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### **Anglo-Saxon Jewellery by Dr Margaret Gelling**

The Kingston brooch, shown on the cover of this journal, is one of the finest examples of the Anglo-Saxon jeweller's art. Before the discovery of the ship-burial treasure at Sutton Hoo it was regarded as the absolute finest. It is much smaller than the cover photograph, 8cm in diameter, and the production of such intricate work on this scale indicates that very sophisticated techniques were available to craftsmen in the early seventh century. The distribution of finds of this kind in Kent is considered to show that Faversham was a centre for this craft.

A great quantity of Anglo-Saxon jewellery survives because pre-Christian Anglo-Saxon burial customs required the dead to be buried with trappings appropriate to their status in life.

Understanding of the zoomorphic element in Anglo-Saxon art, as seen on the filigree animals on two bands of the Kingston brooch and on much of the Sutton Hoo jewellery, requires some acquaintance with the nature of Dark Age Germanic animal ornament. Information about this will be offered at next year's weekend school.

*A weekend course on Anglo-Saxon jewellery, by Dr Margaret Gelling, including a visit to view the Kent Archaeological Society's collection and a visit to cemetery sites will take place next year.*

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# FIRST WORDS

**W**elcome to the Winter edition of Practical Archaeology. Our Summer programme of courses has just ended, and work has started on creating our fourth year of archaeological day schools. Courses on practical archaeology are proving to be very popular, with many enquiries being answered by the course information held on our web site at [www.kafs.co.uk](http://www.kafs.co.uk)

## **Field work this year**

The highlight of the excavation weeks this year was the discovery of the Archbishop of Canterbury's residence at Teynham (see British Archaeology October 2000) and the confirmation of extensive Roman remains on the hilltop at Syndale.

an ancient monument resides in the simple fact of its survival, eroded by time but still there, unmoved, on the very spot where it was built by people hundreds or even thousands of years ago'. Places are important; the information that our archaeological colleagues can wrest from a site before its destruction by that very act of recording are less so.

## **Greenwich Roman Temple**

Think of a recent 'Time Team' programme, the one on the Roman temple at Greenwich. If it was a commercial development the site would have been destroyed by the archaeologists in the very act of recording. The data would be there but the site, a small hill overlooking the River Thames with its Roman temple to impress people arriving by ship and road to Roman London, would no longer exist, and it would not be possible to stand on that very spot and see and experience a chosen scene ever again. The magic will have gone.

It is this magic and involvement in place and time that we try to pass on to our students at the KAFS. Every site is important, and the rarer it is, the more so.

It is said that to understand history you have to read as much on a particular period as you can, so that you can think and therefore understand it.

The study of an ancient landscape fulfils the same brief.

**Paul Wilkinson**

*There will be a weekend of landscape survey on September 23rd, and 24th with Paul Wilkinson.*

*Other weekends include archaeological drawing on October 7th and 8th with Jane Russell, medieval churches on October 14th and 15th with*

*Tim Tatton-Brown and field-walking and historic maps on October 21st and 22nd with*

*Paul Wilkinson. See pages 14-15 for full course details.*



# LETTERS

## From John Anstey, Hull

I saw on television over Christmas a programme on 'Seahenge'. As I work in the North Sea on a number of oil-rigs I was surprised that the archaeologists involved in removing the wooden pieces were dressed in denims and cardi's. Surely a specialist unit with experience in inter-tidal work should have been employed. The correct protective clothing for this sort of work is surely one-piece 'dry-suits' which any dive shop stocks from about £100. I cringed with horror when the team tried to wrench the timbers out using the arm of a JCB. On a professionally run site action like this would have led to instant dismissal. Surely, if a high-profile excavation like this is going to be televised, the very least English Heritage can do is to make sure the project is organised by people who know what to do on the hostile shores of the North Sea.

## From Amanda Box, Saffron Walden

As a diver I could not believe my eyes watching the excavation of the 'Seahenge' site on television over Christmas. On the training courses held by the Nautical Archaeological Society we were taught a variety of methods to tackle inter-tidal archaeological sites, none of which seemed to have been used by the commercial archaeological team doing the excavation. My most enduring memory has to be of the drenched archaeologist excavating the (presumably stratified) levels inside the timber circle with a yellow builder's bucket! Please, please, English Heritage no more of these 'rescue' disasters.

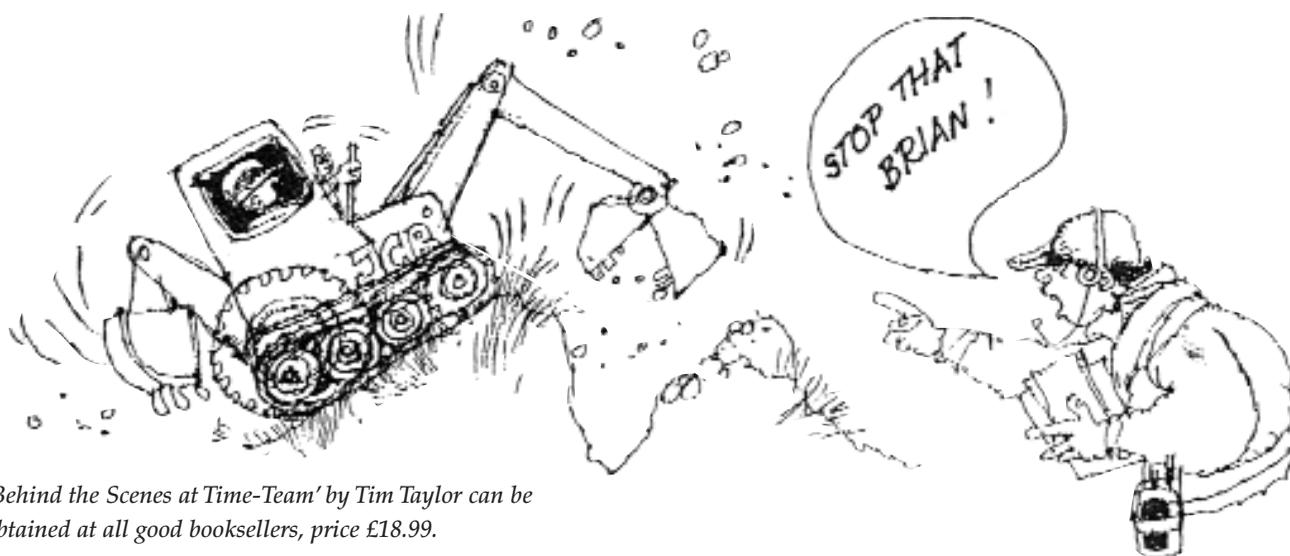
## From John Poultney, London

I recently went on a course of dendrochronology and we were shown the technique of obtaining samples from large timbers for dendro-dating. One of the procedures shown entailed using a hollow drill of about one centimetre diameter to drill out a core of timber which could then be analysed by computer. I was flabbergasted when I saw on television that the most important artefact of 'Seahenge', the central upturned bole, had been attacked by chain-saw and a huge segment removed for dendro-dating. Was this really necessary? I thought that only sixty to one hundred tree-rings were necessary to obtain a computer reading, but on such a important artefact I understand that total non-destructive procedures should be used. It is so upsetting, seeing this seemingly needless destruction by professionals.

