

ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

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. Material for inclusion should be sent to Mr. Alec Barr-Hamilton, 226 Hangleton Road, Hove. Those without previous experience in writing up such material for publication should not be deterred from contributing for Mr. Barr-Hamilton will be happy to assist in the preparation of reports and illustrations.

Ancient Monuments in Sussex

The following monuments have been scheduled since publication of the last list in *S.A.C.* 117 (1979).

<i>County</i>		
<i>Number</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>East Sussex</i>
430	Newhaven	Newhaven military fort (added to lunette battery).
459	Brighton	Round barrow in Pudding Bag Wood.
460	Falmer	Medieval enclosure W. of Newmarket Plantation.
467	Litlington	Long (oval) barrow 640 yds. SSE. of Manure Barn.
472	Westfield	Late medieval kiln site E. of Park Wood.
476	Playden	Ring ditch and enclosure SE. of Mockbeggar.
480	Isfield	Buckham Hill, deserted medieval village.
<i>West Sussex</i>		
125	Coldwaltham	Hardham Roman camp north of railway line (additional area)
448	Boxgrove	Hillfort on Halnaker Hill and windmill.
464	Hurstpierpoint	Randolph's Farm Roman villa.
466	Harting	Torberry hillfort.
471	Worth	Warren Furnace.
473	East Lavington	Two round barrows near Barnett's Farm.

A Flint Handaxe from Botolphs

The handaxe shown in Fig. 1 has been brought to my notice. It was found several years ago by workmen digging a trench at Botolphs on the west side of the River Adur. The exact site is uncertain, but it is probable that the findspot was in the region of TQ 187 096, at a height above Ordnance Datum of c. 23m (75ft.). The depth of the trench is believed to have been about 0.6m (2ft.) and consisted of chalky soil. The implement is now in the possession of Mr. O. Duke of Steyning who has kindly allowed it to be drawn and published. I am indebted to Dr. A. Woodcock, who is making a special study of the Palaeolithic in Sussex, for providing the following report.

E. W. Holden, F.S.A.

The implement is a fine example of a Lower Palaeolithic Acheulian handaxe. Its maximum existing dimensions are: length 194mm, breadth 109mm, thickness 46mm, and its weight 775g.

The general shape of the handaxe is that of a 'ficron', the long edges being slightly concave, and the point of maximum breadth low down towards the butt. It has been carefully trimmed to produce an elongated point and a cutting edge which extends all round the implement, except for one small area of cortex which remains on the butt at its point of maximum breadth. Although the extreme tip of the implement is missing, having been broken in antiquity, there is no indication that the tip was ever twisted, a deliberate feature found on some implements of this type.

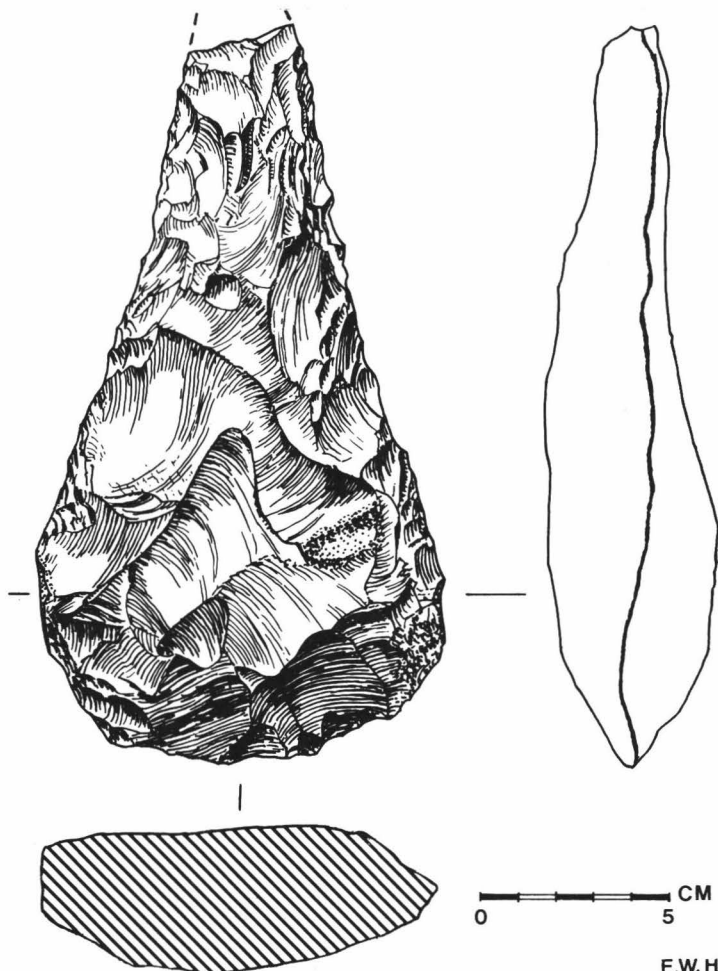


Fig. 1.
Flint handaxe from
Botolphs.

The handaxe has been manufactured from a nodule of light grey flint with cherty inclusions. Patches of the cortex survive on one surface and along part of one edge. The implement has become patinated to a light, speckled ochreous colour which is of equal intensity over both surfaces. It is only slightly abraded in its condition although some recent damage has occurred to the edges. One surface shows small areas of pitting, caused by weathering and consequent deterioration of the flint surface.

Handaxes of the 'ficron' type are rare in Sussex and this must be the best example so far discovered in the county. Whether this paucity reflects an actual situation, or rather the lack of exploitation of suitable implementiferous deposits, is not clear. This form is a common one, for example, in many

of the Hampshire gravels, as within the well-known Warsash deposits (Burkitt *et al.* 1939).

Neither the position, nor the circumstances of discovery, is helpful in providing a clue as to date, for the condition of the implement suggests that it may have travelled some distance from its original point of deposition. The form itself is not one that can be dated with precision. Such a hand axe is most likely to fall within Group 1 of the handaxe groups defined by Roe (1968), which spanned the late Hoxnian to Wolstonian periods and it is quite probable that this implement falls within this time-span also.

A. G. Woodcock

Burkitt, M., Paterson, T. T. and Mogridge, C. J. 1939 'The Lower Palaeolithic Industries near Warsash, Hampshire', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 5, 39-50.

Roe, D. A. 1968 'British Lower and Middle Palaeolithic Handaxe Groups', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* 34, 1-82.

An Unusual Flint Implement from Blackdown

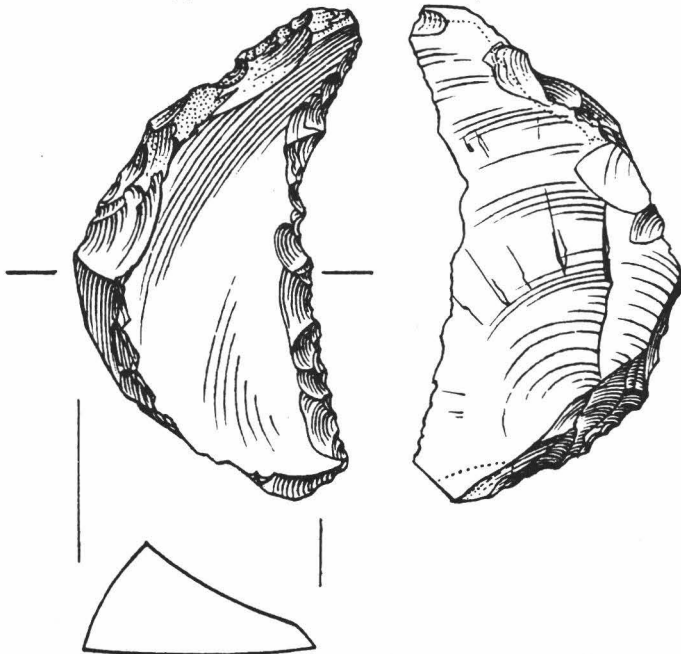
On Christmas Day, 1978, we came upon a flint implement, of distinctive shape, lying by the side of the main north-south path on the top of Blackdown (SU 920 295). The path had recently been cleared by bulldozer in order to facilitate forestry operations. About twelve unworked flint flakes were found scattered at intervals along the same section of path within 100 m or so of the implement. The Mesolithic site, excavated by Allen Chandler in 1903, lies about 0.8 km to the north of where the implement was found. There is no evidence of Neolithic or Bronze Age occupation on the summit of Blackdown.

The implement (Fig. 2) measures 65 mm long, 30 mm wide, and 18 mm deep along the thick convex edge. It has the general shape of an asymmetrical crescent, one end of which tapers almost to a point. The concave edge is thinner, and coarsely serrated. There is a well-marked narrow band of 'corn gloss' along the serrated edge but none elsewhere.

The general shape and appearance of the implement suggest that it had been used as a sickle. According to E. C. Curwen,¹ the flint sickles of Northern Europe usually consist of a single piece of flint, as opposed to the

composite implements found in countries bordering the Mediterranean. Single-piece sickles may be hafted in one of two ways: (1) by setting the whole length of the convex edge in a groove cut in the concavity of a curved stick; or (2) by inserting the tapered end of the flint blade in a hole made in a straight wooden handle. The first method was used for hafting the crescentic sickles described by Steensberg in Denmark.² In these elegant implements, both faces and both edges have been carefully worked and the thin convex edge is clearly intended to fit into a narrow groove in the concavity of a curved stick. The very thick convex edge of the implement described here would be quite unsuitable for this type of fitting. On the other hand, its tapered end could well be a tang intended to slot into a hole in a wooden handle. It therefore seems probable that our implement was hafted in Curwen's second mode.

The presence of a well-marked 'corn gloss' would seem to support the idea that the implement had been used as a sickle. However, experiments by Curwen³ showed that the same type of gloss can be produced by sawing wood, as by cutting straw. There was, though, a difference in the distribution of the gloss:



MARTINGELL '79.

Fig. 2. Flint implement from Blackdown, drawn by Hazel Martingell (1:1).

when cutting straw, it was spread widely over the surface of the blade, whereas when wood was sawn it was confined to the serrated edge; this difference is explained by the fact that Curwen's flint saw, although it cut 'as easily as a sharp steel saw', did not penetrate the wood to a greater depth than $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. Since the gloss on our implement is confined to the serrated edge, these observations by Curwen would favour the idea that it had been mainly used as a saw. The same conclusion is supported by Steensberg's² experiments, which showed that serrated flint sickles were on the whole less efficient at cutting straw than those with a plain edge, suggesting that the toothed implements had more probably been used as saws or leaf-knives.

Although serrated flakes have mostly been found in a Neolithic context, Curwen⁴ also found a number at the Mesolithic site at Selmeston; three of these showed 'a thin band of lustre.' One of the serrated implements illustrated in Curwen's paper (No. 95) has the same general configuration as our implement. If the latter is considered to be a saw, it would be possible to relate it to the known Mesolithic settlement on Blackdown. If on the other hand it is to be regarded as a sickle it can only be recorded as an isolated find, unconnected with any known Neolithic site. (Note that Blackdown is situated on the Lower Greensand, 11 km from the nearest Chalk).

W. R. & E. B. Trotter

¹ E. C. Curwen, 'The early development of agriculture in Britain', *Proc. Prehist. Soc.*, 4 (1938), 27-51.

² A. Steensberg, *Ancient Harvesting Implements* (Copenhagen, 1943).

³ E. C. Curwen, 'Prehistoric sickles', *Antiquity*, 4 (1930), 179-186.

⁴ E. C. Curwen, 'A late Mesolithic settlement site at Selmeston, Sussex', *Antiquaries Journal*, 14 (1934), 134-158.

Field Walking near Lewes

In the article on field walking, published in *S.A.C.* 116, I referred to work in progress in the Balmer area west of Lewes. This project is now completed and the following notes outline the results from four selected areas. These lie on the Downland forming the west, east and south sides of Buckland Hole, already known for its Romano-British cemetery and extensive field system. The project began in 1973 and finished in 1978, by which time the whole

Downland had been through the grass/crop cycle at least once. A minimum of two complete sweeps was made on all sites except Balmer Down, where only a single quick inspection was possible. The pottery sherds recovered indicated a chronological range from ? late Bronze Age to Romano-British on all sites, except Housedean Farm which produced, in addition, a predominantly medieval assemblage.

1. *Balmer Huff*. (TQ 3615 1070). The area investigated was confined to the north end of Balmer Huff lying between the triangulation point 566 and the junction of the converging tracks from Balmer Farm and Waterpit Hill, with an extension over the west fence to a narrow terrace above Moustone Bottom. The pottery sherds (1,630) were unevenly distributed over the site; where they were most numerous they were also found in several small concentrations.

2. *Buckland Bank*. (TQ 3710 1105). This site overlaps the area marked "settlement" on the 1" O.S. map. Work started on a small rectangular area of plough in the grassland lying on the east side of the South Downs Way; subsequent ploughing allowed the site to be extended southwards and also westwards across the track on to a narrow terrace in Buckland Hole. The pottery (1,770 sherds) from Buckland Bank proved the most interesting owing to the quantity of early Iron Age material recovered, particularly some 100 sherds of a late B.A./early I.A. vessel, 40 of which were first found in a single pile on the edge of a deep furrow. The circumstances of their appearance in the plough suggested the presence of a ditch or pit in the near vicinity. In order to test this hypothesis, members of the Lewes Archaeological Group, directed by Dr. L. Allen, stripped and sieved the plough down to natural over a 10' x 10' square centred on the original find spot. This produced an additional 255 sherds, about half of which, found in compacted soil on the chalk, clearly belonged to the vessel recovered earlier and were probably the immediate source of the surface finds. Unfortunately they were not associated with any feature, since the two post holes close to which they lay were sterile. It seems that more than half the vessel is still to be found. Buckland Bank is also notable for the quantity of Roman tiles (530 pieces) and fire-cracked flints associated with the

maximum spread of sherds which stretched across the South Downs Way into Buckland Hole.

