

# The Roman villa at Whitebeech, Chiddingfold: excavations in 1888 and subsequently

by The Rev T S COOPER

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*On Microfiche*

## Summary

Published Accounts of Nevill's Excavations of the Chiddingfold villa

A Roman villa at Chiddingfold *Antiq Mag and Bibliog*, 4 1883, 166*Proc Soc Antiq* 2 ser, 9, 1883, 307-9, 334.

## The Finds

The catalogues of the pottery: 1 Samian  
 2 other Roman pottery  
 3 Post-Roman pottery

The catalogue of small objects

Copper alloy

Iron

Bone

Shale

Pottery

The catalogue of coins

The catalogue of glass

The Roman tile: data and notes

The wall plaster

**Summary**

This paper brings together all the known data on the Roman villa at Whitebeech, Chiddingfold. Specifically, it contains the previously unpublished report by the Rev T S Cooper on his excavation of the villa from 1888 onwards. Previously published information on excavations at the site in 1883 by Ralph Nevill are reproduced here on microfiche. A discussion of the finds reported by Nevill and Cooper is given together with a general discussion of the surviving finds from the site. Detailed catalogues of the extant finds are given on microfiche. Discussion is limited to a few general remarks on the villa plan, the dating evidence, the economy of the villa, and the trade between various production centres and the villa.

**Introduction**

The Roman villa at Whitebeech, Chiddingfold, was discovered in 1883 and excavated initially by Ralph Nevill in that year, and then extensively by the Rev T S Cooper from 1888 onwards. No excavations have been carried out on the site since then. Nevill published two short reports on his work and Cooper wrote a comprehensive paper on his excavations which contained a detailed plan of the villa as excavated. This was never published although a copy was given to the Surrey Archaeological Society, and a revised version formed a chapter in Cooper's *History of Chiddingfold*. Several attempts were made after Cooper's death in 1918 to publish the excavations, but for one reason or another they failed. A W G Lowther and R G Goodchild, after World War 2, started to write a report on the villa based on Cooper's work but this was never finished.

One of the principal aims of the Surrey Roman Villa Study Group when it was founded in 1979 was to publish Cooper's report on his excavations, together with a detailed analysis of the finds from the site which were given to the Surrey Archaeological Society by Cooper's family and deposited in Guildford Museum. The publication of this paper is the fulfilment of this aim.

It was decided at the outset of this project that Cooper's report should be published verbatim as it was thought, among other reasons, that his account, after almost 100 years, is of interest in its own right. Obviously, views on the Roman occupation have been drastically revised since the 1880s and thus many of Cooper's facts and theories are now known to be incorrect. When reading his account, this must always be borne in mind. Although each dubious statement could have been corrected or omitted, it was decided that this should not be done to a report which, at the

time it was written, was of a high standard. The report, although in parts anecdotal, is full of useful observations which are of great importance in any attempt to understand the Chiddingfold villa.

It was also decided at the outset to restrict this publication to the Cooper report and the detailed analysis of the finds. Any interpretation of the site, which would necessarily have to be more subjective than the interpretation of a villa excavated in more recent times, will be left for a future publication.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Thomas Stephen Cooper MA FSA was born in 1850 and attended the Royal Grammar School, Guildford. After taking holy orders, he was appointed to his first curacy at Chiddingfold from 1875–7, and thereafter lived in the village on his own property until his death in 1918. From 1890–1900 he was Joint Honorary Secretary of the Society, first with Mr Stephenson and then with Mr Guiseppi. From 1900 until his death, he served on the Council of the Society. He was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1894.

As well as excavating the Whitebeech villa, among his other contributions to archaeological and historical research were the excavation of Waverley Abbey, cataloguing the church plate of Surrey (published in instalments in the *Collections* between 1891 and 1901, and subsequently in volume form in 1902), and the comprehensive *History of Chiddingfold* which occupied much of his later life, and of which this report was intended to form a part.

#### Topography of the site

The site of the Roman villa at Whitebeech, Chiddingfold is as indicated in fig 1. The NGR for the site is SU 9784 3610. The villa is situated in a field variously known as High Riddings, The Riddings, or Great Riddings. This field lies in a triangular area bounded on the north west by the Chiddingfold to Pockford Farm road (Vann Lane), on the east by the road from Highstreet Green via Whitebeech to Vann Lane and on the south by a green lane. The site is approximately 69m above sea level on ground that slopes gently downwards towards the east. On the northern side, beyond the field boundary, the ground falls away abruptly to Vann Lane. The green lane is approximately 4.3m wide between ditches and 6.1m between external banks. The bank between the lane and The Riddings is of considerable height. A spring is marked on the OS 6" map north east of the marked position of the villa. Geologically, Chiddingfold is on the Wealden clay with the villa site itself being on river terrace gravels. A detailed account of the geology of the area can be found in Thurrell *et al* 1968. Reports of Roman sites or even finds of Roman date in the vicinity of the Chiddingfold villa are extremely rare. Cooper himself could find only one other instance of Roman occupation in the area. In his *History of Chiddingfold* (p 5) after mentioning the villa, he states that 'something of the same kind there may have been at Shillinglee where sometime since while grubbing part of the bank forming the county boundary, fragments of Roman tiles and pottery were thrown up'. The Surrey Sites and Monuments Record contains two other unpublished references to Roman finds in the area. North of Vann Hill 16th century sherds, flint scrapers, and Roman pottery sherds were found, and in Haslemere sherds of a small 2nd century jar in sandy-red coarseware were found in 1953.

The Haslemere area was obviously of importance in the Roman period as indicated by the 1st–2nd century Romano-British cemetery found at Beech Road, Haslemere. Twenty-six cremations were excavated there during 1903–5 in two groups. The first was dated to AD 60–80, the second to AD 80–120 (Holmes 1949; Hutchinson & Swanton 1906). The existence of this cemetery necessarily implies the existence of a Romano-British community in the area but virtually no further evidence for this has been forthcoming.

No major Roman roads are known in the area, Stane Street at Alfoldean being the nearest. There is, however, an excellent waterway connection between the villa and several other Roman

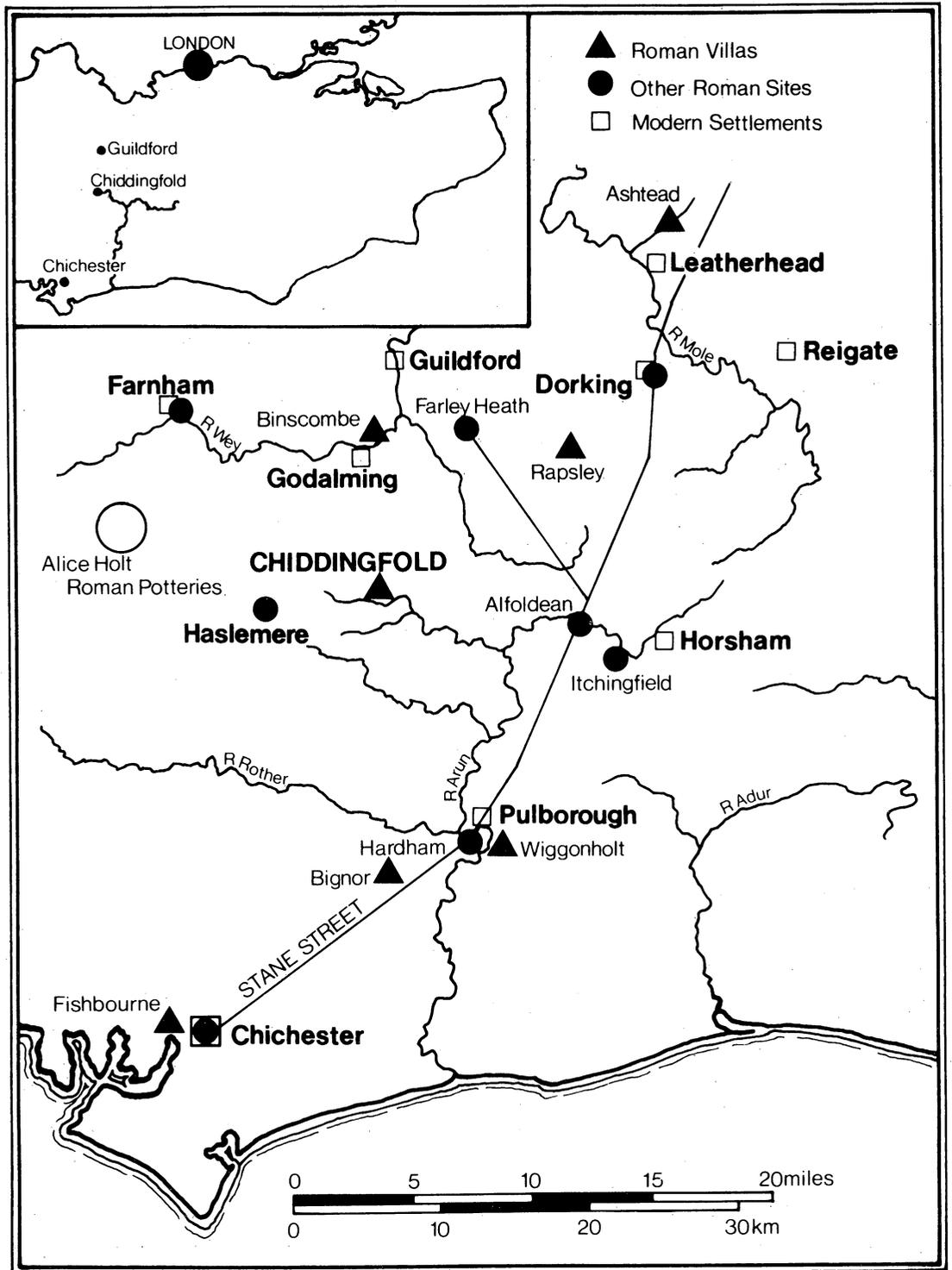


Fig 1. Chiddingfold. Location Map

sites including the *mansio* at Alfoldean and the tileworks at Itchingfield. This route involves either the North Bridge stream or the Chiddingfold stream which meet near Duns Copse, then the Arun through Dunsfold and Loxwood, and from there either upstream to Alfoldean and Itchingfield or downstream to the *mansio* at Hardham and then close to the villa at Wiggonholt. Rivet & Smith (1979, 476–7) discuss the identification of *Trisantona* of Ptolemy's Geography with the river Arun (the former name of the Sussex Arun being the Tarrant). This waterway route might have been of great significance regarding the tile and pottery supplies to the villa.

