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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LXI

JANUARY 1968 TO DECEMBER 1968

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A ROMAN FARM-SETTLEMENT AT GODMANCHESTER

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

IN the summer of 1962 the attention of the writer was drawn by Dr J. K. St Joseph, Director in Aerial Photography at Cambridge University, to some interesting crop marks in a field belonging to Rectory Farm on the eastern outskirts of Godmanchester. The field, situated around Grid Reference TL/2571, lies just south of the disused Huntingdon-St Ives railway and forms part of the low-lying Ouse valley, below the 50 ft contour line. The gravel subsoil is overlaid by a light loam which dries out quickly after even the heaviest rain, and not surprisingly the area has attracted human habitation from at least Neolithic times to the present day.

The air photographs showed up a wide variety of archaeological features. Near the railway line a small Roman corridor-house was plainly visible as a crop mark. This is now being excavated and a south frontage of 95 ft has been discovered, consisting of foundations 2 ft 3 in. wide composed of hard-packed gravel, part of which overlies pits containing early second-century pottery. This building will be recorded in a subsequent issue of the *Proceedings*. Further south were a series of dark straight lines, probably indicating trenches left from the robbing of a substantial building. The whole of this area had been enclosed within a well-defined boundary ditch forming a rectangle some 300 × 250 yards across the long axis, aligned east-west.¹ In addition, about 100 yards south-west of this complex of Romano-British remains, photographs indicated the existence of a circular enclosure with a large pit in its centre and, nearby, parallel ditches perhaps denoting trackways. Casual finds of Neolithic, Beaker and Bronze Age scrapers and other flint tools, together with fragments of Early Iron Age pottery, have been made while walking over the fields.

The site had originally been selected for work by the Cambridge Field Club following the conclusion of the excavation of the Cherry Hinton War Ditches, but distance from Cambridge proved too great a handicap to sustained work, and in the summer of 1963 the writer gained the interest and help of Huntingdon Grammar School.² Under the guidance of Mr John Mills, Head of the Classics Department, training has been given to sixth-form students, and their work has been supplemented by undergraduates, mainly from Gonville and Caius College. The writer

¹ Only approximate owing to the distorting effect of an oblique air photograph, but the general impression given is that of a plan similar in many respects to the Ditchley Park villa (*Oxoniensia*, I (1936)).

² The material from the excavation has been presented to Huntingdon Grammar School.

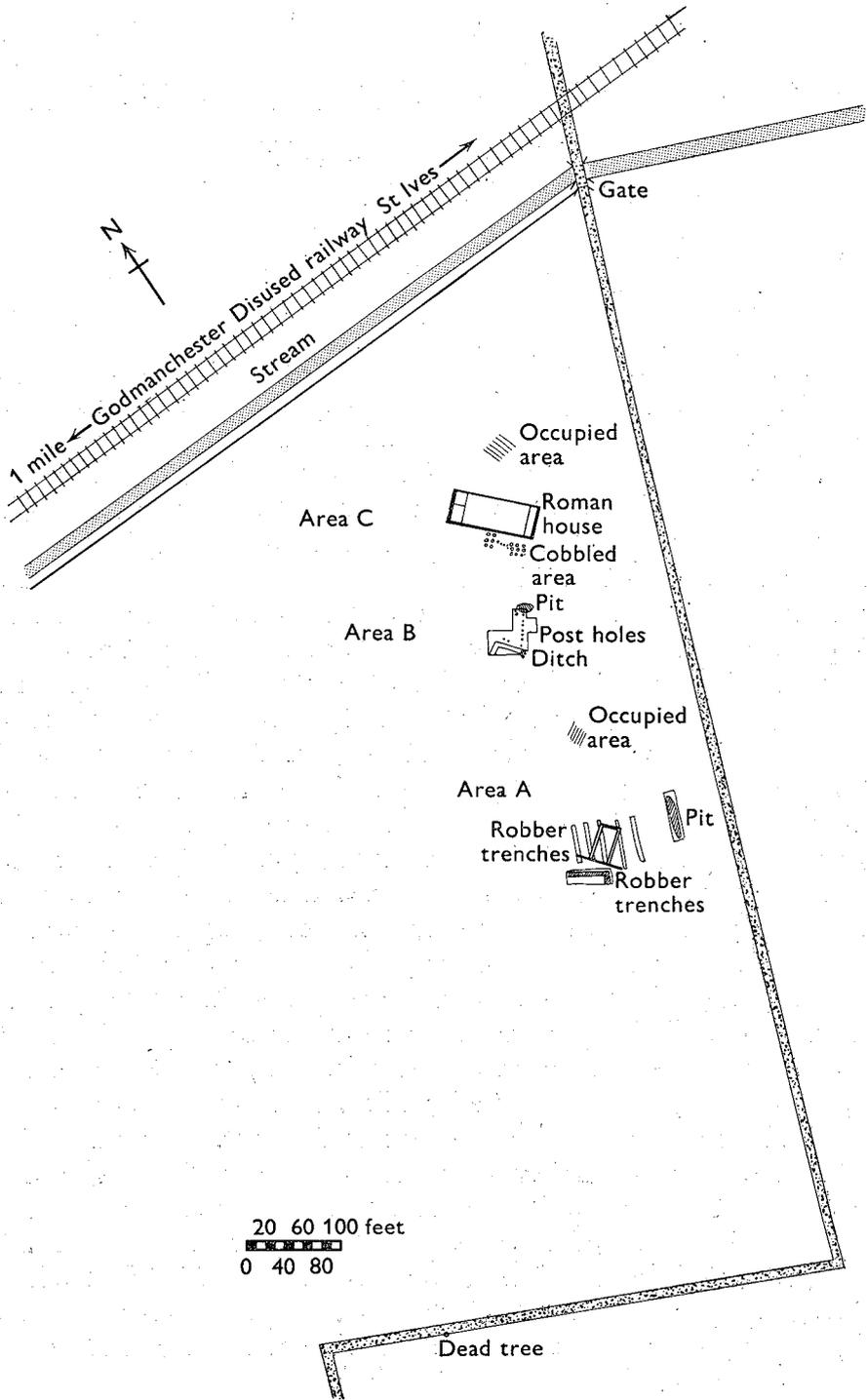


Fig. 1. Rectory Farm Field, Godmanchester.

would like to thank most warmly his colleagues Mr and Mrs N. Alcock, Messrs John Rainbird, Paul Wilkinson, Roger Jacobi, David Hardy, Paul Callow and Jocelyn Crocker. He is indebted for the pottery drawings to Miss Carolyn Hull, and to Mr John Rainbird for his survey of the Rectory Farm field, and he would like to thank Mr W. B. Mailer, the tenant of Rectory Farm, for all his help and kindness over many years.*

Work could only be carried out at weekends, supplemented by one hour a week class-work, and so it was decided not to investigate the Roman building shown in the crop-marks before getting acquainted with some of the other problems of the site. Two areas were selected for investigation (Fig. 1).

(a) Between 50 and 130 ft west of the field path and between 650 and 725 ft south of the centre of the old railway line, an area where surface remains of brick and Barnack ragstone were particularly abundant (Area A).

(b) An area 150 ft to the north of Area A and between 160 and 200 ft west of the field path, where a quantity of mortar debris had been ploughed up (Area B).

AREA A

Trial trenches were dug 50 ft long on a north-south axis with the aim of establishing the extent and direction of the foundations that caused the debris on the surface. The Roman level lay only a few inches below the surface and had been considerably disturbed by ploughing and robbing over a long period. In addition, a rise in the water table since Roman times prevented thorough investigation of levels below 3 ft 6 in. from the surface. The following results however were achieved:

A. The surface debris originated from a substantial building, possibly a bath-house. Below a level fairly uniformly 6 in. deep in all the trenches—consisting of broken flue and voussoir tiles—brick, ragstone, bits of pointed roofing slates,¹ fourth-century pottery and meat-bones were encountered above the remains of clay foundations. On these had evidently been laid a spread of *opus signinum* which in turn had served as the bedding for mosaics. More than one hundred mosaic cubes were found. These included very small ($\frac{1}{4}$ in.) grey limestone and chalk cubes for a central pattern, and larger tesserae ($\frac{3}{4}$ in. and $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. square) of limestone and brick used in the outer borders. There was also a considerable quantity of coloured plaster lying on top of the clay surface.² This fell into three main types:

* I should also like to acknowledge the subvention from the Council of Gonville and Caius College for the purchase of tools and a grant from the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies.

¹ The catalogue of building debris is very similar to that recorded by H. J. M. Green in his description of the architectural remains recovered in the bath-house he excavated in Godmanchester itself (see *Archaeological Newsletter*, 10, 11 and 12 (1960), especially pp. 252 and 276). The remains of the hollow voussoir tiles, in particular, suggest the vaulted structure of a bath-house. The roofing slates probably came from Collyweston like those described by Mr Green, *op. cit.* p. 253.

² Analysis in the chemistry laboratory at Huntingdon Grammar School showed that the coloured paint contained iron oxide and that the plaster was a lime/sand mixture 52.5 % sand and 47.5 % acid-soluble content (CaW₂).

(a) A pattern which had included a rectangular plum-coloured frame on a white background.

(b) Panels bounded alternately by two thin grey lines ($\frac{1}{8}$ in. thick) and plum ($\frac{1}{2}$ in.) strip on a white background.

(c) Plaster coloured bright crimson or plum with a backing 2 in. thick of a coarser style of mortar containing much compacted brick, probably for exterior use. On some of these fragments criss-cross brush strokes similar to the hatchings on flue tiles could be observed, and some of the wall plaster showed traces of wooden slat marks in the mortar backing.

Traces of the clay floors were found over an area of some 35×40 ft. They had been badly cut up by robber trenches and rubbish pits and there was evidence for burning in reddened building stone and charcoal. On the north side it was possible to trace the line of the foundation of a wall, marked by broken tile fragments, running in an east-west direction for 20 ft, and both on the east and west sides of this were traces of flint wall foundations. On the south side the line of a robber trench 4 ft wide may have marked the south wall of the building. The result was evidence for a rectangular structure which however may continue towards the west and the south-east. Found in the wall foundations was a fragment of a base of Castor ware, while a denarius of Caracalla (A.D. 216) in good condition was found in a clay flooring which had, however, been much disturbed by robbing.

