

FIG. I. PLAN OF ROMAN SITE, HIGHDOWN HILL.

[Based on the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.]

A ROMAN BATH, HIGHDOWN HILL, SUSSEX

EXCAVATED APRIL AND MAY 1937

BY G. P. BURSTOW, B.A., AND A. E. WILSON, D.LITT.

HIGHDOWN Hill, an area of rising ground isolated from the main line of the Downs which lie to the north of it, is situated about a mile north of Ferring and two from the sea. From east to west the hill is about one and a half miles long. It is crowned on the top by a clump of trees which makes it a conspicuous landmark for many miles around. The southern slopes are chalky, but on the north there are considerable patches of the tertiary clay formation common to certain parts of the Downs. The hill, which commands an excellent view of its approaches from all four quarters, has been a home for many types of early man. On it, more perhaps than on any other Sussex hill, are to be found remains of the past.

While a great deal is still to be discovered on Highdown there are certain well-known facts about the early history of the hill. The clump of trees on the summit lies in the middle of an ancient earthwork which was partially opened on two occasions in the last century, first by Mr. G. V. Irving¹ and later by Col. A. H. Lane-Fox,² better known as Gen. Pitt-Rivers. These excavations and the pottery fragments which are common to the surface of the camp and in the surrounding Lynchet area seem to show that this camp belonged to the Early Iron Age. An excavation which we hope to carry out in the near future is needed to determine the construction and date of this earthwork.

Evidence of Roman occupation has also been found on the hill. By the edge of a chalk pit near New Mill Cottages east of Ecclesden Manor House remains of over a hundred vessels of early Roman date were found

¹ *J.B.A.A.* XIII (1857), 289-94.

² *Arch.* XLII (1869), 53-76.

about twenty-five years ago. Moreover, in 1892, when the trees were being planted in the top, Mr. Henty, the landowner, and Sir Hercules Reade unearthed a very interesting Saxon cemetery of eighty-six graves.¹ The remarkable glass, pottery, ornaments, and weapons found there are housed in the Worthing Museum.

In the late summer of 1936 Mr. W. H. C. Frend discovered by a series of trial cuttings at a spot about half-way down the west slope of the hill (see Fig. I) the foundations of an ancient building which from pottery sherds found near seemed to be of the Roman period. The Worthing Archaeological Society decided to excavate this small building in April 1937. It was expected to prove the remains of a barn or small farm-building, and the work to last at the most a fortnight. Actually the work continued for six weeks. With the help of a hard-working band of volunteers and the assistance of Mr. Frend, the original discoverer, for the first few days, the writers undertook to supervise the excavation and the results were more than successful. The site turned out to be, not the remains of a farm-building but of a bath-house. As by the terms of our agreement with Mr. Jenks, the farmer who very kindly allowed us to do the work, we were not able to dig outside a specified area, we did not definitely locate the site of the main villa, if any, although there seem traces of a building south and west of the bath-house.

The bath-house lies south of the trackway which runs from the top of the hill to Ecclesden Manor (see Fig. I). Our methods of excavation were as follows: we divided the area available for our work into eighteen 10-ft. squares in three parallel rows, leaving a 1-ft. baulk between each. This enabled us to take section drawings at various points from the turf line. When we had laid bare the tops of the walls we dug down to the solid chalk in spits of about a foot, keeping all finds separate in case the different layers should show differences of date. When the sections had been drawn we removed the baulks and the whole foundations were laid bare. Every-

¹ *Arch.* LXIV. 369, &c. (1895); LXV. 203, &c. (1896).

thing that we found intact lay below the plough level. The building consisted of the following features (see plan):

- a. A west sump.
- b. A cold bath.
- c. A hot room.
- d. A stoke-hole.
- e. A furnace flue.
- f. An east sump.

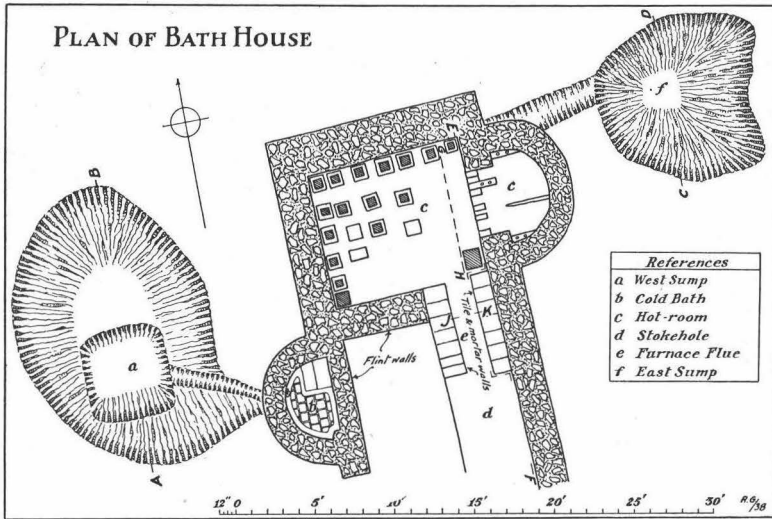


FIG. II.

The following figures give the principal measurements. A glance at the plan will give any extra details required. The thickness of the walls was approximately 2 ft., although round the apses it was a little less, about 1 ft. 6 in. The following are interior measurements:

Length of hot room	14 ft.
Width of hot room	9 ft.
Diameter of apse of hot room	5 ft.
Length (east to west) of cold bath	3 ft.
Diameter of cold bath	5 ft.
Distance of extreme ends of sumps	50 ft.