The villa is a DoE scheduled monument, and is on private land which at present is under cultivation.

### History of the excavations

There is no record of Roman remains being found on the site or in the immediate area before 1883. Early in that year, the owner was clearing away foundations, supposedly of a barn, and during this process, tile and pottery, recognised by Cooper as Roman, came to light. Ralph Nevill was informed, and under his direction workmen uncovered the foundation trenches of rooms 1–9 on Cooper's plan (fig 2). A report of the discovery of the villa appeared in *The Antiquary* (vol 7, 276), and a more detailed description in a letter by Nevill in *The Antiquarian Magazine and Bibliographer* (Nevill 1883a). The discovery was brought to the attention of the Society of Antiquaries on May 10th 1883 (Leveson-Gower & Nevill 1883), and some of the finds were displayed at a meeting of the Society on June 14th 1883 (Nevill 1883b). These included a bronze face mask, flue and roofing tile, samian and 'Upchurch' ware, common pottery and a coin described as 'of the city of Constantinople' in Nevill 1883a and 'of the Constantine period' in Nevill 1883b. The full text of all these references is given on Microfiche 2–6.

Although the owner promised to mark the position of the foundations with stakes, this was evidently not carried out, because when Cooper asked for and obtained permission in 1888 to undertake a systematic excavation, there was no sign of the previous investigations. He was however, fortunate enough to find the east wall of room 11, about 11m north of the earlier excavation, on the first day. Since Cooper says that he drew his plan of the foundations in 1889, it is assumed that he and his gardener uncovered about 50 rooms and isolated structures, within an area of about 110 × 60m, during 1888 and 1889.

Cooper did not publish the excavation because he planned to include the villa in his *History of Chiddingfold*. He died in 1918, this task uncompleted, and a copy of the *History*, typed by his daughter, Mrs Broadhurst Hill, was given to Haslemere Educational Museum. This contains an edited version of the description of the villa published here.

Just before World War 2, A W G Lowther and R G Goodchild approached Mrs Cooper with a view to publication. Permission was given for them to use the manuscript published here, and in 1946 they proceeded with the matter. Their preliminary notes, and a second plan, believed to be the work of Lowther, are in the Society's Library, but for various reasons they did not write up the finds or publish the manuscript. Lowther's plan is reproduced here, and is of interest as it includes some of the outer walls, not on the Cooper plan, but mentioned by him.

In 1961 Miss E M Dance, then Curator of Guildford Museum, sent the above notes and plans to Professor S S Frere, then Editor of *Collections*, presumably with a view to publication, but nothing further was done at that time. In 1963, Dr Joan Alcock published the face-mask found by Nevill (Alcock 1963).

### Notes on the text of 'The Roman Buildings at Whitebeech'

The report by T S Cooper on the Roman Buildings at Whitebeech published here is taken directly from the 18-page typescript in the Surrey Archaeological Society Library, given to A W G Lowther and R G Goodchild in c 1946 by Miss Joan M Cooper, one of Cooper's daughters. This version has been altered as little as possible, but it was necessary to correct two errors.



1. The dimensions of room 5 are given as  $19 \times 18$  ft in the text ( $5.8 \times 5.5$  m) but this is clearly an error. The correct dimensions may be obtained from the plan viz  $19 \times 13$  ft ( $5.8 \times 4.0$  m).
2. The block of outbuildings given as rooms 46–49 should be 44–49.

A few inconsistencies in stating the measurements of rooms etc have been removed, and obvious typing errors corrected, but otherwise the text is presented as typed, except for the addition of sub-headings to assist the reader. Cooper's original Roman numerals have been replaced by Arabic numerals.

In Haslemere Educational Museum there is a copy of Cooper's *History of Chiddingfold* in 2 volumes, typed by his daughter Mrs Broadhurst Hill. Pages 82–98 of volume 1 consist of a description of the Roman buildings at Whitebeech, substantially the same as the one published here until the section on the outbuildings is reached. The version here seems to be the earlier one, as the chapter in the *History of Chiddingfold* shows signs of editing, and many unimportant words have been omitted. Editing begins in earnest with the description of room 16, where the statement 'This was no doubt the kitchen yard' has been inserted. The description of the hearth in room 17 is also shorter, as are the descriptions of blocks 30–35, 22–28, 44–49, and the rubbish heap. The 'tanks' M and O are not mentioned, the description of L, X, and Q is curtailed, and pits Y and W are not mentioned.

Of greater interest, perhaps, is the fact that the description of the outer walls is much shorter, and that these walls are not individually designated AA, BB, etc. Since only wall GG appears on Cooper's plan, it is possible that he altered his opinion on the function and significance of these walls and some of the other outer structures. The story about Ned Messer remains in the edited version, but the penultimate paragraph is omitted, possibly in error. Except for the one instance cited above, there seems to be no additional information in the *History of Chiddingfold* chapter.

## The Plans

Two plans of the Chiddingfold villa exist. Cooper's original plan shows the main buildings with some of the outlying features whereas the second plan, of uncertain origin but probably drawn by Lowther and Goodchild, includes all the outlying features mentioned in the text. This second plan was probably drawn up using a combination of Cooper's plan and the details and measurements to be found in the text, but it is possible that it has been copied from a second Cooper plan.

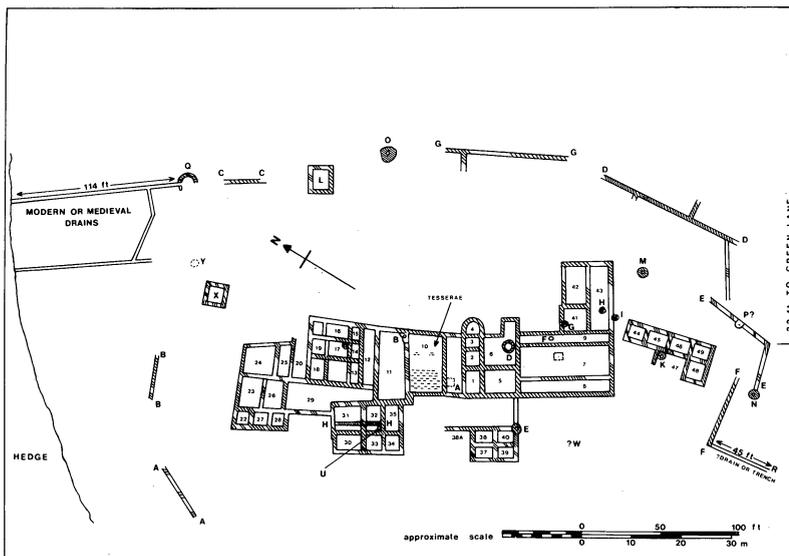


Fig 3. Chiddingfold. The second plan

## THE COOPER PLAN (fig 2)

The Cooper plan as reproduced here is a slightly modified form of the original. A secondary numbering system for the rooms has been omitted, as have several miscellaneous hand-written jottings; again, Roman numerals have been replaced by Arabic. A scale in metres and feet has been added based on the note '1/16" scale' on the original plan, which appears to agree approximately with a scale of 1/16" to the foot when measurements given in the text are checked on the plan. The walls are drawn in ink except those of the square buildings X and L, the wall GG and the north east walls of room 38, which are drawn in pencil on the original plan.

Cooper's diagonal hatching of the walls has been retained although there is some doubt whether this hatching convention was strictly adhered to by him when denoting existing foundations. The walls of rooms 1-9 had been removed in 1883, so in this instance, the hatching represents robbed foundation trenches. The exact relevance of the way in which the walls of adjoining rooms are shown to meet is also unclear, and it is probably best not to put too much emphasis on apparent 'butt joints'.

On the back of the plan there are some notes and calculations of distances, as well as a more rectilinear version of the block of rooms 22-38. These details are not reproduced here.

## THE SECOND PLAN (fig 3)

This second plan is roughly drawn but does cover the whole site as excavated including all the outer walls and other features mentioned by Cooper in his report. In the version reproduced here the original Arabic numbering system has been retained. A scale in feet and metres has been added. There are many differences between Cooper's plan and this one, although the majority can be attributed to the fact that this plan is inaccurately drawn and was probably intended to give no more than a general idea of the position of the outer features relative to the main buildings. The position of wall GG on this plan is very suspect although there are discrepancies between Cooper's plan and his text in this area. Also, a note on Cooper's plan states that the distance between rooms 1 and 38 is 15 ft (4.6 m) although his plan shows it to be 10 ft (3.0m). Some attempt at correcting this discrepancy has been made in the other plan, but the distance now appears as about 18 ft (5.5m). One of the more significant errors in this second plan is the discrepancy in the widths of rooms 8 and 9.

This plan should therefore only be regarded as an attempt to show all the features of the site together, and to relate them to the green lane and the field hedge.

Since this report was compiled, the original second plan has been located in the Guildford Museum archives (TS 101). This plan is drawn in ink, and the workmanship is very similar to that of the Cooper plan, suggesting that this second plan is also Cooper's work. The plan is unfinished; the rooms are not numbered, and the features are not identified. North is indicated on the plan, but there is no scale. The Lowther and Goodchild tracing is a faithful reproduction of the original except for some of the hatching of the walls; and the identification of walls and other structures not on the Cooper plan was made by them.

