



Colchester Archaeological Group

Registered Charity No. 1028434

ANNUAL BULLETIN VOL. 10 1967

PART ONE

Group Notices		1	(1)
Report of an Excavation in the Grounds of the Royal Grammar School, 1964	P.W. Crittenden	1-4	(2-6)
Second Thoughts on St. Peters-on-the-Wall Notes & Comment	H.M Carter	5-6 7	(8-10) (12)
The Clay Tobacco Pipes from St. Mary's Rectory, Colchester	Leonard H. Gant	8-9	(13-14)
Winter Meetings 1967		10-11	(16-17)

PART TWO

Group Notices		11-12	(18)
Bird Calls	P.B. Boyden	12	(19)
The May Outing		12	(19)
Report of the Excavation of a Roman Road in the Garden of 26 Lexden Road, Colchester	P.R. Holbert	13-16	(20-25)
The Oldest Leaf Tobacco in the World	Leonard H. Gant	16-17	(26-27)
The Dedham Barrow Complex	F.H. Erith	18-21	(28-32)
Observation of Post Office Excavations on North Hill, 1966	A.B. Doncaster	22-23	(33-34)

PART THREE

Group Notices		24	(35)
Winter Meetings 1967-1968		24-25	(36-37)
Archaeology Under Water		25	(38)
The Gaming Dial	Laurence S. Harley	26-28	(39-42)
Group Activities		29-30	(43-44)

PART FOUR

Winter Meetings 1968		30	(45)
A Bronze Age Barrow at Bakers Hall, Bures Hamlet	Ida McMaster	31-33	(46-49)
Prehistoric Sites in the Stour Valley	F.H. Erith	34-35	(50-52)
Tenth Anniversary Dinner		36	(53-54)
The Iron Age Farmstead at Ardleigh	F.H. Erith	37	(54)
Winter Meetings		37-38	(55-56)
Group Notices		38	(57)

This copy has been scanned from the original, which was first published in quarto size, and has been reformatted to A4 size. Page numbers in brackets refer to the original edition, and should correspond to pagination given in the Bulletin Index.

*No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored or transmitted
without the prior permission of CAG.*

Please apply in writing to the Honorary Secretary at the following address:

*Honorary Secretary
Colchester Archaeological Group
c/o 27 Alexandra Road
Colchester
Essex C03 3DF*

although evidence of the latter on the surface has long since disappeared. Like the modern planners, did the Saxons take care that the gables faced the north-east winds?

An archaeological site near Mildenhall, which has long been known for the quality of the flint Stone Age tools found on it, is now yielding important information about Man's activities 130,000 years ago. A large excavation directed by the British Museum has revealed a settlement several feet below the modern surface on the shore of a long-vanished lake. Mr. G. de G. Sieveking of the Museum described the excavation at the Group meeting on February 27th. With the aid of slides, he showed how the various levels of occupation were dated by scientific investigation of the pollen grains contained in the boulder clay layers found on the site.

Medieval churches often contain imagery which was used to illustrate aspects of Christianity for the benefit of an illiterate population but in many cases the original meaning is now not clear or is disputed. At the meeting on March 6th Lady Cox, better known as Miss M. T. Anderson, interpreted some of the "Symbolism in the Architecture and Imagery of Parish Churches". The talk was illustrated with slides showing the wide range of visual representation such as wall-paintings, carving in wood and stone and stained glass. The images were sometimes used allegorically and might, for example, be so employed during the course of a sermon.

At the last meeting on March 13th various committee members reported on recent Group excavations illustrated by maps, plans and slides. Plans for the forthcoming excavation of the Iron Age site at Vinces Farm, Ardleigh, were explained and the meeting ended with a general discussion.

All enquiries and articles for the Bulletin should be sent to the Secretary and Editor, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Layer de la Haye, Colchester, Essex. Telephone:- Layer de la Haye 274.

PART TWO JUNE 1967

GROUP NOTICES.

CHANGE IN SUBSCRIPTION RATES & PRICE OF BULLETIN.

Since the beginning of the Group we have been proud of our low rate of subscription. Unfortunately, the ever-rising cost of living has made this increasingly difficult and now our expenses have become so great that we have no alternative but to make increases-as from the 1st, of October 1967. These will be as follows:

Single subscription	£1. 0, 0, per annum.
Second member of a family	10. 0. " "
Junior members 16 years & under	10. 0. " "
Bulletin only	10. 0. " "
Single copy of the Bulletin	2. 6. post free.
Visitors at meetings	2. 6. each.
Student & Junior Visitors at meetings	1. 0. each,

LIBRARY - the period of free loan for any book to be four weeks after which, if not renewed, there will be a fine of 6d. per volume per week. Any enquiries about the Library, applications for books during the summer months should be addressed to Mr. R.W. Palmer, 41 Gladwin Road, Colchester. Telephone Col. 4399.

OUTING - on Monday, July 3rd, to visit Beeleigh Abbey, near Maldon, by kind permission of Miss Christina Foyle, .Meet at The Firs car park, Maldon Road, Colchester at 6.30 p.m.

A CHEESE & WINE PARTY for members and their friends will be held on Monday, July 24th at Abberton Cottage, Layer de la Haye, by kind invitation of Mr. & Mrs. Doncaster. Tickets 7/6 each entitle the holder to one glass of wine and food; additional glasses of wine may be obtained at 2/6 each. Please apply to the Hon. Secretary before July 14th stating how many tickets are required and enclosing payment. Geographical directions will be supplied with tickets,

THE ARDLEIGH EXCAVATION- although members and friends, "diggers" or not, are always welcome on the site at weekends, a special MEMBERS' DAY will be held on Sunday, August 6th from 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. when Mr. F.H. Erith and Mr. P. R. Holbert will be on hand to show people round the excavations. Vincas Farm lies on the north side of the road which runs from Ardleigh Railway Station (1 mile) to Great Bromley.

TENDRIING HUNDRED SHOW - will be held at Lawford on Saturday July 8th. We hope as many members as possible will come and see our display.

BIRD CALLS.

by P. B. Boyden.

Those members of the Group who remember reading Mr. Edward's article on the Tudor Bird Call he found in a spoil heap in St. John's Street, (C.A.G. Bulletin Vol. IV page 14) may be interested to know that a similar device was being played with by Bronze Age peasant children in India between two and three thousand B.C.

