

# Romano-British Pottery Kilns on Camp Hill, Northampton

By MICHAEL SHAW

with contributions by Helen Bamford and John H Williams

The finding of stone wall foundations, 'Belgic' type pottery and a possible kiln on Camp Hill, Northampton (SP 73555884; R 153) was reported to the Northampton Development Corporation Archaeology Unit in November 1978. The site, which was being developed by Marriotts for the Development Corporation as part of the Northampton Southern District expansion programme, was visited by the Unit and further archaeological features were identified, chiefly in the sides of foundation trenches dug for new houses. All the observed features were described and plotted on a plan (FIG 2) and a salvage excavation was mounted which, since development was already under way and the time available was extremely limited, concentrated on the possible kiln sites. The kiln (15) originally recognised proved to be too severely disturbed for much detail to be recovered of its structure but two kilns (22, 25) were excavated by Helen Bamford and a further kiln (18) was excavated later by Michael Shaw.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Unit is grateful to the developers of the site, Marriotts, for permission to excavate and to Mr W Dickens the site agent and Mr E Tuffrey the clerk of works, for their help during the excavation.

The author wishes to thank John Williams for contributing the pottery report and for much help and advice during the preparation of the report and Helen Bamford who excavated kilns 22 and 25 and did the bulk of the work on describing and plotting the non-kiln features. The description of kilns 15, 22 and 25 and of the non-kiln features relies to a large extent on her original site notes and subsequent comments. The discussion of the kilns and kiln furniture has benefited greatly from the comments and suggestions of Mrs V G Swan.

The finds and site archive are to be deposited in Northampton Museum.

## GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY (FIG 1)

The site lies at *c* 100 m OD on a north facing slope overlooking the river Nene and *c* 750 m south of it. The subsoil is ironstone with pockets of sand belonging to the Northampton Sand Ironstone (Inferior Oolite Series). A plentiful supply of clay is available in the area for Liassic clay underlies the Northampton Sands and outcrops on all sides of the site within 800 m. This would seem to be the most likely clay for the potters to exploit though there are nearby sources of Boulder Clay, alluvial clay and Upper Estuarine Series clay which Woods suggests was used by the potters at Hardingstone (1969, 35-6).

This area of the Nene valley appears to have proved attractive for human settlement from earliest times (Williams 1977, 134; 1979, 3); the recently excavated Neolithic causewayed enclosure at Briar Hill is sited *c* 400 m to the south while the Iron Age hill fort of Hunsbury Hill lies the same distance to the north. Pits and ditches containing Iron Age and Belgic-type pottery were discovered in 1976 (P 85) immediately to the west of the site during the construction of Hunsbury Hill Road. Plentiful evidence exists of Romano-British activity in the area; pits and a shallow ditch filled with late 1st/early 2nd century AD pottery were found during the excavation of the Briar Hill enclosure, a villa is known at Wootton Hill Farm (R 110) *c* 600 m to the south while the small town of Duston is only *c* 1500 m to the north on the opposite side of the river. Kiln debris, associated with a coin of Claudius II (268-270), was found on the north incline of Hunsbury Hill during ironstone quarrying in the 19th century (Dryden 1885, 61).

## THE EXCAVATIONS

KILN 15 *by* Helen Bamford and Michael Shaw

This feature had been largely destroyed by the cutting for a modern road but sufficient sur-

