

Very interesting

Area 23 1970; 1971; (1977) MANCESTER

- x 1. Topsoil. Amphora fragment thrown away. Fragment from a Verulamium region mortarium.
- x 2. Old ground soil, beneath modern ploughsoil.
- x? 3. Equals 2. (Cleaning dark area which was silting over well.)
- x 4. Probably equals 2. No mortaria.
- ? 5. Equals 3.
- x 6. Cleaning layer - not important.
- ✓ 7. Brown earth with pebbles. Top 2 inches of filling beneath 3 & 5. This is the top of the filling of the hollow caused by sinkage of the well-filling. Equals 11.
- x 8. Equals 2.
- ? 9. Probably equals 3 but could contain material from outside pit.
- ? 10. Cleaning layer - probably mostly filling, equalling 9.
- ✓ 11. Equals 7. Upper filling of pit caused by sinkage.
- x 12. Clearing to north-east of pit/well - equals 6 & 2 etc.
- x 13. Cleaning west of the well - equals 12. Not important.
- ✓ 14. Filling of sinkage pit in top of well. Should equal 11. Dark brown, compacted soil with clay, large stones, charcoal and red specks in the filling. Small find no. 20 - Julia Domna coin A.D. 211-217.
- ✓ 15. Below 27" below datum - point at which coin found. Equals 14.
- 16. The stones dipping down the edges of the pit and incorporated in layer 28, ~~were~~ ^{here.} probably used to seal the original well-filling. Normal practice
- ✓ 28. Immediately below 15. Red clay layer, probably part of the sealing of the well-filling.
- ✓ 16. Blackish filling at the top of the well-shaft; predates the sinkage pit. outside the sinkage pit over the wide sill at the top of the well-shaft. No mortaria. *Does not extend downwards into narrow shaft.*
- x (17. Bottom of plough-furrow, south-west of pit/well.)
- ? ✓ 18. Equals 11, 14 & 15? *Could be well-sealing 28.*
- ? ✓ 19. ~~W~~ Equals 11, 14, 15 & 18? *Among stones. No mortaria. Could be in well-sealing but could also have material from 11, 14, 15 & 18.*
- ✓ 20. Equals 16.

- ✓ 21. Equals 18. No mortaria.
- ✓ 22. Compacted, dark brown earth in sill at top of well-shaft; behind 16. Predates the sinkage pit filling. Does not extend down into the narrow well-shaft. No mortaria.
- ? 23. Red clay, possibly ~~part~~ part of the sealing material but if there is any doubt disregard it. No mortaria.
- ✓ 24. Compacted, light brown silt underlying 16 and 27. Well-filling.
- x 25. Uncertain - not likely to be well-filling. No mortaria.
- ✓ 26. Well-filling. Grey silt with charcoal, behind 24 and spreading across underneath layer 30. Has a thin pink, unnumbered, silt layer dipping through it.
- ✓ 27. Compacted, brown silt with specks of charcoal beneath 28 and above 24.
- ✓ 28. See first page. Beneath layer 15 and above 27. Red clay probably part of original sealing of well-filling.
- ✓ 29. Amongst the stones in the bottom of layer 28; equals 28.
- ✓ 30. Reddish brown, very clayey mixture containing a concentration of squashed pottery. Below 24 and above 26.
- x (31. Equals 2.)
- ✓ 32. Small pit with dark filling, 2' 6" deep - probably post-hole. Attached to shallow gullies, east of the well and the little pit (W70 (43) 45) (? posthole) which adjoins well. No mortaria. Above 48.
- ✓ 33. Pinkish grey silt above charcoal tip-line 34/⁴⁷and beneath a charcoal tip-line 45/⁴⁶Equals 44.
- 34. Thin charcoaly layer dipping beneath layer 33/46. Equals 47.
- 35. Equals 49. Next thin charcoaly layer below 34/47 charcoal layer with 48 (37) between them.
- 36. Pink-grey silt above charcoal layer 45 and beneath layer 26. Equals 44.
- 37. Equals 48. Pink silt and clay; patches of blue-grey and buff clay. Below charcoal 34/47 and above charcoal 35/49.
- x (38. Clearing layer equals 2)
- locate (39. Posthole at south side of area ⁽²³⁾, amongst stones. Stone lined. Dark brown earth flecked with charcoal.)
- x (40. Cleaning immediately adjacent to well on east side. No mortaria.)
- locate (41. Posthole stone-lined. Filling as 39. North west edge of area 23.)
- ✓ (42. Small pit or posthole on east side of well. top filling.) Dark filling. Post-dates well filling & filling of sinkage pit. Above 19 72 45.

