



# Colchester Archaeological Group

Registered Charity No. 1028434

## ANNUAL BULLETIN VOL. 14 1971

Group Notices		1-2	(1-2)
Crop Marks; An Appeal for Conservation and Observation	Ida McMaster	2-15	(3-20)
Excavation of Roman Tile Kilns at Moat Farm Lexden, Colchester	P.R. Holbert	16-23	(21-34)
Anglo Saxon Carving from West Mersea Church	H.M. Carter	23	(37)
The Levelled Long Barrows	F.H. Erith	24	(35-36)
The Lawford Neolithic Complex	F.H. Erith	25-26	(38-40)
Two Flint Knives		27	(41)
A Bronze Axe from Mistley	D.M. Chesterfield	28	(42)
Romans at the Bottom of my Garden	R.W. Palmer	28-29	(43-44)
A Railway Museum at Chappel	J.G. Parish	30	(45)
Winter Meetings 1970-1971		30-35	(46-54)

This copy has been scanned from the original, which was first published in A5 size, and has been reformatted to A4 size. Page numbers in brackets refer to the original edition, and should correspond to pagination given in the Bulletin Index.

*No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored or transmitted  
without the prior permission of CAG.*

*Please apply in writing to the Honorary Secretary at the following address:*

*Honorary Secretary  
Colchester Archaeological Group  
c/o 27 Alexandra Road  
Colchester  
Essex CO3 3DF*

## **GROUP NOTICES**

### **THE BULLETIN**

In view of the ever-increasing costs of producing and distributing the Bulletin, it was agreed at the Annual General Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1970 that this should now appear annually instead of quarterly and that, as far as possible, the content would be equal to that of four average quarterlies.

Accordingly, the new Annual Bulletin will be produced in March each year, followed in September by a News-sheet giving notice of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting and details of the weekly winter meeting.

We regret having to do this but we have no other choice except, of course, raising the subscription, which nobody wants. The policy of reporting excavations, incidental finds and local archaeological news items as they happen will be continued, together with the usual accounts of Group activities.

### **EXCAVATIONS in 1971.**

Four excavations are planned for the coming Spring and Summer.

As soon as weather permits, work will continue on the Medieval site at Mount Bures; this had just reached an interesting stage last Autumn when we were flooded out.

After harvest, sometime in July, we have two sites waiting. An Iron Age settlement site at Ardleigh and another Roman kiln at Moat Farm, Leadon.

In addition we hope to arrange for a single trench across a Red Hill in order to get a complete section. We have been fortunate to obtain aerial photographs of many Red Hill sites which delineate clearly the area of intensive activity. This in itself should be an event of some importance as the last planned excavation of a Red Hill in this area was in 1909.

This is a big programme and we shall want all the diggers we can get.

We intend to make an up to date list of those members who are able and willing to dig on Sundays from 10 am., and on Saturdays by arrangement, with addresses and telephone numbers. Mrs. McMaster has agreed to look after this important link. She will be able to tell members what is on at any given time, help with the transport arrangements and generally act as an excavation information centre. Her address is Fen House, Mount Bures. Telephone - Bures 387. Failing Mrs. McMaster, please get in touch with Mr. Nicholls, 53 Churnwood Road, Colchester - Telephone Colchester 78811, who has also agreed to act as liaison.

### **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

The following social activities have been arranged:

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| MONDAY, 3 <sup>rd</sup> MAY    | - Visit to the well-known Maldon Salt Works. Meet at the Firs Car Park, Maldon Road, at 6.20 pm for departure at 6.30 pm.   |
| SATURDAY, 5 <sup>th</sup> JUNE | - All day excursion to Sussex and Kent. Details and application form for tickets in enclosed. Please book early to avoid disappointment.  |
| MONDAY, 5 <sup>th</sup> JULY   | - Visit to the Bulmer Brickworks at Bulmer Tye, near Sudbury, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Minter. Meet at the Firs Car Park, Maldon Road, at 6.20pm for departure at 6.30pm. |

Lifts will be arranged for those without cars for both evening outings.

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| MONDAY, 19 <sup>th</sup> JULY | - Cheese and Wine Party at Abberton Cottage, Layer de la Haye, at 7.30pm, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Doncaster. Tickets: 50p at the door to include one glass of wine. Further supplies available. |
|-------------------------------|--|

MONDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER - Holiday Slides Show at Vincens Farm, Ardleigh at 8.00 pm., by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Erith. Coffee and biscuits will be served in the interval and tickets will be 25p - each at the door. This party was held in a small way last year and was so successful we decided to repeat it - with different slides.

RELATIONS AND FRIENDS OF MEMBERS ARE WELCOME AT ALL THESE ACTIVITIES.

MONDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER - Annual General Meeting and the beginning of our winter season of weekly Monday meetings.

All enquiries to Mrs. K. de Brisay, Hon Secretary, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye. Telephone - Layer 274 (evenings). (Now on STD.)

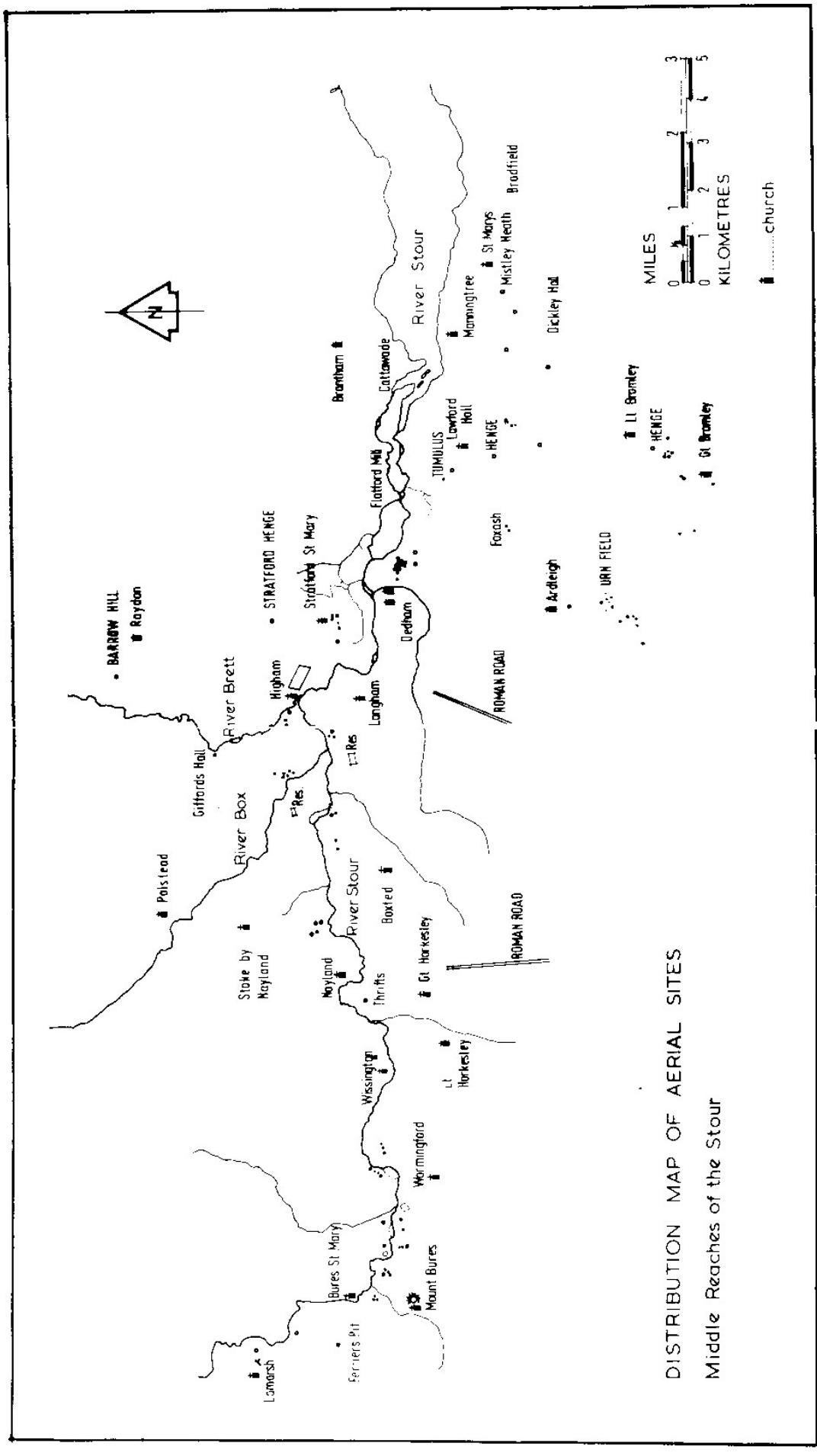
**CROPMARKS : AN APPEAL FOR CONSERVATION & OBSERVATION**

by Ida McMaster

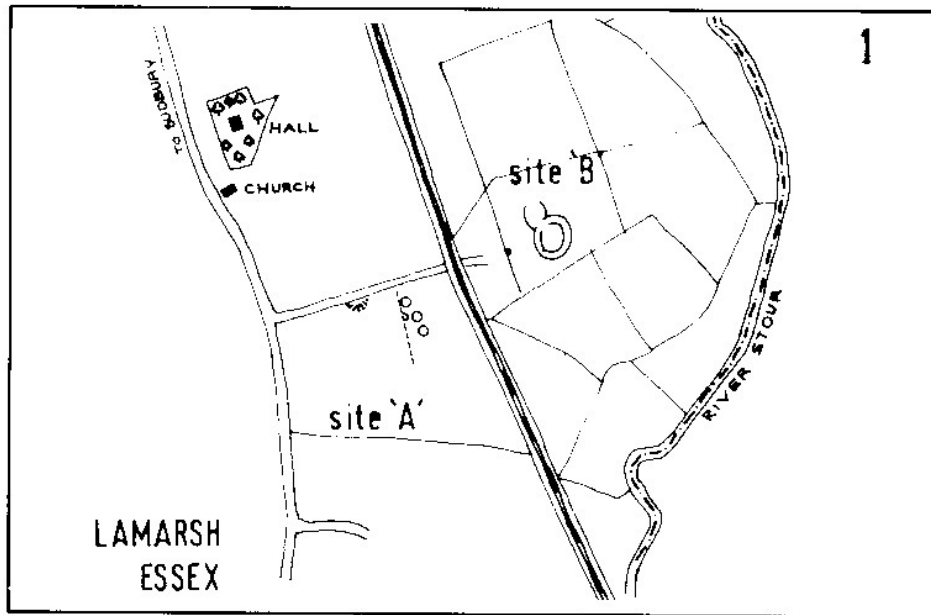
In our bulletin of September 1970 (Vol. 13 No.3) Mr. Felix Erith published a list of recently discovered cropmarks which had been recorded from the air during the drought of 1970. In the following pages we give detailed individual maps of these sites and a distribution map of the middle reaches of the River Stour appears on page 3 . These represent four seasons of aerial observation (1967-70), culminating in the outstanding results of 1970 and in all of which I have been privileged to take part.

The maps are arranged in the order of short, encircling, aerial sweeps on alternate sides of the Stour from Lamarsh to Mistley. On the ground one is struck at once by the flatness of the sites chosen in this lovely undulating valley. Probably many of the cropmarks indicate sites used not solely for funereal purposes but for habitation also and, as such, are obviously vital, and perishable, statistics; they must therefore be watched and added to by anyone with grants, time or money to spare. Many of the large ring-ditches compare in size with those of the Wessex barrows and several small double concentric rings might well be of the Beaker period or, alternatively, a smaller barrow enlarged. (See L.V. Grinsell -"Dorset Barrows.") Where sites have not been seen and measured on the ground, they have been plotted from various photographic angles to ensure a good degree of accuracy. Enclosure lines are included where deemed relevant to a ring etc. , boundary or known old hedge lines are shown by dotted lines and churches are shown as an aid to recognition from the air. In all cases the O. S. reference is shown first, followed by the diameter in brackets. Where reference is made to the Bulletin this is indicated by the letters C.A.G. followed by the volume number.

Unless stated otherwise: SCALE - 6 inches to 1 mile.



DISTRIBUTION MAP OF AERIAL SITES  
Middle Reaches of the Stour

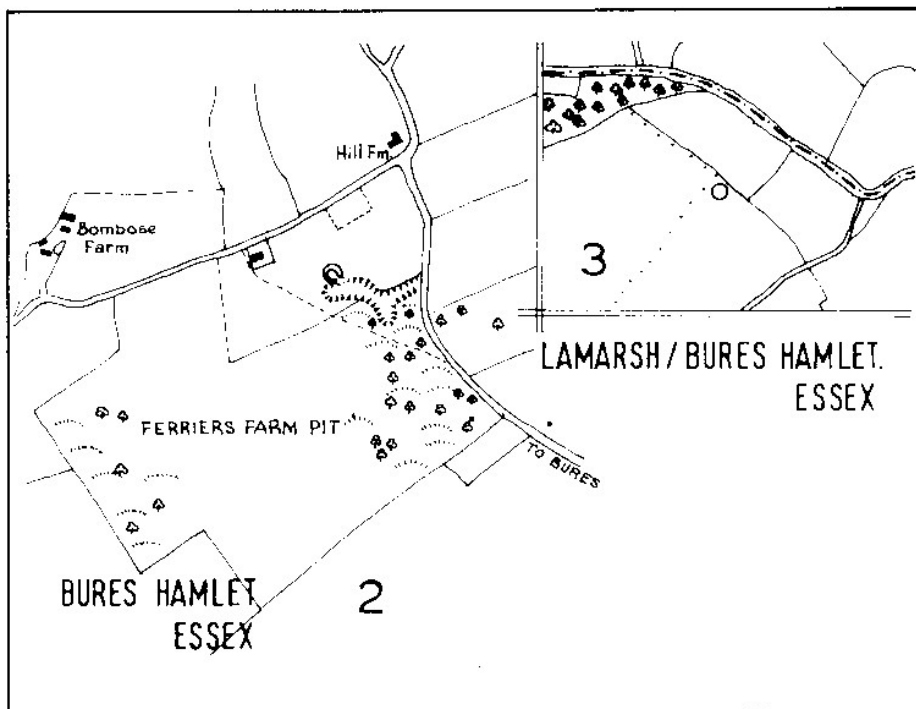


Map 1. LAMARSH HALL, ESSEX. (Site A)

TL89253590 (55 ft. ) A group of four rings the second of which was excavated in 1967 and found to be sterile.  
 (42 ft. ) C. A. G. VOL. XI No. 2.  
 (30 ft. )  
 (15 ft. )

Map 1. LAMARSH HALL, ESSEX. (Site B)

TL89453600 (200 ft. approx) A large oval enclosure with a wide ditch which was infilled in 1966; still slightly mounded and visible after ploughing. Either an outer enclosure or second ring adjoins it and contains interior markings.

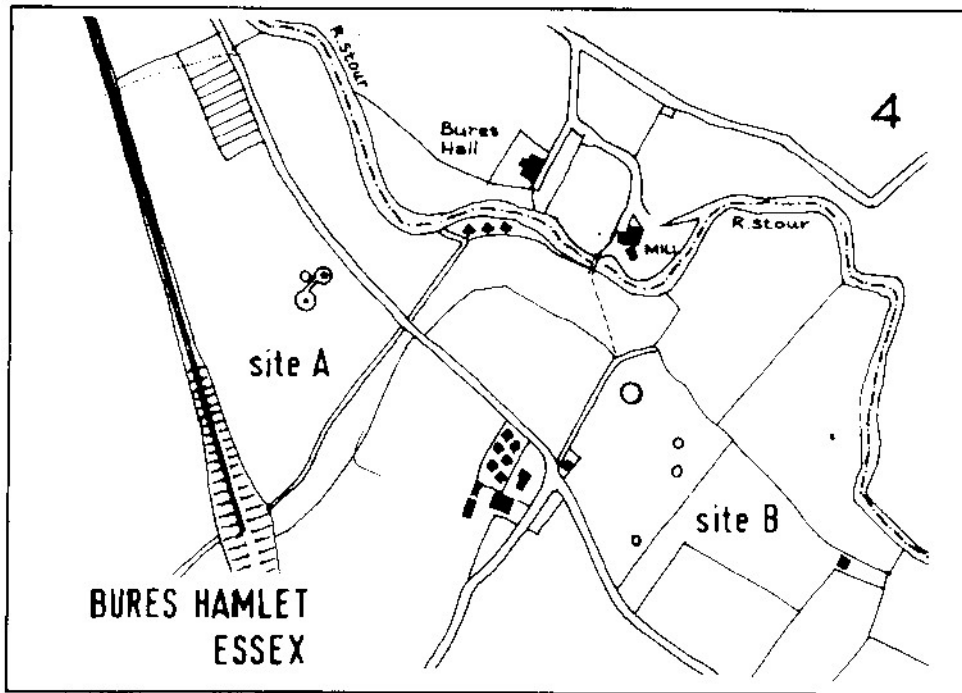


Map 2. FERRIERS PIT, BURES HAMLET, ESSEX.

TL89653442 (28 paces - 84 ft, approx) This scenically impressive site lies north of the gravel pit extremity and comprises a ring with a south-east entrance (15 ft. ) and a ditch 10 ft. wide. Situated on a terrace overlooking the Stour half a mile away.

Map 3. LAMARSH/BURES HAMLET BOUNDARY, ESSEX. (Inset on above)

TL90183513 (50/60 ft. approx) A single ring-ditch of which we have only an oblique photograph.



