

DERBYSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

A REPORT ON THE EXCAVATION OF A ROMANO-BRITISH NATIVE SETTLEMENT AT STAPENHILL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

By

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History and Archæological Society.*

HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE.

IN 1881 the Burton-upon-Trent Natural History and Archæological Society undertook the excavation of an Anglo-Saxon cemetery at a site now known as "The Cowpastures" at Stapenhill, within the borough boundary of Burton-upon-Trent.¹ The cemetery was discovered during quarrying for clay by the adjacent brickworks; it revealed some thirty-six burials of which thirty-four were inhumation and two cremation. Since that date other skeletons have come to light but none has been preserved.

In July 1953 the Ministry of Works undertook the further examination of the site, owing to a local housing development scheme, in the hope that more Anglo-Saxon material would be found. Parallel trenching over a large area failed to reveal any further extension of the cemetery, and careful examination of the very inadequate plan in the original publication leads to the conviction

¹ Heron (1889) and Perks (1882).

STAPENHILL, Burton-upon-Trent. July/August 1953.
Romano-British Native Settlement.

Plan of site with numbering of trenches.

Scale in feet 0 5 10 20 30

— Line of ditch in trenches. - - - Suggested line of ditch ⊗ Trees

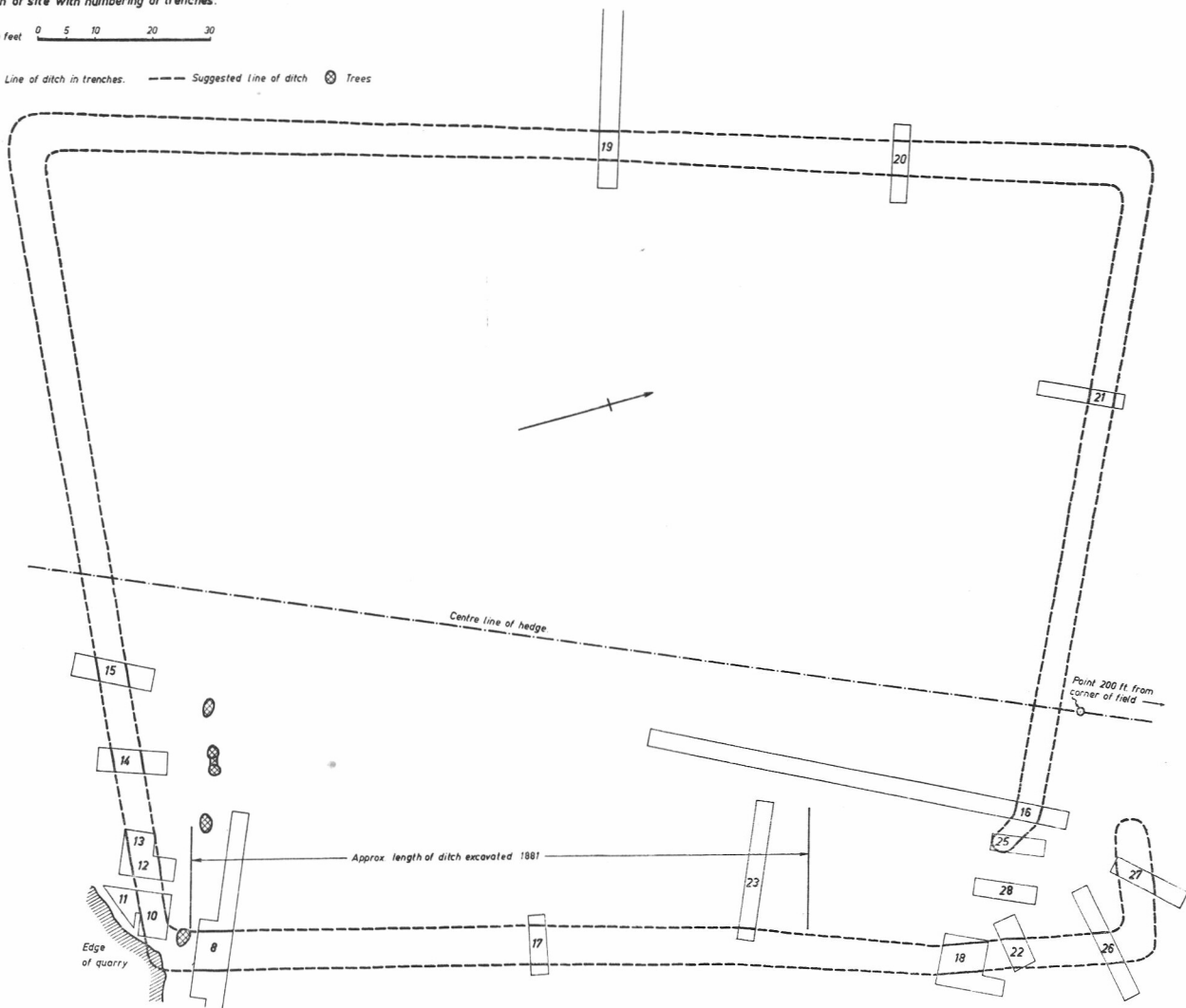


FIG. 1.—Plan of Romano-British Site at Stapenhill.

that the main burial area has been removed during quarrying; and indeed verbal evidence of this was obtained from men who worked in the quarry in the 1890s.

