

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN  
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LXXVI

for 1987

# THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS OF THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

PROCEEDINGS VOLUME LXXIII, 1984

*Price £4 net for members, £5.50 for non-members*

- MARY CRA'STER, TIMOTHY POTTER and others: *Obituary: Joan Liversidge, 1914-1984.*  
WILLIAM J. BRITNELL: *Antler Cheekpieces from Edmundsoles, Haslingfield, Cambs.*  
DAVID HAIGH: *Rescue Excavations at Cow Lane, Godmanchester, Cambs. during 1984.*  
ALISON TAYLOR: *A Roman Stone Coffin from Stuntney and Gazetteer of Similar Coffins in Cambridgeshire.*  
C.J. ARNOLD and J.L. WILKINSON: *Three Anglo-Saxon Cremations from Girton, Cambridgeshire.*  
ROBERT HALLIDAY: *The Churches of Ashley and Silverley.*  
DAVID HAIGH and others: *Excavation of the Town Ditch at Swavesey, 1984.*  
DAVID HAIGH: *Excavations of a Medieval Bridge and Twelfth-century Cross Shaft at Kings Ripton, Cambridgeshire, 1983.*  
DAVID HAIGH: *Excavations at Cromwell House, Huntingdon, 1984.*  
P.G. LINDLEY: *The Tomb of Bishop William de Luda: an Architectural Model at Ely Cathedral.*

PROCEEDINGS VOLUME LXXIV, 1985

*Price £4 net for members, £5.50 for non-members*

- ALISON TAYLOR: *Prehistoric, Roman, Saxon and Medieval Artefacts from the Southern Fen Edge, Cambridgeshire.*  
IAN PAYNE: *The Musical Establishment at Trinity College, Cambridge, 1546-1644.*  
A.E. BROWN and C.C. TAYLOR: *Cambridgeshire Earthwork Surveys V.*  
KENNETH RAINSBURY DARK: *Archaeological Survey at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, 1984.*  
COLIN F. PENDELTON: *A Gold 'hair-ring' from Wimblington Parish, Cambridgeshire.*

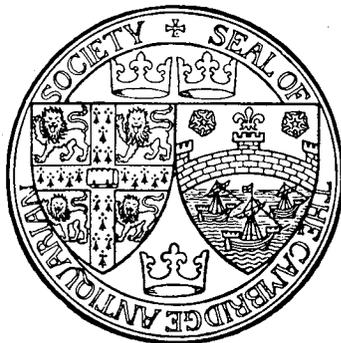
PROCEEDINGS VOLUME LXXV, 1986

*Price £4 net for members, £5.50 for non-members*

- M.D. CRA'STER: *Obituaries - C.F. Tebbutt and H.K. Cameron.*  
JO DRAPER: *Excavations at Great Chesterford, Essex, 1953-5.*  
A.M. JOHNSON: *Wisbech and West Walton Highway by-pass, an Archaeological Survey.*  
MARK BLACKBURN: *A Penny of Eadgar from Castile Hill, Cambridge.*  
DAVID HAIGH: *Excavations at Barnwell Priory, Cambridge.*  
E.M. DAVIS: *Dovecotes of South Cambridgeshire.*

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN  
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LXXVI

for 1987

Published by the Cambridge Antiquarian Society 1988

ISSN 0309-3606

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL, 1986-7

*President*

MISS E.S. LEEDHAM-GREEN, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A.

*Vice Presidents*

R.E. GLASSCOCK, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A.

J.G. POLLARD, M.A., F.S.A.

D.R. WILSON, M.A., F.S.A.

*Disney Professor of Archaeology*

PROFESSOR A.C. RENFREW, M.A., Sc.D, F.S.A., F.B.A.

*Curator of the University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology*

D.W. PHILLIPSON, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A., F.R.G.S.

*Ordinary Members of Council*

J. GOLDSMITH, B.A., A.L.A.

N. HELLAWELL, Dip. Arch., Dip.P.P., R.I.B.A.

M.W. THOMPSON, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A.

MRS N.A. ROOKE, B.A.

MISS C.M. HILLS, Ph.D, F.S.A.

M.J. PETTY, A.L.A.

T.B. DOIG, B.A., M.I.M.I.

C.A. SHELL, M.A., Ph.D.

J.M. ALLEN

A. KIRBY, M.A.

*Secretary*

MISS A.S. BENDALL, M.A., A.L.A.

*Editor*

MISS M.D. CRA'STER, M.A., F.S.A., F.M.A.

*Registrar*

MRS. R. DESMOND

*Treasurer*

J.C.S. SHAW, M.A.

*Director of Fieldwork*

J. ALEXANDER, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A.

*Editor of Conduit*

R.I. BURN-MURDOCH, M.A.

*Excursions Secretary*

MRS. A. HOLTON-KRAYENBUHL, B.A.

*Hon. Librarian*

J.D. PICKLES, M.A., Ph.D.

*County Archaeological Officer*

MISS A.F. TAYLOR, B.A.

*Representative of Cambridgeshire Local History Society*

J.M.P. FARRAR, M.A.

*Hon. Auditor*

COUNTY TREASURER

## CONTENTS

Quakerism in Cambridge before the Act of Toleration (1653–1689) LAUREL PHILLIPSON	1
Nomads in ‘Waterland’? Prehistoric Transhumance and Fenland Archaeology CHRISTOPHER EVANS	27
Ernest Greenfield’s Excavations at Exning Roman Villa C. J. WEBSTER	41
Denny Abbey: The Nuns’ Refectory JEM POSTER and DAVID SHERLOCK	67
Excavation at Riverside, Thompsons Lane, Cambridge PAUL FIRMAN and JOYCE PULLINGER	83
Music at Jesus College, Cambridge, c. 1557–1679 IAN PAYNE	97
Royal Mandates for Degrees in the Reign of Charles II (1660–85): An Aspect of the Crown’s Influence in the University of Cambridge JOHN TWIGG	105
The First Cottage of Clay Bats? JOHN MCCANN	113
<i>Index</i>	122



# ERNEST GREENFIELD'S EXCAVATIONS AT EXNING

## ROMAN VILLA

C. J. WEBSTER

The Roman villa at Exning was first discovered in 1904 during work in an orchard. The item which attracted attention was a mosaic pavement which was excavated and lifted under the direction of Prof. T. McKenny Hughes (Hughes 1906). The mosaic was removed to Cambridge where it was displayed for many years on the wall of the University Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. The best preserved portion of the semi-circular design from Room 2 has now been incorporated in the Museum's Romano-British display (1984).

In 1958 the orchard was to be dug up, the land deep ploughed, and turned over to agriculture. A trial excavation was arranged under the direction of Mr Ernest Greenfield for the Ministry of Works (now English Heritage). This was followed in 1959 by the complete excavation of the building which had contained the mosaic.

The following report is based on the plans, notes and photographs taken during the excavation together with some preparatory notes made for publication by the excavator which contain information not found in the site record.

The area around Exning (Fig. 1B) had long been noted for Roman remains; coins and a fibula being recorded in 1720 (VCH 1911). More coins were discovered during the construction of the racecourse in the eighteenth century. In 1832 several graves were discovered in Exning parish during gravel digging. Both inhumation and cremations in pots, one possibly Black-Burnished ware, were found together with various grave-goods including bronze and shale bracelets, glass bottles, a shale spindle whorl and part of a bone comb (VCH 1911, 304). In c.1870 a hoard of Roman pewter vessels was found in the bed of the former Exning-Landwade stream (Phillips 1970, 235).

In 1948 a well containing Roman pottery was partially excavated by a bomb disposal squad to the south-east of Exning. Another, 180m away was fully excavated in 1956-7 (Johnston 1959). The well was 16m deep and had been filled in one operation with what seems to represent domestic rubbish accumulated over a long period. No evidence for a building was found in the area.

### THE SITE

The villa at Exning (TL 612676) lies on a gentle slope above the fenland. Although in Exning parish the villa is closer to the Cambridgeshire village of Landwade, 1km to the north-east. The site is referred to as 'Landwade' in several publications and this has led to confusion as to which county it lies in. The underlying geology is Middle Chalk which slopes to the north-west into a shallow channel, now drained.

### THE EXCAVATIONS OF 1958 AND 1959

The site of the 1904 excavation was still visible in 1958 and a system of test holes was dug around and in the hollow. This led to the opening of two areas of larger trenches at the north-west and south-east of the building, where hypocausts were evident. Two features found, a line of wheel ruts and a ditch, were traced by means of test holes for 100m in either direction (Fig. 1C).

During the second season, in 1959 a large area between and including most of the 1958 trenches was cleared by machine and excavated down to the chalk, revealing a large stone building overlying an earlier timber phase.

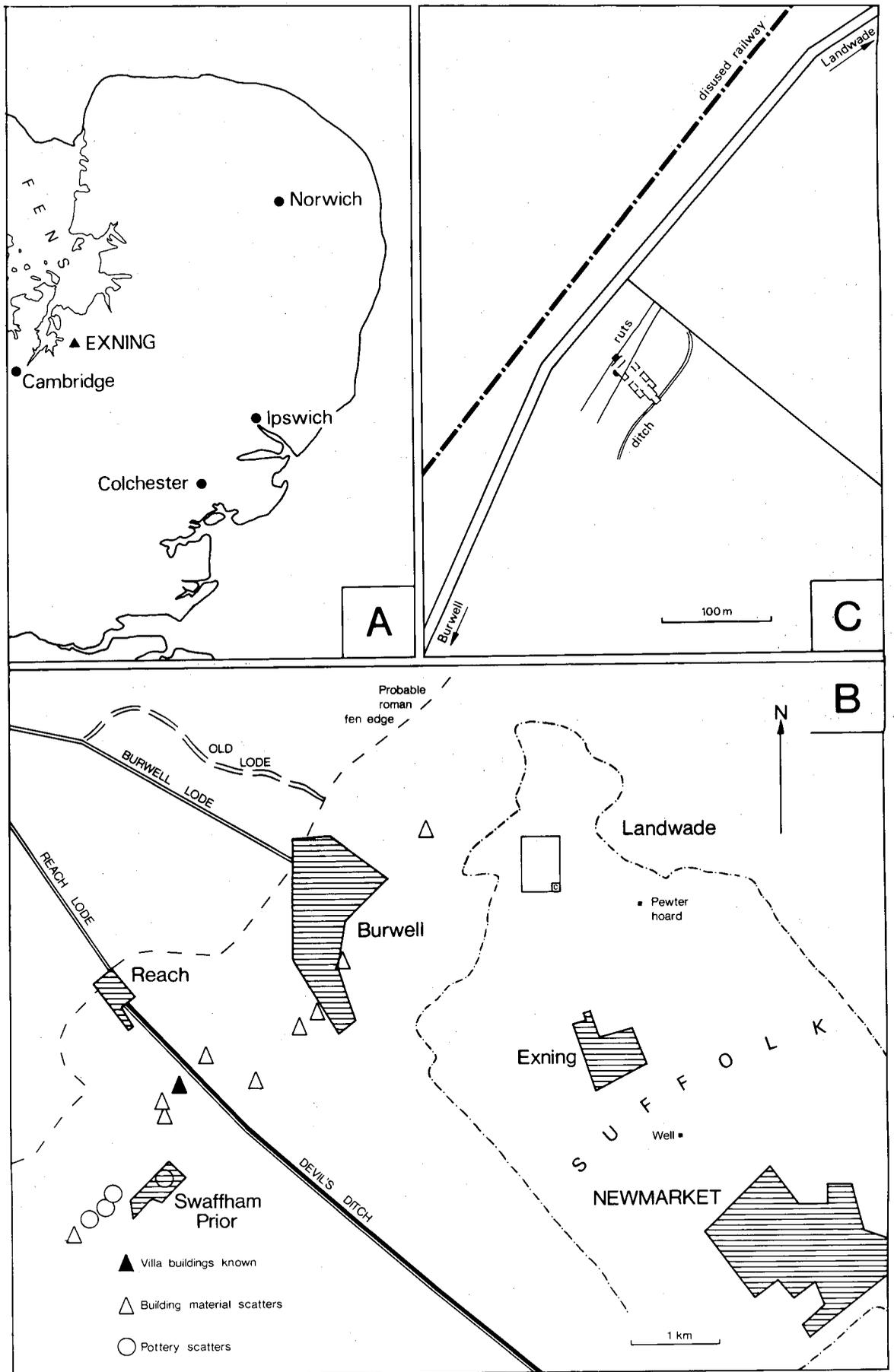


Figure 1. The location of Exning Roman Villa and other Roman sites in the area.

## STRATIGRAPHY (Fig. 2)

Several over-site layers were noted, mostly representing the destruction of the villa. Below these was a complex of features cut into the chalk.

The first over-site layer below the topsoil was a layer of rubble 255 formed by the destruction of the villa. Below this in some places another layer of rubble and wall plaster 254 was noted and is interpreted as debris from the rebuilding of the villa in stone. Below these rubble layers was a layer 253 representing the original topsoil during the life of the villa. The backfill (257) of the 1904 excavation was also visible. Some features were noted where they cut these layers but most were only apparent where they cut into the chalk and few of these were related stratigraphically.