## THE ROMAN BUILDINGS AT WHITEBEECH

by T S Cooper

### INTRODUCTION

Perhaps the most interesting local relics of a bygone age were the remains of buildings of unquestionable Roman origin, brought to light in the year 1883 and subsequently. The discovery came about in this way. At a trifling depth below the soil, it was found that the plough was frequently impeded by what appeared to be foundations, it was supposed of a barn, that may at some period have stood in the field. In that year the owner, Mr Thomas Sadler of Pockford,

determined to remove the obstructions, carting away the stone that was found in considerable quantities, to be broken up and used on the roads in the vicinity. But, during the process of removal, it was observed that besides stone, fragments of pottery and of tiles were from time to time thrown up, though at the moment no special importance was attached to the fact. A son of the Rev C Slogget, then Rector, had taken some of these fragments to the Rectory where I saw them. Fresh from a visit to the Roman villa at Brading in the Isle of Wight, I at once recognised amongst them portions of roof tiles such as were used on Roman houses as well as of flue pipes from their hypocausts. Mr Sadler was informed of this, and with commendable public spirit, ordered the work of digging and removal to be suspended. He, moreover, communicated directly or indirectly with Mr Ralph Nevill FSA, who visited the spot and communicated the result of his observations to the Society of Antiquaries. It was some time after this, namely in 1888, that I asked and obtained permission from the owner to make something like systematic excavations on the spot. By that time the trenches left by the removal of the stone had been filled in, and the site again cultivated.

#### THE SITE

There lingers a tradition to the effect that there was formerly a town on the site, called according to some Cowtown, to others Riddingstown. Moreover, such tradition had found its way into print since the book containing the account was once in the possession of the late Mr Walter White, of Chiddingfold, but now, alas, lost! The probability is that when, years ago, some of the walls remained above the ground level, the hasty, though not unnatural conclusion was arrived at, that they marked the site of a town, instead of a single dwelling with its surroundings. Though beyond the memory of man, such walls may have been in evidence not so very long ago. At the eastern extremity of the field were, until recently, two cottages of the copyholder type, one of which remains, the other having been pulled down a few years ago. I found that the foundations of this demolished cottage, built somewhere about the year 1620, consisted of huge blocks of stone, some of them squares of two feet, and many of them shaped, which had beyond question been taken from the buildings in the adjoining field. This field, until sold about the middle of the last century, had from time immemorial belonged to Stonehurst farm, and it is worthy of note that similar stone may be seen worked into the farmhouse itself, and into an old cottage near Pockford bridge belonging to the farm; in both cases, I have no doubt, brought from Roman buildings.

It seems likely, therefore, that as late as the 17th century, considerable remains of such buildings were visible above the soil. The field in which these Roman remains were found has been variously called the Riddings, Great Riddings and High Riddings field, an appropriate name this last, for it is on high ground with a very extensive view all round. The name means a clearing, from the Saxon word *Hreddan*, to rid or to clear, and was probably attributable to the Saxon settlers who would have found the spot cleared of the forest, and possibly still, to some extent, in a state of cultivation (since it is likely that the Britons, many of whom must have been employed as servants, not to say slaves, under the Romans, continued to occupy the site after their departure). The Riddings is flat at its western end; with a gentle slope downwards towards the east. On the north side the ground over the field boundary falls abruptly away to the Rye Street; while to the south it is fairly flat, until it drops sharply to the stream. The Riddings lies, with a single field intervening, between the road from the village to Pockford and onwards, on the north; and on the south, a green lane, to which the buildings almost extended. I am not at all sure that the former road, as far as it extends below the Riddings is a very old one, but am inclined to think it is not. It, however, now forms part of a very ancient road, the Rye Street, or more correctly the Ridge Street. This branches off eastwards from the main highway through the village, and formerly connected with Dunsfold being so spoken of not once nor twice in the 13th century — between six and seven hundred years ago! After leaving Rye Street Common, it is continued up the green lane, already mentioned as the southern boundary of the Riddings and

passing over the brook at Butterdens bridge, formed a junction with the High Street at Redwood, the medieval Rudewode. This green lane as it is now can hardly have failed to have been used by the Romans, and may well have been in existence before they came. It measures 14 feet from ditch to ditch and 20 feet from bank to bank. How far the Roman proprietor of the house thought it necessary to protect himself from hostile intruders I cannot say. His dwelling was apparently surrounded by a wall, and it seems to me that on the south side, that is the side facing towards what was then the dense forest of Anderida, he considered further protection necessary, for the bank extending along the south side of the lane there, from Rye Street Common to Whitebeech, is no ordinary boundary bank, but a veritable *vallum* or rampart of considerable height and substance. If there were similar defences elsewhere, no signs of them remain, unless it is towards the north east end of the field, where there is a very considerable drop into the field below. As to the date of these buildings we are necessarily much in the dark. That the Romans never indulged in country houses such as this one must have been, in remote districts especially, until the country was thoroughly conquered, admits of no doubt. Possibly at first it was the residence of the commander of the troops, stationed in the fortified camp on Hascombe Hill, of which it is in full view, and with which it was within easy signalling distance. The earliest coin found on the site is a silver one of the reign of Antoninus Pius, AD 138 to 161. A brass of Tetricus, AD 267 to 272, one of Carausius, AD 286 to 294, and a third of Constantine the Great, AD 306 to 337, have also come to light. These cover a period of upwards of 200 years. The buildings may have been erected therefore at any time between AD 161 and 337. One thing is quite certain, namely, that they must have been there before AD 418, the year of the evacuation of the country by the Romans; for although a certain number of them, merchants and the like, continued in Britain after the withdrawal of the troops, their residences would have been in or near towns, or trading centres, and not in such isolated localities as the Riddings. We may therefore take it for certain that the foundations as planned in 1889, together with the many objects discovered on the site, remained undisturbed for at least 1500 years. The owners from time to time must have been men of considerable refinement to judge from their surroundings. Their home was well-placed, and part of it was heated with hot air, for flue tiles and pipes connecting with a hypocaust have been found. Their windows were glazed, their walls coloured, and there must have been a bath, without which no Roman of any refinement could exist. The specimens of pottery and of glass, of bronze and personal ornaments found on the site testify to wealth and good taste. The former, pottery and glass, included examples of nearly every description which has been found at the important Roman city, Calleva Atrebatum at Silchester, which is saying a great deal. Then, again, outside there would have been the farm stock and a considerable acreage under cultivation, for in such an out-of-the-way place the owners must to a great extent have been self-dependent. The farm was probably coterminous with the land included in the irregular triangle bounded by the present roads, in all about 36 acres, but there was nothing to prevent the owner from extending his boundaries in whatever direction, and as far as, he chose. As for the water-supply it was abundant, for as Mr Nevill points out, 'although the site is at the top of a hill, water rises freely at a depth of six feet'.

Roman houses in Britain, whether villas or hunting lodges, do not appear to have been built on any general plan, though there are certain features common to most of them. There was the *atrium* or courtyard, for instance; and again the bath, with several small chambers, and a much larger one in close proximity; such an arrangement being often followed. Another plan for country houses was to build chambers round three sides of the courtyard. But generally, the architect followed no particular rule, planning as it seems to suit the requirements of his employer. At Chiddingfold the original house was very much on the lines of the villa discovered in Titsey Park, Surrey, but more extensive, although probably not so at the outset. I am inclined to think that the courtyard with its corridors, and the blocks of rooms north and east of it, together with the detached block on the west side, the whole being fairly well squared, formed the original building, and that additions were afterwards made from time to time. The

foundations of the walls of the courtyard and rooms at the north end were those removed in 1883, and the trenches thus revealed were roughly planned by Mr Nevill in that year. The ground was at that time partially examined within the area formed by the trenches, and the partition walls of chambers 1 to 4 revealed. Nothing much beyond this was undertaken, and no note preserved of the exact position of the site before it was again covered in.

When I got to work in 1888 with only a general idea of the position, it was not until late in the afternoon of the first day's search that I was rewarded. I had associated with me throughout the excavations, which extended over some years, but one man, my gardener William Chitty, a most intelligent being, who, as the work progressed, became quite expert; and to his general knowledge and carefulness at all times, I owe many an important find. Our testing operations brought us on the footings of a wall running north and south which later on proved to be the east wall of the chamber 11, so that I had struck a point from 30 to 40 feet north of the former discoveries. Working south, we at length came to the old site, and with a little care, had no difficulty in following the trenches then made. As stone had been dug to the level of the field gravel on which the foundations had been originally laid, and the soil in the chambers themselves had not been disturbed to any serious extent, such trenches could be followed and planned with accuracy.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE VILLA

##### *Living Quarters*

I commence then with that portion of a villa called by the Romans the *urbana*, which contained the living rooms of the family, and included the garden. The *atrium* or courtyard, 7, was an oblong of 56 by 18 feet, open to the sky. On either side ran a colonnade or corridor 6 feet wide, with a light, low wall separating it from the courtyard. Such corridors, 8 and 9, were usually covered by a roof resting on timber supports fixed into the partition walls. Towards the north end of the eastern corridor 9 was one of those puzzling little structures found scattered about the buildings marked F on the plan, which I shall speak of presently. In the courtyard, but not quite in the centre, was what I imagine to have been a tank for water. This had been much disturbed, but stone in position was found at one of the angles, and there were evidences of its having been a square of about 4 feet, not more than 2 feet in depth. About 18 inches down at the north east corner was a trench about a foot wide running north east. This could not have been a drain, for it had an upward tendency. It is probable that pipes were laid along this trench for the purpose of conveying water to the basin. The trench could only be traced for about 2 feet, having no doubt been disturbed in 1883. The entrance to the courtyard from the outside was from the south end, and here, just where we should look for it, there was a break in the wall.

