



Colchester Archaeological Group

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Notes from the Editor

During the winter we enjoyed another series of excellent lectures planned and organized by Ida McMaster. The slide projector for the lectures was skilfully handled by Pat Adkins who overcame its difficult ways. The lecture summaries for the *Bulletin* were compiled by Harry Palmer, who does such good job of summarising the lectures while still keeping them accurate and pleasant to read.

This is my first bulletin as editor and I should like to thank all those who helped me put it together, especially Kath Evans, the previous editor, and Andrew Roper for entering the text into a word-processor and producing the layout as you see it.

David T-D Clarke

David Clarke's recent retirement from the post of curator at the Colchester and Essex Museum means that he and his wife Joan will be moving away from the area, but happily he will remain president of the Colchester Archaeological Group. However, this is the end of his direct involvement with the CAG committee of which he has been an active member for many years. He always encouraged members to contribute to local archaeology with help from the museum's study facilities and has, on several occasions, given lectures to the Group, sometimes at very short notice. His wide-ranging knowledge of archaeology and museums will be greatly missed.

We wish David and Joan every happiness in their retirement.

British Archaeological Awards

Once again we offer hearty congratulations to Pat Adkins. In the 1988 British Archaeological Awards he was the Highly Commended Runner-up in the Pitt Rivers Award, presented for his work on the Rook Hall project entitled '*Five Years Archaeological Salvage/Rescue Excavations 1982-1987 at Rook Hall Farm, Little Totham, Essex*'.

As a finalist Pat was also considered for a grant from the Robert Kiln Charitable Trust and successfully achieved this in addition to the certificate signed and presented by Magnus Magnusson. Shortly Pat is going to be the proud owner of an up-to-date computer which will assist enormously in his post-excavation reports.

Well Done Pat!

Visit to Chichester

On Friday 16th April 1988, about 50 members set off in a coach for Chichester, lead by David T-D Clarke. Our first stop was Bignor Roman Villa with its splendid mosaics. It rained heavily, but there was compensation in a good tea shop.

On reaching Chichester, we settled into the new buildings of the Theological College. In the evening we were given a talk about Roman Chichester. On the Saturday, we visited the Bishop's palace. There was a dining room with a sixteenth century painted ceiling. The most exciting room was the medieval kitchen with huge oak timbers rising up to the ceiling. There was also plenty to see in the town, including a restaurant in a medieval merchant's house.

We also visited Fishbourne Roman Palace, where the curator gave us a talk about the new building and the new excavations which they plan for the future.

Visit to Flag Fen

On Saturday 27th June 1987, the CAG held an all-day outing to Flag Fen, near Peterborough. The site is a Bronze Age settlement on a wooden raft. Francis Pryor, who is directing the excavation on behalf of the Fenland Archaeological Trust, showed us around the site. He allowed us into the plastic tent where a Bronze Age long house was being excavated. We had to balance on scaffolding poles, suspended above the mass of tangled timbers.

After Flag Fen we visited Barnack in Northamptonshire, with its stone church and many other fascinating corners. We also visited Longthorpe Tower which has a remarkable collection of wall paintings.

After the Red Hills: Salt Making in Late Roman, Saxon and Medieval Essex

P M Barford

This essay was first written as a tribute to the late Kay de Brisay and I am deeply aware that no-one better than her could have written it. The archaeological evidence concerned is sparse, but Kay had augmented this with research in to the documentary evidence which is limited. The present essay will, however, concentrate mainly on the archaeological evidence. Some documentary evidence is summarised by Christy (1906); VCH II, 445, and Gramolt (1960, 308-14), below.

Late Roman and Anglo-Saxon Salt Making in Essex

Since the process seems to have been similar (at least in its tangible remains) an account of the medieval industries must begin with an appraisal of the situation in late Roman Essex. Of the large number of pre-Roman and early Roman Red Hills known, very few have even produced pottery later than the mid-second century and of these none in clear association with continued salt making, or at least in connection with briquetage. If salt making continued in Essex into the late Roman period, it is probable that a technique was employed which did not require briquetage, and did not leave archaeological traces.

It is possible that the Goldhanger flues were salt ovens of this later form (*Reader 1910, 69-77*). These lay on a portion of a mound which had been formed by the levelling of an earlier Red Hill (*op.cit. 74-5*) and the associated pottery seems to have been first or second century in date. The excavators were careful

to note that the ovens were associated with only a little briquetage, and all of it was abraded and clearly derived from the earlier mound. The pairing of the flues is similar to that from the late 13th century site at Bicker Haven, Lincolnshire, (Healey 1975, fig 1) which is one of the few East Coast medieval sites to be excavated fully. This is discussed below, suffice to note that it is probable that a similar method of salt production was used at Goldhanger

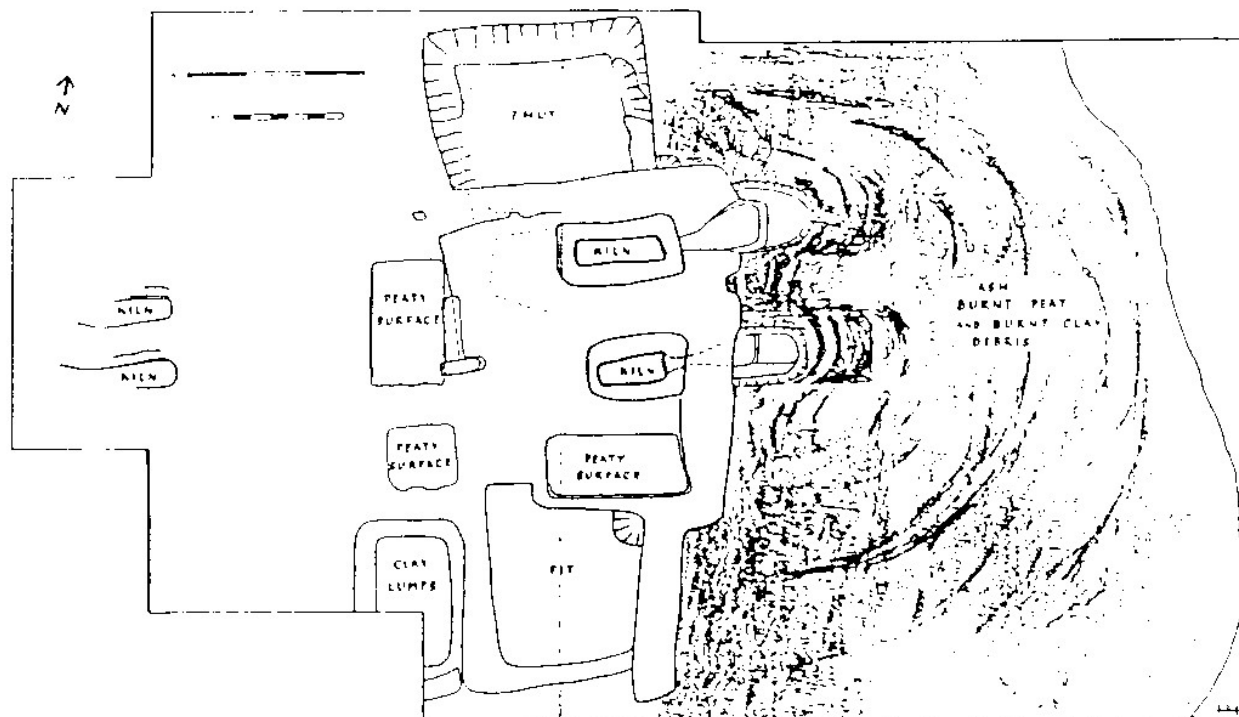


Figure 1. A Medieval Saltern from Bickerhaven, Lincolnshire, (from De Brisay, K and Evans, K. *Salt* 1975)

Red Hill no. XII at Canvey Island (Rodwell, 1966) has produced evidence of the end of salt production using the 'Red Hill process' which involved briquetage and the production of much red earth. This site seems to have ended production in the mid-second century, and was re-occupied at a later date, but not demonstrably in association with briquetage, or indeed any clear evidence of continued salt production.

Likewise at Little Oakley, briquetage on the inland villa site ceases before the second century, and no Red Hill on the marshes below the site has produced any material which need be later.

The scanty evidence seems to indicate that in the mid-second century, or perhaps a little later, there was a lessening if not cessation of coastal salt production using the 'Red Hill process'. This seems to have been replaced by another method of which the Goldhanger flues appear to be the only traces recovered so far. Possibly brine was evaporated in tanks set above these flues in much the same way as in the medieval saltworks to be described below. If, unlike the Goldhanger flues, the hearths had been surface built or only slightly sunken, or more importantly not set into a pre-existing Red Hill, then this would explain why the traces are so ephemeral. The evaporation tanks may have been of metal, lead, or of fired clay, as the section of the Goldhanger flue (Reader 1910, fig 5) perhaps indicates (J Rudkin 1975, 37, 1).

The enigmatic structures at Bovills Marsh, Southminster (Couchman 1977, 84) and Canvey Point (Eddy and Johnson 1980, 61) may be of this nature.

In the Netherlands there appears to have been a similar changeover from salt production using briquetage to the process of Woltering which seems to occur some time in the late first, or second century (Brongers and Woltering 1975, 34-5, Thoen 1978, 93). Moenering is the production of salt from salt-impregnated sand or peat and left traces somewhat similar to some of the medieval industries of England.

There is virtually no evidence of salt manufacture in Anglo-Saxon Essex, even from the site at Mucking. Salt was almost certainly produced in Essex and traded, but simply has left no trace. Very probably this is because of the same factors that have made late Roman saltworks so elusive.

'Aelfric's *Colloquy*' composed about AD 1000 has the Salter saying:

'My craft is very useful to all of you. Not one of you enjoys satisfaction in a meal or food, unless he befriends my craft who enjoys pleasant foods to the full without the flavour of salt? who fills his pantry or storeroom without my craft? Indeed you will lose all butter and cheese- curd unless I help you with a preservative: you couldn't even use your herbs without me'

This passage illustrates clearly how important salt-making must have been to the Saxon economy; also that by this date salt making was regarded as a distinct craft. Unfortunately it is a craft of which the archaeological traces remain to be identified.

The Domesday Survey records 46 salt pans from Essex, nearly all of them in the north-east (*Darby 1969, 246-8, Fig.67*) though this distribution may reflect the criteria of those responsible for collecting the data rather than the actual distribution in the late 11th century.

At Beaumont-cum-Moze, what may have been the site of one of these Domesday saltworks was excavated in the mid-fifties by the late R H Farrands, and this site has been prepared for publication by the writer (*Barford, forthcoming*). The evidence consists of a mound similar to those to be described below, close to a fleet or creek, the fill of which contained eleventh and twelfth century pottery. Adjacent to the mound were spreads of ash containing fired clay and occasionally lead fragments; these also contained pottery of a similar date. Excavation of a section across one of these revealed an elongated flue which may have been that of a salt oven like those from Bicker Haven.

Early Medieval Salt Making in Essex

In the years before the First World War a complex of earthworks (fig 2) at Hullbridge in Hockley (now in the parish of Woodham Ferrers) was examined by the Morant Club (*Christy and Dalton with Reader, 1925*). These consisted of tanks sunk into the marsh clay and with adjacent mounds of spoil. In between the tanks were broad platforms which, unlike the spoil- heaps, produced numerous medieval finds, including pottery, bone and peg- tile as well as large quantities of ash and charcoal and fired clay (some of which seems to have been the flue lining). The pottery was apparently thirteenth or fourteenth century in date. After an extensive discussion the writers agreed that the sites were most probably of medieval saltworks. It seems that the sea-water was introduced at high tides from the creek into the shallow tanks, where solar evaporation reduced it to a strong brine. This was then boiled in salt houses of which no definite structural details were identified in 1913.

A similar complex at Bowstead Brook, Tolleshunt D'Arcy was discussed as an appendix to the same report by Reader. This had been excavated as part of the Red Hills project of 1907, but was only briefly reported at the time. This site has a similar plan (fig 3) and seems to have been of a similar medieval date to those at Hockley.

Christy and Dalton (1925, 28) state that at the time they knew of few other sites similar to Hockley, but mention mounds at Northey Island, Heybridge and Langenhoe. Other sites of saltworks can be identified from documentary sources (below).

The saltworks were often sited at the seaward end of the extensive tidal creeks and estuaries where the water was often slightly more saline. Salt water was admitted at high tide into a number of shallow open salt pans protected by some form of sea defence. These were then shut off from the sea by sluices and the water left to settle and evaporate a little. Sometimes the water was led from the main tank into a series of smaller tanks as the volume decreased and the salinity increased. Relatively low rainfall, strong breezes and a slightly higher amount of sunshine made Essex one of the most suitable areas for this process. When the brine had become very concentrated it was removed from the salt pans and taken in buckets to the boiling house; there it was placed in large metal pans (often of lead) over a slow fire. The crystallising salt was scooped off and placed in baskets to drain in order to remove the more soluble 'bitters.' This process was described and illustrated by Brownrigg (1748).

No medieval or early post-medieval salt boiling house has yet been excavated in Essex, the seventeenth century saltworks at Goldhanger (*Laver, 1943*) being an exception; here Cheshire rock salt was put in baskets and steeped in seawater and then boiled. In default of this, the flues at Bicker Haven, Lincolnshire (*interim; Healey 1975*) are shown in figure 1. The two adjacent and parallel flues have their tops at ground level, above these would have been the metal (lead?) pans, the whole complex seems to have

been housed in a three-bay structure, with the stokehole and ash rake-out outside the building. The brine was apparently brought in through a wide door on the other long side of the structure. The floor level at each end was lowered slightly, presumably for easy access to the evaporation pan and to allow the salt to drain. Although the details may have varied, the Essex salt boiling houses cannot have been very different.

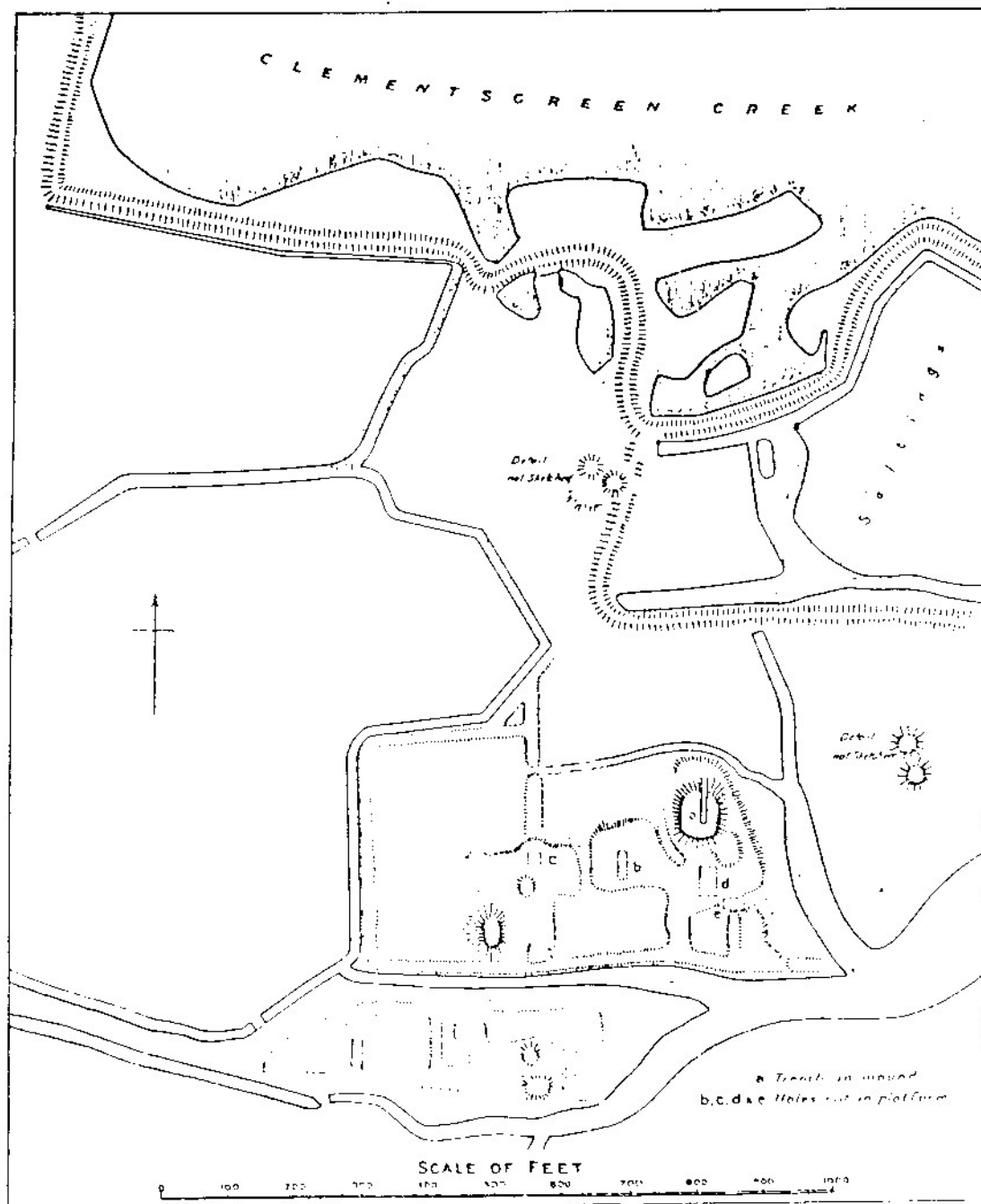


Figure 2. Earthworks at Hullbridge from *Essex Arch. Trans. NS XVIII. 1925, 31*

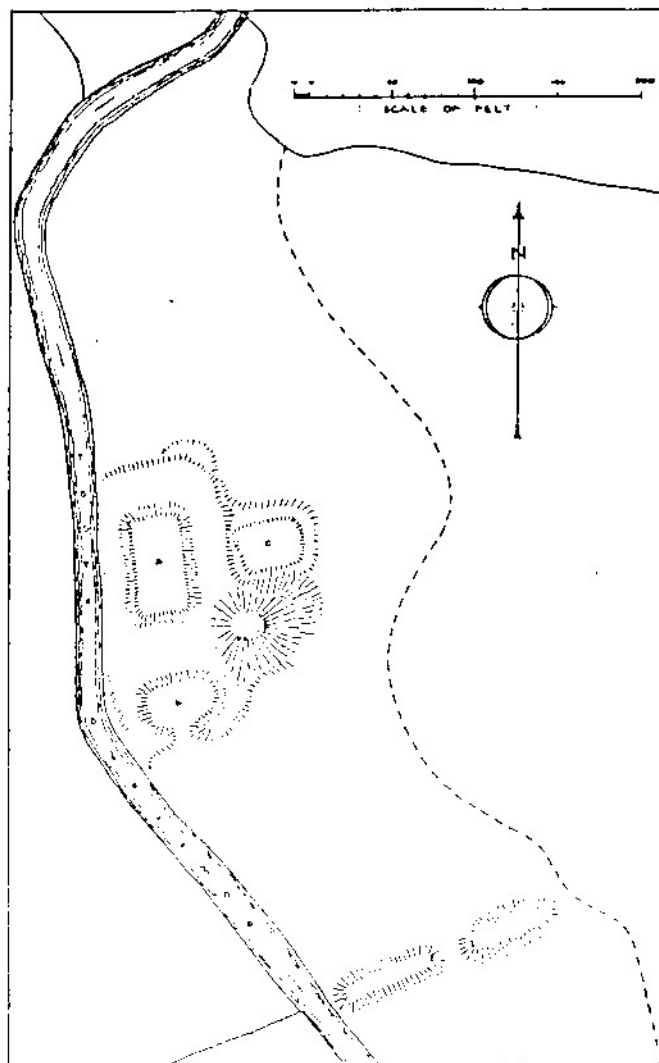


Figure 3 Earthworks at Tolleshunt Darcy from *Essex Arch. Trans NS XVIII. 1925, 55*

Post-Medieval Salt Making in Essex - Documentary Evidence

Christy (1906) and Gramolt (1960, 308-14) discuss the evidence for salt making at the end of the medieval period. They note salt-works connected with field names from several parishes; Wrabness, Great Oakley, Thorpe le Soken, Brightlingsea, West Mersea, Tollesbury, Southminster, Burnham, Stow Maries, Woodham Ferrers, Paglesham, Barling, Rochford, Eastwood, and Great Wakering. To these can be added the place name Salcott (Reaney 1935, 322-3). There is more direct evidence from wills and other documentary sources.

