

Colchester Archaeological Group



Annual Bulletin

Officers and Committee Members 2005/2006		1
Chairman's Introduction	John Mallinson	2
Editor's Note	Anna Moore	2
Report from Young Archaeologists Club	Rita Bartlett	3
Report from the Council for British Archaeology	Raymond Rowe	3
A Field Walk at Warrens Farm, Oct 2005	John Mallinson, Pauline Skippins	4
A Curvilinear Crop Mark at Teybrook Farm, Gt Tey	Pauline Skippins	
	Inserted between pages 3 and 4	
The Old Mill, East Bay, Colchester; an 18th century granary	Richard Shackle	11
Noah's Ark or The Restaurant at the Mouth of the Colne	Jean S Whiffing	17
Two metal finds from Great Tey	Francis Nicholls	20
An informal Fieldwalk at Wormingford Hall 18/01/06	John Mallinson	21
A Second Experimental Bonfire Firing at Gt Tey	Andrew White, Anna Moore	24
Great Tey Bronze Age Ring Burial - an appropriate conclusion	Aline Black	26
A Study Day on Recognising Worked Stone Artefacts	Anna Moore	27
Winter lectures 2005 - 2006		28
An Archaeological Tour of North-East Spain 8th - 21st October 2005		40
Weekend Visit to Gloucester and Hereford 7 th - 10 th April 2006		41
The Bay of Naples and Southern Italy 6 th - 15 th May 2006		42
Summer Programme 2006		43
Obituaries		44
Appendices		45

Vol. 46 2006

Colchester Archaeological Group

President: Mr David T-D Clarke

Committee 2005/06

Mr John Mallinson	Chairman 1 The Mount Colchester CO3 4JR Tel: 01206 545969 e-mail: jmallin704@aol.com
Mr Don Goodman	Vice-Chairman 39 Sutton Park Avenue Colchester CO3 4SX Tel: 01206 545457
Mrs Mary Coe	Honorary Treasurer 55 Dedham Meade Dedham Heath Colchester CO7 6EU Tel: 01206 322881
Mrs Pat Brown	Honorary Secretary 27 Alexandra Road Colchester CO3 3DF Tel: 01206 575081
Mrs Anna Moore	Bulletin Editor The Coach House 2a Salisbury Avenue Colchester CO3 3DN Tel: 01206 766638 anna.CAGBulletin@moore2a.freemove.co.uk

Other members:

Mr Bernard Colbron, Mr Mark Davies, Mr James Fawn, Mrs Denise Hardy, Mr Christopher Hunt, Mr Francis Nicholls, Mr Richard Shackle, Mrs Gill Shrimpton, Mrs Hazel West

Colchester Archaeological Group is a registered charity (No. 1028434)

Chairman's Introduction

John Mallinson, Chairman

The diversity of the activities undertaken by group members has been remarked on before. Even for those who are actively involved it is difficult to keep track of what is going on. That is why the Annual Bulletin is such an important document. For members, it acts as an aide-memoire, reminding them of activities in which they have participated, and informing them of activities in which they have not. Through its distribution to libraries, universities and archaeological bodies, it also provides a channel for dissemination of the valuable and original archaeological work that the group carries out. The interest which the academic world takes in our work has been confirmed by the response to publication of our bulletin Index on the web. We receive requests for articles at the rate of about one per fortnight, from places as diverse as Alabama, USA and Krakow University, Poland, on subjects as diverse as Red Hills and watermills.

This issue contains the usual eclectic mix of articles. There is Richard Shackle's article on the 18th century granary at East Bay; Pauline Skippins report on the evaluation trenches on the Iron Age Site at Great Tey, where more work is planned this autumn; a report on metal detectorist finds, including a rare papal bulla, from Francis Nicholls; and the details of a second experimental Bronze Age pot firing from Anna Moore and Andrew White. Plus of course all the usual reports on group activities and the winter lecture programme. Enjoy.

Digital Projector – Awards for All Grant

We are grateful to Awards for All England for a grant of £1,000, which has enabled the group to purchase a digital projector and lap top computer. Together these will provide a much needed presentation aid, both for use during our winter lecture programme, and for profile raising outside presentations by group members.

We are also grateful to those members who contributed over £200 towards the cost of the purchases. The balance of the cost was funded by the group from surplus revenue from the week-end excursions.

Editor's Note

Anna Moore, Editor

You have chosen to receive your copy of the Bulletin in digital form. The CD contains the full report on the evaluation of the Iron Age site at Great Tey by Pauline Skippins, rather than the edited version which appears in the printed Bulletin. There are also many more photos illustrating most of the articles, and of course they are in full colour. If you would like a printed version as well as the CD, you can order one for £3. Please let me know via the e-mail address printed below if you want to take up this option.

Over the half-century of its publication, the Annual Bulletin has developed both in format and content. It now seems to be a good time for a re-evaluation, and I would like to hear from members about what you would like from your Bulletin and what appeals to particular readers. First and foremost, the Bulletin is where we publish reports of any fieldwork undertaken by members on behalf of the Group, and those items will always appear. However, there is always plenty of room left over. Would you, for instance, like more of the type of article such as the one in this edition by Jean Whiffing, in which she puts forward some intriguing ideas on Roman Brightlingsea? Do you enjoy items of general interest such as the articles on the history of textiles which appeared in the last three Bulletins? Do we concentrate too much on the local area? Or is the mix about right?

You will find a questionnaire enclosed with this Bulletin. If you could find a few minutes to complete it and return it to me, it would help to shape the future of our annual publication. Thank you in advance.
anna.CAGBulletin@moore2a.freemove.co.uk

Colchester Young Archaeologists' Club Report 2005-2006
from Rita Bartlett

Pat Brown and Blanche Anderton would like to thank leaders for their help with the activities over the year.

In October 2005 the month of the National 'Big Draw' we produced several works of art which were displayed on the notice board at the Castle. In November Anna Moore showed the members how to make Bronze Age pots which were later fired. The Christmas party had a Bronze Age theme and a good time was had by all as we imagined how a mid winter festival might have been celebrated, but 'went Egyptian' with the traditional 'wrap the mummy' team game!

In the Spring the members built their own mini Stonehenges in clay and considered the significance of ancient stone circles. Philip Wise spoke on the new Saxon and Norman galleries in the Museum. We also had a session on 'What do archaeologists really DO?' which was great fun and instructive – the game of Bingo based on the contents of an Archaeologist's bag will surely fix the names of these items in the members' minds forever!

The Summer programme included a visit to Little Ropers Farm in Bures St Mary (the home of one of our members) searching for the site of the original farmhouse. We looked at geophysics plots and old maps, carried out hedge-dating, metal-detecting, digging in hedgerows and heard of the work already done by the family on the history of the farm. Surveying using a grid and also leveling with a theodolite was done in Castle Park in June. In July a very enjoyable visit was made to Saffron Walden Museum and Castle where the staff presented a special programme for our group and opened the Castle which is not now open to the public.

Our numbers have now grown to 35 and we are pleased to note that this includes some teenagers who attend regularly and have been with us for several years.

Report from the Council for British Archaeology

Raymond Rowe, CAG representative on the CBA

The Group is a society member of the CBA., and through that, also a member of the CBA Mid Anglia Region. The Mid Anglia region covers Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire and London north of the Thames.

The CBA was established in 1944 to promote British archaeology in all its aspects. It does this through five core areas; research; conservation; education; information, and publication. It is helped by its 11 regional committees. Their main publication is the bi-monthly British Archaeology, which is now available at most branches of Smiths, and we hold copies in the library. There are also two newsletters each year from the Mid Anglia Region.

The CBA council has targeted three main areas of activity for immediate development:

1. The magazine has been expanded in size at no extra cost.
2. National Archaeology Days have been expanded into National Archaeology Week. Last year over 300 sites took part which attracted over 100,000 visitors.
3. The Young Archaeologist Club is being expanded in range of activities available.

The CBA presses archaeological issues with departments in Government. Recent items have been the Stonehenge Management Plan, and the Thornborough Henges gravel extraction.

The CBA meetings are open to all our members, but only full members are allowed to vote at General Meetings. The next AGM will be held in Salisbury in October with activities spreading over a weekend.

Stonehenge has been a major point for consideration over several years. A public enquiry in 2004 proposed a new dual carriageway, with a 2.1km long bored tunnel to remove the effects of the A303 from the historic site. The costs of this have escalated from the original cost of £510 million scheme budget. The Government Ministers have now requested a review to identify a lower cost option. So there are now a number of alternatives, as there are so many interested parties involved, beside the archaeologists it is difficult to see any prospect of a solution. My personal feeling is that the lowest cost version known as the southern route is a reasonable compromise and it would be better than nothing happening for another 10 or 20 years.

For information about the activities of the Mid Anglia group you can contact the Secretary, Mrs Sue Walford, Email; Derek.hills2@ntlworld.com

TFE 2005

**An Archaeological Evaluation
of a Curvilinear Crop Mark
at Teybrook Farm, Great Tey, Essex**

By Pauline Skippins

**COLCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP
(Registered charity No. 1028434)**

SUMMARY

Between 9th August and 4th October 2005 the Colchester Archaeological Group conducted an evaluation of a crop mark in a field to the south west of Teybrook Farm, Great Tey, Essex, which had been aerially photographed (figure1-SMR 8799 NOF Project photo no 6132 16.07.96 TL 890 247). The evaluation consisted of two trenches positioned over two of the four linear anomalies.

David & Aline Black conducted a full-scale geophysical survey using a magnetometer and produced a plot (figure 2), which they then used to grid out the relevant area and from this the trenches could be positioned over the linear features.

Due to limited amount of time between harvesting the pea crop and planting of the winter wheat it was decided to limit evaluation to two trenches. The objective was to find out what these linear features were and possibly date them.



Figure 1 SMR 8799 NOF Project photo no 6132 (16.07.96)
TL 889 247
Monument - Curvilinear enclosure apparent as a cropmark at Great Tey,
Colchester, Essex

Teybrook Farm Enclosure - location plan

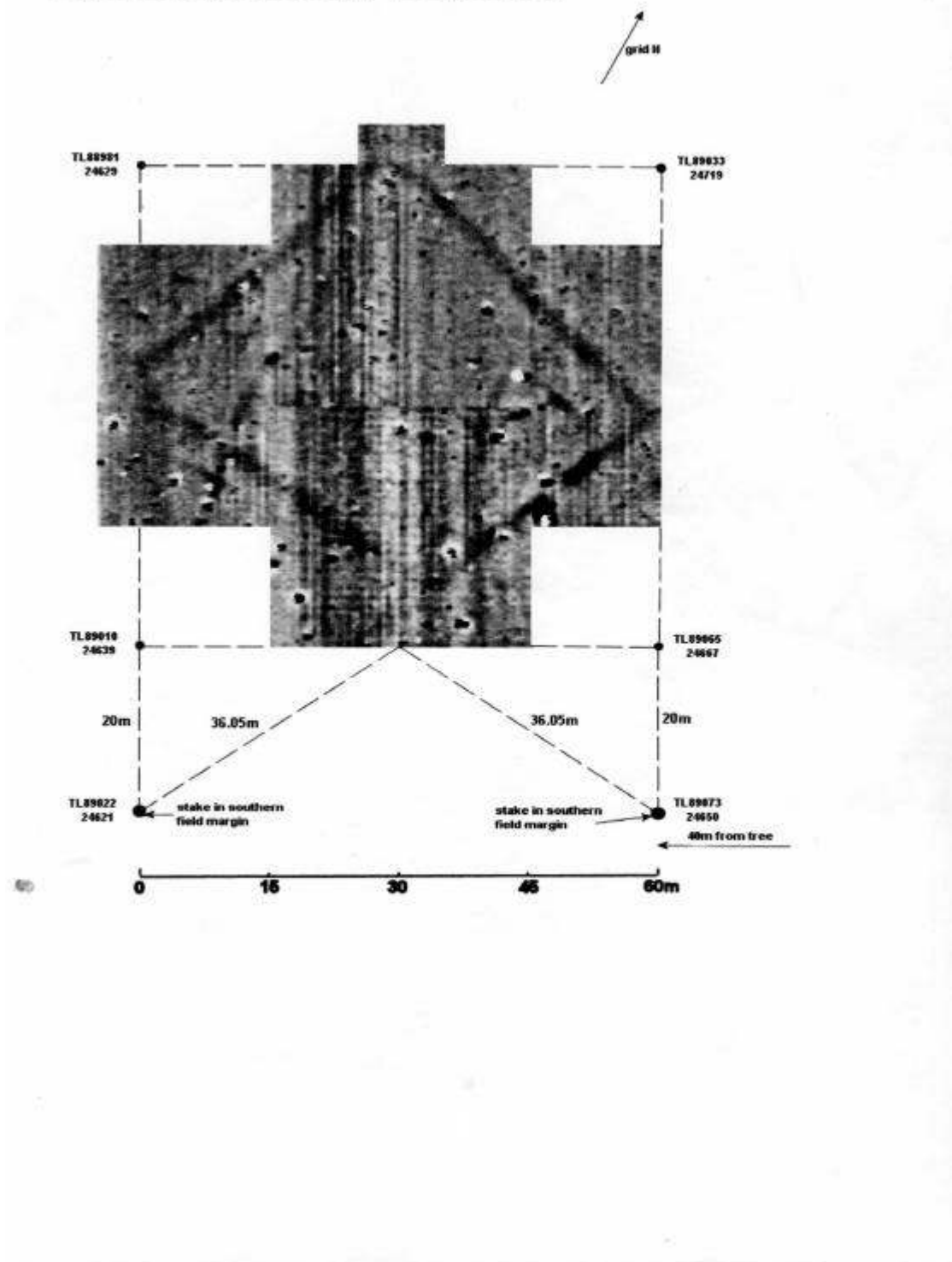


Figure 2 Results of the magnetometry

Table of Contents

SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT

1. Background

1.1 Introduction – page 6

1.2 Geology, Landscape and Land-use – page 6

2. Objectives – page 7

3. Methods

3.1 General – page 7

3.2 Recording – page 7

3.3 Geophysical Survey Report by Aline & David Black – page 7

3.4 Excavation – page 9

4. Trench Descriptions

4.1 Trench 1 – page 9

4.2 Trench 2 – page 10

5. Finds

5.1 Finds and Dating – page 11

5.2 The Pottery – page 13

SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE

6. Discussion – page 13

7. Acknowledgements – page 14

8. Bibliography – page 15

9 List of Figures

- 9.1 figure 1 Aerial photo SMR 8799 - page 2
- 9.2 figure 2 Magnetometry results – page 3
- 9.3 figure 3 Probable archaeological features – page 8
- 9.4 figure 4 Tea in the trench – page 15
- 9.5 figure 5 Site photo overlay on map – page 16
- 9.6 figure 6 Site plan superimposed on the magnetometry results – page 17
- 9.7 figure 7 Trench 1 section drawing – page 18
- 9.8 figure 8 Trench 2 section drawing – page 19
- 9.9 figure 9 Trench 1 photograph ditch section – page 20
- 9.10 figure 10 Trench 2 photograph ditch section – page 21
- 9.11 figure 11 Late Iron Age grog tempered corrugated pottery – page 22
- 9.12 figure 12 Late Iron age grog tempered ware – page 23
- 9.13 figure 13 Middle Iron Age pottery – page 24
- 9.14 figure 14 Late Bronze/Early Iron age pottery – page 25
- 9.15 figure 15 Burnt daub ?loom weight or hearth lining – page 26

10. Appendices

- 10.1 Glossary - page 27
- 10.2 Chronology – page 27
- 10.3 Finds Database - page 28-32

SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT

1 Background

1.1 Introduction

The Colchester Archaeological Group investigated the enclosure crop mark on farmland owned by Roger and Richard Browning of Teybrook Farm, Great Tey, observed by aerial photograph (figure 1 page 2 - SMR 8799 NOF Project photo no 6132-16.07.96 TL 890 247), and subsequently corroborated by magnetometry. David & Aline Black conducted a full-scale geophysical survey using a magnetometer and produced a plot (figure 2), which they then used to grid out the relevant area and from this two trenches were positioned over the linear features.

Due to the limited amount of time between crop rotation it was decided to limit the evaluation to two trenches.

The trenches were sited at right angles across the linear anomalies. Trench 1 (TL 89022/BNG 24701) was located on the North-West/South-East axis of the enclosure and Trench 2 (TL 89003/ BNG 24692) on the North-East/South-West axis.

The site plan is shown in figure 6 on page 17.

1.2 Geology, Landscape and Land-use

The natural geology of the area consists of chalky boulder clay, very firm light grey brown with abundant chalk, pug, common flint nodules and large numbers of Jurassic age fossils such as belemnites and gryphaea, brought to Essex from the Midlands with the Anglian ice sheet about 450,000 years ago. The site is situated to the southwest of Teybrook Farm on the chalky boulder clay plateau, which slopes down to the valley of the Roman River and Tey Brook. The river valley has alluvium overlying glacial sands and gravels.

The land on the chalky boulder clay would have been heavily wooded at one time and not farmed easily until the advent of the iron plough share, the hardier spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*), and the clay tolerant bread wheat (*Triticum aestivocompactum*), all of which were introduced in the Iron Age.

The place-name of Tey can be traced back to c.950 in the Anglo-Saxon period when it was known as Tigan or Tygan, meaning "enclosure". (Pat Brown Landscape Survey, Interim Report February 2006). The Roman River and Tey Brook are tributaries of the Colne, which flows out through Colchester, Fingringhoe and Mersea into the North Sea.

2. Objectives

The objective was to identify the features, date them and to add to the record of information on crop marks in the Great Tey area whilst assessing preservation of the features.

3. Methods

3.1 General

Results of the magnetometry were used to pinpoint the exact position for the trenches in order to make best use of the time available on site and not inconvenience the landowners Roger and Richard Browning. Access was limited to 12 weeks until the field was re-sown with the next crop.

3.2 Recording

Features, layers and finds were recorded on sheets obtained from Colchester Archaeological Trust, which have since been adapted and saved as templates for future use. The sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10, as were the individual trench plans. The overall site plan was drawn at 1:20.

3.3 Geophysical Survey Report - Aline & David Black

Crop marks have shown the existence of an approximately square enclosure with sides c.50m at Teybrook Farm. In April 2005 a magnetic survey of the enclosure was carried out using a Geoscan Research FM18 Fluxgate Gradiometer, owned by Colchester Museums Service.

A survey grid was set out with the southernmost side approximately parallel to the near field boundary and running 30 deg S of OS Grid E-W. Four readings per metre were taken along lines 0.5m apart that ran approximately SE to NW. The data was processed using InSite software from GeoQuest.

Results

The geophysical image obtained is attached (figure 2 – page 3), together with information to enable the enclosure to be located again. (Dark = stronger magnetic signal).

Any apparent linear features parallel to the direction of the traverse are likely to be system produced artefacts, rather than archaeological, and should be ignored. Most of the black 'dots', particularly those accompanied by a white 'flare' are strong signals most likely to be from modern agricultural ferrous metal rather than archaeological.

Topsoil is slightly more magnetic than subsoil; hence ditches that have silted up over the centuries and are no longer visible on the surface are shown up in a magnetic survey. The enclosure shows up clearly, although the image is relatively weak, suggesting shallow ditches. There are two possible breaks A and B in the enclosure ditch. There is some evidence of linear features inside the enclosure, but again the signals are quite weak. The relative weakness of the magnetic signals from the singularities marked C and D (the absence of flare) suggests that these might be archaeological in origin, possibly pits, but they could also be caused by modern ferrous material at depth.

Colchester Archaeological Group are grateful to Roger and Richard Browning for the invitation to carry out this survey.

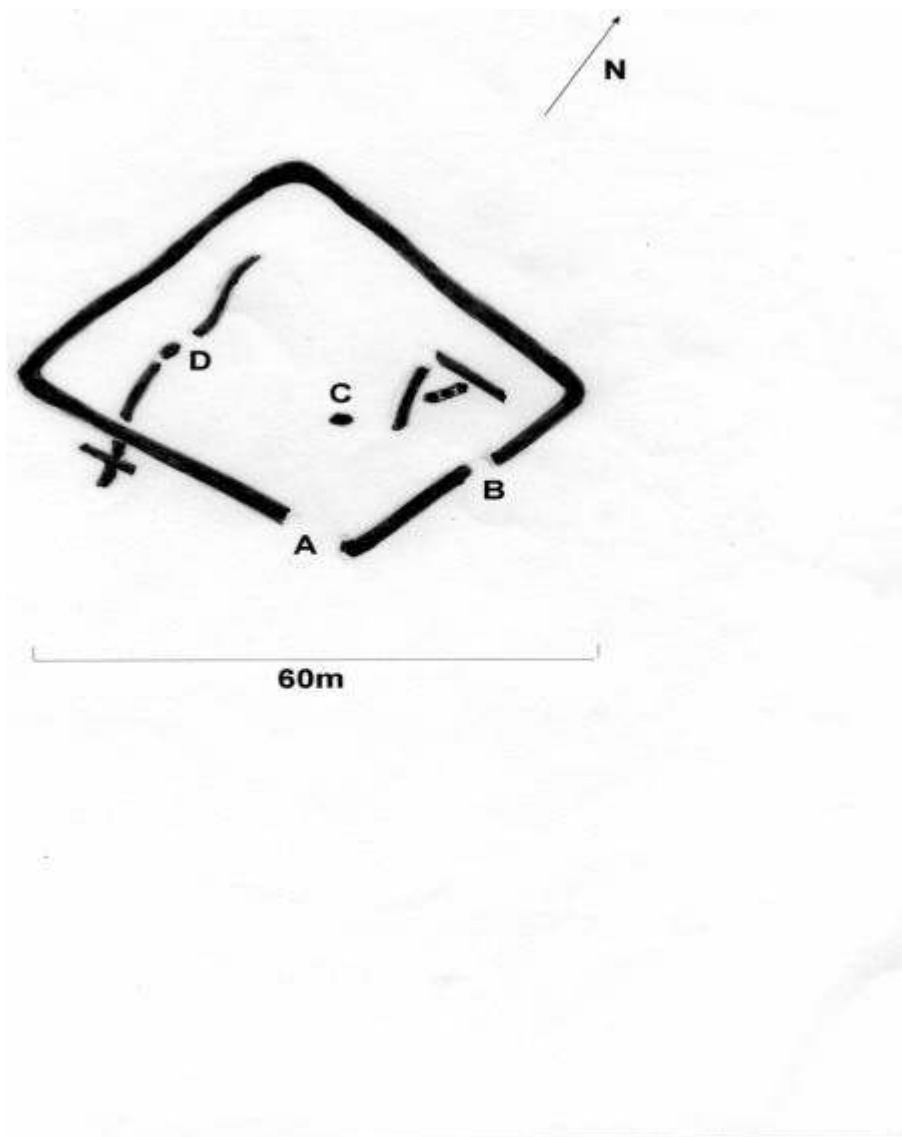


Figure 3 Drawing showing the possible archaeological features

3.4 Excavation

Trench 1 (TL 89003) NGR 24692 was positioned on the West/East axis nearest the farm and Trench 2 (TL 89022) NGR 24701 on the North/South axis of the crop marks. The field had been recently harvested of its pea crop and so there was a good deal of leftover vegetation. The weather had been hot and dry so the ground was extremely hard. Excavation commenced on 9th August 2005. A site grid was set up based on the same alignment as the cropmark and magnetometry plot and used the footpath that runs across the field to Brook Road as the baseline.

The trenches were marked out 3m in length and 1m wide, however due to the geology it soon became clear that their length would need to be increased in order not to miss the ditch edges. Trench 1 ended up 4.5m long and 1.2 m wide, and Trench 2, 5.3m in length and 0.9m wide. There was no access to a machine for topsoil stripping and mattock and fork were utilised. The chalky clay loam proved to be very difficult to dig and it was impossible to differentiate any features at first. There was about 25-30cm of grey brown loamy clay topsoil, which was mattocked and forked through. The sub soil was light red brown clay loam with common chalk nodules. Separate spoil heaps for the top and sub-soil were necessary so as not to compromise the agricultural viability of the field once the trenches were backfilled.

