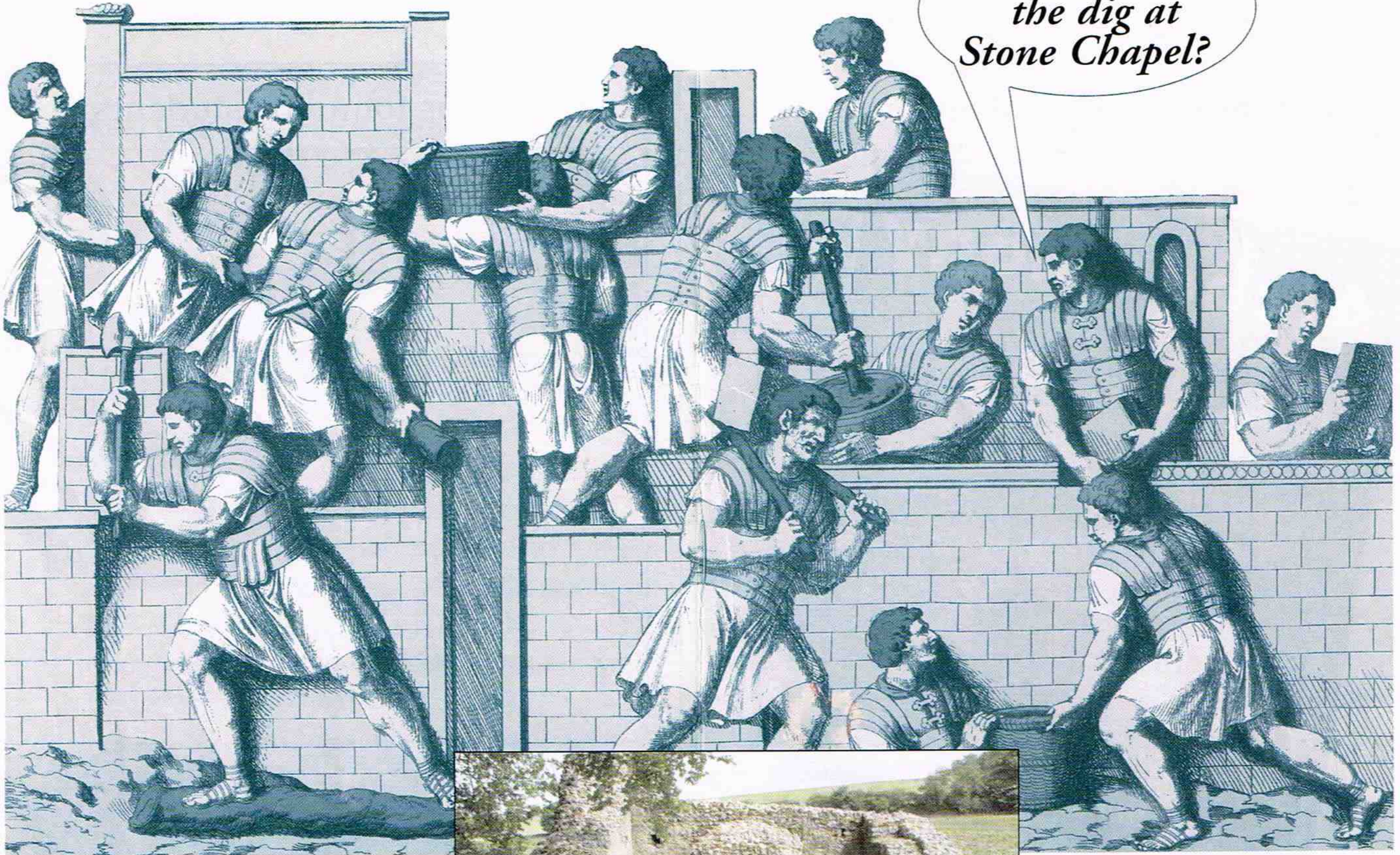


KAFS Newsletter: No.3.

Kent Archaeological Field School: Autumn-Winter 2005

Heard about
the dig at
Stone Chapel?



