

# EXCAVATIONS AT BROCKLEY HILL, MIDDLESEX, MARCH–MAY 1972

STEPHEN A. CASTLE

In March 1972 the Brockley Hill Excavation and Field-work Group was given permission to excavate at the then vacant Hilltop Cafe site on the east side of modern Watling Street. The site (N.G.R. TQ 175939) comprised the strip of marginal land immediately to the north-west of the cafe and sites excavated in 1937, 1947 and 1952.<sup>1</sup> The aim of this excavation was to obtain a clearer picture of the nature of the Roman pottery manufacturing complex excavated during those years. Yet another pottery kiln was disclosed, together with a clay pit, which was partly excavated in 1947.<sup>2</sup>

## THE EXCAVATION (FIG. 1):

Trench I, the one nearest to modern Watling Street, showed that much of this area was disturbed during the nineteenth century. A George III farthing of 1806/07 was found at a depth of 1 ft. 2 ins. and in the same layer was much Roman kiln ware, including notably the flange of a mortarium of Sollus (Fig. 6, MS5). Part of a shallow pit was located at the south-west corner of the trench and it contained a few weathered sherds of kiln ware.

To the east and in the natural yellow clay, were seven parallel timber slots. All seven contained a few weathered sherds of kiln ware; Slot 1, a coin which is possibly of Claudius I, but also a sherd of post-medieval glazed pottery. In addition Slots 2 and 5 contained fragments of wine bottles. As the slots are contemporary they may represent part of a building. If so, there must presumably have been corresponding slots further to the west under the verge of modern Watling Street.

A post-hole with Roman tile packing was excavated to the east of Slots 1 and 2. Its fill consisted of dark brown soil containing a third century mortarium flange fragment (Fig. 5, M6). A shallow hole nearby without tile packing may also be a post-hole.

## THE KILN (FIG. 1 AND PLATE A):

Between trenches 1 and 2 was found the remains of a pottery kiln with part of the stoke-hole on the south side. Both were partly destroyed by an eighteenth century field ditch which was recut in c. 1900,<sup>3</sup> thus resulting in further destruction. All that remained of the kiln was the floor of the furnace, which consisted of fragments of burnt clay daub, presumably from an earlier kiln, fused together with softer burnt clay daub and reinforced with coarse-ware sherds. Included among these were sherds of a mortarium of Secundus, c. A.D. 65–95 (Fig. 6, MS4) and a number of ring-necked flagons. The furnace was an estimated 6 ft. in diameter and was constructed in an earlier pit, in which was an accumulation of greyish-white potters' clay, containing sherds of a lid and flagons (Fig. 3, 1). The stoke-hole, which contained ash and charcoal, was at least 1 ft. 3 in. deep.

Since most of the sherds from the stoke-hole and disturbed soil immediately above the kiln were from ring-necked flagons, there can be little doubt that they were its staple products. The kiln dates from sometime in the period c. A.D. 65–100.

## THE CLAY PIT (FIGS. 1 AND 2):

To the east of the kiln and partly destroyed by the field ditch was an irregularly shaped clay pit, part of which was excavated in 1947. Its upper fill, layer 1, which consisted of ashy

