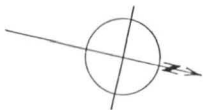
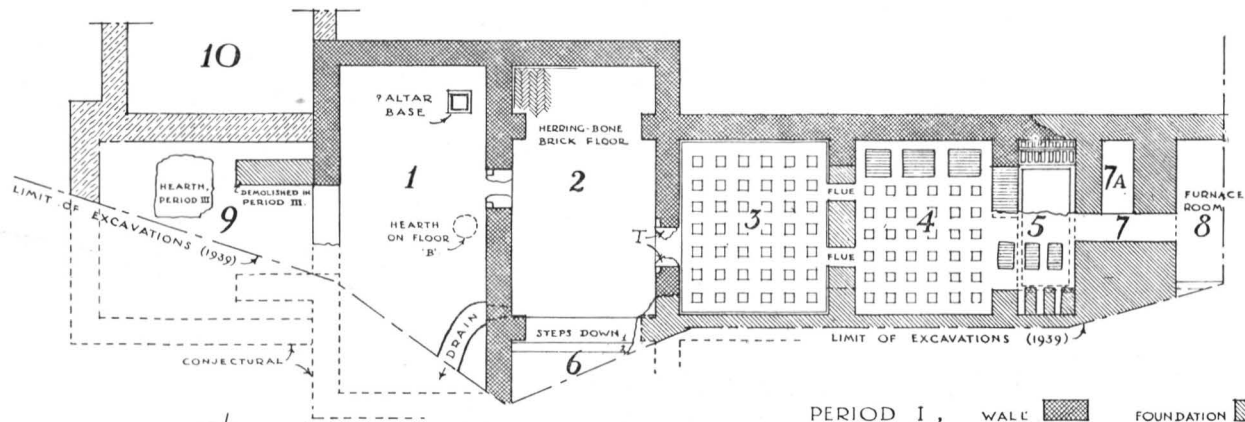






ROMAN VILLA AT WIGGONHOLT, SUSSEX.

PLAN OF THE BATH-BUILDING.



PERIOD I, WALL  FOUNDATION 
 PERIOD II, 
 PERIOD III, 
 T = TESSELLATED PAVEMENT



MENS. R.G.G.
 DEL. A.W.G.L.

THE ROMAN VILLA AT LICKFOLD, WIGGONHOLT

SECOND REPORT, 1939

BY S. E. WINBOLT AND R. G. GOODCHILD

DURING June and July 1939 the Parham estate decided to remove very many tons of soil from this site, and in the process the length of the west wall was laid bare to the footings on the west side, and hypocausts 3, 4, and 5, and the furnace (7) with part of the stoke-hole (8) were cleared to their floors. Two diggers carefully carried out my instructions and put aside many interesting 'finds'.

Mr. Goodchild, called up for national service, managed to come down with me, see results, check measurements, and make a new plan, which has been drawn by Mr. A. W. G. Lowther.

I. STRUCTURAL EVIDENCE

BY R. G. GOODCHILD

THE excavations of summer 1939 on the Lickfold site, although not on an extensive scale, have cleared up several problems of the architecture and structural history of the building first excavated in 1937. Parts of four new rooms (7-10) have been found and the hypocausts of rooms 3, 4, and 5 have been completely cleared, revealing the line of their missing east wall. Whereas the west wall of the building stood several courses high above the floor-level, only the lowest portions of the hypocaust substructure survived to represent its eastern counterpart, and it seems probable from the nature of the overlying strata that the river Stor has at some period cut into this part of the building, doing considerable damage to its eastern walls and causing the hypocausts of rooms 4 and 5 to collapse.

Although the new discoveries must cause the earlier report to be corrected in several points of detail, the existence of three building periods has been amply confirmed, and the nature and extent of the two reconstructions is now considerably clearer.