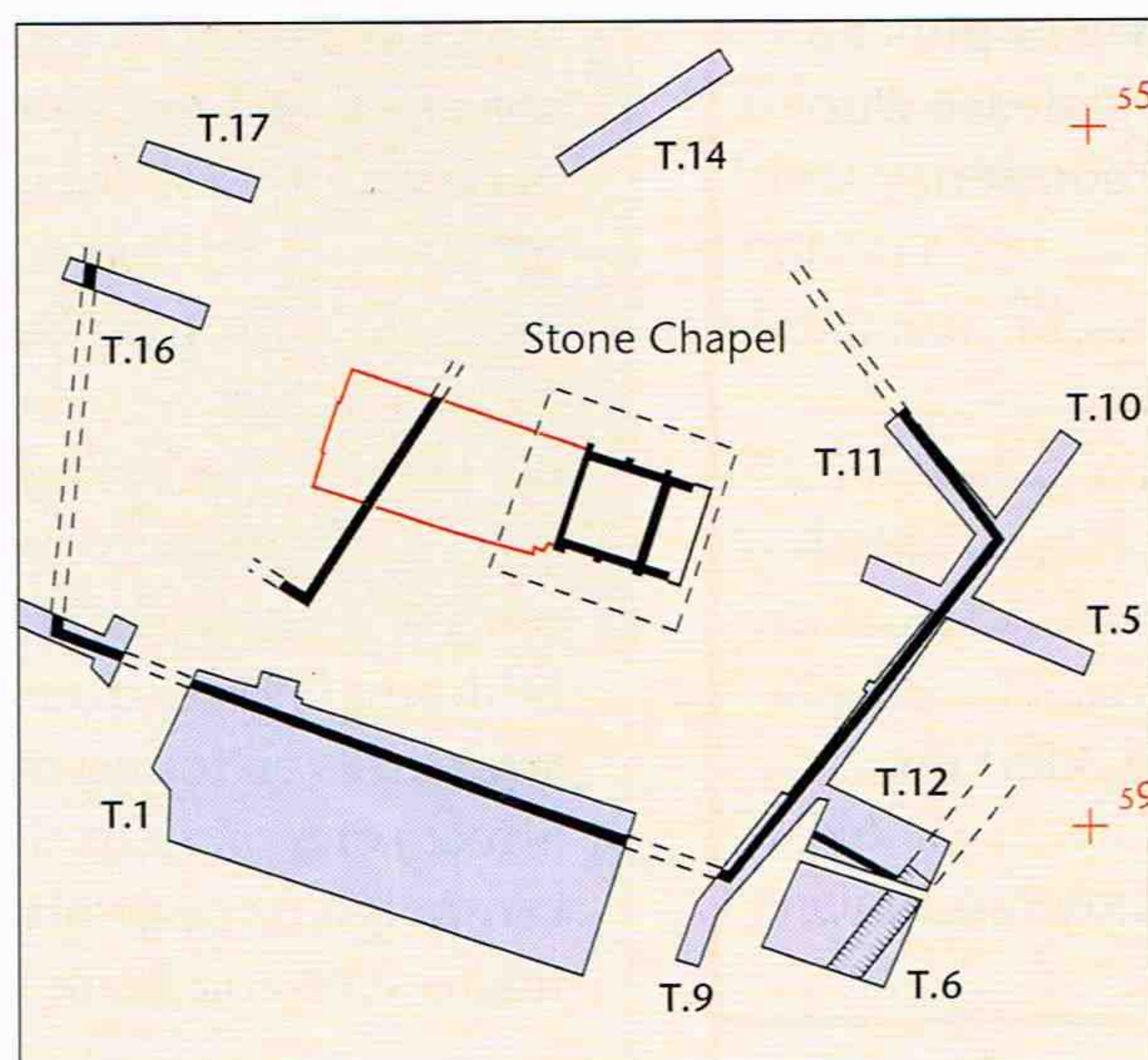
Welcome to the Autumn and Winter issue of the Kent Archaeological Field School Newsletter. It has been a wonderful season of excavation and courses with the Field School getting busier and busier. Great discoveries have been made which will enable us to understand even better the archaeology of Kent. Further work was done on the great Roman aisled barn at Hog Brook



which helped to unravel the Saxon use of this huge building. At Stone Chapel Field (left) we uncovered evidence of an Roman pagan enclosure surrounding the existing Roman

building and attached Anglo-Saxon church, also buildings that were part of the Roman town of Durolevum which adjoined Watling Street. Do join us next summer on more superb courses.