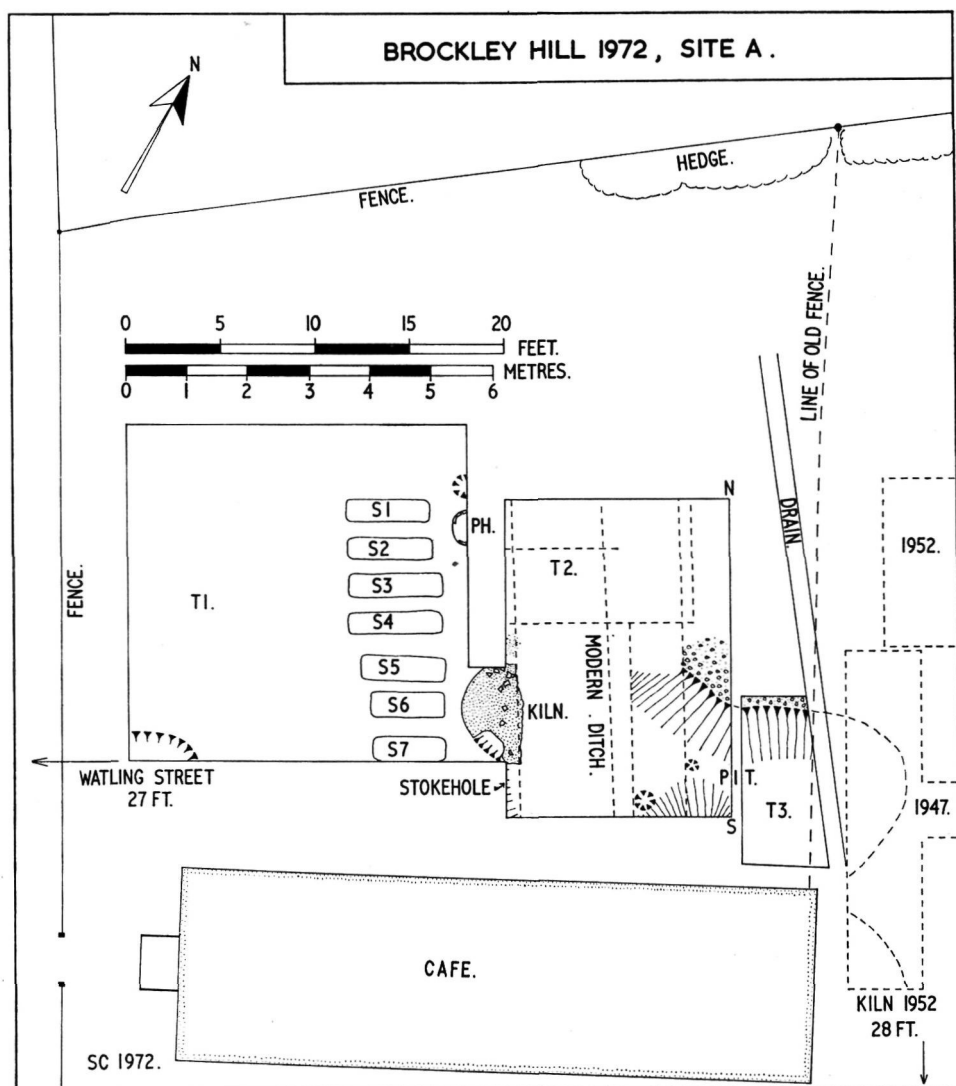


Fig. 1.—Plan of Site A

soil mixed with burnt clay daub, potters' clay and charcoal, contained a considerable quantity of waste pottery. Pottery types include ring-necked flagons, two-handled flagons, reed-rimmed bowls, mortaria, pinch-mouthed flagons, disc-mouthed flagons, lids and honey jars (Figs. 3 and 4, 14–32), all typical of the second half of the first century. South Gaulish samian and mortarium stamps of Ripanus, *c.* A.D. 65–95 (Fig. 6, MS2–3), suggest a Flavian date and this is supported by an unworn sestertius of Vespasian, A.D. 71 (Pl. B) from near the bottom of this layer. Earlier in date and lining the edge of the pit, was a layer of potters' clay containing sherds of kiln ware and a Neolithic stone adze (Fig. 6, A1). Below the two was a layer of yellow sand 9 in. thick, containing sherds of waste pottery and the greater part of a cordoned jar of Belgic type (Fig. 3, N1). There was also a mortarium stamp of Ripanus (Fig. 6, MS1).

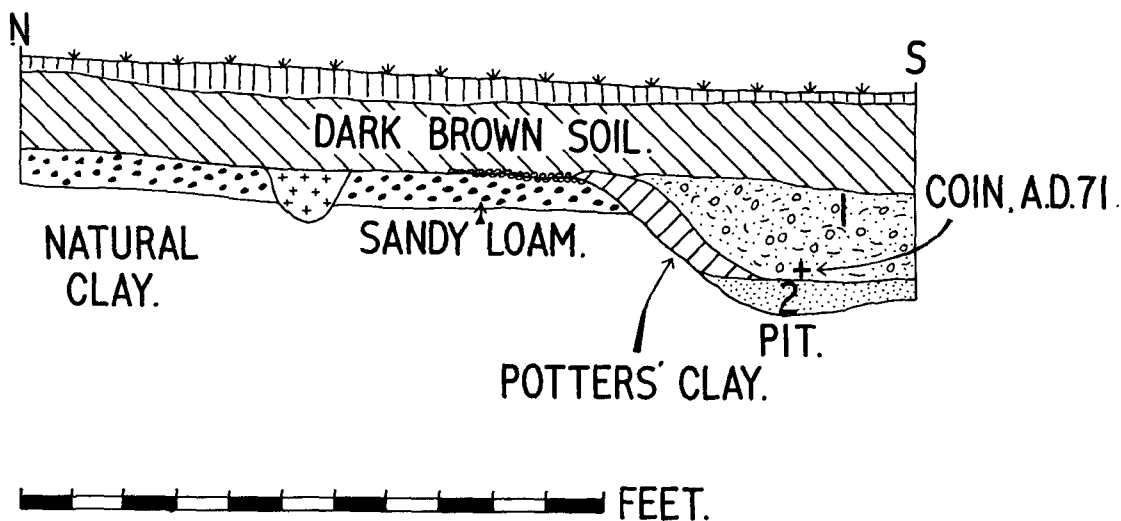


Fig. 2.—Section through the clay pit

It seems likely that the pottery group from the yellow sand includes at least some vessels of the Neronian period and this is perhaps supported by the presence of a sherd of a South Gaulish, Dr. 18 samian platter, of pre or early Flavian date. The earlier yellow sandy loam (Fig. 2) bounding the pit on the north side, was found to contain not a single artifact; thus suggesting that the pit is the earliest feature on the site.

In the top of the infill of the pit were found a sestertius of Hadrian, A.D. 117–138, two third-century antoniniani and a few sherds of third–fourth century pottery. Layer 2, immediately above, was probably originally plough soil and contained in addition to Roman sherds and a sestertius of Septimius Severus, A.D. 195, a halfpenny of George III, 1806, and post-medieval pottery.

#### SUMMARY OF RESULTS:

These excavations have provided further evidence of large-scale pottery manufacture at Brockley Hill in the Flavian period. Furthermore, the pottery from the yellow sand at the bottom of the pit suggests pottery manufacture at Brockley Hill in the 60's of the first century. Excavation of the earlier layer bounding the pit produced no evidence of earlier activity.

Mr. Suggett has suggested that the growth of pottery manufacture at Brockley Hill may be linked with the shift of emphasis from Colchester to London as capital of the province following Boudicca's rebellion in A.D. 61.<sup>4</sup> It should be stressed, however, that Verulamium was also an important market for pottery produced at Brockley Hill. A large number of mortaria stamped from the dies used by Brockley Hill potters have been found at both London and Verulamium.<sup>5</sup> These mortaria are in the fabrics typical of vessels produced at the Brockley Hill, Radlett and Verulamium potteries. With the other types of vessels mentioned, when found on domestic sites, their place of manufacture can presumably only be determined with any certainty by scientific analysis, in particular thin sectioning, a time consuming method which is only gradually being applied. Thin sectioning of the stamped mortaria should also provide some interesting results. Similarly comprehensive analysis of the local clays and the various potters' clays is clearly desirable.

Most of the pottery-types from this excavation are identical with those from the excavations conducted in the area to the east in 1947. As a number of the 1947 vessels are adequately described and illustrated<sup>6</sup> reference has been made to them in order to parallel the types found in 1972.

