

# A Romano-British Site at Binscombe, Godalming

by CLARE SMITH

## SUMMARY

The site (SU970460) was investigated as an emergency excavation after building operations had revealed ironstone tesserae. Occupation from early first century to fourth century was found, covering three successive phases. The area excavated covered only a small part of what is thought to have been a villa settlement, the remainder having already been built over.

The finds from the site have been deposited at the Guildford Museum, Castle Arch, Guildford, with the exception of the horse skeleton, which has been given, at their request, to the British Museum (Natural History), South Kensington, London.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Where so much help was given by so many, it is impossible to single out all who deserve it. But, apart from those already mentioned in the report, I would especially like to thank Peter and Jo Stock who, as well as helping on the site in the one case and providing numerous cups of tea in the other, also endured a litter of tools and mud beneath their windows; Eric Harrison, who provided squads of diggers from Charterhouse and who has also read the report in draft and has made some very useful suggestions; Mrs K. Hartley, who examined and described the flanged bowl and the mortaria, Nos. 10 and 54-61; Mrs Joanna Bird, who identified and described the Nene Valley and Rhenish ware Nos. 50-52 and Matthew Alexander, who provided the photograph of the bones (Fig. 15). I am also grateful to Dr Jewell of the Natural History Museum for advice on the type of deer which provided the phalerus and to Mr F. G. Dimes of the Geological Museum for answering a question about the weathering of the stone. And, above all, I am grateful to Rosamond Hanworth, from whom I have learned much and without whose unstinting help and encouragement this report could scarcely have been completed. Its defects, of course, are all mine.

Finally, a tribute is due to the people of Binscombe. The site was situated in the midst of a housing estate, it was totally unprotected, and during part of the time the children were on holiday. Yet not one stone was disturbed nor was any piece of equipment damaged.

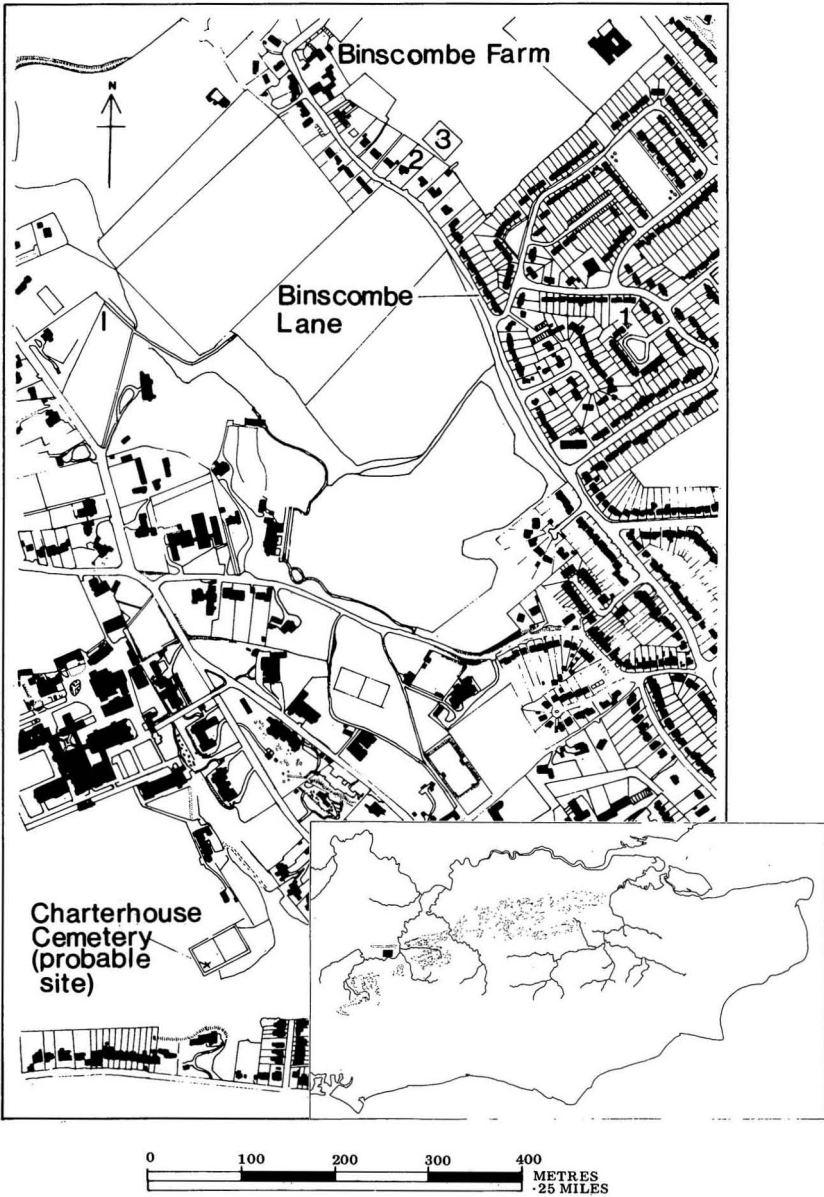


Fig. 1 Location maps, showing sites of Binscombe I (1), Binscombe II (2), Binscombe III (3) and the Charterhouse cemetery. Crown copyright reserved

## THE EXCAVATION

The excavation may be said to be a continuation of the work carried out in 1953 by Dr John F. Nichols and in 1958 by Dr Nichols and Mr E. E. Harrison (Clark & Nichols 1960). The site lies about 40 m from Binscombe I and is separated only by a hedge from Binscombe II. The neighbourhood has been well described in the above-mentioned article, and there is little point in repeating it here. (See Fig. 1.)

In the spring of 1971 Godalming Corporation began work on the extension of their Binscombe housing estate, the inception of which in 1953 revealed the first Binscombe site. Construction was by means of pre-fabricated units and, once begun, work proceeded extremely rapidly. In the course of earth levelling preparatory to the laying of concrete foundations for a row of garages the mechanical digger turned up a quantity of ironstone tesserae, which appeared to have been a floor. This was seen by Mr Harrison, who tells me that he formed an impression of a passage or corridor.

By permission of Godalming Corporation and of the contractors, Marshall, Andrew & Co., a small rescue excavation was mounted. At the outset the time available was ten days but, by the great kindness of Messrs. Marshall, Andrew & Co., through their resident engineer Mr Monk, the building programme was re-arranged to give three weeks for excavation. In the meantime, by the middle of the third week rain fell heavily for thirty-six hours, the site became flooded, and work had to be abandoned. That it was possible to recover as much as we did was due to the help given through Surrey Archaeological Society's rescue scheme. Volunteers were provided for at least part of the time by every participating local society in the county.

At the outset three trenches, A, B and C, 2m × 6m were laid out at 4 m intervals next to the concrete foundations. Later, when the time available was extended, trenches D, E and F were opened in the intervening spaces (Fig. 2).

The site appears to have undergone three distinct phases of development.

### Phase I

Phase I (Fig. 3) is represented by a ditch on the southern side of the site and, possibly, by a similar ditch on the northern side. There is no actual archaeological evidence for relating the northern ditch to Phase I, and it may possibly only relate to Phase III. (See p. 20 for discussion of this point.) The following paragraph is based on the assumption that the ditches were contemporary.

The ditch at the southern side was 1.2 m deep and 2 m wide. It was not possible to establish whether or not it joined up with the northern ditch into an irregular circle, as the modern road on the eastern side of the site had by then been made up and time did not permit of exploration of the opposite verge. If they did not join up, it is difficult to see what purpose they served. The northern ditch, which was 1.2 m deep and 3.3 m wide, but which may have been modified in Phase III, extended towards the garden hedge, on the

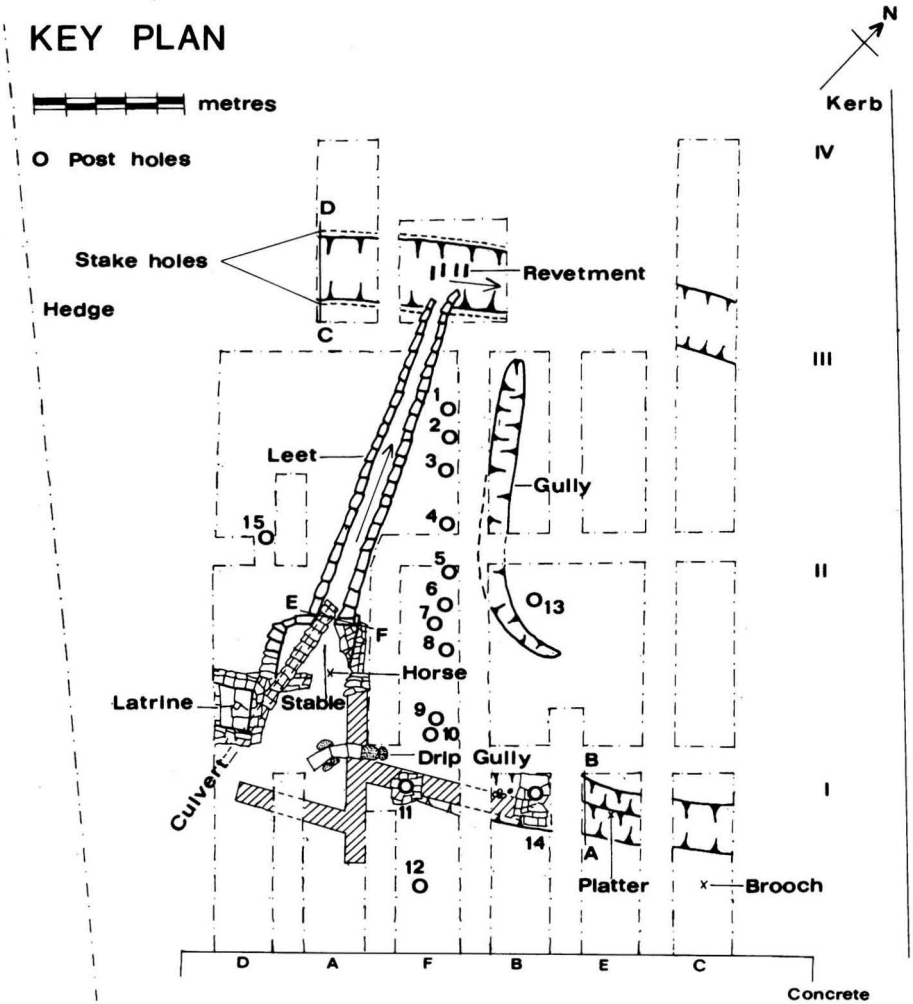


Fig. 2 Key plan of site

other side of which is the site of Binscombe II (Clark & Nichols 1960) and this site almost certainly formed part of the same complex. This ditch had been utilised in Phase III and a number of small stake holes in the berm, on both sides, may indicate protective fencing in this phase. The southern ditch had been disturbed by Phases II and III, but what remained coincided with the writer's recollection of the characteristics of the ditch at Binscombe I, of which no drawings appear to exist. It had been re-cut for a short distance.



