



Colchester Archaeological Group

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This copy has been scanned from the original, and as far as possible the original format has been retained. Page numbers given are the same in both editions, and should correspond to those given in the Bulletin Index, though occasional words or sentences may have strayed forward or back by a page. It is regretted that for this bulletin, original artwork was not available. Scans have been made of photocopies, and in some cases the quality of these leaves much to be desired.

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CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

John Mallinson

In recent years we have been a little dilatory in reporting some of the activities of the group. In some cases the bulletin reports, rather than being about archaeology, were so outdated as to be themselves worthy of archaeological investigation. Last year, thanks to the determined efforts of our editor, a bumper edition of the bulletin succeeded in bringing us up to date with reporting the routine activities of the group. So for the first time in many years, in this edition we are able to offer you a bulletin that is a true and up to date record of activities over the last twelve months.

What is not always mentioned in the reports is the number of minor problems that seemed constantly to beset us through the year. Our winter lecture programme was disrupted. Problems with the trains, coupled with the atrocious winter weather meant that we lost two speakers altogether, and several others arrived only in the nick of time. We are grateful to those of our members who, with no notice at all, gallantly stepped in and filled the gaps. Even when the speakers arrived, our audio-visual equipment seemed either to be hyperactive or ESN (electronically sub-normal).

You would not think that foot and mouth could affect archaeology, but it did, disrupting the ongoing dig at Great Tey, and our summer programme had to be rearranged because we were not able to go where and when we had planned.

Even the library, newly re-catalogued and re-housed, had to move so often that we felt the cupboards should have been fitted with wheels and outboard motors.

Our thanks are due to all those who worked hard to resolve these problems. I hope the following pages are an accurate report of what, despite everything, was a varied, interesting, enjoyable and informative year.

COLCHESTER YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS CLUB, 2000-2001

Report by Pat Brown

Over the past twelve months Colchester YAC members have been on coach trips to the "High Street, Londinium" exhibition at the Museum of London, to the "Gladiators" exhibition at the British Museum, and to the "Big Dig" at Canterbury, where the underground Roman Museum also proved popular. Braintree District Museum invited us to their "In Touch with the Past: Aspects of Braintree's Archaeology" exhibition, when they put on a programme which included a quiz, finds identification, and other activities. These culminated in a "lesson" in a genuine Victorian classroom (the Museum is housed in an old school.)

Mark Davies took us inside one of Colchester's oldest and long redundant churches, St Martin's, and also told us something of the history of St Botolph's Priory.

The Club also looked at aerial archaeology slides and did a quiz, made votive offerings and prehistoric pendants, and tried to decide whether the semi-circular structure uncovered during excavations in Colchester during the summer was part of a Roman bath-suite or a garden "water feature". We voted for the latter.

One of our most successful meetings resulted in the publication of "Young Archaeologists' News - Colchester edition", which carried reports of the latest finds on show in Colchester Museum. We also held a Christmas party where we cooked medieval food and made evergreen garlands.

Average attendance at meetings was 12: membership keeps up well.

YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS VISIT TO THE BIG DIG, CANTERBURY

Beth Turner, Young Archaeologist

On Saturday June 2nd the Young Archaeologists visited the Big Dig exhibition in Canterbury. We set off from the car park at 8.30 in the morning and the journey took about two hours.

When we arrived in Canterbury we walked along the river to the town centre. Unfortunately, as we arrived at the Big Dig it started to rain. Inside the Big Dig Centre the first part of the exhibition was a display of artefacts that had been found on site. These included tiles and pot fragments. Then we went outside in groups to see the excavation. Canterbury Whitefriars represents one of the largest urban excavations in the city. The levels under excavation have been mainly medieval. A lay cemetery has been found, the boundaries of which are defined by burials found on the western side.

In the central area the team were working on the remains of medieval buildings. Some of the finds in this area include domestic waste from rubbish pits. They have also found tile floors and rare items such as cloth fragments and a nearly complete chicken's egg.

After we left the Big Dig we had the rest of the day to ourselves. A group went off to see St Augustine's Abbey, and there was also an opportunity to visit the cathedral and the Roman museum. The Roman museum was built around an excavation of a Roman town house. It was mostly underground, and the ruins were very fascinating.

We left Canterbury at around 4 pm, and arrived back at 6.30 pm. The visit was an interesting experience.

CHURCHYARD RECORDING GROUP

Freda Nicholls

During the spring and summer of 2001 members of CAG have been carrying out a survey of the graveyard of St Mary's-at-the-Walls in Colchester. St Mary's church is no longer used as a place of worship but the well-kept churchyard and 223 graves remain. The survey is being carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Council of British Archaeology and Rescue. The purpose of the survey is to record the changes which have taken place in the gravestones during the time which has elapsed since the F A Crisp survey in the mid-19th century. (This earlier survey is available for reference in the Local History Department of Colchester Public Library.) The survey is not yet complete but a full report will appear in the Bulletin for 2002.

Those taking part in the survey are: Gillian Brown, Mary Coe, John Mallinson, Noreen Proudman, Jean Roberts, Rosemary Yorke-Moore, and Freda Nicholls.

OBITUARY: DENNIS TRIPP, THE ARCHAEOLOGIST: AN APPRECIATION OF DENNIS AS GIVEN AT HIS MEMORIAL SERVICE, 4TH JANUARY 2001

Philip Crummy - Colchester Archaeological Trust

Dennis does not seem to have found archaeology until after his retirement in the early 1980s, but on finding it, he became a bit of addict. He joined the Colchester Archaeology Group in 1981 and quickly became part of the archaeological scene in Colchester. Everybody knew and liked Dennis. It was difficult not to. For twenty years Dennis was a regular attender at the group's meetings and outings, and for a while was its secretary.

However, it was the outdoor side of archaeology that appealed to him most of all. Possibly the first excavation that Dennis worked on was with Frank Lockwood. The pair of them dug some trenches in the garden of a house in Crouch Street that used to belong to Dennis's father-in-law. They found part of the edge of the main Roman road that led westwards out of the Roman town, and helped plot its position more accurately than had been possible before. Dennis went on to work on various excavations run by James Fawn and the Colchester Archaeological Group.

Luckily, Dennis also offered his services to the Colchester Archaeological Trust, and very soon became an invaluable part of the team. He started off washing and marking pottery at the Culver Street excavation in 1983, and dug for the first time (as far as we can recall) on the Spendrite site in the High Street later that year.

His first big contribution to our work was in late 1984 at the Gilberd School, which of course is now the Sixth Form College. The photograph shows Dennis kneeling on the wall of a Roman barrack. It's snowing, but as usual Dennis is sporting a cheerful smile despite the horrible conditions. He was always a snappy dresser when it came to site attire, and would never be seen digging without a baseball cap and a Hawaiian shirt. Look at the photograph. He's got a baseball cap on as usual - this one has Niagara Falls written on the front -and I'll bet if you could peel off the duffel coat, you'd find a brightly-coloured Hawaiian shirt underneath. It captures the spirit of Dennis perfectly: he's on his knees in the mud, it's freezing, it's snowing, and he is smiling.



In his mind, Dennis might occasionally have wandered off to brighter, hotter climes, but he himself was undoubtedly with us in Colchester. For the following twelve years or so, Dennis seemed to be involved in everything we did. He worked on the medieval leper hospital at St Mary Magdalen's off Brook Street. He helped in Osborne Street clearing the remains of houses burnt down during the 1648 Siege of Colchester. He was up on the castle roof uncovering the remains of the Norman chapel. He excavated a mosaic on the site of the Culver Precinct, and helped with the excavation of the large Roman cemetery at Butt Road. And there was much more - in fact so much more, that when we would do our annual roundup at the end of each year for the Friends of the Trust, it became a standing joke that no matter what the site, there was always at least one photograph with Dennis in it. It is no exaggeration to say that during those years, Dennis made a very real and substantial contribution to the study of archaeology in Colchester, and the work of the Trust generally.

Between 1985 and 1990. Dennis worked a lot with Don Shimmin. Don did not have a car, and Dennis would drive him everywhere. Dennis was the only person who was prepared to drive his car over the rough, muddy ground on to the pit at the Stanway site. This was a great help to Don but did little for Dennis's car, which Don with some guilt reckons was pretty well ruined as a result of Dennis's generosity.

Discoveries made during excavations can rarely be left exposed, but fortunately some of Dennis's handiwork is permanent. At St Botolph's Priory and the Roman church next to the police station, Dennis became a builder rather than an archaeologist, and he helped set out mortar foundations to mark out the positions of missing walls. As result, visitors can get a better idea of what once stood on both those sites. If you go to St Botolph's Priory, look at the tiles and bits of stone set in the modern foundations which show the plan of the priory church. Much of that is Dennis's work. Hopefully it will be there for many years to come.

All of us who worked closely with Dennis agree that the one characteristic which marked him out from other volunteers was persistence. We have benefited from the hard work of many volunteers over the years, but there was never anybody like Dennis. He did not work for just a few hours each week. No, he worked the same hours as the paid team, a full day from 8.30 am to 5.00 pm. And what's more, he was no fair-weather volunteer either. No matter what the weather or what the time of year, you could always rely on Dennis being there, base-ball cap, Hawaiian shirt, and all.

Dennis had, not one, but three hip-replacement operations, which for most people would have made digging a complete non-starter. He always reckoned it was all right for him to excavate provided he did not jump in and out of holes. But given his problems, there never seemed much danger of that. Even in the late 1980s, Don was dropping heavy hints that maybe he ought to consider doing more indoor work, but Dennis would have none of it. He disliked washing and marking finds and much preferred to dig instead. Eventually, in the mid 1990s, the body beat him and Dennis felt he had to give up the digging. We have to confess that we were not altogether sorry at his decision. His eyesight was now not too good, his hearing was not what it was, his knees were decidedly creaky, and his legs had seen better days. And he had an alarming way of getting rid of soil: he would slowly stand upright holding a heavy bucket in each hand, and, as he gingerly straighten his back, he had a habit of taking two steps backwards to stabilise himself before taking the first step forwards. The worry was that one day this decidedly-dangerous manoeuvre might land him down a hole flat on his back.

Despite his dislike of pot washing, Dennis continued to help, although not to the degree that he had done before. Last summer, we were pleased to see him getting involved once again, this time finds processing at the excavation in Head Street. He didn't really like it, of course. It wasn't digging, but he was there nevertheless. Dennis was very popular. Although he really enjoyed the digging and archaeology generally, he was fundamentally a very sociable person who enjoyed the company of others. Comradeship in the trench appealed to him even more than the mud and the dirt. My enduring memory of him will be as a gentle man who was always courteous and polite. Whenever we would meet, he would always smile and ask how I was and how the family were getting on. This is how he was to me, and I sure that is how he was with all of you too. We missed him on our sites when he stopped digging. We will miss him even more now.

OBITUARY - HARRY WALTER PALMER

Mark Davies - CAG committee

As is well known, the Colchester Archaeological Group developed from a WEA class on Archaeology in March 1957. Harry Palmer, who died on 27th May 2001 in his 92nd year, was the last of those original founder members of the Group. He was a very committed member of the Group for many years, but he was also active in other fields serving the community in which he lived in a quiet, efficient and invariably good-humoured way. Professionally he was a respected primary schoolteacher of the old school, dedicated to his chosen career and deriving enjoyment from a lifelong commitment to working for the good of others. Harry was born on 11th August 1909 in Prittlewell, Southend, where his parents ran a general store and his father was a hairdresser. When Harry was only 14 his father died tragically in a traffic accident, which must have had a strong effect on him at such a formative age. After leaving school he worked for a time before going to Reading University to obtain a teaching qualification.

In 1935 Harry married Olive, his first wife, who was also a teacher, and they lived first at Rochford. During World War II Harry served in the "NFS Commandos," as the Overseas Column of the National Fire Service were known. Many of these picked volunteers came from Essex and they received some of their training at Colchester. They were trained to operate successfully in the fire protection of military establishments such as dumps, docks, convoys and fuel supplies. As a member of B Company X Section, Harry spent 3 months in Belgium in support of the liberating armies during the latter part of 1944. With typical modesty he claimed not to have been in the front line, but only with being involved in administrative work.

Harry was a Humanist. He was also a life-long member of the Labour Party and devoted a large part of his life to serving on Parish Councils, first as a member of Rochford Parish Council to which he was first elected in 1937. He was at one time chairman of Feering Parish Council and clerk at Kelvedon before moving, after a short spell at Kintbury in Berkshire, to Stanway in 1954. When he retired from Stanway Parish Council in 1976 he had served for 18 years, the last 14 of them as Chairman. In this role one of his major efforts was in leading the opposition to proposals by Essex County Council to tip refuse in the 25-acre Bellhouse Pit at Stanway. For 4 years from 1970 until the present Borough of Colchester was created, Harry also served on the Lexden and Winstree Rural District Council.

For many years Harry was Treasurer of the Colchester branch of the Workers' Educational Association. He was also the Group's first Treasurer and participated enthusiastically in its activities from the start. In the summer of 1958 he attended a course on Field Archaeology at Wansfell Adult College conducted by Dr. John Alexander. His report on "Learning to Dig" was included in Volume 1, No. 3 (p. 29), of the Annual Bulletin and ended with a typical exhortation to other members to do likewise. Harry's major contribution to the Bulletin over many years was the series of notes which he produced on the weekly winter lectures. These began on Monday, 19th October 1959, and remain unsurpassed among local archaeological societies for their annual number and consistently high quality. Harry's ability to take concise, accurate and readable notes in almost complete darkness has remained a source of wonder to many, and having these brief reminders of so many favourite lectures is much appreciated. This task is now undertaken by a small team rather one member.

Having been a member of the Group for 44 years, Harry made his last contribution to the Bulletin only last year with his short piece on "The Archaeology of Ardleigh - excavations 1955 - 1980." This publication, which he alone was able to review from personal involvement, acknowledges the significant contribution that members of the Group were able to make in support of Felix Erith in the early formative years. Not least of those who took part was Harry Palmer, for whom no task was ever too menial. He put in much hard work on those first projects, which included the ring-ditch at Jupes Hill, Dedham, in 1958, the cropmarks at Great Bromley in January 1960, as well as Ardleigh itself and so forth. When Kay de Brisay undertook her relentless campaign of recording Red Hills, Harry was always there in full support.

One only has to read the Bulletin for an indication of the Group's many field projects undertaken since 1957 and to know that, mentioned or not, Harry was an enthusiastic regular until quite recent years. Without the likes of Harry Palmer the Group would not have flourished as it has. He will be well remembered for his modest but enthusiastic commitment, his friendliness and good humour, which included a hearty laugh. Our sympathies go especially to Luella whom he married secondly in 1984, and also to his adopted son Richard in America.

A ROMAN ROAD AT TEYBROOK FARM, GREAT TEY: Part 2, The Tey Brook Crossing James Fawn

1. Introduction

A section cut in 1990/91 at Teybrook Farm, Great Tey, across the line of a "double tramline" cropmark visible on aerial photographs indicated that the feature was a three-track Roman road. The interpretation from the excavation suggested a flint-metalled track between two inner ditches and two apparently unmetalled outer tracks bounded by outer ditches.

A series of photographs (Mrs I McMaster, personal collection) taken from a helicopter in 1975 along the line of the "tramlines" as far as Countess Cross, seven kilometres north-west, produced no evidence that the road continued over the county border into Suffolk. Absence of crop-marks, which are dependent on the nature of the terrain and its cultivation, does not mean that a feature does not exist and the report on the 1990/91 excavation (Fawn 1991) contained speculation that the road might continue even beyond Countess Cross. However, since then no further evidence has appeared to support this suggestion and the fact remains that the available photographs show the "tramlines" running only as far as the boundary with the neighbouring Warrens Farm. The reason for their disappearance is currently being investigated at the boundary. This report describes the earlier investigation of a feature within Teybrook Farm.

The photographs show that the "tramlines" faded out in an area surrounding the Tey Brook, a small stream about 270 m north-west from the 1990/91 excavation (henceforth referred to as Teybrook A, or TA), Fig 1. They became visible again further north-west from the brook and continued in the same straight line across a field, now planted as a wood, for about 330 m as far as the farm boundary ditch.

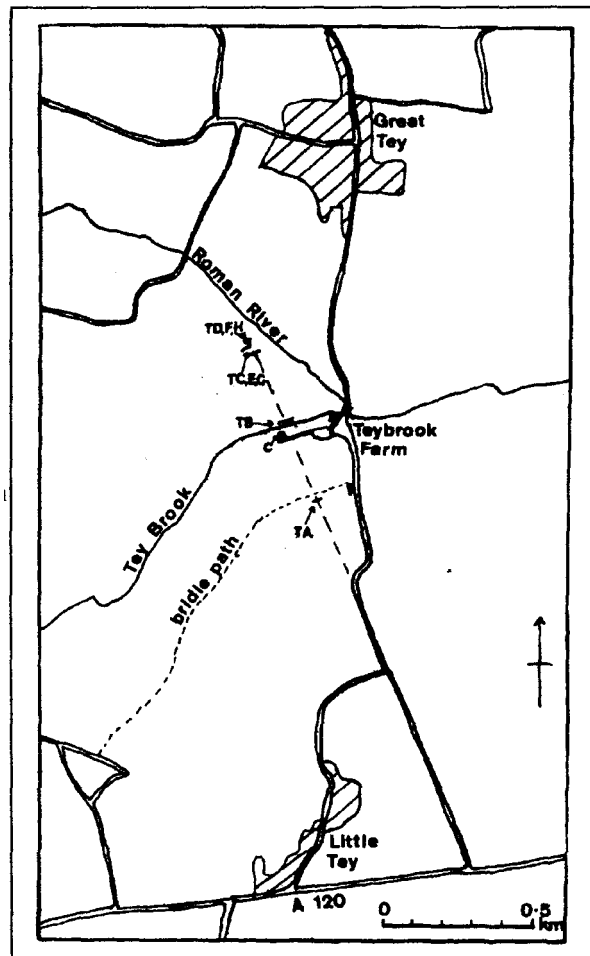
Fig. 1: Location of Teybrook Farm, Great Tey

The report describes two sections cut at site Teybrook B, or TB, on the north bank of the brook, Fig. 4, in order to establish whether the crossing was achieved by bridge or by ford and how the three tracks were carried across the stream

Only brief reference will be made to the work still in progress at other sites, TC, TD, TE, TF, TG and TH, on the far side of the field near the farm boundary, Fig 1, prior to fuller publication in the future.

2. Teybrook B Site

Although the tramlines were not visible on the photographs showing the vicinity of the Brook, the line of the road clearly crossed the latter at a right angle immediately to the east of Chase Cottage, (C on the location plan, Fig. 1.)



There, the south bank was not available for excavation, being occupied by part of the Cottage garden and by a marshy cutting in the bank leading down to an abandoned modern ford detectable in the stream bed by its concrete bottom. The excavation was therefore in the field on the north bank, which had been planted with trees in 1990 to make a wood, apart from a fenced-off strip, about 8 m wide and free of trees, running west-east adjacent to the brook. This provided ample space for the investigation from August 1992 to November 1993 (Site plan, Fig 4).

A levelling survey carried out in December 1992 and November 1993 provided information for Fig. 5 which is the profile of the landscape along the presumed line of the road for about a kilometre across the valley shared by two streams, the Tey Brook and Roman River, the first joining the second not far downstream from the site. The vertical scale is enlarged to twenty times the horizontal to emphasise the features. The ground falls from site Teybrook A at the top of the southern slope of the valley to a low point at the Tey Brook and Teybrook B, rises by about three metres across the young wood and reaches a ditch marking the boundary with the adjacent property, Warrens Farm. Continued across Roman River the survey shows how the ground rises with the northern slope of the valley to the finish at the hedge bounding the Great Tey-Coggeshall modern road. However, it should be reiterated that the route of the Roman road is by no means certain and may not follow the presumed line in Warrens Farm.

Between TA and TB the ground falls at a maximum slope of 4% (1 in 25). Beasts of burden would have coped with this, bearing or pulling a reasonable load. The features to note in the vicinity of the Brook are the steep drop of the lynchet at the bottom of the field forming the southern slope, the level area of the driveway to Chase Cottage, the smaller drop to the garden, the Brook between its metre high banks, and excavation trenches TB and TC. The ditch marking the boundary between Teybrook and Warrens farms is shown and the gentle rise from Roman River limiting the northern extent of the flood-plain follows.

3. The Excavation

Probing of the strip of land on the north bank of the Tey Brook indicated the presence of a hard surface on the line of the road at a depth of about 0.5 m. A trench T1, 0.8 m wide, dug parallel to and about 7m from the brook, revealed that the surface was that of a layer of flints. The trench was gradually extended over 23.7 m to uncover the full width of the stones as well as an adequate margin on both sides. It provided a section across the road, not quite at right angles to the line of it (Figs. 2 and 3).

The trench was dry at the beginning of the excavation, but during the wet winter of 1992/3 it filled to the brim with water. As the level was higher in the trench than in the Brook the source was obviously drainage water from the former field to the north, now the young wood. A second trench T2 was cut from T1 to the Brook; this allowed most of the water to escape and also provided a section along the line of the road sloping down to the stream, (Fig. 3).

Not surprisingly, the layers revealed in the sections were different from those at Teybrook A because the excavation was at the bottom of the valley instead of up on its southern brow. From the surface they were:

- (a) A dark brown soil extending about 0.30m below the surface grass.
- (b) A brown clayey layer with a thickness of about 0.23m.
- (c) A grey clay with included fine gravel, which had a total thickness of about 0.30 m. It enclosed layer (d).
- (d) An extended lens of flints of varying size in a matrix of soil, with inclusions of Roman tile, Roman pottery, and bone. Thickness 0.05 to 0.17m Enclosed in layer (c).
- (e) Chalky Boulder Clay. The natural sub-soil of the area, found also at Teybrook A.

The section in trench I (Fig. 6) indicated that the width of the flint lens layer (d) was substantial at about 15.7m. The layer was continuous across the section width except for an intrusive cutting containing modern pottery and glass, obviously a filled-in track which led up from the concrete bed of the modern ford.

The quality of the flint surface was noteworthy, being smooth with only a few shallow holes and no ruts. The outer two metres at the west and east edges of the layer were visually different from the central area and appeared less substantial, having smaller flints on average and fewer in relation to the soil matrix.

In addition to flints the layer (d) also exhibited on its surface and within its interior a quantity of Roman tile,

some fragments of iron, mostly nails, numerous animal bone fragments and several Roman pottery sherds. Beneath the flints the gravelly clay (e) contained some larger flints and a few pieces of Roman tile, but these were not in sufficient number to suggest that they were a prepared foundation for the flint layer above. The flints showed no systematic variation in size throughout the layer, which might have indicated a sophisticated approach to road making. The material appeared to have been merely dumped and spread, albeit with a slight camber towards the edges.

The three metre length of gritty clay silt layer (e) west of the flint layer in TI contained seven fragments of pot and pieces of brick and tile, all Roman, mainly at the edge of the flints and at the same level. Two fragments of Millstone Grit, one shaped with a part-circular edge and face grooved like a millstone, lay about 10cm to the west of and 10cm above the flint layer.

The corresponding five metre length of layer (e) east of the flint layer contained twelve fragments of pottery, some iron and bone, and more tile than was found at the west of the trench. Again, the finds lay at the same level as the flints, and extended eastwards, i.e. downstream.

In trench 2 (Fig. 3) the flint layer dropped gently southwards to the Brook and ended abruptly at the edge about 10 cm above the water level at the time of measurement. The level is, of course, a variable quantity. Probing revealed no evidence of flint or other hard surface in the stream bed. However, a limited examination of the opposite south bank revealed the presence of a layer of flints similar in nature to that in the northern bank and at the same level; these are shown in the section.

Use of an auger showed that the mud in the bottom of the stream was only 8cm thick and that beneath it lay Chalky Boulder Clay. This was the same subsoil that was found in the lowest level of the first excavation at Teybrook A. A small pit dug at the west end of TI (Fig. 6) revealed the Chalky clay and thus confirmed the evidence of the auger.