In speaking of the rooms 1 to 6, to the north of the courtyard, I shall in a measure follow the late Mr Granville Leveson-Gower, whose paper on the villa at Titsey published in volume 4 of the *Surrey Archaeological Collections* seems to me very sound. Chambers 1 and 5, 13 by 8 feet and 19 by 13 feet respectively, may have been the two principal rooms. The apartment 6 was 19 by 18 feet with a projection at one corner measuring 6 by 4 feet. This would have been the kitchen with the furnace in the projection. But since this room was disproportionately large, it probably had a partition wall towards the west end. I am inclined to think, however, that in later times, when additions were made to the villa, the kitchen was removed further off, and this chamber, with its partition wall removed, brought into use as a living room. One of my reasons for this is, that under this room there had almost certainly been a hypocaust or hot air chamber, the furnace being probably in room 3 with an opening into the yard 36. The soil in this room 6 had been disturbed to a depth of quite 3 feet 6 inches below the field level, which would admit of plenty of space for such a chamber below, and my impression at the time was that there had been such a chamber, with a floor of red tesserae above. Another reason is that a large circular structure D was found in it, more suitable in a dwelling-room than in a kitchen. This was 8 feet in diameter, the margin being one foot wide, leaving 6 feet as the diameter of the sunk centre. It was flush

with the original floor, and 30 inches below the field level. At a depth of about seven inches, the sides began to curve towards the centre thus forming a shallow basin, such as the Romans delighted in, both indoors and out. It was stoned throughout and in fair condition. The trench noted by Mr Nevill, passing out of corridor 9, at the north-east corner, if extended would have connected with this tank.

Rooms 3 and 4 were in all probability the bath. The latter had an apsidal end, and was separated from 3 by a light partition wall forming the other end of the bath. The dimensions of the bath were very much the same as of the one at Titsey. Chamber 2 may have been a storeroom connected with the kitchen in the first instance, or possibly a third living room. It was noticed that the rooms 1 to 6 were on a slightly lower level than the generality; also that 2, 3 and 6 showed indications of their having been roughly paved with stone and tiles.

The block containing four rooms, 37 to 40, to the west of the main building and separated from it by a court, may have been the women's apartments, including those of the serving maids. If so, the court would have been covered in, which, as it had a south wall — there were no signs of one at the opposite end — seems to have been the case. At one corner was another of those more or less circular structures referred to above, which I can only suppose were water tanks. Had they been on the line of the walls in all cases, they could have been easily accounted for; they would have been the holes into which the timber supports of the roof were securely fixed. This one E was about 18 feet in circumference, and in the centre there was an opening 2 feet square. The margin was of stone, some of the blocks being very large. The hole was sunk to a depth of 6 feet, the sides being roughly stoned, and probably the bottom also, but of this I could not be quite sure as the water stood at 3 feet. A somewhat similar structure F was found toward the north end of the east corridor 9. It was shaped like a horseshoe with a square opening in the centre, and was in every respect smaller than the rest. It may have been in connection with the tank in the courtyard, otherwise it is difficult to account for it in such a position.

To the east of the courtyard was another block which may have been for the men working about the place, called the *rustica*, and perhaps included the stable. I very much doubt, however, whether the whole of this block formed part of the original plan. It will be noticed that the north wall of room 41 was much more massive than the others, being nearly three feet wide; also that the north wall of the adjoining room 42 is not in a line with it. I feel sure that at some time this block was reconstructed. Here again we have no less than three tanks, which could hardly have been needed all at once. The one in 41 was probably the earliest, which would have been quite sufficient for the block as originally constructed. With the enlargement of the block, further tanks may have been needed, or the original may have been filled in, and place given to others more conveniently situated. These tanks, G, H, and I, were much of a size and found from 9 to 14 inches below the field level. G, which I have suggested may have been the oldest, was on a lower level and had more massive masonry round the margin, while the opening itself was a trifle larger than those of the other two, being 2 feet square. On the other hand, it was not so deep as H and I, being something under 3 feet, those others being nearly 4 feet. All three were roughly stoned at the bottom and round the sides.

Extending along the north side of rooms 1 to 3 was a long, rather narrow court or garden onto which they opened. By pitching the line of the walls slightly eastwards, a greater share of the morning and evening sun was obtained, so that this arrangement out of the straight line may have been intentional. The projection A was not structural, but a floor of hard calcined matter six feet wide, which extended across the light partition wall. It may have been what was left of a path, similar to the cinder or clinker path of the present day, leading to what was called the *fructuaria*, which consisted of barns, granaries and storehouses of various kinds. This probably included 10, 11, and other buildings, removed when the villa was rearranged, and of which only the wall HH remained. The short return wall at the south west angle of 11 is remarkable for its massiveness. It measured close upon 4 feet across, and was constructed of very large blocks of undressed stone. Originally this wall evidently continued at this thickness across to the east wall. This, I think,

may have been a barn, the roof of which, judging from its area, must have been a great weight, requiring very substantial walls to carry it.

Compartment 10 has an interest all its own, for here we found the only piece of tessellated pavement of any size, and this of the coarsest and commonest description. It was formed of the small red tesserae or square blocks (in this case one of tiles), in common use amongst the Romans for floors in the less important rooms and in yards. Here they were laid with fair regularity, not in a bed of cement, but on the soil. As a rule they were roughly formed, and by no means uniform in size. This floor was in tolerable condition for the greater part of the way across from north to south. In width it varied considerably, proving that it was not a mere path or passage; indeed, from the many small patches of tesserae found scattered about, it was evident that, in its original state, it covered the whole. The wonder is that any part of it remained intact, for although its greatest depth below the field level was from seven to eight inches, much of it was covered by only three inches of soil! It owed its partial escape from destruction to some large stones left in the north and south walls, which caused the plough to jump in its course. When, in after years, the *fructuaria* to which this compartment seems to have belonged was removed further north, 10 was apparently converted into a yard. The pavement at any rate, judging from the way it was laid, and from its unsubstantial character, though unquestionably Roman, must have belonged to quite a late period.

I am borne out in this by what was found below the floor level. In the north west corner, for instance, quite a foot below the field surface, which would be at least five inches below the pavement, were some large flat slabs of stone stuck up edgeways, which could hardly have been intentional, since in such a position they could have served no imaginable purpose. Again, the soil for several feet along the west wall *under* the floor was very black, and contained several pieces of burnt bone. All this goes to show that the room must have been used for some purpose previous to the laying of the pavement. Similar loose slabs of Bargate stone marked B were also found mixed with roof tiles in an angle of room 11, resting on the floor and on the wall which had been destroyed to the same level.

#### *Farm Buildings and Additions*

So far I have spoken of what appears to have been, more or less, the original villa, or hunting lodge, for in its first state it is more likely to have been the latter. As time went on, and the prospects of an extended sojourn in the neighbourhood increased, considerable additions and alterations were made. We see here perhaps the hunting lodge merged into the permanent residence. The country had settled down; the soldiers had in all probability been withdrawn from the camp on Hascombe Hill; and there was nothing to prevent the owner from indulging his taste for farming, settling down as a country gentleman, and passing his life as he would have done at home in Italy. From the irregularity of many of the buildings, I fancy he must have been his own architect, and employed those on his estate to carry out his plans.

The first thing that strikes one as undesirable in the original house is the proximity of the kitchen to the dwelling and bath rooms. The kitchen, therefore, seems to have been dismantled and rebuilt further north. This new block was built onto 11, which I have suggested may have been up to this time a barn. It consisted of seven rooms and yards, 12 to 19, and contained besides the kitchen, the room in which the corn was ground, the bakehouse, and all the accessories of the culinary department. The outer walls were of a fairly uniform thickness, and easily traced, which I cannot say of all the partition walls inside. These were naturally of a lighter character, and but little remained of the majority of them. 12 was undoubtedly an open space, a yard or garden, on which room 14 at any rate must have depended for light. In room 13 were found not only several fragments of better-class pottery, but also a very nice enamelled bronze *fibula* or brooch. Although oyster shells were plentiful everywhere, in room 15 a perfect hoard of them was found buried in a hole against the south wall. The floor of 16 had evidently been paved with red tesserae, small patches having been found in position. Room 17 was certainly the

kitchen. The floor was formed of tiles irregularly laid, and for the most part broken. In the south east corner was discovered a furnace or hearth in a very fair state of preservation. This was shaped rather like a horse-shoe, and was very similar to one found at Silchester in Insula XI, Block III, though not nearly so deeply sunk. The Chiddingfold example was built against the east wall which formed one side of it; the opposite side and rounded end were flanked with large roof tiles, the flanges being turned upwards and backing onto the hearth. These tiles were laid with regularity about 14 inches below the field level. The front of the hearth was squared, and measured across between the slight backing walls, close upon two feet, the opening being the width of a single tile or rather less. From back to front the hearth measured a little over three feet in the clear, and two feet four inches across its widest part. The base was found to be just about six inches below the top of the flanges of the tiles, and was formed of tiles, for the most part much broken. In the opening, a single roof tile was used, which though cracked across was otherwise nearly perfect. These floor tiles showed signs of a fierce heat, and the soil below them for some depth was very red from the same cause. The earth under the floor of the room itself to the right and in front of the hearth for several feet and to a depth of nine inches, was of the same red colour. A quantity of charred wood was found both here and in room 14, where the soil to a considerable depth against the east wall was very black, also the result of heat but of a slower fire. Numerous shards of common pottery were thrown up within the kitchen area; also, near the hearth, part of a small perforated bronze bowl or strainer. Quite a large deposit of broken roof tiles, flue pipes, and pottery was found in 18 and in the adjoining yard 20.

To the west of the kitchen range was a block of buildings, 30 to 35, divided up into six rooms very much of a size. This block was unquestionably an addition, and a late one, for very good reasons. One being that the wall HH was discovered running *under* rooms 31 and 32, the partition between them having been built across it; another that the north east angle of the block cut into, and partly overlapped enclosure 29; and a third because below the greater portion of the block was found what must at some earlier period have been a huge rubbish heap. This, which is indicated on the plan by dotted lines, extended outside close up to the wall of 10, and almost to the broken wall of the block further south. The deposit contained a very large quantity of pottery of nearly every description found, as well as bronze objects, coins, and some flint arrow heads. These last not only prove the presence of Britons about the place, but also suggest that the deposit was of early date. I may add that the southern extremity of the deposit was flattened, giving the impression that at this point it had been piled against, or obstructed by a wall, perhaps the north wall of the imperfect room 38A. I have already suggested that the wall HH had to do with the original *fructuaria*. In a corner of 32 was a small circular structure, U, with a stone margin, perhaps a hearth or an oven; it certainly bore no resemblance to the so-called tanks found elsewhere.

