

# A MOATED SITE NEAR BURSTOW RECTORY

BY

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**I**N the summer of 1964 excavations were carried out at a moated site in the grounds of Burstow Rectory. The only structural features found were a line of small stake holes, probably belonging to a fence across the north end of the island, the slot of a sleeper beam and some shallow rectangular post holes. Deep gardening had left no other remains. The beam slot and stake holes were devoid of any stratigraphical dating evidence and can only be placed inferentially into the medieval period: this dating cannot be regarded as proven.

The finds, mainly pottery, suggest occupation principally in the fourteenth century. Clay pipes, pottery, glass, etc., in the top soil from the late seventeenth century onwards indicate renewed interest in the site, presumably as a garden. The site may be that of an early priest's house.

## INTRODUCTION

Burstow is not mentioned in Domesday. This is taken by most authorities<sup>1</sup> to be because Burstow formed part of the Archbishop of Canterbury's holding of Wimbleton and Mortlake. Certainly Burstow Park, a manor in the north of the parish, was held by or of the Archbishop of Canterbury until it reverted to the Crown as a result of an exchange of properties in 1536. The advowson was also in the grant of the Archbishop of Canterbury until 1536.

The name Burstow<sup>2</sup> implies a pre-Conquest settlement of some kind. It is first mentioned in 1121 and the spelling has remained little altered since then. The parish lies almost entirely on Wealden clay and would have been covered by oak forest prior to settlement and clearing. There are at least six moated sites within the parish. Three of these and a possible fourth correspond to four known thirteenth-century manors, another corresponds to a manor established in the fourteenth century.

The church is first mentioned in 1121<sup>3</sup> when it was granted by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Cluniac Priory of Lewes. The present church incorporates a two-cell building with simple round-headed lights that may be ascribed to the early twelfth century.<sup>4</sup> This could have been constructed by the Cluniac Priors. The advowson appears to have been reclaimed by the Archbishop of Canterbury late in the thirteenth century at a time when much of the property of the alien priory of Lewes was forfeited.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *V.C.H., Surrey*, III, 176 and Bingley, Rev. G. A., *Some Aspects of Life in Old Burstow* (1960).

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix II.

<sup>3</sup> *V.C.H., Surrey*, III, 182.

<sup>4</sup> *Buildings of England: Surrey* (1962), 104.

<sup>5</sup> *V.C.H., Surrey*, III, 182.

## THE SITE PRIOR TO EXCAVATION

The site excavated lies immediately south-west of Burstow Rectory<sup>6</sup> and is within the Rectory garden. The island is small compared with the size of the east and west arms of the moat which may have been enlarged in post-medieval times for decorative purposes. All arms of the moat are wet and show signs of comparatively recent recutting.

The narrow northern ditch may be of modern origin as it does not appear on the 1839 Tithe Map, but its non-appearance there need only indicate that it was dry at the time of the survey. The moat is fed by 'run off' water from two ponds to the east and overflow water runs away via a narrow ditch parallel to the west arm of the moat. It seems certain that the blocked channel running west from the south-west corner was the original outflow from the moat. At present there is no flow through the moat in dry weather and in the summer months the water is usually stagnant.

The writers of the Victoria County History<sup>7</sup> suggest that this was an early site of Burstow Court Lodge Manor House which was taken down in 1786.<sup>8</sup> The island, however, seems too small to have supported the capital messuage and ancillary buildings of a manor. Court Lodge, to the north of Burstow Church, has a moated site adjacent to the present building and the eighteenth-century part of this house incorporates re-used timbers. The earlier site of this manor would have been immediately to the west of the present building on the island of the adjacent moat.

The position and size of the moat under discussion support the contention of the Rev. G. A. Bingley<sup>9</sup> that it was the site of an early rectory or priest's house. The present rectory is difficult to date accurately. It is a timber-framed structure that has been considerably altered and added to. It was not a hall-house and there seems little reason for dating it earlier than the seventeenth century.

A turf path surrounds the island and another runs along the centre. It is known to have been occupied by a rose garden in 1911<sup>10</sup> at a time when the rector employed three gardeners. A note in the Victoria County History<sup>11</sup> states that foundations have been seen there. Since then the garden on the island has become neglected and overgrown.

## THE EXCAVATIONS

The island was laid out on a modified grid system (one row of 16 foot squares plus one row of 12 foot by 16 foot rectangles) and 'half squares' were opened where trees permitted (Fig. 1). Trenches were extended, where necessary and possible, to clarify points or to search for additional features.

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<sup>6</sup> N.G.R. TQ 312412.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 176.

<sup>8</sup> *M & B*, II, 279.

<sup>9</sup> Bingley, Rev. G. A., *op. cit.*

<sup>10</sup> *V.C.H., Surrey*, III, 182.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

The whole island had been extensively gardened and deeply dug over. Beneath approximately one foot of grey garden soil was a layer of brown mottled clay, averaging 9 inches thick, possibly the upcast of the moat. This layer rested directly on yellow, undisturbed wealden clay. Over much of the island the upper levels of the brown

