

*Dating evidence and conclusions*

It is apparent that the construction of the well is similar to those previously discovered. There is only one potsherd of the 1st century, and the 2nd century is represented only by a worn coin of the reign of Hadrian and a few sherds of samian pottery. There was considerable activity during the Antonine period in the fort and in the civil settlement along the roads outside, and it is possible that the well was constructed at this time. It is orientated north-south and is therefore in alignment with the fort walls, but this may have little significance.

A silvered coin of the reign of Severus Alexander in excellent condition, which must have been lost soon after issue A.D. 233-235, is firm evidence of the existence of the well at that date. The bulk of the pottery is of the 3rd and 4th centuries, the surface of the slabs forming the sides of the well are worn smooth, indicating use over a long period.

Presumably in the second half of the 4th century the well fell into disuse. The two human skulls that were found in association with the colour-coated flask (fig. 1, no. 1), were among the first objects recovered during the 1929 excavation and therefore must have been among the last things thrown into the well during the Roman period.

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## A POSSIBLE ROMANO-BRITISH KILN, NEAR MILFORD

By M. BRASSINGTON

**I**N November 1938 Mr. C. B. Sherwin recovered a number of Romano-British potsherds from an area 40-50 yds. square during the remaking of the no. 6 green on the Chevin golf course near Milford, (SK 346451).<sup>1</sup>

Mr. Sherwin noted that, situated in the natural yellow clay, was a quantity of charcoal contained within a 4 ft. diameter ring of blackened clay; the surrounding clay was burnt red and appeared to peter out at a depth of 2 ft. Pottery collected at the site was examined by Professor

<sup>1</sup> The site is on the south side of the trackway, on top of the Chevin ridge. See *D.A.J.*, LXXXII (1962), 23, fig. 2.

Eric Birley, and later deposited with a coin in the Derby Museum.<sup>2</sup> The find was not published and only a brief note and simple sketch survive.

Mr. Sherwin did not identify the clay structure as a kiln, but his sketch suggests the remains of a kiln furnace although no flue or stokehole is indicated.

The surviving pottery, none of which appear to be wasters, consists of 26 abraded fragments of large vessels, mostly in grey fabric with flat bases.

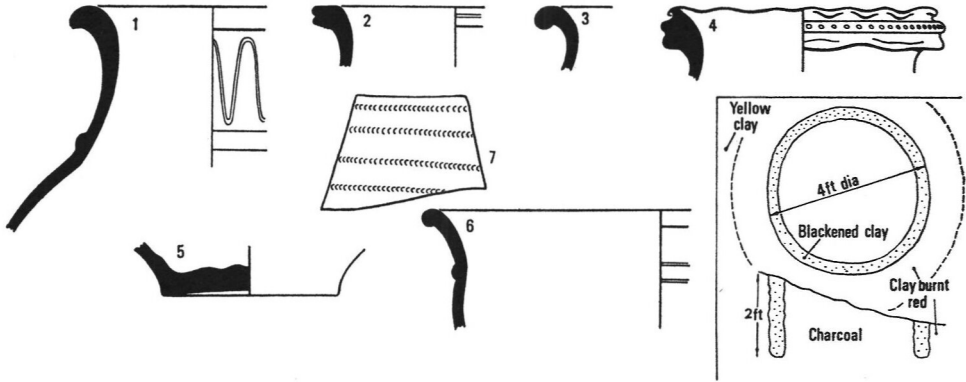


FIG. 1. Pottery (1/4), with diagram of a possible Romano-British kiln.

A selection of the sherds are illustrated in fig. 1:

1. Narrow-necked jar in light grey fabric.
2. Jar rim in hard grey fabric.
3. Jar rim in groged fabric with soft grey core and orange surface.
4. Jar rim in soft whitish-grey fabric with possible fawn slip.
5. Base, several similar, in hard grey fabric.
6. Wide-mouthed bowl in orange-grey fabric, a similar one with a burnished black surface.
7. Rouletted body sherd in orange fabric, a similar one in a hard grey fabric.

Not illustrated

A Derbyshire ware base with the usual hard pimply surface (Sherwin noted that there were seven sherds of this ware), a mortarium base in a whitish fabric with small black grits and part of a Romano-British roofing tile.

<sup>2</sup> The coin is badly corroded but it is considered by Messrs. Todd and Mattingly to be late 2nd century, possibly of the reign of Marcus Aurelius or Commodus.