4. Interpretation

Until the latter half of the twentieth century the area of land bordering on the north bank of the Brook where the excavation was carried out was prone to flooding and was therefore left as meadow. Maps up to about 1960 show that its northern boundary ran more or less parallel to and at about 50 m from the Brook. As the aerial photographs show, by 1975 the area had been incorporated with the field to the north and improvements in drainage had enabled the whole to be ploughed. Cultivation continued until the planting of the trees to farm the wood in 1990, apart from the strip 8 m wide parallel to the Brook where the excavation took place.

The stratification bears out the above account of the site's recent history. Layer (a) represents the twentieth century ploughing. The clay layers (b) and (c) appear to be alluvial material deposited by the Brook. The brown layer (b) would be coloured by oxidised iron, being above the normal water table, whereas the wetter lower layer (c) would show the presence of grey, less oxidised, iron. Thus the two layers would represent a gradual build-up of alluvial clay and plough soil nearly 1.0 m thick resting on the glacial boulder clay beneath.

The flint layer lay entirely within the alluvial clay, which suggests that the flints had been laid on the clay surface existing at the time of deposition without any preliminary preparation for soft ground such as a foundation of brushwood. Afterwards the clay had continued to accumulate, eventually covering the flints to a depth of about 0.5 m and thus preserving them from the plough. If they had sunk through the clay since they had been put down, they showed little sign of it; the surface of the layer was markedly undistorted and free of cracks and holes.

The width of the flint layer, 15.7m, was about the same as the distance between the inner edges of the two outer ditches of the road found at the previous site, Teybrook A. This agreement, together with the location of the layer on the line of the road as shown in the aerial photographs, left little doubt that the flints were the road material. The carrying of the centre track, the width of the two inner ditches and the two outer tracks across the brook and its small flood plain as a single metalled causeway is interesting. In Part I the possibility that the two outer tracks, found without metalling at Teybrook A, were grass verges was briefly discussed. The overall metalling at Teybrook B is strong evidence that they were used as trackways, since there would have been no reason otherwise to widen the metalling of the centre track at the stream crossing. The switch from a non-metalled to metalled surface for the sidetracks was obviously to provide firmer going over the softer ground at the crossing.

Apart from the modern material in the known intrusions, the dateable finds were all of the Roman period, the profusion of tile in the road bed being noteworthy. By themselves the finds do not provide a conclusive dating for the road, but coupled with the features revealed at Teybrook A they strongly confirm that the road is Roman.

The possibility that the location of the bed of the Tey Brook has changed since Roman times requires consideration. The section in trench 2 (Fig 3) shows that the road surface rises northwards from the present stream and augering has indicated that it continues to rise for another 50 m further north. The auger also showed that the thickness of the alluvial clay above the road diminished to zero about 20 m north of the stream. As mentioned previously, the south bank was not available for excavation, but the building of an extension and driveway east of Chase Cottage in the autumn of 1995, (Fig 4) provided useful information. A utility trench across the line of the road about 12 m, south of the stream revealed no evidence of it, suggesting that the metalling was lower than the depth of the trench, 0.60 m at that point. The cutting for the driveway further east uncovered Chalky Boulder Clay, and not alluvial clay, about 11m south of the stream.

The conclusions from these observations were as follows. The Roman stream must have flowed at the lowest point within the boundaries of the alluvial clay, between 20 m to the north and 11 m to the south of the present stream. As the excavation and the augering showed, the road sloped down to the present stream from the north and therefore the lowest point must have been at or to the south of the present stream bed. However, it cannot have been more than a few metres to the south, for the Chalky Boulder Clay observed in the new driveway section, was over a metre higher than the stream and so the slope of the south bank would have taken up an appreciable part of the aforementioned 11 m. This reasoning therefore suggests that the lowest point, at which the Roman stream ran, was at or close to the present stream.

A crossing at such a position would have allowed insufficient headroom for a bridge which would have had to have fitted between the surface of the metalling and the top of the Chalky Boulder Clay, a gap of about 0.4 m. Such a low bridge width a 15.7 m wide road way would have quickly blocked with flotsam and have been quite impractical. Therefore the road crossing is likely to have been a ford, as indeed commonsense dictates for such a small stream. A narrow footbridge or steppingstones may have been provided for pedestrians, features not discovered by this excavation; evidence may still exist buried in the area not explored, perhaps at the upstream edge of the ford.

In the vicinity of the ford the provision for drainage of the road bed seems unlikely to have been unsophisticated. The cropmarks of the ditches visible on the aerial photographs continue northwestwards from Teybrook A, run down the field forming the southern slope of the valley and disappear at a lynchet bounding the curtilage of Chase cottage. Not surprisingly in view of the drive and garden features, the marks are absent in the curtilage. The excavation showed that they were absent on the north side of the brook because the ditches did not exist there. The reappearance of the marks about 50m. north of the brook indicates that the ditches were re-introduced when higher ground was reached.

Whether much water flowed in the ditches is debatable. Normally it may have just soaked into the ground beneath them. Any flow running down the valley's southern slope could have been diverted away from the sides of the road at some point to disperse on the surface. What happened to the flow from the two inner ditches remains unclear.

The observation that the ford surface now lies beneath a thickness of alluvial deposit varying from about 0.5 m up to a metre near the stream, suggests that in the past the water has risen to such a level for long enough periods for the deposition to occur. Two alternatives appear feasible: either the bed of the stream has remained approximately at the present level since Roman times while intermittent flooding has raised the banks steadily, or the full flood plain has risen as the stream has meandered over its width and, at some time in the past, an artificial cut has been made and maintained to drain the area. This lowered the stream bed to its present level below the Roman.

The evidence appears to favour the latter alternative. The course of the Brook in the vicinity of the excavation is markedly straight, suggesting a made channel to improve land drainage. It is certainly now maintained as such, with dredged material being deposited on the banks as is evident in the section in

trench 2 (Fig. 3). The construction of the cottage (18C?) may also have required such drainage. The building does not appear on an estate map of the manor of Great Tey, drawn c 1800 but based on an earlier survey of 1660 (Stuart Mason 1990, ERO D/DU 304/53); the Brook is shown as straightened, presumably by

the earlier date. Also the sharply defined character of the gap in the road bed through which the stream now runs might best be explained by an artificial cut. In the pasture between the cottage and the farmhouse a small sharp slope running south of the Brook may represent a former bank of the stream left high and dry by the cut.

Evidence discussed in the Part 1 interpretation supported the view that the two outer tracks were used as such and were not just verges. The evidence at TA suggested that both tracks were not normally metalled. At TB the metalling of all three tracks was obviously necessary to provide a stable road surface at the ford. It also provides further evidence that all three tracks were used, otherwise there would be no reason to provide such a wide ford. The supposition that the centre track was for wheeled traffic and pedestrians, and the side tracks were for horsemen and pack animals, still seems reasonable.

5. Dating Evidence

Most of the finds from TB consisted of tile, brick and animal bone, waste material suitable for the bed of a ford. The pottery, not indicative of great wealth, could not be dated more closely than from the second to fourth centuries. It may be noted that the pottery from the sites currently being excavated is from a similar date range and that the nearby Great Tey Roman villa, which would be an obvious source of find material, was judged to have been occupied during the period.

Mr David Buckley kindly examined the fragments of Millstone Grit and confirmed that they indeed came from millstones. Dating was not possible owing to the limited size of the fragments. They were certainly low enough in the grey alluvium and close enough to the road edge to be Roman, but they were also heavy enough to have sunk through the deposits to their find position and therefore may be later, perhaps medieval. Evidence for a mill in the area exists and will be considered in a future report.

6. Current and Future Work

Further trenches across the line of the road to the north-west of TB, at TC and other sites surrounding TC, have revealed more metalling and ditches. However, the area appears to have been disturbed by a large hole more than a metre deep dug across the line, of Roman date judged by the pottery found in it. This may have been a large pond which would have been fed by Roman River. It would account for the disappearance of the four "tramline" cropmarks from the aerial photographs of the area. There is some evidence that the road was diverted to the west of the "pond", hence the number of sites being investigated. It is as yet inconclusive and so investigation of accessible areas within the woodland is continuing.

No evidence for the extension of the road beyond the Teybrook Farm area was seen on the land stripped during the installation of a recent water main. This crossed its line on the western boundary of Warren Farm, although other tracks a few hundred metres to the south of the line were observed and investigated by the Essex County Archaeological Unit.

7. Acknowledgments

The Group must thank Mr Roger and Mr Richard Browning of Teybrook Farm and Mr Peter Fairs of Warrens Farm for their indulgence while it continues to dig holes and engage in other strange activities on their land over a period of years. The excavators at Teybrook B were Mike Matthews, Ida McMaster and Jonathan Oldham. The Colchester Archaeological Trust lent its surveying level and its staff kindly provided advice including welcome dating of the finds.

References

- Fawn A J *A Roman Road at Teybrook Farm, Great Tey*. Colchester Archaeological Group
Annual Bulletin 34 (1991) 29-37
- Stuart Mason A *Essex on the Map*. Essex Record Office (1990) 105

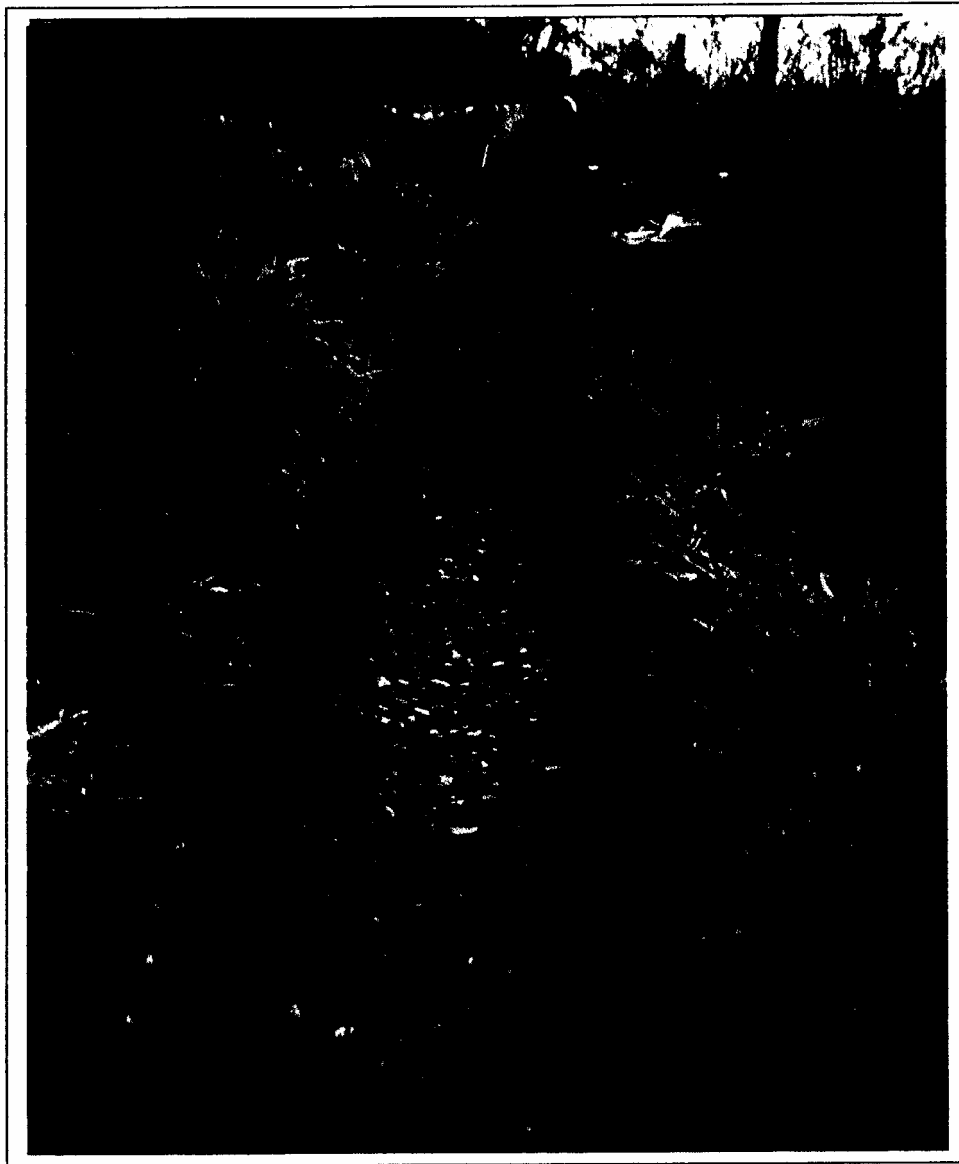


Fig. 2: Trench at Teybrook (with James Fawn working at far end)

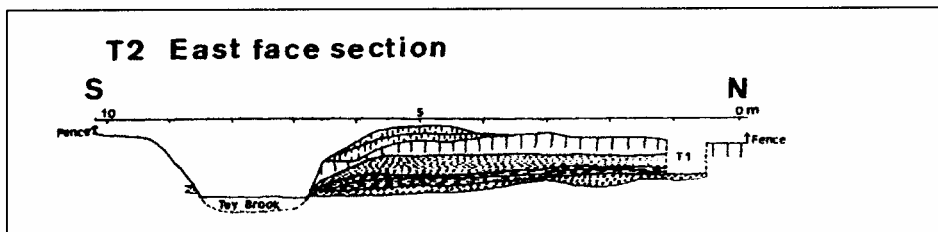


Fig. 3: Teybrook B, Trench 2 section

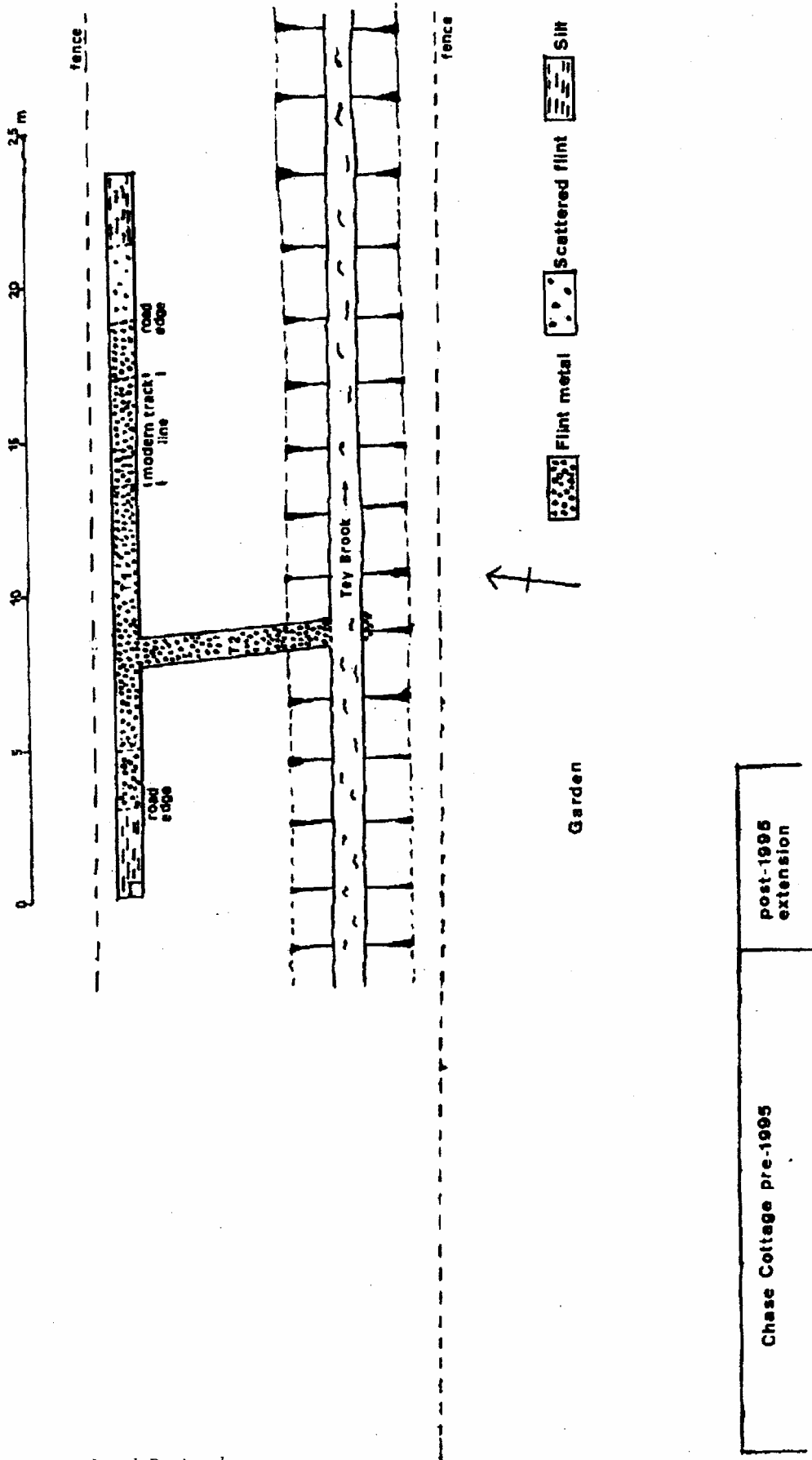


Fig. 4: Teybrook B, site plan

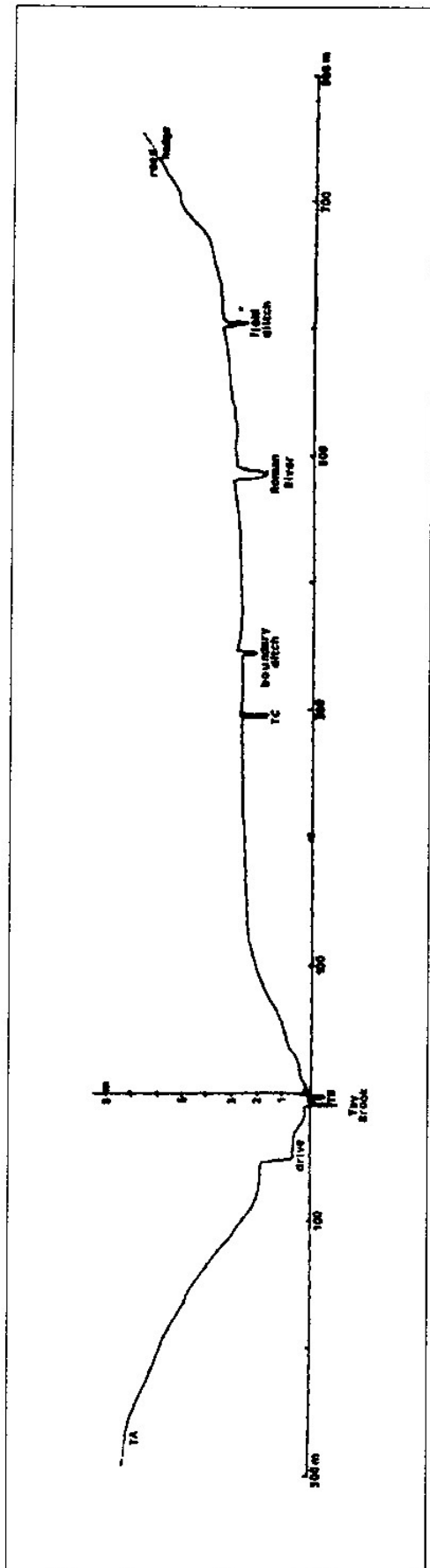


Fig. 5: Teybrook B, Profile across valley

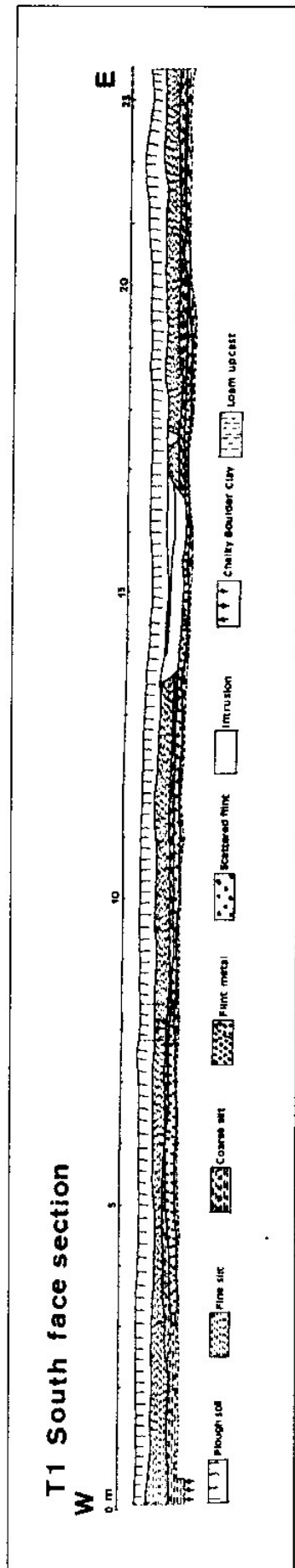


Fig. 6: Teybrook B: Trench section

UNDERGROUND COLCHESTER

John Wallace

English Heritage, in conjunction with Colchester Borough Council, sponsored the creation of a computerised record of the town's archaeology for an Urban Archaeological Database or UAD. Part of this plan is to be a cellar survey. In 1999/2000 a number of volunteers were recruited from CAG who would each cover an area, under the supervision of David Radford from the Museum Resource Centre. Volunteers had to measure up the cellar, recording the height of the ceiling and the materials from which the walls and floor were made. A note also had to be made, with photographs as appropriate, of any unusual features such as timber framing, former direct access to the street, chimney bases, whether the cellar was damp or dry, and an estimated date.

As one pair of a team, June and I were allocated Sheregate Street, Sir Isaacs Walk, Headgate and Church Walk, so we approached our first call with trepidation and an official letter of introduction. This was "The Cusp" in Sheregate, which sells a range of ethnic and New Age goods. The proprietor was charming and interested in the project, as indeed was every other shop owner we met. The first obstacle was a trapdoor, which was very small and covered narrow, steep steps leading down into the cellar. Assuring him that we were covered by insurance, down we went.

The cellar has a part brick/part sand floor, a blocked up entrance to St John's Street and a section which ran under the premises next door. It was decidedly damp. We were half-way through the measuring-up process when the light went out leaving us in pitch blackness. However, we had a good hand torch somewhere in our bag. We found the torch, and carried on to finish the job. We then groped our way up the steps to find that the trapdoor was shut. We knocked a few times, and eventually someone opened up and we climbed out. The customers appeared somewhat taken aback by the sight of two, slightly dusty, elderly folk rising up out of the floor - maybe they thought this was part of the occult ambience? After this experience the other cellars were fairly straight-forward.

The next cellar of interest was at No 3 St Isaac's Walk. Down some steps via another trapdoor was a small cellar measuring about 15' square, with the original Roman wall on the southern side. The wall had a 5' by 5' fireplace cut into it. (Fig 1). Looking up inside, a chimney of medieval brick could be seen. (Fig 2). Another item to be added, under the heading of anecdotes, was a report of a ghost: it appears that the previous proprietors had heard footsteps in the cellar, which were said to be a Roman soldier patrolling the wall.



