages', Heddingham Road	2 (semi-detached)	Speculative
1926	'Tryon Cottages', Heddingham Road	2 (semi-detached)	Speculative
1926	'Bowser Cottages', Heddingham Road	2 (semi-detached)	Speculative
1927	'Pride', Heddingham Road	2 (semi-detached)	Speculative
1927	'Prejudice', Heddingham Road	2 (semi-detached)	Speculative
1927	'Fanny Burney', Colchester Road	2 (semi-detached)	Speculative
1928	'Mirvan', Colchester Road	2 (semi-detached)	Speculative
1928	'Branchton, Colchester Road	2 (semi-detached)	Speculative
1928	'Evalina', Mallows Field	2 (semi-detached)	Speculative
1928	'Emma', Heddingham Road	1	Speculative
1928	'Mansfield Park', Heddingham Road	2 (semi-detached)	Speculative
1928	'Persuasion', Heddingham Road	1	Speculative
1928	'Northanger Abbey', Mill Chase	2 (semi-detached)	Speculative
1929	'Sense', Heddingham Road	2 (semi-detached)	Speculative
1929	'Sensibility', Heddingham Road	2 (semi-detached)	Speculative
1929	'Orville', Mallows Field	2 (semi-detached)	Speculative
1939	Air-Raid Shelters behind Factory Terrace, Factory Lane East	16	Industrial / Benevolent
1939	Air-Raid Warden's Communications Hut behind Factory Terrace, Factory Lane East	1	Industrial / Benevolent

INVESTIGATION AT BARROW BARN, EAST MERSEA ROAD, WEST MERSEA

Louise Harrison

Introduction

On a hot Thursday morning, 1st August 2013, Anna Moore and Louise Harrison went to visit Barrow Barn, Mersea Island, at the invitation of the owner, Roger Wacey. The owner had been excavating a trench for a hedge running E/W between his converted barn and his boundary, when he found a metallised surface overlying flint nodules. Quite properly, he stopped his excavations and sought advice. Anna and Louise went to make a preliminary investigation of his findings.

Context

Barrow Barn's western boundary lies immediately adjacent to the east of the Mersea Barrow, which is a well-known Roman tumulus. The southern boundary abuts East Mersea Road.

Investigation (Site Code BB01)

They found a shallow trench running E/W, roughly 3m long by 0.8m wide, tapering at the west end, nearest the Barrow. A small amount of cleaning revealed a metallised surface of small packed stones overlying a substratum of flint nodules, in turn overlying clay. The eastern edge of the surface was missing where it had been cut, possibly by the owner, but the trench section showed it had probably not extended much further east than another 0.4m. The damaged eastern edge lay approximately 10m west of Barrow Barn. The surface ran west for at least 2.3m before it started to slope down. It sloped down about 0.5m, dropping down approximately 0.18m at the end of the shallow trench. The western edge was not found and its distance from Mersea Barrow was not measured. Its distance from East Mersea Road is unknown. At the cut eastern end, the depth from the exposed level surface to the clay was 0.26m.

Feature

At 0.20m below the level surface, at the eastern end, were the broken remains of an unglazed red clay drainpipe, roughly 0.08m in diameter, running ESE/WNW immediately under the metallised surface. No cut through the surface for the laying of the pipe could be seen. Probably contemporary with the metallised surface.

Finds

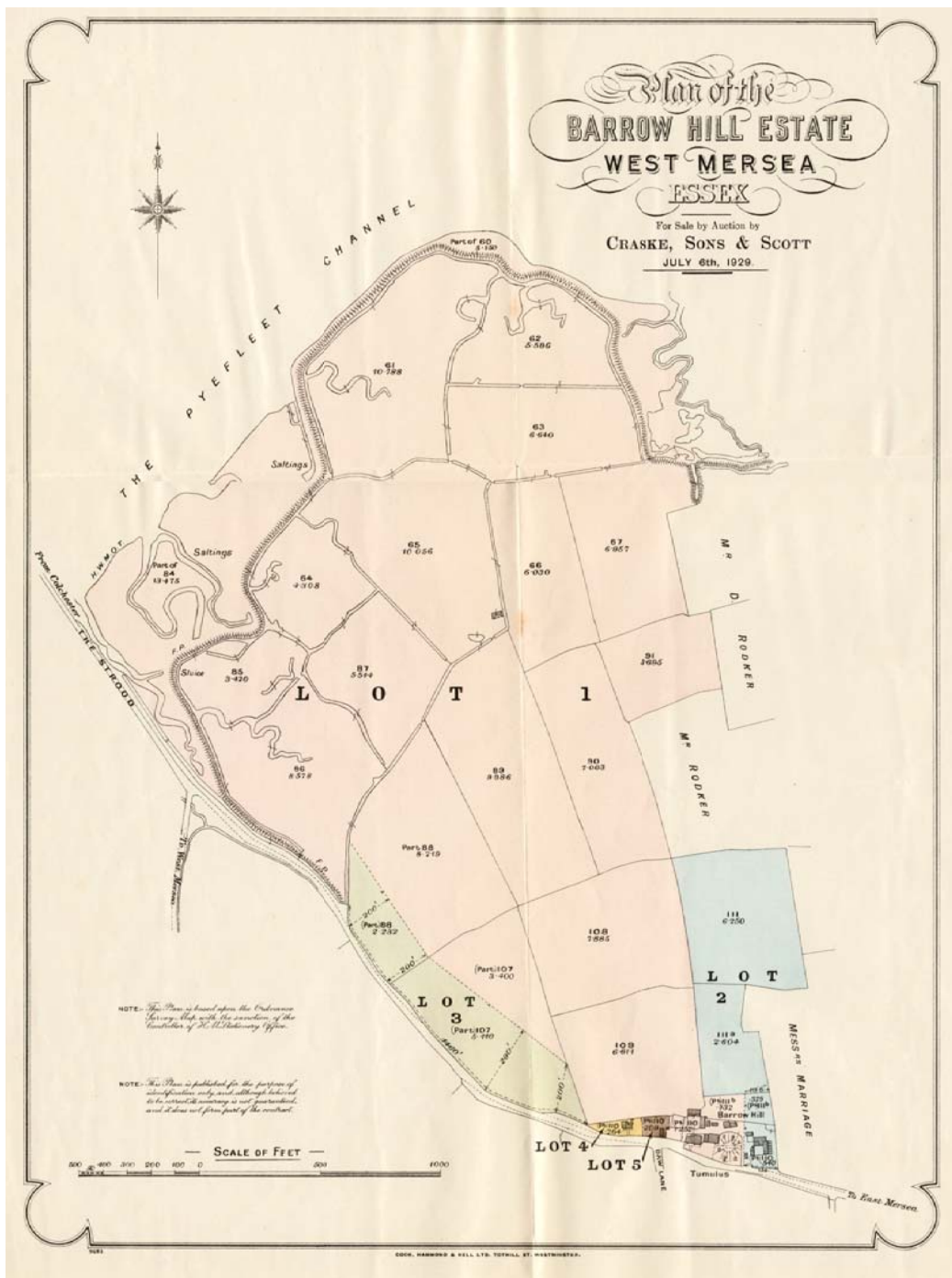
Two pieces of modern (probably C19th) glazed pot were recovered during the cleaning.

Photographs and map

Several photographs were taken, but the light was very difficult. These are attached to the report.

Conclusion

From the brief investigation carried out, it was thought it could be an access road, running N/S, from the main East Mersea Road, just passing the Barrow on its eastern side. The attached map suggests either a track or maybe a yard. It may show up more clearly on other OS maps. The drainpipe and pot sherds indicate a modern date for the metallised surface. Further investigation would be needed to find out: if it is a road or a yard of some sort; if the 'road' also sloped down on its eastern side; its full extent; whether or not it lies over a much older trackway. Further investigation is not recommended at this time.



NOTES ON GREAT TEY ROMAN ROAD EXCAVATIONS

John Mallinson

1. Introduction

Between 1996 and 2006 CAG, under the direction of James Fawn, carried out a series of excavations along the line of a suspected Roman Road at Great Tey.

The road had first been noticed as parallel lines of crop marks in aerial photos (RAF4625 30.07.63 RHCM NMR TL8824/1, and Ida McMaster, 1976 (Ref. 1), personal collection, now lodged with ECC Historic Environment).

The existence of the road was confirmed in two excavations across its supposed line carried out by the Group between 1986 and 1993. These, designated Teybrook A (TA) and Teybrook B (TB), have already been fully reported by James Fawn (Refs. 2 & 3).

Further trenches were dug between 1993 & 2006, mainly on the boundary between Teybrook Farm and Warrens Farm, where the crop marks seen on the aerial photographs faded out (Figs. 1 & 2), with the objective of determining whether the road continued beyond this point, and if so, in which direction. None of these excavations have been reported.

The purpose of these notes is to record the extensive surviving archive, which has been deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museum, and to note any germane observations from surviving members of the digging team.

2. Summary

No trace of the road could be found much beyond the point at which it disappears as a crop mark (TC). Around the line of the road, the entire area was rich in Roman activity, but it proved impossible to draw any firm conclusions as to the nature of that activity. A series of discontinuous surfaces, all made of crushed Roman brick or tile, and at a varying range of depths, were found in several of the trenches. These suggested some sort of low status industrial or agricultural activity, possibly associated with the villa 200m to the NE, but the evidence was very confusing. Many of the surfaces were overlain with a layer of dark silty alluvium, suggesting that the area was subjected to regular flooding – hardly surprising since it lay close to, and in the flood plain of, the Roman River.

Four trenches along the West side of Cow Meadow (TD, TH, TI, TJ) cut through a large ditch-like feature running in a gentle curve roughly NS along the East side of the boundary fence. James Fawn originally interpreted this feature as a boundary ditch, but its size and position, and the fact that it contained large quantities of Roman building materials, Roman coins and animal bone, all suggest that it was an early course of the Roman River, which changed course, or was diverted, towards the end of the Roman period..

Within the wood, on the Teybrook Farm side (East) of the boundary fence, TC serendipitously cut a small ring ditch. Sherds of pottery found within it (TC, TE) suggested that this was a Bronze Age ring ditch. Trench TF failed to find any evidence of a burial.

3. Comments on Individual Trenches

TA & TB have already been reported, (Ref. 2 & 3) and need not be discussed further.

TC is the northernmost trench in which any evidence for the road can be found. Drawing 12 (AJF) records a section which shows traces of 2 vestigial ditches, which could be interpreted as 2 of the ditches of the road, and photographs show some evidence of metallurgy.

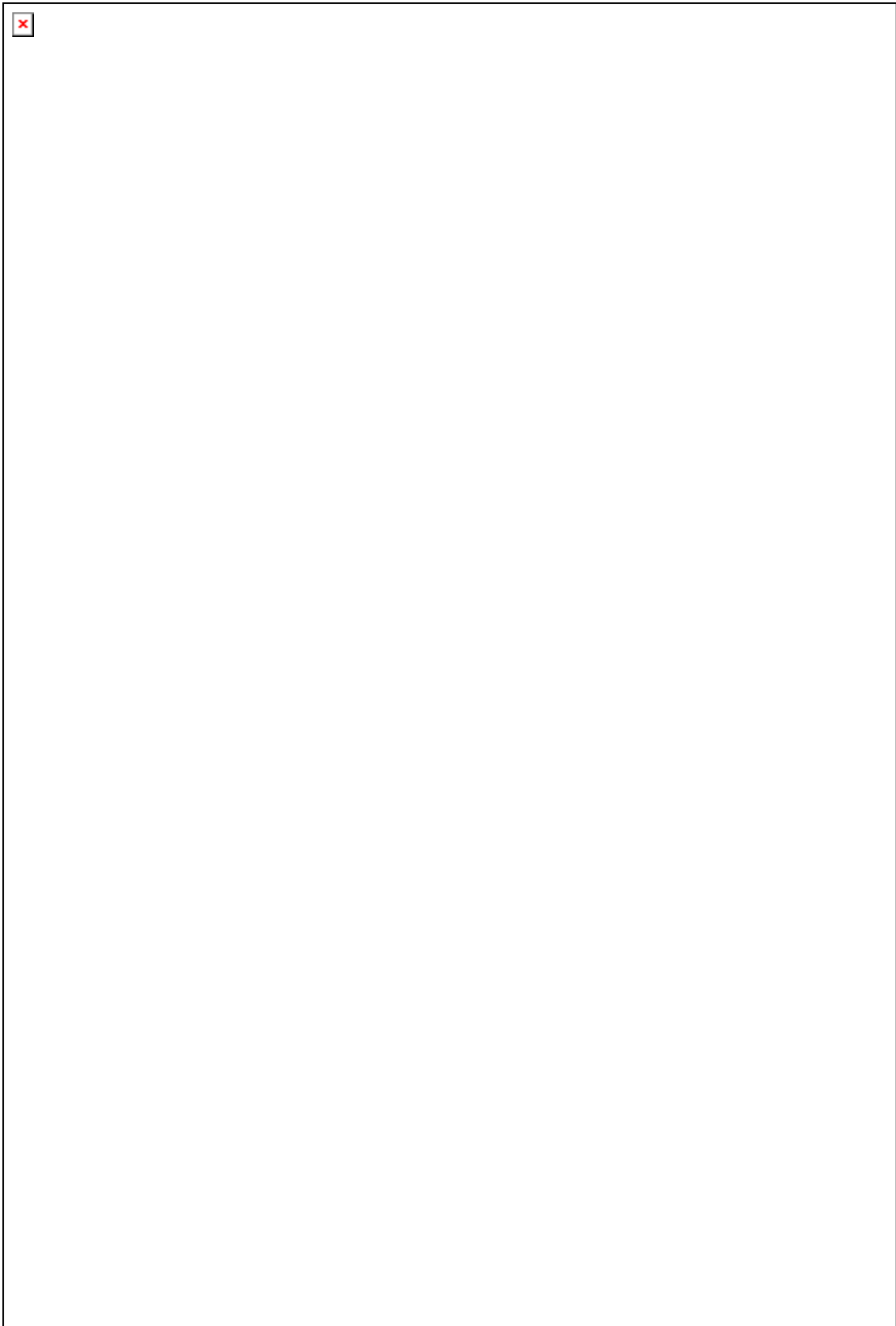


Fig. 1 Line of Roman Road (red dashes) as seen in aerial photographs, and positions of TA, TB & TZ. Pale blue lines and numbers are from OS Map Area TL

The western end of the trench cut a ring ditch and 2(?) small fragments of pottery recovered from this area were identified as Bronze Age.

