

# **Excavations at Towcester 1954 - the Grammar School site**

A E Brown and J A Alexander

Microfiche Section

Northamptonshire Archaeology  
Volume 17, 1982

Layer list	1-4
Samian ware catalogue	5-14

## SUMMARY LAYER LIST

### Phase 1

Trench 1, UCS 4 and 5; Trench 4, 4; Quadrants 12, 4; 14, 5; 15, 5; 16, 5; 17, 5: all grey gritty loam on natural.

Trench 2, 4b, 5a: series of superimposed layers of clay.

Quadrants 18, 5 and 5a; 26, 5: fill of ditch, greyish clay.

Quadrant 26, 6: pit, grey clay fill.

### Phase 2

(a) Outside defences. Trench 1, UCS 3b; Quadrants 12, 4a; 13, 3 and 3b; 14, 4; 15, 4; 16, 4; 17, 3 and 4; 18, 3 and 4; 20, 5; 21, 4; 24, 4; 26, 4: all dark brown loam. Occupation levels above gritty loam of Phase 1.

(b) Below defences. Trench 1, UIRF 5f, RF5; Trench 2, 3d; Quadrant 10, 4: stoneless brown loam on natural. Trench 1, UIRF 5g: gravel layer.

Trench 2, Well 5 and 6: bottom layers of well, black and yellow silt.

(c) Inside defences. Trench 1, LMIRS 4 and IRS 4; Trench 2, lower part of 2d; Quadrants 2, 4; 3, 3; 4, 2a; 5, 4a; 6, 3, 7, 5; 8, 3 and 5; 9, 3: stoneless brown loam on natural.

Quadrant 3, 3b: pit, grey/black fill.

Quadrant 3, 4: yellow clay and loam.

Quadrant 3, 4c: grey/black loam.

Quadrant 9, 2a and 4: ditches, brown loam.

### Phase 3

(a) Town defences. Trench 1, RF6: marking out trench in front of wall, yellow clayey fill.

Trench 1 UIRF 4, 4b, 5a, 5e; Trench 2,

2a, 3a, 4a, Well 2, 3, 4: material forming rampart and filling of well: yellow and blue clay, brown loam.

(b) Material from excavation of ditch spread over Phase 2 occupation outside defences. Trench 1, UCS 3a; Trench 4, 3; Quadrants 12, 3a; 14, 3; 15, 3; 16, 3; 20, 4; 21, 3: all yellow clay.

#### Phase 4

Quadrants 5, 3b; 7, 6: dark clay fill of beam slots, earlier building  
Quadrants 3, 4a; 4, 3 and 4a; 6, 4; black loam fill of beam slots, later building

Quadrant 4, 3a: hearth

#### Phase 5

(a) Levels contemporary with occupation of stone building. Trench 1, MIRS 5a; Trench 2, 4c and 5b; Quadrant 2, 3b: fill of ditch parallel with rampart, black/brown loam

Trench 1, LMIRF 4a: black soil and charcoal in this ditch

Trench 3, 3; Quadrant 8, 4: pits, brown/black loam fill

(b) Collapse levels, stone building. Trench 1, LIRS 3, 3/4, LMIRS 3x; Trench 6, 2, 3, 3/4, 4; Quadrants 3, 2: 4, 2c; 5, 2; 6, 2; 7, 4; 8, 2; 9, 2b all brown/black loam with stones.

#### Phase 6

Trench 1, UIRF 3; Trench 2, 2d; stony brown loam overlying Roman levels.

#### Phase 7

(a) Town ditch fill. Trench 1, Ditch 5b, yellow clay; Ditch 4: grey/yellow clay.

Phase 7 (continued)

- (b) Early medieval structure: Quadrant 6, 2a; 7, 2; 7, 3.
- (c) Pits. Trench 2, 4d, Quadrant 26, 3 (dark brown loam)
- (d) Other layers. Trench 1, UIRF 2; Trench 2, 2c: Quadrant 2, 2b; stoneless light brown loam overlying Phase 6 layer

Phase 8

- (a) Ditch. Trench 1, Ditch 5a (buff/brown clay and many stones) and Ditch 6 (grey brown clay).
- (b) Rampart (i) Trench 1, RF2 and RF3; Trench 2, 2h: brown loam with stones; Trench 1, URF 2, yellow brown clayey loam (ii) LRS 3 and Ditch 3: brown loam, stones.

