Colchester Archaeological Group

Vol. 50 2010

Dave Harrison's excavation of a possible soak-away at Lodge Hills, Wormingford.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Don Goodman

It gives me great pleasure to present my introduction to the 50th annual Bulletin, the last of my three years' chairmanship.

Some of the main highlights for me have been the two public lectures Anna has arranged, with Julian Richards and Carenza Lewis being the star lecturers, and now to have seen the publication of our splendid booklet "The Lost Tudor Hunting Lodge at Wormingford". This production has helped to spread the name of Colchester Archaeological Group far and wide, and I believe it may be reviewed in Current Archaeology with the possibility of an article to follow. This would be a first for the Group. I would like to thank on behalf of the Group the work of Andrew White, Francis Nicholls and Howard Brooks in producing such a fine publication. Howard Brooks has also written a four-page article in The Colchester Archaeologist with the first paragraph highlighting the work and status of the Group, praise indeed.

The Colchester Archaeological Trust has been an enormous help to the Group over the years and it is fitting that through grants that have enabled us to pay for Howard Brooks' assistance we can go some way to repay this help.

Our lectures have again been of the usual high standard, thanks to Anna Moore. Barbara Butler organised some super interesting trips which were well supported. Mark Davies' walk to the Hythe area of Colchester was another success and even took place on a lovely fine and warm evening.

John Mallinson kept our finances well in order and Gill Shrimpton kept me informed of everything I needed to do. She also installed a welcome pack idea for new members, of whom we had a plentiful amount. Bernard Colbron assisted by Carole made sure our Library was up to date and impeccably well organised. The parties have again been brilliantly organised by Hazel West and Pat Brown. Thanks go to John and Anna Moore for inviting us to their lovely house and garden at Salcott.

Pat Brown has done a great job with editing the Bulletin, ably assisted by John Mallinson who produced the digital version. This year has seen the formation of a Publication Sub-committee, which Pat will lead, so this may help to share some of the publication load.

The excavation and post-ex team held another successful training day for Colchester Young Archaeologists' Club.

Lastly, on a personal note, I would like to thank all of you, the members, officers and committee, for your continued support over the last three years. This has made my time as Chairman a most enjoyable experience.

EDITORIAL

Pat Brown

I hope you will notice some changes to the Bulletin this year which are intended to improve its attractiveness - in the opinion of the Editor, and also of the newly-formed Publication Sub-committee, which has been set up to organise the increasing amount of excavation reports and background material arising to a great extent from the excavations at Wormingford and recent CAG digs, and other activities. Comments will be most welcome.

I would like to point out that the CD version will not only enable you to see pictures in colour (colour would increase the cost of printing the Bulletin considerably) but also other material which we do not have space to print - in this case very interesting background to the Wormingford dig, including the history of the Waldegrave family of Smallbridge Hall, by John Moore (this is also available in the CAG Library). If you require the CD in addition to the printed Bulletin there is a charge of £3 - apply to John Mallinson.

Many of you will have passed the Italian restaurant "Totos" on their way up Museum Street to the Castle - or perhaps eaten or drunk there - and you may have read of the excavations uncovering the medieval barbican, but - hot from the press - we are able to publish our own Richard Shackle's report which reveals the structure of a very interesting timber-framed house.

No-one has taken up my plea for "Letters to the Editor": other societies' bulletins do print letters from time to time, and it would be good to have your comments on any aspect of archaeology, local or national, the more controversial the better!

OBITUARIES

Raymond Rowe

Raymond was a keen and active member of the Group, serving on the Committee from 1991 to 2002, and as Vice-Chairman for the last four years of this period. Though he lived near Chelmsford he was often to be seen at lectures and social events. He also represented the Group on the Council for British Archaeology for several years and gave full and informative reports, often attending its meetings in London.

Raymond's career was in engineering and he took a keen interesting in engineering history, particularly in this area. Not many of us knew that he had taken part in the dig in the 60's of the Great Tey villa site (unfortunately the director of this dig never wrote it up, but Raymond could still remember some details). He was always helpful, friendly, and utterly reliable, and we miss him very much.

June Wallace

June, with her husband John, was a regular attender at Group lectures and events, despite living in Suffolk, where most of her archaeological work took place, as a member of the Suffolk Field Group. She was a doughty field-walker, and was known for digging barefoot! June was a great help at parties, producing scrumptious pavlovas, and they did on one occasion host a memorable summer party at their house. She also took a very active part in the cellar survey the Group did in Colchester, surprising shop customers by popping up through trap-doors! no doubt with that happy smile which so endeared her to us all.

YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS' CLUB

Report by Barbara Butler

Since its relaunch on December 2009, the Young Archaeologists have done detective work on rubbish, explored the Castle vaults, examined architectural styles through the ages and measured and drawn sections of the little church outside the Castle. Probably most popular was the site visit to the Wormingford dig, where they particularly enjoyed investigating the spoil heap and were sorry to have to leave each of the activities CAG had organised for them. YAC leaders are now considering an extended visit to the site next summer.

Since there was only one member signed up for the launch of the Ipswich branch it was decided not to go ahead with this, although there may still be sessions of the Colchester group held in Ipswich. The name will revert to Colchester Young Archaeologists' Club. It is now not likely that the Castle will close for refurbishment, which will probably take place in 2012, after the major exhibition due to come from China in 2012.

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

Report by Pat Brown

The CBA is engaged in setting goals and priorities for the next five to ten years, but is expecting serious funding cuts, as all charities are. It was acknowledged that it might be necessary to drop or curtail some of the services it provides by, for instance, charging for web access which at the moment is completely open. The Young Archaeologists' Club had been particularly successful,. but at the AGM several members raised the difficulty of keeping the interest of 11-18 year olds (not a great problem for us, as we have had several working at Wormingford).

In conversation with one of the officers I raised the question of the Mid-Anglia Group to which CAG belongs, but which has been dormant since the southern part was absorbed in the new London Group, and he agreed that their lack of activity should be investigated, particularly in view of the fact that all Groups receive funding from National CBA.

There was also some discussion on whether the CBA was spreading its wings too far in extending into historic buildings and conservation, but obviously a priority must be to expand membership, and thus increase subscription income. I would urge CAG members to consider joining - you will receive the excellent "British Archaeology" magazine, get discounts on CBA publications, take part in the annual weekend away visiting interesting sites, and many other benefits, not least this year being privileged to hear Michael Wood talk about his TV series on the history of a Leicestershire village, Kibworth - the bits we didn't see!

(This report should really have been given by John Camp, our new CBA representative, but train delays and bad weather prevented him from attending the AGM, which I was able to attend as an Individual Member).

TOTOS, MUSEUM STREET, COLCHESTER: A SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY TIMBER-FRAMED BUILDING

Richard Shackle

Totos is a timber framed building of oak with a tiled roof built in the 17th century. The framing is close studded with primary bracing: that is to say the studs are cut by the braces. It is situated in Museum Street which was formerly the entrance to the castle bailey. There must have been considerable development going on in this street in the 17th century as Saxons the estate agency (formerly Farmers the ironmongers) is also a 17th century building.

The building (Fig 1) appears to be a small self contained building. It consists of a front range of two bays, one longer than the other and a small square rear extension. The ground floor, front range, was probably one undivided space with a fireplace. Almost certainly there was a large window facing on to what is now Museum Street (Fig 2). The front door was probably in the north side. The ceiling of this room was supported by a single bridging joist with many small common joists. The main joist has lamb's-tongue chamfer stops. The rear extension was probably a service area for the front range. There is a gap in the framing between G and H, which was probably a doorway. In the south side of the extension there is a gap in the framing which may mark the position of a former brick chimney stack (Fig 1).

The cellar (Fig 5), which is under A/B, C/D of the front range is accessed from a staircase next to the chimney in the rear extension. The north and south walls are made of septaria blocks and small bricks. The septaria blocks are mostly about five inches square and are probably recycled from the Norman castle and ultimately derive from the buildings of Roman Colchester. The bricks measure approximately 8 by 2 inches and date to the 17th century or earlier. The west wall is made of bricks dating to the 19th century or later. Four features can be seen in the cellar, one is a shallow staircase coming down from the service room, two is a large bridging joist (Fig 6) supporting the ceiling. This is likely to be a recycled medieval timber as it has pegged mortices for common joists. Three is a recess in the north wall which may have been a keeping place for candles or lanterns. Four is the base of a brick chimney stack. I assume that the function of the cellar was to store food.

The first floor was probably very similar in plan to the ground floor. It had an undivided room in the front range with a fireplace and large window facing the street (Fig 3). The north wall A/B (Fig 7) had a window. The south wall E/F (Fig 7) was fully framed with braces and faced either an open space or another building. The room in the rear extension may have functioned as an ante-room to the front room. We do not know how the first floor and the attic were accessed. There may have been a stair tower in the angle between the front range and the rear extension. The large window overlooking the street was very impressive. It had four leaded light windows in the centre, one of which probably opened and a frieze window at either side. These frieze windows gave the occupants space where they could have good light but not be seen by people in the street. The reconstruction of the centre part of the window is in part based on a reused fragment found in the wall of the upper floor E-F. A drawing of this fragment can be seen as an inset in Fig 3.

Only the front range had an attic. In Fig 4 you can see a cross-section of the side purlin roof which made the attic a fully usable space with no timbers impeding movement. The attic was probably only lit by a window in the north gable but no evidence of the original window now exists. The attic floor is supported by a long bridging joist with lamb's-tongue chamfer stops. The common rafters are approximately 3.5 inches square and spaced at intervals of roughly

The common rafters are approximately 3.5 inches square and spaced at intervals of roughly 15 inches.

We do not know the function of this building but it could have been a house. A house needs three types of space, a public room for receiving guests, a private parlour, and a kitchen/ food storage area. The ground floor room in the front range could be the public room for receiving guests, the upper room in the front range could be the private parlour. The kitchen could be the ground floor room of the rear extension with perhaps an additional chimney in the south wall. Food could be stored in the cellar and in the attic.

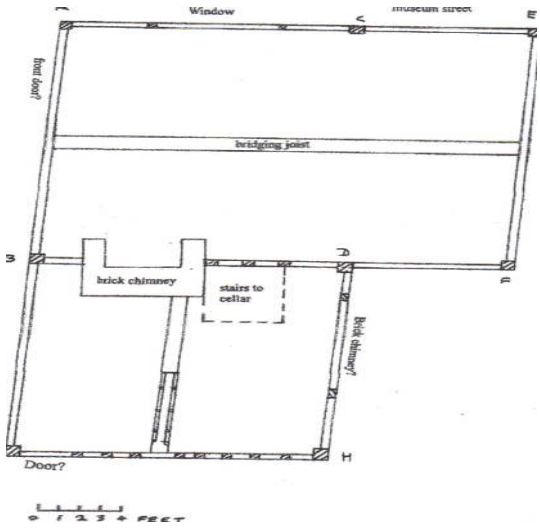


Fig 1 Totos, Museum Street, Colchester
plan of ground floor

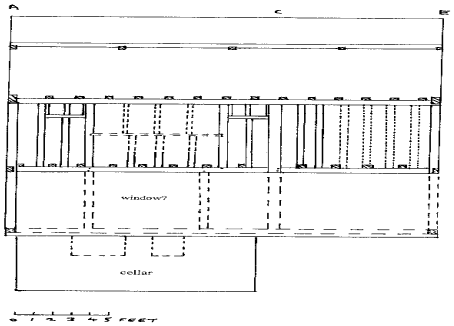


Fig 2 Totos, Museum Street, Colchester
long section A/B – E/F

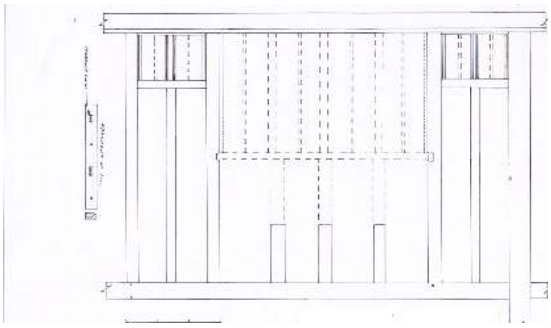


Fig 3 Totos, Museum Street, Colchester
detail of 17th century window in wall A/C

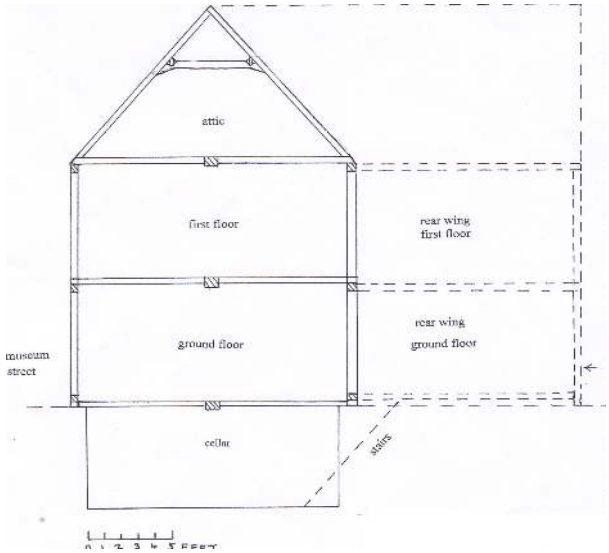


Fig 4 Totos, Museum Street, Colchester
cross section A/E – B/F

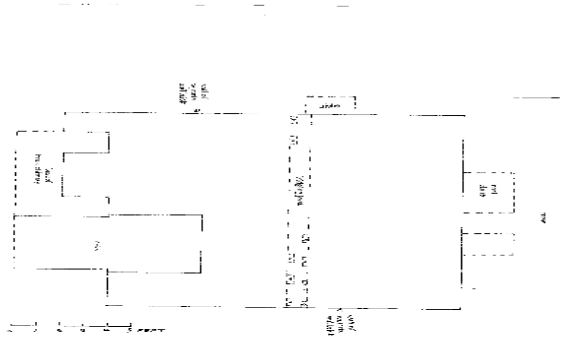


Fig 5 Totos, Museum Street,Colchester
plan of cellar

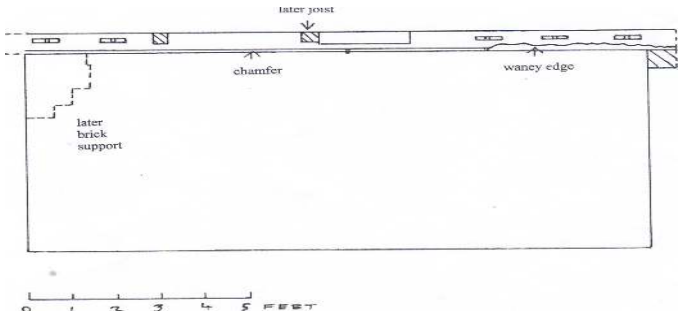


Fig 6 Totos, Museum Street, Colchester
cross section of cellar looking west

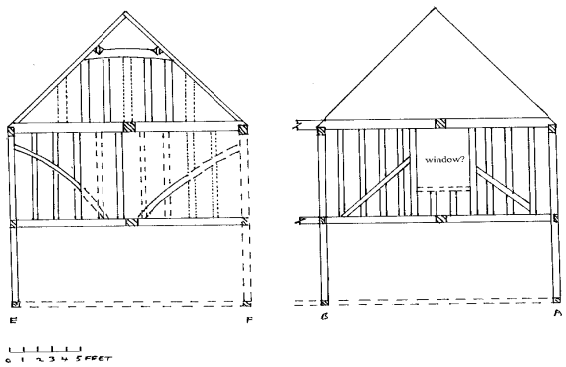


Fig 7 Totos, Museum Street, Colchester
cross sections E/F and B/A

A MESOLITHIC TRANCHET ADZE FROM NORTH ESSEX

Hazel Martingell

A small Mesolithic tranchet adze was recovered by Patrick Spencer from the area of Church Hall Farm near Wormingford, North Essex. It measures 10.3 h x 4.8 w x 2.9 b cms. The raw material is a composition of coarse and fine silica-rich flint, light grey in colour and stained a light brown ochre. Originally it was probably a cobble-stone from the river Stour valley. It is carefully knapped, with the tranchet removals across the ventral surface (pers. com. Roger Jacobi).

These adzes could be used for a variety of purposes mainly to do with the processing of wood, i.e. timber for huts and logboats. It should be remembered we are considering a time before settlement and agriculture.

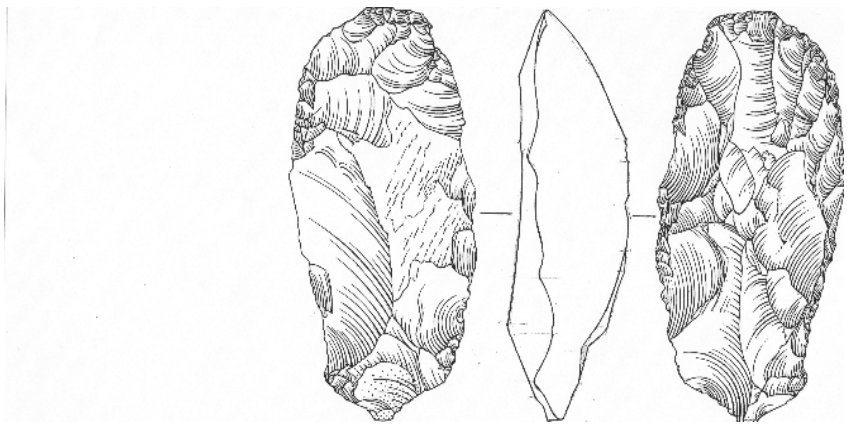
This adze was found very near to the multi-period site, which includes the Mesolithic, in the Lodge Hills, Wormingford. (1)

This is one of at least 17 tranchet adzes found in Essex. Noteworthy; all from single artefact contexts, except for those found at Wicken Bonhunt in 1986. (2)

Refs.

(1) Andrew White 2007. Lodge Hills, Wormingford CAG Bulletin 47 pp.14-22
(2) Bari Hooper 1986 Wicken Bonhunt: the Prehistoric Occupation Saffron Walden Museum Archive, unpublished report.

Acknowledgement: with thanks to Patrick Spencer for his contribution to this note.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF DEER PARKS AND PARK BUILDINGS IN ESSEX

John Moore

It is generally accepted that the re-introduction of fallow deer into England around 1100 AD by Henry 1 was the major impetus behind the creation of deer-parks, and thus successful deer farming and hunting. There is, however, evidence that deer hunting took place in Britain during Saxon times. Ælfric, a tenth century monk, wrote: "*I weave myself nets and set them in a suitable place, and urge on my dogs so that they chase the wild animals until they come into the nets unawares and are thus ensnared; and I kill them in the nets... I kill stags in the nets*".

Essex is one of the few counties where a form of deer enclosure is documented prior to the Norman Conquest, in the will of Thurstan, dated 1045 (figure 1). It is also one of the few counties in which the Domesday Survey of 1086 specifically mentions a park, in Rochefort (Rochford).

figure 1

ȝ ic an mine cnihtes
þat wude at Angre. buten
þat derhage ȝ þat stod þe ic
þer habbe.

and I give to my pages the wood at Ongar, except the deer enclosure (literally 'deer hedge') and the stud which I have there.

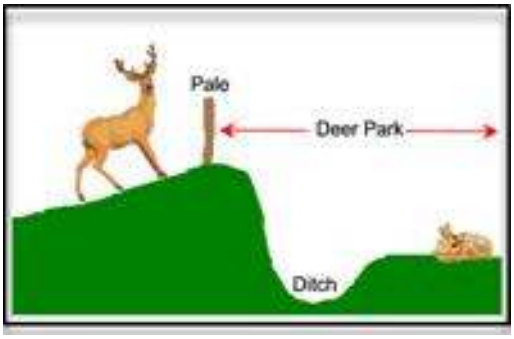
Extract from the will of Thurstan, 1045, with translation

One of the first, and most resented, acts of William the Conqueror after he took power in England in 1066 was the introduction of the Norman concept of 'Forest Law'. This involved the designation of large tracts of land as Royal forest, which were subject to special and harsh restrictions. These included laws prohibiting the hunting of large game, such as deer and wild boar, as well as small animals such as hares. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of 1087 records that *"[William] made many deer-parks, and he established laws therewith; so that whosoever slew a hart, or a hind, should be deprived of his eyesight. As he forbade men to kill the harts, so also the boars…. Likewise he decreed respecting the hares that they should go free. His rich men bemoaned it, and the poor men shuddered at it"*. In addition to blinding, the laws allowed other severe punishments for poachers, such as the removal of a hand or castration. In reality, however, according to the evidence of court proceedings, those found guilty were usually fined, imprisoned, outlawed or pardoned. The Pipe Rolls show that by 1150 the main effect of Forest Law was to provide revenue for the Crown. Forests continued to be created for the next hundred years or so, mainly by Royalty, although some members of the nobility and the Church were known to own them. Essex contained several Royal forests, including Epping, Havering, and Hatfield, although the precise number is the subject of debate. Oliver Rackham says that there were 4, the Essex Field Club claims "*at least 18*".

On the other hand, parks (from Old English *'pearroc'*, meaning a piece of land with a fence round it), could be created by anyone with sufficient wealth and land. Creating a park required three considerations. Firstly, a licence from the King to 'empark' (enclose the land). Secondly, a boundary fence (known as a 'pale') to effect the enclosure. This would normally have been constructed from wooden staves, but in some parts of the country stone, or, in rare cases brick, walls were built. Thirdly, the introduction of deer, or in some cases, wild boar. Essex still retains evidence of the latter, with some areas of bank and ditch, at Chalkney Wood near Earl's Colne. Here the de Veres, Earls of Oxford, *"bredd and mayntayned Wyelde Swyne"*. There were other items to consider as well. There would normally have been an external bank and an internal ditch dug around the park, the 'pale' standing on the bank (figure 2). This would enable wild deer to leap

into the park (but not other wild animals that might cause harm to the deer), but would not allow deer in the park to escape. In effect a deer park, although used for hunting, could be regarded as a larder where live meat was kept until it was required for the table. Later, in Tudor times, the sporting aspects of the hunt became more important than the food it produced. Several examples of former deer park boundaries remain in Essex, including Ongar Great Park, Braxted Park (inside the wall, which post-dates the deer park, the ditch is ten feet deep in places) and Norsey Wood, on the edge of Billericay (figure 3).

figure 2



The 'classic' park boundary, showing ditch, bank and 'pale'

figure 3

The remains of the bank and ditch at Norsey Wood. Billericay

In addition, a lodge was required to house the 'parker', who oversaw the day-to-day running of the park. The large number of poachable deer required a permanent presence, and the lodge would normally have been in an elevated position overlooking the park. The original structures would probably have been of timber construction, which could be rebuilt in brick or stone at a later date. A more complex lodge could provide a viewing gallery, plus shelter and/or refreshment for hunting parties. Many lodges were converted into manor houses or farm houses, and some were demolished and their sites re-used when the fashion for relocating the main family home into the park itself was adopted in the late sixteenth century. Two examples of this were at Great Easton near Dunmow, where a Tudor mansion (now demolished) was built on the site of the former hunting lodge and at Audley End, where the mansion still stands. Most, however, were demolished, with nothing left standing above ground level. An archaeological excavation at Writtle in the 1950s revealed the site of a Royal hunting lodge, built by King John in 1211, and used also by Kings Henry III and Edward I. Between 1999 and 2004, archeological investigations into land earmarked for the extension of Stansted Airport revealed the location of Stansted deer park and its associated hunting lodge. From 2007, Colchester Archaeological Group has been excavating the site of a Tudor hunting lodge at Wormingford. Other buildings could also be sited within a park, notably lookout towers or 'standings', which could be used as grandstands for spectators at a hunt, or platforms from which archers could shoot at deer being driven past. These 'standings' ranged from rudimentary (figure 4) to imposing, Essex having the most famous 'standing' remaining in Britain, known today as Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge (figure 5). A number of domestic buildings in the county have been identified as former lodges or standings, but their original shapes and construction are now unrecocognisable (for details see under bibliography).

Parks would usually consist of existing woodland (for shelter) and pasture (for grazing). Where pasture did not exist, 'launds' (grassy areas) were created by grubbing out existing woodland. Deer parks were status symbols, and few self-respecting noblemen would deny themselves the privilege of owning one. It has been estimated that over 2000 parks were created in England during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, peaking between the years 1200 and 1350, a

figure 4

Queen Elizabeth I on a 'standing', from Gascoigne's 'Book of Hunting', 1575

figure 5

The 'Great Standing' built by Henry VIII in 1543 on the southern edge of Epping Forest, now known erroneously as 'Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge'

period of great economic growth. The landowners' wealth was increasing from improved agricultural techniques and the feudal system provided a plentiful labour supply. The decline of the Royal forests ensured that land was available. At least 160 parks are recorded in Essex between 1086 and 1535, which is a high density compared with other counties. Sir Richard Rich, Lord Chancellor to Edward VI, owned three deer parks in close proximity to his seat at Leez Priory near Felsted, as did the Waldegrave family of Smallbridge Hall, Bures St Mary, with two being on the Essex side of the Stour at Wormingford and one on the Suffolk side at Bures St Mary. It should be noted that even a small village like Wormingford had no less than four parks recorded within its boundaries – a medieval park at Gernons Manor (documentary sources), a presumably medieval park at Wood Hall Manor (field names), a medieval and later park at Wormingford Hall (documentary sources and field names) and a presumably Tudor park on Lodge Hills, (maps, documentary sources and field names). The size of parks could vary greatly – Havering Park was known to have been around 1,300 acres and Danbury Park around 120 acres.

By late Tudor times, county-wide maps were being produced, with a number of parks marked on them. John Norden showed 45 of them in 1594 (figure 6), and, in the gazetteer which accompanied his map, Norden pithily describes the area containing the Hundreds of Waltham, Ongar, Becontree and Havering, as *"full of parkes"*. His map, and others in the century following, is far from comprehensive, as there are a number of other known parks not shown, including Layer Marney, Great Braxted and Wormingford Hall. The creation of parks continued into the seventeenth century, but was brought to a standstill by the Civil War. During the Commonwealth, most of the remaining Royal forests were 'disparked', including Havering, and sold to fund the unpaid wages of parliamentarian soldiers. Parks were, however, still a feature of the landscape nearly two centuries later, map-makers Chapman and Andre illustrating 68 parks in the county in 1777, but by then many of them were no longer deer parks. During the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, there was a fashion for parks to be artificially landscaped, with much of the former woodland destroyed, and the deer either removed or relegated to outlying areas. In many former deer parks the historic 'pales' were destroyed or fell into disrepair, the deer escaping into adjoining land. By 1865 only 11 remaining deer parks were recorded in Essex (figure 7). Today, there are a small number of former parks maintaining deer enclosures, such as Layer Marney and Bedfords Park near Havering, whilst wild deer can sometimes be seen in other formerly enclosed parks, including Hylands Park near Chelmsford.

figure 6

Norden's map of 1594, showing the deer park on Lodge Hills, Wormingford, together with the Lodge

figure 7

Existing Deer Parks in Essex.

1.	AUDLEY END.	Lord Braybroke.
2.	THORNDEN .	Lord Petre.
3.	WYVENHOE .	Mr. Gurdon-Rebow.
4.	WEALD-HALL.	Mr. Tower.
5.	BELL-HOUSE .	Sir Thomas Barrett Lennard, Bart.
6.	EASTON .	Hon. Miss Maynard.
7.	HALLINGBURY	Mr. Archer Houblon.
8.	BRAXTED .	Mr. Ducane.
9.	LANGLEYS .	Mr. Tufnell.
10.	BOREHAM .	Sir John Tyrell, Bart.
11.	SHORTGROVE .	Mr. Smith.

The list of surviving deer parks in Essex in 1865

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B Thorpe - Diplomatarium anglicum aevi saxonici 1865
E Shirley - Some Account of English Deer Parks 1867
O Rackham - The History of the Countryside 1986
Victoria County History of Essex Vol IX 1994
Essex Field Club - Essex Parks 2004

BUILDINGS IN ESSEX IDENTIFIED BY ENGLISH HERITAGE AS FORMER HUNTING LODGES OR 'STANDINGS'

'Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge', Chingford - former 'standing' (see figure 5)
The Warren, Loughton - former 'standing'
Little Troyes, Faulkbourne - former 'standing'
Old House, Nazeing - former 'standing'
Oaks Farmhouse, Earl's Colne - former lodge or 'standing'
Barfield Farm, Doddinghurst - probably a former lodge or 'standing'
Boblow Farmhouse, Helions Bumpstead - probably a former lodge
Ploughden, Hatfield Broad Oak - possibly a former lodge or 'standing'
Cradle House, Coggeshall - possibly a former lodge
Little Lodge Farmhouse, Castle Hedingham - reputed to be one of the former hunting lodges of Hedingham Castle

Photographs of all the above, with the exception of Boblow Farmhouse, can be found on www.imagesofengland.org.uk John Moore's comprehensive survey of the historical background of Wormingford Lodge and Smallbridge Hall , including the history of the Waldegraves, is included in the CD version of this

A SMALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION IN PELDON CHURCH

Don Goodman

In February 2010 Colchester Archaeological Group was asked to carry out, on a voluntary basis, a small archaeological excavation in a trench 1.2m x 0.75m within the tower area of Peldon Church. A builder was to cut the area through concrete, we were then to excavate down to the natural, subject to our brief re human remains. On arrival at the site we found the builder had removed a large amount of spoil from the trench and placed it outside the church, and this we thoroughly searched for finds.

We cleaned the already exposed brick foundations and excavated the fill in the north-west corner down to natural sandy clay at a depth of 80cm to foundation gully, at which point water rose in the trench. Photographs were taken and plans were drawn to be forwarded to the churchwarden, Bill Tamblyn. Finds were identified and all were post-medieval, except for one sherd of pottery just below the mortar rubble layer; the sherd was identified by Steve Benfield of Colchester Archaeological Trust as an abraded hand-made sand-tempered sherd, Iron Age or Saxon. The finds have been labelled and returned to the church. They included nails, lumps of mortar and modern brick and tile. We noted slumping of brickwork to the south side of our trench, see photographs. No human remains were observed.

Our conclusion was that the fill may have been rubble from earlier floors in the tower or imported to make up the level for the modern concrete floor, which had an underlying polythene sheet as damp-proof membrane.

The sherd of pottery, if confirmed as Saxon, may be of great interest, as in the "Short History of the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Peldon" by the Revd Anthony W. Gough, mention is made of an Anglo-Saxon Will dated about 950 A.D. of Ealdorman Aelfgar of Essex, referring to an estate at *Piltendone* (Peldon), which is later included in the wills of two other members of his family, with the intention of founding a religious house at Stoke. If the sherd is Saxon it could indicate earlier Saxon activity on the site of the present church. A church is mentioned in Domesday Book, possibly a wooden one.

The excavation team were Anna Moore, Denise Hardy, John Mallinson and Don Goodman, all members of Colchester Archaeological Group.

Looking down trench

John Mallinson and Bill Tamblyn inspect the trench

BUTLERS FARM, WRABNESS: AN INLINE MEDIEVAL HALL BUILDING

Richard Shackle

I recorded Butlers Farm, Wrabness in 1996, when it was being renovated. The farmhouse was a complex consisting of a medieval house partly re-fronted in brick, two lean-to's covering the whole of the rear elevation, a 19th century extension with Gothic windows and building behind this extension used for agricultural purposes. Until about 1980 there had been a brick barn of 17th or 18th century date but this had been demolished to make money from the bricks.

The medieval house is built of oak with close studding and arch braces and tension braces. In between the studs was wattle and daub, some of it surviving in the rear wall and the partition between the parlour and the hall. The house had always been thatched but was completely re-thatched in about 1980.

The house had the standard medieval plan (Fig 1), parlour, hall, cross passage and service end. The parlour was a square room with a two bar mullion window in the rear wall (Fig 2) and presumably a matching one in the front wall. The end wall (Fig 3) is now very incomplete but it can be seen that it consisted of two jowled posts, close studding and a pair of tension braces. Two-thirds of the way up the wall can be seen two pieces of clamp pegged to the studs to support the joists of the upper room. Above the tie beam in the gable there was probably a window to light the upper room. This upper room was almost certainly the only floored bay in the original house, there being no floor over the open hall and the service end being too small to take an upper floor. There was an opening in the joists of the parlour for a stair trap (Fig 6). The stair trap would have been accessed by a steep ladder. As the trap partly overlaps the door to the hall it is likely that one could pass through the door from the hall, turn immediately right and go straight up the ladder.

The open hall consisted of two bays, a wide bay at the high end (Figs 1 and 2), with the fixed bench and hall window and the narrow bay with the cross passage. The open hearth was probably just to the south west of the central hall truss to avoid setting fire to the tie beam. The high end of the hall (Fig 4) has a large post towards its centre with two braces coming down symmetrical over the bench. The large peg holes in the studs show the position of the former fixed bench. The last stud before the doorway has mortices for a draught screen to protect the people sitting on the bench. The rafters in the roof, studs and daub of the bench are all sooted, showing how heavily sooted the whole hall must have been. The bridging joist and floor shown in this figure are from a later phase of the building. If we go back to Fig 2 and again ignore the joists and floor of the later inserted floor we can see that the hall window is unusual in that it does not go right up to the top plate. The window has a separate window head about two feet below the top plate. This is hidden in Fig 2 by the upper shutter runner which held the shutters in place. The lower shutter runner is missing as is usually the case. In the same figure we can see the rear doorway of the cross passage and a halved and bridled scarf joint in the top plate. The service end of the building is now entirely missing but I think we can be fairly certain that the present east end of the house was also the end of the service rooms. It is very likely that there were two service rooms as shown in Fig 1. Figure 5 is a reconstruction of what the rear of the medieval house might have looked like; obviously the service end is conjectural. The roof of the open hall consisted of rafter couples with double collars. The upper collars are not present but the whole roof is sooted so the upper collars have been missing for a long time or the rafters are reused. The roof has no longitudinal stiffening apart for the largish thatch battens which are heavily sooted. Thatched medieval

houses are uncommon in Essex except along the northern edge of the county which Wrabness is.

At some stage, perhaps early in the 17th century, the house was modernised with inserted floors and a brick chimney. The new floor in the hall (Fig 6) was supported at one end by the partition beam between the parlour and the hall and at the other end by a new timber which extended right across the building and out through the walls at either side by about one foot. This new timber was held against the outer walls by a large pin through the timber called a tusk tenon. The common joists were pegged into the bridging joist in the centre and supported at the outside by resting on the upper shutter runner which was already there. We know that there was an inserted ceiling over the service end because there is a mortice for a bridging joist cut into the new timber which spans the hall. To access the new room over the hall a door was cut through the upper part of the wall between the parlour and the hall. There was probably another staircase in the service end otherwise one would have an awkward crawl under the tie beam on either side of the new chimney. The new room over the hall was probably lit by a new dormer window in the thatch facing south east, while the new room over the service end was probably lit by a window in the gable. A brick chimney was inserted in the hall (Fig 7) between the posts of the central truss, cutting through the tie beam above but not the rafter couple over it. The new brick chimney in the hall was large enough for both heating and cooking. It probably replaced a detached outside kitchen as the new brick chimney would have caused less of a fire hazard. When they built the chimney stack did they keep both front and back cross passage doors or did they move the front door to opposite the new chimney to create a lobby entrance house?

In the 18th century the house was made to look more fashionable by replacing all the walls in brick, except the rear one (Fig 8). Three fine sash windows were put in the front elevation. In the west elevation there was a small window and a small brick chimney. The north-east wall incorporated a large brick kitchen fireplace, flanked on one side by a cupboard and on the other side by a small cupboard and a staircase. The rear wall was covered in wooden weather boarding. In the inner room the ceiling was made to look less rustic, first by nailing lath and plaster between the joists in the ceiling, then by putting in new lath and plaster which completely hid the joists.

The next development was probably the addition of two lean-to's along the back. One of these was likely to be a wash-house with a copper and chimney. It may also have functioned as a back kitchen for the preparation of meat and vegetables. The other lean-to may have functioned as a larder.

In the 19th century an extension was added to the north-east of the lean-to's. It had pointed Gothic windows and a thatched roof. Local legend has that this building was a chapel but it was probably built as a summer parlour and one other room.

Butlers Farm is a fascinating medieval inline hall house with many interesting features, such as the common rafter roof with double collars and thatch and the hall window which does not go up to the top plate. In the 17th and 18th centuries it underwent two interesting modernisations which are often not so easy to follow as they are here.