Fig. 1: Fireplace cut into the Roman wall, No 3, St Isaac's Walk

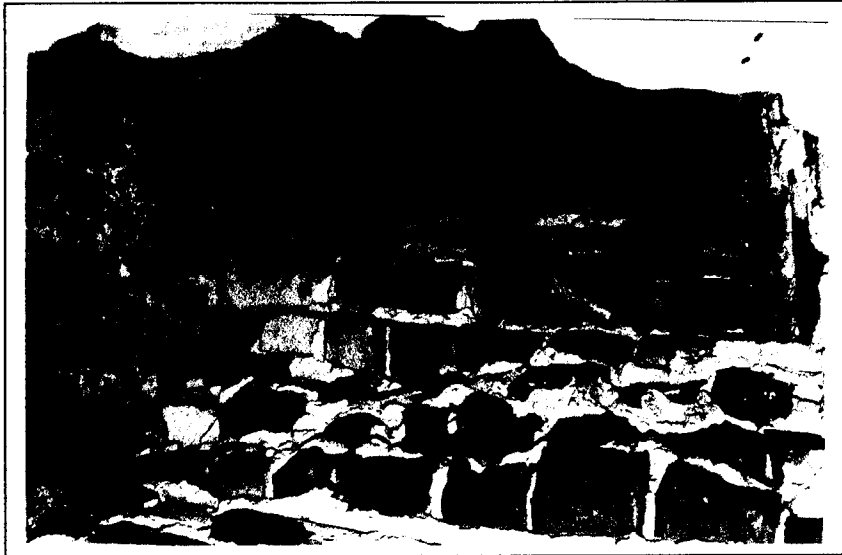


Fig. 2: Chimney in the cellar of No 3, Sir Isaac's walk

The Roman wall runs parallel with Sir Isaac's Walk, and the properties on the left-hand side are built on or against it, so we expected to find more parts of the wall as we progressed along the street. Many of the shops had no cellars, or they had been converted into offices, and in one case, a hairdressing salon. The next premises of interest were at No 33, at present a TV and radio retailer, who used the cellar as a storeroom. At the north end was a section of Roman wall. There was also a large glazed window at the far end, through which could be seen another part of the wall.

Next door at No 35/36 was an opticians' which also had a large section of Roman wall exposed. This had another trapdoor to be negotiated, and this was screwed down and hidden under a pile of boxes. We had tape measures, torch, clip-board, pencils etc. but no screwdriver. Fortunately, we were able to borrow one and after removing the boxes and six 6" screws, we were able to heave open the trapdoor, revealing a flight of steps leading down. It was a very large cellar - about 40' long by 18' wide, but it did have a light, albeit of just one bulb. When our eyes adjusted to the gloom, we found at the end a substantial section of Roman wall, consisting mainly of the rubble in-fill, standing five or six feet high with parts of it slumped forward. This extended into the neighbouring cellar behind the window described above. We photographed this and drew a sketch plan. (Fig. 3)



Fig. 3: Roman wall and window under 35/36 Sir Isaacs Walk, with wall continuing beyond the window.

The next piece of wall we found was at The Lemon Tree, where the whole back wall of this restaurant consisted of exposed Roman wall. A cellar at the rear, which was used as a private dining area, was accessed via an archway cut through the wall some 100 years ago, or so we were told.

At the corner of Headgate, St Johns Street and Sir Isaacs Walk is Moben Fitted Kitchens where the extensive cellar has been converted into a workshop. The shop premises above appeared to have been a theatre at one time, and had a grand staircase leading down to a trapdoor. However, below the trapdoor the stairs have been removed and there is a ten foot drop; we returned the following day with a step ladder and went on with the survey. On the north side of the cellar, next to Sir Isaac's Walk, was a large area the width of the room, cement rendered, and approximately 8 foot high, and 8 foot in depth. On checking the map it was clear that this was yet another section of Roman wall.

Another property of interest was a large house in Headgate with a plaque on the wall stating that it was once the town house of Sir Isaac Rebow, built 1690. It now houses four shops, of which three had access to cellars, and were undoubtedly part of the cellars of the old house. The most interesting was under the Hospice Shop, with substantial chamfered oak tie beams and braces. (Fig. 4)

All in all we visited 67 premises in our allocated streets, of which 17 had cellars. This brief resume covers some of the more interesting ones.



Fig. 4: Beams and oak tie in the cellars of Sir Isaac Rebow's house

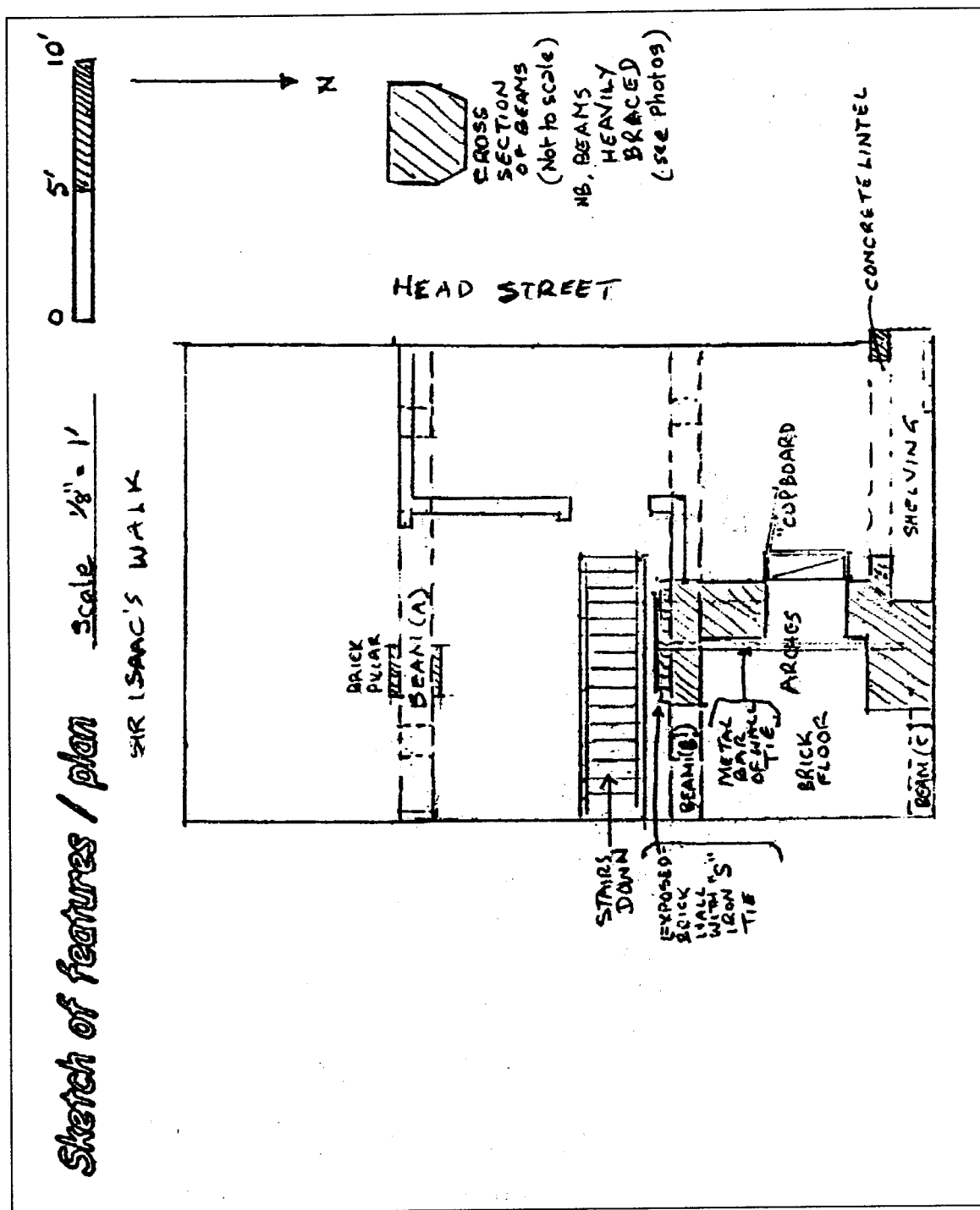


Fig. 5: Plan of Hospice Shop Cellar, Headgate Street, once part of the cellar of Sir Isaac Rebow's house, built 1690

AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY COTTAGE AT LANGHAM

Richard Shackle

In May 1998 I was invited to look at a small building behind a new house called Rayners in Wick Lane, Langham, an area once called Soloman's Temple. The building had been lived in by an old man and had then been occupied by the Clemence family while their new house was being built.

The building was no longer required and was about to be taken down by an architectural salvage firm, who wanted to know what it was. After examining it, I realised that it was a small eighteenth century cottage with a 19th century kitchen attached to it. When the architectural salvage firm realised what they had, instead of selling the bricks and timbers individually they decided to sell the 18th century cottage complete for erection elsewhere.

The cottage as originally built consisted of two rooms on the ground floor and two rooms above. The ground floor comprised a main living room with a brick fireplace, and a smaller inner room (Fig. 1). The only external door opened into the living room. As you entered this door you faced a steep ladder staircase which gave access to the room above. It also acted as a baffle to reduce draughts from the outside door. There was a small window in the front wall, but probably none in the back wall, to reduce draughts. The whole end of the cottage, fireplace and flanking cupboards were made of brick. The cupboards probably had brick outer walls to deter vermin from eating food stored there. One of the cupboards later became a passage to the new kitchen. The inner room was probably a sitting room or quiet room away from the noise of the main family living room. It was unheated, so was probably not used in the coldest part of the year.

The cottage was mostly of timber frame construction with wattle and daub infill. If you look at the drawing of the front and back elevations (Figs. 3 & 4) you can see that only the main studs were pegged, the smaller studs being mortised but not pegged. There is primary bracing with the studs being nailed to the braces. The middle truss incorporates a reused tie beam, but the studs are not in the old mortises but are nailed to the outside of the tiebeam. This suggests that the building may have been erected by people with limited carpentry skills.

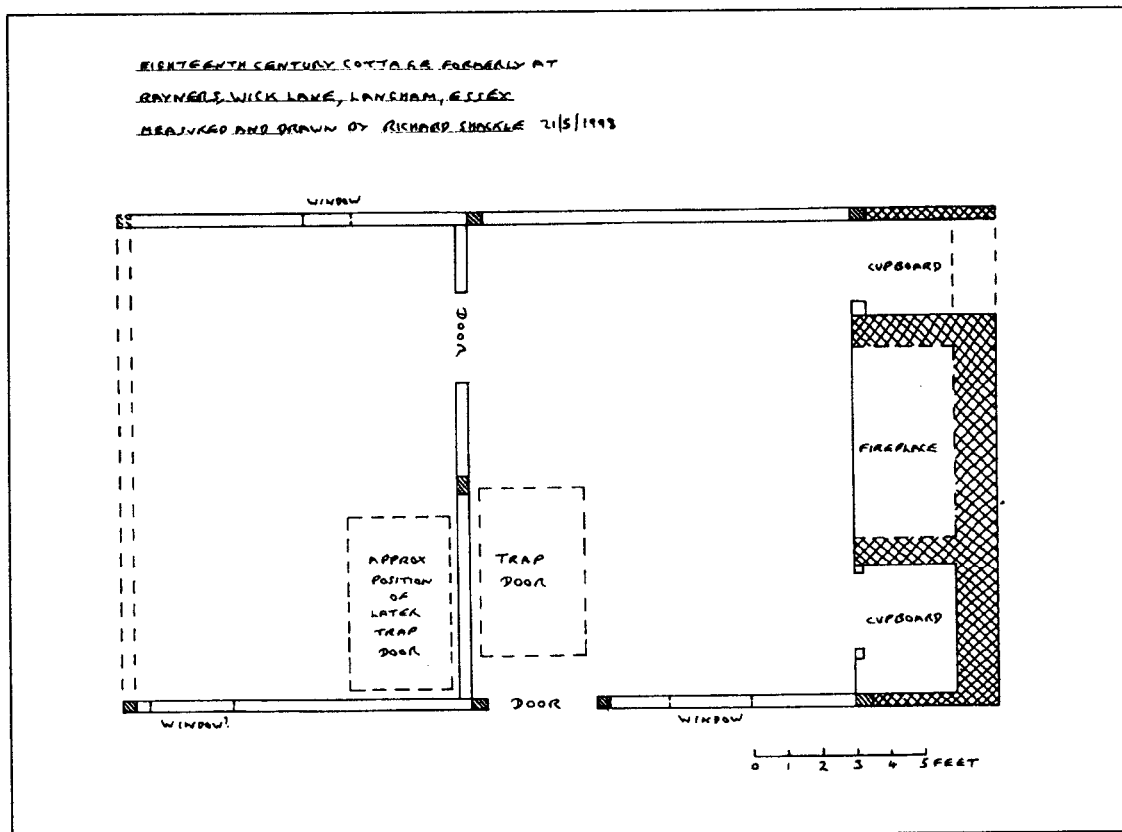


Fig 1: Ground floor, 18th century cottage

The upper floor in the main room is supported by a bridging joist, which is morticed into a post in the central truss at one end, and built into the brick chimney at the other end. This bridging joist (Fig. 2) has small joists pegged into it. Although the bridging joist has a waney upper face where it could not be seen, the lower face is carefully chamfered. The upper rooms were originally both accessed via the stair and the trapdoor by the outside door. To get to the room over the inner room, you ascended the stair, then scrambled over the tie beam through the small door into the other room (Fig. 5). Later, another trapdoor was made from the inner room to the room above it. This gave easier access and afforded the second upper room more privacy. These upper rooms were lit by windows in the gable ends (Fig. 6)

The original fireplace was quite wide, as it was used for cooking as well as for heating. When the kitchen was added the fireplace opening was reduced in size. Over the fireplace was a large well shaped mantle beam (Fig. 2) which later had a section cut out of it. The timber frame sat on a low brick plinth, which had become obscured by a rise in the ground level round the cottage.

The roof is of the side purlin type of construction. The long section of the roof can be seen in Figs. 3 & 4. A cross section of the roof with a collar can be seen in Fig.7. Many of the rafters are reused, as can be seen by the joints for former collars. Figure 8 shows what the cottage may have looked like when first built.

This building is an interesting example of an 18th century cottage, which was probably quite common but is now rare because it was not worth extending or enlarging, and so was usually pulled down. I should like to thank the Clemence family and the architectural savage firm for allowing me to record the building.

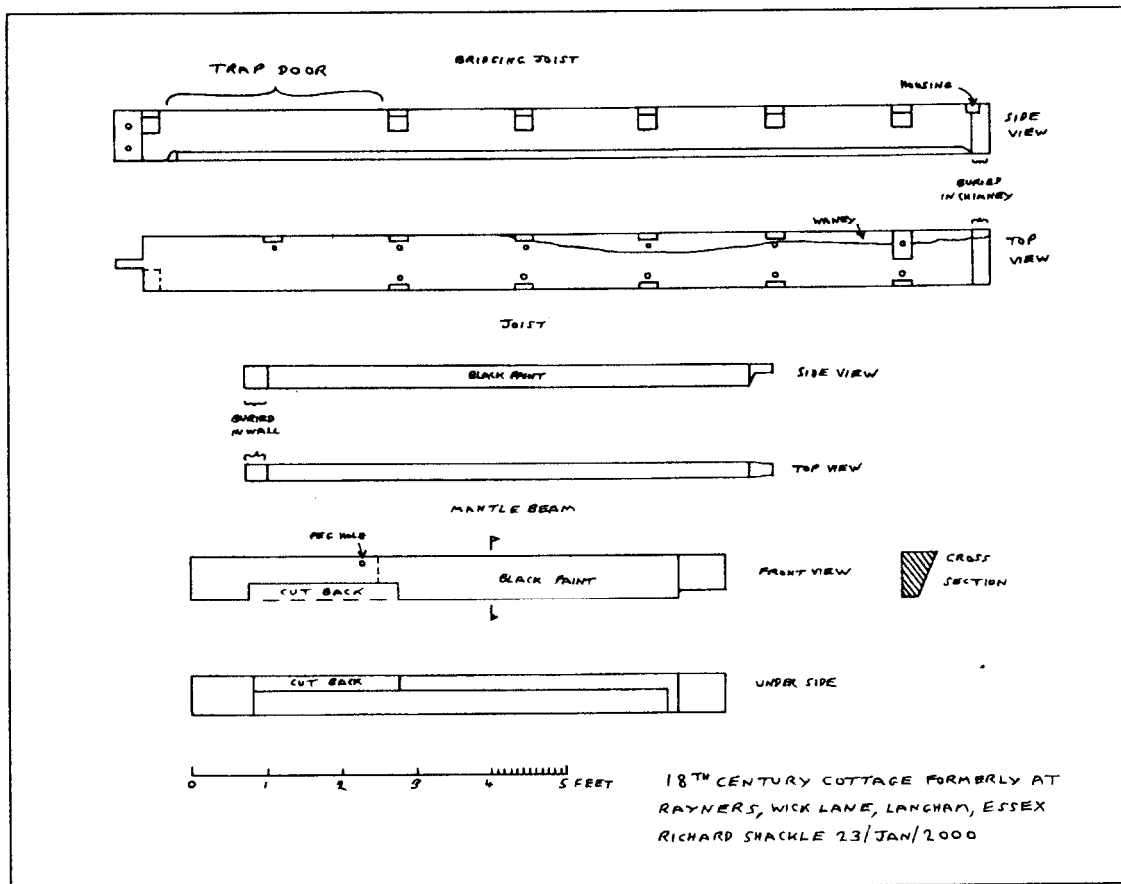


Fig. 2: Beams and joists, 18th century cottage

Fig. 3: Front elevation, 18th century cottage at Langham

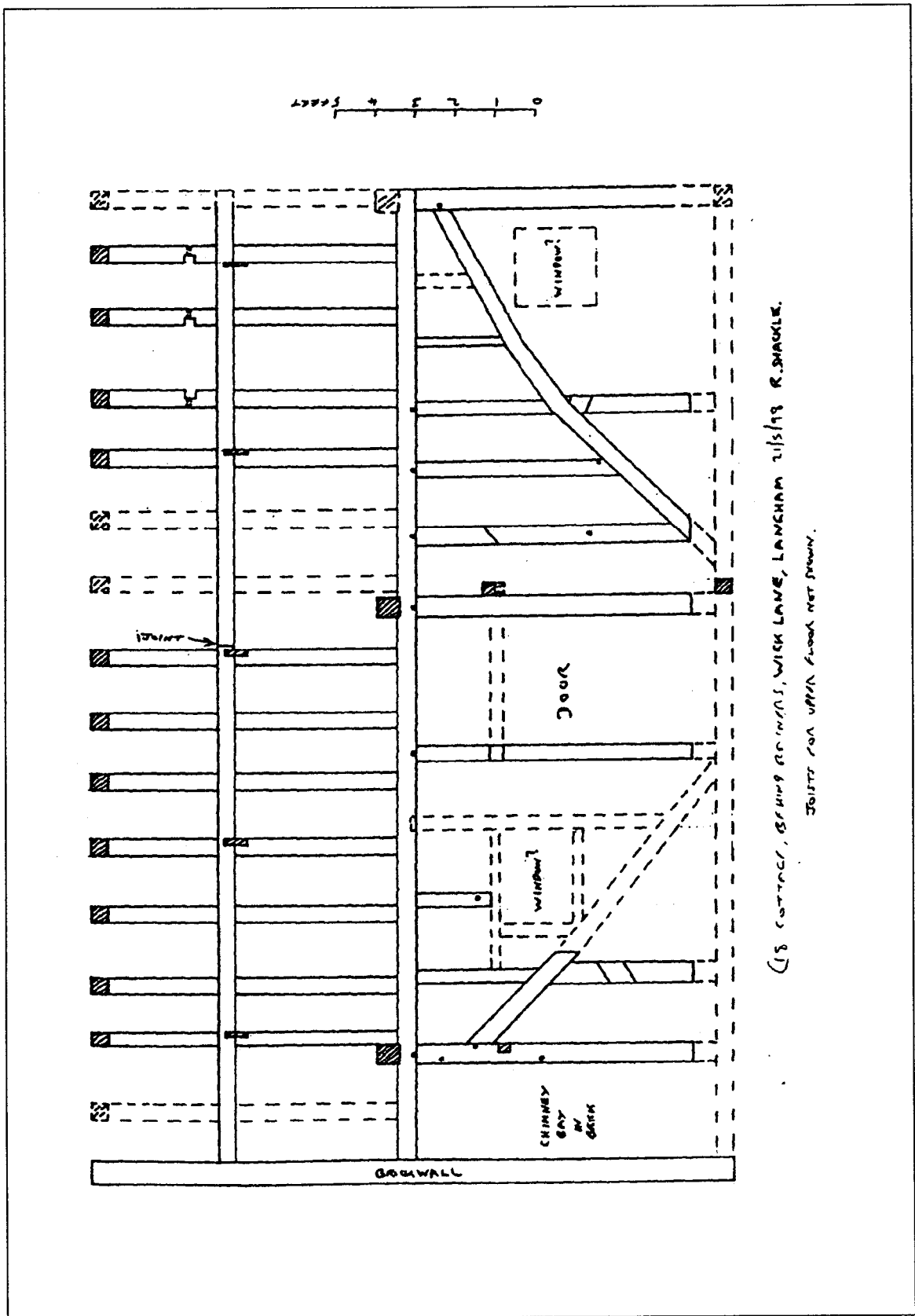
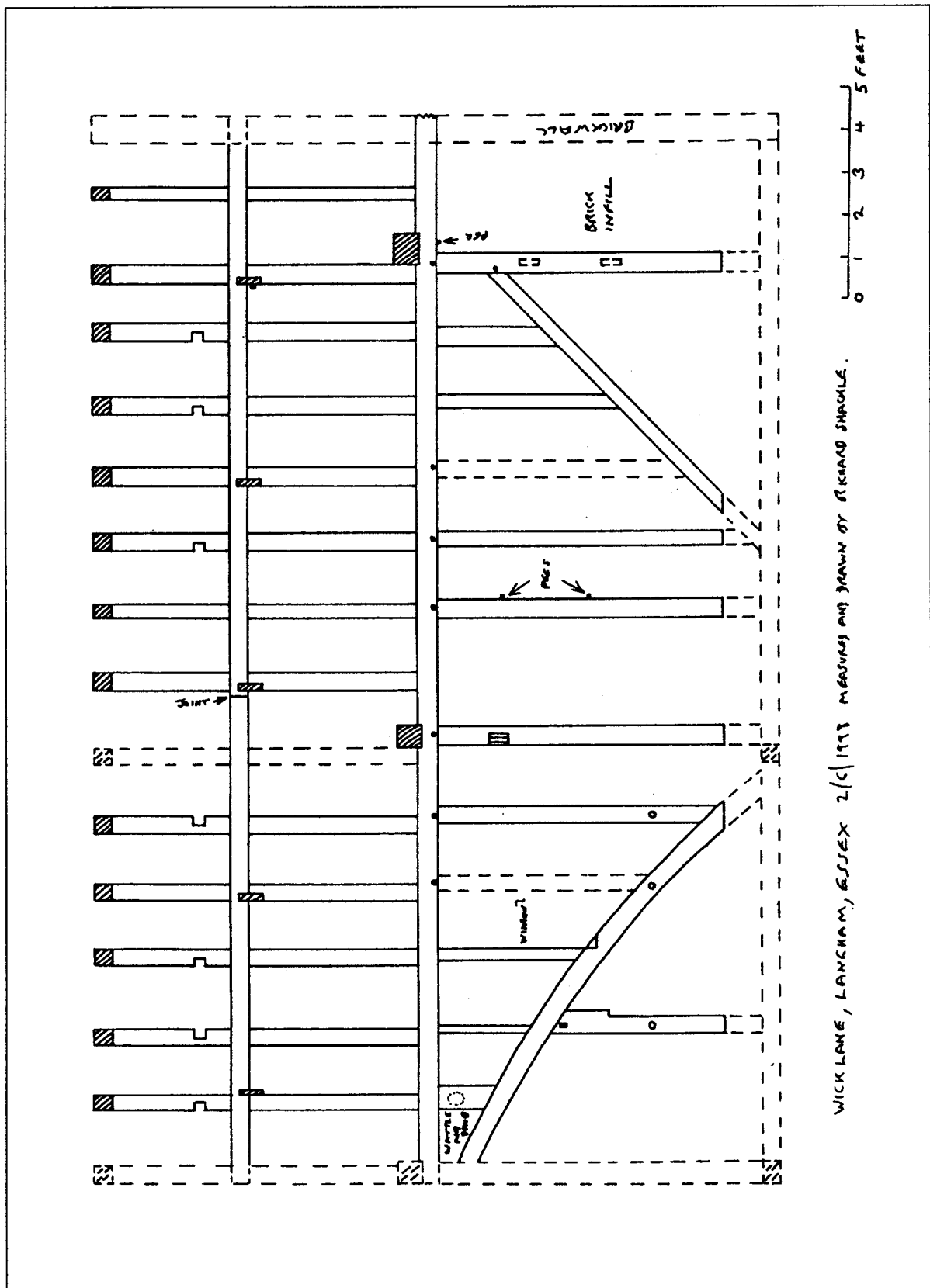