TD was a small, but ultimately very deep trench which cut the line of the ditch/river on the west side of Cow Meadow. Significant quantities of Roman material, mainly CBM, were recovered, and these have been archived unexamined. No drawings of this trench survive, but its position has been located and marked on Fig. 2

TE & TF further investigated the Bronze Age ring ditch. TE confirmed the ditch position and diameter, which Drawing 16 suggests to be about 6.7m. TF produced no evidence for a central feature. The approximate position of the ring ditch is shown as a hatched red circle on Fig. 2.

TG was placed to the south of TC in order to establish the line of the road, which had not been clear in TC. 3 ditches were identified, shown as thick black lines on Fig. 2. These are shown on Drawing 16, and confirm with reasonable accuracy the line of the road shown on aerial photographs.

TH & TI. TH was originally begun, within the wood, in 1995 to investigate the possible continuation of the road beyond TC. No trace of the road was found. The trench was subsequently extended to the East into Cow Meadow to investigate the ditch/riverbed feature, and again in 2004 still further East. A section of the Eastern half was drawn on completion, Drawing 15 below. Two Roman coins were recovered from the area of the ditch. TI was subsequently opened diagonally to the North of TH. Both TH and TI cut through the ditch/riverbed, and also exposed a complicated series of broken brick surfaces, largely composed of broken (probably) Roman brick and tile. A more detailed report on both these trenches is in preparation (*Jonathan Oldham, Forthcoming*)

TJ “River Bed” was dug in 2006 and extended the line of TC across the ditch/river bed into Cow Meadow. As with TD, considerable quantities of Roman CBM were recovered. More significantly 3 Roman coins were found. These all dated to the early 4th century (See small finds list below) suggesting the feature was open until at least this time, and was filled in at or towards the end of the Roman period. The line of the “River Bed” shows clearly on Google Earth and has been marked on Fig. 2 as two blue dashed lines cutting through TJ TD TH & TI. Considerable quantities of animal bone were also recovered. These have been examined by Ed Heigham, and her report is included in the archive

TZ In 2006, at the request of the landowner Richard Browning, a further trench was put across the line of the road just south of Chase Cottages (see Fig. 1). This excavation was directed by Ruth Rolfe. The positions of the four ditches were established, but no convincing road metalling was found, probably because the site was on the sloping ground leading down to Tey Brook, and the road had consequently suffered from erosion and plough damage. A section was drawn by Anna Moore et al., Drawings 17, 18 & 19. No finds were recorded.

Further Excavations in Cow Meadow. Several other trenches around or open areas around TJ were excavated during 2006. No record survives of identification numbers for these trenches. Two can be seen, either on Google Earth or on AJF photographs, and these are shown, unlabelled on Fig. 2. No finds have survived. The recollection of the digging team is that they contained a series of discontinuous surfaces, at varying depths, comprised of crushed Roman CBM. Many of the surfaces were overlain with a layer of organic silty material consistent with episodes of flooding. No dating evidence was recovered from any of the trenches.

References

1. McMaster, Ida: Notes on Two Possible Roman Roads and Crop Marks, CAG Bull 19, 1976 pp. 10-11.
2. Fawn, James: A Roman Road at Teybrook Farm, Great Tey, CAG Bull. 34, 1991 pp. 29-37
3. Fawn, James: A Roman Road at Teybrook Farm, Great Tey: Part II, CAG Bull. 41 2001 pp. 7-14

ARCHIVE

The materials deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museum are:

James Fawn Notebook. Covering the period from October 1992 to June 2006, the notebook records informa-

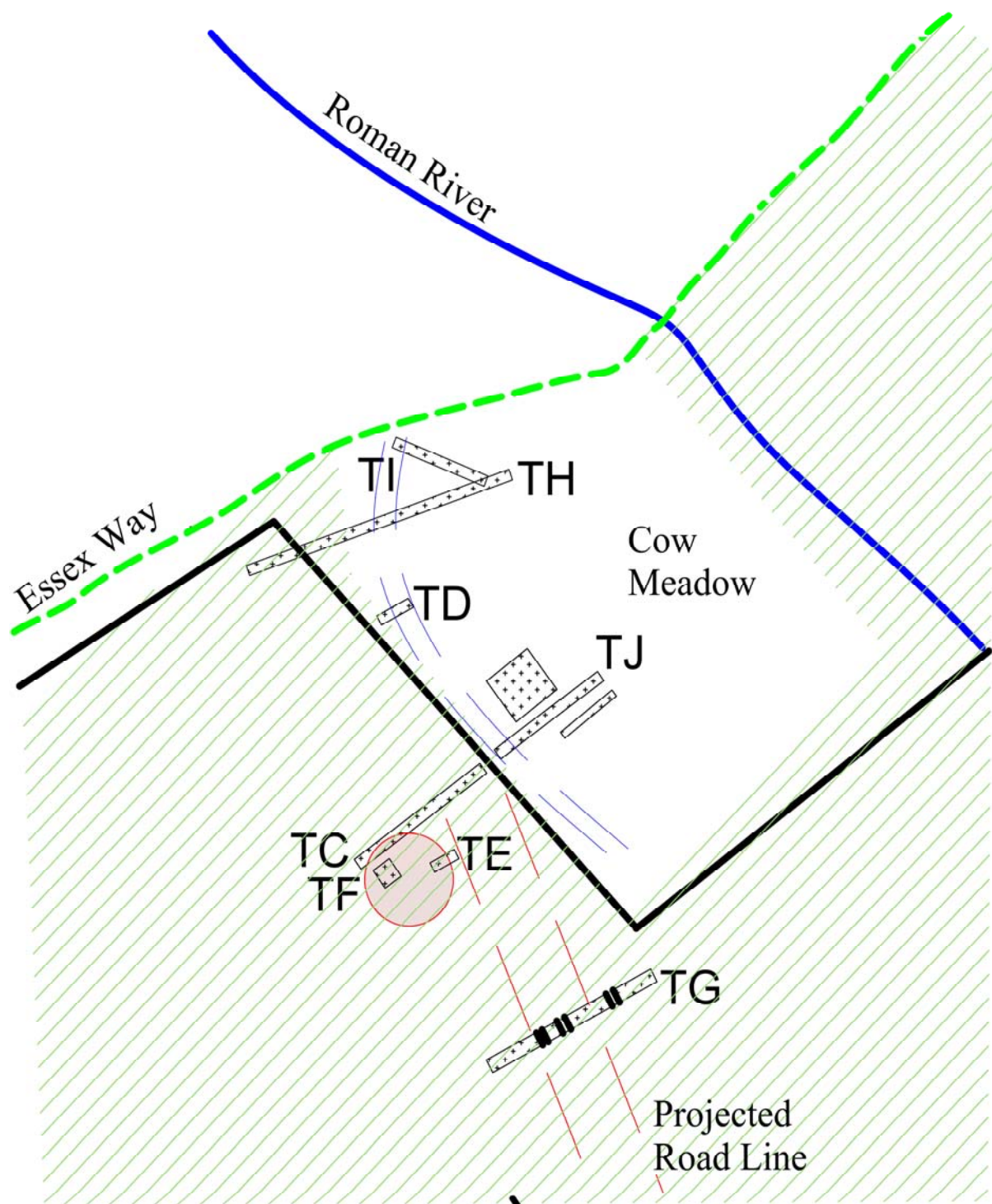


Fig. 2 Cow Meadow, showing limit of Roman Road, and trenches TC—TJ. Approximate ditch/river bed line shown as blue dashes.

tion related to excavations along the Roman road from TB to TH. Mostly the data consists of 3 dimensional co-ordinates for finds from within the trenches, but since the co-ordinates relate to reference points which are nowhere clearly defined, they are of little value. Occasionally survey measurements are recorded, but these are very difficult to interpret. No other information, observations or interpretations are recorded.

Photographs. Approximately 240 slide photographs were taken by James Fawn. These have been archived, together with their digital scans. Very few of them were labelled, except by date of processing, but the scans have been examined by other members of the digging team and most have been identified. They have been supplemented (in digital form) by a few additional photographs taken by other members of the team. They provide the best record (other than the few drawings listed below) of some of the features exposed during the excavations.

Drawings

1. Section of TA, showing 4 ditches (AJF 1991)
2. Land profile along line of road, including TA & TB (AJF)
3. Section of part of TB, possibly showing stream crossing, but not completed or labelled (AJF)
4. Titled “Teybrook Farm, Great Tey” showing (part of) unidentified road section. (AJF)
5. Section of TB, showing position of brick and tile finds. (AJF)
6. a) Section of TB, showing position of other finds, and
b) Plan of TB, showing position relative to Teybrook and Chase Cottages (AJF)
7. Land profile along line of road, showing TB and land to the north as far as Roman River (AJF)
8. Section across Teybrook and TB 15.11.92 (AJF)
- 9 & 10. Not labelled, but identified as two parts of a section across TA, and reproduced in CAG Bull. 34 (Ref. 1) (AJF)
11. Map of Teybrook area, showing position of excavation trenches, published in CAG Bull. 34 (AJF)
12. Road section draft, labelled TC. (AJF)
13. Plan showing positions of TA & TC relative to fence line between Teybrook Farm and Warrens Farm (AJF)
14. Land profile along line of road, showing TB & TC. A more finished version of 7. (AJF)
15. Section of TH (Anna Moore)
16. Plan showing positions of TC, TE & TG, and possibly TD (AJF)
- 17, 18 & 19. Section (in three parts) of TZ. (Anna Moore et al.)

Small Finds

Coin of Carausius Late 3c. From TH
Radiate coin. Late 4c. From TH
Coin of Constantine. Early 4c. From “River Bed”
Coin of Crispus. Early 4c. From “River Bed”
Coin of Licinius II. Early 4c. “River Bed” spoil
Possible copper/bronze Roman strap fitting.

Pottery and other finds

7 archive boxes of pottery and bone from excavations TC to TI. This material has not been fully evaluated, but would appear to be almost exclusively Roman. Bone found in the “River Bed” was examined by Ed Heigham BDS, and her report is in the appropriate box with the finds. Large quantities of Roman CBM were not retained., though a few representative examples were retained

Additional Information

1. Heigham, Ed. BDS Bone Report for Animal bone Samples from Marks Tey (*sic*) Site. Unpublished personal communication to Don Goodman (CAG) January 2007

MORE GRAFFITI RECORDED IN COLCHESTER CASTLE

Mary Coe

At the request of Peter Berridge, CAG members were involved in a project to record the graffiti in Colchester Castle. This survey lasted from 2002 to 2005 and reports appeared in Bulletins 42, 43 and 45 as well as in some newsletters. In 2011, a wall in the Well Room was exposed when the Berryfield Mosaic was removed which meant that the wall could be recorded. With the closure of the castle in 2013 and the removal of the display cases, the opportunity arose to look at yet more walls.