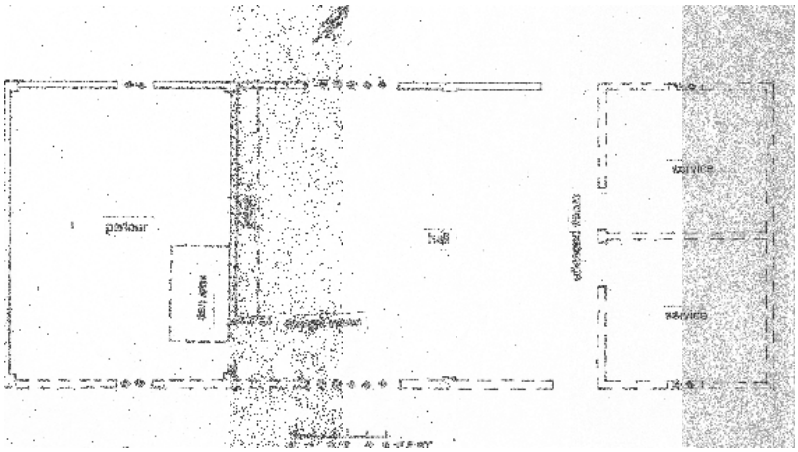
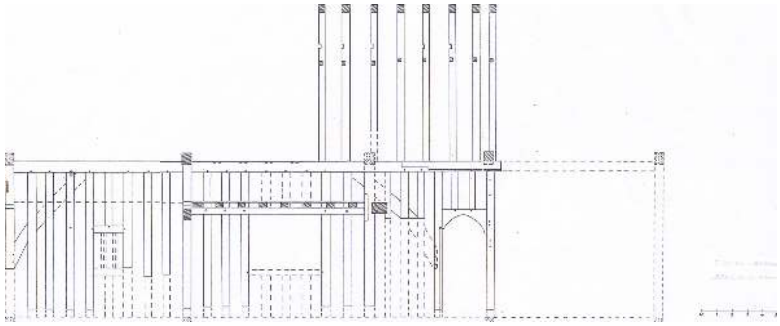


Fig 1 Butlers Farm , Wrabness, plan of medieval hall house



Feg 2 Butlers Farm, Wrabness, medieval hall house, rear wall from inside

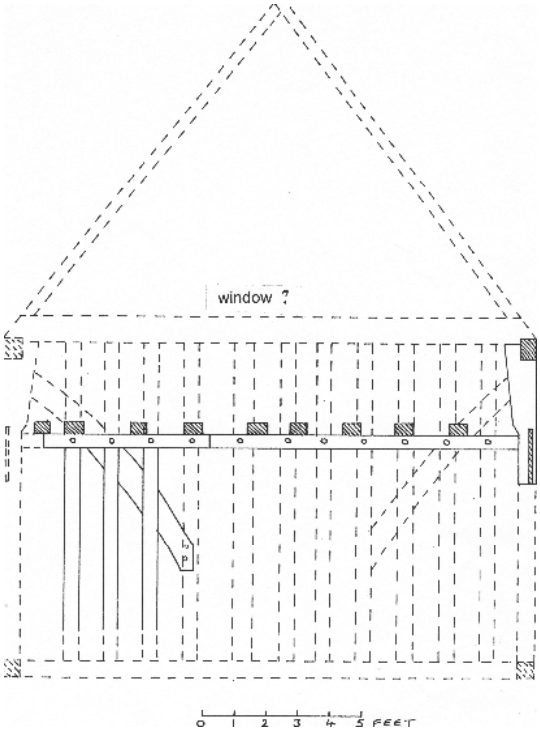


Fig 3 Butler's Farm, Wrabness, medieval hall house, end wall from inside

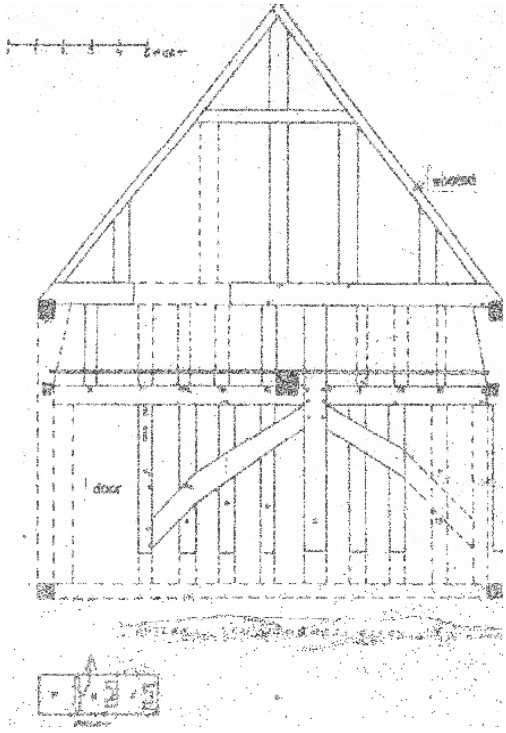


Fig 4 Butler's Farm, Wrabness, medieval hall house, high end of hall

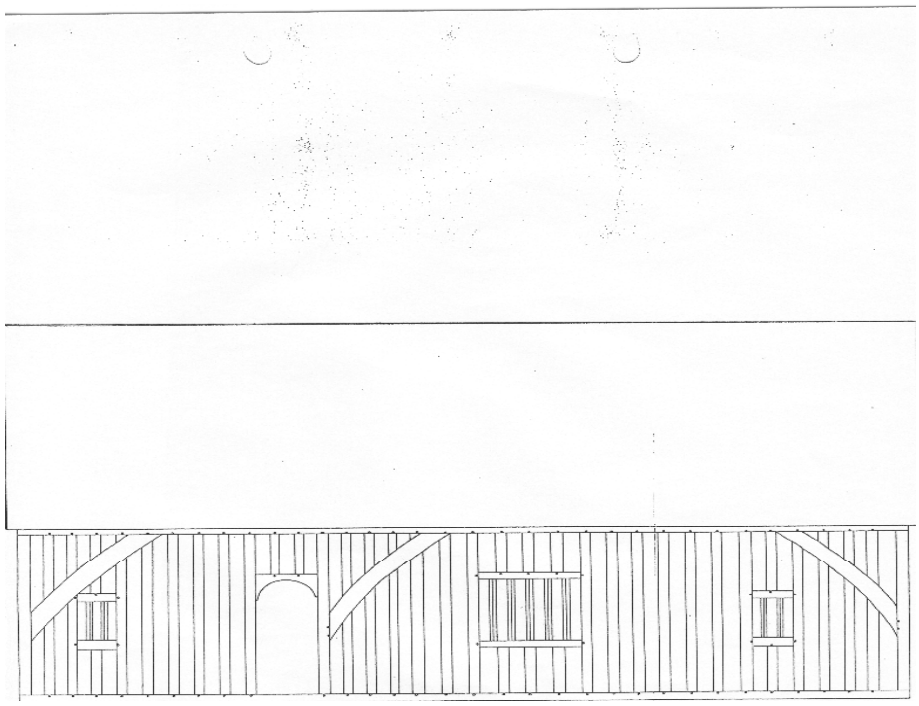


Fig 5 Butler's Farm, Wrabness, medieval hall house, reconstruction of rear elevation

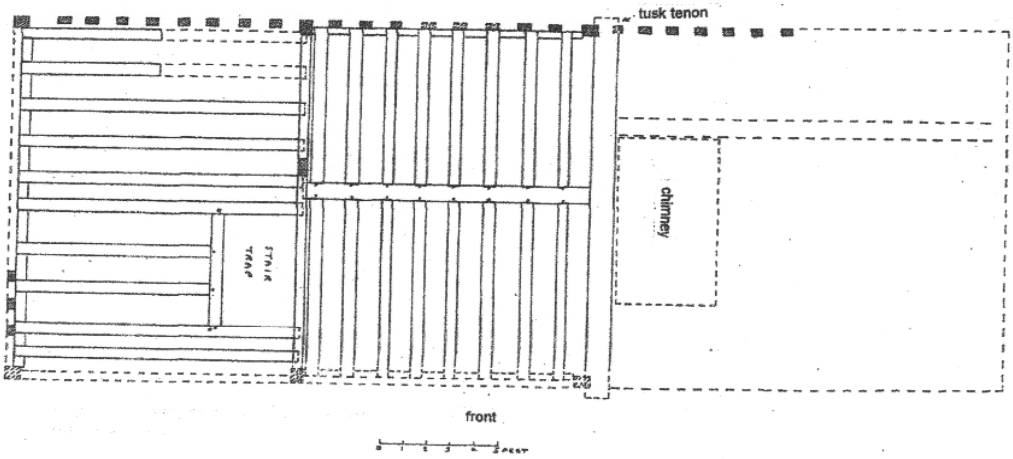


Fig 6 Butlers Farm, Wrabness, medieval hall house, joist plan of parlour and inserted floors in hall and service end

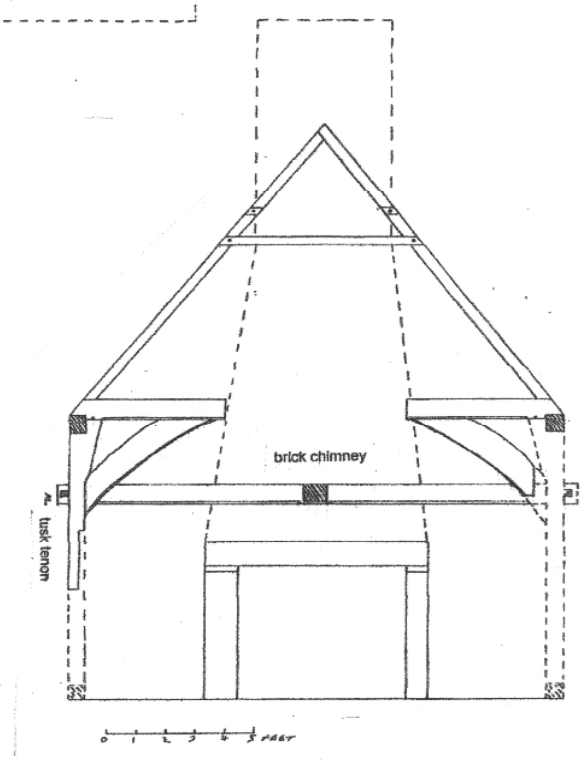


Fig 7 Butlers Farm, Wrabness, medieval hall house, central truss of hall and inserted brick chimney

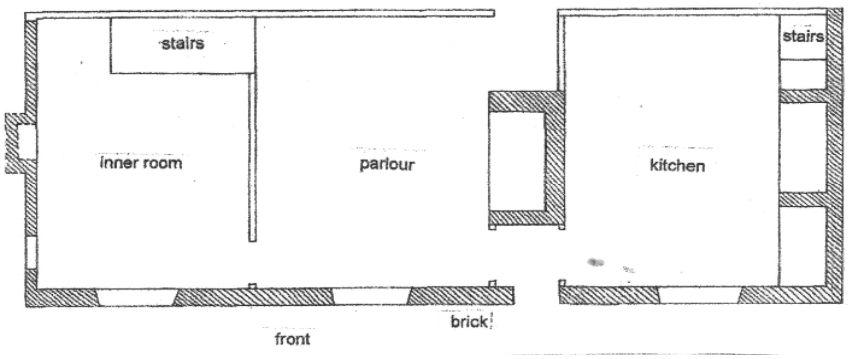


Fig 8 Butlers Farm, Wrabness, medieval hall house, plan of 18th century house

A RECENT VISIT TO TROY

Mary Coe

I spent ten days over Christmas 2009 in Turkey. The first five days were spent in Istanbul and we then travelled round more of the country, visiting important places such as Isnik (formerly Nicaea), Gallipoii and Troy. Christmas is an excellent time to go as the weather was perfect, not too hot or too cold and very little rain. There were few tourists about allowing us to see exhibits in museums easily and to walk round the places we visited without difficulty. For the visit to Troy we stayed for two nights at a hotel in the outskirts of Canakkale. The evening before, we were given a talk by our leader on the history of the site and what we could expect to see at Troy. The earliest settlement on the site at Hisarlik dates to the Bronze Age, when the Mycenaean Dynasty was at its peak. There were then several levels of occupation named from Troy 1 (3000-2500BC) to Troy IX, which is Roman. Although the area which has been excavated and opened to the public is small it is confusing because of the different levels. Excavations were started in 1868 by Heinrich Schliemann who was intent on finding the city written about by Horner in the "Iliad". Most of the upper layers were ignored to achieve his aim. It is unlikely that the Trojan War consisted of ten years continuous fighting, but took place seasonally. The true reason for the war was the Greeks' desire to gain control of the Hellespont, which meant first gaining control of Troy.

The next morning we travelled by coach to Hisarlik, where we picked up our guide Mustafa Askin, outside his hotel and souvenir shop. Mustafa was born in Hisarlik and so he knows Troy intimately. He came to England to learn the language and then studied to be a tour guide so that he could show people around the site. From an almost full coach park we met up by a replica wooden horse and Mustafa introduced himself before giving a short introduction to the site. When he had finished a few of us took a closer look at the horse. It is a large construction with a ladder giving access to the inside. Along each side there are some small windows and on the top there is a shed-like construction which can also be entered. I climbed up to this level from where I could see that the group were beginning to gather.

We entered the site through a gate in the walls of Troy VI (1700-1250BC). This was thought at one time to be the Troy of the Trojan Wars but the walls appear to have been damaged by an earthquake. The gate is on the eastern side of the hill and the walls have survived for several courses. The walls slope as that makes them stronger than a vertical wall in the event of an earthquake. The gate itself was wooden and placed between two overlapping walls but around a corner so that it could not be seen from outside. It also meant that there was no room to manoeuvre a battering ram. This gate is the start of a path which leads visitors round the site. Beyond the gate we stopped at a spot from where we could see the plain surrounding Troy. Mustafa explained how the site at Hisarlik compared favourably with the description given by Homer in the "Iliad". Hisarlik is not far from the Hellespont, now called the Dardanelles, nearby there are two rivers and the hill is steep. Homer also said that the site was windy and on the day I was there that was certainly true. We were standing on the platform of the Roman Temple of Athena. On either side of the path there were large blocks of carved stones which had come from the temple. Continuing along the path, we stopped by some walling protected by a large awning. This wall dated to about 3000BC, the time of Troy I. There are a few courses of stone, on top of which are several layers of mud bricks. On top of this there had been a timber fence which had been destroyed by fire.

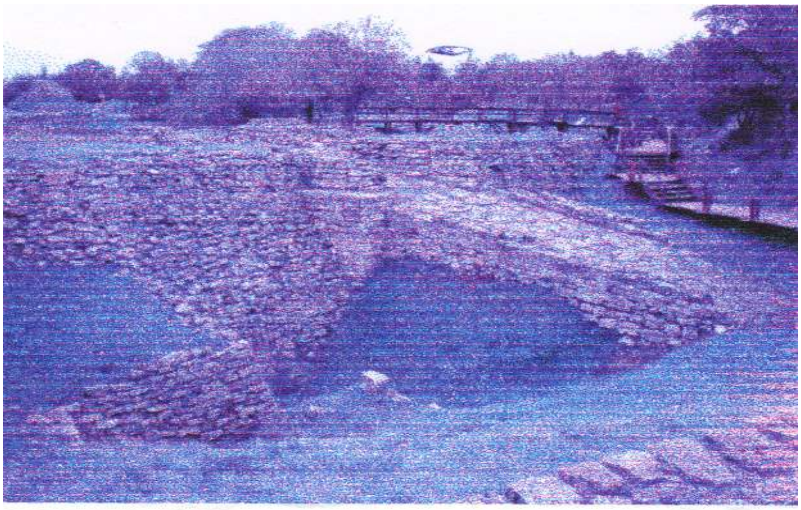
In the coach we stopped for another view of the plain. In front of us was a huge trench across which were the bases of some stone walls. This trench had been dug by Schliemann and the walls were the remains of houses of Troy I. Our next stop was at a section which had been left partially excavated, to show the stratigraphy. Each level of Troy was labelled with Troy IX at the top. This showed how complicated the site was as at one point a part of Troy III is shown at a higher level than Troy IV. Leading down from a gate in the walls of Troy II there is a paved ramp. When Schliemann found this ramp he believed that he had found the gate through which the Trojans had taken the wooden horse into the city. Schliemann had made a wrong assumption as this gate and ramp had been covered for many centuries by subsequent levels of Troy beneath the one of Priam's city. The path then led us away from the wails of Troy II, to the walls of Troy VI. These walls remained in use during the time of Troy VII. The Trojan War is believed to have taken place during the end of Troy VI and the beginning of Troy VII. A gate here, on the west side, gave another view over the plain around the hill. In the far distance there are two tumuli, known as the Tumulus of Ajax and the Tumulus of Achilles, but no evidence has yet been found to justify the names. Our tour of the site ended close to where it had begun, among the ruins of Roman Troy. The buildings here include an odeon, a bathhouse and a Senate House. All this was built over and around the site of the South Gate of Troy VI/VII. Constantine had wanted to make Troy his capital but the plains were swampy and fewer ships were sheltering in the harbour. The currents of the Hellespont meant that ships had difficulty making the passage into the Bosphorus unless the winds were favourable, so ships sheltered at Troy to wait for the right conditions. By the time of Constantine, ships' crews had learnt the skill of tacking so could sail through the channel into the Bosphorus against the wind. Because of this, ships no longer took shelter at Troy so the city lost its greatest source of wealth. The result was that Constantine built his capital at Constantinople and Troy was left to decline.

Our guide, Mustafa, left us now that we had completed the circuit of the site. On our way round we had often had to stand to one side to allow other groups to pass us, and our tour had lasted almost twice as long as the usual tour. We were given some free time and I went round the site again, taking some of the short paths off the main path. It was obvious that without a guide the site would not have made much sense. On leaving the site by coach we stopped at Mustafa's shop where guide books and souvenirs were available. As Mustafa wanted to get to Canakkale, we gave him a lift. In Canakkale we had lunch before boarding the ferry to cross the Dardanelles to the Gallipoli Peninsula. Going from the site of a battle which took place in about 1200BC to a battle site of 1915 was of interest and allowed an exercise in 'compare and contrast'. The Trojan War took place over ten years in a small area around a hill. The Gallipoli Campaign lasted only a matter of months but the fighting took place over the whole of the large peninsula. In both battles many young men last their lives. The Greeks attacked Troy as they knew that control of Troy meant control of the Hellespont, where wealth came from ships sheltering in the harbour. The Allies wanted to take Gallipoli to keep Russia on their side. Having control of the Dardanelles would give the Russians access all year round from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean.

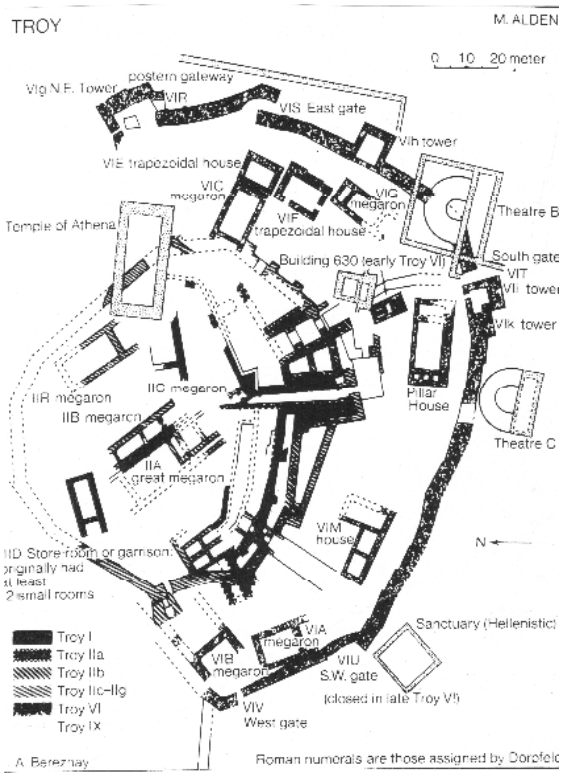
In the evening, at the hotel, we were shown a video taken by the hotel owner showing the current excavations. These are being undertaken by the University of Tubingen, Germany, with help from Turkish, English, Austrian and Dutch archaeologists. Not only were people seen digging

but the finds processors also featured. The new excavations have discovered an earlier settlement under the ruins of Troy I, pushing the date back to 3500BC. Byzantine graves have been found throughout the site, most recently near the theatre. Either we should add the settlement of Troy X, following on from Roman Troy IX, or the site was considered by the Byzantines as a sacred site suitable for burials.

Most of the above is based on the notes I took at the time of my visit. Additional information came from the guide book "Troy, A Revised Edition", written by Mustafa Askin, who had been our guide round the site.



The gate and ramp of Troy II



AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELDWALK IN MILL ROAD, FORDHAM

Report prepared by Jenny Kay

Summary

This is a is an extract from the full report on a fieldwalking project carried out in 2003 by Fordham Local History Society to investigate the likely existence of a Roman villa. The field-walking took place on 30 and 31 August and the recording of the finds by the end of 2003. The organisation and presentation of the data was completed in November 2007. The field-walking survey was comprehensive and details of all finds are to be found in the full report. A full analysis of the Roman finds is offered in this extract and reference is made to the flint found. The predominance of Roman finds supports the presence of a Roman villa on the site and suggests a likely location.

Location

The site is located centre TL 930278. The two fields walked are adjacent to the eastern side of Mill Road, on south facing slopes leading down to the river. Access was by a field entrance. The area totalled 3.48 hectares. (Fig 1)

Background

The use of Roman building material in the walls of All Saints church had given rise to the likely theory that a Roman villa was present somewhere in the vicinity. With the support of the farm manager Fordham Hall Farm had become a venue for metal detecting.

A small excavation was undertaken by members of the Colchester Archaeological Group in 1984 when the site of a burial (TL 930275) was discovered by R D Page and J E Davis when metal detecting. Two burials were found suggesting the likely existence of a Roman villa. (Davies 1984)

In 2002, Colchester Archaeological Trust carried out a field walking survey on behalf of the Woodland Trust. The Trust had acquired the lease for the farmland proposing to plant trees. The two fields at the location of the burial were not to be included in the planting programme and were therefore not included in the archaeological field survey as the remit was to investigate any indication of previously unknown sites. (CAT 218 2002)

The Roman brick found on a neighbouring field indicated the existence of a Roman villa. A quantity of prehistoric flints show that there must have been prehistoric living sites on the Fordham banks of the River Colne in the Neolithic/Bronze Age.

Interest in the archaeology of Fordham has been heightened by the survey in which some members of Fordham Local History Society had also taken part. This interest and experience together with the support of June and John Wallace who had given a talk to the Society on the subject led to the decision to fieldwalk the area of likely Roman habitation. Permission was acquired from the Woodland Trust by Fordham Local History Society . The project started in August 2003 with the support of the Nayland Fieldwalking group and the Colchester Archaeological Trust.

Aim

The intention was to seek further supporting evidence for the existence and location of a Roman villa and to add to the evidence of Neolithic settlement identified by the survey completed in 2002. The initial intention was to provide data compatible with that presented in the

CAT report 2002, enlarging the area of Fordham surveyed.

Method
Using GPS and the grid reference a 20m grid was laid out over the site which slopes southwards down towards the river. Fig 2 shows the area walked and the grid numbering system used. The ground had been regularly used for cultivation and had been ploughed and harrowed in preparation for the next crop. It was dry and dusty. Uncultivated areas, of about 30 to 40 m around each field had stubble, grass and weeds. The weather conditions were dry and bright.

A 10% sample of the whole area was taken, walking from south to north collecting finds up to 1 metre each side of the grid. Walkers were instructed to collect anything man-made. Experienced walkers gave initial guidance to those from the Fordham Local History Society who were doing this for the first time. John and June Wallace were available with advice on the finds, particularly on worked flint. No differentiation was made between the experienced and novice walkers.

The finds were washed in Fordham, validated, weighed and recorded at the Colchester Archaeological Trust. Fieldwalking record sheets were completed. The survey was not perfect. It was discovered on recording the data that one 100m line G7 F- J had not been walked.

Results
Character of the finds All artefacts were included in the analysis except slate found only in two squares and slag found only in one. A total of 60.19kg of material was recovered for statistical analysis averaging 17.3kg/ha over the area surveyed. The largest component, 73.5%, was Roman brick and tile of which tile represented 80%. Flints, both worked and burnt, represented less than 3%. Post medieval peg tile represented 13.4% of the total by weight in this survey. 9.6% of the total was classified as uncertain brick and tile.

Quantification The initial intention to use the formula used in the CAT report 2002 presented problems. In order to produce this report it was decided to treat the project as distinct from the CAT work and present the data using the mean average. The weights and number of finds for each type were aggregated for each 100 square metres. The distribution pattern for each type is based on the mean. The overall number of squares walked was 348. The total weight for each type is divided by the number of squares walked.

Example – Worked Flint
Flints were weighed to the nearest gram
Total Weight 874g / Squares walked 348 = 2.51g
All flints: up to 2 g are below the mean
from 3g to 4g are above the mean
from 5g to 7 g are 2 x mean
from 7g to 9g are 3 x mean
from 10 more 4 x mean
The relationship to the mean for finds was noted on the fieldwalking record sheets. Diagrammatic maps (Figs 4 to 13), with circular symbols to represent the weight of finds in relation to the mean, were drawn up to show the distribution of each type of artefact found. Locations for mortaria and amphorae are shown on the map of Roman pot (Fig 6) and locations for tesserae and flue tile on the Roman tile map (Fig 11). During the analysis it was noted that the weight of one sherd of mortaria had not been included. Its position is noted on the

map.

Prehistoric Finds (Figs 4 and 5)
Worked flints: Total collected 68 Average weight per 20m box 2.51g
Burnt flint: Total collected 33 Average weight per 20m box 2.45g
Worked flints were distributed across the two fields, burnt flints were found in both fields but predominantly in the lower field.

Roman Finds (Figs 6, 10 and 11)
Roman pot: Total collected 20 Average weight per 20m box 0.45g
Roman brick: Total collected 35 Average weight per 20m box 13.38g
Roman tile: Total collected 867 Average weight per 20m box 113.80g
Roman brick and tile was the largest group of all material collected. It was concentrated in the upper field where the burials were excavated in 1984 and the possible site of a Roman villa was indicated (Davies 1984). Among the tile were 9 tesserae and 5 flue tiles. All of the tesserae and 4 pieces of the flue tile were found in the area of dense distribution of Roman brick and tile. The finds of Roman pot seemed relatively small. One piece of amphora and three pieces of mortaria were identified.

Discussion
The initial intention to incorporate the data with that of CAT 2002 has not yet been achieved. It proved difficult to overcome the statistical problems. The diagrams in the two reports are not comparable as different scales of representation have been used. However some comparisons can be made using the average weight per hectare of the finds, in particular with reference to the Roman finds which were the main focus of this fieldwalk survey.

Almost 6 times more material was collected per hectare than that recovered in the larger survey; 17.3kg/ha to 3.0kg /ha. That 80% of this was Roman brick and tile seems to confirm the presence of the Roman villa in the fields walked. The low weight of brick to tile may be explained by the presence of Roman brick in the walls of the nearby church. The heavy distribution of Roman finds in the NE corner of the upper field (F97, F98. G7 and G8) seems to indicate a location for the villa within a reasonably small distance, north of the burial site. High levels of tile were collected in 2002 from adjacent areas.

In contrast to the amount of Roman brick and tile, only 5 flue tiles and 9 tesserae were identified. Most were located in G7. Roman pottery finds too were relatively small and seemingly insignificant. This could be due to the spread of pottery in manuring the fields Low quantities were also recorded by the CAT Survey in 2002, possibly suggesting that the land was used for pasture. The presence of flue tile and tesserae might indicate a high status site as previously suggested by Davies (1984) on the excavation of the burials, one of which was in a lead coffin.

The weights of struck and burnt flint were low in relation to those collected in neighbouring fields in 2002 but still consistent with the potential of prehistoric habitation.

Conclusions
The finds collected in this survey has provided significant supporting evidence of the presence of Roman habitation in Fordham. A possible site for the Roman villa has been defined.

Further Action

A geophysical survey of the area defined by the data would be the next step to take. This would require further permissions from the Woodland Trust working in co-operation with the landowner.

References

CAT Report 218 2002 An archaeological fieldwalking evaluation at Fordham Hall Farm, Fordham Essex, prepared by Howard Brooks

Davies G.M.R 1984 Roman Burials and a new villa at Fordham Colchester Archaeological Group Bulletin Vol 27 pp 44 and 32)

Acknowledgements

Fordham Local History Society offers special thanks the Woodland Trust for permission to carry out the survey and to David Bradshaw, farmer, who kept us informed of the cropping and ploughing process and worked in with our plans. We are extremely grateful for the time and energy, help and guidance of the Nayland Fieldwalking group led by June and John Wallace who also prepared the statistics and to David Sims who set out the grid. Special thanks also go to Howard Brooks of the Colchester Archaeological Trust for all his help and support.

A fuller version of this report is available on the CD version of this Bulletin..

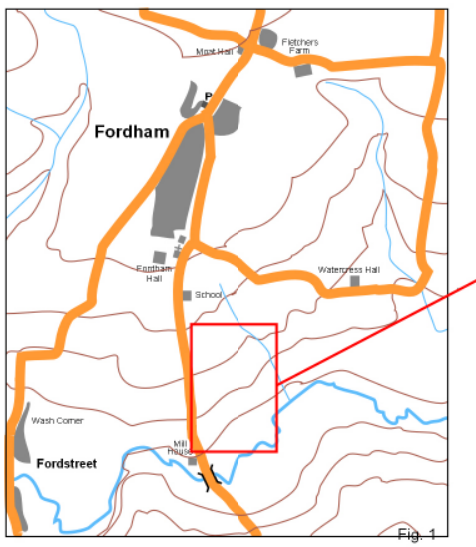


Fig. 1

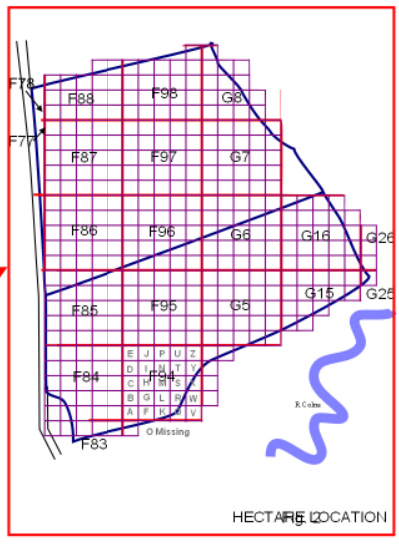
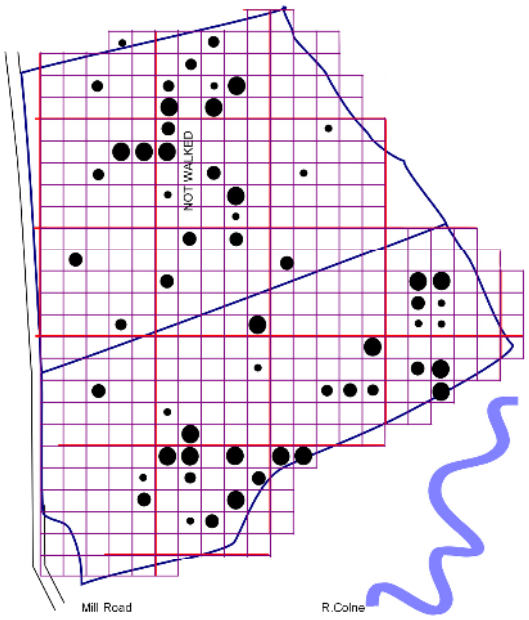


Fig. 2



AV X 4
AV X 3
AV +
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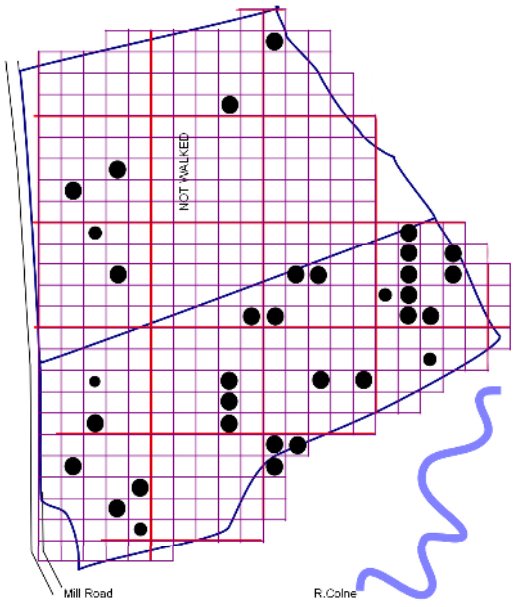
Fig. 4

WORKED FLINT

FORDHAM FIELDWALKING AUGUST 2003



AV X 4
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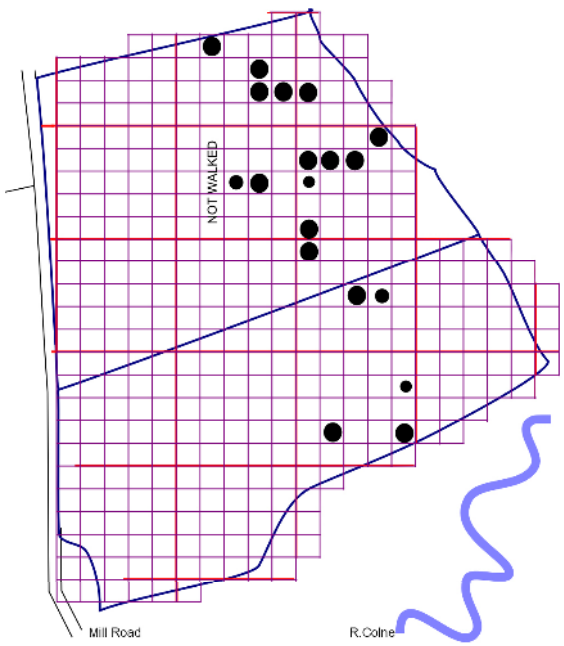
AV (MED) -

Fig. 5

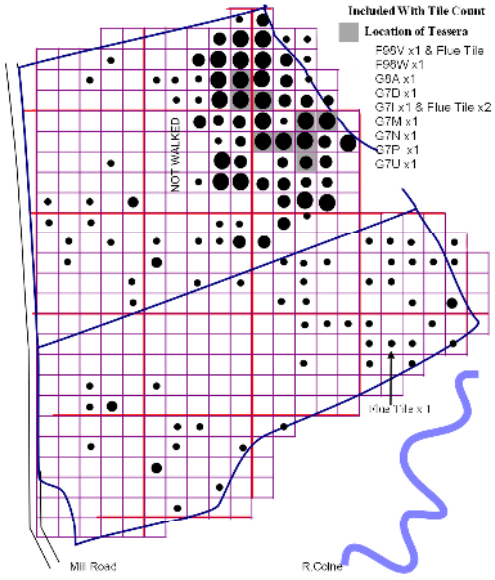
BURNT FLINT

FORDHAM FIELDWALKING AUGUST 2003



AV X 4
AV X 3
AV +
AV -

Fig. 10
ROMAN BRICK
FORDHAM FIELDWALKING AUGUST 2003



AV X 4
AV X 3
AV +
AV -

Fig. 11
ROMAN TILE
FORDHAM FIELDWALKING AUGUST 2003

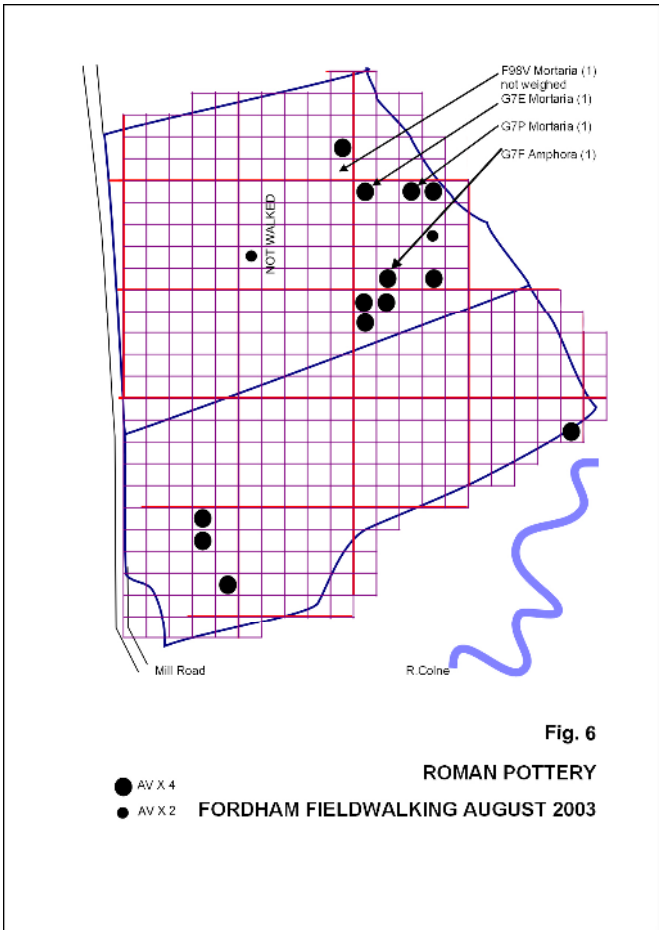


Fig. 6

ROMAN POTTERY

FORDHAM FIELDWALKING AUGUST 2003

Looking east towards Colchester from the Fordham site

GLASS BOTTLE SEALS FROM WORMINGFORD

Andrew White

Glass bottle seals were made from a blob of glass which was used on wine bottles from the 1600;s. Wealthy wine drinkers had their own specially made bottles which were personalised by a blob of glass attached to the main body of the bottle. When this blob was still pliable it was impressed by a stamp to mark the bottle with a seal. The seal could be initials, a coat of arms, or a crest or similar pattern that would distinguish the bottle for the person or family who had commissioned it. The finished effect was very much like a wax seal used in letters at the time.