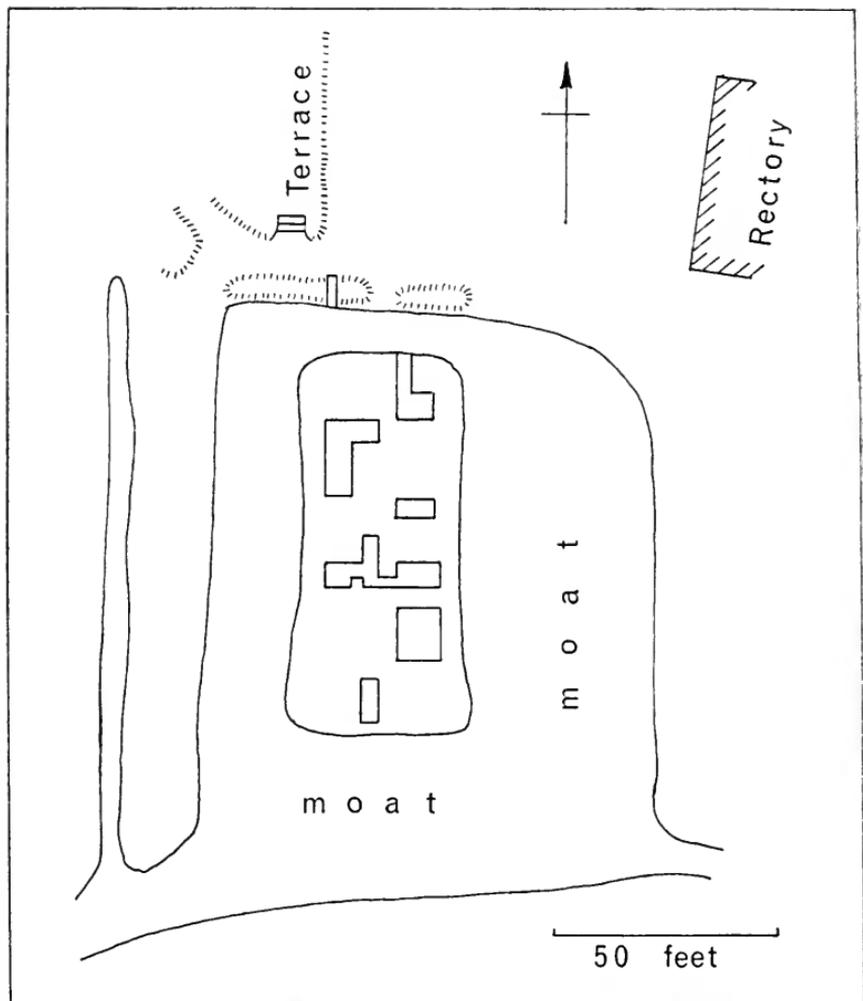


FIG. 1.—PLAN OF MOATED SITE SHOWING LAY-OUT OF TRENCHES.

clay had been disturbed by 'double digging': where this had taken place no early features could be hoped for.

The north arm of the moat presents today a sharply cut appearance and is much narrower than the other arms. The sections cut to the edges of the northern arm failed to show traces of an earlier, wider ditch. A small bank externally adjacent to the north ditch was dated to the nineteenth century on pottery evidence.

