

THE PHYSICAL GEOLOGY AND EARLY  
ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATIONS  
OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD  
OF CHERITON.

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Cheriton is a place of springs, and springs of water are and always have been highly valued by man in all countries, and from the most remote antiquity. Unless therefore we can suppose that the people who lived in this part of Hampshire in remote time, beyond the range of history, were different from the rest of the human race in their appreciation of the value of springs of pure water near their habitation, we are led irresistably to the conclusion that as long as mid-Hampshire had any inhabitants; some of them in all probability lived round these springs which form one of the sources of the river Itchen. East, south, and west of these water sources for eight or more miles, no permanent springs are found. On the east, the long valley in which Bramdean is situated may be traversed until the water parting of the river basin of the Itchen and that of the Rother, is met with near Petersfield. This valley is one of those dry upper valleys above the permanent springs which commonly occur in chalk and limestone districts. It is in fact the longest branch of the upper Itchen valley, but the never failing sources of that stream are close to the lower part of this valley near Cheriton. The geologist sees in this valley, the line along which a larger river, which was the predecessor of the Itchen, probably flowed westward from the western part of the Wealden area near Petersfield, during a remote

period before the hills and valleys had assumed their present outlines. Bramdean valley has been cut out of the upper chalk, but it contains in parts of it and on the higher lands that bound it, some remains of the Tertiary formations which formerly lay upon the chalk in this part of Hampshire. This Tertiary debris consists, of red and other clays and loams, derived from the waste and re-construction of the Reading beds, commonly found on hilly parts of the district, blocks of grey wether sandstone, and rounded Tertiary pebbles.

A common feature also in a chalk valley such as this is the quantity of large flints and flint gravel such as are found here. Another geological feature of the higher land which forms the higher slopes of the valley, is "clay with flints." This commonly consists of stiff brown or red clay containing many large unworn flints, and occasionally pebbles of flint, quartz, and other rocks occur in this accumulation, derived from some former Tertiary beds or the drift gravel which formerly lay above. The "Clay with flints" is mainly found in upper chalk districts, and its origin was first shown by Mr. W. Whitaker, F.R.S., a former President of the Hampshire Field Club, in the descriptive explanation of Sheet 7, of the Geological Survey of England. Mr. Whitaker showed that the occurrence of this clay is due in a great part to the solution of the chalk by water holding carbonic acid, whereby the flints and earthy matter, other than calcareous, are left. It is also in part due to the remains of the Tertiary and post Tertiary clays. The flints found on the surface of the land are much broken up by natural agencies and by agricultural operations, and in some places are so numerous that it is difficult to realise, any crops can be grown on such land, but good root crops are not uncommonly obtained. The removal of the surface flints by hand makes very little difference to their apparent number, for others a little below the surface are turned up by the plough, or come to the surface assisted by the action of rain. It is this re-appearance of other flints after successive collections of them from the surface have been made, which has led to the former wide spread belief among the country people that these flints "grow." In many instances after

the flints have been picked off they have been observed so soon to appear again, that scarcely any appreciable difference seems to have been made. These flints are however not the result of a growth, but the result of a waste, that great waste of the upper chalk beds which originally contained them, and which went on through long ages, until these flints imbedded in the earthy material in the chalk not soluble by water action, alone were left.

Clay with flints and Tertiary debris are found on the ridge between Bishop Sutton and Bramdean, on the higher ground west of Cheriton and Hill houses, between Tichborne and Ovington, and on the high ground extending east and west of Hinton Ampner. A great patch of it occurs in the western part of Kilmeston, others in Shorley Copse, and in Durden Copse, both south or south-west of Cheriton.

River and valley gravels occur in places along the course of the Tichbourn stream, from its sources north of Cheriton to its junction with the Itchen west of Alresford. The same kind of gravel occurs also in the hollow south of Bramdean and Hinton, and extends westwards to the springs near Cheriton. This probably marks the line of a former stream. It occurs also in an elongated patch near the road leading from Cheriton to Middle Farm. The most lengthened patch of it is found in the long valley of Bramdean, along which it forms a narrow band east of Cheriton for miles, extending further eastward than West Meon Hut.

