

NOTES.

THE OLD FARM HOUSE AT NORTHAM.

The history of the "Old Farm House" is the later history of Northam, a grange of St. Denys. Curiously enough the later history is at present more obscure than the earlier. I hope to be able to do better justice to it when the cartulary of St. Denys Priory again becomes accessible. The extent of the farm lands is well defined for the most part. Beginning at the S.E. corner on the Itchen at Belvidere wharf, the S. boundary was marked by a hedge which ran along a line crossing Northam Road just N.E. of Northam Station railway bridge (at the S. end of Radcliffe Street). Then it crossed Derby Road, running for a few yards N. along it, and then midway between Oxford Avenue and Argyle Road to the N.E. corner of the fire station. There it turned N. and ran roughly parallel with St. Mary's Road through the hospital and St. Luke's Church at the corner of Cranbury Avenue and Onslow Road. From here it must have gone N.E. to the estuary. It is fairly certain this represents the extent of the original grange, for on the south the farm land was bounded by the glebe of St. Mary's Church, of which more anon, and on the S.W. and W. by a piece of land called Bucklands, which was given to Godshouse not long after its foundation and has remained in its possession and in that of Queen's College down to the present day.¹

Domesday records that a virgate in "Northam" was held of the king by Anschitil, the son of Osmund; it formerly belonged to Ezi, and was worth 15 shillings. It was, however, in Redbridge Hundred; the identification is left blank in the *Victoria County History* and my only reason for suggesting that it may refer to this Northam is that I do not know of any other place of this name to which it could apply.

However this may be, Davies states that in 1151 William, son of Audoenus, gave St. Denys his patrimony of Northam, and this grant was confirmed by several kings and bishops at intervals down to 1465. What happened to it at the dissolution I don't know, and the county histories are all silent. We may be pretty sure that, being so easily accessible from the sea, the original grange² was built of stone transported by water; of this building nothing survives unless it be the stones in the lower part of the walls of the "Old Farm House." That it stood on approximately the same site is proved by the map of c. 1560 which shows it here; the drawing of it given is, however, a more or less conventional pile of buildings. This building which you now see is, therefore, the second farm house of Northam. It was built, as the date in white bricks on the S. wall states, in 1611³ by E.R., but who E.R. was is not known. There is no one in the records of Southampton about this time with such initials. They cannot be those of Queen Elizabeth, for she had then been dead for eight years and in any case would never have put her initials on a farm house. A good deal of alteration has taken place; the window openings and chimneys are modern; the original chimneys were of the spiral type and are thus described by John Duthy⁴: "They somewhat resembled large punch-bowls placed on pillars; . . . the twisted angular and spiral arrangements of the dark bricks . . . gave them a picturesque look which is not possessed by their modern successors."

1. The district-name "Queensland" (of modern origin) still appears on the 6-inch Ordnance Map here.

2. Strictly speaking the word "grange" means a storehouse for grain, a barn; but where there are barns, there also are farms to guard the contents, and the word came to mean also a farm.

3. The last two figures are curiously crooked, but can hardly be intended for anything but the figure '1.'

4. *Sketches of Hampshire*, 1839, 407.

Some time before—probably not very long before—1834 a new farm with the usual out-buildings was constructed on the opposite side of the road. Most of this has now been pulled down, but there still remains part of a long barn, though the land-mine which fell in Derby Road close by in 1941 blew the roof off. (The same explosion blew most of the tiles off the roof of the "Old Farm House"; they were collected and piled in a heap in front of the house and may be seen there in some photographs which I took soon afterwards.)

The "Old Farm House," which had so narrow an escape then, has outlived its younger successor, though it is now no longer a farm house. Once it stood right on the banks of the estuary, and was approached by a track with poplars growing beside it. There are at least two illustrations of it; one of them⁵ shows the railway (opened in 1839) with a very primitive engine and train. Neither of the pictures is large enough to show much detail, but they do reveal the changes that have taken place in the environment, of which the less said the better.

