

SHORTER NOTICES

This section of the *Collections* is devoted to short notes on recent archaeological discoveries, reports on small finds, definitive reports on small-scale excavations, etc., and also to similar short notes on aspects of local history. Material for inclusion should be sent to Mr. Henry Cleere, F.S.A., Acres Rise, Lower Platts, Ticehurst, Wadhurst, Sussex. Those without previous experience in writing up such material for publication should not be deterred from contributing for Mr. Cleere will be happy to assist in the preparation of reports and illustrations.

A LEVALLOISIAN FLAKE FROM CATSFOLD FARM, HENFIELD—The flint artifact shown in Fig. 1 was found at Henfield during the spring of 1974 by Mark Streeter, a schoolboy, who is to be congratulated on observing it and recognizing its interest. The find-spot is at approximately TQ 1895 1609 and occurs on the land of Catsfold Farm. Here, the bed of the River Adur was being deepened by a dragline excavator, the spoil being dumped on the bank; the flint was found on the surface of the dump. Mr. P. Spear, of Henfield, kindly informed Mr. E. W. Holden of the find, and the writer is grateful to Mr. Holden for arranging for him to see the artifact and for providing the admirable drawing.

This artifact is a Levalloisian flake of medium-to-large size (by British standards), its maximum dimensions to the nearest millimetre when oriented as in Fig. 1 being as follows: length 134 mm, breadth 80 mm, thickness 22 mm. Its surface is patinated a creamy white over almost the entire area of both faces, and only a couple of tiny recent damage scars on the platform reveal the true dark-grey colour of the flint of which it is made. There is no more than the occasional spot of light iron staining. One substantial patch of cortex remains on the dorsal face (Fig. 1, *left*): its concave nature would have made it impossible to remove in the course of the primary flaking, without a drastic reduction in the size of the finished object. There are two small further patches of cortex surviving on the flake's faceted striking platform. The nature of all three cortex patches and their positions suggest that the parent core for this flake was shaped from a large nodule of chalk flint, doubtless of South Downs origin. Two features of the artifact's condition are worth noting: first, the ridges between the flake scars are not quite sharp, and secondly there is a small amount of exfoliation of the shiny surface adjacent to the largest cortex patch. Although the circumstances of finding make it highly likely that the artifact was latterly in an alluvial or fluvial deposit of some kind, the pronounced patination without staining, the exfoliation, and the slight smoothing of the ridges taken together suggest the effects of weathering during prolonged exposure on the surface.

A Levalloisian flake is a flat flake, usually of oval or elongated shape, struck from a prepared core by a manufacturing process of several simple but important stages. First, a nodule is shaped to correspond roughly to the intended shape of the flake. Secondly, trimming flakes are removed from the core's upper face from points on the circumference until the surface is even and slightly domed. Thirdly, a striking platform is carefully prepared (unless a suitable one already exists) at one end of the shaped core. Finally a hard blow is struck at the correct angle directly on to the prepared platform to detach the flake, whose outline shape follows that of the upper surface of the core, where the careful doming is also important in that it both facilitates the removal of a large flake and also gives it regularity of shape and section.

Any typical Levalloisian flake bears clear evidence of this manufacturing process, both in the primary scars on its dorsal face, which are incomplete because their proximal ends have been left behind on the core, and usually also in the facets on its striking platform, which represent the careful primary preparation of the latter. Some of these facet scars should also be incomplete, since their distal ends will have been left behind on the core: if this is not the case, the faceting of the platform could be secondary (retouch) rather than primary (preparation). Figure 1 clearly shows that the Henfield flake does bear correctly these hallmarks of Levalloisian technique on both dorsal surface and platform.

This particular specimen also bears clear traces of retouch subsequent to manufacture round much of its circumference, including some rather unusual invasive work on the bulbar face (Fig. 1, *right*). Any large sharp flake is liable to show secondary scars along its edges, and they may be caused by damage (ancient or recent), utilization, or retouch or by some combination of these. In the present case, almost every one of the secondary scars is ancient, and they are far too substantial in most cases to have resulted from utilization. A few probably represent ancient damage, but the distribution of the rest certainly appears purposeful rather than random and we may reasonably conclude that they are retouch which was intended to blunt the edge here and thin it down or strengthen it there to adapt the flake for its intended use, whether held directly in the hand or hafted in some way. There are plenty of Levalloisian flakes from British sites which do show clear retouch, but, since the technique of manufacture was designed to produce without more ado a sharp-edged tool of predetermined shape and size, retouch was not always required and wholly unretouched examples are common.

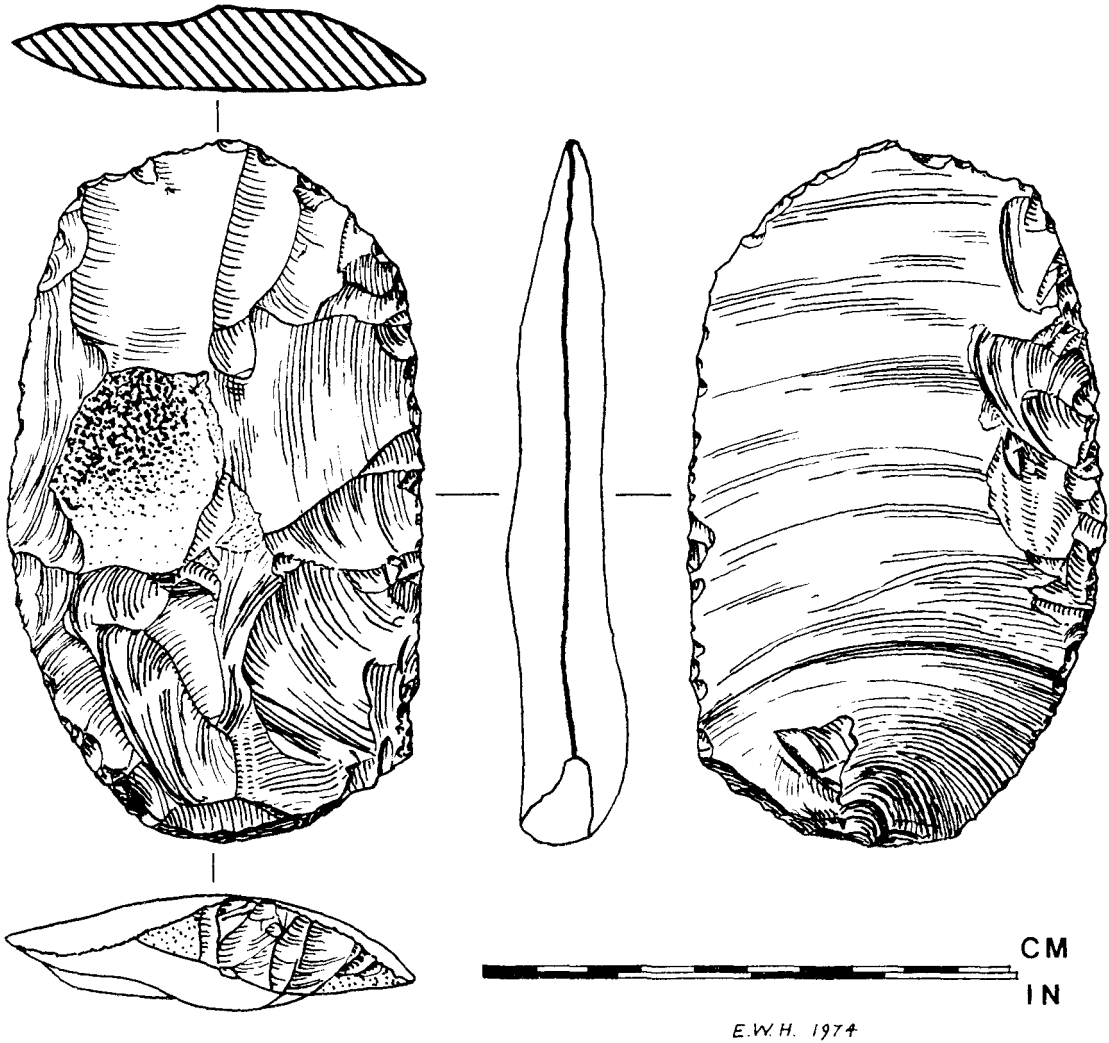


FIG. 1. LEVALLOISIAN FLAKE FROM CATSFOLD FARM, HENFIELD.

The deliberate invasive working of part of the bulbar face of the Henfield specimen is certainly an uncommon feature. It is conceivable that this represents the first stage of an attempt to turn the flake into a mainly bifacial implement of some kind, but in that case one would have expected to see fewer and larger scars, while the careful retouch elsewhere would then seem unnecessary. Whether the Henfield flake was actually used, and if so for what task, remains uncertain. Mr. L. H. Keeley examined it microscopically for wear traces, at the writer's request, but the well developed patination and the slightly worn condition together proved enough to mask any evidence there might have been in the form of striations or polish from use. An almost perfect state of preservation is in fact required for effective microwear analysis, which is always a difficult business.¹

As regards the classification 'Levalloisian' (after a French type-site), it must be stressed that this term should only be used to refer to a manufacturing technique, and not to a culture, although the literature of the European Lower Palaeolithic up to the 1940s and even 1950s frequently refers to a Levalloisian Culture, divisible into numbered stages. The technique is in fact widely found in time and space, and must certainly have been re-invented many times in the prehistoric period. In Britain, its earliest occurrence is in a Lower Palaeolithic context, and

¹ cf. Keeley, L. H., *World Arch.* 5 (1974), 323-36.

in the well-known sequence in the Swanscombe (Kent) area of the Lower Thames valley it first appears sporadically in the Middle Gravels of Barnfield Pit¹—i.e. in the later part of the Hoxnian Interglacial. Shortly afterwards, the technique emerges to dominate a remarkable and specialized industry of Wolstonian age at Baker's Hole, Northfleet, Kent.

It is clear from the British and Continental evidence that Levalloisian technique was well known to many later Acheulian groups, though others appear not to have used it, and that it played an important if variable part in Mousterian flint-working technology all over Europe and beyond. Only very occasionally in a few areas—e.g. in Britain at Baker's Hole and again at Creffield Road, Acton²—is it so dominant at a particular site that it becomes possible to call the industry there specifically Levalloisian; such occurrences do not add up to a Palaeolithic culture. In any case, the technique occurs on several occasions in Upper Palaeolithic industries and is even known in the Mesolithic;³ there are certainly still later occurrences than this, for example at certain Neolithic flint-mining sites, including Grimes Graves. The working of some of the famous widely traded Grand Pressigny flint is also by an essentially Levalloisian technique.

We would be rash therefore to try and assign a definite age to the isolated Henfield find, even though it undoubtedly bears a superficial resemblance to some of the Baker's Hole flakes. We do not know how or when it may have become incorporated in the presumably relatively recent alluvial or fluvial deposits from which the digger seems to have brought it to the surface from an unknown depth. The chances are, taking everything into consideration, that it is of Palaeolithic age, and most likely later Lower Palaeolithic or Middle Palaeolithic, but even this remains speculative. Assuming it to be correct, however, it remains only to comment that the corpus of recorded Sussex Palaeolithic artifacts continues to grow, not least at Henfield thanks to the efforts of Mr. Spear and now also of Mark Streeter. Levalloisian technique, in fact, remains sparsely represented in the county. There is a flake marked 'Ashdown' (which presumably refers to Ashdown Forest), now in Plymouth Museum, and one from Seaford in the British Museum; there are single Levalloisian cores from Beachy Head, Friston, Litlington (a rather doubtful unstruck example), and Peacehaven, all in the Barbican House Museum at Lewes. All these artifacts are rather small by comparison with the Henfield flake. The Beachy Head core is interesting, because it was apparently previously a complete and typical handaxe and was then turned into a core of Levalloisian type. The British Museum (Natural History) has a very small core and two flakes in very fresh condition, found at Selsey by R. J. Parsons, apparently in association with remains of *Palaeoloxodon antiquus*;⁴ they have been described as Levalloisian, perhaps justifiably, but they are not really examples of the technique in its classic form as described above. Grinsell⁵ refers to further Levalloisian cores from Alfriston and Pig Dean, though the writer has not himself come across a convincing example from either place. Grinsell also illustrates the Peacehaven core.⁶ Finally, Calkin also claimed a Levalloisian element in his finds from the famous Slindon site:⁷ the present writer is unable to confirm this on the basis of what he has seen, but the whereabouts of a fair amount of Calkin's material is uncertain at present.

The Henfield Levalloisian flake remains in the finder's possession for the moment.

DEREK A. ROE.

A SECTION THROUGH THE IRON AGE PROMONTORY FORT AT BELLE TOUT—As part of a scheme to tidy-up Belle Tout (TV 557 996), the National Trust decided to bury the telegraph wires from the Coastguards' lookout down to their cottages in Birling Gap. As the earthworks on Belle Tout are all scheduled under the Ancient Monuments Acts, the Trust gave the Department of the Environment three months' notice of their intention to dig this trench. The Department then invited the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit to watch the excavations. The author, together with Mr. K. Suckling, observed the work from 6 to 10 January, 1975.

The multi-period site at Belle Tout has been studied in considerable detail by Mr. Richard Bradley. A Mesolithic site⁸ was located beneath the Beaker settlement⁹ excavated in 1968/69 and two sections were cut through pre-Roman Iron Age earthworks.¹⁰

The trench excavated in 1975 (Fig. 2) was machine-dug some 3ft. wide. Although conditions for observation were not ideal, the only artifacts found were three indeterminate flint flakes. With the exception of the section through the earthworks, no other archaeological features were recorded.

The section through the earthwork largely confirmed Bradley's observations, although no evidence could be found for the two phases located by him.¹¹ This may have been due to excessive erosion of the bank at this point, although the considerable variations in height of the bank would perhaps suggest that it was only reconstructed along some of its length. The bank, as it survived, consisted of a low mound of small chalk rubble with some brown, friable soil (Fig. 3, layer 2) resting on a buried land surface (Fig. 3, layer 7). The ditch was of a shallow U-shaped profile, with heavily eroded sides and a flat bottom very similar to Section A dug by Bradley.¹² The ditch fill consisted of primary silting with chalk rubble (Fig. 3, layer 6) overlain by brown, friable soil with chalk

¹ Tester, P. J., *Arch. Newsletter* 4 (1952), 118-9; Wymer, J. J., *Lower Palaeolithic Archaeology in Britain as represented by the Thames Valley* (1968), 343.

