

Transactions
OF THE
Cambridgeshire & Huntingdonshire
Archæological Society

(FOUNDED A.D. 1900)



VOLUME VI. PART VI.

EDITED BY THE REV. E. H. VIGERS, M.A.
RECTOR OF ABBOTS RIPTON WITH LITTLE STUKELEY, HUNTS.

Clg

PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY BY
MASON & DORMAN LTD., THE MINSTER PRESS

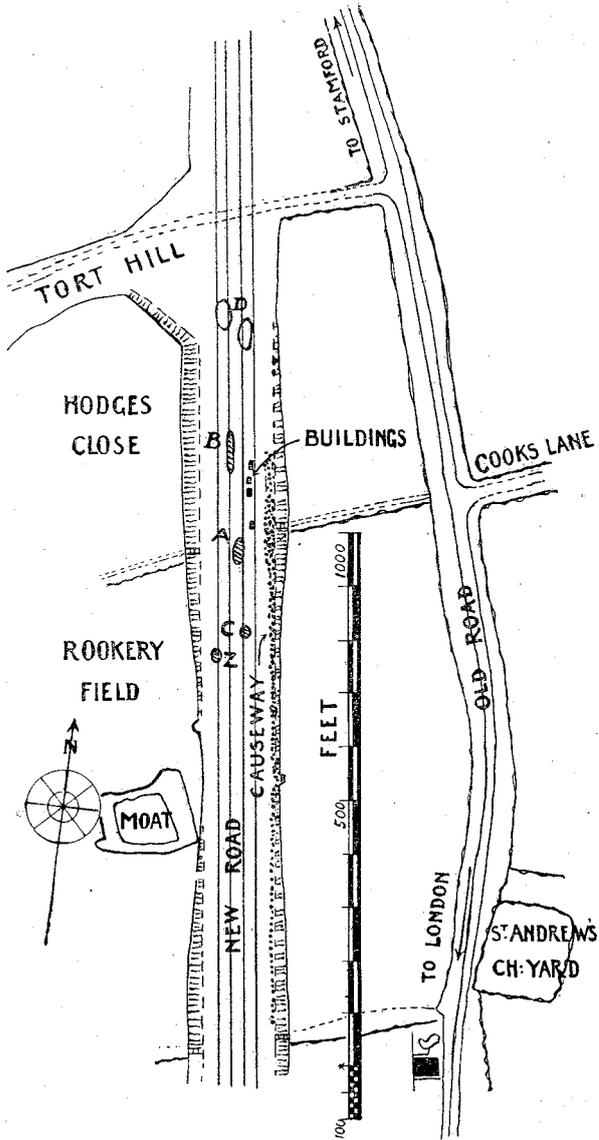
1943

PRICE (NON-MEMBERS) TEN SHILLINGS

Contents of Part 6, Vol. 6.

Papers.

	PAGE
LITTLE CATWORTH AND MOSES SOME, by <i>S. Inskip Ladds, A.R.I.B.A.</i>	159
LATE SAXON SITES AND A MEDIEVAL CHAPEL AT WEALD, HUNTS., by <i>E. F. Newton, M.Sc.</i> ..	167
HAMERTON MANOR HOUSE, by <i>S. Inskip Ladds, A.R.I.B.A.</i>	176
NOTES, by <i>C. F. Tebbutt</i>	177
ROMANO BRITISH SITE AT SAWTRY, HUNTS., by <i>J. R. Garrod, M.D.</i>	178



ROMANO BRITISH SITE AT SAWTRY.

ROMANO BRITISH SITE AT SAWTRY, HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

BY J. R. GARROOD, M.D.

This site was discovered during the levelling operations for the reconstruction of the Great North Road in June, 1939 and is about 100 yards long. It lies immediately south of the road leading from the Great North Road to Sawtry, known as Tort Hill (Toft Hill on the Ordnance Maps), in the fields called Hodges Close and Rookery Field. The power scrapers naturally destroyed a good deal, but they did cut sections showing the rectangular dark patches, presumed to be buildings, and circular areas which proved to be rubbish pits. Mr. Ian Maclean, one of the engineers, took a great deal of trouble in getting out pottery from these areas, and a number of the workmen saved objects discovered by hand digging.