The Indian ones originated in South Baluchistan, between two and three thousand B.C. but later spread to Sind and the Punjab where they are fairly common on sites once occupied by the Harappa Culture. They are actually in the shape of birds with a hole in the 'tail' and being hollow, when you blow into them from a certain angle, they produce a loud hooting sound.

Although it probably did not make the same noise as the Tudor ones, they are obviously the same idea. It is interesting to note that you can buy plastic ones (shaped as a bird on a bough) in shops today. This surely goes to show that nothing now-a-days is new!

THE MAY OUTING.

On Mayday twenty-three members joined in an evening excursion to the churches of Tolleshunt Knights and Rivenhall. These two buildings, in quite different ways, are both exercises in off-beat gothic. Tolleshunt Knights, after being disused for a generation, is now cared for by the Eastern Orthodox Community nearby. It is restored to serve either Anglican or Orthodox worship, and we thought the blend of East and West harmonious and successful. The history of the building was admirably expounded by Mr. Malcolm Carter.

Rivenhall, on the other hand, though the foundations are mediaeval - perhaps much earlier - is a late essay in "Gothic". It was built in 1838-9 just before Victorian Gothic became scholarly and correct - and frequently pedantic and sterile. In this not undistinguished setting, the east window holds the finest and earliest glass in the county, including four splendid roundels circa 1200. The vicar, (the Revd. Nash) welcomed the Group and gave an interesting commentary on both church and glass, which he had illuminated for us.

ADVANCE NOTICE.

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER - will be held at the Red Lion Hotel, Colchester, on Thursday, November 2nd at 7 p.m., for 7.30. The guests of honour will be Professor C.F.C. Hawkes, M.A., F.S.A., and Mrs. Sonia Hawkes, B.A., F.A.A.. Tickets 25/- each. Further details and application forms will be sent out to local members with the September issue of the Bulletin.

All enquiries and articles for the Bulletin should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. K. de Brisay, Corner Cottage, Laver de la Haye, Colchester, Essex. Telephone - Laver de la Haye 274 (evenings.)

REPORT ON THE EXCAVATION OF A ROMAN ROAD
IN THE GARDEN OF 26 LEXDEN ROAD, COLCHESTER, 1966.

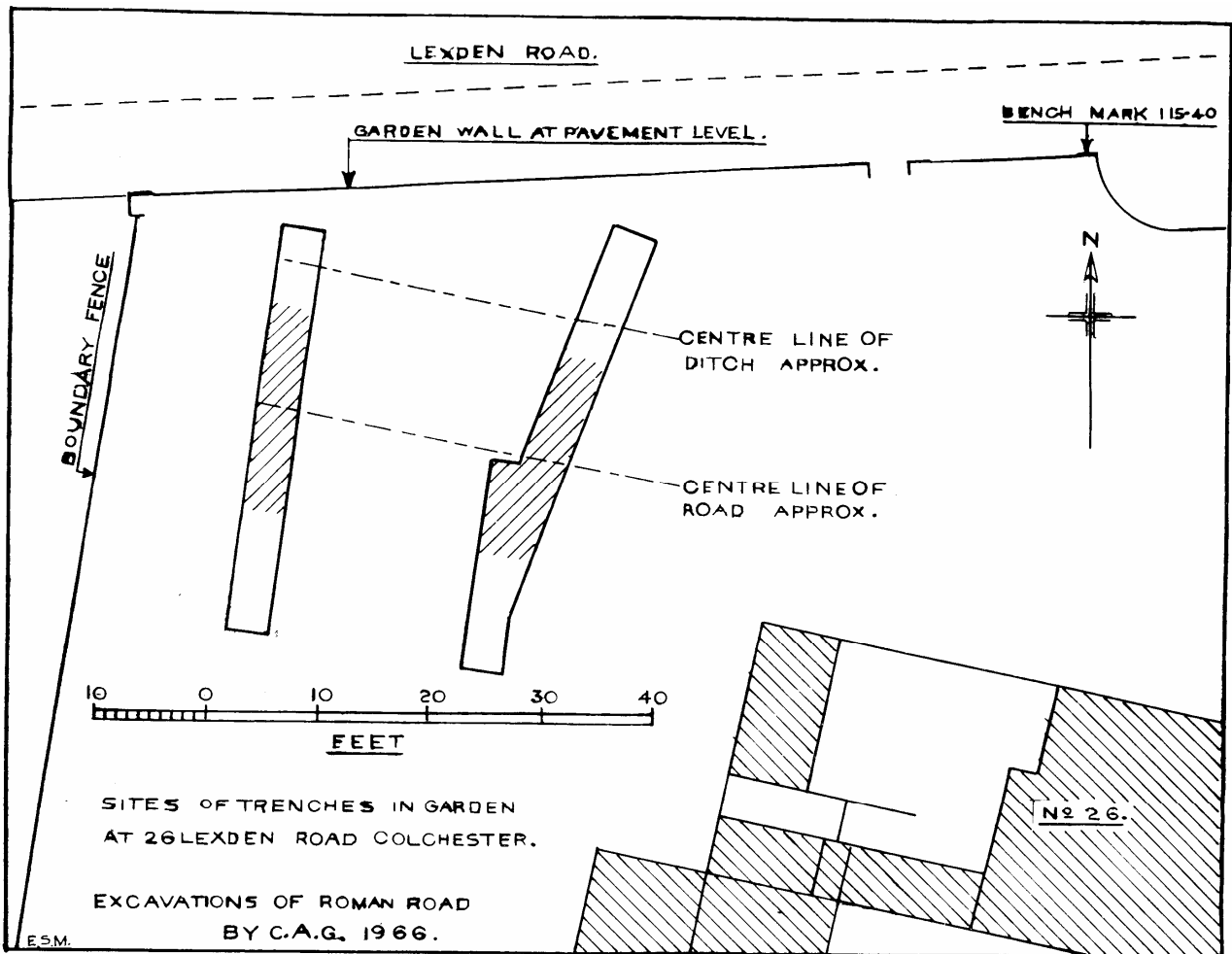
by P. R. Holbert.

Introduction:

The site lies in the western corner formed by the junction of The Avenue and Lexden Road, Colchester. This is to the west of the modern town centre, about a half mile out. Mr. and Mrs. Ivor Weiss, the owners, on recently moving into the house, and realising they were in an historically interesting area, asked through one of our members, that the Colchester Archaeological Group dig in the garden before various projected alterations were carried out.

