

THE EARTHWORK NEAR BUTLEY.

BY H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

I. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

Archæological explorations in Suffolk have not been frequent—a fact which makes it all the more desirable that the excavations made near Butley in 1910, although not extensive, should be placed upon record. It so happened that Mr. W. M. Tapp, LL.D., F.S.A., who is a member of the Earthworks Committee of the Congress of Archæological Societies, in shooting over the Staverton Park preserves from year to year, was attracted by this little known earthwork situated on the northern slope of the Park,* and his interest in this puzzling site led him to invite me to undertake its survey and partial excavation; a request which I had the pleasure of accepting.

Colonel Nathaniel Barnardiston, D.L., of The Ryes, Sudbury, who owns the property, very readily consented to the investigations being carried out; and the chief officers of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology having been communicated with, the surveying and digging were begun on March 26th; the work being completed on April 4th.†

* The Director-General of Ordnance. Surveys informed me that the magnetic declination of the compass at Staverton on April 1st, 1910, was $16^{\circ} 32'$ W. of true N.

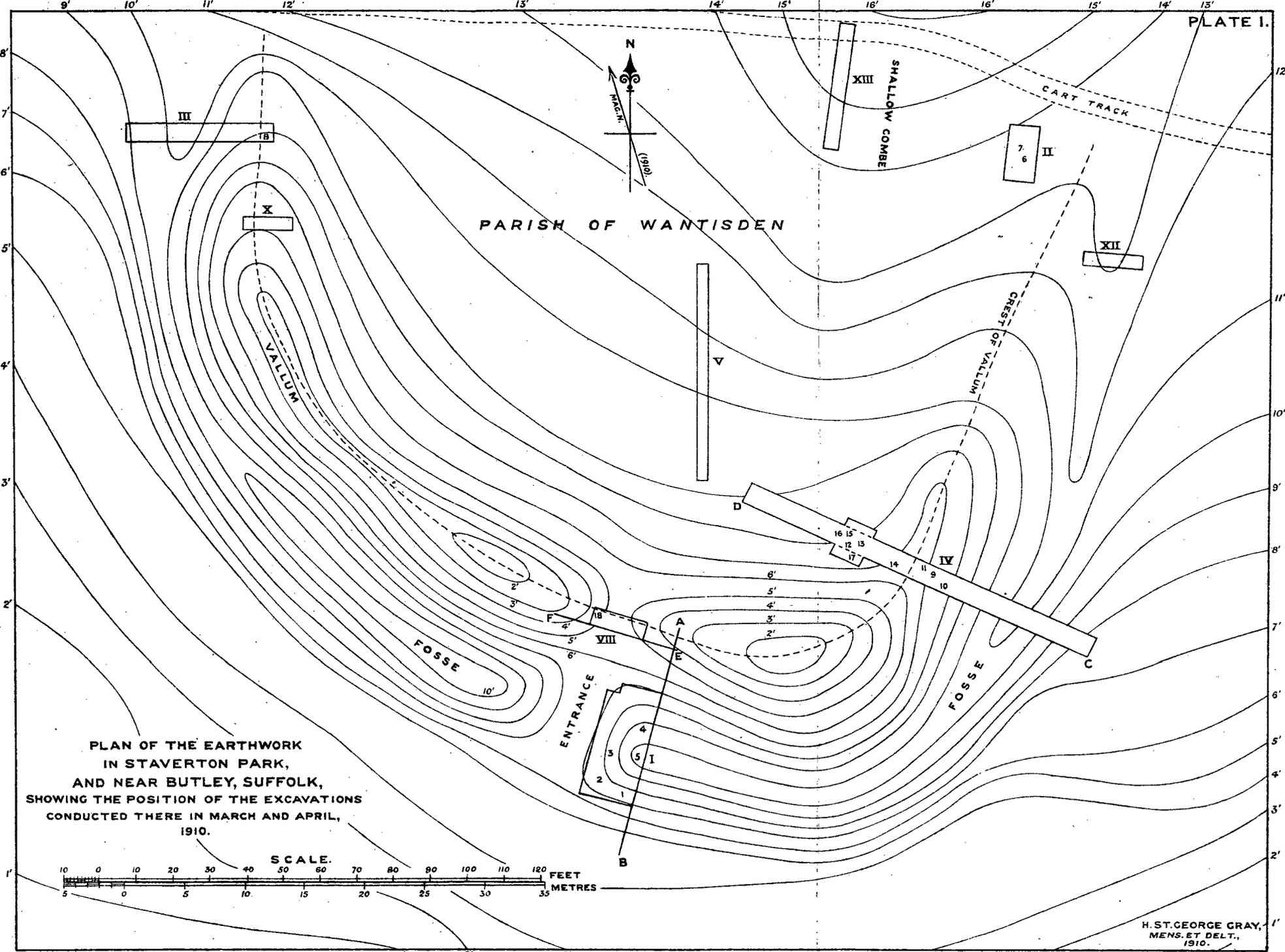
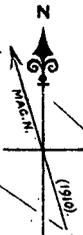
† As Mr. and Mrs. Tapp and Mr. and Mrs. Gray stayed within a mile of the earthwork at Wantisden Hall, they were able to watch the excavations continuously.