² Wymer, op. cit. (1968), 263-7, also quoting the earlier literature.

³ Wymer, J. J., personal communication.

⁴ For an account of coastal Interglacial deposits of the English Channel, including those at Selsey, see West, R. G., and Sparks, B. W., *Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc.* 234B (1960), 95-133, though these flints are not mentioned.

⁵ Grinsell, L. V., *S.A.C.*, 70 (1929), 180-1.

⁶ Grinsell, op. cit., 176, Fig. 9.

⁷ Calkin, J. B., *P.P.S.E.A.* 7 (1935), 333-47.

⁸ Bradley, R., *Sussex Archaeological Society. Occ. Paper* No. 2.

⁹ Bradley, R., *Proceedings Prehistoric Society* 36 (1970), 312-70.

¹⁰ Bradley, R., *S.A.C.* 109 (1971), 8-19.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 11.

¹² *Ibid.*, Fig. 1.

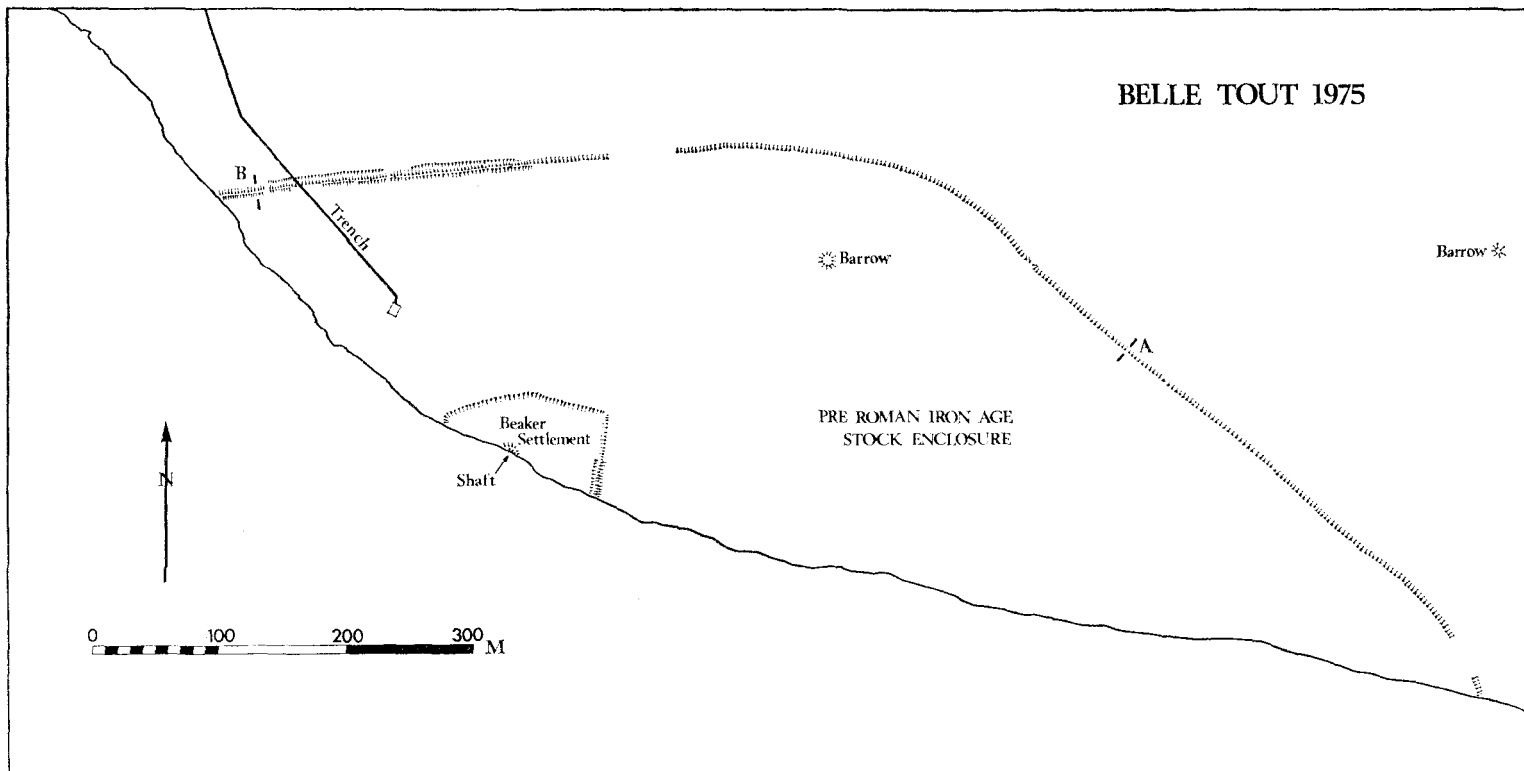


FIG. 2. BELLE TOUT 1975: Plan of pre-Roman Iron Age stock enclosure and position of trench.

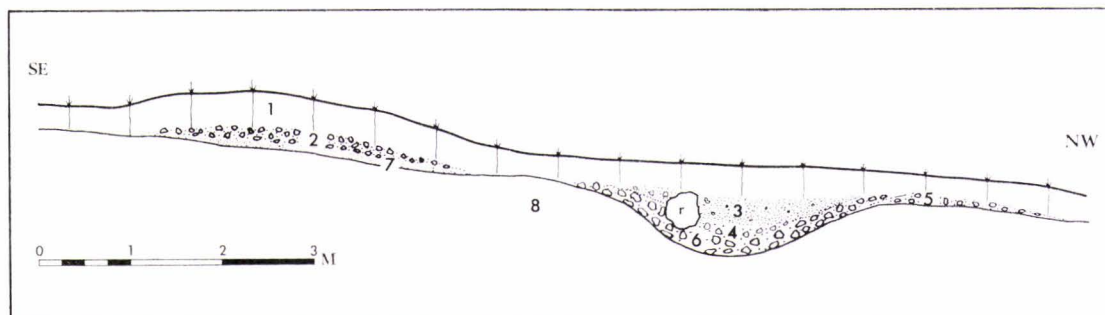


FIG. 3. BELLE TOUT 1975: Section through earthwork of pre-Roman Iron Age stock enclosure

lumps (Fig. 3, layer 4) and final silting consisting of fine brown friable soil with some chalk flecks (Fig. 3, layer 5). A slight trace of a counterscarp bank of loose fragments of weathered chalk (Fig. 3, layer 5) was found on the north-west side of the ditch.

The observations from the 1975 watching brief, therefore, offer no evidence to suggest that the earthworks at Belle Tout (like several other feeble and extensive univallate enclosures) are not the remains of a pre-Roman Iron Age stock enclosure as suggested by Bradley.¹ Indeed, the total absence of any occupation debris along the arbitrary line of this trench reinforces this suggestion.

P. L. DREWETT

SURFACE FINDS ON HOUNDEAN/ASHCOMBE FIELD (TQ 389 099)—A short introduction to this site was published in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* vol. 111 (1973), p. 111. It referred to surface collections made between January and July, 1972. However, work continued there until March, 1974, and this note is intended to bring the material up to date, since no further systematic examination of the site is deemed necessary. The finds collected during the past 20 months have naturally increased the range of material, but the original dating of the occupation of the site (based on pottery) remains unaffected, i.e. Late Bronze Age to Romano-British.

Since 1972 the plough has exposed a further quantity of human bones in the two closely related points of concentration originally thought to be a burial area and which happens to coincide with the site of the two southernmost tumuli of a group of five. The late Dr. H. B. A. Ratcliffe-Densham saw virtually all the skeletal remains and said that they represented at least eight individuals; they could be Roman or Saxon, but their condition was rather better than he normally associated with Saxon burials.

The number of sherds from the site totals over 1,840, but the main interest of this note lies in the large collection of flints. These add a new dimension to the picture and have redressed the imbalance presented by the earlier finds, amongst which flint played a negligible part. On a preliminary analysis the collection consists of over 2,130 struck flakes, 50 cores and some 240 artifacts, of which 30% are scrapers and 9% nodular hammers and choppers; there are several axes, borers and a tranchet arrowhead. The remainder consists of 'fabricators' and flints showing signs of use or secondary working. The assemblage might suggest an earlier occupation than that indicated by the pottery, but independent support from associated finds is lacking.

The potential of this site is by no means exhausted, but as the collection of finds to date gives a fair indication of its nature I do not propose any further work there apart from keeping it under review. Two small adjoining fields lie on the east and west flanks of the spur occupied by the above settlement. So far these have produced the same range of finds as the main site, but in relatively smaller quantities. One particular concentration of flints on the eastern field has yielded several fine artifacts including a beautiful burnisher/rubber with a glass-like working surface. Another small field on a lower subsidiary spur lying to the north-east (TQ 3920 1025) has produced flint and sherds within the same range. I hope to complete work on these three fields in due course.

I am again indebted to Mr. E. W. Holden and Mr. N. E. S. Norris for their help. All the material from the Houndean/Ashcombe site, along with a final report, is in Barbican House.

JOYCE T. M. BIGGAR

BOWL BARROW AT WESTDEAN, NEAR EASTBOURNE (TV 5263 9835)—Another barrow not mentioned in Grinsell's 1930 survey² has to be recorded. It was first noted by Mr. K. Blood of Ordnance Survey (Archaeology Division) in 1973 and visited by the writer and Mrs. Holden in 1974. It is not immediately recognizable as a barrow for it lies on a gentle northward-facing slope, with only faint traces of a ditch in places and there is a depression in the centre, showing that it has been dug into at some time in the past. It is situated on the north side of an ancient, disused grass track, a quarter of a mile east of Foxhole Cottages, in the Seven Sisters Country Park, once in the parish of Exceat (or Excete), but now Westdean. The overall diameter of the mound is about 25 paces (following Grinsell's method of measurement) and an average of 5ft. high.

E. W. HOLDEN

¹ *Ibid.*, 16-18.

² Grinsell, L. V., *S.A.C.*, 75 (1934).

ITFORD HILL FLINT ARTIFACTS—In the report of excavations at the Middle Bronze Age cemetery-barrow¹ there is reference to 'Depression C' which lay some 90m between south-west and west-south-west of the barrow. This hollow was considered to be the same age as the barrow and settlement. Of an estimated 1200 flint flakes recovered from the excavated part of the hollow, the writer selected 200 at random, and these have been measured by Mr. Richard Bradley (too late for the earlier report). The length/breadth relationship is depicted in a scatter diagram (Fig. 4). This demonstrates graphically that the flakes possess the same characteristics as flakes from the barrow, which adds weight to the inference that Depression C was in use during the life of the main settlement.

E. W. HOLDEN

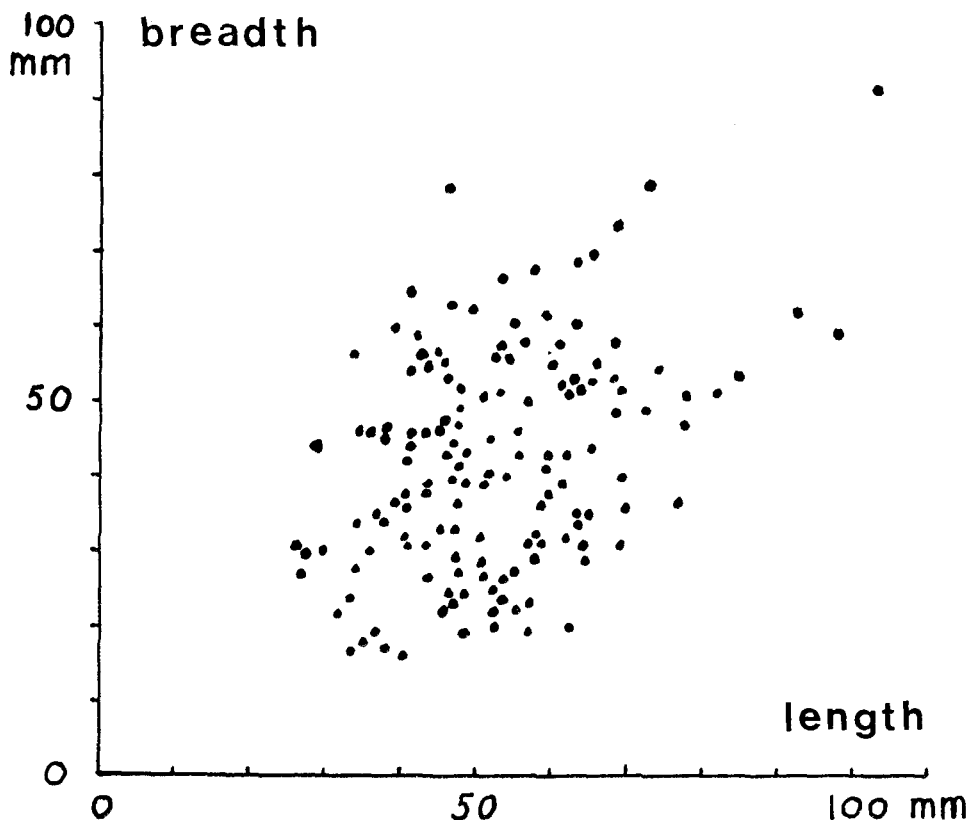


FIG. 4. ITFORD HILL: Scatter diagram of flint flakes in Depression C

SANDSTONE EXTRACTION AT EASTBOURNE—In 1973 'The Eastbourne Roman Villa'² by the late Thomas Sutton was reprinted through the initiative of our members Messrs. L. Stevens and R. Gilbert, who added a valuable supplement, thus helping to clear up various obscurities and presenting the entire subject in a wider setting. This supplement (p. 24) contains an extract from the *Eastbourne Gazette* of 11 September 1878, which the authors say "may or may not be relevant [to the Roman Villa]". The news item is as follows:

Peculiar Discovery at Eastbourne

On Friday last as the workmen engaged by Messrs. Wallis in the erection of the new Mutual Improvement Society's Hall [now the Tivoli] at Eastbourne were digging the foundations in the Field House field, opposite the Devonshire Hotel, they discovered about a foot under the surface of the ground a brick arch. This was removed, and a well, 5ft. 6in. in diameter, and of considerable depth, was opened. The air proved very obnoxious, but at length a man descended, and he then ascertained that the diameter lessened to 5ft. at a depth of 12ft. from the surface, but that below this it was enlarged to a diameter of 16ft. and formed an immense tank to the depth of 36ft. The soil for nearly half the distance was loam and clay, the lower part being sand

¹ S.A.C., 110 (1972), 84-6.

