Colchester Archaeological Group

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Colchester Archaeological Group

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Committee 2007-8

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EDITORIAL

"A hard act to follow" was my feeling on taking over as Bulletin Editor from Anna Moore, particularly after what we used to call a "Bumper" edition celebrating CAG's 50th birthday. Members will be relieved to see that I have not attempted to produce an all-singing, all-dancing Bulletin, but have largely continued with the same well-tried format.

However it would be good to have a little reader reaction: what do you think of the format? are there any items you find boring, and are there any types of article you would like introduced? I have included some book reviews of books in our Library, partly to encourage greater use of what is a splendid resource (don't forget you can go any time during Museum opening hours – just produce your CAG membership card and sign for the key to the Muniment Room). Our splendid Librarian, Bernard Colbron, will always be glad to have recommendations for new archaeological books.

Another feature I would like to introduce is "Letters to the Editor" - I know we are only an annual publication, but if you have any longer-term issues you would like to air with the membership, write – whether appreciative, abusive, or corrective. There are important issues in archaeology as a whole – like the relationship between amateurs and professionals, as well as more local issues, such as what to do about Colchester's "Heritage". Would you like a different kind of Bulletin – do you favour the popular (and highly successful) approach of *Current Archaeology* and *British Archaeology,* or do you think it should be more serious like the magisterial "Transactions" and "Proceedings" of the county societies?

Would you like the Group to branch out in other directions – or do more (or less) of what it is already doing? should we make more use of our website? should we revive the discussion group which ran for two summers? and what about running our own courses on archaeology, now that adult education has been so severely cut, costly and bureaucratic?   Pat Brown

The Editor's address is on page 1, or you can email me on BrwAP@aol.com.

OBITUARY: JAMES FAWN

It was with sadness that we learnt, just before going to press, of the death on 4th November 2008, of James Fawn. James was an active and influential member of the group for nearly 50 years. During this time he made a continuing and outstanding contribution to archaeology in the Colchester area. He also served as chairman, and, for 23 years, treasurer of the group. We shall miss him for the help and support he gave to all who chose to get involved in practical archaeology, for his dry and quiet humour, and for his unfailing kindness and generosity to all he met.
A full obituary and appreciation of his archaeological work will follow in our next bulletin.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

After the exciting and highly successful events of our 50th Anniversary year, this year could have been a slight anticlimax; this has not proved to have been so. All the events that have been organised this year have been well supported. The lectures which are our main interest for everyone have again been very informative with our usual high standard of speakers. Thanks go to Pat Brown. The weekend away trip to the Peak District, Anna's last, was a huge success. Anna was ably assisted by John Moore and Mark Davies as our expert guide. Gill Shrimpton organised a superb summer program of trips for us, a highlight being the visit to the British Museum to see the Terracotta Army exhibition.

This year has seen the formation of a finds processing team led by Janet Harrison, and we are already seeing some excellent results of their work on the Tey Brook and Wormingford Lodge finds.

The work of the fieldwork team this year deserves a special mention.The open area excavation of the Iron Age enclosure at Tey Brook Farm developed into a site of high archaeological importance, in that it contained five native British cremation burials, with spectacular grave goods. The team battled against

the elements at times, but finished their work at Gt.Tey on time. The whole group's thanks go to our farmers and landowners Richard and Roger Browning for their practical help, loan of machinery, support and encouragement over the past six years. We look forward to the publication of the final report of this site by Pauline Skippins, our site director; with great anticipation. The field work team would also like to thank the membership of the group for financial help, donations, and practical help throughout this excavation.

The success of the whole group can only be measured by asking ourselves, have we achieved what we set out to achieve in our constitution, which is through lectures, visits, publications, excavations and field work to promote knowledge of and interest in Archaeology generally.
Over fifty one years I think we have.

<div align="center">Don Goodman</div>

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY Report
by Raymond Rowe

The CBA had a Winter General Meeting in February. The meeting consisted of a number of lectures on archaeology and medical science, in addition to the formal business.

The CBA stress in their dealings with Parliament and other organisations that it is Britain they are representing. Parts of the UK now have their own groups, it is important that there is a centralised British voice when talking about regulation of Heritage Protection matters for example. Different areas seem to change their priorities, at present Northern Ireland seem to be reducing their interest in archaeological matters. There is at present a national review of heritage sites, but government funding is being reviewed and this will probably by downward. The new government minister responsible would seem more interested in sport rather than heritage. Could the 2012 Olympics be the reason?

The main CBA AGM will be held in London 17th to 18th October. This will be a base for announcing the launch for the CBA London Group. Up to now London has been split between the adjoining area groups South East and Mid Anglia etc. This will give an increased focus across London, but will still work with the other groups. During the AGM there will be organised visits to museums and exhibitions. October should also see the upgrade to the CBA website, in particular an update of the bibliography section.

The bioarchaeology lectures covered many aspects of what excavated bones can tell us about our past. This is an area of study that has expanded over the last 10 to 15 years. The training at Masters Degree level has produced more people with the right skills, and the new techniques of analysis have contributed more information about our ancestors. There has also been additional funding from developers for excavation of cemeteries.

There are ethical issues concerning the re-interment of human bones and on the partial destruction of samples. There is however a shortage of skeleton remains in museums available for analysis and investigation. There are many more techniques that can now be employed in investigating human remains. Microscopy in its many forms from optical to the electron microscope is providing more detailed information on bone structure.

The problems arise when you try to draw conclusions from the information obtained. The simple idea that thicker bones equate to manual work may be right but is too generalised. So many other things can cause distortion and changes to the skeleton. Climate, diet, pollution and types of activity can all give a range of effects. For example recent work has shown that the rate of activity can have an effect on bone structure. Diet and vitamin levels can be a major consideration.
Vitamin D, mainly obtained from sunlight, also comes from food. Lack of vitamin D is a main cause of distorted bones, this as we know was the cause of rickets in children, even in the recent past.

Recent changes in burial law are giving cause for concern amongst archaeologists. There is a proposal that human remains should be reburied within 2 months of being excavated, this would make it difficult if not impossible for useful analysis of our ancestors to be made.

Stonehenge is still a point of discussion. After 20 years of reviews, committees and project proposals, all at very high cost in time and money, the Government has announced that the Stonehenge road project has been scrapped. Now the proposals are to close the A344/A303 junction and build a new visitor centre, with the aim that it should last 20 years, and that it should be completed by 2012 in time for the Olympic Games. With the costs of the "Scheme" which included a road tunnel for the A303 having risen to £540m it is not surprising it was cancelled. At the end the CBA as a body was not in favour of the scheme either. It is believed that in 20 years a better compromise could not have been found. Perhaps with the 2012 Olympics as a target they might find a worthwhile solution. I am assuming that the Labour backbencher who suggested moving Stonehenge will not get his way.

YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS' CLUB
Report by Rita Bartlett and Pat Brown

We have had an interesting and varied year, with attendances and membership keeping up well. In the autumn we made "terracotta army" figurines to coincide with the British Museum exhibition, visited Ipswich Museum where we had a demonstration of flint-knapping, and celebrated Christmas (appropriately in the Castle) in true Norman fashion. But the highlight of the term had to be a session with Julian Richards of "Meet the Ancestors" fame, where he got everyone making a TV programme based on facial reconstruction.

In January we looked at pictures from the Bayeux Tapestry and heard about its history: some of the children did their own drawings, but several made little embroideries of beasts and other motifs. In February we heard about early musical instruments and made shawms out of hosepipe, drinking straws and cardboard – after a little trial and error everyone managed to produce a very realistic sound – a piercing noise that must have startled visitors to the Museum! In March a Roman soldier and his wife took us on a tour of the Castle grounds, and we were privileged to enter Duncan's Gate and peer down the Roman drain.

In the summer term we concentrated on preparing a group entry for the Young Archaeologist of the Year competition, and have constructed a museum display, together with drawings and descriptions of the exhibits. In May we were allowed to visit the Museum store in Heckworth Close, where we were shown round this very impressive collection and selected a number of artefacts from which we put together a themed display, on show in the Castle in one of the alcoves upstairs. The children worked extremely hard and were rewarded with a feature in the Essex County Standard in August, though unfortunately we did not win the competition.

We were sad to have to say goodbye to Caroline McDonald, who has got an exciting new job as Curator of Archaeology at Ipswich Museum, but welcome two new Leaders, Carole Bartle and Barbara Butler. Benjamin Brown who has been a Young Archaeologist for some years is now old enough to become a Helper, and we are delighted that he wants to study archaeology at university.

Thanks as always go to the parents who are so supportive, and to the Museum staff, without whom we should not have been able to produce such a professional display for the competition.

HEDINGHAM CASTLE MOUND – A GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY
Report by David and Aline Black

Castle History

There has been a castle at Hedingham since ca 1066 when William the Conqueror granted Aubrey de Vere, one of his important knights, the two hides of land which comprised the Hedingham estate. There appears to be no record of what was built, but the oval Castle Mound, a roughly level platform of about 0.88ha, is probably the earliest element.

Aubrey de Vere 3 was elevated to the new earldom of Oxford in 1142 and it has been suggested that the Keep, with its core of flint rubble and mortar, faced with Barnack ashlar, dated from its style to the mid 12th century, may have been built to mark his elevation.

Not much appears to be known about the castle for the next two hundred years until John became the 13th earl in 1462 following the execution of his father and elder brother for treason. John was the leader of Henry Tudor's Lancastrian army, successful in the battle of Bosworth in 1485 when Richard III was killed and Henry became king Henry VII. A grateful Henry returned to John the castle and its lands (previously confiscated by Edward IV) and ca 1496 John was responsible for a large building programme on the Castle Mound, including the bridge which still provides the main access to the mound.
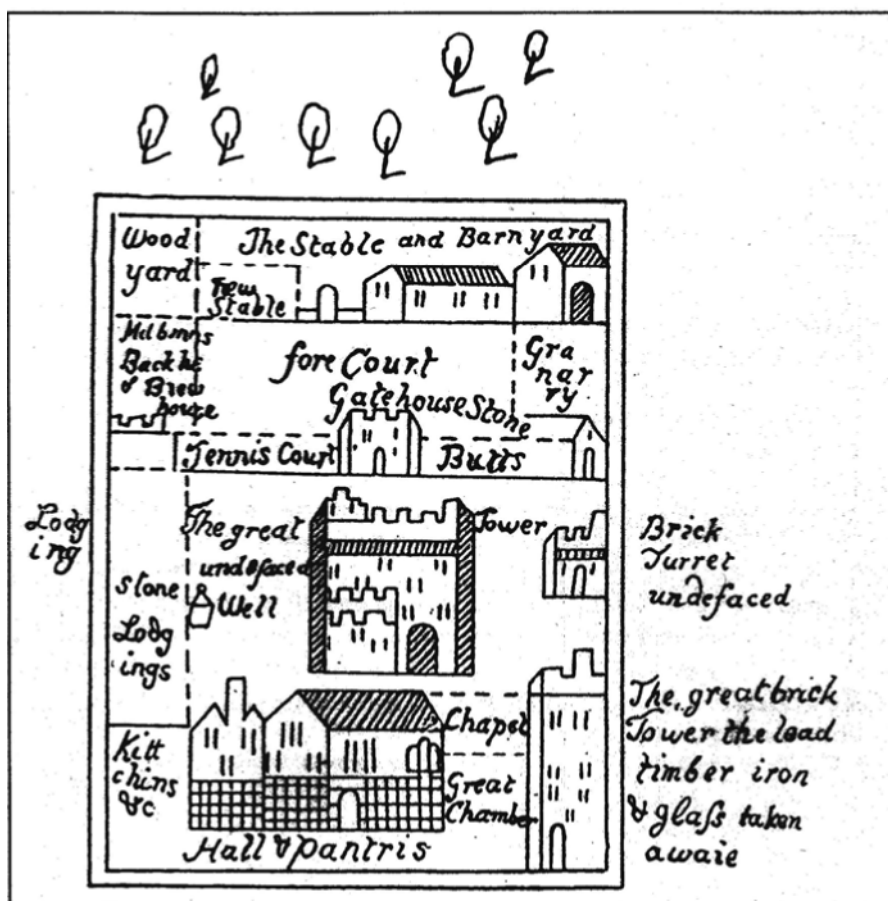

Fig. 1 an early 17th century survey

A survey by Israel Armyse in 1592 and an early 17th century survey **Fig1** (unattributed), record a number of buildings, mainly brick, including the *Great Brick Tower,* the *Hall* with *pantris* and *kitchins,* a *Chapel,* a *Great Chamber,* a *Brick Turret,* some stone lodgings and a well. The 17th century survey recorded that the *Great Brick Tower* had already had its lead, timber, iron and glass removed.

A drawing (**Fig.2**) of Hedingham Castle as it was in 1665 (also unattributed), shows the keep, the *Great*
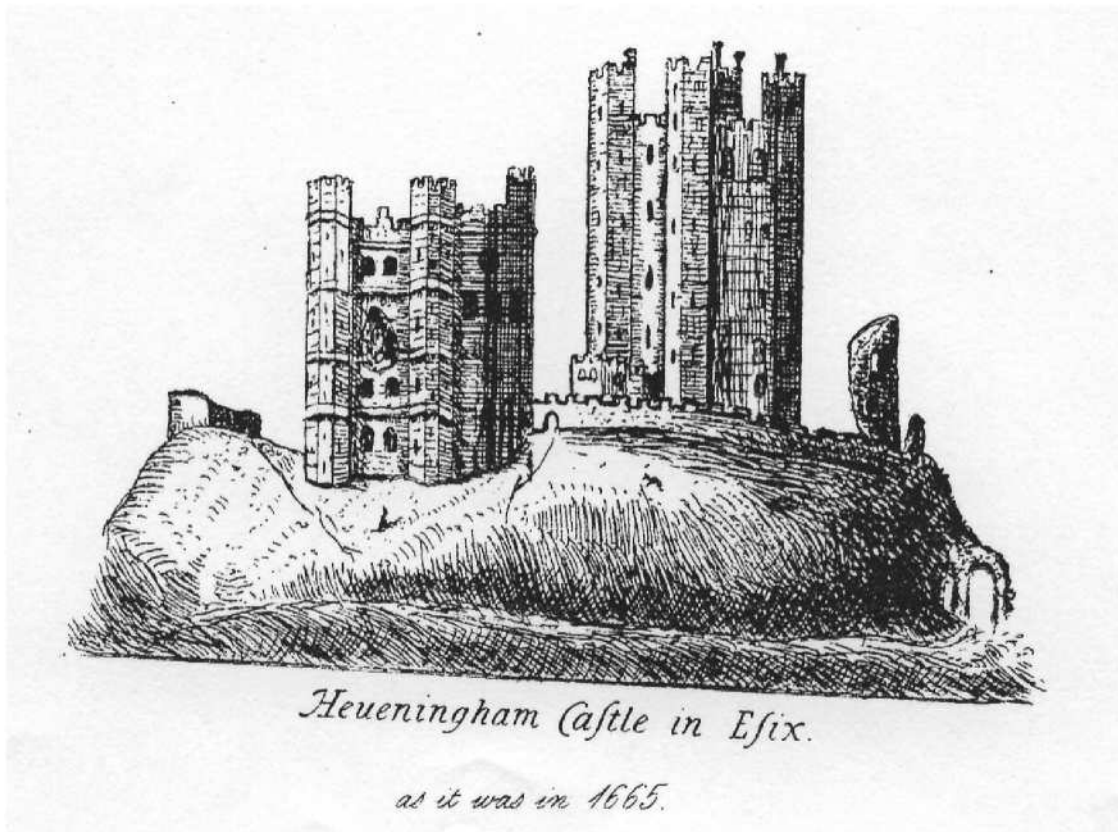
Fig.2 Hedingham Castle as it was in 1665

Brick Tower and curtain wall still standing, but, to the right of the keep, what may have been the B*rick Turret undefaced,* now in a state of ruin.

An estate map dated 1785 shows that by that time the Castle Mound had been cleared, except for the Keep and a small isolated building (shown in red on the map) which seems to be where the ruined turret stands on Fig.2. It is believed that the foundations and inner walls of the present house, built ca 1719, reused much of the material of the Tudor buildings, and the Mound was then levelled, filling in cellars with spare masonry and rubble.

On the Castle Mound all that can now be seen in the grass are some short lengths of brick wall and some slightly raised areas which may indicate where buildings were situated. An extensive area of brick masonry believed to be the remains of the *Great Brick Tower* is visible down the hillside on the south west corner of the Mound.

This is not an undisturbed archaeological site; far from it. There have been at least two partial excavations, the most notable in 1868 by Lewis Majendie, an ancestor of the current owner, Mr Jason Lindsay. The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (hereafter RCHME) carried out an extensive survey, but not an excavation, and reported in 1995.

The Majendie excavation, guided by parchmarks, uncovered the foundations of more buildings than appear on the 17th century survey (Fig. 1). These included a ***Brick Tower with flue*** (or drainage system) which adjoined the Great Hall and another ***Brick Tower*** to the SW of the Keep which he identified (perhaps erroneously) as the *Brick Turret undefaced.* The Majendie excavation report included the observation that "the foundations had been carefully covered and the cellars filled in with whole bricks, bats and pieces of stone".

The history of destruction, infilling and levelling of the site, and two subsequent excavations, suggested that the interpretation of the survey results could be difficult For consistency, the names in *italics* attributed to the various buildings identified in this survey report have been taken from the 17th century survey (Fig. 1) and the names in ***bold italics*** from the Majendie excavation report.

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The Survey Method

As anyone who follows Time Team will know, the two most commonly used geophysical survey methods in archaeology are magnetometry and resistance measurement, the former being the method of choice, where appropriate, because it is much faster. Unfortunately on this site the amount of brick and rubble scattered just below the surface of the ground, together with ferrous rubbish, produced a 'noisy' magnetic response, obscuring any archaeology that may be underground, so a geophysical survey using a magnetometer was not viable. A resistance survey was therefore carried out of as much of the flat open surface of the Castle Mound as possible. The Keep was not included in the survey. The irregular perimeter of the area covered by the survey was due in part to the presence of trees, shrubs, public toilets and rubbish bins. As the Keep is open to the public most days, access to the Castle Mound was limited, so this survey took a number of months to complete. Sadly, during this time the dampness of the ground (which mainly determines resistance) varied significantly, reducing the quality of the overall image obtained.

The survey was carried out using a TR Systems resistance meter. Rectangular grids of sizes chosen best to cover as much as possible of the Castle Mound were marked out. In each grid the operator walked along (approximately) south/north tracks 1m apart, taking resistance readings every 0.5m.

Results and Discussion

The geophysical image (hereafter the 'plot') created from the results of the resistance survey is shown as **Fig. 3. Fig. 4** is a sketch highlighting some of the features revealed on the plot. As an aid to understanding the relationship between the Keep and the survey area an outline drawing of the Keep has been superimposed on both Fig. 3 and Fig. 4. Please note that the outline drawing of the Keep was not the result of a survey and its position on the plot may not be accurate. The white or lighter areas of the plot represent areas of high electrical resistance, typical of masonry foundations or particularly dry conditions below ground. Black or darker areas of the plot represent areas of low electrical resistance, typical of ditches, pits, cellars or robbed out foundations, where conditions are wetter than the surrounding ground.

The most striking feature on the plot (**GH,** Fig. 4), a dark (low resistance) rectangular structure approximately 1 7m by 1 0m, is believed to be the cellar of the *Great Hall.* It is surrounded by a band of white (high resistance), much too broad to be the walls of the building and assumed to be both the walls and some form of external pavement or yard. The grass surface which covers this part of the Castle Mound was level and almost pristine, showing no indication of the masonry or rubble beneath it.

Just outside the north west corner of the *Great Hall* there is a discrete dark feature on the plot (**C2,** Fig. 4) approximately 3m square, that may be another smaller cellar, but could also be one of the earlier excavation pits.

The roughly rectangular dark feature with a ragged white middle (**P,** Fig. 4), on approximately the same alignment as and immediately to the west of the *Great Hall,* is believed to be the foundations of the "pantris" that appear on the early 17th century survey (Fig. 1). It is perhaps notable that the 1 7th century survey, like the earlier survey by Armyse, seems to show the *"Hall & pantris"* as two buildings, possibly attached, with separate roofs. In contrast to the ground surface above the Great Hall, the grass which covers this part of the Castle Mound is scarred by sections of brick wall foundations.

The appearance of the roughly 12m square white (high resistance) feature on the plot, to the north west of the *Great Hall (* **K,** Fig. 4), suggests the presence of a masonry floor or pavement surrounded by a scatter of rubble. This area is slightly higher than most of the Castle Mound, and consequently better drained, which may partly explain the unusually high resistance readings recorded over this feature. The process of taking a resistance reading involves pushing a pair of metal probes about 10cm long into the surface, which gives the operator a 'feel' for the ground immediately below the surface. Much of this area of the site proved to be difficult to penetrate due to the presence of isolated lumps of hard materials, assumed to be rubble. The RCHME survey concluded that this may be the location of the Tudor *"kitchins"* shown on the 17th century survey (Fig.1).