PERIOD I

The plan and arrangements of the original second-century building leave little doubt that it was constructed as a detached bath-building for the use of the wealthy owners of an estate, whose dwelling-house probably lay more towards the centre of the sandy plateau between the Arun and the Stor. It is not unusual to find Roman villas in which the dwelling-house has been built on the highest and driest part of the site, whilst the bath-house, detached, lies at a lower level, nearer an abundant water-supply. At Wingham, in Kent, for example (see Appendix), the bathrooms were, in the words of the excavator, 'built on the margin of a lake or swamp, more suited to the site of a bath than of a habitation or dwelling-house'.¹ This description would apply equally well to the Lickfold bath-house, and traces of the dwelling-house should be sought on the higher ground in the vicinity of the tile pathway discovered in 1938.²

Room 1. No further work has been done in this room, but it is now evident that it originally served as the undressing-room of the bath-suite and was entered from outside by a doorway still partly extant in its south wall. A short wall at right angles to this doorway (later demolished to make way for room 8 (see below) probably indicates an external porch.

The large tiled drain ('First Report',³ Fig. 5), running eastward from the north-east corner of the room, does not connect with the hypocausts of rooms 3 and 4 as was first suggested (*ibid.*, p. 19), and seems to have been designed primarily to carry away the waste water from the floor of room 2, the *frigidarium* (see below). Yet

¹ *Archaeologia Cantiana*, xv (1882), 354.

² *The Times*, 12 March 1938.

³ *Suss. Arch. Coll.*, LXXVII (1937), pp. 13-36.

its large dimensions and the absence of covering tiles may possibly suggest that it served also as a latrine in room 1, although such a curved latrine channel would be unusual, and there are no signs of a partition to separate it from the rest of the room. Alternatively the covering tiles may have been stripped off at a late date in the Roman period, which would account for the presence of third-century coins among the silt.

Rooms 2 and 6. Room 2, with its fine herring-bone floor, was evidently the *frigidarium* of the bath-suite, and the partially excavated apartment which adjoins it at a lower level on the east (numbered 6 on the plan) almost certainly served as a shallow cold bath, such as is frequently met with in corresponding positions (as at Wingham; see Appendix). The exceptionally heavy wear on the floor of room 2 is more easily attributed to the studded sandals of several generations of bathers taking their exercises than to any other cause.

Though the absence of burnt debris on the herring-bone floor was a noticeable feature, the interpretation put forward in the first report (p. 22) should perhaps be modified. Architecturally, it is hardly likely that the room would have been designed as an open court, and, further, such an arrangement would have proved a severe inconvenience to the bathers in the winter months. At first sight the small drain which penetrates the wall in the south-east corner of the room seemed to confirm the theory of an open courtyard, but this argument must be discarded since the corresponding room in the similarly planned bath-house at Wingham (see Appendix) possessed a drain outlet in an identical position—even though the room itself was floored with mosaic. The true explanation seems, in both cases, to be that cold water was used liberally in the *frigidarium* and that provision had to be made for keeping the floor reasonably dry. Whatever the state of dilapidation that the building may have been in at the time of its final destruction, we need no longer doubt that room 2 was roofed for the greater part of its existence.

Rooms 3-5. As originally planned, the hypocausts of

rooms 3 and 4—the *tepidarium* and *caldarium*—were practically identical. The former (3) measured 13 ft. 6 in. east to west and 11 ft. 6 in. north to south, and had 42 *pilae* supporting its floor, composed of 9-in. square tiles: the latter (4) was 6 in. shorter from north to south, and possessed about 36 *pilae*. In both cases a series of narrow recesses had been let into the east and west walls of the hypocaust, for reasons which are not clear. The height of these recesses from the lower floor-level is 3 ft. which represents also the height of the *suspensura* above the hypocaust. (NB. The excavation was not complete when the photograph (Fig. 7) in the first report was taken.) The hot air was conducted from hypocaust 4 into hypocaust 3 by means of two flues, 18 in. wide and originally arched over, in the partition wall between them. The springing of the westernmost arch is still extant on the west side, but the eastern one has been destroyed. Though a cross-wall divides the two rooms below the floor-level, the only partition in the rooms themselves was in the form of two small pilasters projecting inwards from the east and west walls: curtains may have hung between them, and between the similar pilasters which divided room 4 from room 5.

Hypocaust 5 was next to the furnace (7), and in consequence the room above it was the hottest in the bath-suite. It was a long narrow apartment, 4 ft. by 13 ft., and the details of its arrangements in Period I are unknown, as the Period II hot bath ('First Report', p. 24, Fig. 8) had been built into it.