On 14th March, when the castle was open to the public, I met Tom Hodgson who was in charge of the restructuring project. Together, we went round the castle and Tom showed me where display cases had been and other walls to which I would now have access. I then went round on my own and looked closely at the walls and if any graffiti were found, I took a photograph of the section of wall. Before leaving, I requested access to the original records. This was to ensure that all walls were checked and no work was duplicated.

During the remainder of March and in early April, I made five more visits, at one of which I was joined by Jean Roberts. Recording took place during each visit and I also found more photos were required. On completion, the new record sheets were filed with the previous records. There were a few interesting finds but most of the graffiti was unimportant, being scratches and odd letters and similar marks.

In the first window niche, on the left on entering the main hall of the castle, there used to be a mummy. Some pieces of graffiti were recorded here but they could not be measured. With access now possible I was able to fully record these pieces and I found a few pieces which had not been seen before. What we had recorded before was a shield with a bar and two chevrons and the date 1872 with some initials. Further in the niche I found the numbers 1680 and 1635, although the 35 was not clear. As there were initials above and below the 1635, it suggests that this was a year and 1680 is probably also a year.

The two most impressive pieces of graffiti were found in the second window niche. Both of them were a little out of range but were important enough to be recorded. Drawing them was going to be time-consuming and difficult so I took photographs and put them with the record. On the left hand side there is a circle which has in it what appear to be four boats. Nearby there are several crosses and other marks. On the opposite side there are also several lines but they are not the most important part. The main feature here is a figure standing beneath crossed keys, suggesting he is St Peter. He is standing in an arch or doorway with a triangular top.



Graffiti in the second window niche

Upstairs, the line of pillars had in the past provided a number of names and dates. As more of the faces could now be recorded more of the same were found. There were two pieces which stood out from the rest. Geo Drury was kind enough to inform us that he came from Halstead, Essex. This could be a lead to tracing him! On the same pillar was the name 'Wallis'. Did Wallis Simpson visit the castle and leave

her mark?

Because of the size of the castle and the number of walls to be looked at, not every single item of graffiti was recorded. Back in the early 2000's we did not record every brick on the wall in the vaults by the Wheeley Tunnel, nor did we record fully one of the walls in the prison cells. A sample was taken as to do it all would have taken far too long. Apart from these two areas I hope that every piece has been recorded but can give no guarantee. Anything of historical or artistic importance should have been found and recorded and if anything has been missed I hope it is only scratch marks.

I would like to thank Tom Hodgson and the museum staff for their assistance and interest in this project. The help given by Jean meant that I was saved having to make more visits than I did. The opportunities to have access to the castle were running out and I needed to get the work done before I ran out of time. Thank you Jean. Lastly I would like to thank Peter Berridge for instigating the graffiti project and I look forward to seeing the results of the work in print. Perhaps CAG members could be involved in some of the research that could be done into some of the names and designs.

A DIGRESSION TO WESTHAMPNETT CHURCH

E.W. Black

On the final morning (Wednesday 22nd May) of its recent trip to Chichester and the Isle of Wight the Colchester Archaeological Group made a brief stop at Westhampnett Church, dedicated to St Peter and only a stone's throw from where we had been staying at the Chichester Park Hotel in Madgwick Lane. I was aware of the importance of some of the Roman ceramic building material in the fabric of the church and suggested to Barbara Butler, who organised the trip, that we should have a look at it since we were so close.

The church had been renovated in 1867 and this had involved stripping away plasterwork both inside and outside, so revealing the Saxo-Norman age of the earliest, western, part of the chancel which had been extended to the east in the early 13th century when the surviving nave and south aisle were constructed. The different materials in the two phases of the external south wall of the chancel were clear with re-used Roman tile and brick in herringbone work visible in the western part and lacking from the eastern part. (The external wall on the north side of the chancel does not present the same clear distinction because materials from the eastern end-wall of the original chancel were reused in the 13th century extension here.) Prominent in the early south wall are the bases or tops of four or five hollow voussoir tiles, used in Roman bath-buildings to form vaults linking the vertical stacks of flue-tiles that lined the walls of *caldaria* (damp-heat rooms) and *laconia* (dry-heat rooms) and provided radiant heat. One of those visible at Westhampnett carries the graffito CALVI ("of Calvus") and another is keyed with a roller-stamped pattern (die 22).

A paper by Gordon Hills giving a careful description of the Roman tiles revealed at Westhampnett church appeared in 1868 in the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* vol.24 and was reprinted the following year in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* vol.21. The chancel arch had been formed of Roman bricks. Regrettably this was replaced in the alterations of 1867 when a north aisle was also added to the nave. Part of the south wall of the original chancel which was in a ruinous state was rebuilt and it was probably from here that a complete voussoir, illustrated by Hills and keyed with die 21 and of the same type as those still visible built into the wall, was removed. This is now on display inside the church although, unfortunately, we could not go in to see it because a meeting was in progress when we were making our visit.

In the 2nd century AD hollow voussoirs often had a circular or rectangular cutaway at the mid-point of their front and rear faces. This gave the potential for heated air to be drawn from one rib to the next in a vault above a hypocaust. The same could have been achieved with the type found at Westhampnett (which are now known in the literature as "Westhampnett type voussoirs"). As shown in Hills' illustration, these had a semi-circular cutaway on each side of the front and rear face just above the base. When they were combined in a vault a series of circular openings was created. What is especially important about the Westhampnett type voussoirs is that they are the earliest hollow voussoirs known to have been used in Britain. They are recognisable not only by their distinctive features like the cutaways and the curved junction between base / top and faces in the interior of the tile (an example of which is visible at Westhampnett) but also by their use of patterns keyed onto their surfaces (front and rear faces and base) by applying a roller-stamp, a wooden roller with a design cut into it. Combing was also used and sometimes keying by combing and stamping are found on different surfaces of the same tile. The firm that produced these tiles used stamps with a series of geometric designs that are found almost exclusively in Sussex and London: hence its designs are known as the "London-Sussex group", its products included innovative types of "double-box" tiles as well as the Westhampnett type voussoirs. Fragments of such tiles have come from the public baths in Chichester, part of which we saw in the new Novium Museum, but it seems most likely, as argued by Dr. Lynne Lancaster in her recent paper in the *Journal of Roman Archaeology* vol.25 (2012), that the stimulus for the activities of this firm was the late 1st century building-boom in luxury villas in Sussex. The best known of these are at Fishbourne, Southwick and Angmering and other strong candidates are attested at Arundel (Tarrant Street) and Eastbourne. These were very different from the villa we saw at Brading which developed over two centuries with additions and new construction culminating in the early 4th century when the latest of the mosaics (in room 12) was probably laid. The Sussex villas were laid out on a grand scale, with the latest design of bath-suite, from the

start. The fabric of the tiles is distinctive, containing red and cream fragments of crushed tile but the tiling itself has not so far been located. Dr. Lancaster has argued that Westhampnett type voussoirs are in fact the earliest hollow voussoir tiles found anywhere in the Roman empire and were copied at the bath-building at Aquae Sulis (Bath), although there they are in a different fabric and carried combed keying only and were not stamped. (A single complete voussoir of this type from Bath is in the collection of the Colchester and Ipswich Museum.)

When it was newly excavated the palace at Fishbourne and the other early Sussex villas were linked to the local 1st century client-ruler Tiberius Claudius Cogidubnus (or Togidubnus) and in Chichester Mark Davies showed us the inscription which names him as authorising the dedication of a temple to Neptune and Minerva by the *collegium fabrorum* (guild of ?carpenters) in return for the safety of the divine (i.e. the emperor's) household. Since the temple was dedicated during the rule of an emperor with an ancestor who had been declared *divus* (deified) by the Roman senate, this must have been under Claudius or Nero (before AD68) or after AD79 when Vespasian, the first emperor of the Flavian dynasty, died and was deified. I have suggested (in *Journal of Roman Archaeology* vol.21 (2008)) that the dedication for the safety of the divine household should be taken literally rather than as a formality and gives thanks for the preservation of the emperor Nero in AD59 when his life was allegedly menaced on the Bay of Naples during a festival of Minerva by his own mother Agrippina. Nero in fact fabricated the plot when his first attempt to kill his mother by arranging for her to be shipwrecked on her voyage home to her villa after dining with him failed. Agrippina's murder was followed by extravagant expressions of loyalty to the emperor. Minerva was honoured for her help in saving the emperor by annual games and a gold statue in the senate-house and it seems possible that Neptune was also cast in a favourable role despite the failure of the shipwreck in which two of Agrippina's close friends were killed but she herself escaped.

If its date is accepted as AD59, two names towards the end of the inscription gain in significance. The building-plot for the temple was given by ...ens son of Pudentinus. The first name may have been Clemens or Pudens and his father also had a Latinised name although neither was a Roman citizen. Cogidubnus (or Togidubnus) had been given Roman citizenship under Claudius or Nero and had taken the imperial *praenomen* and *nomen* (Tiberius Claudius) in front of his given name which betrays his Celtic origin. Although lacking Roman citizenship, the son of Pudentius belonged to a family that could show a longer history of romanisation. If this man's father carried a Latinised name in AD59, there is a strong likelihood that the family was Gallic in origin rather than British.

The Phase 2 palace at Fishbourne is dated c. AD75/80 and is best seen as the home of Cogidubnus' heir rather than of Cogidubnus himself. While the king ruled his task was to maintain the loyalty of his people and to support the Roman governor and procurator in a variety of practical ways. It was on his death and when the kingdom was incorporated into the province that his heir and other leading men among the Regni could indulge in luxury building. It was a *collegium fabrorum*, probably a guild of carpenters one of whose members was probably of Gallic origin, who catered for the needs of the New Town of Chichester (Noviomagus) in Cogidubnus' reign, as witnessed by the numerous traces of timber buildings found by Alec Down. Few buildings at that time, except perhaps for temples, will have been built in stone. Twenty years later stone-masons, workers in marble and mosaic, wall-painters and heating-engineers were in demand by a new generation with the wealth to pay for them and a sense of security brought about by a decade of Flavian expansionism on the frontiers of *Britannia*. Graffiti on Westhampnett type voussoirs refer to the Latinised non-citizen Calvus and to the probably Celtic Bel (...) and to the initials TFP, probably standing for the *tria nomina* T(itus) F(lavius) P(...) of a man endowed with Roman citizenship between AD70 and 81, either during the reign of Vespasian or his elder son Titus. Why he was granted citizenship at this time is unknown but it is worth remembering that the firm with which he was associated equipped baths in London as well as in Sussex. There it would be involved in luxury building for the rich and perhaps sometimes on projects commissioned by the provincial procurator.

It is uncertain what Roman building was the source of the tiles re-used in Westhampnett church. Both the public baths in Chichester and the palace at Fishbourne are possibilities. However, they could as easily have been robbed from a more local site somewhere close to Stane Street to the north-east of Chichester.

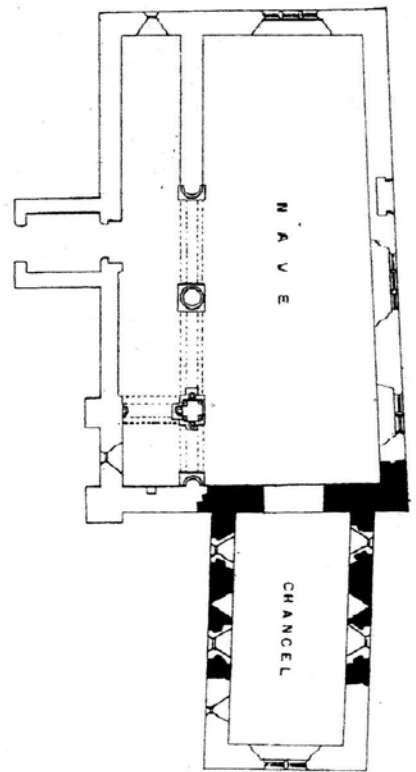


Fig 1 West Hampnett Church – Plan prior to 1867 Saxon – Norman work shown black (After Hills)

1867. Saxo - Norman work shown black. (After Hills)

Fig. 1. West Hampnett Church.

Plan prior to

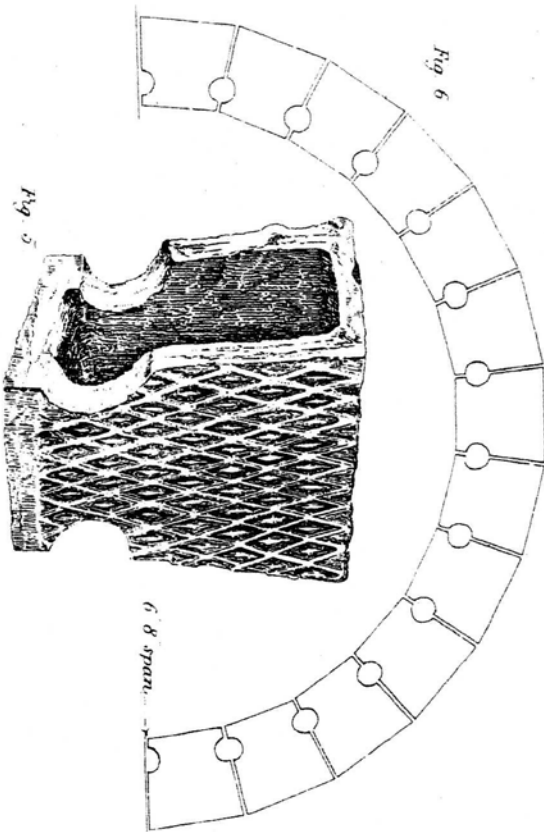


Fig 5. Complete Westhampnett type voussoir keyed with die 21 found in 1867 and reconstructed arch of voussoirs. (After Hills.)