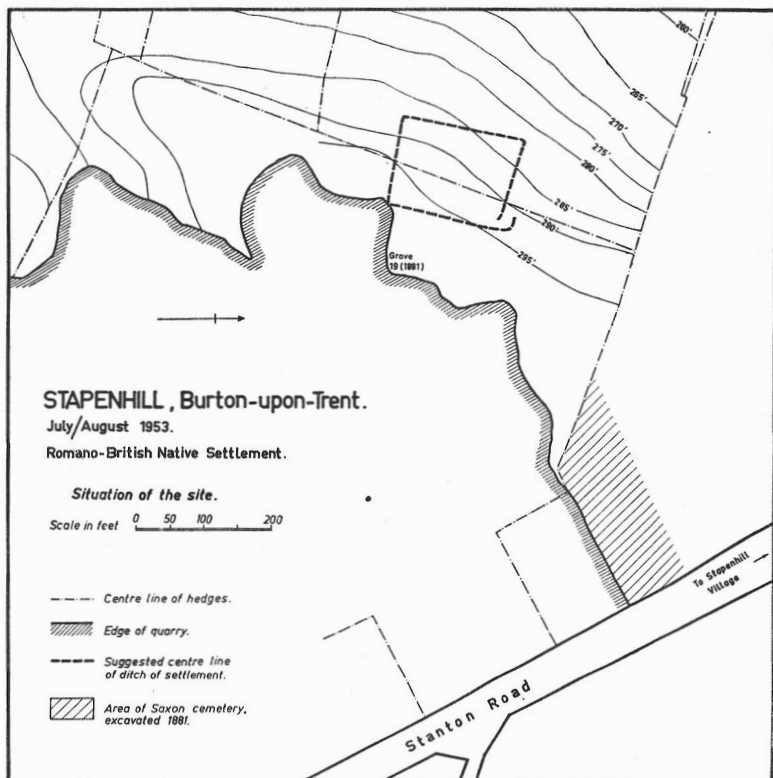


FIG. 2.—Situation of Romano-British Site at Stapenhill.

During the 1881 excavations a ditch was discovered and traced for some ninety yards in a north/south direction (fig. 1): this ditch produced a fairly large amount of Roman pottery dating from *c.* A.D. 80 to the middle of the fourth century. The ditch has been completely forgotten of late years and in county and borough histories no mention has been made of the Romano-British element.

The enclosure was situated in a commanding position on the edge of the escarpment that forms the east side of the Trent Valley.

The trenching for Saxon remains proving fruitless, that area in which the ditch was likely to be situated was examined. Clues were provided by the 1881 plan and by a scatter of pottery in the section of the quarry. Neither of these two clues proved to be accurate, but they made it possible to gauge an approximate position for the ditch. The measurements on the 1881 plan proved to be inaccurate and the scatter of pottery was found to belong to the infill of a rubbish pit outside the ditched enclosure.

First a trench a little over a hundred feet in length was laid down from a point, where, in the last century, a skeleton had been discovered lying in a westerly direction, towards the area of the ditch. In this trench was discovered a section of the ditch, which had been partially excavated in 1881. The ditch was seen to run in a direction that was approximately north/south, and it was further seen that a few feet to the south it would probably run in to the edge of the quarry.

A trench was now laid down on the very edge of the quarry, and it was discovered that at this very point the ditch bent in a westerly direction at an angle little more than a right angle.

This south-east corner was investigated fairly thoroughly, six trenches were laid down and a fair amount of pottery was recovered. The only other artifact found was a bronze buckle (fig. 8).

From the south-east corner, progression was made to find the other sides of the ditched enclosure. This was done without much difficulty, and the enclosure was found to be an almost square area, about 160 ft. square, with an entrance in the north-east corner which approximated to the guarded "Claviculae" type, as at Cawthorn Camps, Yorkshire.²

The ditch was of irregular section varying from point to point from about 3 ft. 6 ins. wide and 3 ft. deep, to about 6 ft. wide and 3 ft. deep, with a U-shaped bottom. It was excavated in the natural heavy clay (fig. 3).

² Kendrick and Hawkes: (1932) fig. 86.

The bottom 18 ins. was clean primary silting, which contained no dating evidence. Above this was dark occupation material containing Romano-British pottery. Here and there were fragments of wall-plaster and carbonized timber, indicating the nearby presence at some time of hutments or timber buildings.

Trenches which were continued into the interior failed to reveal traces of occupation, and it is thought that any remains in this position would probably have been ploughed away.

The general conclusions about the site were these: the plan of the enclosure and irregular character of the ditch indicate clearly that it is of a civil type; unfortunately its precise date is not known. The pottery from the upper filling of the ditch can be dated from the end of the 1st to the 4th century A.D. The site was probably a small native enclosure or farmstead.

All the finds from both this and the earlier excavation are preserved in the Borough Museum, Burton-upon-Trent.

THE POTTERY.

Illustrated here is the bulk of the rim and wall fragments that are recognisable. Also described are a number of fragments of other types of pottery, which we have not illustrated. The few fragments of terra sigillata have been described by Mr. B. Hartley, for whose kindness we are grateful.

MORTARIA AND BEAKERS.

Fig. 4 no. 1. A large fragment of rim and wall of a buff mortarium with small finger pressed spout and reeded hammer head flange. Cf. Corbridge³ and Margidunum⁴ examples. This type was dated by Collingwood⁵ as post 270: Oswald⁶ gives it a similar date at Margidunum.

On the basis of the finger pressed spout it may possibly be dated somewhat later.⁷ This fragment comes from the highest level of the ditch.

³ Bushe-Fox (1913) fig. 20, no. 206.

⁴ Oswald (1941) fig. 16 no. 2 and Oswald (1944) fig. 7 no. 75.

⁵ (1934) fig. 52 no. 13.

⁶ (1944) p. 61.