*Phase I. Pre-villa and undated features* (Fig. 3)

The earliest occupation of the site was represented by a complex of ditches, post-holes and pits. There is no evidence that any of these pre-date the Roman period. Two worked flints were found, one of neolithic type, but both were residual in Roman features. Many of these features were not related stratigraphically and so their date is not certain, but it is likely that most pre-date the villa.

The five main ditches (10, 84, 43, 2, 259) certainly pre-date the villa and presumably represent boundaries. Three (43, 2, 259) leave the area of the excavation in two directions and 259 was traced for a considerable distance in both directions (Fig. 1C). Of the others, ditch 84 was recut on one occasion but serves no obvious function, ditch 10 leaves the site to the north-west and may have been filled with domestic rubbish as several broken but nearly complete pots were recovered (Fig. 10: 6, 7, 10-12, 14).

It is noticeable that the area to the north of ditch 10 contains very few features of early date and it is probable that the ditch represents the boundary of the site in this period. It is therefore likely that the focus of the early occupation lay to the south-west of the excavated area.

The features noticed in the excavated area form no very obvious pattern although Greenfield (1960) believed that the post-holes surrounding the complex (21, 24, 32, 41) of ovens

and pits formed an 'irregular timber hutment'. Another small building may be represented by post-holes 104-9 & 188. Most of the pits are irregular and serve no obvious function; four (5, 24, 32, 197) however are sub-rectangular and seem to have been refilled soon after being dug. There was no sign of silting and the fill of each was similar; the lower fill mostly chalk and the upper mixed chalk and earth. Two of these pits were later cut by ovens (21, 41) although these may belong to phase II. If however the ovens were used in phase I, the post-holes of the 'hutment' may represent wind shielding.

Few of the phase I features contained closely dateable material but much of the pottery is in an Iron Age tradition. Potter (1965) believes that this 'East Anglian' style was probably replaced by influence from the Nene Valley and Black-Burnished ware factories during the second century. Other first-century types are also present perhaps from Colchester (eg Fig. 10:12). It is likely therefore that the phase I occupation dates to the first and early second centuries.

*Phase II. The timber building* (Fig. 4)

The second phase saw the construction and use of a large timber building. The main structural components of this are represented by two parallel rows of post-holes, 31m long and 6m apart. The posts supported in these post-holes averaged 0.5m in diameter and the holes were mostly over 1m deep. Aligned roughly parallel with these two rows and 3m to the south-west was a row of over thirty, often inter-cutting, small post-holes. This row did not run the full length of the other two, stopping c. 6m short of each end. To the south-east a large ditch 1 ran 2m from the end of the main rows following the line of the earlier ditch 259.

The building would at first sight appear to be a standard aisled building of a type well known in Roman Britain (Smith 1964, Hadman 1978, Morris 1979) but there are several problems with this interpretation. Although it is common for there to be little evidence of the aisle walls of such structures, at Exning the south-west aisle seems to be represented by a line of post-holes but not the north-east. The plan published by Greenfield (1960) gives the impression that the north-east aisle wall lay outside the excavated area but

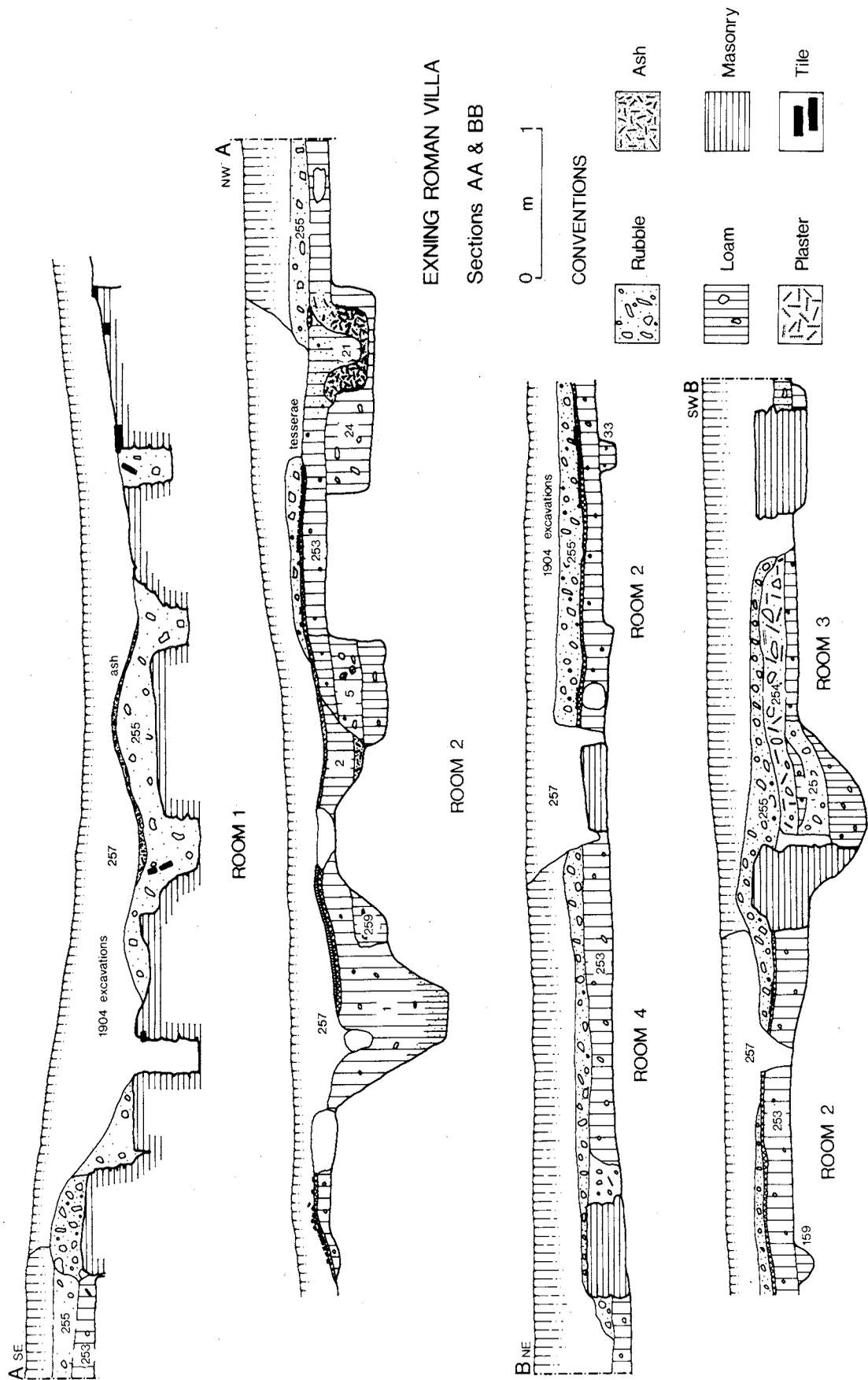


Figure 2. Exning Roman Villa. Sections AA & BB (see figs 3-5 for location of sections).

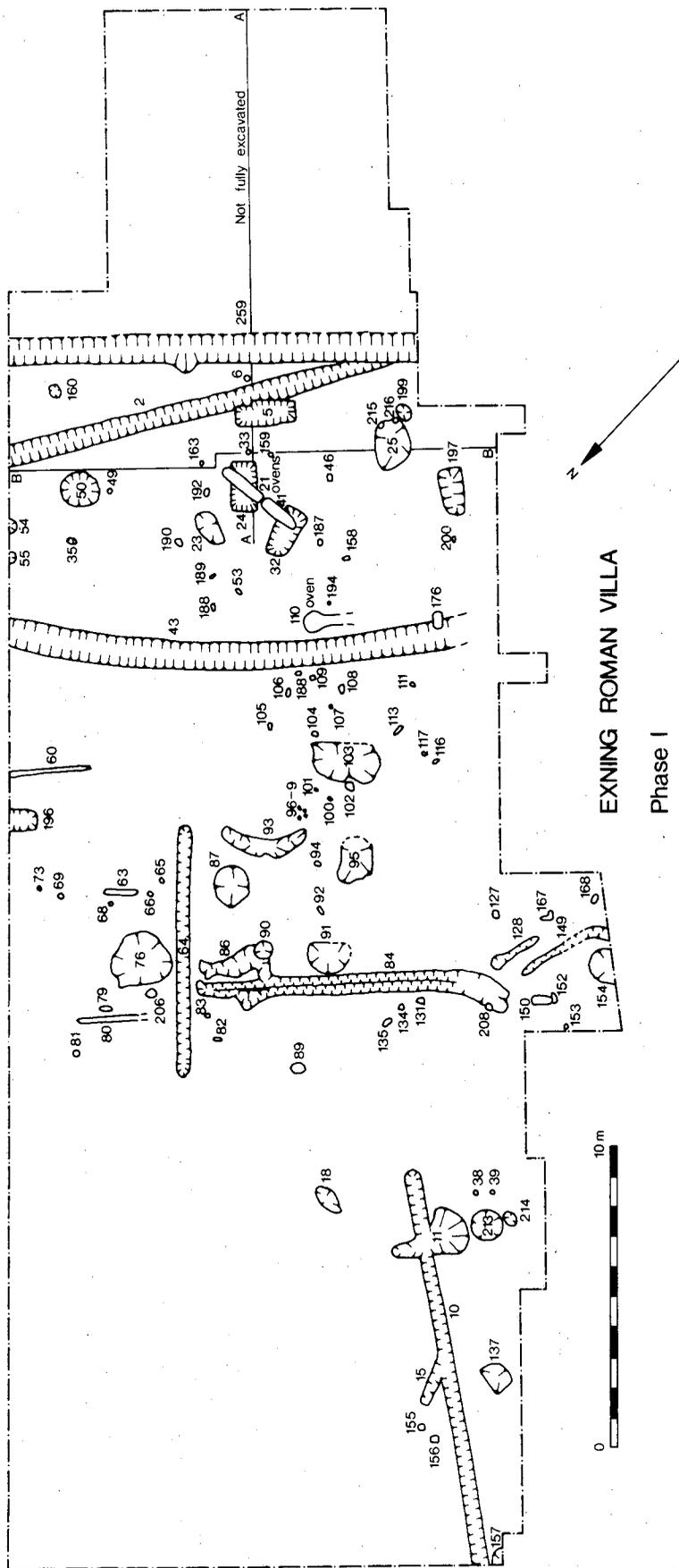


Figure 3. Exning Roman Villa. Plan of Phase I and other early undated features.

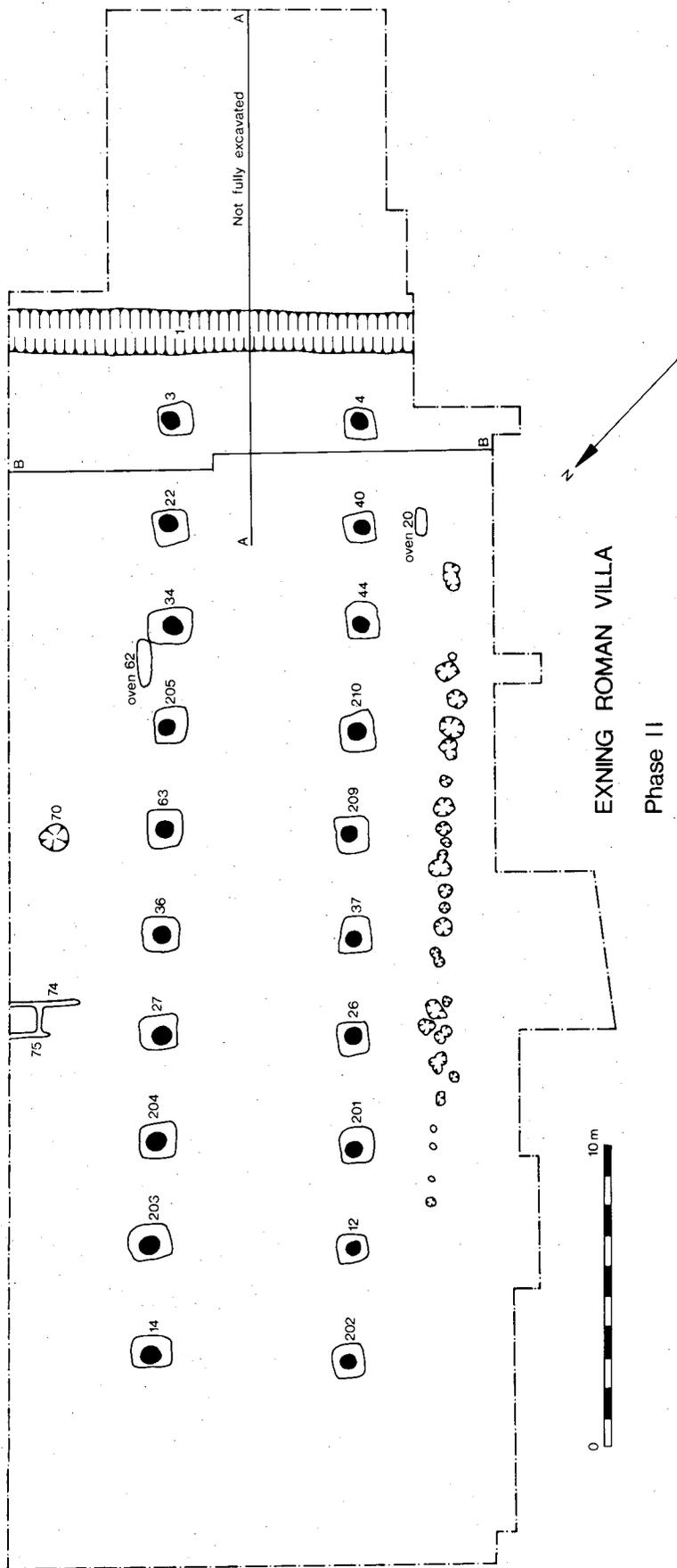


Figure 4. Exning Roman Villa. Plan of Phase II features.

any such aisle would be nearly twice as wide as the southern one. The southern limit of beam-slots 74 & 75 may mark the position of the northern aisle. In this case the aisle would have been slightly narrower than that on the south-east. If it is assumed that there were aisles on both sides of the building then some explanation must be sought for the difference in constructional technique between them. In the southern aisle the large number of post-holes, often intercutting, probably represent free-standing posts unprotected by walling and therefore needing more frequent replacement. This may have provided the 'front' of the building with a colonnaded appearance. There is of course the possibility that the line of posts was not part of the phase II building but part of an earlier structure whose nature remains obscure. The alignment of the row would not be completely coincidental but relate to the ditch alignments of phase I. This would also provide an explanation for the slight deviation of the row of posts from the line of the main structural posts. The row was, however, centrally positioned relative to the main lines of posts, unrelated to other phase I features and, bearing in mind their replacement in stone during phase III, it is likely that it did form part of the phase II structure.