Map 4. BAKERS HALL, BURES HAMLET, ESSEX. (Site A)

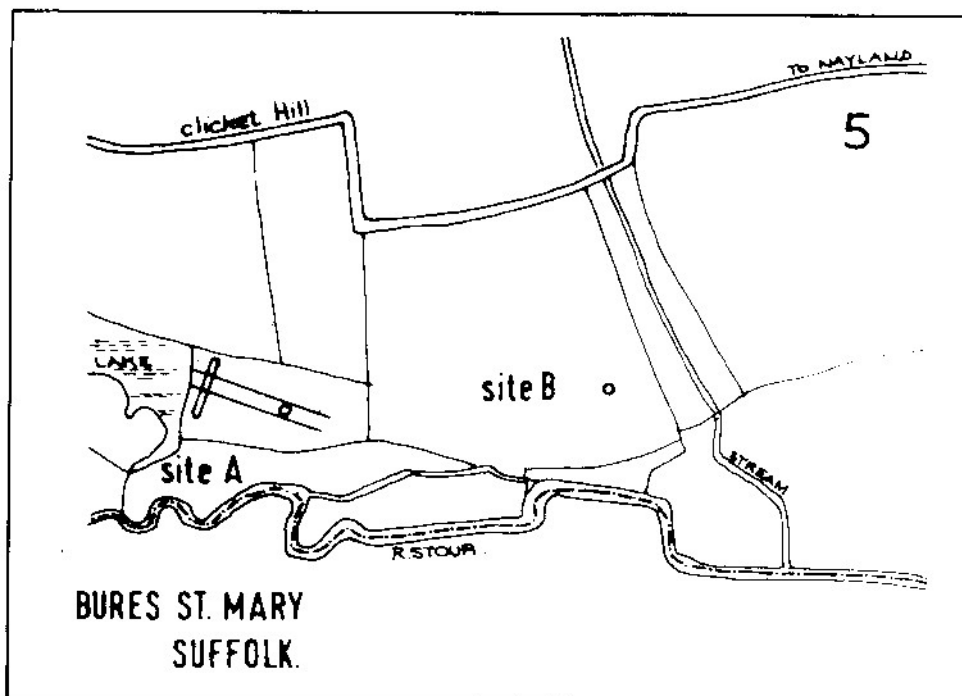
TL90653345 (87 ft.) The largest ring (E. B. A.) was excavated in 1967.

C.A.G. VOL.10 No. 4.

(68 ft.) It contained clay & mortuary type masses at the centre  
 (20 ft. approx) Short parallel linear ditches join the larger rings.  
 The smallest is close by to the north.

Map 4. BROOK HOUSE VARM, BURES HAMLET, ESSEX. (Site B)

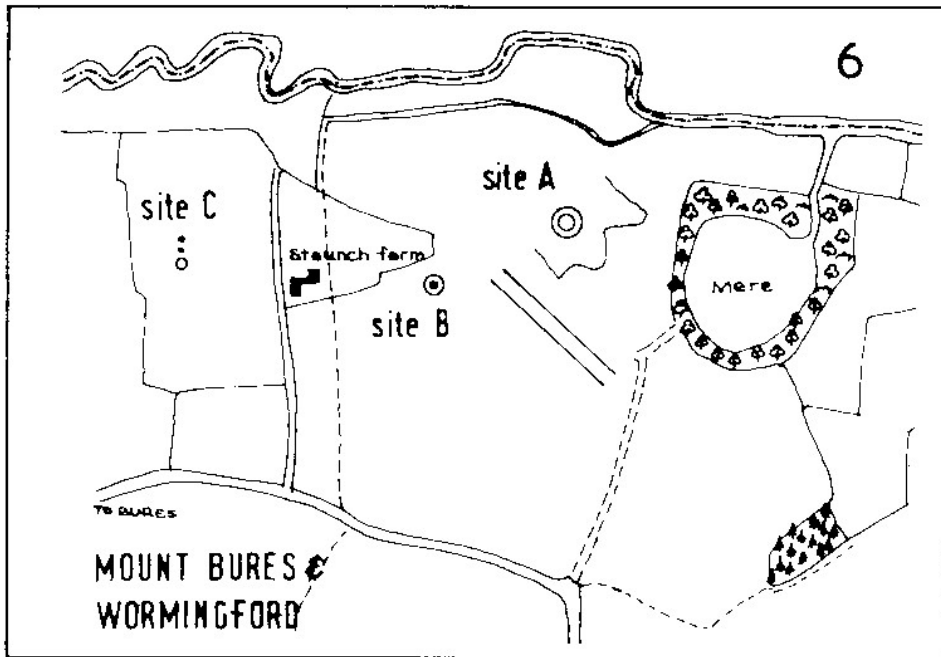
TL91153330 (80 ft. approx) A wide dark ditch to this ring. (Gravel working has probably destroyed three faint rings along the eastern field boundary.)



Map 5. SMALLBRIDGE FARM, BURES ST. MARY, SUFFOLK. (South of new sewage works) (Site A)

TL91883325 (35 ft. approx) One small ring is enclosed within "cursus" ditches which are about 70 ft. apart. At their north-western end is a possible long barrow outline. (See F. H. Erith below)

TL92353330 (35 ft. approx) (Site B) A single faint ring east of above.



MAP 6. WORMINGFORD HALL, ESSEX. (by the Mere) (Site A)

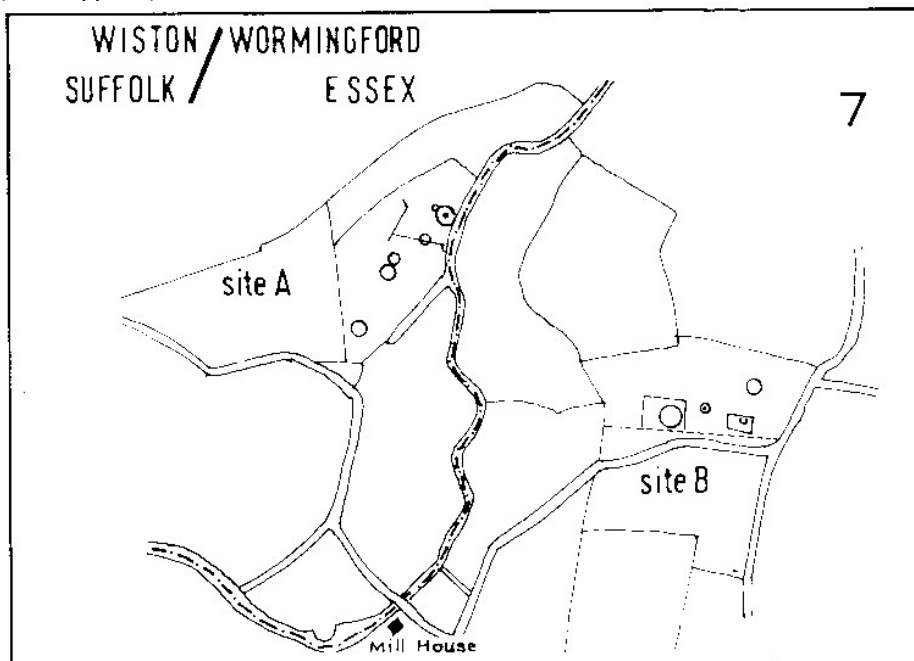
TL92353290 (135 ft. approx) The Great Barrow destroyed by hand in 1836 when the Rev. Jenkins reported "hundreds of urns in rows".

C.A.G. VOL. XI No. 1.

TL92153280 (75 ft. approx) (Site B) Faint double concentric rings (with possible cursus to the east.)

Map 6. STAUNCH FARM, MOUNT BURES, ESSEX. (Site C)

TL91793278 (45 ft.) In a line south to north are three small rings' west of the above.  
 (20 ft.)  
 (20 ft. approx.)



Map 7. SMALLBRIDGE FARM, WISSINGTON, SUFFOLK. (Site A)

TL93253330. (78 ft.) A thick dark ditch outline to the southernmost ring visible in the crop.

TL93403350. (75 ft.) The most northerly ring of the five contains a possible interment, mark and has two satellite rings around its circumference.

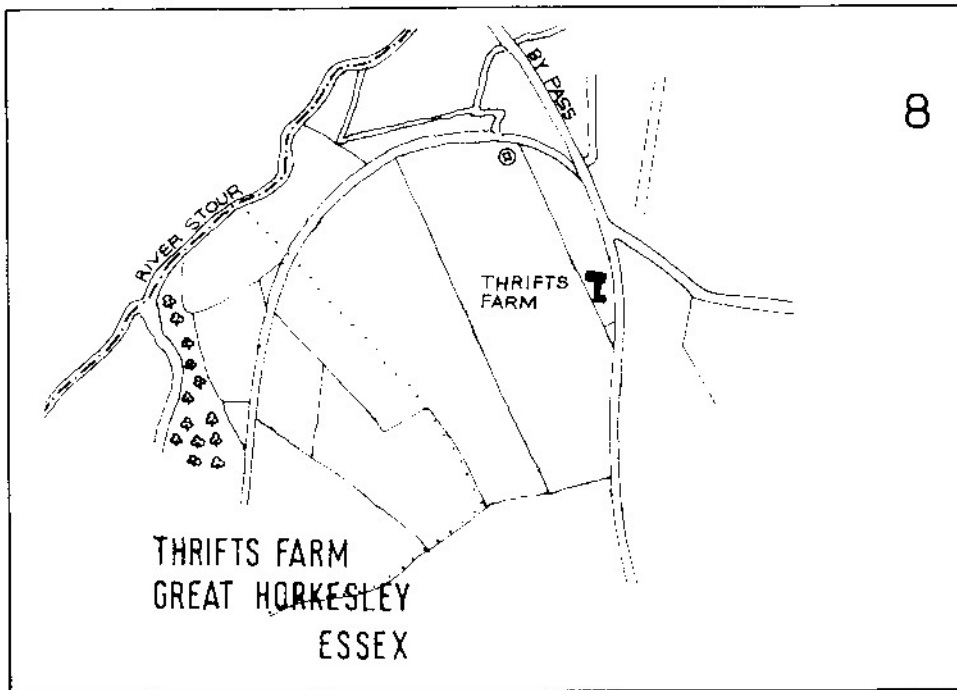
TL93303340. (65 ft. approx) The only ring not visible on the ground adjoins a smaller one to the north.

TL93333342. (48 ft.) Adjoins the above.

TL93353345. (48 ft.) This ring is partly enclosed by linear marks.

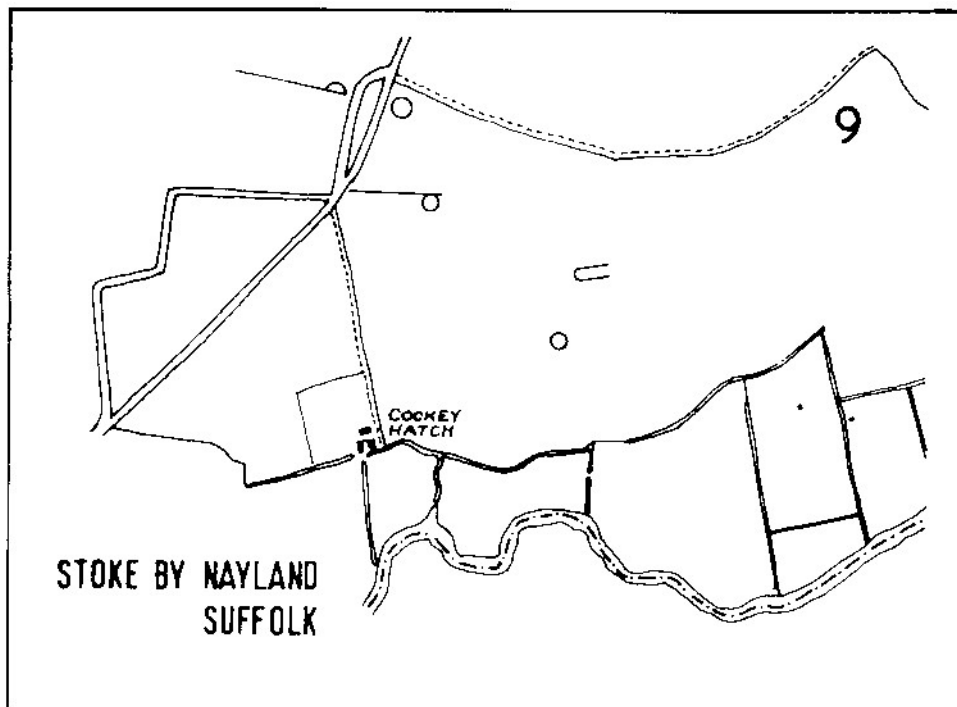
Map 7. GERNONS FARM, WORMINGFORD, ESSEX. (Site B.)

- TL 93703315. (105 ft.) The largest and most western ring within a rectangular enclosure  
TL93763318. (54 ft.) A double concentric ring showing a clear 'grave' shape at the centre.  
TL93853322. (58 ft.) The most easterly ring - lush dark outline in barley.



Map 8. THRIFTS FARM, GREAT HORKELEY, ESSEX.

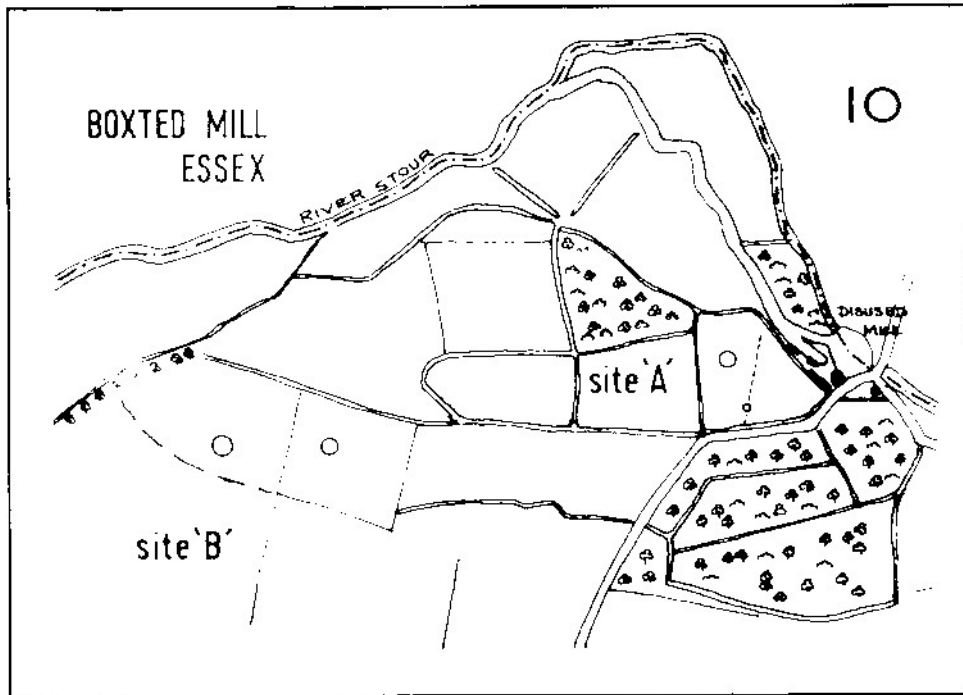
- TL96953370. (22 paces, 66 ft. approx) Later enclosures placed this ring in the corner of the field. Substantially wide ditch and vague inner markings. A possible cursus to the east.



Map 9. TENDRING HALL FARM, STOKE-BY NAYLAND, SUFFOLK.

- TL98503505. (80 ft. approx) )  
TL98553495. (70 ft.) ) Three large rings close to possible long barrow outline. (See F.H. Erith, below)  
TL98753475. (70 ft.) )





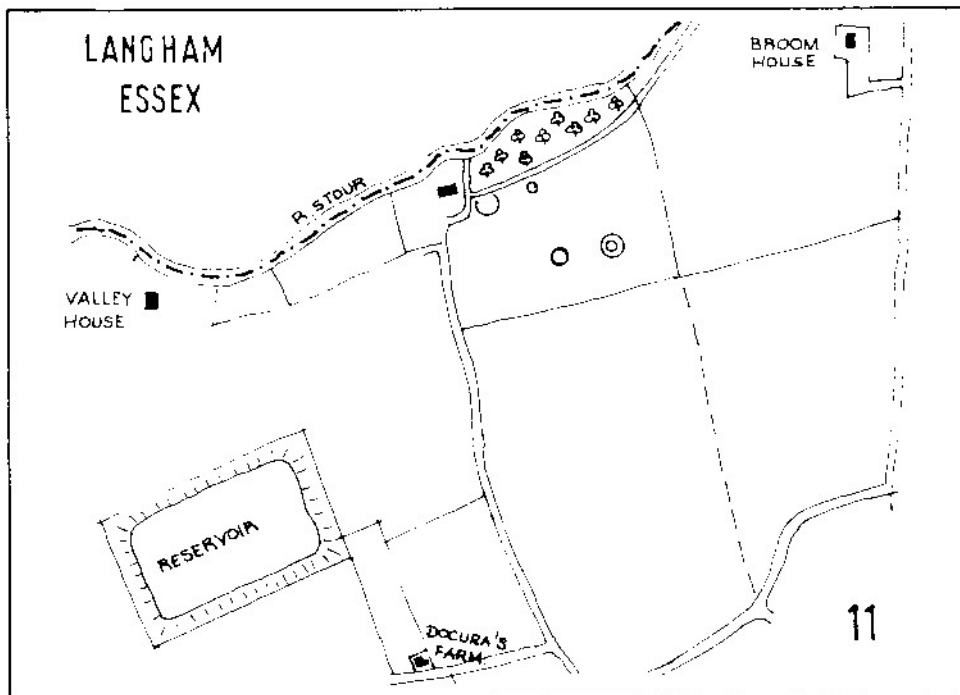
Map 10. BOXTED MILL, ESSEX. (disused). (Site A.)

TM01053445. (7.0 ft. approx\*) There is a linear ditch mark astride which is a tiny ring. A larger ring close by.\*

Map 10. RIVERS HALL, BOXTED, ESSEX. (Site B.)

TM00253430. (75 ft. approx) West of the above site are two rings in line.

TM00483430. (65 ft. approx)



Map 11. LITTLE HALL, LANGHAM, ESSEX.