⁷ Cf. *ibid.* fig. 8 no. 80.

STAPENHILL, Burton-upon-Trent. July/August 1953.

Romano-British Native Settlement.

Typical sections through the ditch.

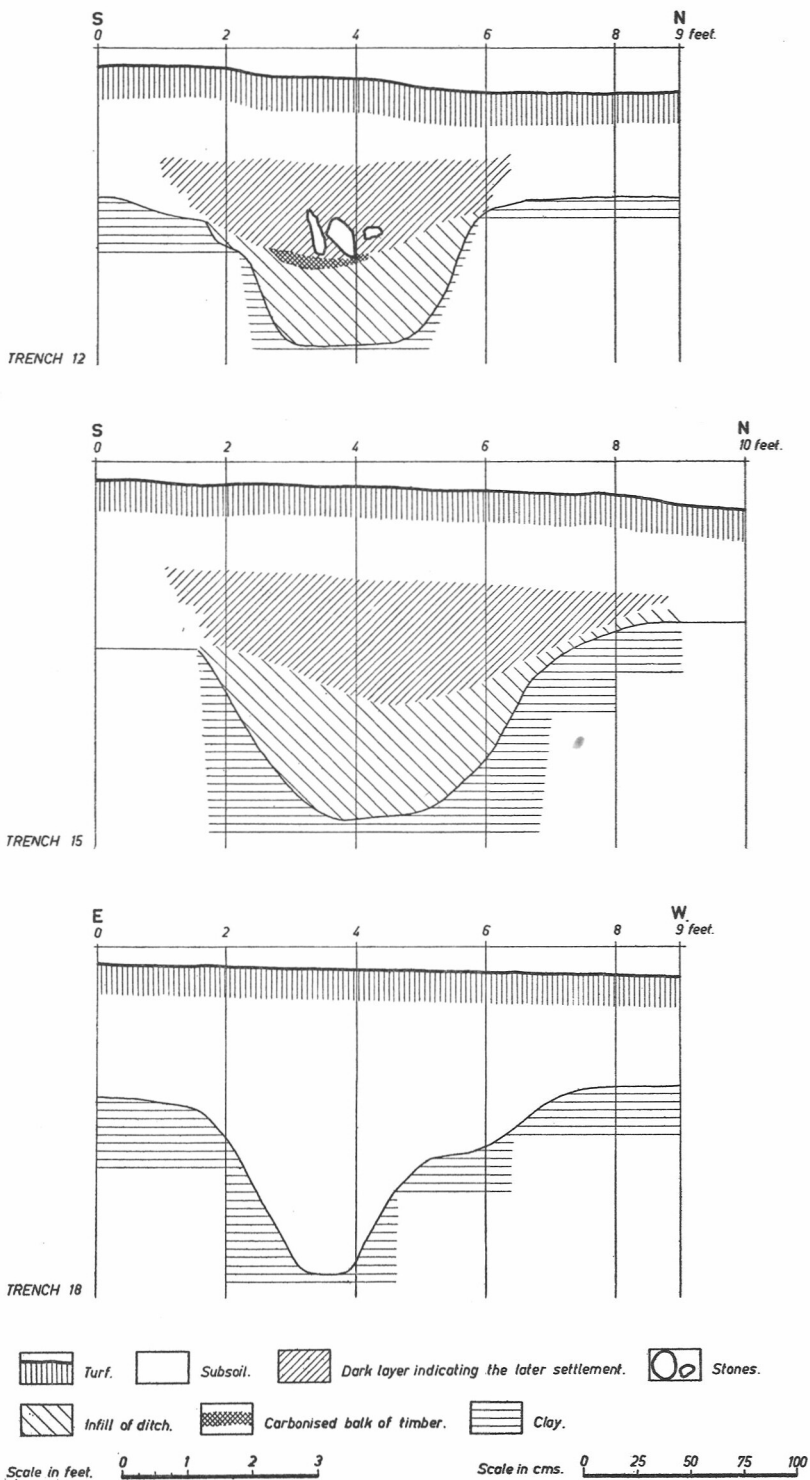


FIG. 3.—Stapenhill Settlement Site: Ditch Sections.

Fig. 4 no. 2. Rim fragment of buff mortarium with small beading and thick drooping flange. Cf. Camulodunum,⁸ Margidunum⁹ and Wroxeter.¹⁰ At Wroxeter and Corbridge Bushe-Fox dated them to a period 80-120, at Margidunum Oswald gave an Antonine date. Appears at the bottom of the ditch.

Fig. 4 no. 3. An incipient hammer head type with prominent bead rim which appeared at the end of the 2nd century, and which developed into the typical reeded example like no. 1.

Fig. 4 no. 4. Folded beaker with scale pattern with an amber slip on a soft white paste. This type of vessel is usually dated not earlier than c. A.D. 180 and no doubt persisted well into the 3rd century.

Fig. 4 nos. 5 and 6. Fragments of hard grey ware with vertical rustication. This type of surface treatment appears to die away early in the second century. It appears in levels dated A.D. 80-150 at Wroxeter.¹¹ Here coming from the burnt infill of the ditch.

Fig. 4 no. 8. Everted rim jar with dark grey slightly burnished surface, in light grey ware. There is a deposit of carbon on the exterior.

Fig. 4 no. 9. Neck fragment of conical necked beaker in light red ware generally of 3rd and 4th century date. Appears in 4th century contexts at Margidunum,¹² Wroxeter,¹³ Swanpool, Lincoln,¹⁴ Crambeck,¹⁵ and at Norton Disney.¹⁶ Fig. 4 no. 8 at Stapenhill is probably a variant of this form. Top levels of the ditch.