Summary

After a thorough investigation of the available area (the lawn mainly) by trial trenching, down to natural gravel, trenches towards the northern end of the site only showed promise, traces of a hard stony surface at about 2 feet depth. On further investigation this proved to be a road, running in a roughly east west direction, consisting of a fairly substantial cambered surface of small stoned set in clay, possibly mixed with lime (as a hardening agent), some 20 feet in width with a ditch running along its northern edge.



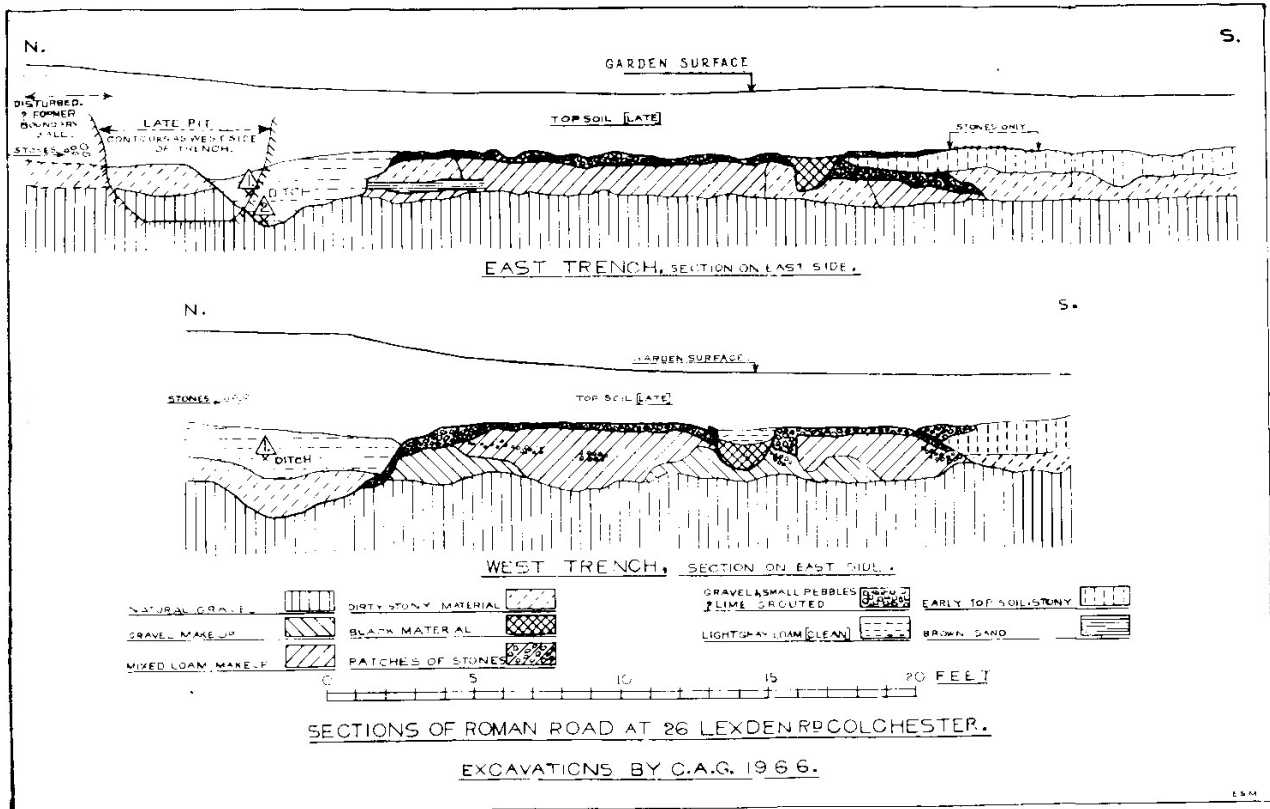
Description of Finds.

Structural

Subsequent to the original find of road surface, it was decided to aim at getting two good sections, one at the west and one at the eastern end of the site. All other exploratory trenches, on being proved sterile were quickly back-filled. Referring to Plan of Site (above) showing the two main section trenches, it will be seen that the road (hatched) is approximately 20 feet in width. The subsoil, as is usual in this area, is

mainly orange gravel with sand and traces of clay.

As will be seen from the east and west sections (below) it would appear that the early layer of topsoil was removed on the alignment of the road, then, a build-up of material consisting of gravel, sand and mixed loam was heaped in the channel so formed. This build-up of material varied in depth from one to two feet forming the elevation of the road above the surrounding surface. It was noticeable that this build-up appeared to have been shot in piecemeal, by the load, with no stratification, presumably all at one time. On top of this was placed the "crust", consisting of small stones laid in clay with possible admixture of lime. The average thickness of this surface layer was 3-4 inches and provided a very hard durable surface, especially when dried out.



The ditch, running alongside the northern edge of the road, was found to be some 5 feet in width and 2 feet 6 inches deep. The filling of this ditch was of a peculiarly even clean loam, light grey in colour and quite hard. This did not appear to be silting-up, but gave more the impression of a deliberate filling (as suggested by Mr. Hull, perhaps more of a "soakaway" than an open ditch.) There was no ditch along the southern edge of the road.

Another small ditch was found, cut into the actual road surface, (see sections above). As will be seen, this is almost in the centre in the west section but by the time it reaches the east section it has wandered off the line and appears almost on the south edge. This ditch was filled with a black material (rotted vegetable matter?), with some odd sherds of various dating, some tile and septaria. This feature is certainly late and would appear to have no useful purpose in connection with the road. The peculiar "tail" of road surface material seen projecting from the south edge of the road could well be "spoil" from this ditch laying on the then contemporary ground surface.

In the eastern section, two sets of wheel ruts were noticed, running parallel to the line of the road, overlapping and with a track of approx. 5 feet.

In a thorough search for datable material the entire area of road available in the trenches was dug up and put through sieves, this considerable labour unfortunately proved negative.

Small Finds

Pottery - odd sherds of 1st - 4th century were found unstratified in garden topsoil and therefore not valid for dating purposes. In the main ditch running alongside the north edge of the road, some sherds identified as latish 1st century were found at points marked 1. and 2. (in triangles) (See east and west sections page 14)

Coins - (bronze) representing 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th centuries were found at various points, some scattered in garden topsoil, others laying actually on the road surface. These are detailed below:

1. CLAVDIVS (Dupondius). O/ (TI CLAVDNS) CAESAR AVG PM TR P (IMP)
R/ (CERES) AVGVSTA (SC)
2. ANNA GALERIA FAVSTINA. R/ JUNO. (died - 175 or 176)
3. VICTORINVS. A.D. 268-270. (corroded)
4. VICTORINUS or TETRICVS ? SALVS REV ? 3rd quarter of 3rd century (corroded)
- 5< Barbarous radiate - late 3rd, century.
6. Probably GLORIA EXERCITVS - (type with two legionaries and two standards) 1st half of 4th, century.
7. GLORIA ROMANORVM. DN GRAT -- --., A.D. 367-383.