Beyond the kitchen block on the north side, and divided from it by an open passage or yard 20, similar to 12, was another range of buildings containing some rather large rooms, 22 to 28. They were seven in number; but I have no suggestion to offer as to the use they were put, unless it was that the granaries, storehouses, etc were rebuilt here, which seems not unlikely. When this and the kitchen block, and the one to the west, were occupied, 29 must have been an open space, otherwise several of the rooms would necessarily have been in darkness. I have little doubt that it was an enclosure for vegetables, herbs, and such-like, the kitchen garden in fact. This block brought the buildings up to within 100 feet, more or less, of the field bank, and as there were no signs of walls beyond it in this direction, we may conclude that it marked the northern extremity of the block of buildings.

Passing to the southern extremity of the buildings, we have a block consisting of six rooms — 44 to 49, and running almost due north and south. This too must evidently have been a late addition both on account of the light nature of the walls, and also because it is placed exactly opposite the chief entrance to the main building. From this it seems that by that time the place was no longer in the strict sense a villa, but had degenerated into a farm house, just as in modern

times we often find the old Manor houses of Queen Elizabeth's time used as farm houses, and sometimes as labourers' cottages. I have no idea what this block was used for, unless it was for stabling and stalls for cattle. In a corner of 47 we uncovered another tank, K, which was in anything but good condition. It had a stone bottom at a depth of 2 feet 9 inches and the opening at the top was 20 inches square.

#### *Isolated Walls and Structures*

The isolated tank M was of about the same dimensions. There was only one other, not far from the square building L. This tank, O, was the most perfect of them all. It was 3 feet 6 inches deep with a stone foundation; the sides were also stoned to the full depth in regular courses, and the opening was 2 feet square.

There were two of these small square buildings, L and X, found standing out away from the main block. They were very much of a size, L being a trifle the larger of the two. The walls varied from 2 feet to 2 feet 6 inches across. I can only suppose that they were watch towers, and belonged to the period when such were needed.

The circular structure Q I think must have been a furnace. It was formed of an 18 inch stone wall with tiles laid upon it, and measured 8 feet across inside. The floor had been disturbed when parts of the surrounding wall were broken away, but from the number of broken tiles lying about, I conclude that it was formed of these. The earth here was very black, and for a distance of upwards of 12 feet on the west side. On one side, the wall had been pierced by a rubble 6 inch drain which ran north for a distance of 114 feet to the field bank. This was one of the drains in common use here before drain pipes were introduced. Bits of Roman tiles were found mixed up with the ordinary knobs of rough stone. Close to the furnace, several pieces of samian of good quality as well as of coarse pottery, and some glass were thrown up. I cannot offer even a conjecture as to the use a furnace in a position so isolated can have been put. About 16 feet from the north east corner of the square building X, while testing for walls, we came upon a kind of round shallow pit, Y, filled with very black earth, rather strong smelling at the bottom. I had noticed the same strong and offensive smell in some black earth against the outside wall of corridor 8. About the same distance from this pit in the direction of the furnace Q, there was a considerable quantity of earth burnt a red colour.

W was another round hole about 30 feet west of the courtyard; it was, like Y, about 4 feet in diameter; there was no black earth about it, but it contained a quantity of broken tiles. I suppose it was one of the usual rubbish pits.

I have now only the remains of walls on the outskirts to speak of, and most perplexing they are. Those marked AA, BB, CC, and FF may have been, and probably were, portions of the wall which at some time surrounded the buildings. Connecting with FF at one end was R, a well-defined trench cut in the field gravel. It measured 12 inches at the wall and gradually widened to 18 inches at the other end, where it appeared to terminate, its whole length being 45 feet. In the trench a good many clinkers were found, apparently iron partly run; could it have been that the smith's forge was in this direction?

The 18 inch wall EE terminated at one end with tank N. This was very similar to the others, being 4 feet deep with an opening 2 feet square. The bottom was stoned, and there were indications of stones at the sides. Close to the other end of the wall was a small projection finished off at its extremity, and which was probably a buttress. P was semicircular in shape as far as I could judge, and the wall had been built up to it on both sides. The earth had been removed to a depth of three feet in a semi-circle; there were a few large stones in position, and several broken tiles about; also slight indications of burnt earth. Had it not been for this, I should have concluded that it was what remained of another tank. The angle of this wall was within 32 feet of the green lane.

Wall GG, if continued northwards, would have struck tank O, very much in the same manner as the wall EE ran into N. This wall was not in a line with, and could never have formed part of,

what I have suggested was the surrounding wall of the buildings. The broken wall towards the north end suggests that a building stood here, a conjecture strengthened by the fact that close to it a considerable quantity of common pottery was thrown up, as well as of red tesserae almost by the spade-full, but nowhere was it found in position. The whole of the ground from this point up to the main buildings was thoroughly tested, and although no signs of buildings were found, it was evident that the soil had been much disturbed below the reach of the plough.

Wall DD must have been a very massive one, and what purpose it could have served I cannot precisely say. At about two feet below the field level it was discovered quite undisturbed and in this condition was followed for 86 feet; nor was it finished off at either end, proving that it had extended further in both directions. It measured 3 feet 9 inches across throughout its entire length. Towards the north east end was what seems to have been a light buttress, and on the opposite side near the other extremity, an 18 inch wall, the footings of which could be traced for about 10 feet. Further on, a 2 foot wall left the main wall but not at a right angle, and continued for some distance westwards. Embedded in the main wall we found the roots of what must have been very large beech trees, a very interesting discovery since it must have been these with others in the vicinity which gave its name to the locality. Called in the 14th century *le Wite*, and *la White*, later the beeches at *Wyte*, by the year 1495 it became known as *white-bechen*, a name which by an easy transition has become *Whitebeech*. The question arises, what can have been the purpose of such a massive wall in such a position? It was as massive as any found elsewhere, more so than the majority, but not more so than some of the walls in the oldest portion of the house. I venture to think that we have here all that remains (for it was covered up again undisturbed) of a second villa facing due east, and extending almost, if not quite, to the road. And my reason for thinking so is, that during testing operations in 1883, not far from here were found, *in position*, some flue pipes; so that there must have been a hypocaust or hot air chamber adjoining. This can only mean that there were rooms, probably the principal rooms of a house close by. I myself saw these pipes in position, and well remember that the ground in the vicinity when struck had a hollow sound. Two labourers, so I was told afterwards, were set to work on the spot in 1883, and the pick of one of them, Ned Messer — it was he who assured me that the buildings had been destroyed by a battery placed by Oliver Cromwell on Haste Hill, Haslemere, some six miles off as the crow flies! — suddenly went through into a hollow place. Either in jest or sober earnest his companion said 'Look out! he'll pop his ugly old head out' or words to that effect. This so scared Ned that he hastily retired, and his superstitious fear seems to have communicated itself to his fellow with the result that, both now thoroughly frightened, they threw in the earth again as quickly as possible, and solemnly declared that they could find nothing. Unfortunately no note was made of the spot, and although I am quite sure it was close to the lane, and not far from a point which would have been struck by the wall GG if extended to the bank, not a sign of it could I find six years or so later, notwithstanding great efforts to do so.

Considering the level nature of the field west of the Roman buildings right up to the hedge, it is strange that they should not have been extended in this direction. But although the ground was most carefully examined, nothing came to light. This, together with an utter absence of pottery, tiles, and such-like in this direction, points to the conclusion that the space was always open.

Without attaching too much importance to it, I do not like altogether to pass over a spring or well towards the eastern extremity of the Riddings field which supplies the cottages close by, but which I think may have been there long before they were built. Water could have been obtained with ease by sinking a shallow well in the garden, and unless this spring had been there to hand, there could have been no object in arranging for the water supply at such an inconvenient distance. It is semi-circular in shape, with traces of masonry at the side, and with what appears to be a foundation of stone or tiles at the bottom. Close to it on the side of the Roman buildings coarse pottery and tiles have been thrown up by the plough.

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## The Finds

### INTRODUCTION

At various times from before 1911 onwards, Cooper and members of his family deposited on loan with the Surrey Archaeological Society a large amount of archaeological material from Chiddingfold. It consisted of the finds from the Roman villa together with some material from the glass furnace sites. On Cooper's death, the finds passed to his daughters and in 1964 they presented these finds to the Society absolutely.

The finds are now in Guildford Museum, with some of the more important items on public display. The collection contains material from the excavations of both Nevill and Cooper, and although none of the finds are from stratified contexts, this is an important collection.

Some of the finds have already been published. Dr Joan Alcock has described the bronze face mask and commented on its religious significance (Alcock 1963). Dr Miranda Green in a gazetteer of civilian Roman religious sites in Britain mentions the Chiddingfold villa and lists the bronze mask, a bronze ibis head, a possible sacrificial bell, and part of a pottery mural crown (Green 1976). The 'possible sacrificial bell' cannot now be located, and it may be that it was one of the pieces of curved bronze sheet which were conserved and cleaned with the other objects in 1981. Charlesworth in discussing two pieces of millefiori from the Gadebridge Park villa (Charlesworth 1974) comments that millefiori is rare on villa sites, and lists a small piece from the Witcombe villa and another from Chiddingfold. Attempts to locate this millefiori fragment have so far been unsuccessful.

### THE POTTERY

A detailed catalogue of the pottery by Joanna Bird and Rosamond Hanworth, with reports by Brenda Dickinson on samian stamps and Katharine Hartley on mortaria, is on Microfiche 7-25.

