

the finder gold coins and ivory moulds discovered with a body. They were afterwards sold to a French dealer in London. (b) Mr. P. Hancocks said that an iron box full of gold was found by four men digging a trench. They broke it open and shared the contents, throwing the box back into the hole.

It seems likely that these accounts all refer to the same hoard, discovered about 1900 and possibly identical with my *Unknown Sites* 5-7 (*Inventory*, pp. 142-3); all these date from the late fifteenth century, and two include gold of Edward IV. All three reached London between c. 1899 and 1904. There is no record of the ivory moulds.

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## AN ANGLO-SAXON SITE AT HOLE FARM, BULMER TYE, ESSEX

(FIGS. 97-9)

In April, 1958, a field at Hole Farm, Bulmer (FIG. 97, 3, A), was ploughed to a depth of 12 to 14 in., producing patches of dark soil and black ash upon the surface, with pottery. Visiting the site M. R. Hull, Curator of Colchester and Essex Museum, identified fragments of late-bronze-age cinerary urns of Deverel-Rimbury type from two of the black patches and some sherds of Romano-British pottery and tile and a greater quantity of Anglo-Saxon pottery from a third area, which was larger. I investigated the site in May, 1958, with some assistance from the Colchester Archaeological Group and other local people.<sup>1</sup>

The field forms part of the summit and W. slope of a hill on the E. of a small valley draining into the Belchamp Brook, which itself joins the R. Stour (FIG. 97, 2-3) after four or five miles.<sup>2</sup> The top of the hill is oval and fairly flat, with its longer diameter of c. 1,000 ft. lying E.-W. It lies slightly above the 250 ft. contour. Across the valley, less than  $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile to the N., may be seen the Romano-British, and possibly Anglo-Saxon, site at Hill Farm, Gestingthorpe (FIG. 97, 3, B).

Just on the crest of the slope, and at a point on the summit 300 ft. farther back, there are spreads of large flints and stones which might indicate the existence of structures. A cutting 200 ft. long was excavated to relate this feature to the points where the pottery had been found. No trace of structures was discovered, or anything to explain the spreads of large flints, but in one place there were more sherds of Deverel-Rimbury ware and in another a cremation-interment with no vessel.

The large area of dark soil revealed a shallow depression scooped into the natural sand, which lay at an average depth of 12-15 in. This hollow, 9 ft. by 12 ft., was filled with a dark occupation-soil containing many Anglo-Saxon sherds with some residual Romano-British pottery and tile fragments, and a few pieces of animal bone. The top of the layer had been much disturbed by the plough, while the activity of animals and worms, combined with the staining of the sand below the soil by water carrying soil with it made the bottom lack good definition. No structural remains, in the form, e.g., of post-holes or floor levels, were to be seen.

Ten ft. away from the rest of the Anglo-Saxon pottery, some sherds of a vessel (FIG. 99, no. 8) were found in a small intrusion into the sand hardly bigger than the pot itself. The hole was filled with dark soil and ash.

### *The Pottery*

The pottery is all hand-made and similar in character and fabric. It is mainly sixth-century in date.

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to the farmer, Mr. L. A. Minter, for permission to excavate and for his enthusiastic help; to Dr. J. N. L. Myres for his comments on the pottery and permission to use them in this report; but above all to Mr. M. R. Hull, whom I would thank most gratefully, for advice and constructive criticism, freely given, regarding the excavation and the preparation of this report.

<sup>2</sup> O.S. 1-in. map, sheet 52, Nat. Grid 834384.