The building had been destroyed and robbed before the end of the Roman period. The robber trenches and pits dug into the floors and along the line of the walls contained at all levels a relatively large amount of Roman pottery as well as broken flue tiles,¹ charcoal,² oyster shells and meat bones. A complete fourth-century mortarium, a complete colour-coated pie-dish and an abundance of sherds from medium-mouthed jars with rilled surfaces were found among the objects in them. This pottery would seem to date as a group to the last quarter of the fourth century (see below, p. 42). An interesting discovery was a large, well-hewn limestone block, 2 ft 9 in. long and 1 ft 10 in. wide, found on the edge of a robber trench as though it had been abandoned there by the robbers. Two worn coins (3AE) of the House of Constantine were found on top of the clay bedding.

B. Ten feet to the south of this complex of house floors and robber trenches was found a substantial robber trench 4 ft wide and more than 3 ft 6 in. deep, running on an east-west axis. It was out of alignment with A but contained the same abundance of late-Roman pottery and bright crimson wall plaster as elsewhere on this part of the site. One complete cooking pot of shell-gritted ware was found lying upside down on the south side of the filling 1 ft below the surface. A feature of the pottery was a number of half pots that had been used as cooking bowls and thrown into the trench with their upper halves and rims missing.

¹ Most of these had been decorated with combed decoration in scrolls, but a few had been marked by a simpler cross-hatching.

² Charcoal from the robber level was submitted to the Royal Botanic Gardens (Sir George Taylor) for analysis. It was *Fraxinus excelsior* (ash) and *Prunus* (cherry).

C. Between 65 and 70 ft west of the field path and some 10 ft east of the main building complex was traced a ditch (Ditch A), of depth varying from 2 ft to 4 ft 6 in., running almost due north for a distance of at least 50 ft. The upper levels had been used in the late fourth century as a rubbish dump, and building material—wall plaster with a white background and linear plum-coloured strips alternating between broader ($\frac{3}{8}$ in.) and narrower ($\frac{1}{4}$ in.) bands—was found. Some of this material had been burnt. Below this, however, was found a thick waterlogged layer of grey-black clay which extended 15 ft along the line of the middle of the ditch. This contained a large amount of grey wares typical of Nene Valley sites of the second century, two fragments of Samian form 18/31, and the top of a bronze key, also of a second-century pattern (see below, Small Finds no. 1 and Fig. 4). The presence of this second-century deposit immediately below one at least two centuries later needs explaining.

AREA B

The second site explored lay 150 ft to the north of Area A. It was found as the result of the discovery, while ploughing, of a mass of roofing debris at a spot 500 ft from the centre of the old railway line and approximately 165 ft west of the edge of the existing field-path. A cutting 40 ft long and 10 ft wide was made along the line of the deposit in an east-west direction in the hope of uncovering any traces of walls that might be concealed beneath it (Fig. 2). Below the plough line was a layer, some 3 in. thick on average, of dark earth mixed with a little gravel and containing a scatter of tile fragments and worn sherds of fourth-century Castor ware, and soft, shell-gritted ware (Level 2). This overlay a compact layer of mortar debris mixed with roofing tiles and brick, which was found consistently along the trench about one foot below the surface, and extended over a roughly rectangular area on an east-west axis 22 ft \times 10 ft (Level 3).

Some fragments of *imbrices* and *tegulae* and stone slating were found, together with a few black and white half-inch tesserae, some fragments of wall plaster painted bluish green, and remains of *opus signinum* floor. But the mass of the deposit consisted of mortar cores of ridges between roofing tiles and tile eaves, laid down to form a hard, compact layer which at first gave the impression of a badly laid mortar floor.¹ Pottery in this layer included a Castor ware base and a fragment of figured Castor ware—indicating a date towards the end of the second century A.D.

Set into the natural loam beyond the northern edge of this deposit, were found two small rectangular areas of ragstone. These were later identified as the remains of the substantial packing of postholes probably connected with a building whose remains were found lying north-east of the mortar deposit. The removal of the mortar debris revealed a layer of greyish-brown earth mixed with a good deal of gravel which increased in density towards the west end of the cutting (Level 7). The presence of numerous sheep and ox bones and miscellaneous broken pottery indicated that this

¹ For illustration of various types of roofing material found at Godmanchester see H. J. M. Green, 'An Architectural Survey of the Roman Baths at Godmanchester', part II, *Archaeological Newsletter*, VI, no. 11 (1960), p. 253.

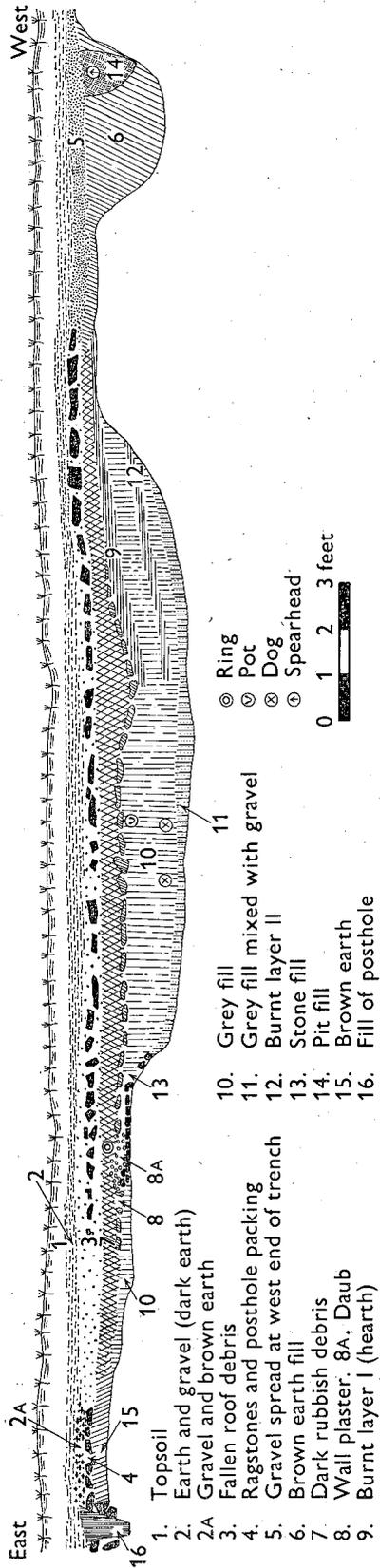


Fig. 2. Area B. Trench 1. East-west section.

was a rubbish deposit which had been sealed by the thick layer of building material spread over it. It was now noticeable that the layer tended to slope downwards towards the south side of the trench and to thicken to an overall depth of 5-6 in. This level contained much mid- and late-second-century pottery, including Antonine Samian ware 18/31, Castor ware, a very worn 1 AE of Trajan, and a fine bronze signet ring with a blue intaglio on which had been engraved a standing figure of Bonus Eventus (see below, Small Finds no. 8 Pl. 1*f*). It also contained a certain amount of clay daub, and iron household objects including the handle of an iron key, a door latch, an iron hook and a staple, and some thirty nails.

Below this level was an even spread of painted wall plaster, also covering a roughly rectangular area some 8 ft × 18 ft on a general east-west axis, lying along the north slope of the ditch (Level 8). At the east end of the trench the fragments of wall plaster lay face downward on top of loose clunch stones which sloped towards the middle of the trench. Toward the west end of the trench the plaster overlay a thick burnt layer consisting mainly of wood ash (Level 9). Throughout, it had been spread in a single extended level and fragments up to 1 ft square could be fitted together. There were no signs of tip marks such as would have occurred had it been dumped from a building some distance away. The fact that the great majority of the fragments lay face downwards also suggested that they belonged to a single wall which had collapsed along the line of the trench.

The plaster consisted of several varieties (Pl. 1*a-c*):

(*a*) A white background, with three main types of decoration.

(i) Horizontal strip decoration in four narrow $\frac{1}{4}$ in. linear strips, shading from plum through deep orange to light orange. Each strip had been painted between carefully ruled lines.

(ii) Horizontal strip decoration of the same type, with a thicker plum strip $\frac{3}{4}$ in., compared with $\frac{1}{4}$ in., wide and the orange band of a single undifferentiated deep orange shade, 1 in. wide.

(iii) The same arrangement as (i) above, but the colour of the strips was deep blue blending with two intermediate colours of purple and mauve to sea-green in painted strips $\frac{1}{4}$ in. wide. Each zone had been divided from its neighbour by a black horizontal line 0.1 in. thick. Of this plaster Miss J. Liversidge writes, 'It is possible that the linear decoration formed the framework for the panelled decoration which is customary for Roman painted walls, although proof in the shape of lines painted at right angles to each other is lacking'.

(*b*) Imitation marble composition on a light-plum background, the impression of marble being given by groups of dark brown, yellow and off-white splotches, perhaps from a dado. Nearly all this plaster was concentrated in the middle or the west end of the trench.

(*c*) Deep red linear design on a white background. Some of the plaster was from a quarter-round moulding at floor level, while other fragments came from near a window. This was also concentrated towards the west end of the trench. In addition,

from the rubbish layer above came some fragments of plaster with white slip on a plum background.

The colouring was very well preserved and the fragments, which ranged from $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. to 2 in. thick, came originally from a substantial wall. Most bore traces of the slats of a timber framework on which they had been laid.

At the east end of the trench the plaster overlaid a layer of loose stones sloping inwards towards the centre of the ditch, where they merged into a heavier deposit of stones which appeared to have been laid on purpose to fill up some soft ground beneath. About half-way along the trench, however, the deposit changed completely, and below the plaster was encountered a layer of ash and charcoal between 4 and 5 in. thick. The plaster had been deposited on this ash probably not long after it had been laid down, for, though none of it showed signs of having been burnt, a number of pieces were discoloured as if by contact with embers. The burnt area (Level 9) contained pottery indistinguishable from that found in the rubbish layer immediately above, but it also produced a number of small iron objects, notably a wedge, the blade of a saw, a staple and a key similar to one found at the east end of the trench. Most of these objects came from the immediate proximity of a small clay hearth, round which was also found a considerable amount of iron slag, including some sizeable iron nuggets (average weight 6 oz and diameter $3\frac{3}{4}$ in.). These suggest the existence of a small forging hearth where fairly high temperatures had been attained.¹ Careful investigation of the ash and other evidences of burning revealed the outlines of carbonized oak planks preserved in the soil (Fig. 3). The ash, on analysis, proved to be a mixture of oak wood and hawthorn,² an indication perhaps that the deposit came from fuel used for a working hearth. Burnt daub was also recovered, and a group of small post- or stake-holes following the line of a thin (3 in. wide) clay partition wall could be traced round the northern rim of the site. Though a structure is hardly possible, the existence of a temporary shelter round the hearth leaving it open towards the west, the direction of the prevailing wind, is conceivable.