These date mainly from the sixteenth and later centuries, and these, taken with the field names, suggest that before the eighteenth century salt making was carried out in a number of small family-run salt-works all round the Essex coast. Indeed, Harrison (1587, 404) specifically notes salt as a major product of Essex.

In 1547 a Weller (Salt-maker) from Hockley left to his son a 'saltcote and four ledde[s] [pans] belonging to the said Salthouse, with all other implements as a Weller should have...' (King 1858, 154). It is possible that this 'Saltcote' was near to those excavated by Reader, Christy and Dalton (above). In 1582 there were four 'Saltcotes' which made sea salt and another two which had gone out of use (ERO D/DRaM9). In North Fambridge was a 'Saltcote' erected shortly before 1629 (ERO D/DMJ T11 and ERO D/DMJ M15), which continued in use until the end of the century at least.

A salt-works excavated in 1889 by Henry Laver and E A Fitch (Laver 1943) produced a considerable amount of evidence for the method of production at this time. Earthworks around the site seemed to have been the remains of old salt pans. The buried foundations of buildings included a coal house, a well, and the

small square building which had contained the furnaces. The brick-built evaporating pans were two metres long, one metre broad and 0.3m deep. Their walls were hollow and linked to flues. Originally it seems the brick tanks had been lined with lead sheet to retain the brine.

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries many of the salt-works were going out of use. This was probably due to a tax, levied by James I soon after his accession, on English salt (but not salt from Scotland or Ireland); this favoured the larger, better-organised saltworks. At Harwich there had been four saltworks, but by 1656 three had been converted to storehouses, and apparently none were in use by Silas Taylor's day (*Dale 1732*). In 1670 rock salt was discovered in Cheshire, and mined. This was exported to be refined elsewhere, where fuel, usually imported coal, was cheaper.

A return to Parliament in 1710 named Manningtree, Colchester, and Maldon as places which refined or made salt. The industry continued in Colchester up to 1793 and in Manningtree until 1823 but still continues in Maldon. An Act of Parliament of 1732 limited the numbers of saltworks in each place, each of which had to be licensed. Gradually the Cheshire rock salt refined at centres such as Goldhanger (*Morant 1768, I, 387*), Colchester, Manningtree, Ipswich, Walberswick and Southwold cornered the market and drove the concerns out of business.

By the early nineteenth century, however, a works producing white salt from seawater was established at Heybridge (*'Excursions through Essex' London 1818, I, 37*) and produced two qualities, pure table salt and a poorer quality material for dressing for agricultural land and other purposes (*Chelmsford Chronicle 26/10/1857 and 29/9/1819*). Directories show that about 1825 the industry changed hands and at some time about 1840 was moved across the River Blackwater to Maldon. Today the famous Maldon Crystal Salt Company carries on the tradition which as we have seen dates back several thousand years.

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'Winsleys', High Street, Colchester

John Bensusan-Butt

These notes are based on records deposited at the Essex Branch Record Office, Stanwell House, by Winsley's Trustees, *D/Q30/1/i-z* and *6/7*, augmented by the wills and evidence from the rate-books of All Saints parish etc. The most important persons to emerge are JAMES DEANE, carpenter-owner, 1705, who 'repaired and beautified it', ARTHUR WINSLEY, 1719, WILLIAM COLE, who surveyed it for one guinea in 1785, and WILLIAM SPARLING, who gave the house its present appearance c 1817.

The first item in an 'Abstract of Title' of 1719 is the sale of the premises in 1670 for £132 by Dr Thomas Skynner to Robert Roborough, a baymaker. Skynner, a notable physician and doctor to General Monk who engineered the return of Charles II in 1660, lived next door in the house re-fronted in 1680 for William and Susan Boys. Both are characteristic merchant houses, incorporating a cart-entry, easily secured, leading to warehouse behind.

Roborough, sometimes spelt Robery, mortgaged the house for £110 in 1684, £153-15 in 1693. From a stray rate-book preserved by Morant, we learn that Edmund Hickeringill, litigious rector of All Saints, was living in it in 1689.

In 1705 James Deane buys it for £120. He has lately 'repaired and beautified it', and has paid the Borough £3-10 for encroaching a strip of 40ft. x 2ft. in front of the house, when he mortgages it for £103 in 1707. The strip is the area railed off in Cole's drawing of 1785, and is about the amount of overhang of jettied first floor and cornice. The decorative cooing is of a kind also to be seen on the large house to the left of the Scheregate Steps at the entry to Vineyard Street. The lattice windows at the back of the house may also be Deane's if not Roborough's. The Bay trade was prospering at this time, but the sash-window, later so universal, had not yet arrived.

In 1708, James Deane (father of James Deane who in mid-century built so much for Charles Gray MP of the Hollytrees, and his friends - the dome on the Castle is his work) sold the house to a Mr John Harvey for £350, a good indication of his improvements, and in 1719 Harvey sold to Arthur Winsley Esq. for £260 (the occupier at the time Robert Franks gent.)

Winsley, a Baymaker, Mayor in 1721, lived in the house and made his will on 28th March 1726, dying 30th January next. He left most of his money to found the Houses for twelve Poor Men, which have since so increased in number. Two hundred and fifty pounds was to be spent on his monument in St. James, and part of the rent of his house was to be devoted to its upkeep. The houses themselves were built in 1734/5 for £560.

The faculty for placing the monument in the church is dated 1738. It used to stand where the altar at the south-east corner of the church is, so the face looked up into the light. The idea of such monuments was that benefactions should not be forgotten.

Of the occupiers of Winsley's in the Trust's time, the first met with is George Wegg, junior, in 1738. He was an attorney, who later owned East Hill House over the way. Jeremiah Daniell, merchant, had it 1746-53, moving in soon after marrying his third wife. He was one of the J.P.'s appointed to run the town during the sad period when the Borough had forfeited its charter 1741-63. Then came the Lechmeres, Mrs Rebekah who died in 1764, and her daughters Lucy and Maria Sophia. Periodically they paid 5/- to the Parish Clerk of St. James, Mr Weatherly, for the cleaning of the monument.

A lot of work was done on the house in the Lechmeres' time. The chief carpenter employed, William Hitchcock, was paid bills for £20-18 in 1761, £15-7-0 1/4 in 1779, and £10-12-0 1/2 in 1780-1. Apart from repairing the well, the amount of timber needed suggests that some of the chair-high wainscoting upstairs may date from then.

Maria Sophia, spinster, made her will in 1782, and it was proved in 1785. The unoccupied premises, now described as a 'mansion house', were let on 6th May 1785 for 21 years at eight guineas per annum, to

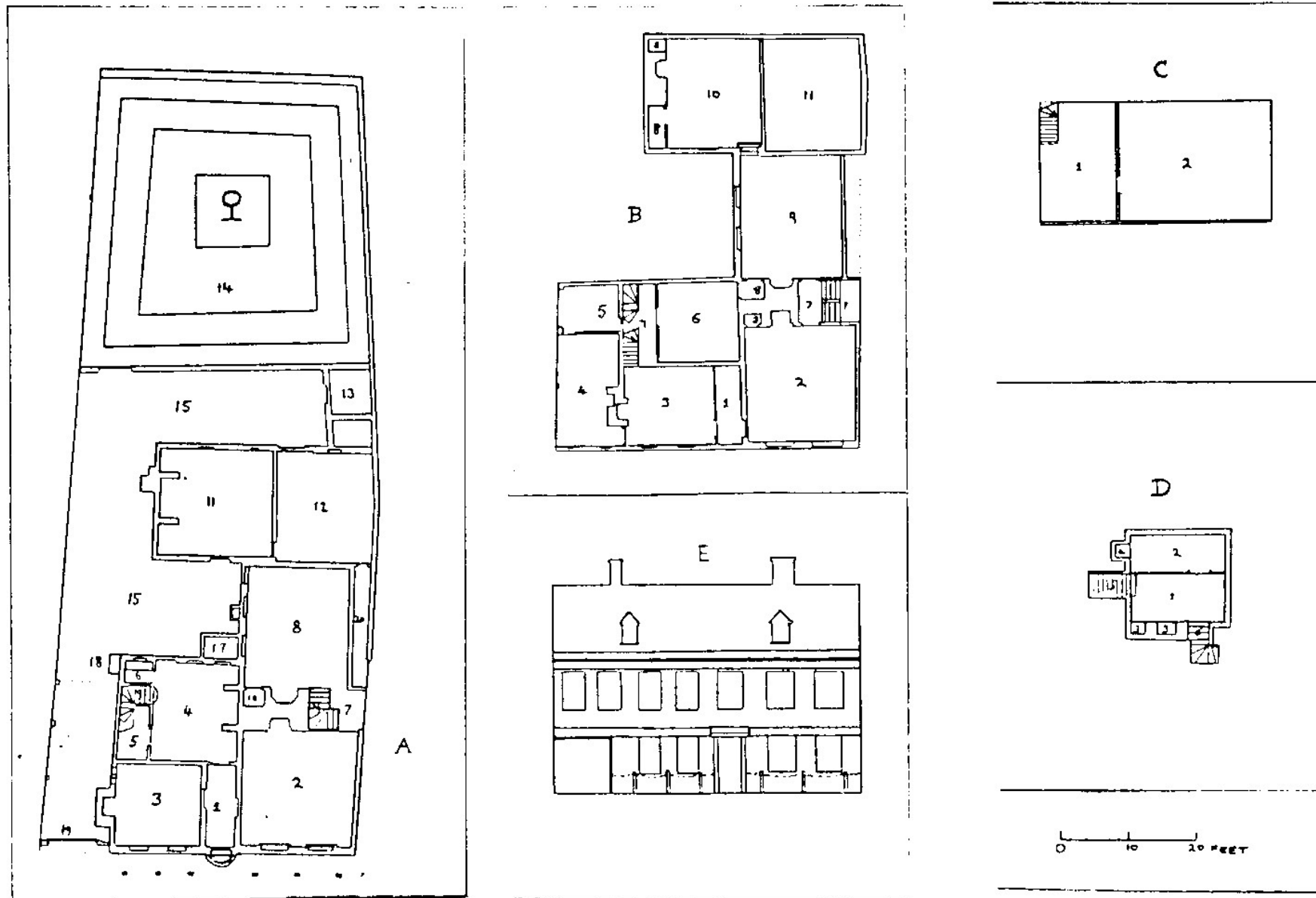


Figure 1.

Winsleys, High Street, Colchester

KEY TO FIGURES

A Plan of ground floor, with the garden.

- 1 Passage
- 2 Great parlour
- 3 Little parlour
- 4 Kitchen
- 5 Pantry
- 6 Scullery
- 7 Passage to back parlour
- 8 Back parlour
- 9 Stairs
- 10 Closets
- 11 Wash-house
- Stable
- 13 Necessary house
- 14 Garden
- 15 Stone yard
- 16 Pump and entrance of cistern
- 17 Cellar stairs and window
- 18 Lead cistern
- 19 Gate
- 20 Space behind the back parlour

B Plan of the First Floor

- 1 Chamber over the passage
- 2 Great parlour chamber
- 3 Little parlour chamber
- 4 Front chamber over the gate
- 5 Back chamber over gate
- 6 Kitchen chamber
- 7 Stairs and landings
- 8 Closets
- 9 Back parlour chamber
- 10 Wash house chamber
- 11 Stable chamber

E Front Elevation

C Plan of the Garrets

- 1 Lodging Garret
- 2 Lumber Garret
- 3 Stairs

D Plan of the Cellar

- 1 First part of the cellar
- 2 Further part of the cellar
- 3 Niches
- 4 Window
- 5 Outside stairs
- 6 Inside stairs 12

the Rev. Jehosaphat Mountain, rector of Peldon. But to avoid bills as above, the lease included 'power to repair, amend, pull down and enlarge' at his own expense. In the 1790's he emigrated to Canada.

In 1788 this lease was transferred to Shaw King Esq. for 28 years at the same 8 gns. His country house was Comarques, at Thorpe-le-Soken, and he is buried in Kirby church, dying 29 March 1797, aged 67. He was a notably large man, and there was a Colchester saying: 'as big as Shaw King'. The house is still described in the rate-books for 1801 as 'late Shaw King'.

The next holder of the 8 gns. lease, 1808, is John Cooper Wallis, veterinary surgeon; it was soon transferred to John Phipps, horse dealer, and another horse dealer, William Leagett, follows in 1810. In the garrison town of Napoleonic times, there were plenty of officers who could pay for a good horse.

The 28-year lease runs out, and in 1817 the house, lately occupied by Joseph Hargrave, is rented to William Sparling, who has recently 'substantially repaired and improved the building'. This is the probable date of its present 'Gothic' appearance, comparable with that of the Scheregate Hotel. the rent was now £40 per annum.

Sparling, a solicitor, was Mayor in 1829 and 1832, like his father of the same name, who was Mayor in 1806 and 1814, and whose sarcophagus is in St. Martin's churchyard. (It used to have a weeping willow drooping over it). After the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835, Sparling was Town Clerk 1837-49, taking his successor Sayers Turner as a partner before that. Sayers Turner lived many years next door in the 'Gate House and East Lodge'.

The firm of Sparling, Benham and Brough in West Stockwell Street descends from William Sparling's brother John.

Another group of documents *D/Q30/6/7* shows that in 1837 the Trustees were advised to raise the rent to £50. When it was advertised to let by tender, Sparling renewed his lease.

In 1867, Miss Emma Sparling is leaving the house, her mother being dead, and Mr Henry Sandford, a banker, takes it at £45 per annum.

After this the occupants can be traced in Directories. In Kelly, Henry Sandford is still there in 1878, and George Bradbrook has it in 1888, William Peck, draper in the High Street, nos.44/5, has Winsley's as his private residence 1894-8. After that, Benhams annual directories give Mrs Peck 1903-9, F Campling 1910-20, and the last is R W Buckingham 1921-51, who was paying £60 per annum.

In 1952, with permission from the Charity Commissioners, Winsley's was sold to the Borough for £3,000.

In 1966, it is the Child's Guidance Clinic.

Acknowledgements

For advice about the structure of the building, I am indebted to Richard Shackle, and to Andrew Phillips for information about William Sparling jun.

Most of my notes on the deeds were made in June 1965, when they were still housed in Winsley's chapel. William Cole's plan (fig 1) should be interesting to compare with the premises as they are now.

Mount Bures, Essex: Recent work

James Fawn

In the past the group has investigated several sites belonging to different periods in the Mount Bures area. In particular, Late Iron age settlement features have been found in Middle Field, Hall Farm and have been reported previous issues of the Bulletin (*McMaster and Fawn, 1981, 1982 and Fawn 1983, 1984, 1985*).

1) A Pipe-line survey

In March and April 1986, the Anglian Water Authority laid a pipe from a pumping station in the valley of the River Stour to a new reservoir on the hillside above the valley. The course of the pipe-line is displayed in figure 1, which also shows the locations of previous excavations carried out by the Group. The Marks Tey-Sudbury railway line forms the eastern boundary of Middle Field, and at the north-east corner a bridge (*BR No. 16/889*) carries the railway over a farm track running east-west.

The pipe-line approached the field from the east, passed through the arch of the bridge, and then ran south-south-west across the field. It crossed the southern boundary into the next field and continued up the hillside until it reached the reservoir.

The course of the pipe-line was walked from the end of the pumping station drive where it meets the B1508 Colchester-Bures road to the point where it crosses the Bures-Chappel road about 150m. south of the Thatchers public house. A few weeks before the installation of the pipe, a strip of plough-soil about 7m. wide and about 30cms deep was removed by machine along the entire route so that the surface of the underlying sub-soil was available for a fairly leisurely inspection. The pipe in lengths of about 5m. was laid in a trench cut by machine along the strip. The trench was excavated progressively to take each length of pipe and was back-filled shortly afterwards so that only about 10m. was open for inspection at any one time.

Neither the sub-soil surface nor the trench was excavated clearly enough to provide a really satisfactory exposure and it is possible that several archaeological features were missed. The promising areas were trowelled, but only three proved to be of interest, all in the Middle Field, as follows:

a) The Railway Bridge (TL93 90783224) - The bridge lies within the area "a quarter of a mile south-east of the Mount," where the contractor for the construction of the railway discovered an Iron Age burial vault in 1849 (*Roach-Smith, 1852*). The precise position of the vault was not recorded and several unsuccessful attempts have been made in recent years to relocate it, by excavation and by examination of the documentary evidence (*Fawn, 1983*). The pipe trench in the cart-track beneath the bridge, parallel to and 30cms from the north abutment, has now allowed a section through a hitherto unavailable area to be examined.

In the pipe trench there was no sign of a soil disturbance attributable to the 1849 vault excavation. According to the report of the discovery the vault was found during the deepening of a ditch. Two drainage ditches run parallel to and on either side of the railway embankment. The flows are carried in a culvert under the cart-track and the back-fills of the trenches originally dug to take the culverts were visible in the section of the pipe-trench but they showed no indication that they had been extended for the 1849 investigation of the vault as was stated in Roach-Smith's report.