The Furnace (7) and Furnace-room (8). A tiled flue, 8 ft. long and 2 ft. wide, narrowing slightly towards hypocaust 5, constituted the furnace, fed from the stoking chamber (8) on the north. Doubtless this flue was originally arched over, but only the lowest courses remained. On its western side a hollow space, 3 ft. north to south and 5 ft. 8 in. east to west, faced with tiles (7a) seems to have accommodated a tank which would supply hot water for use in room 5, and a similar tank may have existed on the east, although the building in this region had been badly damaged both by col-

lapse, and perhaps also by human agency. The two cheeks of the furnace at the furnace-room end consisted of large blocks of sandstone.

Only a small portion of the furnace-room (8), 11 ft. from east to west, has been uncovered. A thick layer of ash over its floor leaves no doubt as to its purpose, and in all probability it is the northernmost room of the bath-house.

PERIOD II

Although it was suggested in the first report (p. 23) that the hypocaust of room 3 had been dismantled in Period III, it now seems more probable that the whole reorganization of the bath system took place simultaneously in Period II. First, the *pilae* of room 3 were demolished down to the lowest tiles, and the hypocaust filled in with rubble, with a rough cement floor on top. Second, the hypocaust of room 4 was renovated with three large square floor supports (incorporating masonry as well as tiles) against its west wall, and with a large number of its original tile *pilae* replaced by larger ones or reinforced.

Finally, the small hot bath, already described ('First Report', p. 25) was built into room 5, probably to replace a similar one which had become dilapidated. It was 4 ft. wide and (assuming the former existence of a jacketing of tiles on its east side, as on the west) about 11 ft. long, with a quarter-round moulding along its sides; but the eastern half of the bath had collapsed, probably during the inundation which we have conjectured. The *pilae* which supported the bath were rectangular, larger than those employed in rooms 3 and 4, and it is difficult to distinguish between those of Periods I and II.

PERIOD III

In the northern part of the building there are no clear indications of the third period indicated by floor C in room 1, but to the south of the latter this final phase was represented by an additional room (9) which came to light unexpectedly. It measures 17 ft. internally

from north to south, and its eastern wall lies beneath the road. The masonry used in the construction of this room consists of rough sandstones with occasional tiles—conspicuously inferior to the dressed sandstone and regular bonding courses of the Period I walls, against which it abuts with a straight joint: the use of chalk also characterizes its late date. In the south-west corner of the room a heavy foundation, $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. square, of tiles and blocks of chalk discoloured by heat, almost certainly represents a cooking-hearth, and the room itself is best interpreted as a kitchen, added to the bath-house in Period III, at which time the old undressing-room and *frigidarium* were being used as dwelling-rooms, to judge from the food refuse.

The builders of this annexe had been obliged to level the wall of the Period I porch (see above, p. 56) to its lowest bonding course, over which they laid a poor-quality concrete floor.

From the south-west corners of this room and room 1, rough walls of sandstone and chalk respectively run westward to form another apartment (10), the floor of which has vanished. Whether this served as a room, or whether it is the eastern extremity of a corridor or portico linking the bath-house with the as yet undiscovered dwelling-house remains to be determined.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

In spite of the new evidence which has come to light, and the slight modifications which must be made to the conclusions put forward in 1937, it is evident that the history of the Lickfold bath-house is still accurately summarized in the three floor-levels of room 1, which can be dated fairly accurately by their abundant coins. In Period I we have a detached bath building, elaborately planned and equipped, constructed in the first quarter of the second century A.D. After some fifty years of continuous use, the baths are found to need repairs and at the same time they are remodelled on a more economic scale, by the abandonment of one hypocaust. The presence of tesserae from the uprooted floor of room 3, in

association with Antonine coins, in the make-up under floor B in room 1, gives us a date in the last quarter of the second century for these alterations.

In Period III the bath-house seems to be becoming used more as a habitation, as is shown by the construction of a kitchen (room 10) and the abundant food refuse in rooms 1 and 2. Whether the baths ceased altogether to be used as such it is difficult to determine, but it is clear at any rate that the complete vessel (below, p. 64) found on the floor of the furnace passage must have been deposited there after the last stoking of the furnace.