### DATING EVIDENCE I: THE COINS

#### ROMAN:

1. T.1, Slot 1. Fragmentary bronze coin, possibly an imitation as of Claudius I; reverse, Minerva type.
2. T.2, Pit, Layer 1. Ae sestertius of Vespasian, A.D. 71 (Pl. B). Obv. IMP. CAES. VESPASIAN. AVG. P.M. TR. P.P.P. COS III, head right. Rev. S.P.Q.R. P.P. OB CIVES SERVATOS, in oak-wreath. B.M.C. II p. 198† Condition, fresh and unworn.
3. T.2, top of pit. Ae sestertius of Hadrian, A.D. 117-38. Obv. Head of Hadrian right. Rev. Illegible.
4. T.2, Layer 2. Ae sestertius of Septimius Severus, A.D. 195. As B.M.C. 562.
5. T.2, top of pit. Ae antoninianus of Claudius II, commemorative coin of A.D. 270. Obv. DIVO CLAVDIO. Rev. CONSECRATIO L. R.I.C. 266.
6. T.3, top of pit. Fragments of an antoninianus, radiate head right, c. A.D. 270.

#### ENGLISH:

7. T.1, Layer 2. George III farthing 1806 or 1807.
8. T.3, Layer 2. George III halfpenny 1806.
9. Recut of field ditch. George V shilling 1914.

#### COINS FROM THE 1954 EXCAVATIONS (NOT LISTED IN RELEVANT REPORT)

##### FROM BROWN SOIL BELOW COBBLES:

10. T.D. Ae as or dupondius of Faustina I. Obv. Head of Faustina right. Rev. Female figure standing, facing left, and SC.
11. T.F. Ae as, probably of Nero, A.D. 54-68. Obv. Head right. Rev. Illegible.

### DATING EVIDENCE II: THE POTTERY; NATIVE, SAMIAN AND BROCKLEY HILL WARE. (FIGS. 3-6).

With all flagons, except those of pinch-mouthed type, the following applies:

- |    |                         |              |
|----|-------------------------|--------------|
| A. | Diameter at top of neck | =20-40 mm.   |
| B. | " " "                   | =40-60 mm.   |
| C. | " " "                   | =60-80 mm.   |
| D. | " " "                   | =80-100 mm.  |
| E. | " " "                   | =100-120 mm. |
| F. | " " "                   | =120-140 mm. |
| G. | " " "                   | =140-160 mm. |
| H. | " " "                   | =160-180 mm. |
| I. | " " "                   | =180-200 mm. |

With handles of flagons:

X=2 ribs; Y=3 ribs; and Z=4 ribs.

Thus, for example, 3BY=three vessels with rim diameters of 40-60 mm. and three ribbed handles.

#### REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION OF COARSE-WARE:

##### TRENCH 1/2, WHITISH-GREY POTTERS' CLAY BELOW KILN:

1. Ring-necked flagon with five rings, type BX, in granular cream ware.

##### T.1/2. FLOOR OF THE KILN FURNACE:

##### STAMPED MORTARIA (see detailed report):

MS4. Secundus. c. A.D. 65-95. (Also part of this vessel from field ditch.)

##### T.1/2. DISTURBED DARK-BROWN ASHY SOIL ABOVE THE KILN:

2. Ring-necked flagon with five rings, type CY, in granular cream ware. This example is distorted and the top ring is badly finished. A waster.
3. Ring-necked flagon with five rings, type DZ, in granular buff ware. Similar to Richardson 35.

##### SAMIAN WARE:

- St. South Gaulish, form 2. c. A.D. 70-100.

