

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN  
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME XLVIII

JANUARY 1954 TO DECEMBER 1954

CAMBRIDGE  
DEIGHTON BELL

1955

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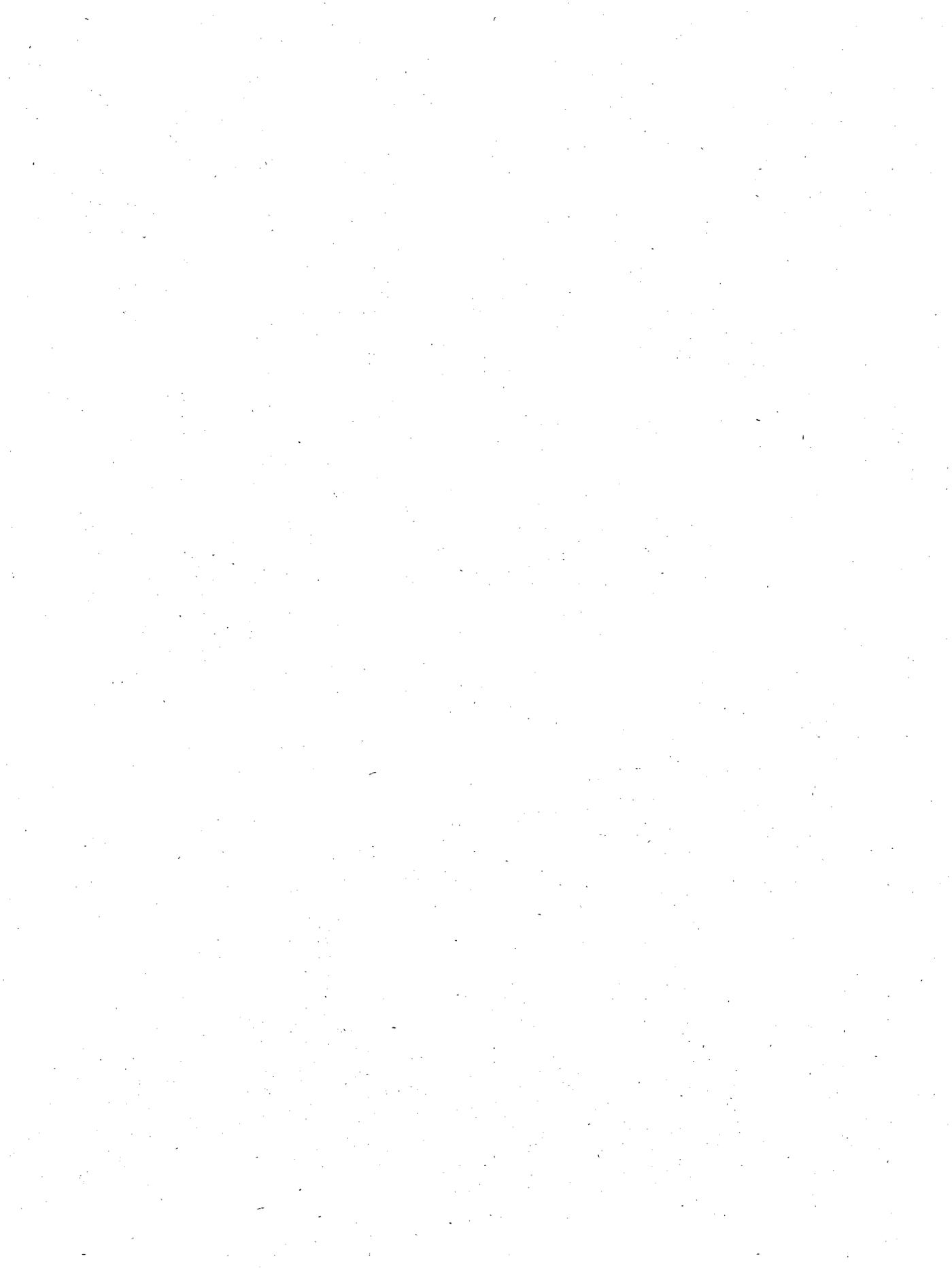
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*Published for the Cambridge Antiquarian Society (incorporating the Cambs and Hunts  
Archaeological Society) by Deighton Bell, 13 Trinity Street, Cambridge*

*Printed in Great Britain at the University Press, Cambridge  
(Brooke Crutchley, University Printer)*

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# OFFICERS AND COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY

## 1954-1955

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L. C. G. CLARKE, M.A., F.S.A.

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PROF. G. R. OWST, LITT.D., F.S.A.

### *Disney Professor of Archaeology*

PROF. J. G. D. CLARK, SC.D., F.B.A., F.S.A.

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G. H. S. BUSHNELL, M.A., PH.D., F.S.A.

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### *Editor*

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### *Director of Excavations*

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### *Excursion Secretary*

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### *Hon. Auditors*

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E. A. G. CAWDRY, M.A.

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C. F. TEBBUTT, F.S.A.

# CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS AND HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1953

Adopted by the Annual General Meeting on 15 February 1954.

**MEMBERSHIP.** The Society gained twenty-two new members and two associates during the year, but lost eight members by death, and twenty-five members and one associate by resignation. There are now 278 ordinary members and seventeen associates. There are twenty-nine subscribing institutions. The Society has suffered severe loss by the death of our honorary member Gordon Fowler, of Sir Ellis Minns, formerly President, and of a former member, E. A. B. Barnard, who served the Society as Secretary from 1930 to 1935.

**MEETINGS.** There were four council meetings and nine ordinary meetings, at which the following communications were made:

- M. W. BERESFORD, M.A. *Deserted Villages in England.* 29 January.  
 Professor N. B. L. PEVSNER, M.A. *Hill Hall and the Franco-Elizabethan Trend.* 5 February.  
 Dr O. G. S. CRAWFORD, C.B.E., LITT.D., F.B.A. *Field Archaeology in the Nile Valley.*  
 23 February.  
 Professor B. DICKINS, M.A. *The Office of Queen's Champion.* 27 April.  
 Dr A. L. PECK, PH.D. *The old Street-lamps of Cambridge and their numbers.* 11 May.  
 Professor J. M. C. TOYNBEE, M.A., D.PHIL., F.S.A. & CREGOE NICHOLSON, F.S.A.  
*The Christian Significance of the Wall-plaster at the Lullingstone Villa.* 25 May.  
 PETER EDEN, M.A., PH.D. *Some Cambridgeshire Angels.* 19 October.  
 R. R. CLARKE, M.A., F.S.A., F.M.A. *The Snettisham Treasure.* 9 November.  
 Major J. G. S. BRINSON, F.S.A., F.A.M.S. *Great Chesterford.* 30 November.

The average attendance at these meetings was sixty.

By kind permission of the Master and Fellows, some 60 members of the Society and their friends visited Christ's College, where they were entertained to tea. The thanks of the Society are due to the Master and to our member Dr Peck, who gave a talk on the history of the College and showed our members the College plate.

**EXCURSIONS.** On 14 May a party of forty-five members and friends visited Trumpington, where Mrs Pemberton described the Hall and its treasures, and Rev. T. Young described the church. On 16 July a party of fifty-two took part in an excursion arranged by the Huntingdonshire Advisory Committee. Rev. H. G. Morley Wells described the churches at Woolley and Leighton and Rev. P. Ll. Green described that at Keystone. The church at Tilbrook was described by our President and that at Kimbolton by a scholar of Kimbolton School. Kimbolton Castle was described by Mr C. H. Lewis, who also very kindly arranged for tea to be taken there.

Once again the thanks of the Society are due to Mr E. B. Haddon for acting as Excursion Secretary.

**EXHIBITION.** On 31 December members were invited by the Curator of the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology to a pre-view of an exhibition of brass-rubbings illustrating the theme 'History and Historical Personages on Monumental Brasses'.

**PUBLICATIONS.** Volume XLVI of the *Proceedings* has been published.

EXCAVATIONS. Bull-dozing operations caused the Society's Director of Excavations and other members to visit the important Romano-British site at Welney Washes. It is hoped to publish plans and further details later. The incidence of wheat bulb fly combined with fine weather in late July made 1953 an excellent year for air-photography, and the Secretary is able to report finds from six new Romano-British sites. Several others, including three possible barrows, remain to be investigated on the ground.

LIBRARY. On leaving the district Mrs Robinson has had to retire from the post of Honorary Assistant Librarian. Mr M. F. Howard has kindly consented to take her place. After many years Miss Scruby has given up her work on the Cambridgeshire Photographic Record. The thanks of the Society to these two ladies for their services must be recorded.

REPRESENTATIVES. Dr J. K. St Joseph was re-appointed to represent the Society on the Faculty Board of Archaeology and Anthropology for a further period of two years. The Secretary was re-appointed to represent it on the Museum Committee. Lady Briscoe and Miss J. Liversidge were re-appointed the Society's representatives for the Council of British Archaeology.

# SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 1953

## CURRENT ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS			EXPENDITURE				
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance 1952			98 17 0	By <i>Subscriptions:</i>			
<i>Subscriptions:</i>				British Records Association	1 0 0		
Ordinary Members	303	11	0	British Archaeological Association	1 1 0		
Associate Members	13	9	0	Folk Museum	2 2 0		
			317 0 0	Council of British Archaeology	1 10 0		
<i>Investment Interest:</i>				Cambs Local History Council	1 1 0		
British Transport Stock	21	9	7				6 14 0
Defence Bonds	44	8	6	Fire Insurance	1 0 0		
Australian Stock	3	15	3	Petty Cash	5 10 0		
Treasury Stock	4	14	4	Custodian Cellarer's Chequer	2 0 0		
National Defence Loan	11	1	10	Bank charges			5
Savings Bonds	3	0	4	Publications		239	0 6
Conversion Stock	4	9	10	Museum of Archaeology		10	0 0
Sudan Government Stock	3	5	0	Notices and Circulars		72	3 2
			96 4 8	Editor		20	0 0
Sale of Publications			69 0 9	Lecture expenses			2 13 4
Donation			2 9 0	Grant for aerial survey		5	5 6
Refund Income Tax			2 16 0	Refunds			4 5 0
P. O. Savings Bank			579 16 3	British Transport Stock		579	16 3
Cambs and Hunts Arch. Soc.			15 16 1	Trustee Savings Bank		100	0 0
			1083 2 9				1048 8 2
Income, 1953			98 17 0	Expenditure, 1953		1048	8 2
Balance, 1952			98 17 0	Balance, 1953		133	11 7
			£1181 19 9			£1181 19 9	

## TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNT

	£	s.	d.
Balance, 1952	159	3	5
Interest		4	7 10
Deposit		100	0 0
			£263 11 3

## EXCAVATION FUND

<i>Current Account</i>		£	s.	d.
Balance 1952		76	6	8
Subscriptions		7	2	0
		83	8	8
To Deposit Account		50	0	0
		£133	8	8

<i>Deposit Account</i>		£	s.	d.
Balance 1952		74	9	7
Interest		1	17	6
Deposit		50	0	0
		£126	7	1

The Capital of the Society consists of the following Securities:

£100 Sudan 3½% Guaranteed Stock 1954-59.
£497. 3s. 6d. British Transport 3% Guaranteed Stock 1978-88.
£200 Commonwealth of Australia 4% Stock 1966-68.
£645 3% Defence Bonds.
£585 3½% Defence Bonds.
£157. 6s. 8d. 3% Treasury Stock.
£100. 12s. 10d. 3% Savings Bonds 1965-75.
£128. 10s. 5d. 3½% Conversion Stock.
£369. 15s. 0d. 3% National Defence Loan 1954-58.
£597. 3s. 1d. British Transport 4% Guaranteed Stock 1972-77.

The Bank Balances are as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Current Account	133	11	7
Excavation Fund Current Account	33	8	8
Excavation Fund Deposit Account	126	7	1
Trustee Savings Bank	263	11	3
	£556	18	7

R. B. WHITEHEAD, *Hon. Treasurer*

We have gone through the Bank accounts and the vouchers, and consider that the accounts are correctly drawn up to exhibit the financial position of the Society. We have checked the Society's investments.

E. A. G. CAWDRY  
F. PURYER WHITE

19 January 1954

CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY  
(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS AND HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)

LAWS

As approved by the Annual General Meeting on 25 February, 1935, and amended by an Extraordinary General Meeting on 26 April, 1948, by the Annual General Meeting on 28 February, 1949 and the Special General Meeting on 26 May 1952.

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I. This Society shall be called The Cambridge Antiquarian Society, incorporating the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archaeological Society.

II. The object of the Society shall be to encourage the study of History, Architecture, and Antiquities, especially in connection with the University and City of Cambridge, and the Counties of Cambridge and Huntingdon; to hold meetings at which papers can be read on these and allied subjects, and at which they can be discussed; to print those which commend themselves to the judgement of the Society; to distribute them to its members; and to collect antiquities or promote their preservation *in situ*.

III. The subscription of each member of the Society shall be as follows:

For members elected before the Annual Meeting, 29 May, 1922, one guinea annually.

For members elected after that date, twenty-five shillings annually.

The subscription shall be due on the first day of January in each year; payment of this sum shall entitle a member to all the publications of the Society issued during that year. A member elected before the first day of July in any year shall be liable to pay the subscription for that year. Election of a member in the Michaelmas Term shall not involve payment in respect of the remainder of the calendar year, nor carry the right to receive the publications issued in that year.

Members of the University of less than M.A. standing may attend the ordinary meetings of the Society without introduction. Such persons and the wife and daughters of a member may also become Associate Members of the Society on payment of a subscription of 15s. per annum, the subscription being due on the first day of January in each year. Payment of this sum shall entitle such persons to all the privileges of members except that of receiving the Society's publications. Associate Members already paying a lower subscription shall be entitled to continue it unchanged.

IV. The right of compounding for future annual subscriptions has been abolished, but the position of existing compounders is not thereby affected.

V. No publications of the Society shall be issued to a member until the subscription for the current year be paid. If the annual subscription of any member be four months in arrear, the Treasurer shall make application for it. If the said subscription be still unpaid at the expiration of one year from the time when it became due, it shall be in the power of the Council to remove the name of such member from the list of the Society and in that case the Secretary shall inform him of the fact. A member shall not be considered as having ceased to belong to the Society until he shall have received such notice or shall have given notice of resignation in writing to the Treasurer or Secretary, and subscriptions are due until such resignation be sent in writing to the Treasurer or Secretary.

VI. No member whose subscription is in arrear, and has been applied for according to Law V, shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Society.

VII. Any person desirous of joining the Society must be proposed by two members of the Society, and his or her name, with the names of the proposer and seconder, shall be sent in writing to the Secretary. The application shall be considered at a meeting of the Council, and if approved shall be voted upon at the ordinary meeting of the Society next ensuing.

VIII. Names for election to Honorary Membership of the Society shall be proposed in the same manner as in the case of ordinary members, and provided the sanction of the Council be given, they shall be voted upon at the Annual General Meeting of the Society. Honorary members shall have all the privileges of ordinary members.

IX. No person shall be declared elected who shall not have received the votes of at least three-quarters of the members present and voting.

X. Libraries and other institutions approved by the Council may obtain the Publications of the Society post free by an annual subscription of twenty-five shillings if paid in advance.

XI. (a) The management of the affairs of the Society shall be vested in a Council consisting of a President, three Vice-Presidents, the Disney Professor (*ex officio*), the Curator of the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology (*ex officio*), a Treasurer, a Secretary, a Librarian, a Director of Excavations, an Excursion Secretary, and not more than eleven nor less than nine members of the Society, of whom two shall be appointed annually by the Advisory Committee for Huntingdonshire constituted in paragraph (b). Provided that it shall be in the power of the Council, in the event of the member appointed to edit the Society's *Proceedings* not being a member of the Council, to co-opt such member as an additional member of the Council. Each member of the Council shall have due notice of the meetings of that body, at which five shall constitute a quorum.

(b) There shall be an Advisory Committee for Huntingdonshire consisting of

nine members, who shall be elected each year at the Annual General Meeting, members resident in Huntingdonshire alone voting. It shall elect its own officers.

(c) The property of the Society shall be vested in Trustees of whom there shall not be more than four or less than two who shall deal with it as directed by the Council; as vacancies occur in their number they shall be filled by vote of the Council.

(d) No portion of the income or property of the Society shall be paid or transferred by way of dividend, bonus, or otherwise howsoever, by way of profit to the members of the Society or any of them, except in payment of a salaried officer of the Society, or in payment of work done for the Society by any of its members.

XII. (a) The President, the senior Vice-President, the Treasurer, the Secretary, and the three senior ordinary Members of the Council shall retire annually. The President shall not be eligible for the office of President for more than two successive years. The retiring Vice-President shall not be eligible for re-election to the office of Vice-President. The retiring ordinary members of the Council shall not be eligible for re-election as ordinary members of the Council. An ordinary member appointed by the Huntingdonshire Advisory Committee shall not serve in that capacity for more than three successive years.

(b) The publications of the Society shall be printed under the direction of an Editor who shall be annually appointed by and responsible to the Council. He shall be advised by an Editorial Committee which shall consist of the President, Treasurer, Secretary, three other members of the Council nominated by it and a member nominated by the Advisory Committee for Huntingdonshire. The Editor shall keep the minutes of the Committee.

XIII. The President, one Vice-President, the Treasurer, and the Secretary, and at least three ordinary Members of the Council, shall be elected annually by ballot, at the Annual General Meeting which shall be the last General Meeting of the Lent Term. At the Annual General Meeting the Report and Balance Sheet for the previous calendar year shall be presented for adoption.

XIV. Three weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting the Council shall issue to every member of the Society a list of the members whom they nominate as Officers and new Members of the Council for the ensuing year, also a list of members whom they nominate as members of the Advisory Committee for Huntingdonshire, on the advice of the existing Committee. Any seven members may nominate any other members as Officers or Members of the Council by delivering such nomination to the Secretary not less than two weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting. The said list with such added names shall constitute the voting list for the election and shall be issued to every member one week prior to the Annual General Meeting. The names of all candidates for the same post shall be in alphabetical order.

XV. In case of a vacancy occurring at any other time among the Officers or Members of the Council, such vacancy shall be filled up by the Council, and the member so appointed shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

XVI. Any Member of the Council who shall not have attended half the Council Meetings of the Academic Year shall cease to be a member, unless for special reason approved by the Council.

XVII. At the meetings of the Society or of the Council the Chair shall be taken by the President, and, in his absence, by the senior Vice-President, the Treasurer, or senior ordinary Member of the Council then present. In case of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to his ordinary vote.

XVIII. The accounts of the receipts and expenditure of the Society shall be audited annually by two Auditors to be elected at the Annual General Meeting; an abstract of such accounts shall be printed for the use of the members.

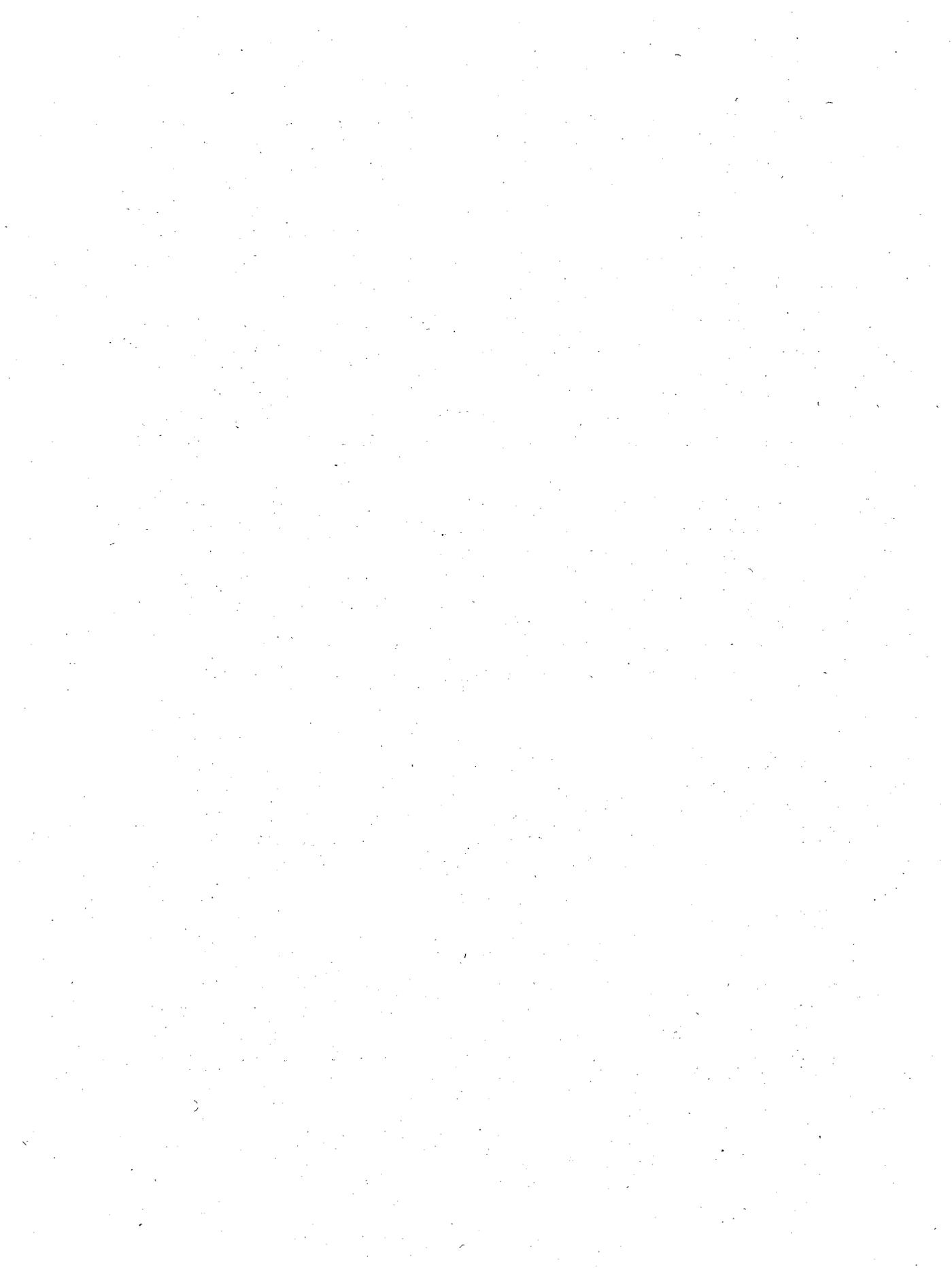
XIX. The Society shall meet once at least during each term; the place of meeting, and all other arrangements not specified in the Laws, shall be left to the discretion of the Council.