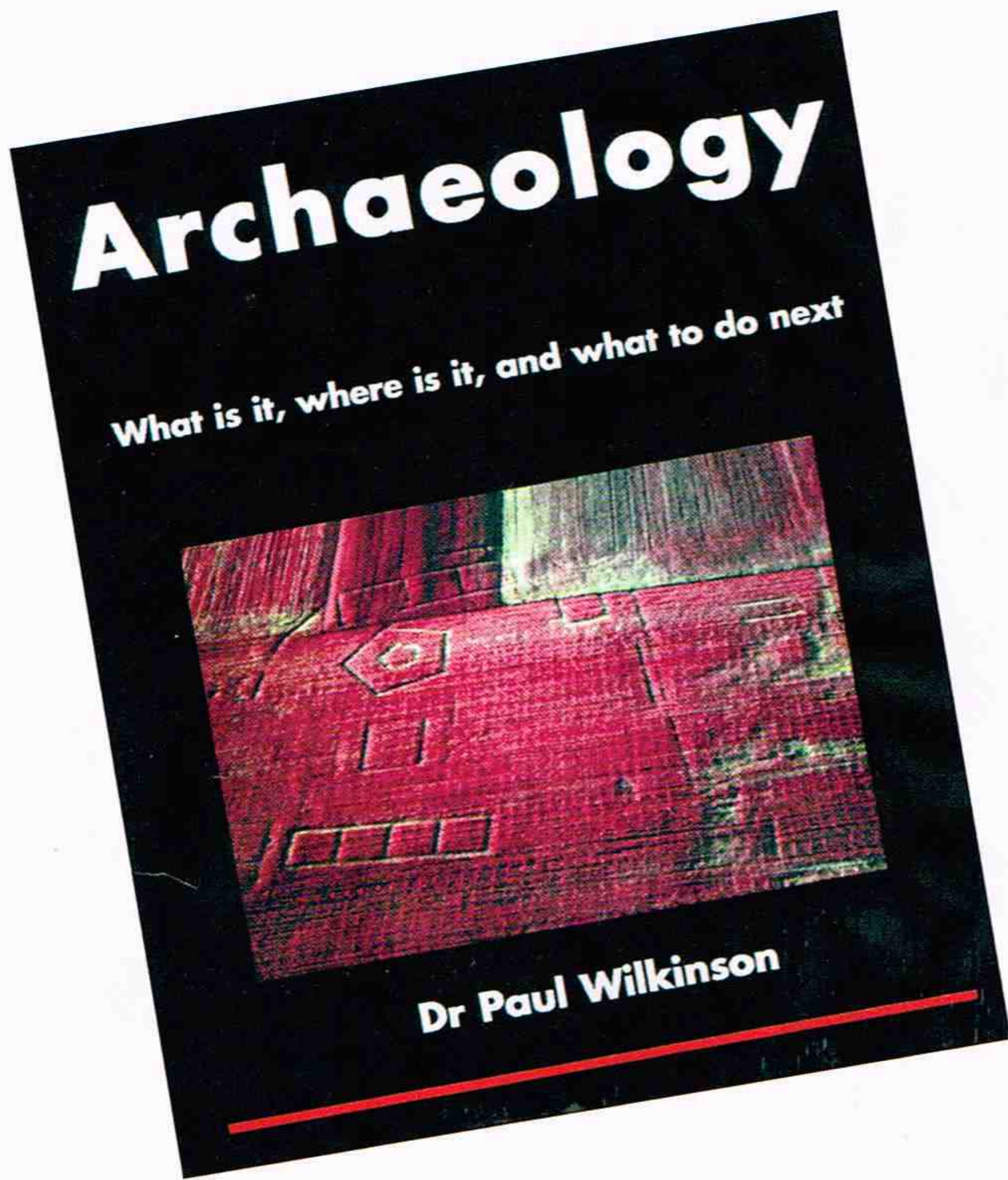
The site plan (right) shows the Anglo-Saxon Stone Chapel - indicated by a red line- built onto the Roman building now shown to have started life as an Romano-Celtic temple. Across the nave of the church another Roman building, first recognised by Meates, is part of this sacred complex. The sacred area is defined by a substantial stone wall found in trenches 1, 7, 9, 11, and 16. Other earlier Roman building were found in T. 12 and T.6., and alongside Watling Street.



Kent Archaeological Field School
School Farm Oast, Graveney Road,
Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP
Director: Dr Paul Wilkinson MIFA.

FIELD SCHOOL NEWS

New book on Archaeology



A new book by Paul Wilkinson, the director of the Field School, will be launched this winter by publishers. The book is a distillation of what is taught at the Field School and many students will find it invaluable in their studies. It is in full colour and covers subjects which are essential reading for today's student of archaeology.

Order form for *Archaeology*

Pre-publication special offer of £10 plus £2 p&p. If you want a signed copy please put the name at the bottom of the coupon.