² Originally published in S.A.C., 90 (1952), 1-12. Reprint obtainable from Crain Services, 22 New Upperton Road, Eastbourne, 60p, post free.

rock. At the bottom a quantity of bones, sufficient to fill two sacks, were found, and these, on removal, proved to belong to some large animals, two heads remaining perfect. They were taken to the residence of Col. Manby, Old Town, who pronounced them to be mules. The use to which the large cavern had been put is not certain, but it may probably have been the hiding place or storage for the smugglers, who not many years since infested the Sussex coast. On Saturday the hole was filled up.

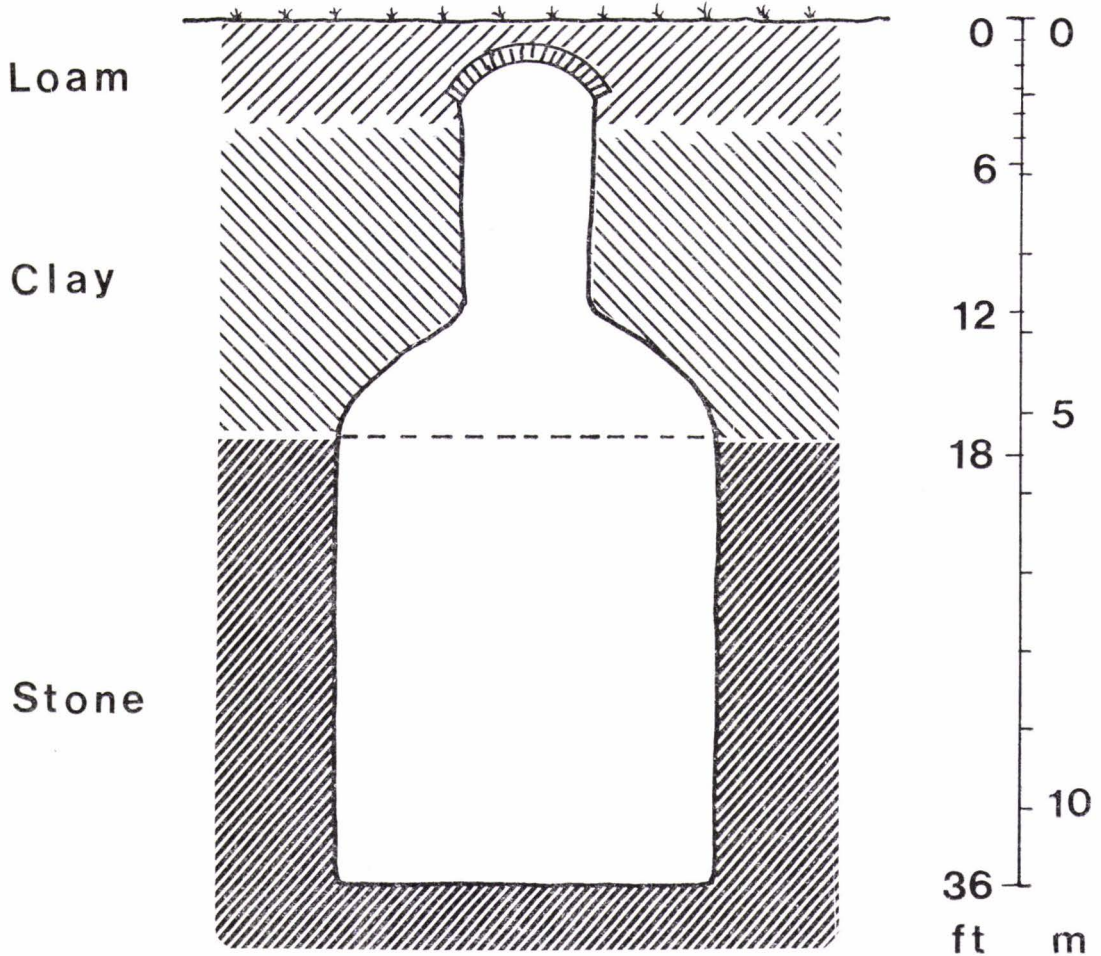


FIG. 5. EASTBOURNE: Theoretical vertical section of stone 'well'

The Roman villa lay in the same meadow as the underground chamber and shaft. A drawn section has been made from the measurements given above (Fig. 5), but it is not clear from the news report whether the depth of 36ft. should be the depth of the main chamber, or whether it should be taken from the surface. I have assumed the latter, but the principle of the underground working is not affected thereby.

I suggest that the underground chamber is a stone 'well' made for the purpose of extracting greensand for building or other purposes, where the overlying loam and clay was of such a depth as to make opencast quarrying more costly, or where the land was not permitted to be developed into opencast workings. Such underground excavations are well known in Kent and Essex as 'deneholes' or chalkwells for the extraction of chalk where the latter is overlain by thick deposits of sand, loam, or clay.¹ There is some, though often conflicting, evidence for their

¹ See *Arch. Cant.* 74 (1960), 81-90 'Some Early Chalkwells in NW. Kent,' by J. E. L. Caiger; also, by the same author, 'The Denehole Controversy,' *Proc. Croydon Nat. Hist. Soc.* 54 (1954), 132-44.

use in the Roman period and they are known from medieval times up to the 19th century. Less known is that at Brightling in north-east Sussex extraction of Jurassic limestone was still practised in 1898, as described by the celebrated Charles Dawson in one of his more useful papers, entitled: "Ancient and Modern Deneholes and their Makers."¹ Shafts, similar to wells, were dug through the superincumbent shales to a depth of about 40 or 50ft.; the cavity was then belled out to 15ft. or more diameter on to the upper surface of the limestone and the stone was removed to a safe depth. Four arched lateral chambers were then dug (the same as in Kent, with variants), for the extraction of yet more stone. Some Kentish pits, like that at Eastbourne, had no side chambers. As one pit was finished it would be filled with the spoil from the next pit. In this way, the land would still be available for agriculture. At Brightling, the limestone was spread over the arable fields nearby to improve the soil, as was the chalk in Kent. Dawson mentions descending two chalkwells in Brighton, but does not give their exact locations.

Drawn sections of the Kentish workings² are remarkably similar to the Eastbourne well (except for some lateral chambers), in one case, even to the brick arch or dome at the top of the shaft. At Gravesend a chalkwell with a 5ft. diameter shaft has a brick arch at the top which is dated to the 17th century.

Most ancient deneholes in Kent and north-east Sussex subsequently have collapsed, leaving shallow depressions, or 'bell-pits', similar bell-pits being common also in the areas of the Weald where iron ore was extracted. The fact that the Eastbourne pit had not so collapsed suggests that the clay overburden was extremely stiff and, coupled with the brick arch (not stated to be Roman bricks) suggests that it is comparatively recent, that is to say of post-medieval date, possibly about the same time as the Gravesend pit. It may be a single pit dug for a specific purpose, for it will be noted that it had not been filled in with surplus soil from another working as was the usual practice. There is always the possibility that it might be the last one in a series of pits when there was no more filling material available.

The 1in. Geological Survey map for Eastbourne (Sheet 334) shows a narrow strip of Upper Greensand close to the foreshore running south-west from the western end of the town. Farther east, including the site of the villa and the stone pit, the greensand has been covered by later deposits. The Roman villa was said to contain local greensand, and Sutton states that there was a large greensand quarry of a surface nature a little westward of the villa, inferring that the quarry was there in Roman times, which is not improbable. Greensand was also utilized for the sea-wall at the villa site in 1848-9,³ the stone presumably being obtained locally, but probably not from the pit discovered in 1878, as it is unlikely that local memory of the workings would have vanished completely in thirty years.

The quantity of stone taken from the Eastbourne pit is considerable, the solid mass being 16ft. diameter and at least 18ft. high, which is 3,620 cu. ft. If 20% is deducted for waste, there is left 2,896 cu. ft., which would be enough to build, say, a wall 145ft. long, 2ft. thick and 10ft. high. Even the waste could be used for hardcore. All that, with hardly a mark on the surface on completion, a far cry from modern opencast quarries, which can sterilize productive agricultural land for generations.

The publication of the 1878 news report by Messrs. Stevens and Gilbert, while not necessarily relevant to the Eastbourne Roman villa, is fortunate in that it throws light on a method of greensand extraction in Sussex not hitherto known, although similar methods were used elsewhere for gaining chalk and limestone. There may well be other stone pits below parts of modern Eastbourne and now that the purpose of such pits has been learned, local archaeologists, especially industrial archaeologists, should be watchful for others in suitable stone-bearing areas of Sussex.

E. W. HOLDEN

HOLE HOUSE, BARCOMBE: A MEDIEVAL FARM—By kind permission of Mr. A. W. Sclater I was permitted to walk over his land attached to Delves Farm (TQ 435 164) and Scufflings Farm (TQ 432 166), Barcombe, which includes the site of Hole House (TQ 439 170). This latter farmstead was completely demolished about 20 years ago and its site is now only represented by its well and a scatter of tiles and building materials on the surface of an arable field. Just below the site two patches of dark soil can be seen, and on these some 50 sherds of pottery were found, dating from the thirteenth or fourteenth centuries to recent times.

*The Place Names of Sussex*⁴ gives a late thirteenth-century date for Delves Farm and the nearby, but now derelict, Gallop Farm (TQ 438 167), but does not refer to Hole House which, in view of the above evidence, would seem to be of comparable date.

The ancient roads that led to these farms can still be seen by reference to the 6in. Ordnance Map (1911 edition). At two of their junctions are wide triangular spaces known as 'Greens', i.e. Blunts Green (TQ 442 169), and Deans Green (TQ 441 165). The latter name also probably dates from the thirteenth century.⁴

The pottery will be placed in Barbican House Museum, Lewes.

C. F. TEBBUTT

¹ *Geological Mag.*, N.S., 5 (1898), 293-302. There is a copy in the Society's Library among 'Sussex Pamphlets.'

² Caiger, J. L., *Arch. Cant.*, 74 (1960), Fig. 1.

³ *The Eastbourne Roman Villa* (reprint 1973), 5 and 20.

⁴ A. Mawer and F. M. Stenton, *The Place Names of Sussex* 1930, 2, 314.

A BLOOMERY SMITHY HEARTH AT ETCHINGWOOD, BUXTED—Early in 1974, in ploughing a field at Etchingwood, Buxted (TQ 502 226), an obstruction was encountered which proved to be a large irregularly shaped lump of iron slag or cinder roughly measuring 24 x 14 x 14in. Around it similar but smaller pieces were found. The writers then cleared a square over the area down to the natural clay and soon discovered that the slag had all been contained in or over an oval pit dug into the natural (see Fig. 6). It was at once noticed that, in horizontal section, the edges of the north half of the pit were burnt red, while those of the south half were burnt dark-grey, shading to red away from the edge. The pit did not appear to have had an artificial lining. Further excavation revealed the differences between the two halves.

The south half

This half, from the grey colour of the inside walls and bottom, had at some time been subject to great heat, almost certainly induced by bellows. It was filled with scale and lumps of slag or cinder, some fused together, in roughly horizontal layering. Some slag lumps had, imbedded in them, small pieces of pure iron and also charcoal of faggot size.

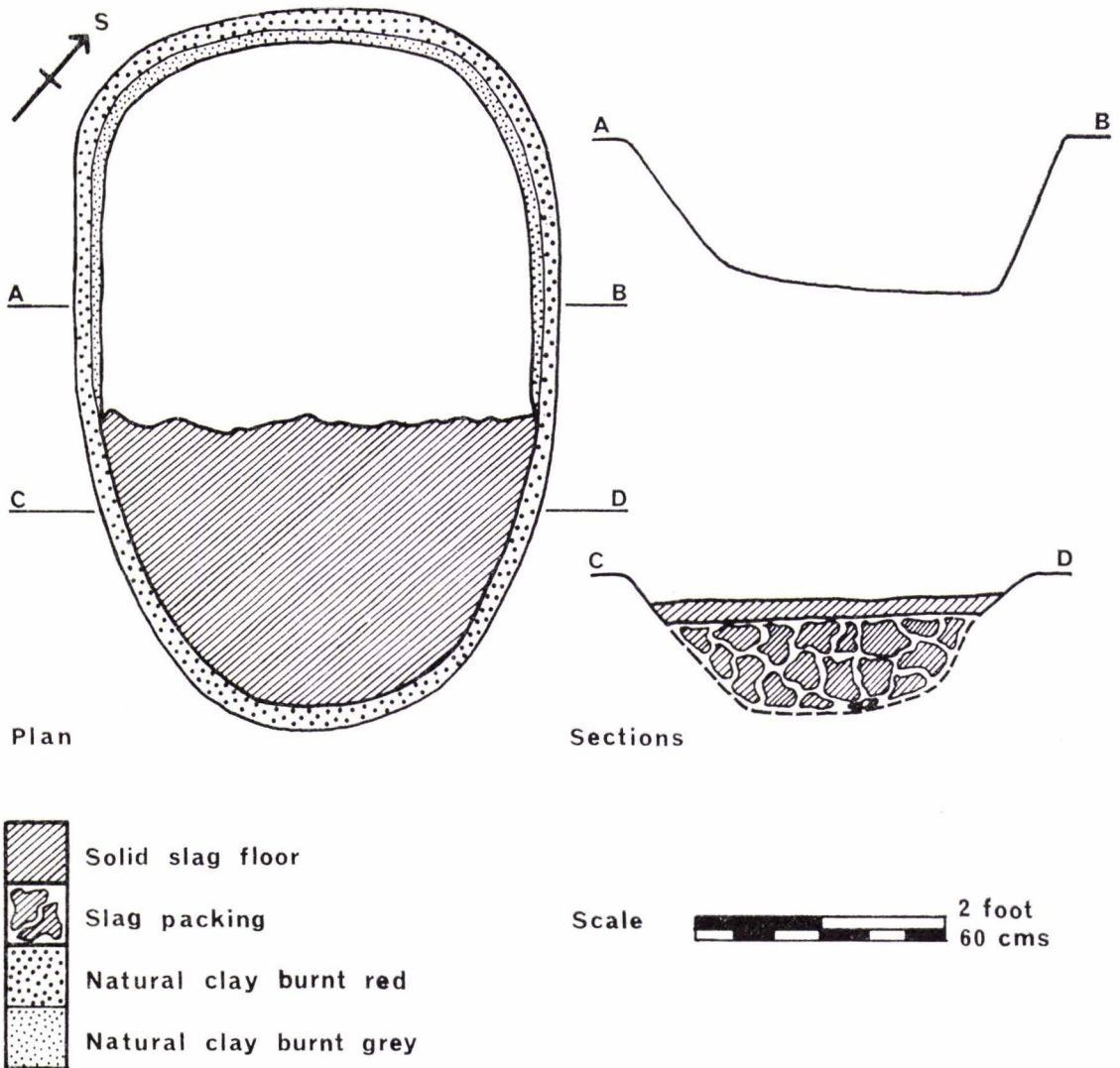


FIG. 6

The north half

In this half the heat had been less intense, only turning the walls red. On the top were lumps of slag, as on the other half, but at a depth of 4 in. a perfectly flat solid floor was found, supported by lumps of slag which filled the bottom of the pit. On close examination this floor was found to have been made from molten slag which must have been smoothed level as it cooled and consolidated, *in situ*, to fill the space occupied, and shaped to the outlines of the pit.