Below the burnt layer and clay hearth there was a further 1 ft of occupational deposit before natural soil was reached 3 ft 6 in. below the surface. This deposit consisted of orange clay debris (perhaps the remains of a rustic house-wall), inter-

¹ I owe this suggestion to Mr Henry Cleere of the Iron and Steel Institute, to whom one of the nuggets and other slag from the same area had been submitted. He writes 'This material is very difficult to identify accurately. In chemical composition and superficial appearance, it is indistinguishable from smelting slag. However, those of us working in the field have learned very recently to recognize the existence of another material not formed in a bloomery furnace, but in a forging hearth. During the process of forging implements from roughly worked-up blooms, small particles of entrapped slag are forced out of the metal. A scale also forms on the outside of the iron. Both these materials tend to collect in the base of the hearth, where they are subjected to prolonged high temperatures. The result is that they become liquid and are homogenized to a material that is indistinguishable from blast furnace slag. At our present state of knowledge, we cannot differentiate chemically or microscopically between the two materials. It is only the overall morphology, together with the find places, that enable one to decide in the majority of cases. The Godmanchester specimen, in particular the "nugget", seems to me on balance to be almost certainly formed in this way.'

² I owe this information to Sir George Taylor, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, who kindly analysed samples of ash submitted to him.

spersed with bands of burning which sloped sharply towards the east end of the trench. All this overlaid a damp layer of sticky grey-brown earth which formed the lowest level along the whole length of the trench (Level 10). These intermediate levels also contained a quantity of second-century pottery, including typical reed-rimmed sherds.

The rubbish deposit (Level 10) covering the bottom of the ditch was in places 1 ft thick. In it were found the skeletons of two dogs and a whole cooking pot of grey fabric lying on its side (see below, Pottery, Fig. 8, no. 1). Some fragments of Samian forms Walters 79, 27 (one piece), 33 and Ludovici S.B. were also found,¹ as well as a

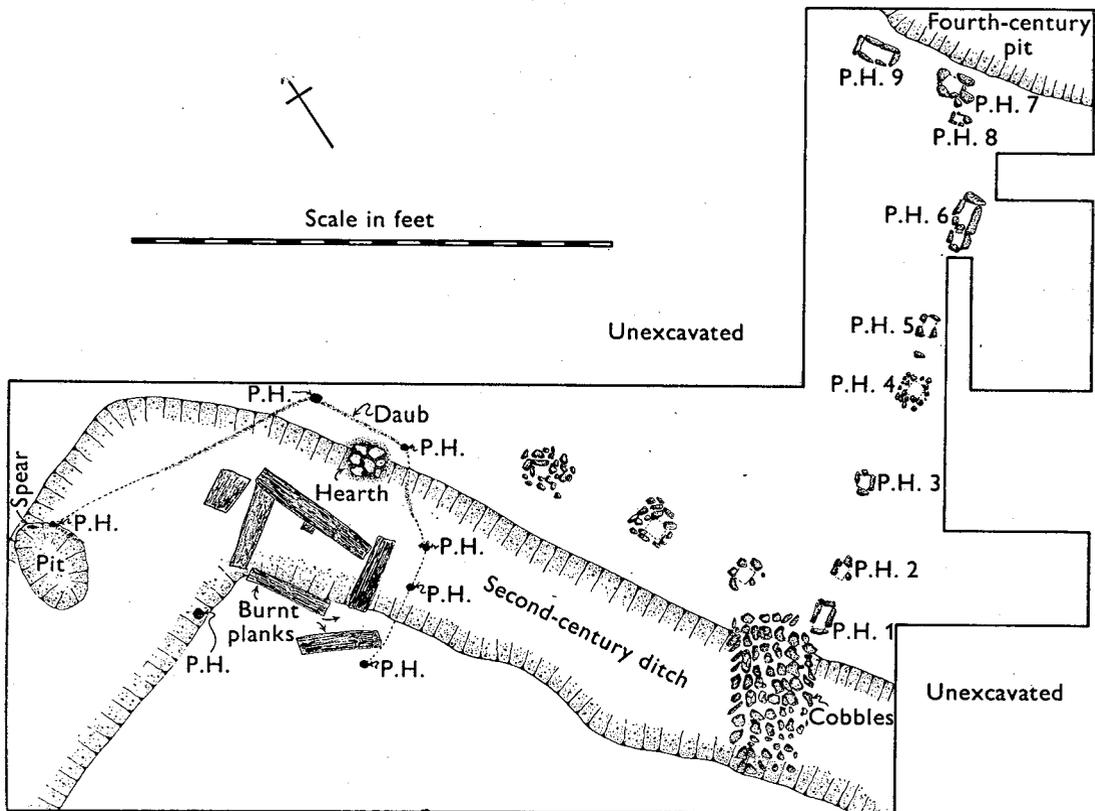


Fig. 3. Area B. Trench 1. Plan.

small fragment of a rim of highly coloured Nene Valley ware (perhaps imitation of a glass vessel (Fig. 12, no. 8) and a rim of a delicate pale buff Castor beaker also came from this level (Fig. 12, no. 4), indicating a date *circa* 150.

The ditch now revealed was relatively shallow and flat bottomed, running 25 ft diagonally down the length of the trench in a general east-west direction and varying

¹ I owe these identifications to M. R. Hull, F.S.A.

between 6 and 7 ft in breadth from lip to lip. Its south side had been cut sharply but irregularly into the gravel. On the bottom were some fragments of mortar and loose clunch. A parallel cutting dug along the line of its south edge revealed that a determined effort had been made to cover over the rubbish which had accumulated at the east end of the ditch with clunch cobbling. At the west end were found traces of another trench joining the ditch at right angles and extending towards the south-west into which had been dug a small circular pit. The fill of the continuation of the ditch consisted of a thin gravel spread, itself a continuation of the mortar level (Level 5), below which was a mixture of earth and gravel (Level 6). This contained a considerable number of fragments of Samian ware, including Forms 18/31, 27 and 33, and a base of small delicately made Castor ware (Fig. 12, no. 5). From the pit came fragments of a fine Castor beaker ornamented with scroll decoration (Fig. 12, no. 9), and the head of a hollow-socketed hunting spear, as well as a few fragments of wall plaster of the same type as found in the main ditch, and meat bones.

The discovery that the ditch branched sharply to the south-west is an indication perhaps that this complex may be interpreted as robber trenches, perhaps from the north-west corner of a large wooden-framed building abandoned in the mid second century and robbed for its stone foundations, the robbers leaving a chaos of builder's rubbish, the remains of earth and stone walls, and household debris in their wake. The rubbish layer, the pit at the west end, and the smithy belong to this period of abandonment. The presence of the wall plaster above the burnt layer left by the latter still needs explaining, and further work to the south will be necessary before an answer can be found.

The reason for the subsequent careful filling-in of the ditch with mortar debris and clunch was made clear by cutting another trench (Trench 3) 5 ft wide at the east end of the site towards the north at right angles to the existing trenches for a distance of 30 ft. At a depth of 1 ft 9 in. a row of eight postholes were found extending a distance of 25 ft in a north-easterly direction, dug into the natural soil. At this point they were interrupted by a late fourth-century rubbish pit which produced a 3AE of Theodosius (379-95) and a fragment of a shell-gritted ware pot. A single large posthole (no. 9) was found 3 ft west of the main line of postholes but soundings along this axis revealed no others (see Fig. 3).

The postholes were of two distinct varieties. Postholes 1, 7 and 9 were large rectangular cavities 18 in. long and 9 in. wide and dug 1 ft 6 in. into the natural soil. They were solidly lined with stone to the depth of 1 ft and, from the angle to which P.H. 7 leant outward towards the east, they had been subjected to considerable pressure. They were probably the slots for upright beams. The remaining holes were round and set at 1 ft intervals up the trench. They were 9 in. in diameter and shallower, only between 9 in. and 1 ft deep, but they had been heavily packed by small clunch stones which formed mounds along the trench. Postholes 7 and 8 yielded some small fragments of wall plaster of greenish-blue colour in the packing, of a type exactly similar to some found immediately below and in the mortar filling of the main trench (Level 3). A fragment of hard white ware, probably late second century,

was also found in P.H. 7. Daub and traces of charcoal were found in P.H. 1, 3 and 7, and a 2-inch nail in P.H. 7.

The three postholes found on the north side of Trench 1 (see above) at right angles to P.H. 1 are roughly parallel to P.H. 9. They are certainly later than the ditch, part of whose debris they overlay. They therefore probably belong to the same building as the others; fragments of charred oak stakes¹ and daub were found in two these postholes, together with a base of a dish of hard pinkish ware, probably late second century.

A cutting 10 ft square (Trench 4) was dug to the east of the line of postholes, between no. 4 and no. 7. No further holes were found in this area, but 1 ft below the surface some burnt limestone and a coin of Valentinian I (364-75) were recovered, perhaps the remains of a squatter's hearth.

Further work will be needed before definite conclusions can be reached regarding the postholes. A wooden-framed building is indicated, and the finding of fragments of window glass and an iron key lying on the cobble filling of the ditch south of P.H. 1 suggests a dwelling rather than a barn, perhaps an aisled building of a type used sometimes for farm labourers on villas. The care taken to cover the whole of the ditch area either with roofing cores or cobbles also suggests a dwelling. The date, from the few indications so far, points to this occupation from the late second century, or early third century, ending before the digging of the rubbish pit at the north end of the site and the late fourth-century squatter occupation noted in Trench 4.

SMALL FINDS

Bronze and bone objects (Fig. 4)

AREA A

1. Perforated handle of bronze key (top only). From bottom of Ditch A. Compare example from Richborough (= *Richborough*, IV, pl. xxxiv, 86, and p. 125). Second century. Another example in the Braybrooke Collection from Great Chesterford, in the Museum of Archaeology, Cambridge.