43. Well-filling. Level undefined. *things dropping in etc.*

✓ 44. Equals 36.

1971 ✓ 45. Charcoal layer below 36/44.

Beware nos. 45 - 48, 1970, refer to different contexts from nos. 45-48 in 1971.

✓ 1970. 45. From silty bottom of the small pit adjoining well. Underneath 42. Post-d
well-filling + sinkage pit.

✓ 1970 46. Shallow gully east of well. Dark filling.

✓ 1970 47. ?Posthole in the middle of 46.

1970 48. Dark filling under the stones where 46 appears to join another channel going south-east. These channels? are probably post-trenches similar to, ? joining those excavated in 1971. *Below 32*

1971 46 Equals 33.

1971 47 Equals 34.

1971 48 Equals 37.

49 Equals 35.

50. Pink silt and clay below 35/49.

62. 2 inch charcoal layer below 50. Well filling.

63. Pink clayey silt with some wood.

86. Charcoal 4 -6 inches thick. Well filling.

87. Pink silt with clay, patches of fine grey clay, small stones; Flagon, complete except for a 1/8" puncture, appeared at 16' 11" below ground level. Some wood.

94. Dividing line arbitrary. As 87, but softer and more water-logged. Complete flagon, hairline cracks in body, at 17' 10" below ground level. Near complete, narrow-mouthed, grey ware jar, in pieces with lead rivet, appearing at 18' 3" below ground level.

Base of well ¹¹pebbled gravel " at 19' 2" below ground level.

To be continued.

MANCETTER 1970-71 - Site 23 Well. Key to layers in section

1970

- 11 Top 2" of 14
- 14 Pit, dark fill. Lined with clay and small stones. Charcoal in fill.
- 16 Blackish fill
- 22 Hard dark brown earth
- 24 Light brown hard silt
- 26 Charcoal
- 27 Hard brown silt with charcoal flecks
- 28 Clay
- 30 Grey silt and charcoal

1971

- 43 Finds from well-shaft where layer number unknown
- 44 Pinkish-grey silt (= 1970 layer 36)
- 45 Charcoal, 2"
- 46 Pink silty clay (= 1970 layer 33)
- 47 Charcoal, 3" (= 1970 layer 34)
- 48 Pink silt and clay, with patches of blue-grey and buff clay
(= 1970 layer 37)
- 49 Charcoal, 1½" (= 1970 layer 35)
- 50 Pink silt and clay
- 62 Charcoal, 2"
- 63 Pink clayey silt
- 86 Charcoal, 4" - 6" thick
- 87 Pink silt with clay, patches of fine grey clay, small stones.
Complete flagon (except for ⅛" puncture) appearing at 16'11"
below ground level.
- 94 As 87 (arbitrary dividing line) but softer, more waterlogged.
Complete flagon (hairline cracks in body) appearing at 17'10"
below ground level. Near-complete narrow-mouthed grey ware
jar, in pieces, with lead rivet, appearing at 18'3" below
ground level.

Base of well - pebbled gravel, 19'2" below ground level.

NB Sides of well lined with 3" - 4" of red clay. Eroded below level
of undercutting.