## From Joe Hartley, Chatham

I read in my local press that 'Time-Team' were to do a programme on Smallhythe in Kent, and I watched it with enthusiasm, so much in fact that I bought the book which again, I much enjoyed. However, there was a cartoon on the Smallhythe page which showed a JCB advancing on the dig with its bucket rattling. The legend reads: 'STOP THAT BRIAN'. There were references throughout the Smallhythe programme to 'Brian', who is he?

*We have looked up the cartoon (see below) and were also intrigued by who it could be – so over to you, Time-Team!  
The Editor.*



'Behind the Scenes at Time-Team' by Tim Taylor can be obtained at all good booksellers, price £18.99.

# NEWS

## The Vikings – lager louts or pioneer Atlantic traders?

Vikings were supposed to be the lager louts of the first millennium but recent discoveries at Nunguvik on Baffin Island in the Arctic indicate that the Norsemen had formed trading links with the peoples of North America. Although there is evidence to show the Vikings sailed to L'Anse aux Meadows in North America centuries before Christopher Columbus landed in 1492, the latest finds come close to proving a cultural exchange with North American natives. The evidence centres on a length of yarn excavated at Baffin Island and dated to about AD1000. Archaeologist Patricia Sutherland from the Canadian Museum of Civilisation in Quebec has found a three metre strand of yarn spun from arctic hare fur mixed with goat hair of a type similar to that found at Viking settlements on Greenland. Ms Sutherland said North American natives did not spin yarn but used animal skins for clothing. There are no goats anywhere near Baffin Island. Wooden artifacts found at the archaeological site show that the North American natives used European carpentry techniques and wood which could only have come from Viking settlements to the east. The evidence emerging supports the view that the Vikings were actively trading in North America a long time before Columbus.

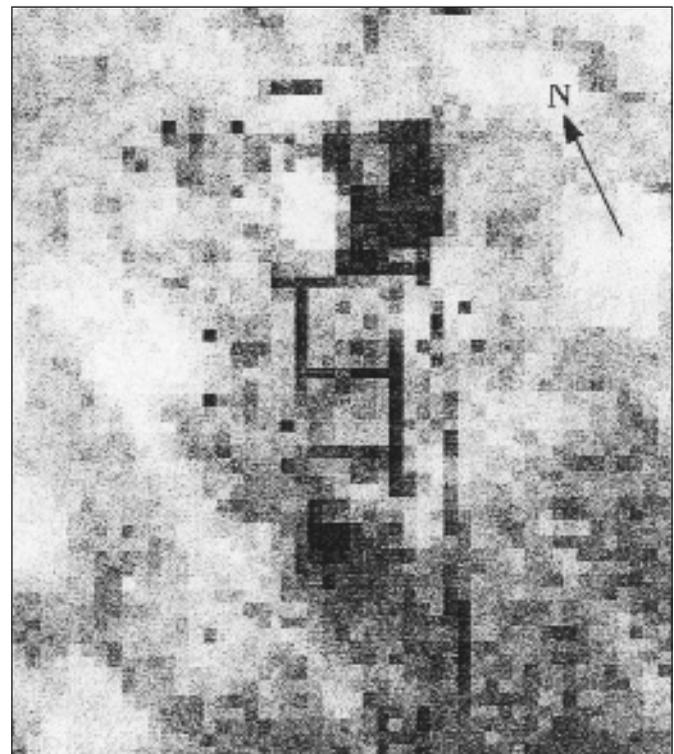


*The evidence that Viking ships could have travelled long distances under sail comes from the Gotland picture stones, the*

*earliest of which date from the fifth century AD. The number of crew shown suggests a boat size of between 7 to 12 metres.*

## Eighteen Roman villa estates located in Kent

One of the results of the three-year archaeological survey commissioned by Swale Borough Council is the possible location of eighteen Roman villa estates to the north and south of Watling Street. Twenty-two substantial Roman buildings were located by fieldwork, in some cases enhancing the information on possible sites noted in the Kent SMR. The important point is that for the first time



*Field-walking and geophysical survey of a Roman villa just south of Watling Street. The electronic data show a villa*

*with two wings and a corridor. The bath suite is at the top of the picture. Further Roman buildings have also been found.*

in Britain, it is possible to define with some conviction the extent and function of a large number of adjoining Roman villa estates. Further funding will enable researchers to define the medieval parish boundaries – some of the earliest in Britain – and even tie in these boundaries with Anglo-Saxon charters and known fifth-century Jutish estates which may all go back in time to the boundaries of the Roman villa estates. Dr Paul Wilkinson said that ‘all the possible Roman villas