Alluvium, consisting of mud and peaty matter occurs continuously along the course of the Tichborne stream.

We may consider the flints which are found in the Bramdean Valley and in the neighbourhood of Cheriton to have different geological histories: 1.—Those which have travelled, the smaller masses of flint gravel, generally from a considerable distance. 2.—Those flints of considerable size which have been derived from the chalk near where they are found. These latter are of considerable size and are found on the lower slopes of the valley in various places, as for instance in the fields lying to the south of Privet. These large flints must have been much more abundant in all parts

of the chalk area of Hampshire in former time; for they have been collected for building purposes for many centuries. Some of the oldest Hampshire churches are partly built of them, and one of the best examples of a modern flint building that of Privet church, is near the upper part of this valley. Vast accumulations of flint have been found wherever the remains of Roman buildings have been met with in the chalk districts of this county.

Another geological feature of the Bramdean valley and its neighbourhood is the occurrence of large blocks of sandstone known as greywether sandstones. A few of these may be seen in situ near Froxfield. Some of the largest of these stones were collected by the late Colonel George Greenwood and placed near the entrance to his residence at Brookwood, so as to form a stone circle or cromlech which he made there. Colonel Greenwood has told us in his book entitled "Rain and Rivers," that he brought the largest of these stones from the chalk ridge that forms the southern limit of this valley, which overlooks the valley of the Meon, between East and West Meon. He has also told us that the next largest he dug out of the surface of the drift gravel, east of Bramdean and consequently not far from the spot where the stones now stand. Others he got from Froxfield, and he also leads us to infer that the large conglomerate stones came from the direction of Brighton Lane, as all who are acquainted with the geology of Hampshire would have expected. Colonel George Greenwood died in 1875, and was buried in the churchyard of Hinton Ampner. His monumental stone on which his name is cut is a grey wether sandstone, a fitting memorial of a man who was an ardent student of Nature. His contributions to geological knowledge in "Rain and Rivers," and "River Terraces" will long be remembered.

The system of water drainage in the dry valleys near Cheriton is a system of soakage and swallow holes. In wet seasons, and particularly in rainy winters, plenty of water may be seen flowing down the little channels from the higher ground to the hollows where the porous chalk absorbs it. It is not often that much of this water may be observed flowing

along the usually dry water courses, but the water goes, as certainly as if it flowed above the ground, to feed the springs at and near Cheriton. At rare intervals the water flowing beneath the surface down the Bramdean Valley rises in a great spring a little west of the village, and flows along the bourn channel. Some springs in very wet seasons have been known to burst out not far from Woodcote. The bourn spring west of Bramdean, is one of the most interesting of Hampshire springs. Only sometimes is it a spring; much more often it is a swallow hole. It is easy to understand that the underground channel from which the water rises when the chalk is saturated with water and the water level consequently high, is capable of forming a channel through which the water can sink when the chalk is dry and the water level is low. The great capacity of chalk for absorbing water, is realised when we call to memory the experiments of Professor Prestwich, who found that it was able to absorb and hold about two gallons of water per cubic foot.

The water of the Cheriton Springs is necessarily hard, for it is derived from the chalk. None of this water flows away without some dissolved particles of carbonate of lime being carried away with it. All rain water as it sinks into the earth contains a little free carbonic acid gas dissolved in it. This it derives from the atmosphere, and this dissolved gas enables the water as it sinks into chalk, to dissolve a small proportion of its substance, which is chiefly carbonate of lime. The amount of this carbonate appears on casual thought to be infinitesimal, but when considered in reference to millions of gallons of water, and the flow in reference to many years, it will be seen to be very great indeed.

After allowing for smaller proportions of other mineral substances which chalk water always contains, the late Professor Prestwich says we may assume that at least 10 grains per gallon of carbonate of lime are contained in water derived from cretaceous and oolitic strata. He further says after having ascertained the volume of water carried away from a known area of these formations, that in this way 140 tons of carbonate of lime are removed yearly from each square mile of surface, or 14,000 tons in a century.