3. *Balmer Down*. (TQ 367 104). This broad spur of the Downs forms the southern bastion of Buckland Hole. My first visit to the area was made after the crop (under-sown with grass) was just appearing. It was therefore only possible to make one quick broad traverse of the whole area. Nevertheless, the 1,350 sherds recovered augur well for future fieldwork both from the point of view of quantity and variety.

4. *Housedean Farm 'A'*. (TQ 367 101). This long narrow field lies immediately south of and 100ft. higher than Balmer Down; it stretches in a north-westerly direction from Bunkershill Plantation. The chief interest of this site lies in the fact that 75% of the 2,325 sherds recovered are medieval, predominantly 12th-14th century. This is the first site, of those investigated, to produce substantial evidence of the proximity of the Deserted Medieval Village at Balmer Farm.

The sherds and other artefacts collected from the above four areas indicate prolonged occupation of these Downs. They seem, however, to suggest, by variations in quantity, a differing chronological emphasis from site to site: in addition, one gets the impression that the same types of vessels within any one period are not uniformly displayed throughout, but in a field-walking context these impressions, even if justified are probably not significant. Other finds common to all the sites, but in varying quantities, include Roman tiles and brick, utilised stone, silcrete, fire cracked flints, and, of course, flint artefacts. The artefacts range from the crude nodular material from Balmer Huff to the more usual Downland assemblages, but cannot be compared with the quantity and variety of flintwork from Houndean/Ashcombe. On the other hand the bulk of the pottery from Houndean/Ashcombe is much less sophisticated than that from the Balmer area.

All finds and the detailed reports from Balmer and Houndean/Ashcombe have been deposited in the Barbican House Museum, Lewes.

J. T. M. Biggar
(Lewes Archaeological Group)

An Early Bronze Age Barrow in Ewhurst Parish

A barrow which is possibly of the Early Bronze Age has been found in Lordship Wood, Ewhurst parish, TQ 757 231, by the field survey group of the Robertsbridge and District Archaeological Society.

The mound measures 13 m across and is 2 m high. There is good evidence of a former ditch to the north-west of the mound. To the east the ditch could not fully be traced with accuracy. A roughly rectangular hole just over 2 m long on its longest side, 1 m wide and 0.5 m deep has been cut into the top at some time during the present century (Fig. 3).

The barrow stands on Ashdown Sand at about OD 38 m on ground which rises steadily to this point—rising away from the river Rother to the north and from a rivulet to the west. Both stream and river carry the boundary which separates Ewhurst and Salehurst parishes.

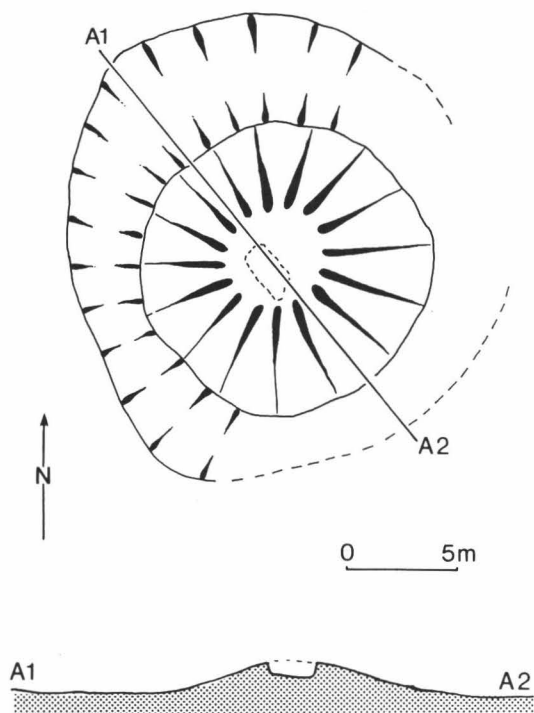
The woodland in which the barrow stands is given over to larch plantation. Six serried ranks of trees were planted across the mound but, surprisingly, did not obliterate it. Between these ranks old chestnut coppice stools are still visible. The land was until the Dissolution part of the demesne of Robertsbridge Abbey and may well have been under woodland for centuries.

We thank the managers of the land, Economic Forestry Group for their ready permission to survey the barrow and to continue the search for other sites which may lie on their land.

Gwen Jones

Suspected Roman road linking the London-Lewes road (Margary 14) with trans-Wealden track VII

In 1964, when I was excavating the Roman iron-working site at Minepit Wood, Rotherfield (TQ 523 338),¹ I noticed the suggestive parish boundary which runs almost dead straight for 3½ miles from point 508 300 in the south-west part of Crowborough to point 530 353, one mile north-west of Eridge Station. I discussed it with the late Ivan Margary, who said that he had considered it as the line of a possible Roman road but had not enquired further. We examined parts of this alignment and came to the conclusion that the



Barrow

TQ 757 231

Fig. 3.

many lengths of bank and hedgerow which were on it were promising indicators. Since then I have discovered other features further north and come to the conclusion that, judging from surface indications alone, there are strong grounds for suspecting the existence of a minor Roman road running from the main London-Lewes road (Margary Route 14)² at Camp Hill (471 288 approx.) to point 582 418 in Southborough, where it meets Margary's trans-Wealden Route VII³ (Oldbury - Shipbourne - Tonbridge - Southborough - Tunbridge Wells - Frant - Cross-in-Hand), now, roughly speaking, A227/A26/A267.

This note describes the route in broad terms. After further investigation I intend to publish a detailed description, with maps to illustrate its course and character.

From Camp Hill (471 288 approx.) on Ashdown Forest, the route probably ran more or less along the course of the modern road, through Poundgate (494 288) and north-east into Crowborough along the A26, which is followed by the parish boundary from 498 291 to 508 300. Here the route leaves the modern road and on a new alignment runs almost dead straight north-north-east for $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles—over Beacon Hill (50 30), through Rough Wood (51 32), past Gillridge Farm (517 329), through Minepit Wood (52 33) and past Leyswood (527 351). Along much of this alignment there are significant stretches of bank and hedgerow; and the route passes within 200 yards of the Roman iron-working site at 523 338.⁴ Having descended the hillside, below Leyswood it reaches the modern road, turns sharply south-east and, still followed by parish boundary and modern tracks, negotiates the valley and opposite slope in a dog-leg through Forge Farm (533 353) and proceeds by short alignments round the side of the hill to Pinstraw Farm (538 357). Then it runs almost straight for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile via Park Corner (539 361), a short stretch of modern road with broad verges, via Birchden Farm (541 565) and across country to Quarry Farm (542 370). Here the alignment turns north-east to take the road along the hillside to the stream-crossing at 550 381. Then it goes north across the valley and ascends the opposite hill along a gradual and well-engineered terrace, 15-18 ft. wide, which is now a bridle-way. Emerging from the wood to meet the modern road at 549 388 and following it northwards the route

crosses the A264 at 550 392 and proceeds to 554 403, where it leaves the modern road and enters woodland as a terrace and bridle-way of similar character and dimensions. It runs through Sproud's Wood (55 40) and Shadwell Wood (55 41) and descends to the modern road at 558 414 and stream-crossing 50 yards beyond. From here the course is not certain. The most likely route is south of the crest of the hill and along the line of the modern road, via Blowers Hill (560 416) and Broom Hill (568 417), to meet the A26 (Margary's trans-Wealden Route VII) in Southborough at 582 418. Points in favour of this last sector of the route are traces of a substantial bank beside the modern road up Blowers Hill, the name 'Bankside' (1868 map) at 563 417 and parish boundary on the final stretch from 573 417 to 582 418.

J. H. Money

FOOTNOTES

¹ J. H. Money, *Journal of the Historical Metallurgy Society*, 8, No. 1, 1-20.

² I. D. Margary, *Roman Roads in Britain* (London 1973), 37 and 59-62.

³ I. D. Margary, *Roman Ways in the Weald* (London 1949), 264-5.

⁴ J. H. Money, *op.cit.*

Fishbones from Excavations at Tanyard Lane, Steyning 1977

Fishbones from medieval contexts (listed in Freke 1979) were identified using the reference collections at the British Museum (Nat. Hist.). Only four species were represented; *Anguilla vulgaris* (eel), *Pleuronectes flesus* (flounder), *Scomber scomber* (mackerel) and *Pleuronectes platessa* (plaice). The first two predominate, and are typical of what might be expected in a town situated on a tidal estuary. The author is grateful to Mr. A. Wheeler for his help with these identifications.

Layer 104 in feature 44 (possible Saxo-Norman pit)

Eel	35 vertebrae
Flounder	9 vertebrae
Mackerel	3 vertebrae
Plaice	1 vertebrae

Feature 49 (medieval pit)

Eel	1 vertebrae
Flounder	1 vertebrae

Layer 130 in feature 66 (medieval pit)

Eel	6 vertebrae
Flounder	1 vertebrae

Owen Bedwin

Freke, D. J. 1979 'Excavations in Tanyard Lane, Steyning 1977', *Sussex Archaeol. Collect.* 117, 135-150.

German Street, Winchelsea

Three short notes are included here as appendices to the report on the site excavated in 1974.¹

1. Conversations with J. T. Smith have led me to consider the Period I building as a two-storey structure, due to the thickness of the walls, probably a first-floor hall with an undercroft. This would be similar to the cellar-under-living-room pattern common to many Winchelsea houses but, in this case, the lower room was not put below ground level.

2. The famous first rental of New Winchelsea of 1292 has two copies, PRO SC II 673 and 674. Each entry lists the tenant and the area held. For Henry Bron, whose land was partly excavated in 1974, copy 673 allocates him, in quarter 19, entry 12, a quarter of an acre and 37½ virgates or square rods, while 674 gives the same entry as a quarter of an acre and half a quarter and 17¼ virgates. In other words, there are 20 virgates in ¼ acre or 160 to the acre. This conforms with the decree of Edward I that 40 rods in length by 4 in breadth make an acre. However, this decree, which introduced the new standards, is dated 1305,² some fifteen years after the surveying of the town in c. 1290. The surveyors then, were using the royal measurements and this may have been a medieval experiment before the official enactment of the decree.

3. The green slates referred to in the report have been thin-sectioned by the Institute of Geological Sciences but cannot be paralleled in any British deposit. However, it is probable that they came from an unknown or worked-out source in the South-West peninsula, although a Belgian provenance cannot, at present, be ruled out.

Anthony King

¹ A. King, 'A medieval town house in German Street, Winchelsea', *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, 113 (1974), 124-5.

² F. G. Skinner, *Weights and Measures*, HMSO 1967, 94.

Further Finds from Lewes Excavations, 1974-1976

From 1974 to 1976 a series of excavations was carried out by D. J. Freke on behalf of the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit in an attempt to establish the extent of the Saxon and medieval occupation of the northern limit of the town.¹ Two of these sites have been

recently developed by the building owners and observation was kept during building operations by members of the Lewes Archaeological Group. Further finds of considerable interest have been recovered.

NORTH STREET, LEWES

Two areas had been excavated on this site by D. J. Freke in 1975² and the builder's construction trenches cut into these areas, but mechanical excavation prevented accurate recording in some cases.

In Freke's Trench A 29 miscellaneous body sherds from the thirteenth to the fifteenth centuries were recovered but as stratigraphy could not be established they have not been recorded here. Three pipe bowls, two fluted and with floral decorations and one with floral decorations on the front only *c.* A.D. 1850³ and a bone spoon handle of indeterminate age were found at a depth of approximately 1.5 m in the centre of the site.

A series of five irregular shaped pits were exposed at an approximate depth of 1.5 m below existing ground level 15 m to the south of Trench A. Two of these pits were examined to a further depth of 1.25 m and the finds are recorded below.

In Freke's Trench B, Pit 33 had been bisected by the line of the baulk and it was possible to examine the lower level of this pit. Pot sherds, a chalk cresset and lava stone fragments were recovered from the brown clay and black ash layer.

A drain trench excavated to the east of Trench A exposed a collection of smashed chamber pots dating from *c.* A.D. 1800 to 1850 which gives an interesting typology for the so-called Sussex ware of the period. It is possible that this collection could have resulted from the conversion of the house of correction on the west side of North Street, built in A.D. 1792 into the naval prison in A.D. 1850. There is no evidence of their having been used as paint kettles⁴ and were probably utilized for their primary intention.

The finds

The position of all finds has been recorded on a copy of the architect's plan of the site, upon which the position of the archaeologist's trenches and the relevant features have been superimposed.

Pit 1A (author's numbering)

Fig. 4 No. 2 Cooking pot rim, one sherd of grey/brown core with medium flint tempering, grey inside and out, thumb decoration to top edge of rim.

No. 3 Cooking pot. Five rim, eleven body and seven base sherds (approximately one third of whole pot) recovered. Grey core with medium to fine flint tempering. Dark grey inside and out.