XX. No alteration shall be made in these Laws, except at the Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose, of which at least one week's notice shall be sent to all the members at their last known place of abode. Provided that the Council shall have power to alter or suspend any Law by giving two weeks' notice to all the members of the Society at their last known place of abode, and such alteration shall be in force until the next Annual General Meeting; unless a requisition signed by not less than seven members of the Society be sent to the Secretary, in which case the Council shall summon a Special General Meeting to consider the proposed alteration.

XXI. The Secretary shall keep a book of addresses, and a member's address, as on the proposal form, shall be entered therein immediately after his election. Such address shall be deemed the correct address until a member shall have communicated a new one in writing to the Secretary or Treasurer, and so on from time to time. All notices, communications, and publications whatsoever of the Society, sent to the member's correct address as here defined, shall be deemed to have been duly received by him.

## THE MUSEUM

The Collections and Library formed by the Society, known as the Cambridge Antiquarian Museum and Library, are placed in *The University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Downing Street*. The Museum is open on weekdays, except staff holidays, free, from 2 to 4 p.m. Members of this Society are also admitted with the permission of the Curator, between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.



# SOME NOTES ON THE BIGGIN, FEN DITTON

D. V. M. CHADWICK

A FIELD'S WIDTH distant from the river Cam at Baitsbite lock, stands one of the oldest domestic dwellings in this part of the world. It is known as the Biggin, and although there is now little about it to suggest palatial rank it has been able to claim such, and has, time and again, sheltered the King of England with his attendant court.

In the days when Byrhtnoth the Saxon made history at the battle of Maldon, Ely already possessed a famous and flourishing monastery, and it was greatly enriched by this hero of the Saxon Chronicle. He was laid to rest within its walls, and his devotion to its welfare was maintained by his family. Many years later, in the reign of Canute, the monks of Ely obtained from Byrhtnoth's grand-daughter, Leofwaru, and her husband, Lustwine, confirmation of a bequest made by Leofwaru's great-aunt, Æthelflæd, of the estate at Ditton which that lady had inherited from her father, Ælfgar. Some confusion has arisen and has at times even affected the scribes of *Liber Eliensis*, through the fact that this Ælfgar was also owner of another Cambridge-shire Ditton (later known as Wood Ditton) and that this estate also came into the possession of Ely, but in this case through his younger daughter, Ælflæd, widow of Byrhtnoth.<sup>1</sup>

Upon the estate at Fen Ditton was laid the charge of finding a fortnight's provisions for the monks once in every year,<sup>2</sup> and when, in 1109, the See of Ely was founded this manor was made over to the Bishop, and Hervey, first Bishop of Ely, made a grant of land, together with three *mansiones*, to Aluric, his chief agent or bailiff at Ditton, in recognition of which Aluric was bound to pay a yearly tribute of a mark of silver to the Bishop and to send three horseloads of meal for the use of the monastery, one at the festival of St Etheldreda on 23 June, and two on the festival of the same saint held on 17 October.

It is not known whether Hugh de Northwold, the great builder Bishop of Ely, restored and enlarged one of the *mansiones* already standing or whether the palace he raised at Ditton was an entirely new foundation, but there can be little doubt that some of his handiwork survives in the Biggin. He had achieved a mansion fit to accommodate him in princely style by the year 1251, when he received a grant of

<sup>1</sup> Much information on the early history of these estates may be gleaned from Miss D. Whitelock's *Anglo Saxon Wills*. Here can be found the Will of Ælfgar, in which he grants to his daughter Æthelflæd (wife, in turn, of King Edmund and of the Ealdorman Æthelstan) the estate at Ditton 'on condition that she be the more zealous for the welfare of my soul, etc.'. He desires that Æthelflæd shall grant this estate to 'whatever holy foundation seems to her most desirable, for the sake of our ancestors' souls'. The Wills of Æthelflæd and her sister, also given by Miss Whitelock, fully explain the descent of the two Dittons.

<sup>2</sup> *Liber Eliensis*, ed. D. J. Stewart, II, cap. 84.

hunting rights (then a jealously guarded royal prerogative), but he may have done so very much earlier.<sup>1</sup>

We learn from the Patent Rolls that King Henry the Third stayed at Ditton for three days in 1238 and, during that time, attended to a variety of business, including a dispute with Norwich Priory, the settlement of the estates of the Earl of Chester, a writ to the tenants of the honour of Taunton, mandates to deliver Taunton and Farnham castles and the manor house of Wolvesey (all these possessions of Winchester having fallen into the King's hand while the See was vacant through the death of the warlike bishop Peter des Roches) and an order concerning the walling of the town of Hereford.<sup>2</sup>

It may be a matter for speculation why this low-lying, exposed and, at that time, marshy spot should have appeared a desirable residential site in the eyes of the Bishop of Ely, but it provided him with an invaluable base from which to overlook the activities of the rising town of Cambridge with its already numerous student population, to guard the rights he possessed there and to annex others as opportunity arose. Nor was Ditton itself an inconsiderable trading port. Several glimpses of this aspect of things appear in the stormy history of the Muschett family. The Muschettts held a small manor under the Biggin for at least three hundred years, and were so enterprising in many different directions that their activities at times constituted a serious nuisance to neighbours, who were not slow to retaliate. The Record Office calendars supply details of a series of affrays in which the Muschettts were concerned, but they continued to prosper; they were acting as money-lenders to the Abbey of Eynsham in 1346,<sup>3</sup> and in 1339 William Muschett of Fen Ditton was one of the two merchants of England who were concerned in a £1,000 deal in wool bought in Antwerp for the King's use.<sup>4</sup> Other Ditton merchants were at this period employed in royal and episcopal transactions. In 1318 John de Hotham, Bishop of Ely, Chancellor of the Exchequer and later Lord Chancellor, sent William Jour of Ditton to convey corn and victuals to the north for his sustenance and that of the clerks of the Chancery.<sup>5</sup> Jour's ship, the *Annot* seems to have made a safe and satisfactory voyage, and Bishop Hotham, after taking part in the battle of Myton-upon-Swale, arranged a truce with the Scots. But six years later disaster fell upon the *Annot*, for, by the King's command, she was laden with 3000 stockfish, 1000 cod and two barrels of sturgeon to be delivered in London for his use; somewhere unspecified between Lynn and Deptford pirates attacked her, killed the mariners and conveyed the vessel and its cargo to the port of 'Sheford' (Seaford) in Sussex, and warrants were issued for the arrest of several persons who fell under suspicion of having been concerned in this outrage.<sup>6</sup>

In the meantime, Fen Ditton<sup>7</sup> was still basking in the sunshine of royal visits,

<sup>1</sup> Charter Rolls, 14 Oct. 1251, Westminster.

<sup>3</sup> Close Rolls, 8 May 1346, Westminster.

<sup>5</sup> Patent Rolls, 15 Sept. 1318, Clipstone.

<sup>2</sup> Patent Rolls, 11-14 June 1238, Ditton.

<sup>4</sup> Patent Rolls, 24 Dec. 1339, Antwerp.

<sup>6</sup> Patent Rolls, 10 March 1324, Westminster.

<sup>7</sup> It has been suggested that, apart from the visual proofs of the Biggin having been, in its day, a commodious and princely habitation, there is little evidence as to which of the two Dittons was the actual venue of these visits, but study of the Royal itineraries throws all the weight of reason upon the side of Fen Ditton,

although these were not, in the Middle Ages, considered quite such joyous occasions as in our own day. Since the King was apt to bring with him all the chief officers of state and a very large company of attendants besides, the drain on the resources of the surrounding countryside was such as to make the moment of departure more productive of popular enthusiasm than the Royal arrival and sojourn had been. Lady Stenton, in her recent book, *English Society in the Early Middle Ages*, vividly portrays these tours and brings before us the harassed suitors who were forced to pursue the Sovereign from place to place until, amid the multiplicity of his occupations, time could be spared to hear and settle their claims. Many matters which were in later times delegated to the itinerant Judges, were in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries dealt with by the King in person.

Henry the Third paid several visits to Fen Ditton, and Edward the First came at least once while he was heir to the throne, and three times after his accession. In 1284, when he had subdued the followers of Llewelyn and bestowed the title of Prince of Wales upon his own infant son, he made a slow and meandering journey back to London and claimed the hospitality of the Bishop of Ely at Ditton during its course.<sup>1</sup> He was here again in the autumn of 1289 shortly after his return from campaigning in France,<sup>2</sup> and in 1298, when he had overthrown the power of Wallace at the battle of Falkirk, the 'hammer of the Scots' rested at Ditton on his way back to London.<sup>3</sup>

Edward the Second was here for three weeks in 1315 and, during his stay, transacted a considerable variety of business ranging from an inquiry respecting alleged usurpations of the lands of Queen Margaret, his step-mother, in Surrey and some necessary repairs to the sea defences between Ipswich and Dunwich, down to a small matter of a theft at Trumpington.<sup>4</sup>

From that time, however, the Biggin seems to have lost favour with the English monarchs and apparently came to be less regarded by the Bishops of Ely, for we have no later records of any attempt to improve or modernize the establishment—indeed the crenellation carried out by Bishop Hugh de Balsham in or about 1276 seems to have been the final dignity bestowed on the palace of Ditton, and by 1478 the manor had declined to the humbler but still useful function of providing a handsome pension for Dr Walter Lempster, a former Fellow of King's College, who became one of the most fashionable physicians of his day and was held in high esteem by the then Bishop of Ely, the valetudinarian William Gray, whom he constantly attended.<sup>5</sup> The Ditton manor was yielded up, along with other plums of the See, to the first Queen Elizabeth by Bishop Heton, and thenceforth the Biggin sank to the standing

and it is difficult to picture so methodical a traveller as Henry the Third leaving his direct route from Ely to Royston and trailing bag and baggage up into the rough and hilly country south of Newmarket simply to pass a single night at Wood Ditton, and it is equally hard to imagine why he should, more than once, terminate a sojourn at Chippenham in order to remove himself and his cumbersome train to a destination less than eight miles distant.

<sup>1</sup> Patent Rolls, 12 April 1284-5, Ditton.

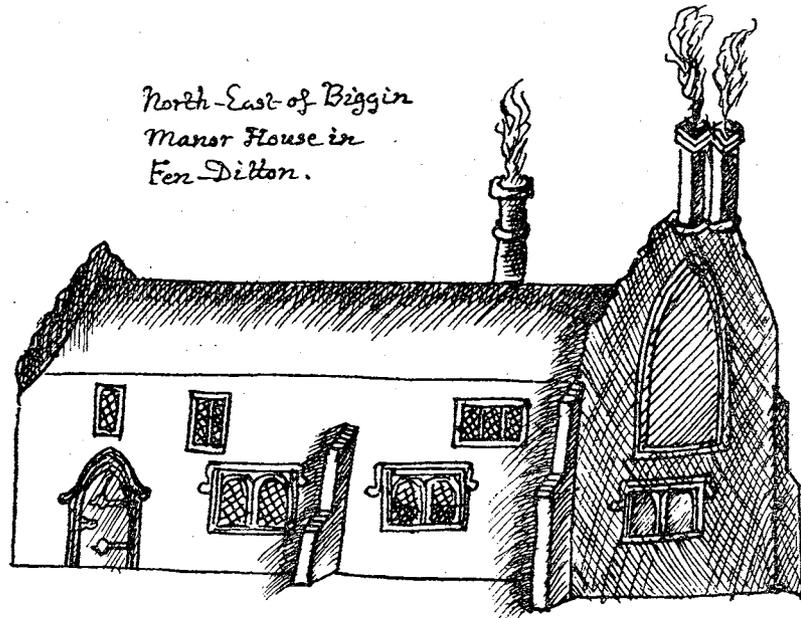
<sup>3</sup> Ibid. 28 Jan. 1298-9.

<sup>5</sup> Register of Bp. Gray, fo. 97.

<sup>2</sup> *Itineraries of Edward I*, ed. H. Gough, 17 Oct. 1289.

<sup>4</sup> Patent Rolls, 18 Sept.-12 Oct. 1315.

of a farmhouse. In 1775 the Reverend William Cole, correspondent of Horace Walpole and local antiquary, was living at Milton and, in fulfilment of a promise made to his friend, Dr Gooch, then Rector of Fen Ditton, he wrote a very comprehensive and carefully documented history of the latter's parish. Gooch left it to his successor in office, and it has thus been handed down until the present day. In 1939 the Reverend F. E. Stanbury, now Rector, took the precaution of depositing it on loan in the Cambridge University Library. By his courtesy and that of the University Librarian it has been possible to obtain from this source a good deal of the material



"There is a mole round the House. Dr. Gooch."  
That there was a Chapel in this House, where meals were celebrated is evident from  
the Document, p. 14. at the End of this Book.

Fig. 1. William Cole's drawing of the Biggin in 1768.

on which this brief account of the Biggin is based, and also a photograph of the drawing made by Cole in 1768 when, as he states in his manuscript, 'Having a desire to see an House in which the ancient *Bishops* often resided with great *Hospitality*, and from whence many of their *Instruments* in their *Registers* are dated, I went *July 29. 1768*, with Dr Gooch, and minuted down the few following Particulars, and took the rough sketch of the *Remains*, which I see every day from my garden at *Milton*'. Since Cole's time the main portion of the house has been encased in cement and, apart from the remaining window frames and buttresses, shows little exterior trace of its great antiquity, but the twisting stone stair down which the feet of Kings, Chancellors and Bishops must so often have passed is still to be seen and a great brick chimney stands isolated in the centre of one of the bedrooms. Cole says that there was, in his time, no painted glass in any of the windows, nor could he discover

any arms on the stonework which was then fast decaying. The arch shown in his drawing, at the north end below the gable, can still be made out between the rafters and the present roof and a curious enclosed structure, traditionally known as the 'Monk's prison', may conceivably have been the chapel mentioned in the manuscript. It is rather remarkable that the memory of the monks has lingered through nearly eight and a half centuries which have elapsed since their departure from the premises, while that of their distinguished successors appears to have faded utterly from local legend and story.

## BRONZE AGE BURIALS AT HOW HILL, ICKLINGHAM

GRACE BRISCOE, F.S.A.

THE HOW HILL tumulus, capped with a group of fir trees, is a well-known landmark on the west verge of the main road between Barton Mills and Thetford,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the south-west of Elveden. There is no record that this tumulus has been examined, beyond a note from the late W. G. Clarke, preserved in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge, saying that a 'cinerary urn had been found there and broken up'.

In January 1953 the field on the opposite side of the road, part of the Elveden estate of the Earl of Iveagh, was deep ploughed. On a gentle slope, 250 yards to the south of the visible tumulus, the ploughman noticed the upturn of some black patches of soil, put his spade into two of them and struck in one case a pottery vessel and in the other a skull. He reported to the police and I was asked to give an opinion on the date of the bones.

At the first spot (Nat. Grid 52/759760) I found a heap of spoil, containing many newly broken sherds of a collared urn, numerous fragments of cremated bones and pieces of charcoal. At the second spot, the dome of a skull was showing in the line of the furrow. The lower jaw and some teeth had been collected from the plough upturn.

The plough had turned up soil to the depth of 1 ft. It was clear that the natural chalk had a wavy surface, with ridges running in an east-west direction at intervals of a few yards, as the plough in travelling north-south turned up about 3 in. of chalk on to the surface and then passed through yellow gravelly subsoil. There was therefore a regular pattern running down the slope, of strips of chalk upturn alternating with gravelly strips.

SITE A. This site was in the middle of one of the chalk strips. The vertical section made by the plough and left untouched by the ploughman showed 9 in. of top soil with 3 in. of chalk, with black discoloration in the lower half. Below the discoloration was a hole in the chalk, reaching to a depth of 2 ft. from the surface. The ploughman had cleared the hole of part of the vessel and all the cremated bones. At the bottom of the hole was a circle of pottery, evidently the rim of a vessel upside down. White chalk was showing inside the circle. The remains of the vessel were removed with difficulty, as one side was jammed up against the wall of the hole and adhered to it. The chalk wall behind was cut through and the sherds detached after they had hardened. At the bottom of the hole and outside the rim there was a large base sherd which proved to belong to another pot. The only other find was a lump of slag in the black spoil.

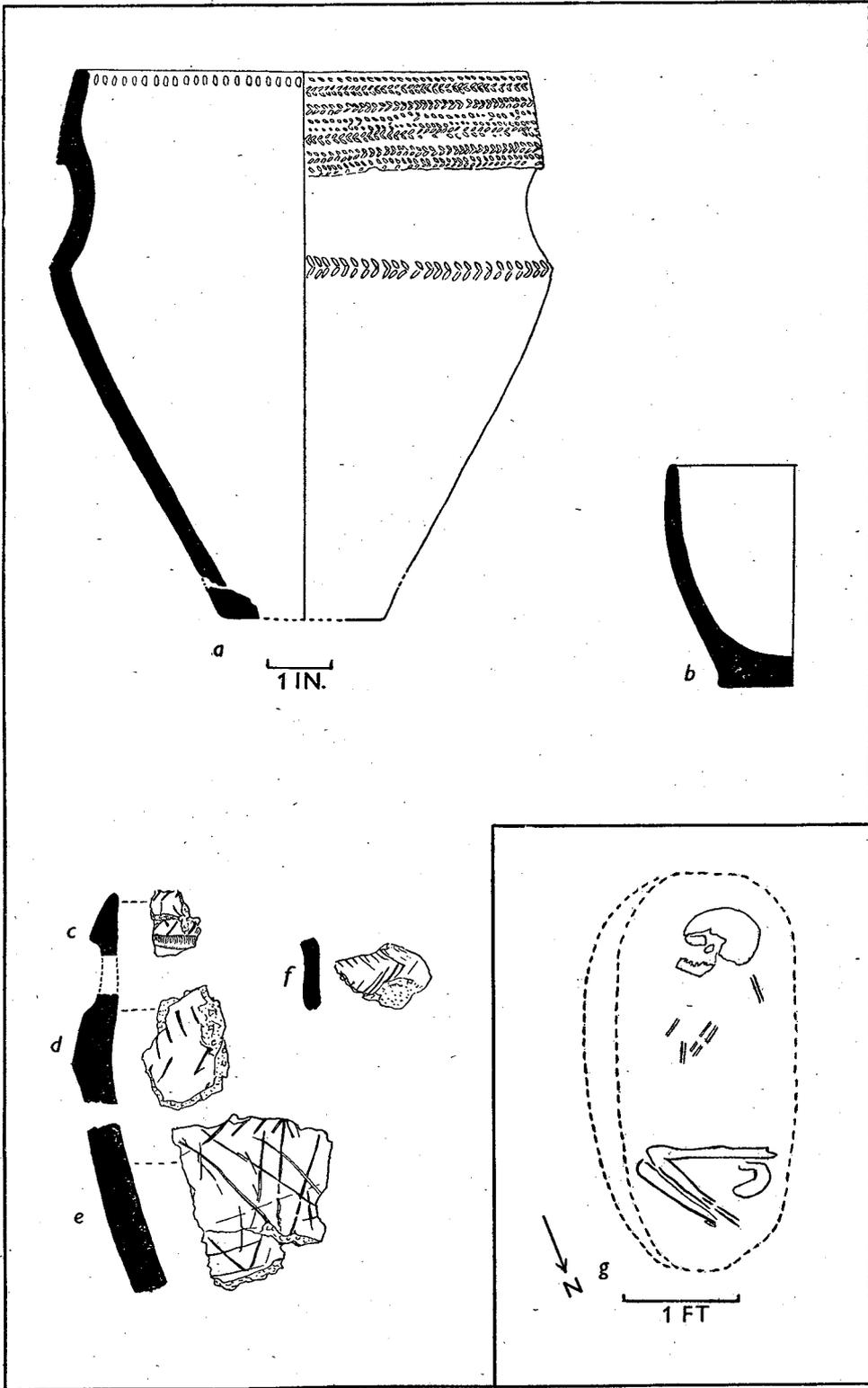


Fig. 1

- a. Cremation urn from site A. b. Accessory vessel from site A. c, d and e. Food vessel sherds from site C. f. Buff sherd from site C.  
 (All the above are one-third natural size)  
 g. Grave and skeleton from site B (scale as shown)

SITE B. Twelve feet to the north-west of site A, a black patch of soil covered a hollow in the chalk which contained a skeleton lying on its right side in a crouched position facing north-east (Fig. 1g). The grave was  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ft. long,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ft. wide and about 7 in. deep. The skull was in a fair state of preservation, the leg bones, though broken, were in position with the knees drawn up towards the chin, the pelvis had been reduced to powder and there was no sign of the vertebrae. The bones, probably those of a boy about 11 years old, were examined by Dr J. C. Trevor of the Duckworth Laboratory, Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. No grave goods were found.

SITE C. Black soil showed on the plough upturn 73 ft. to the north-east of site A. The underlying black patch measured 3 ft. by 2 ft., two-thirds in a chalk hollow, the rest in gravel. It contained some sherds of food-vessel type, charcoal, burnt chalk and stones, a scrap of bone and some yellowish patches of coarse powder which may have been decayed bone.

SITE D. Thirty-six feet to the north-east of site A another patch of black soil was noticed, but the underlying discoloured soil was shallow and nothing of interest was found.

SITE E. Nine feet to the north-east of site A a small piece of bone was seen in black upturn. The underlying patch of blackish soil was diffuse and contained more pieces of cranial bone almost certainly human from an inhumation. The only sherd of pottery found was dark grey with regular lines of rouletting.