THE COLD BATH (Figs. III and IV)

The cold bath consisted of an apse only, backed on to a straight wall. The whole was filled with broken tiles

and mould mixed with plaster. There was a layer of black deposit on the floor about 1 in. thick, in which appeared fragments of window glass. The inner facing of the walls was covered with red plaster in a remark-

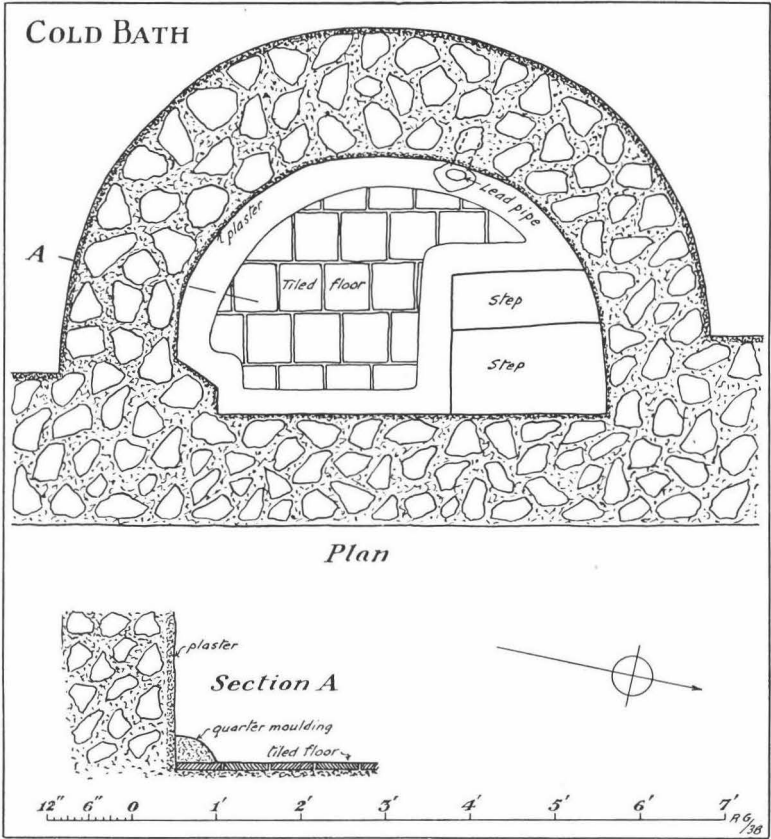


FIG. III.

able state of preservation. In the north corner were two steps 1 ft. 8 in. wide leading to the floor of the bath. The floor was covered with red tiles laid in mortar. A plaster quarter-circle moulding followed all round the base of the bath including the steps. The walls were 1 ft. 6 in. thick and were constructed of mortared flint. About 1 ft. from the south side of the bottom step, just

above the quarter-circle moulding, was a lead pipe giving an outlet to a 'sump' outside. This pipe did not go through the wall, although there was an exit right through. Two bronze surgical spoons (Fig. X, 14 and 15) were found near by, one inside and one outside the wall of the bath.

THE HOT ROOM

The hot room consisted of two parts, an apsidal east end and a rectangular main room. In the main room were the remains of twenty brick pillars which supported the floor and around which the hot air circulated. Several of the pillars were in a good state of preservation and still standing to their original height. These pillars were irregularly spaced. They were made of flat bricks of at least three sizes. The majority had their two base bricks unequal, but both larger than the succeeding ones. Most of those along the north and west walls still reached almost to plough level, but the two nearest the apse in the north-east corner were considerably lower than the others. The pillars in the south-west and south-east corners were made of bricks of even size. For the height of the pillar in the south-east corner see Section-drawing G-H (Fig. VII).

The walls were of flint and mortar with a double layer of brick coursing running through them. Between the pillars and the walls were remains of broken vertical flues for expelling the hot air up the sides of the walls to a point above ground-level whence it could issue into the open air. The filling of the room was composed of flint from the fallen walls, mingled with broken roof- and floor-tiles, coloured wall-plaster, and broken pillars. Also there were thick blocks of *opus signinum*, the floor having been broken by the outer walls when the building collapsed. At the bottom round the bases of the pillars was a layer of black ash in which we found quantities of iron nails.

On the south side was an absence of pillars. Here we found remains of red tesserae which may have come from the floor of the hot room or from a suspected tepid



FIG. IV. THE COLD BATH (from the East).



FIG. V. THE HOT ROOM (from the East).

room made of timber on the farther side of the wall connected with the cold bath.

Across the entrance to the apse was a step about



FIG. VI. THE HOT ROOM (from the West).

6 in. high on which lay horizontal flues under the floor of the apse (Fig. VII, Section E-F). The apse had well-plastered walls and showed evidence of the original floor which lay on the top of the horizontal flues. There was a curious broken single box tile ($12 \times 6 \times 6$ in.) on the left of the apse entrance, with two round holes in it.

Another in a worse state of preservation lay on the opposite side of the apse.

Naturally there were few small finds in the hot room,

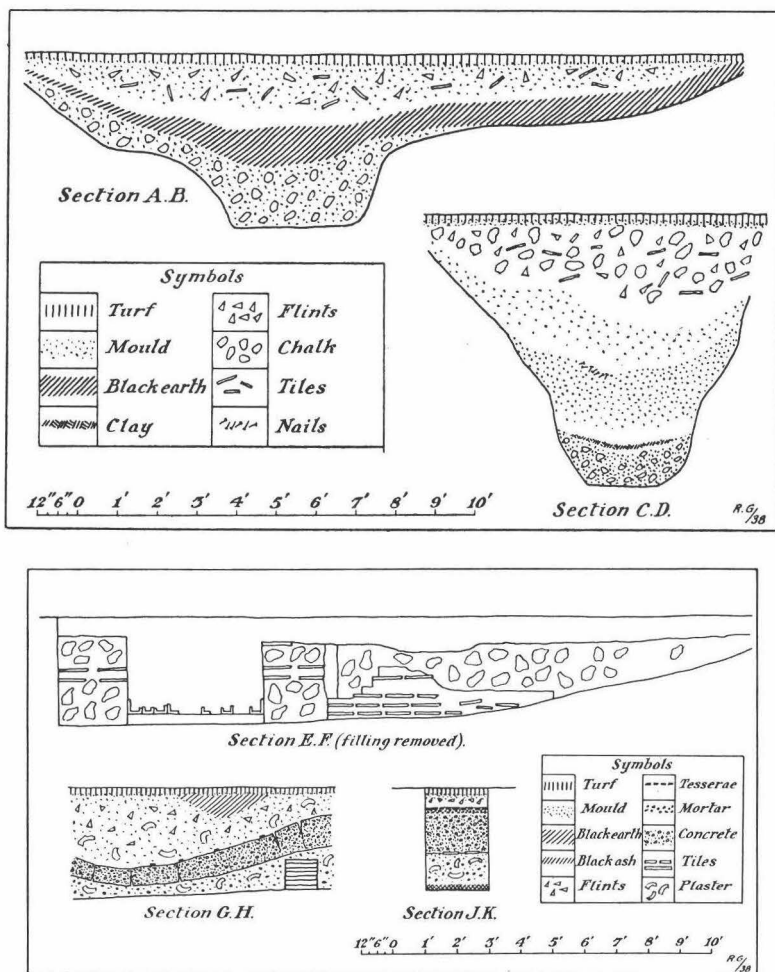


FIG. VII. SECTIONS.

but among the fallen debris we found fragments of red, green, and cream wall-plaster, numerous iron nails, a few red tesserae, and a fragment of window glass. There were a few fragments of a Castor ware jar.