The earthwork, although of considerable extent, is one of many throughout the kingdom which is not delineated on the Ordnance Survey maps. We were informed by some of the country-folk that the earthwork was all that remained of the once famous Staverton Hall; others, on being questioned, stated that it was known as "Cæsar's Camp"; others, again, called it "Cumberland's Mount." That it was the site of old Staverton Hall, which originally stood on the confines of the Park, about 1·4 miles W.N.W. of the earthwork,* was soon disproved by an examination of a volume of original estate maps, kindly placed at our disposal by Mr. Vincent B. Redstone. This valuable record is entitled "An ample and trew description and survey of the Manors, Lordships, Townes, and parishes of Stauerton, Eyke, Bromswall, Wantesden, Chilsforde, etc., in the Countie of Suff. parcell of y^e landes of the right Worship^l Sir Michaell Stanhop Knight By ye perambulation, view, and dimensuratio of John Norden finished in 1601." In that survey it is stated that Staverton Park consisted of 312 acres 3 roods, and was then held by John Talbott (lease £38 yearly).

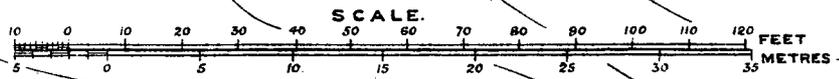
Domesday gives Staverton as a large parish under the name of "Staureton," the neighbouring parish of Eyke not being then in existence. The house of John Staverton (Staverton Hall) was destroyed by rioters during the "Peasant Revolt" in 1381. The Park was sold in 1529 to the Prior and Convent of Butley by Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, and in 1601 it was the property of Sir Michael Stanhope. It is still sometimes styled "Stavenger," or "Stavender," a name supported by the Court Rolls of 1683. A brief history of the locality is given in the *Proceedings* of the Institute, Vol. X., p. 71.

* Old Staverton Hall was situated in "Office Piece," where the Keeper's Cottage now is. Its position was a little W. of S. from the hamlet of Friday Street, and on the boundary of the parishes of Eyke and Rendlesham.

PARISH OF WANTISDEN



PLAN OF THE EARTHWORK IN STAVERTON PARK, AND NEAR BUTLEY, SUFFOLK, SHOWING THE POSITION OF THE EXCAVATIONS CONDUCTED THERE IN MARCH AND APRIL, 1910.



At the present day the Park is a private preserve—comprising the most southerly part of the parish of Wantisden—and retains an air of primeval wildness, with its innumerable trees, beautiful glades and undergrowth. Here trees grow within trees—beech, holly and silver birch upon and in the hollows of gnarled oaks of immense girth. Some of the hollies standing alone grow luxuriantly, and are as a whole of a size difficult to equal in the kingdom.*

II. SITUATION OF THE EARTHWORK.

The earthwork is some 6 miles distant, as the crow flies, from Woodbridge, Wantisden Hall (to the N.E. of the camp) being $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles to that town by road. It is nearly a mile due W. of Butley Post Office, and although situated in the parish of Wantisden, the S.W. corner of the survey, Plate I., was only about 20 feet E. of the boundary of Eyke parish, and the N.W. corner of the plan only 775 feet S.E. of the nearest point of Rendlesham parish (in the Butley stream).† Trees closely surround the earthwork on the south, east, and west, but there is only one oak tree standing within the area at the present time. The camp is covered for the most part with bracken, but there is some greensward in the interior space.

The southern limit of the earthwork is only about 45 feet above the mean level of the sea, and the area slopes gradually towards the north, a shallow combe, with slight ridges, or promontories, on either side, dividing the northern margin of the earthwork (represented by the cart-track on the Plan) from the reclaimed

* Some of the hollies at Bleak Hill, Salop, are said to be 14 ft. in girth some distance above the ground. The largest holly-tree in Britain is supposed to be the patriarch, standing in the Park of the late Colonel Lloyd-Verney, at Clochfaen, Llangurig, Llanidloes, Montgomeryshire. It is said to measure 30 ft. in maximum girth, and may be more than 800 years old. All that is possible has been done in the attempt to preserve it.

† One of the cuttings (No. XI., p. 85), beyond the limits of my plan, was actually made in the parish of Eyke.

marsh-land and the Butley stream at a short distance to the north. The N. margin of the plan was 645 feet S. of the Butley stream, and only 220 feet S. of the drainage gutter running at right angles to the N. limit of the "combe." The two water-ways were divided by a flat field about 18 feet above the mean level of the sea. Undoubtedly at no distant date the whole of these levels, which John Norden marked as "Fenn,"* was for a large part of the year under water, and at such times the "combe" would be converted into a creek. On his map of 1601, he wrote the following across this area:—"This low and uerye marishe grounde latalie of little valew is by draynag and trenching brought to reasonable good and faste pasture ground." To the north of the stream the land gradually rises to about the same extent as the ground in the immediate vicinity of the earthwork.

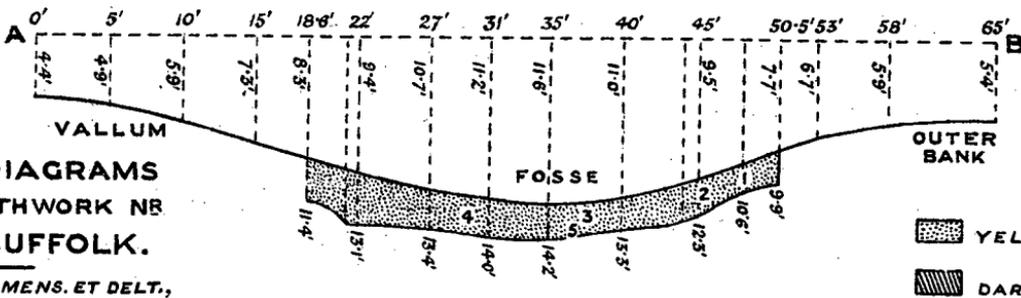
III. DESCRIPTION OF THE EARTHWORK.

The earthwork is of a broad horse-shoe shape of irregular outline, the convexity of the curve at the S.S.E. being much deeper than that on the S.S.W., where there is a decided flattening. The shallow fosse is outside the somewhat feeble vallum, the entrance across the fosse and through the vallum being very slightly to the W. of S. The interior space is open on the N. and gradually falls towards the slight "combe," above mentioned.