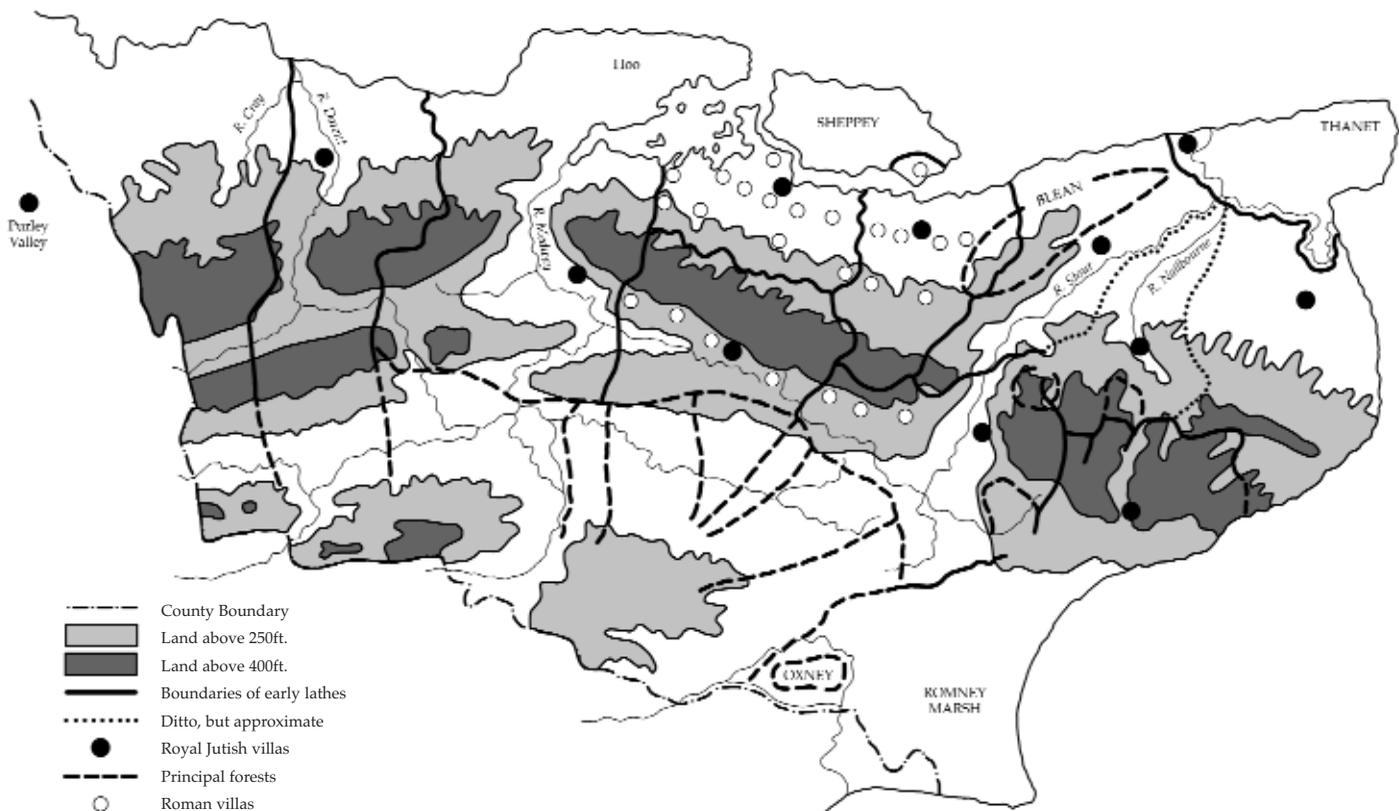
# NEWS

north of Watling Street were placed about 3 km apart and set back from Watling Street by about 1 km. All were situated on the west bank of a spring or stream and faced south-east. Field-walking obtained sufficient data to show the sites had been in use from the late first to late fourth centuries.' Forty-two Roman coins from a limited excavation at the Roman villa at Deerton Street, indicate that the use of Roman coins carried on to the very last, with coins from the early fifth-century. Anglo-Saxon pottery, also likely to be from the fifth-century, was found within the Roman house opening up the possibility that Bede was right in saying that the fifth-century German immigrants were billeted amongst the Romans.

## The Thames – burial ground for a 1,000 years

Human bones belonging to about 15 individuals have been found by the Oxford Archaeological Unit in a channel of the Thames at Eton. This new evidence suggests that burial in rivers or lakes may have been the normal funeral rite in Britain for nearly 1,000 years, before the coming of the Romans, and following the abandonment of cremation in about 900BC.

Marks on the bones may suggest cannibalism, or ritual defleshing of the skeletons. It seems all the bones from the same skeletons were weighed down by rocks to prevent disintegration.



*The Jutish lathes of Kent (as corrected by Witney in 1976). Jutes were different from their Anglo-Saxon neighbours in that Kent was divided up very early indeed into a number of separate kingdoms or 'lathes'.*

*There was a Frankish strain running through Kent Jutish society and also a considerable Romano-British survival; perhaps it was as associates of the Britons that the Jutes first appeared in Kent. The earliest*

*surviving code of Kentish law, that of Aethelbert, shows the existence of a submerged class, which may have been the Welsh, i.e. Romano-British survivors. The borders of these early Jutish kingdoms seem to*

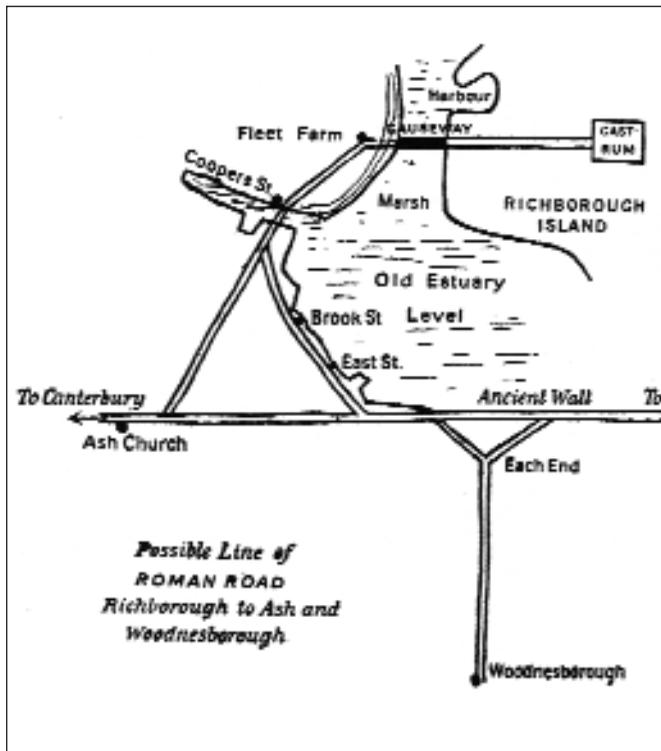
*follow the artificial divisions of these earlier Roman estates along the north Kent coast to a remarkable degree, but further fieldwork is needed on surveying the still surviving Roman field boundaries.*

# NEWS

## Roman harbour found at Richborough

Recent work by students from the Kent Archaeological Field School indicate that the location of one of the Roman harbours at the Saxon Shore Fort of Richborough is on the west bank of Richborough island, and just to the north of the stone tidal causeway that carried the Roman road, later called Watling Street, to Canterbury and London. The stone causeway is still in situ, in the exact position that Margary indicated in 1948. It is hoped that limited excavation on the causeway later in the year will enable dendro-dating to take place on the oak log foundations under the surviving stonework. Dr Paul Wilkinson, Director of the Kent Archaeological Field School, said, 'we were astonished to find close to the fort long stretches of surviving Roman metalling which are still in use as a road 1,900 odd years after it was built,

and not only that, but not known about or even recorded'. The location of the possible harbour meant that the Roman ships were protected from the prevailing south-westerly winds, but could use that wind to advantage on leaving port in a hurry to chase Saxon raiders. In Spring and Autumn the north-easterly gales which are such a feature of the area would have made the formal landing-place on the eastern side of the fort



A map published by Winbolt in 1925 shows the location of the causeway and harbour. Field-walking has located Roman buildings on the

foreshore between Fleet Farm and Coopers Street. The map, top right, by Dowker, 1872 shows the harbour inlet and roadstead by Fleet.