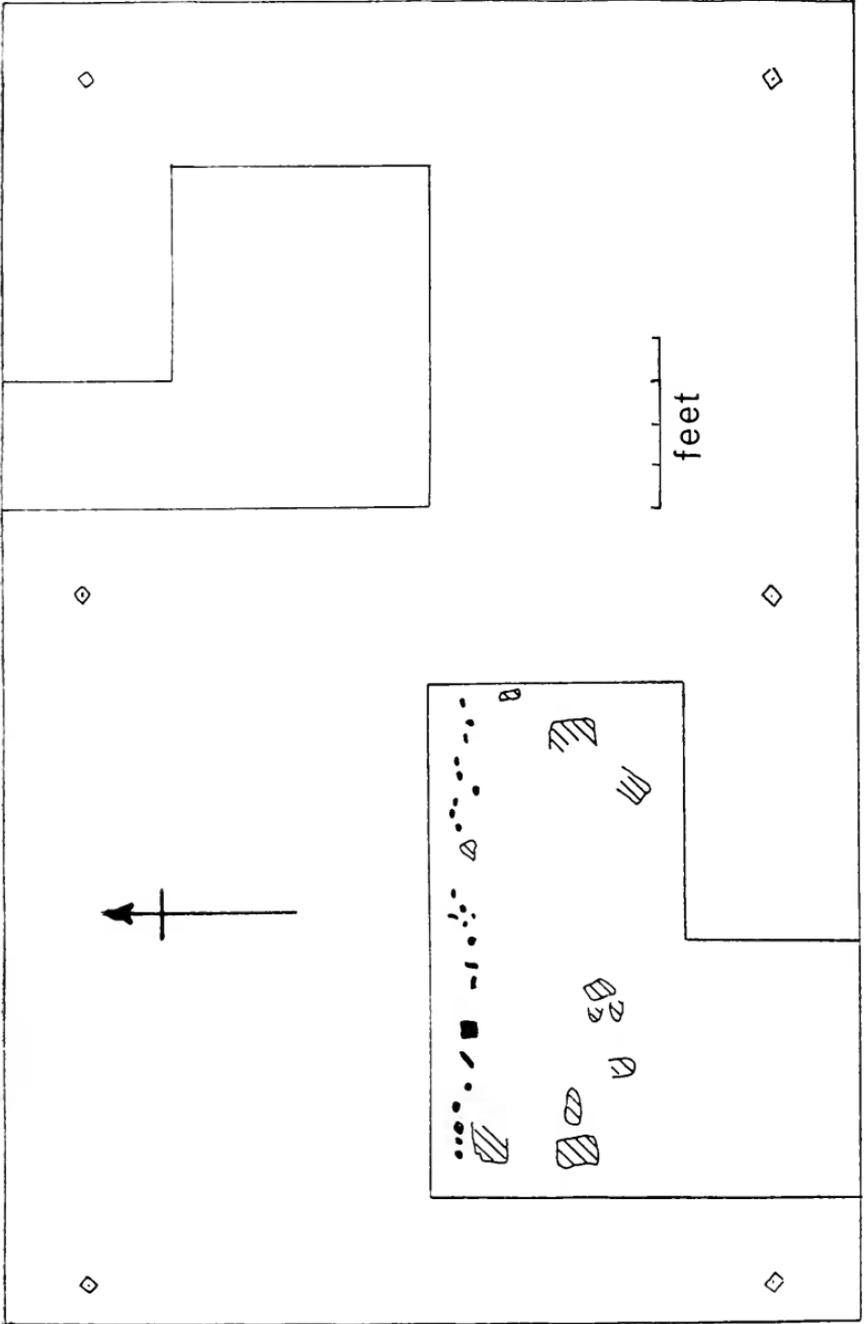


FIG. 2.—PLAN OF EXCAVATIONS AT NORTH END OF ISLAND.

A fence, some 15 feet south of the north ditch, was shown as an irregular line of close stake holes, approximately 3 inches in diameter (Fig. 2). The one stake hole that was sectioned penetrated the undisturbed brown clay to approximately one foot. In the vicinity of the fence the upper layers of the brown clay contained more fragmentary medieval pottery than elsewhere. To the south of the fence at the west side were a few irregularly disposed shallow rectangular post holes. The antiquity of these post holes must remain in doubt but rectangular posts are not normally used in rose gardens.

In the centre of the site running east-west across the eastern half of the island were features resembling two beam slots in line with a shallow square post hole between. The western slot turned northwards for one foot and ended just before another small rectangular post hole. The slot and post holes were cut in the surface of the brown clay and near them were a number of other possible rectangular post holes. One or two more possible shallow post holes also appeared to be visible as rectangular depressions in the surface of the brown clay, to the north-west (Fig. 3).

At the east end of the east beam slot the slot itself became indeterminate and a possible broader shallower slot ran to the south. This north-south feature was not noticeable in the next trench and, as it ran parallel and adjacent to the path which goes round the island, it may well be the results of a gardening operation.

Nowhere associated with the beam slots was there anything resembling an occupation layer or floor nor was any such found elsewhere during the excavations.

Medieval pottery occurred in the top soil in small quantities and also in the upper few inches of the brown clay in the vicinity of the fence and at the south end of the island. This pottery included some fragments of decorated jugs of fourteenth-century types but most of the sherds were of a gritty ware whose general character is similar to pottery of the late-thirteenth and early-fourteenth centuries found elsewhere in South-East England. However, it is dangerous to draw definite conclusions without close analogies. Few medieval sites have been excavated within ten or twenty miles of Burstow and fewer published.

The top soil contained clay pipe bowls *c.* 1660–1690 and broken pottery from *c.* 1700 onwards, together with other items such as broken glass, nails, etc.

The circumferential turf path was found to have a loose rubble foundation which contained pottery down to the nineteenth century. The central path had no such foundation. Partially beneath the path foundation at a point approximately 18 feet south of the beam slot the decomposed skeleton of a large dog was found lying in a shallow pit. Associated with the skeleton were three small sherds of fourteenth-century pottery.