## CAMP HILL: Location Plan

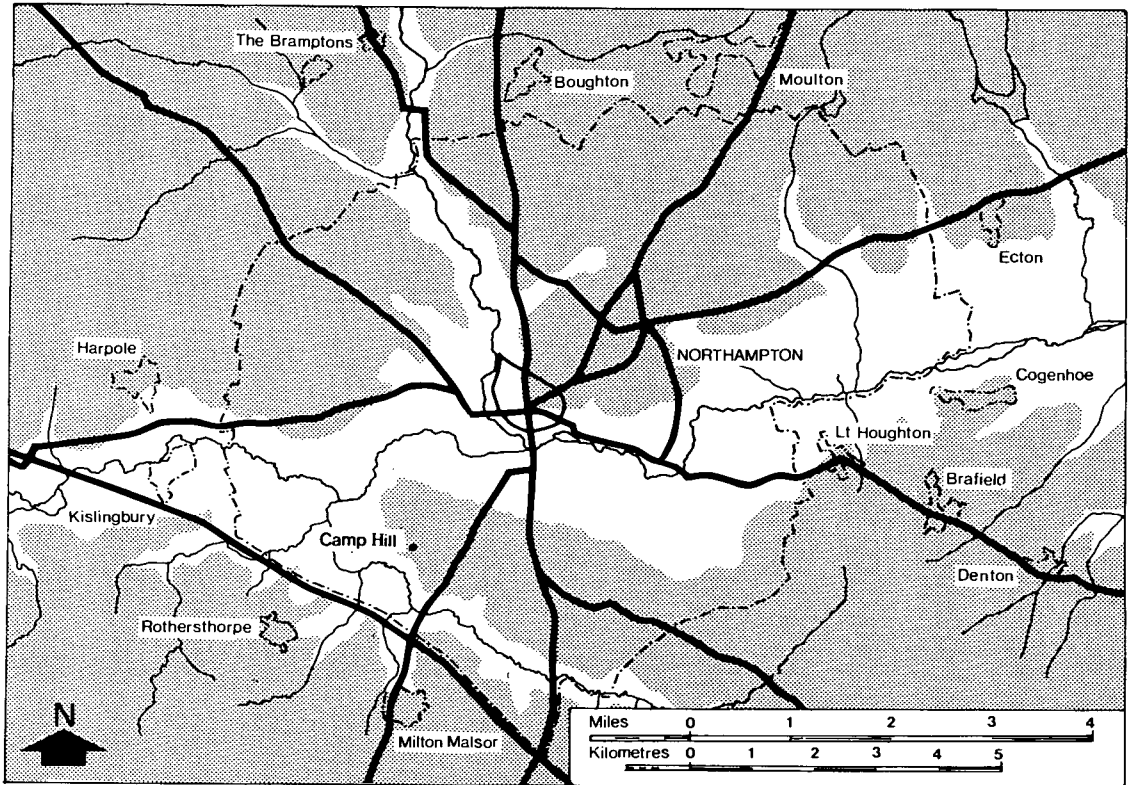


Fig 1

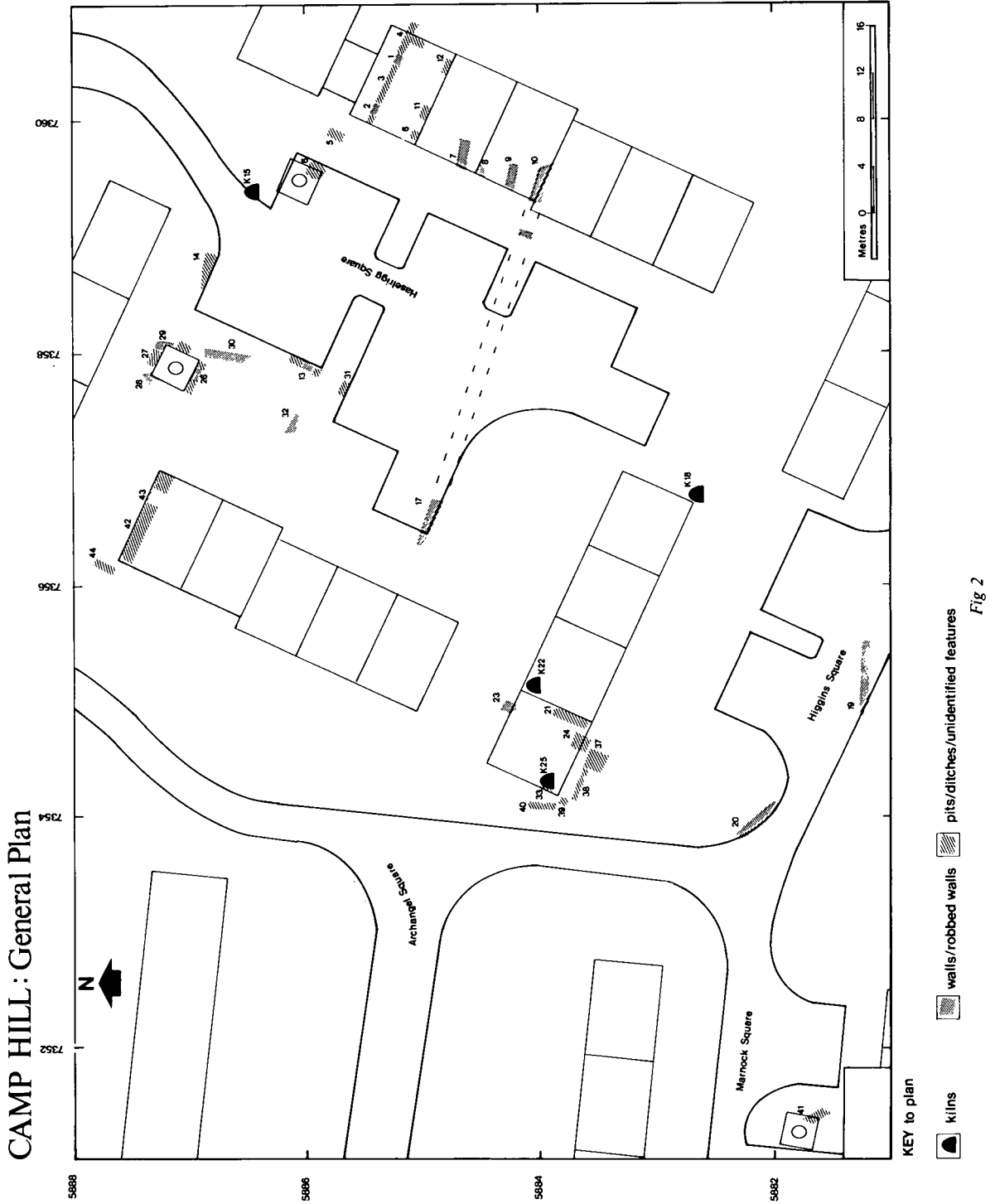
vived to show that it had vertical sides  $c0.5$  m apart which ran back parallel from the face of the cutting for  $c0.55$  m. An unfired clay lining survived on its north east side and the subsoil was burnt around its northern edge. Its lower fill consisted of blackened soil with pottery and firebars. A rectangular slab of burnt limestone, 300 mm x 140 mm x 40 mm, may have formed part of a furnace lining. The pottery from the feature appears to be a coherent kiln group dating from the mid 1st century AD.

The poor state of preservation of this feature means that it cannot be positively identified as a kiln from its structural remains alone but the signs of burning, the kiln furniture in its fill and the fact that the pottery forms a consistent group strongly suggest that it is a kiln.

### KILN 18 (FIG 3; PL 5)

Kiln 18 had a circular furnace, originally  $c1$  m in diameter and cut down at least 0.6 m into the subsoil, with a single flue running off to the west. The area further west had been levelled down for the construction of a building and thus no evidence survived for the length of the flue or the presence of a stoke pit. Any stoke pit must, however, have been above the level of the bottom of the furnace or else evidence of it would have survived.

*Phase 1.* The original kiln furnace appears to have been unlined and the ironstone subsoil around its east side was burnt to a maximum depth of 100 mm. The subsoil on its west side, however, was not burnt but was overlaid by a layer of black clay loam and charcoal and it



would seem that this layer represents the ashes from the fire and had formed before the temperature of the fire had become intense, thus protecting the subsoil from the heat, as has been suggested for the kiln at Ise, near Kettering (Foster 1976, 171).

*Phase 2.* The east side of the furnace was subsequently lined with a layer of yellow clay, up to 200 mm thick, burnt red and vitrified on its outer face. Some pieces of ironstone, both burnt and unburnt, were incorporated in the clay but did not form a distinct layer. No evidence was found of a lining above the black clay loam layer on the west side of the furnace. The dimensions of the furnace were thus reduced considerably to c0.9 m east-west x c0.7 m north-south, apparently in a single re-lining for there was no evidence of intermediate linings. Woods has suggested that a similarly drastic re-lining of a kiln at Wakerley, Northants, was a deliberate attempt to reduce the capacity of the furnace and not just a straightforward re-lining (Woods 1978, kiln II, 149, FIG 21, not FIG 20 as published).

The lower fill of the furnace contained many fired clay fragments which could be divided into two groups according to their thickness. The thicker ones (50-70 mm) contained ventholes and would appear to be perforated plates used for flooring the kiln oven (FIG 6; PL 4) while the thinner ones (10-15 mm) seem likely to be from the roof of the kiln. The lower fill thus consists chiefly of debris from the collapsed kiln, including pottery, with the deposit above, mainly of dark clay loam, representing subsequent infilling. The pottery from the kiln forms a reasonably consistent group dated to the mid 1st century AD.

This kiln with its narrow, deeply excavated furnace, would appear to correspond most closely to Woods Type III A kilns (Woods 1974, 273) though the levelling down of the area to the west of it makes it impossible to assign it definitely to any particular type.

KILN 25 by Helen Bamford and Michael Shaw (FIG 4; PLS 6 and 7)

Kiln 25 had an oval furnace cut down at least 0.5 m into the subsoil. The furnace lining

of pre-fired clay slabs luted with clay had survived at the south end and half a circular pedestal was found lying on the furnace floor. The lower fills of the furnace were dark clay loams with charcoal and reddened clay, possibly debris from the last firing, overlain by loose sandy loams with many fragments of fired clay, presumably collapsed roof material and on top, layers of greyish-brown sandy loam, representing subsequent infill after the kiln had collapsed.

A single flue, marked by a patch of grey discoloured sand subsoil partially overlain by a lining of unfired clay, led upwards to the north to a hollowed out area, shallower than the furnace. The north east edge of this hollow was difficult to define and the size or position of the stoke pit is uncertain. Possibly the kiln was built in an area already hollowed out. A pit (33) with an almost vertical edge and signs of burning, especially on its east side, appeared to cut the furnace and may itself represent a later kiln. The pottery from the kiln is a little mixed but forms a reasonably consistent group dating to the mid 1st century AD.