The area immediately west of the bridge was considerably disturbed, evidently as a result of previous trenching for the installation of a high tension electricity cable which, like the new water pipe, also ran under the bridge but near the south abutment. If the vault was beneath the bridge or just to the south-west of it the presence, of two public utility trenches in the restricted area makes the chance of further discoveries slim. However, the burial may well be elsewhere in the vicinity which therefore remains an area of interest.

b) An Iron Age Ditch or Pit (TL93 90723291) - During previous excavations in Middle Field an Iron Age ditch system has been found (*McMaster and Fawn 1982*). A dark area of disturbance was observed in the stripped area before the pipe-trench was dug and a rapid excavation unearthed several fragments

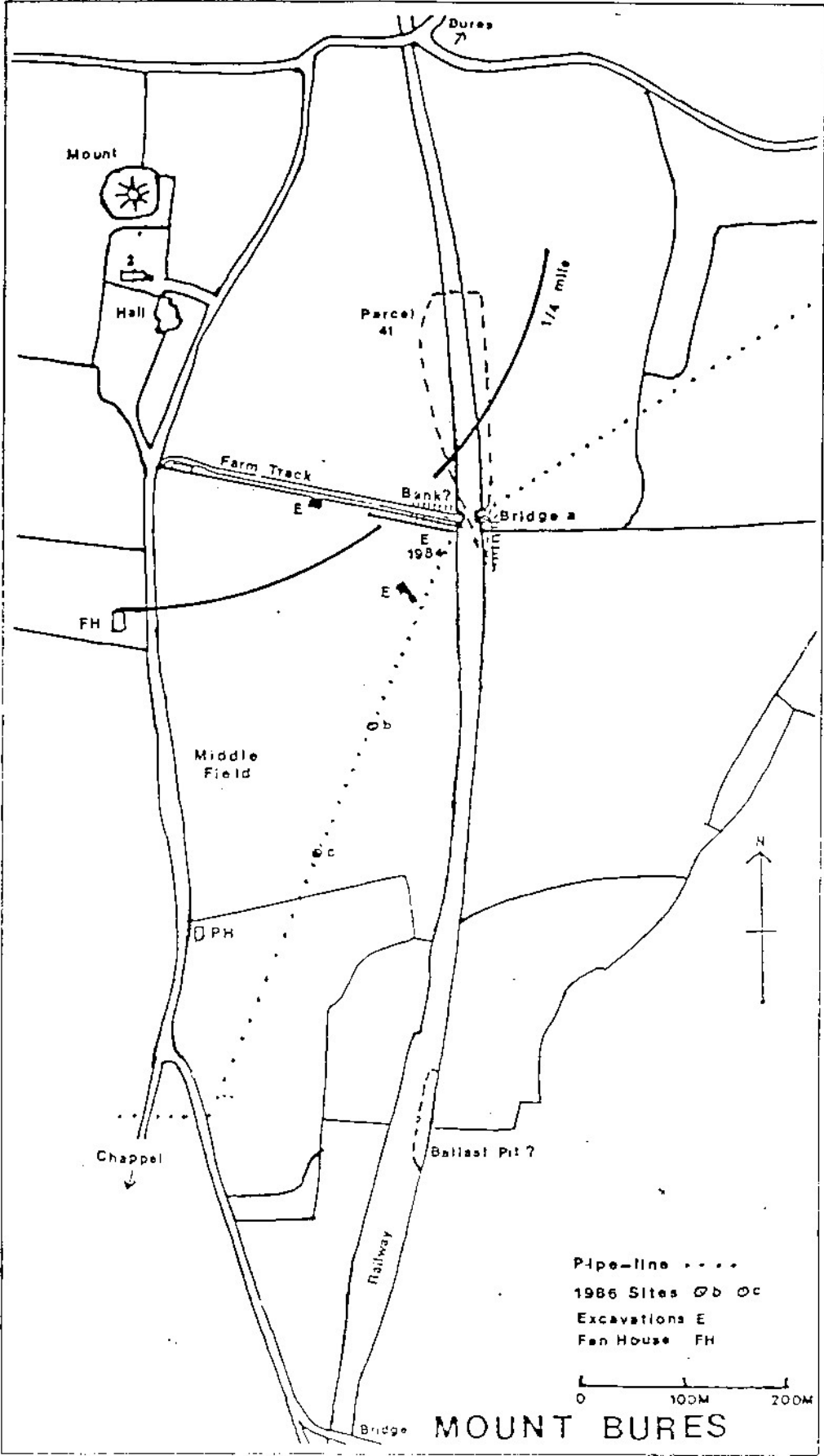


Figure 1.

of grey Late Iron Age pottery which appeared to be of a similar date to that found in the earlier excavations. Among them was a white base sherd, form CAM 113 (*COLEM Acc. No. 5.1989*, which includes the pottery from the earlier excavations). The new find area, about 2.0m. x 1.1 m., was some 130m. from the latter and, if part of the same system, shows that the site was extensive. Aerial photography would seem the obvious means for further investigation. So far, apart from part of the Iron Age ditch system already excavated, photographs have revealed only the cropmarks of the field drainage system.

- c) A Bronze Age Pit (TL93 90633188)**- A second dark area in the pipe-line strip not far from the southern boundary of Middle Field was first half-sectioned and then completely excavated as a shallow round bottomed hole with a diameter of 0.9-1.0m. and a maximum depth of 0.25m. It appeared to be the base of a pit which, with the addition of the plough depth, would have penetrated about 0.55m. below the modern ground surface. Just beneath the stripped surface, i.e. at about 0.4m. beneath the modern surface, seven fragments of pottery were found (*COLEM Acc. No. 6.1989*).

Mr. Nigel Brown of the County Archaeological Section has kindly provided the following assessment of the sherds.

"Seven base and body sherds of prehistoric pottery, probably all from a single pot, were recovered from the bottom of a small pit. The sherds are tempered with coarse flint and occasional quartz grits. There is an irregular row of finger impressions around the lower walls where the base has been joined to the body of the vessel. The exterior of the body sherds shows signs of vertical finger wiping. The pottery seems likely to derive from a flat based Class 1 jar (*Barrett 1980*) probably of the Late Bronze Age."

This discovery is not the first evidence of Bronze Age activity at Mount Bures. In 1974 the group partially excavated a round barrow ditch in the valley of the Stour below the Middle Field site and aerial photographs have revealed cropmarks of others in the valley (*Holbert and McMaster 1975, McMaster 1975*). However, the barrow appeared to belong to a date rather earlier in the Bronze Age than the Middle Field pit. The purpose of the latter (if it was a pit) remains obscure. Aerial photography may again be able to provide further information.

2) Documentary Evidence

Two items of evidence concerning the Iron Age burial vault have recently come to light and should be recorded.

- a) Saffron Walden Museum**- As stated in a previous report (*Fawn 1983*), the then Rector of Stanway, the Reverend Henry Jenkins, had possession of some of the finds from the vault in 1849, including an andiron which is now displayed in the Colchester and Essex Museum, and was aware of the circumstances of their excavation.

A letter in the Colchester Museum (under Roman, Gt. Chesterford file, Mr Maynard to Mr Wright, 16.2.1909) indicates that some of Jenkins' letters, 1849 to 1856, were in Saffron Walden Museum in 1909 and were being studied in common with many other papers by Mr Maynard, the then Curator there. Mr Maynard's letter indicates that some of the Jenkins letters referred to the vault in some detail and so it is possible that they may contain the location of the vault.

Mr L.M. Pole, the present curator of the Saffron Walden Museum, has very kindly arranged a search for the Jenkins correspondence, to no avail. It is quite possible that the letters are no longer there as Mr Maynard gave no indication that the Museum owned them. They may, of course, no longer exist.

- b) Essex Record Office, Colchester**- Two andirons were found in the vault but only the one in the Colchester Museum is now known. It was presented to the museum in 1870 by Reverend Jenkins (*Fawn 1983, 28*), and from its appearance (the bronze terminal on one of the horns is missing) seems to be the first one found, as shown in Figure 1 in the report (*Roach-Smith 1852*).

Among the papers of William Wire, the Colchester antiquarian who had some dealings in antiquities, in the Essex Record Office, Colchester branch, there is a letter which contains the following extract:

Temporary Accession C60. "Wire volumes and papers not identified in E.A.S library catalogue."

November 22nd 1852,

"Do you ever see Mr C Roach-Smith's *Collectanea Antiqua* as I have the offer of a corresponding fire-dog to figure in that work plate X, Vol 2 and found with it. If you find a ready sale for antiquities in general, no doubt I can supply you with very many although I have nothing by me at this time, having sold to one person nearly £20 worth during the course of this year before those in hand were sent up."sic

Yours obt.
William Wire

Mr Purdue.

The letter shows that, at the time of writing, the second andiron was in the possession of someone unknown who was willing to transfer it to William Wire who was offering it to a Mr Purdue. Whether this chain of transactions was followed through is not revealed in the correspondence as subsequent letters make no mention of the andiron. However, it is interesting to know that the artefact was recovered in satisfactory enough state to be a saleable item in 1852. What happened to it and to some of the other items found in the vault is a matter for conjecture. After 140 years, are they still treasured in a private collection?

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Cropmark of a Medieval Church at Stoke by Clare, Suffolk.

Ida McMaster

The flying season of 1986 looked very promising for aerial photography until July 5th when a heavy rain wiped out virtually all crop marks. During a flight a few days earlier Pat Adkins had noted the presence of an interesting building which was outlined in a wheat crop. He confirmed that the site lay adjoining the north bank of the River Stour in the parish of Stoke by Clare in Suffolk.

Before the crop mark disappeared we decided to obtain further photographic cover and to that purpose the present writer spent an entire afternoon at Earls Colne airfield waiting for the rain to abate. Alas, without success, the pilot was beaten soon after take-off by an alarming bank of black cloud, and several days elapsed before the exercise could be repeated. Luckily the crop mark remained and the unmistakable outline of a church was visible.

Resulting film indicates that two building phases had taken place. One phase shows the outline of a nave with a small rectangular chancel, whilst enclosed entirely within this plan is the earlier phase consisting of an even smaller rectangular church which has the suggestion of a tower or annexe at its western end. Both buildings display supporting buttresses along their outer walls. The inner earlier church appears to be aligned parallel to the course of the existing modern road whilst the later church is skewed very slightly more towards a true E-W orientation. Maps and local enquiries revealed that the farm on the other side of the road is called Chapel Street Farm; and the fact that one agricultural worker who has for many years ploughed the land over the site, had seen no evidence for the presence of a building there.

The crop mark of a rectangular ditched boundary, possibly part of an early field system appears to encompass the site of the church although, apart from two unlikely looking pit features, no graves are apparent within that area. However at least seven sizeable Bronze Age ring ditches may be seen in the area between the church and the River Stour (see map below). Many other clusters of these rings occur along the entire length of the river and probably many of them were still mounded in medieval times. This might well suggest that a sacred place was then also recognisable when the subsequent church builders selected their site. Apparently this theory of religious longevity or continuity is gaining ground as evidence accumulates. It is difficult otherwise to imagine the purpose for such an isolated chapel of ease, for example, when no sign of a deserted medieval village is detectable thereabouts. Recently, however, a small building has also been recorded to the east across the river in the parish of Belchamp Otten. This appears to be the long lost chapel of Belchamp St. Ethelbert, a far more isolated crop mark site which consists of a much smaller two-celled structure again with Bronze Age rings in the near vicinity.^{1,2}

Enquiries at the Suffolk Archaeological Unit ascertained that the site was scheduled in 1974 when not all the ring ditches were visible and the church outline was somewhat less clear. No further details could be added by Mr Watson, the land-owner, and so a documentary search for more information was undertaken.

Immediate assistance was provided by Mr Douglas Brown, the local historian of Stoke by Clare, who was delighted to add the proverbial 'skin and bones' to the obscure frame of some unidentified notes which had rested in the parish chest for some considerable time. These were extracts from an inventory of the possessions of the College of Stoke by Clare taken in 1534 and 1547-8 by the last Dean of the college, Matthew Parker. One of these recorded:

'Item at the townes end a chapell of stone wt lles rowed about leded'

The editor who transcribed these inventories³ had added the remark 'and was no doubt the chapel of Our Lady in Cartes Strete mentioned in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535 when the offerings at the image of Our Lady averaged 40 shillings per annum.'⁴

Copies of these same notes had been passed by the Suffolk Record Office to the Curator of the Cambridge University Aerial Photography Collections, David Wilson, who first recorded the crop mark in 1974 followed by the subsequent scheduling of the site. (See *SMR. SBC 011. County No.157*).

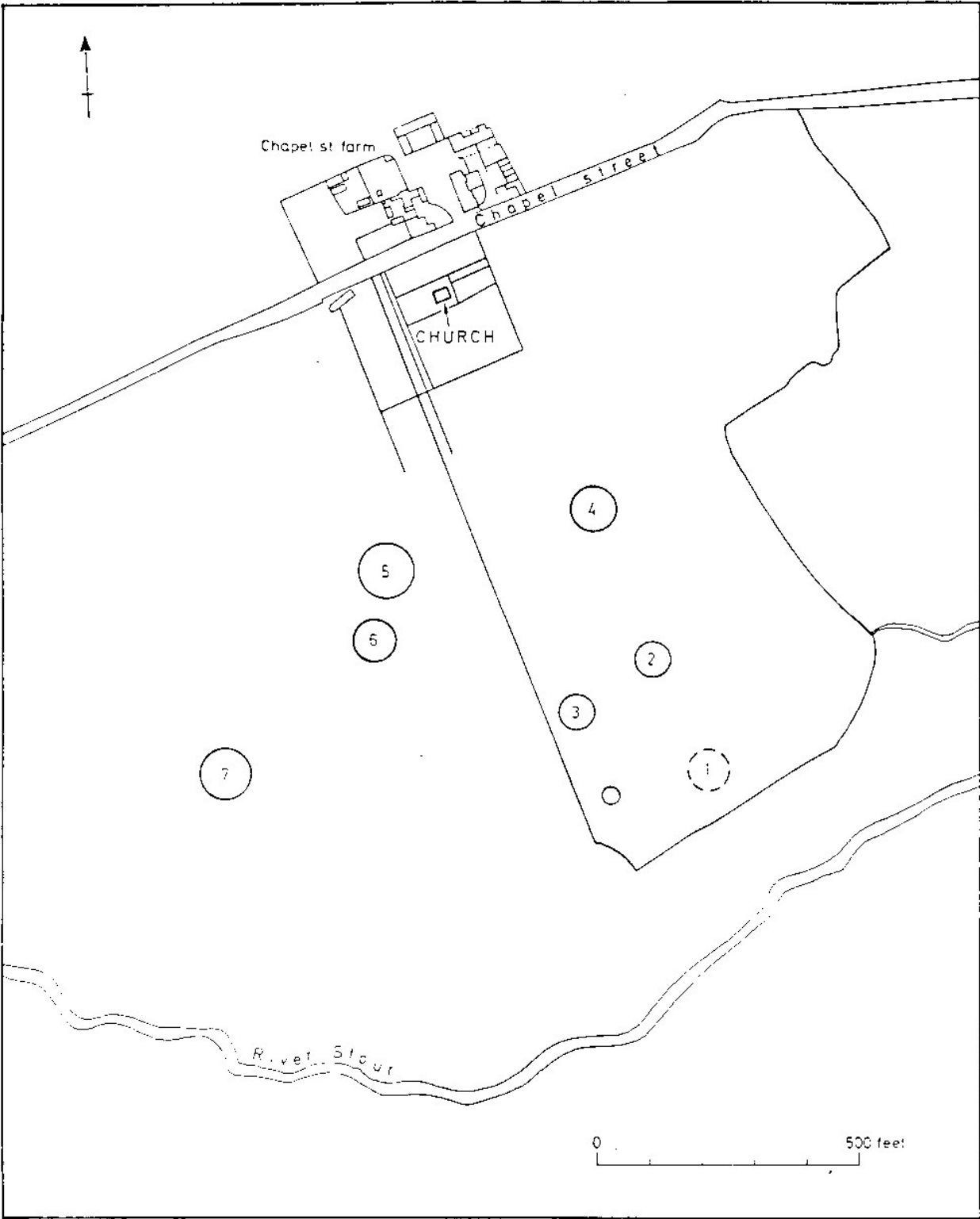


Fig 1. Oblique photographs have been used to compile the plan and therefore cropmark plotting may not be totally accurate

Dr Warwick Rodwell, Consultant Archaeologist and Architectural Historian, has provided us with much appreciated observations on the crop mark and also outlined the probable sequence of development of the structure into what must assuredly have been the stone chapel in Cartes Strete. The plans (see below) are based entirely on a sketch which he somehow, in a very busy schedule, found time to provide for us. His suggestions are as follows:

"The outer (later) building is almost certainly 15th century by the plan. The chancel is probably not as short as it appears owing to the presence of possible flanking chapels. There was probably a great wooden tri-partite screen which divided North and South aisles from the NE and SE chapels as well as dividing the nave from the chancel. Thus the chancel would have been two bays long not one as it appears. The inner (earlier) building could be of any date but the squat proportions suggest a Norman origin, if not earlier. Again there may have been a wooden screen to divide nave from sanctuary (cf. Pattiswick, Essex). The possible small tower at the west end may have survived as an integral part of the later building, with the aisles wrapped around it, as often happened with similar such enlargements. The earlier buttresses appear to be 14th century. Perhaps the most interesting point of all is the way that the alignment has been slightly changed. It is interesting to see such a skewing effect being applied in a late medieval church: it is usually a phenomenon of the Norman period, applied to correct non-oriented Saxon churches. Perhaps curiously the chapel is set somewhat far back from the road frontage and seems to be lacking any immediate contextual features. Burial rights would not have been likely."

Dr Rodwell concludes that "the final phase is very elaborate for a chapel of ease, it looks so much more like a late medieval parish church. Perhaps further historical research would shed light on the *raison d'être* for such an elaborate little building in such a situation."

The Historical Background

1) Foundation of the Priory of Stoke by Clare - In fact subsequent research, although by no means conclusive, has nevertheless revealed much interesting information (and, no doubt, more could be added with continued research). One particular entry in Domesday includes an important extra note which proved to be the basis for the whole sequence of the evidence obtained so far. It was recorded under the heading:

*'Land of Richard son of Count Gilbert [At] Clara [Clare] A/uric son of Wisgargave this manor to St John in the time of King Edward [the Confessor] his son consenting thereto and put in Ledmar the priest and others with him. Having also made a charter he committed the church and the whole place into the hands of Leuston, the Abbot [of Bury St. Edmunds, 1044-1065] to keep, and into the hands of Wisgar his own son.'*⁵

In addition under the same landowner appears another relevant entry but this time recorded under *'Free lands before 1066:*

*'Stockes [Stoke by Clare]a church with 60 acres of land value 10 solidas'*⁶

Indisputable indication that a church structure was extant in the parish at the time of Domesday. The majority of the following information comes from the splendid transcripts of the Stoke by Clare Priory Cartulary, Volumes 1-3.⁷ The relevant charter numbers as given by the editors in brackets are used here in the references. Of necessity some of their findings are summarized.