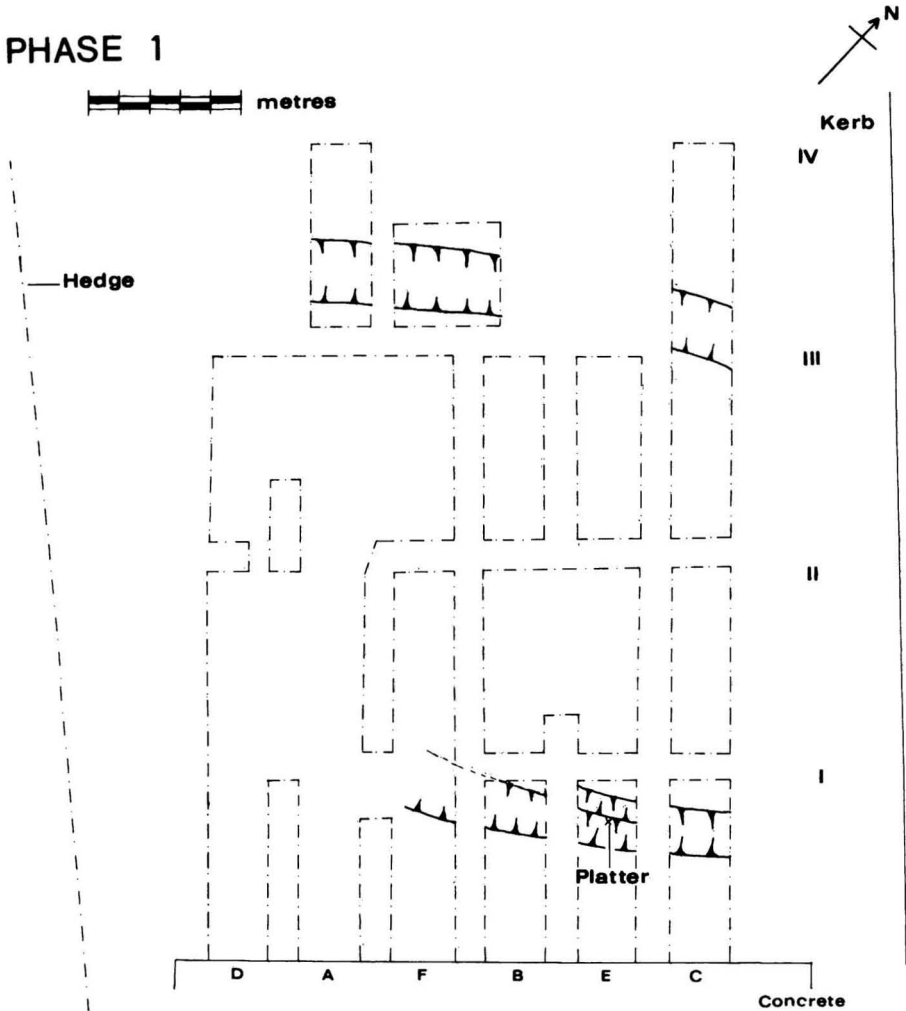


Fig. 3 Phase 1 features

**Phase II**

Phase II (Fig. 4) appears to have been a timber-framed building, represented by traces of chalk rubble and *opus signinum*, with post holes at intervals. It seems probable that this phase followed closely upon the abandonment of Phase I, since the loose filling of the ditch appears to have caused a degree of instability. Post hole 14 was packed with massive stones (the largest was

moved only with difficulty during the excavation by two men) but, even so, underpinning became necessary, by means of two wooden piles in the side of the ditch, parts of which remained. It was suggested by Mr Knee, a teacher of wood-work, who worked on the site, that they were birch and oak respectively. The birch pile was packed with stones. (The size of the piles shown in Fig. 6 is conjectural, based on the spacing of the packing, since only the cores remained.) It is a matter for regret that the flooding already mentioned prevented the recovery of these piles. It is tempting to assume that the post holes 1-10 were also associated with this building but, if so, it is odd that, despite search only no. 15 could be found to represent a possible opposite wall. If such a wall existed it would have been destroyed at the southern end by Phase III, but one would have expected to find post holes to correspond at the northern end. (See p. 23 for the argument in favour of treating Phase II as separate from Phase III). There is no evidence to relate the brooch (Fig. 12B) to either Phase I or to Phase II. This type of brooch is dated by Hull at Camulodunum (Hawkes & Hull 1947) to the second century. It was found well outside the ditch area (Figs. 3 and 5) and at a higher level, and one can only say that it must relate either to a late stage of Phase I or to an early stage of Phase II.

It appears that Phase II was ended by fire. The stones inside post hole 11 were burned bright red from intense heat, and the soil surface to the north of it was also extensively reddened.

### Phase III

Phase III (Fig. 5) is represented by two chambers, one 1.2 m × 1.1 m and the other, slightly larger, 2.2 m × 1.6 m, and by the leet. In this phase the building material is the local Bargate stone, of the Lower Greensand formation. Each of the two chambers had projecting blocks of stone half a metre above the floor level which had the appearance of having formed supports for a second floor. There was evidence that the walls had originally been lined with *opus signinum*. The smallest chamber had a deposit of chalk in one corner beneath the (assumed) secondary floor, covered by black silty material. This chamber may, possibly, have been a latrine.

The other chamber was probably a stable, entered from the south. The skeleton of a small horse, covered by fallen stones, was found just inside this entrance. That the end of this phase and, presumably, of the site, was violent is apparent by the collapsed walls and by the mutilation of the horse (see Mrs Done's report on the bones (p. 38)). This must, surely, have been deliberate and would have had the effect of immobilising the animal. The buildings may, of course, have collapsed with the passage of time, but it does seem that the site was most probably abandoned at the time of the death of the horse. It was lying on what would have been the ground level then, and it is improbable that so large a carcass would have been left unburied if the site were occupied. That the collapse of the building took place at the same time as the death of the horse, and may, indeed, have been

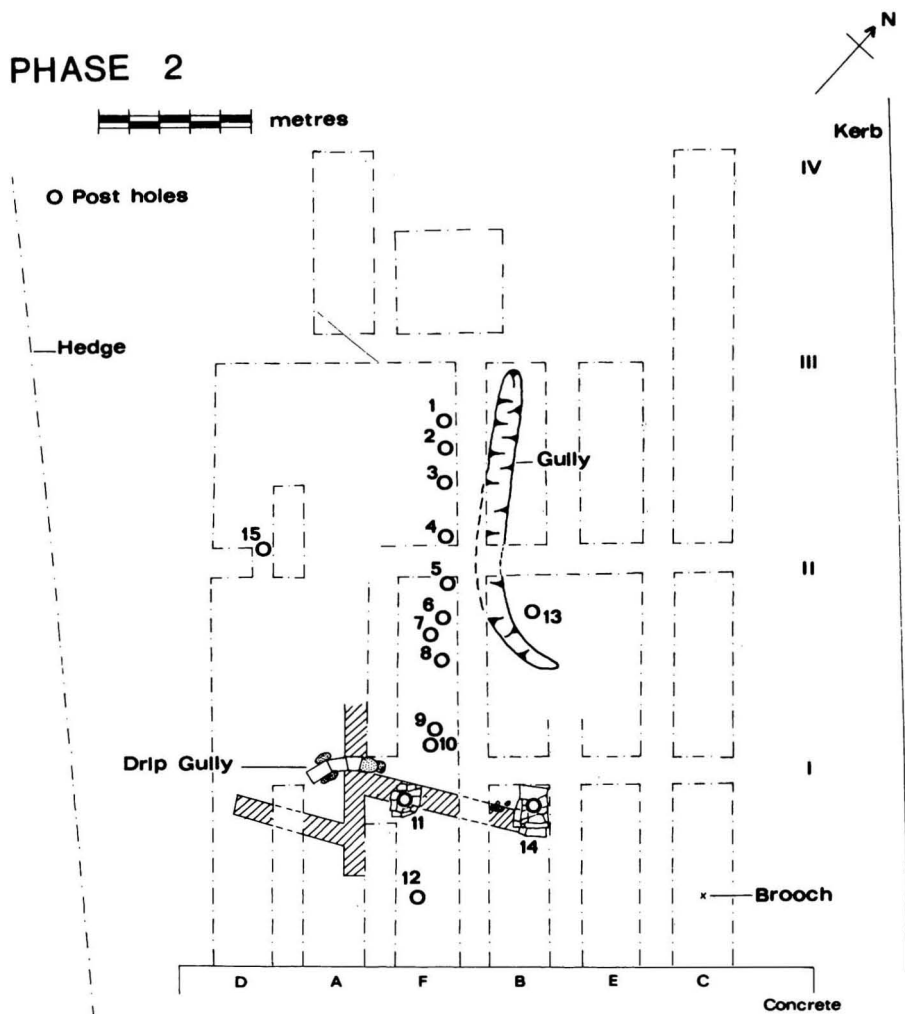


Fig. 4 Phase 2 features

its cause, appears to be probable, since there was no evidence of disturbance by wild animals. Man's relationship with horses has often had a significance beyond that with other animals except, perhaps, dogs, of the site of Wijster, in Holland (Van Es 1967) where there is evidence that horses had been carefully buried in specially dug graves 'intact and with some care', as opposed to the disposal of other animal bones thrown haphazardly into pits. Two possible theories of events at Binscombe are

(a) that some terrible occurrence caused the abandonment of the site, and the mutilation and death of the horse and the destruction of the buildings could have been an expression of rejection or (b) that raiders who had motives beyond those of simple robbery slighted one of the victims' most valued possessions as an act of symbolic significance.