Complete Westhampnett type voussoir keyed with die 21 found in 1867 and reconstructed arch of voussoirs. (After Hills.)

Fig. A. Graffito on top side of voussoir built into wall of Westhampnett Church **RIB** 11.5, 2491.84).

B. Same as above (**RIB** 11.5, 2491.126). C. Graffito on top side of Westhampnett voussoir found re-used in a 4th-c. bath at Elsted (unpublished, courtesy J. Kenny and Chichester District Council).

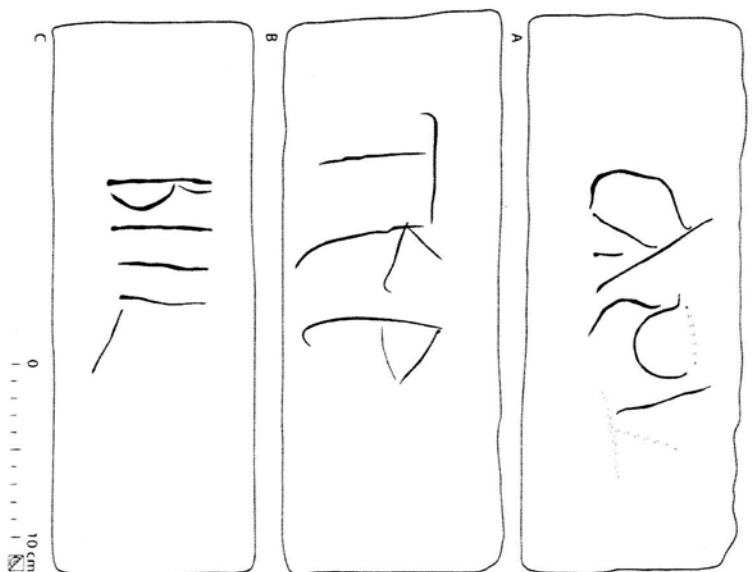


Fig. 14a. Graffito on top side of voussoir built into wall of Westhampnett Church (**RIB** 11.5, 2491.84).
14b. Same as above (**RIB** 11.5, 2491.126).
14c. Graffito on top side of Westhampnett voussoir found re-used in a 4th-c. bath at Elsted (unpublished, courtesy J. Kenny and Chichester District Council).
(All specimens drawn by author from photographs.)

(Copyright L. Lancaster)

BOTTLE SEALS: A BOTTLE FROM MARKS HALL

Francis Nicholls

The continuing CAG excavations at Marks Hall over 2013 have revealed a number of interesting finds.

Amongst these have been some glass bottle seals. One particularly fine example is a seal embossed with the Coat of Arms of the Honywood family and probably dates from between 1600 to 1640. This covers the period of the building of the mansion in 1609 by Robert Honywood and that of Sir Thomas Honywood, the Parliamentarian who inherited Marks Hall in 1631.



The Honywood bottle seal

Seals were applied to the shoulder of the bottle, made from a molten blob of glass and then embossed with initials (often with a date), other symbols or as in this case, the Honywood family's Coat of Arms. Prior to the early 1600's, wine bottles were either made of leather or pottery. In the case of the latter, they were mainly imported from the Rhine area (Rhenish ware).

Glass bottle production was banned in the 1636, it is said because the quantity of wood being cut down to fire the new glass furnaces was rapidly using up the country's resources. However, those with influence were still able to acquire their own glass bottles and it was clearly in their interest to identify them. These bottles used to be taken to a wine merchant who filled them from casks using a liquid measure. No doubt, an embossed bottle on the dining table was also an very impressive indication of the host's importance!

REPORTS ON LECTURES 2012 - 13

FROM AUROCHS TO LOGBOATS: THE PREHISTORY OF A DROWNED LANDSCAPE AT MUST FARM, WHITTLESEY

Mark Knight, Senior Project Officer, Cambridge Archaeological Unit

15th October 2012

Report by Pam Pudney

To the south-east of Peterborough the A605 road runs towards the fenland market town of Whittlesey, crossing en route the King's Dyke watercourse. Near to the King's Dyke, where the road crosses the railway line, is the brick clay extraction site known as Must Farm. It has been excavated for its fine Lower Oxford clay for 150 years at least. In the late 19th century a local farmer and landowner Alfred Nicholson Leeds employed a group of experienced men called "clay getters" to dig out this good Oxford clay at very deep levels. They soon stumbled on fossilised bones which turned out to be those of dinosaurs and ancient marine animals. Over a 49-year period the farmer diligently pieced together the broken fragments and meticulously recorded them. His wonderful finds can be seen in the British Museum as well as in German, Austrian and North American collections today.

By the end of the 20th century the site belonged to the Hanson Company UK and in 1999 decaying timbers were seen protruding from their quarry pit (southern face) at Must Farm. Seven years later these were identified as being from a succession of large Bronze Age structures (1300-800 BC) spanning an ancient watercourse. Mainly, other Neolithic and Early Bronze Age sites in Britain are covered with a shallow layer, and their features have often been erased by continuous human occupation, but here at Must Farm the archaeology had been deeply buried beneath the wet fens for centuries. Therefore, what appears nowadays to be a flat, featureless, industrially-farmed landscape in fact hides a very interesting and well-preserved history of early man's way of life.

The context and chronology of the Must Farm wooden platform have a great deal in common with Flag Fen which lies due east of Peterborough and thus north of Must Farm. Recent archaeological excavation has revealed that the farm's Bronze Age water channel was crossed by a series of massive square oak piles made from trees that had been felled at the same time as some of the Flag Fen post-alignment timber. At some time in the Late Bronze Age, the Must Farm wooden structure had partially collapsed, crushing a fish trap beneath it. This structure was rebuilt, but later on, between 920 and 800 BC, a major fire occurred, causing the smouldering wood to topple down into the fen water. Yet these incidents meant that many varied items were preserved by the action of fire and water. Ever-rising sea levels had gradually transformed what had been low-lying, dry terrain into a saturated area which was the period when Must Farm and Flag Fen were constructed.

The Cambridge Archaeological Unit has been working at the Hanson UK brick pits since the 1990's in close collaboration with Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team and Hanson's own archaeological consultants - S.L.R. Consulting Ltd. - as well as the earth-moving company, Fox Ltd. The Cambridge team found the remains of a wooden boundary fence or animal enclosure built between 2,200 and 1,950 BC and a surface eroded by animals' feet. Were animals kept in pens here? Did they walk to the water's edge to drink? A great number of animal hoofprints were discovered and although there are no specialists in Britain to identify them, these clear prints are probably those of cows, pigs, deer etc, even aurochs. Other items discovered included a fleet of eight prehistoric logboats in very good condition (some with ancient repair marks easily visible), funnel-shaped baskets/fish traps and objects in metal including swords, some with clear makers' marks, still legible, and spears (all well preserved).

There is in all probability much more of this material in the fenland of Cambridgeshire. Mark imagined the people of those days going about their business, navigating up and down the water channel or herding their animals along its banks. They both cremated and buried their dead nearby and perhaps performed rituals, indicated by some deliberately broken weapons which were found. They lived on a natural causeway that flanked the stream, the waters of which flowed through a saturated landscape of marsh

and reed swamps, a landscape which they had learned to live with over time as the water levels had risen. The project is ongoing.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

John Schofield, St Paul's Cathedral Archaeologist

22nd October 2012

Report by David Parr

John Schofield started on a local note, reminding us that the cathedral was to a great extent built by Essex people, and largely financed by the rentals they paid on land it owned in the county.

Although a number of cathedrals have been built on the site, virtually all archaeological evidence was destroyed by Christopher Wren's deep excavations (6-8 metres deep to Roman level). However, it is clear that a Roman road ran directly through the site (evidence either side). There were cremations in the Roman period, and a legend of a Temple of Diana.

The first cathedral was built in 604 AD, later damaged, but re-established by 650.

Adjacent Cheapside provides clear remains of a Saxon town, but there is little to show, beyond a handsome carved stone from 1030 (Canute) and a 10th century Saxon hogback tombstone; Ethelred was also buried in the cathedral. The building was destroyed in 1087, and Bishop Maurice built a Gothic cathedral, with one of the longest naves in Europe. Indications of the appearance come from Holler engravings, and some drawings by Wren and Inigo Jones. It was comparable with Norman cathedrals at Peterborough and Norwich, and on the scale of Santiago de Compostela (although with fewer pilgrims).

In 1269 the spire was destroyed by fire, but the East end was rebuilt to become the largest building in England, with a colourful Rose Window (its appearance now fairly accurately reproduced), comparable with Notre Dame. Work was completed by 1314, and the cathedral on a hill, as at Lincoln and York, became the prime symbol of London, serving as a meeting place for the king and his people. It had a 2-storey cloister, and a courtyard with gates on all four sides, but limited in size by the medieval settlement.

In 1633-1642 classical cladding was added by Inigo Jones in Palladian style. It had a very grand West portico, 45 feet high, with Corinthian columns and surmounted by two statues above a row of lions' heads (also around the cathedral itself), one of which has been recovered.

Meticulous research continues, based on many small fragments of masonry, to develop an increasingly detailed computerised representation of the Norman cathedral.

COLCHESTER CASTLE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Tom Hodgson, Community History Manager, Colchester and Ipswich Museums

29th October 2012

Report by Jean Roberts

Tom Hodgson reminded us of the early history of the castle site, firstly as The Temple of Claudius, erected for the imperial cult of the dead Emperor Claudius and a symbol of Roman rule, the most important building in the Colonia. It is the largest classical temple known in Britain and the present castle still has the foundations of the temple podium underneath it.

During the early 5th Century Roman rule collapsed and the town was taken over by Saxons, who were not city dwellers and destruction and decay set in, although the castle was refortified in 917, under Edward the Elder, to keep out the Danes.

William the Conqueror, would realise what an important town Colchester had been and decided to build a castle here, the first stage in c 1076, being a single-storey building, followed by a much larger keep built under the direction of Eudo Dapifer, Steward to the early Norman Kings. The Keep is the largest Norman keep in Europe, as the walls were built encompassing the foundations of the Temple of Claudius and much Roman material was used in its construction. The castle also has the largest spiral

stone staircase in Britain. How tall the Castle was originally is still a debatable point and we shall probably never know for certain. We do know that gunpowder was used by John Wheeley in 1638 to demolish the top floors and a tunnel was dug through the walls to excavate the sand between the Roman vaults, but he ran out of money and work was stopped.

In the following years the castle was abandoned, then used as a jail, housing a variety of prisoners, such as those accused of witchcraft and religious martyrs. Charles Gray in 1726 was given the deeds to the castle as a wedding present and set about restoring parts of it, to create a large roofed-room, with tall windows, which is still known as the Charles Gray room. At this time there continued to be cells and shops in other parts of the building.

In 1934 the castle was completely roofed over, as it had ceased to be a jail in 1835 and displays were put into the interior. The last alterations to the inside were in 1990, when the lift, the shop and the present displays were arranged. With the present advances in technology and different ideas of museum displays, it was decided to have a refurbishment and improve conditions for the public, with under floor heating, a second lift, better reception area and better displays of some of the unique treasures belonging to Colchester. It is also intended to show more of the actual castle fabric, which has been hidden for the past years. Money for this work is coming from a Lottery Grant, Colchester Council and other organizations, with building work commencing April 2013 and leading to a reopening at Easter 2014.

THE EXCAVATIONS AT COPPED HALL MANSION, EPPING, ESSEX

John Shepherd, Archaeological Consultant

5th November 2012

Report by Tim Dennis

The 'modern' Copped Hall will be known to anyone who has driven west on the M25, when it becomes visible on the hillside to the north of the road, just past Epping Forest. This version, currently under restoration by the Copped Hall Trust, was ruined following a serious fire in 1917. However, the main target of John's talk, after describing its typically-complicated Mediaeval and post-Mediaeval history, was the earlier building on the site, north of the surviving structure. Members of West Essex Archaeology Group have been involved over a number of seasons excavating remains of a Tudor building: this will have resonances with CAG's project at Marks Hall, the main difference, unlike at Marks Hall, being the availability of detailed historical records, including ground plans. As well as extensive foundation remains - and Tudor drains - of particular interest is a large circular brick feature about 5 m diameter, surrounded by substantial brick foundations and thought to be the interior floor of a dovecote.