#### THE POTTERY

The cinerary urn from site A was badly broken, with ancient and recent fractures. As it was inverted the plough or spade had caught the base and smashed it into small pieces, though enough was recovered to define its shape. The urn is reddish buff in colour with numerous particles of grit, mainly thin chips of flint. Inside, the colour is a light yellow at the top merging into a dense black at the base. It seems probable that hot remains of the cremation were placed in the vessel when upright, since the paste in its lower half is hard and black (except for the outer surface), while the collared rim is buff coloured throughout and remains fragile even after being treated with preservative (Fig. 1a). The overhanging rim is ornamented with parallel rows of twisted string impressions with alternate rows showing the twist in the opposite direction. On the sharply defined shoulder there is a line of large deeply cut chevrons. The neck externally is hollow. The inside of the rim, immediately below the lip, is decorated with a regular line of stabs, and below this is a slight hollowing. This internal decoration and hollow neck suggests that the date can be placed early in the Middle Bronze Age period. The urn is  $9\frac{1}{2}$  in. high. In general shape it resembles the large ( $17\frac{1}{2}$  in. high) cinerary urn found by C. S. Leaf<sup>1</sup> in a Bronze Age barrow at Chippenham. A closer parallel in size and decoration is the urn from Water Newton, near Peterborough.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> C. S. Leaf, *Proc. C.A.S.* xxxvi, pp. 142-55, Pl. VI.

<sup>2</sup> Abercromby, *Bronze Age Pottery*, II, p. 116, Pl. LXVII, No. 74.

A small accessory vessel was found in association with this cinerary urn (Fig. 1*b*). As described above its base was lying undisturbed at the bottom of the hole just outside the inverted rim of the urn. Other sherds were in the black spoil. The paste is coarse, badly fired and mud-coloured throughout. The grit consists mainly of small whole pebbles and lumps of chalk. The rim is straight, but in one sherd it enlarges to a bulge which is broken off, possibly the remains of a handle or lug.

The sherds found in site C probably all belong to one vessel, with one exception. The ware is thick and coarse, brick red in colour and contains a large admixture of flint. The collared rim is unusually small for such a large vessel and is decorated with slanting incised lines on internal and external surfaces (Fig. 1*c*). A rim of similar shape was found by J. G. D. Clark in the Early Bronze Age pottery at Peacock's Farm, Shippea Hill.<sup>1</sup> The shoulder is flattened and has a rough decoration of incisions, resembling the pattern on one of the Beacon Hill sherds (Fig. 1*d*).<sup>2</sup> The body has a network of shallow lines below a row of slanting incisions (Fig. 1*e*). One sherd of a thinner buff-coloured pot has a network of shallow closely grouped lines (Fig. 1*f*).

The small sherd found on site E does not resemble the other pottery in paste or colour or decoration. The dark grey ware is thin and smooth and the rouletted decoration is carefully done.

#### DISCUSSION

These rescue operations have disclosed the presence of inhumation and cremation burials, associated with Bronze Age pottery of early type.

The close proximity of a standing tumulus suggests that the remains are on the site of a ploughed out tumulus, of which no trace remains. It may have been one of a group of four, as 2 miles to the east there are the visible, though flattened, remains of four tumuli, spaced at intervals of 150–200 yards. Beacon Hill, 4 miles to the south-west, had four tumuli up to 1868, only one of which is visible at the present day. Fox examined this one and suggested a very early date in the Bronze Age for the burials.<sup>3</sup>

At How Hill the inhumation in a crouched position indicates an Early Bronze Age burial. The cremation urn (site A) with its decoration and slight hollow inside the neck suggests the early part of the Middle Bronze Age. The food vessel and the single sherd with rouletting indicate the period before the full Middle Bronze Age.

The whole group resembles the vessels found at Sheepdown, described by J. W. Brailsford,<sup>4</sup> who regards them as a natural development from Food Vessel and Peterborough ancestors.

<sup>1</sup> J. G. D. Clark, *Antiq. J.* xv, p. 284.

<sup>2</sup> C. Fox, *Proc. C.A.S.* xxvi, p. 54.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* p. 47.

<sup>4</sup> Atkinson, Wakefield and Brailsford, *Arch. J.* cviii (1951), p. 16.

## A ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT AT ARBURY ROAD, CAMBRIDGE

W. H. C. FREND, F.S.A.

THE discovery of the two Roman stone coffins at the north-west corner of the Arbury Road Neighbourhood Unit in August 1952<sup>1</sup> suggested the likelihood of further Romano-British remains in the same area. The writer of this report watched the site during the winter of 1952-3, and as the progress of road-making and drainage went on, so evidence of occupation extending over about seven acres gradually came to light. It seems clear that the cemetery occupied the driest part of the site, but all around on the gravel and gault subsoil above the level of winter waterlogging there was extensive settlement, probably agricultural in character. This has left its traces in a small three- or four-roomed building, with other slight indications of structures nearby, working floors, the possible remains of a pottery kiln or oven, numerous grain-storage and rubbish pits, and a cemetery containing inhumations and cremations to be described in a future volume. It has not been possible to form a coherent picture of the occupation of the area at any one time, and there remains the possibility that other buildings are yet to be found.

Occupation was found over the whole of the north-western corner of the present housing estate, and extended as far as 300 yards from Arbury Road on a frontage of 300 yards. It included most of the land between Mansel Way to the east and the newly made Mere Way to the west, and rubbish pits have been found well to the south of the existing school and church sites. The Roman road between Cambridge and Ely ran along the western fringe of the site, and is marked by a broad bank on the line of a hedge which crossed the whole building estate just east of Mere Way. A quarter of a mile to the south-east (Grid Ref. TL (52)/45226049) an exceptionally fine late second-century grave group was found.<sup>2</sup>

The coins and pottery found to date suggest that continuous occupation lasted at least two and a half centuries, between A.D. 130 and 400 or later. Some late Saxon (tenth century) pottery was also found in a rubbish pit brought to light by workmen laying a drain in Humphreys Road.

Archaeological work on the site continued throughout the summer of 1953 and included a period of intensive work during the last fortnight of August.

<sup>1</sup> To be published by C. I. Fell in *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*, 1956.

<sup>2</sup> This burial will be reported in detail in the *Proceedings*, 1956.



## THE ROMANO-BRITISH BUILDING

This was found by trenching an area just north of Humphreys Road, following the discovery of a good deal of scattered Roman building material near the hedge and along the line of this road. The building lay about 100 yards south of the Roman cemetery and 50 yards from the hedge (Grid Ref. TL (52)/45126083).

The excavation was in the nature of salvage work, as the site was needed immediately for house-building. It was not possible to clear the whole of the occupation area, but trenching enabled the plan of a small three- or possibly four-roomed dwelling to be established. Trenches were also cut outside the building on the west, south and east sides. Those on the south and east produced nothing, but on the west side a considerable mass of burnt building material was found extending 50 ft. from the west wall of the house and continuing to the north of it. The area to the north of the house has not yet been trenched.

The dwelling was a roughly rectangular structure 28 ft. 3 in. long and 17 ft. 4 in. wide, divided into two and possibly three rooms, with a small annexe 13 ft. 3 in. by 9 ft. 8 in. built on to the south wall (see Fig. 2). There was a roughly paved area extending 5 ft. south of the annexe. The rooms of the main building were oblong in shape, measuring internally approximately 13 ft. 6 in. long and between 6 ft. and 8 ft. wide if the evidence of a partition into three rooms is accepted. Evidence for a partition wall between rooms 1*a* and 1*b* was not discovered until the end of the excavation, and the existence of two rooms could not be satisfactorily proved. A robber trench 3 ft. wide marking the site of the partition wall was found between rooms 1*b* and 2. These rooms, except 1*a*, all had remains of a mortared floor which rested on a substantial foundation of chalk rubble. Beneath this was a thin layer of clay with a solid foundation of chalk blocks laid in clay below it, in turn overlying the natural hard sand and gravel (see Fig. 3, section *C-D*). The floor had been severely damaged in the ruin of the house and by subsequent robbing and ploughing, but it had survived in parts of rooms 1*b* and 2. The layer of debris which overlay it contained a good deal of burnt material, but there was no definable burnt layer. At the north end of room 1*b* was a hearth, composed of four square tiles mortared on to the surface of the floor. The walls had been covered with white wall-plaster, and fragments of this bore the imprints of box-tiles. The presence of fragments of flue-tiles in all three rooms suggested that they may have been heated, but no hypocaust or flue was found.

The building had been subjected to very severe robbing, and only the wall-footings survived. Enough, however, remained for their line to be traced and the method of construction to be determined. The outside walls had been 2 ft. 6 in. wide. The foundations had consisted of large chalk blocks probably quarried at Cherry Hinton and laid on a chalk and mortar base. The roof was tiled. In view of the scarcity of stone in the neighbourhood it would be reasonable to suppose that the walls themselves had been of lath and plaster, and this had been coated on the outside with a hard rough orange or brown plaster.

A drainage trench 8 ft. deep dug by the workmen along the north wall of the building and thence southwards diagonally across the unexcavated portions of rooms 2 and 3 produced further information about its construction. Part of the

ROMAN BUILDING AT ARBURY ROAD

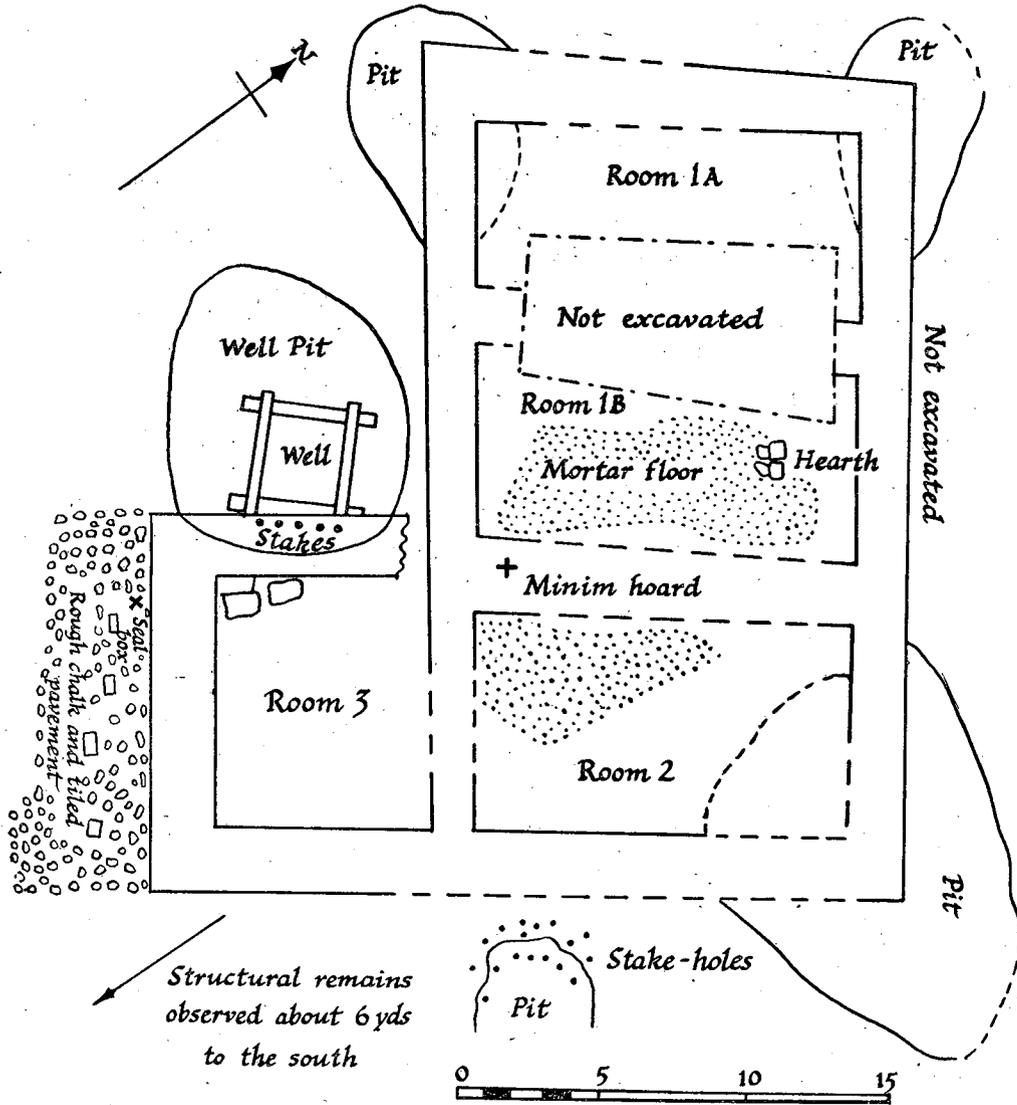


Fig. 2. Scale of feet

north wall was now seen to lie on undisturbed soil, but the north-east and north-west corners had been built over earlier pits. These had been cleared out by the Romano-British builders and filled up with large, partly hewn chalk blocks, on top of which a layer of clay 3-6 in. thick had been laid to support the weight of the building. The pits contained fragments of daub and coarse hand-made local pottery. In Pit 9

(see Fig. 1) such pottery was associated with combed ware of a type similar to that found in the War Ditches kiln, and with a large storage jar with grooved shoulder which may be dated provisionally to the second century A.D.

Such datable material as came from this part of the building points to a fourth-century construction and occupation. Coins from the debris layer of rooms 1a, 1b and 2 included a minim cut from a rod without any legend, and bronze coins of Constantine, Magnentius and Valentinian I, all rather worn. The pottery was typically late fourth-century, including late forms of Castor ware and local coarse calcite gritted ware (nos. 89-99 in Appendix III). Some fourth-century sherds were found in the filling of the pit beneath the north-west corner of the building. A very worn, probably barbarous imitation of a FEL. TEMP. REPARATIO, 3AE, was found in the clay underlying the mortar floor foundations, abutting the north wall. It was of the same general type as nos. 4, 5 and 6 of the minim hoard (see below, Appendix IV). Unfortunately, the deposit was not sealed, and it would be safer to attribute it to the occupation of the building rather than to the period of its construction.

The small annexe on the south side of the building had been found first, and there was time to examine it more thoroughly. It was an almost square room having internal measurements of 8 ft. 8 in. by 8 ft. Its walls had been covered by a coloured plaster arranged in deep red and white panels, of which a considerable amount survived. The outside had been coated with a harder orange and brown plaster of a similar type to that which covered the rest of the building. A number of fragments of pointed ragstone roofing stones, some of which contained the hole for a nail, suggests that the roof of the annexe had been covered with these slabs rather than with tiles. Some window glass was found among the mortar debris inside the room.

The floor had disappeared entirely, but at the south end chalk foundations for a floor laid on natural clay were found. The whole of the interior was filled with a layer of plaster and mortar debris to an average depth of 2 ft., indicating that the walls of lath and plaster collapsed inwards after the building had become disused. This debris contained no traces of burning. Pottery found among it included fourth-century Castor ware, and a coin of Constantine (*Beata Tranquillitas*, c. 325). A single fragment of a Samian form 37 bowl datable to A.D. 130-50<sup>1</sup> was also found among the mortar debris.

The walls were of a slightly different construction from those of the rest of the building. The foundations were composed of carefully pitched chalk blocks laid in two parallel rows with a central core of mortar and rubble between them, and on the south and east sides the outer courses had consisted of squared and faced stone. The walls had been laid in a substantial bed of orange plaster and were 2 ft. 2 in. wide. They had been reinforced by large and well-hewn blocks of chalk in the south-west angle which overlay the well pit (see below, p. 16 and Fig. 3, Section A-B).

On the east side, the walls had been too heavily robbed to establish how the annexe joined the main building. On the west side, however, the annexe wall stopped 1 ft.

<sup>1</sup> Described by Mr B. R. Hartley as Lezoux ware, a free-style bowl probably by Docilis rather than one of the Sacer group.

short of the south wall of the building which could be traced below a thin layer of clay and lay 4 in. below the level of the annexe wall. It was also some 6 in. out of alignment with the remains of the partition wall between rooms 1 *b* and 2. A fragment of fourth-century Castor ware was found embedded in the mortar foundation of the west wall of the annexe, and, as will be seen later, the latter was built partly over a well, the filling of which contained a coin of Helena (325–8). Though it seems likely, it cannot be proved that the annexe was later than the rest of the building.

It was in attempting to establish the relationship between the walls of the annexe and the main building that a small hoard of seventeen bronze coins, half a bronze ring, and a bead of green clay composition were brought to light. They had evidently been contained in a small iron-bound box, for fragments of three coins were found embedded in the corroded iron of one side and corner. They consisted of two regular issues of the House of Constantine and Magnentius, and the remainder were barbarous copies of the FEL. TEMP. REPARATIO type, and indecipherable minims. The barbarous copies appear to be contemporary imitations of the official issues, and therefore may date as early as 350.<sup>1</sup> They are thus contemporary with, if not a little earlier than, most of the coins found in the building. The group was found 2 ft. 10 in. below the surface, embedded in a layer of clay 2 in. thick which at this point overlay the chalk foundations of the south wall of the building. They were scattered over an area about 9 in. square. The section in the rubble immediately above the hoard showed no sign of a break, and the chalk foundations of an outside wall do not offer much scope for concealment of valuables. It is possible that it may have been lost when the building was still in use, though we could not establish whether the clay deposit at this point was contemporary with it, or an accumulation subsequent to its destruction.

Beyond the south wall of the annexe was a small forecourt roughly paved with chalk pebbles and a few square tiles. It extended 5 ft. southwards except at the eastern extremity, where a layer of rubble continued towards Humphreys Road in the direction of other Roman foundations. Pottery from the forecourt was of the same late fourth-century type characteristic of the rest of the site, but a bronze enamelled seal-box, heart-shaped and in fine condition, was found lying on the chalk paving. It was a similar type to examples found in fourth-century deposits at Richborough and Verulamium (Appendix II, no. 1).

The intervening ground between the forecourt and the kerb of Humphreys Road was trenched without result. At the north side of the road, however, 55 ft. from the south-east angle of the Roman building, some further traces of Roman foundations came to light. These consisted of a much-robbed angle of a building whose chalk foundations had been laid in bluish clay. It did not extend more than 4 ft. from the kerb towards the middle of the road, and attempts to pick it up as a 'ghost' wall north of the road were not successful. Other foundations, however, of what appeared to be

<sup>1</sup> Indicated to the writer in a letter from Mr P. V. Hill to whom casts of two of the minims were sent. Evidence for the striking of barbarous imitations immediately after the arrival of the FEL. TEMP. REPARATIO issue in Britain in 348 is given by Anne S. Robertson, 'The Poundbury hoard of Roman fourth-century copies and their prototypes', *Numismatic Chronicle*, 6th ser., vol. XII (1952), pp. 87–95.

a more solidly built wall 2 ft. 10 in. wide showed up in a gas trench 45 ft. from the south-east corner of the building. These footings had been dug into an already existing pit from which finds included a piece of mortar flooring, and hand-made pottery similar to that found in the pits which underlay the north-east and north-west corners of the building. It is possible that this foundation may have been contemporary with the main building. Further remains of rubble and mortar came to light when workmen excavated a manhole 21 ft. from the south-east corner of the building. The purpose of these foundations and their relationship to the main building were not cleared up. They may have been outbuildings. They did not belong to any considerable structure, for no further traces of them were revealed when the foundations of houses on this part of the estate were laid, or in drainage trenches which were dug across the width of Humphreys Road.

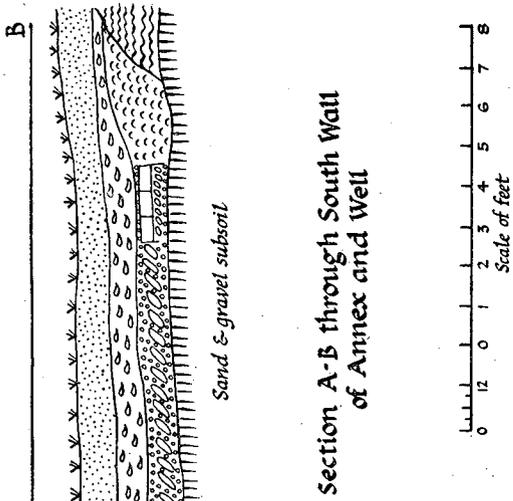
#### THE WELL

After the south-west corner of the annexe had been found the trench was extended another 20 ft. in the hope of finding a projecting wall from the main building. As work continued it became clear that a comparatively deep layer of filling had accumulated in Roman times against the annexe wall (see Fig. 3, section *A-B*). The filling consisting of brown earth and scattered building debris underlay the destruction layer from the annexe, and extended to a depth of 4 ft. 3 in. to 4 ft. 6 in. below the surface. A 3 AE coin of Helena (325-8) and fourth-century Castor ware sherds were discovered in the top half of the layer and the building debris found included a fragment of plaster which had been placed on top of a wooden frame (Pl. I, no. 4).

Below this level we came upon a thick layer of damp grey earth, and in removing this we began to find heavy roofing tiles, some of which had been badly burnt. A fragment of a burnished orange dish of late third- or fourth-century date was found here 5 ft. below the surface (Appendix III, no. 96). Below the roofing tiles there was a deposit 1 ft. thick composed entirely of fragments of painted wall plaster. Much of it was well preserved, and showed vivid shades of bright red, yellow, green, grey and deep blue (cf. Appendix I). Fragments of wall plaster were also found underlying the annexe wall.

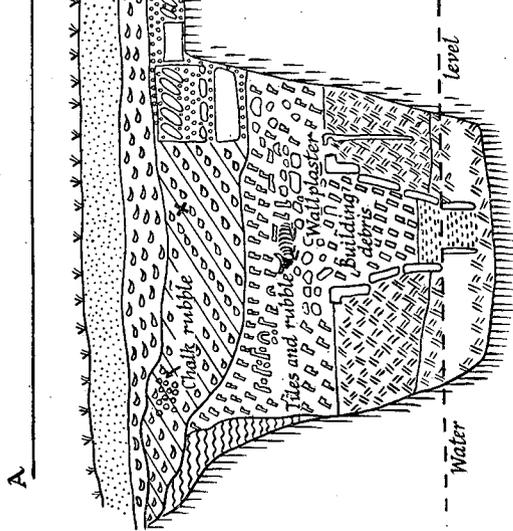
At this stage the work was nearly brought to a close by bulldozing operations, but with the help of volunteers the trench was cleared out again. This produced the most interesting discovery of the excavation. The wall plaster had been recovered and the trench taken down to 5 ft. 9 in. below ground. More building material was found. While investigating this, some decayed wood was discovered, and then the oak linings of a solidly constructed well (Pl. II). It proved to be a perfectly preserved example of a timberlined well of the same kind as Well II found at Colchester.<sup>1</sup> The top tier of the frame had been made of sawn oak beams shoulder-jointing into each other, so as to make a fast and immovable fit. These provided a square aperture 3 ft. 2 in. in diameter. Below this were three other tiers of planks also jointed into each other,

<sup>1</sup> C. F. C. Hawkes and M. R. Hull, *Camulodunum*, Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, vol. xiv (Oxford 1947), p. 127, fig. 38, and pl. XV.



