

towards the Malvern Hills. Separate outcrops are to be found along the Devon-Dorset boundary, and outcrops with much smaller pebbles only are much more widespread. In general, pebbles large enough to be used for maceheads would not be expected north of the latitude of Mansfield-Macclesfield, but to the south of this, apart from the parent outcrops, the pebbles were widely distributed by ice action during the Pleistocene period, and are common in some or all of the boulder clays from the Severn Valley to East Anglia as far south as the Thames Valley. These latter ice-transported pebbles could account for the more frequent finds of maceheads in south-east England and East Anglia. The Hopton find appears to be the only one in the Peak District, where pebbles are rare except that pebbles derived from the Bunter beds are found in silica sand pits around Brassington and Friden. The Hopton macehead was found only half a mile from the nearest silica sand pit and thus may have been made, used and lost in the Brassington area.

A ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY KILN AT SHOTTLE HALL, DERBYSHIRE

By S. O. KAY AND R. G. HUGHES

DURING 1963, the East Midlands Gas Board was responsible for laying a section of pipeline, for the Sahara Methane Gas Project, from Alrewas in Staffordshire through Derbyshire to Penistone in Yorkshire. Through the excellent co-operation of their officials we were able to examine a plan of the route and to point out certain areas where archaeological materials might be encountered. We are particularly grateful to their Project Engineer, Mr. F. Gosling, and his Assistant Engineer, Mr. W. Prosser, for reporting that the excavator had "cut through some burnt material containing fragments of pottery", near Shottle Gate. On visiting the site we found that the 5 ft. deep trench had cut through a typical Romano-British "updraught" pottery kiln leaving about one-third of the kiln sectioned in the side of the trench. After the 18 in. diameter pipe had been laid in position at the bottom of the trench, the engineers agreed to delay the filling in until an investigation had been carried out on what remained of the kiln structure.

The kiln was unearthed in a field (SK 34/314475) belonging to the Chatsworth Estates on their Shottle Hall Farm, tenanted by Messrs. Mathews and Son (Fig. 20). It had similarities in construction with the kilns at Holbrook and Hazelwood.¹ The Hazelwood site is less than one mile to the E.S.E. and that at Holbrook a further 2½ miles in the same direction. Examination of a length of open trench showed a considerable area of sand with pockets of clay. As at Holbrook, the kiln walls were lined with puddled clay which

¹ *D.A.J.*, LXXXII (1962), 21-42.

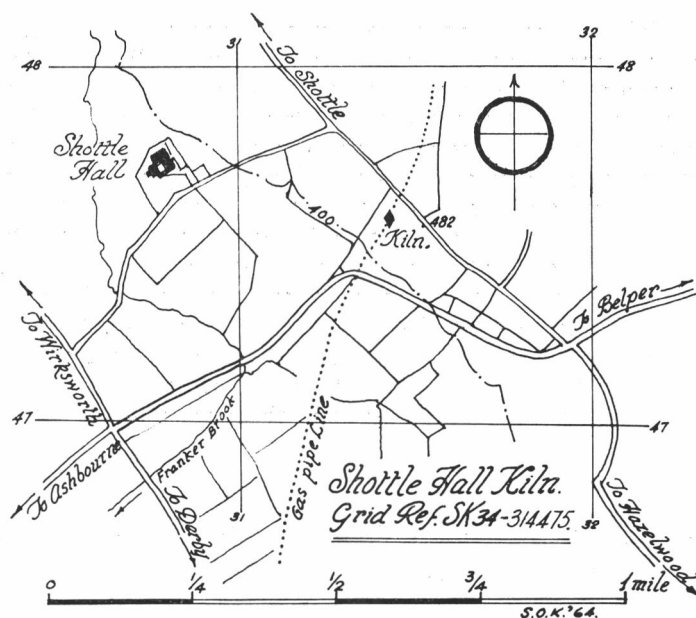


FIG. 20. The site of the Shottle Hall kiln.

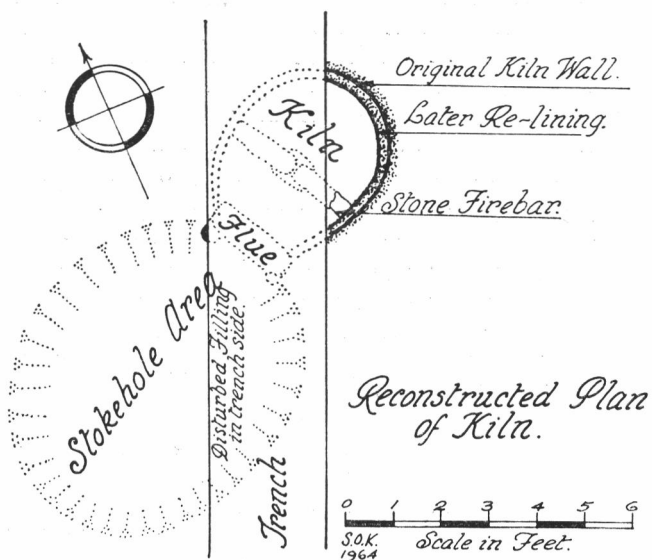


FIG. 21. Plan of the Shottle Hall kiln.