Phase 9

- (a) Upper level, town ditch. Trench 1, Ditch 2 (yellow loam).
- (b) Robber trench, town wall. Trench 1, URF 3a and 3b; Trench 2, 2b, 3b: Quadrant 10, 3: yellow brown loam and clay. Robber trench, stone house. Quadrant 3, 2b: brown loam and mortar.
- (c) Late pits etc. Trench 1, FDT (field drain); Trench 2, 2e (charcoal filled) and 2f (sticky black loam); Quadrant 2, 2a (yellow clay), Quadrant 4, 2b.

CATALOGUE

Only stratified sherds from Phases 1-3 are described here. Information about the remainder has been deposited with the finds.

PHASE 1Trench 1, UCS4

Dr 37, SG, broken ovolo. Flav-Traj.

Trench 1, UCS5

Dr 37 in the style of Drusus i (X-3) of Les Martres. S & S 1, 13, no. 167 has the same scroll, rosette terminal, and beadrow. c. AD 100-120.

Dr 37, SG. Scroll with toothed leaves, the arcades divided into groups of arrowheads above a hound (H.PL 26, no. 25) and a hare (H.PL 26, no. 62. For generally similar bowls, cf H.PL.81, especially nos. 4 and 7. c. AD 75-90.

Dr 37 in the style of X-13 ('Donnaucus') of Les Martres. The ornament is shown on S & S PL. 42, no. 490, the astragalus and small circle on ibid. PL 43, no. 493. The leaves and corded motifs were used in several similar saltires, the closest being Terrisse 1968, PL.32, no. 324, which lacks the second pair of beadrows in the upper portion. The warrior is O.688/D.403. c. AD 100-125.

IVLI. T<sup>↑</sup>AVSS<sup>↑</sup>Non Dr 33a. Die 3a, Iulius Talussa of Les Martres and Lezoux (3). This stamp has been recorded at Hadrian's Wall Turret 25b. He worked c. AD 110-135, probably moving to Lezoux c. 120. This cup is in Martres fabric.

Trench 4, 4

Dr 29 probably, SG. The motifs - possibly including a badly impressed gladiator - are not identifiable. Pre-Flavian.

Dr 37, CG. Crown motif used by several Martres potters. Traj-Had.

Dr 37 in the style of Drusus i of Les Martres. The arcading with a similar arrangement of latticed column, acanthus and 'anchor' motif, with the astragalus in the field, is on Terrisse 1968, PL.5, no.123.

The gladiator (O.1063/D.611), warrior (O.163/D.106) and ovolo are on S & S PL.10, nos. 121 and 127. c. AD 100-120

Dr 37, CG. Possible freestyle design. Had-early Ant.

#### Quadrant 3, 3b

Dr 37 in the style of X-13 ('Donnaucus') of Les Martres. Circle as ovolo, with beads and astragalus, S & S PL. 45, no. 521, the short corded motif, ibid. no. 528, and the vine scroll and bird ibid. PL.49, no. 578. c.

AD 100-125.

Dr 37 CG. Small double medallion, wavy line border, bead rosette terminal. Traj-Had. Burnt.

Dr 37, CG. Figure of goat or deer. Had-early Ant.

Dr 37, CG. Ovolo smudged but probably that used by X-12 ('Ioenalis') with similar beads (S & S PL.40, no. 462). c. AD 100-125.

#### Quadrant 12, 4

Dr 37, SG, broken ovolo. Flav.

#### Quadrant 14, 5

Dr 37, SG, blurred and broken ovolo. Flav-Traj

#### Quadrant 26, 5

Dr 30, style of X-13 ('Donnaucus') of Les Martres. Saltire of corded rods and leaves, S & S PL.44, no.513, ovolo, beads and rosette, ibid. PL 46, no. 538; for similar use of parallel beadrows, cf ibid PL.43, no. 493 c. AD 100-125.

Dr 37 in the style of X-13 ('Donnaucus') of Les Martres. The corded and leaf motif, here in a freestyle arrangement, is on S & S PL. 48, no. 566; the ramshorn wreath is on ibid. no. 568 c. AD 100-125.

#### Other fragments

Dr 18, SG, Flav, 5; Dr 18R, SG, Flav, 1; Dr 18/31, CG, early-mid C2, 12; Dr 27g, SG, Flav, 1; Dr 27, CG, early C2, 1; Dr 33, CG, early C2, 1; Dr 33, CG, C2, 1; Dr 36, CG, early-mid C2, 4; Dr 37, SG, Flav-Traj, 1; Dr 37, CG, early-mid C2, 3; SG sherd, mid C1, 1; SG sherd, C1, 1; bowl foot, CG, early C2, 1; CG sherd, C2, 1.

