

The Romano-British Village at Needham, Norfolk

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I. INTRODUCTION (S.F.)

The gravel pit belonging to Mr. H. Dean, at Needham, lies on the north bank of the Waveney near Harleston, Norfolk. As an archæological site it is of some importance, having produced mesolithic flints¹ as well as a Bronze Age food-vessel² and a Deverel-Rimbury cinerary urn.³ But its chief significance lies in the Romano-British village which occupied the site from the earliest years of the occupation until the beginning of the third century.

Roman remains were first noticed here in 1921, but when one of us wrote an interim report on the site to the end of 1936⁴ there was little enough to show for the years of destruction. The present writer kept as continuous a watch as was possible from the beginning of 1936 until the end of 1939, and though activity was confined to rescue-work, a good deal of information has been gained on the character and history of the settlement. The chief feature of the site is the number of small pits (about 3-4 feet in diameter and 3 feet deep) sunk in the natural gravel. They are undoubtedly storage or refuse pits, and are filled with earth much blacker than the humus, containing an assortment of broken pottery, animal bones, oyster-shells, iron nails and slag, and sometimes a flooring of clay containing oyster-shells. Burnt clay containing wattle impressions is often present, and this must have been the fabric of most of the huts; a single *tegula* recovered perhaps implies some more substantial building.

Owing to the circumstances of discovery, no post-holes or house-plans have been noticed in association with the pits. Of structures, in addition to the pottery-kiln destroyed in 1921, two other kilns were found in 1937 and are described in Section IV below. A hearth, too, of large flints packed in clay was discovered early in 1938; it was 5 feet square and 9 inches thick, consisting of several layers of flints all discoloured and cracked by heat; the clay was burnt and baked, particularly at the centre. Around it for at least 10 feet was a 7-inch layer of blackened earth containing small worn sherds, evidently an occupation area. Dating

¹ See Appendix I.

² *Antiq. Journ.* XX, 1940, 272. (Norwich Museum.)

³ *Norfolk Arch.* XXVIII, 1942, 26. (Norwich Museum.)

⁴ *Brettenham and Needham*, 1937. (See Bibliography, p. 215.)

evidence was provided by a rim of Samian form 33 found in the hearth. Further investigation, however, was, as so often, precluded by the advance of the gravel-diggers. Three ditches, probably drainage-gullies, have been noted in section crossing the site at intervals; but lack of funds and the destruction of the major portion of the site by quarrying have usually prevented leisureed excavation or planning. Twelve feet of Ditch 3, however, was excavated, and a report on the mid-first century pottery found there has already been published.¹ No graves have been

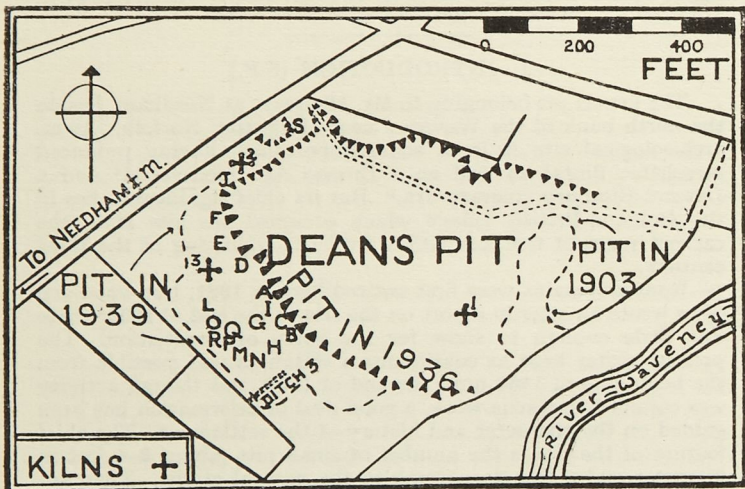


FIG. I.—PLAN OF DEAN'S PIT, NEEDHAM

Showing expansion from 1903 to 1939, sites of pottery kilns, and refuse pits (lettered A-S)

met with, though part of a human skull was recovered from a conglomeration of pits near Ditch 3 at the south side of the site.

Enough has been said to show that the settlement consisted of a Romano-British village of normal peasant type, its hovels set out with no permanency or regular plan. Such settlements in fact are no less typical of the Iron Age, and demonstrate the essential prehistoric economy of peasant life in Roman Britain. At Needham, the village has been shown to start soon after the Claudian Conquest. The material from Ditch 3 at the south edge of the site has strong Belgic affinities, and is of an importance to have warranted separate publication. It was clearly the first flower of Romanization among the Iceni, introduced under the native dynasty of Prasutagus. The revolt of Boudicca, however, and her defeat led to the collapse of this early culture, and when Romanization was born afresh in our area, East Anglia was still

¹ *Claudian Report*, 1941. (See Bibliography.)

smarting from the full rigours of direct Roman rule. In the Flavian period,¹ then, the site gradually develops once more from these interrupted beginnings, reaching its zenith soon after the middle of the second century when most of the pits were in use; and the pottery implies that it had ceased to be inhabited by the beginning of the third century. It is difficult to account for this unusually early and sudden demise of a flourishing community; possibly the peasants were bought out by some neighbouring villa landlord.² At any rate, the thread of rural life can be traced throughout the first half of the Roman period, and this continuity throws valuable light upon the quality of the Romanization of the Icenian peasants.

Economically, the villagers subsisted on agriculture practised on the light gravelly soil of the valley-side. Querns and mortars testify to this. But the settlement was more prosperous than many. Its pottery favourably contrasts in variety and quality with that of the similar Norfolk site at Runcton Holme, and the villagers could afford Samian and other non-local fabrics. The cause of this prosperity is undoubtedly that the villagers combined manufacturing with agriculture. The two kilns for which we have dating evidence are of second-century date; and though Needham was not without good pottery in the Flavian period, the majority of the pits are Hadrianic and Antonine; while it cannot be by chance that so much of the decorated Samian also dates from the same decades.³ Indeed, there is a significant lack of Samian decorated forms between the Claudian group and the Hadrianic, which emphasizes the point we are making. Note also how pre-Flavian brooches were treasured into the second century (Pits G, I, P below, p. 206): poverty had prevented their replacement. Thus only with the rise of the pottery industry at Needham in the early second century did material prosperity return; and both these interrelated features illustrate that gradual second-century recovery from the harsh reprisals for the Boudiccan rebellion, which has been recognized elsewhere in East Anglia.⁴

The communications of the Claudian settlement are obscure. The distribution of Claudian settlements in East Anglia, indeed, shows a definite river-bank tendency,⁵ but this may be due as much to suitability of soil as to ease of communication. Needham lies on the alignment of a Roman road which runs north-west from Peasenhall, Suffolk; but this was presumably secondary to the "Pye Road" connecting Colchester with Caistor on the line of the present Ipswich-Norwich road, which it is thought to have joined near Pulham Workhouse. The "Pye Road" itself is con-

¹ c. A.D. 70.

² cf. Collingwood and Myres: *Roman Britain and the English Settlements*, 1937, 223.

³ *Claudian Report*, 51; cf. *Runcton Holme*, 236, 241.

⁴ *Runcton Holme*, 236-8; Atkinson: *Norf. Arch.* XXIV, 133; Clarke: *Arch. Journ.* XCVI, 87-8.

⁵ See map, *Claudian Report*, Fig. 9.

sidered by Clarke¹ to date from about A.D. 70, and the Peasenhall-Needham road is perhaps not earlier than the second century. We are left, then, with the river and unmetalled native trackways,² though it is likely that there was also an east to west Roman road along the Waveney Valley.

II. THE FINDS.³ (S.F.)

The chief value of Needham lies in its pottery. Icenian pottery presents peculiar problems as Professor Atkinson has shown at Caistor, and it is only from a series of fully published local sites that a reliable sequence can be established. It may be said at once that the Needham pottery fully demonstrates the backwardness of Icenian pottery fashions which has been noticed elsewhere⁴ with its characteristic retention of pre-Flavian types until the middle of the second century. The evidence from this settlement is important, for most of the vessels illustrated come from pits in close association with other vessels, all clearly contemporary, apart from the few exceptions noted. Thus we have a series dated not merely by typology but by association.

Three main types, Dishes, Cups and Beakers, Bowls and Jars, are studied as far as possible chronologically, save where associations in a pit have interrupted the sequence.

A. DISHES

The dish series starts with imitations of the black polished Gallo-Belgic ("Terra Nigra") plate.⁵

1. Grey-black dish,⁶ well fired gritty clay, decorated with two slight burnished concentric circles near centre; the footring is functionless; imitation of *Verulamium*, Fig. 23, 9, cf. *Richborough I*, 9 and 10.
2. Dish, black micaceous paste, brown to black surface; central kick still visible, but footring now vestigial, being marked by two concentric grooves; rim form advancing towards 3.
3. Dish, light grey ware with mica content, smoothly finished inside; imitating late Gallo-Belgic form common at Colchester, cf. *Verulamium*, Fig. 23, 9; footring now absent entirely. An example of this dish occurred in Pit N, 80-120.⁷ cf. *Antiq. Journ.*, XIII, 1933, 266, and Fig. 2, 6.

¹ *Brettenham and Needham*, 162.

² The existence of some route through East Suffolk late in the Iron Age was suggested by Clarke, *Arch. Journ.* XCVI, 82; perhaps this ran near the course of the Peasenhall-Needham road.

³ The bones and pottery and other small finds are now in Norwich Museum.

⁴ *Caistor Kilns*, 39; *Caistor*, 198; *Runcton Holme*, 243.

⁵ Itself present in Ditch 3, see *Claudian Report*, 46; for copies see *ibid.*, nos. 36, 37.

⁶ Unless stated, the vessels figured were not associated in any Pit.

⁷ For evidence for these and subsequent approximate dates see below, Section III.