The weather was exceptionally dry to begin with followed by a short period of intense rain, which made digging increasingly difficult due to puddling. The chalky boulder clay was approximately 60cm below the soil horizons.

4. Trench descriptions

4.1 Trench 1

After removal of the top and subsoil, a heavy medium grey brown chalky clay layer was reached, which contained abundant chalk nodules that became paler as the depth increased. At this point there was a period of heavy rain that started to pool in the trench and an almost imperceptible difference in the layer began to be noticed. The trench edges were cleaned back exposing the natural chalky boulder clay, which was a creamy grey brown with abundant chalk and containing both gryphaea and belemnite fossils.

The ditch was approximately 2.20m in width at the top in Trench 1, 60cm below the soil horizons and the fill was a brown clay still with abundant chalk lumps and flecks towards the inside edge being slightly cleaner towards the outer edge. This layer also contained some charcoal flecking.

This is similar to the fill in Trench 2 and has in both cases been interpreted as possible re-cutting of the ditch. No evidence of any banking could be seen and if there was it had probably been long ploughed away.

The fill towards the outer edge did eventually become chalkier, however the lower fill was much cleaner darker brown silty clay with some sparse flint nodules and small chalky flecks (figure 7, Trench 1, section drawing – page 18).

Layers in Trench 1 were as follows:

1. Modern plough soil – greyish brown chalky loam
2. Light red brown clay loam
3. Medium grey brown chalky clay
4. Creamy grey brown chalky boulder clay (natural)
5. Light grey brown chalky clay (equivalent to 3) (sealed ditch)
6. Abundantly chalky brown clay (ditch fill) (? re-cut)
7. Moderately chalky brown clay (ditch fill)
8. Dark brown silty clay with sparse chalk (ditch fill)

Features in Trench 1 were as follows:

- F1 Iron age ditch
- F2 Mole drain (modern)
- F3 ?Stake hole

4.2 Trench 2

The fill of Trench 2 was very similar to Trench 1 but just as difficult to distinguish between the layers, especially the ditch sealing layer (L3) of pale grey reddish brown chalky clay loam and the upper ditch fill (L5), a slightly paler version of L3. There was distinctive clean red brown clay on the eastern side of the trench, which merged into the pale grey reddish brown chalky clay loam (L3) sealing the ditch.

Again the main ditch fill consisted of a darker cleaner brown clay (L7) fill on one side of the ditch and chalkier brown clay (L6) on the other, but here the cleaner fill was on the ditch interior and the dirtier side was on the outer edge. The lowest layer was a dark brown fairly chalk free silty clay.

As with Trench 1, Trench 2 filled with about 15cm of water during a period of rain at the end of the excavation, which did not drain away (figure 8 Trench 2, section drawing – page 19).

Layers in Trench 2 were as follows:

1. Modern plough soil – greyish brown chalky loam
2. Light red brown clay loam
3. Pale reddish grey brown chalky clay merging into a cleaner reddish brown layer on the eastern edge
4. Creamy grey brown chalky boulder clay (natural)
5. Light grey brown chalky clay merging into a cleaner reddish brown layer on the eastern edge (equivalent to 3) – (upper ditch fill)
6. Abundantly chalky brown clay (ditch fill) (? re-cut)
7. Moderately chalky brown clay (ditch fill)
8. Dark brown silty clay with sparse chalk (ditch fill)

Features in Trench 2 were as follows:

- F1 Iron age ditch
- F2 Mole drain (modern)

5. Finds

(see 10 Appendices 10.3 Finds Database – page 28)

5.1 Finds & Dating

The plough soil contained finds from prehistoric through to modern, and included pottery and tile. There was an absence of Roman pottery and considering the proximity of the Roman road (A.J.Fawn, Road report, CAG Bulletin 34 p29-37) this was a surprising; however some abraded Roman tegulae and flue tile were found. The majority of the pottery in the plough was post medieval and modern.

The subsoil appeared to be absent of any modern material but did contain post medieval peg tile and red earthenware of the same period (17th- mid 18th century). There were sherds of residual prehistoric pottery in the plough and subsoil dating to the Middle Iron Age.

Layers 3 and 5, which were very similar in colour and consistency, appeared to seal the ditch in Trench 1. The latest dating material in both layers 3 and 5 was Late Iron Age grog tempered pottery, but there were also sherds of sand tempered Middle Iron Age wares, notably 2 joining rim sherds from a plain rounded rimless bowl.

These layers also contained numerous snail shells, identified as *Oxychilus Cellarius/Helveticus* (Family: Zonitidae), commonly known as Glass snails. These snails usually prefer damp woodland habitat or living amongst rocks and stones. Interestingly this genus of snail shell was found consistently through layers 3-7 in both trenches.

In L7 and L8 another genus of snail shell was found which has been identified as *Helicidae*, one of the commonest of the snail family more widespread in Britain in the Iron Age than today. (Vaclav Pflieger 2000, 40) *Helicidae* are snails that prefer open grassy hillsides and fields on chalky subsoil.

Late Iron Age corrugated black and red grog tempered sherds (3) probably from at least one or possibly two bowls/jars were found in L7 in Trench 1 and can be more precisely dated to between 75BC-50AD. This suggests that the ditch was being filled in after the 75BC, but before the Roman conquest owing to the absence of Roman finds in the ditch fill. The other recognisably late Iron Age sherd was from a bead rim grog tempered storage jar found in L3 (sealing the ditch) of trench 2.

The lower ditch fill in both Trenches 1 and 2 had flint tempered pottery sherds from the Late Bronze/Early Iron Age tradition through to sand tempered Middle Iron Age. These were only small body sherds whose form cannot be determined. The enclosure ditches could therefore have been dug some time during the Middle Iron Age after 300 BC, but before 75BC. The pottery from the ditch fill was all small in sherd size, but in quite good condition, especially in the lower fill so it can be assumed that they were deposited fairly soon after being broken. The pottery from layers sealing the ditch was more abraded as it was probably rolling around in the soil when the land was finally being cultivated after the ditches and enclosure had disappeared.

The faunal assemblage was diverse and in the ditch fill of Trench 1 the bones of cow, pig, sheep were found, whilst in L8 there was a fragment of the metatarsus from a horse. Horses would have been used for traction and riding and there is evidence on other sites of butchering implying they were sometimes eaten (Cunliffe 2005, 417). The animal bone was in good condition, although fragmentary. Trench 2 ditch fill yielded sheep and cow bone. The bovine (cow) metatarsus appears to have been sawn through at one end and consequently may be evidence for bone working. Although small in quantity there were more sheep and cattle bones compared to two pig bones and this fits the pattern during the Iron Age where 'cattle and sheep were reared in large numbers while pigs played a subsidiary role' (Maltby 1996). There were some smaller bones from an unidentified animal, possibly a rodent.

Three fragments of burnt daub were found in Trench 1 L6, which may have been part of a loom weight or hearth. The Lithics assemblage spanned from the Mesolithic to the Iron Age including tools and debitage and "the occurrence of flintwork of several traditions at a single site is not unfamiliar in Essex" (Healey, 1987, 20)

5.2 The pottery

The pottery sherd count was as follows:

Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age flint tempered ware	24
Middle Iron Age sand tempered ware	22
Late Iron Age grog tempered ware	14
Medieval	1
Post-Medieval	5
Modern	2

The prehistoric pottery was all hand-made and would have been fired in a bonfire whereas the Late Iron Age ware was wheel thrown and possibly been kiln fired. Most of the pottery was in a good state of preservation and suggests that it was deposited into the ditch soon after being broken.

The assemblage consists of functional, plain cooking or storage ware with the exception of the Late Iron Age corrugated ware, which is finer and Belgic in tradition. 'Belgic' pottery is characterised by the use of grog (crushed ceramic) being added to the clay before the vessel is formed and aids in the firing process by shortening the firing time. Corrugations are also characteristic of this style of pottery.

Section 2: Statement of Importance

6 Discussion

The two evaluation trenches proved the existence of two deep V - shaped ditches that appear to date to the Middle Iron Age and form part of a small enclosure about 0.16 hectare (0.4 acre). Enclosures of a similar size and shape found elsewhere in Essex (many unexcavated) are also attributed to the Middle Iron Age, "Form is often, though not invariably, an indicator of date " (Priddy & Buckley, 1987, 71)

The enclosure is similar in size and shape to Stanway (ECC site No TL 92-36), a pear shaped enclosure of 0.15 hectare with a southeast facing entrance and three large internal pits. Other comparable Middle Iron Age enclosures in Essex are Woodham Walter, Gun Hill, East Donyland and Lofts Farm.

The pottery evidence is indicative of a date range of between 300-75/100BC for the beginning to the end of the enclosure. The snail evidence suggests that the ground had been cleared of any woodland that had grown up on the chalky

boulder clay plateau and been colonised by snails which preferred a grassy open environment. The snails found higher up in the ditch fill are more associated with human habitation and this also suggests that a certain amount of light woodland may have returned.

The purpose of the enclosure is not known at present, but further excavation is planned to investigate probable entrance and interior features as shown on the magnetometry plot (figure 3 – page 8). The position of the enclosure on the chalky boulder clay plateau overlooking the Roman river valley is typical of the Middle Iron Age as “ exactly the same phenomena had been recognised in East Anglia, where there was an expansion from the lighter soils to the boulder clays” (Cunliffe, 2005, 265) This is thought to be the result of an increase in the population and heavy settlement in the fertile river valleys. The river valley at Great Tey has evidence of Late Bronze Age land use in the form a cremation barrow and so it can be assumed that the land was always settled in some way. A Neolithic pit was also discovered near to where the Barrow was sited.

The enclosure may have been for the corralling of animals, a single-family unit occupation site or both, as animal bones, pottery and fragments of a hearth or loom weight have been found.

7. Acknowledgements

The Colchester Archaeological Group has been privileged to work on several sites within Great Tey, an area rich and varied in archaeology both buried and extant, including the Late Bronze Age ring ditch cremation barrow in the river valley which also has Neolithic, Roman and Anglo-Saxon activity, and the Roman Road, both of which are on Teybrook Farm, the home of the Browning family. The Teybrook Farm Iron Age enclosure is now adding another layer of information to the record of this thriving Essex village, thanks to the enthusiasm, generosity and support of Roger and Richard Browning.

Colchester Archaeological Group also wishes to express its gratitude to the specialists, who kindly identified the finds, namely:

Jeremy Bowdrey - Animal bones and snails
Hazel Martingell - Lithics
Dr Paul Sealey - Pottery & CBM

The following members of the Colchester Archaeological Group took part in the excavation;

Aline Black and David Black (Geophysics), Pat Brown, James Fawn, Don Goodman, Denise Hardy, John Mallinson, Anna Moore, Francis Nicholls, Ruth Rolfe (Finds Officer), Pauline Skippins, David Sims, Andrew White, Peter Wilcher



Figure 4 Teatime in Trench 2

8. Bibliography

Buckley, D.G, Hedges, J.D, 1976: Excavation of a Cropmark Enclosure Complex at Woodham Walter, Essex, 1976 (EAA Report No 33 1987) contributions by Boyd, P. Cartwright, C. Evans, J. Healey, E. Major, H. Rodwell, W.J. Wadhams, M.C. and Wilkinson, T.J.

Cunliffe, B. 2005: Iron Age Communities in Britain (Fourth Edition)

Fawn J, 1991: A Roman Road at Teybrook Farm, Great Tey (CAG Bulletin 34)

Lucy, G 1999: Essex Rock

Maltby, M. 1996: The exploitation of animals in the Iron Age: the archaeological evidence. In Cunliffe 2005, 415

Pfleger, Vaclav 2000: A Field Guide to Molluscs

Priddy D, Buckley DG, 1987: An Assessment of Excavated Enclosures in Essex, together with a Selection of Cropmark sites (EAA Report No 33, 1987)

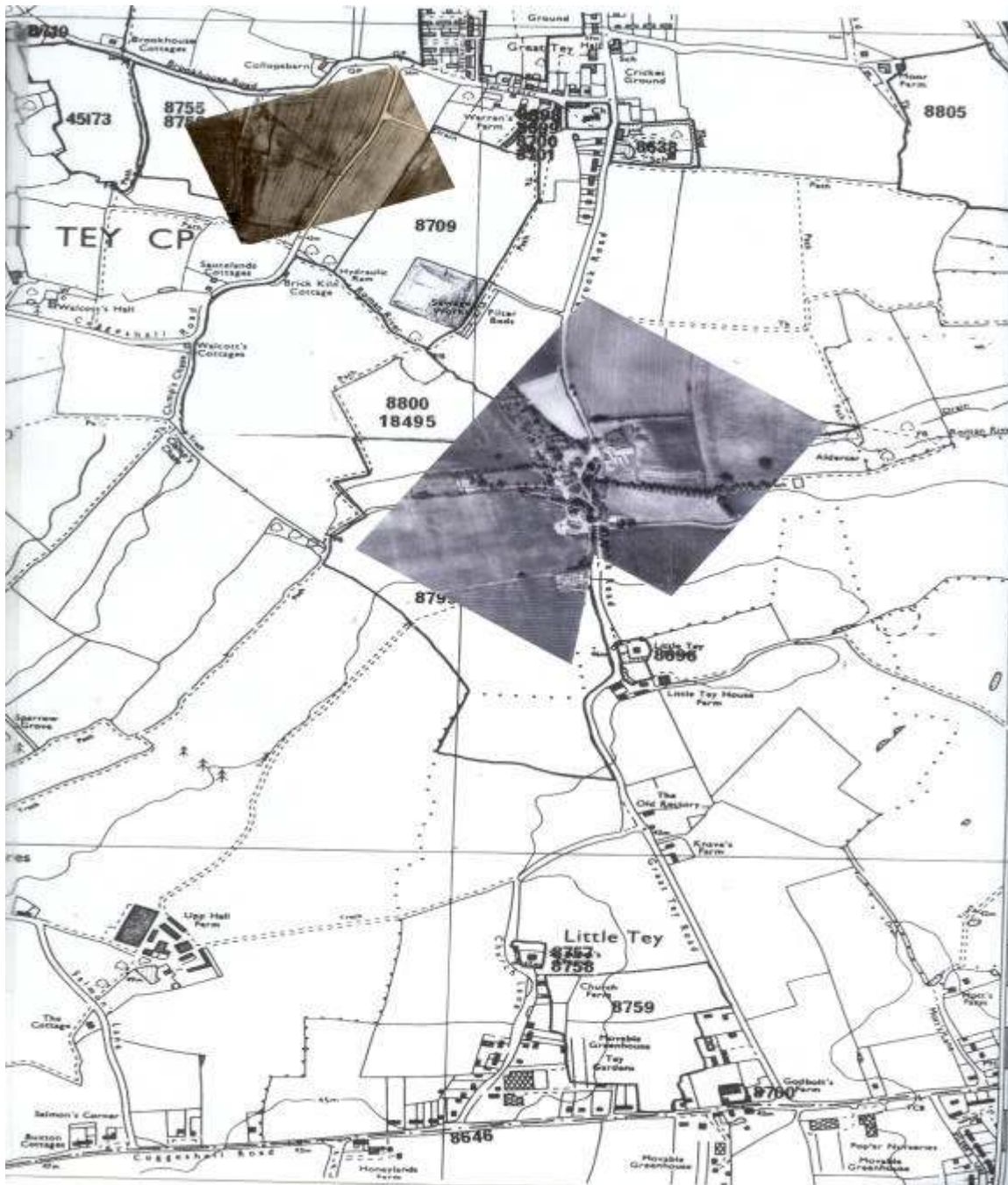


Figure 5 Overlay of the Iron Age Enclosure site (left of the road), & the Bronze Age site. (Aline Black 2006)

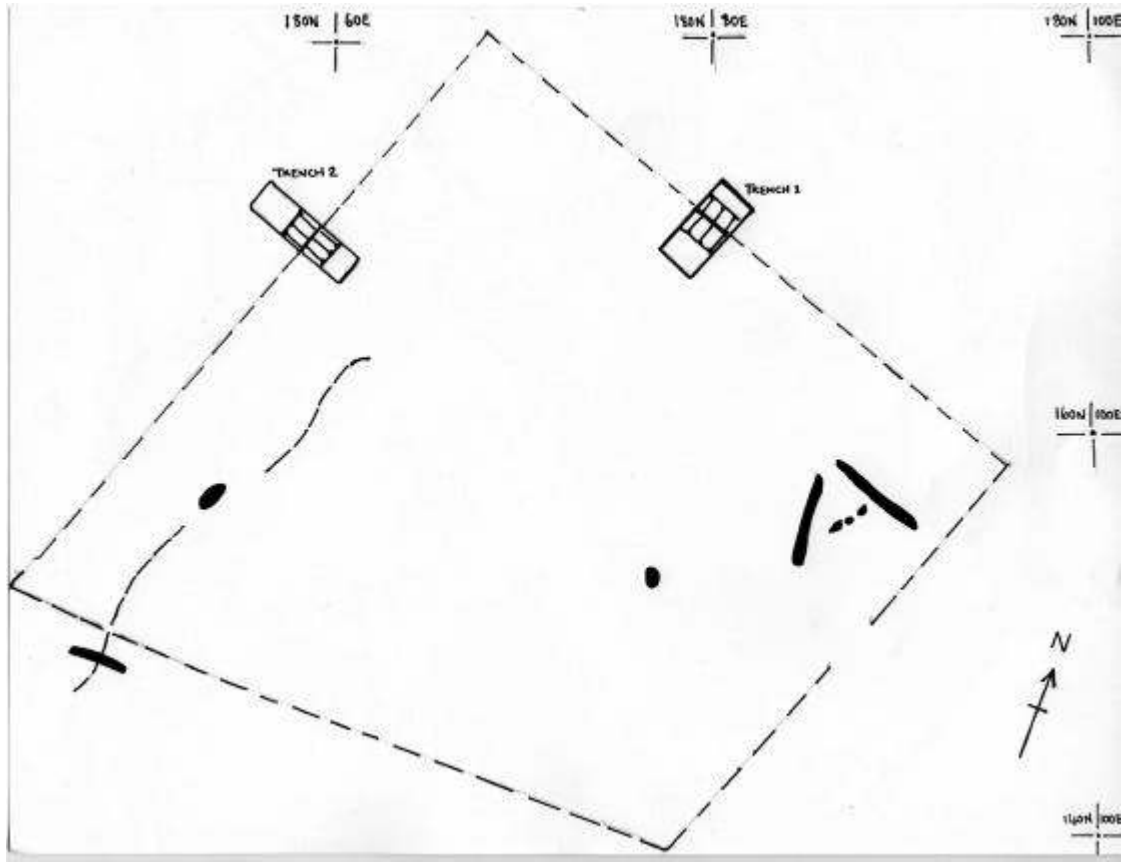
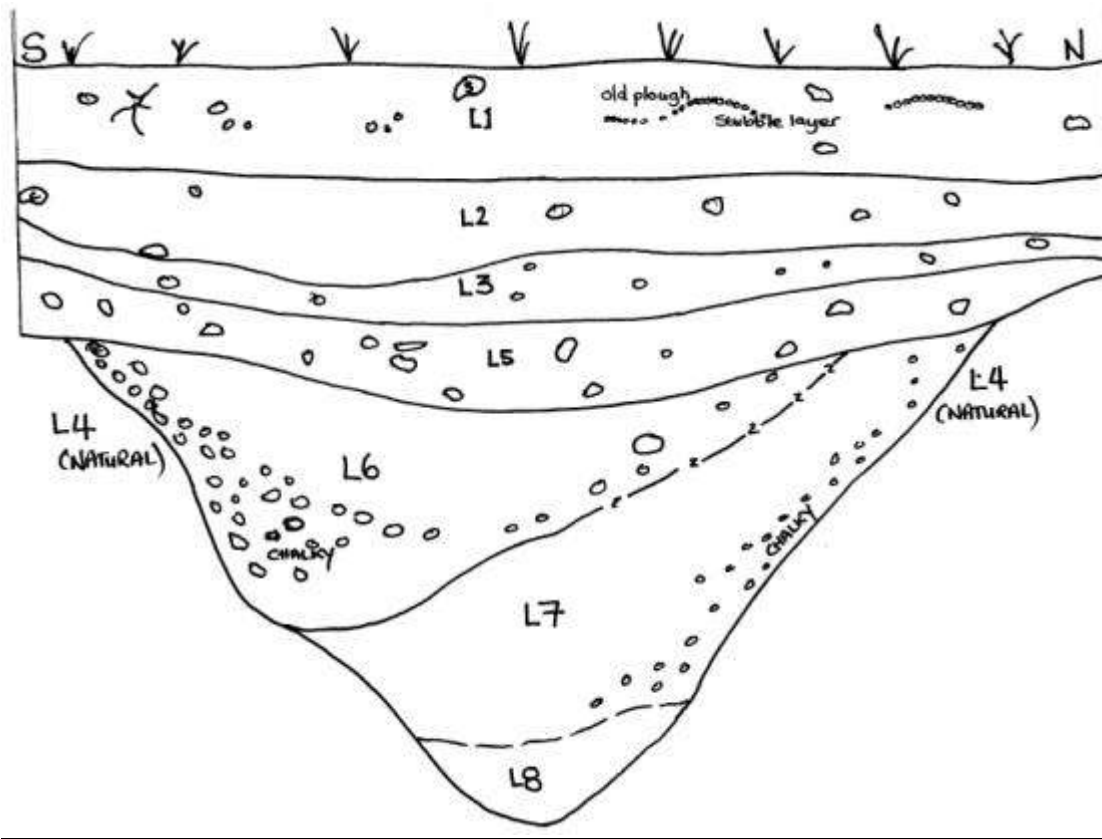


Figure 6 Site plan of the trenches superimposed over the magnetometry plot also showing probable archaeological features

Trench 1 East facing section

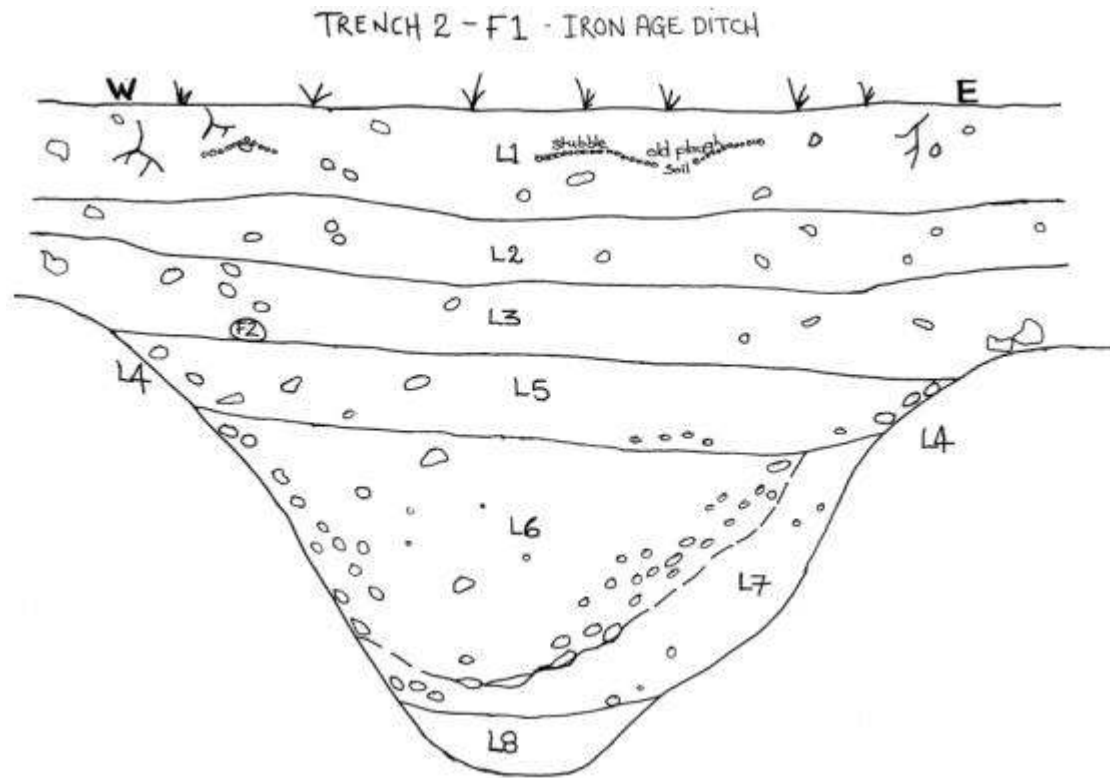


Layers within Trench 1 and F1 Iron Age ditch

1. Modern plough soil – greyish brown chalky loam
2. Light red brown clay loam
3. Medium grey brown chalky clay
4. Creamy grey brown chalky boulder clay (natural)
5. Light grey brown chalky clay (equivalent to 3) (sealed ditch)
6. Abundantly chalky brown clay (ditch fill) (? re-cut)
7. Moderately chalky brown clay (ditch fill)
8. Dark brown silty clay with sparse chalk (ditch fill)