Surprisingly, the edifice was built, not on the 'natural' local clay, but the soft backfill of an earlier structure, possibly a moat. Other evidence, including contemporary drawings, suggests that subsidence was a severe problem here and elsewhere on the old mansion site, and may explain its abandonment. Further information on Copped Hall, and progress of the restoration and archaeology, is available from the Copped Hall Trust on <http://www.coppedhalltrust.org.uk/>.

EXCAVATIONS AT HARTISMERE ACADEMY – PREHISTORIC TO EARLY ANGLO-SAXON SETTLEMENT

Jo Caruth, Senior Project Officer, Suffolk County Council

12th November 2012

Report by John Spears

In her introduction, Jo explained that her talk concerned an archaeological dig that took place in 2007: a very wet year.

The site at Eye (which means 'Island') covered an area of 4.72 hectares, was on a severe slope and about to be levelled and taken over as a sports facility. It is thought that the upper part of the site was probably part of a late Roman settlement. Later the Saxon owner, Edward of Laxfield, had possession and after the Norman Conquest it passed to William Malet who founded the castle thus converting Eye to a fortified town.

Jo explained that the excavation posed many questions but provided few definite answers and much work and further analysis remains outstanding.

Evidence was found of cremations and pottery finds indicated both Neolithic and Bronze Age settlements but most artefacts were of early Saxon origin. Bones and pottery were found around the nearby river, there was evidence of two roundhouses, measuring 3.75m and 5.5m across, respectively. There were many shallow pits mainly filled with rubbish. These pits were thought to be shallow because of the heavy clay soil in the area. Remains of eighteen sunken Saxon buildings built over the pits were found, but what were the pits originally for?

There was exciting evidence of a longhouse, measuring 19m by 5m. Such buildings were extremely rare in this country but were common in Europe. Perhaps Eye was an early immigrant settlement! Finds of burnt subsoil and carbonised wood suggests industrial activity but what were they for? – Perhaps a smokehouse. Evidence of a furnace used for metalwork with copper alloy remains, together with poor quality iron-ore, were found.

There was evidence of a gully running down the site, perhaps used for conducting water from the former Roman site on the upper part of the slope. Vast amounts of animal bones were found, 50% of these were from butchered horses which indicates that horses were eaten at the end of their useful life. Jo suggested that the single-use furnaces found were used for cooking the butchered horses.

Metal detectors found over 500 small finds, 200 of these of early Saxon origin. Some gold and silver pendants and brooches were found together with many Roman coins. Discovery of an early Saxon scale-pan indicates commercial activity. Perhaps the many Roman coins were used as weights with the scale-pan.

Jo concluded her talk by emphasising once more that analysis remains to be carried out and that possible future excavations at Eye, when funding permits, may provide answers to the many outstanding questions.

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

19th November 2012

Report by Jane Crone

Marks Hall 2011-2012

Tim Dennis and John Mallinson began the evening's proceedings by presenting the background to recent excavations and reporting on the work undertaken on site to date. There is written evidence for activity on the site from before Domesday. During an excellent Powerpoint presentation we were able to see what the Jacobean house and the area around was like by examining photographic and cartographic evidence and the surviving ground plans. After the demolition of the house in 1950 many fixtures and fittings were sold and used in other buildings. For example the fireplaces were bought by the Royal Grammar School in Colchester and used in the library while the staircase went to the Phoenix gallery in Lavenham. The brickwork of the house has been studied from photographic evidence; English bond brickwork was used lower down the walls, but was changed near the top into Flemish bond. As we know the size of the bricks used it is possible to work out the dimensions of the building from counting them in photos of the building. Most of the bricks that were used date from the mid sixteenth century and there is strong evidence of reuse.

Site photos gave a good impression of the excavations so far undertaken and photos taken using a draincam showed what the drains on the outside of the house and to the west of the front porch looked like. The photographs of the cellar excavations in Area 1 graphically illustrate the results of the excavations in that area. Notable finds from the area of the house include a piece of the first floor plaster ceiling, stone tiles and marble fragments from the hall, copper wires for the bells used to call the servants, a coin from the reign of George I, a cast iron fender and a battery segment from the 1950s. The excavations in Area 4 have revealed drains and middens, the latter containing among other things pottery dating from 1000 to 1600 sealed under a later building. In conclusion work has revealed the outline of the 1609 building but the additions of 1760 are difficult to work out.

Cowlins Farm Neolithic Longbarrow

Anna Moore reported on the background to this site and recent excavations. Photographs from 'Essex in the Air' in the 1990s revealed crop marks in the area and 2 ring ditches which were excavated in the 1970s. The site is close to the River Stour, an area in which many crop marks have been identified. Field walking took place in the area in 2011 and a Neolithic axe was found close to the long barrow in the 1980s. The farmer invited CAG to excavate the area and David and Aline Black undertook a geophysical survey prior to this. The survey showed ditches clearly and more pits. The excavation was directed by Denise Hardy and 300mm of top soil and subsoil were removed. At the south end of the site a gravel area post hole was excavated, as was an oval pit into which 2 post holes were cut. Two small pieces of pottery and a small piece of human bone were found below the post holes, but these were thought to be fill brought in from outside. At the north end charcoal provided a carbon 14 date.

Anna described a possible sequence for the building of the monument and drew some parallels with other monuments as well as describing the differences between them. It is suggested that the pits may not belong to a structure. It was noted that the Bures cursus is contemporary and can be seen on the opposite side of the valley from this site. In conclusion more investigation is needed into this site.

The brick and tile kiln in Wormingford and the search for John Jackson's time capsule

Don Goodman and Andrew White presented an account of this excavation. The site was originally excavated in the 1960s by John Jackson, who buried a time capsule. The objectives of the recent excavation were to find out if the bricks made at this site on the side of the hill were used on the site of the lodge at the top of the hill. The excavators also wanted to find the time capsule, which they did. Before the excavation David and Aline Black undertook a helpful geophysical survey, which identi-

fied the flares of the kiln.

The kiln was well below ground level and a lot of ladders were needed in order to excavate it. The bricks used to make the kiln were reused ones but it is not known where they came from. The fuel used probably came to the site via the River Stour. Peg tiles and curved bricks were made in the kiln and some of the products were different colours due to differences in firing. The bricks which were used to make the centre of the kiln were blue from the effect of intense heat.

Although parallels can be made with the medieval kiln at Tyler's Hill in Canterbury this is a typical Suffolk kiln. This is because one of its features was a lean-to which was used for storing wood and sheltering the people firing the kiln. In some respects this kiln is also similar to a Roman kiln.

All three talks were interesting and entertaining and provided an excellent synopsis of the work undertaken by the group during the course of the previous year.

THE ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY OF POMPEII

Stephen Greep

26th November 2012

Report by Jan Harrison

Stephen first visited Pompeii in 1979 and has now been 54 times.

In 63AD the bay of Naples suffered a disastrous earthquake which seriously damaged many buildings. The repair and reconstruction was still in progress when Vesuvius erupted in August 79AD and the town was covered with ash, white hot rock and lava from above. Nearby Herculaneum, however, was engulfed by boiling mud which penetrated every building.

Pompeii had been a mercantile town of 10-20 thousand inhabitants which was founded in the 7th - 6th century BC. There are 5-6 layers of Greek, Etruscan and Samnite towns below the present floor level. By 4-3 C BC it was a small Roman town of 24 acres, with streets paved with Vesuvian lava and the forum aligned to Vesuvius.

In 59AD there was a riot in the amphitheatre which is commemorated by a wall painting in a nearby house. The Palaestra with swimming pool was closed for 10 years. Pompeii has been described as a town frozen in time, at 24th August 79AD. It was rediscovered in 1599 when a water channel was dug, but excavation did not start until mid 18th Century and it is only 2/3rds cleared now. The temple of Isis, which had been rebuilt, was uncovered in 1764, and it was visited by Mozart aged 13 on a 'Grand Tour'. The wall paintings from the temple are in the museum at Naples. Many of the early finds have been lost, because they were removed as 'works of art'.

Pompeii was a rich trading town of 260 - 270 acres, and much of its wealth was from the wine trade. Many wine amphora of the type known as Dressel One have been found. The forum was being laid with travertine paving, some of which was unused. The reconstruction of the basilica, built 120BC, had not been finished. Also nearby is the Temple of Apollo with its bronze statue of Apollo.

The amphitheatre was the earliest stone build, approx. 80BC; the seats were reached by external staircases. Much of the seating remains. There are two theatres, a large open air one and a smaller indoor one. Seven bath houses have been excavated. Several cemeteries have been found, along with 90 taverns and 30 - 40 bakeries. Many houses have been excavated; the best known is the House of the Faun, named after the statue of a dancing faun discovered in one of the bedrooms which has now been placed in the impluvium. The simplest house had an atrium with rooms opening off it; next an impluvium was placed in the atrium, then a tablinum was added with further rooms off it. The next development was the addition of peristyles as in the house of the Vettii,

The walls of the earliest buildings were of a rubble core, plastered. The next phase was of tufa opus reticulatum again plastered. The final phase was of tile construction also plastered.

There are four phases of wall paintings:

1st.. blocks of colour

2nd the addition of architectural features such as columns

3rd combination of 2nd and 4th style

4th pictures

The majority of floor mosaics are black and white geometric design. It is mainly wall mosaics which are pictures.

It was election time when the eruption struck because of posters painted on walls. A large amount of gladiatorial material has been found, and also an Indian figurine showing evidence of trade. Stephen said that he had attempted to give us a picture of art, archaeology, architecture, culture and political and social life, but only in the Bay of Naples area.

THE HYDERABAD BARRACKS ROMAN COIN HOARD

Nina Crummy, Visiting Research Fellow, Department of Archaeology, University of Reading

3rd December 2012

Report by Richard Todd

In 2011 a hoard of Roman coins was exposed during stripping of the top soil preparatory to excavation of this ex-military site off Mersea Road, Colchester. It consists of 1247 coins, apparently a relatively modest number for a hoard, of a denomination known as Antoniniani, which had been buried in an everyday pot in a hitherto unknown part of the Berechurch dyke, presumably for safe-keeping rather than as a ritual or votive offering. Intriguingly there were also a few shards of another pot nearby raising the possibility that there may have been a second collection which had been retrieved at some time.

The coins range in date from 253AD to 274, turbulent times throughout the Roman Empire. They were probably buried at or soon after the end of this period. Their placement within the pot suggests that they had been stacked before insertion, perhaps for counting, and the random distribution of types and dates indicates that the hoard had been assembled immediately before burial rather than the pot having been filled gradually over a period of years. They are made of copper alloy, “silver washed” after die stamping. Their quality of manufacture and condition varies, some being poorly and inaccurately made or badly worn by use, some had been damaged, others show great refinement in the images and inscriptions. Some are in nearly mint condition.

With many illustrations Mrs Crummy demonstrated the use of coins by the Emperor of the day as a means of propaganda, and their value to us as a record of the history of the Empire during this difficult period and of the fashions of the times, particularly with respect to men’s hairstyles and beards.

The middle years of the third century were years of crisis for the Empire. In 260 the Emperor Valerian was taken prisoner in Persia, and died there, the Franks invaded Germania and there was unrest on the Danube and in Egypt. The Empire was sub-divided with different Emperors for the Central and Western, or Gallic, Empires. The several Emperors of both regions, and some of their wives, minted their own coins in various types and this hoard contains examples of many of them though a considerable number are from the reign of Postumus, first Emperor in the west (260 – 269). It is apparently very difficult if not impossible to know where any particular coin was minted.

The disruption of the Empire had a major effect on trade leading to a period of severe austerity, reflected in Camulodunum by destruction of the Circus, dismantling of buildings at Gosbecks, the failure to maintain public buildings and contraction of the suburbs. This may explain the burying of hoards such as this one, and others that have been discovered in and around Colchester.

The images and inscriptions on the reverse side of the coins (the obverse features the Emperor’s head, or

that of his wife) follow a variety of established patterns which sought to proclaim the merits of the Emperor, to praise the army, or to reassure the populace and to elicit their support. They include images of Roman Gods, and in at least one instance a Pagan God, and other figures from Roman mythology representative of Health, Happiness, Piety, Domestic Harmony, Security, Manliness, Fidelity of the Army, Victory, Concord or other desirable attributes of the Emperor, the army or, the population at large. Some coins were issued as commemorative objects or as memorials.