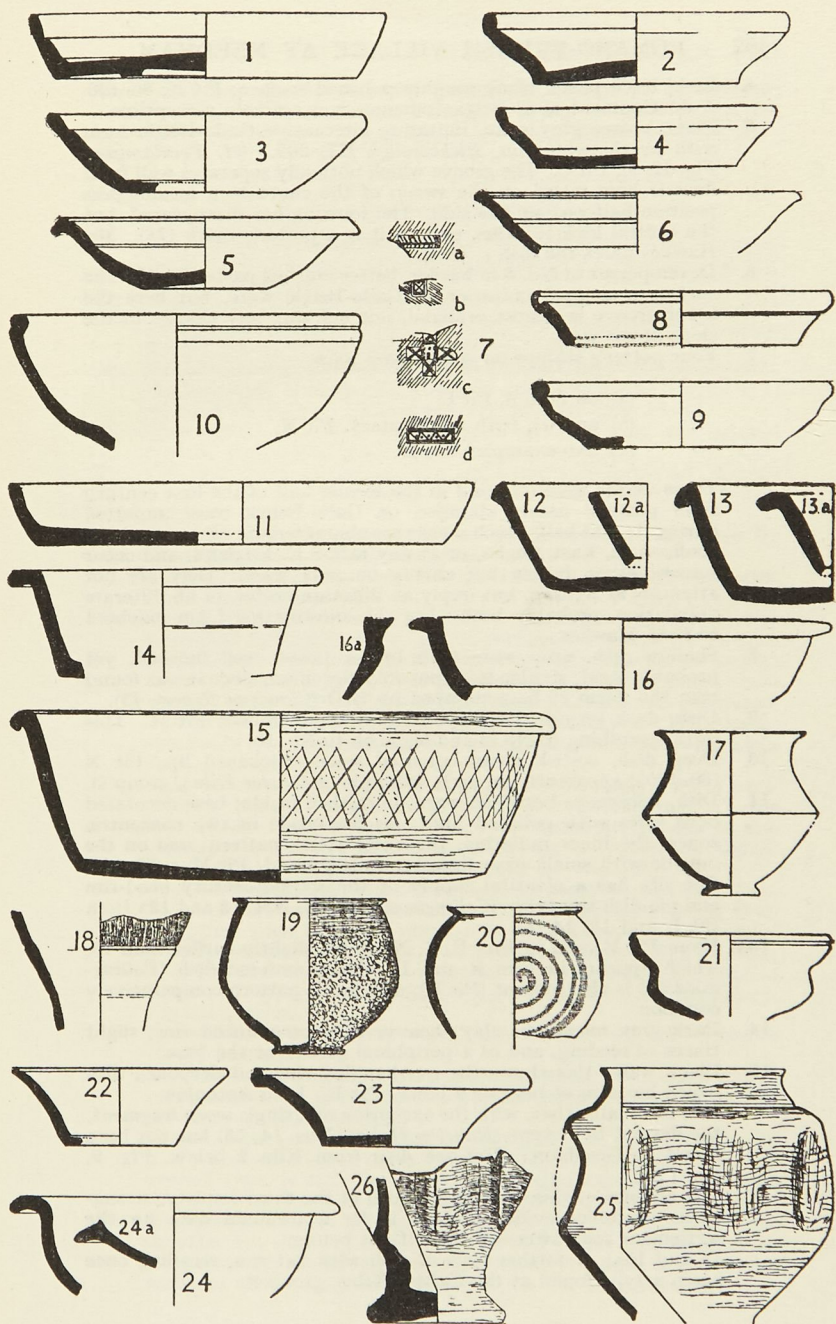


FIG. 2.—DISHES, CUPS AND BEAKERS (8) (see pp. 190, 192-3)

4. Dish, brick paste, black roughly polished surface; Pit N, 80-120. A development of 3; Belgic influence now scarcely perceptible.
5. Plate, coarse grey ware, imitating alternative Gallo-Belgic form with overhanging rim, *Richborough* III, 209. (cf. *Verulamium*, Fig. 12, 9), Pit C. The groove which normally separates wall from floor is here raised on the sweep of the curve to a meaningless position half-way up the side. The footring has disappeared but the central kick remains, and on it is a potter's mark (7A)., Mr. Hawkes dates the dish c. 60-80.
6. Development of No. 5 in harder, better finished paste: Pit M. The surface is a good imitation of Gallo-Belgic ware, but here the lower groove is almost vestigial, not marking any change in the slope of the wall.
7. Four potter's stamps on coarse grey ware:
 - (a) on Dish 5, Pit C.
 - (b) and (c), both fragmentary, Pit N.
 - (d) two examples, Pit M.

These marks were imitated in the second half of the first century from potters' names stamped on Gallo-Belgic ware imported during its first half. Such marks are characteristic of, and perhaps confined to, East Anglia, or at any rate S.E. England, and occur sometimes on brown but chiefly on grey ware. They are not attempts at writing, but imply an illiterate potter, or an illiterate population, probably both. For this information I am indebted to Prof. Hawkes.

8. Shallow dish, grey ware with brown paste; well finished, yet probably local; similar to 3; possibly Neronian, since it was found near the Form 29 base stamped by BIO (*Claudian Report*, 43).
9. Dish, dark grey coarse clay; rim internally rolled; Pit H. This owes something to No. 2 and leads on to No. 10.
10. Deep dish, softish cream-coloured ware, thickened lip; Pit N (80-120); apparently an early example of *Caistor Kilns*, group O.
11. Dish, micaceous brick-red ware; burnished inside; base decorated both sides with polished lines: on the inside in two concentric zones, the inner radiating, the outer trellis pattern; and on the outside with small wavy lines on matt ground; Pit M, c. 70-140. The site has a plentiful supply of the second-century bead-rim and pie-dish rim types (*Collingwood*, 44-48), Nos. 12 and 12A from Pit I, and 13, 14, 15.
- 13A. From Pit M (and in Pits B, C, N) seems slightly earlier than 13, which appears in Pits R and I. The chamfered dish (*Collingwood* 24) is also present (Pit R), and trellis pattern comparatively common.
14. Dark grey micaceous clay; heavy, very pronounced rim; slight traces of reeding, and of a peripheral groove at the base.
15. Black ware; this shows the overhanging rim and deepened dish which has almost become a bowl. Pit R. Late Antonine. It is noticeable that, with the exception of a single worn fragment, the flanged bowl type (*Runcton Holme*, Nos. 14, 15) has not been found at Needham. (But see dish from Kiln 2 below, Fig. 9, No. 123.)

The absence of this, the leading dish of the third century, strengthens whatever evidence there is for a terminal date for the settlement soon after A.D. 200, if not before.

16 and 16A. A further type of dish with flat rim, recalling once again a type found at the *Caistor Kilns*, group n.

16. Light grey smoothed ware; resembles *Caistor* w, 2, which is described as the prototype of group n, and is dated 70-110. Ours, however, from its associations (Pit P), must be second century.
- 16A. Coarse brown ware, Pit N, 80-120.

B. CUPS AND BEAKERS

17. Thin-walled carinated beaker, fine "soapy" grey-brown material, Pit M. A Claudian to early Flavian type, but cf. *Richborough* III, 288, dated 80-120.
18. Lower portion of rouletted beaker, buff clay, buff slip; imitating a Belgic form (*Swarling*, Pl. IX, 34; XI, 5, Colchester, also *Claudian Report*, No. 6). Unassociated c. 60-80.
19. Rough-cast cup, pinkish buff paste, purplish slip. The profile with the high belly is early, and a closely similar example, *Caistor* τ, 1, is dated 70-110; cf. *Richborough* III, 301 (80-120), Pit C.
20. Thin-walled cup, buff paste, decorated with dark red painted spirals. No parallel discovered. Pit N, c. 80-120.
21. Polished black micaceous cup, probably influenced by Samian form 27, Pit N. *Richborough* I, 45; cf. *Richborough* III, 225-227, dated 80-120.
22. Cup, brown paste, finely polished black surface; influenced by Samian form 33. Pit R, Antonine.
23. Coarse grey cup recalling Samian form 46. Pit R, Antonine. Pit I also contained one.
24. Cup imitating Samian form 35, a Flavian form, in crudely burnished light grey ware; 24A is perhaps influenced by Samian form, Curle 11. These flanged bowls imitating Forms 35 and 36 were found at *Wroxeter* (I, 16), dated 80-120, and though there and at *Verulamium* (28, dated 120-160) the flanges were decorated, a plain flange is sometimes found on the prototype. The present specimens are Trajanic, Pit G. See *Caistor* v, 9-11 (with plain flanges) dated 100-140.
25. Thin-walled orange-red folded beaker, *Richborough* I, 55, a first-century type. This must be regarded as a survival in Pit I, the bulk of the material from which was Antonine, though it also contained a Belgic white butt-beaker rim (cf. *Claudian Report*, No. 6) and a Claudius-Nero flagon neck (cf. *ibid.*, 22).
26. Base of coarse grey folded beaker (*Brettenham and Needham*, Fig. 7, 5 redrawn); 6 indentations; these and intervening keels decorated with a rough vertical burnished line. The pedestal (cf. 27) continues the Belgic tradition (*Verulamium*, Fig. 16, 49A, B, c, 50); but a pedestal on a similar indented beaker is found at *Caistor* (τ. 13) as late as the second half of the second century. Icenian survival.
27. Pedestal base, coarse grey ware, unassociated. Another found in Pit R, Antonine.
28. Grey carinated beaker, Pit R. Antonine example of *Caistor*, τ 5. Icenian survival, such a form normally being Trajanic or earlier. (*Richborough* III, 291, 292.)
29. Beaker, light grey burnished exterior, Pit M. At *Wroxeter* (II, p. 50) this ware lasted from c. 80 to 150. The rim, short sharply everted type, is early in the series and characteristic of the turn of the first and second century; the high shoulder too is early.
30. Poppy-head beaker, less fine grey ware, cordon at neck. Here the shoulder has slumped down, *Caistor*, τ. 9, τ. 10. At *Verulamium* a very similar vessel is dated 120-160, and should be contrasted with the earlier shapes, *ibid.* 72 and 73. Pit R, Antonine.