Section A-B through South Wall of Annex and Well

Scale of feet  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8



Section C-D through Building and Well Pit

Scale of feet  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

- Topsoil
- Mortar & plaster rubble
- Chalk foundations
- Robber fill
- Brown earth & debris
- Grey earth & debris
- Well 1 & building debris
- Grey sands & gravel
- Well 2 & black silt
- Clay
- Natural subsoil
- X Coin of Helena
- ☉ Skeleton of Ox

- Topsoil etc.
- Brown earth & debris
- Robber trench
- Dark earth filling of pit
- Chalk make-up of floor
- Yellow clay
- Brown earth
- Chalk foundations
- Chalk blocks (filling pit)
- Grey earth & debris
- Grey sands & gravel
- Black silt of well
- Natural subsoil
- X Coin of Magnentius
- ☉ Coin of Constantius

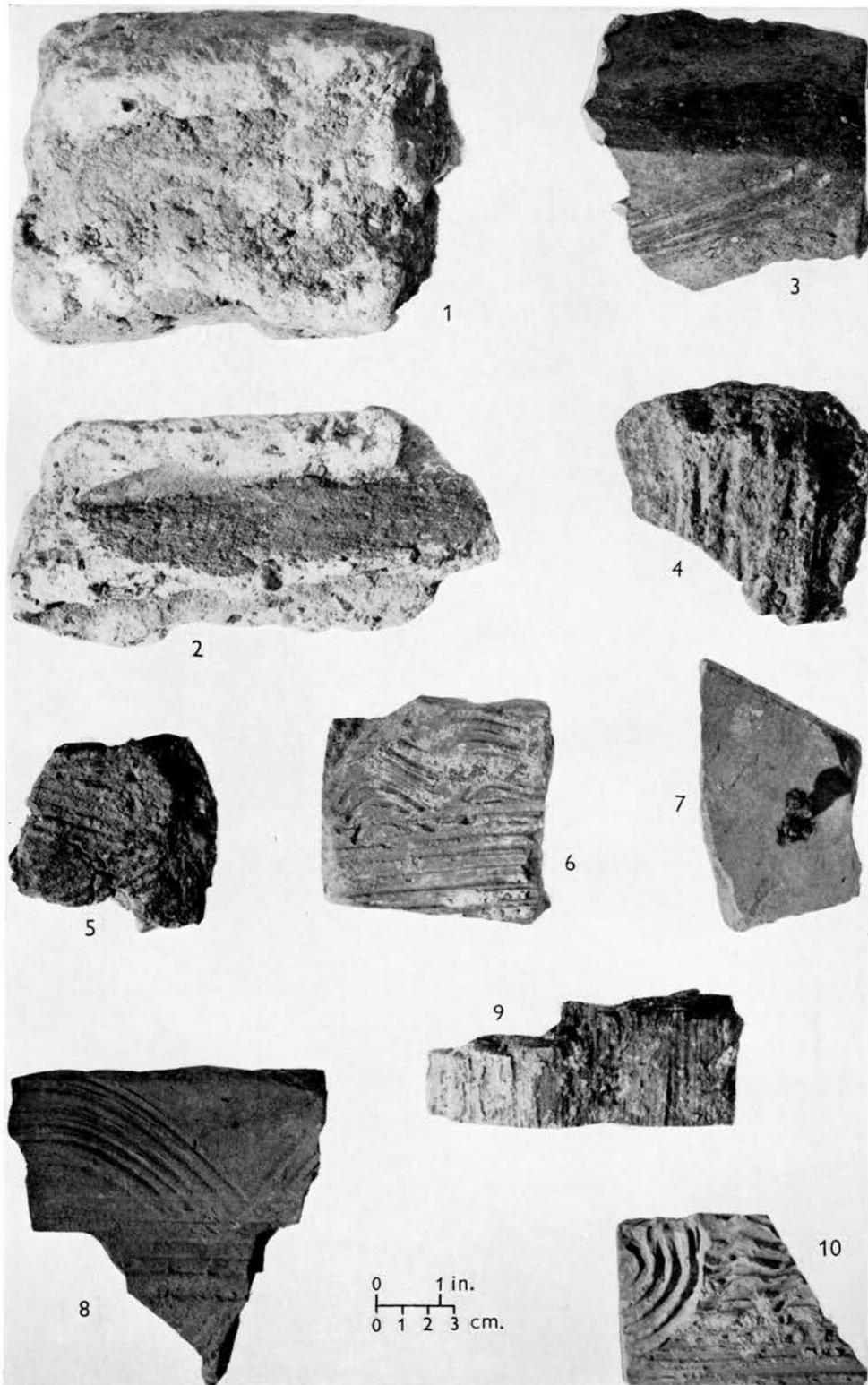
Fig. 3.

but inset into the well and sloping slightly inwards, thus narrowing it towards the bottom.<sup>1</sup> The lowest tier enclosed a square with sides only 1 ft. 6 in. The east side of the well lay directly under the annexe wall. The foundations of this had been strengthened by a large block of chalk measuring 3 ft. across and 11 in. high, and there was no sign that the well had at any time begun to subside. Immediately behind the east side of the well five pointed stakes each with a two inch notch two inches from the top had been driven into the earth. Their function is not known, but they may have held a wooden lid for the well.

The four frames gave the well a total depth of 3 ft. 8 in. or 10 ft. 6 in. below the present surface. Water was found in August 1953 at a depth of 9 ft. 6 in. There were two distinct levels in the well. The first was a continuation of the grey earth and building material which had been found immediately above it. The mass of building material was tightly packed and included mortar used for the torching and bedding of roof tiles, pieces of sawn timber from square beams and planks, roofing tiles, some fragments of box tile (Pl. I, nos. 1, 2, 8, 9 and 10), and window glass. Below this, 2 ft. 4 in. below the top of the well, was a layer of thick black silt 1 ft. 5 in. deep which had formed when the well was in use. Very little was found in this layer. A few sherds of grey second-century pottery, and a hook attached to a ring (Pl. IV, no. 11) were all that it yielded. The well was wholly cleared out before the linings were raised and taken to the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

The west wall of the annexe was built directly over the east side of the well, and hardly a foot separated the edge of the well-pit from the south wall of the main building. It would seem unlikely that the well was used by the occupants of the dwelling. Indeed, the pottery from the well was two centuries earlier than that from the building (see Appendix III, nos. 87 and 88). The building debris may more probably have come from an earlier building, and the evidence suggests that it was packed into the well in a single operation. The rubble in and above the well formed a homogeneous layer. The lack of vegetable silt does not suggest a slow accumulation of rubbish. On the other hand, once the well had been filled in, a certain amount of rubbish, including the skeleton of an ox, was allowed to cover the building debris and tiles, and this included a fragment of the orange-burnished dish (no. 96). The interval of disuse may not have been very long, but the next clear evidence of activity was the building of the annexe and consequent levelling of the pit. To judge from the coin of Helena and the pottery found in the filling over the well this took place not earlier than 330, probably between 330 and 350. The line on which the wall was to be built was filled in with blocks of chalk loosely mortared together to a depth of 3 ft., and the remainder of the pit filled up with earth.

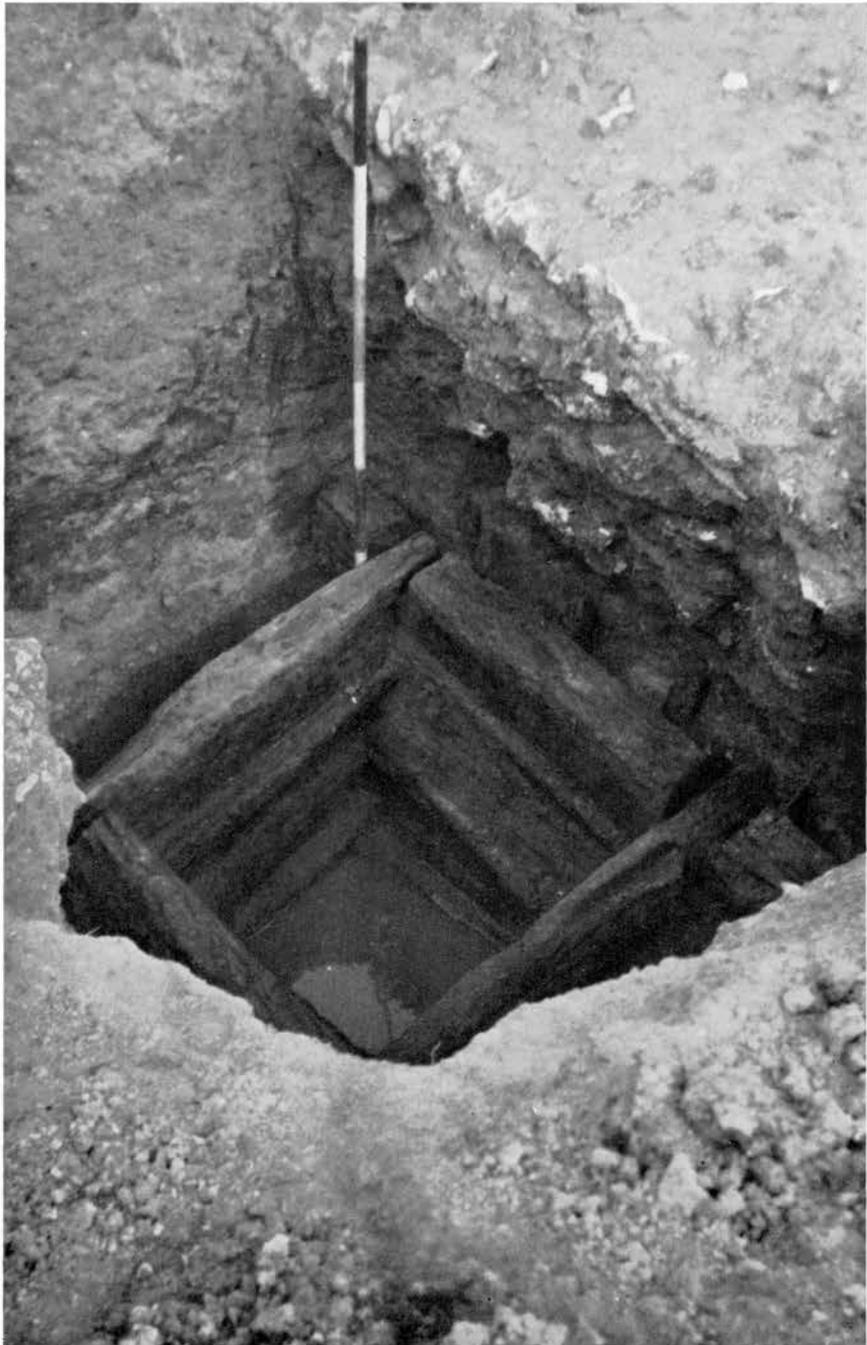
<sup>1</sup> The dimensions of the timber beams and planks forming the lining of the well were as follows. *Top frame*: two beams 4 ft. 11 in. and 4 ft. 3 in. long respectively, each 4 in. thick and 10 in. deep with projecting ends 11 in. and 7 in. These ends fitted into the slots cut into the two other beams which measured 5 ft. 10 in. and 5 ft. 8 in. long, 6½ in. and 7 in. thick and 10 in. deep. From the slot to the end of the beam measured 12½ in. and 10 in. *Second frame*: four planks 3 ft. 6 in. long 2 in. thick and 9 in. deep. *Third frame*: four planks 2 ft. 6 in. long, 2 in. thick and 10 in. deep. *Fourth frame*: four planks 1 ft. 11 in. long, 2 in. thick and 11 in. deep.



Building Debris from Romano-British Dwelling at Arbury Road

1 and 2. Mortar for torching and bedding roof tiles from well. 3. Fragment of box-tile from debris over room 1 *a*. 4. Mortar showing imprint of wooden lath from filling of well pit. 5. Inside face of wall plaster from room 1 *a* showing box-tile imprint. 6. Box-tile from burnt area west of house. 7. Tile with nail from debris over room 1 *a*. 8. Fragment of box-tile from filling of well-pit. 9. Piece of sawn wood from well. 10. Fragment of box-tile from well.

PLATE II



Arbury Road well

## SUSPECTED WOODEN BUILDING

The problem in the time remaining for the excavation was to try to find the building to which the well had belonged. It was never solved satisfactorily. Before the discovery of the well a trench had been dug north-south in an attempt to find the outside limit of the building on its west side. It had missed the west wall by 2 ft., but it had revealed a layer of heavily burnt building material 9-12 in. below the surface, in many places overlying the disturbed earth of pits. One piece of plaster found in the trench at this level contained a *dupondius* of Trajan in fair condition.

Some further trial trenches were dug between 30 and 40 ft. from the west wall of the house. They revealed a great deal of burnt rubble made up of plaster, stone and fragments of tiles, including box-tiles, which petered out towards the west, and traces of straight-sided gulleys dug into the natural soil, but no stone foundations. It was unfortunately impossible in the time available to make anything like a thorough examination of this area. The deep drainage trench, however, dug by the contractors east-west across the line of the north wall of the house reaching nearly to the hedge, showed an area of burning extending 35 ft. west of the house and continuing to the north of it. At one point 9 ft. from the north-west corner of the building a section of what appeared to be a burnt clay floor could be followed for 5 ft. along the line of the trench at a depth of 18 in. Much burnt material including box-tiles of a similar type to those from the filling of the well was found scattered about this area. A comparison between samples of plaster found in the well and among the burnt debris west of the building, though suggesting a similarity of general type, was inconclusive.<sup>1</sup> There was, however, a striking contrast between the heavily burnt debris here and the relatively clean fall layer over the dwelling and especially in the annexe. Such evidence as we have is consistent with a wooden house built not earlier than A.D. 150 standing just west of the stone dwelling. This wooden house was destroyed by fire, and part of its remains were later used to fill in the well and the deep pit in which it had been built.

## THE FLOORS

Two rough chalk floors were discovered in the course of the building and road-making operations. The first lay at the bend of Humphreys Road between the two manholes 70 yards east of the Roman house (Grid Ref. TL (52)/45186178), and is referred to in the report on the pottery (Appendix III) as the Manhole Site. It showed up as a great expanse of soft black earth, and the deposit had to be removed before the road could be laid. Excavation showed three distinct levels. The lowest

<sup>1</sup> The following is an extract from a letter from Dr Norman Davey of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, to whom samples of plaster from the well and from other parts of the site were sent for analysis: 'The first was a sample of the mortar from the well. This had been used for torching roof tiles, and consisted approximately of four volumes of slaked lime (assumed to have run to a putty) and of three volumes of siliceous sand. The sand all passed a  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. square mesh. The second sample was of white mortar rendering with whitewash (from the trench dug outside the west wall of the house). This consisted approximately of two volumes of slaked lime and one volume of siliceous sand similar in type and grading to that in the first sample.'

(Level I of the Pottery Report) consisted of a rough pavement of chalk blocks which had been laid on the natural gravel, 2 ft. 6 in. below the surface. It was possible to trace the pavement over an area 9 ft. by 5 ft. It continues southwards beyond Humphreys Road into the Church Site. Nothing except animal bones and the decayed fragments of a sandal was found on the floor itself, but in a layer of grey silt overlying it, small fragments of a Castor beaker of a white pipeclay fabric with a blue colour coat and barbotine scrolls were found (Appendix III, no. 59). This, together with other pottery for which Severan parallels have been found, suggests a late second- to early third-century date for the use of this floor. The two layers of occupation above it represented a gradual filling in of the site and its use as a rubbish dump. The large amount of pottery found here is described in Appendix III, nos. 65-86. In addition, some fragments of a delicate white glass vessel and a small slab of grey marble or polished carboniferous limestone were discovered.<sup>1</sup> Small objects from these upper levels included an iron bracket which was inserted into the wall probably as a lamp-holder, a fragment of an iron knife, some pieces of a bone comb, two bone needles and fragments of a bronze armlet and ring (Pl. IV, nos. 5, 12, 19, 20 and 23). Numerous animal bones (sheep, ox and pig) and oyster shells also turned up in this rubbish.

A second floor of similar type was found 30 ft. west of the junction between Humphreys and Fortescue Roads. The pottery from it has been described under Pit 5 (Appendix III, nos. 36-52). The absence of early types such as were found in the Manhole Site suggests that the floor and the filling over it may be dated to the fourth century. The filling produced much pottery and rubbish including an ox skull, and a number of small finds such as a two-edged bone comb, the bronze end of a leather belt, a child's bronze armlet and fragments of bone pins.

#### THE PITS

A considerable number of pits of all shapes and sizes were found all over the site, some being shallow and flat-bottomed, while others were over 8 ft. in depth with comparatively narrow mouths. Many were probably refuse pits which have left their trace as areas of dirty brown disturbed soil showing up in the side of drainage trenches, but others seem to have been used for the storage of grain. Investigation showed that at least four of these pits had been thatched over and the stake holes of the small posts which had supported the roof were clearly visible in section, while small V-shaped gulleys to drain off rain water could be discerned. One pit just beyond the east wall of the Roman building showed the remains of three rows of stake holes around its edge. Near pit 6 was a wet area going down 5 ft. below the surface and containing a certain amount of rotten wood as well as pottery and animal bones, which may have been a sump.

The contents of the pits varied. Some yielded nothing at all but others, such as Pits 3 and 4, produced fragments of as many as sixty different pots. Pit 3 on Mansel

<sup>1</sup> Analysis showed that this was a fragment of Carboniferous Limestone, probably from north Yorkshire.

Way (TL (52)/45306070), in particular, produced fragments of Samian forms 31, 33 and 36 and Castor ware datable to the end of the second century. Much wattle was found in Pit 8 on the south side of Humphreys Road. Others produced the remains of storage jars, and in one case a quern was found near the bottom 6 ft. below ground level. A fragment of a millstone 2 ft. 10 in. in diameter came from another.

The pottery from the pits dates from the mid second to the end of the fourth century, and it has been possible to report on a series taken from them which was examined relatively thoroughly. Coins, including a fine specimen of a *siliqua* of Valens, and bronzes of Gallienus, Claudius II and Crispus were found either in the pits, or on the spoil thrown up from them during excavation by the contractors.

#### CONCLUSIONS

The necessarily hand to mouth nature of the investigations preclude firm conclusions. The whole site appears to have been occupied for over two and a half centuries and occupation was mainly agricultural. The pits were too scattered to be explained simply by relationship to the stone-based building or its possible wooden predecessor, which were located at what seems to be the western edge of the occupation area. It may be that timber buildings or native-style huts existed which were not recognizable in the builders' trenches; while, on the other hand, important elements of the complex may await discovery in adjacent areas not yet trenched.

On existing evidence, occupation in the second century was represented by pits, and by two cremations in the cemetery and the apparently isolated cremation group to the south-east, while the inferred timber building and the well may also have been as early. In the next century it is probable that the floor at the 'Manhole Site' on Humphreys Road was in use, and also pits on Mansel Way. In the fourth century the site seems to have been most intensively occupied. A stone-based building, apparently self-contained and not merely an out-building, was erected and probably enlarged by the addition of an annexe towards the middle of the century. The careful construction and comparatively good quality of the wall-plaster and general absence of squalor suggests that the inhabitants enjoyed a measure of prosperity. The floor near the junction of Fortescue and Humphreys Roads was in use in this period. In the cemetery one at least of the inhumations is dated by grave goods to the fourth century. Though the coin series on the site ends with Valentinian and Valens (A.D. 364-78), most of the specimens are worn and were long in use before loss.<sup>1</sup> The Roman house itself, like the rest of the site, seems gradually to have fallen into decay. Sherds of late Saxon pottery from a pit on Humphreys Road are all the tangible evidence so far recovered of occupation in the area of the Arbury Road settlement in the early Middle Ages.

<sup>1</sup> Since writing this report, a coin of Theodosius I, 379-395, has been found on the site.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Work was carried out under difficult conditions and often in appalling weather. I should like to express my gratitude to all who came up and helped, and in particular to the following: Mr Maurice Howard and the members of the Clapham Society at the Leys School, to Messrs T. J. Chapman, C. A. Druce, J. Crook, M. Hodgart, A. Potts and P. Watt, to Mr and Mrs Hite and Dr Youngman and family, to Miss E. Cook, Victor Chapman and Colin Brown. I should also like to thank the Clerk of the Works and foreman of Messrs Sindalls and Johnson and Bailey Ltd., and the Borough Engineer's staff for their interest and help from start to finish.

Warm thanks are due to Dr Norman Davey of the Building Research Station, Garston, Watford, for his analysis of the samples of plaster and building materials.

## APPENDIX I

## THE PAINTED WALL PLASTER

Stray pieces of painted wall plaster occurred over much of the site, but the biggest concentration of fragments was found among the debris lying above the well. Unfortunately it was only possible to recover it in a very broken condition, and so little attempt could be made to reconstruct the designs of the walls.

A number of large fragments painted buff yellow may have formed part of the dado near the base of the wall of one of the rooms, and in some cases this yellow ground shows traces of paint splashes of varying size, either maroon in colour (as indicated on Fig. 4, no. 1, near the right-hand edge, and Pl. III, no. 2), or maroon, red and grey (as Pl. III, no. 1). This type of decoration was intended to imitate the panels of marble which ornamented the walls of more luxurious houses, and it is not uncommon in Roman Britain. Other pieces painted the same red (Fig. 4, nos. 2-4) may also come from this part of the wall, and these have the rest of the surface coloured a pale olive green, the two zones being separated by the narrow white line surviving on no. 4 and partly visible on nos. 2 and 3. Further fragments (Fig. 4, nos. 5, 6) show the same green divided from a white band by a narrow black band, and a small smear of maroon paint surviving on the upper edge of no. 6 leads us on to no. 7, where the same sequence of green, black and white appears, surmounted by a maroon stripe or panel. More of this maroon and white design is visible on no. 8.

The evidence of these pieces suggests a possible colour scheme for the dado comprising a zone of imitation marbling of unknown depth, which may have been divided into small panels painted either maroon, or maroon, red, and grey, on a yellow ground. Above this probably came a series of horizontal(?) stripes, first, the red and green divided by the white line, next, the black and white, and then the maroon stripe or panel, the extent of which remains undetermined.