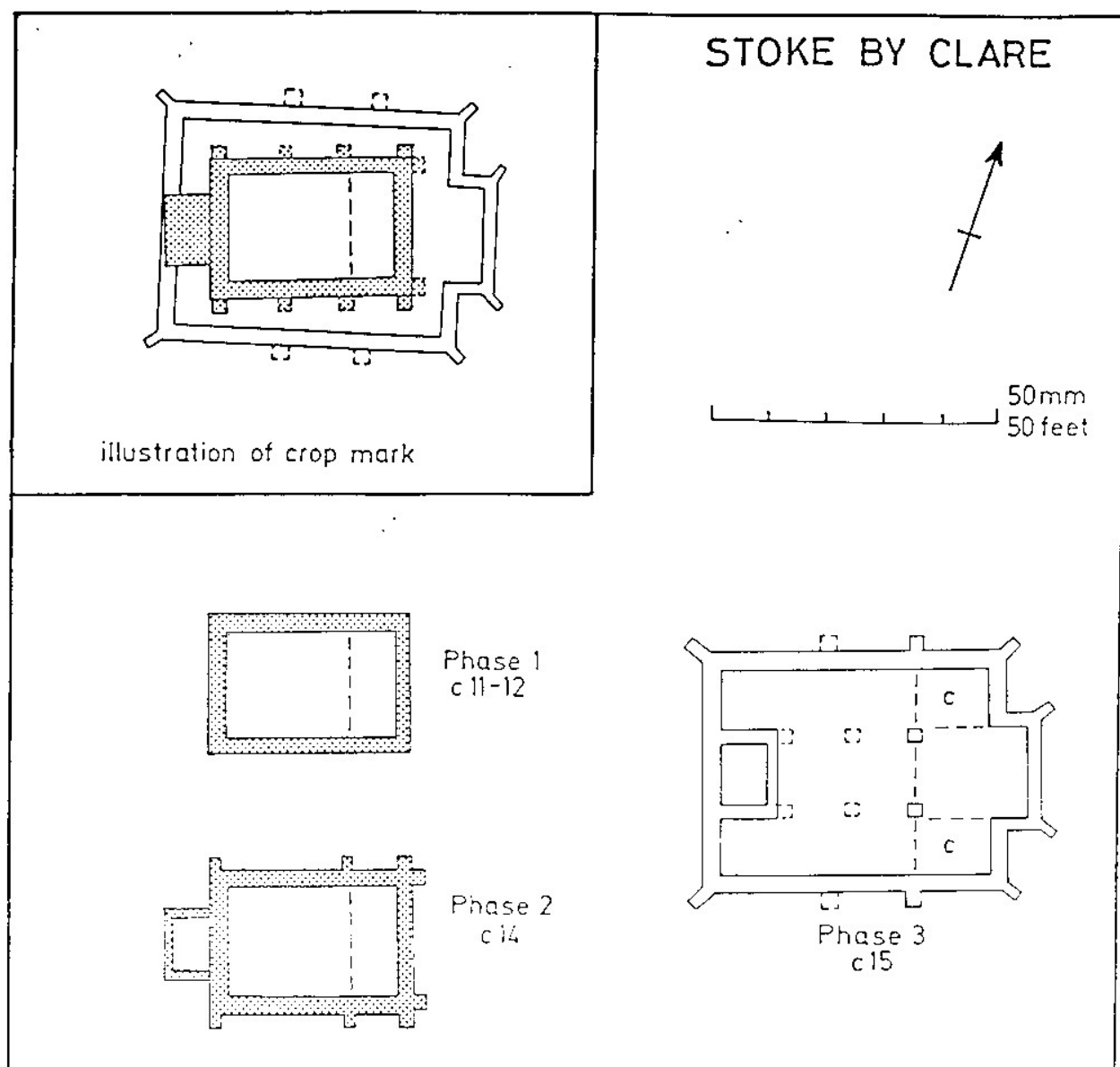


Fig 2 The indicated north direction is not correct for the Phase 3 diagram which has been purposely skewed a little
See cropmark illustration for the correct position.

A college for secular clerks with seven prebends (see later) was founded at Clare by Aelfric (Aluric) son of Wihtgar; Aelfric's own son Wihtgar was dispossessed in the aftermath of the conquest and the new Norman lord, Richard Fitz Gilbert had continued to maintain the college. In 1090 Gilbert the second lord of Clare began the process of converting the collegiate church of St John the Baptist, now within his castle at Clare, into a Benedictine priory dependant on the mother church of Bec in Normandy. Later in 1124, the third lord of Clare, Richard Fitz Gilbert in his turn made an arrangement with the Bec monks to transfer them from Clare to Stoke by Clare. This was on the understanding that with his assistance the monks would build, in the newly granted lands, another church dedicated to St John the Baptist.⁸

Thus the original building housing the Anglo-Saxon collegiate church of St John, situated within the castle at Clare, now presumably resumed its previous status as the lord's private chapel, although the Editors stress that this was not specifically stated.⁹ The monks of Bec had earlier also been granted the parish church of St Paul at Clare together with other lands there but they were now required to exchange all these specifically for St Augustines Church at Stoke By Clare with new lands attached. Both the churches at Clare are mentioned again briefly but thereafter reference is made to only one church in that parish and no dedication is recorded. During the following century however c 1248 the Clare family founded yet another establishment at Clare this time for Augustinian monks who dedicated their Friary church to St Mary.¹⁰ This Friary flourishes there again today albeit

after a very long break in monastic sequence, nevertheless it occupies the same ancient site as before.

It is the aim of this article to provide some evidence to suggest that the inner earlier phase of the crop mark church at Stoke by Clare is, perhaps, the above church of St Augustine of Stoke to which the Bec monks were transferred in 1124. Their story has nothing whatever to do with the Augustinian Friary at Clare, a totally different Order of monasticism.

2) The Anglo-Saxon Prebend and early 12th century church of St Augustine - One of the seven prebends mentioned above in connection with Aluric's grant to the Anglo-Saxon college at Clare very clearly passed into the possession of the Bec monks at Stoke and had probably been given to them as early as 1115.¹¹ The prebend contained vast possessions in other areas of England (24 manors and many churches) but most importantly it included the church and lands in Stoke and so perhaps this was the church of St Augustine and even possibly also the Domesday church with 60 acres. The prebend of Ogbourne figures in the following pages. Three charters make clear the fact that the church of St Augustine is quite separate from the Bec priory church of St John,¹² for the monks are directed to provide a suitable chaplain to minister also in St Augustines when necessary. Where then in this background does the crop mark church fit? Clearly the inner earlier structure might parallel the period of St Augustines but the dedication to Our Lady (of Cartes Strete) would seem to preclude the theory that they are one and the same. The Editors of the Cartulary state that this chapel of SS Mary and Anne was first recorded in 1372 when Pope Gregory XI offered remission of a year and forty days of enjoined penance to visitors at the chapel.¹³ Clearly an edifice of some standing at that time. But in that case, why the existence of three separate ecclesiastical establishments in such a small parish if St Augustine's existed elsewhere?

One enigmatic charter further complicates the the question by describing an unusual situation. Dated between 1139-43 the short charter expressly states '*on the day of the dedication of the church of St Augustine in the presence of Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury.*' It then goes on to confirm the grant by Gilbert, Earl of Hereford and Clare in free alms to his monks at Stoke of all the grants of his grandfather and father. This charter is repeated more fully, twice again in the period 1150-61 and in the same presence. The Editors suggest that the occasion of the dedication of St Augustine was the re-dedication as a parish church when the monks were ready to move into a partially constructed convent.¹⁴ Quite probably the Editors were unaware of the existence or plan of the crop mark church and, if so, would they have had further thoughts? One tentative suggestion might be that the dedication was removed from an old or obsolete structure in order to be used for a new parish church perhaps on a different site. This might explain the curious enigma of the present parish church which up to 1852 was always known as St Augustines but after 1888 became the church of St John the Baptist,¹⁵ but other factors enter into this problem.

3) The present parish church and College of Stoke- The main fabric of the present parish church dates from the 16th century and has some features from an earlier period, namely the clear outline of an arch (said to be of the Decorated style - c 1300-50?) which may be seen in the east wall of the tower and also on the inner face of the same wall within the tower, and at its base. The outer wall of the south aisle is very obviously a part of this earlier structure. The crop mark chapel lies one kilometre to the west and no trace of it appears on the Tithe map for Stoke¹⁶ and so any surface remains would probably have been cleared for the later constructions. The present Stoke College mansion, mainly dating from the mid 17th century, incorporates distinct features of an ancient building said to be the remains of the Bec priory. These lie a mere 180 metres from the parish church.

Now comes the all important question as to why and by whom was the construction carried out on the later medieval phase of the crop mark church/chapel. According to Dr. Rodwells dating, what situation occurred during the 1400's whereby the need arose for a larger chapel? A dispute, or some catastrophe to the parish church, if another was sited elsewhere? Much hinges on whether or not the 12th century monks of Bec did in fact choose to build their new priory church of St John in close proximity to any existing parish church of Stoke as, for example, the present parish church site. And was it St Augustine?

4) The Bec priory and subsequent College for secular clerks. The priory with its extensive lands now termed the manor of the Prior of Stoke, in 1295 supported 17 monks as well as the Prior with maintenance costs of £81.¹⁷ During the next century this alien priory began to suffer from heavy taxation and political problems so that by 1381 only the Prior and one monk remained to officiate. Fire destroyed the priory church and its buildings c 1392-5 shortly after an English monk was appointed instead of foreign Bec monks. The situation deteriorated and the priory was closed under the Alien Churches Act of Suppression of 1414.

By 1421 the King had given its new owner permission to convert the remains of the old priory into a College for secular clerks (priests), thereby re-introducing similar aims and old traditions first founded by the Anglo-Saxon collegiate establishment at Clare.¹⁸

Following the fire a second new church of St John the Baptist was largely or completely rebuilt for the college priests in the early 15th century. Over the following century the status of their establishment advanced considerably for the last Dean of the college at the time of Dissolution in 1548 was Matthew Parker, later the first protestant Archbishop of Canterbury. Dean Parker was credited with a major rebuilding of the collegiate church shortly after his arrival in Stoke and it is significant that this was the general period of reconstruction for the present parish church.¹⁹

Kelly's late 19th century directories and other writers, all state that some of the fabric of the present parish church, the tower, chancel, north chantry, south porch and a chapel (now the manorial pew), are all part of the collegiate church of c 1420. If this is correct it explains why no traces of a second church remained after the Dissolution.

The manor lands in Stoke including the College were granted to staunch Protestant Sir John Cheke²⁰ and Sir Walter Mildmay in 1549 but subsequently the lands were split and divided. Sir John's widow, who died c 1604, was still patron of the church according to an enquiry into the Archdeaconries of Suffolk which stated in 1603 that the church (an impropriation) '*belong to Stoak College late dissolved and is now holden of the Ladye Cheake in fee simple.*' Complaint was made that after the said Dissolution, Sir John Cheke had retained certain tithes together with the priest's house adjoining unto the gatehouse of the College.²¹ Notably in this context, near the present entrance gate to the College and also very close to the church lies the fine Celerers Hall, now privately owned. It is a cross-winged hall house of c 15th century date or even much earlier. The timber work within is of superior quality and there is a slightly later annexe attached to its west end. According to the deeds this interesting house has during its life also been an inn called "The Lamb." Obviously an ecclesiastic origin and, of course, the emblem of St John the Baptist.²²

The curate also complained that the church should be under the patronage of the King (James I). Stoke College had been in the gift of the Queens of England previously. Matthew Parker received his grant of the College from Queen Anne Boleyn and sought help later at the Dissolution from Queen Catherine Parr.

5) The Prebend of Ogbourne - The spiritualities of the prebend of Ogbourne containing tithes in 48 different parishes and still including the church and tithe land in Stoke, had been granted to the warden and canons of St Georges Chapel, Windsor in 1421 and remained with them for several centuries.²³ The profits from churches and tithes (the spiritualities) had formed a large percentage of the income of the Bec priory. Income from farm rents (the temporalities) had largely been split up in the period before and after the closure of the priory. However the subsequent College still had certain manor land which eventually went to Sir John Cheke. The following shows that St Georges Chapel, Windsor retained jurisdiction over the structure belonging to the prebend of Ogbourne. William Dowsing, the Puritan desecrator of churches in his diary compiled in 1643-44 recorded

*'Mr Thomas Humberfield's or Somberfield's, I broke down nine superstitious pictures and a Crucifix in the parish of Stoke. He refused to pay the 6s. 8d. This was in the Lord Windsor's chapel.'*²⁴

Dowsing differentiated clearly between church and chapel in his lengthy list for Suffolk desecrations, also he included no other church for Stoke. Therefore his mention of the lord of Windsor's chapel is most interesting and may, of course, refer to the crop mark chapel. Dowsing would not have missed any opportunities and so the church associated with the College, and now in lay hands, must have been stripped clear by Protestant parishioners before his visit. He could hardly refer to that edifice as a chapel even though it was probably decidedly run down and the

incumbent enjoyed only a perpetual curacy, his income being augmented by the College owners to whom he was also chaplain.²⁵ As no other church appears in any record at this time, it would appear reasonable to assume that the collegiate church now had become entirely parochial and had been so since shortly after the Dissolution.

- 6) The inventories taken by Matthew Parker, 1534 and 1547-8** - The Editor of these inventories writing in 1921 stated that the parish church of Stoke was entirely distinct and at 'some distance from the collegiate church.'²⁶ As the present church stands a mere 180 metres from the site of the present College mansion, which dates from c 1660-74, it is difficult to understand his remark. One would wish to know his source. Even a few hundred metres would hardly be 'at some distance.' However, no significance is attached to his statement at present.

It had been possible for the Editor to compose an impression of the plan of the collegiate church from the list of contents recorded. For example, there were integral side chapels within its structure, probably in the transepts, one for St Edmund and the second was the Lady Chapel. Wills of the late 15th/early 16th century bequeath money to the chapel of the Guilds of the Holy Trinity and of Jesus which could not be identified within the church plan. However, it is now clear from the Cartulary dated 1225,²⁷ that this chapel lay in the Infirmary of the priory and therefore that structure, at least, must have survived the fire, probably because the Infirmary would be isolated from the main buildings. The collegiate church contained six great bells in the tower and the present parish church contains the same number, some recast and of recent date: also a little bell which tradition states was originally the priory chapel bell; the present clock is perhaps not that mentioned in the 1547 lists, although of great age.

Altogether there were six altars recorded in the inventory, the High Altar, one in the Lady Chapel, one in St Edmunds chapel, one in the Rood loft and a pair in the middle of the church before the images of St John the Baptist and Our Lady which apparently would stand on each side of the Quire door. The vestry, then with its upper floor, was almost certainly in the same position as the upper area now visible on the north side of the chancel which stills shows its 'squint' window and steps, but now minus its floor. This vestry was also used as a chapter-house for the Bishop's visitation.²⁸

If, somewhat regrettably, Matthew Parker was responsible for the insertion of the substantial pillars which served to cut into the older church outline, what date was the older structure? The earlier collegiate c 1420 building? Remains of the burned priory church or even of the original St Augustines church? Only future excavation will settle that question successfully, and here note should be made that whilst grave digging, a wall has been seen just beyond and parallel to the south aisle.

- 7) Ancient remains in the present College**- The library of the College still shows very substantial traces of remains which are said to be the chapel of the Bec priory. The width of this building was 7.80 metres externally, but its length is masked by later constructions. There are two elaborate stone windows on the ground floor and an arched stone doorway on the upper floor. At right angles to the building ran an ancient corridor which contains a massive doorway and shows that the wall on that side is about 1 metre thick. All these features are of stone and from the general design could well date from the period of the priory. The corridor is repeated on the upper floor also, and the whole would point to a sizeable two-storied building, for example, a chapel on the top floor with entrance through the solid stone arched doorway, if such was its use. The Guild chapel of the Holy Trinity in the Infirmary of the priory comes to mind, having survived the fire. One particular charter is of interest, here dated 1152-73 which mentions

*'Certain relics and their bearers belong to the monastery of Stokeand those who encounter them are ordered to treat them with benevolence in the hope that if anyone contributes to the work newly commenced at the priory, God will reward them hundredfold.'*²⁹

There is a familiar ring to this but, at the same time, one wonders if this might refer to the construction of the Infirmary or its chapel, with revered relics used in services for the sick and dying. The 'work newly commenced' might be thought to refer to the earlier crop mark church, but some fifty years after this particular charter there is record of the dedication in 1225 with due pomp and ceremony by the Bishop of Llandaff of the Chapel of the Holy Trinity within the Infirmary of the priory of Stoke. It is not likely that the monks would have been building another structure during the same period.³⁰

In any age it would be folly to ignore substantial basic foundations, however derelict, when a new structure was required. The odds are, therefore, that the collegiate (?later parochial) church stood upon the burned foundations of the priory church and the parish church, as in the present reconstructed form today, sits upon the first two foundations. If this is so, then St Augustine's ancient church possibly lies elsewhere.

8) The crop mark churches in dating contexts - If estimated dates for the two phases of the crop mark are correct, the outer late medieval structure must have been carried out shortly after the priory fire and somewhere during the period of the build-up of the collegiate establishment during the 15th century. Perhaps it was used by the college canons and vicars whilst their new church of St John was under construction. If there was already a parish church elsewhere, why the need to completely rebuild the crop mark church.

Before Dean Parker arrived in Stoke the college had been struggling and had been threatened with dissolution. Parker was able to delay this until 1548. During his term at the College everything was put in order and the inventory shows that the plate and vestments, together with all other items recorded, were sumptuous indeed. When, in 1549, his lifelong friend Sir John Cheke became a lay owner of the College with the buildings appertaining thereto, there is little doubt that *the church would have been in good repair*.³¹ Eighty years later there must have been a structure, even if Dowsing appeared not to record it. It was not likely that the 'lord of Windsor's chapel' referred to the chapel in the Infirmary of the old priory (if it still existed) since the Ogbourne church had always been the oldest structure at Stoke.

Curiously among all the lists of lands, churches, tithes and field names recorded in the priory Cartulary, there is not one single reference which could even loosely describe an additional church or chapel such as the crop mark earlier structure at Stoke. Only the priory church and St Augustines or the Ogbourne church are mentioned through the 12th and 13th centuries.

According to usual custom used by the monks, the crop mark edifice would not have been a private chapel, c.f. when the additional chapel of St Stephen was provided c 1213-24 within the curia of Gilbert de Tani at Bures (one of the many possessions of the Bec monks) a promise was made by him to the monks that no harm should accrue to the mother church of Bures and that only Gilbert and his immediate household were to use the new chapel.³² Similar records exist for other parishes, but nothing of this kind appears for Stoke.

According to the Inventories, Parker considered the stone chapel (of Our Lady in Cartes Strete) to be appendant to the College but he was caretaking for the lord of Windsor if it was the Ogbourne church. To date, no record has been seen by this writer to prove that the collegiate church and the present parish church have ever been separate edifices.

In earlier times, apparently, the monks were known to share their conventual churches with the parishioners who might also claim certain rights in the site.³³ When Stoke church was eventually impropriated, i.e. placed into lay hands, it is small wonder that the people would use the old dedication to St Augustine instead of St John the Baptist; especially if the old stone chapel of Our Lady had, by this time, become disused, as it might well do after the Reformation, and supposing they had, in fact, shared half of the collegiate church from the early 15th century when it was newly re-built. Three possibilities exist for the Ogbourne church it would appear:

1. That it was St Augustines Domesday structure with the present parish church (?once also the collegiate church) upon the foundations.

2. The Ogbourne chapel (the Lord of Windsor's) was an entirely separate additional building such as the inner crop mark church (later entirely re- built).

3. That the Ogbourne chapel was St Augustine's church and was situated at the towns end, subsequently becoming transformed into the revered chapel of Our Lady in Cartes Strete, and hence the crop mark.

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Gratitude is expressed to other members of the Group who have assisted in various ways: Richard Shackle, Jo-Ann Buck, Bettie Young and Pat Adkins, to Terry Cook of the Colchester Archaeological Trust for the illustrations, and to all the new friends encountered along the way during the search to date.