The interpretation of the above facts is difficult, although the feature obviously belongs to the bloomery iron smelting process. It is suggested that it may have been a hearth to which raw blooms were brought from the furnace to reheat and purify. The south end would be used for reheating, perhaps in a slag bath, while an anvil stood on the level floor at the north end.

Unfortunately no evidence of date turned up, although trenches 3 ft. wide and 10 ft. long were dug north, west and east from the pit, neither did they show any evidence that the site had been enclosed within a building.

The site is on Wadhurst Clay and iron ore is scattered over the field. About 150 yards to the north is a small brook and just across it, at TQ 502 228, a drainage trench, dug in 1974, cut through an ore-roasting area. All along the banks and bed of the stream iron cinder and tap slag from bloomery furnaces occur, and at TQ 498 225 a mass of cinder and slag, cut through by the stream, produced pottery of the 13th century.¹

This type of hearth does not seem to have been previously recorded in the Weald and, until a dated example is found we can only, by association, provisionally date it to the medieval period.

We would like to express our grateful thanks to Mr. H. F. Cleere and Mr. D. S. Butler for their valuable advice and help, and to Miss F. Marsden for the drawing.

P. ARCHIBALD and C. F. TEBBUTT

A POSSIBLE MOATED SITE AND MEDIEVAL SALTERNS AT BRAMBER—The writer watched sewer trenches during 1973–4 at Bramber and Upper Beeding. No archaeological remains were encountered except in Bramber, north of the A283, where a N–S trench ran close to the western edge of a possible moated site north-east of Bramber's main park at TQ 1888 1073.² Here the machine excavator threw up a few indeterminate sherds of medieval pottery, fragments of West Country roofing slate, pieces of clay roofing tiles, and oyster shells. One sherd from a glazed bowl may be of Tudor date. No structural remains were seen in the side of the trench, but the finds suggest that there is the possibility of a building once standing more to the east within the embanked enclosure north-east of the sewerage pumping station. This enclosure is roughly 200 ft. square, with a meandering deep wet ditch on the east and a broader deep wet ditch to the south. The north and west sides possess a faint bank with a dry shallow ditch externally at a higher level than the wet ditches. The ground within the enclosure is at a slightly higher level than outside, although no signs of layering were seen in the subsoil, which is alluvium, otherwise known as 'marsh clay'. The meadow in which the enclosure lies contains six medieval-type saltern mounds.³ This meadow, together with three isolated mounds some distance north, has recently been Scheduled as an Ancient Monument in order to protect the earthworks from destruction.

The tiny stream on the east side appears to be all that remains of the medieval mainstream of the River Adur (bearing in mind that before embanking the area was a tidal estuary), while the broader stream along the southern boundary of the meadow, which joins the other stream, runs westward, roughly parallel to the main street, to the south-east corner of the external ditch of Bramber Castle. This stream could well be the one referred to in 1267, when the Constable of the castle dug a ditch '... so that, by the said ditch, when the tide of the sea comes up, boats with stone and sand, lime, and such-like, might be brought from the bridge of Bramber towards the castle, but never since the said obstruction have any waggons or carts been able to pass over in any manner, as hitherto they did, from the said borough into the marsh to the salt-pans,⁴ whence all the neighbourhood thereby suffer loss and damage.'⁵

E. W. HOLDEN

ANCIENT WINDMILL SITE AT GLYNDE (TQ 447 097)—Between Glynde Holt and Speaker's Holt on the South Downs at Glynde, at a height of 489 ft. O.D., there existed until recently a mound which is shown on the 1911 edition of the 6 in. O.S. map 54 SE as a tumulus, but described by Grinsell⁶ as a windmill site. The turf crossing the ridgeway was Rotovated in advance of cultivation during the early part of 1973, the mound being bulldozed and the soil of which it was composed dispersed round nearby. Confirmation that the site had been a mill-stead and not a barrow came from surface finds. No signs of trenches for windmill crosstrees were seen.

¹ Tebbutt, C. F., *S.N.Q.* 17 (1970), 167–8.

² For archaeological remains uncovered by the sewer trench at the medieval stone bridge of Bramber, see this issue, p. 104.

³ The extraction of salt from sand or silt in estuaries, with the resultant mounds of exhausted material, is described in *S.N.Q.*, 15 (1958–62), 304–6.

⁴ The late Dr. L. F. Salzman told the writer that the Latin word *salina* had no clear English translation, but could be rendered as 'salt-pan', 'salt-pit', 'saltern', or 'saltwork' (meaning a place where salt was made). The use of the term 'salt-pan'

is unfortunate, as it implies evaporation of seawater in large open 'sun-pans', as is practised in Brittany and the Mediterranean today. Where mounds exist, the method did not use evaporation by sun-pans to produce brine, but only small lead pans or clay vessels for boiling brine, extracted from sand by straining, over a fire. Preferable terms where the sand-straining method is known to have been used are 'salterns' or 'salt-works'.

⁵ *S.A.C.*, 2 (1849), 69, where the original reference is given as *Rot. Hund.* ii, 202.

⁶ Note 37 on the Society's copy of 6 in. O.S. map 54 SE.

Finds included fragments of pottery of thirteenth to fourteenth century date (thumbed jug bases, stabbed jug handles, typical medieval rims, and body sherds), a few sherds of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and only two or three glazed sherds, possibly 17th century. No pottery was found in abundance. In addition, there were some roof-tile fragments, a piece of Horsham-type roofing stone with a nail-hole in it, iron nails, an iron ride for hanging a door, and the tip of an iron knife. A strip of bronze and several oyster shells were there. These objects indicate human occupation over a long period, probably not domestic, because of the scarcity of the finds, and a windmill site (bearing in mind the opinion of Grinsell, who recorded the mound before it was damaged) seems to be confirmed.

There was an unusual find in a shapeless lump of siliceous tufa or sinter, visually the same as pieces found by the writer in a thirteenth or fourteenth century context at Hangleton.¹ Expert opinion on the Hangleton rocks said that this kind of rock was not found in Sussex but could have come from the Isle of Wight or the Hampshire Basin.

A small number of coarse gritty sherds came from the disturbed area. These probably are of Bronze Age date, it being likely that they came from a small barrow partly excavated in 1922,² which appears to have been of that period, and which lay some 50 paces south of the mill-stead. No trace of that barrow, which was only 6in. high, could be found. As the disturbed ground extended well beyond the limits of the original mill-stead mound, it is conjectured that the small barrow suffered the same fate as the former.

E. W. HOLDEN

A PATENT ELASTIC STEEL HORSE COLLAR—In March 1964, the late Mr. Jack Stevens of Leonard Stevens, the Saddlers, Eastbourne, acquired from Mr. W. J. F. Chapple of Elms Farm, Rickney, a galvanized metal elastic horse collar, which Mr. Stevens presented to the Society's Agricultural Museum at Wilmington Priory.

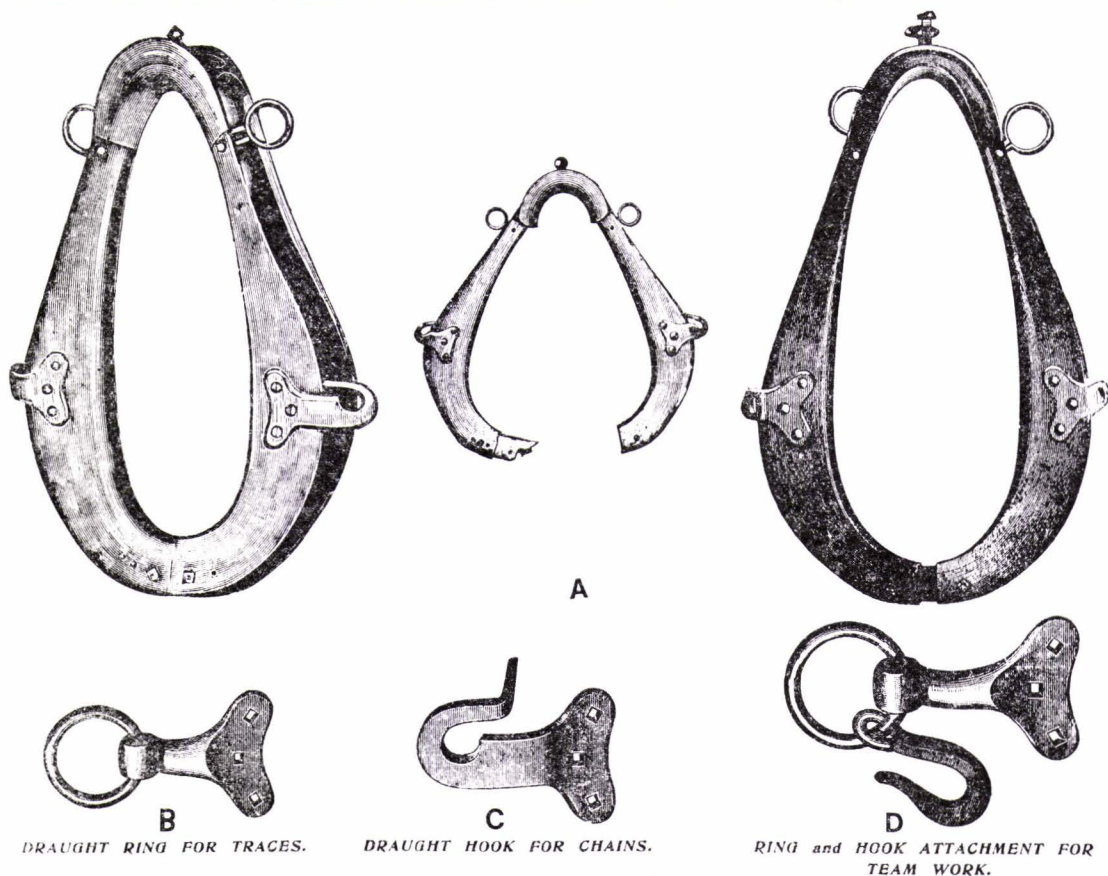


Fig. 7 A: THREE VIEWS OF THE METAL ELASTIC HORSE COLLAR; B-D: VARIOUS HOOK and RING ATTACHMENTS AS DESCRIBED IN THE TEXT (from Hampson & Scott's Equine Album No. 1825).

¹ S.A.C., 101 (1963), 151-2.

² S.A.C., 64 (1923), 189-90.

This patent elastic horse collar (Fig. 7A), manufactured by a Birmingham firm, was invented to prevent and assist the cure of sore shoulders. The collar did not need drying as did the conventional padded leather collar. Its elasticity was achieved by a series of bolt holes, which made it fully adjustable at the throat and the pole, i.e. bottom and top respectively. This adjustment was achieved by moveable metal gussets. At the pole, the gusset moved up or down to adjust its height on the inner surface of the sides of the collar, whilst the throat gusset was inside the shaped metal sides upon which the collar could be widened or narrowed. Thus the height and width could be altered in a matter of minutes by adjusting the bolt positions, something that could not be achieved with the conventional leather collar. Surprisingly enough, the metal collar is lighter in weight than a complete conventional leather horse collar: the latter with harness weighs approximately 25lb., whilst the former weighs 17½lb.

There were a number of hook attachments for various purposes. A wire ring could be bolted on for leather traces (Fig. 10b) and a flat metal draft hook could be fixed for use with chains (Fig. 7c), whilst a ring and hook attachment could be used for team work (Fig. 7d).

The Patent Elastic Steel Horse Collar Company of Birmingham has been traced in the Birmingham Directories from 1890-1919, during which time they had addresses in Summer Row, Great Charles Street, Lancaster Street, and Northumberland Street. The invention appears to have attracted great praise. Prizes and medals were won at the Paris Exhibition in 1889, and during the year 1890-1 prizes and medals were gained at the Staffordshire, Birkenhead, and Altrincham Agricultural Shows and at the Prague Exhibition in 1891. The collar also gained a Diploma of Merit at the Royal Military Exhibition at Chelsea in 1890.

The Company's disappearance from the directory in 1919 coincides with the post World War I decline in draft horse harness, which was brought about by the dual factors of so many horses having been lost in the war and the growing popularity of motorized transport.