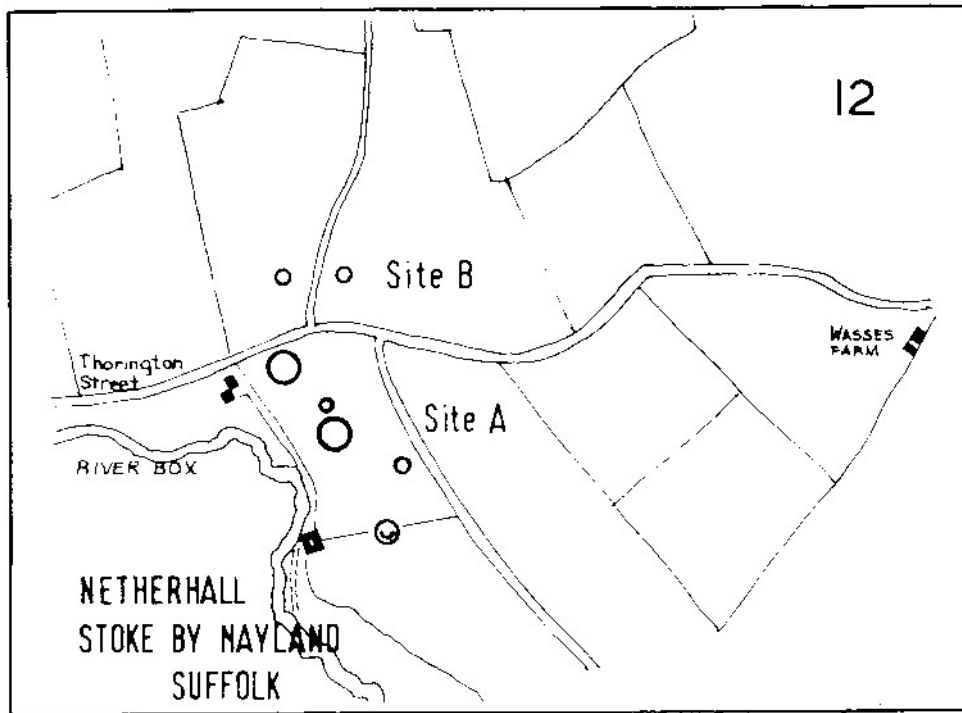
TM02803435. (105 ft. , 75 ft.) Double concentric rings seen by Laurie Honeyball in 1963. Contain vague features on the ditches .

TM02703435. (75 ft.) Due west of above.

TM02653445

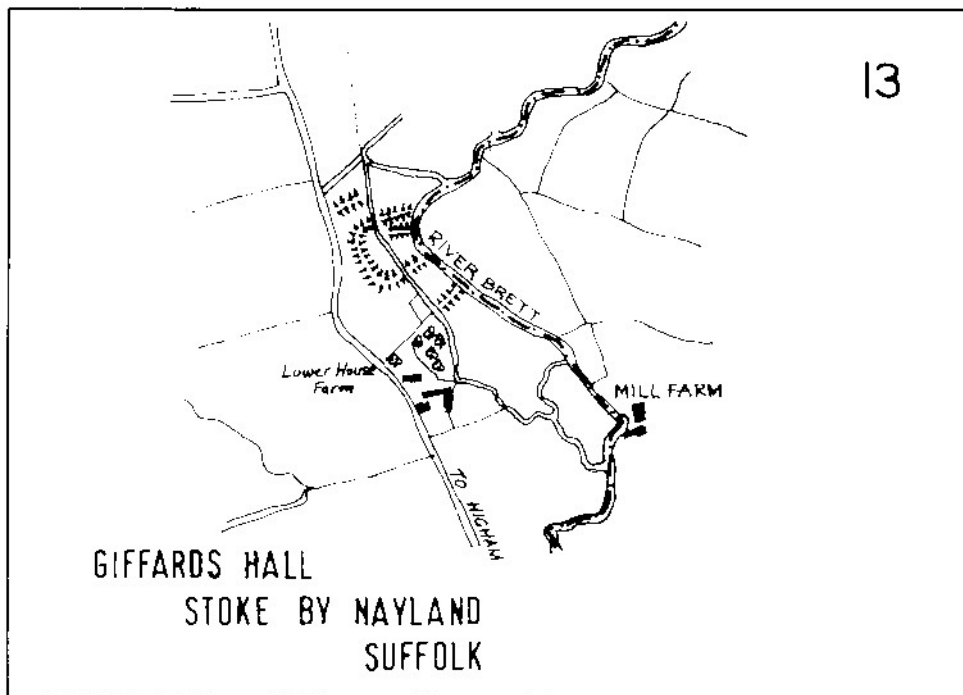
A small ring and part of a large one are on the north field boundary by the garden.

C.A.G. VOL.VI No. 3



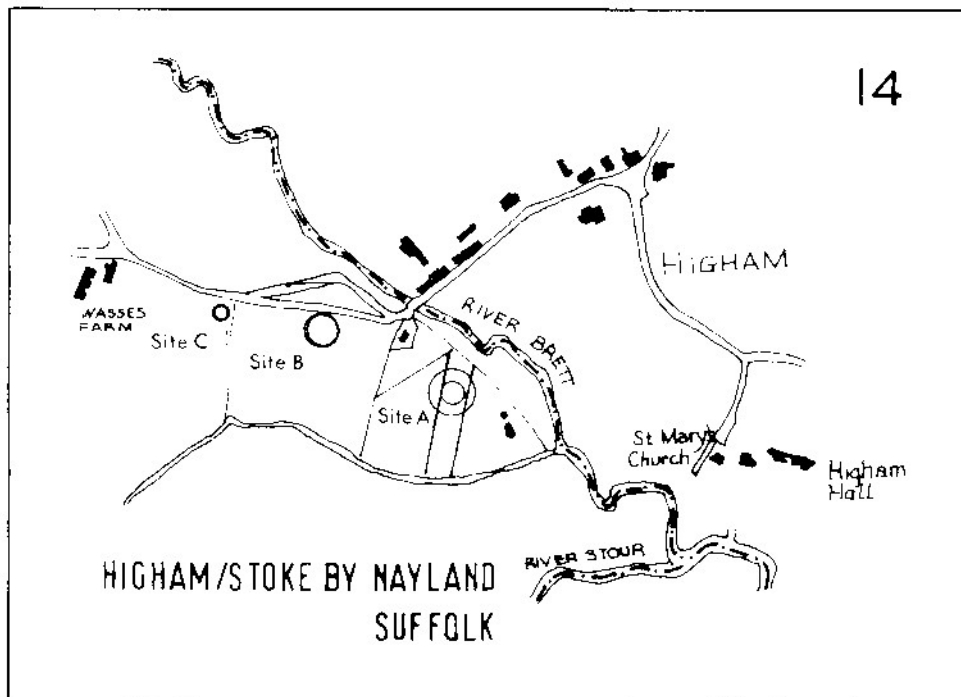
Map 12. NETHER HALL, STOKE-BY NAYLAND, THORRINGTON ST. ESSEX (Site A.)

- TM01753550 (130 ft. approx) )
- TM01803545 (35 ft. approx) ) Five rings grouped in a field closely bordering the River Box. The southernmost
- TM01803540 (120 ft. approx) ) is still mounded.
- TM01933535 (45 ft. approx) )
- TM01883530 (95 ft. approx) )
- (Site B. )
- TM01903565 (35 ft. approx) Two other rings in adjoining fields immediately north of Site A and the road.
- TM01803565. (35 ft. approx). C.A.G. VOL.10 No.4.



Map 13. NEAR GIFFARDS HALL, STOKE-BY NAYLAND, SUFFOLK.

- TM02303690 A curious square of double enclosure ditches with clearly rounded corners; adjoining the bank at an extreme 'jug-handle' bend of the River Brett. (1½ miles north of the Stour. )

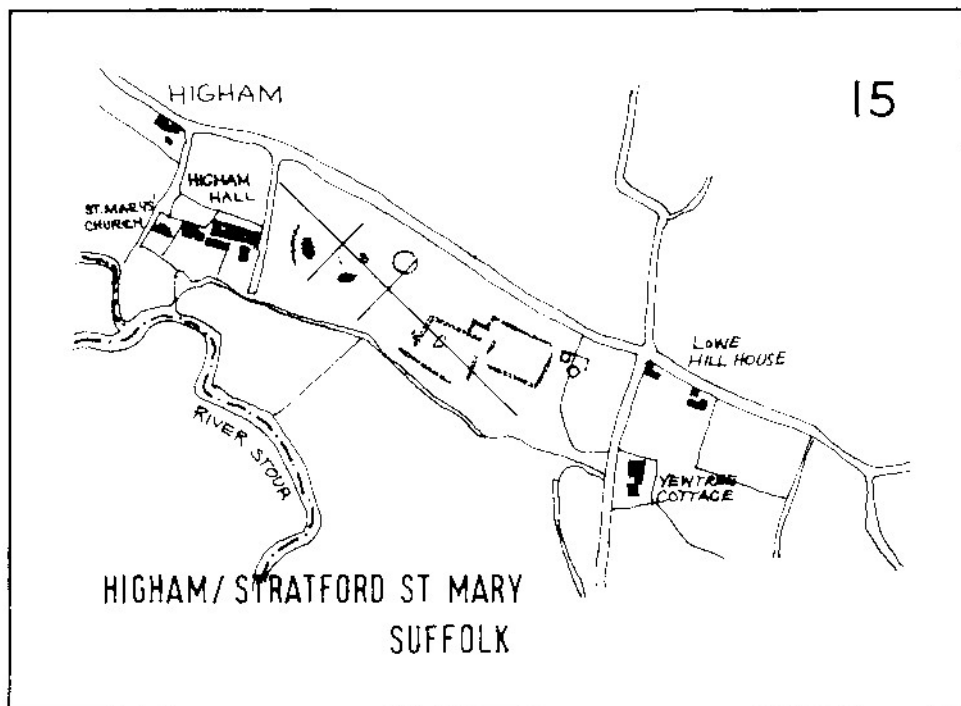


Map 14. WASSES FARM, STOKE-BY NAYLAND, SUFFOLK.

TM03153535 (240 ft.) (Site A). Huge double concentric rings intersected by wide parallel linear ditches which are (120 ft.) 40 yards apart. The eastern ditch line was a field boundary but possibly this ran along a convenient ancient ditch.

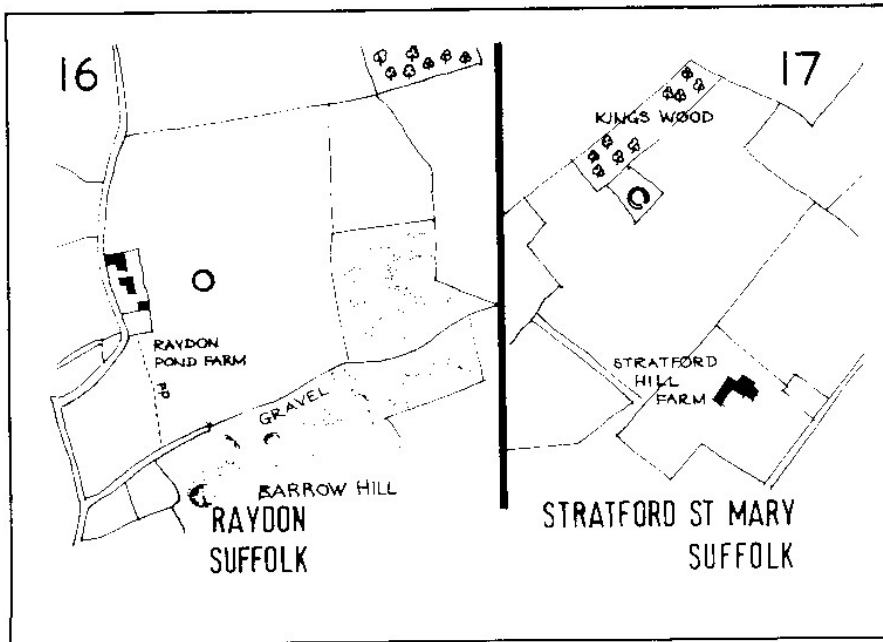
TM03053540 (95 ft. approx) (Site B). Close to the road in the adjoining field west of Site A.

TM02853545 (Site C). Due west of Site B.



Map 15. HILL FARM, HIGHAM/STRATFORD ST MARY, SUFFOLK.

TM04103510 Many marks of pits and linear ditches criss-cross this whole field. Several rectangular features and the fact that the Roman Road must pass close by, suggests the possibility that this is the site of AD ANSUM.

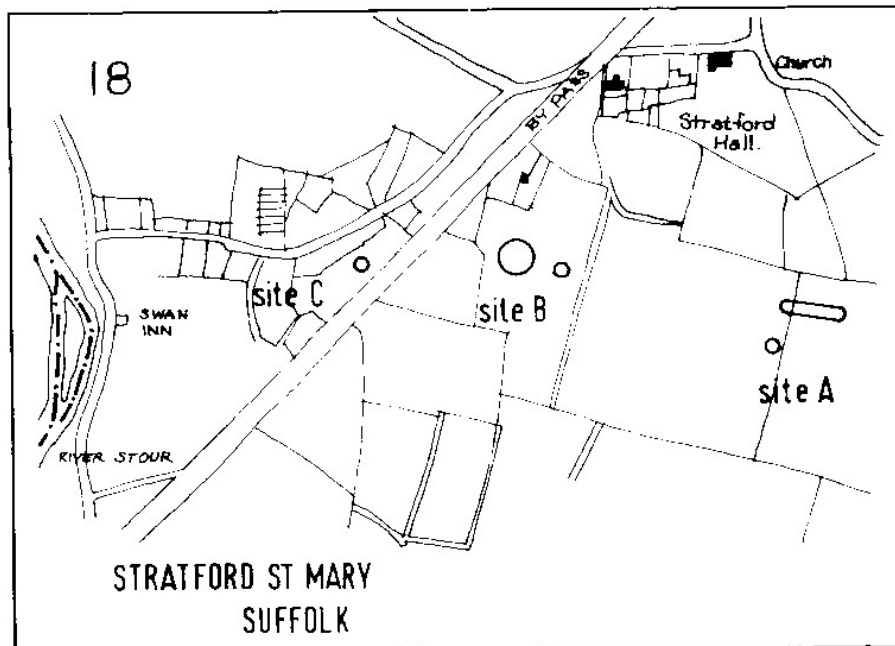


Map 16. POND FARM, RAYDON, SUFFOLK

TM03953905 (100 ft. approx) A dark ring appears below Barrow Hill which rises southwards. Obscure marks nearby.

MAP 17, STRATFORD HILLS FARM, STRATFORD ST. MARY, SUFFOLK. (Inset on above)

TM05153565 (89 ft. & f5 ft.) Outer and inner measurements of the well recorded henge ~ (Class 1) which has a S.E. 9 ft. entrance and a 12 ft. wide ditch. 1970 photograph corroborates the central cruciform feature. C.A.G. VOL. V. No. 3.



Map 18. HALL FAR-M, STRATFORD ST. MARY, SUFFOLK (Site A.)

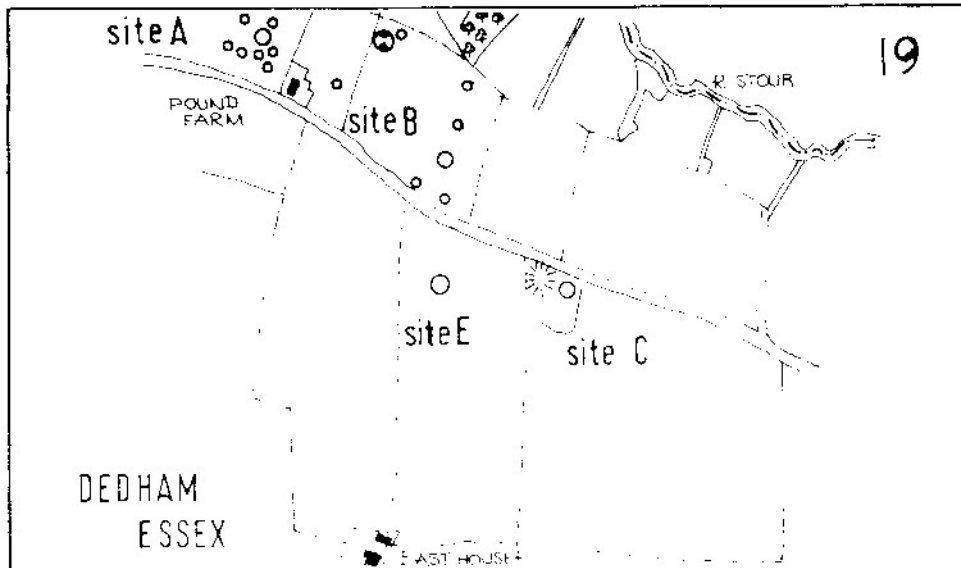
TM05353422. (115 x 25 paces) Site of possible long barrow outline.  
 TM05303415. (75 ft.) Ring ditch south of above. See F. H. Erith, below

Map 18. HALL FARM, STRATFORD ST. MARY, SUFFOLK. (Site B.)

TM05003423. (90 ft. approx) Ring ditch to the west in the next field.  
 TM04923430. (200 ft. plus) Huge ring further west, but close to above.

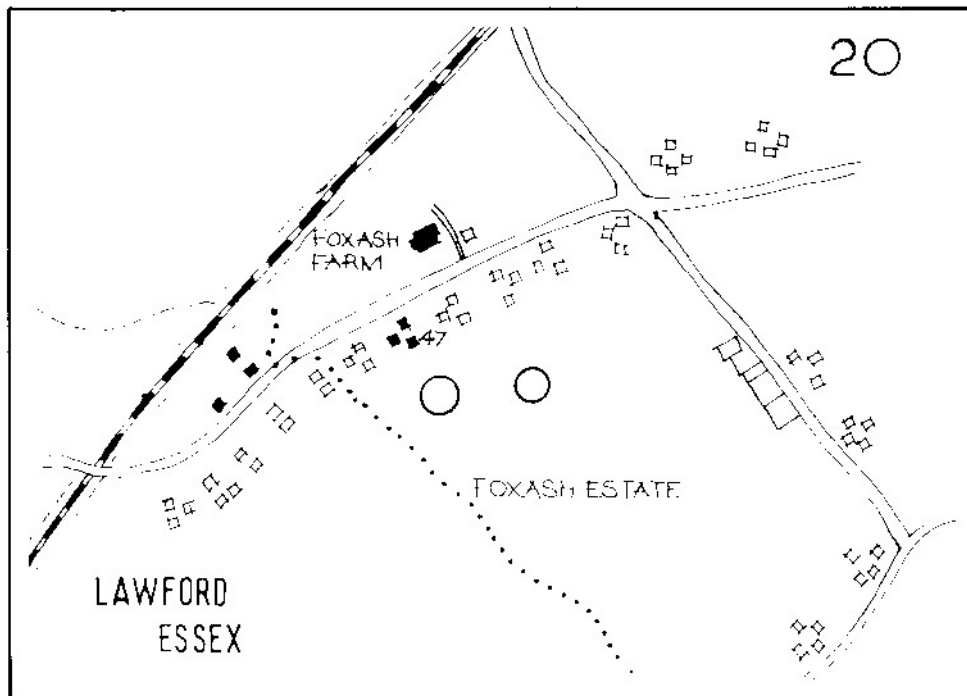
Map 18. BESIDE THE DUAL CARRIAGEWAY, STRATFORD ST. MARY, SUFFOLK. (Site C.)