2. Tweezers, from debris overlying clay floor foundations. Late Roman type. Compare *Lydney*, fig. 18, no. 60. A similar pair was found on the surface.

3. Ornament consisting of a bronze hook with a ring at one end enclosed in a delicate bronze sheath. Purpose unknown. L. 1½ in. Robber trench.

4. Bracelet, decorated by sets of five parallel vertical lines on rim. Robber trench. Compare *Lydney*, fig. 17, no. 58, and *Proc. C.A.S.* LII (1959), p. 71, fig. 2. Late fourth-century type.

5. Bone needle with plain bulbous head, L. 3 in. From upper level of Ditch A. Late Roman type. Compare *Lydney*, pl. xxxii, no. 164, and samples from Godmanchester hoard, c. 300. H. J. M. Green, *Proc. C.A.S.* L (1956), pl. vi.

AREA B

6. Triangular sheet of bronze, L. 2 in. and W. at base 1.9 in., with raised linear decoration along edge. Perhaps part of a bronze covering for a box. Level 5.

¹ The charcoal was of *Quercus robur* type, similar to the wood-ash found near the hearth. Information, Sir George Taylor.

7. Bone needle. L. 4 in., with undecorated flat top and vertical slit for thread. Level 5. Similar type found at Great Chesterford and now in the Museum of Archaeology at Cambridge.

Broken shafts of two other needles were also found in this level.

8. Bronze signet ring (pl. I*f*). Internal diameter of hoop 0.77 in. with intaglio of dark blue paste, flat and oval in shape with bevelled edge. L. 0.5 in. and W. 0.35 in. State of preservation very fair despite some corrosion. The form of the ring is of late-second-century type. Intaglio represents a youthful figure with flowing hair standing, facing left. His legs are crossed, and in his left hand he holds what appears to be a cup. His right arm is outstretched with his hand slightly crooked. He is naked except for a long cloak (or wineskin) draped from his right shoulder.

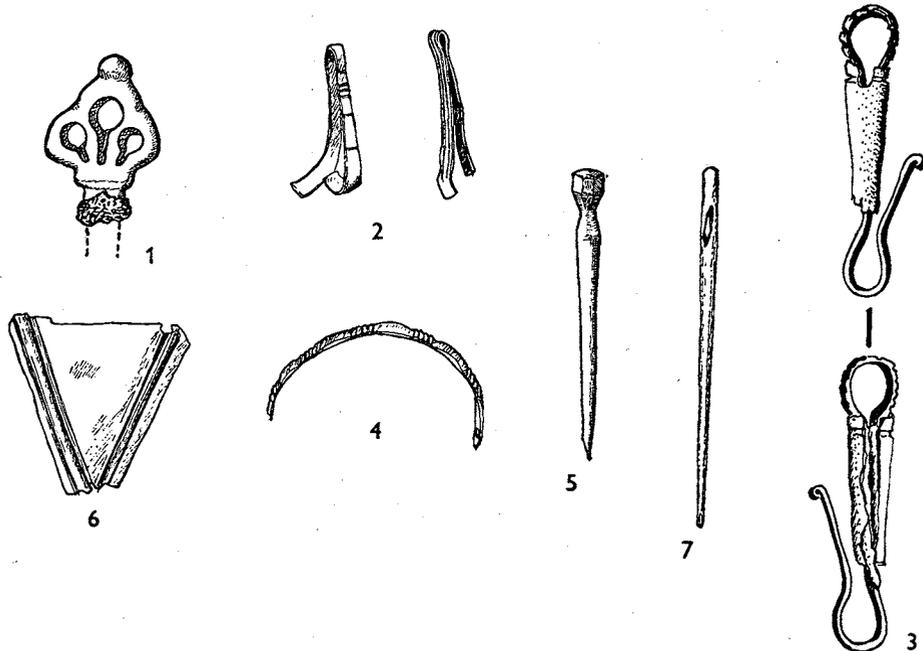


Fig. 4. Bronze and bone objects. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

No exact parallels occur in the British Museum Collection or in Furtwängler, *Antike Gemmen*, or Paul Fossing's *Catalogue of Antique Engraved Gems and Cameos* (Copenhagen, 1929), but the stance and cloak are similar to Ganymede on a Godmanchester Hoard intaglio. See H. J. M. Green. *Proc. C.A.S.* I, 86 and pl. VI central gem.

Compare also G. M. A. Richter, *Catalogue of Engraved Gems*, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (1956), no. 374, p. 375 and pl. XLVII. This seems to be an almost exact parallel; the figure is Bonus Eventus, holding a dish of fruit and a branch.

Other finds

AREA B

Two whetstones from the rubbish layer, Level 7, and an appreciable amount of daub from this level also, and daub in a burnt condition in the hearth area (not illustrated).

Graffito (Pl. I*e*). Picked up on field surface by Mr Roger Jacobi, near Area B. Scratched on tile, before firing.

Iron objects

AREA A

Except for some thirty ordinary flat-topped iron nails ranging in length from $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. to 2 in., nil.

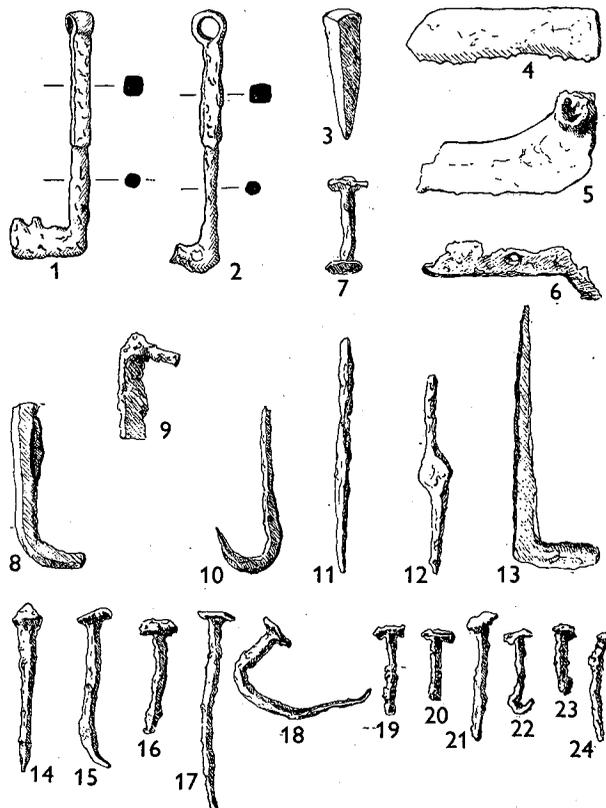


Fig. 5. Iron objects. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

AREA B (Fig. 5)

1 and 2. Iron key with loop at end for suspension. L. $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. L. of blade 1 in. and W. of blade 0.3 in. Originally three tangs, of which two survive. Compare *Richborough*, II, pl. xxiv, no. 69. Found below burnt area near centre of cutting. Two other examples less well preserved found in rubble layer (2). Level 7.

3. Small wedge, L. $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. W. across base 0.6 in. Compare *Proc. C.A.S.* LIV (1960), p. 66, no. 6 (Orton Longueville) and *Leicester, Jewry Wall*, pl. xxii, no. 2. Hearth area.

4. Fragment of blade of saw L. $4\frac{1}{2}$ in., W. 1.2 in. Hearth area.

5. Fragment of iron draw-knife. L. 4 in., W. 1 in. Hearth area. One other fragment found in same area.

6. Fragment of iron shoe (?). Rectangular fragment of iron. L. $3\frac{3}{4}$ in., W. $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. with one side upturned. Hearth area.

7. Clamp, L. 2 in., from hearth area.

8. Latch, L. 4 in., below mortar fill at east end of trench. Level 7.
9. Fragment of bracket. Level 7.
10. Hook, L. $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. Haft flattened. Same area.
11. Stylus? L. $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. Level 10.
12. Object with centre flattened between two equidistant points, L. $4\frac{1}{10}$ in. Purpose unknown. Hearth area.
13. Staple, L. $5\frac{3}{4}$ in. Pit fill at west end of trench. Level 6.
- 14-24. Varieties of nail: (1) Square-sectioned with conical round head, L. $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. One other example, Level 9. (2) Flat-headed 4 in., 3 in., 2 in. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. More than 100 other examples recovered from Levels 3, 7 and 9.

25. Iron spearhead, leaf-shaped type with hollow, splayed socket, L. $4\frac{3}{4}$ in. Width across widest part of head $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. Blade length $2\frac{7}{10}$ in. From loose fill of ditch at west end of cutting (Level 6) and associated with fragments of decorated Castor ware (see Pottery, Fig. 12, no. 9). Not illustrated; published in *Journ. Roman Studies*, LVI (1966), p. 207 and pl. IX, 2.

Compare similar examples from Ditchley Park Roman Villa, *Oxoniensia*, I (1936), pl. x, 36, and Brigstock, *Ant. Journ.* XLIII (1963), p. 249, no. 4.

The glass (Fig. 6)

Window glass was found on both sites, and at the bottom of Ditch A (Area A) a small fragment of a pillar-moulded bowl of whitish glass.