Tavern keepers also personalised their bottles and used a seal that was in the form of their tavern sign with a date. The two pubs which have existed in Wormingford are the Crown and the Queen's Head . The bottle seals found at Lodge Hills, Wormingford appear to have two sets of initials W H either side of a bishop's mitre and a J or I K.

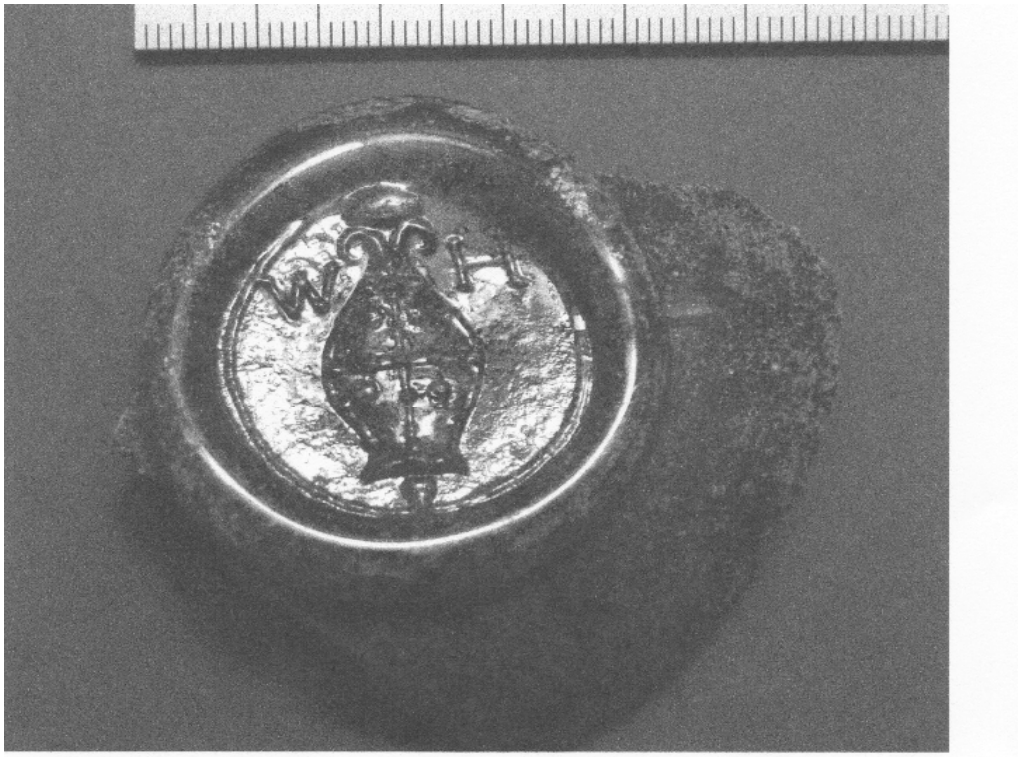
The 18th century births, deaths and marriages records for the parish show a William Harvey buried in 1712, a William Herd buried in 1732, a William Harvey (presumably grandson) baptised in 1760, and a William Hammer who was baptised in 1765. There are no records of substantial landholdings by any of the above.

The tithe records show that Joseph Kingsbury took out a lease on Wormingford Hall in 1728. There is a single reference in the parish records of the 18th century to a Mrs Kingsbury, wife of John Kingsbury, buried in 1730. At the time of the Tithe Award of 1838 a Joseph Kingsbury had become a substantial landowner in the parish. There are no references to an I K in the parish records or tithe register.

William Hobson lived in Tottenham and made his fortune building Martello Towers; he invested in land and property, buying some land in Wormingford in 1809 and Wood Hall in 1810. By 1838 a William Hobson had become another substantial landowner, possessing Wood Hall Farm, Grove Farm, and the old village workhouse as well as other lands throughout north-east Essex.

Wormingford Hall sounds a logical possibility for W H but I suspect the use of personalised initials was the more fashionable. The search for the owners of the seals is therefore somewhat inconclusive but is seems likely that Joseph Kingsbury and William Hobson were fellow imbibers at Lodge Farm in the early 19th century.

Two bottle seals from Lodge Hills, Wormingford



REPORTS OF LECTURES 2009-10

EARLY ROMAN QUARRYING AND BUILDING STONE USE IN SOUTHERN BRITAIN

Kevin Hayward, Pre-Construct Archaeology
12th October 2009
Report by Bernard Colbron

Kevin started by explaining his background and the basis of his research. He then explained that stone used for tombs was not always as named. Through his research he identified a number of similar types of stone that had been used. Most stone in Southern England is unsuitable for carving, and no traces of Roman quarries in this area have been found.

His chosen technique was to take 10 to 20mm samples obtained from a sample collection, then subject these samples to various tests with mixtures and microscope. Samples were taken from early Roman tombstone with 62 architectural samples from 14 quarry centres, 11 sourced from different parts of Southern England. The results produced 17 different free-stone types.

One result was that the Colchester Longinus tombstone was not, as thought, of Bath oolite, but Painswick fine limestone, polished to resemble white marble. It was the best stone, also used in high quality work in the provinces, and had been used for guttering on villas. .

Neither was the Facilis tombstone of Bath oolite, but a coral-rich limestone from Northern France. There is a question of whether the tombstone was carved here or on site and the inscription added later

Both these cases highlight the importance of Colchester at that time (mid-1st century) bearing in mind the distance the stone had to be transported, mainly by water. Only the Roman army had the resources to quarry and transport such stone. Both the Painswick and Lincoln quarries were within 10km of a major legionary base – Gloucester in the case of Painswick, and when the legions left the widespread use of its stone ceased.

The earliest freestone has been found in Southwark, the river Thames being instrumental for the supply of Bath stone to London.

We now know far more about where the stone comes from and the quarries. The findings can be used to identify stone for repairs.

Further research will be to look into footprints of rock in medieval buildings and a range of other sediments such as sandstone.

ARCHAEOLOGY, SAFFRON WALDEN MUSEUM AND THE HERITAGE QUEST CENTRE 1832-2009

Carolyn Wingfield, Curator, Saffron Walden Museum
October 19th 2009
Report by Dorothy Townend

Carolyn Wingfield began her talk by saying the title should be 'From Mr. Archer's Urn to Stansted Airport', as the first item in the finds record at the Museum was a small Roman urn found in 1832 in the Almshouse Meadows, Saffron Walden and donated by Mr. Archer, and the collection continues through to the Bronze Age Village finds, discovered in 2000 during the construction of the mid-term car park at Stansted Airport.

In 1832 the Saffron Walden Natural History Society passed a resolution to found a museum and it was opened in 1835. The Society, now known as the Museum Society, still owns the building and collections, although since 1974 the Museum Service has been operated by Uttlesford District Council. It is one of the oldest local museums in the country.

Saffron Walden is situated in an area rich in archaeological sites dating from prehistoric times and through its network of contacts the Society rapidly built a collection which included many artefacts from the local area and further afield. A number of the Museum's early benefactors came from the local wealthy Quaker families including the Gibsons, the Tukes and the Frys. The donated finds include a prehistoric flint collection, Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery and cremations, and Roman, Saxon and Viking artefacts.

At first the collections were cared for by volunteers from the Society. In 1845 John Player produced a catalogue of acquisitions, this document was unique in its time. R.C. Neville, a noted antiquarian, published a book in 1847-48 about the early discoveries in the area and a small number of his finds were donated to the Museum. In 1880 George Nathan Maynard became the first paid curator. He put all the collections into an accessions register, he illustrated items, bound newspaper cuttings and kept lists of all correspondence. By the 1880's the Museum had 1,613 archaeological specimens. He was succeeded by his son Guy Maynard in 1904, who wrote a guide to the Museum's narrative text and with George Morris was involved in Geddes' Regional Survey.

The 1930's and after the Second World War was a lean time for archaeological finds in the area but the !960's saw the beginning of organised field work and further acquisitions from Great Chesterfield (a Roman town site) and Thaxted [(medieval finds).

The building of the M11 in the 1970's resulted in discoveries at Wendens Ambo (an Iron Age and Romno-British farm site) , Wicken Bonhunt (a mid-Saxon settlement) and Little Chesterfield (a ploughed-out barrow and cremations site). Excavations at Stansted Airport 1886-01 revealed a Bronze Age burial site at Duck End Farm and a Roman cemetery.

The Museum has now been given a £1 million Lottery grant to build a Heritage Quest Centre. This will be a building of 200 sq.m. over 2 floors to contain a Resource Centre for North-west Essex Collections including storage facilities, a centre for a programme of activities including an on-line search facility, preservation of new archives and the sorting of older collections. This should be completed by 2013.

DISPLAY AND PLEASURE: BANQUETING HOUSES AND THEIR GARDEN SETTINGS

Edward Martin, Suffolk Archaeologist and Garden Historian
26th October 2009
Report by Louise Harrison

Edward Martin gave us a fascinating insight into Tudor garden buildings. The earliest reference to a 'house of pleasjre' in England dates from 1501 at Richmond Palace. The word 'banquet' means both a feast and a bench, somewhere to sit. This helps to explain the wide variation of constructions which fall under the heading. Examples range from a simple arcaded seat through summerhouses and garden pavilions to towers. Usually the constructions were remote from the main house and associated with water features, perhaps built on a little island in the middle of a lake. Sometimes they took the form of towers from which both the garden and the land beyond the garden walls could be surveyed. Sometimes, as at Freston Tower, Suffolk, they were situated outside the garden in a deer park.

The idea of a viewing tower as part of the main house was also very popular throughout the 16th century (for example at Longleat and Burleigh) and, in the form of a little observation place on top of a house, lasted until the 18th century.

These pleasure buildings were highly decorative and sported expensive window glass. Many included kitchens in the basement for feasting purposes. Along with deer parks and dovecotes, they were status symbols built principally to display the owner's wealth and impress visitors.

Edward Martin's talk opened my eyes to a greater understanding of the life of wealthy Tudors and has increased, immeasurably, my appreciation of Tudor gardens.

CLASSICAL SITES IN LIBYA

Tony O'Connor, District Museum Officer, Epping Forest District Museum
2nd November 2009
Report by Mary Coe

Tony O'Connor has been involved with archaeology in Libya for many years. He was first there in 1981, working on an UNESCO project and he was back there in the 1990's at Ptolemais. Libya was divided into two areas, Tripolitania in the west and Cyrenaica in the east. The main cities of Tripolitania were Tripoli, Lepcis Magna and Sabratha and these were under the influence of Rome. Cyrenaica, to the east of the Gulf of Suit, was the site of Greek cities such as Cyrene, which is the oldest, Ptolemais and Apollonia. The landscape of Cyrenaica is dominated by the coastal area where most of the settlements are. Beyond this are the uplands which give way to semi-desert and desert. According to legend, the nymph Cyrene was loved by Apollo. He took her from Thessaly to the Green Mountain in Libya. The art was influenced by both Roman and Greek styles. Ptolemais is on the coast. A number of mosaic floors have been found there which date to the late 4th century AD. They show continuity from pre-Christian to Byzantine design.

The management of water has always been important. Below floor level there were cisterns and water was brought by aqueduct from the foothills. The walls around Ptolemais were built in the 4th century BC. From the coast they follow the line of wadis to the first escarpments of the mountains. On a slope there was a Greek theatre and at the base of the slope there was a running track. Between the hills and the residential area was the water catchment area which fed the cisterns. The residential area was destroyed by an earthquake in AD 364 and it is the houses here that are now being excavated. Outside the fortified wall of Ptolemais there was a 6th century Byzantine church built of stone. In the 640's, the Arabs invaded Ptolemais and from that time the town declined. Near Cyrene was the Sanctuary of Apollo which was a large religious site. Next to the temple of Apollo there was a smaller shrine thought to have been dedicated to Apollo and Artemis. It had been rebuilt in the 4th century BC and rebuilt at various times after that. The sanctuary was visited by both Hadrian and Marcus Aurelius. The temple was later converted to Christian use.

In the centre of Ptolemais there is a crossroads which had been marked by a tetrapylon. Near here was a large house with a peristyle garden in which there had been a fish pond. The house included a bath suite, a hall with three apses and another larger hall with one apse. At the crossroads there was an apsidal building which had been a Byzantine church, later converted to a mosque. In the centre of the town there is a stone-built building with a stage and a sunken orchestra. From this there are rows of seats which are now in a ruined state. This was possibly an Odeon, used for recitals. There are steps leading down into the orchestra, which was lined with a water-proof material. Water could be fed into this area and at the time there was a vogue for water-dancing. An alternative possibility for this building could be a Bouleuterion, a type of Council Chamber. An area which could have been an Agora or a Forum has not yet been discovered.

To the west of Ptolemais, outside the walls, there was a cemetery with many funerary monuments. The stones of the sarcophagi had been carved. The area which was quarried for stone had originally been laid out as a garden around the tombs. Some of the tombs were tower tombs and one has survived almost to its full height. The quarrying respected the tombs which now appear to stand on plinths. East of the city there was an aqueduct and a small bridge carried this over a wadi. The aqueduct took the water from several wadis to large drains which emptied into cisterns.

The Palace of the Columns was a large building complex. There was a bathhouse and a few shops. The summer dining room looked out over a terrace to the coast. In the centre of the complex there was a large pool. Beyond that lay the winter dining room and other domestic rooms. Egyptian antiques had been collected and placed in the courtyard. The site at Ptolemais has produced a large quantity of material and is second only to Lepcis Magna in importance. He showed a picture of a basilica in Lepcis Magna from the time of Caracalla.

In response to questions, Tony explained that the excavators from various European countries have good working relations with the Libyans and many local people work at the sites. Local Libyan families also visit the sites as do parties of school children. Many sites are neglected and have become overgrown. They are under state management and would benefit from increased tourism. Because the country receives sufficient income from oil there is no incentive to promote tourism.

WOMEN IN THE IRON AGE: WIFE ON THE EDGE
Caroline McDonald, Curator of Archaeology at Ipswich Museum
9th November 2009
Report by David Brown

To ensure the audience remained attentive during the presentation Caroline posed a series of random questions relating to the identity of current celebrities appropriate to her topic with prizes being awarded for correct answers.

Caroline explained that the lecture was delivered from a pro-equality stance, covered the period from 800BC up to the Roman conquest, was derived in response to a presentation given by colleague Paul Sealey on the subject of 'Rulers, Warriors and Druids' and was based on sweeping generalisations, 'dodgy' history and a lack of archaeological evidence, due to no books having yet been written on the topic, historical information being written from a male (Tacitus, Pliny etc.) perspective many years after the event. Funerary evidence for this period is scanty.

Contemporary illustrations depict women in the Iron Age as watching proceedings from the periphery hence 'Wife on the Edge'

To answer the questions posed there was a need to look wider and consider similar cultures in the rest of Europe to find the evidence required, examining in detail many of the 'bog bodies' (Elling Woman, Haraldskaer Woman, Wetwang Chariot burial etc.) that have been discovered and date from this period. The lives of famous Iron Age women such as Boudicca or Cartimandua were examined and considered.

During her lecture Caroline explored the physical size, defining features, life expectancy, skeletal make-up/abnormalities, disease/illness, diet, hair colour, hair style, clothes, cosmetic use, jewellery, occupation, education, leisure pastimes, houses, status, marriage, sexual freedom, retail habits, child bearing duties, religious beliefs and wealth, of typical Iron Age women drawn from the entire class spectrum applicable to this period.

The punishment of women by their husbands following a perceived transgression during this period was also covered along with the impact of the Roman invasion, the transition from Iron Age to Romano-British woman and the role of religious ritual and feast days that provided an opportunity to widen the gene pool for many of the small Iron Age communities.

The presentation was widened to take account of a controversial anthropological view of life in the Iron Age in relation to the role of women. This view centres round the size and shape of domestic dwellings within Britain and across Europe during this period and suggests whether the relationship of the occupants was monogamous, polygamous or polyandrous.

It is known that women became leaders, commanded respect and that as goddesses were worshipped in the Iron Age but evidence exists to suggest that they may also have been druids.

In conclusion Iron Age women were in good health, able to own property, required to work hard, subject to a confined life if living in the countryside or a rural environment, exposed to a little bit of luxury on certain occasions, able in certain conditions to be formally educated and possessed sexual freedom with a 'free' choice of marriage partner.

The profile for a given Iron Age woman was determined by geography, wealth and the moment in time in which she was living during that period in history.

As a final and interesting note Caroline concluded her presentation by proposing and providing evidence to suggest that the Roman burial of a suspected doctor at Stanway, could in fact have been a woman.

During the question and answer session that followed the presentation questions relating to the use of 'cosmetic grinders', the population in the Iron Age and whether during this period men were concerned with a woman's appearance were proposed and duly answered.
A fuller and more detailed account of the lecture is available on the CD version of this Bulletin.

ANGLO-SAXON FINDS FROM CODDENHAM

David Cummings, Ipswich Metal Detecting Club
16th November 2009
Report by Denise Hardy

David has spent over 40 years metal detecting, 20 of which have been with the Ipswich and District Metal Detecting Club, where he was chairman between 1988 to 2003. His first passion was coin collecting, especially the Victorian bun pennies circa 1869, the 1868 being rarer to find.

Permission was granted from the de Saumarez family of the 1,300 acre Shrubland Park estate at Coddenham, Suffolk, for David and his team consisting of Peter Murrell, Francis and Mary Cummings, Claire Thimble Thorpe, John Goodall and Mick Seager to metal detect Ladycroft 20 acre field. Close by lie the remains of Combretovium, two Roman forts, built on an earlier Celtic stronghold which is buried in the fields between Baylham Mill and Shrubland Hall. Subsequent ploughing at Ladycroft brought up rich black organic matter which has been proven to be Anglo-Saxon detritus, signs of habitation. The field has held a wealth of high status Anglo-Saxon artefacts ranging from coins, buckles, shield fitting to gold rings.

Buckles – over 130 have been found. At West Stow only 5 were found. The largest was 2 ½" long and many others were very tiny. Their top ends were all oval shaped and a few had "doodle" markings on the buckle plate, which had been scratched on afterwards, examples being of a bird design and an expanded cross (X). Buckle types: Merovingian 5%, Kentish 3%, scabbard 11%, normal 81%.
Sword fittings – sword pyramids were used to tighten sword scabbards. Copper-alloy with enamel inlays. 4 found, very rare.
Anglo-Saxon Garter Hooks – bindings were wound around the leg and under the shoe then fixed with these circular hooks.

Hooked Tags – were more elongated and exclusively Anglo-Saxon, not Roman. Decorated with rings and dots.
Styli and toilet implements – indicative of reading and writing. One copper-alloy with silver overlay
Coinage – Constantinian-type thrymsa, obverse: bust holding cross, reverse: Roman standard. Only two found, but more must have been produced as die-strike is faded.
A unique 'star' type with pentagram.. Reverse features a standard: 12% gold, remainder silver.
A Crispus-type thrymsa was struck from the same die but with different gold content. Copied from Roman coins.
Another Crispus-type thrymsa, but the only coin with full runic legend: 34% gold.
Visigothic tremissis of Justin II, 570-80AD - normally found in Kent.
Merovingian tremissis - very small, weight 1.32 grams, approx 80% gold content.
Transitional coin of Pada 675AD - very rare, only 20 world wide. 5% gold: by 685AD these were only made in silver.
First cut quarter of a tremissis of Bonifacius. High gold content.
Approximately 50/60 Anglo-Saxon silver sceattas with Kentish designs on reverse have also been found scattered around the site.
A unique gold coin with rare markings, Latin inscription, not been deciphered.
Part of the coin assemblage makes up the now famous "Shrubland" thrymas collection, verified with provenance by British Museum.
Shield fittings – 3 found with interlaced entwined beasts.
Dragon head terminal, gilded bronze, for ceremonial purpose.
Shield stud with iron staining, possibly used in battle.
Rings – Viking ring 87% gold, remainder silver: three strands braided together.
The Coddenham Gold Ring, a tube of gold with beaded rings soldered on outside. 91% gold, remainder silver/copper.
Other artefacts – 'Vandykes' on drinking horns and cups: only 1 found in low content gold, this had been 'pressed out'.
Rectangular ¾ in. dia. gold pendant.
Trapezoid gold fragment from arm of pectoral cross, cloisonné style with garnets having been prised out.
Anglo-Saxon spoon, the first found with a head at the end. 3½ – 4 in. long, decorated with 18 circles.
Merovingian bird brooch, bronze/copper alloy. Plain, unlike continental counterparts which are with garnets. Always with an iron pin on the back.
Possible hanging-bowl fitment in the shape of an Irish wolfhound – copper alloy and tinned: possibly had garnets in eyes.
Agraffe for weaving (to hold in position) 3 in. across, and a hone stone, are just many of the other artefacts that David showed pictures of. He had a small display of some of the above items, which was a delight to see.

David's talk was excellent, very informative with wonderful slides, questions were asked and through his love of metal detecting, a part of Anglo-Saxon history has been found and correctly recorded for all to enjoy.

THE GEOARCHAEOLOGY OF THE LONDON OLYMPIC SITE

Jane Corcoran, Geoarchaeologist and Head of Past Human Environment, MOLAS
23rd November 2009
Report by John Mallinson

The London Olympic Site, running north from Stratford up the valley of the River Lea, presented two significant challenges for the archaeologists charged with the pre-construction investigation of the site: Firstly the site was very large, and much of it was covered with up to five metres of Victorian and modern overburden. Both of these factors prevented detailed examination of anything other than a small percentage of the area, and the overburden prevented any conventional geophysical assessment which might have highlighted areas of particular archaeological interest.

Jane Corcoran described how geoarchaeology was used to target particular areas for subsequent detailed excavation. It was fortunate that a large number of core samples had been taken during the pre-construction evaluation of the site. Detailed examination of the geological and palaeobotanical content of these, coupled with similar examination of first phase construction sections, followed by computer analysis and projection, enabled creation of maps showing the peri-glacial and post glacial environments. Not surprisingly these showed a braided peri-glacial river valley with a steep scarp on the western side and a shallower scarp to the east. Photographs were shown of modern Canadian rivers subject to high volume spring melt water flows which probably are similar to the way the Lea would have looked. Within this general plan, the project was able to identify areas which by virtue of their geology and vegetation would at one time or another have been ideal sites for human activity, and it was on these that subsequent archaeological work focused.

Results were mixed. An impressive Bronze Age henge site was discovered, but of the Roman bridge carrying the London to Colchester road, known to have been in the area, no trace could be found.

The speaker went on to describe how the techniques developed are now being used on a piecemeal basis on sites across London, in order to build up a complete picture of the palaeogeology of the whole city area.

THE DEDHAM VALE AONB AND STOUR VALLEY: A LANDSCAPE FOR ALL

Simon Anstutz, Acting Project Manager, Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project.
30th November 2009
Report by Rosemary Joseland

Simon began his lecture with a background to his work and told us that it was the 60th anniversary of the legislation which brought national parks and AONBs into existence. He told us that the primary purpose of the legislation was to conserve and advance the natural beauty of the countryside, i.e. the flora and fauna, geology and topographical features and the secondary purpose was social and economic. He referred to planning controls, countryside management and raising awareness.

Dedham Vale is the 4th smallest AONB in this country and associated with the artist, John Constable. It comprises grazing marshes, buildings, churches, hedgerows and field patterns,

with crop marks still intact. He mentioned that the Stour Valley was a very special landscape area, whose preserved features contribute to AONB status. It spread both sides of the river Stour, encompassing both Suffolk and Essex, with rolling valley and estate farmlands, dominating flint church towers and dispersed and isolated farms. There was, he said, evidence of changing farming practices affecting former heathlands, upland landscape, plateau areas and undulating farmlands, but tree and woodland cover was in danger, with alder trees dying and oak suffering from disease. The cricket bat willow was prevalent and ash and black poplar trees were being planted.

Simon's lecture was illustrated by slides, showing modern intrusions, such as mobile phone masts and a scheme to put underground high-voltage cables. The A12, he mentioned, affects bio-diversity and he referred to the Managing a Masterpiece Scheme, which consists of 15 projects provided for by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which contributes 86% of the money, the rest of the money being provided by local authorities, Natural England and English Heritage, over a three-year period.

Simon then went on the speak of the University of East Anglia public courses in landscape history and another course in Traditional Customs and the Folklore of the Stour Valley, as well as Heritage Compendium courses in traditional building skills. Surveys of the river were being undertaken and a bid had also been made for conservation work. Field walking events are held, as well as historic landscape surveys, excavations and conservation projects on monuments. Also planned is the restoration of the 'John Constable' Stour lighter (barge) and other associated projects, such as walks, art workshops, exhibitions, school projects, etc.

To summarise, Simon told us that this is a landscape for all and that we could all help by joining in the activities listed above.

RELIGIOUS HOUSES IN ESSEX 1000-1300AD

Jennifer Ward, Medieval Historian
11th January 2010
R*eport by John Spears*

There were few religious houses in Essex before 1100. The proliferation of monasteries occurred from the late 10th and 11th centuries, particularly following the Norman invasion of 1066. Life in a monastery, which was defined as "the house of a community of monks or nuns", was based on the life of St. Benedict, c480-c547. Monks generally stayed for life in their monasteries and from the 9th century Benedictine rule was common throughout Europe. The Rule of St. Benedict was strict, it allowed two meals a day, specified types of clothing, obedience to the abbot and the evil of grumbling was discouraged.

Cluniac priories were later introduced from Burgundy. Their rule placed more emphasis on religion and religious ceremonies and elaborate buildings such as Prittlewell Priory.

The Cistercian order, founded in 1098 in Citeaux, was to form a more strict version of Benedictism with emphasis based on work and labour. Plain buildings with lack of ornate decoration such as Tilty and Coggeshall Abbeys are fine examples in Essex. During the 12th century tithes were redirected from secular to religious houses as by then lay people were thought more likely to go to heaven. In churches Last Judgement paintings became usual, hell was considered terrible and the church encouraged people to go on pilgrimages and crusades, thus increasing their likelihood of going to heaven.

By the 1090s the Normans were well established and many cut their links with Normandy. In Colchester, St. John's (Benedictine) Abbey was one of the most important abbeys. Another Benedictine foundation was Earls Colne Priory, which was a cell of a monastery at Abingdon in Berkshire. The De Vere family gave land and cash for its foundation which remained powerful until the Reformation.

The 12th century Augustinian foundation spread to Essex. Saffron Walden Priory, Prittlewell, Dunmow and St. Botolph's, Colchester, were fine examples.

By 1200 expansion was over. The most important concept became "Opus Dei", the work of God. Monks divided their time between religion and manual work for life.

Monasteries continued to offer hospitality to lay people, including education of children; pilgrimages were important. Many religious houses such as Waltham Abbey held relics that attracted pilgrims.

Monasteries in Essex fulfilled religious, economic and social responsibilities. They were seen to have an important place in society. But all this ended with the Black Death in 1348.

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

18th January 2010

Report by Pat Brown

Roman Road at Mistley

Report by Philip Cunningham

Exhaustive research of maps, cropmarks and aerial photos has clearly revealed the existence of a Roman road running from Colchester towards Mistley, with a spur running towards Little Bromley, but petering out at Marjory's Farm, Horsley Cross Road. There was also an excavation in the 1970's by CAG on Felix Erith's farm (see CAG Bulletin 1971).. The road crosses the Colne either near Eastgate or at the Hythe. It appears as a cropmark by the Sir Charles Lucas School, and again in the Tendring Hundred Show Ground car park and near Acorn Village, Mistley. It appears to come to an end near Mistley Hall, although it may have ended near Mistley Priory.

Following the Ferret's Trail

Report by Andrew White and Don Goodman

A study of Sexton's and Norden's maps showed the existence of a deer park at Smallbridge Hall, together with the field names Great and Little Deer Park. Queen Elizabeth definitely visited in 1561, and probably again; Smallbridge Hall was rebuilt in 1572. A roundel in the window of Church Hall (probably from Smallbridge Hall) attests to her visiting Wormingford at some time. Continuing excavations on the CAG site have disclosed a large cellar, the nearest comparison being at Seckford Hall, Suffolk. Such a cellar is thought to be the base of a hunting lodge tower. A well containing a pump has been discovered, and the process of boring a hole through a large timber with a "wimble" was explained. Two gullies or sluices, possibly connected with brewing, have been discovered near the well, post-dating the construction of the cellared building. Recently Iron Age and Bronze Age pottery sherds have been discovered. The speakers concluded by emphasising the number of site visits, by children in particular, which had taken place.

What's in an Antler?
Addrian Hutson,

Addrian first showed us an antler comb he had made, a copy of one from West Stow. Small saws had been found at West Stow which would have been used in comb manufacture. He then took us through the stages of making a comb from the cutting up of the antler. He passed round the components: the solid parts, and then the plates which would have been riveted between with iron rivets. The teeth would then have been carefully cut and filed, and finished by rubbing on sharkskin, a piece of which was also passed round, and which produced an effect smoother than the finest sandpaper. Combs were often decorated with a ring-and-dot design, and Addrian showed how he had cut these using an adapted screwdriver (though we did not know how Anglo-Saxons may have done it). Addrian ended by commenting on the lack of attention paid to loomweights on Anglo-Saxon sites, commending them as a subject for research.

Altogether an unusual and engaging aspect of our "Members' Activities".

ORFORD NESS: A LANDSCAPE OF 20TH CENTURY CONFLICT
Angus Wainwright, National Trust Archaeologist for East of England Region
25th January 2010
Report by Aline Black

For the National Trust, usually associated with conservation of fine buildings and with well kept parks and gardens, Orford Ness is a unique site. The National Trust acquired Orford Ness National Nature Reserve for its geomorphology and natural history. It is a ten mile shingle spit stretching from Aldeburgh in the north to Shingle Street in the south, and is the most easterly part of Suffolk. Orford Ness is a dynamic piece of beach which over the years has extended to an extent such that ships can no longer reach Orford which was once a thriving port.

Little use was made of the Ness for holiday purposes. It was only before the First World War that the site was acquired for military purposes. Orford Ness scientists contributed to the science of aerial warfare - bomb aiming, the development of experimental bombs, looking for vulnerable points on aircraft and examining the aerodynamics of captured German planes. There was also a Prisoner of War camp on the site. Some buildings remain from that time.

After World War One Orford Ness was put on a care and maintenance basis. A team of scientists led by Robert Watson Watt sought ways of detecting aircraft at a distance which led to the development of radar. Other experiments led to the development of locating beacons for airfields to aid navigation. Examination of the vulnerability of aircraft continued including the positioning of fuel tanks and their lamination to reduce fire risk. The degree of security about activities at Orford Ness increased. No archive material remains. The scientists who worked there are now the only source of information.

In the 1950s a Sputnik detector was produced, but the main work was to develop a detector of atomic bomb explosions in Russia. Work on the ballistics of nuclear bombs continued into the 1960s. Secrecy was again increased. However no fissile material was ever involved in the work at Orford Ness.

The lecturer said that his work at the Reserve has been to advise the National Trust on the significance of Orford Ness and the importance of its history. Also to get enough understanding

of the site to advise what to save - which remaining items are unique? He said that "In the work done at Orford Ness we have an artefact which changed the nature of the world." The landscape, particular structures and the wreckage make Orford Ness a memorable site. The National Trust is not going to preserve or tidy up the buildings which are now part of the special nature of Orford Ness - which is not the usual way it manages its sites!

NORWEGIAN WOOD: TIMBER & DOMESTIC FARM BUILDINGS IN NORWAY

Alan Bayford, Expert in Traditional Buildings
1st February 2010
Report by Julia Orme

In order to lay the foundation for the history as to why and how the Norwegians built their domestic and farm buildings, we were all treated to a very interesting geography lesson accompanied by splendid and colourful slides. Norway is 1000 miles long the most NE point being on the same longitude as Istanbul, the most westerly point being on that of Nice and the most southerly on a similar latitude to St. Petersburg. The Arctic Circle starts 300 miles to the south of the most northerly point but, despite this, the coast is influenced by the Gulf Stream creating a climate similar to Scotland. The centre of the country is dominated by a high range of mountains with deep glacial valleys running west into fjords with very little land for cultivation, whereas on the eastern elevation the descent is more gradual with long rivers running in a SE direction and this is where most of the forestry and farming is found with the climate being continental.

Mr Bayford then showed us an interesting map showing where deciduous vs. coniferous timber was grown. As expected coniferous was widespread throughout the country with deciduous predominantly in the south and lining the river valleys but the surprising fact was that Silver Birch was very prolific in the very north of the country.

Prior to 1790 there were very few towns and none at all north of Trondheim, south of which became a very prosperous farming region in medieval times, indeed grain was recorded as being grown as far north as 70° at that time. So, much of the population was restricted to small settlements relying on farming and forestry, supplemented with fishing on the coast. Some of the inland valleys were very isolated and therefore developed their own building traditions, costumes, music, dialect etc. We also have to remember that Norway was never colonised by the Romans and was therefore behind the rest of Europe in its social development and relied on the local material available for building - timber - principally Scots Pine.

Interest in vernacular architecture was aroused in the mid 19th century by the clergyman Eilart Sundt which, in time, led to the opening of the Norwegian Folk Museum in Oslo which has a large open-air site with many reconstructions. The oldest building was a conical open-hearth house from Numedal with a separate larder raised off the ground and set to one side. This had a sod (turf) roof - a characteristic of rural buildings right through to the 19th century. A layer of birch bark acted as waterproofing with two layers of turf on top for insulation. We were then shown buildings dating back to 1250-1300 of stave construction (ie. walls with vertical logs held together top and bottom by interlocking horizontal timbers). This design enabled buildings of different sizes to be constructed and there was an example of a long house from SW Jutland. As time progressed the construction changed to the notched log construction with horizontal timbers interlinked at the corners which due to the length of the timbers led to

smaller houses being built. Buildings in Essex of the same date were usually constructed of oak as opposed to 'soft wood'. The secret of the Norwegian wood's endurance was down to the seasoning and the resin which caused the wood to self-mummify in the freezing temperatures which, incidentally, also led to a difference of room layout in domestic buildings.

Another building of c.1300 was the 'loft', a two-storey building usually with the first floor jettied. This was always a more impressive building than the 'stue' or house proper for it was here where the wealth of the farm was stored - foodstuffs on the ground floor and clothing and guest accommodation above, often with an external staircase. We were shown many fine examples of these buildings through the ages.

Post-medieval farm buildings from Setesdal in eastern Norway were usually built on the only suitable site with houses added for the eldest son etc. These buildings were laid out in parallel lines with the living quarters and lofts on slightly higher ground facing south with the barns, stables and cowsheds opposite. This basic design went right through to the 17th century with only the decoration becoming more elaborate with fine metal strapwork on doors surrounded by carving. One of the favourite designs was St. Olaf's rose - said to keep evil spirits away!