Turning to the main posts, some of these were evidently replaced at some time during phase II as is shown by the presence within the fill of the post-holes of 'early' wall plaster. Post-hole 3, for example, contained some of this which cannot have been deposited during the phase III rebuilding as this post was sawn off at ground level and the stone wall built over it. It is likely that the first posts were squared as square impressions could be seen on the base of the post-holes whilst the post pipes indicated that round posts were the last occupants. Several fragments of charcoal found in the post pipes were identified (below) as oak from large timbers and may be the remains of the posts.

Other features of this period are the two ovens 20 & 62, the beam-slots 74 & 75, and the recut 1 of ditch 259 which were open at the end of the phase when 'early' wall plaster was deposited in them. Full details of the decorative aspects of the wall plaster will be found below but it can be noted here that impressions on the back indicate wattle walls. The distribution of the wall plaster is also signifi-

cant: in rooms 3 & 7, outside room 9 and to the south-east of rooms 2 and 4 (see Fig. 5 for room numbers). This last dump had been used to fill the top of the silted up ditch 1. This distribution would seem to indicate that the principle rooms were located at the south-east end as they were also later to be in phase III.

There is very little dating evidence for the construction of the timber building. Ditch 1, which had nearly silted up by the end of the phase contained pottery both in the East Anglian Style of phase I (eg. Fig. 11:26) and also Black-Burnished ware copies of probable second-century date. It is likely that the building was built in the first half of this century. The end of the phase is more securely dated as three coins (nos. 4, 7 & 8) were found under the layer of 'early' wall plaster indicating a date after A.D. 270 for the conversion of the building to stone.

### *Phase III. The stone building (Fig. 5)*

In phase III the timber building of phase II was rebuilt with stone foundations but the work was carried out in stages and much of the timber building remained incorporated in the new structure.

#### *Phase IIIa*

The first masonry was built along the south-west wall and replaced the row of small post-holes. The wall (249 & 242) was built just outside the line of these post-holes in a construction trench dug into the chalk, in contrast to the later walls whose construction trenches did not penetrate the chalk. Two post-holes on either side of the doorway (146 & 147) are not paralleled at the north-east doorway and may indicate a porch.

At the north-west end of the building a suite of baths was built with construction trenches which penetrated the chalk and are thus likely to belong to this phase. The baths comprised a main room with hypocaust, a small rectangular foundation 219; probably a hot bath and a semicircular foundation 220; perhaps a cold bath. Ditch 16 is probably a drain serving the baths. Details of the baths are not certain because of extensive plough-damage at this end of the site.

It is not clear what happened to the northern end of the timber building when the baths were built. It seems obvious that the

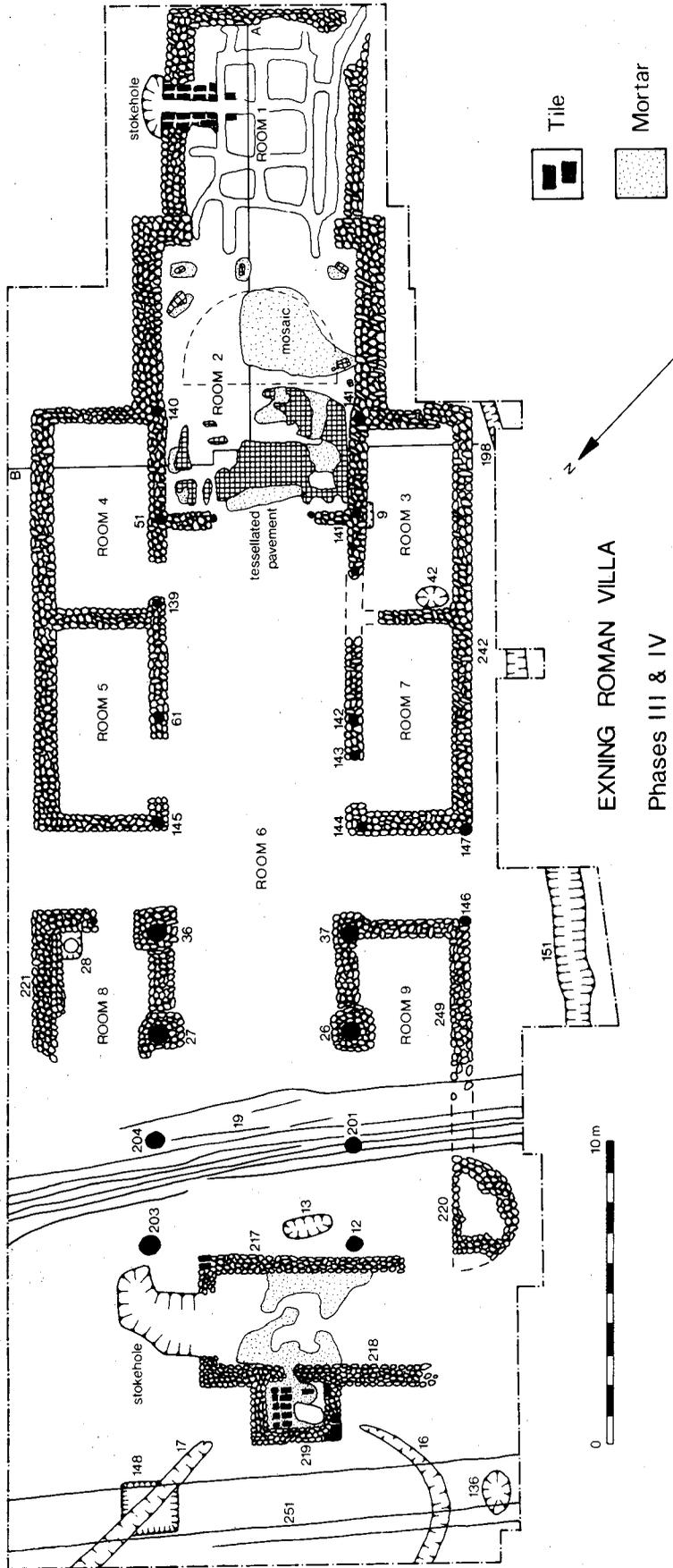


Figure 5. Exning Roman Villa. Plan of Phase III and Phase IV features.

post represented by post-hole 202 (Fig. 4) could not have remained passing through the hypocaust although this could not be demonstrated stratigraphically because of disturbance. Post-hole 1 also went out of use as it was cut by the stokehole. The north-west wall of the baths could not have replaced them structurally as it did not run the full width of the building; both it and its construction trench stop 1.75m before the north-eastern row of main post-holes. It is probable therefore that the timber building was shortened and ended at post-holes 12 & 203 leaving the heated rooms and stoke-hole outside and the cold bath inside. Why the baths were not added to the end of the existing building is not clear but there must have been some constraint on increasing the length to the north-west.

### *Phase IIIb*

Phase IIIb saw the major rebuilding of the villa in stone. The five south-easternmost pairs of posts were cut off at ground level and their places taken by smaller posts, averaging 0.25m diameter, embedded in masonry walls. At the north-west end posts 26, 27, 36 & 37 continued in use but were encased in masonry. There is no evidence for what happened to posts 12, 201, 203 & 204 but these probably remained without stone walling much as they had done in phase II (it is difficult to be certain as little survived ploughing in this area). The north aisle was also built on stone foundations at this time and both aisles were divided into a number of rooms.

At the south-east end of the building a projecting room (room 2) was built containing a red tessellated floor and semi-circular mosaic. It is likely that this room projected to gain more light as the aisles were not projected.

The construction trenches of this phase were dug down until chalk was encountered as can be seen where the walls cross the filled-in ditch 1, both the trench and the foundation follow the chalk down into the bottom of the ditch. The construction trenches could also be seen where they cut the layer of 'early' wall plaster 254 which had probably fallen during the dismantling of the timber building.

The walls of phase III were composed of flints and pieces of Totternhoe Stone; a hard band in the chalk upon which the villa was built. It is likely that the masonry did not

reach the full height of the walls as some pieces of 'late' wall plaster have burnt daub adhering to them. This wall plaster replaced that of phase II and again the distribution is predominantly at the south-east end. A piece of quarter round moulding was also found, probably from a wall-to-floor junction of this phase

### *Phase IIIc*

The final addition to the building was a heated room (room 1) set slightly askew on the end of room 2. This was heated by a channelled hypocaust with a stoke-hole on the north-east side and a vent to the south. The floor may have consisted of large tiles but none were found *in situ*. The hypocaust appeared to have been little used with few signs of burning in the stoke-hole and little ash in the channels.

Several other features are certainly or probably related to phase III but cannot be assigned to any of the sub-phases. To the north of the baths lay a square, timber-lined pit (148); perhaps for water storage. The fill of this contained Hadham pottery of third or fourth-century date. This was later cut by a double (recut?) ditch 17 containing Hadham and Oxford pottery of fourth-century date. This ditch may have drained the baths which were remodelled at an unknown date within phase III. The principle change was the incorporation of the hot bath base 219 within the main hypocaust. Again details are not clear because of plough damage.

Within the building, in room 8, a large jar (Fig. 11:32) had been buried up to its neck in the floor and the base broken. This probably served as a latrine but a phosphate test on a soil sample proved negative. Room 3 also had a dish (Fig. 12:38) buried in a small pit 9 next to one wall. In the opposite corner of the same room lay a pit 42 which was open and slightly silted when the villa was destroyed. When the building burnt down, rubble filled the pit which contained burnt wall plaster and burnt tiles from the roof (tegulae and imbrices, together with the mortar which joined them). Some of the wall plaster had burnt daub attached to the back as mentioned above. Other evidence for the fire was found in post-holes 51 & 143 which had burnt pink edges. Layer 255 (Fig. 2) also contained much burnt material from the villa and represents the rubble from its destruction.

There is again little dateable evidence associated with phase III. As mentioned above three coins were found in and under the layer of 'early' wall plaster 254 (Fig. 2). It is likely that this layer is associated with the rebuilding in stone. The coins all date to A.D. 260–274 and the rebuilding probably took place at about this date. It is not clear to which of the sub-phases of phase III the deposition of the wall plaster relates but it is most likely, in view of its distribution, to have occurred during the main rebuilding of IIIb. The date of the destruction of the villa is far less certain. Greenfield (1960) believed that this took place 'before Constantinian coins were in circulation'. The pottery however, particularly the Oxford and Hadham wares, indicates activity in the fourth century. The paucity of shell grit ware from the site may indicate that the occupation ended before the middle of the century. At the late Roman religious site at Icklingham, 18km away, shell grit ware became much more common in the later fourth century accounting for over 10% of the sherds found (West & Plouviez 1976). A date towards the middle of the fourth century is perhaps the most likely for the destruction of Exning.

#### *Phase IV*

The latest features on the site are the two lines of wheel-ruts in the chalk crossing from south-west to north-east on either side of the baths. Although no dating evidence was found from these, they are likely to be medieval and to form the precursor of the present track past the site from Burwell to Landwade. There was a distinct hollow in the area of the wheel ruts and they are probably only the lowest traces of a broad trackway which divided over the bumpy remains of the baths. Much of the south-west end of the site was badly damaged by this trackway and later ploughing of the thinned topsoil in this area.