Your Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

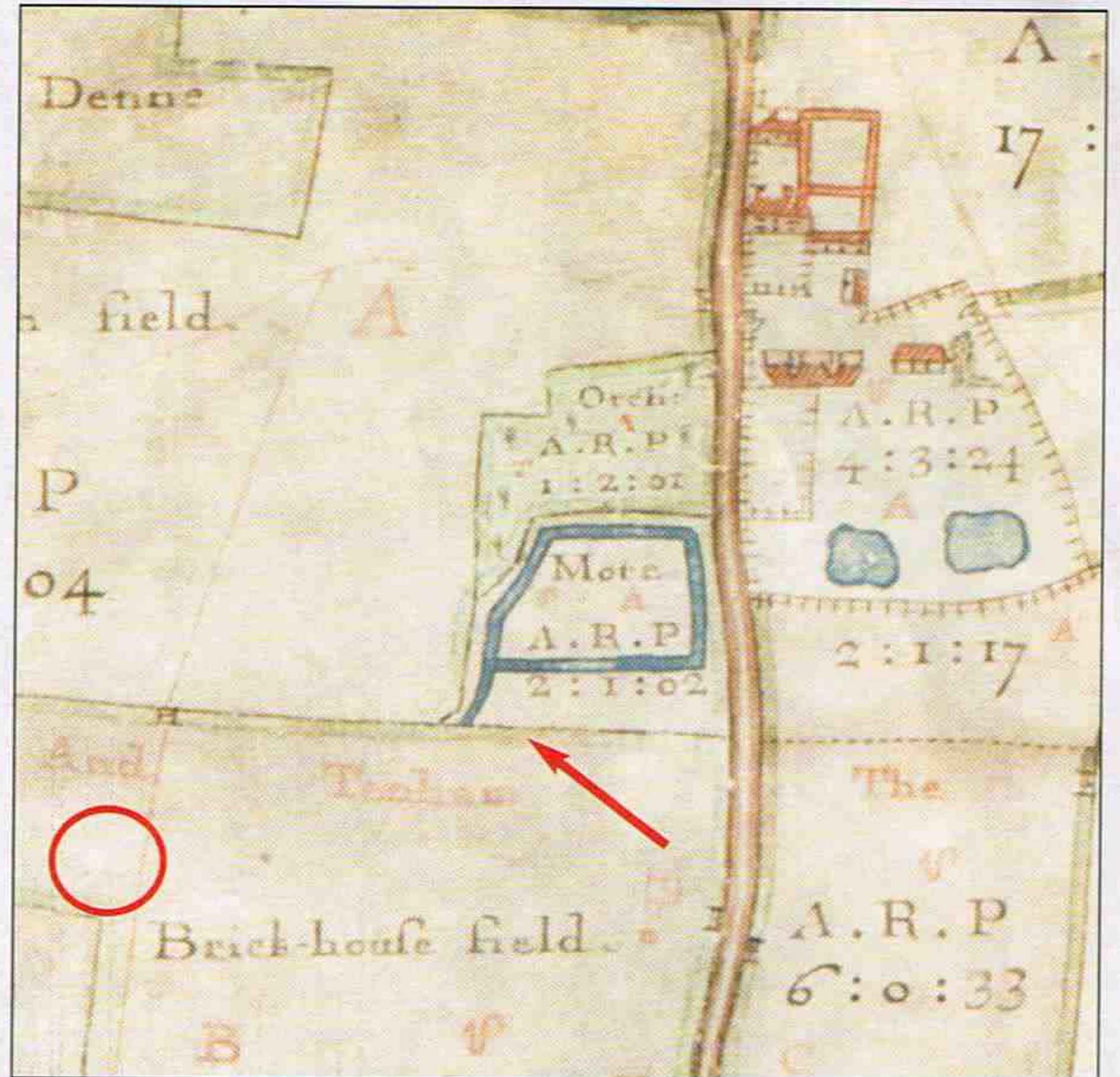
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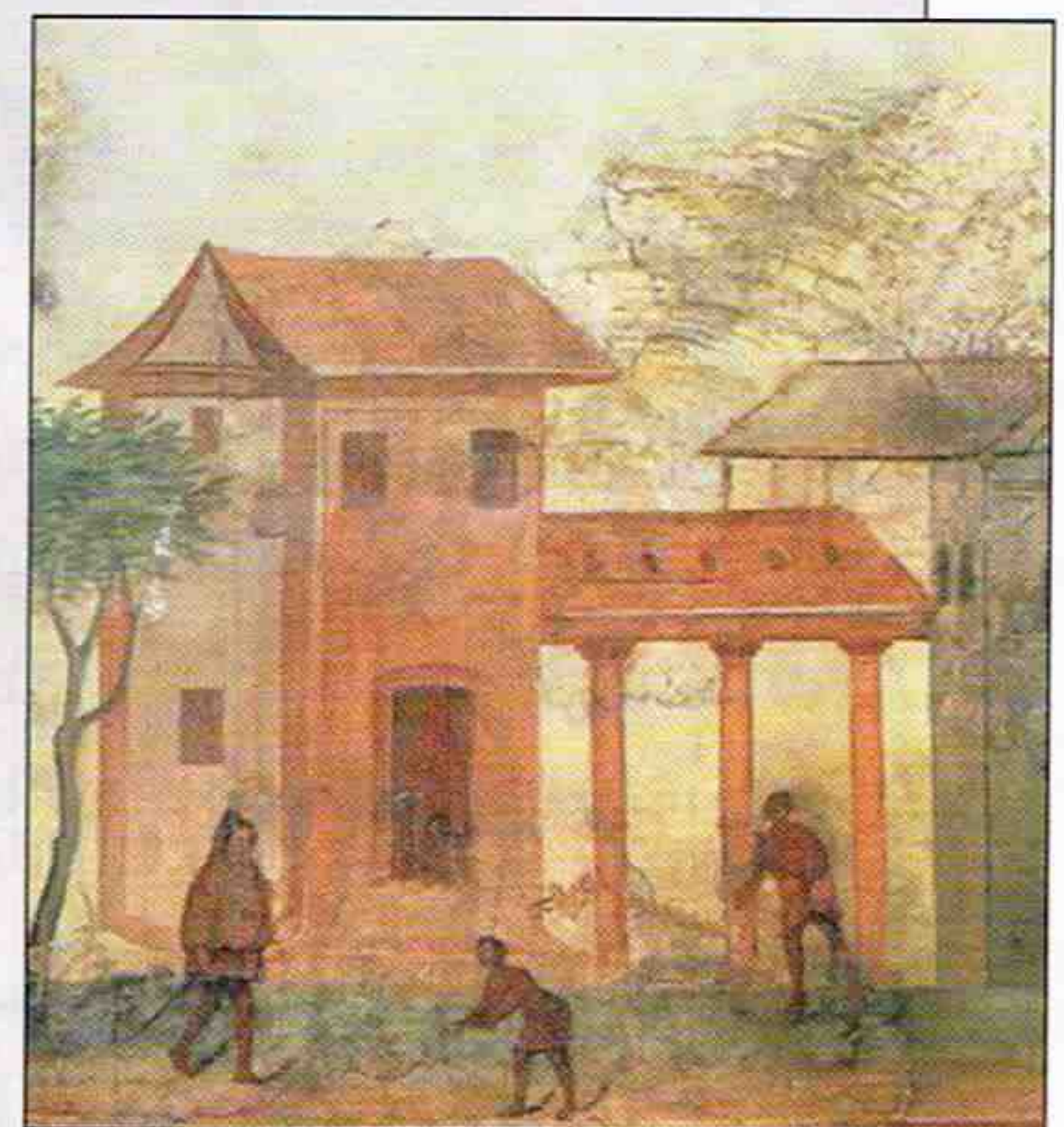
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(Name).....