Pit 1B (author's numbering)

Fig. 4 No. 1 Cooking pot rim, one sherd with beaded rim on almost vertical neck and three body sherds. Grey core with coarse flint tempering. Medium grey inside and out. Probably hand made.

Trench B

Pit 33 Layer 69

Seven body sherds (not illustrated) with pink/grey core with medium flint tempering. Grey internal, pink external face.

Four fragments of Neidermendig lava quern (not illustrated).

Fig. 4 No. 9 Chalk object, probably a cresset of twelfth to thirteenth century. Whilst no similar examples appear to have been published from this area stone examples from this period are recorded^{5,6} but all have a deeper bowl and some form of stop mould to receive the bracket, which is the probable reason for the tapered sides of this example.

Modern drain trench

Fig. 4 No. 5 Chamber pot, complete and reconstructed. Pink Sussex ware. Fine sandy ware with fine chalk tempering. Pink face and rim, brown/orange lead glazing internally up to the bottom of rim. Double incised rim, typical but not exclusive to Sussex. Strap handle with pair of thumb pressings.

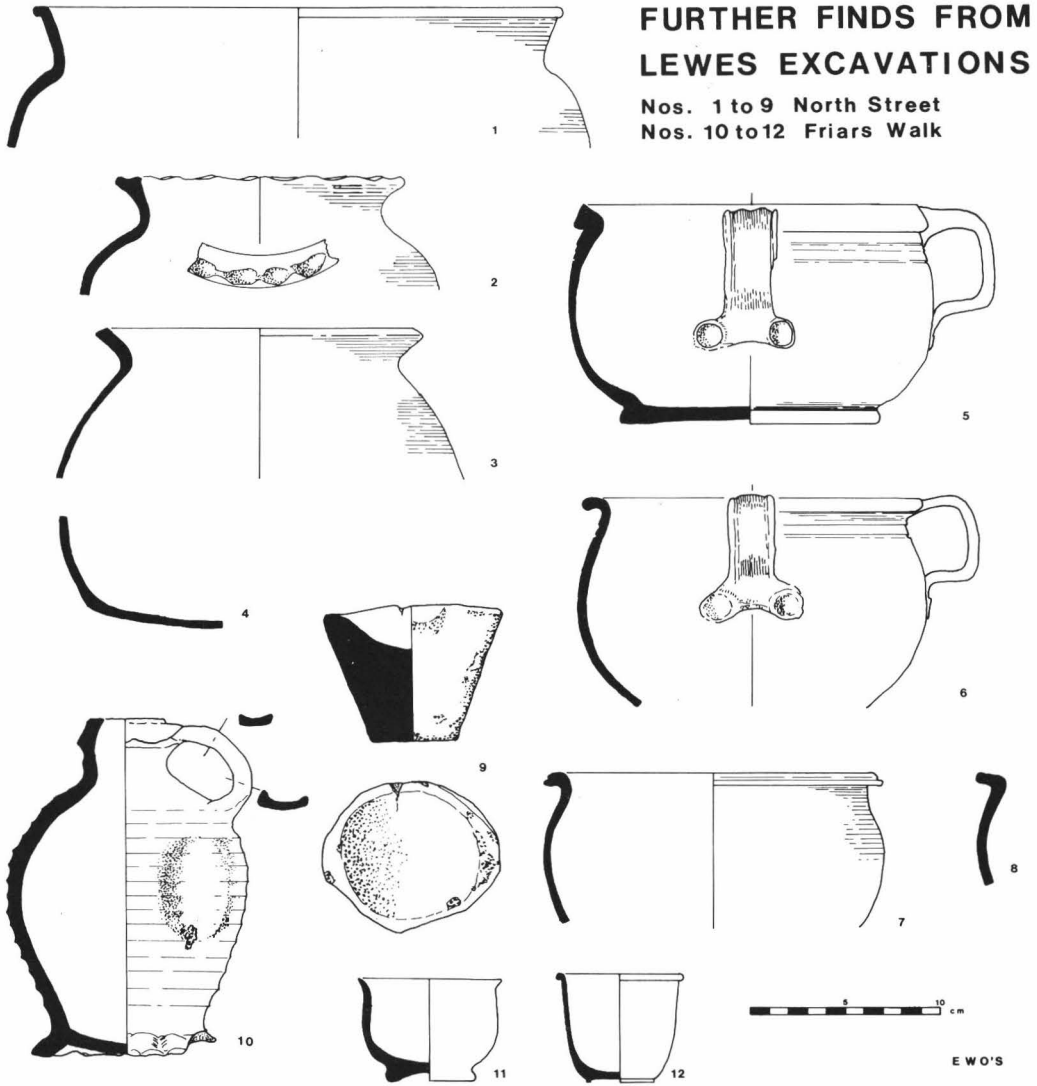


Fig. 4 Principal finds for North Street and Friars Walk,
Lewes. (¼)

- Fig. 4 No. 6 Four rim sections of chamber pot, one complete with handle and one body sherd. Roll-over rim with rounded edge. Strap handle identical to No. 5 above and double incised grooving. Pink fine sandy core and dark brown lead glaze overall.
- Fig. 4 No. 7 Five rim and nine body sherds. Rounded and beaded rim and double incised grooving. Pink grey sandy core, orange/brown lead glaze overall with faint galena streaking.
- Fig. 4 No. 8 Two rim and two body sherds, with flanged and rounded rim and single incised grooving. Pink/grey sandy core with heavy brown/green glaze overall. An interesting feature of the glaze is the irregular spotting where granules of unmelted lead are clearly visible.
- A further group of sherds (not illustrated) from another chamber pot comprising two rim and two body sherds is similar in section to No. 8 above, but with the core and glaze identical to No. 7 was recovered from the same spot. We therefore have a complete progression from five pots over a probable period of twenty-five years.

FRIARS WALK, LEWES

The site of Nos. 40 and 41 Friars Walk is being developed as a new Head Office block by the Sussex County Building Society. The southern end of the site was excavated in 1976 by D. J. Freke on behalf of the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit.⁷ Excavation of the basement, covering almost the whole of the site was carried out by mechanical excavators and it was therefore impractical to examine in detail and no further features than those recorded by Freke were recognisable. Two further finds of considerable interest were however recovered by the contractor's site manager.

From a pit about 18 m to the north of Freke's Trench B, in the north-west corner of

the new basement a Rhenish wine jug was found in the bottom of a pit approximately 2.5 m below the existing ground level. Unfortunately no other artefacts were recognised by the site manager but piling operations close by gave little opportunity for closer inspection.

In a brick well approximately 3 m to the south-west of Freke's Trench C a collection of white glazed hospital ware was recovered from a depth of approximately 3 m. Part of the site was occupied by the Lewes Hospital for about fifty years from A.D. 1825 and it is reasonable to assume that this pottery originated from this source.

The finds

- Fig. 4 No. 10 Rhenish wine jug, 13 cm diameter overall the body and 18 cm high. The body is bulbous with medium vertical neck and inturned parallel-sided rim, collared with single cordon. The body is completely rilled up to the lower intersection of the handle with no rilling to the neck. The foot-ring is frilled. The core is dense stoneware, light grey in colour, well fused with no visible tempering and with low porosity. The jug is covered externally with a fairly even brown/green lead glaze, with some of the glaze lost by abrasion. An interesting feature of the jug is the two large depressions formed in the body asymmetrical to the handle caused through handling at the leather stage together with pre-glazing body flaws. A percentage of second quality ware must have been acceptable for utilitarian purposes rather than table ware.

In the opinion of Mr. J. G. Hurst, the jug would have come from Langerwehe or Raeren and is probably of fifteenth or early sixteenth century dating. Mr. Hurst adds that the pot is of

considerable interest as he believes it to be the first one of this particular kind found in this country and is all the more valuable as, whilst Rhenish pots are not rare, they are seldom complete, the only damage being that half of the foot ring is missing.

Fig. 4 No. 11 Drug or ointment jar. Stoneware light cream fabric tin glazed overall. The rim is almost vertical tapering to a very sharp top edge and with a complete heavy rounded foot ring. About a third of the rim and body is missing. The terminal date for this type of ware is c. A.D. 1750.

Fig. 4 No. 12 Two complete and undamaged identical drug jars of similar body shape to No. 11 above but with applied foot ring of square section and turned over rim. Whilst these jars are wheel turned neither is truly circular and the rims could not have accommodated a fitting cover; it must be assumed that a tied on fabric or skin cover was used. The core and glaze is early porcelain of mid eighteenth century manufacture.

The base of a dish and of a cylindrical vessel of tin-glazed stoneware were recovered from the same spot.

CONCLUSIONS

None of the finds contradict or add to the conclusions arrived at by Mr. Freke but have been recorded in some detail as they are unique to Lewes. Whilst thirteenth to fifteenth century pottery is difficult to distinguish, all of the sherds come within the earlier range, but none correspond with the typical Ringmer ware of that period.

I would like to thank the Lewes District Council Planning Officer and R. B. W. Keir Ltd. for permission to investigate on their North Street site, and the Sussex County Building Society and their contractors, James

Longley & Co. Ltd. for their co-operation and friendly interest at Friars Walk. My sincere thanks to Mr. J. G. Hurst for his interpretation of the Rhenish jug and to Councillor John Houghton for his help on the historical background. Miss Joyce Biggar restored the chamber pot and Mr. C. E. Knight-Farr kept observation on the sites.

The Rhenish pot will be on permanent display in the entrance hall of the new Head Office of the Sussex County Building Society and will be available for study and the rest of the finds will be deposited at Barbican House, Lewes, together with a distribution map of both sites.

E. W. O'Shea

REFERENCES

- ¹ D. J. Freke, 'Excavations in Lewes, 1974', *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, (abbreviated hereafter to *S.A.C.*) **113** (1975), 66.
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- ⁶ *Medieval Catalogue*, Museum of London H.M.S.O. London (1967), 174-6.
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Petworth House and the Formal Gardens

The area between the house and the present lake has been the subject of a considerable number of alterations during the past four hundred years but, although much has been written about these changes, no attempt appears, previously, to have been made to produce reconstructed drawings of the various layouts. One reason for this is that the contemporary cartographical representations of the layouts are of dubious quality and accuracy; but the discovery of the former location of several features, by aerial photography (Plate I) and fieldwork in the summer of 1976, has allowed the writer to make the following reconstructions (see Figs. 5, 6).

Medieval to 1610

The remains of the medieval manor-house, which was fortified in 1309,¹ include the chapel and the hall undercroft which are

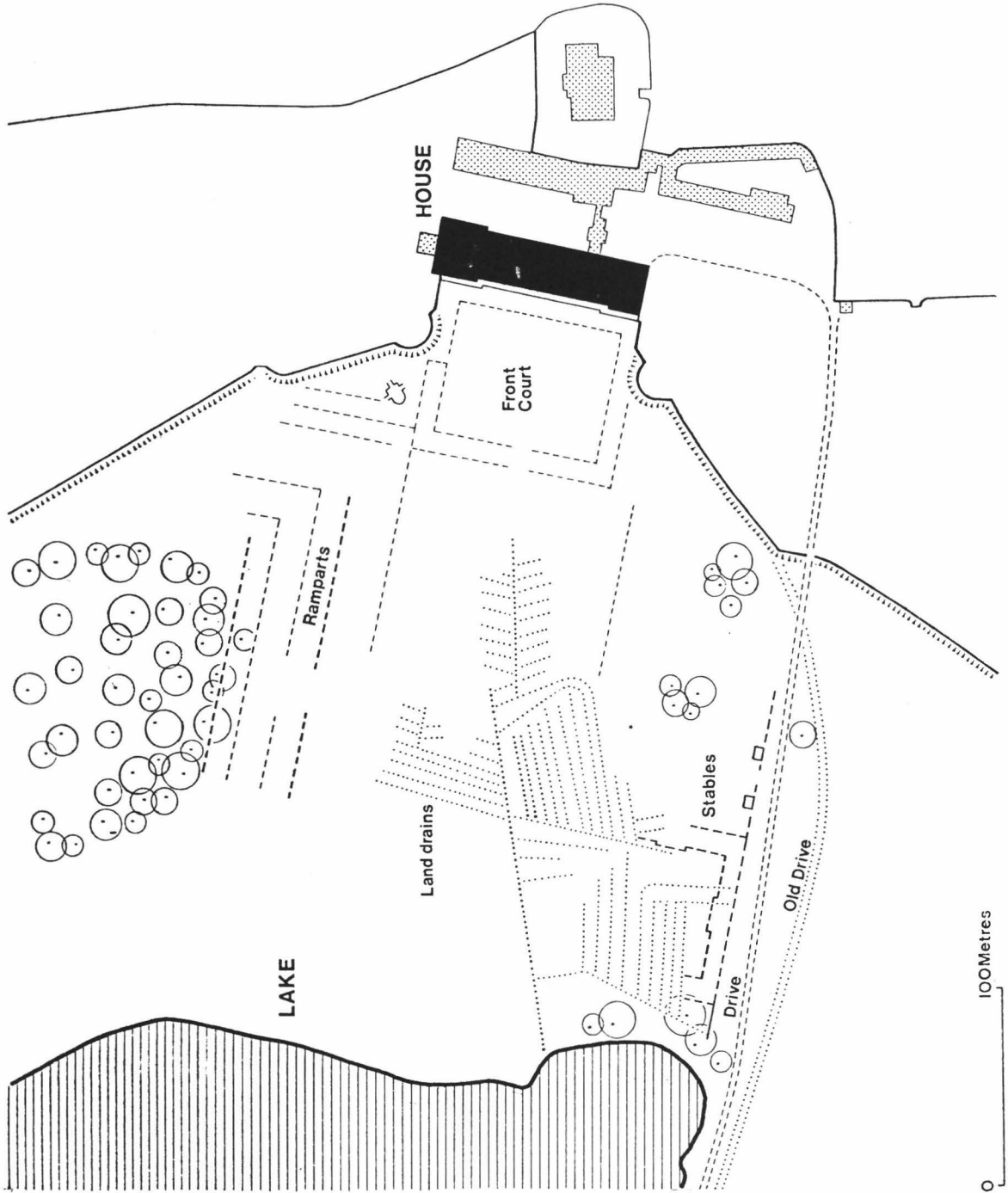


Fig. 5 Plan of the formal gardens traced from the aerial photograph, Plate I.

