SOME MILITARY BRONZES FROM THE TRINOVANTIAN CIVITAS

N.P. Wickenden

INTRODUCTION

A group of military bronzes, predominantly of 1st century date, from a number of 'small town' sites in Essex (part of the Civitas of the Trinovantes) has come to light during post-excavation work by the author. The sites were largely excavated by Mr P.J. Drury for the Chelmsford Excavation Committee (now Chelmsford Archaeological Trust) in the early 1970s; Dr Warwick Rodwell's excavations at Beauchamps Farm, Wickford, and Kirsty Rodwell's work at Kelvedon have also been included in the Trust's series of monographs. The material is being published site by site, but is here drawn together, though it is stressed that it is in no way intended to be a complete corpus of material from these towns. Sites included (see Fig.1) in this paper are: Chelmsford, Wickford, Great Dunmow, Heybridge, and Kelvedon. The history of each town is briefly outlined, followed by a catalogue of the military, or quasi-military objects, early brooches, and by a list of pre-Claudian, Claudian, Neronian, and Vespasianic coins recovered from the Trust's excavations. A number of metal-detector finds from other sites that have been brought to my attention are also included, along with summaries of material from two further towns, Gestingthorpe and Harlow. A brief discussion summarises what inferences, if any, can be made about the early military nature of the towns involved.

CHELMSFORD

Chelmsford lies on the main Roman road midway between London and Colchester, at the point where the road crosses the rivers Can and Chelmer, near their confluence. The Roman town – Caesaromagus – was sited on the southern slope of the Can valley, astride the Roman road, founded on apparently virgin, agricultural ground – material evidence indicates an almost total lacuna in the Late pre-Roman Iron Age.[1]

An early interim by Drury[2] suggested a number of pre-Flavian features,[3] mainly dated at the time on the evidence of the samian, now shown for the most part to be highly residual. Some of this samian, supposedly from earlier excavations, was burnt, which had led Drury in an earlier interim[4] to suggest, but then to discard the possibility of a fire, and hence a pre-existing settlement, at the time of the Boudican revolt. In fact the samian vessels in question are are now known to have formed part of Frederic Chancellor's nineteenth century collections, and probably originated in London, where he worked. Dr Warwick Rodwell, however, has recently argued that an assemblage of samian from Site AG comprises a high incidence of decorated pre-Flavian vessels, dating perhaps from the later 50s, throughout the 60s, and ending c.AD 70-75, and must be regarded as military in character.[5] A detailed examination of the other ceramics from Chelmsford in recent years by Christopher Going[6] has led to a redating of the foundation of Chelmsford, now thought to be a post-Boudican military road station, one of several set up at nodal points in the road and river network of

the Civitas, to act as a check against further rebellion. The station, which has a stone laconicum, was probably short-lived, but survived as a mansio, later remodelled under Hadrian along with much of the rest of the town as part of his reorganisation of the Cursus Publicus. Drury's early fort[7] now has no archaeological basis, though ditches on Site S,[8] are still thought to be part of a gateway and annexe of the post-Boudican fort. The grandiose title Caesaromagus – 'Caesar's plain' or 'market-place' – remains enigmatic, possibly suggesting that Chelmsford was originally intended as the new cantonal capital.

Finally post-excavation work on a major 4th century Romano-Celtic temple (Sites D, K and M) has revealed a religious enclosure dated to c. 70-80.[9] The town was briefly defended by an earthen rampart and ditch in the later 2nd century.

Catalogue

Abbreviations in italics under the context refer to the publication of that site, i.e. Mansio = DRURY, forthcoming; Temple = WICKENDEN, forthcoming b; Frontage = WICKENDEN, forthcoming c.

Fig.3.1. Scabbard chape, one side slightly bent and with a small perforation. The patina bears impressions of grass or straw. There is a central rivet, almost invisible. For a very similar, slightly larger parallel, and a smaller, more rounded example from Richborough, see Wilson in CUNLIFFE, 1968, pl.XXXIV.91-2, and p.93 with references. See also DRAPER, 1985, fig.15.114 (Gestingthorpe); ALLASON-JONES & MIKET, 1984, 401; OLDENSTEIN, 1976, Taf.19.
Context 21 Moulsham Street 1968, pit 29. Frontage

Fig.3.2 and Pl.1. Decorated hook terminal from a large double- lobed pendant, probably used as a frontlet for a horse. For a complete example from Cirencester, see WEBSTER, 1982, 109, fig.36. The terminal, plain on the underside, appears to represent a stylised bird. The back of the head, body and top of the wings (moulded to look folded) are decorated with rows of arced nicks, in an identical manner to that from Cirencester, and must indicate a common place of manufacture, if not the same hand. The object is unequivocally an early military item. For another discussion of the type, see BISHOP, 1987, 123-5.
Context Site V 1975, Cat 389, 2nd century floor. Frontage

Fig.3.3. Abraded apron terminal or strap end, with remains of a dome-headed stud attachment. Bronze, with a small amount of zinc.
Context Site D 1970, 261, silt over road, Period VII.2, 4th century. Temple

Fig.3.4. Fragmentary apron strap mount, terminating in a sphere.
Context Site V 1972, late 1st century gravel road surface L25. Frontage

Fig.3.5. Stud with quatrefoil decoration. Brass, with a small amount of lead. The inlay appears to be niello (unconfirmed). See, for instance HAWKES & HULL, 1947, pl.CII.30; BRAILSFORD, 1962, fig.5.A 125-6; RITTERLING, 1913, Taf.XII.

Context Site K 1971, 479, early Roman gravel 257, Period IV.3, c.AD 80-90. The same context also yielded a coin of Claudius. Temple

Fig.3.6. Stud. The shaft has been bent so that its tip meets the down-turned rim. The face is countersunk, with a faint maltese-cross-like decoration. There are traces of a white metal plating in the hollow. Military; see, for instance, BRAILSFORD, 1962, fig.5.A 124.
Context Site S 1972, 175 I, Period VII.1, 3rd century. Mansio

Fig.3.7. Copper nail with flat head, decorated with three concentric grooves; for examples with similar decoration, see CUNLIFFE, 1971, fig.52.165; OLDENSTEIN, 1976, Taf.18.531.
Context Site Z 1975, 103, Period VI.3 onwards, c.AD 150+. Mansio

Fig.3.8. Small, clenched nail, worn and corroded, as Fig.3.7. Another example comes from Wickford (Fig.5.27 below).
Context Site N 1970, Cat 333, pit, c.AD 90-120. Frontage

Fig.3.9. Plated box hasp with transverse mouldings and a 'scallop' terminal. For a parallel from Chichester, see DOWN & RULE, 1971, fig.5.16.171 K. The same motif appears on a hasp from Richborough (Wilson in CUNLIFFE, 1968, pl.XLV.193); see also a pendant from Kelvedon, Fig.5.28 below. Very high levels of tin and lead suggest a white metal plating on a ?leaded bronze base.
Context Site D 1970, 71, Periods IV-V, first century, subsoil under ovens. Temple