Figure 7 (scale 1:20)

Trench 2 South facing section



Layers within Trench 2 and F1 Iron Age ditch

1. Modern plough soil – greyish brown chalky loam
2. Light red brown clay loam
3. Pale reddish grey brown chalky clay merging into a cleaner reddish brown layer on the eastern edge
4. Creamy grey brown chalky boulder clay (natural)
5. Light grey brown chalky clay merging into a cleaner reddish brown layer on the eastern edge (equivalent to 3) – (upper ditch fill)
6. Abundantly chalky brown clay (ditch fill) (? re-cut)
7. Moderately chalky brown clay (ditch fill)
8. Dark brown silty clay with sparse chalk (ditch fill)

Figure 8 (scale 1:20)

Trench 1 showing F1 East facing section of the Iron Age enclosure ditch



Figure 9

Trench 2 showing F1 South facing section of the Iron Age enclosure ditch

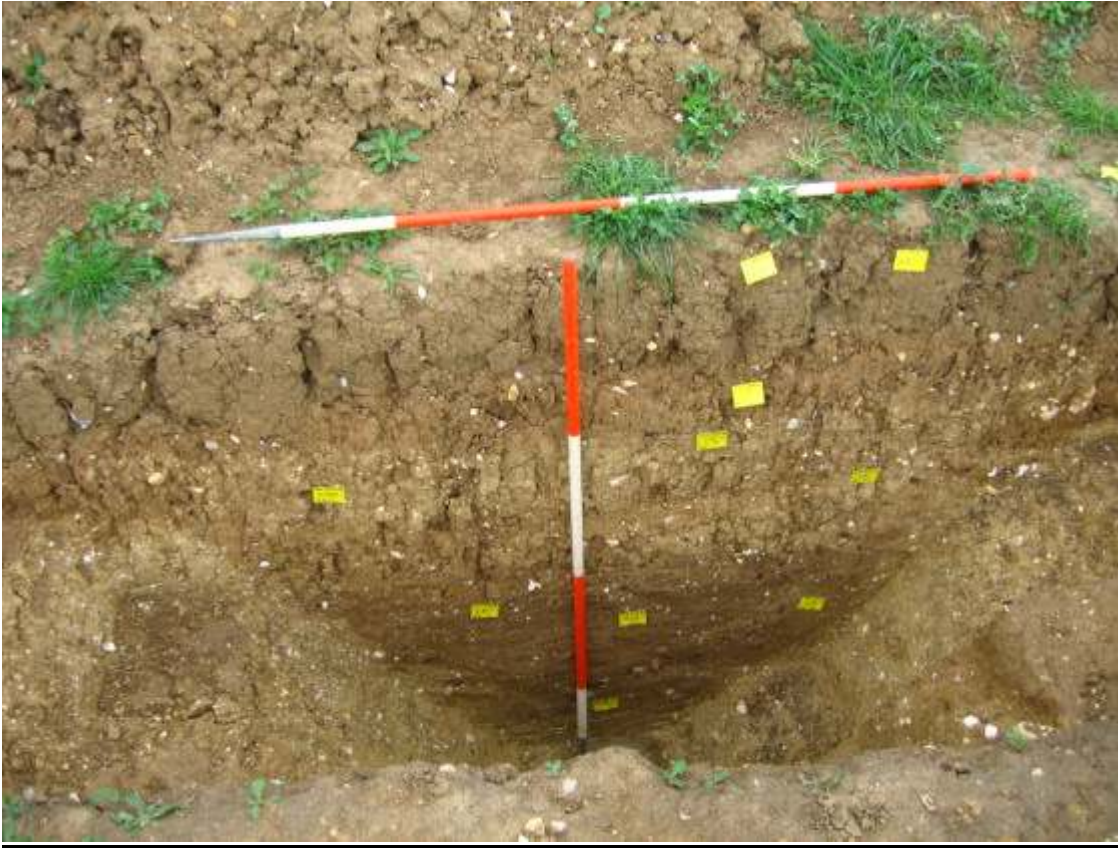


Figure 10



Late Iron Age grog tempered ware – corrugated jar/bowl
Trench 1 F1 L7



Late Iron Age grog tempered ware
Trench 2 F1 L5
Figure 12



Middle Iron Age sand tempered ware rounded rim bowl
Trench 1 L3
Figure 13



Flint tempered Late Bronze /Early Iron Age pottery
Trench 1 F1 L8
Figure 14



Burnt daub ?Loom weight or hearth lining
Trench 2 F1 L6
Figure 15

10 Appendices

10.1. Glossary of terms

Grog - crushed pottery

Temper – opening material added to clay to aid in the firing process

LBA – Late Bronze Age

EIA – Early Iron Age

MIA – Middle Iron Age

LIA – Late Iron Age

10.2. Chronology

Late Bronze Age	c.1200 BC - 800 BC
Early Iron Age	c.800 BC - 350 BC
Middle Iron Age	c.350 BC - 75 BC
Late Iron Age	c.75 BC - 43/50 AD

10.3 Finds from Trench 1 and Trench 2 at Teybrook Farm Enclosure

Find no.	Layer no.	Context	Find type	TPQ	TAQ	Pottery	Find date	Comment
U/S	U/S	U/S	Natural piece of flint modified scraper edge, small waste flake	IA	Mod		IA	
001	-	U/S	Rom flue tile, tegula frag, post-Rom CBM, 1 sherd prehistoric pot, Fe slag	MIA	Mod	MIA sand tempered	Mod	Abraded & broken tile
002	L1	Tr1	2 flints, 2 Fe nails, 1 bone, 1 ?lava quern frag, vsq slag, Col fab (45m) 1 mod stoneware, Col fabric (22) 1Hedingham , Q tile frags ,	Prehist	Mod	Mod stoneware, & Med pot	Mod	Tile abraded
003	L1	Tr2	1 bone, (48D) 1 Staff earthenware, (40) PMRE x2,SQ peg tile	Post Med	Mod	Staffordshire Slipped earthenware, Post Med Red earthenware	Mod	
004	L2	Tr2	1 flint, 6 Peg tile, 1 ?RT, 1 ?grog quartz tempered prehistoric sherd, 1 natural accretion (yellow)	LIA	Post Med	LIA grog tempered ware	PM	
005	L1	Tr2	1 bone, 4 tile, 1 (Fabric 40) PMRE	Post Med	Post Med		PM	
006	L3	Tr2	3 bone, 1 tooth, 1 oxidised ?grog/quartz tempered prehistoric pot sherd, 5 small abraded prehistoric sand tempered sherds	MIA	LIA	MIA sand tempered, LIA grog tempered with bead rim	LIA	Sheep bone
007	L1	Tr1	1 Rom flue tile, 2 (40) PMRE sherds, 3 ?RT/Peg tile	Rom	Post Med	Post Med red earthenware	PM	Peg tile
008	L3	Tr2	3 bone, 2 flint, 1 snail shell, 1 rim sherd LIA grog tempered ware, + crumbs	LIA	LIA	Everterd rim sherd of LIA GTW With angular inclusions of black grog. 75BC - AD50	LIA	1 flake, 1 arrowhead blank

009	L3	Tr2	4 flints, 1 charcoal crumb, 2 natural sandstone accretions, 1 snail					1 rod microlith, blade frag, 1A flake & trimming flake Snail –Oxychilus (Cellarius/Helveticus)
010	L3	Tr1	2 snail shells, 1 bone, 4 flints, 4 MIA sand tempered bowl/jar sherds	MIA	MIA	2 adjoining rim sherds from a plain rounded rim bowl MIA with sand temper 300BC – 75BC+	MIA	Debitage flakes Bovine scapula – joint end (cow) Snail –Oxychilus (Cellarius/Helveticus)
011	L2	Tr1	SQ tile frags, 2 flints	Mesolithic	Post Med			Trimming flake –distal end (Mesolithic)
012	L3	Tr1	2 flint tempered prehistoric sherds	LBA	EIA		MIA	
013	L3	Tr1	4 flint tempered prehistoric pot sherds, 2 snail shells, 1 ?burnt stone	LBA	EIA	1 flint tempered prehistoric sherd, 1 flint and sand tempered sherd	MIA	Stone pot boiler/burnt stone 1 burnt clay/daub Snail –Oxychilus (Cellarius/Helveticus)
014	L5	Tr2	1 LIA tempered/grog sherd, 3 bone, & charcoal smears	LIA	LIA	LIA GTW storage jar sherd	LIA	Sheep rib frags
015	L5	Tr2	1 flint tempered sherd, 1 bone	LBA	EIA		IA	Sheep
016	L6	Tr1	1 flint	Prehist	Prehist			Trimming flake
017	L6	Tr2	5 rib bone frags, SQ snail shells, 4 flints, vsq prehistoric quartz/flint tempered pot sherds	LBA	EIA		MIA	Small animal rib bone frags Snail - Helicidae
018	L6	Tr1	SQ snail shells and frags	–	–			Snail - Helicidae
019	L6	Tr2	1 foreleg bone, 1 bone frag, 3 flints, charcoal frag	–	–			Bovine (cow) meta tarsus butchery marks and ? sawn end, 1 blade, 2 trimming flakes

020	L6	Tr2	4 crumbs prehistoric pot, burnt daub, sq snails	MIA	MIA	4 very abraded MIA fine sand tempered sherds with black interior and red/oxidised outer surfaces.	MIA	Burnt daub frags Snail - Helicidae
021	L6	Tr2	IA flint tempered pot sherd, 2 flints, sq snails	MIA	LIA	2 LIA GTW sherds 1 flint tempered transitional sherd MIA/LIA	LIA	Snail - Helicidae
022	L6	Tr1	IA sand /grog tempered sherds, animal bone, flint, snails	LIA	LIA	LIA GTW grog and sand tempered sherd 75BC - 50AD	LIA	Helicidae (snail)
023	L7	Tr 2	5 frags IA flint tempered pot, 1 burnt flint, 2?flint tools, SQ snail shells, 5 flint flakes	LBA/EIA	MIA	Tiny abraded sherds flint tempered prehistoric EIA/MIA (residual from manuring), 1 sherd of MIA sand tempered pot	MIA	Helicidae (snail) 1 Mesolithic blade butt + 1 other, 1 bladelet, 1 core trimming flake, 2 flakes, 1 heated flint
024	L7	Tr1 ditch fill	6 flints, 2 fossils – gryphaea & belemnite, sq snails, 2 sand tempered IA sherds, 2 grog tempered sherds, rib bone (broken)	MIA	LIA	2 black and red grog /sand tempered sherds LIA, 2 sherds of MIA sand tempered sherds small and worn very likely from manuring	LIA	Debitage, Helicidae (snail) Pig rib frag
025	L7	Tr1 ditch fill	2 large flint flakes, vsq sand /flint tempered pot sherds, animal tooth	LBA/EIA	MIA	MIA sand/flint tempered sherds	MIA	Pig tooth, Flint trimming flakes

026	L6	Tr2 ditch fill	3 frags of ?loom weight, 4 sherds flint tempered pot, 4 sherds sand tempered MIA pot, 2 animal teeth ? burnt, large limb bone broken in two	EIA/MIA	MIA	Flint and sand tempered sherds EIA/MIA 4 sand tempered 300BC-75BC sherds MIA	MIA	loom weight, 1 animal teeth, burnt Bovine (cow) limb - broken
027	L7	Tr1 ditch fill	3 LIA grog tempered ware, animal rib in 3 pieces, flints, sq snails, fossil frags, charcoal flecks	LIA	LIA	3 LIA GTW (red & black grog) corrugated bowl/jar sherds 75BC-50AD	LIA	Belgic ware ?Thompson type bowl or jar - 2 different vessels Helicidae (3) Oxychilus/Cellarius/Helveticus (3) Gryphaea & Belemnite animal rib
028	L8	Tr1 ditch fill	2 sherds flint tempered pot, 1 grog tempered sherd, VSQ snail	EIA/MIA	LIA	Flint tempered sherds ?LBA /EIA-MIA, ?intrusive grog tempered sherd	EIA/MIA	Helicidae
029	L8	Tr1 ditch fill	SQ snails, 4 animal bone frags, 3 animal teeth & small frag of jaw, vsq flint tempered pot, 1 heated flint, 4 flints, 1 chalk	EIA/MIA	MIA	Flint tempered sherds ?LBA-EIA/MIA	EIA/MIA	Sheep jaw fragmentary lower left + teeth, 1 burnt core frag, 2 trimming flakes, 1 slightly patinated flake
030	L8	Tr2	Vsq snails, 1 flint 1 flint tempered pot sherd	EIA/MIA	MIA	Flint tempered sherds ?LBA-EIA/MIA	EIA/MIA	Helicidae Large 'salami' slice IA flint-tool of convenience
031	L8	Tr1	1 large sherd flint tempered pot, 2 snails, 1 animal bone,	? LBA-EIA/MIA		Flint tempered sherd ?LBA-EIA/MIA	EIA/MIA	Helicidae frag, Horse metatarsus frag, Potsherd unabraded.

A Field Walk at Warrens Farm, Great Tey, October 2005

John Mallinson

Location

The site of the walk was a field centred upon TL887257, and accessed immediately south west of the junction of Brookhouse Road, Great Tey and Brick Kiln Lane, Great Tey. The total area covered was approximately 6Ha.

Background

A Roman road is known to run north from the A120 towards the site of the Roman villa at Great Tey (Figs 1, 2). To date it has been traced by aerial photography and excavation to a point at TL88852520, approx 50m SSW of the villa site. Conjectural straight line projections of the road to the north show it crossing the above field from approximately TL88732560 to TL88652583.

In October 2004, a field walk at Warrens Farm, south of Brookhouse Cottages, had revealed evidence for Roman structures (Fig 3). This field is immediately to the west of that now under consideration.

Both the above suggested that a field walk might provide evidence for the presence, or otherwise, of the Roman road to the north of the villa, or of any other Roman activity on the site.

Method

OS Grid reference points were first pinpointed at 100m intervals by GPS. These were interpolated at 20m intervals to give a 20m grid over the whole site. Fig. 1 below shows the area walked and the grid numbering system used.

The area was walked from south to north and finds collected up to 1m each side of each 20m grid line, giving a 10% sample of the whole area. Walkers were instructed to collect anything man-made. As walkers varied considerably in ability, novices were accompanied where possible by more experienced walkers. No attempt was made to identify or compensate for more experienced walkers, but where obvious anomalies were noticed, these are mentioned below.

The finds were sorted into type, as tabulated by hectare in Fig. 2. Distribution plots for selected find types were plotted by their position on the 20m. grid.

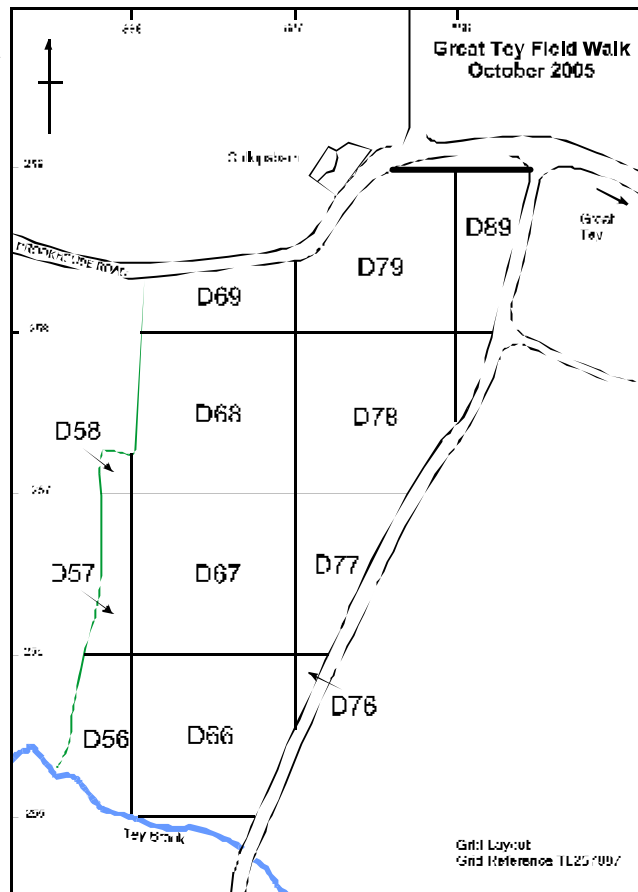


Fig 1. Grid Pattern of Area Walked

HA	Flint	Burnt Flint	Phist. Pot	Roman Pot	Sax. Pot	Med. Pot	Pmed. Pot	Mod. Pot	Roman Brick/Tile	Peg Tile		Pmed/ Mod Brick	Glass	Glass Slag	Other
No.															
D56							5			52	665	4	1		2
D57						1		3		38	905		1		9
D58															
D65										4	75				1
D66	3					2	10	1	8 NR	405	7225	16	4		6
D67	9	2				12	7	11	2 NR	552	6510	13	1	4	38
D68	1	3		1		33	42	8	3 NR	530	6900	8+**	6	1	18
D69	1					2	6		3 NR	206	3120		1		6
D76															
D77	2					1	6	3	5 NR	274	3635	1	7		6
D78	6						23	2		831	9920	4	6		15
D79			1			6	6	5	4 NR	544	6195	1	5	3	13
D88							1			31	450				1
D89	1						3			138	1955	1	1	1	1
Totals	23	5	1	1	0	57	109	33	25	0	47555	40	33	9	116
Total Pottery 201															
*** Large quantities of modern brick were re-covered in A-E, but were not counted															

Fig. 2 Finds Distribution by Hectare

Results

A summary of the finds is given opposite, Fig. 2. Finds were dominated by large quantities of peg tile, of which over 3600 pieces, weighing in excess of 47kg, were collected. Roman material was scarce, and consisted almost entirely of tile, with only 1 pottery sherd found. What little pottery was found was either medieval (57 sherds), or post-medieval (109 sherds).

Other finds were of little significance: a few (possibly) worked flints were identified, but showed only random distribution; there was also the usual miscellany of nails, slate, coal, oyster and slag. A few pieces of glass slag were collected.

Discussion

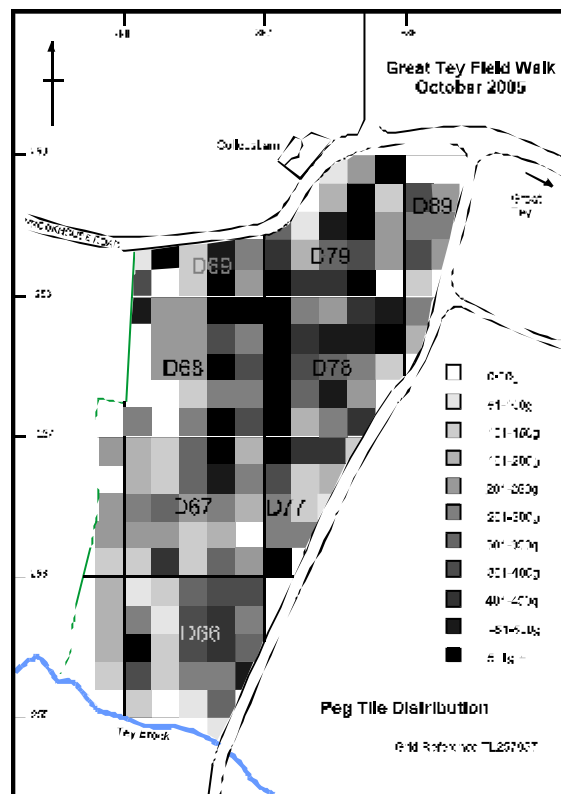
Distribution of **peg tile** (Fig. 3) was random over most of the field, consistent with introduction of the material by manuring during modern times.

After peg tile (a long way after peg tile), the commonest finds were of **Post-Medieval Pot** (Fig. 4) and **Medieval Pot** (Fig. 5). The Medieval pot showed a very heavy concentration towards the west edge of HA D68, with a 'tail' running south through D67 and D66. The 'tail' may be the effect of a particularly keen-eyed walker, but could also be the result of down slope carry by ploughing. The Post-Medieval pot was more widely distributed over the field, but also showed a heavy concentration in D68, as did a large, but unmeasured, quantity of modern brick. The reason for the concentration of materials at that point is not known. A dump seems the most likely explanation, but other suggestions would be welcome.

Roman finds distribution is shown in Fig. 6. The scarcity of material, and its distribution, can offer no support for any Roman activity in the area. Whilst it must be conceded that a Roman road can pass through an area without leaving any significant material surface evidence, this particular road has been found elsewhere to be partly constructed of tile and pottery waste (2), and unless at considerable depth, one might have expected some of this to have been brought to the surface.

A few pieces of glass slag were also found. These were not as frequent as those found in the adjacent field during the walk in 2004, but lend support to the view that there may have been at some time glass manufacture in the area. None of the other finds were of significance.

