



# DEAL CASTLE

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC BUILDING AND WORKS  
ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS

# Deal Castle

KENT

*by the late*

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*With a guide to the contents of the Museum*

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LONDON

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1966



## Historical Introduction

For some years before 1538 the politics of Western Europe had been dominated by the mutual jealousy of the Emperor Charles V and Francis I, King of France. The diplomacy of Henry VIII, King of England, had often tended to increase the tension between them, since it was clearly in England's interest to divide her potential enemies. The Pope, on the other hand, sought to reconcile them, and in June, 1538, he succeeded so far as to negotiate a truce for ten years between the rivals.

The time was therefore ripe for the Pope's long-cherished scheme, a combined descent upon England, in order to re-establish his authority, which had been overthrown at the Reformation. He preached a crusade, comparing Henry with the Turk, and no doubt confidently expected that many of Henry's subjects would welcome their deliverance once an expedition set foot upon England.

Henry's reply was, first of all, to remove the last possible rivals to his throne, and secondly to equip the coasts opposite the Continent with the best available defences. His subjects ably assisted him in his preparations, just as they condoned the ruthless destruction of his potential supplanters. Fortifications were constructed to counter any attempted landings, and new castles or block-houses were erected at many strategic points. Lambarde, the Elizabethan writer on Kent, puts it as follows: "Onely of this I hold me well assured, that King Henrie the Eighte, having shaken off the intolerable yoke of the Popish tyrannie, and espying that the Emperour was offended for the divorce of Queen Katherine his wife, and that the French King had coupled the Dolphine his sonne to the Pope's niece, and married his daughter to the King of Scots, so that he might more justly suspect them all, than safely trust any one, determined (by the aide of God) to stand upon his owne gardes and defence: and therefore with all speede, and without sparing any cost, he builded Castles, platfourmes, and blockhouses, in all needful places of the Realme. And amongst other, fearing least the ease and advauntage of descending on lande at this part, should give occasion and hardinesse to the enemies to invade him, he erected (neare together) three fortifications, which might at all times keepe and beate the landing place that is to say, Sandowne, Deale, and Walmere."

### *Coastal Defence*

This work of coastal defence, begun in 1539 in face of the "pretensed invasion", as it is described in a document of 1540, was the most

extensive work of coastal defence undertaken in England since the latter years of the Roman Empire. Almost for the first time the State directly concerned itself with the matter, since formerly defences had been erected by subjects, either nobles or Corporations, assisted by a grant of money. Just as Sir Edward Dalyngrigge in 1386 received a licence to build and fortify Bodiam Castle in Sussex directly with a view to defending the coast, so had the Corporation of Dartmouth, Devon, in 1481 received a grant in aid of the work at their castle. Henry VIII, however, true to the principles of his monarchy, did the work directly. He was enabled to do so by a wealth of material and some money gained from the suppression of the monasteries; and much of the re-used monastic Caen stone may be seen in Deal Castle. It may be distinguished from ragstone by its smoothness and pale colour.

Since danger now threatened not only from Western France, which for the previous half-century had caused the gradual strengthening of the defences of the south-west of England, and from Scotland, but also from the Emperor's dominions in the Low Countries (now Belgium and Holland), some precautions were needed along the east and south-east coasts. From Hull to Milford Haven new castles and forts came into existence, whilst others were erected along the frontier with Scotland and in the Isle of Man. Five were built on the Thames at Tilbury and Gravesend, but none of these now remains; three were at Dover, of which one, Moates Bulwark, below the castle, is still almost complete. Others were on Southampton Water and the Isle of Wight and near Falmouth, where Pendennis and St. Mawes Castles are particularly fine examples. But the biggest and most important of the series were the "Three Castles which keep the Downs", a term used then, as now, for the roadstead within the Goodwin Sands. These three castles, as stated by Lambarde, were—from north to south—Sandown, Deal and Walmer Castles. Sandown Castle has been so battered by the sea, that little of it remains. Deal Castle, the largest of all this series, and Walmer Castle are intact, and show many of their original features. Both were later altered, in order to make them into residences rather than fortresses, but at Deal destruction by enemy action has led to the removal of all trace of the later residential quarters.

### *Building of the Castle*

Deal Castle, like Walmer and Sandown Castles, was probably complete by 1540. They were placed under the control of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, and their first garrisons are recorded. At Deal Thos. Wynkfelde of Sandwich was Captain with 34 others.

The number of guns supplied is not stated, but of their appearance

there is no doubt. The earliest known picture of a gun is English and was drawn in 1326. Guns were used at the Battle of Crécy (1346) and were common by 1380, when for the first time they influenced the design of fortifications, but for at least a century afterwards development in their manufacture was slow except for an increase in size. By the time of the erection of Walmer Castle, however, great improvements had been made. There were standard sizes and except that they were of brass rather than iron the guns differed little in appearance from those still at Walmer Castle, which are of the time of the Napoleonic Wars, as is shown by the Royal cipher upon them. Specimens of the guns of the time of Henry VIII may be seen at the Tower of London, at Southampton and at Carisbrooke Castle, Isle of Wight.

Although the largest of its class, Deal Castle was small. It was purely a fortress. With at least 145 embrasures for firearms, with thick walls and with all exposed surfaces rounded to deflect shot, it was immensely strong. There seem to be no true parallels for isolated castles of this type elsewhere in Europe, although analogies for the different parts are common in Germany and may be found in a writing of Albrecht Durer (1527). It now seems certain that the castles erected in the south-east owed their design to an engineer named Stephan von Haschenperg, a Bohemian by birth, who had a short career in English service. The designs, although revolutionary in England at this time, were out of the main stream of military engineering, which in Italy was developing the pointed, angled bastion, the characteristic feature in fortifications for the next two centuries. The effectiveness of Henry's castles, however, was never tested. The invasion did not take place. Within twenty years the new Italian style of defence had been generally adopted and can be seen today in the Elizabethan fortifications of Berwick-on-Tweed.

### *Later History*

At the time of the Spanish Armada, in 1588, the castle was well prepared, but again it was not tested, because on account of the exploits of English sailors no Spaniard set foot upon the coast. By 1595 repairs had become necessary, and were considered but not undertaken. In 1615 the castle was stated to be in a dangerous state of decay; the sea-wall was eaten away and the lantern was decayed. A survey of dilapidations, made in the following year, gives details of £396 4s. *od.* worth of repairs which needed to be done. A recent storm had carried away the beach and part of the outer wall of the castle, according to a letter from William Byng, the Captain of the Castle, to Lord Zouch, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. Of the

total estimate £240 was to be spent on a jetty into the sea to check the fury of the waves.

Nothing seems to have been done; for ten years later there were very similar complaints and petitions because of the encroachment of the sea into the moat. By April, 1627, 500 loads of beach were in the moat more than there had been at the beginning of the winter. Still no repairs were undertaken. In 1634, however, Lt. Colonel Paperill, His Majesty's engineer for fortifications, was ordered to survey the castles. His estimate of repairs needed to Deal Castle came to £1,243 16s. *od.* It seems likely that now at last some work was done, although the details are unknown.

At the outbreak of the Great Civil War in 1642, the castle, along with those of Walmer and Sandown, quickly fell into the hands of the Parliamentarians. But it was not until 1648 that there was any fighting in the locality. In the spring of that year there occurred what is known as the Insurrection in Kent. There was considerable dissatisfaction in the county with the rule of Parliament, and it is said that as many as 10,000 men took up arms on behalf of the King. The main body advanced upon London and reached Greenwich Park, but, failing to receive the help expected from other quarters, dissolved almost as quickly as it had assembled, some of the troops crossing to Essex, where they remained until the surrender of Colchester later in the year.