TM04703430. (90 ft. approx) West of the A12 and of the above site.



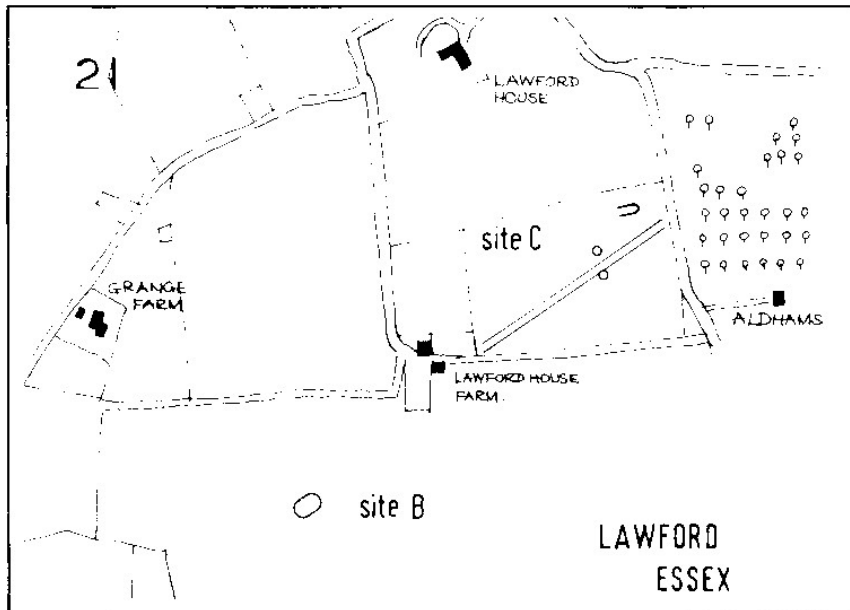
Map 19. POUND FARM, DEDHAM, ESSEX. See F. H. Erith, The Dedham Barrow Complex. C.A.G. VOL. X. , No. 2. for the following sites:

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| TM06233295. (60 ft. approx) | (Site A.) See Dr. St Joseph, Antiquity 153. 1965 for comparison of similar clusters to those encircling this ring.  |
| TM06453295. (75 ft. approx) | (Site B.) A ring containing two others on its inner edge. Seven more lie scattered to the south.  |
| TM06703260. (75 ft. )       | (Site C. ) Excavated by Bryan Blake. See T.E.A.S. XXV Part III. when two M.B.A. Collared Urns were found. Another such urn was discovered (1914) in the gravel pit adjoining. |
| TM06523260, (85 ft, approx) | (Site E. ) An isolated ring west of above.  |



Map 20. FOXASH ESTATE, LAWFORD, ESSEX.

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| TM06953046. (150 ft, approx) | Behind Holding No. 47, a slight mound lies beneath a glasshouse... certainly the tumulus recorded by Mr. Laver (1922) See C.A.G. VOL. II. No. 3. |
| TM07073050. (110 ft, approx) | A service pole stands on the ditch of the ring to the east of the above.   |



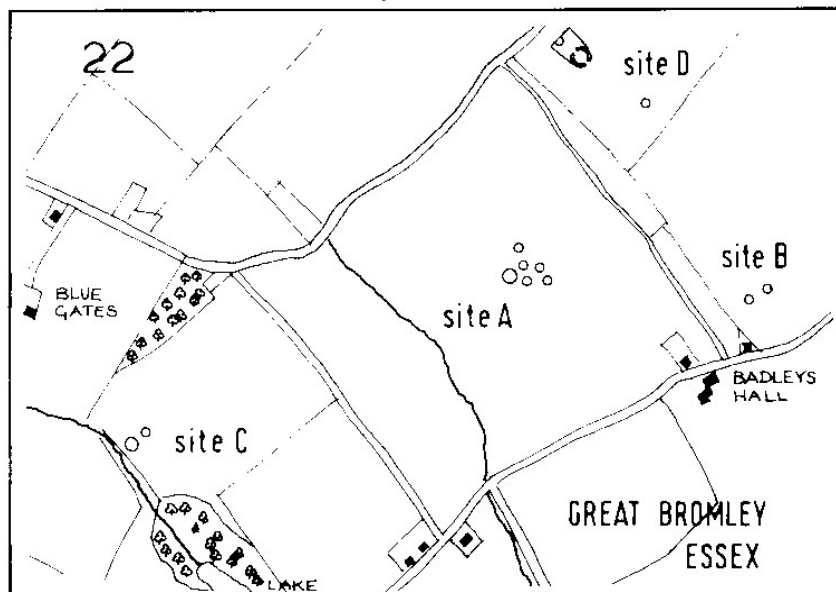
Map 21. GRANGE FARM, LAWFORD, ESSEX. (Site B)

TM09002990. (58 paces) Oval enclosure elevated 3-4 ft. C.A.G. VOL. II. No. 3.

Map 21. LAWFORDHOUSE FARM, ESSEX. (Site C.)

TM09583035. (60 x 14 paces) Outline of possible long barrow.  
 TM09553026. (20 paces apart) Cursus of two linear ditches with associated rings (13 paces diameter).  
 TM08803085. Tye Field Henge. Not illustrated  
 TM08163187. Tumulus excavated 1810.

See F. H. Erith's map pages 39/40 for sites A & E; also for the Mistley sites nearby; and for B & C, above.



Map 22. BADLEY HALL, GREAT BROMLEY, ESSEX. (Site A.)

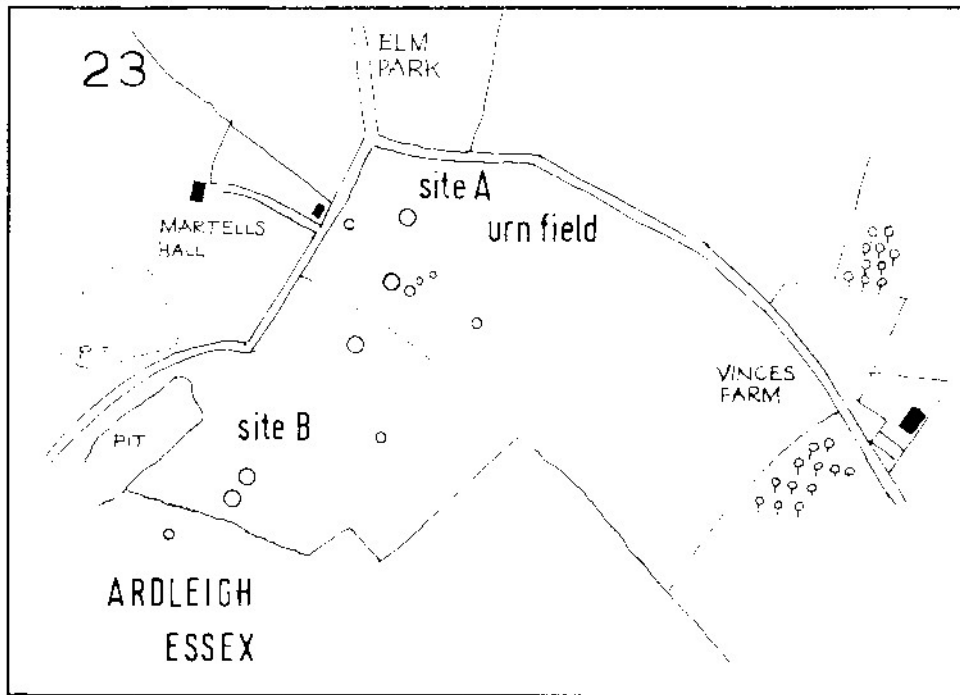
TM08722700. (25 yards) The largest of this group was excavated yielding a tripartite Collared Urn.  
 C.A.G. VOL. VI. No. 4; VOL. VII. No. 4. See comparison clusters below.  
 TM09122700, (35 ft, approx) (Site B.) Two rings and multi ditch lines seen beyond the brook to the east above.

Map 22 BLUE GATE FARM, GREAT BROMLEY, ESSEX. (Site C.)

TM08152675. (36 ft; 51 ft.) Beside another brook to the west are two more isolated rings C.A.G. Vol. VI. No. 4.

Map 22 MULLEYS FARM, LITTLE BROMLEY, ESSEX. (Site D.)

TM08852740. (75 ft, approx) Henge (Class II) within a rectangle, The ditch approx 12 ft. C.A.G. VOL. XI. No. 3; F. H. Erith below.

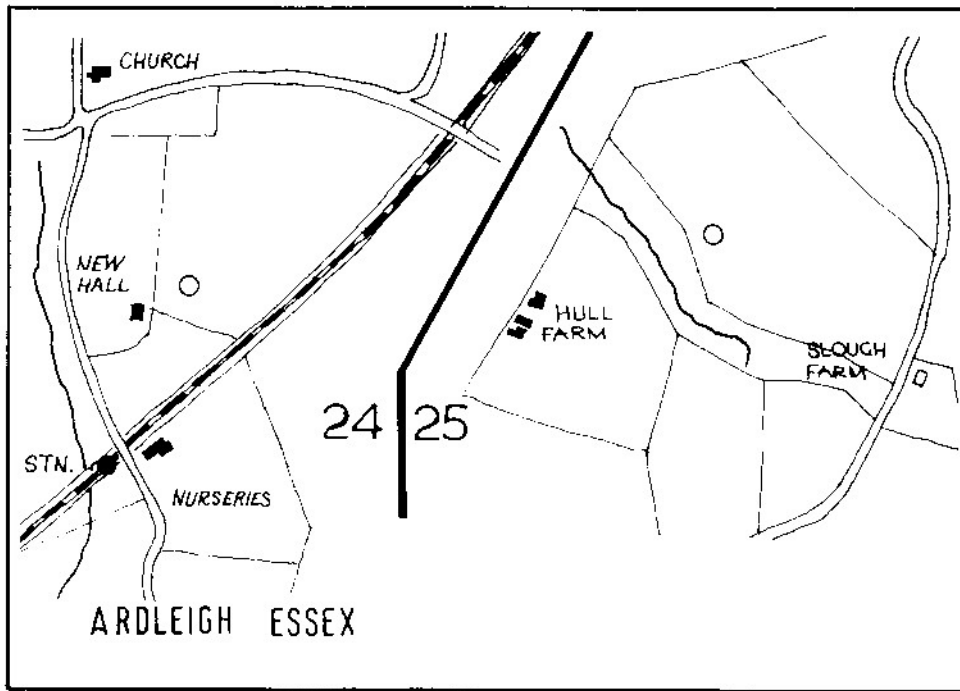


Map 23. VINGES FARM, ARDLEIGH, ESSEX. (Site A.)

- |           |          |   |                |
|-----------|----------|---|----------------|
| TM056284. |          | Site of the great Bronze Age Urnfield. 100 cremations.    | P. P. S. 1960. |
| TM055284. | (24 ft.) | Ring One. Two L.B.A. Urn cremations at the centre.        |                |
| TM055284. | (24 ft.) | Ring Two. Two L.B.A. Urn cremations at the centre.        |                |
| TM055284. | (38 ft.) | Ring Three. L. B. A, Urn at the centre. 27 Cremations     |                |
| TM054284. | (67 ft.) | Ring Four. One central cremation. 3 others. L.B.A sherds. |                |
| TM055285. | (66 ft)  | Ring Five. Not yet excavated.                             |                |
| TM054284. | (31 ft.) | Ring Six. Fragment of B.A, pottery and bone in centre.    |                |
| TM056283. | (25 ft.) | Ring Seven. L.B.A. sherds in circular ditch.              |                |

Map 23. MARTELLS HALL, ARDLEIGH, ESSEX. (Site B.)

- |           |             |              |  |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|--|
| TM054283. | (66 ft.)    | Ring Eight.  | ( For details of all rings on          |
| TM055281. | (33 ft.)    | Ring Nine.   | ( Map 23 see C.A.G. II, No.3. ,        |
| TM051280. | (33 ft.)    | Ring Ten.    | ( III, Nos. 2, 3, 4, IV. Nos. 1, 3, 4, |
| TM053281. | (60/70 ft.) | Ring Eleven. | ( V, Nos.3, VI, Nos. 1,4,              |
| TM053281. | (60/70 ft.) | Ring Twelve. | ( VIII. No. 3, IX, No. 1.              |



Map 24. NEW HALL. ARDLEIGH ESSEX.

TM05502925. (75 ft.) A single ring near the railway line.

Map 25. SLOUGH FARM. ARDLEIGH, ESSEX. (Inset above)

TM04612770. (75 ft.) A single ring south of the Martells gravel pit.

EXTRA SITES NOT ILLUSTRATED BY MAP.

The first site follows on from Map 7 and is at Wiston. (TL959333) See Antiquity 153 (1965) Plate XIVa - Dr. St. Joseph; who describes it as two ring ditches (80-100 ft.) diameter with no less than a dozen small circles clustered nearby. See Maps 19 & 22 (above) for similarities.

The second site follows on from Map 9 and is in the field adjoining to the north. (TL984349) Antiquity 153 (1965) - Dr. St. Joseph; who describes this as a group of seven small circles beside a double ditched barrow.

The last sites are at Great Bromley following Map 22 & were excavated .

Hall Farm (TM08202616) (35 ft.) Barren pits. M. B.A, sherd.

Newhouse Farm (TM07062682) (24 ft. ) Traces of L.B.A, urn at the centre.

C.A.G. VOL. II.No.4. V.No.4, VI. No.4.

Other sites outside the area of this survey will be illustrated at a later date.

In an area of which little prehistory had been recognised before the last decade these discoveries are exciting and stimulating and indicate occupation by ancient civilizations over more than two millenia. It is all the more tragic that, during these past four years, we have noticed increasing erosion by the plough and other human activities, It is to be hoped that these maps will serve not only as a record of ancient history but as a framework to which new discoveries from the air and from the ground may be added and we appeal for help in this so that these important sites may be recorded for posterity not only in the Stour Valley but throughout north-east Essex.

I am most grateful to Mr. Felix Erith for his unfailing encouragement and assistance and for the use of his cropmark maps. My thanks also to the pilots and to Tony Bonner and Arthur Ingram for their photographs and for their ready co-operation.

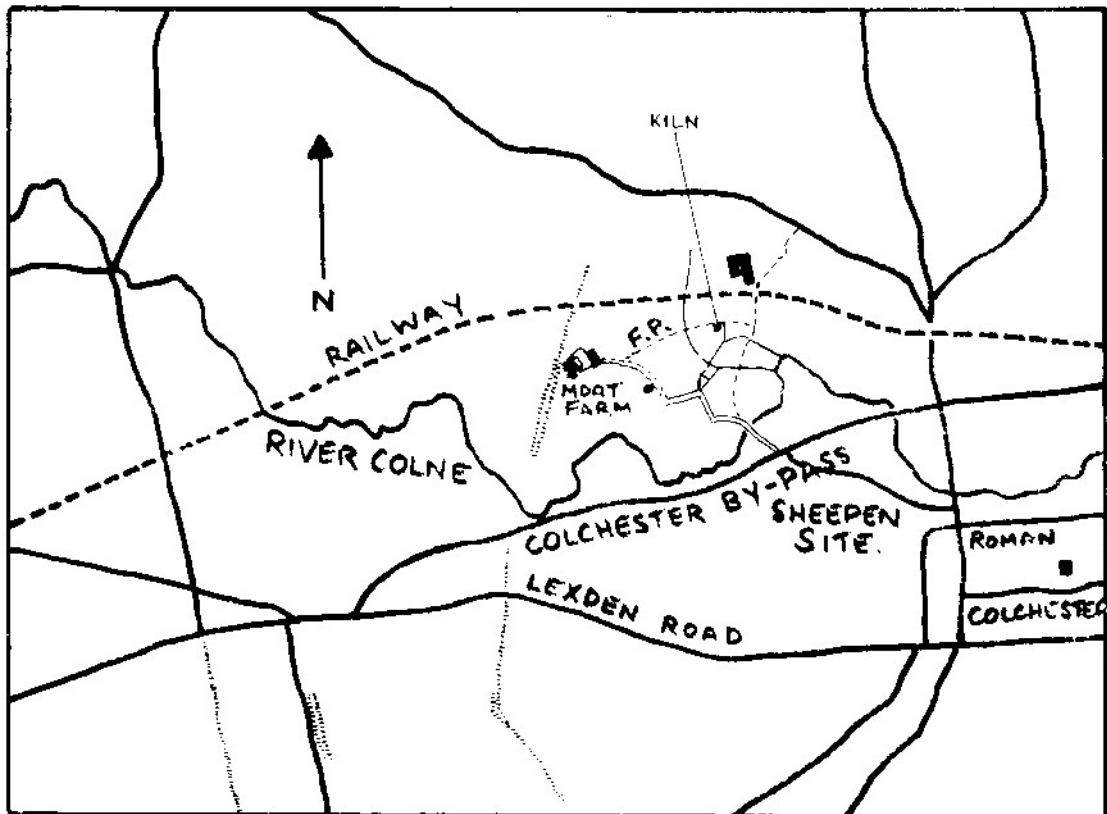


**EXCAVATION OF ROMAN TILE KILNS AT MOAT FARM, LEXDEN, COLCHESTER**  
**1969-70**

P.R. Holbert

INTRODUCTION.

The location of the site is on the northern bank of the River Colne, Map Ref. TL 983264.



On the southern side of the river, and directly opposite is the Sheepen Site excavated 1930-39 (described in Camulodunum, Hawkes and Hull) and currently by Miss B. R. K. Dunnett of the Colchester Excavation Committee.

The tile kilns described in this report together with much surface evidence of other kilns in the immediate area, are certainly part of the same complex, interrupted only by the river flowing west to east.

The initial discovery of the kilns was made by farmer Mr. Bruce Andrews, while ploughing, exposing part of the oven floor in the furrows.