Fig.3.10. Hollow cast terminal in the shape of a ram's head, filled partly with lead, into which a hole has been pierced, presumably as a means of fixing. The ram is well-modelled, and despite being rather worn, the detail of the collar, decorated with ring and dot, and of the spiralling horns, is still clear. The object is probably the terminal of a large patera handle, though it is possible it is a furniture fitting. NUBER's Hagenow type D patera (1972, 38), with its distinctive two-piece handle, dated from the Augustan period through to the Boudican revolt. Examples of this type, unfortunately missing the actual terminals, have been found at Pleshey and Heybridge in probable burial contexts (for the latter see WICKENDEN, 1987). On stylistic grounds the terminal is similar to other rams head patera handles from Verulamium (FRERE, 1972, 138.148-9) and Hod Hill (BRAILSFORD, 1962, fig.5.A 132 and pl.X), though the Chelmsford example is much larger.
Context Chancellor Collection, thus perhaps from London (p.ßßß). Mansio

Fig.4.11. Enamelled belt of harness slide; well cast with good, overall patina. It is not clear what colours the enamelling used, beyond bright blue, and what is now dark green. Not thought by Dr Webster to be an early military item (pers comm); possibly part of the temple regalia, in view of its discovery on the religious precinct, albeit in a post-Roman context. No parallels are known to the writer.
Context Site K 1971, 679, post-Roman pit. Temple

Fig.4.12-14. Pieces of broad decorated strips, with punched circles,

nicks and ribs; probably from typically 1st century wide bracelets (cf HAWKES & HULL, 1947, pl.C.30; CRUMMY, 1983, types 1586-7; FRERE, 1972, fig.32.30-1. Alternatively, part of a decorative brow band from a helmet (Goodburn in FRERE, 1984, fig.10.70).
Contexts 12, Site K 1971, pit 87, Period IV.2, c.AD 60-90. Temple; 13, Site V 1972, L17, 1st century + loam. Frontage; 14, Site V 1972, F110 2nd century slot. Frontage

Fig.4.15. Sheet with a small hole at each top corner with copper alloy wire passing through, and tapering slightly towards the bottom (incomplete); the edges are decorated with two rows of peck-marks. Possibly a fragment of lorica squamata (cf. ROBINSON, 1975, fig.159, pl.436-41), though the object appears to be soldered on the underside. Gunmetal, with a tin-lead white metal plating.
Context Site K 1971, 748 (non-feature). Temple

Fig.4.16. Cut sheet fragment; gunmetal, with tin-lead solder on the underside.
Context Site K 1971, pit 84, 2nd century +. Temple

Fig.4.17. Sheet fragment with a small drilled hole top centre; compare an example from Kelvedon (Fig.5.32 below). Like Fig.4.15-16, the underside was coated with a tin-lead(?) solder.
Context Site K 1971, 1139, site clearance. Temple

Fig.4.18-20. Antonine military equipment, possibly connected with the construction of the 2nd century earthen defences of the town (DRURY, forthcoming).

Fig.4.18. Pierced heart-shaped mount of military pattern, silvered on face. This finds parallels in the limes forts of the Antonine period; for similar examples from Zugmantel, Feldberg, Saalburg and Stockstadt, see OLDENSTEIN, 1976, Taf.31.
Context Chancellor Collection (?London provenance). CHMER Accn No.B18040. Mansio

Fig.4.19. Pierced heart-shaped mount. This could be in the same category as Fig.4.18, since OLDENSTEIN (1976, Taf.32) demonstrates the many variations which the form can take. It is unusual in having an asymmetrical foot (but cf. OLDENSTEIN, 1976, Taf.68.895), but it may be one of a matching pair, with one twisted one way, and its partner the other. It is also possible that it is civilian rather than military.
Context Site AA 1968, pit 1.8, Period VI, c. AD 160-90. Mansio

Fig.4.20. Part of an open-work mount in the form of a pelta, with a large fastening stud on the back. It could have been part of a double or quadruple mount similar to OLDENSTEIN, 1976, Taf.34,275-6, both of which incorporate the pelta. Antonine or later.
Context Site S 1972, 1065, Period VII.1, 3rd century. Mansio

Brooches

    First century brooches from Chelmsford include nine Nauheim-derivatives, ten Hod Hill, one Thistle, two one-piece,

twenty-one Colchester two-piece, six Colchester derivatives, one trumpet, one toothed-bow Polden Hill type and three plate examples.

Coins

Cunobelinus, MACK 253, 2.218g, Site S
Marcus Antonius, c. 31 BC, S 1216, Site S
Tiberius, AD 12-20, RIC I 245 (rev Augustus), Site M
Drusus, AD 21-2, as, Rome mint, RIC I 45 (Tiberius), 21 Moulsham Street
Divus Augustus, AD 22-30, as, Rome mint, RIC I 81 (Tiberius), 21 Moulsham Street
14 X Claudius 1, AD 43-64, Copy as RIC I 100, 95 (one example), Sites K, M, S, V, Prince of Orange, Orchard Site
11 X Vespasianus, AD 69-79, RIC 500, 528 (X2), 753A, 764, and illegible asses and dupondii, Sites K, M, S, V, Prince of Orange, Orchard Site and Cables Yard.

One Claudian as was overstamped; another is die-related to a coin from Lincoln. One batch of coins is still being conserved, so that it is possible these numbers will increase.

HEYBRIDGE

Excavations by P.J. Drury in 1972 for the Essex Archaeological Society have recently been published.[10] The excavated site fronted a side road leading eastwards to Mersea within the Romano-British small town which grew up on the north side of the River Blackwater at its confluence with the Chelmer. The main road from Colchester crossed the rivers at their junction, and then turned south-westwards to Chelmsford, bypassing an Iron Age hill-fort at Maldon. Whilst material evidence for late Iron Age occupation consisted only of a scatter of 'Belgic' sherds and a potin coin, a gazetteer of past finds made it clear that Heybridge was a flourishing pre-Roman port; finds include an arretine platter, a patera and ewer burial and Welwyn-type amphora burials. With the Roman conquest, the settlement expanded, functioning primarily as a port for the area, and Chelmsford in particular. No evidence, save Fig.4.21 below, was found for a military occupation, though the discovery of building stone and other materials such as tile tesserae, window glass, and box flue tile, may indicate the presence somewhere in the town of a mansio.[11]

Fig.4.21. Abraded object, probably an apron fitting. Brass. Found in post-Roman ditch.

Brooches

Two Nauheim-derivatives (one iron) and a third fragment; fragment of a Hod Hill.

Coins

Potin, Class II, 02, weight 0.718g
Claudius 1, AD 43–64, copy, reverse indeterminate, residual in Grubenhaus

GREAT DUNMOW

Excavations by P.J. Drury from 1970 to 1972 for the Essex Archaeological Society are shortly to be published.[12] The Romano-British small town was a roadside settlement which grew up along Stane Street between Colchester and Braughing along a ridge of high ground above the River Chelmer. The excavations lay some 120m behind Stane Street, and yielded a number of boundary ditches. Of importance was a small late Flavian – Antonine family cremation cemetery within a small enclosure, with casket burials similar to ones from Skeleton Green.[13] In the later Roman period the site was occupied by a timber 'shrine' which survived into the 5th century. The absence of any late Iron Age pottery suggests the Roman town grew up on virgin, agricultural land, and there is little evidence for a military occupation, beyond Fig.4.22 found in a smaller excavation. A gazetteer of finds has isolated several cremation and inhumation cemeteries, and a study of the surrounding countryside has revealed a pattern of villas, farming the prosperous gravel terraces of the Chelmer valley.