Meanwhile in East Kent the naval vessels in the Downs had declared for the King, Deal, Walmer and Sandown Castles had been surrendered, and Dover Castle was being besieged by the Royalists. After the dispersal of the Kentish troops from Greenwich, however, a Parliamentarian army appeared in Kent. It quickly raised the siege of Dover Castle and soon brought about the surrender of those who had been its besiegers. The three castles were then in turn besieged by the Parliamentarians. The Royalists attempted relief of all of them by sea. At Deal and Sandown they were successful, but at Walmer after an indecisive engagement they were beaten off, and between July 8th and 15th the castle surrendered.

Deal and Sandown Castles were thereupon again besieged by the Parliamentarians. A sally by the garrison of the former and consequent fight is well described in a contemporary account: "That very morning also the enemy sallied out to Deal Castle and intended to surprise our forlorn guard, which was between three and four hundreds yards of the Castle; but they were soon discovered, and by a Reserve guard (whom Captain Gayl of Coleman-street [London] commanded) they were gallantly repulsed, and driven back to the very gates of the Castle, and this with the losse of three of our men

and some few wounded: As for the losse on the Enemies' part, it is not certain, yet some of our Souldiers observed about eight or nine of them to be carried off on pick-pack."

A month later a strong force was landed from the Royalist fleet in an attempt to break up the siege. It failed with heavy loss. Colonel Nathaniel Rich, the Parliamentary Commander, wrote to the Speaker from Deal on August 14th, 1648, reporting a great victory against 800 Royalists. They lost 80 killed, 100 taken prisoner, including Major-General Gibson and all the other commanders, and 300 arms. Parliament's forces lost no officers and only seven others. It is not surprising, therefore, that on August 25th, in another letter to the Speaker, Colonel Rich could report the capture of Deal Castle. The garrison still had plenty of provisions; but they can have had little hope of relief. Colonel Rich estimated that £500 would be needed to repair the damage done to the castle, and there is a record of the despatch of powder and shot to all three castles in the following year. They were certainly maintained for use during the Dutch wars of the Commonwealth.

After the Restoration of Charles II in 1660 Deal Castle continued to be used as one of the fortifications of the realm, the garrison consisting of a Captain, a Lieutenant, a porter and eighteen soldiers or gunners. This was a reduction in numbers of only one compared with the garrison at the time of the Commonwealth, but the wages of all were lowered to the level obtaining in the reign of James I, and the total cost was reduced to £197 14s. 2d. from £311 15s. 5d. In 1667 the castle was made ready for war at the time when the Dutch were in the Thames.

There was some excitement at Deal at the time of the Revolution of 1688. William of Orange had landed at Torbay and James II was fleeing the country, but there was a belief in Kent that the latter's cause was about to receive support from France. Twenty small vessels appeared in the Downs, and refused to allow a party from Deal to approach them closely. Rumour suggested that they had on board some of the Irish soldiers, whom James had raised much to his English subjects' dislike, and that they would attempt a landing. The inhabitants of Deal were expected to take possession of Deal Castle in the cause of William of Orange; they certainly armed themselves as best they could to repel the invasion. But James's cause did not prosper, and the invasion did not take place.

During the eighteenth century, when the title of Captain of Deal Castle came to be of honorary rather than effective significance, it was seen that the accommodation provided in the sixteenth-century fortress was scarcely commensurate with the dignity of the office.

Various alterations were then made; some of them are said to have been done to the order of Lord Carrington, who was appointed Captain by William Pitt, when Lord Warden, late in the century, but some were certainly of earlier date. During the last war a well-aimed bomb fell upon the principal addition to the fabric, namely a large projection on the seaward side, and demolished nearly the whole of it. As so little remained, it was resolved to remove the ruins and to restore this side of the castle more closely to its original condition than would otherwise have been possible.



Plate I. Bird's eye view from N.

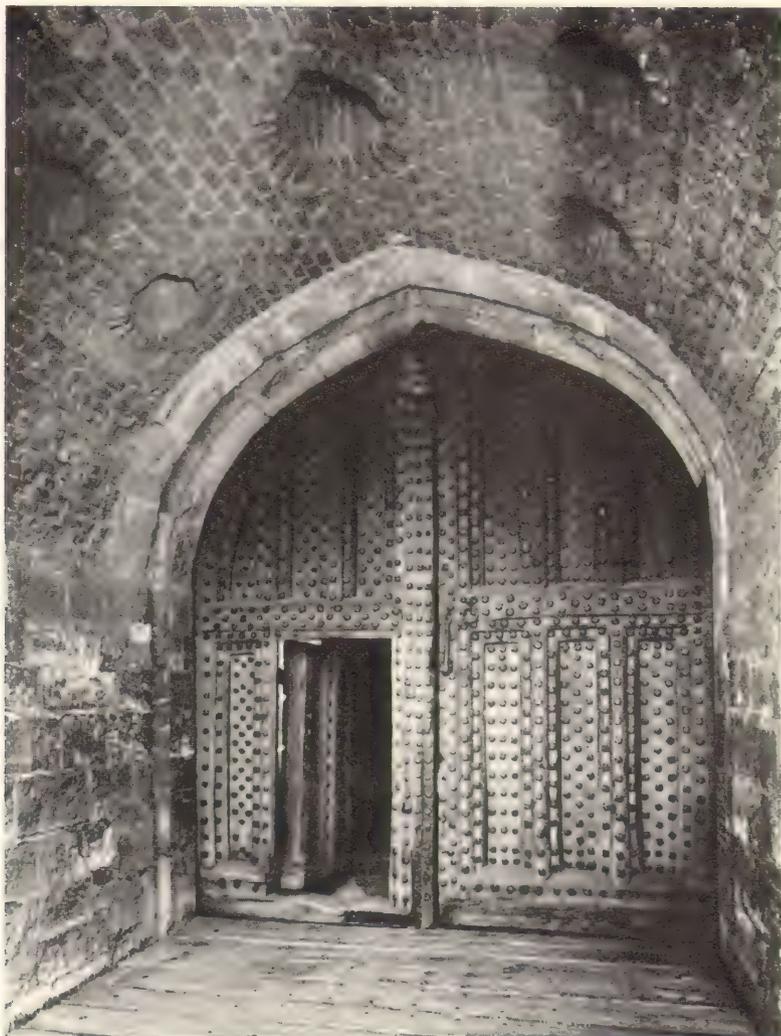


Plate II. *Main door showing murder holes*

## Description

A visitor who has walked round the outside of the moat will have noticed that the buildings comprise a central block or keep and an outer curtain or rampart. The keep is circular and is crowned by a lantern, which is not of sixteenth-century date, but which is on the site of an earlier lantern. From the circumference of the keep there project six semi-circular bastions or lunettes, which rise only to the first-floor level of the keep. Their battlements, like those of the latter, date from 1732, when much alteration was done in the castle. Originally both had broad, rounded parapets, such as may still be seen on the outer curtain for a short stretch on the northern side. The remainder of the parapet of this curtain had also been altered already by 1735. The outer curtain likewise has six bastions or lunettes, of which one is the gatehouse.

The outer curtain, as in all of Henry VIII's castles of c. 1540, is very close to the keep, with the result that the space between the two, although used as a passage, resembles an inner moat at a high level. It is, therefore, not surprising to find that it was throughout commanded by gunports or embrasures for muskets in the ground floor of the bastions, just as the moat proper is commanded by dozens of gunports in the bottom of the outer curtain and its bastions.

There were also embrasures for guns in the parapet of the keep, in the parapets of its six bastions, and in the parapets of the six bastions of the outer curtain. In all, this makes five tiers of gunports or embrasures, and it would be difficult to find a potentially more strongly defended citadel in any age. There were at least 145 openings for use with firearms, but this does not mean that there was a gun for every embrasure.