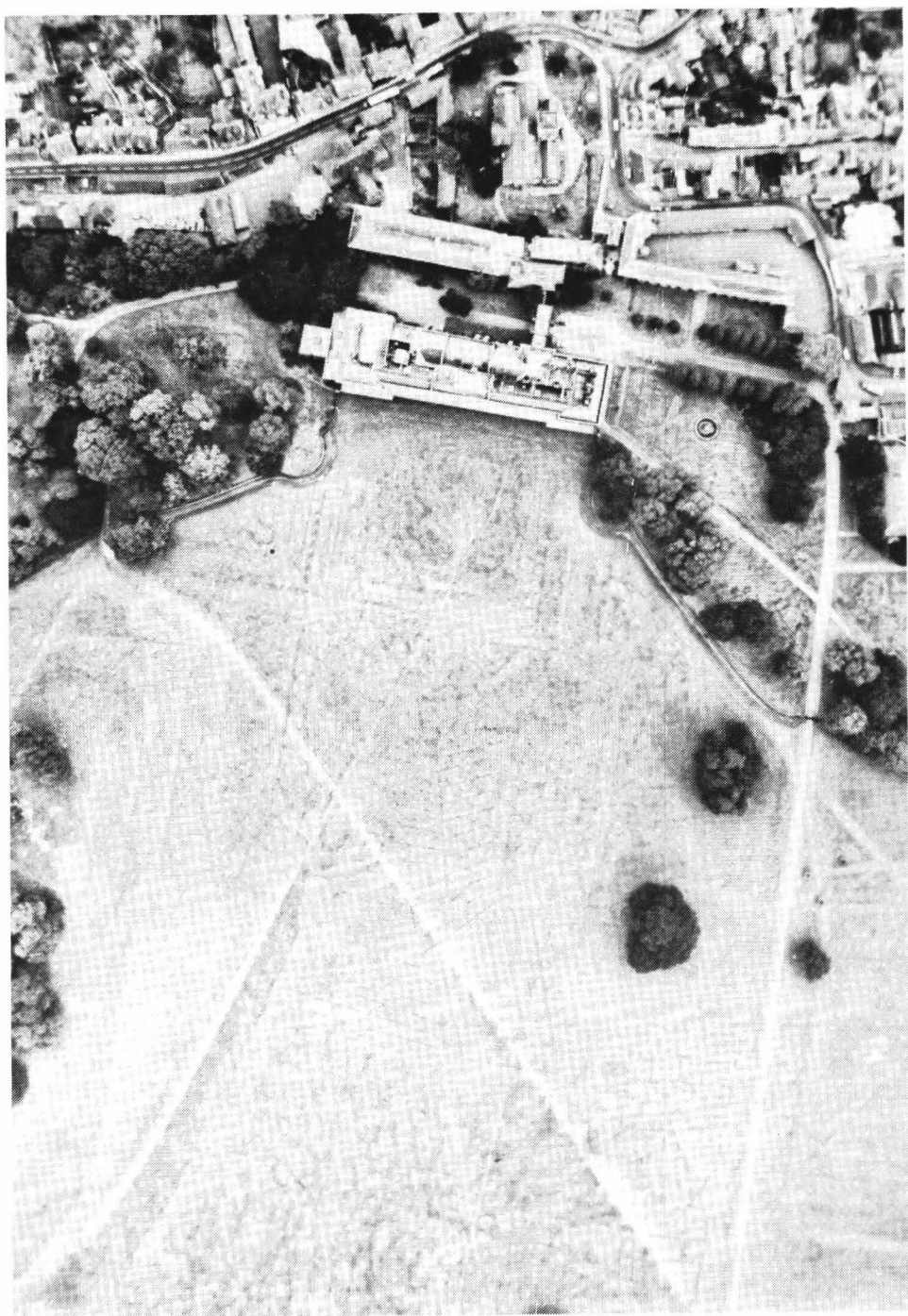


Plate I Aerial photograph of Petworth House and gardens.

incorporated into the present house. The medieval house was enlarged between 1576 and 1582 by the addition of a west wing, which is shown on Raphe Treswell's map of 1610. The foundations of this extension were seen as parch marks on the lawn to the west of the north end of the present house in 1976. Treswell's map also shows that the area to the south-west of the house was occupied by private houses and that formal gardens, which included a rose garden, a 'hoppe' garden, a nursery and a plantation of 'scicomer' trees, had been laid out.

The sixteenth-century house and town obtained its water supply from a conduit which commenced some 900 m to the west of the house in a surviving underground cistern and is still fed in the direction of the house by a four-inch lead pipe. A conduit house stood near the church and another probably stood in the Market Square. The system was replaced in about 1750 by pumping water from Coultershaw, a few miles south of the town.

1610—1680

A large stable block was built to the west of the house between 1621 and 1625 and this is shown both on a map 'attributed to Robert Norton circa 1625'² and on a painting of about 1680 which is now in Syon House.³ The latter also shows that the house had been extended southwards and the land between the house and stables re-planned to include two large enclosed gardens and a series of terraces which were reached by two converging flights of steps. Most of this work can be attributed to the period 1615 to 1632. The terraces appear not to have been on the same alignment as those attributed to London and Wise and their outline can be seen on aerial photographs. The former position of the stables can be traced, to the south-west of the lake, as a series of depressions representing the remains of robber-trenches.

1680—1755

Following the wholesale rebuilding of the house between 1688 and 1696, which incorporated the medieval remains, the gardens were laid out on very formal lines, in the French style, by George London and Henry Wise between 1702 and 1710, some of the proposals being shown on a map of 1706.⁴ Correspondence, now in the Petworth House Archives, shows that the properties which

formerly lay to the west of the house were being acquired for demolition in 1702—4 and the tenants were re-housed elsewhere, prior to the laying out of the formal gardens.

A plan of 1751, in Petworth House, showing the house, stables, formal gardens, an avenue and terraces, was once thought to be a proposed scheme but many of the features shown on this plan are clearly visible on aerial photographs. The plan is almost certainly one made for Brown and shows the existing situation immediately before he commenced his alterations.

1755—1765

It is these early eighteenth-century formal gardens that Lancelot 'Capability' Brown cleared between 1755 and 1765 to produce a parkscape in which the main features were natural, grass-covered, curving slopes, a lake and tree clumps. His park is that shown on a map of 1779 in Petworth House and also on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey Twenty-Five Inch Map of 1875. Much of his correspondence, including estimates for the removal of the pre-existing features, also survives.

1766—1977

Modifications appear to have been made to Brown's plan, between 1875 and 1897, when the present ha-ha, with rounded 'bastions' was made to the north and south of the present west facade of the house, possibly by Anthony Salvin who also modified the layout of the grounds to the south of the house and the line of the drive to the lake.

I am most grateful to Lord Egremont for allowing me to inspect documents in the Petworth House Archives and to Mrs. Alison McCann of the West Sussex Record Office, for her assistance and advice.

Since this article was prepared in 1977, Mr. J. R. Armstrong has drawn my attention to Daniel Defoe's tour through England and Wales, undertaken between 1719 and 1724, which refers to the old stables and park at Petworth—

The duke's house [Charles Seymour, 6th Duke of Somerset 1662-1748] at Petworth, is certainly a compleat building in its self, and the apartments are very noble, well contriv'd, and richly furnish'd; but it cannot be said, that the situation of the house is equally design'd, or with equal judgement as

PETWORTH HOUSE AND THE FORMAL GARDENS

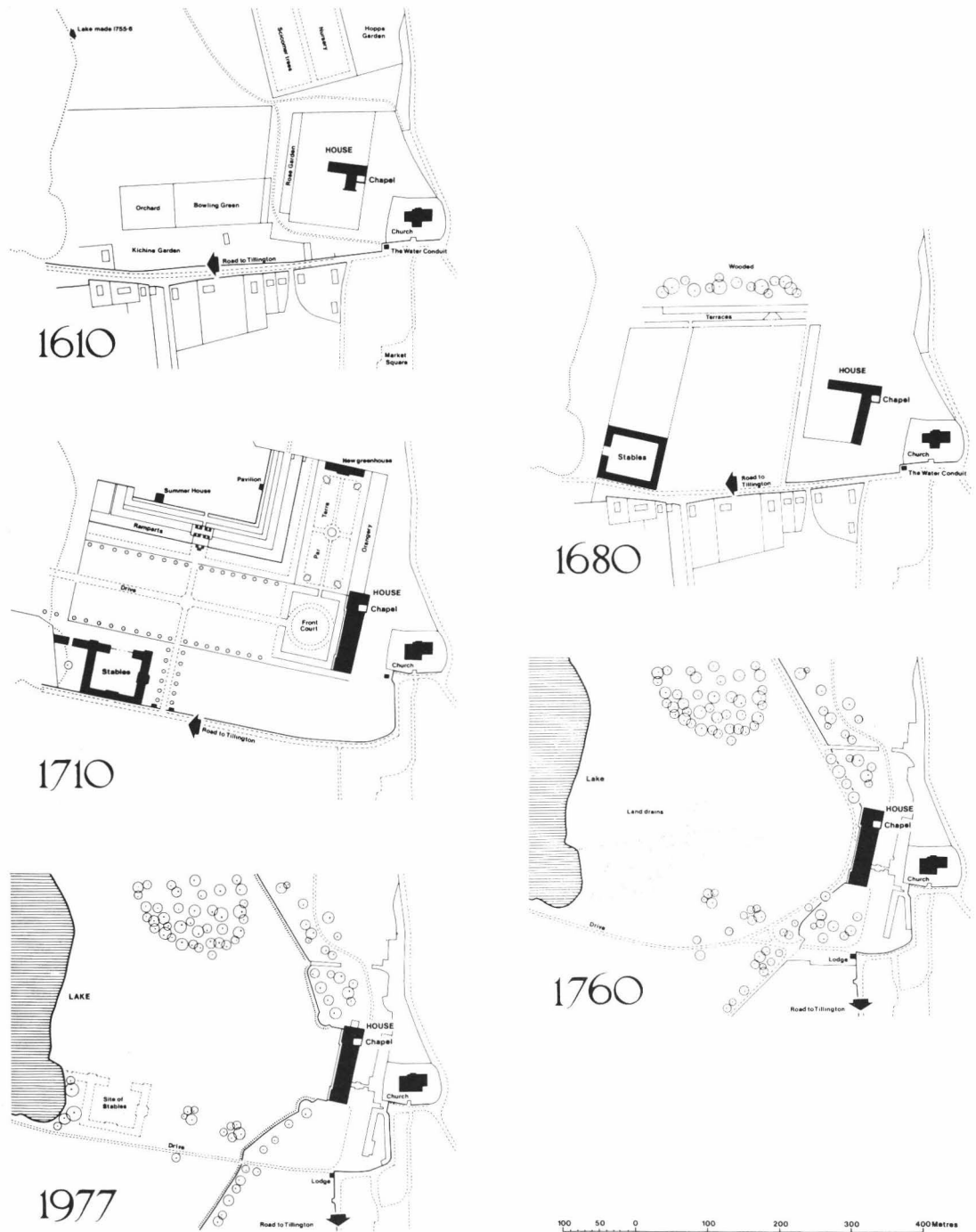


Fig. 6 The development of the formal gardens.

the rest; the avenues to the front want space, the house stands as it were with its elbow to the town, its front has no visto answerable, and the west front look'd not to the parks or fine gardens, but to the old stables.

To rectify this, when it was too late to order it any other way, the duke was oblig'd to pull down those noble buildings; I mean the mews, or stables, the finest of their kind in all the south of England, and equal to some noblemens whole houses, and yet even the demolishing the pile has done more than open'd a prospect over the country, whereas had the house been set on the rising ground, on the side of the park, over against the north wing of the house, and a little more to the westward, the front had been south to the town, the back front to the parks, which were capable of fountains, canals, vistos, and all the most exquisite pieces of art, that sets out the finest gardens, whereas all now lyes on one angle, or opposite to one wing of the house. But with all these disadvantages, the house it self is a noble pile of building, and by far the finest in all this part of Britain.

This appears to suggest that the old stables, built between 1610 and 1625, had been taken down by 1724, and Defoe makes no specific reference to new stables in the layout of London and Wise which must have been completed by the time of his visit. It seems surprising that the stables should have been rebuilt on virtually the same site, though probably a little further south than previously, but in view of this evidence of Defoe it must be assumed that the stable plan visible on the aerial photographs is that of the building constructed for London and Wise and not that of the stable block built between 1610 and 1625.