Fig. 3 Peg Tile Distribution



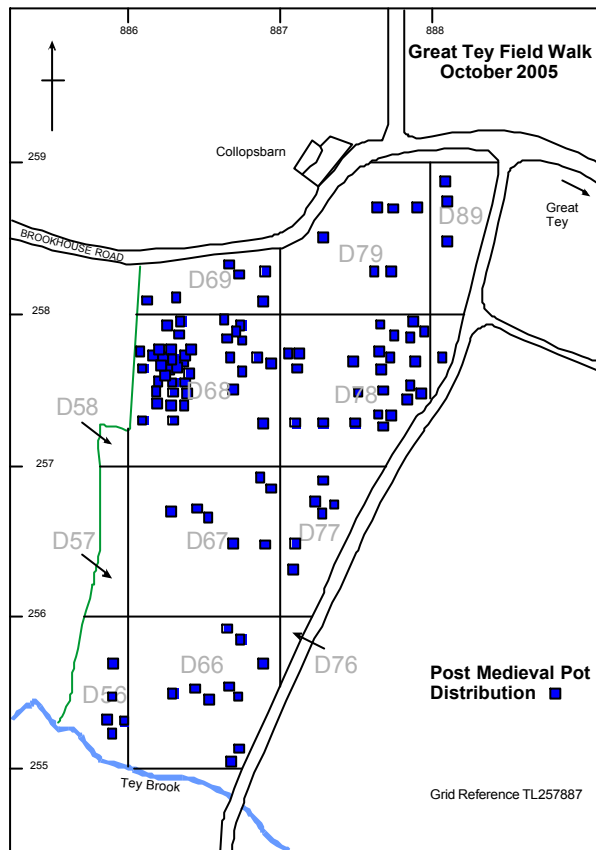


Fig. 4 Post Medieval Pottery Distribution

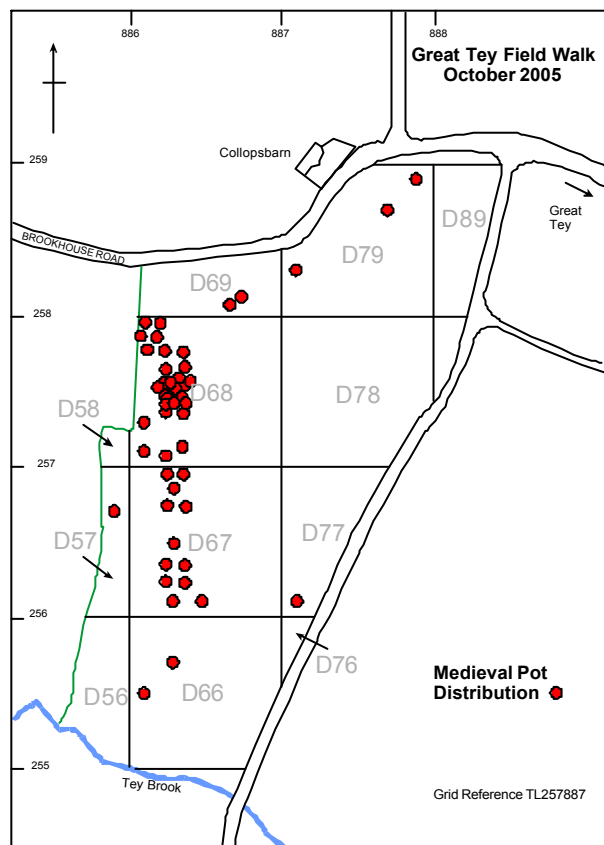


Fig. 5 Medieval Pottery Distribution

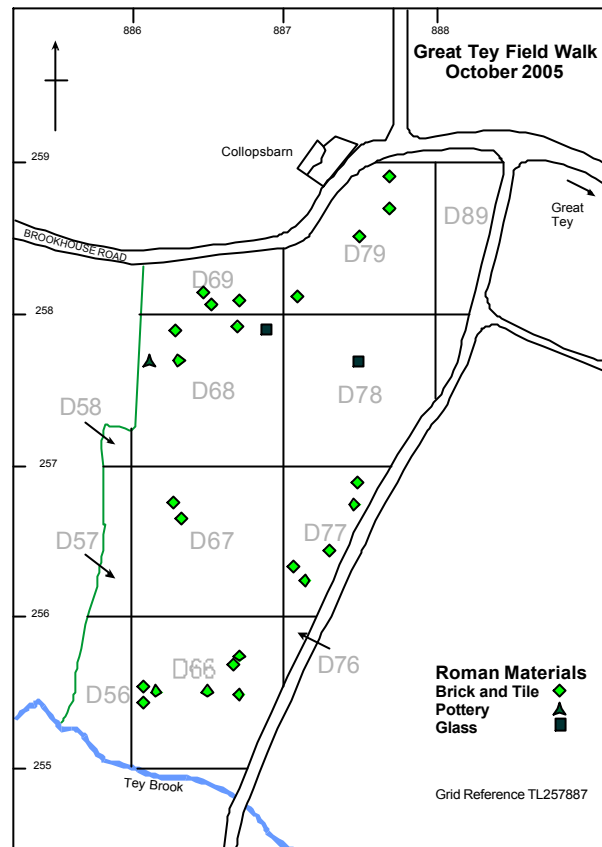


Fig. 6 Roman Finds Distribution

Conclusions

1. The minimal quantities of Roman material found, coupled with the negative results from the magnetometer survey, suggest that there is no justification for continuing to show projections of the Roman road north of the Great Tey Villa. Nor is there any suggestion of any Roman activity, other than purely agricultural on the site.
2. Explanations for the concentration of Medieval and later materials found towards the north west corner of the site are invited.

Acknowledgements

Our thanks are due to:

Peter Fairs, the landowner, both for making the field available to us, and for preparing it to make it ideal for field walking; David Sims, for preparing the grid and providing GPS equipment; Pauline Skippins for her expertise in classifying the finds, and the team who made them identifiable by washing them all; John Moore for providing a venue for finds processing; Don Goodman and Francis Nicholls for organising the day and marshalling the troops; and finally everyone who took part on the day and who helped to make it a success.

References

1. Fawn A J *A Roman Road at Teybrook Farm, Great Tey.*
Colchester Archaeological Group Bulletin 34 (1991) 29-37
2. Fawn A J *A Roman Road at Teybrook Farm, Great Tey, Part 2.*
Colchester Archaeological Group Bulletin 41(2000-2001) 7-11
3. Mallinson, John *A Field Walk at Warrens Farm, Great Tey (2004).*
Colchester Archaeological Group Bulletin 45 (2005) 11-16

Pottery Analysis from the Field Walk at Warrens Farm, Great Tey, October 2005

Pauline Skippins

In this second phase of field-walking 186 sherds of pottery were picked up, which have been classified by date/period and fabric code as specified in the Colchester Archaeological Reports 7 & 10. The number of sherds identified in both phases broken down by period and is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Year	Pre historic	Roman	Saxon	Medieval	Post-Medieval	Modern	Un-diagnostic sherds
2004 phase 1 western sector	0	70	0	230	344	36	N/A
2005 phase 2 eastern sector	1	1	0	50	103	21	11 (?Roman/ Medieval)
TOTAL	1	70	0	280	447	57	11

Discussion**Prehistoric** - 1 sherd

One sherd of Late Iron Age grog tempered ware probably from a cooking jar was picked up in DA79, the only piece of prehistoric pot.

Roman - 1 sherd +/- 11 un-diagnostic sherds

There is a most noticeable absence of Roman pottery in this eastern sector as opposed to the western sector walked last year, where 70 sherds of Roman pot were picked up. The only recognizable Roman sherd, a grey ware rim, was found in HA D68. There could be some Roman fragments within the 11 un-diagnostic grey ware sherds, however this would still be a relatively small number. The main area of Roman activity was in HA D29 and D38 (western sector – phase 1), where an ECC dig in advance of pipe laying (1988) uncovered what was interpreted as a Roman corn-drying kiln. There may still be further undiscovered structures in this vicinity.

Medieval c.1200-1550 - approx 50 sherds

The Medieval wares are probably all local products, apart from two possible exceptions below. There were a reasonably high number of early medieval grey ware sherds along with sandy coarse ware (fabrics 13 & 20), and Colchester sandy wares (fabric 21). One particularly interesting thumbled base with traces of green glaze found was probably part of an early Colchester sandy ware baluster jug dating to circa 13/14th century.

One exceptional sherd was the possible Kingston-type ware upright rim in very rough white quartz fabric with faint traces of green/grey glaze on the exterior surface. Kingston-type ware was produced from the 13th until the 15th century along the south bank of the river Thames from Kingston to Southwark.

The other unusual piece was a small green-brown glazed, rosette stamped sherd, which has a very dense, hard sandy grey fabric. This might possibly be 'Long Wyre' Street ware (fabric 98W) : "A local, but still as yet un-sourced product. This fabric appears to be rare in central and north-east Essex and it does not closely resemble any known wares in London or Kent" (Alan Vince, Nigel Macpherson-Grant, pers comm.. - CAR 7 p186) (see fig 126.5 CAR 7 - stamped jug sherd).

These two sherds require further work to be certain of their source.

Post-Medieval c. 1550-1750 - approx 100 sherds

By far the most prolific pottery fabric of this period and on this field-walk are the ubiquitous Post-Medieval Red Earthenware's (fabric 40), which were produced at many locations and in various forms throughout Essex, including large dishes, jugs, cisterns and bowls. Regarded as the successor to sandy Colchester earthenware (fabric 21), which is more coarsely sandy in the break than PMRE, it is orange red in colour and usually has a clear lead glaze of brown or orangey-yellow brown. It can also be unglazed and is often found abraded and unglazed, after being rolled around in the plough soil, when it can be mistaken for brick or tile fragments. This is the most common post-Roman fabric found within Colchester. Kilns closest to Great Tey known to have pro-

duced this ware have been found at the Hedinghams and Coggeshall. The date range is from 16th century through to the 19th & 20th centuries.

Brown salt-glazed stoneware's from Cologne, Germany may be present within some of the stoneware sherds found, although the majority are probably 19th/20th century English stoneware.

Two distinctive sherds of vivid blue painted, salt glaze known as Westerwald stoneware were found, an import from the Rhineland area around Koblenz, and dates to the 17th century. Chamber pots, tankards, and jugs commonly occur in this ware.

Modern c. 1750-present - approx 24 sherds

The modern sherds were mainly blue and white china, flowerpot, Staffordshire slipped ware and stoneware

Other Ceramic Finds

Nineteen fragments of Roman tile were found mainly around the boundary to the field including 1 flue tile. The most common ceramic built material was Peg Tile.

Conclusion

The majority of pottery found, in this sector of the field was Medieval and Post-Medieval, probably deposited over time during the process of manuring with domestic midden material. The dearth of Roman material is conspicuous and suggests that Roman activity was concentrated in the western sector of the field, which was walked and reported on in 2004 and subject to a limited excavation by the Essex County unit in 1988.

Table 2 details the number of sherds per fabric code and name using the Colchester classifications from CAR 7 by John Cotter.

Table 2

Fabric Code	Fabric Name	No. Sherds
LIA/GTW	Late Iron age Grog tempered ware	1
GX (CAR 10)	Roman grey ware	1
13 & or 20 (CAR 7)	Early Medieval /medieval coarse ware	29
21 (CAR 7)	Colchester sandy orange ware	20
Un-diagnostic body sherds	Grey-ware	11
98W (CAR 7)	'Long Wyre Street' ware	?1
23D (CAR 7)	Kingston Type ware	?1
40 (CAR 7)	Post-Medieval Red Earthenware	100
45F (CAR 7)	Westerwald	2
45M (CAR 7)	Modern English Stoneware	8
48D (CAR 7)	Staffordshire-type white earthenware's	11
51A (CAR 7)	Late slipped kitchenware	2

Bibliography

Colchester Archaeological Report 7; Post-Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-1985;
John Cotter
Colchester Archaeological Report 10 Roman pottery from excavations in Colchester 1971-1986;
Robin P Symonds & Sue Wade

The Old Mill, East Bay, Colchester; an eighteenth granary

Richard Shackle

Between East Bay House and the East Bridge on the River Colne, is a small timber framed building with weather boarding and an asbestos sheet roof. This is the last 18th century granary in Colchester. Arthur Brown found mentions of many such granaries in early issues of The Ipswich Journal and Essex County Standard but this is the last to survive. The building appears in a watercolour painting of East Bridge by Edward Ayres, c1775, in Colchester museum (V.C.H. Essex, volume IX, p 297). This shows an apparently thatched building with a doorway in the west gable. The grain was probably stored in sacks on the first floor. The use of the upper floor only, protected the grain from damage by damp and vermin (rats and mice). The ground floor would have been used for storing wheel barrows etc and as a mess room for the granary workers. The grain was probably loaded into the granary from carts through the doorway in the west elevation. This would have been a doorway either at first floor level or in the gable. The grain was probably unloaded through a door at the East elevation, to boats on the river Colne. We cannot tell the position of this door as this wall has been rebuilt in brick. The grain would have arrived by horse and cart from nearby villages and have been shipped out by ship or barge to London and other ports.

It is a four bay building of Baltic pine and oak on a brick plinth. Figures 1 and 2 show the front and back walls. Figure 2 (A – I) is much less complete as the framing was cut away to give access to a 1930s lorry garage. The framing of each bay is divided in two by a midplate. Each bay has five studs triangulated with primary bracing. The tie beams are Baltic pine, while the knees between the tie beams and the posts are oak. The grain floor is supported by an enormous, chamfered, spine beam of Baltic pine (Fig 3) This spine beam has the carpenters mark for 3 cut into it. Connecting the spine beam to the end posts are two large hanging knees of oak with well shaped chamfer stops. There is a gabled roof of the side purlin type with eight collars. This roof is much cut about but is mostly complete on the north side. The rafters are mainly reused pieces of oak. Figure 4 shows the west elevation of the building with a large opening on the first floor and a smaller opening in the gable as clearly shown in the painting of c1775. Figure 5 shows the east elevation of the building, but little framing can be seen as this wall was replaced in brick in the 1940's. The Carpenter's marks seen on the tie beam may be Baltic pine merchant's identification mark. Several of the tie beams have similar marks. The Old Mill is now a listed building.

In 1923 the Doe family converted the granary into a feed mill. Two grinding mills were installed in the ground floor. One was a number 3 combined mill made by Hunt's of Earls Colne, the other was made by Christy of Chelmsford. On the upper floor large metal hoppers for storing grain were installed. There was also a sack hoist and a dust extractor. A large lorry shed was added to the south side of the building in the 1930's. During the Second World War, a brick building was built against the east gable, as the building was considered an important part of the wartime effort to feed the country. The machinery was used to grind grain for pet food right up to 2002. I should like to thank Gordon and Dorothy Doe for allowing me to record the building.

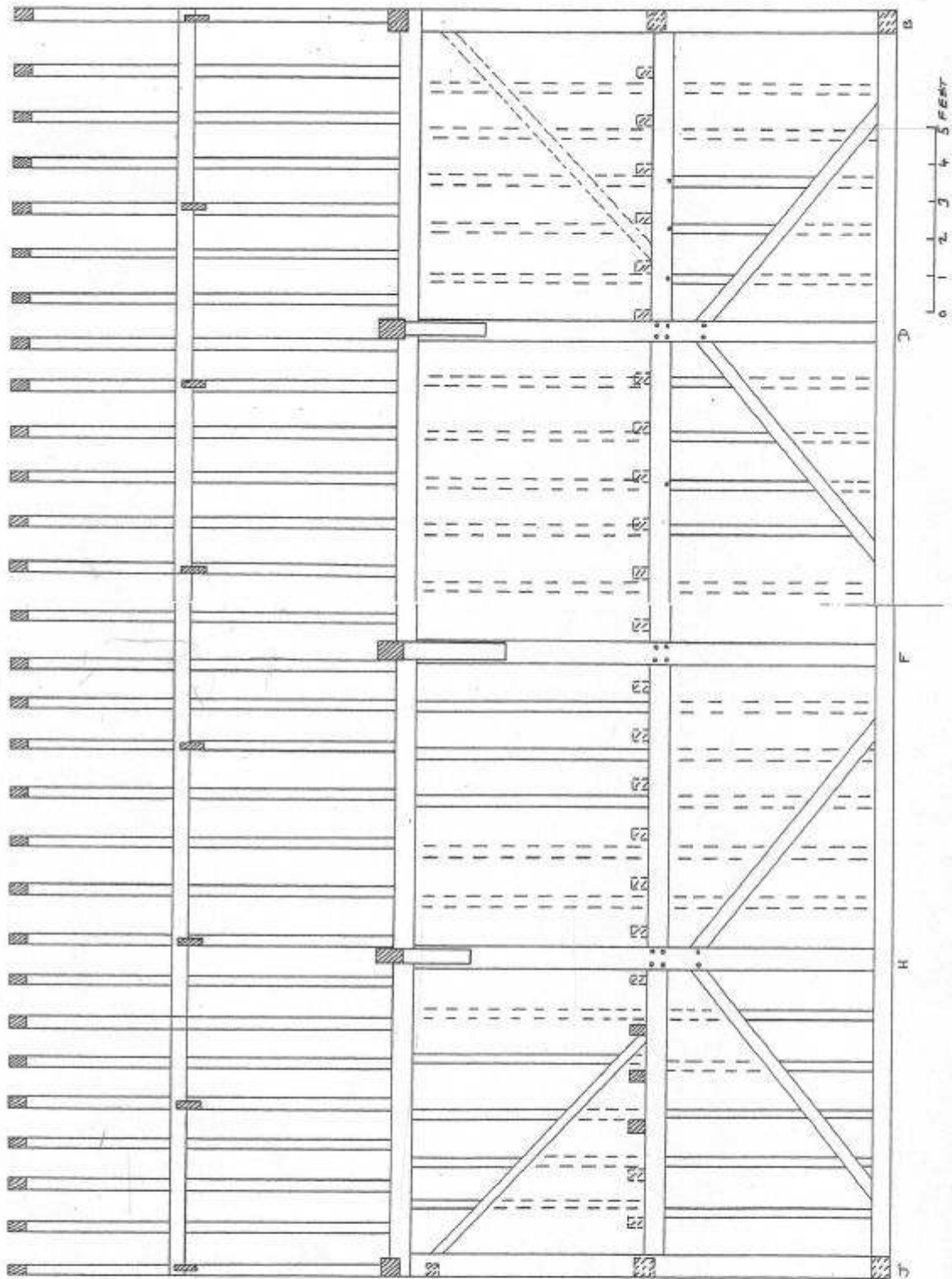


Fig 1 The Old Mill, East Bay, Colchester
North elevation J - B, from inside
R Shackle 2002

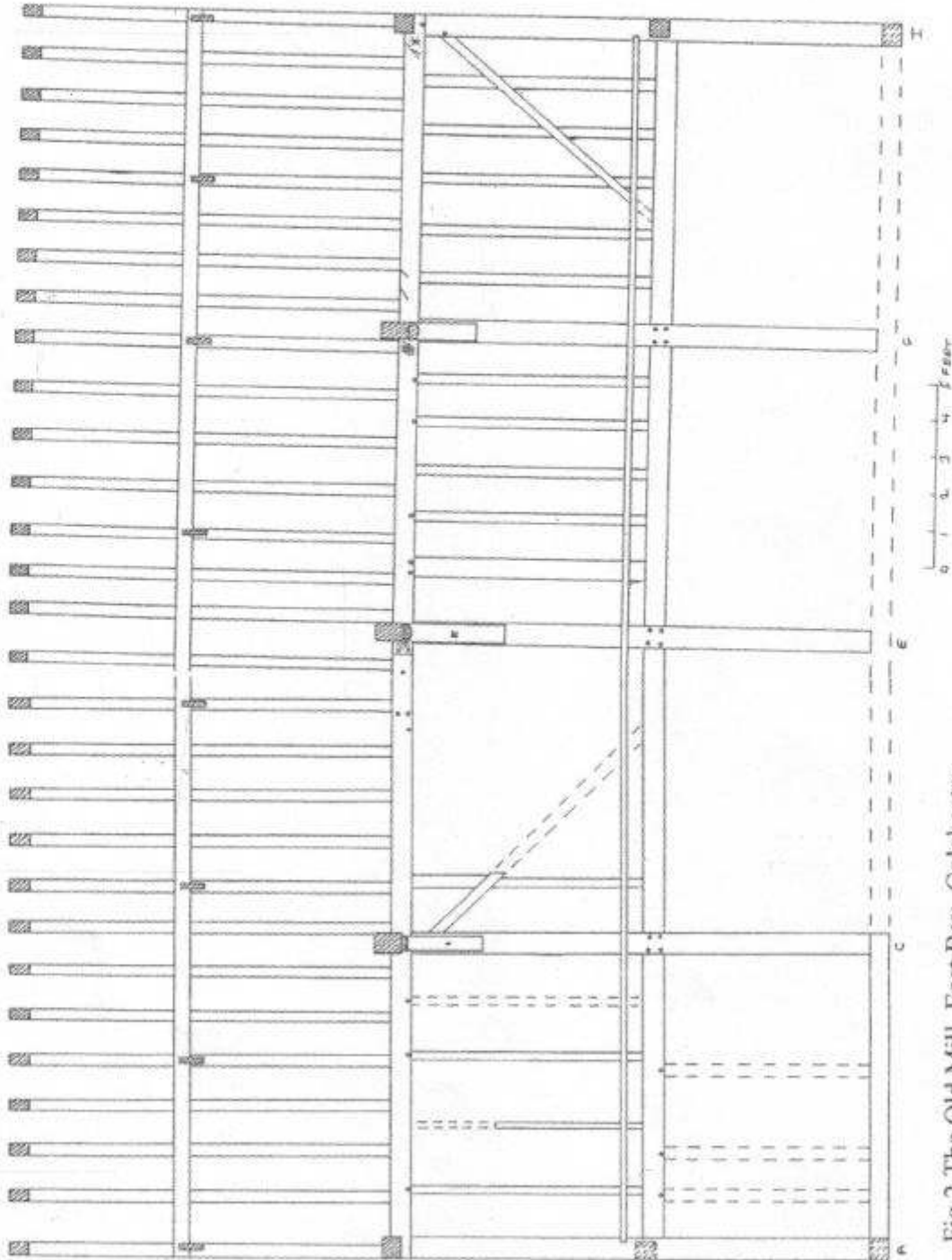
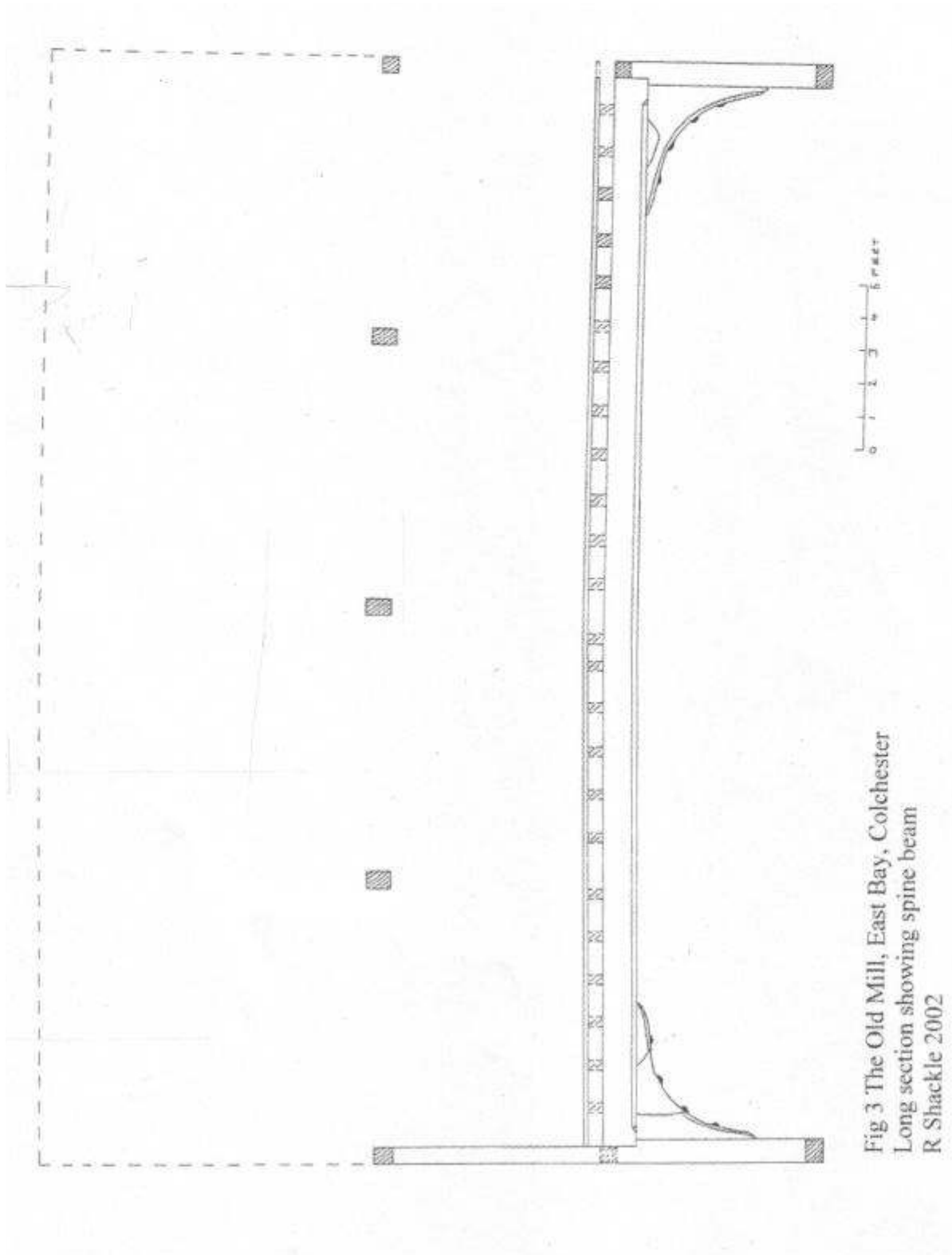


