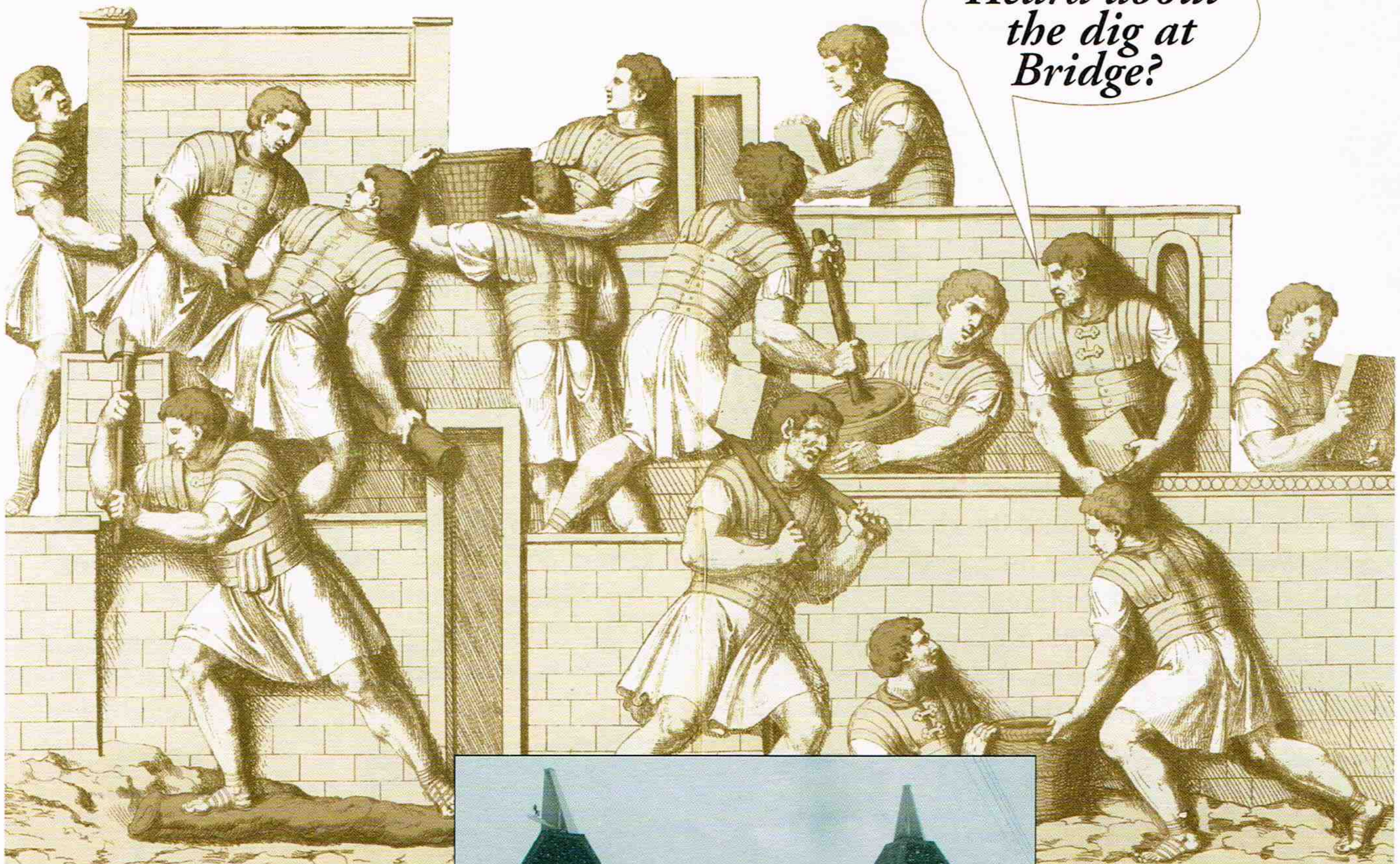


KAFS Newsletter: No.2.

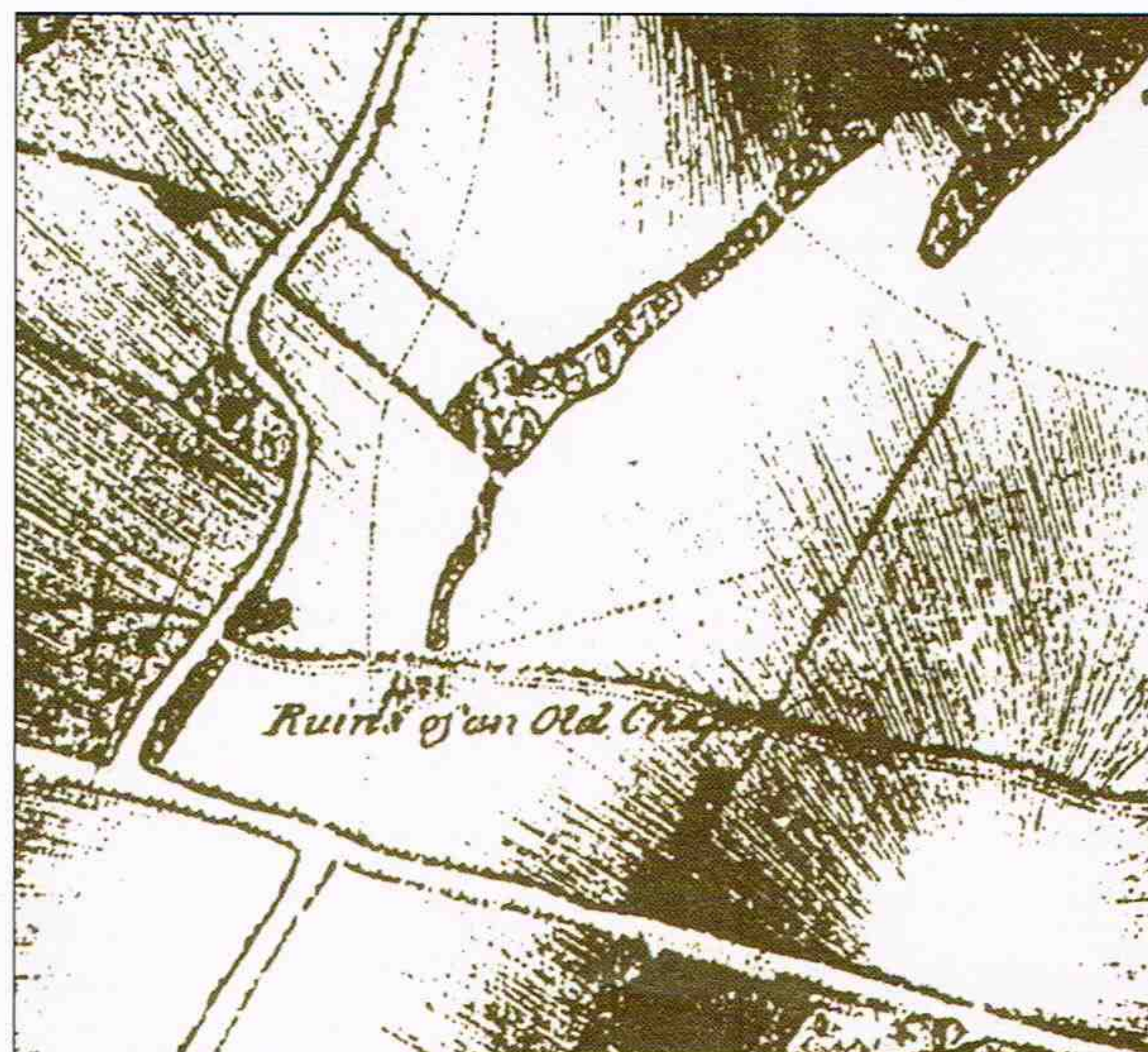
Kent Archaeological Field School: Spring 2005