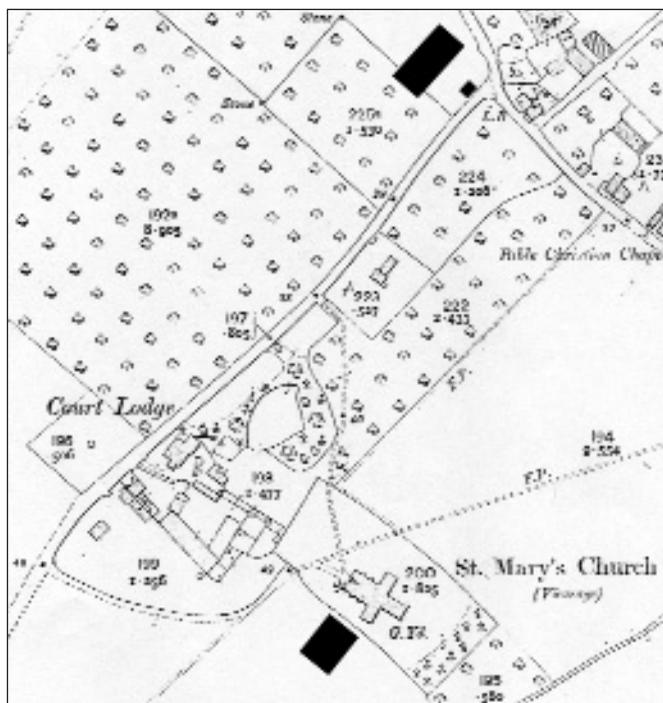


untenable, but not affected the haven on the western side of the island. The topography of the harbour on the western side indicates there were quays, roads, and a small mole. Auger tests have shown the quays are almost clean sand, built on blue clay with a gravel surface which may suggest timber constructed quays, similar to those at London and Dover. The harbour was protected by the road causeway to the south and the small mole to the north. Field-walking indicates Roman buildings on the mainland overlooking the harbour and roadstead. Richborough is the key site for understanding late Roman Britain, and although the interior of the fort was excavated by the Society of Antiquaries of London, much work still needs to be done on the surrounding township and harbour works. It just may be that Richborough was the last place in Britain held by Imperial troops during the collapse of the Roman Empire in the early fifth century.

# NEWS

## Archbishop's summer palace found at Teynham

Excavation by students of the Kent Archaeological Field School at Teynham in Kent have located the site of the summer residence of the Archbishops of Canterbury. It had been suggested that the residence had been found next door to the church some time in the 1970s, but excavation on this site suggests this particular building, which is much smaller than the main residence, was used for storing the wine which was such a feature of this estate. The main residence complex, some 20 by 45 metres, and about 400 metres north of the church, was constructed of dressed stone blocks, with Caen stone carved tracery windows decorated with hand-painted coloured glass. Fragments of medieval glazed floor tiles decorated with a fleur-de-lis pattern indicate the splendour of the interior decoration, whilst the domestic pottery found during excavation gives a date range for the ecclesiastical establishment from the 8th to 16th centuries.



The 1906 Ordnance Survey map of Teynham is overlaid with structures found recently through excavation. One of the

main buildings (top), some 20 by 45 metres, was sampled by excavation and shown to contain high-status artifacts.

Alfred the Great (left) and Edward the Elder (right)



## Alfred the Great's grave found in council garden

The grave of Alfred the Great, the Saxon king of Wessex who prevented the Danes from capturing England in the 9th century, has been uncovered between a terrace of Victorian houses and a car park. Archaeologists have found Alfred's final resting place after more than 100 days of excavations at the site of the former Hyde Abbey in Winchester, Hampshire.

Historians knew that Alfred, his wife Queen Ealhswith, their son, Edward the Elder, and at least two grandsons had been buried in the great medieval church, but the abbey was destroyed during the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1538 and a prison was built on the site in 1788. Ken Qualmann, head of Winchester's Museums Service, said he was convinced the team had established the precise location of the tomb. However, the location of Alfred's bones remains a mystery. The archaeologists believe the bones were disturbed in 1788 when the county jail was built on the site.

Reports from the time state 'a great stone coffin was found, cased with lead within and without, containing bones and garments. The lead was sold for two guineas; the bones were thrown about and the stone coffin broken into pieces'. Other stories suggest the bones were ground into powder at the time of the Dissolution and fed to the last abbot.

# A ROMAN FORT NEAR FAVERSHAM, KENT

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*A weekend of excavation by members of the Kent Archaeological Field School revealed a fastigated Roman military ditch on the site of a previously unknown Roman fort. Pottery found in the infill of the ditch has now been dated by Dr Malcolm Lyne to the time of the Claudian Invasion...*

The various trenches on this site yielded a total of 554 sherds of largely Late Iron Age and Roman pottery. The bulk of this material (374 sherds) came from the upper fill of the military ditch and just 20 sherds from the primary silting of the same feature.

## **Fabrics**

The fabric series is divided into two groups; with the coarse kitchen wares having the prefix C and the fine table wares that of F.

C.1. Handmade grey-black with profuse ill-sorted up-to 2.00 mm crushed calcined flint filler.

C.2. Fine 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware. There are fragments from both handmade and wheel-turned vessels in this largely Late Iron Age fabric. These fine grog-tempered native wares did not survive long into the Roman occupation before being superseded by vessels in fine Romanised wheel-turned fabrics such as Upchurch ware (Fabric F.2).

C.3. Coarse handmade or tournette-finished 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware. The use of this fabric persisted long into the Roman period in East Kent; developing first into Transitional Belgic/Native Coarse Ware (c.AD 70-200) and then into Native Coarse Ware (c.AD 170-300).

C.4. Brown to black wheel-turned fabric with a mixture of very-fine quartz sand and grog filler.

C.5. Coarse brown wheel-turned fabric with profuse up-to 0.50 mm quartz filler and occasional tiny shell inclusions, fired rough brown-black. An early Thameside fabric of mid to late first century.

C.6. North Kent Shell-tempered ware. Wares in this fabric are more characteristic of West Kent and were manufactured at Higham and on the Isle of Sheppey from the Late Iron Age onwards. Production after the late first century became largely confined to storage vessels which continued to be made until some time after

AD 170. Some storage jars from the London area

have traces of resin sealant on and under their rims, indicating that these vessels were used as packaging for some unspecified product such as salt. The Faversham sherds are all from one such storage vessel and confined to the upper fill of the fort ditch in Trench 2.

C.7. Very fine quartz-sanded grey Thameside industry fabric with rough finish and external 'scorching'.

C.8A. Very fine quartz-sanded grey to brown Thameside BB2 fabric fired polished black, c.AD 110-300.

C.8B. As above but with grey surfaces. The classic Thameside greyware, c.AD 110-300.

C.9. 'Native Coarse Ware' (Pollard 1988). High-fired grit and grog tempered fabric used mainly for knife-trimmed everted-rim jars between c.AD 170 and 300 and largely confined to East Kent. This fabric dominates pottery assemblages of that period at Ickham and Monkton, suggesting coastal manufacture along the western end of the Wantsum Channel.