#### *The Nevill and Cooper reports*

The accounts of the excavations by both Nevill and Cooper make numerous references to pottery being found. Unfortunately, these tend to be general remarks concerning pottery types eg 'Upchurch ware', 'common pottery' etc, and are of little use in relating the existing finds to where they might have been found.

#### *The extant Roman pottery* by Joanna Bird and Rosamond Hanworth (figs 4-6)

In the absence of any recorded stratigraphy, the dating value of the surviving Roman pottery from Chiddingfold is greatly diminished, but it can be used to indicate the main phases of occupation of the villa. In addition, it provides valuable evidence for trade. The presence of so many greynwares implies that the excavator retained at least all the diagnostic sherds, and that the pottery published here is likely to be representative of the villa as a whole.

#### **Date**

The Chiddingfold pottery ranges in date from the mid 1st century to the mid 4th. However, there is very little material of 1st and early 2nd century date, comprising a few sherds of samian, a Gallo-Belgic platter and a few greyware vessels. There is a massive rise in quantity from around the middle of the 2nd century or slightly earlier, and this is maintained to the middle of the 3rd or a little later, but there is a comparable decline in the later 3rd and very little pottery of the 4th: two colour-coat vessels and a few greyware sherds. This suggests that the main period of occupation of the villa lies *c* AD 130/150 – 250/270; the very sparse evidence for use during the later 3rd and 4th century follows the usual pattern for Surrey villas (Hanworth 1975).

#### **Sources**

The Chiddingfold pottery is drawn from a wide range of sources. It is possible that one group of colour-coat beakers and some of the cream and oxidised coarsewares, including the possible

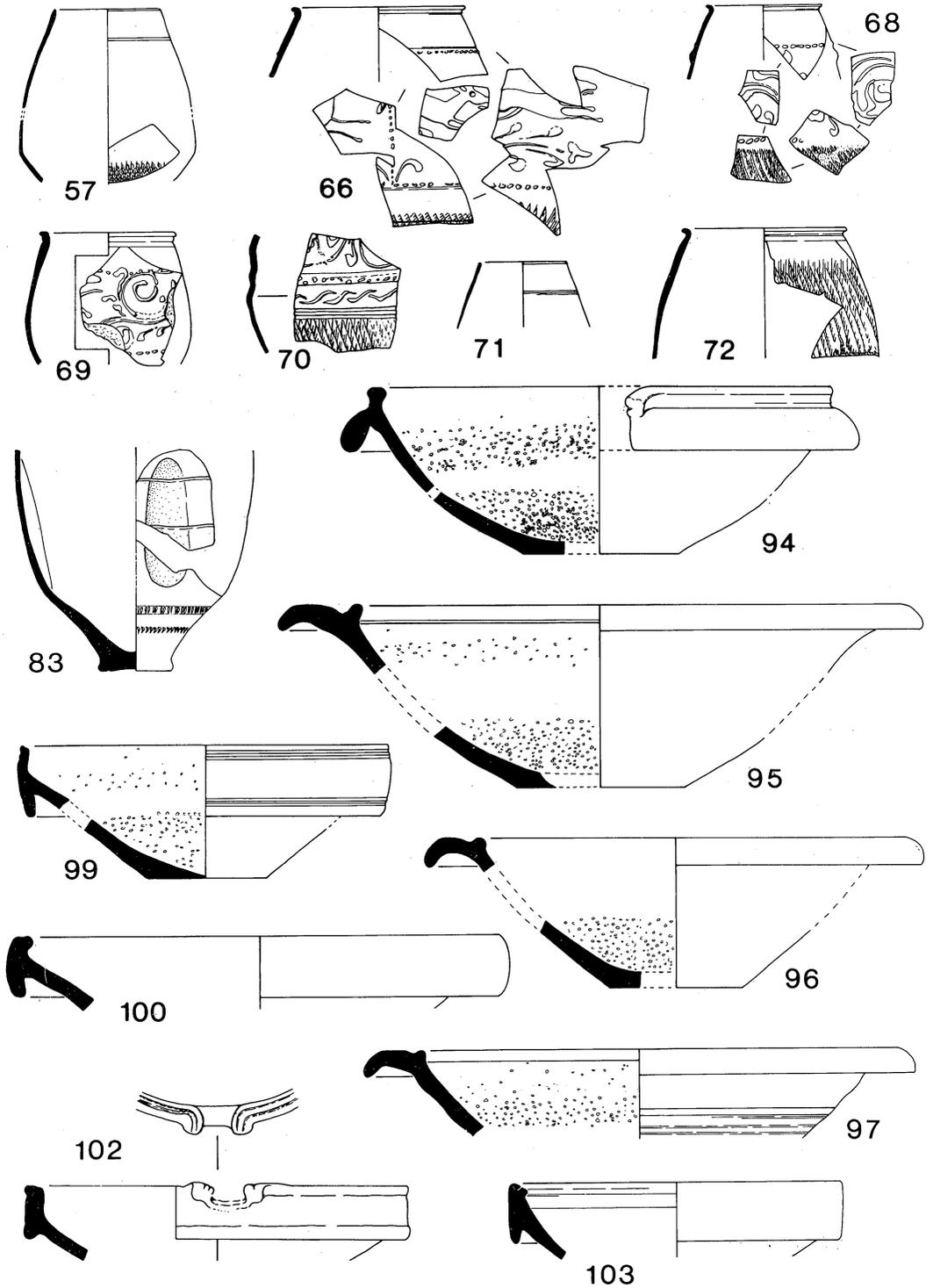


Fig 4. Chiddingfold. Roman pottery, colour-coated wares and mortaria (1/4)

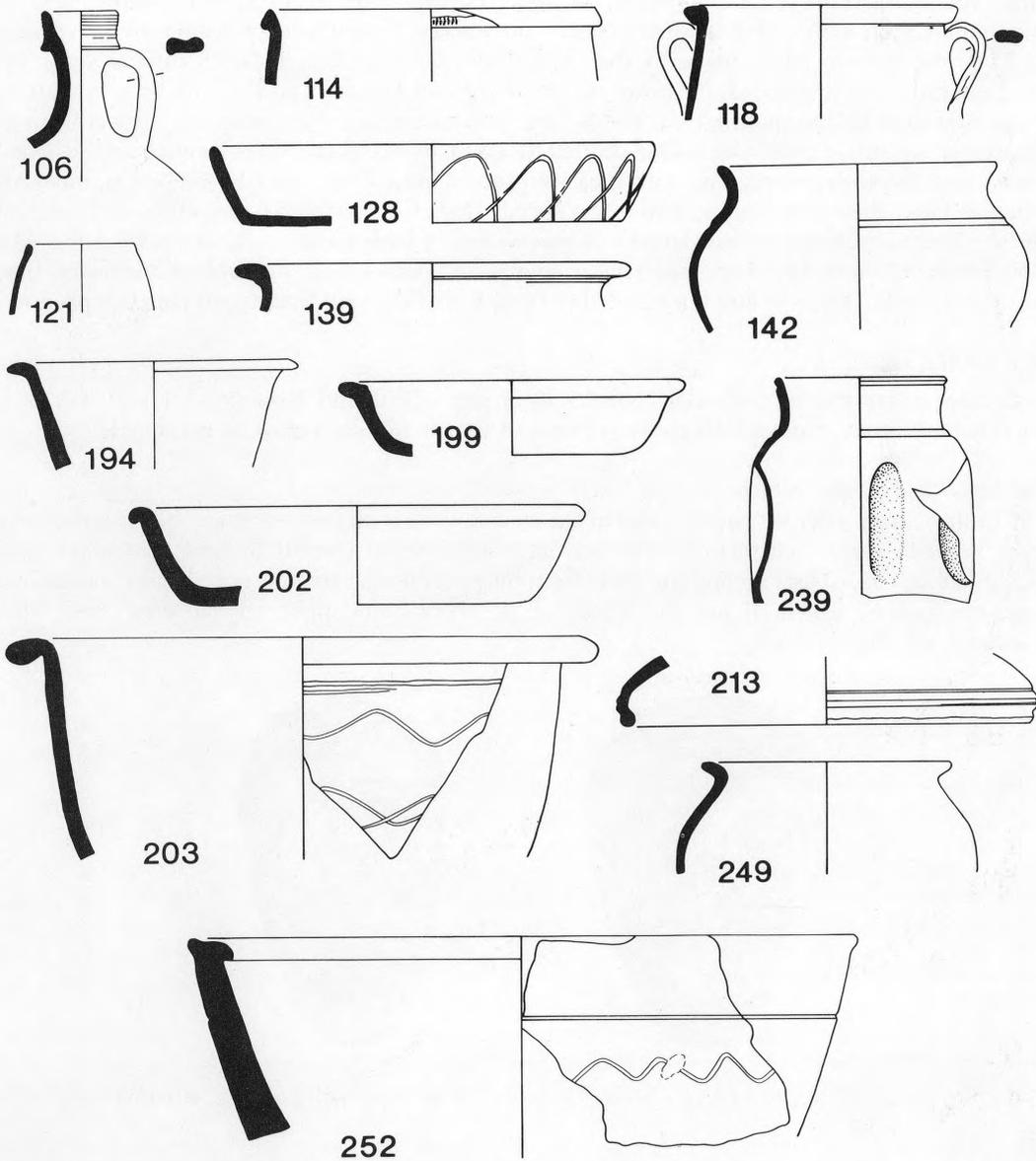


Fig 5. Chiddingfold. Roman pottery, various coarsewares (1/4)



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Fig 6. Chiddingfold. The mortarium stamp (1/1)

lamp, the mural crown, and most of the mortaria, all come from a local source, and the Wiggonholt-Pulborough area is suggested as a possibility. There is in addition a single vessel of Dr 27 in the Samian fabric made by the 'Aldgate-Pulborough Potter'. With the exception of a small quantity of coarsewares, the other suppliers are well-known, and show that the inhabitants of the villa were able to purchase the various fine and specialised wares available. Apart from the ?Sussex group, main groups of colour-coat wares come from Central Gaul (samian and 'Rhenish' wares) and the Cologne region, with smaller groups from South and East Gaul (samian and 'Rhenish') and the Nene Valley, and a few sherds from Colchester, Oxfordshire, and the New Forest. The coarsewares consist largely of greywares, of which some 90% come from the Alice Holt/Farnham industry; there are single sherds of Dorset and probably Colchester black burnished wares. The sole amphora probably came from Southern Spain, carrying fish products.