Roman villas found by students



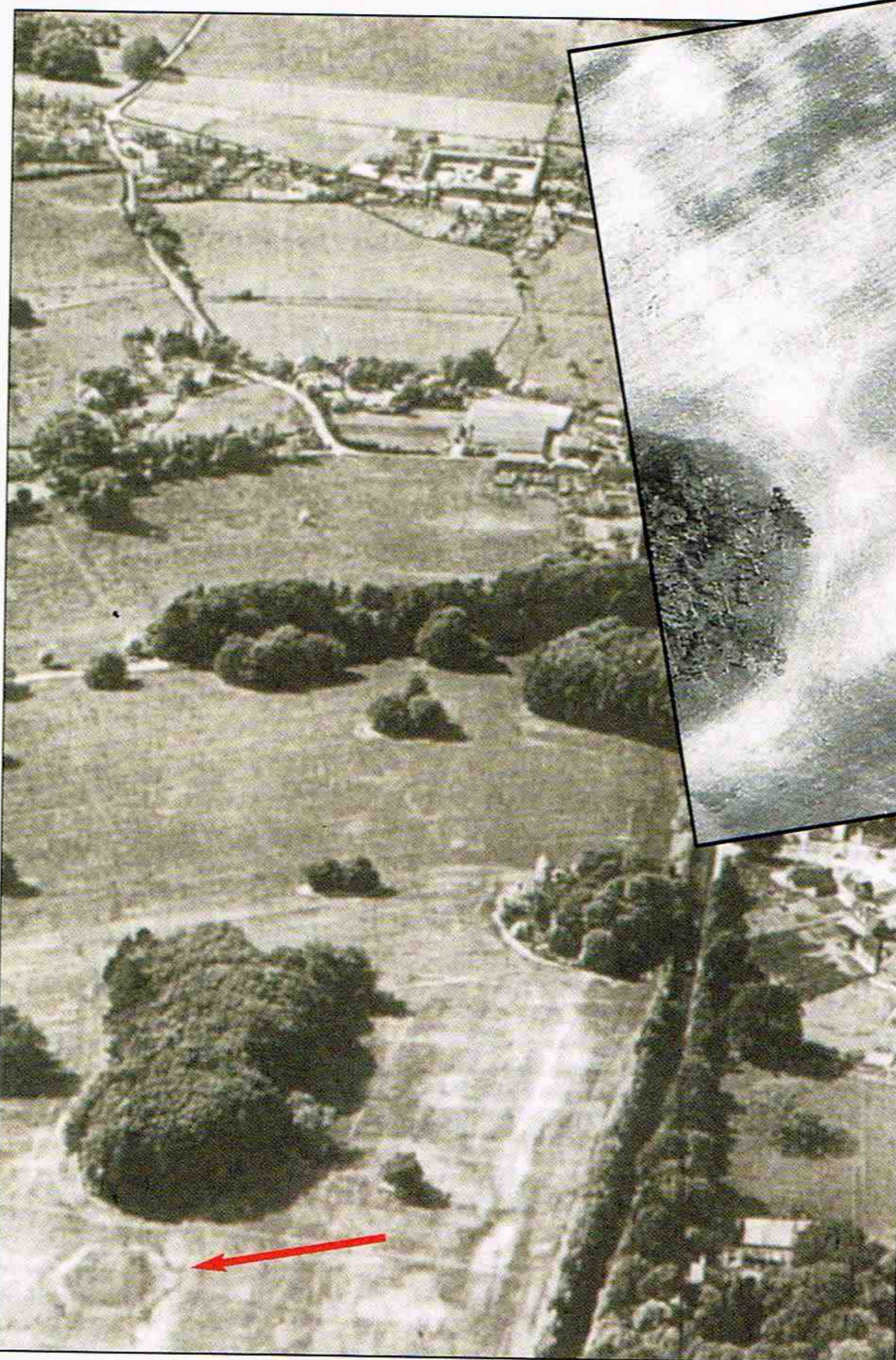
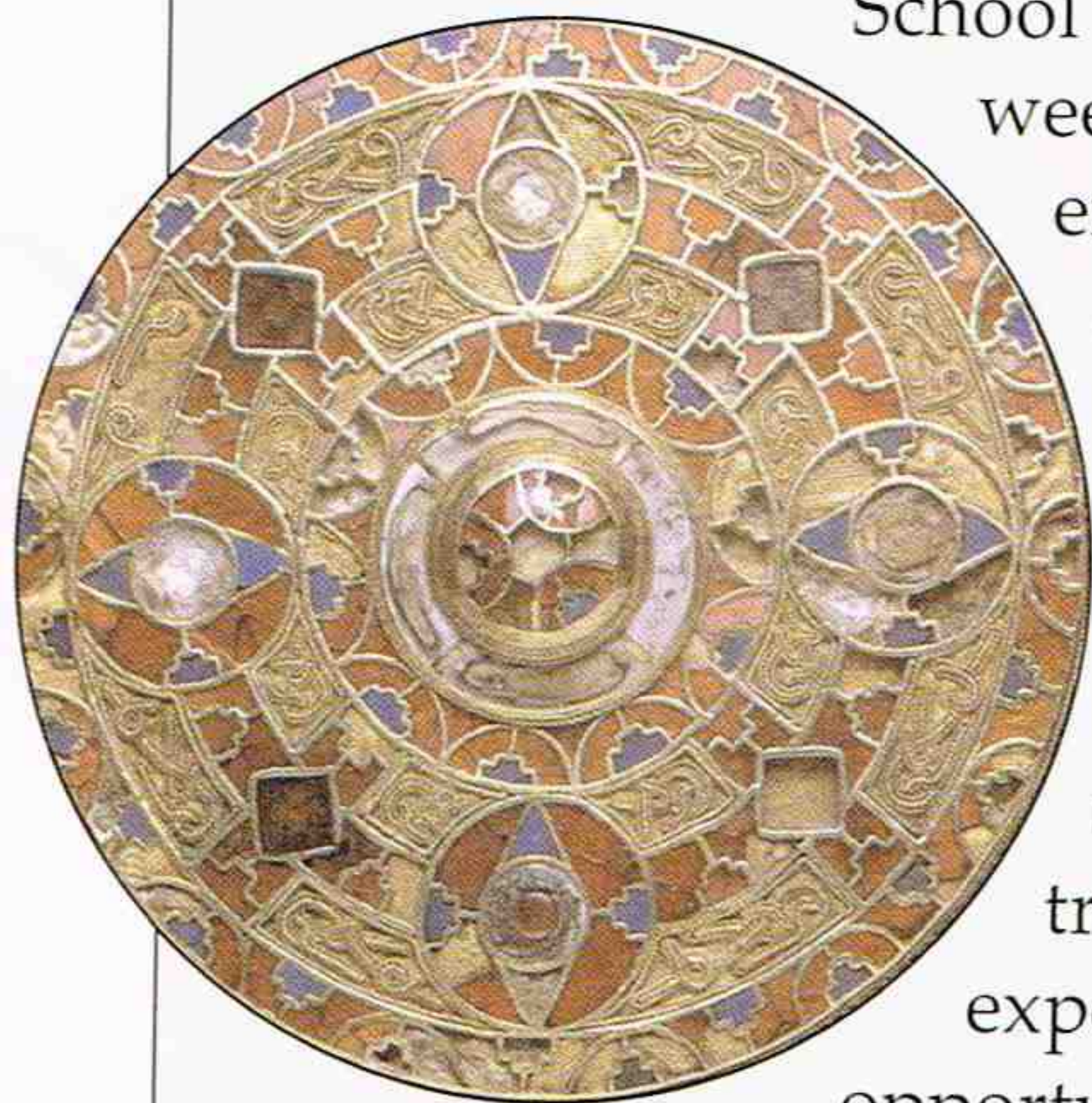
Last August Bank Holiday students traced an enigmatic field and parish boundary (*above*) that divides Kent into east and west and runs in a straight, surveyed line for some 22km.