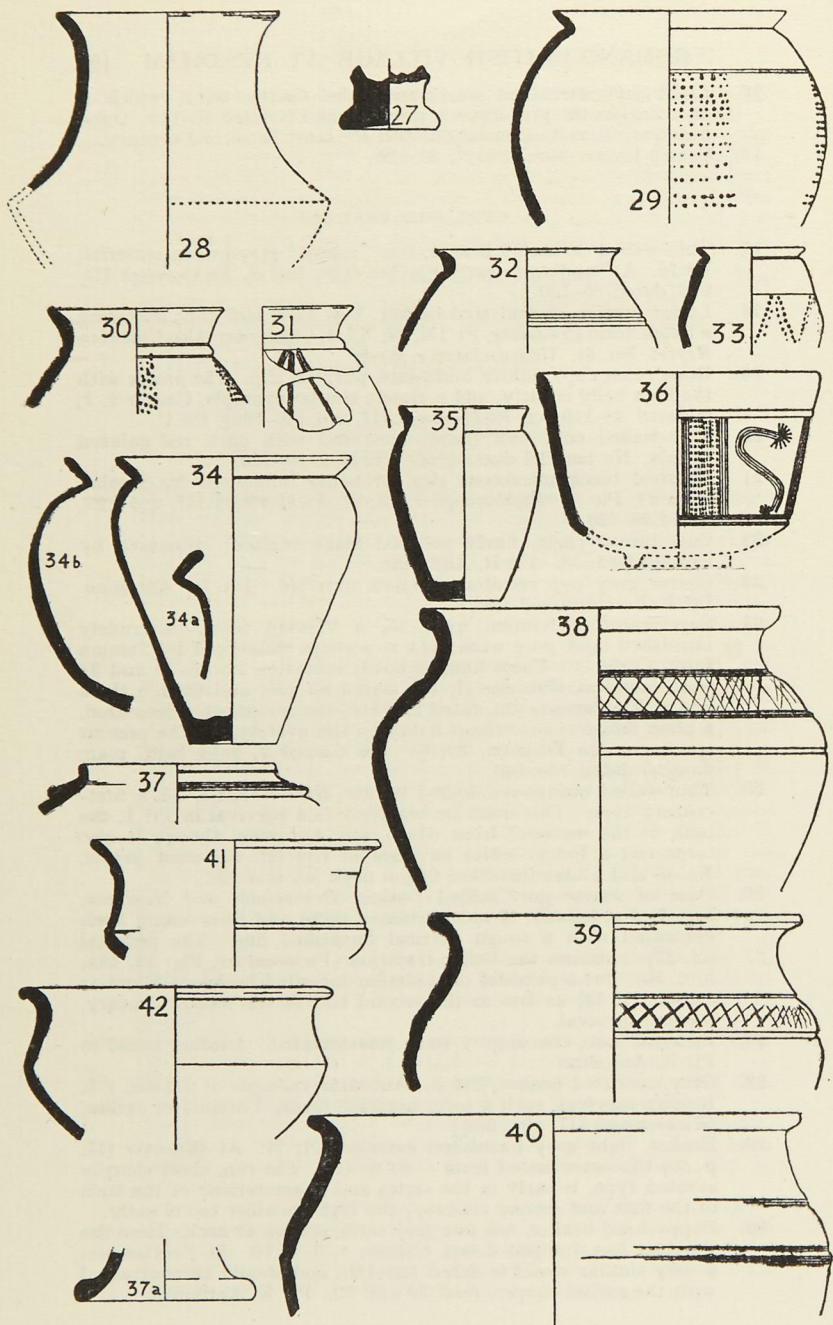


FIG. 3.—BEAKERS, BOWLS AND JARS ($\frac{3}{8}$) (see pp. 193, 195, 197)

31. Smoothed dark grey ware, decorated with barbotine lines, cf. *Wroxeter* II, Pl. XV, 8 (A.D. 80-120). Pit R, Antonine.
32. Beaker in same hard burnished grey as 29, but the shoulder has sunk and the vessel is less globular. The rim, set back from a slight ledge, is weakened into a curve; see *Runcton Holme*, 255. Undecorated except for two horizontal grooves, Pit Q. Mid-second century.
33. Beaker, light grey polished ware, barbotine spots, Pit P. Hadrian-Antonine.
34. Oblique-rimmed beaker in brown ware, decorated with very faint vertical burnished lines; has traces of soot; Pit L. This type with sharply everted lip and high shoulder is Trajan-Hadrianic; see 66: 34a, with more pronounced vertical lines, has even more definite shoulder. As the second century advanced, the shoulder slumped down, and the angle of the rim tends to be replaced by a curve or less abrupt angle: 34b, in polished black ware (un-associated), shows the process far advanced.
35. Black beaker with brick red core, unassociated; retains the pear-shaped beaker body and exhibits the "neck-rim" (*Collingwood* 65). With 35a, Pit P, appears the "cavetto rim" (*Collingwood* 72), mid-second century.

C. BOWLS AND JARS

It is difficult to start this series with many indisputably Flavian examples, for the pits which do contain Flavian material all continue into the second century; and in view of the survival of early types of bowl and jar in Norfolk already noticed, it is not easy to be certain that any are early.

36. Bowl elaborately decorated, imitating Samian form 30 (cf. 62, 63, and Pl. I, 2). Paste hard grey; surface very finely burnished, dull grey-black in colour; "soapy" to touch, cf. 17; decoration is metopic, panels which contain large star above and small star below connected by S-shaped curve impressed with four-pronged comb (see p. 202), being separated by band of elaborate rouletting bounded by vertical impressed lines of similar combing. At the base of the wall are the flutings characteristic of the prototype. Height markedly less than diameter of rim, as in early examples of form 30.
It is difficult to find close parallels to this vessel, but it belongs to the same class of pottery as No. 62 below.
The bowl comes from Pit M, which lasted until c. A.D. 140, but taking into consideration No. 17 above in very similar ware, a date not far from A.D. 70 seems probable for it. Curiously enough, Pit M contained two of these bowls exactly similar in design, except that from rim to angle the bowl figured measures 3.3 in., the other 3.6 in. Their respective diameters are 3 in. and 4.1 in.
37. Coarse yellow jar with refolded collar, Pit M. 37a is perhaps its pedestal base. Early Flavian.
38. Jar, brown micaceous ware, brick paste, inclined to flake (an early characteristic at Needham, cf. *Claudian Report*, Nos. 8, 10); burnished lattice band on shoulder between cordons; developed from *Claudian Report* No. 41 from Ditch 3, to which the rim and latticed band between cordons are closely similar, but the carination has weakened; cf. *Colchester Cat.*, Pl. IV, 28. Unassociated.
39. Pit M, brown ware, Romanized, showing next stage of development from 38. The shape now resembles *Runcton Holme* 19, which reflects *Caistor Kilns*, types F, G; c. 100-140. See also *Verulamium*, Fig. 35, 66, dated 110-140.

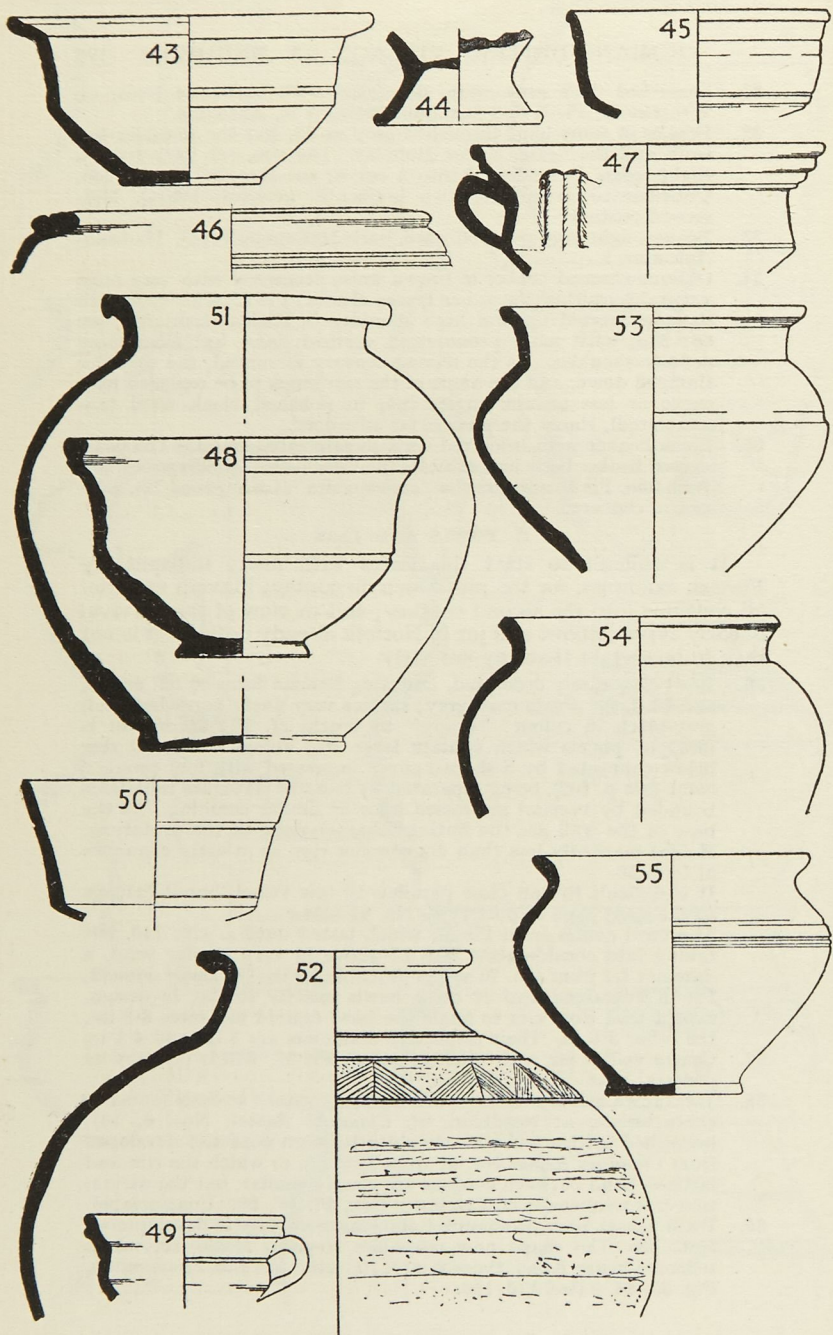


FIG. 4.—BOWLS AND JARS ($\frac{2}{3}$) (see p. 197)