KILN 22 by Helen Bamford and Michael Shaw (FIG 5)

Kiln 22, though at first sight a relatively simple structure, presents a number of problems. It consists of two interconnected chambers cut down to the same level — at least 0.6 m — into the subsoil. The west side of the narrower western chamber had been destroyed by a modern house foundation trench and thus its length could not be ascertained. A feature which showed some slight signs of burning was seen in the opposite side of the foundation trench and this may have been the continuation of the western chamber, but the chamber may have ended further east. This chamber contained a thick, lightly burnt, clay lining, less than 20 mm thick and up to 200 mm high. The eastern chamber contained no lining and it might therefore be suggested that this chamber was the stoke hole while the western chamber was the furnace. It is possible, however, that the clay is a lining to a flue and that the eastern chamber is the furnace. The fill of the kiln was continuous through both chambers, being a

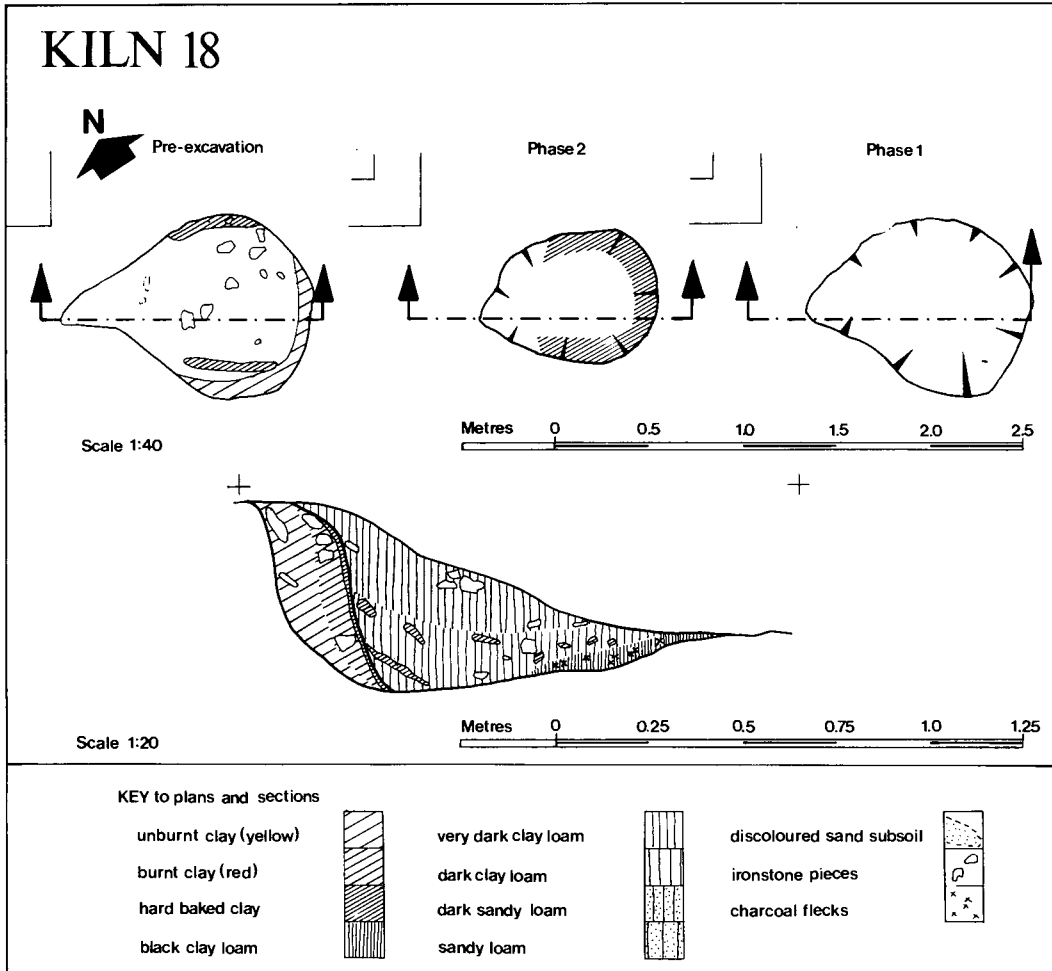


Fig 3 Camp Hill; Kiln 8.

dark loam or sandy loam with charcoal, fired clay fragments and potsherds. A fragment of kiln furniture, possibly a clay ring, was found in the fill.

Kiln 22 would appear at first sight to correspond to Woods Type Ic kilns (Woods 1974, 270-1). There was, however, no sign of burning on the floor or sides of the kiln apart from the lightly burnt clay lining. In addition the pottery from its fill does not form a coherent kiln group and is dated to the late 1st-early 2nd century, rather later than the other kilns. Doubt must therefore be cast on whether the kiln was ever used for firing pottery at all. Possibly it is some sort of oven.

THE NON-KILN FEATURES by Helen Bamford and Michael Shaw (FIG 2)

A total of 38 non-kiln features was recorded. These could not generally be seen on the surface but only in the sections of modern trenches and cuttings. It was, of course, difficult to assign a definite function to each feature in such circumstances. A broad division could, however, be made into three groups: walls/robbled walls (16), pits/ditches (17) and unidentifiable features (5). Only one limestone wall could be traced on the ground but large numbers of trenches with limestone rubble in their fill were seen and these would appear to be robbled walls or foundation trenches of

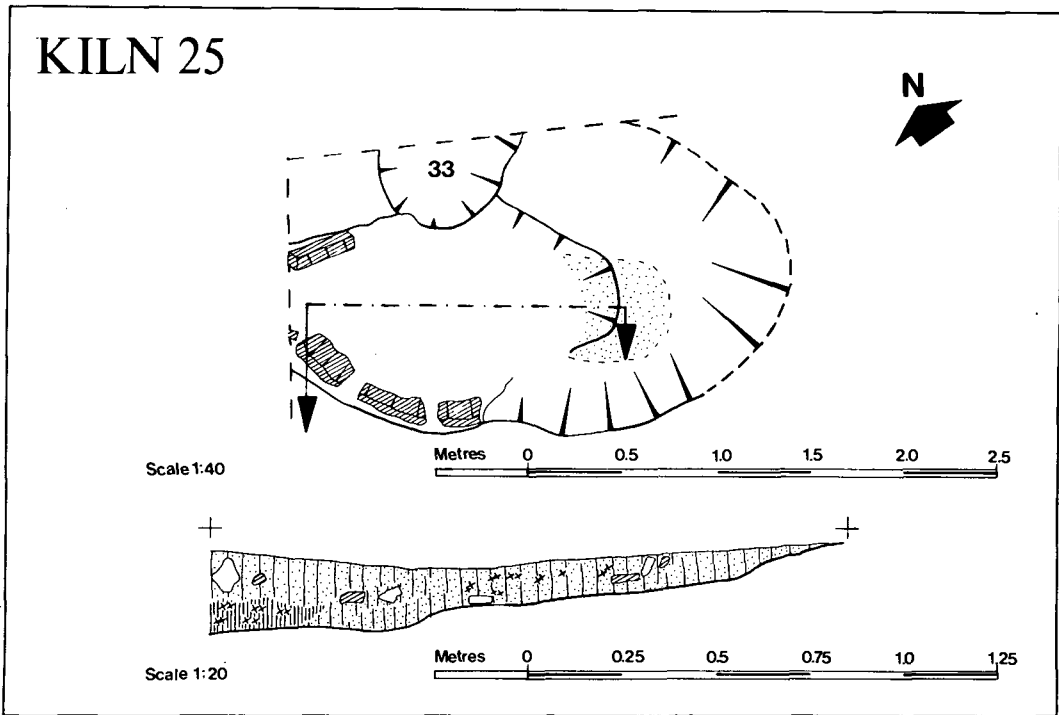


Fig 4 Camp Hill; Kiln 25.