The rectangular feature (**BTF,** Fig. 4), approximately 1 3m by 1 0m, south of and on the same alignment as the *Great Hall,* is believed to be the foundations of the building identified by Majendie as the *Brick Tower with flue.* The two dark irregular patches that overlap this structure on the plot may be excavation pits.

There are faint traces of a feature (**C,** Fig. 4) approximately 7m square between the *Brick Tower with flue* and the south west corner of the Keep. This may be the remains of the building identified by Majendie as the "foundations of the *Chapel,* of rubble and imperfect".

The white (high resistance) feature looking rather like a teacup at the bottom edge of the plot (**BT,** Fig. 4), approximately 8m by 7m, facing and nearly in line with the external stairs which allow entry to the keep, is believed to be the foundations of the building identified by Majendie as the *Brick Tower .*

The similar but slightly smaller white square feature (**IB,** Fig. 4) at the bottom right hand corner of the plot, on a different alignment but also facing the external stairs to the Keep, is evidence of the foundations of a building that was not discovered by the Majendie excavation. Its location was identified in the RCHME survey as a possible building and it seems to coincide with the small isolated building (referred to above) on the Hedingham Castle Estate map of 1785. This isolated feature is believed to be the foundations of the ruined turret on Fig.2, which may also be the *Brick Turret undefaced* on Fig. 1.

The faint traces of white (**F,** Fig. 4) in the area just to the north west of the *Brick Tower* which appear to be on the same alignment as the *Brick Tower with flue,* look like fragments of foundations.

The broad indistinct dark area to the north of the Keep coincides with a roughly rectilinear depression in the surface of the Castle Mound which at the time of our survey was noticeably wetter, and consequently of lower electrical resistance, than most of the rest of the Mound. Sadly, such conditions can mask the presence of any underlying archaeology. The northern edge of this dark area of the plot obscures the *"well"* shown on the 1 7th century survey (**Well,** Fig. 4), now covered with a concrete cap.

Some of the features on the plot are unlikely to be part of the Tudor castle. The dark narrow linear feature (**W,** Fig. 4) running eastwards from the Keep in the direction of the Tudor bridge, which is just off the right hand edge of the plot, is almost certainly the line of a service trench that has been dug in modern times to install a water supply to the Keep. There is a similar but fainter dark narrow linear feature crossing the north east corner of the plot heading in the direction of the public toilets, which are just off the top of the plot.

More difficult to explain are the broader dark linear features (**CW,** Fig. 4) that appear on the south west and south east perimeter of the plot, running approximately along the presumed line of the curtain wall round the edge of the Mound. Foundations of a brick wall would normally be expected to result in high resistance and appear white on a resistance plot, but these features look more like a ditch. On closer inspection they seem to be a series of separate pits rather than a continuous ditch. Nevertheless, they seem to follow the line of the curtain wall or *"Wall of enciente"* reported by Majendie.

Perhaps the most surprising aspect of the plot is the lack of evidence of the location of the *Great Brick Tower* on the top of the Castle Mound, inside the line of the curtain wall. What are believed to be the foundations of two stair turrets of the *Great Brick Tower (GT,* Fig. 4) are still visible part way down the bank below the south west corner of the Mound. The 1868 Majendie excavation report associated fragments of foundations on the top of the Castle Mound (referred to above) as part of the *Great Brick Tower,* although their alignment was unconvincing. This resistance survey did not reveal any evidence of the presence of the foundations of the *Great Brick Tower* within the curtain wall on the top of the Castle Mound. This suggests that the picture of Hedingham Castle as it was in 1665 (Fig.2) which shows the *Great Brick Tower* built outside the curtain wall on the face of the Mound, rather than on the top of the Mound, may be an accurate representation.

Conclusions

This resistance survey has revealed the location of several buildings believed to be part of the Tudor castle, including one that had not been positively identified by previous investigations, but no evidence was found of the foundations of the Great Brick Tower.

Acknowledgements

Aline and David Black

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ERO 1785 *A Map of the Demesne Lands belonging to the Estate at Hedingham Castle in the County of Essex* by Bailey Bird

RESISTANCE SURVEY OF HEDINGHAM CASTLE MOUND

N

THE KEEP

black = low resistance
white = high resistance

Fig. 3

50M   100M

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SKETCH PLAN SHOWING MAIN FEATURES REVEALED BY A RESISTANCE SURVEY OF HEDINGHAM CASTLE MOUND

N

WELL

K

C2

GH

P

BTF

C

THE KEEP

W

IB

CW

CW

GT

F

BT

Fig. 4

50M   100M

CAG 2008
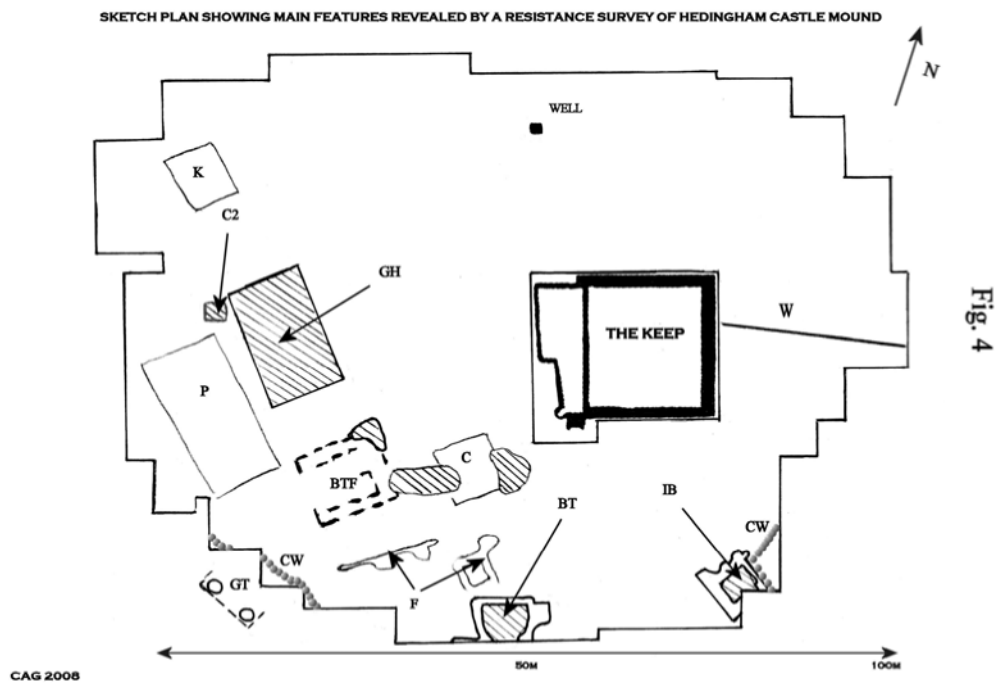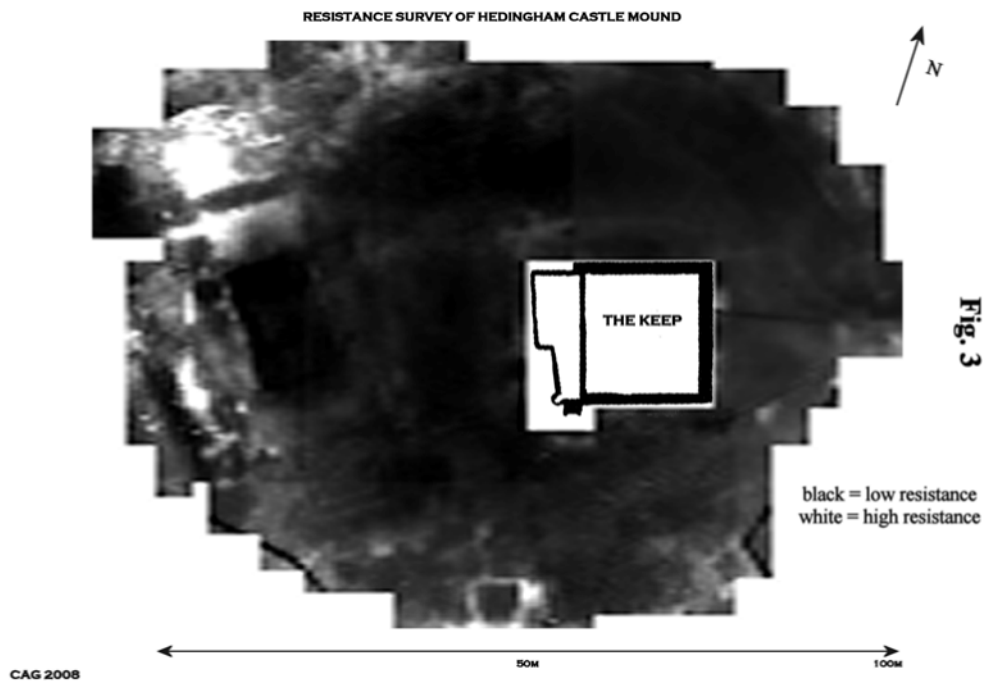
THE WORMINGFORD JETON
Report by Francis Nicholls

The current excavations on Lodge Hills, Wormingford are revealing a number of interesting finds. Many are related to the remains of a substantial building, probably a hunting lodge or standing, overlooking the deer park to the south of the River Stour near Smallbridge Hall. Many bricks, tiles and other finds from the remains of the main building are mid to late 16th century.

The excavations will be fully reported on in due course. However, the site is revealing some intriguing metal objects detected mainly from the spoil One of these is a brass jeton dating from the late 16th century. Jetons are fairly commonplace throughout Great Britain but nevertheless have an interesting history. During the medieval period, reckoning counters or jetons played an important role in the world of commerce. Early jetons were used for counting sums of money on chequer boards (from which the word "exchequer" is derived) and performed the same job as beads on an abacus. This method was particularly useful before arabic numerals were adopted. Early jetons were made with craftsmanship and were quality items.

By the end of the 16th century, however, they were being mass-produced, mainly in Nuremberg, and the Wormingford find is one of these. These low value jetons were nearly always struck as gaming counters. The increasing popularity of gaming houses during this period presented a huge opportunity to the jeton manufacturers.

The Wormingford jeton is a "rose and orb" type. The obverse side shows three crowns around a central rose and the reverse shows an orb within an ornamental enclosure (a treasure). It was probably struck by Hans Krauwinkel of Nuremberg (1586-1635).

The Wormingford jeton has an extra interest in that it has been pierced. This was often done to make a charm to be hung round the neck. Any references to the possibility of an early Wormingford Medallion Man would probably be unwelcome and therefore will not be enlarged upon at this stage.
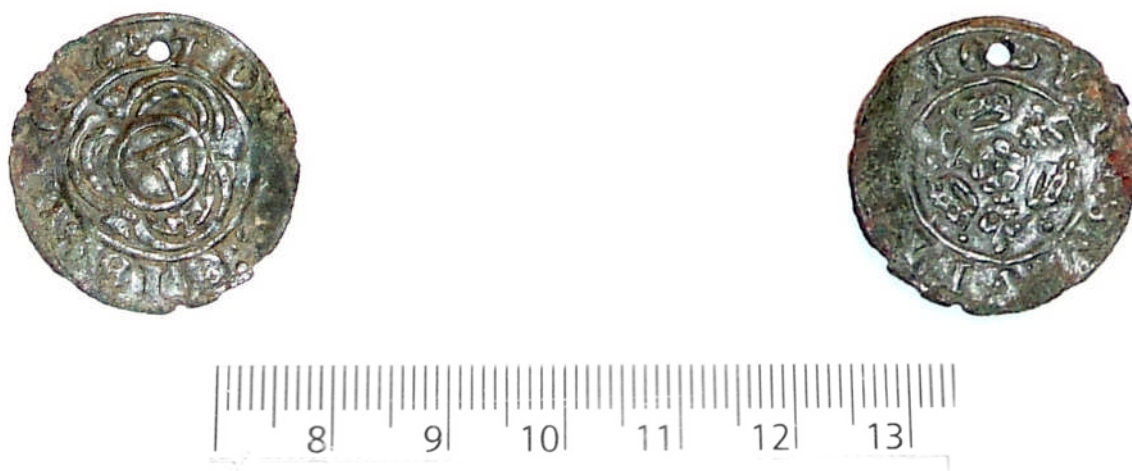
WORMINGFORD LODGE HILLS POLYCHROMATIC GLAZED TILE

Report by Andrew White

The tile is made of white earthenware and tin glazed to provide a more pure white background. It is decorated with a polychromatic design of grapes and leaves with a colouring of blue, red, brown and green. Pauline Skippins examined the tile and found a match with tiles held at the Museum of London.

In the early sixteenth century Antwerp was a thriving port and centre of science and culture attracting potters from many other countries including Italy and Spain. Among other things they made polychromatic tiles with ornamental patterns. Each tile bears part of a total pattern, the whole design being completed in 4 or 16 tiles. In 1585 during the Eighty Years War Antwerp was taken by the Spanish, trade came to a standstill and freedom of religion was put to an end. Catholic persecution led many to flee to England and between 1571 and 1615 here were as many as thirteen Flemish potters working in the Aldgate area. The tiles in the Museum of London are described as late 16th/early 17th century Delftware tiles manufactured in London after 1570.

This tile fragment found at Wormingford is a high status object which could have been part of the lavish decoration of the hunting lodge.

A SELECTION OF EARLY ENGLISH DOORS
Richard Shackle

As many people will know I am writing a book about early doors in England with a few added doors from France and the Channel Islands. When the editor asked me to write an article for the bulletin, I decided to present some of the Essex doors I have found, as a taster for the book.

They are doors I have come across in North East Essex. I have not given the exact location of doors in private ownership, to protect them from theft. The doors are mostly 17th and 18th century. They are mostly made of oak, with some pine doors and at least one is a mixture of oak and pine. The majority of the doors are rebated moulded planks with battens at the back. A few of the later ones are butted planks with battens at the back. Sometimes the mouldings on the front can be deceptive, one door from Bocking has mouldings as if it was made of six planks but it is in fact made of three planks. There is an interesting range of door furniture, with some early hinges, latches and locks. Many of the latches are modern, I shall point these out as we come to individual doors. I have divided the doors up into four categories, external doors, internal doors, scratch moulded doors and doors specially made for closets.

External doors
1)   17th century door from East Hill, Colchester (Fig1)
This splendid door must be known to most people in Colchester. It is a panelled door with a series of
P.A. Lomas, Bryan Hurrell and Francis Holland
lozenges. The panelling is bolted to four planks, as can be seen at the rear. An extra plank has been attached to the top of the door. This is because the door opens into a passage and originally there was a gap above the door, but small thieves would climb through the gap to find what they could, so the gap was blocked.

2)   16th century farmhouse door near Coggeshall (Fig2)
This substantial door is made of three planks but is moulded to look as if it was made of six planks. The battens are attached to the planks by five rows of bolts. The iron door pull is a rare example.

3)   17th century door from near Braintree (Fig3)
This three plank door is moulded as if it was five planks. The battens are moulded. The hinges and doorknob are 1 9th century.

4)   17th century door from near Halstead (Fig4)
This panelled door is similar to the one on East Hill. The main differences being that the panels in this door lack lozenges and the middle set of panels are shorter. This door has a greater number of close set bolts. These extra bolts are both decorative and give an impression of strength and security. My drawing was originally published in the book "Wherein I dwell".

Internal doors

5)   16th century door, now in Colchester Museum (Fig5), I rescued from Head Street, Colchester during the development of the Culver Precinct. It was found in the attic of a timber framed building dating back to the 16th century. At the beginning of the 20th century the building was Richards Hairdressing Salon for men. It later became the Singer sewing Shop. It is another three plank door moulded as if it were five planks. The battens are also moulded. I think it was originally opened by putting one's finger in the small cutout in the outer edge; later I think a rope was put through the two holes near the top of the door and the door was opened by pulling on the rope.

6)   17TH century door from farmhouse in the Roding valley (Fig6)
This three plank door with elaborate creased mouldings was moved and cut down, in the mid-20th century. Several inches were cut off the outer plank, the back lined with hardboard and plywood. The white painted plywood gave a typical 1960's flat finish. The modern latch was put on when the door was narrowed.

7)   17th century door from house near Colchester (Fig7)
This lobby entrance house had all three of its upper floor doors surviving. On the little landing behind the chimney there were two doors, one giving access to the front bedroom and one giving access to the rear bedroom. In the rear bedroom there was a small closet over the entrance lobby below. The two bedroom

doors were very similar, I shall describe one of them. It is a pine three panel door with three battens at the back. The outer panels have a simple moulding on their inner edges. The simple hinges are attached to the front of the door. The doors were hung so the front side faced into the bedroom where it could be admired. The back side faced the dark stair landing where it could not be easily seen. The closing mechanism is an 1 8th century sprung hatchet latch. There is a modern 20th century latch above it. The door has sagged slightly over the years so a extra plank has been added at the bottom at the back. The closet door I will discuss under closet doors

8) 17th century door from house near Halstead (Fig8)
This door was found built into a modern partition but during the renovation of the house it was moved to a new location. As this house was downgraded from a farm house to agricultural workers' cottages in the 19th century it is likely that the door has always been in the house. The door is made from three unequal sized planks but the mouldings make it look as if it was made from five planks. The hinges with their star patterns are very attractive. The bolts are diamond shapes as can be seen in the inset drawing. On the back of the door, each batten has in its middle a bolt driven through to the front. It is still opened by using the sprung hatchet latch.

9) 17th century door from the same house near Braintree as number 3 (Fig9)
A door made up of four unequal sized planks made to look as if it was made from six planks. The hinges are hand made by a blacksmith but unusually he has stamped his initials "TB" on both of them (see inset drawing).

10)   17th century door from Harwich (Fig10)
A door made up of three panels with a simple moulding. The hole and semi–circular scar for a ring pull can still be seen. The modern lock is omitted from the drawing. The door is now on the upper floor, opening on to a staircase to the attic, but it may have been moved from elsewhere in the building which dates back to the 15th century.

11)   17th century door from Colchester (Fig11)
This simple, three panel door has been much altered and repaired over the centuries. An extra piece has been added to the top at the front, to increase its height by a couple of inches. This was probably done to make the door fit in its present location, which was as a door to a servant's bedroom in an attic. The outer plank of the door has been strengthened by having an extra plank nailed to it. It has been made to look neat by having a simple moulding on its inner edge. The latch is a very fine example of the 17/18th century. The lock is probably 19th century.

12)   17th century door from Colchester (Fig12)
The door is located in the attic of a 17th century range but this is probably not its original position. It is a, three panel door with simple mouldings. The three battens on the back are all different sizes, the middle one being particularly wide, perhaps to provide extra strength. One can see the shadow of two conventional hinges, but these have been replaced by reused 17th hinges with shaped ends. The hinge part attached to the door is "L" shaped. The hand made latch could be original. The bolt and padlock attachment relate to the attic room's use as a store room.

13)   17th century door from Colchester (Fig13)
This door is in a medieval building, which was renovated by an architect in the 1920's. This means that it is highly likely that the door was brought in from somewhere else. It is a three panel door with planks of unequal size and elaborate mouldings. You can see the shadows of former "L" shaped hinges. There are prominent diamond shaped bolts on the front. The latch and lock are probably both 20th century. Notice the small hole, in the moulding, between two planks. This hole probably represents the site of a former door pull. The hole above the latch could represent the site of a string and toggle to lift the original latch. The door has been extended top and bottom to fit into its present position. This enables people to go in and out of the room without stooping.

14)   17th century door from Manningtree (Fig 14)
A two plank door where the planks are butted not rebated. This may be a transitional door where we start to see a change from rebated doors to butted planks. Note that there is a complex moulding where the two planks meet. There is a slight moulding on the outer edge of the door. The door has a good pair of coxcomb hinges, although the bottom one is slightly damaged.

14

The front of the door is enhanced by four rows of large bolts. There are several key holes, suggesting several different locks over the years. This harks back to the days when locks were fittings not fixtures and could be removed when an owner moved house.

15) 18th or 19th century door from Colchester (Fig15)
This door is made up of four butted planks. It is cut away at the top to accommodate the shape of the attic roof and cut away at the bottom to allow for some projecting plaster. The hinges date to the 17 or 18th century. The iron latch is probably 18th century. The hook on the back at the top is 20th century.

16) 19th century door from Fordham (Fig16)
This door comes from a small brick cottage built about 1830. It is made from four butted planks with beaded edges. The strap hinges and iron latch are handmade by the local blacksmith.