C.10. Coarse-sanded wheel-turned Thameside greyware with a rough pimply finish, c.AD 100-300.

C.11. Very fine sanded Canterbury grey ware with profuse up to 0.50 mm multi-coloured quartz filler and rough surfaces.

F.1A. Terra Rubra TR1(A). Sandfree non-micaceous cream fabric with internal red colour-coat (Stead and Rigby 1989,121). One sherd from an open form is present in the assemblage from Trench 1 Layer A, c.15 BC-AD 25.

F.1B. Terra Rubra TR2. Self-slipped bright orange fabric with polished surfaces (ibid.,126). One sherd is present in the Trench 1 Layer A assemblage, c.AD 1-65.

F.1C. Gallo-Belgic Whiteware. Fragments from a rouletted butt-beaker are present in the

assemblage from Trench 2.

F.2. Wheel-turned grey, sandfree Upchurch ware with brown to dark-grey grog inclusions and surface polish, c.AD 43-300.

F.3. Oxidised orange version of the above fabric with or without external white slip.

F.4. Very fine wheel-turned reddish-brown fabric with silt-sized quartz filler. One sherd from a bead-rim beaker with vertical burnished body lines is present in the assemblage from Trench 1.

Found in layer A:

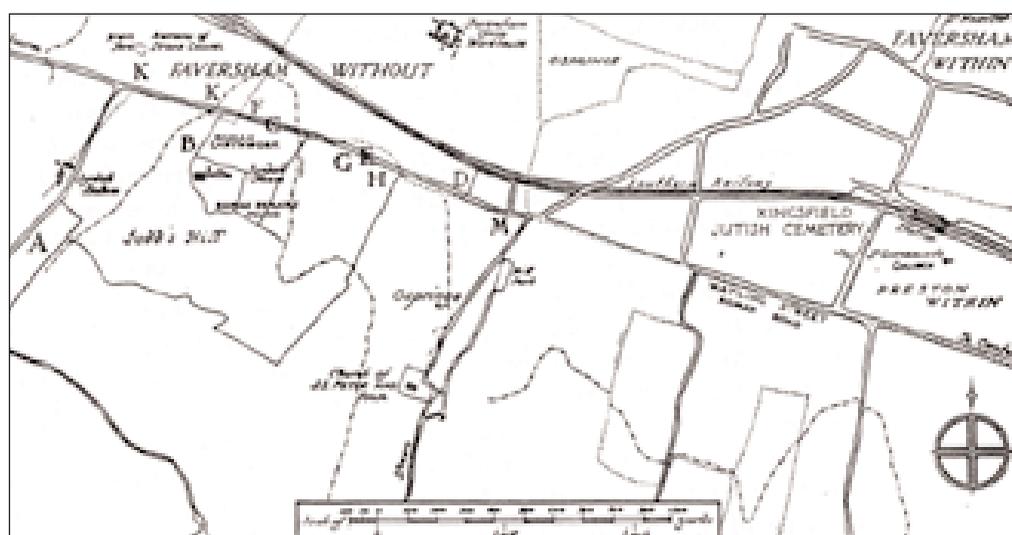
F.5. Sand-free orange fabric fired burnished honey-brown with occasional up-to 2.00 mm white chalky inclusions. Two sherds from a vessel of uncertain form are present in the assemblage from Trench 2 Layer A. F.6. East Gaulish Samian.

also present.

The lack of rim fragments makes any closer dating than c.AD 43-70 difficult for this assemblage but the nature of the material from the overlying Assemblage 2 in Trench 1 implies that the fort is Claudian.

### Assemblage 2

From the rubbish dumped in the top of the partially silted up Trench 1. This deposit produced 70 sherds (564 gm) of pottery of Late Iron Age to Pre-Flavian character. The lower part of the top-soil above produced 111 sherds (1,022 gm) of very similar material, although contaminated by 12 sherds of second-century character. This assemblage breakdown indicates its early date. The presence of sherds in fabrics which scarcely



Map showing Roman remains in the vicinity of Syndale (from Arch. Journ. lxxxvi,299). The possible Roman fort is located at Syndale (B) whilst a still-standing Roman mausoleum encapsulated in a early Saxon church (K) is to be found to the north-west. Roman cemeteries are to be found north of Watling Street towards the east (D), and the rich Jutish cemetery of Kingsfield is located to the south of Faversham.

### Assemblage 1

From the primary silting of the military ditch in Trenches 1 and 2.

This material is of key importance in dating the fort but unfortunately lacks rims and other diagnostic sherds. The primary silting 30 cm above the base of the ankle-breaker slot in Trench 2 produced one sherd from a closed form in wheel-turned grey-black Fabric C.4: six sherds from closed forms in coarse 'Belgic' grog-tempered Fabric C.2 fired patchy brown/black/buff-brown came from a similar horizon in Trench 1. A further group of six sherds were retrieved from higher up in the primary ditch silts of Trench 2. Once again, these consist entirely of bodysherds: three from a jar in coarse Fabric C.2, one from a jar with carinated shoulders in brown Fabric C.4 fired rough blue-grey and another in very fine sanded orange fabric fired grey with patchy superficial reddening. A flake from a Dressel 20 amphora is

outlived the Late Iron Age, such as flint-tempered Fabric C.1, the fine grog-tempered Fabric C.2 and Terra Rubra Fabric TR.1A, may represent a pre-Roman element in the assemblage which was perhaps residual in use. The fact that none of the datable forms have an inception date of later than AD 50 leaves little doubt that this assemblage accumulated between c.AD 43 and 50/60. What this assemblage also indicates is that vessels in the classic Upchurch wheel-turned greyware began to be made within a very few years after the Roman Conquest. The handmade fine grog and silt tempered Type B2-1 jar is in a fabric not much different to but less well-prepared than wheel-turned Upchurch ware, and the Monaghan Type 3A1-3 jar in the latter fabric is clearly a development of that type. We may perhaps see in these two vessels the transition from a Late Iron Age native fineware to a Romanised one during the first five years or so of the Roman occupation.

### Assemblage 3

From the rubbish dumped in the top of the partially silted-up military ditch in Trench 2. The assemblage from this deposit is considerably larger than that from Trench 1 (304 sherds, 4,184 gm) and was also quantified by the number of sherds and their weight per fabric:

This assemblage differs from that retrieved from the upper part of the same ditch in Trench 1 in having a much more extended date range. Pre-Flavian sherds are present but large quantities of late-first to late-second-century material indicate that rubbish continued to be dumped in the top of the ditch at this point until c.AD 200.