40. Large bowl, micaceous light grey clay, Pit M; descended from a form found in Ditch 3 (*Claudian Report*, No. 35). c. A.D. 100.
41. Grey bowl; paste contains grit showing through roughly smoothed surface; Romanizing copy of Belgic form, *Swarling*, Pl. XI, 3, from Colchester. Pit N, 80-120, probably first century.
42. Carinated bowl, soft grey ware, Pit C; though associated with second-century Samian, this piece is probably contemporary with No. 5, and first century. cf. *Scole*, Pl. XIII, 2.
43. Coarse grey carinated bowl, smoothed and grooved; *Collingwood* 18-20, a common Flavian type, which at Caistor (*Kilns*, group m) lasted till 140. Pit N, 80-120. See 65.
44. Pedestal base of jar, coarse light grey micaceous clay, Pit N, 80-120, probably first century; Romanizing copy of Belgic form (cf. *Claudian Report*, No. 32).
45. Dull red-brown bowl with black core, micaceous. Pit M. This seems to owe something to Samian form 29 and is probably first century (cf. *Runcton Holme* 17).
46. Jar, soft grey, micaceous clay, unassociated; resembles the "three-legged cauldron", *Caistor* types s 2 and s 3, dated 70-120.
47. Carinated hard buff non-micaceous (and hence probably non-local) bowl with handle. Pit N, 80-120. cf. *Caistor* x 12, called prototype of *Kilns*, types p 1, p 3.
48. Bowl, similar in paste to 47, of which it is a development. Pit M. cf. *Caistor* v. 1, dated 80-120.
We have now reached the Trajan-Hadrianic period (c. A.D. 100-140), in which the Needham potters are seen to have been dominated by the Caistor Kiln shapes.
49. Bowl from Pit E; soft pink paste very similar to No. 65 from Pit A, with which it must be nearly contemporary. *Caistor Kilns*, group p, 2, 3.
50. Black polished micaceous bowl, Pit N. In the straight side may be seen the influence of Samian form 30. See Nos. 36, 63, and cf. 45.
51. Jar, dark grey core sharply differentiated from a fired light grey internal and external surface; unburnished and slightly warped. It exactly corresponds with *Caistor Kilns*, group n. Pit N. c. 100-120.
52. Light grey jar, decorated on shoulder with lightly tooled chevron pattern between two horizontal grooves, while a third demarcates the neck; matt body. *Caistor Kilns*, group k. Pit N, c. 100-120.
53. Grey-brown bowl, with wide shallow girth groove. *Caistor Kilns*, groups c and e. Pit M, c. 100-140.
54. Coarse red-brown gritty bowl; neck and shoulder burnt patchy black. *Caistor Kilns*, group b. Pit M, c. 100-140.
55. Grey-brown bowl, moulded foot, Pit M. *Caistor Kilns*, groups b and g.
56. Black jar, burnished on lip and side, burnished lattice on shoulder, Pit M. The small carinated shoulder recalls *Runcton Holme* 30. A precisely similar vessel was found at *Scole House* (Pl. V, 2), c. A.D. 100.
57. Coarse grey micaceous ware, smoothed exterior. Pit M, cf. *Scole*, Pl. XVII, 26.
58. Brown. Pit M.
59. Light grey bowl, burnished outside to below carination. *Caistor Kilns*, group g. Pit P, c. 100-150.
60. Bowl, light grey ware, Pit P. Profile S-shaped, and too featureless to be attached to any of the Caistor groups. It is, however, a very common Antonine form at Needham and appears in Pits A,

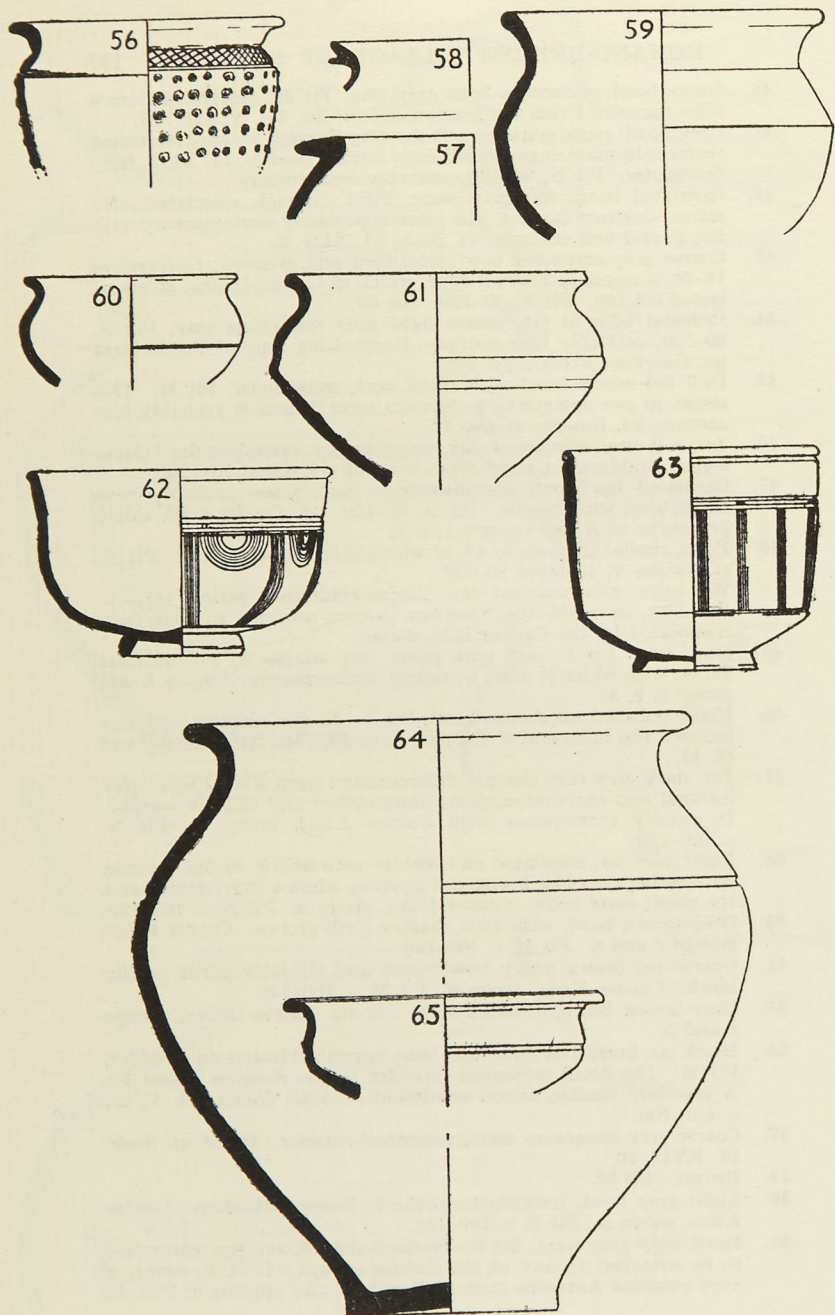


FIG. 5.—BOWLS AND JARS ($\frac{2}{3}$) (see pp. 197, 199)

B, F, H, P. It was absent from pits M and N, and so a date 140-180 would perhaps cover its life. It may be derived from Nos. 42 and 55. cf. *Caistor*, s. 19 (c. 140) which Atkinson calls a development of *Kilns*, type c.

61. Bowl, very soft brown paste, black surface inside and out, burnished except for matt band below shoulder; rounded carination accentuated by shallow grooves above and below, which weaken the structure. Pit H; similar to 55, but likely to be somewhat earlier, c. 100.
62. Bowl, imitating Samian form 37; very fine soft brown paste, purplish black polished surface, with "soapy" feel; Pit H, cf. 36; probably non-local. The general effect resembles shale. Decoration consists of groups of concentric semicircles incised with a multiple compass, separated by combed bands. The vessel is closely similar to a group consisting of Pedestal Jars and imitations of Forms 29 and 37 found in London and now in the Guildhall Museum. Their date appears to be first century. A date therefore, of c. A.D. 100, would be consistent for this vessel; cf. *Caistor* v. 8, dated 70-110; *British Museum Guide to Roman Britain*, Fig. 128, Similar motifs have been found at *Richborough* (III, 283, 284) and *Silchester* (*Silchester* 163), etc.
63. Bowl imitating Samian form 30; grey micaceous paste, blue-black polished surface; decoration consisting of a panel of vertical combed lines; Pit A, perhaps non-local. This would appear somewhat later than Nos. 36 and 62, being dated by its associations to mid-second century. cf. *Wroxeter* III, 75 (slightly earlier) and *Newstead*, Pl. XLVIII, 43, Antonine.
64. Large storage jar, brick paste, brown surface, blackened lip. Burnished to 1 in. below shoulder groove. Pit A, mid-second century.
65. Bowl in soft orange-pink ware, Pit A, showing the degeneration of 43: the reeded lip has become a grooved curve, the carination an S-sweep. At *Runton Holme*, 21 and 22 are put as Antonine, and this agrees with *Verulamium* 22, dated 160-190. cf. *Wroxeter* II, 65 (80-130).
66. Jar, coarse brown micaceous ware, copious finger-print marks towards the base; neck separated from shoulder by distinct tooled groove; rim undercut. *Caistor Kilns*, group A. Pit L with 34. Hadrianic.
67. Jar, very coarse grey-black ware, showing late second century degeneration of 66. The shoulder has become a belly. *Caistor*, s. 28 (150-200). The type indeed went on into the third century (*Caistor*, s. 42). Pit F. Late Antonine.
68. Brown jar; rim unequally divided horizontally, and lower bead rudely sliced to imitate frilling. This was the technique employed by the potters of Kiln 2, but this and one unassociated piece are the only products of their work found on the site away from the kiln (see p. 200). Pit S. Late second century.
69. Light grey-brown bowl or jar, decorated with friezes of opposed oblique polished lines, separated by a groove. A possible parallel is *Richborough* III, 310, dated 80-120, but this specimen is late second century. Pit S.
70. Coarse grey jar, rather warped; decorated with slashes as a substitute for applied barbotine, see *Wattisfield*, Pl. II, 2 and 3; unassociated; one of the latest jars from the site, belonging to the end of the second century, or even third century. See *Gayton Thorpe*, p. 202, for late Rustic ware.