Fig 4: Back elevation, 18th century cottage at Langham



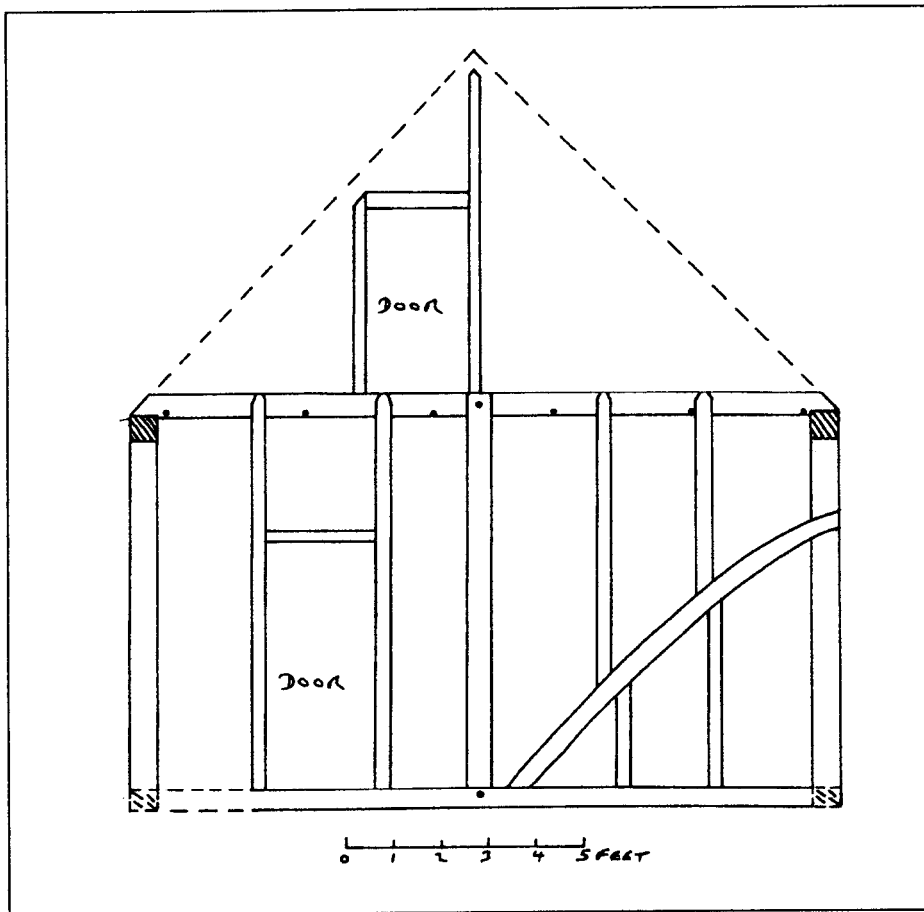


Fig 5:
Cross section
of 18th century
cottage at
Langham

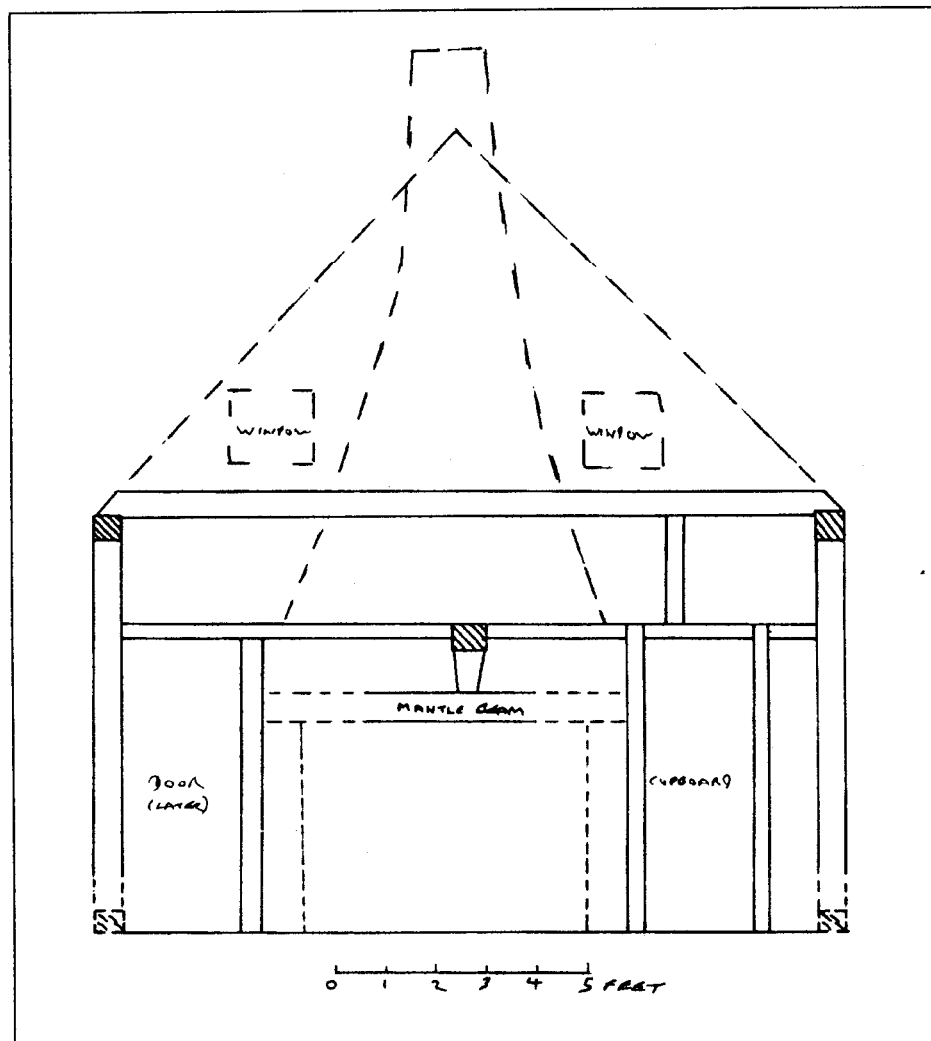


Fig. 6:
Cross section of
18th century
cottage at
Langham

IS IT POSSIBLE TO DATE ESSEX GRAVEYARD MEMORIALS BY LOOKING AT THEIR ATTRIBUTES?

An investigation into the typology of gravestones

Mary Coe

Introduction

During the summer of 2000 I took part in the survey to record the gravestones at St James' Churchyard. It became clear that much information had been lost, some memorials being covered in moss or other growth, others broken, and others being eroded. The result was that for many memorials all or part of the inscription was illegible. I thought it would be useful to be able to date a gravestone by what does remain. By looking at the type of memorial, the shape of headstones, introductory phrases, epitaph, and any decoration, the intention of this study was to find out if there had been any significant changes in these attributes over the last 250 years.

The surveys for the two churchyards were done in different ways. For St. James' I used the information gathered during the survey by CAG, supplemented by Crisps' record (see below). To obtain the data for Wormingford I did my own survey. For both I prepared forms on which to record the data, examples of which are shown in appendix I (page 27).

Appendix 2 (page 28) shows some of the types of memorials I encountered.

The "Introductory phrases" are the first words on a memorial, and include words such as "In memory of".

St James the Great, Colchester

The information I needed came from two sources, followed by a visit to the churchyard to check a few details. First I used the survey taken by CAG. These sheets are now in the Museum Resource Centre, where they can be accessed. This survey had been compared with the "Crisp Manuscript", which was written in the second half of the nineteenth century in a copper-plate hand. The manuscript now belongs to Essex Libraries and can be inspected at the Local Study Centre. References to the manuscript enabled me to fill gaps in the information obtainable from the more recent survey.

The earliest memorial for which a date could be ascribed is a chest tomb of 1714. Memorials were being erected until 1870, mostly headstones, but also some chest tombs. The few ledger stones which could be dated appeared in both the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but in two groups with a gap of about 50 years. It is difficult now to say whether this gap really exists, or if it is accounted for by the illegible stones. The only other type of memorial to make an appearance during this time was the coffin tomb, most of which also had headstones and footstones. This type of memorial was only recorded in the nineteenth century.

No further memorials were recorded until 1943, when an area of the churchyard was set aside for cremations. Cremations continue up to the present day. Only two memorials were found outside this area, both headstones. The earliest cremations were marked by a raised kerb, three of which enclosed a stone cross laid flat. Most cremations were marked by small flat stones, the earliest being dated 1950. The majority were very simple in design and wording.

The various shapes of headstones found at St James' are shown in appendix 3 (page 29). The most common shapes are the first two. Style I appears in both the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but style 2 does not appear until the nineteenth century. The three pie-charts in appendix 4 (page 30) show the distribution of the different headstone shapes in use between 1800 and 1859.

Fourteen different introductory phrases were used, and a few memorials had none. There was a clear distinction between the phrases used for the older interments and those used for the cremations. With these later memorials there was a higher proportion with no introduction and of the remainder almost all used "In Loving Memory of". Appendix 5 (page 31) is a set of battleship curves" which show the usage of certain phrases. Some of the phrases which are similar in meaning have been grouped together for convenience.

The epitaphs on memorials vary from a few words up to eight lines of poetry. The quality of this poetry also varies, some being specially written. Most tell us about the person, such as "A loving wife Mother dear/ A faithful friend lies buried here". This is particularly true for children with poems like "This lovely bud so young and fair/ ... In Paradise will bloom". There are also warnings for us all. One poem finishes "Reader! Prepare to meet thy God". Another begins "Stop reader and behold a scene of woe" and finishes with "Alas, how quickly was their hour-glass run".

Few memorials were decorated, most designs only appearing once. On the older memorials there were various degrees of complexity, while many of the cremations had only a simple incised cross. Designs include an anchor, a cherub's head and wings, a lady reading, and an hour-glass.

Some other interesting features were noted. Two memorials, dated 1738 and 1830, use the word "relict". A few showed the husband's name first, although he died after his wife. Only one memorial showed cause of death: a headstone of 1814 had the inscription "...met his death by being thrown from a Gig". Apart from two military graves, vicars and other Church officials, only one memorial has an indication of the person's profession. This memorial from 1799 is decorated with potted plants and a pineapple because the person was a "Nursery and Seedsman". On the side of a chest tomb there is an unfortunate spelling mistake. "Their son" has been inscribed as "thir son".

St Andrew, Wormingford

I visited Wormingford on a number of occasions to take my survey, and used the same forms as I had used for St James', only taking note of the details I required. The earliest memorials were two headstones both dated 1742, and apart from the 1750s all decades are represented up to and including the 1990s. There are a few cremation memorials, but at Wormingford no area was designated for them.

The majority of the memorials are headstones, but amongst the older gravestones are chest tombs and coped stones. Scattered around the churchyard were stones laid flat, most of which are now illegible as the stone is covered in moss. Sited with the oldest memorials are two ledger stones, but unfortunately no inscription is now visible on either of them. There were a number of scrolls, but only three of these could be read, with moss being responsible for the damage. Among the modern styles are the open book and blocks of stone. Two of the kerbed graves were multiple sized, one a double plot, the other triple.

In all there were 48 different styles of headstone, drawings of which are shown in appendix 6 (page 32-35). Many of these only occurred once and only five occurred more than four times. The distribution of this diversity of shapes clearly showed that the popular shapes of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries were superseded by a number of often more simple shapes in the twentieth century.

In total there were 23 memorials which were kerbed, all from the twentieth century, the latest being dated 1961. The different shapes of the corners are shown in appendix 7 (page 36).

The introductory phrase "In Memory of" first appears at the end of the eighteenth century, and continues to the end of the twentieth century. This developed in the last century to phrases such as "In Proud and Treasured Memory of". "Here lieth the Body of" only appears in the 1700s, but "Here lies the Body of" does appear once in 1937.

About half the memorials at Wormingford have some sort of epitaph. As with St James' some poems described the person being commemorated. We have "A husband kind, a father dear/ Such was the man that lieth here" and "of such she is there are many in heaven/ and life is all the sweeter that she lived". On a large chest tomb are three poignant poems: the first of 1818 begins "Weep that such worth so soon to earth is given", followed in 1820 by "Weep that again such worth to dust is given/...", and finally in 1837 "Thrice now the fatal shot of death has sped/..." From 1833 we are warned to "be careful how we live", at the end of a poem addressed to all who "pass by and view my stone".

Biblical texts range from the short "Until the Day Dawn" to complete verses. Where chapter and verse was identified it helped to clarify damaged inscriptions, and to translate the Latin text from 1931. Only one gravestone had any form of epitaph in the eighteenth century, and epitaphs were not common in the nineteenth, although this is the time when most of the longer poems appeared.

Apart from one headstone of 1743, which had a skull between two lilies, none of the eighteenth century stones carried any form of decoration. In the nineteenth century there was very little, except an ornate form of "HIS". During the twentieth century decoration became much more common, but most fall into one of three groups. Two of these groups were crosses, which were either simple, or in a decorative form, with flowers and leaves. The third group is the rose, which became popular in the 1980s. The rose takes several forms, sometimes a bud on a single stem, sometimes a fully opened flower.

None of the memorials at Wormingford used the word "relict", and there was only one instance of the husband's name appeared before the wife's, although she had died first. On another headstone, of 1987, the wife's name is given followed by "(nee)".

One chest tomb, with the earliest date of 1818, is followed by several entries, on the top and on all four sides. The older dates are prefixed with either I Et 1 or Ob. as appropriate. Another interesting feature of this particular tomb is the statement along one side of the mantel which reads "Space for three adults 1938. Entrance ↘".

Three memorials were not dated. This was not due to damage, but was clearly deliberate. Two of the three were placed next to each other and had the same surname. This suggests it was a conscious decision on the part of the family.

Few of the memorials indicated the profession of the person. A coped stone of 1892 and a Celtic cross of 1929 both commemorated past vicars of Wormingford. A recent headstone of 1992 tells of a "bellringer and Tower Captain of this Parish for 70 years". Other local people were a "Soldier and Farmer", John Nash the painter, some of John Constable's relations and a "Justice of the Peace/ Barrister-at-law".

One epitaph from 1947 leaves us wondering what tragedy befell a family, and gives us food for thought: "Your end was sudden Ethel dear/ You made us weep and cry,/ but Oh, the saddest part of all/ You did not say goodbye".

Conclusion

The survey proved inconclusive because of the small sample size. There were a few trends beginning to show, and with a larger sample more accurate dating may be possible. There is a suggestion from these results that there may be fashions in memorial types, their shape, and what is inscribed on them. In order to answer the question originally posed with any degree of confidence, much more research would be needed. More churchyards would have to be visited. Other attributes could also be looked at, such as the size of the headstone and the type of script, all of which I ignored in my survey. Some of the points picked out as being of interest, such as indications of profession, could possible form the basis of further attributes.

Because of the illegibility of some of the memorials much data has already been lost. This not only applies to the oldest memorials but also affects many from the twentieth century. Without this loss, the survey would have been more comprehensive. For this reason the data for all memorials in churchyards and cemeteries needs to be recorded urgently, before any more useful, important and interesting information is lost for good.

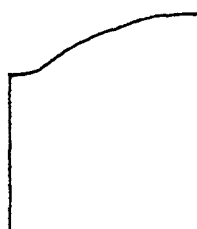
Appendix I:- Examples of survey sheets used

Record sheet:

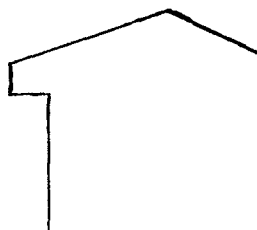
No.	Type	Shape of Headstone	Date	Introductory Phrase	Epitaph	Decoration	Remarks
1	ledger	-	1837	In memory of	No	No	-
2	head	1	1848	To the memory of	Yes	No	Crisp 53
3	head	2	1825	Sacred to the Mem	Yes	Yes	-
4							

Sheet for Headstone Shapes:

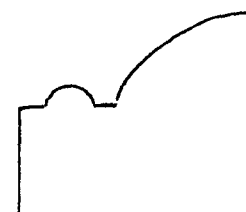
1)



2)



3)



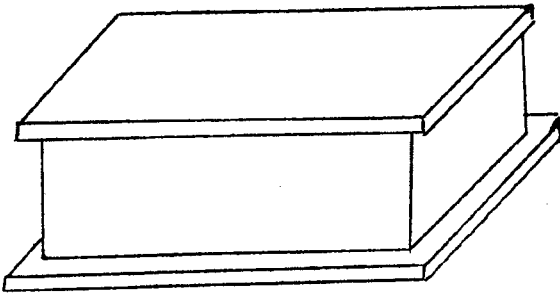
Sheet for Epitaphs, Decoration and other Remarks:

2) A sinner saved by grace

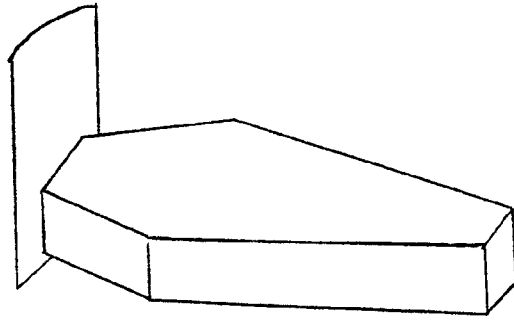
3) Far from a world of grief
 With god eternally shut in
 Decoration = Angels head with wings