Welcome to the Spring issue of the Kent Archaeological Field School Newsletter. Our first course, due to be held on 5th & 6th March, was supposed to include fieldwalking, but, as the picture of the field school (right) shows, the fields were under a foot of snow! We had to cancel and most members transferred to the course on 'Discovering Archaeological Sites'. Our Easter excavation

course was fully booked for the first weekend. The site, at Bridge, revealed Anglo-Saxon graves from the seventh century. It was the experience of a lifetime for many people. As you all know, to excavate a site rich in finds — gold and silver artefacts, glassware, pottery, spears — is really as good as it can get. Do join us this summer on more superb courses.

Excavation will continue at Syndale in Stone Chapel Field (right) from July 30th to August 14th. The extent of the Roman town of Durolevum has now been identified by the Field School and excavations in this field will continue to reveal about this important site. The chapel is a ruined Roman building that was extended in the Saxon period and is unique in Britain. The map dates from 1795 and shows Watling Street and the old road into Faversham.

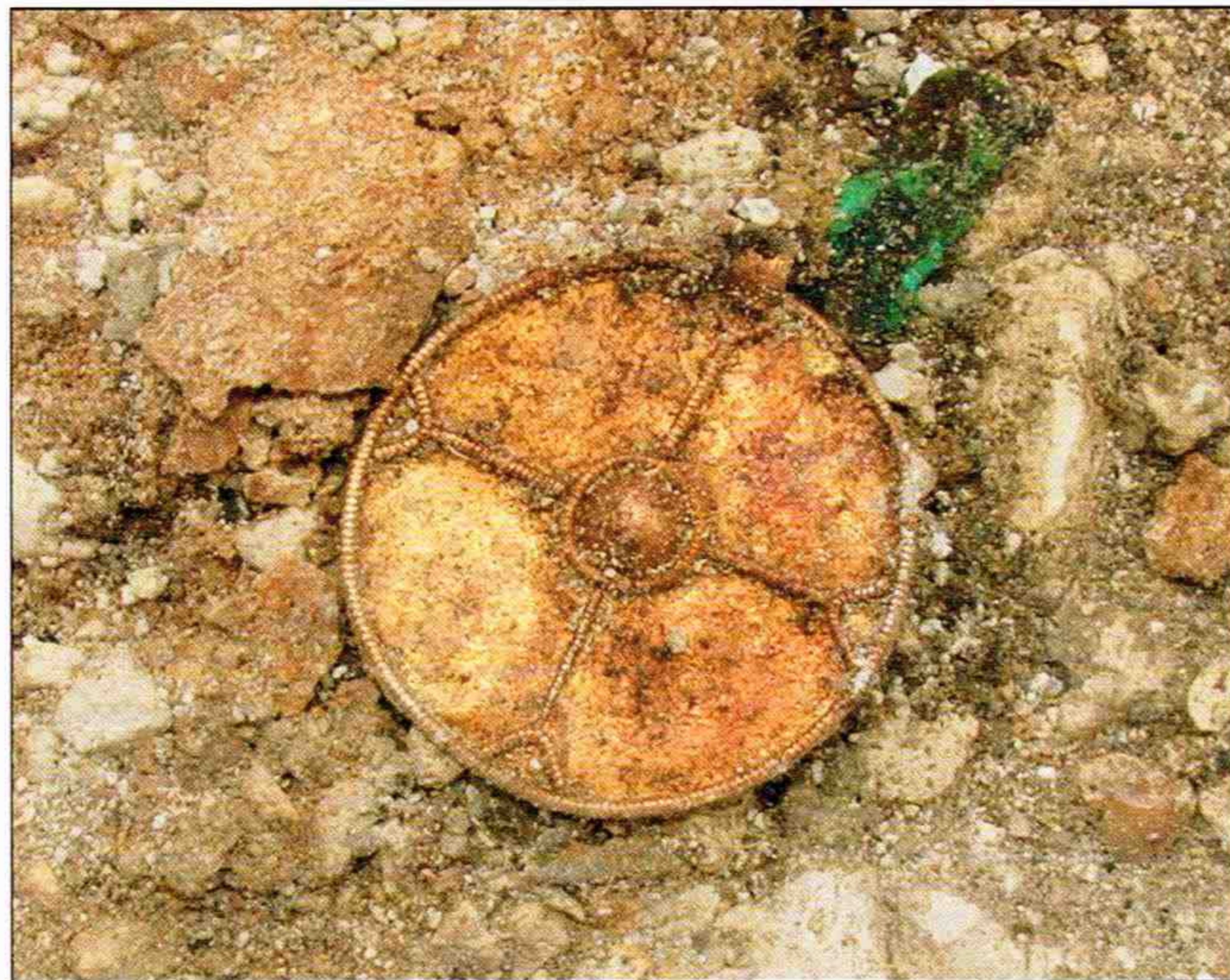
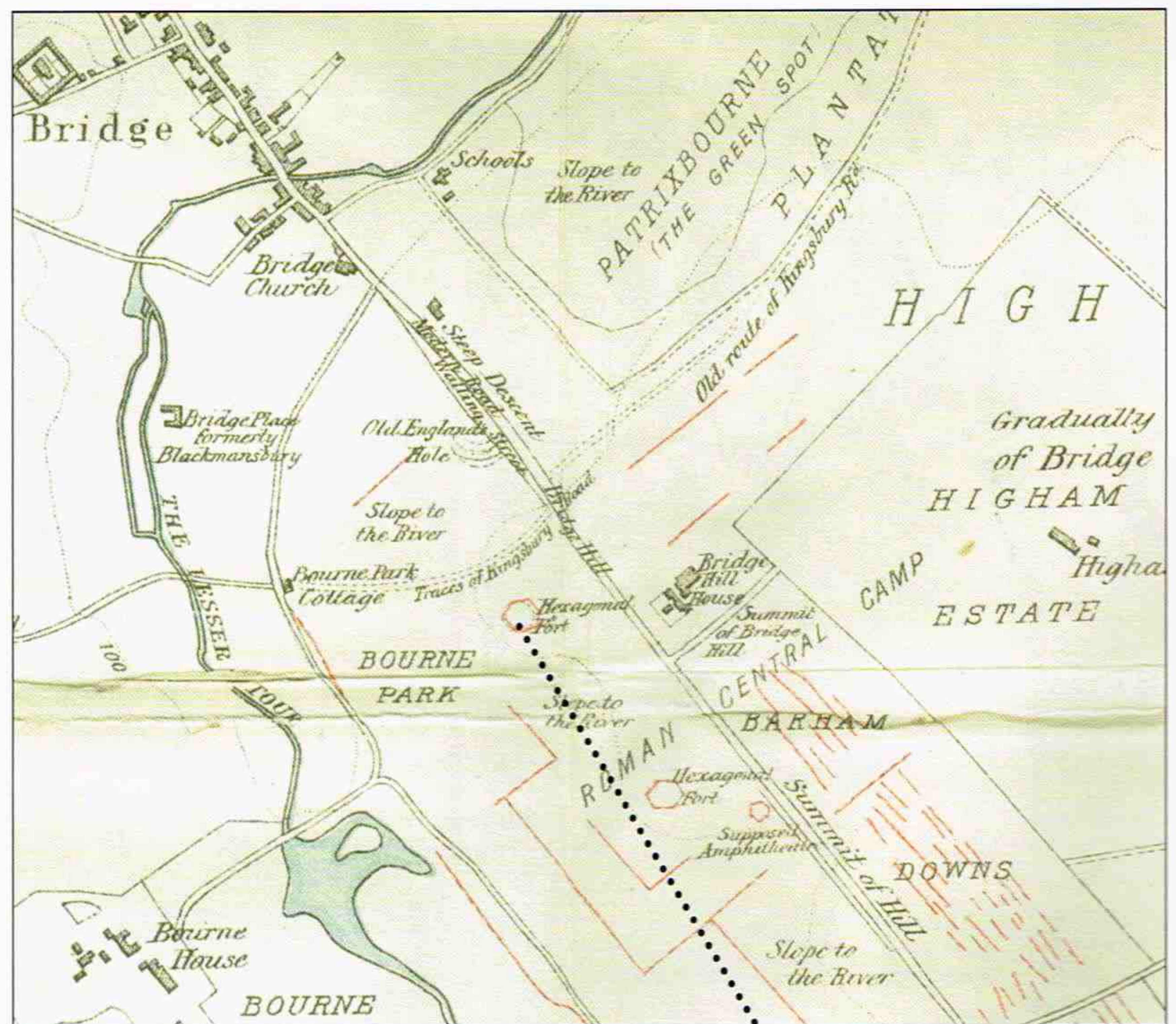