#### DISCUSSION

As related above the structural sequence at Exning follows closely that proposed by J.T. Smith (1964) for Roman aisled buildings. Indeed Exning was one of the sites used by Smith to advance his arguments. It is clear that, as proposed by Smith, the phase III

building comprised two functional zones: The south-east end (the 'upper' in Smith's terminology) contained the principle rooms as indicated by the mosaic, heated room and the distribution of painted wall plaster. The north-west (lower) end received far less attention and probably remained as an open hall. It is not certain if this arrangement was also present in the wooden building but the distribution of 'early' wall plaster makes this likely. Both phases also show a difference between the two long sides of the building; the south-west clearly forming the 'front' of the building. In phase III this is seen by a possible porch at this door and the placing of the furnace stoke-holes to the rear. In phase II the evidence is more ambiguous but if the row of small post-holes does represent a colonnade this clearly indicates the display side of the building. This side was also approached by a gravelled path. The extent of this path is uncertain as it was mostly observed in test-holes.

The southern side was also the first to be rebuilt in stone, perhaps continuing as a colonnade. It is not possible to say if the wall was carried to the full height of the building or acted as support for other forms of walling. Certainly some of the walls in the later building were wattle as burnt daub was found adhering to wall plaster in pit 42.

The baths present problems in any reconstruction of the north-west end of the building but it is most likely that some external factor prevented them being attached to the existing building and forced the shortening of the main roof line, leaving the heated rooms and stoke-hole beyond the new gable end. The addition of baths was the first sign of the improvements which were to continue until the building burnt down. These improvements seem intended to add luxury items to the building without incurring the large cost of complete rebuilding. Even the conversion to stone footings retained parts of the phase II building and probably also retained parts such as the roof for which there is no evidence.

The rebuilding in stone affected mainly the upper end of the house. A large room was constructed half into and half out of the nave. This position was presumably chosen to gain direct light for the room, which was clearly prestigious as it contained the mosaic. If more light was needed this argues against the presence of a clerestory in the main roof. Else-

where the upper end of the building was divided into rooms by stone footings. The lower end of the building remained substantially as it had in phase II; the two posts beyond the doorway were encased in stone and joined by walls but beyond them there are no internal changes from phase II.

The final addition to the building again reflects attention to the upper end of the building with the addition of a heated room. This has a wide doorway, providing a view of the mosaic in room 2 but the floor of the heated room itself seems to have been of plain red tiles. Again the impression is of a desire to add a luxury item to the building but without great cost.

Any consideration of the status of the building must first consider whether it formed the centre of a villa estate or was part of some larger complex. J.T. Smith has noted (1964) that many aisled buildings were associated with another building, often a winged corridor villa. More recently D.J. Smith (1978) pointed to a combination of aisled building and winged corridor villa, set at right-angles on two sides of an enclosure, which he noted was characteristic of Hampshire and also eastern England. He suggested that Exning and the very similar site at Denton, Lincs (Smith 1963) probably conformed to this pattern. At Denton however no signs of this presumed winged corridor villa were found although a detached bath-house was, and at Exning trial trenching failed to find any other buildings. Another building at Exning would explain the somewhat curious orientation of the known building which is built up the slope instead of across it looking over the fens. Any building up the slope would, however, have been separated from the aisled building by ditch 1 during phase II.

Whether the building did form a villa in its own right or was part of some larger estate, whose main house lay near the present site or at some distance, the function of the known building is relatively clear. The upper end provides accommodation of a high standard with most of the amenities of a larger villa although on a modest scale. The bath-house which might be expected here is positioned at the lower end and as J.T. Smith noted (1964) seems to be provided for use by estate workers as well as the occupants of the upper end. These workers may well have lived in the open hall of the lower end. It is unlikely that this

area was used for stalling cattle as in the traditional 'long house' since there is no provision for drainage here or at comparable sites. Nor is there a wide door into the lower end suitable for unloading other farm produce. Thus Exning seems to provide a building combining all the human accommodation needs of a farm under one roof, equally suited to the small farmer or to the bailiff of a large estate.

Examination of the settlement pattern around Exning (Fig. 1B) shows that there is a dense concentration of Roman material in the area, including the winged corridor villa at Reach (Atkinson 1894) and another large building noted under Burwell Castle (RCHM, Burwell 126). This perhaps indicates an area of small estates on the fertile land overlooking the fens. Contrasting with the situation on the fens themselves where peasant labour seems to have been used on large, possibly imperial estates (Phillips 1970, 12), associated with fen drainage schemes such as the lodes to the west of Exning. Exning was probably, therefore, a small private estate which grew gradually in prosperity, allowing small additions to be made to the villa. This small surplus which had not allowed major rebuilding of the villa would have precluded rebuilding after the final fire.

## THE FINDS

### *Coins*

Thirteen coins were recovered from the excavation but were subsequently lost. They were identified by Mr R.A.G. Carson.

(They have now (1986) been found by the Ancient Monuments Laboratory).

1	Domitian. Moneta Augusti. S.C. RIC 301b.	AD 85	254
2	Domitian. rev. uncertain. (Dupondius)	AD 81-6	254
3	Antoninus Pius. rev. uncertain.	AD 138-61	148
4	Gallienus. Soli Cons Aug I/A RIC 283	AD 259-68	254
5	Victorinus. Salus Aug. RIC 40.	AD 268-70	U/S
6	Victorinus. Pietas Aug. RIC 57	AD 268-70	U/S
7	Tetricus I. Pax Aug. RIC 106	AD 270-74	254
8	Tetricus I. Laetitia Augg. RIC 87	AD 270-74	U/S
9	Tetricus I. rev. uncertain	AD 270-74	U/S
10	Radiate imitation	A275+	U/S

- |    |  |              |     |
|----|--|--------------|-----|
| 11 | Valens. Securitas Reipublicae<br>ASISC—cf. LRBC II. 1340 | AD 367–75    | U/S |
| 12 | Uncertain diademed                                       | Fourth cent. | U/S |
| 13 | George III. Halfpenny                                    | AD 1775      | U/S |

#### Ironwork (Fig. 6)

1. Iron bar with a loop at one end, angled slightly. Corrosion products indicate that a wooden bar passed through the loop. Perhaps part of a tool used in the hypocaust as it was found in the vent at the South corner of room 1.
2. Chisel. Possibly not Roman. Wheel ruts 251.
3. Knife or sickle blade. A wooden handle (visible in corrosion products) was attached to the lower 10cm by two makeshift rivets of bent wire. These may represent repair of the object, perhaps on two occasions as one rivet is of copper alloy, the other of iron. Gully 149.
4. Small 'C' shaped piece. Perhaps used as a staple for joining planks etc. Drain 16.
5. Part of a ?Chisel. U/S.
6. Small hook originally attached to some other object by a rivet or nail. Perhaps the closure of a small box? Rubble 255, room 5.
7. Knife blade. The corrosion products indicate that the handle was probably bone, attached by one rivet. U/S.
8. Part of a T shaped box-flue tile clamp. U/S.
9. Mason's trowel. Oven 62.

#### Copper Alloy Objects (Fig. 7)

1. A small shield-shaped stud, cast in one piece with a large boss and two integral rivets for fixing to a curved surface, probably of leather. Oven 21.
2. A rectangular piece of sheet with the corners cut off. One side shows a large number of randomly oriented but seemingly ruled scratches perhaps indicating use at some time as part of a cutting surface. U/S.
3. A small handle of bent wire perhaps from a small box? U/S.
4. A cast ring of uncertain function. Under wall 240, above pit 25.
5. A thin sheet with punched depressions. Probably part of a larger sheet, the depressions or more probably the raised dots on the other side forming a decorative pattern. Top of wall plaster 254.
6. A cast handle from a jug or similar vessel. The lower end shows traces of solder on the inner face. The upper end has been attached using an iron rivet, probably to a strap around the neck of the vessel. Wall plaster 254.
7. A pair of small tweezers formed from bent strip, the tips sharpened with a chamfer. A very similar pair were found in the well excavated to the south of Exning (Johnston 1959; Fig. 1 No. 1). U/S.

#### Lead Object (not illustrated)

A small piece of bent sheet, possibly from the corner of a tank. Timber lined pit 148.

#### Shale Objects (Fig. 7)

8. Spindle whorl. Timber lined pit 148.
  9. Part of a bracelet 9cm diameter. U/S.
- Both of Kimmeridge shale.

#### Bone Object (Fig. 7)

10. Pin with a conical head and bulbous body. Post pipe 210.

#### Environmental & Technological Samples

These samples were not taken in any systematic manner and the sample numbers are too small for any analysis.

Mammal bone: a few bones of the major domestic animals.

Bird bones: identified by Mr D. Bramwell. Domestic fowl, duck, woodcock and widgeon.

Mollusca: identified by Dr J.G. Evans. *Mytilus edulis* (mussel, 6 valves), *Buccinum undatum* (whelk, 3), *Ostrea edulis* (oyster, 11 valves), *Helix aspersa* (common snail, 18).

Charcoal: identified by Mr G.C. Morgan. Mainly fragments of mature oak with twigs of other woods. Most of the oak came from the main post-holes of phase II and may represent the structure of the building.

Coal & Slag: several pieces of coal, presumably from North-East England, and slag were found.

#### The Mosaic

The mosaic lifted from room 2 in 1904 was originally semi-circular but was badly damaged, probably by tree roots. Some repairs had, however, been carried out in the Roman period with patches of mortar. The pieces which remain in the University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge are mostly areas of the plain red tessellated floor which surrounded the mosaic. Several of these tesserae had been made from box-flue tiles as the keying for mortar is plainly visible. Of the mosaic itself, only three bands of the border remain; the outer plain black, the next a guilloche in red, yellow and white on a black ground and the inner band composed of black triangles on a white ground. No trace of the central design



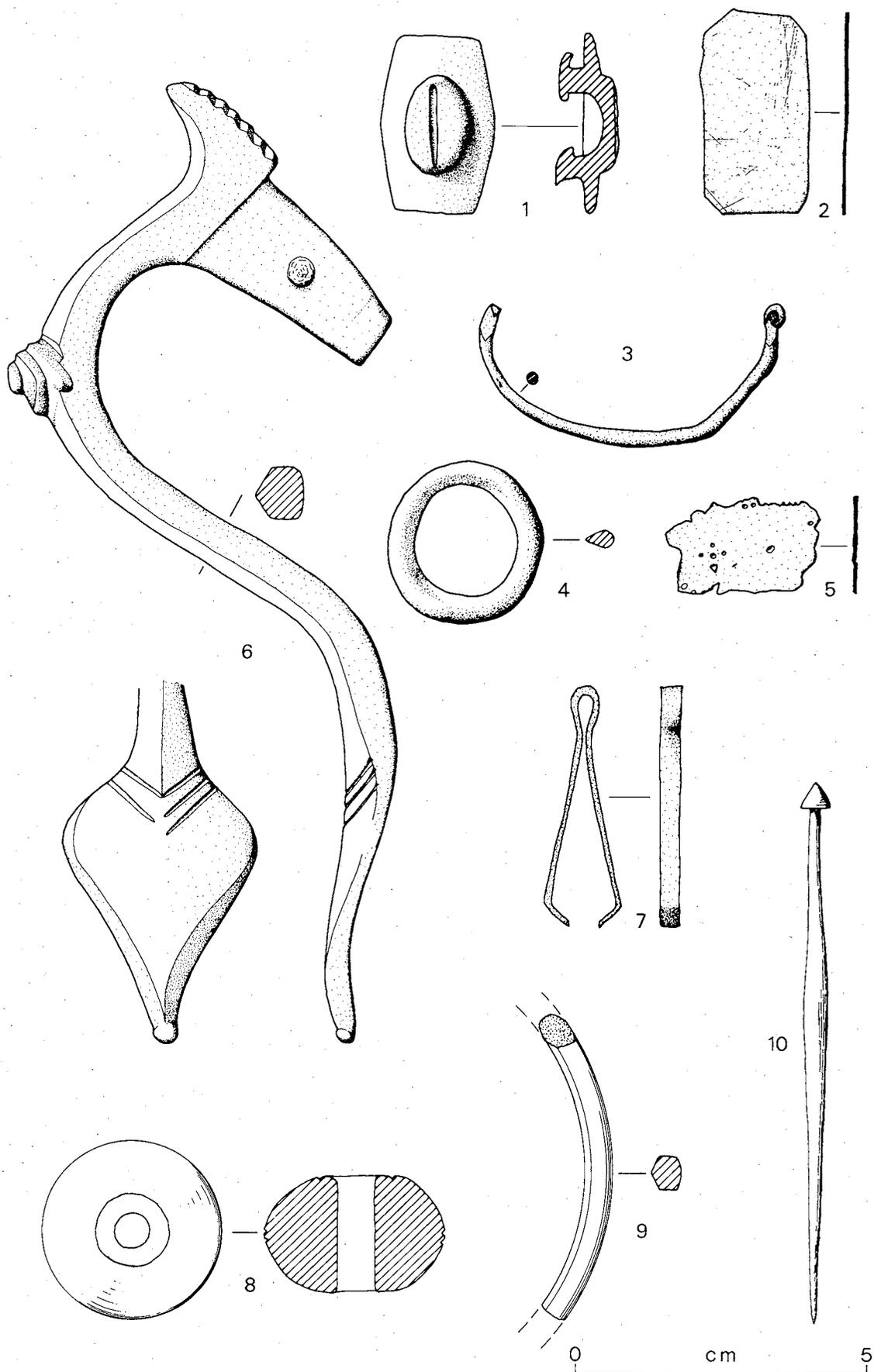


Figure 7. Exning Roman Villa. Objects of Copper Alloy (1-7), Shale (8, 9) and Bone (10).  
Scale 1/1.

survives. The date of laying the mosaic is uncertain although it is likely that it was envisaged when room 2 was constructed during phase IIIb in the late third century.

