Colchester Archaeological Group

Annual Bulletin

Vol. 42 2002

Colchester Archaeological Group

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Committee 2001/02

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Chairman's Introduction

Mark Davies

The achievements of any group like the CAG are commensurate at best with the amount of effort expended by its members on their shared and individual activities. The actual quality of that work is for others to decide and it hoped that the following pages will provide some indications in relation to recent projects.

Our membership has again for a second year stood at the record level of 179 members - a reflection not just, it is assumed, on the current popularity of archaeology, as shown on our TV screens, but of a desire for more personal involvement. The Group's activities have again been varied and thanks are due especially to our officers and commiffee members for their organisation.

As in previous years, the Group has maintained involvement through its representatives with the work of archaeological bodies at national, regional, county and local levels. In addition to our own activities, members have supported the Colchester Museum Service by undertaking a survey of graffiti in the Castle and depositing the results of yet more graveyard surveys, as well as participating in National Archaeology Day. Individuals have also enjoyed assisting with the excavations of the Colchester Archaeological Trust.

In order to help with the flow of information to members, a twice-yearly Newsletter has been introduced with the first issue published in June 2002. This will in no way conflict with the Annual Bulletin, but rather is intended to help with more immediate shorter items of news, interest and information. Thanks are due to our new editor, Anna Moore, for both publications, but especially for this volume of the Bulletin which relates to members' archaeological pursuits, or in some cases their culmination, over the past twelve months.

Report from the Council for British Archaeology

Raymond Rowe

The Group has been a member of the CBA for a number of years, and over that time the CBA has grown both in size and stature. It makes contributions at a national level to the National Trust and English Heritage on Government discussions, on aspects effecting our archaeological heritage. In some eases it makes direct comment to Government Departments and working parties.

The Young Archaeologists' Club was CBA inspired and is this year celebrating its 30th birthday.

In the last year the two most important subjects have been the responses to the Valletta Convention on controlling archaeology and the plans to re-route the roads around Stonehenge. With regards to the Valletta Convention there was considerable worry about Article 3. This covers the authorisation of intrusive archaeological investigation by specially qualified persons. However, it would seem a realistic approach will be adopted, not the over-bureaucratic system that was feared. It is interesting to note that the Convention has some 12 Articles and all the others have been well received in the main.

Stonehenge is to have a new visitor centre and a re-routing of the roads in the area. The National Trust and English Heritage have developed the new access proposals and the CBA has been consulted. The new appraisal integrates the visitor centre with the Stonehenge landscape better than before. There is still concern over a proposal to build a transit link along the length of King Barrow Ridge. The CBA feel more use should be made of existing roads. CBA are also worried that proposals for interpretation of the site are much less developed than those for access.

The CBA has recently set up working party on public participation in archaeology. This is prompted by the belief that there is a great enthusiasm for archaeology but it is not reaching its full potential. They are going to gather information on the range of public participation and identify good techniques used to enable people to take part.

M.O.D. Colchester Conservation Group Report

John Mallinson

Continuing the work begun by Graham Mollatt, reported in CAG Annual Bulletin 40, and with the further assistance of Martin Winter of Colchester Borough Council, a complete list has been compiled of known archaeological sites on MOD land at Fingringhoe Ranges, Middlewick Ranges and Friday Woods. Copies of this list have been lodged with MOD Conservation in Aldershot, whose earlier lists had been woefully incomplete, and with local range officers.

Work has begun to examine the current state of sites (mainly Red Hills) at Fingringhoe, some of which appear not to have been formally examined for nearly 100 years. A full report will be prepared when this work is completed.

Young Archaeologists Club Report

Pat Brown

Over the past year the YAC has gained members and has had some very good attendances. We have run coach trips to Sutton Hoo with Orford Castle, and to the Open Day at Sedgeford in Norfolk; both trips were also well supported by CAG members. We have made and played board games from the past; made Inca bags and impressive gold masks; and learned to draw archaeological finds in the approved style. Out and about in the locality, we have walked around Gosbecks Archaeological Park (and performed a scene from a Roman play in the theatre), and walked at cracking pace around Colchester's Roman sites, pausing at the Butt Road church to see how large a congregation it could have accommodated.. Imagination has been challenged by Philip Wise, who got us thinking about Anglo-Saxon Colchester with the help of finds from the Museum, and by Caroline McDonald using Palaeolithic art to see if we could communicate with each other using only drawing and painting in the manner of cave art. Our Christmas party had a Second World War theme; YAC leaders' costumes caused great hilarity, and we actually managed to serve Spam! We would particularly thank parents for their continued enthusiastic support; their presence on outings has made our task much easier.

Churchyard Surveys in the Colchester District

As part of the ongoing project by the Group of recording gravestones in Colchester's churchyards, St Mary-at-the-Walls, Holy Trinity and All Saints have been completed.

The surveys was carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Council of British Archaeology and Rescue. The purpose of the surveys is to record the changes which have taken place in the gravestones and involves measurement, photography and reading inscriptions on the stones. Our point of reference for recording changes in the stones was a survey carried out in the middle of the 19th century by Frederick Arthur Crisp. This earlier survey is available for comparison in the Local History department of Colchester Public Library.

St Mary's at the Walls, Colchester.

Freda Nicholls

During the spring and summer of 2001 members of the Colchester Archaeological Group carried out a survey of the graveyard of St. Mary's at the Walls in Colchester. St. Mary's is no longer used as a place of worship but the well-kept churchyard and 223 graves remain.

The members of the Group who carried out the survey in 2001 were Gillian Brown, Mary Coe, Anne Polley, Noreen Proudman, Jean Roberts, Rosemary Yorke-Moore and Freda Nicholls. John Mallinson drew the plans for the churchyard and location of the graves.

Two plans were drawn up for the graveyard. Plan 1 marks the burial sites in the main part of the graveyard. Plan 2 marks an area where cremation burials are placed. Included in this plan is an area marked as a flowerbed surrounded by eighteen footstones. It was not possible to decide the provenance of these stones.

Cremation Burials.

An area in the North East of the graveyard is the site of 47 cremation burials. The earliest grave in this group is dated 1931 and the latest 1998. All the stones are placed flat into the ground, are rectangular in shape and measure on average 570mm in length by 393mm in width. Most of the inscriptions are inlaid. The majority of the stones are in good repair with legible inscriptions.

Graveyard Burials.

The present location of the graves is shown on Plan 1, which was prepared by John Mallinson. Some graves have been relocated, most obviously nos. 208, 208a, 209, 210, 210a, 211 and 212. Some others in this vicinity may also have been moved at the time when an extension to the present Arts Centre was built. This may be the case for nos. 219, 220, 221, 222 and 223. It is not possible to confirm this information as Crisp's survey does not include a plan of the graveyard.

The earliest identifiable grave is no. 96 (Crisp no. 140) with the date 1707. The inscription on the stone is identical with that recorded by Crisp. The most recent burial was in 1967, grave no.122. This was not recorded by Crisp!

Analysis of stones recorded:

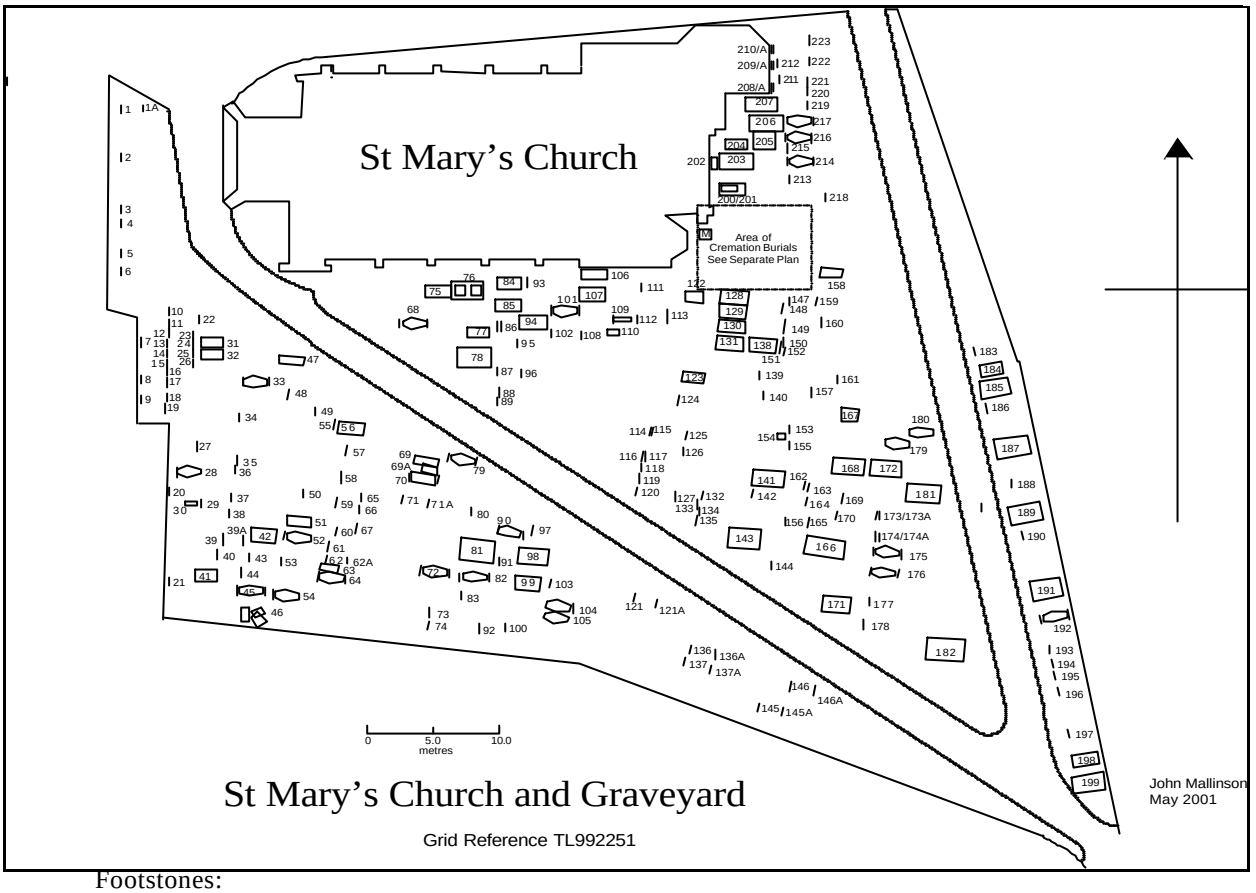
Headstones:

The total number of headstones recorded was 163 Of these 73 could be identified by reading the inscriptions. Crisp recorded 161 headstones and was able to identify 157. The discrepancy between these two totals is accounted for by the fact that two stones were placed after the time of Crisp's survey. One of these stones, no. 122, was dated 1967 and is well after Crisp's time. The other stone we were unable to identify. 55% of Headstones can no longer be identified.

Analysis of Headstones:

i. Curved with shoulders - 38
ii. Decorated - 97
iii. Pointed (Gothic) - 5
iv. Double - 3 (Crisp recorded 7)
v. Overgrown - 5
vi. Broken - 15

Crisp did not record the style of the headstones.



Plan 1

Footstones:

The total number of footstones recorded was 25. It was possible to match 11 of these with their headstones. Crisp did not include footstones in his survey. 56% of footstones can no longer be identified.

Decorations:

In addition to inscriptions, decoration can be discerned on 12 stones in the form of Masonic symbols, anchors, scrolls, urns and in one case, grave no. 219, what appears to be a representation of the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Deterioration of stones:

A great deal of weathering has taken place although the location of weathered stones seemed not to be a factor.

Coffin tombs with head & footstones:

16, of which 10 could be identified. 62% could be identified.

Body stone between head & footstone:

1, which was unidentifiable.

Coped stones:

on plinth: 6, of which 1 could be identified.
with head stone: 2
Total 8.

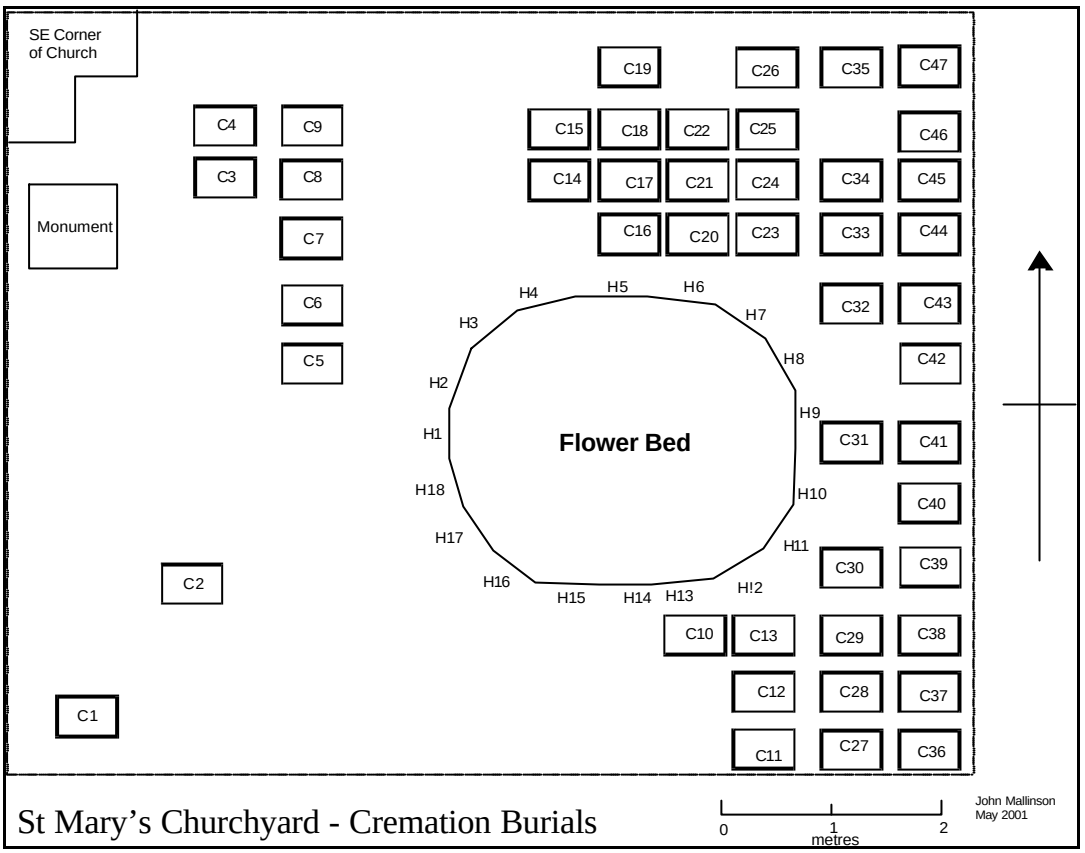
No coped stones were recorded by Crisp. He may have designated this design as desk stones, of which he recorded 4. Of these he identified 2.

Tombs.

Chest tombs: 4, of which 1 was identified.
Ledger stones: 10, of which 1 was identified.
Ledger stones on plinths: 7, of which 4 were identified.
Mantel top chest tombs: 16, of which 9 were identified.
Pedestal tombs: 2, both of which were identified.
Total: 39.

Index:

Index to Cremation Burials.



Plan 2

C22	Smallman J & B	C35	Thorogood WN
C36	Snow HB	C25	Timson M
C11	Snow HN & TE	C6	Trehearne D & H
C28	Springett L R	C14	Truscott VPL
C26	Starling NW & HC	C41	Warner EA & MM
C5	Stilwell MR & JF	C7	Watson AM & HD

All Saints' Churchyard, Colchester.

Freda Nicholls

Since the 11th Century a church has stood on the site of what is now the Colchester Natural History Museum. The museum is housed in what was once known as All Saints or All Hallows church. The chancel of the church was rebuilt in the 14th century and the aisle added in the 15th century. The tower was rebuilt in the 16th century, the 14th century tower arch being retained.

In what was the north aisle of the church there are monuments to Charles Gray's family. These are not easily visible at the present time as they are partially obscured by Natural History display cases. There is a monument to an 18th century rector, the Rev. Hickersgill, who wrote his own epitaph praising his own life. He had once been summoned to Westminster Hall to answer for certain irregularities in the performance of his clerical duties. He insisted on answering the questions put to him in Greek.

During the Spring and Summer of 2002 members of Colchester Archaeological Group carried out a survey of All Saints' graveyard. The location is now kept as a nature reserve, an idea which is in keeping with the housing of the Natural History Museum in the onetime church. This has meant that it was often very difficult to take measurements of some of the monuments, which have become overgrown with vegetation which has to be preserved. Wherever possible the survey was carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Council of British Archaeology and Rescue. As with previous surveys carried out by the Group, the purpose is to record changes to the monuments which have taken place since a mid-19th century survey carried out by Frederick Arthur Crisp. This earlier survey is available for comparison in the Local History department of Colchester Public Library. The survey involves measurement, photography and reading inscriptions on the gravestones.

The members of the Group who carried out the survey in 2002 were Gillian Brown, Mary Coe, Elaine Kerry (a welcome new member to the Group), John Mallinson, who drew the plans for the churchyard and location of the monuments, Anna Moore, Jean Roberts, Ros Thomas, Rosemary Yorke- Moore, Freda Nicholls.

The survey of this churchyard showed that many more monuments from the 18th century have survived and are still legible than in other surveys carried out by the Group in Colchester.

Churchyard Burials:

A plan of the 105 memorials was prepared by John Mallinson (Plan 3). When Crisp prepared his survey he recorded 142 memorials within the churchyard.

The earliest date for a memorial recorded and identified by the CAG group was for Elizabeth Treheme who was born in 1676 and died in 1729. The latest burial was in 1874 of James Watts who was born in 1790.

Analysis of the Memorials:
Headstones:
61 Headstones were recorded, of these 28 were identified. 54% were no longer identifiable.

Mantel Top Chest Tombs:
7 such tombs were recorded and all were identified.

Pedestal Tomb:
1 tomb was recorded and identified.

Flat Stones:
8 flat stone memorials were recorded and 2 were identified. 75% are now unidentifiable.

Overgrown Memorials:
8 densely overgrown memorials were recorded but could be neither classified nor identified.

Coffin Stones:
4 Coffin stones each with head and footstones were recorded. 3 were identified. 25% are no longer identifiable.

Roll Top Chest Tomb:
1 recorded but not identified.

Double Headstone:
2 were recorded, neither could be identified.

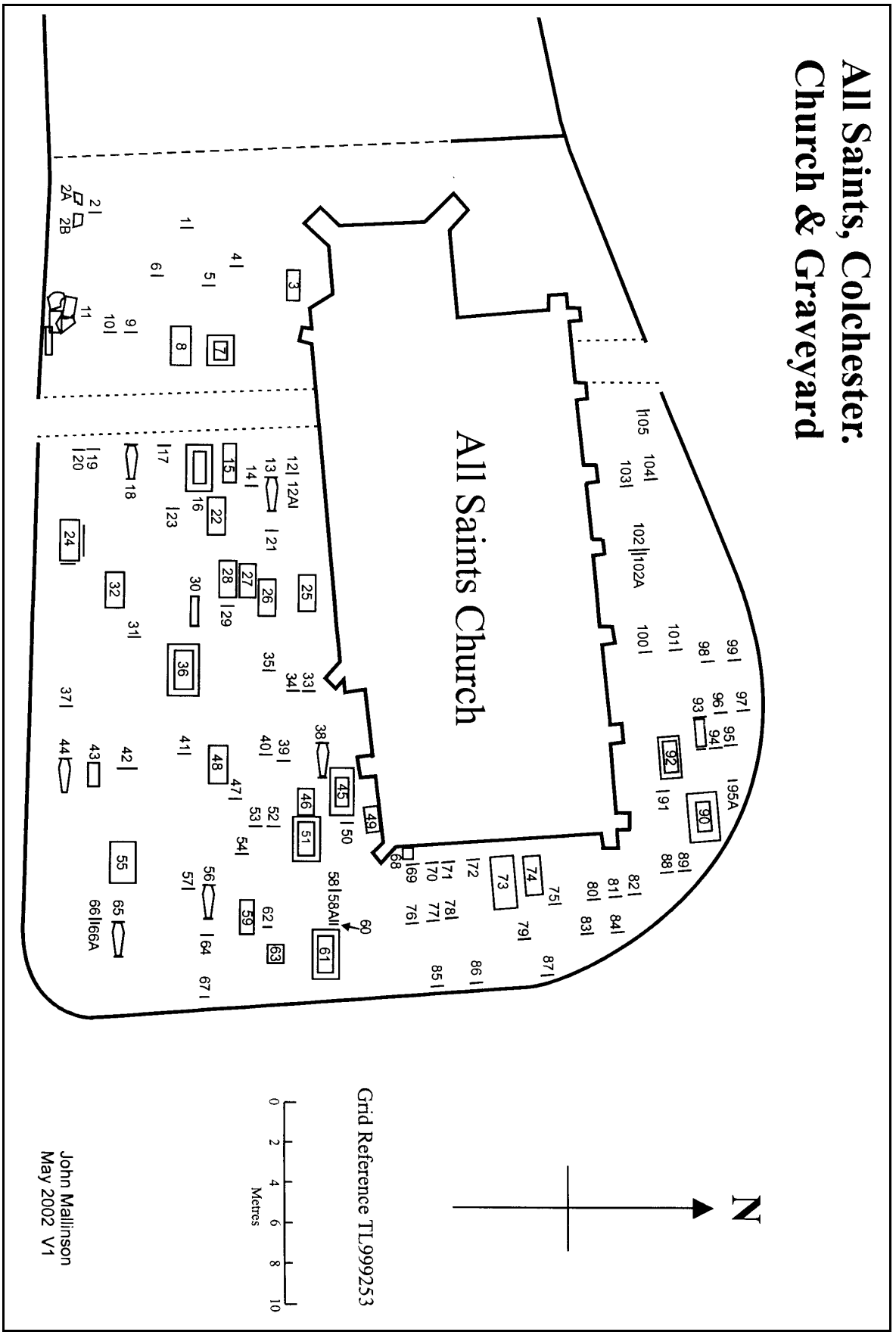
Chest Tomb on Plinth:
2 were recorded and 1 was identified.

Coped Stone on Plinth:
2 were recorded and both identified.

Footstones:
8 Footstones were recorded.

One small pile of badly smashed stones were recorded but could not be identified.

Of the 105 memorials recorded 68% could no longer be identified.
In the mid-l9th century F.A. Crisp recorded and identified 142 memorials.


All Saints, Colchester.
Church & Graveyard
All Saints Church
N
Grid Reference TL999253
0 2 4 6 8 10
Metres
John Mallinson
May 2002 V1

Plan 3

Holy Trinity Churchyard.

Carried Out By Colchester Young Archaeologists

An enthusiastic group of Colchester's Young Archaeologists carried out this survey over several seasons under the guidance of Pat Brown. A plan of the churchyard was prepared by John Mallinson of the Colchester Archaeological Group (Plan 4).

The Period Covered by Identified Graves.
The earliest identifiable grave is No. 22-S. side. with the date 1786.
The most recent identifiable burial is No. 18-N. side with the date 1867.