The Angel Inn, Colchester

Richard Shackle

In the seventeenth century Colchester had three important inns. The Red Lion, the White Hart and the Angel Inn. When Colchester Borough Council were re-developing Angel Yard as new council offices, part of the timber framing of the original Angel Inn came to light. The Angel Inn occupied a site on the corner of West Stockwell Street and the High Street. In 1987, the surviving structure was in three parts (fig 1).

- 1) A jellied front range facing the High Street,
- 2) A rear jellied range facing towards West Stockwell Street, but set back behind the front range, and
- 3) A jellied range joined onto (2) with the jetty supported by elaborate carved brackets.

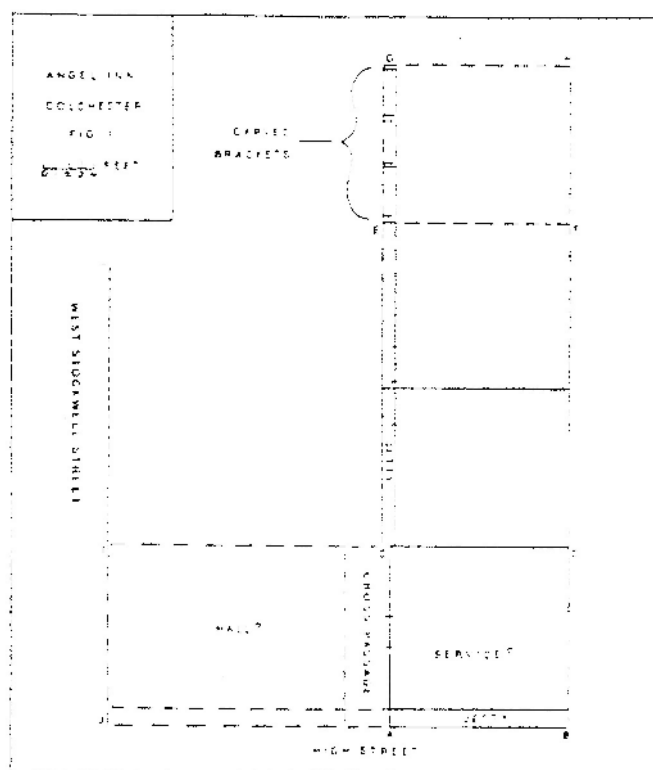


Figure 1

Front Range (ABCD)

The surviving building *ABCD* was just one part of a long wall-jettied building *IJBD*. The ground floor room *ABCD* may have been a service room, with a door in wall *A--C* giving access to a cross- passage. The missing portion *IJ-AC* was probably a floored hall with some public function. On the upper floor there was a narrow door in wall *A-C* giving access to a room over the suggested hall (fig 2). This upper room had a fully-framed ceiling (see joist in fig 2). This attic was probably used either for storage or for the accommodation of servants.

This section of the building must have been built up against another building, as it has an open framework with no studs between the posts. The ceiling plan of the ground floor is shown in figure 3.

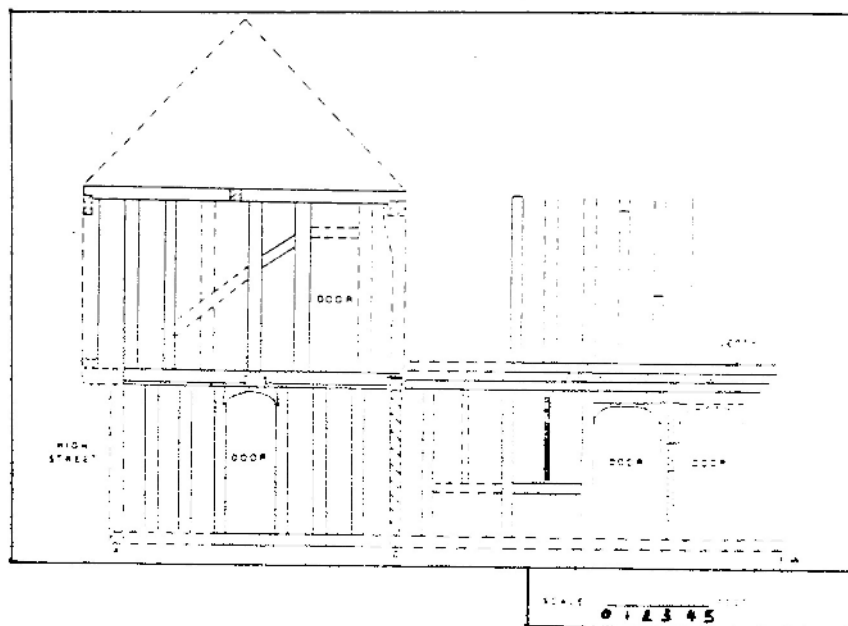


Figure 2.

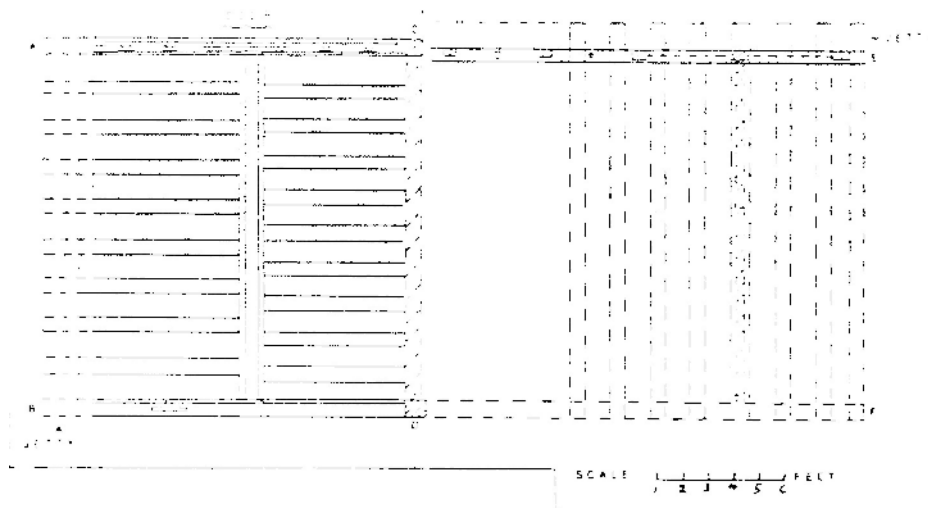


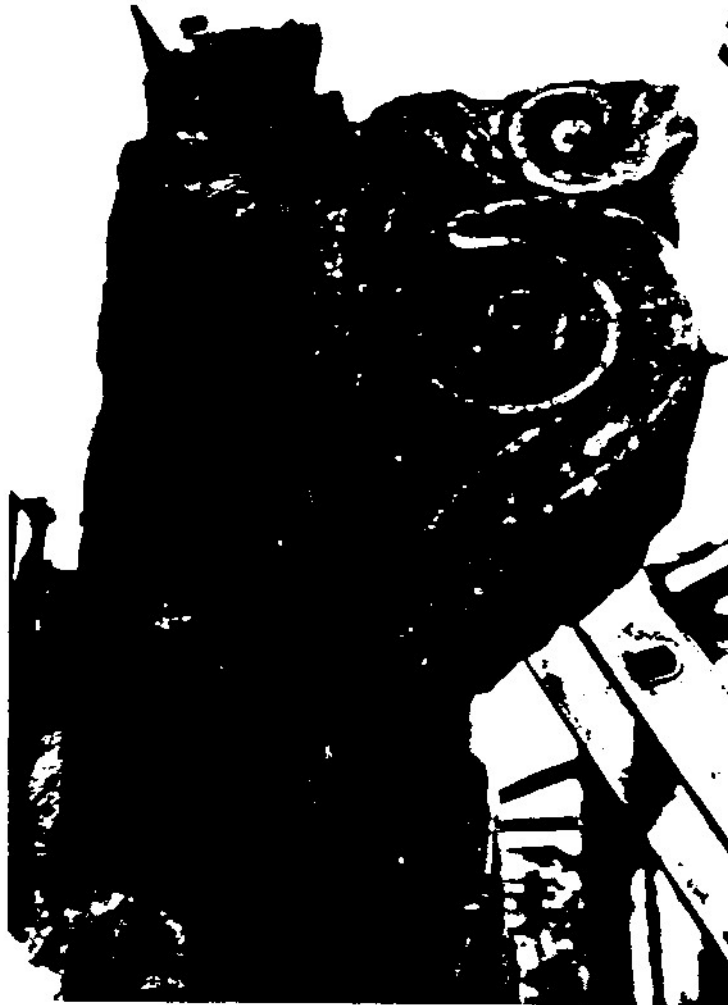
Figure 3.

Rear Range (CDEF)

This jettied range consists on the ground floor of two separate rooms. The room nearest the High Street had two windows and a door opening onto a yard or alley. The windows had simple window bars (fig 4). The window may also have been of the wooden lattice type, as there were a series of notches on the underside of the lower jetty beam and on the window jams (see fig 4). These lattice windows may mean that this room was used for storage. The further room was rather fragmentary. However, it also had a door onto the yard, but there was no window next to it. The upper floor of this section was also too fragmentary for a useful comment. There was a brick Tudor cellar under this section, which was probably used for storage.

Further Jettied Range (EFGH)

This range was only discovered during the demolition of later buildings. A jettied building with elaborate carved brackets was uncovered from deep within a brick wall. This section of the building was demolished as it did not fit in with the new office development, but the four carved brackets were saved (see photo).



Carved brackets from The Angel Inn, Colchester

Dating

Ranges one and two are built of substantial timbers and were probably built about 1500 AD. The third range was built of inferior quality timbers and the moulding on the brackets suggest a date of c 1650 AD.

Later History of the Building

The West Stockwell Street corner became the Angel Hotel, and was rebuilt in brick in the nineteenth century. The three timber ranges were occupied by a tobacconist called Taylor earlier in this century. In recent years, the building was occupied by 'Tweeds' the baker.

Acknowledgements

I should like to thank Colchester Borough Council and Lovells the builders for access to the site. The photograph of the bracket was provided by the Colchester Archaeological Trust.

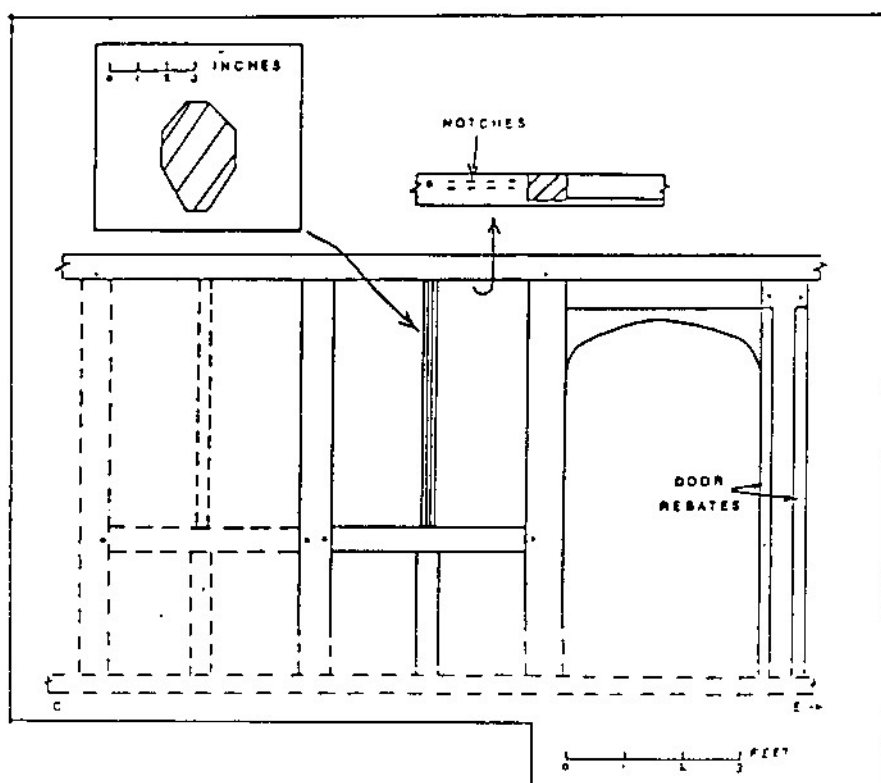


Figure 4.

Seal Matrix from Colne Engaine

Richard Shackle

Mr Adrian Rooke discovered a medieval seal matrix in a field in Colne Engaine in 1987. It was shown to Tony Gregory of the Norfolk Archaeological Unit who reported as follows:

"It is a 12th or 13th century seal matrix with an inscription *SIG IOH IS HOLDE* (fig 1), which is an abbreviation for *SIGILLUM IOHANNIS HOLDE*, a latin phrase meaning 'The seal of John Holde'."

The L-shaped figure in the middle of the seal might be intended to represent an axe, but this is not certain. Figure 2 shows how a handle might have been attached.

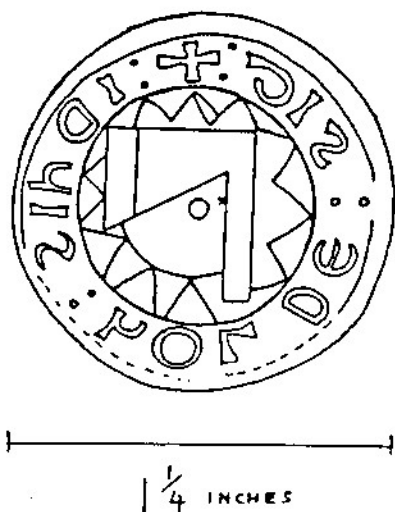


Figure 1

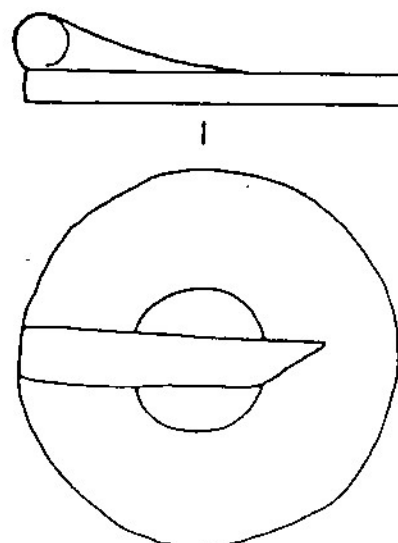


Figure 2

Neolithic Flint from Birch, near Colchester

P S Spencer & N J Dennis

Introduction

In 1974, one of us (NJD) recognised the presence of flint implements that occurred in abundance in the vicinity of the village of Birch. The implements were picked up from the surface of several fields after they had been ploughed and harrowed, and a collection of over 300 pieces was eventually amassed after extensive field walking. In 1975 the collection was borrowed by the Castle museum to be photographically recorded, but at that time, no report on the finds was published. Between January and April 1987, with renewed interest in the material by the authors, collecting was resumed, and in order to investigate the geographic range of the sites, the new finds were each provided with eight figure grid references. From this work it soon became apparent that at least three discrete flint scatters existed and this report is based on a preliminary study of these sites and the material collected to date. The presently recognized tool categories and the scheme of classification proposed by Clark (1934) have been used where possible to describe the morphology and possible function of the artefacts.

Location and Geology

The sites lie within the parish of Birch with Layer Breton, approximately 6km south-west of Colchester (fig. 1). The south-western and south-eastern margins of the area are bounded by Eocene deposits of London Clay and these include silty clays and clayey silts which regionally form an extensive bedrock. Outcrops of Unit D of the formation occur approximately 10km south-west of Birch in association with the high level gravels of the Danebury - Tiptree Ridge, an enigmatic structure of uncertain origin. The surface geology and topography are, however, defined by extensive spreads of Chalky Boulder Clay (the Springfield Till) together with underlying sand and gravel (Chelmsford Gravel). Fluctuations in the thickness of both these units have imparted the low lying and gently undulating relief typical of the district.

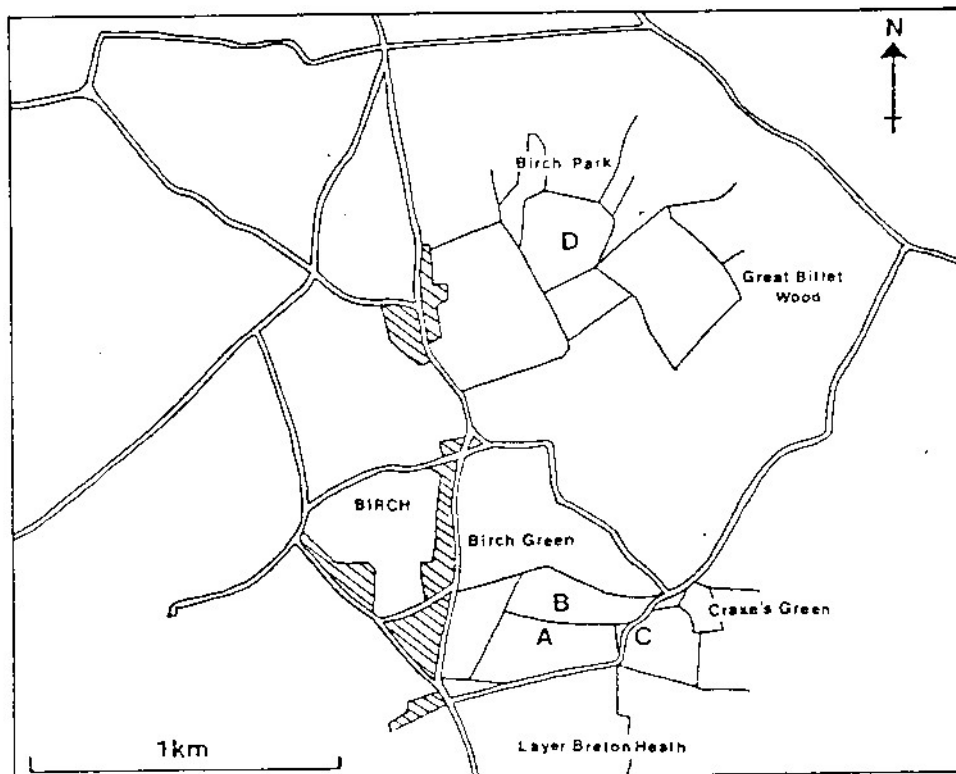


Figure 1.

Site Localities

The flint scatters lie on an area of generally flat land devoted mainly to arable farming. The glacial material superficially forms an unconsolidated deposit, the top of which consists of a reddish-brown clayey soil. The soils found in the area have been subjected to continuous ploughing and it is within them that the flints have been found.

The Sites

Most of the artefacts collected came from four sites located at c 30m OD. These sites include: Site A, Site B, and Site C, to the south and south-east of Birch Green, and Site D which is about 1.4km to the north, near Birch Park.

Site A is a moderately large scatter of material, covering an area of approximately 100m west to east and 40m north to south on flat land near to Layer Breton Heath. The majority of the finds were made near to the edge of an open drainage channel which forms the field boundary.

At Site B, a flint scatter occurs in an area of nearly 150m south-west to north-west by approximately 100m south-east to north-west. The centre of the site appears to be restricted to a low poorly defined ridge which lies in close juxtaposition to Site A. A few artefacts have been collected from beyond the boundary of the main concentration suggesting that Sites A and B may represent a single large site.