LOCAL DERBYSHIRE WARE.

This was probably the most interesting pottery found at Stapenhill; it was first recognised by Collingwood and has since been discussed at length by Gillam.¹⁷ Further

⁸ Hawkes and Hull (1947) fig. 53 no. 32.

⁹ Oswald (1944) fig. 5 no. 45.

¹⁰ Bushe-Fox (1913) fig. 19 no. 22.

¹¹ Bushe-Fox (1914) pp. 49-50 pl. XVI.

¹² Oswald (1941) fig. 16 no. 10.

¹³ Bushe-Fox (1916) pl. XXVIII no. 81.

¹⁴ Webster and Booth (1947) fig. 3 nos. C.13 and C.14. Other references p. 68.

¹⁵ Corder (1937) fig. 4 no. 12.

¹⁶ Oswald (1937) fig. 7 no. 92.

¹⁷ Gillam (1939).

investigations have since taken place during the summer of 1953 by Mr. S. Kay and Mr. R. Hughes, near Belper, Derbyshire, where they have excavated a kiln which has produced this pottery.

The fabric of the pottery is very coarse, with a surface that has been compared to goose-flesh, and the chief form seems to show either a rim-seat or an everted concave rim form. The shoulder of the jar is usually fairly

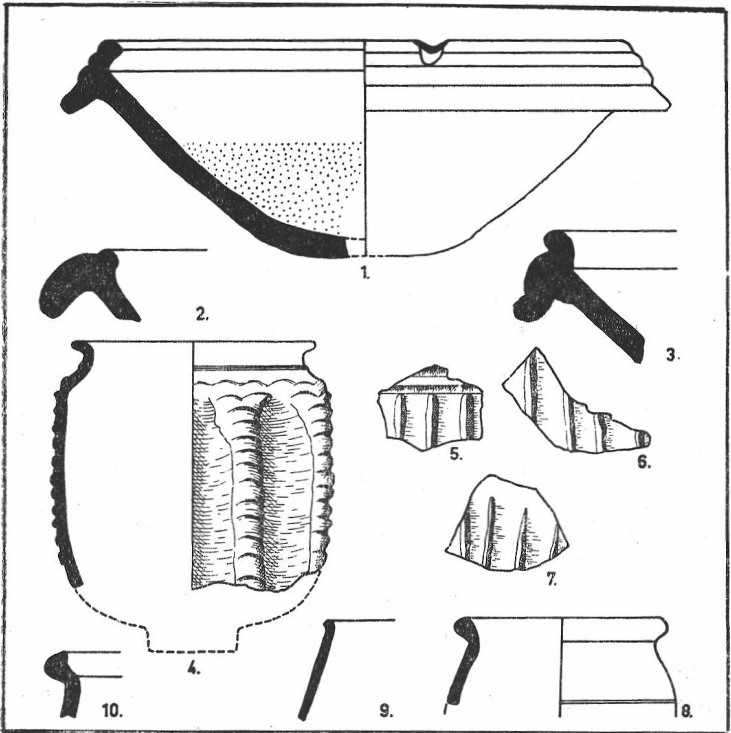


FIG. 4.—Mortaria and Beakers from Stapenhill ($\frac{1}{2}$).

wide and the base fairly small. The rim, shoulder, base proportions are usually in the nature of 3:5:2. It may have been used initially, according to Mr. Kay, to transport some local product of Derbyshire to the military zone. A strange geographical feature of the pottery is

its distribution, for it is only to be found in the area north of Derbyshire, in fact Stapenhill is the farthest south that this pottery has been found.

An interesting feature revealed by the Stapenhill and the Belper excavations was a form of this pottery not noticed by Gillam in his paper: this is the type with the everted rim of concave section.¹⁸

This type here appears in approximately equal proportions with the previously well known types of Gillam's paper.

In the description of this pottery that follows, the position of the pottery in the ditch has not been noted individually, for it is possible to say here that all the Derbyshire ware at Stapenhill appeared above the infill of the ditch.¹⁹

Fig. 5 no. 1. Rim fragment of jar with concave lid seat of coarse grey paste.²⁰

Fig. 5 no. 2. A variation of no. 1. An everted neck with a more definite lid seat, grey brown paste throughout.

Fig. 5 no. 3. A variation of the two types above. The internal lip is a fairly common feature as at Robin Hood's Stride²¹ and Littlechester.²² Red faced fabric with a grey core.

Fig. 5 no. 4. Everted concave jar, grey with red core. Cf. Deepdale Caves.²³

Fig. 5 no. 5. Grey faced with red core. Similar in form to no. 4. Unstratified from 1881 excavations.

Fig. 5 no. 6. Variation on nos. 4 and 5 grey faced ware with dark red core, external diameter of the lip 6 ins. Variation of a type illustrated by Gillam from Deepdale Cave.²⁴

Fig. 5 no. 7. Another variation on 4 and 5 with a faint influence from nos. 1, 2 and 3. Red faced ware with grey core.

Fig. 5 no. 8. Fragment of small everted-rimmed bowl.

¹⁸ e.g. fig. 5 no. 5. *Also under this heading are included the roll rim types fig. 5 nos. 10, 13, 14 and 15.

¹⁹ See infra p. 8.

²⁰ Cf. Gillam (1939) fig. 3 no. 14.

²¹ *Ibid.*, fig. 4 no. 3.

²² *Ibid.*, fig. 2 no. 1.

²³ *Ibid.*, fig. 3 no. 11.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, fig. 3 no. 2.

The fabric has a dark red core and a dappled red and grey exterior. External diameter of the rim *c.* 6 ins.