Fig.4.22. Abraded belt stiffener, lead gunmetal, decorated with inlaid niello (AML 822856). Similar pieces come from Chichester (DOWN, 1978, fig.10.34,67–8) and Colchester (CRUMMY, 1983, fig.144.4181). I am grateful to Paul Wilthew (formerly Ancient Monuments Laboratory) for analysing the metal.
Context Market Garden site, cat 1500, Roman gravel pit.

Coins

Cunobelinus, MACK 253, weight 1.413g, found with Fig.4.22
2 X Vespasianus, AD 69–79, RIC 761, as 764b

WICKFORD

Rescue excavations by Warwick Rodwell from 1965 to 1971 on behalf of Wickford Archaeological Society, in advance of a housing development, revealed a multiperiod occupation. A late Iron Age village was probably used as the site of a Conquest-period marching camp: a length of 'military-style' ditch was found with associated native and Claudian coinage, 1st century brooches and a number of military bronzes. In addition to the finds published here, watching briefs by Pauline Neild on behalf of the Essex County Council Archaeology Section produced further military bronzes, e.g. quatrefoil strap junctions, Claudian-Neronian brooches, Claudian copies and an as, probably of Tiberius, counterstamped TIB.IM, as used on coins at the Rhine frontier fortress of Moguntiacum (Mainz), whence legio XIV Gemina was transferred to take part in the AD 43 invasion.[14] A 2nd century villa

was built on agricultural land to the east, and the village appears to have become a servicing estate. Post-excavation work on Rodwell's excavations has been undertaken by Chelmsford Archaeological Trust and will be published in due course.

Catalogue

Fig.5.23. Trumpet mouthpiece, incomplete, with a low moulding against the mouth. Probably originally about 170mm long, of a type found at Colchester (Colchester Museum Annual Report, 1937-44, 28-9, plate 4), Verulamium (FRERE, 1972, fig.40.129) and Lydney park (WHEELER & WHEELER, 1932, fig.16.47, with German references). Possibly for use on a Cornu.
Context Cat 3128, pebble clearance

Fig.5.24. Possible fragment of martingale with a radiating openwork centre, i.e. ornamental horse furniture. A near complete example from South Shields is reproduced here (ALLASON-JONES & MIKET, 1984, 202, No.3.665).
Context Unstratified

Fig.5.25. Incomplete hinged harness mount with cut-out crescent decoration, and a stud on one plate. The hinge itself is formed by roling over the terminal of one plate around the terminal of the other. An exact parallel from South Shields is reproduced here (ALLASON-JONES & MIKET, 1984, 227, No.3.790); see also ORL 8, Taf.X.70 (Zugmantel).
Context Subsoil, Cat 2158

Fig.5.26. Square mount for attachment to ?leather, comprising two half cylinders with a groove between, and a central projecting shank on the underside; cf. WACHER, 1969, fig.37.12; Goodburn in FRERE, 1984, fig.17.145; Fig.6.36.
Context Primary School watching brief

Fig.5.27. Nail with flat round head, decorated with three concentric circles; square shank; see Fig.3.7-8 above.
Context Pit 597, depositd c.AD 200

Brooches

1 La Tene I spring and bow, fragmentary, from a cremation. 1 Nauheim derivative, 3 Hod Hill, 2 one-piece Colchester, 1 unusual one-piece, 8 two-piece Colchester, 2 Trumpet. 2 late Antonine Divided Bow brooches and an early crossbow brooch are all regarded as distinctly military on the German limes.

Coins

Gold stater of Dubnovellaunus
Bronze core of gold plated stater
Cunobelinus quarter stater, gold plated. ?MACK 209
Base silver MACK 446 C

4 X Cunobelinus bronzes, MACK 223, 225, 250, 251
3 X Catuvellaunian bronzes, one probably MACK 225
3 X British potin coins, class I.L, II.P, II.Pl
2 X Republican denarii, CRAWFORD 415/1, 419/1, Cremation 38
5 X Claudius 1, copies as RIC 100
Vitellius, RIC (rev) 109
6 X Vespasianus, RIC as 276 (no TRP); 528b; illegible dupondius; 3 X illegible asses

KELVEDON

Excavations by Kirsty Rodwell and others between 1968 and 1973 (TL 864190) for the Essex Archaeological Society are soon to be published.[15] An interim report on further excavations by the Essex County Council has been published already.[16] Kelvedon is confidently identified as Canonium, and lies on the main road midway between Colchester and Chelmsford at the crossing of the river Blackwater. In summary, the excavations revealed the Late pre-Roman Iron Age settlement with evidence of rectangular houses; a mid 1st century military phase, comprising a possible fort ditch of characteristically military profile which contained military equipment. A possible reconstruction estimates an enclosure with an internal area of 4ha (10 acres). A battery of three contemporary pottery kilns had been cut into the rampart. The small quantity of samian antedating c.AD 50 renders a Claudian date unlikely, and it is suggested[17] that the fort was immediately post-Boudican, being connected with the building of the main road, and was in existence for less than a decade. The small town grew up, possibly as a vicus outside the fort, enclosed for a time by a defensive earthwork similar to Chelmsford. The excavations revealed strip building, a circular temple, and part of one of four known cemeteries.

Fig.5.28. Harness pendant with missing suspension loop, cf. Camulodunum (HAWKES & HULL, 1947, pl.CII.13).
   Context Area B3, 303

Fig.5.29. Shield binding, cf BRAILSFORD, 1962, fig.1.A9-11.
   Context Area B2.5, ditch

Fig.5.30. Repoussé plate, fragmentary, possibly part of a belt fitting; the central roundel contains an eight-petalled flower; cf. BRAILSFORD, 1962, fig.4.A115
   Context Area J, modern disturbance

Fig.5.31. Harness ring with stud attachment, cf. BRAILSFORD, 1962, pl.XI.197; ANDERSON & WACHER, 1980, fig.4.5.
   Context Area J3, ditch

Fig.5.32. Scale of lorica squamata; a single perforation is not common, but cf. CUNLIFFE, 1971, fig.43.83 and Fig.4.17 from Chelmsford.
   Context Area B6, unstratified

Other finds include a rare iron thistle-headed linch pin, two ballista bolts and a small socketed spearhead from the ditch.

Brooches

Early brooches include nine of La Tene III type, four Nauheim derivatives, eight Colchester types and single examples of the thistle, rosette, Aucissa, Camulodunum XIV, Hod Hill, Bagendon C, and Langton Down A types.

Coins

There were eleven Celtic coins from the excavations, and five other finds noted; all were submitted to the Index of Celtic coins at the Institute of Archaeology, Oxford.