### *The Entrance*

The castle is approached only from the west, off Victoria Road, whilst to the west of this road there extends an open space or garden, which has always been attached to the castle as the Governor's or Captain's garden. The moat is broad and deep with a nearly vertical outer revetment. The approach is along an abutment across the moat and then over a short modern bridge which is on the site of a drawbridge. The exact method of working the drawbridge is uncertain, but the two circular holes above the gate seem to have been connected with it. Some pulleys fixed to the roof of the entrance passage probably formed part of the mechanism of a later drawbridge, put in place during the the Napoleonic Wars.

Nothing is now discernible on the narrow plaque above the entrance, but a portcullis groove will be noticed and also five vertical holes in the roof of the passage way. These were to enable defenders to assail any who were trying to force the door, either by means of long weapons or with quicklime or missiles, but not with molten lead, which is difficult to manipulate and has always been most expensive. The iron-studded oak door is an extremely fine example of its kind and is original.

The entrance hall is lofty and occupies two-thirds of one of the bastions of the outer curtain. Some of the roof timbers have been renewed, but most are original. Here may be seen much Caen stone, as well as ragstone and brick in the walling, the first-named having come from a suppressed monastery. One piece of carved detail is in the north wall of the entrance hall and another in the south wall. Beyond this wall was a guard chamber; its doorway and window with original shutters to the entrance hall may be seen. Below its floor is a small cell entered by means of a trap door. Now converted into a window lighting the room is a large gunport, covering the southern approaches to the castle. Another such gunport, now partly blocked, is in the north wall of the entrance hall.

The inner doorway of the entrance hall had a door which opened outwards, *i.e.* towards the keep. The reason for this apparent absurdity is to prevent any enemy who had gained entrance from turning it into an independent stronghold, which he could do, if he were able to shut and bar both its doors. A door hung in the present fashion could not be secured by those inside, who thereby came to be at the mercy of those defending the keep. For the same reason the bastions of the outer curtain at this level had no parapet across their gorges. Probably they were all originally open, as is still the one next north of the gatehouse, so that they could be commanded from the keep.

### *The Keep*

The entrance into the keep was and is attained by turning to the right after emerging from the entrance hall and proceeding one-third of the way round the keep. There are now many windows in the ground-floor masonry, on the left as one proceeds, but the present form of most of these is due to eighteenth- or nineteenth-century alterations. Those actually at the level of the ground were made as single-light windows to the basement, and had heavy iron bars built into the masonry, as some still show, but those at eye-level were originally all for defence with handguns. Those which have four-centred stone heads and small, square openings at the gorge with heavy vertical bars are original and for handguns.

The doorway into the keep is eccentrically placed in one of the bastions. It has a simple rebate for a wide door, but there is no portcullis or other elaboration for defence. This bastion forms an inner entrance hall and has a fine ribbed-vaulted ceiling. Within it is a circular shaft which contains a spiral stair to the basement, accessible from round the corner, and in its outer wall there are four openings all for defence. The two in the middle are intact, with vaulted heads, square openings, barred with iron, and flat beds. The height of these last above the floor shows that they are intended for use with hand weapons, not with cannon. The two other openings have had their outer ends enlarged to form windows. It will be noticed that these openings for guns each command the face of the next bastion. This system prevailed throughout the keep. Between each bastion, *i.e.* in the short length of the main wall of the keep, there was a gunport, but in every case it has later been converted into a window. By these means every part of the wall of the keep was covered by fire from a gunport, and the whole of the space between keep and outer curtain could be swept by fire.

The keep contained the living quarters of the garrison, originally a Captain and 24 others. It should be remembered that castles of this type were purely fortresses, whereas a castle in the Middle Ages was normally both fortification and house. It is not to be expected, therefore, that there would be any refinements or indications of luxury in the apartments. The basement was for stores, *i.e.* food, drink and ammunition, the ground floor contained a kitchen and bakery and provided accommodation for the soldiers. The first floor contained somewhat better apartments, including those of the Captain. On all floors the rooms are grouped round a central tower or hollow pillar, which in the basement contains the castle well, and above this, over a vault, contained two separate stairs leading to the first floor and the roof.

Timber and wattle partitions divide the ground floor. The common hall probably occupied the portion which is entered first. The fireplace on the left is original but little remains of its detail. The battery of ovens on the right-hand side were not included in this room formerly. They belonged to the kitchen and the partition dividing them from the hall has since been moved. The larger of the ovens is original and there were two more ovens on either side of the large kitchen fireplace. Beyond the kitchen, on the north-west side of the keep, were smaller rooms probably used for sleeping quarters. Still partitioned off is a room which in more recent times has been used as a chapel. There is no evidence to suggest there ever was a chapel in the first lay-out.

The central stair was of oak throughout and was double, most

cunningly devised. One stair started beside a doorway opposite to the entrance to the keep. The other began at a doorway on the opposite side of the stair well. One of these stairs has been reconstructed from ground to first floor, the other originally ascended to the roof, as is shown by the mortise hole on the newel. Five of the steps of the present stair are original; they were found embedded in later stairs, which had been inserted during a reconstruction.

### *First Floor of the Keep*

At the present time the accommodation on the first floor is partly in sixteenth-century form and partly as reconstructed in the eighteenth century. The western doorway off the landing leads to a corridor which is concentric with the staircase well. This dates from the sixteenth century, as is shown by its oak doorways with four-centred heads, and off it are four small rooms, all with contemporary plank partitions. The remainder of the space on this floor is differently divided, into three large rooms and one small, the last being inaccessible to the public, but there is no corridor except the passage which once led to the eighteenth-century Governor's Lodgings built on the eastern side of the keep. Each room opens out to the next; this illustrates an interesting contrast in fashions. It is now impossible to say which were the principal rooms, *i.e.* those of the Governor or Captain, at the time when the castle was new. The Tudor fireplaces, newly-discovered behind later panelling, show that on this floor more attention was given to comfort.

### *The Basement*

The basement is best reached by means of the spiral stair close to the entrance into the keep. This received borrowed light through narrow windows; one of these has been enlarged, but the upper one is intact.

From the bottom of the stair a broad passage to the left leads to a continuous gallery within the bastions of the outer ward. This is at the level of the bottom of the moat, and off it are no fewer than 53 gunports, from which the defenders could rake the ditch with gunfire, always supposing that they had enough weapons and ammunition. The passage from the spiral stair leads also to a postern gate at the level of the bottom of the moat. The other passage into the gallery, by which visitors normally return to the main basement of the keep, is on the north side of the keep.

The basement has a fine four-centred ribbed vault, springing from the central pillar, which contains the well. The circular space is divided

by party walls into three compartments, and there are small rooms in the basements of the bastions attached to the keep, which are entered by doorways with rebates for doors opening outwards into the main basement. Each of these rooms, like the main basement, is well ventilated by shafts from the ground level above, although the outer ends of these have mostly been enlarged. In spite of this, however, the rooms in question are unlikely to have been built as prisons. The basement was for storage.

Near the well there is a straight flight of stairs up from the basement to the ground level outside the keep. Thence there are several ways on to the ramparts and bastions of the outer curtain, from which general views of the keep may be obtained.

# The Museum

by G. C. DUNNING, B.Sc., F.S.A.

The museum, housed in the gatehouse, is devoted entirely to the archaeology of Deal and district. The objects exhibited are derived from the collection belonging to the Corporation of Deal and from the private collection formed by the late W. P. D. Stebbing.