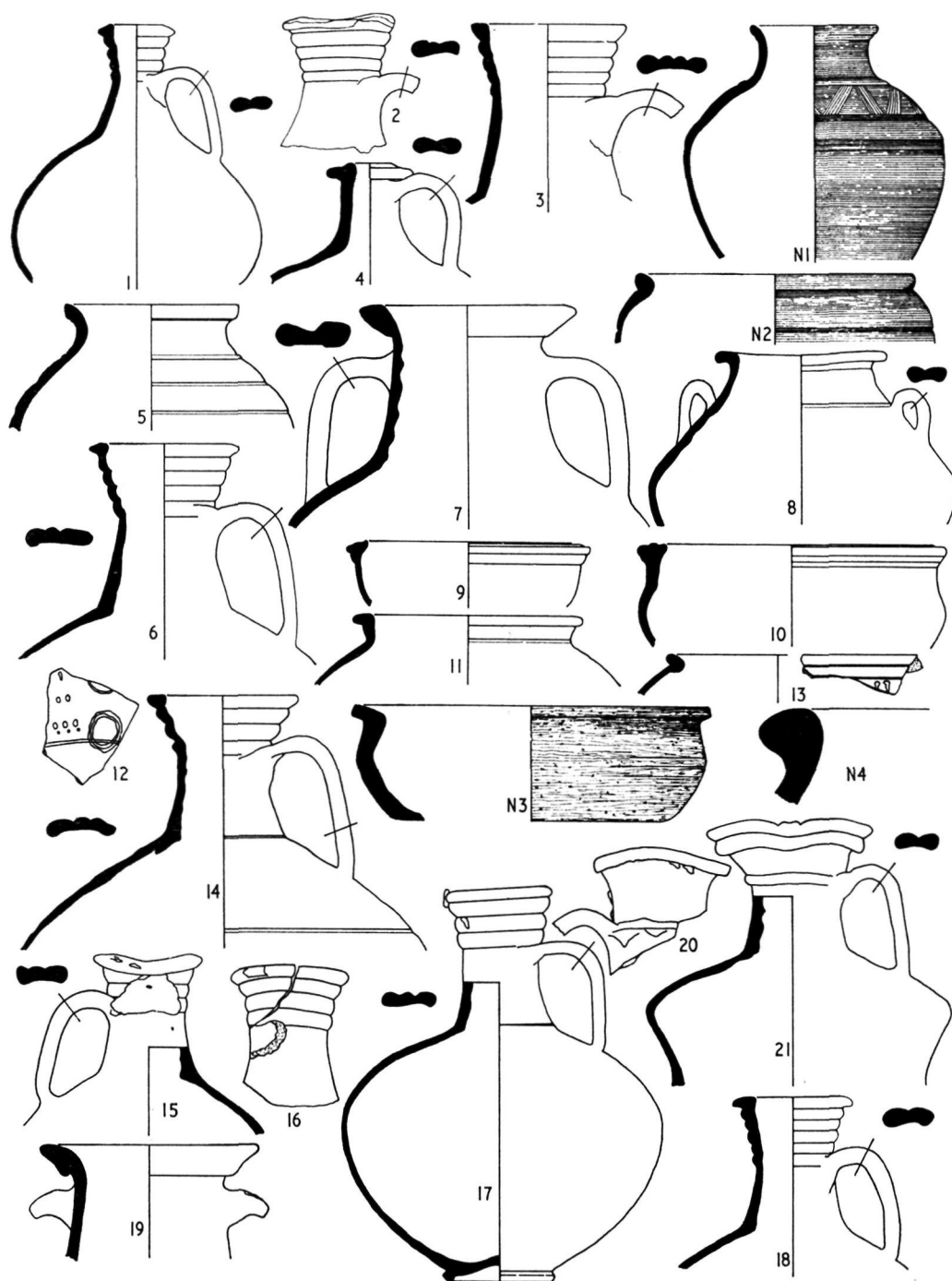


Fig. 3.—The coarse pottery, including native ware ( $\frac{1}{4}$  linear)

## T.2. STOKE-HOLE:

## SAMIAN WARE:

S.2. S.G., form 2, c. A.D. 70-100.

4. Disc-mouthed flagon, type BX, in granular buff ware overfired to bluish-grey with traces of heat glaze. The overfiring is suggestive of a waster. Cf. Richardson 44.

## T.1. STOKE-HOLE:

MORTARIUM (Fig. 5). (Notes from Mrs. K. F. Hartley):

- M.6. In slightly sandy cream ware with pink core and translucent pinkish trituration grit. It is slightly burnt on the flange. The form, ware and grit are typical of coarse-ware mortaria made in the extensive potteries in the vicinity of Oxford. A parallel for the rim is recorded from a kiln at Cowley (*Oxoniensia* VI (1941), Fig. 5, 63). These potteries, beginning in the early second century, had very wide markets in the third and fourth centuries. This example could well belong to the period c. A.D. 200-250.

## T.1. LAYER 2, DARK BROWN SOIL:

## STAMPED MORTARIA:

MS5. Sollus, c. A.D. 70-100.

## T.2. RECUT OF FIELD DITCH:

## STAMPED MORTARIA:

MS4. Secundus, c. A.D. 65-95.

## T.2/3. PIT, LAYER 2, YELLOW SAND:

## SAMIAN WARE:

S3. S.G., Dr. 18, pre-early Flavian.

## STAMPED MORTARIA:

MS1. Ripanus, c. A.D. 65-95.

## MORTARIA (without stamps):

- M1. In granular cream ware with pink core and no grits.
- M2. As M2 (same vessel, separate sherd).

## NATIVE WARE:

N1. Cordoned jar with chevron decoration, in gritty grey ware with reddish-brown burnished exterior.

The chevron decoration below the cordon is a fairly common feature of Belgic jars and is present on a vessel from Little Hallingbury, Essex, cf. Birchall 1965, 308, 144; Welwyn Garden City cf. Rook (1970), 33, 5; and also Camulodunum 232 Ab. This 1972 vessel is similar in form to vessel No. 28 from Brockley Hill in 1968.

N2. Bead-rimmed jar with groove in gritty grey ware with brownish-black burnished exterior.

## NON-LOCAL COARSE-WARE?:

5. Narrow-necked jar in fine-textured grey ware with smooth exterior. The fabric is not certainly local. Cf. Verulamium, 274-75, 124, Period 11a, A.D. 60-75.

## KILN WARE:

6. Ring-necked flagon with five rings, type DY, in granular cream ware. Cf. Verulamium, 273-74, 104, A.D. 60-75. Cf. Richardson 36.
7. Two-handled Hofheim-type flagon, type FX, in hard cream ware. Similar to Camulodunum 140/161b.
8. Honey jar in granular cream ware with pink core. The rim is buckled and the handles are of different size and shape. Such anomalies suggest a waster. Cf. Richardson 55.
9. Reed-rimmed bowl in granular light grey ware.
10. Vessel of similar type in granular buff ware with blackened exterior. Part of this vessel from Layer 1.
11. Wide-mouthed jar in granular cream ware burnt black.
12. Body sherd of a beaker in hard fine-textured pinkish-orange ware with cream barbotine decoration consisting of dots and circles. The exterior is smooth. Cf. Verulamium, 275-76, 130, A.D. 60-75. Not certainly local.
13. Everted-rimmed beaker in hard fine-textured pinkish-orange ware.

## T.2/3. PIT, LAYER 1:

## SAMIAN WARE:

S4. S.G. Dr. 15/17, c. A.D. 70-100.

S5. S.G. Dr. 18, with rouletting, pre-early Flavian.

S6. S.G. Dr. 18, pre-early Flavian.