This lecture attracted a large audience and provoked many questions and much discussion. Unfortunately, some of the questions, such as who might have buried the hoard and why it was buried in that particular place, can never be answered. Mrs Crummy was reluctant to speculate on the likely value of the hoard when it was buried but hazarded a guess that it might have represented a year or two's pay for a not very well-off individual.

The coins, which belong to the developer Taylor Wimpey will be given to the Castle Museum.

STOW MARIES AERODROME, PAST AND PRESENT

Roger Smith

14th January 2013

Report by David Black

The museum is described as a "living history site", based on a group of over twenty 1st World War buildings that have remained largely untouched since being abandoned by the RAF in 1919.

Not long after the start of the 1st World War in 1914, from their forward bases near Gent and Brussels, German Zeppelin airships began bombing raids on South East England. Initially these raids, supposedly on the orders of the Kaiser, avoided London, which was fortunate because at that time the capital had little or no defences against a raider that could attack at night and drop its bombs from anything up to 20,00ft. When the Kaiser agreed (in May/June 1915) to allow his forces to attack London the government was finally forced to act and ordered the creation of twelve new Home Defence squadrons of the Royal Flying Corp. (then part of the Army but subsequently the RAF). This must have been a huge undertaking which necessitated bringing back aircraft and pilots from the Western Front and the building of airfields, such as Stow Maries, literally from scratch on green field sites.

The 37th Squadron, tasked with the Eastern aerial defence of the capital, was made up of four 'Flights'. The Headquarters Flight settled into "The Grange", a large house in Woodham Mortimer. 'A' Flight was based at Rochford near the current site of Southend airport; 'B' Flight was based at Stow Maries; and 'C' flight was based at nearby Goldhanger. Navigation techniques at that time were very limited and the Zeppelin pilots aiming for London when approaching the Essex coastline could be expected to home in on the three prominent features; the rivers Roach, Crouch and Blackwater. A glance at the map will show you that each of 37th Squadron's aerodromes was located at the head of one of these river estuaries.

Stow Maries Aerodrome was opened in 1916, becoming operational in May 1917, initially with 12 aircraft and 120 personnel, using wooden huts and tents for accommodation. The buildings now present, including a blacksmith's shop, mortuary, officers barracks & officers mess, were later additions, mostly built in early 1918 at a time when it was expected that Stow Maries would become a permanent aerodrome. When the war ended in 1918 construction ceased, leaving some of the buildings incomplete.

Over time 37th Squadron concentrated its forces at Stow Maries. In summer 1917 'A' Flight moved in from Rochford, the Headquarters Flight arrived towards the end of 1918, and in February 1919 'C' Flight moved in from Goldhanger, bringing together for the first time the entire squadron of 24 aircraft and around 300 personnel. This turned out to be a bad omen and the following month the squadron moved to Biggin Hill in Kent and the Stow Maries aerodrome was abandoned.

The 37th Squadron had some success against air raids, including the downing of Zeppelin L48 at Theberton in Suffolk in June 1917, and played a part in a running battle against a formation of 20 German Gotha bombers heading for London in July 1917. But their achievements were limited by inadequate aircraft that initially couldn't climb to the operational height of the Zeppelins or match the speed of the Gotha bombers and, above all, by the poor training of their pilots - nine out of ten deaths were due to accidents rather than enemy action.

So what happened to the Stow Maries aerodrome and how did it manage to survive from 1919? The land returned to its previous use for agriculture, owned by the same farming family from 1919 until 2009. The buildings were mainly used as farm storage or as accommodation for farm workers and, although somewhat dilapidated, remained largely intact. Since 2009, when the site was bought by its present owner, several of the buildings have been sympathetically restored, including the former Flight Commander's Office which now houses a small museum. Most of the land originally occupied by the aerodrome is still being farmed but a part of it, adjacent to the buildings, is maintained as an airfield for light aircraft; its most notable recent visitors were a pair of Sopwith Camels.

Museum opening times 10am to 4pm Thursday to Sunday.

For further information please see their website www.stowmaries.com

THE LEGACIES OF EGYPT

Frances Boardman, lecturer on Egypt

21st January 2013

Report by Jean Roberts

We were very grateful to Frances Boardman who came to speak to us at very short notice, when our expected Speaker had to cancel, and we were given a very entertaining and informative talk.

For most people Egypt means Cleopatra, Pharaohs and Pyramids, in an exotic period. However, there are many legacies Egypt has left us and many surprising customs and practices that had their origin 3-5,000 years ago. For instance she had the first efficient tax system in the world, which not everybody was happy about, as there is a document from the 30th century BC in which a man is complaining about being taxed excessively and saying he was going to take his complaint to a higher authority to get satisfaction. The first recorded strike took place in the country and there was a social security system of sorts, the elite recognising the necessity of providing certain basic services and ensuring people had particular rights.

One of the things modern thinking usually gets wrong, through Hollywood and the Bible, is that there were hundreds of slaves in Egypt and they built the pyramids. This is not true and there wasn't even a word for "slave" in their vocabulary. They did have prisoners of war, who had been captured, but these people were released when the hostilities were over. Some of our fairy stories had their origins in Egyptian stories, including Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Rumpelstiltskin and the legend of the Wooden Horse. Cinderella started off as the story of a girl, bathing in the Nile, who was picked up by an eagle, dropping her sandal as she was carried away. The sandal landed in the lap of the Pharaoh and he was so overcome by the perfume he searched the whole country until he found the foot that fitted the sandal and made her his Queen.

Wine was produced with labels giving details of where it was produced, the name of the vintner, the date of production and an assessment of the quality (good, twice good, three times good, genuine, sweet, etc). 1344 BC was noted as a great vintage. Cosmetics were produced for beautifying and they did not contain any harmful ingredients, unlike Greek, Roman or European equivalents. They also produced shampoos, colourants, deodorants, something to get rid of dandruff and an antiseptic to prevent eye disease. Lastly Frances suggested that we thought the wet T-shirt contest was a modern phenomenon, but NO, there is a letter that has the phrase "That I may let you see my beauty my....finest royal linen when it is wet!!

HIDDEN IN THE UNDERGROWTH; THE STORY OF THE BASILDON PLOTLANDS

Deanna Walker, author of two books about the Basildon Plotlands

28th January 2013

Report by Ellie Mead

Plotlands were areas of land divided into smaller plots on which homes for holidaying or more permanent use could be erected. The speaker introduced her subject by saying that her parents had been Plotlanders and she had spent many childhood summer holidays enjoying the freedom of life on the Plotlands. The average plot was approximately 20ft x 120ft and they came into being during the 1920s as many farms went out of business; there was an auction of farmland in 1924. The developers would liaise with the railway companies to organise 'champagne sales' whereby free rail tickets were available for people to come to the sale, where they were given drinks with the hope that in this mellowed state they would make a purchase. The target group were mainly working class Londoners. Locally there were other Plotlands at Canvey and Jaywick and there were several on the South coast as well as elsewhere in the country.

The usual method of occupation was to put up a bell tent first on the site, whilst building a dwelling, either from scratch or from a kit. Kits were available from £64 to £168. Many early structures were made of wood and the roads beside them were unmade grass tracks. Later families clubbed together to build their own concrete paths. During the 1940s many added an exterior render and a tiled roof to the building. Facilities were limited; again community spirit would result in the digging of wells. There were standpipes for water and most had paraffin or gas for their lighting. A few of the 'posher' areas had electricity or gas laid on, but there was no sewerage; only the traditional 'bucket and chuck it' system with a hut at the end of the garden. Conditions in winter could be fairly unpleasant.

Some unusual dwellings were to be found as testament to the ingenuity of the Plotlanders – trams, buses, railway carriages and lorries were all converted into accommodation. One building was constructed from wooden orange crates and a 1930s shipping crate outlasted many other constructions. One bungalow was painted with black ink from the print firm where its owner worked.

During World War 2 many people went to live on their plots to escape the Blitz in London. There was a Parish Invasion Committee and air raid shelters. However, by the end of the war, with the increase in the number of permanent dwellers, the local officials were concerned about the Plotlands turning into a rural slum. There were health issues surrounding the disposal of waste and gradually the Plotlands area was cleared for new housing development. People began to sell up and Basildon Development Corporation issued compulsory purchase orders. The last Plotlanders left in 1984. Essex Wildlife Trust bought some of the area and now the remnants of former dwellings are hidden in the undergrowth; little now remains of what was once a thriving community.

EXCAVATIONS AT THE ROYAL MINT 1983-88

Ian Grainger, MOLA

4th February 2013

Report by Francis Nicholls

Ian Grainger began by dividing the site into three separate historic phases:

- 1) Black Death cemetery
- 2) Abbey of St. Mary
- 3) Royal Navy Victualling Yard

The 2 ha (5 acre) site of the old Royal Mint was almost completely demolished in the early 1970's. In 1972 MOLA was requested to put in two exploratory trenches. These produced evidence of burials. The main excavations began in 1983 and went on to 1988, at peak times using up to 70 staff and volunteers.

1) Black Death cemetery

Early 12th century records show the area to have been an open field site with some evidence of sand quarrying. In 1348 the main area was used as a large cemetery for victims of the Black Death. It was a well-ordered site with most burials in rows and giving the appearance of bodies being buried with care and dignity, many in coffins. There was also a separate area for the burial of children. Whilst there was some evidence for mass burials, these were limited.

Ian Grainger offered the view that victims of the Black Death may have succumbed to a range of epidemics over a sufficiently long period of time for the cemetery to have been run in a much more orderly way than the mass graves of the Great Plague. The site also revealed the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, built during the time of the cemetery's use.

2) Abbey of St. Mary

The Abbey was founded by Edward III in 1350 under the Cistercian Order and was built as a memorial to the victims of the Great Plague. The earlier chapel may have been the original church but in 1361 the Abbey expanded with a chapter house, cloisters, infirmary and a larger main church. By 1400 the Abbey was complete and after that date only minor works were added, mainly because it was constrained by its boundaries and the site of the cemetery. In 1539 the Abbey was suppressed.

3) Royal Navy Victualling Yard

In 1560, plans were drawn up for the site to be used as the Royal Navy Victualling Yard. The area already contained large buildings from the old Abbey which were deemed to be suitable for servicing the Yard. These and newer constructions had to house administration, baking (the oven house was excavated), salt storage and meat processing, storage and brewing/coopering. The Yard had continuous use to 1785. In 1807 the buildings became largely used for tobacco warehousing. The Royal Mint was completed in 1812 and stood on the site till 1970.

ROMAN SETTLEMENT AND LANDSCAPE IN ESSEX

Maria Medlycott, Essex County Council

11th February 2013:

Report by Louise Harrison

In a fascinating talk given by Maria, a map of Essex was the first of many slides, showing almost the same main road network as today, and was followed by a map of red and black spots. Each of these spots denoted a Roman find, the black spots being recorded sites, and the red spots showing finds resulting from metal detecting. Not very surprisingly, perhaps, many dots are clustered around Colchester, the line of the A120 and Stansted, revealing where archaeologists have worked.

Maria's talk was not about Colchester, but **Essex**, and she proceeded to talk about many of the known sites, starting with **Great Chesterford**. This was a big town in Roman times but has virtually disappeared under fields. The site was subject to a geophysics examination a few years ago revealing roads and houses, surrounded by a wall. Part of the line of a fort, which preceded the town, was also visible. Graves could be seen along the road to Cambridge. The site had been excavated at the end of World War II when the clay floors of houses had been found. In the mid C4th, the town wall had been added. Maria showed us a slide of the mapped areas which had been excavated. The extra-mural settlement and cemeteries were clear, together with an intriguing site where shafts were found. These shafts may have had a religious purpose as they contained anvils, scythes, and cauldron chains. The later Anglo Saxons deposited additional pots in these shafts. The existence of a Saxon minster nearby lends weight to the argument that this area constituted a significant religious site over a long period of time.

Great Chesterford was a smaller but similar town to Colchester. About 1km to the east there is a temple. To the north of the temple and east of the town there is a chalk ridge. Here, probably open fields in Roman times, lots of sheep had been sacrificed. By the river, there were hay meadows.

Braintree was a small market town, a spot on the route between Chelmsford, Sudbury, and Colchester.

It was quite narrow for a Roman town, and now lies mostly under a shopping centre. When it was excavated, there were not many finds, leading to the conclusion that the area had been an open market. There was no evidence of Roman Braintree east of the road in contrast to the other side where the excavated area was full of finds, especially rubbish pits. Interestingly, a later Anglo-Saxon floor had been sunk inside a small late Roman room, the floor area aligned with the edges of the room. Was the room extant when the floor was sunk? Braintree had no town defences whatsoever, confirming its status as a small market town serving locals and travellers.

Great Dunmow is situated on Stane Street. It has a mediaeval high street to the north of the old roads. Roman Dunmow is now under a housing estate. It was probably a narrow settlement along the road. An excavation at Hasler's Lane turned up C1st – C2nd finds, including pots and a mirror.