Kent Archaeological Field School
School Farm Oast, Graveney Road,
Faversham, Kent, ME13 8UP
Director: Dr Paul Wilkinson

FIELD SCHOOL NEWS



Our Easter dig this year focused on investigating a possible prehistoric site at Star Hill, just to the east of Bridge, near Canterbury. On the first day, and with the first spade cut, we found an Anglo-Saxon spear in an east-west orientated grave carved into the chalk. As the week unfolded, we uncovered a further eleven graves, all of which respected the profile of the hexagon feature and so must have been made after the feature. All the graves contained many artefacts such as gold pendants (below), glass and amber beads, buckles, knives, spears, scissors, cowrie shells, beautiful



The gold pendant (left) of bracteate form, circular with a cruciform filigree pattern, was found still attached to the neck of a male skeleton. Close to his right shoulder was a well-preserved spear.

The hexagon shape (above and right) is shown on this 19th-century map by Vine in 'Caesar in Kent'. Vine thought it was a small fort, but excavation by the KAFS has shown it to be Roman.

glassware and decorated pottery. There were also about sixty Anglo-Saxon silver coins (top left), they were dated by Andy, our metal detectorist, to the seventh century.

We had gone to Bridge to investigate the hexagon-shaped feature that appears on aerial photographs (above right). According to the National Monument Record, held by English Heritage, the hexagon feature had been interpreted as dating from the World War II, but our research indicated that it could date from the late Iron-Age. We thought that it could not be a

World War II feature, as we had found a map dating from the nineteenth century (above) which showed the hexagon feature and another one to the south-east. Previous work by the Field School had uncovered part of the hexagon and retrieved Iron-Age sherds of pottery from the fill. It was also noted that the ditch had been dug using antler picks, not spades.

The seventh-century graves can be precisely dated by the Anglo-Saxon coins that we found. Also, some of the graves had been cut into the fill of the hexagon ditch, proving beyond any doubt that the hexagon ditch pre-dates the seventh-century graves.