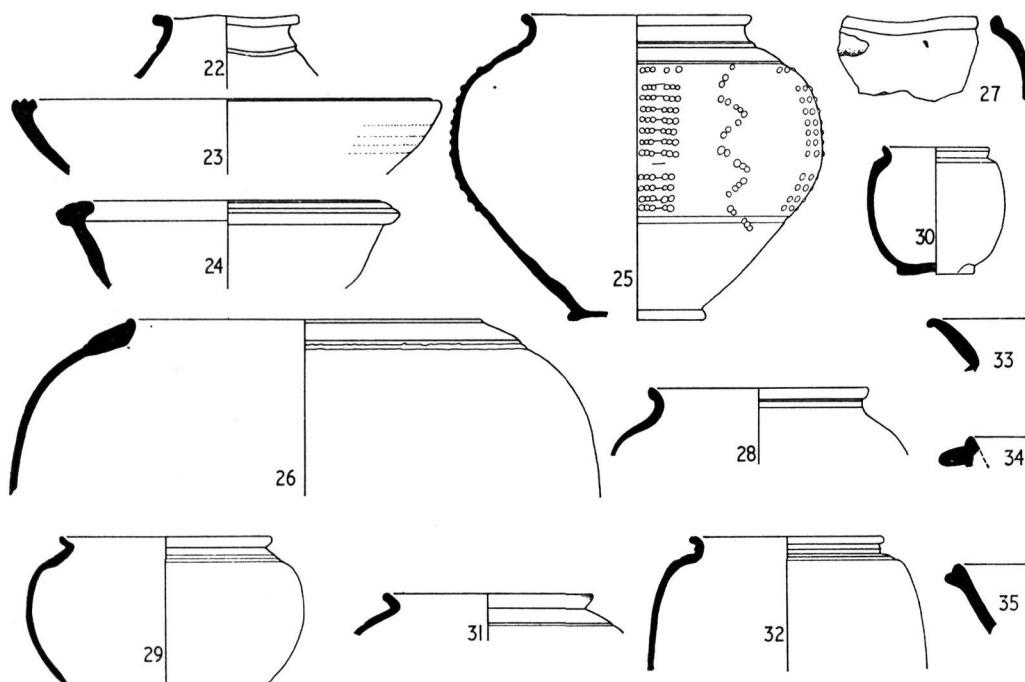


Fig. 4.—The coarse pottery ( $\frac{1}{4}$  linear)

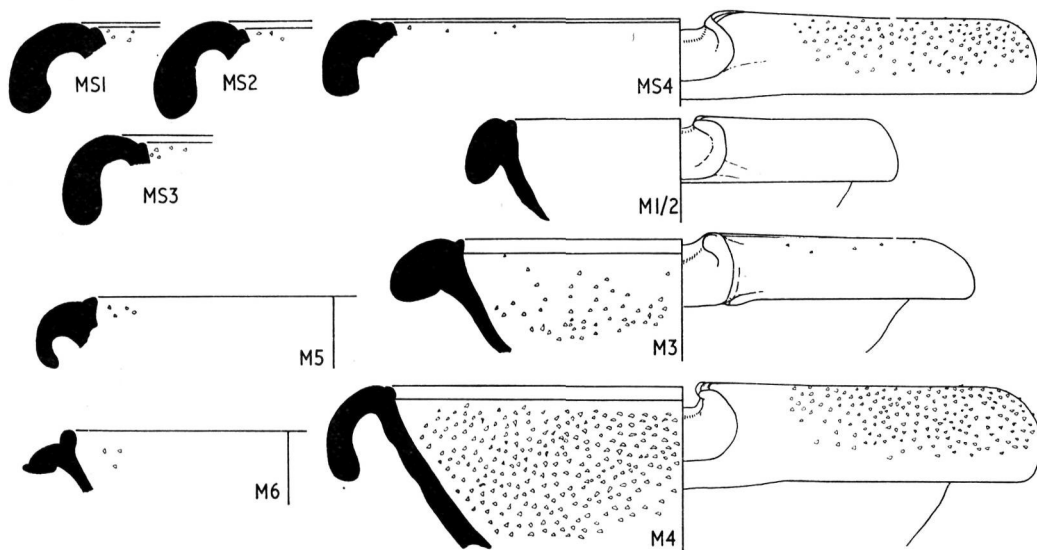


Fig. 5.—Mortaria ( $\frac{1}{4}$  linear)

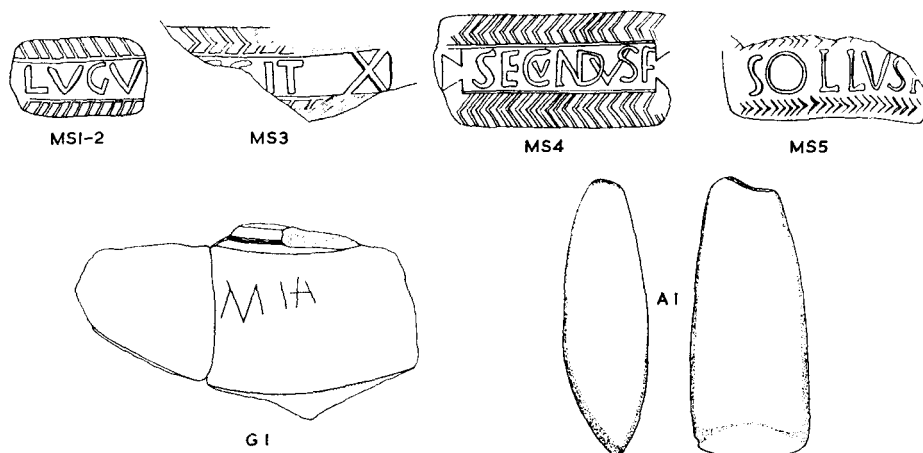


Fig. 6.—Mortarium stamps, the graffito and Neolithic stone adze ( $\frac{1}{2}$  linear)

S7. S.G. Dr. 27, with graffito MIA, c. A.D. 70–80 (Fig. 6, G1).

S8. S.G. Dr. 29, severely burnt, with decoration too abraded for close identification, c. A.D. 70–100.

S9. S.G. Dr. 33, c. A.D. 70–100.

#### STAMPED MORTARIA:

MS2–3. Ripanus, c. A.D. 65–95.

#### MORTARIA (without stamps):

M3. In granular cream ware with unworn grey and white flint grits. M1–3 are unexpected types for a Brockley Hill context; I know of no close parallels. They are both, however, in fabric typical of the regional potteries and neither show trace of wear. A pre-Flavian date is possible, since apparently non-standard forms certainly tend to be early; presumably because mass production had not yet set in with its tendency towards uniformity.

M4. In granular creamish-buff ware with surface overfired to grey and with abundant unworn grey and white flint grits. The rim is early and could be best paralleled in the work of Ripanus; however, a few other potters like Oastrius also used this form.