The collection is arranged in four show-cases on a chronological basis, so as to give a fairly continuous picture of the history of man in the Deal region. It begins in the neolithic period and continues in a series down to the medieval period.

On the wall is a large-scale map with coloured pins marking the sites of all finds in the museum and of others known from records. The outstanding feature of the map is the great concentration of finds of all periods from neolithic to Anglo-Saxon on and near Mill Hill, the chalk ridge about 1 mile inland from the coast. This part of East Kent is the region of Britain nearest to the Continent. This proximity, and the prominent landfall of the downs behind Deal, explain the density of occupation on Mill Hill and the exotic nature of some of the finds made there. The Deal region has aptly been called the Invader's Shore.

## *Prehistoric*

*Neolithic* pottery and flint implements found in the Deal brickearth are evidence of the first intensive settlement during the period about 3000-2000 B.C.<sup>1</sup> The pottery consists of large hand-made bowls with rounded bases of the Windmill Hill ceramic group represented in the causewayed camps of Sussex and Wessex. The complete (restored) pottery bowl was found in association with the crouched burial of a man in a large pit dug in the chalk near Nethercourt Farm, St. Lawrence, Ramsgate. Notable among the flints are a large flaked axe, a superbly flaked and partly polished axe from Fleet Farm, Guston,<sup>2</sup> a flint axe finished by polishing all over, a large sickle blade, and numerous scrapers.

In the *Beaker period*, about 1800-1600 B.C., groups of warriors arrived from the Rhineland and settled in eastern Britain. They buried their dead in a contracted position, usually beneath round barrows, accompanied by distinctive decorated pottery. Examples of beakers are exhibited from Sholdenbank,<sup>3</sup> Great Mongeham, St. Margaret's Bay and Dover.<sup>4</sup>

The *Bronze Age*, about 1400–800 B.C., is represented by a typical bronze axe from Kingsdown and a socketed spearhead from North Deal. A burial urn with Wessex affinities is from a cremation in a barrow at Capel-le-Ferne,<sup>5</sup> and the large barrel-shaped urn is from Kingsdown cliffs, Ringwould.<sup>6</sup>

At the close of the Bronze Age fresh invaders built a circular entrenchment on Mill Hill; the pottery has close analogies in the Rhineland.<sup>7</sup>

The earlier *Iron Age*, about 500–100 B.C., is represented by exceptionally fine examples of metalwork in bronze from Upper Deal. A large brooch has a disc setting, probably coral, on the foot, and is an import from the Continent.<sup>8</sup> The large pin with ring head and the stem stepped back belongs to the involuted type seldom found in Britain.<sup>9</sup>

The pair of bronze 'spoons' accompanied a woman's burial found at Upper Deal.<sup>10</sup> One spoon has a cross engraved on the bowl, and the other has a small hole near the edge of the bowl; these features are normal on spoons of this type. The spoons are widely distributed in the British Isles, but their purpose is unknown; they may have been used for ritual purposes generally, or solely in connexion with burial ceremonies.<sup>11</sup>

The later Iron Age or *Belgic period*, starting about 75 B.C., witnessed the invasion of Kent by people of mixed Germanic and Celtic stock from northern France and Belgium.<sup>12</sup> The descendants of these peoples were conquered by the Romans in 43 A.D.

The Belgae introduced wheel-turned pottery, best known from their cremation cemeteries. In the museum is a long series of pots—pedestal-urns, bowls and dishes—from burials at Upper Deal.<sup>13</sup> Particularly important for chronology are the bronze brooches; some are of continental type about 50 B.C., and others with elaborate step-pattern in openwork in the catch-plates, found with pottery in two grave-groups, are probably of the late first century B.C. In one group was a toilet-set consisting of tweezers, pick and nail cleaner attached to a ring. A late Belgic burial was found near Court Lodge Farm, Sholden, in 1962. The group comprises a butt-shaped beaker and a small bowl accompanied by two bronze brooches dating it to the early first century A.D.

### *Roman Period*

The invasions of Julius Caesar in 55 and 54 B.C. are of particular local interest. After coasting along the chalk cliffs from Dover, Caesar landed his transports and cavalry on the shelving beach at Deal.<sup>14</sup> From here he made a reconnaissance inland as far as Canterbury and then London.

The period really opens, however, with the invasion by Claudius in 43 A.D., when he landed at the large land-locked harbour at Richborough (missed by Caesar). Here he established a maritime stores-base and camp from which to proceed with the conquest of Britain.

In the Deal district the Roman period is largely represented by finds from cemeteries at Mill Hill, Upper Walmer and at Walmer Lodge, Lower Walmer. The red-glossed Samian ware made at factories in Gaul in the first and second centuries formed the usual grave-goods. The earliest example is a decorated bowl of form 29 of the period 60-75 A.D., from Mill Hill.<sup>15</sup> It had been broken in ancient times and mended with lead rivets, and finally used as a container for the cremation of a young person. Plain Samian cups and plates, usually stamped with the potter's name inside the base, were numerous in both cemeteries.

To the late Roman period (fourth century) belongs a red colour-coated bowl decorated with a white painted scroll, found near the Romano-Celtic temple at Worth, excavated in 1927.<sup>16</sup> The bowl was probably made at kilns in the New Forest.

Glass, so abundant on Roman sites, is represented by a second-century amphora-shaped jar of light green glass with two three-ribbed handles. It had been used as a container for a cremation, and was found inside a larger pottery vessel at Walmer Lodge in 1901.<sup>17</sup>

### *Anglo-Saxon Period*

Cemeteries of the pagan period, fifth to seventh centuries, are well known in East Kent. The only cemetery of any size near to Deal is at Finglesham.<sup>18</sup> Some of the finds from excavations here in 1928 are in the museum, and include weapons, a sword, spearhead, and the boss and fittings of a shield, also a tumbler of green glass. Photographs of the jewellery, brooches, buckles, and a necklace with three gold pendants, which are in private possession, are also shown.

A few burials are known in Upper Deal. Exhibited are the finds from a woman's burial, comprising a long necklace of variously coloured beads of paste and a few of amber, a small silver-gilt disc brooch set with garnets, and a buckle, knife and tweezers of iron.<sup>19</sup> A spearhead and large knife came from a man's burial in the vicinity.<sup>20</sup>

Although not found in the Deal region, a brooch in the museum should be mentioned here. This is a small square-headed brooch of gilt bronze of the first half of the sixth century, found in the large Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Bifrons, near Bekesbourne, in 1913.<sup>21</sup> The head of the brooch is decorated in relief with the figure of an animal