The floor of the hot room must have rested on the tops of the pillars and then descended to the level of the apse floor by means of a step or steps. This step towards the apse seems to have occurred somewhere in the main room, as the level of the floor over the entrance to the hypocaust was the same as in the apse but considerably lower than the floor supported by the pillars round the walls (Fig. VII). Section G-H shows the floor-level about 1 ft. in front of the apse entrance.

THE STOKE-HOLE

This was the stoke-hole where the servant stood to feed the furnace heating the hot room. At the bottom was a layer about 6 in. thick of black earth and ash with no tile or flint but a certain amount of pottery. Pottery fragments were frequent at all levels. The pottery will be described later. There were traces of badly constructed walls bounding the two sides of the slope leading to the furnace flue.

FURNACE FLUE

The entrance was 6 ft. long and 2 ft. wide, and was flanked with large well-laid bricks. Fig. VII, section J-K, shows the filling. Under the mould came a layer of fallen flint, below that a layer of flint mingled with tesserae, then a thick layer of *opus signinum*. Then came a band of tiles. Below came a layer of earth, mortar, and grey plaster, and at the bottom two thin layers of black ash with a suggestion of a cement or earth floor between. The depth of the entrance was 3 ft. 2 in. Pottery and nails were fairly common. A large fragment of pottery (Fig. IX, 11), which fitted with others, lay in the black ash at the bottom; this, if dated, should give the last date when the stoke-hole was used, but it has unfortunately not been dated by the London Museum.

THE BEDDING TRENCHES

We cleared out the bedding trenches of the north and west walls of the hot room. We found in several places

that the outside of the walls had been plastered. Near the bottom of the bedding trench of the north wall and passing below it was a layer of broken tiles. We found a certain amount of pottery in the trenches. As it was of importance in determining the date of construction, I will give the opinions of the London Museum on the pieces.

North Trench.

Layer 1. From turf to layer of broken tile below rammed chalk.

Twenty-two sherds in all.

A piece of undoubted Iron Age A type with finger-nail ornament on the shoulder.

Several pieces probably of Iron Age.

Samian. Form 27. From South Gaul. Late first century.

Layer 2. Eleven sherds in all.

Several Iron Age sherds in this group.

West Trench.

Layer 1. Numerous sherds. None datable.

Layer 2. Fourteen sherds.

Brown rim. Common first- and second-century form.

Samian base. Form 27. From central Gaul. Early second century.

Fragments of two carinated bowls. Common first- and second-century form.

The Iron Age fragments must be intrusive from the neighbouring site discovered in 1938 (see below, p. 84). The Roman pottery seems to indicate an early second-century date for the building of the bath-house.

THE SUMPS

West. The west sump lay outside the cold bath. It was of irregular shape on the surface descending to a pit about 3 ft. square. Its depth was 4 ft. 6 in. The Section A-B (Fig. VII) shows the fillings. Near the exit to the cold bath we found one bronze surgical spoon at a depth of 1 ft. (Fig. X, 15).

East. This sump lay outside the apse of the hot room. It was 6 ft. 10 in. deep. Section C-D shows the fillings. The pottery lay scattered most of the way down. At 4 ft. 3 in. down came a black layer with a group of nineteen sandal nails. In the upper layers of this sump

came, as in other parts of the site, a number of squared chalk blocks probably used in the upper walls.

THE SUGGESTED ROMAN ROADWAY

It had been suggested that a Roman road may have gone over Highdown. We wondered whether it was on the line of the footpath which runs from the top of the hill to Ecclesden Manor past the north wall of the hypocaust. We dug a trench across this track with negative results.

POTTERY

West Sump. A graph of the dated pottery by layers shows the following conclusions. With the exception of a few intrusive Iron Age fragments the pottery falls into the period of the first to fourth century A.D. The bulk of the dated pottery came from the top two layers, and out of 27 pieces 19 are of the period A.D. 150-300. The remaining pieces were probably fourth century. In all 450 sherds were found in the west sump. There were remains of at least 20 vessels. There were 15 different bases and parts of other pots. The ware was divided into two groups: 'Imported' and 'Local' ware. N.B. 'Imported' includes Castor ware, New Forest ware as well as foreign wares. The majority of the dated sherds came from the imported wares.

IMPORTED WARE.

Samian. There were pieces of the following forms: 44, 31 or 18/31, 15/17, 33, and 27. Also fragments mostly of the second century.

Castor Ware. Red with leafy pattern, a type post-A.D. 180 at Verulamium.

Black with line pattern of the same date as above. Fragments of three pots.

New Forest Ware. Remains of a 'Thumb' pot. Late second century or later.

There was also a fragment of a buff mortarium, probably of the second century.

LOCAL WARE.

There were several fragments of a pottery that was new to us. We have lately found that pottery of this kind has come from a villa site near Havant and at a site on Thorney Island. These fragments were of a large vessel of a thick ware, made of a hard grey