Also in topsoil, a bronze "strap-end", similar to that shown in Richborough IV, plate XXVI. Probably late Roman.

Conclusions

In our interpretation of the foregoing evidence and to put our find in perspective in relation to the Colonia and previous finds of Roman roads in the district, we must of necessity lean heavily upon Mr. Hull's "Roman Colchester" and the report by Mr. A.F. Hall "A Three Tracked Roman Road at Colchester" published in the Journal of the British Archaeological Association, 3rd series Vol. VII. 1942.

I think there can be no doubt that the Roman "London Road" ran past the southern side of the Colonia with a link road to the principal gate in the west wall, the Balkerne Gate. The Roman road coming in from the west seems to follow roughly the line of the modern Lexden Road until it reaches a point opposite Sussex Road (see Main Plan page 16) where there is a slight bend to the north to bring it (the modern road) along Crouch Street and into Headgate.

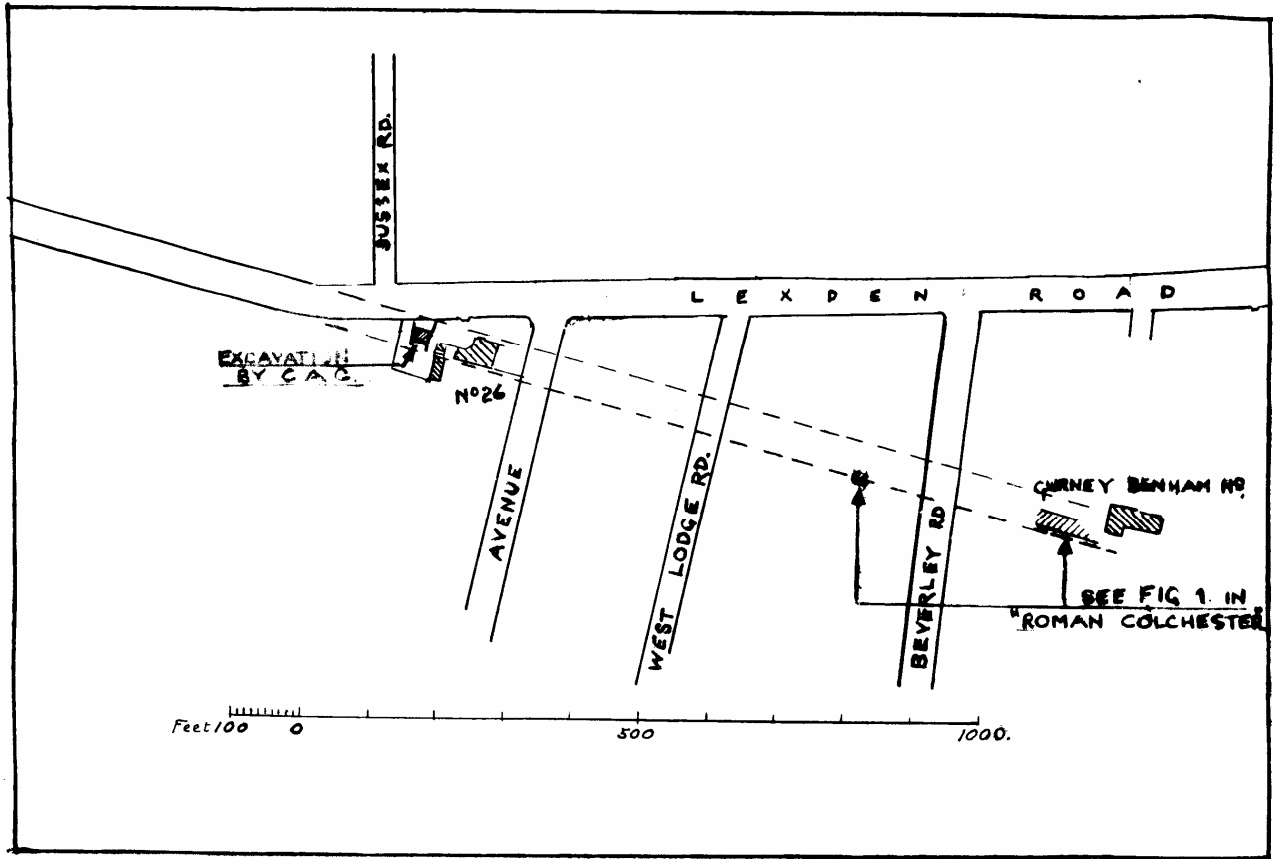
At the point of divergence (opposite Sussex Road) the Roman line carries straight on and is indicated by Mr. Hall's road mentioned above. From this point eastward we have as yet no trace of line or destination (perhaps the Hythe?) Our find in the garden of 26, Lexden Road seems, together with Mr. Hall's find, to prove this line, both almost certainly being sections of the same road.

When comparing our evidence with that of Mr. Hall, it will be seen that although there are differences of detail, there are also strong similarities. Although we did not find a three tracked road, (and the possibilities were thoroughly exhausted during the course of excavation) we did find something very similar to Mr. Hall's "north side track and north ditch".

The eastward projected line from our road and ditch lines up very nicely with Mr. Hall's equivalent (see Main Plan page 13). The dimensions are also fairly consistent. If our find is in fact a continuation of Mr. Hall's north side track, then why did we not find also his main central carriageway? It would appear from Mr. Hall's report that his central carriageway stands well above the level of the sidetracks, this would obviously make it vulnerable to gardening operations. As our road surface was no more than 2 feet below modern ground surface, his central road surface would be correspondingly higher and could well have been destroyed. The south track would lie under the adjoining property, it would be interesting to have the opportunity to prove or disprove its presence.