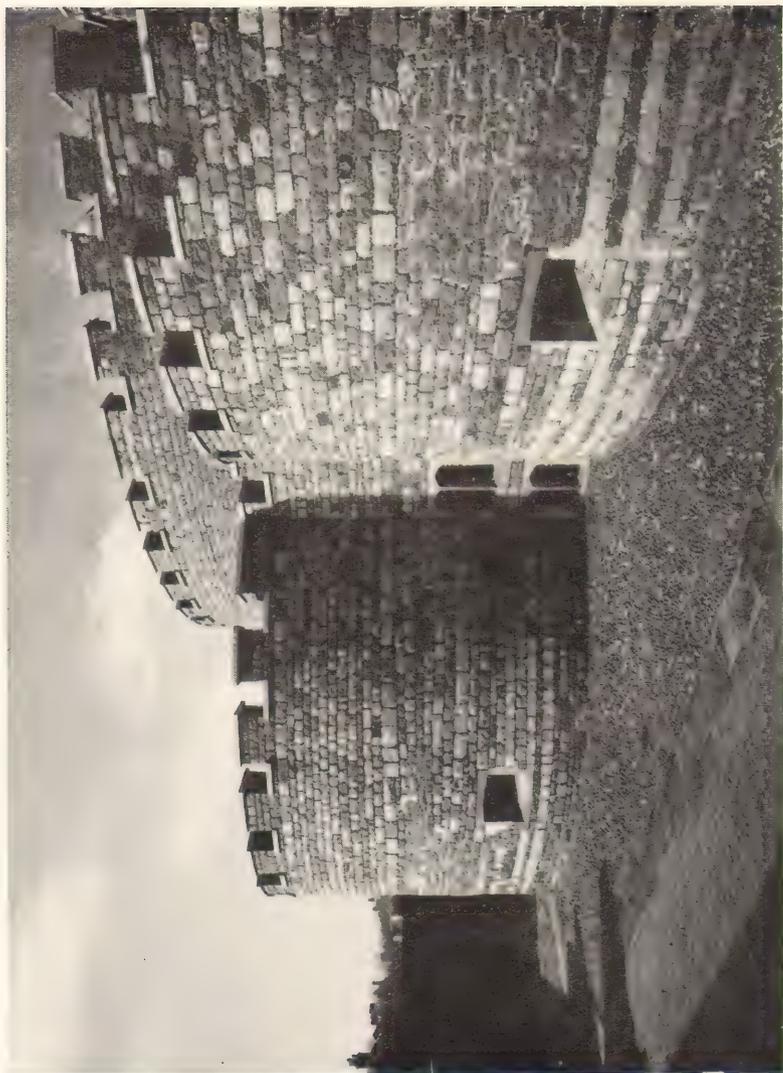


Plate III. *Keep and Inner Bastions*

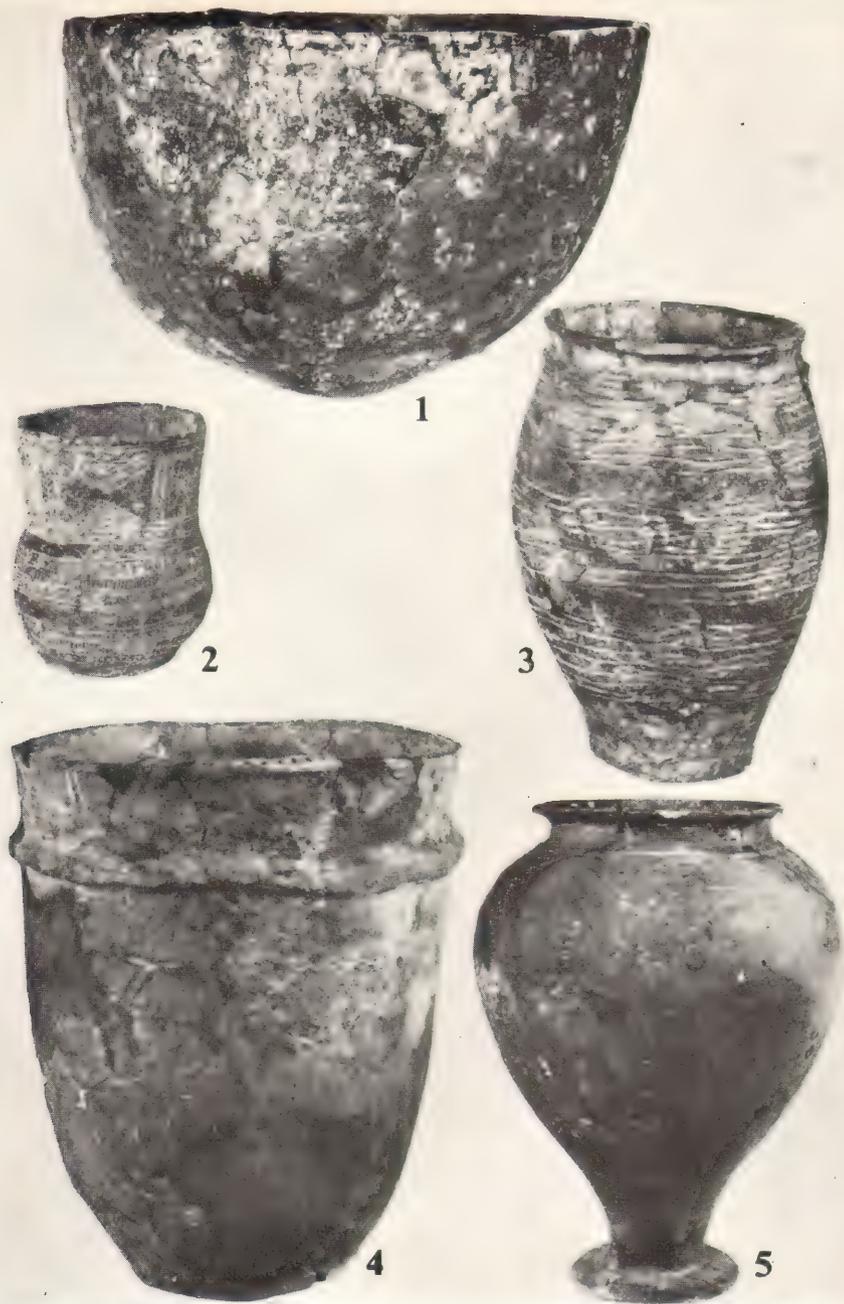


Plate IV

1. Neolithic bowl, Nethercourt Farm, Ramsgate (scale of reproduction:  $\frac{1}{4}$ ). 2. Beaker, St. Margaret's Bay (scale:  $\frac{1}{4}$ ). 3. Beaker, Sholdenbank (scale:  $\frac{1}{4}$ ). 4. Late Bronze Age urn, Kingsdown (scale:  $\frac{1}{6}$ ). 5. Belgic pedestal urn, Upper Deal (scale:  $\frac{1}{6}$ ).