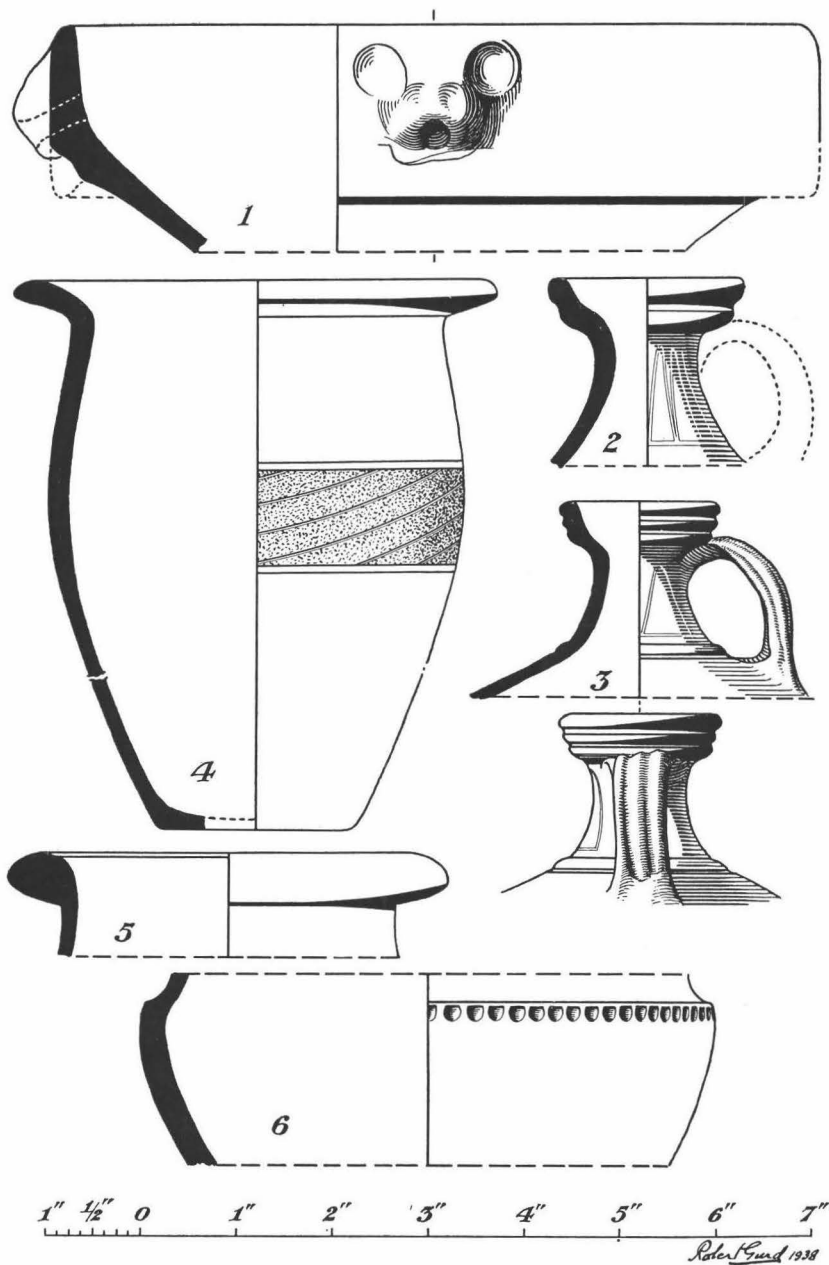


FIG. VIII. POTTERY FROM HIGHDOWN.

paste with pronounced finger impressions. These impressions were more prominent inside, but there were signs of them again on the outside of the rim and a band of them less pronounced came near the shoulder. In appearance this ware is not unlike 'Thundersbarrow'¹ ware, though of a different paste. The pottery we found was of a typical Roman grey paste. Most

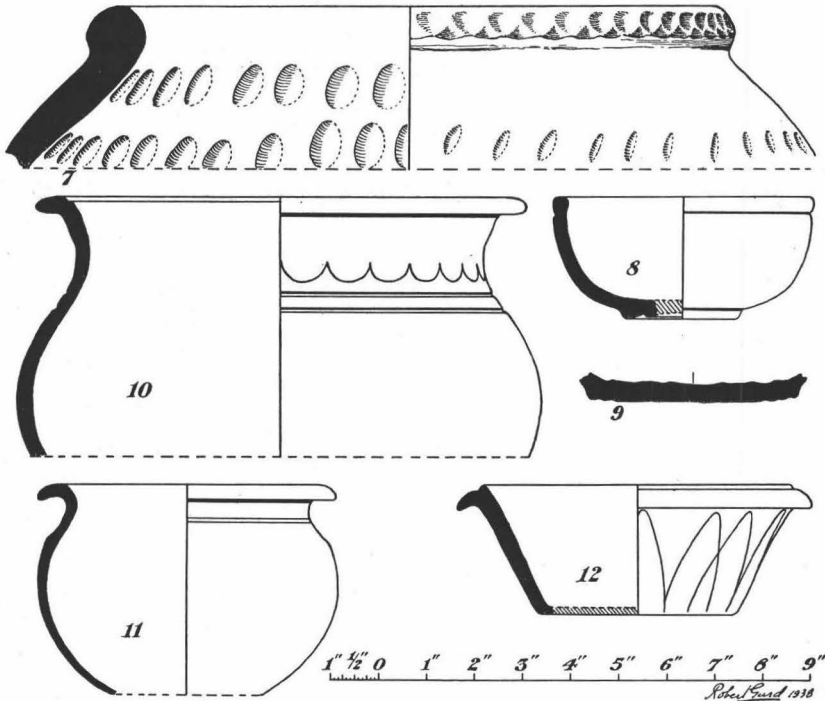


FIG. IX. POTTERY FROM HIGHDOWN.

sherds came from the west sump, although a few came from elsewhere and were apparently of other vessels. (Fig. IX, 7.) There were several fragments of a large grey vessel with a well-turned rim grooved behind with a swag ornament below the rim. Round the neck a double band. (Fig. IX, 10.)

A black-rimmed flanged bowl, probably of the third or fourth century.

A grey base with an inscribed cross.²

The neck and handle of a small grey flagon. A.D. 125-50 at Verulamium. (Fig. VIII, 3.)

¹ *Antiq. Journ.* XIII. 146 f.; Curwen, *Arch. of Sussex*, p. 306-7.

² E. Cecil Curwen, *Arch. of Sussex*, p. 278.

Fragments of a small buff-coloured bowl, not closely datable. Late third century at Welwyn. It may be earlier. (Fig. IX, 8.)
Shoulder of brownish-grey vessel. (Fig. VIII, 6.)

East Sump. There was much less pottery in the east than in the west sump. There were fragments of 8 different bases and indications of about a dozen to fifteen vessels. In all 134 fragments were found. As before they were of two types, 'Imported' and 'Local' wares.

IMPORTED WARE.

Samian. One fragment of form 33, probably second century.

Rhenish. One fragment. Late second to third century.

A piece of rim of buff-painted ware, probably fourth century. (Fig. VIII, 5.)