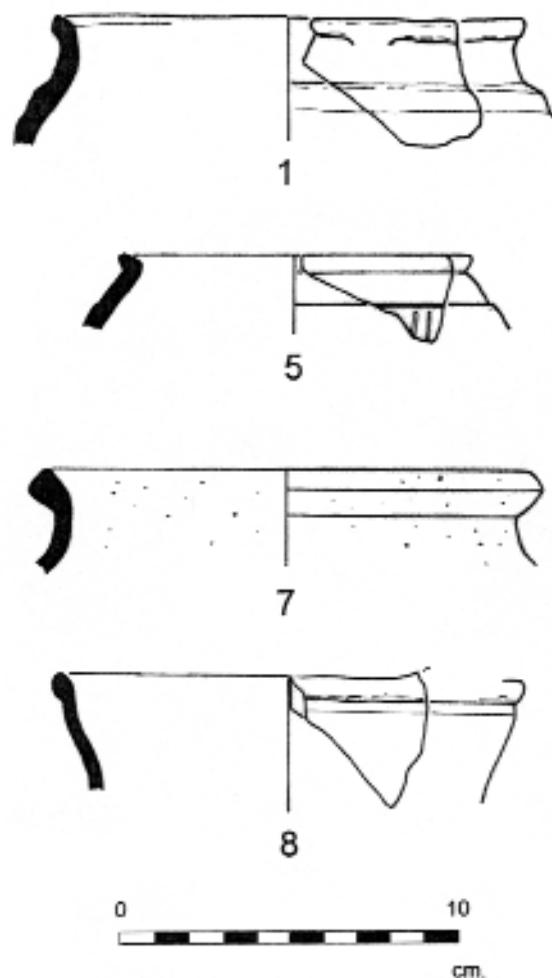
The presence of this late material is reflected in the percentage breakdown of the assemblage: 'Belgic' grog-tempered wares are well down to 24% by sherd count, whereas the percentage of Upchurch grey and oxidised fabrics from the Medway marshes and Isle of Sheppey remains at 35% and is joined by appreciable quantities of BB2 and Thameside sand-tempered wares from the same area, 22%.

The early material differs little from that recovered from Trench 1, although Terra Rubra is absent: three fragments from a butt-beaker in Gallo-Belgic Whiteware are, however, present. The Upchurch greyware includes examples of Monaghan's Type 5B6 and 7A2 platters (c.AD 70-130 and 43-140 respectively) and a jar of Type 4A2 (c.AD 110-200). Upchurch oxidised wares include an example of flagon type 1E4-1 (c.AD 120-190): a further example of this flagon type in Fabric F.5 is also present.

Thameside forms include a jar of Monaghan's Type 3H2-2 in 'scorched' Fabric C.7 (c.AD 160-230), a necked-bowl of Type 4G3 (c.AD 50/70-100) and a 'pie-dish' of Type 5C4 (c.AD 150/170-250) in Fabric C.8A, and a re-fired Type 5D3 in the same fabric (c.AD 120-190). A number of sherds from a storage jar of Monaghan's Type 3D3 in North Kent Shell-tempered ware (c.AD 50-150) and fragments of Canterbury greyware are also present, as is a post AD 170 sherd of Pollard's 'Native Coarse Ware'. The following sherd is of particular interest: a fragment from bead-rimmed bowl with traces of a handle, in white-slipped Fabric F.3. The external rim of the bowl has a diameter of 140 mm.

### Assemblage 4

From the interior of the fort under the turf in Trench 4. The 21 sherds (212 gm) of pottery from



*These are examples of the types of sherds found at Syndale. There is little doubt that the assemblage of pottery accumulated between c. AD 43*

*and AD 50/60. The nature of the material from Assemblage 2 in Trench 1 implies the fort is Claudian, and of extreme importance to invasion studies.*

this trench have a time-span similar to the assemblage from Layer A in Trench 2. Two sherds of 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware are associated with a fragment from a Central Gaulish Samian Curle 11 bowl (c.AD 120-140), a flagon footring in sandy buff Canterbury fabric (c.AD 50-200), a Dressel 20 olive-oil amphora sherd and 11 beaker sherds in grey Upchurch ware. These latter include a rim sherd from a poppyhead beaker of early second century date (c.AD 100-150).

One would not expect to find much pottery associated with the occupation of what was probably a short-lived Conquest period fort. What is clear is that occupation of sorts continued within the area of the fort during the late first and second centuries, some of the rubbish from which was tipped into the upper part of the partially silted-up fort ditch.

**Malcolm Lyne**

# THE LANDSCAPE OF PLACE-NAMES

*Dr Margaret Gelling introduces her new book*

In the first issue of *Practical Archaeology* Paul Wilkinson kindly described the weekend in which I lectured last May as a 'highlight' of the year's activities at KAFS. The theme of this weekend course was the precise relationship between topographical terms which occur in place-names and actual features of the landscape. The words which were studied are in the Old English language, as these place-names, like the majority of those in use today, arose from the introduction of a Germanic language by farmers who migrated to this country after the collapse of Roman rule.

The vast corpus of settlement-names in England can be sorted into a relatively small number of categories, the two largest of which are the 'habitative' and the 'topographical'. Habitative names are those which have as their main component (the 'generic') an Old English word for a farm, hamlet or village. Here belong, for example, Faversham, 'metal-worker's village', and Goodnestone, 'Godwine's farm'. Topographical settlement-names are those, like Sittingbourne and Hernhill, which define the settlement by making a comment on its environment without mentioning the buildings. It was the second category which we studied in May last year.

The vocabulary of these topographical settlement-names has been my main interest for the last two decades. A book published in 1984, *Place-Names in the Landscape*, was a pioneering work which established two important (but previously unnoticed) principles. These were that within the large groups of Old English words for hills, valleys, watercourses, roads, woods and pasture lands there were no synonyms. Each of the c. 40 words for hills and ridges, and of the c. 30 words for valleys and hollows, describes a

distinct sort of hill and valley, and precise linking of names to landscapes uncovers a subtle code of knowledge from which an Anglo-Saxon, on hearing a topographical place-name, would understand a great deal about the nature and economic prospects of each settlement. The names would also serve as guides for the traveller. The second principle is that this code is country-

wide, and that regional concentrations of some terms (like *hoh* 'hill-spur' in Bedfordshire, *hop* 'secluded valley' in Shropshire) are due, not to dialectal differences, but rather to the concentration of appropriate landforms in the areas concerned.

The Anglo-Saxon topographical code can be decoded by the obvious method of relating names to

places. For the 1984 book this was done mainly by study of Ordnance Survey maps: it really requires systematic field-work, not much of which was undertaken at this stage.

Since 1984 a great deal of field-work has been done. This has confirmed the main theses of *Place-Names in the Landscape* and has enabled the modification and development of many of the suggestions advanced there. It has also added enormously to understanding of the significance of these names. This field-work has been undertaken in cooperation with a geographer colleague, Ann Cole, and together we have built up an archive of slides covering the whole country, some of which I used at the KAFS weekend. The work undertaken since 1984 has resulted in a new book, *The Landscape of Place-Names* by Margaret Gelling and Ann Cole, published by Shaun Tyas (ISBN 1 900289 25 3 and is priced at £25) which is out now. We hope people will like our book.