The other alternative can only be that the three tracked road was for some reason abandoned and never actually reached this far, degenerating into single track along the way, although it must be said that our road did not appear substantial enough to serve the purposes of a main load bearing highway,

In the absence of reliably stratified datable finds, we can give an early date to our road only by inference. Assuming that this is Mr. Hall's line at a more westerly point, then his 1st century dating would hold good. It is realised that this is little enough evidence upon which to base any assumption of dating, but in the absence of any thing more definite, is, unfortunately, all that can be offered.



Acknowledgements - our thanks are due firstly to Mr. and Mrs. Ivor Weiss for allowing us to dig up their garden, and for the interest that they showed in our operations; to Mr. David Clarke and Miss Rosalind Dunnett who visited the site several times; to Mr. M.R. Hull for his interest and advice; to Mr. E.S. May for his excellent plans and sections, and, finally to all the Group members who did the "hard graft" which makes these operations possible.

"THE OLDEST LEAF TOBACCO IN THE WORLD."

by Leonard H. Gant.

In the course of demolition of an old house at the foot of Hythe Hill, Colchester, in April 1967, workmen found the cavity wall dividing the house now demolished and that part which remains as the adjacent house filled with a quantity, estimated at between 30 and 40 lbs weight, of "hands" of tobacco leaves. Each hand consisted of about a dozen mature leaves, bound at the stalk ends by another leaf, which was tightly wrapped round the stems, and the leaf point threaded under the folds of the retaining leaf.

The discovery was made by Mr. T.F.C. Dimmick, who lives at Kirby-le-Soken and passes the site daily when travelling to his employment as archivist and curator to Messrs. Carreras Limited, the well-known cigarette manufacturers of Basildon. Mr. Dimmick, who is also a trained archaeologist, visited the site when the demolition was complete, and immediately recognised the "hands" of tobacco, many of which had already been destroyed and buried under rubble,

Several of the "hands" were taken to the Carreras Tobacco Research Division Unit and Laboratory at Basildon, where Drs. A.J. Lindsey and A.D.R. Harrison (Research Manager) took immediate steps to preserve and examine the tobacco. Tests were undertaken to determine the possible age of the material, and further supplies of the leaf were sent from the Colchester & Essex Museum, to whom the remaining

"hands" had been given.

Mr. Gareth Davies, assistant curator of the Castle Museum, was at the site within an hour of being informed by the writer, and he made a complete photographic record of everything of interest revealed by the demolition at that time, including a nicely moulded beam and a moulded and painted doorway.

On the following day, in company with Mr. T.F.C. Dimmick, Mr. Davies discovered a few sherds of 17th century and earlier pottery, and part of a glass bottle. A trade token found during the demolition was also recovered, and is now in the Museum collection. It appears that a pair of 17th century shoes were also found, and the foreman, who took them home, made a careful sketch, which has been handed to the museum. It is hoped that the original shoes will also be preserved.

Further coins have been found in the rubble, and it is hoped to recover more tobacco leaves. Two ancient wood chisels, one with a rough ash handle were recovered and an ancient semi-circular hearth, made by inserting tiles on edge into an earth floor came to light. This appears to have no connection with any chimneys, and may therefore be earlier than the timber framed house, parts of which have been dated to late 15th or early 16th century.

A preliminary report from the Carreras laboratory furnished the title of this short account, and this was confirmed by Mr. Gordon West, a member of the editorial staff of "Tobacco", the trade magazine, who said this discovery was the first tobacco leaf of great age to be found in this country. The variety of tobacco plant is "*nicotiana rustica*", which was known in eastern Europe and Asia Minor in the 16th century, and the "hands" were air cured, having no trace of preservative or fermenting agent,

Hands of tobacco are shown on ancient trade tokens and on clay pipe foot stamps of the 17th century, and many contemporary engravings show this form of leaf. Drying or air curing was the earliest form of preparation of the tobacco leaf, which was then rubbed in the palm of the hand before smoking. With the dried leaf, the tobacco smoked very hot, and lasted a very short time, burning very quickly. In fact a contemporary record says that with three draws the pipe was burned out. A method of curing the tobacco leaf and winding it on a machine rather like a spinning wheel was soon evolved, and the name "twist" is still found today for this rope-like production of tobacco, which is much favoured by clay pipe smokers.

If the laboratory tests date the tobacco to mid 17th century, and therefore tie up nicely with the evidence of the pottery, glass and trade token, it may be assumed that the tobacco was hidden during the Civil War (1648) to avoid capture, or to escape Custom Duty.

It is known that at that time the granaries and stores at the Hythe were singularly full of goods and stores, and the defending Royalists made good use of the material before the encircling Parliamentary forces discovered the source of supply, and took measures to stop the movement of grain, food and stores, which undoubtedly sustained the besieged townsfolk and Royalist army for some time.

Whatever might have been the circumstances of the hiding of the tobacco it seems certain that he never lived to recover it, and so carefully was it immured behind plaster that it has been preserved without great damage, for upwards of three centuries.

The trade token was a small copper coin inscribed with the name of Thomas Reynolds (Reynolds), Bay Maker of Colchester. The Reynolds family can be traced back to 1451, when Robert, William and John Reynolds swore fealty to the King.

The church registers of St. Nicholas and St. Runwald record many members of the family, who were woollen drapers in the reign of Elizabeth I; many members of the family served the town as Bailiff or Alderman. Thomas, who issued the token, was a common councillor in 1646-7 and an assistant in August 1848. There were two contemporaries bearing the same name, both members of the Corporation under the Commonwealth, one a bay maker and the other a draper.