Appendix 2:- Some types of memorials

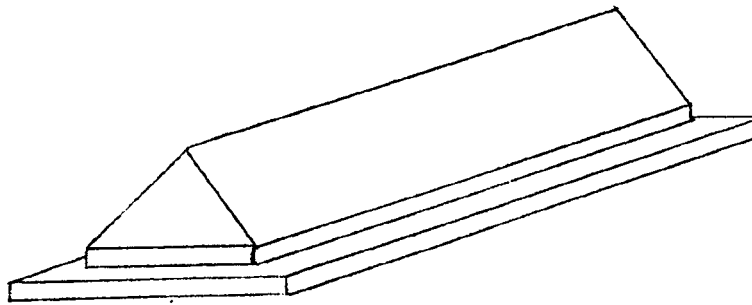
a) Chest Tomb



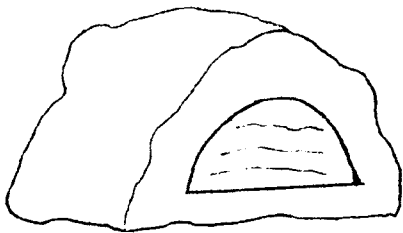
b) Coffin Stone



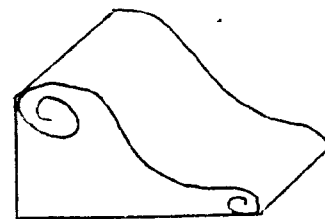
c) Coped Stone



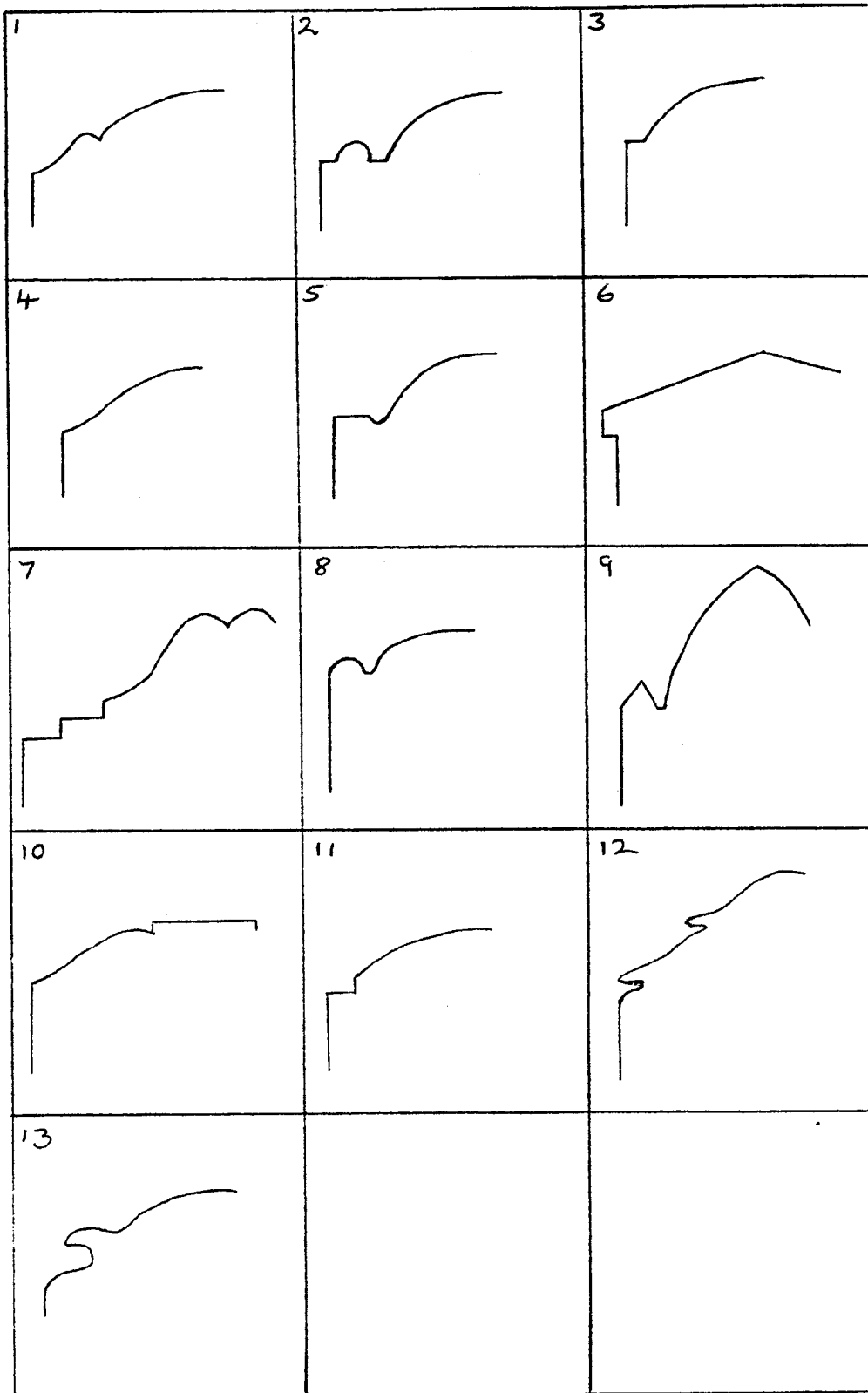
d) Mound



e) Scroll

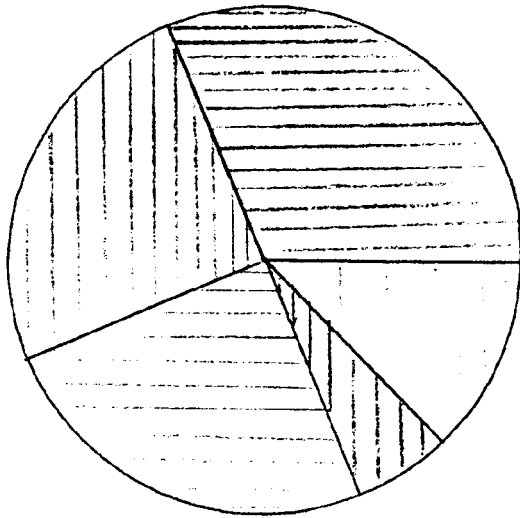


Appendix 3:- St James' - Shapes of headstones

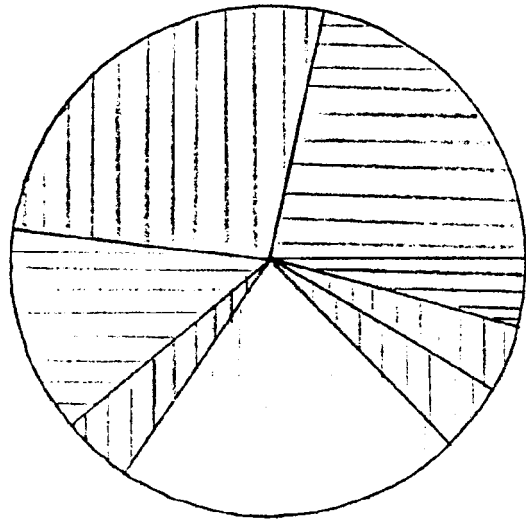


Appendix 4:- St James' - Pie-charts for shapes of headstones

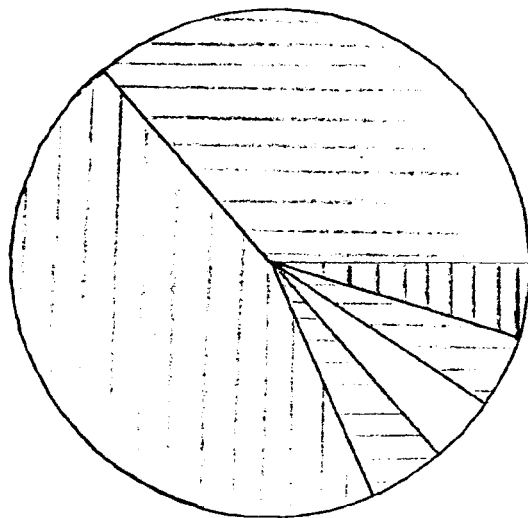
a) 1800 - 1819



b) 1820 - 1839



c) 1840 - 1859

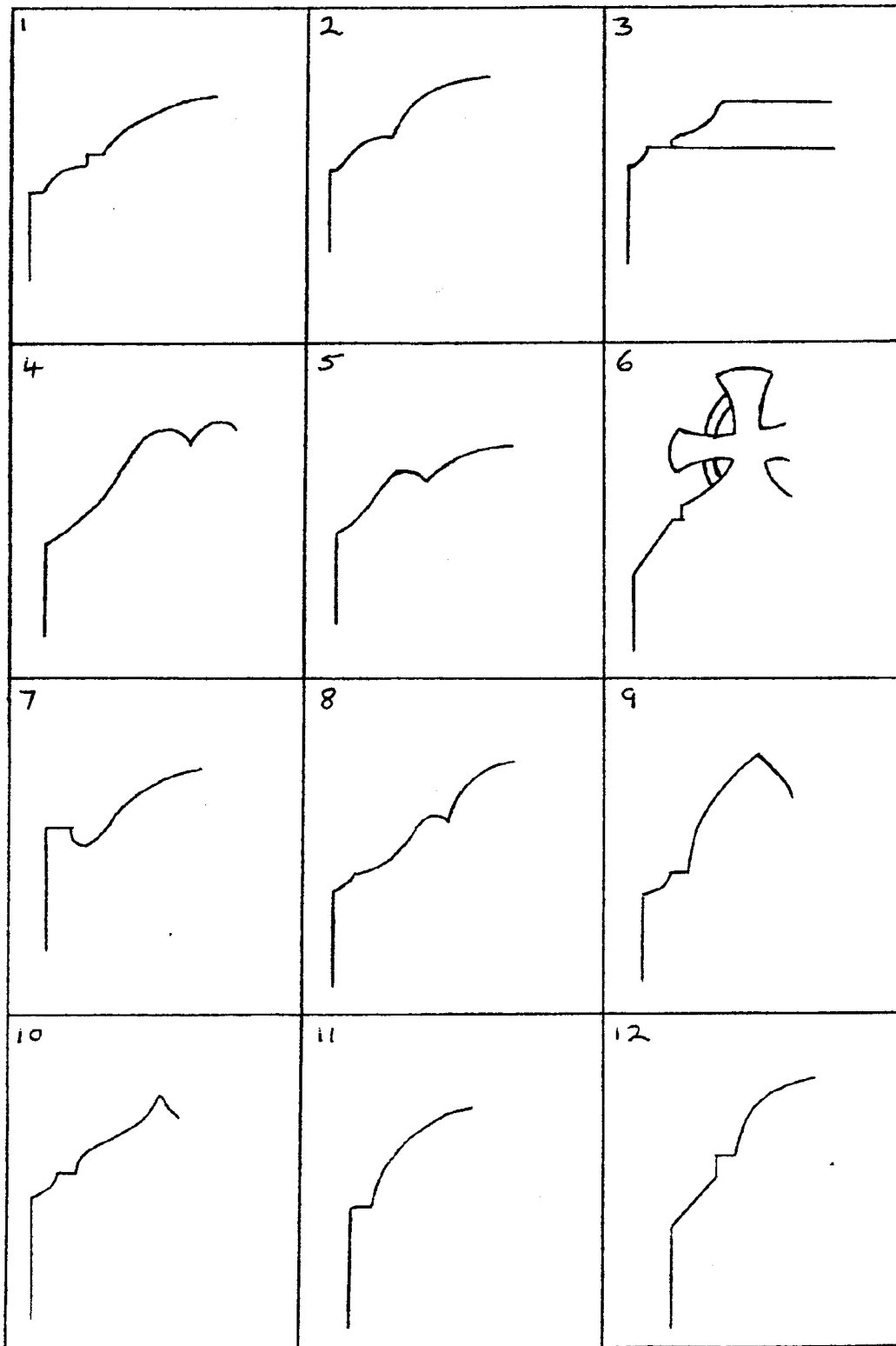


Shape No:-

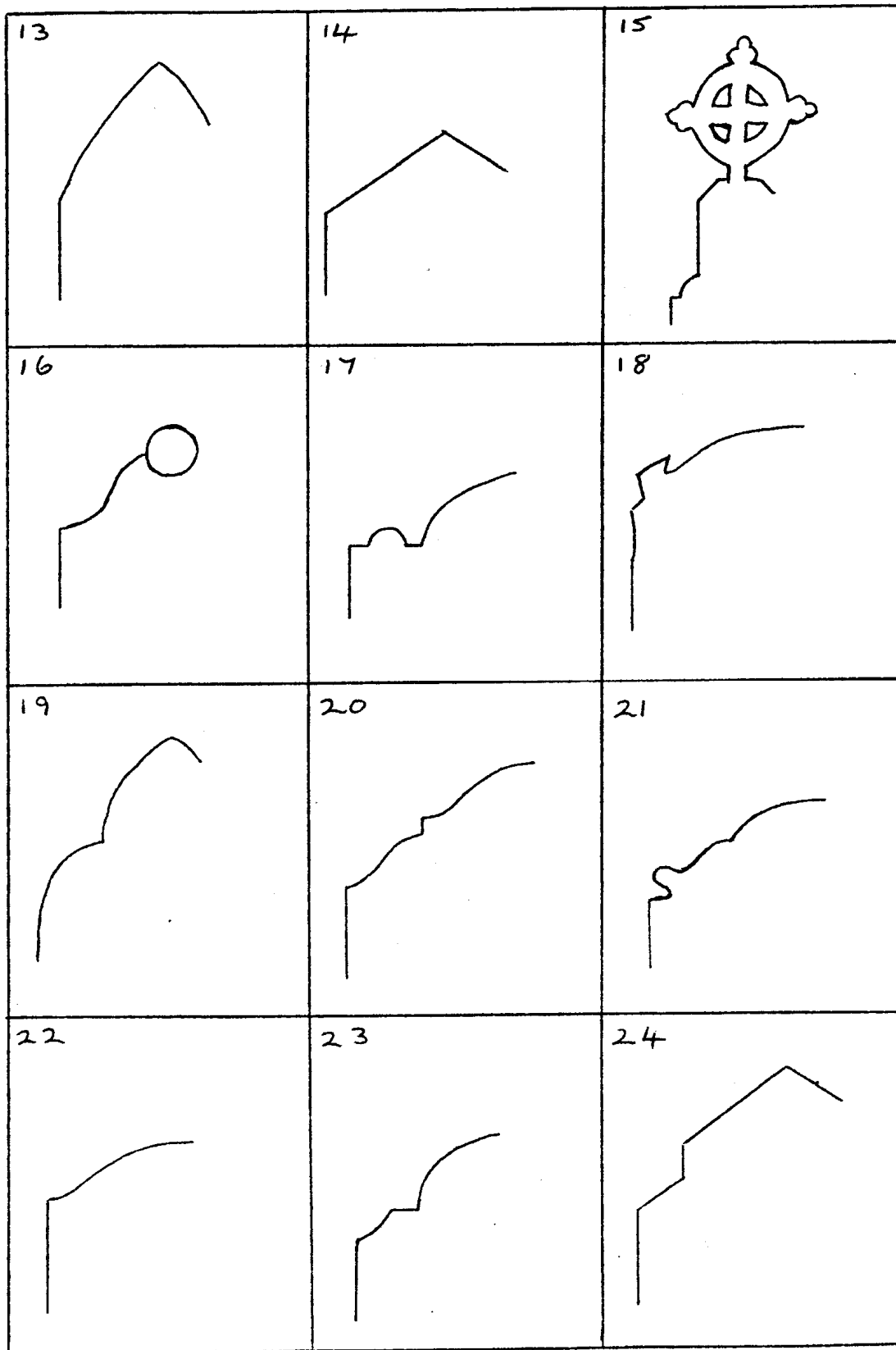
1	≡	4		7	∅	10	∅	13	
2		5		8		11	∅		
3	≡	6	≡	9		12	≡		

∅ None between 1800 and 1859

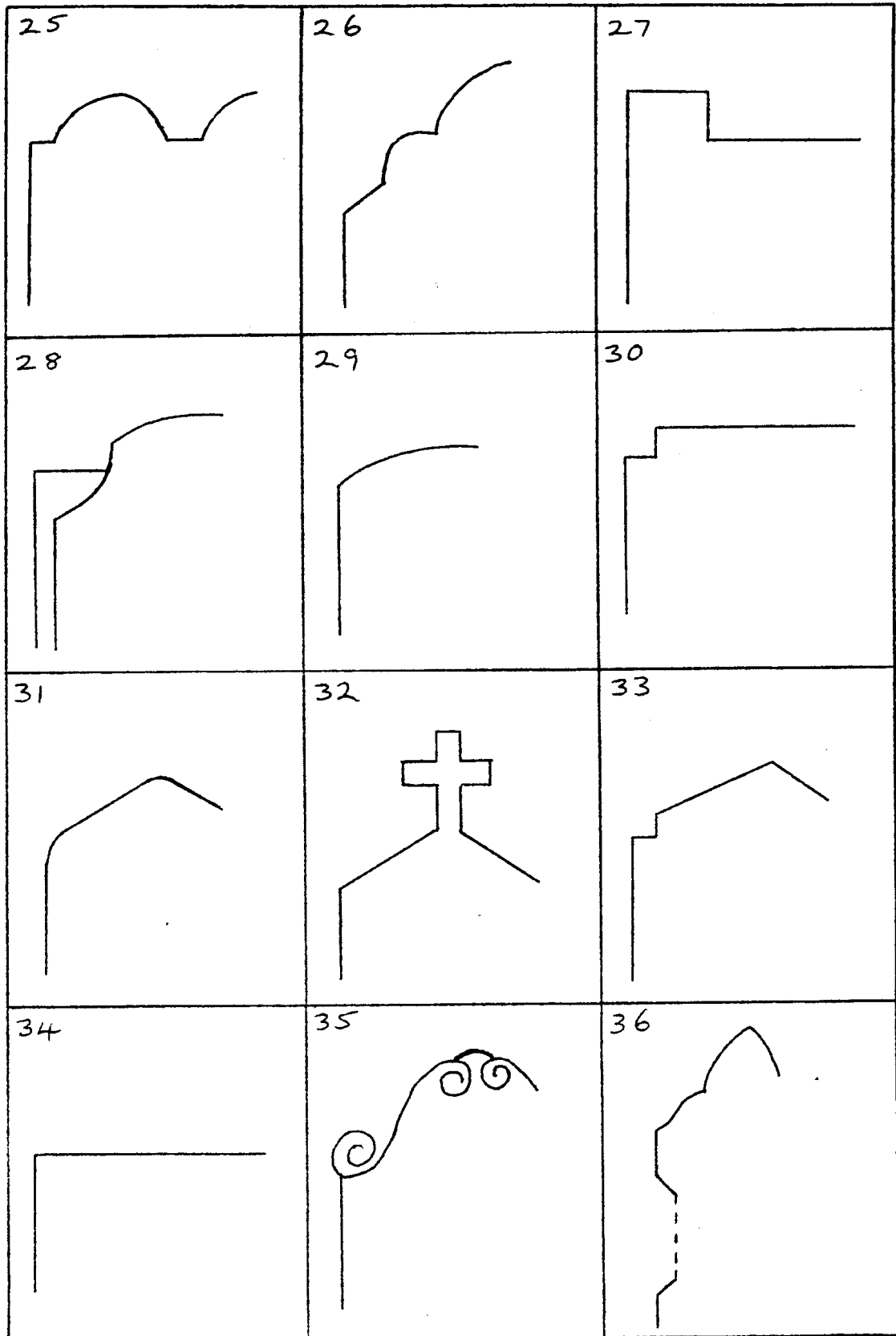
Appendix 6a:- Wormingford - Shapes of headstones



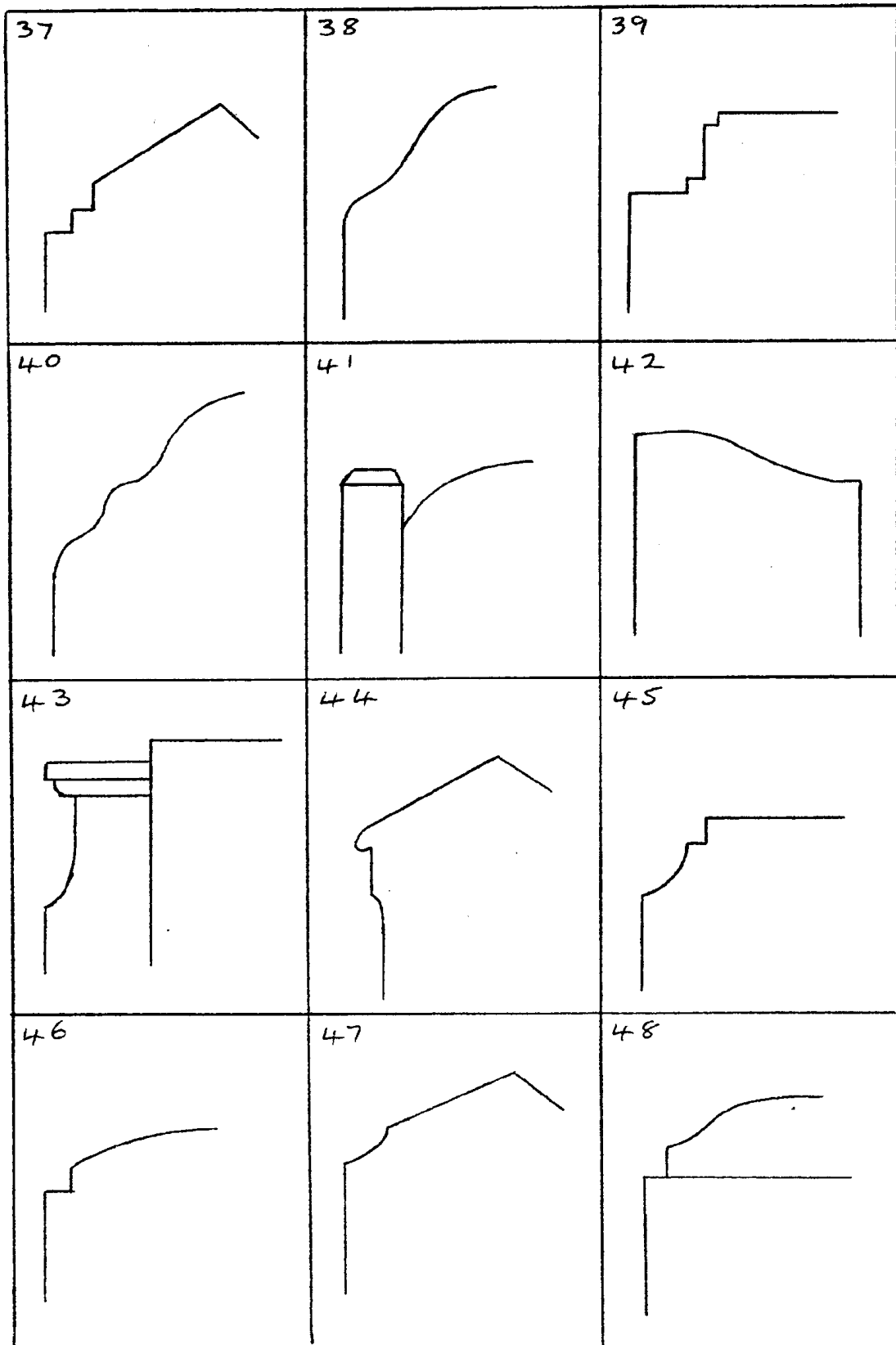
Appendix 6b- Wormingford – Shapes of Headstones (continued)



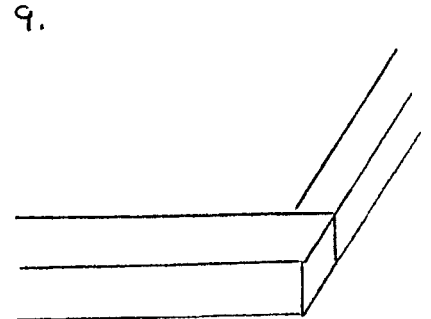
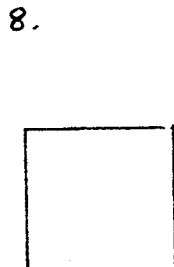
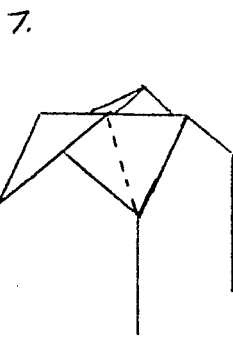
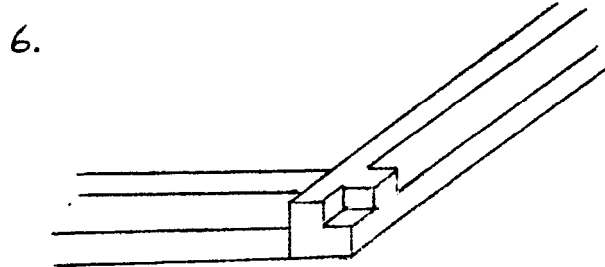
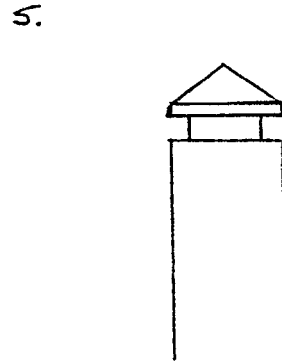
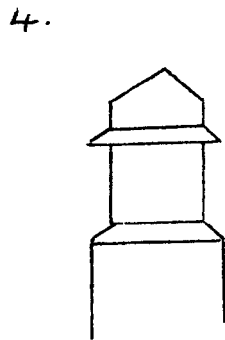
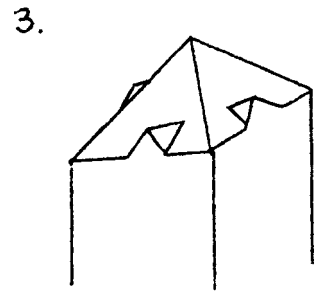
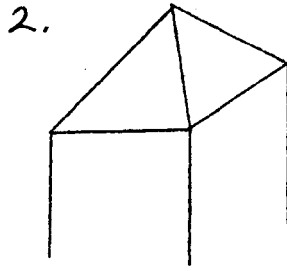
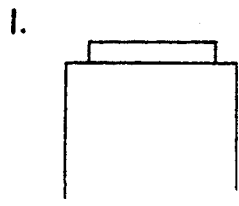
Appendix 6c:- Wormingford - Shapes of headstones (continued)



Appendix 6d:- Wormingford - Shapes of headstones (continued)



Appendix 7 :- Wormingford - Shapes of corner posts of kerbs



A SELECTION OF LOCAL FINDS

Report by Richard Shackle

Lead tokens

A common find by metal detectorists are small lead tokens about two centimetres in diameter and a few millimetres thick. They have simple patterns on them consisting of lines, curves, crosses and dots. They rarely seem to be reported in archaeological literature so I am recording two of finds here. The date and purpose of these tokens is uncertain. They are thought to date from the early 19th century and to have served one of two purposes. One theory is that they were used as small change like the well known 17th century tokens. The other theory is that they were used as money by local employers, who would redeem them. The employers could manipulate the redemption price and thus cheat the employee. This kind of payment was made illegal by the Truck Acts of the Parliament in the 19th century.

The first group of finds (Fig. 1) come from Kelvedon. They were found under the floor of a house in Kelvedon High Street. The house is 18th century but incorporates a 16th century timber frame. Although the house was an antique shop in the last half of the 20th century, it seems clear that the tokens were lost long before when the building was a private house. It can be seen that the tokens are mostly decorated with curves and dots with one having a kind of Maltese cross. The reverse of the tokens seem to have fewer markings with one token being blank on the reverse. One token has an edge broken off.

The second group of tokens (Fig. 2) were found by a detectorist, John Hodgeson at Longridge, Colchester. They employ a wider range of symbols. There are crosses, dots, a flower made with a compass and one with the letter W. The token with the compass flower has two small holes as if it had been a button. I was not able to get pictures of the reverse side of these tokens.

It would be interesting to hear if any members have any theories on the use of the tokens.

Saxon brooch from Magdalen Street Colchester

In April 2001 a bronze Saxon brooch was found on land near Magdalen Street, Colchester. I was allowed to make a photocopy of it (Fig 3). It is said to be 6th century and very few of this type have been found in Essex but one was recently found in Norfolk. It will be fully published in Essex Archaeology and History.

A seal matrix from Magdalen Street, Colchester

Early in 2001, a bronze seal matrix was found near Magdalen Street, Colchester (Fig. 4). The face of the matrix is 3.5x3 cm. It has the initials R S and a flower on it. I wonder if the flower could be a saffron flower. I suspect that the matrix is 14th or 15th century.

A lead seal matrix from Longridge, Colchester

About 1990 Mr John Hodgeson found this lead seal (Fig. 5) on land at Longridge with his metal detector. Mr Hodgeson thinks the inscription reads "VII . I , CRONCER". It is probably 15th century.

A brass seal matrix from Longridge, Colchester

This matrix (Fig. 6) was also found by Mr Hodgeson at Longridge. It looks 19th century and has a iron screw thread for attaching to a wooden handle. The inscription reads "Preston salts" with a crown at the centre. Mr Hodgeson has been unable to find out what Preston salts were. They may have been some sort of pharmaceutical product. If any member has any ideas please tell the editor.

A bronze seal matrix from Colchester

This matrix (Fig. 7) from Colchester is 24mm wide and 2mm thick. A projection on the back is part of the handle. The inscription appears to read "S(IGN) (OF) WILM MIE I. JON"

A bronze seal matrix from Kelvedon.

This matrix (Fig. 8) was found by Derek Claydon M.B.E. at Kelvedon. The design in the centre might represent a scorpion.

A bronze token from Bradfield

This bronze object 25mm across and 1mm thick (Fig. 9), appears to be a token. On the front is a picture of a man sitting at a trestle table covered with small round objects. This could represent a man in his counting house counting out his money. On the reverse is the alphabet followed by the date 1753.

A bronze votive object from Cochester

This small bronze (Fig. 10) is 1.9cm high and 2cm wide and very thin, was found by Mr Norman Bone in East Hill, Colchester. It is a fine representation of a chicken with the feathers skilfully indicated. It may have been an offering at a Roman temple.