Fig. 5 no. 9. This everted rimmed jar and one preceding example show the beginning of the degeneration from the concave rim of Gillam's article to the roll-rims such as nos. 10, 13, 14 and 15. The fabric is brown/grey on the surface with a dark plum red core.

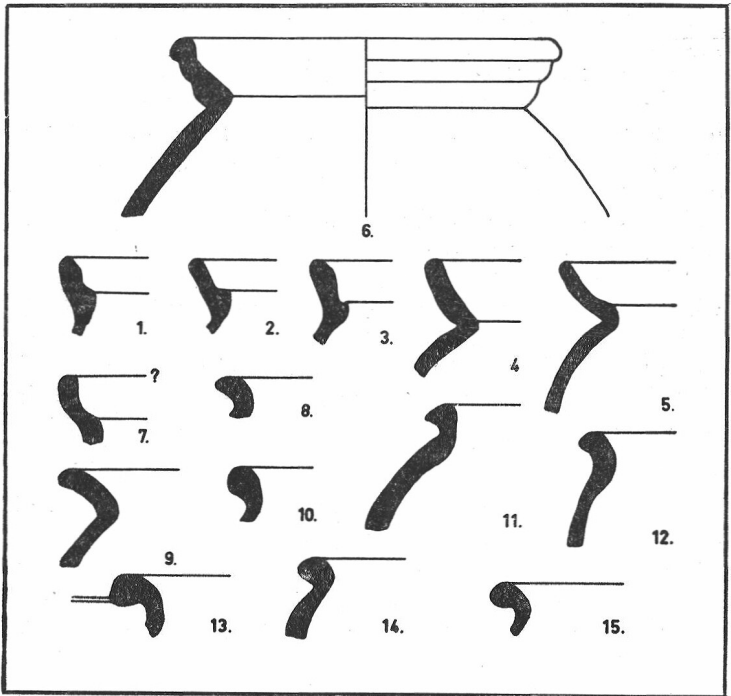


FIG. 5.—Derbyshire Ware from Stapenhill (‡)

Fig. 5 no. 10. Roll rim in red/brown paste; very fine and thin-walled when compared with other Derbyshire ware.

Fig. 5 no. 11. Fragment of rim pointed in section falling away to an easy globular jar. The fabric is grey/brown on the face (with charcoal encrustation) and with a red-brown core. External diameter of rim *c.* 5 ins.

Fig. 5 no. 12. This is an example of rather a loose form of this ware; the neck is usually very much more emphatic on Derbyshire ware. Red/black interior, grey/brown exterior and a dark red core. External diameter of the mouth *c.* 4.4 ins.

Fig. 5 no. 13. Fragment with roll rim, an external groove on the rim itself. Dark grey ware with dark red core.

Fig. 5 no. 14. Fragment of large jar with roll rim with grey/brown paste throughout. External diameter of the mouth *c.* 5½ ins.

Fig. 5 no. 15. Another roll rim in a finer ware. Dark grey surface with plum red core. External diameter at mouth *c.* 4.6 ins.

DISHES AND BOWLS, BLACK BURNISHED WARES.

About 40 per cent. of the bulk of the pottery from Stapenhill was formed of the various types of dish or bowl. Here we publish a representative selection. These dishes have very little value as dating evidence; their most useful factor in this sphere is really their decoration. At Crambeck, where straight sided flanged bowls formed 47 per cent. of the total output, Dr. Corder stated that the size, thickness, angle or form of the flange can have no chronological significance.²⁵ This must be borne in mind when consulting parallels.

Fig. 6 no. 1. Fragment of wall and rim of black slightly burnished pie-dish with incised arched decoration: the lip is slightly bent downward. Cf. the Lincoln Racecourse,²⁶ and the Jewry Wall at Leicester.²⁷

The dating of such pieces is dangerous²⁸ but both at Lincoln and Leicester an early 3rd/early 4th century date seems to be reasonable. Top of the infill of the ditch.

Fig. 6 no. 2. Black ware, slightly burnished by the decoration and the burning. The date of this would

²⁵ Corder (1937) p. 399.

²⁶ Corder (1950) fig. 3 no. 3.

²⁷ Kenyon (1948) fig. 19 no. 9.

²⁸ Vide supra.

seem to be early 3rd century. It is difficult, of course, to offer any definite date for these straight sided dishes, but it is to be compared in 3rd century deposits at Leicester.²⁹ From the infill of ditch. External diameter at the rim c. 6 ins.

Fig. 6 no. 3. Fragment of black pie-dish with red core. On the underside of the flange is a broad arrow

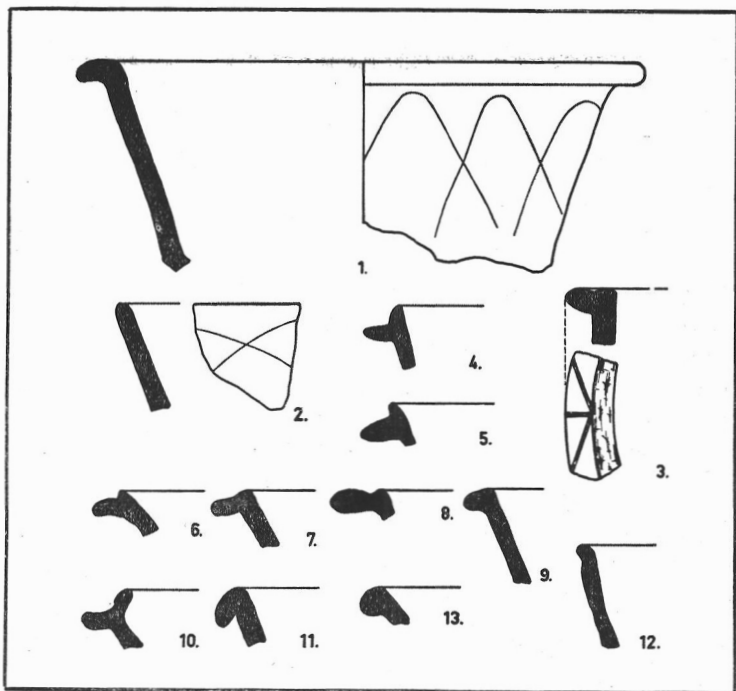


FIG. 6.—Dishes and Bowls from Stapenhill (†).