Analysis of stones recorded.
Headstones:
The total number of headstones recorded was 53. 27 could be identified by reading the inscriptions. Crisp recorded 65 headstones and was able to identify 58. 49% of headstones are no longer identifiable.

Analysis of headstones:
i) Curved with shoulders: 46
ii) Decorated: 1 (2 cherub heads).
iii) Double: 2
iv) Clover top: 1
v) Broken: 3
Crisp did not record the style of the headstones.

Foot stones:
7 foot stones were recorded but were illegible.
Crisp did not include foot stones in his survey.

Ledger stones:
7 Ledger stones were recorded, 1 was identifiable.
Crisp identified 8 such stones. All were identifiable.

Coffin tombs with head and foot stones:
2 both of which were unidentifiable.

Chest tombs:
2 were recorded; both were illegible.

Mantel Top Chest tombs:
6 were recorded. 2 were illegible.

Coped stone on plinth:
2 were recorded and both were identifiable.

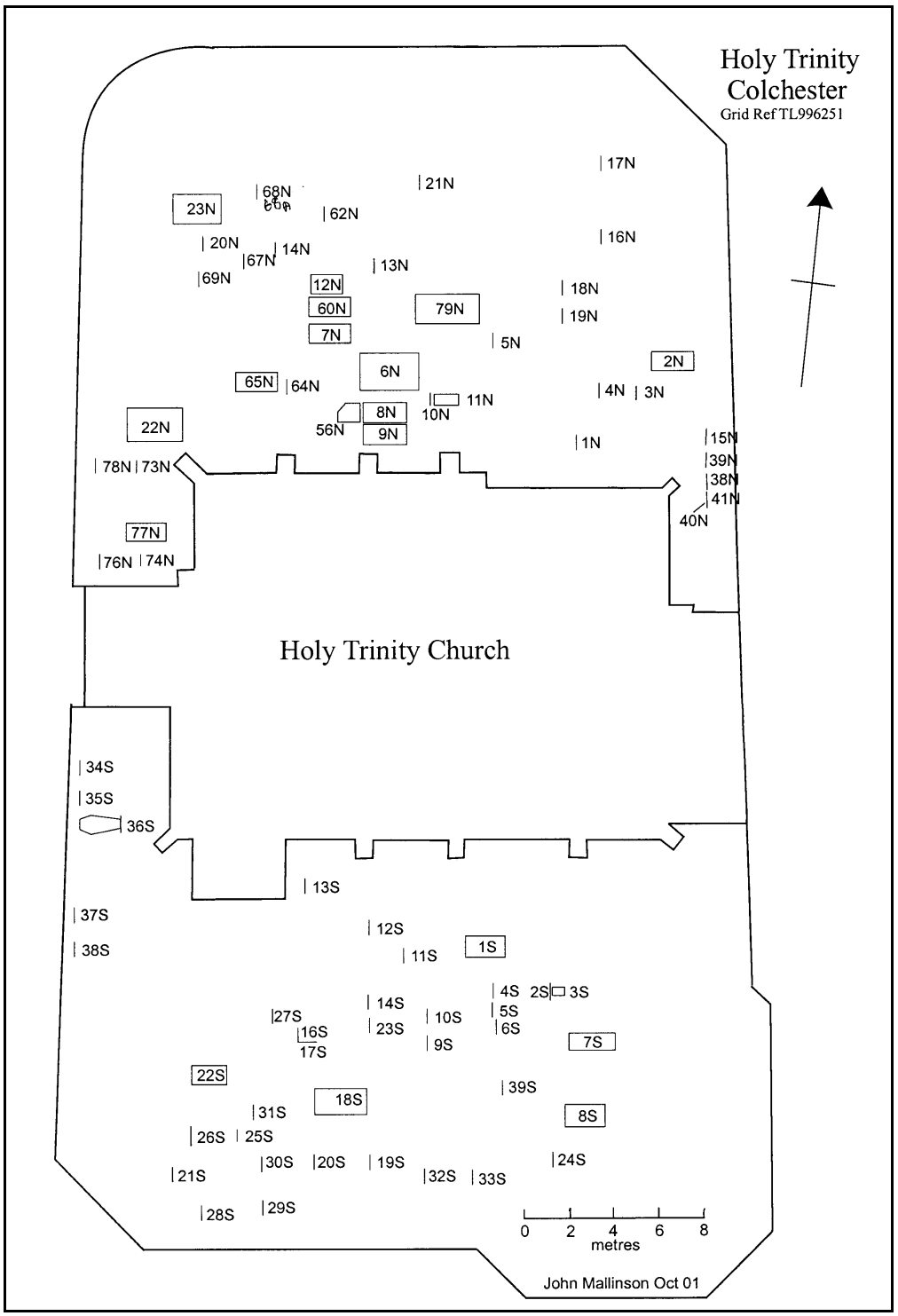
33% of the tombs could no longer be identified.

Index of identifiable memorials:

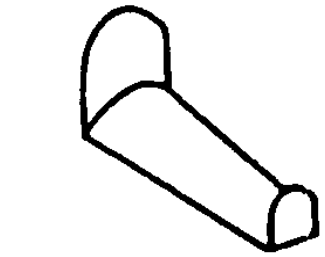
Austin, Sarah.
Barnes, Isaac & Mary.
Beard, Charlotte.
Cooper, Elizabeth.
Devall, Elizabeth & Mary.
Fenning, Emma.
Garrad, Abraham & Mary.
Garrad, Elizabeth.
Green, Ann.
Green, Thomas.
Green, William.
Hall, John & Mary.
Hudson, Eliza.
Hunt, Charlotte.
Hunt, James & Phoebe.
Hunt, Robert & Sarah.
Lay, Edward & Charlotte.
Lay, John Sargant & Ann.
Layzell,? Frederick.
Leggett, Daniel & Mary.

Nelson, Thomas.
Osborne, Elizabeth Grimwood & Elizabeth Isabella.
Palmer, Emily.
Percival, Anne.
Pinto(n), Thomas.
Richards, Mary Ann Sophia.
Rickward, Will.Shotter & William Milo
Rogers, Elizabeth.
Sames, Thomas & Sarah.
Scott, Samuel.
Theobald, John & Elizabeth.
Tillett, Mary
Tillett, Rebecca.
Topping, Henry.
Wade(s), Thomas.
Wallaston, Jane.
Wallis, Samuel & Sarah.
Webb, Bowler.
Wheeler, John J.
Woods, Richard & Sarah.
Wyatt, James.

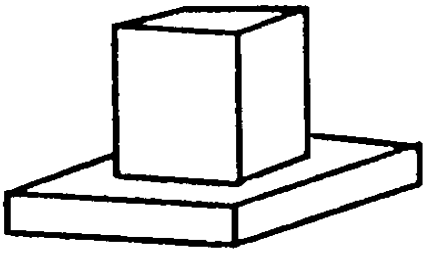
Plan 4



Some types of tombs

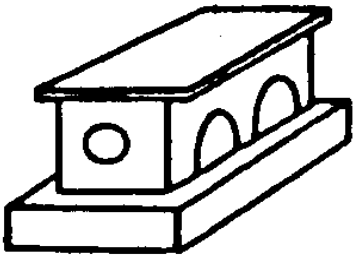


Headstone and footstone with body stone between

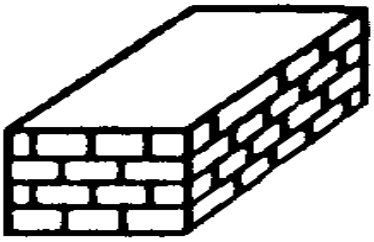


Pedestal stone on plinth

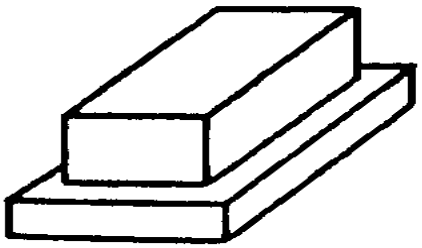
Ledger stone



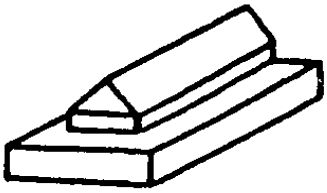
Mantel top chest tomb with side panels



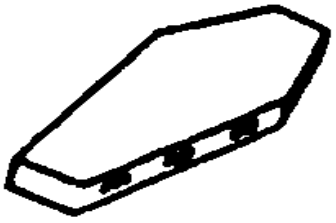
Chest tomb



Chest tomb on plinth



Coped stone on plinth



Coffin stone

Comments on "Colchester's Folleys"

James Fawn

CAG Annual Bulletin 37 contains an article "Colchester Folleys" by Sally Heffer on some of Colchester's pedestrian passageways of that name. She pointed out that 'folley' and 'folly' were interchangeable and suggested that the former might be a local variation peculiar to Colchester. She asked for readers` comments and so I have kept an eye open for further enlightenment.

A modern street plan shows three bearing the name of The Folly, all near Colchester. One at Copdock, one at Tiptree and one through which members of the Group sauntered during the recent guided walk round Wivenhoe. These are streets for vehicular rather than pedestrian traffic and so are not characteristic, although they may well have been pedestrian folleys originally.

In his 'Roman Colchester' of 1958, the Group's first president, Rex Hull, provided some other examples of alternative spelling. On p 35 he refers to Park Folly, the path across the bottom of Castle Park. On p 255 Artillery Folley occurs, but becomes Folly in the index. On p 274 he uses Folley as a generic term in the phrase "along the Folley to Park Road", the park this time being the former Lexden Park.

Other evidence of the alternative spellings can be found. The 1:500 OS map of 1875 shows a footpath north of and parallel to Crouch Street as The Folley. On the other hand, Josiah Parish in his pen drawn map of about the same period gives it as just Folly without the 'e' or the article. The path later became Manor Road. A more recent example, a vehicular one, is the lane leading from the Colchester - Layer road to Malting Green; it appears as The Folly on quite recent street maps, but as The Folley on its two roadside name signs.

The spelling may be variable, but what about the word itself? In The Essex County Standard of March 9 1935, Mr Alfred Hills of Bocking, with tongue slightly in cheek, answered a reader's letter on follies in the sense of buildings, published a week earlier. "In reply to Mr Blakeston's enquiry we have no "sham ruins or towers" in rural Essex, and therefore need no word to indicate such depressing affairs. To us a "folly" is something far more pleasant - a footway between tall hedges or trees, a secluded leafy walk, in brief a lover's lane - and is not most loving mere folly? Apart from this it bears no innuendo of mental instability, and is derived from Latin folia (leaves) which furnishes also foliage, foliation trefoil and folio, a leaf of a book." In his next paragraph Mr Hills wrote "In his Essex Dialect Dictionary, p 174, Gepp records 'Folly: a narrow passage for foot-traffic, (Colchester)'. That may suffice for the Borough, but would certainly not be good enough for us, and we should call it a gant-way in Bocking."

Mr Hills gave a fair explanation of 'folly' and Gepp's restriction of the word, albeit without the 'e', to Colchester, bears out Ms Heffer's observation. Folleys (Follys, Follies?) do not seem to occur within the walls of the town and therefore the term seems likely to have come into use after the medieval period, probably during the town's expansion in the nineteenth century. Artillery Folley and the two Camp Folleys presumably received their names after the start of the development of the town's second set of barracks in the mid-1850s. In particular, Artillery Folley does not appear before 1870 when the artillery barracks were built (VCH 9, 253). However, the passages may have been field paths previously and as such called folleys without specific names. The Folley, shown on the 1876 1/500 O.S. map and now Manor Road in St.Mary`s parish, was perhaps the first transfer of the generic term to maps and so may have been the original recorded example.

Stanway also has a path named The Folley, running between Winstree Road and Villa Road. It follows an old field boundary shown on a parish map of 1808 by Wm. Cole (copy in ERO Colchester), although it is not marked as a path. The 1876 O.S. 6 inch map also shows it only as the field boundary, but the 1897 25 inch does mark the path without naming it.

Folly and Folley sound the same when spoken, of course, and the difference arises only when written. The addition of the 'e' may have been made by writers who had 'alley' (Chambers; Old French, alee) in the back of their minds and, without the benefit of Mr Hills's letter, decided that folly (Chambers; Old French, folie) not only sounded but looked foolish.

Some aspects of the survey at Court Knoll, Nayland

John Wallace

The Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society together with the Dedham Vale & Stour Valley Project and Suffolk County Council put in hand a thorough investigation of a scheduled ancient earthwork called Court Knoll as a millennium project. Funded by a local heritage initiative grant, a geophysical survey, a documentary search, and field walking was carried out.

Field walking

Before we could tackle the field walking, we marked up the two-hectare site with 10m x 10m squares, which we laid out on precisely the same co-ordinates as the geophysical survey. This would enable finds to be related to the geophysical results if relevant. The experienced Stoke WEA field walking team, led by June and John Wallace, were invited to carry out this part of the survey, with Linzi Everett of Suffolk Archaeological Unit keeping a technical eye on things.

An important part of the project was to include local people. On day one a large number of enthusiastic volunteers turned up bright and early, threatening to overwhelm the Stoke team who were there to guide those who had no field walking experience. They were soon kitted out with plastic bags, numbered labels to correspond with the square being walked, and directed to their 10m x 10m patch. The procedure was that every man-made artefact lying on the surface was to be picked up and put into the bags. Each square had at least two, sometimes three walkers working on it. First time field walkers found the experience fascinating, especially when they found their first piece of medieval pot rim.

Two small sherds of pre-historic pottery were found, which although not significant here, showed how keen eyed our walkers were. There were 400 sherds of late medieval wares including many rims, bases and handles, which helped with dating. This material was concentrated around the general site of what is believed to be a building, located by a small dig in 1924, and confirmed by the geophysical survey. There was also a spread of roof tiles and ceramic building material picked up in a concentrated area, so much in fact, that barrow loads were being taken off some squares. The total of this material amounted to 1.5 tonnes!

Quite a substantial weight of Roman tile was collected. Many of the pieces were large and thick and these were thought to have been used as bricks or flooring tiles in the Roman building from which they came, but there was evidence of re-use here because of post Roman mortar over Roman mortar and on broken edges. This, together with the very small number of Roman pot sherds showed that the site was not occupied in the Roman period, but that the tile had been robbed out from a Roman structure somewhere in the area.

We had hoped to have a team of pot washers to process the finds as they came off the field, and although this was started, the sheer volume of material overwhelmed them! The finds were taken off elsewhere and washed later, then passed to the Suffolk Archaeology Unit for identification and analysis. We had over 120 volunteers involved in field walking over the two days and the enthusiasm and support was excellent.

The documents

The historian's archival searches for information on Nayland resulted in some 20 references, dating back to the 13th century. One of the best documents was an account roll for *'year nine'* Edward 1, 1280 - 1290. A photographic copy was obtained with the recommendation that it be fully translated as there were numerous references to the property and buildings as well as farming, day to day activities and rentals referring to the manor there.

June and John were attending a Latin Palaeography course with Tutor John Ridgard, who, when shown this document set it as an exercise, for the medieval Latin students, who they would like to thank, and especially Pam Walker who dotted the i's and crossed the t's. The document gives a valuable insight into ordinary life in the middle ages. For example rents from the Income Account:

4) 'And for 10d from an increment of rent from Richard the Falconer for a certain small plot near his house at the said term of the year....
6) 'And for l2d from 1lb of pepper (received) from rent, (and) sold And for 3d from 2lb of cumin (received) from rent (and) sold And for 2s 1d from 10 geese (received) from rent of the potters, (and) sold'

Here we have a Falconer paying in money, but a number who pay their rent in kind, which the manorial accounts 'convert' to cash. More specifically of interest to this survey we have 'potters' but although burnt flint was picked up, and 'burnt areas' were shown on the geophysical plots, no positive kiln sites or evidence such as 'wasters' have been identified.

A really interesting part of the document describes work being carried out on the buildings, as described in the Expenditure Account:

17) 'In stipend of 1 carpenter for mending the louvre of the hall and the hall windows 6d. In nails bought for the same 3d. In stipend of 1 man
18) with his boy for re-roofing and cresting the hall and the knights chamber in part 18d. In 1 quarter of lime bought
19) for the solar and chapel 12d. In stipend of one tiler for mending and re-roofing the great chamber, solar, chapel
20) at piecework 4s 6d. In shingles bought for the great chapel 5s 9d In stipend of 1 carpenter for re-roofing said chapel at piecework with new and old shingles 6s 6d.
Sum Total 20s'

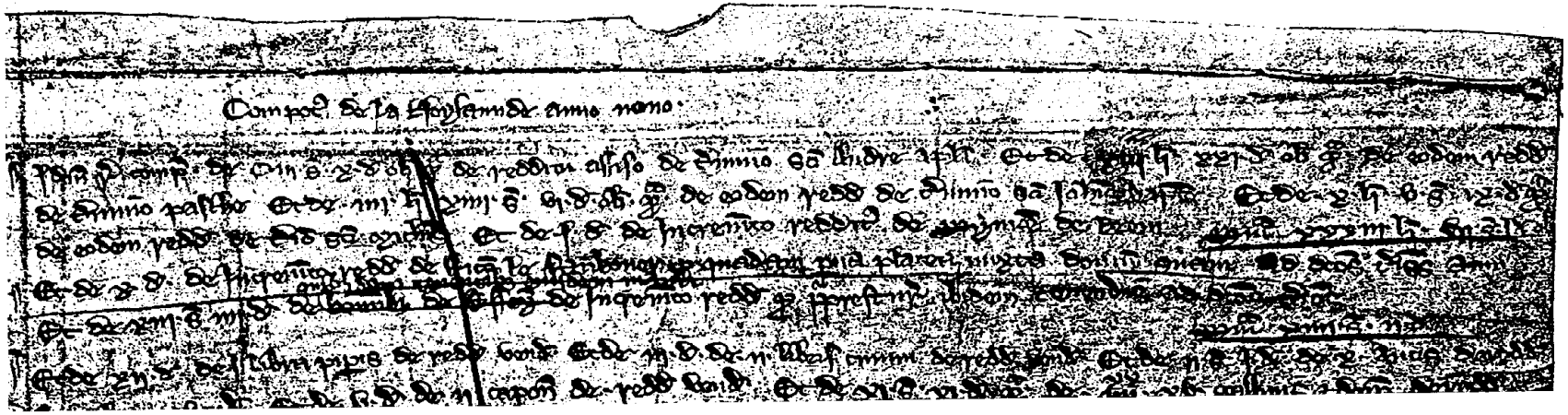
Another reference to the chapel in this Account is
47) 'In payment made to the chaplain of the chapel in the courtyard of Nayland for the annual rent owed to the said chapel per year 22s...'

The findings of the geophysical survey, and the combination of the field walking and the documentary evidence gives further confirmation that there were occupied buildings on Court Knoll in the l3th century. The pottery finds also included a large quantity of late medieval material indicating possible later occupation in the 14th and 15th century.

John Wallace 04/2002

FACSIMILE OF THE TWO EXTRACTS FROM THE 1280/1290 COURT KNOLL DOCUMENT

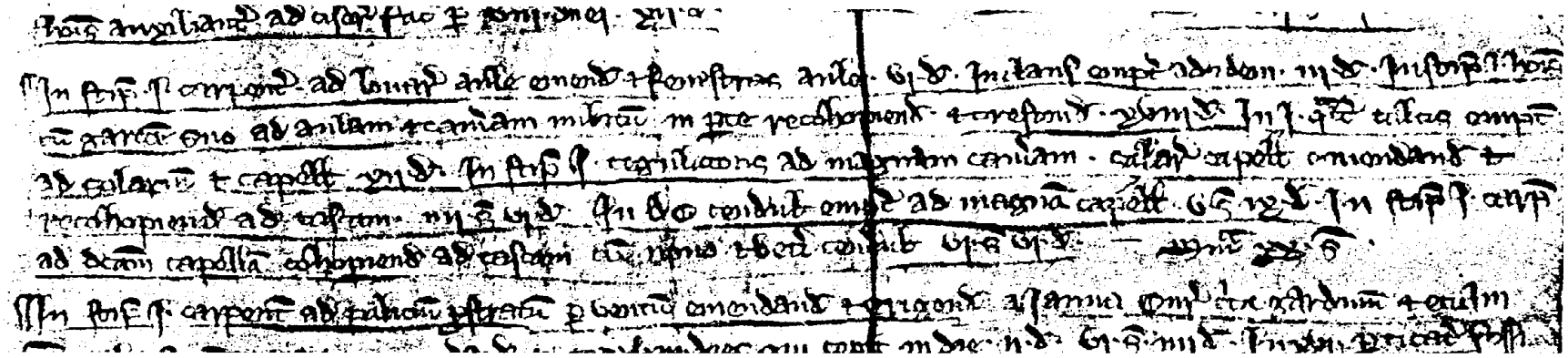
Income Account



4)

6)

Expenditure Account



17)

18)

19)

20)

Note: This document is thought to have been a draft, as the vertical line through it may indicate that the copying of the final accounts had been completed!

Colchester's Redundant Churches and Chapels: some personal notes
By David T-D Clarke, former Curator of Colchester Museums

The 1956 Review of churches in Colchester led to All Saints, St Nicholas, St Giles, Holy Trinity and St Martins becoming redundant. To this was subsequently added St.Mary-at-the-Walls, St Mary Magdalen and St Michaels Berechurch. Though Colchester did not have the number of town churches that York or Norwich had, its number was relatively large for an historic town, and it must be remembered that the intellectual climate in the 1950s was very much a spirit of renewal and the effort to develop alternative uses was not pursued as much as, in retrospect, it might have been.

St Nicholas was an elegant building by Sir George Gilbert Scott. Its lofty spire dominated the eastern end of the High Street and provided a balance to the skyline. I remember going in during the 1950 Conference[1], and experiencing that smell of old hassock that little-used buildings can have. Poulter[2] managed to get some splendid photos as the building was demolished, and Hull[3] did what he could to excavate what appears to have been a very important site, but this was long before the days of state-supported rescue archaeology. There was no systematic recording, though Alderman Leonard Dansie (actually a Methodist) kept a list (in the museum). The Thomas Great monument was moved to All Saints and some bells went elsewhere. The Royal Fine Art Commission approved the dreary new designs for a Co-op store, which just shows how fatuous the Establishment can be. All that was left was a little patch of churchyard. It was a major architectural loss.

All Saints seemed to offer more hope. Dansie wanted to make it into an ecclesiastical museum for the plate and fittings of churches being closed throughout the County, but the security costs would have been formidable and other Councillors suggested a Natural History Museum. The Diocese removed the canopy-work from the North Aisle windows, (apparently without record, for which I was once berated by a visitor). Clifford Owen was appointed[4] and an attendant named Brooks, and with £250 the museum was duly begun. Shrub roses were planted in the churchyard, polecats kept in the ringing chamber, (to some public concern, for they are very pungent) and Clifford travelled round the town in a car inscribed in English French and Arabic since he had had a grant to investigate polecats in Morocco. (He also raised £4,000 in six weeks to buy Fingringhoe Wick as a nature reserve for the Natural History Society.) The advertisement for the original job had not been very well drafted, so when I was appointed as Curator I felt that Clifford could not be one as well. This led to some tension, but when the money began to come through things got better. Dioramas and taxidermy need controlled light, so the windows were blacked out, and the very good mid-19th century north windows (by whom?) and the west window by Kempe have never been seen. I had plans to move them, either to the Crypt or the new chapel on the castle roof. I also tried to find out more about the 19th century architect, but with no luck.