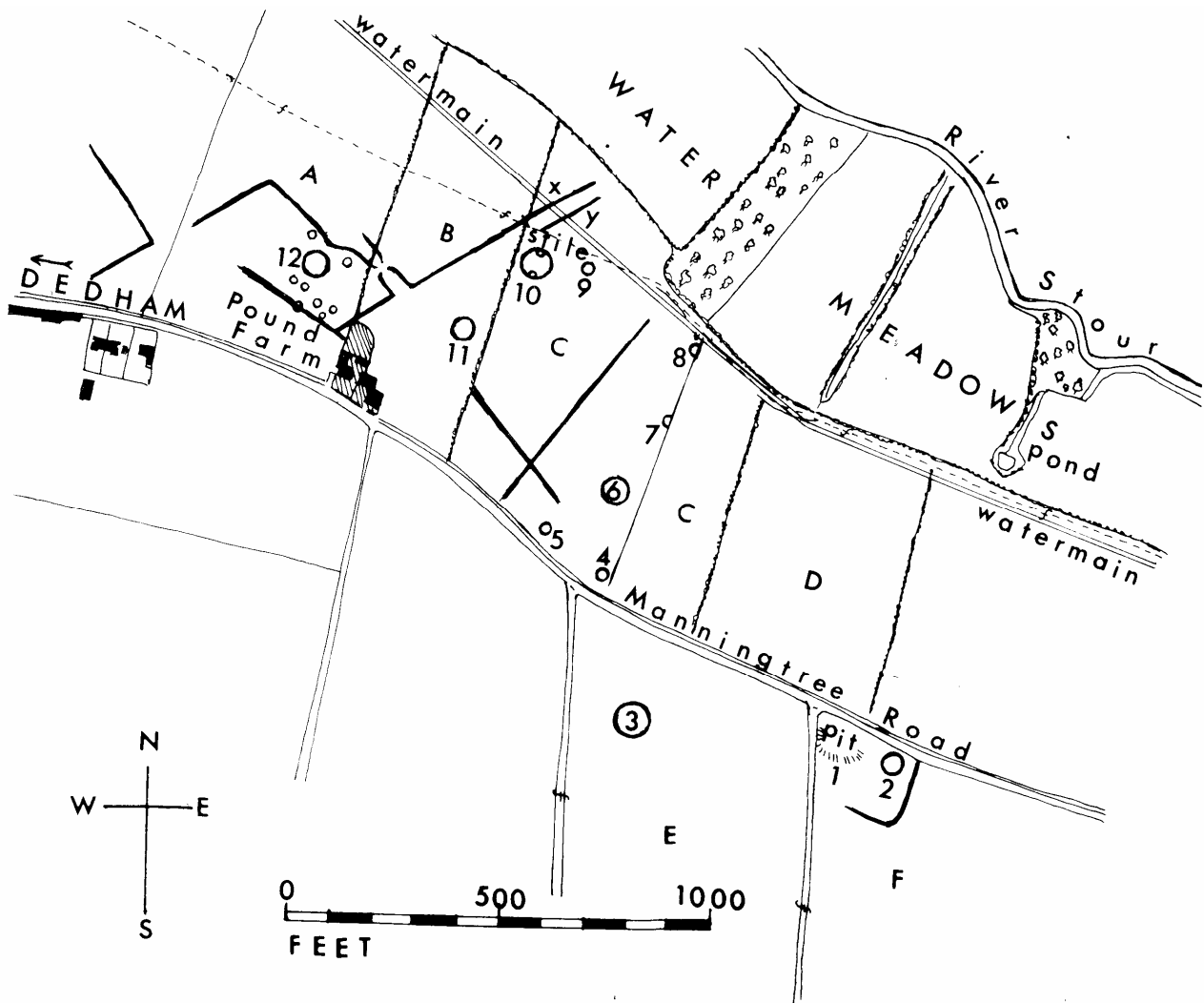
The family continued to flourish and one of the last references is to the son of Alderman Samuel Reynolds' daughter, the Rev. William Samuel Powell, who became Archdeacon of Colchester in 1768.

THE DEDHAM BARROW COMPLEX.

by F.H. Erith.

In the past eight years Air Photography has revealed Bronze Age settlement on the gravel soils bordering the River Stour which was previously unsuspected. "Settlement" is implied by the groups of ring-ditches or barrows which occur at two-mile intervals along the riverside.

At Pound Farm, Dedham, there is a group of some twenty barrows which seem to be connected with linear ditches passing between them. These appear as cropmarks, and were first photographed in 1963 by Mr. Jim Newman of Clacton, who was commissioned to photograph certain selected sites in the Tendring Hundred and "anything else he might see in passing". Circles were observed in two fields (marked A and C on the plan below) but the field in which the farm premises stand (field B) had just been ploughed and so showed no cropmark.



In subsequent years these fields were observed from the air by Mr. Michael Clover - sometimes cropmarks could be photographed in one field and sometimes in another - so that eventually a composite picture of the whole complex was plotted, Unfortunately field B has never had a crop really sensitive enough to be quite sure that all its marks are shown; tares-and-oats and rye being rather unresponsive in this respect.

The Layout and History of this Site. See plan, page 18)

The water-meadows south of the River Stour (old course) are bounded on their southern side by a steep slope up to the terrace of gravelly soil, consisting of fields A, B, C, and D of Pound Farm. Their southern boundary is the Manningtree Road. South of this road are extensive arable fields over gravel subsoil, which slope up to the clay of Dedham Heath,

In 1914 a small gravel-pit was dug in the north-west corner of field F, in the course of which a Bronze Age collared urn was discovered complete, as well as the remains of others. No. 1 on Plan. (T. Essex Arch. Soc. XXV, Part III, page 350, fig. 7).)

In 1957 the late Mr. F.A. Girling F.S.A spotted a cropmark of a ring of darker sugar beets (in field F), which he photographed from the ground. There was a complete circle with a diameter of about 70 feet, and a horse-shoe-like feature in the centre. This site was later excavated by Mr. Bryan Blake for the Colchester Museum. It contained a Primary and a Secondary Bronze Age Collared Urn. (T. Essex Arch. Soc. XXV, Part III, page 344). No. 2 on Plan.

The Cropmarks.

The linear marks run obliquely to the modern field boundaries. The longest marking, starting just west of Pound Farm House in field A, stretches northeast through field B, passes the stile into field C, and terminates where the field drops sharply to the water meadow.

In February 1967 the Tendring Hundred Waterworks Co. sunk a trench for a water main, which intersected this ditch at point X, and showed the ancient ditch to be 3 feet deep and six feet wide. Ten yards further east a second ditch was revealed at point Y, going parallel to the first one, also 3 feet deep, but for some reason this does not show on the air photographs.

Interpretation.

As the larger circles and the linear marks nowhere touch or intersect it is possible that they are contemporary. The circles are almost certainly the remains of Bronze Age barrows which have been deliberately levelled. The absolute flatness of them implies that they were either levelled by hand in antiquity as at Ardleigh (C.A.G. Bulletin, IV page 34-5), or by horse and cart in more recent times, as at Tendring (C.A.G. Bulletin IX, page 26).

The linear marks are probably the ditches formed to make small enclosures to protect the barrows from cattle etc. To the west of Pound Farm, in field A, Barrow 12 is protected by a more or less rectangular enclosure. It is also surrounded by a group of 'mini-barrows', which could well be of a later period, especially as one of them straddles the southern ditch of the enclosure.