Fig 2 The Old Mill, East Bay, Colchester
 South elevation A - I, from inside
 R Shackle 2002



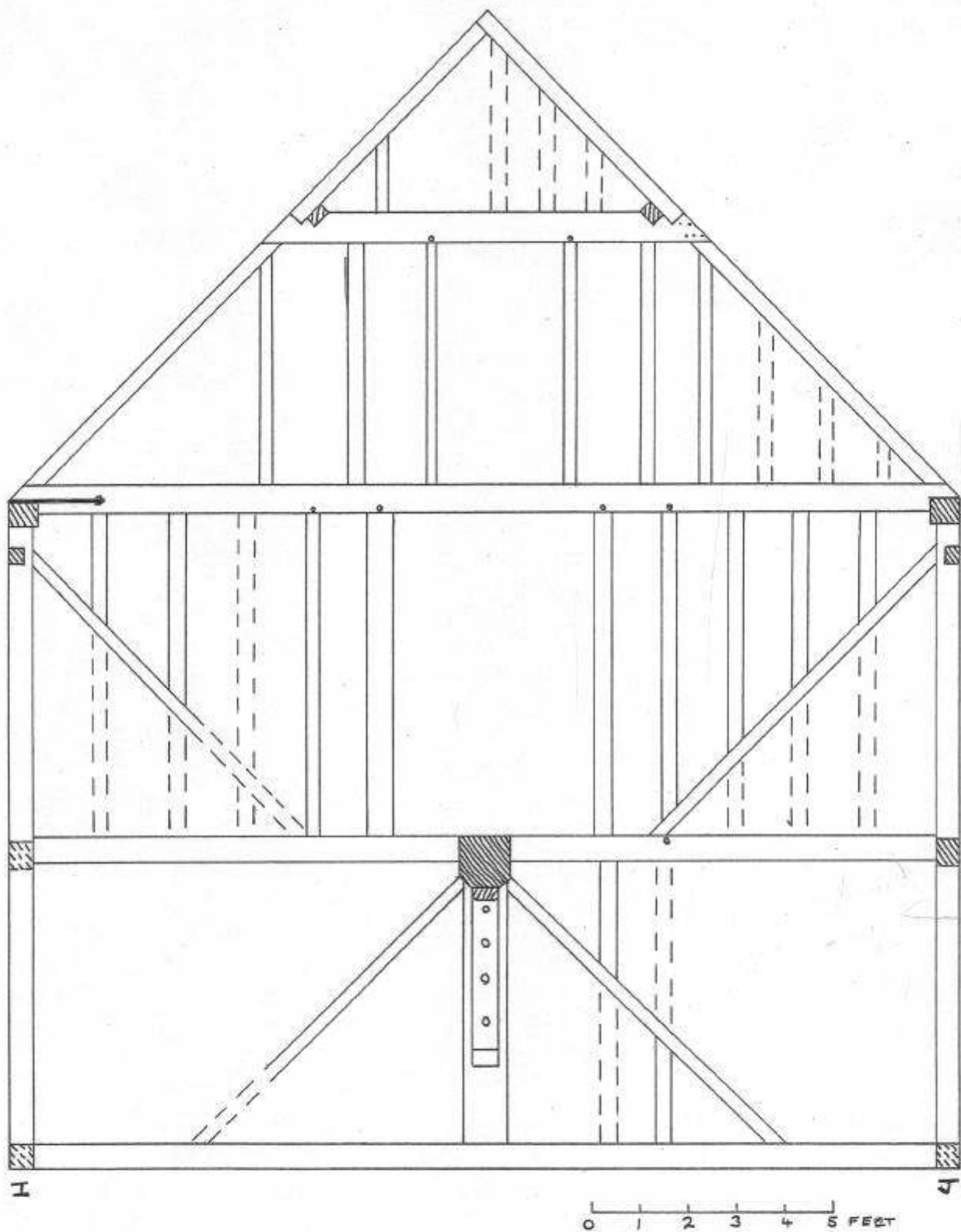


Fig 4 The Old Mill, East Bay, Colchester
West elevation I - J, from inside
R Shackle 2002

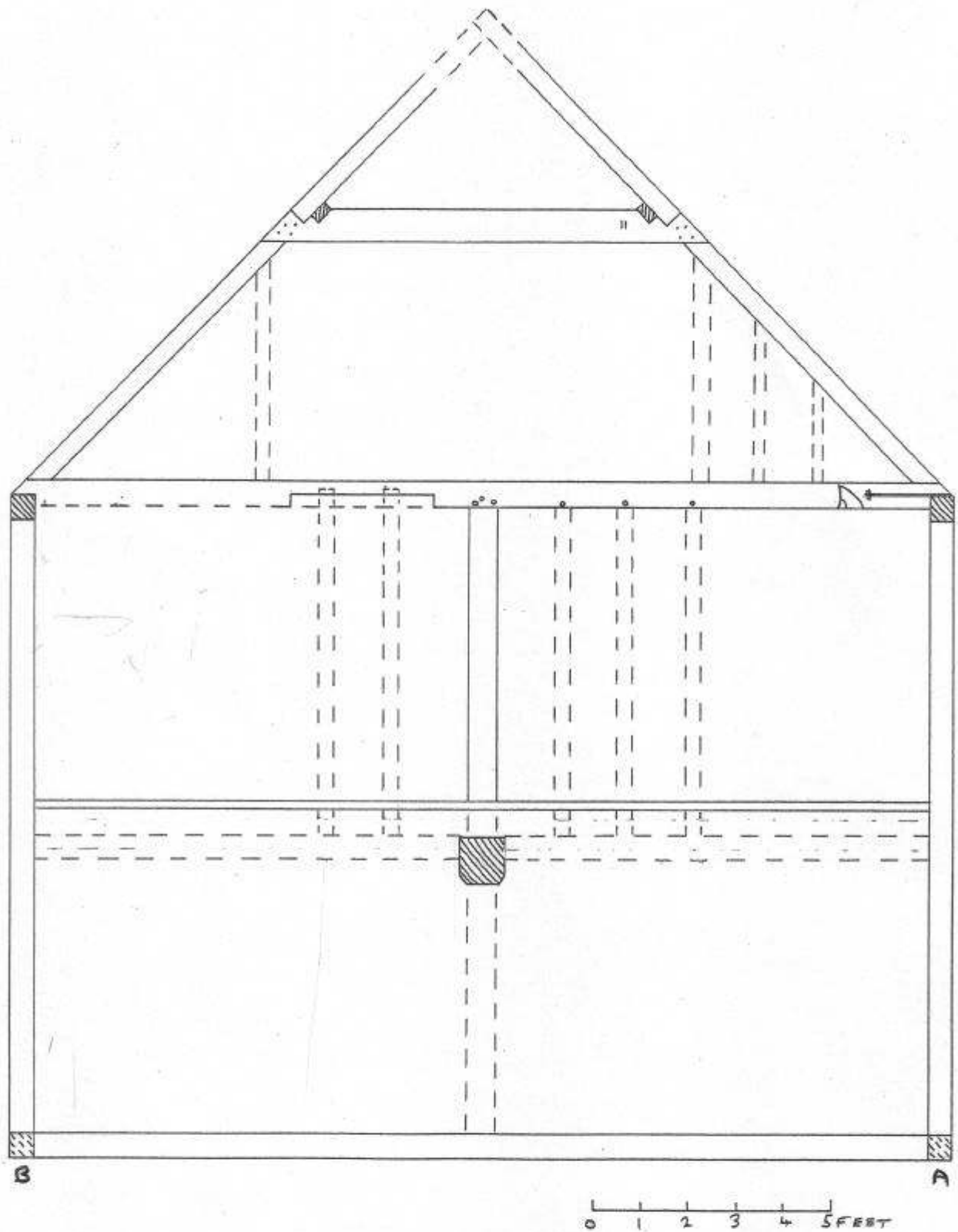


Fig 5 The Old Mill, East Bay, Colchester
East elevation B - A, from inside
R Shackle 2002

Noah's Ark or The Restaurant at the Mouth of the Colne

Jean S Whiffing, Brightlingsea Museum

It has become an accepted "fact" in the literature of Roman Essex that there were at least three significant buildings in Brightlingsea. They tend to be classified as "substantial", "villas" or even "substantial villas" and have acquired site names - "Noah's Ark", "The Church" and the "Spring" sites. In fact, all are ephemeral; the Church site dependant on bricks in the church fabric, an old and rather vague account of tesserae found in a grave, stray finds of building material and a robbed out foundation trench of uncertain date (1). The Spring site is a little more certain with 19th and early 20th century reports of finds enhanced by the recent excavation of brick, tile and septaria (2).

In terms of desirability the Church site is perhaps the most attractive in Brightlingsea, with extensive views, high and dry and away from the potentially unhealthy mud flats and creeks. A building plot near a fresh water Spring is an obvious choice and this site is on relatively high ground with extensive views out to sea. But what about the Noah's Ark site? It is on the bank of the River Colne, slightly downstream from the military site at Fingringhoe on the opposite bank. An obvious attraction is that it was sited on a gravel outcrop as at Fingringhoe.

The Noah's Ark site was probably first re-discovered when the WivenhoeBrightlingsea Railway was under construction in the 1860s. The site was plundered for souvenirs for decades. A few choice pots found their way into Museums. One in Leeds (3), although usually described as a "waster", almost deserves the epithet "magnificent". It is 32.4cms high, well proportioned, if a little lopsided, and virtually undamaged. Four smaller vessels (not three as in the literature) found their way to Oxford via the Evans collection, again all in good condition (4).

A note in the Parish Magazine in 1886 suggests that a building had been recognised - "Roman remains exist on the Brightlingsea side of Arlesford Creek, but these have not been properly explored. This is contemplated ere long." (5)

Henry Laver investigated the site, reporting in 1907 that "The small house near the railway stands on the remains of pavements which formed part of a most extensive Roman Villa, but although portions have often been laid bare no systematic excavations have taken place." (6) It was later claimed that Laver had " made borings and mapped out the building. It is of the corridor type" (7). However it appears from Laver's notes and his sketch plan that he did no more than observe traces of a "tessellated floor" close to the railway and a "still better floor" a little to the south and close to a small "gravel pit" probably excavated during the construction of the railway (8).

During the First World War the area became a training ground for Australian troops. They dug trenches and tunnels over and through the site altering the landscape; cattle were still falling into collapsing tunnels in the 1930's.... (9). It was said that Australians took away "bricks with hieroglyphs" and "many portable objects" (10). The bricks were probably combed box flue tiles and the finds, if they survived, must now be on the other side of the world. The RCHM added in 1922 that " trenches made during the war revealed sections of walls, pavements etc of a fair sized house" (11). Dickin, in his History of 1939, mentions also "iron nails, wall plaster, a fragment of greenish blue glass" and also a "kitchen midden", the latter seemingly discovered at some other time and mapped some distance away from the site (12). Frustratingly he gives no details, sources or dates.

Rex Hull in the 1965 VCH (13) reads a lot into the above adding information from a gamekeeper of stray finds of Roman pottery (14).

That there was a building at Noah's Ark seems clear but size, function and status are elusive. There has been a tendency to build walls with very few bricks.

Then in 1993 John Pilkington and family presented to Brightlingsea Museum a collection of finds made during their occupation of the farm in which Noah's Ark is situated. Some were stray surface finds, but kept separately was a significant group, mainly pottery broken in use, taken from a rubbish pit. This was at approximately TM 062 187, an area now covered by water in an abandoned quarry pit (15). Planning permission for this quarry had been granted in 1968 although it was known to be the "site of a Roman Villa" (16).

The Pilkingtons were aware of the significance of the site and as well as a natural interest in their land are inter-

ested in history and archaeology. Consequently they asked the drag-line driver to be watchful and it was he who observed what turned out to be the pit, told the Pilkingtons who went at the week-end to rescue the finds.

The material was found all together in a pit about 1.5m in diameter. There were some oyster shells and debris which was discarded but the pit was completely cleared. The collection consists almost totally of pottery, with just 3 bone pin fragments, 1 metal pin, a bead and a few fragments of glass. No other metal was found. There was no trace of walls, floors or other signs of a building in the vicinity although the driver remained watchful. Nor were the Pilkingtons aware of any concentrations of building material or signs of structures close by - and they have had many decades to become intimate with the area.

The pit was about 200m east, inland, of the floors observed by Laver as recorded on his sketch. The pottery appears to have been broken in use rather than after deposition. There were no complete pots.

The finds were examined by T.S.Martin (17) who concluded that the assembly is a "homogenous group" with virtually all of the pottery dating from the mid 2nd to the early 3rd century. This is not the place to review the pottery but there was a remarkable range of imports - from Colchester and Spain, Kent and Germany and of course France. The fabrics included expensive table ware and cheap kitchen pots and every thing in between. There were pieces of fine jewellery boxes, wine amphorae, mortaria, drinking vessels, flagons etc., etc. There were three pieces of window glass and glass from a "very fine vessel". A surprising number of pots were marked with graffiti usually numerals scratched near the rim: Hadham ware was virtually absent.

On the face of it this is the rubbish pit of a middle class household who collected their broken pots for careful disposal away from the house. The range of items suggest there was no selection policy; what was in the pit was what had been in use. As Martin puts it - " the collection should be considered as being representative of what was originally present, rather than simply as a selection of exotica, pieces of intrinsic interest, or *objets d'art*. "

It seems likely that the pottery was brought by sea, a thought confirmed by the paucity of Hadham ware and the frequency of Kentish pots (points made by Martin in comparing Noah's Ark with other sites in Essex). Martin also concludes that amphorae recovery is surprisingly diverse " as well as the usual demand for olive oil at Brightlingsea there is evidence for the import of wine".

When the Group visited Brightlingsea Museum in April 2006 and saw the Noah's Ark material I was tempted to hand out a questionnaire with the basic query "What was at Noah's Ark in the 2nd and 3rd centuries?" It is too close to the river, the mud and miasma of the saltings to have been a farmhouse. A much better site exists inland and up the hill away from the river and flood plain, a site which has been a farm from the early middle ages at least. It is even less likely that the site was associated with fishing - better places exist downstream and for oyster cultivation more suitable and sheltered places.

Fieldwalking in 1990 led to the suggestion that there may have been kiln sites in the general area (18). This is unconvincing for Noah's Ark. The few bricks and flue tiles that have been associated with the site are no more than could have come from a single building.

Could it have been an "official" building, the equivalent of a *mansio* for travellers by sea, or perhaps an alternative to Fingringhoe in certain wind conditions. Both lay on the first gravel outcrops, either side of the river, where the Colne begins to narrow and offer reasonably sheltered situations a convenient distance from Colchester. Fingringhoe would have been more convenient for an onward road journey and so more obviously prospered.

Or was it a private enterprise, a place to beach a boat to wait on wind and tide for the short up river run to Colchester. Here a seafarer could have heard the news and gossip over a meal and a drink, and broken a few flagons and beakers. Did a local entrepreneur offer decent wine and good food - someone took the trouble to number cooking pots perhaps for special dishes or special guests. And were the Brightlingsea ladies an attraction after a voyage?

Most of the site has now been quarried away. There is a small strip with archaeological potential which just might include the area of Laver's tessellated floor. A hole dug for a gatepost nearby produced material and recent field walking has turned up pieces of decorated wall plaster amongst other finds (19). Excavation would now be more rewarding than speculation.

Notes and references:

The Place Name: Noah's Ark is said to have got the name from a collier grounded above high water and converted to a dwelling. A small building later inherited the name and appeared as such on O.S. maps. A still later building was called, much more prosaically, "Marshmans Cottage", but the immediate area remained "Noah's Ark".

The Leeds and Oxford Pots: we cannot be certain that these pots were found at the Noah's Ark site, but the find dates and previous owners link them to the construction of the railway. They are in remarkably good condition.

1. Editorial;Brightlingsea Parish Magazine (PM) March 1892 p4 Rodwell. W. pers comm. May 1996
2. PM Editorial September 1886 p5
Germany.M. "Brightlingsea, Springmead, Ladysmith Avenue" :Essex Archaeology and History Transactions (EAH) 1995, Vo126 p242 3)
3. Leeds Museum LM 13-1949
4. Ashmolean Museum, Oxford AM 1896-1908, R206,R207 & R214, AM1927.3353 .
5. PM August 1886 p9
6. Laver.H. "Mosaic Pavements in Colchester" Essex Archaeological Society Transactions 1907 NS X p88
7. Dickin.E.P. "A History of Brightlingsea": Brightlingsea 1939 p5 (History)
8. Laver's notes and a sketch plan are held in Colchester Museum
9. Pilkington.J. pers comm
10. History p5
11. RCHM. "The Monuments of North East Essex" 1922 p 14
12. History p5
13. VCH. "A History of Essex. Vol III" 1963 p57-58
14. Papers in Colchester Museum
15. Finds and notes in Brightlingsea Museum
16. Note on Planning Permission in Colchester Museum
17. Martin.T.S. "A Group of Finds from the Vicinity of the "Noah's Ark" Roman. Villa at Brightlingsea, Essex.". EAH 1996 Vol 27 pp311-319
18. Clarke.C.P. "Excavations in Essex 1990, Brightlingsea" EAH 1991 Vo122 p152
19. in Brightlingsea Museum

September 2006

Two metal finds from Great Tey

Francis Nicholls

A Pope Clement V Papal Bulla

Papal bullas are lead seals attached to papal documents, issued by the offices of the Pope. The earliest bulla in existence is of Pope John III (561-574AD).

From the 11th century, the design of the obverse side of the bullas show the heads of St Paul (left) and St Peter (right) with the letters SPA SPE (St Paul and St Peter). On the reverse, the name and number of the Pope in Latin form appears, with the letters PP (abbreviation for PAPA).

In October 2005, a papal bulla [fig.1] was found at Gt Tey by CAG member John Lay, using a metal detector. The bulla was issued by Pope Clement V (1305-1314). Curiously, the location of the find was only about 20 metres from the Gt Tey Roman road excavations being undertaken by James Fawn.

There appear to be no other ecclesiastical connections in the immediate area (and certainly no known connection with the Roman road!). It is nevertheless a very interesting find, in remarkably good condition for an object nearly 700 years old.



A Venetian Soldino

Venice, silver soldino, 14th century or later, unknown doge

The obverse shows the doge standing left, with a star and δ symbol. The reverse shows S' MAR[V]ENETI and a winged lion, the symbol of St Mark.

Small Venetian silver coins are often found in England and may have circulated as unofficial small change in the medieval period. In this example the obverse is too worn for the name of the doge to be read.

The soldino was found at Warren's Farm, Great Tey, only a short distance from the find spot of the papal bulla. Does the fact that two 14th century artefacts originating in Italy tell us anything about the economic vitality of the area during that particular period of medieval history? Both finds were made within about 75m of St Barnabas, the 12th century village church which was formerly much larger than the present building, and which has Anglo-Saxon work as well as a large amount of re-used Roman brick, presumably taken from the site of a nearby late 3rd century villa.

Readers of the CAG Bulletin will remember that investigations in the Great Tey area have so far yielded a Mesolithic and two Neolithic handaxes, a ring-ditch containing Bronze Age burial urns, an Iron Age sub-rectangular feature, a Roman road and possible Roman ditch, and a quantity of Anglo-Saxon pottery. These seem to indicate that Great Tey has been a centre of activity not just during the medieval period, but over several millennia.

Both finds have been seen by Colchester Museum.

With thanks to Philip Wise from Colchester Museums.

Photograph of the papal bulla courtesy of Colchester Museums.



Notes on an informal Fieldwalk by Colchester Archaeological Group at Wormingford Hall 18/01/06
John Mallinson

Background

As part of a survey of SMR's in his home area of Wormingford, Andrew White of CAG visited SMR 9254 near Wormingford Hall, which is recorded as consisting of Romano-British sherds and walling located at TL919318. Miss Phyllida Tufnell of Wormingford Hall showed him pieces of Roman tegula and flue tile found in the bank of an adjoining field. His observations suggested that either the recorded location of the monument was incorrect, or that there was another site nearby worthy of investigation. He invited other members of CAG to help survey the new site. With the kind permission of the land owner, Mr Tony Evans of Staunch Farm, 11 members of CAG visited the site on 18.01.06

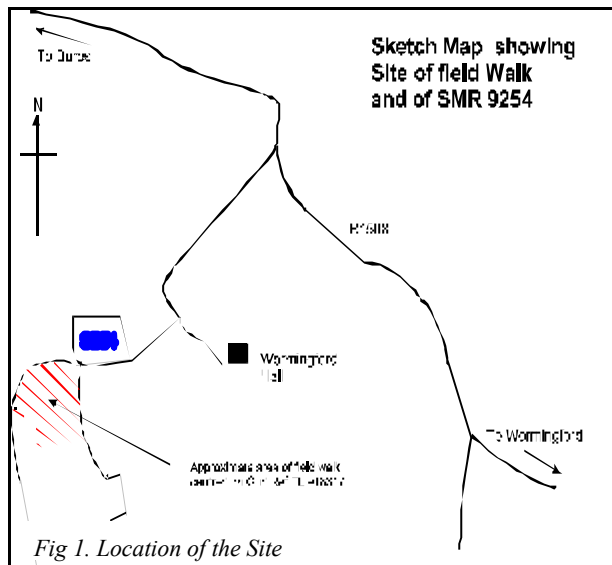


Fig 1. Location of the Site

Location

The location of the site, and of SMR 9254, is shown on the accompanying sketch, Fig. 1.

The site lies at the north end of a large arable field which lies on a north-south ridge which slopes gently down south to north before dropping onto the flood-plain of a small stream which runs along its northern edge. The ridge falls away gently on its western side, but on its eastern edge drops away sharply in a bank some 3m high. This bank is occupied by an active badger's sett. The badgers were in part responsible for drawing attention to the site, because their activities had brought to the surface large pieces of Roman brick and tile.

Geology

Like much of North Essex, the underlying chalk is covered by a mantle of boulder clay, but locally there

is a great variation. The River Stour has cut down through the boulder clay and exposed a layer of sands and gravels along the sides of the valley. The valley floor is covered in alluvium.

In the area covered by the field walk, the higher land and bank on the east are extremely sandy to a depth of several feet as can be seen as a result of the badger activity. The small field to the north of the site, however, is very stiff clay, which has been left uncultivated because of its heavy nature.

Method

The site was not gridded out accurately, but canes were placed at approximately 10m intervals along the east and west edges of the field, and walkers walked in (approximately) straight lines west to east between them, surveying a strip approximately 1m wide. A total of 11 x 1m lanes were walked. Finds were not removed from the site, but were inspected in situ. They were recorded by type and number in (again approximate) 5m. intervals on a standard finds record sheet.

11 experienced field walkers from CAG took part in the survey. Pauline Skippins provided expert advice on ambiguous pottery and other finds.

Observations and Finds

Over 1600 artefacts were noted. Of these 90% were recorded as Roman tile or brick, and a rough scatter plot is shown in Fig. 2. This is clearly not a random distribution, and the majority of the material was found in an area about 50m x 50m square centred on TL 91830 31765 (by GPS). The area was bounded on the east by the hedge and bank of the field, and on the north and west by the end of the ridge where it fell to the flood plain of the small stream.

All types of tile were represented: tegula, imbrex, box, flue and hypocaust. Some of the sherds were heavily over-fired, to the point where they were almost porous, whilst a few others were under-fired.

The majority of the remaining material was recorded as peg tile and modern brick. Distribution was random, consistent with the material having been introduced by manuring in more recent times.