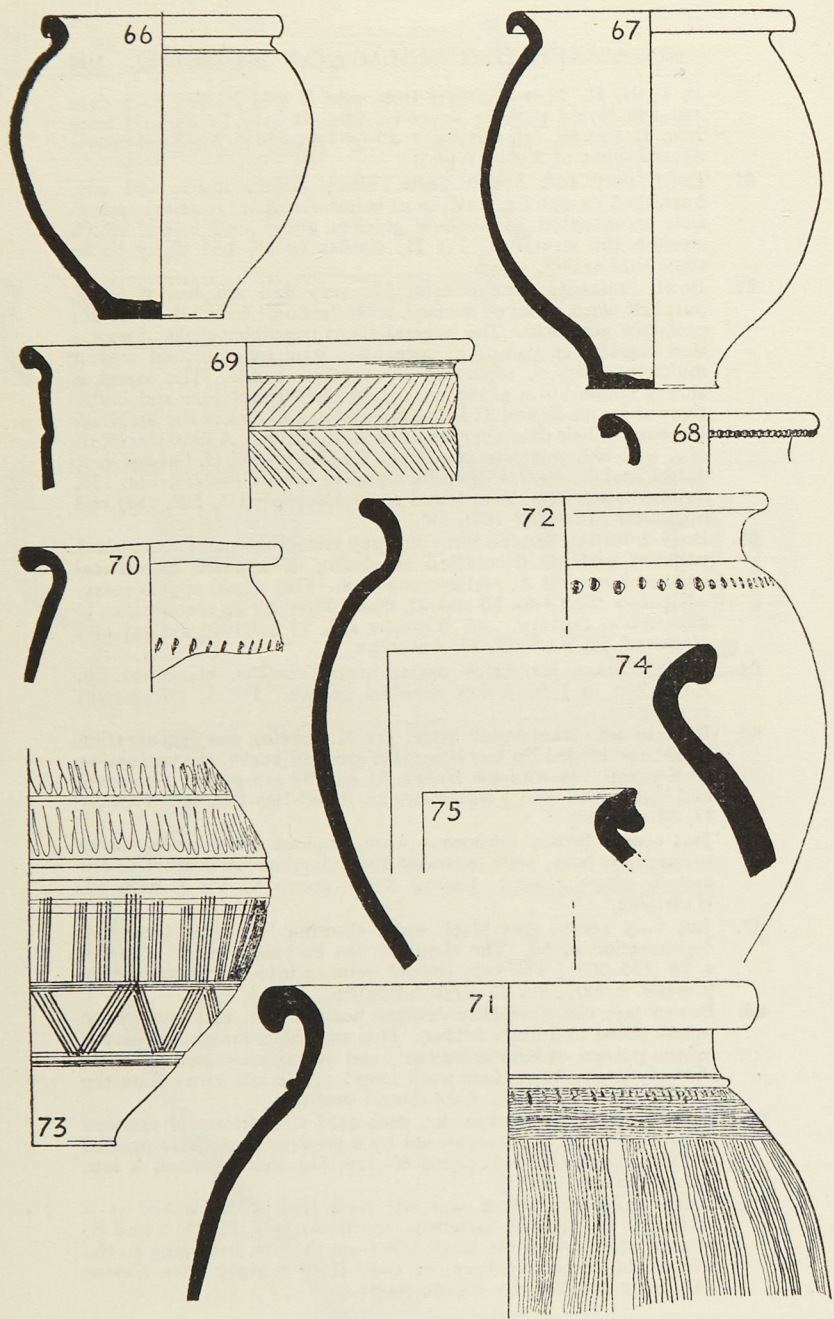


FIG. 6.—JARS (3) (see pp. 199, 201-2)

D. STORAGE JARS

Storage Jars at Needham are generally superior to those at Runcton Holme (*Runcton Holme*, 253), but decoration is much the same, with an Iron Age C ancestry.

71. Jar, unassociated. In paste and brush striations this looks early, but the hollowed rim and sunken shoulder make a second-century date more probable. (See p. 202.)
72. Light grey jar, burnished neck, row of finger-tip impressions on shoulder; Romanized version of Claudian form found in Ditch 3 (*Claudian Report*, No. 39). Pit M, c. 100.
73. Jar, soft dark grey paste, polished black surface; shoulder decorated with panels of lightly burnished scribbles separated by a groove; below three girth grooves are two panels of vertical and oblique combed bands. In the four-pronged comb or fork striations of the lower friezes, influence from non-local sources is apparent, e.g. Nos. 62, 63. Pit M, probably Hadrianic.
74. Very large brick red-brown jar, rim burnt black, neck burnished; unassociated.
75. Jar, reddish-brown, burnt to black outside; lid groove; Pit I. Antonine.

Besides these smooth well-made wares, there appears a very coarse grey ware, wheel-made indeed, but very smeared on the outside. It is pitted all over with holes of considerable size, where a backing of chalk or lime (still present in one hole) has disappeared; paste hard and well baked; part of very large pot, perhaps over 3 ft. high; wall 0.75 in. thick; unassociated. From Pit M comes a different type; exterior face burnt red in parts and in others black; paste full of small pieces of white shell; sherds very apt to split in thin layers; probably wheel-made, but in appearance recalls Iron Age A wares.

E. DECORATION

It has been pointed out before¹ how dependent were East Anglian potters upon inspiration derived from the Belgæ of Iron Age C. This is seen not only in the morphology, but especially in their decoration. We have traced the latticed band on the shoulder, bounded by cordons (38, 39) from the Claudian Ditch 3 into the second century. Pits L and Q contained shoulders with very pronounced cordons at regular intervals, which must be Hadrianic at least. Both features here, the lattice² and cordon, are well known pre-Roman traits.

¹ *Runcton Holme, Caistor Kilns, passim.*

² The lattice, at any rate, is very common on hybrid Belgic—or ABC—wares in such counties as Sussex (Curwen: *Arch. of Sussex*, 277) and Surrey. See also Southcote, Reading (*Proc. Prehistoric Society*, III, p. 47, 4), and Hengistbury Head classes H and I. It may, however, be a reminder of B influences rather than true C (*Runcton Holme*, 236); and this is borne out by its presence on South Eastern B pots in Sussex (*PPS IV*, 165, 4).

Jars 71 and 72 show a similar characteristic, the slash or finger impression on the shoulder, while 71 displays also the typical Belgic brush striations.¹ All these features were noted at Runcton Holme.

At Needham, however, they extended their repertoire in other directions. No. 76 shows a base with barbotine streaks recalling 31, and there are the normal barbotine dots on beakers 29 and 30 and on the jar 56. These tricks also might have a Belgic derivation (see Pl. I, 6 identical with *Claudian Report* No. 26; cf. *Verulamium*, Pl. LV, A). Pl. I, 10, from Pit Q, shows the false barbotine technique noted on 70. Characteristic lines and stabs are seen on Pl. I, 3 and 12. With bowls 36, 62, and 63, we come to something more elaborate; but 62 at least is probably not of local origin. Pl. I 2, from Pit M, is a small jar or beaker in hard fine polished buff ware, and is decorated in a manner strongly reminiscent of 36.² There are the same rows of four combed parallel lines and similar rouletting, while incised concentric circles appear on similar pottery, e.g. 62.

In Jar 73, however, local industry too has attempted something more ambitious, though it cannot be claimed as artistically pleasing. The pronged fork for drawing parallel lines is a technical advance upon the brush for striations (see also Pl. I, 8 in buff soapy ware, Pit M); and so is the comb (Pl. I, 9, Pit M) used for impressing rows of pits: this comb-tooth technique had not been used since Bronze Age times. Still more exotic is the beaker 20 with its painted geometric spirals, though painted pottery was not uncommon in late Roman times, for instance at Silchester. This beaker again, however, is perhaps not closely local. A more typical range of local decorative talent is provided by No. 77 with its jabbed cordon (paralleled in pit Q), and burnished lines. The roulette at Needham (if 36 and Pl. I, 2 be accepted as non-local) cannot be said to have survived the Boudiccan Revolt. Other devices consist of the stamped horse-shoe on Pl. I, 7, paralleled at Colchester, and of the brush-scribble on Pl. I, 4. This unassociated piece is in the flaking brick paste typical of the Claudian pottery at Needham,³ in which class indeed this decoration is paralleled on a sherd from Ditch 3. Mention has already been made of the degenerate frill from Pit S (No. 68) and Kiln 2 (see p. 210), both Antonine. This was modelled on the more elaborate "pie-crust" rim of the incense cup.⁴ Pl. I, 5, from Pit A, is the shoulder with neck angle of a buff-ware beaker decorated with "repoussé" bosses and coated with mica to resemble gold. This is certainly an import from London, where these vessels were made.⁵ The type is connected with the incised

¹ *Richborough II*, 97-9; *Arch. Journ.* LXXXVII, 277-9, 290; *Antiq. Journ.* X, 166-7.

² The presence of three so similarly decorated vessels in Pit M is perhaps the only argument for their local origin, and is not really convincing.

³ See *Claudian Report*, Nos. 8-10.

⁴ See *Runcton Holme*, 243.

⁵ Information from Mr. Q. Waddington, F.S.A.