#### THE SMALL OBJECTS

A detailed catalogue of the small objects by Joanna Bird and Rosamond Hanworth is on Microfiche 00-00, from which the summary of extant objects below is extracted.

##### *The Nevill and Cooper reports*

The bronze face mask (pl 1, no 1) is one of the very few finds mentioned in any of the antiquarian reports which can be correlated with existing finds. Nevill (Nevill & Leveson-Gower 1883; Nevill 1883a; 1883b) lists among the finds from his excavation a small bronze head about an inch long, the face of which, if not the whole of the front, was apparently silvered, and which possessed a hollow back.



Plate 1. Chiddingfold. Bronze mask of a bearded male head (small object no 1): A front, B side (2/1)

Cooper reports that a very nice enamelled bronze fibula or brooch was found in room 13, and that in room 7 a perforated bronze bowl or strainer was found near the hearth; these may be the enamelled stud (fig 7, no 6) and one of the pieces of bronze sheet.

Among the more general statements, Nevill (1883a) mentions that fragments of iron were found on the site, and Cooper says that bronze objects came from the large rubbish heap partly under the block of buildings 30-35.

##### *The extant small objects (fig 7)*

The small objects form a varied collection ranging in date from Roman to 19th century. The interesting pottery objects comprise parts of two 2nd century Central Gaulish Venus figurines, a leaf-shaped object, possibly a handle guard for a lamp, dated to before the early 2nd century (fig 7, no 26) and a bastion with part of the wall from a large vessel with a mural crown (fig 7, no 27,

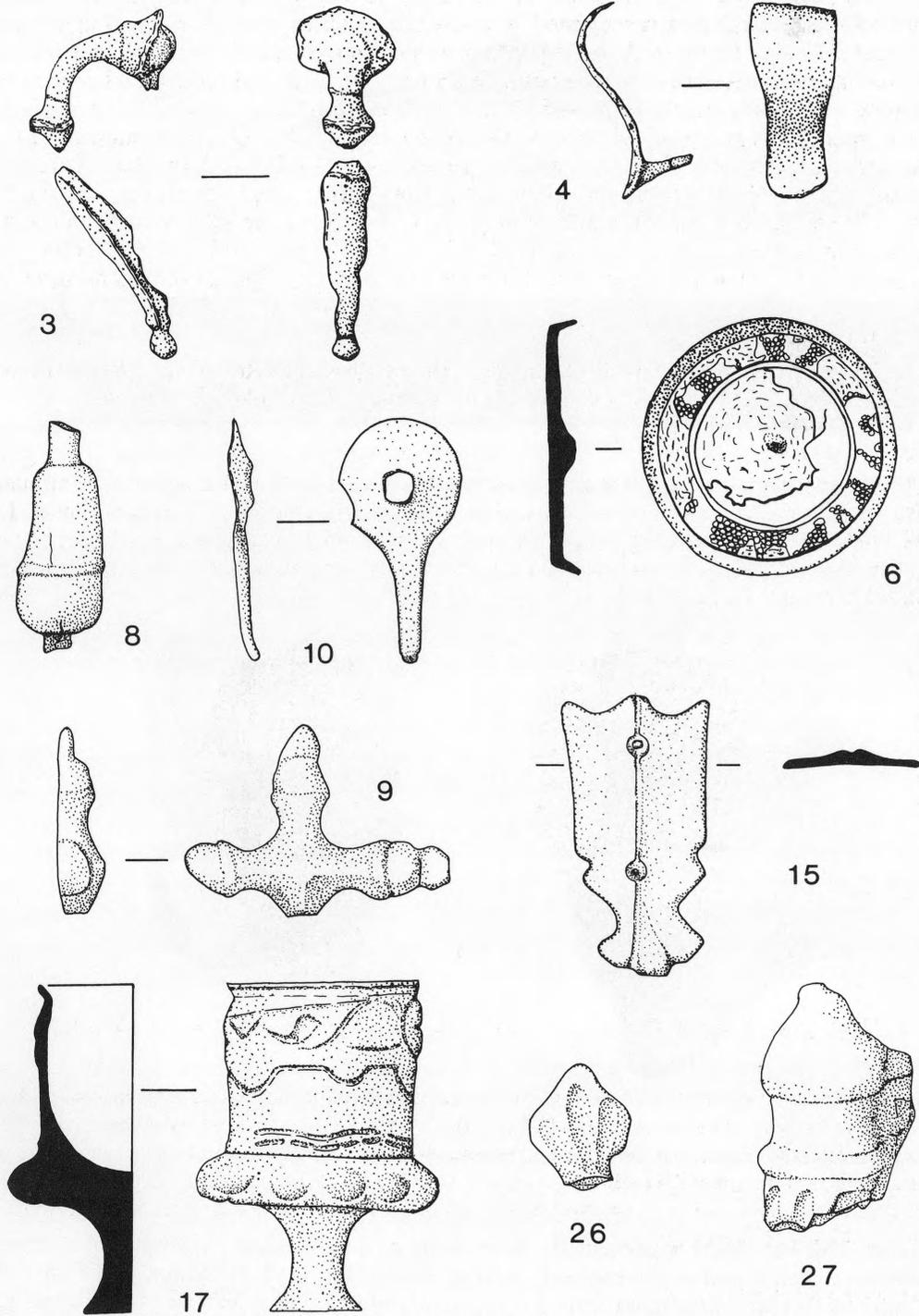


Fig 7. Chiddingfold. The copper alloy and pottery small objects (1/2)



Plate 2. Chiddingfold. Bronze ibis head (small object no 2) front (1/1)



Plate 3. Chiddingfold. Bronze object (small object no 7) front (1/1)

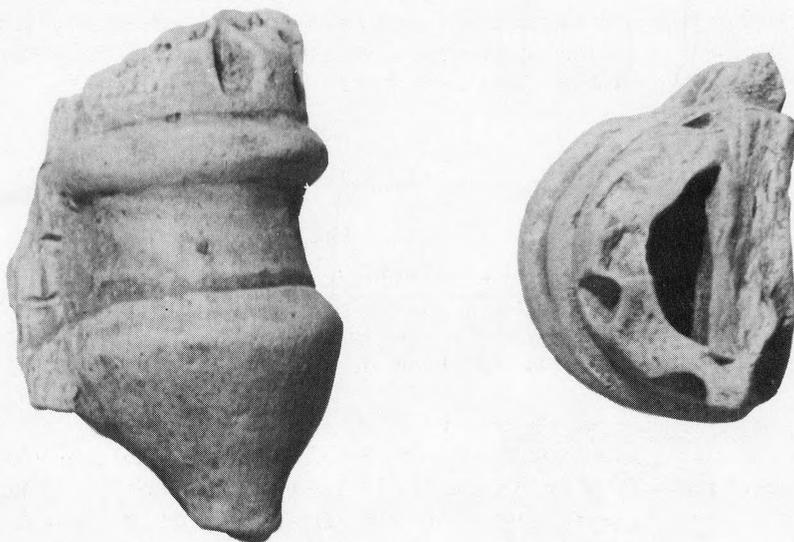


Plate 4. Chiddingfold. Bastion and part of the wall from a large pottery vessel ornamented with a mural crown (small object no 27): A front, B base (1/1)

and pl 4). This last object is particularly noteworthy as the three other examples of such mural crowns have been found at the relatively nearby sites of Rapsley, Alfoldean, and Fishbourne. The fabric of this portion of mural crown is apparently identical to at least two of the other mural crowns and to the majority of the mortaria found at Chiddingfold.

Of the metal objects, the bronze mask of a bearded male (pl 1, no 1) has already been described in detail (Alcock 1963). The bronze ibis head (pl 2, no 2), perhaps part of a composite figure, is of interest as the ibis was sacred to Isis (Green 1976, 56–8). A trumpet brooch (fig 7, no 3) dated to

the first half of the 2nd century, a knee brooch (fig 7, no 4) dated to the mid 2nd – 3rd century, and a fragment of a third brooch are in the collection. Amongst the other Roman bronze objects are an enamelled stud (fig 7, no 6) and an object decorated with horizontal fluting and moulding which possibly formed part of a miniature architectural structure (pl 3, no 7). There were also a small number of post-Roman objects, including a medieval belt-chape (fig 7, no 15) and a later candle socket (fig 7, no 17).

#### THE COINS

A catalogue of the coins by Michael Hammerson is on Microfiche 31–2.

##### *The Nevill and Cooper reports*

Nevill (1883a) mentions that a coin of the city of Constantinople (probably coin report no 6) had been found on the site. In Nevill (1883b), a coin of the Constantinian period is referred to as one of the finds. Cooper mentions four coins: a silver of the reign of Antonius Pius (no 3), a brass of Tetricus (no 5), one of Carausius, and a third of Constantine the Great. Among the many finds from the rubbish heap beneath the block of rooms 30–35, Cooper mentions coins.

##### *The extant coins* by Michael Hammerson

None of the ten Roman coins in the collection of finds from the Chiddingfold villa comes from a stratified context, and the group contains a quite atypical distribution of coins for any villa site — a fairly even distribution throughout the Roman period. The earlier ones (to the mid 3rd century) need not have been lost before the middle of the 3rd century, and indeed they seem to be sufficiently worn to suggest this. One would suspect that the scarcity of mid 3rd – 4th century coins may well be due to the smaller, later coins going unnoticed.