M5. Overfired to bluish-grey and with grey and white flint grits on the flange. The form is again similar to ones made by Ripanus.

#### NATIVE WARE:

N2. Also from Layer 2.

N3. Roughly-made bowl with rectangular rim in gritty orange-brown ware, blackened externally and internally at the base.

N4. Large storage jar (possibly for water) in gritty reddish-brown ware with dark brown smooth exterior. Cf. Park Street, 80, 20, from a Belgic level.

#### KILN WARE:

14. Ring-necked flagon with four rings, type DY, in granular cream ware.

15. Ring-necked flagon with four rings, type DY, in granular cream ware. The top ring is badly buckled and there is excess fired clay adhering to the other three rings. This vessel is clearly a waster.

16. Ring-necked flagon with four rings, type C, ware overfired to dark bluish-grey. This distorted vessel has a severe crack and is clearly a waster.

17. Ring-necked flagon with four rings, type CY, in granular cream ware. The neck of this vessel tilts to one side and there is excess fired clay adhering to the top ring. These factors, coupled with fresh unused appearance, indicate a waster.

18. Ring-necked flagon with six rings, type CX, in granular buff ware.

19. Two-handled Hofheim-type flagon, type FX, in hard granular cream ware. Camulodunum 140/161b.

20. Two-handled flagon, type CY, overfired to bluish-purple and with grey core. This badly buckled vessel is clearly a waster. Cf. Richardson 45.

21. Pinch-mouthed flagon in granular reddish-buff ware; the mouth and handle are blackened. *Cf.* Richardson 46/47, though the body of this vessel is carinated.
22. Honey jar, overfired to bluish-grey, the exterior surface is rough and both rim and cordon are badly distorted. This vessel is clearly a waster. *Cf.* Richardson 55.
23. Reed-rimmed bowl with inturned rim in granular cream ware with pink core. B.H. 1952, 273, 28-30.
24. Reed-rimmed bowl in granular light buff ware.
25. Globular cordoned jar in granular drab cream ware with barbotine decoration similar to that found on poppy-head beakers. Shape similar to Verulamium, 270-71, 64, A.D. 49-60.
26. Large wide-mouthed jar with moulded bead rim in granular cream ware.
27. Bead-rimmed jar in granular buff ware with blackened exterior. The sherd is badly distorted, thus indicating that the vessel from which it came is a waster.
28. Small jar in grey micaceous ware with black sandy exterior.
29. Small globular jar in granular cream ware.
30. Small jar in granular white ware with smooth bluish-grey slip.
31. Beaker in hard fine-textured pink ware with lighter pink slip. Not certainly a local type.
32. Beaker or small jar in granular cream ware.

## T.3. TOP OF PIT:

## SAMIAN WARE:

- S10. Central Gaulish, Dr. 18, c. A.D. 100-120.  
 S11. Two C.G. sherds, Dr. 18/31, c. A.D. 100-150.  
 S12. Two C.G. sherds, form?, c. A.D. 100-120.

## NON-LOCAL COARSE-WARE:

33. Cavetto-rimmed jar in reddish-grey ware with black-burnished exterior. *Cf.* Old Ford, 50, 7. A third to fourth-century date is suggested.

## T.2/3. LAYER 2:

34. Flanged bowl in sandy reddish-grey ware with black-burnished surface. *Cf.* Park Street, 86, 12; fourth century.  
 35. Bowl with small rounded flange in sandy grey ware with black-burnished exterior. *Cf.* Old Ford, 57, 20; fourth century.

## SUMMARY:

Most of the vessels described above are in the granular sandy fabric typical of pottery manufactured at the Brockley Hill, Radlett and Verulamium potteries. This fabric is adequately described by the late Dr. Philip Corder.<sup>7</sup>

A number of the vessels described in detail are self-evident wasters and in addition to having severe buckling and heat-cracking, are fired, completely or partially, to an unattractive bluish-grey colour. Other vessels (Fig. 3, 15 and 17) are poorly finished and have excess fired clay adhering to them. Others have excessive pebble and flint flake inclusions which would have rendered them useless. There can be little doubt, however, that some represent breakages caused by clumsy handling. Furthermore, the potters working at this site needed refreshment and were presumably using at least some of their own vessels for the purpose. The difficulty with a group such as this, is that the sherds of vessels when broken in antiquity were scattered far and wide. Indeed only one ring-necked flagon could be restored to its full profile (Fig. 3, 17). With the majority of ring-necked flagons only the necks, some with handles, remain intact and even if these fragments show no obvious signs of being wasters it doesn't necessarily imply that the remainder of each vessel was not faulty.

Duplication of types in identical fabric coupled with the presence of wasters, indicates quite clearly, that most, if not all of these vessels were produced at the kiln or kilns in this area. Some, (Fig. 3, 2-4) are very likely the products of the kiln excavated. However, the 1952 kiln appears to be of later date.<sup>8</sup> It is possible that other kilns await discovery fairly close by. There

is, however, no evidence as yet to indicate that any of the native ware vessels (Fig. 3, NI-4) were manufactured in the locality.

There was a notable absence of sherds in fine-textured red ware with cream slip, such as were found on the west side of modern Watling Street.<sup>9</sup> This fabric appears to have been introduced in *c.* A.D. 110-120 and was used by the potter Driccius, *c.* A.D. 110-150, for some of his mortaria.<sup>10</sup> There were, however, three beakers in fine-textured pink ware (Figs. 3 and 4, 12-13 and 31).

A date in the period *c.* A.D. 65-100 is indicated for all the vessels in local fabric from deposits on this site. Ring-necked flagons were the commonest types produced.

#### RING-NECKED FLAGONS:

At least 462 vessels are represented. Despite variation in size and shape all are of long-necked type; most have four or five rings, while only three vessels have six rings. Most of the handles have two or three ribs, while only three handles have four ribs. The rim diameter ranges from 20-120 mm.