To the west of Lynsted we found the boundary had survived as an massive defensive bank and ditch which faced out into East Kent. We will certainly look closer at this, but impromptu field survey located two Roman villas, one to the north at Kingsdown and the other north of Bax Farm (*top left*). At Bax Farm we laid out a grid and dug test pits. These revealed a plethora of Roman building materials including box flue tiles, tessalated floor cubes, and marvellous painted wall plaster pieces. The Roman pottery and coins retrieved show the villa was a high-status building and no doubt will have associated structures as found at the villa at Deerton Street some 3km to the east. We will mount a campaign of excavation in August 2006- make sure you book in time!

WINTER EXCAVATIONS

This winter for the first time the Field School is organising a series of weekend "Bare Bones" excavations in an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Bridge for members only. The cost is £45 for the weekend and will include all of the usual facilities- transport to the site, expert tuition and the opportunity to participate in one of the most exciting research excavations ever to be undertaken by the Kent Archaeological Field School.



The two aerial photo's (above) show with some clarity the hexagon shape which on excavation has been identified as a early

Roman cremation site. Surrounding it are Anglo-Saxon graves of which 11 so far have been excavated by the Field School.

For the last 200 years Anglo-Saxon brooches of gold have been found in the vicinity of Bridge. The famous Kingston brooch (above left) found just a mile away from our dig at Bridge is one of the finest examples of the Anglo-Saxon jeweller's art.