**Margaret Gelling**



*Dane Farm, near Hardres, Kent. Dane is from Old English*

*'denu', the usual place-name term for a long, winding valley.*

# THE ROMAN VILLA AT DEERTON STREET

*For the students of the Kent Archaeological Field School, a chance to excavate one of the recently discovered Roman villas along the Kent section of Watling Street*

This preliminary report presents the findings of trial excavations at Deerton Street. The work was carried out during August 1999 by students from the KAFS taught at Faversham by Dr Paul Wilkinson. Archaeology students from the Institute of Archaeology, London, assisted, as did experienced 'diggers' from local archaeological groups in east and west Kent. In all, some 98 students and helpers were on site over a ten-day period.

As far as the author is aware no recent work has been carried out on the site, previously unknown, apart from possible amateur digging in 1872.

Internal features identified were bounded by substantial stone Roman walling covering an area of about 60 by 80 square metres. The Roman villa is sited on the west bank of a spring and faces south-east. On the east bank Roman building debris suggests a bath-house, and to the south of the spring building debris suggests further Roman buildings. A small 'Roman villa' was grubbed up and destroyed by the farmer in 1920. This site is located 200 metres to the south-east. The villa excavated in 1999 had all the prerequisites of a high standard of living – hypocaust heating, painted plaster, imported pottery, window glass, tessellated floors (it seems the mosaic floor may have been removed during Victorian excavations) and a coin series ending with coins of Arcadius (AD 395-402).

## **Painted wall-plaster**

The total number of fragments of painted wall-plaster recovered from seven evaluation trenches was 231 (2,572 g). Over three quarters of the fragments were monochrome, white, yellow ochre and pink being the predominant colours. Most of the plaster came from Trench 6 in various demolition layers. A type series has been established based on the different colours and colour combinations used. The distribution and quantification of wall-plaster types are summarised in the Site Report.

Given the smallness of the assemblage it is difficult to compute the style of decoration. The many striped fragments, some of finely painted lines, indicate a decoration of panels and borders, with the background colour being either yellow ochre or white. Type 10 indicates the background colour of yellow ochre butting up to a white panel defined by a painted line (5mm thick) of dark red.



*Fragments of painted Roman plaster are one of the indicators of the standard of living enjoyed by the*

*occupants of the Roman villa at Deerton Street. Fragments of combed flue tiles (far right) suggest hot-air heating.*

Other panel colour schemes may be indicated by type 15 which has a pink (faded dark red?) background with a yellow ochre panel defined by a painted 3mm black band. Other panel colour schemes are type 17, pink and white colours meeting at a well defined edge, and type 18, dark red and white colours, also meeting at a well defined edge. Panel-schemes are the most common form of wall-painting throughout the Roman period (Davy & Link, 1982).

No foliate painting was recovered or recognised, but some samples (types 9 and 14) represent the imitation marble typical of dado

designs of the period whilst types 11 and 12 indicate stippling usually associated with curvilinear designs (Rivet, 1978).

The reverse sides of numerous wall-plaster fragments show traces of 'pecking' indicating they were attached to masonry walling.

The colours still surviving on the wall-plaster are extremely bright, almost garish, and combined with the possible polychrome mosaics would have turned the interior of the villa into quite a garish spectacle to modern eyes.

#### **Mosaic fragments**

Many hundreds of loose tesserae were recovered; the majority in situ on 'destabilised' floors. There were, on average, three sizes, 25-30mm, 15mm and 10mm.

Nearly all the large cubes were of cut red tile but a few were cream, cut from mortaria or amphorae. Other materials used were: for white, hard chalk; for cream or ochre, chalk and septaria; for black, a sandy limestone possibly derived from lower greenstone; for grey, Purbeck marble.

The only conjoined fragments were large-sized tesserae set in a multi-coloured pavement (trenches 4 and 5). Both fragments from trenches 4 and 5 were set in a thick layer of fine white mortar on a bedding of rough pink concrete flecked with tile fragments. Small tesserae from a black and white pavement were found in test-pit H, and trench 4. The loose black and white tesserae measured from 10 to 15mm, and could be part of a geometric mosaic akin to some of those from Fishbourne (Cunliffe, 1971 vol.1: 149) and Eccles (Neal, 1981: 76).

#### **Window glass**

A few fragments of late Roman blue-green window glass were retrieved, mostly 3 to 5mm thick, with one smooth and the reverse a rough surface (Canterbury Archaeological Trust).

#### **Pottery**

A total of 893 sherds were examined by Andrew Savage and John Cotter from Canterbury Archaeological Trust for the purpose of spot-dating. The pottery recovered included a wide range of local and imported fabrics. Most of these range in date from the later 1st century AD to the late 3rd and probably 4th centuries. The coarsewares are almost all of Kentish manufacture, although sherds of a Verulamium region sandy ware Colchester mortarium, a south Spanish Dressel 20 amphora and Alice Holt ware were also identified. Large numbers of sherds of

local (Kentish) grey sandyware were examined and can be dated to about the second half of the 2nd century AD.

The fineware included substantial quantities of grey and oxidised Upchurch-type fabrics in addition to Nene-valley and Oxford colour-coated wares. Samian (mostly central Gaulish) and central Gaulish Rhenish and Moselkeramik colour-coated ware completed the fineware assemblage of pottery sherds.

Earlier sherds which can be dated with any certainty to the pre-Flavian or Flavian-Trajanic periods came from the test-pits. They include a north Gaulish butt-beaker and a sand and shell-tempered bead-rim jar. Also a south Gaulish Samian sherd was found. There were, in addition, a number of sherds of 'Belgic' grog-tempered ware and sand-tempered ware which are likely to be of a similar date.

Although Hadrianic-Antonine activity is attested by a number of central Gaulish Samian vessels and decorated BB2 pie-dishes, a preponderance of later Roman types, including roll-rim jars in hard-fired sand tempered and grog-tempered fabrics and sherds of Nene-valley and Oxford colour-coated ware, suggests more activity from the later 2nd century onwards.

The presence of Alice Holt ware and late Roman grog-tempered ware suggests that activity on the site probably extended into the 4th century.

Two factors that may suggest activity on the site in the very late Roman period are the small incidence of late Roman grog-tempered ware. The other factor that should be noted is the forty-two coins recovered, some dating to the second and third quarters of the 4th century. Likewise possible Saxon rubbish pits have now been confirmed to contain sherds of Saxon pottery.

Other Saxon (and Frankish) pottery was found inside a late Roman flint wall and it may be the later Saxon settlers utilised still standing Roman walls into their own habitation. The proof of Saxon activity on the Roman villa site, although not unique in Kent, is worthy of note, and confirms that only hand excavation would have allowed such delicate evidence to survive.