Holy Trinity. This little church in the town centre has been steadily unloved although it is immensely historic, in fact the oldest medieval building in the town. Originally the Diocese intended it for the University church so as to involve it with the town, and gave it a new roof, but the new University would have nothing of the 'opium of the people' and preferred its secular and concrete academic isolation. The Friends of the Museum repainted the memorial to William Gilberd and cleaned the hatchments, but otherwise for nine years the building rotted, and my pleas for the Diocese and the Town to consider its future were unavailing. The colourful east window was totally destroyed without record, and most of the other glass as well. The fittings were wrecked, and I eventually took the church chest into unauthorised protective custody. Redevelopment was proceeding outside; the 1000 year old Culver Street was ruthlessly cut in half and something had to be done. The churchyard was trimmed to fit the new designs. The Borough agreed to make the church a museum of Social History to exhibit the material which had been removed from the Castle Court when it was given a proper floor. The building was repaired and re-glazed. Cecil Hewitt, the County's Historic Buildings specialist, thought the tower floor was mostly original, (i.e. pre-conquest) and Mark Davies did an excavation in the nave, finding amid the dusty graves, an earlier rectangular building. Mr Mirrington, the Assistant Borough Architect took a lot of trouble to do sensitive repairs, but vandals stole the 1633 bell by Miles Graye of Colchester by the simple method of cutting it out and letting it fall, a job which must surely have been done in daylight, though nobody noticed. Jane Legget was appointed[5], and in six weeks devised a display which just missed the Museum of the Year award. (I went to see the winner, and I felt it was nowhere near as good, but it was done by volunteers). The Friends of the Museum repaired the hatchments all over again. We fought off the installation of a cash machine on the grounds that thieves might want access to the works. Mr.Boustred, the Schools Officer, painted the carvings at the top of the columns in the medieval manner. Our farm wagon was repaired and re-assembled inside. The display was inevitably

somewhat disjointed, but all the pictures were from Essex and there was very little display casing. When Tymperleys came along it did seem that a new museum area might develop, but this was not to be, and the initiative has been run down, so its future is again in doubt.

The work around and in **St Giles** by the Archaeological Trust has drawn attention to this site and the adaptation by the Freemasons has offered this building a future, likewise **St Martins** (a common dedication in Roman towns), which was repaired just in time. **St Mary-at-the-Walls** was no great shakes, having been rebuilt in 1872 but the tower was of course damaged in the Siege. Shortly before I came, Brian Blake had dug in advance of the new car park adjoining Balkerne Lane and found stone-edged graves, one of a woman and child, which I never had the opportunity to put on display. It was probably pre-conquest. But St.Mary's was Morant's church[6], and I was too late to discover that the oak chest, quite old enough to be of his time, and the brass altar fittings of 1872 were sold (without faculty) in Colchester. The organ, after a spell with the Institute, went to the Roman Catholic Cathedral at Brentwood. **St Michael Berechurch** fared slightly better. I was able to get coloured photos done of the stained glass before the vandals got there, and the Audley Chapel was taken over by the Churches Conservation Trust, who repaired the Audley monument. The nave however was left, though it was clear that it was not a rebuilding so much as coating the original in nineteenth century brick. I managed to get a photo of the east window of **St Mary Magdalen** and the Archaeological Trust investigated the site, and will no doubt publish it.

Anglican Churches were not of course the only victims. **Lion Walk Congregational (United Reformed) Church** was a handsome mid-19th century building, and though the spire survives, the church and the church hall did not. I do not think they were properly recorded, but I got a few hasty photos. **West Stockwell Street Chapel** was originally built for preaching and had a large central pulpit in polished pine. It was a splendid survival, but went without a photo, though the building survives. The **Methodist Church** had little architectural merit but its main fittings were preserved in the new building outside the castle.

Notes
[1] held to commemorate the 19th centenary of the foundation of Colchester as a Roman colony
[2] Harold William Poulter, Assistant Museum Curator, who lived in a top-floor flat at the Hollytrees. His photographs of the town, particularly those taken at the outbreak of WW11, are an important record
[3] Mark Reginald (Rex) Hull, who as Museum Curator (1926-62) was instrumental in helping the CAG to start up and was the Group's first President
[4] as Curator of Natural History
[5] as Assistant Keeper, specifically to help set up the new museum
[6] The Rev Philip Morant, Rector of St Mary's (1737-70) and respected historian of Colchester (1748) and Essex (1768)

Some Finds of Nineteenth Century Colchester

James Fawn

The find-spots of many of the exhibits in Colchester Museum, especially from discoveries in the nineteenth century or before, are not known precisely. Most museums have this problem, usually because few people at the time realised the importance of recording such information. The emphasis was on the collection of objects, rather than the relationship to their surroundings, an understandable attitude, but one which is not appreciated in modern archaeology. One should not be too critical; at least the objects were collected and not dispersed or cast out.

When preparing an article for *The Colchester Archaeologist* (Fawn J 2000) about George Joslin Jnr., whose private museum held a large collection which was purchased in 1893 to form a significant part of that of the Colchester Museum, I consulted a paper reviewing the 'child`s grave', one of his most important discoveries (Eckardt 1999). It drew attention to a lack of certainty of its find-spot. However, some of the imprecision associated with this and another of his most notable finds appears resoluble, as discussed below. An additional comment on the Museum's 'Colchester Vase' from the same area is included.

Back to Front; 'The Child's Grave'

Modern opinion is that this unusual collection of grotesque fired clay figurines on display in the Museum may belong to the grave of an adult rather than that of a child; however, the present issue is where they were discovered. According to the first accounts Joslin found them (or most of them) during the digging of an ash-pit in his garden in 1866 and apparently was showing the man engaged to do the job how to do it when he unearthed the first of the finds himself. In a later account (Jarmin 1908), published after Joslin`s death in 1898, the excavation was for a 'dustbin', which was not a distinction perhaps, as dust meant ashes in those days. An important Dustbin - according to this account, the find was the one which inspired Joslin to start his own collection, although he had given archaeological material to the Museum previously.

In 'Roman Colchester', Hull (1958, 250), a notable Curator of the Museum and the Group's first chairman and president, notes that, according to a report on the meeting of the Royal Archaeological Institute at Colchester in 1876 (Arch. Journal 1876) the figurines were "found behind his (Joslin`s) house in 1866". Joslin showed the finds to members of the Institute during their visit to his private museum at his house in Beverley Road and apparently did not record any disagreement with the location given in the report.

Also in 1876 the Ordnance Survey published its 1:500 map of Colchester, which shows the locations of some of the find-spots in the town. It does not give that of the figurines, but includes one on the east side of Joslin`s premises, described as "Roman Remains found AD 1866", (Also Hull 1958, Plate XLIII, No 14). The location is under one of the outbuildings belonging to the house. The 'remains' are more likely to have been found during the preparation of its foundations than the digging of an ash-pit, which is one reason for not assuming they were the figurines. 1866 seems to be the year when the house was completed and Joslin moved in (Kelly 1866).

In 1888 the Reverend Edward Cutts published his history of the town, 'Colchester', which contained a map of the town with a red overprint purporting to show the location of various archaeological finds. He based it on a map originally published by Gilbert in 1845 when Joslin`s house, Beverley Road and Creffield Road did not exist and the area was nearly all fields. Cutts` version had been amended to include later streets and buildings to about 1870. As Hull comments (1958, 251), the red overprint is often inaccurate. It places the 'child's grave,' not on Joslin`s premises, but some 100 metres further east. In 1866 the indicated position was in a field owned by C G Round. The land was sold for building in 1878 (ERO 1878) when Joslin appears to have bought two plots bordering the new Creffield Road and had two pairs of houses built in 1880 (ERO 1880). The houses, Nos 32 & 34 and 36 & 38, still stand about 150 metres east of Joslin`s premises and 50 metres east of the Cutts location. Very likely Joslin investigated the archaeology of the plots while he owned them, but twelve years had then elapsed since he had found the figurines. Thus neither the entry on the Cutts` overprint nor Joslin`s plots are in the running for their find-spot.

Cutts evidently did not consult Joslin who could have given him the correct position. The reason for his lack of precision may not be difficult to surmise. In 1865, shortly before relinquishing the secretaryship of The Essex Archaeological Society, he was asked to undertake a history of the Roman town, making agreed use of the collections and knowledge of the Museum, and of local and national collectors and antiquarians. (E. S. 1865). By the time 'Colchester' was published twenty-three years later, he had probably forgotten his brief or chosen to

disregard it by including much medieval and post-medieval material. While the book is certainly not lacking in merit, one severe reviewer wrote that "it neither adds to our existing knowledge nor places in a new light the facts he has found at his disposal" (Quoted in E.S. 1888). Between 1850 and 1859 he was the incumbent at nearby Coggeshall and Kelvedon, but then he moved to Billericay and later to Haverstock Hill in London. From 1865 he lived in Highgate where he probably found that gathering the facts was a well-nigh impossible task, let alone evaluating them.

In 1896 the Ordnance Survey published a revised version of its 1:2500 map which marked the find-spot, "Roman Terra Cotta Figurines found", in the west front garden of the house, without a date being given. Joslin was still living there and he may have been consulted before the record was entered. Hull entered the 1896 location as No 13 on his Plate XLIII in 'Roman Colchester'. He notes the discrepancy between it and Cutts` position (1958, 251; Plate XLIII, No 114), but makes no comment on the apparent switch from the 1876 "behind the house" to the front of the building.

Resolution of the matter requires consideration of the early records of the find by the Reverend Pollexfen, the rector of St. Runwald`s, who lived in Lexden Road, not far from the find-spot. As local correspondent to the Society of Antiquaries he exhibited the figurines to the Society in November 1866, not long after their discovery, but the record does not mention the find-spot (PSAL 1866). He included a fuller account (Pollexfen 1868) of the group in a another report (Smith 1868) and gave the date of the find as July 1866. In describing the location he used the phrase 'which was discovered in the south-east corner of the road (i.e. Beverley Road), immediately behind the house belonging to Mr George Joslin' .

Another brief early report (Gentleman`s Magazine 1866) gives "The Rev. J H Pollexfen states that very recently Mr G Joslin dug up in his grounds at the top of the Beverley Road a sepulchral deposit consisting of terra-cotta statuettes, glass vessels, pottery and coins".

The phrases "in the south-east corner of the road" and "at the top of the Beverley Road" strongly suggest that the Ordnance Survey location was accurate. However, the puzzling phrase 'immediately behind the house' has to be explained.

In about 1862 Beverley Road was constructed leading south off Lexden Road as a cul-de-sac ending in fields, shown on the O.S. 1/500 map of 1876. The fields, part of the Claremont estate, were sold as building plots in 1875 (ERO 1875), but had not been developed at the time of the O.S. survey. Near the southern end of the road, another short cul-de-sac led off to the east (later to become the west end of Creffield Road). Joslin`s house was built in the angle between the two cul-de-sacs, with the fields along its southern border. The frontage with main door, bay windows and garden faced west on to Beverley Road. However, there was no access from the road, for the map shows that the west garden wall had no gateway and that the vehicular track of the road ended before reaching the front of the house, with foot-paths only continuing to the fields. To enter their premises Mr and Mrs Joslin turned the corner into the short cul-de-sac and used either of the two gates in their north wall, one for vehicles and the other for pedestrians. This arrangement obviously gave easy access to the stable, although it did not provide a conventional entrance to the house leading through the garden to the front door. It would seem that Pollexfen used the term "behind the house" rather than having to decide whether the find in the garden was at the front, at the back or at the side.

Beverley Road soon ceased to be a cul-de-sac. The plan of the proposals included in the 1875 Claremont estate sales particulars shows it leading to Cambridge Road and to Errington Road, later part of Queens Road and not the present road of that name. The orientation of Joslin`s house indicates that he foresaw this development, but he does not seem to have made a front gateway on to Beverley Road in his lifetime. When the house was sold out of the family in 1925, the sales particulars (ERO 1925; ECS 1925) listed an 'artistic grotto and summer house' as part of its attractions. These must surely be the 'front garden' features with descending steps, shown on the 1876 O.S. map. In excavating for his sunken grotto Joslin probably uncovered more finds for his museum. At some time following 1925 the features were filled in and a gateway and drive made on to Beverley Road. 'Behind the house' became the front garden of today, where the 1:2500 map shows the find-spot.

Joslin`s 'Field'; the Centurion`s tombstone

More photographs of this fine monument to Marcus Favonius Facilis have been published than of any other exhibit in Colchester Museum. The 1876 !:500 O.S. map published eight years after its discovery by Joslin in August 1868 shows the find-spot on the east side of Beverley Road. However, Cutts (1888) shows it about 65m further east in the grounds of the then Beverley Lodge, now Gurney Benham House, one of the Colchester

Royal Grammar School buildings.

Cutts differed not only with the Ordnance Survey, but with Pollexfen (PSAL 1869; ES 1869) who wrote to the Society of Antiquaries stating that "Mr Joslin had purchased a piece of ground in Beverley Road for the sole purpose of making excavations" and "was rewarded by the discovery of the stone…". From this it is again clear that the entry on the Cutts map is wrong, for Beverley Lodge is in Lexden Road, not Beverley Road, and in 1868 its owner and occupier was not Joslin, but Henry Wolton, six times mayor of Colchester.

In 'Roman Colchester', Hull (1958, 250) remarks, without giving a reference, that "Joslin bought the field south of his house in Beverley Road in order to excavate it, but left no account of his work." However, the field south of the house was part of the Claremont estate, owned by the Errington family until sold for building in 1875, as stated above. As Pollexfen revealed, the 'field' was not a field, but a 'piece of ground'. The latter description fits well the plot marked with the find-spot 'Statue of Roman Centurion found A.D. 1868' on the 1:500 map. This was to the north of Joslin's house and it was shown between two existing houses.

The plot is now occupied by No 17 Beverley Road, a house which was not built until 1890, according to a plaque on its front. Thus, Joslin would have had plenty of time for his excavations, but he must have sold the property before 1890 for his name does not appear on the building application. Pollexfen reported that Joslin was not as successful as was anticipated in finding "the more common funereal deposits." He evidently gave the plot a good going-over.

The Reverend Barton Lodge, the incumbent of St. Mary Magdelene`s, wrote the published full account of the find (Lodge 1873) and he was the first to describe the plot misleadingly as a field. He recorded that the "Roman road between Lexden and Colchester ran ten feet to the north of these remains", i.e. the tombstone. The existence of the road has been confirmed by subsequent investigations, at Beverley Road in 1928 (Hull 1928), at the Grammar School in the 1930s (Hall 1942) and at 26 Lexden Road (Holbert 1967). The south edge runs close to the north of the garden of No 17 Beverley Road, corresponding with Lodge's statement and the location of the find-spot on the 1:500 map.

Thus the O.S. location for the tombstone appears to be the correct one.

Not any Old Pot; the 'Colchester Vase'.

The 'Vase' is another well-known exhibit in the Museum display. It is a fine barbotine decorated vessel (Crummy 1997) with an eventual use as a funerary urn. It contained fragments of burnt bone when found and such fragments may be seen inside the vessel on display. We may trust that they are the original bones, although it would be imprudent to assume that they have not been turned out for examination and replaced since the urn was found. The vessel is of unusual interest, not only for its depictions of gladiators and hunting scenes but also for the graffiti scratched near the outside rim.

Another Victorian benefactor of the Museum found it in his own grounds in the autumn of 1853 (Lodge 1858). Precise details of the find-spot are not known, but some evidence of the circumstances is available. Hull (1958, 250) states that "In 1848 John Taylor began to build his house 'West Lodge' and found himself in the midst of the cemetery" (i.e. the Roman west cemetery). However, the house, which was demolished in the 1960s, was built at least as early as 1832 when it was occupied by the banker, Joshua Pattison (Pigot 1832). He was the tenant to the owner, George Clapham (St. Botolph tithe award 1837), who sold the premises to Taylor in 1848 (ERO D/Del T198).

In 1848 the area of the West Lodge estate was about 4 hectares or 10 acres. As he made clear, in that year Taylor (E.S. 1848; Gentleman`s Magazine 1848; T.E.A.S. 1858) was not building, but laying out gardens and excavating for gravel. In an area of just one acre he came across many finds from the cemetery. They included "cinerary urns and other Roman sepulchral vessels upwards of 150 in number" (E.S. 1849,) many of which were to make an important addition to the beginning of the Museum`s collection. They did not include the 'Colchester Vase' which was yet to be discovered.

The property extended along the south side of Lexden Road from about half-way between the future Beverley and West Lodge Roads to Mr Bunting`s nursery at St. Mary`s Lodge opposite the junction with Sussex Road. The gardens, which appear to have occupied the eastern part around the house, are described in an account of the Colchester and East Essex Horticultural Society show held there in 1852 (E.S. 1852). Not all the archaeo-

logical material discovered during their preparation went to the Museum; some of the finds were used to provide garden features, remains of which may well provide a puzzle for future investigating archaeologists.

The western part was described as a 'farmlet', probably a paddock. In May 1853 an announcement appeared in the 'Essex Standard; and County Advertiser', proprietor and editor John Taylor, that twenty lots of valuable freehold building ground, between West Lodge and St. Mary's Lodge, abutting on the south side of the Lexden Road, and amounting to nearly five acres, were for sale by auction on May 24 (E.S. 1853a). Taylor was disposing of the western part of his property, the farmlet. The area was to be intersected by a new road flanked by footpaths.

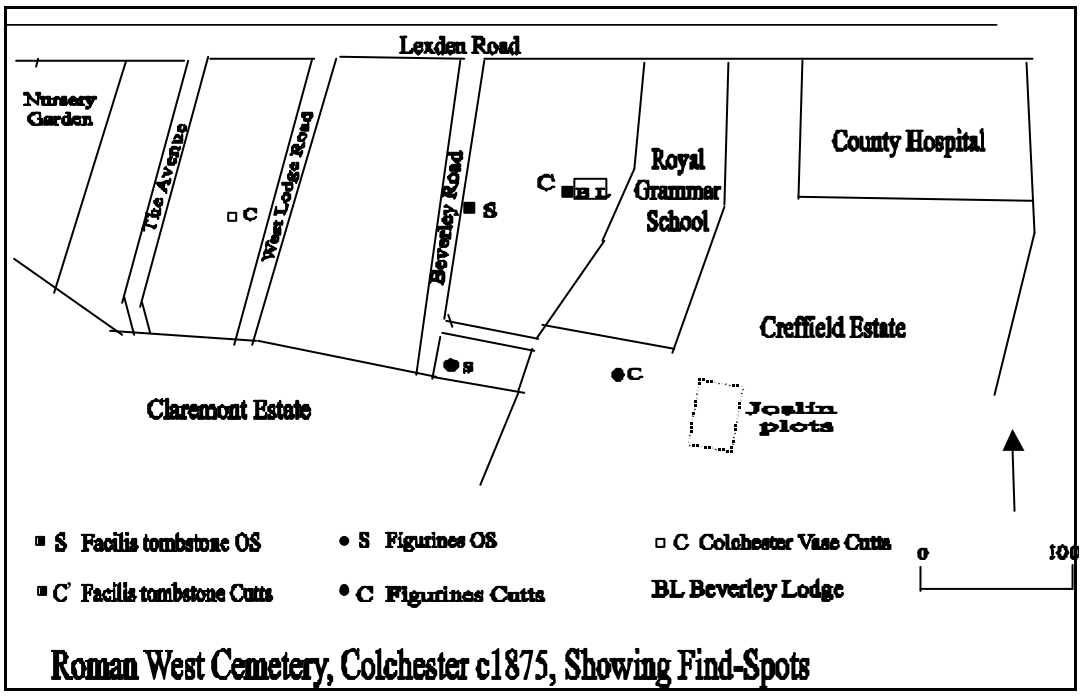
Later in the year a note describing the finding of a very fine funerary urn on the property appeared in the newspaper, obviously written by the editor (E.S.1853b). A letter from Roach Smith commenting on the urn and accompanying vessels appeared on the same page (Also Gentleman's Magazine 1854). Neither piece gave the precise find-spot, but Taylor did indicate the following circumstances.

He stated that "From other urns (i.e. besides the 'Vase'), a considerable number of which have been found within the last month (i.e. October-November 1853), while forming the new road for the intended villa residences, glass bottles, lamps and articles of the Roman toilet have been taken, ...". Particulars published for the sale in the previous May (ERO 1853) included a plan of the lots and the future new road; it shows that the latter was the one initially called West Terrace Road, renamed The Avenue in the 1880s.

Another newspaper reported on the AGM of the Essex Archaeological Society on 29 August 1854. (Essex Gazette 1854). The Reverend Barton Lodge, making reference to archaeological finds in Colchester, had commented particularly on the urn "which was dug up last autumn" and which remained in the possession of Mr John Taylor.

The newspapers therefore provided an approximate find-spot and date. The Cutts over-print placed the find to the east of the Avenue and west of the future West Lodge Road, and this time the location may well be as near as possible right. Taylor himself may not have known the exact spot, since the discovery was probably made by the road makers. They may not have found the urn on the site of the road-bed itself. In a meeting of the Colchester Town and Channel Commissioners (E.S. 1853c), Taylor reported that "In making a road through his ground on the Lexden Road, he had at his disposal a quantity of gravel siftings, some of which had been applied to their surveyor for repairing the foot-path in Crouch St." When a garden plot was being prepared between The Avenue and West Lodge Road in 1993, a large pit, dug deep into the subsoil and back-filled with dark loam, was discovered, perhaps evidence of Taylor`s gravel extraction, 140 years before.

This map shows the location of the various find-spots mentioned in the text.



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Up-date From The Medieval Site At Preston St. Mary, Suffolk

Vic Scott

Further to my article in Bulletin No.40, during the year 2000, the trenches opened up in 1999 were taken down to natural soil level, including the sectioned rubbish pit in which the 14th century hunting arrow head was discovered.

More of the 13th-14th century broken pottery was found together with the usual oyster shells and bones etc.

But the biggest surprise came almost at the bottom of the rubbish pit, at about 4' 6" down. When trowelling away the sticky clay (we had just about reached the water table) my trowel struck a metal object. I thought this might be another arrow or even a spear head, but to my surprise, as the clay came away, bronze began to appear. The final washing of the find exposed the solid bronze leg from a statuette as seen in my drawing.