decoration. Found at the bottom of the ditch it may be fairly in the sequence of flanged pie-dishes.

Fig. 6 no. 4. Fragment of flanged pie-dish with matt surface and grey core, from above the infill of the ditch.

Fig. 6 no. 5. Fragment of flanged dish, a well fired dark grey ware; may be early 4th century. Cf. found

²⁹ Kenyon (1948) fig. 30 no. 4.

at Scarborough³⁰ and at Leicester,³¹ where the fabric is similar.

Unstratified from the 1881 excavations.

Fig. 6 no. 6. Fragment of pie-dish with curved flange; burnished black ware. Date is doubtful but possibly 3rd-4th centuries.

Fig. 6 no. 7. Fragment of flanged pie-dish, black fabric, well fired with traces of burnishing. Above infill of ditch.

Fig. 6 no. 8. Fragment of pie-dish: in this example the flange is now so near the rim it is only differentiated as a groove. Whether this form is a progenitor or a degeneration of the flanged dish is difficult to determine; it probably dates, however, from the 3rd or 4th century. Cf. Margidunum³² and Leicester.³³ The fabric is brown/grey. Above infill of ditch.

Fig. 6 no. 9. Fragment of a plain straight sided pie-dish of black fabric, moderately well burnished. A number of fragments of this form were found in the excavation from the infill of the ditch.

Fig. 6 no. 10. Fragment of flanged dish with rim slightly turned in above the flange. Black burnished exterior with red core. From above the infill of the ditch.

Fig. 6 no. 11. Fragment of straight sided pie-dish from the 1881 excavations with down bent rim, pink paste and red/brown slip. Unstratified from the 1881 excavations.

Fig. 6 no. 12. Fragment of straight sided plain dish with external groove at the rim. Probably only a variant of no. 2. A number of fragments of both these forms were found in the excavation, some with scribbled pattern, the majority plain. Cf. examples from the Lincoln Racecourse.³⁴ Throughout the infill and above it.

Fig. 6 no. 13. Fragment of well fired light grey dish. From above the infill of the ditch.

³⁰ Hull (1932) p. 42.

³¹ Kenyon (1948) fig. 54 no. 7.

³² Oswald (1941) pl. vi, p. 30.

³³ Kenyon (1948) fig. 19 no. 22.

³⁴ Corder (1950) Fig. 3 type 2.

MISCELLANEOUS TYPES.

Fig. 7 no. 1. Fine light grey ware with thin wall and a recurved rim. Perhaps late 2nd century in date. From infill of the ditch.

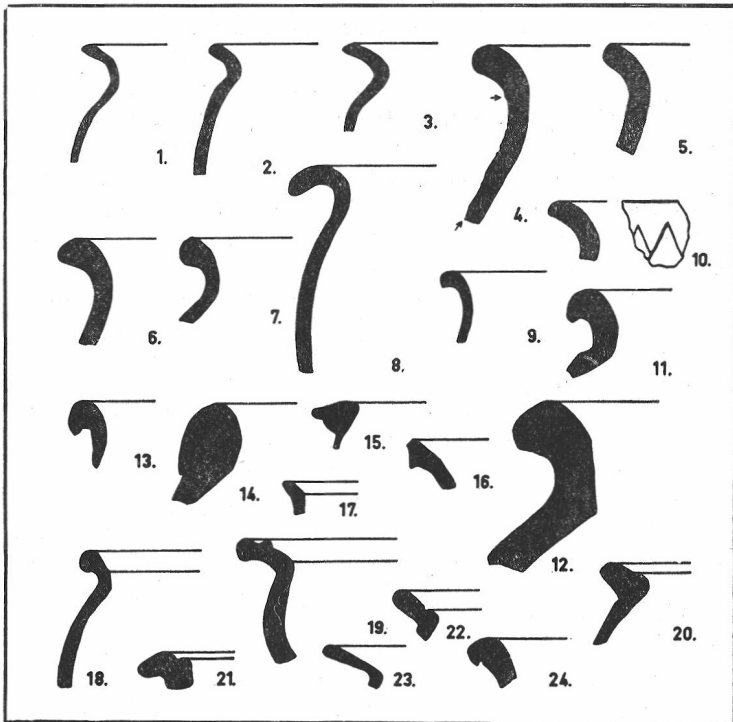


FIG. 7.—Miscellaneous Pottery Types from Stapenhill ($\frac{1}{4}$).

Fig. 7 no. 2. Dark grey, thin, well fired ware. Part of a small jar with an everted rim. Diameter at the mouth 4.8 ins. Very difficult to date but cf. Swanpool³⁵ and Racecourse³⁶ at Lincoln. From infill of the ditch.

³⁵ Webster and Booth (1947) fig. no. C.30.

³⁶ Corder (1950) fig. 3 type 4.