I have already published a note on this site (*Antiq. Journ.* Vol. XX, p. 504); but as there is a considerable amount of pottery, which may be considered typical of Huntingdonshire in the second to fourth centuries, I thought it worth a more detailed report. There were four or more dark rectangular areas lying roughly north and south on the east carriage-way of the new road, each was about twelve feet long and ten to twelve feet wide; there was no evidence of post holes or walls but the areas were rich in pottery, bones and dark soil.

On the east there was a thin layer of cobbles and sand running north and south, extending three feet east of the boundary of the new road, it was traced as far south as the footpath leading to St. Andrew's Churchyard. On the west half of the new road there were at least three well marked rubbish pits, their bottoms six feet from the original surface, they contained black soil, pottery and bones; some human bones were found in the west bank of the new road but nothing was found with them. Pit Z was just west of the carriage-way in Rookery Field; Pit C in the east carriage-way, also in Rookery Field; Pits B and D were in the west carriage-way in Hodges Close; D was simply a soft area containing pottery.

As might be expected there is a good deal of Castor Ware, and probably most of the grey pottery which is not usually assigned to any particular place came thence.

Part of a ridged disc, a Cheese Strainer, is interesting; I have already described one of these from Stocking Close (Vol. V. p. 99, of these Transactions). Mr. C. F. C. Hawkes sent me a note on these at the time; and he points out that the usual form has upright sides but that discs come from Avenches (Switzerland); from Mears Ashby (Northants), this last was found with a perforated basin-shaped vessel; and there is one in the British Museum. There were three stages in ancient cheese making,—first the milk was curdled in pails, presumably of wood, then the curd was put into baskets, but he has reason to believe that the Romans sometimes used a perforated pot instead. After some days the curd became more solid and it was washed, salted and turned out on to wicker trays to dry in the sun. In some cases it was thought the cheese, now getting hard, was stood on these perforated ridged discs; so a complete cheese-making set consisted of a perforated basin and a ridged disc for finishing; in the case of the bigger cheeses, the latter had sides an inch or two high to prevent spreading.

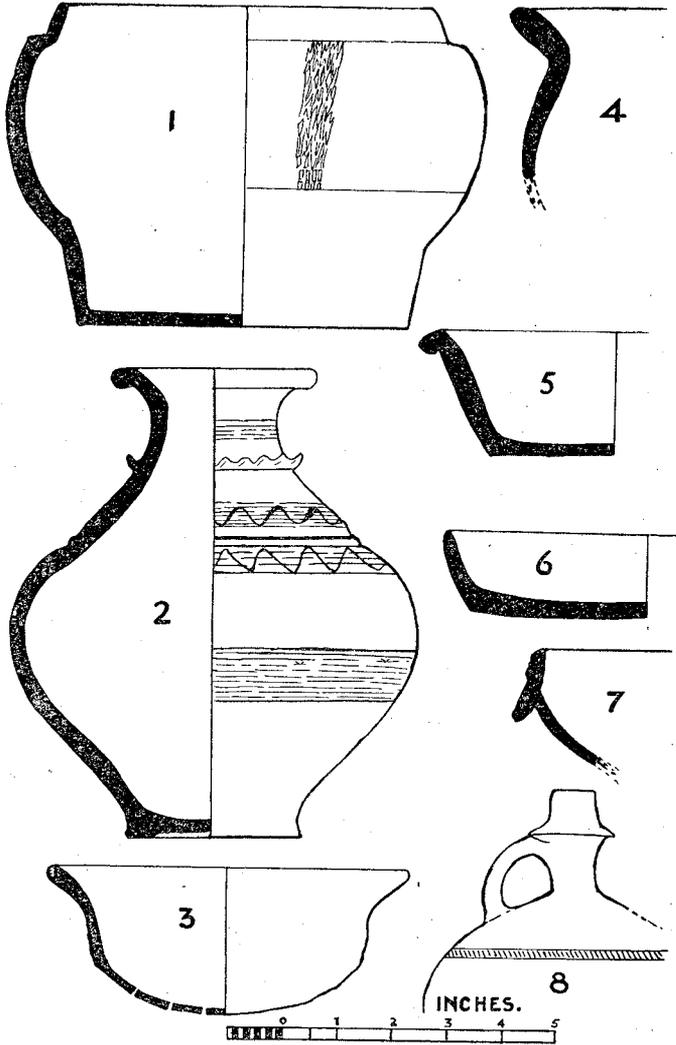
Another piece brought to me shows three ribs and one perforation and is of hard grey ware, equivalent diameter seven inches, found at Conington Bridge, half a mile north of the site.