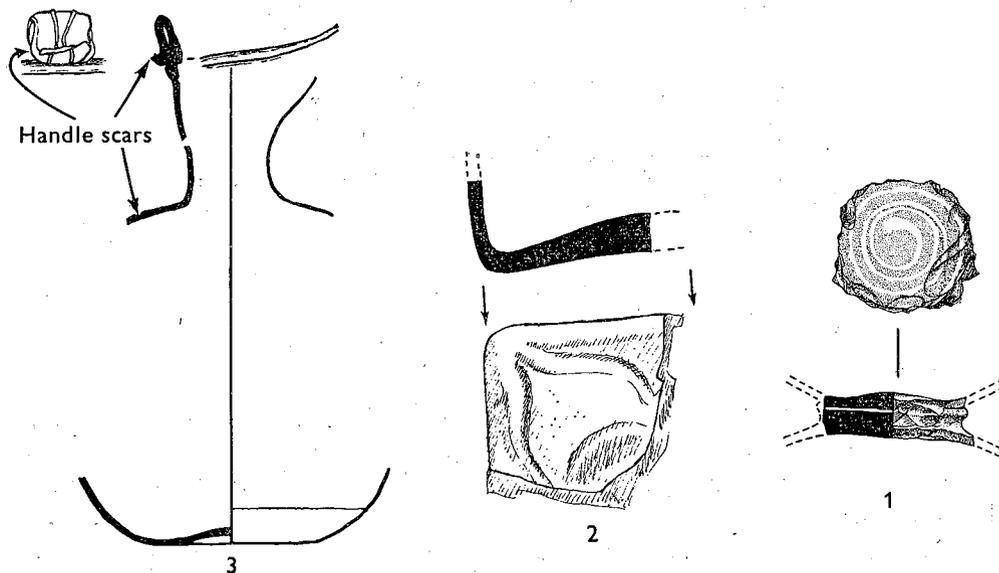


Fig. 6. Glass fragments. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

AREA A

1. Fragment of a decorated glass vase (Pl. I d). This was a surface find on the line of Ditch A. It consists of a circular fragment $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter and 0.2 in. thick, and is composed of dark-blue glass enclosing a spiral design of white glass thread. This was submitted to the British Museum (Mr K. H. Painter) but no parallel is known. It is suggested, however, that it could have formed

the link between the base and the body of an elaborate vase. Objects showing a similar technique in blue and white glass have been found at Great Chesterford and are now in the Museum of Archaeology, Cambridge.

AREA B

2. Fragment of the base of a large dark-green bottle. Vine scroll (?) decoration. Level 7.
3. Fragments of a delicate vessel of fine clear white glass. Surviving fragments indicate a bulbous body with a flat base 2 in. in diameter, a narrow neck, and a ribbed handle joining the rim. The spout was pointed and finely moulded, the rim being thickened and twisted over near the point. Found immediately below the mortar filling (Level 3) and associated with small fragments of Samian form 27 and of a Castor ware beaker. Dating probably from the second half of the second century. No exact parallels known, but the neck and spout resemble the technique employed in the glass found at Hauxton, *Proc. C.A.S.* LI (1957), p. 13, fig. 5.

Coins

AREA A

1. Denarius of Caracalla:
Obv. Head of emperor laureated A]NTONINUS P[IUS AUG] GER[M].
Rev. Nude standing figure looking R. PM. TRP XVIII COS IIII = *Coins of British Museum Collection*, v, Caracalla, 156, 1 ll. 71, 13. A.D. 216. In good condition, amid clay and building rubble at bottom of robber trench over west wall of building 1 ft. 9 in. below surface.
2. 2AE of Constantius II. FEL. TEMP. REPARATIO,—A.D. 348–353.
 Very worn, from debris above foundations of clay floors.

AREA B

3. 1AE Sestertius of Trajan. Very worn.
Obv. Emperor's head laureated.
Rev. Standing figure looking L. Rubbish layer below mortar fill.
4. 2AE of Valentinian: SECURITAS REIPUBLICAE: Mint. $\frac{1}{\text{TRS}}$ (Trier).
 From hearth in Trench 4. Fair condition.
5. 3AE. House of Theodosius. VICTORIA AUGGG type.
 Pit fill at north end of site. Worn.
6. 3AE. Worn and indecipherable coin fragment from same area as 5.

POTTERY¹

I. AREA B

With the exception of a few late Castor sherds of colour-coated ware from the level overlying the packing of mortar cores (Level 2), the pottery from the ditch and the fill appears to form a relatively homogeneous group dating to the latter part of the Antonine era (A.D. 160–80). It may be significant, however, that the finest of the reeded-rim bowls (Fig. 10: 3, 4 and 8) came from the silt in the lowest level of the ditch (Level 10) as did one of the Castor ware beakers (Fig. 12, no. 8), suggesting perhaps a date a little earlier in the century for this level. Most of the pottery illustrated

¹ Parallels have been sought wherever possible from local sites.

here came from the rubbish layer (Level 7) encountered immediately below the mortar cores. Only a few small fragments of ring-necked jugs were found (not illustrated).

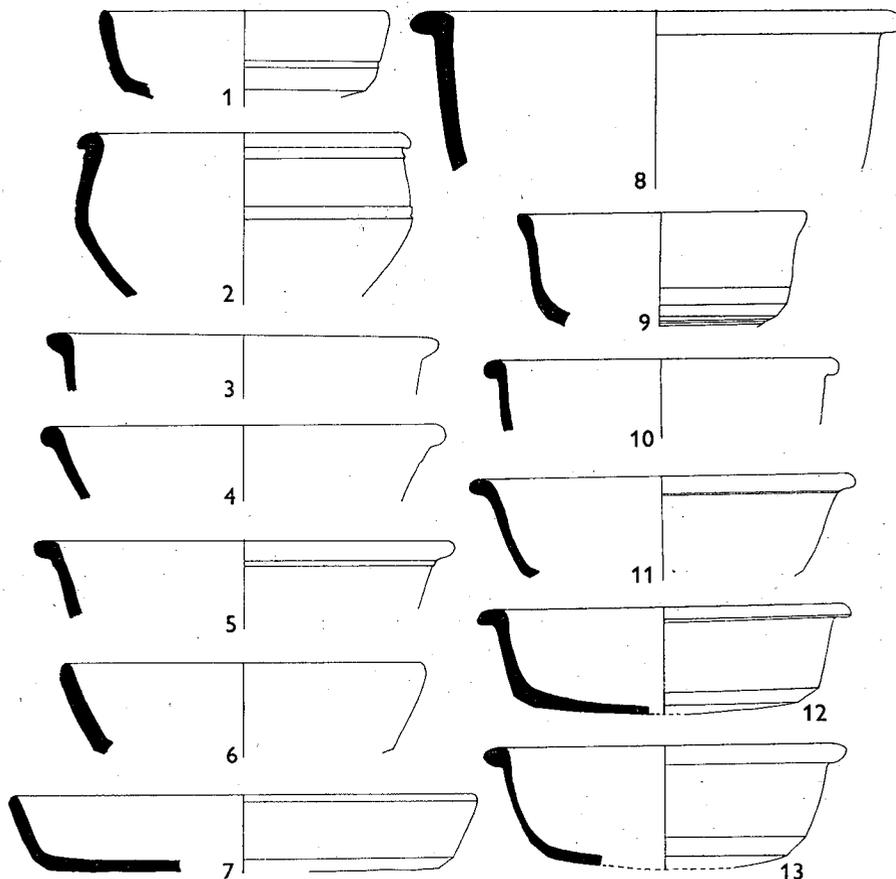


Fig. 7. Area B. Bowls, pie-dishes and platters. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

Samian ware (not illustrated)

No potter's marks or decorated fragments were found. Forms 18/31 (several fragments), 27, 33, 37, Walters 79 and Ludovici S.B. were represented¹ from levels 3 downwards, the Walters 79 and Ludovici S.B. sherds coming from Level 10. The dating is consistent with a deposit sometime near the middle of the second century.

Coarse wares

Fig. 7. Bowls, pie-dishes and platters.

1. Bowl: straight-sided, drab ware with groove round body (Level 7). Compare example in Wisbech Museum W. 7 fig. 3²; T. Potter, *Coldham Camp*, p. 31, and H. J. M. Green, *Roman Godmanchester I*³, from Godmanchester town, p. 14, 1.

¹ I owe the identification and suggested dating of these sherds to Mr M. R. Hull, F.S.A.

² T. Potter, 'The Roman Pottery from Coldham Camp', *Proc. C.A.S.* LVIII (1965), pp. 12-37.

³ H. J. M. Green, 'Roman Godmanchester I', *Proc. C.A.S.* LIII (1959), pp. 8-22.

2. Bowl: drab ware, small rounded rim, sharply carinated with shallow groove round body. Originally a Belgic type (Level 6) and another example from Level 7.

Compare *Leicester*, Fig. 23, 6.¹

3. Pie-dish: grey ware with plain rounded rim and straight side. Common type on Fenland sites in first two centuries (Level 7). Many examples found. Compare *Arbury Road*, 14a² (Antonine).

4. Variant of 3 (Level 7). Compare *Arbury Road*, 14b (Antonine).

5. Variant of 3 (Level 7), rim flatter and side more oblique. Compare *Orton Longueville*,³ fig. 6, 28 (early third century).

6. Dish: straight-sided grey ware with slightly oblique side. Common type (Levels 3 downwards).

7. Dish: straight-sided, pipeclay fabric with glossy slate-grey surface and finely chamfered base (Levels 6 and 7). Compare, for shape, *Arbury Road*, 15 (Antonine).

8. Pie dish: deep vessel, straight-sided of hard grey fabric with heavy rounded rim (Level 4). Compare *Leicester*, fig. 41, 21.

9. Bowl: pipeclay fabric and glossy slate finish similar to 7; chamfered base.

10. Bowl: straight-sided with rounded rim, gritted ware, oatmeal colour. Native tradition (Level 7). Compare *Arbury Road II*,⁴ fig. 2, 5. Fragments of other vessels of similar type found in Level 10.

11. Pie-dish: light grey ware, oblique-sided with rim curving outwards (Level 7). Compare *Leicester*, fig. 19, 25.

12. Pie-dish: white fabric, finely made with notably acute angles at base and rim. No decoration (Level 4). Compare, for shape, *Leicester*, fig. 41, 16-18 (Hadrianic).

13. Pie-dish: grey ware, brown at break, finely made with notably thin sides (Level 10). Compare *Leicester*, fig. 19, 4 (Hadrianic-Antonine).

Fig. 8. High-necked cooking pots.

These were a common type on the site and are a standard Nene Valley ware of the second century. *Arbury Road*, *Orton Longueville*, *Earith*⁵ and *Horsey Toll*⁶ have all produced examples.

1. Hard grey fabric, found complete resting on south edge of ditch (Level 10). Traces of rilling round neck. Compare D. Atkinson, *Caistor*,⁷ pl. VIII, B4, *Earith*, fig. 7, 3, *Horsey Toll* 3-5, and *Leicester*, fig. 24, 12 (Antonine).

¹ K. M. Kenyon, 'Excavations at the Jewry Wall Site, Leicester' (Society of Antiquaries, Research Committee Reports xv, Oxford, 1948). Still the most comprehensive account of second-century pottery from southern Britain.