The other main feature of Phase III is the leet, which may have been constructed to carry off water from some industrial activity, or to carry off surface water. As was experienced during the excavation, the site flooded rapidly in heavy rain, and if a building of any size existed the run-off would have been considerable. Even in May, at the time of the excavation, the water-table showed at about 60 cm below the top of the leet. Care had been taken to carry the water beneath the foundations of the two rooms mentioned above by means of a culvert into the leet. The leet itself was 1 m deep, although there was some silt in the bottom which it was not possible to excavate because of the water, and its original depth may have been slightly more. The ditch at the northern end had been used to carry away the water from the leet. If it had been cut for this purpose in Phase III there is no apparent reason why it should have been extended westwards from the leet outlet; nor why it should have such a pronounced curve south-eastwards when the fall of the land does not require it. Indeed, this would seem to be a positive disadvantage, since it would take the water towards the occupation area. If it had originally joined up with the southern ditch it would then, of course, have had to be deflected to carry the water away. But if it was constructed only in Phase III its line seems to present unnecessary complications. For these reasons it is assumed to have been dug in Phase I and to have been utilised in Phase III. Possible evidence of a considerable force of water is the remains of revetting on the side of the ditch opposite the point of egress from the leet. Upright battens were still in position, to which cross timbers had been nailed. These latter had disappeared, but the nails were still embedded in the bank in some places. The end of the leet had been slightly extended and turned a little to the east, probably in order to reduce the impact of the water against the bank. In his account of Binscombe II Dr Nichols postulates the possibility of a tile-kiln, and if one did exist the leet may have had some connection with it. There was a scatter of roofing tiles, mostly broken, on the site but not in sufficient quantity to have covered a roof of any size.

A drip gully made of tegulae heavily mortared down with *opus signinum* existed between trenches Ai and Aii. It was raised slightly at the western end by small pieces of tile placed underneath, and packed with stones at the curve to keep it in place. A large flat stone was carefully laid (but not mortared) at the eastern end, forming a continuous surface with the tile, alongside which was a smaller stone with a groove ending with a hole to carry the water away.

Another feature is the gully to the east of the leet. This was 1.85 m deep at its southern end, increasing to 2.10 m at its northern end. It contained pottery of all periods, except the very earliest, including most of the Samian found on the site, but no explanation of its purpose is apparent.

PHASE 3

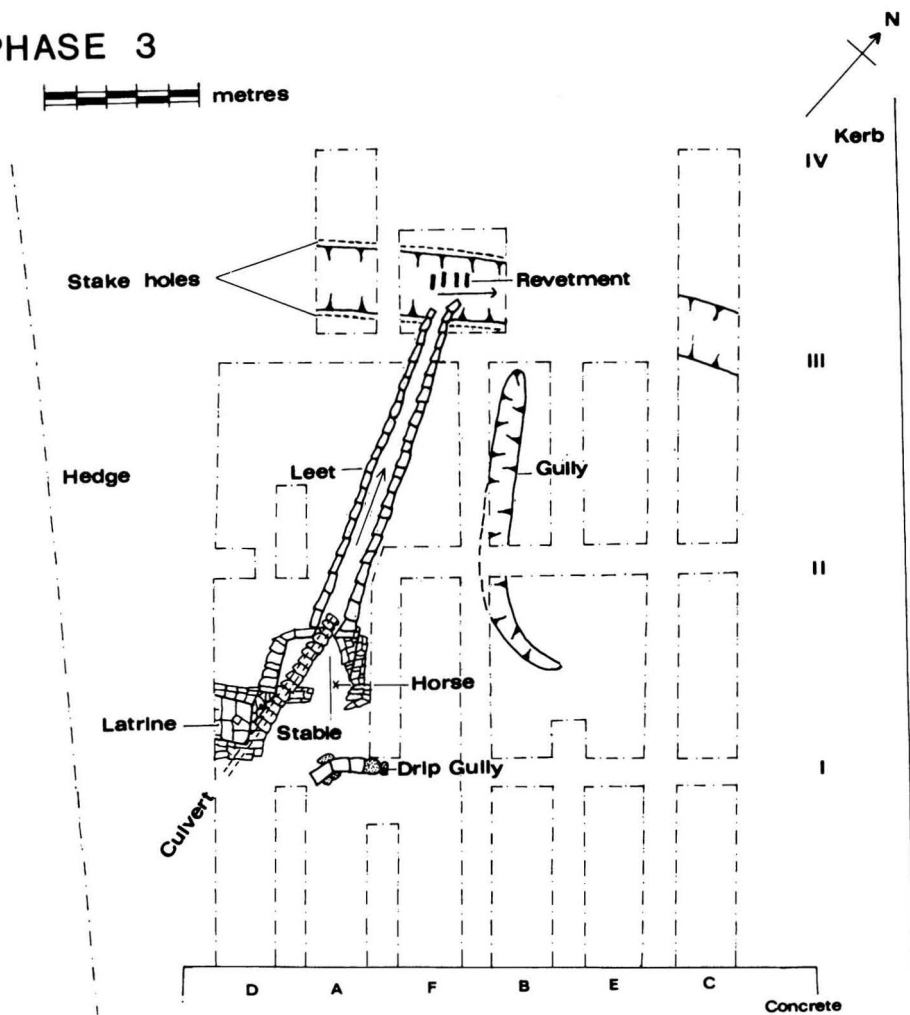


Fig. 5 Phase 3 features

There was a quantity of ironstone tesserae concentrated mainly at the south-western corner of the site. These were, as far as possible, gathered up and counted and, at a very rough estimate, would have been enough in quantity to pave an area c 3 m × 9 m. A small quantity of terracotta tesserae was also present, perhaps enough to provide decoration. If the impression formed by Mr Harrison is correct, there may well have been a corridor leading from the stable/leet area to another area or building.

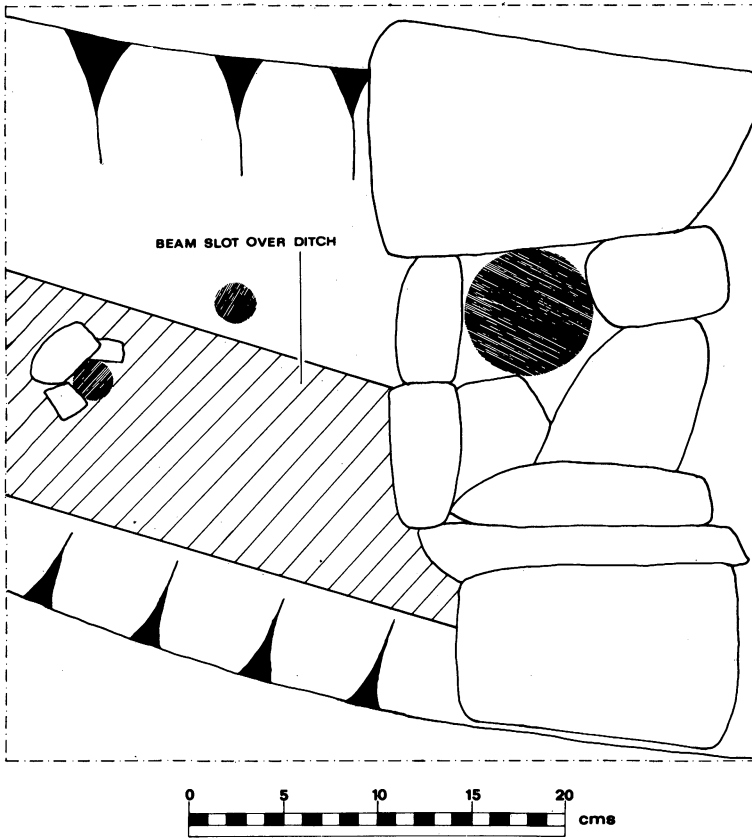


Fig. 6 Detail of post hole 14 and reinforcement piles

**DISCUSSION**

The remains were lying only just below the plough level. Most of the pottery was recovered either from the leet or from the gully, which suggests that both were open and in use up to the latest period of occupation. The fact, also, that the northern ditch, assuming it to have related originally to Phase I, was open and available for utilisation in connection with the leet suggests that each successive phase followed immediately upon its predecessor. Mr Malcolm Lyne, who has made an intensive study of the Alice Holt Forest kilns, has been kind enough to examine the Romano-British pottery found on the site. He has identified about 60% as coming from the Forest, and these have been indicated by 'A H' in the pottery descriptions (pp. 25-31). He suggests a latest date for this material as c AD 220. But some of the other

pots relate to the fourth century kilns at Overwey (Clark 1949) and the Nene Valley beaker (no. 50) is dated second to mid-third century, and the two Rhenish fragments (nos. 51 and 52) to the later second-early third century. The Overwey kilns at Tilford would be considerably nearer to Binscombe than Alice Holt Forest, and it would be reasonable to assume a transfer of custom when the nearer source became available. The earliest pottery on the site belongs to early first century types of recognised Belgic affinities, e.g. Fig. 8 : 1 and 2 and Fig. 10 : 39, and from the evidence of the Overwey types occupation appears to have continued at least into the early part of the fourth century, a span of over 300 years. (The small scatter of medieval and post-medieval pottery was found at or near the surface and has no particular significance so far as the site is concerned.) The platter, Fig. 10 : 39, was resting in the southern ditch at the junction of the recut edges, which places the ditch firmly in the early first century. A similar platter occurred at Binscombe I. The spoil heap from the foundations of a row of bungalows on the opposite side of the garage foundations was still in situ and the local children were set to explore the heap for any sherds of pottery. This exercise produced two articulating portions of an identical platter.