Chelmsford. Moulsham Street is a Roman road. A large area of Chelmsford was occupied by a manzior – a big administrative area. There is evidence of an industrial area in Lynemouth Gardens.

Next under the spotlight was **Elms Farm, Heybridge**. Here there was a Roman village, 400 years of houses. All the roads coming into the village focussed on a temple in the centre – possibly the village's *raison d'être*. In the temple precinct there is an open area to the north and west, which may have been a market place. There was a communal latrine, and also amphorae were found which had been heated up by stones inside. Were visitors to the temple buying takeaway food? Industrial activity, such as corn drying kilns, spinning and weaving equipment, was discovered at the rear of domestic plots. The village is sited near the Blackwater estuary, marshy ground ideal for sheep and oysters.

The site at **Leaden Roding** was discovered by Peter Sharp's fieldwalking, followed by a geophysics examination. There was a straight road going through with settlement built up around a crossroads. Plots radiated off, like a mediaeval green settlement. Finds indicate that it was occupied for the whole of the Roman period, and weights for weighing goods have been found, but to date there has been no excavation. Was there ever a fort?

Billericay is a problematic site. There was some excavation in the 1970s but this was not written up until decades later. It is difficult to know how big Billericay was. A pottery kiln was found, along with general Roman activity. A grave containing a young woman and her baby was discovered: she had been buried with little cosmetic pots.

Prior to the airport being built, there were extensive excavations at **Stansted**. There was a Roman village below what is now the mid-term car park. All over Stansted there were Iron Age settlements and early Roman activity. It was clear that large numbers of people had been gathered in one area with a large central open space and huge radiating fields. Was this a slave settlement? A large agricultural enterprise using large numbers of cheap or free labour? These people had very few belongings, and only cheap greyware pottery. They were very poor.

As well as towns and villages, there were a number of individual farms and villas. We think of villas as built of masonry, eg **Chignall**, but some, such as at **Great Hobbs**, were timber construction. **Wendons Ambo Villa** is a classic with masonry walls, lots of farmyard activity, and round houses where the workers lived. **Great Holts** was a timber, double height, aisled hall within walking distance of Chelmsford. Very unusually, a well was built into one wall. At one end of the hall, a tiny masonry-built bath house had been added. The villa had ponds, fields, a barn, and rectangular fields. The inhabitants imported fancy breeds of cattle, pine nuts, dates, and were hawking. Clearly, the owners had surplus income. Under a present-day roundabout on the A120 at Dunmow once stood **Strood Hall**. Accessed off Stane Street, Strood Hall had large fields, paddocks, a farmyard, and a family graveyard where pots and earthenware trays were found.

Not far away and closer to Stane Street, was **Buildings Farm** – very much poorer, comprising a round-house, shed and strip fields.

At **Thurrock** and **Ardleigh** rectangular enclosures denote Roman occupation. At Ardleigh there is also a track, Bronze Age in origin, with many other tracks leading off it. Looking at the general landscape of Essex, rectangular enclosures occur over and over, though not on the chalk ridge. This is possibly because drainage was better and ditches were not required. If we look at the position of houses within a property, we can make an educated guess as to the original size of farms. Strood Hall was set back from the road. It must have owned a long access road from Stane Street, possibly owning all the land to Stane Street. A longer lane indicates a bigger estate. The supposition is that the further back from the main roads the houses are, the wealthier the owners must have been: poorer farmers lived closer. Buildings Farm, for example, occupied the minimum size of 4.4 ha, while the farm at Stansted mid-term car park possibly occupied 52 ha.

The site at Stansted is located on a slight plateau where there is lighter soil on the slopes down to the valley floor. Roman sites appear to favour slopes. An area south of Braintree is completely empty of settlement. There are sites along the A120 east and west of Braintree, and along the lines of rivers, but there have been no finds along the road south of Braintree. The clay soil is very heavy and dense, not good for cultivation, and was therefore possibly used for woodland. Along the rivers, Roman sites follow preceding Iron Age sites.

Agricultural regimes:

Chalk: suitable for grasslands and sheep; cattle (the majority of meat); grains, mainly wheat; tall woodland (supported by finding sea eagles along the Cam).

Boulder clay: here cattle predominate; pigs; a small amount of wheat.

Epping: forest.

Colchester: mixed agriculture.

Gravel terraces: fields; ponds; cattle (not sheep except on the marshes).

Marshes: sheep predominate; fishing; wild oysters.

Coastal edge: marked by red hills; fish processing plants

At **Stanford-le-Hope** excavations have shown up a red hill complex. The tide filled the trays and tanks. After heating, the water evaporates, and the trays collapse, leaving mounds of red. These red hills appear on an industrial scale all over the Essex marshes. In Stanford-le-Hope there are creeks coming in, boat sheds and wharves. They processed fish, made fish sauce, and then shipped it to London, possibly to the Continent. The workers probably lived on the higher, drier gravel banks.

As for industry: there was some small scale metal working. A casting pit and a smithy were found in Braintree, but possibly all towns had smithies. There may have been vine growing on south facing slopes. There were a lot of striped fields near Stansted, suggestive of being a vineyard. Certainly, fish paste was produced.

Essex was very busy and well settled in Roman times. Even the woodland would have been busy, for example, with coppicing. There was industry all around the coast. What was happening in the blank spaces? How Romanised were people out in the countryside? More and more roundhouses of C2nd and C3rd are being found. Are these the homes of the poor? Household goods are mainly made locally, from Colchester or Cambridge: it is difficult to tell if the inhabitants are local or foreign born. We still have a great deal to learn about Roman Essex.

HISTORIC COMMERCIAL VESSEL RESTORATION AT THE PIONEER SAILING TRUST

Bruce Anderson, Pioneer Sailing Trust

18th February 2013

Report by Andrew White

This fascinating talk by Bruce Anderson was a real showstopper for the sailing fraternity within the Group. Pioneer CK 18 was built in 1864 by Harris of Rowhedge as a deep sea oyster smack. She was 57 ft long but lengthened 11 ft by Aldous of Brightlingsea in 1889. She was fitted with a wet well to keep the catch alive and dredged for oysters as far away as the Terschelling banks in Holland.

Pioneer was decommissioned in 1939 and turned into a houseboat. She was abandoned and sunk off West Mersea. She was transported to Great Totham in 1999 for restoration and relaunched at Brightlingsea in 2003. She is used for sail training and usually has a crew of 10 with 2 leaders. Harkers' yard at Brightlingsea was acquired in 2000. A new berthing facility is being developed to supply diesel to visiting boats and vessels servicing the wind farms. Five maritime apprenticeships have been established at the yard.

Over 120 years ago a Stour lighter was built at Flatford and plied its trade along the 300 year old River Stour Navigation. All the lighters on the Navigation were sunk in 1914 because of fears of German invasion and the John Constable as she has become known was left to rot in Ballingdon Cut. The River Stour Trust working with "Managing a Masterpiece" contracted the Pioneer Sailing Trust to restore the lighter to its former glory. The John Constable was launched in the summer of 2012 and now offers river cruises from Sudbury to the Swan at Henny. The restored lighter brings alive John Constable's paintings of life on the Stour.

The Pioneer Trust continues to work on the restoration of traditional craft retaining skills and training the next generation of craftsmen.

John Constable



Pioneer



RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS IN THE STOUR VALLEY

Carenza Lewis, Access Cambridge Archaeology

25th February 2013

Report by Aline Black

This lecture was about four investigations in the Stour Valley area as part of the Lottery funded 'Managing a Masterpiece' Project. In each case the emphasis was on involving local people, many of whom had never before done any practical archaeology, and ensuring that local children visited each site and, where possible, had some involvement in practical work there.

The first project was an extensive field walk on the Tile Field site near Bures. There were many finds covering a long period of time during which the area must have been occupied. These included a large number of tiles, date still uncertain, some prehistoric flints, a Roman box flue tile from possibly a building of status and a lot from what the lecturer called the high medieval period (between the Norman Conquest and the Black Death in 1348 to 50). Far fewer finds came from the late medieval period (Black Death to about 1500).

The next project was a ten day investigation at Mount Bures. Permission had been given to do a limited dig on the top of the Mount (a scheduled site). Two large trenches were also dug at ground level to look for the defences which would have surrounded the Bailey of a typical Mott and Bailey castle. Several one metre square pits were dug both around the Mount and in the nearby village. The top of the Mount is only 16 metres diameter. No Norman material was discovered on the Mount. Two small postholes were found but no debris from human occupation there. The trenches at the top of the Mount showed distinct layering, with clay brought in between the sandy layers, probably to give stability as the Mount was built. The postholes were probably part of a temporary structure used during the construction of the Mount. The conclusion the lecturer drew was that the Mount was probably a look-out post with some protective fencing around it rather than the position of a castle keep. There was no evidence at ground level of bailey defence structures. The land surrounding the churchyard was the only possibility. There were traces of Medieval material on the Mount. A few pieces of Thetford ware were found in a test pit near the entrance to the church, but nothing medieval from any of the test pits around the Mount. Was the site occupied before the Norman invasion and so is the Mount pre-Norman?

At Bures Hamlet a five day dig took place on the Common which is adjacent to the Stour. Finds included some retted flax waste (from linen making) which was carbon dated to between 1025 and 1055 and what was possibly a Viking finger ring whose style gives it a similar date. Some evidence was found of the course of the stream which crossed the area before it was drained. It was hoped to find a medieval rubbish dump which would have given insight into life in the village at that time, but no evidence of it was found. Local children enjoyed the job they were given to look for finds in the spoil heaps.

The final investigation was at Nayland where thirty one-metre pits were dug by villagers. There were a large number of finds which reflected Nayland as a thriving urban community in the medieval period. There was a cluster of Roman finds, very little late Anglo-Saxon material, but every pit had mid 11th - 12th century pottery and, unusually, evidence that Nayland grew in the post Black Death period.

The lecture concluded with a map of the whole of East Anglia charting finds as pre or post Black Death. Where it is known that in the north east of the region there are many deserted villages post Black Death finds were sparse. In three areas however (Nayland, Chediston and Thorney) the number of post Black Death finds increased dramatically, showing, presumably, that in these areas people had survived and prospered.

THE HISTORY AND TECHNIQUES OF PARGETING

Anna Kettle, pargeter and plaster conservator

4th March 2013

Report by Lynn Sturges

Anna presented her slides on this very interesting subject which did actually show some of her own work.. She got into pargeting and plaster conservation work at the age of 39 as a result of a career change from office work. She studied, with some very young people, a course in plastering, and obtained her City and Guilds. Much of her training was teaching herself, as there is very little formal training offered in this country. She was fortunate enough to find a course in Venice which furthered her knowledge and then she moved to Suffolk which is a county where pargeting still exists. A tutor who renovated old buildings helped her further and she gained very valuable experience with a company specialising in renovation work. Anna then went on to form her own company.

Pargeting is the decoration of plastered and rendered finishes mainly on the outside of a building. It is an art and craft that dates back many centuries and varies considerably in technique with geometric patterns scratched into the wet plaster. The materials usually consist of lime, clay, putty and chalk mixed together with goats' hair. The plaster can be worked into interesting artistic shapes, figures, animals or just decorative designs. The trade became the work of plasterers and not architects. Motifs can include birds, fish and flowers and can consist of complex figurative sculptures. Pargeting has a response to sunlight but unfortunately many cottages and buildings have been neglected due to changing tastes, and fire,. It is, however, an excellent finish to timber-framed buildings which survive in rural areas, particularly East Anglia.

In more up-market areas the terminology is referred to as Stucco, or Stucco Duro, which would be carried out in stately homes like Audley End. Ceilings in these houses also have highly decorated plaster work.

The talk was complemented by the showing of slides, and one of her first slides showed a white house with embroidery-like pargeting design. She went on to say that earlier work tended to have more irregular shapes in its design before later work became more well-ordered.

Pargeting in certain areas became high fashion, and married well with the old timber-framed buildings, often expressing wealth and social status.

Anna explained that pargeting started in Ancient Roman times and demonstrated this by showing a slide of modelling in lime produced in Italy. The skill seemed to disappear and did not re-emerge until the Renaissance when, around the 16th century, pargeting became high fashion in Italy. In France the craft caught on but Italian pargeters were brought in to perform the task. Eventually these skills were taken up by others and one slide showed Nonsuch Palace, Surrey, which was commissioned by Henry VIII in 1538, with the house divided into panels filled with plaster figures and animals. This building has unfortunately been demolished. Slides were shown of internal pargeting on the ceiling at Blickling Hall, Norfolk, exhibiting very high artistic skills.

Geographically the areas where pargeting is in existence are interesting. Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Kent, Cambridge, Hertfordshire and the Midlands have the greatest number of areas. Anna pointed out that it was the poorer areas that kept pargeting, where other parts of the country started to use bricks.