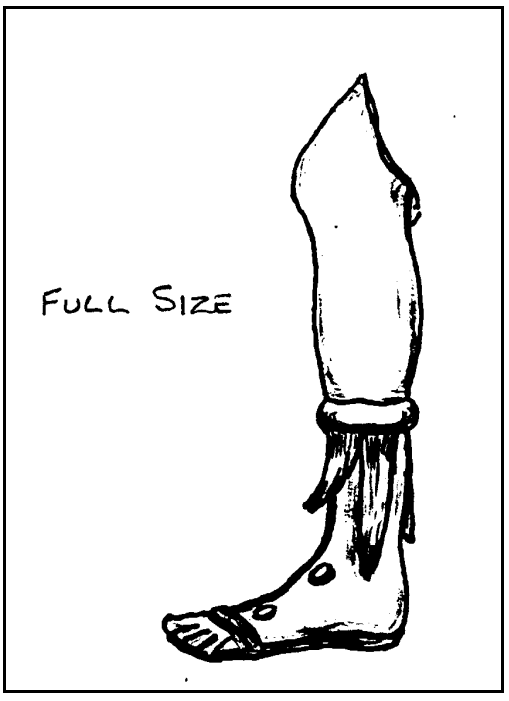
We felt this must be from a Roman figure, particularly as it had a open toe boot on its foot, and the leg had broken off at the point where the hem of a Roman style kilt would have come, but what was it doing in a 14th century rubbish pit?

After cleaning it was taken to the Suffolk Archaeological Unit for recording and identifying, where it caused some excitement. Jude Plouviez agreed with our identification of the leg, but said she would like a second opinion, so eventually the leg was taken to Martin Henig.

We understand that it was indeed a leg from a Roman statuette, probably a household God or Lars, and if complete, would have been one of the largest of its type found in this country. It was thought to have been made in this country because of the high lead content in the bronze. It was also of high quality workmanship.

In 2001 we opened up a further trench and enlarged the area round the pit. I am now excavating the remaining third of the pit, in the faint hope of finding more of the statuette.

As mentioned in my previous article, there is a Roman site only 500 metres away from the present excavation, and we imagine the leg came from there in the 14th century and was thrown into the pit with the rubbish.



Short notes

Richard Shackle

Bronze rings and miniature bronze axe head

These artefacts were shown to me by Norman Bone in October 2001. They had been found together recently, somewhere in the Tendring peninsula. They are thought to be of Viking date and to have come from a burial. The bronze axe head (Fig 1) is 3.25 cm long. It has a hole through it which represents the shaft hole, but it could be used to suspend the axe from a necklace or bracelet. Miniature versions of tools are thought to be either religious objects or toys. Ten bronze rings were found with the axe head (Fig 2). The thickest part of each ring has been twisted to create a decorative effect. The sample ring I measured was 2.4 cm in diameter and 3 cm in height.

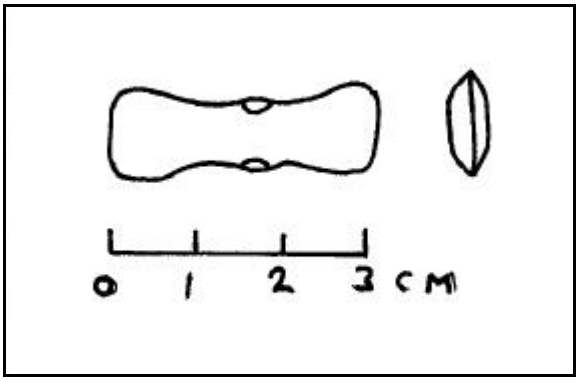


Fig 1 Minature bronze axe head from Tendring peninsula.

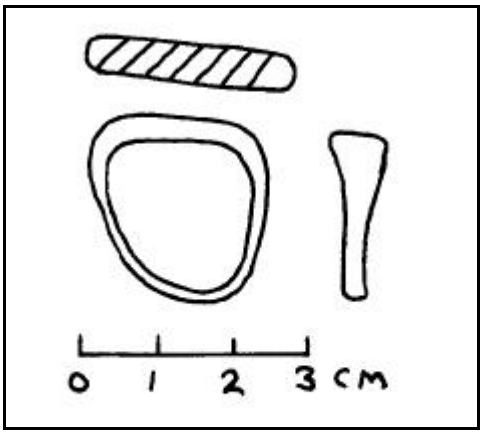


Fig 2 Viking bronze ring from Tendring peninsula.

Roman sword pommel

In July 2001 Norman Bone found a Roman bronze sword pommel in Colchester (Fig 3). It is 50 mm long, 14 mm high and about 20 mm wide. It has a series of ridges on its top and is hollow underneath. The ridges are carefully designed projections and recesses to give a decorative effect and could have been done on a lathe. On the underside of the pommel can be seen two bronze studs to attach the pommel to the rest of the sword. The ends of the pommel have rectangular recesses for attachment to the sword. This pommel probably comes from an official Roman military sword.

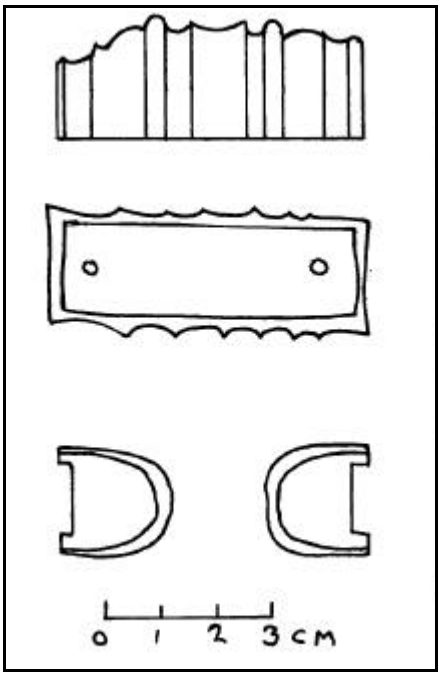


Fig 3 Roman bronze sword pommel from Colchester.

Roman intaglio of Hercules and the lion

In December 2001 Nigel Richards showed me a small intaglio, 25 x 17 mm and very thin, which he had found in Colchester. It was made from a dark brown material, probably glass. The intaglio is carved with the figure of a man being attacked by a lion. The carving is too small and intricate to be drawn by me but the carving is exceptionally well executed and must have been done by a very skilled artist. Round the outside of the figures is an inscription in minute letters. The letters are so small that a magnifying glass is needed to read them. The inscription is as follows: V. U : X . V E B. This may well be a reference to a classical text. The only classical story I could find with a man being attacked by a lion was the first labour of Hercules, where he kills the Lion of Nemea. This intaglio is probably Roman but it is possible that it is a Victorian copy as it was found in garden soil.

A timber framed building at 9 North Hill, Colchester

Richard Shackle

In 2001 there was a small fire at Monty's restaurant, 9 North Hill, Colchester. The fire severely damaged the kitchen in the modern rear wing and caused slight damage to the rear wall and roof of the front range. When the front range was being renovated, the original timber frames were revealed. The owner Mr Pip Deuce, kindly allowed me to record and publish the exposed timber frames.

The front range consists of two structures side by side (fig 1). To the south is part of a medieval building of about 1450 A.D. To the north is a larger 17th century structure. The earlier building was part of a larger building that once extended to the south. All that survives is the end and rear walls. The end wall was originally constructed as an open truss, comprising a tie beam, two posts, two braces, a crown post, a collar and two rafters (fig 2). It would have been built as an open truss because it was built against another building and could thus borrow its wall. The crown post above the tie beam (fig 3) is completely plain with no mouldings. It has a mortice for a brace to join the crown post to the collar purlin, now missing. Notice how the tenon on top of the crown post cut back, at either end, to allow the easier fitting of the crown purlin. The rear wall (fig 4) consists of a post, top and bottom plates, some studs and diamond mullion window. The top plate has three indentations on its upper face, probably marking rafter positions. The diamond mullion window is original but one of the window bars is a replacement, held in by nails. It is the smaller bar in fig 4. The top plate has on its inner face a rebate for a shutter to the mullion window. The front wall of this building was lost when the building was extended towards North Hill, perhaps in the 18th century. The interior surfaces of this building are heavily sooted, suggesting that this building was originally either a small open hall, or perhaps more likely, an attached kitchen.

About 1600, the building had the end wall framed-in (fig 2). A sill was placed across the open truss. A post inserted between the centre of the sill and the under side of the tie beam. Two mid plates were then tenoned into the sides of the post. The whole truss was then filled with studs, both above and below the tie beam. You can see in fig 2 that two of these studs are pegged into one of the tie beam braces. Once this new framing was in place, an inserted floor was built inside the building (fig 5). This illustration is a down through view of the inserted floor. Only original joists are shown not later replacements. It can be seen that the joists nearest North Hill do not reach the wall. This is because this part of the building was widened to match the 17th century section. These joists would have originally have been supported on a clamp pegged to the front wall. Part of the clamp supporting the rear joists can still be seen. A cross section of this clamp can be seen in fig 6. There may have been a staircase in the gap next to the narrow joist. The main bridging joist is about 8 inches square and has almost square common joists (4.5 x 5.5 inches) jointed into it (fig 7). These common joists are chamfered with chamfer stops about five inches from each end. At some stage, perhaps in the late 17th century, part of the rear wall was cut away and a brick chimney constructed. The bricks in this chimney are 4x8.5x2 inches in size.

The 17th century part of the building has a butt purlin roof of three bays (figs 8 & 9). Figure 8 shows this roof looking towards North Hill. It is clear that the middle bay was always unframed. This could be for either a chimney or for a bay window. I think a bay window is much more likely. This bay window would have lit the upper floor. An attic floor was later inserted, which was supported by the large central tie beam seen in section in fig 8. In fig 8 I have numbered the trusses (T1- T4). Figure 9 shows T2 in cross section. You can see that there are two collars, but only a but purlin at the rear, as the there was a dormer or chimney at the front. The front top plate does not have any peg holes on its soffit (underside), suggesting that the 17th century building

had a brick front.

This 17th century building could have replaced a medieval part of the building to the north or it could be part of a totally separate building. The whole building has been altered and re-fronted in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The medieval soot blackened room appears to be part of a relatively low status building, whereas the 18/19th century building we see now appears to be middle or high status. Maybe North Hill has gone up in status over the centuries.