The final conflagration, whether accidental or deliberate, put an end to occupation in this building, but whether the dwelling-house of the estate shared the same vicissitudes and suffered the same fate can only be determined by further excavations in the Lickfold area, and this must await the return of happier times.

APPENDIX

The Bath-House at Wingham, Kent

In the years 1881-2 Mr. G. Dowker excavated the remains of a Roman bath-building at Wingham, close to the line of the Roman road from Canterbury to Richborough. The discovery was rather inadequately described in *Archaeologia Cantiana* (xiv. 136; xv. 351) and a summary (without any plan) appears in the section on 'Romano-British Kent' in the *Victoria County History of Kent*, vol. III, p. 25. The discovery was not in itself a very notable one, but since there are several striking points of resemblance between the Wingham and Wiggonholt sites (some of which have already been noticed above), a brief account may be useful.

The building lay from east to west and its plan was simple, consisting of three unheated rooms on the east and a series of hypocausts running westward from the central one of these rooms, and terminating in a furnace-room at the western extremity.

The hypocausts themselves were badly preserved and had evidently been reconstructed in at least one period, but we are not concerned so much with them as with the three rooms on the east, on which side the bath-house was entered. Here we have rooms corresponding in almost every detail with rooms 1, 2, and 6 of the Lickfold suite, except that they were rather more ornate. Wingham room 3, the undressing-room, had a mosaic floor and was entered from a pathway on the north. Adjoining it, on the south, was room 2, which though floored with mosaic and of smaller dimensions, is almost identical

with the herring-bone floored room 2 at Lickfold, since it gave access to the *tepidarium* on one side, and a shallow cold bath, at a slightly lower level (13 in. only) on the other. Also, as we have already seen (above, p. 56), this room was drained, as at Lickfold, a fact which weakens the theory of an open courtyard.

The southernmost room (1) was evidently a cold bath since an outlet drain was found in its south-west corner. Its walls, as well as its floor, had been lined with grey and white tesserae—an unusual feature, which is not repeated at Lickfold, although otherwise the relationship between *tepidarium* and cold bath is identical on both sites.

These analogies are so strong that we can no longer hesitate in identifying rooms 1 and 2 at Lickfold as the *apodyterium* and *frigidarium* respectively of the bath-suite, and room 6 as the cold bath attached to the latter. Discussion as to how far the dimensions of the two bath-blocks accord is best deferred until the Lickfold plan is more perfectly known.

In conclusion it may be worth noting that the Wingham suite—like that at Lickfold—showed signs of having been turned to other uses at the end of its life. One of its hypocausts in its reconstructed form seems to resemble a well-known type of corn-drying furnace, while on the mosaic floor of room 2 a perfect millstone was found. This degradation of the bath-house to domestic purposes, the excavator was inclined to attribute to the Saxons, but the evidence leaves little doubt that it occurred in the late Roman period.

These arrangements at Wingham and Wiggonholt are also paralleled on a more remote villa site, at Castle Dykes, Stainley, near Ripon, Yorks., where the first-period baths, excavated in 1866-74, included a *frigidarium*, drained in one corner and with an adjacent cold bath at a slightly lower level (room 12). This northern analogy is useful confirmation of the conclusions reached above, and seems to show that the Wiggonholt bath-house was built from plans which were being copied, with slight minor variations, elsewhere in the province. See *Archaeological Journal*, xxxii. 133.

II. VILLA DRAIN, EAST OF THE STOR, AND 'FINDS'

BY S. E. WINBOLT

I NOW describe one more piece of structure and some 'finds'. In 1938 soundings were made by the W.S.C.C. in the marsh east of the Stor in order to see whether the soil were fit for laying a proposed diversion of the road, and Mr. Curtis, the local surveyor, having in the first hole luckily struck the Roman drain, 10 ft. 6 in. east of the Stor, notified me. The villa drain would

naturally turn northwards so as to empty downstream into the river situated in Roman times near the middle of the marsh (where it is marked in the O.S. of 1880), and perhaps then tidal from the Arun. As in the villa,