By 1700 design had moved on with more rooms and a multitude of chimneys having been created, but the Setesdal yeoman farmer was still content with his open hearth. By c.1900 dwellings had been raised off the ground to discourage rodents. The hearth had been moved to a corner, a chimney built with windows and sleeping galleries having been introduced which went on to form the beginnings of a proper first floor. Also by now the houses were being clad with wooden boards and painted in various designs and colours. Tiles, shingle roofs and nogging (alternate courses of red and yellow brick) had also been introduced.

In 1904 another open-air museum was opened by a dentist, Anders Sandvig, near Lillehammer concentrating on the Gudbrandsdal area. He preserved a total of 150 buildings and was unusual in that he moved several complete farmsteads whereas other museums grouped buildings into an imaginary farmstead of a particular area. Even today many of the buildings, even in urban areas, are constructed traditionally underneath their cladding especially along the waterfronts. Indeed there has been a revival of interest in traditional building techniques and many houses and garden buildings currently being erected employ notched log construction.

ESSEX AND THE NEW WORLD

Stuart Warburton, Heritage Development Manager, ECC, Record Office
8th February 2010
Report by Jean Roberts

The founding of colonies in America by England meant that there was a lasting legacy of an English-speaking nation, religious tolerance; English based legal and monetary systems and law-making. People from Essex played an important role in this. Of the original 105 people 12 came from Essex, the largest number from one county.

In the late 16th century, the west coast of America was all known as Virginia and was divided into 13 colonies, Essex having a direct involvement with 6 of them. In 1585 Elizabeth I had backed an expedition to settle a colony at Roanoke, but it was not a success. The area was surrounded by swamps, the soil was poor, the coast was treacherous and it was in a hurricane belt. It was not self sufficient and relied on regular supplies from England. However, during

the time of the Armada (1588) all ships were forbidden to leave England and when a ship could go to Roanoke in 1589, all the settlers had disappeared.

James 1 also wanted to establish colonies in America and after a conference between Spain, Portugal, England and Scotland privateering was outlawed and the captains of ships that had profited from privateering had to find other sources of income, many turned to overseas trade.
In 1600 Sir Thomas Smythe, who already traded with Russia, Turkey and India, set up two more trading companies, The Virginia Company of London and The Virginia Company of Plymouth. As well as trading links with America and the establishment of settlements, Smythe wanted to find the NW Passage to the Orient and promote the Protestant religion in the new colonies.

Financed by The Virginia Company of London, on 19th December 1606, three ships set sail from London for the New World, taking the southerly route, past the Azores. Travelling on the ships were men from Essex, Gosnold from Hockley near Ipswich, John Smith from Willoughby, a fearless boaster who was not well liked, but ended up becoming one of the leaders of Jamestown, John Ratcliffe, who was captain of one of the ships and Christopher Newport born in Harwich. Newport was a local hero, who had lost a hand while privateering in the North and South Atlantic and wore a hook on his arm and he organized the Expedition.

In May 1607 the 3 ships safely entered the James River and anchored off an island there which they named Jamestown after the King. They first established a fort on the riverside, surrounded by a stockade. The site was flanked by swamps and dense forest, with poor soil but it was easy to defend. The first years were very harsh and only 38 of the 105 who had landed survived.

By 1625, however, the colony was thriving, growing tobacco to export to England and the settlement moved out of the stockade, to better growing land and named it James City, where they built brick houses, a hospital and a church. The city was divided in smaller villages who were all self sufficient.

In 2007, 400 years after the founding of the original settlement, there were big celebrations and nowadays there are two "Jamestowns". One is the original fort, with the oldest stone church in the USA. Here there are ongoing excavations, led by Bill Kelso, yielding over 700,000 items, such as tools, pottery (including Bellarmine Jars and Harlow Ware), glass and Indian artifacts. Excavations have shown evidence of metal working, glass blowing and the manufacture of clay pipes. Here they have found an extensive graveyard, but there is no record of the people buried there. Some of the bodies have been shot by arrows but some show signs of being shot by guns, after the Indians obtained muskets. The other Jamestown is a reconstructed village 15 miles away, with replica houses, other buildings and ships, which give tourists a sanitized version of what life in the original colony might have been like.

HISTORIOGRAPHY AND FIELDWORK: MUCKING 30 YEARS ON

Sam Lucy, Cambridge Archaeological Unit
15th February 2010
Report by Pat Brown

Excavations at Mucking by Margaret Jones and her photographer husband ended in 1978 and since then post-excavation work on the immense amount of data has been carried on by various people. The Cambridge Archaeological Unit was approached by the British Museum to carry out further work because the Museum needed the storage space occupied by the finds; Sam

Lucy has been working on the Roman phase in particular.

30 years ago modern methods of digging and recording had not been introduced: while whole features were dug, rather than sampling, and site notebooks had not yet been superseded by single context recording sheets. This meant that excavation had been very thorough, and large numbers of finds had accumulated. Finds and features were designated by co-ordinates, though ditches and structures were numbered. 145,000 Roman pottery sherds had been recorded separately, and planning had been meticulous.

In 1980 Margaret Jones had decided to put all the data on computer. Data processing has changed since then, which meant that information had to be extracted from floppy discs, with some difficulty, but modern techniques enabled accurate and revealing distribution maps to be drawn.

For the Roman phase, what emerged was a rural settlement existing until c.250 at the latest, hence there seemed to be no continuity with the Saxon phase. However the Roman settlement respected Iron Age features, and therefore some continuity can be assumed. Briiquetage was concentrated in the area of Bronze Age activity, while pottery and kilns showed continuity from late Iron Age types to 2nd century Roman grey wares. 23 kilns had been excavated.

Buildings were of timber, including aisled halls or barns and 4-post, and one 9-post, structures, as well as a double-walled structure. There were 110 roundhouses, continuing into the Roman period.

There were 4 cemeteries, contemporary with each other and containing both inhumations and cremations: a wide variation in burial practice was evident. Cremations in ditched enclosures resembled the Stanway burials on a small scale. However a stone coffin with a cremation and glass vessel appeared to be a 4th century intrusion.

One significant feature was a deep well in the central enclosure, the top deposit of which was a mass of burnt material, obviously from a house which had burned down, since it included patterned daub and several whole pots. Much of the pottery was Samian, indicating high status.

ROMAN POTTERY IN THE FIFTH CENTURY: HYSTERICAL HYPE OR BRAVE NEW WORLD?

22nd February 2010
James Gerrard, Roman Specialist, Pre-construct Archaeology
Report by Pat Brown

Until recently Roman Britain had been thought to end rather abruptly in 410, with the final withdrawal of Roman troops from Britain, and with it the cessation of coinage use. Large-scale pottery production was likewise thought to have declined from the fourth century, ceasing in the fifth. James Gerrard set before us recent research which throws a different light on this hitherto "dark" period.

South Cadbury and Tintagel had long been known as sites of high-status occupation in the fifth to sixth century. Tintagel A ware and Gaulish E ware had both been found at South Cadbury. Here later settlement moved up the valley. Amphora sherds (from the Mediterranean) found at both sites are, however, difficult to date, there being two types with 1 and 2 handles, and both types being long-lasting.

Coin dating tends to date everything to the date of the latest coin, but some would argue that coin usage continued much longer than c.430 (see composition of hoards).

In Bath, near the temple, layers of black earth were separated by broken paving. Some pottery specialists dated this layer to the early fifth century, but others thought it ended c.550 or even later. A late Roman belt-plate was dated to 430 and C14 dates were similar. At Gillingham Roman settlement was sealed by dark earth and black-burnished ware from the Isle of Purbeck was found, together with an Anglo-Saxon brooch and two beads, one from a post-hole structure. Dorset black-burnished ware had had a very wide distribution throughout the Roman period, and although its production was considerably scaled down it continues to be found in fifth century contexts in southern Britain.

At Allington Avenue, Dorchester, a large amount of orange-white Dorset ware was found in a well, at the bottom of which lay a pendant, similar to scutiform pendants and bracteates, dated by Tania Dickinson to the fifth century or later. Other sites in Dorchester contain this type of pottery associated with metalwork.

In Wroxeter, where occupation is known to have continued well into the fifth century and beyond, wheel-thrown Oxford ware continued to be used.

In London the late Roman and post-Roman period is largely obliterated by Victorian cellars, and until recently only four late Roman coins had been found, giving rise to the idea that the city became abandoned, but now the finding of many more coins, together with pottery evidence, has caused this view to be re-examined. Certainly Southwark continued to be occupied

Altogether a picture is emerging of a much more gradual transition from Romano-British to Anglo-Saxon society, in which pottery evidence plays an increasingly important part as new scientific techniques for more accurate dating are developed.

LUMINESCENCE DATING OF MEDIEVAL ESSEX BRICK BUILDINGS

Thomas Gurling, Independent Researcher
1st March 2010
Report by Philip Cunningham

Summary: based on his 2009 doctorate, Thomas gave an early history of bricks in Essex buildings and how this needs to be revised following exciting new dating evidence generated using a technique based on the luminescence of bricks. It appears Great Bricks were first produced in the late Saxon period, rather than the mid-12th century.

History: Essex has a rich history in the use of bricks for buildings starting with the Romans. Whilst the Saxons re-used large amounts of Roman bricks it was thought local brick production did not start again until after the Norman Conquest, for example as in Coggeshall Abbey in the 12th century. These bricks are of a high standard, characterised by an orange skin and dark core. Flemish (cream) bricks of the 13th/14th century use similar dimensions and proportions to modern bricks, small enough to be moved single-handed allowing faster construction, one example of these being the chequerboard pattern in Lawford Church. There are also a number of well-known examples of Tudor brickwork in Essex from the 15th to 16th centuries.

The dating techniques using luminescence: the luminescence of diamonds was first observed by Robert Boyle in the 17th century. Quartz crystals found in brick clays will luminesce when stimulated by light or heat. The energy given off comes from background radiation absorbed by the quartz over time. When a brick is fired the high level of heat effectively resets the signal to zero as the geological luminescence is discharged from the clay. Radiation is then absorbed again by the crystals in a linear fashion over the lifetime of the brick.

The method is to take a core sample from a brick in situ and extract the quartz in the laboratory. The total level of radiation absorbed by the brick is then measured. At the same time a capsule is placed in the wall and measurements taken to establish the age of the brick, based on the total radiation the quartz crystals absorbed, divided by the dose the crystals are subject to for a year within the wall.

The technique is known as Optically Stimulated Luminescence dating (OSL) and its reliability has been tested against buildings with known construction dates, with Nether Hall being used as one case study. The technique takes time as the capsules inserted and sealed into the building take some months to establish the annual radiation level. Costs are also high at around £500 per sample. The quartz crystals are stimulated by blue LED's and measurements taken of the radiation given off in the form of light pulses. The technique can also be used on ceramics and sediments.

Results:
'Great Bricks': earliest examples of these are conventionally thought to be from the mid to late 12th century. The overall results suggest this happened much earlier in the late Saxon period and therefore current assumptions need to be revisited and revised.

Coggeshall Abbey was thought to have the earliest examples of Great Bricks and was dated 1144 (+/-58). The surprise was the dating of Bradwell-juxta-Coggeshall church at 1036 (+/-60), much earlier than the Abbey. Other churches were studied and both Boreham and Elsenham churches contain *in situ* evidence for late Saxon brickwork. Bradwell church also shows that Great Bricks were being re-used in later medieval contexts. The results raise the question of where the Saxons found the technical skills needed, with some suggestion that these came from northern France.

Tudor brick 1. Samples from Theydon Garnon brick tower suggest a date of 1480 (+/-33). The date plate mentions Sir John Crosby contributing £20 to the tower c.1520. As Crosby died in 1476 this implies that building began shortly after his death but took over 40 years to complete.

Tudor brick 2. Layer Marney was thought to date from between c.1520-1525. The bricks sampled were found to date from 1447 (+/-35), suggesting Tudor brick was being re-used to build the gatehouse or it was part of a two-phased development.

One conclusion is that buildings in the 15th and 16th centuries were re-using brick especially in the 16th century (66% of results point to re-use). This suggests a high status associated with brick buildings during this period, as well as the need for speed and cost savings in construction.

DOES THE PAST HAVE A FUTURE?
Mark Davies, former Museum curator
8th March 2010
Report by Hazel West

In his talk rounding up the season Mark Davies began by asking if archaeology was an asset to Colchester. Since the discovery of the Roman Circus on the disused army land there has been a tremendous surge in interest resulting in a substantial sum of money being raised by local people to stop development on and to preserve the site. There is therefore no shortage of local support for the preservation of our heritage.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme has been successful in that many objects have been handed to the Museum. Included are some major finds like that of the head of Longinus which was never recovered when his memorial tablet was first discovered.. Earlier finds include a head from the river Aide which is now in Colchester Museum where amongst much else there is a significant hoard of Roman coins from Olivers Farm.

Monuments abound in the town and often their significance remains unnoticed. The uncared-for medieval wall of St. John's Priory is thought erroneously by many to be Roman, and there is an extensive area of land, stretching down to the railway line, which was all part of St. Botolph's Priory and was scheduled only about a decade ago. Numerous other examples exist where what lies below ground still has potential to divulge much that could be of importance to our understanding and imagination of what has happened. Discovery, interpretation and repairs are ongoing. The town wall on its Roman base has evolved and been repaired during its history. It has its own story which is revealed in places such as the brick stretch of rebuilding where the wall had collapsed at the time of the Siege of Colchester; or an alcove, discovered in the 1930s, of uncertain purpose, in the castle wall and apparently opposite to Duncan's Gate, and also recent discoveries of long buried foundations of the Roman bastions in Priory Street.

Coping with the ravages of time and weather obviously requires constant vigilance. The frosts of the winter just past have affected the mortar and stone. Parts of the wall urgently need repair. All around the town monuments are affected by the trees and the invasive plants which grow unchecked and cause more damage.

Heritage has a strong attraction for tourism and brings in finance internationally as well as nationally to our region. A small proportion finds its way back to archaeology, care and preservation. With more money much more could be made of our historic resources and could make areas like ours into a major attraction. These ideas along with other changes that affect our environment need to be discussed with care and consideration for their implications.

In the past Colchester was run by people whose families had possibly been residents of the area for generations. They had a pride and empathy with Colchester's history and happily gave support to issues concerning the town's past, its conservation and development. With the changes of time these small businesses are thin on the ground now and a new approach needs to be found.

GROUP LIBRARY

Just a reminder that the library is free; and available for members to use at any time during which the Museum is open. You need to show your membership card at the reception desk. Bernard Colbron, our librarian, has been working hard this summer cataloguing new books and donations. There is now an alphabetical list of what we have.
You may also be interested to know that we keep copies of the following periodicals:
British Archaeology
Essex Journal
Essex Archaeology and History – back copies are available for at least 12 months.
The library committee would like to receive suggestions for future acquisitions for the collection, books, DVDs, maps etc.
Library committee: Bernard Colbron, Denise Hardy, Gill Shrimpton

BOOK REVIEWS (all these books are available in the CAG Library)
Gill Shrimpton
The Making of the British Landscape: how we have transformed the land from prehistory to today
Francis Pryor Pub. Allen Lane (Penguin Group) ISBN 9781846142055
This is a big book by the eminent archaeologist and broadcaster. It seeks to tell the history of our land. He takes the landscape story from 10,000BC to the present, how the countryside is primarily linked to food production and the impact of successive cultures and populations. It shows the reader how to recognise the history still to be seen around us if we know how to look. He deals not only with rural environments but also with urban and coastal. It is written in an easy style with a glossary and a good bibliography. Rather too many any chapter notes, I thought!

A reference book, but also a good read – perhaps the Hoskins of the 21st century.
This is also reviewed in **Current Archaeology** number 247

AD410: The Year that shook Rome
Sam Moorhead & David Stuttard
Pub. British Museum ISBN 9780714122694
A book for everyone fascinated by Rome and Romans! It reads as a drama as events unfold. The authors examine the cycle of events and actions (and inactions!) which led to the inevitable fall of Rome; sacked by Alaric and the Goths in August 410. There are accounts of political intrigues and betrayals, the conflicts of Christianity and paganism. It is a real power game! The interesting aftermath is that when the seat of administration moved to Ravenna and Rome is no longer the hub of the Empire it becomes the spiritual heart of Christianity.
What makes this book special are quotations from original sources, many of them eyewitness accounts.
Quite a small volume – less than 200 pages, relevant coloured illustrations. There is a useful time-line and "Who's Who" at the back

E J Rudsdale`s Journals of Wartime Colchester
Ed. Catherine Pearson. Pub the History Press ISBN 9780752458212
Rudsdale was Curator at Colchester Castle Museum and these are extracts from his journal for the wartime years 1939 to 1945

CAG SUMMER PROGRAMME 2010

Report by Barbara Butler

Our Group's programme for 2010 included two coach trips, two summer evening walks and finished with a delightful garden party near the Essex coast at Salcott.

27th March

After our series of lectures stopped at the beginning of March, we met up at Colchester War Memorial on March 27 for a trip to Cambridge, where we met two Cambridge guides, who specialised in archaeology. From them, we were the able to understand how the town had developed from a defended riverside settlement to a medieval market town and university town. Our guide illustrated how the development of Kings College had torn the heart out of the riverside market town by nearly walking into a wall, which had closed up one of the lanes when the college was built. After lunch the coach took us to visit the Leper Chapel on the edge of Stourbridge Common where we were met by Janet Cornish of Cambridge Past and Present and Future (PPF), who opened up the chapel for us. The famous Cambridge Stourbridge Fair was originally held to finance the leper hospital of which only the chapel remains.

We collected the rest of our group from the town to take in a picturesque 17th century water mill in the village of Hinxton, which is also looked after by Cambridge PPF, on our homeward journey. Janet Cornish met us at the mill and we explored it inside and out. The farmer who lives next door was on hand (with his dog) to start up the mechanism for us and the mill was working soon after we arrived.

1st May – Ightham Mote and Down House

On the first day of May we set out from Colchester War memorial to arrive at Ightham Mote near Sevenoaks, Kent for a morning visit and lunch. This National Trust moated medieval manor house has been extensively restored in recent years. There is a comprehensive exhibition to illustrate how this has been achieved. The archaeology room within the manor house was opened up especially for us, so we were able to look at some of the finds on the site which had been unearthed during restoration.

In the afternoon we visited Charles Darwin's house, Down House, which, in spite of its rural location, is just within the Greater London boundary. This is where Darwin spent most of his life with his family and wrote "The Origin of Species". The house, gardens and greenhouses illustrate and demonstrate Darwin's research and discoveries.

7th June ~ Chelsworth

We met up at Chelsworth in Suffolk for an evening walk on 7th June to discover what clues there were to the development of the village. When the kingdom of East Anglia was ruled by King Edgar, he granted Chelsworth to his step-mother Aethelflaed. She and her family bequeathed it to the Abbey of Bury St Edmunds and for hundreds of years the tithes were due to the Abbey and then the Crown. In the 17th century a London lawyer, Robert Pocklington, bought the manor. He had two mills, some almshouses, the village pound and a timber-framed house demolished as they were obscuring the views from his new mansion.

This explains why the public footpaths skirt rather than connect the village and all present inhabitants are dependent on private transport. The village has no shop or post office and even the pub has only just re-opened after closure. Our walk started in the church (which has a doom painting) and we found the east/west Anglo-Saxon boundaries.

28th June – the Hythe

On 28th June we met at Colchester War Memorial to take a walk with Mark Davis along the River Colne to the Hythe. Once outside the Roman Wall, Mark pointed out where there had been extra defensive ditches and banks constructed, which could still be seen. For some, the new development along the river was a revelation, although Doe's Mill has survived demolition and redevelopment so far. Mark led us along part of the Wivenhoe Trail to the Hythe, where he illustrated an urgent need to interpret and restore many of the remaining port buildings. Shelters now replace Hythe Station which has been demolished. New boards illustrate railway and Hythe history here. It is evident the pace of the new development in this historic part of Colchester has obscured and diminished the Hythe's importance to the development and prosperity of Colchester in the past. Whilst there is no dispute about the need for new housing, it is far more pleasant and interesting for new residents and visitors if it sits alongside restored and renovated historic features. Mark's walk illustrated this perfectly.

19th July – Summer Party

Thanks to the hospitality of Anna and John Moore we were treated to a Summer Garden Party at Salcott on 19th July. As ever, we were are amazed and delighted with the culinary skills of our enthusiastic members. Do cooking skills come in tandem with archaeological ones? They seem to. With delicious home cooked food, a beautiful garden venue, some fine wines and fruit juices, a warm summer evening, the traditional raffle to raise funds, informed and pleasant conversation.... who could ask more from this annual summer social gathering?

A VISIT BY ST ASAPH'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP 3-6TH SEPTEMBER

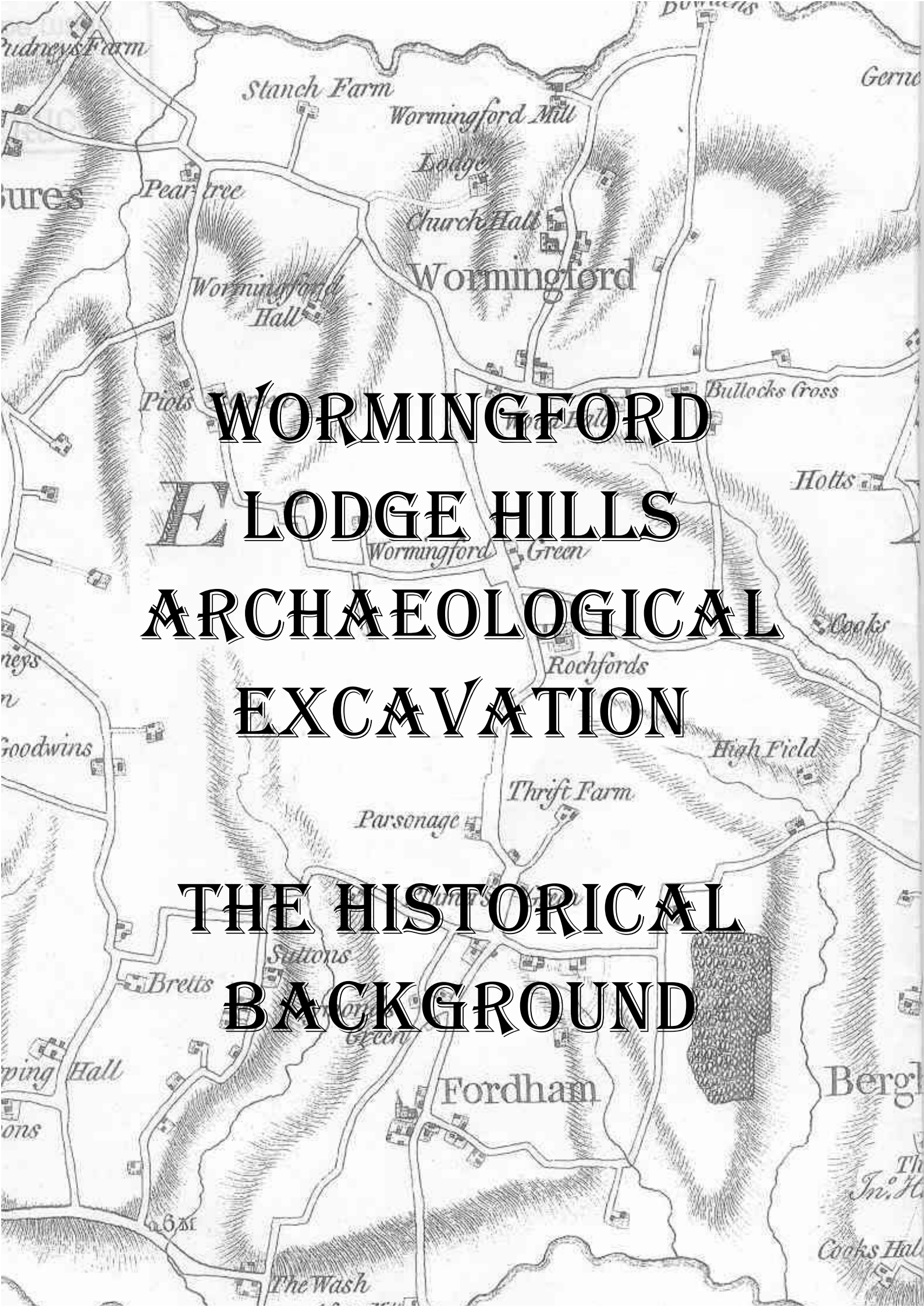
Report by Gill Shrimpton

We were contacted earlier in the year by Maria, their secretary about a visit to this area. They were planning to stay at the Marks Tey hotel and we made some suggestions about local places of interest e.g. Coggeshall, Woodbridge (Sutton Hoo) and Thaxted. They wondered if we would be able to provide a speaker for one evening so John Mallinson joined them for dinner on the Sunday and gave a very well received presentation on the multi-period site at Great Tey which members of the Group had worked on for a number of years. The following day they had a tour of Colchester with a town guide and then met some of us at Wormingford Crown for a pre-arranged lunch and onward and upward to see the ongoing excavation of the Tudor site at Lodge Hills.

They were a group of about 30 people, some of whom said they had not been to East Anglia before – our churches were especially admired! A very friendly and enthusiastic group who said they would be pleased to welcome any of our Group to St Asaph and show us around.

Our visitors from St Asaph Archaeological Group with CAG members on a very windy day at Wormingford

APPENDICES



WORMINGFORD LODGE HILLS ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

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THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

Early in 2007, Colchester Archaeological Group started excavating the foundations of a substantial building, or more probably, several buildings, following the chance discovery of a number of Tudor bricks about one metre below ground level. The excavation has raised a number of questions which cannot be fully answered by the archaeology alone, including: What sort of buildings were they? When were they built? Who built them? Who were the occupants? When were they demolished?

Research into historical archives has answered some of these questions. The excavation site is in the middle of a Tudor deer park, owned by the Waldegrave family of Smallbridge Hall, Bures St. Mary. Whatever the original purpose of the building was, by the end of the sixteenth century it had become a house of some local importance. The name of 'Lodge' or 'Wormingford Lodge' was given to the building from the end of the sixteenth century to the first half of the nineteenth century, and a number of occupants are recorded. Later maps show a number of buildings on the site, and it is finally referred to as a farm, before being demolished in the first half of the nineteenth century.

The Waldegrave family made its home at Smallbridge Hall during the second half of the fourteenth century and remained there for almost 350 years, before finally selling the estate at the beginning of the eighteenth century. Mainly due to a series of judicious marriages to rich heiresses, the family acquired huge estates on both sides of the River Stour, as well as in other parts of Suffolk, Essex, the East Midlands and London, and became very prominent in the affairs of both County and State. For around 250 years they continued to grow in power and prestige, reaching a peak in the sixteenth century, when Queen Elizabeth I was entertained, the medieval Smallbridge Hall was demolished and rebuilt, the Lodge was built and then presumably converted into a dwelling-house, later to become a farm, and the final acquisitions of land and property were made.

Unfortunately, however, the profligacy of the then incumbent, the fourth Sir William Waldegrave, meant that the family spent their last hundred years at Smallbridge in reduced circumstances. Land and property had to be sold, and successive descendants were no longer Knights of the Realm. Whilst still retaining local influence, they were referred to merely as farmers. Having eventually sold Smallbridge Hall and the remainder of the local estates, this branch of the Waldegrave family disappeared from recorded history during the first half of the eighteenth century. Nevertheless, there is a permanent reminder of the family in Suffolk - apart from family tombs, the Waldegrave coat of arms can still be seen in at least sixteen churches.

THE HISTORY OF SMALLBRIDGE HALL, DEER PARKS AND LODGE

figure 1

Smallbridge Hall, South Front
(the remaining Tudor wing)

The History of Smallbridge and the Hall

The Smallbridge Hall we see today (figure 1) is no longer the Smallbridge Hall built in the sixteenth century. The original mansion ranked amongst the largest in the county, but the present building is now described as just *"One wing of a large red brick Elizabethan mansion, extensively restored or rebuilt"*[1]. It is listed Grade 2* by English Heritage.

The origins of the Smallbridge Estate are lost in history. There were two Manors recorded in Bures St Mary in the Domesday Survey of 1086, but neither of them is named, although one of them became known as Bures Manor in the thirteenth century. These two Manors were at some point sub-divided into five, and, during the early fourteenth century they were known as Tany or Thanys, Cornerth, Nether Hall or Sylvesters, Over Hall and Smallbridge. The earliest reference to Smallbridge by name found so far is that a mill at *"Smalebrege"* (note a) was granted to the monks of Stoke-by-Clare by Richard, Earl of Clare, in the second half of the twelfth century. A mill had been recorded in Wormingford in the Domesday Survey, possibly the same one. A 'William de Smalebrege' was documented in 1235. The Manor itself was granted to Sir Michael de Poynings in 1262, by his marriage to Margaret de Aiguillon. Margaret was the daughter of Sir Robert de Aiguillon, the owner of Bures Manor, and it is presumed that on his death this Manor had been divided between Margaret and her sister Isabel, Margaret receiving Smallbridge Manor. The Poynings still owned the Manor in 1310. In 1340 Smallbridge was also recorded in connection with Thanys Manor, but in this instance only as a dwelling house and park: *"Thanys. The Manor, with a certain mesuage, called Smalbrigge, and a park, held of Andrew de Bures by Knight's Service"*[2].The de Bures family held Smallbridge Manor until, in 1362, Sir Richard Waldegrave acquired it through marriage.

It is not possible to establish definitively the construction of the Manor House at this time, but it is most likely to have been a substantial timber-framed building, although brick is a possibility (note b). In 1384, Sir Richard Waldegrave applied for a licence to crenellate *"his manor of Smalbrigg in the town of Seinte Marie Bures"*[3]. This was granted by Richard II on May 10th *"at Clarendon Manor, by signet* (signed) *letter"*[4]. Although crenellation originally meant the construction of battlements, by the fourteenth century it could denote the addition of any form of fortification, which might include a gatehouse or a moat. This could be symbolic rather than wholly defensive (note c). The medieval house was demolished in the sixteenth century - the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments states that *"In 1555 it was demolished by Sir William Waldgrave….."*[6]. Unfortunately the original source from which this date is derived cannot be traced at present, and the archive of research material used in the listing process was destroyed in 1978. It should, of course, be noted that there was no actual Sir William Waldegrave in 1555, as he had died in 1554. His heir, another William, would have been 15 or 16 years old at this time, so the demolition and rebuilding would have taken place while the estates were being looked after by his uncle Edward. If we accept the demolition date as 1555, the new Hall would almost certainly have to have been completed in time for

note a

"Smale" (Old English "small or narrow"), "brege" (derivation not yet found, but presumably "bridge")

note b

Little Wenham Hall, built around 1270, is a notable example of an early brick-built Manor House in Suffolk. However, this is a rare survivor, and it is not known how many others there may have been.

note c

"Crenellation (the addition of fortifications such as battlements, moats and gatehouses), was mainly symbolic, although the fortifications probably represented some defence against thieves." [5] Coulson

The surviving records of crenellation (420 buildings) reveal that only 6 buildings in Suffolk received licences:

Southwold Castle (1259)
Bungay Castle (1294)
Harkstead (1335)
Ipswich town defences (1352)
Smallbridge Hall (1384)
Wingfield Castle (1385)

figure 2

The roundel in a window of Church Hall, Wormingford, presumed to be originally in Smallbridge Hall

figure 3

The heraldic window dated 1572 in Smallbridge Hall

figure 4

Engraving of the South and West sides of Smallbridge Hall, date unknown, but apparently after the 1874 restoration
© Suffolk Record Office

note d

There is another roundel, similar but not identical, in a window at Layer Marney Tower, which was supposedly visited by Queen Elizabeth 1 in 1579. We now know that this is erroneous (see page 15).

note e

"For the first 4 matches of Waldegrave with Ryston, Hastings, Nevill and Daubney, because I could never see any warrant nor mention of them in any empale in Buers Church, or any where else, save onely in the new gallery at Smalbridge, lately built about some 40 yeares agoe, where the matches are onely placed."[9] Ryece, sometime prior to 1618

the wedding of William to Elizabeth Mildmay in 1560, and definitely by the time of the inspection by members of the Court (probably during the winter of 1560/61), prior to the visit of Queen Elizabeth I in August 1561. A roundel of painted glass, possibly commemorating the Queen's visit, can be seen in a window at Church Hall, Wormingford (figure 2 and note d). This presumably was originally sited in Smallbridge Hall, but was moved some time after 1578, when the Waldegraves acquired Church Hall. The Suffolk Institute of Archaeology & History gives the date of building as *"early Tudor"*[7]. Pevsner, supported by Dr Blackwood, gives the date of construction as *"1572 or before"*[8], no doubt basing this on the date shown in a heraldic window still in situ at the Hall, showing the Waldegrave Arms impaling those of Elizabeth Mildmay (figure 3 and Appendix B). However, the window seems more likely to celebrate the *"new gallery"* built in the 1570s and recorded by the antiquary Robert Ryece (note e).

Despite the lack of firm dating evidence, there is a clear record of the size of the house. The 1674 Hearth Tax survey of Suffolk reveals that the Hall had 44 hearths. To put this into perspective, there were only three houses in the whole of Suffolk that had more hearths at the time of the survey (Hengrave Hall with 51, Melford Hall with 49 and Brome Hall with 45). However, both Hengrave and Melford were quadrangular buildings; Brome was the classic 'E' shape. Smallbridge Hall may also have been quadrangular, as it was known to have contained a chapel as well as the gallery. These had both disappeared before a visit by the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology & History in the mid-nineteenth century (before the next known renovation), when the house was said to be *"E-shaped"*[10]. The gallery is likely to have been over the great hall in the South wing, but the chapel could have been in a fourth, demolished, wing. There is an unconfirmed report that this took place early in the eighteenth century, which is the period when a wing was similarly demolished at Melford Hall. The Suffolk Institute of Archaeology & History, visiting again in 1914, stated categorically that the panelled room containing the heraldic window dated 1572 was part of the great hall. The size and importance of Smallbridge Hall makes it disappointing that there is no contemporary picture of the Hall, as there is of some other Suffolk mansions (Appendix C). Indeed, the earliest depiction of the Hall found so far dates from the late nineteenth century (figure 4).

After being sold in about 1702, the Hall, by now described as a farmhouse, passed through a number of owners and tenants, and later references to it tend to emphasise its poor state of repair. It gets a brief mention by John Kirby in 1735: *"At Small-bridge in this Parifh* (Bures) *long refided the ancient Family of Waldgrave, which is now extinct"*[11]. In 1813, Shoberl described Smallbridge Hall as *"almost entirely demolished"*[12] and in 1823, in his preface to Volume 1 of the *"Progresses, Public Processions &c. of Queen Elizabeth"* Nicholls wrote: *"They* (the Progresses) *set before our eyes magnificent mansions long since gone to decay .... Houses that lodged the Queen of England and her Court are now scarcely fit for farms ... such was the seat of Sir William Waldegrave's at Smallbridge"*[13]. In Nicholls' own copy of Volume 2 of the *"Progresses"* an anonymous suggestion for an illustration has been discovered:

figure 5

Drawing of the North Front of Smallbridge Hall in 1907, after the 1874 restoration but before the 1930-2 restoration

figure 6

Photograph of the North Front of Smallbridge Hall as it appears today (after the 1930-2 restoration)

"*an Engraving of Smallbridge Hall, which is hastening rapidly to decay"*[14]*.* In 1828, David Davy travelled though Suffolk collecting material for a history of the county (which was never written). Of Smallbridge Hall he wrote: *"The House is now occupied by a farmer, but the greater part of it is still standing, though in a dilapidated state"*[15]. The following year the estate was purchased by the Hanbury family of Coggeshall. The Hanburys were wealthy brewers (partners in Truman, Hanbury and Buxton), but they do not appear to have arrested the decline of the Hall.