LOCAL WARE.

The better part of a small pot of rough grey ware on which the London Museum makes the following comment: 'This widely splayed rim suggests a late date (see Collingwood, *Archaeology of Roman Britain*, Figs. 57, 73), but it is hard to be certain.' (Fig. VIII, 4.)

The neck of a jar. Antonine. Mid-second century. (Fig. VIII, 2.)

One fragment of finger-impressioned ware referred to above.

Besides these there were several fragments of intrusive Iron Age pottery.

STOKE-HOLE AND FURNACE FLUE

There were 238 fragments of pottery found here. There were remains of 8 different bases and indications of about a dozen to fifteen vessels.

IMPORTED WARE.

Samian. Remains of the following forms: 45, 31, 18 or 18/31. The fragment of a mortarium form 45 had a bat's head instead of the more usual lion's. (Fig. VIII, 1.)

Castor Ware. Several fragments of red castor ware not made before A.D. 180 and probably later.

LOCAL WARE.

Remains of a flanged bowl similar to that found in the west sump.

Third or fourth century A.D. (Fig. IX, 12.)

Over half a black jar discoloured in its firing, height 5 in., diameter at the rim 4 in., at the shoulder 5 in. This pot was found partly in the entrance to the furnace-flue and, if datable, should give the latest date of the occupation of the bath-house, as so large a fragment could not have survived long in the entrance to a well-used hypocaust. (Fig. IX, 11.)

A grey rim with a graffito, probably the letter 'M'.
A grey base with inscribed cross.

A graph of the dated fragments in the stoke-hole shows that there was little difference in date in the layers. Of the 11 dated pieces 8 were from 180 to third

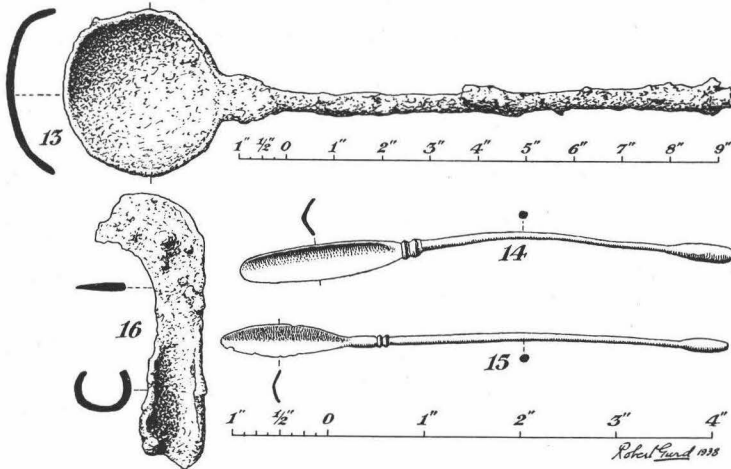


FIG. X. METAL OBJECTS FROM HIGHDOWN.

century and 2 might have been fourth but were more probably second century.

METAL OBJECTS.

A bronze coin identified by the British Museum as certainly of the second century, and almost certainly of Antoninus Pius, found in the ploughed field not far from the bath-house.

Two bronze spoons from the cold bath. (Figs. X, 14, 15.)

Iron ladle on the black ash layer near the entrance to the furnace-flue, 12 in. long, the bowl 3 in. long and 3.2 in. wide. (Fig. X, 13.)

Nineteen iron sandal nails from east sump.

Numerous bolts and door-fittings found over the whole area.

Part of an iron sickle blade. (Fig. X, 16.)

OTHER OBJECTS.

Window-glass fragments from the cold bath and floor of the hot room.

Animal bones and oyster shells.

REPORT ON BRICKS AND TILES FOUND ON HIGHDOWN

BY F. S. WRIGHT

The types of bricks and tiles found on this site correspond closely to those found at Castle Lyons, Holt, Denbighshire (a legionary kiln), and other sites.

Standard types.

1. Bricks, 7 by 7 by 2 in.: used for hypocaust pillars and floor-tiling (2).
2. Bricks, 11 by 11 by $2\frac{1}{4}$ in.: used for the base of hypocaust pillars (3).
3. Facing-tiles, with a hole punctured in them for support for a nail, only found in fragments (4).
4. Flanged roofing-tiles, 20 in. long by 16 in., tapering to 15 in. wide (5).
5. Imbreces, all fragmentary (6).
6. Box (hypocaust) tiles:
 - i. Single box, 6 by 6 by 6 in. (8 (i)).
 - ii. As i, but twice the length, 12 by 6 by 6 in., with two holes, diameter 3 in., pierced in the lateral faces (8 (ii)).
 - iii. Single box, 7 by 9 by 9 in. (8 (vi)).

Other types.

1. *Bricks with knobs.* These are bricks which have a small knob of clay on each of their corners. They are apparently found only on the south coast, e.g. on this site, Dover, Havant (Hants). It has been suggested that these knobs were to maintain an air space between the bricks when stacked in the kiln. This is doubtful because:

- a. Roman bricks were fired on edge, not on their broad faces, as is shown by the different colour on one edge of any brick or tile. This is due to the fact that this edge does not gain sufficient oxygen during the firing process.
 - b. The knobs on these bricks are not flattened, as would be the case if they were stacked one on top of the other.
2. *Large bricks.* These bricks are 8 by $4\frac{1}{4}$ by $2\frac{1}{2}$ in., and do not resemble the usual flat Roman bricks. They are uncommon, Colchester being one of the few places where they have been found.

Positions where found.

- a. Floor-tiling. The floor of the cold bath is tiled with 8 by 8 in. bricks, open joint, laid broken joint (see Fig. III). The bricks are not cut to meet the cement walls. The latter are made over it.
- b. Flue-tiles. A few flue-tiles were in position at the junction between the main hot room and the apse; also some were in position running up the walls.

c. Bonding courses. A bonding course two bricks in width ran round the whole of the hot room.

N.B. The numbers in brackets in this report, on the bricks and tiles only, refer to 'Building Materials', B. Bricks and Tiles, in the report on Holt, Denbighshire: *Y Cymrodon*, xli (1930).

For alternative theories about the firing of the knobbed bricks see Dr. R. E. M. Wheeler, *Verulamium Report* (1936, p. 141).