Consideration has been given to the possibility that Phase II may, in fact, have formed part of Phase III and that it does not represent a separate development. On balance, however, this is thought to be unlikely. The drip-gully (p. 20 and Figs. 2, 4 and 5) overlies and interrupts the wall foundations. This is not conclusive evidence that it relates to a separate and later phase, as it may have been inserted at a later stage of Phase II, but although it has been shown in Fig. 4 as well as in Fig. 5 the balance of probability suggests that it is more likely to relate to Phase III. What does, however, appear to establish a separate phase is that the wall foundations in trench Aii end abruptly at the point where the buildings of what is assumed to be Phase III begin. If the stable related to the same phase as the wall footings one would expect to find integral construction, which was not the case. There was some stone scattered in the area of trenches Di, Ai and Fi, but it was most plentiful in the area of the assumed Phase III buildings. If the buildings of Phase III were destroyed deliberately, as the evidence of the mutilation of the horse (p. 18) appears to suggest, some stones would be scattered more widely than the immediate vicinity of the actual building. In recent times, moreover, the field has been deep-ploughed and this, also, would tend to spread the stones, which were only just below the modern top-soil. There was certainly not enough stone in trenches Di, Ai and Fi to represent walls which would relate to the assumed Phase II foundations.

During the course of the excavation the writer was shown sherds of Romano-British pottery which had turned up in the gardens of the houses facing on to Binscombe Lane on the western side of the site. The general direction of the leet, etc. is diagonally towards Binscombe Lane, which is certainly later than the site, since it turns in a right-angled bend to avoid the eighteenth century house at Binscombe Farm. It appears, therefore, that the features recovered represent only a minor portion of the site and that the probability is that more extensive buildings, possibly including the dwell-

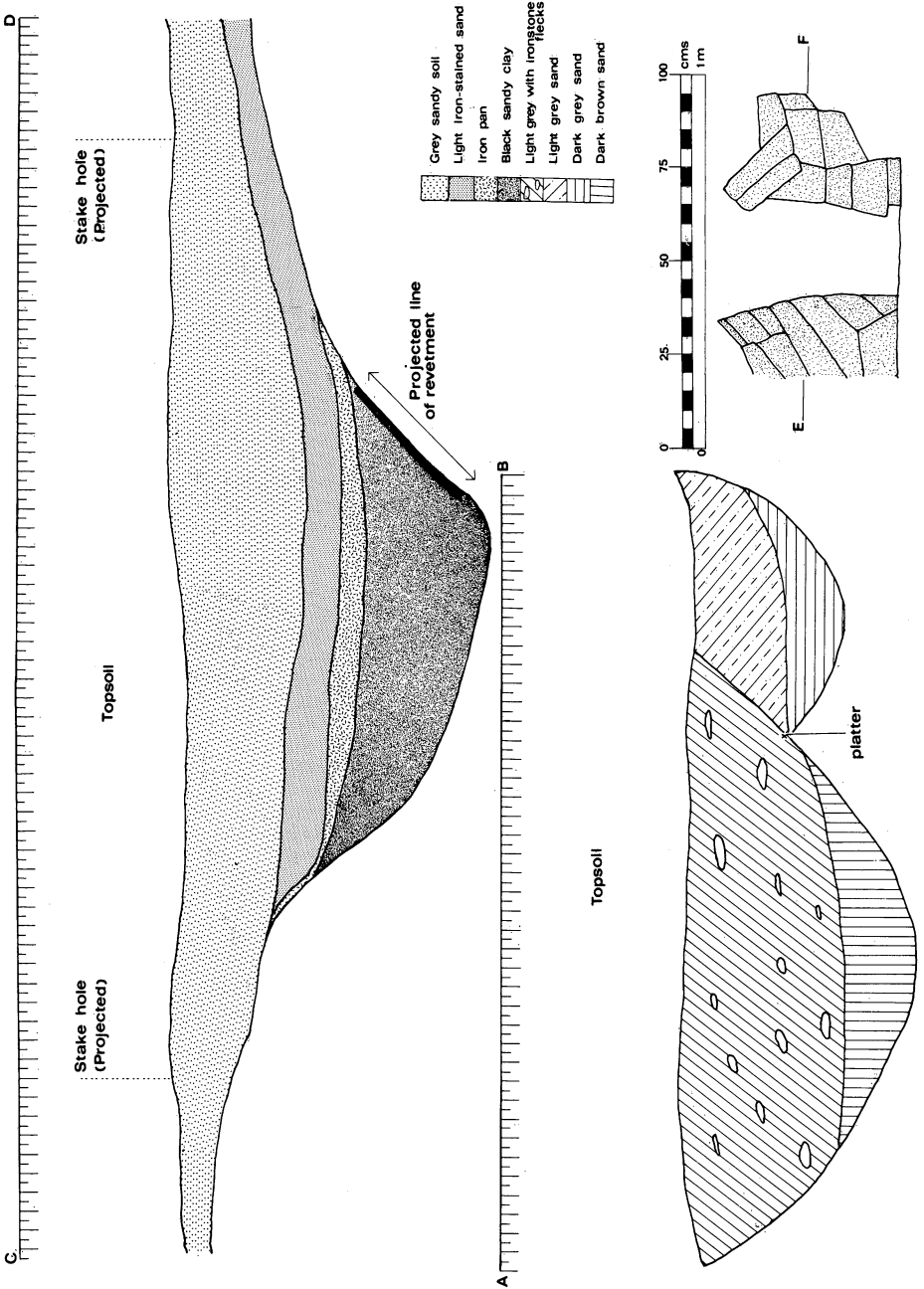


Fig. 7 Sections of ditches and gully (see Fig 2)



ling house of a villa establishment, exist under the modern houses and their gardens and, possibly, under the lane.

In his account of the pottery from the Haslemere and Charterhouse cemeteries Holmes (Holmes 1949) postulates a number of small farming communities in the area existing round about the time of the Roman conquest, replaced by the villa system in the early part of the second century. One such villa is known at Compton, to the north of Binscombe, and there is an indication of a possible villa at Hillbury, to the north-west of Binscombe near the Iron Age site. He comments that no occupation site associated with either cemetery has been found. Since that was written, however, Harrison (Harrison 1961) has published an account of Iron Age occupation at Charterhouse, continuing into the Romano-British period to the end of the first century AD. Although there have been scattered finds of second and third century sherds, and a coin of Hadrian, in the school area, no substantial later settlement has been discovered, despite very extensive building development at the school. The Binscombe site lies immediately below the plateau on which Charterhouse stands, and the results of this excavation appear to support Holmes's hypothesis. It seems probable that the small farming communities on the higher ground at Charterhouse as well as those on the lower ground at Binscombe were absorbed by the, assumed, villa at Binscombe III.

#### **THE ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY (Figs. 8-11)**

- 1 Hard fabric with gritty inner surface. Possibly a tazza, cf Birchall's type X (Birchall 1965). Not unlike Farnham R. 87 (Lowther 1939, 244). See also Holmes type 8 (Holmes 1949).
- 2 Base flat and grooved on underside. Hard fabric. Cf Holmes type 8, imitation of Ritterling form 9 (Holmes 1949).
- 3 Circular groove on underside of base. Fine black burnished fabric. Cf Charterhouse no. 35 (Harrison 1961). A H
- 4 Dish, 'Purberry Shot' type 3 (Lowther 1946-7). Cf also Holmes type 22 (Holmes 1949) and Binscombe I no. 20 (Clark and Nichols 1960). A H
- 5 Dish, 'Purberry Shot' type 3, similar to no. 4. A H
- 6 Light grey fabric. Cf Hillbury no. 16 (Clark and Nichols 1960). A H
- 7 Probably originally burnished.
- 8 Very fine grey-buff fabric.
- 9 Very hard light-grey fabric. Cf Hillbury no. 16 (Clark and Nichols 1960). A H
- 10 A flanged bowl in orange-brown fabric heavily tempered with quartz, chalk and red-brown grit; there are slight traces of a cream slip. The mortarium-like rim of this bowl is reminiscent of mortaria made in the Verulamium region in the period c AD 150-200+. The grit in the fabric can be paralleled in mortaria made in the Surrey-Sussex area and this may well be a fairly local product.

- 11 Burnished inside and outside. Shallow cross-hatching on outside. Cf Binscombe I no. 22 (Clark and Nichols 1960) and Gillam no. 318 (Gillam 1970).
- 12 Similar to no. 8, but much thinner and harder fabric. Outer surface black, possibly originally burnished.
- 13 Hard grey fabric.
- 14 Black burnished, diagonal lines on outside.
- 15 Down-bent reeded rim with rouletting. Cross-hatching on body with two bands of burnishing above. Pronounced wheel-marks on inside. A H
- 16 Bowl or lid, black burnished.
- 17 Traces of burnishing on outside, probably originally black burnished. Tool scribings under base. Cf Rapsley no. 115 (Hanworth 1968) and Gillam no. 227 (Gillam 1970).
- 18 Not illustrated. Dish similar to no. 17 but in harder fabric, and lighter in colour. AH
- 19 Not illustrated. Dish similar to no. 17 but with thinner flange and cross-hatching on outside. Black burnished.
- 20 Light grey fabric. Cf Rapsley no. 93 (Hanworth 1968).
- 21 Not illustrated. Everted rim with burnished groove at neck.
- 22 Fine light grey fabric. Traces of burnish on rim and on shoulder. Cf Rapsley no. 72 (Hanworth 1968).
- 23 Perforated base for use as strainer. Hard, light grey fabric; heavily gritted. Outer surface probably eroded. A H
- 24 Beaker or miniature cooking pot in light grey ware with pear-drop rim. Cf Rapsley no. 97 (Hanworth 1968) and Farnham R. 30 (Lowther 1939, 235).
- 25 Very small cooking pot or beaker. Grey-brown sandy ware. Gillam types 170-172 (Gillam 1970).
- 26 Descendant of Holmes 19. Cf Rapsley no. 113 (Hanworth 1968).
- 27 Black burnished, similar to no. 26.
- 28 Holmes type 20 (Holmes 1949).
- 29 Fine, light grey ware.
- 30 Similar to no. 31, but smaller, and with different rim angle. Intermediate between no. 31 and no. 32.
- 31 Heavily tempered with gravel grits up to 4 mm across. Holmes type 19 (Holmes 1949). A H
- 32 Light brown sandy fabric. Cf Rapsley no. 78 (Hanworth 1968). A H
- 33 Cf Farnham R. 89. (Lowther 1939, 244)
- 34 Coarse grey fabric. A H
- 35 Similar to no. 34 but with thinner section.
- 36 Coarse jar with reeded rim and groove on edge of rim. Cf Overwey nos. 50-52 (Clark 1949).
- 37 Pinkish-buff, with large tempering up to 5 mm across. Charlton type F (Kenyon 1959). A H
- 38 Not illustrated. Coarse storage jar almost identical with no. 37. A H
- 39 Cordon at inner junction of base with sides. Black burnished ware. Binscombe I no. 22 (Clark and Nichols 1960). See also Holmes type 10 (Holmes 1949).