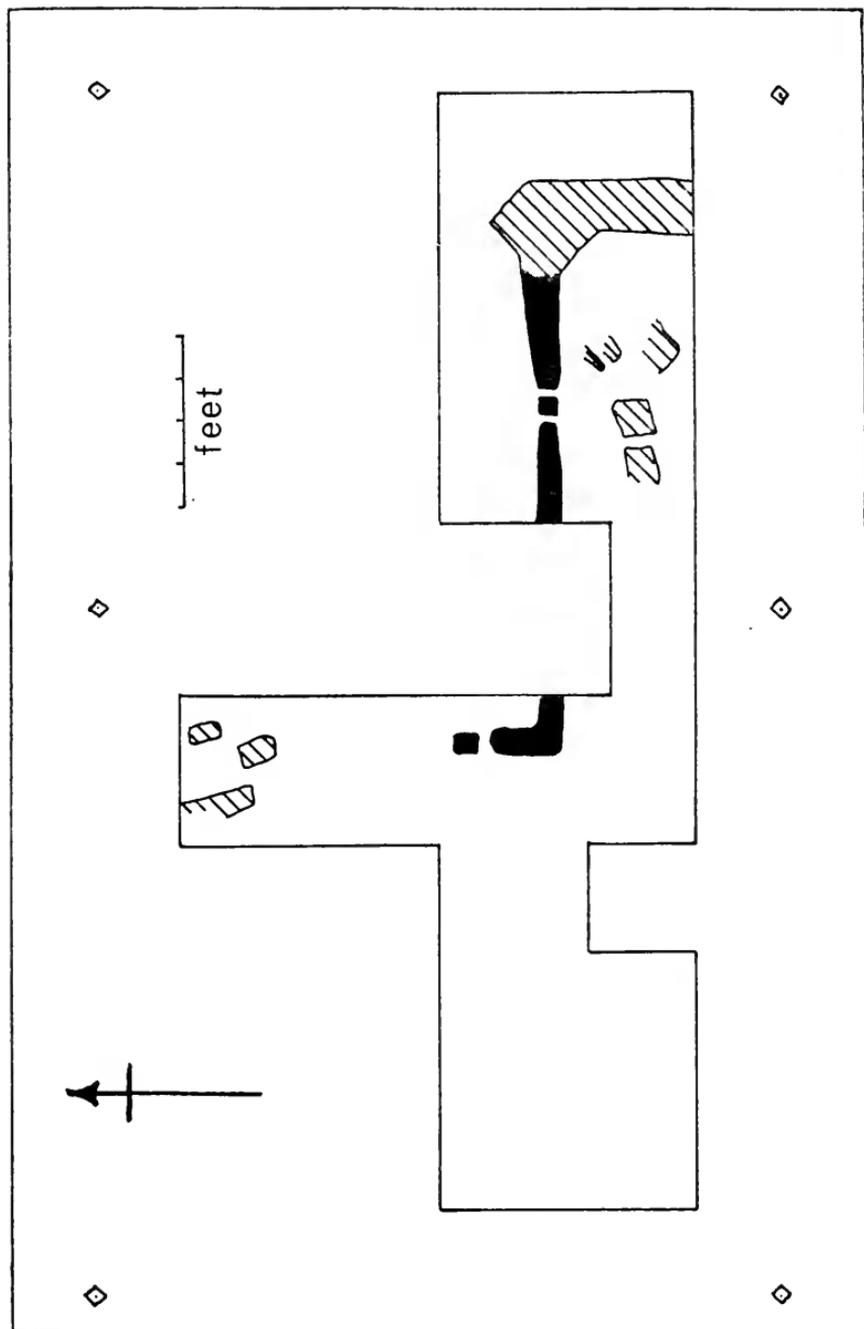


FIG. 3.—PLAN OF EXCAVATIONS ON CENTRAL PART OF ISLAND.

## CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION

The archaeological evidence suggests that the moated site may have been occupied from the late-thirteenth century down to the end of the fourteenth century. The building appears to have been of timber-framed construction with sleeper beams resting directly on the clay; a form of construction that is likely to have been common in Wealden Clay areas at this time. The building was possibly roofed with tiles. Conscientious gardening has destroyed almost all traces of the building that stood on the site and the alleged discovery of foundations on the site some time prior to 1911 could not be confirmed.

It is possible that the moat originally only had three arms. The 1839 Tithe map shows only three; the land to the north of the site, between it and the church, may have been clear in medieval times; traces of a fence were found running across the north end of the island. The northern arm may have been cut, if in fact it was not original, to improve the circulation of water and reduce stagnation. The sectioning of the north ditch to prove this would be difficult without pumping the moat. In the dry summer of 1964 the north ditch appeared to dry out but the water level did not fall enough to allow a section to be cut. Such an operation might provide information about the deepest cutting or recutting of the moat but it is possible that nineteenth-century recutting may have obliterated a narrower medieval ditch at this point.

If there were no medieval north ditch, or at most a narrower ditch than on the other sides, this has interesting implications. Most moated sites are found in comparatively low situations on heavy soils. What evidence that has been accumulated suggests that moats belonged to a period of colonisation. In the case of Burstow this would have been a secondary colonisation as place-name evidence shows that Burstow must have existed before the Norman Conquest.

The moat would have served a number of purposes: drainage, defence against men or animals, and possibly as a fish pond. The land to the north of the moat, between it and the church and manor house, would have been clear and so, presumably, the defence in this direction did not need to be so strong.

The suggested date for the start of occupation coincides with the reclamation of the advowson by the Archbishop of Canterbury. This change of patron could signify a change of organisation leading to the setting up of a moated priest's house. The disadvantages of a small site surrounded in summer by semi-stagnant water could well be the cause of the abandonment of the site by the fifteenth century. The present rectory could stand on the site of an earlier building. However, it must be stressed that the dates suggested here depend on the dating of the pottery found. It is possible, indeed may be probable, that future work on the dating of medieval pottery will require these conclusions to be revised.

## THE FINDS

The finds have been deposited with the Guildford Museum, with the exception of the dog skeleton which is with the Passmore Edwards Museum.

## STONE

Apart from the nodules of local ironstone one shaped piece of chalk, five inches long, was found. Also two specimens which could not be identified by the excavators were submitted to Mr. F. G. Dimes of the Geological Survey and Museum, who wrote:—

The smaller club-shaped specimen is identified as ferruginous sandstone, or 'carstone,' probably from the Folkestone Beds formation of the Lower Greensand which is of Cretaceous age.

Irregular seams and bands of 'carstone' run through the Folkestone Beds sand without relationship to bedding planes, and frequently form box-stones and tabular masses. The mass which you submitted appears to have formed around a fragment of plant.

The other specimen is identified as a shelly limestone containing fossil shells of the gastropod *Paludina* (known now as *Viviparus*).

Shelly limestones of this type occur in Wealden Beds of Cretaceous age and in the Purbeck Beds of Jurassic age.

Limestones of this type from the Wealden Beds are known as 'Large *Paludina* Limestone' and 'Small *Paludina* Limestone,' dependent upon the size of the contained fossil shells.

'Small *Paludina* Limestone' and the *Paludina* Limestone from the Purbeck Beds are difficult to differentiate. The 'Small *Paludina* Limestone' of Wealden age, however, has in general *Paludina* shells of regular size. The shells seen in your specimen are not all of similar size and this suggests that your specimen is probably of Purbeck age.

The shelly limestones containing *Paludina* of Purbeck age have been quarried for many years under the name of 'Purbeck Marble.'

## WORKED FLINT

1. Two small undeniably man-struck flakes complete with striking platform, bulb of percussion, etc. Unpatinated grey-black flint.
2. One heavily battered fragment that resembles the end of a broken tranchet pick. Heavy brown patination except on the break where the grey cherty nature of the flint shows.

## POTTERY (Fig. 4)

Typologically the medieval pottery could be divided into six groups.

