

SHORTER NOTICES

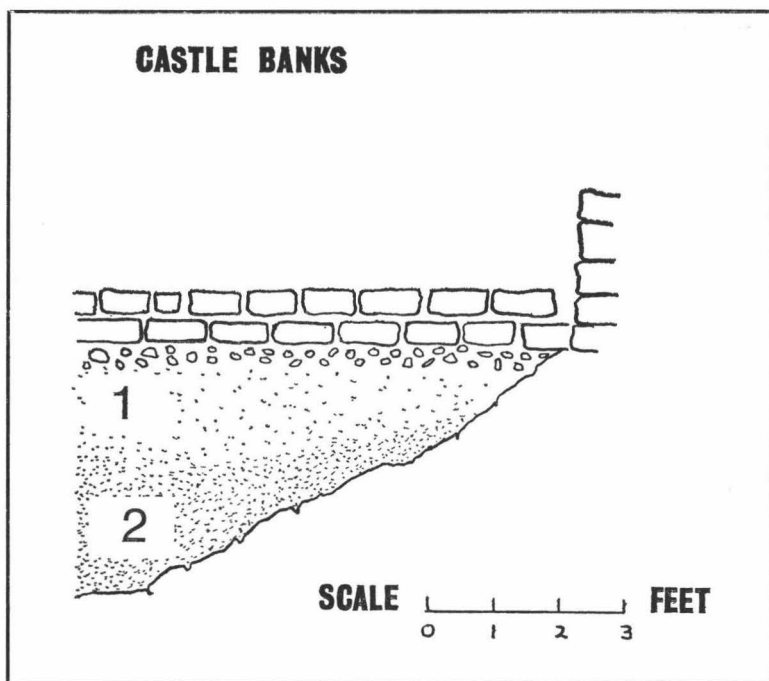
The Council of the Society recognizes that many finds of archaeological significance are made in the County each year, either by chance or as a result of small-scale excavations. Material of this kind all too rarely gets published in the archaeological literature, although it may be of great importance in improving our knowledge of the prehistory and history of Sussex. For this reason, the Council has decided to introduce a new feature into the *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, designed to bring discoveries of this kind to the attention of archaeologists both inside and outside the County.

Short definitive reports on small-scale excavations and on stray finds that have been authenticated should be sent to Mr. H. F. Cleere, F.S.A., Little Bardown, Stonegate, Wadhurst, Sussex, for incorporation in this new section. Those without previous experience in writing up such material for formal publication should not be discouraged from submitting information; Mr. Cleere will be happy to help in the preparation of texts and illustrations for publication.

The first selection of Shorter Reports appears below. These are representative of the type of material that is needed. Progress and interim reports of major and continuing excavations should be sent to the Editor of the *Sussex Archaeological Newsletter*, at Barbican House, Lewes.

THE LIP OF THE BRACK MOUNT DITCH, LEWES—During the summer of 1971, a cellar was excavated beneath the floor of No. 4 Castle Banks, Lewes, by the owner, Mr. Yarrow. He notified the Society's Museum at Barbican House of the discovery of a brick structure found immediately beneath the floor, which turned out to be a cess-pit constructed when the house was built in the late 19th century. In excavating for the cellar, Mr. Yarrow had cut into the chalk bed-rock, and in section this could be seen sloping down to the west. Several factors made it impossible to do more than clean and draw the section (see Figure), and to check that the slope appeared in plan in the opposite face of the excavation. Brick and pottery of the 19th century appeared in the upper layer (1), which lay immediately below the brick and concrete floor of the house. The lower level (2) contained no finds in the small area excavated. There was no visible evidence of a turf line, but from the composition of the two layers it seems certain that the ditch had been partially filled by normal silting and that layer 1 represents the levelling done in the 19th century, before the house was built.

A. B. PAGE



THE WINBOLT COLLECTION AT CHRIST'S HOSPITAL, HORSHAM—At the request of the Society's Research Committee, I visited Christ's Hospital, Horsham, in December 1971, having already ascertained from the Archivist, Mr. N. Plumley, that there was in store there some archaeological material collected by the late Mr. S. E. Winbolt, F.S.A., a former master there.

About half the collection consisted of objects from outside Sussex, some of it from the Mediterranean. The material plainly labelled as coming from Sussex was as follows:

Chilgrove: Many sherds of coarse Roman pottery, five bone pins, tesserae, box flue tiles, oyster shells, animal bones, nails, mortar, plaster, forging cinder, and charcoal. There was also a complete round glass vessel, about 1½ in. high by 1½ in. wide, with a nine-sided base.

Alfoldean: Fragments of Roman window and vessel glass, sherds of Samian ware (one with the potter's stamp of VINTANVS), Petworth marble, and a poppy-head beaker.