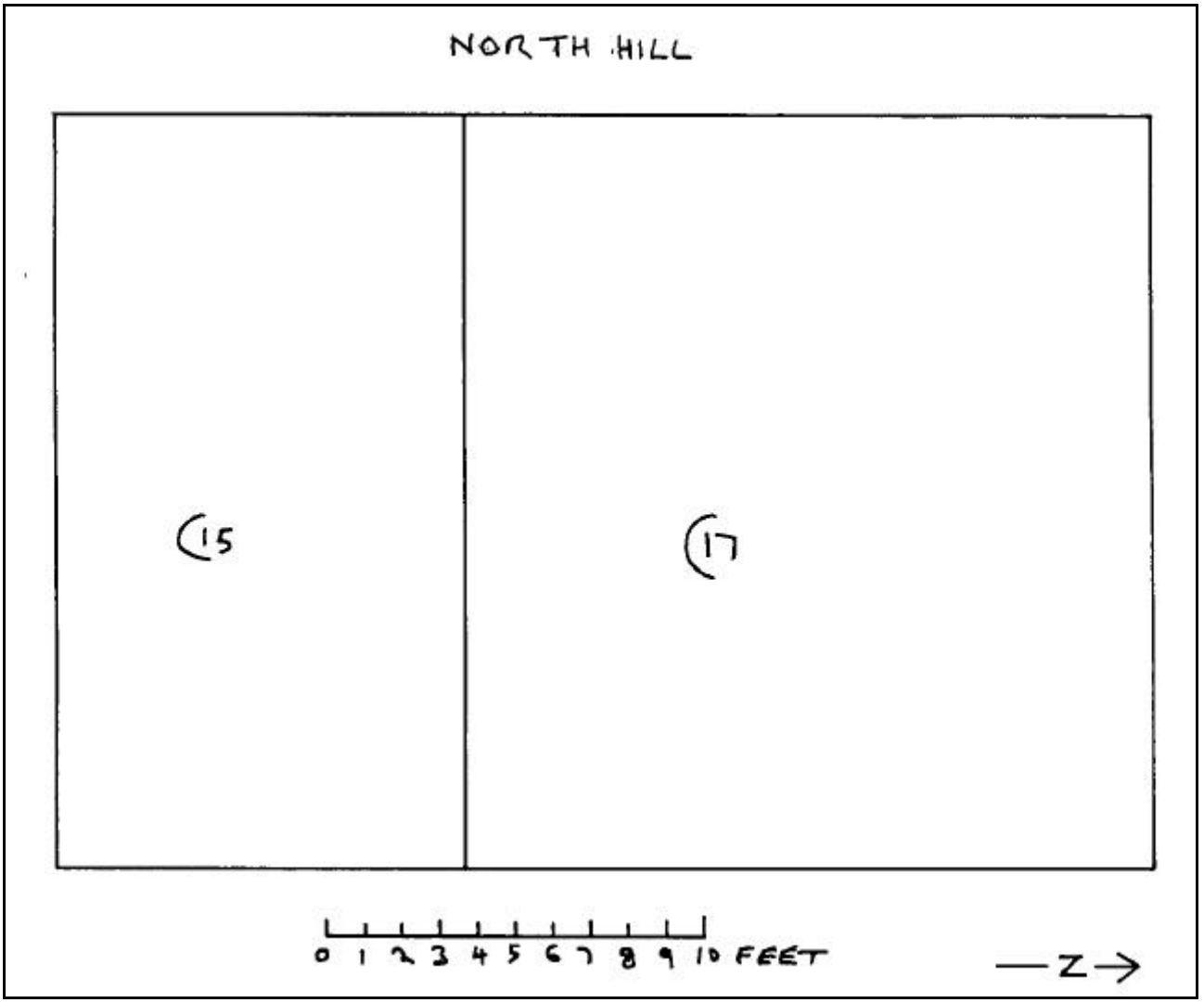


Fig 1

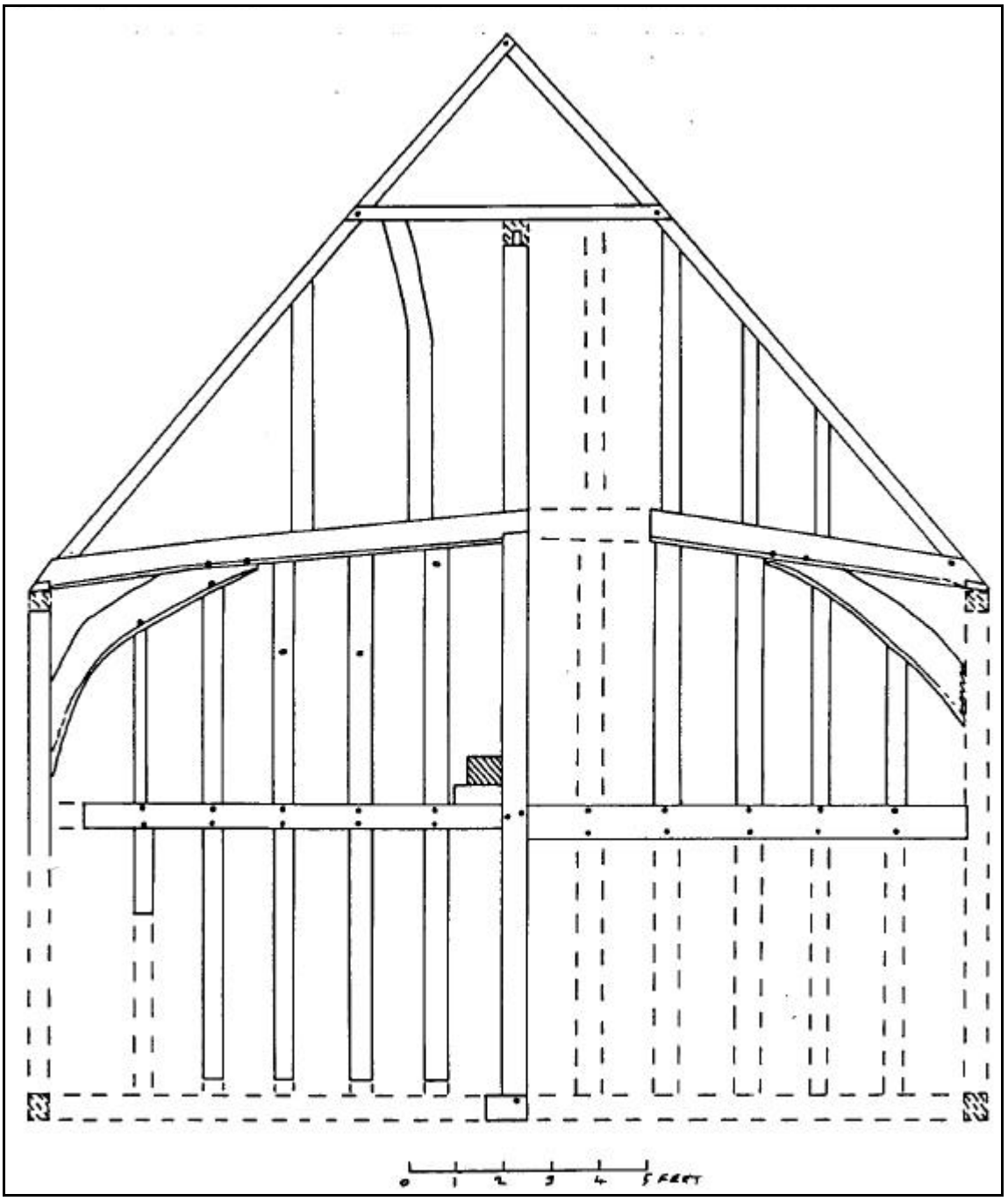


Fig 2

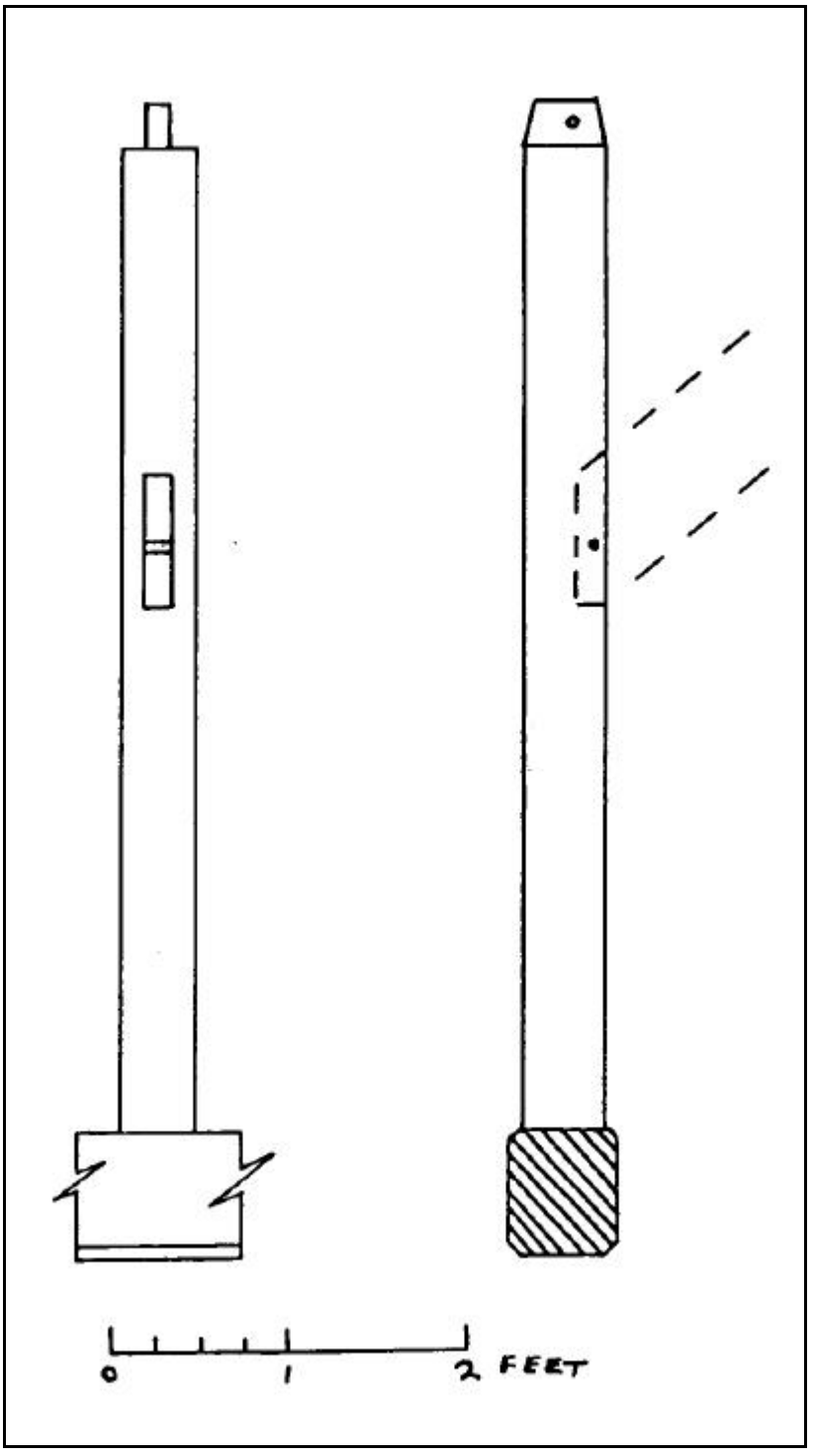


Fig 3

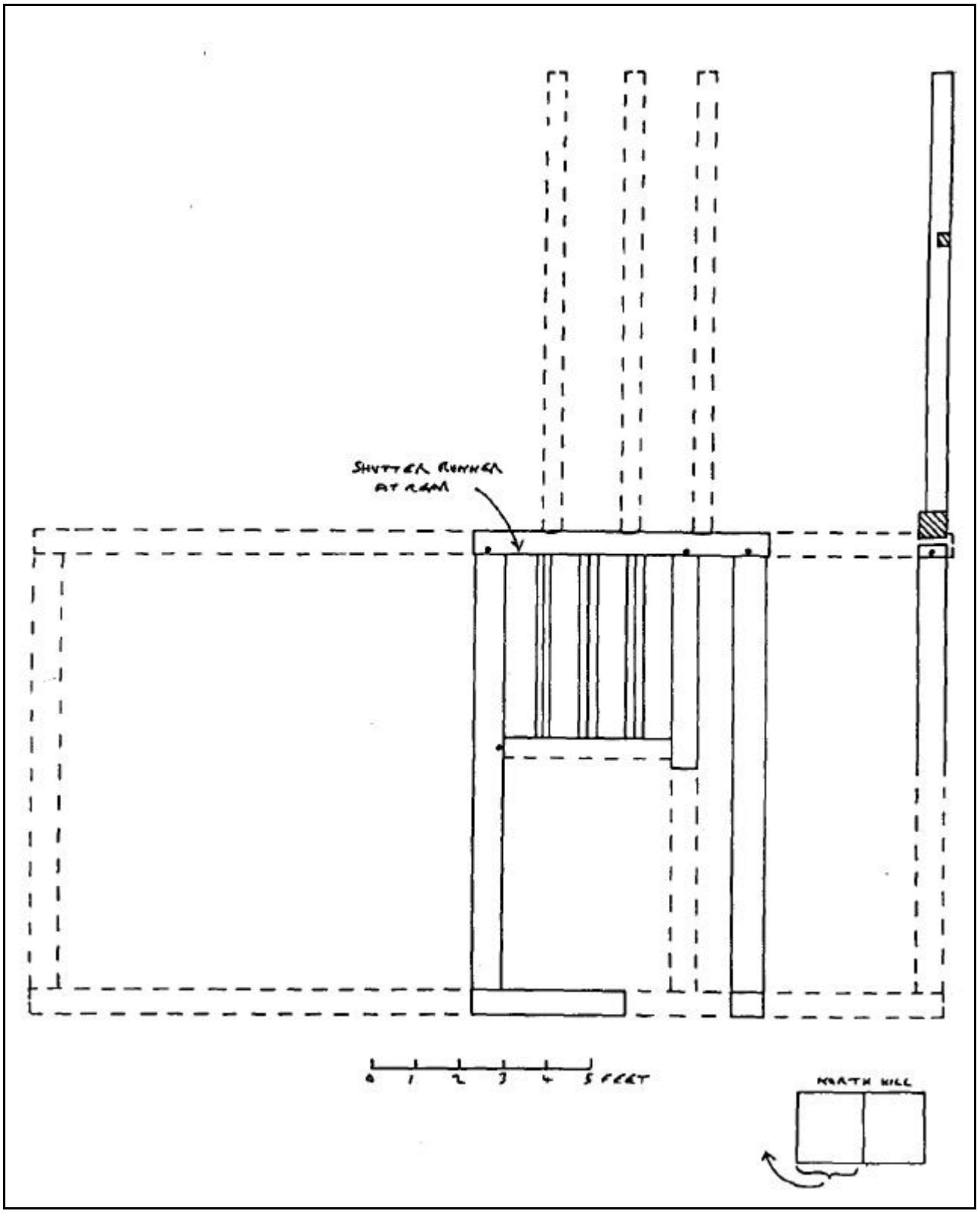


Fig 4

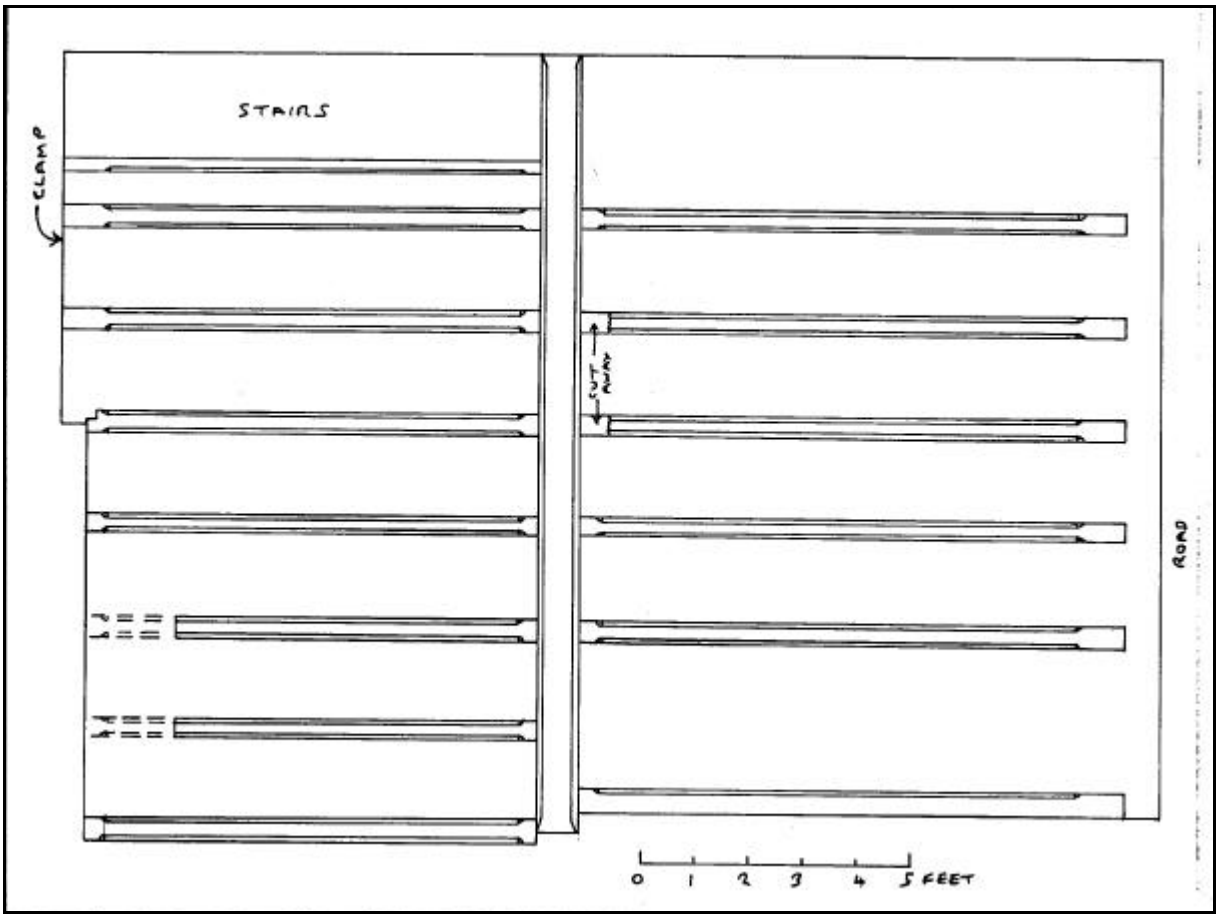
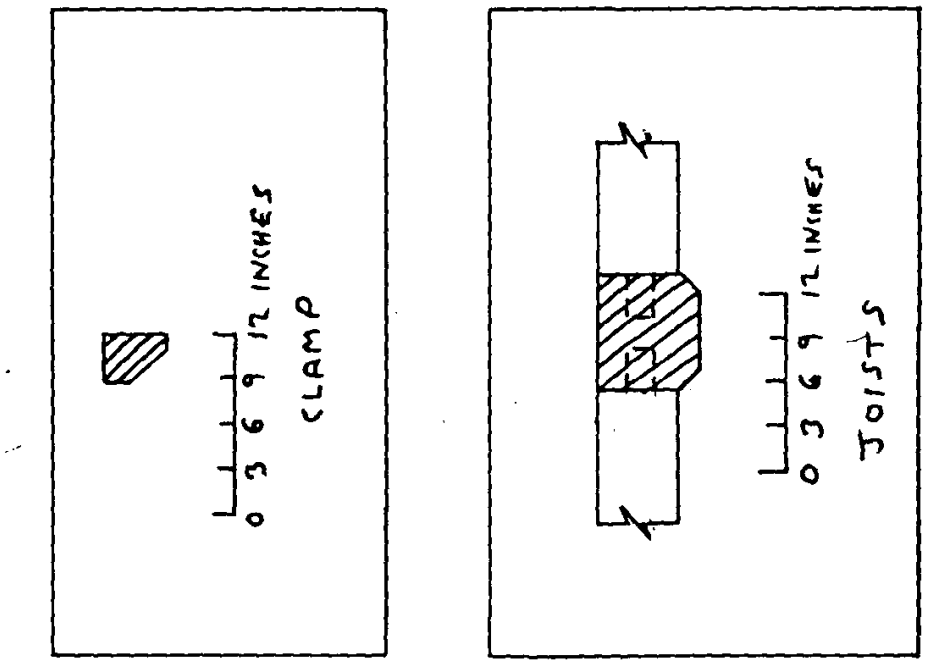

STAIRS
CLAMP
CUT AWAY
ROAD
0 1 2 3 4 5 FEET

Fig 5


0 3 6 9 12 INCHES
CLAMP
0 3 6 9 12 INCHES
JOISTS

Figs 6 & 7

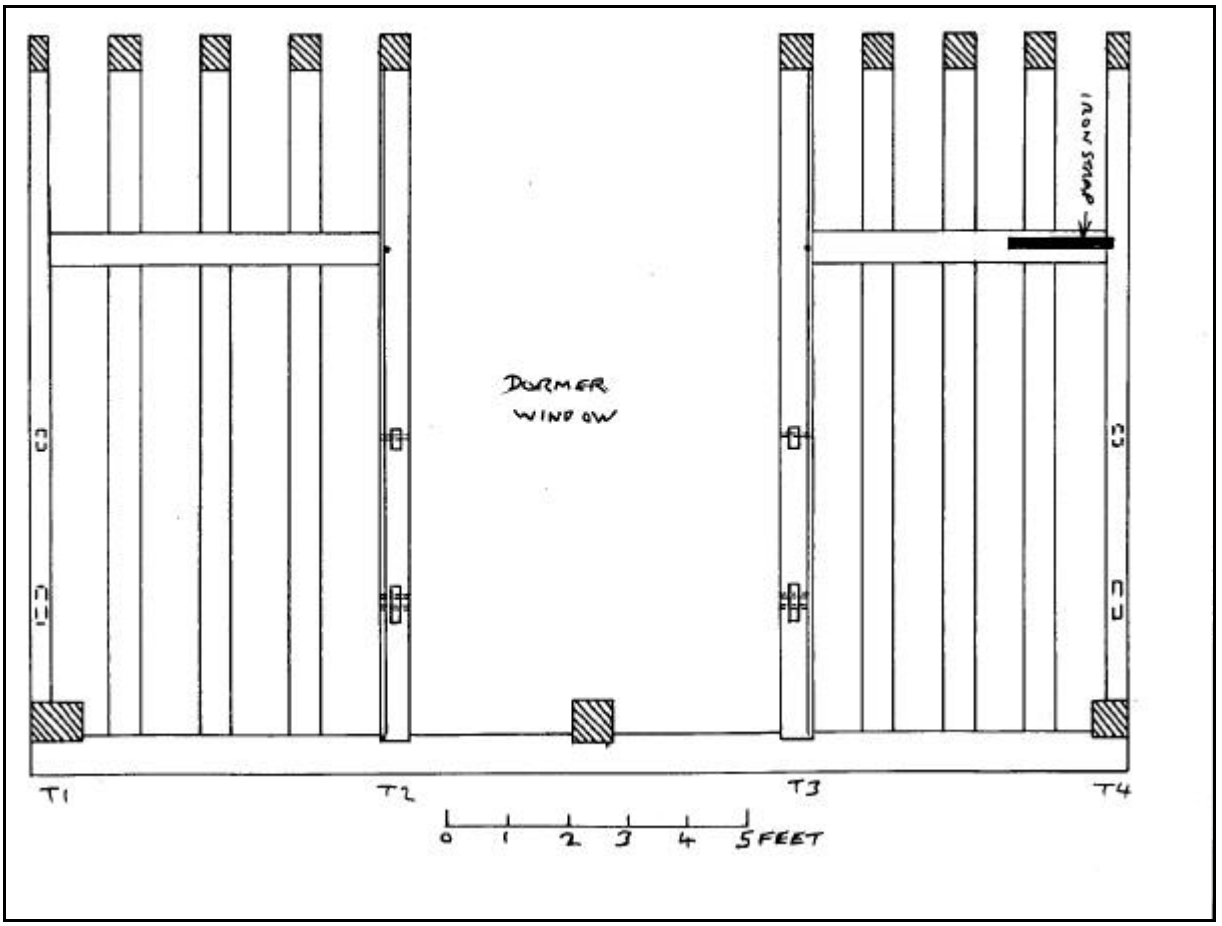

IRON STRAP
DORMER
WINDOW
T1
T2
T3
T4
0 1 2 3 4 5 FEET

Fig 8

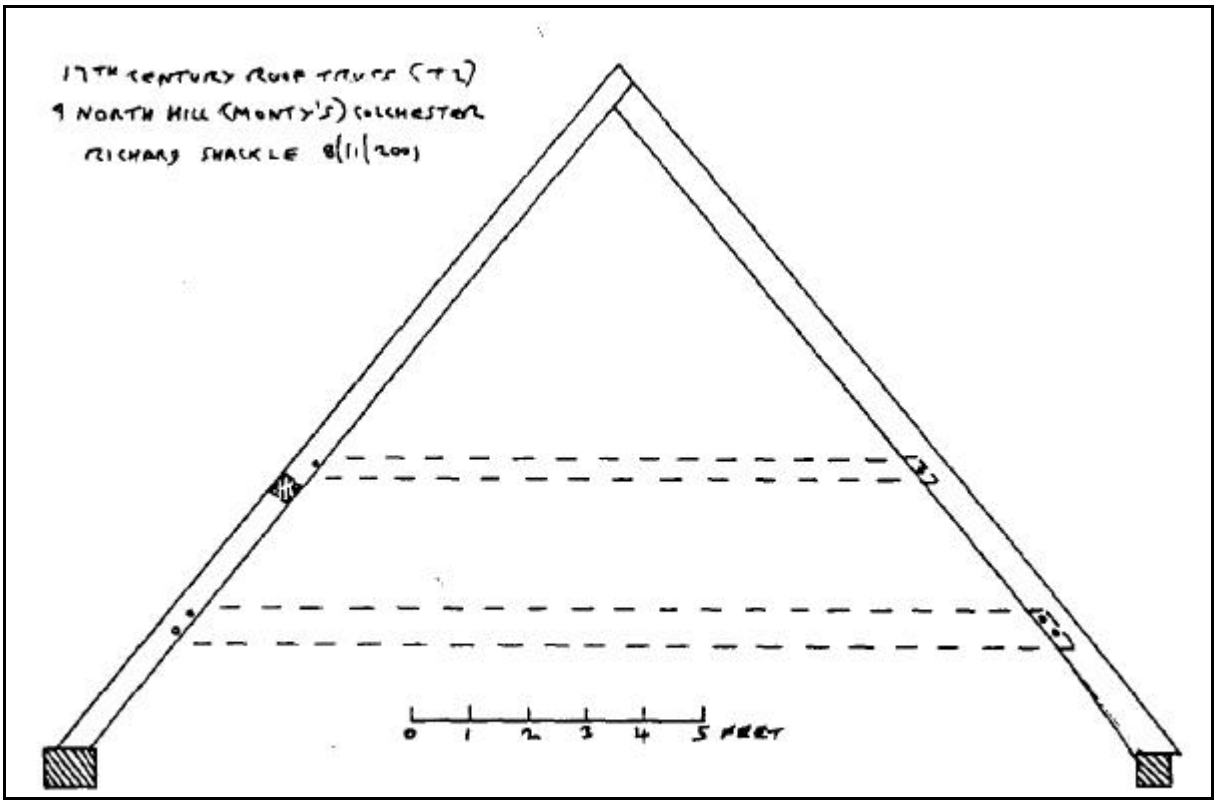

17TH CENTURY ROOF TRUSS (T2)
9 NORTH HILL (MONTY'S) COLCHESTER
RICHARD SHACKLE 8/11/2001
0 1 2 3 4 5 FEET

Fig 9

An Interim Report on the Castle Graffiti project

Anna Moore

In the autumn of 2001, members of the group embarked on a project to record the graffiti in Colchester Castle. The survey was to be carried out on behalf of the Museum Service and was to be as comprehensive as possible, to include any marks that appeared to have been deliberately scratched or written on the inside walls of the building. A training session was arranged for interested members and Peter Berridge, General Manager of Colchester Museums, led the group on a tour of the building, pointing out some of the graffiti that had already been discovered and recorded. Peter said that he would be particularly pleased if we could discover marks made by some of the famous visitors to Colchester, for instance, Daniel Defoe or William Stukely. It seems that in previous centuries, writing on the walls of ancient monuments was not necessarily considered to be vandalism.

A preliminary survey was carried out to identify which walls needed to be looked at more closely, and Fay Cope of the Museum Service then took digital photographs of those walls (see Fig. 1). Don Goodman drew up a form on which to record all the information needed for each piece of graffiti (see Fig. 2). It was originally planned to use a separate form for each mark, but this has proved to be impractical as many of the marks overlay each other. However it is done wherever possible.

The information recorded about each piece of graffiti includes the size of the item, whether it is incised, engraved or drawn, and whether it is interesting enough to warrant further recording, for instance, with a professional drawing or photograph. Using lines drawn on the photographs as base lines, the location of each item is precisely measured and recorded, in order to make it easy to find it in the future if necessary. There is room on the form for a description and a rough sketch of the marks.

The survey has so far proved to be extremely interesting and has uncovered many items previously unknown or forgotten. Some of them have been skilfully engraved, making them minor works of art rather than pieces of graffiti. Some are obviously the initials of people who have worked in the building over the centuries, for instance, on the alterations and restorations of the 18th century and later. However, as you would expect, most of the items are marks made in idle moments and appear not to mean anything in particular, apart from A loves B!

To date items from 40 photographs have been recorded, with an approximate total of 122 recording forms having been completed.

We hope that once the survey is complete, it might form the basis of a research project, perhaps to try to identify the owners of some of the names and initials and to date them, or to try to identify the many coats-of-arms that have been carved on the walls. An area of particular interest is proving to be the prison cells, where many enigmatic marks have been left behind by the prisoners and/or their guards, including the sailing ship carved on a wooden cell door and shown on page 36.

The members of the group involved in the project to date are Rosemary York-Moore, Hilary Cairns, Rebecca Gorringe, David and Dorothy Townend, Mary Coe, Janet Harrison, Jean Roberts, Noreen Proudman, Iris Marshall, Helen Ingram, June and John Wallace, Freda Nicholls, Don Goodman and Anna Moore.

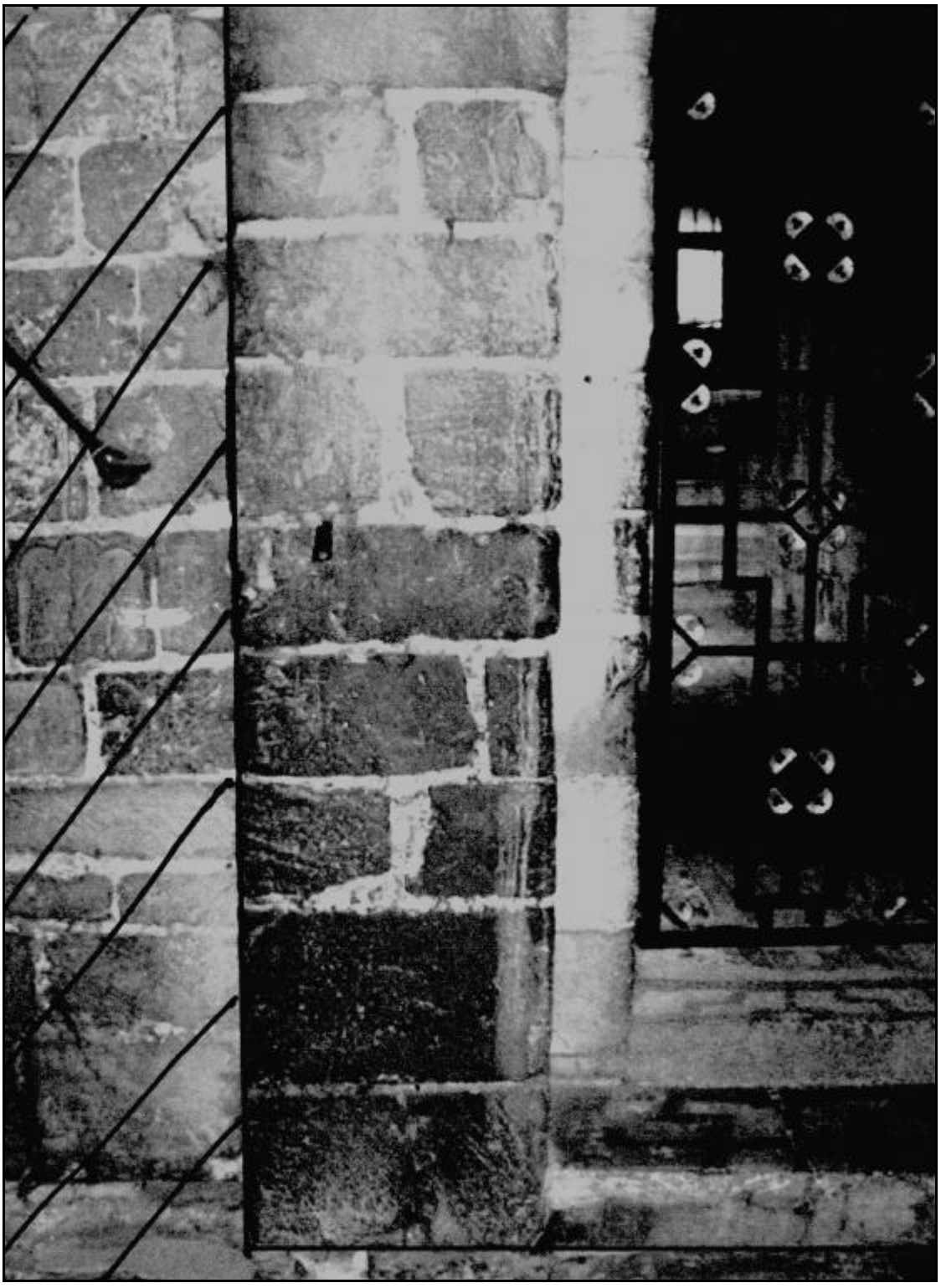
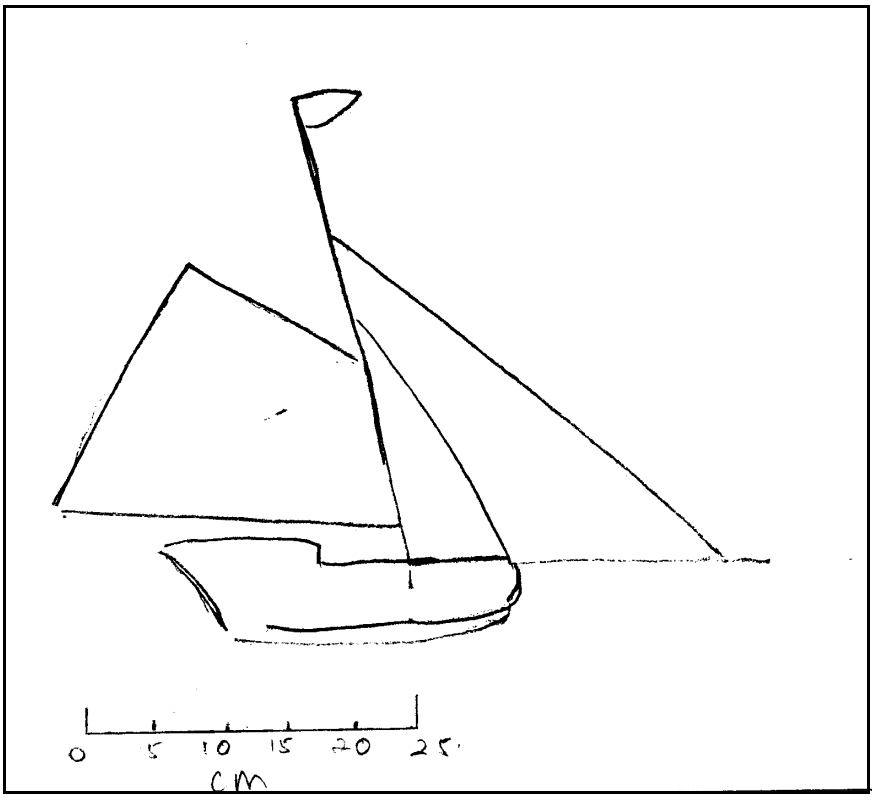