This removal of carbonate of lime in solution in chalk water is a chemical process, quite different from the mechanical action of the water during flood time or periods of great rain, when some of the rain-wash is carried away by the discoloured streams in the form of finely divided muddy particles. The physical effects of the rain-wash down the hill sides, may be best observed along the lower boundaries of old cultivated arable fields on the slopes of the hills. Some old fields in such situations have been cultivated for many centuries, and the effect of the rainwash is often very marked. A bank of earth is commonly formed along the lower boundary hedges of such fields, or, if the hedges have been grubbed up, a terrace which looks as if artificially made, remains to indicate where the old hedgerow ran, and acted as a barrier to the rainwash, while a bank or terrace was being gradually formed.

The geological effects of rain-wash has been greater in such a district as that round Cheriton, during the last century than in previous centuries, from two causes: 1.—The conversion of much of the downland into arable land, by which the soil has been more readily acted on by water. 2.—The great removal from some fields of the large flints lying upon the surface, by which a diminished resistance has been offered to the mechanical action of the rain.

There are two subjects of local interest concerning Cheriton, which are connected with its springs. The water of these springs being derived from the chalk is of a temperature of about 50° Fah., and this is the normal temperature, both in summer and winter. In the winter, this temperature is commonly higher than the atmospheric temperature, and that of the surface of the earth. It is owing to this that the water above such springs never freezes. These springs usually flow the strongest at the latter part of the winter or in the early spring, depending on the period of the autumn or winter rain. They do not rise the strongest just after the rain, but some weeks after a rainy period. This is owing to the slow action of the chalk in first absorbing, and afterwards giving out the water which falls upon it. As may be seen by the geological maps, the collecting chalk area round Cheriton

is a large one. This warm chalk water in winter is well adapted to the growth of watercress, a profitable undertaking under favourable circumstances, and one which can only be carried on successfully under such local conditions as prevail in and near Cheriton, near which this industry has been much developed within recent years.

Another subject of interest which was apparently connected also with its springs and pasturage, is the ancient reference to Cheriton as a place for rearing agricultural stock. The comparatively warm water flowing along the water-courses must have some influence on the growth of grass in the meadows. The village appears to have been a prosperous place in the 14th century, as shown by the records of the taxation of that period. In the *Inquisitiones Nonarum* of 1340, the tithes of young animals are especially mentioned, as if the rearing of young stock formed a feature in the agricultural pursuits of the place.

In prehistoric time, and considerably later, when there was much more wood in the neighbourhood of Cheriton and Bramdean valley, the soil would be damper, and the bourn stream along the valley would flow more frequently. The valley in which Bramdean is situated, was part of the forest land of Mid-Hampshire, and there is one circumstance connected with this valley which may support this view. Nature has more than half made in the bottom of it a natural road, by the bed of gravel it contains. I am not aware, however, that any ancient road ran entirely along it. Its name, 'Dean,' on the contrary, appears to imply that it was part of the Anglo-Saxon folkland, or unoccupied forest land of the earliest Saxon settlers. The present road along the valley was made early in the present century, for in the *Official Survey of the County*, published in 1810, Mr. Vancouver recommended that a new road from Winchester to Petersfield should be made through the Bramdean valley and that close observer stated in his report, that the material to make it was at hand. We may see this material in the beds of flint gravel, west of The Dean in Bramdean parish, and also further eastward, near West Meon Hut. The new road recommended by Mr. Vancouver to the then existing

Board of Agriculture, was made by utilising, where suitable parts of roads in use at that time. The old road from Cheriton to Bramdean, however, which passes over higher ground, was not used as part of the new turnpike road, and it still remains, though little used.

The subject of the alterations which have been made in the ancient roads of the county, is one which deserves the attention of this club.