My plan (Plate I.), originally plotted at a scale of 24 feet to an inch, and covering 2 acres of ground, has the margins set exactly to the points of the compass, the E. and W. margin measuring 335 feet, and the N. and S. 260 feet. The area surveyed is represented by contours of 1 foot vertical height, entailing the taking of some 500 levels, which show a fall of 16 feet from N. to S.

* Norden records an area of no less than 93 acres 3 roods 9 poles 3 yards of "Fenn grounde" in this locality.

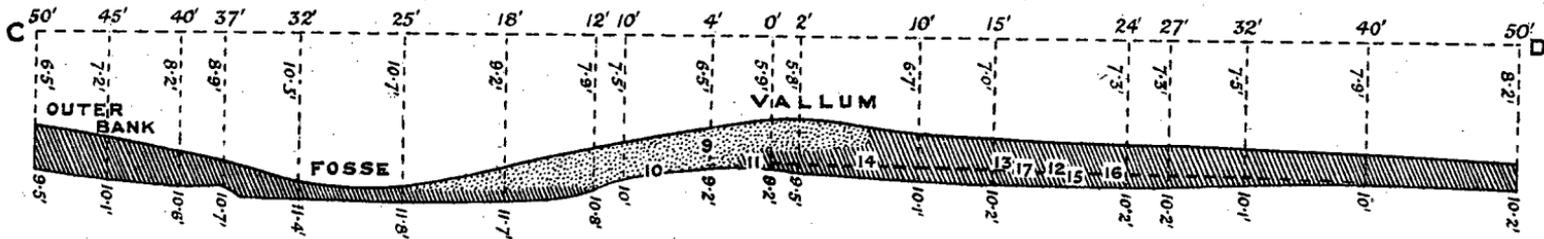
SECTION ON LINE A.B. OF PLAN.



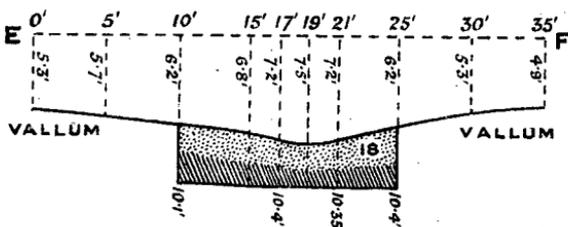
SECTIONAL DIAGRAMS
OF THE EARTHWORK NE
BUTLEY, SUFFOLK.

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, MENS. ET DELT.,
1910.

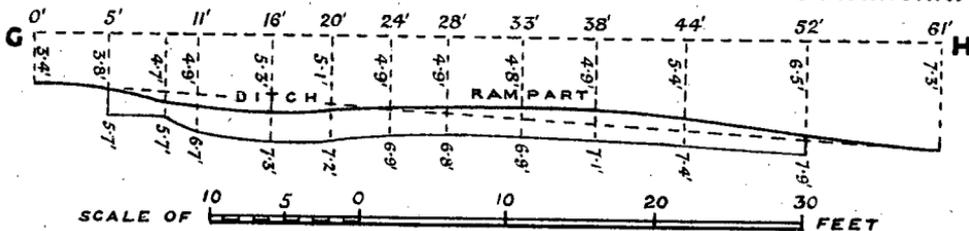
SECTION ON LINE C.D. OF PLAN.



SECTION ON LINE E.F. OF PLAN.



SECTION ACROSS SLIGHT BANK AND DITCH TO THE S. OF THE EARTHWORK.



The following are the dimensions of the earthwork :—From N. to S., including the external fosse on the S., 230 feet (max. measurement) ; across the northern extremity, at the approximate termination of the vallum, 220 feet (measured from the middle of the E. to the middle of the W. bank) ; external dimensions of the earthwork in the last named position, about 300 feet ; length of the almost level entrance-way on the S., 63 feet ; min. width of entrance across the fosse, 12 feet (Plate IV.), and at the foot of the bank, 7 feet. The interior space, from N. to S., measures about 130 feet.

The width of the vallum varied considerably, but averaged about 35 feet ; the size of the fosse is best estimated by reference to the sectional diagrams, Plate II., and the photographs. In the highest parts, on the S.E. (Plate III.) and the S.W., the crest of the vallum is 8 feet above the middle of the silting of the fosse, and about 4 feet above the S. part of the interior space. The somewhat tortuous crest of the vallum, shown by a dotted line on the plan, measures 430 feet in length. Towards the ends of the rough semi-circle the earthwork diminishes in size and proportions—on the E. side to a considerable extent, where the rampart and ditch practically disappear on approaching the cart-track which extends across the Plan from east to west. The length of fosse measured along the middle (and including the entrance-way) is about 520 feet.

The "outer bank" outside the fosse was fairly well defined on the S. and S.W., and still better on the S.E., being almost a foot high above the surrounding level ground. The contours, being of 1 foot vertical height, are hardly close enough to show this minor feature.

The earthwork is commanded by slightly higher ground on the S.E. and S.W., and by still higher ground on the S. (about 50 feet above sea level).

Beyond the limits of the Plan, and about 17 paces to the S., there is a shallow bank and ditch running E. and W., the ditch being on the S. side of the bank (see Section on line G.H., Plate II.). It is soon lost on the W., but terminates on the E., on the margin of the Plan, in a mound of very slight relief and about 10 paces across, the significance of which is not known. Outside this little bank there are slight indications of a ditch, but these faint inequalities of the surface may have no special connection with the earthwork.