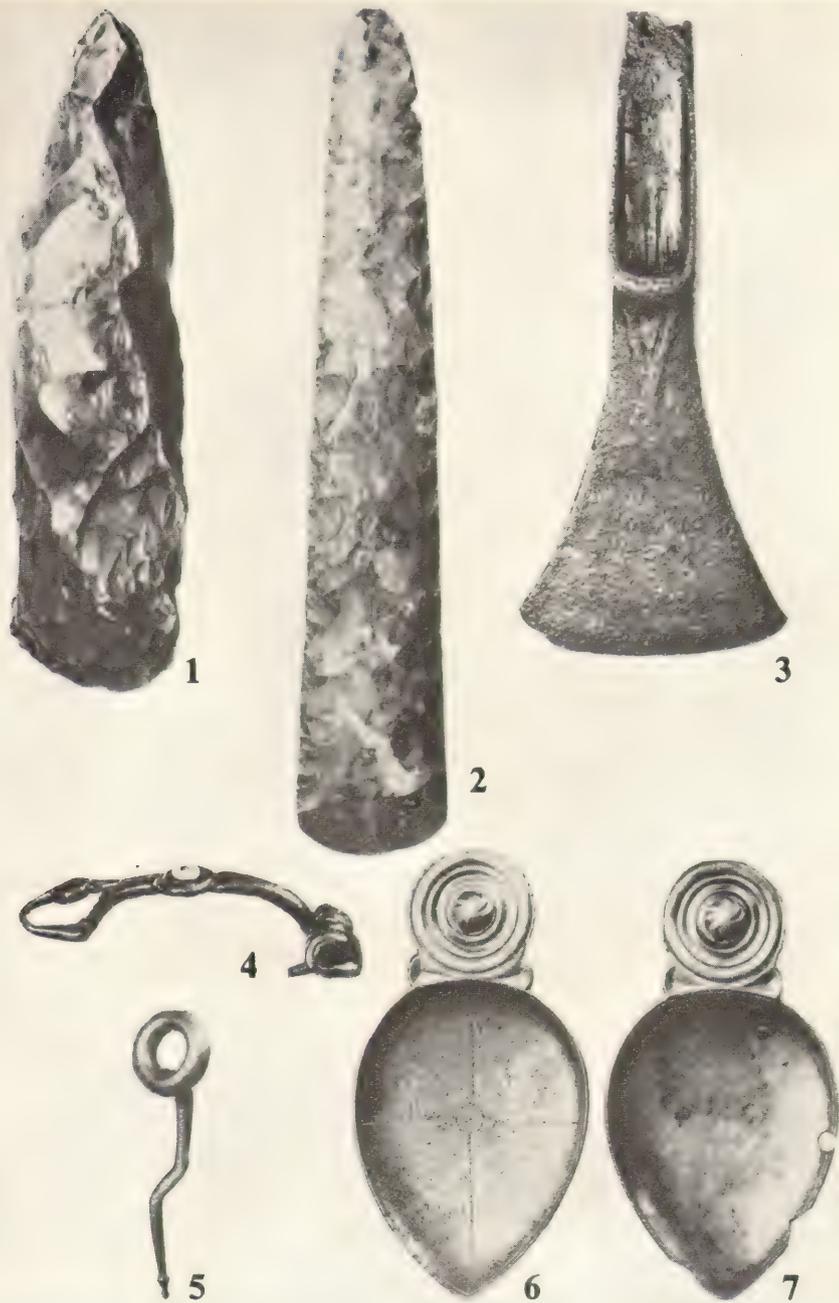


Plate V

1. Chipped flint axe, Deal (scale of reproduction:  $\frac{1}{2}$ ). 2. Chipped and partly polished flint axe, Guston (scale:  $\frac{1}{2}$ ). 3. Bronze axe, Kingsdown (scale:  $\frac{1}{2}$ ). 4. Bronze coral-mounted brooch, Upper Deal (scale:  $\frac{1}{2}$ ). 5. Bronze pin, Upper Deal (scale:  $\frac{1}{2}$ ). 6-7. Bronze 'spoons', Upper Deal (scale:  $\frac{1}{2}$ ).

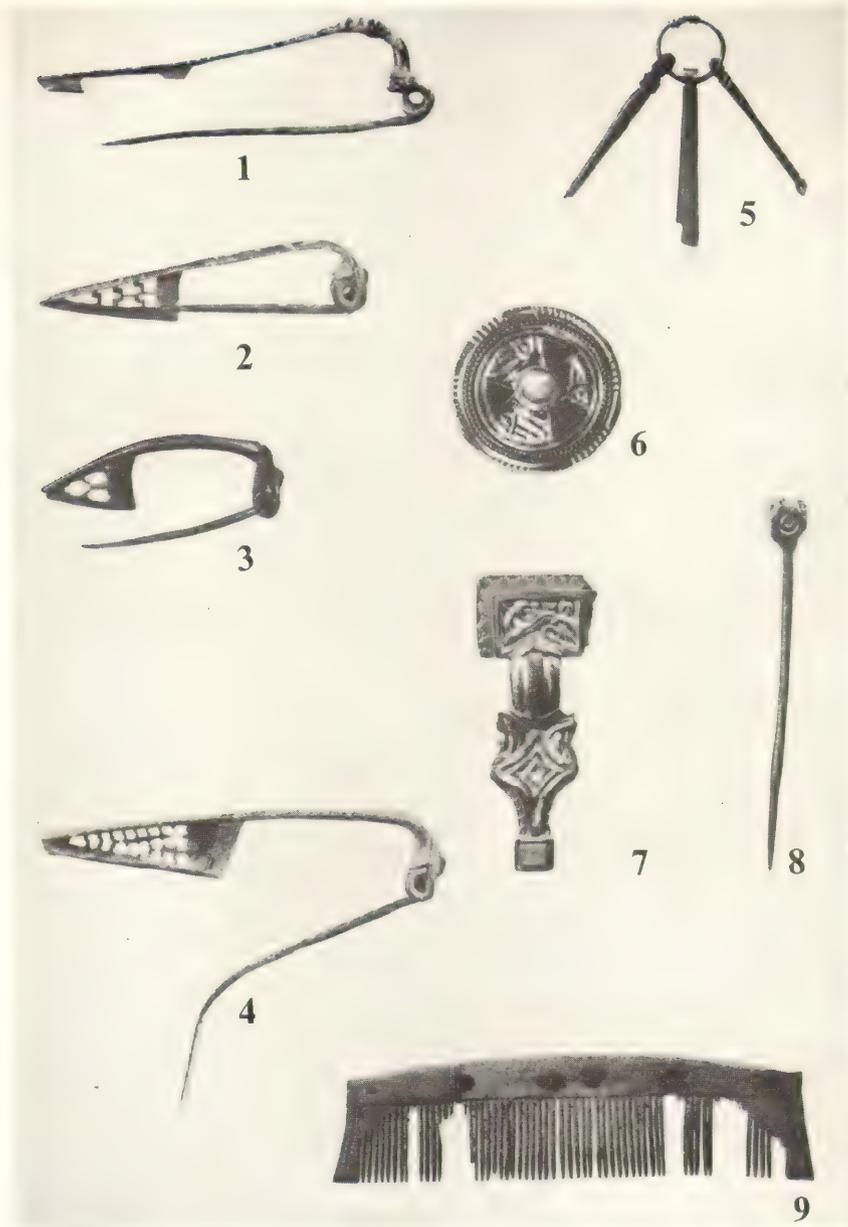


Plate VI

1. Early Belgic brooch, Upper Deal (scale of reproduction:  $\frac{1}{2}$ ). 2-3. Later Belgic brooches, Upper Deal (scale:  $\frac{1}{2}$ ). 4. Large Belgic brooch, Upper Deal (scale:  $\frac{1}{2}$ ). 5. Belgic toilet-set, Upper Deal (scale:  $\frac{1}{2}$ ). 6. Anglo-Saxon disc brooch, Upper Deal (scale:  $\frac{3}{4}$ ). 7. Anglo-Saxon square-headed brooch, Bifrons (scale:  $\frac{3}{4}$ ). 8. Anglo-Saxon bronze pin, Mongeham Bottom (scale:  $\frac{2}{3}$ ). 9. Anglo-Saxon bone comb, Sholden (scale:  $\frac{1}{2}$ ).

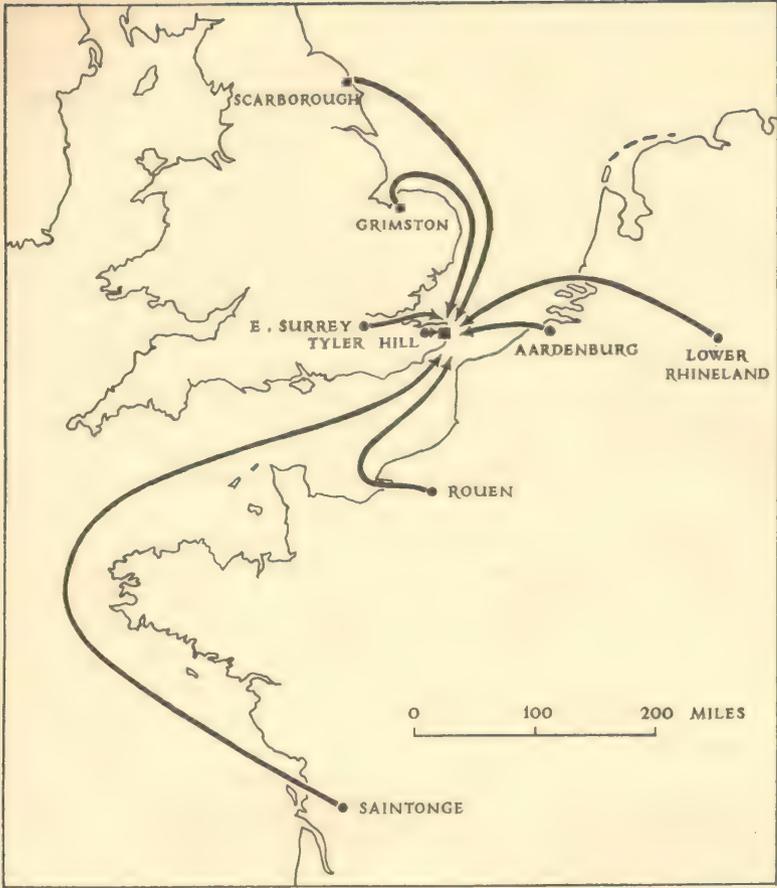


Fig. 1. Sources of medieval pottery found at Stonar

with its head turned back, probably a descendant from the Quoit Brooch Style of the fifth century.<sup>22</sup>