A large amount of lithic material has been collected from Site C which occurs south-west of Craxe's Green on an area of flat land approximately 70m square. This particular scatter was confined to the northern boundary of a ploughed field.

Site D, the largest scatter of lithic material, covers an area of approximately 350 metres square on the gentle south facing flank of a hill. Finds have been made across the entire area, the majority occurring at the foot of the slope on an area of flat lying ground bordering a small stream.

Artefacts were also recovered in small quantities from two additional sites: within the north-east portion of a field adjacent to the site of Birch Castle, and on a shallow rise of land to the west of Great Billet Wood. A similar rarity of material occurs in the fields adjoining the sites listed above where despite regular annual ploughing, very few finds have been made.

Raw Materials

In general terms the lithic material employed at all localities consists mainly of small flint nodules usually having a thin cortex, which have been subjected to some thermal shattering. The quality of the flint used for flaking is fairly good with few inclusions present. Some variation in the colour of uncorticated parent flint is evident but this does not preclude a restricted collecting source for raw material since flint of this type is locally abundant in the soil and would have been freely available on site.

The types of flint from sites A-D may be conveniently be subdivided into the following categories:

1. Coloured flint: The colour of this flint ranges from a dark grey-brown through to light reddish-brown. In translucence it varies from poor to medium. It is shiny on broken surfaces, fine grained and of good flaking quality. The cortex, where present, is distinct and moderately abraded with iron staining.
2. Grey flint: The majority of flint recovered from sites A-D is of this type. It is semi-opaque and ranges from dark buff-grey to light grey and is fine to medium grained. Coarser textured opaque flint occurs in most instances as light coloured mottled patches and bands.
3. Mottled grey flint: Heterogeneous flint enveloping numerous inclusions. The translucency ranges from medium to good. It is found in small quantities only.

The colour and nature of the majority of flint recovered has been altered to a greater or lesser extent by the post-depositional formation of a secondary cortex (patina). This enhances opacity by producing surface discolouration ranging from bluish-grey to dense white. In the majority of cases, however, cortification is only mild and the true nature of the matrix may be seen in a strong light. The degree of cortification in all sites appears unrelated to the type of flint, although only some of type 3 flint appears to be affected.

Two of the artefacts have been rendered opaque by thermal alteration and may represent 'pot boilers.' They both exhibit surface cracking with the original colour and texture obscured.

The flint implements

Cores (fig. 2, 11-13) - Cores occur in quantity on all sites and represent an important artefact type. They have apparently been worked on site as a basis of flake and blade production. Most are made on flint nodules of small to moderate size, are normally complete and dominated by the single platformed variety, although a small proportion had a pronounced bipolar appearance. The majority have an average of five flakes struck from them, only a few, such as no. 13, have been systematically flaked down to the point of exhaustion, having been worked around their circumference.

In addition to the predominant varieties above, two nodules bore random flake scars and one only had three removals. The only discoid core represented (no. 13) was collected from site B. Core rejuvenation flakes were found commonly on most sites.

Core scrapers - The tendency to retouch cores for use as scrapers is rare, possible re-use as a scraper occurred only on two pieces. The illustrated example, no. 14, is made on a very thick flake.

Flakes - Unretouched flakes discarded without any apparent utilization are common on all sites, accounting for c 55% of all the artefacts recovered. Only a small proportion could, with any certainty, be classified as blades. Although these tools are strictly speaking unretouched, many exhibited chipping from use on all edges and may have served a cutting or sawing function. Several examples showed battering on the proximal and distal ends which may have resulted from pressure against a resistant material.

Despite the wide ranging morphology evident in the flake sample, the following analysis of the complete flakes was prepared with the intention of providing useful technical information.

| <u>Length (cms)</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Breadth/length ratio</u> | <u>Number</u> |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1-2 | 2 | 1:5 | 25 |
| 2-3 | 11 | 2:5 | 29 |
| 3-4 | 26 | 3:5 | 27 |
| 4-5 | 18 | 4:5 | 4 |
| 5-6 | 13 | 5:5 | - |
| 6-7 | 4 | 6:5 plus | - |
| Total | 75 | Total | 75 |

These figures provide the following information: firstly that large, intact flakes are the predominant variety, and secondly, the extreme rarity of narrow flakes. The date of the flakes would appear to be difficult to define from these figures but they may be useful for comparison with other local industries.

Scrapers (fig. 3,15-18) - Amongst the flake scrapers it is possible to distinguish end scrapers, end-and-side scrapers and side scrapers. All use predominantly decorticated flakes with the retouched scraper edge normally convex. The retouch is of typical scraper type ranging from coarse & steep to light & shallow, although inverse retouch is often met. No. 18 has had flakes removed to thin and prepare the butt. A minority exhibit chipping on the ventral indicating a two-way scraper motion on some hard substance and some appeared to be heavily abraded.

Laurel leaf (fig. 3, 21) - This finished flake, discovered on the east boundary of site B, may be described as a Laurel Leaf in accordance with the scheme of Piggott (1954). Although ventrally, marginal retouch is limited to one side only, its sub-triangular morphology, blunted point and randomly executed coarse flat flaking are typical of this tool type.

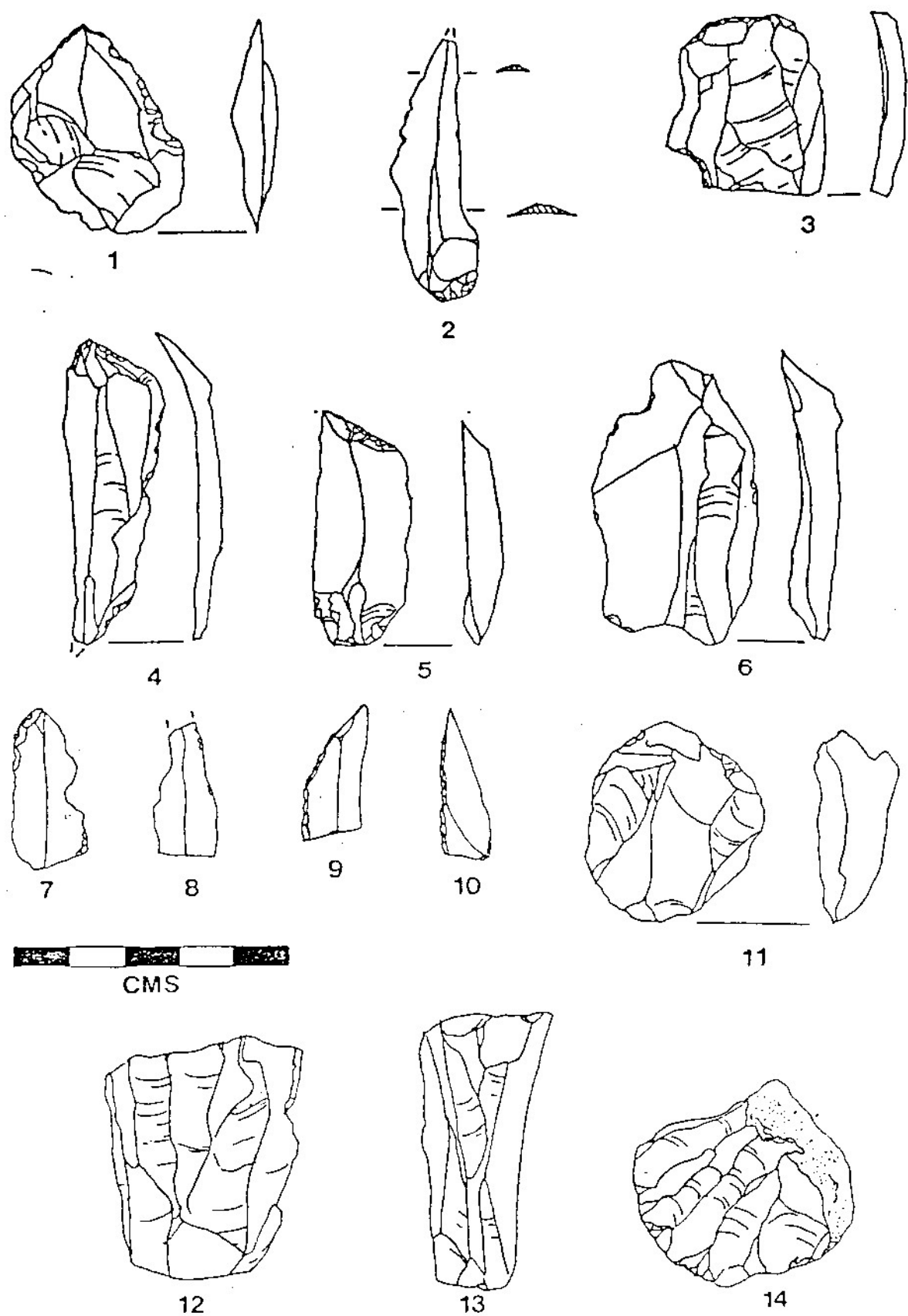


Figure 2.

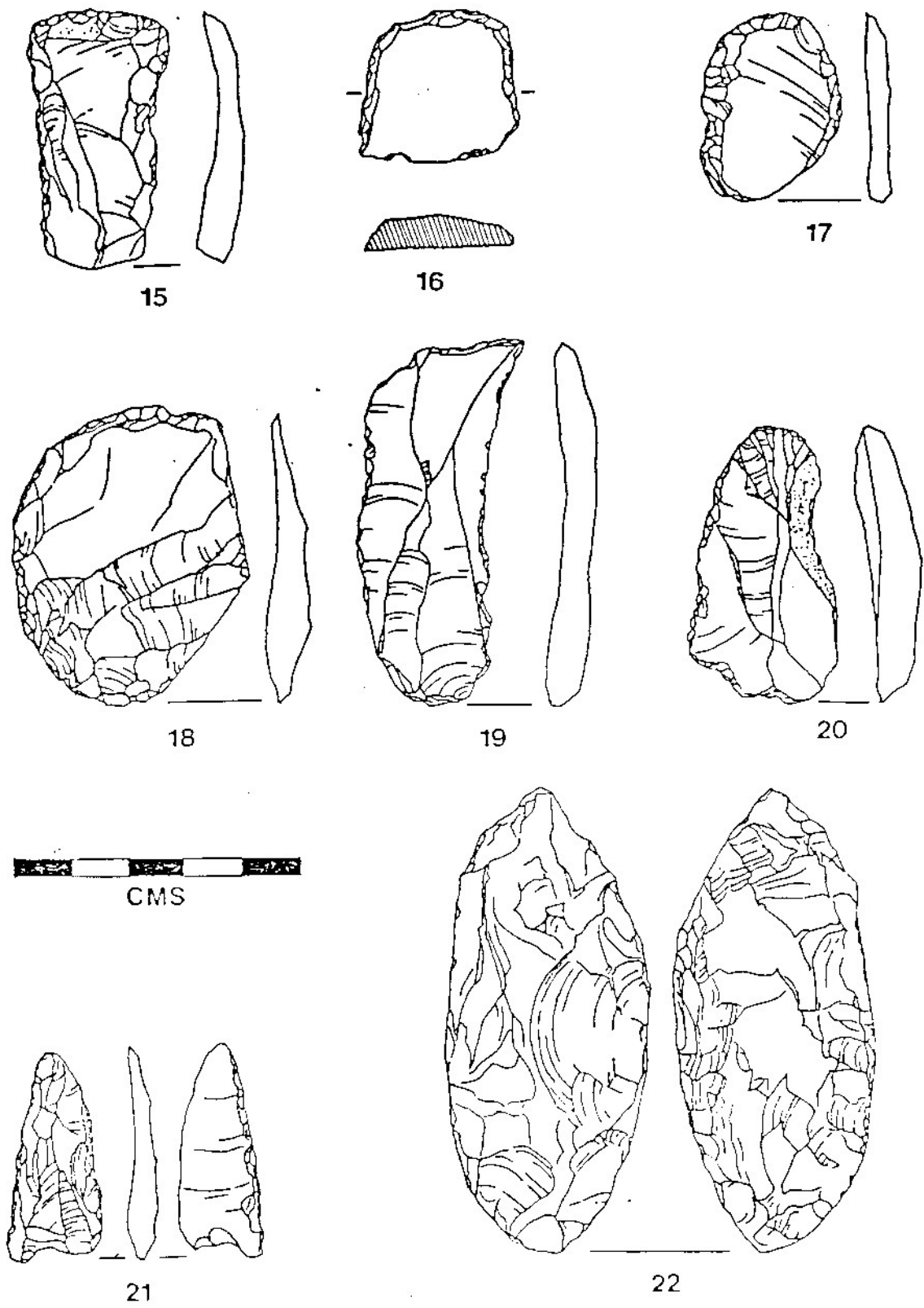


Figure 3.

Knives (fig. 3, 19-20)- These are a heterogeneous group lacking any uniform characteristics. They are found in all sites. Generally they are made on large tabular flakes with a wedge-shaped profile having at least one side retouched. The retouch may be light and irregular to intense, extending around most of the perimeter of the blank. Two examples are made on large robust flakes with retouch limited to one side; on no. 20 a thick area of cortex has been left opposite to the functional edge and it may be classified as a blunt-back knife. Many pieces demonstrated step fracturing on bifacially worked surfaces.

Reaping knife (fig. 3, 22) - This artefact from site B has invasive flat flaking on both surfaces producing a characteristic lenticular cross-section.

Awls and Piercing tools (fig. 2, 1-5) - These implements made either on long and narrow or thick tabular flakes are of rather varied form, but the Birch examples can conveniently be subdivided into the following categories:

- a) Flint points of rudimentary type with minimal retouch at the tip on a suitably pointed blank. The retouch hardly modifies the blank which is symmetrically triangular in the case of no.1, and in no. 2 it is formed on a pointed keeled flake.
- b) Points that are markedly asymmetric and obliquely truncate one or both sides of the blank, having heavier retouch (Nos. 3-5). The points are deliberately shaped by retouch unifacially or bifacially, though light marginal retouch may also be employed.

The purpose of these tools is uncertain, but No. 4 and No. 5 could clearly have functioned as points or awls. No. 4 has additional lateral retouch and may have had a combined use. In artefact No. 3 the point occurs at the side of the flake toward the proximal end. The proximal end is truncated by classic 'scraper retouch' and it too may have had a combined functional relationship.

Miscellaneous Retouched tools - Of the 21 artefacts included in this category only a small proportion can with certainty be grouped with any of the conventional tool types. The majority are broken and therefore unclassifiable.

Notched Flakes (fig. 2, 6-8) -This type of artefact was uncommon on all sites, the majority occurring on site D. They are flakes of widely varying morphology that have in the common a worked concave area ranging from 5-11 mm in width to 1.3-4mm in depth, usually being twice as long as they are deep. Double notches also occur as on No. 8, but these may have been formed accidentally, perhaps as a result of rough fabrication. The long edge of these tools may also be retouched giving a double use.

Microliths (fig. 2, 9-10) - Two microliths were recovered from site D. Both are conveniently categorized below using a simplified version of Clark's scheme (1934). LHS indicates touch on the left-hand side.

| <u>Type/Illust. No.</u> | <u>Length (cm)</u> | <u>Breadth (cm)</u> | <u>Width (cm)</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Blunted all down one side. | | | |
| LHS (No. 9) | 2.6 | 1.15 | 3.0 |
| LHS (No. 10) | 2.8 | 0.90 | 0.3 |

Although these specimens are classified in the same way, they differ markedly in the morphology of the retouched area; No. 9 has a strongly convex blunted side while on No. 10 the same area is entirely straight.

Discussion

In the main, the material described is acceptable in a neolithic context. Some types however should be assigned to the period with some degree of caution. The scrapers, knives and probably the Laurel Leaf may only serve as poor chronological indicators. The two microliths are more readily datable and represent the only evidence of much earlier activity. They are of broad blade type and can tentatively be assigned to the earlier mesolithic period. There is good reason to regard their occurrence in the area as representing casual hunting losses, since the paucity of much earlier material of this type would not seem to support an

occupational interpretation.

It may be concluded that the Birch flint scatters appear to generally represent neolithic sites of long term occupation. This interpretation is supported by: the low lying setting which would have been compatible with settled domestic use; the abundant supply of moderate to good flint for flaking, probably derived from approximately the same geographic area and abundance of cores and associated implements, the physical evidence of domestic activity.

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Note on the Cropmark of a possible Salt Road near Great Braxted, Essex

Ida McMaster

The Winter edition of the *Essex Archaeology and History newsletter no. 101* recorded the possible existence of a Roman road which had appeared briefly during the 1984 flying season. Cropmarks of parallel linear ditches were seen to emerge from woodland east of Braxted Park. The ditches pre- dated the existing road to Great Braxted since they could be seen faintly also in the field to the south-east beyond the road.

The common parish boundaries of Tolleshunt D'Arcy/Tolleshunt Major were later observed on the O/S map to project the alignment of the cropmark ditches for some three kilometres in a south-easterly direction. It was therefore conjectured that such a road, if continued, would have served mainly to transport salt from the prolific 'Red Hill' salt-making sites at Goldhanger and Tollesbury.

Pat Adkins flying in 1988, picked up another parallel ditched cropmark of a possible road, this time travelling north-west from the Rolls Farm red hill sites at Tollesbury. These ditches are virtually on the same alignment as the previous pair, needing only a slight veering to join the original route a little way inland, closer to Wycke Farm. In fact the St Osyth Roman road from Elmstead has been shown to veer slightly at its termination at St Osyth's cemetery.

Any further stretches of parallel-ditched cropmarks recorded at a future date in the vicinity of Hole Farm, Rivenhall on the A12 and travelling along a line to just west of Rolls Farm, Tollesbury should therefore provide tangible proof of this possible Roman road.

Ewart Russell

As we go to press we learn, with regret, of the death of Ewart Russell who was a member of the group for many years. He made special studies of ironwork (lamp-posts, railings etc.) and heraldry, and wrote several articles on these topics for the *Bulletin*. He also gave lectures to the group on several occasions and was due to speak at this year's group activities meeting, when he was suddenly taken ill.

Winter Lectures (1987/88)

The Evolution of an Aisled Hall at Feering - 12th October 1987

Richard Shackle, A.L.A, Local Studies Department, Colchester Library.

At the end of the groups AGM, Mr Richard Shackle spoke of recent observations at Cobham Oak Cottages, Feering, thought by some to date from c 1200 AD. Originally a small hall with two aisles and a cross-wing, it was later given another cross-wing. The aisle near the road has long been removed, so the arcade on that side became an exterior wall, as shown by the heavy weathering of the timbers. The other aisle still exists, but seems to have been narrowed.

The timbers in the roof are heavily sooted as the hall was open to the roof until a massive brick chimney stack was inserted, with the provision of an inserted upper floor. A series of dormer windows required the alteration of the roof to a Mansard-type roof, though the main scissor brace truss still survives, as do several other early braces. One of the main posts has a heavily moulded capital, which is thought by one expert, to be Romanesque. Recently the building has been stripped down and thoroughly renovated, so affording an opportunity for the structure's history to be expertly examined. So far, the house seems to be one of the earliest aided halls in the county.

The Salt Trade in West Africa - 19th October 1987

Dr John Alexander, MA, FSA, St Johns College, Cambridge.