A number of the pieces found are noteworthy for the coarse texture of the painted surface, and it seems probable that these also belong to the lower part of the wall, perhaps from below the dado, or even from the exterior surfaces of the walls of the house. Pl. III, no. 4, depicts one such fragment painted red and white with traces of maroon at the upper edge, and another piece (not illustrated) has the same red below bands of white separated by a black line 0.4 in. wide. Pl. III, no. 3, has on the left a peculiar design in red outlined in black on a white ground, while traces of a similar motif outlined in red survive on the right. Other examples, not illustrated, of this type

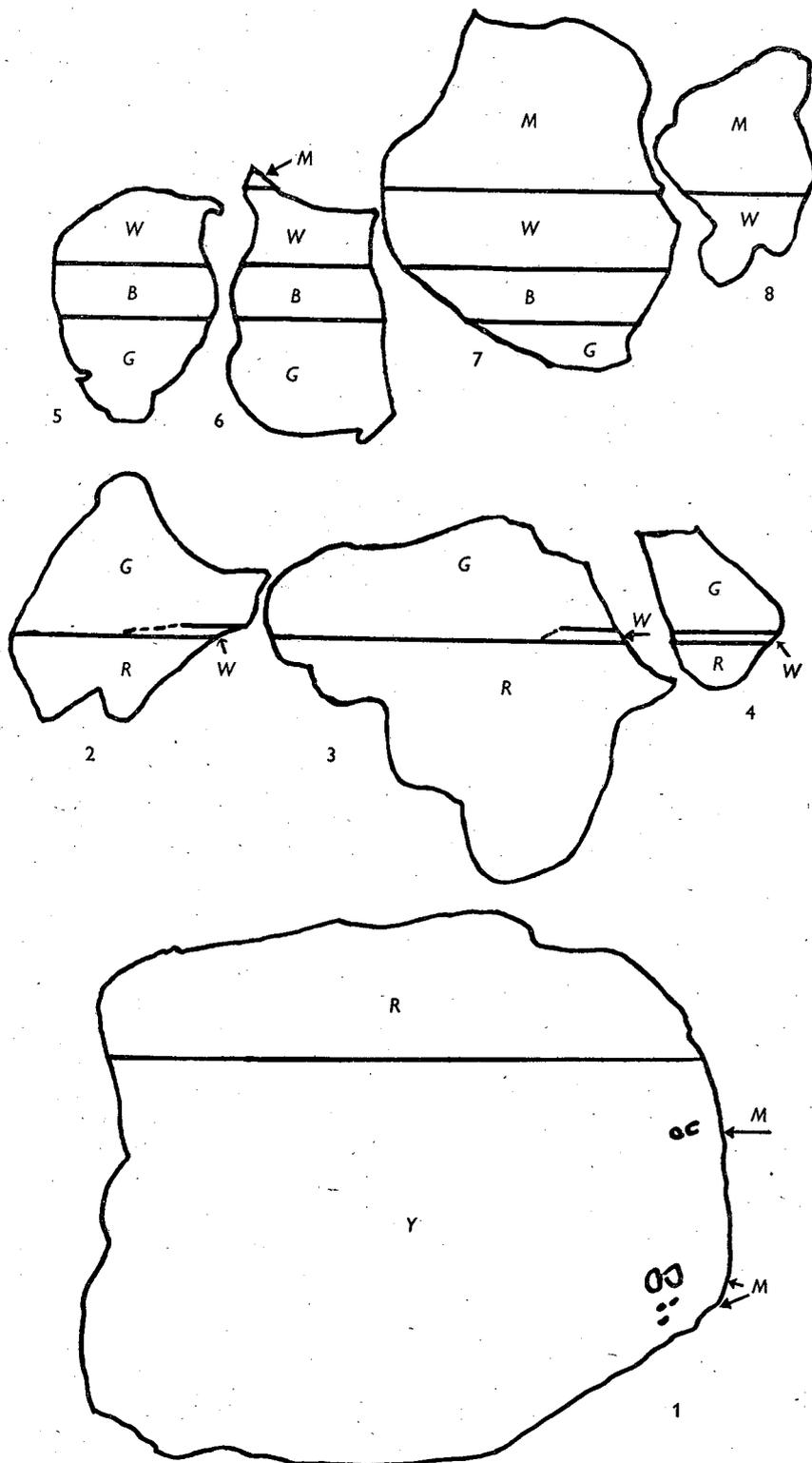


Fig. 4. Fragments of painted wall plaster arranged to show a possible scheme of reconstruction for the dado. The colours are indicated by letters as follows: B black, G green, M maroon, R red, W white, Y yellow. *Two-thirds natural size.*

of paint are coloured white, blue, red, red and white, and red and maroon. In some cases lines of white or deep red wander across a lighter red ground, and these may, perhaps, be intended to represent marble veining. Square panels of imitation marbling of this kind may have alternated with the panels (?) of maroon splashes on a yellow ground already described. On another large piece one edge of a maroon stripe survives, bordering a white ground on which are painted slender diagonal lines of black and yellow, probably forming part of some kind of lattice or geometric pattern.

Other designs decorated with lines and stripes presumably belong to the higher levels of the walls and have a surface of a finer texture. One shows a black line 0·4 in. wide on a deep buff yellow ground with traces of a red diagonal line appearing at the right-hand corner, and others depict a maroon line on a blue ground with traces of green paint surviving below the maroon. On no. 7 a black line divides a white band, just visible at the lower edge, from a blue ground. The latter varies in tint from a deep greyish shade to a bright blue: it was abundant on the site and also shows faint traces of a black pattern. By way of contrast, nos. 5*a* and 5*b* depict maroon lines obviously outlining the corner of a pale olive green panel on a ground of the same colour. Nos. 8 and 13 with narrower lines of maroon and yellow on a similar ground may come from the same area, while no. 16 showing a small blob where two maroon lines meet in a right angle, and no. 14 with small maroon dots appearing inside another corner, may be the sole survivors of a beaded line belonging to this scheme of panelled decoration. The maroon and yellow buds or flowers set among curving maroon and grey (?) lines on nos. 11 and 12, may possibly have formed part of a scroll pattern of flowers in a network of the maroon lines which also appear on nos. 9, 10 and 17. The ground for these designs is presumed to have been painted light olive green originally, but the paint has either faded or been largely rubbed off.

A completely different scheme of panel decoration is indicated by the fine white lines on a deep rose red ground on no. 18. Quantities of this red plaster were found on the site and a number of plain white pieces also occurred. The buff yellow used for Fig. 4, no. 1 appears again as a ground for Pl. III, no. 6, a fragment decorated with large pale blue blobs between a border of thin maroon lines. Two other pieces show a white design on a blue ground (no. 15), and a blue arc outlined on a white ground (no. 19), and they may be connected with the blue panelling of no. 7. A curved fragment, coloured a dark maroon, may come from a doorway.

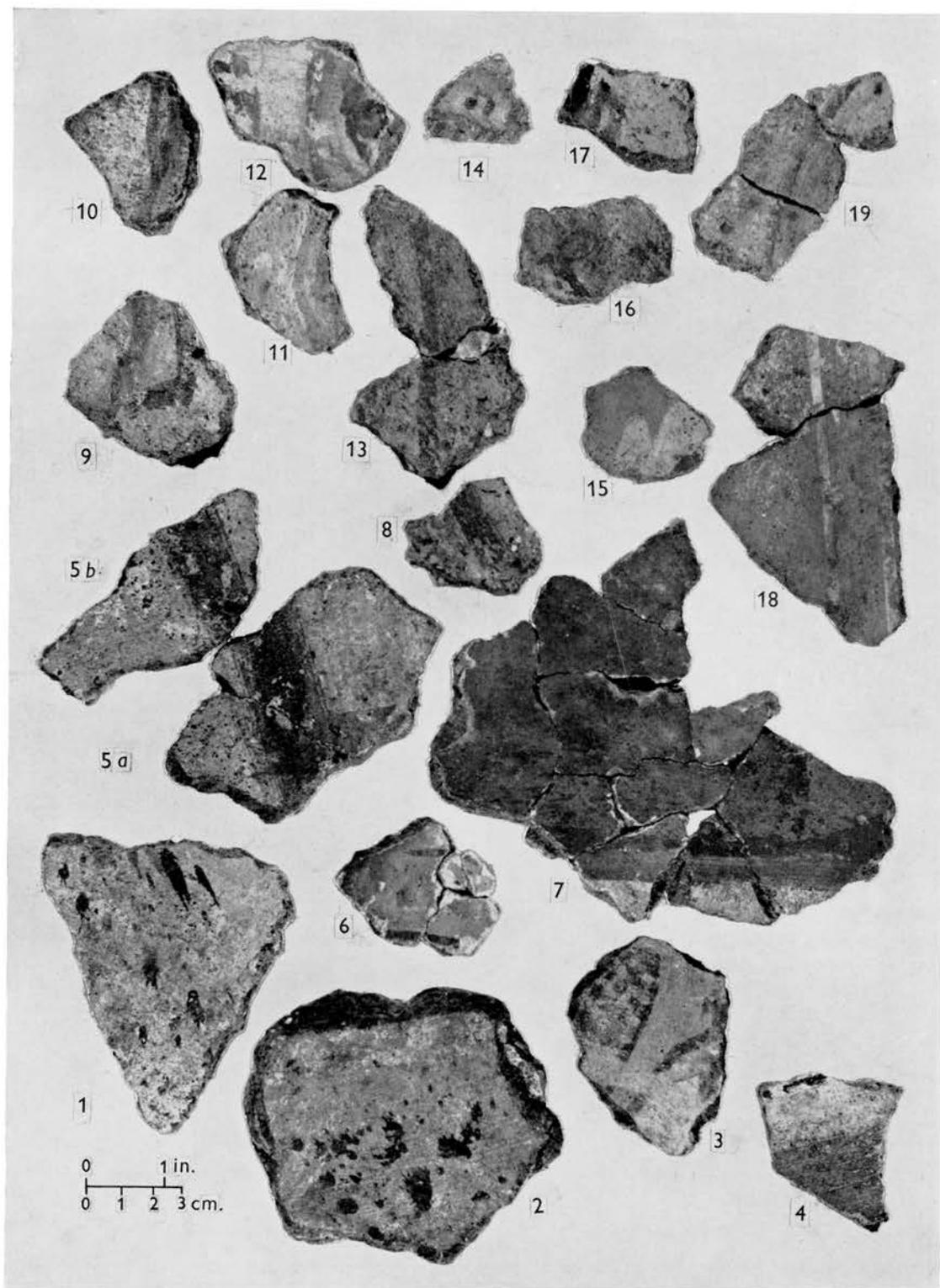
From the evidence of the fragments just described, the scheme of decoration of the upper parts of the walls above the dado must have included panels of blue, pale green, rose red, and perhaps white, outlined by white, maroon and yellow lines. Such a scheme is not uncommon and examples of it have been found at Caerwent,<sup>1</sup> Richborough<sup>2</sup> and other British sites. The various decorative motifs may have been placed in the centre of these panels, or else they decorated the spaces intervening between one panel and the next. Parallels to the blob design of Pl. III, no. 6 occur among the plaster recovered from the villas at North Warnborough (Hants.) and Kintbury (Berks.), and an example of the corner of a panel emphasized with a blob or bead like that on no. 16 from Arbury Road is illustrated by a fragment from the Roman site at Sapcote (Leicestershire).<sup>3</sup> Two Roman sites in the Cambridge region, Landwade, and West Row near Mildenhall, have produced painted wall plaster with curvilinear patterns of maroon lines, and they provide the nearest parallels to our Pl. III, nos. 9, 10 and 17. For parallels to the dado one might turn to the drawing of the lower part of the wall decoration at the villa at Carisbrooke, Isle of Wight.<sup>4</sup> This shows an arrangement of large and small oblong panels of red and green outlined in white,

<sup>1</sup> *Archaeologia*, vol. LX (1906), pl. XIX; vol. LVIII (1902), pl. XII.

<sup>2</sup> C. R. Smith, *Antiquities of Richborough, Reculver and Lympne* (1850), Frontispiece, p. 93.

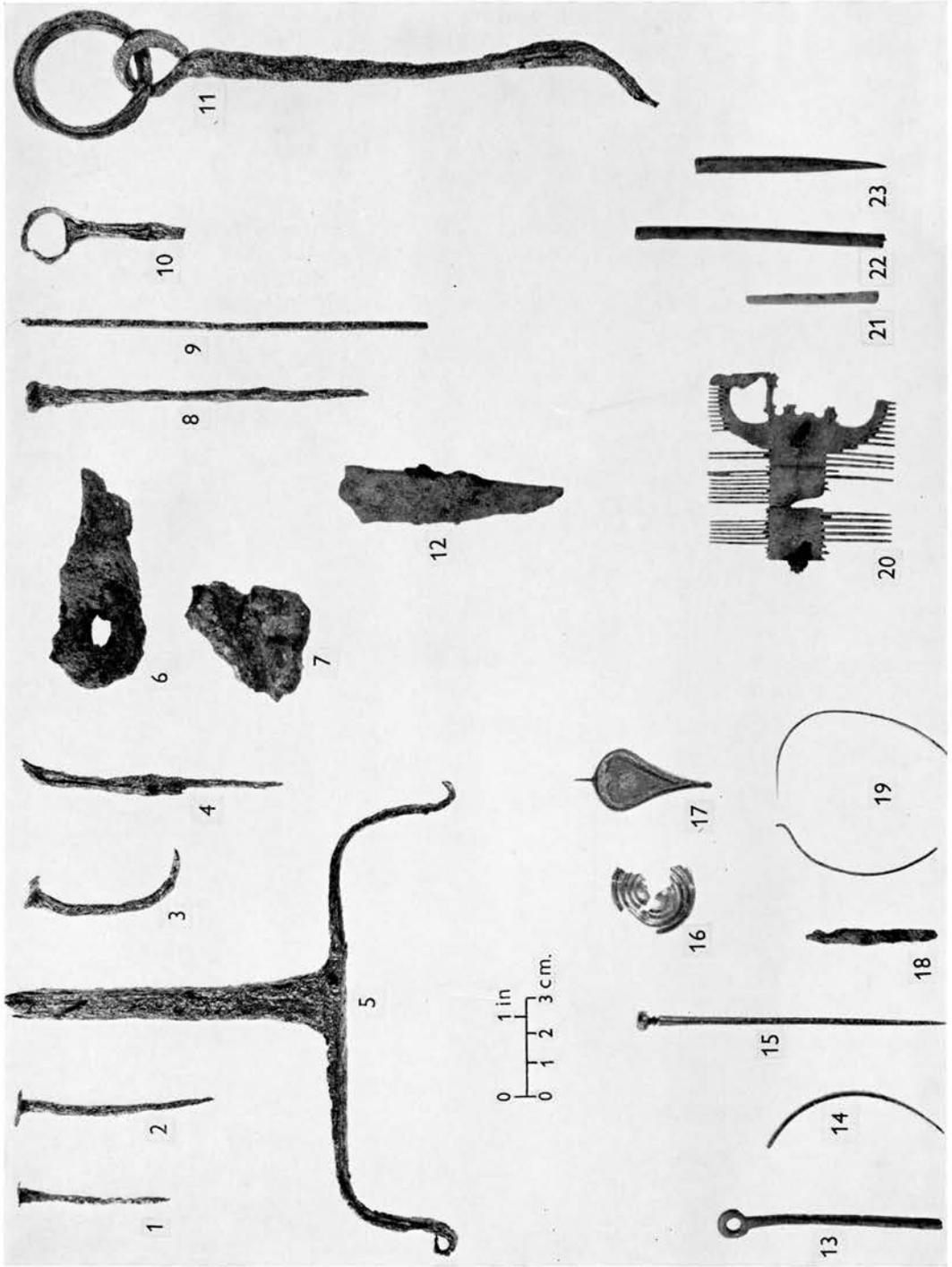
<sup>3</sup> *Leicester Archaeol. Proc.* vol. XVIII, pt. II (1934-45), pl. XII.

<sup>4</sup> C. R. Smith, *Collectanea Antiqua*, vol. VI (1868), p. 126, pl. I.



Arbury Road. Painted wall plaster

PLATE IV



Arbury Road. Small finds

with horizontal bands of colour above and below them. No traces of marbling are recorded there. Apropos of this motif we might consider the evidence from a house in the little Roman town at Aldborough (Yorks),<sup>1</sup> where there was both a dado of red splashed with a deeper red, below a yellow band, which divided it from some form of geometric design in black on a white ground, and another dado with a red ground alternating with stripes and panels of yellow outlined by white lines, and flecked with black. The marbled fragments from Arbury Road may well have belonged to some similar scheme.

JOAN LIVERSIDGE

## APPENDIX II

### THE SMALL FINDS

#### A. From the Roman dwelling

1. Bronze heart-shaped seal box, length  $1\frac{2}{3}$  in., width  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. Inlaid in azure and dark red champlevé enamel. Found on chalk pebbles forming veranda 6 in. from south wall of annexe (Pl. IV, no. 17). (Cf. R. E. M. and T. V. Wheeler, *Verulamium* (1936), no. 53, p. 212; and J. Bushe-Fox, *Fourth Report on the Roman Excavations at Richborough* (1949), pl. XXXIV, no. 77.)
2. Part of bronze finger ring found with hoard of minims (Appendix IV),  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. in diameter. Traces of incised dots and vertical lines.
3. Small perforated green clay bead found with no. 2.
4. Fragment of handle and part of blade of iron knife. Found in debris above room 1a.

#### B. From the Well

5. Iron hook with ring attached,  $6\frac{3}{8}$  in. long. Found in the black silt at the bottom (Pl. IV, no. 11).

#### C. Manhole Site

6. Iron bracket from fourth-century filling over working floor (Pl. IV, no. 5). The stem divides the bracket into two unequal arms, 2.1 in. and 1.5 in. long. Charred plaster with bits of tile probably from a wall were adhering to the stem of the bracket when found (fragment illustrated Pl. IV, no. 7). Perhaps it was stuck into a wall and lamps suspended from it. No precise parallels are known.

7. Fragment of pointed iron knife (Pl. IV, no. 12).
8. Fragment of iron tweezers or shears (Pl. IV, no. 6).
9. Fragment of iron staple or end of key (Pl. IV, no. 10).
10. Fragments of iron handles (Pl. IV, nos. 4, 9).
11. Four iron nails (Pl. IV, nos. 1-3, 8).
12. Part of bronze handle perforated at end and engraved with vertical lines (Pl. IV, no. 13).
13. Bronze bracelet originally worn with a metal chain. The ornamentation was divided into five panels, alternatively plain and serrated along the edges (Pl. IV, no. 19). (Cf. J. Bushe-Fox, *First Report on the Roman Excavations at Richborough* (1927), pl. XIV, no. 20.)
14. Fragment of bronze ring decorated with raised dots.
15. End of bone needle or spindle (Pl. IV, no. 23).
16. Fragment of bone comb.

<sup>1</sup> H. E. Smith, *Reliquiae Isurianae* (1852), pl. VI.

D. *Pit 5*

17. Fragment of double-edged bone comb (Pl. IV, no. 20). Combs of similar type found at Bartlow and Great Chesterford are in the Braybrooke Collection, Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

18. Part of bracelet of twisted bronze wire (Pl. IV, no. 18). (Cf. R. E. M. and T. V. Wheeler, *Report on the Excavations at Lydney* (1932), fig. 17N.)

19. Part of bronze bracelet decorated with vertical lines and dots (Pl. IV, no. 14).

20. Bronze strap end.

21. Bone pins (Pl. IV, nos. 21, 22).

E. *Remainder of the site*

22. From pit between Manhole site and Pit 5. Bronze pin,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  in. long (Pl. IV, no. 15). Spherical head and engraved spiral round neck. (Cf. examples from Great Chesterford and Bartlow, Braybrooke Collection, Cambridge University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.)

23. From pit in Humphreys Road. Bronze stud, possibly fitting from box (Pl. IV, no. 16). Ornamented with concentric circles.

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## APPENDIX III

## THE POTTERY

*General notes*

In the absence of dated inscriptions, which are all too rare, the Romano-British archaeologist has to rely largely on pottery evidence for dating deposits and structures. Broadly speaking, there are three main headings under which the pottery from a site may have to be considered. First, there are imported wares such as Gaulish Samian, *amphorae* and some *mortaria*; these are of great importance, but they only help on sites occupied in the first and second centuries. Secondly, there are wares of British origin of non-local distribution. Pottery of this class becomes especially important from the second century on, and as examples we may quote the wide distribution of the products of the Nene valley and New Forest potteries, and also of many of the Midland *mortarium* factories. Thirdly, we have wares of purely local origin and distribution.

At Arbury Road the pottery falls mainly into the third category, that is, we are concerned largely with wares made in the vicinity of Cambridge. The importance of the site is enhanced by the fact that it is possible to publish groups of pottery, some of considerable size, from a series of pits. As Dr Frend has stated above (p. 20), there is good reason to suppose that many of these pits were intended for storage of grain. Now it is a commonplace that such pits had comparatively short useful existences before becoming mildewed. When this happened the pits would have to be abandoned and filled in, and inevitably, if they were near dwelling sites, household rubbish would be included in the filling. The pottery from any given pit, then, might be expected to be of roughly the same date. It will represent, in the main, the recent domestic breakages. These assumptions are fundamental to the study of the Arbury Road material and they are, indeed, confirmed by what was found in practice. From time to time the general rule was broken and a sherd of Samian ware was found in a pit which otherwise contained only late Castor types belonging to the fourth century. But exceptions of this sort were rare and easily spotted.

Dating evidence for the local Cambridge wares has in the past been almost entirely lacking. The Arbury Road groups do help to remedy the defect, but it must be emphasized that this is

only a first step. In view of the need to know much more about the local wares, it has been deemed advisable to publish the new evidence in some detail. Particular attention has been paid to description of fabrics and types of decoration, for it is becoming increasingly clear that comparisons of locally made wares must rest on these as well as on shapes. So many types of vessel had a very long life within the Roman period that reliance on shape alone can be entirely misleading.

Of the local kilns little is known as yet. Three sites have produced kilns or wasters: Horningsea, the 'War Ditches' at Cherryhinton, and an unlocated site in Jesus Lane. The War Ditches kiln probably belongs to the late first century and its products have not been found at Arbury Road. The other kilns, more particularly Horningsea, both seem to be represented. It is clear that many other kilns remain to be found near Cambridge, and Arbury Road itself may yet produce some.