Scratch moulded doors

17) 17th century door from Colchester (Fig17)
This door is now in a ground floor passage but was probably in a grand room and either opened into another room or into a closet. This scratch moulded door, like all such doors is made up of panels and rails. The panels are slotted into grooves in the rails. The bottom rail is a replacement. The panels are flat at the front and fielded at the back. The moulding is quite complex as can be seen by the cross section. At the top of each chamfer is a dust chamfer to discourage dust from settling. There is a fine pair of coxcomb hinges which are probably original and a good latch which may be slightly later.

18) 17th century door from Colchester (Fig18)
This fine scratch moulded door was found built into an 18th century staircase as the door to a shallow cupboard. As this door is so narrow it may originally have been the door to a closet. All the catches and locks seem to be 19th century or later.

19) 17th century door from near Halstead (Fig19)
This drawing by the author was originally published in the book "Wherein I Dwell". This fine scratch moulded door with its original surround was probably the door to a closet in a panelled room.

Closet doors which are not scratch moulded

20) 17th century door from lobby entrance house near Colchester (Fig20)
This door comes from the same house as door number 7. It is a small door of three rebated planks with very simple mouldings. Two of the planks are made of pine and one is made of oak. The strap hinges are very small but it was probably thought that the hinges on a closet door would not get much wear. The oak plank may be recycled as there are several reused medieval timbers in the house.

21) 17th century door from Colchester (Fig21)
The building this door comes from is 1 7_{th} century, altered in the 1 8_{th} century. It is in an upper floor room, with a door to the ground floor, a door to the attic, two windows, a fireplace and a closet. The closet is in a corner next to the fireplace. Above the closet is a finely made curved ventilation grill. The closet is almost certainly for a close stool (commode). The door we are talking about is the door to this closet. It is a 17th century door reused in the 1 8_{th} century. It is made of four panels with an irregular moulding to make it more interesting. One of the panels is very narrow and another is made in two pieces, which suggests they may have been short of timber when they made this door. The hinges could be either 17th or 18th century. The door is closed by a simple turnbuckle and the doorpull is 20th century plastic. Although the lock is 19th century, there may have been a lock as far back as the 18th century. This would suggest that the close stool could only be used by certain members of the household who had a key.

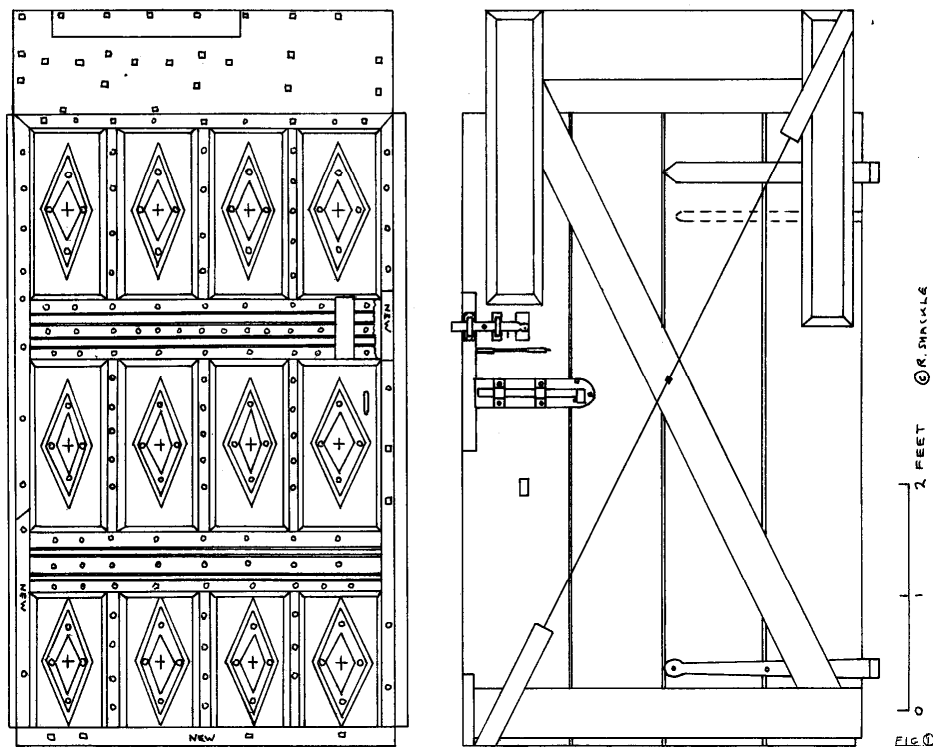22) 18th century door from Colchester (Fig22)
This door comes from a Georgian house of about 1740. It is in the principal bedroom on the first floor. There are two closets at one end of the room, on either side of a brick chimney stack. Being next to the chimney the closets would have been warm and dry in the winter. The two closet doors are identical, this is one of them. It is a three panel door with a simple moulding. It has a 20th century catch but may originally have been closed by a turnbuckle. It has a 20th century lock but may have been lockable in the 18th century.
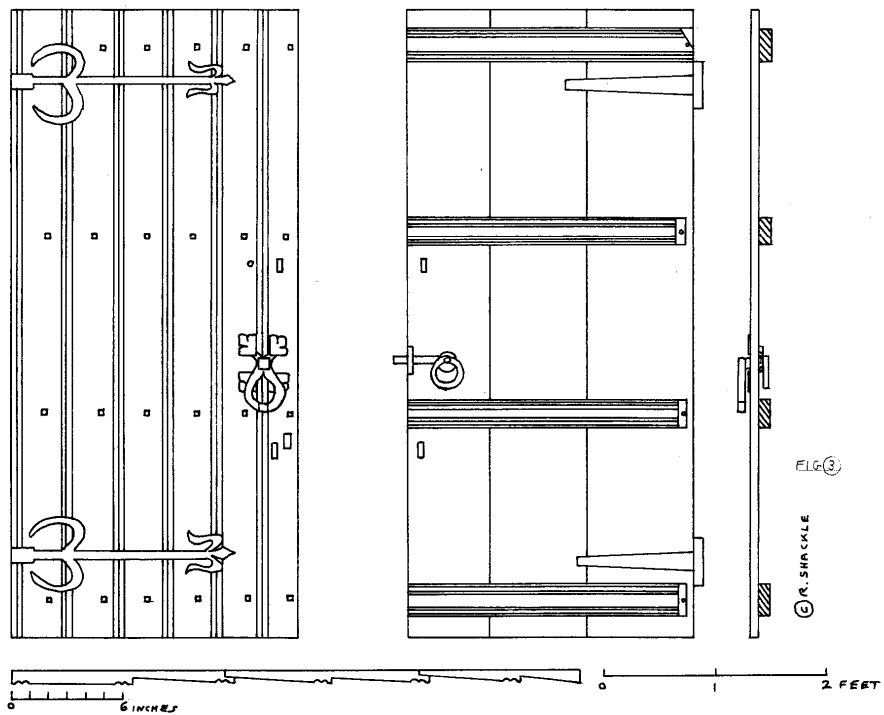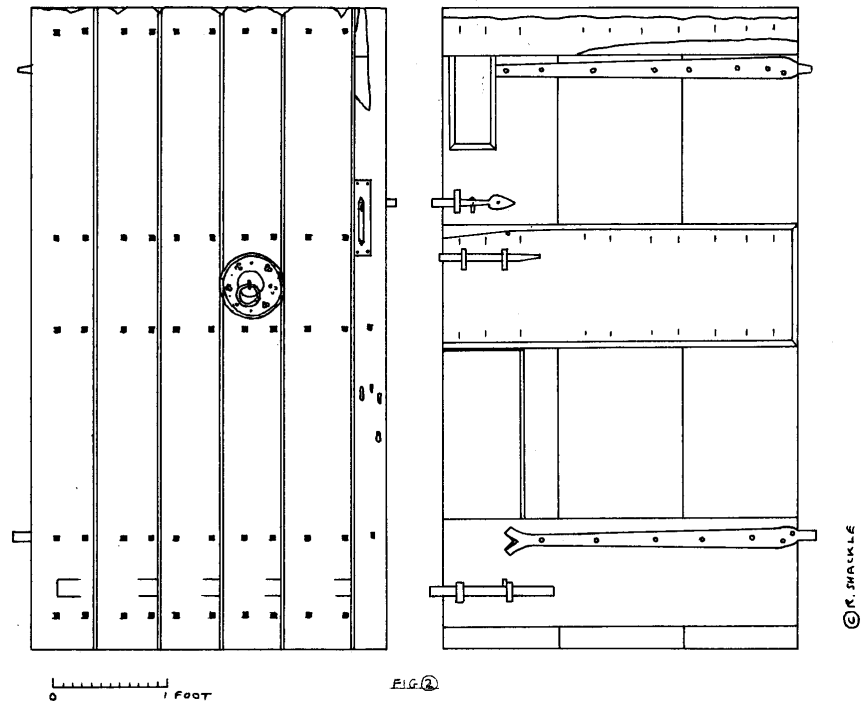
23) 1 8th century door from near Braintree (Fig23)
This door is in a medieval house, in a passage leading to the front door. Above the door is a grille made from simple squared laths with gaps between them. The cupboard is only about one foot deep, which suggests that it is a ventilated closet to keep food in; especially as it is in the coolest part of the house. On the other hand, the closet could once have been deeper and have been for a close stool. The door is made up of rails and panels. The panels are fielded at the front and flat at the back. At the back are two diagonal braces with simple mouldings. The braces are probably put there to try to stop a wide door sagging. At present it has a 20TH century knob but originally it may have had a turnbuckle. The lock may go back to the 18th century.

Conclusions

I hope these Essex doors have been found interesting and will inspire people to keep and cherish any early doors they have in their possession. I ask people not to disregard these simple utility features.

FIG.②

0 ————————— 1 FOOT

©K.SHACKLE

FIG.③

©R.SHACKLE

0 —————— 6 INCHES

0 ——— 1 ——— 2 FEET

FIG ④

© K. SHACKLE

FIG⑤

0 |̲ ̲ ̲ ̲ ̲ ̲ ̲ ̲ ̲| I FOOT

FIG 6

© R. SHACKLE

0   1   2 FEET

© R. SHACKLE

0   1   2 FEET

FIG 7

0   6 INCH

19

6 INCHES

© R. SHACKLE

0   1   2 FEET   FIG ⑧

STAMP

ON HINGES

© R. SHACKLE

FIG ⑨

12 INCHES

0   1   2 FEET

FIG (10)

© R. SHACKLE

0   1   2 FEET

FIG (11)

© R. SHACKLE

0   1   2 FEET

0   1 FOOT

21

SHADOW

SHADOW

LATER

© R. SHACKLE

FIG ⑫

0   1   2 FEET

0   1 FOOT

© R. SHACKLE

FIG ⑬

0   1   2 FEET

0   6 INCHES

HOLE→

NEW→

© R. SHACKLE

FIG.14

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 INCHES

0   1   2 FEET

© R. SHACKLE

FIG.15

0   6 INCHES

0   1   2 FEET

FIG 16

© R. SHACKLE

0   1   2 FEET

LATER   LATER

LATER

© R. SHACKLE   FIG 17

0   6 INCHES

0   1   2 FEET

FIG ⑱

2 FEET
0   1

FIG ⑲

OAK   PINE   PINE

© R. SHACKLE

0   1   2 FEET

0   6 INCHES

FIG 20

© R. SHACKLE

FIG 21

0   6 INCHES

0   1   2 FEET

© R. SHACKLE

FIG 22

0   1   2 FEET

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 INCHES

(2) KNOB

REPD'R

© R. SHACKLE

FIG 23

0   1   2 FEET

COIN FINDS FROM THE VICINITY OF THE ROMAN VILLA AT GREAT TEY

Report by P.A. Lomas, Bryan Hurrell and Francis Nicholls

Listed in order of issue

Licinius II Caesar 317-24 AD AE 3 (19mm)
Obv. Young, full-faced bust of the Caesar, facing right, with short-cropped hair and radiate crown, with cloak and cuirass. Large schematic ear, distinctive eye and eyebrows.
Legend- LICINIUS IVN NOB C
Rev. Two captives seated, looking down (one, on left, male, the other female) at foot of trophy showing soldier's armour, shields and spear. Symbols T and F in left and right field (poss. = 'Treverorum Fides'- the loyalty of the people of Trier?)
Legend- VIRTUS EXERCIT(VS)- The courage of the army
Exergue- STR (ie Trier Mint, second workshop)
Roman Imperial Coinage VII.263
This coin is dated to 320 AD.

Crispus Caesar 3 17-26 AD AE 3 Follis (17mm)
Obv. Bust with helmet and cuirass, facing left, holding spear and shield
Legend-CRISPUS NOB CAES
Rev. Globe above altar inscribed with dedication on 20th anniversary, VOTIS XX
Legend- BEATA TRANQUILLITAS - blessed peace
Exergue- STR (see above)
Roman Imperial Coinage VII 347
This coin is dated to 322 AD

Constantine emperor 306-337 AD AE 3 Follis (18mm)
Obv. Bust of emperor with helmet and cuirass, facing right
Legend- CONSTANTINUS AUG
Rev. Globe on altar, also with dedication on 20th anniversary, VOTIS XX. KA in field (? Kalendae Augustae- 1st August)
Legend- BEATA TRANQUILLITAS
Exergue – STR (see above)
Roman Imperial Coinage VII.368
This coin is dated to 322-3 AD

A further Roman AE coin was too badly corroded to be identified.
RIC- P. Braun et al, *Constantine and Licinius, 313-337 AD (!967),* vol 7 of *Roman imperial coinage*

These coins were found in the course of investigation by metal detector by Francis Nicholls, in association with the excavations by the Group in 2005 under director James Fawn of the course of the Roman road at Great Tey and other Roman features (walls and possible animal pen or pebbled floor) and of the traces of a bend in the course of th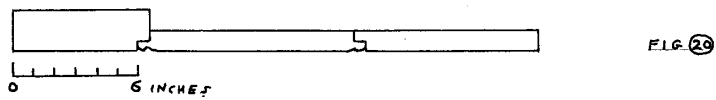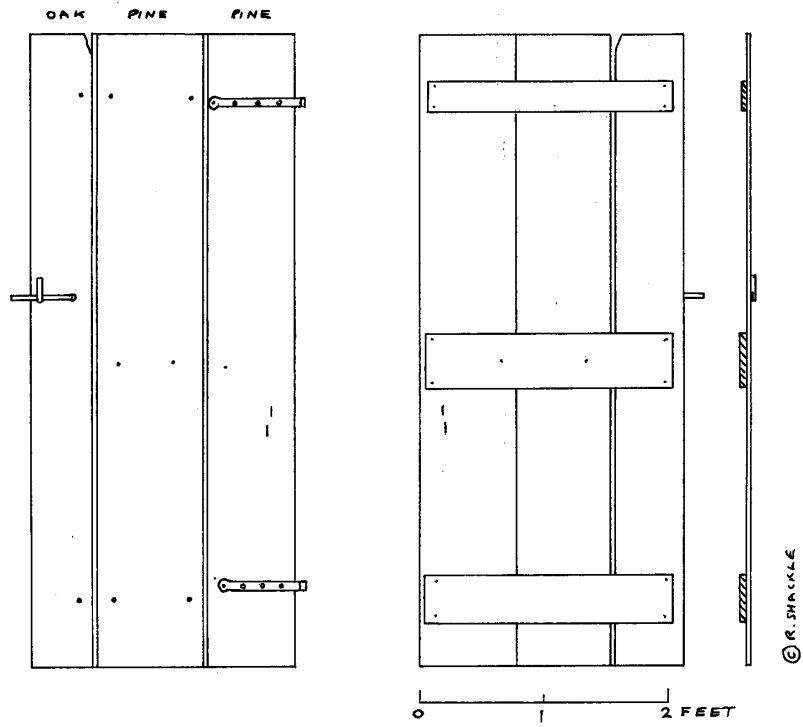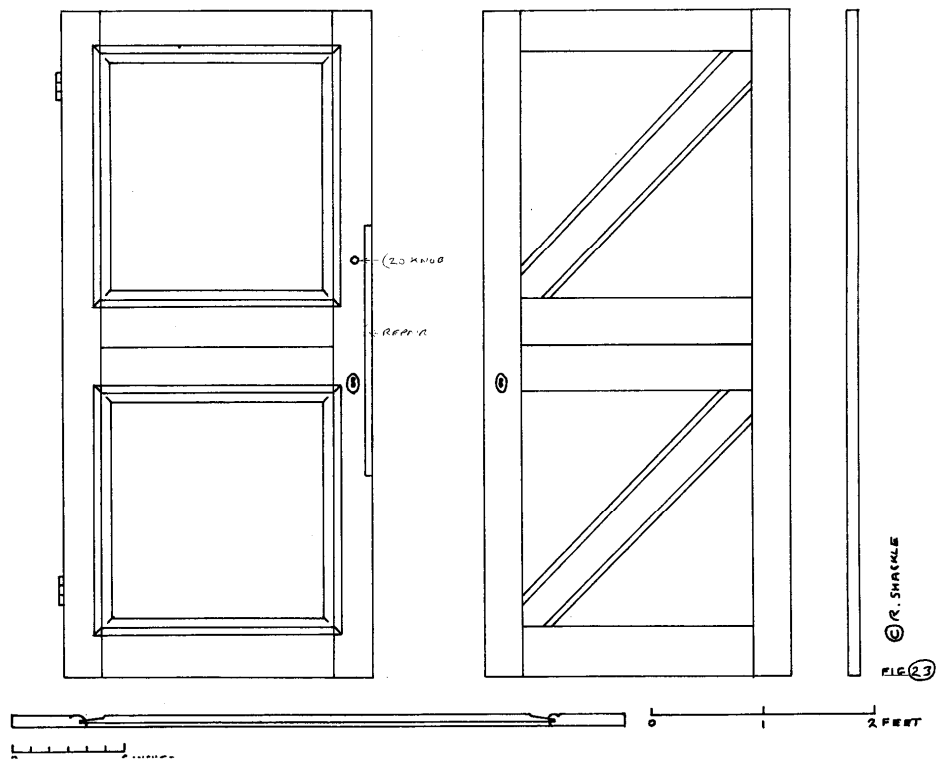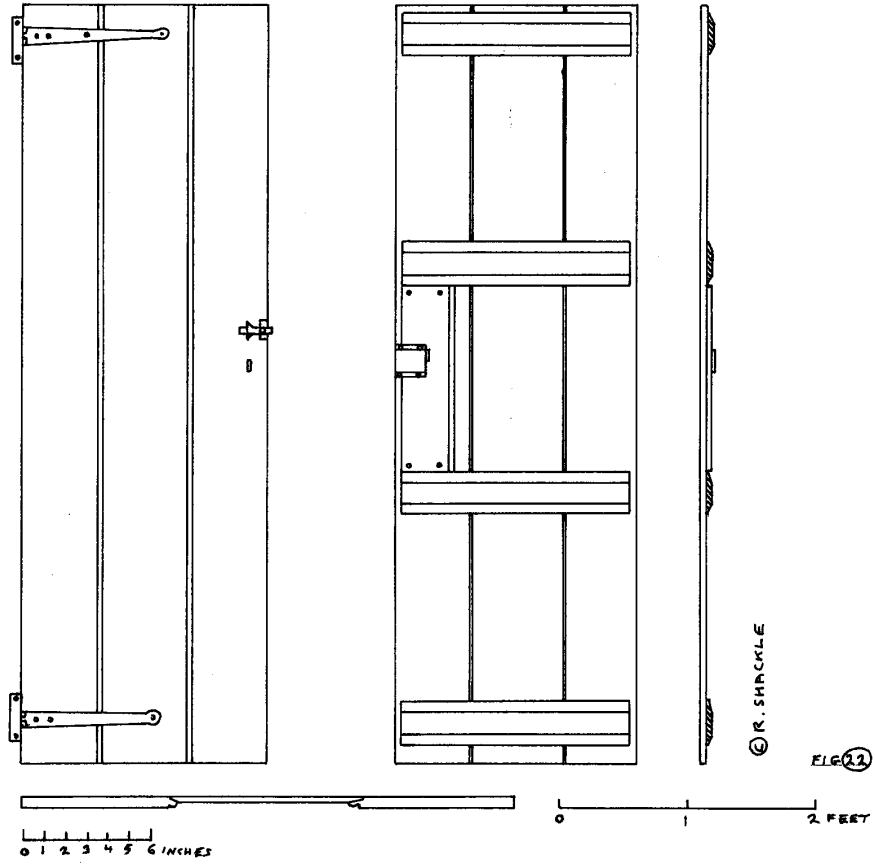e Roman river, where it was suggested by James Fawn there may have been a medieval or post-Roman mill. They were all therefore found in the immediate vicinity of the Roman villa, to which they are clearly related. The site lay about 100 metres from the villa terrace. The Licinius II coin was found close by the excavations, in the wash of the waterlogged bend of an early river course connected to the Roman River, which possibly accounts for its poorer state of preservation. The other coins were discovered at the same time in fields immediately to the north of the villa, hence perhaps 200 metres from the Licinius coin.