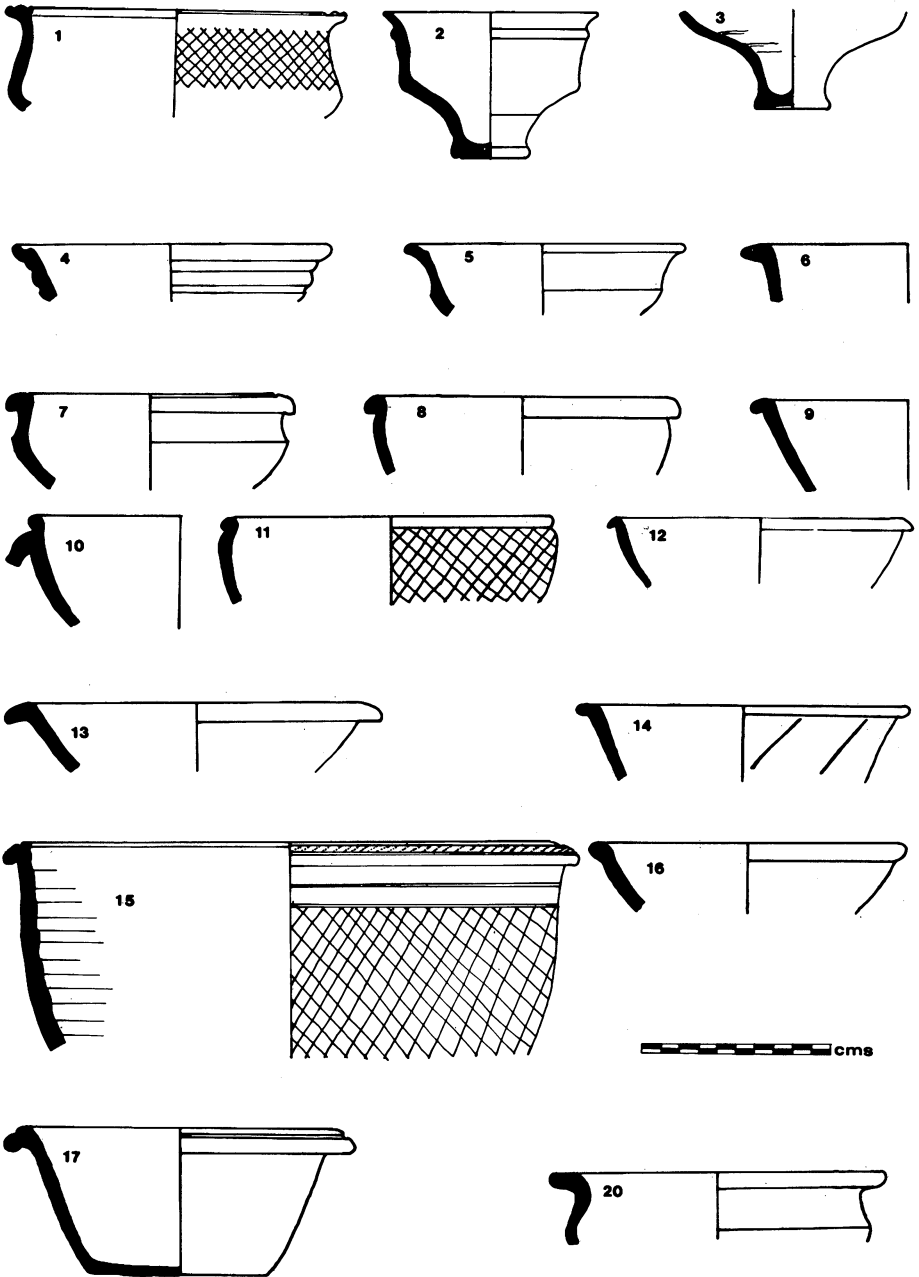


Fig. 8 Romano-British pottery, 1. Scale 1/4

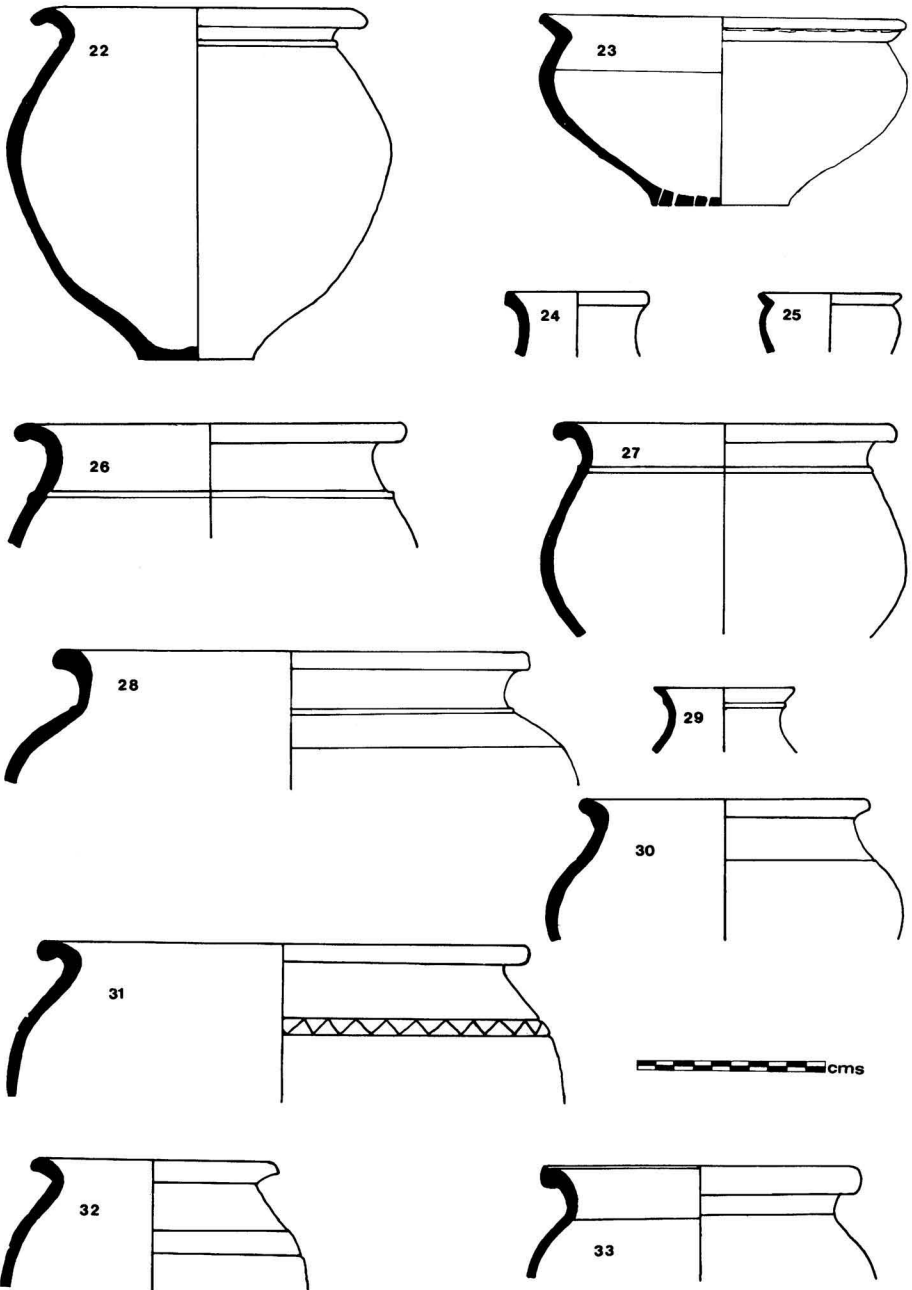


Fig. 9 Romano-British pottery, 2. Scale 1/4

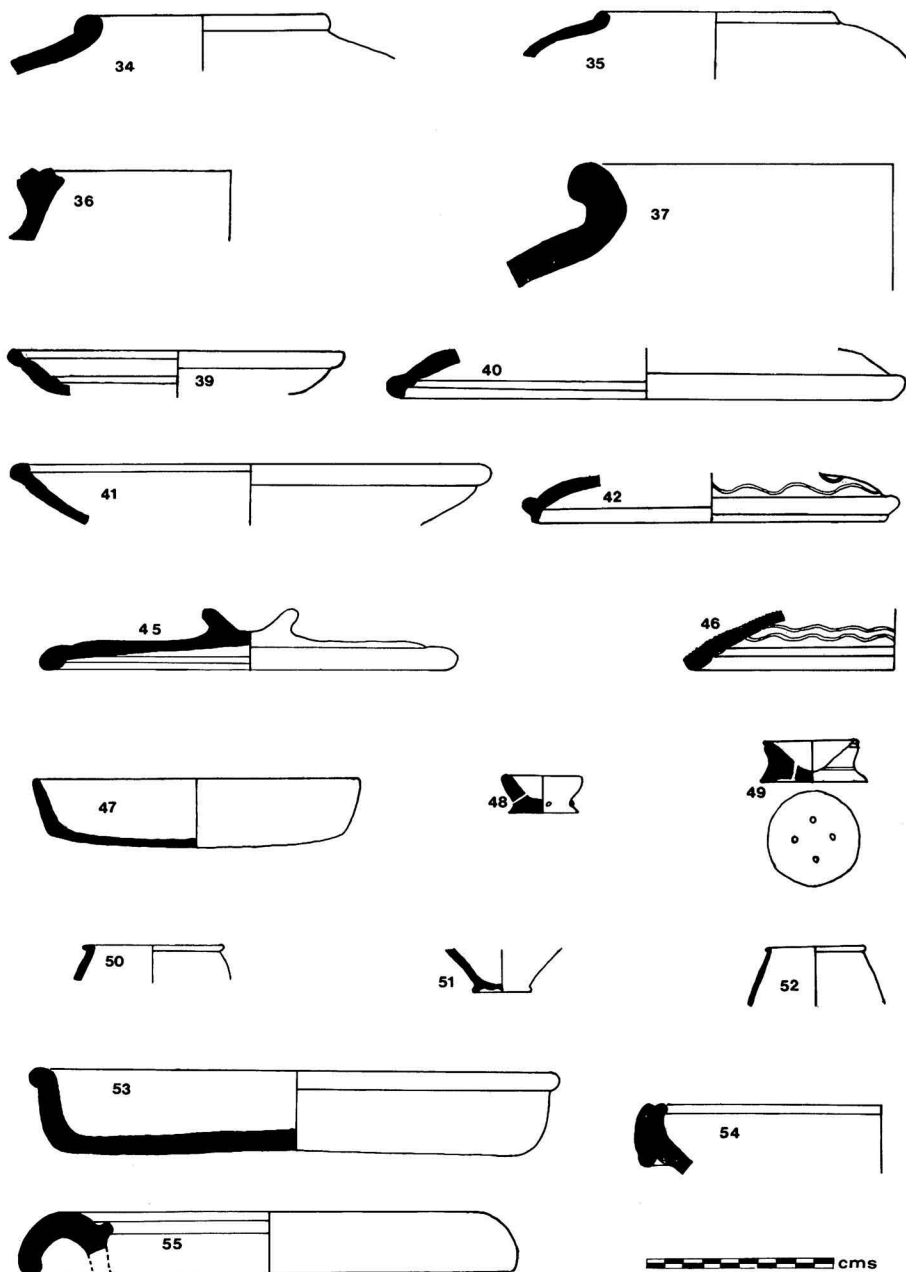


Fig. 10 Romano-British pottery, 3. Scale 1/4

- 40 Lid with beaded edge and fluted inner surface. Eroded, but probably burnished on outside. Cf Farnham R. 80 (Lowther 1939, 242). A H
- 41 Wide shallow dish or lid. Larger version of Binscombe I no. 25 (Clark and Nichols 1960), and coarser fabric. A H
- 42 Lid, variation of no. 40 and no. 45 but with wavy lines on outside. Cf Rapsley no. 60 (Hanworth 1968). A H
- 43 Not illustrated. Lid similar to no. 42. Fabric similar to no. 23. A H
- 44 Not illustrated. Lid, cf Rapsley no. 38 (Hanworth 1968). A H See also Kenyon 1959, Fig. 19, for lid type series at Southwark.
- 45 Lid with handle. No vent holes. A H
- 46 Platter or lid, much eroded on outside; wavy line decoration inside. A H
- 47 Probably black burnished ware; tracing of burnishing inside. Cf Rapsley no. 134 (Hanworth 1968).
- 48 Lid handle with five indentations which form small knobs round neck, one of which goes right through. Steam vent in centre. Cf Rapsley no. 55 (Hanworth 1968) and Wade 1949, p 15.
- 49 Similar to no. 48 but the dome is pierced by four steam vent holes. Cf Rapsley no. 55 (Hanworth 1968). A H
- 50 Nene Valley beaker. Probably second to mid-third century.
- 51 'Rhenish' type ware but probably in fact a product of Lezoux in central Gaul (the Samian factories). Later second century.
- 52 'Rhenish' ware beaker. Later second-early third century.
- 53 Coarse dark grey ware. 'Dog dish' cf frontispiece of Wade 1949.
- 54 Mortarium in brownish fabric with grey core with quartz flint and red-brown grit. Of generally similar form to no. 56 although the fabric differs; probably also made in the south c AD 160-250.
- 55 Mortarium in sandy greyish cream fabric with thick pinkish core, tempered throughout with very fine red-brown, grey and transparent grit. The incomplete stamp is part of the upper line of a two-line stamp of Matugenus.  
Fifty-five stamps of Matugenus as well as one of his dies have been found at Brockley Hill to date (Suggett 1955, 60). In addition to these, well over a hundred of his stamps are known from sites throughout England and Wales. Matugenus is recorded on some stamps as the son of Albinus, and the similarity of work confirms that it was the mortarium potter of that name whose work may be dated AD 60/65-90 (Frere 1972, 371). Two stamps from Verulamium are from deposits dated earlier than AD 120, and where so prolific a potter as Matugenus is concerned, the complete absence of his stamps from Scotland and from Hadrian's Wall is significant and supports a primarily Trajanic date c AD 90-125.