Inside the chief feature is the fine chimney-piece in one of the front rooms. I am not competent to give a technical description of it, but I have taken some not too successful photographs of it—it is a very difficult subject, being in a dark part of the room and painted a dark brown colour. A drawing should be made of it by a competent architectural draughtsman, and I would commend this suggestion to those qualified to do so.

O. G. S. CRAWFORD.

5. Reproduced in *Antiquity*, Vol. XVI, 1942, Pl. opp. p. 48.

THE ROMAN SITE OF BITTERNE.

The site of Bitterne Manor, in the loop of the Itchen, has long been a puzzle to archaeologists. There, and in the neighbourhood, have been found wells, inscriptions, milestones, pottery, coins. But, while there is no suggestion of an ordinary private house, there is nothing to say what it actually was. Archaeologists seem inclined to agree that Bitterne represents the ancient Clausentum. Working on that assumption, I wish to examine one piece of evidence that may really advance our knowledge. Haverfield mentions—only to reject out of hand—the suggestion that Clausentum was the mint of the C coins of Carausius. That brusque decided judgement of our great British archaeologist often hit the mark. Occasionally it missed, and this is one of the misses. I will state the facts of the coinage, which speak for themselves.

The C Mint strikes for Carausius and Allectus in much less volume than London, but yet with some profusion. It certainly signs CL occasionally, very rarely CC, instead of C. Stukeley also quoted CLA, but the reading has not been verified. The mint, then, could sign CL as well as C. This fact excludes Corinium (Cirencester), one possible suggestion. Does it also exclude Camulodunum (Colchester)? That depends on whether you regard CL as a possible abbreviation, rather than CA or CD, if more than one letter is to be used. As for CC, "Colonia Camulodensis," of course, leaps to the mind, but it would be hard to find any real precedent for such a signature. The CC remains a mystery; if it refers to Clausentum some reference to "classis" (fleet) or a derivation might be considered. But the argument can be carried a little further. C is found to share with RSR (Rutupiae, Richborough), but not with London, certain themes which suggest special interest in the armed forces and the sea. Like Rutupiae, then, C should be a port and a military station. The evidence of hoards, which can sometimes be decisive, fails us here. If it is true that a pot of coins of Allectus was found at Bitterne, the fact is of some importance; but we still need to know what the mint-marks were. In looking over Webb's lists of coins and noting provinces quoted for some of the less common pieces, Hampshire provinces, we find, are more numerous for C coins than for L. I consider the evidence just strong enough to allow a definite attribution of C coins to Clausentum.

This mysterious site, then, was a naval station, enjoying a quite unusual importance and the quite unusual privilege of a mint, first because the circumstances of the time gave peculiar importance to the fleet, based in port on the Solent and the Isle of Wight. Archaeologists may possibly be able to advance further, with this clue to help them. It would be satisfactory if the mysterious *DEA ANCASTA*, to whom a stone at Bitterne is dedicated, turned out to be a goddess of the barbarians, Saxons and others, who followed the flag of Carausius.

1. Cf. *Victoria County History—Hampshire*, pp. 330 ff. (Harnfall): Woodward and Wilkes, *History of Hampshire*, II, p. 144 ff.

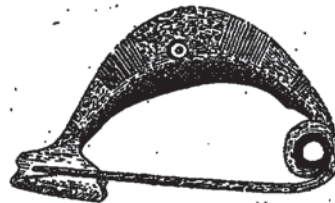
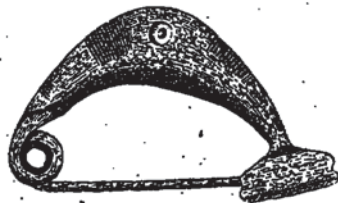
2. The evidence is in Webb, *Coinage of Carausius*, London, 1907, and later in Vol. V, 2 of Mattingley and Sydenham, *Roman Imperial Coinage*.

3. The type *EXPECTATE VENI*, Britannia welcoming Carausius, is found at C and RSR, not at L. *ABVNDANTIA AVG* at C is balanced by *VBERTAS AVG* at RSR; neither occurs at L. The evidence of the coins is to be studied in greater detail in an article to appear later in *Antiquity*.