Ring-necked flagons with four and five rings and three-ribbed handles were being produced at Kilns 23 and 26 at Camulodunum prior to A.D. 61.<sup>11</sup> Furthermore, ring-necked flagons similar to those described were in use at Verulamium in Period 11a, A.D. 60-75.<sup>12</sup> These long-necked flagons were superseded at Brockley Hill by flagons of short-expanding neck type in *c.* A.D. 110-120.<sup>13</sup>

#### RING-NECKED FLAGON STATISTICS:

	<i>Total</i>
T.1/2. Whitish-grey potters' clay below kiln:	
5 rings. 1 BX	1
No. of rings? 1 C	1
	—
	2
Floor of kiln furnace:	
5 rings. 2 CY, 1 C	3
No. of rings? 1 Z	1
	—
	4
Disturbed ashy soil above kiln:	
4 rings. 5 C, 1 D	6
5 rings. 1 CX, 2 CY, 5 C, 1 DZ, 5 D	14
6 rings. 1 D	1
No. of rings? 13 C, 5 D, 2 F, 1 X, 1 Y, 3	25
	—
	46
Stoke-hole:	
4 rings. 1 B, 1 CY, 8 C, 1 DY, 1 D	12
5 rings. 1 CY, 4 C, 2 D	7
No. of rings? 1 C, 2 D, 1 Y, 1	6
	—
	25
Flue of the kiln:	
4 rings. 1 C, 1 DY	2
No. of rings? 3 C, 1 D	4
	—
	6

T.2/3. Pit, Layer 2:		
4 rings.	2 B, 1 CX, 1 CY, 1 DY, 3 D	8
5 rings.	1 BY, 1 CY, 1 CZ, 1 DY, 1 DZ	5
No. of rings?	3 B, 2 D, 1 Y, 2	8
		—
		21
Pit, Layer 1:		
4 rings.	1 BX, 3 BY, 10 B, 2 CX, 27 CY, 55 C, 13 DY, 31 D, 2 E	144
5 rings.	1 BY, 11 CY, 21 C, 6 DY, 11 D, 1 EY, 3 E	54
6 rings.	1 CX, 1 D	2
No. of rings?	1 A, 4 B, 45 C, 51 D, 6 E, 1 X, 28 Y, 1 Z, 21	158
		—
		358
	Total number of vessels	462
There were in addition:		
Type:	Rim diameter (flagons only)	Total
Two-handled flagons (Richardson 84) E-G		22
Mortaria		21
Two-handled flagons (Richardson 45) B-D		19
Disc-mouthed flagons (Richardson 44) B-D		17
Honey jars (Richardson 55)		17
Reed-rimmed bowls		15
Lids		9
Tazze (Richardson 53)		9
Two-handled flagons of Hofheim Type F (Camulodunum 140b/161b)		9
Jars		8
Pinched-mouthed flagons (Richardson 47)		7
Two-handled flagons (Richardson 41) C-D		4
Two-handled bowls (Richardson 10)		3
Cordoned jars		1
Small jars		1
Lamp (Richardson 83)		1
		—
		163
Non-local types:		
Native ware		6
Beakers		3
Flanged bowls		2
Mortaria		1
Cavetto-rimmed jar		1
		—
		13
	Total number of identifiable vessels represented	638

## THE STAMPED MORTARIA (Figs. 5 and 6)

BY MRS. K. F. HARTLEY

## RIPANVS.

MS1 T.2/3. Pit, Layer 2, yellow sand. In granular cream ware with pink core and with unworn red, white and grey flint grits on the flange.

MS2 T.2/3. Pit, Layer 1. In granular pinkish-ware with red, white and grey flint grits on the flange.

MS3 T.2/3. Pit, Layer 1. In granular cream ware with pink core and a few red and grey flint grits on the flange. A broken FECIT stamp of Ripanus is impressed diagonally across the flange.

MS1 and MS2 each have a complete stamp reading LVGV, which is a counterstamp used by Ripanus. All three stamps are probably from different vessels. In view of the identical fabric and forms used, as well as the LVGV counterstamp, it is possible that this Ripanus is to be identified with Q. Rutilius Ripanus who used a counterstamp reading LVGV DV/FACTVS. Two of his namestamps, three of his FECIT counterstamps and one of his LVGV counterstamps have been found at Brockley Hill in earlier excavations and the total of nine mortaria does suggest that he worked at Brockley Hill at some time in his career. Assuming that Brockley Hill is the site of Sulloniaca it is not clear why he should have used a place-name counterstamp reading LVGV there; further discoveries should clarify this. However, no other potter so far attributed to Brockley Hill used such a counterstamp. His rims point to a date of c. A.D. 65-95.

#### SECVNDVS.

MS4 T.1/2. Floor of kiln furnace and silt infill of the field ditch. In granular buff ware with unworn grey, white and red flint grits on the flange. A stamp from the only die used by Secundus. The treatment of the stamp is very reminiscent of two of Ripanus' stamp-types and at least five of his mortaria have now been found at Brockley Hill. Twenty-four stamps have now been found on other sites throughout England and one in Scotland, at Camelon. The rims point to a date of c. A.D. 65-95.

#### SOLLVS.

MS5 T.1. Layer 2, dark brown soil. A fragment in granular cream ware with a few grey and white flint grits on the flange. The stamp is from the most commonly used die of Sollus. Over 70 stamps of his die are known from sites throughout England, including 32 from London and three from Flavian forts in Scotland. So far only three of his stamps are recorded from Brockley Hill but the fabric and forms of his mortaria and their distribution are typical of the potteries south of Verulamium in the Flavian period and it is likely enough that he had kilns at Brockley Hill. A date of c. A.D. 70-100 is indicated.

### THE GRAFFITO (Fig. 6, G.1)

BY MR. R. P. WRIGHT, F.S.A.

#### T.2. CLAY PIT, LAYER 1:

A graffito inscribed on a South Gaulish samian Dr. 27 cup (S.7), which is of early Flavian date. It was cut while the cup was inverted and reads MIA, *Mia* (complete), which is probably a personal name.

### THE CHARCOAL FRAGMENTS

BY DR. D. F. CUTLER

*Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew*

#### T.2. stoke-hole of the kiln:

Fragments of oak, *quercus robur* type.