- 56 Not illustrated. A large flake in brownish cream fabric from an almost wall-sided mortarium. Mortaria of this type and fabric are found throughout Roman Britain but are commoner in the south where they were probably made, e.g. Rapsley, fig. 18 : 20 and fig. 23 : 108 (Hanworth 1968); Clausentum, fig. 31 : 1 (Cotton & Gathercole 1958). Examples from Scotland (Mumrills, 526, fig. 92 : 34 (MacDonald & Curle 1928) indicate that they were already being made in the second century c AD 160-250.

- 57 Not illustrated. Mortarium body fragment in fine, brownish fabric, probably discoloured, with flint and quartz grit. Probably made in the Surrey-Sussex area.
- 58 Not illustrated. Sherd of mortarium in fine cream fabric, unusually heavily tempered, with quartz, flint and red-brown grit. This fabric and grit was produced only in the lowland zone of Roman Britain and this example may well have been made in the Surrey-Sussex area. It is likely to be mid-second century in date.
- 59 Not illustrated. Sherd of mortarium. It is impossible to determine origin or date for this fragment with certainty. However, it would fit with manufacture at an Oxford kiln like Cowley in the second century.
- 60 & 61 Not illustrated. Body fragments of mortaria in cream fabric with quartz grit (transparent, white and pink), typical of mortaria made in kilns at or near Oxford, like those at Cowley (Atkinson 1941, 19 and fig. 5). AD 100-400.
- 62 Pinkish-buff ware.
- 63 Part of reeded handle, dark grey. A H
- 64 Necked flagon with single reeded handle. Cream coloured fabric and pronounced wheel marks inside neck. Possibly Gillam type 16 (Gillam 1970).
- 65 Flagon.
- 66 Sherd with incised pattern, broken at incision. Coarse sandy ware.
- 67 Hard grey sandy ware, with stab pattern. Cf Overwey Fig. 6:10-11 (Clark 1949).
- 68 Sherd in hard smooth grey ware showing combed pattern. Burnished above and below pattern. Cf Overwey fig. 9:110-12 (Clark 1949).

## **THE MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY**—by Felix Holling

### **Medieval (Fig. 11)**

#### *Surrey Ware*

- 69 Cooking pot rim.
- 70 Cooking pot rim. With fragment of applied vertical strip below rim.
- 71 Jug rim. Small patch of olive green glaze below rim.
- 72 Jug rim. Greenish brown glaze on top of rim, and green glaze on external surface. Decorated below the rim with a pair of vertical incised grooves, each about 2 mm wide.
- 73 Fragment of jug handle and adjoining body, with two vertical incisions on handle and similar incisions around union of handle and body. Inner surface of body grey. External surface marked with small areas of black staining.

#### *Other Sandy Wares*

- 74 Cooking pot rim. Grey-cored fabric with variable dark brown to dark grey surfaces.

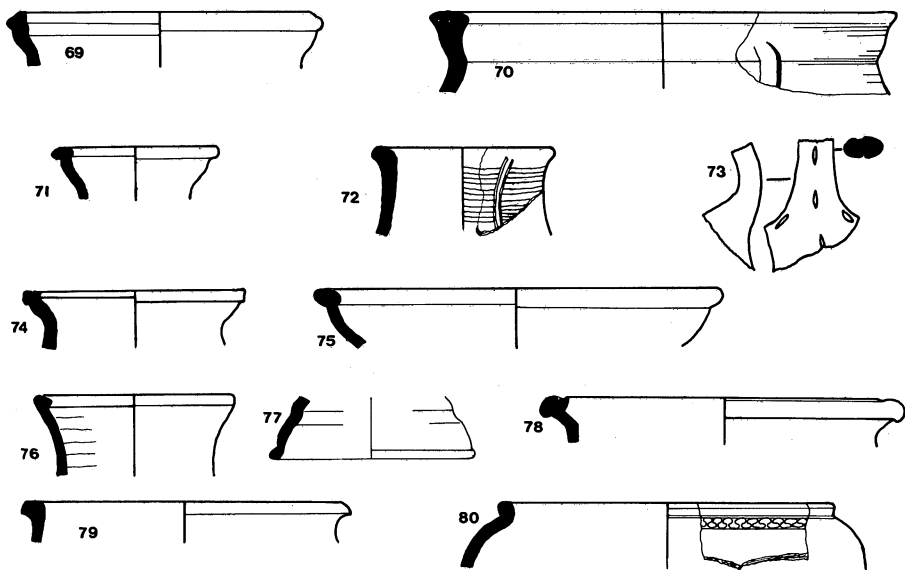
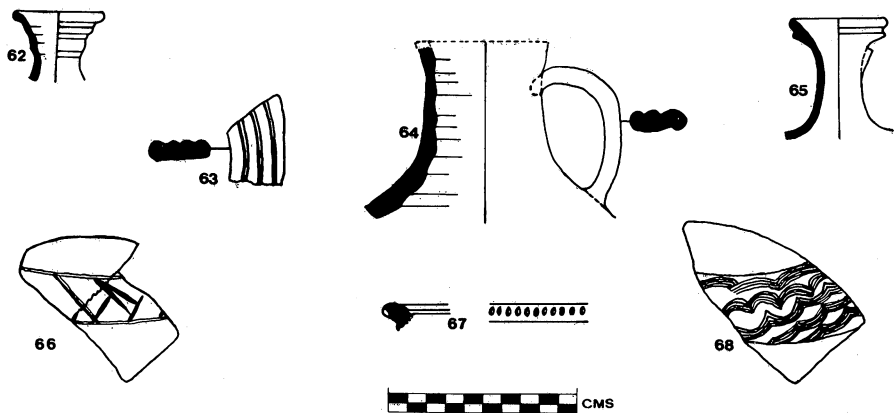


Fig. 11 Romano-British pottery, 4. Medieval pottery. Scale 1/4

- 75 Cooking pot rim. Reddish brown consistent colouring.
- 76 Jug rim. Grey-cored fabric with light red surfaces and patchy olive green glaze on neck.
- 77 Rim fragment, probably of lid. Red fabric with internal surface sandy, but smoothed externally with traces of mica dusting.