### Glass

A quantity of window glass was recovered from both phase II and III contexts. Two fragments of vessel glass were also found.

### WALL PLASTER

by the late Joan Liversidge

The villa produced a large quantity of painted wall plaster which can be ascribed to two periods, the phase II house dating to the second and third centuries AD and the third and fourth century house; phase III. All the material was recovered in a very broken condition, none of it being found *in situ*.

### The Early Period (Fig. 8)

The most interesting specimens were recovered from a dump 261 outside the south-east exterior wall of the stone building and from test-hole 41, nearby. They include much green and blue, occasionally enlivened with grey, red, and yellow, all painted on a dark purple ground. Probably this is an all-over design of leaves and flowers as comparatively little plain purple was recovered but the pieces are too small to give a clear idea as to its nature (Fig. 8: 2 & 3). Fragments of it were found scattered elsewhere on the site. In some cases the design is bordered by a fine yellow line 6mm wide (Fig. 8: 1) and in others the purple ground is divided from a green ground by black and white lines 8mm wide.

The designs painted on the black ground have also not survived well; traces of green and yellow appear faintly with two scraps showing a mauve beaded line and there is also a solitary piece with pale yellow leaf fronds (Fig. 8: 5). The yellow ground has fared rather better and shows a bold curvilinear pattern in dark red, brown and greenish yellow bordered by a framework of brown, black or white lines (Fig. 8: 6, 8, 9, 11-13). In some cases the yellow and black grounds adjoin, in others, the yellow is separated from a rust ground by black, rust or white lines (Fig. 8: 7, 10). Obviously the whole assemblage prob-

ably represents one or more schemes of decoration divided up into dado and panels by a multicoloured framework. Red and green grounds also occur, the latter with pale yellow lines. Sometimes the green is separated from a rust ground by lines of black and white (Fig. 8: 4).

Inside the house similar material was recovered from a layer of rubble 254 on the south-west side of room 3. It included more purple fragments, some plain, some peppered with small white spots. In one case a band of the latter 46mm wide occurred, bordering the corner of a white panel outlined with black and white lines 8mm wide, with red motif. Another white piece showed faint traces of a pattern in the same purple and green. A few pieces of pale pink ground stippled with bright red spots of varying sizes also came from this area and two more scraps of it were found in room 7. Rubble on the south-east exterior of room 3 produced mixed material including the purple, blue and green design, greens bands on a white ground and also a piece of purple stippled in white and edged with a white and possibly, a black line.

Much the same patterns recurred in the small collection of plaster from room 6 in rubble 254, but with the addition of one small fragment with traces of a delicate white design on white and yellow, another of the tantalising fragments which occur here suggesting that the most interesting designs for the period have perished. Room 5, next door, produced little but white, red or purple, and also much plain yellow sometimes separated by a white line 6mm wide from a dark red (?) stripe, also painted over yellow. More of this plain yellow was found in room 5, in a small shallow depression 70 sealed by the wall in the north corner. It occurs again in rubble (261) on the south-west exterior of room 9. There it is sometimes bordered by deeper yellow and/or white lines, and occasionally a black line divides it from green. Other pieces show the dark and light yellow separated by black and pale blue lines, each 6-8mm wide, from the purple peppered with white spots already noted in room 3. In two cases these blue and black lines divided the stippled purple from a white ground with traces of a mauve pattern, probably the same as the panel corner also found in room 3 (Fig. 8: 14). With the same collection of material found outside room 9 were several pieces of a green and white

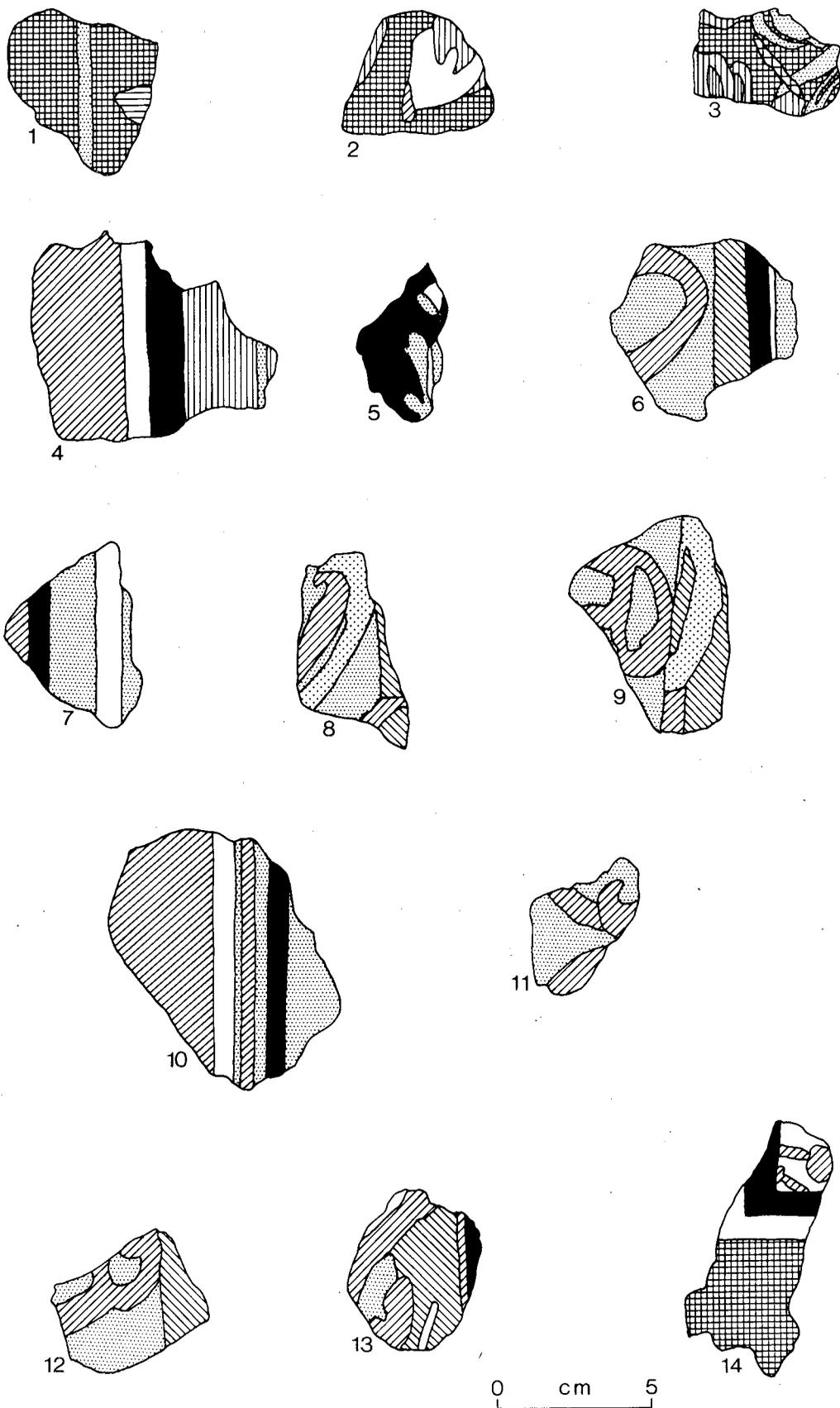


Figure 8. Exning Roman Villa. Wall Plaster of the Early Period. For key to colours see Fig. 9.  
Scale 1/4.

design on red, probably associated with grey or white, but all too damaged to be intelligible. Much rose and white also occurred and also a white ground bordered by a purple line and probably by a red stripe. One fragment of marbling in white with large red splodges was also found here.

### *The Later Period (Fig. 9)*

The collection of later material includes hints of interesting schemes of decoration, all very incomplete. A few fragments from room 2 suggest that purple, red, white and yellow were the prevailing colours, above a dado of grey flecked with red, yellow, and white spots, sometimes with light purple or black veining. Above this may have come a purple band and white panelling. Two fragments suggest that a band of yellow and a delicate yellow foliate design painted on a white ground may have outlined the panels, or else divided one panel from the next as part of a framework.

The white panels in room 2 were probably ornamented with some form of curvilinear and floral designs which only survive on a few tantalising pieces. Lines of two shades of yellow appear and also yellow leaves or red and yellow flowers (Fig. 9: 15). Parts of a similar flower also occurred on an unstratified fragment and more was found in the 1904 excavation (Fig. 9: 16). Another piece shows the red and yellow motif with traces of a green leaf near a black line. Another design from room 2 painted on a white ground consists of part of a curve shaded in dark and light red with a white highlight. This encircles a purple motif which may have included the edge of a flower petal (Fig. 9: 17).

Disturbed (1904 excavation) soil in room 2 produced a fragment of a purple design described below (Fig. 9: 20) and also traces of a black pattern on a white band 38mm wide between traces of a red one on one side, and purple with darker purple and white lines, on the other. There was also a scrap of a red, yellow and white curvilinear design which occurs frequently among the 1904 material but in a faded state. It seems to consist of a (?)band of yellow, a band of white with traces of yellow lines, perhaps bordering one side of a purple stripe or panel. Above it come white semicircles with yellow centres placed 18mm apart on a dark red ground (Fig. 9: 18, 19).

From room 4 next door, (rubble 255), came

some black, red and white stippling on a pink ground and much brick red or purple, plain or with white lines. Room 3 on the opposite side of the house contained a pit (42) with painted fragments buried there during the destruction of the house. They include purple and yellow stripes, probably the same scheme of decoration as that found in room 2, and one fragment with wavy purple lines painted on a pink or white ground which might indicate drapery.

A fresh design not found previously and also painted on a white ground consists of red and purple, sometimes used for adjacent stripes, with finer parallel or diagonal lines in blue black and white. Deep guide lines sometimes appear, usually painted blue. Another motif in more reddish purple edged with pink and painted on a blue ground, may also belong to this scheme of decoration and so may a single piece found outside the south-west wall of the room. Much plain white also came out of pit 42, some of it showing guide lines and faint traces of patterns. Two scraps may belong to the floral design of room 2 while others suggest a blue leaf design on white edged with a dark red stripe (Fig. 9: 21). Apart from the pit, stippling on pink and grey grounds, and plain white plaster with pink, dark red and blue borders were found in the north-west part of room 3 (rubble 255) with one piece showing part of a curved line on a white ground edged with red.

The few pieces of painted plaster found in room 5 (rubble 255), included some burnt fragments of plain pink and maroon, and a little pink or yellow edged with red stripes. One piece had a grey or white ground edged with a dark red line 6mm wide, and a bright red ground with traces of green. Another fragment, an isolated example, showed part of a flower with red and orange petals and green stalks or foliage on a white ground edged with a dark red border (Fig. 9: 22). Stippling with red and black splashes on a pink ground bordered by red lines, was found outside the exterior wall of this room and also in a post-hole (30) in an interior wall, and may have come from a dado.

In addition to the red and white, room 6 (rubble 255) produced two pieces from a purple foliate and curvilinear design painted on a white ground (Fig. 9: 24). The piece mentioned above (Fig. 9: 23), found in room 2 may also have belonged to this scheme of decoration and more of the curvilinear design