SUMMARY

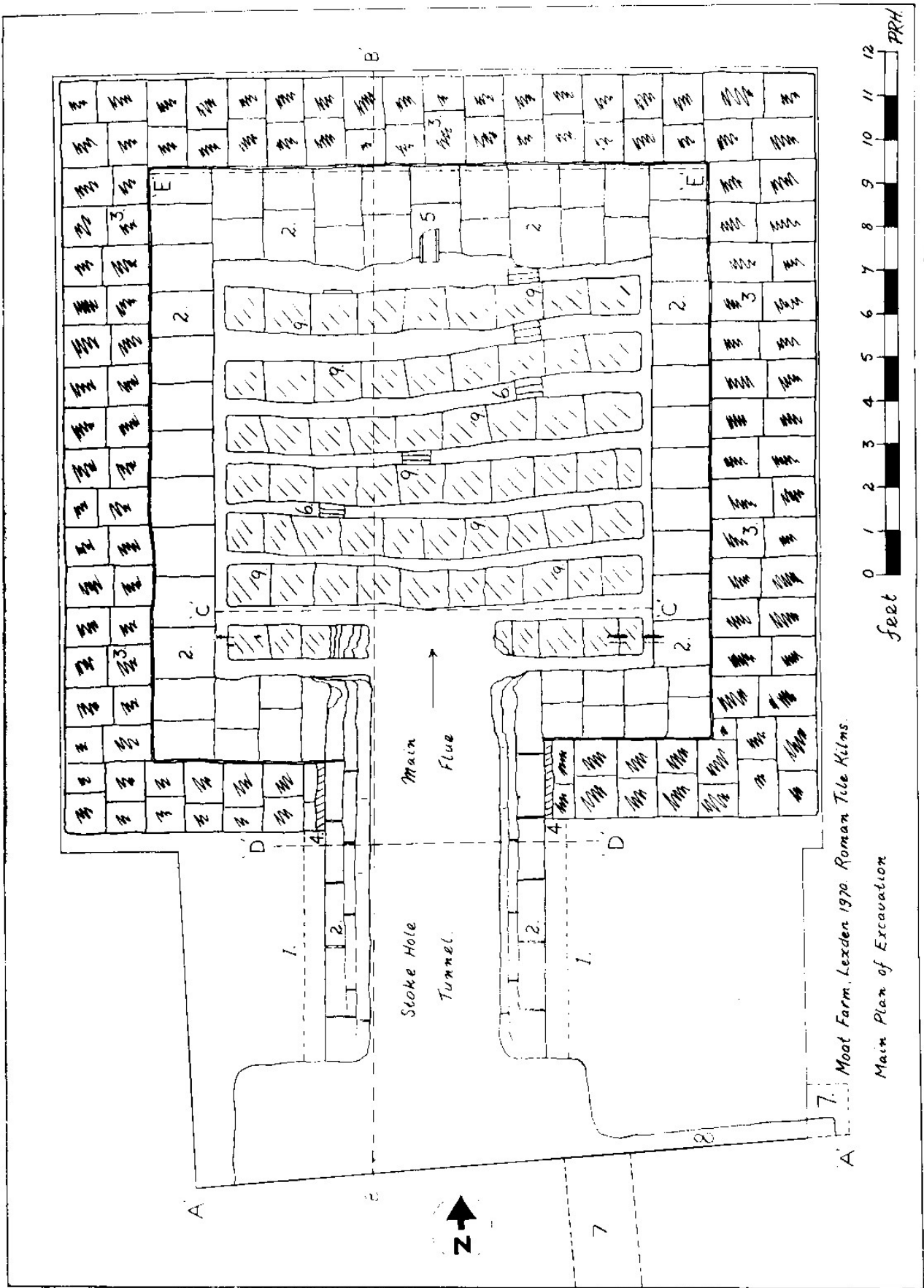
Structural remains of two tile kilns of the Rectangular Up-draught type with sloping bottomed lateral flues.

The earlier kiln had been abandoned, the internal structures removed, and the second, later, kiln built within and against the remaining outer walls of Kiln I,

Dating evidence (pottery only) indicates the latter half of the 1<sup>st</sup> Century A.D.

STRUCTURAL REMAINS

In the interest of continuity, these will be described in the order of excavation, i. e. the later Kiln II coming first.



Kiln II (See Main Plan of Site)

This structure was found to be virtually complete up to and including the oven floor. The oven proper, standing above contemporary ground level had, of course, been lost in antiquity and nothing is known of its probable form.

The Outer Walls (See Main Plan areas marked '2')

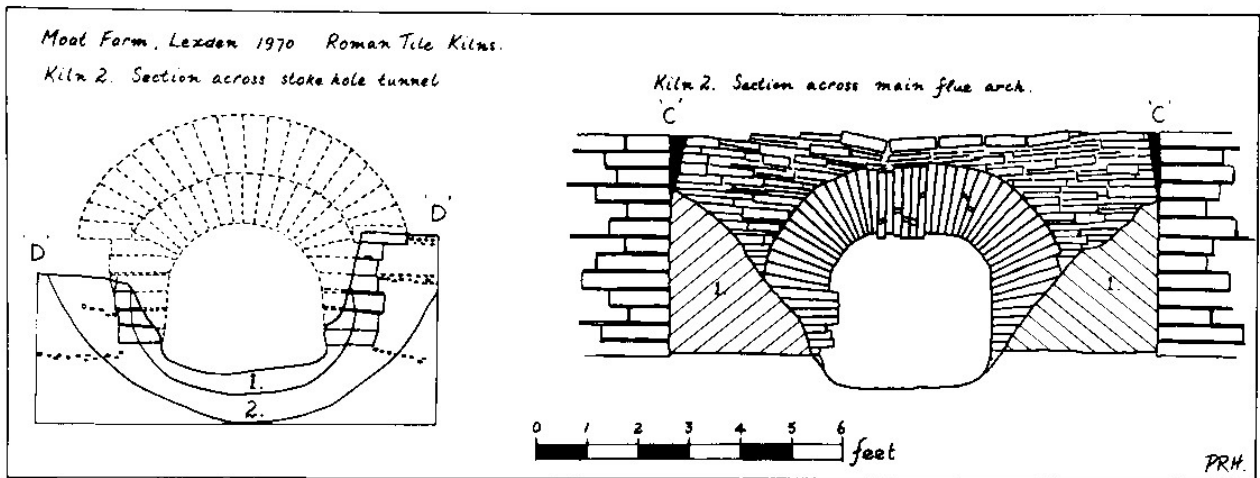
These were built with clay blocks of varying sizes, the average thickness being 3 in, laid in place in the "raw" state, i.e. with no pre-firing, and enclosing a rectangular area 10 ft. x 9 ft. 6 in.

The stoke-hole tunnel, or furnace, also built with clay blocks 19 in. x 3½ in. x 12 in. was of continuous build within these walls.

The Flue Arch walls

Within and across (E - W) this area were built seven transverse flue arch walls (see Main Plan areas marked '9'), forming both support for the oven floor and providing the arches of the main N-- S flue.

The arches were formed with "voussoir" tiles 15 in. x 10 in. tapering from 2¼ in. - 1½ in. in thickness (see section flue-arch wall).



Apart from the arches, these walls were built mainly of roofing tegulae, broken roughly to size by removing the flanges and using these to fill odd gaps, all bedded in daub.

The flue-arch walls were spaced some 6 in. - 8 in. apart, the gap forming the lateral flues with "sloping bottoms" built up with clay. (see section flue arch wall feature marked '1'). These lateral flues were stabilised against distortion by "spacers" consisting of three tiles set vertically at intervals across the kiln. (see Main Plan feature marked '6').

It seems probable that all surfaces of the walls and arches were given a thick coating of daub which had become vitrified by heat during operation, resulting in a thick layer (1 in. - 1½ in.) of fused vitrified material of an attractive green shade.

The Oven Floor

This consisted of a layer of tiles, obviously "purpose made", These tiles were 13 in. x 1½ in. x 2¾ in. thick with a "V" shaped notch at the centre of each long side. Laid, bridging the gaps, with the "V" notches of each tile corresponding with its neighbours, forming a series of square holes over the lateral flues, thus allowing hot gasses to pass into the oven above.

This floor was then covered with several layers of daub, the holes being kept clear and rounded off.

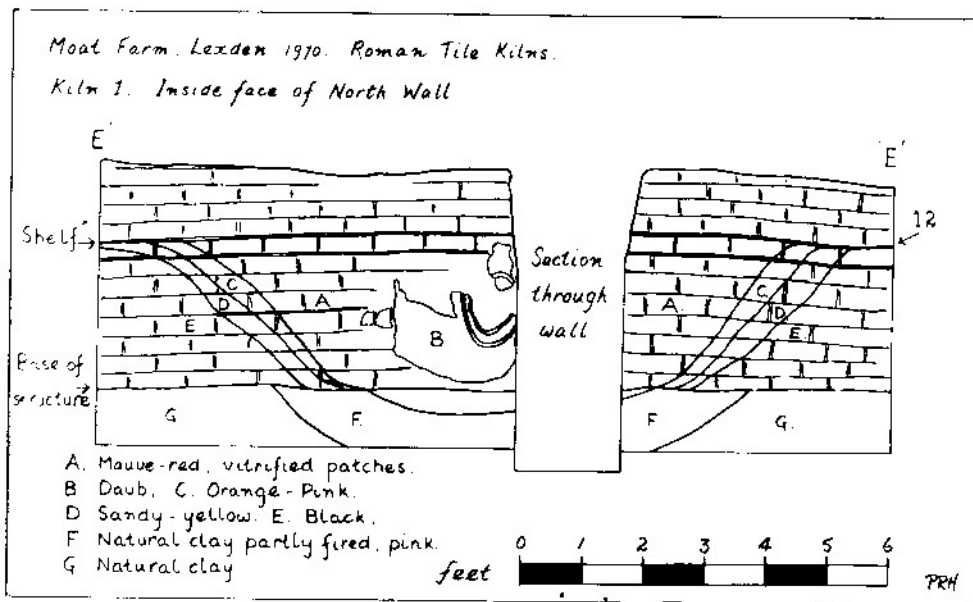
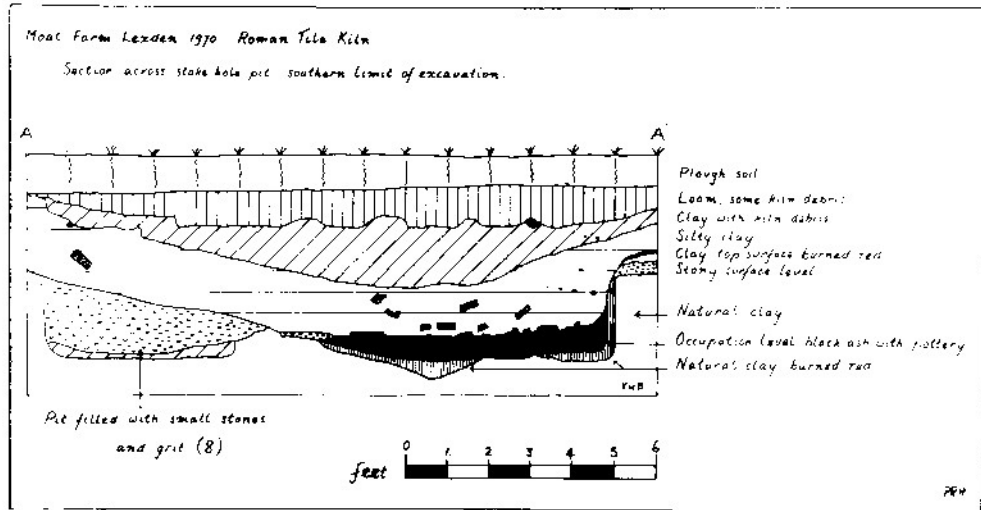
Kiln I

All that remained of this, the earlier kiln, (areas marked "3" Main Plan) were the outer below-ground walls built with clay blocks 3 in. thickness, a common width of 11 in. and of varying length forming a "bond" within the wall.

The clay blocks were of an almost "peaty" consistency and black in colour where not subjected to heat. Where subjected to direct heat the blocks were coloured mauve-red, changing to orange then sandy yellow in areas subjected to conducted heat.

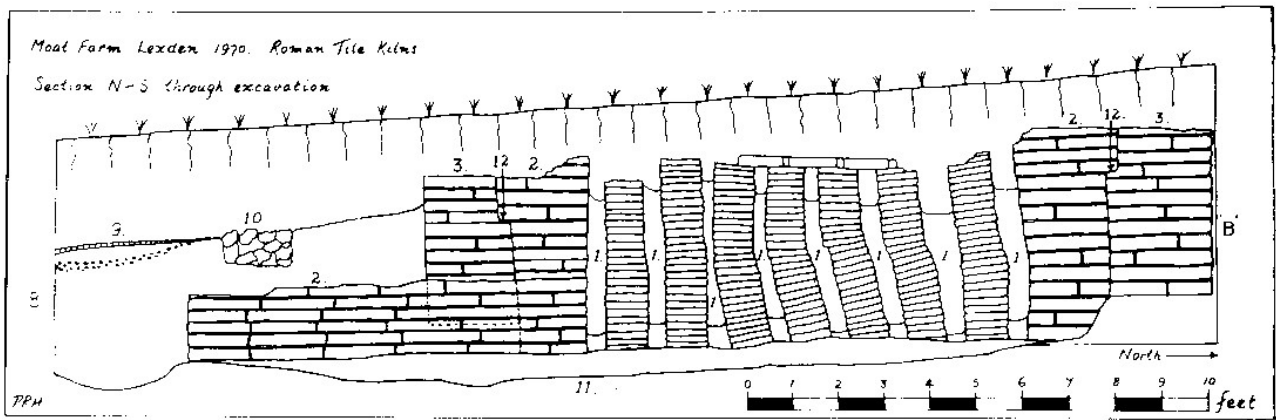
The internal structure and stoke-hole tunnel had been completely removed for the insertion of Kiln II. This second structure being built some 1 ft. deeper into the ground, had effectively destroyed all traces of internal walls and flues.

The one clue confirming that this kiln was of the same type as Kiln II was the clear evidence seen on the inside face of the North rear wall, (see drawing, inner face of North wall Kiln I) indicating the masking effect caused by the presence of "sloping bottomed" flues.



The central area, being exposed to direct heat, was coloured mauve-red with some vitrification of the surface, the line of the sloping bottom was indicated by a sharp diagonal change to orange, then sandy yellow and finally to the black of blocks unaffected by heat. This effect was also noticed at the southern end of the kiln on the short walls flanking the stoke-hole tunnel.

Another significant feature of these end walls of Kiln T was the presence of a 2½ in. - 3 in. "shelf" or ledge, the purpose of which would be to support the oven floor tiles, where they met the walls. (see drawing inside face of N. wall Kiln I marked "Shelf" '12', also section N - S through excavation marked '12').



### The Stoke Hole Pit

For various reasons it was not possible to excavate the stoke-hole pit completely.

This pit, from which the kiln was fired, projected southward and downhill from the mouth of the stoke-hole tunnel. On its floor lay a thick deposit of black wood ash with pottery and tile fragments.

On the Eastern side of the pit a square sided excavation had been made into the bank, which was filled with small stones and grit. (see Main Plan and section, feature marked '8').

A final attempt to define the extent Southward of the stoke-hole pit by driving a 5 ft. long trench into the E - W baulk was unproductive (Main Plan '7').

Sections are lettered 'A' 'B' 'C' 'D' and 'E' and their exact locations are indicated on the Main Plan of Excavation - page 17.

### INTERPRETATION OF THE EVIDENCE

The presence of two kilns, one built within the other, calls for some comment.

The earlier kiln, represented by its outer clay block wall only, appeared to have been used very little as evidenced by the relatively slight amount of discolouration from heat in the clay blocks.

The later kiln, by comparison, had been well used over a long period, as evidenced by the much greater depth of discolouration.

Extensive distortion and partial collapse of the internal structure would lend support to this theory.

This later kiln had apparently been successful.

Why then, was the first kiln abandoned? Two possibilities spring to mind, (1) bad design, (2) bad or unsuitable materials.

The only points of comparison between the two kilns were, of course, in the outer walls, their constituent materials and general proportions.

In the earlier kiln the blocks were very black, almost "cindery" in patches, and appeared to be made of peat rather than clay. This could be the result of using clay taken from too near the surface.

The very low profile of the structure, assuming that the "shelf" did in fact represent the oven floor level, would severely limit the size of the main flue. This, combined with the great area of the floor, (13 ft. 6 in. x 13 ft. approx.), would, I think, make this a very inefficient kiln.

The later kiln, however, had been built 1 ft. deeper into the ground with the floor level some 1 ft. higher. This added depth of structure and the much reduced floor area, (9 ft. 6 in. x 10 ft. approx.), together with flues of adequate size would indicate a kiln of altogether more efficient proportions.

An interesting detail noticed in the later kiln, at the centre of the northern wall, (see Main Plan, feature marked '5'),

was a section of "Imbrice" roofing tile, which together with another laid on top could well have formed a vent connecting the train flue directly to the outside air. It is possible that this was used to provide extra draught when starting the fire, being sealed off once the fuel had "caught" sufficiently for the fire to be sustained by the updraught through the holes in the oven floor.

Another feature, noticed while examining the cleared face of the northern wall of Kiln I, was a patch of daub with a double ring obviously inscribed with a finger tip (see drawing, inner face of N. wall Kiln I, feature marked 'B'). The purpose of this, if any, is not apparent. The fragment of daub being all that remained of a much larger area, there may well have been other inscriptions which became detached at the time of building Kiln II.

The open end of the Stoke-hole tunnel, not being reinforced with tiles must have suffered considerable wear by abrasion during stoking and cleaning out which would mean the necessity for frequent repair.

What may be some evidence of this was a slight change in the levels of the joints for approximately 1 ft, in from the tunnel mouth.

On examination of the section across the tunnel, it will be seen that the arch was incomplete when drawn, the arch blocks being sketched in with dotted lines. The tunnel had collapsed in antiquity with the exception of a short length adjacent to the body of the kiln. Unfortunately this fragment of arch still remaining succumbed to the winter weather 1969-70 but not before it had been photographed and noted.

The drawing can therefore be taken as being substantially accurate.

As already stated, Kiln II had been well used; in fact by the time it was finally abandoned it must have been practically unusable. The main flue arch walls had become distorted, the arch nearest the stoke-hole had collapsed and the other six were in varying stages of partial collapse.

This had upset the oven floor above, the centre of which had subsided by 82 in.

As the floor progressively settled, the central area was built up with layers of daub and fragments of roofing tile in a series of attempts at levelling-up.

Seven layers of this repair work were noted, each layer being 1 in. thick (approx.).

The final layers had, in fact, sealed over some of the holes above the lateral flues; one can only suppose that these had by this time become unserviceable and the operators were using only the central area of the floor.