² W. H. C. Frend and B. R. Hartley, 'A Romano-British Settlement at Arbury Road, Cambridge', *Proc. C.A.S.* XLVIII (1954), pp. 10-43.

³ G. F. Dakin, 'A Romano-British Site at Orton Longueville', *Proc. C.A.S.* LIV (1960), pp. 50-67.

⁴ W. H. C. Frend and B. R. Hartley, 'Further Romano-British Burials found at Arbury Road in 1953', *Proc. C.A.S.* XLIX (1955), pp. 25-7.

⁵ D. A. White, 'Excavations on a Romano-British Settlement at Earith', *Proc. C.A.S.* LX (1967), pp. 7-17.

⁶ B. R. Hartley and E. Standen, 'A Group of Romano-British Pottery with an owner's name', *Proc. C.A.S.* LII (1959), pp. 21-2.

⁷ D. Atkinson, 'Three Caistor Pottery Kilns', *Journ. Roman Studies*, XXII (1932), pp. 33-46.

2. Gritty grey ware, rim weakly angled. Compare *Earith*, no. 2, and Hull, *Colchester*,¹ fig. 69, 116. Many other examples found.
3. Light-grey ware with hard smooth surface (Level 7). Compare *Orton Longueville*, no. 21, *Earith*, fig. 7, 5.
4. Large pot of hard grey gritted ware with grooving on shoulder (Level 7).
5. Jar of hard grey fabric with cordon round neck (Level 7). Common type on site; also a variant without cordon.

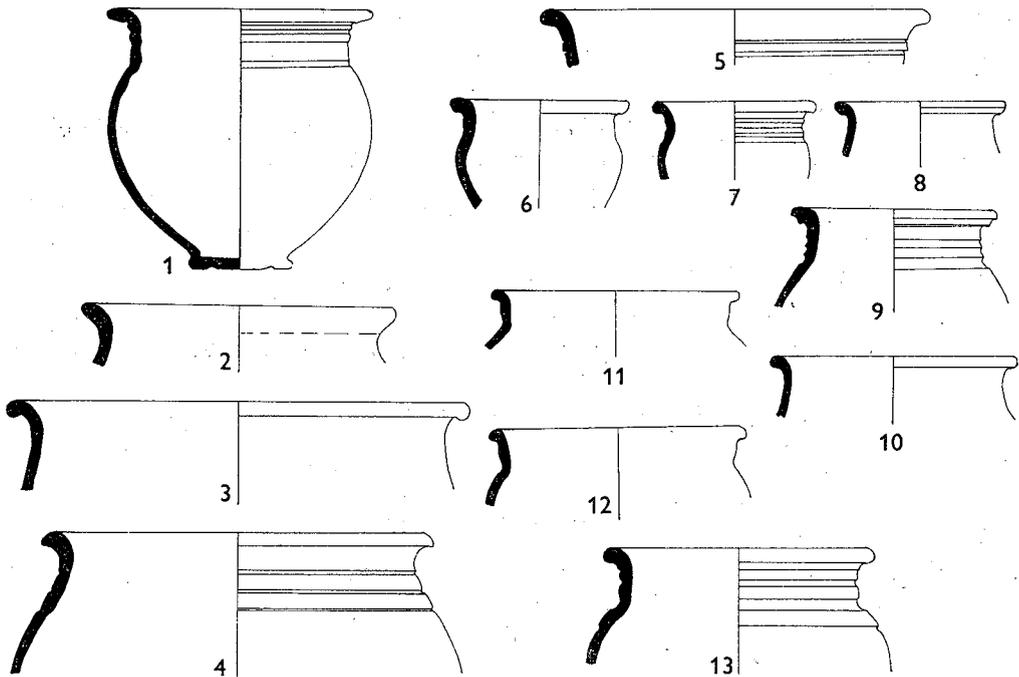


Fig. 8. Area B. High-necked cooking pots. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

6. Hand-made gritted ware, black exterior, orange interior, and flattish rim; native tradition (Level 7). *Arbury Road*, II, no. 5.
7. Small pot of hard grey gritted ware with light rilling round neck (Level 6). Compare *Horsey Toll*, no. 5 (late Antonine).
8. Variant of 1 and 4 (Level 7). Compare *Earith*, nos. 4 and 5.
9. Grey ware with slight groove on underside of rim and rilling round neck (Level 7).
10. Variant of 1, 4 and 9 (Level 7).
- 11 and 12. Smooth grey ware with slightly bulging neck (Level 10). Compare H. J. M. Green, *Godmanchester II*,² fig. 5, 10. Could be early second century.
13. Drab grey fabric with traces of black burnishing; cording at neck and shoulder (Level 3). Type paralleled from fourth-century rubble layers on Area A.

¹ C. F. C. Hawkes and M. R. Hull, *Camolodunum*, Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries, xv.

² H. J. M. Green, 'Roman Godmanchester II', *Proc. C.A.S.* LIV (1961), pp. 68-82.

Fig. 9. Cooking pots with everted rims, and lids.

The general type is illustrated in *Leicester*, fig. 27, but exact parallels to the series shown here are hard to find locally.

1. Hard grey ware with flat overhanging rim cut with groove, and grooving on shoulder. From hearth overlying north side of ditch and associated with worn sestertius of Trajan (Level 9).

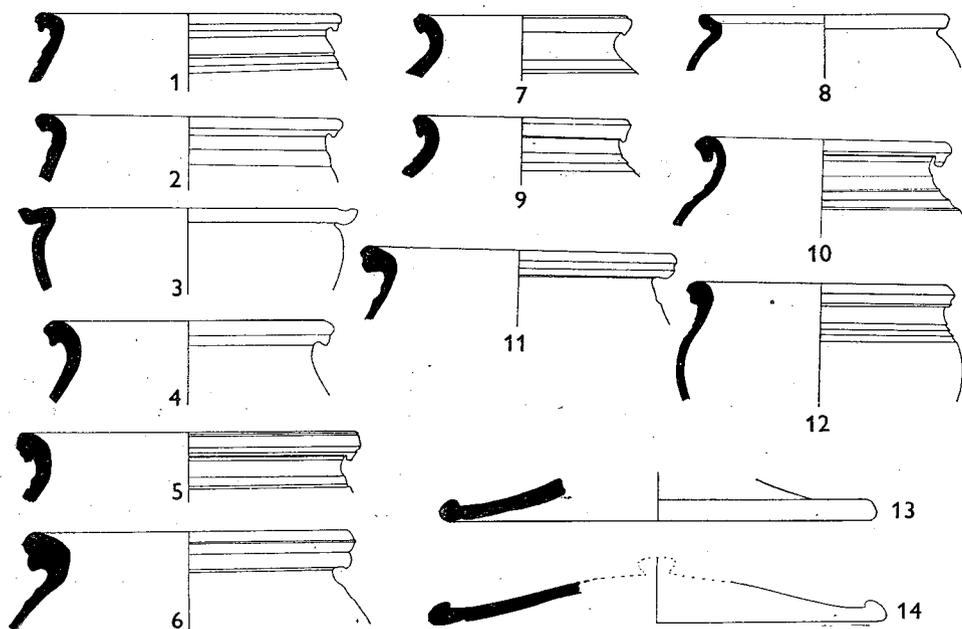
2. Hard, light-grey smooth ware with light-brown interior. Small grooved rim thickening at edge (Levels 7 and 10).

3. Hard drab ware with rim almost horizontal to body and recessed for lid (Level 10). Compare *Leicester*, fig. 45, 15-18 (Antonine).

4. Larger variant of 2.

5. Hard buff ware with squared rim and grooving (Level 7).

6. Large vessel, hard, off-white gritted fabric, blackened on exterior. Grooved rim (Level 7).

Fig. 9. Area B. Cooking pots with everted rims, and lids. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

7. Deep brown ware, rouletting round shoulder, plain squared rim (Level 3).

8. Hard gritted off-white ware with slight recess for lid (Level 10).

9. Gritted buff ware, rim squared and undercut with slight groove (Level 10). Compare *Verulamium*, Fig. 31, 41 (120-160).¹

10. Gritted pinkish ware, with squared and undercut rim (Level 7).

11. Variant of 9 and 10. Rim less undercut.

12. Smooth buff-brown ware with pronounced groove along rim.

¹ R. E. M. Wheeler and T. V. Wheeler, *Verulamium, a Belgic and two Roman Cities*. Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries, XI.

13. Lid. Grey ware, rim rounded and flat on underside (Level 7). *Leicester*, fig. 31, 2 (second century).

14. Lid. Grey ware with strongly marked rim projecting upwards (Level 7). *Leicester*, fig. 31, 8 (Antonine).

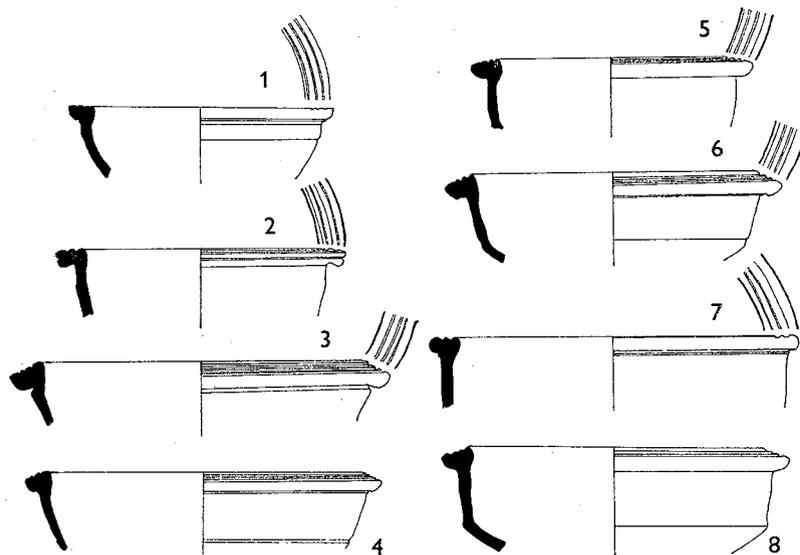


Fig. 10. Area B. Reeded-rim bowls. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

Fig. 10. A group of reeded-rim bowls.