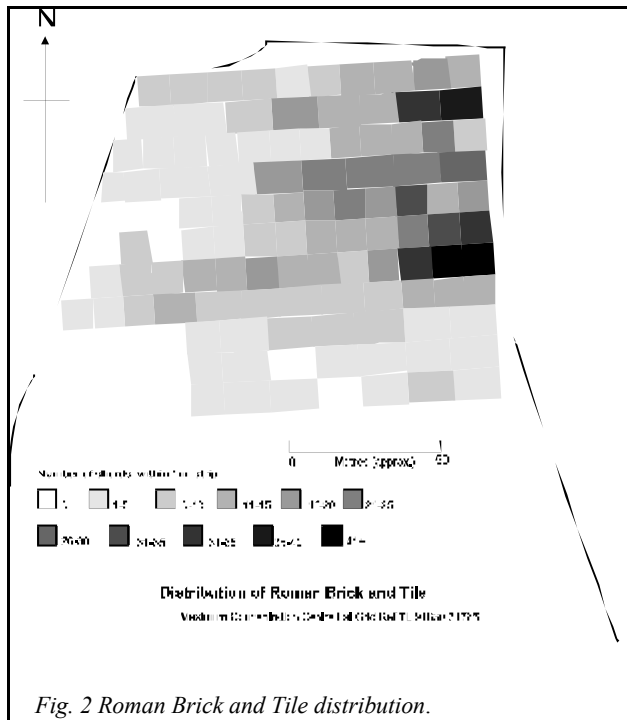


Fig. 2 Roman Brick and Tile distribution.

Only 10 pieces of pottery were identified in the lanes walked, of which 6 were classified as Roman. Separate observations by Pauline Skippins over the whole area of the field walk confirmed that there was very little pottery, and that most of the few sherds found were from Roman coarse-ware storage jars or grey-ware.

Other finds of interest included a few pieces of mortar with painted surfaces, and, in the area immediately south of the stream, a few pieces of marble. Additionally there was the usual array of slate, iron bolts and nails, animal teeth and burnt flints.

One further observation: within the area of maximum tile concentration there were two or three areas where the plough had brought to the surface reddish subsoil very different from the pale buff material observable in the bank on the east side.

Comment on the marked site of SMR 9254

At the time of the visit this was under crop, so very little could be seen. Casual observations from the edge of the field did not suggest any unusual concentration of man-made materials.

It was noted that the area was relatively flat and low-lying, and being next to the stream, could easily have been subject to flooding in ancient times. It is also difficult to see how a "wall", as reported in the SMR, could ever have been seen in such a flat field without excavation.

Discussion

The concentration of Roman building material centred on TL 91830 31765 strongly suggests the presence of a Roman structure. The relative absence of pottery and other artefacts militates against the structure being any sort of permanent dwelling. The range of tile material, on the other hand, particularly the presence of significant quantities of over-fired sherds, suggest that the structure may have been a tile kiln. This view is supported by the pottery finds, which are consistent with industrial rather than domestic activity. The reddened patches of soil could also have resulted from firing in the area.

It would be interesting to know the history of the bank on the east side. It is probable that it results from natural slumping and it is possible that erosion has removed some of the monument above. This is supported by the fact that the tile concentration is undiminished right up to the current hedge line. It is also possible that the "wall" reported in the SMR could have been most easily exposed by erosion of the bank.

The presence of suitable clay, sand and water on the site makes this an ideal location for brick or tile production.

Further Action

1. CAG are considering carrying out a magnetometer survey of the area.
2. The site marked SMR 9254 should be examined when the crop is off to confirm or otherwise the observations in the SMR report.
3. The presence of a tile kiln would suggest some nearby habitation, for which there is currently no evidence. A wider search for this should be considered.
4. It would be interesting to make some replica tiles from the materials on site.

FURTHER NOTE

On 15.03.06 nine members of the group carried out a "sweep" of the land to the south and east of the site de-

CAG 46

scribed above, covering 3 spurs of land running north from Wormingford Airfield towards Wormingford Hall in the east, and the site above in the west. The area covered was bounded roughly by the following corner coordinates:

South West: TL 9180 3140 (just east of Wellhouse Farm)
North West: TL 9183 3177 (the tile kiln site)
South East TL 9240 3150 (the junction of the east west lane from Eadlea)
North East TL 9230 3190 (just east of Wormingford Hall)

There was some evidence from concentration of Roman tile that the tile kiln activity extended as far south as 9185 3150. Otherwise nothing of any significance was found.

Coupled with observation of the general topography of the land, this negative result tends to confirm the suspicion that if there had been Roman habitation in the area, the most likely site for it would have been on the present site of Wormingford Hall.

A Second Experimental Bonfire Firing at Great Tey

Andrew White, Anna Moore

In June 2005, as reported in Volume 45 of the Bulletin, the field-working group excavating a Bronze Age burial site at Great Tey, held an experimental bonfire firing in order to fire a number of reproduction Bronze Age burial urns. The intention was to try to discover how Bronze Age pottery could have been fired to an adequate temperature in a bonfire. A number of lessons were learned from the experiment, which we decided to put into practice and a second bonfire was arranged for 12th September 2005.

Bonfire firing Tuesday 12th September 2005:

The lessons learned from the previous firing were:

- Create a smaller bonfire and cover it to hold in the temperature and give a longer burn.
- Use hardwood, oak and elm as part of the wood-burning process to prolong burn and increase temperature.
- Build coil pots with thicker bases but dry more thoroughly to avoid 'S' cracks. Use stick and thumb decoration more vigorously to assist in consolidation.

The pit from the previous bonfire in June was re-used. The layer of flint from the previous firing was warmed with burning straw. More straw was placed on the warm flints and the pots were placed on the straw. Two pots were inverted, the rest placed the right way up. More straw was packed around and over the pots, with small pieces of wood. These were covered with faggots and larger pieces of wood (planks, posts etc), and the whole covered with turves. A light south wind was blowing, which turned to a south-westerly.

The fire was lit (from one side which had been left open) at 11.35am. Some of the turves slipped off fairly quickly and others burned through, but they served their purpose in containing the fire so that it burned for longer and a high temperature was maintained. At 12.10 the flames died down and the bonfire continued smouldering until about 13.30. It had cooled enough for some of the pots to be removed by 15.20.

The Pottery:

The farmer, Richard Browning, who owns the land where the excavations were carried out, and who has been very supportive of the Group's activities on the site, provided us with another batch of clay. Burnt flint from the earlier bonfire was crushed and incorporated into the freshly dug clay which, although never exactly a pleasure to use, proved to be easier to handle, less earthy, and more plastic than the previous batch. The following pots were constructed using coils of clay.

1. The base was formed by pressing clay into the base of a broken pot from the previous firing, i.e. using the broken base as a former. The coils were attached in the usual way and the walls of the pot were smoothed using fingers and a wooden 'rib'; the cordon was formed by inserting one thicker coil to the body of the pot & incorporating it so that it was smooth on the inside but stood proud of the pot wall on the outside; this technique was used because the applied cordons on the pots from the previous experiment had tended to fall off during firing; the cordon was then decorated with thumb marks. The walls of the pot were beaten with a wooden paddle; horseshoes 'handles' were applied by luting them to a leather-hard pot and using thumb pressure to attach them further.
2. Commercial red clay with crushed burnt flint incorporated; the base was made with coils and then pressed flat on a wooden board. The walls were made with coils and 'straps', made between two hands, without use of a table. The first two straps were applied but the pot was so mis-shapen that they were removed and I went back to rolling coils on a table¹. The pot was completed (built up from the original base), smoothed with fingers and a wooden rib, and beaten with a wooden paddle. A cordon was applied using thumb pressure; fingertip marks were made on rim and top above the cordon.
3. Was made with Bentonite clay donated by the farmer; very plain pot built with coils; the jute layer in the Bentonite was left incorporated into the walls of the pot. (Bentonite is a specialist clay used mainly in agriculture and not really suitable for pottery. It has a very high water content and the resulting pot shrank far more than the other pots, and then shattered easily after firing. However, it was an interesting experiment.)
4. and
5. Made with freshly dug clay from a source close to the previous batch. This new batch was not refined so was very stony, therefore very little flint was included. The pots were made in the usual way, the larger stones being removed from the clay as they were detected. Thumb decoration was added.
- 6.
7. and
8. were also made in the same way but with no flint inclusions, due to the stony character of the clay. The bases were made by pressing a lump of clay flat with the ball of the hand into a circle.

Notes

1. I never solved the problem of making coils or straps without the use of a wooden table top.

Results:

All pots survived the firing to a greater or lesser degree. Where the bases of the pots (or the rims in the case of the inverted pots) had been sitting on the ground and surrounded by straw and wood, the fabric turned black, showing that they had fired in a reducing atmosphere, i.e. oxygen had been excluded. The rest of the fabric fired buff to orange. Pot 1 suffered from spalling, i.e. a hole was blown in the wall of the pot where a stone was present in the clay. Pot 2 lost its base. Pot 3 was made from Bentonite (described above). Pot 4 lost part of its cordon but was otherwise undamaged. Pot 5 suffered some spalling. Pot 6 was damaged at the rim (this may have been from the spalling of a neighbouring pot). Pots 7 and 8 were relatively undamaged.

This second firing was considered to be more successful than the first. All pots were fired to a temperature where ceramic change had taken place. Although most sustained some damage, we ended up with five serviceable pots, which is probably about the same success rate as a bonfire firing held circa 1500BC. Some of our pots were used to re-inter the cremated bone from the Great Tey Bronze Age burial site (see following article).

See Appendix A for illustrations of the bonfire.

Great Tey Bronze Age Ring Burial - an appropriate conclusion

Aline Black

In the four years of excavation of this Bronze Age Ring site some fourteen cremation burials have been found. Most still had fragments of the urn in which the burial took place and enough remained to show that some of the urns were buried upright, some inverted. Burials without an urn included that of a child.

As the sun and the seasons were of paramount importance in prehistoric times, Richard Browning (who, with his father Roger, owns and farms the land on which the ring is sited) chose June 21st 2006, the summer solstice, for the re-burial.

What should the tops of the urns be closed with? Nothing remained of any original covering. If not pot, skins would seem to be the most likely. The best we could do, we thought, was to use chamois leather. It was tied round the urn tops, also with strips of chamois. The child's remains were wrapped in chamois, tied with plaited grass, and a posy of herbs was placed on top.

At 6pm Roger and Richard Browning, their wives and Richard's young daughter Meg, met with the CAG diggers for the burial. Members of CAG, Richard and Meg each placed an urn in a pit dug near the centre of the ring ditch.

Over a glass of wine, drunk in honour of the Bronze Age dead, Roger and Richard each spoke of the satisfaction and pleasure they derived from knowing of the long usage of their land. John Mallinson replied, thanking the Brownings for their encouragement of CAG and the generous access they give to the archaeology on their land. He concluded by pointing out to the Brownings that, in their use of the land for farming, these Bronze Age people were indeed their ancestors.



Meg Browning placing an (inverted) urn in the ground

For more photographs, see Appendix B

A Study Day on Recognising Worked Stone Artefacts

Anna Moore

On Wednesday 31st May 2006, 16 CAG members attended a study day, organised by the Group, with the title of 'Recognising Worked Stone Artefacts; the Prehistoric Period Specific Types'. Our tutor was Hazel Martingell who is very experienced at both identifying and drawing flint tools, working mainly for the British Museum.

We spent the morning working through the Palaeolithic (700,000 – 10,000BP) and the Mesolithic (10,000BP – 6,000BP). Until recently, the Boxgrove site (500,000BP) produced the oldest evidence of occupation of the British Isles (by *homo erectus*), but recent finds in Happisburgh and other sites in Norfolk have pushed the date of earliest occupation back to 700,000BP. We examined handaxes and large flakes from the Palaeolithic. We learned about the Levallois technique which characterises the tools of the Neanderthals. We then moved on to the emergence of *homo sapiens* and the development of blade technology.

As the climate warmed up, different plants and animals colonised Britain; the typology of stone tools changed, leading into the Mesolithic period. Blades become straighter, axes become longer and narrower (tranchet axes) and tools are made for a specific purpose. Microliths make an appearance, particularly for tools such as scythes, sickles and long, pointed spears.

After a break for lunch, we moved into the Neolithic period (4000 – 2000BC) and examined some knives and Beaker daggers. Perhaps surprisingly, flint was still being used during the Bronze Age (2000 – 800BC), typically shallow, flat flaking such as the 'laurel leaf' blades, and even into the Iron Age (800 – 50BC).

Later in the afternoon, we had time to look at some more modern uses of flint, such as gunflints and as building material, particularly for churches.

During the day, we had the opportunity to examine a great many flint tools. We learned how tools were shaped by flaking, either with a stone hammer or deer antler, and we learned how to tell the difference between a primary, a secondary and a tertiary flake. We are very grateful to Hazel for sharing some of her extensive knowledge with us.

Winter lectures 2005 - 2006

Annual General Meeting followed by a talk on "Sites in Turkey" by Mark Davies

3 October 2005

Notes taken by Jean Roberts

Proceedings of the AGM went off smoothly and all the present members of the Committee were returned. When the official business was completed Mark Davies talked about the Archaeology of Turkey illustrated by slides taken on a recent holiday. He pointed out that Turkey was one of the most culturally varied countries in Western Europe whose history is said to go back to the 7th C B.C..

We were shown slides of the principle monuments of Istanbul, including the Blue Mosque, adjoining the original Roman Hippodrome, containing an Egyptian obelisk, supported on a Roman base showing the Emperor and people watching chariot races.

In the Archaeological Museum are Greek and Roman statues, sarcophagi from Sidon, one of which was thought to be the tomb of Alexander the Great, as well as Treasures from Troy.

Troy is a complicated site, difficult to interpret, with at least 30 habitation levels, stretching from 3600 B.C. to 1500 A.D. and one could see the remains of some of the phases and appreciate what the archaeologists over many years have uncovered.

The dramatic views from the top of the exceptionally steep theatre at Pergamum were impressive, as were the remains from the major building programme here in the 2nd C B.C., including a Temple built by Hadrian and dedicated to Trajan. Pergamum was the most important city in the Greek Western World.

Other sites shown were the City of Priene, said to be the first city laid out on the grid-iron pattern, Miletus, on the River Meander, one of the oldest Ionian colonies and Didyma which goes back to the 6th C B.C. and is the site of an important oracle.

Mark finished with the huge site of Ephesus, where excavations are still being carried out and a slide of the location of the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

New Light on the Colchester Circus

Philip Crummy, Director, Colchester Archaeological Trust and Tim Dennis, University of Essex

10 October 2005

Notes taken by Janet Harrison

Tim showed us the results of the ground radar work funded by the Group. Unfortunately there was no evidence of the circus, probably because the wavelength used was too long for the size of the remaining fragments.

Philip began by stating that the Colchester circus is not the most important Roman find in 50 years nor is it the largest circus outside Italy, but it is the first in the UK. He then recapped on the general plan and running of races at circuses.

The site of the circus is the closest large flat area to the town wall. It is 448 metres long but narrow. The foundations found have all been of distinctive greensand with little chips of mason's waste. They are parallel foundations of unequal width, the wider, outer wall having buttresses. These are the foundations of the seating, *cavea*.

It was originally thought, because of the start of an inward curve found in the south wall, that the curved end of the circus was at the west end, under the sergeants' mess garden. However, a Time Team trench found that the curve became much too tight to be the semicircular end and it had to be the starting gate end. The circus at Merida, Spain has similar tight curves at the starting gate end. A narrow trench dug in the mess garden found both walls of the starting gate end.

A small section of the north wall with a probable buttress has been found in the Education Centre garden. A narrow trench at the east end found foundations with a burial against the outer wall. In Circular Road East, foundations of the south stand have been found with possibly the judges box. To find the spina, the Time Team trench was extended north and found a small greensand foundation. It is intended to continue the centre trench right across the circus.

St John's Abbey was built c1100 from Roman materials, part of the precinct wall could have incorporated part of the spina. A small trench was dug against the wall but the foundations are medieval.

Further investigation has shown that the original estimates of crowd size could be doubled to 1500 because all 7 tiers were used to sit on. The pattern of the buttresses on the outer walls is not the same all round the circus so it could have been built piecemeal, with wealthy people paying for a section.

There is still debate about the future. The footprint of the circus will not be built on, there will be a raised mound to show it's position. It is hoped to have a small glass-covered section exposed to view. We saw Peter Froste's design for a 6m by 4m mosaic, to be constructed by Philip Morant school and funded by Heritage Initiative. This is hoped to be displayed behind the exposed section of foundation. An exhibition is on view at Taylor Woodrow's sales office.

Our Landscapes: how and why they look as they do today

Lynn Dyson-Bruce, Historic Landscape Consultant for East of England

17 October 2005

Notes taken by Bernard Colbron

Lynn gave an outline of her professional expertise and said that for the last ten years she has been working on the project covering six counties of the East of England.

The lecture started with an explanation that the parameters of the landscape have been set by natural forces, shaped by human forces and changed by the new semi-natural force of global warming. Modern pressures including housing, minerals, forestry, etc. can also affect the landscape.

Historic Landscape Character (HLC) is a project recording the rural landscape, showing the overall combination of geology, soils and natural forces combined with human activities over time. Previously all surveys had been targeted to individual subjects, which missed the bigger picture.

The significance of HLC is that it is the first attempt to assess the rural landscape across six counties of eastern England. It provides an audit of surviving historic assets at landscape level as well as a model landscape trajectory of surviving field edges. The survey found that fifty old fields have now become one due to modern mechanisation. In considering the restoration of boundaries it raises the question 're-instate back to when?' Landscape is never static.

The research now forms part of the Historic Environment Record (HER) which enables wider consideration of the landscape in historic terms

HLC brings the benefit of regional approach with single methodology which allows application from regional and county to parish. It can also be used as a tool to allow the past to inform the present to build a sustainable future.

A paper copy of the presentation, including overlay maps, is available to borrow from the CAG library (V920a and V920b). It is also in disc form available from the Librarian.

Medieval Pottery in Essex

Helen Walker, Medieval Pottery Specialist, ECC Field Archaeology Unit

24th October 2005

Notes taken by Anna Moore

The lecture covered pottery found in Essex from the high medieval period, i.e. from the Norman Conquest to the start of the Tudor Dynasty, both locally made and imported. The late twelfth to the mid-fourteenth centuries are the most interesting.

Pottery is clay fired to a temperature of at least 600°C to drive out water. The clay can include other material, either naturally or as tempering, such as shell, sand, flint or a combination of these, which makes the clay easier to work and aids the firing process.

Vessels were mainly made for cooking/storage and were squat in shape with saggy bottoms which aided heat distribution. They were coil built on a turntable until the thirteenth century and then wheel-thrown. Jugs were

made from the mid-twelfth century; other forms included bowls for mixing and for dairy work; socketed bowls (the socket on the rim was for the insertion of a handle); cheesemakers, with draining holes; curfews, to cover the fire at night; dripping dishes, for catching the fat under roast meat; crucibles.

Potters needed to be close to the sources of their raw materials, i.e. clay, but also the inclusions, and to water, as well as being close to a means of distribution, for instance, a river valley. One centre of production from the mid-twelfth to mid-fourteenth centuries was at Sible Hedingham. Hedingham ware was decorated with applied pellets, strips of clay and twisted rod handles. It was widely distributed in Essex, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and around the coast.

Mill Green produced both fine and coarse ware, the latter being sand-tempered, of a red fabric. It was thicker-walled than Hedingham ware, with plainer decoration, mainly in slips and glazes, particularly red slip and white pellets. It is found in London and the Home Counties.

Documentary evidence exists for pottery produced in Harlow, although no kilns have been found. Both coarse and fine wares were produced, some with chalk flecks. It had a limited distribution in the Lea and Roding valleys.

Orange coloured, sand-tempered pottery was produced in Colchester, at Middleborough, from about 1200 to the mid-sixteenth century, but was not widely distributed; forms produced included louvres for fitting onto kitchen roofs and roof finials. Greyware was produced at Mile End and later at Great Horkesley.

Pottery imported into Essex included London ware, which was often decorated to imitate Rouen ware, also pottery from Kingston and Scarborough, which was traded down the East coast. Very few foreign imports are found, mostly French, and are found in high-status sites.

There was a decline in pottery production from the mid-fourteenth century, partly due to the Black Death. More imports from Germany and the Low Countries are found.

Pottery is important to the archaeologist because it provides dating evidence; also evidence of both the function and the status of a site; residues can be analyzed for information on diet; trade and supply routes can be investigated.

Evaluation and Recording of a Post Medieval Donkey

Angela Fitzpatrick

31st October 2005.

Notes by Raymond Rowe.

In October 2003 Rochford Hundred Archaeology Group were asked to do an archaeological dig on the footings being dug for a garage. The area had previously turned up shards of Mill Green pottery, and there were hopes of finding a kiln.

Many pieces of pottery were found, slip coated and highly decorated, there were also pottery wasters which indicated that there was a kiln near by. A tile kiln was found, but no pottery kiln. One of the wasters was an interesting shape, and was thought to look like a ship in full sail. Expert investigation showed it to be part of a ladies skirt, complete with a hook for a chatelaine, still a very interesting piece.

Following the footing trench along, a very wet area was found and excavations had to go down to 1.8m deep. This was found to be the remains of an old pond back-filled with rubbish dated to the 1970s.

Further along the trench an animal bone protruded. The bone was investigated and the remains of the skeleton uncovered. This required extending the trench at an angle, it was thought that it was a skeleton of an equine. The right foreleg had been butchered into four pieces, the neck had been broken and folded back. It was thought to be a pony some 10.4 hands, full grown, 6-7 years old. There were 6 canine teeth and the pelvic shape looked female. Bony growths on its back bone, indicated that it had been worked hard. Finds showed that the skeleton was late to mid 17c.

Later research and investigation at the Natural History Museum showed that it was a donkey. It is very rare to find a donkey in an archaeological context. It is expected that the remains will later be passed to the N.H.M for storage and information.

Industrial Heritage and the ERIH Project

David Morgans, ERIH Co-ordinator, Historic Landscape Record Team, ECC

7th November 2005

Notes taken by Ray Allan

The European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH Project) is creating a network of the most important industrial heritage sites across Europe.

The project is managed from the UK, Germany and The Netherlands, and is designed to open up and bring back to life the various industrial landscapes to both locals and tourists alike. The sites on the European Route will each carry the ERIH logo, with the backbone of the route consisting of 'anchor points', i.e. the outstanding industrial monuments in the former heartlands of the Industrial Revolution. All the 'anchor points' are starting points for a variety of 'Regional Routes' linking landscapes and sites which have left their mark on European industrial history.

Industrialisation changed the face of Europe, consequently leaving us with a rich industrial heritage. The ERIH Project will enable visitors of all ages to relive this in the form of guided tours, multi-media presentations and special events. Sites representing specific aspects of technology and innovation (offering educational facilities) will be known as 'key sites'. These sites also contain significant civil engineering monuments and structures.

In a series of 'themed routes', each focussing on a different aspect of industrialisation, they will reveal potential links between radically different industrial monuments all over Europe. These routes will take in Textile Manufacturing, Transport and Communication, and Mining.

Sites of particular national and international importance within the ERIH Project include:

The Volklingen Iron and Steel Works, World Heritage Site (Saarland)

The World Heritage Colliery and Coking Plant Zollverein (Essen)

The Landscape Park North (Duisburg)

The Coal Mine Zollern (Dortmund)

Open Air Museum, Zaanse Schans, Zaandam (Holland)

Blaenavon National Mining Museum of Wales

Museum of Science and Industry Manchester

Museum of Jewellery Quarter Workshop (Birmingham)

Ironbridge Gorge Telford

The Waltham Abbey Royal Gunpowder Mills

25 'key sites' will make up an East of England Route to promote the area, including:

Garrett of Leiston (Steam/Traction Engines), Suffolk

Time & Tide Museum, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk

Wilkins Jams, Tiptree

Letchworth Garden City, Herts

Other potential sites and buildings of local industrial interest mentioned were:

Courtauld Textiles, Halstead/Braintree

Edme Maltings, Mistley

Paxmans Engineering, Colchester

Jumbo Water Tower, Colchester

Chappel Viaduct

The Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Rayleigh

Trevor Ennis, Project Officer, Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit

14th November 2005

Notes taken by Pat Brown

The Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Rayleigh provided a vivid contrast with the high-status burial at Prittlewell, which members had heard about the previous year. Here there appeared to be only one inhumation, of a female with a bead necklace, knife, and copper-alloy bag ring, though no skeleton was discovered. The 114 beads were mainly blue glass, but there was also a Roman melon bead, two amber and two jet beads, red and yellow glass beads and terra-cotta, green and yellow ones, typical of the CS-C6. The remaining 144 burials were cremations, mostly urned, in about 50% plain urns and 50% decorated with bosses, stamps and incised lines. Other grave-

goods included burnt and unburnt beads, buckles, an antler bag-ring, melted green glass, and tiny fragments of rock crystal.