CONCLUSIONS

This bath-house was of a well-known type. It had a cold bath and a hot room. It lacked the usual tepid room unless that adjoined the cold bath and had a wooden outer wall. It seems to have been built in the late first or early second century and to have ceased to be used about the end of the third. The dated pottery from layers 1 and 2 in the sumps which lay on or above the fallen flints and tiles probably included sherds later than the date of the fall of the bath-house. There is a slight possibility that it was destroyed by fire from indications of burning on the north-east corner of the hot room. We doubt this because of the absence of any quantity of charcoal. The weight of the falling roof smashed through the floor of the hot room and probably accounts for the number of nails in the north-west corner. The number of flints found among the debris of the room suggests that one at least of the walls fell inwards. The walls were probably robbed by neighbouring farmers for their farm-buildings, and gradually the visible parts of the building disappeared and the plough went over the site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to record our very cordial thanks to all the following for their great assistance in making the excavation a success: Mr. Somerset, the owner of the property, for permission to dig; Mr. Jorian Jenks, the farmer who very kindly allowed us the use of his barn for our tools; Miss E. Gerard and the Worthing Museum Staff for the use of their room to keep our finds; Mr. F. W. H. Migeod for all his varied help and kindness;

Mr. W. H. C. Frend for finding the site and his assistance in the excavations; and Messrs. Dennis and Roper for their excellent photography. We thank Dr. Mortimer Wheeler and Mr. J. Ward Perkins for their work on the pottery found here, and the late Mr. Robert Gurd for his usual excellent drawings. How much we regret we shall not have his cheerful help again.

And then we thank all those who worked so very hard in clearing the site: Mr. and Mrs. Roper, Mr. and Mrs. and P. Wyer, Messrs. G. Guy Atkinson, T. L. C. Bluett, R. H. E. Coad, P. M. H. Cooper, N. V. Davies, R. B. Dennis, E. B. Everington, F. Gibberd, F. W. Gregory, R. M. H. McMinn, Guy Rich, D. Smithies, R. K. Stevens, E. R. Willoughby, F. S. Wright.

EXCAVATIONS CONTINUED ON HIGHDOWN, 1938

Between April and July 1938 Mr. and Mrs. Roper, assisted at times by the writers and others, dug a series of trial trenches in the ground immediately to the west and south-west of the bath-house. These trial cuttings revealed the ground-plan of another hot room. The north-east corner of this room was 34 ft. south and 34 ft. west of the north-west corner of the hypocaust. Besides this Mr. and Mrs. Roper dug a large right-angled trench about 2 ft. wide, commencing at a point 90 ft. south and 10 ft. east of the north-east corner of the hypocaust. This trench revealed two pits of much earlier date than the hypocaust, a drain cut in the chalk which may be connected with the bath system, and a deep rubbish-pit of Roman date.

HOT ROOM (Figs. XI, XII, XIII)

This hot room was of rectangular shape 21 ft. by 19 ft. 6 in. Its walls were in a good state of preservation, about 1 ft. 6 in. in depth. They were 2 ft. thick and made of flint set in mortar. In the middle of the west wall was the entrance to the flue. This entrance was

flanked with pillars of five tile-thicknesses 1 ft. in depth. If you stood at this entrance the flue resembled a 'T' with extensions east and west at the end of each arm inside the main walls. The walls of the flue were con-

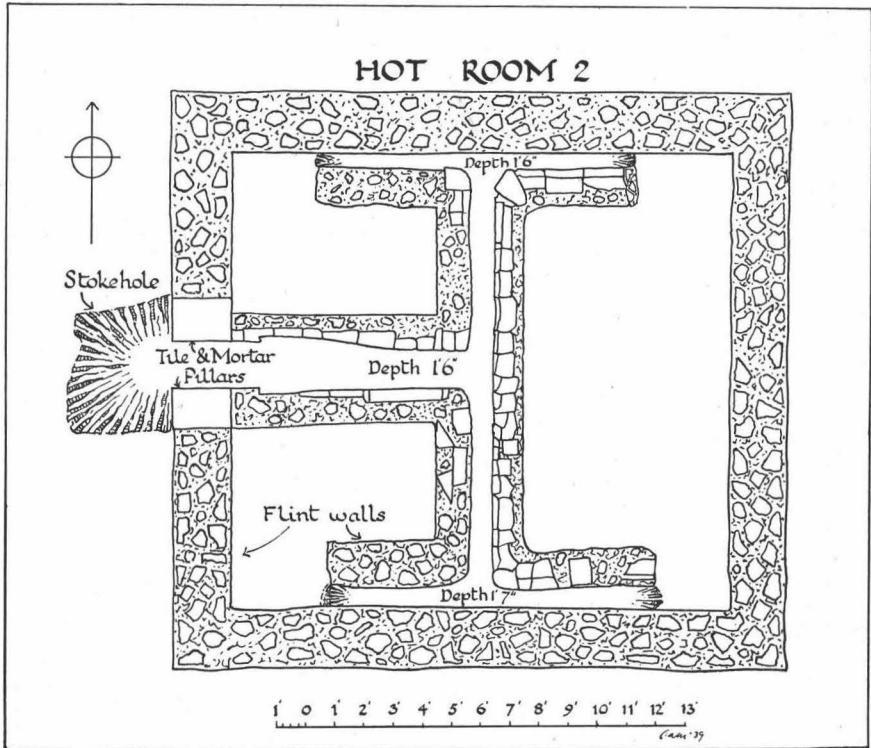


FIG. XI.

structed of flints set in mortar with a bonding course of tiles about 10 in. down. The floor of the flue consisted of chalk showing signs of burning, with a deposit of grey powdery substance solidified by compression and apparent burning about 1 in. in thickness. The walls of the flue averaged 1 ft. 2 in. in thickness with a layer of flanged tiles on top, outlining the edge of the flue. The filling of the flue consisted of a layer of mould and tiles, a layer about 8 in. thick of flint, earth, and tile, a layer