Reported finds of fourth century coins of Constantine I, Constantine II, and of Magnentius and Decentius, the later western usurpers challenging the authority in 3 50-3 of the subsequent Constantinian dynasty which reigned supreme till 361after the defeat of the Licinians, were discovered amongst the rubble layer over the villa remains in the early excavation, which resulted in the villa being listed. They have been used to fix the terminal date for the villa to 'the mid to late fourth century'. A coin of Severus Alexander found in the villa is used in the original report to suggest an earlier to mid-third century date for the main construction of the villa, or at the least suggests the latest point at which earlier prehistoric settlement around

Great Tey in the iron age enclosure, which appears to have produced no material later than the immediately pre-conquest period and goes back to the mid-Iron age, came to be fully organised around a substantial Roman style estate system, with its nearby access roads and evidence of Roman period settlement.

These new coins support the idea that the villa economy here was flourishing in the early fourth century. They all come from the mint at Trier, a regional capital where Constantine had been based for several years between his proclamation as Augustus at York in 306 and his defeat of Maxentius in Italy at the Milvian bridge on 28th October 312, before which Constantine is said to have had his dream of the cross, seen by both Eusebius in his Life of Constantine and by Lactantius as a symbol of a new era, and took backing by God as a sign of his impending triumph in Rome. In the next decade or so, Constantine the Great and his Christian supporters administered the empire in close association with the Licinians - their most important achievements were the edicts bringing about the formal ending of the persecution of Christianity, advancing the legal status of Christinaity, and encouraging religious toleration and pluralism The sculptural scenes and inscription of the Arch of Constantine in Rome demonstrate their new-found confidence, as emperors, as dedicated in 315.

Despite certain tensions the newly Christian emperor, Constantine and the more cautious, possibly still seemingly pagan-at-heart, fellow emperor, Licinius I, but equally committed to the new dispensation and easily disposing of challenges from usurpers in his sphere of operations, largely further east than Constantine's among some of the wealthiest, oldest and most stable cities in the Greek-speaking areas of the empire, provided a much needed stability and peace for the empire by means of their power-sharing arrangements. These were formally advertised further on 1st March 317 by advancing hopes for the future through raising younger members of their respective families alongside the Augusti to the status of junior emperors or Caesares- obviously hoping eventually for a joint succession. Constantine's three sons, Constantius, Crispus and Constantine II, were raised to the imperial dignity by Constantine, along with Licinius I's only recognised son, Licinius II, still scarcely more than a boy or a youth at this time.

Licinius II's mother Constantia was the half-sister of Constantine by Theodora - not Helena, better known in history as St Helena. Constantia, a fervent Christian who survived into the era of Constantine's later sole rule, and Licinius I had married between 312 and 315, linking together the two families in a very public way, designed to advertise Constantine and Licinius I's close and enduring co-operation as Augusti. Licinius II, probably the first child of this new rapprochement, probably symbolised all the hopes of a peaceful transformation of the Roman empire among the young in the years before 324, but being the son of a Christian mother his early upbringing must have been carefully considered by Licinius senior so as not to offend either side in the religious debates of the time Constantine was, however, soon after the minting of these coins in 324 to take on Licinius I in battle at Hadrianopolis and Chrysopolis, defeating the Licinians in his eventually successful bid to restore sole rule.

Triumphalist historians of Constantine tend to ignore or disparage the critical role of the Licinians in making possible the revival of Roman peace and economic stability by their power-sharing arrangements in the decade or more before 324. While the standing of Christianity was greatly enhanced, they offered relief through accommodation from the dangers of a permanent state of civil war between Christians and pagans-at this critical moment of transformation and renewal. Without it, Christianity would never have been as widely accepted, as it came to be, by the educated in the empire, and conversion reduced to a matter of imperial coercion. The new role of Christianity, whatever the degree of commitment and fervour of its genuine believers, needed to be worked out carefully at the highest levels in the empire by reasonable heads, such as Constantine I and Licinius I, for the Christians, although still growing, were still an active minority in religious terms throughout the empire, particularly perhaps in a province such as Britain.

We have here by serendipity three identifiable coins out of the six imperial figures in the contemporary coinage - the two senior and four junior emperors envisaged by Constantine and Licinius I in their carefully considered settlement of 317. The coins do not display overt Christian symbolism, as found on some of the Constantinian coinages, particularly after the restoration of sole rule, but the emphasis upon *beata tranquillitas* on these coins must have been designed to appeal to both Christian and the more philosophical, humanistic ideals of the bulk of educated Romans, so frequently overshadowed by the more brutal aspects of what counted for Roman civilisation in the high empire, with its institutionalised violence of the amphitheatre looming so large in modern discussions.

Their presence seems to suggest that here at Great Tey villa and its estate, in the early 320s, hopes locally were still strong in these complex collegiate arrangements for the sharing of imperial power between

Their presence seems to suggest that here at Great Tey villa and its estate, in the early 320s, hopes locally were still strong in these complex collegiate arrangements for the sharing of imperial power between Constantine and Licinius I and their dynasties as the *sine qua non* of peace and prosperity in the later Roman empire after the ending of the Great Persecution. There is no sign that the later campaign of Constantine against Licinius I of 324 was other than still in the future.

Whether the villa, its owners, visitors, and workforce were actively involved, as seems possible, in supporting these new arrangements between the emperors cannot be decided. But clearly the authorities in nearby Roman Colchester could scarcely have been indifferent to the cultural challenges of these years, with the city's most prominent public building within the walls dedicated to the imperial cult, besides lively traces of civic and civilian society and economy elsewhere in the town, and the near contemporaneous, newly constructed *martyrium* or church, normally dated to the 320s AD, carefully located outside the walls, with evidence of extensive Christian burials in the Butt Road cemeteries, given the reluctance of fourth century Christians to sacrifice to the emperor for reasons of religious conscience.

   (See, further, on Licinius the son and the significance of the power-sharing-agreements involving Constantine and the Licinii before 324, the article in the CD-ROM edition of the Bulletin by Philip Lomas, which 'presents complex arguments regarding this period of Roman history at greater length than can be accommodated in the printed version of the Bulletin, but will be of great interest to academic ancient historians' – ed.)

<u>Licinius II Coiin</u>

FINGER RING AND POTIN COIN FROM THE GREAT TEY IRON AGE ENCLOSURE

Report by Francis Nicholls

Two metal finds were retrieved from the southern length of the outer enclosure ditch with the aid of a metal detector. These turned out to be the only significant metal finds from all the lengths of outer ditches excavated by CAG at Great Tey.

The first item discovered was a small finger ring, outer diameter 1.8cm. Initial inspection points to it being made of copper-alloy, dating from the Late Iron Age and early Roman period. Iron Age rings of any type are rare. The transverse mouldings such as on this ring are typical of the period. Two other Iron Age rings of a similar type were retrieved from a Yorkshire excavation (a finger ring of the Arras culture) and from an excavation at King Harry Lane, St. Albans. Both of these examples show moulding or ribbing on the outer circumference of the rings.
The above details are from an initial examination and subsequent investigation may yield further information.

The second metal item was found in the same length of outer ditch only a few metres away from the ring. This second find was a cast tin alloy potin or trading coin dating from the early 1st century BC. It is probably a potin of the Cantii, having a stylised head of Apollo on the obverse and a stick-figure of a bull on the reverse, diameter 1.5cm. The River Blackwater appears to delineate the north-eastern area of circulation for this particular coin, so Great Tey is just outside its primary circulation area.

POTINS

The word potin was first used by 19th century metallurgists to describe these coins. This was because of the unusually high percentage of tin added into the bronze alloy.

It was the easy access to tin and copper (and also lead) that made this alloy the choice of early Celtic moneyers in Gaul and southern Britain between about 100 BC to the beginning of Roman rule under Augustus.

The higher usage of tin within a bronze alloy results in a lower melting temperature which in turn facilitates quick and simple moulding in clay patterns. This process had an additional aesthetic advantage because the decoration on either side of the coin would not be off-centre (unless the clay mould was poorly formed) unlike the commonly seen off-centre strikes on Greek and Roman coins.

Because travel was difficult (and sometimes dangerous) individual tribes produced potin coins for circulation in their own immediate areas. By drawing on written sources, such as Julius Caesar's *Gallic Wars,* it is roughly known which types and designs belonged to the various tribes.

Potin coin from Great Tey

BOOK REVIEWS

J. COLLINGWOOD BRUCE'S HANDBOOK TO THE ROMAN WALL
David J Breeze. Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle (available to members in the CAG Library)

Hadrian`s Wall offers a fascinating insight into the Roman military mind, and this excellent book is both a historical reference and exploration guide. It tells you exactly what to see at each point, the background material on the finds and museum details. It is well illustrated with photographs and plans. There are geographical notes about the alignment and height above sea level at different points. This is the 14th edition (the 1st published in 1863) and it is revised to include up to date information and research.

In common with nearly all guides to the Wall it is written on an East – West basis, probably because this is how the milecastles are numbered. Having personally walked the length of the wall I`d recommend the other way round; i.e West – East. It`s best to have your back to the prevailing weather!
However, I would have welcomed this book as a companion. It is compact to tuck in your rucksack and the print is clear enough to read without glasses!

Gill Shrimpton

THE ANGLO-SAXON KINGDOM OF LINDSEY
Kevin Leahy (Tempus 2007 £19.99) (available to members in the CAG Library).

When I was at school in Lincolnshire in the 1950's we were taught that there was very little evidence regarding the settlement of Lincolnshire by the English. As is stated in this excellent book, "in the past this would have been a much slimmer volume. The account of the Anglo-Saxon settlement of Lincolnshire given in Victoria County History of the County of Lincolnshire (1906) is as short as it is despairing. The English conquest of Lincolnshire can only be stated as fact it cannot be described, for all details are lacking". In 1964 there were still only 18 known Anglo-Saxon burial sites in the whole of Lindsey, this in spite of the fact that I was taught that the Anglo-Saxons were present in Lindsey because of all the ancient place-names.

This is a book regarding the archaeology of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Lindsey, not its history, mainly because there are very few surviving records of the early history of Lindsey due in part to its isolation from the rest of England. Lindsey continued as a separate entity until after the 11th century when it was joined with Holland and Kesteven to form Lincolnshire. The area known as the Isle of Axholme was always considered as part of Lindsey though the local people regarded themselves as a separate area.

The book itself is a very entertaining and well-written account of the author's struggle from 1978 when he first arrived at the Scunthorpe Museum through to the present day, initially with the problem of the metal detectorists removing finds, though some sent their finds to him. This then resulted in Kevin Leahy being able to identify sites that might be of interest and worth digging. He had also seen the destruction of many sites due to the agricultural industrialisation after the second world war. As he rightly says, it was a lonely struggle until the setting up of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in 1997.
He writes in the same way he lectures and his love of the subject shows through. There are a couple of niggles in that the colour diagrams are in a block in the centre of the book and also that the diagrams are not always on the same page as the text (possibly to keep costs down). There are eleven pages of bibliographical notes for those who would like to know more. This is really a very enjoyable read and a must for those with even a passing interest in the period known as the Dark Ages but which is beginning to give up its secrets.

We commence with a little about Lindsey i.e. where it is and how the Romans left the county; apparently there was very little in the way of deliberate destruction. There is a wealth of detail regarding cemeteries, which is all we have, and excellent drawings of finds from both cremations and inhumations. Various parallels are drawn showing that some pottery ware moved between areas.

Weapon burials are not heavily featured due to their scarcity. There is conjecture about King Arthur as a king of Lindsey. We then move on to the beginning of Christianity in Lindsey or the beginning of the Middle Saxon period, followed by the archaeology of various sites, like the nationally important site of Flixborough. Pottery ware found has been traced as far as Ipswich. Finally there is an account of the Viking and Anglo-Scandinavian coins and metalware than can be traced back to Scandinavia.

David Harrison

WEEKEND TRIP TO THE MIDLANDS: 2-5 MAY 2008

Outside TickencoteChurch.

WEEKEND TRIP TO THE MIDLANDS: 2-5 MAY 2008
Report by Gill Shrimpton

43 Members of the Group left Colchester at 8 am and travelled to Derby where we had a stop for lunch and a chance to visit some of the churches and museums, all illustrating Derby's industrial heritage. An hour's drive took us to Newstead Abbey – Lord Byron's home. It has been restored sensitively by its various owners in medieval style. It was fortunate that the weather remained fine and we could enjoy parts of the 300 acre parkland and gardens. We arrived at our Hotel in Chesterfield in plenty of time to freshen up before drinks and dinner.

Saturday May 3rd. After breakfast we travelled to Cresswell Crags where some left the coach and others continued on to visit the castle and town of Bolsover. Cresswell Crags is an important site geologically because of its` limestone caves and rock formations; we were able to visit one of the caves which were occupied in Palaeolithic times and see traces of rock art. The afternoon visits were to Roche Abbey, picturesque ruins in a landscaped setting, and Scarsdale Hall – a sadly vandalised Palladian mansion. Some members enjoyed tea at the adjacent medieval church of St Mary.

Sunday May 4th Our first visit today (after a brief photo stop at the crooked spire in Chesterfield!) was to Arkwright`s water-powered cotton mill in Cromford. We had an excellent guide who also took us round the village and explained how Arkwright developed the community based on his mill. After lunch the party split, some to savour the delights of Matlock, some the elegance of Haddon Hall and a deranged dozen set off (in the rain, naturally) to climb up to Stanton Moor where they marvelled at a bronze-age cist burial and the Nine Maidens stone circle. All the groups returned safely and were reunited.

Monday May 5th We packed and left the hotel and arrived at Tickencote. A lovely Norman church with a large chancel arch, lots of zigzag decoration inside and out. Then on to Stamford for lunch and a stroll around this ancient market town. The afternoon stop was at Nassington. Here we saw a group of medieval stone buildings, hall house, barn and dovecot. We had a guided tour including the gardens which have been set out with plants in common use during the Middle Ages. A fascinating insight into life in those times. We arrived back in Colchester on time at 6.30 having had a wonderful weekend packed with interest. Our thanks of course to Mark Davies for his informed guidance and to Anna for all her hard work in organising it all down to the last detail. This has been the 10th year of these weekend trips and Anna says it was the last one she will do, so real thanks from all of us for all of them! Let's hope that someone will feel like carrying on the tradition, but it is a hard act to follow!!!

SUMMER PROGRAMME 2008
Report by Gill Shrimpton

7 April Hedingham Castle
30 people dodged the showers and had a very good evening. The owners had opened especially for us and we also had an entertaining and informative guide. Aline and David Black explained the magnetometry survey they have recently completed and showed the results.

17 May All day coach trip 26 members and friends travelled to Clavering where we had coffee at the Fox and Hounds and met Jacky Cooper who told us about some of the interesting old houses in the village. We were able to visit the castle mound and moat where the local group have done research and surveying. We then went on to Saffron Walden for lunch and visit the museum and Art Gallery - as it was Saturday there was a market.

9 June Guided Walk About 50 members and friends met Mark Davies who showed us some aspects of the history of Colchester on the south side. We visited St Giles Church with its connection to the Siege of Colchester, the Abbey Gateway and then moved on to the site of the now famous Circus. As always we are grateful to Mark for his guidance and the useful handouts he provided.

14 July Annual Summer Party This was at the kind invitation of Hazel West. 46 members attended and we were lucky to have a fine summer evening. Our thanks especially to Hazel and Pat Brown and to all who contributed food and raffle prizes. A splendid evening enjoyed by all!

REPORTS OF LECTURES 2007-8

PREHISTORIC BODMIN MOOR
Peter Herring, Characterisation Inspector, English Heritage
15th October 2007
Notes by Hazel West

Much of the area was cleared of forest in the second millennium B C and probably farmed from then but extensively in the early medieval period. Peter Herring has tried to understand the succession of habitation and what led to changes. On higher ground field boundaries are clear along with stretches of undivided land which suggest that a considerable area was kept for grazing since Neolithic times.

Monuments
It appears that when positioning monuments respect was paid to the landscape and earlier structures. One example is Leskernick Hill – an early Neolithic cairn is aligned on an earlier quoit in such a way that at some time before the fourth millennium BC the sun would have set behind the quoit at midsummer. 2000 years later a stone circle and a barrow were built on the same alignment.. Finally two Middle Bronze Age settlements were positioned so as to respect both the circle and the quoit. Their fields were constructed at a distance from the monuments and the houses were positioned so the quoit would have dominated their landscape. Another example is at Roughtor where a Middle Neolithic continuous bank cairn of about 300m length is in three straight sections each length being aligned on a separate tor on the skyline. Two of the tors were later incorporated into Bronze Age cairns. 170 round houses were built so that the bank cairn was visible to them on the skyline. There were no houses built out of sight of the bank cairn. Thus were these people seeing themselves as part of a continuing history?

Social Structure
Artifacts and apparent burial practices would suggest that prehistoric British society was not egalitarian; some would seem to have greater status, wealth or even power. However farmers both co-operated and shared resources. Decisions on boundaries and access to land were made and administered. In the mid-second millennium BC the reave system found on Dartmoor and also in Cornwall was a vast undertaking and must in some way have been organised and agreed between different communities. There are five groupings: (1) the individual (2) the household (3) the co-operative group (4) the community (5) the "district council" through whom the reave system, pasture, access and summer grazing were organised.

Cornish Field Systems and early Agriculture
There appear to be signs of field clearance in early Neolithic times above Carn Brea. More obvious are some on Bodmin Moor. The bank cairn is over the top of an enclosure and in other places the enclosures are beneath Bronze Age cairns. There is no sign of stone built housing near these early enclosures. In lowland Cornwall there are instances of early Neolithic pits but no evidence of housing. This suggests wooden housing but by the Bronze Age stone was used. Pollen evidence suggests clearance began in Neolithic times but by the Bronze Age the ground was clear enough for large swathes of "landscape design". DEFRA's figures for keeping the 20,000 ha of Bodmin Moor in rough pasture suggest at least 5000 cattle or 50,000 sheep are needed. With the ancient breeds this suggests a large population of humans and animals from Neolithic times to maintain treeless vegetation. Few excavations have occurred of roundhouses on Bodmin Moor but those that have been done suggest the second and third quarter of the second millennium BC. Sites on higher or exposed slopes or above tin streaming have closely grouped houses but no associated enclosure (used for summer grazing or tin streaming?). There are examples of settlements with neat curvilinear enclosures on stone free south-facing slopes with lynchets , stock-proof walls and stone clearance heaps. On Craddock Moor is a group of independent houses each with its own enclosure sharing high ground with other similar groups. Together they make a community. Near the edge of the moor in sheltered positions there is more evidence of cultivation. Does settlement variation suggest different types of agricultural specialisation? Evidence of Middle Bronze Age settlement has increasingly been found in the last twenty years, though less clearly defined. It was noted that all the round houses were not necessarily inhabited at the same time. In some instances they had been built over each other and in others there was evidence of ritual closure.

Pressure on land was increasing and was this the reason for the reave system in Devon and Cornwall in the middle of the second millennium BC? The reaves are not necessarily obvious. Wooden posts were found to be used on Dartmoor and could have been more common in the lowlands and therefore now less evident. Though this coaxial system was established it wasn't ruthlessly imposed as can be seen by its sensitivity to

settlements and monuments. It was noted by Andrew Flemming that there were junctions in reaves which suggested they were worked on by different groups of people, each group doing a set length. More recently this sort of sequencing was recorded on Shovel Down to the east of Dartmoor by Bruck, Johnston and Wickstead. This indicates that co-operative groups were working on a shared design. How far were the lower levels of society involved in the design of these new boundaries which was a system beneficial to them, in that there was so much sensitivity to local features and inherited monuments? This reorganisation was on a truly massive scale. On Dartmoor the Rippon system is 6km wide and at least 89km long. The total length of boundaries on Rippon Moor is 948,000m. Figures suggest that this would involve 190,000 to 380,000 days of a person's work, depending on the availability of stone. The question arises as to where all these builders came from and logically it means that the population at that time was great enough to support this venture and keep the agriculture intact. It also needed to be achieved swiftly to avoid a chaotic situation arising. The system of reaves lasted for between 300 to 700 years. It came to an end at about 1000 BC.

At about 1000 BC another dramatic change occurred. The populations on the moors left. Though this has been attributed to the decline in the fertility of the soil there is not much evidence to be found from soil analysis supporting it. Whatever the reason there swiftly evolved a lowland pattern of nuclear settlement and brick-shaped fields. Land use was intensified with evident use of lynchets which have been found to be as high as 2m. A survey confirms that in West Penwith regular fields and hamlets were the norm in late prehistoric time. Single farms with irregular fields are hard to find. The downlands continued being grazed and evidence of transhumance as there was in the Early and Middle Bronze Age again making use of seasonal resources.