Dr Alexander spoke mainly of the salt trade in the area between Mauretania and Lake Chad in the belt where the staple diet is grain or other vegetable matter. The tropical climate necessitates a good supply of salt. There are four sources for this:

- 1) rock salt found in the desert and adjacent dry savannah in the dried-up beds of former lakes. This was mined in shallow workings by slave labour, and its organization required some expertise to market it in the savannah and forest belts to the south. Up to 1910, huge camel trains supplied places up to 100km away, and the trade could not have developed until the introduction of camels from West Asia. This was concomitant with the introduction of Islam in the Sahara region. Trade routes were established, and there were three main centres, including Timbuktu and Chad.
- 2) in some areas salt was derived from salt springs, and the salt impregnated ground nearby.
- 3) elsewhere salt-rich plants were burnt and salt extracted from the ashes.
- 4) along the coast, salt was obtained from seawater.

Essentially the last of these sources resembles the Late Iron Age methods of the Red Hills operators where the dilute solutions are concentrated by the sun's heat in the dry season and then dried off in briquetage containers on a kiln. The containers are then broken and the salt taken to market. In some places (eg. Mali) the salt is obtained by direct evaporation in shallow pans and then scraped up.

The advent of Europeans along the coastal zone with cheap salt caused a great decline in the rock salt industry which was the main source of West African salt. The trade now ran inland from the coast along the earlier trade routes, instead of north to south, though a certain amount is still mined as it is deemed to be better (cf. the esteem of Maldon sea-salt in the U.K, now). In the seventeenth century favourable climate changes also encouraged the African sea-salt trade, which penetrated further to the north. This source of salt never had the same political control as the more highly organised rock salt industry had.

Dr Alexander drew parallels with the early salt trade in Europe - the three important rock salt areas of Hallstadt, Halle and Moselle had trade routes reaching 500km. This trade was disturbed by wars after 400 BC, during the massive Celtic migrations and was probably a factor in the flourishing Red Hill salt industry in the Late Iron Age days; a trade which possibly created trade routes which persisted for other commercial purposes long after the decay of the industry in Roman times, when salt mining developed in Cheshire and could produce salt cheaply.

***The Middle Saxon Settlement at Brandon, Suffolk* - 26th October 1987**

Bob Carr, Senior Archaeologist with Suffolk County Planning Department.

The site at Brandon is a 'sandy island' about two metres above the surrounding peat and adjacent to the Great Ouse. Last century large numbers of human skeletons were found in a Saxon cemetery and sent to the crushers before the enterprise was stopped, otherwise the site had untouched, even by ploughing, until current excavations began seven or eight years ago.

There was little Saxon settlement in the sandy breckland except in the river valleys. The Brandon site has revealed many rectangular timber-framed buildings, and in the north-east, a rectangular enclosure. Three rings from surviving timbers cannot, at present, be dated.

Mr Carr described some buildings. One of these was a hall with doorways in the long sides and a walled-off small room at one end. Another was a large hall with substantial posts including a central series which would have held the roof ridge. Several clay floors survive too.

The uses of the buildings are uncertain. It seems likely that not all were dwellings, others may have been storehouses and barns. It appears the walls were of horizontal planking and a dowel was found which may have been used in the construction.

To the south was a causeway to the 'mainland' which was not metalled (probably of cordwood). On the east side of the road to the causeway was a cemetery with male, female and children's remains. The east-west orientation was more marked on the west side.

A major discovery was a three-aisled building (probably seventh century), the earliest excavated church in the east of the country. The Narthex had no door into the nave. The latter had large post trenches for two doors suggesting substantial doorways (reminiscent of a church in Norway, or doors of later stone churches). The somewhat disarticulated remains (of a priest?) were found in the chancel. A second cemetery (to the west of the north-east enclosure) had graves mainly of young people in coffins; a small building here may be a mortuary chapel.

The island had been extended by reclamation, and here, clay patches on flint bases were used for textile work and dyeing. One had a millstone in the clay floor. No rubbish pits were found - rubbish was tipped onto the fen or into backyards of houses.

The small finds had much Ipswich ware (c 600-900 AD) - no use for exact dating, but there were many imported sherds and 200 glass vessels testified by fragments. Other finds included fine glass pieces (including beautiful pieces of coloured window glass), weaving implements (including a separate square for table weaving), many bronze and silver pins of masterly workmanship, spatulas, keys, three bronze styli, bone combs, and also an antler comb. One important find is a 32mm gold square, depicting St John the evangelist with book and pen (or stylus) - now in the British Museum.

The site was abandoned by about the year 900 AD. There was no room for cultivation and so a settlement grew up on the present town site. The island site was culturally advanced, though possibly a monastic one, the excavator thinks it most likely to have been the centre for a rich local earl, as so many of the finds are of such high quality.

***The Haddenham Long Barrow* - 2nd November 1987**

Bob Shand, Co-director of the Haddenham Project, University of Cambridge.

The Haddenham Long Barrow in the tens, having been buried in water deposits for long ages, is now partly revealed as the peat is drained and then blown away. It is one metre high and one of the best preserved long barrows of early neolithic times in the country. It stands, like thirty or so other barrows in this area, on a gravel 'island'. It dates from c 4500 BC, although large timbers survive and it is hoped to be able to date it accurately by dendrochronology. Nearby is a causeway-ed enclosure, but any occupation sites are hidden in the peat.

Earlier at Wayland's Smithy, Street House and Fussell's Lodge suggest early box-shaped mortuary structures with a front facade facing an enclosure and at the rear an enclosure probably used for exposing bodies before transfer to the mortuary structure. The Haddenham Barrow - being so well preserved - gives a splendid chance to confirm this.

The speaker showed that the original structure was free-standing with massive oak posts made by splitting trunks at the front. Other 'D'-section posts funneled attention over a gravelled area to the facade and to a focal point where there had been another large post and a bowl etc.

The mortuary structure had been roofed with massive planks and divided into two parts. The front part had the skeleton of an adult and of a child, both articulated, so they had not been exposed and then buried. Traces of prestige grave goods (jet beads and a high class arrow head) suggested that the goods had been removed at a later stage. There were two other skeletons of adults at the far end of the other section of the structure.

The facade and the structure were all of one build, but at a later time it had been carefully burnt by covering with a thick layer of turf and igniting it. The great Long Barrow had then been thrown up, in at least two stages, over it.

This excavation showed, like those mentioned before, that earth and timber long barrows followed the same design as megalithic ones, such as Belas Knap. The other earth and timber long barrows had also been burnt before the construction of the mound, but at Haddenham combustion had not been complete, so the original timber work could be studied. Hence it could be seen that the flooring planks had been carefully cut to fit round the central post and that the narrow width of such barrows was due to the limitations of timber widths in roofing. The later mound is 55m long.

Benvenuto Cellini and the jewellery of late medieval and Renaissance Europe - 9th November 1987

Hugh Tait, BA FSA, Deputy Keeper of Medieval & later Antiques, British Museum.

Cellini (1500-1572) is well known from his autobiography written at the age of fifty, but little of his work survives today. He also wrote three books on the goldsmith's craft - the earliest known on the subject. He worked at Fontainebleau for Francis I.

A masterpiece cruet set, now in Vienna, is the only really authentic piece which remains. These consist of symbolic figures of earth and sea (Neptune) which recline above the waves with sea creatures, land products emphasizing the fertile land of France, and also salamanders (the emblem of the King). The pepper pot is a beautifully made little temple with Ionic columns and the salt cellar is also a masterful work. The whole is ornamented with jewels and enamel work. Cellini knew Rosso in Rome and met him again at Fontainebleau, and it almost looks that he assembled some of the elements in Rosso's designs in the cruet set, the Neptune being Michaelangelo's.

Other work by Cellini, or from his workshop, are known. The British Museum has a Roman agate vase carved with vines and mounted with expensive artistry at the foot. A seventeenth century drawing from the Duke of Devonshire's collection differs from the vase as it now is. When the speaker unscrewed the gold base plate, much later work became evident. As well as this, the amphorae around the base are 'folded' to go round corners, unlike the old drawing. It seems that Cellini's work had been damaged and what is seen today is the result of nineteenth century repairs, especially as the drawing looks convincing.

Another Cellini vase (or, again, from his workshop) probably from a Valois King's collection, but now in Baltimore, has an interesting history. At one time it went to India after belonging to Rubens who left engravings of it. It then belonged to Beckford at Fonthill. It is decorated with grapes and a mask. Hugh Tait considers the 'modern' base a replacement of Cellini's work.

Cellini did not cast any of his own work. It is all sculptural to a degree and beaten out from the back, as described in his book. He prepared wax models to show his clients before he made the objects. The fine work required brought the opinion that it was beyond a craftsman's skill to make such objects.

The idea of sculpture in jewellery goes back to c 1390 and flourished in Paris. The Crown of Thorns acquired from the Byzantine Emperor of St Louis was gradually dispersed among the nobility etc. and the Thorns provided with fabulously expensive jewelled reliquaries. The Duc de Berry had one such made which was remarkable for its enamelled work. It was sent to Vienna for repair where it substituted with a fake, the original eventually finding its way to the British Museum. Similarly an Annunciation piece came to the Fitzwilliam Museum.

At the sack of Rome, Cellini was told to melt down much of the papal goldsmith's work. Perhaps this so discouraged him that he turned to working in stone (e.g. the Perseus figure in Florence).

Much of the work of Cellini and his contemporaries follows on from the work of the Paris school mentioned above.

A full account of the whole subject can be found in Hugh Taits recent book.

Commercial Rabbiting in Medieval East Anglia - 16th November 1987

Dr Mark Bailey, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge.

Rabbits were introduced into England by the Romans but, unlike hares, they are not mentioned in the Domesday Book. In the Middle Ages they were scarce and confined, in East Anglia, to the light sandy heaths which they preferred. Warrens were established here by grants to landowners, both lay and ecclesiastical, of Charters of Free Warren. These empowered the holder to take rabbits and game which was small enough to be caught by a small hawk. Rabbiting by peasants etc. was illegal, though rife. For example, in the 1440's five men at Dunwich, three of whom were canons at a priory, were given heavy fines (the prior had connived at this). Rival gangs of poachers sometimes indulged in gang warfare. Prosecution, however, was difficult as the membership of these gangs was mainly unknown.

Rabbits were esteemed for their meat, fur and skins. Black ones especially were highly prized.

Warrens varied in size up to about 100 acres and were cared for by warreners who were well paid for what could be a dangerous job, usually having to work some miles from any village and so being liable to attack. The large warrens had warren lodges which were stone built keep-like structures. The warrener and his family usually lived in the upper parts of these lodges. One such lodge still survives at Thetford Warren.

Court rolls record occasional offenders, often acting to preserve their crops. There were habitual offenders, such as one Thomas Church of Risby, who received very fines. These often trained dogs (usually greyhounds but later, lurchers) to assist them.

Medieval rabbits appear not to have bred so rapidly as modern ones, and so in bad winters, a warren might lose all of its stock. A lease at Blythborough guarded against such a loss by stipulating that the 'leasee' should compensate his landlord if there were fewer than 2,000 rabbits on the warren at the termination of the lease.

The warrener with his ferrets took the rabbits mainly in the autumn, and on the poor sandy soils where the warrens were, they often provided more than half of the income of a manor, in spite of the large number of animal predators. The largest warren in the kingdom was at Methwold.

Poaching was partly an expression of discontent which climaxed in the Peasant's Revolt. The Black Death had caused the surviving peasants' labour to have a scarcity value, so they were able to buy rabbits as a luxury food. This caused rabbiting to become even more prosperous and it paid to provide winter feed. At the same time a succession of good seasons kept mortality down. Large numbers of rabbit pelts were exported across the North Sea - even to the Baltic.

Economically, the development of the industry shows that the landlords were more entrepreneurial than is often thought and provide a good example of a medieval growth industry which made good use of marginal soils and had an occupational spin-off. On the debit side, the rabbits caused a great deal of damage to crops.

HMS Warrior (1860): Her history, restoration and return to her home port - 23rd November 1987.

David van Lenner, Member of the Warrior Association.

The Admiralty was reluctant to make innovations in ship building after Trafalgar. Eventually they had a few paddle steamers built which were failures. However, after Brunel's ship *Great Britain* crossed the Atlantic, the French converted wooden ships of the line to screw propulsion, and this country followed suit so that by the Crimean War we had about thirty at sea. The weakness of this operation was that in spite of diagonal bracing the weight of the engines caused sagging amidships.

The French then built five screw-driven iron clad wooden ships, with the British again following suit, but with a much bigger ship - the *Warrior* of 1860. She was over 9,000 tons dead weight and she carried over an acre of sail with a 2 cylinder Penn steam engine. With a maximum speed of 14.3 knots, she was the

fastest ship in the world and could have defeated the French fleet single-handed. The cylinder had a diameter of 9½ feet operating from ten boilers fed by 50 furnaces producing steam pressure of 22 pounds per square inch. With a bunker capacity of 850 tons, she could travel 1250 miles under steam only. She also had an auxiliary engine which could be employed to pump bilges, hoist ash, work a fan to clear the gun deck, and also to raise the 24 foot two-bladed propeller when traveling under sail only. Her crew of over 700 was fed from an immense stove. In spite of her auxiliary engine much of the work was still provided by the crew working capstans.

The central part of the ship was heavily armoured (the 'Citadel'). Here she had a coating of 4½ inch wrought iron armour, tongue and grooved all around. Under this was 18 inches of teak in two layers at right angles to each other. She had an armament of 28x68 pounds, smooth bore muzzle loaders and ten Armstrong rifled (breech loaders) 100 pounders. The breech loading was unreliable and soon replaced.

She was in full commission until 1872, at first under Cochran, then put into reserve, eventually being relegated, after being stripped down, to being the powerhouse for the two wooden hulks used as a torpedo school. She then became part of an oil jetty at Pembroke Dock for 50 years, where her deck was covered in six inches of concrete. She never fired a shot in anger.

In 1979, she was given to the Ship Preservation Trust and towed to Hartlepool where a £7 million restoration took place. The concrete was removed, a fresh timber deck supplied from a demolished wood mill, and new masts of steel stepped. A replica wooden figurehead was made in the Isle of Wight by two craftsmen and the original armaments, engines and stove etc. represented by excellent fibre-glass copies.

By June 1987 she was ready to be towed to Portsmouth, where she arrived on time for the Spring Tide to let her into the berth prepared for her in the naval museum alongside the *Mary Rose* and *Victory*. Portsmouth now has the finest historic naval complex in the world.

The First Millenium BC in Essex - 30th November 1987

Dr Owen Bedwin, BA FSA, Assistant County Archaeologist, Essex County Council.

The recording of an excavation of prehistoric sites in Essex has revealed a great contrast between the areas of occupation at the early part of the period and its end.

Typical of the early part of the millennium are the sites at Mucking where single and double ring ditches enclose one or two houses. Similarly at Springfield Lyons, an enclosure ditch with a round house in the centre and two others were found. A double row of postholes - probably representing a revetment - followed the inside of the bank. As at the Mucking north ditch, sword mould remains were found, showing the fairly high status of the site.

At Lofts Farm, Maldon a rectangular enclosure (with a smaller ditch) on the river flood plain suggests a pastoral economy, unlike Mucking and Springfield Lyons which were on gravel sites and had an arable economy. In fact the old land surface under the latter's bank showed an even earlier agricultural landscape.

These late Bronze Age sites like many others, e.g. Danbury, North Shoebury, are mainly on gravel, sandy, or brickearth soils which were easily cleared and cultivated. A few, as at Stansted and Little Waltham, are on boulder clay, but these are exceptional.

By the end of the millennium these occupational sites had spread all over the boulder clay areas, and probably London clay areas too, though these have not been so much researched. Hillforts now appear as do the great earthworks of the Camulodunum area. These reflect a series of power centres and a big population to draw on. At some places, e.g. Camulodunum, Heybridge etc., prosperity was enhanced by salt production and trading. All Essex hillforts are situated on valley routes or estuaries. A particularly interesting boulder clay site is Stansted in north-west Essex. It is a relatively short-lived site with four or five round houses backing onto a sub-rectangular bank. There are also semi-circular structures which may represent workshops, and in the centre a small rectangular one - possibly a shrine. A large number of coins of the end of the millennium were found in an eaves gully. An intaglio figure of the first century AD was also found.

Round houses dominate the beginning of this period and some are found right up to end, but by this time rectangular ones are usual.

It is useless to estimate population figures for the various epochs in the millennium, but there is no

doubt that by end the population was much greater than formerly believed, and was spread over most of the county.

***Horsham St Faith Priory and its Wall Paintings* - 18th January 1988.**

David Sherlock, FSA, English Heritage (Inspector of Ancient Monuments).

The surviving remains of this priory (about five miles west of Norwich) which was founded c 1105 AD, consist of the refectory and cloister. It was a daughter house of the Benedictine monastery of St Faith at Conques in southern France (whose buildings were restored by Prosper Merimee). St Faith was martyred in 304 AD in Aquitaine, but eventually her relics were acquired by Conques, and Merimee particularly noticed a cult image two foot high encrusted with jewels dating from the fifth century, and remade in 905 AD. Her cult spread in France and later to England, after the conquest, when her feast was celebrated in Benedictine abbeys and elsewhere. She had a chapel in Westminster Abbey, and another in the crypt of old St Pauls.

By the Reformation the priory had only four monks and a prior and its connection with the mother house was broken by the fourteenth century Wars of the Roses with France. The buildings were much decayed when it was largely re-built c 1390 AD. They were given to Sir Richard Southwell at the Dissolution, who converted the refectory into a house. Eventually the builder of Blickling Hall bought the buildings, which had suffered great damage due to a fire. During the repairs, a great crucifixion wall painting was found on the gable end of the former refectory.

More recently, a series of wall paintings showing the story of the foundation of the priory have been found below the level of the crucifixion scene. They show nine episodes:

- 1) This is mostly destroyed by the narrowing of the building when the north wall was rebuilt. It seems to have shown Sir Robert Fitzwalter and his wife riding on a pilgrimage.
- 2) Sir Robert and his wife in a boat.
- 3) Together with two retainers, they are pursued.
- 4) The two chief characters are now put in prison with a fine wrought iron door by the brigands.
- 5) They pray to St Faith or have a vision of her.
- 6) By her intervention they are led out of prison.
- 7) And now received by the Abbot of Conques where they are entertained for twelve days.
- 8) Now, with two monks from Conques we see them on a choppy sea, crossing the Channel. The square rigged ship shows the earliest English depiction of reef knots.
- 9) The last scene shows the grateful Sir Robert supervising the masons building the priory in honour of St Faith - his rescuer.

An interesting feature of this last scene is the wheelbarrow used by the labourer. The wheelbarrow was invented by the Chinese 1,000 years before its use in the west. The Horsham St Faith depiction is the earliest known in England.

The nine scenes had a foliage frieze above them and an arcaded supporting scene below. They are the earliest wall paintings we have which tell a story without supporting wording.

Architectural and other features (e.g. armour etc.) show that the very early paintings were restored or repainted in later medieval times.

***Some Archaeology in Normandy and the Neuchatel region of Switzerland* - 25th January 1988.**

David T-D Clarke, MA FSA, Curator of The Castle Museum, Colchester.