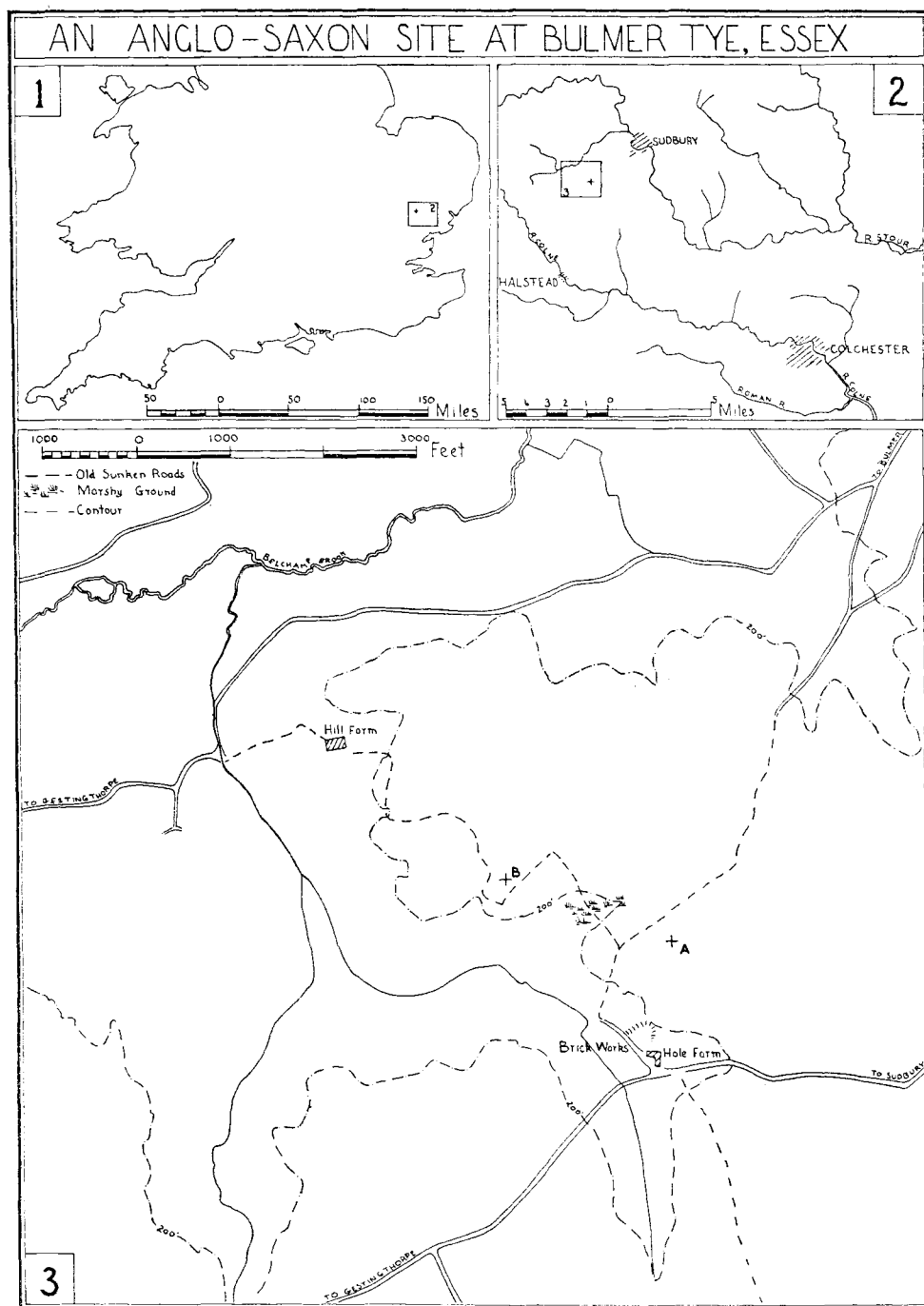


FIG. 97

HOLE FARM, BULMER TYE, ESSEX  
 Maps showing position of the Anglo-Saxon sites (p. 282)

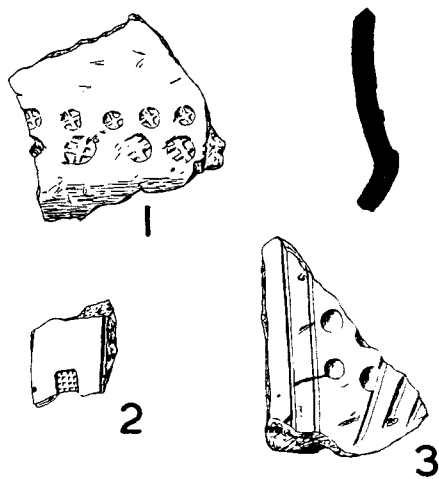


FIG. 98

HOLE FARM, BULMER TYE, ESSEX  
Decorated Anglo-Saxon sherds (p. 285). Sc.  $\frac{1}{2}$