- A. *Gritty brown ware*. Little of this pottery was found and it cannot be closely paralleled locally.
  1. Rim of large bowl with applied vertical strip decoration. From upper clay.
- B. *Gritty pink and grey ware*. Some sherds are glazed with yellow or mottled green glaze. The closest published analogies for this group of pottery are amongst pottery from Bexley, Effingham and Hangleton. The Joydens Wood, Bexley, pottery<sup>12</sup> is dated by G. C. Dunning as 1280–1320 on the basis of comparisons with unpublished material from Eynsford Castle. A flanged rim from Greatlea, Effingham,<sup>13</sup> of similar form to the Burstow flanged rims, was dated by A. W. G. Lowther to the early fourteenth century by analogy with unpublished vessels from Pachesham, Leatherhead. A group of pottery with similar flanged rims from the deserted medieval village at Hangleton, near Brighton, was dated to the fourteenth or fifteenth century.<sup>14</sup> In view of the present tendency to broaden the

<sup>12</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, LXXII (1958), 18–40.

<sup>13</sup> *P. Leatherhead L.H.S.*, I. No. 9 (1955), 17.

<sup>14</sup> *Sussex A.C.*, CI (1963), 124–6, and *Sussex A.C.*, CII (1964), 127.

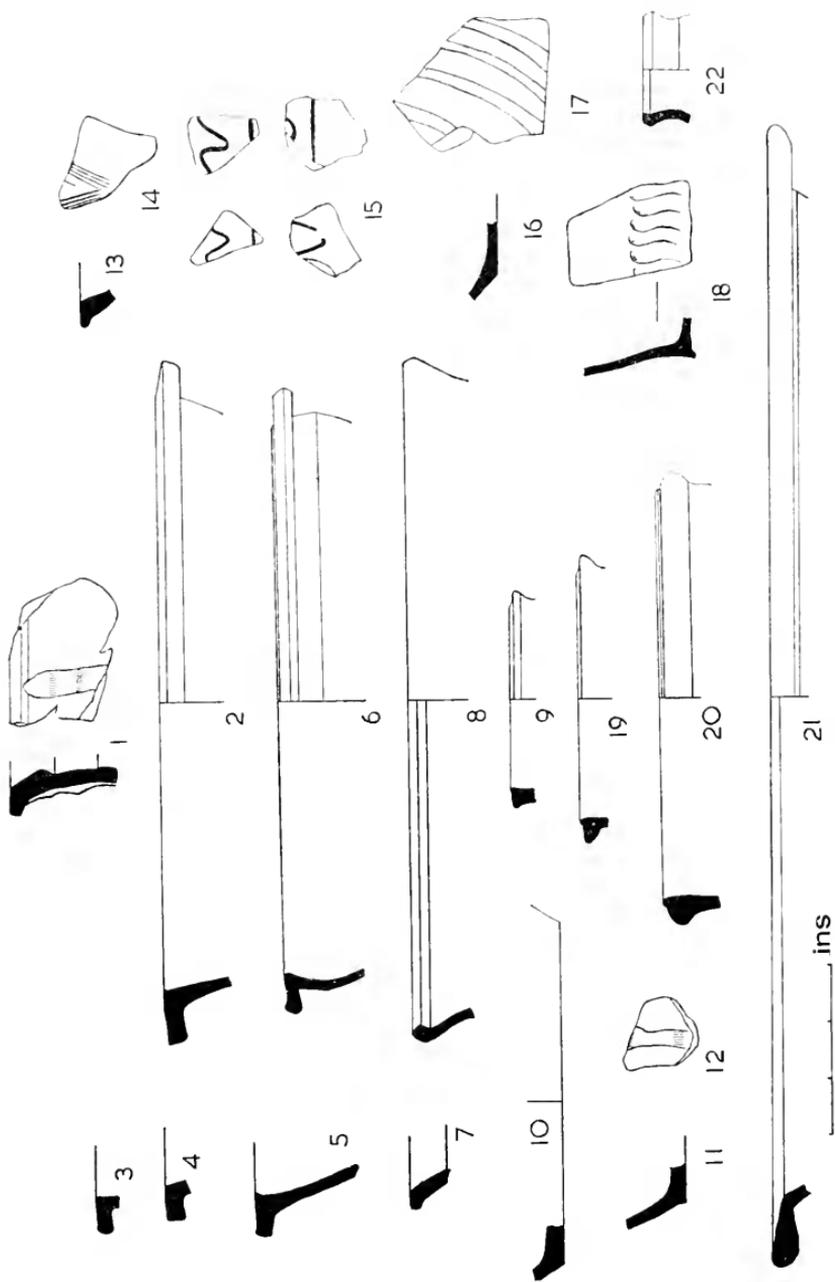


FIG. 4.—POTTERY. (4.)

datings of medieval pottery, it may be reasonable to date this Burstow group to within the period 1250-1400.