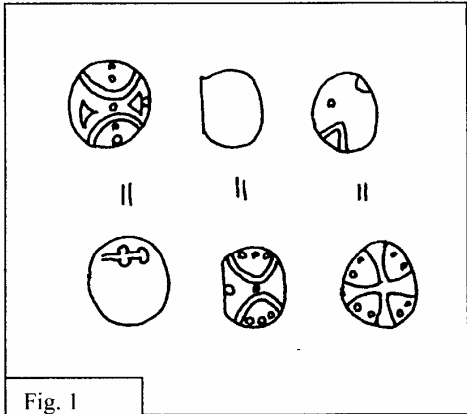


Fig. 1

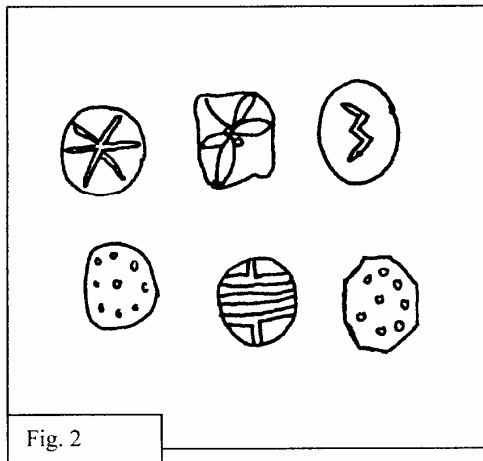


Fig. 2

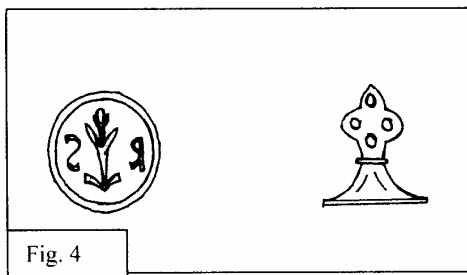


Fig. 4

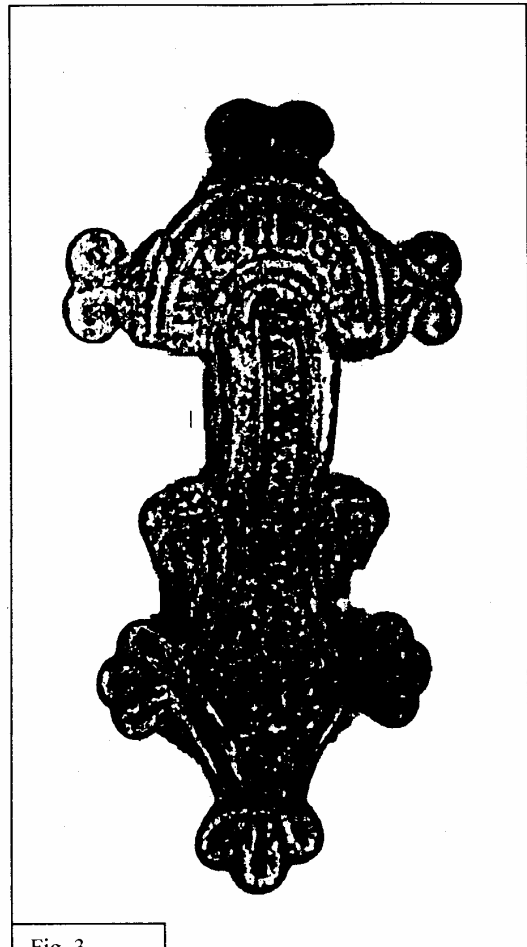


Fig. 3

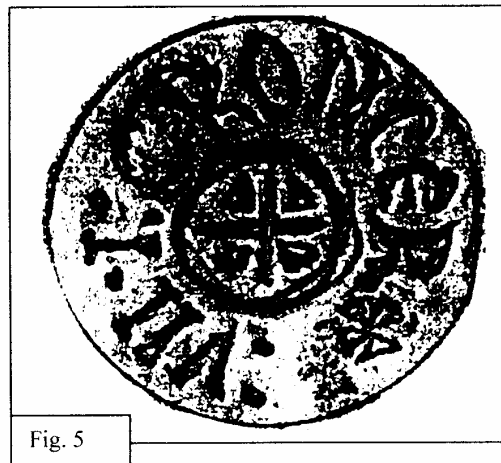
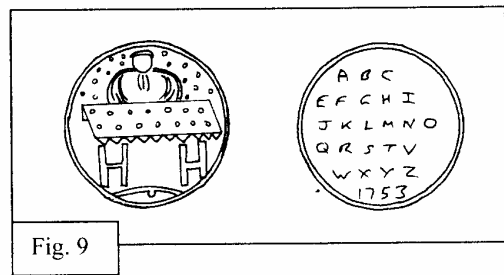
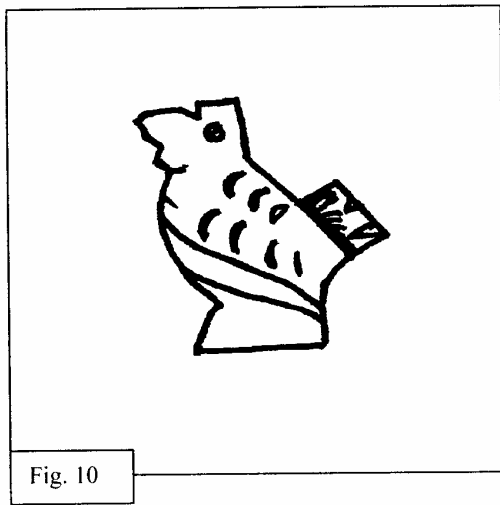
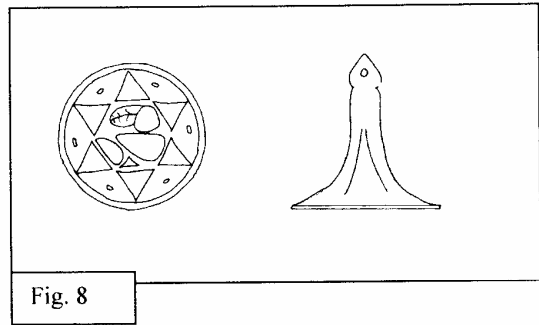
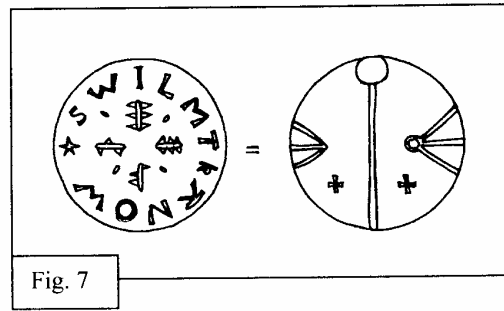
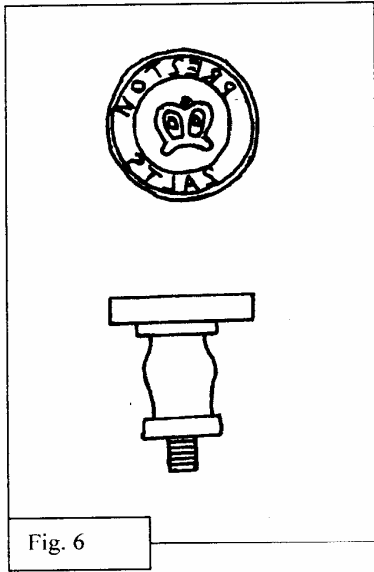


Fig. 5



FOUR COLCHESTER BELL FOUNDERS

Freda Nicholls

During the Head Street excavations of the summer of 2000 a great deal of debris was removed at a depth of about two meters which appeared to be the remains of moulds that might have been used in the casting of bells. The following is an account of four bellfounders known to have been in operation in Colchester during the 16th and 17th centuries. The information is taken from *THE CHURCHBELLS OF ESSEX* by Rev. C Deeds, MA, and Walter Deeds, MA, FSA, printed privately in 1909.

The name most often associated with the Colchester foundry is Miles Graye, but an earlier name occurs of a founder whose bells appear in N.E. Essex, S. Suffolk and Cambridge. This is **Richard Bowler** who was casting bells from 1587-1603. There was doubt that Bowler was in fact from Colchester but a bond dated 1600 offered proof. An extract from the bond reads:

*"xxvj die Octbr. before Robt. Mott & Thomas Heckforg Bailiffs.
Ambrose Gilbert of Colchester, in xl lb (40£)
Matthew Browne of Colchester, in xx lb
Lawrence Browne of Colchester, in xx lb*

bound to appear before the Justices and produce Ambrose Gilbert, for that he did grevouslye hurte and wounded one Richard Bowler of Colchester bell founder soe as it is thought the said Richard is in greate danger of Dethe. "

Richard however survived for at least four years. There is another document stating that:

"Richard Bowler of Colchester, Belfounder, was tried at the Gaol-delivery on November 24th, anno quadragesimo (sc. Elizabeth, 1598), for allowing cattle to stray on to lands of Reginald Oldfield. "

The result of this trial is not known. It was thought that the parish of St Leonard Hythe was the most likely parish for a bell founder, but the name Bowler does not appear in the parish records.

Bowler's bells range between 1587 at All Saints, Colchester to 1604 at Little Wilbraham in Cambridgeshire. There are 6 of his bells in Cambridgeshire, 13 in Essex, and 14 in Suffolk. Most of his bells are decorated with arcading, running borders and a variety of stops. He used three alphabets: a larger and smaller plain Roman type, usually preceded by a plain cross, and also a set of sprigged Gothic capitals.

Miles Graye (Bellfounder I) was the second and better known bellfounder.

It is difficult to disentangle Miles Graye's family history. There are many documentary notices concerning the Graye family but to put them in some kind of credible order is another matter. In one document - his will - he describes himself as 'crazed with age' in 1649. His earliest bell is dated 1600 and so it has been assumed that he was born not later than 1580.

Under the Colchester Highways Rate "*Miles Graye of St. Marie's parish was assessed at 'ijs on Feb. 1st, 9 Elizabeth (sc. 1567).*' It is assumed this Miles Graye was the father of Miles Graye (Bellfounder 1). The first notice of a bellfounder of the name Miles Graye is not flattering to him, it reads: "*the xamynacion of Miles Graye of Colchester bellfounder taken before Rychard Symnell and Robt. Wade Bayls of the said towne of Colchester the xjth daye of November 1598* "....

At this examination it seems that Graye confessed to the paternity of a child by one Alice Mullynges, whom he had met at the house of Richard Bowler to whom Graye may have been apprenticed. A further document states that he later acknowledged Alice as his wife. Probably she had been a servant in the Bowler household.

A document dated 1622 states:

'xvjo die Julii coram Thoma ThurstonRobte. harris aged xxxj yeres laborer being exa confesseth and sayeth that he being at work yesterday at Robte humberstones in making of mortar for the Masone their

laye in the Warehouse wheir he made the mortar two or three pices of belmettle which he took upp and carried to Miles Grayes the Belfounder and sold it to his wiff for three shillings and ther was Ten poundswightofyt..... Alice the wiff of Miles Graye saith that yesterday Robte. harris did bringe unto her house Tenn pounds weight of Belmettle wth she bought for iijs ijd and he did tell her that he bought it of a stranger whome he knewe not'

Miles Graye Jnr. (Bellfounder II)

In a document dated 1629 the name Miles Graye Jnr. is mentioned:

"xv^o die Martii 1629 coram p'sentes ballys. George Wyatt of Colchester aged .xviiij yeres or their aboute examined confesseth and saieth that sometime after Christmas last he did take one Iron Barre out of the ffurnis of Miles Graye Jun', and sold that one Iron Barre to phineas Burlinghame, wich weighed six pounds weight for vid ... Miles Graye Junr examined confesseth and saith that about three weeks since he did aske phineas Burlinghame if noe bodie did bring barrs of Iron about 2 ffoote or 20 inches long he told him that he had not anye but iff any cam he wold tell him of it."

The fact that the furnace and iron are described as the property of Miles Graye Jnr. seems to suggest that he was working independently of his father.

Miles Graye (Bellfounder III)

A third Miles Graye appears in the Registers of St. Mary-at-the-Walls who was born in 1628. The entry is as follows: "*Miles, son of Miles Graye andhis wife, baptised Sept. 19th.*" The register is certified by 'Moyles Graye' as churchwarden. Was this the old Miles Graye or his son?

Another son or grandson of Miles Graye who later became a bellfounder was Christopher, son of Miles and Jane Graye, baptized Jan. 1625/6. He did not work in Colchester and his bells are not found in Essex.

Miles Graye (Bellfounder I) died in 1649. During the last ten years of his life he cast very few bells. Privations in the siege of Colchester and the destruction of his property by fire may have broken his spirit.

From the text of the will of Miles Graye (I):

"item. idoe give and bequeath unto saved Dorothy my wife, all rents, issues and p' fts cominge, growing and arising out of the East End of the Capitall messuage or tenement lately burned down scituate and being below Headgate in Colchester aforesayed commonly called or known by the name of the Swann with the two necks and also one Clay house with one Orchard and the use of the Well and yard to hir the sayd Dorothy my loving wife and to hir heyres for everand to my sonne Miles Graye twelve pence... "

The will speaks of his ' wife Dorothy'. Previously there had been mention of a Mrs. Alice Graye, and a Mrs. Jane Graye. It is not clear if Dorothy was a third wife, or if Jane was the wife of Miles (II). It is thought that between 1626 and 1637 Miles Graye (I) was employing his son Miles Graye (II) as his foreman and agent. Miles Graye (III) succeeded his father or grandfather in 1649.

The earliest bell bearing the name of Miles Graye is at Bulmer and was inscribed

MILES GRAIE MADE ME 1800.

Between this date and 1648, 325 bells are recorded as having been cast by Miles Graye (I) and Miles Graye (II), including the great tenor bell at Lavenham weighing one ton and an equally large tenor bell in Newcastle Cathedral. Bells in Colchester cast by the Graye family are: All Saints (1610 and 1620), St. Runwald (1621), St. James (1622), Holy Trinity (1633), St. Martin (1645), [St. Giles (1657), All Saints (1682), cast by Miles Graye(III).]

WINTER LECTURES 2000-2001

THE PEOPLE OF ROMAN COLCHESTER

Mark Davies, October 9, 2000

Notes by Vic Scott

What we know of the people of Roman Colchester comes mainly from inscriptions on tombstones, although the Colchester sphinx found on the site of the Essex County Hospital in 1821 was only part of an elaborate tomb. The sphinx is the classical symbol of death, and holds a head between its feet symbolising the soul of the deceased, and if complete would have been inscribed with details of the career of someone of importance.

The famous tombstone of Marcus Favonius Facilis will be found in most books on Roman Britain: this is a tombstone not to be surpassed for quality. It was set up by his freedmen, and has a 1st century inscription. A similar tombstone from Chester was of very inferior workmanship in comparison - this was found built into Chester's legionary fortress wall. Mark started his archaeological career in Chester in the 1960s, and the amphitheatre was excavated during this period. A nice little altar was found inside a chamber by the north entrance.

An extremely important inscription in the Vatican museum mentions Camulodunum and the Colonia Victricensis. This was the first colonia to be built after the burning of Colchester by Boudicca. At High Holborn an inscription to Gaius Pomponius Vallengis was discovered. He came from Victricensis (Colchester) but served in London. The corner of a military diploma found at St Mary's Hospital gave the name of Saturninus or Antoninus. He came from Gloucester where the diploma was on show in 1999. Other inscriptions from Vienna and Split show a connection with Colchester.

One very well known tombstone is to Longinus Sdapeze. The well laid out inscription states that he was 40 years old and served in the Thracian cavalry for 15 years. In 1996 James Fawn and members of the CAG investigated the site where the tombstone had been found, and discovered the missing face and other fragments.

An inscription in Colchester museum is of a 20-year-old Roman knight. This was from his wife Valeria Frontina and his two sons. There is also a broken tombstone in the east gallery of a man in a toga, obviously a person of some standing, but unfortunately there is no inscription. Many other pieces have been found over the years, particularly items related to worship. In 1976 a small bronze plaque was handed in inscribed Publius Oranius Facilus - to Jupiter. In 1947 two plaques were found dedicated to the god Silvanus, also a small bronze plaque, now in the British Museum, which is inscribed to Mars, and mentions the emperor Severus Alexander. There were also a considerable number of potters and artisans working in Colchester, some of whom are known by their potters' stamps.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE CHANNEL TUNNEL RAIL LINK

Helen Glass (Senior Archaeologist, Rail Link Engineering) October 16, 2000

Report by David Grayston

The channel tunnel rail link runs through part of Kent which is known as the Garden of England. The development of the project has taken ten years to plan - but only four years for the actual work, although archaeologists have been consulted from the start.

The enormous project has two sections - Section One runs from the channel tunnel to Fawkham Junction south of Gravesend. Section Two, which is expected to start in 2001, runs from Gravesend to St. Pancras Station in London. Helen gave her lecture based on Section One but stressed that it was still an ongoing project.

Over ten years ago the Oxford Archaeological Unit researched known sources of information and, together with a certain amount of field walking, produced an extensive plan of the area covered by the rail link. In excess of 2000 trenches and test pits were dug during the evaluation work giving a further insight into what lay beneath the ground. This large amount of trench digging (approximately fifty-five hectares) of the Section One route required further detailed analysis. A watching brief was kept over the whole length of Section One which resulted in more archaeologists than construction workers being present at the start in October 1998.

Four archeology groups were digging along the site, each with their own brief. The following excavations give a small idea of the work undertaken.

Oxford Archaeological Unit

White Horse Stone - A Neolithic Longhouse

The Longhouse lies on the edge of the eastern group of Medway Megaliths where two small groups of tombs were discovered early on each side of the River Medway. The Longhouse was discovered during the trial trenching and a full excavation was undertaken. The house was covered in some four metres of hill wash. This needed to be removed before the full extent of the Longhouse was discovered. It was measured at 18 metres long by 8 metres wide with two foundation gullies. Small sherds were found in three post holes. Other pits and hearths were also excavated.

Thurnham Roman Villa

This site was first noted in 1833 and has many excavations over the years. When the proposed rail link was planned a geophysical survey and a trial trenching took place. It was found that Roman material extended a considerable distance from the previous sites and it was decided to strip a larger area. It revealed a continuous occupation from the late Iron Age through to the early 4th century AD.

Springhead Roman Cemetery

In the 1950s and 60s when the A2, then known as Watling Street, was being widened a row of five small Romano-Celtic shrines were found. In this area some cables were moved and from a watching brief 326 inhumations and 235 cremations were discovered in a linear cemetery. The cemetery dated from the late 1st century to mid-3rd century AD. It is hoped that further excavations will take place in Section 2 of the project.

Museum of London Archaeology Service

Cuxton - Anglo-Saxon cemetery

A human skull was found on this site in the 19th century and a note of the find was sent to the Sites and Monuments Records. Due to this a trial trench was dug and an Iron Age pit and an interesting dry valley floor was found. But while the museum service was on site a gentleman appeared with a carrier bag containing some human shoulder bones and a jaw bone. He pointed out that rabbits had been burrowing in the hedge-line and disturbed some human remains. After careful excavation of the area an Anglo-Saxon cemetery was found. There were 36 inhumations from about the 6th or 7th centuries. Shield bosses were found with keys, rings and objects known as chatelaines. There was also jewellery and glass bead necklaces found, more mundane items found were knives, buckles and two purses.

Canterbury Archaeology Trust and Wessex Archaeology

Saltwood

This part of the rail link lies at the very end of the CTRL work where the link enters the tunnel. Indications of Iron Age and Roman remains were initially found in a limited area but a 900 meters transect was investigated in detail. The landscape was found to run from the Bronze Age to the Middle Ages with some spectacular finds. One find was a bronze Coptic bowl made in the eastern Mediterranean, which marked the grave as being a 'princely grave'. A large number of graves and artefacts were found on this site too numerous to list.

Museum of London Archaeology Service

Northumberland Bottom

This was the longest dig undertaken with over a kilometre dug. A Bronze Age inhumation was found. The first occupation was in the Middle to Late Iron Age with intersecting ditches. The Roman occupation appears to have moved eastwards with a number of kilns found. The site lies only two hundred meters from the Watling Street and two kilometres from Springhead which was a small Roman town. After the Romans there was a gap until the Middle Ages when there appears evidence of occupation.

Parsonage Farm, Westwell

The site has evidence covering two hundred years. An eleven or twelfth century mill seems to be the earliest occupation. This was replaced by a moated farmstead or manor house.

COLCHESTER'S HYTHE OVER 1000 YEARS

Andrew Phillips, Local Historian. October 23, 2000

Notes by Ann Trewick

With a lively and inimitable style Andrew Phillips gave a fast-moving, fascinating summation of the history of the Hythe from early times, using very interesting slides. He began with modern technology - a satellite photo of the area- and the premise that it was easier to travel by water than road certainly true of this area. Over the centuries the water levels and courses have changed, some with human interference. There is some evidence of occupation by people in the Iron Age and, of course, the Romans were in the region. In fact, only recently Roman deposits have been found at the Hythe. But there is still the question of where their port was as the walled town of Colchester itself is quite a distance from the sea. In Saxon times fishing was important as evidenced from the 23 kiddles or underwater stake fences found nearby. Vikings were around, too, with evidence of their pillaging in Ipswich.

It was in Norman times that the present Hythe's foundations were laid. Some straightening out of the river was done and early documents refer to the "New Hythe". This presupposes an "Old" Hythe and there is a strong likelihood that the Saxon Hythe was at Wivenhoe where early maps record Old Hythe Meadow - now Old Hythe Common. It remains for archaeologists to prove or disprove this. During Mediaeval times the cloth trade was very important and in spite of inadequate facilities Colchester was in the top 15 towns in Britain. The Hythe flourished and was crucial to this trade. In the 1450's, 60's and 70's the Hanseatic League was prominent in the North Sea and convoys of ships were conducted from the Colne to the Baltic, carrying commodities amongst which were bales of Colchester "russet" cloth, coloured with woad, producing a "mustard" yellow.

With the coming of the Tudors - and the Dutch- there was less prosperity as, although the cloth trade was still important, the trade began to be centred on London and the Hythe lost some of its importance. By the 1700's there was still a prosperous community at the Hythe. A map of 1748 shows the Parish with a church, shops and properties, some of which were early buildings. There were 19 coalyards, lime kilns, granaries, salt works and shipyards. By 1720 a Custom House was in action, with the Revenue men working to catch smugglers. A full-time Water Bailiff was appointed as there were disputes over fishing rights in the creeks and waterways. In 1741 a third bridge was built - not in the best position - but it had to avoid buildings already taking up the best places. In the 19th century the railways arrived and the New Quay was built in the 1840's. Thames barges, with their shallow draft, were constant visitors - as Mr Phillips quoted - "they can do 5 knots across a meadow in a heavy dew!" There was a loop railway to Hythe Station but the dream of a railway to Cambridge was never realised. However there were successful trades being carried on and many went on into the 20th century. Amongst these was Tommy Moyse - a coal merchant. In 1865 the river was straightened to allow barges to Marriages Mill. In 1884 the sewage works were opened with a pumping station - only demolished in 1949. Other companies were a gasworks, a steam laundry, Paxman's Iron works, a sawmill, Owen Parry's Oil Mill, oyster fishery, brickworks and an electricity generating centre.

The Hythe has been a place of activity for many centuries, only $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles from Colchester Town centre but with a full and independent history of its own -a fascinating insight into a small but robust community.

LONGINUS AND HIS ROADS

James Fawn, October 30 2000

Notes by John Wallace

Owing to the problems with rail travel at this time, the scheduled lecturer had to postpone and James Fawn stepped in at very short notice.

James started with a slide showing Roman roads in Colchester, and drew attention to the London Road. Several sites on the London Road have been excavated, but James drew attention to the Royal Grammar School site (next to the CAT office in Lexden Road.)

At the west end of Beverley Road, during building work in 1928, a Roman tombstone was found lying face down. The memorial was dedicated to Longinus Sdapeze, an officer with the Thracian Cavalry, and was sited alongside the road. It was put on display in the Museum, although the carving of the face was missing, believed to have been deliberately defaced when the tombstone was pushed over.