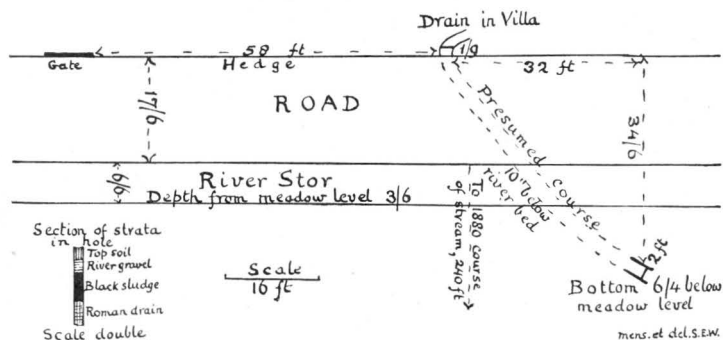


FIG. II

it was an open drain: there were no signs of covering tiles. The bottom was 6 ft. 4 in. below present meadow level, and the drain passed easily under the road and by 10 in. under the bottom of the modern course of the Stor, so that former doubts as to how it could have emptied are thus dispelled. It was 2 ft. deep and wide (in the villa 1 ft. 9 in.) and constructed in the same way as in room 1, i.e. tiled at bottom and at the top of its sides. Since Roman times some 4 ft. 4 in. of soil has been deposited on top of the drain, in three layers: lowest, a good depth of black sludge, probably tidal, then a layer of river gravel, and on top grass soil (Plan II).

'FINDS'

Pottery. On the floor of No. 5 were several fragments of grey poppy-head beakers with panels of raised barbotine dots, the date of which is A.D. 80–130 or even, as at Richborough, A.D. 150. This ware was formerly called Upchurch, because much of it was found there. The body is light grey, with darker grey coating. I found much of this at Hardham Camp on the other side of the Arun. It was in great quantity at Wroxeter (II, 1913, Pl. XV), and samples were also found by Lady Fox at

Caerleon in 1939. Besides, there were scraps of undatable Samian, of Castor ware, approximately A.D. 135-200 and of rosette-stamped New Forest ware of the fourth century. On the floor of the furnace (7) was



FOURTH-CENTURY BEAKER

found lying on its side and in perfect condition a fourth-century beaker, intact because it was immediately covered with wood ash. It is of hard light brown clay and covered with a brown-red slip, and ornamented on the shoulder and on the narrow slope from shoulder to neck with roulette notches. Having a narrow foot ($1\frac{1}{4}$ in.

diameter), big bulge ($4\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter), tapering conical neck, mouth ($2\frac{3}{8}$ in. diameter), and height of $7\frac{7}{8}$ in., it is a top-heavy beaker characteristic of the fourth century, an elongated exaggeration of a third-century type. The form is common in south England. It is exactly illustrated by Collingwood, *Arch. R. Brit.* f. 85, and very nearly by May, *Silchester*, type 88, Pl. LII, the difference being that in the present example the band separating shoulder from neck is not raised as a cordon, but sloped towards the neck. Cf. also *Wroxeter*, 3rd Report, 1914 (Bushe-Fox), type 81, Pl. XXVIII, $5\frac{1}{4}$ in. high; *Richborough*, 1st Report, 1926 (Bushe-Fox), type 120, Pl. XXIX (like *Silchester* 88, above), $7\frac{1}{4}$ in. high. Pottery found shows that furnace and hypocausts 4 and 5 were in operation during the whole life of the bath.

Close to the beaker, c. 8 ft. down from the surface, was an almond (Latin *amygdala*, Greek ἀμυγδάλη), also in perfect condition. The only difference between it and one bought for comparison is that the Roman almond is of a much darker brown and somewhat smoother. The kernels of both are loose inside. The find-spot of beaker and almond suggests that the stoker had his last refreshment just before the catastrophe.