The form of the actual oven is open to conjecture; this may have been of permanent or semi permanent construction, in shape perhaps "Beehive" or Barrel Vaulted with, of course, some sort of vent or chimney.

Alternatively, it may have been a purely temporary structure as in the pottery kilns, rebuilt for each individual firing. This seems unlikely in a kiln of this large size, the labour involved would seem excessive when a clay block structure that would serve for several firings would appear to be a feasible answer,

The sub-soil of this area consisting of clay, there was no shortage of raw material for tile making. To the east of the kilns at a distance of some 20 yards there is a large depression in the hillside. I have no doubt that this was the source of supply.

Another aspect of this heavy clay soil would be the ready supply of fuel from the surrounding forest.

The kilns described above, apart from differences in detail, conform closely to the standard type of large rectangular up-draught kiln of the Roman period.

This type of kiln has been very fully described in the Report on the Excavations of the Military Establishment at Holt, Denbighshire (W. F. Grimes y Cymmrodor, Vol. XLI 1930).

Another, (although fragmentary) example is described in Transactions of the Worcestershire Arch. Soc. 1963, Vol. XL, New Series, p. 1, at Upper Sandlin Farm, Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire, by P. L. Waters.

As with the Holt kilns, it seems that ours could very well be of Military inspiration. The location, within the native settlement area, together with 1st Century date and building of the nearby Roman town would, I think, point to Roman Military direction and native labour.

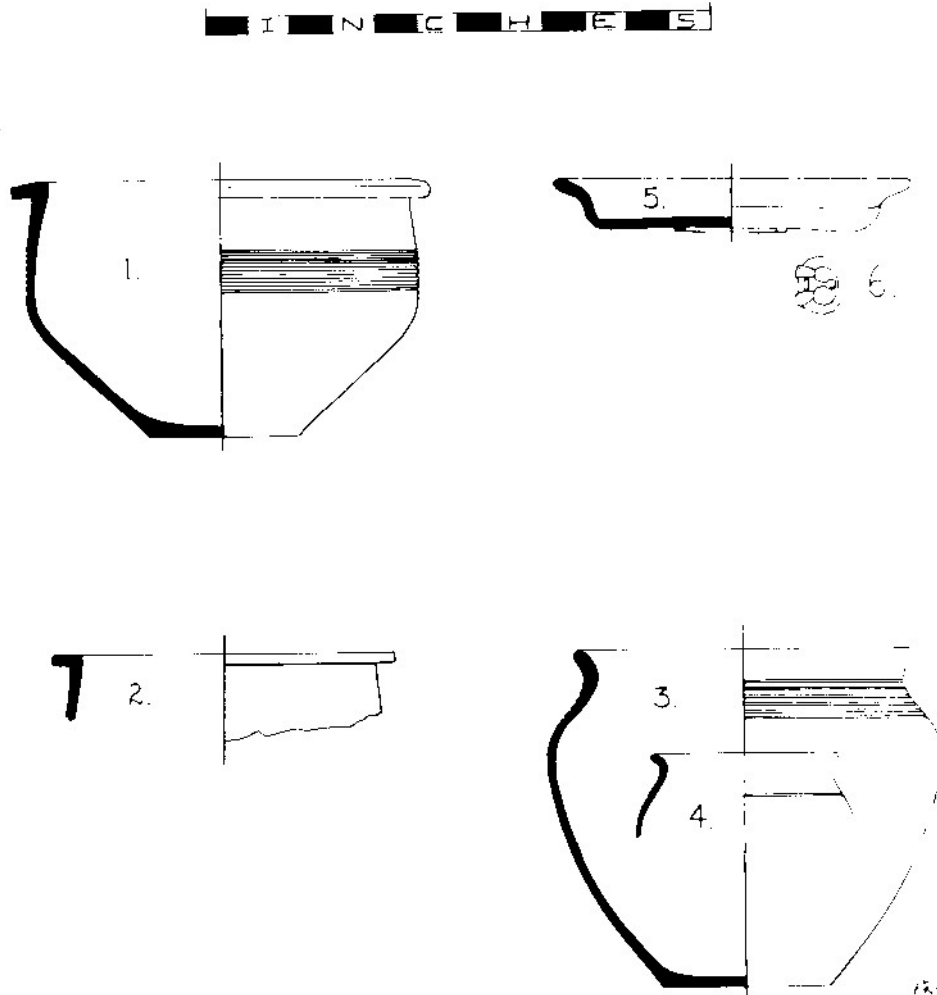
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our sincere thanks are due to Mr. Bruce Andrews, both for the use of the site and his co-operation and interest throughout the duration of the dig.

Thanks are also due to the C.A.G. members who undertook the "hard graft" without which an operation of this kind could not take place.

Finally, to Mr. M. R. Hull, M.A., F.S.A., for his interest and valuable advice.

APPENDIX



The Pottery

- (1) Similar to Form 243 (Hawkes and Hull Camulodunum), thick sandy red ware. Flat everted rim drooping,
- (2) Similar to above, thinner ware.
- (3) Form 267A (H. & H. Cam,) tile red sandy ware, several examples.
- (4) Similar to above, much thinner ware, single ring base of neck.
- (5) Platter in coarse grey ware (possible waster),
- (6) Small bronze brooch (in rubbish deposit, main flue).

Several fragments of Mortaria Form 192 (not illustrated) (H. & H. Cam fig. 53. 22-24).

Additional Notes on Plans and Sections.

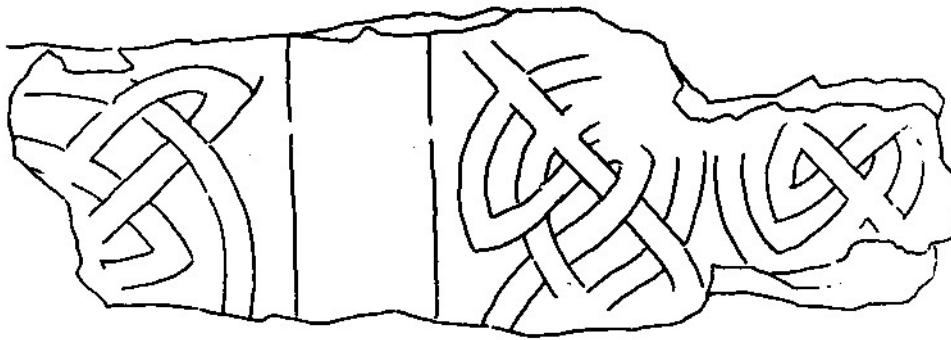
Main Plan of Excavation. Feature marked '1' Arch blocks extend to this line above 6th, course, (see also Section across stoke-hole tunnel. Kiln II), Feature marked '4'. Gap between outer wall Kiln I and stoke-hole tunnel Kiln II filled with daub and rubbish.

Section N- S through Excavation. Feature marked '9', 1st Century ground surface burned red where hot ashes deposited. Feature marked '10'. Pit filled with lumps of daub, possible post-hole. Feature marked '11'. Lowest level flue floor.

Section across stoke-hole tunnel Kiln II. Feature marked '1'. Clay floor and blocks burned black to this line. Feature marked '2'. Clay coloured red to this line.

**ANGLO-SAXON CARVING FROM WEST MERSEA CHURCH**

H.M. Carter



The stone fragment represented above was found embedded in the rubble of the 14<sup>th</sup> century return wall of the south aisle of West Mersea church. It was not very apparent except in the late morning when the sun reached it from one side and picked out the pattern. It has been cut out and placed in the church.

It appears to be of Oolitic limestone. It is worked flat on the reverse, but not finished, and is 52 inches thick. This suggests an architectural enrichment or a coffin lid rather than a free-standing cross.

Such work is rare in Essex. The Report of the Royal Commission notes four incised stones to have survived from the Anglo-Saxon period, of which only one has the characteristic interlacing ornament.

It was hoped that an expert appreciation, which might have a bearing on the early history of the church, might have been obtained in time for this issue of the Bulletin, but this must wait until the end of the postal strike.



## THE LEVELLED LONG BARROWS

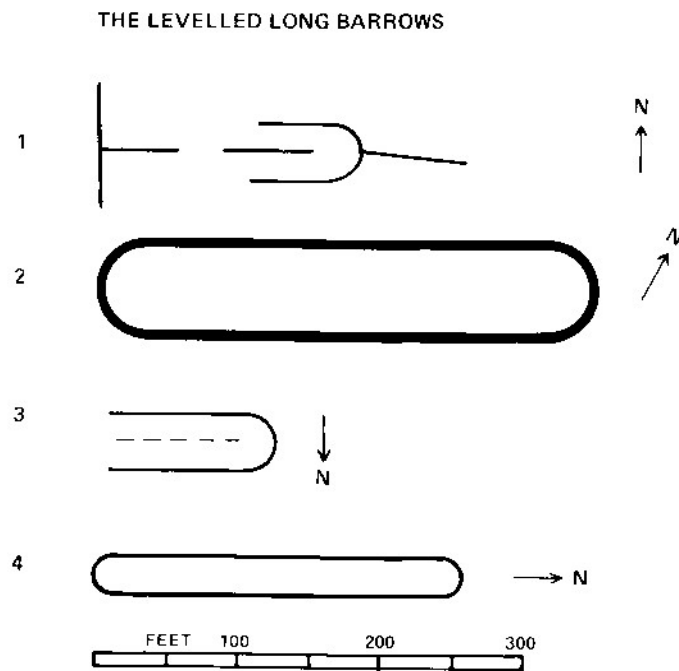
F.H. Erith F.S.A.

Long Barrows have not so far been recorded in either Essex or Suffolk. According to "The Earthen Long Barrow in Britain" by Paul Ashbee (just published) the nearest are at Ditchingham, Norfolk, and Royston, Herts.

The results of last year's air photography revealed four instances of cropmarks resembling the shape of ditches dug around long barrows in other areas. If these cropmarks had been found isolated it would hardly be enough evidence to claim them as being Long Barrows, but when they are found in association with other Neolithic and Bronze Age features, such as henges, cursuses and groups of ring-ditches, then there can be little doubt of their original purpose.

The flatness of the land in which they lie is evidence that they were levelled by hand and not by the plough, as were the round barrows.

Of the four sites listed below the first two were discovered by George Curtis and the other two by Ida McMaster.



1. LAWFORD
2. STRATFORD - ST. MARY
2. STOKE - BY - NAYLAND
4. BURES ST. MARY

1. Lawfordhouse Farm., Lawford. Length from top of the "T" to the curve of the "U" - 60 paces. The arms of the "U" 14 paces apart. Associations: Cursus and two ring-ditches within 60 yards.
2. Stratford Hall Farm, Stratford St. Mary. Length 115 paces, width 25 paces (from middle of cropmarks), Width of ditch as shown by more flourishing corn - 7 feet. (Our thanks to Andrew Barrie, the farmer, who took these measurements during combining operations). Associations: 3 large and one huge ring ditch in the same field. Henge half a mile up the hill.
3. Tendring Hall Farm, Stoke -by-Nayland, by "Cockey Hatch", Length about 130 feet, estimated from photograph. Association: between three large ring-ditches,
4. Smallbridge Hall Farm, Bures St. Mary. By the sewage works. Length 210 feet as estimated from photograph. Associations: Parallel lines (cursus?) intersect this feature at an angle of 100 degrees. A ring-ditch is between the parallel lines to the east.

## THE LAWFORD NEOLITHIC COMPLEX

F. H. Erith F.S.A.

The 1970 drought revealed four new ring-ditches in the Lawford area, besides some other features of the Neolithic period which should be considered in association with four other Neolithic sites discovered in the last twelve years. See Map below.

Site A. Tye Field. Circular enclosure with two entrances. Diameter about 40 paces. Excavated by Bryan Blake, but not yet published. Substantial amounts of Neolithic pottery were recovered.

Site B. Grange Farm. Large oval enclosure with one or two narrow entrances. Longest diameter 58 paces. The interior is elevated 3 or 4 feet. To the N. E, is a depression of about 3 feet bounded by a slight ditch mark. Dark patches suggest silted-up pits. First seen in wheat in 1959. Again visible one' afternoon in October 1970 in sugar beet; The ditch, six feet thick, defined by flourishing beets and the rest of the field with wilted beets. We are grateful to Mr. Marter, farm manager, for allowing us to inspect. (C.A.G. Bulletin VOL. II No. 3, Sept 1959, p. 32).

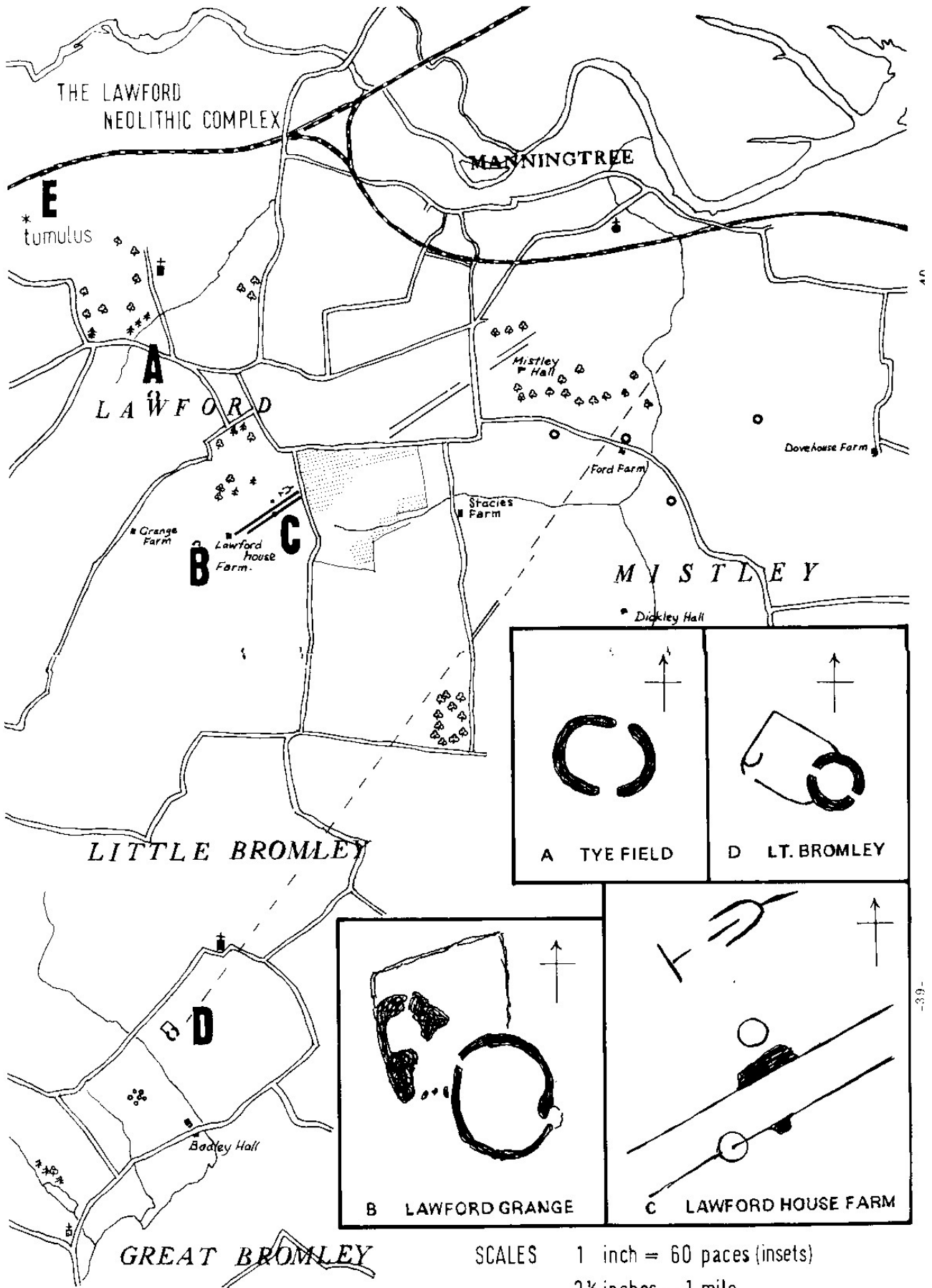
Site C. Lawfordhouse Farm. Cursus of two parallel lines twenty paces apart, clearly connected with and leading towards Site B. A ring-ditch straddles the southern line, and another is a few yards to the north of the northern line. Both are 13 paces in diameter. Flourishing corn along side the cursus ditches suggest silted-up pits. The cursus was seen (more faintly) to continue N. F. up to Mistley Hall where corn was growing, but in the parkland no cropmark could be expected. About 50 paces to the north of the northern ring-ditch was a feature which may represent a levelled long barrow. This measured 60 paces in length and 14 paces wide,

Site D. Little Bromley Henge. This Class 2 Henge Monument with enclosure was described in the C.A.G. Bulletin VOL., XI, No. 3 (Sept. 1968). One of last year's discoveries was a hundred-yard stretch of parallel lines (10 paces apart) to the west of Dickley Hall. Across the road to the S. W, the field was pasture, so no cropmark would show. However if the track were extended in a straight line it would lead near Little Bromley church to the Henge at Site D. And if extended the other way, to the N. E, it would go by Ford Farm to the Stour estuary at Mistley, at about the same spot as the cursus at Site C. would if similarly extended.

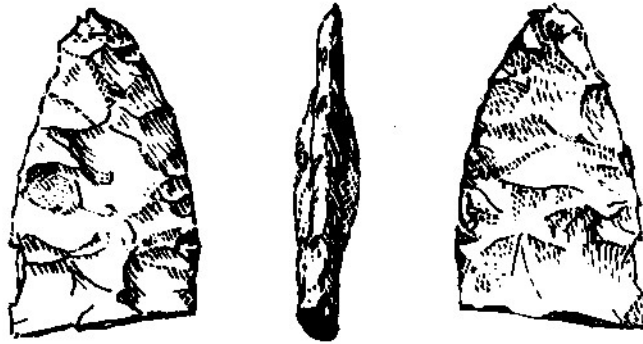
Other Sites. Tumulus W. of Lawford Hall. (Site E.) Excavated about 1810, and two (unspecified) urns recovered. C. A. G. Bulletin III No. 2, p. 24. T Tumulus N. of Ford Farm, Mistley. Has an elevation of six feet and is planted with Scotch firs. Many times dug into from the top.