THE ROMAN VILLA AT GAYTON THORPE, WEST NORFOLK
John Shepherd, Institute of Archaeology
22nd October 2007
Notes by Pat Brown

First excavated and scheduled in 1923, Gayton Thorpe is the southernmost of a line of Roman sites lying along the west side of the Wash, along the gault clay and between the chalk and the greensand. Walls were standing to 2m. but some were only marked by robber trenches. There were two buildings, the southern one being at an angle. The northern building was a corridor villa with a fine mosaic opposite the entrance. The north part of the mosaic had been ploughed out. A wooden building had been erected over the mosaic in the 1920's, but it had fallen into decay, and the whole site neglected. Records have been lost.

Field-walking in the 1970's and 80's revealed other areas of building material, such as flue tiles, painted plaster and opus signinum. There was also late Iron Age and Saxon pot. Magnetometry, resistivity and ground-penetrating radar were all employed (our own Tim Dennis was involved), revealing the presence of other buildings, including a possible bath-house. Cropmarks show a field system to the north–west of the northern building. Pottery confirms occupation in the third and fourth centuries.

A report of a mosaic in the southern building (drawings exist of a cable design) was not confirmed by excavation, but an infant burial was found underneath, possibly contemporary with the erection of the northern building.

The site is now under DEFRA's "stewardship" scheme which makes further excavation difficult.

RECONSTRUCTING HADRIAN'S WALL

David Breeze, Historic Scotland
29th October 2007
Notes by Pam Bradley

The aim of the talk was to investigate how the wall could be accurately reconstructed, using archaeological evidence and interpretation,.

Hadrian (76-138) was recorded by his biographer of building the wall to "divide the Barbarians from Rome". However this was written some 200 years after his death. Inscriptions describe the involvement of the 2_{nd} Legion in building "a wall from sea to sea". The best evidence for the start date of building the wall, taken from inscriptions, is 17th July in the year AD 122.

Artist drawings show iconic views of the wall, but they are not based on evidence. They show crenellations, a walk-way, parapet with regularly spaced look-out towers and milecastles. A short way inside, south of the wall, was a footpath and some distance further inside was the vallum (earthwork). A vallum was used as part of the fortification system, usually made of earth, sometimes reinforced with wood and stone and had a deep ditch.

In recent press, it was questioned whether the wall had been whitewashed or plastered. However archaeological investigation was unable to confirm this feature.

Mr Breeze asked whether we should logically expect the wall to be built as other Roman walls had been built. For example the artist drawings suggested crenellations of 18 inches, yet a wall in Rome, started 100 years before and completed 150 years after the start of Hadrian's wall had crenellations five feet apart. He suggested the manner and style of Hadrian's wall may have been determined by local conditions and its plan possibly changed during the three centuries of its construction and Roman use.

The wall was constructed mostly of stone and turf. Pollen analysis confirms that, at that time, there would have been few trees in the area and the local soil would not have been able to provide a great deal of turf.

A feature found at the fort of Vindolanda was that the stones had been shaped to have a triangular end. However it was not possible to confirm which way up the stones had been used. There was no evidence of the use of capping stones at any stage on the wall. There have not been any large flat stones along the wall to indicate a wall walk had been there.

The thickness of the wall was questioned. Was its purpose to provide a walk-way for look-outs or were the towers, spaced every third of a mile, and the milecastles sufficient/ It is known that Roman cavalry was stationed at the forts. But cavalry would not have needed a walk-way on the wall. Archaeological digs have found very few arrowheads to indicate fighting along the wall. It is thought more likely that the cavalry units would have gone out, beyond the wall.

The turrets or towers were recessed into the wall. There is no evidence for how high they were and the tallest turret remains stand only six feet high. There have been no finds of tile fragments, timber or nails to indicate the turret roof construction. They may have been thatched or made from oak shingle.

Excavation of the milecastles has indicated that occupation was minimal and likely to be transient. Accommodation was more comfortable and extensive in the forts. The forts were the only points along the wall to allow passage through.

Excavation of forts has shown the northern walls would protrude beyond the main wall, with possibly 6 to 10 entries. The southern part protruded to the south, having 4 to 6 entries and evidence of accommodation blocks, hearths and ovens.

Mr Breeze suggested this design could have been intended to allow swift despatch of forces out to the north and enable their swift return. This may support the thought that the wall was a barrier, rather than a defensive position. It enabled passage of traders, but gave some protection from attack. Military use would be to go out and meet any combatants, rather than fight at the wall itself.

Again, this may support the lack of need for a walk-way along the top.

A more recent discovery in the construction of the wall was found between the ditch to the north and the wall. Series of post hole impressions were found which have been interpreted as stake holes. Stakes in such a position would detract northerners from scaling the wall to reach the south.

Another point made was regarding the vallum. Why should it have been constructed inside, to the south, of Hadrian's Wall? It is a significant defensive feature. Was Hadrian's wall designed to meet the need for frontier control? Was its role more of a front line along which to maintain control, rather than be a defensive military barrier in itself?

It was commented that the Antonine Wall was started in AD 142, after Hadrian's death, constructed 100 miles to the north. However it was abandoned 20 years later when the Romans withdrew once again to Hadrian's Wall.

WELSH GOLD: MYTH OR REALITY
Brian Bourn, retired engineer
5th November 2007
Notes by Ron Cattrell

Gold has been mined in Wales already since prehistoric times as it could be easily extracted from the rock, and the pre-Christian Celtic chief's gold torcs and armbands illustrate the utilisation of this ore. The Romans opened and operated the first gold-mine at Dolaucothi in the Southern part of mid-Wales. During the Roman occupation British metalwork was widely distributed throughout the provinces. After the expansion of the Celtic church in the 8th century AD, the Celtic goldsmiths were renowned for their outstanding craftsmanship.

Later on, the Welsh princes became wealthy and powerful rulers due to the rich supplies of metal ores, but the Acts of Union in 1536 and 1542 made mining rights the property of the English Crown and any royalties to this day have to be paid to the Crown. To work a gold mine a Crown Mineral Licence is required, as well as the approval of the landowner or leasor and it must conform to the environmental regulations.

The three principal gold mines are:
The Dolaucothi gold mine, which lay abandoned for centuries after the Romans left, had a brief revival in the 19th century, but closed in 1938 and was donated in 1941 to the National Trust which developed it as a tourist attraction.

The Gwynfynydd gold mine in Dolgellau opened in 1863 and is one of the richest in Britain, with an output of c.2,000 ounces of gold since 1864. Pritchard Morgan acquired it in 1867, developed the mining process further and made it very profitable. Since then the mine had several owners until its closure in 1917. It was re-opened in 1981 by Sir Mark Weinberg who employed good local metal miners, and although productive for many years, it changed hands as it became commercially unviable. It opened again in 1992 but ceased mining underground in 1998. A small amount is still produced; by re-processing of old waste dumps, but this may only last for some years. There are also environmental issues to consider. Stray or mined waste is returned underground for safe storage; the mill is also underground to avoid any contamination.

The Clogau gold mine in Bontddu, also known as the Clogau St. David's mine, opened in the 1850's and was intermittently a major producer in the 20th century. It has been closed for some years,; but there is a possibility to re-open it again in the future. The mine is owned by Clogau Gold of Wales Ltd, a family business which uses stockpiled ore with other gold bullion to create beautiful, unique and collectable jewellery which can be found in well-known jewellery stores in the high street.

For generations the wedding rings of a number of Royal brides have been made from pure Welsh gold.

Welsh gold is highly priced (three times as much as South African gold) because of its origin, scarcity and purity. When extracted it has a reddish tint, but during refining it is purified to a more yellow colour and only distinguishable from other gold by its isotope composition. It is rarely produced these days in its pure form.

There is still plenty of gold left in the hills of Wales (gold in ordinary veins and in weathered rock), if a

wealthy investor would be prepared to take the commercial risk to re-develop this ancient industry.

THE NATIONAL PARKS OF GREAT BRITAIN
John Wyatt, representing the Council for National Parks
12th November 2007
Notes by A line Black

In 1932 a mass trespass by some four hundred people on Kinder Scout made Press headlines. It coincided with many people's thinking, as well as the views of organisations such as the RSPB and National Trust that areas of open land should be for all to enjoy. The first National Park in the Peak District was created in 1952. Now National Parks cover 10% of Britain.
Their purpose is to promote understanding and quiet enjoyment of the countryside. They offer recreational activities such as walking, bird watching, enjoying the plant life or just enjoying the view. Most of the Parks show evidence of earlier mining and many have significant archaeological remains.
The lecturer showed slides from many of the Parks, clear evidence of the beautiful landscapes. He made the point that a short walk from the car park still took one into quiet areas.
The Council is a charity and much of the maintenance work in the Parks is done mainly by volunteers.
We were told that what we could do in support of the Parks included enjoying them responsibly, telling others about them, joining in events, volunteering help and joining the Friends of the Parks.

LATE ANTIQUITY IN THE NEAR EAST AND THE BIRTH OF THE MODERN WORLD
Sam Moorhead, Finds Advisor on Iron Age and Roman Coins, Portable Antiquities Scheme, British Museum
19th November 2007
Notes by Pat Brown

Sam Moorhead introduced his talk with references to the Palestine Exploration Fund, set up in 1865 and which had accumulated the most important collection of finds from Palestine and the Near East in this country, to illustrate the long-standing connection between Britain's political, as well as archaeological, interests in the area.

His skilful use of Powerpoint images took us through its history, at the same time commenting on his recent experiences when visiting the ancient sites. "Late Antiquity " covers the heyday of the Eastern Roman Empire, from AD410 to the 600's, and the modern entities of Lebanon, Israel, Syria, the West Bank, Arabia and Jordan. His main theme was the development of the three great religions of the area – Judaism, Christianity and Islam. His historical survey began with the first Jewish Revolt of 79-81, put down by Trajan, with the destruction of the Temple and the consequent growth in importance of synagogues. Hadrian suppressed the second Jewish Revolt (132-3), re-naming Judaea "Syria Palestina" (thus Palestine is not a popular name in today's Israel). The consequent Diaspora settled in Capernaum (Sea of Galilee) and further afield in Babylon, Alexandria and Cyrene.

Diocletian carried out the last persecution of Christians in the early 4th century, after which churches such as the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem were built (often by wealthy widows) though paganism was not finally outlawed until Theodosius in 391. The division of the Empire was consolidated in 395, with Constantinople as the capital of the Eastern Empire, possessing a circus, as does Colchester. Examples of 5th century mosaics from Petra and Mt. Nebo were shown, and the remains of churches from Jerash and Pella. In the 6th century the church was rent with schism, the effects of which Sam Moorhead compared to those of the Sunni/Shiite split.

Sam Moorhead visited the Golan Heights, where he showed us the remains of the 4th-7th century Jewish settlement and synagogue.

Rome had never had full control of the Eastern frontier, and forts were built up until 529 to defend against pressure from the east, culminating in the invasion of Syria and Palestine by the Sassanians from 614 on. One site he showed was Um el-Jamal ("mother of camels"), a fort which later became a monastery (Arab camel patrols had been employed by the Roman Empire, and Arabs increased in importance). 622 marked the hejira (Mohammed's flight to Medina) and the expansion of Islam.

Byzantium, being Monophysite and Arian, was doctrinally more compatible with Islam, and the two faiths co-existed, with Roman baths maintained by Arabs and art and architecture reflecting classical forms and motifs. The Umayyads tolerated both Jews and Christians so long as they paid their taxes, but in 751 their dynasty ended after the catastrophic earthquake of 747, evident in the archaeology, and the consequent increase in malaria due to the flooding of valleys when water cisterns were destroyed. Population fell and power shifted from Damascus to Baghdad under the Abbasids, while toleration decreased.

Sam Moorhead finished by stressing the importance of the precarious co-existence of the three faiths in Jerusalem today, and emphasising the need for awareness of the region's complex history, so strikingly portrayed in the many fascinating sites we were privileged to glimpse.

ARCHAEOLOGY AND FINDS IN JAMESTOWN: BRITAIN'S FIRST PERMANENT SETTLEMENT IN AMERICA
Geoff Egan, Finds Specialist, Museum of London
26th November 2007
Notes by Jean Roberts

Material Culture in Jamestown. The Expected and the Unexpected.

In the late 1950's Ivan Howard Hulme from England excavated at Williamsburg, in America, keeping the link between American and British archaeologists and this was continued in 2007 when Geoff Egan, and a mediaevalist were asked to assist in an excavation being carried out at Jamestown by Bill Kelso.

2007 was the 400th Anniversary of the founding of the settlement there and a big effort was put into finding out more about the post mediaeval era.

Jamestown was sited on the bank of the James River in 1607 and the first building was a classic, triangular colonial fort. This had been eroded over the centuries, but survival was better than at first thought, although part was inaccessible as it was under a Civil War redoubt. Many of the first settlers were waifs and strays from the streets of London and they had to endure the difficult conditions of very cold winters, hot and humid summers, as well as the site being full of pitch, tar and mosquitoes.

The finds were concentrated in a small area, similar to what would be found from the same period in London. This is because all the goods shipped to Jamestown came through London, although they came from different parts of the world and included Surrey Ware, Farnham Ware (a lot have been found complete) Dutch-style cooking pots, and quartz beads, for trading with the Indians. The beads were sieved from the plough zone and geologists can determine their place of origin. Many would have come from Amsterdam. Armour was sent out from the Tower Armoury, in London, but this was old stock and too hot to wear in the climate. Large quantities of guns and weapons were found in the excavation too. The settlers seemed to have been fobbed off with other old stock, as Tudor lead seals from bales of cloth appeared in the finds. Some of the finds cast some light on what the everyday life was like in Jamestown. The settlers were making their own glass ware, copying English designs, but using local sand, making metal objects and elaborate furniture, not found in London. Turtle shells were recovered, together with very large cod vertebrae, much bigger than would be found today.

However the most important find was a small piece of lead imprinted with the words Yames Towne, thus indisputably identifying the settlement.

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES
3rd December 2007
Notes by Anna Moore

Mike Matthews reported on his work for the Stour Valley Survey at Mount Bures and Great Cornard, where he has been field-walking and excavating for 15 years. He has created a database of results on which he has plotted finds of metal, pottery and flint. A Bronze Age hoard, dating from 1000 – 800BC, consisted of sword fragments, axehead fragments and a gouge; axeheads of different designs may indicate the activities of a dealer.

Excavations prior to the laying of the Anglia Water Pipeline revealed a Saxo-Norman pit or well containing Thetford Ware pottery and bone; two layers were separated by clean clay. There was also a ditch feature and a pit feature containing burnt material.

Metal detecting finds include two Roman gold finger rings, one with an inscription in Greek "good luck", and a Gallo-Belgic gold quarter stater from 65-50BC.

Aline and **David Black gave a presentation** illustrating the differences in results that can be gained from the various non-invasive archaeological techniques and the problems encountered.

The Abbey Church at Coggeshall Abbey shows up as scorch marks in the lawn of the present house; the magnetometry survey was disappointing but the resistivity survey was much more distinct, possibly due to brick foundations.

At Teybrook Farm, Great Tey, the ditches of the Iron Age enclosure show up in aerial photography, but on the ground, results are faint as there is very little difference between the chalky boulder clay natural and the infill of the ditch; the Roman Road in the same field was difficult to pick up with magnetometry, with the resistance survey only slightly better; the aerial photograph also showed two blobs in the same field, but both magnetometry and resistivity showed nothing

At the Wormingford Tudor Hunting Lodge site, there were problems with a wire fence and thick hedge, which had to be avoided; magnetometry showed ditches and a big blob which was interpreted as a building; the resistance survey showed only ditches which may turn out to be geological features, whereas the black blob appears to be very bricky.

There is a survey under way in the bailey at Castle Hedingham (see report pp 5-10).

At **The Teybrook Farm** Iron Age enclosure, the grant application for further excavation was unsuccessful, however the farmer helped out by offering to partly fund the digger and its driver, so work has continued; the digger first started stripping the ditch in the area of a possible entrance; two metal finds were made, a copper alloy finger ring and a potin coin from about 50BC; the opening into the enclosure was finally found, and in one of the terminals of the ditch were found a large piece of pot and part of a human skull; large pieces of limestone had been stacked at the edge of the ditch.

A semi-circular feature produced many finds including a loom-weight and burnt material, suggesting domestic activity. There were many post-holes, some with finds, and linear, shallow gulleys. A rectangular feature contained 10 pots and some animal vertebrae, together with a piece of copper alloy which may be a box strap.

Work will continue next year.

HOW A TIMBER-FRAMED BUILDING WORKS
Alan Bayford, expert in traditional buildings
14th January 2008
Notes by John Wallace

Alan commented that his training as a civil engineer rather than a structural expert would be an advantage in helping to explain the theory of timber framed structures in a non-technical way. He said that Essex and Suffolk were particularly good areas ("the best") for timber framed buildings. Sometimes the timber framing was not initially obvious due to later "modernisation", but the medieval form of the building (eg. central hall with cros swings) indicates timber framing under the plaster.

He used a slide showing a detailed model of the timber framing of a typical "hall and crosswing house" c. 1300 to demonstrate the basic elements involved in the construction. He explained how the various timbers were either under tension or compression, and that horizontal beams were subject to bending forces. Simple models were used to demonstrate how a rectangle would distort to a parallelogram if the corners were loose (a principle known by school boys in the days when they constructed Meccano, now overtaken by computer games!). A triangle however could not change shape.

Thus the use of triangulation or bracing serves to give a rigid structure to a rectangular frame. These braces are known as either "up braces" or "down braces" depending on where they are introduced into the frame. He noted that a brace from corner to corner of a wall frame for example would give problems in the placing of a window, so "up bracing" and "down bracing" was used generally in the corners. Braces are often used in pairs for symmetry so that if the frame is distorted one brace goes into tension and the other goes into compression. Sometimes a down brace does not reach the horizontal timber but ends in a stud (minor vertical). These post to stud braces are known in Essex as "Suffolk braces" or "Colchester braces" reflecting areas in which they are commonly found. Braces are often highly decorative and their use in herringbone and quatrefoil patterns was common in Tudor times and are to be found particularly in Cheshire and Herefordshire. "Conspicuous consumption" in eastern England was indicated by the use of close studding. However timbers within a typical frame served some structural purpose. Oliver Rackham studied a typical "hall and crosswing" farmhouse, Grundle House, Stanton, Suffolk which contained 717 timbers, made from 332 ½ trees, but only three of the trees were more than 18 inches in diameter.

Alan then dealt with roofs, which had two main problems, the outward pressure on the walls caused by the downward weight of the roof timbers, and the "racking" or sideways movement resulting from wind pressure. These were counteracted by the tie beam, a major timber joining the tops of the walls and the crown post and collar purlins which combine to give stability. Another method of minimising "racking" was the use of hipped roofs which sloped at the ends. Crown posts were in use from about c. 1300 and were often octagonal in section, with capitals and base mouldings resembling those of a stone column. Such decorative crown posts were a feature in the medieval open hall.

It is suggested that the crown post evolved from the "hanger" used to prevent vibration in long tie beams which could lead to collapse of stone vaulting in major ecclesiastical buildings. Such members can be seen in Chichester Cathedral. This type of "hanger" probably gave rise to the medieval king posts which rise to the ridge of the roof and are found in the north of the country. Sometimes crown posts have been (mistakenly) referred to as king posts.

Queen posts resemble crown posts but come in pairs, supporting purlins directly under the rafters, leaving the centre of the roof space clear. Queen posts can be found in NE Suffolk and SE Norfolk, but there are a few in Essex. The side purlin roof is a post-medieval form of roof construction which superseded the crown post. In the West Country a completely different form of timber framing was the curved cruck, rising from ground level to ridge often made from one tree split into two identical halves.

TIME TEAM REVISITED: THE LOST CENTURIES OF ST. OSYTH
Chris Thornton, Victoria County History of Essex
21st January 2008
Notes by John Spears and Pamela Pudney

Chris first referred to the Time Team visit to St. Osyth in February 2005. He described how St. Osyth was originally divided into two settlements, one centred around the church, Priory and market place known as "Fair Green" and secondly the area around the creek.

The Time Team hoped to prove the creek was of medieval origin but carbon dating of timbers found these indicated a date of 1550+/-100 years and therefore most likely to be the remains of a 16th century port. It seems the port later declined as other Essex ports such as Colchester, Brightlingsea and Harwich developed in importance. At the same time an independent survey of a house in Spring Lane near to the church known as "Old House" was found to be c.1300 and was probably used for selling goods.

Chris then gave some background information of early St. Osyth established from his own research. First reference to the market was dated 1178. By 1317 trade had developed to such an extent that Colchester complained of unfair trading probably due to disputes over selling cloth. At the Dissolution in 1539 the Priory had an annual income of £758, and 75 people were involved in its day to day running. It was second only in Essex to Waltham Abbey in wealth.