Samian Ware:—No vessels could be restored but there was a quantity of decorated ware which Miss M. V. Taylor of the Ashmolean Museum has seen; she thinks all are of the second century A.D. except one which may be a survival from the first.

The Inscribed Stone, which is a rarity in Huntingdonshire, came from the southern part of the site, a little to the east of the centre of the roadway, in Rookery Field. It was damaged by the scraper several times but I have been able to piece it together a bit, and a photograph was submitted to Mr. Wright, who states: "Prof. Collingwood reads it as probably PVBLIC . . . some of the letters are doubtful. Dr. Heichelheim of Cambridge, who has seen it, thinks the most probable reading is DVBLIC . . . i.e. the local craftsman's rendering of DVPLIC (ARIVS) a corporal. Prof. Collingwood however, thinks it is not DVPLIC . . ."

The finds have been presented by the Ministry of Transport to our Society and will be deposited on loan in the Huntingdon Museum. Unimportant fragments will be buried on the site.

I am much indebted to the Ministry of Transport, the Huntingdonshire County Council, Messrs. Tarmac, the con-



POTTERY FROM SAWTRY.

tractors, and particularly to Mr. Ian Maclean, B.Sc., who collected most of the material.

THE FINDS.

1. Globular bowl, Castor ware, straight rim with set-off for a lid, flat cylindrical base. Of cream paste, blue to red inside, light red outside, rim black. There is a band of rouletting, 3.8 inches wide below the rim. A similar vessel was found in a kiln at Castor by Artis. Probably third century. From Pit Z.

2. Globular Flask with everted thickened rim, narrow neck with a frilled collar at its junction with the shoulder; the base is cylindrical and hollow. Of cream paste and surface, there is a band of red painted lines round the neck, two other bands on the shoulder are divided by a low cordon and have superimposed burnished painted zig-zag lines, and there is another band on the body. From Pit Z. Probable date is the end of the third or beginning of the fourth century.

3. A campanulate cullender with rounded base and small holes. White paste and grey surface. From Pit C.

4. Part of a Store-jar with rather straight everted rim and short neck; the paste is gritted with shell, and black outside, red within; there is rilling on the body. Equivalent diameter at rim 7 inches. Probably fourth century.