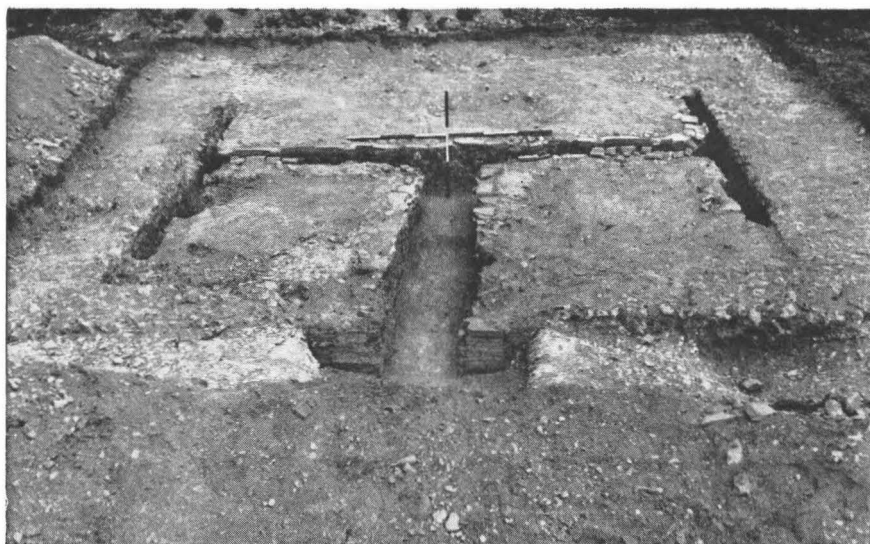


FIG. XII. HOT ROOM 2 (from the West).

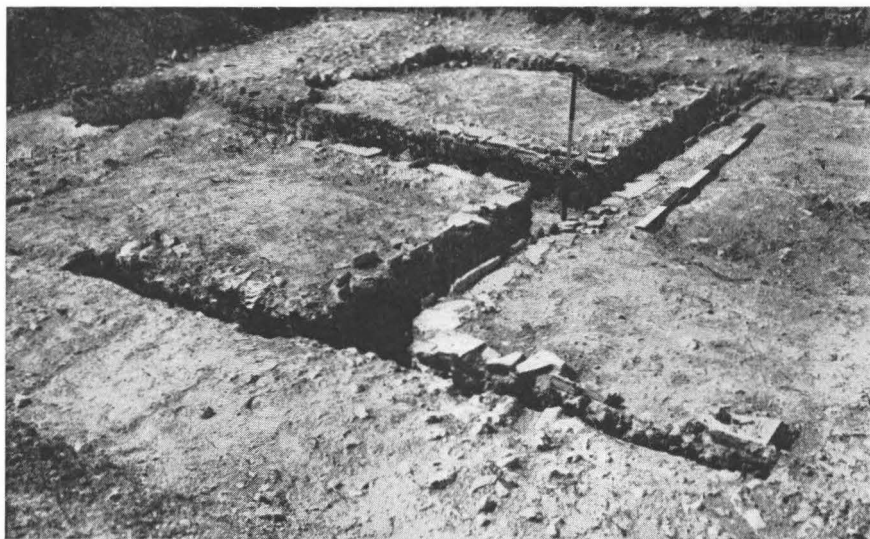


FIG. XIII. HOT ROOM 2 (from the South-east).

of earth, tile, and mortar, and the powdery deposit on the bottom.

The east-to-west extension of the north arm of the flue was 1 ft. 6 in. in depth, showing signs of corbelling from the inside. The eastern arm was outlined in flanged tiles on the inside and had, in its filling, numerous fragments of painted wall-plaster, red, pink, green, yellow, mauve, and white. Some fragments had been recoated and many had signs of pattern. The western arm showed no signs of tiling and no plaster was found there.

The east-to-west extension of the south arm of the flue was 1 ft. 7 in. in depth, showing signs of corbelling. The width at the bottom was 10 in. and at the top 6 in. The east arm showed tiling and very small fragments of plaster. The west arm showed no tiling and no plaster in the filling which at this point consisted of packed chalk mixed with earth and flints.

POTTERY FROM THE HOT ROOM

Imported wares.

Samian base.

Castor-ware rim. Probably second century.

Buff-coloured rim. Probably third or fourth century. (Fig. XIV, 4.)

Buff-coloured jug handle.

Local wares. There were numerous fragments of local wares, several of which were of flanged bowls.

A rim of a flanged bowl was almost identical with a vessel found in the stoke-hole of the bath-house, since restored and in the Worthing Museum. (Fig. IX, 12.) Third or fourth century.

The base and sides of a dark grey vessel with a large 'S' scrawled on the bottom. Found in the flue. (Fig. XIV, 8.)

TRIAL TRENCH

A trial trench, 2 ft. wide, was taken east and west from a point 90 ft. south and 10 ft. east of the north-east corner of the hypocaust. Solid chalk was encountered at an average depth of 10 in. At the distance of about 28 ft. a bath-shaped pit (pit 1) was found which from pottery fragments seems to have belonged to Iron Age A. 2 times.

At a distance of 48 ft. a small post-hole about 6 in. in

diameter and 3 in. deep into the solid chalk was found. At 92 ft. another small post-hole of similar shape was found. This is presumed to be connected with pit 2, but no search was made for others owing to lack of labour.

At 97 ft. a circular pit (pit 2) was discovered. The pottery evidence, here again, gives an Iron Age A. 2

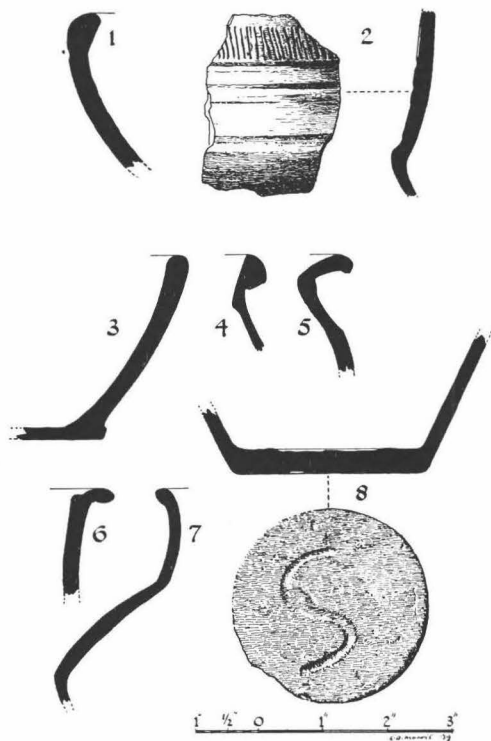


FIG. XIV. POTTERY.