Reference

A Tour through England and Wales by Daniel Defoe [1719-1724] (Everyman's Library 1928) Vol. 1 pp. 132-133.

F.G.A. June 1980

F. G. Aldsworth

¹ W. H. Blaauw, 'Royal licenses to fortify towns and houses in Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (hereafter *S.A.C.*), 13 (1861), 104-117.

² G. Batho, 'The Percies at Petworth, 1574-1632', *S.A.C.*, 95 (1957), 1-27.

³ G. Jackson-Stops, 'The building of Petworth', *Apollo Magazine*, May 1977, 324-333.

⁴ G. Batho, (1957), 1-27.

Castle Field, Hartfield (TQ 481 361)

Castle Field, Hartfield, contains a mound on which an excavation was done by Dr. L. F. Salzman in 1912.¹ Salzman states that the mound is circular or oval and about 180-200ft. in diameter and stands 7-8ft. above the general field level. It presumably gave the field its name. His trenches across the mound revealed no sign of occupation and produced nothing but what he describes as a few sherds of late medieval pottery. He could find no ditch and concluded that no structure had ever existed on it.

In 1975, site development for council houses was started on Castle Field, by Wealden Rural District Council, but the mound, a Scheduled Ancient Monument, was avoided. However, one sewer trench was planned to pass within 13ft. of the base of the mound on its south-west side. This trench was 2ft. wide and averaged 4½ft. in depth. It was dug mechanically and the operation was closely watched.

Away from the mound, the vertical section of the trench showed, below the topsoil, about 1½ft. of soft grey silty sub-soil, with loose sandstone lumps, all probably eroded sandstone. Below this, to the bottom of the trench was hard yellowish-brown bedded sandstone. As the trench approached the mound, the soft grey filling suddenly dipped to the bottom of the trench, and its base was not reached. These conditions continued past the nearest point to the mound for 93ft., when the original section, with hard sandstone, was again encountered.

Although this silty filling appeared to be sterile, from it, 2½ft. below the field surface, came three medieval pottery sherds; two probably of thirteenth/fourteenth century date and the other probably earlier.

The position of the trench, and the above described changes in it, were measured from the centre of the mound and planned. The points where the supposed ditch were struck were found to be consistent with a concentric circle around the mound. I am therefore inclined to conclude that the District Council trench cut through a portion of a deep ditch that had, at some time, been deliberately filled, probably using soil from the top of the mound that had originally come from the same ditch. If the mound, now a very low one for a motte, had thus been reduced in height, it would

account for Salzman finding nothing on it, and for the eradication of all signs of a ditch on the present surface. Only a section cut across the supposed ditch could conclusively prove if this theory is correct.

Over other parts of the field, soil was removed over large areas in the course of levelling and road-making. This revealed no sign of any earthworks outside the mound and no finds of early date except a few flint flakes and some bloomery iron slag.

The pottery sherds will be placed in the Barbican House Museum, Lewes. I should like to acknowledge the help and co-operation of the Wealden District Council staff and particularly Mr. J. Eastes; also Mr. L. E. A. Burd, A.A.Dipl., R.I.B.A., who helped me with the surveying.

C. F. Tebbutt, F.S.A.

¹ L. F. Salzman, 'Exploration of the "castle" mound at Hartfield', *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, 56 (1914), 201.

The Swanbourne Lake Island—an Artificial Construction

An investigation into the structure and surroundings of the island situated towards the south end of Swanbourne Lake, Arundel, indicates that it is of artificial origin. The probable date of construction, from the artefacts recovered, would be in the first decade of the eighteenth century.

The lake is of some antiquity, and has persisted in some variant of its present form since Domesday, when it was recorded together with the mill.¹ The mill was demolished in 1840¹ and there can be little doubt that the topography of the lake has changed considerably in the intervening period. Some degree of stabilisation of the southern boundary following the construction of the road which runs more or less parallel to the course of the Arun would be expected, however, and the road existed in some form as early as the fifteenth century. The earliest reference to the island is as late as 1834,¹ but this publication followed extensive improvements to the Castle amenities, and may only have served to highlight features which existed long before. Later illustrations predating the First World War indicate that the island at this time was considerably larger than is now the case.

At the present time the lake is c. 1 km in length along its NW/SE axis, and has an average breadth of about 100 m along most of its length. The island (Ref. TQ 018/079), is spindle shaped, and its dimensions are about 30 m by 15 m. The nearest approach to the lake side is about 20 m to the east, and it is 70 m due NW of the lodge at the park gates.

During the drought of 1976, the island was completely exposed for about eight weeks. A chance observation revealed the presence of a quantity of tile and sixteenth-seventeenth century wine bottle fragments, which were scattered over the surface of the area just beyond the north end of the island. The island was c. 2 m above the level of the lake bed proper, and was situated on a raised portion of the bed consisting of chalk and other aggregate.

Two possibilities could be advanced to account for the presence of the artefacts; either the island was the result of natural weathering of a structure which existed when this part of the lake was dry, or the island was an artificial construction. To distinguish between these possibilities, permission was obtained from the Estate Management to carry out trial excavation in the region of the raised part of the lake bed surrounding the island.

EXCAVATION DETAILS

The area surrounding the island was firm for about 3 m to the NW and about 2 m to the SE. A shallow surface layer of sediment covered a foundation of broken chalk, flint and other ballast, about 1 m in depth. The presence of rotted timber posts and stays at points H, J and I (Fig. 7), indicate that the island was considerably larger at the time of construction, and has been reduced to its present dimensions by the process of erosion. Estate records indicate that the level of the lake during the summer of 1976 was the lowest ever noted, including the occasion when the lake was drained in an attempt to reduce the growth of aquatic vegetation.

Beyond the original island boundary the lake was only surface dry, and the water table only a few centimetres below. Deep excavation was therefore difficult and had to be carried out rapidly.

Two shallow trenches (3 m x 2 m), 1 and 2, cut into the island foundation, revealed potsherds with a wide date range, clay pipe

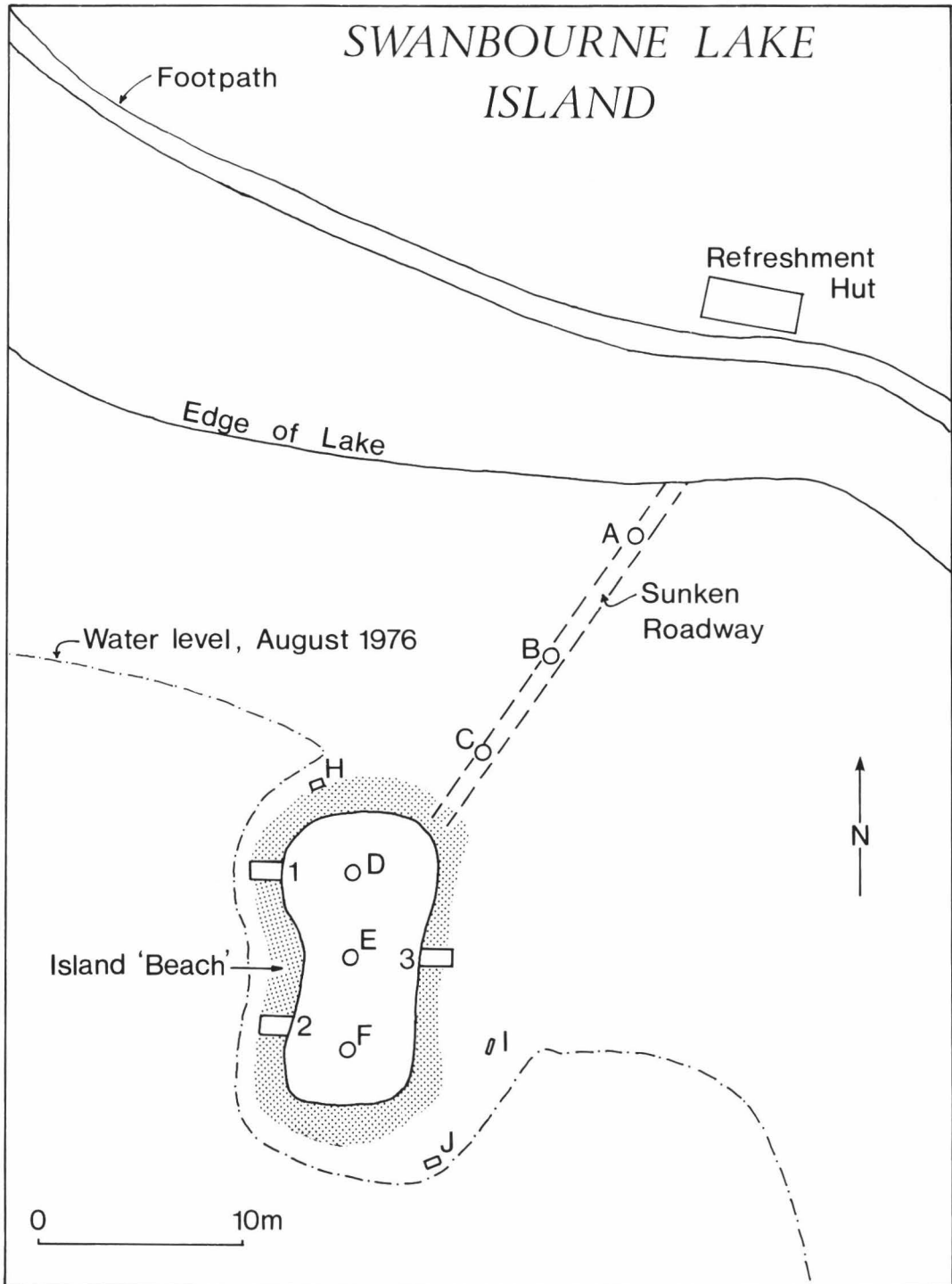


Fig. 7.

stems and a complete pipe bowl, further quantities of tile and some metal artefacts. Oyster shells and small quantities of animal bone were recovered from trench 3, but little else.

No evidence of structural foundation or any organised layering was detected other than the surface finds referred to previously. The datable clay pipe bowl was 2 cm below the surface of trench 1. Test shafts at points D, E and F in the island likewise failed to show any organised structure beneath, and only small quantities of broken tile were recovered from F. More extensive investigation at these points was not possible since the Estate Management had indicated that the fabric of the island should be disturbed as little as possible.

From the lack of layering and organised construction encountered at the points referred to above, we conclude that the island is a wholly artificial construction, on a bed of chalk and other available building debris. Originally the island would have been capped with a layer of topsoil and bounded by a wooden palisade, to prevent or minimise the erosive action of the lake water.

During the course of the investigation, a series of shafts were sunk to establish the nature of the island environment. To the north, west and south, the bed of the lake consisted of a surface layer of a greenish coloured chalky sediment some 50 cm deep. Below this a deep layer of compressed vegetation persisted for as far as could be ascertained. To the east, a change in the sub-surface was noted and no vegetation layer was present. The chalk sediment layer continued for about 1.5 m and terminated in a layer of impacted flint (Shaft C), which proved to be a metallated road surface. The roadway was 2 m in width and ran from the lakeside to the island as indicated in the excavation plan. Evidence for its continuation was found at shafts A and B.

The road exhibited a slight gradient such that its depth was about 1 m at the edge of the lake by the present refreshment hut, but fell to about 1.5 m deep at Shaft B. The level of the road rose again as it approached the island. Soundings at the opposite side of the island failed to reveal its presence, and it was therefore assumed to terminate on the SE side of the island. Sections of tile were recovered from soundings A, B and C at the level of the road. The flint metallating was investigated at

point C which was the dryest of the shafts. The metallating was at least 50 cm thick and showed evidence of compaction, some of the flint having been fractured in situ. No other debris was incorporated at the area examined.

ARTEFACTS RECOVERED

1. *Roof Tiles*

Thirty-two tile fragments were found at the surface and at all points excavated in the reinforced area. Generally they were of crude construction and of indeterminate period up to late Tudor, some of these appeared to contain an admixture of finely-crushed chalk.

2. *Glass*

All the glass fragments found (18) were surface finds—in the main they were residues of sixteenth-seventeenth century wine bottles of the commonly imported round bodied long neck type.

3. *Pottery*

Sherds were recovered from Trenches 1 and 2—much of that found was surface, stained with lake sediment, and in instances the nature of the fabric for this reason was difficult to establish. A few sherds were modern and could have arisen from lakeside deposition. Predominantly, however, the sherds are pre-1700 and in some instances much earlier. Sixty sherds were found in all, and are representative of the following pottery types:

- 1 *Shell Tempered Ware*: of the twelfth-thirteenth century—the dating of this type of ware has been discussed by Turner.²
- 2 *Hard Grey Ware*: produced from the thirteenth century onwards in the south of England. The style is representative of the mid-fifteenth century in most cases.
- 3 *Red Wares*: Probably of local manufacture—both glazed and unglazed sherds were found and attributed to the sixteenth-eighteenth century.
- 4 *White Tin-glazed Earthenware*: Probably not of local manufacture. Material of this nature was imported from the continent or manufactured at the Lambeth kiln 1680-1750.
- 5 *Slipped Wares*: Coloured slip wares were manufactured in Sussex in the seventeenth-eighteenth centuries.
- 6 *'Beige' Wares*: We are unable to place the fragments of the buff-coloured wares which do not seem to accord with the

description of locally produced pottery. This may be due to surface deterioration as a consequence of prolonged immersion. In other respects there is a similarity to off-white wares of the fifteenth century.