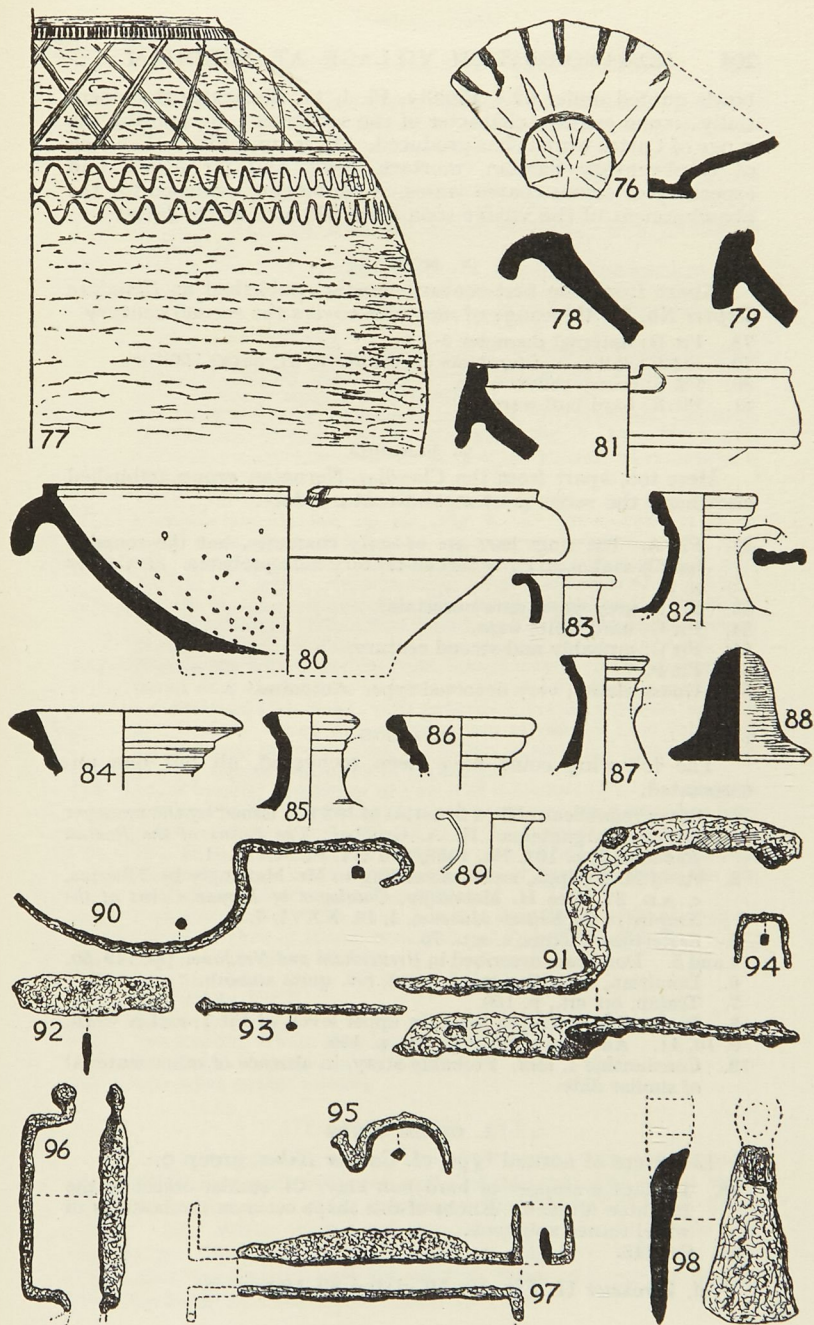


FIG. 7.—MORTARS (78-81), FLACONS (82-87), GLASS JAR (89), IRON TOOLS (90-98)
 (3) (see pp. 202, 204-5)

bowls quoted under 62.¹ Finally, Pl. I, 11, illustrates the essentially second-century character of the settlement, by figuring the range of Castor ware it has produced. 11A is from Pit P. The lack of third-century Samian, mortars, bowl, and jar forms, and especially of colour-coated wares, is convincing evidence for the abandonment of the village soon after 200 A.D. at the latest.

F. MORTARS

Apart from one first-century mortar, published as *Claudian Report* No. 17, the range of mortaria covers the second century.

- 78. Pit R; external diameter 5.3 in.
- 79. Pit R; softer creamy ware, cf. *Caistor* R, 31, dated 150-190.
- 80. Pit S; coarse yellow ware.
- 81. Pit E; hard buff ware.

G. FLAGONS

Here too, apart from the Claudian-Neronian group published elsewhere, the series is of second-century date.

- 82. Pit A. The rings here are of early character, but the rounded handle makes an early second-century date probable. cf. *Caistor* x. 3.
- 83. Pit C; grey ware; date uncertain.
- 84. Pit G; hard white ware.
- 85. Pit C; probably mid-second century.
- 86. Pit P.
- 87. Unassociated; very devolved type. Antonine.

H. COINS

The following coins have been recovered, all but one unassociated.

- 1. Silver republican coin, a denarius of 102 B.C. issued by the moneyer Marcus Vargunteius. H. A. Grueber: *The Coins of the Roman Republic*, I, p. 163, No. 1068, and III, Pl. XXIX, 1.
- 2. As of M. Agrippa, issued according to Mr. Mattingly by Tiberius, c. A.D. 37. See H. Mattingly, *Catalogue of Roman Coins of the Empire in the British Museum*, I, Pl. XXVI, 7.
- 3. Sestertius of Titus, c. A.D. 75.
- 4 and 5. Domitian, described in *Brettenham and Needham*, pp. 149-50.
- 6. Domitian, sestertius much worn, rev. quite smooth.
- 7. Trajan, op. cit., p. 150.
- 8. Dupondius of Trajan found in upper levels of Pit I; rather worn.
- 9, 10, 11. Antoninus Pius, op. cit., p. 150.
- 12. Constantine I, *ibid.* Probably stray, in absence of other material of similar date.

I. OTHER FINDS

Lids were of normal type, cf. *Caistor Kilns*, group Q.

- 88. Perhaps a stopper of hard buff clay. Cf. similar object in the Brighton Museum. Knobs of this shape occur in the bottoms of wheel-turned amphoræ.
- 89. See 115.

¹ cf. *Wroxeter* II, Fig. 19, 59, dated 80-120.

109. Broken pair of bronze toilet tweezers, unassociated. A similar though smaller pair come from Pit A, together with a bronze steelyard (*Brettenham and Needham*, Fig. 7, 11).
110. Toilet set, Pit P, consisting of two pairs tweezers (vulsellæ), an earpick (auriscalpium), and a blade—probably a nail-cleaner (scalptorium) in bad condition. Such sets have a long history from the Iron Age, and are common on Roman sites, cf. *Gayton Thorpe*, Pl. IX, 1.
111. Brooch, Pit P. *Collingwood* group A, 2, a first-century type, here a survival. Pit P also contained a bronze pin.
112. Penannular brooch, *Collingwood* type 117; of little chronological value. Unassociated.
113. Dolphin brooch, *Collingwood* group H, with long decorated arms and keel roughly beaded by transverse grooves along the fore-edge. First or early second century.
Pit I, flat strip bow, *Collingwood* group J. First century, probably pre-Flavian (*Brettenham and Needham*, Fig. 7, 12). Pit I also contained small lumps of red enamel, and small fragments of a bronze mirror.
Pit G, tin-coated brooch, *Collingwood* group L. First century, probably pre-Flavian; *op. cit.*, Fig. 7, 13. Pit G also contained burnt flints, daub with wattle impressions, lumps of chalk, iron slag, some fragments of Niedermendig Lava, 18 iron nails, and a small iron knife. Niedermendig Lava also occurred in Pit H.
114. Bronze brooch, unassociated. The shaded triangles bear remains of green enamel. When first found, one of the others had traces of red. Second century.
115. Bronze pin with spherical head, unassociated. Another pin was found near the hearth, and one in Pit M. Pit M also contained a cylindrical glass bead, very patinated, 1.1 by 0.4 cms.; a bone pin, broken, whose conical head was separated from the stem by two deep grooves (diameter at top of stem 0.5 cms.); and 89 (Fig. 7) the rim and neck of a glass jar.
116. Ivory handle, consisting of two half cylinders of ivory, roughly incised, Pit N. They were clamped to an iron tang with two iron rivets: cf. *Wroxeter*, II, Pl. IX, 1, 5, for bone analogy.
90. Iron latch-lifter from Pit A, 8½ in. long. The occurrence of this primitive type in the Antonine period may be taken as an indication of Icenian backwardness.
91. Bent iron object, 9 in. long, possibly like 90, or perhaps part of a spud or shoe of spade, bent and partly broken. Pit P.
92. Iron knife, broken, Pit M.
93. Iron pin, 4.4 in. long, Pit M.
94. Iron staple, Pit E.
95. Iron nail, Pit Q.
96. Iron handle, 4.8 in. long, unassociated.
97. Iron rasp, or spoke-shave, Pit S.
98. Iron adze, socket missing.

III. THE PITS. (S.F.)

Below in tabular form is a list of the pits, with the Samian forms and other pottery types and datable material which each contained; tentative dates based on this material have been added. The writer wishes to express his gratitude to Dr. F. Oswald for reporting on the decorated pieces of Samian. For conciseness his descriptions are printed below and can be traced from the table by their figure numbers.

Pit	Forms ¹	Numbers ²	Types ¹	Other Objects ³	Date
A	33 (two), Curle 21	63, 64, 65, 82, and Pl. I, 5	28, 60		Mid 2nd century
B	18/31, 31, 33 (three), 36		13a, 34a, 60, 66		First half 2nd century
C	18/31, 37	5, 7a, 19, 42, 83, 85	13a		80-130
D	31				
E	27, 18/31, 31, 42	49, 81	26, 27, 32		Mid 2nd century
F		67	60		Late Antonine Trajanic
G	29, 18/31, 31, with stamp of CALVI, ⁹ 37	24, 24a, 84	devolved specimen of 3	Brooch	
H	18/31 riveted, 27	9, 61, 62	55, 60		First half 2nd century
I	18/31 (four), 27, 33, 36, 37, 80	12, 12a, 25, 75, also rim of Belgic white butti-beaker and Claudius-Nero flagon neck ⁴	13, 23, 31 with longer neck and no cordon, 67	Coin 8, Brooch	Antonine
J			12, 66-67 intermediate, 78		Mid 2nd century
K ⁵		Fig. 9, Nos. 117-120, 122, 123			
L	31, 33, and broken stamp BONOXVS ⁶	34, 66			100-140
M	15/17 of late type, 18, 18/31 (two), 27 stamped BONOXVS F ⁶ 36, 37 (two, Fig. 8, 99, 100)	6, 7d (two), 11, 13a, 17, 29, 36, (two), 37, 37a, 39, 40, 45, 48, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 72, 73, and Pl. I, 2			70-140
N	18 (two), 18/31, 27 (three), ⁷ 37 riveted	4, 7b, 7c, 10, 16a, 20, 21, 41, 43, 44, 47, 50, 51, 52	3, 6, 13a, 53, without groove, 57		80-120
O	18/31, 27, 33		13, 34		
P	Curle 11, 18/31, 31 (four), 33 (two), 36 (two), 37 (three, one riveted and Fig. 7, 101)	16, 18a, 33, 35a, 59, 60, 86, and Pl. I, 11a	34a, bowl intermediate between 43 and 65, Claudian flagon ⁸	Brooch 111	Hadrianic Mid 2nd century
Q	18/31, 37 (two)	32	11, 32, and striated fragment like 71		Mid 2nd century
R	31 (two), 33 stamped ATILIANVS OF, ⁹ 37 riveted (Fig. 7, 102)	13, 15, 22, 23, 27, 28, 30, 31, 78, 79	13		Antonine
S		68, 69, 80			Late 2nd century

¹ The word "Form" here refers to the usual classification of Samian Ware (founded on Dragendorff); by "Number" is indicated that the actual vessel figured came from the pit; by "Type", that vessels similar to the one quoted were there found.

² For details consult sections H and I above (pp. 204-5).

³ A Flavian Potter.

⁴ Cf. *Claudian Report*, Nos. 6 and 22.

⁵ Pit K proved to be the stokehole of Kiln 2. (See below, § IV).