Pargeting has been a skill very much coming in and going out of fashion, but particularly entering a fashionable period with the 1900's Arts and Crafts movement. Slides were shown illustrating the diversity of skills where pargeting exists on the outside of buildings, e.g. the use of nursery rhymes, animals and square panelling to smarten up house exteriors.

Many museums house pargeting tools that consist of stamps of various shapes and sizes to get the different effects. Further slides taken in Southwold, Lavenham, Ipswich and Braintree were shown on parget-

ing both inside and outside, particularly showing designs around fireplaces and windows. Pargeting on the Ancient House in Ipswich is amongst the most outstanding in England.

Anna explained and showed a slide illustrating “marmorino”, which is a technique producing a fake marbling effect. She showed many slides of her own work which indicated her skill as one of the few fully qualified pargeters in the country. She explained where the young are coming into it; they were taught by their parents as there are few opportunities for them to get a proper training. Hearing this, it is amazing that Anna has done so well in achieving her goals, illustrating that “where there is a will, there is a way”. For the future, it would be a mistake to say that there will be no further innovations in pargeting, as a revival may very well happen.

VISIT TO SUFFOLK CHURCHES

27th April 2013

Report by Pat Brown

Our trip started at Bramford, to see the stone rood screen, c.1300, after the two we saw last year, and the hammerbeam roof. Earl Stonham came next, with another hammerbeam roof and wall paintings, including a Doom over the chancel arch. Nearby Needham Market has probably the finest hammerbeam of them all, incorporating a clerestory, and resembling the hull of a galleon; but its cramped site is hemmed in by buildings and it has no churchyard or tower. Finally a little gem down a bumpy track, its only neighbour the 16th century hall—Badley, untouched for three centuries and retaining 17th century box pews bleached with age, in which are incorporated the remains of the 15th century rood screen.

Our thanks go to John Moore for guiding us to four architectural and historic treasures on our doorstep. We often forget what artistic talent and craftsmanship lie stored within them.

THE UNVEILING OF THE LODGE HILLS INFORMATION BOARD

16th May 2013

Report by Anna Moore

Fours years’ work by the Group on Lodge Hills, Wormingford, culminated in the unveiling of an information board marking the site of the Tudor Hunting Lodge and other buildings found during the extensive excavations. Thirty people attended the event, including the three ferreters who first found the bricks which gave a clue to the site of the complex of buildings. Also present were Phyllida Tufnell and Ian Tufnell, landowners, and John Jackson, farm manager, who had all done so much to make the team of excavators welcome. The farmer, Steve Brown, whose cattle, particularly Sleepy the bull, had kept us company during the summer months, was represented by his wife, Heather. Neil Catchpole represented the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project, who provided funding for the publication on the dig and also the information board itself. Several of the team of excavators were also present, as was Howard Brooks from the Colchester Archaeological Trust, who is preparing the report.

Don Goodman, who had directed the excavations, spoke a few words of introduction and talked warmly of the great affection the whole team felt for the site and the work carried out there, due in large part to the beautiful scenery surrounding us while we worked.

Phyllida Tufnell then unveiled the information board. Designed by the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project, it gives a concise illustrated history of the site and the excavations and includes an imaginary scene of two servants drawing water from the well, designed and drawn by Carol Wheeldon, a member of the Group who had worked on the dig.

The company then moved on to The Crown, Wormingford, where we enjoyed a celebratory buffet lunch.

The Group's thanks go to Don for ably directing the excavations over four years and bringing the project to a successful conclusion. It is one of the most extensive pieces of work carried out by the Group, and close to a hundred people were able to take part over the years, including many students and other young people, who got their first taste of what digging is all about.

For more information on the excavations at Lodge Hills, see CAG Bulletin 50. The Group's publication 'The Lost Tudor Hunting Lodge at Wormingford' is still available and can be purchased from the Treasurer. The Group is grateful to Essex and Suffolk Water for generously funding this publication.

The information board can be viewed by walking over Lodge Hills on the Stour Valley Path and taking a short spur up to the top of the hill.



The unveiling of the information board. Bottom right is the excavated and backfilled well. Photo by Philip Cunningham



The three ferreters who first found the Tudor bricks that started the search for the Hunting Lodge.
Photo by John Camp



Phyllida Tufnell unveiling the information board, watched by Don Goodman. Photo by John Camp



TRIP TO CHICHESTER AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT

19th—22nd May 2013

Report by Gill Shrimpton



On Sunday 19th May, a Kings Coach with 36 members on board left Colchester to travel to Sussex. We stopped for an early lunch and to stretch our legs at Standen (standen@nationaltrust.org.uk). This is a fine Arts and Crafts house previously owned by the Beale family containing interesting textiles, furniture, metalwork and pictures. The weather was warm so we were able to enjoy the lovely gardens as well.

At Cissbury Ring

The next stop was at the village of Findon to visit the nearby Iron Age hillfort of Cissbury Ring. One of the largest in Southern England, the ramparts enclose an area of about 60 acres and were built around 400 BC. However, the hill has been used as a flint quarry since 3600BC and much evidence of Neolithic mining has been found. It was also used later in the Roman period and traces of buildings – including a possible temple – have been identified with some agricultural lynchets. We noted fine views all round before descending and rejoining the coach to arrive at our base for the next 3 nights, the Park Hotel, Chichester.

We had an early start on Monday 20th to board the ferry to the Isle of Wight. On arrival a short drive took us to Brading (bradingromanvilla.org.uk). The Roman villa is a large courtyard complex and is famous for the many fine mosaics; this part is under cover. It dates from the 1st–4th century with various alterations and additions during its existence. Originally, it overlooked a harbour (now silted up) and it is thought that this is where the usurping British emperor Allectus held his fleet before the engagement with Constantius when he was defeated and killed. In the afternoon there was a choice of activities. Some of the group visited Osborne House, some Carisbrooke Castle or St Catherine's Oratory on the coast. We then returned to the ferry and back for dinner at the hotel.

Tuesday 21st was the day for the now traditional “archaeological walk”, led by John Moore. The walkers set off fairly early by coach to Kingley Vale. Most of it was through a forest of very ancient yew trees and there were plenty of Bronze and Iron Age earthworks to be seen including a chain of barrows, known as the Devil's Humps, set out along a ridge, fortunately the weather remained fine.



Devil's Humps

The rest of the group had a free morning exploring Chichester (Noviomagus Reginorum). We all met up again for a walk round the walls of the city, led by Mark Davies. The walls were built in the 3rd century and strengthened in the 4th. After becoming ruinous they were repaired during the reign of Alfred when Chichester became a *burh*. Then a visit to the picturesque ruins of Netley Abbey. It was founded as a Cistercian house in the 14th century but after dissolution it was converted into a very fine Tudor manor house.



Lewes Castle

On Wednesday 22nd we packed up and left the hotel to travel a short distance to see Westhampnett church. Ernest Black explained the significance of the Roman tile incorporated in the fabric and the graffiti to be seen on some (see his article p.). The next stop was Lewes where we could visit the castle and/or the town before leaving for our lunch stop at Michelham Priory. The priory was originally founded in the 13th century by the Augustines. After dissolution it became a fine Tudor mansion and was owned by Thomas Sackville.

Many of the Priory buildings were demolished, including the church, but other parts, e.g. the abbot's lodging were converted. There was a lot to see here – a smithy, watermill, gardens and the time passed very quickly.



Michelham Priory

We were soon on our way home and arrived in Colchester just after six, having had a very full and varied four days. We are most grateful to Barbara Butler for arranging it and, of course, to Mark Davies for his informed commentary.

COACH TRIP TO ST ALBANS

3rd June 2013

Report by Lyn Sturges

We met at Tollgate and made our way to St Albans. We walked first to the Roman theatre ruins and saw the excavation of the theatre which now stands in a lovely setting, as well as other remains nearby. The party then went to the Verulamium Museum and saw some stunning mosaic pieces as well as wall decorations in the living setting. There was plenty of pottery and visual aids illustrating how the buildings looked in Roman times as well as showing us the life and history of the times. In the park nearby, the hypocaust building displayed a beautiful large mosaic floor with incredible details in its patterns. The group then took the coach to the city centre and the party could do what they liked for a few hours. It was market day which added to the delight. Most of us found our way to the cathedral which was not to be missed and saw the shrine of St Alban, Britain's first Christian martyr. The cathedral was huge with plenty of wonders to see, the usual shop and place to have a much needed meal

The city centre had many places to eat and many interesting shops and areas to see. St Albans was a wonderful area to visit and the Cathedral Square shared its usual fascination of other buildings (St Albans School) and many interesting areas that we never had time to explore.

The end of the day gave us another real treat and we visited the church of St Mary the Virgin, Great Warley on our way home. The church had to be opened up for us and what a little wonder! Tucked away was a little church decorated in Art Nouveau style and a listed Grade 1 building. The roof had broad ribs of aluminium decorated with reliefs of giant rose trees, each resting on a panel of lilies. The whole decoration appeared to be silver on copper in a way I had never seen before. The whole style was quite unique. An array of stained glass windows and a special one by Morris and Co. to a design by Burne-Jones also added quality to the whole church. I had never seen such a clever design using such unusual materials, a one-off by the sculptor, Sir William Reynolds-Stephens, completed in 1904.

A lovely day, and many thanks to John Moore, the organiser.

CASTLE VISIT, WALLS WALK AND SUMMER PARTY

Report by Barbara Butler

Colchester Archaeological Group was one of the first groups to see inside Colchester castle when it had been emptied of exhibits. On the evening of the 11th March 2013 there were about 40 members who saw the building with the display cases and painted partitions removed. The inside walls, now open to view, were a revelation. Philip Wise of Colchester and Ipswich Museum services, who showed us round, revealed nooks and crannies most of us had not been aware of before. This was a rare opportunity for CAG. At the time of the visit, it was exceptionally cold for the time of year, with snow on the ground, but this did not deter members. Inside, the stripped castle was well lit and warmer than we expected. We look forward to next spring when the castle is due to re-open.

At 6.00pm on 10th June we met with Mark Davies to walk the length of Colchester's town wall. Before we set off in a northerly direction, we walked south to look at the fallen fragment of wall near Crouch Street, on which there is a section of the face well preserved. After viewing most of the west wall, many members of CAG were clearly surprised to discover so many lengths and fragments along the north side of the wall. Mark illustrated some sections on the north side with copies of sketches by John Constable. The north east section of the wall, at the back of Roman road is a mix of repairs and infills. Some of these have recently been exposed by a weed clearing and re-pointing exercise. Mark took the group from the site of the east gate on East Hill, round Priory Street, with its remaining medieval bastions and the siege breach. He pointed out the location of the interpretation board, which Colchester Archaeological Group has allocated funds for, which is on the site of the Group's excavation. Mark took us where the south gate (or St Botolph's Gate) once divided Queen Street from St Botolph's Street. The south wall site of Headgate was the route back to Balcerne Gate. Members of the group thanked Mark for sharing his detailed knowledge of the town wall with us, including the constant struggle to maintain it and to save it from detrimental development.

Our summer party this year was in the coach house at Marks Hall. It was a beautiful summer evening and the delicacies on offer were up to the usual delicious standards of the CAG members who prepare the food. There were plenty of remarks like "who made those falafels?" or "I'd like the recipe for that." Before we sat down to eat, some members went to inspect the nearby dig of the hall building and others went on a tour of the gardens and found out about the family who last occupied the house. It proved to be an excellent venue and once again, a thoroughly enjoyable party.

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TRIP TO BURES ST MARY

Report by Anna Moore

On the 5th August CAG visited two of the most historic buildings in Bures – Bevills and St. Stephens Chapel.

Bevills was built around 1490 by the first Sir William Waldegrave for his eldest son George, and the house remained in the hands of the Waldegrave family until they left the area in the early eighteenth century. It was sympathetically extended around 1920 by Colonel W. Probert and is listed G2* -Pevsner describes the house as “spectacular”. By kind permission of the owner we can see the principal downstairs rooms, as well as the gardens and outbuildings.

Geoffrey Probert and family gave an excellent tour of the House and grounds, followed by the Chapel.

The chapel was consecrated on the Feast of St. Stephen, December 26th 1218 , by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Stephen Langton, on the site where King Edmund was believed to have been crowned in AD 855. Sacked during the Reformation, the building spent the next 400 years as a barn. Restored in the 1930s, the chapel now houses medieval tomb-chests of three members of the de Vere family, Earls of Oxford, moved here from Earl’s Colne Priory.

The surprise of the day was the Dragon etched into the side of the hill opposite the Chapel.

Our thanks to John for all the work organizing this popular trip (which went like clockwork) and to the Probert family for their hospitality.

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