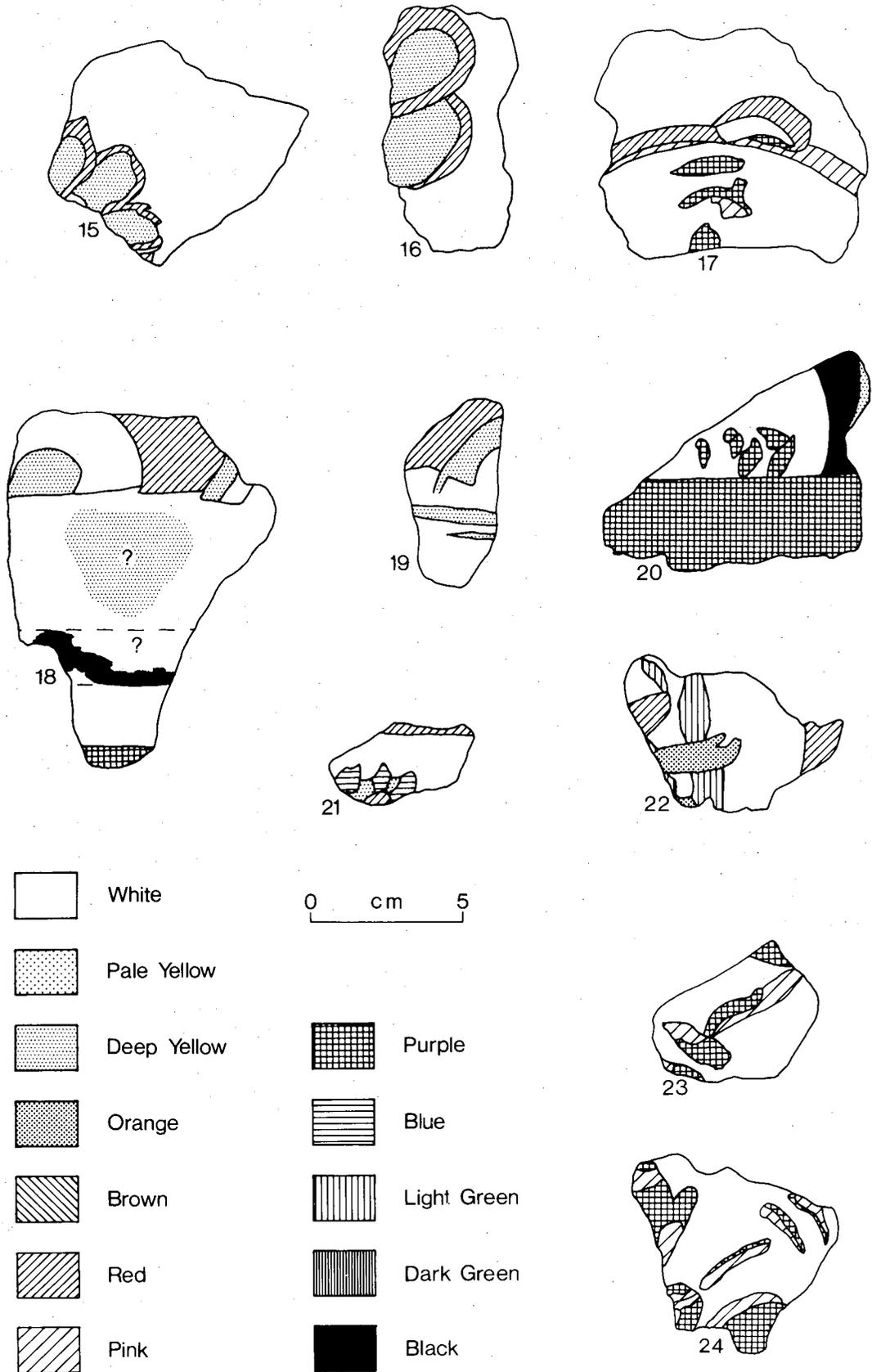


Figure 9. Exning Roman Villa. Wall Plaster of the Later Period. Scale 1/4

survives in the 1904 material. Another piece found in 1904 and painted purple on white, may come from the edge of a panel decorated in this way.

The fragmentary nature of the wall-paintings from this house make it impossible to hazard any suggestions regarding possible schemes of decoration although individual motifs such as Nos 5, 15 or 21 are familiar enough, and the early design of leaves and flowers on a purple ground is of unusual interest. In both periods the walls were presumably divided into panels, outlined by a framework of multicoloured stripes and lines, above a dado probably ornamented with painted imitation marbles. Most of the rooms produced evidence of decoration so this must have been a colourful house in both phases. Much of the most interesting material from the late period was found in room 2 which was further enlivened by the geometric mosaic floor.

#### POTTERY

Just over 600 sherds were recovered from the excavation but it is evident that many plain wall sherds were discarded as they are very under-represented except from small features in which little else was found.

The fabric of each coarse-ware sherd was examined under a x20 binocular microscope and assigned to a fabric group on the basis of visible inclusions. The groups fall into two categories; those which contain a completely uniform fabric and those which contain many related fabrics. In the account which follows the former will be referred to as 'fabrics', the latter as 'fabric groups'. The large majority of the sherds are included in the fabric groups. Burning of some sherds introduced uncertainties in some cases. The heterogeneity of the fabric groups limits their usefulness as does the fact that most of the pottery was unstratified or from the over-site rubble layers which contain much residual material.

In common with the other finds each sherd was given an individual number (running from 1 to 1199) by the excavator, prefixed by the site code 'LW'.

#### Samian Ware

The Samian ware was identified by Mr B.R. Hartley after the excavation and although the

sherds are now lost, he believes there would be few changes to his report if they were found. None of the Samian merits individual publication and only the stratified sherds are listed below.

- LW 59, 392 Hermet F28. C. Gaul. Probably early second century. Ditch 1.
- LW 180, 181 Form uncertain. Probably early second century. Ditch 1.
- LW 401 Form 27. C. Gaul. Probably Trajanic. Ditch 1.
- LW 433 Form 29. S. Gaul. Part of festoon c. AD 65-80. Ditch Ditch 10.
- LW 471, 472 Form 31. C. Gaul. Antonine. Ditch 1.
- LW 473 Form 31. C. Gaul. Late Antonine. Ditch 11.
- LW 872 Form uncertain. C. Gaul. Antonine. Timber-lined pit 48.
- LW 974 Form 18 or 18/31. S. Gaul. Flavian-Trajanic. Ditch 151.
- LW 994 Form 15/17. S. Gaul. Flavian. In wall 224.
- LW 1000 Form 33. C. Gaul. Probably early second century. Ditch 16.
- LW 1060 Form 33. C. Gaul. Probably Antonine. Post-hole 179.
- LW 1068 Form uncertain. C. Gaul. Antonine. Post-hole 22.
- LW 1079 Form 31. C. Gaul. Antonine. Post-hole 210.
- LW 1165 Form 18. S. Gaul. Probably Flavian. Post-hole 203.
- LW 1170 Form uncertain. Early second century. Post-hole 34.
- LW 1176 Form 31. C. Gaul. Hadrianic or early Antonine. Post-hole 3.

Two sherds of samian were found whilst sorting the coarse wares:

- Fabric F. Burnt. C. Gaul Form 18/31. Probably second century. Rubble 254.
- Fabric J. Fragment. Early Lezoux. Late first century. Pit 87.

#### Mortaria by Mrs K.F. Hartley (Fig. 10)

1. Hard, greyish cream fabric with buff slip; two pieces of ironstone grit survive. Similar mortaria were being made at Stibbington in the Nene Valley in the late third and early fourth century, though the form may have continued in use until late in the fourth century. Two other fragments, probably from the same vessel, give part of the side and the base. A hole 6mm in diameter has been neatly drilled in the base (diameter 98mm), 31mm from the edge. There has been wear around the lower end of the hole but none around the upper and only nominal wear of the tituration grit. A patch of the interior surface is discoloured by burning which has penetrated the fabric. It seems likely that that the broken mortarium had been used as a lamp-holder, hung on a chain of some sort. LW 479+480. 1904 Excavation.

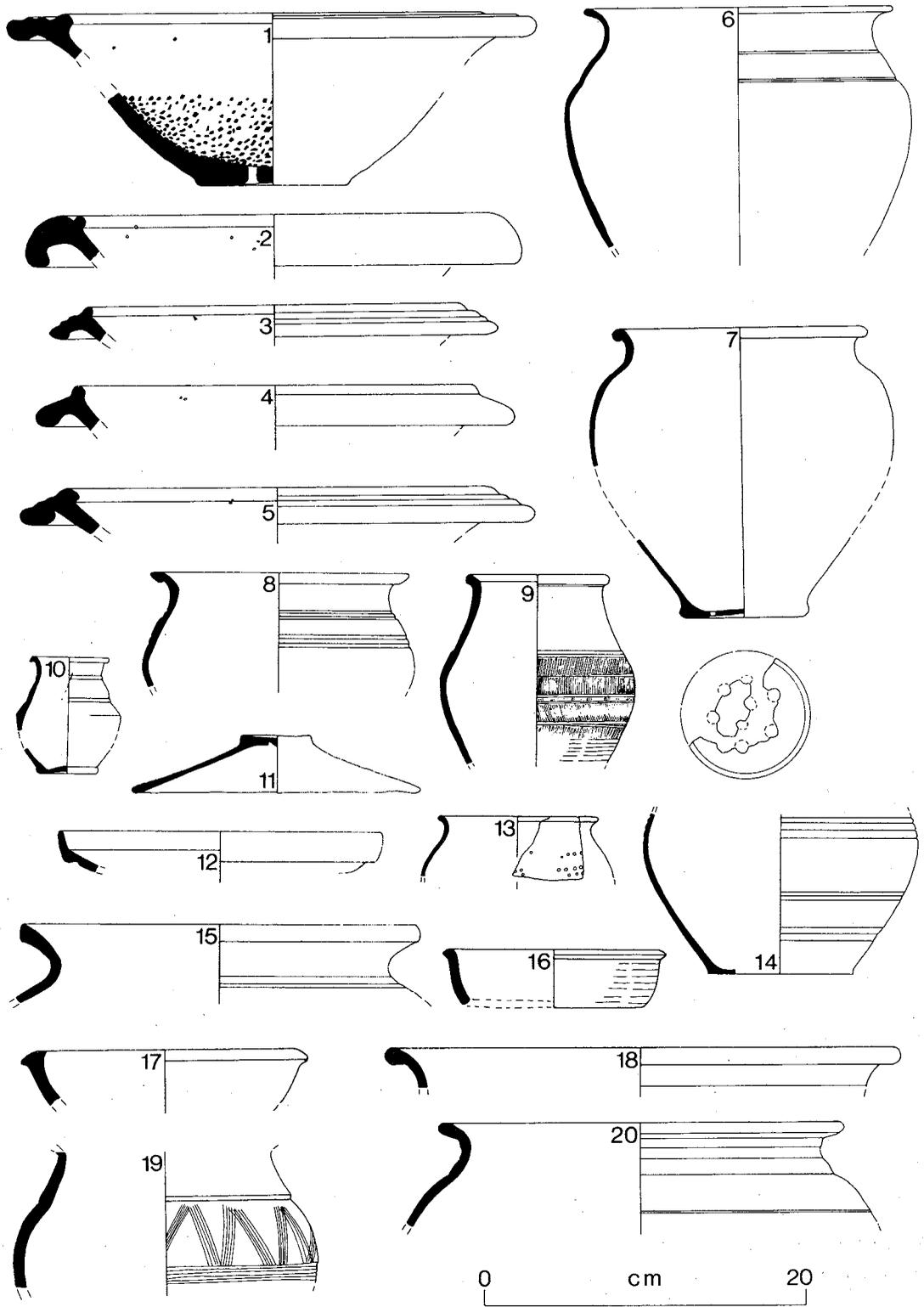


Figure 10. Exning Roman Villa. Pottery. Scale 1/4.

2. Hard, fine textured, cream fabric with thick red core; a few brown and grey flint grits survive. Probably made at Colchester c. AD 135–175. LW 402 Ditch 1.
3. Fine, buff fabric with thick reddish pink core; one piece of ironstone grit survives. Third century. LW 686+959. Foundation trench for wall 242.
4. Fine, creamy buff fabric with pink core; two fragments of flint grit survive. The form is highly unusual but the fabric and grit point to production in Colchester or, perhaps, some other part of East Anglia. (see Hull 1963: Fig. 89 Nos 17–20) LW 554. Rubble 261 in top of ditch 1.
5. Cream fabric with pale buff core and ironstone tituration grit. This is a typical product of the lower Nene Valley potteries. Late third or fourth century. LW 799. Ditch 17.

### *Coarse-ware Fabrics and Fabric Groups*

Fabric A: Hard, white, off-white or occasionally pink fabric, with many red and black ironstone inclusions, also quartz and occasionally white grog. Colour coated; mid brown to very dark brown. Decoration; rouletting, barbotine, white paint. Nene Valley. Mostly phase III.

Fabric group B: Similar to fabric A. Details of fabric not so consistent. Colour varies from grey to pink. Colour-coat rougher, colours include dark grey, brown and red. Decoration includes barbotine, white paint and rouletting. Probably includes Nene Valley and Suffolk kiln material eg Pakenham (Smedley & Owles 1960, 1961). Mostly phase III.

Fabric C: Red fabric. Mica, quartz and ironstone inclusions. Soft dark red colour-coat. The one vessel known (Fig. 12: 45) has traces of white paint. Oxfordshire. Phase III.

Fabric D: Fine pink-brown fabric. Quartzite and black ironstone inclusions. Brown or dark grey colour-coat. Grog roughcasting. Probably Colchester. Phase I–II.

Fabric E: Fine white fabric. Dark grey colour-coat. Grog roughcasting. Identified by Mrs Anderson as Cologne Ware. Phase III.

Fabric F: see Samian report.

Fabric G: Pale orange fabric. Ironstone quartzite and grog inclusions. The only form represented is a ring-necked flagon.

Fabric H: Black, hard fabric. Few fine inclusions of quartz. Grog roughcasting. Perhaps burnt fabric D.

Fabric I: Fine, hard, pink-buff fabric. Quartz and mica inclusions. Deep red colour coat on upper surface. Copying Terra Rubra, perhaps from Colchester.

Fabric J: see Samian report.

Fabric K: Hard white fabric. Red ironstone inclusions, occasional quartzite and grog. Only 1 sherd.

Fabric L: Bright orange fabric, occasionally with a grey core. Quartz, black and red ironstone inclusions. Slipped orange or red and burnished. Much Hadham kilns. (Fabric description in Harden & Green 1978 p. 174, note 33). A few sherds are grey throughout. Mostly phase III.

Fabric M: Soft bright orange fabric. Limestone or chalk inclusions with occasional quartzite and red ironstone. Probably local, perhaps copying Hadham.

Fabric N: Hard, red-brown fabric with a dark grey core. Much quartzite and occasional grog included. The one form is a butt-beaker (Fig. 10: 9). A similar form and fabric is known from Coldham Clamp (Potter 1965).