LAWRENCE STEVENS

A NEOLITHIC POT FROM SELMESTON, EAST SUSSEX (TQ 5121 0688)—The sandpit at Selmeiston is well known for its Mesolithic "pit-dwellings" excavated in 1933 by Professor J. G. D. Clarke (*Antiq. Journal* 14, 1934, p. 134), and for its Bronze Age features excavated by the Curwens in 1936 (*S.A.C.* 79, p. 195). The sandpit remains in use, although it is not now worked on a commercial basis, and the greater part is now overgrown. In order to keep a check on the sand being removed, Mr. A. Holloway of Eastbourne wrote to the present owners in July 1974, for permission to check the sandfaces for Mesolithic implements, and as permission was kindly granted, he enlisted the help of a colleague, Mr. J. Bell of Hastings. They visited the sandpit on numerous occasions, and have recovered a variety of flints of Mesolithic and later periods.

On one of these visits to the sandpit, Mr. John Bell found what appeared to be a line of pottery in the sandface, about 4ft. below the present ground-level. He carefully removed the surrounding sand, and recovered eight large fragments of pottery, from which he was able to reconstruct almost half of a pot. The breakages had no doubt been due to the weight of the sand above.

Messrs. Holloway and Bell, recognizing the importance of the find, reported it to Miss Caroline Dudley of the Brighton Museum, who immediately informed the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit. Dr. Owen Bedwin of the Unit examined the site with Messrs. Holloway and Bell in April 1975, but no further finds were made. Because of the fine condition of the pot, it was assumed that it had been in a pit destroyed in a fall of sand from the top of the cliff and owing to the position in which the pot was found, it would appear that the missing half was destroyed in the earlier commercial removal of sand.

The pot is made of a sandy clay with large pieces of calcined flint filler. Irregular bonfire firing has resulted in a black and dark brown mottled outer surface. The inner surface is grey-black, possibly indicating that the pot was fired inverted. A thin section of the pot was made by Miss A. J. Woods and Miss C. R. Cartwright, Research Assistant to the Unit, who states that the sherds contain a high proportion of large angular flint fragments, a smaller number of small rounded quartz and feldspar grains and a little very fine-grained quartzite. From the evidence of microscopic examination of the flint fragments, it would appear that the pot was not fired to a very high temperature, as they have not taken on the typical altered appearance often present in flint subjected to high temperatures. The external surface and core of the pot are both dark brown to black—also tending to suggest that low firing has not removed all of the organic content, rather than in this case, the result of a reduction process. The upper surface of the outside of the pot is heavily decorated with stabbed impressions which continue on the inside of the rim. The pot may be reconstructed as a decorated round-based bowl (Fig. 8). It therefore belongs to the earlier Neolithic ceramic tradition of round-based pottery. The three nearest Neolithic sites from which parallels may be taken are those of Whitehawk, excavated by Curwen (*Antiq. J.* 14, 99-113); Combe Hill, excavated by Musson (*S.A.C.* 89, 105-116) and the Alfriston oval barrow excavated by the author (*P.P.S.* 41, 119-152). The fact that two of these are communal centres ('Causeway Camps') and one is a burial site does however mean that the pottery from these sites may not be typical but could have been made with specialized functions in mind. However, Dr. I. Smith has suggested that the ceramic evidence from Whitehawk shows influence from both of the main early Neolithic ceramic traditions, the Hembury style and the Grimston/Lyles Hill series. The carbon-14 date range for these types is c. 3,500 bc which may be calibrated to c. 4,300 bc-c. 3,000 bc (*British Prehistory*, Duckworth, 1974, p. 107). Associated with the essentially plain Hembury and Grimston/Lyles Hill types are a decorated group. The decorated group, sometimes referred to as Peterborough Ware, includes several styles of which the 'Ebbsfleet' bowls perhaps represent some of the earliest. The rim of the Selmeiston pot may be paralleled in Ebbsfleet pots from both classic Neolithic sites like Windmill Hill (*Windmill Hill and Avebury*, Oxford 1965, Fig. 31, pot 238) and at Kentish sites (*Excavations in West Kent* 1960-1970, Kent Archaeological Research Report 2, 1973, Fig. 6, No. 3) as well as locally at Combe Hill (unpublished examples in Lewes Museum). The fabric was also similar to sherds from the Alfriston oval barrow some 2 miles due south (*P.P.S.* 41, Fig. 11, Nos. 29-31).

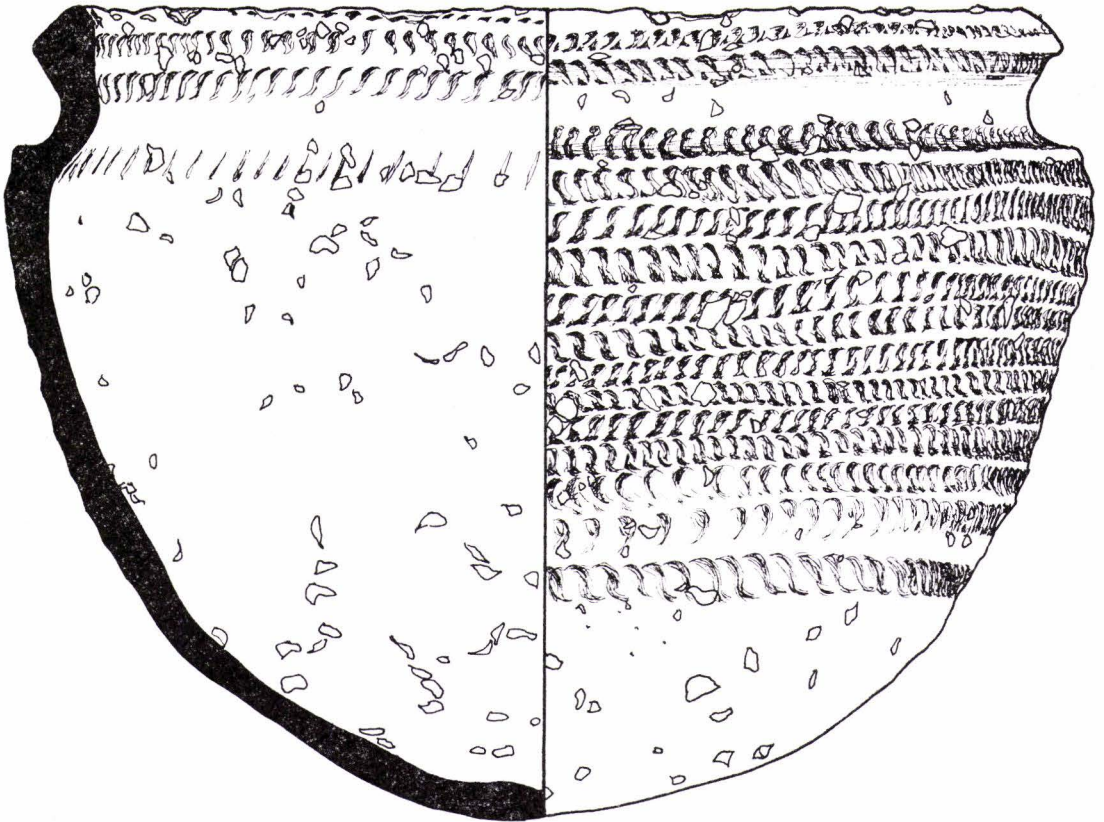


FIG. 8. Neolithic pot from Selmeiston ($\frac{1}{2}$).

In conclusion, it therefore appears likely that this pot belongs to a decorated earlier Neolithic ceramic tradition associated with the communal (causewayed) enclosures and earthen long and oval barrows in Sussex. As such its principal significance is that it comes from, presumably, an ordinary domestic site which are very rare in this period in Sussex. Its existence on the Greensand is particularly interesting as all contemporary, at least surviving, communal works are known from the Chalk Downs. The finder has retained the pot.

P. L. DREWETT

FOREST STANDINGS—The conclusions drawn by C. F. Tebbutt in his article¹ on King's Standing, Ashdown Forest, about the origins and purposes of the putative buildings and enclosure on the Forest Ridge above Duddleswell can be reinforced by evidence from Epping Forest in Essex. It is now but a vestige of the vast Forest of Essex that was for centuries Royal Forest and subject to the onerous legal burdens of that status and the princely pleasures of the Tudor monarchs who used the standing now known as Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge. This building, like the site at Ashdown Forest, is located on a forest eminence called Dannett's Hill at Chingford and was conveniently placed for the style of hunting which, as Mr. Tebbutt infers, was developed in the sixteenth century.

The earliest place-name reference to the Ashdown Forest site was, I note, to 'Kings Standing'² in a Parliamentary Survey of 1658 and it was 'King James's Standing'³ in 1813. Before the sixteenth century there appear to be no references to the standings although there are records of forest lodges and the associated enclosures and game in forest archives and the muniments of the Courts of Attachment. On 4 December 23 Henry VI (1444) a warrant⁴ from the Steward of the Forest of Essex (Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester) noted

'that there is not in the said forest any lodge for the convenience of the ministers of my lord the king of the same forest, which was very necessary and convenient for them; nor any pimfold [pound] for impounding and keeping cattle, swine, sheep, and strays, and other forfeits we charge you that you cause to be newly constructed and suitably raised without delay a lodge and pimfold also one pair of stocks for the punishment of evildoers' (Translation).

¹ *S.A.C.*, 112 (1974), pp. 30-33.

² A. Mawer and F. M. Stenton *The Place Names of Sussex* (1969), Pt. II, p. 392.

³ Ordnance Survey, one inch map (1813) *S.N.Q.* 3 (1930-1), p. 74.

⁴ *Essex Naturalist*, 12 (1902), p. 145.

All this was clearly necessary for the normal usage and administration of the forest by its royal patrons and the appointed authorities.

I do not, in fact, consider that this document refers to the lodge at Chingford although it may concern another known to have been sited in the same vicinity. The following references do, and imply the change in hunting practice although the lodge continued to serve the same basic purposes for forest management.

The documentary evidence and the architectural features of the lodge at Chingford suggest that it was built by Henry VIII c. 1541-3. A warrant¹ of 12 Feb. 34 Hen. VIII (1543) issued by the king to Sir Richard Riche to arrange payment of £30 to George Maxey, a Forest Woodward, contains the clues we seek:

'towards the ffynyschinge as wall off[] on great stondeinge' and: perfecting such 'perookes' [paddocks] as the king required in his new park at 'Fayremeade' [the terrain below Dannett's Hill].

Later, on 12 June 31 Eliz. (1589), an extensive survey was ordered as the lodge was in need of repair. This document,² an Exchequer Special Commission, now much decayed, describes the lodge as the 'Greate Standinge' and refers, in the preambular paragraphs, to:

'The second [storey] for convenient standing to viewe the game. The Th[jird] serveth likewise'

It is reasonable to assume that King's Standing at Ashdown Forest was a building of the type still existing at Chingford and shown in the accompanying illustration (plate 1). The originally open character of the second and third storeys is attested by the joisting which was laid to a fall to allow rainwater to run off. There can be no doubt that Mr. Tebbutt is correct in his view that King's Standing was the site of such a building, not earlier than the sixteenth century and provided with enclosures to facilitate the management of the forest and game for the contemporary style of hunting for which the standings were used.

KENNETH NEALE

"WENBAN'S FARM," WADHURST, SUSSEX, and the family name linked with it—In *Collections* vol. 65 (1923) under Notes and Queries No. 6, page 259, there is a note by the late Col. H. F. S. Ramsden, on the above buildings and estate. This farm is marked on the current Ordnance Survey Map as "Wenban's" although formerly spelt "WENBON'S FARM". Col. Ramsden noted that it was the last yeoman holding in the Wadhurst area, having been in the hands of the Tompsett family for over 100 years. Since 1923 the estate consisting of approximately 90 acres has changed hands several times to new owners, who requiring a desirable country residence rather than a full-time agricultural occupation, have spent considerable sums preserving as well as modernising the buildings.

Although it is over 300 years since anyone bearing the name Wenban has occupied or owned any part of it most of the Wenbans (apart from some American and Australian members of the family who emigrated) have remained in the south-east corner of England, mainly in Kent and Sussex.

Much of the history of the estate and its changing ownership is recorded in "*The Story of Wadhurst*", a handbook on the history of the parish and its estates published in 1923 in Tunbridge Wells based on the researches of Mrs. Rhys Davids (née Foley) daughter of a former Vicar of Wadhurst, edited and revised by Mr. Alfred A. Wace. From this the information is also gleaned that part of the parish including this estate formed part of the lands of the manor of Bivelham (or Bibleham).

Origins of the site

Assize Rolls of 1271 and 1288 refer to *Wanesburn* and *Wenneburn*. The Subsidy Rolls in 1327 and 1332 give it as *WANEBOURNE*, which later developed into Wenbourne, with or without the *u* or the *e*.³

This is probably the personal name *Waenna* of a Saxon settler linked with the name *burna* (a stream) as the farm site lies in a valley tributary to the Rother. Thus the name *Waenna's-burna* was attached to the land and passed through the mutations shown in documents and became the personal name of those who lived there. The farm site is perfectly summed up by Winston Churchill's description of an Anglo-Saxon settlement.⁴

Straker's "*Wealden Iron*" lists Wenban's as the site of a "bloomyery" for smelting iron, and this was succeeded by a furnace in the valley between it and the neighbouring house Scrag Oak where the stream was dammed for a hammer pond. The current 1/2500 Ordnance Survey map marks the site of the bay. The duration of the furnace operations is not known but the field names beside the stream, Upper Furnace Field, Lower Furnace Field, Furnace Plat with the names Sinden Wood and Sinden Field perpetuate their memory. These names appear on an Estate Map made for Mr. James Tompsett after he took over the property about 1759. Straker mentions also Furnace Orchard and Furnace Shaw, which appear on the later tithe assessment maps. He surmises that the furnace was already disused by 1653.

Early History

The Bivelham or Bibleham manor court rolls⁵ make mention from 1388 onwards of a John and William Wenbourne. These references are to the repair of their "tenements" and their election to the office of reeve or receiver under the Lord of the Manor. They are also subjected to fines for cutting down wood without the lord's licence or not using his mill, both common misdemeanours under feudal law. As early as 1320 mention was made of two men John ate Hall and John Grigori as each holding "half a wiste in Waneburne" but it is in 1407 that

¹ P.R.O. SP 1/176 fo. 36.