#### T.2. clay pit. Layer 1:

Fragments of oak, *quercus robur* type; also two fragments of beech, *fagus sylvatica*.

STONE ADZE<sup>14</sup> (Fig. 6, A.1):

T.3. potters' clay lining edge of pit:

A fine example of a Neolithic polished stone adze. Examination by hand-lens suggests that the rock from which it was made is either a hornblende-schist or possibly a sheared diabase. Metamorphic rocks similar to this material occur in Cornwall and were used extensively for the manufacture of stone implements.

The presence of this adze does not necessarily imply Neolithic occupation in the locality, for the object has an attractive appearance and may well have been picked up elsewhere and introduced to the site in the first century A.D.

## NOTES

- <sup>1</sup> F. Cottrill, "Note on the trial excavation at Brockley Hill, 1937", *T.L.M.A.S.* (1937), 686-87. K. M. Richardson, "Report on the excavations at Brockley Hill, Middlesex, August-September 1947", *T.L.M.A.S.* (1948), 1-23. P. G. Suggett, "Excavations at Brockley Hill, Middlesex, 1952-53", *T.L.M.A.S.* (1954), 259-76.
- <sup>2</sup> Richardson, *op. cit.*, 5.
- <sup>3</sup> A 1914 shilling was found in the fill of this recut ditch. The ditch is clearly a continuation of the one excavated at Site B, to the south of the cafe, in 1952. See P. G. Suggett, "Excavations at Brockley Hill, Middlesex, 1952-53", *T.L.M.A.S.* (1954) 263. In view of the findings at Site A, 1972, it cannot be the east ditch of Roman Watling Street.
- <sup>4</sup> P. G. Suggett, "Excavations at Brockley Hill, Middlesex, 1951", *T.L.M.A.S.* (1953), 180.
- <sup>5</sup> There are large collections of stamped mortaria from London in the British Museum, Guildhall and London Museum collections. See also, S. S. Frere, *Verulamium Excavations*, Vol. 1 (London, 1972). The Mortarium Stamps by Mrs. K. F. Hartley, 371-81.
- <sup>6</sup> Richardson, *op. cit.*, 7-19.
- <sup>7</sup> P. Corder, "A Roman pottery of the Hadrian-Antonine period at Verulamium", *Ant. J.*, XXI (1941), 272.
- <sup>8</sup> Suggett, *op. cit.*, 261.
- <sup>9</sup> S. A. Castle, "Excavations at Brockley Hill, Middlesex, Sulloniaca, 1970", *T.L.M.A.S.* (1972), 155, 18 and 34.
- <sup>10</sup> Information from Mrs. K. F. Hartley. The writer has since excavated kilns at Site C (N.G.R. TQ 174940). Associated with these kilns were quantities of stamped mortarium sherds of Driccus, including wasters.
- <sup>11</sup> M. R. Hull, *The Roman potters' kilns at Colchester* (London, 1963), 147-49 and 158-61.
- <sup>12</sup> Frere, *op. cit.*, 272-73, c. A.D. 60-75.
- <sup>13</sup> As 9, however, quantities of ring-necked flagons of this type, including wasters, were found at Site C (N.G.R. TQ 174940).
- <sup>14</sup> Information from Dr. I. H. Longworth of the British Museum, and Mr. R. W. Sanderson of the Institute of Geological Sciences.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| B.H., 1952     | P. G. Suggett, "Excavations at Brockley Hill, Middlesex, 1952-53" <i>T.L.M.A.S.</i> (1954).  |
| Birchall, 1965 | A. Birchall, "The Aylesford-Swarling Culture: The problem of the Belgae reconsidered" <i>Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society</i> , Vol. XXXI (1965), 241-367. |
| Camulodunum    | C. Hawkes and M. Hull <i>Camulodunum</i> (London, 1947).   |
| Old Ford       | H. Sheldon, "Excavations at Lefevre Road, Old Ford, E.3., September, 1969-June, 1970", <i>T.L.M.A.S.</i> (1971).   |
| Park Street    | H. E. O'Neil, "The Roman Villa at Park Street, near St. Albans, Hertfordshire", <i>Archaeol. J.</i> , 102 (1945).  |
| Rook, 1970     | A. G. Rook, "Investigation of a Belgic site at Grubs Barn, Welwyn Garden City", <i>Hertfordshire Archaeology</i> , Vol. 2 (1970), 31-36.                         |
| Verulamium     | S. S. Frere, <i>Verulamium Excavations</i> , Vol. I (London, 1972).  |

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am especially grateful to Daniel Smith, Briant and Done, estate agents to the owners, All Souls College, Oxford, for permission to excavate this site. All Souls College are thanked for kindly donating the coin of Vespasian to the British Museum and the remainder of the finds to the London Museum. In connection with this, thanks are due to Prof. S. S. Frere, F.S.A. Mr. J. Upton, of the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, is thanked for help with storing the tools.

Once again I am indebted to Mrs. K. F. Hartley for reporting on the stamped mortaria, and Miss C. Johns, of the British Museum, for notes on the samian ware. In addition Mr. R. P. Wright, F.S.A., reported on the graffito, Dr. I. H. Longworth, F.S.A., and Mr. R. W. Sanderson on the adze; and Dr. D. F. Cutler on the charcoal fragments. Mr. K. A. Howes, of the British Museum, kindly cleaned the coins.

Lastly, thanks are due to Mr. K. Bailey, Mr. M. Coles, Mr. L. Gray, Mr. I. Mackay, Mr. J. Reeves, Mr. G. Robinson, Mrs. M. Tisdall, Mr. B. Wedmore and Mr. J. Warbis, without whose help this excavation could not have been conducted.

Mr. Ralph Merrifield, F.S.A., of the Guildhall Museum, kindly read this report in typescript.

*Both the Author and the Editors wish to express their thanks for the generous grants from the London Borough of Barnet and All Souls College, Oxford, which made publication of this report possible.*