The above description represents the form and size of the earthwork at the present day, but owing to denudation and other natural causes the original height of the vallum can never be truly estimated. The contours show the true form of the site better than any description can do.

IV. THE EXCAVATIONS.

The work was carried out under favourable atmospherical conditions considering the time of year. Four men belonging to the locality were employed for the digging.* Thirteen cuttings in all were made, nine of which, viz., Nos. I., II., III., IV., V., VIII., X., XII., and XIII., were made within the area of the Plan, Plate I.; † of the others, Nos. VI. and VII. were made on the N., No. IX. on the S., and No. XI. on the W. These will be described in the above order.

(a) Cutting I., Southern Fosse. (See Plan, Plate I.; Sectional Diagram on line A.B., Plate II.; and Photograph, Plate IV.).

This cutting was made across the S. fosse, close up against what appeared to be an entrance-causeway

* Local assistance in the employment of men, etc., was kindly given by Mr. John Goddard, Senior, the tenant of Wantisden Hall, and his bailiff, James Sawyer; also by Maurice Maskell, gamekeeper to Lord Rendlesham.

† The cuttings are marked by Roman figures in the Plan.



THE EARTHWORK IN STAVERTON PARK, NEAR BUTLEY, SUFFOLK.

The Fosse and highest part of the Vallum on the S.E., looking S.W.

From a Photograph by Mr. H. St. George Gray.

for obtaining access to the interior space through a gap in the vallum. The cutting measured 33 by 15 ft. The sectional diagram was made along its E. side, and was continued both ways (see Plate II.) to include the vallum and the "outer bank." From the surface of the silting of the fosse in its lowest part to the causeway on the W., there was a gradual rise of 3 ft. in the ground as shown by the contours. It was found, as in Cutting IV., that the material forming the vallum had slipped down considerably and covered the escarp of the fosse a good deal.

The excavation was soon completed here, owing to the somewhat surprising shallowness of the fosse, the bottom, of natural sand of an ochreous colour, being reached at an average depth of 2·7 ft. on the E. margin, and a minimum depth of 2·3 ft. below the surface of the silting. The fosse may be described as flat-bottomed, or slightly concave, with a width of 23 ft., the angle of the escarp being about 31° , and the counterscarp about 26° (Plate II.). The other structural features are seen in Plate III., the man holding the levelling-rod standing on the bottom of the fosse, the other figure, standing on the causeway, dividing this part of the fosse from the next section of it on the W.

This cutting satisfactorily proved the existence of an entrance-causeway. The termination of the bottom of the fosse (6·25 ft. to the W. of the E. margin of the cutting), instead of being rounded—as is usual in ancient ditches—was almost straight (N.N.E. and S.S.W.). From this point, and for a horizontal width of 3·25 ft., the end of the fosse sloped up at about an angle of 30° , after which it suddenly changed to about 15° to the true E. margin of the natural causeway.

The silting consisted of sandy mould, the sand increasing in proportion to the depth; and in some places it was difficult to determine exactly where the silting ceased and the rather loose natural sand began.

The following objects, marked in Plan and Section, were found in the cutting :—

1. Fragment of brick-red pottery ; depth, 1 ft.
2. Small piece of rim of grey-coloured pottery ; depth, 1·2 ft.
3. Flint flake, calcined ; depth, 0·8 ft.
4. Fragment of rim of a well-fired pot, bearing striations ; depth, 1·5 ft.
5. Fragment of pottery, of the same type as Nos. 1, 2 and 4 ; depth, 1·9 ft.

(b) Cutting II., N.E. of Interior Space (Plate I.).

This area, 16 by 8 feet, was near the cart-track, and on the inner side and close to the E. extremity of the "horse-shoe." A statement was made that a number of oyster-shells had been found here, and this led to an examination of this flat piece of ground. The upper deposit, to a depth of 1·9 ft. on the N. and 1·7 ft. on the S., consisted of peaty mould, black and fibrous ; below this, natural sand, fine and of a very light drab colour.

The following relics were found here :—

6. Well-struck flint flake, or knife ; depth, 1·3 ft.
7. Three fragments of pottery, of the same character as that from Cutting I. ; found a few feet apart, depth 1·2 ft.

Another flint flake was found at the bottom of the black mould, two rolled pebbles, a few small nodules of reddish flint, and two burnt flints.

(c) Cutting III., N.W. Vallum and Fosse.
(Plate I.).

This cutting, 40 by 5 feet, extended across the fosse and halfway through the vallum near the N.W. extremity of the earthwork, where it exists in diminished proportions. It was dug to ascertain whether a shallow fosse had been cut in the natural sand and to test the formation of the little bank.

A slight ditch was found having a flat sandy bottom of ochreous colour. Its minimum depth below the surface of the silting was 1·3 ft. There was a



THE EARTHWORK IN STAVERTON PARK, NEAR BUTLEY, SUFFOLK.
Cutting I. across the Fosse, looking S.W. The right hand figure stands on S. Entrance.

From a Photograph by Mr. H. St. George Gray.

slight rise of about 1 foot in the level of the natural sand in the position of the almost imperceptible "outer bank." The rise was even less pronounced (only 0·5 ft.) where the ditch joined the rampart. The silting of the ditch consisted of dark brown peaty mould and sandy mould.

Below the crest of the vallum, on the S. face of the cutting, the natural sand was reached at a depth of 3·8 ft. Of this, the lower 2 ft. consisted of black fibrous peaty mould; it was surmounted by yellowish-brown sand, probably thrown up in forming the fosse. The black material gradually tailed out at the margin of the shallow fosse.

One small fragment of soft pottery, of ochreous colour, No. 8, was found under the crest of the bank at a depth of 1·3 ft.