Another subject connected with the physical geology of Cheriton and its neighbourhood, is its scenery. This consists of diversified prospects of hill and dale, the hill sides here and there covered by beech trees, which grow so well on the chalk slopes. Little pinewood is to be seen, for sand, or a siliceous soil which suits the coniferæ, is for the most part absent in this district. The pleasing irregularities in the surface have all been caused by atmospheric agencies, by rain and rivers, aided by frost and local floods, acting through vast periods of time, concerning which the late Colonel George Greenwood, who lived so long in the neighbourhood, and observed so closely, wrote so well. The rain-wash down the hill sides has been an important factor in giving the rounded contour to the hills, and the action of frost in crumbling the chalk, through the expanding force of ice on its saturated exposed services, has been another. But these natural forces depend primarily on the sun's power in first raising water into vapour and clouds, for the production of rain. As Tyndall said of a Swiss scene, we may say with equal truth of the far humbler Hampshire hills and landscapes, as seen from such a height as Millbarrow Down:— Who chiselled these picturesque masses out of a mere protuberance of the earth? And the answer is at hand— Ever young, ever mighty, with the vigour of a thousand worlds still in him, the real sculptor may be seen climbing up the eastern sky.

The country round Cheriton appears to have been inhabited from the time of the Newer Stone Age, *i.e.*, the Neolithic period. I have obtained some remains of Neolithic implements from Froxfield, near the upper part of the Bramdean valley, and these specimens are in the Hartley Museum



Some remains of weapons of the Bronze Age have been found not far from this neighbourhood. A few years ago a socketed bronze celt was discovered at Ropley. As the original could not be secured, a facsimile cast of it was made in bronze and placed for preservation in the Hartley Museum, Southampton. In 1884 this specimen was in the possession of Mr. Bailey, of Hall Place, Ropley.

As regards British coins which have been found in this neighbourhood, a small hoard of large coins inscribed, Verica, of well known British types was discovered at Alresford, and some of these have been figured.<sup>1</sup> They came into the possession of Sir John Evans.

A gold coin of the British period was also found on Gander's Down, Tichborne. It is inscribed with the letters T I N C, and on the obverse has the figure of a man on a horse galloping, the man holding up his right hand. This coin has been engraved.<sup>2</sup> The inscription is a contraction for Tincommios or Tincommius. Coins similarly inscribed with this name have been found at Winchester and Portsmouth.

A curious uninscribed British gold coin was found at Cheriton in 1870. It has been engraved.<sup>3</sup> It has on it the rude representation of a horse and other figures. Sir John Evans in describing it says:—"Its types are of great interest from a morphological point of view, for at first sight neither the laureate head nor the horse would be recognised by a casual observer. On the obverse the wreath of the laureate bust, the clothing of the neck, and two of the crescents representing the front hair, still occupy their usual positions; but an attempt has been made to give some meaning to the mere swelling which, on so many coins, is all that survives of the face . . . . A cresting or mane has been added to the crescent formed representative of the face, which has

<sup>1</sup> Evans, Sir J.—*Coins of the Ancient Britons, Supplement*, Plate II., No. 9-10 and Plate XIX., No. 6.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* *Supplement*, p. 511.

<sup>3</sup> See Fig. 6 on the engraved plate of coins: *History of Hampshire*, by Woodward and Wilks, III., 200-201.

<sup>4</sup> Evans, Sir J.—*Coins of Ancient Britons, Supplement* p. 447 and plate K, No. 13.

thus been converted into what would appear to be an animal form. It seems indeed to represent a boar with a mane, much like that on the brass coins of Cunobeline, and on the silver coins of the Iceni. The lines connecting the animal with the open crescents beneath, give the idea of legs. The general effect is that of a boar forming the top of an ensign or standard, like that held by the warrior on the not uncommon silver coins of Gaulish Dubnoreix, Hucher."

As regards remains of the Roman period, pavements were discovered at Bramdean, in or about the year 1826. They formed part of a Roman villa which was situated on a gentle eminence north of the village. Soon after their discovery the pavements were roofed over to preserve them from the weather, by William Greenwood, Esq., of Brookwood, on whose estate they were situated.

The central compartment of one of these pavements was circular with two intersecting squares within it, and within these squares was an octagon containing the head of Medusa. In the space between the circle and the outer square border, were eight compartments, in each of which was the head of a heathen deity, of which four remained, viz. :—Venus with her glass, Neptune with his trident, Mercury with his caduceus, and Mars in armour with his helmet and spear. Parts of two more which remained indicated Diana with her crescent, and Æsculapius with his serpent.