However, the fortunes of the Hall were to improve after it was purchased in 1850 by George Wythes of Reigate, who had made a considerable fortune in railway construction and property development. He paid £26,075 for the Hall, Smallbridge Farm, Overhall Farm and Hold Farm, together with 601 acres of land, and immediately commissioned a survey of the buildings, which reported that *"the buildings for the most part are old and have been suffered to get into a dilapidated state of repair. One of the farm houses called Smallbridge Hall is a substantial Elizabethan residence .... Improvements recommended include firstly to repair the present mansion; secondly to pull down the old and to erect an entire new set of agricultural buildings"*[16]. The first recommendation was carried out around 1874 when the Hall was *"largely rebuilt"*[17] (figure 5), although there is no record of Wythes ever living there. The stables are late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, and other farm buildings are late nineteenth century. In 1868, the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology had reported that *"The house is a good example of the Elizabethan era .... on the usual E plan .... the original internal plan, though somewhat altered to meet the requirements of a modern farm-house, can still be made out; in some of the rooms the panelling yet remains.*[18]*"* The chapel, gallery and the internal hall were not mentioned. As the building was *"the usual E plan",* a huge amount of demolition must have taken place during the rebuilding, as the surviving Elizabethan parts (on the South and West sides) are obviously much reduced. Evidence of the original internal hall, or at least part of it, remains in the South wing, together with four panelled rooms, including *"a large bedroom said to be the one occupied by Queen Elizabeth"*[19]*.*

After Wythes' death in 1883, the the Hall was inherited by his grand-daughter Alice, the wife of Frederick Hervey, who would become the Marquis of Bristol in 1907. Mrs Hervey's daughter, Lady Phyllis McRae, took over the Hall sometime before 1930, when she started a complete restoration (figure 6), which was finished in 1932. The Hall continued to be let to tenants, until in 1954 Lady Phyllis sold the contents. Four years later, the whole estate was sold at auction, in four lots, at the Corn Exchange, Colchester. The Hall was described in the sale particulars as "*having been the subject of lavish expenditure"*[20]*.*

figure 7

figure 8

figure 9

figure 10

figure 11

The Tudor Hunting Lodge at Newark Park, Gloucs

The History of the Deer-Parks and the Lodge

There are records which show that there were three deer parks in the local area owned by the Waldegraves, all existing simultaneously:

1. The Suffolk Park

There was a park associated with Smallbridge Hall on the Suffolk side of the River Stour, first mentioned in 1340. It is shown on Saxton's map of Suffolk in 1575 (figure 7) and continued to be shown on a number of maps, ending with Overton's map of Suffolk in 1713 (figure 8). Its location may be partly deduced from the field-name 'Lodge Field', shown on the Tithe Award map of Bures in 1840 in an elevated position north of Smallbridge Hall.

2. The Essex Park at Wormingford Hall

There was a park associated with Wormingford Hall, recorded by Morant as: "*Wormingford Hall had a park, mentioned in the inquisitions*"[21]. It was still in existence in 1613, as it is recorded as being held by the fourth Sir William Waldegrave at the time of his death. It is not shown on any map, but its location may be partly deduced from two field-names shown on the 1838 Tithe Award map of Wormingford – 'Great Park Field' and 'Little Park Field', both south of the Hall.

3. The Essex Park on Lodge Hills, Wormingford

The third park, on the Essex side of the Stour opposite Smallbridge Hall, is probably not of medieval origin, as it is not mentioned in the 'Inquisitions' or any other contemporary document. It is, however, mentioned in a document dated 1528, which describes its location, and states that it belonged to Sir William Waldegrave (Appendix D). This document is crucial, as nothing else links this park, and therefore the Lodge, with the Waldegraves prior to Norden's map of 1594 (see page 7). This park is first shown on Saxton's map of Essex in 1576 (figure 9), and part of its location is recalled in two field-names shown on the 1838 Tithe Award map of Wormingford – 'Great Deer Field' and 'Little Deer Field', both alongside the Stour. This park also continued to be shown on a variety of maps, the last being by Overton in 1713 (figure 10). Two residents of Wormingford, local historian Winifred Beaumont and author Ronald Blythe, have claimed categorically that Queen Elizabeth I visited Wormingford, specifically naming Lodge Hills. There is no documentary evidence to support these claims, and they have to be treated as speculation.

4. The Lodge

All, or virtually all, parks would have had a Lodge built for the 'parker' to live in whilst he looked after the park and the animals it contained, situated in an elevated position. Most would originally have been timber buildings, but in the more prosperous Tudor times many were built or rebuilt in stone (figure 11) or brick (figure 12), and could be substantial in size. Whilst some lodges remain in their former shapes, and many have been demolished,

figure 12

Dob Park Lodge, Harrogate, Yorkshire

figure 13

The Tudor Hunting Lodge at Badby, Northants, converted to the Dower House

figure 14

Detail of Samuel Pierce's Estate Map of Melford Hall 1613

figure 15

Worningforde Lodge. Sr Wm. Waldgue.

Theis carracters following doe distinguishe the places observed in the Mappe, viz.

- Market townes; if in a streete thus
- Parishes.
- Hamlettes.
- Howses of name. Of nobilitie thus
- Castles.
- Religious howses.
- Chappells of ease.

a considerable number were converted to domestic dwellings, including dower houses (figure 13) and farm houses. John Randall gives a vivid description of the latter in the 1870s: *"a building which bears marks of extreme antiquity, between Barrow and Broseley, called the Lodge Farm, was once the hunting lodge. It has underneath strongly arched and extensive cellaring, which seems to be older than portions of the superstructure, and which may have held the essentials for feasts, for which sportsmen of all times have been famous."*[22] Lodges could also be extended or rebuilt to form the main residence of the landowner. Wormingford Lodge almost certainly started life as a functional structure, possibly the lodging for the park-keeper, or a 'standing' for viewing the hunt. Whatever the construction was, it was then either rebuilt or extended into a substantial house, probably during the period 1580–1590 when the fourth Sir William Waldegrave was still a wealthy man. Locally the family already owned Smallbridge Hall and three properties in Bures (Over Hall, Nether Hall and Bevills), Ferriers in Assington, an un-named house in Bures Hamlet and two properties in Wormingford (Wormingford Hall and Church Hall). However, Sir William may well have needed extra housing – he did have a very large family (six sons and four daughters).

Minor buildings within an estate, such as a Lodge, only appear on estate maps (figure 14). In general, individual buildings of some importance start to be shown on maps in the seventeenth century. In the eighteenth century, individual buildings of some importance are both shown and named. An exception to this was the map of Essex by John Norden, published in 1594. Norden included a number of individual buildings, mostly 'Halls', some named and some designated by a symbol. Wormingford Lodge was obviously a large and important building as it is shown on his map, situated inside the park, close to Wormingford village (figure 15). To accompany the map, Norden published a *"Historical and Chorographical Description of the County of Essex"* to give details of the symbols and distances shown on the map. He listed *"a table of the Halls in Essex, for the moste parte, which beare the names of the parishes wherein they are, wth most of the possessors of them"*[23]. In this table is found *"Worningforde Lodge. S^{r} Wm. Waldgue"* (Norden's spelling is somewhat idiosynchratic).

The first named occupant of Wormingford Lodge was Giles Barnardiston, whose mother was Philippa Waldegrave, daughter of the fourth Sir William. Barnardiston was a former Colonel in the Parliamentary army who resigned his commission and *"retired to Wormingford Lodge in Essex, where, in privacy and solitude, he applied himself to serious meditation"*[24]. He moved to the Lodge soon after the end of the Civil War (around 1650), probably moving to Wormingford Hall before 1657, and staying until 1669, when he returned to his birthplace, Clare Priory in Suffolk, on the death of his Father. Whilst at Wormingford *"he felt an inclination to inquire into the principles of Friends"*[25], so he invited George Fox the Younger, a prominent local Quaker, then visiting Colchester, to visit him there (note f). Fox was *"kindly received"*[26], and shortly after this visit Barnardiston became a Quaker himself, later becoming a minister, and prominent enough to have his biography included in several histories of the Quaker movement. In 1657, a legal document in the Essex Record Office states that Wormingford Lodge was the

figure 16

figure 17

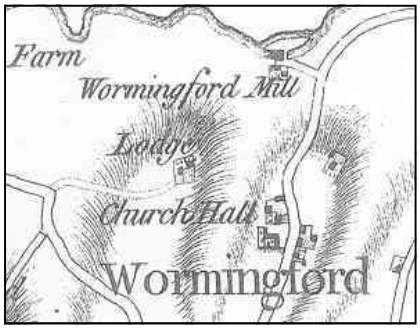


figure 18

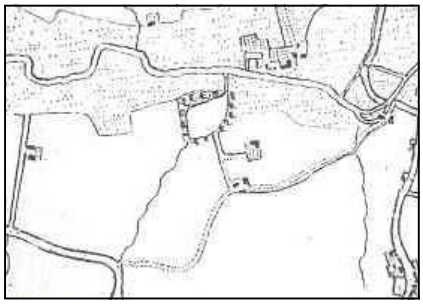


figure 19

address of *"Peregrine Clarke gentleman"*[27]*.* Five years later, the 1662 Hearth Tax Survey of Wormingford lists *"Peregrine Clarke 10 hearths"*[28]*,* and it is not unreasonable to assume that this was the Lodge. Ten hearths denotes a substantial building, being the second largest number of hearths recorded anywhere in the village - the largest being 17 hearths, without doubt Wormingford Hall. The Hearth Tax entry for this property is for *'Barnard'*, almost certainly the abbreviation of 'Barnardiston'. Peregrine Clarke himself was married to Frances Waldegrave, widow of Captain William Waldegrave of Smallbridge Hall, who had died in 1650. After he left the Lodge, there is no named occupier for over 50 years. The building may have been unoccupied for a few years after Clarke left, as there is no appropriate entry for it in the Hearth Tax of 1672/3 - although in theory the owner was responsible for paying the Hearth Tax on unoccupied buildings, it is known that this was not always applied. The building, together with Wormingford Hall, was sold around 1702 to John Currance, and in 1704 they were owned by his son, Clemence. They were then sold, at an unknown date, to Richard Andrews of Earls Colne Priory.

William Holman, researching for a history of Essex (which was never published) recorded around 1719 that in Wormingford *"there is a place called the Lodge still standing. A mere of 12 acres belonging to the Lodge is lying opposite to Smallbridge".*[29] The building is next documented in 1728, when it was leased (together with Wormingford Hall) by its then owner, John Wale of Earls Colne, the heir of Richard Andrews, to Joseph Kingsbury. By this time, the land surrounding it had presumably been 'de-parked', and converted to farmland. In 1742 Wale sold the Manors of Wormingford Hall and Church Hall to Samuel Tufnell of Langleys Manor, Great Waltham for £10,750. The sale included a *"farm called Wormingford Hall and the lodge in the occupation of Joseph Kingsbury"*[30]. Tufnell bought the properties and land purely as an investment - no family member would live in Wormingford Hall until the 1920s, although two Tufnells, William and George, would become Vicars of Wormingford in the 1800s. John Jolliffe Tufnell, the heir of Samuel, commissioned a survey of the estate in 1759, when Joseph Kingsbury was still occupying the Hall. Thirteen separate properties are named, but the Lodge is not included, as it was still incorporated into the landholdings of the Hall. Morant mentioned the Lodge in 1768, by now a farm in its own right: *"there is still a farm called the Lodge, to which belongs a mere of about 12 acres, formed by the River Stour, opposite to Smallbridge."*[31] A very similar description appears in *'A new and complete history of Essex'*, published in 1772. Joseph Kingsbury died around 1777, although it is not known whether he was still occupying the Hall or Lodge.

The Lodge continued to be shown on a number of maps during the 18th and early 19th Centuries. In 1726 Warburton showed the local complex of important buildings - Wormingford Hall, Wood Hall, Church Hall and the Lodge (figure 16). Bowen in 1749, Andrews and Drury in 1776 and Carington Bowles in 1781 also both showed and named the Lodge. The Lodge site is shown in detail by Chapman and Andre in 1777 (figure 17), with two separate buildings being shown within an enclosure, on a track leading from the Sudbury road. This area is again shown in detail on the Ordnance Survey surveyors' plans of 1799 (figure 18), which were incorporated into the first Ordnance Survey map of

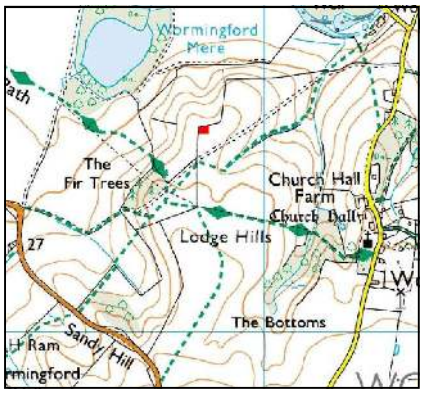
note f

George Fox the Younger was no relation of George Fox, one of the founders of the 'Society of Friends' (Quakers). The visit must have taken place in early 1661, as Fox the Younger died on 7th July that year. Confusingly, the other George Fox also visited Colchester in 1661, albeit later in the year.

figure 20

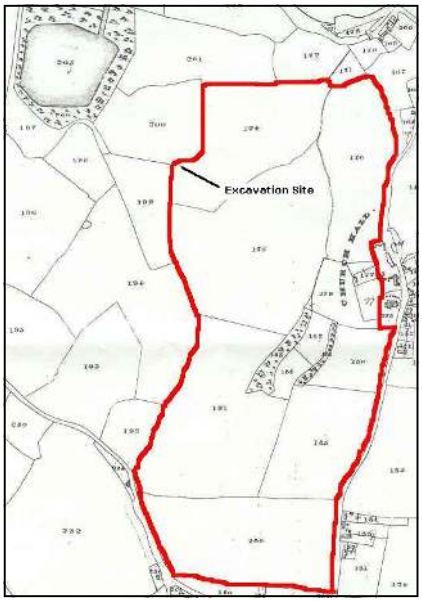
Note that two Wormingford Halls are shown - the one on the right of the Lodge is actually Church Hall.

figure 21



The current Explorer Series Ordnance Survey map, with the excavation site marked in red. The current track and the public footpath (which follows the old field boundaries), are south of the site.

figure 22



The Tithe Awards Map of 1838, with no depiction of the Lodge buildings. The fields rented by Charles Pettitt are outlined in red - some or all of 'Lodge Farm'?

Essex, published in 1805 (figure 19). This clearly shows two sets of buildings, each in an enclosure; a cluster of three buildings on the track shown by Chapman and Andre, now extending as far as Wormingford Mill, and a single, possibly larger, building closer to the Mere. The 1805 map gives the name 'Lodge' to the cluster of buildings. A similar arrangement is shown on the Greenwood brothers map of 1825 (figure 20), the last map on which the buildings are marked. The Greenwoods also give the name 'Lodge' to the cluster of buildings. It is probable that apart from the Lodge itself, the buildings shown are farm outbuildings. The positioning of the two sites on both the first Ordnance Survey and the Greenwoods' maps shows that the site under excavation is almost certainly the southern cluster of buildings. The old track from the Sudbury Road to Wormingford Mill going past the site must therefore have been to the north of the modern-day track (figure 21). There is no archaeological evidence so far for the location of the second site.

After Joseph Kingsbury, there is no named occupier of the Lodge. Apart from the Greenwoods' map, the last dated recordings of the Lodge, referred to as a farm, can be found in the Wormingford section of two guide books to Essex. Firstly, in 1819, Cromwell stated that *"a park formerly belonged to this* (Wormingford) *Hall, and to a farm called the Lodge"*[32] and finally, in 1836, Wright recorded that *"Wormingford Hall had formerly a park; a farm here yet retains the name of the Lodge"*[33]. This is the last time that the Lodge is referred to on any form of documentation, and no buildings are shown on the next published map, the Tithe Awards in 1838. This would indicate that Lodge Farm, or at least the farmhouse, was demolished between the years 1835 (when Wright's guide book was being researched) and 1837 (when the Tithe Awards were being collated. The Tithe Awards name the field in which the Lodge stood as 'Mill Field', and this field, together with a number of others adjoining it, was 'occupied' by Charles Pettitt (figure 22). Rate books show that Pettittt was resident in Wormingford from as early as 1822, paying rent to John Jolliffe Tufnell, and he may well have been there from an even earlier date. It is not recorded where he was living prior to 1834, when he is known to have been living in Church Hall. In 1838, 'Mill Field' and those surrounding it were described as arable; as a deer park they would have been pasture and woodland. A great deal of effort would have been required to cover the foundations of all the demolished buildings to enable crops to be grown, but it would have been worthwhile, as the Corn Laws of 1815 to 1846 meant that grain prices were kept artificially high, and arable farming during this period became extremely lucrative. Of course, some time later the fields were returned to pasture, as they are today.

THE HISTORY OF SMALLBRIDGE HALL, DEER PARKS AND LODGE

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MAPS

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Saxton - Essex 1576
Norden - Essex 1594
Pierce - Melford Hall Estate 1613
Morden and Pask - Essex 1695 © ERO
Overton - Suffolk 1713 © SRO
Overton - Essex 1713 © ERO
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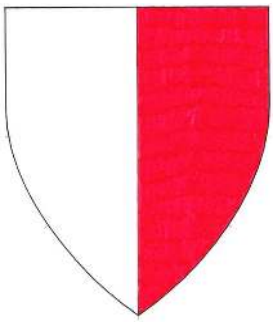
Key: BL (British Library) CLSS (Colchester Local Studies Centre) ERO (Essex Record Office) SRO (Suffolk Record Office)

THE HISTORY OF THE WALDEGRAVE FAMILY AT SMALLBRIDGE HALL

figure 1



COELUM NON ANIMUM

Coats of Arms were established in the twelth century, around the time of the Crusades. They were originally painted on tunics to easily identify the wearer on the battlefield, and the earliest were therefore the simplest. The Waldegrave Coat of Arms (figure 1 & note g) is clearly very old, awarded originally to one Guillaume de Waldegrave. This antiquity was confirmed in 1610, when John Guillim, Rouge Croix Poursuivant at the College of Arms, wrote *"He beareth Parted per pale, Argent and Gules, by the name of Waldegrave, Suff. Such coate armours as are formed onely of lines of Partition doe yeeld testimony of an ancient family"*[34].

In the thirteenth century, the family was settled in what is now known as the East Midlands, owning estates in Brant Broughton, Lincolnshire and Walgrave, Northamptonshire. **Sir Richard Waldegrave** of Brant Broughton died late in 1339 when his son, also named **Richard**, was an infant. On attaining his majority, Richard inherited the estates, and, in 1362, he married Joan, widow of Sir Robert de Bures of Acton, Suffolk. Joan was the daughter of Sir Richard Sutton of Navestock, Essex and had only been married for one year before being widowed. She brought into her marriage with Richard substantial estates in Suffolk and Essex (note h), including the Manor of Smallbridge, which was to become the main family home sometime after 1375 (note i). As a young man, Richard served in the households of William and Humphrey de Bohun, successive earls of Northampton, and during the 1360s he fought in France, Italy, and Prussia under Bohun leadership. In 1365 he was knighted during a campaign against the Turks. In fact he seems to have spent virtually all his time on military campaigns until 1376, when he returned to Suffolk. Richard did, however, maintain a connection with his estates in the East Midlands, being *"Keeper of Moresende Castle"*[35] in Northamptonshire until 1387 and acquiring the Northamptonshire Manors of Hannington and Twywell before 1384. In 1377, he added to his Suffolk estates by buying the Manor of Ousden, and, by 1384, he had also purchased the tenancy of the Manor of Wormingford Hall in Essex.

Like many other former soldiers, Sir Richard entered politics. He first represented Suffolk in the House of Commons in 1376, and he was to sit in parliament on a further eleven occasions before 1390. In June 1381 Sir Richard's life and property in Suffolk came under threat following the outbreak of the peasants' revolt. He may have been targeted due to his appointment to a commission investigating poll tax evasions in that county four months earlier. This experience probably influenced his term as Speaker of the Commons after his election to that office in early November 1381 (he was the only Speaker from Suffolk in pre-Tudor times). On 18th November, Waldegrave asked to be excused from the Speakership, possibly because of a reluctance to voice the Commons' criticisms of the administration following the peasant's revolt. King Richard II commanded him to remain in post, and this episode created the tradition of a reluctant Speaker being dragged to the dispatch box which continues to the present day. In 1382 he became both a Justice of the Peace for Suffolk and Steward of the lands of Queen Anne of Bohemia, Richard II's

note g

The Coat of Arms is 'party per pale argent and gules' (halved vertically, silver and red). The motto is taken from the Epistles of Horace - *"coelum non animum (mutant qui trans mare currunt)".* This roughly translates as *"you may change your climate, but not your mind."*

note h

As well as Smallbridge, these included Overhall and Netherhall in Bures, Wickhambrook and Great Waldingfield in Suffolk and Foxearth and Borley in Essex.

note i

Although Joan inherited the Manor of Smallbridge in her own right in 1361, it was tenanted until 1375 by Sir William Baude, who is also recorded as the tenant of Wormingford Hall until that date.

Consort. In the same year, Sir Richard's seal and *"jewels worth 40 marks"*[36] were stolen from the *"Sword of the Hoope",* the London house in Fleet Street where he was lodging at the time. He subsequently decided to buy two London properties, one in Staining Lane and one in Hogen Lane, both off Wood Street in the City of London. Two years later, in 1384, he applied to King Richard II for, and received, a licence to crenellate (fortify) Smallbridge Hall (note j). He is described in this document as a "*chivaler"*, a title given to knights who were the holders of a barony which was originally military, but now had no official duties. At the same time he also received a 'grant of free warren' (permission to kill a range of small animals) on his land at Bures St. Mary, Wormingford and Ousden, as well as on his estates in Northamptonshire (note k). There is circumstantial evidence that Sir Richard or his son Richard may have been the model for the Knight in Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales'. Geoffrey Chaucer and Sir Richard were certainly acquainted, as they were both Members of Parliament, and were both soldiers. In addition, they both testified at an inquiry in 1386 into a complaint by Sir Richard Scrope that Sir Robert Grosvenor was wrongfully using the Scrope Coat of Arms. Waldegrave had seen the disputed Coat of Arms in 'Turkye', one of the places in which Chaucer's Knight served. Also, the Knight's son, the Squire, is described as *"Embrouded (embroidered) was he, as it were a mede (meadow), alle ful of freshe flours, white and rede"*[37]*.* The Waldegrave family colours are 'argent and gules', which in heraldry are shown as white and red.

In 1393, Sir Richard became a member of King Richard II's council, serving for the next four years, after which he made sure that he would not be called on again to perform further public service, receiving "*Exemption, for life, of Richard de Waldegrave from being put on assizes, juries, recognisances or inquisitions, and from appointment as mayor, sheriff, coroner, escheator, collector of tenths, fifteenths or subsidies, or as other minister of the king against his will*"[38]. During his tenure of Smallbridge, in 1405, one of the legends of the Wormingford 'worm' (or serpent) was recorded. A dragon suddenly appeared *"juxta villam de Buryam (Bures) prope Sudburyam"*[39] and started to attack the sheep. Impervious to arrows, it was driven off by Sir Richard's retainers and plunged into a neighbouring lake (attributed by most historians to Wormingford Mere), never to return (see Appendix E). It has since been suggested that it was a crocodile (note l). Joan died in 1406, and in the same year Sir Richard exchanged his estate at Brant Broughton for the Manors of Polstead, Leavenheath and Raydon St Mary, all within easy reach of Bures. In 1408 he founded a chantry in Foulness, Essex, and two years later he died. Both Sir Richard and his wife were buried in a table-tomb in St Mary's Church, Bures, but their monumental brasses would be bestroyed by Dowsing in 1643. Sir Richard left a detailed will, containing bequests to St Mary's Church and St Stephen's Chapel at Bures, St Peter's Church at Walgrave and several monastic houses.

He was succeeded by his eldest son, also **Richard**, who became known as 'Lord of Buers and Silvesters'. By 1391 Richard had been knighted, and in 1400 he had married Joan Montechensy, daughter of Sir Thomas de Montechensy of Edwardstone, Suffolk. Joan was heiress to the Manors of Chapel and Lindsey, amongst others, which further increased the

note j

For further details, see the chapter on the History of Smallbridge Hall.

note k

'Free Warren' allowed the hunting of fox, rabbit, hare, wild cat, badger, squirrel, marten and otter.

note l

The creature was described as "*vastus corpore, cristato capite, dento serrate, cauda protensa nimia longitudine*"[40], which translates as "*vast in body, with a crested head, teeth like a saw and a tail extending to enormous length."*

figure 2

The depiction of Elizabeth Fraye (widow of Sir Thomas Waldegrave) in Long Melford Church, wearing a cloak in the Waldegrave colours

figure 3

The memorial window to Sir William Waldegrave and Lady Margery in Bures Church

note m

The Paston Letters are the surviving correspondence of a prominent East Anglian family from the late Middle Ages onwards. The letters detail all aspects of the family's life, including their rise through the social ranks, and the cultural life of the period. We learn not only of the development and increase of their property and wealth, but also their trials and tribulations.

note n

Under the modern calendar Sir William died in January 1528. Prior to 1752, when March 25th ceased to be the first day of the year, this would have been January 1527, explaining the date of 1527 in the window.

Waldegrave landholdings. Richard was a notable soldier, who in 1402 had taken part in an expedition which captured the town of Coquet in Brittany and the Isle de Rhe, and who was appointed (with Lord Clinton, Sir John Howard and Lord Fauconbridge) to *"keep the seas"*[41]. He also fought in the battle of Agincourt in 1415 under the banner of the Bourchiers, Earls of Essex. He died in 1435.

Sir Richard's only son **William**, knighted in 1430, inherited the Smallbridge estates. Sir William was married to Joan Doreward, daughter of William Doreward of Bocking, Essex, and they had two sons, Richard and **Thomas**. Richard, the elder, died in 1453, so Thomas succeeded his father on his death in 1454, at the age of 19. He was knighted in 1461 by the newly-proclaimed King Edward IV on the battlefield of Towton Moor, during the War of the Roses. In the same year, Sir Thomas married Elizabeth Fraye, daughter and heiress of Sir John Fraye of Cottered, Hertfordshire, Chief Baron of the Exchequer. Sir Thomas evidently took up the law as a career, being later described as *"Sergeant-at-Lawe and Counsel"*[42]*.* In 1472 he died of the plague in London, intestate, and was buried in the chancel of Bures church. Elizabeth was only thirty years old at his death, and seems to have had a number of suitors, including John Paston of Norwich, as reported in the historically important 'Paston Letters' (note m). She eventually married Sir William Say in 1476, but died two years later. Being related to the Clopton family of Kentwell Hall, she is depicted in a stained-glass window in Long Melford Church (figure 2).

Next in line was Sir Thomas's eldest son **William**, one of seven children, who inherited at the age of ten. One of his brothers, Edward, would be the ancestor of the current Earl Waldegrave of Chewton Mendip, Somerset. William married Marjorie Wentworth, daughter of Sir Henry Wentworth of Wethersfield, Essex, and they were to have eleven children. Incidentally, around 1490 his brother Sir Richard Waldegrave built Bevills in Bures village for his son George, the house still standing today. William was appointed Justice of the Peace for Suffolk in 1495, a position he retained until his death, and he was knighted in 1501 on the occasion of the marriage of Prince Arthur to Katharine of Aragon. His national prominence was well demonstrated over the next few years. In 1514 he was nominated by Act of Parliament as *"one of the most discreet persons for assessing and collecting a subsidy of £163,000 by a poll-tax"*[43]*.* In 1519 he was present at the meeting in Calais between King Henry VIII and Francis I, King of France, better known as the Field of the Cloth of Gold, and in the following year he accompanied the King to his meeting with Emperor Charles V of Spain at Gravelines. Two years later he was a member of the royal party who welcomed Charles V to Canterbury. He was chosen by the King to serve as High Sheriff of Suffolk and Norfolk, as well as being a member of the King's Council.

The wealth of the family was very evident - in 1522 the Abbot of Bury St Edmunds was said to be the richest man in Suffolk, *"richer even than Thomas Sprynge of Lavenham and Sir William Waldegrave"*[44]. Sir William died in 1528 (figure 3 & note n), and in his will he instructed his children to give their mother Wormingford Hall as a Dower House if she required it. Margery outlived him by 12 years, remaining a staunch Catholic despite the antagonism of her grandson, another William. In 1514 Sir

figure 4

The memorial brass to Sir George Waldegrave and his widow, Lady Anne Jermyn in Depden Church

figure 5

A panel of the octagonal font in Bures Church, with the arms of Waldegrave on the left and the arms of Raynsford on the right

William had founded a Chantry in St Mary's Church, Bures, although his tomb, and that of his wife, are now missing from it. In his will he had stipulated that *"his heire will see the said Chantry mayntayned and upholdyn."*[45] In 1600, William Tyllotson, a Suffolk antiquary, visited Bures Church and noted that "*on ye 4th pane of ye high chauncel, there is a picture of this lady* (Margery Wentworth) *opposite to ye knight, her husband"*[46]*.* These, no doubt, were also victims of Dowsing's iconoclasm in 1643.

Sir William's eldest son **George** inherited the estates, but he died five months later. In his will, George bequeathed the estates to his wife Anne Drury, during the minority of **William**, his son and heir. Anne was the daughter of Sir Robert Drury of Hawstead, Suffolk, and she later married Sir Thomas Jermyn of Rushbrook, Suffolk. She was buried at Depden, Suffolk, where there is an unusual pair of memorial brasses in the Church, showing Anne with each of her two husbands. The brass displaying Sir George is illustrated (figure 4). Sir George was buried in a wall-chest tomb in the Waldegrave Chantry in Bures church, but once again his brass was a victim of Dowsing. William was only weeks away from attaining his majority on his father's death, so he soon inherited the estates. His dying father had arranged his marriage to Juliana Raynsford, sister of Sir John Raynsford of Bradfield, Essex, and this took place late in 1528. They were to have one son and five daughters. On the death of her brother, Juliana became the last member of this family, so she brought all their land and property to the Waldegraves. Sir William was referred to as *"young Walgreve of the Courte"*[47] by the Tudor antiquarian, John Leland, and he spent his life combining local administration with military service. He was a keen supporter of Protestantism, and by 1538 he was having to be restrained from over-enthusiastically promoting services in English in Bures Church. The following year he had no compunction in denouncing his own grandmother's chaplain to Thomas Cromwell (then Henry VIII's Chief Minister) as being a papist and a bad influence, writing *"A chaplain of Lady Waldegrave causes her to hold off from the truth and has in his Mass book daily this Thomas Beckett's name with all his pestiferous collects unrased"*[48]*.* Cromwell, however, seems not to have taken any action.

Like many of the Waldegraves, William was appointed Justice of the Peace for Suffolk. He was knighted in 1533 at the coronation of Anne Boleyn, and by 1540 he had achieved sufficient distinction to be sent to meet Anne of Cleves, the King's fourth wife, on her arrival at Blackheath. The following year Sir William sold the family estates in Northamptonshire. In 1542 he commanded part of the Suffolk contingent in the Duke of Norfolk's campaign against the Scots, and in 1543 he took 200 men from Suffolk to France in order to defend Calais from French attack. Two years later he was elected Member of Parliament for Suffolk. In 1549 King Edward VI appointed him High Sheriff of Suffolk and Norfolk, and later in the year he helped to suppress Kett's rebellion in Norfolk. However, whilst in Calais in 1554 (possibly serving as Deputy Governor) he fell sick and died. He was buried in St Mary's Church there, with an inscription placed in St Mary's Church, Sudbury and a monument in St Mary's Church, Bures, where either he or his wife had been responsible for providing the octagonal font (figure 5). Lady Juliana left Smallbridge

after the death of Sir William, moving to her estate near Epping Forest where she remained until her death five years later.

William, their only son, and the third in succession to have this name, was around 15 or 16 years old at his father's death (note o) and the custody of the *"manors and lands"* were granted by Queen Mary to *"the King and Queen's Councillor, Edward Waldegrave, Knight"*[49] during William's minority. Edward was a royal favourite, being also Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Keeper of the Royal Wardrobe. During the next few years it seems probable that the medieval Hall was demolished, to be replaced by a substantial red-brick mansion. Whilst this was going on, William was studying law at Lincolns Inn, where in 1561 he was elected *"Master of the Revels"*[50]. His mother had died in 1559 and the following year he had married Elizabeth Mildmay, sister of Sir Thomas Mildmay of Moulsham, Essex, and this union would produce ten children. His uncle Edward had been obliged to relinquish control of the estates after the accession of Queen Elizabeth I in 1558. Remaining a staunch Catholic and supporter of Mary, he would die in the Tower of London in 1561. The high status of the family, established during earlier generations, was still very evident, as they entertained Queen Elizabeth I during her 'progress' into Essex, Suffolk, Middlesex and Hertfordshire in 1561. It is probably true, however, that the location of the Hall was the major consideration for its inclusion in the 'progress', as it was conveniently situated between Shelley Hall, the previous stopping point and Castle Hedingham, the next stopping point (Appendix F). Although the Privy Purse subsidised the cost of providing hospitality, no doubt the financial burden falling on the property owner was considerable (note p). Being only the third progress of her reign, this would, however, have been a more modest affair than later progresses - it was not until a few years later that they took on an almost fabulous character. There is an often repeated story that the Queen visited Smallbridge Hall again in 1579, but this clearly did not happen (note q).

Sometime before the end of 1561, on reaching his majority, William left Lincoln's Inn, without being called to the Bar, instead returning permanently to his considerable estates, which at the time included "*the manors of Wormingford Hall, Wormingford Park and other lands and tenements in this parish, the two Buers, Lammarshe, Colne-Wake, Fordham, Horkesley, Boxted and Colchester*"[53]. He served as Member of Parliament on three separate occasions, initially for Essex and later for Suffolk, and as early as 1563 (well before his knighthood) he was being referred to as the Senior Member, when the Junior Member was already a Knight. He eventually received his knighthood in 1576, and two years later acquired another local estate, Church Hall in Wormingford, from the Mannock family of Stoke-by-Nayland. In 1581 he added Wormingford Rectory and the advowson of the church, also from the Mannocks. He also purchased land in Boxford, where he became governor of the local school. The family was important enough to be mentioned in 'Britannia', William Camden's great journey around the British Isles, who wrote of them "*The Waldegraves who have long flourished in knightly degree at Smalebridge nearer to Stoure*"[54]. In 1581 Elizabeth died, and two years later Sir William married Griseld Rivett, daughter of Lord Paget and widow of Sir Thomas Rivett. There would be no children from this marriage. In 1582 Griseld had

note o

There is some uncertainty over the date of this William's birth. The official biography of Members of Parliament for this period claims that he achieved his majority in November 1561, when he returned permanently to Smallbridge. Other biographers make him a year older, giving his date of birth as 1539.

note p

She spent part of Monday 11th August, all of Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th and part of Thursday 14th at 'Smalebridge'. The subsidies from the Privy Purse for Tuesday and Wednesday were £124 6s 5¼d & £121 7s 8¾ respectively (figures recorded by Thomas Weldon, cofferer to the Royal Household). The purchasing power of £120 in 1561 is roughly £26,500 in 2010. The host would have been responsible for providing entertainment to the Queen and her court, as well as providing for all the local dignitaries he would no doubt have invited.

note q

John Nichols, the eighteenth century antiquarian and author of *"The Progresses of Queen Elizabeth I"* records a 'progress' in 1579 as follows: *"August 20 to Smallbridge, Mr. Walgrave's, and there two days; August 22, to Ipswich, and there four days …. September 1, to Colchester, and there two days"*[51].

This is incorrect on a number of grounds:

The records of the Privy Council show that it was in session at Greenwich for the second half of July and virtually all of August. The only time that the Queen left Greenwich during this period was on the 30th & 31st August when she visited Wanstead, where two further meetings of the Privy Council were held.

Historian GR Elton (and others) record the visit of the Duke of Anjou, one of the Queen's suitors: *"In August 1579 he arrived in person, secretly, but it was a well-divulged secret"*[52]. He stayed 12 days, meeting the Queen at Greenwich.

Nicholls seems either to be referring to a 'progress' that was planned but which did not take place, or one that took place in another year. If the latter, no historian has yet established which year this might have been.

figure 6

The tomb of Sir William Waldegrave (1539—1613) in the Waldegrave Chantry, Bures Church, with effigies of Sir William and his wife Elizabeth Mildmay, their six sons and four daughters.

inherited Tendring Hall in nearby Stoke-by-Nayland. Sir William did not wholly impress a neighbour in that village, one Adam Winthrop, who, after Sir William's death, wrote of him as *"Vir patriae charus, sed pietatis inops"*[55] - a man dear to his country, but lacking in godliness. Sir William demonstrated his patriotism in 1588, when he raised a force of 500 *"all choice men and disciplined, and singularly furnished"*[56] to help defend the country against the Spanish Armada, and marched at their head to Tilbury. These soldiers were in addition to Sir William's statutory provision of *"2 lawnces and 2 light horses"*[57]. Griseld was a staunch Catholic, which led, in 1590, to the Privy Council forwarding a letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury accusing her of recusancy, but no action appears to have been taken. Towards the end of the century, the expense of Sir William's building projects, entertaining the Queen, and the provision of troops seems to have finally caught up with him, as he appears to have started encountering financial difficulties. In 1577 he had sold part of Stansted Park in Essex, namely a *"messuage called The Lodge and land (158a.)"*[58] for £820, but this may have been to fund his purchases in Wormingford and Boxford. Although he had made some more purchases of land and property, mentioned earlier, he started to sell off parts of the estate. In 1589 he sold the Manor of Great Welnetham to his cousin, Henry Drury, followed by *"a messuage called Garlands and a fearme house and landes called Hitchcockes"*[59] to one John Gurdon. In 1598 he sold the Manor of Polstead to John Brand, a clothier from Boxford. He eventually died in 1613, and was buried in a grand chest-tomb in the Waldegrave Chantry (figure 6).