Finally, in this brief introduction a few remarks must be made on the general affinities of the Cambridge pottery. It is clear that in the second century Arbury Road, and presumably Cambridge, were in the same 'ceramic province' as much of Norfolk. The wares are based largely on Iron Age prototypes of the Aylesford-Swarling culture or on more native vessels, as at Runcton Holme. As Professors Donald Atkinson and C. F. C. Hawkes<sup>1</sup> have shown there were very conservative tendencies.

In the late third and fourth centuries local wares were still being produced, but there is a marked increase in outside influences, due chiefly to the popularity of colour-coated wares of Castor type, which were made at other centres as well as the Nene valley. There is another class of ware, that of calcite-gritted jars and bowls, which also achieved wide distribution in southern Britain and reached Arbury Road in considerable numbers. We may, then, clearly see a change in character in the pottery from something intensely local in the second century to something almost cosmopolitan in the fourth century.

[The arrangement of the pottery and the terms used are based largely on the methods advocated by Mr J. P. Gillam in his reports on the pottery from Great Casterton and from Corbridge.<sup>2</sup>]

### Pit 1

1. Medium-mouthed jar in black, calcite-gritted fabric with orange-brown surface. The exterior is decorated with horizontal rilling. The pit also contained a slightly larger jar of the same type, as well as two generally similar vessels in non-calcitic, self-coloured brown and grey fabrics without rilling (all 7 in. in diameter).

Rilled calcite-gritted jars of this type were in widespread use in southern Britain in the mid and late fourth century. Parallels may be quoted, for instance, from Great Casterton<sup>3</sup> (after A.D. 375), the Park Street villa<sup>4</sup> (first half or mid fourth century), the Whittington Court villa in Gloucestershire<sup>5</sup> and Lullingstone in Kent.<sup>6</sup>

2. Medium-mouthed jar with high neck in grey, sandy fabric bearing traces of a light grey wash on the outside.

Derived ultimately from a Belgic prototype, this form lasted all through the Roman period. The typological range may be illustrated by examples from Swarling<sup>7</sup> (pre-Roman), Colchester<sup>8</sup> (Claudian), Richborough<sup>9</sup> (first century?), Verulamium<sup>10</sup> (Antonine), and the kilns at Dorchester

<sup>1</sup> *J. Roman Stud.* vol. XXII and *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* vol. VII, respectively.

<sup>2</sup> See Corder, *The Romano-British Town and Villa at Great Casterton*, pp. 24ff.

<sup>3</sup> Corder, *op. cit.* fig. 8, 17-20.

<sup>4</sup> *Arch. J.* vol. CII, fig. 19, 31.

<sup>5</sup> *Trans. Bristol and Glouc. Arch. Soc.* vol. LXX, fig. 4, 4 and 6.

<sup>6</sup> *Arch. Cantiana*, vol. LXV, pp. 60, 93.

<sup>7</sup> Bushe-Fox, *Excavation of the Late-Celtic Urnfield at Swarling*, pl. IX, 22.

<sup>8</sup> Hawkes and Hull, *Camulodunum*, type 220A.

<sup>9</sup> Bushe-Fox, *Richborough II*, pl. XXX, 144.

<sup>10</sup> Wheeler, *Verulamium*, fig. 28, 19.

and Cowley<sup>1</sup> (fourth century). These examples will suffice to show that no strict dating evidence may be adduced from the presence or absence of cordons, or constrictions below the shoulder. Precise dating of a vessel of this class must, then, depend on comparison of form and fabric with local vessels dated by their associations, whether in kiln-groups or in occupation deposits.

The nearest local parallel in form and fabric for this particular vessel is a jar from the Jesus Lane kilns, which were active in the late third or early fourth century.

3. Flanged bowl in heavily calcitic red-brown fabric with grey-brown core (diameter 13 in. over flange).

Parallels may again be quoted from Great Casterton,<sup>2</sup> Park Street<sup>3</sup> (both late fourth-century) and Whittington.<sup>4</sup>

4. Straight-sided bowl in red-brown fabric with thick black core, heavily calcite-gritted.

This type should clearly be placed in the same general category as nos. 1 and 3, though it is uncommon and no precise parallel has been found.

5. Bowl in hard, light grey fabric. The inside and outside are both lightly burnished; the latter also has three narrow bands of heavy burnishing.

This form, which is a direct descendant of the second-century 'pie-dish', was in popular use in the early fourth century and probably later, though it is not represented in the Great Casterton destruction deposit.

Though there is a general similarity with some of the wares of the East Yorkshire potteries, nearer parallels are forthcoming from Leicester<sup>5</sup> and Park Street<sup>6</sup> (first half of fourth century).

#### *General remarks*

In view of the dated parallels there is no doubt that this group from Pit 1 is of fourth-century date. Closer dating is not easy, but tentatively the period A.D. 330-70 may be suggested.

It is often held that the fourth century was a time of localized manufacture and distribution of pottery, and to some extent this is true. But the wide distribution of colour-coated wares of Castor type, of New Forest products, and of the calcite-gritted wares exemplified by nos. 1, 3 and 4, does suggest that this tendency has been slightly over-emphasized as far as south Britain is concerned.

#### *Pit 3*

6. Narrow-mouthed jar in light grey fabric with dark grey core and slightly burnished, dark grey surface. The fabric, which contains a little calcite grit and a few flint particles, is slightly micaceous. One other example of the narrow-mouthed jar in the same fabric had a rim closer to that of no. 8 (diameter 5½ in.).

The type is of Belgic ancestry and was popular throughout the Roman period. In general, later examples are less elaborate than those of the first and second centuries; cf. nos. 17, 36 and 70.

An unusual feature of this piece is the stepped rim, though a piece from Runcton Holme<sup>7</sup> has similarities in this respect. The kilns at Caistor-by-Norwich,<sup>8</sup> and apparently those at Horningsea,<sup>9</sup> produced this type of vessel.

7. Large medium-mouthed jar in grey, micaceous fabric with brown core. Slightly calcitic. Below the cordon marking the neck the shoulder is decorated with inclined lines produced by combing (diameter 14 in.). Two other examples from this pit.

This is probably a product of the Horningsea kilns.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Harden, *Oxoniensia*, vol. 1, fig. 15, 30; fig. 19, 1, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Op. cit. fig. 9, 32.

<sup>4</sup> Op. cit. fig. 4, 2 and 3.

<sup>6</sup> Op. cit. fig. 18, 8.

<sup>8</sup> *J. Roman Stud.* vol. XXII, type K.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* fig. 51, 2, and examples from Horningsea in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

<sup>3</sup> Op. cit. fig. 20, 6.

<sup>5</sup> Kenyon, *Jewry Wall Report*, fig. 19, 24.

<sup>7</sup> *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* vol. VII (1933), fig. 45.

<sup>9</sup> *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XVII, fig. 49.

8. Medium-mouthed jar in light grey micaceous fabric with rough black surface. The shoulder has a broad cordon defined by grooves.

Eight other vessels of this general type occurred in the pit, though only one other had a shoulder cordon. Fabrics were red-brown with thick grey core or grey throughout; rim diameters varied from 7 to 9 in.

These vessels were probably made at a local kiln. An ancestral type was made at Caistor-by-Norwich,<sup>1</sup> and a closer parallel has been found at Runcton Holme.<sup>2</sup>

9. Medium-mouthed jar with high neck, in grey-brown fabric with unburnished black surface.

This vessel is in the same line of descent as no. 2. Caistor kilns type E and Verulamium Pit 6, type 8,<sup>3</sup> are slightly earlier examples of the type. This jar represents a line of development parallel to the Verulamium type and shows that these vessels did not necessarily become 'taller in proportion to girth' as Dr Corder suggests in his paper.

10. Small jar or cooking pot in dark grey micaceous fabric with light grey core and sandy surface texture.

Though almost certainly a local product, the nearest parallel seems to be from Caistor-by-Norwich.<sup>4</sup>

11. (a) Castor beaker in white pipe-clay fabric with tan colour-coat. Decorated with barbotine scrolls. There were also fragments of another similar Castor beaker.

(b) Fragment of a similar vessel in light grey fabric with a light brown colour-coat. Decorated with raised 'shell' pattern.

The introduction of colour-coated vessels of Castor type is now generally placed *c.* A.D. 170-80.<sup>5</sup> These pieces all belong to the early phase of the industry.

12. Mortarium in white pipe-clay fabric with sandy pinkish buff surface. The grit is sparse and shows a tendency to fall out; such as remains is red-brown haematite.

This sort of mortar is characteristic of the Antonine period. Parallels are noted from Mumrills,<sup>6</sup> Leicester<sup>7</sup> (to A.D. 180) and Caistor.<sup>8</sup>

13. Reeded-rim carinated bowl in dirty pipe-clay fabric. The reeding shows traces of a light brown slip.

In the military areas of Roman Britain this form is characteristic of the late first and early second centuries. As is now well known, the type was still being made in south-east Britain in the Antonine period. Examples from Verulamium<sup>9</sup> (*c.* A.D. 160-90), Verulamium Pit 6<sup>10</sup> (*c.* A.D. 120-60), and the Lockleys villa<sup>11</sup> (after A.D. 150) prove the point. The type was also manufactured in the Caistor kilns.<sup>12</sup>

14 (a) Straight-sided bowl with chamfered base in light grey fabric with rough black surface.

(b) and (c) Rims of similar bowls to illustrate variants. 14(b) is in the same fabric as 14(a). 14(c) is in a brown fabric with grey core and has a grey, sandy surface which retains traces of a silver-coloured slip (rim diameters 10 in. and 9 in.). One other example.

No. 14(a) is not far removed in form from the usual 'porridge-bowl' of the military zone. Closer parallels for 14(b) and (c) are to be found at Needham<sup>13</sup> where they were made. The exaggerated rim of 14(c) may be noted from Leicester<sup>14</sup> and Verulamium<sup>15</sup> (*c.* A.D. 160-90).

<sup>1</sup> *J. Roman Stud.* vol. XXII, type G6.

<sup>2</sup> Corder, *Antiq. J.* vol. XXI, p. 285.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. Kenyon, *op. cit.*, p. 120 and fig. 32, 22.

<sup>4</sup> Kenyon, *op. cit.* fig. 46, 2.

<sup>5</sup> Wheeler, *op. cit.* fig. 28, 20.

<sup>6</sup> *Antiq. J.* vol. XVIII, fig. 13, 11.

<sup>7</sup> *Norfolk Arch.* vol. XXVIII (1945), no. 13 and fig. 9, 122.

<sup>8</sup> Kenyon, *op. cit.* fig. 19.

<sup>9</sup> *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* vol. VII, fig. 45.

<sup>10</sup> *Norfolk Arch.* vol. XXVI, type S30.

<sup>11</sup> *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.* vol. LXIII, fig. 91, 5.

<sup>12</sup> *Norfolk Arch.* vol. XXVI, type R20.

<sup>13</sup> *Antiq. J.* vol. XXI, p. 275, fig. 2.

<sup>14</sup> *J. Roman Stud.* vol. XXII, type V, 2-5.

<sup>15</sup> Wheeler, *op. cit.* fig. 27, 6.

15. Straight-sided dish with chamfer and raised base, in grey fabric with light grey core. Highly micaceous clay was used. One other example (diameter 7 in.).

The form is reminiscent of the Gallo-Belgic platters which were so popular in the first century and which were imitated at the War Ditches kiln. No close parallels have been noted from East Anglian sites, but the form is a simple one likely to occur anywhere.

16. Lid in tan fabric with thick grey core, sandy texture. One other example almost identical.

#### *General remarks*

Altogether about fifty vessels were represented in this pit, some only by body fragments. Noteworthy amongst the latter were fragments of two flagons, a class of ware that is curiously uncommon at Arbury Road.

The external dating evidence afforded by the Castor ware and the mortarium is supplemented by the presence of Samian sherds of late Antonine date (forms 33 and 31 were both represented). It thus seems quite certain that a late second-century date must be assigned to the group, c. A.D. 170-200 may be suggested. Interesting corroboration of this dating is given by a pit-group from the Perse School fields,<sup>1</sup> where many of the same forms occur, once more in association with barbotine colour-coated ware of early Castor type.

#### *Pit 4*

17. Narrow-mouthed jar in red-brown fabric with grey core. Surface burnished. There are two cordons at the base of the neck, the lower decorated with incised vertical lines.

Three more in the same fabric (diameter  $3\frac{1}{2}$ -5 in.).

See notes on no. 6.

18. Narrow-mouthed carinated jar in greyish buff ware with thick light grey core. The surface is burnished and varies from dark grey to black. Two other examples in similar fabric had grooves above the carination.

The form is based on metal prototypes and goes back to pre-Roman times. As is the case with many native types, it appears to survive longer in East Anglia than elsewhere. Close parallels have been found at the Caistor kilns,<sup>2</sup> at Needham<sup>3</sup> and at Runcton Holme.<sup>4</sup>

19 (a) and (b). Medium-mouthed carinated jars in light grey fabric with rough sandy surfaces. Six examples in the pit, two in black, gritty ware.

Compare Caistor kiln type F 3 (loc. cit.) and Needham, nos. 41, 42 (loc. cit.).

20. Medium-mouthed jars with high necks and cordons.

(a) Dark grey fabric, burnished surface, rudimentary lattice on cordon.

(b) Light grey fabric, unburnished (diameter  $6\frac{1}{2}$  in.).

(c) Black, gritty fabric, diagonal lines on cordon (diameter  $6\frac{1}{4}$  in.).

Seven other examples, one buff fabric, four in grey fabrics with black, burnished surfaces, and two in grey-brown fabrics with purplish brown burnished surfaces.

Again, this seems to be a survival well into the Roman period of a type that largely disappeared in other areas. Verulamium<sup>5</sup> has a somewhat degenerate variety of the type, but for closer parallels one must turn once more to the Caistor kilns type G (loc. cit.), to Needham (loc. cit.), no. 39 and to Runcton Holme.<sup>6</sup>

21. Large medium-mouthed jar in grey-brown fabric with rough black surface. Three cordons on the shoulder, the middle one with stabbed decoration.

No parallel has been found for this most interesting vessel, though we may note the use of stabbed decoration at the Caistor kilns type K 4 (loc. cit.).

<sup>1</sup> Unpublished; pottery at the school.

<sup>3</sup> *Norfolk Arch.* vol. xxviii (1945), no. 28.

<sup>5</sup> Wheeler, op. cit. fig. 35, 66 (A.D. 110-40).

<sup>2</sup> *J. Roman Stud.* vol. xxii, type T 5.

<sup>4</sup> *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* vol. vii (1933), no. 18.

<sup>6</sup> *Proc. Prehist. Soc.* vol. vii (1933), figs. 19, 20.

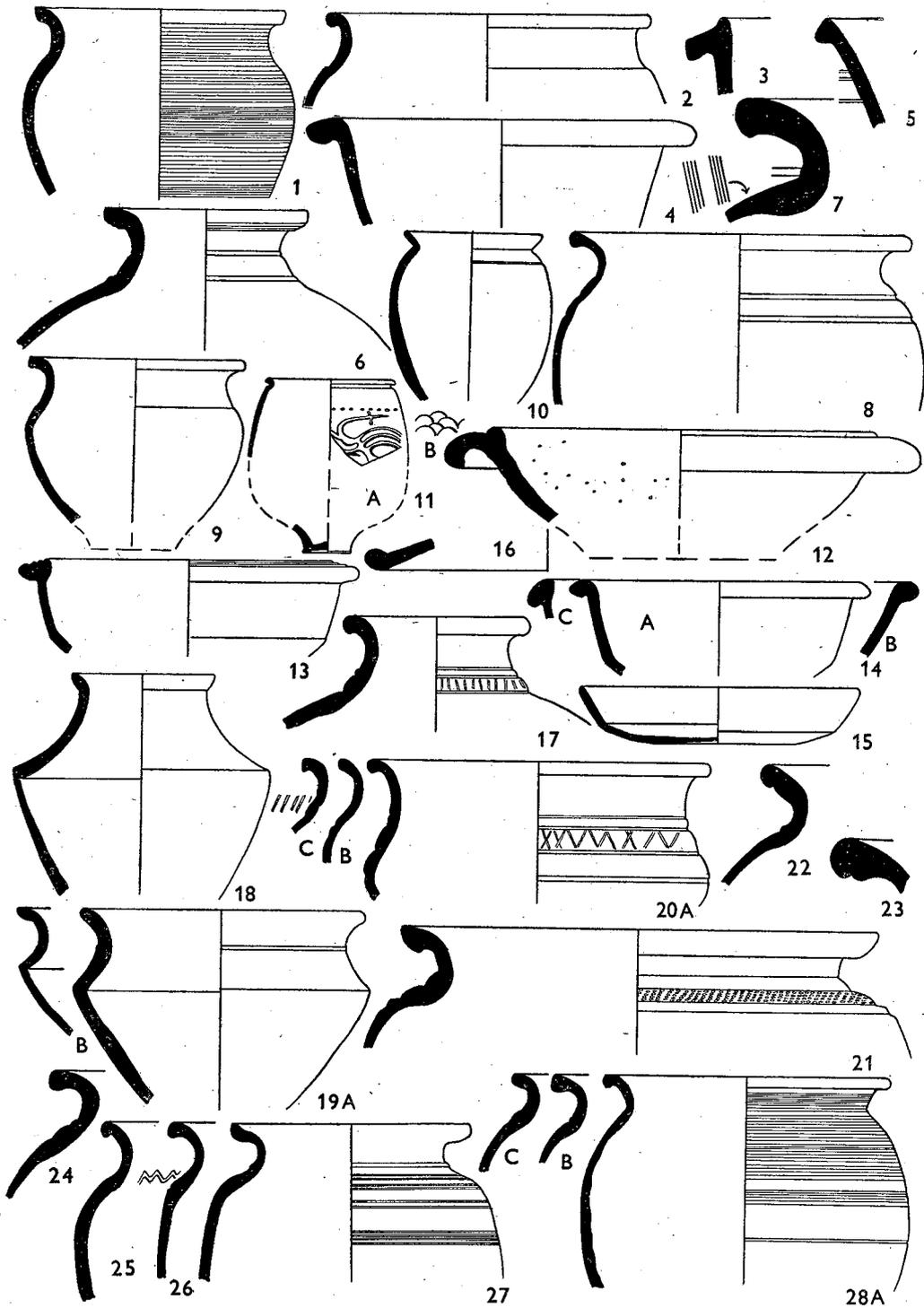


Fig. 5. Pottery from Arbury Road, one-quarter natural size.

22-27. Medium or large store-jars. A representative selection is given of the sixteen or more in the pit. Some, e.g. no. 24, can be paralleled from Needham, but most are unrecorded varieties.

22. Brick-red fabric with rough buff surface (diameter 11 in.).

23. Red-brown fabric with thick grey core (diameter 14 in.). Burnished on top of rim; the rim form is close to the Horningsea jars.<sup>1</sup>

24. Grey, sandy fabric with thick dark brown core. Outside burnished (diameter 10 in.).

25. Brick-red fabric with buff, sandy surface (diameter 8 in.).

26. Grey fabric with thin red-brown core. Lightly burnished all over, with incised wavy line on the shoulder (diameter 8¼ in.).

27. Red-brown fabric with rough black surface.

28. The pit also contained seven jars, of roughly the same type and size as nos. 25-27, with bands of horizontal rilling on the outside. In six cases the fabric was grey with a distinctive green tint at the surface, the remaining vessel (28*a*) was grey with a red-brown core and black surface. The typical rim form was that of 28(*b*).

These rilled jars must be distinguished from the rilled calcite-gritted wares such as no. 1 which belong to the fourth century. It is probable that these vessels were made at Horningsea where similar sherds have been found.<sup>2</sup>

29. Small medium-mouthed jar in light grey fabric with purple-grey burnished surface bearing faint lattice decoration.

The small jars of East Anglia seem, unlike those of the military zone in the second century, never to have become uniform in type. We may suspect that this is a local variety though the closest parallels in form come from Caistor.<sup>3</sup> It will be noted that lattice decoration is uncommon on the Arbury Road pottery, another fact which emphasizes its connexions with Norfolk rather than the Midlands.

30. Jar in light grey, micaceous fabric with dark grey surface. 'Double' rim and ledge for lid-seating.

This may possibly be a Horningsea product, but it should be remembered that the Verulamium Pit 6 kiln produced similar jars (type 8) which sometimes had the 'double' or grooved rim,<sup>4</sup> though these are in a totally different fabric.

31. Large bag-shaped(?) vessel in light grey fabric with rough grey surface. The complete form cannot be restored as no parallels are known for this peculiar piece, but the shape is suggestive of the rough-cast Castor bag-shaped beaker, though, of course, there is a considerable difference in size.

32-33. *Dishes.*

32(*a*). Purplish grey fabric with orange-brown core. Roughly scored vertical facets on the wall.

(*b*) and (*c*). Black, gritty fabric with purplish grey burnished surface (diameters 6½ and 7 in.). Another example as (*b*).

(*d*) Similar fabric with black burnished surface. Very friable.

The typical Midland and northern 'pie-dish' is almost unknown in East Anglia (but see no. 33), and in its place we find dishes in other fabrics which exhibit many local varieties. Nos. 32(*a*)-(*d*) have some features in common with other East Anglian variants,<sup>5</sup> though no doubt made locally. Nos. 14(*a*)-(*c*) above are nearer in form to the more typical Midland product.

<sup>1</sup> E.g. *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. xvii, fig. 53, bottom right-hand corner, which is in a red fabric.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* figs. 46, 48 and pottery in the Museum. The reconstruction in fig. 46 is unsound.

<sup>3</sup> *Norfolk Arch.* vol. xxvi, S30, 34, 38, etc.

<sup>4</sup> *Antiq. J.* vol. xxi, p. 285.

<sup>5</sup> Cf., for instance, *Norfolk Arch.* vol. xxvi, types V2-V6; *J. Roman Stud.* vol. xxii, Caistor kiln types M1-2; *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.* vol. xxvi (1952), fig. 12, 5*c* (West Stow kilns), and pottery from a kiln at Rickenhall (Suffolk) recently discovered and in Ipswich Museum.

33. Brown fabric with purple-grey core, light grey inside, purplish grey outside with burnishing and lattice decoration.

In both form and decoration this vessel approaches the dishes of the Midlands and the military zone but the fabric is a local one.