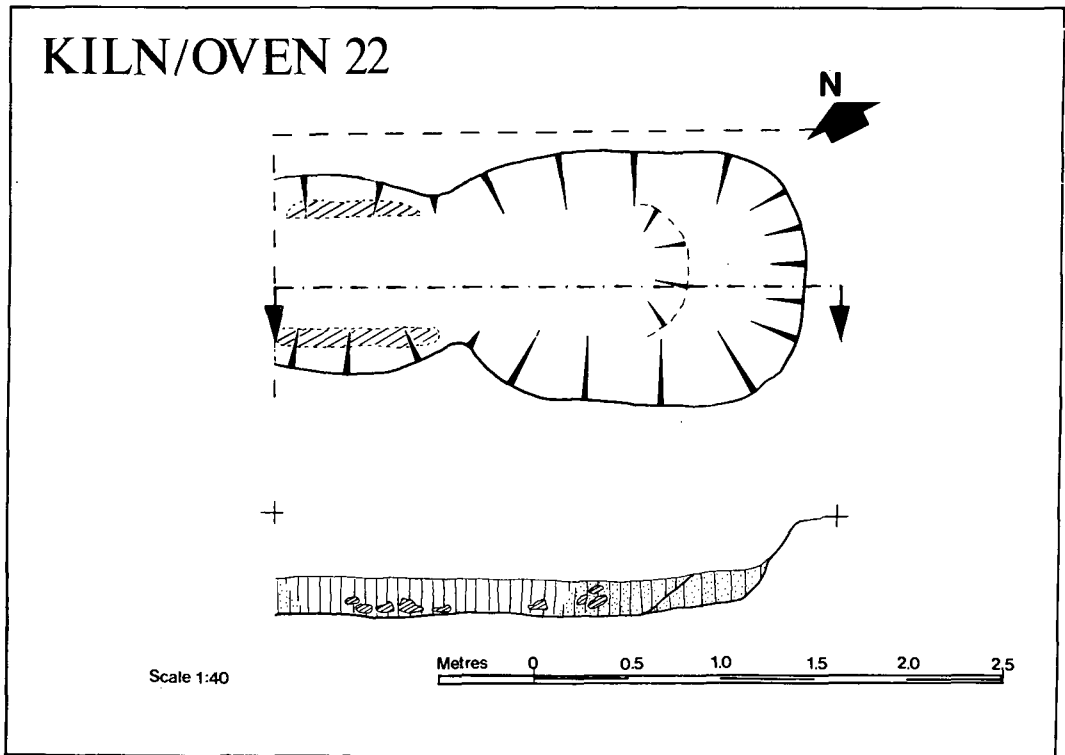


Fig 5 Camp Hill; Kiln/Oven 22.

buildings covering some considerable area. The pits/ditches showed no definite characteristics, though some at least of the pits appeared to be for domestic rubbish.

The pottery associated with the features was mixed, comprising both mid-1st century material similar to that from kilns 18 and 25 and also late 1st to 2nd century sherds like those from kiln 22. Whilst some features may well be associated with the early kilns it is improbable that the structures represented by the extensive 'robber' trenches were earlier than the late 1st century.

## DISCUSSION

The Camp Hill kilns are of a type well documented in the upper Nene Valley in the 1st-2nd century AD (Woods 1974, 262-81). Although they are of the same basic type, being simple updraught kilns using portable kiln furniture, the actual details of their shape and construction vary, amply illustrating the diversity of these kilns noted by Woods (1974, 262). The only kiln to show any evidence of relining was 18 and it would seem likely that the excavated kilns had a short life. It cannot, however, be assumed that all the kilns on the site were located. Indeed this seems unlikely, and thus no estimate can be made of the length of time during which pottery was being made on the site. Kilns 15, 18, and 25, however, all seem to have been in use around the middle of the 1st century AD and thus fall into a period when, it has been suggested, pottery production was stimulated by the opening up of a new market created by the presence of Roman troops (Webster 1973, 2-3; Woods 1969, 9). As yet the argument is unproven and the present kilns fail to elucidate the situation.

The kiln or oven 22 would appear to be rather later in date and to form part of the late 1st-2nd century AD occupation on the site. Little can be said of the nature of this occupation though sufficient features were located to suggest that it may have been fairly intensive. There is also insufficient evidence to say whether the site was continuously used from the mid 1st century or whether there was a gap between the early pottery kilns and the late 1st century AD activity.

## KILN FURNITURE (FIG 6; PLS 7 and 8)

### FIREBARS

*Kiln 15.* 13 fragments of firebars were found. These were of 2 different types, cigar shaped and rectangular.

a) Cigar-shaped. 6 fragments were found from 3 separate bars:

1. Exterior light brownish-grey, interior pinkish-grey to pink; hard fired; contains fine-medium sub-angular to sub-rounded quartz, possibly deliberately added.
2. Exterior reddish-yellow, interior reddish-yellow to grey; fabric as 1 with a little grass tempering.
3. Exterior pink, interior pink-grey; contains quartz and limestone ooliths.

Cigar-shaped firebars are a common find in 1st-2nd century AD kilns in the area. Similar examples are published from Blackmore Thick (Smith and Todd 1974, 7, FIG 3); Hardingstone, kiln IV (Woods 1969, 19, FIG 14, 100); Long Hills, Brafield (Johnston 1969, 94, FIG 9.1); Rushden, kiln III (Woods 1974, 265, FIG 6F) and Weston Favell (Bunch and Corder 1954, 220, PL XXIIIb).

b) Rectangular. 7 fragments were found from at least 2 bars. 2 complete cross sections were preserved.

4. Maximum surviving length 135 mm; exterior pink, interior dark-grey, grass tempered; contains sparse, sub-rounded, fairly large quartz grains and finer quartz.
5. Maximum surviving length 90 mm; fabric as 4. Similar firebars are published from Hardwick Park, Wellingborough, kiln I (Foster, Harper and Watkins 1977, 63, FIG 5) and Rushden, kiln V (Woods 1974, 267, FIG 6D).

### CLAY RING

*Kiln 22*

6. Fragment of kiln furniture, sub-circular, diameter c 160 mm; possibly hole in centre; exterior light brownish-grey, interior reddish-brown; grass tempered; softer and sandier than firebars; contains calcite.

Possibly clay ring as example from Hardwick Park, Wellingborough, kiln I (Woods 1974, 277, FIG 6B).

### PEDESTAL

*Kiln 25*

7. Broken half of a circular fired clay pedestal, expanded end; exterior light brownish-grey, interior and bottom reddish-yellow; tempered with large pieces of grog up to 250 mm in length and shell up to 200 mm in length; numerous fingerprints on exterior.

Clay pedestals with square, rectangular, oval and circular columns are familiar finds from 1st-2nd century AD kilns in the area. For examples see Woods (1974, 275-6, FIG 6C-F).