(d) Cutting IV., Fosse, Vallum and Interior Space, on the E.S.E. (Plan, Plate I.; Sectional Diagram on line C.D., Plate II.; and Photograph, Plate V.).

This cutting, 100 by 6 feet, was the most important made, and it extended from the "outer bank" on the E.S.E. through the fosse and vallum; it was afterwards continued from the foot of the interior slope of the bank well into the interior space of the earthwork.

Outer Bank and Fosse.—From the section it is seen that at C the natural sand was reached at a depth of 3·2 ft. below the surface of the "outer bank," the deposit cut through being a dark peaty mould. The undisturbed sand was very uneven, being ridged and having several natural holes or pockets. The shallow fosse was also filled with peat, the minimum depth below the surface of the silting being 1 ft. The bottom was practically level and of the same width as the floor of the fosse in Cutting I., viz., 23 ft. No relics were found here.

Vallum.—The crest of the vallum was only 4 ft. high above the surface of the silting of the fosse, and little more than 1 ft. above the interior space (Plate V.). From the Section on line C.D. (Plate II.) it would appear that the sandy mould of which the crest and outer part of the bank was composed had slipped considerably over the W. side of the fosse. On the N. face of this cutting the crest was found to be 3·9 ft. above the natural sand, and what appeared to be a slight indication of the old surface line was 3·3 ft. below the crest.

Under the bank the following objects were found :—

9. Three pieces of hard-baked brown pottery ; depth 1·2 ft., in sandy mould.
10. Several similar fragments ; depth 2·5 ft., on the natural sand.
11. Two fragments of rim of similar pottery, one bearing traces of soot ; depth 3 ft., in peaty mould under the crest of the bank.
14. Small rough piece of lead ; depth 2·5 ft., in peaty mould.

Interior Space.—This part of the cutting represented a length of about 40 ft., the natural sand being reached at a depth of 3·4 ft. on the E., and 2 ft. at the W. end ; all the material moved consisted of dark peaty earth. From 26 ft. to 36 ft. from the W. end (where “notches” in the cutting on both sides are represented in the Plan), a large number of relics were found at depths varying from 1·5 ft. to 2·5 ft. from the surface—by far the greater number being found strewn on a dark seam which was at an average depth of 2 ft. below the surface—apparently the old surface line at the time the earthwork was occupied—a seam which is continuous with what appeared to be the old surface line under the vallum. (This is shown in the Section, Plate II., its level being represented by the line of numbered “finds,” Nos. 11, 12, 14, 16, and 17).



THE EARTHWORK IN STAVERTON PARK, NEAR BUTLEY, SUFFOLK.
Cutting IV. through the Outer Bank, Fosse, Vallum, and Interior Space, looking W.

From a Photograph by Mr. H. St. George Gray.

The objects bearing numbers were as follows:—

12. Perforated whorl of stone, described below; depth, 2 ft.

13. Two fragments of buff-coloured pottery with thin yellow glaze on the external surface; depth, 1·5 ft.

15. Implement of roe-deer antler, described below; depth, 2·5 ft.

16. Piece of iron, in form of a buckle, with pin deficient; depth, 1·9 ft.*

17. (a) Pyramidal block of baked clay of quadrangular cross-section; (b) Fragment of ornamented pottery; depth, 2 ft.; both described below.

It should be noted that the glazed pottery (No. 13), probably of fifteenth century date, was found about 6 ins. above the dark seam, and it evidently became deposited at a rather later date, and after a good deal of material had accumulated on the earlier surface. Glazed pottery was not found in any other part of the earthwork.

Perhaps the most interesting object found here is the perforated whorl of limestone,† No. 12, probably a spindle-whorl (*see* accompanying illustration). It is somewhat in the form of a truncated cone, but the sides and base are slightly convex; the top is 14 mm. in diameter. The perforation is 11 mm. in diameter at the top; at the bottom its position is slightly excentric, with a diameter of 9 mm.; height, 22·5 mm.; diameter at base varies from 27 to 29 mm. The form is rare for a spindle-whorl, and the only British example, of somewhat similar *shape* which I have come across, is a much larger specimen of chalk found among the Early Iron Age burials at Arras, Yorks.‡

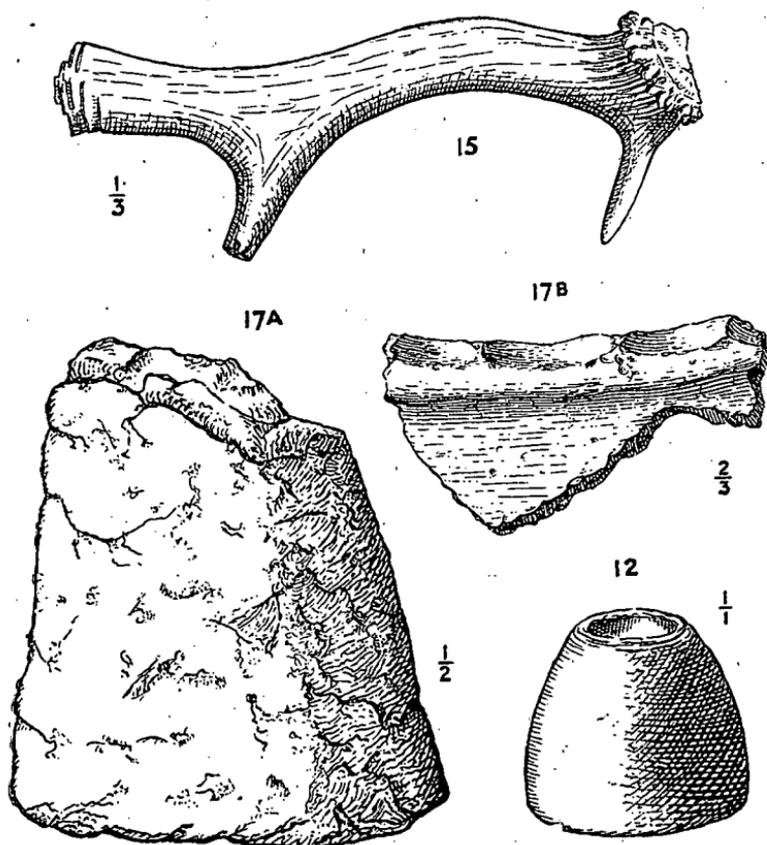
* A similar object was found at Castle Neroche, Somerset. (*Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, XLIX., ii., Pl. III., Fig. 5).