The only object of later date, seventh or eighth century, is a large bronze pin with cubical head decorated with ring-and-dot pattern, found at Mongeham Bottom.<sup>23</sup>

### *Medieval*

The site of the medieval town and port of Stonar is north of Sandwich, within the southern loop of the river Stour.<sup>24</sup> Its rise to importance was due to its sheltered position behind Stonar Beach at the eastern entrance to the Wantsum Channel, then open water between the Isle of Thanet and the mainland of Kent. Shipping to and from the River Thames and London passed through the Wantsum, and Stonar prospered from participation in this trade. The trade connexions of Stonar with other regions of England and also with the Continent are shown almost entirely by the various types of pottery found here. All the finds were made in the course of commercial digging, and their salvage is wholly due to the efforts of the late W. P. D. Stebbing, who visited the site from about 1935 to 1960.

As the pottery from Stonar is very fragmentary, it is illustrated by photographs and drawings of the complete types. Distribution maps of each type show the source of the pottery, whether in this country or abroad, and the range of places which it reached in the course of trade.

Only a small amount of twelfth-century pottery has been found at Stonar. This shows that already the port had trade connexions with the Midlands or East Anglia, and across the English Channel with Normandy. To judge from the great quantity of imported pottery found here, Stonar was at the height of its commercial prosperity during the second half of the thirteenth century and the early part of the fourteenth. No fewer than eight sources for this pottery can be distinguished, of which four are in England, two in France, and one each in the Lower Rhineland and Holland. The insular sources are the pottery kilns at Tyler Hill, near Canterbury;<sup>25</sup> the kilns in East Surrey which supplied pottery to London and also to the coastal parts of North and East Kent;<sup>26</sup> face-jugs made at Grimston near King's Lynn;<sup>27</sup> and other types of face-jug and decorated wares made at Scarborough.<sup>28</sup> The foreign sources are Rouen in Normandy, whence came strip-and-pellet and stamp decorated jugs;<sup>29</sup> polychrome ware painted in green, yellow and brown from Saintonge;<sup>30</sup> globular lug-handled pots from the Lower Rhineland;<sup>31</sup> and green-glazed jugs decorated with stamps from Aardenburg in south-west Holland<sup>32</sup> (see Fig. 1).

The flourishing wine trade of Gascony brought the pottery from

south-west France, and the wine trade of Rouen that from Normandy. The other pottery would form part of general cargoes from ports on the east coast of England, and also be associated with the wool trade from England to the Low Countries.

Some of the stone objects found at Stonar also illustrate the pattern of medieval trade. The export of roofing slates from Devon and Cornwall was a thriving industry, and the slates have been found at many sites along the south coast as far east as Kent.<sup>33</sup> Mortars for domestic use were made of Purbeck marble,<sup>34</sup> and even of Caen stone imported from Normandy. Whetstones of granulite and schist reached the south from Aberdeenshire,<sup>35</sup> and finally millstones of basalt lava quarried near Mayen in the Eifel were shipped down the Rhine to England.<sup>36</sup>

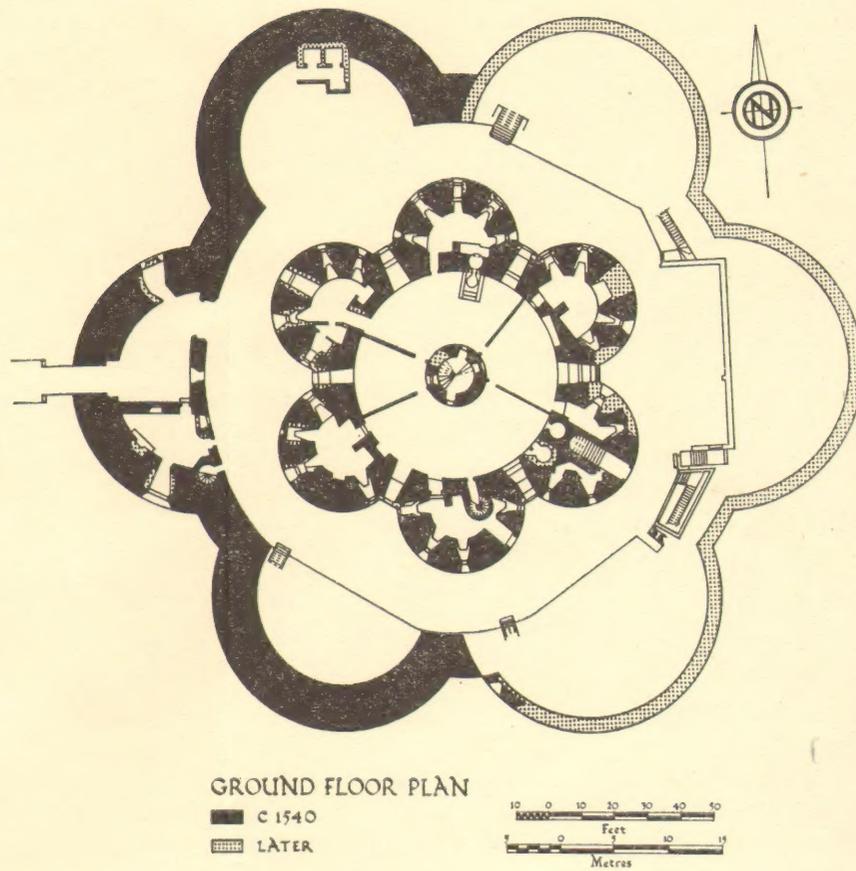
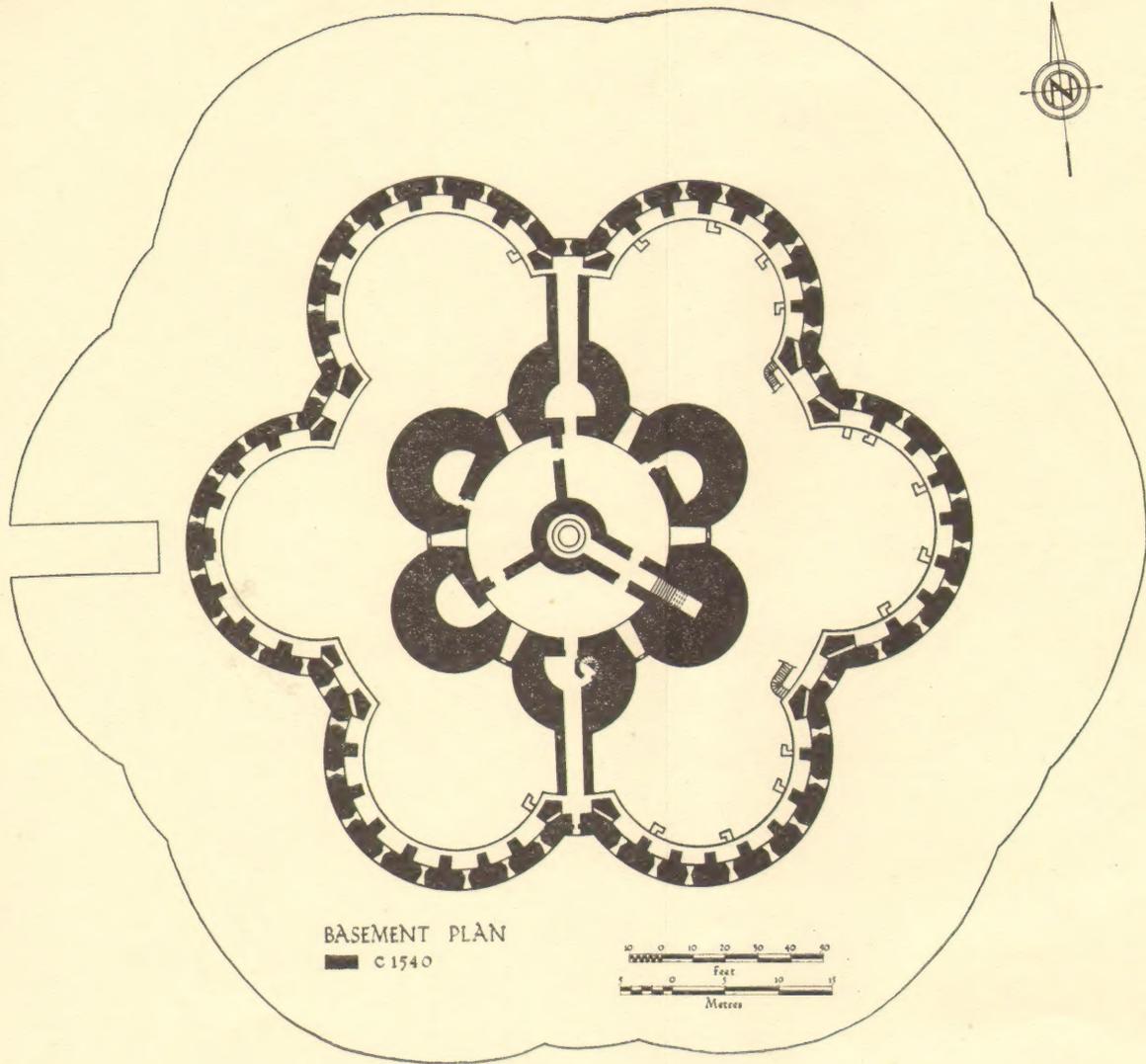
The decline in the importance of Stonar and its replacement as a port by Sandwich were due to natural causes beyond human control; the formation of an outer bank of shingle and sand to the seaward of Stonar Beach, and the silting up of the Wantsum which eventually formed a marshy plain through which the Stour flowed in a winding channel. In spite of these drastic changes the Stour continued to be navigable by small ships as far as Canterbury until the fifteenth century, but the heyday of the Wantsum Channel was long past. Stonar suffered from inundations and flooding in 1359 and again in 1365-6. Finally, in 1385 the French laid it waste and then destroyed it by fire.