had fired quite hard. There was evidence that, during the working life of the kiln, it had been re-lined with a thickness of clay varying from 4 in. at the back to 3 in. towards the front. The floor of the kiln was level with the bottom of the trench, 5 ft. below the present ground level. The kiln walls were perpendicular, as at Hazelwood, and, although all the central portion had been

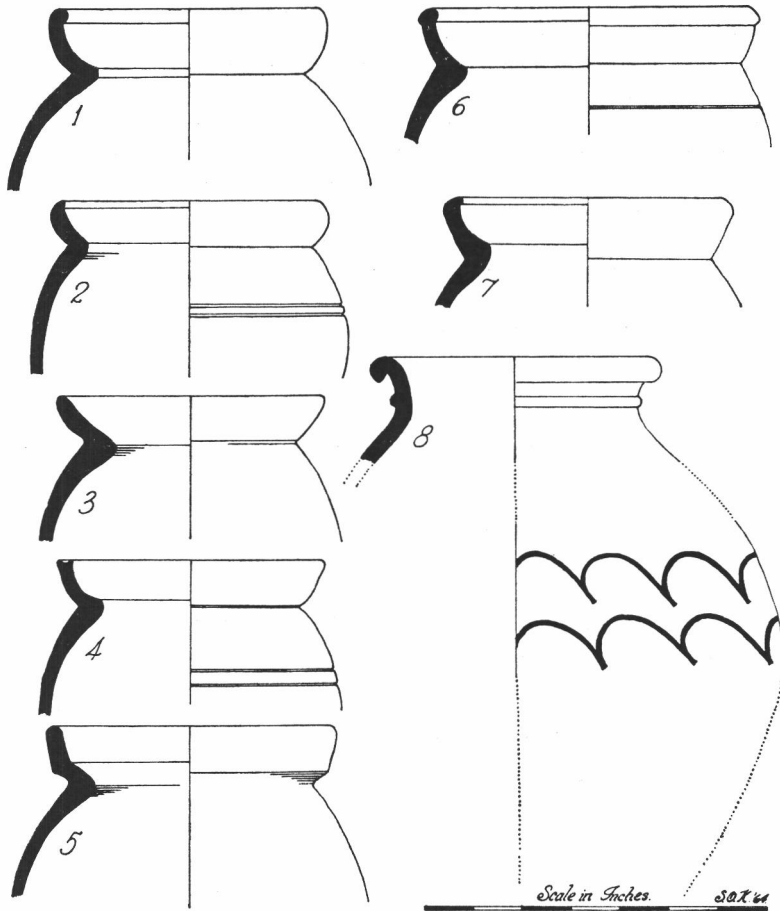


FIG. 22. Derbyshire ware from Shottle Hall.

cut away, the outer end of a stone fire-bar, embedded in the kiln wall, a foot above the floor level, indicated that the oven structure had been similar to that at Holbrook. Three concave depressions, about 4 in. in diameter and similar to those in the Holbrook kiln, were noticed in the side of the wall. All the flue structure had been cut away, but a depression in the trench side, caused by the removal of a large stone, indicated that a stone-built flue had

been used. The area of the stoke hole was visible as a mass of dirty disturbed filling in the side of the trench (see reconstructed plan, Fig. 21). We are most grateful to the Assistant Engineer for salvaging the pottery fragments illustrated (Fig. 22, nos. 1-8).

Pottery.

The pottery fragments (nos. 1-7) are rims of typical Derbyshire ware vessels, similar in shape and texture to the pottery from Hazelwood and Holbrook. The Shottle sherds are all from well fired vessels, the only decoration being confined to incised grooves on the shoulders of nos. 2, 4 and 6, which are comparable to nos. A36, A61, A78 and A80 from Hazelwood. Nos. 1, 2, 6, and 7 seem to have more affinities with the Holbrook rim shapes, where the inturned lips were most common. No. 5 is very similar to A100 from Holbrook and A36 and A78 from Hazelwood. No. 4 has a concave groove round the top of the rim, a variant not noticed elsewhere. No. 8, which is drawn partly reconstructed, is a cordon jar in brick red ware, made from a refined clay (several rims appeared at Hazelwood). The decoration of two bands of loop pattern were "burnished" and not incised.

Conclusion.

To the known sources of manufacture of Derbyshire ware is now added the Shottle Hall site, and it is likely that further kilns exist in the neighbourhood.

The proximity of the mass of steel pipe to the Shottle kiln made sampling for magnetic dating out of the question but, from the evidence of its construction and the rim types showing Holbrook influence, it may perhaps be assumed that Shottle was an intermediate production site between the early Holbrook and later Hazelwood kiln workings. It will certainly be necessary for considerably more fieldwork and further excavations to be carried out before the evidence for this distinctive Derbyshire ware is complete.

The discovery of the Shottle kiln was recorded by the Film Unit employed by the Gas Board who were making a colour film of the whole methane project.

ANCIENT FIELD BOUNDARIES AT BLACKWELL, NEAR TADDINGTON

By F. THOMAS

SINCE the surveys of Celtic fields and a settlement site at Blackwell, near Taddington, were reported in this *Journal* (LXXXI, LXXXII, 1961-2), further traces of field boundaries have been found which could well form part of the same field system. They are rather fragmentary and most of