Ring-ditch N, E, of Stacies Farm. Est. 100 feet diameter. Ring-ditch S, E, of Ford Farm. Est. 25 paces diameter. Ring-ditch by old gravel-pit W, of Dovehouse Farm. Est. 100 feet diameter.

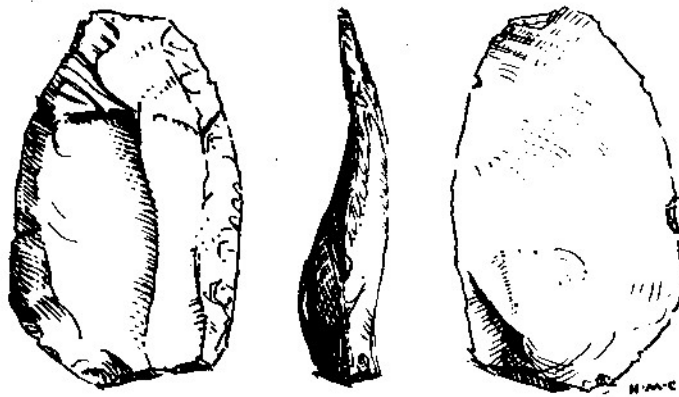
Group of six ring-ditches at Badley Hall, Great Bromley (and probably more in adjacent fields), and should belong to the same complex as the Little Bromley Henge. A collared urn was extracted from the centre of the largest of these when sugarbeet was showing the ring. C. A. G. Bulletin VOL. VII No. 4 (1964) Ring-ditch S. of Great Bromley Hall. Excavated in 1959. Nothing in centre, but cord-impressed pottery in the circular ditch. C. A.G.II No. 4.p.42 (1959) A collared urn was discovered when making foundations for a house in California Road, Mistley in 1912. Probably from a ring-ditch. Colchester Museum Report, 1913. p.10.



TWO FLINT KNIVES



KNIFE A.

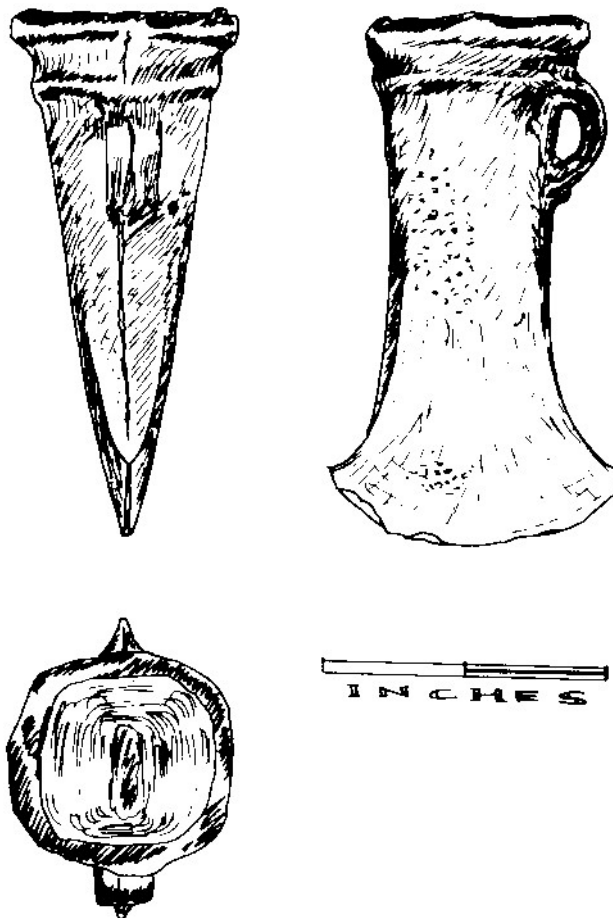


KNIFE B.

The two flint knives illustrated above are both Neolithic (c.2500-2000 BC), and are much alike although they come from opposite ends of the county. Knife A was found in 1943 by Mr. R, M, C. Jones in his back garden at Herds Pasture, Mount Bures, (TL91033253) which is only a hundred yards from where the Neolithic pick was found. (C.A.G.VOL.XIII No. 2). Knife B was picked up in a ploughed field at Lodge Farm, Brightlingsea, by the owner, Mr. John Girling (TM077174). The land here borders the marshes and there are many Red Hills in the vicinity. This knife is unusually pale in colour, almost white, and most of the fine serrations on the edge are still intact. We are grateful to Mr. Jones and Mr. Girling for allowing us to reproduce both these knives.

**A BRONZE AXE FROM MISTLEY**

D. M. Chesterfield



The axe illustrated above was picked up during Autumn cultivations on land farmed by Mr. G. H. Greenwood of Mistley (TM123312). The weight of the axe head is 7½ ozs. and the condition is very good. The land is moderately light with a gravel subsoil and there are cropmarks in the vicinity.

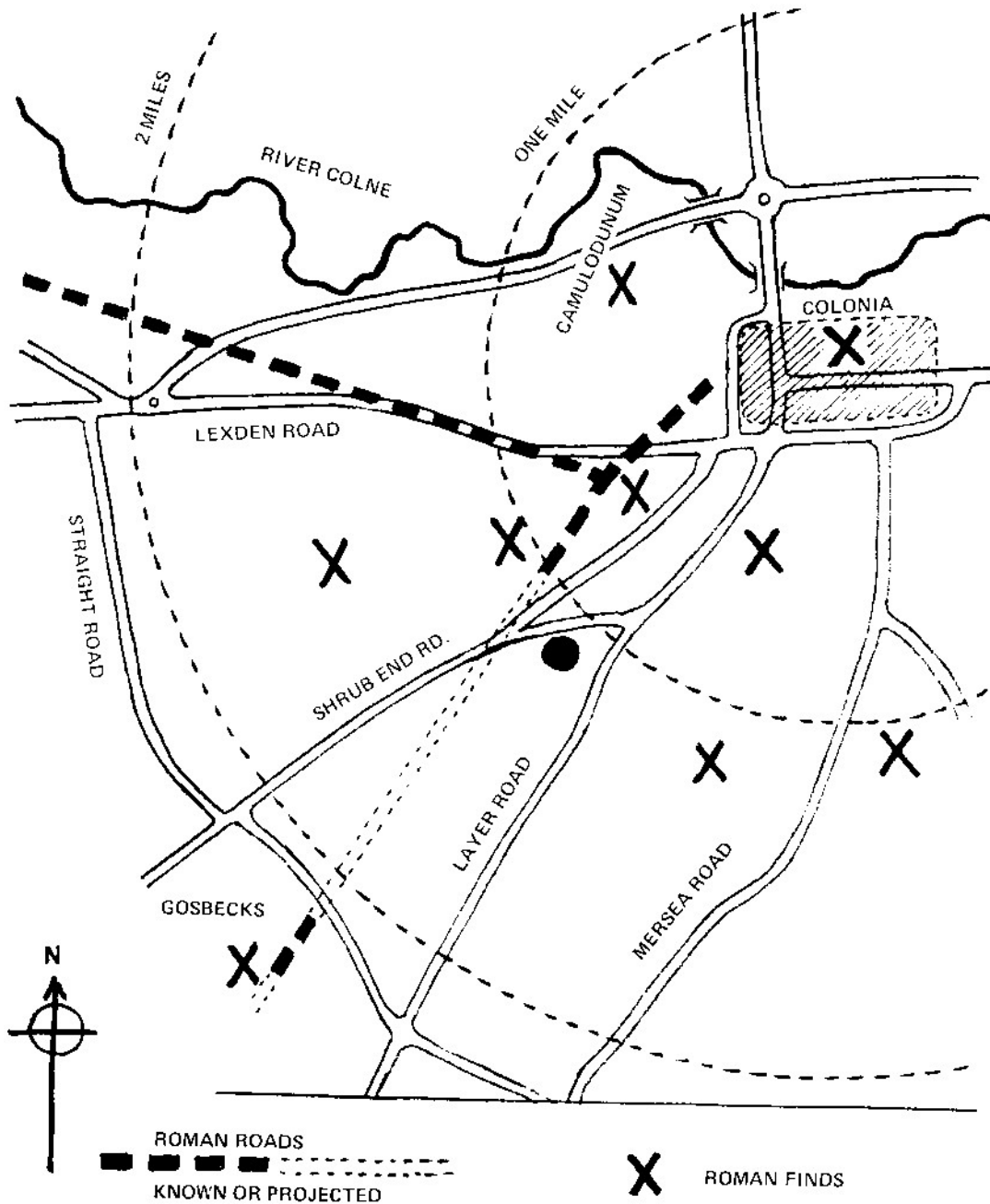
**ROMANS AT THE BOTTOM OF MY GARDEN?**

R. W. Palmer

When I came to live in Colchester about five years ago at 41 Gladwin Road, I noticed in the garden a general scattering of pieces of tile, some of which could be Roman. In due course of cultivation I dug up a considerable concentration at one point at the end of the garden to a depth of 2-3 feet. The raspberries that I planted there soon died and were thrown away on the compost heap with copious weeds. Two years later when sieving compost generally I found a Roman coin in quite good condition. It is of bronze or similar metal, about three quarters of an inch in diameter. Although the lettering is difficult to decipher, the emperor's features are remarkably clear. On reverse is a female figure holding a tall staff in her right hand and something indistinguishable in her left. The coin has been identified as that of Aurelianus, emperor in A. D. 270 - 275. But does not this coarse pottery and the coin merely denote that I have a modern dump of rubbish that could have come from anywhere in the Colchester area?

On consulting such publications as Hull's "Roman Colchester" it would seem that in the records of excavation within a two mile radius of the Colonia there is a narrow wedge to the southwest, roughly between Shrub End Road and

Layer Road which has been sadly neglected. . This sketch shows by crosses the major Roman finds, and the circle shows where I live. It will also be seen that a Roman road is believed to cross this neglected sector, leading to the temple and theatre at Gosbecks Farm. Could it be that my find is a clue to Roman occupation in this area? Most of the finds to the southwest of the town have been burials, so there really might be Romans at the bottom of my garden.



R.W.P. 1971

Unfortunately this is a closely built-up residential area where excavation would be inconvenient to say the least but I suppose one day I ought to invite the Colchester Archaeological Group to have a proper dig and wreck the end of my garden plus the rough orchard next door. At least I have done my duty in putting my clue on record.

## A RAILWAY MUSEUM AT CHAPPEL

J. G. Parish.

The Stour Valley Railway Preservation Society was formed in 1968 to retain all or part of the former Great Eastern Railway's Stour Valley branch from Shelford, near Cambridge, to Sudbury. This section of railway had been out of use since 6<sup>th</sup> March 1967. The society aimed to recreate the atmosphere of an East Anglian branch-line in the days of steam trains. It took members of the society over a year to find out that the purchase price of £441, 000 for the track, land and buildings, could not be raised by lotteries, raffles or by private appeal! A subsequent scheme to preserve the 4-mile section from Sudbury to Long Melford also foundered on financial grounds. However, at the end of last year the society obtained the tenancy of the station booking hall buildings, goods yard and shed at Chappel and Wakes Colne station on the Marks Tey to Sudbury section of the Stour Valley branch. A passenger train service is still operating on this section, but closure proposals are expected to take effect later this year. The society has recently relaid the railway track in Chappel goods yard. Eventually, it is hoped to purchase a section of the running line either across Chappel viaduct towards Marks Tey or in the opposite direction to Bures following cessation of the British Rail service.

The viaduct across the River Colne at the end of Chappel station was the largest civil engineering work on the former Great Eastern Railway system. Work was commenced in the latter part of 1846 and completed early in 1849. The viaduct has 30 brick arches each with 35ft. span and its maximum height is 75ft. It is hoped that the viaduct will be preserved after the railway closes.

Some progress has been made towards the formation of a railway museum. Two steam tank locomotives, "Gunby" and "Juniper", have arrived and another is expected. The Felixstowe Dock Company have offered a 7-ton steam crane on permanent loan. "Gunby" has already been steamed and has been running in the goods yard. Built in 1941 it worked for a while for the L. N. E. R. in the Midlands before being sold to Stewarts and Lloyds, the steel manufacturers. Since dieselization took place earlier in East Anglia than elsewhere, only six Great Eastern Railway steam locomotives have been preserved. Three have been purchased; by other preservation societies and two are in Clapham Railway Museum, so that some hard bargaining will be required to bring one of these locomotives to Chappel to add to the "Great Eastern" atmosphere. However, the station buildings are the original and plans have been made to restore the signal box to working order as at the time of the Great Eastern Railway. The first public "Open Day" is planned for the Whitsun weekend.

## WINTER MEETINGS 1970/71

The winter meetings of the Group at Colchester Museum began on Monday October 19<sup>th</sup> 1970 with a lecture by Mr. B. K. Davison, B.A., F.S.A., Inspector of Ancient Monuments, entitled "Castles of the Conquest and their Background". "Ever since 1066 writers have endeavoured to find reasons as to how we could possibly have been beaten by the Normans" said Mr. Davison. Apparently their secret weapon seemed to have consisted simply of a tall earth mound on top of which was a wooden tower on very high stilts like legs, leaving room between the actual tower and the top of the mound for combat. True Motte and Bailey castles with solidly constructed stone keeps and curtain walls came later. Prototypes for the earth mounds and stone castles could be seen in Normandy but records which referred to these were sometimes rather puzzling. For example when an actual site was visited there seemed in several instances to have been two alternative earth works or castle mounds. Which, in fact, was the site meant in the record? Of nineteen Normandy castles recorded in documents before 1066, twelve had been destroyed and only seven survived. It was interesting to hear that some of these earliest sites had been superimposed upon prehistoric promontory forts as at the Montgomery/Belleme castle. It was at Falaise Castle that Robert, Duke of Normandy, first saw the lovely Heleva doing her washing in the stream below. He was so enamoured that he abducted her to the castle where she became his mistress and the mother of William the Conqueror. Visitors are now shown the window from which he is supposed to have seen her. Unfortunately this castle was not built for at least two centuries later, which may spoil the romance for some visitors! It took two years for Duke William to whittle out his uncle William from the strong Arques la Bataille fortress in Seine Maritime, but the first wooden tower mounds in England were not meant to sustain long sieges - only quick attacks before the enemy was forced to travel on for greater encounters. Some of the mottes belonging to great landowning barons seemed surprisingly small or inadequate and could perhaps be considered temporary holding points after the main wave of the battle had passed; such appeared the case at Hastings for instance. Both Dover Castle and the Tower of London were built in the corners of older fortified encampments and this was common for such Anglo/Norman works before 1068. Perhaps the extensive revolts at that time against William the Conqueror led to the invention of the more heavily and stronger fortified Motte and Bailey castles as we know them today.

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October Dr. D. F. Petch, B.A., F.S.A., Curator of the Grosvenor Museum, Chester, lectured on recent excavations there. A large area of what is to be the new Civic Centre was excavated over a period of three years. The squares method was used and eventually many of the balks were removed to prove uncertainties. Mr. Petch had

decided that minimum trench excavations were unsuccessful in so large a complex of the Roman fortress buildings such as he had at Deva (Chester). Building ranges with wide doorways appeared to be workshops and part of a sizeable inscription of a medical nature, similar to one found nearby, perhaps pointed to the site of a hospital. Barrack buildings underlaid by slot trenches indicated earlier military occupation. The legionary Legate's house had no early timber foundations and appeared for some reason not to reach completion in its first construction although later was of substantial size. Mr. Petch showed excellent slides of slot trenches with new rubble walls clearly inserted along their run. Each barrack room had its own hearth for cooking and most important of all, the Headquarters building 330 feet long was seen to house a religious shrine (the Sycellum) which would have contained the Roman Eagle and other military standards. This was indicated by two inverted column capitals which obviously were used for the base of an altar; beside them was a curious sandstone drum. Unearthed also was a fine lead water pipe which appeared incredibly preserved for so ancient a date. With such similarity to Colchester, it seems vital that an extensive excavation should be made before our Town Centre plan is implemented.

Dr. John Coles, who was appointed Director of Studies to the heir to the throne when Prince Charles was entered for Cambridge University, lectured on 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Judging by the interest of Dr. Coles's discourse on experimental archaeology there must have been much to show the Prince of the great care which is taken to copy primitive techniques both of material and conditions in order to simulate exact prehistoric conditions. The value to future excavation cannot be overestimated if the kind of life and living is already an illuminated impression. In Denmark particularly, experiments in forest clearing with flint axes, took exactly twice the time per acre per man as present day hand clearance with steel axes etc. Land which had been subsequently burnt off several times and planted with prehistoric types of grain produced a better crop in the first year than land which had been simply broken up with sticks and flint implements. The second year proved not nearly so fertile. An interesting experiment in England to cook a 10lb. joint of mutton in a clay lined pit, using preheated stones from a nearby fire in order to keep the water at simmering point was an unexpected success - the meat was clean and tasty. This had been modelled on finds from an excavation which seemed to point to a butcher's enclosure and contained hearth, pit, post holes etc. Actual habitation of fabricated mud and reed huts had been undertaken. Corn storage in chalk pits, and turf sealed, was most successful either with or without basket linings, providing the seal was not broken by rodents. Scythes, shields (both leather and bronze) were fabricated and tested; oxen trained to pull the wooden ploughs; even great stones were hauled, transported on floats and rollers, and erected with blocks and pulleys, but on Easter Island the huge top-knot stones weighing several tons which were placed on the heads of the statues were the final crunch - no one could think how to do that by experiment today! Dr. Coles's tape recordings of the various prehistoric trumpets etc. unearthed from European museums could form a subject on their own. Most interesting from our point of view was his finding that huts which were allowed to decay would produce an appearance of having been burnt simply because they were already smoke blackened by indoor hearths.