5. Grey Pie-dish with moulded rim, diameter 7.3 inches. From Pit Z.

6. Grey Pie-dish with straight rim, diameter 7.5 inches. Burnished interlacing lines on base and sides.

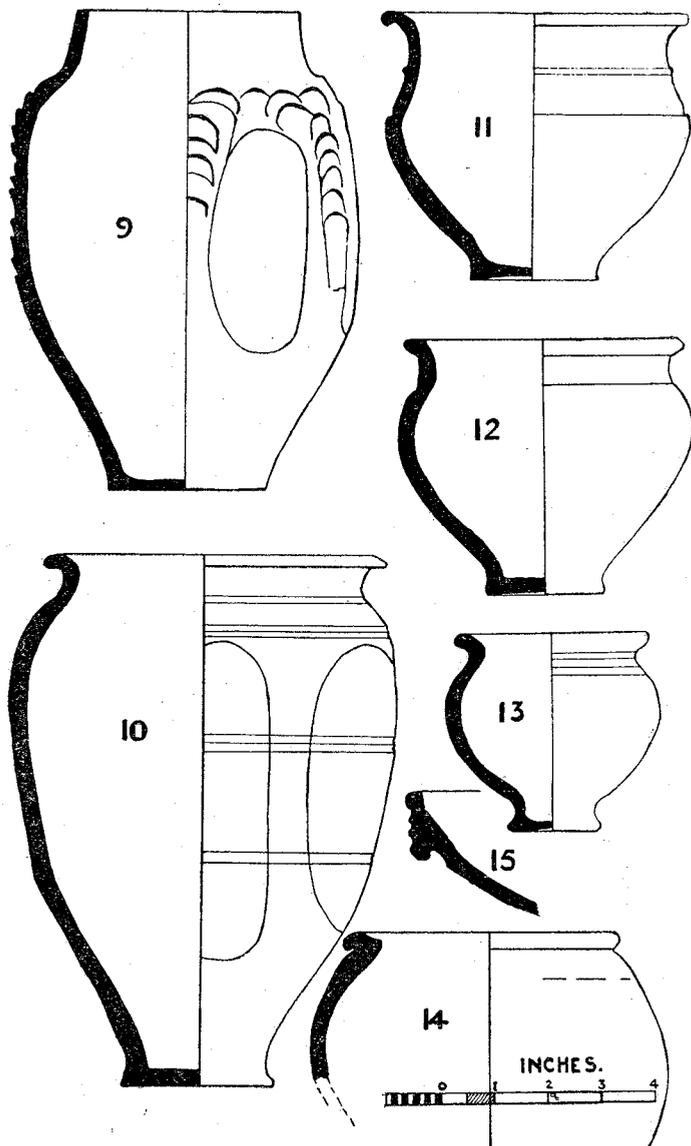
7. Part of a painted flanged bowl, Castor ware, nearly straight rim with two grooves; the rim is continuous with the flange and is also nearly vertical. Cream paste, light red paint. It appears to be an imitation of D.43 or 45 but is not a mortarium as they are. Probably fourth century. Equivalent diameter five inches.

8. Nipple mouthed flagon, Castor ware, with neck ring and a two-ribbed handle which is attached to the upper part of the body. Cream paste, brown slip, a line of rouletting on the shoulder. Late third or fourth century.

9. Indented beaker, Castor ware, straight rim, seven indentations; on the shoulder and between the indentations there is scale-ornament. Cream paste, brown and red fumed surface. From Pit C.

10. Tall Indented beaker with six indentations, everted moulded rim, horizontal grooves on neck, shoulder and body, tapering base and spreading foot. Grey with lighter paste, fairly smooth. From Pit C.

11. Biconical pot with moulded out-turned rim, a cordon at the centre of the neck, a set off at the shoulder, a grooved



POTTERY FROM SAWTRY.

base. Light grey surface and paste, hard granular surface. From a dark area at the centre of the new road opposite the hedge dividing Rookery Field and Hodges Close. Probably late first or early second century.

12. Globular pot with moulded rim and tapering base. Dark grey smooth surface, light grey paste. From Pit B. Second century.

13. Small globular vessel, moulded rim, three irregular incised lines on neck, small hollow base, poor workmanship. Hard smooth grey surface, lighter paste. Similar type to 11 and 12.

14. Upper part of a globular vessel with a rather large beaded rim which is concave above. Light red gritted paste and surface. From the same place as No. 11. It has a first century look but may be a little later.

SAMIAN POTTERY.

POTTERS MARKS. ROTTALIM on foot ring, D.33, side of vessel slightly campanulate. Second century. 170-180 A.D. Lezoux.

PRISCINI-MANV on D.33, a small base. Second century. Lezoux or Central Gaul.

Indecypherable mark on inside of base surrounded by a circular groove. Perhaps D.32. Probably third century.

AD.... perhaps Advocisus. Second century. Lezoux or Central Gaul.

MORTARIA. Six small fragments of D.45. Late second or early third century.