Gallo-Belgic DA, MACK 39 or 42
Potins Class II, types O, O1 X 2, P2, DE LA TOUR 8620
7 X Cunobelinus, MACK 215, 222, 224, 229, 251, 252, and 253
?Tasciovanus, MACK 170

Roman

1 X Republican
9 X Claudius 1
1 X Nero
2 X Vespasianus

METAL DETECTOR IDENTIFICATIONS

No.33 (Plate 2). Double lobed pendant, cf. Camulodunum (HAWKES & HULL, 1947, pl.CIII.12), but especially Southwark (HAMMERSON & SHELDON, 1987) and Kingsholm (HURST, 1985, fig.12.1). Found with two Celtic coins by Mr David Lewis near Ashdon between Saffron Walden and the Bartlow Hills, and brought into Saffron Walden Museum. My thanks to Sheila Jordain for drawing my attention to the object. Another similar pendant was found in February 1987 with a metal detector c.800m south of the S. gate of the fort at nearby Great Chesterford, along with a second inlaid pendant (C.J. Going, in prep).

No.34 (not drawn). Harness mount attachment for leather; one of two rivets survives with its end hammered flat to grip the leather, 4-5mm thick. Flat flange with a typical central motif, raised 6mm in a hollow egg shape, decorated with a longitudinal incised slash (cf. WACHER, 1969, fig.38.19; OLDENSTEIN, 1976, Taf.34.269). Found in 1980 by Mr M.J. Cuddeford and brought into Chelmsford and Essex Museum for identification.

Fig.6.35. Mount with pierced side attachment (broken) and central projecting tang on underside. For a complete example from Woodcock Hall, Norfolk, see BROWN, 1986, fig.28.199; OLDENSTEIN, 1976, Taf.34.268. Found at High Easter by Mr M.J. Cuddeford in 1986, along with Fig.6.36, and other objects, including part of a copper alloy riveted cauldron with handle, two Colchester brooches, and several

Cunobelinus bronzes. A quarter stater of Addedomarus is known from nearby; brought into Chelmsford Archaeological Trust for identification.

Fig.6.36. Mount comprising two half cylinders, with projecting shank on underside. For a parallel from Wickford, see Fig.5.26. Found by Mr M.J. Cuddeford at High Easter in 1986 with Fig.6.35.

Fig.6.37. Penannular omega brooch, though the lack of terminals makes precise identification impossible. The nearest parallels come from Augustan to Claudian sites, both in Britain and on the Continent (SIMPSON, 1979). They are not common, and the decoration here makes it particularly interesting. I am grateful to Miss S.A. Butcher for her comments. Found by Mr J. Basham in fields near Springfield, Chelmsford in 1982, and taken to Chelmsford and Essex Museum for identification. Other finds in Springfield made by Mr Basham include a Colchester derivative brooch and a quarter stater of Cunobelinus.

OTHER FINDS

1. Dr Warwick Rodwell has published a brief summary of the 1st century military occupation at other sites in Essex, with references.[18] Briefly, early military finds have been found at Radwinter (lorica segmentata), east Tilbury, Saffron Walden (catapult head, strap end, Hod Hill brooch), Bradwell (Hod Hill brooch), Tolleshunt d'Arcy (pilum head), and Great Wakering (pilum head). A further pilum head was found at Felsted Station during excavations by the Felsted School Archaeological Society in 1948.[19] Claudian as copies come from Mucking, Tiptree and Billericay.[20] Two military pendants and several early bronzes are thought to have come from Marks Tey.[21]

2. Gestingthorpe. Draper[22] has published a large collection of finds, collected over 25 years on the site of a Romano-Britsh settlement at Gestingthorpe, between Braintree and Long Melford. Brooches include a Nauheim derivative, an iron one-piece, a quasi Langton Down, a Thistle variant, two Hod Hill, a Colchester B and a penannular. The coin list includes a Cunobelinus Mack 253, a potin class I.C, two M. Agrippa (Tiberius) asses, a 1st century as, an as of Claudius, a dupondius of Antonia, and five Vespasianus. Bronzes include a scabbard chape similar to Fig.3.1, and three decorative strap mounts,[23] all paralleled in Oldenstein's publication,[24] and hence thought to be auxiliary equipment.

3. Harlow. A record of the excavations carried out by the West Essex Archaeological Group between 1962 and 1971 on the site of a Romano-Celtic temple has recently been published.[25] The brooch list includes large numbers of 1st century, mostly pre-Flavian, brooches (e.g. Nauheim derivative, Langton Down, Thistle, Bagendon, Hod Hill, Dolphin, Sawfish and Colchester types). The coins include 339 Celtic issues from a number of sites, discussed in full by A.P. Fitzpatrick,[26] and 46 1st century Roman coins (Augustus, Caligula, 3 X Agrippa, 21 X Claudius, 2 X Antonia, 7 X Nero (4 semis) and 11 X Vespasianus). Military equipment[27] includes Claudian-Neronian inlaid pendants, strap terminals, mounts and fasteners, and lobated hinge plates (with iron plating still attached) from loricae segmentatae.

New excavations by Richard Bartlett on behalf of Harlow Museum on the Temple site in 1985-86 have yielded a further 274 Celtic coins, one Augustus, one Marcus Antonius, five Nero, ten Claudius and three Vespasianus issues. Further early brooches include Hod Hill, Nauheim derivative, Aucissa, Rosette and Colchester types.[28]

North-east of the temple at Holbrook's, on the south bank of the river Stort where the main north-south road to Braughing crosses it, work in 1970 revealed a large number of objects, including some early military bronzes, Iron Age coins and 136 1st century brooches. An interim report[29] summarises the evidence somewhat meagrely. The unpublished finds from these excavations include an iron pilum head, a buckle plate, a rectangular nielloed mount, folded in antiquity (sketched here, Fig.6.38)[30] and a heart-shaped pendant, pierced in centre, with abraded plain bird-headed terminal and a plain bead foot (sketched here, Fig.6.39).[31] Further work was carried out in 1978 by Dr John Chapman (discoveries include an unpublished nielloed rectangular mount)[32] and in 1980-81 by Richard Bartlett (one abraded ?Claudius coin).

SUMMARY

Several discussions of early Roman forts in Essex have been published[33] and these are reviewed by Eddy,[34] who takes a minimalist's viewpoint of a genuine inventory of their number. It is not proposed to discuss the various arguments for the existence of Claudian forts at the different towns, or what criteria are required to prove their existence, merely to point the reader to these papers.

Briefly, however, Eddy dismisses the suggestion of forts at Dunmow, Kelvedon and Chelmsford. Only at Wickford does he concede that the coin lists and metalwork indicate an early military presence. Single objects at Heybridge and Dunmow cannot, indeed, be taken as evidence for any military activity, though the topography of both might suggest something. At Chelmsford, there is now sufficient evidence to postulate a post-Boudican fort or road-station, whilst the large numbers of pre-Roman Belgic coins at Kelvedon and Wickford might indicate Claudian activity (?marching camps), and the discovery of military-type ditches at both these sites should be borne in mind. Metal detector finds too, where genuine provenances are given, can be useful, as Brown has shown at Woodcock Hall in Norfolk,[35] and Mr M.J. Cuddeford at High Easter. The growing number of military bronzes from Harlow makes a mid 1st century military presence there inherently likely; at Gestingthorpe too there is more than a token number of relevant finds.