#### THE GLASS

A catalogue of the glass by Julia Arthur is on Microfiche 32–4.

##### *The Nevill and Cooper reports*

Nevill (1883a) states that fragments of glass were found on the site, but gives no further details. Cooper refers to the glazed windows of the villa, and states that specimens of glass of nearly every description found at Silchester were also found on the site. More specifically, he reports that glass was discovered close to the structure Q, which he identified as a furnace.

##### *The extant glass* by Julia Arthur (not illustrated)

The absence of stratigraphy and the fragmentary nature of the glass have meant the allocation of the broadest date range for every piece. Most of the 34 fragments are from 1st or 2nd century forms, except for five facet cut pieces, probably Rhenish, dating from the 3rd century. There is no 4th century glass. Apart from the 25 vessels represented, there were six fragments of window glass of the matt/glossy type, one dark blue annular bead, and one opaque blue/green tessera.

#### THE ROMAN TILE

The tile data and notes by T K Green are on Microfiche 34–7.

##### *The Nevill and Cooper reports*

There are numerous references in the reports to roof tiles and flue pipes. Leveson-Gower & Nevill (1883) mention that a considerable quantity of fragments of rough red paving tile or thick pottery scored with rude basket-work patterns scratched on the wet clay were found.

Cooper states that in room 10 he found the only piece of tessellated pavement of any size and that it was formed of small red tile tesserae. He also comments that the floor of room 17 was

formed of tiles irregularly laid. A furnace or hearth was noted in the SE corner of this room with the east wall of the room forming one side of the structure and the opposite side and rounded end being flanked with large roof tiles with their flanges turned upwards. The base of the hearth was also formed of tiles, most of which were broken. In the opening, a single roof tile was used, which was found complete, though cracked. Much broken tile was also found near to the circular structure Q and in the round hole W.

One of the most interesting references to tile is undoubtedly the mention of some flue pipes found 'in position' near to wall DD which Cooper thought was a hypocaust of a second villa facing east.

#### *The extant Roman tile* by T K Green

A total of twelve fragments of tile survive from the site at Chiddingfold, although it is impossible to say whether they were collected from one particular area or from separate points. It is obvious that their preservation rests essentially on the 'rude basket-work patterns scratched on the wet clay . . .' (Nevill 1883a, 308). For this reason, they are unlikely to be fully representative of the patterns employed or of the functional range of tiles used in such buildings. Nonetheless they can supply some interesting points of detail regarding the Chiddingfold villa.

Eight of the twelve are fragments of the box-fluatile (*tubulum*) used in cladding the walls of the hot rooms of baths and venting the gases from hypocausts up wall channels. Two are from splayed voussoir tiles, used in arches and vaulting. Another had been designed for facing a wall, relying for rigidity on iron clamps locating in notches along the bottom edge: I am grateful to Mr Gerald Brodribb for assistance in identifying this as part of a *parietatis* tile. The final fragment — and the only one not patterned — is the top left-hand corner of a flat roof-tile (*tegula*).

Five of the eight *tubulum* fragments are scored with combs used by the Roman tilemakers who worked on a site at Itchingfield near Horsham, Sussex (Green 1970; 1979). The tiles were all of the same 6-*unciae* (c 6") square type made there, and it is consistent that the 7-tooth comb (Itchingfield 'A') has been used to make more fanciful patterns than the sober saltires characteristic of the 4-tooth comb's user. These tiles were used in the Roman settlement at Alfoldean, a little way down the Arun from Itchingfield (see fig 1). The Chiddingfold examples' thicknesses fall within the range of those found at Itchingfield (Green 1974).

The remaining three fragments of *tubuli* bear combs which do not match any I have measured from elsewhere (Green 1979). Two at least are from the oblong type, rather than the square, one of which had cutouts in the sides to assist cross-flow in the *tubulatio*, the jacket round the walls of a Roman bath's hottest rooms, the *caldarium* and *laconicum*. The third fragment is a mere corner but preserves what could be tracks made with a grooved roller, rather than the usual comb.

The voussoir fragments, again marked with unrecorded combs, both reveal a splay in their sides' edges of about 10° which, coupled with a width across the base of about 11.5 cm, suggests that 18 would form a semicircular arch. The internal circumference of this arch would measure  $18 \times 11.5 = 207$  cm, and the diameter is thus  $207 \times 2/\pi = 132$  cm (4' 4"). Allowing for mortar between tiles etc, these voussoirs would appear to have made up an arch perhaps 1.35m (4' 6") wide. This is definitely too narrow for eg a *caldarium* roof but might form an arched doorway or roof a passage.

The flat *parietatis* tile has swirled groovings all over its outside surface, intended like all the combed patterns to let mortar and wall-plaster key in and grip. Mr Brodribb (*pers comm*) notes that all the other examples known to him are merely scratched, rather than combed. The overall marking of such tiles could be fortuitous but may be indicative of a need for all the surface to offer general adhesion, rather than the limited areas of high adhesion given by the track of a comb. It could similarly be significant that, while some box-fluetiles are given a somewhat perfunctory scratch with a comb, others are crosshatched with a knife or point over their whole surface. Such are areas in which future research, coupled with more exact, informed observation on excavated sites, could settle fundamental questions. The manner in which *parietatis* tile was assembled is

shown in e.g. Webster 1979, fig 15.2c, and the functional needs they attempted to meet explained by Rook (1979).

The roof-tile fragment represents the kind most commonly found on Roman villa sites. It indicates that the building had a framework substantial enough to support the considerable weight of a tiled roof: a description which the plans of Chiddingfold show is readily met. Further details are the clear evidence for a bath block, using not merely a *tubulatio* of pierced box-fluetiles but also *parietatis* tiles spaced off the walls. Baths commonly have barrel vaults over the rooms, and there may have been narrower vaulted passages or doorways.

The tiles were obtained, at least in part, from tilemakers who operated the tilerly at Itchingfield. Research at sites lower down the Arun had failed to substantiate a theory that waterborne distribution could have carried Itchingfield tiles more widely within the Arun basin than just to Alfoldean, 4km downstream (Green 1979). This newly disclosed material, filling a gap on the distribution map published then, establishes Itchingfield as the focus of a tile trading network in the same way as Minety (Darvill 1979). Doubt still remains whether the tiles or the tilemakers came from Itchingfield to Chiddingfold: a topic well covered by Peacock (1979). Macroscopic comparison of the fabrics, on tiles from the two sites having identical combmarks, suggests very little difference. So it seems possible that, using shallow draught boats, the tiles were carried down the Arun to the present site of Drungewick Manor and then up the brook past Loxwood and Dunsfold to within 1km of the villa site. Only the microscopic examination of petrological slides, as described by Darvill, might prove or disprove this hypothesis. But, as both sites lie on the Weald Clay formation, proving the clays at Itchingfield match the Chiddingfold tiles better than do Chiddingfold clays may take some doing.

#### OTHER FINDS MENTIONED BY COOPER

Although the existing finds have now been described in general terms here and in detail on microfiche, Cooper's report does contain tantalising glimpses of other discoveries. He states that the soil for several feet along the west wall of room 10 under a paved floor, presumably later in date, was very black and contained several pieces of burnt bone. Oyster shells were evidently plentiful everywhere on the site, but in room 15 a 'perfect hoard' of shells was found buried in a hole against the south wall. In the huge rubbish heap under the block of rooms 30 to 35 were found some flint arrow heads. In rooms 17 and 14 charred wood was found. The trench R, connecting with one end of the wall FF contained 'a good many clinkers, apparently iron partly run'.

#### Discussion

As already stated, no detailed interpretation of the Chiddingfold Roman villa will be given here. Instead, a few general comments will be made on the plans, the dating of the villa, its economy, and on some aspects of trade in the immediate area.

There is undoubtedly a similarity between the block of rooms 1-9 and the villa at Titsey, which is also in Surrey. The remainder of the rooms in the main building give some indication of several phases. The features such as the square buildings L and X, the isolated walls and the 'tanks' are difficult to comprehend, and although possible functions for these can be suggested, it will only be by further excavation, if at all, that answers to the many questions posed by the plans as they stand will be found. Hopefully, at some future date, a further excavation will be undertaken to determine the state of preservation of the known buildings and also to ascertain whether any other buildings exist which may give rise to stratified finds.

The pottery has yielded the best dating evidence although, as stated several times already in this paper, the lack of stratified finds precludes close dating of the features. The date range of the pottery, i.e. from the mid 1st century to the mid 4th, is an indication of the life span of the villa. The bulk of the pottery, however, is mid 2nd to mid 3rd century in date, suggesting that the

main occupation period of the villa was between AD 130/150 and 250/270. This is supported by the glass, most of which is dated to the 1st–2nd century with some 3rd century facet-cut glass; no 4th century glass was present. The metal objects, notably the trumpet brooch dated to the early second century and the knee brooch dated to the mid second–early third century, support this date. The small group of coins covers a wide date range but there is a distinct lack of later issues, especially 4th century coins. The tile from the Itchingfield tileworks may also indicate the 2nd century for the building of the main part of the villa, as the early 2nd century seems likely for Itchingfield although very little dating evidence was found there.

There is very little definite evidence for the agricultural economy of the villa, although obviously a farming economy is likely. The square buildings L and X could possibly have been farm buildings. There is little evidence for metalworking, apart from Cooper's mention of clinkers. There is absolutely no indication that the villa was involved in the glass industry.

It is suggested that there was a waterway link between the villa and the Itchingfield tileworks. If correct, this route could also have been used for the pottery and pottery objects which may have been manufactured in the Wiggonholt-Pulborough area. Most of the fine pottery, glass, metalwork, and oysters produced either in Britain or in other parts of the Roman Empire could have been brought via Stane Street to Alfoldean and then via the Arun to the villa. No major roads have been found in the vicinity of the villa as yet, and when or if they are discovered, the present views on the waterborne trade may need revision.

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