⁶ Bonoxus, a Trajan-Hadrianic potter of Lezoux.

⁷ One identifiable as Oswald and Pryce, *Terra Sigillata*, Pl. XLIX, 16, Domitianic.

⁸ c.f. *Claudian Report*, No. 21.

⁹ Atilianus of Lezoux occurs on Pan Rock vessels, but Dr. Oswald dates this one c. 140-150.

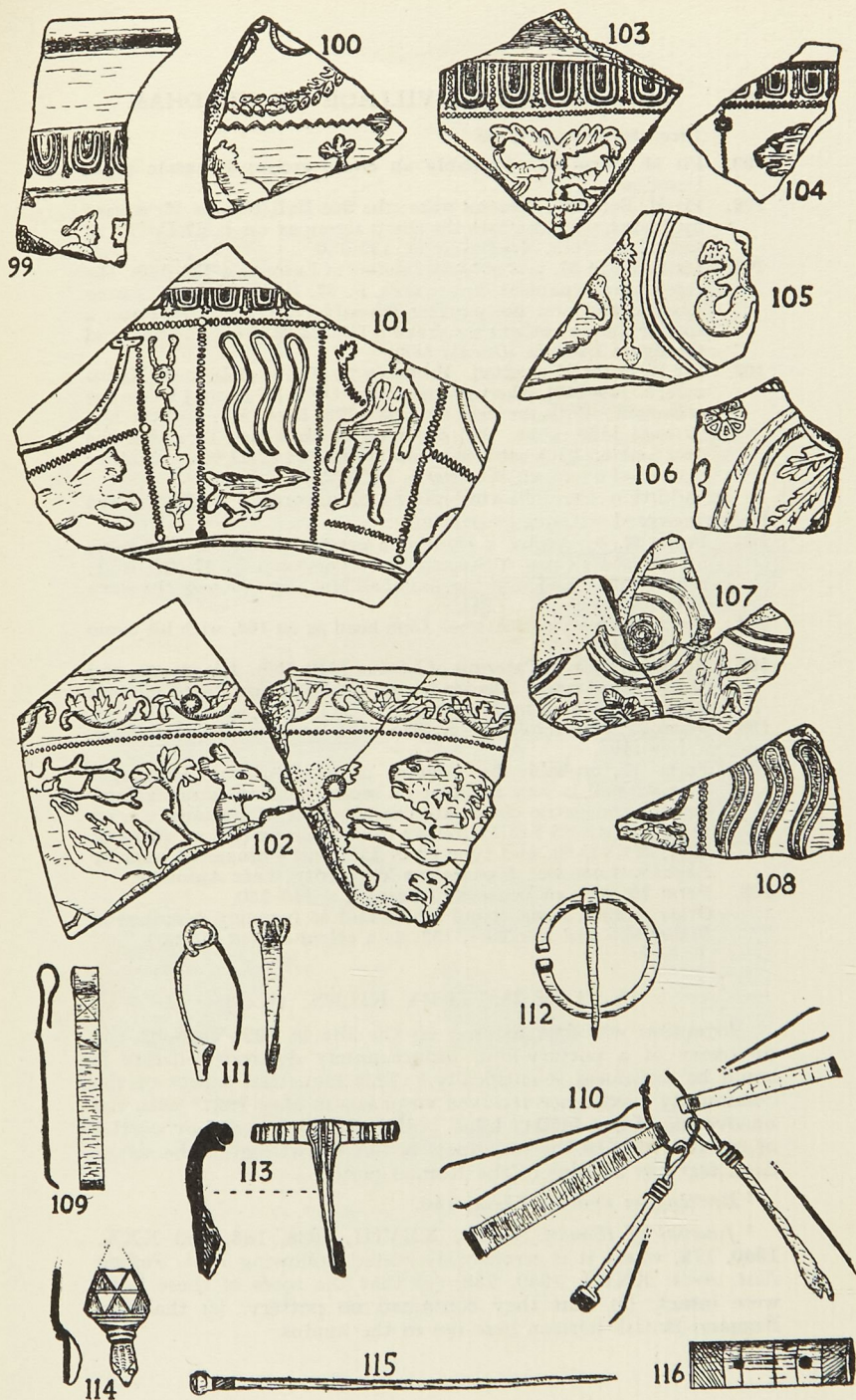


FIG. 8.—DECORATED SAMIAN WARE (99-108), BRONZE TWEEZERS (109), TOILET SET (110), BROOCHES (111-114), PIN (115), IVORY HANDLE (116), ($\frac{1}{4}$) (see pp. 205, 206, 208)

Decorated Samian Ware

99. Pit M, Form 37. Probably an erotic group; Banassac type; Domitianic.
100. Pit M, Form 37. Lezoux ware; the Sea Bull (*Oswald* 42) is used by Justus, who also uses the sharp zigzag as on F. 37 IVSTI M. (retro.) at York. Hadrianic, c. 130-140.
101. Pit P, Form 37, probably by Paullus of Lezoux, c. 130-140. The candelabra ornament occurs on a F. 37, PAVLLI (retro.) from Lezoux, and also the panther (*Oswald* 1520, *Déch.* 797) and a similar simple festoon; the crane is *Oswald* 2197 (*Déch.* 1001) and the figure Bacchus (*Oswald* 563).
102. Pit R, Form 37 rivetted. Probably by Attius of Lezoux (Hadrianic, c. 130-140), who uses the stamp OF ATT (retro.) below the ornament. Both the deer (*Oswald* 1772, *Déch.* 867) and the lion (*Oswald* 1450, *Déch.* 766) occur on bowls signed thus, but the deer looking backwards is a new type. For F. 37 with acanthus instead of ovolo, cf. *Wroxeter* I, Pl. XV, 14.

In addition the following pieces of decorated Samian have been recovered without association:

103. Form 37, by Attius, a Hadrianic potter of Lezoux. The same St. Andrew's Cross with acanthus occurs on a F. 37 (OF ATT. retro.) from London in the Guildhall Mus., and he uses the same birds and ovolo.
104. Form 37, in style of Attius. Lion head as on 102, with his ovolo and rosette.
105. Form 37; style of Paternus of Lezoux (140-150). His rosette, and oblique bead rows. The sea horse (*Oswald* 33) and triton (*Oswald* 21) are both used by him.
106. Form 37; vine scroll and rosette used by Secundus of Lezoux, c. 130-140.
107. Form 37, probably by Reginus of Rheinzabern. The cupid (*Oswald* 496) is very frequent on second-century terra sigillata, but the concentric circles are characteristic of Reginus, e.g. on F. 37 REGINVS FECIT (retro.) from O'-Szony (Knorr, *Rottweil*, 1907, XXVII 8), and type 92 of Ludowici's ornament used by Reginus (Ludowici, *Rheinzabern* V, p. 101). Late Antonine.
108. Form 30, style of Doeccus of Lezoux, c. 140-150. Other Samian forms found are 38 and 45 (wrongly described in *Brettenham and Needham*, 152, as a colour-coated mortar).

IV. THE POTTERY KILNS. (R.C.)

Attention was first focused on the site in 1921 through the discovery of a pottery-kiln, unfortunately destroyed before it could be examined scientifically.¹ This industrial aspect of the community's existence received emphasis in May 1937² with the uncovering of two further kilns, both badly preserved but worthy of record owing to the scantiness of our knowledge of the structural features of kilns of the Roman period.

¹ *Brettenham and Needham*, 146.

² *Journal of Roman Studies*, XXVIII, 1938, 188, and XXX, 1940, 172, where it is erroneously stated (following *Proc. Suffolk Inst. Arch.* XXIII, 1940, 236) (a) that the roofs of these kilns were intact, (b) that they contained no pottery, (c) that the Romano-British horizon here lies in the humus.

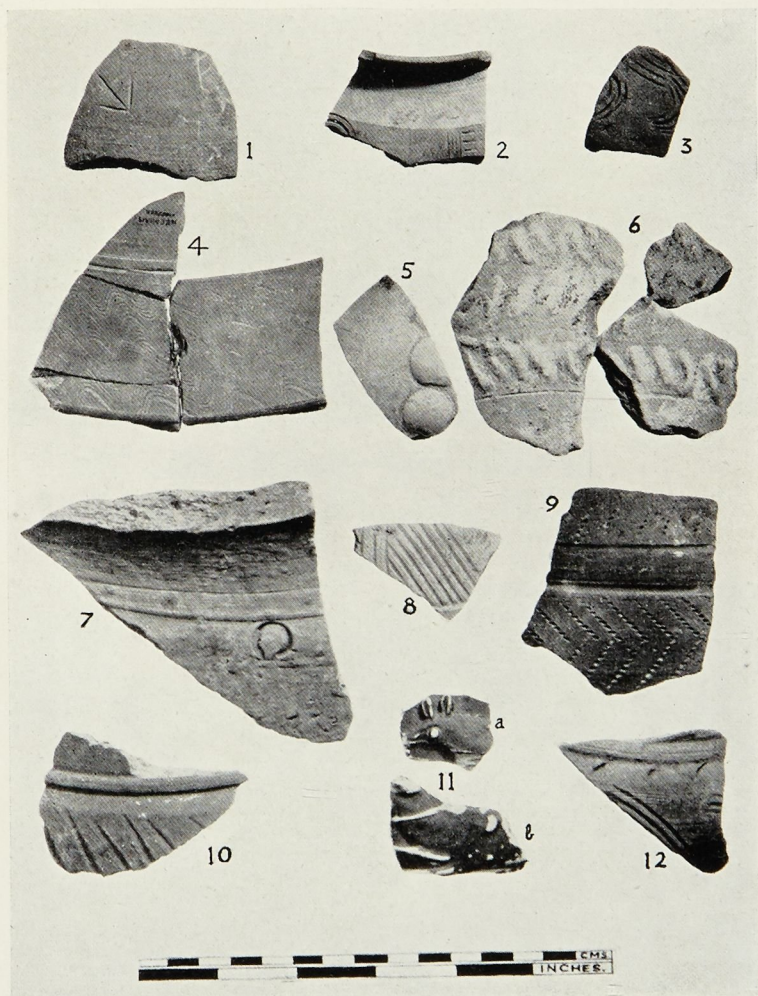
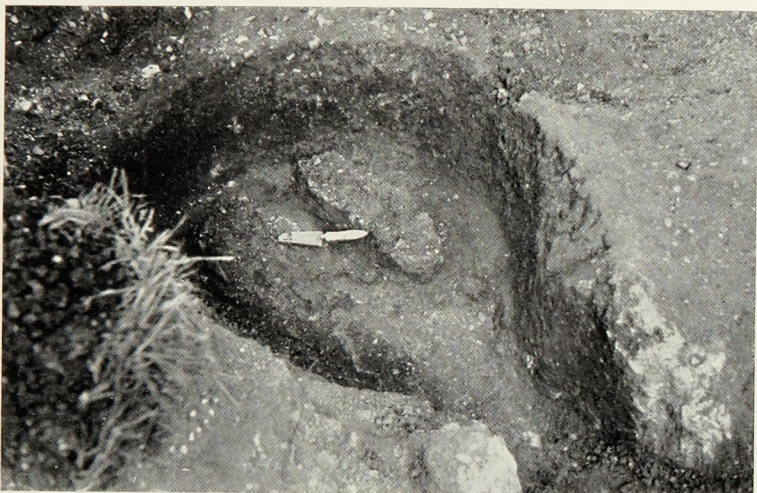