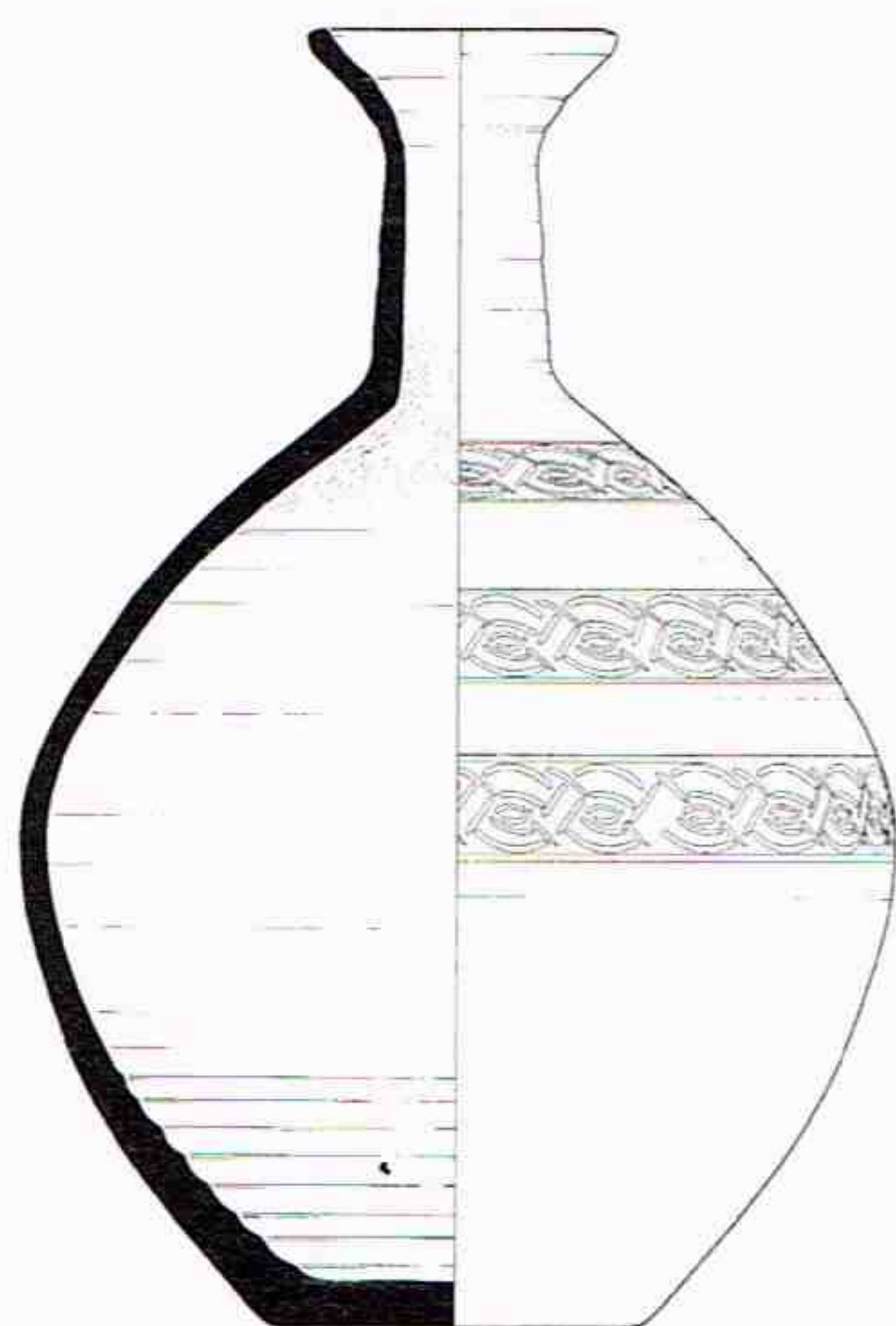
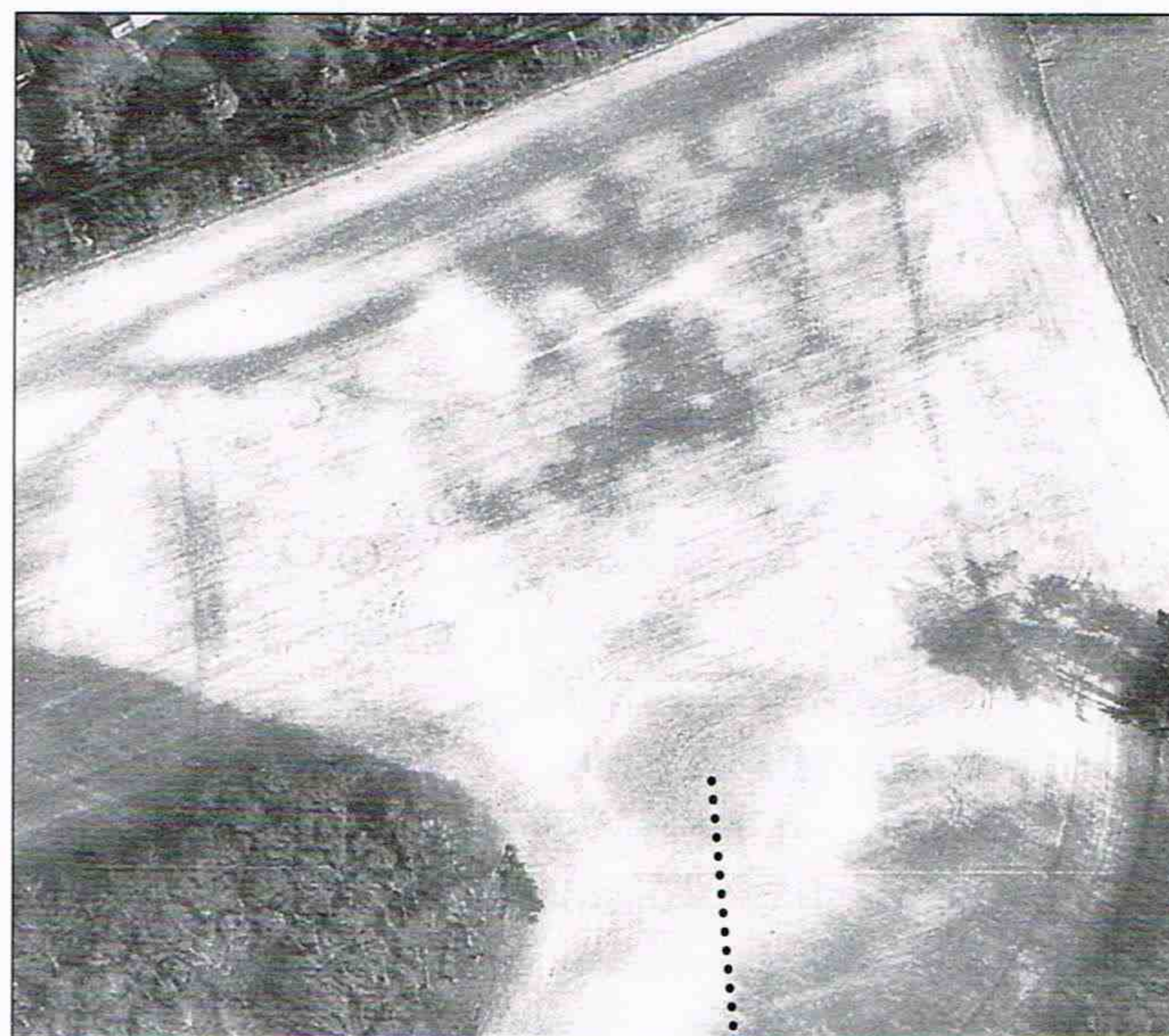
The graves are orientated east-west with the head at the west end. This is usually thought of as a classic Christian position, because it ensures that when the incumbent of the grave sits up on the Day of Resurrection, and the first thing they

FIELD SCHOOL NEWS

will see when their eyes open is the rising sun. However, the sun has been a powerful religious symbol since the earliest times. In the Roman period, the sun was portrayed as one of the most powerful pagan gods, Sol or Sol Invictus.