Fabric P: Soft yellow-green fabric. Sparse large inclusions of quartz, ironstone and grog. One sherd, from an amphora.

Fabric Q: Pale buff fabric. Very few inclusions but distinctive very small black specks. Probably from a flagon.

Fabric group R: Soft orange-buff fabric. Pink quartzite and black ironstone inclusions. Some sherds have a grey colour coat.

Fabric S: Soft buff fabric. Quartzite, ironstone and occasional grog inclusions.

Fabric T: Soft buff fabric. Fine inclusions of ironstone, quartzite and golden mica. Only one, very abraded, sherd.

Fabric group U: Brown fabric. Frequent quartzite inclusions. Surfaces black, micaceous and highly burnished. Phase I.

Fabric group V: contains two sub groups:

Va: Coarse black fabric. Large quartzite inclusions. Surface black and burnished in facets. Black-Burnished ware category 1.

Vb: Black fabric. Medium-sized quartzite inclusions. Surfaces black or dark grey and burnished. Black-Burnished ware category 2.

Fabric W: Hard grey fabric. Large inclusions of shell/calcite. Mostly phase III. Very few sherds of this fabric were found.

Fabric groups X – AX: Sandy grey-wares forming very heterogeneous groups. The most common forms are jars and bowls, represented in most cases only by rim

fragments. Of those whose form can be seen, several (eg Fig. 10: 6, 8; Fig. 11: 26) are in a late Iron Age tradition, known from Colchester and from other Fenland sites. These wares have been termed East Anglian by Potter (1965) when discussing sites further north. He points to the presence of these forms in the immediately pre-Roman Iron Age, together with imported Roman forms, and suggests trade and influence from Colchester. The Fens, undrained at this date, would provide an effective barrier to East Midlands influence. On the basis of evidence from sites in the Wisbech/March area it seems that the East Anglian style stopped being made during the second century as the draining and settlement of the Fens allowed penetration by Nene Valley wares and as Black-Burnished ware influenced local production.

Twenty-four sherds of Black-Burnished ware were recovered from the excavation, fourteen of them being BB1. Most of the forms are bowls. This is also true of the local grey-ware copies. Many of these copies are well made, for example Fig. 11: 22 which has a typical Black-Burnished ware lattice on the inside of the bowl.

There is also a number of sherds (and one rim, Fig. 11: 25) showing random bands of combing. This decoration is known from several kilns near Cambridge eg War Ditches (Hartley 1960, fig. 1 nos 2, 3) and Horningsea (Walker 1914, Fig. 53). No sherds of the typical Horningsea Jar (Walker 1914, Fig. 50) were found although it is common on other sites in the area (Hartley 1960, 27. RCHM 1972) and probably dates to the second and early third centuries (Hartley 1960, 28).

Fabric AT is however, probably pre-Roman and Fabric AX is represented by a twisted rod handle from a green glazed medieval jug.

### Discussion

The relative paucity of the pottery, coupled with the limited stratigraphy on the site makes it difficult to draw many conclusions. The majority of the sherds were from long-lived grey-ware forms and closely datable forms were rare. It is clear, however, that the pottery ranges in date across the whole Roman period. Many of the earliest forms were either produced in Colchester or derived from forms common there. This influence was replaced in the second century by influence and pots from the Nene Valley and Black-Burnished ware kilns.

In the latest phases on the site, wares from the Hadham kilns are represented. Several of these are in the 'Romano-Saxon' tradition of the fourth century. Only one piece of Oxford ware was found and little shell grit ware,

common on other sites in the region (West & Plouviez 1976, 90). This seems to indicate that the site did not continue in use for long into the second half of the fourth century.

### CATALOGUE OF ILLUSTRATED VESSELS

#### *Phase I. First & second centuries* (Fig. 10, Nos. 6-19)

- 10: 6 Carinated, medium-mouthed jar in sandy orange fabric with occasional flint inclusions. *Camulodunum* form 218. LW 463A, ditch 10.
- 10: 7 Medium-mouthed jar in sandy orange-buff fabric. Exterior surface dark grey and inexpertly burnished. A series of holes has been bored in the base to form a colander. LW 464, ditch 10.
- 10: 8 Jar or bowl in hard, grey, sandy fabric. Bulge on shoulder defined by cordons. Surface burnished. *Camulodunum* form 218. LW 151, ditch 259.
- 10: 9 Butt-beaker in fabric N. Bands of rouletting separated by shallow grooves. Similar to Coldham Clamp C98 (Potter 1965). LW 467, ditch 10 & LW 1162, post-hole 204.
- 10:10 Miniature carinated jar in hard buff, sandy fabric with grey core. LW 901, ditch 10.
- 10:11 Lid in hard, grey, sandy fabric with occasional large (3-4mm) flint inclusions. LW 468, ditch 10.
- 10:12 Copy of Gallo-Belgic platter in hard grey fabric tempered with limestone and shell. *Camulodunum* form 8. LW 902, ditch 10.
- 10:13 Poppy-head beaker in red/brown sandy fabric. Surfaces dark grey, decorated with barbotine dots. Mid first to second century. LW 911, gully 149.
- 10:14 Base of jar in dark grey sandy fabric. Three bands of grooves. LW 463B, ditch 10.
- 10:15 Wide-mouthed jar in hard sandy, light grey, fabric. Three grooves on neck/shoulder. LW 1016, gully 149.
- 10:16 Small dish in fine grey fabric. Black, burnished surface. LW 354, ditch 259.
- 10:17 Bowl in hard sandy grey fabric. LW 443, pit 24 & LW 559, rubble 261.
- 10:18 Wide-mouthed jar in hard, dark grey, sandy fabric, probably rilled on neck. LW 1012, ditch 43.
- 10:19 Jar in hard, slightly soapy, light grey fabric. Few inclusions visible. Decoration of lightly combed zig-zag above burnished lines. LW 986, pit 25.

#### *Phase II. Second and earlier third centuries.* (Fig. 10: 20 and Fig. 11: 21-31)

- 10:20 Large jar in red/brown fabric with grey core. Grey surfaces. Grooves on neck and body. LW 843, ditch 1.

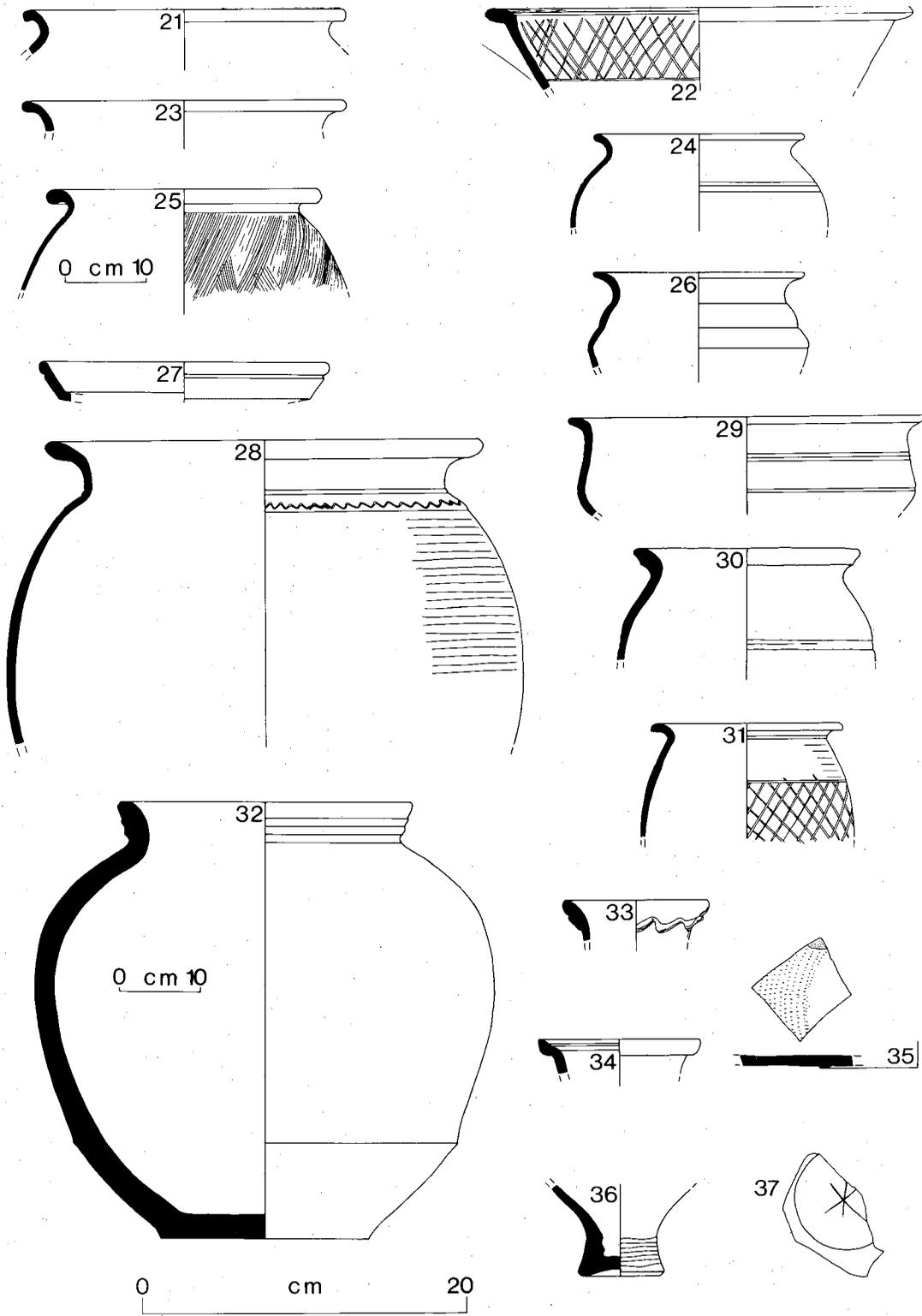


Figure 11. Exning Roman Villa. Pottery. Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$  except 25 & 32  $\frac{1}{8}$ .

- 11:21 Jar in hard, light grey, micaceous fabric. LW 1128 & LW 1129D, packing of post-hole 22.
- 11:22 Bowl in hard, sandy, orange fabric with thick grey core. Dark grey surface. Burnished on inside and decorated with lattice. LW 395, ditch 1 & LW 209, U/S.
- 11:23 Jar in hard grey fabric. Dark grey burnished surface. LW 1127, packing of post-hole 22.
- 11:24 Jar in light grey, sandy, fabric with calcarious inclusions. Darker brown surface. Three grooves on neck. LW 852, ditch 1.
- 11:25 Large storage jar in dark grey sandy fabric. Combed decoration on body. This type of decoration is known from local kilns eg War Ditches (Hartley 1960) and Horningsea (Walker 1914). LW 862, ditch 1.
- 11:26 Carinated jar in brown sandy fabric with grey core. Dark grey surfaces inside and out. Exterior burnished. *Camulodunum* form 218. LW 830, ditch 1.
- 11:27 Shallow dish in hard, micaceous, light grey fabric. Chamfered base. LW 395, ditch 1.
- 11:28 Large jar in sandy grey fabric. Dark grey surfaces in and out. Shoulder decorated with burnished wavy line between cordons. Top of body burnished on exterior. LW 331, oven 20.
- 11:29 Bowl in hard grey sandy fabric. LW 852, ditch 1.
- 11:30 Jar in coarse shell-grit fabric. Black exterior surface, partly oxidised interior. LW 329, oven 20.
- 11:31 Jar in buff sandy fabric. Dark grey exterior, burnished. Decoration of burnished lattice below line. LW 330, oven 20.
- 12:39 Dish in hard grey fabric. Grey burnished surface. LW 964, ditch 151.
- 12:40 Jar with overhanging rim in hard, sandy, grey fabric. LW 1003, ditch 16.
- 12:41 Base in fabric L (Hadham). Highly burnished, bright orange exterior surface. LW 972, ditch 151.
- 12:42 Beaker in fine hard grey fabric. Highly burnished on the exterior. Hadham grey-ware. LW 933, ditch 151.
- 12:43 Dish in hard, light grey fabric. Dark grey burnished surfaces. LW 1001, ditch 151, LW 1023D, ditch 16 & LW 241, pit 11.
- 12:44 Carinated bowl in fabric C (Oxford). Traces of white painted decoration. Type 82 (Young 1977), probably second quarter of the fourth century. LW 800, ditch 17.
- 12:45 Bowl in fabric L (Hadham). Burnt dark brown. Decorated in the Romano-Saxon style. Roberts (1982) class A20. LW 707, ditch 7.
- 12:46 Jar or bowl in dark brown sandy fabric. Dark grey surfaces, in and out. LW 580, rubble 255.
- 12:47 Jar with overhanging rim in hard, sandy, light grey fabric. LW 376, rubble 255.
- 12:48 Beaker in grey sandy fabric, occasional calcarious inclusions. LW 572, rubble 255.
- 12:49 Dish or bowl in hard, sandy orange fabric with grey core. Dark grey burnished surfaces. The burnishing on the exterior is very crude. LW 570, rubble 255.
- 12:50 Bowl in parchment ware, decorated with red/brown paint. The form is similar to Oxford type P24 (Young 1977) but the fabric suggests Nene Valley, where similar forms are known eg from Duston (Woods 1977, No. 268). Probably third century. LW 634, rubble 255.
- 12:51 Dish in sandy buff fabric. Dark grey burnished surfaces in and out. Chamfer on base. LW 638, rubble 255.
- 12:52 Jar in fabric L (Hadham). Bright orange burnished surface. LW 636, rubble 255.