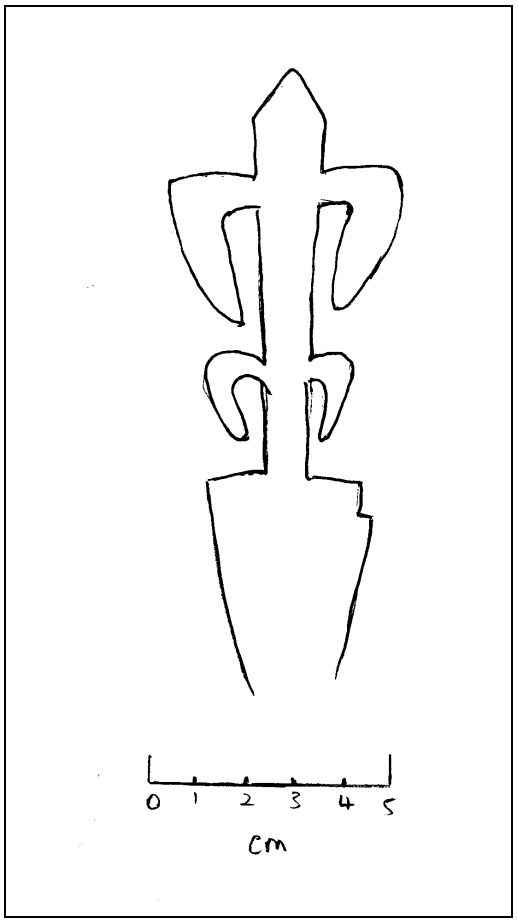
Fig 1

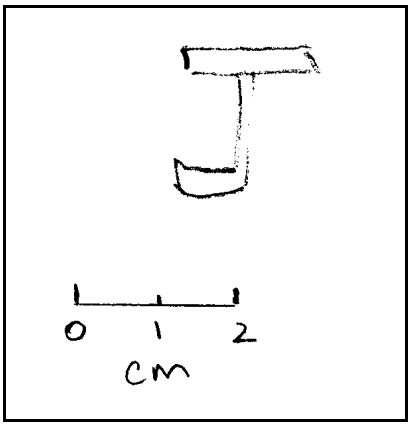
GRAFFITI RECORDING COLCHESTER CASTLE

REF NO TAKEN FROM PHOTO	DATE / / 200	SIZE OF ITEM . (TO EXTREME EDGES IN MM PLEASE)	
POSITION IN METRIC FROM LEFT VERTICAL LINE ON PHOTO TO LEFT EDGE OF GRAFITTI ITEM M CM MM POSITION IN METRIC FROM BASE LINE ON PHOTO TO BOTTOM EDGE OF GRAFITTI ITEM M. CM. MM.		LEFT TO RIGHT MM	BOTTOM TO TOP MM
		TYPE OF ITEM PLEASE TICK BOX	
		INCISED	
		I.E. SCRATCHED.	
		ENGRAVED	
		I.E. WITH SPECIAL TOOLS.	
		DRAWN	
		I.E. PENCIL, PEN , FELT TIP , ETC.	
		DOES THE ITEM NEED SPECIAL LIGHTING TO ENABLE VIEWING I.E. (OBLIQUE) OR (DIRECT) PLEASE TICK.	
DESCRIPTION OF ITEM AND OR ANY OTHER COMMENTS		SKETCH OF ITEM. (NEED NOT BE TO SCALE)	
DOES THIS ITEM NEED OR WARRANT FURTHER RECORDING I.E. PROFESSIONAL DRAWING PHOTOGRAPHING ETC.		YES	NO

Fig 2







Examples of graffiti found on the walls of the Castle

Report on National Archaeology Day 2002

On Saturday 20th July 2002, one of the few fine days of the summer, members of the group and local people enjoyed a splendid day out at Nayland. At 10am, we gathered in Nayland Village Hall to hear our Chairman, Mark Davies, introduce the main speaker, Leigh Alston. Leigh is passionate about Nayland, which he considers a better example of a small medieval town than even Lavenham, and he gave us a very comprehensive and well-illustrated talk on the timber-framed buildings still very much in evidence in its streets.

Most of us then went off to Wissington (or is it Wiston?), where we were given a guided tour of the beautiful and isolated St Mary's church by Rosemary Knox, who has written a book on the village. The main points of interest in the church are the extensive wall paintings in the nave, dating from the 13th century, including a reasonably well preserved one of St Francis preaching to the birds. We were then treated to a loud and lively rendition of several hymns on the barrel organ (dating from the 1840s and a rare survival in a church), courtesy of Chris Hunt, who turned the barrels, and Ann Polley, who operated the pump.

Back at Nayland for lunch, the day was warm enough for us to take our picnics into the grounds of the Village Hall. In the Hall itself, many organisations had contributed to the displays of local interest, including finds from the field-walking exercises in the Stour Valley. The afternoon was taken up by a guided walk around Nayland, led by Leigh Alston, starting at Court Knoll, the large flat moated area which is presumed to be the site of a motte-and-bailey. Leigh then showed us several of the buildings he had talked about in the morning, explaining what we could see from the outsides, and perhaps just as importantly, what we could **not** see because of later additions, plastered walls, new windows etc. For most of us, the highlight of the afternoon was being able to go into and explore Alston Court, which stands at the centre of the village, and which Leigh has described as 'one of the most important medieval town houses in Britain'. The oldest existing part of the house dates from about 1300 and the present hall and parlour wing from the early 15th century. These older parts of the buildings plus later additions enclose a brick-floored courtyard, which contains some beautiful carved woodwork and a magnificent oriel window. The owner of the house was extremely kind in allowing a large crowd of strangers to wander about at will.

A very enjoyable day came to an end with tea in the Village Hall and the raffle of an 'archaeological cake', kindly donated by Kath Hunt.

The event was planned and organised mainly by Chris Hunt, with help from many members of the group.

Nayland Photograph: Chris Hunt

Winter Lectures 2001-2002

How to recognize worked stone tools.
Hazel Martindale, Lithic Analyst
15th October 2001
Notes by John Wallace

As a reference, Hazel Martindale showed a list of British Prehistoric Periods with dates as follows:

Lower Palaeolithic	500,000 - 200,000 BP
Middle Palaeolithic	200,000 - 40,000 BP
Early Upper Palaeolithic	40,000 - 20,000 BP
Maximum Glaciation	18,000 BP
Late Upper Palaeolithic	20,000 - 13,000 BP
Late Glacial	13,000 - 10,000 BP
Post Glacial	
Mesolithic	9,000 - 4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000 - 2,000 BC
Bronze Age	2,000 - 800 BC
Iron Age	800 - 50 BC
Late pre?Roman Iron Age	40 - 43 BC

Stone tools are recognizable all over the world, even when made from materials other than flint. A series of slides demonstrated a number of worked flint tools, including:

Bronze Age daggers 5"-6" in length
Barbed and tanged Bronze Age arrowheads
Scandinavian Bronze Age side dagger
French tools, very large, of a yellow coloured material
A range of tools used by Mesolithic hunters showing maces, antlers and flake blades

Slides then showed a demonstration of how a blade is struck off a core, giving a strong sharp edge, which could be re-touched if necessary.

Further slides showed the difference between a natural and man-made flint tool, demonstrating the essential diagnostic feature - the bulb of percussion. Hazel explained how to tell a genuine worked flint from one which had been randomly damaged, say by a plough. She also showed how to identify a part flake and pointed out how important it was to be able to "read the flake", a skill which came with experience in handling flint tools.

She went on to show the basic tool types:

Core tools: hand axes
Flake tools: blade core; burin; borer; microlith

When brown, the colour is caused by staining in peat or in clay containing iron salts. The white colour (patination) is due to the absorption of chalk. A triangular "Levallois" tool is produced by careful pre-planning of the of the core and method of striking. A collection of waste flakes was shown and some Essex flints including scrapers, burins (gravers for bone) and re-touched pieces. A burin can be identified by its "shoulder" and very sharp point. An axe was shown which had been re-struck and modified to make a blade core. One axe of Jadeite polished stone was about 12" long and was believed to have come from Switzerland. A Neolithic axe showed re-touched edges. Another curved tool about 10" long which showed re-touching was probably mounted on a wooden haft and used as a sickle. Some axe heads or maces had a hole drilled in them to take a haft or handle.

The most diverse types of flint tools are found in river valleys, e.g. the various Mesolithic blades from the Stort Valley at Harlow.

A number of types of microliths of various shapes were shown, some of which were used for fishing; some 4"

long blades, originally from Holland, were earlier than microliths and had longer points.

Sharp struck flints were used up to the beginning of the last century, for example for cutting binder twine. A so-called "strike-a-light" flint was made at Brandon and a fabricator, probably the equivalent, was made in the Bronze Age. Knapped flint was used for flushwork on churches and houses, and there was once a thriving gun-flint industry.

Day-to-day flint tools such as scrapers and blades were probably made by most people, with items such as axes, arrowheads, ritual spears or daggers being made by highly skilled specialist craftsmen.

Members had the opportunity of handling the flints Hazel had brought with her and also were able to discuss the flints which some of them had brought.

Historic Field Systems of East Anglia Project: the Essex Perspective
Dr Max Satchell, Project Officer
22nd October 2001
Notes by John Mallinson

The HFSEA project is a 2 year landscape research project covering the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and parts of Hertfordshire and Cambridge. The objective of the study is an understanding of the dates of formation of the different field system types in the region, and of the social and historic processes that led to their final form. The result of the work will be to define the nature and distribution of East Anglian landscape types, which in turn will facilitate planning strategies and management.

Earlier work under the Rural Settlement Mapping Programme, and independent work by Dr Oliver Rackham, had been in broad agreement in dividing the province into two sub-provinces. That to the south and east, and encompassing almost all of Essex, was identified as of ancient, small field systems that are particularly prone to destruction under modern farming methods. The sub-province to the north and west, comprising much of Cambridge and north Norfolk, and the very north west of Essex, was classified as of much more recent Midland type Enclosure Act large field systems.

With only limited time available, 12 parishes throughout the region were chosen as case studies. Choice was based on a number of criteria, including representativeness of tenure, degree of preservation, and availability of source material such as maps and field books. These latter, although complicated to use and interpret, were invaluable in building up a full picture of land use and occupancy. Land use was characterised in 6 ways: demesne land, tenement agglomerates, common fields, common pasture, pasture in severality and woodland.

3 of the case studies were in Essex, and it was these that Dr Satchell discussed in detail. The arguments involved were complex, and in the time available could not be presented in detail, but sufficed to show that each example parish had evolved from different origins and through different histories.

Great Henny, the speaker suggested, was derived from a late to middle Saxon landscape, having central manorial holdings, but with several large demesne outliers. Felsted parish had been based on an estate of the nuns of Caen, but by Domesday was a lay estate in the process of being broken up. The distribution of inland and warland tenancies within the parish suggested however a landscape of much earlier origin. Ingatestone was an interesting parish, being divided into two by the intervening parish of Fryerning. Here the landscape showed coaxial road and field systems, with fields lying between parallel features 2 or 3 furlongs apart. The landscape here could possibly date back to the iron age.

The talk provoked a number of questions, and was clearly found to be of considerable interest to those present. It was also clear that whilst the research provided fertile ground for theoretical speculation, it was unlikely in most cases to provide firm conclusions.

Aerial Photography in the Tendring Peninsula
David Grayston, Colchester Archaeological Group
29th October 2001
Notes taken by Bernard Colbron

The speaker lives on the Tendring peninsula so most of his observations were of that area but that they could relate to almost any area. He explained the geological background to the Tendring peninsula; approximately

450,000 years ago ice 1km thick stretched diagonally from Ipswich to London. A trough of chalk was left 800 feet thick depositing gravel from Wales via the river Thames and this gravel shows up very well on photographs. Harlow, Chelmsford and Colchester were part of a landmass crossing a 'dry' North Sea up to the river Rhine. Stone Age groups wandered across to settle in the Clacton area. An explanation of why the A12 follows the route that it does is that different economies existed north and south of the road and that market towns providing the meeting point for both economies grew up along the line that is now the A12.

Flying over the Tendring peninsula in 1976 a passenger in the plane was surprised at the many archaeological patterns in the fields in the Tendring peninsula. Any planning consent has to include the exploration of any archaeological features that show on the area to be built on. There is a library of aerial pictures in the Essex Record Office. The aerial pictures are taken from 1000 feet using a wide-angle lens for area shots, with zoom on any special features for further analysis.

Remains of roadside ditches have been discovered, indicating Roman occupation of approximately 2000 years ago. In June 1958 a circle with an outer ring diameter of twenty yards, thought to be anti-aircraft remains, was discovered. After speaking to the farmer who owns the land, it was thought to be a middle/late Bronze Age ring ditch, which a trial trench revealed it to be. After three to four thousand years the ring ditch had been flattened by ploughing and naturally filled in to end up with a flat surface, but it showed up in aerial photographs taken in June/July. This was when the weather was very dry but a slight covering of snow or low sun creating shadows over an area can also reveal features.

A number of slides were shown to illustrate features that could be seen from the air. These include man-made and natural features, ice wedges, pits and other associated features as well as land-drains and fertiliser on the fields. Between Manningtree and Horsley Cross there are parallel ditches indicating the existence of a trade route. An aerial photograph of Bromley showed a feature which could be a Roman marching fort.

Essex County Council has excavated part of a circle, open at both ends, in Tendring which turned out to be the remains of a medieval post-mill – it was possibly built on top of a medieval burial mound to save constructing another mound. Another post-mill was discovered at Mistley which had two entrances, so that the mill could face either way and land that Wivenhoe Town football club occupies also had a post-mill.

Whilst ploughing with a new tractor a farmer in Ardleigh 'uncovered' bronze-age burials containing burial vases. At Wix crop marks possibly denote a layout for an abbey. Tendring shows a slot mill beside a stream. Mistley Quay to Colchester has crop-marks showing a Roman road. The existing road at Crockleford Heath follows a crop line. The Naze at Walton went a further five miles out to sea, which shows the amount of erosion that occurs on the Tendring peninsula.

Greek Masks in Archaic Sparta
Jed Stevenson, Field Archaeologist
5th November 2001
Notes taken by Anna Moore

There are three major towns and many other smaller ones named Sparta in the United States, illustrating how the name of the ancient Greek city still resonates in the modern world.

The masks, which were the subject of the lecture date from 10th - 5th centuries BC. The famous gold masks found in Mycenae, e.g. the Mask of Agamemnon, are about five hundred years older than the Spartan ones and were found in very rich burials. During the Greek Bronze Age and Iron Age it was common practice for burials to contain gold masks, but this practice died out with the fall of Mycenae.

The context of the finds from Sparta is very different. They were found in a temple/theatre/altar complex on the banks of the River Eurotas, the remains of which are Roman but with Greek foundations. The temple was dedicated to Artemis Orthia and was located outside the town, and possibly functioned as a boundary marker between the civilised world and the dark outer land beyond.

Spartan culture is difficult to interpret. Athens had won the wars between the two cities and Sparta had been redeveloped under the Romans. There is therefore a lack of evidence of Spartan culture after its demise in 404BC, except what was written by the Athenians, who described it as austere and without art. However, the archaeological evidence challenges this. The masks from the temple complex look very different from the

Greek ones, being made from painted terracotta, mainly in black and pink, and having a very primitive appearance, rather like some African masks.

The thirteen masks on display in Sparta museum show different characteristics; some have incised lines possibly indicating wrinkles or tattoos, some are reminiscent of satyrs or animals, while one has a lolling tongue, a grimace and bared teeth and possibly represents the Gorgon; a similar image appears on a Spartan shield. Others have regular features similar to other Greek art; some of these are bearded indicating maturity, otherwise it is difficult to tell the age and sex represented.

An estimated 603 masks were deposited at the sanctuary, a figure arrived at by counting the number of noses found! They are not unique on the Mediterranean but nowhere else were they found in such large numbers. The dating evidence was inconclusive but points to 10^{th} - 5^{th} centuries BC. The Spartan masks can be worn but are slightly smaller than an adult's face, suggesting that the wearers were children or young adolescents. The lecturer suggested that the custom of wearing masks might have come from the east via the island of Samos, which is close to Turkey and which was a trading partner of Sparta.

What part did the masks play in the culture of Sparta? Large numbers of small lead votive figures were found at the same site, some shown dancing or playing musical instruments. In some cases the bodies appear deformed, in others they seem to be wearing a padded costume, which may indicate that the masks were associated with costume and music/dancing. Similar figures appear on pottery decoration, particularly a number of deformed figures who are being sexually abused by un-deformed, idealised figures. These latter may represent the Spartans, with the deformed figures representing outsiders.

Masks are an element of ritual in most cultures. Anthropology attempts to explain such rituals as rites of passage to adulthood, the rituals often including music, dancing and some form of humiliation. The lecturer suggested that the Spartan masks are evidence of similar initiation ceremonies, a suggestion that is reinforced by a small amount of surviving Spartan literature. The context of the religious sanctuary where the masks were found suggests that the rituals were legitimising Spartan culture by comparing it with the uncivilised world beyond the sanctuary. The lecturer ended by inviting the audience to reflect on society's modern equivalents.

Archaeology of Kent; new perspectives
John Williams. MA. PhD. FSA. MIFA. Head of Heritage Conservation for Kent County Council.
November 12th 2001
Notes taken by Lilian Morrow

Kent is probably the busiest county archaeologically due to the Channel Tunnel and the Rail Link development. The geology ranges from flat marshland, heavy clays in the south, Thames gravels in the north, chalk downs throughout the county, high weald and greensand in the north downs

Until c.8000 BC England was joined to the Continent and access has been mainly through Kent. Recent contact has been made, with the Dutch, Belgian and French Archaeological Services in order to gain a better understanding of the links with the Continent.

Four archaeological contractors have been employed to cope with the scale of the work and geophysical surveys and metal detecting were also used. Two kilometres of the landscape was stripped for the Thanet road scheme revealing ditches and Bronze Age barrows. Bronze Age remains were recorded along the whole of the corridor of the Channel Rail Link from Gravesend to Dover. Over forty sites have been excavated representing all periods from Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Romano-British, Anglo Saxon, Medieval, and WW2 defences. Late Iron Age and Roman remains have been the most prolific.

A large longhouse of continental type was discovered at White Horse Stone, near Maidstone, close to the Medway Megaliths, the best known of which is Kits Coty house. The site was covered by approximately four metres of hill wash with a probable Bronze Age soil horizon above it. An Iron Age site nearby was discovered higher up on the site with circular ringed houses. A second longhouse was discovered at Kingsborough Farm, Isle of Sheppey, together with a late Bronze Age-Early Iron Age settlement.

A causewayed camp, the first in Kent, was identified and excavated ahead of the new Ramsgate Harbour approach road at Chalk Hill in the NE corner of Kent, and a second one was discovered ten miles to the west on the Isle of Sheppey at Eastchurch. Two more possible causewayed camps have been identified, one at Burham on the eastern slopes of the Medway valley and the other near Tilmanstone, SW of Sandwich.

At Saltwood, SE Kent, where the rail link enters the Channel Tunnel, nine large Bronze Age barrows were excavated with no central burials but in the late Saxon period the cemetery was reused. One grave yielded a Coptic bowl of eastern Mediterranean type, a sword, two shields, arrowheads and some coins. Two more rich burials were excavated. One had a large iron bound wooden bucket and a shield outside the wooden coffin with the body covered by a second shield and a sword. There was also a very large throwing spear. A third rich burial had the body placed in a hollowed-out tree trunk with a sword and shield. These three princely graves were surrounded by a hundred other graves. Some cremation burials were also found.

The Thames sea level has risen two metres since Roman times and trackways were uncovered in the Medway Estuary muds. The only sea-going Bronze Age boat in Europe, dated c550 BC, was excavated from the mud at Dover and is now in the Museum there. The boat was withy bound and caulked with moss.

A large hoard of coins dating from the first half of the first century was recovered from a pit at North Foreland, Broadstairs, from an Iron Age promontory fort with much evidence for middle to late Iron Age settlement. At Westhawk Farm, Ashford, a small Roman town was discovered with a main road running NE-SW through the town centre to the north of which were clearly defined plots laid out at right angles to the road. Iron working hearths were excavated and a rectangular structure to the south of the road revealed a possible temple with postholes. An inner ring of postholes surrounded a central pit possibly for a very large post.

Thurnham Roman Villa, close to the M20 Maidstone bypass was re-excavated and a bathhouse at the southern end discovered. It was decided to strip a larger area to place the villa in its wider landscape. There appeared to be continuous occupation from the late Iron Age to the early fourth century AD. It was clearly a building of some status with painted interior walls and sonic evidence for a classic Romano-British temple which continued in use. A large aisled structure with a double row of six posts was constructed to the side of the enclosure and another large post-built structure was discovered sixty metres to the east.

During a watching brief a Roman cemetery at Springhead on the A2 near Dartford, was discovered with 326 inhumations and 235 cremations. The cemetery had been reused with much intercutting of the graves. The cremations in pottery vessels were well preserved but those placed in wooden coffins were only identified by soil marks because of the acid nature of the soil. Some 600 pottery vessels of Kentish manufacture were recovered, together with coins, bracelets and finger rings.

A villa excavated along the dual carriageway in the middle of Maidstone was covered with sand and the road floated over it. A Belgic round house was excavated in the centre of Canterbury followed by rectilinear wooden buildings possibly Romanization or adoption.

A late Anglo-Saxon cemetery was discovered overlooking the Medway at Cruxton, beside the motorway bridge. Some thirty-six inhumations were recovered with spears and shield bosses; the richer women had keys and rings. Underlying the cemetery were traces of an Iron Age settlement.

The Medieval waterfront at Dover revealed insubstantial timber buildings with much evidence of a fishing industry, fishhooks and large amounts of fish bones. Fish traps were found along the tidal reaches north of Canterbury. Incursions into the Romney marshland in the middle ages are evident around Lydd Quarry, where settlement extended along the shingle ridges. Animal bones were mostly of cattle, sheep with some goat and pig. There was considerable iron working in The Weald.

There are numerous shipwrecks off the Kent coast and Roman forts at Pevensey, Lympne, Dover, Richborough, Reculver and Saxon shore forts at Dover and Richborough. Second World War anti-aircraft batteries and pillboxes pose a conservation problem.