HAROLD MATTINGLEY.

AN ITALIAN BROOCH FROM BITTERNE?

Italian brooches of the Early Iron Age found in this country have still no definite place in British prehistory. While assignable on the Continent to the Hallstatt period, such brooches have never been found in Britain associated with anything datable that admits of interpretation in terms of British archaeology. The list, however, has been steadily growing and the discovery of any new example, however uncertain its provenance, should be recorded.



BITTERNE · HANTS.

HALLSTATT BROOCH

0 ————— 1
Scale of Inches

D.M.W. 1941

The present example has an unusual history. It was recently purchased from a curio shop at Bitterne, Southampton, and so far as it has been possible to ascertain, it was originally in the possession of Caleb Reed, bailiff to the Bitterne Manor estate at some time around the period 1853-80. This estate, although now much curtailed, originally extended over the area covered by the Roman settlement of Clausentum, and it appears possible that the brooch was originally discovered on the site.

The brooch is of the type called "leech-shaped," of bronze in excellent preservation, and of a dark green patina, save on the underside of the bow, where it is lighter. The bow is solid and highly arched, with three incised ring-and-dot motifs spaced laterally across the widest part, and two bands of linear incisions, one broad and one narrow, on either side. The spring, as usual with this class of brooch, has coils on one side of the head only, making a double turn before extending into the pin. The catch plate shows signs of fracture at both ends, indicating the probability of the usual elongated tail.

Perhaps the best known specimen of the type from Britain is the large and more imposing brooch found at Box, Wilts, of the 7th or 6th century B.C. (See B.M. Guide E.I.A., fig. 92.) A reasonable date in round figures for our brooch would be c. 600 B.C.; its date will then fall within the period of Late Bronze—Early Iron Age immigrations into S. Britain from the Continent. But there is yet no proof that such brooches from Italy reached our shores in that period. It is possible that some may have reached this country during the Roman occupation; that brooches of a like antiquity were occasionally still treasured in Italy under the Empire is suggested by the presence of some in the Esquiline Treasure from Rome in the British Museum, and certainly quite a number of these found in Britain have come from Roman sites, of which Bitterne is, of course, one. There is also the possibility of introduction in modern times by collectors or dealers, and seaport towns, Southampton as well as London, are especially suspicious in this connection. However, the arrival of occasional specimens in prehistoric times remains none the less a very reasonable supposition.

The brooch remains for the present in the possession of its purchaser, Mrs. Williams, of Pear Tree, Bitterne, through whose kindness the drawings and these notes were made. Thanks, too, are due to Mr. C. F. C. Hawkes for his assistance in preparing this brief note.

D. M. WATERMAN.

RECENT DISCOVERIES AT WARSASH.

At Fleet End, near Warsash, at the mouth of the River Hamble, some large gravel-pits have been excavated during the last twenty years. Since 1931 Mr. C. J. Mogridge, Warden of the Winchester Museum, has discovered in these pits a number of Bronze Age urns. There is sufficient evidence to show that the site was used for about 1000 years during the Bronze Age, and fresh discoveries show that the Iron Age A folk used the same site. Roman pottery has also been found in the district. The site was bounded on two sides by rivers of considerable size (they are now but small streams), but though these rivers would have supplied fish and water, it is not possible to state definitely that the Bronze Age folk actually inhabited the site.

The village of Fleet End is situated in the middle of the site. To the north is an unnamed and disused pit. To the west are two pits—Button's and the New Pit. Due south of the village is Dyke's Pit and to the south-east is Newbury's Pit. No structural evidence is apparent, save in Newbury's Pit, where a V-shaped ditch suggests the presence of an Iron Age habitation site. This is paralleled with one now found in a disused pit. The latter on excavation yielded Iron Age sherds. A founder's hoard of bronze scrap metal was found in the pit north of the village, but has since been lost. Nothing is known of its precise nature. No other metal objects have been reported.

The ceramic series of the district runs from about 1400 B.C. down to perhaps 200 A.D. The pottery under consideration dates down to about 400 B.C.