Several excavations had taken place in the 1990s to investigate Roman roads as the opportunities presented themselves. Slides were shown of the Grammar School site. The road at this point was some 8411 wide - a main road with ditches either side and substantial metalling. Another site, which James called the "Roman A12" also showed three tracks. Slides of some black and white photographs taken at No 20 Lexden Road in the 1960s showed an excavation in the garden there, and a site plan showed where the tombstone was found. A slide of the Appian Way in Rome was shown here to illustrate the type of road which had tombstones along the slides. Another slide showed a section of the paved Imperial Way.

The original site was re-excavated in 1997 and several slides of this dig were shown, in particular, the original location of the tombstone where James had found a number of pieces of carved stone and chippings. Among these James found the complete missing face of the Longinus tomb, along with several other missing pieces of the carving. This important find showed that these pieces became detached when the tombstone fell to the ground, and was not the result of deliberate damage. The face and other fragments have now been restored to the tombstone on display in the museum.

Other finds in 1997 included a cremation urn. This particular dig was very thorough and painstaking, but well worth while in view of the restoration of a most important Roman artefact.

ST. PETER'S CHAPEL, BRADWELL

Kevin Bruce, November 6, 2000

Notes taken by Gill Shrimpton

Mr Bruce, a local historian, has lived at Bradwell for over 30 years, and has studied the area for most of that time.

The chapel is situated in a prominent position overlooking the Colne and Blackwater estuaries. An attempt to excavate a ditch over the saltings in 1860 led to the discovery of a Roman Fort (Othona). This was one of a chain of 10 coastal forts placed along the Eastern and Southern shores of Britain, built towards the end of the 3rd century, as a defence against raids by Saxons and Franks. At that time a creek existed which would have been used by the galleys bringing in supplies. It was certainly known to have existed in 290 AD when Carausius declared himself emperor of Britain and Gaul - a period which lasted for about seven years. Recent investigation has shown evidence of prehistoric and Roman agricultural activity east of St Peter's Chapel, with possible signs of an extra mural settlement.

In 653 AD St Cedd travelled from Lindisfarne and set up his main Church in the Kingdom of Essex at Bradwell on what was probably the site of the gatehouse to the Roman fort. It was a remote spot and had the advantage of plentiful supplies of building material from the remains of the fort. Bede mentions that Cedd became bishop of the diocese. It became Bradwell's parish church until the 1300s and used to have a tower and a porch. Sometime in the 17th century it became a barn and continued to be well-maintained as a valuable stone building.

Although many Roman artefacts have been found, no trace of Saxon occupation is apparent. However, Saxon tenancies are mentioned in the Domesday Book and there are references to sheep and fisheries in this period. It was given by William the Conqueror to the Abbey of St Valery in Picardie.

Out on the extensive mudflats around the peninsula, visible only at the lowest tides, are large fish traps about three quarters of a mile offshore. Built of alder and oak, there are still parts of wattles and basket-work preserved which can still be seen. These have been carbon-dated to 7th century AD and reveal that considerable quantities of fish were caught and traded by what must have been a sizeable and well-organised community.

THE RESTORATION OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY 1973-1996

Donald Buttress, (Surveyor Emeritus of Westminster Abbey) November 13 2000

Notes by Noreen Proudman

The speaker expressed his concern that, because so many groups are now involved in the restoration of ancient buildings, a pseudo-science has evolved which has led to a "Refusal to do things properly".

For 500 years cathedrals were developed and modified and this was necessary to keep them alive. Today opinion says that they should be left as they are. As an architect, the speaker was convinced that constant intervention is needed.

The second part of the restoration of Westminster Abbey was carried out between 1973 and 1996. The project was exempt from planning controls by organisations such as English Heritage and no state aid was available as the Abbey is a Royal Peculiar. The Duke of Edinburgh as Chairman of the Trustees persuaded businessmen to give one million pounds each - in all 125 million was spent.

An overhaul of the building carried out by Gilbert Scott and J C Pearson in the 19th century had restored existing stonework and rebuilt the two transept ends.

The recent survey was the first comprehensive survey of the fabric of the buildings. Advance planning led to the West Tower being surveyed while work was being carried out on the South Tower. To illustrate the difficulties, the buttresses date from 13-14th centuries and are 100ft. high, the West Towers were added by the Hanoverians, and the Upper Tower was built by Hawksmoor. In the 18th century no external scaffolding was used and the cornices were bound with hinged iron bars fitted into grooves at the top. This had resulted in stones being pushed out of alignment. To repair this, some new stone was added and the iron was replaced with stainless steel. Hawksmoor's pinnacles were bound with copper tags to improve their stability but the stone was found to be decaying. Thus the pinnacles were remodelled and stainless steel rods added through the new stonework.

The statues on the outside of the building were decaying and there were a number of empty niches. A private donor was found to provide finance for their repair and replacement, and a number of figures of modern martyrs were added.

Scaffolding throughout the work was a problem because of the height of the building. A heavy base was therefore built for support, and this has been left in place for future use. At the same time basic work was done to improve firemen's access to the roof area and gutters were extended and improved.

Mr Buttress illustrated his talk with excellent slides showing the work in progress.

MILITARY ESSEX

Ian Hook (Keeper of the Essex Regiment Museum) November 20 2000

Notes taken by Chris Hunt

Essex's geographical position has meant that a military presence was always considered necessary to oppose any invasion. Essex faces Europe, has good coastal landing grounds, and good access to London.

The response to this need was the formation of a signalling system of beacons and signal stations, and the raising of Regiments. Two Regiments of Foot were raised in Essex: the 44th formed in 1741, and the 56th formed in 1755 (44 and 56 = 100). Their main weapon was the "Brown Bess" musket, and the regimental number was stamped on the musket. The badges adopted was a castle (representing Gibraltar) surmounted by a Sphinx (representing Egypt), as both regimens had served in these campaigns.

Recruitment took place anywhere, and a poster used in Ireland gave an early nickname to the Regiments - the "Pompadours" - from their colourful tunic facings. Connections with Essex date from 1782 when the War Office gave Colonels of regiments a recruitment territory. The 44th became the West Essex, and the 56th the East Essex Regiment.

The Regiments were heavily involved in the Napoleonic Wars, where the 2nd Battalion of the 44th (a newly raised Battalion consisting mainly of Irishmen) fought at the battle of Salamanca. Lt. William Pearce captured the Gilded Eagle of the French 62nd Regiment. This trophy is one of the valued items in the Regimental museum.

During the 19th century a part-time body of horsemen was raised, the Yeomanry. In 1830 the army was reduced in size, but officers of the Yeomanry bore the costs of the Regiment themselves. There was also the Militia under the command of the Lord Lieutenant.

The 44th Essex Regiment took part in the Crimean War where the Regiment's first VC was awarded to Sgt. McWhinney for his action at Sebastopol.

After the Crimean War the 56th Regiment served in India. This left very few troops in this country, only 6 Battalions, or about 6000 men, and there was a renewed fear of uprising in France. To face up to this threat a part-time Regiment of Rifle Volunteers was raised. This Regiment attracted many of the middle classes and proved popular as a club and business network. The Yeomanry were maintained as a law and order force, but were disbanded during the agricultural depression, perhaps because yeomen farmers were selling their land.

In 1873 as a result of the Cardwell reforms the Regiment was given its own depot at Warley, Brentwood. In 1881 the 44th became the 1st Battalion of the Essex Regiment and the 56th became the 2nd Battalion.

The Regiment served in the Boer War where another (posthumous) VC was awarded. After the war reforms came to the army - there was an emphasis on mobility with the use of cycles, and four new Yeomanry squadrons were formed. These were based on the four districts of Essex hunts. Many exercises were held in the Colchester area before the outbreak of the First World War.

In 1914 the 2nd Battalion of the Essex Regiment was the first regiment to report themselves ready to go to France. The 5th territorial Battalion served at Gallipoli, and other battalions served on the Western Front where, in the words of a letter sent by an Essex soldier, the trenches were so close "you could hear the enemy sneezing." All in all some 9000 men of the Essex Regiment were killed during the First World War, of which 40% have no known grave.

At the start of the Second World War the 2nd Essex Battalion were sent to France and then evacuated from Dunkirk. The 1st Essex Battalion served in Egypt, while the 2nd Battalion served at Normandy and were among the first troops to reach Arnhem. There were also 11,500 members of the Home Guard in Essex, and Colchester was on the Eastern Command Line of the Home Defence system.

After the War the Regiment was reduced to one regular and one territorial battalion. They served in Korea in 1953, but in 1958 the Defence Review amalgamated the Regiment with the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiments to form the 3rd East Anglian Regiment. Warley barracks were closed and demolished. In 1964 the Regiment became part of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

The Regimental museum is at Chelmsford, and among its many exhibits is an original Flanders poppy, found pressed in the pages of an officer's pay-book.

RECENT WORK ON ROMAN LONDON, AND "HIGH STREET, LONDINIUM" PROJECT

Headley Swain (Head of London History and Collections, Museum of London)

November 27 2000

Notes taken by Raymond Rowe

In AD 43 London did not exist. The area was made up from mud flats, and the rivers Walbrook and Fleet ran into the Thames from the north. By AD 48 the settlement had started on the banks of the Walbrook as the core of a communications network of roads leading to other parts of Roman England. The fact that the Thames was tidal meant the growth of London as a trading settlement, providing a market and a supply centre for the army.

The excavation of the large area of the Roman town at No 1 Poultry shows that it was burnt down in AD 60 by the Boudicca revolt. It was quickly rebuilt, and by AD 120 it was the largest town in Britain, with a fort at Cripplegate, and a Basilica said to be the largest north of the Alps. There was also a forum and an amphitheatre seating 7000 as well as port facilities fronting the river Thames.

These major public buildings alone do not give a true image of the way London inhabitants lived. Visions of the relaxed life in Roman villas with all their facilities do not reflect how most of the population lived. London was in Roman Empire terms a frontier town, with a spread of tradesmen, dealers and

slaves, in addition to the military. The area now known as No 1 Poultry, was occupied by a terrace of Victorian buildings, and is on the edge of the Walbrook valley. The lower levels were untouched, and the moist nature of the soil has meant good preservation of organic material. The development of the site was approved in 1990. It was planned that there should be some two years for the archaeology, with a year for the actual excavation. With good co-operation from the developers, the building contractors went ahead with the ground floor of the new building that was supported on piles. It was then possible for the building to go ahead above this level, while the team of 60 archaeologists dug down below ground level.

The preservation of the Roman levels was excellent, with good survival of organic items, including clay and timber walls, a wooden door, a timber lined well, and a timber tank. Other remains included a mosaic floor and a hypocaust. What was found was a block of Roman London, with three buildings fronting on to the Via Decumanus. These buildings had very narrow frontages, with trading areas in the front and workshops and living areas behind. In the rear of the building, was a back yard where they would have kept livestock and done some market gardening.

The decision was taken to construct a replica at London Museum. These were constructed by a film company, employing the basic idea that if they used the same materials, tools and methods as Romans would have used the resultant buildings would be more realistic. The interiors are based on those excavated, a bakery, a carpenters' shop, and a shop selling pottery and spices. The buildings have been furnished with replicas of items found during the dig. To add realism, film has been taken of people wearing Roman dress walking down Via Decumanus, and this film is projected so that it can be seen through the windows of the shops. The result is an insight into the activities of the ordinary Romans of Londinium.

THE PERNICIOUS WEED: CLAY PIPES AND TOBACCO

Ricky Ricketts (Brain Valley Archaeological Society Chairman) 4th December 2000

Notes by Pat Brown

Ricky Ricketts began by giving us a brief history of tobacco, correcting any misapprehensions that it had been introduced by Sir Walter Raleigh - in fact it was well-known in Europe in the late 15th Century. From early days it had been a great revenue-producer for the Exchequer and James I - the author of the phrase "the pernicious weed" - taxed it punitively, which led to widespread smuggling. But by 1619 the use of tobacco was respectable enough for the Worshipful Company of Pipemakers to receive their charter.

We were treated to some unusual technology, in the shape of a modern epidiascope which enabled actual pipes to be projected on to the screen. Mr Ricketts showed us examples from the earliest period, distinguished by the angle between the stem and the rim of the bowl, and by a wide hole through the stem and small hole in the barrel-shaped bowl. Later pipes were larger, but the hole in the stem became smaller and stems could be very long (the "churchwarden" and the "alderman".) The introduction of the gin-press (one of which had been on display at Hollytrees) led to thinner bowls, while the mouth of the bowl became parallel to the stem, and the flat pedestal base was replaced by a spur, often carrying the maker's initials. Earlier potters had marked their pipes on the base of the bowl, with symbols such as hearts or wheels.

By the mid-nineteenth century pipes were finely detailed and patterned, and had become shorter again. Inns would have had their own distinctive pipes, which would be filled with tobacco for the evening, and then left behind for the innkeeper to put into the fire to burn out the residues and whiten the pipe again. "Cadgers' pipes" had large bowls so that you would get more tobacco when the innkeeper filled it! Pipes were also shared at meetings of Freemasons and Buffaloes, and would carry their symbols.

Mr Ricketts had evidence of only one Braintree pipemaker, William Martin, who issued trade tokens with crossed pipes on the reverse. He died in the plague of 1666, which reduced Braintree's population by a third - despite the fact that men, women and children smoked pipes at times of plague in the hope that tobacco would protect them. A Colchester pipe-maker was mentioned in the *Ipswich Journal* of 1759 as selling off his moulds, and several Colchester pipes have been found on Braintree sites. Pipemaking continued in Colchester into the 20th century, often in conjunction with a tobacconist's business.

By the 20th century briar pipes had become cheap enough for working-men to afford, while cigarettes (introduced at the time of the Crimean War) were becoming more popular.

Clay pipes are an extremely common find on archaeological sites, but - unlike in the USA - are often overlooked. In fact, after coins, they are the most useful source of dating on post-medieval sites. They are often found in quantity near railway lines and canals, and also where people had congregated for occasions such as fairs. Some pipes had glazed mouthpieces to protect the lips, while stems might have been deliberately broken, to bring the bowl of the pipe nearer to the nose - for warmth!

THE HISTORY OF BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY FROM CAMDEN TO PITT RIVERS

Sam Moorehead (British Museum Archaeological Education Officer) January 20 2001

Notes by Freda Nicholls

Dr Johnson once said "We can know no more than what old writers have told us". Sam Moorhead explained to us in a very interesting and well-rounded lecture why this was not so.

16th century

It is true that in the 16th century William Camden had very little in the way of literary references to help him in his studies of visible antiquities. In the 12th century Geoffrey of Monmouth had written a fanciful *Historia Regum Britanniae* which could have been of no help at all, as a good deal of it was nonsense. Camden was not just a collector: in 1587 he published the first general guide to British antiquities. He visited the Antonine Wall and drew the first ground plan. He also noticed crop marks at Richborough before the site had been excavated. He published drawings of his coin collection, and also made drawings of Silbury Hill and Stonehenge, although he had no idea of their antiquity. In 1587 he published "*Britannia*".

In the 16th century John Leland published a description of Avebury, but he only described the earthworks, apparently thinking that the massive stones were of no importance.

17th century

John Aubrey drew an accurate plan of Avebury, while describing it as "this old ill-shapen monument." This plan was superior to subsequent depictions. Aubrey had the advantage over later archaeologists because his plans and descriptions were made before the stone-breakers obliterated so much of Avebury and include stones in the circles that had disappeared within the next 75 years. Despite his skills as a writer and student of antiquities, Aubrey died in poverty in Oxford in 1697.

18th century

By the time William Stukeley saw Avebury in 1719 it had become a wreck. He visited Avebury several times and also explored the surrounding countryside. He was a great recorder and excavator, but his romantic ideas often led to false conclusions. He became obsessed with Druidism and sometimes falsified his measurements and plans to fit in with his notions. He found the classical Beckhampton Avenue, and also posited a second avenue, the existence of which was doubted for centuries and not confirmed until 1999.

In the early 18th century other monuments started to interest antiquarians. John Horsley, who was fascinated with things Roman, produced many maps and drawings of inscriptions which could have been lost through erosion or vandalism.

18th - 19th centuries

William Cunnington and Sir Richard Colt Hoare excavated barrows on Salisbury Plain at the end of the 18th century. They described their excavations with thorough recording and produced good barrow maps. They were perhaps the first antiquaries who tried to throw off the dilettante approach to archaeology. For example, they tried to produce a classification of barrows.

Christian Thomsen, a Dane, set out the idea of three prehistoric ages, those of stone, of bronze, and of iron. The acceptance of the three ages of man's prehistory enabled a systematic prehistoric archaeology to come into existence.

In the mid-17th century Archbishop Ussher of Armagh had calculated from evidence in the New Testament that the earth had been created in 4004 BC. This date for the creation was generally accepted for two hundred years until the publication of Charles Lyell's *Principles of Geology* in 1830. His theories of stratigraphy produced an interpretation of the earth's surface which is fundamental to archaeology. Once Lyell's ideas were accepted it became possible to consider that humans had been around for much longer than six thousand years.

Later 19th century

Augustus Lane Fox was a regular soldier until 1880 when he inherited large estates on Cranborne Chase in Dorset. One of the conditions of this inheritance was that he should change his name to Pitt-Rivers. He studied the development of fire-arms and in doing so found himself arranging collections of types in developing sequences. He developed the idea that all remains of the past could be arranged in sequences. His collections were arranged typologically, and many were mundane objects which he felt helped to explain the life of people in the past. He excavated in Wessex and his excavations were well organised and accurately recorded. He transformed excavation from a "pleasant hobby to a serious scientific pursuit". The modern era had begun.

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES, 29th January 2001

Report by David Grayston

Barns and buildings - Richard Shackle.

Richard described four buildings he had studied during the year 2000 - two rural and two in Colchester. Payns Barn in Virley. The barn, with a central mid-stay, had been subject to a barn conversion. It was a 14th century aisled barn with tie beams but the passing braces had been removed but one could clearly see where they had been. Halved and bridled scarf joints were used in the arcade plate. The roof was hipped and would have originally been thatched or tiled but was currently of corrugated iron. Unusually, there were no longitudinal timbers to strengthen the roof; just collars fairly high up. The weight of the hip roof at each end therefore gave rigidity to the structure.

Another barn, somewhere in north Essex, again with a hip roof, had an interesting pair of opposing mullion windows, high up, just below the eaves plate in what was an extended mid stay. The bay with the windows was discoloured by smoke and it had probably been a 14th century kitchen.

The Head Street Post Office and adjacent building in Colchester was interesting in as much as part of the Post Office under-sailed the adjacent building forming a flying freehold. This cross wing, with some elaborate posts, was set back 25 feet from the street, rather like part of the Army & Navy building. Harper's sports shop, in Head Street, Colchester burnt down in September 2000. The brick structure did not appear to be very ancient. The rear range may have been 17th century.

St James' Church graveyard survey - Noreen Proudman

Noreen spoke on the graveyard survey at St James' Church, Colchester. Her team, comprising John Mallinson, Mary Coe, Anna Moore, Rosemary Yorke-Moore, Freda Nichol and Ros Thomas, conducted this survey during the summer of 2000. Two hundred and seventy one grave stones and sixty three footstones were recorded as well as fifty seven cremation memorial stones. Many of the former were only just readable so the survey was just in time for some of the stones particularly in the south and south east of the church yard. A Mr Crisp had also surveyed this churchyard in the mid 19th century and his copper plate written survey may be seen in the Public Library. The burials ranged from 1717-1872 although it is still an open churchyard and more recently some priests have been buried there. A copy of the survey will be with Father Walker and the Museum Resource Centre.

Post Office site foundry pit - Theresa Jephcott

Theresa spoke about her first experience of a dig working on the Post Office site for Colchester Archaeological Trust.

Much burnt pottery and some copper alloy slag was removed from what proved to be a pit about six feet deep. At one time it was thought to be a bell foundry pit but it may have been to do with the manufacture of more domestic utensils. Future analysis of the alloy will indicate its intended use as bell metal should contain a higher percentage of tin.

Roman road - James Fawn

James spoke about a Roman road junction at the site of Colchester Royal Grammar School. One road is almost certainly the road from Colchester to London, another is the link road between the Balkerne Gate and the London Road. Another heads north-west to an unknown destination and the fourth is, perhaps, the road found further south at the Gosbecks site. The subject of the talk was the line of the link road between the Balkerne Gate and the London Road. The construction of new class rooms on the lawn adjacent to the headmaster's former house allowed the area to be examined for evidence of the link road. No definite evidence was found, suggesting that the road probably ran to the east of the lawn, passing through the premises of the adjacent Oxford House School, before joining the main London highway under the Grammar School buildings to the north of the investigated area.

The investigation revealed the presence of layers of fired clay debris under the lawn, indicative, perhaps, of burnt out, low grade buildings on what is recognised as a Roman cemetery area.

Incidentally, James showed a map of Roman Roads in Essex which showed that the main London Road continued beyond Colchester towards Beaumont Quay. However, no evidence has been found on the ground to support this alignment and it would be imprudent to accept it without further work, either by examination or aerial photography.

19th CENTURY ESSEX INDUSTRIES

Brian Bourn (Chartered Engineer) February 5 2001

Report by Bernard Colbron

At the start of the lecture Brian gave us a background to the industrial system in the early 19th century. He explained that some businesses were run by Quakers but that they were denied access to most professions. The Quaker faith makes for a questioning and querying attitude to business with a reputation for honesty and fair-dealing, which resulted in most businesses being successful and family based. Some Quakers travelled round the country but stayed at Quaker family houses to lodge with like-minded people.

Marriage-Reed-Marriage.

Set up in this country in Ulting, Essex in 1832 by a Quaker family to produce beet sugar as opposed to cane sugar. The business was set up in an attempt to overthrow the trade in expensive imported cane sugar, which was cut and collected by slaves. Another reason was that beet sugar didn't attract the same tax as sugar cane. The enterprise failed within two years - even though German and French experts, who already used the techniques to process sugarbeet, were brought in to assist. Questions were even raised in the House of Commons about sugar production. The banks of the Chelmer Navigation near Chelmsford were used as transport. Thirty people were employed in the production of the sugar.

Christy Group

The Christy Group was set up in 1858 by Philip Christy, based on Quaker philosophy, in a more industrial era following the Great Exhibition. It started manufacturing in Chelmsford, Essex, with no government subsidy to the company for setting up. Philip Christy, who had been an apprentice with John Whitmore of Whitmore & Binyon, went into partnership with his father in Broomfield Road. In 1865 they opened as a manufacturer and maintainer of mills, also working as general engineers and founders. At this time they took a partner into the business called Norris and called the company Christy and Norris. Shortly after this they also preserved wind and water mills as C&N Engineering.

During 1897 the workforce were alerted by electric hooters fitted by Cromptons (morning start, lunch time start and finish, and the ending of the working day). In 1900 the company expanded into making machinery for grain grinding and anything else that needed grinding, thus encompassing most machines that needed heavy machine foundry work.

During the 1920's Frank Christy joined the firm after completing a college apprenticeship. 1929 saw the introduction of personal benefits - a non-contributory pension scheme together with a co-partner scheme and a share scheme. The business survived the 1930's crash due in part to milling and making milling equipment. Between 1939 and 1945 there was a deliberate policy of profiteering from armaments

but work also continued on making and repairing farm machines. In 1937 C&N Engineering was made a public company to raise more money to expand the business.

Christy Brothers (Electrical Engineers) was set up in 1883 to work alongside Christy & Norris and also operated from same site in Chelmsford. It had its own generating plant for factories generating power from water or steam. By 1890 it was equipping and supplying public electrical undertakings. There was no grid system, with cables laid to and from each building. As it was one of the first undertakings to supply power in Chelmsford it was a very profitable undertaking. Power was also supplied to other areas with a small power station being built near the site. Christy Brothers also acquired shares in other electrical supply companies and owned some of them outright. The Christy family followed the Quaker policy of having 118 out of 195 shareholders who were employees or ex-employees. These people still owned over 50% of Christy Brothers shares in 1932.