The majority of the fragments of the finer types came from Level 10, but the type was represented uniformly in all the levels below Level 3, and in the pit fill at the west end of the trench, Level 6 (Fig. 2). On military sites in northern and western Britain this type is late-first and early-second century, but on civil sites such as Leicester and Verulamium it is usually associated with material dated to A.D. 120-40. Examples found in the Fen area (e.g. Godmanchester Town) suggest, however, that the type had a long life on East Anglian sites.

1. Creamy buff ware, finely made; narrow horizontal rim and inner wall of pot curved inwards below rim (Level 6). Another example shows groove round body. Compare *Leicester*, fig. 44, 16 (A.D. 150-60) and *Verulamium*, fig. 35, 70 (Hadrianic).

2. White gritted ware with coarser reeding and groove round rim.

3. Creamy buff ware, finely made, rim slightly downturned. Slight hollow in wall below rim (Level 10). Compare *Leicester*, fig. 21, 11, and *Verulamium*, Fig. 35, 69 (Hadrianic).

4. Greyish ware similar to 3 with groove round body (Level 10).

5. Buff ware, coarse and rather gritty fabric, wider and less well-executed reeding (Level 9).

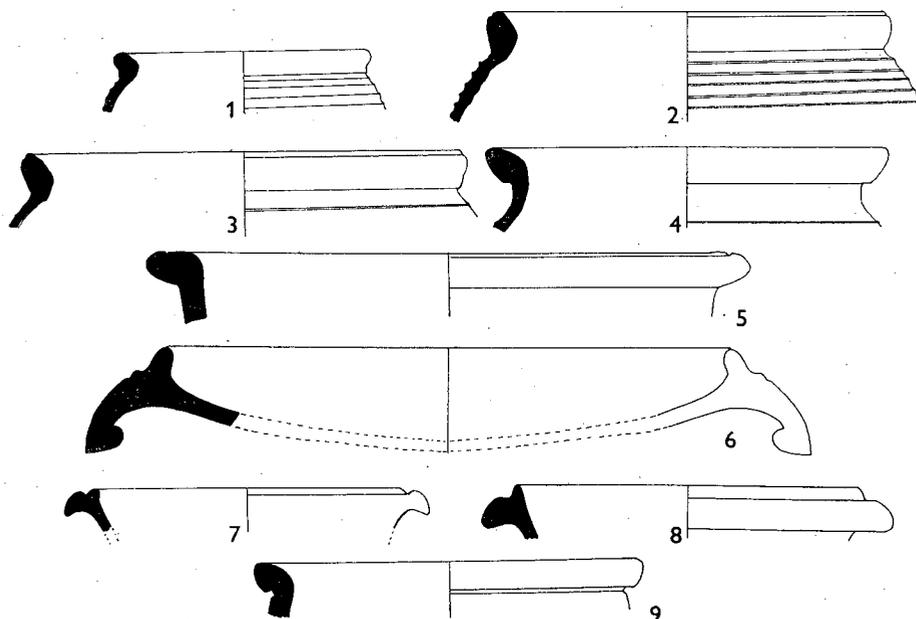
6. Buff ware, rim slightly dipping and side groove above carination (Level 10). Found on Fenland sites, *Arbury Road*, fig. 5, 13 (Antonine). *Godmanchester II*, fig. 5, 16, and *Leicester*, fig. 44, 16.

7. Drab grey ware, with thicker rounded rim horizontal to body and straight sides (Level 7). Compare *Leicester*, fig. 21, 16 and 44, 17 (Antonine).

8. Light buff ware, similar to 6 but with sharper carination. Compare *Earith*, fig. 8, 3.

Fig. 11. Storage jars, mortaria and pottery from later levels.

1. Hard coarse gritted ware, rounded rim, light buff colour, externally blackened, rilling on outside. Compare *Leicester*, fig. 30, 18 (Level 7).

Fig. 11. Area B. Storage-jars, mortaria, and pottery from later levels. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

2. Hard coarse gritted ware of light buff, blackened on outside with flattened inward sloping rim, and rilling on outside (Level 7).

3. Variant of 2, but smaller pot and slight rilling on body (Level 13).

4. Coarse, gritted ware, oatmeal colour, heavy rounded rim. Compare *Leicester*, fig. 30, 19 (Level 10).

5. Large jar of coarse fabric, gritted ware, light oatmeal colour. Probably locally made (Level 3).

6. Mortarium; hard pinkish-buff type with sparse grit particles. Broad gently curving flange with end of rim curved and rolled over (Level 4). Compare *Leicester*, fig. 46, 2, and fig. 18, 16 (Late second century).

7. Bowl: pink fabric, pointed flange, mottled grey-brown colour-coat. Fourth-century type (Level 2). Compare *Arbury Road*, fig. 6, 45 (late fourth century).

8. Bowl: rounded flange, pipeclay ware with glossy grey coating. Fourth-century type (Level 2). Compare Green, *Godmanchester*, II, 20, and *Arbury Road*, fig. 6, 57 (late fourth century).

9. Cooking pot: pink ware, grey-brown colour-coat, rounded rim. Fourth-century type (Level 2). Compare *Orton Longueville*, 90.

Many similar fragments found in robber trenches of Area A and not illustrated.

Not illustrated: base of a strainer of buff ware with lemon slip.

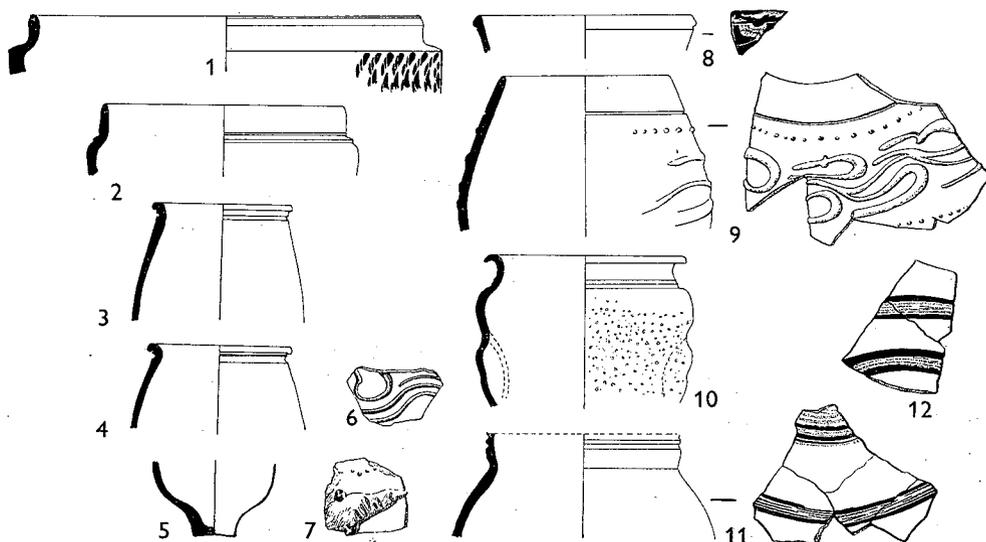
Fig. 12. Beakers, etc.

1. Castor ware box: pipeclay fabric, rim black, blending at shoulder into orange coating. Interior black (Level 6). Another example of a smaller pot (Level 7). Compare *Orton Longueville*, no. 33 (second-third century), and for a lid see A. W. G. Lowther, *Verulamium* (1934), fig. 9, 10,¹ *Arbury Road*, fig. 7, 85-6 and B. R. Hartley, *Nene Valley Pottery*, fig. 4, 17-18².

2. Beaker: Nene Valley, chocolate colour-coat on pipeclay fabric. No rouletting (Level 6). Other examples from Level 10. Compare M. R. Hull, *Colchester*, fig. 70, 132.

3. Beaker: Castor ware. Salmon pink to dark brown slip over pink fabric. Smooth surface. Double groove below rim (Level 6). Compare *Leicester*, fig. 27, 50 (Antonine) to end of second century.

4. Beaker: Variant of 3 with single groove below rim (Level 10). Other examples from Level 7 and below.

Fig. 12. Area B. Beakers, etc. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

5. Beaker: base of small Castor beaker. Mottled black and brown slip over pipeclay fabric (Level 3).

6. Hunt cup or beaker: fragment of side, showing elaborate barbotine scroll decoration; black slip over pipeclay fabric. Salmon-pink interior (Level 7).

Compare *Arbury Road*, no. 11 (A.D. 170-80).

7. Similar vessel showing animal's head and snout (?) as part of decorative pattern.

8. Beaker (?). Small fragment of rim of delicate beaker of pipeclay fabric. Elaborate mottled black, orange and white slip decoration. (Imitation of imported glass vessel?) (Level 10).

9. Hunt cup. Pipeclay fabric with orange slip; black interior. Elaborate scroll decoration (Level 6). Compare *Orton Longueville*, no. 85 (late second century).

¹ A. W. G. Lowther, 'Report on Excavations at Verulamium 1934', *Antiquaries Journ.* xvii (1937), pp. 28-55.

² B. R. Hartley, *Notes on the Roman Pottery Industry in the Nene Valley*. (Peterborough Museum, 1960).