#### PHASE 2

##### (a) Outside the defences

##### Quadrant 13, 3

Dr 27g, stamp worn away, SG, C1.

Dr 37 in the style of X-5 of Lezoux. Probably his ovolo, though broken; he used the Minerva (O.126/D.77), cushion, leaf, background leaves, wavy lines and astragalus (S & S PL. 67, nos. 1 and 4). c. AD 125-145. (Joins sherd from Q 14.4).

Dr 37, CG, early-mid C2; incompletely slipped under base.

Dr 37, CG. Figure O.322/D.184. Had-Ant.

##### Quadrant 17, 3

Dr 29 probably SG. Lower frieze scroll with large toothed leaves and fine beaded bindings. Pre or early Flav.

Dr 37, CG. Possible freestyle design. Had - early Ant.

##### Quadrant 17, 4

Dr 37 in the style of Drusus i of Les Martres. S & S PL. 15, no. 184, has

the gladiators (O.1003/D.582a and O.1004) beneath a group of arrowheads.

c. AD 100-120.

Dr 37, SG. Ovolo with small rosette tongue. c. AD 70-90.

Quadrant 18, 3

Dr 27, CG; the stamp is illegible. Early-mid C2.

Dr 37, SG. Scroll, the arcades divided between 'spectacle' scrolls

above small dog and a hare; basal wreath of s-gadroons. Cf. H.PL. 81,

no. 7, for similar use of the motifs. c. AD 75-90.

Quadrant 18, 4

Dr 37, style of X-13 ('Donnaucus') of Les Martres. Wreath (S & S PL.43  
no. 499), formal foliage R.G16. c. 100-125.

Quadrant 20, 5

Dr 37, CG. Vine scroll, probably. Traj-Had

Dr 37, CG. Apparently no exact parallel for the ovolo. It is similar  
to that of Arcanus, but the tongue is finely corded. Traj-Had.

Small bowl or cup. There is a beaded moulding on the interior just above  
the base, and the wall has apparently been cut off at the same level. There  
is no apparent parallel. CG, early-mid C2 (Fig M1 )

Quadrant 26, 4

Dr 37 in the style of Igocatus (X-4) of Les Martres. The figure  
(O.949) and characteristic wavy line<sup>are</sup> on S & S PL. 17, no. 218 c. AD 100-120.

Dr 37, SG, broken ovolo. Flavian.

Other fragments: Dr 15/17, SG, pre Flav, 3; Dr 18, SG, pre Flav, 1;

Dr 18, SG, Flav, 1; Dr 18, SG, Flav-Traj, 1; Dr 18/31, CG, early mid C2,



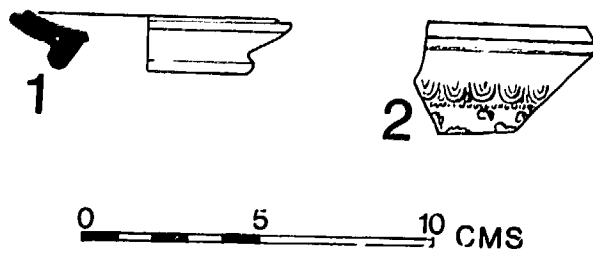


FIG M1 Towcester Grammar School, Samian ware

11; Dr 18/31 R, C G, early C2, 1; Dr 27, SG, Flav-Traj, 4; Dr 27, CG, early-mid C2, 2; Dr 33, CG, Ant, 2; Dr 35, CG, C2, 5; Dr 36, SG, Flav; Dr 36, CG, 4; Dr 37, CG, early C2, 3 + 1 rivetted; Curle 11, SG, Flav 3; Curle 15, CG, C2, 1; SG sherds, C1, 8 + 1 rivetted; SG sherd, Flav/Traj, 1; SG bowl, later C1, 1; handle frag, SG, C1, 1.

(b) Below the defences

Trench 1, UIRF 5f

Dr 29, SG. Triple leaf tassel, apparently from scrollery. Pre-Flav.  
Dr 37, CG. The ovolo is broken but is probably that used, sometimes with beads, by the Martres 'Potter of the Rosette' (S&S PL. 22, no. 273).

There is no apparent parallel for his using the plain double festoon, but it occurs as an arcade on Terrisse 1968, PL. 19, no. 1203; the motif inside it is probably a bird, as S&S PL. 20, no. 250. c. AD 100-125.