The market was held at Fair Green and focussed around the sale of agricultural products such as cheese, butter, cream and leather goods. Cloth was of little importance as Colchester dominated this market. Dairy products came from many farms in the area. The name "wick" as in Jaywick indicates "dairy" and a glance at the Ordnance Survey map shows many such farms still exist today. Accounts from 1512 record sales of 93 gallons of cream to the abbey and 4000 pounds of cheese supplied by 15 local farms.

Wills from 1540-1620 record 33 yeomen and 31 husbandmen thus indicating the importance of agriculture in the area, but overall St. Osyth had dropped to 16th place in the wealth of Essex towns. This decline may be due to lack of involvement in the cloth trade, dissolution of monasteries and lack of deep water in the creek.

Chris then described his researches in coastal trade traffic from Port Books 1565-1577. These books were prepared for use by Customs. St. Osyth was included in the Colchester book together with other small ports such as Salcot. There is no mention of smuggled goods for obvious reasons but it is thought that bribery of officials at the quayside resulted in many items of cargo missing from the manifest and records are therefore suspect. Duty was not paid by coastal traffic but overseas trade was liable. Records show that 70% of journeys from St. Osyth were to London and 20% to Kentish ports. Cheese and butter were the most common cargo but logs for burning and the beginnings of the coal trade were indicated.

There were over 20 masters working out of St. Osyth and one, Robert Cole, is recorded in 28 voyages. Records list a total of 37 merchants operating in the period in 14 regular vessels. Chris described how many vessels delivering cheese and butter to London often returned with a cargo of manure. One wonders what Health and Safety rules would make of this today. To verify documents and cargoes etc. merchants had their own "marks" which were often impressed in wax from a stamp or finger rings. Examples of a variety of such marks were projected on the screen and a specimen is said to be seen etched in the squint in the parish church of All Saints in the town.

EMPEROR WORSHIP IN COLCHESTER: THE IMPERIAL CULT IN BRITAIN AND OTHER WESTERN EUROPEAN PROVINCES
Mark Davies, Museum and Archaeological Consultant.
January 28th 2008.
Notes by David Townend.

Mark started his talk by posing the question, 'is the Castle situated on the site of the Temple of Claudius?' This site, insula 22, on the plan of the Roman Colonia, shows it was not part of the original Colonia but a later addition. Was it in fact completed and dedicated at the time of the Boudican attack? He explained that Emperors were not deified in their lifetime, that there was a formal legal process after death instigated by the Senate in Rome and this could take several years.

He detailed the various excavations undertaken by eminent archaeologists which resulted in the discovery of the north wall of the precinct in the area of the Norman bank, the platform and the vaults under the present castle. Examples of the Temple marbles were also found. Hull in his excavations identified remains of a statue base in front of the Castle, could this have held an equestrian statue of Claudius? There were two known Temples of Claudius, one in Colchester, the other in Rome which was built after his death. Seneca, writing after Claudius' death had a jibe at him about 'the Barbarians' having dedicated a Temple to him, and Tacitus was critical in his writing of 'the Temple constituted to this Claudius' because of the cost.

Mark then looked at sites in Europe where there was evidence of the Imperial cult.
Lyon which was the capital of the three Gaulish Provinces has remains of the Temple, an altar dedicated to the Emperor Augustus and an amphitheatre where the representatives of the tribes of Gaul came. We saw a range of inscriptions taken from statue bases and altars which Mark translated, the words Nephos and Flam.[priest] occurred frequently indicating that certain families were important in the Imperial Cult both as priests and with long family associations. A great deal of money was involved in the foundation of the Cult.

From Tarraco [Tarragona] in N.E.Spain there are coins showing an octastyle temple [similar to what is suggested was in Colchester]. Excavations at Tarraco have shown that the Roman town was on three terraces. The upper platform of 3 hectares housed the Temple to the Imperial Cult, statues and the altar. The second terrace of 5.5 hectares was where the Forum was found, and on the third terrace was the Circus. In the Museum is a carving showing an Apex [hat worn by the priest] and oak leaves related to the Imperial Cult. There was also a statue base to Vespasian found in the upper precinct of the temple. Statue bases in the Museum showed a number of people dedicated up to 70 statues for the large court surrounding the Temple.

From Merida [Spain] which was the capital of Lusitania, were coins showing temples and altars, this illustrated the importance of the cult. There was also the Temple of Diana which was the temple of the Municipal Cult.

Mark speculated that in Colchester there may be undiscovered statuary or even a 'Lex' [a bronze plaque setting out the duties of the Flamen] known from other sites in Europe. When the Temple was destroyed these may have been ritually buried. There are sites e.g. Insula 30 on the south side of the High Street which may have been the site of the large courtyard, which are at present unavailable for investigation. Mark concluded by saying that the Provincial cult was centred in the provincial capital and tied in with the administration of the Colony and would have involved only those citizens of high rank.

A PORTRAIT OF 18TH CENTURY COLCHESTER
Philip Wise, Heritage Manager, Colchester and Ipswich Museums
February 4th 2008
Notes by Pat Brown from article by Philip Wise in "The Colchester Archaeologist" 2005

Excavations in 2005 in the St. Botolph's quarter have thrown an interesting light on life in this part of Colchester. Remains of a probable 18th century building were found under the rear yard of Allen's butchers shop. The foundations were of re-used Roman building stone, with a clay floor. Documents reveal more: there is a mortgage agreement of August 1757 between Mrs. Elizabeth Goslin (widow) and Mr. Samuel Wall (gentleman) relating to the site. Mrs. Goslin's late husband had been a fellmonger (seller and worker in skins). An indenture of 1752 showed the site subdivided between several artisans or their widows, and the excavated building was probably one of their houses.

A document of 1837 refers to the purchase of a property in 1799 by Stephen Matthewman (butcher), and gives details of outhouses, stables, piggeries etc. and an alley which exists to the right of Allen's today. It is a sale agreement between Matthewman's daughter and another butcher, Daking Bear, and also includes a map of adjacent buildings, several of which exist to this day. Thus the site has been associated with animal products for over two and a half centuries. Further evidence of this type of craft was found in the form of large numbers of horn cores: in the 18th century horn was still used for lanterns as well as small items like combs and inkwells.

Although the present shop frontage probably dates from the early 19th century the whole site has great historic importance as an example of occupational continuity over a long period.

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE: RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT OF THE ESSEX COAST
Nigel Brown, Essex County Council Historic Environment Group
11 February 2008
Notes by John Mallinson

The talk dealt with the archaeology of the rural coastline of Essex, and did not include discussion of Martello towers, WWII defences, forts and other such "hard" archaeological features.

It has been said that Essex has the longest coastline of any English County. Immediately following the last Ice Age, sea levels were much lower than at present, and many archaeological sites that are now coastal were at the time of their creation far inland. Since that time, with only minor regressions, sea levels have continued to rise, so that much of the coastal archaeology created during the last four thousand years is under threat of destruction and is becoming less accessible for recording and research.

Nigel Brown described and illustrated some of the landscapes under threat: early neolithic landscapes in the Stumble near Osea Island, the well known Red Hills of the salt -making industry during late Iron Age and Roman times, fish weirs from the Anglo-Saxon period, oyster fisheries and the extensive use of salt marsh for grazing from the Bronze Age through to the Medieval period all featured prominently in his discussion. Much research has been done to record surviving features and to understand the characteristics of the landscapes in which they were created.

This research has been collated and reported in "An Archaeological Framework for the Greater Thames Estuary". First published in 1999, this is now being updated to include most recent findings, and is an invaluable resource for planners and conservation bodies. The speaker concluded by saying that the part of his work of which he was most proud was the degree to which communication between the archaeological community and planning bodies had improved so that consideration of the now well documented archaeological legacy of the Essex coast was taken into account when making decisions about where and how to achieve managed coastal retreat and urban development.

THE HADSTOCK STORY – CONSOLATION PRIZES FROM A WORKED-OUT QUARRY

Patricia Croxton-Smith and Hamish McIlwick, Secretary and Chairman of the Hadstock Society 18th February 2008

Notes by Jill Hamblin

Patricia Croxton-Smith outlined the history of Hadstock, a village of only 264 adults (and many children), before Hamish McIlwick talked about the archaeological excavations in the village.

Patricia Croxton-Smith:

The Hadstock Society had been moved to investigate why Hadstock had grown up where it did. It lies in an area of heavy boulder clay and flints: very poor soil, which would mean there being little in the way of early agriculture, yet it boasts a fine Saxon church, with its nave and chancel dating to 1020. This church is a large Saxon royal minster, possibly built on the site of St Botolph's monastery. We know that there was an earlier ecclesiastical building on the site, dating to 650AD, which was burnt down in the 869 wave of destruction by the invading Danes. There is controversy over whether the bones of St Botolph were buried there, but we do know that King William handed the church and the lands around it to the benefice of Ely in 1087, that its first priest was Stigand, who went on to be Archbishop of Canterbury, and that there is still an annual St Botolph's Day Fair on June 17th.

Nowadays, the village is largely populated by commuters, who have combined several small cottages into bigger houses; the land is owned by people living outside the village, who employ modern machinery to farm the heavy soil; and there is still a strong community spirit, which was shown when the excavations took place.

Hamish McIlwick:

After showing us a video of the village excavations, Hamish McIlwick told us that interest in investigating Hadstock's history grew after the BBC made a programme about the legend of a Danish skin being pinned under the hinges of the 'new' church door, which dates from 1085. Despite the mundane truth emerging, that this skin was in fact cowhide, this interest prompted the Hadstock Society, of which the speaker is the Chairman, to investigate grants to enable a full archaeological investigation of two fields near to the church. Grants totalling some £20,000 were obtained, and work began.

The field next to the Church had already been surveyed; there was evidence of a large circular mark and many bumpy areas. The next field was surveyed using both resistivity and magnetometry; both showed very clear features, especially lines across it. The ECC Archaeological Unit then excavated for 2 weeks, picking up these features. There were many adult volunteers and 85 of the village schoolchildren involved during the weekends. The whole village took part, learning how to dig, sift and identify material, then how to handle, sort and record it.

The finds of the two fields were quite different. There were lots of stone, flint, glass and pieces of wares from the first field, including a piece of mid-Saxon pottery. This piece dated from the time that the church was built and its survival is, in itself, rare. Together with a similar sherd found in excavations last century, it is proof of Saxon occupation. The archaeologists concluded that this field was an old quarry, with the finds having been dumped there.

The second field yielded a great deal of Roman material, including Samian ware, together with associated shells and animal bones. An earlier dig had excavated a nearby villa, finding pottery, roof tiles and so on. A year later, this field was ploughed and in subsequent field walking 4000 finds were picked up, including Roman pottery from 1st to 3rd centuries AD.

The excavations had brought the whole village together, though a mystery remains as to two areas: a large circular area some 9m across where flints were dumped and a small semi-circular area some 3m across of clay and silty sand. Whilst the professional archaeologists produce their report, two big interpretative panels have been erected in the village, one in the church and one in the field and the two speakers are producing a popular booklet on the village and its history .

ROMAN POTTERY KILNS AND THEIR PRODUCTS
Gilbert Burroughes, specialist in Roman pottery reproduction
25th February 2008
Notes by Barbara Butler

Gilbert Burroughes became interested in Roman pottery as a teenager. When working on his father's farm he found small pieces of Roman pottery and was later introduced by friends to archaeologist Basil Brown who was excavating Roman kilns near Wattisfield, Suffolk. His particular friend, Michael Watson became a director of the family business Henry Watson Pottery. Mr Burroughes showed us images from the 1950s of the Basil Brown excavations and plaster casts taken from Roman kilns. His interest in pottery and ancient kilns did not diminish during his National Service and he was able to find similar kilns to those found in the Wattisfield Industry in the Mediterranean and illustrated these. After National Service, he married into the Watson family.

One of the kilns excavated by Basil Brown was a double ended medieval kiln, which was copied, but most of the pottery fired in it came out cracked, possibly due to the dampness of the weather. Another copy made was of a Roman kiln found at Wattisfield. It had a dome of straw on the top to protect the pots from the clay roof of the kiln. This would burn off during firing. These Roman kilns have grass patterns on the clay. Romans produced grey or even black pots by enclosing the kiln at the end of the firing.

A classic Suffolk Roman kiln was discovered at Barham, near Ipswich. It had a narrow flue and the temperatures within the kiln were regulated by opening and closing apertures. An example of a medieval kiln shown also had vents with clay bungs which could be inserted or extracted to regulate the temperature.

Both pottery and glass experimental kilns have been made in Roman and Medieval styles, but not all of these were successful. One which was a success was a reconstruction of kiln 21 excavated by Rex Hull in Colchester. We were shown an example of a Samian ware kiln drawing with many pipes and bungs which regulated the heat. This kiln has a "gated" entrance about 3 metres across.

After his illustrated talk Gilbert Burroughs showed a collection of pottery, Roman and Medieval-style, which had been fired in reconstructed kilns, illustrating how important experimental archaeology is in understanding and interpreting finds.

DEAD INTERESTING: THE ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERIES OF LINCOLNSHIRE
Kevin Leahy, Principal Keeper, Archaeology and Natural History, North Lincs. Museum 3rd
March 2008
Notes by David Harrison

The Anglo Saxon kingdom of Lindsey, part of modern Lincolnshire, is predominantly an arable landscape bounded by the Humber estuary to the North, river Witham to the South, North Sea to the East and Fossdyke to the west. *("The English Conquest of Lincolnshire can only be stated as a fact; it cannot be described, for all details are lacking. VCH Lincolnshire (1906), Vol. 2. ")*.

It was not until after the war that excavations started to build a picture of the Anglo Saxon migrations. It started with the South Elkington excavation (1946-7) and was followed by Fonaby (1956-7). More recently, introduction of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) has helped to develop the picture further. The Cleatham cemetery was originally discovered in 1856, when a new road was built between Kirton-in-Lindsey and Manton. The site is located on the Lincoln Edge, a limestone escarpment running north-south through Lincolnshire, near Ermine Street. It was rediscovered in 1978 and a sampling excavation began in 1984. It soon became evident that plough damage was extensive and the sampling of graves was abandoned in favour of a complete excavation; work was finally completed in 1989. In order to limit any damage and obtain the greatest amount of detail, it was decided that all work would be carried out by hand. As the urns were excavated, they were recorded stratigraphically showing where later burials cut through existing graves. This recording enabled a matrix to be created encompassing the entire site; whilst dating from grave goods could be erroneous, the matrix provided a definitive sequence for each of the burials. The grave goods included brooches, bone combs, coral beads from the Indian Ocean, a purse lid made of African Ivory and drilled Roman coins used as pendants.

One cremation burial consisted of two layered urns; the first contained remains of a male with a toilet set comprising comb and shears. The second urn contained the cremated remains of a horse and exhibited horseshoe decoration on its surface.

Cremation urns, reconstructed from their fragments using drawings, revealed similarities with those from Saxony; others shared features with those found at Spong Hill; indicating links with sites over 100 miles away.
 Amongst the burial urns found were four Roman style pots, wheel thrown with thin walls, which were dated to the 5th century. This may indicate the survival of a Romano-British population and their skills in the area.

The Cleatham cemetery appears to have been a central communal burial site, where cremations were brought from the outlying settlements. By the 6th century cremation burial was in decline and a movement towards inhumation underway. One particular example of the latter burial style comprised a male buried face down with spear, knife and buckle. It was not an execution but a reasonably high status burial, emulating a late Roman fashion.

Several Kist burials were also found; the large stones of the lining possibly taken from the remains of a nearby villa. The stones would have provided protection from contemporary scavengers such as bear, badger and wolf.

The evidence from other cemetery sites, such as Elsham and Castle Dykes, shows a healthy Anglo Saxon population living into their mid forties and beyond. However, their bones showed signs of osteoarthritis which would indicate a hard life of manual labour.

Following the Cleatham excavation focus moved to another site at Roxby, not far from the Lincoln Edge, discovered by metal detectorists. The soil was dry, sandy and acidic which had all but destroyed any organic remains; despite this Psuedo-morph (or Sand) bodies were identified and excavated. Metallic artefacts had survived and gold-garnet jewellery, similar to that found at Sutton Hoo, was recovered.

Two cemeteries were revealed by the excavation and exhibited different phases of use. The first comprised a random collection of graves, some with ring ditches, dating from the 6th century and included penannular brooches amongst the grave goods. The second exhibited rows of graves oriented East-West, which were dated to the 7th century. These contained higher status grave goods, such as pattern welded swords and pendants, which may indicate the rise of an aristocracy.

For further information see
Leahy, K, 'The Anglo Saxon Kingdom of Lindsey', Tempus Publishing, 2007.(reviewed on p32).

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VISITING THE ROMAN POTTERY WORKSHOPS IN SOUTH-WEST FRANCE

Report by Gill Shrimpton

Samian pottery or Terra Sigillata (stamped clay) is a feature of sites all over the Roman empire.
As part of our recent trip with CAM Ventures, led and organised by Mark Davies, we were able to visit two of the more important sites where some of this shiny red fine ware originated.

The earliest production was at Arezzo in Italy (Aretine Ware). After Caesar's conquest locally produced vessels began to be made in Gaul, initially at Lyon, probably using moulds and potters imported from Italy.
During the reign of Augustus the main production shifted to La Graufesenque; approximately 2 km. from Millau in Aveyron. This site is on the junction of the Tarn and Dourbie rivers and was known in Roman times as Condatomagus – market of the confluence.

Production here reached a peak towards the end of 1st century AD. Over 600 workshops have been identified making dark red slipware and fired in wood burning kilns which could hold up to 4000 vessels. Methods of manufacture varied, but generally the pot was wheel thrown, and then the decoration imprinted by pressing into a prepared mould. The pottery had figurative designs usually of natural or classical themes. This production technique allowed vessels to be made uniformly and in large numbers. Other manufacturing techniques were rouletting, stamping and barbotine (applied decoration).

There were between 10 and 15 potters in each workshop and the master potter had his own individual and identifiable stamp. Considerable research has been done on the stamps which give important evidence for dating and trade throughout and beyond the empire. Standard styles of vessel are now recorded by Dragendorff numbers after the German scholar who compiled a catalogue of numbered forms in 1890.

La Graufesenque also produced some very distinctive marbled effect vessels – very little of this type has been found in Britain although most of the other types appear all over the country in varying quantities. At the site itself we were able to see part of what was once a huge complex, there were remains of kilns, workshops, houses and even a temple. The custodian was very friendly and welcoming; he was keen to show the thousands of pots in the series archive collection not normally on view. There was only a small museum on the site, but we were able to visit the museum at Millau where there was a very

extensive collection of pottery from the site as well as models and plans which helped us understand the site we had visited.

During the late 1st cent. production at La Graufesenque was scaled down, although it continued to supply local needs up to the end of the 4th cent. and the main pottery manufacturing

location in SW France became centred at Lezoux where full production continued until the late 2nd cent. Pottery was still being made here in much lesser quantities until the 4th cent. And archaeological evidence suggests they were the last workshops known to be using moulds.

Lezoux is in the Puy de Dome region of the Massif Central on the left bank of the Allier River and about 20KM. from Clermont- Ferrand. The pottery produced here was of a very fine hard fabric with lots of mica and quartz inclusions. The slip was slightly duller than the earlier pottery but more elaborate shapes and decoration were developed. There is a very fine modern museum here with full size models of kilns and workshops, and a comprehensive catalogue of fabric types and potters stamps. Many pots are on display representing the type series.

We did not visit any actual Gaulish sites but the village of Lezoux continues the tradition of pottery making with modern workshops and galleries.

Gill Shrimpton
August 2008

APPENDIX

HISTORICAL REFLECTIONS ON THE ROLE OF LICINIUS THE SON IN THE EARLY FOURTH CENTURY ROMAN EMPIRE

Coins from river bed by tentative road to the Roman villa at Great Tey

Listed in order of issue

Licinius II Caesar 317-24 AD AE 3 (19mm)

Obv. Young, full-faced bust of the Caesar, facing right, with short-cropped hair and radiate crown, with cloak and cuirass. Large schematic ear, distinctive eye and eyebrows.
Legend- LICINIUS IVN NOB C
Rev. Two captives seated, looking down (one, on left, male, the other female) at foot of trophy showing soldier's armour, shields and spear. Symbols T and F in left and right field (poss. = 'Treverorum Fides'-the loyalty of the people of Trier?)
Legend- VIRTUS EXERCIT(VS)- The courage of the army
Exergue- STR (ie Trier Mint, second workshop)
Roman Imperial Coinage VII.263
This coin is dated to 320 AD.