Pagan gods influenced the east-west orientation of burials in the pre-Christian period. Sol or Sol Invictus offered its devotees resurrection, just as the Christian faith does. Interestingly, the festival of the sun god's birthday was held on 25th December. Maybe it is not a coincidence that we worship our Christian god on Sunday, named after Sol, who was also worshiped on this day.

If the graves are for Christian burials why the plethora of grave goods? Maybe the Anglo-Saxons were hedging their bet.



One of the pots (above) found in the graves is wheel-turned and decorated with a repeat pattern of classic Anglo-Saxon design. It probably contained food or drink.



Brooches of gold (above) similar to the finds at Bridge were also found at Faversham 'home of the metalsmiths'.



Eleven Anglo-Saxon graves were discovered abutting the hexagon feature. The graves had been cut into the fill of the hexagon ditch so must post-date it. The students are lying the same way as the

burials were found, with their heads to the west. Most burials had grave goods. Laid by the feet of the women were a bag of silver coins, cowrie shells, spindle weights, shears, keys, and a small knife.

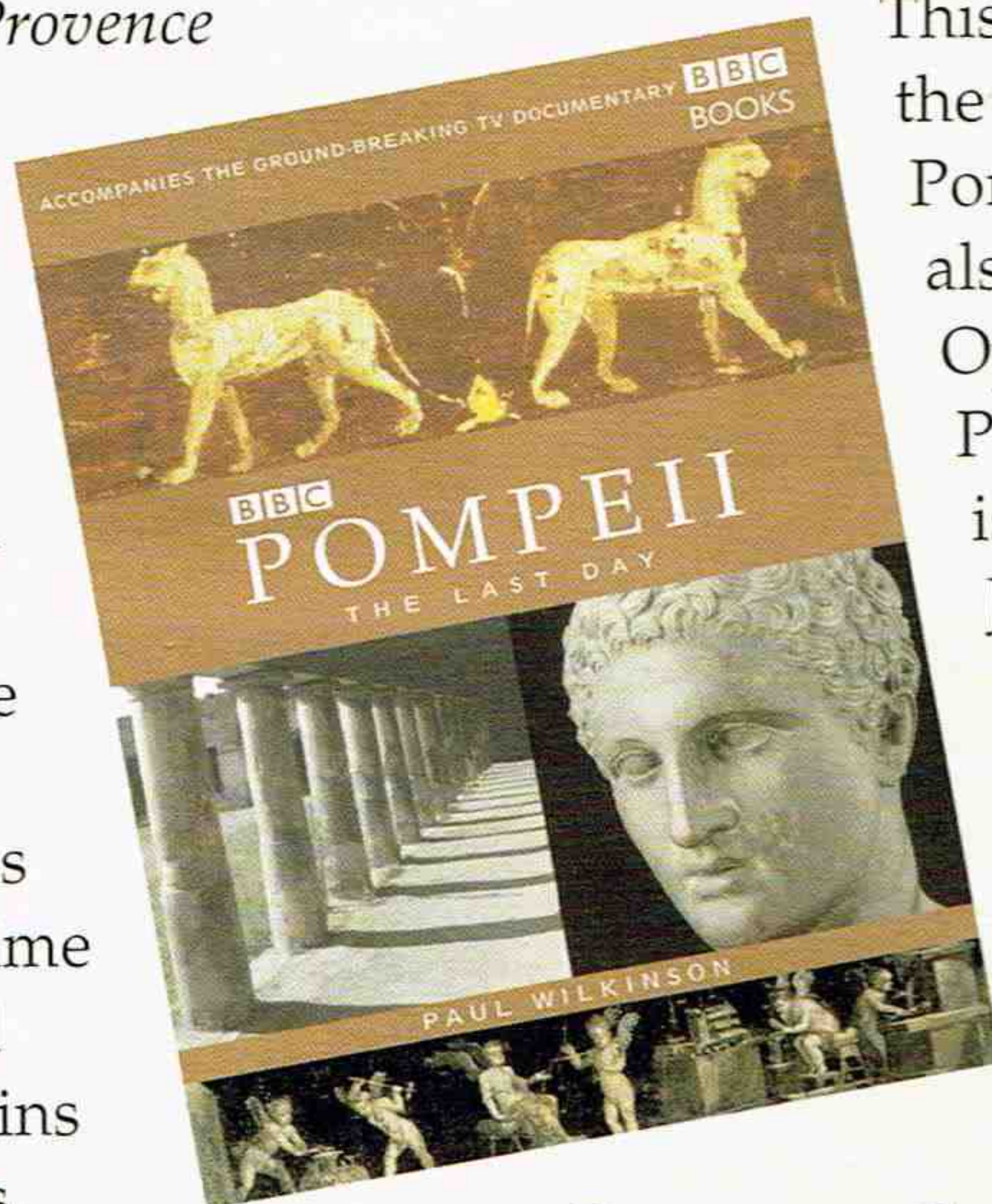
The hexagon feature is a fine example of Roman survey, utilising levels and geometry. It was probably used for a high-status cremation. The location is superb, and visible from the main Roman road.

FIELD SCHOOL TRIPS



June 18th to June 25th, Roman Provence

A wonderful combination of beautiful Provencal scenery, the relaxed ambience of lovely towns and some of the most spectacular Roman remains in Europe make this an incredibly exciting holiday. We will stay at a historic hotel in the centre of Arles, regarded as the Rome of the north at the time of the Roman Empire. We will guide you to the Roman remains of Arles, Pont du Gard, Nimes, Glanum, Orange, and Vaison-la-Romaine. The trip costs £1,247 per person (single £1,492).



the Roman world. After the Romans, other waves of traders and invaders came to Spain and left their imprint, especially the Moors, whose mosques and palaces we will explore. We will stay in a converted palace in Ecija for 6 nights and a lovely hotel in Jerez for 2 nights. The tour costs £1,640 per person (single £1,815).

September 17th to 24th, Pompeii and the Bay of Naples

This trip includes guided tours of the well-preserved Roman towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum. We will also visit Cumae, Baiae, Pozzuoli, Oplontis and the Greek temples at Paestum, there is a day trip to the isle of Capri, to see the Villa Jovis, and a visit to Naples archaeological museum. We will stay in Ravello, an elegant resort on the Amalfi coast. The trip costs £1,400 per person (single £1,645).