4. *Organic Refuse and Other Artefacts*

- 1 Eleven oyster shells and a split section from a long bone were recovered from Trench 3.
- 2 A number of clay pipe stems of varying type and diameter were recovered from Trench 1, all were undecorated. A single pipe bowl was recognised as an early version of a common eighteenth-century type, and is identical to an exhibit in the reserve collection at Worthing museum from the South Lancing pipemaker, who operated between 1700-1710.
- 3 A fragment of an ox or horse shoe of a fifteenth-sixteenth century type with rectangular perforations was recovered from Trench 2. In association with this were three square drawn nails. The best preserved of these was some 8 cm in length, the head of which fitted well into the shoe perforation.

CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION

The datable artefacts point to a period of around 1700 when the area surrounding the present island was last disturbed. Such few fragments of pottery as may postdate this period could have arisen by subsequent deposition from visitors to the Lake. All the pottery with the later exceptions were recovered from Trenches 1 and 2. The glass fragments were free lying on the surface of the raised area surrounding the island, as were most of the tiles. A few tiles were found still embedded in the fabric of the island itself.

From the evidence of the residual posts once forming part of the island reinforcement and now situated to the edge of the present 'beach', and from the lack of evidence of any organised structure, it is concluded that the island is wholly artificial. Illustrations of the island from postcards which certainly predate the First World War, indicate the island to be larger than at present and an area approximating to that suggested by the size of the surrounding raised area would not be inappropriate.

Consequent erosion of the island which on this hypothesis has mainly occurred within the

last 70-80 years, would account for the presence of exposed artefacts of modern and seventeenth century origin on the raised beach area. Since the surface area:volume ratio of the island exposed to the Lake action will presumably increase as the erosion continues, it is unlikely that it will survive much into the twenty-first century, unless appropriate steps are taken to reinforce the existing structure.

The presence of the metalled roadway some metre below the present Lake bed is rather enigmatic in that its firm metalling is suggestive of permanence rather than a temporary structure to merely facilitate the construction of an island. The history of Swanbourne Lake over the period of the Middle Ages to the eighteenth century is not well defined, and there is a danger in attempting to overemphasise present day views on its geography.³

The extensive addition of chalk ballast presumably from the cliff face behind the lodge, at a number of points where the lakeside might be faced with erosion, and for the island foundation, is still very evident. A great deal of chalk rubble has been deposited in the area between island and lakeside, but whether this was to raise the lake surface or for reinforcement, we are unable to say. The presence of the roadway can only imply that at the time of its construction, this region of the present lake was dry land. The presence of tile fragments at all three soundings taken along its length confirm that the road was involved with the construction of the island.

It is known that the lake was drained during the Civil War to bring about the capitulation of the Castle, by depriving the defenders of their water supply. Exactly how this was brought about cannot at this time be established, but the fact that this region of the park was the scene of a skirmish is attested. In a letter to the House of Lords in 1643 General Waller stated:

'We did scour a weedy hill in the park on the west side of the Castle with our pieces that we made it too hot for them.'¹

An entrenchment from the mill to the town gate was subsequently overthrown in an assault following the bombardment. The exact location of the 'pieces' is not evident, and Waller may have confused his compass bearings, for there is no substantial hill to the west side of the Castle within cannon shot. It is

tempting therefore to conjecture that the roadway may have had some military significance in this or some other contemporary action. It is also recorded that the Castle garrison of 1000 men was forced to surrender as a consequence of the water supply from Swanbourne Lake being denied to them.

The sole record of works being carried out at the Castle in the early eighteenth-century refers to the 29th Earl who in 1711 initiated some repairs to the ravages of the Civil War, to render the Castle habitable, but there is no mention of work in the grounds.¹ It is not until 1785 that any record of work to improve the amenities is mentioned, and this date would be out of the context of president evidence.

Thanks are due to Mr. Orr-Ewing, the Estate Manager, for permission to conduct this investigation, and to the late Dr. Francis Steer for general encouragement. All artefacts recovered during the excavation are now in the custody of the archivist to His Grace the Duke of Norfolk.

I. Martin and D. Whyberd

¹ M. A. Tierney, *History and Antiquities of the Castle and Town of Arundel*, p. 725.

² Excavations Near Merton Priory, *Surrey Archaeological Collections*, LXIV 35-70.

³ A. Hadrian Allcroft, *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, LXIII, p. 54 et seq.

The West End of Coombes Church

The small flint church of Coombes comprises its original early Norman nave, and chancel widened in the thirteenth or fourteenth century, and contains notable Romanesque and later wall paintings. Some architectural features at the exterior of the west end (Plate IIa) still require satisfactory explanation. First, the nave north wall continues beyond the present west wall—projecting some 4 ft (1.22 m) at ground-level, though tapering sharply into the west wall above—while on the south side, on the other hand, there is a neat brick quoin at the junction of the south and west walls; second, there are two lines of quoins built into the west wall, at about 2½ ft (0.76 m) from either end, that on the north being at the angle formed by the projecting north wall; and, third, in the centre of the west wall is an unusual, large round-headed window, its sill only inches above ground-level. Two nineteenth-century writers might seem to throw some light on this state of affairs at the

west end: Cartwright (1832) records that the church was 'formerly rather longer than it is at present, being reduced to its present size in 1724';¹ and Lower (1870) also states that the church was 'reduced in size' in 1724.² More modern writers have varied widely in their interpretation of the features at the west end: Godfrey (1936) again stated that the church had been reduced in size, and also suggested that it 'probably had originally a west tower';³ Poole (1948) argued from the two lines of quoins in the west wall that an original Saxon nave had been widened by about 2½ ft on both sides in the early Norman period;⁴ Steer (1966) considered that it 'would seem reasonable to suggest' that the nave had been 'widened or entirely rebuilt', but proposed that the west wall was of fifteenth-century date, and stated that there was 'no proof' that the church had been shortened in 1724;⁵ Fisher (1970) rejected the theory that the church had been widened, but accepted that it was shortened in 1724, 'evidently due to the pressure of the rising ground outside', and that the west wall was rebuilt then.⁶

It can now be stated with certainty that the church was indeed shortened in 1724, or soon thereafter, and also that Godfrey was right in proposing that it once had a west tower. The evidence for this is of two kinds. First, an estate plan of Coombes, by Robert Whitpaine, dated 1677, now in the possession of Mr. Dick Passmore of Church Farm, Coombes, and which has only become known in recent years, includes a small perspective drawing of the church, showing it with a square west tower with a pyramidal roof (Plate IIb).⁷ The reliability of this evidence for the existence of a tower can hardly be doubted; the remainder of the church, as shown in the drawing, is recognisably that which we still see today, with its east end towards the village, an unbroken roof-line over nave and chancel, the south porch in its correct position, and perhaps even with one of the large Perpendicular windows in the chancel south wall. Confirming the evidence of the drawing is an entry in the inspection book of Chichester diocese of 1602, and another entry in the inspection book of 1724 ('Bishop Bowers' Visitation').⁸ The 1602 entry reads: 'the steeple is a littell faltie in one place of the healinge';⁹ and the 1724 entry: 'Tower and part of the Church lately falln to be contracted by Leave (as reported) from

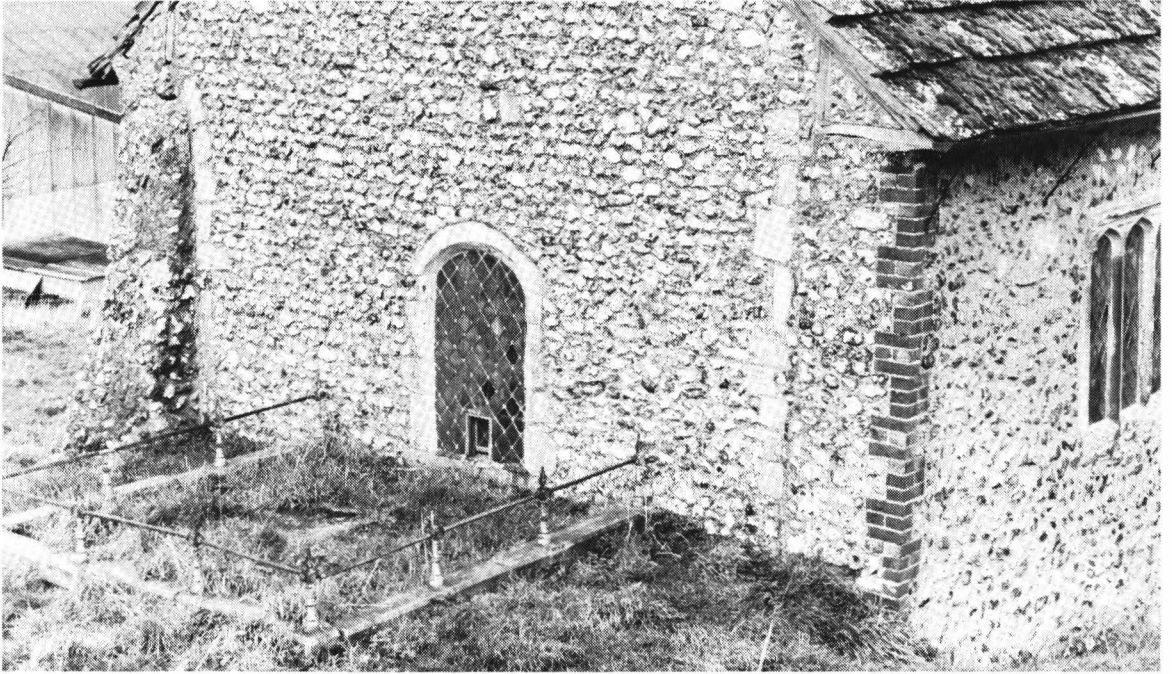


Plate IIa. Coombes Church: west end, from south-west.



Plate IIb. Coombes Church: detail of 1677 estate plan.



Plate III Church of Sir Richard de Wych, Ashdown Park

your Lordship [i.e., the bishop], but when so lessen'd, sufficient to contain more than the Inhabitants, the remaining part in good repair.'¹⁰ Thus, given that the church was shortened c. 1724, it would seem reasonable to date at least part of the present west end—most probably the large central window, and indeed perhaps the entire west wall—to that time. The fragment of north wall which still protrudes must have belonged to the earlier west end, otherwise demolished. Mr. Passmore informs me that earlier this century this wall still protruded some 8-10 ft, and that the greater part of it was demolished from the top, giving the remainder its present tapering shape. A very short section of wall also extended from the south-west angle, but this was completely demolished, and the present brick quoin inserted. Neither the drawing nor the inspection book entries provide sufficient evidence to date the west tower accurately; however, its appearance in the drawing gives no grounds to suppose that it could not have been medieval, and it may be significant that it bears a general resemblance to the west tower with pyramidal roof which was added in the thirteenth or fourteenth century to the small eleventh-century church in the neighbouring village of Botolphs.

W. D. Park

¹ J. Dalloway, with E. Cartwright, *A History of the Western Division of the County of Sussex*, II, ii, *The Parochial Topography of the Rape of Bramber*, London, 1830, 112.

² R. H. Nibbs, *The Churches of Sussex*, reissued with history and architectural descriptions by M. A. Lower, Brighton, 1972.

³ W. H. Godfrey, at a meeting of the Sussex Archeological Society in the Adur Valley, *Sussex Notes and Queries*, VI, 1936, 113.

⁴ H. M. Poole, 'The Domesday Churches of Sussex,' *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, LXXXVII, 1948, 45.

⁵ F. W. Steer, *Guide to the Church of Coombes (Sussex Churches, No. 36)*, Chichester, 1966, 1.

⁶ E. A. Fisher, *The Saxon Churches of Sussex*, Newton Abbot, 1970, 94f.

⁷ I would like to thank Mr. Passmore for allowing me to photograph the plan, and also for discussing the west end of the church with me. The plan has previously been published in *Deserted Medieval Villages*, ed. M. W. Beresford and J. G. Hurst, London, 1971, 47, pls. 3b and 4.

⁸ I am very grateful to Mr. Timothy Hudson, of the Victoria County History, for pointing out these entries to me, and for providing transcripts of them. I would also like to thank him for commenting on a draft of this paper.

⁹ W.S.R.O., Ep. I/26/1, fol. 1 verso.

¹⁰ W.S.R.O., Ep. I/26/3, fol. 12.

HISTORICAL NOTES

This section of the *Collections* is devoted to short notes on aspects of local history. Material for inclusion should be sent to Mr. Alec Barr-Hamilton, 226 Hangleton Road, Hove. Those without previous experience in writing up such material for publication should not be deterred from contributing for Mr. Barr-Hamilton will be happy to assist in the preparation of reports and illustrations.