All the urns were found in shallow pits dug about a foot into the gravel. They were either inverted or on their bases. The majority had been smashed to pieces. The pits will now be dealt with individually.

Button's Pit (now out of use) has yielded one urn. Only fragments of the upper half remain, but sufficient is present to show the urn to have been tripartite. There is a slight internal bevel at the rim, which is decorated with three rows of cord decoration. The top part of the urn (about 4 in. deep) has been decorated by cord ornament in which hatched chevrons have been unsuccessfully attempted. Below is plain, but for a cordon half way down the side on which are slashes, made possibly by a stick. This is of special interest since it shows that a native potter has been influenced by seeing Deverel—Rimbury pottery. The urn dates from very early in the Late Bronze Age but in the Middle Bronze Age ceramic tradition.

The **New Pit** provided two Deverel—Rimbury urns and an accessory vessel. The latter, apparently of Late Bronze Age date, was recovered in perfect condition. It is 3½ in. high, bipartite, and 5 in. across at the widest part. The ware is hard, dark and gritless. The pot has been well fired. It is undecorated; a cordon is present 1½ in. from the rim, which is square and has a slight lip. At the base is a foot-ring. The first urn was extremely fragmentary. The cremation it held retained its shape. The bones had been covered by an inch-thick layer of pebbles. With the relics was found a ball of baked clay (1½ in. in diameter). One can only query its significance. It would be unwise even to suggest a phallic origin. The other urn was huge. Discovered some 2 ft. below the surface, its rim was completely absent. The paste is very gritty but well-baked. A well-defined foot-ring is present. Ten and a half inches from the base is a square band of clay decorated with long slashes. Inside the urn was a stratum of charcoal and burnt clay. No bones could be found, but there was a handsome flint flake inside.

In **Dyke's Pit** was discovered a Deverel—Rimbury barrel-shaped urn. Only the upper half was present. It was probably inverted. The paste is gritty and well-baked. The sides are covered with marks of the potter's thumb. The rim is flat and thick. Below is a slight depression made by the thumb. Three feet below the rim are a series of lugs. There were possibly about ten originally. Somewhere half-way down the urn was a band of finger nail marks.

Seven urns have been discovered so far in **Newbury's Pit**. These include a beaker, four Deverel—Rimbury urns, and two Early Iron Age vessels. The beaker is degenerate and undecorated. It is of Type B, 5 in. high, of pink paste and has a foot-ring. A cordon is discernible. It was found in perfect condition. Nothing was found with it. Two of the Late Bronze Age urns were made of gritty, badly-fired paste. One contained a cremation and was found with another similar urn of better workmanship and with traces of decoration (raised cordon and punches). The fourth was of coarse, dark gritty ware. It had been cracked, and mended by riveting. The rivet holes were present. On a cordon were four lugs (one remains). Below the rim were thumb marks made above diagonal scorings. Fragments of two very early Iron Age vessels were found together. One was of smooth, black, gritty paste and decorated by long slashes on a cordon. The other, of red gritty paste, was decorated by small slashes on an everted rim and long slashes on a cordon. It is of much harder ware than the first.

In this quiet little Hampshire village we have found a site that has had a long and continued history. The beaker offers the most important information. Alone it is of slender evidence. But nearby a jadeite axe of the same culture was discovered. So there seems reason to start a suggestion that the B Beaker folk immigrated from the Continent up the Hamble. So as more gravel is removed from the pits it is hoped that more discoveries will add fresh light to the situation. All the pottery is on view in the Museum. I am indebted to Mr. Mogridge for putting the pottery at my disposal, and also for the invaluable help and encouragement he gave me throughout my researches.

A. PARKES.

FINDS AT ST. MARY BOURNE, NR. ANDOVER.

R. E. G. Howe and M. D. Nightingale of Morshead's, Winchester, made a surface search of the site of a reputed Roman villa at Dirty Corner, New Barn Farm, St. Mary Bourne, on October 18th, 1944. Fragments of R.B. pottery—chiefly New Forest ware—together with the usual roof-tiles, were found in abundance over a large area around the site, but no traces of foundations could be seen anywhere; dating evidence was provided by a coin of Constantius II, c. 361, which was found on the site.