34. Jar base in dark grey fabric with light grey surface having traces of dark grey horizontal bands.

The bases of the large- and medium-sized jars were all plain and square cut. This piece, with its well-formed footstand, is another indication of the conservative tendency of the area, for in the north this type of footstand went out of use before A.D. 130.

35. Lid in black gritty fabric with burnished surface. Two other examples.

#### *General remarks*

Pit 4 contained fragments of over sixty vessels, all of local manufacture. In the absence of imported wares, dating of the group is difficult, but tentatively something like A.D. 130-60 may be suggested. The numerous parallels from the Caistor kilns (mostly dated there A.D. 110-40) might allow us to suggest a slightly earlier date, but it is well to remember that the Arbury Road site has not yet produced a single fragment of pottery, imported or otherwise, which is *necessarily* earlier than about A.D. 130. For the present, however, it is best not to bother unduly about the precise date of the group. We must await the discovery of exact parallels in dated, stratified deposits. The value of the group at the moment lies in the fact that it *is* a group, i.e. we may say with confidence that the various forms were in use in the Cambridge area at roughly the same period.

The presence of wares made at the Horningsea kilns is of considerable interest and, together with the evidence of other deposits in which Horningsea products are included (e.g. Pit 3, no. 7; Pit 6, no. 53; Manhole 1, no. 60), it suggests that these kilns were active in the mid and late second century and, perhaps, in the early third century too. Many body fragments of large jars with combed decoration were also found, and these, too, probably came from Horningsea.

#### *Pit 5*

36. Narrow-mouthed jar in buff fabric with grey-brown fabric and black wash on inside of rim. This illustrates the continued use of the form in the fourth century (see notes on no. 6).

37. Large medium-mouthed jar in light grey fabric with black surface. The exterior is lightly burnished and decorated on the shoulder with slashed diagonal lines.

38. Medium-mouthed jar in orange-red fabric with highly burnished surface. Two other examples in similar fabric (diameters 7 and 8½ in.). See notes on no. 2. The form was popular in this fabric in the fourth century.<sup>1</sup>

39. Medium-mouthed jar in grey calcite-gritted fabric with brown surface (diameter 7 in.). This form was common in the late fourth century at Great Casterton.<sup>2</sup>

40. Jar in light grey fabric with a thick black bituminous wash applied.

41. Jar in grey fabric with a black surface wash.

42. Jar in grey fabric with rough surface. Two similar examples.

43. Mortarium in white pipe-clay fabric. Traces of purplish brown paint on the flange. Grit dark red or brown (ironstone?).

This is a typical late third- or fourth-century vessel.<sup>3</sup>

44. Flanged bowl in brown fabric with much calcite grit (diameter 9 in.). Three similar bowls, nearer to no. 54, q.v.

<sup>1</sup> E.g. at the Park Street villa; *Arch. J.* vol. CII, fig. 19, 35.

<sup>2</sup> Corder, *op. cit.* fig. 8, 19.

<sup>3</sup> Wroxeter type 174 (Bushe-Fox, *First Wroxeter Report*), *Arch.* vol. LXXXIV, p. 258, 28, from the Verulamium Theatre filling, is very similar and of mid or late fourth-century date.

45. Flanged bowl in white pipe-clay fabric with blue-grey colour-coat. Four other examples. This is the angular variety of the form which is typical of Castor. All the stratified examples recorded seem to belong to the second half of the fourth century. It was, for instance, the most typical vessel in the Casterton destruction deposit (after A.D. 375).<sup>1</sup>

46. Roll-rim bowl in orange-brown fabric with grey core. The surfaces are left rough, except for burnished bands on the exterior and a scroll on the interior wall.

The form was popular in the fourth century (cf. nos. 63, 97) but the interior scroll is unusual in this area, being reminiscent of the east Yorkshire kilns. None the less, the piece is most probably a local product.

47. Flanged bowl, imitating Samian form 38, in orange-brown fabric with red colour-coat. Such imitations were very popular in the fourth century in both red-coated wares and in 'Castor' fabrics. The red-coated ones were made in the New Forest kilns, but there may well have been nearer centres of manufacture which could have produced both this and a similar vessel from the Verulamium theatre filling.<sup>2</sup>

48. Flanged dish in white pipe-clay fabric with blue colour-coat. The relationship to no. 45 is clear, but this dish is much less common.

49. Dish, imitating Samian form 31, in orange fabric with a polished red colour-coat. The fabric is very similar to no. 47 and once again a parallel is forthcoming from the Verulamium area.<sup>3</sup>

50. Dish with bead-lip in grey fabric with a black burnished surface wash (diameter 8 in.). The form was evidently a popular one in this area in the fourth century (cf. nos. 84 and 92).

51. Mortarium base (from a vessel imitating a Samian form?) in orange-brown fabric with red-brown surface. Abundant grit, brown and white (quartz).

52. Large pedestal base in orange-brown fabric with burnished surface. This, and parts of two similar bases in colour-coated fabric, serve to remind us that not all pedestal bases are Iron Age or of first-century date.

#### *General remarks*

This group from Pit 5 undoubtedly belongs to the fourth century, as the non-local types prove. And the fact that the colour-coated flanged bowl (no. 45) was the commonest type does point to a date late in the fourth century for the filling of this pit.

#### *Pit 6*

53. Medium-mouthed jar in hard grey fabric with dark brown core. The surfaces are black and the exterior is highly burnished. A similar jar from Park Street occurred in a group dated to the first half of the fourth century.<sup>4</sup>

54. Flanged bowl in light grey fabric with dark grey core.

Very hard ware, highly burnished. These bowls first appear in Level IX at Leicester<sup>5</sup> (c. A.D. 300) and are characteristic of the earlier fourth-century deposits at Park Street,<sup>6</sup> but they were undoubtedly common throughout the century.

#### *General remarks*

These pieces have been thought worthy of publication because Pit 6 also contained a fairly fresh coin of Crispus dated A.D. 326. They will have been thrown away c. A.D. 330-50.

<sup>1</sup> Cf. Corder, *op. cit.* fig. 9, 36 and also *Arch. J.* vol. CII, fig. 20, nos. 2-3 from Park Street.

<sup>2</sup> *Arch.* vol. LXXXIV, p. 257, 18.

<sup>3</sup> Park Street, *Arch. J.* vol. CII, fig. 21, 10 (in the same fabric).

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* fig. 19, 36.

<sup>5</sup> Kenyon, *op. cit.* p. 84, no. 28.

<sup>6</sup> *Op. cit.* fig. 18, 12 and 16.

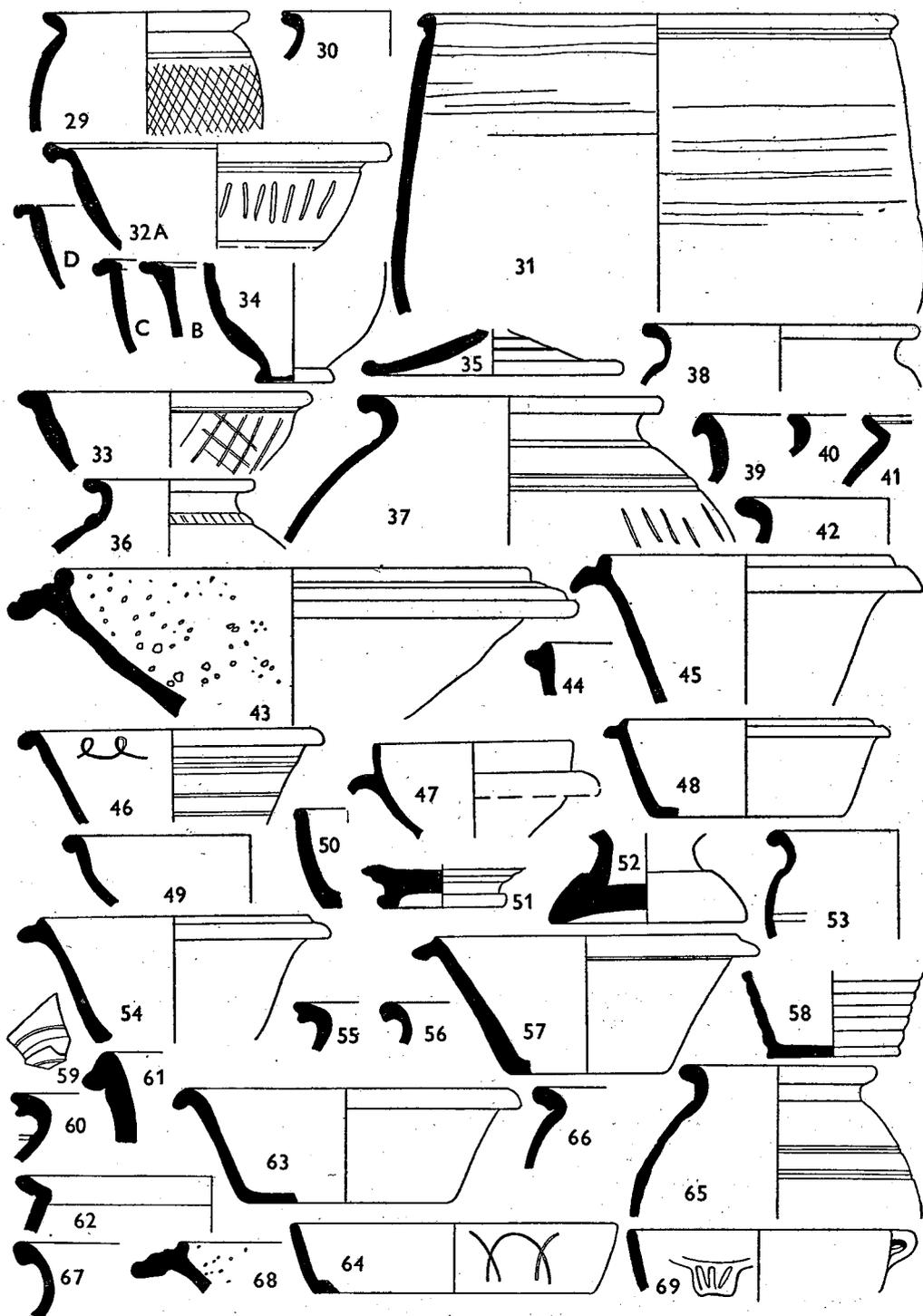


Fig. 6. Pottery from Arbury Road, one-quarter natural size.

*Pit 7*

55. 'Double'-rim jar in red-brown sandy fabric with cream slip (diameter 7 in.); cf. nos. 30, 60. This may well be a Horningsea product and, if so, we once more see a suggestion that the kilns there were at work in the late second century, for Pit 7 contained some late Antonine Samian (form 38) and early Castor beaker fragments.

*Pit 8*

56. Medium-mouthed jar in black calcite-gritted fabric (diameter 6 in.). Paralleled at Park Street,<sup>1</sup> Verulamium, etc., in the mid or late fourth century.

57. Flanged bowl in black gritty fabric with black, burnished surface. See no. 54 above for general remarks on the type.

58. Base of jar with corrugated wall, in orange-red fabric with burnished surface. This is almost certainly part of a barrel-shaped vessel of a type noted previously in the Verulamium area.<sup>2</sup>

*Manhole Site, Level 1*

59. Beaker in white pipe-clay fabric with blue colour-coat and barbotine scrolls. This is an early Castor product (cf. no. 11) of late second or early third-century date.

60. 'Double'-rim jar in grey sandy fabric. Both shape and fabric agree with Horningsea wares.<sup>3</sup> See also nos. 30, 55.

61. Large medium-mouthed jar in tan fabric with a thick grey core and cream surface wash (diameter 12 in.).

62. Jar in grey, sandy fabric with burnished surface. No parallels noted.

63. Roll-rim dish in buff-brown fabric with grey core. The surface has a black, burnished wash.

In form this is akin to fourth-century bowls, but the fabric is more like that of the northern 'pie-dishes' of the Severan period. Such a roll-rim would not be impossible at that date.

64. Straight-sided dish in grey fabric with brown core. Surface black and unburnished except for intersecting arches. A common type lasting throughout the third century and into the fourth, the fabric of this vessel, as no. 63, is akin to Midland and northern types. Severan parallels can be quoted from a Lincoln kiln.<sup>4</sup>

*General remarks*

The Castor beaker fragment suggests a late second- or early third-century date for the group, and this is compatible with the rest of the material.

*Manhole Site, Level 2*

65. Narrow-mouthed jar in yellowish buff fabric with orange core. Chocolate colour-coat.

This type is not found in the Castor range at Leicester and no parallels have been noted. But the fabric is not an early Castor one.

66. Medium-mouthed jar in light grey sandy fabric with traces of purple-brown external paint or wash (diameter 7 in.).

<sup>1</sup> Op. cit. fig. 20, 8.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *Arch. J.* vol. LXXXVIII, p. 285, no. 4963, from the Baldock cemetery and *Arch.* vol. LXXXIV, p. 256, from the Verulamium Theatre filling.

<sup>3</sup> *Proc. C.A.S.* vol. XVII, p. 61, fig. 51, 6.

<sup>4</sup> Corder, *Romano-British Kiln on the Lincoln Racecourse*, fig. 3, 1 etc.

67. Medium-mouthed jar in black calcite-gritted fabric with patchy orange and brown surface (diameter  $7\frac{1}{2}$  in.).

68. Mortarium in pinkish buff fabric with brown wash or paint (diameter 13 in.).

69. Straight-sided dish with one or more lug-handles. Fabric hard, light grey with burnished exterior.

The presence of a lug-handle or handles on a dish of this kind is an unusual feature but a closely similar vessel has been found at Godmanchester.<sup>1</sup>

#### *General remarks*

This group is undoubtedly later than that from Manhole 1 and earlier than that from Manhole 3, but it is not easy to decide whether it belongs to the late third century or to the early fourth century or to both. Though the mortarium is suggestive of the former,<sup>2</sup> the calcite-gritted jar would best fit the fourth century, and this is not impossible, for we are not dealing with a pit whose filling occurred at one specific time.

#### *Manhole Site, Level 3*

70. Narrow-mouthed jar in red-brown fabric with grey wash on outer surface and on inside of neck. Cf. no. 36 and contrast the more elaborate second-century jars nos. 6 and 17.

71. Narrow-mouthed jar in grey fabric with black, lightly burnished surface.

72. Medium-mouthed jar in light grey fabric with a little calcite grit. Surface rough. No parallels noted.

73. Medium-mouthed jar in grey fabric with thick orange-brown core. Outer surface burnished.

74. Medium-mouthed jar in orange-brown fabric with red burnished surface.

75. Small medium-mouthed jar in white pipe-clay fabric with light brown colour-coat. This is a Castor ware version of a type usually found in orange-red wares in the fourth century (cf. no. 89).

76. Heavy jar rim in orange-brown sandy fabric with thick grey core. The lower part of the rim is decorated with a zone of thumb imprints. Decoration of this type is not uncommon on large vessels in the late third and fourth centuries, they were made at Swanpool for instance,<sup>3</sup> and have also been found in the destruction deposit at Great Casterton.<sup>4</sup>

77. Heavy bowl in coarse grey ware. A wavy line is burnished on the inside and thin horizontal bands on the outside. For similar decoration see no. 46.

78. Carinated bowl in orange-brown fabric with grey-brown core. Traces of cream slip and red paint on surface. At first sight this vessel seems completely out of context in a fourth-century deposit, but in fact this is not so. The kilns at Sandford produced almost identical pieces in the fourth century, though in a different fabric.<sup>5</sup>

79. Straight-sided bowl in orange-red fabric with red colour-coat. This is allied to the New Forest products of the fourth century,<sup>6</sup> but similar wares were also made in the Oxford area.<sup>7</sup>

80 and 81. Flanged bowls in white pipe-clay with patchy light and dark brown colour-coats. See no. 45 for remarks. Several other examples from the layer.

82. Flanged bowl in hard grey ware with lightly burnished surface. See nos. 54, 57, etc.

<sup>1</sup> *Trans. Cambs and Hunts A.S.* vol. v, pt. vii, pl. 4, 30.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *Cumb. and West.* vol. xxxviii, p. 221, 10 (Bewcastle, A.D. 200-97).

<sup>3</sup> Webster, *Antiq. J.* vol. xxvii, p. 64, C41. <sup>4</sup> Corder, *op. cit.* fig. 8, 9.

<sup>5</sup> E.g. *Arch.* vol. lxxii, p. 235, 25.

<sup>6</sup> Cf. Sumner, *Pottery Made at Ashley Rails*, pl. IV, 1, etc.

<sup>7</sup> Harden, *Oxoniensia*, vol. 1, fig. 15, 19-21.

83. Dish (imitating Samian form 36?) in white pipe-clay fabric with orange-brown painted bands. Paint or slip was used at many kilns in the late third and fourth centuries to decorate pottery,<sup>1</sup> while dishes reminiscent of Samian 36 were also common in many fabrics. No exact parallel has been noted, however, for this piece.

84. Dish with bead-lip in light grey fabric with a black, burnished surface wash (diameter 8 in.). See no. 50.

85 and 86. Castor box and box-lid respectively. Brown colour-coats. These vessels were probably introduced in the third century and were popular right to the end of the fourth century. Late examples tend to be thick and ill-made, and to have feeble rouletting, as here.

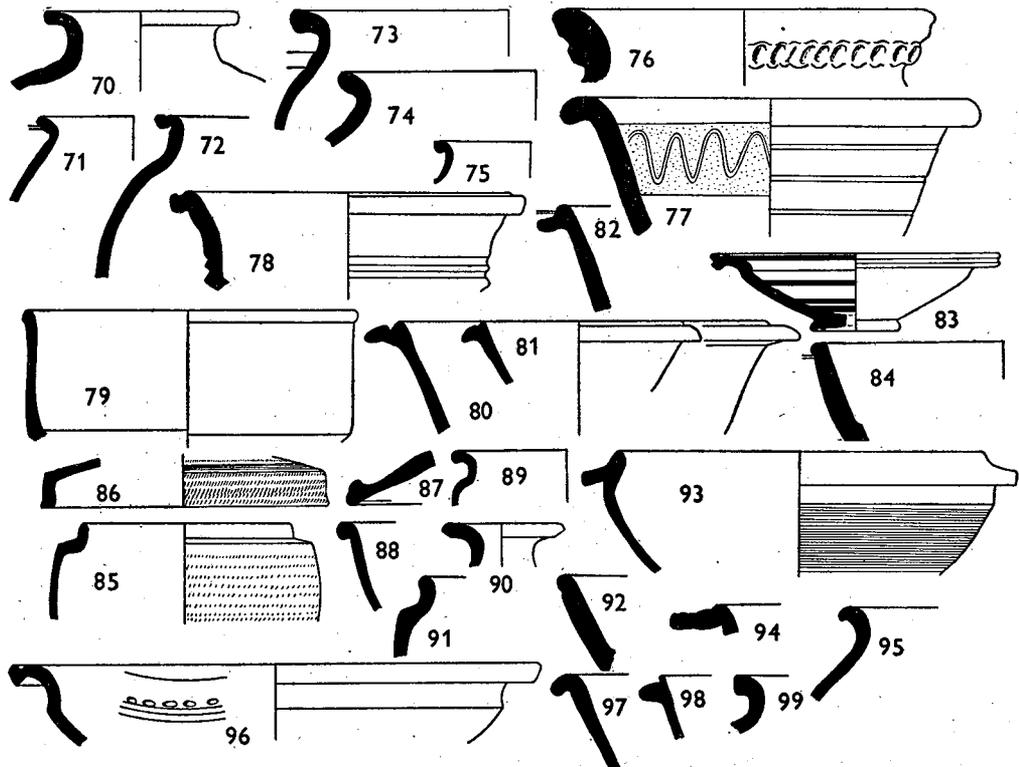


Fig. 7. Pottery from Arbury Road, one-quarter natural size.

#### *General remarks*

The pottery in Level 3 of the Manhole Site all belongs to the fourth century and some of it clearly to the late fourth century. But this was probably a slowly accumulating deposit not to be taken as ensuring contemporaneity of its contents.

#### *From the well site*

87. Lid in light grey sandy fabric (diameter 7 in.). No dating is possible, but it should be noted that the piece was found in the well at a depth of 10 ft. in association with a jar base of second-century character closely similar to no. 34.

The rest of the pottery from the well is too fragmentary for illustration. It included, however, a piece of a thin beaker with black metallic colour-coat decorated with rouletting. This is of early Castor type.

<sup>1</sup> E.g. New Forest, Castor, Swanpool, Crambeck.

88. Rolled-rim dish in sandy grey fabric with black bituminous wash (diameter 7 in.). No close parallels have been noted, but the fabric would be more at home in a late second- or early third-century group than in a fourth-century one. Found behind the well timbers.

Such as it is then, the pottery from the well suggests that it was dug and abandoned in the late second or early third century.

*From layers overlying the well and earlier than the house*

89. Medium-mouthed jar in orange fabric with burnished surface. Other examples of this form in similar fabric were found with nos. 70-86 above in a fourth-century context.

92. Dish in white fabric with thick grey core and black surface wash. Similar to nos. 50 and 84 (both fourth-century).

96. Dish in orange fabric with burnished surface, imitating Samian form 36. Finger impressions on the rim. Such imitations first become common in the late third century and were made in the New Forest and at Sandford for instance.

Also included in these deposits was part of a beaker in colour-coated ware with decoration in white slip.

*From the wall footings or from pits underlying the building*

94. Bowl rim in grey fabric with dark grey surface wash. No parallels noted.

95. Jar in black gritty fabric, hand-made. Crude hand-made jars of similar type are not uncommon on Romano-British sites. This example was found in a pit underlying the building in association with more normal types, including a colour-coated jar rim like no. 99.

97. Dish in grey fabric with burnished surface (diameter 8 in.).

98. Flanged bowl in dark grey fabric with burnished surface (diameter 7 in.).

*From sub-flooring of west room*

93. Flanged bowl in black calcite ware with brown surface decorated by rilling. Cf. no. 3, above.

Other pieces from this layer included fragments of thick straight-sided dishes with brown colour-coats.