† According to Dr. F. A. Bather, F.R.S. (*Brit. Mus. Nat. Hist.*), the whorl is limestone—somewhat sandy limestone probably.

‡ Figured by Canon Greenwell in *Archæologia*, LX., 303, Fig. 56.

The implement, No. 15, which is also figured, was formed from a shed antler of roe-deer. The straight, but short, brow-tine is smooth, and the tool may have been used as a small hand-pick; the handle-end is considerably mutilated by knife-cuts, viz., at the point the maker of the tool wished to remove the crown of the antler. Its date must be contemporaneous with the unglazed pottery with which it was associated.

Another interesting object is the greater part of a pyramidal block (No. 17A), of quadrangular cross-



OBJECTS OF BAKED CLAY, STONE AND ANTLER, FOUND AT THE EARTHWORK, NEAR BUTLEY.

From Sketches by Mrs. St. George Gray.

section, of baked "pug,"* consisting of coarse brick-earth and containing large pieces of chalk, flint and quartz in its composition. It is figured in the accompanying illustration, scale $\frac{1}{2}$ linear. The base is $3\frac{3}{4}$ ins. square, diminishing to $2\frac{5}{8}$ ins. square at the point of fracture; present height $4\frac{7}{8}$ ins. The manner in which it finished at the top is uncertain, but it was probably flat and square like the base; there are no indications across the fracture of any hole or partial perforation, which fact much lessens the possibility of the block being a loom-weight—of the general character of the triangular and ovoid specimens so frequently found among the Late-Celtic antiquities in the Lake-villages of Somerset.

In general character the Butley clay block bears a resemblance to some of the briquetage found in the Red Hills at Langenhoe and Goldhanger—notably the so-called "wedges," which are rarely found.† Most of the Red Hills specimens, however, differ from the Butley block not only in outline, but in being of different thickness in opposite directions (the narrower dimension varying from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ ins.).

But the closest comparisons in form that can be made with the Butley specimen are with somewhat similar objects in the British Museum, exhibited with Late-Celtic remains from Britain. The collection contains two baked clay pyramidal blocks, smaller at the top than at the bottom, from Lakenheath (given by Canon Greenwell, 1882). One of them is perforated all through near the smaller end; the other is not perforated but has "pinched" depressions in the same position. Another similar to the last named, $5\frac{1}{2}$ ins. high and 4 ins. in maximum width, was found on Coombe Estate, near Kingston Hill, Surrey (given by H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge, 1858).‡

* See "English Dialect Dictionary," IV., 640.

† *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Lond.*, XXII., plate facing p. 194, Fig. 12, Nos. 1-4, and p. 176. No. 4 is the nearest approach to the Butley specimen.

‡ *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Lond.*, 1 ser., IV., 171.

In the same seam in Cutting IV. a few fragments of piping, or funnelling, of baked clay or coarse brick earth, were found. The ware of which it is made averages $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick; one or two fragments, finished off with a squared rim, have a "trumpet-shaped" end. This funnel-shaped object (the fragments perhaps belonging to one object) may have been intended for pouring molten metal into, and was perhaps used in some casting process. The pieces are of similar character to fragments of baked clay funnels, etc., found at Castle Neroche.* Something of the kind also appears to have been found at the Goldhanger Red Hill.†

At the 2 ft. layer and below a remarkable number of fragments of rough hard-baked brittle pottery was found, all unglazed, the colour varying from a reddish-brown to a blackish-brown; the fragments were devoid of ornament (with one exception, No. 17B, ornamented with finger-marks on the rim—see illustration), but striations, typical of the ware, occurred on a large number of them. That they were the remains of cooking-pots is evidenced by the frequent traces of soot adhering to the external surfaces. About 135 rim-pieces were collected from among the shards, the section of the margin in most cases being D-shaped, the convex surface being outwards. Many of the rims were representative of fairly large vessels, some of the pots being $9\frac{1}{2}$ ins. in diameter at the mouth. Fragments of bottoms proved that many of these pots had the sagging base typical of early mediæval times. The restored side of one of these pots, made up from ten fragments, shows the vessel to have been 8 ins. high. Cooking-pots of precisely the same class were found by General Pitt-Rivers in his excavations at Cæsar's Camp, near Folkestone, and have been figured.‡

* *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, XLIX., ii., 45.

† *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Lond.*, XXII., plate facing p. 194, Fig. 14, No. 2.

‡ *Archæologia*, XLVII., Pl. XX., Figs. 43, 44.

A similar earthenware vessel, with sagging base, was found in the City Ditch at Christ's Hospital, London, 1906* ; and another in one of the Boundary Ditches at Cambridge.† They are commonly met with.

(e) Cutting V., Interior Space. (Plan, Plate I.).