Fig. 7 no. 3. Fragment of pot burnished black and burnt red in places. External diameter at the mouth 5.2 ins. At Leicester this type appears in 220-325 levels.³⁷

Fig. 7 no. 4. Fragment of rim of storage jar; the rim curves gently outwards. It is of black ware with a grey core and a poor burnish. From above the infill of the ditch.

Fig. 7 no. 5. Fragment of rim of jar of grey fabric, slightly burnished. The external diameter of the rim is c. 5½ ins. From infill of ditch.

Fig. 7 no. 6. Dark grey fragment of pot with recurved rim. Unstratified from the 1881 excavations.

Fig. 7 no. 7. Grey black ware. This rim type is universal in Roman Britain from the end of the 1st century, cf. Leicester.³⁸ From infill of ditch in 1881 excavations.

Fig. 7 no. 8. Rim and wall fragment of large pot (external rim diameter c. 9½ ins.). The fabric is light grey and well fired but the paste is rather soft. Unstratified from 1881 excavations.

Fig. 7 no. 9. Rim fragment of black grey ware. From a depth of 5 ft.-6 ft. in the 1881 excavations, i.e. in the infill of the ditch.

Fig. 7 no. 10. Rim fragment of fine black burnished ware with decoration under the rim.

Fig. 7 no. 11. Red ware: thick and well fired with slightly grey core. Rim is comparable with that on a bowl at Lockleys (pre-340 in date)³⁹ and in various 3rd century levels at Leicester. From above the infill of the ditch.

Fig. 7 no. 12. Dark grey ware with well fired fabric. Heavy flange dish or bowl. Cf. Lockleys⁴⁰ in 325-30 levels. Unstratified from 1881 excavations.

Fig. 7 no. 13. Red/yellow paste fragment perhaps of recurved rim as at Swanpool.⁴¹ Appears above infill.

Fig. 7 no. 14. Brown/grey ware with black core.

³⁷ i.e. it appears in Levels VI-IX at Jewry Well vide Kenyon (1948) *passim* but it is very difficult to date with accuracy.

³⁸ Kenyon (1948) fig. 29 no. 18.

³⁹ Ward Perkins (1938) fig. 12 no. 4.

⁴⁰ Ward Perkins (1938) fig. 10 no. 19.

⁴¹ Webster and Booth (1947) fig. 3 no. C.11.

The heavy roll rim forms a mouth smaller than the body. This is not common; in most cases (e.g. Swanpool⁴² and Crambeck⁴³) the mouth is wider than the body. Unstratified from the 1881 excavations.

Fig. 7 no. 15. Rim fragment of red ware with grey core. A similar rim-section, but set at a different angle, is found at the Jewry Wall at Leicester.⁴⁴ Levels III-V. Late 2nd/early 3rd century. Stratified above the infill of the ditch.

Fig. 7 no. 16. Rim fragment of fine grey ware: unstratified from the 1881 excavations.

Fig. 7 no. 17. Rim fragment of well made dark grey jar. Collingwood dates the type to the early 2nd century.⁴⁵ From 3 ft.-4 ft. deep in 1881 levels (i.e. in infill of ditch).

Fig. 7 no. 18. Rim and wall fragment of black/grey ware with a black core. Rim seated jar of Swanpool variant H.8 dated c. 280-350.⁴⁶ Unstratified from 1881 excavations.

Fig. 7 no. 19. Rim and wall fragment of lid-seated jar of dark brown exterior and red interior, cf. Class H. Swanpool.⁴⁷ From 5 ft.-6 ft. depth in 1881 excavations (i.e. bottom of ditch).

Fig. 7 no. 20. Rim and wall fragment of lid-seated jar, pink-brown exterior, pink interior; grey paste. Cf. Swanpool⁴⁸ where it is of late 3rd century date. From 5 ft.-6 ft. levels in 1881 excavation (i.e. bottom of the ditch).

Fig. 7 no. 21. Rim fragment of burnished black ware, cf. Swanpool,⁴⁹ from top layer of infill of ditch.

Fig. 7 no. 22. Rim fragment with yellow interior, black exterior and red core. Swanpool H.18 variant.⁵⁰ From infill of ditch.

Fig. 7 no. 23. Rim fragment, very much everted, black in colour and originally very much burnished.

⁴² *Ibid.* (1947) D.37-43.

⁴³ Corder (1937) Pl. VI.

⁴⁴ Kenyon (1948) fig. 47 no. 4.

⁴⁵ (1934) fig. 56 no. 63.

⁴⁶ Webster and Booth (1947) fig. 5.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, loc. cit.

⁴⁸ *Ibid.*, fig. 5 no. H.7.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, loc. cit.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, fig. 5.

Fig. 7 no. 24. Rim fragment of bowl (?) light red throughout. Occurs in late levels at Leicester.⁵¹

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS POTTERY

(not illustrated).

From above the infill of the ditch came two fragments of painted ware of a late date. They consist of a red biscuit with pattern painted in thick white paint. As far as we can tell from the small fragments that we have at our disposal the decoration seems to be of a hook or circle design. Very close parallels are to be found at the Lincoln Swanpool kiln,⁵² and it may well be that these fragments came from that direction and even from that kiln. Date late 3rd/early 4th century.

From the infill of the ditch came part of the base and two fragments of an imitation Castor ware flagon. It consisted of a thick white paste and a back slip with a metallic tint. The date is probably early 3rd century.

Also from the infill of the ditch is a fragment of the base of a small beaker. The biscuit is red but a smoked effect is obtained by means of black paint. It is not easy to date this piece.

THE SAMIAN WARE.⁵³

Note by Brian Hartley, B.A.