### PERFORATED PLATES

*Kiln 18*

- 8-10. 12 fragments of fired clay, thickness 50-70 mm; 5 contain ventholes, diameters 25-45 mm; 5 fragments from edge of plates, one showing slightly raised rim; interior

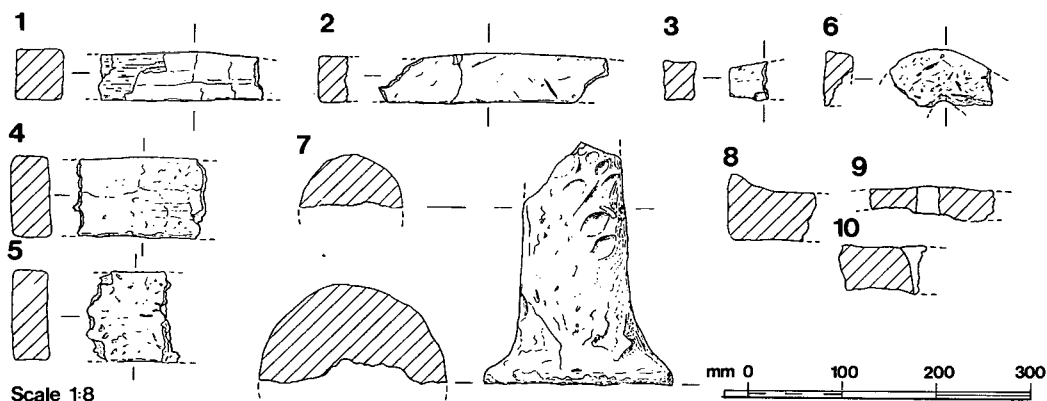


Fig 6 Camp Hill; kiln furniture.

and exterior reddish-yellow, bottom and sides burnt pinkish-grey in places.

These fragments were originally thought to be part of a ventholed clay floor. There was, however, no sign that the fragments had been connected to the sides of the kiln in any way and the signs of burning on their outer sides would be difficult to explain, unless the floor had been pre-fired. In addition there was no sign of supports below the floor and it would seem unlikely that such a rough floor could have spanned the full diameter of the kiln without support. They are therefore better regarded as perforated plates used, presumably in conjunction with pedestals and firebars, to set up a temporary oven floor. Similar, better preserved examples are published from Blackmore Thick (Smith and Todd 1974, FIGS 5-6).

#### FIRED CLAY SLABS

##### *Kiln 25*

4 pre-fired rectangular clay slabs lined the sides of the furnace chamber; sizes 320-360 mm x 200-240 mm x 30-45 mm; exterior pink to light-brown, interior yellowish-red; tempered with large pieces of grog and shell up to 20 mm in length, some grass marks on exterior; numerous fingerprints on outer faces.

No exact parallels can be found for these clay slabs. Pre-fired clay blocks, c 300-350 mm x 250 mm x 160 mm were used in kiln 10, phase 2 at Weekley, Northants (inf D A Jackson) particularly in the flue. Flat stones set on edge were used to line the sides of kilns 1 and 2 at Martin's Lane, Hardingstone, supplemented in kiln 2 by fired clay slabs, possibly reused pedestals (Jackson 1966, 8-9), while in the kiln at Weston Favell flat stones and reused firebars placed on end were used to reinforce the clay lining (Bunch and Corder 1954, 218). The Camp Hill slabs should perhaps be seen as a clay version of the Hardingstone and Weston

Favell stone slabs. Indeed it may well be that the rectangular stone slab found in kiln 15 was also a lining slab.

#### KILN ROOFING MATERIAL

Many fragments of fired clay were found in the fills of kilns 18, 22, and 25 which seem likely to be collapse from the roof of the kilns.

*Kiln 18*, c 100 fragments; exterior hard, smooth; thickness generally 10-15 mm; much grass tempering, a little small grog.

*Kiln 25*, c 80 fragments; 8 have fingerprints on exterior; thickness 7-20 mm, generally c 10 mm; tempered with pieces of shell up to 10 mm in length.

*Kiln 22*. The fragments can be divided into 2 groups by size:

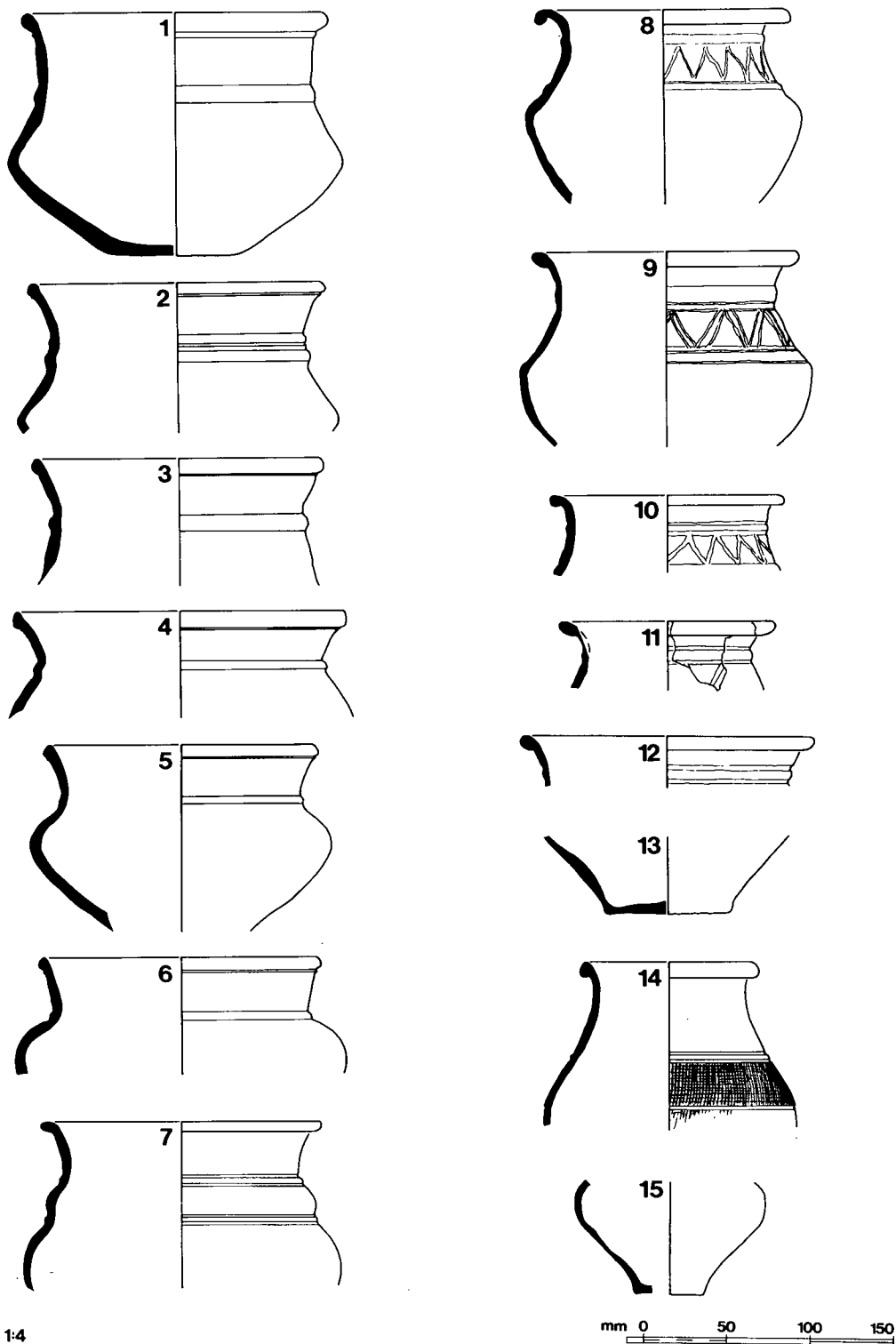
1. Thin, c 50 fragments, 5-13 mm thick; heavily grass tempered.
2. Thick, c 20 fragments, 30-50 mm thick; 2 have fingerprints on exterior; 1 has wattle impression; 1 has rounded corner.