The company set up the first hydro-electric power in England in 1936 in South Devon on the River Tamar. The first Radio Station in Chelmsford via cable was set up and ran until the 1950's. Floodlights were set-up to hoodwink bombers during the war - suggesting that the aeroplanes wouldn't dare come over Essex. In 1948 Christy Brothers received their biggest setback as nationalisation of the electrical supply business took place; it lost Christy Brothers 80% of their business. Christy Brothers re-formed and bought back some of the premises that were sold. At the same time both Christy firms merged and renamed as Christy Brothers. In 1963 Christy Brothers were running into difficulties and appointed consultants to overhaul the firms. It was felt that Christy & Norris was an old fashioned company which had not kept up with modern ways. The fact that the Christy & Norris road vehicles were maintained by a local garage but Christy Brothers looked after their own vehicles was commented on by one of the consultants.

During 1972 Christy Electricals were formed leaving Christy Brothers as a holding company. By 1974 it was decided that the company overheads were too high for the business and in 1975 the decision was made to concentrate upon manufacturing. A bid was made for the company by Simon Coates (stockbroker) who offered 30p for 27p share in 1980. Simon Coates already had a large number of shares and took over the company. In 1985 one of the Christy family took over R. Hunt based at Earls Colne and moved part of the business to Earls Colne. Christy Hunt is still active in Earls Colne to date. Many of the Christy firms and offshoots are still in business and their vans can be seen around Chelmsford, mainly in the electrical trade.

COLCHESTER - THE OLDEST RECORDED TOWN

Mark Davies 12 February 2001

Notes taken by Vic Scott

Because the intended speaker, Neil Faulkner, failed to arrive, Mark Davies gallantly stepped in and gave a talk on the early history of Colchester from archaeological and written evidence.

Mark began by mentioning three famous people associated with Colchester -Cunobelin, Claudius and Boudicca, and three others shrouded in myth and legend - King Cole, St Helena and King Arthur. He reminded the meeting that Colchester castle had been known as King Cole's Palace, and the Balkeme Gate as King Cole's Castle in early documents. Also, an area at Lexden, now a gravel pit, had been known as King Cole's Kitchen.

Regarding the river Colne, Morant says the name comes from the Roman Colonia, but there are also Colne Engaine, White Colne, Wakes Colne and Earls Colne, and it is still not clear where the original Colne came from.

The basis of Colchester museum's collection started with private donations in the 19th century, but Colchester owes a lot to Rex Hull who set up the Colchester Excavation Committee (later to become the Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd.) The committee's first excavation was the uncovering of Duncan's Gate.

In his history and guide to Colchester, first published about 1870, Benham is keen to call Colchester "Britain's oldest recorded town", repeating this from comments by Sir Henry Howarth, the 1907 President of the British Archaeological Society.

Earlier mention of Camulodunum by Dio Casius identifies its capture by the Emperor Claudius, but he was writing 150 years after the event. Tacitus, in his Annals, refers to the colony established on captured land, and called Colonia Camulodunum. Ptolemy's Geography in Greek deals with Britain and mentions the Trinovantes and Camulodunum. Iter V lists the Colonia as 52 Roman miles from Londinium, and Pliny the Elder casually mentions Camulodunum in his Natural History, Book 2.

Finally, Mark said that the real known facts and history of Colchester are the important elements, and he closed by answering questions from the audience, and was warmly thanked by the chairman for saving the evening.

THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ILLICIT ANTIQUITIES

Neil Brodie (Co-ordinator of the Illicit Antiquities Research Council) February 19 2001

Notes taken by Lilian Morrow

Modern trade in artefacts started with the Metropolitan Museum in New York in the late 1960s. A collection of Iron Age gold and silver artefacts, known as the Lydian Hoard, were offered to the museum in three groups. It was stored until 1984 and then put on display under the title "East Greek Treasure." Turkey recognised the objects and took the Museum to court in 1986. It was a long battle because the question of being outside the "limitation period" arose. Eventually the Metropolitan Museum gave back the treasure.

Various methods of looting sites have been used since the Bronze Age, including probing rods, spades and shovels, metal detectors and, for underwater searches, submersibles. In Southern Italy mechanical diggers were used to loot cemeteries, while an underwater site in China was dynamited. A Cambodian temple had shrines sawn up and removed on the back of a lorry, but fortunately the lorry was stopped at the border.

Sites are looted around the world. A site at Wandborough, Surrey, produced Roman and British coins, Mali, West Africa, furnished bronzes and terracotta items, Turkish mosaics turned up in Houston, Texas, while stored and catalogued Cambodian temple items were stolen from a storehouse. The Corinthian Museum also had goods stolen in 199 L Sites in Peru, Kentucky, USA, Nepal, Iraq, and South America have been vandalised. A flood of archaeological material has been leaving countries in Europe and the East and turning up in collections and salerooms in America. Even diplomatic bags have been used to smuggle goods out of a country.

One 6th century Byzantine church in North Cyprus had its apse and ceiling mosaics stripped. They turned up in Geneva sometime after 1973 and went to America for sale, but the objects were recognised as the site had been photographed and well documented before the theft. In 1989 the church went to court with their evidence and claimed them back.

Monuments are often vandalised, with heads of statues sawn off and separated from their bodies. A Mayan stele was sawn in half and portions of script have been cut from stone blocks.

Museums, collectors, dealers, major auctioneers such as Sothebys and Christies in New York and mail order catalogues are all used to distribute the artefacts, but buyers hoping to profit from their purchases are sometimes disappointed where the apparent provenance proves to be fake. The British Rail Pension Fund bought important ancient glass in the 1970s as an investment but when sold it gave a poor return. Export licences often prove to be fake.

It is very difficult to prove ownership from illegal excavations, and only the police have the authority to inspect the trading records which have to be kept. The National Gallery of Australia in Canberra acquired goods without provenance and said they had bought them from Sothebys, who in turn said they had bought them from a private collector.

One of the problems is establishing whether goods were exported before each country enacted its own legislation to protect its art treasures. The Elgin Marbles, for example, were taken from Greece before such legislation was in place. Turkey took all sites into state ownership in 1906, but cannot recover goods exported before that date. In this country the work of exposing the trade in stolen antiquities is privately funded by Cambridge University. Their work is publicised by a twice yearly newsletter, and lectures are given round the country.

AN IRON AGE HILL FORT AT ULACA, SPAIN

Rupert Featherby (Museum of London Specialist Services) 26th February 2001

Notes taken by Jean Roberts

Mr Featherby explained that his investigations at Ulaca were carried out during his summer holidays and not as part of his job at the Museum of London. British archaeologists had been asked by their Spanish counterparts to cast fresh eyes, first on Iron Age sculptures of beasts that had been found, and then on the Hill Fort at Ulaca.

In the late Iron Age (400-250 BC) the valley below the fort and the surrounding area were occupied by the Vitores, who held out against the Romans, but the fort itself was abandoned completely during the Roman period. During this period stone beasts, in the shape of bears or bulls, were sculpted from the local granite. They are very localised, occurring just south of Ulaca and some areas of Portugal, in addition to Ulaca itself. The question was, were the beasts, or Varracos, religious symbols or were they marking boundaries or good ground? Over the years many have been moved and can be found as grave markers for Roman burials, a place where a treaty was signed in the 16th century or marking modern property boundaries.

The Rupert's first visit to the 70 hectare fort was in 1997, and he and a colleague, plus students, have been back each year since then. The hill fort stands at 1300m in the centre of Spain, south of Madrid and Avila.

The first year was spent field walking to determine where the Iron Age population was living, but the long term objectives were to draw up an accurate plan of the walls, defences and structures inside, plus related habitations up to 1km surrounding the fort. The Spanish team had found a temple, a sauna-like bath house, and what they conjectured were areas for both the elite and the poorer population within the walls. The terrain was very rocky and the natural rock formation had been used for some of the walls. The rest of the fort was surrounded by walls of varying thickness, faced on both sides.

In the second year an electronic distance measurer was used to plot walls and structures and it was discovered that the fort was much bigger than at first thought, as "outbuildings" turned out to be an integral part of it. Some structures originally thought to be roads are now thought to be water courses. The investigation continued to determine the most likely site of the main gate, which is now conjectured to be on the west side, where there is a path with easy access for carts and horses. Although ground plans of the structures have been drawn, no definite conclusions as to their use have been made. The Temple seems to have been used for animal sacrifice, with a flight of steps leading to an altar, and drainage channels and pools for the blood running down one side. A mass of pottery has been found during the field walking, which has helped with dating, but it is hoped to carry out excavations at the site eventually. At present the finds are being recorded, and diagrams revised.

THE ROMAN ELLIPTICAL BUILDING AT CHESTER: DEVA, THE FLAVIANS AND IMPERIAL IMAGERY

David Mason (Independent Archaeological Consultant & Hon. Secretary, Chester Archaeological Society) 5th March 2001

Report by RP Rowe

Chester was home for the XXth Legion for some 300 years after they moved from Colchester. Deva, as the Romans named Chester, was founded in AD 73/74

Chester's position at the head of the River Dee is in an ideal area for communications and control of North Wales and Northern England. The original fortress covered some 24 hectares; this is 20% larger than others of the same period. Initially there was a defensive turf and timber rampart, although this was replaced at a later date with a fine stone wall. The wall was constructed with large stone blocks without the use of mortar, and had a decorated frieze.

The layout of the fort was similar to many Roman forts of the period, but does include an extra area in the centre. This area is where the Elliptical Building was situated. At a later date there was also an adjacent but unconnected bath house. At a later date the bath house was converted into a large store.

The Elliptical Building is an enigma; there is no similar building in the Roman Empire. Initial excavations were made in 1939, when the area to the west of the Town Hall was dug. The excavation was carried out by digging a number of long, narrow trenches, and when a wall was encountered they followed the line of the wall. The level of recording was poor by today's standards. The curved walls were initially thought to be those of a theatre, dated to AD 78/79, but the walls were not strong enough for a theatre. The war stopped further investigation, and it was in 1960 that building redevelopment of the area prompted fresh archaeology.

Excavations showed that the original layout of the Elliptical Building has 12 rooms around the outer wall in the shape of an ellipse, facing to the centre. The entrance to the building was from the ends of the long axis. The centre of the building was a courtyard with a drainage feature. There was evidence of a colonnaded portico that separated the rooms from the central courtyard. This building was apparently never completed, and the area was levelled. For over 100 years the space was used for workshops and warehouses.

The 1980 excavations showed much more detail of the first building, and the subsequent one built in 220 to 230 AD. The later design was a modified version of the earlier one. The central entrance passages were made much wider. The layout of the wall foundations were not directly over the earlier ones. The number of rooms remained at twelve, with large pads of foundation showing that large arches faced inwards from the rooms. The central drainage feature, thought to be a fountain, was still present. The central oval courtyard measured 9 x 14 metres. It was in this central area that a section of lead water pipe was found which had an inscription dating it to 79 AD.

The external bath house to the south of the building had been increased to three times its size at this time. The masonry had stood 12 ft. high, but was all destroyed to make way for the redevelopment of present-day Chester.

Many suggestions have been made as to the purpose of the building. The original conjecture that it was an amphitheatre has been rejected as the foundations are not suitable: it would have been difficult to organise the seating, and the central area would have been too small. The fact that no hypocaust was present rules out the possibility of a residential building or a high status bath-house. In any case, there was a bath-house next to it, which was increased in size when the Elliptical Building was rebuilt. (The main bath-house was elsewhere, close to the south gate.)

It is assumed that the order to erect the original building came from a high level. During Vespasian's time the size of the Roman Empire doubled, so it could be that it was built to demonstrate the majesty of the Roman Army or the Roman State. The elliptical shape represented their idea of the Roman world. The area in the centre thus represented the Mediterranean, with the twelve rooms being related to either their gods or perhaps nations, cities, or peoples of the Empire.

A large rectangular building across the road from the Elliptical Building was never finished. There are suggestions that it was going to be an administrative headquarters for the provincial governor. The complex was built in stone from the start, like the Elliptical Building. In this area a piece of slate tablet was found with an inscription, well carved and set out in prose.

The Elliptical Building, then, was a building conceived and begun in 78/79 AD, forgotten about for 150 years, then restarted and completed in 220/230 AD. It was used for 150 years, with the last modification made in 375 AD. This is a high status building that leaves more questions than answers.

FINDS RECORDING AND THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD: A NORFOLK PERSPECTIVE

Andrew Rogerson (Senior Landscape Archaeologist, Norfolk Museum Service)

12 March 2001

Notes by Mike Matthews

For the last year archaeological resources in Norfolk have been looked after by a new sub-organisation - the Identification and Recording Service. Norfolk has a long tradition for recording finds. The Keeper of Archaeology at the Norwich Museum, R R Clarke, who died in 1963, collected records on a card index

system. In the 1950s there was rising interest in mediaeval archaeology with air photo evidence collected and studied.

During the 1970s metal detectors began to be used. As 80% of Norfolk is under cultivation unstratified finds needed to be recorded.

When the new Statutory Sites and Monuments Record came into existence the card index system was used as its basis, but this was not adequate for the new task of adequately recording the source of finds and correlating the evidence, so in the 1980s the records were computerised. In 1997 the Portable Antiquities Scheme was formed, and Norfolk was the first county to get a government funded Recording Officer. Today there are four officers with further government funding.

Examples of the totals for last year for January to September were:

578 pieces of Roman metal work
2560 Roman coins
1777 pieces of Roman pottery

The methods of recording differs according to the artifact. Topographical and geographical points take priority. Often the Recording Officers can pass information back to the finders about known uses of a site.

There is a difference in quality of the finds being brought in. Some detectorists bring in only metal work, but others extend their searches to pottery and flints. Again, solo field walkers may work with more skill and concentration than a group where experience and aptitude differs from person to person. However, 63% of Iron Age coins, 79% of Anglo-Saxon, and 93% of metal work hoards have been discovered using metal detectors.

Robin Brown, who retired early from the RAF, carried out an early intensive and high quality survey at Saham Toney. He lived on site and kept his work secret, but he had problems with "night-hawks" who came out from other surrounding counties.

David Gurney thought about the distribution of country finds. Recording finds by parish has shown up hotspots, and it will take many years for the information to be properly evaluated. Coin distribution gives evidence of a pre-Boudiccan fort. Tony Gregory and John Davies have been studying county coin distribution using histograms etc.

Individual parish study results vary as differing methods are used, and the ability and interest of the team involved makes a difference. Methods of recording these finds have also changed: late Saxon pot finds have been redivided into Viking pot or Saxon pot, and knowledge of Iron Age coins has been revolutionised by the large number of coins found by detectorists.

Over 200 early mediaeval sites have been recorded, but, as Andrew pointed out, there are over seven hundred sites mentioned in the Domesday Book, so there is a long way to go.

SUMMER PROGRAMME NOTES

LONG WEEKEND IN CHESTER AND THE WELSH BORDERS

Report by Anna Moore

Over the weekend of 30th March to 2nd April, 40 members and guests travelled north-west to discover, among other things, where the Twentieth Legion made its home after its initial stay in Roman Colchester. Our activities were only slightly curtailed by the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, the only real casualty being Oswestry Hillfort, which, as it is used for grazing sheep, was out-of-bounds. Our first stop was Shrewsbury, where after a guided walk around the medieval town, we visited Rowley's House Museum to view the finds from Wroxeter Roman City (*Viroconium*). Our hotel was in Mold in Flintshire, and had the advantage of a post-Roman earthwork, Wat's Dyke, in the grounds. Saturday was spent in Chester, beginning with a walk around the very extensive city walls, and followed by visits to the Grosvenor Museum, the Cathedral and the Rows, the famous two-storey medieval shops, and ending with the Deva Roman Experience, which included a look at the excavation which is still continuing under Roman Chester.

On Sunday we headed off to North Wales, stopping first at Flint Castle, built by Edward I overlooking the River Dee. We then continued to Conwy, where we again walked the town walls and visited the castle, also built by Edward I, in the late 13th century, with eight very spectacular circular towers. From the Castle, there was a good view of the river estuary and Thomas Telford's 1826 suspension bridge. On leaving Conwy, we stopped at Llanrwst church to see the interesting and unusual monuments to the Wynne family in the Gwydir Chapel, and caught a glimpse of Telford's famous Pontcysyllte iron aqueduct while returning to Mold.

On Monday, we visited Wroxeter to see the extensive visible remains of the Roman Town of *Viroconium*, which consist mainly of the bath complex and the forum. Our final stop was at Ironbridge Gorge, where we spent some time at the Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron before finally returning to Colchester.

CAG VISIT TO GIFFORDS HALL, APRIL 9TH, 2001

Note by John Wallace

On a glorious evening on April 9th a party of almost 40 members travelled to the north east corner of the parish of Stoke by Nayland, just over the border in Suffolk. They were on a rare visit to Giffords Hall, described by Pevsner as "one of the loveliest houses of its date in England".

Outside the Tudor gatehouse the organiser, Chris Hunt, summarised the main architectural features and John Wallace, the local Village Recorder, gave a brief historical background to this fine building. We were then taken into the Hall by our host, Mr Charles Brocklebank, and introduced to his wife, Marcia, who showed us round and entertained us with stories of the property, and a glass of wine.

The manor was occupied by several generations of the Giffard (*Gifford*) family from 1287, when William Giffard had a grant of free warren. It passed to John Withermarsh and by 1428 was purchased by Phillip Mannock, remaining in the family until 1880. The Mannocks resided here from the time of Edward III (1327-1347) and it is believed they originally came from Denmark. There is a grand alabaster monument to Sir Francis Mannock (d. 1634) in Stoke by Nayland church.

It was the Mannocks who built the magnificent gatehouse. Pevsner points out that it is very similar in style to Layer Marney. A 1459 document contained a contract between Paul Frank Frankryt and Henry Goodeman with John Mannock for 60,000 bricks at 20d. a 1000. Could these have been to build the gatehouse? It has an earlier flint interior, and on entering the gateway more flint work can be seen in the NE corner of the fine courtyard.

Opposite the gatehouse is the imposing entrance to the Hall; this has a brick porch with four-centred arch, and timber framed upper storey. The handsome oriel window and barge boarding are part of several alterations and additions carried out during the Victorian period. One notable feature is a chimney

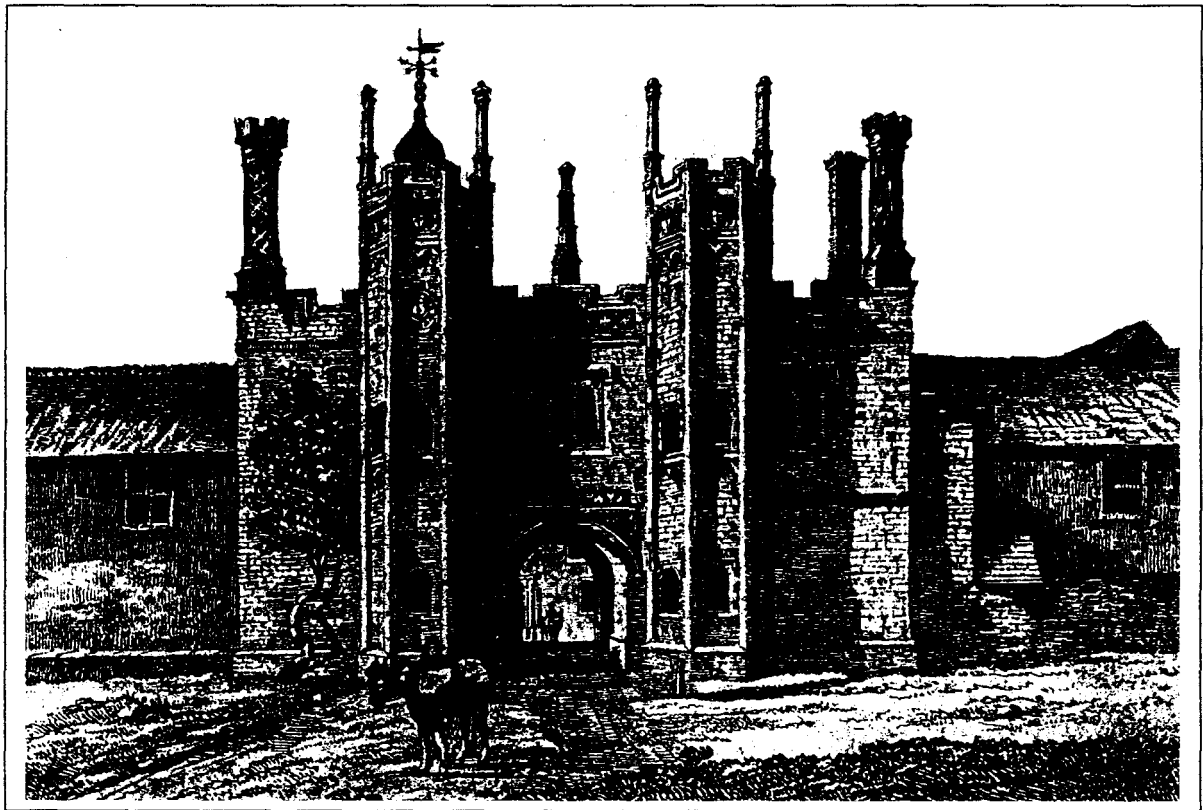
breast with a two light upper window in it and the flue running up either side. Passing through the great oak door we saw the open fireplace with blazing log fire with the window over the top on the north side of the great hall. It appears that this side of the room needed both heat and light so the window was retained.

The outstanding feature of the great hall is the magnificent double hammer beam roof with trusses at 7ft. 6in centres. It is possible that the Mannocks employed experienced local church craftsmen for its construction, which is of a similar type to the great churches of Woolpit, Bacton and Needham Market. In the spandrels can be seen all manner of little carvings including musical instruments, a flagon, a fish on a platter, a crown, a thistle and two of mice, one running into a bowl and another running out. We were shown a panel with close-up photographs of these carvings.

Mr and Mrs Brocklebank showed us a number of interesting items around the house including the gun room, and the dining room with its spectacular wall paper, hand printed in 1834 by Zuber, depicting scenes of America. Then, with a glass of wine in our hand, we had free access to the ground floor and gardens.

At the end of the evening Chris formally thanked the Brocklebanks for allowing us into their unique home and for their warm hospitality.

Illustration taken from an engraving of the gatehouse of Giffords Hall, c.1839



ADDITIONAL EVENTS

Notes contributed by Anna Moore

Monday 21st May:

Mark Davies led a walk around the town to visit some of the buildings not normally open to the public. These were the Roman Theatre in Maidenburgh Street, St Martins Church in West Stockwell Street and St John's Abbey Gatehouse.

Saturday 2nd June:

The Group joined forces with the Young Archaeologists Club on a day trip to Canterbury. (See report on page 3) The city's Archaeological Trust has a policy of opening all its current series of excavations in the Whitefriars area to the public, under the title of The Big Dig. We were given a guided tour of the site, where one of the major finds was the south wall of the friary church itself. There was also a small temporary museum where small finds from the site were displayed.

Saturday 16th June: Our full day's outing was originally planned for Norwich, but owing to the foot-and-mouth outbreak and to the unexpectedly extended closure of Norwich Castle, it was decided to postpone the trip to Norwich and go to Kings Lynn instead. (The day in Norwich will now take place in September and be reported in the next Bulletin.)

We first called at Castle Rising for a visit to the Castle, built around 1140 by William d'Albini on the occasion of his marriage. Later it was the home of Queen Isabella, known as the "She wolf of France", who was allowed to retire here in comfort after arranging the murder of her husband, Edward II. The walls of the Keep are still their original height and there are splendid views of the surrounding countryside from the ramparts.

In Kings Lynn itself, we were given a guided tour, mainly of the medieval town, starting in the Saturday Market Place, one of two medieval market squares and taking in St Margaret's Church, built in 1101 by Bishop Herbert de Losinga of Thetford, the Custom House overlooking the River Great Ouse, built by Henry Bell in 1683, England's only surviving Hanseatic Warehouse, and the flint and stone chequered-fronted Trinity Guildhall.

Monday 16th July: Our summer party this year was held among the beautiful surroundings of Shrub's Farm, Lamarsh, by kind invitation of Mr & Mrs Robert Erith. The party was held in the large weather-boarded barn but we were invited into the house to see some of the Bronze Age burial urns found by Mr Erith's father, Felix, in Ardleigh in the 1960s.