(1) A fragment of a decorated bowl, probably form 30 rather than 37. The remaining decoration consists of two arcades, one containing a satyr,⁵⁴ very commonly found on late South Gaulish ware and used by many potters. *Date: c. A.D. 80-100.*

(2) Form 31, poor ware and glaze (partially burnt). Central Gaulish ware of Hadrian/Antonine date.

(3) Form 31, poor thick ware. The external wall has two fine grooves. Central or East Gaulish ware of late Antonine date (c. 160-180?). Three fragments.

⁵¹ Kenyon (1948) fig. 29 no. 24 (?).

⁵² Webster and Booth (1947) B.10 and pp. 66-67.

⁵³ Two other fragments of Terra Sigilata were found during the 1881 excavations, but as they are no longer marked with their stratigraphy it was thought useless to publish them.

⁵⁴ Oswald (1920) p. 597.

(4) Fragment of (probably) Legionary ware of the second half of the 2nd century.

All the Samian ware was found in the infill of the ditch.

THE BUCKLE.

The only metal object on the site was a small bronze buckle (fig. 8). It measured 1.3 ins. in length and about .6 in. at its broadest point. It was unfortunately incomplete when found, the tongue and part of the strap hole being absent. But enough remains for a restoration to be made. It was attached to the material by means of a

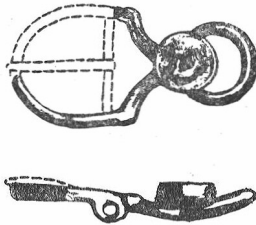


FIG. 8.—Reconstruction of Buckle—Trench 13.

roughly circular ring, the strap-hole was roughly shield-shaped and at the join of the ring and the strap-hole was placed a circular mount, with a pin hole in the centre, which perhaps served as a setting for a piece of coral or enamel. The pin must have been attached to a cross-bar which was suspended between two loops on the underside of the strap-hole. From the infill of the ditch.⁵⁵

DISCUSSION.

The pottery we have so far discussed has all come from the ditch. It consists, as we have seen, mainly of coarse pottery of little value from the chronological point of view. We have, however, obtained a series which seems to run from the end of the 1st century to the middle of the 4th.

⁵⁵ No parallels found.

Let us therefore examine it in relation to the excavation. On excavation the ditch proved to be from 5 ft. to 6 ft. in depth. Between 3 and 4 ft. from its bottom a marked change in the soil indicated the infilling of the ditch at one period. This view was seen to be emphasised by the presence in one part of the ditch of a baulk of burnt timber lying across the infill (fig. 3). The presence of pottery above this infill, and above the baulk of burnt timber indicates that settlement continued beyond the period of the immolation of the ditch. It would perhaps be too hazardous to adjudge from this evidence of an official punitive raid on the site, but it is not usual military practice to immolate one's own defences.

Evidence of the date of this infilling is difficult to obtain, especially when we find a rim of mortarium of a comparatively late series in the lower levels of the ditch's infill.⁵⁶ This and other anomalous features of the site have to be borne in mind, but certain striking features may to a certain extent counteract this evidence.

First, and most important, is the distribution of the local Derbyshire ware. We have not a great deal of evidence regarding the dating of this ware but Gillam⁵⁷ has proved fairly conclusively that in the main it is to be placed at the end of the 3rd century of our era. It is interesting therefore to note at Stapenhill that without exception all the Derbyshire ware appears in the levels above the infill of the ditch. We have already noted the difficulty of dating the coarse pottery, but, with a few reservations, we can say that pottery of the period prior to the middle of the 3rd century appears in the infill of the ditch, while the later pottery appears above it. Unfortunately owing to the lack of concrete dating evidence, either of a numismatic or a ceramic nature, we can approach no closer dating of the site than the statement that the ditch was filled in towards the middle of the 3rd century and that habitation continued well on into the 4th. We must not, I think, take too seriously the evidence of the mortarium rim. It can be explained in

⁵⁶ Fig. 1, no. 3.

⁵⁷ (1939) *passim*.

a number of ways⁵⁸ and our dating evidence is convincing, if not absolutely conclusive.

APPENDIX.

REPORT ON THE ANIMAL BONES FROM STAPENHILL

contributed by D. Bramwell, Esq.

The animal remains are typical of Romano-British living sites, consisting as they do of sheep, ox, horse, pig and red deer.

Ox and sheep predominate, the remains in each case belonging to the small primitive breeds described at Glastonbury Lake Village and other sites. Present day parallels would be the Scay sheep and the Kerry cow. Some sheep bones show knife cuts, a few are charred, whilst others exhibit marks of gnawing, almost certainly by dogs. Most of the marrow bones have been split.

The few remains of pig seem to belong to one small animal, undoubtedly a sow, the last lower molar, which is worn measuring only 28 mms.

The horse is interesting, being an adult animal, with worn teeth: a calculation of height, based on the first phalanx bone, gives a small pony of about twelve hands. The phalanx measures 87 mms.

The dog is represented by the braincase, a mandible and a few other bones. The mandibular tooth row measures 55.5 mm., indicating an animal only a little larger and heavier than a fox. The lower jaw is peculiar in that there is no second premolar, the tooth socket being completely closed as though the tooth was lost early in life.

The only wild species, red deer, is represented by an adult animal the teeth of which indicate an animal comparable with the Scottish variety.

There is one piece of bone, probably ox, that has been shaped into a pointed tool.

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ABBREVIATIONS

Ant. J. = Antiquaries Journal.
Arch. J. = Archæological Journal.
J.R.S. = Journal of Roman Studies.

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⁵⁸ e.g. the action of earthworms.

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