

# RECENT FINDS AT BRAMBER CASTLE.

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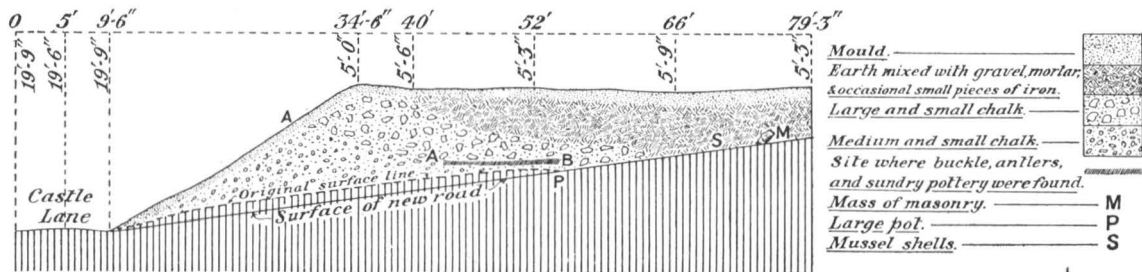
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IN making a cutting through the south-west corner of the outer defences of Bramber Castle, at the junction of Castle Lane with the main road, in March and April, 1926 (see plan, Plate I), a good section of the rampart was exposed down to the surface of the undisturbed soil (see section, Plate I).

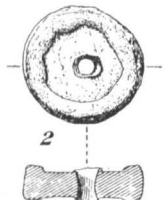
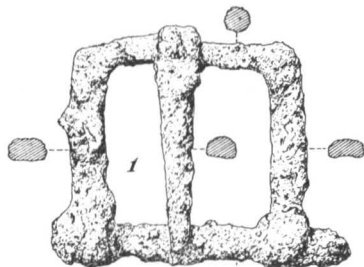
The original rampart consisted of medium and small chalk, upon the inner slope of which (A—A—B on section) lies a layer (A—B) of blackened soil and charcoal, about 9 inches thick, in which were found a piece of red deer's antler, ox horns, an iron buckle (see Figure 1, Plate I.), pig's tusks, bones of edible animals, and a quantity of odd pottery. Above this are laid more or less stratified layers of large and small chalk, increasing the rampart to nearly double its former height, while the inner surface slopes down towards the original surface line. Above and behind this rampart the ground level has been subsequently raised by an accumulation of fine silt and earth apparently removed from the vicinity of the castle walls, as it contains an admixture of fine sea shingle, pieces of mortar, a block of masonry (M), a few small pieces of iron (possibly portions of nails or smithy refuse), and a quantity of broken mussel shells (S). Fragments of pottery were found everywhere.

In the top spit removed from a point a few yards to the right (north-east) of the part shown in the section

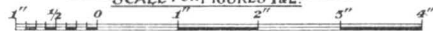
**SECTION THROUGH S.W. CORNER OF OUTER DEFENCES OF BRAMBER CASTLE.**



SECTION A.



SCALE FOR FIGURES 1 & 2



SITE PLAN.

SCALE

(Plate I.), was found a lead weight in the form of a thick perforated disk with a bead running round the circumference on one side (see Fig. 2, Plate I.). The weight of this specimen is 1674·24 grains, i.e., four ounces of  $418\frac{1}{2}$  grains, which approximates very closely both to the Roman *uncia* of 420·8 grains and to the Saxon and Norman ounce of 416·5 grains.<sup>1</sup>

Plate II. (upper figure) shows a large round-bottomed pot which was discovered standing on its base at the point marked P (section, Plate I.), a few inches below

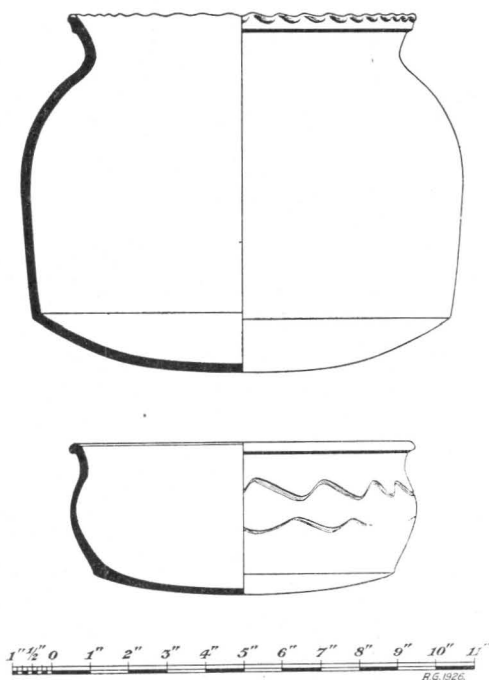


PLATE II.

the surface of the present road which runs up through the cutting on to the Castle mound. This vessel was unfortunately smashed by the workmen, but has been restored.

The lower figure (Plate II.), shows another vessel

<sup>1</sup>Thos. May, *Journ. Chester Arch. & Hist. Soc.*, N.S., IX., 131.

part of which it has been possible to reconstruct from fragments found during the excavation.

These two vessels have been submitted to Mr. R. L. Hobson at the British Museum, who has very kindly reported as follows:—"The two pots are typical mediæval cooking-pots. The forms are very persistent and continued in use for several centuries, but your specimens may very well go back to the Norman period."