Newlands: a Templar Holding in Horsham Identified¹

King John made a grant to the Knights Templar in 1213 which may be translated as follows:

We grant and confirm ... to the military brothers of the Temple the land of *Niweland* with appurtenances which W. de Braus held from them at farm and which was taken into our hands with the other land which W. held ...²

This has traditionally been regarded as the foundation charter for the preceptory of Newland, near Wakefield.³ However, Newland preceptory was held by the Knights Hospitaller from the mid-thirteenth century at the latest⁴ and if this identification were to be accepted it would be necessary to postulate that the Templars transferred a preceptory, which had been granted to themselves, to the Hospitallers—an unlikely event. An additional difficulty is presented in that the grant was by the king. Newland preceptory lay either in the manor of Wakefield, which was held in 1213 by William earl de Warenne, or in the honour of Pontefract, held in 1213 by John de Lacy, constable of Chester. These difficulties are resolved if *Niweland* is re-identified as Newlands in the parish of Horsham, a place referred to as *Newland* in 1532.⁵ The family of Braose, lords of the rape of Bramber, made extensive gifts to the Templars in Sussex⁶ which were administered from the preceptory of Shipley.⁷ Newlands was probably an assart in the adjacent parish of Horsham; Templar holdings in Horsham have not been previously identified, but there was a dispute in 1247 between the brothers at Shipley and the nuns of Rusper over the boundary between Shipley and Horsham.⁸ It is likely that Newlands was an outlying holding of Shipley preceptory which had been leased back by the Templars to William de Braose, the major landholder in

the area. William's lands escheated to the king,⁹ who thereupon granted Newlands back to the Knights.

D. J. H. Michelmore

¹ The material in this note resulted from research for the archaeological survey of West Yorkshire carried out for the West Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council.

² Thomas Duffus Hardy, *Rotuli Chartarum*, 1, part 1, Commissioners on the Public Records (1837), 193.

³ E. W. Crossley, 'The preceptory of Newland, co. York', *Yorkshire Archaeol. Soc. Record Series*, 61 (1920), 2.

⁴ It is referred to as a Hospitaller holding in a bond dated c. 1240-50; see William H. Turner, *Calendar of the Charters and Rolls Preserved in the Bodleian Library*, (Oxford, 1878), 613.

⁵ A. Mawer and F. M. Stenton, *The Place-Names of Sussex*, part 1, *English Place-Name Society* 6 (1929), 230.

⁶ Beatrice A. Lees, *Records of the Templars in England in the Twelfth Century*, *British Academy, Records of the Social and Economic History of England and Wales* 9 (1935), cxlvii-cxlix.

⁷ For an account of this preceptory, see William Page, *The Victoria History of the County of Sussex*, 2 (1907), 92-3.

⁸ W. H. Blaauw, 'Sadelscombe and Shipley: the preceptories of the Knights Templars in Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, 9 (1857), 249.

⁹ Charles Merrik Burrell, 'Documents relating to Knepp Castle', *Sussex Archaeological Collections*, 3 (1850), 1.

The Dedication of Singleton Church

The purpose of this note is to set out the evidence for the history of the dedication of Singleton church, a history which has been bedevilled by a series of textual errors over the last 120 years.

The first and indeed the only known reference to the medieval dedication of the church occurs in a document dated 1306. This document is an agreement recorded in the *De Banco Rolls*,¹ the relevant part of which reads, 'Iuratam inter Gervasium filium Willelmi de Cherleton' et Willelmum fratrem ejusdem Gervasii querentes et Magistrum Thomam de

Burne et Thomam personam ecclesie Beate Marie de Sengelton' de placito attachiamenti prohibicionis . . .'. There is no doubt that the reference is to Singleton near Chichester, for the document is cited under the heading *Sussex*; moreover it may be noted that Charlton is a hamlet in the parish of Singleton.

The reference to 'Thomas parson of the church of St. Mary of Singleton' gives a clear indication of the dedication of the church in the early fourteenth century. The Thomas who was incumbent in 1306 is probably the same as the Thomas recorded by Hennessy² as rector in 1288; unfortunately Hennessy did not quote his source, which has not yet been traced.

Some additional evidence is also provided by two late medieval wills. The will of Richard Heberden,³ dated 20 October 1479, contains bequests to the lights of St. Katherine, St. Nicholas and Our Lady, the largest amount being to the light of Our Lady ('Lumini Beate Marie vi d.'). The will of Peter Mawtalye,⁴ dated 4 June 1532, contains a bequest to the 'fraternitati beate marie de Syngleton, xii d.'. Unfortunately the bequest has twice been misquoted as giving evidence for the dedication of the church, first by Gibbon in 1860⁵ who rendered it as 'nostræ Beatae Mariae de Singleton, 12d.', and secondly by Garraway Rice in 1940-41,⁶ who quoted it as reading 'Nostre beate marie de Singleton'. Garraway Rice confused matters further by printing a correct reading of the bequest under a different heading. Peter Mawtalye's will contains an additional bequest to the 'fraternitati domine katerine ibidem viii d.', though it is perhaps worth noting that the amount of the bequest to the brotherhood of St. Mary is a little larger than the bequest to the brotherhood of St. Katherine. In summary it may therefore be stated that the medieval wills provide useful corroborative evidence for the continuation of the cult of St. Mary at Singleton. It should however be stressed that in themselves the wills provide no firm evidence for the dedication of the church.

After the Reformation the dedication of the church appears to have been lost. All references which have been noted by the present writers between the Reformation and the late nineteenth century refer to the building simply as the parish church, without any dedication.

In 1860 Gibbon published in these *Collections* his study of the dedications of West Sussex churches.⁷ As noted above he mis-read the bequest in the will of Peter Mawtalye. He also included in his article a reference to the will of Harry Russell,⁸ priest, dated 8 March 1543-4, from which he cited a reference 'Item, to St. John, of Syngleton, 6s. 8d.'. In fact Gibbon also seriously mis-read this bequest. The bequest actually reads 'To Sir John of Syngylton vi s. viii d.', and refers to Sir John Maret, a witness to the will. This bequest is correctly rendered by Garraway Rice.

Later in the nineteenth century the church became known as St. John the Evangelist Singleton. The introduction of this dedication is to be ascribed to the Revd. F. A. Bowles, rector of Singleton from 1849 to 1894. The earliest reference to the dedication of the church to St. John is found in the Parish Log Book kept by Bowles.⁹ In January 1877 he refers to the installation of a small window in the porch representing 'St. John at Patmos', and he states that the window 'answers a double or twofold purpose—in that it defines the Patron Saint to whom the Church is dedicated—& it is also a Memorial . . .'. Gibbon's article on West Sussex dedications would have been known to Bowles, for he was a member of the Sussex Archaeological Society from 1848 until his death in 1894. Indeed in 1864 Bowles contributed a short paper to the Society's *Collections*.¹⁰

From the late nineteenth century until 1979 the church was generally known as St. John the Evangelist Singleton. However during the 1970s the facts outlined above emerged in the course of researches by one of the present writers (Michael Hare). It became evident that Singleton church owed its modern dedication to a palaeographical error on the part of a nineteenth-century historian. The facts were made known to the then rector (Revd. John Bishop), and the issue was discussed at a meeting of the Parochial Church Council on 8 January 1979. A decision was made in principle to revert to the medieval dedication.

The documentary evidence was then submitted to the County Archivist, Mrs. Patricia Gill, who confirmed the conclusions set out above. Subsequently permission to revert to the medieval dedication was sought from the Bishop of Chichester, and this

permission was granted in a letter of 26 February 1979 to the rector. The formal change was made on Lady Day Sunday 25 March 1979 at a Parish Communion celebrated by the Rt. Revd. W. W. Hunt, formerly Bishop of Repton. The title of the building is now the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary Singleton.

In order to commemorate the return to the medieval dedication, a cartouche of the Mother and Child in stained glass designed by John Hayward has been installed in the east window of the north aisle of the church. This cartouche was dedicated by the Bishop of Chichester, the Rt. Revd. Eric Kemp, on 16 December 1979.

We are indebted to the County Archivist and to the staff of the West Sussex Record Office for their assistance in the preparation of this note.

Michael Hare and John Bishop

¹ Public Record Office, *De Banco Rolls* (CP 40/161 rot. 258). This reference is noted in Dunkin's manuscript collection in the British Library, Add. MS. 39366, f. 122v.

² G. L. Hennessy, *Chichester Diocese Clergy Lists* (1900), 136.

³ West Sussex Record Office (hereafter W.S.R.O.), STC1/1 f. 11; see also R. Garraway Rice, *Transcripts of Sussex Wills, 4, Racton to Yapton*, Sussex Record Society, 46 (1940-41), 131.

⁴ W.S.R.O., STC1/1 f. 24b.

⁵ C. Gibbon, 'Dedications of Churches and Chapels in West Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (hereafter *S.A.C.*), 12 (1860), 77-8.

⁶ Garraway Rice, 128-132. The incorrect reading is given on p. 129 under the heading *Dedication* and is cross-referenced on p. 130 under the heading *Stocks and Funds*; the correct reading is given on p. 131 under the heading *Brotherhoods*.

⁷ Gibbon.

⁸ W.S.R.O., STC1/5 f. 7; Garraway Rice, 131.

⁹ W.S.R.O., Par/174/7/1, f. 82.

¹⁰ For Bowles' membership of the Society see the membership lists in the relevant volumes of *S.A.C.*; his published note concerned a 'Small brass or copper Implement found at Singleton', *S.A.C.*, 16 (1864), 300-1.

Port's Road

John McNeil Dodgson in *The South Saxons* (Chichester, 1978), p. 54, says: 'In the years since publication, the English Place-Names Society's Sussex volumes have been overtaken by new thinking . . . (The) volumes on Sussex represent the state of knowledge in 1930. This work (PNSx) is a dangerous tool, unless handled carefully with up-to-date annotations.' Similar warnings appear in Margaret Gelling's *Signposts to the Past:*

Place-names and the history of England (London, 1978), e.g. on pp. 15 and 106. Had either of these books appeared before the note about Port's Road was written¹ and assuming that they had been read, there would not have been the acceptance of the first element of the place-name Portslade as a personal name. Dr. Gelling's book and Mr. Dodgson's chapter offer salutary lessons to those of us who, untrained in place-name studies, have accepted PNSx as the final authority.

Portslade is interpreted by Dr. Gelling as meaning: *crossing place of the harbour*.

The first Honorary Secretary of the Sussex Archaeological Society, W. H. Blaauw, at a meeting held in 1846, suggested a policy to be followed by the Society with regard to archaeology. He pointed out in what direction and by what means the Society could best exert its energies. Most of his views are still appropriate today and one sentence, referring to the study of place-names, bears repeating: 'It may be permitted here to caution antiquaries from drawing too hasty conclusions from the similarity of names'.²

E. W. Holden, F.S.A.

¹ E. W. Holden, 'Port's Road, the ancient road of Portslade', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (hereafter *S.A.C.*), 114 (1976), 323-4.

² W. H. Blaauw, 'On Sussex Archaeology', *S.A.C.*, 1 (1846), 6.

An account roll of the cellarer of Battle Abbey

Among the estate papers of Magdalen College, Oxford, there is an account roll of the cellarer of Battle Abbey.¹ The roll is made up of four papers sewn Chancery fashion. The top paper is damaged and most of the heading is missing. The dorse is headed 'anno h. sexti xxxvij' which dates the document to 1458-9. As the accounting periods of the cellarer varied from year to year² it is not possible to give exact dates to the roll although it probably contained the account of Richard Aleyn, cellarer from February 1459 until March 1463.³ The general form of the document is similar to that of the published rolls for the 1440s and 1460s but the precise order of the paragraphs does differ. Not all the sections have been totalled and there is no grand total of receipts. On the dorse there are accounts for corn and stock.

The account is written in one hand throughout but on the dorse, below the stock

account, two different hands have written a genealogy of Brut in English and Latin. The first hand gives the descent of kings from Brut and the second hand has appended the descent of Brut from Adam and augmented the earlier list by adding other kings of Brut's lineage. The genealogies may have been abstracted from a contemporary copy of the 'Brut' known to have been at Battle⁴ or from another manuscript of the text which pays more than usual attention to the abbey.⁵ This completely different use of part of the roll and the lack of totals would suggest that the account is not in its final form. Paper draft accounts with a later, formal, parchment engrossment are known from the fifteenth century. The comparative rarity of cellarer's account rolls on paper might be the result of the use of the medium for documents in a transitional form, less important than the final parchment copy.⁶

A connection between Battle Abbey and Magdalen College, Oxford, appears in Richard Aleyn, the cellarer of Battle, who was elected prior of Sele, a small house close to Bramber, in 1463. He promptly sold the office to Ralph Aleyn who then acted as prior. The bishop ejected Ralph in 1466 and Richard Aleyn was reappointed to the office he was to hold until 1474. During this time the priory fell grievously in debt. It has been suggested that the prior used the revenues for his own benefit and that he may never have visited the house. Sele Priory was failing in its spiritual functions. It came to the attention of its patron, William Waynflete, Bishop of Winchester, who found an alternative candidate for the endowments of Sele in his new college in Oxford. Although Waynflete was able to secure the deposition of Aleyn in 1474, Magdalen College did not acquire the property until 1480, as Richard Grigge, the sole remaining monk, maintained his position as de facto prior.⁷

The presence of the cellarer's roll at Magdalen might suggest that Richard Aleyn had more contact with Sele than has hitherto been accepted. There are a number of other documents at Magdalen which relate to Battle Abbey⁸ and to its cell at Brecon⁹ which could conceivably have come via the same source and thus may serve to strengthen the argument.