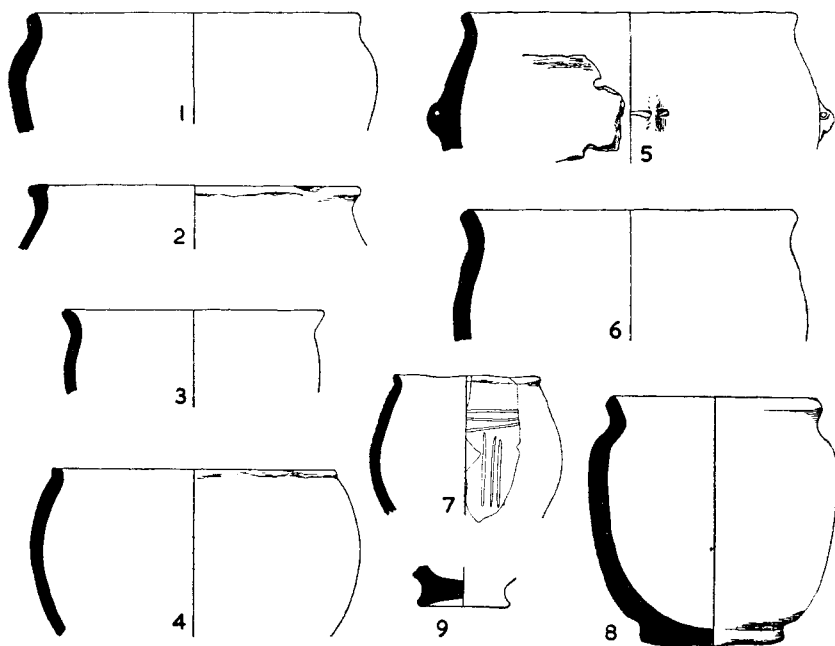


FIG. 99

HOLE FARM, BULMER TYE, ESSEX  
Anglo-Saxon pottery (p. 285). Sc.  $\frac{1}{4}$

FIG. 98

1. Part of vessel with carinated shoulder above which two rows of stamps. Fine, hard grey-black ware with leathery surface of light to dark brown. Traces of grass tempering material.
2. Sherd with grid-like stamp and traces of incised lines where broken (see vertical edges in illustration). Grey ware with red-brown surface.
3. Sherd showing part of pendent triangle with dots. Fine, very hard grey ware.

FIG. 99

1. Hard grey ware with red-brown surface.
2. Fine, soft grey ware with dark grey leathery surfaces inside and out.
3. Light grey ware, red to dark brown surface, almost polished.
4. Hard grey ware, dark outside, light inside. Reminiscent of iron-age ware, but similar in fabric to most sherds from this site.
5. Hard grey ware, light brown, smooth outside, partly polished inside. Vessel probably had three very small delicate lugs. The perforations on the rim-sherd inserted in the drawing of section and elevation are probably repair-holes.
6. Thick, heavy grey-black ware tempered with small white grit. Smooth surfaces, black inside, light brown outside. Perhaps seventh century or later.
7. Fine hard grey ware with incised ornament. From the same layer are sherds of a very similar vessel, slightly larger and thicker.
8. Ware very coarse and crude in comparison with other illustrated sherds, but similar to no. 9. Dark grey fabric sandy in feel, probably tempered with sandy grit. These bowl-fragments were found apart from the remainder of those illustrated. They seem mostly sub-Roman in character but could well be pagan-Saxon in date. A large sherd similar to these has since been ploughed up in the field.
9. Fragment of pedestal-base, ware not unlike no. 8, and some others. If this base is Anglo-Saxon, which is very possible, it could be the earliest Anglo-Saxon piece in the group.

### Conclusion

This small investigation suggests that a pagan Anglo-Saxon hut-site of approximately sixth-seventh-century date existed on the top of the hill 50 ft. away from a small late-bronze-age urnfield. It may have been associated with the near-by site at Gestingthorpe (see above), where timber structures, possibly huts, have been found above fourth-century levels, and unstratified sub-Roman sherds have also been discovered. Only a narrow wooded valley would have separated this bleak grassy hill-top from the more sheltered south-facing slope.

It is possible, though not likely, that more sites, which future ploughing might reveal, exist on this part of the hill. The remaining part to the E. lies on the land of another farmer, where, despite search after ploughing, no finds were made.

BRYAN P. BLAKE

### AN EARLY DRAWING OF THE RUTHWELL CROSS (PL. XXVI)

The Ruthwell Cross, probably the most important of the Anglo-Saxon sculptured stones which have come down to us, also bears the most extensive of the Old English runic inscriptions, the poetic text closely related to parts of the *Dream of the Rood* of the Vercelli Book. It is well known that the cross as it now stands is a 19th-century rebuilding, made up of six fragments of the Anglo-Saxon monument with the shaft supplemented by a number of pieces of plain stone and a modern cross-beam added to the head. Originally the cross was built of two stones, an upper one forming the top of the shaft and the cross head, and a lower one comprising the base and the greater part of the shaft. The lower stone bore the *Dream of the Rood* text, cut in four sections: *a*, across the top and down the N. border of the present E. face; *b*, down the S. border of the E. face; *c*, across the top and down the S. border of the W. face; and *d*, down the N. border of the W. face.<sup>3</sup>

In the 17th century the two stones were thrown down and shattered, presumably as a result of the 'Act anent Idolatrous monuments in *Ruthwall*' known to have been

<sup>3</sup> Convenient for reference is the drawing of the inscription which forms the frontispiece to B. Dickin and A. S. C. Ross, *The Dream of the Rood* (London, 1934).