Dr 37, CG. The ovolo may be R.G205, whose user is not known. Fine beads, small leaf motifs in the field. The rim has been grooved, and the interior is poorly finished. Had, probably (Fig M1)

Dr 37, CG. Panel with festoon or medallion and small circle.

Dr 37, CG. Panel containing Apollo O.83/84 variant. Had-Ant.

Dr 37 in the style of Drusus ii of Lezoux. Ovolo, beads and small double medallion as S&S PL. 88, no. 7. c. AD 125-145.

Dr 37, CG. Part of ? animal. Traj-Had.

Dr 37, CG. Ring-tongued ovolo with astragalus border, used by several Lexoux potters. Antonine.

(RV) FFI.MA on flat base. Die 1a, Ruffus ii of Lezoux (3) Ruffus' stamps, including this, have been noted in Antonine Scotland. His work also occurs in the Rhineland, suggesting activity in the first half of C2, though there are no examples of this particular stamp there. Ruffus made 18/31, 18/31R and 27. c. AD 130-155.

Dr 37, CG. The ovolo has been damaged in finishing, and is not certainly identifiable; narrow beads beneath. Had-early Ant.

Dr 37, with ovolo and beads used by Attianus of Lezoux (S&S PL. 87, no. 23). c. AD 130-150.

Dr 37, CG. The broken ovolo is likely to be one used, with similar beads, by Sacer of Lezoux: S&S PL. 34, no. 16. The lion may be O.1497J  
c. AD 125-145.

Dr 37, CG. Fragment of decoration. Traj-Had

Dech 67, SG, barbotine leaves, Flavian.

Dech 67, SG, barbotine leaves, Flav-Traj.

Déch 72, incised: as Oswald & Pryce 1920, PL. 77, no. 4. CG, Ant

#### Quadrant 10, 4

Dr 37, CG. Triple leaf used singly by X-10 ('Ranto-Silvio') on S&S PL. 33, no. 393, and X-11 ('Ioenalis') on ibid. PL. 38, no. 451, here used in a cross in a panel of wavy lines. c. AD 100-125.

Dr 37, fragment of decoration. CG. Traj-Had. Burnt.

Dr 37, SG. The fragmentary ovolo probably has a triple tongue.

The main frieze contains a resting stag beside a corded foliage arrangement: cf. H. PL. 88, no. 2; Grimes 1930, Fig. 37, no. 40.

#### Other fragments

Dr 16/17 or 18, SG, pre or early Flav, 1; Dr 18, SG, Flav-Traj, burnt,  
Dr 18/31, CG, mid C2, 2; Dr 18/31, CG, C2, 2; Dr 18/31 or 31, CG,  
C2, 1; Dr 18/31 or 31, CG, Ant, 3; Dr 27g, SG, CI burnt; Dr 27, SG,  
Flav-Traj, 1; Dr 27, CG, 1st half C2, 2; Dr 30R, CG, early-mid C2, 2;  
Dr 30R, CG, Had/Ant, 1; Dr 31, CG, Ant, 1; Dr 36, SG, Flav 1; Dr 37,  
SG, C1, 1; Dr 37, CG, early-mid C2, 6; Dr 37, CG, Ant, 4; Dr 38, prob CG,

C2, 1; Dr 38, CG, Ant, 3; Curle 11, CG, early C2, 2; Walters 79, CG, Ant 1; SG sherd, C1; SG bowl, rivetted; C G sherds, early-mid C2, 5; C G sherds, C2, 6; burnt sherd.

(c) Inside defences

Trench 1, LMIRS 4

Dr 37 probably, Central Gaul; edge of a leaf. Hadrianic

Quadrant 3, 3

Dr 37, CG. Cinnamus ovolo 3a and scroll (cf. S&S PL. 162. no. 61 )

c. AD 150-170.

Dr 37 in the style of Albucius of Lezoux. The ovolo, astragalus borders, circle terminal, medallion, cupid, (O.450/D.265) and Victory (O.826/D.484) are all on S&S PL. 120, no.1, the beaded circle on no.2, the corded motif on ibid. PL. 122, no.23. He used the panther, O.1570/D.805. c. AD 150-180 (other pieces from Quadrant 3.4; another from Quadrant 3.3 is badly burnt).

Dr 37; the broken ovolo is probably one used by Attianus of Lezoux with similar beads (S&S PL. 85, no.6). The motifs in the panels are fragmentary but cf. the large leaf used in a saltire by the 'Large S Potter' (ibid. PL. 76, no. 31). c. AD 125-150.