² P.R.O. E 178/834.

³ A. Mawer and F. M. Stenton, *The Place-Names of Sussex* (1930), Part II, 387.

⁴ "His notion of an economic holding was a meadow for hay near the stream, the lower slopes under the plough and the upper slopes kept for pasture . . ." (*A History of the English-speaking Peoples*), vol. 1 (1956), 49. It would be hard to find a better description of the site.

⁵ British Museum MSS. Additional Rolls 31080 to 31137 (Bibleham Court Rolls, 1388-1470).

the "wiste of Wenbourne" is named in the manorial rolls. In that year John Crothole surrendered "all the lands and tenements of the wiste of Wenbourne to the behoof of John Wenbourne". This is the first mention of a "Wenbourne of Wenbourne". John, William and Laurence are the first names to recur in successive generations until in 1470 the "bond tenement with appurt's" comes into the hands of Richard and Thomas his wife. He seems to have been the last of the family to hold the lands bearing his name, which subsequently passed into the hands of the Whitfield family, but the Wenbournes still held other lands within the manor of Bivelham and the neighbouring manor of Mayfield.

Reference in the rolls of 1429 and 1470 to "the hall of the said message . . . with the chamber in the same part, as well the lower as the higher . . . (the low chamber and the high chamber)" raises the speculation as to whether the older part of the existing house in which Col. Ramsden described the hardened yellow clay wall with a scored pattern is of fifteenth century construction. It was found on the upper floor (the "high chamber" perhaps?). The later wing of the building is known to be of seventeenth-century construction for it had a stone fireplace which is dated 1612 beneath a fine stack of chimneys. This also bears the four initials A.M.E.M., the initials of Abraham and Elisabeth Manser, who were living there at the time. Before leaving the fifteenth century references in the manorial records it is interesting to note that a William Birchet "died seised of land in Wenbourne"; there is still a Birchet Wood marked on the maps of adjoining properties. The Mansers who, like the Barhams, were iron masters in the Wadhurst area held Wenbournes for not less than 70 years in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The wills of both Christopher Manser (1545) and Abraham Manser (1626) mention the property and Christopher's daughter was married to Robert Wenborne. Later it was linked with the Barhams; in the eighteenth century they held the neighbouring property of Scrag Oak also.

The Department of the Environment classifies the buildings as Grade II, subject to restrictions on alterations, and describes them thus:

"Wenbans . . . not now a farm. Of medieval origin . . . Timber-framed house altered in the sixteenth century. The west half of the house is now wholly fronted with weather-boarding. The east half is partly fronted with weather-boarding, partly with red brick, and the first floor which overhangs on the projecting ends of the floor joists and brackets is tile hung. To the S.E. of the house is a sixteenth-century barn, timbered, which has been converted to a hall or room and is now joined to the house by a corridor which was formerly a cowshed. Inside, the house has contemporary fireplaces and ceiling beams. The house was probably used for smuggling in the eighteenth century as the stone stairs leading to the cellars are worn away as with the friction of a rope lowering goods."

Apart from the wills of Christopher and Abraham Manser there are two wills of considerable interest in the Wenborne family. That of John "Whenborne of the Parysshe of Whadherste" in 1547 mentions lands within the parishes of Wadhurst and Mayfield. That of George Wenborne drawn up in 1588 but not proved until 1592 refers to "my freehold house in Wadhurst", the first known indication of residence in the actual village and also refers to a copyhold called Snape Meads and a wood of nine acres.¹

At the turn of the fifteenth century the name Robert Wenborne occurs frequently as a witness to wills and he is at least mentioned as being "of Staple Inn". This is the first real indication of a link with the City of London. His own will and that of his wife Elizabeth, are still preserved in remarkable condition at the East Sussex County Record Office. Elizabeth was a Cruttall (cf. John Crothole mentioned above) whom he married at St. George's, Southwark, indicating that he was already in residence partly in Southwark as well as Wadhurst and conducting business in the City. His will, dated 1637 suggests that "my children be also brought up and put to prentice with the profits of the lands . . ." His third son Thomas "put himself to prentice to Nicholas Warren, Citizen and Skinner of London for nine years from Lady-Day past" which was the 3rd April 1637. He passed out of his apprenticeship in 1644, passed through all the stages required to attain the office of First Warden of the Worshipful Company of Skinners in 1683 two years before his death.² Elizabeth's will of 1642 names their second son William as heir, the first son Robert having died in the meanwhile. William was an emigrant to New England and appears in the records of Boston, Massachusetts, and Exeter, New Hampshire. One wonders whether he did some trade in furs with his brother the Citizen and Skinner of London resident in Southwark. A mutual friend mentioned in Thomas's will and in correspondence was a Daniel Mercer, merchant, of London.³ Elizabeth Wenborne's brother, George Cruttall, who died a bachelor, was a Citizen and Cutler of the parish of St. Saviour, Southwark, and Wadhurst. In his will he left items to his nephews and nieces of the Wenborne family.⁴

The name Wenbourne no longer persists in the Wadhurst area but a mutation which came about in Sandhurst, Kent, shortened it to WENBAN, retaining the distinctive conjunction of N and B, but abbreviating the second syllable. In this form the name is still to be found in Sussex in Wadhurst, Rotherfield and Frant, in Kent and south-east London. Both forms of the name with variations occur in the United States of America and Australia as a result of the emigration of many Wealden agricultural workers between 1825 and 1840.

A. A. WENBAN.

¹ East Sussex Record Office, Manser wills P.C.C. Alen 21; P.C.C. 55 Skyner. Wenborne wills P.C.C. Alen 47.

² Records of the Worshipful Company of Skinners, London.

³ *New England Genealogical and Historical Society's Transactions*, vol. 47, 413 (footnote), vols. 8, 9, 25 and 27.

⁴ E.S.R.O., P.C.C. 31 Campbell.

THE CHAPEL OF ST. CYRIAC, CHICHESTER—The existence of the Chapel of St. Cyriac in Chichester has been known for a long time; what has been uncertain has been its location. Many of the sources for its history are in print, and the chapel has been mentioned in more than one article.¹ However, no article has as yet given an accurate account of the site. The Rev. Edward Turner gave the chapel's location as a subterranean passage beneath the city wall between Westgate and Northgate.² W. D. Peckham placed it as on the North Walls, near the end of Tower Street,³ but since expressing the opinion he has seen the documents in the Diocesan Record Office at Chichester which clearly give the site of the chapel. The purpose of this note, then, is to bring together all the known facts about the chapel, and to place on record its exact location.

St. Cyriac is often associated in dedications with St. Julitta his mother. Julitta was a Roman Christian who fled to Tarsus with her child to escape the Diocletian persecutions of the late third century. She was recognised by the Governor of Tarsus, tortured and put to death, after her son, Cyriac, then three years old, had been killed before her eyes.⁴ St. Cyriac is not a well-known saint in England, only nine parish churches being dedicated to him, three of these being in association with his mother. However, he enjoyed an extensive cult in France, centred round Auxerre, and his dedication to Chichester was introduced by one of the victorious Norman French.

The chapel of St. Cyriac in Chichester was probably founded by Earl Roger de Montgomery soon after he acquired the Rape of Chichester after the conquest. In view of the chapel's rapid decline, and apparent lack of endowment, it was probably founded to house a single chantry priest, to pray for the soul of Earl Roger or his ancestors. Earl Roger gave the chapel to the Abbey of St. Martin at Troarn, in France, which he had founded in c. 1050-1059, to replace the secular canons established in that place by his father. The foundation of the chapel can therefore be dated to between 1066 and 1094 when Earl Roger died.⁵

In 1155 Henry II confirmed to Troarn its property in England, including "of the gift of Earl Roger of Montgomery . . . in Chichester two messuages and the church of St. Cyriac" as they had held them "in the time of his great grandfather King William and his grandfather King Henry".⁶ The chapel did not long remain the property of the abbey, unless its value became so negligible, that it did not merit a mention among the house's property. In another confirmation of property, dated to c.1155-1158, Troarn's possessions in Chichester are described as only "ii mansuras in Cicestria".⁷

In 1260 Troarn exchanged its property in England for the foreign possessions of the Priory of Bruton in Somerset.⁸ The chapel of St. Cyriac was not mentioned in the exchange, and at some time before this date it had declined from its original foundation as a chantry, into the habitation of a recluse. Geoffrey de Glovernia, Dean of Chichester, from c. 1241-1254,⁹ made his will in 1247. After several bequests to members of the Cathedral and local clergy, he ordained the following further payments to be made annually on his anniversary: "2s. for food for the Friars Minor, 7d. for a pittance for the brethren and sisters of St. Mary's Hospital, 12d. for food for the sick there, 3d. to the lepers of St. James's Hospital, 1d. to the recluse of St. Cyriac".¹⁰

The un-named recluse did not apparently receive his dole for very many years. At the beginning of August 1269 King Henry III came to Chichester, and someone drew the King's attention to the chapel. No mention is made of a recluse, and the chapel is described as being impoverished, its rents and income not being sufficient for the maintenance of a chaplain to celebrate there. Moved by reverence for St. Cyriac, Henry re-endowed the chapel and granted a stipend for the support of a chaplain. On 8 August 1269 he sealed an order to the Sheriff of Surrey to send 50 marks immediately, from the proceeds of the judicial eyre for pleas of the forest which was then in session in the county. Five marks were to be sent annually from the profits of the county, for the upkeep of the chapel and its chaplain.¹¹ By 13 August, the position of the chaplain had been given to Stephen de Medhurst *alias* Midhurst. Nothing is known of Stephen, except in his connection with the chapel, although his name would suggest that he had local connections. Stephen was to use the initial grant of 50 marks to buy a rent of 5 marks per annum, which, together with 5 marks sent annually by the Sheriff of Surrey, would form his stipend. In return for this, he was to celebrate daily in the chapel for the rest of his life, presumably for the spiritual benefit of Henry III and his family.¹²

Stephen's stipend was not very large, and from entries in the Liberate Rolls for the first few years following his appointment as chaplain, it would seem that it was usually in arrears. On 10 August 1270, the Sheriff of Surrey was ordered "to let Stephen the King's chaplain in St. Cyriac's chapel, Chichester, have 2½ marks arrears of his stipend without fail".¹³ By 10 December 1271, Stephen had not yet received his 5 marks for the year.¹⁴ The money had still not been fully paid by the 28 June 1272, when an order was sent to the Sheriff of Sussex "to let Stephen the King's chaplain celebrating in St. Cyriac's chapel in Chichester have the arrears of his stipend of 5 marks yearly, without fail and 5 marks for the present year, unless already paid".¹⁵

¹ L. F. Salzman (ed.), *The Victoria History of the County of Sussex*, vol. 2 (1907), 46, and vol. 3 (1953), 75.

² Rev. Edward Turner, 'Domus Anachoritae, Aldrington,' in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (hereafter abbreviated to *S.A.C.*), vol. 12 (1860), 122, 123.

³ W. D. Peckham, 'The Parishes of the City of Chichester,' *S.A.C.*, vol. 74 (1933), 93, 94.

⁴ Herbert Thurston, *Butler's Lives of the Saints* (1956), vol. 2, 552.

⁵ G. E. C(ockayne), *The Complete Peerage*, vol. 11 (1949), 683-687.

⁶ J. H. Round (ed.), *Calendar of Documents Preserved in France Illustrative of the History of Great Britain and Ireland . . .* (1899), 170, 171.

⁷ *Calendar of Charter Rolls*, vol. 4 (1912), 283, 284.

⁸ *Calendar of Charter Rolls*, vol. 4 (1912), 284, 285.

⁹ West Sussex Record Office, MP. 986. A List of Deans of Chichester from 1100, compiled by W. D. Peckham.

¹⁰ W.S.R.O., Ep. VI/1/6, f. 192v. Printed in W. D. Peckham (ed.), *The Chartulary of the High Church of Chichester*, *Sussex Record Society* (hereafter *S.R.S.*), vol. 46 (1943), 154.

¹¹ *Calendar of Close Rolls*, 1268-1272 (1938), 75.

¹² *Calendar of Liberate Rolls*, 1267-1272 (1964), 93, No. 818.

¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 137, No. 1199.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 150, No. 1324.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 221, No. 1991.