## Comments

### *Dating*

With one exception all these sherds are probably late 13th or early 14th century. None of the cooking pot rims has a well-developed flange typical of the 14th century, and the jugs could be contemporary. Since Surrey ware is present, the group could not be earlier than about 1270. The exception is no. 77 which should be 15th century, since pottery lids develop as an accompaniment of bifid cooking pot rims in this period. The treatment of the outer surface while the interior has been left rough and unglazed makes it unlikely that this fragment could be part of a bowl or drinking vessel. If it were the latter, this should also be 15th century.

### *Source*

Although three of the jug fragments are classed as Surrey ware, one at least may have come from a Sussex source. This is suggested by the incised ornament of no. 72, a common Sussex feature which was however, copied by the Hants-Surrey border industry, and the fabric of no. 76. Jugs of similar fabric (grey-cored with a buff or reddish surface) and with olive green glaze are not from a recognisable Surrey source, but examples reached Guildford and at least one has been found with white slip decoration under the glaze bearing a strong resemblance to west Sussex products.

## Post-Medieval (Fig. 11)

### *Earthenware*

- 78 Rim of dish or bowl. Surrey ware with mottled brown glaze internally.  
79 Rim of straight-sided bowl. Red ware with brown glaze internally.

## Comments

These are both mid to late 17th century types and are probably products of the Hants-Surrey border industry.

### *Stoneware*

- 80 Fragment of globular bowl rim. Brown salt glaze externally, cream interior. Decorated with a narrow band of rouletting below rim.

## THE SAMIAN—by B. R. Hartley

All the samian in this collection is second century or later. There is nothing datable to the pre-Hadrianic period and almost all of it is Hadrianic or Antonine. With only two exceptions, it originated in Central Gaul and was probably all made at Lezoux.

Notes: All the items are single fragments unless otherwise stated

D = Déchelette, J. *Les vases ornés céramiques de la Gaule romaine*, Vol. 2. Figure types. 1904

- 1 Form 33, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
- 2 Form 37, Central Gaulish, with a boar (D. 835). The figure was used by several Lezoux potters from Butrio to Doeccus, but the fabric of the piece suggests an Antonine date.
- 3 Form 31, slightly burnt. Central Gaulish and Antonine.
- 4 Form 37, Central Gaulish. The only surviving figure, a Minerva (D. 77) was used by several Lezoux potters of the mid- to late-Antonine period.
- 5 Form 31, Central Gaulish. Late-Hadrianic or early-Antonine.
- 6 Form 80, slightly burnt. Central Gaulish. Mid- to late-Antonine.
- 7 A large form 18/31R, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic-Antonine.
- 8 Form 33, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
- 9 Form 31. Central Gaulish. Antonine.
- 10 Form 31, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic.
- 11 Bowl, probably of form 36, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
- 12 Form 38 flange, from the same bowl as No. 41. Central Gaulish and Antonine.
- 13 Footring of a dish, probably a rouletted form, to judge by the size and shape. Central Gaulish and Hadrianic or early-Antonine.
- 14 Form 33, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
- 15 Bowl, probably of form 38 or 44, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
- 16 Five joining fragments of form 18/31 to 31, stamped AVITI·MA (Avitus iii lc). Stamps of this potter have been found in Hadrianic-Antonine contexts at Lezoux and his work is common on the Antonine Wall. His decorated ware is mainly Hadrianic. This stamp occurs at Ardoch. c AD 130-150.
- 17 Form 31, Central Gaulish, with the remains of a stamp }/. The diagonal of the last letter suggests that this a stamp reading [CAS·SIA· }/. We presume that the stamps Cassia officina are likely to be a contracted version of the adjectival form Cassiana officina and suggest that they belong to a Cassius of Lezoux whose work is late-Hadrianic to early-Antonine.
- 18 Form 18/31R, stamped [SA]XAMI·M, by a potter whose distribution suggests origin at Lezoux. Stamps from this die occur at Piercebridge and in period 1B on Hadrian's Wall. c. A.D. 155-185.
- 19 Form 33 base, stamped TITVR·NISO[F] by Tituro of Lezoux. Stamps from this particular die occur, twice, in the Wroxeter Gutter and are common on Hadrian's Wall in period 1B. It was frequently used on forms 31R, 79 and 80. c. A.D. 160-190.
- 20 A large fragment of form 33, Central Gaulish, with an unidentified stamp ]. A.... IM. The fabric and glaze suggest origin at Lezoux in the Antonine period
- 21 Fragments of at least five dishes of form 31, some burnt. All are Central Gaulish and Hadrianic-Antonine or Antonine.

- 22 Most of a Central Gaulish cup of form 27, with the stamp completely eroded. Hadrianic-Antonine.
- 23 Three large joining fragments of form 27, Central Gaulish. Unusually, this cup was not stamped. Hadrianic-Antonine.
- 24 Form 33, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
- 25 Form 36, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
- 26 Form 80, Central Gaulish. Mid- to late-Antonine.
- 27 A slightly burnt fragment from the base of a Central Gaulish bowl. Hadrianic-Antonine.
- 28 Form 18/31R or 31R, Central Gaulish, stamped ] M. The stamp has not been identified, but the potter's name must be a short one, if the stamp is correctly centred. Hadrianic-Antonine.
- 29 Base, probably from a rouletted dish. The fabric is in the Central Gaulish range, but the glaze more closely resembles South Gaulish ones. The body of the vessel is exceptionally thick. In view of the otherwise total absence of South Gaulish ware in this collection, it is likely to be Central Gaulish, but probably of the first half of the second century rather than later.
- 30 Form 31, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic-Antonine.
- 31 Form 33, Central Gaulish. The piece is carelessly made and has a double external groove at the top of the wall, as well as the usual central one. In view of the poor workmanship, the extra grooves may be accidental. Antonine.
- 32 Form 33, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
- 33 Rim fragment of either form 30 or 37, from the same bowl as 44 and possibly 45. The heavy bead lip, fabric and glaze suggest a late-Antonine date.
- 34 Jar with 'cut glass' decoration, Central Gaulish. Mid- to late-Antonine.
- 35 Form 31, East Gaulish. Mid- to late-Antonine.
- 36 Two fragments of the same form 31, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
- 37 Form Curle 15, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine.
- 38 Form 31, Central Gaulish. Antonine.
- 39 Form 33, with a double external groove round the middle of the wall. East Gaulish. Late-second or third-century.
- 40 Form 37, Central Gaulish. Although the decoration is too worn to distinguish, the fabric suggests a Hadrianic or Antonine date.
- 41 Form 38, from the same bowl as 12.
- 42 Two fragments, one burnt, of unidentified forms. Both are probably Central Gaulish and Hadrianic or Antonine.
- 43 Two joining fragments of form 37, Central Gaulish. The small amount of surviving decoration is not identifiable. Antonine.
- 44 Form 30 or 37 rim, from the same bowl as 33.
- 45 Base of a bowl of form 30 or 37, possibly from the same vessel as 33 and 44. Central Gaulish and Antonine.
- 46 Unidentified form. Central Gaulish and second-century.
- 47 Form 18/31 or 31, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or early-Antonine, more probably the former.

48 Form 30 or 37, Central Gaulish. Antonine.

49 Form 33. Central Gaulish. Hadrianic or Antonine.

### OTHER FINDS

Fig. 12A Amulet or phalera made from the base of a red deer antler. Natural holes left in frilling by close sawing presumably used for suspension. From Leet. Cf Longthorpe, 69 and fig. 37. (Frère and St Joseph 1974).

Fig. 12B Bronze wheel or plate brooch, centre boss inlaid with turquoise enamel inset with small fragments of jet (see p. 18).

Fig. 13 Grindstone made of coarse sandstone. From Leet.

Not illustrated. Small segment of quern. Cf Clark and Nichols 1960, 65-70.