Paul Wilkinson (above) seen retrieving an 7th century gold pendant with filigree decoration from Grave 5. Also found was a wonderful intact glass palm cup, 14 silver coins and a string of glass blue beads.

Winter Excavation Booking Form

"Bare Bones" course dates

February 4th, 5th.....

February 18th, 19th.....

March 4th, 5th.....

Your Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Tel No.....

I enclose a cheque (payable to KAFS) for.....

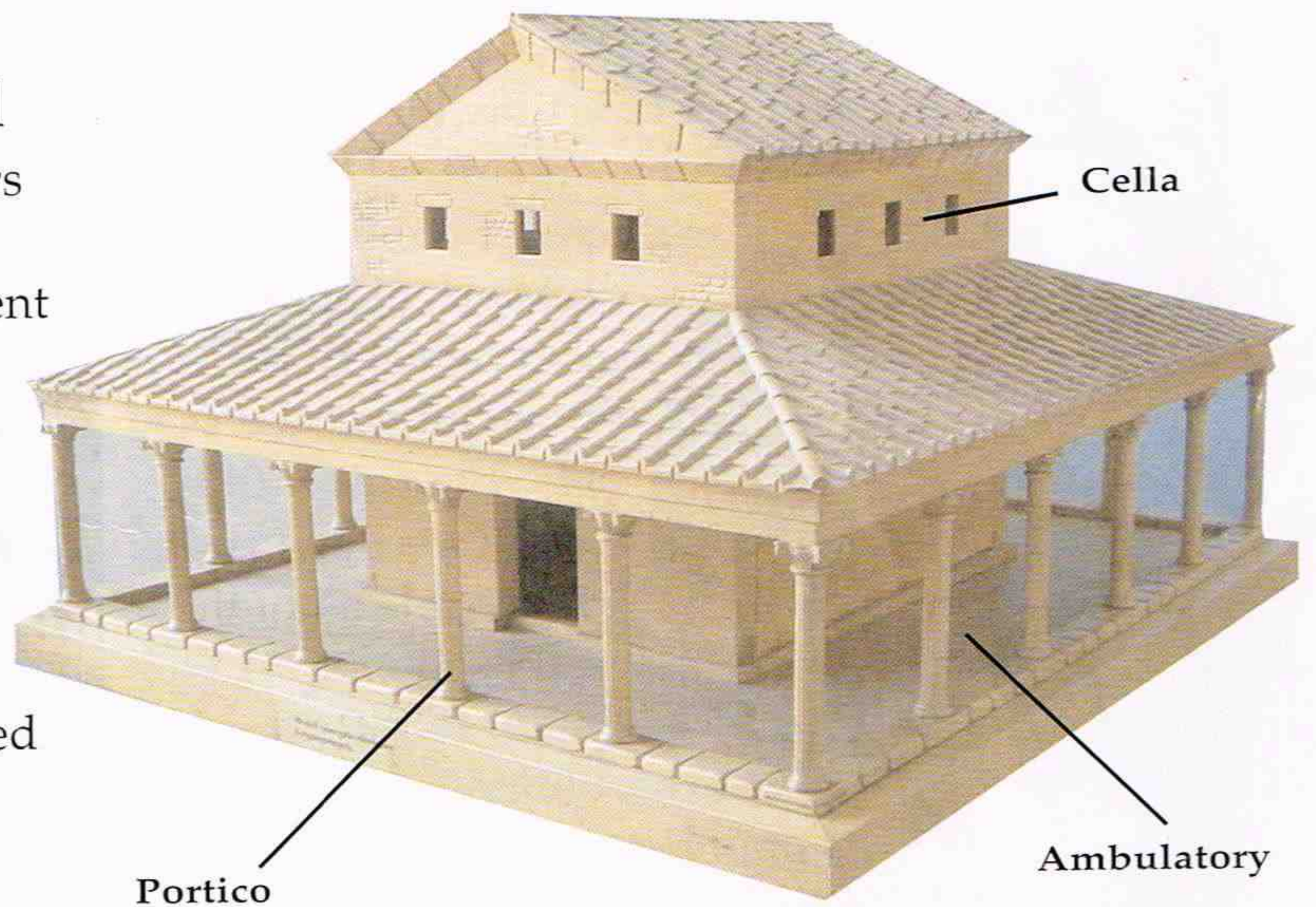
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FIELD SCHOOL NEWS