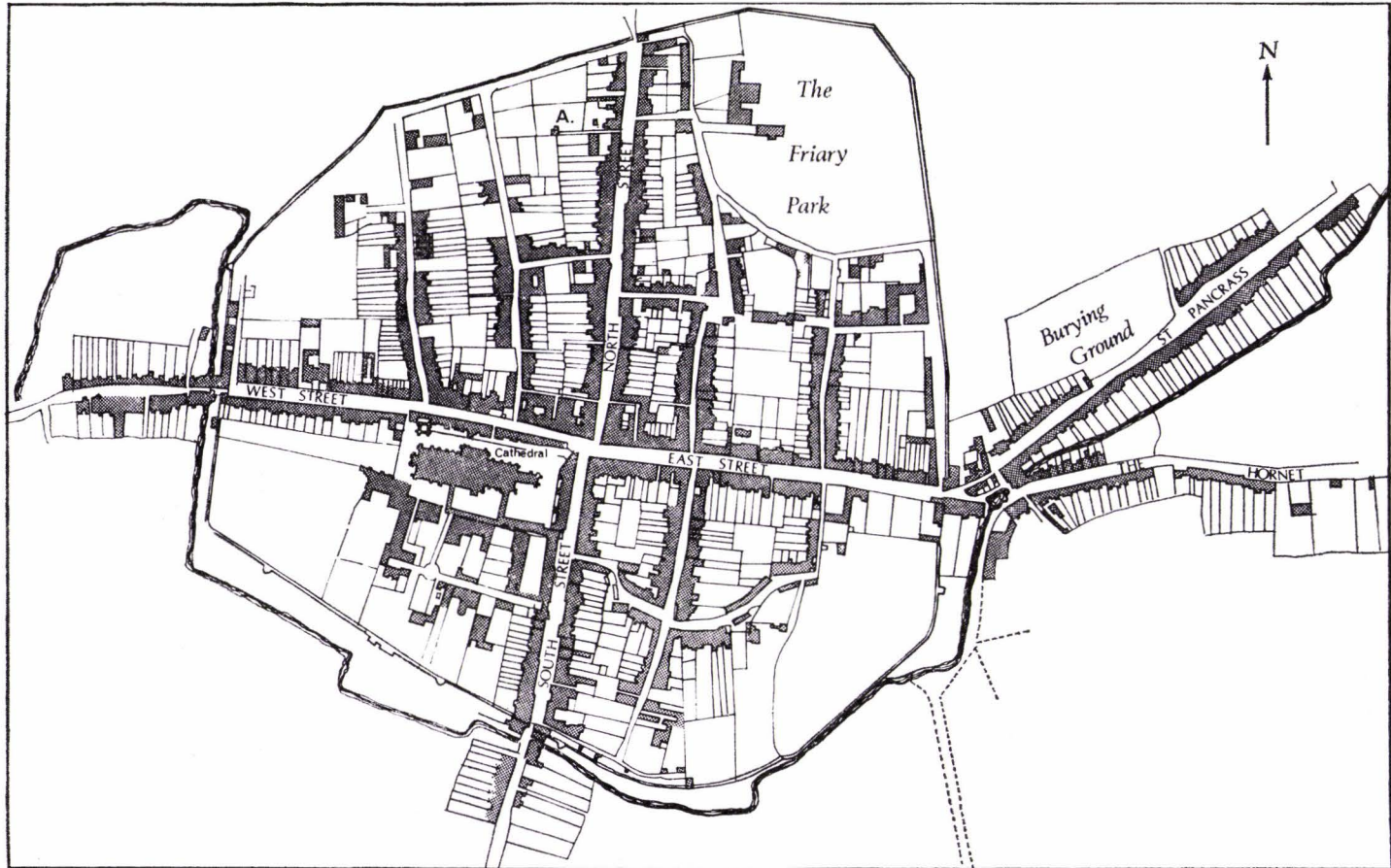


FIG. 9. Chichester, from Yeakell and Gardner's map of Sussex, 1769 (original, 26 to 1 mile). A. site of St. Cyriac's Chapel.

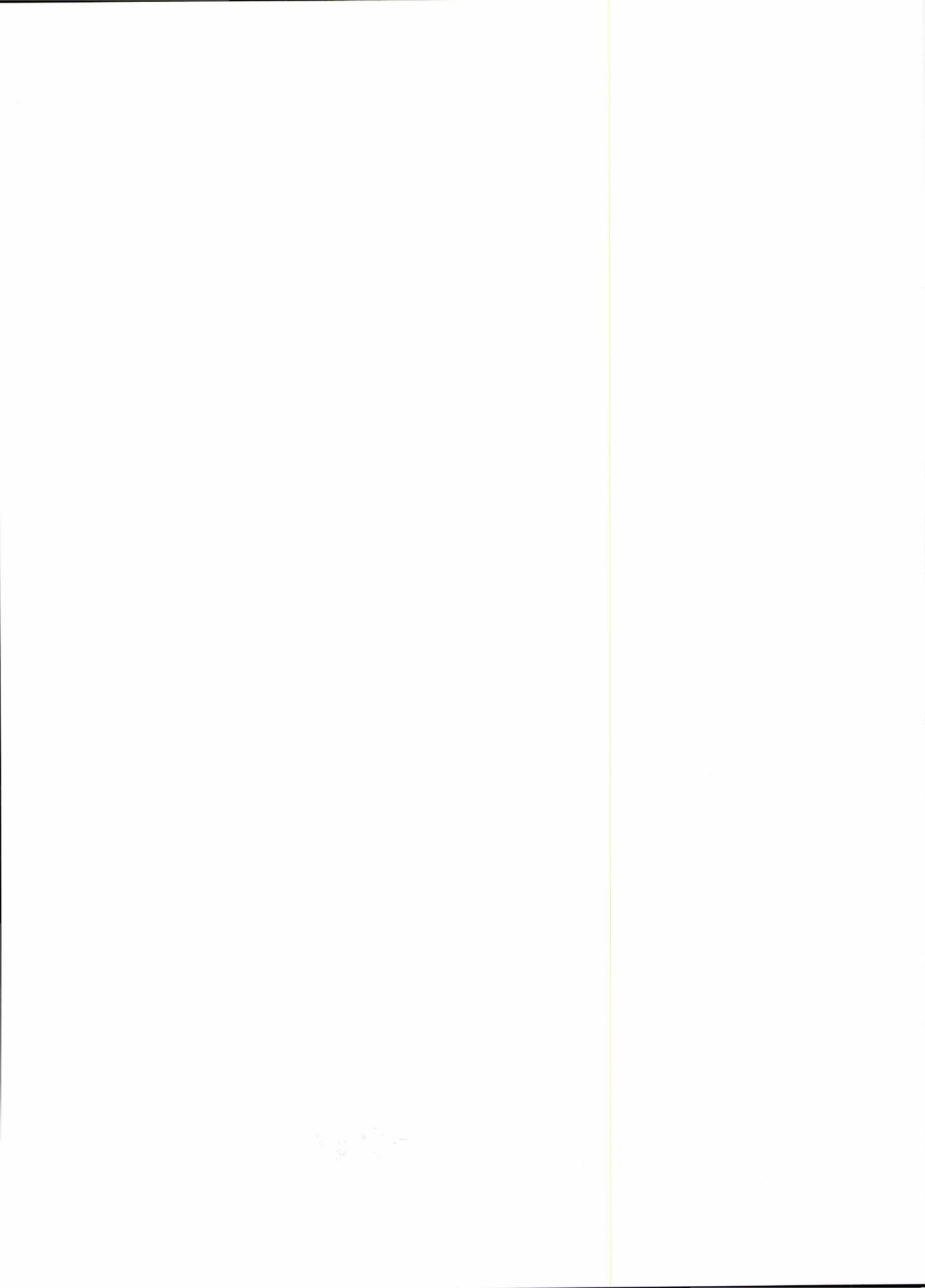




PLATE 1. Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge, Chingford. See *Forest Standings*, p. 194.

Photo by K. P. Neale

After 1272 the Liberate Rolls contain no more references to payment of the stipend. Either the payments were being paid regularly and promptly, or else, as seems more likely, Stephen had died, and no provision was made for a successor. There is then no mention of the chapel for over a century. By 1405 the chapel no longer housed a chantry priest. It had once more become the home of a hermit, Richard Petevine. In 1405 Robert Rede, Bishop of Chichester, granted an indulgence for the benefit of this "poor hermit". He granted "40 days indulgence to all Christ's worshippers through our Diocese wherever they may be, and to others whose Diocesans shall ratify and accept this our indulgence, being truly contrite and confessed of their sins who have contributed or in any way assigned any of the goods conferred on them by God as charitable supplies towards the support of Richard Petevyne, hermit of the chapel of St. Cyriac founded in the city of Chichester, and to the repairs of the same chapel".¹

There is only one more reference to the chapel as a religious building. On 14 February 1486, the court of the Dean of Chichester's Peculiar Jurisdiction met in the parish church of St. Peter the Great, in the Cathedral, to hear presentments brought by the parishioners. At this court there appeared Roger Taylor, William Crucher and John Gamsey, who said "quod Thomas Trybe circiviv (?) per patriam et collegit monetum in honore Sancti Ciriaci ad reperendam capellam in honore Sancti Ciriaci fundatam in venella eiusdem parochie".² No more information is given about the case and it is not known who Thomas Trybe was, why he was collecting money for the chapel, or indeed if he had any right to do so. What the entry in the Act Book does show is that the Chapel was still recognised as a religious building at this date.

It is not known whether the chapel was still in use at the time of the Reformation. It was included among the chantry lands,³ and the building was certainly secularised by 1579. In that year the widow of the late tenant, John Hardham, was reported to have replaced the tile on one side of the roof with thatch.⁴ The chapel and the land adjoining it eventually became the property of the Hospital of St. Mary in Chichester, and some of the leases of the property granted by the Custos and Poor of the Hospital still survive in the Diocesan Record Office.⁵ The chapel itself still existed, although it was said to be in a ruinous state, in 1820.⁶ At about this date, the garden and the adjoining plot called the Cherry Garden, with which it had been leased from 1762, were divided up. The smaller southern portion was added to the garden of Richard Murray's fine new house (now "Fernleigh", No. 40 North Street). The northern portion was added to the garden of No. 43 North Street. The final disappearance of the derelict chapel probably dates from about this time.

From these title deeds it is possible to locate with some accuracy, the site of the chapel. It lay somewhere along St. Cyriac's Lane, otherwise called the Street of St. Cyriac.⁷ Abutments described in documents concerning other property adjoining the lane show that it originally ran from North Street through to Chapel Street.⁸ It joined North Street immediately to the north of the property which is now No. 40 North Street. By 1769, when William Gardner produced his map of Chichester,⁹ the western half of the lane had disappeared. The eastern half is shown on the map, ending in a building which is quite possibly the remains of the chapel. The lane was blocked off when the St. Cyriac's and the Cherry Gardens were divided and added to the adjoining gardens. All trace of its exact course would have been destroyed when Beness Adames, head of a drapery business in the city, and the then occupier of No. 40 North Street, had the garden laid out with formal walks, conservatories and rockeries sometime between 1854 and 1875.¹⁰

In 1973, an archaeological excavation was undertaken, under the supervision of Alec Down, Director of Excavations for Chichester, to try to locate the remains, if any, of the chapel. The trial trenches produced what can best be described as extremely negative results.¹¹ The site of the excavation, and probably also of the chapel, is now under a car park. However, the former City Council, in 1973, passed a resolution that the car park should be known as St. Cyriac's car park, so that this small aspect of the history of the city should have some memorial.¹²

ALISON M. MCCANN

BISHOPSTONE TIDEMILLS—Between Newhaven harbour¹³ and Hawth Hill¹⁴ west of Seaford, the remains of a shingle spit form an arcuate beach about 1½ miles long, which protects from the sea the remains of an old channel of the River Ouse. The channel is slowly being infilled by the landward movement of the beach, and by land reclamation at the west end for harbour development. Also disappearing beneath shingle and rubble are the ruins of Bishopstone Tidemill, which was built across the channel just over two-thirds of a mile from Newhaven harbour at NGR TQ 459002. Today, all that remains of the mill is the dam pierced by culverts for housing the mill wheels and which serves today as an access road across the channel to the beach. To the north of the dam are remains of warehouses and cottages which belonged to the mill.

¹ W.S.R.O., Ep. I/1/1 f. 14. Printed in Cecil Deedes (ed.)

Bishop Rede's Register, S.R.S., vol. 8 (1908), 54, 55.

² W.S.R.O. Ep. III/4/1, f 8r.

³ John E. Ray, Sussex Chantry Records, S.R.S., vol. 36 (1931), 189, 196.

⁴ Quoted in Peckham, *op. cit.*, p. 94, from British Museum Add. Ms. 39, 454 f. 48v.

⁵ W.S.R.O., Cap. IV/6/30.

⁶ W.S.R.O., Cap. IV/6/30/11.

⁷ Lindsay Fleming (ed.) The Chartulary of Boxgrove Priory, S.R.S., vol. 59 (1960), 162, 163, Nos. 268, 373.

⁸ W.S.R.O., Ep. VI/1/3 f. 84r.

⁹ W.S.R.O., PM. 2.

¹⁰ See title deeds of Beness Adames, W.S.R.O. Add. Ms. 6146, 7, and the first edition Ordnance Survey map, 25in., S. 61, n. 7.

¹¹ Chichester Civic Society Excavations Report, 1973.

¹² Chichester City Council, Highways Committee Minutes, 1973.

¹³ TQ 452002.

¹⁴ TQ 467997.

Between 1731 and 1733 a cut was made through the spit just below Castle Hill, Newhaven, and secured by piers on either side.¹ The redundant channel was blocked at its west end by a dam which extended from the east pier, and at its east end by the continued deposition of shingle. However, the tide was still able to enter it by a subsidiary of the main river, just north of the dam. Barges used the route to run between Newhaven harbour and a warehouse beneath Hawth Hill.² To the north of the creek lay salt marsh which was subject to periodic inundation by the sea.³ The creek acted as a drain for this area, and the shingle south of the creek served as a sea defence.

The creek lay within the manor of Bishopstone, owned in the mid-eighteenth century by Thomas Holles, Duke of Newcastle, was leased to three corn merchants, John Challen and Willam Woods of Chichester and John Woods of Chilgrove for 500 years from Ladyday 1761. A private Act of Parliament passed in 1761 enabled them to build the dam for the mill across the creek.⁴ The act was secured to forestall opposition to closing navigation up the east end of the creek.

Tidemills were no novelty in southern England in the mid-eighteenth century. The principle of impounding tidal waters with which to drive a mill seems to have been employed since early medieval times. The promoters of Bishopstone tidemill were no doubt inspired by the mills on the tidal creeks of Hampshire and West Sussex. Indeed it is reasonable to suppose that they employed an engineer with experience of those mills as several had recently been built or extended. Slipper Mill at Emsworth was probably rebuilt about 1735. Its near neighbour, Quay Mill, was built from 1759 (when two merchants paid the lord of the manor £100 for 13 acres of mudflats and wasteland, with an annual rent of one shilling). Sidlesham Mill was built in 1755 for Woodruffe Drinkwater under the direction of Benjamin Barlow, who invented the machinery. Other tidemills were at Birdham, Fishbourne (Salt Mill) and Nutbourne.⁵ None of these mills was as close to the sea as Bishopstone.

It must have been their experience in West Sussex which prompted the Woods and Challen to consider building a mill near Newhaven. Until the end of the seventeenth century, wheat from the Chichester area which was surplus to local requirements went to market as grain, and, if it was destined for London, the main market, it was normally carried by sea.⁶ From around 1700 the grain was milled before being sent to market. The classic description is Defoe's:

"some money'd men of Chichester, Emsworth and other places adjacent, have joined their stocks together, built large granaries near the Crook . . . and here they buy and lay up all the corn which the country on that side can spare; and having good mills in the neighbourhood, they grind and dress the corn, and send it to London in the meal by Long sea."⁷

The erection of Bishopstone Tidemills can thus be seen as expansion of the coastwise trade in flour. London's demand for food was continuing to rise and corn-growing downland bordering the Ouse valley could not serve the city by land as the roads across the Weald were poor. However, Newhaven harbour had recently been improved and offered an alternative to road transport.⁸ The nearest mill with access to navigable water was a considerable distance away at Barcombe, to the north of Lewes.