The other pavement was larger and richer in its decoration. It was laid on a floor supported by piers, and the flues that warmed the apartment were visible all round the room. It was composed of four intersecting squares, having in the middle an octagonal space, which was filled with a design representing the story of Hercules and Antæus. In each of the four squares there was a head placed within an octagon; in two of the extreme angles were two vases, in the others arabesques, and in the centres between the angles there were vases and dolphins.

In the central space the design showed Hercules in the act of lifting up Antæus from the ground, before he touched it to recover his strength in the presence of his mother Terra.

The buildings attached to this Roman villa were extensive, and the walls were constructed of flint and large Roman tiles, in the same way as other villas which have been discovered in this country.

The coins which were found were all of the period of the later Roman Empire.<sup>1</sup> Among the Roman antiquities found at Bramdean, which were exhibited at Winchester in 1845, by Colonel Greenwood, on the occasion of the meeting of the Archæological Institute in that City, were some remains of Roman weapons.

The later history of the Bramdean pavements has been most unfortunate. They were presented to the Museum at Winchester many years ago, and were so unskilfully removed, that the remaining tesserae became detached, and the original patterns lost. Fragments of them pieced together are all that now remain in the City Museum.

A gold torque of Roman workmanship coiled in bracelet form, and designed as a wrist ornament was found many years ago in a ploughed field at Ropley. It is one of the finest ornaments of its kind ever discovered in this country; and it, or a torque like it, has been engraved.<sup>2</sup> In 1884, when I saw this torque, it was in the possession of Mr. Lillywhite of Lyewood, Ropley.

A gold coin of Tiberius was found some years before 1839, in a field at the upper part of Cheriton called Hill-houses.<sup>3</sup>

The Roman road which ran eastward from Winchester towards Farnham, the exact line of which has been lost, must have passed near Tichborne or Cheriton, and it is not surprising that Roman coins or other objects should occasionally be found along or near its course.

In addition to the barrows I have mentioned there is a remarkable ancient mound in Cheriton itself, that in the churchyard, on which the original church appears to have been built. This mound is evidently artificial, and there can only be two archæological explanations of its origin; (1) that it was an old round barrow of the Bronze Age, or (2) that it

<sup>1</sup> See *Archæologia*, Vol. XXII.

<sup>2</sup> *Smith's Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities*.

<sup>3</sup> *Duthy's Sketches of Hampshire*, p. 53.

was thrown up in Anglo-Saxon time, and possibly a small Saxon church built on it. Of this building, if such existed, there are now no traces, but the line of orientation of the church is east north east, a common orientation for churches of the Anglo-Saxon period, as may be observed in the neighbouring parish of Hinton Ampner, where the orientation of the old church, and some of the original Saxon pilasters have been preserved. There is one other circumstance connected with this subject worth consideration. As I shall proceed to show, Cheriton was in Anglo-Saxon time part of the great manor of Chilcombe, and nine churches are mentioned as actually existing on that manor, including its outlying parts, at the time of the Domesday Survey. A church at Cheriton may have been one of these.

There is, or was a few years ago, another ancient mound at the manor farm in Cheriton.

Of the meaning of the name Cheriton, I can offer no positive opinion. It appears to be of Anglo-Saxon origin and to be derived from the tun of a clan or family settlement. Several names of a somewhat similar kind for places in other counties occur in Domesday Book, and places with the same name exist at the present time in Kent, Somerset, Devonshire, Pembrokeshire and the district of Gower in Glamorganshire, both of which latter districts were Anglo-Saxon settlements. The place name Cherrington also occurs in Wiltshire, and Cherrington in Warwickshire and Gloucestershire.

Neither Tichborne nor Cheriton are mentioned under these names in Domesday Book, but the hides of land in these places are included in the great manor to which they belonged in Anglo-Saxon time, viz., that of Chilcombe. The Domesday Survey affords us numerous instances in many parts of England of land situated at a certain specified place, but considered as belonging to or lying within a manor at a distance from it. The land at Tichborne and Cheriton, taxed at twenty-five hides, belonged to the bishop's manor of Chilcombe.