Finally, all the Claudian issues from the excavated sites under scrutiny in this paper were submitted to Mr Robert Kenyon in February 1987, who writes (pers comm), 'their smaller size and lighter weight indicates a late Claudian date of manufacture. A post-Boudican date is quite likely for their loss; their circulation date being the late 50s/early 60s to the early 70s when Vespasian's massive supplies of bronzes saw an end to the Claudian coins.'

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

NOTES

1. For a middle and late Iron Age village at Little Waltham, 6km from Chelmsford, see DRURY, 1978.

2. DRURY, 1975.

3. Also accepted in WACHER, 1974.

4. DRURY, 1972, 6.

5. Report in WICKENDEN, forthcoming c.

6. GOING, 1987.

7. DRURY, 1972, 4.

8. DRURY, forthcoming.

9. WICKENDEN, 1986; forthcoming b.

10. WICKENDEN, 1987.

11. For an early Saxon settlement within the town, see DRURY & WICKENDEN, 1982.

12. WICKENDEN, forthcoming a.

13. BORRILL, 1981.

14. M. Hammerson in COUCHMAN, 1979, 43-4; EDDY, 1980, 63-7.

15. RODWELL, forthcoming.

16. EDDY, 1982.

17. RODWELL, forthcoming.

18. Rodwell in DRURY & RODWELL, 1980, 64-5.

19. Photographed in the school magazine, _Bury Magazine_, 1948.

20. Pers comm, W.J. Rodwell.

21. Rodwell in DRURY & RODWELL, 1980, 65.

22. DRAPER, 1985.

23. _Ibid_. fig.14.98-100.

24. OLDENSTEIN, 1976.

25. FRANCE & GOBEL, 1985.

26. _Ibid_. 49-66.

27. _Ibid_. fig.46.

28. BARTLETT, 1987.

29. CONLON, 1973.

30. Most similar in decoration to HAWKES & HULL, 1947, pl.CII.16.

31. Cf. BRAILSFORD, 1962, fig.3.A40; CRUMMY, 1983, fig.156.4233.

32. Decoration resembles that in WEBSTER, 1982, fig.39.127.

33. RODWELL, 1975; DUNNETT, 1975; DRURY & RODWELL, 1980.

34. EDDY, 1982.

35. BROWN, 1986.

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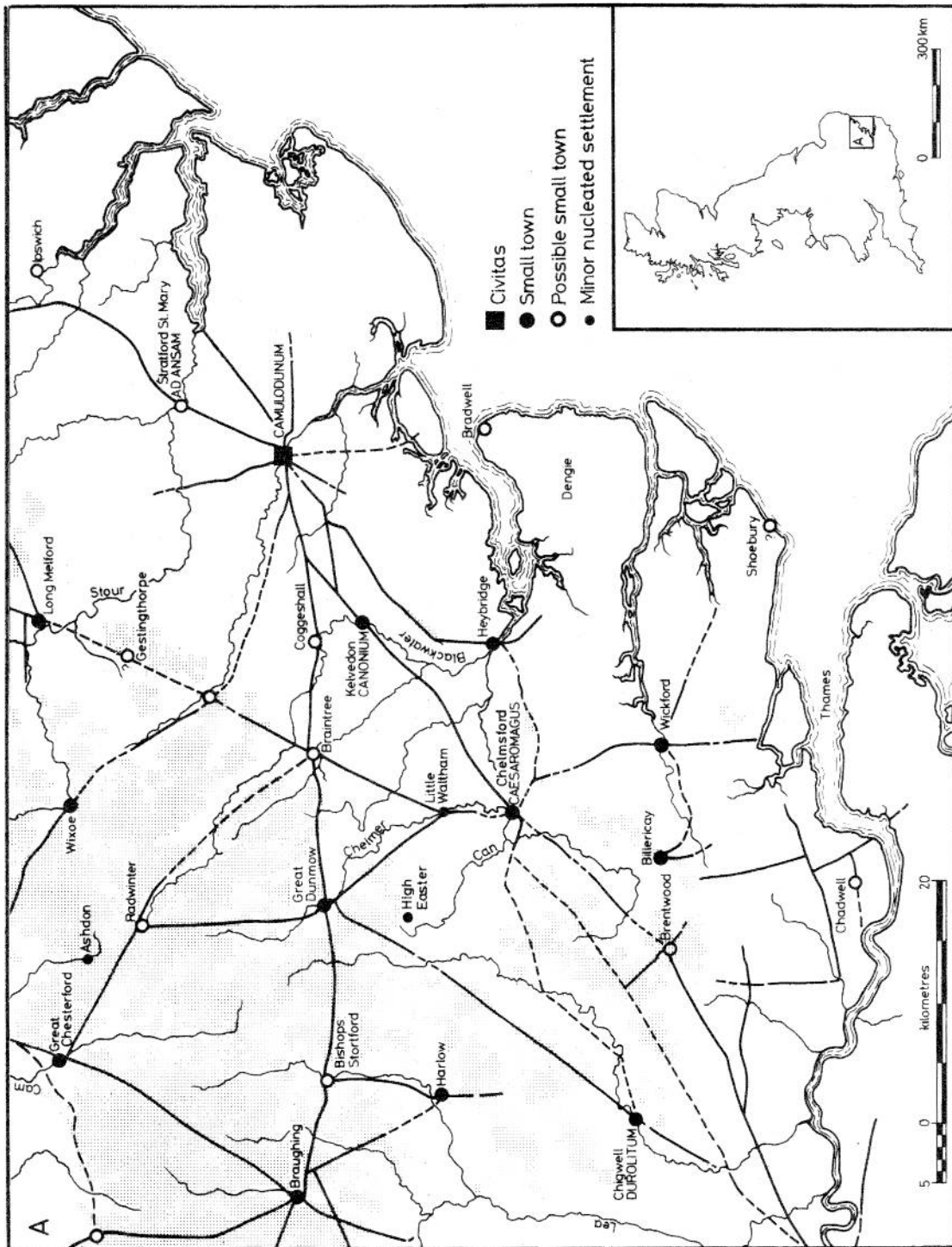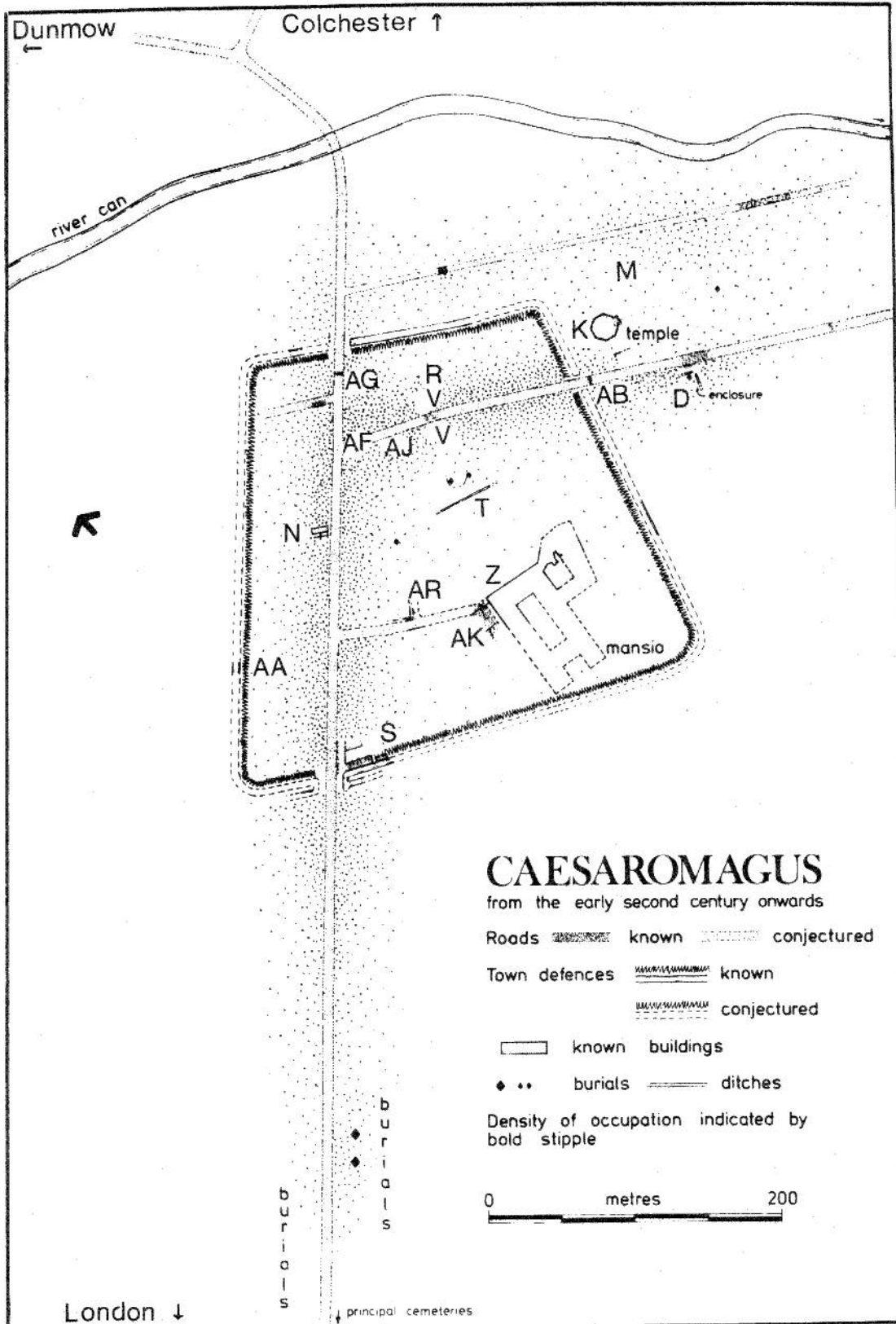
Fig.1: The Trinovantian _Civitas_ in the Roman period.