Sussex Glass Works: A collection illustrating the Sussex glass industry, with specimens of glass, foundation bricks, glazed firebricks, fused glass, etc., from Couchland, Kirdford, and a plan of a furnace at Vann, near Chiddingfold.

Saxonbury: A box labelled "Saxonbury" contained Tudor (?) bricks and Roman roof and hypocaust tiles. (The pottery from Saxonbury is in Tunbridge Wells Museum.)

In addition to this material, which was labelled, there were two boxes that were unlabelled. They contained the following material, which may be of Sussex origin:

1. Seventeen sherds of what appeared to be Anglo-Saxon grass-tempered pottery.
2. Two pieces of a broken Bronze Age sword, consisting of the hilt (with four rivet holes) and part of the blade, and the point. There was also the broken blade end of a small iron axe.

I am most grateful to the Headmaster of Christ's Hospital, and in particular to Mr. Plumley, for their willing help and co-operation.

C. F. TEBBUTT

SUSSEX BRONZE AGE POTTERY—Our late member, Mr. R. C. Musson, F.S.A., contributed a valuable paper entitled 'An Illustrated Catalogue of Sussex Beaker and Bronze Age Pottery' to Volume 92 of the *Collections* 1954, (pp. 106-124). He made an error in attributing a vessel found under the church floor at Arlington to the Bronze Age; this is most definitely medieval. The pot in question is No. 530 in Musson's list (p. 115 and Fig. 9). The drawing is, moreover, not correct, since the vessel has a convex (otherwise known as sagging) base, and not a flat base as depicted.

In 1954 the writer first noticed the discrepancy between the label in the case at the church, describing the pot as a Bronze Age cinerary urn and the form of the vessel. Shortly afterwards, Dr. G. C. Dunning, F.S.A., accompanied the writer and confirmed that the pot was medieval. It was taken out of the wall case and examined thoroughly. Musson had obviously not removed it from the case, and had assumed that the base was flat.

The pot was in a number of fragments, and it was restored by the Technical Department of the University of London Institute of Archaeology. During the restoration it was discovered that the finger-impressed bands were echoed in a similar band around the neck of the pot, and between this and the rim there was a row of impressions.

This vessel, or storage jar, is still on display at the church, now correctly labelled. Students of Bronze Age pottery should delete No. 530 from Musson's list.

E. W. HOLDEN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL FROM WASHINGTON—The western sandpit at Washington has recently been extended to the south (TQ 124 135), removing what remained of The Old Furze Field of Sandhill Farm and the adjacent part of the Sand Corner Lane Field. While the surface was being cleared, an assortment of Roman, medieval, and later pot sherds, together with a coin of the 4th century A.D., were collected by Mr. T. Dewey and the writer. They were mostly found near the line of the ancient north-south footpath, which eventually crosses the Greensand Roman Road further north, near Spring Cottage. Mr. Dewey also found the base of a fire, containing tiny fragments of bone, which might have been an unurned cremation.

H. B. A. RATCLIFFE-DENSHAM

STONE IMPLEMENTS FROM MADEHURST—A polished flint axe was recently found in a field of stubble at Madehurst, near Slindon (SU 981 107) by Mrs. Ratcliffe-Densham, a quarter of a mile south of The Kennels. It measures 94mm. x 40mm. x 19mm., and has a straight cutting edge and almost parallel sides, although it

widens slightly at the cutting end and thickens at the base. The butt was chipped into an almost flat face in antiquity, but not by a single tranchet blow. The patination is white, with narrow ochreous bands, and there is more recent chipping, presumably by farm machinery. This tool may well have belonged to one of the inhabitants of Barkhale Camp and have been made at Longdown.

Half of a large polished perforated macehead was found by Mr. Oliver of The Kennels, Madehurst, in a plantation 200 yards south-east of Barkhale Camp (SU 978 124). The weapon was made of light-grey quartzite, spotted and veined with brown. The original shape was an ellipse, with a half-maximal diameter of 84mm. and a minimal diameter of 92mm. The greatest thickness, 41mm, was at the centre, along the axis of the perforation. The weight of the half-implement was exactly 15oz. The break was through the central hourglass perforation and across the shortest diameters. The minimal diameter of the perforation was 25mm. The weapon was characteristically devoid of flat faces and any edges, all the surface being curved symmetrically. It has been sent for petrological examination and for inclusion in the National Register.

H. B. A. RATCLIFFE-DENSHAM

MOUND AT FOREST ROW—Mr. C. F. Tebbutt and the writer recently inspected a mound near South Lodge, Kidbrooke Park, Forest Row (TQ 4215 3410), which is marked on the 6in. Ordnance Survey Map. It is not far from the road and is surrounded and partly covered by trees. The mound is about 110ft. in diameter, with an estimated height of 18 feet; the sides slope up to a small oval top, about 19ft. by 15ft., which shows signs of having been disturbed. There are no signs of a surrounding ditch, and at only one point was there the slightest trace of a hollow at the foot of the mound. The purpose of the mound is unknown. The area at the top would seem to be much too small for a motte. It might be a recent landscaping feature, although there is equally nothing to support this possibility. It remains a mystery.