Nos. 9, 10, and 11 appear to be in another enclosure, of which the southern boundary has not shown in field B.

Possibly Nos. 4 and 5 are in a separate enclosure from Nos. 6, 7, and 8, if the linear cropmark parallel to the modern road continued south-eastward. The eastern sides of Nos. 7 and 8 have not shown from the air as they lie in that part of field C which is cropped with asparagus. Asparagus is a perennial crop, too 'thin' to show from the air, and is not likely to be ploughed up for some years,

The Cursus.

If the parallel ditch (observed at point Y) continues towards Pound Farm House it could be interpreted as the second side of a very short cursus. A cursus consists of two parallel ditches (and their consequent banks), the ends being generally stopped up, or almost stopped up. They have been more precisely defined in the R.C.H. Monuments publication: "A Matter of Time, an Archaeological Survey" page 24:

"All the Cursuses to be certainly identified, apart from the two near Stonehenge, were dug in gravel soils Most of them run at right-angles to the nearby river and terminate near its banks Some appear to have entrances in their sides. Nearly all are surrounded by large or small groups of round barrows and four are associated with henge monuments."

The article concludes that the probable use of Cursuses was for Religious Processions to or from a sacred river at one end. and presumably to the associated Henge Monument at the other.

But there is one objection to this theory, and that is that the cursuses terminate near the river banks. If the River was the feature at which the Cursus was aimed, then why did the Cursus not go the whole way to it? Could it be that it was not the River that was aimed at, but the water meadows alongside the river? And if it were the water meadows then surely the reason for the Cursus was to act as a passageway to contain cattle going to and from these water meadows.

The Association of Cursus and Henge Monument.

That Cursuses are found in association with Henge Monuments is significant. The similarity of the smaller Henges to the present-day Cattle Market Sale-rings is most striking; both are circular, have one or two opposite entrances, and are banked up round the circumference for spectators to see what is going on in the middle. Moreover some Henges are surrounded by small enclosures which could be paralleled, with the market pens of the consignors of cattle. (The design of the modern Cattle Sale-ring is not based on any antiquity - presumably it evolved in Victorian times from reasons of function), A somewhat larger version is Tattersall's new sale-ring for horses at Newmarket, which has two opposite entrances. (See figs. 2 and 3 on page 21)

An example containing all the ancient features described above is shown in "A Matter of Time" fig. 6. This, is at Maxey, Northants, and a cursus is shown beginning one field away from the River Welland, and leads to a Henge about 600 yards away. The Henge appears to be surrounded by four or five small enclosures.

However, there is no Henge Monument at Dedham - the nearest is two miles away at Stratford St. Mary - and we tentatively assume that our Cursus (if it is a Cursus) was constructed to prevent cattle straying or damaging the near-by barrows.

Other Detail.

Just north of Pound Farm there is a junction with the presumed Cursus. The branch path appears to be constricted near where the modern hedge lies. This suggests that there might have been some system of gates at this point to direct stock or people to the different enclosures.

Several of these rings have been observed from the ground, and the height in which the corn over the rings exceeded the crop on the rest of the field gives some indication of the depth of the circular ditches. The higher the corn the deeper the ditch originally below it. No. 12 was seen in oats, and the ring corn towered 18 inches over the field corn, indicating a ditch at least four feet deep, No. 10 is very prominent every year, mostly standing a foot higher than the surrounding corn. One photograph showed two internal circles north and south. No. 3, in field E, although very large, has so far only been seen from the air.

Affinities

A rather similar site, where a cluster of "mini-barrows" is adjacent to one or two large barrows, is a few miles up-river at Stoke-by-Nayland. An illustration of this by Dr. St. Joseph was published in "Antiquity" 1965, No. 153, Plate XIVa. Further investigation of this site is very desirable.

"Mini-barrows", or ring-ditches of about 12 feet in diameter have been excavated at Ardleigh (C.A.G. Bulletin III, pages 22 and 51) and at Great Bromley (C.A.G. Bulletin V, page 120) and were found to be of the later Bronze Age, with bucket urns.

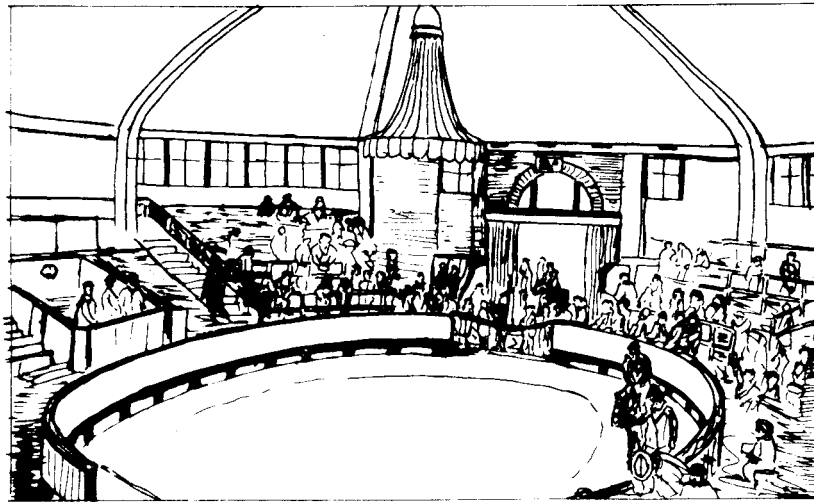


Fig.2. Tattersall's sale ring at Newmarket, erected in 1966, from a photograph in the Daily Telegraph. A horse is being led round the arena. There are two opposite entrances. The auctioneer's rostrum is on the left. The rest of the arena is surrounded by tiered stands for spectators.

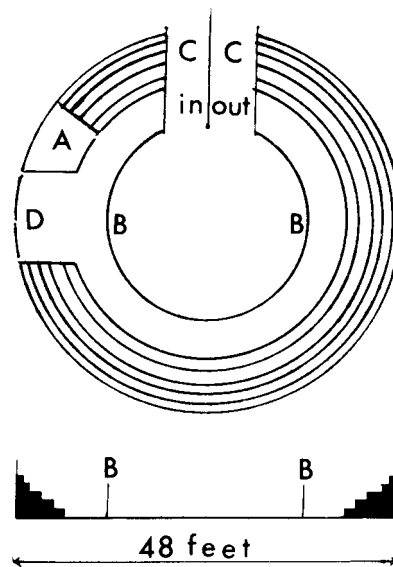


Fig. 3. Plan and section of the recently erected Cattle Sale-Ring at Stowmarket, Suffolk.
A. Auctioneer's Rostrum.
B. Barrier.
C. Entrance and Exit for Cattle. D. Door for public.