October 15th to 22nd, Rome and

Ravenna — Roman and Early Christian Mosaics
A tour that reveals the mosaics of ancient and medieval Italy. This two-centre trip will take us to some of the hidden gems of Rome and Ravenna. We will explore the early Christian architecture of Ravenna and see some of the



September 4th to 12th, Roman and Moorish Spain

A two-centre tour of the amazing ruins in the towns and countryside of southern Spain. We will unravel the rich cultural heritage of the region as we visit Italica, the first Roman settlement on the Iberian peninsula. We will travel through the area that became

Baetica in 19 BC. The province grew wealthy by producing oil, wine, metals, and wheat for



best early Christian mosaics in the world. Then we fly to Rome where we will discover some of the magnificent mosaics surviving in small churches as well as in major collections, such as the Vatican museum. The tour costs £1,465 per person (single £1,745).

Prices include flights, b&b, dinner, most lunches, entrance fees and coach travel. For further details and to book see www.romanolidays.co.uk or call 01795 532548.

FIELD SCHOOL COURSES

Ground Penetrating Radar will be taught. Practical exercises will take place at Syndale, our late summer excavation site.

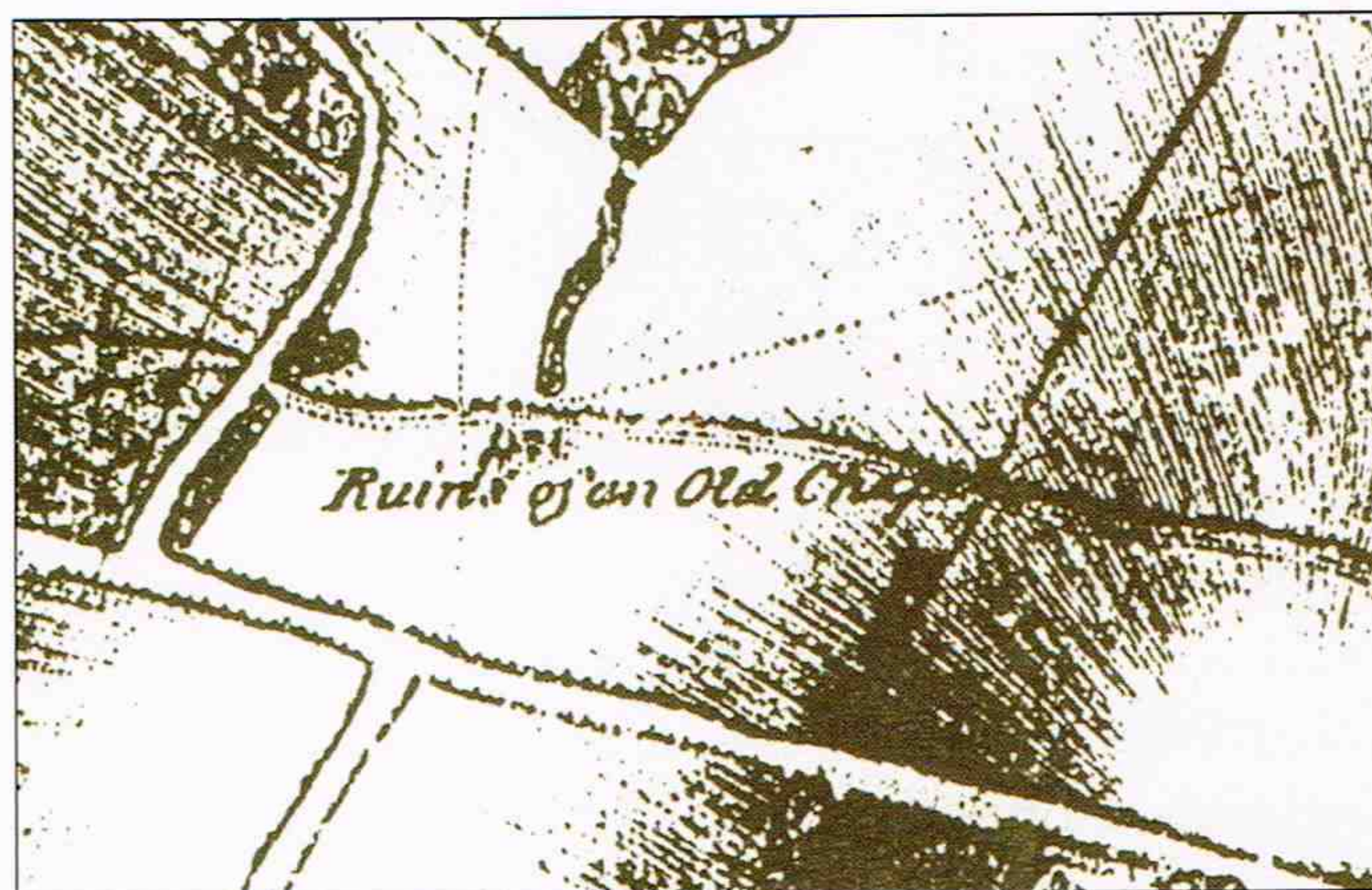
July 9th & 10th, Interpreting the Roman Villa
Course led by Paul Wilkinson author of *Roman Villas in Kent*. The course will concentrate on how and why villas played such an important part in the Roman landscape. We will visit the Roman villas at Lullingstone, Fishbourne and Bignor.