E. W. HOLDEN

ROMAN SITE AT FINDON—A section was cut near the mouth of the Roman well at Findon (TQ 11140 09168). The surface soil contained Roman sherds, and this overlay a layer of spoil heaped up when the well was originally dug. Below this was an old land surface containing sherds from the Early Iron Age and the Roman period. None of this pottery, which obviously pre-dated the sinking of the well, appeared to be later than the 1st century A.D. The sherds were worn, which suggests that the well might have been dug in the 2nd century A.D.; it was filled in during the 4th century A.D.

Air photographs, taken by Mr. M. Macey, show a large rectangular enclosure and probable buildings on the slope to the west of the well. Quantities of Roman sherds, querns, building material, animal bones, and an *as* of Hadrian were collected by Mr. F. N. Allcorn and the writer when this area was ploughed recently.

H. B. A. RATCLIFFE-DENSHAM

STONE AXE FROM PATCHING—A broken stone axe-head was found by Mr. T. Dewey about 25 yards NW. of the westernmost semi-detached house at Lee Farm, Patching (TQ 078 105). It was composed of schist containing garnets which Mr. Allchin believes may have come from Scotland or the Alps.

Miss Jane Evans writes (Implement Petrology No. Sx 143): "A Neolithic axe-head of coarse-grained igneous sandstone, the butt end only. The surface has

been ground down, and probably the blade was polished. The sides do not show signs of rolling, but some of the minerals have been weathered out, and it was broken in antiquity. The rectangular form of the butt is less usual than a more pointed one. The shape is paralleled by a green-stone axe, found some 12½ miles away at Horsham (No. Sx 55), the length of which was 9cm.

Few stone axes have been found on the South Downs of West Sussex. John Pull found one at High Salvington, close to the Church Hill flint mines; this was from one of the Cornish axe factories. To the west of the county, two were found at Stoughton and one at Chilgrove. Some have been found on the coastal plain (at Goring and Highdown), and their occurrence around estuaries, such as Chichester Harbour, suggests that they were brought in by coastal trade or by invaders from Devon and Cornwall. The scatter found along the Arun valley, at Toddington, Greatham, and Rowner, suggests that the river was a line of communication. The finding of this axe on what may well be a prehistoric route over the Downs suggests that it was lost by a traveller.

Curiously, considerably more stone axes are found on the South Downs of East Sussex (over 20 east of the Adur), perhaps because no flint mine area found there (see *Sussex Notes and Queries*, vol. 17, May 1968, pp. 15-21)."

H. B. A. RATCLIFFE-DENSHAM

FINDS FROM HARROW HILL, PATCHING—The south side of Harrow Hill, Patching (TQ 080 095-085 100) is now being ploughed regularly. A Roman lynchet system, two probable hut sites, and a rectangular medieval enclosure have been surveyed by the writer, as they are in danger of destruction. Quantities of Roman sherds and some building materials have been collected from the area by the Worthing Museum correspondents and the writer. About 15 damaged flint axes have been collected from the surface of the mines, higher up the hill.

H. B. A. RATCLIFFE-DENSHAM

EARTHWORK AT BUXTED—In 1967 the writer was informed by Mr. G. Kerridge of a large mound on Uckfield Manor Building Estate (TQ 478 221) that was to be removed to allow building to progress. The mound was covered with trees, but could be seen to resemble a huge long barrow. In size it was 150ft. long, 90ft. wide at its widest ends and 70ft. at the other, and 12ft. high, with the line of its axis lying roughly NW.-SE., the broad end being at the SE. The site was visited by Mr. Paul Ashbee, F.S.A., an authority on long barrows, who agreed that, although its position relative to the other Sussex long barrows (which are situated on the Downs) was unusual, investigation should proceed.

The contractors arranged to remove by machine a small part of the tail of the mound, which was composed of sandy clay, similar to the local topsoil, with little signs of tip-lines, except near the bottom. A piece of brick and a post-medieval sherd came from material pushed aside by the bulldozer. A test hole was dug by the writer and Mr. C. F. Tebbutt into the natural soil, from which came a piece of clay pipe stem, a fragment of roof tile, and another post-medieval sherd. It was therefore certain that the mound was not prehistoric, and that it must have been constructed in post-medieval times. A 17th or 18th century landscaping mound would seem to be a reasonable guess, the land being parkland belonging to Uckfield House at one time.

It was during the course of this investigation that Mr. Tebbutt discovered the Roman corn-drying oven not far away (*S.N.Q.*, vol. 17, 1968-70, pp. 25-26).

E. W. HOLDEN