Legend:
■ Civitas
● Small town
○ Possible small town
• Minor nucleated settlement

300 km

A

Map labels:
Ipswich
Stratford St. Mary AD ANSAM
CAMULODUNUM
Bradwell
Dengie
Long Melford
Stour
Gestingthorpe
Coggeshall
Kelvedon CANONIUM
Heybridge
Blackwater
Shoebury
Wixoe
Braintree
Chelmsford CAESAROMAGUS
Wickford
Radwinter
Chelmer
Little Waltham
Ashdon
Great Chesterford
Great Dunmow
High Easter
Can
Billericay
Brentwood
Thames
Chadwell
Bishops Stortford
Harlow
Cam
Braughing
Chigwell DUROLITUM
Lea

kilometres
5 0 20

Fig.2: The Roman town of Caesaromagus, with site codes marked.
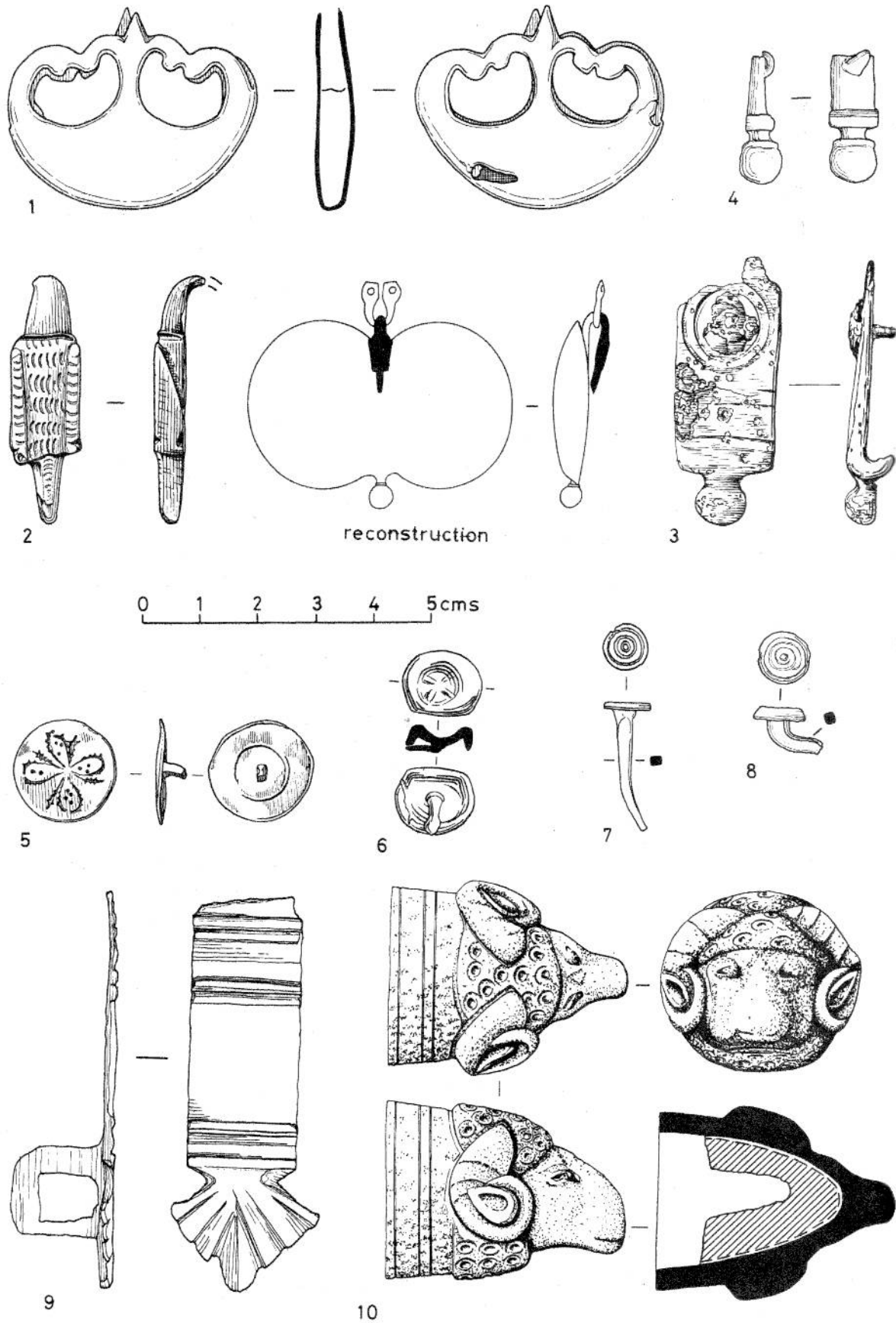
Fig.3: Copper alloy objects from Chelmsford, 1-10. Scale 1:1.