#### **Paul Wilkinson**

*Excavation continues this year from July 22nd to August 6th; see page 14 for details.*



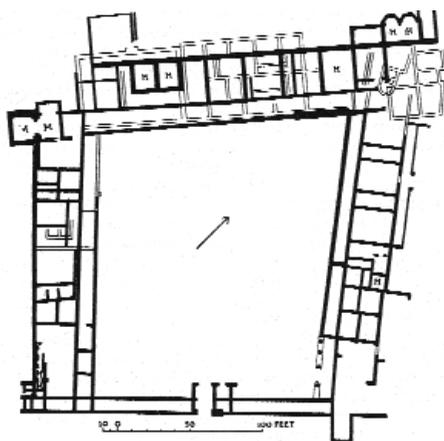
# THE KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

*A full listing of archaeological courses held at Faversham in Kent.*

*The fee is £30 a day and if you become a member there is a 10% discount on full prices. To become a member fill in the form on the last page of the magazine, and to book fill in the form on the opposite page. For further details access our web site at [www.kafs.co.uk](http://www.kafs.co.uk)*

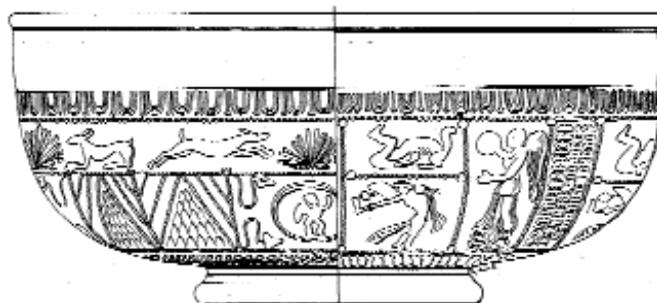
*July 22nd to August 6th, Excavation of a Roman Villa*  
Saturday July 22nd to Saturday July 29th and  
Sunday July 30th to Sunday August 6th

There will be two eight-day sessions spent in the field excavating a high-status Roman villa complex close to the centre. Excavation techniques will be taught for an hour on site on a day-to-day basis, and will include the following topics – survey methods, the single context planning system, stratification, excavation techniques, planning of contexts, section recording, and the site archive. Member's special fee £22.50 per day.



*August 19th, 20th, Post-Excavation Analysis*

Primarily intended for those who have attended the summer training excavation, though students with other excavation experience may join. The processing of archaeological finds, including washing and sorting, their description, illustration and archaeological report writing will be covered. The special member's fee for Sunday only will be £15, £30 per day for non-members.



*August 26th, Human Skeletal Remains*

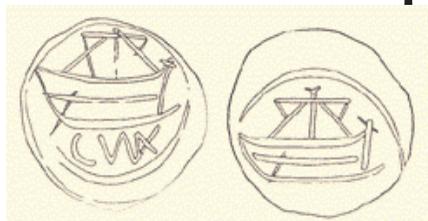
Osteo-archaeology is the study of human remains. The course will be led by Trevor Anderson, consultant to Canterbury Archaeological Trust, who has recently appeared on 'Meet the Ancestors'. The course will cover the on-site recording of human remains as well as the methods used in the examination and analysis of human bones. In the afternoon we will have a practical 'hands-on' session and excavated skeletons will be available for study and analysis. £30 for the day.

*September 9th, What is Archaeology?*

We shall look at the ways in which archaeological sites are discovered and excavated and how the different sorts of finds are studied to reveal the lives of former inhabitants. During the afternoon session we will visit Neolithic, Iron-Age and Roman sites to see the sort of finds which led to their discovery. This course will be especially useful for those considering studying archaeology or pursuing a career in archaeology. The course will be led by Dr Paul Wilkinson. £30 for the day.



# Membership Form



'Practical Archaeology' is published four times a year for members of the Kent Archaeological Field School Club only. The annual subscription for a single person is £15. Membership for two adults is £25, and family membership (two adults and two children under 16 years old) is £30.

Membership will also entitle you to enjoy priority booking with 10% discount on courses at the Kent Archaeological Field School, except where special prices apply, and special 'members only' field days and trips. Major excavations this year include:-

## Excavation of a Roman Bath-house

*June 30th to July 20th 2001.*

There will be three seven-day sessions spent in the field excavating a bath-house attached to a high status Roman villa complex. Usual price £30, member's special fee £22.50 per day.

## Excavation of a Roman Town-House

*August 11th to 26th 2001.*

Recent finds of stone buildings alongside Watling Street near Syndale are possibly part of the lost Roman town of Durolevum. The area will be excavated and finds recorded over sixteen days. Usual price £30, member's special fee £22.50 per day.

To book, write down the number of days, the dates, enclose a cheque and return to:—  
Kent Archaeological Field School, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP  
Telephone: 01795 532548 or 07885 700 112 (mobile). Website: [www.kafs.co.uk](http://www.kafs.co.uk)

I wish to book the following dates.....  
and enclose a cheque for.....(made out to: Kent Archaeological Field School)

To become a member fill in the form below and return to the address above:-

BANKERS ORDER (FOR MEMBERSHIP)  
(Please return to us and NOT to your bank)

To..... (Name of your bank)

.....

.....

.....(Your Branch address)

Please pay to the Midland Bank, 281 Chiswick High Road, W4 (40-02-13) for the account of 'Practical Archaeology' (A/c No. 61241001) the sum of £..... on the date on receipt of this form and thereafter the same amount annually on the same date until further notice.

Your Name.....Type of membership.....

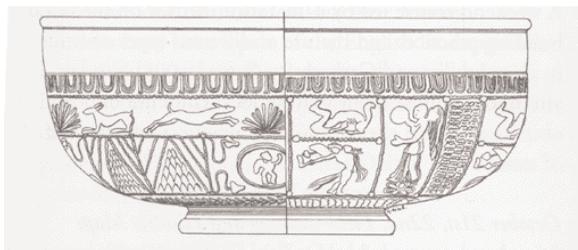
Your Address.....

Postcode.....Your Account number.....

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Signature.....Date.....

# THE KENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL



Saturday and Sunday Day Schools for the public held at Faversham in Kent

Dear

Thank you for booking the following courses at the Field School.....

.....  
.....

Courses start at 10.00 am and finish about 4.30 pm, tea and coffee are provided but please bring a packed lunch, notebook, stout shoes and warm, waterproof clothing. Please note all clients participate in courses at their own risk. If travelling to the Field School by car, turn off the M2 at Junction 7, the second turning on the roundabout is signposted Homestall and Graveney. Continue down this road to you meet Graveney Road, turn left and the Field School is in a converted oast on the right. Parking is at the front and back of the oast.

We look forward to meeting you, and thank you for booking with us.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Paul Wilkinson  
Director

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