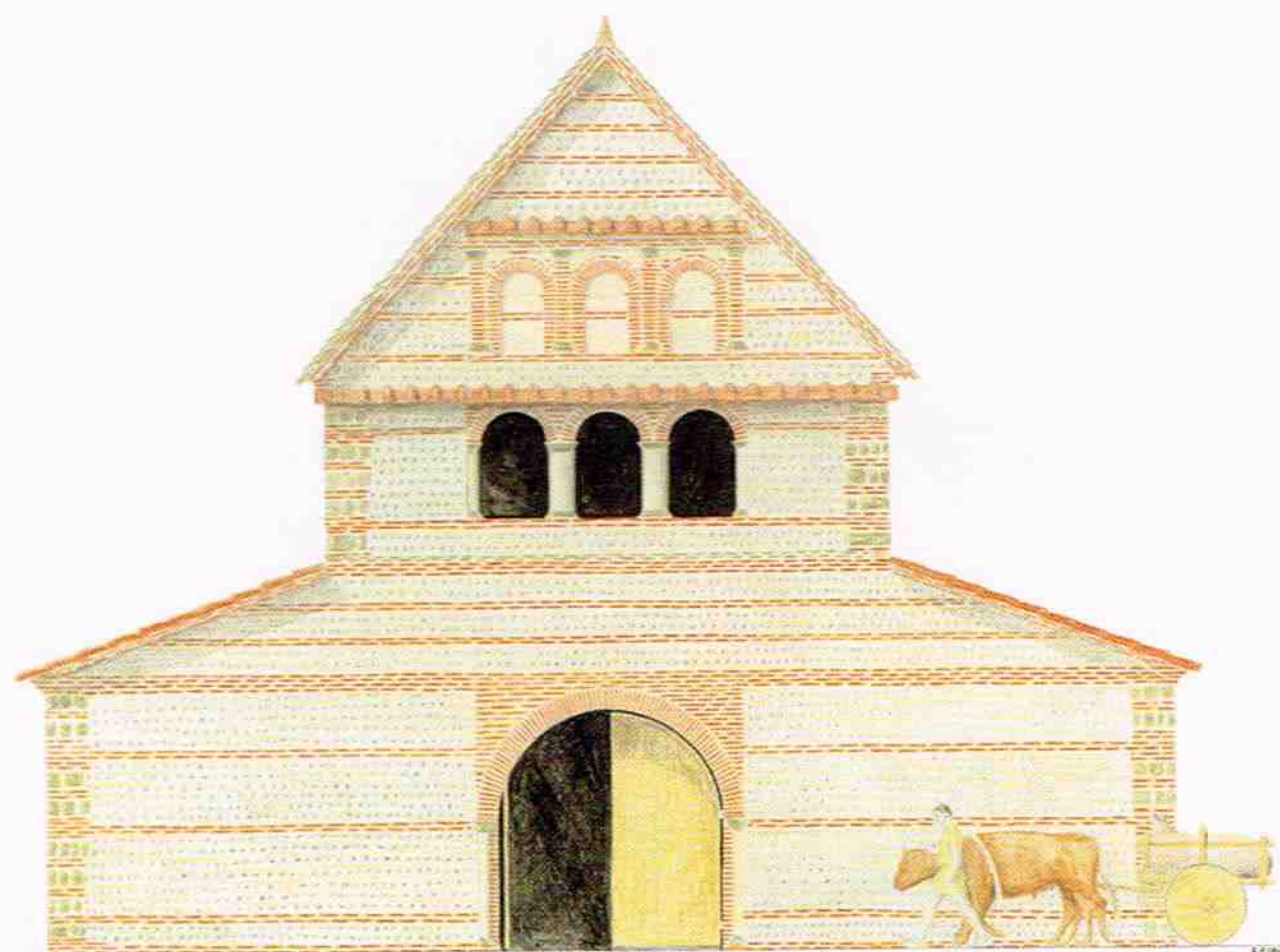
July 16th & 17th, An Introduction to Archaeology
We shall look at how archaeological sites are discovered and find out how different types of finds, such as human bones and prehistoric flints, reveal the lives of former peoples. This course will be run with *History Today* magazine. Anyone over the age of 11 years old is welcome, but under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.

July 30th to August 14th, Excavation at Syndale, Site of the Roman Town of Durolevum

The site of the lost Roman town of Durolevum is now established at Syndale, near Faversham. The town appears in the Antonine Itinerary, but its location was later forgotten, until it was re-discovered and confirmed as the site of the town by the activities of the Kent Archaeological Field School. This year we will spend two weeks



excavating and recording Roman buildings on the west side of the town, in the area called Stone Chapel Field. Stone Chapel is a scheduled monument and is a Roman building attached to a later Anglo-Saxon church. The building was excavated in the 1970s by Meates of Lullingstone Villa fame. Beginners are welcome on the Monday to Friday courses, with the option to continue for further days (same daily fee applies). Experienced participants may book the days they wish. Topics taught each day are: Monday: History of the Site & Why dig? Tuesday: Excavation Techniques; Wednesday: Site Survey; Thursday: Archaeological Recording; Friday: Small Finds Recording. KAFS member's special fee £30 per day, non-members £35 per day.