Crispus Caesar 3 17-26 AD AE 3 Follis (17mm)

Obv. Bust with helmet and cuirass, facing left, holding spear and shield
Legend-CRISPUS NOB CAES
Rev. Globe above altar inscribed with dedication on 20th anniversary, VOTIS XX
Legend- BEATA TRANQUILLITAS - blessed peace
Exergue- STR (see above)
Roman Imperial Coinage VII 347
This coin is dated to 322 AD

Constantine emperor 306-337 AD AE 3 Follis (18mm)
No images of this coin are available. Ed.
Obv. Bust of emperor with helmet and cuirass, facing right
Legend- CONSTANTINUS AUG
Rev. Globe on altar, also with dedication on 20th anniversary, VOTIS XX. KA in field (? Kalendae Augustae- 1st August)
Legend- BEATA TRANQUILLITAS
Exergue – STR (see above)
Roman Imperial Coinage VII.368
This coin is dated to 322-3 AD

A further Roman AE coin was too badly corroded to be identified.
RIC- P. Braun et al, ***Constantine and Licinius, 313-337 AD (!967),*** vol 7 of ***Roman imperial coinage***

(A) We have here one coin, amongst other stray Roman coins, probably accidentally lost in the deepest countryside, in the archaeologically well explored vicinity of the Great Tey villa. Reported finds of fourth century coins of Constantine I, Constantine II , and of Magnentius and Decentius, the later western usurpers challenging the authority in 350-3 of the subsequent Constantinian dynasty, which was to last till 361, discovered amongst the rubble layer over the villa remains in the early excavations, have been used to fix the terminal date for the villa to 'the mid to late fourth century'. A coin of Severus Alexander found in the villa suggests an earlier to mid-third century date for the main construction of the villa, or the latest point at which earlier settlement around Great Tey, including the iron age enclosure, was organised around a substantial Roman style estate system.

(B) The social, cultural and religious history of the specific period represented by this new late Roman coin, the era of transition which saw after the breakdown of the Tetrarchy of Diocletian after 305 and even the New Tetrarchy of 308-12, in which Constantine and Licinius had recognised roles, before defeating their rivals and initiating the sharing of power between the two of them after 313 (and particularly, as the role in history of representations of the young Licinius appealed to in this coin, seems to attest, after their renewed reconciliation in 317 after brief disagreements in the previous two years) is potentially of great interest to the archaeologist, because the coinage can be seen as representative of the wider culture (or, at the least potential tensions and fractures in that culture) and to the historically attuned archaeologist may offer a glimpse into the ideas (or potential clashes of ideas) of the estate's residents, workers or visitors c. 320 AD. Given the subsequent history of the Licinius family after the defeat by Constantine in the east in 324 (see below), it is unlikely that the coin could have remained in circulation as a means of exchange, especially in the west, where Constantine the Great had an extensive network of contacts, even residing in his early career at Trier for as much as six years, while preparing the basis for his subsequent political career. However, the coin found itself in the wash of a waterlogged bend of the putative former course of the Roman river, where there may have been a post-Roman or more recent mill. We must consider how a coin of Licinius the son ends up at Great Tey, when the sphere of Licinius I as emperor (despite his links demonstrated by the coinage with the late Roman regional imperial capital at Trier) was, apart from Rome itself (one of his most striking images on the coinage was from the Rome mint- RIC 315- with the figure of Roma seated holding a commemorative shield, with the evocative legend ROMAE AETERNAE- the 'eternal city'- a new take, appropriate to this new era for the Christians, on the cult of Rome, common in the Greek east from Republican times for those magistrates and emperors, who wished to be seen to avoid the (to many) still invidious claim of deification through the imperial cult), based in south-central Europe and the Greek-speaking east of the empire, including the highly urbanised regions of what is now Turkey and the eastern Mediterranean littoral, where Christians had long been particularly numerous and active, rather than the Latin west of northern or western Europe.

An everyday bronze coinage which the late third and early fourth century produces with great profusion, showing the intensive use of money exchange, but scarcely reflecting attempts to reform and adapt the coinage to the changing ideologies of the Roman empire after c284, it is useful to consider (see below) this coin in its relatively simple, even 'barbarous' style, against other symbolic representations of Licinius II in the years 317-24 from mints across the empire. Licinius II was in 320 merely a young man designated virtually from birth for the succession to his father, so the better known personality and more influential figure in late Roman history is Licinius I. (Although lists of emperors talk of Licinius I and II, father and son, as if one succeeded the other, actually Licinius was the senior emperor or Augustus, largely active in the Greek east of the empire, who appointed his son to the status of Caesar in 317 in agreement with the senior emperor of the west, Constantine the Great). Without Licinius I being able to maintain his power, Licinius II- even as a style on the coinage- would have been of little value.

Constantine, of course, in the myth of St Helena, with his distinguished family connections with well known events in Romano-British history, particularly at York (although one mustn't forget medieval and even modern Colchester's frequent flirtation with myths and legends of Constantine's mother, St Helena and the Holy Land) is known amongst students of Roman Britain for his father, the Augustus Constantius' death at York in 306, after which the army proclaimed Constantine emperor, even though his rivals across the empire hardly accepted the claim and Constantine had to fight to achieved full recognition. Constantius' campaigns in the north after the defeat of Carausius' military rebellion in Britain and Gaul and ambitious bid to proclaim himself emperor from his British and Gallic base had established a sound footing for Constantine amongst the western emperors after Britain was re-integrated into the legitimate empire and adapted in the New Tetrarchy to 312 to a revived system of power-sharing among emperors, designed to provide the basis through agreement and negotiation of a more stable, peaceful and prosperous empire. That system, with two Augusti as senior emperors and several Caesars as juniors and potential successors, enabled Constantine to transform the later Roman empire with the official toleration of Christianity with the assistance of Licinius I and his co-emperors. Constantine's sons in the same

agreement of 317 actually went on to play well-documented roles in the west, including Crispus with his claimed victory in protecting the Gallic prefecture over the Franks. But Licinius II was too young to be more than a symbol of the new generation- hence it was all the more important to consider how he was being portrayed by those who sought to control and shape his destiny- interestingly, differently for different parts of the empire, suggesting that the later Roman empire was much more diverse and nuanced in its reaction to the claims of those who sought (or were bred in the reflected glory of a share in) imperial authority across the empire- which begs the question how was he perceived in this part of distant Britain?

(C) Diocletian had retired most strikingly in 305, together with his colleagues, whom he required to follow his example, one of whom, Maximianus, whose daughter Fausta the ambitious Constantine had married in 307, later re-entered the fray, and in the fascinating power struggles of subsequent years, leading to a new status for campaigning armies, as opposed to the traditional stable frontiers armies, so well known in Roman Britain, there is no doubting Constantine's ability to maintain the initiative and gain the upper hand. Constantine was eventually accepted as Augustus, ie. the senior emperor, in the west by the ambitious Licinius I, whose standing in the east was advanced by the agreement of Carnuntum, with Diocletian's intervention from retirement and the patronage of the then senior emperor in the east, Galerius. Constantine was to emerge as the dominant figure in the west, after the stunning defeat of his rival Maxentius at the battle of the Milvian Bridge outside

Rome on 28th October 312, since campaigning vigorously for support in the cities of northern Italy he passed through from early spring of that year. It was, of course, before the Milvian Bridge (how long before- not necessarily the night before, as in Lactantius- is a matter of controversy among historians) that he famously claimed to have seen the sign of the cross in a dream, promising victory and thence came to favour Christianity (Eusebius, *Vita Constantini*, I. 28-30). Christianity had hitherto recently been most intensively officially persecuted, particularly in the Diocletianic era from 303 and, even after his retirement, to 313- with the protector of Licinius' early career as Augustus from 308, the emperor, Galerius, dying, in acute pain, according to Christian polemic, because of his recent persecutions. From 312/3, and the new role for Christianity, with Licinius equally firmly disposing of his rivals in the east, Constantine and Licinius were left to share power, together with such juniors from their own families as they themselves were free to legitimise after 317.

Constantine had started after the death of his father Constantius at York in 306 having emerged from Britain with Caesar status or junior imperial authority in York; at the instigation of the far distant senior Augustus Galerius, and eventually with Licinius as co-emperor, they began to develop new arrangements for collegiate imperial authority after the retirement of Diocletian. In the context of the official favour now Constantine showed to Christianity, including encouragement of the building of new religious structures, patronage of bishops and involvement in their controversies, including involvement in the Donatist controversy and schism in North Africa, in which a series of decisions in the years immediately before had seen official measures to ease persecution and restore church property by Constantine's rivals, it is worth bearing in mind that, despite various battles and tensions between them, Constantine and Licinius were able, from 317, to negotiate a stable, if not permanent, accommodation and shared power until the latter's defeat by an ambitious Constantine at the Battles of Hadrianopolis and Chrysopolis near Byzantium in 324, when he was apparently executed by the victorious Constantine, with his son possibly surviving as a private citizen for some time until he too succumbed. This was the year in which Constantine initiated his sole rule, with the foundation in that year of Constantinople famously the New Rome preceding the ceremonies of formal dedication in 330, so important over the millennia and more, following the sack of Constaninople in 1453, in the relations of the idea of Europe and the east. Constantine's activity was followed by the famous Council of Nicaea of 325 which the emperor called to discuss (and intervened to suggest a compromise on the matter of the doctrine of the Trinity) official decisions among the bishops about the official, established version of Christianity and how its simple, if persuasive, beliefs, stories and traditions were to be made respectable for the most educated in the empire by the development, in precise theological terms, as to how the specifically Christian idea of God was to be defined.

(D)The original move from toleration of Christianity to its official encouragement, which was largely at Constantine's initiative, to which the originally pagan at heart Licinius and his supporters had cautiously, but once committed had fully assented, is best seen in action in the important edicts of Serdica and Milan in 312-4, much studied by Roman historians. The 'edict of Milan', issued when Constantine and Licinius I met there in February 312 (some historians think it is now that they gathered to celebrate the marriage of Licinius I and Constantine's half-sister, Constantia), is, in fact, an imperial letter or *epistula* sent out by Licinius I in the name of both emperors to authorities and cities in his sphere of authority in the east confirming religious toleration (see Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History* X.5; Lactantius, *De Mortibus Persecutorum* 48). Licinius I's role in the whole process and his whole-hearted agreement with Constantine at this stage is thus central and must not be ignored. In

spending so much of his time in the eastern cities and imperial capitals, whose Greek civic and cultural traditions are well known as thriving much longer than in the more stable, but clearly highly wealthy, but hopelessly divided Latin west, providing the basic focus of the long and impressive survival with its central focus in the life and ceremonial of Constantinople, through the whole medieval period of Rome and its traditions as the Byzantine empire , Licinius and his would-be dynasty may have remained closer to some of the wealthiest core provinces of the empire, but are likely to have had less time to intervene substantially in Constantine's sphere in the west.

Licinius II clearly was much of a young nonentity in his actual personality, with little of note to his credit in the historical record, but his coinage, as this one here, tells much of how, symbolically, he played an important role in the complex, but orderly, transformation of the Roman world in the early fourth century, in supporting the idea of making Christianity, as sponsor of the Roman peace and protector of the State, compatible with the survival of classical Roman traditions, especially in the Greek cities of the east.

It is notable that the trophy on this coin, with spears, cuirass and standards, over the naked captives seating at its feat, and classic praise of the army's bravery makes no actual mention of any specific campaign, even though it is dated to the specific year 320. It is more restrained, rather asserting than proving, in its impression of victory over the conquered, a world view that contrasts strikingly with more outrageous (from a Christian perspective) and confident, triumphal images in early Roman Colchester, such as the sculptured tombstone from Beverly Road, which James Fawn briefly brought to national attention, where the vanquished are classically shown in all too real, violent, bloody suppression at the Roman cavalryman's feet. Here the captives are more humanely treated in the composition, shown in their full humanity and in no way degraded, along with Christianity's greater concern for the oppressed & downtrodden- perhaps the idea of the essential humanity of captives, to be treated with compassion- in such striking contrast with the attitudes of pagan Romans, despite the more humane philosophical recognition of the claims of humanity in general of such as Cicero and the Stoics, themselves very much a minority at the height of imperial expansion, in the Republic and early empire- shows the Licinian dynasty's attempt to employ Christian - or at the least more humanistic-ideals in its representation of the army's traditions.

(E) Before their eventual falling out, Constantine and Licinius had sealed agreement between them for power-sharing in the empire, by agreeing to appoint as Caesar or successors, Constantine's three sons Constantius, Crispus and Constantine II on the one hand and Licinius's son Licinianus (Licinius II). The fact that Constantine's family was awarded more numerous positions for his sons suggests that Constantine, not Licinius, was in the energetic driving seat or at least the dominant negotiator on 1st March 317, when this appointment of juniors as Caesars was made- or perhaps Licinius with his negotiated influence in many of the wealthiest and most articulate surviving cities across the Greek east preferred to operate extensively in civilian life outside the sphere of the Roman army, where he had to win enough support to defeat potential usurpers further to the east, before coming west to negotiate a deal with Constantine. Clearly the date of this coin at 320 represents a fascinating moment of relative calm in the tensions between Constantine and Licinius, whose sphere of activity as emperor is best known in the Greek-speaking east of the empire. Constantine's sons are, of course, better known in history, given Constantine's importance as dominant sole emperor from 324 to 337, and the succession, despite acute tensions, among Constantine's heirs to the position as Christian emperors on his death. If Licinius II was the son of the marriage of Licinius and Constantine's sister Constantia, in 312, then he would, despite the grand title of Caesar, have been just a boy and a mere cipher in the dynastic hopes of Licinius senior- certainly not to have played in his own right any significant role in history, despite the fact that considerable numbers of coins were struck in his name and found today, in mints across the empire. Indeed, some see their marriage as taking place as late as 315, which would make Licinius II not yet 5 when this coin was struck. The alternative identification is an apparent son of a slave woman, whose name is unknown. How far these coins would have been of much use after 324 and the defeat of the Licinius family's ambitions and those of his supporters is unclear, but perhaps that accounts for its casual loss, as coins emphasising the general pagan and campaigning traditions of the Roman army, in its campaigns against and defeat of the outsider, might have become less valuable after the firm Christianisation of the Roman empire under Constantine's years as sole emperor to 337 produced a greater stability, but had to adapt to a greater recognition of the growing importance of the New Rome, in the very survival of the classical tradition from this point on, as opposed to the old Rome in Italy. That slave son of Licinius, thought by *some* scholars to have attained the junior purple, was reputed to have ended up slaving away in a textile workshop in Carthage, giving clear focus to an idea of Licinius' fall from grace as a topic likely to appeal to the oppressed and downtrodden, in his **nachleben** within late antiquity. The formal division of the empire between east and west in 395 in Romano-British terms, was of course to lead to the loss of Britain to the empire by the withdrawing of its army to defend more central areas by 410, at an early stage of the disintegration of the western Latin empire.

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(F) The coin, unlike some of the silver coins of Licinius I and II, which often show great distinctive artistic style and classical features of dress and portraiture, is rather primitive in representation- perhaps the boy was too callow as a youth and undeveloped to allow anything like a realistic portraiture or even a symbolic and ceremonial ideology, at the least in so far as the mint authorities at Trier were concerned. The radiate crown- reflecting the worship of the sun, hinting at recent Roman pagan traditions tending towards monotheism, perhaps originally reflecting ancient eastern and Egyptian religious innovators, but often seen with young emperors sharply at variance with senatorial traditional of Roman religion - certainly suggests an imperial pagan inheritance of the disturbed third century, before Diocletian's new ceremonial system from 284. The coin represents a callous youth placed in an ill-fitting ceremonial cuirass to emphasise the stiff new pagan military ceremonial brought in since the beginning of the Diocletianic era- but perhaps also serves to remind users of the coinage of the contrast with the senior Licinius, himself always portrayed as a figure of some weight, distinctiveness and gravitas (in a way appropriate for a man who had made his mark on the Roman world and could effortlessly assume high imperial responsibilities, despite his family's recent relatively humble beginnings . It was the father, Licinius who made the family name resound across the empire. It was he who was most involved, through all his grand ceremonial authority, in protection of the pagan civic traditions of the plethora of cities in the east of the empire, with Christian ideals infecting his approach to army discipline, as by comparison with the son, known only in the coinage, it was he as the senior emperor as Augustus had the real power in the relations with Constantine, and could subtly contrast his family's traditional 'humble' beginnings in by the Danube, in Dacia, if not Pannonia and apparent Roman citizenship through many generations- the full name, the senior authority's being Valerius Licinianus Licinius, is very grand in the age old Roman tradition and the Licinius recalls many significant senatorial figures of Roman history, particularly going back to the middle and later Roman Republic, as well as the Calpurnii Licinii Frugi, who were prominent in senatorial circles under the Julio-Claudians- the members of the Licinii family, in its complex ramifications, were long remembered by devotees of Republican history, although Marcus Licinius Crassus, one of the wealthiest and most powerful of political figures in the last years of the Republic was to be much disparaged by writers and historians in the Ciceronian tradition.

This coin with the legend Virtus Exercitus is paralleled by other coins with the same legend in the era of Constantine the Great, his sons and rivals, the Licinians. Others include the legend Gloria Excercitus, showing two soldiers standing beside the standard(s). Other coins of this period refer to Beata Tranquillitas- and interestingly from the perspective of the ideology of the junior emperors under Constantine and Licinius I's protection, common is Caesarum Nostrorum Vot X, Providentiae Caess, Iovi Conservatori Caess, as well as one type Soli Invicto Comiti and one commemorating the foundation of Constantinople. Interestingly, the coin commemorating the death of Constantine in 337 shows him in the traditional austere portrait style of Augustus as Pontifex Maximus, reflecting upon Constantine' role as founding a new era of Rome.

Portrait busts of Licinius II vary over time, showing him evolving from a mere young boy to more mature and distinguished youth, and vary in the ease with which he is portrayed in ceremonial contexts (our coin at Great Tey is virtually alone as portraying him so unflatteringly), according to the mints across the empire, beyond those of the western prefecture based upon Trier. Those that are particularly striking are:-

RIC 231 (Arles)- note how once close to the classical Mediterranean heartland of the empire, the quality of Licinian coinages (other than those of Licinius I, who is taken seriously everywhere) markedly improves in its understanding of the young Licinius' potential. Looking about 10, he is sown crowned with a wreath and a prominent late antique type eye.

RIC 152 (Siscia mint)- the most striking of all, showing Licinius holding in his hand a small globe surmounted by an exuberant tiny winged victory- a symbol of global aspirations of the young boy and his supporters, also with legend Virtus Exercitus and 2 captives, one male sitting leaning forward, the other, female looking up, with the banner recording the completion of a vow after ten years, also very humanely treated.

RIC 436 (Siscia)- with dedication to Vict(oriae) Laet(ae) Princ(ipum) Perp(etuorum)- a reference to the 'Happy Victory of the Ever-Lasting Princes' , a common series begun in fine silver between 318 and 322 designed originally to emphasise the promised new stability and harmony of the empire, after power-sharing was achieved on this new basis of toleration.

RIC after 42 (Thessalonica), plump youth, in elaborate civilian dress with laureate crown, confidently holding the sceptre, surmounted by a winged eagle- see also the slimmer youth without the imperial symbols in his bust, looking very calm and elegant, on another notable coin from this mint(RIC 42).

RIC 34 (Nicomedia), making his bust look every inch the pampered favourite of the empire, but here it is Jupiter on the reverse who, standing left, holds the globe surmounted by the winged victory.

RIC 54 (Herakleia), where he is shown helmeted, with full imperial regalia in his hair and dress, and looking more like a young man of the purple should, whose status depended on the armies at least indirectly, - although the symbols of victory on the reverse are associated again with his protector Jupiter, in a similar pose to RIC 34.

RIC 29 (Antioch)- which shows him in eastern dress and appearance (including a prominent, soulful eye, which also appears, in different form, of course, in the Arles bust (above), interestingly holding a *mappa*, the signal-cloth by which the starting of the races in the circus was announced by the presiding magistrate, and a sceptre over his left shoulder.

The coinage of Licinius II makes much of the hopes invested, across the many mints of the empire, in this young boy, who personified, after his parents' marriage in 315, the hopes for reconciliation and power-sharing between the senior co-emperors, as well as Licinius I's own long-term ambitions, in the years 317-22. Indeed, if he was the son of Constantia, notoriously a fervent Christian, herself connected to the Constantian dynasty through her father, Constantius I and his second wife, Theodora, - and hence half nephew of Constantine-, it is perhaps noteworthy that she stayed with her husband and son, even pleading on their behalf before Constantine for mercy after the defeat of Chrysopolis (see above) in 324. In 326-7, she

was commemorated in a coin of the Constantinopolitan mint as sister of the emperor and as ***nobilissima femina*** for her *pietas publica* (RIC VII Constantinople 15), even writing letters corresponding about various matters of conscience with Christian bishops, such as Eusebius of Caesarea, before dying with Constantine at her side c 330. The memory of her son, who had been reduced to the status of private citizen after 324- even though he seems not to have long survived the sole rule of Constantine- must have remained, privately and in the inner conscience of this remarkable woman, a wistful presence, even *within* Constantine's court after 324! The alternative tradition, that he was the son by Licinius I of a slave-woman, if not Constantinian public polemic after the defeat of the Licinians in 324, based upon certain of Licinius I' reservations about Christians serving in the army, after 322, who seemed to have reservations about the imperial cult, suggests a memory of the family's popularity, after his death with the poor and dispossessed around the empire, who appreciated the dignity awarded to this special young boy, who seemed to symbolise so much in the way of long-term aspirations, at this moment of radical transformation in the Roman empire.