Many sale-rings have the exit opposite to the entrance.
The arena is surrounded by concrete tiers for the onlookers.

OBSERVATIONS ON POST OFFICE EXCAVATIONS ON NORTH HILL, 1966.

by A. B. Doncaster.

In the December, 1966, issue of this Bulletin, Mr. Leonard Gant made some observations on the deep Post Office telephone cable trench dug the full length of the High Street. Prior to this operation a similar trench had been dug on North Hill during the months of June to September.

Before the trenching machine began its work, various trial holes were made on the hill, one being on the site of the wall at the bottom of the hill. These holes were in the region of 6ft, deep, but as they were filled in immediately, little of interest could be observed. Part of the wall could be seen, but it was noted that another trench had already cut through the wall at this point where a service pipe had been laid.

The trenching started on the west side of North Hill, opposite the entrance to Crispin Court, where a large underground chamber was constructed for cables coming in an easterly direction from the Telephone Exchange, and then proceeded in a northerly direction down the hill, keeping to a line on the west side of the street. The whole operation was most difficult to assess from an archaeological point of view, for although the trench was 9 - 10 ft, deep, the sides were shored up with planking as the excavator progressed, so the observer has to be at the digging end to be able to see anything.

Some foundations were found opposite No. 51 (the Peverel Hotel) according to the workmen, but these were covered up before any inspection could be made. They were reported to be "fairly deep". There was no trace of a Roman road, but a spread of gravel silt was seen, which could have been a "sidewalk" for a road. A bronze stylus was found in this vicinity.

Opposite No. 41, a spring was encountered. The earth here was black and soggy, similar to the soil dredged from a river bed. (The presence of a spring is confirmed by observing the cellars of Nos. 44 and 39 are completely dry, whilst that of No. 37 further down the hill is continually running with water, winter and summer, and that a yard further down the hill is called Cistern Yard may have some bearing.) It was noted in this area that brushwood faggots 1 ft. 6 ins, in thickness had been laid in large numbers at depths of 4 to 7 ft. The faggots were mostly lying in a north/south direction.

Opposite No. 37, at a depth of 5-6 ft., a number of rough timbers were found, also lying in a north/south direction. These timbers were rough hewn, looking more like "off-cuts" than shaped pieces. They varied in length from 3 to 9 ft., were 1 to 2 inches thick and 3 to 4 inches broad. They appeared to be oak, and were sodden when taken out. Two pieces were kept as samples.

Opposite No. 36 and east/west foundation was seen 18 ins. down, consisting of septaria and grey mortar.

The trench opposite to the entrance between Nos. 36 and 35 was 8 ft. 8 ins. deep at this point; in the bottom 4 ft. only were scattered a number of stones. These were rounded and worn as if at one time they had been on the seashore or on a river bed. The largest were at the bottom, being approximately the size of a large tea-pot, graduating in size to smaller ones above, the size of a hen's egg. Amongst them were lumps of Kentish rag with remains of mortar attached. The whole extended to a length of 10 to 12 ft. and then petered out.

From a point opposite No. 35, a tunnel was made right across the bottom of Balkerne Lane junction, crossing the line of the Roman wall and surfacing at the south-east corner of the Cattle Market. Here it proved extremely difficult to see the foundation of the Roman wall for three reasons. Firstly, the timing of the visit had to be exactly right, as the tunnel was being shored up as the manual diggers worked their way along; secondly, an inspection could only be made whilst the workmen were having a tea or meal break; and thirdly, when the shift was finished (and at the time overtime was in force) and it would have been possible to have an undisturbed inspection, the pumps were switched off and the tunnel rapidly filled with water to a depth of 2 ft. or more. However, a visit was made and the width of the wall measured, which was 9 ft, at this point, but it was impossible to tell how near the base of the foundation this measurement was, nor could any great detail of the structure itself be observed.

Postscript:- since the above was written, Nos. 44 and 43 North Hill have been demolished. No. 44 was a late 18th century house with a charming bow window on the first floor (matching the one on the opposite side of the street at No. 17) and a carved doorway at the top of five stone steps, inside there was some excellent contemporary carpentry. The bow window was taken away intact, and it is understood that one of the

conditions of the demolition was that it should be incorporated in the new building. So it is hoped that the bow window will be replaced,

Before the demolition started in April this year, four trial holes were dug; one in the passage between Nos. 45 and 44; one in the main showroom floor of No. 43; and one in the rear yard behind No. 44 and the other in the basement of No. 44.

The first two realised nothing of interest, but the hole at the rear of No. 44, 3 ft. deep, exposed part of a red tessellated pavement. This was approximately 100 feet west of the existing street. (See item 134, Insula 9, in M.R. Hull's "Roman Colchester", page 97 - not shown on plan.)

The hole 2 feet deep, in the cellar of No. 44, the floor of which is 5 feet below the present street level, penetrated at once into the metalling of a Roman road, being 18 feet west of the edge of the existing street (excluding pavement).

Editor's Note: by a strange coincidence two articles in this issue describe finds which have come to light through activities which were not archaeological. This undoubtedly underlines the importance of noting and recording such discoveries and it is to be hoped that other members will follow this example.

PART THREE SEPTEMBER 1967

GROUP NOTICES.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, the 9th, of October, 1967, in the Lecture Room at Colchester Castle; 7.30 p.m. Please make every effort to attend - your views and ideas are much appreciated - and your criticisms Coffee and biscuits will be served at the conclusion of the business meeting.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE.

A nomination form for your use is enclosed with this Bulletin.

MINUTES.

A copy of the Minutes of the 1966 Annual General Meeting is also enclosed.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The annual subscription falls due on the 1st October 1967. The new rates, as outlined in the June Bulletin, are given below:

Single subscription	£1. 0. 0. per annum.
Second member of a family	10. 0. " "
Junior members 16 years & under	10. 0. " "
Bulletin only	10. 0. " "

Please send to the Hon. Treasurer:

Miss Dorothy Jones,
Farthing Garden,
Laver Breton Heath,
Near Colchester, Essex.

It will be greatly appreciated if these are paid promptly. A reminder will be sent to those still outstanding with the December Bulletin, after which the membership will be taken to have lapsed.