*Phase III Later third and earlier fourth century*  
(Fig. 11: 32–Fig. 12: 52)

- 11:32 Large storage jar in red fabric W. The body is combed horizontally all over and there is a slight carination  $\frac{1}{3}$  up from the base. Probably used as a latrine. LW 478, pit 28.
- 11:33 Flagon or jug in fabric L (Hadham). Similar to a vessel in the same fabric from Caister-on-Sea illustrated by Higgins (1972, No. 51) and dated there to the later fourth century. LW 756, rubble 254.
- 11:34 Flagon neck in soft pink-buff fabric R. Traces of a darker orange surface survive. Two grooves on the inside of the rim. LW 660, rubble 254.
- 11:35 Rouletted platter in fabric I. Low footring. Upper surface deep red and concentrically rouletted. LW 787, rubble 261.
- 11:36 Pedestal base in fabric L (Hadham). Highly burnished bright orange surface. LW 362, ditch 17.
- 11:37 Base in hard, sandy grey-ware (probably burnt). Exterior burnished. Graffito on base, perhaps Chi-Rho. LW 895, timber-lined pit 148.
- 12:38 Dish in soft, deep red micaceous fabric. Dark grey burnished surface. LW 277, complete pot buried in pit 9.
- 12:53 Jar in grey sandy fabric (burnt). Dark grey burnished surface. LW 364A.
- 12:54 Jar with overhanging rim in hard grey fabric. Cordon on shoulder. LW 728.

*Occupation layer 253 (probably pre-phase III)*  
(Fig. 12: 53–4)

*Unstratified* (Fig. 12: 55–65)

- 12:55 Bowl in fabric U. LW 90.
- 12:56 Flanged bowl in fabric U. Lines of four comb-impressed dots on top of flange. LW 35.
- 12:57 Jar in brown fabric with thick grey core, occasional large (2–3mm) flint inclusions. Horizontal

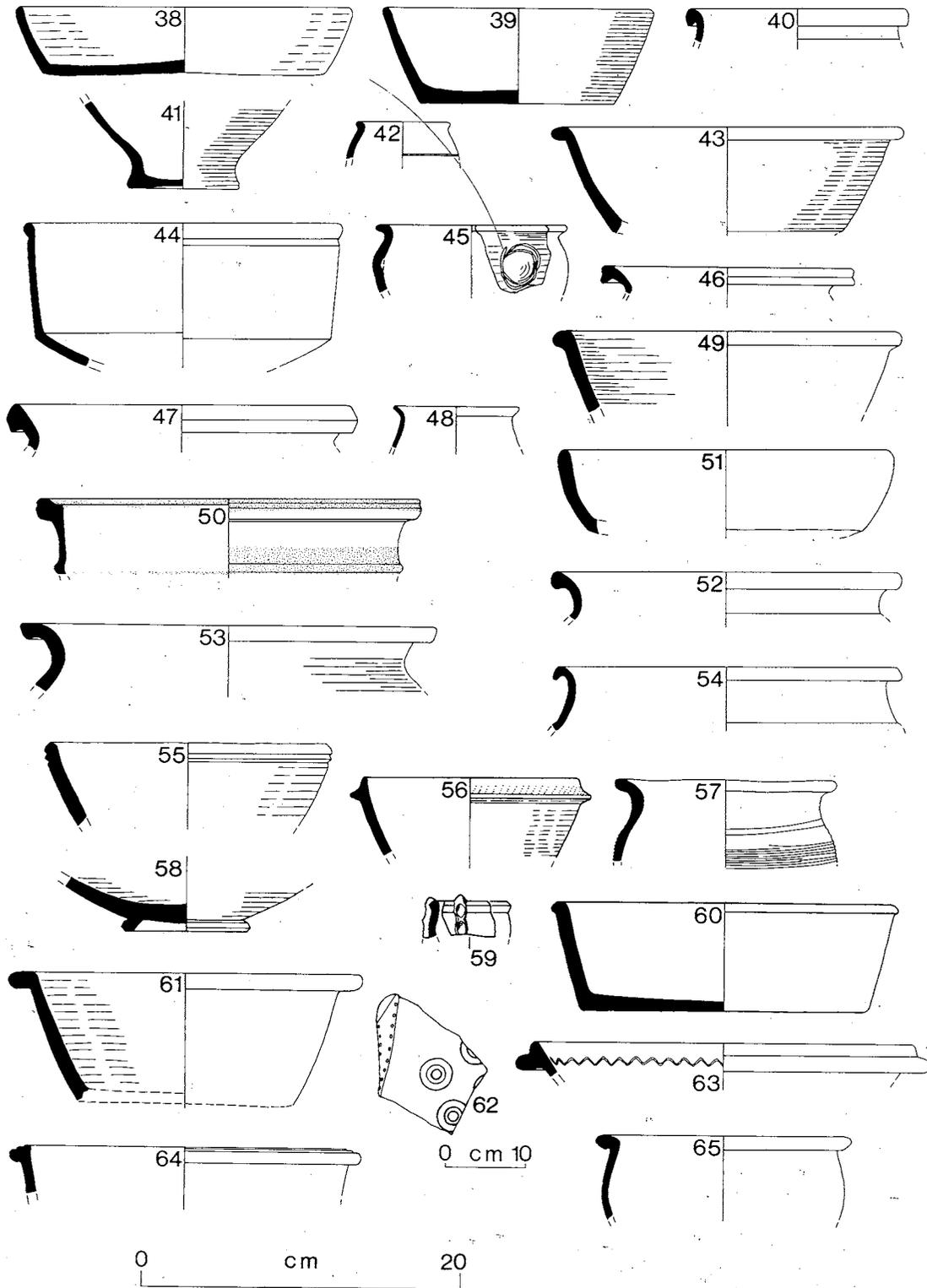


Figure 12. Exning Roman Villa. Pottery. Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$  except 65  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

- combed decoration on shoulder. Similar vessels are known from War Ditches (White 1963-4b, Fig. 5 Nos 5, 6). LW 319.
- 12:58 Base of bowl in fabric L (Hadham). Bright orange burnished surfaces in and out. Form perhaps similar to No. 45. LW 346.
- 12:59 Rim (or Handle?) in fabric L (Hadham). Applied strip, with finger-tip impressions, terminating in a peak. LW 26.
- 12:60 Bowl in hard grey fabric. Dark grey surfaces. LW 8.
- 12:61 Bowl in orange-buff fabric. Dark grey burnished surfaces, in and out. LW 239.
- 12:62 Wall sherd in soft fine grey fabric. Decorated with impressed circles, lines and dots. Identical decoration is known from the West Stow kilns (West 1955, Fig. 10 No. 1d) on copies of samian form 37. LW 688.
- 12:63 Flanged bowl in hard, light grey, sandy fabric. Dark grey surfaces with burnished zig-zag on interior, similar to Gillam (1970) type 231 and to a vessel from Cherry Hinton (White 1963-4a, Fig. 6 No. 11). LW 64.
- 12:64 Reeded rim bowl in orange sandy fabric, occasional large (3-4mm) flint inclusions. Dark grey surfaces. LW 17.
- 12:65 Bowl in sandy orange fabric with grey core. Dark grey surfaces, burnished on outside. LW 126.

### Acknowledgements

This report was written whilst I was at Leicester University, between 1982 and 1983, and I would like to thank the members of the Department of Archaeology, particularly Deirdre O'Sullivan and Anne Anderson, for their help. I am also grateful to the authors of the specialist reports who kindly revised them many years after they were first written. Christine Williams was a constant source of support and also prepared the wall-plaster drawings from originals provided by Miss Liversidge.

This paper is published with the aid of a grant from the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England.

### REFERENCES

- Atkinson, T.D., 1894. 'On a Roman House at Swaffham Prior'. *P.C.A.S.* 8: 229-234.
- Camulodunum, see Hawkes and Hull 1947.
- Carson, R.A.G., Hill, P.V., and Kent, J.P.C., 1960. *Late Roman Bronze Coinage*.
- Gillam, J.P., 1970. *Types of Roman Coarse Pottery Vessels in Northern Britain*. Third ed. Newcastle.
- Greenfield, E., 1960. 'Exning'. *J.R.S.* 50: 228-9.
- Hadman, J., 1978. 'Aisled Buildings in Roman Britain'. In Todd 1978.
- Harden, D. and Green, C., 1978. 'A Late Roman grave-group from the Minorities, Aldgate'. In Bird, J., Chapman, H. & Clark, J., *Collectanea Londiniensa*. London & Middx Archaeol. Soc. Special paper No. 2.
- Hartley, B.R., 1960. 'Notes on pottery from some Romano-British kilns in the Cambridge Area'. *P.C.A.S.* 53: 23-8.
- Hawkes, C.F.C. & Hull, M.R., 1947. *Camulodunum*. Research Committee Soc. Antiquaries of London Report No. 14.
- Higgins, D.C., 1972. 'Three groups of Romano-British coarse pottery from Caister-on-Sea, Norfolk'. *Norfolk Archaeology* 35: 179-301.
- Hughes, T. McKenny, 1906. 'Exning'. *P.C.A.S.* 11: 210.
- Hull, M.R., 1963. *The Roman Potters' Kilns of Colchester*. Research Committee Soc. Antiquaries of London Report No. 21.
- Johnston, D.E., 1959. 'A Roman well at Exning, Suffolk'. *P.C.A.S.* 52: 11-20.
- Mattingley, H. and Sydenham, E.A., 1926 on. *The Roman Imperial Coinage*.
- Morris, P., 1979. *Agricultural Buildings in Roman Britain*. Brit. Archaeol. Rep. 70.
- Phillips, C.W., 1970, (ed). *The Fenland in Roman Times*. Royal Geog. Soc. Research Report 5.
- Potter, T., 1965. 'The Roman Pottery from Coldham Clamp and its affinities'. *P.C.A.S.* 58: 12-37.
- RCHM, Royal Commission on Historic Monuments. 1972. *County of Cambridge; Vol. 2, North-East Cambridgeshire*.
- Roberts, W.I., 1982. *Romano-Saxon Pottery*. Brit. Archaeol. Rep. 106.
- Smedley, N. & Owles, E., 1960. 'Two kilns making colour-coated ware at Grimstone End, Pakenham'. *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.* 28: 203-25.
- Smedley, N. & Owles, E., 1961. 'A Small kiln at Grimstone End, Pakenham'. *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.* 29: 67-72.
- Smith, D.J., 1978. 'Regional Aspects of the Winged Corridor Villa in Britain'. In Todd 1978.
- Smith, J.T., 1963. 'The Roman Villa at Denton'. *Lincs. Architectural and Archaeol. Soc. Reports* 10: 75-104.
- Smith, J.T., 1964. 'Romano-British Aisled Houses'. *Arch. J.* 120: 1-30.
- Todd, M., 1978. *Studies in the Romano-British Villa*. Leicester.
- VCH, Victoria County History. *Suffolk* Vol. 1. 1911.
- Walker, F.G., 1914. 'Roman pottery kilns at Horningsea, Cambridgeshire'. *P.C.A.S.* 11: 14-70.
- West, S., 1955. 'Romano-British pottery kilns on West Stow Heath'. *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Archaeol.* 26: 35-53.
- West, S. & Plouviez, J., 1976. 'The Roman site at Icklingham'. *East Anglian Archaeol.* 3.
- White, D.A., 1963-4a. 'Excavations at the War Ditches, Cherry Hinton 1941-51'. *P.C.A.S.* 56-7: 30-41.
- White, D.A., 1963-4b. 'Excavations at the War Ditches, Cherry Hinton 1961-2'. *P.C.A.S.* 56-7: 9-29.
- Woods, P.J., 1977. 'Excavations at Brixworth, Northants 1965-70. The Romano-British Villa. Part I - The Roman coarse pottery and decorated Samian'. *Northampton Borough Council Museums Journal* 8.
- Young, C., 1977. *The Roman pottery industry of the Oxford region*. Brit. Archaeol. Rep. 43.

## CONTENTS

Quakerism in Cambridge before the Act of Toleration (1653–1689)	LAUREL PHILLIPSON	1
Nomads in 'Waterland'? Prehistoric Transhumance and Fenland Archaeology	CHRISTOPHER EVANS	27
Ernest Greenfield's Excavations at Exning Roman Villa	C.J. WEBSTER	41
Denny Abbey: The Nuns' Refectory	JEM POSTER and DAVID SHERLOCK	67
Excavation at Riverside, Thompsons Lane, Cambridge	PAUL FIRMAN and JOYCE PULLINGER	83
Music at Jesus College, Cambridge, c. 1557–1679	IAN PAYNE	97
Royal Mandates for Degrees in the Reign of Charles II (1660–85): An Aspect of the Crown's Influence in the University of Cambridge	JOHN TWIGG	105
The First Cottage of Clay Bats?	JOHN MCCANN	113
<i>Index</i>		122