Malting's Lane, Witham
Liz Davis and Andy Robertson of Essex County Council's Heritage Conservation Department's Field Archaeology Unit.
19th November 2001
Notes taken by David Grayston

The site lies at the south-western corner of Witham, just to the north of the A12 bypass on a large green field site zoned for housing. Work has been going on for five years. This current phase has revealed occupation from Iron Age to the medieval and of a mainly domestic and agricultural nature. After removing the topsoil, the area was metal detected in anticipation of illicit detecting and a digital pre-excavation plan was made to link it to the

national grid. This revealed trackways and enclosures.

Nothing of a ritual nature was found although a skull was found with a pyramid of red deer lower jawbones arranged over it. Two burial urns were excavated; one, a pedestal urn, contained bones and the other had possibly contained food or drink. Most of the finds were Roman and included an agricultural, post-holed building site - perhaps a grain store or shearing pen. A section of well preserved wattle and daub screen adjacent to a hearth and a large 'U' shaped kiln were revealed; the latter having a two-inch burnt clay wall with a tiled flue.

Artefacts included pieces of box flue tile, various coloured sections of wall plaster (including blue), oyster shells, animal bones, potsherds and grey and brown tesserae. A late first century samian ware platter was found with a fourth century beaker. Bone and bronze hairpins, iron knife blades, and lead steelyard balance weights of various sizes and designs together with a well-detailed fourth century bronze end of a key in the shape of a lion's head were displayed at the end of the talk.

Little of the Saxon period has been found. A pre-13th century skeleton (cut by a 13th C building) and a probable 'grub hut' were excavated. A de-horned red deer skull and some harness fittings were found.

Maltings Road is an old Mediaeval drove road bordered by a badly damaged house site of posthole construction although part of a wall had a cill; possibly a later repair where the house may have sunk as this section lay over made-up soil. A skeleton of a small pony lay near by.

Slopes, Stratigraphy and Saxons at Sedgeford
Neil Faulkner, Honorary Research Fellow, Institute of Archaeology
26th November 2001
Notes by Pat Brown

The theme of Neil Faulkner's talk was the possible impact of the Valetta Convention and the "tyranny of the research design". He used the Sedgeford Project (near Kings Lynn), which he has run for five years, as his exemplar, particularly the excavation of the Anglo-Saxon cemetery in the field known as Boneyard. He put forward two propositions: 1. that people had the right to participate in the investigation of their heritage BUT 2. that under the Convention the state would have the right to approve all digs and diggers.

At the moment a research design was only obligatory in relation to scheduled sites, but he saw it as imposing a standard way of doing archaeology. He made the argument for diversity in an academic discipline - that a "continuous dialogue" went on between the archaeologist and the material - a dialectic interaction - and that that was how knowledge and understanding grew.

The site of the cemetery was a difficult one, sloping to a water-logged area known as the Reeddam, and affected by soil creep, colluvium, erosion, build-up and bioturbation.

In 1957-8 Peter Jewell had carried out trenching in the Boneyard, and had uncovered skeletons which he dated to the late Saxon/early Norman period. When SHARP (the Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project) started to excavate in 1996 they inherited Jewell's interpretation, together with his idea that there had been previous, middle-Saxon settlement, on the basis of pottery evidence. SHARP opened up an area between Jewell's two trenches, in the expectation that more burials would be found, but when, after some weeks, no burials were found, they shifted further down the slope, where burials did emerge. In 1997 and 1998 sections and trenches were dug to illuminate the relationship between the settlement, (which now appeared to be stratigraphically later) and the burials, and more sophisticated techniques were employed, like a sprinkler system and a scaffolding tower. By 2000 it was becoming obvious that what had been thought to be natural deposits - flint lines and scatters, chalk pads - represented human activity, and in 2001 a far more sensitive approach to digging was employed -"Wroxeter style", as Neil Faulkner put it - for instance, post-holes of a building were "felt" by the trowellers, rather than seen. Ditches running across the site had been re-cut, and were very difficult to interpret,

He used this resumé of changes in approach to illustrate how the strategy changed, in a way which could not have been accommodated in a formal research design.

Finds included over 8,000 mid-to-late Anglo-Saxon sherds, 180 skeletons, bone pins, and artefacts such as a stylus indicative of high status. There was also a rare coin of Eadwald, king of East Anglia after the death of Offa. About a dozen adult males had been violently killed. Total number of burials had probably been several

hundred.

A tentative chronology for the site was of a pre-700 Christian cemetery, followed in the 8th century by settlement over the whole area, with traces of a post-built hall and a sunken-featured building, and many middens in the Reeddam area. In the 10th century the site had been truncated by the creation of the Reeddam, with a cut channel, for reed cultivation, when the village appeared to move near the present church.

Neil Faulkner ended with a plea for a variety of approaches in archaeology, with research projects such as Sedgeford being treated in a very different way from rescue digs. Academic freedom could be threatened were the Valetta Convention to be implemented in this country.

Colchester Museums in the 21st Century
Philip Wise, Curator of Archaeology, Colchester Museums
3rd Dec.2001
Notes taken by Freda Nicholls

In 1846 the museums collections were housed in a room in the Town Hall and then in 1855 were moved into the Castle, part of which the then owner, Charles Cray Round, allowed to be used as the town museum. Finally in 1860 it was opened to the public and visitors were able to see the collection which was displayed in a room known as the crypt on the first floor. In subsequent years the collection grew until today it occupies the whole Castle.

In 1920 the Castle was bought by the Borough with money donated by Viscount Cowdray and ten years later the open courtyard was covered over creating new space to house the expanding museum collection. The footbridge leading to the castle entrance was constructed in 1935. Work on the fabric of the Castle was needed and in 1988 the chapel on the roof was restored and at about this time the Iron Age and Boudiccan collections in the Castle were re-displayed under the guidance of Mark Davies.

Other sites which are looked after by the museum are St. Botolph's Priory where it has been necessary to repair some of the walls, St. John's Abbey Gate where structural repair work was needed. It is hoped that in the future this area will be used perhaps as a site for such events as Archaeology Days or perhaps History Fairs. The museum is also responsible for the upkeep of Lexden Triple Dyke and Grymes Dyke.

Trees are a problem at the Triple Dyke and dirt bikers are a nuisance at Grymes Dyke. It is hoped that it will soon be possible to strengthen the walls of Mersea Barrow and also to install lighting. Lexden Mount also needs maintenance and the interpretation board has to be kept in good shape.

The Urban Archaeological Data Base (UADB) has a listing of 991 monuments -buildings, mosaics, town walls etc.; and 1220 elements - these are not large enough to designated as sites; over 2000 events - any phenomena leading to archaeological information such as cable laying, ground disturbance; 305 find spots.

The museum undertakes work such as the restoration of the tombstone of Longinus Sdapedze and recently it was discovered that the tombstone of Facilus may be constructed of the same stone as Nonesuch Palace. Another project undertaken in conjunction with the National Gallery was research on the painting of the Virgin from the St. Osyth panel. It has been established that the painting is on willow board and the medium is linseed oil mixed with chalk and gypsum, ground lapis lazuli, malachite and gold and silver leaf. The inscription confirms that it is a painting of the Virgin and not St. Barbara, as previously thought.

Colchester museum is one of 50 museums in Britain which is designated to be of special interest on account of its excellent collection of Iron Age and late Roman artefacts. It is a policy of the museum to involve members of the public in activities and exchange of ideas. The survey of cellars within the town walls involving members of this group is one instance of this co-operation. The museum also encourages collaboration with metal detectorists.

Modifying our view of the past: Excavations at Wroxeter
Mike Corbishley, Head of Education, English Heritage
21st January 2002
Notes by Gill Shrimpton

Mike Corbishley, a past member of CAG has excavated at Wroxeter (Roman Virconium) during the summer for many years and the theme of his lecture was that, during his time working with Phil Barker, interpretations and dating techniques have changed drastically over the past 20 years.

He began with an overview of the site and a brief history of the Roman occupation and then concentrated on the 4th and 5th centuries at the end of the Roman Period.

Wroxeter is situated very close to Shrewsbury and near to the river Severn. It was initially a fortress established by the 14th Legion in AD47 after the successful storming of the Wrekin - a nearby hillfort; later the headquarters of the 20th Legion who then moved on to Chester. In 58 AD the fortress was demolished and the town of Virconium established. It was the 4th largest town in Britain and was visited by the Emperor Hadrian during his tour of Britain sometime between 58-90 AD.

During the period 90-150 the first city was built and the huge bath complex was begun. This was never actually completed, and later part of the area became a forum. The "Old Work " which can still be seen today dates from this period.

Between 150-500 the town continued to develop and the earth ramparts which are still discernible today were built and also a probable market garden area.

During the 4th century the forum and basilica burned down and although attempts were made to maintain the civic buildings in the later part of the Roman occupation it appears that buildings became increasingly dilapidated. Defences were strengthened and a small military force of mercenaries brought in. The baths and basilica were still in use. Small buildings had been built inside the great basilica and it probably became a market.

From the period 550-700 a very large building was erected which partly overlaid the basilica and the road. This was a timber-framed construction on a massive stone foundation and could possibly be a bishop's house and the frigidarium appears to have been rebuilt as a church.

At the very end of its existence the town simply declined. There does not seem to have been wholesale destruction. The population probably moved to Shrewsbury or to the nearby village which is Wroxeter today, maybe dismantling some of the buildings and taking them to the new site.

The site has been laid out and managed by English Heritage with visitor centre and information boards although much research still remains to be done.

A book "Life and Death of a Roman City" has been published and will probably be acquired by the Group.

Members' activities
28th January 2001
Notes by Denise Hardy.

Geophysics survey of Gosbecks - Peter Cott.

Peter started geophysical surveying in 1993 with the use of a magnetometer machine borrowed from Colchester Borough Council and very soon with colleagues he had formed two geophysics teams.

Geophysical surveying has been done abundantly at Gosbecks, in fact Peter feels that the Temple itself, has been geophys'd to death with the use of various machines ranging from ground radar to the magnetometer. However, the Colchester museum's interest now lay in the lower area of the park, west of Oliver's Lane, for they wanted more geophysical readings of the Roman road leading from Colchester, which passed Gosbeck's Farm and disappeared westward. This was confirmed by aerial photography, which had also picked up outlines of the road disappearing.

The magnetometer has to be carried vertically at all times whilst walking up and down in a straight line taking

the survey in a northerly direction. Conditions must be right e.g. low resitation (non-interference of metals - watches, overhead power lines, metal fences etc.), nor must it be too windy. Another drawback is that the magnetometer will also pick up natural features as well as hearth, kilns and pits.

With the aid of the Overhead Projector, Peter showed that at the crossing in Oliver's Lane the 'plot' got very busy, showing pits, but when excavated they contained agricultural iron. The area itself appeared to be drove roads with field ditches on either side, and he also noted that the pits seemed to be pointing towards the theatre.

It takes Peter and his team three months to cover an area of four hectares, each walking 25 miles, and they do not always do this in good weather, more often than not they cannot stop when the bad weather comes. However Peter's motto is MEMENTOTE! STUDIUM EST - roughly translated as DON'T FORGET - IT'S ONLY A HOBBY!

Geophysics survey at Abbey House and Copford - Aline Black.

Like Peter, Aline and her husband David, not only work in the foulest of weather, snow, sleet etc., but also in undesirable environmental conditions, amongst the nettles, prickles and unsavoury areas! It was at 6 a.m. on a Sunday morning when they arrived at St. John's Abbeygate accompanied soon by the police enquiring as to what business they had there. Police satisfied, they were under way surveying with the magnetometer machine which soon showed ditches that were filled in long ago. Philip Crummy had asked Aline and her husband to look at St John's, but it was soon to be discovered that the site was to become a geophysics' nightmare. As there was so much rogue metal distributed all over the site, recording it accurately was almost impossible. The rear premises of the Officer's Club and Alan Vickers, the chartered accountants, was to be surveyed and with permission granted, no ground was left untouched! However, the Officers Club had tennis courts surrounded completely by steel posts - so no joy there!

Near the top of the DCTA building, next to one end of the inside wall, was a path which had a metal strip partly covering it. This turned out to be an underground storage pit. Also by the top of this building behind a tree, was a pillar containing decorative stonework (obviously reused and possibly originally from the priory).

With Peter Cott's help they then proceeded to investigate Abbey house and garden, but the magnetometer kept blanking out in what looked like a grass area. They had large signals from the Abbey section and also from the DCTA, but there were many gaps in the signal. Nothing was left unturned, including the lawn and car park, but results turned up negative. Aline showed the group an overlay of the Benedictine Monastery where the tennis courts now lay and although the posts were taken out and readings taken every 10 metres square, the steel fences nearby interfered with the magnetometer, However, a drain complete with water pipe was visible and a further anomaly was discovered but unidentified. Philip Crummy was interested in the area south of the tennis courts by the Officers Club and thought there might be a possibility of a wall, however, regrettably it didn't show up. The lower southern area could not be investigated for there was too much metal around, which was indicative of the whole area and the conclusion was that unfortunately there were no recorded signs of the Abbey.

Copford.

With the aid of the Overhead Projector, Aline showed us where in Copford she had surveyed the fields where Phillip Crummy had previously excavated in search of a Roman Villa. The plough soil contained a high proportion of Roman tile (the construction of Copford church is full of Roman material). Legend has it that a wood was planted and a fence put around it to cover the site of the villa. This could possibly be backed up by the O.S. survey map of 1876, as it does show a wood in the location but minus its fence. However, on the O.S. survey map of 1962 there are no signs of either. A woodland does exist in the area, of which half has been planted with deciduous oaks, the remainder being conifers. Aline went on further to say that the conifer tree dating cannot be estimated, but by their size they had to be planted after 1962. The truth in the story remains to be seen and the mystery of the Copford villa remains unsolved.

Four timber-framed buildings - Richard Shackle

Richard, with the aid of excellent photographs, discussed four timber-framed buildings, the first being Chas. Brown & Son, East Street, currently undergoing renovation. Its medieval carriage archway incorporated four different centuries, from 14th to 17th, with the main joist being 17th century. One section of this archway showed wattle and daub still in situ. Inside, the building contains an accumulation of junk, hacksaws littered

the floor and a large quantity of Brillo pads from the 1960s were found upstairs in the roof! The back yard was no different, with an overflow of bric-a-brac (a car booter's dream!). Nothing was ever thrown away, including paraffin cans (the Browns used to deliver paraffin up to 20-30 miles away) and there also stood the original van from the 1950s, complete with sign. The back wall was covered by corrugated iron sheets.

Monty's - No. 9, North Hill

See separate article on page 26

54, West Stockwell Street

The doorway of this key cutting shop near Scheregate Steps was being renovated, enabling Richard to detect that one side of it was originally a medieval window with the other side being a medieval shop front with a door partitioning off three separate areas. Today this had been contained into one large space. The roof was especially interesting because the longitudinal joists were offset, so as not to put too much strain on the bridge joists.

Bonds, North Hill

The rear wing is a commercial block jettied to the south, and consists of two halls, one above the other. On the ground floor level at the end furthest from the street are two little rooms only accessible from the outside; these would have been rented workshops or warehouses. The well-known wall paintings on the upper floor have now been carefully restored.

Terracotta Army, Xian. - Ros Thomas.

Ros showed us excellent slides of her visit to China's Great Wall and the Terracotta army, especially considering that photography was banned in these areas! From the 11th century BC to 221BC, regional warlords in middle China fought and allied themselves to others. By the period of the Warring States, 403 BC to 221 BC, only seven powers remained. It was in 221 BC that the Ch'in family defeated these powers and its leader Ch'in Shi Huang became the first Emperor of China. His capital of this empire was called Hsien Yang, or Chang-an, now modern day Xian. Ch'in Shi Huang ruled only until 210 BC but his reign was notable for his achievements in setting up a new administrative system for his enormous lands. Roads were constructed, and to strengthen the northern boundary of his empire he began to construct the Great Wall. However, most of the wall existing today was actually built by the Ming dynasty in the 16thC. His wall covered an estimated length of one thousand, six hundred miles and took 12 years to build, with a labour force of at least three hundred thousand men.

Upon contemplation of his death, the Emperor realised that the enemies he had beaten could be waiting for him in the after life. So to protect himself, he arranged for thousand of kilns to be constructed for the mass production of an army of terracotta warriors. These life-size soldiers, each one with different features, consisted of archers, charioteers, swordsmen, spearmen, officers and generals, their horses and chariots also accompanying them. They were buried in a series of trenches, paved with tiles and divided by baulks of soil and were then covered with planks of wood and a final layer of soil.

It was only in 1974 that a local peasant was tending his field when he uncovered the terracotta head of a solder. Excavations began and a pit of 14,200 square metres containing 6,000 warriors, chariots and horses were uncovered, with the majority of the warriors broken. This was because after the Emperor died, rebels robbed the pits for the real weapons that the army held. The destruction was massive, but now they are carefully being restored. There were at least 10,000 solders and many pits have yet to be excavated including the tomb of the Emperor, a necropolis, which is thought to be under 12 villages including many factories, and legend has it that the ceilings are studded with gems and a river of mercury flows through it. That seems to be definitely correct, as the area is contaminated with mercury.

All the talks tonight were extremely interesting and well presented and greatly enjoyed by all.

Journey to the Centre: My Millennial Pilgrimage to Jerusalem
Mark Hassall, Reader in Roman Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology UCL, and Chairman of the Colchester Archaeological Trust.
4th February 2001
Notes by John Mallinson

The speaker began by engaging local attention, pointing out the link between Colchester and Jerusalem through the personage of St Helena. He also remarked on a recent attempt to identify Longinus Sdapeze as the Roman Soldier who pierced Christ's side.

He stressed the personal nature of his millennial journey. In describing it as a Journey to the Centre, he had in mind both a personal journey of self-discovery, and also a literal journey to Jerusalem at the centre of the known world, for thus it was often depicted on medieval maps.

In choosing his route, itinerary and modes of transport, he followed no precedent, but followed his own interests, as well as practical considerations. He walked from London to Canterbury and Dover, crossed the Channel and travelled by train across Belgium. From Maastrciht he walked to Köln, travelled by boat down the Rhine to Basel and on to Bregenz. He walked again across the Alps and Northern Italy to Venice. He crossed the Mediterranean by boat to Haifa, stopping at Patras in Greece and Heraklion in Crete. Finally he walked down the coast to Tel Aviv, before turning inland along the pilgrims road to Jerusalem..

The detailed description of the walk was accompanied by plentiful and well-chosen slides. Throughout, the speaker highlighted those features of the places he visited, which through their religious, historical or archaeological significance linked them to Jerusalem, to the Crusades and to medieval pilgrimages.

In answer to questions, Mark explained a little about the logistics of his journey. Careful planning and travelling light seemed to be the secrets, though we were still left unsure about how he dealt with his laundry.

Stansted Airport: an Overview.
Nick Cooke, Wessex Archaeology
February 2nd 2002.
Notes by Raymond Rowe.

Expansion at Stansted Airport has required British Airport Authorities, (BAA) to commission further investigation of the archaeology over a wide area. Framework Archaeology has been set up by BAA. To look after the archaeology of all their sites. Wessex Archaeology has been retained to excavate and publish results.

Earlier excavation during 1980 –1990 under the Stansted Project has been published, except for some of the later work by Essex County Council Archaeology Service. This is now ready for publication by Richard Havis.

The main areas were to the west of the airport building, where long and short term car parking are being built and near to the M11 motorway new slip road. In the course of the work there have been 9 evaluations, 7 large scale excavations covering 30 hectares, 3000 features recorded, and 14000 contexts covering periods from the Palaeolithic to the 17th C. The area is on a plateau of 98 - 102m elevation, and is a heavy boulder clay. The Stansted Project, had shown the density of occupation, and the recent work has confirmed this. In future BAA will carry out the archaeology first before they do any construction.

The range of sites discovered start in the Palaeolithic with 3 hand axes found near the old course of a river. Mesolithic finds were 3 pits, flint flakes and blades, again found near the river course. Neolithic period was present in the form of 6 pits with pots and hazel nut remains. The mid-term car park had a range of middle Bronze Age remains. There were 8 to 9 round houses in a settlement, some with porches facing Southeast. Pottery finds, and an enclosure fence line for the settlement, with some internal divisions was uncovered. The site is very similar to one excavated at Black Patch in Sussex. This also had a large central roundhouse with a long porch structure. At Stansted the large central roundhouse had a very long entrance porch. There was also a pit close by, that had a large stone at the bottom. The stone was possibly a standing stone that had been buried; it weights about 1 ton. The stone is not local material, and geology suggests it is a glacial erratic, similar to a standing stone in a village not far away.

Near the river there were water holes that were quite large, and had been filled in at a later date with broken pots and burnt remains, together with flint tools including a Neolithic polished axe. This points to a ritual clos-

ing of the pit. Some 60 burials were found, and a small barrow. The ditch had been recut in the Late Bronze Age. As the barrow was near the river there was water-logged material including timbers and cremated bone that will be analysed later. There was another barrow found but it was some distance away on a small hill, this was barren with no finds. In all there were 4 middle Bronze Age sites in the area. So for the Middle Bronze Age there is good evidence of occupation, farming, and climate. The Late Bronze Age is represented by very little, other than a number of pits near the new M11 slip road. The pits had placed deposits of burnt material, and a pot with the base removed. Also in the pits were a sheep's mandible, a fragment of a loom weight, and a very white pebble. Two possible structures were found but there are problems in dating them. It would seem that the Late Bronze Age sites are in different areas to those of the Middle Bronze Age, so perhaps there was a climate change driving people away from the river. The following Early Iron Age is again poorly represented.

The Middle Iron Age remains spread over a wide area, and required surface stripping on an industrial scale. This produced six round houses in two groups of three, which had been reused into the Late Iron Age. There was a Late Iron Age perimeter ditch that was extended later in the Roman period. Finds included a rotary quern, and a double celled mortuary enclosure, with one burial in the centre of each cell. In another field there was a three celled enclosure with burials, this continued in use into the Roman period.

To the south west of the airport, a Late Iron Age settlement was uncovered, that again went on into the Roman times. A small cremation cemetery, and two large ones were used over the same period. The settlement became more organised in the 3rd century. It was split down the middle, and there were radial ditches separating areas. Roundhouses were used all through the Roman period. It is possible it had become a workers village for a large Roman estate. Later in the Roman occupation there was a large rectangular aisled barn.

In the period 4th to 11th century there seems to have been no Anglo Saxon occupation. For the 13/14th there are the remains of a rectangular building and a 13th cent. Post mill. Perhaps a small medieval farmstead with strip field systems, small cobbled areas, and rectangular cesspits.
More recent occupation shows a sequence of buildings, cobbles, fireplace and stairwell, with shadows of a building. A brick built well 5M deep dated to the 17th .C. was found. The bricks were laid on a timber ring, and at a latter date the well was modified to extract the water by pumping, a wooden ring to attach to the pipe having been found. It is possible that there was a brewery, with out houses and stables. Finds included animal bone and a lot of deer, there were also spears and arrowheads, perhaps a hunting lodge?