Similarities were observed with cremations in North Kent. The only weapons were two spearheads, one found on the ground and the other in a pit containing bits of metal, possibly pyre refuse. The site was very disturbed and in places compacted, resulting in damage to almost all of the urns, such that often only the bottom third of the pot remained.

Trevor Ennis concluded by putting the cemetery into context; the nearest Anglo-Saxon settlement was at Raw-reth, 2 km away, but there were traces of activity along the new A130. The cemetery lay on the 30m. contour, on slightly raised ground, and had probably been the burial ground of local farming families, exhibiting few signs of wealth. Comparisons could be made with the early cemetery at Springfield Lyons, and Trevor wondered whether Rayleigh, too, could have been sited around a prehistoric monument, since there was evidence of Iron Age activity. There was some sign of grouping and aligning of graves, and two had post-holes which could have been markers. As not all of the immediate area could be excavated in advance of re-development no estimate of the population represented could be made.

Unearthing "a very noble fabrick": the search for the Duke of Bolton's Mansion at Basing House

David Allen, Senior Keeper of Archaeology, Hampshire CC Museums and Archives Service

21st November 2005

Notes taken by Jean Roberts

The Manor of Basing was granted by William the Conqueror to Hugh de Port, whose primary seat may have been a motte and bailey castle on the site known today as Oliver's Battery. Within 2 generations, however, this site was abandoned and in about 1130, another castle was built within a circular bank, to the south, where Basing House now stands, east of present day Basingstoke.

In 1531, Sir William Paulet, who became Marquess of Winchester in 1551, was granted "licence to fortify the manor of Basyng" and it is thought this is when he built halls and courts within the circular bank. He also erected a Great Barn and other buildings for agricultural purposes. (At the time of the Civil War these buildings within the bank were known as "The Citadel" or "Old House".) After a short time he built a splendid "New House" to the North East, described as the largest private house in the kingdom and visited by Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth I.

During the Civil War, the 5th Marquess, John Paulet, supported the Royalist Cause and the house was intermittently besieged for 3 years from 1642 until October 14th 1645, when Oliver Cromwell and his New Model Army overran it, burning and destroying the buildings, killing 100 people. Lands of the Marquess were confiscated but were restored to the family in 1662.

Rather than rebuild the ruinous house the 6th Marquess, Charles, now also made 1st Duke of Bolton, built a new house in c1690, near the Great Barn, but this was burnt in c1740 and subsequently demolished, although piers of the entrance gates remained standing. It was this house that was described by Daniel Defoe as "a very noble fabrick" but not equal to the old house.

The whole site and surrounding land was bought by Hampshire County Council in 1972 and excavations were carried out between 1978-91, revealing the gatehouse and postern gate of the Citadel, plus artefacts.

Time Team were invited to try to unearth the 18th Century house and on 30th March 1999 they started a 3 day excavation. Geophysics had been done on the site and Time Team discovered an old map showing a house on the site. They decided to follow the Geophysics, but did not have much success until finding some foundations on the last day, which did not give them time to investigate.

Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society decided to continue with the excavations and this time followed the map. They soon found foundations of the house, exposing rooms in the middle, the east wing and a cellar. Subsequent years revealed the recessed front of the house and on the west side an apron of cobbles, which was thought to be a carriageway. The east coach house and an earlier farm complex also came to light. In a midden deposit Tudor and early Stuart articles were found together with pottery, bones, pins, a sickle, buckles and a Charles the First sixpenny piece.

Evidence for when the house was built came from stamps on window leading and the conclusions were that it

was built in 1677, was occupied until 1730-50, when it was demolished to the level of the apron of cobbles.

A further final season is to be carried out in 2006.

Placing Bones in Context: use of Isotope Analysis in Osteoarchaeology

Jonathan Belsey MBBS Medical Practitioner and Researcher in Evidence-based Medicine

28th November 2005

Notes taken by Lilian Morrow

We were told that bone protein, which is similar to dentine protein, consists of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, phosphates and small amounts of strontium.

The use of isotopes in archaeology can be employed for:

- a. dating remains
- b. dietary pattern analysis
- c. identification of origins and subsequent migrations and to establish the social history of an individual (sexing skeletons is very difficult).

The Periodic Table of Elements defines what each atom does chemically and identifies atoms by number, for example by carbon weight and atomic element:

6	Neutrons	plus	6	Protons	=	Carbon 12
7	"	"	"	"	=	Carbon 13
8	"	"	"	"	=	Carbon 14

Neutrons add or subtract the carbon number but always need 6 Protons. Carbon 12 and 13 are stable isotopes but unstable with other numbers.

Carbons 10 and 11 last only a short time; Carbon 14 lasts 5730 years but decays through time so at 50,000 years it is minimal. We are carbon centred with 1% intake of Carbon 14 on a daily basis, which ceases at death. Carbon 14 is formed at the outer edge of the atmosphere and filters down into the food we eat. Natural carbon can be measured by mass spectrometry.

Cremated bone is porous and therefore can be contaminated from the environment, carbon is everywhere. Dietary pattern analysis, i.e. tissue identification, can show whether a person was a carnivore, omnivore or herbivore. Neanderthals had an animal diet and examples from Goat's Hole on the Pembrokeshire Coast showed the Upper Palaeolithic food was mostly from fresh water sources following the ice age when sea levels were lower. Around 8-7000BC (mid Mesolithic), marine food was a primary source and in the Neolithic there was a change to terrestrial food, cereals. Thus ecosystems can be identified by bone analysis.

Tooth enamel is laid down in childhood, so analysis of teeth can identify geographical location in childhood. For example, pockets of strontium have been mapped for Europe and traces can be identified in bone mineral. Uranium, strontium, in rocks filters through the water systems and enters our food chain, so persons from these areas will have traces in their teeth while persons from other areas may have concentrations of calcium phosphate with little strontium. Bone and dentine will also carry information about geographical location for the last 5-10 years of a person's life, thus a pattern of migration can be identified.

Oetzi, the Iceman, 5200-5300BP, found in 1991 high in the Alps, showed on analysis, a childhood spent close to the Austrian-Italian border, but in adulthood, he had moved westwards to a gneiss area in the Southern Alps, so he was an Italian.

This science does not replace meticulous archaeological work, but is an aid in broadening the archaeological picture.

Unravelling the Nile – Landscape Change in Ancient Egypt

Judith Robertson-Bunbury, Dept. of Earth Sciences, University of Cambridge

16th January 2006

Notes taken by Denise Hardy

The modern Nile, since it was tamed by the Aswan High Dam, seems serene and stable as it flows through Egypt. It is a consistent 1 km wide and around 10 m deep and it is joined by no tributaries as it makes its way from Abu Simbel to the Delta. It is perhaps easy to conclude that the Nile at a site like Karnak has been a constant during the development of the temples. Indeed, modern reconstructions of the site in antiquity suggest

that, as the Temples are set back from the Nile bank, the quay-like structures at North Karnak and elsewhere must have been connected to the main river by canals.

Our project, begun in 2000 under the auspices of Jean and Helen Jacquet at North Karnak, combines cartographic studies with archaeological observations and the augering of boreholes through the mud underneath the foundations of the temples. We hoped through our work to shed light on the function of the quay-like structures. Were they really quays, accessible by water or were they of greater symbolic than navigational significance? We began our enquiry by augering through the ground on the landward side of the quay. We argued that, if the quay were served by water and was (not unreasonably) built on the land, then the land should be formed of sediments containing no artefacts and the sediments of the former watercourse, if such it was, would be rich in artefacts, perhaps sherds, stone and other detritus.

When boring commenced we were surprised to find that our supposed virgin territory was in fact water-lain sediment packed with artefacts including hundreds of sherds, carnelian and other stone chips and bones. What emerged from the first ten metres of mud was made ground, *made* by the river Nile, which had been transporting material dating from the Middle Kingdom and later. Further boreholes have revealed that much of the ground under the Karnak Temples has been deposited since the site began to be occupied and, in some cores, multiple river deposits can be discerned that date from successive periods of construction of the temple. Thus, when the architects of Karnak were constructing new buildings, they did so in a changing landscape. Much of the land they used was newly created for them by an obliging river Nile. The migration of the river in this way was fortunate in that it allowed the preservation of the Karnak site. However, anything built on the west bank will have been destroyed by erosion, a direct result of the same process.

The cores reveal a complex pattern of landscapes and the question remains of how we can map which areas were land, water and river-bank in each period of the development of the site. As new deposits by the Nile tend to contain detritus from the preceding period of occupation this provides a means of constraining the dates at which the different landscapes were formed. Anxiety must attend the dating of sediments from what is essentially out-of-context, re-deposited material a problem that has also vexed palaeontologists studying dinosaur bone beds in the USA. Fortunately they have found from a long-term study tracing the dispersal of bones by a river, that bones are not generally transported far by the river and that skulls, which have similar hydrodynamics to sherds are most likely to be incorporated into the sediments where they fall into the river. Although re-working of material during anthropogenic activity at the site is possible and indeed evident in some cores, in general the river leaves the artefacts where it has deposited them.

By considering the dates of sherds and other artefacts in the sediment it is possible to identify periods of deposition and hence demonstrate that, since the early occupation of the site, the land on which Karnak was founded has been naturally extended by the Nile to the north and the east, a process which continues to this day. In addition to this, by making a geological study of the sediments recovered and constructing detailed logs of the sediment types and changes within the core we can identify the type of river environment in which each unit was deposited. So, for example, we can say for an anoxic black mud containing Middle Kingdom sherds recovered around 9 m below the base of the excavations to the west side of the court of the 8th and 9th pylons that it represents a body of standing water at that location in Middle Kingdom or later time. A study of a natural section to the north of Karnak has allowed us further to constrain the environments sampled by our cores at Karnak.

By augering at Al-Zaniyah village 2 km north of the temples we have been able to construct a section through a subsidiary channel of the Nile in a relatively un-inhabited area. This section demonstrates that there are specific geological facies that are associated with the river levees (elevated natural banks), the main channel (fining upwards sand deposits) and more substantial sand-bank deposits hugging the river bank inside the bends. These same facies and hence environments of deposition can also be recognised in the deposits recovered around the Karnak site. From our observations and painstaking work picking through thousands of artefacts as small as 2 mm across recovered from the cores, we can conjure up an image of the past landscapes of Karnak.

The initial foundation, during the first intermediate period, seems to have been on an island located around what is now the SE corner of the Nectanebo enclosure wall. The early settlement at 'Tel Karnak' seems to have been on the contemporary river levee and the adjacent channel subsequently silted and eventually was built upon (Akenaten's Temple and Temple C (excavated by Redford)). Meanwhile to the west, the island grew and formed the land on which the Hypostyle Hall and other structures were built. In its turn this hall was divorced from the waterfront and a series of new buildings and courtyards were built on the new-made land. A

burst of building to the south and towards the Temple of Mut may reflect a paucity of new land to the east and un-used space to the south when Tutmosis III and Hatshepsut were building. This sketch represents what we infer of the landscape history of the Karnak temples. Further work may confirm this and allow us to map the past landscapes. Furthermore, throughout Egypt we may now perhaps consider how sideways migrations of the Nile, at rates of up to 1 km per millennium, have affected other ancient sites.

Members Activities

23rd January 2006

Notes taken by Hazel West

Members of CAG have been very active throughout the year. We therefore had a substantial programme to fit into the evening.

1. David and Aline Black described their work on Mount Park Round Barrow at Lawford Hall. The talk was backed up with Beatrix Potter illustrations, the relevance being that the barrow is honeycombed by rabbit burrows. It is situated on an escarpment, which would have made it quite conspicuous. Currently it is heavily wooded and, judging by the amount of rusting metal, it appears to have been surrounded by railings at one time.

An excavation in 1812 is said to have revealed two bones on the site. Aerial surveys indicate a number of features to the south of the barrow, possibly four ring ditches and boundaries. A geophysical survey also showed features which, though on a slightly different alignment, corresponded to some extent with the aerial survey. Flints were found in the rabbit scatter.

2. Andrew White and Anna Moore gave a presentation on an experimental bonfire firing, which is described in greater detail on p35 of this Bulletin
3. Pauline Skippins presented the results of an excavation which she had directed on an Iron Age enclosure at Great Tey. A report on the excavation is included in this Bulletin on p4.
4. Francis Nicholls, a metal detectorist, has assisted at many sites - notably Marks Hall, Gosbecks, the Grammar School and Head Street. He described finding a considerable quantity of Roman coins and several brooches at Head Street.

At Great Tey he has made other notable finds; a seventeenth century crotal bell (see CAG Bulletin, Volume 45); a papal bulla, which had images of the heads of St Peter and St Paul embossed on it and would have been sent from Rome. Why it should have been in Great Tey is not clear.

From Marks Hall came a token of 1664, of the type which would have been used in exchange for food etc. It dated from the time when improvements were being made at Marks Hall. He also unearthed a number of musket balls, which presumably came from the time of the Civil War, and a small, intricate bronze bull's head which was possibly from the top of a staff.

5. James Fawn managed, in the time that remained, to tell us of some of his ongoing discoveries at the Great Tey Bronze Age ring ditch. James has been working on the site since 2003. Recently, a Mesolithic and two Neolithic axeheads were found in the ring. It appears that the site has been occupied over a long historical period. Apart from the Bronze Age finds, there is the Iron Age site, the obvious use of the site by the Romans and evidence of Saxon occupation (circa 600AD). Parts of the nearby farmhouse date from about 1400AD. James speculated as to why the burials within the ring ditch, which measures about 26m in diameter, were confined to about a quarter of the area of the circle. A round shaped pit, possibly made by a tree falling as the roots came out of the ground, had a large amount of pottery in it. Some of the pottery found was similar to the Deverel-Rimbury type found in both Dorset and in Ardleigh.

Excavations at Beeleigh Abbey, Maldon

Howard Brooks, Colchester Archaeological Trust

Notes taken by Tim Dennis

The excavation at Beeleigh covers an area immediately to the west of the 'Abbey' itself, a Tudor rebuild following the dissolution and now owned by the Foyle family. The original abbey was constructed ca.1180 by the Premonstratensian order, but its precise location is unknown. Members of Maldon Archaeological and Histori-

cal Group (MAHG) have been working on the site since 2001, partly funded by grants from the Countryside Agency and Heritage Lottery Fund. Geophysical surveys were conducted by the Essex County unit and MAHG. A trial trench revealed the foundations of a building under a shallow layer of topsoil, all in good condition as the area appeared never to have been ploughed. The building in its earliest phase was a mediaeval Hall House comprising a central hall, parlour and associated service rooms, and dated to the early 1300s. The remains suggest it was of high status, used by such as the almoner to the abbey or its farm manager. It is complete to the top of its foundations, comprising large quantities of roof tiles, recycled from probable rebuilding work on the main abbey. A timber framed structure would have rested on the foundations. Three hearths were found, one having a brick chimney adjacent to a cross passage replaced an earlier central hearth in the hall, allowing insertion of a first floor. The building was last occupied around 1530-40.

A building to the north of the hall is thought to have been a kitchen, separated from the main structure for fire protection. It had a timber framed chimney and elaborate pottery ventilation louvres, and from a combination of archaeometric results and pottery dates from the second half of the 15th century. Adjacent to the kitchen block was a smithy, evidenced by large quantities of ironworking debris. On another part of the site was a kiln, used to manufacture bricks either for the original abbey, or its new post-dissolution incarnation.

The site was notable for the large quantity of small finds typical of port areas like Maldon or Colchester, including 15/16th c. pottery, a bone gaming die, mediaeval coins and trade tokens.

See <http://mahg.smartemail.co.uk> for additional information.

The archaeological approach to the St Botolph's Quarter Re-development.

Philip Wise, Curator of Archaeology, Colchester Museums

6th February 2006

Notes taken by Barbara Butler

Philip Wise talked about the past three years' archaeological investigation into the area designated for the St Botolph's Quarter regeneration plans. He dealt with sources of archaeological evidence, work done and work to be done in the future.

The area for redevelopment includes the highest remaining piece of the town walls. Behind East Hill House an excavation of 1923 revealed the Berryfield mosaic, which is now in Colchester Castle, but there is no precise record of the exact location of its discovery or of any other remains which may have been on the site or nearby.

Maps have been extremely useful in the investigations of the area. These included Ordnance Survey maps from the late 19th century onwards, Speeds Map of 1610 and a town map of 1837. Records kept by Allan's the butchers have been useful in identifying the series of buildings behind the shop. "Window" samplings have been taken in conjunction with records or maps to verify evidence or make new discoveries. Bore holes were made to a depth of 30 metres and the technical information gained has been valuable.

The Archaeological Trust has excavated under the grating over the tree pit hole to an area of about a metre square. Trial trenches and pits were targeted to plug the gaps in our knowledge and try to make an "environmental impact assessment". The work had to be done before the planning applications and development were initiated.

The bastion of the Roman wall behind Vineyard Street has retained some of the original medieval fabric from circa 1400, after the time of Richard II, when the southern stretch of wall defences were enhanced. Bonus Print, the building on top of the bastion has a room on ground level in Vineyard Street at the bottom of the bastion. In 1648, after the Siege of Colchester, the upper part of the bastion was rebuilt (late 17th and early 18th century).

As it is a scheduled ancient monument, there will have to be a bridge point on the west side of the bastion to join the levels on the other side of the wall. It will be designed to float over the top of the wall and this will influence the design of nearby developments.

Evidence of a ditch from the 2nd century has been found outside the Wall in Vineyard Street, but no legionary fortress ditch was discovered when the service area for Lion Walk was excavated through the town walls. There was evidence that a new ditch silted up or filled up circa 1050 after which the area was built on in the late medieval period. It had been an area of Roman waste disposal and building rubble. In the area of the car park,

which is higher than the building fronting Osborne Street, there was evidence of some sort of Roman building, which could have been either for ritual or funerary purposes. At the end of Arthur Street a skeleton was discovered with its head to the north and pieces of Roman tiles and a nail next to it. On the St Botolphs Street and Osborne Street corner, there was evidence of an artisans quarter in the 17th and 18th centuries, leather-working and shoemaking. Damp ground caused by an underground stream had preserved organic fragments, associated with various trades. The level of the road to Mersea Island had been raised out of the South Gate in Roman times.

The yard behind Allen's butchers contained buildings dating from 16th century and ceramic fragments had been found, together with Roman roof tiles, possibly belonging to the mysterious ritual or funerary building already referred to. There was also an 18th or 19th century passageway. At the back of Allens were stables and ancillary buildings; the area was mainly used for businesses and residential in the late 18th century.

No new holes will be made in the Priory Street wall; existing breaches will be used, such as the pedestrian gateway from the car park to the playing fields and the steps up to the bus garage. There will be long uninterrupted views of the wall and English Heritage are involved in working out the practicalities of achieving this. Excavations in the 1960s identified a ditch found in 1948, on the site of cottages fronting the Priory Street section of the wall demolished in the 1950s. The sub-surface wall is pitched forward by the weight of the material behind it. In the 1950s, five town houses were discovered, dating from the 2nd century to the end of the Roman period, luxury homes with hypocaust systems.

Magnetometer results have been difficult to interpret, although a possible road might have been identified. Although English Heritage has organised geophysics, not a lot has been discovered this way. Perhaps there was not much to find. It is thought land inside the east end of the town walls was mainly horticultural and agricultural. It could even have been used by the Romans for buildings which did not survive very long.

Abrupt Climate Change and the Archaeological Record - a case study from the South Scandinavian Mesolithic

Kevan Edinborough, field archaeologist, Institute of Archaeology

13th February 2006

Notes taken by Aline Black

The lecture was based on the lecturer's 2004 doctoral thesis.

There is an extensive and well recorded collection of arrowheads from Southern Scandinavia in the Natural History Museum in Copenhagen. Most of their dating has been done by comparison of type and ascribing types to particular phases and cultures. The aim of this research was to revisit all the available information to see whether there was more that it could contribute to the archaeological record.

4000 arrowheads dating from the middle Mesolithic period, 4000 - 6500BC, were weighed, some dimensions of each measured and the data analysed using various statistical techniques. This is the earliest phase of bow-and-arrow technology, and the microliths were also examined for method of fabrication and for high impact velocity fractures to confirm that they were arrowheads. Some of the manufacturing processes must have been quite complex. Was the technology handed down the generations? How long did a particular phase last? Were changes of type due to hunting different animals?

Use of extensive radiocarbon information now available and the parameters chosen to determine type, showed that whilst some phases of a specific type were very short, implying perhaps a short occupation of that particular site, other phases lasted for up to 1100 years - an incredible length of time for a particular technology to last. That there was not a constant rate of change of type was a key finding.

Statistical Correspondence Analysis with osteoarchaeological data showed that red deer, roe deer and wild pig were the main animals hunted throughout the middle Mesolithic, hence the changes in arrow technology were not due to different animals being hunted. One interesting finding was that in one area animals with useful pelts were hunted, and so trading must have been taking place with neighbouring areas.

Was population change therefore the reason for changes in arrowhead technology? There isn't enough radiocarbon dating evidence to estimate population size in the Mesolithic, but there is a view that evidence can be found for a *lack* of people. Radiocarbon data from Southern Scandinavia does indicate population peaks and troughs and some changes in arrowhead type do correspond with these. Do any of these population changes

correspond to climate change?

Temperature and precipitation data (estimated from ice core analysis) for the middle Mesolithic show a dramatic variation at 8200BP and there was a population trough at this time. Was this the result of volcanic activity? Population appears to rise sharply after this date.

As arrow technology was not changing in the middle Mesolithic due to different animals being hunted, the lecturer's conclusion was that it was a result of population changes.

Fairly precise data about volcanic activity can be obtained from ice cores. Further research will investigate the relationship between volcanic activity, climate change and hence population change and the time delay between cause and effect. Is there a link to the start of farming?

Recent Discoveries and Research on Roman Suffolk

Jude Plouviez, Archaeological Officer, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

20th February 2006

Notes taken by Vic Scott

Having worked for the Suffolk Archaeological Service for over thirty years, Jude had in the past dug on all sites. Now she finds herself monitoring the work on the various small town sites. In the Roman period these were large settlements scattered around Suffolk, and consisted mainly of streets with timber buildings down each side, much like the early towns in the old west of America. One of the few large scale on-going projects of the last ten years has been at Stowmarket. In the late 1970's the developer exposed a 1st century pottery kiln, and during recent years scatters of different periods have been excavated. Some late Iron Age and early Roman circular buildings, together with ditch systems were identified. Also uncovered was a small three roomed rectangular building approx. 25mtrs x 12mtrs. This had flint footings, and nearby was a robbed out bath house. There was much agricultural damage to the site.

At Flixton where there are modern gravel workings, the area consisted of small sites including Bronze Age barrows and a timber circle, also a network of Roman enclosures and ditches, and a post Roman cemetery. Two Roman pottery kilns were found, and the post holes of a possible granary. A burial in a rubbish pit of four jumbled skeletons was carbon 14 dated to the early Roman period.

R.A.F Lakenheath has all periods of occupation and a watch is kept on all holes during the current building programme. Several Roman burials discovered have been in or alongside ditches. Plenty of Roman activity has been found at Beck Row, Mildenhall, with rectilinear enclosures, and an aisled building, possibly a granary.

Long Melford was a substantial settlement in Roman times, burials and many artifacts have been found. This was possibly a military site as a Roman sword and early pottery has been found. In 2004 twenty-four salt producing Red Hill sites were located in Suffolk, these are usually Iron Age or early Roman. The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Suffolk has seen more than 5,000 objects handed in, nearly 50% were probably Roman, many of which were coins.