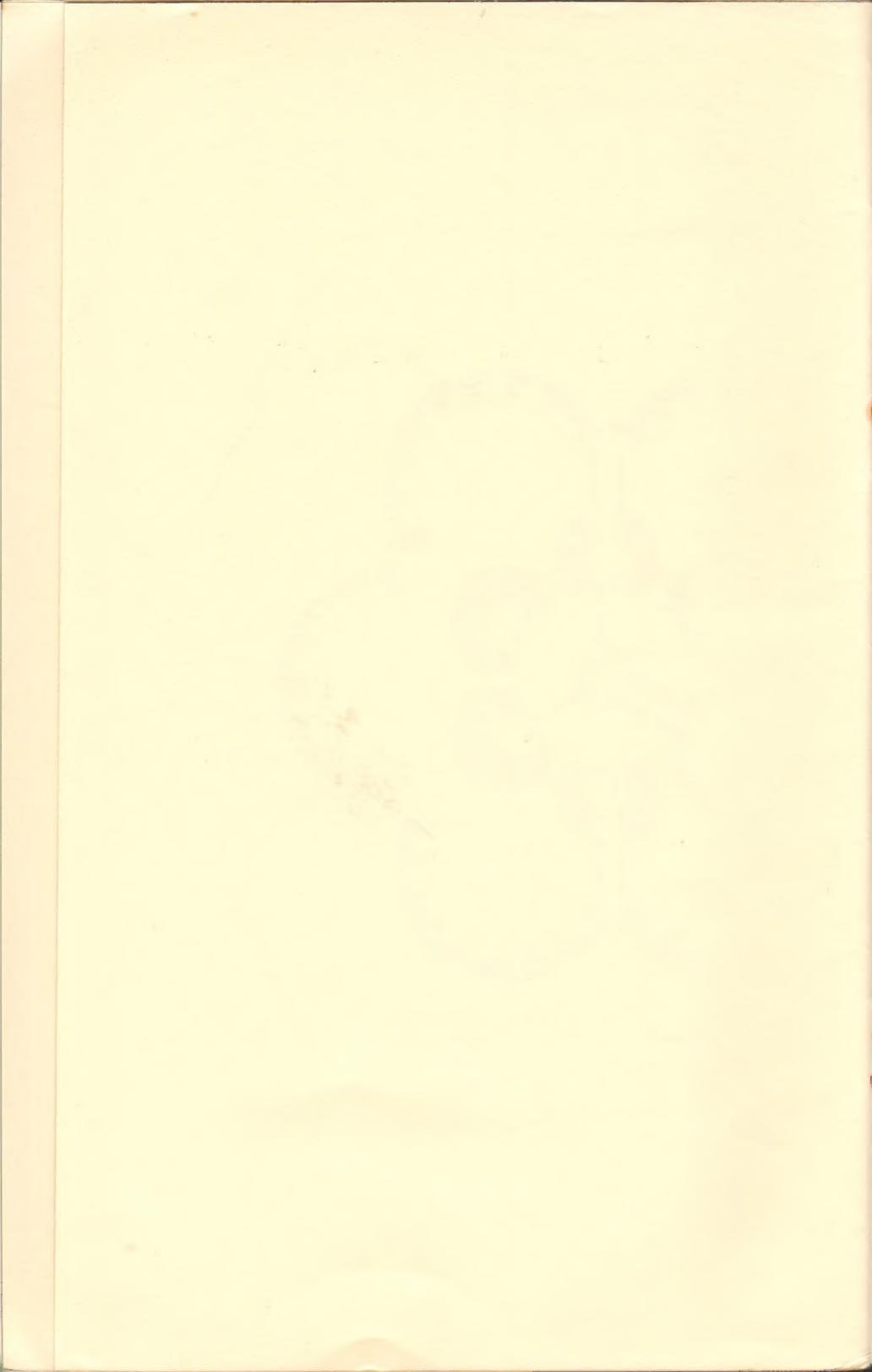
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- <sup>5</sup> *Arch. Cant.*, LXXIV, 52.
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- <sup>26</sup> London Museum *Medieval Catalogue* (1940), p. 211; *Arch. Cant.*, LXXII, 34. Fragments of small biconical jugs probably made at Cheam (*Surrey Arch. Coll.*, XXXV, 85, fig. 6) are among the latest (fourteenth-century) pottery found at Stonar.
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