*From sub-flooring of east room*

99. Medium-mouthed jar in orange-brown fabric with dark brown colour-coat. Cf. no. 1, above.

*From destruction(?) layer in the west room*

90. Flagon-mouth in light brown fabric with grey core. This is close in character to flagons from the Jesus Lane kilns.

91. Castor box in white fabric with brown to dark blue colour-coat. Similar to no. 85 but rather coarser.

*Date of the building*

The parallels adduced for the fragments in deposits earlier than the building show conclusively that it must belong to the fourth century. It is difficult to arrive at a more precise dating, but, on the whole, the pottery tends to suggest a late rather than early fourth-century date of construction.



10. Similar. Weight 10.2 g. Diameter 10.5 mm. Very worn.  
 11. Minim. *Obv.* Face of Emperor with markedly pointed features. No lettering. Weight 4.9 g. Width 8 mm. Fair condition.  
 12. Minim. *Obv.* Appears to have been overstruck with a legionary and horse-man reverse.  
*Rev.* Legionary and horseman. Weight 6.3 g. Diameter 8 mm. Worn.  
 13. Minim. Indecipherable. Weight 3.9 g. Diameter 5 mm. Probably struck off rod.  
 14. Minim. Indecipherable. Fragment of metal. Weight 3.2 g. Diameter 4 mm.  
 15, 16, 17 were corroded into the metal of their container and did not survive cleaning. They were of the same type as 13 and 14.

Numbers 8-17 find parallels with coins from the Lydney Hoard II (R. E. M. and T. V. Wheeler, *Lydney Excavations Report*, 1932, pp. 116-29 and pls. XLVII-XLIX).

### B. Coins from the Roman Building

No.	Type	Where found	Description	Preservation
18	Dupondius of Trajan, 98-117	Embedded in plaster 1 ft. below surface, 3 ft. from west wall of building	<i>Obv.</i> (IMP. CAES. NERVA) TRAIAN. AUG. GERM. (P.M. TRP.) S C <i>Rev.</i> (TR. POT. COS IIII P.P.) Mars helmeted advancing right, holding a transverse spear in right hand and trophy over left shoulder. 101-2	Fair
19	AE3	Constantine I (Caesar, 306, Augustus 307-37) Room 3 (Annexe). Mortar debris	<i>Obv.</i> CONSTANTINUS P.F. AUG., bust helmeted, right <i>Rev.</i> BEATA TRANQUILLITAS. Altar surmounted by globe VOTIS × ×   — PTR(?)	Fair
20	AE3	In chalk make-up of floor in room 1b	325-330 <i>Obv.</i> URBS ROMA <i>Rev.</i> Wolf and twins TRP 330-7	Fair
21	AE3	The Empress Helena (wife of Constantius Chlorus, Augusta 306 D. 328) In well-pit	<i>Obv.</i> FL.IUL. HE(LENAE) AUG. <i>Rev.</i> PAX PUBLICA Pax standing with olive branch   — TR (S?) 325-8	Fair
22	AE3	Constantius II (Caesar 323, Augustus 337-361) Room 1a (destruction layer)	<i>Obv.</i> (FL.IUL.CO)NSTANT. NOB. (CAES) <i>Rev.</i> GLORIA EXERCITUS (one standard). Illegible. 333-7	Worn
23	AE3	Room 1a (destruction layer)	<i>Obv.</i> Illegible. <i>Rev.</i> (GLORIA EXERCITUS) (one standard). Illegible. 333-7	Very worn

No.	Type	Where found	Description	Preservation
24	AE <sub>3</sub>	Room 1a (3 ft. 1 in. below surface, in yellow clay on top of chalk foundations of floor)	<i>Obv.</i> (D.N.CONSTANTIUS P.F.AUG.) <i>Rev.</i> (FEL. TEMP. REPARATIO). Illegible. Horseman spearing warrior. Barbarous imitation?	Very worn
Magnentius (350-3)				
25	AE <sub>2</sub>	Room 1a. Debris over-lying floor	<i>Obv.</i> D.N.MAGNENTIUS P.F. AUG. Bare-head, bust draped right. Small A to left of head. <i>Rev.</i> (VICT)ORIAE DD.NN. AUG.ET CAE. Twin Victories facing, holding wreath; within it VOT V MULT X <i>Mint.</i> $\frac{ }{AMB}$ (Amiens)	Very fair
Valentinian I (364-75)				
26	AE <sub>3</sub>	Outside north wall. Building debris	<i>Obv.</i> (D.N.VALENTINIA)NUS (P.F.AUG.) <i>Rev.</i> (SECURITAS REIPUBLICAE). Victory advancing with wreath and palm-branch OF   I. Mint illegible	Worn
27	AE <sub>3</sub>	Room 2. Resting on yellow mortar at junction of north wall and remains of partition wall with room 1b	<i>Obv.</i> D.N.VALENTINIANUS P.F.AUG. <i>Rev.</i> SECURITAS REIPUBLICAE. Mint (P?) CON. (Arles)	Very fair
28	Minim	Room 1a. Destruction layer	No legend on either side. Struck off rod. Weight 12 g. Diameter 6 mm.	

### C. Coins from the remainder of the Arbury Road site

The majority of these are stray coins picked up by the former allotment holders. Nos. 30, 31, 32 and 42 may, however, be associated with pits along Fortescue Road and no. 37 was found on the spoil from near pit no. 2, on Mansel Way.

No.	Type	Reign	Description	Preservation
29	Dupondius	Faustina II (wife of Marcus Aurelius 141-75)	<i>Obv.</i> (FAUSTINA AUGUSTA) <i>Rev.</i> Indecipherable	Very worn
30	Billon	Valerian (?) 253-60	<i>Obv.</i> (IMP.C.VALERIANUS P.F. AUG.) <i>Rev.</i> ORIEN(S AUG.)	Worn and clipped
31	Billon	Claudius II, 268-70	<i>Obv.</i> IMP.C.CLAUDIUS P.F. AUG. <i>Rev.</i> IOVI STATORI	Good
32	AE <sub>3</sub>	Crispus (Caesar, 317-26)	<i>Obv.</i> CRISPUS NOBIL.C. Head helmeted, left <i>Rev.</i> BEATA TRANQUILLITAS. Altar surmounted by orb and three stars, and inscribed VOTIS × × <i>Mint.</i> $\frac{P A}{PLG}$ (Lyons)	Good
33	AE <sub>3</sub>	Helena, 325-8	<i>Obv.</i> FL.IUL.HE(LENAE AUG.) <i>Rev.</i> PAX PUBLICA <i>Mint.</i> TRP (Trier)	Fair
34	AE <sub>3</sub>	Constantine I	<i>Obv.</i> URBS ROMA <i>Rev.</i> Wolf and Twins <i>Mint.</i> TR.P (Trier)	Fair

No.	Type	Reign	Description	Preservation
35	AE3	Constantius II or Constans	<i>Obv.</i> FL.IUL. CONSTAN... <i>Rev.</i> Twin Victories (VICTORIAE DD. AUGG. Q. NN.) <i>Mint.</i> Possibly SM.ANT. (Antioch)	Worn
36 and 37	AE3	House of Constantine	Indecipherable. Probably 'GLORIA EXERCITUS'	Very worn
38 and 39	AE3	Valentinian I, 364-75	<i>Obv.</i> D.N.VALENTINIANUS P.F. AUG. <i>Rev.</i> GLORIA ROMANORUM <i>Mint.</i> Illegible	Worn
40	AE3	Valentinian I, 364-75	<i>Obv.</i> D.N.VALENTINIANUS P.F. AUG. <i>Rev.</i> SECURITAS REIPUBLICAE A  A F	Good
41	AR	Valens, 364-78	Γ SISCS (Siscia) <i>Obv.</i> D.N.VALENS P.F. AUG. <i>Rev.</i> RESTITUTOR REIP. Emperor holding Victory and Labarum. X on shaft of labarum   PLUG (Lyons)	Good
42	AE3	Valens	<i>Obv.</i> D.N.VALENS P.F. AUG. <i>Rev.</i> GLORIA ROMANORUM   SM.AQS (Aquileia)	Good
43	AE3	Valens	<i>Obv.</i> D.N.VALENS P.F. AUG. <i>Rev.</i> SECURITAS REIPUBLICAE   SCON (Arles)	Worn

W. H. C. FREND

## ROMAN POTTERY KILN AT EARITH, HUNTS

MICHAEL GREEN

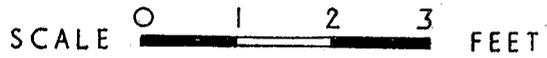
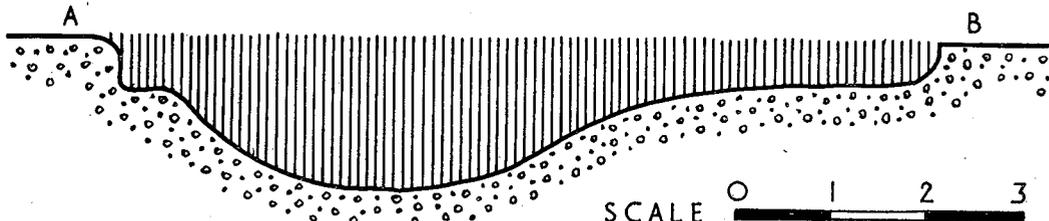
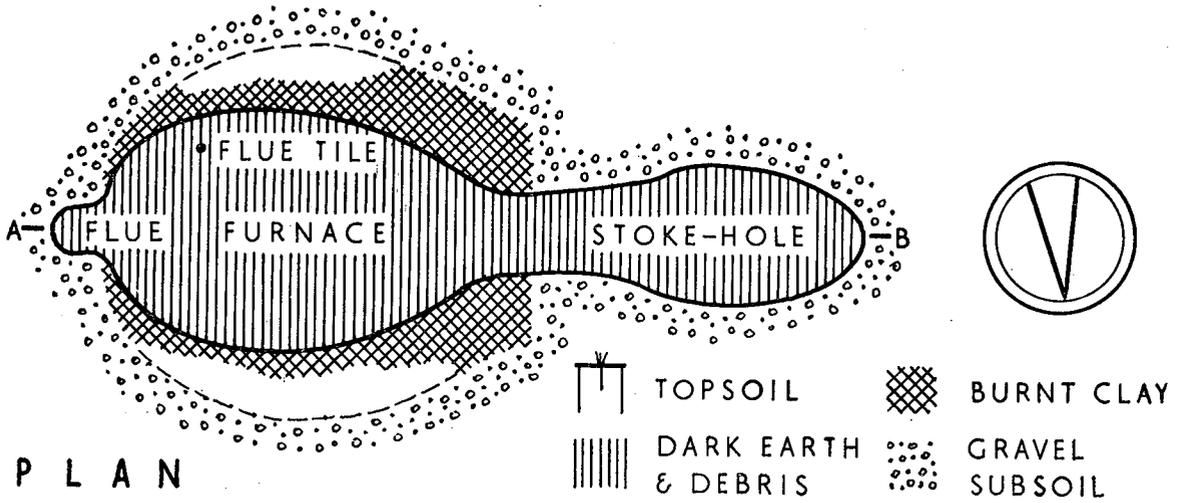
### THE SITE

THIS kiln was one in a small potter's quarter, which was part of a large Roman settlement near Earith, Hunts. This site has been totally destroyed by gravel quarrying since the war. The gravel pits are about 1 mile north of Earith village, and the approximate position of the kilns was at map reference 391759 (Ordnance Survey  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. = 1 mile). The potter's quarter consisted of at least four kilns, but all (with the exception of this one) were either destroyed or severely damaged by the mechanical grab before excavation could take place. Two of the kilns were destroyed before they could be investigated. The other kiln had only the flue and stoke-hole intact. The flue was lined with badly fired triangular tiles, and where it opened into the stoke-hole was found to have been blocked by a broken quern. In the filling of the flue was found, together with much debris, a 4 in. diameter round iron plate provided with four grips. This was probably fixed to the end of a wooden pole which was used for stoking the kiln.

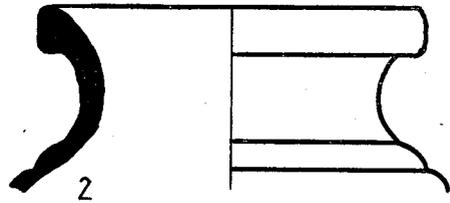
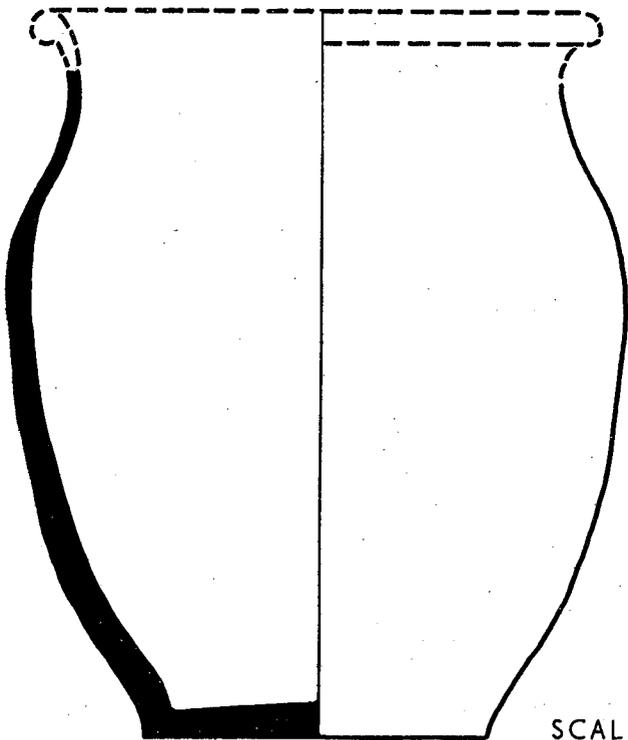
The subsoil of the site is gravel, with a topsoil of stiff clay (18 in. thick), very much disturbed by ploughing. No stratification was recognizable, and in the absence of any coins the pottery constitutes the only evidence of date. The presence of Castor ware and the low-shouldered character of no. 1 suggest a third- or fourth-century date. It is unlikely that the kiln was used for very long; perhaps only for a few months. During this period it was producing rough gritted pottery, clearly for local consumption.

### THE KILN

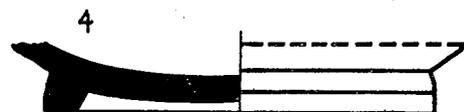
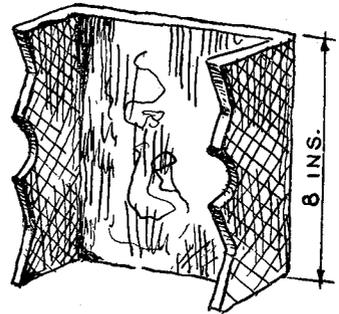
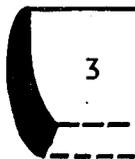
The kiln was of updraught type with a pear-shaped plan. Its overall length was 8 ft. 6 in. with a breadth of 2 ft. 6 in. at its widest point. The walls of the furnace chamber were intact and consisted of a lining of clay, baked brick hard, and still standing in places to a height of 12 in. The kiln floor was 3 ft. from the surface and consisted of undisturbed gravel. Upon it lay a thin covering of charcoal and wood ash. Opposite the stoke-hole at the far end of the furnace chamber was a small (6 in. square) flue. It was probably lined with a flue tile, a broken piece of which was found nearby in the filling of the furnace chamber. There was no sign of a support for a baking floor, and it is possible that the kiln was more in the nature of an oven, with the central part simply domed over and built of clay. This superstructure had of course been destroyed, but numerous fragments of burnt clay were found in the infilling. (If the kiln was of an oven type, a fresh clay dome would have been needed for each firing.)



S E C T I O N A - B



FLUE TILE



SCALE: NOS. 1-4 1/2 FULL SIZE

Fig. 1.

## THE FINDS

*Castor Ware.* (i) Fragment of platter, hard white paste with a purple slip, diameter 8 in. (No. 3). Portions of three other similar platters were found together with a lid showing rouletting.

*Coarse pottery.* (ii) Fragment of curved neck with two small cordons at the base, orange paste with sandy texture, diameter 4 in. (No. 2). (iii) Fragment of a base from a bowl. Red paste with a smooth surface, probably in imitation of Samian ware (No. 4). (iv) Jar of coarse gritted ware. The clay is badly levigated, and has a small proportion of shell in it. Original diam. probably  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in. The rim is reconstructed from similar jars found elsewhere on the site (No. 1). Over half the pottery found in the kiln was of this kind of ware, and portions of at least two other jars almost identical to no. 1 were also found. This, and the fact that a number of pieces were evidently wasters, makes it highly probable that this was the principal ware fired in this kiln.

The site has not been published—the finds (pottery, etc.) are deposited in the Norris Library and Museum at St Ives. A coin hoard and other samples of pottery are also in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Cambridge. For earlier discoveries on the same site see *History of Bluntisham cum Earith*, by C. F. Tebbutt, p. 16.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am indebted to Mr L. Edwards for permission to excavate, and to Mr C. F. Tebbutt, F.S.A., and Mr C. M. Coote for advice and help.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

MARGARET MURRAY, D.LITT. AND J. R. GARROOD, M.D., F.S.A.

### ROMANO-BRITISH BURIALS AT GODMANCHESTER

THESE were found in digging foundations for a new school at Park Lane for the County Council in 1954.

The site is on what was the garden of Island Hall, on the opposite side of the road towards the Park Lane side (Grid Reference 245707). Four incomplete and broken skeletons were got out by the workmen, but Mr C. F. Tebbutt and I dug out one of which the skull only was broken, having been moved previously.

The depth was from 3 ft. 6 in. to 4 ft. and in the last one there was unmoved sand and gravel at 4 ft.

The site consists of rather dirty gravel with evidence of filled-in rubbish pits or trenches containing a good deal of Romano-British pottery of the first and second centuries and very little later ware. The pottery was not associated with the burials, and in one case the burial was into the side of a pit.

The distance from the north side of the Church is 150 yards; it is outside the limits of the town and not far from the line of the Roman Road.

Other Romano-British burials<sup>1</sup> are at *Green End*, cremation, north-west of this site; *New Vicarage*, cremation; *Round Close*, Cambridge road, inhumation; *The Grove*, Cambridge Road; *Lewcocks Garage*, the same; and *Porch Farm*, the Ermine Street cremation.<sup>2</sup>

The character of the site and the distance from the Church make it most likely that these are Romano-British burials.

POTTERY. Two pieces of a dark grey plate with low foot ring, first century. Two pieces of Samian, form 37. One with a wreath of chevron pattern, first to early-second century, some black smooth Belgic ware as well as a number of other fragments of similar date, certainly nothing characteristic of the fourth.

### *The Skeletons*

1. Fragmentary. No skull; part of lower jaw. Epiphyses not consolidated, wisdom teeth not erupted, other teeth not worn; estimated height under 5 ft.: a young person. Objects found near: pottery, oyster, bones of ox and sheep.

2. Very fragmentary, bones of ox found.

3. More of this skeleton was found; estimated height 5 ft. 5 in. First- and second-century pottery and Romano-British roofing tiles.

<sup>1</sup> *Transactions of the Cambs. & Hunts Arch. Soc.* vol. v, pt. VII.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.* vol. vi, pt. IV.

4. Estimated height 5 ft. 5 in.

5. Adult male, wisdom teeth erupted, skull sutures closed. Height measured *in situ* 5 ft. 8 in., but the base of the skull was crushed and had been moved on discovery, and some of the bones and cervical vertebrae had been lost, so I think the height was probably 5 ft. 9 or 10 in.; the bones were massive and nearly all in good condition. Objects found: one piece of grey Roman pottery and a hand-made nail.

#### *Park Lane Site*

A sixth skull was found while digging the drain in Park Lane. It is damaged. The skull is that of an elderly female; there are no teeth in the lower jaw, which has an old fracture of the left side; there are five teeth in the upper jaw and two molars lost since burial. The neck, handle and part of the base of a buff-coloured bottle was also found, probably of the second century. The situation supports the view that these burials are Romano-British.

#### *Conclusion*

Burials of the Romano-British period in a site which had been used for the disposal of rubbish from the first century, outside the town and near a road.

Thanks are due to Mr Holloway, the County Architect, to Mr C. F. Tebbutt and to the contractors, Messrs Thackray.

J. R. G.

#### THE FINDS AT ELY FIELDS FARM

Major Gordon Fowler, in his paper on 'Cratendun: a problem of the Dark Ages' (vol. XLI, 1948, pp. 70-3), discusses the site of the lost village of Cratendun and identifies it with the site first noted by Mrs Violet Pritchard and myself. I think it may be of interest to amplify Major Fowler's account by putting on record a short account of the finding of the site. The information came first (in 1947) from one of the engineers working on the construction of the aerodrome; he wrote to his sister, Miss Annie Baker (of Cambridge), telling her that he had seen the objects and had interviewed the finder. The driver of the bulldozer had crashed into a mass of skeletons which he had at once investigated; he had found the sword which, though all in one piece, was badly bent, a skull with a dagger still sticking in it, a few broken bronze objects, and quantities of red amber beads, which he thought were rubies. On starting his bulldozer again he had two rather startling accidents, which so frightened him that he hastily returned the objects to the place where he had found them, hoping thus to placate the dead whom he had robbed. On receipt of this information Mrs Pritchard and I went out to the site to investigate.

The skeletons lay in a mass, and though the bones were too splintered to be removed it was possible to see that there was no orientation, that the bodies had lain in a confused heap, and that the depth of earth over them was about 12 in. or rather less. The beads and small bits of bronze were strewn widely where the bulldozer driver had so hastily thrown them. A certain number were also found among the splintered bones. Small bronze bangles, evidently worn by children, were found,

also various bronze objects and the saucer brooches (op. cit. Pl. XIX), amber beads in quantity and a few small glass beads. I bought the sword from the bulldozer driver for a couple of shillings and I think he was relieved to get rid of it. The large glass bead (Pl. XIX) was given to us by the farmer.

Mrs Pritchard made a second visit to the site and there picked up the wheel-brooch (Pl. XIX) and the bronze buckle. She also saw the skull with the dagger in it.

It was evident that the skeletons we saw were only part of a larger mass. The number of bodies, the confused manner in which they lay, and the evidence by the beads and small bangles that women and children had been among the dead, seem to suggest that this heap of bones represents the massacre of all the inhabitants of the village. But as the engineers were under contract to finish the aerodrome within a given time and could not hold up the work till a trained excavator could undertake a thorough exploration, we had to be content with surface finds only. But I am convinced that a complete excavation of the site by an experienced archaeologist would yield very important results.

M. M.



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