#### TEMPERING MATERIALS

Although the fabrics of the clays used in the kiln furniture and roofing were not examined in detail, clear differences could be seen in the materials used for tempering. The type of tempering agent does not appear to have varied according to the use to which the clay was put, for the roof linings of each kiln have quite different characteristics; there are, however, variations between the kilns themselves, thus the pedestals, slabs and roof linings from kiln 25 are tempered with large shell and grog fragments while the perforated plates and roof linings from kiln 18 are heavily grass tempered. Possibly this reflects the preference of an individual potter or kiln builder for a particular tempering agent.



ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY KILNS ON CAMP HILL, NORTHAMPTON



Scale 1:4

Fig 7 Camp Hill; pottery from Kilns 15 and 18.

## THE POTTERY

by John H Williams

- The pottery from the site falls naturally into two groups:
- earlier (mid 1st century) material from kilns 15, 18, and 25 (some of this material is also found scattered over the site) and
  - later (1st-2nd century) material from 'kiln' 22 (again with pieces of similar date found over the site).

The earlier material is fairly consistent as a group and is regarded as produced on site. The later material, however, is rather more variable and fragmentary and would not be considered as a kiln assemblage if not associated with the kiln-like structure. The fabrics of the pottery from the earlier group are described, the pottery associated with each kiln discussed and the material as a whole considered. The pottery from 'kiln' 22 is more cursorily treated.

I am grateful to M Gryspeerdt, P Woods, and R M Friendship-Taylor for discussion of various points.

### THE FABRICS

(Colours as in Munsell)

*Fabric 1:* normally pink throughout but occasionally core a reduced light grey. Fine grained matrix with fine tempering mainly of red, black or white grog. Rare quartz less than 0.2mm across. Hard, well-, and even-fired, with soapy, burnished outside surface.

*Fabrics 2-4:* surfaces and core various shades of reddish-brown, pink and fawn except where burnt to different shades of grey. Fabrics 2-4 probably basically the same but with increasing coarseness (Fabric 2 fine, Fabric 3 medium, and Fabric 4 coarse). Common white, black, or red grog, occasional quartz less than 0.5mm, occasional ironstone and calcite fragments. Hard, increasingly vesicular as increasingly coarse. Smooth surface on Fabric 2 but more uneven on Fabric 4.

Other fabrics are described where they occur in the text.

### KILN 15 (FIG 7)

Fabric	No of sherds	Minimum no of vessels	Illustrated sherds
1	128	9	1-6
2	1	1	
3			
4	4	1	
Total	133	11	

Although the feature within which the pottery was found was too disturbed to enable it to be identified as a kiln the pottery itself is so consistent that it must almost certainly be regarded as a kiln group. All the vessels are well thrown on a wheel and burnished smooth on the outside. Two forms are represented, carinated cordoned bowls (1-4) and globular jars with everted rims and cordoned shoulders (5-6). Both are typical local 'Belgic' forms and their shapes can be paralleled at Moulton Park (Williams 1974, nos 112-7 (bowls); no 142 (jar)), Hardingstone (Woods 1969, nos 69, 72, 73 (bowls); nos 77-8 (jars)) and Rushden (pers comm, P Woods). The pottery belongs to the middle of the 1st century AD, perhaps after the Conquest rather than before on the basis of the well fired fabric, rather harder than the Moulton Park material.

### KILN 18 (FIGS 7-8)

Fabric	No of sherds	Minimum no of vessels	Illustrated sherds
1	1	1	7
2	92	15	8-15
3	34	2	23
4	74	7	16-22
Total	201	25	

The pottery from kiln 18 is consistent both in fabric and form. The one sherd of fabric 1 (no 7) is identical with the material from kiln 15 and is far better finished than the rest of the material from kiln 18 and may be a stray. The rest of the pottery is in fabrics 2-4 and great difficulty was experienced in assigning to a specific fabric 'intermediate' sherds eg midway between fabrics 2 and 3. It is generally true, however, that the fine fabric was used for the finer wares while the coarser fabric was used for the jars.

Several vessels could be largely reconstructed but adjoining sherds could show considerable colour variation eg one being reddish-brown and another grey. The pottery had obviously been refired or burnt after breaking and had perhaps been reused as packing within the kiln, rather than being wasters *in situ*. Nonetheless the internal consistency of the assemblage supports the idea of it being a kiln group.

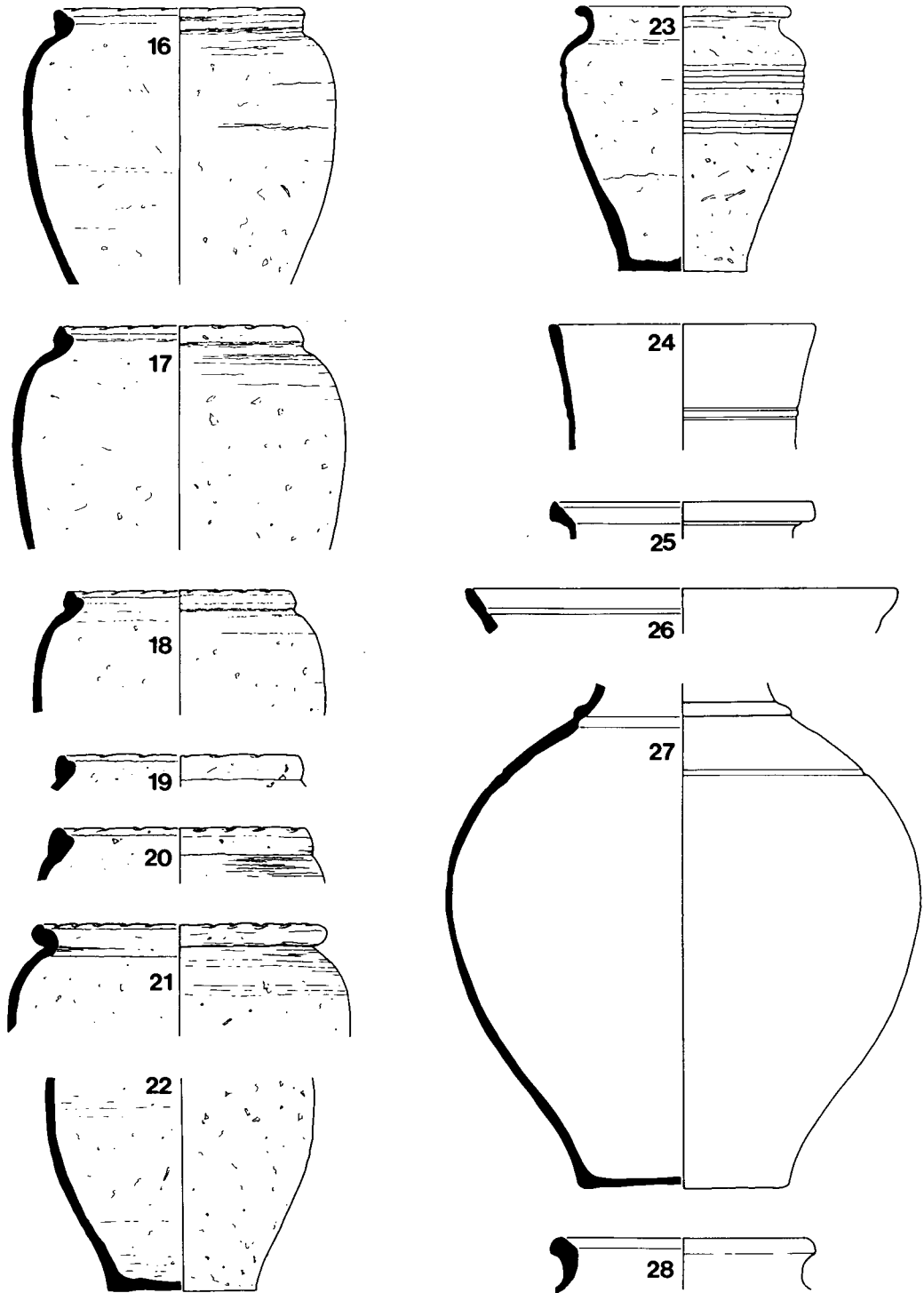
Four main vessel types were present:

- A single sherd of a corrugated and cordoned jar (7) of identical fabric and finish to the material from kiln 15 (cf Williams 1974, no 143; Woods 1969, no 74; Hawkes and Hull 1947, type 218) again belongs to the middle of the 1st century AD.
- Squat cordoned and carinated jars with zig zag decoration on the neck (8-12, probably also 13). The jars are wheel thrown and burnished smooth giving a soapy feel but lack the finish of the vessels from kiln 15. These vessels are again in a Belgic style.
- Two sherds of a butt beaker (14), wheel thrown and fairly well made in fabric 2.
- Channel-rimmed jars with slashing around the rims (16-22). The vessels are in fabric 4. They are wheel thrown and have a smooth but uneven external surface, possibly produced by wiping while wet. Faint rilling is noticeable on some sherds. These jars, a fairly local type, have their origins in the pre-Conquest period (Williams 1974, 25) but the present examples, wheel thrown and well fired, probably date to the middle of the 1st century (cf also Friendship-Taylor 1974, 29).

Two other vessels (nos 15 and 23) are consistent with the rest of the group.

The group as a whole probably belongs to the middle of the 1st century AD and although less finely finished than the material from kiln 15 is probably contemporary with it.

ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY KILNS ON CAMP HILL, NORTHAMPTON



Scale 1:4

mm 0 50 100 150

Fig 8 Camp Hill; pottery from Kilns 18 and 25.

## KILN 25 (FIGS 8-9)

Fabric	No of sherds	Minimum no of vessels	Illustrated sherds
1	—	—	—
2	163	8	24-27
3	24	1	28
4	37	2	29-30
Other	8	5	31
Total	232	16	

The pottery from kiln 25 while essentially consistent in terms of fabric and date (cf, however, the eight sherds of other fabrics which include sherds of Roman grey ware and a minute fragment of Brill, Buckinghamshire, medieval pottery), did not form such a close group as those from kilns 15 and 18. Approximately half the sherds of fabric 2 were from a single vessel, parts of which had been refired or burnt after firing as in kiln 18. The forms include a steep sided carinated bowl (no 24), a large jar with cordoned shoulder (27), a platter (26), and a few medium to large jars with rounded everted rims (28-30).

The pottery as a whole is perhaps, but not necessarily, a little more mixed than one would expect for a kiln group, and the possibility should be considered that we are dealing with the backfilling or packing into a kiln rather than the waste material from it. The bulk of the pottery (excluding the eight sherds of other fabric, which, however, may possibly not relate to the kiln: the rapid nature of the salvage excavation could have caused some little contamination) is again consistent with a date in the middle of the 1st century AD.

## KILN 22 (122 sherds) (FIG 9)

The pottery from 'kiln' 22 is more varied in fabric and form than that from the other kilns. Sherds tend to be smaller and only one vessel is represented by more than half a dozen sherds. The group comprises mainly Romano-British hard sandy wares which varied from white to pinks to reddish-browns to shades of grey to black. Although these grey wares on superficial inspection appeared similar, examination of a clean fracture under a binocular microscope X20 showed that the quartz temper in different sherds varied in size and sorting more than would be acceptable for products of a single kiln. It is probable, therefore, that the material is not a kiln group and that it is backfill into a kiln or that feature 22 was, in fact, an oven of some sort rather than a kiln. Detailed fabric analysis, therefore, was regarded as not justified. Most rims present are illustrated and the group as a whole probably belongs to the late 1st or early 2nd century.

32. Very pale brown: white: very pale brown. Hard sandy.
33. Light reddish-brown: pink: reddish-brown. Hard sandy.
34. Very dark grey: grey: very dark grey. Hard sandy.
35. Very dark grey: reddish-brown: reddish-brown/dark reddish-brown. Hard sandy, some little calcite.
36. Dark grey: very dark grey: very dark grey. Hard sandy.
37. Very dark grey: grey: very dark grey. Hard sandy.
38. Black: reddish-brown/grey: black. Hard sandy.
39. Grey: grey: grey. Traces of red (?) slip on outer and inner surfaces, also traces of painted or burnished circle decoration. Hard sandy.

40. Reddish-brown/dark reddish-brown: grey: light reddish-brown. Hard sandy.
41. Grey: light red: grey. Traces of light red (?) slip on outer surface. Hard sandy.
42. Grey: grey: grey. Hard.
43. Reddish-brown: grey: light reddish-brown. Coarse vesicular fabric, some calcite, soapy surface.

## THE OTHER POTTERY (FIG 9)

Approximately 170 sherds were recovered from other features on the site. The pottery was mixed and included material similar to that from kilns 15, 18, and 25 and also Romano-British grey wares. The latest sherd was a small fragment of Nene Valley colour coated ware but this need not be later than the second half of the 2nd century. Two vessels are illustrated.

44. Very dark grey: light red: grey: light red: dark grey. Cf nos 5 and 6 above.
45. Reddish-yellow/grey: dark grey: light red. Butt beaker.

## CONCLUSION

The pottery forms two fairly distinctive groups:

- a) the 'Belgic type' material of the mid 1st century, and
- b) the late 1st/early 2nd century pottery.

No pottery need be later than the second half of the 2nd century. The early pottery is the more interesting, adding further kilns to the already fairly numerous local sites dating approximately to the period of the Conquest (Woods 1974). Although the vessel shapes can be paralleled in and the abundant use of grog for tempering is common in local pre-Conquest 'Belgic' material, it is suggested that the fairly hard firing, the zig zag decoration on nos 8-11 and the rilling on some of the channel-rimmed jars from kiln 18 probably favour a post Conquest date for the earlier material. It is to be hoped that further work on local sites will clarify the chronology of pottery locally in the 1st century.