Dr 37 in the style of Cinnamus of Lezoux. His ovolo 3a, acanthus, cakestand, vase, lion (O.1421/D.753), panther (O.1512), bird (O.2250A), beads, astragalus, and medallion: S&S PL. 157, no. 10, PL. 159, no. 23 and 26, PL. 161, no. 50, PL. 162, no. 58 c. AD 150-170.

Déch 72, CC, barbotine leaves, CG, Ant.

Quadrant 3, 4

Dr 29, SG. Lower frieze wreath of triple leaves (cf. Atkinson 1914, PL. 8, no. 46)

above one of pointed leaves (cf. ibid. PL. 11, no. 54, by Mommo) and a basal frieze of festoons with small birds (D.1009 and a bird looking back to right, without parallel), separated by a beadrow ending in a bifid tassel. There are general links with such potters as Passienus. c. AD 55-70.

Dr 37 probably. ? scrollery ; circle in field. Antonine.

#### Other fragments

Dr 15/17 or 18, SG, C1, 1; Dr 18, SG, Flav, 3; Dr 18, SG, Flav-Traj, 1;  
 Dr 18/31, CG, early C2, 3 + 1 partly burnt; Dr 18/31, CG, Had/Ant, 3;  
 Dr 18/31, CG, Ant, 1; Dr 18/31 or 31, CG, Ant, 1; Dr 27, SG, /Dr 27, SG, Flav, 2;  
 Flav-Traj, 3; Dr 27, CG, early-mid C1, 1; Dr 27, Montans prob, C2, 1;  
 Dr 27/Walters 80, burnt, 1; Dr 31, CG, Ant, 5; Dr 33, CG, early C2, 1;  
 Dr 33, CG, Ant, 6; Dr 36, CG, early-mid C2, 1; Dr 36, CG, Ant, 1; Dr 37,  
 CG, Had/Ant, 2; Dr 37, CG, C2, 1; Dr 37, CG, Ant, 1 burnt; Dr 38, CG,  
 Ant, 1; Dr 38 or 44, CG, Ant; Dr 44, CG, Ant, 1; Curle 11, CG, early  
 C2, 2; Curle 15, SG, Flav 1; Déch 67 prob, SG, Flav, 1; SG sherds, C1, 1;  
 SG sherd prob, rivetted; CG sherds, C2, 5, CG sherd, bowl/large dish, Ant;  
 burnt sherd, 1.

#### PHASE 3

##### (a) Incorporated in town bank

##### Trench 1, UIRF 4

Dr 37 in the style of Cettus of Les Martres: the ovolo and large beads are shown on S&S PL. 141, no. 13. c. AD 135-165.

Dr 37, CG. Figures too fragmentary to identify. Traj-Had.

##### Trench 1, UIRF 5a

Dr 37, SG. Scroll with large toothed leaves, above second frieze. Flavian.

Trench 2, Well 2

Dr 37 in the style of X-13 ('Donnaucus') of Les Martres. The panel of Abundantia (O.802), Bacchus (O.622/D.362) and astragalus, with similar borders and rosette terminals, is shown on S&S PL. 48, no. 574. c.  
AD 100-125.

Other fragments

Dr 18, SG, C1, 1; Dr 18, SG, Flav, 1; Dr 18/31, CG, first half C2, 2;  
Dr 18/31, CG, Had - Ant. 2; Dr 18/31, CG, C2, 2; Dr 27, SG, early C2, 1;  
Dr 27, SG, Flav-Traj, 4; Dr 33, CG, C2, 1; Dr 33, CG, Ant, 2; Dr 33, CG,  
Ant, 2; Dr 36, CG, C2, 1; Dr 37, CG, early C2, 1; Dr 37, CG, Had-Ant,  
1+1 worn; Dr 37, CG, Ant, 1; SG sherd, C1, 1; CG sherd, fragment of decoration,  
Traj-Had, 1; CG sherd, early C2, 1; CG sherds, C2, 6;  
CG sherds, Ant, 3.

(b) Incorporated in material spread over Phase 2 levels outside defencesTrench 4, 3

Dr 37, in the style of Drusus i of Les Martres. S&S PL. 14, no. 175, has the ovolo, feathered scroll and beaded rosette c. 100-120. Rivetted.

Other Fragments

Dr 18/31, CG, early-mid C2, 1; Dr 27, CG, early C2, 1; Dr 33, CG  
Ant, 1; Curle 11, CG, early-mid C2, 1.