Exceptional Wall Plaster. From one of the rooms 3, 4, or 5 came an exceptional piece of painted wall plaster, $1\frac{7}{8}$ in. thick, adhering to a flue-tile elaborately keyed. On examination it proved to consist of two painted layers: the original $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick had been painted, and over this a repairing coat of $\frac{5}{8}$ in. had been laid, and in its turn painted. Both painted lime surfaces had been smoothed off with the tool diagonally. When the second layer was rendered, the original surface must have been slashed liberally for a new keying. Constructionally this is interesting because a thickness of $1\frac{7}{8}$ in. of plaster must have put a great vertical strain on the keying of the tile. Nowadays c. $\frac{3}{4}$ in. of plaster would be thought enough, involving less drag of weight and less expense. Three factors probably explain how the Roman plaster held its position: first, the great adhesive strength of the pink plaster; second, its application. The original

1¼ in. was in two distinct renderings, both $\frac{5}{8}$ in. thick (this appears to have been a standard thickness): the first, next the tile, brown and the coarser, and bound together by small lengths of dried grass, the second, finer and pink. Third, the elaborate nature of the keying of the tile, with many geometrical devices at all angles.

A second-century wire brooch. In upcast soil (exact find-spot not known) I found a small brooch of twisted bronze wire of rope pattern. Turned into several circles, it is in one piece, ending in the pin, the catch of which is two strands of the wire.



WIRE BROOCH

A somewhat similar brooch

(*Antiq. Journ.* VII, 1927, p. 64) is in Leeds Museum, and is assigned probably to the first half of the second century. It is 1½ in. long and $\frac{5}{8}$ in. wide, and is in perfect working order for pinning on.

A Trajan coin. A few yards east of the road and a little south of the villa was found, in good condition, a second brass of Trajan (A.D. 98–117)

Obv. Trajan, bust right. Imp. Caes. Nervae Traiano Aug. Ger. DAC. P.M. Tr. P. Cos (?)

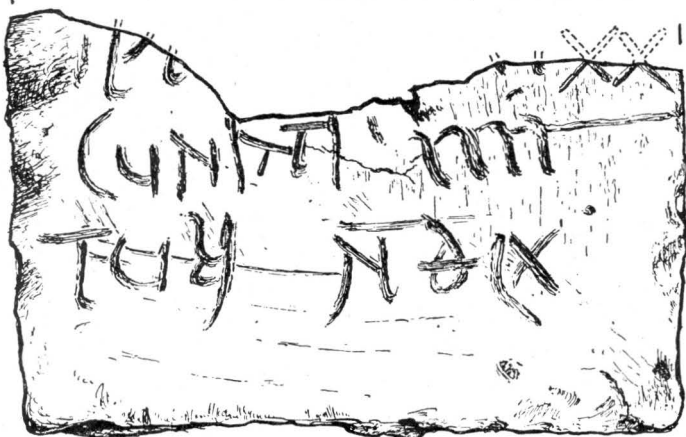
Rev. S P Q R Optimo Principi S.C. A winged Victory right facing a trophy of armour left.

'Optimo Principi' was a title conferred on Trajan by the Senate.

Tile with graffito. While he was measuring up, Mr. Goodchild's eye fell on an 8½ in. pila-tile with lettering. The top half is missing. A tile-maker recorded his score on an unbaked tile with a piece of stick. The broken top line probably read *Pi(lares)*, i.e. pillar tiles, and the number —XX, perhaps MXX (1020). The second line *Cuniati* (for *cuneati*): *lateres* (bricks) understood; that is, wedge-shaped hollow voussoirs, four, probably only required for one door. The bottom line: *tu(?b): n(? umeravi) & LX*: that is, *tubuli*, flue tiles I counted (?) 560; we calculate that about 540 would have

been required. The inverted R is, certainly, difficult to identify with a B, but no other interpretation seems probable. Mr. Lowther has drawn the graffito from a very careful rubbing. Two points in the lettering are

GRAFFITO ON A TILE FROM ROMAN
VILLA AT WIGGONHOLT, SUSSEX.



A.W.G.L. '39

datable: the long I was in use from the late Republic onwards, and the I with slightly ornamented head begins in the first century A.D. and continues. The graffito, therefore, does not contradict our initial date of c. A.D. 125: the tiles were evidently those made for the building of the bath system.¹

The earliest and latest dates of objects found in 1939 tally with those proposed in our first report. All the 'finds' are at Parham Park.

¹ Prof. R. G. Collingwood will include the graffito in his forthcoming Corpus of Romano-British inscriptions.