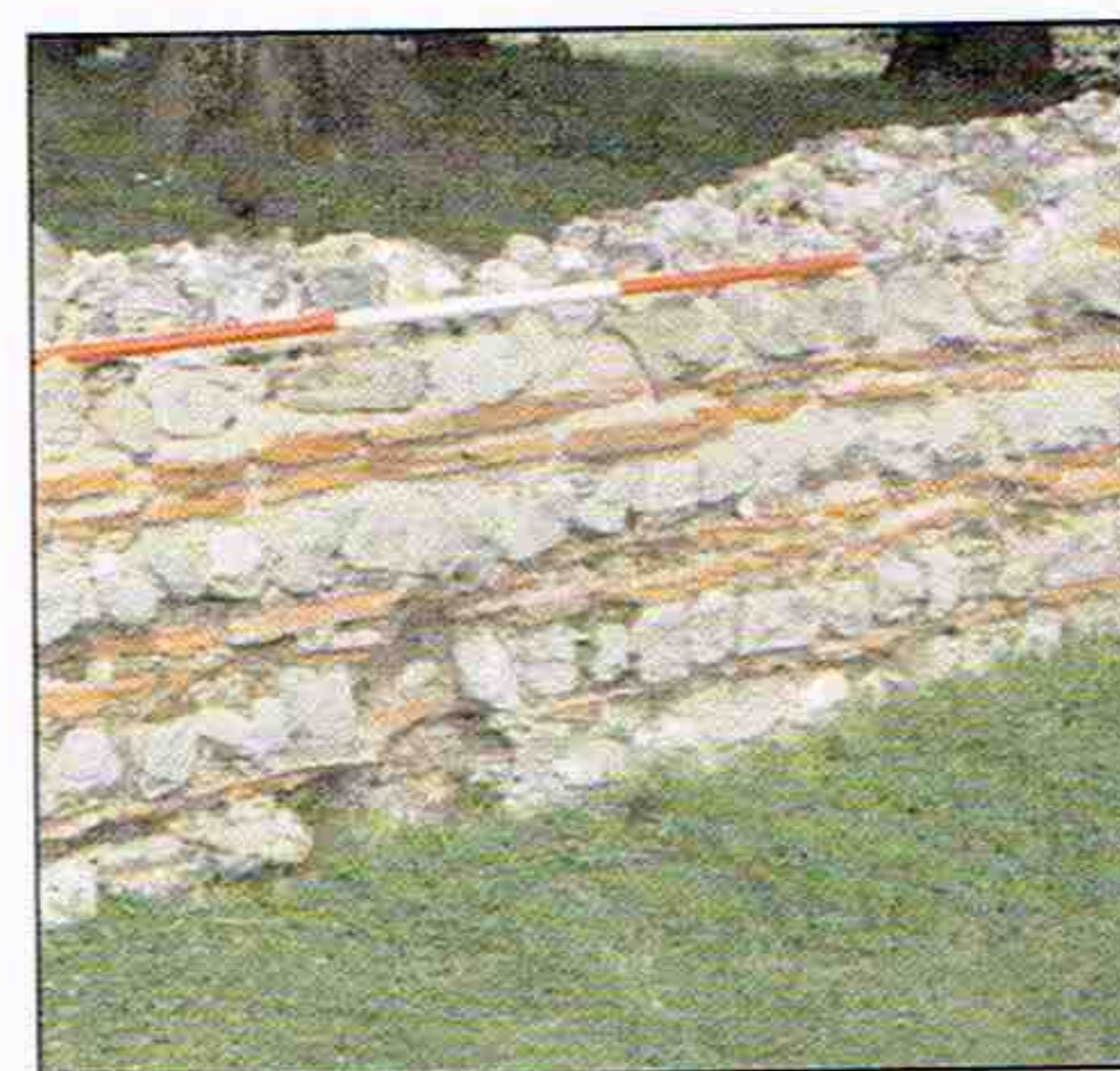
Investigations at Stone Chapel Field

In August archaeological students and members of the Field School descended on Stone Chapel Field, just to the west of Faversham, and adjacent to Watling Street, to unravel a mystery associated with the ruined Roman building that was built on in the Saxon period as a church. This configuration is unique in Britain and the big question was "what was the original function of the Roman building". Two weeks of investigation by almost a hundred students have revealed that the ruined Roman building is almost certainly a Romano-Celtic pagan temple set within its own precinct with



The summer excavation at Stone Chapel Field in 2006 will run from July 1st, to the 16th. The extent of the Romano-Celtic pagan complex has now been identified by the Field School and excavations of the Roman buildings (along Watling Street) will continue to reveal more about this important site. Already we know that the area is full of Roman buildings which is probably a continuation westwards of the Roman town of Durolevum.

other high-status Roman buildings both inside and outside of the enclosure. These buildings had stone walls and tiled roofs and were finished internally with decorated painted plaster. The precinct wall was massively built of flint nodules set in mortar and overlaid earlier Roman levels. Fragments of stone columns, still showing Roman masonry marks suggest that the ambulatory or portico of the Romano-Celtic temple probably had a sloping roof supported by columns sitting on either an external dwarf wall or stone pads (above top right). Meates had excavated Stone Chapel in the 1970's but failed to find evidence of the ambulatory or portico, strongly suggesting the outer wall of the temple did consist of columns, indeed part of a stone column is to be seen built into the nave of the Anglo-Saxon church.



The area to be excavated in 2006 is highlighted in red (above, left). Students (far left) can be seen excavating the cobbled floor and hearth of one of the Roman buildings found in Trench 13.



Excavation this year has revealed that the Saxon church included a Roman pagan temple which was enclosed inside a stone wall (left) which defined the sacred area of the Roman temple complex. Part of the late Roman walling can still be seen (above left), and was built into the Saxon church.