detail 2:1

11

12

13

14

15 16 17

20

18 19

0 1 2 3 4 5cms

22

21
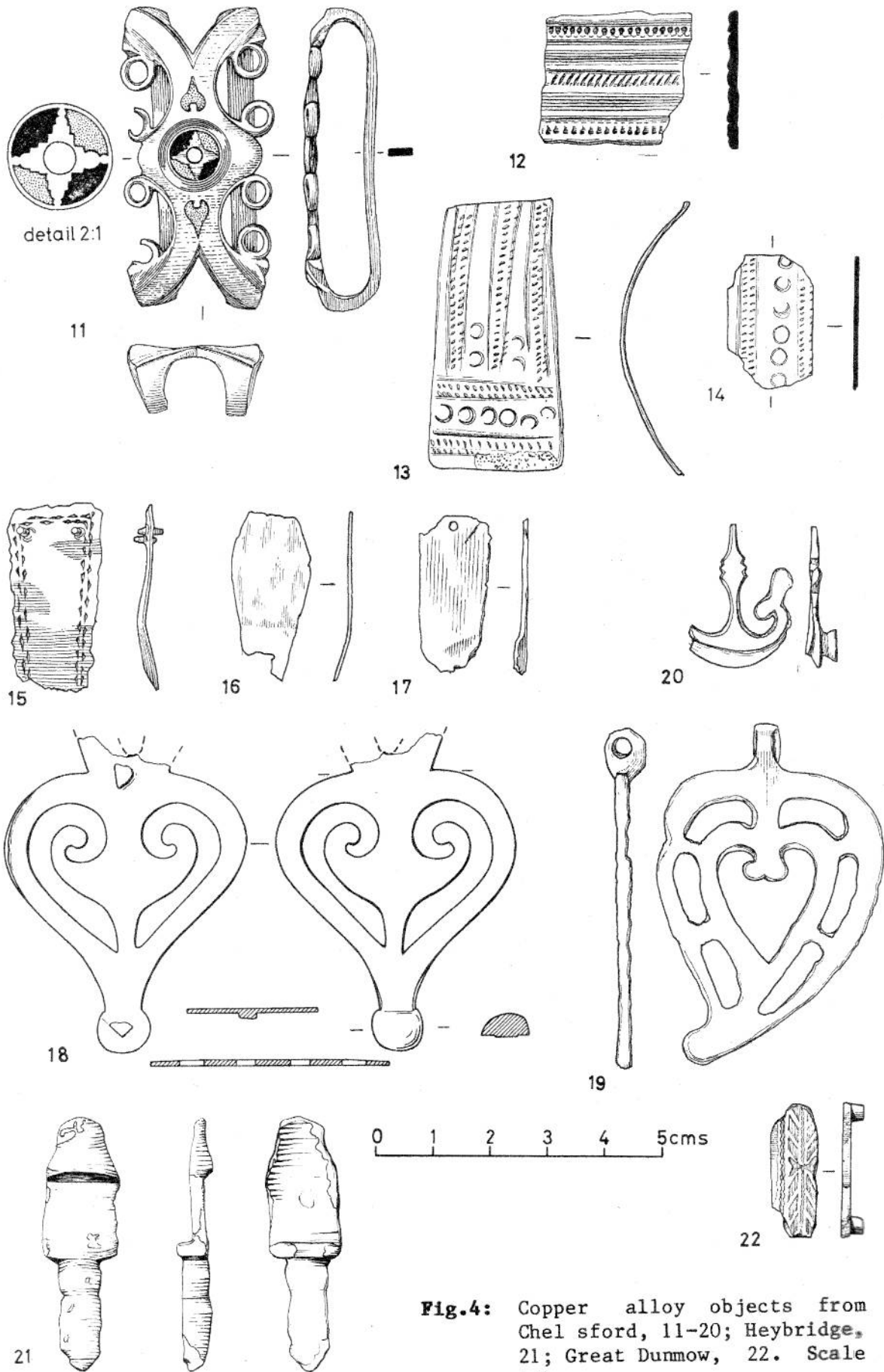
Fig.4: Copper alloy objects from Chel sford, 11-20; Heybridge, 21; Great Dunmow, 22. Scale 1:1.