C. M. Woolgar

¹ Present reference: Magdalen College, Oxford, Estate Paper 91/9.

² E. Searle and B. Ross, eds., *Accounts of the cellarers of Battle Abbey 1275-1513* (Sydney 1967; also published as Sussex Record Society, 65), pp. 132-6: 6 May to 6 May; pp. 136-41: Easter to Easter.

³ *ibid.* p. 164; vide infra for the connection between Aleyn and Magdalen.

⁴ N. K. Ker, *Medieval libraries of Great Britain* (1941) p. 5, University of Chicago 254.

⁵ British Library, Harleian MS. 53: relevant extracts are printed in F. W. D. Brie, *The Brut of the Chronicles of England* (part ii), Early English Text Society, Original Series, 136 (1908) pp. 534-7.

⁶ Searle and Ross *op. cit.* p. 65 n 1: the 1371-2 account is on paper but the material does not occur again until the sixteenth century.

⁷ L. F. Salzman, *The Chartulary of the Priory of St. Peter at Sele* (1923) p. xvi.

⁸ W. D. Macray, *Catalogue of the Muniments of Magdalen College, Oxford* (c. 1860-80) (typescript at Magdalen) Miscellanea: (Sussex) 337-43. 339 contains two inventories of plate in the refectory of Battle Abbey, the earlier of which is published in W. D. Macray, *Notes from the muniments of St. Mary Magdalen College, Oxford* (1882) pp. 11-13.

⁹ Macray *Catalogue*, Misc. (Sussex) 341-2, published in R. W. Banks, *Cartularium Prioratus de Brecon* (1884) pp. 140-1.

Quarter Sessions in Elizabethan Sussex

What is known of the arrangements for Quarter Sessions in Sussex from 1594 onwards, as recorded in the surviving Sessions Rolls, is discussed in *A descriptive report on the Quarter Sessions, other official, and ecclesiastical records in the custody of the County Councils of West and East Sussex* (Chichester and Lewes, 1954), 1-5. Additional information from sources in the Public Record Office is adduced by B. C. Redwood in the introduction to his edition of the *Quarter Sessions Order Book, 1642-49*, Sussex Record Society, 54 (1954), xix-xxi.

The recently published *Calendar of Assize records, Sussex indictments, Elizabeth I*, ed. J. S. Cockburn (1975), contains enough references to cases sent to the Assizes from Quarter Sessions to enable us to build up a comprehensive picture of the arrangements in the whole Elizabethan period.

The first conclusion to emerge is that, in all the years in which they are mentioned,¹ joint Midsummer Sessions (as opposed to the separate Sessions for East and West Sussex held at the other three times of the year) were the regular custom throughout the reign, with the sole exception of 1572 when the Western division met at Arundel on 7 July and the Eastern at Lewes on 10 July.²

Thus the suggestion in the *Descriptive report*, 2, that the letter from the Privy Council

dated 24 May 1584 which it reproduces as Appendix A (p. 198) may have originated the custom of the joint Midsummer Session cannot be sustained. It, and the reply printed as Appendix B (p. 199), must both refer to the possibility of holding joint Sessions on the other three occasions, a proposal which the justices' opposition clearly defeated in favour of the procedure 'used tyme owte of mynde'.

The second conclusion is that the joint Midsummer Sessions were held, undoubtedly for obvious reasons of convenience, in the Assize town a day or two before the Assizes. Thus only two of those mentioned were held at Lewes, seven at Horsham and 20 at East Grinstead. The only exceptional years are 1577, when the Assizes were held at Horsham on 8 July and the Sessions at Horsham on 10 July,³ and 1572 when, as already noted above, there were separate July Sessions, but in that year the Assizes were not held until 5 September (at East Grinstead) so perhaps it was thought that separate Midsummer Sessions were more convenient if there were no immediately following Assizes. It does not seem unreasonable to assume that in the years in which the Midsummer Quarter Sessions are not mentioned they would have been held in the Assize town before the Assizes as in the years when they are mentioned.

Unfortunately we cannot say if this custom continued in the reign of James I as the published Sussex Indictments for that reign⁴ contain no mentions of Midsummer Sessions at all (and only five of those at other times) and there are only three years in it for which any Rolls for the joint Midsummer Sessions survive.⁵ However, of the years 1594-1686 for which Rolls do survive, Lewes was the regular meeting place for the joint Midsummer Sessions, with only four at East Grinstead and two at Horsham,⁶ although during that period the Sussex Assizes were invariably at East Grinstead or (rather less frequently) at Horsham and apparently never at Lewes. So the custom of holding the joint Midsummer Sessions in the Assize town just before the Assizes does not seem to have lasted long beyond the reign of Elizabeth.

The timing of the other three Sessions seems to have been on the same pattern as noted by Redwood⁷ for 1642-49, the Eastern division meeting three days after the Western, with the exception of 1559 (both Easter Sessions on 24

March) and 1560 (Western Easter Session on 22 April, Eastern on 19 April).

Finally, the information in the Elizabethan indictments enables us to give earlier dates for Quarter Sessions in several towns than those given on p. 3 of the *Descriptive report*. Thus in the Eastern division East Grinstead was the meeting place of the joint Midsummer Sessions in 1561 and 19 other years,⁸ Lewes for two joint Midsummer Sessions (1565 and 1580) and the divisional Sessions at the three other times, from Epiphany 1559, together with an anomalous additional one on 31 May 1577.⁹ In the Western division Chichester was the usual place, from Michaelmas 1558, but the joint Midsummer Sessions met at Horsham in 1559 and 6 other years and also the Epiphany Sessions in 1598. Arundel was the meeting place at Easter 1564 and Midsummer (Western division only) 1572 and¹⁰ Steyning on 5 May 1572.

It is hoped to compile a table of all the dates and meeting places of Quarter Sessions in Sussex that are mentioned in the Elizabethan Indictments and to place copies in the East and West Sussex Record Offices and the library of the Sussex Archaeological Society.

M. J. Leppard

¹ 29 years, as opposed to 14 in which they are not (for 3 of which no Summer Assize records survive and for 5 of which the surviving records are fragmentary) and 1 (1572) which is an exception.

² Already noted by Redwood, xx, who also notes a joint Midsummer Session at East Grinstead in 1557, two years before Elizabeth.

³ On the evidence of Elizabethan Indictments, p. 132, entry 674, part of the record of the July Assizes. Has something been misrecorded here or did the two courts sit concurrently?

⁴ *Calendar of Assize Records, Sussex indictments, James I*, ed. J. S. Cockburn (1977).

⁵ 1614, 1615, 1617 (*Descriptive report*, 8).

⁶ *Descriptive report*, 2.

⁷ p. xiii.

⁸ As also, before Elizabeth, in 1557: see note 2 above.

⁹ p. 132, entry 674.

¹⁰ According to Redwood, xx.

The Church of Sir Richard de Wych and the Thompson Family of Ashdown Park, Hartfield

In 1974/75 the unconsecrated church in Ashdown Park (at TQ43633199), dedicated to Sir Richard de Wych, Bishop of Chichester, was pulled down after its sale to stone quarry owners at West Hoathly. It had been built in 1886 by Thomas Charles Thompson of

Ashdown Park, in whose grounds it then stood, in memory of his two sons who both died young. Traditionally the stone was quarried between the present Ashdown Park House and the main road. Pevsner says of it 'The architect seems unrecorded. It is quite a substantial job, with a crossing tower and an apse, perpendicular in style. The crossing and apse space is all rib vaulted, with tiercerons and foliage bosses'.¹ Local tradition is strong that it is a copy, or model, of a church in Durham, homeland of the Thompsons (Plate III).

Besides having strong ties with the Church of England, T. C. Thompson was a large employer of labour and he felt that the four mile walk to Hartfield parish church was too far for his servants and others living in this remote part of the parish. In addition to building a church and paying the stipend of a curate he also provided a caretaker and built a cottage for him nearby.² For the needs of the children he built a schoolroom, with attached schoolhouse, on the main road and engaged a teacher.³ A lame Miss Abraham was remembered by his granddaughter as the teacher, and others recall his provision of midday lunch for poor children who had to walk to school from remote farms. The school was finally closed about 1943, having been staffed latterly by nuns from the Novitiate at Ashdown Park.

After the death in 1917 of Captain C. K. T. Fisher, to whom the property had descended from his grandfather T. C. Thompson, the estate was broken up and sold with the exception of the church which was given to the Church of England. By this time however its decline had already set in, particularly since the building of a church at Colemans Hatch in 1912. It had, of course, never been used for burials but christenings often took place there, as people in the immediate locality were very attached to it, and services continued for many years on a monthly basis. This attachment seems to have stemmed partly from its romantic setting in beautiful woodland and partly from affection and respect for the Thompson family by their neighbours and employees. There was a genuine feeling of grief and loss by those who had attended services there, sung in its choir, or had been taught at the school, when its demolition was announced.

One occasion particularly remembered was the crowded memorial service following the death of Captain Fisher. On this occasion buglers from Hobbs Barracks, East Grinstead, arrived too late to sound the Last Post and were met by the large congregation emerging from the service. They claimed to have lost their way in the woods, but were strongly suspected of dallying to gather chestnuts! Infrequent services ceased about 1939 and the building was eventually acquired by Mr. Alick McLaren of the nearby High Beeches who owned the surrounding land. He removed the bells but kept the buildings in watertight condition as did his relatives Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Maddox who succeeded him. However after they sold part of their property, which included the church, to the Hon. Simon Stuart in 1970 vandals broke in, doing much damage, and lead from the roof and most of the Thompson memorials in the chancel were stolen. Fortunately I had copied them before this happened.

A brief account of the Thompson family is perhaps worth recording as an example of the trend of wealthy Victorian north-country families to migrate south near to London and the south coast. Here they could become country squires and live near the centres of culture and art.

Ashdown Park was part of the large area of Ashdown Forest enclosed under the Decree of 1693, and over the following century passed through the hands of several land speculators. The first mansion house known here was built either by Thomas Bradford, who had Ashdown Park in 1815, or by Rear Admiral Major Henniker (1780-1843) when, after a distinguished naval career, he retired and married Anne Elizabeth Henniker (probably his cousin) of the East Anglican branch of the family in 1829. He died in 1843 and his fine memorial tablet is in Hartfield church.⁴ The estate was then said to comprise 3563 acres and probably included the present Pippingford Park, Old Lodge, and the army training ground. In 1855 his widow was living at Old Lodge (she died in 1860). In 1867 Edward Henniker (probably a son) was at Old Lodge and a Joseph Ranger occupied Ashdown Park House.

It was in this year that Thomas Charles Thompson bought the estate. He also owned and presumably retained his Sherburn Hall

estate in Durham, his father then living at Monks Wearmouth in the same county. He himself was a Member of Parliament for Durham City from 1880-1885.

After his acquisition of the property he seems to have immediately demolished the Henniker mansion (except possibly the cellars) and built the present stone house with material from the quarry mentioned above. The grounds surrounding the house were then laid out and some fine specimen trees planted. Some recently felled were found to be about 100 years old. The stream that originates near Wych Cross was dammed in several places to make ponds and (perhaps unfortunately) wild rhododendrons were introduced. T. C. Thompson died in 1892 leaving in his will a black suit to each of his male employees in which to attend his funeral. His cherished plans for founding a Thompson family seat for future generations of their children were sadly frustrated. Of their two sons Harold, the younger, died when only one year old in 1863 and Thomas Moore died of typhoid fever in Paris in 1873 aged 18. A daughter, Mary Penelope Gwendoline, married Rev. George Carnac Fisher, Vicar of Forest Row (1874-79) and lived in a house on the estate at Wych Cross, now the Roebuck Hotel. He later became Suffragan Bishop of Southampton (1896) and of Ipswich (1899). It was their son C. K. T. Fisher (born 1879) who inherited the estate and was stated to be an artist of real promise. He was killed at Gaza, Palestine, in 1917.

The death of Capt. Fisher heralded the break-up of the Ashdown Park estate in 1918 after its purchase by a Mr. Anderson, of a firm of timber merchants, who lived at Pippingford Park and felled most of the mature trees. Capt. Fisher had already vacated the house by 1914 and for the period of the war 1914-18 it was taken by Lady Brassey who turned it, together with her own house at Chapelwood Manor, Chelwood Gate, into a hospital and convalescent home for Belgian army officers. The house was then bought in 1920, by the Institute of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur for use by a teaching order, the Novitiate of Ashdown. Although offered the church they felt it was too far away and built instead their own church attached to the mansion, in addition to other extensions. When the house and adjoining grounds were given up the nuns they were acquired in 1971 by a branch of the United States International University of California, and in 1976 by Barclays Bank as a staff training centre.

Articles relevant to the church and the Thompson family appeared in the East Grinstead Courier of January 10th, 24th, and February 7th 1974.

C. F. Tebbutt, F.S.A.

¹ *The Buildings of England Sussex* (1965) 506.

² The present Church Cottage at TQ437322.

³ At TQ43133231. The schoolroom was pulled down in 1976. The house remaining.

⁴ His sword is on permanent loan to Barclays Bank for exhibition at Ashdown Park.

⁵ A full copy of the Thompson memorials and family coat of arms has been deposited in the library at Barbican House.

Pedigree of the Thompsons of Ashdown Park from memorials (now lost) in the Church of Sir Richard de Wych.⁵