In the charter of about A.D., 984, in which King Æthelred confirmed the possessions of the bishopric to Ælfheah, Bishop of Winchester, it is stated that there were 100 hides of land belonging to the see in Chilcombe. The charter

states that twenty-five of these hides were at Tichborne and these added to the hides belonging to Chilcōmbe named as existing at other places, practically make up the total number of 100. It has already been pointed out that Tichborne is an older name than Cheriton, which later on became the name of the parish. In Anglo-Saxon time Ticesburne was the name of the place where twenty-five of the outlying hides of land belonging to Chilcombe lay, or were situated, and this name was derived from the stream then called the Ticceburne. In a charter of Edward the Elder A.D., 901, twenty hides of land are mentioned "be Ticceburnan," *i.e.* as I think we may read, by or about the Tichbourn stream, and as this stream flows through Cheriton as well as Tichborne, no reasonable doubt can exist that the land at Cheriton was included in the hides reckoned at Tichborne. This conclusion becomes strengthened when the charter of Æthelstan is also considered. In a charter dated A.D. 938, that King confirmed the possession of its land at Ticesburne to the monastery at Winchester. In this charter the ville of Ticesburnan, and a place called Beowurth are mentioned. One of the boundaries of this land "Melan-beorh" is specifically named. As this boundary name, Melan-beorh is the ancient name for the Millbarrow, and as this was the old southern boundary of the parish of Cheriton, the chain of evidence placing the medieval parish of Cheriton within the Anglo-Saxon hides of land at Ticesburne, becomes complete.

These Anglo-Saxon charters relating to Tichborne are thus of great antiquarian interest. The most important of them are those of Eadward, A.D. 909, Æthelstan, A.D. 938, Eadgar before A.D. 975, and Æthelred about A.D. 984. In the charter given by King Eadgar, he states that he confirms the Minster in the possession of 60 cassatas of land, which were first given to the monastery by King Cynewalh, and that this land was at Ticceburnam, at Beowurthe, and at Uffinctune (Ovington). As Cynewalh, or Cenwealth, was the son of Cynegils, the first christian King of Wessex, and lived in the seventh century, this statement in Eadgar's charter shows that Tichborne was abbey land as long ago as 400 years before the Norman Conquest. The church at

Tichborne still shows some remains of Anglo-Saxon work, which is not surprising, for so important an abbey as the Old Minster at Winchester, would certainly have made permanent provision for the spiritual needs of its tenants on so large a manor.

Beauworth, one of the tythings of the parish of Cheriton, has acquired a permanent place in antiquarian literature by a great discovery there of silver coins of the time of William I.

On Sunday afternoon, June 20th 1833, as four young boys all under ten years of age, were playing with marbles at Beauworth, in the parish of Cheriton, they found the most remarkable hoard of silver coins of the early Norman kings which has ever been discovered in England. These boys were engaged at their game in a small piece of pasture land then called by the name of The Old Litten, probably the land on which the ancient chapel of Beauworth formerly stood, and which was at that time attached to the manor house. As they were engaged in their game, one of the boys discovered, in the tracks made by a wagon wheel, a piece of lead sticking up above the surface of the ground, and on stooping down to take hold of this lead, he saw a small hole in it into which he thrust his hand, and brought up a number of coins. On showing what he had discovered, his companions immediately followed his example. The boys mistook the coins they had found for the remains of buttons, so unlike were they to any coins with which they were familiar. Their parents, and the other villagers soon heard of the discovery, and a regular scramble for the booty ensued. The parents of the boys who first discovered the hoard, became dissatisfied with the number of the coins which remained in their possession, after the scramble and appropriation made by the villagers, so that next morning one of them went into Alresford and informed Mr. Dunn the owner of the land of the discovery. He immediately sent a reliable agent to Beauworth to claim the coins as his property, and to demand their delivery to him. This demand was so far complied with by the villagers who could see nothing of much value in the discovery, that on the Monday evening Mr. Dunn received upwards of six

thousand coins. The lead which first attracted the attention of the boy was part of an oblong box 13 inches long, by 11 inches broad, and 9 inches deep. This box or casket is preserved in the Westgate Museum at Winchester.