This cutting, measuring 60 by 3 feet, was made due N. and S., in the hope of finding further evidence of occupation. The whole of the material moved was the black peaty earth commonly met with elsewhere. The natural sand was reached at a fairly uniform level, the depth varying from 1.5 to 2.3 ft. This variation was entirely due to the uneven turf surface of the interior space. Only one fragment of the same hard pottery and one flint flake were found in this cutting.

(f) Cutting VI., "Shallow Combe."

This little digging, 30 by 2 feet, was made parallel to the N. margin of the Plan and at 21 feet to the N. of it. In this position the shallow combe gradually sloped northward towards the level ground beyond "the Park." Disturbance had recently taken place here for obtaining sand, when pottery is said to have been uncovered. The bottom was reached at a varying depth of from 1 to 2 ft. No pottery or other objects were found.

(g) Cutting VII., outside the N. margin of
the Plan.

This was an area measuring 36 by 2 feet made in a W.N.W. and E.S.E. direction, across the ridge of ground bounding the "combe" on the W., the E. end of the cutting being 102 ft. from the central picket along the N. margin of the Plan. Peaty mould removed to a depth of from 1 ft. to 1.3 ft. revealed the natural sand. No relics were found.

* This globular pot is 7 ins. high ; diameter at rim, 8 ins. ; diameter of body, 9½ ins. In the possession of Mr. F. W. Reader.

† *Proc. Camb. Antiq. Society*, VIII., Pl. II., Fig. 1.

(h) Cutting VIII., across gap in the Vallum on the South. (Plan, Plate I.; and Sectional Diagram on line E.F., Plate II.).

The sectional diagram of this cutting (15 by 5 ft.) clearly shows the present slope of the vallum on either side of the gap, which owing to the gradual silting of the bank is much less steep than in former times. The bank was found to be entirely composed of sand thrown up during the formation of the adjoining fosse; below this was the peaty mould of the former surface, all of which was removed, the bottom of the excavation being represented by natural sand of a very light grey colour. The entrance here (between the division in the vallum) was, no doubt, continuous with the causeway across the fosse, from the time of the raising of the earthwork. In the E. bank a piece of pottery, No. 18, was found—of the same paste as the shards found elsewhere.

(j) Cutting IX., across slight Bank and Ditch on the South. (Sectional Diagram on line G.H., Plate II.).

This shallow ditch and bank has already been mentioned on p. 74; a cutting, 47 by 2 feet, true N. and S., was made through them, and revealed the existence of a shallow ditch, 2 ft. deep below the surface of the silting, cut into the natural sand, as shown in the sectional diagram. No relics were found. The highest part of the bank was about 1 ft. above the surrounding ground, and 2 ft. above the surface of the silting of the ditch.

(k) Cutting X., Vallum on the W.N.W. (Plan, Plate I.).

In this position the crest of the vallum appeared to have been levelled down slightly, and there was a shallow depression here (not shown by the contours). The local people had a notion that the depression, on

being tapped, sounded hollow. We made a cutting measuring 13·5 ft. E. and W. by 3·5 ft. N. and S., and the maximum depth down to the undisturbed yellow sand proved to be 5 ft. (at the W. end 4·5 ft., at the E. 4·8 ft.). On the natural sand, the usual black peaty mould rested; this, under the crest of the vallum, reached to within 13 ins. of the surface of the depression, before mentioned; but at the ends of the cutting it was reached at a deeper level, and the superincumbent yellow sand was 2·5 ft. deep in these positions. It is seen, therefore, that the black material was thrown up firstly, in forming the vallum, followed by the sand obtained in cutting the fosse in the previously undisturbed ground. No pottery or other objects were found here.

(l) Cutting XI., W. of the Earthwork, in the parish of Eyke.

In this position pieces of "pug," or "cob" as it is styled in the south-west of England,* and traces of a rough reddish-brown earthenware (probably baked "pug")—somewhat similar in quality to the briquetage from the Red Hills, had been noticed by Lord Rendlesham's gamekeeper. We marked out a cutting, 25 ft. N. and S. by 8 ft. E. and W., on the summit of an irregular mound of slight elevation (the crest being some 3 ft. above the surrounding ground). The S.E. corner of the cutting was 138 ft. from the W. boundary of the Plan of the earthwork. In the central parts, at a depth of 1 ft., a layer of "pug," maximum thickness 0·9 ft., was met with; it was unbaked and of a light yellowish-brown colour. At the bottom of the "pug," nodules of flint were found, followed by sandy mould of a dark brown colour. The light grey undisturbed sand was reached at a depth of 2·7 ft. below the summit of the mound. The red fired "pug" was found in small pieces on the

* "English Dialect Dictionary," 1., 676.

yellow pug floor. Pottery of the same class as that uncovered in the earthwork and fragmentary animal remains were found above the level of the floor. Time prevented a more complete examination of the site, but probably the floor represents the remains of some primitive hut. A slight ridge, or dyke, runs in N. and S. directions from this mound; and between it and the earthwork various slight rises and depressions in the ground occur.

(*m*) Cutting XII., E. Fosse (Plate I.).

At this point the slightest trace of a ditch was observable on the surface of the E. extremity of the "horse-shoe." A cutting, 15 by 4 ft., made across it, proved the existence of a slight fosse, much contracted in proportions, the bottom not exceeding 6 ft. in width, its depth from the surface of the silting being only 1.6 ft. At the W. the natural sand was reached at a depth of 1.3 ft. The slight rise in the sand, representing the escarp of the fosse, was several feet further to the E. than was expected.

(*n*) Cutting XIII., "Shallow Combe"
(Plate I.).

This cutting, 35 by 4 ft., extended from the cart-track in a S. direction, and was situated at the S. extremity of the "combe." The natural floor of sand was even, and was reached at depths varying from 1.5 to 2.2 ft., the difference in depth being due to inequalities of the turf-clad surface. Shards of pottery of the same class as found elsewhere and several oyster-shells were collected from this cutting.