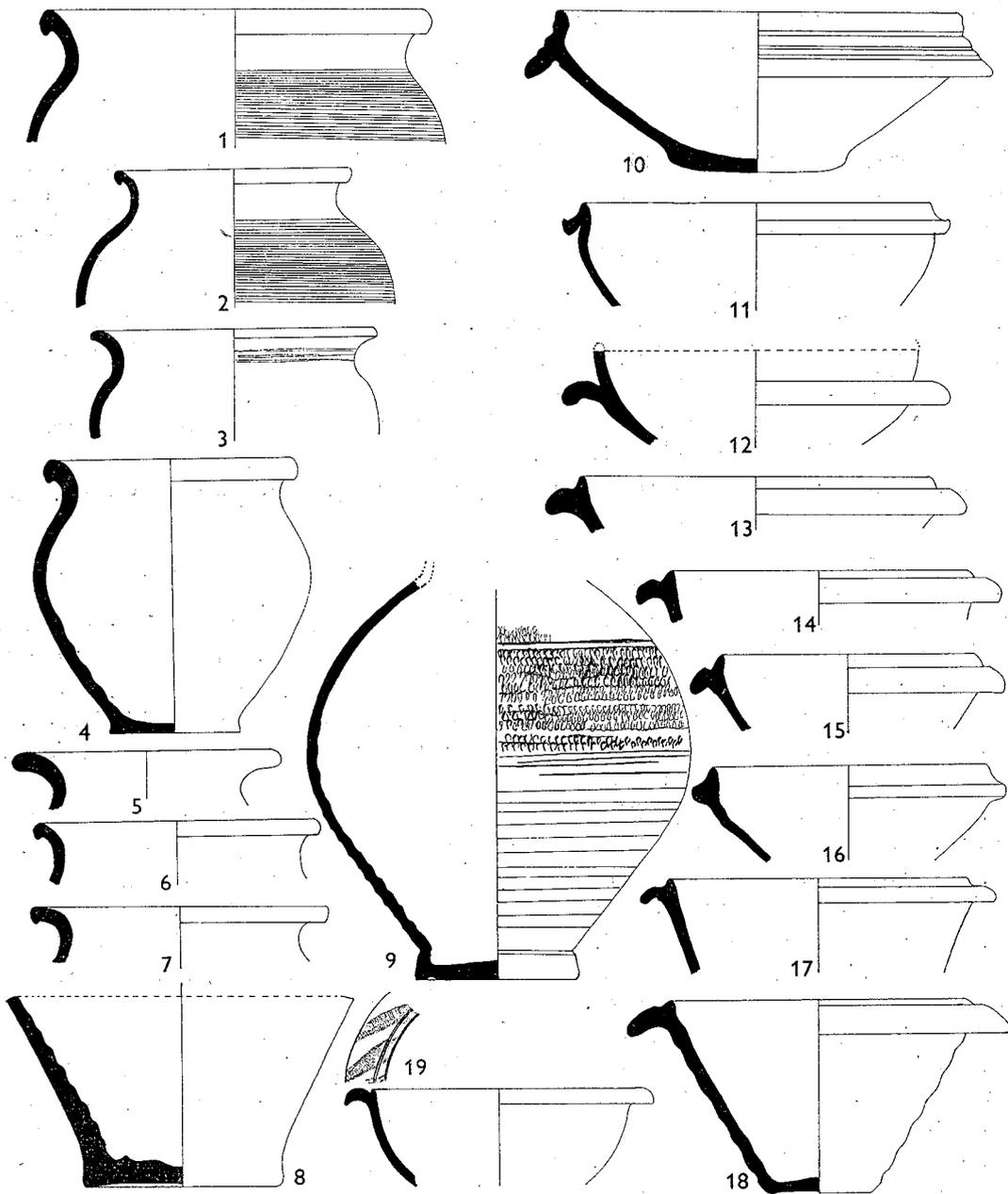


Fig. 13. Area A. Fourth-century pottery. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

10. Beaker with thumb-indented sides, pipeclay fabric with dark brown slip; roughcast ware with small everted rim (Level 8). Another example (Level 6). Compare J. P. Bushe-Fox, *Richborough*, III, fig. xxxix, 305 (early second century), and A. W. G. Lowther, *Verulamium* (1934), fig. 10, 12.

11 and 12. Jar of brick-red fabric with white slip, painted on neck and body with parallel horizontal strips in brown and orange¹ (Level 9).

II. AREA A

Fig. 13.

The pottery from Area A falls into two groups. The majority illustrated came from either the fill of the robber trenches or the rubble overlying the remains of clay foundations of floors. It is a late fourth-century group, associated with worn coins of the house of Constantine (p. 33).

1. Storage jar: medium mouthed, of calcite-gritted ware with surface varying from black to orange-brown. Traces of rilling on exterior. Compare *Arbury Road*, fig. 5, 1 (late fourth century).

2. Cooking pot: same fabric and decoration as 1.

3. Cooking pot: hard grey-black fabric with burnishing. Compare R. E. M. Wheeler, *Segontium*,² fig. 80, 55-7 (mid fourth century).

4. Cooking pot: medium mouthed, calcite-gritted ware, no rilling; found complete, lying upside down near top of fill of robber trench. Native tradition.

5. Jar: medium mouthed, of hard drab fabric (rubble layer). Compare *Arbury Road*, fig. 6, 36 (fourth century).

6. Cooking pot: smaller variant of 1 (rubble layer).

7. Cooking pot: oatmeal ware, flat rim (rubble layer).

8. Base of large, barrel-shaped storage jar, hard pipeclay fabric, smooth, burnished exterior of chocolate colour, and similar interior. Upper portion cut off for use as bowl (robber trench).

9. Beaker: large funnel-shaped beaker of late period of Castor ware. Bulbous body with hatched decoration. White pipeclay fabric with reddish-buff exterior. Interior painted with light-brown blobs and patterns on white surface. Neck and rim broken before discard (robber trench). Compare R. E. M. and T. V. Wheeler, *Lydney*, fig. 27, 60-1.³

10. Mortarium: whitish fabric, grit probably ironstone. Fourth-century type. Compare *Arbury Road*, no. 43. Another similar example of light-buff fabric found in upper level of Ditch A.

11. Bowl: soft calcite-gritted ware. Markedly inverted rim, leaving ledge for lid. Local native tradition (robber trench). Compare *Arbury Road*, no. 93 (late fourth century).

12. Bowl: flange wide and rounded. Pipeclay ware, orange colour-coat. Imitation Samian 38. Compare Wheeler, *Segontium*, p. 168, 53 (post-350), and *Lydney*, fig. 26, 24, *Orton Longueville*, no. 92, *Arbury Road*, no. 47.

13. Bowl: heavy rounded flange, pinkish fabric, orange colour-coat.

14. Bowl: flanged, with oblique straight side; pipeclay ware with grey colour-coat, glossy surface. Many examples found. Compare *Orton Longueville*, no. 91, and Bushe Fox, *Richborough*, 1, no. 121.

15. Bowl: flanged, narrow and angular. Pipeclay ware, and orange colour-coat.

16. Bowl: oblique straight side, hard grey fabric; grey surface. Compare *Orton Longueville*, fig. 8, 83.

17. Bowl: flanged, straight-sided bowl of hard grey fabric with orange exterior. No colour-coat.

¹ Fragments of two similar jars were found. The effect is reminiscent of Mediterranean pottery of the Mycenaean or Helladic periods.

² R. E. M. Wheeler, 'Segontium and the Roman Occupation of Wales', *Y Cymmrodor*, xxxiii (1923).

³ R. E. M. Wheeler and T. V. Wheeler, 'Report on the Excavation of the Prehistoric, Roman and Post-Roman Site at Lydney Park, Gloucestershire', Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries, ix (1932).

18. Bowl: oblique straight side and rounded flange, of white pipeclay fabric, with deep brown glossy colour-coat. Found complete in robber trench. Compare *Arbury Road*, no. 45, and Green, *Roman Godmanchester II*, fig. 5, 20. Common mid- or late fourth-century type.

19. Bowl: roll rim, of smooth white fabric. Orange-painted stripes on outside of rim. Compare *Orton Longueville*, no. 79 (fourth century).

Not illustrated: numerous fragments of colour-coated pots of late Castor type, common on Fenland sites.

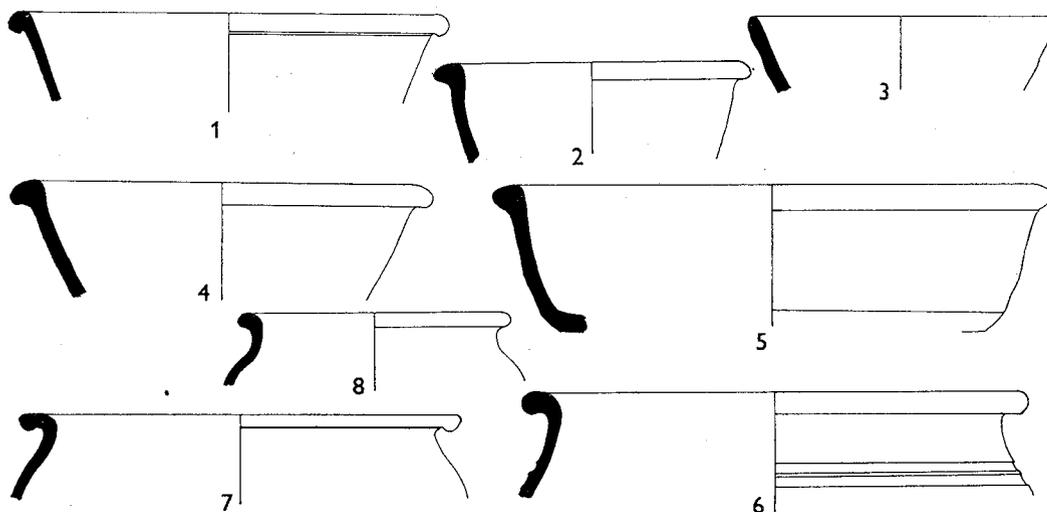


Fig. 14. Area A. Second-century pottery. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

Fig. 14.

A smaller group came from the bottom of Ditch A. It contained grey cooking pots and pie-dishes, and was associated with fragments of a pot of chocolate colour-coated Nene Valley ware, and Samian forms 18/31 and 80. This group would appear to date to the same period (late second century) as the pottery from Area B. The lack of third-century types on the site is interesting.

1-3. Straight-sided pie-dishes of hard light-grey ware. These three examples came from the lowest level of Ditch A, and are second century. Compare *Arbury Road*, no. 14 and *Earith*, fig. 7, 7.

4. Dish: hard grey ware, straight side, no decoration.

5. Shallow platter: hard grey ware. Exceptionally large and finely made, with a small rim and chamfered base. Same area as 1-3.

6. Large cooking pot: smooth grey fabric, rounded rim, shoulder defined by grooves; Nene Valley ware second century. Compare *Arbury Road*, fig. 5, 8, *Orton Longueville*, fig. 6, 27.

7. Cooking pot, of similar type to 6 but smaller. Compare *Earith*, fig. 7, 3.

8. Variant of 7, but with thinner walls.



a



c



b



d



e



f



Rectory Farm Field, Godmanchester. *a-c*. Wall plaster. *d*. Base of blue glass vessel. *e*. Graffito on tile. (*a-e*. All actual size.) *f*. Bronze signet ring with blue paste setting and impression. $\times 2\frac{1}{4}$.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

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