OTHER SAMIAN FRAGMENTS. Three D. 18, one from Pit Z; Four D. 18/31, one from Pit C; Two D. 27; Four D. 31; One D. 32 or 40; Four D. 33; One D. 35; Three D. 36; Three D. 38.

ORNAMENTED SAMIAN. There are thirteen pieces which are probably all second century.

CASTOR WARE.

ORNAMENT. Scale ornament is found on fragments of black and brown beakers.

Barbotine. Scroll patterns, conventional foliage, multiple spirals with expanded ends, and what looks like a winged figure on part of a cornice rimmed vase.

Rouletting. 57 fragments show this; some combined with barbotine and in wide and narrow bands, on vessels of all the usual colours. Many come from Pit C.

RUSTICATED WARE. Two show fine rustication, one from Pit C.

PAINT. The commonest is white on black; the designs are rather crude, some have different colours on base and

body. One base of a bowl has a cross on the inside marked by round white dots; this seems to be the same idea as that in the bowl from a burial at Salome Wood (V.C.H. Hunts. I, Pl. IX, No. 13). Another bowl has a row of white dots on top of the flattish rim.

The following is a summary of the various types of Castor ware found.

BOWLS. Between 50 and 60 fragments showing square, oval and round moulded rims, all shades from red to black.

PIE-DISHES. About 30, similar colours, straight or moulded rims.

BEAKERS. 6 Cornice rims. 23 Moulded rims. 20 Straight rims. These are of early second, second and third centuries respectively.

FLANGED BOWLS. 27. Two similar to D. 45, two like D. 38, 3 wide mouthed with set off for a lid, 2 parts of the lids.

BASES. 40 to 50 Bung-shaped, moulded and tapering; most are from two to three inches in diameter, but some not much over an inch, which is a late character.

FLAGONS AND FLASKS. Parts of five, three have pinched lips, one a nipple mouth.

RED COATED WARE. More than a dozen pieces, they are light red with cream paste, an imitation of Samian and probably made at Castor.

COARSE POTTERY.

Many pieces of Ollae of light buff pottery, rather sandy with short necks and moulded rims, some bearing grooves on the outer edge. One carinated bowl has an inturned rim reeded above. Second century.

Grey pottery with white paste; ollae and pie-dishes in considerable quantity. Also much red ware and gritted pottery, chiefly gritted with shell.

FLAGONS of the usual cream colour, some grey, one with a pinched mouth.

CULLENDERS. Part of three, fig. 3.

MORTARIA. A large number of fragments with rims of late first or second century to the fourth. One has a potter's mark LOCCIP reversed, probably early second century. A red flanged specimen has quartz grit and is probably fourth century. Another of the same date has brown paint on the outside and part of the inside with fine black grit. A number have reeded rims and are of the hammer-head type, third to fourth century. One has a vertical reeded flanged rim, which seems to be a cross between the northern hammer-head and the southern flanged rim which were contemporary in the fourth century. Fig. 15.

STORE JARS. Over a dozen rims show vessels with a rim diameter of up to fourteen inches; they are heavy and of circular and rectangular section, often with a heavy bead bordered by grooves just above the neck, most are of a bright red gritted ware, some are brown.

Body fragments show circumferential grooves and combing, one large piece evidently belongs to a very big vessel, it is of hard red ungritted ware with a grey core. Bases are up to ten inches diameter, most are five to six. The jars are coarse and roughly made, probably of local manufacture.

ORNAMENT consists of combing, burnish, stab, and rings of two concentric circles.

TILES. Both roofing and hypocaust, some with grooves still holding mortar. One large fragment is 1.5 inches thick, very rough and bears longitudinal imprints of fingers.

OYSTER SHELLS were very numerous, both the large and small types being present.

HAND-MADE NAILS occurred.

DATE.

It is evident, I think, that this roadside site was occupied from the early second century to the fourth, during which period there must have been a good deal of traffic on the North Road, as there is to-day, and that we have here perhaps a road-side "café" or public house for the comfort of travellers.