2. Flanged rim of large bowl of brown-surfaced pink gritty ware. From upper clay.
  3. Flanged rim of pink gritty ware with patch of yellow glaze externally. Crushed pottery has been used as additional tempering material. Radius approx. 8 inches. Also similar rim of like radius with no crushed pottery temper. From upper clay.
  4. Flanged rim of pink gritty ware. Radius approx. 7 inches. From upper clay.
  5. Flanged rim with slight internal beading of pink gritty ware. Crushed pottery used as additional tempering material. Radius approx. 10 inches. From upper clay.
  6. Flanged rim of carinated bowl of pink gritty ware. From top soil.
  7. Everted rim of light-brown surfaced grey gritty ware. From top soil.
  8. Moulded rim of bowl of pink-surfaced grey gritty ware. From upper clay.
  9. Rim of jug of pink-surfaced grey gritty ware. From top soil.
  10. Base of brown-surfaced pink ware with grey core. Thin dark green-brown glaze internally. Plain base angle. From upper clay.
  11. Plain base angle of pink gritty ware. Radius approx. 8 inches. From top soil.
  12. Fragment of pink gritty ware with applied vertical strip decoration. From upper clay.
- C. *Off-white sandy ware*. Similar ware (but no comparable rim form) appeared at Northolt Manor,<sup>15</sup> where it is described by the excavator as off-white Surrey ware, from c.1300 onwards. Only six sherds were found at Burstow, three with glaze.
13. Rim from top soil.
- D. *Externally cream-slipped ware with green-yellow glaze*.
- (a) Grey-brown ware. Sherds of grey ware with combed decoration were found at Northolt<sup>16</sup> and dated to the late-thirteenth century. Similarly slipped and glazed pottery from Lesnes Abbey<sup>17</sup> was dated to 1280-1300 because of its association there with polychrome and other imported pottery. The Lesnes Abbey vessel was grey with a light reddish-buff surface.
  14. Sherd of jug of grey-brown ware with combed decoration. Patchy glaze. From top soil.
  - (b) Pink ware decorated by sgraffito technique. All the sherds found of this ware were probably from the same vessel. A number of vessels of similar ware and decorative technique have been found at Cambridge.<sup>18</sup> The sgraffito (i.e. incisions through the slip to reveal the different-coloured body) designs on the Cambridge vessels are generally more deeply cut than that on the Burstow jug but some vessels carry wavy lines resembling those on the Burstow jug. The only other English example of this technique at this period is a jug in Canterbury Museum<sup>19</sup> of unknown provenance. It is possible that the Burstow and Canterbury vessels were made in the Cambridge area. A date early in the fourteenth century can be suggested.

<sup>15</sup> *Medieval Archaeology*, V (1961), 273-4.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, 271.

<sup>17</sup> *A.J.*, XLI (1961), 1-12.

<sup>18</sup> *P. Cambs. A.S.*, XLVI (1953), 21-6.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.* and Rackham, B., *Medieval English Pottery* (1948), 150.

15. Fragments of pink ware jug decorated by sgraffito technique. From upper clay and top soil at north end of the island.

E. *Hard grey-buff ware.* This ware may be related to either buff Surrey ware or to West Sussex ware, most probably the latter.

In the original report on the Cheam pottery kiln<sup>20</sup> a late-thirteenth or early-fourteenth century date was argued for buff Surrey ware. In his report on pottery found at Westminster Abbey<sup>21</sup> J. G. Hurst ascribes the ware to the fifteenth century but in his report on the Northolt pottery<sup>22</sup> a late-fourteenth to early-fifteenth century date is argued. Judging from the Northolt evidence and from pottery found by the writer at Merton Priory (to be published shortly), buff Surrey ware appears to develop from the off-white Surrey ware and to continue until superseded by more definite Tudor forms.

Sherds 17 and 18 closely resemble an unpublished pitcher in the Brighton Museum (Ae 343) from a well at Bramber. Mr. K. A. Barton considers that the Bramber pitcher may be derived from West Sussex ware<sup>23</sup> and it seems possible that the Burstow pottery derives from the same source. Mr. Barton has recently suggested a date within the period 1275-1450 for West Sussex ware.<sup>24</sup>

16. Plain base angle of hard, buff-surfaced, grey ware with mottled green glaze internally. From top soil.

17. Sherd of hard, buff-surfaced, pale grey ware. Olive green glaze externally with an underglaze pattern of brown slip trails. From top soil.

18. Thumbed base of hard, buff-surfaced, grey ware. From top soil.

F. *Miscellaneous medieval or early post-medieval wares.*

19. Rim of jug of hard, brown-surfaced, pink ware. Poor treacly dark brown glaze internally and on the top of the rim. From upper clay.

20. Rim of well-fired, pinky-brown ware. The pottery has a little very fine sand tempering, is well-made on a fast wheel and is very well fired. From top soil.

21. Rim of a large bowl of pinky-brown surfaced, grey ware. The pottery is technically similar to No. 20. From the top soil.

22. Neck of grey-buff ware with yellow-brown glaze. From top soil.

#### CLAY PIPES

1. Two complete bowls with truncated spurs. Plane of the top of bowl makes an angle of approximately 35° with the axis of the stem. The bowls have gently curving sides and are decorated with a band of rouletting just below the tip. The bore of the stem hole is just less than 3 mm. Date probably 1660-1690.<sup>25</sup>

2. Cylindrical foot of pipe bowl with initials W.P. Bore of the stem is 2 mm. Dating either second half of seventeenth century or nineteenth century.

3. Cylindrical foot of pipe bowl with toe pointing markedly forward. Marks on both sides of the foot:

*Left:* an outstretched gauntlet.

*Right:* an obscure device that might be an anchor.

Bore of the stem is 2 mm. Dating possibly late-seventeenth century.

<sup>20</sup> *Surrey A.C.*, XXXV (1924), 79-97.

<sup>21</sup> *A.J.*, XL (1960), 188-94. Mr. Hurst informs the writer that the group in which the Westminster Abbey ware was found may be later than the published date.

<sup>22</sup> *Medieval Archaeology*, V (1961), 274.

<sup>23</sup> Letter to the writer.

<sup>24</sup> *Sussex A.C.*, CII (1964), 24.

<sup>25</sup> Harley, L. S., *The Clay Tobacco Pipe in Britain* (1963).