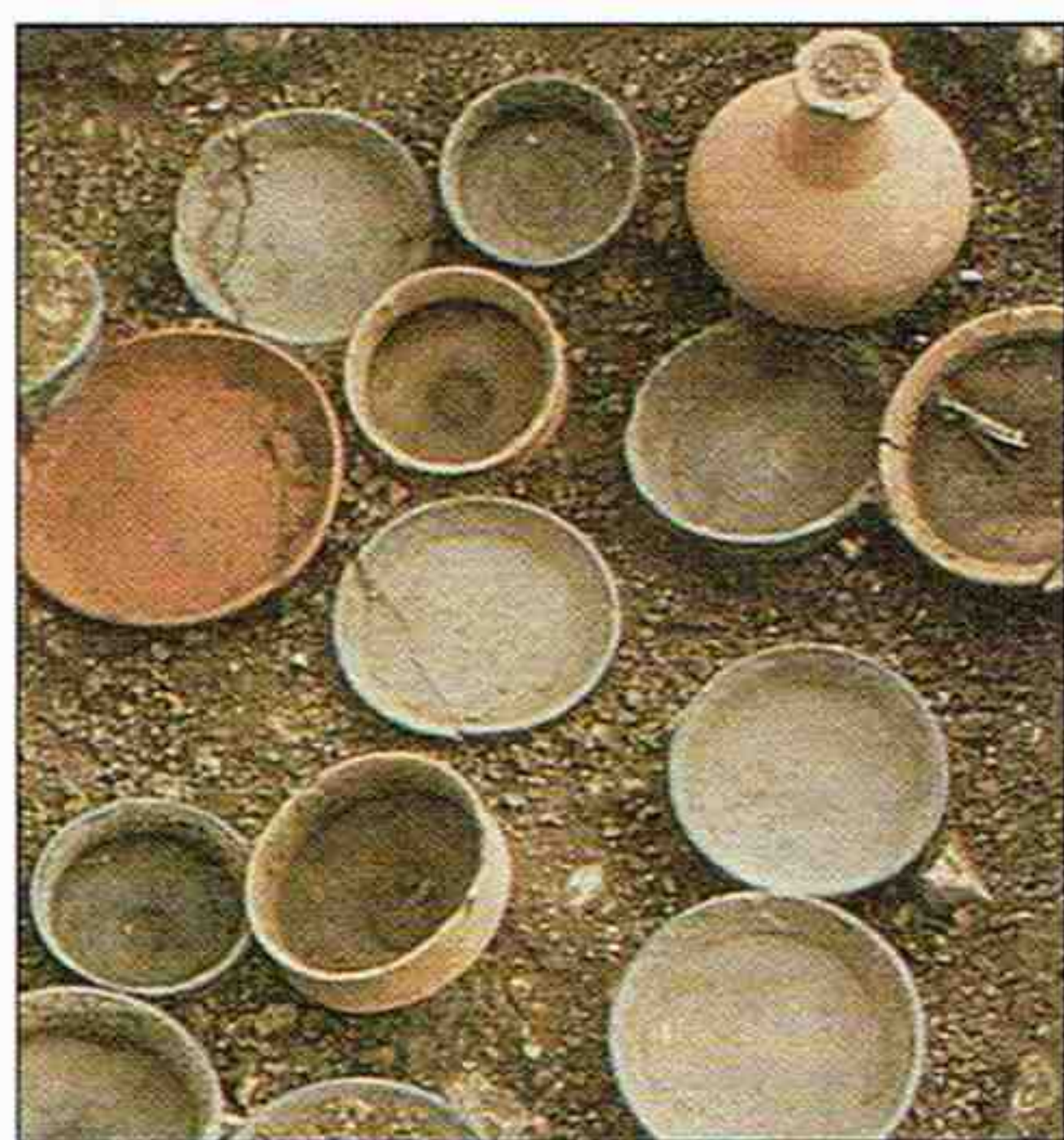


August 20th & 21st, Roman Building Techniques and Materials

An intensive course on Roman buildings and Roman building material to be found in early Christian churches in Kent. In the afternoons we

FIELD SCHOOL COURSES

October 15th to 22nd, Rome and Ravenna — Roman and Early Christian Mosaics
See page four for details.



October 29th & 30th, How to Identify Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval Pottery

The course, led by MoLSS tutors, will introduce students to the practical problems of identifying Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval pottery. The types of pottery from each period will be described and examples will be available for

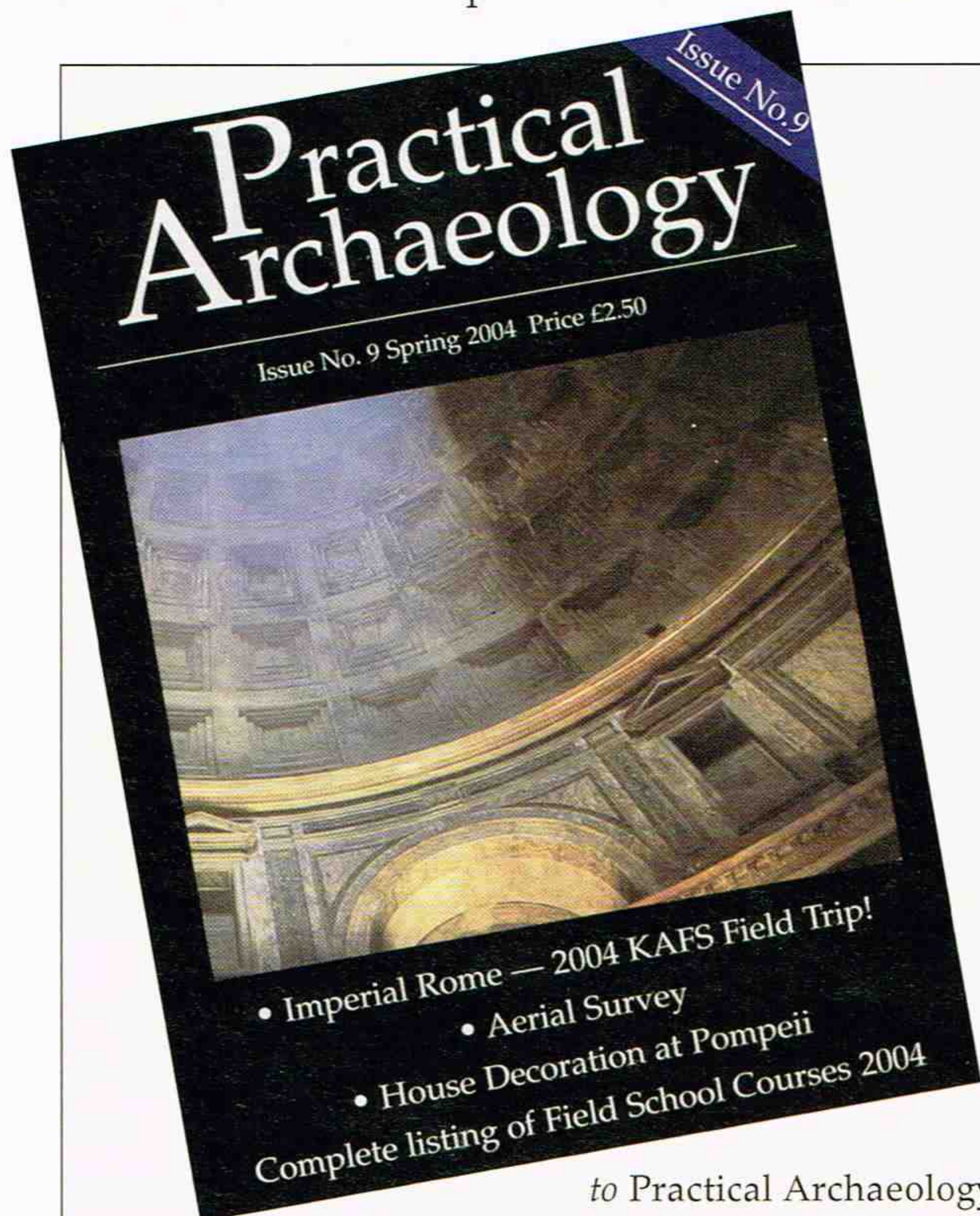
examination. An ideal course for those who want to distinguish the many types of pottery found on British sites.

November 5th & 6th, Bronze-Age Axe and Pottery Workshop

On Saturday, this workshop will explore many aspects of bronze age metal working, with the smelting of copper and tin ores. Each person will work on their own axes. On Sunday, we will fire our own prehistoric 'beaker' using bronze age methods and learn how to build a simple kiln to fire your own pot at a later date. Course led by Neil Burridge a specialist in bronze age crafts.

November 26th & 27th, Meet Your Ancestors

A course designed to enable you to research your family tree. Genealogy is the study of your past and this weekend course will enable you to find out who your ancestors were.



KAFS COURSE BOOKING FORM

Name of Course.....

 Date of Course.....
 Your Name.....
 Address.....

 Postcode.....Tel No.....
 E-mail address.....
 I enclose a cheque (payable to KAFS) for.....
 Please send me a KAFS membership form

Return this form to:-

The Kent Archaeological Field School,
School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham,
Kent ME13 8UP. Tel: 01795 532548

Website: www.kafs.co.uk E-mail: info@kafs.co.uk

Please note that courses are bookable in advance only and are non-refundable or transferable. Member's 10% discount does not apply to special fees and field trips. Children over 14 and under 16 years old are welcome on courses, but must be accompanied by an adult; under-16s are not allowed on excavations.

To become a member and enjoy a 10% discount on courses plus a subscription

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