ST. BARBE FAMILY.

Mrs. Suckling, in her article on Broadlands, Romsey (vol. 5, page 342), mentions that it does not appear to be known what became of Frances, the daughter of William Fleming (buried 1606 Romsey), who married Edward St. Barbe (buried Ashington, Somerset, 1592). Is she perhaps the Frances St. Barbe who married, 1595, at Romsey, Robert Shelly, gent., and if so, who was he? John Shelley, of Patcham, Sussex (will proved 1587 P.C.C.), had a son, Robert, and Robert Shelley married Elizabeth Hilton, 1572, at St. Dunstan-in-the-West, London. Were these the one and the same Robert Shelley?

W. H. CHALLEN.

DENE HOLE AT FOUR MARKS.

In March, 1945, a report of the discovery of a probable Dene hole in the Four Marks direction came to the Hon. Curators of the Museum through the Secretary of the Hampshire Field Club from Mr. S. Leather of Hawthorne Lane. One of the curators at once got in touch with Mr. Leather, who, in due course, showed him the spot, which proved to be about 500 yards E.N.E. of Headmoor Farm. It is marked on the 6in. O. Map of 1911 as a pit bounded by a footpath on its south side, in the northern corner of the field.

Among a small group of hawthorns there appeared two openings in the ground, one of irregular shape and some seven or eight feet deep in which were growing more thorns, the other showed a very regular circular opening about 9 feet in diameter clear of undergrowth. The former shows at its present lowest surface level a slight more or less circular depression of a few feet in diameter filled with wood debris and leaves and yielding a little to pressure, which suggests the possibility of a shaft or hole. It would require some excavation before anything could be determined. Closer inspection of the latter showed the usual capping of reddish clay with quantities of flints sloping down for a varying depth of 9 to 12 feet, at which level chalk appeared in the shape of a carefully-cut circular shaft $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in diameter.

Arrangements were made to descend and examine the pit, as such it evidently was, a few days later and this was done thanks to the good offices of Mr. Leather, his son and a friend, who brought ropes, pulleys and other necessary gear. Mr. Leather, junior, was the first to go down, taking various measurements with tape and lantern. Considerable difficulty was found in bringing him up to the surface again and, therefore, when the curator's turn came it was decided to make use of a tractor engaged in harrowing and passing near the pit at intervals. For the purpose of letting down and hauling up this answered admirably.

Owing to the large cone of debris, probably some 7 or 8 feet high immediately below the shaft, it was not easy to measure the total depth because at no point did the true floor seem to show, but from the ground surface to part of the way down the cone the tape showed 41 feet, which suggests a total depth of

some 45 feet or a little more. The width of the shaft proper has been mentioned as $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet for some 9 or 10 feet of its length, after which it gradually increased in width to 4 or 5 feet for a distance of some 3 feet or so before opening into a dome-shaped circular chamber approximately 18 feet high and 20 feet in diameter. On the chalk walls appeared marks of picks about $\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide and 3 to 4 inches long, together with numbers of thin, fairly regularly-spaced, upright lines looking almost as if made with some implement like a very fine comb. Serving no obvious purpose and being so diminutive (only one to three inches long) and so frequent in occurrence, they would have suggested some mere natural effect had not Mr. Curwen, in his *Prehistoric Sussex*, described something of an apparently similar kind in Dene holes examined by him and which he took to be artificial.

There are no side galleries or tunnels leading out of the chamber. In this connection it is to be noted that, although flints appeared in the walls, it cannot be said that they were very numerous, and from these facts two conclusions may be suggested, *viz.* :—(1) That if this was a flint mine there may not have been any sufficiently strongly-marked seams of flints to make it worth while breaking out into subsidiary galleries, and (2) that it was probably used as a chalk quarry and that the excavation of the chamber itself provided enough of the material required.

W. H. CURTIS.

S. A. WARNER.

Hon. Curators of the Curtis Museum, Alton.