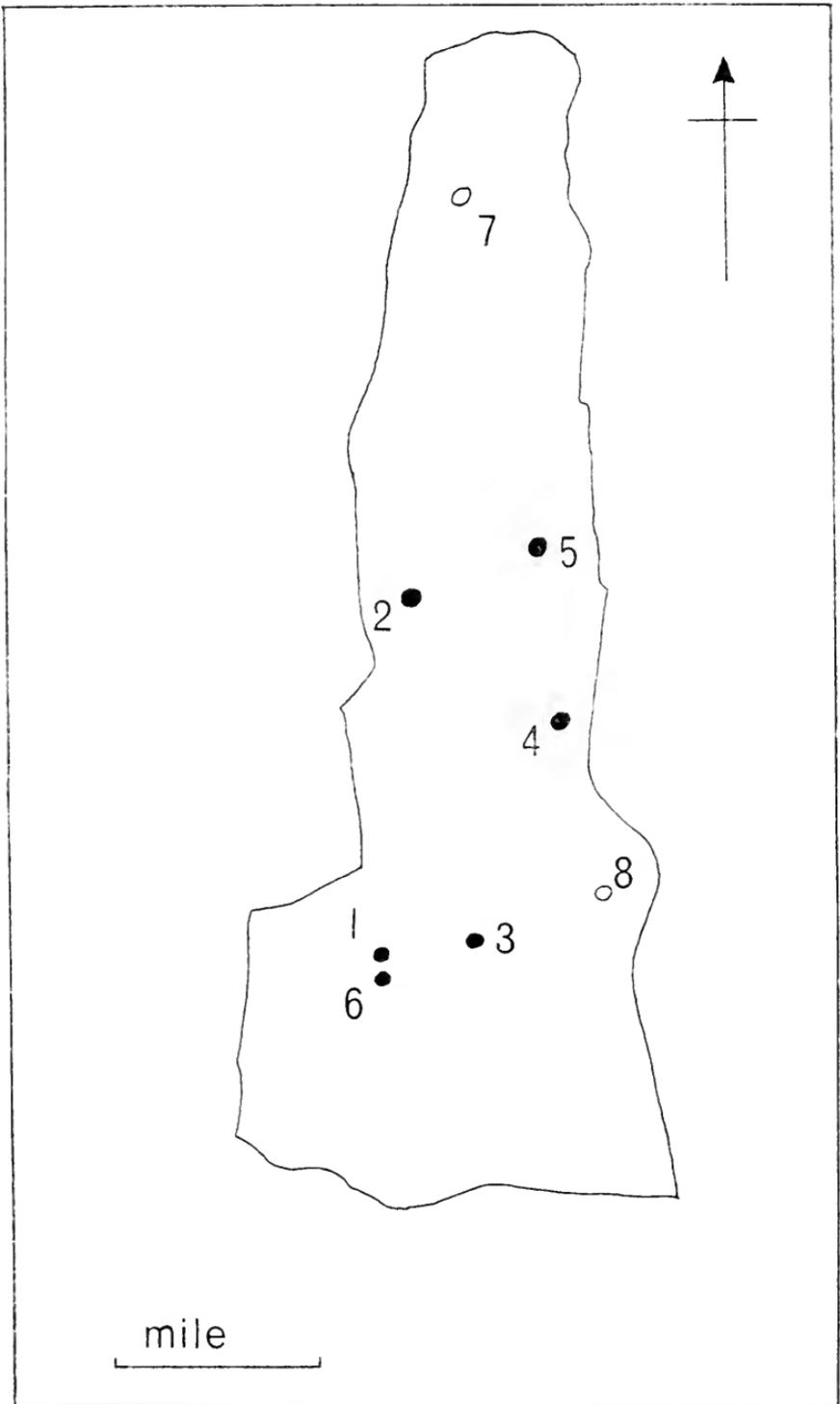


FIG. 5.—MOATED SITES IN BURSTOW PARISH. (Open circles indicate doubtful sites.)

- L  
GD stamped within an outline.  
ALE  
\*
4. Two pipe stems with

#### ROOFING TILES

A few fragments of hand-made roofing tiles were found in the top soil and in the upper levels of the brown mottled clay. Reconstruction to determine dimensions was not possible, nor is it possible to say whether the tiles were rectangular or trapezoidal. Their thickness was markedly variable and peg holes, where extant, were roughly square.

#### IRON

A number of heavily corroded nails were found, including one or two with large square heads. Similar nails were found in medieval contexts at Hangleton.<sup>26</sup>

### APPENDIX I: MOATED SITES IN BURSTOW PARISH

(Fig. 5)

Six definite moated sites and two possible ones are known. This compares with adjacent parishes (sites on Weald Clay only considered):—

Blechingley:	One site known.
Horley:	Three possible sites known.
Horne:	Three sites known (including Thundersfield Castle).
Nutfield:	No sites known.

The wealth of moated sites in Burstow compared with its neighbours is apparent. (The parish of Charlwood is similarly placed.) No explanation is here attempted: we must know far more about the archæology and early history of the medieval settlement of the Weald than we do at present before this can be done. Our knowledge today is confined almost entirely to manorial descents and even this knowledge is confused and ambiguous.<sup>27</sup> The relationship between topography and manorial records is at best only tenuously understood. In Burstow each manor corresponds to a moated site, but in many Wealden parishes this cannot be shown to be the case. The following is a list of moated sites in Burstow known to the writer.

#### 1. Old Lodge (recently Court Lodge Farm).<sup>28</sup>

Rectangular enclosure with east arm filled in. Island occupied by lawn and gardens of Old Lodge, built in 1786.<sup>29</sup> Probable site of Burstow Manor<sup>30</sup> (alias Burstow Court Lodge) first mentioned *temp.* Richard I.