By 1768 the mill was built and presumably working when a French army officer mistook it for a barracks, well sited to defend the valley, and so, he assumed, erected during the Seven Years War.⁹ It was not assessed for Land Tax until 1775 when the valuation was £75 paid by John Woods who may not have been the occupant.¹⁰ In successive years, until 1798 the valuation was £50, well below those for the two large farms in the parish. In 1789 William Wisdom paid the tax. He may well have been the tenant or manager before 1789. (The tax returns do not distinguish between owner and tenant). When the mill was advertised for sale in *Sussex Weekly Advertiser* in 1791 Wood's address was given as Chichester.¹¹ He describes the site as it was until further developed by William Catt after 1801. Woods said that the mill had five pairs of stones capable of grinding 130 quarters of wheat a week. There was a dwelling, a warehouse and a coal wharf. He pointed out that vessels up to between 100 and 140 tons could reach the wharf which was on the west side of the mill and that the situation had advantages for the development of an extensive coasting and carrying trade in corn and flour.

The buildings described by Woods stood on a dam across the creek,¹² pierced by five arches which housed the wheels, above which stood the mill. To the south of the mill was a sluice in the dam through which water flowed on an incoming tide into the millpond to the east. The tidal channel west of the mill served as the source of water for storage in the ponds and as the access to the mill for shipping. The mill was operated by releasing

¹ J. H. Farrant, "The Evolution of Newhaven Harbour and the Lower Ouse before 1800," in *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (abbreviated hereafter to *S.A.C.*), vol. 110 (1972), 49.

² *Sussex Archaeological Trust*, A466, lease, Thomas Pelham-Holles, Duke of Newcastle, to Henry Bean of Seaford, 1741.

³ East Sussex Record Office (abbreviated hereafter to *E.S.R.O.*), XC16, map, Lewes and Laughton Levels, 1620, by George Randall.

⁴ British Library, State Paper Room, 358b/75, draft petition for Private Act. 2 Geo. III c. 12.

⁵ For gazetteers, see R. Wailes, *Tidemills in England and Wales*, S.P.A.B. Wind and Watermill section publications, Nos. 2 and 3 (1956, reprint from *Trans. Newcomen Society*, vol. 19 [1938-39]); C. M. Ellis, "A gazetteer of the water, wind and tidemills of Hampshire," in *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club*, vol. 25 (1968). F. Brook, "The Old Industries of Emsworth," in *Portsmouth College of Technology Industrial Archaeology Society Journal*, No. 1 (1968), 17-21. [A. Hay], *The Chichester Guide* (Chichester, 1784), 68.

⁶ J. H. Andrews, "The port of Chichester and the Grain Trade, 1650-1750," in *S.A.C.*, vol. 92 (1954), pp. 100-102.

⁷ Daniel Defoe, *A Tour through England and Wales* (Everyman ed., 1927), vol. 1, 135.

⁸ Farrant, *op. cit.*, 57.

⁹ Public Record Office (hereafter *P.R.O.*), MP 1111/15, "Plans qui accompagnent la reconnaissance en Angleterre aux mois de Septembre et Octobre 1768 par le S. de Beville, Lieutenant de Dragons".

¹⁰ *E.S.R.O.*, D587, Land tax, 1750-1779, 1780-1832.

¹¹ *Sussex Weekly Advertiser*, 19 September 1791.

¹² The base of the dam was probably an island shown on a map copied by William Woolgar in 1805 from an original of circa 1730 (whereabouts unknown), *E.S.R.O.*, RA/C31/10.

water in the eastern millpond through the wheel arches as the tide began to ebb.¹ In this way the mill probably operated for between four and six hours during each tide. The site remained unchanged until early in the nineteenth century.

The new owner from 1792 was a Mr. Barton, who, in 1795, entered into a partnership with Edmund Catt.² In 1801 Barton left, being replaced by William Catt³ whose name was associated with the development of the mill in the early nineteenth century. William Catt had run a small mill in Lamberhurst (Kent) for about two years before he moved to Tidemills.⁴ Prior to that he had been a farmer, and he was still only in his early twenties in 1801. Between 1801 and 1808 he increased the number of millstones at the mill from five to sixteen, probably motivated by the considerable profits to be made from milling during those years of the Napoleonic Wars. In 1808 the partnership was dissolved when William bought out Edmund, with the financial assistance of Edmund Cooper of Norton Farm, and Thomas Farncombe, of Bishopstone Farm, both wealthy tenant farmers. William Catt and Edmund Cooper formed a partnership which lasted from 1808 to 1826.⁵

During these years Catt appears to have enlarged the mill, increased the number of storage buildings, and built cottages for his employees. He enlarged the eastern millpond and built a bigger sluice with a bridge over it to allow access to the beach which served as the sea defence. He converted the old southern channel on the east side of the mill into a millpond by embanking it. Water now entered it through a lock on the west side, from the creek at high tide.⁶ This pond helped to increase the time for which the mill could operate, for, when the western pond began to empty, a sluice in the bank between the two ponds was opened and the eastern pond was used to supply extra water. Catt also leased and reclaimed the floodplain to the north of the mill as arable land.⁷ By 1826, when the company became William Catt and Sons, much of the expansion of the mill had been accomplished.

The expanding mill was the major single source of employment within the parish and no doubt contributed the larger part of the increase in the parish population from 1801 to 1851.⁸ In 1851 Catt claimed that he employed sixty men, though not all were resident in the parish or employed at the tidemill. The decline in local population from 1861 coincided with the decline and closure of the mill and suggests that although the cottages were still inhabitable the workforce was not absorbed within the parish and so moved.⁹

The mill's labour force was probably not all directly concerned with the running of it, for, using the mill as a basis, Catt built up a thriving business. During the Napoleonic Wars, from about 1801, the Catts contracted to supply bread, flour and meat to the Army.¹⁰ In 1813 William Catt contracted to supply breadflour to barracks in Sussex, and from 1814 he also supplied meat. His other activities suggest that he was fully aware of the site advantages of the mill for the development of coastal and riverside trade in grains. He imported grain from France,¹¹ and, in partnership with William Cole, who had a wharf in Newhaven harbour, he bought and sold flour and grain locally. Catt was also a maltster with maltings in Piddinghoe and Newhaven, of which he was the sole owner. In partnership with the Vallance family he owned maltings at Kingston Buci (near Shoreham) and in Kemp Town (Brighton). Catt also owned West Street Brewery, Brighton.¹² All of the sites were either coastal or riverside.

Catt's extensions of the ponds to increase the mill's operating time resulted in the occupation of the entire parish coastline (Fig. 9). In 1836 he was involved in a dispute with the Commissioners of Sewers over whether the mill buildings were liable for water scot, for maintenance of drains on the flood plain, river banks, and the sea defences upon which the mill's safety depended.¹³ Catt claimed that the scot he paid on adjoining farmland was sufficient. However when the Commissioners replaced the seawall and built groins, Catt agreed to strengthen the south bank of the mill ponds and raise the north bank. In 1876 a storm breached the seawall, flooding land and pushing large amounts of shingle into the mill ponds. The Commissioners asked an engineer to submit a report on the sea defences and he eventually recommended that they should be repaired but the mill owner should be solely responsible for his own defences and new banks built behind the mill as the line of the Commissioners' responsibility.¹⁴ By 1878 when William's son George repaired the sea wall and attempted to sue the Commissioners for the cost, shingle had obscured much of the south side of the ponds. The Commissioners paid threequarters of the cost and the legal expenses. In return, Emily, George's widow, agreed to exonerate the Commissioners from all responsibility for the mill.¹⁵ Thus began the encroachment of shingle.

In 1879 Emily Catt sold Tidemills to the Newhaven Harbour Company for £11,000.¹⁶ Since the construction of the railway to Seaford in 1864, the mill had become less attractive to farmers in the southern end of the Ouse valley, from which the mill had purchased cereals. The railway facilitated transport of grain which was then milled at destination, not at source, thus reversing the pattern into which the mill had fitted. Probably local cereal production was contracting because of competition from cheaper grain, first from eastern Germany, via the Baltic, and from about 1870 from North America. The imported cereals were also milled at the point of consumption, so the mill, not being near to a large centre of population, could not undertake this. Improvements

¹ Rev. F. Willett in "The Tidemill, Bishopstone," in *Sussex County Magazine*, vol. 8 (1934), pp. 367-9 seems to have incorrectly described the method of using the water.

² E.S.R.O., D587.

³ E.S.R.O., D587.

⁴ M. A. Lower, *Worthies of Sussex* (1865), 217-8.

⁵ E.S.R.O., D587.

⁶ E.S.R.O., D1111, "Survey and Plan of Bishopstone and Norton Farms by T. Marchant, 1777".

⁷ E.S.R.O., TD/E92, Bishopstone Tith Map.

⁸ *Victoria County History of Sussex*, vol. 2, p. 259.

⁹ E.S.R.O., AX/9/1, Census Enumerators' Returns, 1851.

¹⁰ P.R.O., WO 60/58-104, tenders for Army Contracts.

¹¹ British Library, Add. MS. 35133, f. 402, Lord Sheffield to Arthur Young, 15 Nov. 1816.

¹² E.S.R.O. TD/E113, Meeching otherwise Newhaven, tith map, 1838-41. TD/E57, Piddinghoe Tith Map, 1840.

¹³ *Post Office Directory of Sussex* (1855).

¹⁴ E.S.R.O., RA/C21/1-7.

¹⁵ E.S.R.O., RA/C21/1. Capt. J. Ardagh submitted two reports; in the second he recommended the exclusion of the tidemill. His banks would have run just south of the railway line.

¹⁶ E.S.R.O., RA/C1/6.

effected by the Newhaven Harbour Co. in the southern part of the harbour appears to have restricted tidal flow up Mill Creek and closed access by sea to the mill. Grain and flour had to be transported by cart between the mill and the harbour wharf for the short journey was uneconomic by rail.

After the mill was sold John Catt and Edgar Stoneham tried to keep it running. They leased it for 14 years from the Harbour Company. However, after four years the company revoked the lease as Banister, the company's engineer, considered that the site would be more profitably used for cement making. In May, 1883, the corn-grinding gear was offered for sale. In April, 1884, negotiations with the Portland Cement Co. for the use of the tidemills failed as they considered a location in Heighton, or somewhere similar, more practicable. The Harbour Company decided to fill in the mill ponds, from March, 1885. Chalk was sent from the site of Brighton College via Kemp Town Station, to be dumped in the ponds. Conversion of the mill building into a bonded warehouse was approved in February, 1890. The lease was terminated in 1900, when the tenants, Cafe Royale of Regent Street, intimated that they no longer wished to use it. The mill and warehouses were demolished but the cottages remained occupied until they were demolished during the Second World War.¹

SUE FARRANT

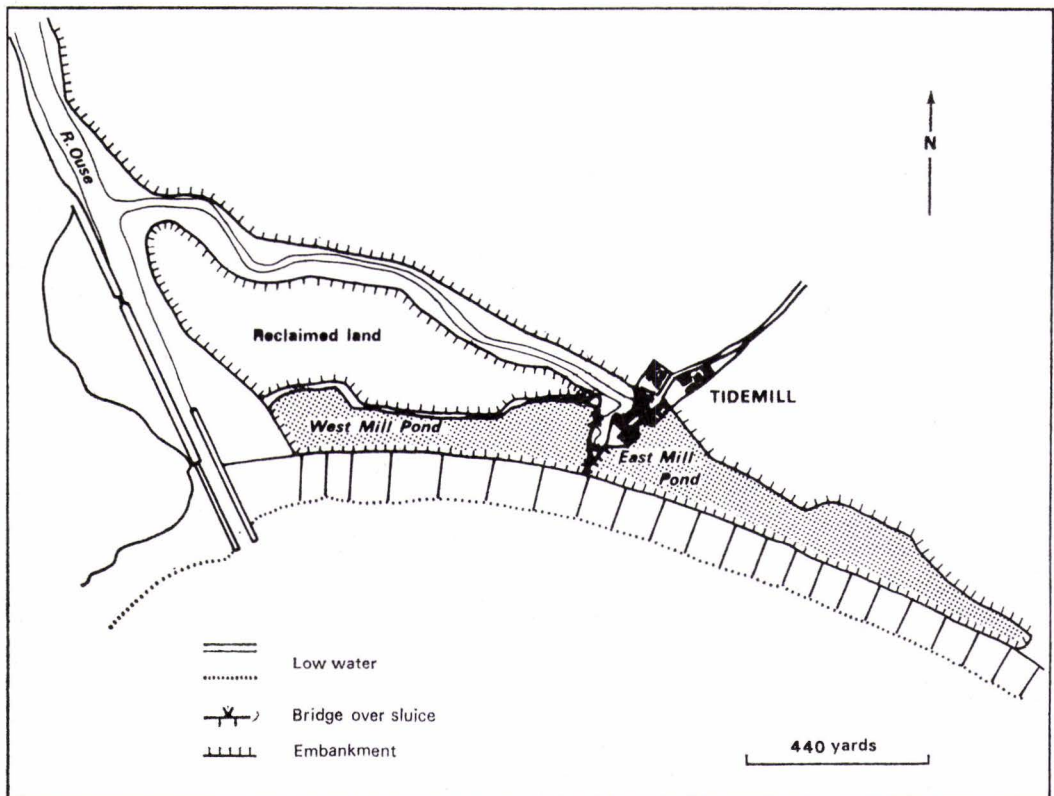


FIG. 10. Bishopstone Tidemills in 1842, based on the Bishopstone Tithe map.

¹ P.R.O. British Transport Historical Records, NHR 1/1, 2, 3, Newhaven Harbour Co., directors' minutes, 1878-1914. I owe this and other P.R.O. and B.L. references to J. H. Farrant.