The number of these coins which were at first examined by numismatists was about 6,500, but some thousands more, in packets of various sizes, afterwards found their way to London. All of them, with the exception of about 100, were of what is known as the Pax type, containing the words "Pax subditis,"<sup>1</sup> and are believed to have been part of a coinage struck to commemorate the restoration of peace, after one of the insurrections which occurred during the reign of William the Conqueror. With the exception of a few of William II., nearly the whole of them are of the reign of William I. These coins of William I. had not been in circulation. From this circumstance and that of a few coins of William II. being found among them, it is probable that this hoard of new coins of the Conqueror was deposited where it was found in the time of William Rufus.

As is well known, money was made in Norman time in many different towns, and the moneyers names were commonly placed upon the coins they made. There were generally several, and in some cases many, moneyers in the large towns, and the coins in the Beauworth hoard show this. The towns in which these coins were minted are as follows:—Bath, Bedford, Bridport, Bristol, Canterbury, Cambridge, Chester, Chichester, Colchester, Cricklade, Derby, Dorchester, Dover, Durham, Exeter, Gloucester, Hastings, Hereford, Hertford, Huntingdon, Hythe, Ilchester, Ipswich, Leicester, Lewes, Lincoln, London, Maldon, Malmsbury, Marlborough, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Pevensey, Peterborough, Rochester, Romney, Sandwich, Shaftesbury, Shrewsbury, Sarum, Stafford, Stamford, Stepney, Southwark, Southampton, Sudbury, Tamworth, Taunton, Thetford, Wallingford, Wareham, Warwick, Worcester, Winchester, Wilton, and York.

<sup>1</sup> *Archæologia*, Vol. XXVI., Paper by Edward Hawkins, F.R.S.

Among this great hoard, discovered at Beauwóth, some halves and quarters of silver coins of Edward the Confessor were also found.<sup>1</sup>

In 1853 a silver coin of Harold II. was likewise found at Beauwóth.<sup>2</sup>

In conclusion I may mention that a subject of early archæological interest concerning Cheriton is that of its courts. There was first the court of the ancient episcopal manor, the origin of which is lost in antiquity. When we consider the statement in Eadgar's charter that the land about Cheriton, "at Ticeburnam, at Beowurthe, and at Uffinctune" was first given to the Old Minster at Winchester by King Cenwealh, *i.e.*, in the seventh century, and consider also that assemblies in courts, for the regulation of local matters between the tenants or holders of land, in any given place, are among the most ancient institutions of which we find the earliest traces, we may conclude that a court of some kind for Tichborne, and what is now Cheriton, must have been in existence, probably from as early a date as Cenwealh's grant. These early courts were commonly held in the open air, and not unfrequently at, or near, convenient places on the boundaries. The functions of such a court included the perambulation of the boundaries. If the court for Tichborne and Cheriton existed at so early a date, and met in the open air, as I think it did, then the high boundary mound known as the Melan beorh was probably one of its meeting places. During later centuries down to our own time, the meeting place of this court was at Sevington, between Tichborne and Cheriton.

There was at Cheriton, in ancient time, as now, a manor of the Rectory, and as no manor could exist without its manor court, there must have been an ancient court of the Rectory at which the tenants of the rectory estate would assemble for the transaction of such customary business as was necessary in relation to the rectorial lands and tenements. A record referring to this manor occurs in 1340.

<sup>1</sup> Hawkins, Edward, *The Silver Coins of England*, Ed. 1887, p. 160.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*, p. 167.



Lastly, there was the bishop's hundred court. Cheriton was one of the places in the bishop's great hundred of Fawley, which comprised twenty-five manors or parishes, stretching from West Meon and Exton to Medstead and Wield in the north-east, and including Alresford, Chilcombe, and many places near Winchester, with the outlying parishes of Alverstoke, Havant, and Hayling. The bishop's court for this hundred was held in the Soke, at Winchester, in the old building known as the Cheney Court. This ancient building still remains in part, now adopted for domestic purposes, and may be seen near the King's Gate, in the Close. The Cheney Court in ancient times possessed both civil and criminal jurisdiction over Cheriton and the other places within the hundred of Fawley.

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