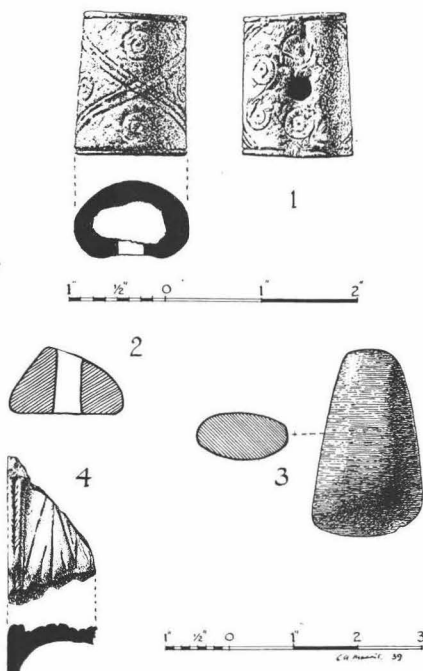


FIG. XV. OTHER OBJECTS.

date to this pit. At 132 ft. the excavators came upon a small area of laid flints. The trench was continued to the limit of the available area with negative results. Before discussing the extension northwards I will give more detailed accounts of the two pit sites.

PIT 1. Length 7 ft. 6 in.; width 4 ft. 4 in.; depth 2 ft. 5 in. For filling see Section (Fig. XVI).

Pottery. About 30 fragments of pottery were found, mostly in the body of the pit. Out of 16 fragments which Dr. E. C. Curwen has identified, 11 were of Iron Age A. 2 period and 2 of the ABC period. There was 1 fragment of haematite ware with a perforation.

Other objects. With the pottery fragments were found the following objects:

A conical spindle-whorl. Compare Park Brow (*Ant. Journ.* IV (1924), 357, Fig. 18). It was of the Hallstatt period and unusual in Britain. (Fig. XV, 2.)

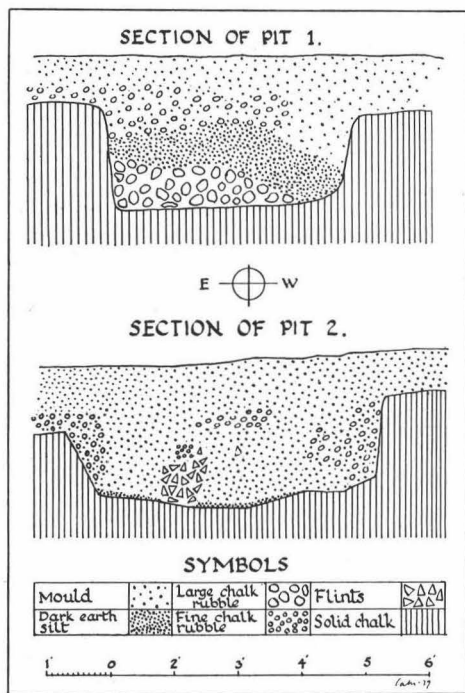


FIG. XVI.

A small axe-head made of dolerite. (Fig. XV, 3.)

Half a whetstone.

Some burnt clay and daub.

One hundred and twenty-two calcinated flints found mostly in the bottom of the pit.

PIT 2. Length 5 ft. ; width 4 ft. 4 in. ; depth 2 ft. 4 in. For the fillings see Section (Fig. XVI).

Pottery. Seventeen fragments of pottery were found in this pit. Of the 15 pieces identified by Dr. E. C. Curwen 8 were of the period Iron Age A. 2, 4 of the period AB to ABC. There were 3 sherds of Romano-British pottery at varying levels, and 1 fragment of glazed medieval ware at depth of 1 ft.

Other objects. With the pottery were found the following objects:

An iron knife.

A carved bone cloak-fastener (Fig. XV, 1). This was ornamented with diagonal triple-cut lines and a double circle-and-dot pattern. A comb with similar dot-and-circle pattern was found at Park Brow (*Antiq. Journ.* IV (1924), 357, Fig. 17). It was dated at Iron Age AB times.

Fragments of clay and daub.

Ninety pot-boilers.

These two pits are obviously previous to the Roman inhabitation of the hill and can be placed in Iron Age times between 250 and 150 B.C.

A trench was then taken at right angles northwards, following the flint area mentioned above. This flint area continued for a distance of 17 ft. 9 in. and was crossed at right angles by a transverse gully 18 in. wide and 1 ft. 8 in. deep at 11 ft. 3 in.

At 85 ft. 9 in. the chalk and flint foundations of a wall appeared 2 ft. 6 in. in width crossing the trench at right angles flanking a trench 4 ft. 9 in. deep at 90 ft. This seemed to be a section across a drain possibly connected with the bath-house. Beyond this the level rose to 3 ft. 9 in. at 93 ft. From here the level of the solid chalk dropped steadily to a depth of 6 ft. 9 in. at 100 ft., and continued to drop. In this depression a large quantity of Roman pottery appeared with iron nails, charcoal, oyster and mussel shells, bones, burned clay, a Roman lead weight, and frequent calcinated flints.

Pottery. There was very little imported ware in this rubbish dump. There were, however, quantities of Roman grey wares which included several pieces of flanged bowls. Many more remains of flattish dishes were to be seen than in the sumps of the bath-house. The general characteristics of the pottery seem to suggest a slightly earlier date to the main bulk of the pottery round the bath-house, and more comparable to the, as yet unrecorded, pottery from Ecclesden Manor referred to previously in this article. But I have no

doubt that this dump served the inhabitants of the bath-house at one part of their occupation.

Fig. XIV, 2, shows a fragment of ornamented grey ware.

Fig. XIV, 3, 5, 6, 7, show native ruins.

Fig. XV, 4, shows a pipe-clay fragment ornamented with an animal's claw(?).

CONCLUSIONS

The interest of the continued excavation was twofold. First we found evidence of another room of the Roman period. This new room, which may have been part of a wooden corridor, is not attached to the main bath-house but seems to have been contemporary with it. Secondly, evidence of a much earlier occupation extending back to an early period of the Iron Age was proved by the two pit sites of Iron Age A. 2 date. We hope that when the mystery of the Iron Age camp on the top of Highdown has been solved we shall be able to return to this Roman site and unearth the main buildings which seem to lie west of the area already excavated.

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