A number of estates had already been settled on his son **William**, the last of the Waldegrave line at Smallbridge to be knighted. William spent some time in Ireland, where he received his knighthood in 1595. Shortly after his return, in 1597, he was elected Knight of the Shire for Suffolk. Sir William was married twice, firstly to Judith Jermyn of Rushbrook, Suffolk and then to Jemima Bacon, daughter of Sir Nicholas Bacon of Redgrave, Suffolk. Unfortunately, he also died in 1613, three months after his father, so the estates passed to his only son **William**, aged ten. After William came of age Jemima moved to the dower house of Wormingford Hall (note r). The ongoing financial problems of the Waldegrave family were referred to again in 1618, when the antiquarian Robert Ryece stated *"the ancient family of the Waldegraves, now within these thirty years since I first knew them (are) much decayed and worne out"*[60]. William was another ardent Royalist, one of the very few Suffolk gentry to join King Charles' forces. He did so in 1640, two years before the outbreak of the Civil War, becoming a Captain in the process. Whilst he was away from home in 1643, Dowsing paid his visit to Bures, as mentioned earlier. He not only targeted the church, but also the chapel at Smallbridge Hall (note s). Further financial problems were documented in the will of Edward Beaumont, a rich Hadleigh clothier: *"I have lately lent unto William Waldegrave, esquire, £400 upon a mortgage of certain lands and tenements known by the name of Fishouse in Buers co. Suffolk"*[61]. When he died in 1650, Captain William had no heirs (three sons having died within a year of each other, followed by his only daughter) so the estates passed to his brother **Thomas**. Captain William's widow Frances 'held a court' at Wormingford Hall in December 1650 and would soon marry Peregrine Clarke of

note r

"rid to Wormingford kindly entertaynd by my Lady Waldgrave."[62] Josselin

note s

"At Master Capt Waldegrave's Chappel, in Buers, there was a Picture of God the Father, and divers other superstitious Pictures, 20 at least, which they promised to break, his Daughter and Servants; he himself was not at home, neither could they find the key of the Chappel".[63] Dowsing

Ipswich, living for a time at Wormingford Lodge.

Little is known of the families' final years at Smallbridge. Although he was a Justice of the Peace and Member of Parliament for Sudbury from 1661 to 1677, the year he died, Thomas was described as a *"yeoman farmer"*[64]. His son, another **Thomas**, was also a farmer as well as being High Sheriff of Suffolk in both 1682 and 1683. He died in 1693, his mother continuing to live at Smallbridge Hall until her death in 1695 (his wife having pre-deceased him). Yet another **Thomas** inherited the remaining estates, and within the next few years, most probably in 1702, he sold the Manors of Smallbridge, Wormingford Hall and Church Hall to John Currance. *"Tho Walgrave, Gent of Bures"*[65] was recorded in the Suffolk Poll of the same year.

The 1600s had been a lean time for this branch of the family, being completely overshadowed by their recusant cousins at Nazeing, who received a baronetcy for their conspicuous loyalty during the Civil War. There is a reference to Thomas in 1707 as *"son and heir of Thomas Waldegrave, late of Smallbridge, Suff"*[66], when he sold some land in Alphamstone, Suffolk, and in 1713, one Belazeel Peachie, researching for William Holman's 'History of Essex', wrote from Bures that he *"has spoken to some elderly ladies of the Waldegrave family"*[67]. The last reference to a female member of the family locally was in 1718, when Elizabeth Waldegrave, the widow of John Barrington, died. The last reference to a male member of the family locally was in a will of 1750, where John Kingsbury of Wormingford left his wife *"my messuage or tenement and farm with the house and appurts thereunto belonging situate lying and being in Wormingford, now in the tenure or occupation of Richard Harvey or his assigns which I lately purchased of Thomas Waldegrave Esq"*[68].

THE HISTORY OF THE WALDEGRAVE FAMILY AT SMALLBRIDGE HALL

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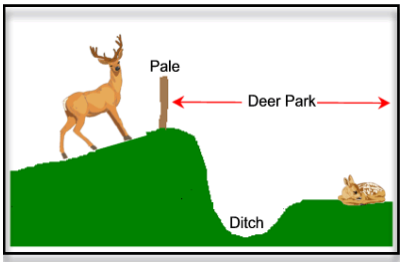
Key: BL (British Library) CLSS (Colchester Local Studies Centre) ERO (Essex Record Office) SRO (Suffolk Record Office)

A BRIEF HISTORY OF DEER PARKS AND PARK BUILDINGS IN ESSEX

figure 1

A rare example of a modern-day 'pale', at Moccas Deer Park, Herefordshire

figure 2



Construction of the bank, ditch and 'pale'

note t

ȝ ic an mine cnihtes þat wude at Angre· buten þat derhage ȝ þat stod þe ic her habbe.

And I give to my pages the wood at Ongar, except the deer-park and the stud which I have there.

note u

"[William] made many deer-parks, and he established laws therewith; so that whosoever slew a hart, or a hind, should be deprived of his eyesight. As he forbade men to kill the harts, so also the boars."[70] Anglo Saxon Chronicle

note v

Oliver Rackham says that there were 4 Royal Forests in Essex, the Essex Field Club claims "*at least 18*"[71].

note w

Essex still retains evidence of a swine park with some areas of bank and ditch, at Chalkney Wood near Earl's Colne. Here the de Veres, Earls of Oxford, "*bredd and mayntayned Wyelde Swyne*"[72].

It is generally accepted that the re-introduction of fallow deer around 1100 AD by Henry 1 was the major impetus behind the creation of deer-parks, and thus successful deer farming and hunting. There is, however, evidence that deer hunting took place in Britain during Saxon times. Ælfric, a tenth century monk, wrote: "*I weave myself nets and set them in a suitable place, and urge on my dogs so that they chase the wild animals until they come into the nets unawares and are thus ensnared; and I kill them in the nets... I kill stags in the nets*"[69].

Essex is one of the few counties where a form of deer enclosure is documented prior to the Norman Conquest, in the will of Thurstan dated 1045 (note t). It is also one of the few counties in which the Domesday Survey of 1086 specifically mentions a park – in Rochefort (Rochford). One of the first, and most resented, acts of William the Conqueror after he took power in England in 1066 was the introduction of the Norman concept of 'Forest Law'. This involved the designation of large tracts of land as royal forest, which were subject to special and harsh restrictions. These included laws prohibiting the hunting of large game, such as deer and wild boar (note u) and allowed severe punishments for poachers, such as blinding, the removal of a hand and castration. In reality though, according to the evidence of court proceedings, those found guilty were usually fined, imprisoned, outlawed or pardoned. The Pipe Rolls show that by 1150 the main effect of Forest Law was to provide revenue. Forests continued to be created for the next hundred years or so, mainly by Royalty, although some Earls and Bishops were known to own them. Essex contained several Royal Forests, including Epping, Havering, and Hatfield, although the precise number is the subject of debate (note v).

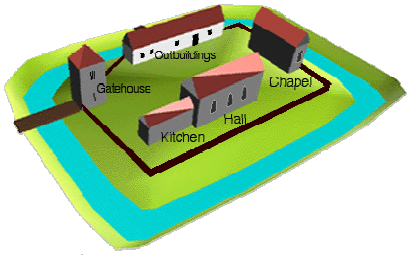
On the other hand, parks (from Old English *'pearroc'*, meaning a piece of land with a fence round it), could be created by anyone with sufficient wealth and land. Creating a park required three considerations. Firstly, a licence from the King to 'empark' (enclose the land). Secondly, a boundary fence (known as a 'pale') to effect the enclosure. This would normally have been constructed from wooden staves (figure 1), but in some parts of the country stone, or, in rare cases brick, walls were constructed. Thirdly, the introduction of deer, or in some cases, swine (note w). There were other items to consider as well. There would normally have been an external bank and an internal ditch dug around the park, the 'pale' standing on the bank (figure 2). This would enable wild deer to leap into the park (but not other wild animals that might cause harm to the deer), but would not allow deer in the park to escape. In effect a deer park, although used for hunting, could be regarded as a larder where live meat was kept until it was required for the table. Later, in Tudor times, the sporting aspects of the hunt became more important than the food it produced. Several examples of former deer park boundaries remain in Essex, including Ongar Great Park, Braxted Park (inside the wall, which post-dates the deer park, the ditch is ten feet deep in places) and Norsey Wood, on the edge of Billericay (figure 3).

In addition, a lodge was required to house the 'parker', who oversaw the day-to-day running of the park. The large number of poachable deer required a permanent presence,

figure 3

The remains of the bank and ditch at Norsey Wood, Billericay

figure 4



The Royal hunting lodge, Writtle, (layout based on excavated remains)

figure 5

Queen Elizabeth I on a 'standing'

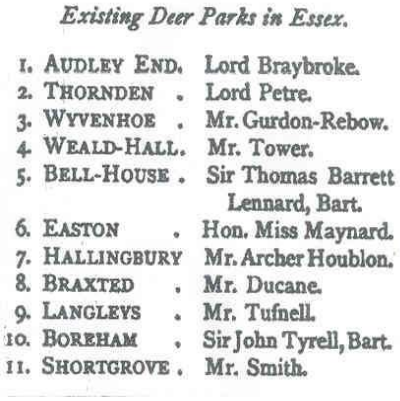
figure 6

The 'Great Standing' built by Henry VIII in 1543 on the southern edge of Epping Forest, now known erroneously as 'Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge'

and the lodge would normally have been in an elevated position overlooking the park. The original structures would probably have been of timber construction, which could be rebuilt in brick or stone at a later date. More complex lodges could provide a viewing gallery, plus shelter and/or refreshment for hunting parties. Many lodges were converted into manor houses or farm houses. Some were demolished and the site re-used when the fashion for relocating the main family home into the park itself was adopted in the late sixteenth century. Two examples of this were at Great Easton near Dunmow, where a Tudor mansion (now demolished) was built on the site of the former hunting lodge and at Audley End, where the mansion still stands. Most, however, were demolished, with nothing left standing above ground level. An archaeological excavation in the 1950s revealed the site of a Royal hunting lodge, built by King John in 1211, and used also by Kings Henry III and Edward I (figure 4). Between 1999 and 2004, archeological investigations into land earmarked for the extension of Stansted Airport revealed the location of Stansted deer park and its' associated hunting lodge (no doubt the one sold by Sir William Waldegrave in 1577). The excavation at Lodge Hills, Wormingford by Colchester Archaeological Group, almost certainly incorporates the foundations of a hunting lodge. Other buildings could also be sited within a park, notably lookout towers or 'standings', which could be used as grandstands for spectators at a hunt, or platforms from which archers could shoot at deer being driven past. These 'standings' could range from rudimentary (figure 5) to imposing, Essex having the most famous 'standing' remaining in Britain, known today as Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge (figure 6). A number of other buildings in Essex have been identified as former lodges or standings, but their original shapes and construction are now unrecognizable (for details see page 22).

Parks would usually consist of existing woodland (for shelter) and pasture (for grazing). Where pasture did not exist, 'launds' (grassy areas) were created by grubbing out existing woodland. Deer parks were status symbols, and few self-respecting noblemen would deny themselves the privilege of owning one. It has been estimated that over 2000 parks were created in England during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, peaking between the years 1200 and 1350, a period of great economic growth. The landowners' wealth was increasing from improved agricultural techniques while the feudal system provided a plentiful labour supply, and the decline of the Royal forests ensured that land was available. At least 160 parks are recorded in Essex between 1086 and 1535, which is a high density of parks compared with other counties. Sir Richard Rich, Lord Chancellor to Edward VI, owned three deer parks in close proximity to his seat at Leez Priory near Felsted, as did the Waldegrave family of Smallbridge Hall, with two being on the Essex side of the Stour at Wormingford and one on the Suffolk side at Bures St Mary. It should be noted that even a small village like Wormingford had no less than four parks recorded within its' boundaries – a medieval park at Gernons Manor (documentary sources), a presumably medieval park at Wood Hall Manor (field names), a medieval and later park at Wormingford Hall (documentary sources and field names) and a presumably Tudor park on Lodge Hills, opposite Smallbridge Hall (maps, documentary sources and field names). The size of parks could

figure 7



Existing Deer Parks in Essex.

1.	AUDLEY END.	Lord Braybroke.
2.	THORNDEN .	Lord Petre.
3.	WYVENHOE .	Mr. Gurdon-Rebow.
4.	WEALD-HALL.	Mr. Tower.
5.	BELL-HOUSE .	Sir Thomas Barrett Lennard, Bart.
6.	EASTON .	Hon. Miss Maynard.
7.	HALLINGBURY	Mr. Archer Houblon.
8.	BRAXTED .	Mr. Ducane.
9.	LANGLEYS .	Mr. Tufnell.
10.	BOREHAM .	Sir John Tyrell, Bart.
11.	SHORTGROVE .	Mr. Smith.

The list of existing deer parks in 1865

vary greatly - Havering Park was known to have been around 1,300 acres and Danbury Park around 120 acres.

By late Tudor times, county-wide maps were being produced, with a number of parks marked on them. John Norden showed 45 of them in 1594, and, in the gazetteer which accompanied his map, Nordern pithily describes the area containing the hundreds of Waltham, Ongar, Becontree and Havering, as *"full of parkes"*[73]. His map, and others in the century following, are not comprehensive, as there are a number of other known parks not shown, including Layer Marney, Great Braxted and Wormingford Hall. The creation of parks continued into the seventeenth century, but was brought to a standstill by the Civil War. During the Commonwealth, most of the remaining royal forests were 'disparked', including Havering in Essex, and sold to fund the unpaid wages of parliamentarian soldiers. Parks were, however, still a feature of the landscape nearly two centuries later, map-makers Chapman and Andre illustrating 68 parks in the county in 1777, but by then not all of them were deer parks. During the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, there was a fashion for parks to be artificially landscaped, with much of the former woodland destroyed, and the deer either removed or relegated to outlying areas. In many former deer parks the historic 'pales' were destroyed or fell into disrepair, the deer escaping into adjoining land. By 1865 only 11 deer parks were recorded in Essex (figure 7). Today, there are a small number of former parks maintaining deer enclosures, such as Layer Marney and Bedfords Park near Havering, whilst wild deer can sometimes be seen in other formerly enclosed parks, including Hylands Park near Chelmsford.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF DEER PARKS AND PARK BUILDINGS IN ESSEX

SOURCES:

B Thorpe - Diplomatarium anglicum aevi saxonici 1865 [69 & 72]

Anglo-Saxon Chronicle 1087 (translated by J Ingram 1823) [70]

Essex Field Club - Essex Parks 2004 [71]

J Norden - Essex discribed 1594 [73]

Domesday Book ('Little Domesday') 1086

Tithe Award - Wormingford 1838 ERO

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O Rackham - The History of the Countryside 1986

Victoria County History of Essex Vol IX 1994

BUILDINGS IN ESSEX IDENTIFIED BY ENGLISH HERITAGE AS FORMER HUNTING LODGES OR 'STANDINGS'

'Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge', Chingford - former 'standing' (see figure 6)

The Warren, Loughton - former 'standing'

Little Troyes, Faulkbourne - former 'standing'

Old House, Nazeing - former 'standing'

Oaks Farmhouse, Earl's Colne - former lodge or 'standing'

Barfield Farm, Doddinghurst - probably a former lodge or 'standing'

Boblow Farmhouse, Helions Bumpstead - probably a former lodge

Ploughden, Hatfield Broad Oak - possibly a former lodge or 'standing'

Cradle House, Coggeshall - possibly a former lodge

Little Lodge Farmhouse, Castle Hedingham - reputed to be one of the former hunting lodges of Hedingham Castle

Photographs of all the above, with the exception of Boblow Farmhouse, can be found on www.imagesofengland.org.uk

APPENDIX A

KEY DATES

Henry III	1262	The Manor of "Smalebrege" first documented
Edward III	1340	First mention of a park associated with Smallbridge on the Suffolk side of the Stour
	1362	Sir Richard Waldegrave acquires Smallbridge Manor through marriage
Richard II	1383	Sir Richard Waldegrave obtains a 'licence to crenellate' (fortify) Smallbridge Hall
	By 1393	Sir Richard Waldegrave acquires Wormingford Hall
Henry VIII	1528	First mention of a park associated with Smallbridge on the Essex side of the Stour
Mary I	*1555*	*Unconfirmed date given by Royal Commission for Historic Monuments of the demolition of Smallbridge Hall (William Waldegrave aged about 16)*
Elizabeth I	*1560*	*Following above, completion date of re-built Hall?*
	1561	Visit of Queen Elizabeth I to Smallbridge Hall on one of her 'progresses'
	1572	Dated coat of arms in Smallbridge Hall window, probably celebrating the *'new gallery'*
	1575	First recording of the Suffolk park on a map (Saxton)
	1576	First recording of the Essex park on a map (Saxton)
	1578	Sir William Waldegrave acquires Church Hall, Wormingford
	1589 onwards	Sir William Waldegrave starts selling land and property
	1594	First recording of Wormingford Lodge on a map of Essex, named and sited in the park (Norden)
Charles II	1657	Wormingford Lodge occupied by Peregrine Clarke, married to Frances, widow of Capt William Waldegrave
	1662	Hearth Tax for Essex shows Peregrine Clarke having 10 hearths (Wormingford Lodge)
	1664	Hearth Tax for Suffolk shows Thomas Waldegrave having 44 hearths (Smallbridge Hall)
William III	By 1702	Waldegrave family has sold Smallbridge Hall, Wormingford Hall, Wormingford Lodge and Church Hall
Anne	1713	Last recording of the Essex and Suffolk parks on maps (Overton)
George I	1718	Last mention of a female Waldegrave in the area (Elizabeth)
	Early C18	*Unconfirmed date of demolition of the Chapel and Gallery, and part of the Great Hall, at Smallbridge Hall*
George II	Just before 1750	Last mention of a male Waldegrave in the area (Thomas)
George IV	1825	Last recording of the Lodge on a map of Essex (Greenwood)
William IV	1836	'Lodge Farm' last documented, in a gazetteer of Essex (Wright)
Victoria	1838	Land on which the Lodge stood was 'occupied' (farmed) by Charles Pettitt, then living at Church Hall
	1874	Smallbridge Hall 'largely re-built' by George Wythes
George V	1930 - 32	Smallbridge Hall 'completely restored' by the Marchioness of Bristol

APPENDIX B

THE HERALDIC WINDOW DATED 1572 IN SMALLBRIDGE HALL
(The Arms of Waldegrave impaling Mildmay)

1. Top left - Waldegrave (Party per pale argent and gules
2. Top middle left - Monteschesney (Barry of ten, argent and azure)
3. Top middle right - Creake (Gules, an eagle displayed argent)
4. Top right - Vauncy (Or, a fess vair)
5. Middle left - Moyne (Argent, two bars and in chief three mullets, sable)
6. Middle centre - Fraye (Ermine, a fess sable between three beehives, or)
7. Middle right - Raynsford (Gules, chevron engrailed between three fleur-de-lys, argent)
8. Bottom left - Brokesborne (Gules, six spread eagles displayed or)
9. Bottom middle - Welnetham (Argent on a fess azure, three bezants)
10. Bottom right - Quitwell (Gules, a cross flory argent)

11. Right - Mildmay (Party per fess nebule argent and sable, three greyhounds' heads erased counter-charged collared or)

The Suffolk Institute for Archaeology and History interpreted the window in 1868 as: *1. Waldegrave, 2. Monteschesney, 3. Vauncy, 4. Creke, 5. Moyne, 6. Fraye, 7. unknown, 8. unknown, 9. unknown, 10. Mannock 11. Mildmay.*

Colonel W Probert, Bures historian, asserted that Juliana Raynsford, wife of Sir William Waldegrave (1507-1554) *"brought to the Waldegraves all his (her father's) estates and those of the extinct families of Brokesborne and Welnetham. The arms of all three are still to be seen quartered on the Waldegrave shields in painted glass at Smallbridge."*

Although the Suffolk Institute identified number 10 as Mannock (of Giffords Hall, Stoke–by-Nayland), this is clearly wrong, as their coat of arms is correct in design, but not in colouring. The Mannock's Arms are 'Sable, a cross flory argent' (a black background, not red as shown). The coat of arms in the colours shown belongs to the Quitwell family of Letheringham, Norfolk, although as yet I have found no connection between this family and the Waldegraves.

APPENDIX C

THE MAJOR BUILDINGS IN THE SUFFOLK HEARTH TAX OF 1674

51 hearths - Hengrave Hall (1525-1538)
quadrangular building

49 hearths - Melford Hall (completed 1578)
quadrangular building, wing demolished in C18

45 hearths - Brome Hall (1557)
demolished 1952

44 hearths - Smallbridge Hall (1555-1560?)
possible quadrangular building, now much reduced

41 hearths - Redgrave Hall (1545)
demolished 1947

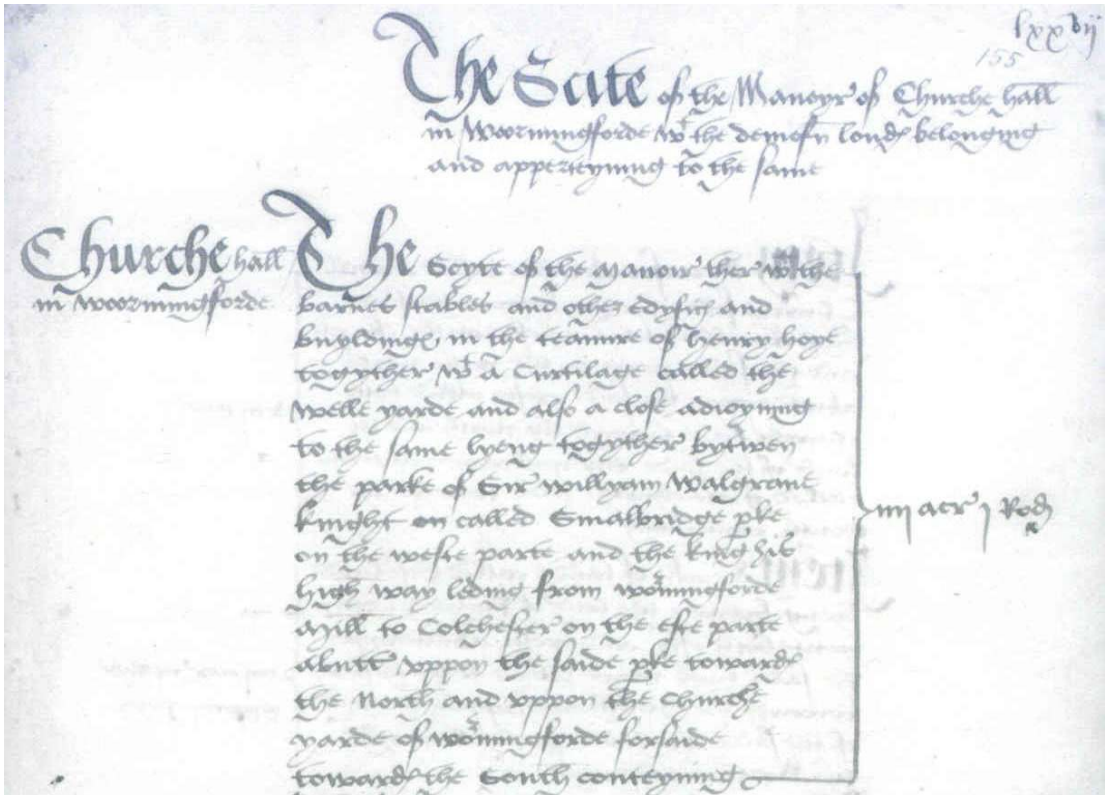
33 hearths - Rushbrooke Hall (1550)
demolished 1961

32 hearths - Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich (1548)

31 hearths - Henham Hall (1538)
demolished 1953

APPENDIX D

THE SALE OF THE MANOR OF CHURCH HALL IN WORMINGFORD (EXTRACT FROM THE EXTENT AND TERRIER OF POSSESSIONS OF CARDINAL COLLEGE, OXFORD, 1528)



TRANSLATION (courtesy of Patrick Denney)

The Sale of the Manor of Church Hall
in Wormingford with the demesne lands belonging
and appertaining to the same

Church Hall in Wormingford	The soil of the manor there with the barns, stables and other edifices and buildings in the tenure of Henry Hoye together with a curtilage called the Well Yard and also a close adjoining to the same lying together between the park of Sir William Walgrave Knight called Smallbridge Park on the west part and the King's highway leading from Wormingford Mill to Colchester on the east part abutting upon the said park towards the north and upon the church yard of Wormingford aforesaid towards the south containing	4 acres 2 rods

APPENDIX E

THE LEGEND OF THE DRAGON

A Dragon depicted in the east window of the north aisle
of St. Andrew's Church, Wormingford

THE LEGEND

"Sub hiis diebus, draco, vastus corpore, cristato capite, dento serrate, cauda protensa, nimia longitudine, nuper apparuit, malo patriae, juxta villam de Buryam prope Sudburyam, qui pastorem peremit ovium, ovesque plurimas interfecit. Ad quem sagittandum servi Domini Ricardi de Waldegrave, militis, cujus in dominio draco latuit, sunt egressi; sed corpus ejus omnes elusit ietus sagittantium, resilieruntque sagittae ab ejus crate, velut a ferro vel duro lapide; et quae super spinam dorsi ceciderunt, exsiliere, tinnitum reddentes velut offendissent laminam aeream, et procul evolaverunt, ratione cutis belluae impenitrabilis. Ad cujus accisionem quasi patria tota fuit summonita. Verum cum vidisset se iterum sagittis impetendum, fugit in paludem, et inter arundineta delituit; nec amplius visus fuit."

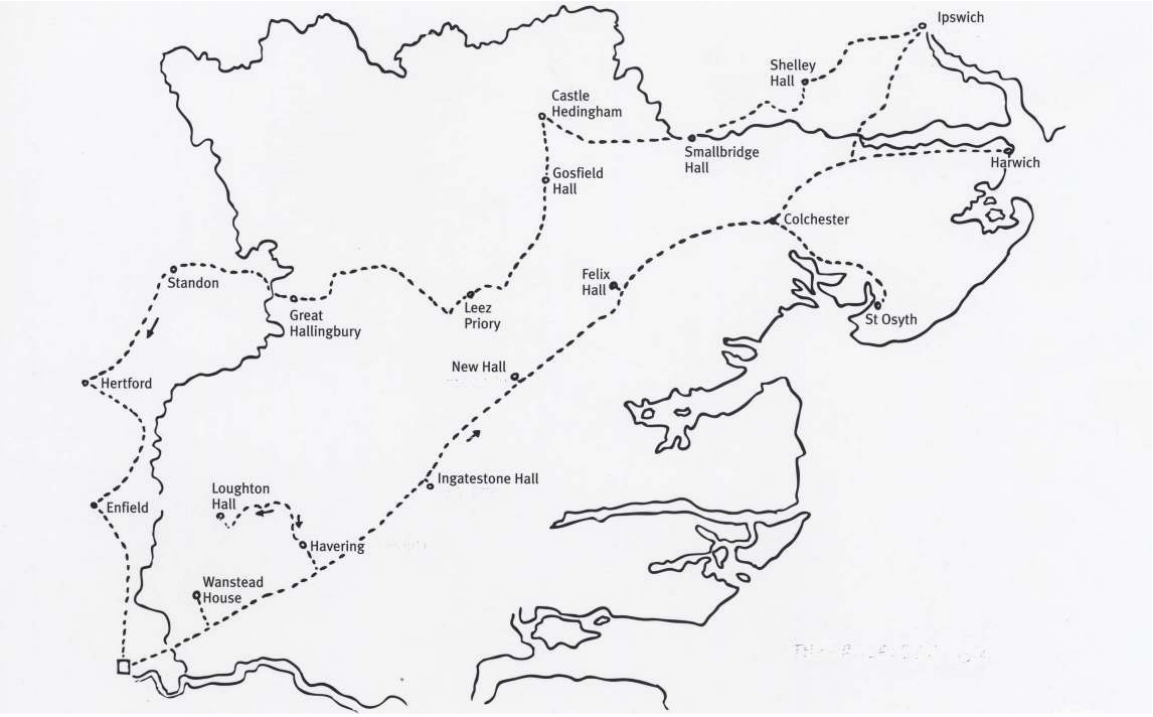
from the 'Rerum Brittanicarum Mediae Aevi Scriptores' (Annales Henrici Quarti) 1405

"Close to the town of Bures, near Sudbury, there has lately appeared, to the great hurt of the countryside, a Dragon, vast in body, with a crested head, teeth like a saw, and a tail extending to enormous length. Having slain the shepherd of a flock he then devoured very many sheep. There came forth in order to shoot at him with arrows, the workmen of the lord on whose domain he had concealed himself, being Richard de Waldegrave, knight; but the dragon's body, although struck by the archers, remained unhurt, for the arrows bounced off his back as if it were iron or hard rock. Those arrows that fell upon the spine of his back gave out as they struck it a ringing or tinkling sound just as if they had hit a brazen plate and then flew far away off by reason of the hide of this great beast being impenetrable. Thereupon in order to destroy him all the country people round were summoned. But when the dragon saw that he was again to be assailed with arrows, he fled into a marsh or mere, and there hid himself among the long reeds; nor was he any more seen."

translation by Colonel WGP Probert

APPENDIX F

THE ROUTE OF QUEEN ELIZABETH I'S 'PROGRESS' OF 1561

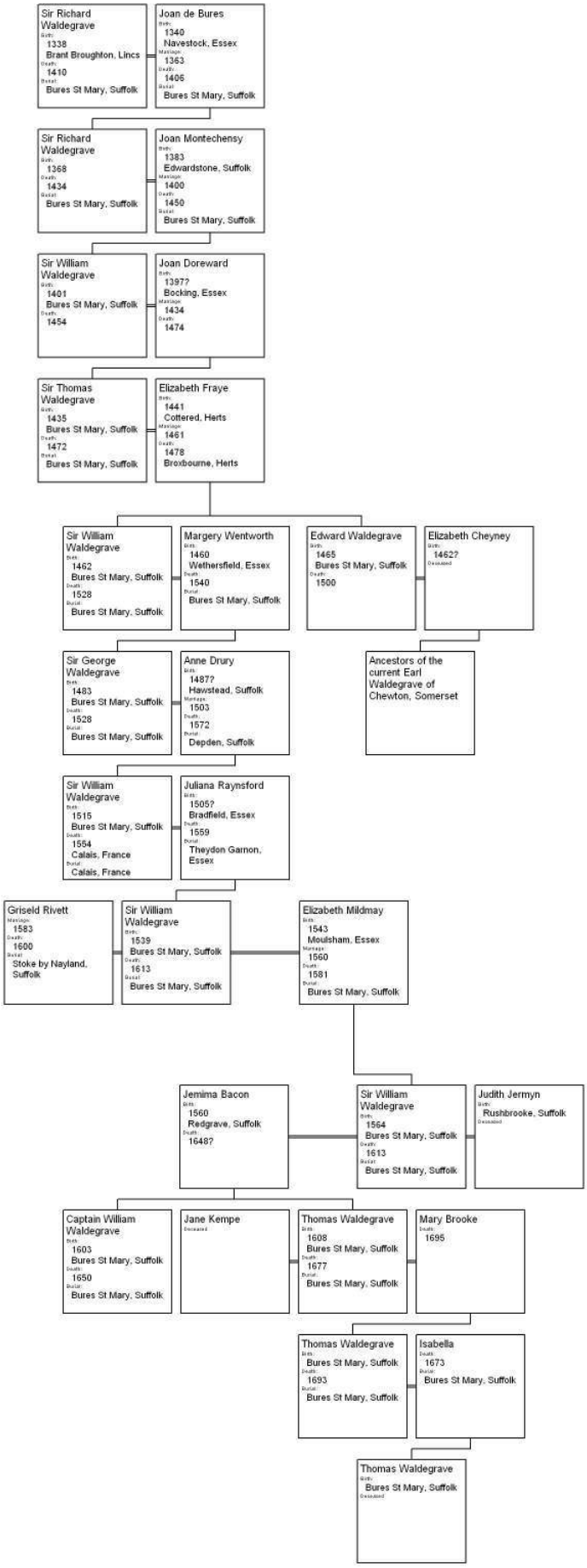


During her 45-year reign, Queen Elizabeth I is known to have travelled around parts of her kingdom in 'progresses' around 23 times, staying with an estimated 400 individual or civic hosts. She did not travel during the winter and early spring. During late spring she normally restricted herself to the counties adjacent to London, but from early summer to late autumn they became more widespread. Large parts of the country, however, were ignored, the Queen actually visiting only 25 English counties. The furthest north that she travelled was Coventry and the furthest west was Bristol.

This visit to Essex, Suffolk, Hertfordshire and Middlesex was only the third 'progress' of her reign, following her accession to the throne in 1558. The first, in 1559, had visited Dartford, Cobham, Eltham, Nonsuch and Hampton Court. The second, in 1560, had visited Winchester, 'Basing' and Windsor. In 1561 she arrived at Smallbridge Hall on Monday 11th August, leaving on Thursday 14th August.

APPENDIX G

The Waldegrave Succession at Smallbridge Hall



FORDHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

An Archaeological Fieldwalk in Mill Road, Fordham, Essex

Looking East towards Colchester from the site

Report prepared by Jenny Kay
November 2010

Contents

Polished Neolithic flint axe found by CAT project 2002

An Archaeological Fieldwalk in Mill Road Fordham, Essex

Summary

This is a report on a field walking project carried out in 2003 by Fordham Local History Society to investigate the likely existence of a Roman villa. The fieldwalking took place over two days, 30 and 31 August, washing the finds was completed in September. Finds were weighed, validated and recorded by the end of November. The organisation and presentation of the data was completed in November 2007. An analysis is offered in this report. The predominance of Roman finds supports the presence of a Roman villa on the site and suggests a likely location.

1 Location

The site is located (centre TL 930278). The two fields walked are adjacent to the eastern side of Mill Road, on south facing slopes leading down to the river. Access was by a field entrance. The area totalled 3.48 hectares. (Fig 1)

2 Background

The use of Roman building material in the walls of All Saints church had given rise to the likely theory that a Roman villa was present somewhere in the vicinity. With the support of the farm manager, Fordham Hall Farm had become a venue for metal detecting.

A small excavation was undertaken by members of the Colchester Archaeological Group in 1984 when the site of a burial (TL 930275) was discovered by R D Page and J E Davis when metal detecting. Two burials were found suggesting the likely existence of a Roman villa. (Davies G M R 1984)

In 2002, Colchester Archaeological Trust carried out a field walking survey on behalf of the Woodland Trust. The Trust had acquired the lease for the farmland proposing to plant trees. The two fields at the location of the burial were not to be included in the planting programme and were therefore not included in the archaeological field survey as the remit was to investigate any indication of previously unknown sites. (CAT 218 2002)

The Roman brick found on neighbouring field indicated the existence of a Roman villa. A quantity of prehistoric flints show that there must have been prehistoric living sites on the Fordham banks of the River Colne in the Neolithic/Bronze Age.

All Saints Church, Fordham

Roman brick and tile used in the fabric of the Church, together with flints and other drift deposits found in the local boulder clay.

Lead coffin found at the base of a timber-lined grave. The burial was probably that of an adolescent female . *Photograph by Trevor Rayner.*

Roman remains

Interest in the archaeology of Fordham had been heightened by the survey in which some members of Fordham Local History Society had also taken part. This interest and experience together with the support of June and John Wallace who had given a talk to the Society on the subject led to the decision to fieldwalk the area of likely Roman habitation. Permission was acquired from the Woodland Trust by Fordham Local History Society. The project started in August 2003 with the support of the Nayland field walking group and the Colchester Archaeological Trust.

3 Aim

The intention was to seek further supporting evidence for the existence and location of a Roman Villa and to add to the evidence of neolithic settlement identified by the survey completed in 2002. The initial intention was to provide data compatible with that presented in the CAT report 2002, enlarging the area of Fordham surveyed.