"Sweet Uneventful Countryside"; the Archaeology of Medieval Essex

Maria Medlycott, Research Officer, Essex CC Historic Environment Branch

27th Feb 2006

Notes taken by John Wallace

The speaker set out to show how the present Essex landscape retains many features indicating the mediaeval and earlier origins of the County, which can be distinguished today. Her presentation consisted largely of maps showing the clues to its origins. The surface geology indicates three basic divisions, along a SW to NE alignment. The NW area is the Essex Till which was well wooded in the medieval period, the centre is the Mid Essex Zone, with the Coastal Marshes to the south. The medieval parkland and ancient forest was in the north, with arable in the centre and the marshes devoted to grazing for cattle and sheep. A map showing access to the marshes from inland settlements demonstrated how essential were these coastal marsh areas. The ancient woodlands of Epping Forest and Hatfield Forest are still being managed to include harvesting timber by coppicing as it was done centuries ago. An interesting illustration of how parts of the ancient landscape are preserved was at Ambresbury Bank in Epping forest where the ancient trees stand on a high bank and ditch, the site of an iron age fort.

Apart from the general landscape, Maria showed examples of medieval timber framed houses and farm buildings. Many farms retain the names of their original owners. Walker maps showed many windmills and sites of watermills. A study of one or two specific areas shows how the medieval features are "fossilised" in the landscape. For example at Stebbing and Thaxted the original field boundaries and hedges can still be seen by careful study of the old maps such as the Tithe and Walker maps. Thaxted market place is medieval in origin and encroachment by the original stall holders who subsequently built permanent shops can be seen, a feature of many small towns in Essex.

Finally a map of the countryside around Stansted airport extending from Hatfield Forest in the south to the area to the north designated for the proposed new runway, highlighted the great number of archaeological sites already discovered dating back as early as mesolithic and neolithic, right through to the medieval period, many of which had been excavated during the construction of the original airport. The map also highlighted the details of the ancient origin of this part of Essex. Many potential sites of historic and archaeological value are awaiting discovery.

The Access to Mineral Heritage Project

David Kenny, AMH Eastern Regional Representative

6th March 2006

Notes taken by Phil Mann

The title of this talk gave no clue as to its real content. Presented by David Kenny, the eastern area representative of Access to Mineral Heritage (AMH), he has worked in Norfolk, Cambs and Essex for some 15 years so is no stranger to the area. His talk focused principally upon the AMH web site on the internet, a project sponsored by the Coal Authority but independent of it. Through AMH, any member of the public can obtain information on-line about the UK mineral heritage from coal to sand and gravel extraction etc. It also functions as a gateway via links to numerous other web information sources such as archives, libraries, museums, researchers and enthusiasts in the UK and beyond. Information on this website is freely available and varies enormously in content too broad to list comprehensively here.

The project is entering its 4th year of an expected 10 year span, collecting and cataloguing information from institutions all over the UK. David took us on a guided tour of the website, with projections of examples of pages that can be readily accessed. Using Essex as a search term, links to all manner of sites from brick making to geology clubs were identified and illustrated how powerful a website can be as a source of information if it is designed and managed properly. The news page contains lots of interesting snippets and is kept up to date whilst the history and education pages looked enticing.

An example was shown of data from the National Monuments records database centred upon Colchester. Various sites were listed in the Colchester vicinity with location details of district, parish and grid references of salt-works, pottery kilns, brick kilns, chalk pits, brickworks, dene holes (a medieval chamber dug out of chalk).

On conclusion of his presentation, David was asked some searching questions such as the possible conflict of interests between this project and future possible mining/quarrying activities as proposed by the Coal Authority for example. David assured us that the website is a neutral one and that he is independent of organisations such as the Coal Authority. The question of inclusion of oil company records such as seismic surveys was also raised, David said that he would take this back as a request plus another for a "clickable" map.

In summary, there is a lot of fascinating, useful and easily available information on this web site and it's getting larger with constant updating. If it does not have what you want, feedback a request via the web site.

An Archaeological Tour of North-East Spain 8th - 21st October 2005

The Romans first entered NE Spain during the Second Punic War at the end of the 3rd century BC. This tour, excellently organised and lead by Mark Davies, used as bases four of the towns founded during the early phase of the Roman expansion into the Iberian Peninsula. At Tarragona (Tarraco) the modern city had had to conform to the layout of the Roman town, and there were substantial upstanding remains of the circus, the forum and the amphitheatre. At Valencia (Valentia) there was less of obvious note, but under Mark's expert guidance we were able to understand the layout of the Roman town. Zaragoza (Caesaraugusta) was particularly impressive. Although most of the Roman remains were below street level, new and beautifully designed purpose-built museums gave underground access to many of the more important features, including the port area, the forum, the baths and the theatre. At Barcelona (Barcino), the massive Roman walls, incorporated in the medieval defences, survived to a considerable height. Again the underground city museum displayed significant remains from Roman, Visigoth and medieval times.

All of the centres were well chosen to provide opportunities to make expeditions to other sites of interest. Particularly memorable were the hilltop fortress at Segunto; the Celtiberian stronghold at Numancia, with its excellent associated museum at Soria; and the unspoilt municipium at Bibilis. Probably most evocative of all was the Greek and Roman town at Empuries. Not only were the remains impressive, but the setting on the shore of the Mediterranean was beautiful, and on the day we visited, the sea was doing its best to be as dramatically angry as it can ever manage in that part of the world.

Even given the range and quantity of archaeology covered on the tour, there was still ample time within the itinerary for group members to take in many of the other attractions in the places where we stayed. So whether the interest was in cathedrals, museums, art galleries, architecture, gardens, or simply soaking up the atmosphere from the patio of a tapas bar, there was plenty of choice for everyone.



Teruel

For more photographs, see Appendix C

Weekend Visit to Gloucester and Hereford 7th – 10th April 2006

This was the 8th week-end trip organised by Anna Moore, and one of the best supported. A total of 45 members and friends participated and were lead once again by Mark Davies, and driven by our (almost) regular driver, the unflappable Arnold.

On Friday 7th we left Colchester promptly at 8am and, after a couple of brief stops reached our first objective, Chedworth, a fine 2nd century Roman villa with later additions and some high quality mosaics in a lovely valley setting. There was ample time to take in the audio visual presentation, which gave a succinct history of the archaeological work which discovered the site and continues to reveal its secrets, and of the story of life in the Villa itself. We arrived in Gloucester in time to visit the small but well presented city museum and to get an overview of the history of this area. Our hotel proved to have every amenity – swimming pool, sauna, health club, gym and even a ski slope, though we are not aware of any of our party having either time or inclination to make use of the latter.

Saturday saw us travel Hereford, where we split into 3 groups with excellent guides for a tour of this lovely, mainly Norman cathedral. Afterwards we were escorted to the separate exhibition showing the two star attractions: the Mappa Mundi and the Chained Library. Next we travelled to the amazing little church at Kilpeck, curiously and elaborately adorned in celtic style, which is set in the centre of what was a Saxon vil. It has over 80 corbels carved with strange beasts and motifs. The final stop was to Ashleworth. The main attraction here was a 14th century hall house, with expertly done 19th and 20th century additions, which until the 1850s was a bishop's residence. The present owner gave us a tour, and explained in detail the history and architecture of the building. Afterwards we were able to walk across the fields to look at the magnificent tithe barn, now owned by the National Trust and the local church.

On Sunday our first stop was at Odda's Chapel, Deerhurst, a unique example of Anglo-Saxon architecture very reminiscent of Bradwell, and St. Mary's Minster in the same village. From there we travelled on to Tewkesbury, an ancient market town (and also a Roman border town) on the Welsh/English border. As it was Palm Sunday several of the group joined the worshippers in the beautiful old abbey. Tewkesbury is also the site of the civil war battle of 1471, and a monument marks the site. From here the party split, some to climb Cleeve Hill, with its Iron Age enclosure and Bronze Age features, and to visit the chambered Neolithic long barrow of Belas Knap. Those who chose this option were rewarded with a hailstorm. The remainder of the party travelled on to explore Gloucester, and to visit the Cathedral, or the docks and excellent Maritime Museum. They were only rewarded with a rainstorm.

Monday took us first to Cirencester, where we had plenty of time to enjoy the excellent displays in the newly refurbished museum. Roman mosaicists worked in Corinium (Roman Cirencester) and we saw some wonderful examples of their craft. A very fine museum. There was time to explore this Cotswold town before setting off to see Fairford church, which still retains most of its famous original medieval glass. This was installed in the 15th century at the expense of a wealthy local wool merchant; the church also retains some interesting misericords. We finally arrived back in Colchester at about 7 pm.

Our thanks are due as usual to Anna for her meticulous planning, enthusiasm and organisation (the hotel food and facilities were excellent throughout; and we didn't run out of wine!); to Mark for his expert guidance and information; and of course to Arnold, our driver for his cheerful companionship and taking us safely where (other) coaches fear to tread.

For more photographs, see Appendix D



The Bay of Naples and Southern Italy 6th – 15th May 2006

This latest CAM Ventures tour took a party of 26 to visit the most important archaeological sites in Southern Italy. Two themes dominated: the remains resulting from the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 AD, and the city states founded by Greeks and others between the 8th and 6th centuries BC.

A full day spent at **Pompeii**, and half a day at **Herculaneum** allowed sufficient time for exploration of both these famous “Vesuvian” remains, and a visit to **Naples Museum** complemented our understanding of the sites. Additionally we were able to visit the villa sites at **Oplontis** and The Villa Arianna and the Villa San Marco at **Stabiae**, all destroyed by or involved in the Vesuvian eruption. Each, opulent in its own way, afforded a vivid insight into the lives of the rich and the famous at the height of the Roman Empire.

Several other sites were visited during the stay in the Naples area. Particularly memorable were the visits to Tiberius’s **Villa Jovis** on Capri, and to the thermal baths at **Baiae**, laid out on a series of terraces overlooking (and now partially submerged in) the sea.

Exploration of the Greek colonies began, appropriately, at **Cumae**, the first Greek colony to be founded on the Italian mainland. With its acropolis providing a commanding view over the sea and surrounding countryside, it provided a spectacular introduction to what was to come. During the week that followed the tour traversed the foot of Italy, visiting, among others, the colonies of **Paestum**, with its walls and three spectacular temples, **Elea**, another coastal site dominating the surrounding landscape, **Metapontum**, and **Tarantum**. Often the sites were supported by excellent museums, each telling a similar story of colonisation, growth and conquest in the 3rd century BC by the expanding Roman Empire.

As always the tour was lead by Mark Davies, whose expertise was invaluable in helping us interpret and understand what we saw. On this occasion, he was supported by Sally Stow, whose first hand experience over several years of many of the places visited, provided additional valuable insights. We were grateful to both of them for their hard work and professionalism.



Beneventum



A snapper snapped
at Herculaneum

For more photographs, see Appendix E

CAG Summer Programme 2006
Gill Shrimpton

Monday April 24th

Approximately 36 members met at All Saints Church in Brightlingsea and were able to look around this ancient building. Some hardy souls even climbed to the top of the tower! Then Mark Davies led a party around the town pointing out some of the interesting buildings and giving us an overview of the history of this, the only Cinque Port on the East coast. We finished the evening with a look at the little museum housing exhibits illustrating the old fishing and shipbuilding industries

Monday May 22nd

For the next event about 40 members and friends met at St Osyth Priory, where Phyl Hendy our guide showed us around the house and grounds. We were able to see parts not usually on view. She was an excellent and entertaining speaker and much appreciated by all.

Saturday June 17th

34 people left Colchester to travel to Ely for the day. The weather was beautiful and we were able to enjoy the lovely Cathedral with its Stained Glass museum and historic Lady Chapel. There was plenty of free time to explore the city or take a boat trip. There was even a French Market in one of the streets. We returned to Colchester just before 6pm after a very enjoyable day.

Monday July 17th

The annual Summer Party was held at the visitor centre at Marks Hall near Braintree. We were invited to tour the arboretum and the walled garden. It was a perfect summer evening and everyone enjoyed the lovely setting followed by good food, wine and company!

Obituaries**Freda Nicholls 1928 - 2006**

Freda Nicholls, who died in January of this year, had been a member of the Group since 1997. After a long career as a biochemistry research technician, she had lived with her husband Peter in the USA, Canada and Denmark, and on her return to England, became interested in archaeology, initially becoming involved as a volunteer finds processor with the Colchester Archaeological Trust. Very soon afterwards, she joined CAG and quickly became involved in many of the activities undertaken by the Group. Her first project for CAG was as a member of the team recording the town's cellars (Freda may well have been the only person ever to have fallen out of, rather than into, a cellar). This was followed by the Graveyard Survey, when typically, Freda went far beyond what was strictly necessary by comparing the records made by the Group with the Victorian records made by N Crisp kept in the Local Studies Centre at the library. She was a very thorough recorder of the Castle Graffiti, which she continued with enthusiasm until the end of the project. She was quite willing to go into the prison cells but would not go down into the vaults and hated the cold on the great stairs, using it as a reason to disappear for coffee, which was always her favourite part of the proceedings.

Freda came to archaeology through her interest in spinning and weaving, which she had learned in Canada and Denmark. She was particularly skilled at weaving and contributed several articles on the history of textiles to the Group's annual Bulletin.

Freda served on the CAG committee from 2001 to 2004. She always said that it was through archaeology that she made her many friends in Colchester after her return to England. She was a very sociable member of the Group, and attended as many of the evening visits, day trips and social events as possible, until her health began to fail towards the end of 2005. Her kindness and rather wicked sense of humour is much missed by her many friends in the Group.

Appendices

Appendix A	A Second Experimental Bonfire Firing at Gt Tey	Page 46
Appendix B	Great Tey Bronze Age Ring Burial - an appropriate conclusion	Page 53
Appendix C	An Archaeological Tour of North-East Spain	Page 54
Appendix D	Weekend Visit to Gloucester and Hereford	Page 59
Appendix E	The Bay of Naples and Southern Italy	Page 64

Appendix A: A Second Experimental Bonfire Firing at Great Tey



Pot 5 Pot 3 Pot 6 Pot 2 Pot 1
Pot 8 Pot 7 Pot 4











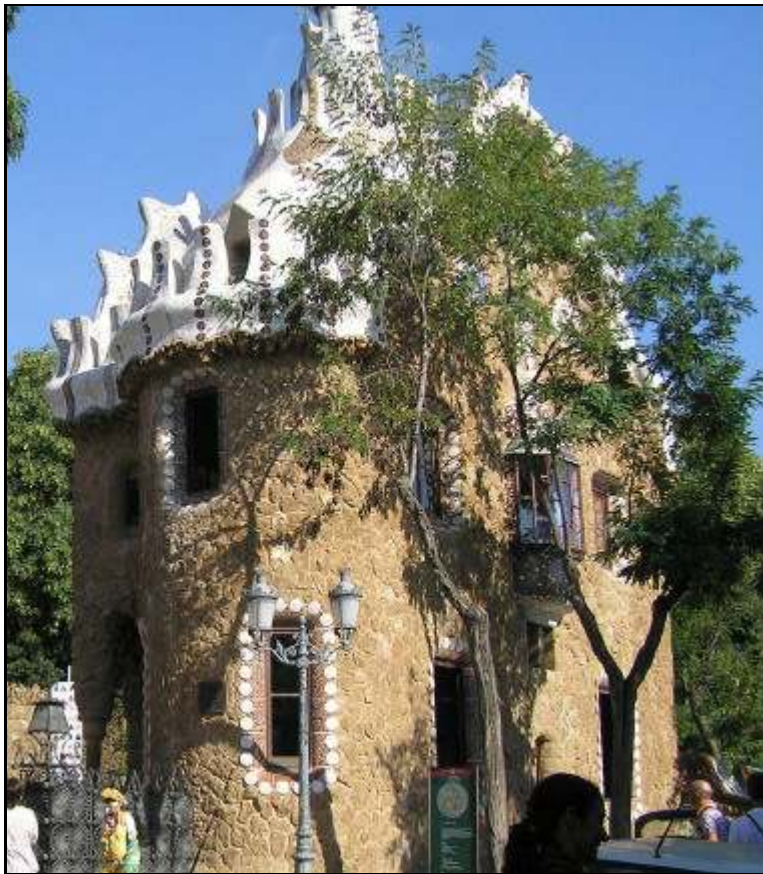




Appendix B Great Tey Bronze Age Ring Burial - an appropriate conclusion



Appendix C An Archaeological Tour of North-East Spain 8th - 21st October 2005



Barcelona





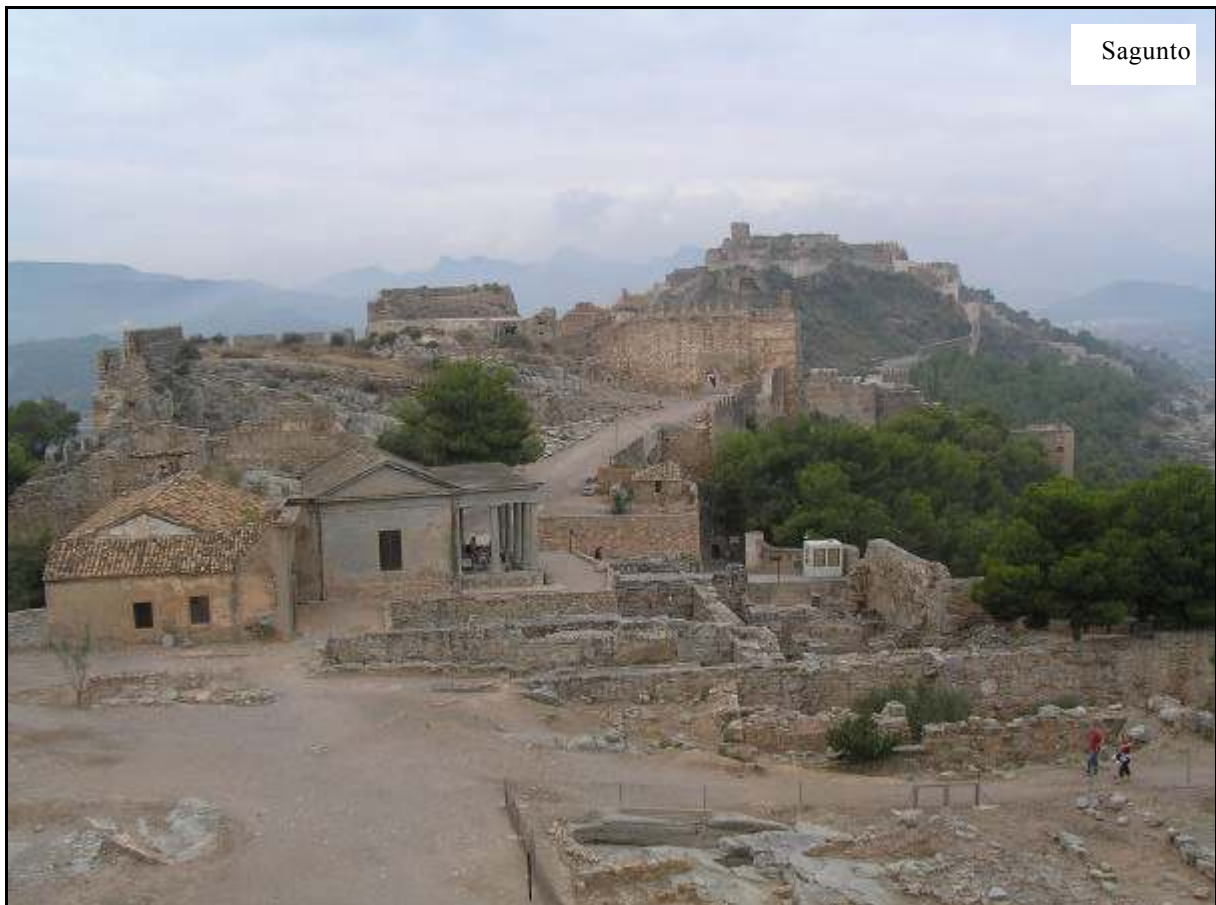
El Medol



Emporion



Monastir de Poblet



Tarragona



Zaragoza



Appendix D Weekend Visit to Gloucester and Hereford 7th – 10th April 2006



Chedworth Roman Villa





Hereford





Kilpeck
Church







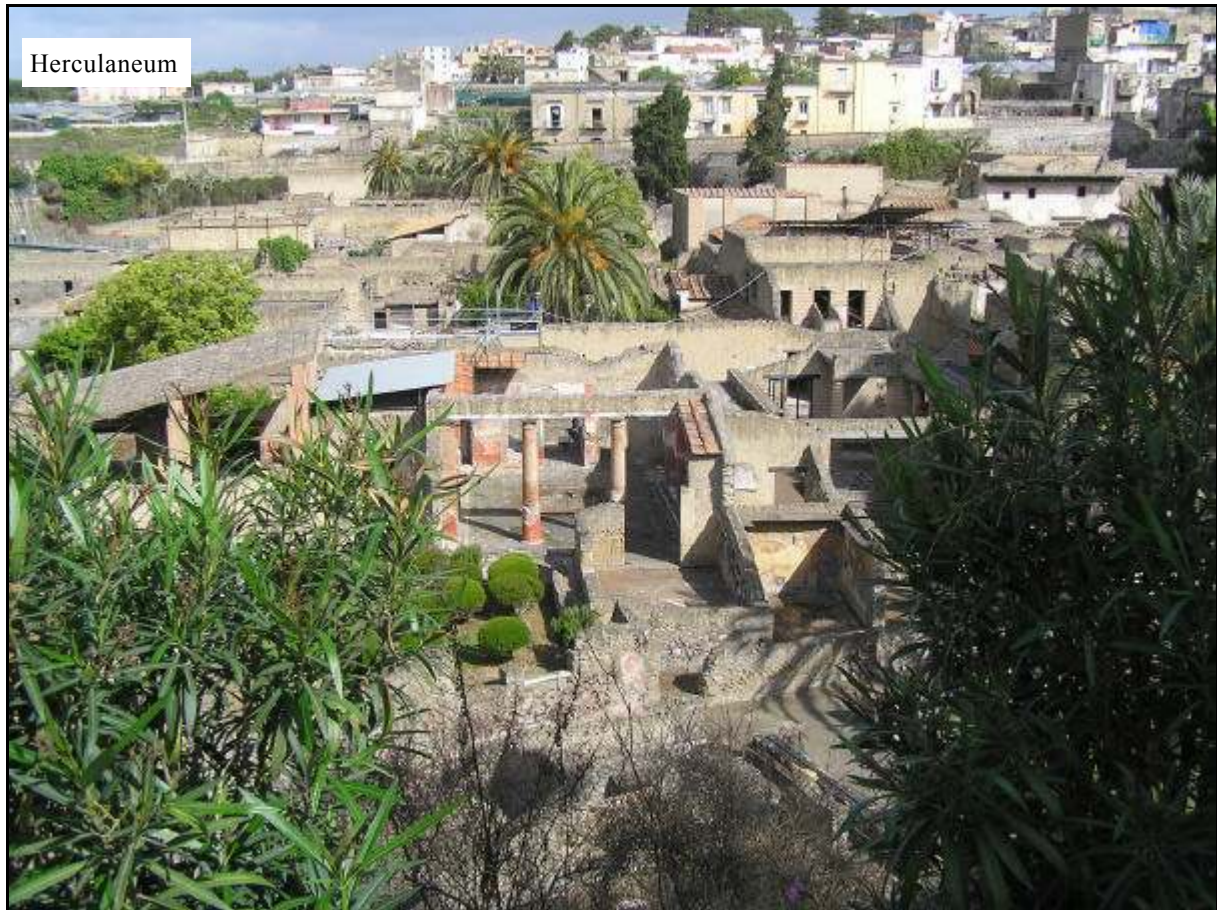
Walking to Belas Knap



Cirencester Roman Amphitheatre

Appendix E The Bay of Naples and Southern Italy 6th – 15th May 2006





Palace of Tiberius, Capri



Oplontis



Paestum



Velia





No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored or transmitted
without the prior permission of CAG.

Please apply in writing to the Honorary Secretary