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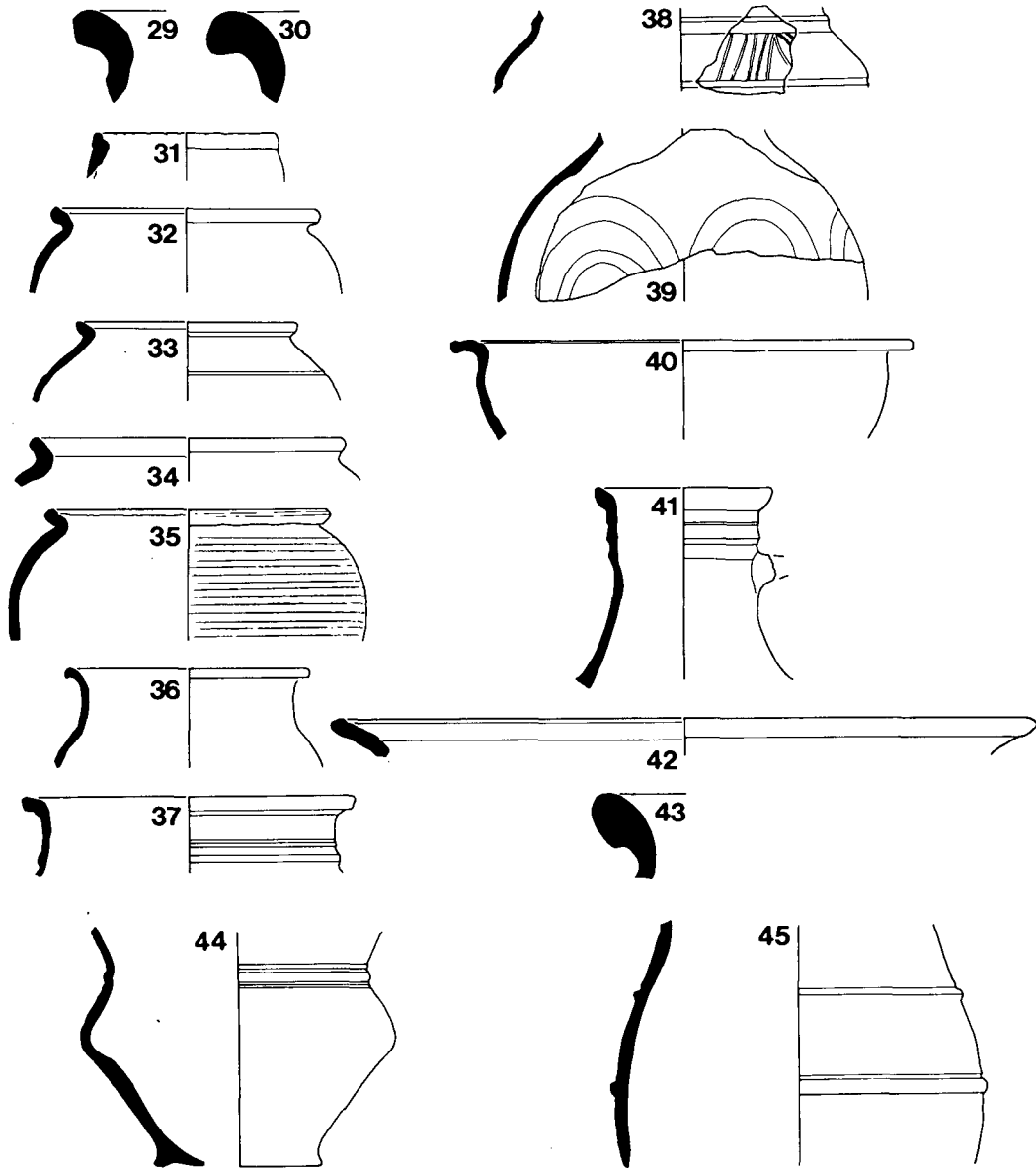


Fig 9 Camp Hill; pottery from Kilns 25 and 22 and elsewhere. (¼)

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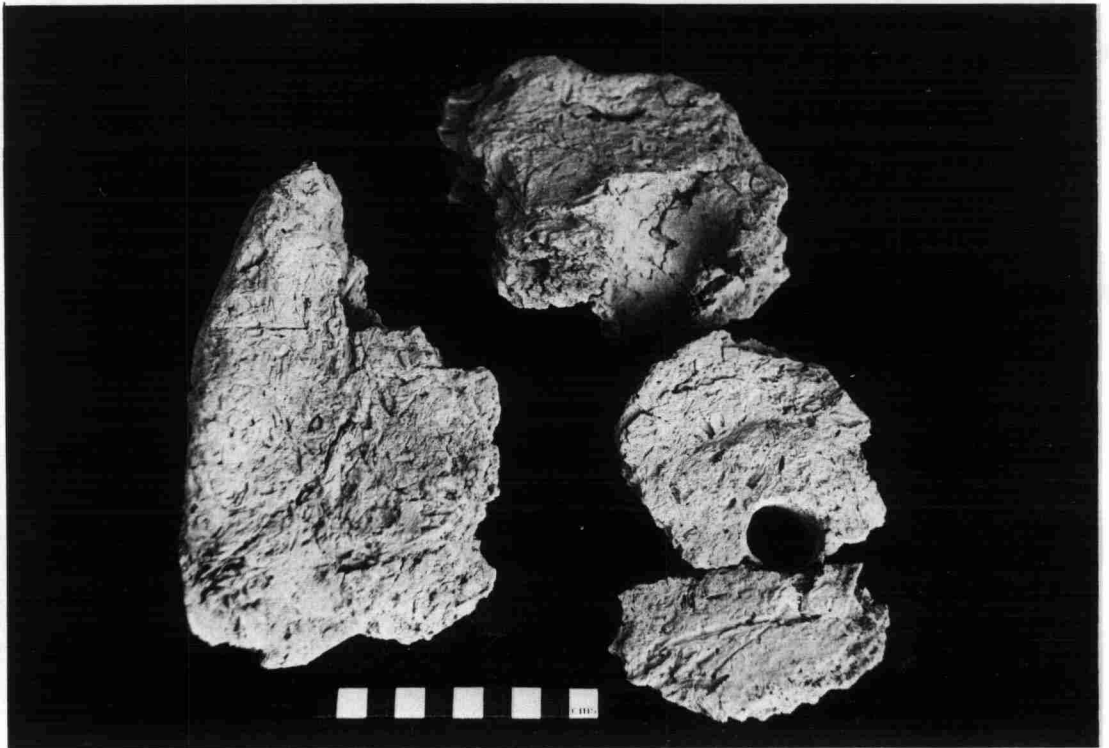
*Plate 5* Camp Hill, Northampton; Kiln 18, Phase 1, from the west.



*Plate 6* Camp Hill, Northampton; Kiln 25 from the east with pre-fired clay slabs on the left.



*Plate 7* Camp Hill, Northampton; Kiln 25, pre-fired clay slabs with clay luting in between.



*Plate 8* Camp Hill, Northampton; pieces of perforated clay plates from Kiln 18.