4 Method

Using GPS and the grid reference a 20m grid was laid out over the site which slopes southwards down towards the river. Fig 2 shows the area walked and the grid numbering system used. The ground had been regularly used for cultivation and had been ploughed and harrowed in preparation for the next crop. It was dry and dusty. Uncultivated areas, of about 30 to 40 m around each field had stubble, grass and weeds. The weather conditions were dry and bright.

A 10% sample of the whole area was taken, walking from south to north collecting finds up to 1 metre each side of the grid. Walkers were instructed to collect anything man-made. Experienced walkers gave initial guidance to those from the Fordham Local History Society who were doing this for the first time. John and June Wallace were available with advice on the finds, particularly on worked flint. No differentiation was made between the experienced and novice walkers.

The finds were washed in Fordham, validated, weighed and recorded at the Colchester Archaeological Trust. Fieldwalking record sheets were completed. The survey was not perfect. It was discovered on recording the data that one 100m line G7 F - J had not been walked.

5 Results

Character of the finds (Fig 3 – Statistical information)

All artefacts were included in the analysis except slate found only in two squares and slag found only in one. A total of 60.19kg of material was recovered for statistical analysis averaging 17.3kg/ha over the area surveyed. The largest component, 73.5%, was Roman brick and tile of which tile represented 80%. Flints, both worked and burnt represented less than 3% .Post medieval peg tile represented 13.4% of the total by weight in this survey. 9.6% of the total was classified as uncertain brick and tile.

Quantification

The initial intention to use the formula used in the CAT report 2002 presented problems. In order to produce this report it was decided to treat the project as distinct from the CAT work and present the data using the mean average. The weights and number of finds for each type were aggregated for each 100 square metre. The distribution pattern for each type is based on the mean. The overall number of squares walked was 348. The total weight for each type is divided by the number of squares walked.

Example – **Worked Flint**

Flints were weighed to the nearest gram

Total Weight 874g / Squares walked 348 = 2.51g

All flints: up to 2 g are below the mean
from 3g to 4g are above the mean
from 5g to 7 g are 2 x mean
from 7g to 9g are 3 x mean
from 10 more 4 x mean

The relationship to the mean for finds was noted on the Fieldwalking record sheets. Diagrammatic maps (Figs 4 to 13) with circular symbols to represent the weight of finds in relation to the mean, were drawn up to show the distribution of each type of artefact found. Locations for mortaria and amphora are shown on the map of Roman pot, Fig 6 and locations for tesserae and flue tile, on the Roman tile map, Fig 11. During the analysis it was noted that the weight on one sherd of mortaria had not been included. Its position is noted on the map.

Prehistoric Finds (Figs 4 and 5)

Worked flints: Total collected 68 Average weight per 20m box 2.51g
Burnt flint: Total collected 33 Average weight per 20m box 2.45g

Worked flints were distributed across the two fields, burnt flints were found in both fields but predominantly in the lower field.

Roman Finds (Figs 6, 10 and 11)

Roman pot: Total collected 20 Average weight per 20m box 0.45g
Roman brick: Total collected 35 Average weight per 20m box 13.38g
Roman tile: Total collected 867 Average weight per 20m box 113.80g

Roman brick and tile was the largest group of all material collected. It was concentrated in the upper field in where the burials were excavated in 1984 and the possible site of a Roman villa was indicated (Davies 1984). Among the tile were 9 tesserae and 5 flue tiles. All of the tessera and 4 pieces of the flue tile were found in the area of dense distribution of Roman brick and tile. The finds of Roman pot seemed relatively small. One piece of amphora and three pieces of mortaria were identified.

Later Pottery (Figs 7, 8 and 9)

Medieval: Total collected 11 sherds Average weight per 20m box 0.1g
Post Medieval: Total collected 13 sherds Average weight per 20m box 0.3g
Modern Total collected 4 sherds Average weight per 20m box 0.05g

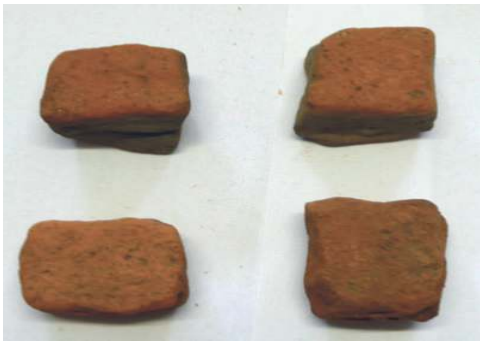
All pottery finds were very small.

Burnt flint, (pot boilers)

Worked flint (struck flint)

Roman roof tile

Roman brick



Roman floor tiles (tesserae)

Roman pottery sherds

Roman flue tile

Sample finds

Peg tile and uncertain brick and tile (Figs 12 and 13)

Peg tile: Total collected 503 Average weight per 20m box 23.16g

Uncertain; Total collected 845 Average weight per 20m box 16.68g

There was a heavier distribution of peg tile in the lower field than in the upper. The distribution of uncertain brick and tile corresponds largely with that of the Roman brick and tile.

6 Discussion

The initial intention to incorporate the data with that of CAT 2002 has not yet been achieved. It proved difficult to overcome the statistical problems. The diagrams in the two reports are not comparable as different scales of representation have been used. However some comparisons can be made using with the average weight per hectare of the finds. In particular with reference to the Roman finds which were the main focus of the fieldwalk survey.

Almost 6 times more material was collected per hectare than that recovered in the larger survey; 17.3kg/ha to 3.0kg /ha. That 80% of this was Roman brick and tile seems to confirm the presence of the Roman villa in the fields walked. The low weight of brick to tile may be explained by the presence of Roman brick in the walls of the nearby church. The heavy distribution of Roman finds in the NE corner of the upper field (F97, F98. G7 and G8) seems to indicate a location for the villa within a reasonably small distance, north of the burial site. High levels of tile were collected in 2002 from adjacent areas.

In contrast to the amount of Roman brick and tile, only 5 flue tiles and 9 tesserae were identified. Most were located in G7. Roman pottery finds too were relatively small. small and seemingly insignificant. This might pose a question as to the nature of the Roman habitation in Fordham.

The weights of struck and burnt flint were low in relation to those collected in neighbouring fields in 2002 but still consistent with the potential of prehistoric habitation. The presence of post medieval and modern pot is regarded as being manure scatter and as of no further significance for this project. The absence of medieval pottery may indicate that the area was primarily pasture in medieval times.

The peg tile formed a smaller percentage of the material than in the other fields; 13.4% of the total by weight in this survey, while it represented 73% of the finds on the other fields. If it is accepted that it was spread with the manure it may be that less was used on the fields where Roman brick and tile was constantly being ploughed to the surface.

7 Conclusions

The finds collected in this survey have provided significant supporting evidence of the presence of Roman habitation in Fordham. A possible site for the Roman villa has been defined.

8 Further Action

A geophysical survey of the area defined by the data would be the next step to take. This would require further permissions from the Woodland Trust working in co-operation with the landowner.

It may be possible to investigate further how the data can be incorporated with that of CAT 2002. This would be worthwhile if it could lead to further observations regarding Fordham's archaeological past.

9 References

CAT Report 218 2002 An archaeological fieldwalking evaluation at Fordham Hall Farm, Fordham Essex, prepared by Howard Brooks

DAVIES G M R 1984 'Roman Burials and a new villa at Fordham' Colchester Archaeological Group Bulletin Vol 27 pp 44 and 32)

10 Acknowledgements

Fordham Local History Society offers special thanks the Woodland Trust for permission to carry out the survey and to David Bradshaw, farmer, who kept us informed of the cropping, ploughing process and worked in with our plans. We are extremely grateful for the time and energy, help and guidance of June and John Wallace and of the Nayland Fieldwalking Group. Special thanks also go to Howard Brooks of the Colchester Archaeological Trust for all his help and support.

11 Glossary

manure scatter	process whereby pottery (as domestic rubbish) is spread when manure is carried out over the fields
medieval	from AD 1066 to Henry VIII
modern	19th and 20th centuries
Neolithic	New Stone Age (around 4000 to 2000 BC)
Paleolithic	Old Stone Age
post-medieval	after Henry VIII and up to Victorian
pot boiler	a fire-cracked cooking stone which has been heated and place in a liquid
prehistoric	pre-Roman, or generally the years BC
Roman	the period from AD 43 to circa AD 430
tesserae	ceramic cubes from a Roman floor

Further information

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FORDHAM FIELDWALKING AUGUST 2003

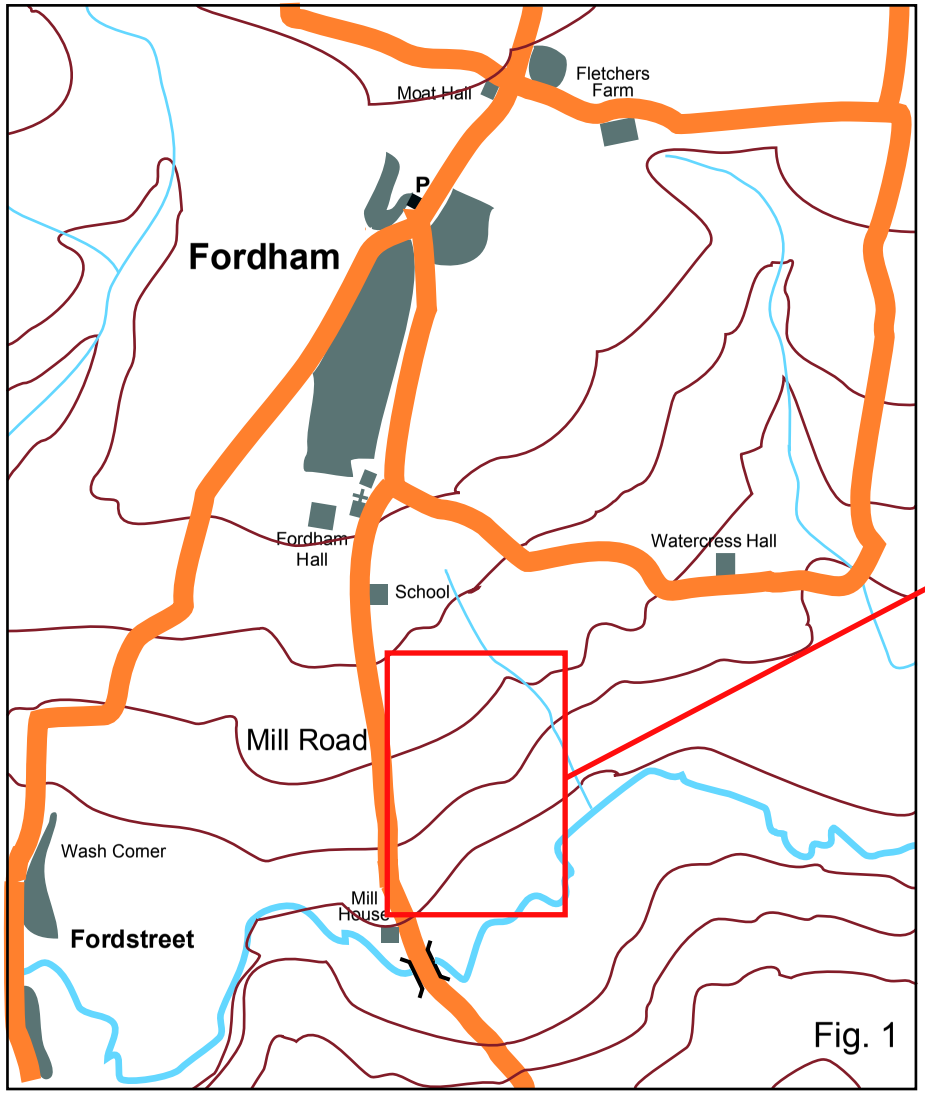


Fig. 1

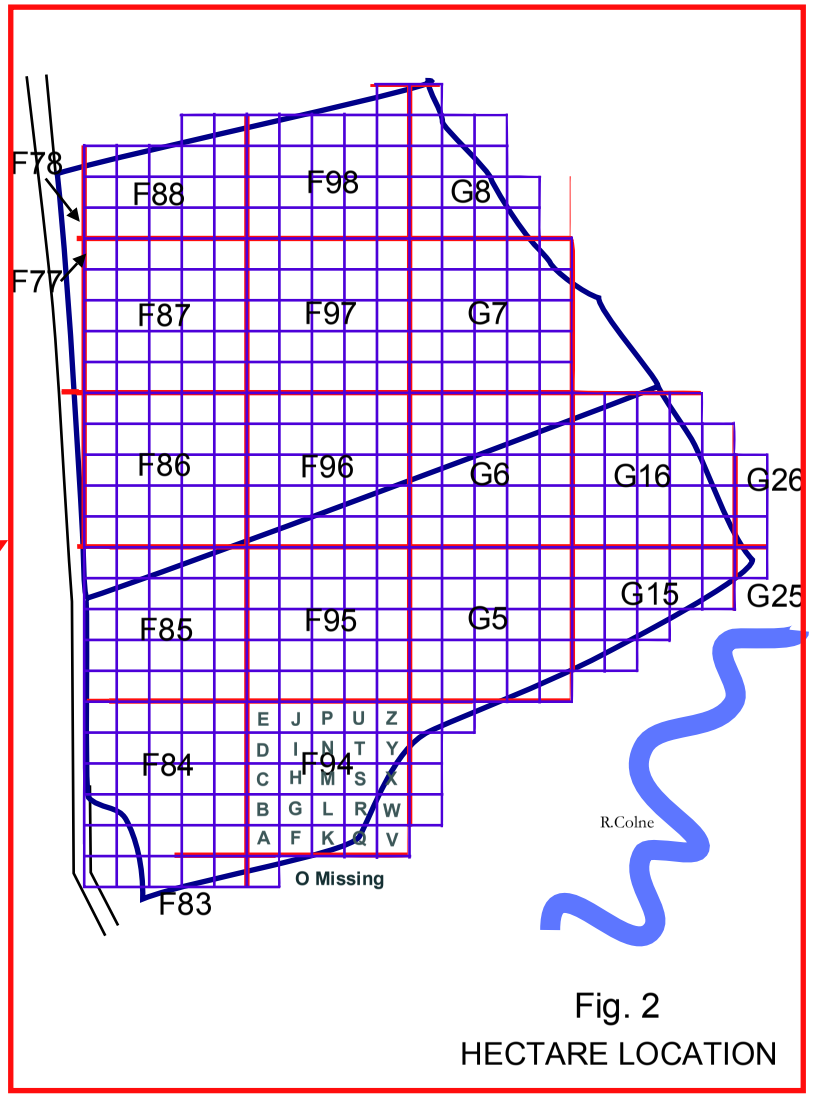
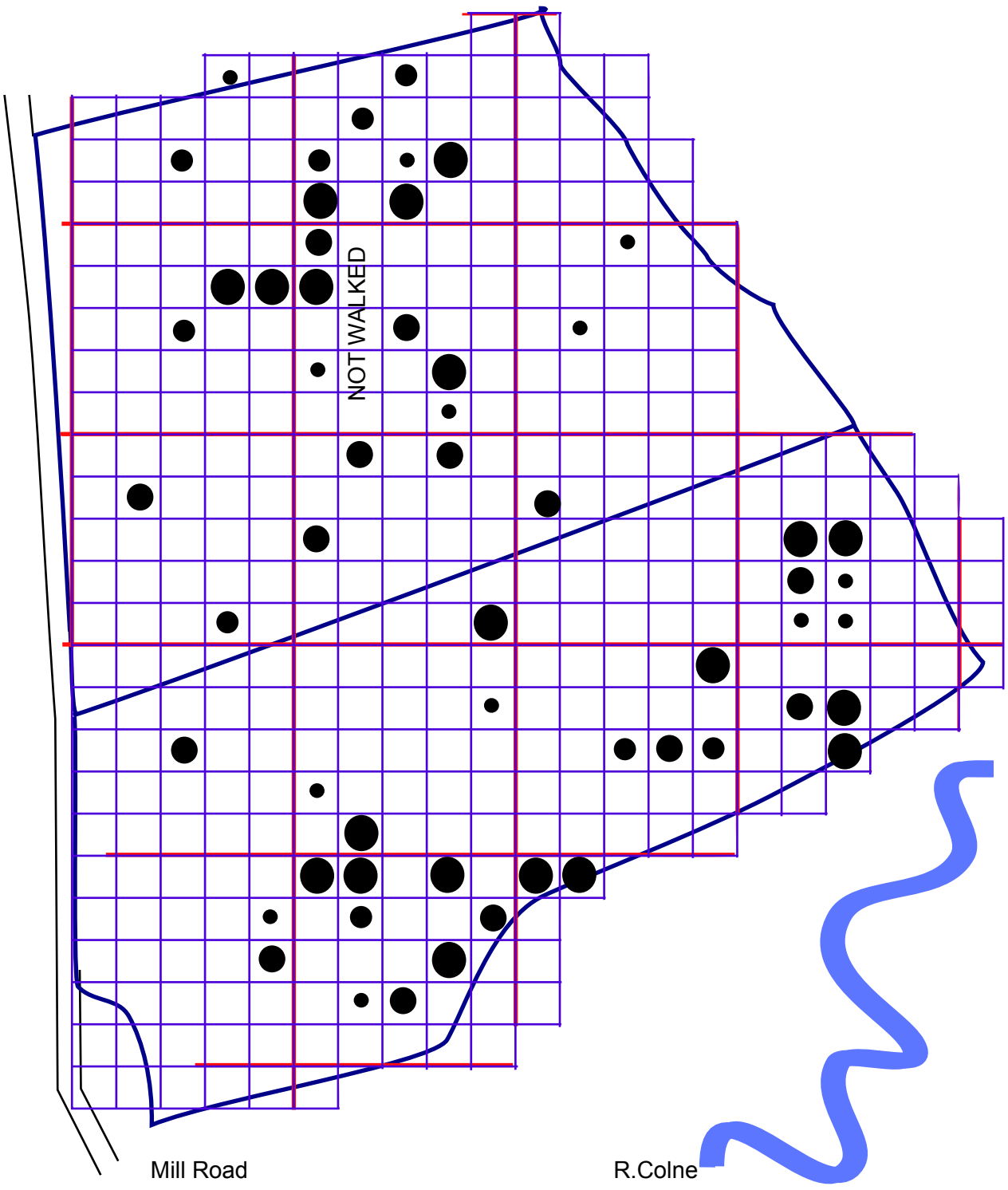


Fig. 2
HECTARE LOCATION

Fig 3 Totals of finds and total weights (grams) by square walked

	Flint	Burnt Flint	Roman Pot	Med Pot	Post-Med Pot	Mod Pot	Roman brick	Roman Tile	Peg Tile	Uncert bk/tile	Slate	Other
F84	2: 10	4:6 2	3: 11	3: 5	4: 12			1: 23	67:1110			
F85	2: 11	3: 53		1: 2	5: 50			3: 234	29: 520	9: 70		
F86	2: 12	2: 30						9: 225	27: 339	18: 99		
F87	5: 54	2: 55			1: 10	1: 5		5: 235	22: 400	11: 70	1: 1	
F88	2: 6					1: 4		2: 46	18: 233	6: 42		
F94	8:134			1: 8	1: 4			11: 294	41:644	32: 168		
F95	3: 22	4: 74			1: 22			1: 26	24: 852	23: 148		
F96	5: 56	1: 65			1: 5			24: 852	20: 268	3: 28		
F97	6:149		1: 6				3: 684	71: 3758	45: 729	93: 936	1: 3	
F98	9:128	1: 12	3: 28				10:2155	215:12416	40: 473	260:1740		
G4	5: 75	5: 52		1: 2				4: 100	11: 210			
G5	5: 23	4:155		1: 10		2: 10	7: 194	5: 149	76: 800	2: 52		
G6	2: 6	4: 98	3: 20	1: 6			4: 390	35: 1094	16: 214	32: 202		Slag 1: 4
G7	2: 2		9: 79	2: 10			10:1111	287:13182	13: 410	254:1324		
G8		1: 11					1: 123	158: 5013	14: 168	46: 505		
G15	4: 32	1: 6	1: 14					15: 412	14: 298	15: 104		
G16	7:154	13:182		1: 2				21: 1590	26: 393	41: 319		
Total	68	33	20	11	13	4	35	867	503	845	2	1
Total g	874	855	158	45	103	19	4657	39603	8061	5807	4	4
Average	2.51	2.45	.45	.1	.3	.05	13.38	113.8	23.16	16.68		
%Total	1.50	1.40	.3	.05	.2	0.05	7.7	65.8	13.4	9.6		
	Total Weight g			60190		Total squares walked			348			



AV X 4

AV X 3

AV +

AV -

Fig. 4

WORKED FLINT

FORDHAM FIELDWALKING AUGUST 2003

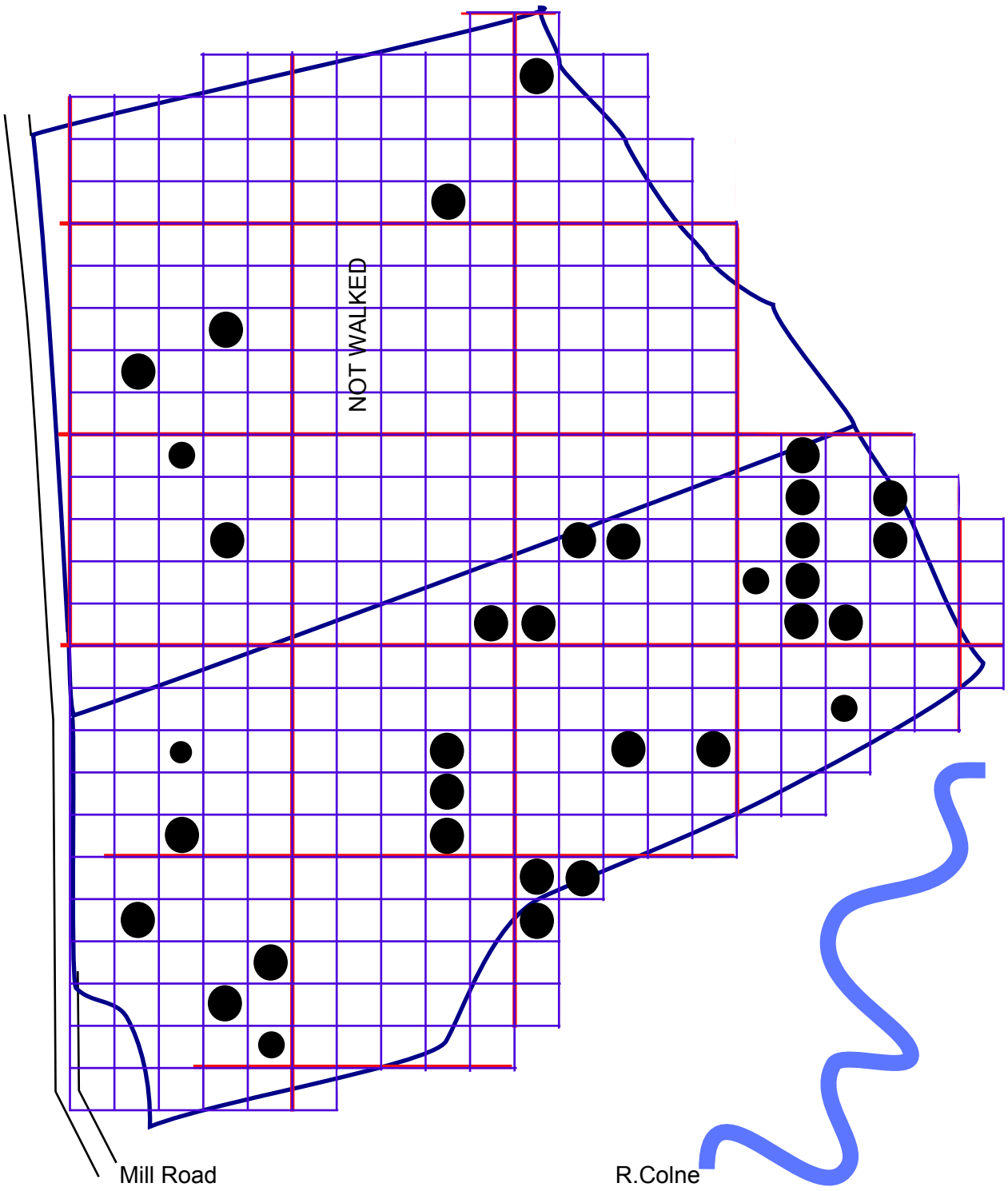


Fig. 5

AV X 4

AV X 3

AV (MED) +

AV (MED) -

BURNT FLINT

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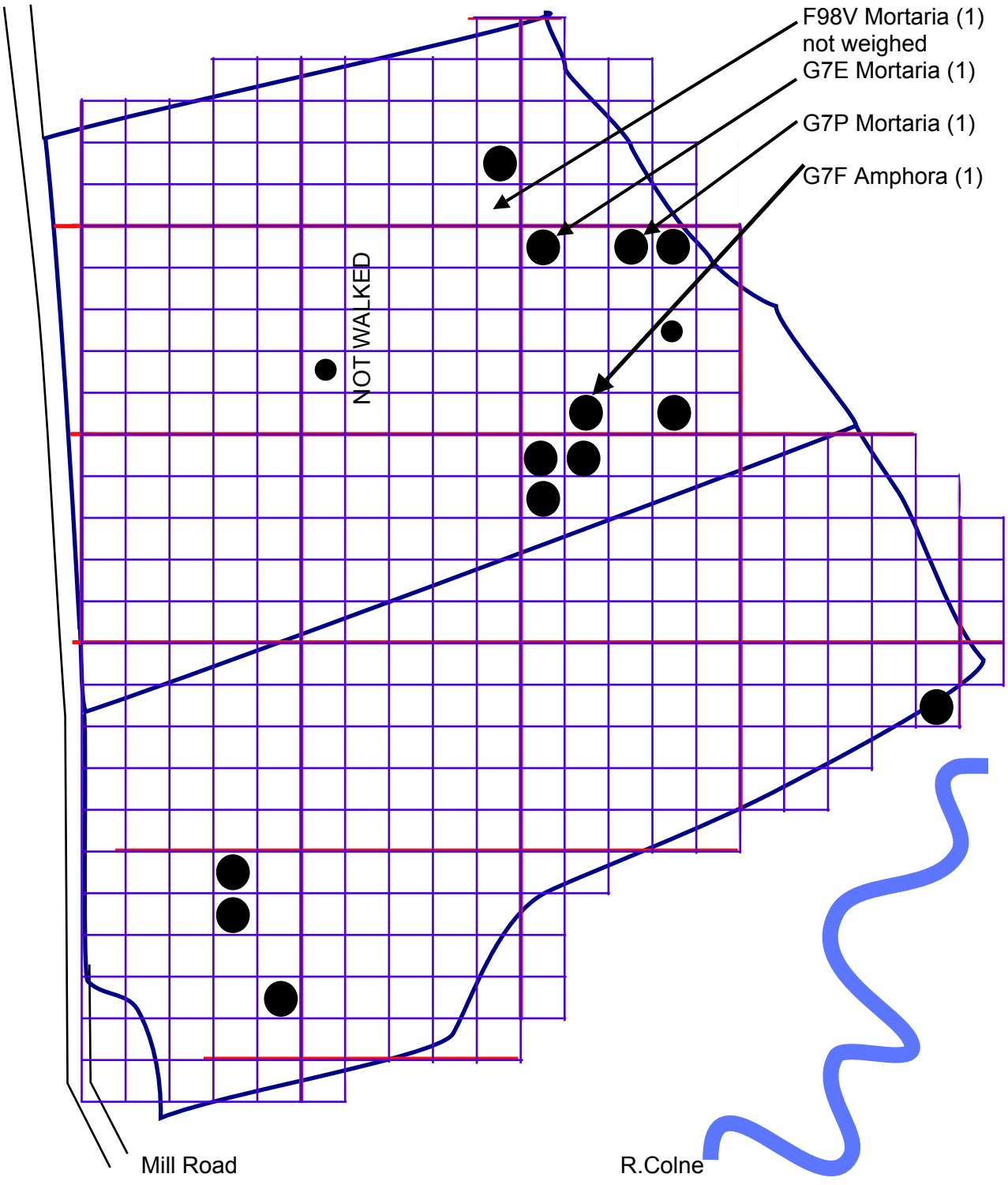