253
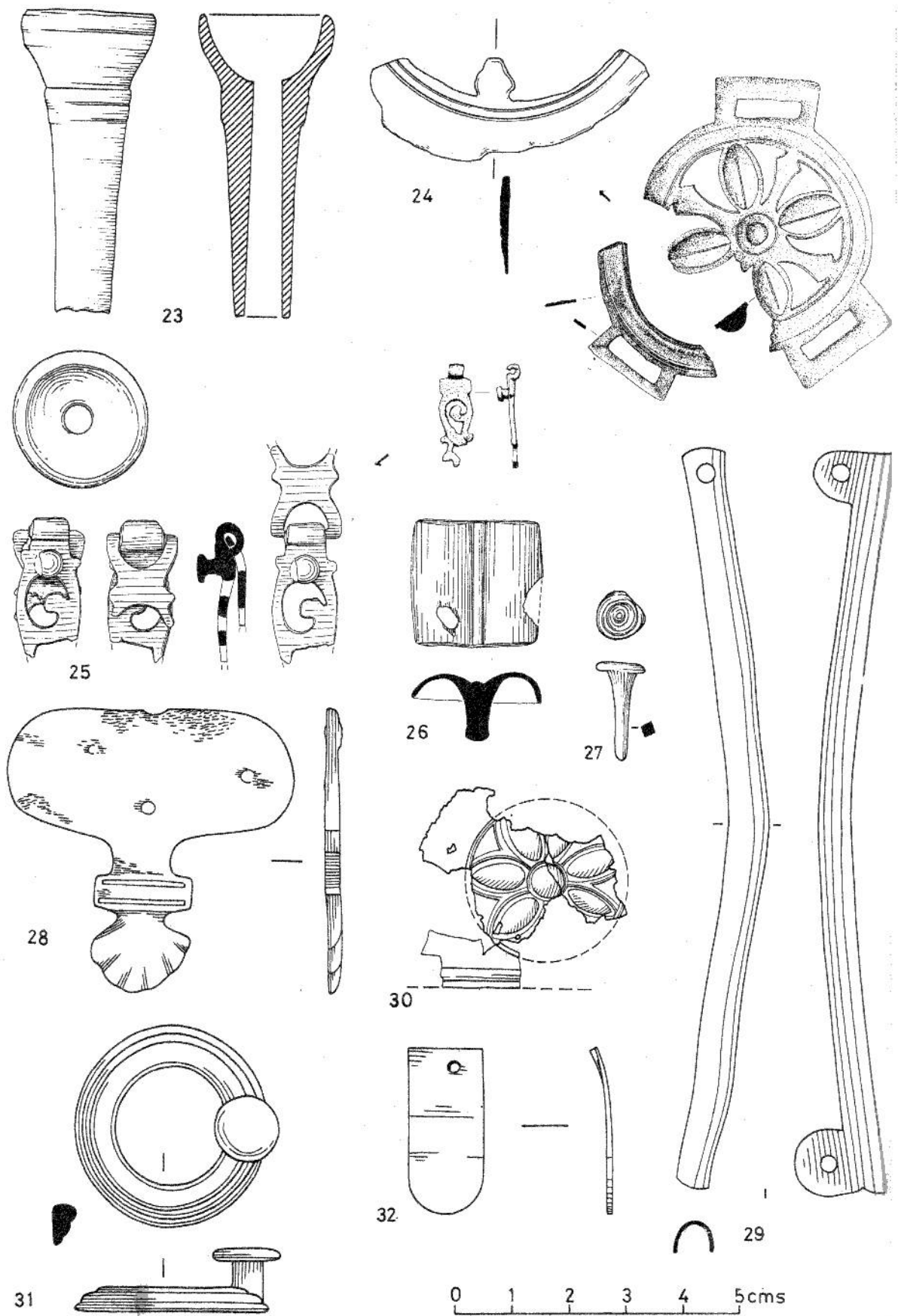
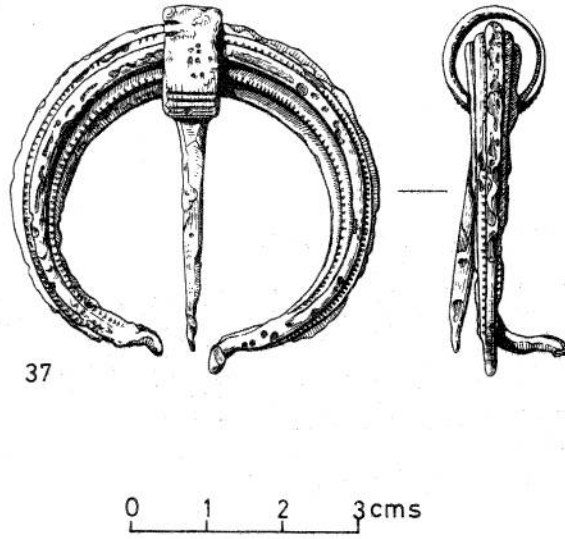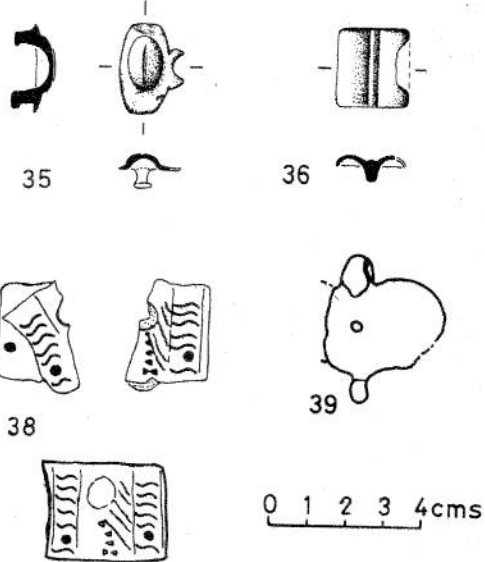**Fig.5:** Copper alloy objects from Wickford, 23-7; Kelvedon, 28-32.
Scale 1:1.

35

36

38

39

0 1 2 3 4cms

37

0 1 2 3cms

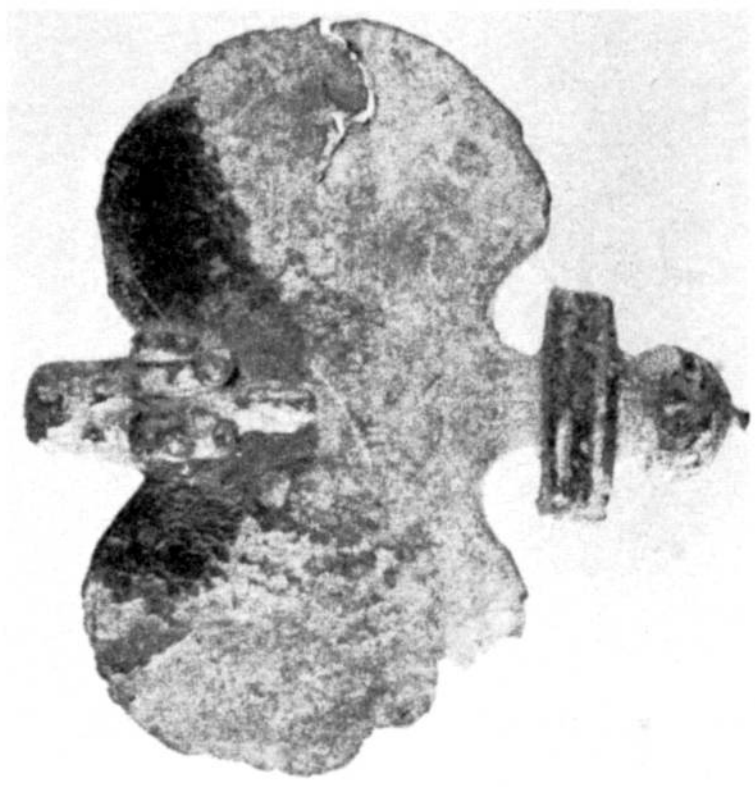**Fig.6:** Metal detecting finds, 35-6, scale 1:2; 37, scale 1:1. Harlow sketches, 38-9, scale 1:2.

Plate 2: Double-lobed pendant from Ashdon.
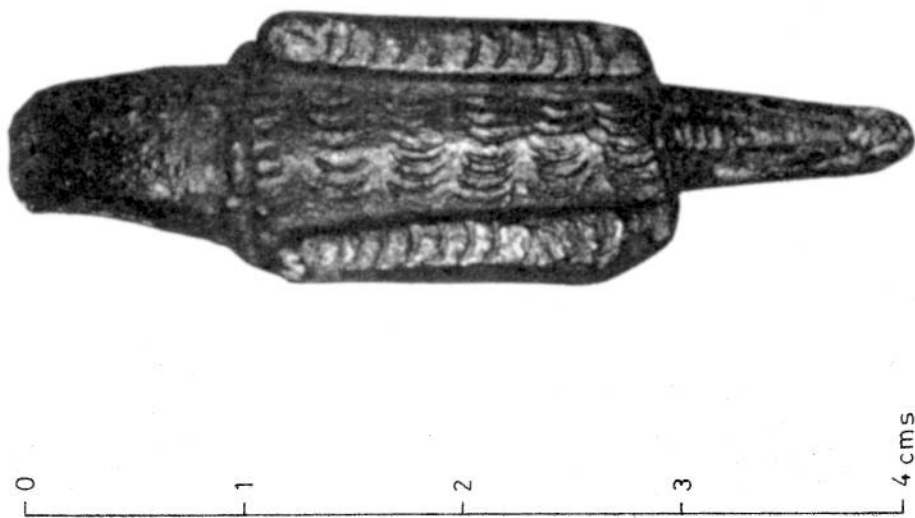
Plate 1: Decorative terminal from double-lobed pendant. Chelmsford.