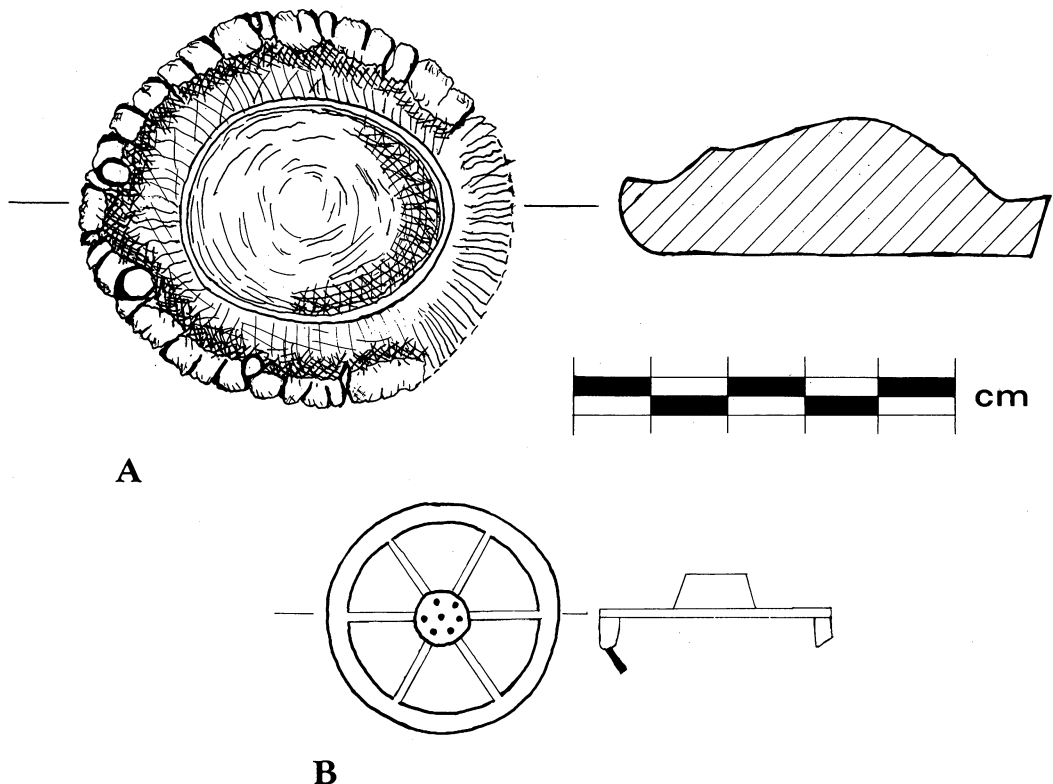


Fig. 12 A. Amulet or Phalera; B. Wheel brooch Scale 1/1

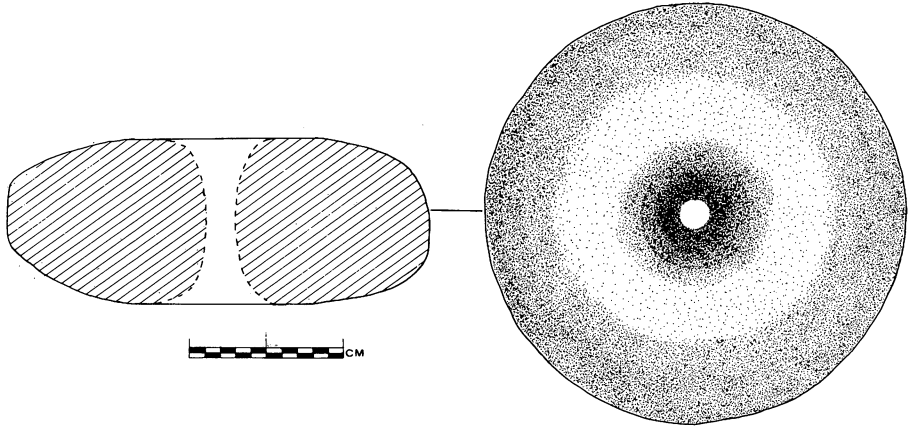


Fig. 13 Grindstone

#### **THE ANIMAL BONES**—by Geraldine Done

The bones were generally well-preserved, a high proportion being complete. Those damaged were, for the most part, still easily recognisable so that the following picture of Binscombe livestock can be built up.

##### **Ox**

At least three animals were present, of varying ages. Half of an adult lower jaw indicated one fully grown specimen. A second, younger animal was represented by both halves of the lower jaw and part of the upper jaw with molars. The teeth show the age to be between two and three years. Traces of a yellow metallic substance were present on both lower fifth molars. I am indebted to Dr I. W. Cornwall for the opinion that this is a deposit of iron sulphide. He points out that the pyrite is confined to areas covered with dental cement and is not present on enamel, probably due to the immediately local conditions.

Other ox bones identified were fragments of scapula and rib, tibia, two second phalanges, cheek teeth and an atlas. The latter had been cut through in front of the posterior articular surfaces, probably during the process of butchering. One small and immature metapodial belonged to a foetal calf.

##### **Sheep**

There were at least three sheep, on the evidence of five lower jaw halves. One of these belonged to a mature animal. Of the two remaining, one was under three months and the other, though small, was about two years old.

**Pig**

There were a number of maxillary and mandibular fragments containing teeth. From these it was possible to deduce at least one adult male and at least one younger animal. One broken boar tusk was found; the other pig bone consisted of a number of skull fragments, two glenoid cavities with other pieces of scapula, one acetabulum with parts of ilium and ischium, a proximal epiphysis of radius and one second phalanx.

**Dog**

Bones from two dogs were identified, the skull of one being complete. There was a lower jaw to match the skull, also a second lower jaw. All teeth were in good condition and well worn. The skull is that of a long-nosed, narrow-headed animal. Some of the long bones are consistent with a dog standing some 50 cm (20 ins) at the shoulder but it cannot be said that these and the skull belong to the same individual.

Other dog bones were as follows: two glenoid cavities, one humerus, two ulnae, one radius, one ilium with acetabulum, one proximal and two distal ends of femur, two proximal ends of tibia, one fibula, three metapodials, parts of ten ribs, atlas, one thoracic and one lumbar vertebra.

**Horse**

The horse skeleton was found beneath a wall, the fall of which may have killed the animal as it lay on the ground. The skeleton is almost complete, though the bones of cranium, face and ribcage are somewhat fragmentary, and gives much information about its owner.

This was a small horse of some substance, perhaps roughly comparable to the modern Fell pony. A stallion, standing some fourteen hands (56 ins), he had reached a venerable age of the order of 25 years. (Pelvic measurements being inconclusive, the classification as an entire male rests on the presence of a set of well-developed canine teeth. Canines do occur in mares and geldings, but are rare and usually rudimentary.)

The metapodials and bones of the feet are notably free from the bony outgrowths often found in old horses, possibly indicating that this one had not been ridden or driven over hard surfaces such as metalled roads. However, the vertebral column, especially in the lumbar region, had undergone changes leading to fusion of some vertebrae. Though this might follow from heavy loading, such changes are not uncommon in horses of advanced age.

There can be little doubt that this old, and perhaps valued, stallion met a violent end. Each shin bone shows a deep notch hacked across the tibial tuberosity in such a way as to sever the important patellar ligaments. (Fig. 14) The hind limbs would then no longer support the body so that the animal fell on to its side. Quite considerable force and a sharp implement would have been needed to produce such damage in an area of dense bone.



Fig. 14 Shinbones of horse showing notch across tibial tuberosity

The cuts are almost identical in position, extent and direction, giving an impression of almost surgical precision. Presumably the object was to immobilise, and though hamstringing would seem easier, the method used might be safer for the attacker in that he would be less likely to get kicked.

The possibility that this injury was not ante mortem but part of a butchering procedure is discounted as there is no sign of dismemberment, the bones being found in more or less normal relationship to one another. Had the cut been directed towards the removal of the mass of muscle anterior to the femur the patellae would probably have gone with the meat, but one was found with the skeleton. It is not possible to say whether the horse was killed after this mutilation or whether it was left lying immobile to die beneath the falling wall. Details of the horse bones are given below.

A single molar belonging to a young horse was also found.

#### *The Horse Bones*

(L = left; R = right; l = length; p.w. = medio-lateral proximal width; d.w. = medio-lateral distal width)

Head — a number of fragments of cranial and facial bones

Two maxillae with teeth

Right premaxilla with teeth

Mandible — vertical rami damaged, R horizontal ramus in two pieces,  
L horizontal ramus unbroken

Hyoid — two fragments

Teeth — four well-developed canines, five upper incisors showing  
pulp cavity on central and medial, three left and six right upper  
cheek teeth, five lower incisors with pulp cavity just showing.  
complete set of lower cheek teeth

Vertebral column — Atlas, L wing missing

Axis body only

Cervical vertebrae — five, more or less complete and healthy

Thoracic vertebrae — eighteen present but all damaged, especially  
spines

Lumbar vertebrae — Six nos. 3 and 4 show extensive ankylosis be-  
tween articular processes and arches. The transverse processes  
are missing but were probably also fused as in nos. 5 and 6 where  
there is extensive ankylosis involving transverse and articular  
processes and arches. 4 and 5 are not fused. 5 has anterior  
articular facets on its transverse processes as sometimes occurs.  
6 had not fused to sacrum though the articular surfaces look rough.

Sacrum — complete except for spines 1, 2 and 5. Pelvic articulation  
rough.

Coccygeal vertebrae — 1 only

Ribs — Many fragments of shafts, twenty-four vertebral extremities and  
many pieces of ossified costal cartilage

Six sternbrae

Fore Limb —

Scapula — R in good condition. Anterior angle damaged  
L lower half only

Humerus — R complete

L in two pieces

(l. 28. 5, p.w. 8. 5, d.w. 7. 3)

Radius/Ulna — R complete

L ulnar head separate.

(radius l. 32, p.w. 8. 1, d.w. 6. 2)

Carpals — five

Metacarpal — One (l. 22. 5, p.w. 5. 0, d.w. 4. 9)

Proximal ends of small metacarpals.

Phalanges — two each of first, second and third. All notably free of  
osteitic changes

Hind Limb —

Pelvis — R pelvic bone complete

L inner rim of obturator foramen broken off but present

Femur — both complete. (l. 37. 3, p.w. 11, d.w. 8. 5)

Patella — one (L)



- Tibia — both complete, each with a deep cut across the tibial tuberosity, measuring 3 cm long and approx 1 cm wide and deep. The cut extends more than half way across the groove for the middle patellar ligament, its direction being at a slight angle to the long axis of the bone, slanting up and in (tibia 1 33. 5, p.w. 9. 0, d.w. 7. 0)
- Metatarsals — two large. (1 26. 6, p.w. 5. 1, d.w. 4. 9)
- Proximal end of R lateral
- Tarsals — nine, including two os calcis and two astragalus
- Phalanges — two first phalanges, one second phalanx and one third, clean as in fore limb
- Sesamoid — three
- Navicular — one, quite healthy

It was possible completely to re-construct a forequarter so as to determine the withers height, due allowance being made for the absent soft tissues. An estimate of 14 hands (56 ins) was made.

Applying the commonly used factors of Kiesevalter (1888) to the various bones the following heights were calculated:-

Humerus	138. 8 cm	55. 5 ins
Radius	138. 8 cm	55. 5 ins
Metacarpal	144. 3 cm	57. 6 ins
Femur	130. 9 cm	52. 4 ins
Tibia	146 cm	58. 4 ins
Metatarsal	141. 8 cm	56. 7 ins

The calculation based on femoral length clearly under-estimates the size; the height estimated from the reconstruction agrees closely with those calculated from the other bones and almost exactly with their mean value. Had the femur alone been available, the estimated height would have been 10 cm (4 ins, 1 hand) less than the true height, and had there been femur and, say, metatarsal an apparently reasonable conclusion that there were two horses could have been reached.

### Others

In addition to the mammalian bones, the ulna of a small and elderly domestic fowl, and half an oyster shell were found.

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