Fig. 6

ROMAN POTTERY

AV X 4

AV X 2

FORDHAM FIELDWALKING AUGUST 2003

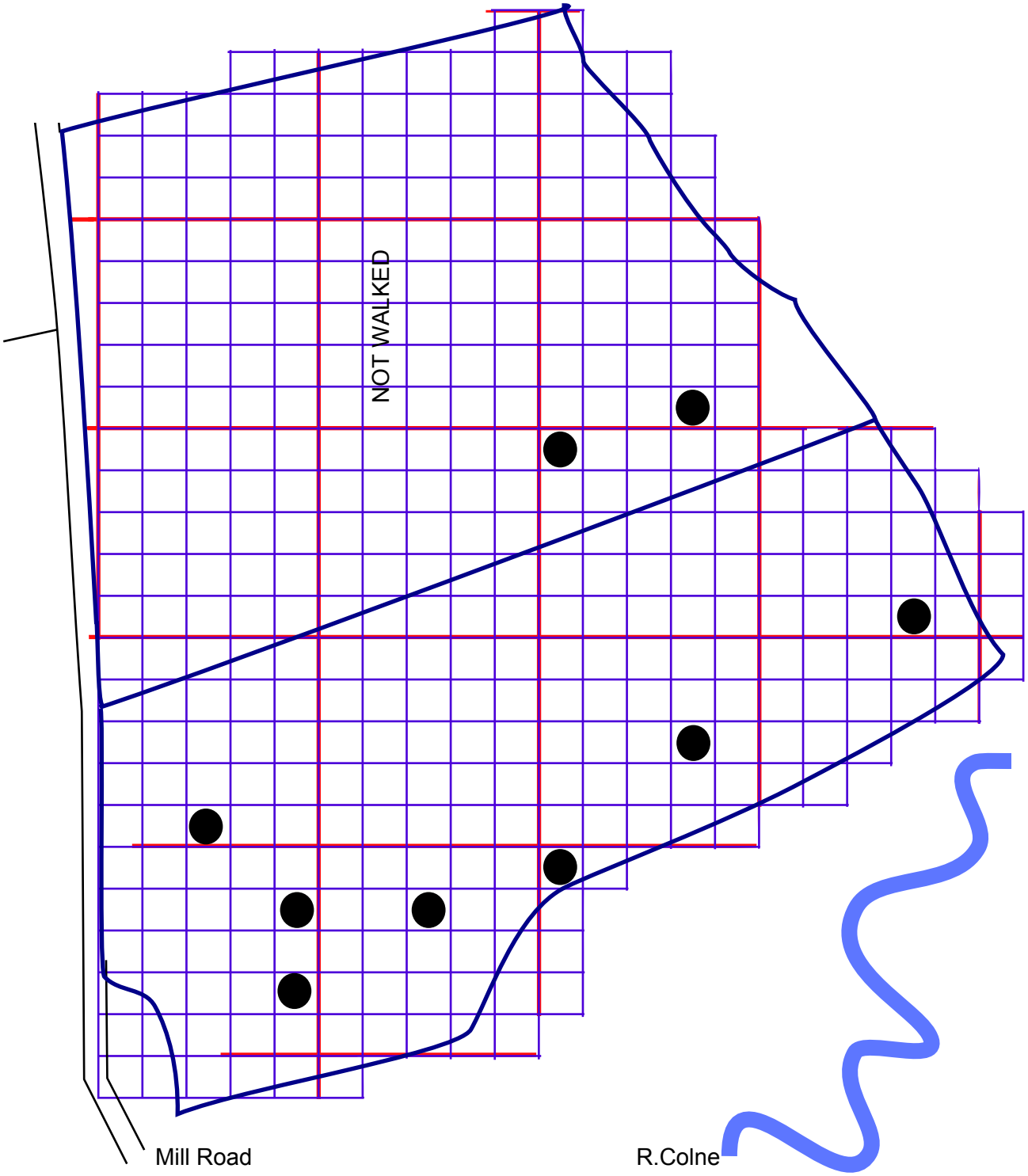


Fig. 7

MEDIAEVAL POTTERY

● AV X 4 **FORDHAM FIELDWALKING AUGUST 2003**

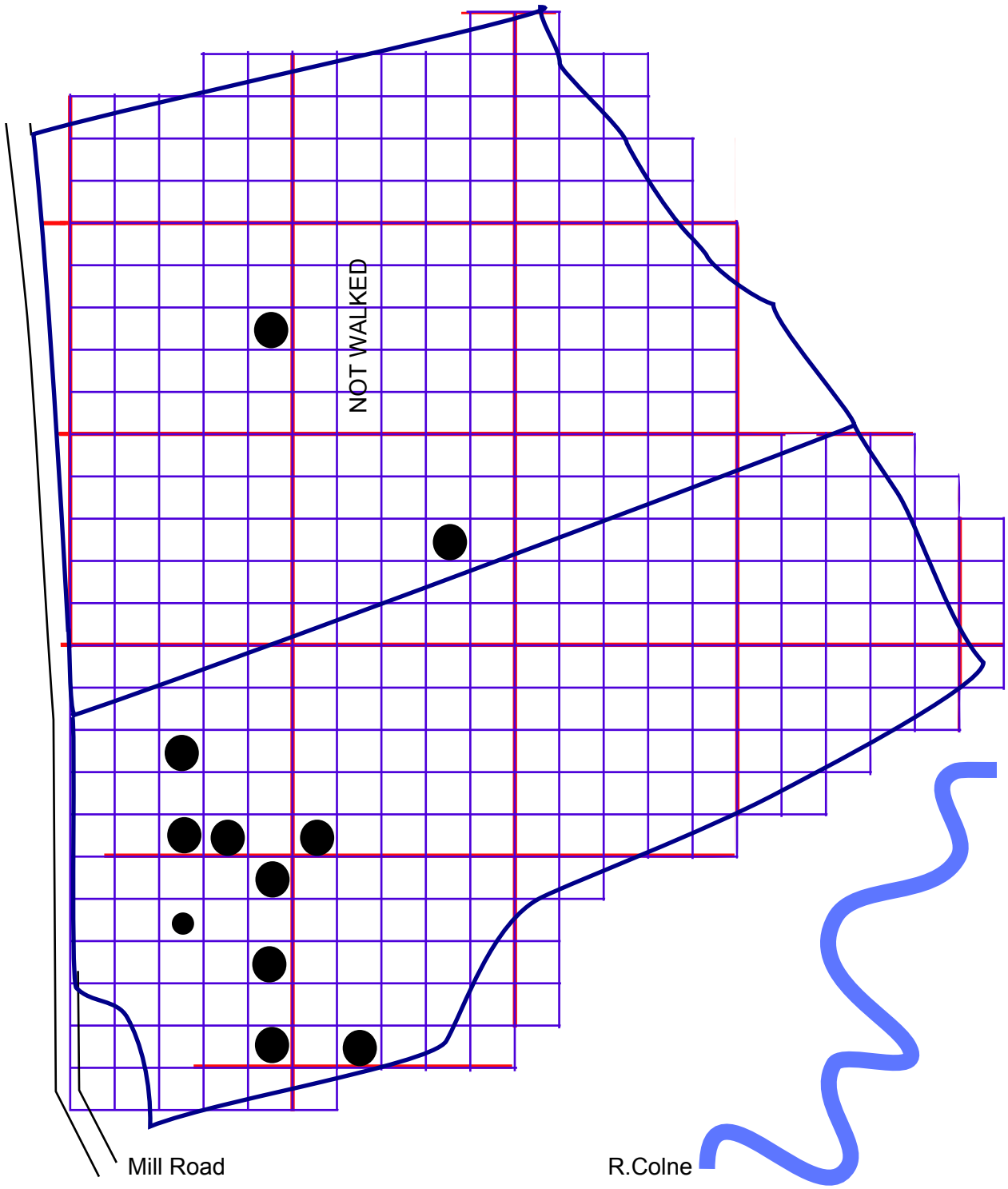


Fig. 8

POST MEDIAEVAL POTTERY

AV X 4

AV X 2

FORDHAM FIELDWALKING AUGUST 2003

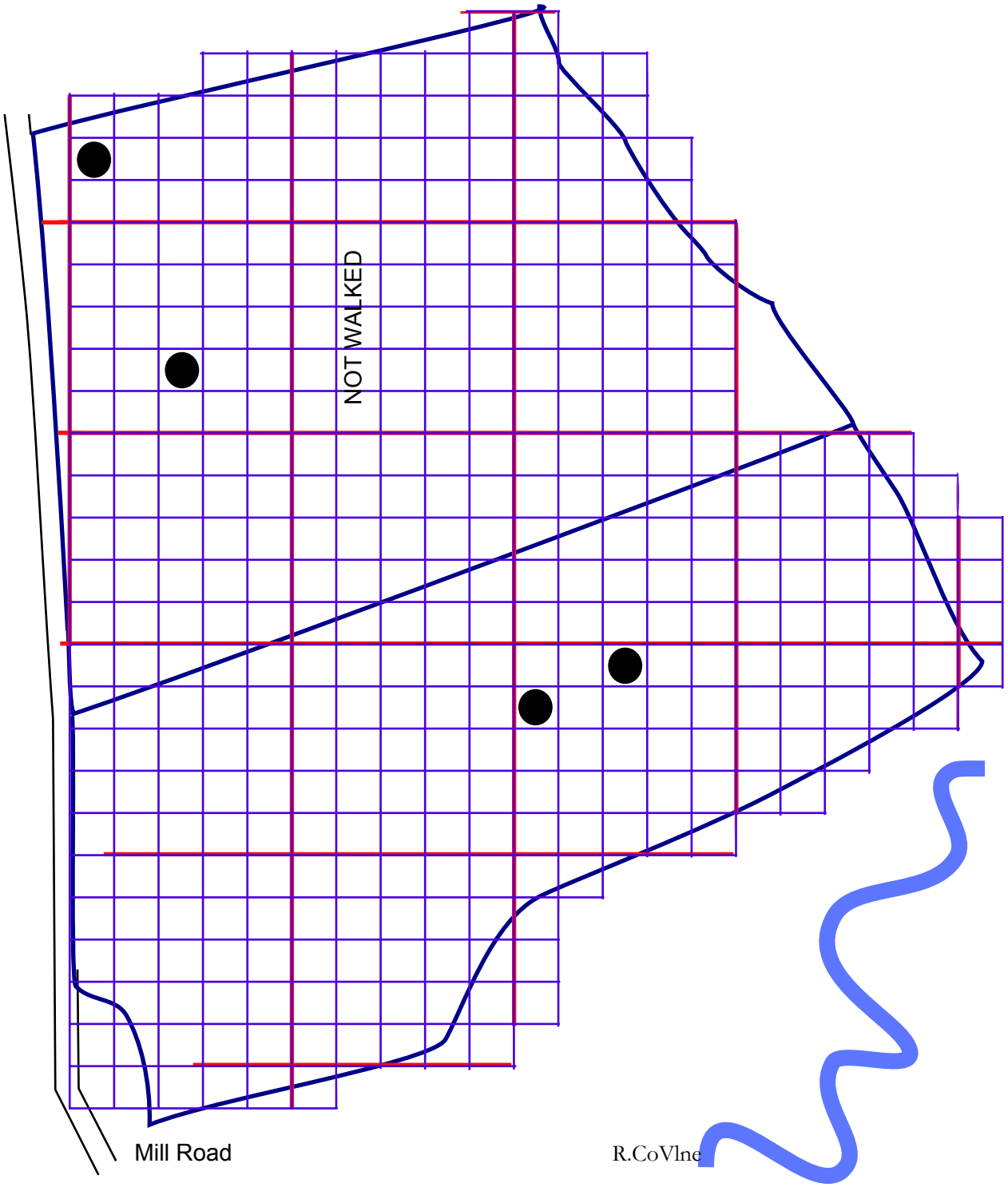
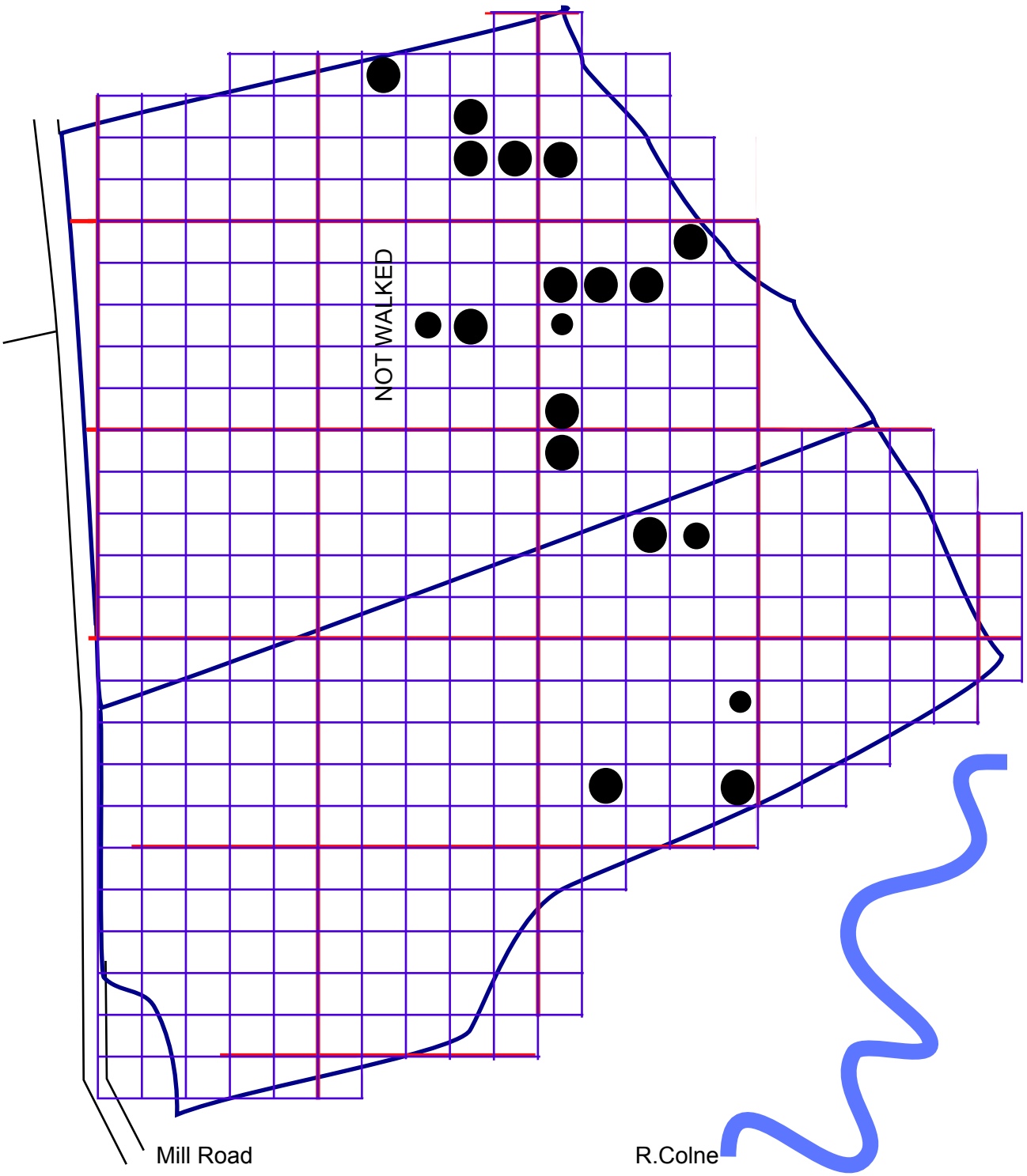


Fig. 9

MODERN POTTERY

● AV X 4 **FORDHAM FIELDWALKING AUGUST 2003**



AV X 4

AV X 3

AV +

AV -

Fig. 10

ROMAN BRICK

FORDHAM FIELDWALKING AUGUST 2003

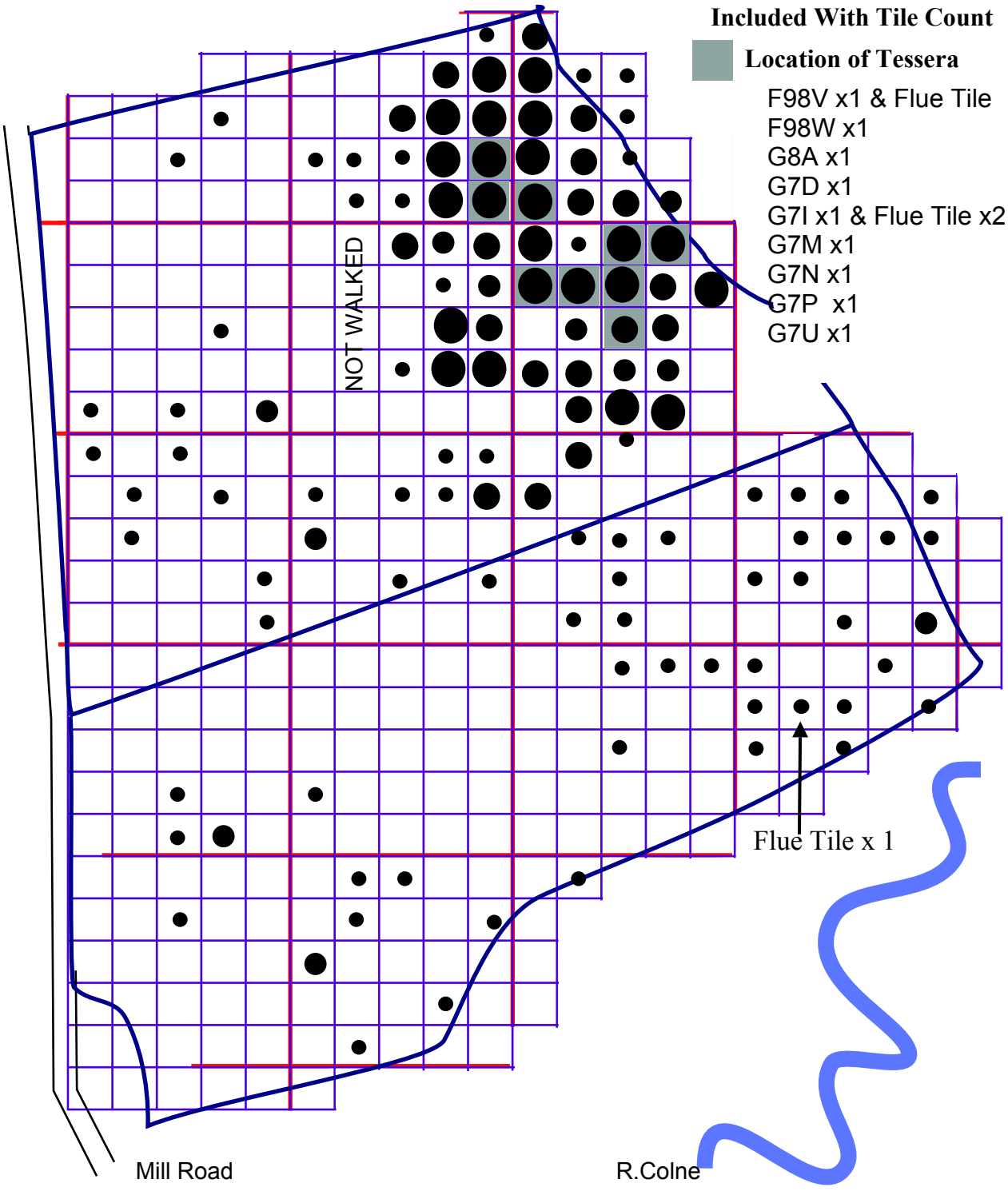
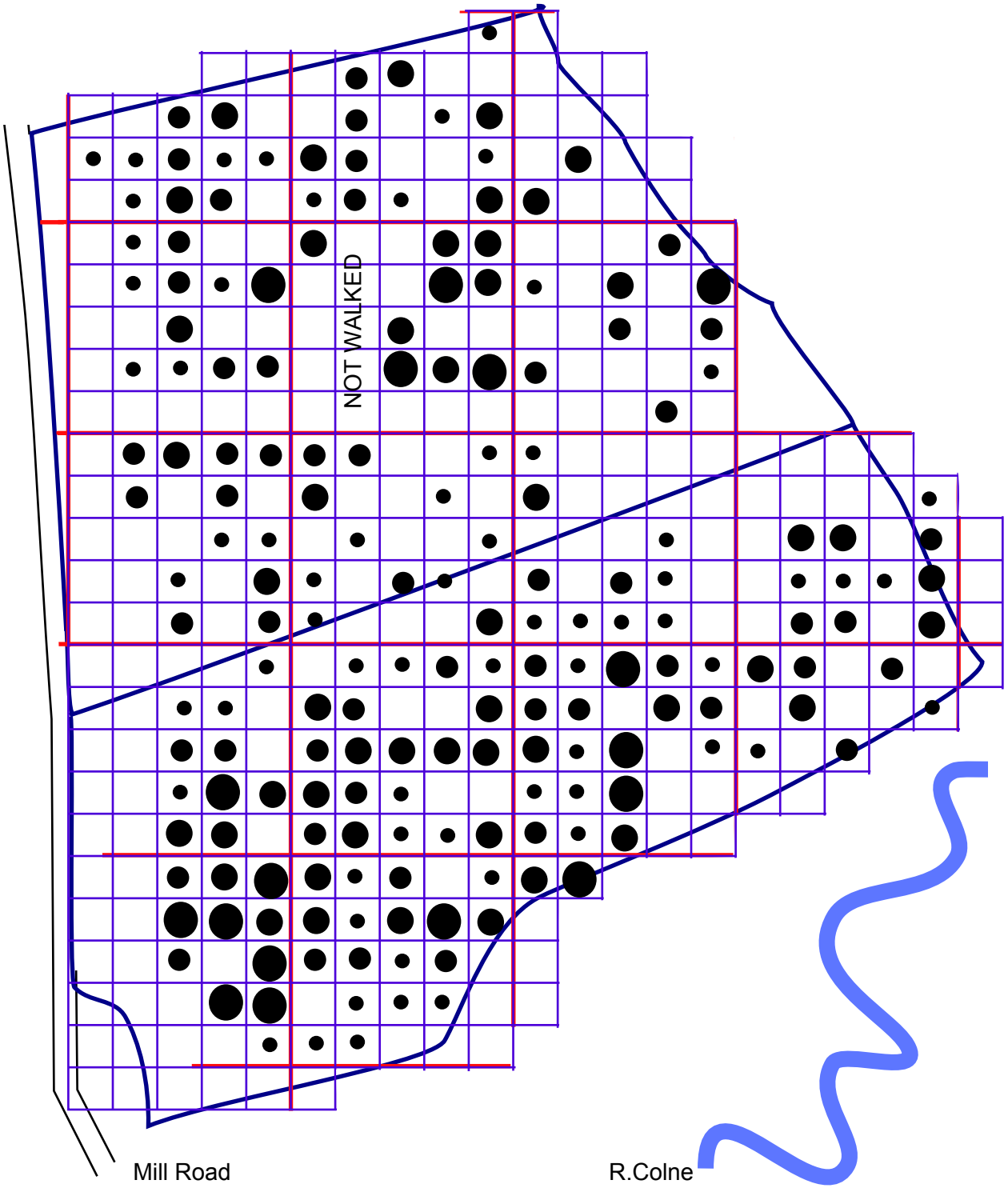


Fig. 11

ROMAN TILE

FORDHAM FIELDWALKING AUGUST 2003



AV X 4

AV X 3

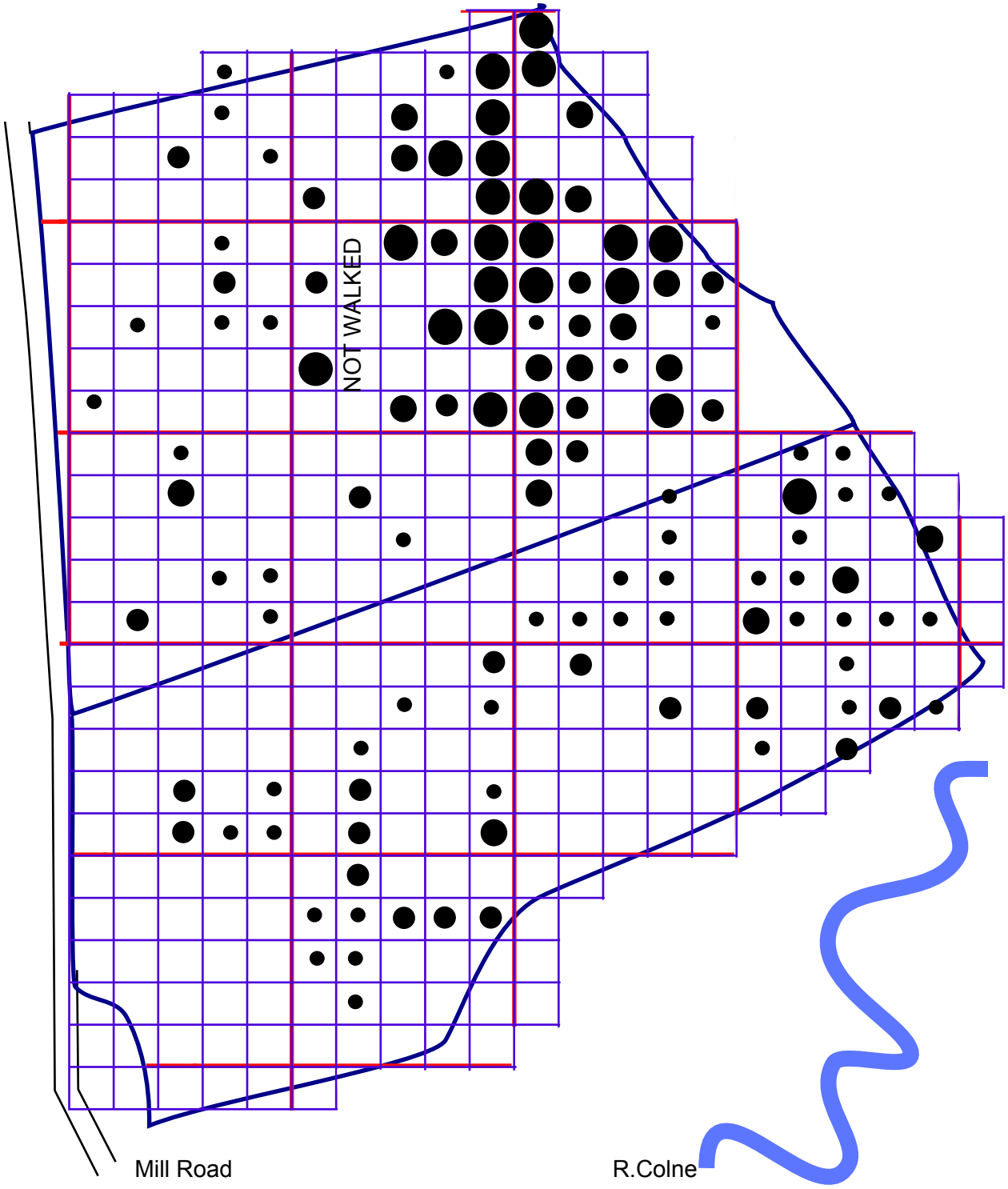
AV +

AV -

Fig. 12

PEG TILE

FORDHAM FIELDWALKING AUGUST 2003



AV X 4

AV X 3

AV +

AV -

Fig. 13

UNCERTAIN BRICK & TILE

FORDHAM FIELDWALKING AUGUST 2003

Colchester Archaeological Group - Winter Lecture Programme

Title: Iron Age Woman

Sub-title: Women in the Iron Age: 'Wife on the Edge'

Date: Monday 9th November 2009

Time: 19:30 Hours

Venue: Charles Grey Room, Colchester Castle

Presenter: Caroline McDonald, Curator of Archaeology at Ipswich Museum

The lecture began on a whimsical note……..

During the introduction Caroline explained that, to ensure that her audience remained awake and devoted their full attention to the topic under discussion, she had placed, at pre-determined intervals within her presentation, three slides containing the photograph of a current celebrity. The audience were then invited to identity each of these celebrities as they appeared, with the first to call-out in each case being awarded a 'spot prize'.

Caroline's first slide, following that supplying the details of the title and presenter, contained a photograph of Gordon Ramsey (spot prize duly collected by a lucky member of the audience) as a representation of the 'F word' which in this instance stood for 'Feminism' or the 'The Feminist Approach'. The purpose of this slide was to 'de-bunk' any myth that the following presentation was anti-male or indeed feminist in its look and feel. It was explained that the lecture would be delivered from a pro-equality stance and perspective.

The presentation itself was devised and produced in response to one given by one of Caroline's colleagues (Paul Seeley) on the subject of 'Rulers, Warriors and Druids' and which the audience were informed had a decided whiff of masculinity about it.

The audience were then shown a slide depicting an 'Iron Age Feast'. It could be seen from the illustration that those enjoying themselves the most during the eating, drinking, music making and dancing were all men whilst the women stood watching the proceedings from the periphery and hence the reference in the sub-title to 'Wife on the edge'.

Whilst researching her topic Caroline became aware that there appears to be no book, as yet published, that depicts or deals with women in the Iron Age. It was explained therefore that the presentation was based on the many generalisations that currently exits surrounding the perceived lives of women during this period.

The audience were informed that the period covered by the presentation, i.e. the Iron Age, ran from 800BC up to the Roman conquest after which the women start to become 'Romanised' and the 'Romano-British' period begins. During the period under investigation the fate of women and the lives they subsequently lead undergo many changes.

Unfortunately there is a lack of adequate evidence from this period in history. It appears as almost invisible from an archaeological perspective. Due to the methods employed in relation to both cremation and burial throughout the entire Iron Age period, few if any cemeteries remain. Bodies were burnt on funeral pyres above ground and where any resulting ashes were subsequently committed to

the ground it was often undertaken with out the use of a ‘contemporary container (i.e. Iron Age pot or vessel). Human remains appear to fade away leaving no trace as to their existence.

To answer the questions posed there is a need to look wider and consider the rest of Europe to find the evidence required. It was also re-iterated at this point that there were no ‘Celts’ in Britain at this time (a stance that some people consider controversial).

The culture experienced by people in Britain during the Iron Age was one they shared with their cousins in Europe.

Historical sources containing references to women in the Iron Age period were written by Greek and Roman men long after the event and from a male perspective. The Irish myths written by medieval monks, this time from a male and religious perspective, also provide some insight into the life of an Iron Age woman, but it must be remembered that women during the period when these accounts were written were considered either supernatural, saints or sinners!

As a summary to her introduction Caroline explained that the presentation was therefore based on sweeping generalisations, ‘dodgy’ history and a lack of archaeological evidence.

The audience was then introduced to the Henley Wood figure found in Somerset. This figure represents a woman of mature age from the Iron Age period with the following defining features; clasped hands, pendulous breasts, a headband and a characteristic ‘torc’ around the neck.

Much of the evidence relating to Iron Age women that does exist has been garnered from ‘bog bodies’ found across Europe and in particular Denmark. It was highlighted that unlike the rest of Europe Britain does no have or possess it own examples of ‘bog bodies’ from the period under study.

The population in Britain during the Iron Age was given as 3-6 million people. From the burials that are known about from this period and that have subsequently had the sex of the remains determined it appears that the split is 50% women and 50% men.

The audience were then challenged to name two famous Iron Age women. The names being sought and proffered were Boudicca (female leader of the Iceni tribe) and Cartimandua (Queen of the Brigantes tribe).

The average height of women in the Iron Age is believed to be 5’2” (1.58m) [current average height for a woman is 5’3” / 1.60m]. In comparison the average height of a man for the same period is 5’6” (1.68) [current average height for a man is 5’9” / 1.75m].

Caroline then presented the second of her slides containing the photograph of a celebrity. This time the subject of the photograph was the television fashion gurus ‘Trinny and Susannah’ (again following correct identification the resultant spot prize was awarded). This slide was essentially used to introduce the audience to concept of example or model women who would have lived in Britain during the Iron Age. The first example chosen, and subsequently named ‘Trinny’, was an ordinary woman living as part of an extended family group undertaking farming in a rural location. She was shown wearing a typical tunic style dress with her hair braided and tied up.

The Roman historian Tacitus describes the British women has having fierce blue eyes and red hair. Boudicca herself is described as having chestnut hair.

Evidence to suggest the existence of a ‘red’ hair colour is also provided by examination of the ‘bog bodies’ found to date. It was originally thought that the red colour was due to the oxidation over time

of the melanin in the hair strands. Further investigation now suggests that the hair colour was indeed red at the time of death.

Archaeological evidence from a cemetery in Dorset also indicates that the hair colour of Romano-British women ranged from dark blonde to mid-brown.

The 'Elling Woman' bog body discovered by peat cutters in Denmark in 1938 has very well preserved hair that was braided before being tied in a knot. Thus some evidence and information for hairstyles adopted during the period can be taken from the archaeological record.

Pliny in his writings makes reference to women of this period who dyed their hair.

'Ainz' soap was commonly used by Iron Age woman to change the colour of their hair. It has also been shown that prior to going into battle both Iron Age men and women 'spiked' their hair with lime which essentially had the effect of 'bleaching it. A painful exercise as the application of lime probably burnt the scalp at the same time.

A Roman man (Persius) writing to his mistress in the first century (AD) references the practice of hair dying by the British women but cautions her against doing the same.

The topic of clothing worn by women in the Iron Age period was then introduced. Greek historians recorded that Boudicca wore clothes that were died, embroidered, striped and checked. This description is believed to equate to a 'tartan' style of dress in modern parlance.

Archaeological evidence pertaining to the type and style of clothes worn by women during this period is provided 'Haraldskaer Woman', a bog body discovered in Jutland, Denmark in 1835. Although naked when placed into the sphagnum bog, she was then subsequently covered by a leather (sheepskin) cape and three woollen garments. A second female body discovered in a bog in Denmark was found to be wearing a tunic died blue through the use of 'woad'.

Brooches were used to keep and hold clothes secured about the body. One particular style or type of these brooches is known as the 'Colchester Brooch'.

The diet of a typical Iron Age woman has been shown to contain, pigs, cattle, goats, sheep, horse, fowl, wheat, rye, oats, milk, butter and cabbage. The skeletons of women that remain from this period exhibit very little in the way of nutritional deficiencies and have a good healthy teeth and bone structure from the consumption of a good and varied diet.

Further analysis of these skeletons and individual bones, however, indicates that osteoarthritis was a common feature, along with defects that appear to suggest prolonged time spent in the 'squatting' position. This could be in part due to the type of chores undertaken by the women such as sewing and grinding corn, with the latter task involving hard and 'back-breaking' work.

The average life expectancy for an Iron Age woman was 45 years old. There is evidence to suggest that women in the Iron Age could and did live until 75 years old. The 'risky' time for an Iron Age woman occurred during the child bearing period between 15 and 35 years of age. The risk that a woman might die during child birth was an ever present feature. Women were expected to help with work in the field as well as tending to daily chores back at the homestead.

Life for an Iron Age woman was somewhat restricted and isolated. Her main role was as a provider of food, clothing and shelter. Contact with other people from outside the family group was limited by how far she could walk. Neighbouring families may be too far away in the surrounding countryside and

besides there was not enough time within the day to allow for such unproductive activities. Any leisure time that was available may have been spent hunting.

Feasts and religious rituals were an important part of the calendar during the Iron Age period. Events such as these were used to bring in 'fresh blood' to the family group and hence widen the gene pool. They were a good time for women to seek a marriage partner.

The Roman invasion brought with it money and shops giving rise to incredible social change. Whilst this may have had an effect on the British women living close to the major Roman towns and centres its affect on those living in the more isolated rural communities would have been considerably less.

Historical sources suggest that women during the Roman period fulfilled roles such as fishmongers, teachers, wool workers, grain mongers and wet nurses.

Julius Ceasar decreed that it was possible for both women and men to bring equal wealth to a marriage and for them both to inherit their partner's wealth on the death of that partner.

The historical record also shows that native women wrote curses for and about people whom they believed had stolen their property. This illustrates that women during this period did indeed own property and possess wealth. Marriages were not arranged during this period, a woman was free to choose her marriage partner.

Cartimandua who was Queen of the Brigantes, a position she inherited by right rather than marriage, also provides an example of an Iron Age woman who possessed great wealth, enhanced still further from agreements entered into with the Roman rulers. It is also recorded that she divorced her first husband Venutius and then married Vellocatus one of his soldiers. Caratacus (son of Cunobelin), one of the British resistance leaders at the time of the Roman invasion, sought refuge with Cartimandua but she subsequently had him put in chains and handed him over to the Romans.

Iron Age women have been shown to live in rural farming communities growing crops and raising or tending livestock. Women in these environments have great status due to their involvement in the production of food. These are non-patriarchal societies in which the women tend to marry men of their own age. In comparison women who live in hunting communities have less power and are reliant on the men to provide food. In these societies young women often marry older more powerful men.

Julius Ceasar, however, decreed that under Roman law men held the power over life and death.

The presentation was then widened to take account of an anthropological view of life in the Iron Age and in particular the role of women. This view is again controversial and not one Caroline favours. It centres round the size and shape of domestic dwellings within Britain and across Europe during this period.

In Britain Iron Age houses have been shown to be round (curvilinear) and large, occupying an area of 100 square metres. This type of house is believed to hold an extended household and may suggest one man living in one place with many wives i.e. a polygamist relationship (but could also easily represent an extended large inter-related family group comprising many couples and their offspring living in one place). In comparison houses across other countries in Europe particularly those in France and Germany tend to be small and rectangular. Iron Age houses discovered in France have been measured as being 4m x 2m whereas those in Germany have been measured as being 8m x 8m. These small houses are thought to indicate the support of a monogamous relationship. The inference here is that small dwelling are considered to support non-polygamist relationships.

Julius Ceasar when writing an account on the British indicates that wives appear to be shared between groups of men, possibly containing 12 individuals and their sons. This describes and shows all of the men as belonging to one woman i.e. one woman with many sexual partners or husbands and therefore a relationship based on polyandry.

It appears that Iron Age women possessed great sexual freedom in Britain. It is an interesting point to note that there were no prostitutes in Britain during this period. This appears to have been a Roman invention and introduction.

Tacitus records in his writings that a 'guilty' wife was subject to punishment by her husband. There is also archaeological evidence to support this statement. The remains of Iron Age women have been found where their hair has been cut, their clothes removed and their limbs broken. Historical sources suggest that a guilty wife may have been forced to process through the village and systematically beaten as she went in full view of the other inhabitants.

A second appearance of the slide containing the photograph of 'Trinny and Susannah' (no spot prize for the audience this time) introduced us to 'Velbina', the second example of a woman living in the Iron Age and this time the wife or sister of a tribal leader, living in a luxury house around Winchester and possibly owning her own chariot. Her clothes are more brightly coloured than those worn by 'Trinny' and are shot through with gold. She is wearing a torc and brooches similar to those discovered as part of the Winchester hoard. It is possible that she has slaves taken from rival tribes. She is still required to provide for her tribe but having slaves will give her with more free time, by releasing here from the burden of the harder jobs or chores and leaving her to pick up the less onerous tasks such as weaving and wool making. It will also allow her to take more time over her appearance, braiding her hair and applying cosmetics. A characteristic pestle and mortar or 'woad grinder' were used in the application of cosmetics, with crushed ants being among the list of ingredients.

Historical sources make reference to women with painted faces and the use of cosmetics in the Iron Age.

Archaeological evidence, in the form of grave goods, indicate the use of beautiful beads, gold brooches, mirrors and small brass cosmetic bowls by women in this period. Mirrors may also have been used to foretell the future thus making them more a powerful possession.

British women having a high status or coming form a wealthy background and living during the period of Roman occupation could aspire to and become doctors. It has been shown that the Romans took children away from the people that they conquered and placed them with Roman families who subsequently raised and educated them before returning them to their original community.

Daughters belonging to members of the Roman aristocracy were commonly educated and it is safe to assume that the same opportunity would have been available for British girls. The daughters as well as sons belonging to British Chieftains were taken by the Romans and educated.

To further illustrate the wealth debate Caroline explained that coins were often given to warriors or people loyal to the tribal leader in the Iron Age period. These coins are then use to display wealth and form part of the portable wealth of a given individual. It is not possible to spend these coins or purchase goods with them as there are no shops prior to the Roman invasion. Coins produced during the reign of Cunobelin in Camulodunum (Colchester) provide a local example of this custom. Coins also exist that depict women as female leaders during this period were not uncommon.

Prasutagus husband of Boudicca entered into agreements with the Romans regarding land and possessions based on the offer of loyalty from the Iceni tribe towards the Roman occupation in return for financial reward. On his death half of his land and possessions were to go to Boudicca and their daughters whilst the other half would go to the Romans. Unfortunately on death this agreement was not honoured and the Romans took ownership of everything turning the previous gifts of money into loans and then demanding their repayment. Boudicca was subsequently flogged and her daughters raped.

The fact that Boudicca herself was not raped can be viewed as a back-handed compliment paid to hey by the Roman rulers acknowledging her position as ruler of her people. The rape of women was considered as part of the spoils of war by Roman soldiers. The Roman invasion and occupation itself is depicted as the rape of Britannia by Claudius.

Although the Romans did not like women being in charge they still acknowledged their place in Iron Age society. Tacitus again in his historical accounts indicates than women were in charge and performed the role of commander in the Iron Age period. Historical sources also provide evidence and indicate that woman took up arms and fought in battles during this period. There are also accounts of them standing at the edge of the battlefield urging the men on and in some cases killing any man themselves who took the decision to retreat from the fighting.

The evidence of how people lived in the Iron Age is reflected in their death and how they were buried. An example if this is given by the Chariot Burial discovered in Wetwang in Yorkshire. In this burial a woman was entombed with her chariot, half a pig, part of a horse harness and a mirror.

General rules suggest that weapons were always buried with men and mirrors were buried with women. It has also been shown that women are buried with more grave goods and that the graves themselves are bigger. Mirrors represent a status symbol in these cases. Dogs also appear in graves containing the body of a woman. These are associated with healing, death and regeneration.

At this point in the presentation the third and final slide containing the photograph of a celebrity was shown. The celebrity on this occasion was Paris Hilton who was depicted holding her small dog (the final spot prize was duly claimed and awarded).

There were many ‘goddesses’ in the Iron Age which indicates a population at ease with female power. Domestic items such as buckets, cauldrons, bowls and spoons were offered as prize possessions to the gods. Many offerings made by women during this period were connected with fertility, asking initially to become pregnant and then subsequently requesting to survive the ensuing childbirth.

In conclusion both ‘Trinny’ and ‘Velbina’ as part of their Iron Age lives were:

- Able to own property;
- In good health;
- Possessed sexual freedom;
- Required to work hard;
- Subject to a confined life if living in the countryside or a rural environment;
- Able to experience and exposed to a little bit of luxury on certain occasions;
- Able in certain conditions to be formally educated.

The profile for a given Iron Age woman was determined by geography, wealth and the moment in time in which she was living during that period in history.

It has been shown that women were warriors and rulers but were they ever druids. Roman historical sources make references to women dressed in black attacking the Romans. It is known that female druids existed in Gaul so it is reasonable to assume that they also existed in Britain.

As a final and interesting note Caroline concluded her presentation by proposing that the Roman burial discovered at Stanway, Colchester, containing the body of what is believed to be a doctor and the tools or implements of their trade and for which a sex has not yet been determined, could in fact be a woman. Also found in the grave were gaming pieces and a pair of brooches used to hold the clothes in place.

It is believed that due to the measured distance between the brooches and their position in the grave that the clothes they secured would have adorned the body of a man. However as can be demonstrated from consideration of the modern female physique (the presenter offering herself as an example in this case) that women exist who can provide an equal match for the recorded position of the brooches and the subsequent distance between them.

During the question and answer session that followed the presentation the following topics were raised.

- Did men ever use 'cosmetic grinders' in this period? - *It has been shown that Roman men wore cosmetics. So cosmetic grinders and mirrors found as grave goods and associated with a burial could have belonged to a man.*

- A question arose as to the accuracy of the figures quoted for the population of Britain during the Iron Age. The figures quoted i.e. 3-6 million were though to be on the high side and should have been nearer 1.5 million. – *The figures pertaining to population in the Iron Age are dependant on the source of the information consulted and the exact point in the 800-900 year period you are referring to.*

- A discussion also arose relating to the fact that during the Iron Age men appeared to be less concerned with a woman's appearance and what she looked like.

The presentation was well received and thoroughly enjoyed by the assembled audience. A vote of thanks was proffered by the Chairman in response.