Mr Clarke's lecture related to his recent visits to these areas, beginning with Falaise, the birthplace of William the Conqueror. The castle is very like Colchester's though rather later in date (around the time of

Henry I) like many in Normandy, and may show a slight Byzantine influence.

Caen was much damaged in the last war, though the two great abbey churches survived, both from the time of William I, who was also buried here. The foundations of a Gallo-Roman temple have been excavated. The Norman castle has an enormous moat, now emptied of detritus, and a great hall where William briefed his barons for the invasion of England. The nearby museum has a fine Roman statue and Anglo-Saxon jewellery.

Outside Caen, a fine abbey church is being conserved and there is a great stone tithe barn.

Bayeux's cathedral of the 1070's has a late east end. In the crypt the capitals may well be Roman. The later porch has carvings of the martyrdom of St Thomas of Canterbury. The museum has material from a workshop for bone articles (cf. recent Colchester finds). In the vicinity is a great megalithic tomb.

At the mouth of the Seine is the site of a c 300 acre Roman town whose amphitheatre became a fortress.

Jumieges has remains of an eighth century church and a great abbey church rebuilt by Robert.

In Rouen, as in Chelmsford, much recent development has destroyed the archaeology. The town grew from a fortress built by Julius Caesar. The castle of Chateau Guillard, 1196 AD, shows strong Saracenic influence. The great moat was cut from solid rock, though up-to-date it was captured eight years later.

At Neuchatel in Switzerland, the lake was joined by a Roman canal, still discernable, to another lake. The hot springs are still, as in Roman times, a spa. Nearby a huge Roman fortress was built against the Burgundians. Elsewhere in the district there is a great Carolingian church with wall paintings. Like Copford, and by a small lake are the impressive remains of the Roman capital of Helvetium province. This has a 6km wall, foundations of a temple for the Imperial cult (with two pillars still erect by the entrance), a theatre and an amphitheatre. There are some fine finds in the local museum.

Higher up, some miles off, are the remains of a 50 acre villa, including an early Christian church. The origins of this villa go back to the Iron Age. Splendid mosaics have been found but much of the site is still unexcavated.

***The Knights Templars* - 1st February 1988.**

John Hope, BA, Brain Valley Archaeological Society.

The Cressing Temple site where Mr Hope has been excavating with the Brain Valley Archaeological Society for many years, has lately been acquired by the County Council. Most of Mr Hope's diggers have been 15-17 years of age and his dig has been on a considerable scale.

By the 10th century Moslem conquests had been at a peak but the conquerors had tolerated Christian access to the Holy Land until the early 12th century, when fanatics came to power and access ceased. This resulted in the first crusade and the establishment of the small kingdom of Jerusalem, always under threat. By agreement, western Christian rulers encouraged the formation of the Templars to facilitate pilgrims. Their headquarters was on the site of Solomon's temple. In this country, their chief preceptory was at the Temple in London. Cressing was another preceptory, which in the time received grants of land over a wide area.

Excavation shows that the Cressing preceptory chapel was not a round one, as many were, but rectangular. Eventually the order was suppressed and Cressing handed to the Knight's Hospitallers. At the Dissolution the property passed to John Smith.

The site has two great tithe barns (c 12th century), the court house of Witham Half-Hundred, a house and an enclosed garden which is not so old.

The digs show occupation since the Bronze Age, including an Iron Age palisaded ditch with mid Iron Age sherds. Belgic sherds have been found, but nothing Roman, though much Roman occupation is evident in the nearby fields. Evidence of Saxon and pre-Templar buildings exist and await further evaluation.

Footings of templar buildings on gravel foundations have been found. In the chapel were many graves, often re-used, of templars buried, presumably in winding sheets as only one coffin has been discovered. One skull had an iron missile embedded in it, and another skeleton had rickets. A tower base with a garbore which was flushed by a flow of water was also discovered.

After the Dissolution a great house was built on the site with a cellar. This cellar had a brick floor lying under a later tile floor. There was an intricate series of drains and a cesspit. The drains took the overflow from a series of fishponds, previously regarded as part of a moat, and finished by flowing into a leat which ran round the chapel. It seems that the pond on the other side of the road once extended to the site.

The dig showed that the east wall of the chapel had been built over a cemetery, resulting in the need to rebuild it in medieval times. The Knights left remains of a large bread oven and a corn drying kiln. Much of the site remains to be excavated at a later date.

***Castles in Italy* - 8th February 1988.**

David Andrews, Archaeology, Essex Planning Department.

Mr Andrews discussed castle building in Italy from the early middle ages to the introduction of artillery.

Castles proliferated in Italy because of the fragmentation of political power there after imperial times. Pope Leo (mid 9th century) built a wall to protect the Vatican and at a coastal site a curtain wall with towers - part of a general programme of fortification needed against Arab incursions when substantial

Roman remains were concreted into walled townships or castles, e.g. Castel St Angelo in Rome, and outside the city the tomb of Martella where fortifications were added.

But true castle building did not take place until the 10th - 11th centuries, early works being towers in towns. These were generally built to protect the population, but the practice extended to nobles, then tyrant 'lords' and to wealthy merchants until Florence had 150 towers. Often these had small ground areas and the walls were only about three feet thick. Some of these towers and associated villages grew into towns (e.g. Viterbo).

Early castles were normally built in strategic sites, on spurs which could be defended by ditches and walls, though Castello Di Salce oddly had its first tower sited in a more vulnerable part. Awcano, more typically, was well sited at the end of its spur and had polygonal towers.

Emperor Frederick II was the outstanding figure in building the really developed castle - a matter in which he had a personal interest. He also had laws to stop the building of towers and castles by nobles etc., and had many such buildings demolished. These 13th century castles provided the model for castle buildings, with few changes, down to the age of artillery. His most famous one was the Castel Di Monte. It had a central courtyard, octagonal Donjon, curtain wall and subsidiary buildings. The rooms in the Donjon were trapezoidal in shape to fit in with the ground plan. Frederic's castle where he died had rib vaulting.

Mr Andrews also described another of his castles at Prato which was square with big protruding towers, which had classical features in the gateway, and also one in south Italy with finely rusticated stonework.

Charles of Anjou was another great castle builder. He built strong castles with long arrow slits, glacies, machicolations and barrack blocks - all within a long curtain wall. These were to assist the Pope in his fight against imperial power.

At the end of the century comes Assisi castle which introduces a covered wall walk, and in the 14th century at Ferrera, the Este family built a great brick castle with a battered base to the tower, a barbican and a counter-balanced drawbridge.

In the 15th century a preference developed for round Donjons and there is an example of a rectangular Donjon being enveloped to give a round shape.

Artillery made tall towers vulnerable but it was some time before they were reduced to the height of continental castles with their more solidly built bastions and curtain walls.

***Animal bones for the Archaeologist* - 15 February 1988.**

Tony Legge, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of London.

Little is known of the way bones and teeth develop. More research would help to throw light on "what, when and why" things occur on archaeological sites.

Graham Clark, digging at Starr Carr, c 700 BC, realized the importance of bones. He found elk antlers, holed for handles, to make digging tools and skull caps, smoothed inside with two perforations, which could be used perhaps for hunting masks.

At Starr Carr the commonest bones found are of red deer. They grow antlers seasonally and shed them in summer, though antlers may be found which have been cut off animals killed in hunting. From this kind of thought Graham Clark concluded that the mesolithic Starr Carr people occupied the site in winter and then followed the migrating herds of deer to the Pennines in summer.

Mr Legg and his college studied the Roe deer. He found that the existing herds in open ranges on Rhum were much smaller than the Starr Carr ones, and in fact, migrate. However, Red deer in wooded areas, such as Starr Carr, did not form herds and did not migrate. A study of deer teeth showed that all had been killed in summer and the antlers came from deer killed elsewhere and taken there to be worked. Mr Legge compared this with eskimo hunters. They too ate the poorer joints at the hunting camp and took the best cuts back to a base camp. In the case of Starr Carr this site is unknown but it now appears that Starr Carr must have been a hunting base, not a base camp as previously thought.

The speaker then turned to the vast site at Tel Abu Hureya in Syria on the borders of the fertile crescent. The base of the Tel is dated to c 9500 BC with a mesolithic culture showing round pit dwellings with post holes, suggesting a tent-like leather roof. Above this were rectangular clay brick (unfired) houses of early and late neolithic aceramic people. Charred seed showed the growing of domesticated wheat, barley and pulses. Not till the late neolithic age do domestic herds of sheep/goats appear. Right through the mesolithic and early neolithic periods, a food staple is the gazelle, but in the late neolithic period 80% of bones represent sheep and only 20% gazelle. By c.9000 BC even wild sheep bones are infrequent. It seemed strange that the gazelle was not domesticated. The speaker explained this by referring to many travellers who wrote of the migration of gazelle herds in Syria. The herds travelled north to the grazing areas when the does were going to give birth and needed to be able to feed the young, then in due course, they returned to the more arid areas in the south. Rock paintings show the herds being driven between stone walls funnelled to circular killing area. Salt is easily found in arid salt pans so the meat can be preserved. The speaker studied the age composition of the bones he excavated, and the ages of the young deer killed (by studying the teeth) and concluded that hunting in mesolithic and early neolithic times must have been seasonal. However in late neolithic times the population increased at the southern end of the gazelle's range where similar hunting methods were used. The people of the Tel were thus obliged to turn to domestic sheep- rearing to replace the disastrously reduced supply of available gazelle meat. Mr Legge had recovered much information by studying the large numbers of deer bones, teeth etc. - all dated - in a Moscow museum, so putting his discovery on a firm statistical base. The site at Tel Abu Hureyra is now submerged in the waters of a reservoir.

***Archaeology and the Woods of South East Essex* - 22nd February 1988.**

Dr Oliver Rackham, Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

After the last Ice Age, nearly all of Britain became wooded. This original wild wood, however, has now disappeared, and the remaining evidence is given by pollen analyses. Present woodland has four management types:

- 1) Traditional woodland - coppice with standard types.
- 2) Wood and Pasture - this was given a new lease of life by the Normans. It requires careful management as grazing prevents the ready growth of fresh trees. Pollarding is here a substitute for coppicing. Parks (5 or 6 in Essex, with Rayleigh being the biggest) are special examples. Trees in fields or hedgerows are variants.

3) Forests - in Essex these are Hatfield or Epping.

4) Plantations - few in Essex.

The Essex landscape of hedgerows, small woods and scattered farmsteads has prevailed over the county since the early Middle Ages, and often to prehistoric times.

In south east Essex the woods lie on a horseshoe of low hills to the west of the Rochford peninsular (Hockley, Hadleigh, and the Belfairs etc). These clay areas are not very suitable for arable use.

In the Dengie Hundred, a very ancient pattern of roughly rectangular hedge, woodland, parish boundary, trackways etc. goes back to the Iron Age, or earlier, and a somewhat similar layout can be discerned in the Rochford arable area outside the wooded horseshoe (cf. the barks, some with stone cores, of Bronze Age or neolithic period, dividing the land in Dartmoor).

Woodlands are a persistent landscape feature. The Domesday proportion of Essex under woodlands is the same as that shown in the 18th century maps, though in times of agricultural depression it is easy for woods to expand in size.

Medieval woods were commonly bounded by banks with external ditches. The ditches, especially the early ones, were very large. Woodland was valuable and if part of a wood changed owners, then fresh banks were dug. Often the ownership of a wood was consolidated (as by the monks of Prittlewell in the Rochford area) and so banks are now found inside the wood. These banks are often sinuous to take in special parts of land.

Ponds in woods are normally natural features but moats show that there had been clearance at some time. In some places - not often in Essex - woods overlie the ridge and furrow.

A noticeably strange feature is found in the Plumbrow (Hockley) area where there were two woods (with "wood" names) and a number of long narrow woods where hedges have spread out to form woods.

In the late Middle Ages - perhaps as a result of the Black Death - there was a tendency for woods to grow beyond these boundary ditches. The speaker had slides showing the reversion to woodland now taking place on poorer soils in the Rochford peninsular, where 'plotland' too has already reverted to woodland.

Coppicing can continue indefinitely in woods and results in a gradual increase in diameter of stools to immense sizes.

In Essex, only in the south east is service tree a significant part of woodland, but there, strangely, small leaf lime, common elsewhere is almost unknown.

Trade and Markets of the Roman World - 29th February 1988.

Dr K E Griffiths, Research Fellow, Newcastle University.

The Mediterranean - the main trade artery of the Roman world - is largely bounded by rocky coasts and inlets, and much of the evidence for trade patterns etc. must be derived from a study of the numerous wrecks which have been found. This is because Roman writers largely belonged to the 'upper crust' whose wealth was derived from being landed gentry, and considered an interest in trade to be undignified, and so did not write about it.

By 200 BC the Greek states were under Roman rule and this extended to almost all of the shores of the Mediterranean by c 44 BC. The carriage of heavy, low-valued goods (such as brick or tile) by land was prohibitively expensive, and so such products were mostly local, or infrequently conveyed by water, though scarce ornamental stone such as marble might travel a long distance by water to building sites. Land transport cost 28 times as much as water transport.

Ship construction could be done by commencing with the shell or with a frame to which the boarding could be added. This latter system required considerable skill.

Ships are seen depicted in stone but the representations are 'undetailed' and hard to interpret. They had a low brow and a high stern, from which the steersman could keep a look out to where he was steering.

A large square-rigged sail was used, though occasionally some ships had a triangular, felucca-type one.

A detailed wall painting (the *Torre Sgarotta* one) is a better guide as it is carefully detailed by a painter who knew what he was about. Lucian also gives a graphic description of the *Isis*, a large corn-carrying ship for the Egypt-Rome trade. It had a capstan, windlass, etc. and could carry about 1200 tonnes of grain. Ships as large as this were not built again until the 15th century; most ships could only carry 100-150 tonnes. The grain trade was very exceptional as it was bulk transit. The smaller ships suited the simple facilities to found all round the Mediterranean and operated as and when cargoes could be found.

For the big ships Claudius built a harbour at Ostia with two arms and a breakwater. It had a lighthouse and after unloading cargo could be taken by canal in smaller ships up the Tiber. At the harbour were employed customs officers, dockers etc., and there were also large granaries.

Like the road system, ports were primarily designed for state purposes - especially military ones - though the grain supply to Rome was vital to keep the great city going and avoid civic unrest.

Superficially there are great resemblances with early industrial undertaking in 19th century England, but in this country the enterprises were commercially motivated. Though the Roman merchants often made great fortunes, the real fortunes were owned by the senatorial land owners. However the peasants aimed at making a surplus after paying taxes etc. and provided a market for some luxury goods. This is especially notable in causing a large trade in Samian ware. The Samian workshops were small but collectively, in groups, supported specialists such as mould makers.

***Recent Studies of Havering Palace* - 7th March 1988.**

Richard M S Matthews, Romford and District Historical Society.

Havering Palace, three miles north of Romford, was on relatively high ground, so making it an attractive viewpoint and also a strategic site. It was a site used by Saxon kings and legends survive of Edward the Confessor's connection with the place, one of which tells of building works he had done there. Serious building, however, took place in the 13th century and finished in Elizabethan times with the building of the west range of buildings. This was needed by the large amount of administration carried on at Havering, which had already been separated from its "Hundred" in Edward IV's time to form the Liberty of Havering.

The palace covered two acres (compared with approximately 30 acres at Whitehall), and had two chapels. The present parish church is on the site of one of these._

Early plans survive of the ground and upper floors, one of which is in the British Library, the other at Hatfield, though it is only recently that it has been understood how these two related to each other. Our two speakers told how they were able to see on the ground where various parts of the palace stood by referring to the site of the present parish church. The gravedigging round the church has removed all evidence of the palace there, and present occupation of the remainder of site has inhibited excavation beyond the churchyard.

Kings visited the palace - in 1618 James I came for the hunting, and in 1638 Charles I became the last king to visit the palace.

In Commonwealth times the palace was sequestered and the chapel (sited above a pantry) converted to a parochial use. Subsequently the remaining part of the palace was quarried away, and by 1836, nothing was left of it.

The speakers thought that the building had been mainly built of lime and gravel concrete faced with Kentish rag which could have been water borne by the River Roding or the Ingrebourne to fairly near the site. Our speakers' colleague in the investigation was Mr Derek Rowland who had made a beautifully constructed model of the Palace and its adjacent buildings, based on the early map. This model was displayed at the meeting. From the model it appeared that the west range of buildings were of half-timbering and used as stables with staff quarters above them.

The Thirtieth Annual General Meeting of the Colchester Archaeological Group

Monday 10th October 1988 at 7.30 pm

Apologies for Absence

The secretary reported that an apology had been received from Mr Tony Doncaster. Approximately 33 persons were in attendance.

Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 1987 had been circulated to all members. It was agreed that they be taken as read and they were accordingly signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising to be dealt with, other than those included separately on the agenda.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer circulated a statement showing a surplus of £108 for the year. At the end of the year, the Accumulated Fund stood at £149. He explained that it was proposed to increase the lecture entrance charge for members from 40p to 50p, as a precaution against a possible increase in the charge for the hire of the Lecture Room. This proposal was seconded and agreed, as was a proposal for the adoption of the Treasurer's report and accounts.

Editor's Report

Mrs Kath Evans said that Volume 30 of the *Bulletin*, which would normally have been published in March 1988, had been held back in order to accompany the Red Hills booklet. She mentioned that she had now been holding the office of editor for over eleven years and felt that the time had come for a change. Mr Mark Davies drew attention to all that Mrs Evans had done for both the *Bulletin* and the Red Hills Booklet and all present expressed their thanks to her.

Red Hills Booklet

Mrs Evans said that, although there had been severe delays in the past, the writing of the Booklet was now very near to completion. The plan was to provide the printer with camera-ready material so the production process should be quick. Dennis Tripp reported that the Kay de Brisay Memorial Fund presently stands at £992 after spending £252, mostly on drawings for inclusion in the booklet.

Group Activities

Mr James Fawn outlined the lectures, outings and parties which had been held during the year. Some field-walking had also been organised.

Election of Officers

- a) It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Mr Vic Scott, Vice-Chairman, should be elected to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr Tony Doncaster, to whom thanks for all his work were expressed by Mr Scott.
- b) It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Mr Mark Davies should be elected Vice-Chairman.
- c) It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Mr Richard Shackle should be elected Editor to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mrs Kath Evans.

- d) It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the existing officers, other than the above, should be confirmed in their appointments.

Election of Committee Members

Vacancies arise as a result of the retirement in accordance with normal practice of the following:

Mr Ken Cobbett

Mr Tony Doncaster

Mr Jeff Greenwood

Mrs Sue Wade

It was proposed, seconded and agreed:

- a) that these vacancies should be filled by the election of the following:

Mr Pat Adkins

Miss Barbara Burch

Mr John Knowles

Mrs Sue Wade

- b) that the other existing members should be confirmed in their appointments.

Appointment of Representatives to other Organisations

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that all existing representatives should be confirmed in their appointments.

Any Other Business

Sincere thanks were expressed to Mr David Clarke for all that he had done for the Group; to Mrs McMaster for the arduous work of organising the evening meetings; and to Mr Harry Palmer for preparing notes for publication of the talks.