V. CONCLUDING REMARKS.

As Mr. A. H. Allcroft, in his comprehensive work, "Earthwork of England," does not give an illustration or full description of an earthwork of the form and

character of the Butley example, it is no doubt a rare type, although semi-circular earthworks are common enough for protecting the weak side of promontory camps. The earthwork he barely mentions in a footnote (p. 480) near Chessington, Surrey, is said to conform to a semi-circular or horse-shoe outline, but it is buried in a wood and much overgrown. It lies on low ground sloping gradually to a water-course on which the earthwork abuts. Mr. Allcroft writes: "I hazard no theory, but if I were asked to suggest what I deem least unlikely of its origin, I should venture to say Norman, albeit there is no recognizable *motte*." From this description it appears probable that there is rather a close similarity between the Butley and Chessington earthworks; and the former also has no recognizable *motte*, although it is just possible one may have stood on one of the ridges to the N. of the earthwork.

It may be mentioned that the earthwork in "Barn Ground," parish of Weston, Lansdown, near Bath (standing at an elevation of about 600 feet) is of a symmetrical semi-circular or horse-shoe outline, of very slight relief. The dimensions of the earthwork are, from end to end 352 ft., transverse diameter 260 ft. (rather larger than the Butley work). Only modern shards, stems of tobacco-pipes, bits of glass, oyster-shells and a quantity of cinders were found.*

With the exception of the two fragments of glazed pottery, the whole of the shards found in the earthwork are of one general character—all, or nearly all, the remains of common cooking-pots requisite for camp-life—pottery which, for common domestic purposes, was used for some four centuries after Norman times without developing to any appreciable extent. Most of it appears to have been roughly formed on the wheel; it is coarse and gritty, highly fired, very

* Plan and short paper in *Proc. Som. Arch. Soc.*, L. (1904), pt. ii., pp. 104-106, by the Rev. H. H. Winwood, F.G.S.

hard and brittle (p. 82). Some of the fragments may perhaps have originally been glazed, but the presence or absence of the lead glaze is in itself no evidence of date.

This mediæval pottery was found in the silting of the shallow fosse, and under the vallum, but most of the shards were uncovered, as we have seen, in one small area of the interior space (Cutting IV.), which would appear to be the very spot in which the camp refuse and broken pots were thrown. The quantity of the pottery does not necessarily point to long occupation of the earthwork, if the camp was made for a temporary purpose and occupied by a large number of men. Most men would have their own cooking-pots, and a great number would doubtless be broken in a short time.

The precise date and purpose of the earthwork are more difficult questions; and we can do little more than make a careful record of the details and results of the excavations. It is a significant fact, however, that an existing local tradition affirms that the camp is the site of old Staverton Hall, which owed its destruction to the "Peasant Revolt" of 1381. As a matter of fact the Hall was nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant from the earthwork, but there is no reason why the camp should not have been thrown up hastily and used by the insurgents during their short and ineffective campaign while devastating the surrounding country. The position of the site, which was protected by forest on three sides and swamp on the fourth, as well as the type of pottery discovered, favours this assumption.

The "Peasant Revolt" in Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, was not sporadic and partial, but universal and very violent, and was not closely connected with the main rebellion under Wat Tyler. "It came to a head after Tyler's death, and was at its

height when the insurgents of the south had already been dispersed."*

Professor C. W. C. Oman, F.S.A., says: "It seems that the rising in the eastern counties was caused by a general explosion of the suppressed grievances of every class; villeins who disliked manorial customs, townfolk who wanted a charter, artisans oppressed by municipal oligarchs, clergy who felt the sting of poverty, discontented knights and squires, all took part in it, with the most diverse ends in view. Hence came the chaotic and ineffective character which, from first to last, it displayed."†

The authority of the leader John Wraw, formerly vicar of Ringsfield, near Beccles, seems to have extended all over West and North Suffolk; and only the neighbourhood of Ipswich appears to have been overrun by bands independent of him. On the eastern side of the county the insurrection broke out two days later than in the district dominated by Wraw.

The bands of John Battsford (or John de Battsford), the parson of Bucklesham, and Thomas Sampson of Harkstead, a wealthy tenant farmer,‡ "spread themselves over all the eastern hundreds of Suffolk as far as the sea, picking up two more leaders in the persons of two squires named James Beddingfield and Richard Talmache of Bentley. Their main work was the burning of manor rolls, and the plundering of the houses of justices of the peace, escheators, tax-collectors, and other officials. . . . On the whole,

* "The Great Revolt of 1381," by Professor C. Oman (1906), p. 99.

† *Ibid.*, p. 103.

‡ The rebellion was not purely a rising of the poor against the rich. Had that been the case, the insurgents would never have chosen landed gentry for their leaders.

however, the rebels of East Suffolk were not so violent in their proceedings as were their neighbours in the west."*

It is also recorded that "the mob headed by John de Batisford, marched through Woodbridge, attacked and laid waste the house of Fraunceys at Melton, and then divided into two parties. One company remained to ransack the ruins, and the other, led by William Bernard, of Copdock, marched to the house of John Staverton at Eyke, which they plundered, carrying away goods to the value of 100 shillings."†

Professor Oman informs us that James Beddingfield showed a desire to organize the forces of rebellion, which we find nowhere else in East Anglia; and it seems quite possible that one of the headquarters camps of the insurgents in the S.E. of the county may have been our little earthwork near Butley, possibly entrenched by old soldiers of the French wars against attack from Orford Castle.

* "The Great Revolt of 1381," p. 110.

† *Proceedings, Suffolk Inst.*, X., 73.