<sup>26</sup> *Sussex A.C.*, CI (1963), 173.

<sup>27</sup> See, for example, the manorial history of Burstow Manor and Burstow Park in *M. & B.*, II, and *V.C.H.*, *Surrey*, III.

<sup>28</sup> N.G.R. TQ 312413.

<sup>29</sup> *M. & B.*, II, 279.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.* and *V.C.H.*, *Surrey*, III, 176.

2. Burstow Lodge.<sup>31</sup>

Trapezoidal island occupied by altered fifteenth-century hall house<sup>32</sup> and garden. A gatehouse with a drawbridge mechanism was demolished in the late eighteenth century.<sup>33</sup> Site of Burstow Lodge Manor.<sup>34</sup> First mentioned 1329.

3. Rede Hall.<sup>35</sup>

Trapezoidal enclosure, with S arm filled in. Nineteenth-century house to one side. Site of manor of Red Hall first mentioned 1332.<sup>36</sup>

4. Crullings (recently known as Smallfields Place).<sup>37</sup>

Fragmentary remains of moat, mostly to west of present house. Reputedly there are the remains of foundations beneath lawns north of the house but these may belong to a demolished wing or outbuildings of the present seventeenth-century building. First mentioned *temp.* Black Prince.<sup>38</sup>

5. Cogmans Farm.<sup>39</sup>

Two arms—a wet north arm and a dry south arm—of a, presumably rectangular, moated site occupied by a timber-framed farmhouse possibly of sixteenth century.

## 6. Rectory garden site.

See above.

7. Burstow Park.<sup>40</sup>

Fragmentary remains of possible moated site. Site of manor of Burstow Park.<sup>41</sup>

8. Dowlands Farm.<sup>42</sup>

Fragmentary traces of possible moated site.

<sup>31</sup> N.G.R. TQ 315442.

<sup>32</sup> R.C.H.M. *Monuments Threatened or Destroyed* (1963), 59.

<sup>33</sup> *M. & B.*, II, 284.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, 283, and *V.C.H., Surrey*, III, 178.

<sup>35</sup> N.G.R. TQ 319415.

<sup>36</sup> *M. & B.*, II, 284, and *V.C.H., Surrey*, III, 179.

<sup>37</sup> N.G.R. TQ 327432.

<sup>38</sup> *M. & B.*, II, 285, and *V.C.H., Surrey*, III, 180.

<sup>39</sup> N.G.R. TQ 325446.

<sup>40</sup> N.G.R. TQ 319473.

<sup>41</sup> *M. & B.*, II, 281, and *V.C.H., Surrey*, III, 178.

<sup>42</sup> N.G.R. TQ 329418.

## APPENDIX II: THE PLACE-NAME BURSTOW

BY

J. MCN. DODGSON, M.A.

The place-name appears as *Burestou* early twelfth century, *Birstowe* thirteenth century, *Burstowe* 1228, *Burgstowe* 1252, *Burghstowe* 1308. It is analysed, with further spellings, in *The Place-Names of Surrey*.<sup>43</sup> There the etymology 'fortified place' or 'place of the fort or stronghold' is given and the etymon *burh* is quoted. The editors of that volume ought to have also quoted at p. 286 the etymon *stōw*. The etymology is a little more subtle than *The Place-Names of Surrey* indicates.<sup>44</sup> The Old English word *burh* meant 'a fortification,' but it had shades of meaning and could describe anything from a true fort to a manor house. The Old English word *stōw* meant, in general, 'a place,' but, in particular, 'a place where people meet or assemble.' The place-name *Burstow* would be O.E. *burhstōw*, *byrhstōw* (the latter has *burh* in the genitive singular), and the most likely meaning of such a compound, *stōw* after another word, is 'a protected place where people meet' or 'assembly place at a stronghold.' The place-name *Burstow* is not recorded until early twelfth century, so there is no certain evidence of the date of origin of the name, but place-names in *stōw* do not seem to be coined after the Conquest and one can safely suppose this an Anglo-Saxon name rather than a post-Conquest name. It may be wise to remember that *stōw* need not indicate a formal assembly of the moot kind, but rather a place where people usually foregather, for religious observance, marketing, sport, etc.<sup>45</sup>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The excavations were directed by the writer on the invitation of the Horley Local History Association, who financed the work, and with the ready and invaluable co-operation of the Rev. D. A. Baker, the present incumbent, and his wife. The excavations would not have been possible without the patient and energetic help of Mrs. M. D. Turner and John Nevinson, F.S.A. Several volunteers rendered valuable service, especially Barbara Davidson, Chris Lambert and Derek Harding. Mr. Roy Turner of Shipley Bridge was the instigator of the operation and helped in many ways. Mr. W. F. Atterton, M.S.E., of Smallfields, levelled the site and laid the basis of the surveying; Mr. R. E. Chaplin, B.Sc., of the Passmore Edwards Museum, identified the animal skeleton, and Mr. J. G. Hurst, M.A., F.S.A., discussed the writer's interpretation of the pottery with him.

<sup>43</sup> E.P.-N.S., Vol. XI.

<sup>44</sup> Cf. Smith, A. H., *English Place-Name Elements* (E.P.-N.S., Vols. XXV and XXVI) s.vv. *burh* O.E., *stōw* O.E.

<sup>45</sup> Smith, A. H., *op. cit.*, s.vv. *stōw* para. (1), *ceāp-stōw* 'market-place,' *pleg-stōw* a 'sports-ground, a place where people gathered for games.'