The significance of the clearly identifiable TF either side of the trophy figure requires further research, but clearly designates the coin as a carefully designed one by the mint authorities at Trier. I suspect it designates the religious character of the claimed victory- F for Fides(?), T for Treverorum(?), i.e. a claim that the Licinian emperors, including the son, had the full backing of the political community, as well as the army, in the west.

(G) Licinius's II father, Licinius I, as well as being a successful military campaigner, in between military campaigns busy organising the official arrangements of the new Christian religion in his sphere of the empire, is known for his whole series of decisions and decrees legislating for and regulating the behaviour of Christians, in the cities where they were probably still a significant, but still sizeable, minority, especially in the Greek east, including limiting the bishops' freedom of action, especially to meet to discuss issues of common interest, as opposed to concentrating upon their own flocks, the question of the education in Christian schools of girls alongside boys, and the activities of Christians, especially centurions, in the army. Even if this coin was minted close by at Trier, it is still perhaps surprising to see Licinius' II portrayal as implicitly firmly praising the army's traditions, despite the family's links and activity, much further east in the empire, despite its obvious links locally to Roman Camulodunum's original military traditions and history, than the more frequent issues of this same coin in cities and regional centres of the empire, largely in its central and eastern portion.

Coinage, despite its obvious chronological uses and values in studies of the economy of the Roman empire, also can paint valuable pictures of the location of even remote, local contexts and the settled countryside of the pattern of life and articulate complex points of change in civilisation, thence implied in a stable moment of transition. Perhaps the boy had travelled west to help cement relations with Constantine, while his father held the real authority. After all, as we have seen most likely Constantine was his uncle- and he represented, more than anyone, the link between the senior Constantinans and Licinians.

(H) The question of the relative decline or crisis of cities in the fourth century in Roman Britain has to be faced, although recent studies show clearly the growing importance of rural population, villages and small towns in later

antiquity, in the interstices of the recognised urban system, as far as Roman Britain was concerned. Tey's villa was a simpler affair, architecturally and artistically, than many villas in the fourth century renaissance of rural Britain- nor is there any trace of the huge wealth in the countryside at this date, as seen in the Water Newton, Hoxne and Mildenhall treasures- none very far from fourth century Colchester- maintaining simpler floor paving though clearly requiring basic skills in production and laying, much work and expense, for example, because of its size, situated upon its extensive terrace, though without (?) extensive grand floor mosaics of the fourth century style, known, *inter alia*, around Verulamium- it would certainly be of interest that it was still actively working as an estate in the early fourth century, even if the owners retained earlier, second and third century structures and building styles- with building materials and types not too far removed from those found in buildings in Roman Colchester.

(I) The coin can be seen to illustrate beautifully the tensions between the well known humble, pacifist, egalitarian (and fervently committed to maintenance of the Christian idea and community in a hostile pagan world, even at the price of martyrdom) traditions of early Christianity, the emperor Constantine's use of Christianity to favour military victory and secure power in Rome, and the less revolutionary (or at least less fervent, if in public actions no less committed to make it work, for the new ideology of Christianity) dynasty of Licinius, with his family's recently surprisingly modest, but long held civic, linguistic and cultural traditions and support won, far away from Britain in the east. If his junior son was idly taken up by the army authorities as a hero to inspire the young to the Licinian cause, even in the west, it is his father who dominates in the equation- his father, the senior Augustus dominates political, religious, social and cultural life in the east, where some of the wealthiest cities of the empire in Turkey were to be found. We often think of Rome as an exclusively western and Latin idea, but we must remember the strength of the empire long remained, not just in its armies, but in its distinguished and frequently historically, by now, rather ancient wealthiest and most civilly stable classical cities, of which there were many in North Africa and the Greek-speaking east, the latter in particular being besides prominent centres of consumption, cultural activity, civic euergetism and petty commodity production and besides their role in the economy of the Roman empire as a whole, the main foci of those densely populated areas that provided the extensive resources through taxation to the Roman economy, without which the Roman economy could not have survived.

(J) This coin reminds us that Roman Colchester's countryside vicinity, even if it was dropped by a worker while working on this agricultural estate and hence entering the river bed through processes of wash, was the sign of no inarticulate and disordered workforce, in the farm or the house itself- and presumably the farm system at a high status site such as Great Tey was seemingly heavily monetarised- though frequently, as this coin may indicate sympathetic to authorities and ideas divergent from those civic authorities seemingly nearest at hand, in arguments about Christianity, the use of the army and tensions within the new power sharing system Constantine and Licinius had forged at the minting of this coin, between 317 and 324.

(K) But the coinage with its clear imperial implications marks a critical stage in the transformation of the idea of the (a) 'divinified' emperor, in which imperial cult was centrally important in the functioning of the Roman state, frequently firmly imposed by legal force, and virtually required by oath of allegiance of the army, even if frequently also propagated throughout the Roman empire by ambitious individuals and city communities from below, it was dear to the Roman imperial system hitherto, into a system in which the (b) supreme ruler, despite the continuance of classical philosophy, religious cults and an active well planned civic life, most clearly articulated in this period in the cities of the eastern empire and especially in western Turkey (and where paganism and distinctive minorities remained critical to the varied style of religious activity of the overwhelming bulk of the population,-despite the articulacy of many Christians from a bewildering variety of backgrounds, emerging from eras of persecution and martyrdom, especially in letters and orations- acknowledged as an essential element in the continued security and legally constituted backbone of the state, in the age, not only of the growing 'barbarian menace' in the west, but of significant external emerging threat from points even further east, the fact that the emperor (s) was (were) to be now formally responsible to others' authority and criticism, including the bishops in their councils, all under a single, all-powerful, transcendent Christian God and working to his understanding- in other words that the emperor was all too human, not divine. If in strictly private writings of the philosophically inclined Marcus Aurelius readily acknowledged, and scholars of the Temple of Claudius itself often forget that some of the evidence for that building's purpose comes from a brilliantly satirical sketch satirising Claudius' pretension to divine status after his death) this was not a sentiment to be uttered or articulated in public contexts, especially before the army- Constantine made public for the west and subsequently the east of the empire the idea that the emperor on earth for his actions in securing and maintaining power in his state was to be responsible to the judgement of a transcendent God caring for all. That is an important step in history, religion and political theory of the early middle ages as the Roman empire in its disintegration made possible the

emergence of new legally sanctioned barbarian kingdoms, dear to traditional historiography and still, perhaps increasingly fashionable in modern historiography of the recent television and internet age, and was essential in the organised emergence of Romanised, barbarian kingdoms, including the Visgoths of Spain and the Franks, especially after the collapse of the Roman empire in the west in 476, with the deposition of the last emperor of Rome in antiquity, Romulus Augustus.

(L) But if this coin represents no dramatic Year of the Four Emperors of 68-9, with brutally competing military rivals leading to the elevation of Vespasian, after the death of Nero, so memorably 'reported' in Tacitus' Histories and of great significance in the founding of the new Flavian dynasty, with its Italian orientation complicated by that first change of dynasty -by force of arms and from outside Rome -in the Roman imperial system, it could be said the ideological, cultural and religious struggle of these figures in the Constantine and Licinius families, emerging briefly as joint sharers of imperial power across the empire, in the transformation of the Roman world represented by the triumph of Christianity- and the possible potential breakdown of traditional strengths of civic life in the Latin west in the fourth century-strengthened the importance of grand estates in the settled countryside in the west, but led to an acute crisis in the relations of city dwellers and country dwellers hitherto seen in the empire.

(M) But, clearly if besides its very precise chronological indication we are to investigate the surrounding of an important Roman villa in the Colchester area, we have to bear in mind villas were not just farms and grand buildings for a local notable or farmers, but alongside Christianity, in the long run perhaps the most enduring legacy of the centuries of Roman Britain, in terms of introductions from the classical Mediterranean, but were in the fourth century the stable lynchpins in the ideologies, economic structures and civilian aspects of the new imperial system, expressed very clearly in the extensive coinage- most clearly in the silver coinage and not least, the Constantinian solidus. Hence, we must recognise the building up of the landscape around fixed central buildings - the grand church in the case of the current medieval and modern village of Great Tey (possibly alongside the putative Anglo-Saxon estate suggested in CAG Bulletin 47 (2007), 26-33), with ancient and modern road systems complexly intertwined. Most of the finds I have seen (so far) in the archaeological exploration of the vicinity (other than the prehistoric, including the mid-to later prehistoric finds from the iron age enclosure) are undiagnostic Roman or medieval coarse wares, except for some regional Nene Valley ware of the later Roman centuries, but this coin speaks volumes of cultural, social, religious debates of a precise moment in time in a critical moment of transformation for Britain in the empire- and especially for Roman Colchester, especially if one believes Neil Faulkner's claims for fourth century decline in the city proper of Colonia Claudia Victricensis/Camulodunum, against traditional views of the maintenance of an active life and population of the city into the last years of Roman authority in the early fifth century- as much as any found in the vicinity of the villa.

Conclusion Constantine despite his firm patronage of Christianity across the empire seems to contrast with the Licinius dynasty, whose formation and encouragement of Christianity and the legislation to regulate the promotion of Christianity among the civic institutions of leading cities of the empire, while protecting the lively established classical civic traditions of the bulk of the population in the most flourishing, was keen to ensure that Christianity in its new fervour of official recognition, energetically promoted by Constantine from west to east, through orations, edicts, letters, patronage of bishops and Councils of the church and so lavishly praised in the new ecclesiastical histories and documents of Eusebius and Lactantius of eastern provenance writing in Greek and Latin respectively, did not lead as later in the fourth century to bitter wrangling with, and attempts at, official persecution of the leading non-Christian traditions of the classically educated civic elites and their followers in the stable east. Constantine in his firm bid for power, exploiting campaigning use of the army in battle with his rivals in the empire and not afraid of the death penalty for his victims, even within his own household, after 324, with the conversion to Christianity part of that successful ambition to be the leading, and eventually sole, emperor in Rome, eventually engineered the defeat of Licinius in 324 and the foundation of the enduring new Rome, the city of Constantinople.

The cessation of the Licinian coinages in 324, whether designated as I or II, so soon after this coin of specifically 320, was hence to be an event of truly world significance in history. I can only hope this article helps to provoke debate about the role of the Licinii- and by examining and highlighting their earlier role in the Roman empire restores the balance somewhat by stressing the problems, and the tensions and ambiguities, of which Licinius, father and son, seemed in their public appearances all too aware, inherent in a too triumphalist version of Christian advance, dear to traditional historiography of the early fourth century. 'With this (in Eusebius' triumphant confidence in the vindication of history, which he was himself a pioneer in composing so soon after these events, transcending the self-imposed limits of classical western historiography going back to Herodotus,

sc. 'the sign of the cross'), you may conquer'- thus beginning the medieval tradition of the aggressive theocratic state, west and east, amongst the religions of the book, which still may be said to torture the modern world, particularly in of the middle east, with the recent emergence of a highly polarised rhetoric of new forms of successors to the Crusaders and of Islamic jihad The whole question of the role of Christians- genuine believers- in the army, with or without modern forms of the imperial cult, at least in terms of modern citizenship and democracy, remains with us today. Not for nothing did Constantine's use of military violence and executions led him to delay Christian baptism until just before his death in 337.

As the Licinians demonstrated before 324 by explicitly eschewing complete and sole victory by force of arms for themselves, by re-entering new power-sharing arrangements among the remaining co-emperors, after the retirement of Diocletian, first in 307, then most tellingly with Constantine in 312/3 - with its critical proclamation of toleration in religious matters, including Christianity- and finally in 317, the year of Licinius the younger's youthful elevation to imperial prominence, there was much to be gained by determined resistance across the empire in these years, based on the best traditions of civic activism and the acceptance of the culture of regional diversity within a global perspective, to certain of

the new forms of triumphalism that Constantine was to celebrate in Rome, in the Arch of Constantine's re-use of past imperial culture- from Trajan to Hadrian, in particular- to underscore his new dominance in Italy in 312-5, even completing Maxentius' grand vaulted basilica under his own name, with his own grand sculpture at its epicentre, with all that meant for religious architecture in late antiquity. For Constantine had erected the first explicit monumental celebration of a victory, in what was publicly presented as a religious *civil* war, the first civil war explicitly so presented in Roman history, between Christians and pagans- power-sharing was the only way to show proper respect for Rome's past, as well as its future- and in the process the Licinians were to usher in a process of thoughtful and nuanced renewal in the early fourth century empire. Odahl (2005)- perhaps unwisely- talks of the final push of Constantine against the Licinians as a 'crusade' in 324 on behalf of Christianity, but the Lycurgus cup, whose mythological scenes of the capture and punishment of the Thracian king are thought to be a celebration of the defeat of the Licinians, contains sophisticated, artistic interest in the old mythology.

Perhaps the villa at Great Tey was a last resort in the vicinity of Roman Colchester for some of the Licinians, if not just basically a sign of the local element in the economic system playing its part in the grand structures of the more prosperous early fourth century rural economy, by which the countryside was linked, for all its possibly self-sufficient estates, into networks of communications and ideas, not just to nearby Colchester and hence into the wider imperial system in Britain, but to the capital of the western prefecture at Trier- and eventually through a multiplicity of mints , proclaiming the young Caesar's junior imperial status, that were profoundly influenced by the beginnings of toleration for- and the growing status of, Christianity- alongside traditional civic energetic and the most time-honoured of pagan cults across the empire. Only the Licinii offered a degree of continuity -and hence stability for the longer term, by means of the balance between east and west, thus taking advantage of the more articulate concerns of some of the empire's richest and longest established networks of

cities and communities, including those of a religious character and its advanced traditions of an active civic energetism, not yet compromised by the implications of ***panem et circenses,*** so dangerous to any genuine survival of the political community at the local level, in the Latin west.

But it was doubtless the image of Licinius the younger- and the promise he offered for ***the future***- just as it was Licinius the father's ***past and experience*** that gave him the shrewdness to attach himself to the goal of tolerance and negotiation and of making Constantine's fervent ideas work in the real world of educated 'pagans'- that was most immediately threatened by Constantine's strictly political ambitions to restore sole rule, at the same time as founding the New Rome.

Selected Bibliographical References

P. Bruun et al, ***Constantine and Licinius, 313-337 AD*** (1967), vol 7 of ***Roman Imperial Coinage*** for references to the various coinages issued on behalf of Licinius II

R.R.R. Smith, 'The public image of Licinius I: portrait sculpture and imperial ideology in the early fourth century', ***JRS 87 (1997), 170-202 and*** H. Montgomery, 'From friend to foe: the portrait of Licinius in Eusebius', ***Symbolae Osloensis*** 25 (2000), 130-8 for other special perspectives on Licinius I

J.R. Curran, Pagan Capital and Christian City: Rome in the Fourth Century (2000) for discussion of the arch of Constantine and other early fourth century buildings in Rome by Constantine

I. Freestone et al, 'The Lycurgus cup- a Roman nanotechnology', Gold Bulletin (2007), 270-7 for scientific analysis of the cup with its fascinating mythological scenes.

C. Odahl, Constantine and the Christian empire (2004) for the idea that Constantine's final struggle with the Licinians as a crusade in 324 against the leadership of the pagans.

(The recent revived debate among historians about the later Roman empire and beyond since P. Brown, *The World of Late Antiquity* (1971), with the works of Averil Cameron, *The Later Roman empire*, 284-395 AD (1992) and Peter Garnsey (see most recently, with C. Humphriss *The Evolution of the Late Antique World* (2001), in particular, is too extensive to detail here and, in any case, goes well beyond the period considered in this paper.)

(The debate on the rise of Christianity in the later Roman empire and its earlier history is equally vast- R. Lane-Fox, *Pagans and Christians in the Mediterranean world to Constantine* (1987) states the view that general theories need to be eschewed and the evidence analysed in detail (which he does admirably, certainly in the case of pagan religion and cults in the Greek east), but he retains the traditional emphasis upon the role of Constantine's conversion. For a more radical view, explicitly from the perspective of an unbeliever, see K.H. Hopkins, *Pagans, Christians and Jews in the Roman Empire* (1998).)

Constantinian biography continues to flourish. For a more traditional view on Constantine than Odahl's, see H.A. Pohlsander, *The Emperor Constantine* (2005). For Constantius and Constantine, seen from the perspective of Roman Britain studies, see P. Salway, A History of Roman Britain (1997), chs. 12-3

For new archaeological approaches to research on (and some fascinating detailed studies of) the villa and the roundhouse (and rural landscapes more generally) in Roman Britain over the centuries, see most recently, D. Mattingley, *An Imperial Possession. Britain in the Roman Empire*, (2006), Part Four.

Some introductions to the context of this surprising transformation of the Roman world in the third and fourth centuries:

P. Brown, The World of Late Antiquity (London 1971)

A. Cameron, The Later Roman empire, 284-395 (London 1992)- a brilliant introduction by one of the more accessible leading academic writers on late Roman studies today

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Various more detailed interpretations of the complex interactions of the inheritance of the classical traditions of pagan Rome, as Christianity, in its bid for power and cultural respectability, advances strongly in the empire, with reference for reading on the relevance of the clash of Constantine and Licinius and their dynastic ambitions between 312 and 324 in the Christianisation of Europe and the late Roman world:

P.D.A, Garnsey & C. Humphress, The Evolution of the Late Antique World (Cambridge 2001)

For the written evidence, including letters, promulgation of edicts by emperors in cities of the empire, especially the Greek east, and orations:

F. Millar The Emperor in the Roman World (London 1981), sv Constantine and Licinius on the relations of the emperor and his subjects, especially civilian and civic interactions

J.B. Campbell, The Emperor and the Roman Army (Oxford 1984) summarises the evidence on this critical topic.

For aspects of the Christianity of the empire from the perspective of the literate, educated classes and its impact upon the empire's thriving traditions of civic culture and traditional cults throughout the empire:

R.Lane Fox, Pagans and Christians in the Mediterranean World to Constantine (1987)

N. Bayne, Constantine and Eusebius (Harvard 1981)

(A.H.M Jones, The Later Roman empire, 284-605 (Oxford 1964)- austere and old-fashioned, but fundamental for studies of the late Roman empire economy and the church as a whole, inspiring whole generations of economic and social historians, if thoroughly challenged and seemingly overshadowed, by the long Hopkins 'speculative and sceptical hegemony' in Roman empire studies at Cambridge)

E. Gibbon, Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire (1776 originally published) notoriously blames Christianity, in questioning and weakening the traditional civic and military virtues of the pagan Roman empire, for the decline and collapse of the western empire.

K.H. Hopkins, Pagans, Christians and Jews in the Roman empire (Cambridge 1998) for a more radical, challenging, sceptical and speculative approach by a notorious, self-confessed 'unbeliever'

Archaeological references:

Distribution map of Roman villas in Britain: M. Millet, The Romanization of Britain (Cambridge 1990), fig 48, to be compared with fig 17, 'The Public Towns of Roman Britain'

For Gosbecks and Stanway, see briefly, Crummy, City of Victory (Colchester 1997)

pp.17-19, 67-70, 102-7

For Abbotstone, see H. Brooks, Colchester Archaeologist (2000)

For Mistley port (and a possible (?) villa on Mersea island), see. Crummy, ibid. p. 72 and fig p. 71

For the Christian church in early fourth century Colchester, see Crummy, ibid , 'Fourth Century Christians', esp. pp 120-4

The archaeology of Christianity in Roman Britain is easily accessible and well known- see, for example, C. Thomas, Christianity in Britain to AD 500 (London 1981)- but most text-books give some of the evidence.

The question of the difficulties of Roman Britain in the later centuries of Roman Britain is recently controversially and entertainingly discussed by N. Faulkner, The Decline and Fall of Roman Britain (London 2004)- opposing the traditional view of Shepherd Frere and Martin Millett for strong, enduring 'Romanization' in Britain's cities before 400 and their ability to revive both urban environments and the villa system after 300- and changes in the empire as a whole, clearly affecting Britain in the third and fourth centuries, between the classical high empire and late antiquity- we cannot ignore that critical change in the early fourth century, when the introduction of Christianity deeply challenged, even in remote Britain, some of the dearly held traditional values of the Roman army and its place in the social life of the Roman empire- and how the Christian ideal was deeply compromised by Constantine's use of it, including the use of its images in the course of his military power struggles with other contenders for power in the course of seeking to be acknowledged as sole emperor in Rome

The older book by A.R. Burn, Constantine the Great (Oxford 1948) is perhaps still worth consulting by older scholars looking for a simple story.