Recent Work in Hadleigh & District
Linzi Everett & Jezz Meredith, Project Officers, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.
25th. February 2002.
Notes taken by Vic Scott

Aldham Mill Site - Linzi:

This is a multi period site opposite to "Buyrights". Aerial photos had shown croprnarks, a rectangular enclosure etc. A brief look in 1979 confirmed evidence of Roman Occupation of the site, as well as Bronze Age ring ditches.

Trial trenches on the high ground in 1999 found no archaeology, due possibly to erosion or ploughing out. The area of the ring ditches was opened up, during earlier evaluation a medieval farm complex had been located, this included a rectangular foundation, possibly a farm building as there was no sign of a hearth, although a substantial amount of 12th - 14th century pottery and domestic waste was found.

There were six circular ring ditches along the line of the river, comprising a 2,500 - 4,000 year old cemetery. As usual the mounds had been ploughed out leaving crop marks only. The ditches and mounds would have taken an immense amount of labour, and would have been very obvious on the landscape.

The topsoil was stripped oft by machinery. No burials were found in the first ring, but these may have been in the mound and ploughed out. The area was known as "Dead Vessel Lane" in the 19th century, which indicates that cremation pots were being ploughed up.

In the centre of the largest ring, approx. 30 cremations from the Early Bronze Age, some in urns, others loose in pits, plus one inhumation were found. Some of the pits had a red lining, indicating great heat when the cremations were put in. The central burial had a large upturned urn over the cremated remains of a male 25 to 30 years old. The average life expectancy would have been 35 to 40 years in the Bronze Age.

Some four of the cremations were accompanied by small vessels which may have contained food, but much more study needs to be done. Only two of the ring ditches were investigated.

During the Anglo Saxon period old mounds were reused, and four 7th century graves were discovered. These consisted of two males and two females with appropriate grave goods, ie. spears, knives, buckles, beads, rings and pendants etc. One female had an Ipswich ware pot by her head. Small amounts of bone remained due to the acidic soil.

All over the site there were signs of Prehistoric activity back to the Mesolithic period, with two hand axes, flaked flints and one granite stone. The site had been in continuous use for approximately 6,000 years.

Jezz:

At the top of the hill, trenching for evaluation was carried out during 2000 in the thick sticky clay, before the site was turned over to the builders. One trench uncovered three postholes; another turned up an Iron Age pot, and the third a Bronze Age pot. The fourth trench had nothing. A large area had been opened up and held very little. The site flooded and then froze over, and when it thawed, another posthole was found, making a four-post structure typical of the Iron Age. A quantity of early to middle Iron Age pottery was found in the area of the postholes. Iron Age and Medieval enclosure ditches were exposed. Among the Iron Age pottery were shards of flint tempered ware, fine burnished carinated bowls and mixed with these were worked flints and small shards of Bronze Age pottery.

The Dover Bronze Age Boat
Peter Clark Deputy Director, Canterbury Archaeological Trust
March 4th 2002.
Notes by Raymond Rowe.

The Bronze Age Boat was found during construction of the A20 extension, to link the Dover docks to the Channel Tunnel. In investigation of the road's route, part of the Roman harbour and the Roman Wall were found. As the contractors were digging a pit for a pumping station to drain an underpass, the wooden remains of the boat were discovered. The boat was seen in two trenches, and the excavation area was very restricted. Each night the pit was flooded by incoming water, this helped preserve the timber, but did require pumps working all day. The excavators finally had six days for their work but this came a day at a time. The number of visitors wishing to see the remains further hampered the excavation and recording.

To lift the boat, it was decided to cut it into 32 pieces. Care was taken to keep joints and features whole. The preservation state was excellent; dendrochronology has established that it is dated to 1350 BC. The method of construction has been established in considerable detail, right down to the 6 types of moss used to keep the seams watertight. The boat is estimated as being 11m long, with a width of 2.3m. The bottom of the boat is made from two carved planks made from an oak tree. A 9M length of tree was split in half down the grain. Each half was shaped using Bronze Age axes and adzes. Two side planks also made from oak were stitched to the bottom planks using twisted yew withes. The gaps between the planks were water proofed with a moss filling held in place with oak lathes, hammered under the twisted withe stitches. The holes the withies were threaded through were sealed with a mixture of wax and animal fat. There were signs of a further side plank each side, to give the boat an additional free board. The boat's prow was similar to a punt, but was not found and it is thought to have been removed in antiquity. The boat was not wrecked but had been dismantled. The side planks were removed, and parts of the structure had been cut through with axes. It could be a form of ritual ending to the boat's working life, or the death of its master/owner.

In spite of the timbers having been sawn into 32 sections, there was great difficulty in releasing the timbers from the wet mud and silt underneath. Once the sections had been retrieved, they were immersed in tanks of fresh water as the first stage of conservation. The further stages of preservation involved the Mary Rose Trust at Portsmouth. The timbers were very fragile and had to be impregnated with wax for 18 months, and then freeze dried. The pieces were returned to Dover in1998, for assembly and display in an environmentally controlled atmosphere. In the preservation process the timbers had changed shape which this made reassembly very difficult. During the earlier recording of the timbers it became evident that the pressure they had been subjected to for over 3000 years, had compressed them to about half their original thickness.

A separate reconstruction activity to discover how the boat had been built involved finding a suitable section of

straight oak. The original trees were very tall and straight grained. These had provided lengths of trunk without branches over 11m long, and 1m in diameter. For the part reconstruction a section 3M long was finally found. This was then split and carved with replica bronze tools and wooden wedges. The marks left on the wood were the same as those visible on the original boat.

Due to the great weight of the original trees, it is thought that most of the initial work on the boat timbers would have been carried out where the trees were felled. The two planks for the boat's bottom were carved from two half-tree trunks split longitudinally. Sections of the wood were left standing proud to be carved into cleats to take the wedges that held the planks together. The completed reconstruction is now on view at the Dover museum, with the Bronze Age Boat.
Calculation on the boat's size indicates that it could have been rowed by a crew of 4 to 6, at a speed of 4 knots. It would have been able to weather a wind force of 3 to 4, and waves 1m high. The river at Dover has always been shallow, so it is thought that it must have been sea going. This is in agreement with signs on its bottom of having been repeatedly beached. This would make it the oldest example of a sea going boat. As its load capacity was either 8 to 14 people, or 2 to 3 tons, it is possible that it was used for trading bronze along the coast, there being no materials for making bronze available in the Dover area.

Anglo Saxon Ships
Edwin Gifford, builder and sailor of the Sutton Hoo replica ship
11th March 2002
Notes by John Mallinson

Little is known about Saxon ships before c. 300AD, other than that they were clinker built and lacked strength, being sewn together with organic bindings. The introduction of iron riveting allowed construction of much stronger and more water-tight structures. The earliest example of this technology comes down to us in a 55' boat dating from about 330AD found at Nydam in Schleswig Holstein. It is a rowing boat, sharp bottomed, with a long curved sloping bow and stern. The frame was inserted after the hull was built and lashed to the planks through cleats. The oars were also lashed on, above the gunwales. Iron, being expensive, was used only where absolutely necessary.

It is believed that this technology was brought to England in about 400 AD, and a number of examples have been found at Ashley Dell, Snape, Graveney and, most famously, Sutton Hoo. These show a developing technology which paralleled that in Germany, but intended to produce craft suitable for use in shallow waters, lighter and more manoeuvrable than their German counterparts.

The speaker concentrated on describing his experiences with two boats of which he had built ½ scale replicas. The first was that found at Graveney on the south bank of the Thames. The original was 45' long, flat bottomed, broad beamed, shallow and double ended. It was very similar in construction to the Nydam boat, but the frames were inserted directly onto the hull planking. Evidence was presented which had convinced the speaker that the boat had originally possessed a false keel and a detachable mast step. The replica was built with a detachable keel and a square rigged Roman type sail. It proved to be very fast and manoeuvrable, and with the false keel could work to windward. The side rudder had a quick release system enabling it to be raised when beaching the vessel.

The second replica constructed by the speaker was of the famous Sutton Hoo ship, which was recreated from detailed drawings and photographs taken at the time of the excavation in 1939. At 90' this was much bigger than the Graveney boat, though otherwise very similar in profile and construction, showing the survival of a tradition lasting 300-400 years. Although longer, it was a similar width to the Graveney boat. It also had 3 immensely strong frames in the stern, presumably to support the rudder. The replica proved to be even faster and more manoeuvrable than the Graveney boat, with a maximum speed of 7 knots, and to be better into the wind. It could be beached, and its crew disembarked very quickly, making it very difficult, if not impossible, to defend against.

The speaker speculated that the owner, King Raedwald, could have sailed to Kent, a distance of some 50 miles, in 3-4 hours. The ship would have been perfectly capable of making longer journeys around the coast or even across the North Sea to Denmark, a distance of 400 miles. Indeed in modern times other replicas have made similar journeys. Alfred the Great, it was suggested, developed the technology still further, building boats of twice the length, and capable of carrying up to 300 men at 13-14 knots. These, it is thought, would have been posted in the burghs located at regular intervals around the south and east coast. They would have been capable of rapid movement around the coast in times of threat, able to reach Viking raiders while they were still

ashore. The success of this strategy is evidenced by the cessation of raids for over 100 years after the time of Alfred. Further, there is no evidence that the Scandinavians caught up with English technology until the 10th century, the date of the first 64 oar long ship known in Denmark.

By way of a coda, the speaker touched briefly on plans to construct a replica of the Bronze Age Ferriby boat, discussed by Peter Clark, (Lecture on "The Dover Bronze Age Boat", 4th March 2002), and dated to 1900BC.

Throughout, the lecture was enlivened by personal recollections and anecdotes, and illustrated by photographs, and slides of drawings and plans. The large audience, including several regular crew members of the Sutton Hoo replica, were both entertained and informed for almost one and a half hours.

Summer Outings 2002

Chris Hunt

The late spring visit took place on April 15th, when a good number of members visited Harwich. Guides from the Harwich Society conducted us round The Redoubt Fort. This is a large circular fort, built in 1808, to protect the harbour from Napoleonic invasion. Originally armed with ten guns and surrounded by a moat, the site was in serious neglect until the Society started to carry out extensive renovation - a mix between archaeology and researching local history has provided a fascinating museum and is a credit to the hard work of the Society.

The evening walking visit was to Wivenhoe, where Mark Davies conducted the group from the Railway Station car park, through the old town and quayside, up to the now derelict ship-building yard. This was a good insight into not just old Wivenhoe, and its importance on the Colne, but also the problem of dealing with the former shipbuilding yard - a valuable site for industrial archaeology.

Our Day-Trip on 29 June was based on South Essex. A visit to the recently opened site of the Royal Gunpowder Mills at Waltham Abbey was our first stop. Set in 175 acres of natural parkland and boasting 21 buildings of historical importance this was a very interesting visit - plenty of noise and 'hands-on' exhibits!

From there we visited Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge on the edge of Epping Forest. This is a recently refurbished timber framed building where the displays gave good information on its construction and use. Our final visit of the day was to Waltham Abbey itself. A small town with the Abbey - supposedly the burial place of King Harold - a grand example of Norman architecture

This was an enjoyable day and it was good to see the trip so well attended - many thanks to all who came and helped with the preparations.

Report on CAG visit to Rivenhall and Bradwell-juxta-Coggeshall

Freda Nicholls

On Saturday 8th June members of the group visited two local churches, St. Mary and All Saints at Rivenhall and Holy Trinity at Bradwell-juxta-Coggeshall.

Rivenhall.

At Rivenhall, the church of St. Mary and All Saints stands directly over a Roman villa. Nothing of this is now visible but Roman brick is incorporated in the fabric of the building. The present stone church was built towards the end of the Saxon period. Until 1972, when a great deal of modern rendering was removed, it was not possible to see the courses of Roman brick and the Saxon window arches in the north and south walls of the chancel. The east window is outstanding with its 12th century stained glass which was purchased by a 19th century incumbent from a French cure. (Information from 'East Saxon Heritage' - S. Pewsey & A. Brooks.)

Bradwell-juxta-Coggeshall

The first mention of Holy Trinity Church at Bradwell-juxta-Coggeshall is in a Subsidy Roll of 1238. Holy Trinity, a small Norman structure, is believed to have been built in the first half of the 12th century and fortunately was not subjected to Victorian restoration. Unfortunately, internal furnishings were removed during mid-20th century alterations. As with the church at Rivenhall external rendering had to be stripped to reveal the underlying brickwork. Pevsner (1954) described the building as 'all Norman with Roman brick trim'. However Rex

Hull discovered that the bricks were medieval. He wrote in the Victoria County History (1963), 'The alleged Roman tiles in this building are medieval, of the distinctive type made and used at Coggeshall Abbey'. There are some scattered Roman bricks and tiles in the fabric of the church.

The church is a plain rectangle with medieval brick and tile quoins. The roofs are medieval and are covered with plain clay tiles. There is a timber-framed belfry and brooched spire which are weather-boarded. In front of the south entrance there is a 14th century timber-framed porch.

Much of the medieval plaster remains on the internal walls with wall paintings. The earliest visible painting is in the southern of the two Romanesque windows high up in the chancel east wall and is from the 13th century. There are 14th century paintings on the splays and soffits of three Decorated windows. Considerable remains of decorative painting were uncovered on the 1 5th century rood screen during restoration work but survive only on the eastern face. The floor is mostly paved with yellow and pink stock bricks from the 19th century. Two areas are paved with glazed medieval tiles - one area is in the south-west corner of the chancel beneath the rector's stall and the other is a central rectangle at the west end of the church adjoining the font. All the tiles most likely date from the 14th century. Two brass indents are set in the floor and there are few ledger slabs, one of which is a coffin lid with an incised effigy of a priest with a date - 1349. There is a large altar tomb erected by the Maxey family, c. 1624. In the south-east corner of the chancel there is a 15th century piscina with a sedilia next to it. The bowl of the font at the west end of the church is of Barnack-type limestone from the 12th century.
(Information taken from Rodwell, W. Transactions of the Essex Society for Archaeology and History. Vol.29, 1998.)

Rome and Naples

from Joanne Crawshaw

At the end of October 2001 a combined Art and Archaeology Group embarked on a week's whistle-stop trip to Rome and Naples regions led by Colin Kirby-Green and Mark Davies.

From Fiuggi, in the hills to the south, we spent two hectic days exploring just a few of the ancient wonders of Rome; the Pantheon with its wonderful domed roof; the vastness of the Forum and the Coliseum; the height and detail of Trajan's Column; the three great arches of Constantine, Septimius Severus and Titus; the beautiful Porta Sant'Angelo and the tree-shaded walk beside the Tiber. Everywhere there were crowds and crowds of sightseers, and stray cats among the ruins. The Vatican Museum, overflowing with people, houses great classical sculptures, medieval and Renaissance tapestries, paintings and maps; above all the Sistine Chapel reflect the opulence and power of the sixteenth century popes. Two days were too short a time!

Then to Maori and the beautiful, precipitous Amalfi coast, reached by a hair-raising and tortuous cliff road - our base for Naples. On the way we explored the great amphitheatre at *Capua Vetere*, with its underground maze of vaulted passages where gladiators, slaves and animals awaited performance in the area above. Here the gladiator Spartacus trained and led an army of slaves against the might of Rome. Here too, we were lucky to be shown an exquisite small Mithraeum, with an almost perfect fresco of Mithras and the bull.

Pompeii; eight acres of villas, temples, shops, baths and brothels, forum and amphitheatre, frescoes and mosaics, all buried and miraculously preserved by the gigantic ash blanket spewed out Vesuvius in AD79. Time was too short to do justice to this wonderful place.

Naples Museum held the best of the mosaics and frescoes, the brilliant colours and minute detail were breath-taking in their beauty. Here too, some great marble statues and the heads of the Emperors, including Vespasian, who looked remarkably like Lord Hailsham!

On the next day, some of the artists remained near Maori to draw and paint, while the rest of us went south to visit the three Greek temples at Paestum, built of exquisite honey-coloured stone, in what had once been an important Greek colony and trading port. They stood surrounded by umbrella pines on a carpet of sweet-smelling herbs - marjoram and calamint. Here we found a souvenir shop selling a large green copy of the Colchester Mercury!

Herculaneum, a coastal resort and port of large villas, was buried by a mud avalanche, hidden, forgotten and built over by Naples, so that it has been impossible to excavate more than a small section to reveal the opulence

of wealthy Romans. Here again we were lucky. Nowhere close at hand for lunch, so it was to a café halfway up Vesuvius, with a wonderful panoramic view of the Bay of Naples and the huge sprawl of the modern city crouched at the foot of the volcano.

Soon after leaving Naples on the return trip to Rome, we found the coach full of strong sulphurous fumes from the Phlegean Fields near to the ancient Greek colony of Cumae. Here we wondered at the great passage-way leading to the oracle cavern of the Cumaen Sibyl, who was once consulted by Aeneas.

Then HOME - an exhausting and exciting week.

An Archaeological Tour of Southern Spain

Between Saturday 20th April and Monday 29th April 2002, Mark Davies led thirty-two members of the group on a tour of the major Roman sites of southern Spain. The following notes from the tour were taken by Jean Roberts, John Mallinson, Aline Black and Gill Shrimpton.

Merida (Estramadura)

Our first visit was to the impressive National Museum of Roman Art, full of beautiful displays of statues, mosaics, inscriptions and artefacts, all in an equally beautiful building. Nearby were the amphitheatre and theatre; built in 8BC, the theatre is still in use for performances.

The afternoon took us past fields of wild flowers to the Reservoir of Proserpina, and on the way back we saw one of the wonders of Spain, the Los Milagros Aqueduct, with 73 arches still intact, now housing a colony of nesting storks. A visit to see the remains of the Roman Circus completed the day.

The following morning, we walked into Merida over the many-arched Roman bridge to see the so-called Temple of Diana, centre of the Imperial Cult for the colonia; some parts of the Forum; the Arch of Trajan; and the excavations under the church of St Eulalia.

The afternoon was a long drive to Alcontera to view a restored Roman bridge, complete with arch over the roadway and a small chapel.

Cordoba

We had one and a half days to see Cordoba. It wasn't enough. Although the Roman bridge was about as original as Murphy's shovel, it provided a superb point from which to view the Mezquita and Alcazar, and led directly into the old town. Our Spanish guide gave us a short tour to help us find our bearings, along the early medieval city walls and into the maze of narrow alleys and whitewashed houses of the Jewish Quarter, with frequent tantalising glimpses through half closed doors into another world of a leafy patios and calm cool courtyards. Cool was important. One observant group member spotted a thermometer reading 45°C. In April, for heavens sake.

After lunch most of the group chose to visit the Mezquita. Begun in the 8th century, it was expanded by successive rulers, until in the 10th century it was large enough to house 15,000 prostrate worshippers. Miraculously the 13th century Christian conquerors did not choose, as elsewhere, to flatten it, but instead built their Gothic cathedral at its centre. We thus now have a unique and memorable conjunction of styles. The visitor enters a seemingly endless space of Moslem arches and pillars through which one could walk for a long time without being aware of the vast rococo cathedral at its centre. The contrast between the richly ornate, but always delicate and refined plasterwork decoration of the mosque and the brash gold and silver ornamentation of the Christian could not be more pronounced. For those with time, a visit to the simplicity of the Jewish synagogue, built in the 13th century under the walls at the edge of the Jewish quarter, provided a further contrast of religious styles.

The second day began with a visit to the Archaeological Museum. This proved a delight. The mainly local artefacts, from the paleolithic onwards, were laid out and presented logically and simply. The collection was housed in a 16th century palace, built round a central courtyard and pool, which provided a wholly delightful and appropriate setting. Later Mark led an expedition to the remains of the Roman Temple. Recently excavated and restored, it occupies a position at the top of the slope above the river. Although now hemmed in by

taller buildings, it was possible to see how it would have dominated the forum and town that lay below it. Those of stout heart and stouter legs were invited to join Mark in a further walk to visit a recently excavated Roman street. This is of particular importance since so little of Roman Cordoba is known or has been excavated, although it is likely that much of it lies preserved but inaccessible below the Moorish buildings of the old town.

Before siesta time set in, a few of the party managed to visit the Alcazar, the fortress built by the Christian conquerors in the 13th century. Its chief attraction is its formal gardens, laid out around five rectangular pools. April is probably an ideal time to see it, with every flower and shrub in full and colourful bloom. Unfortunately the Spanish idea of siesta does not involve slumbering gently in a public garden, and we were prematurely ejected when it closed at 2.00 pm. Cordoba is a fine town. But get there in the morning.

Granada

Thursday: Granada, and first sight of the snow capped Sierra Nevada mountains rising in the distance up through the smog-covered industrial area of the town. Fortunately the Alhambra sits high above the town and we emerged into bright sunshine for our visit. Begun in the thirteenth century by the first king of the Nasrids, the Alhambra once comprised an entire town within fortified walls. Now what remains are the ruins of the original fortress, the fourteenth century Royal palace, the summer palace (Generalife) and its formal gardens, and the Renaissance palace of CharlesV. The gardens are beautiful, the Renaissance palace imposing, but it is the Moorish palace of the Nasrid kings that the 8000 visitors a day come to see. Neither the crowds, nor the fact that most of what one sees is the work of the last hundred years of reconstruction, in any way detract from the sense the visitor gets of the refinement and subtlety -and in this case modesty - of the culture of Moorish Spain. Quite breathtaking.

There is more to Granada: the old quarter of whitewashed houses high on the hill; narrow souk-like streets, with trinket-filled stalls and pungent odours, running down into the modern town, and an archaeological museum housed in the sixteenth century palace once belonging to Bernardo Zafra, secretary to Queen Isabella. Perhaps the most striking museum exhibit is a collection of elegant alabaster burial urns found in a Phoenician-style necropolis some 30km from Granada. The Egyptian hieroglyphic inscriptions on them are apparently highly provocative - but (sadly) only translated into Spanish. Still, one can't have everything - and Granada was for all of us a most memorable visit.

Seville

Today was for me the highlight of the week. We left the Alcazar Hotel and set off for **Munigua.**

After an unscheduled stop in the village due to a street market, which our coach driver was unable to negotiate, we finally departed for the last leg of the journey in 4-wheel drive vehicles. Several of us walked the last half and were rewarded with wonderful views through olive groves strewn with wild flowers.

The first glimpse of the sanctuary is breathtaking. The city began in the 1st century and flourished during the 2nd. It is built on terraces; the remains of the forum and public buildings can be seen together with several large houses and public baths. It declined in the 4th century and was never inhabited again after the 5th.

In the afternoon we traveled back towards Seville to visit the Roman City of **Italica.** It was founded by Scipio in 206BC - but the area we were able to see was the "New City"' built by Hadrian in 2nd century AD. He was probably born here. It is an impressive site with wide paved streets, water supply and drains. There are splendid town houses with wonderful mosaics In one, in particular, the peristyle gardens have been replanted and the many rooms described which gives a good idea of gracious Roman life at this period. There is also a huge amphitheatre, one of the largest in the Empire.

We had been able to see the major finds from both these sites in the Seville Archaeological Museum the previous day which greatly added to our appreciation and understanding - a memorable day!