Norman Scarfe, of Shell guides fame, lectured on 9<sup>th</sup> November on "Local Building Traditions in Essex". Apparently we have some of the most varied building materials in Britain, ranging from Roman brick and septaria to timber, flint, Kentish ragstones and modern brick, not to mention occasional use of pudding-stone conglomerate. Glittering square cut flint flushwork at Fingringhoe church, beautiful 13<sup>th</sup> century timber framed bell towers such as Navestock and Hanningfield, the 13<sup>th</sup> century stone hall plus added portions of Little Chesterfield manor house were all buildings of which Essex could be proud. Ten aisled houses dating mostly from the 14<sup>th</sup> century have been revealed during the last ten years. Baythorne Hall at Birdbrook being an outstanding example. The intricate jewelled flintwork of Cinder Hall in Saffron Walden looked perhaps the nicest 18<sup>th</sup> century "folly" ever conceived. The moated farmsteads of Essex were depicted by sites such as Claverings. Victorian pargetting at Radwinter vicarage was shown. Records of the 16<sup>th</sup> century indicate that only two or three houses in the village possessed chimneys at that time. A status symbol effect of fake square cut stonework was exhibited on a 17<sup>th</sup> century -plastered house with attractive result. Exposed timbers on a magnificent family mansion at Pebmarsh pronounced sure doom for its ancient woodwork. Plaster covering is the best preservative for old beams. Crinkle-crinkle walls of Suffolk were of great interest, only some half a dozen being extant in Essex. The presence of so many of these walls in Yarmouth and Gorleston pointed to Dutch influence where there was known to be similar work. Norfolk had roughly half a dozen, Hampshire the same whilst Suffolk could claim no less than eighty-six. Most of them were late 18<sup>th</sup> century with the earliest perhaps at Heveringham.

On 16<sup>th</sup> November Dr. O. Rackham defined the clues which allowed him to differentiate between ancient woodlands of East Anglia - those present since primeval days (or what remained from those days) and secondary woodlands, usually defined as those planted since the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. Flowers and tree species were the main features, whilst the most ancient woodlands are always on boulder clay. Dog's mercury and butterfly orchid were a great pointer to ancient plantations and the former grew more particularly on the ridges of old ridge and furrow ploughing which could sometimes be seen clearly in woodland for this reason. Written records might be of great assistance in the problem, of course, whilst aerial photography often revealed old banked and ditched mediaeval woodlands which have long since been arable land. And conversely in present woodland could often be seen the more recent planting of a "laund" - originally a clearing in a wood. Heavy type of woodland was described as containing oak, ash and hazel whilst light woodland had oak, lime and birch. The presence of spurge laurel and trailing ivy mostly denotes a



secondary wood, also primroses, while oxlips are characteristic of the heavy type. An interesting block of wood taken from the structure of Merton College (Oxford) could be seen to have come from the small acorn sown primary trunk of a tree. In Ely Cathedral could be seen also sixteen beams supporting the Lantern Tower; these forty foot long trunks had grown to produce crowns of only nine inches diameter, some of which were not quite long enough for the intended purpose. This seemed to prove a shortage of timber even in mediaeval times. The Anglo-Saxons were known to have cut much timber in East Anglia and carried on trade in that commodity. Pig keeping on acorns had died out by the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century rather proving there were not enough oaks left: Three quarters of the woodland in Norfolk had become farmland since Mediaeval times. The lovely Bradfield Woods near Bury St. Edmunds had half disappeared since 1967 but the process is now halted by a trust. It was a sobering thought that some fourteen hundred oaks, the size of telegraph poles went to the making of Corpus Christi College alone and this would have required eight to nine hundred acres of woodland to produce it.

Mr. Nicholas Coldstream, on November 23<sup>rd</sup> lectured on the Minoan Eruption of Thera. The great volcanic shell of Thera which before the vast 1500 B.C., eruption was a sizeable chunk of land in the Mediterranean has at long last commenced to give up its archaeological features. The main difficulty to serious investigation has, of course, been the fifteen feet layer of crumbly pumice stone on top of which is no less than one hundred feet of white ash. The 1883 eruption of Krakatoa, another volcano, though causing enormous damage over a vast area, can only have been a mere flea-bite in comparison to the holocaust caused by the explosion to the centre of Thera. Where originally lay a high, cone-shaped island, was now the remaining outer shell of one half of it. The other half consisting of a few tiny islands with the ocean filling what used to be the central island mass. In the centre of this infilling tract of sea has risen, once more from volcanic action, the new island of Nea Kameni. During the last century with erosion of cliff faces has come the first evidence of early Bronze Age living. Also a natural cleft running into the sea has proved to be the site of a considerable Minoan type town on the south west peninsula. Finds have ranged from an olive press, black lava millstone, handsome bronze dagger with inlaid gold decorations of tiny axes, a chalice, graffiti and of course numerous examples of lovely Minoan pots, one beautiful one with a design of swallows. Evidence pointed to there being vast-earthquake action before the time of the eruption and this appeared to have been the case on the island of Crete which apparently suffered considerably from the same force waves. Fine white ash from Thera has been traced across a vast distance on the ocean bed but travelled apparently more towards the south east. Probably the best book on the subject is that by J. V. Lukes although the author seems to be obsessed with the problem of "Atlantis".

Dr. J. M. Walker, on November 30<sup>th</sup>, lectured on Rock Art, Excavations and Fieldwork in South East Spain. There are some 120 rock shelter painting sites in Spain alone which contain prehistoric paintings, mostly of animal form. Between the end of the last glaciation and the Neolithic period our forefathers, over this long period, decorated various inaccessible niches and it seems astonishing that several appeared to be open to the elements. How the paintings have survived under these circumstances - in one case very close to the entrance - seems very odd. One excellent painting probably representing the Megaceros stag, which carried really huge antlers, was unexpected because these animals' remains have not so far been uncovered in Spain although well documented in northern Scotland and Scandinavia. Dr. Walker was interested in the change from naturalistic to Levantine type art and some of the figures had, by a layman's sight, to be viewed with the eye of faith. Excavation in one particular small cave uncovered layers of several different floor levels and was presumed from the 60,000 odd flint core wasters to be a tool making site. Out of these, only about 60 of the flints were found to be actually worked. Unfortunately a derailment on the main railway line drastically curtailed this interesting lecture.

On 7<sup>th</sup> December Dr. J. P. Wild of the University of Manchester lectured on the Roman Industries of the Nene Valley. This important centre of the Roman pottery industry stretched from Wansford to Peterborough and was guarded by a fort at Water Newton through which passed the important road of Ermine Street. The area was also served by the Frogate Canal leading in to Carr Dyke. Dr. Wild described the different types of kiln used and showed slides of the distinctive colour coated pottery - the unusual shapes being known as a "dog - bowl", open pie dish and pie dish with lid. The lay-outs of various wooden buildings were of particular interest; also a farmyard with a drove road to the water.

Due to the postponement of Mr. West's lecture we had, on 11<sup>th</sup> January, another pleasant home slide evening when Bill McMaster showed two Roman villas at Stabiae in the Bay of Naples and also various examples of ancient Greek vases. Tony Bonner followed by describing his very interesting working trip to the ancient site of Meroe close to the Nile where he undertook the role of official photographer at the excavations directed by Professor Shinnie for the University of London. Visits to nearby Meroitic sites under excavation by the East Germans were also shown by Mr. Bonner.

Mr. Felix Erith gave a lecture on 18<sup>th</sup> January on "Long Barrows Discovered". The dry summer of 1970 that was so bad for farming on the gravel soils of the River Stour proved very rewarding to archaeologists. Recent discoveries had been made of Bronze Age and Neolithic sites at a score of places along the river between Mistley and Bures. Aerial flights had been planned and Mr George Curtis, Mrs. Ida McMaster, Mr. Tony Bonner and Mr. Arthur Ingram had photographed from the air many cropmarks, mostly of "Ring ditches" which show as circles of taller corn for a few

weeks before harvest in extra dry seasons. Associated with these ring ditches, which represent the circular ditches originally dug around barrows, were the remains of four long barrows, showing as long, thin rectangular cropmarks. This was a major discovery, as previously it was thought that there were no Long Barrows in either Essex or Suffolk - the nearest known ones being at Ditchingham in Norfolk, Royston in Hertfordshire, and in Kent. Major sites shown were at Lawford Grange; Pound Farm, Dedham; Stratford Hall; Higham Hall; Wasses Farm, Nether Hall, and Tendring Hall Farm, Stoke by Nayland; Smallbridge, Bures St. Mary; and Gernons, Wormingford. A group of barrows must imply a settlement nearby, and these were at roughly one mile intervals along the river on both sides. It is now evident that in the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, the gravel soils bordering the River Stour were as thickly populated as anywhere in England. It was only the intensiveness of arable agriculture down the ages which had almost obliterated all signs of it.

The intricacies of the excavation of a Beaker settlement site dating from 2500 B, C, were admirably described by Mr. Richard Bradley of the University of Southampton on January 25th. Situated at Belle Tout, on the chalk downs of the south coast near Beachy Head, the site is in a depression on the edge of a cliff and, in fact, some of it has already been lost by coastal erosion. It seems that the Beaker Folk came from the Rhineland and the Low Countries in search of metal and Mr. Bradley described the rectangular entrenchment in which they lived, the defences of which had been re-cut many times. A complicated system of post holes was translated into hut foundations by the changes in density of the outside scatter of flint chippings and discarded pot boilers. Several beautiful slides of beakers were shown and the type forms explained. Pictures of the site showed that, though they had selected a high position, the shoulder of the hill, now crowned by an obsolete light house, would have afforded some protection and they certainly enjoyed a beautiful view.

On 1st February, Miss Enid Crowther, Senior Lecturer at St. Osyth's College, Clacton, gave a lecture-demonstration on hand made pottery forms in use today, with references to possible similarities in methods used by potters in past civilizations. We were shown the preparation of the clay, wedging, cutting, shaping to produce thumb pots and hand sculptures as in the earliest votive figures. Also demonstrated were techniques for the decoration of pots and sculptures with pellets of clay, strips or coils; impressions as in Peruvian pottery; decoration with slip as in Thomas Toft pottery; coil pots as in local finds (Bronze and Iron Age); slab and moulded pots, as in local Roman and Mediaeval tiles, or drain pipes. Mosaics and setting in plaster of Paris were also explained. The demonstrations and talk were of great interest and the professionalism with which Miss Crowther handled her material made difficult techniques seem all too easy.

Mr. Stanley West gave his postponed lecture on 8<sup>th</sup> February. He said that before the great Saxon sites of West Stow and Mucking were excavated only isolated cemeteries served to give vague details of the Saxon culture. West Stow at that time was an island site and would therefore give a whole settlement picture, having been totally excavated. It had been recognised for the last 20 years as a village, but a threatened rubbish tip was the fortunate cause for its investigation by the Ministry. Nearby are the sites of two Saxon cemeteries and considerable Roman occupation lies beside the Icknield Way just west of Stow. A gap of about one generation appears to separate the Roman and Saxon sites, near which have also been discovered 40 cremations and inhumations of the Bronze Age. Surely a much occupied area over several millennia. West Stow had two outer ditch systems some 2½ feet deep both re-cut several times. Two small halls were surrounded by grubenhausen of the early 5<sup>th</sup> century, around which was found pottery of early 400's date. Later, 6th and 7th century grubenhausen lay to the east. There was Iron Age occupation on the site which, luckily, could be distinguished by the different infill colour of the ditches. One circular feature was avoided by subsequent ditches, perhaps pointing to an important position such as a chief's standard or plinth holder. A vague hint of early timber crucks was implied in one of the halls by the presence of double post holes opposite one another. The six, four or even two post which supported the framework of the various grubenhausen - 53 in number - gave very little idea of the actual construction but it seemed certain that they had planks for flooring with most probably a space beneath. In one case a dog had crawled beneath and died. Also hearths had slipped into the cavity when the planks rotted. As there was in no case evidence for a step-down into the huts the presence of wooden flooring seemed obvious. Not one single sign of a loom post was noted in any of the huts though much weaving equipment was found. Unfired green clay loom weights were uncovered in a burnt hut - only their tops showing the effects of fire. Significantly they were also found on top of burnt wooden planking - again proof of floors? Possibly tablet weaving was their industrial method. Their occupation lasted from about 400 A. D. down to Ipswich Ware (650 A.D.) then came the break which is common all over that area. Why did they go? The presence together of Frisian type combs and faceted angled pottery seemed to point to different groups of people coming together for the purpose of some specific work. A thoroughly engrossing lecture.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of February Mr. David Clarke delighted us with a lecture on Anglo-Saxon Art. In his usual pungent witty vein he commented on the many beautiful slides which showed delicate scroll work on metal with interlaced creatures and birds; the glories of the Sutton Hoo ship burial and the famous Alfred Jewel with its inscription round the sides. One was made to realise what magnificent craftsmen these Anglo-Saxons were and how under-rated are their imaginative and artistic designs. This date should have been filled by Dr. Anne Ross on Well Shafts and Pits but she was unable to come due to indisposition and we are most grateful to Mr. Clarke for stepping in at the last moment. Dr.

Anne Ross has agreed to come next winter.

Under the heading "Woodlands and Woodlanders" Mr. Ronald Blyth, on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, gave a delightfully nostalgic talk on his childhood memories - of apples in uncultivated plenty, of a great prince's tomb in the middle of a wood (actually the resting place of a favorite horse, as he discovered in adult life) - these and many more pleasant meanderings were described by the well known author. Also what was called by him the double culture of Suffolk people - their school education and their inherent knowledge of nature and countryside. Most of us would choose his road in the quoted poem - "Where the routes diverged, I chose the byway sign." Charsfield, the village around which Mr. Blyth's book "Akenfield" was composed, had no unusual features at all. Yet the people's experience of love, hate, sorrow and joy had given more than enough material with which to write. Lovely Staverton Woods near Orford, were probably primary forest land. They contained hollies as big as oaks and stag headed trees many times pollarded over the centuries. Also great stumps which looked as though they were fossilized, and a horse shoe earthworks so long ago that nothing authentic was known about it. And, of course, the tradition that here took place the battle between King Edmund and the Danes. In such sanctuary away from modern life (and at Orford Castle or Butley Abbey Gateway perhaps) one could still capture the atmosphere of times when the ritual of the maypole - "that stinking idol" - was undertaken and brought home together with the flower garlands, mistletoe and Satan Blossom (Hawthorn). Old remedies such as passing a sick child between the split trunk of a 'holy' ash tree - if the tree lived afterwards so did the child. All are superstitions pointing to ancient tree or sacred wood worship. How they would view the mechanical afforestation now taking place where the kings of Sutton Hoo are buried, is another matter.

On 1<sup>st</sup> March the revolutionary idea that metallurgy was independently invented in Europe - perhaps in the Balkans - was put forward very persuasively by Dr. Colin Renfrew. Hitherto it has always been supposed that metallurgy spread from the East towards Britain. The Wessex Bronze Age culture appeared to be of the Mycenaean context and apparently reached us at a slightly later date, or so it has been assumed. Even the great tomb at Mycenae, thought to be Agamemnon's grave, when excavated by Schliemann, was now known to be earlier than that period. More recent methods of dating metal objects seem to point to the fact that our first metallurgy work was not later than the Egyptian craftsmanship. Excavations at Vinca in the Balkans had been identified with Troy type-sites and finds, but recent work there had shown that instead of early Bronze Age origins Vinca belonged, in fact, to late Neolithic contexts as well, dating back to around 4000 B.C. under the new chronology. In a 30 feet deep stratified sounding wild grape pips had been discovered in the lower layers whilst domestic cultivated types were seen in the upper layers. Painted graphite pottery lay above late neolithic sherds of Balkan type. Metallurgy was obviously practised on the site. There was no doubt about the stratification, and early Troy type pottery lay well above that of Balkan type. According to recent bristle cone pine dating checks, all European dates go several hundred years earlier whilst the Egyptian and Eastern dating stays the same. Maltese standing temples appear to be earlier than those of the near East. Stonehenge seems to be earlier than Mycenae and apparently our great megaliths (chambered tombs?) will be earlier also.

Probably one of the most important and intriguing lectures of the season was given, on 8<sup>th</sup> March, by Mr. John Wymer who is working on the Clactonian excavations on behalf of the Chicago University. It seems more than likely that his obvious dedication and enthusiasm will shortly lead to the actual discovery of the bones of Clactonian man. We are most fortunate to have such a nationally important site on our doorstep, although it seems sad that this and other archaeologically vital places such as contemporary Swanscombe pit in Kent, are not given the British expenditure or facilities which they deserve. Pollen analysis is not possible on many lower palaeolithic sites but Clacton was an exception. Recently received results had informed Mr. Wymer that Clacton was definitely earlier than the famous Hoxne type site. Somewhere during the 200, 000 year period of the interglacial between the Gipping and Lowestoft glaciations, Clactonian man lived and evolved his chopper core industry. Recent flooding of the 1970 excavations simulated almost the same wet, muddy ground conditions which must have prevailed during pleistocene times. Beneath the thick marl layers in the sections could be seen the thinner gravel layers which contained hundreds of flake tools, of crude form but in mint condition. Present also were fossilized bones of elephant, rhino, bison, giant beaver and fallow deer, slaughtered no doubt, for food. No hand axes have been found at Clacton, Swanscombe or Thetford; therefore was that type of tool culture contemporary or not? A practical demonstration of the Clactonian flint flaking methods and information regarding the useless soft outer cortex layer of flint was given by Mr. Wymer who also left us with the thought that some form of man existed 14 million years ago!

Fortunately for the Group, Mr. G. M. R. Davies, Assistant Curator of Colchester Museum, was able to step into the breach on 16<sup>th</sup> March when the last lecturer of the season was unable to come. We had a fascinating look at "Roman Architecture in Southern Gaul" which Mr. Davies had obviously studied and photographed with great care. Slides of the magnificent Porte d'Auguste at Nimes with its dual carriage ways and pedestrian entrances showed us the replica of our own Balkan Gate as it must have looked before partial demolition. So much remains above ground in France - aqueducts, theatres, temples, triumphal arches etc., that it is difficult for us to understand the apparent French indifference to these great monuments. Much of the early urban activity in Gaul was probably conceived by Julius Caesar and carried out by Augustus Caesar to which latter emperor many of the buildings appear dedicated or attributed. The near perfect theatre at Orange for example with its reassembled statue of Augustus; the temple at

Vienne; the famous Maison Carre at Nimes; the Arch at St. Remy and the Altar of Augustus at Lyons. Perhaps the most interesting features of construction in this lasting Roman work were the canopy holes, high up on remaining amphitheatre walls (providing necessary shade for spectators) and also the little niches (placed behind the orchestra in the walls of the semi-circular roofed 'music hall' at Lyons), especially for sound effects.

POSTSCRIPT

During preparations for re-building on the corner site at the junction of Crouch St. and Wellesley Road, a large fragment of a mortaria in pale buff ware was found in the spoil. Though unstratified, it bears the potter's mark MARTINVS F (AD 190) and, as such, we feel it should be recorded. Date of find was 31<sup>st</sup> March 1971. K. de B.