PLATE I.—ROMAN POTTERY, NEEDHAM (see pp. 202, 204)



J. Capon.

PLATE II.—KILN 2, NEEDHAM (*see pp. 209-212*)



H. Ashley.

PLATE III.—KILN 3, NEEDHAM (*see pp. 210-213*)

Their position can be seen on the plan (Fig. 1). Kiln 2 is situated in the northern part of the site. The clay walling of the kiln and its stokehole were exposed in removing the overburden from this area prior to the autumn of 1936 when it was noticed by Mr. Frere, who salvaged potsherds from the stokehole then classified as Pit K. On May 10, 1937, the writer started to excavate the remains of this kiln. Ten days later, in removing a further strip of surface soil, the quarrymen revealed Kiln 3, which lies to the south-west of Kiln 2. The contents of this kiln and its stokehole were unceremoniously thrown down to the floor of the pit below before the owner ordered work to cease, and informed the Norfolk Research Committee. On behalf of this organization the writer examined the remains of Kiln 3, and completed work on Kiln 2 on May 22-23, 1937.

The main features of Kiln 2 are apparent from the illustrations (Fig. 10 and Pl. II). The oven is circular in plan, 4 ft. 9 in. (north-west to south-east) by 5 ft. in internal diameter, and made by digging a cavity in the undisturbed gravel and lining it with clay 6 in. thick. This lining increases in thickness to over 1 ft. at the sides of the flue, which was bridged by a roof 4 in. thick; but this unfortunately collapsed before the photograph could be taken. The vertical clay walls of the oven, fired red on the inside by the heat, are 14 in. high internally. The floor is level except near the flue where it slopes downwards towards the stokehole to improve the draught. The oven shelf, on which the pots were placed for firing, was supported on a circular central pedestal of which only the base remained. This was formed of two elongated oval pillars of clay some 5 in. high, separated by a central channel for the circulation of the heat. The shelf was probably level with the roof of the flue at the base of the made soil. Fragments of fired clay from the shelf, the pedestal, or the dome of the oven, were found on the floor but were too small to warrant any conclusions as to their structure. At some time in the working of the kiln the original clay floor became damaged and a fresh one was laid down 3 in. thick, but this repair could not be dated. The stokehole excavated into the gravel was oval in plan (6 ft. north-west to south-east by 5 ft. 9 in.) and was about 1 ft. 9 in. deep. This kiln yielded only blackened soil, fragments of charcoal too scanty for identification, and lumps of fired and unfired clay. A few sherds in hard grey ware were lying on the floor but are not closely datable in the Roman period. More important are the sherds rescued by Mr. Frere from the stokehole.¹ These might be considered rubbish dumped there when the kiln was abandoned; but the presence of soft and underfired ware suggests that we are dealing with the products of this kiln at the close of its activity. The characteristic types, apart from plain low dishes, are figured (Fig. 9, Nos. 117-120, 122-3). The jar rims are heavily undercut as in No. 117 or the shoulders are weak as in No. 119, suggesting a late second-century date. The most distinctive feature is the slashed cordon applied just below the jar

¹ Now in Norwich Museum (79, 937).

rim as in No. 118 and on a dish as in No. 123, while it appears on a shoulder in No. 120. The over-fired black dish (No. 123) is a premonition of the third-century flanged bowl, unknown at Needham apart from one small and worn fragment, and its flange and chamfer place it late in the second century. These frilled cordoned vessels have not been found elsewhere on the site except in Pit S with late second-century wares, only a few yards to the east, and it seems a reasonable assumption that these particular products of the kiln were traded away.

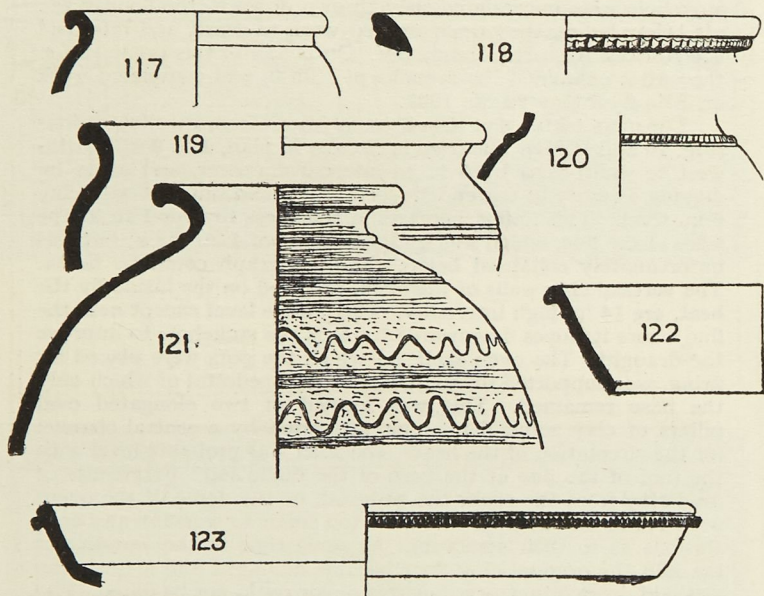


FIG. 9.—JARS AND DISHES FROM KILN 2 (117-120, 122-3); JAR (KILN 3) (121) ($\frac{1}{4}$) (see pp. 209, 211)

Kiln 3 is of the same general form as Kiln 2 but differs in its details (Fig. 11 and Pl. III). The oven is oval instead of circular (4 ft. 6 in. by 5 ft. 6 in. internally), and no permanent supports survived, unless they had been destroyed by the workmen before the writer examined the kiln. The walling survived to a height of 2 ft. 4 in. internally, and this better preservation was perhaps due to the greater depth (2 ft.) of soil lying over it. The walling was generally 4 in. thick, but bulged out as in Kiln 2 to protect the flue, which was 1 ft. high, and bridged by a roof 11 in. thick. The stokehole is similar to that of Kiln 2 but more tapering towards the north-east (6 ft. 6 in. by 5 ft. 6 in.) and slightly deeper (2 ft. 4 in.). Amongst the black soil lying on the floor and in the flue were fragments of horse-chestnut charcoal, part of the fuel used to fire the kiln, and a few sherds. Other sherds were

rescued from the dump of soil removed from the kiln and stoke-hole by the workmen. They include handled jugs and jars in hard grey ware with mica-content. One fragment with a moulded foot is perhaps part of the vessel shown in Fig. 9, No. 121, and another has the shoulder decorated with three shallow grooves below a burnished trellis pattern. Many small fragments were overfired and were obvious wasters, but only one pot is sufficiently well preserved for illustration (Fig. 9, No. 121). This large jar,

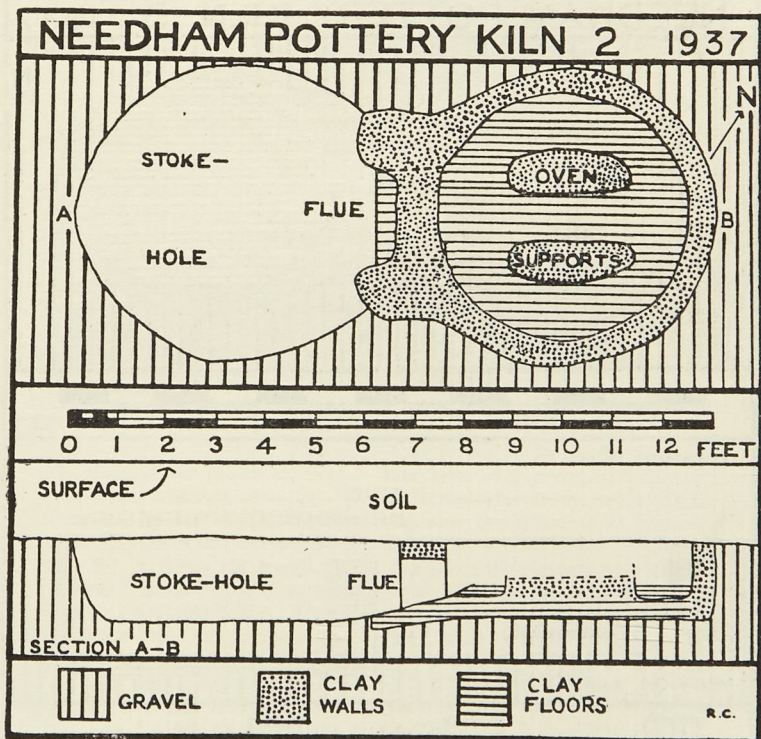


FIG. 10.—PLAN AND SECTION OF KILN 2

probably about one foot high, is in light grey ware and has a polished surface with a cordon at the neck and two shallow grooves on the shoulder, below which are two matt bands decorated with burnished wavy lines. In parts the rim is burned to a dark blue and is slightly warped. It may be compared in form with type K of the series from the Caistor kilns¹ which were operating c. 110-140 A.D.

¹ *Caistor Kilns*, 43.

Though the ceramic evidence for dating the period of activity of these kilns is scanty, there is nothing to contradict the view that Kiln 2 was functioning in the late second century and Kiln 3 perhaps somewhat earlier in the same century.

The ruinous condition of these kilns renders precise classification difficult; but both clearly belong to Class A1 of Grimes' typology of Romano-British kilns,¹ that is, updraught kilns of round or oval plan with the oven over a combustion chamber.

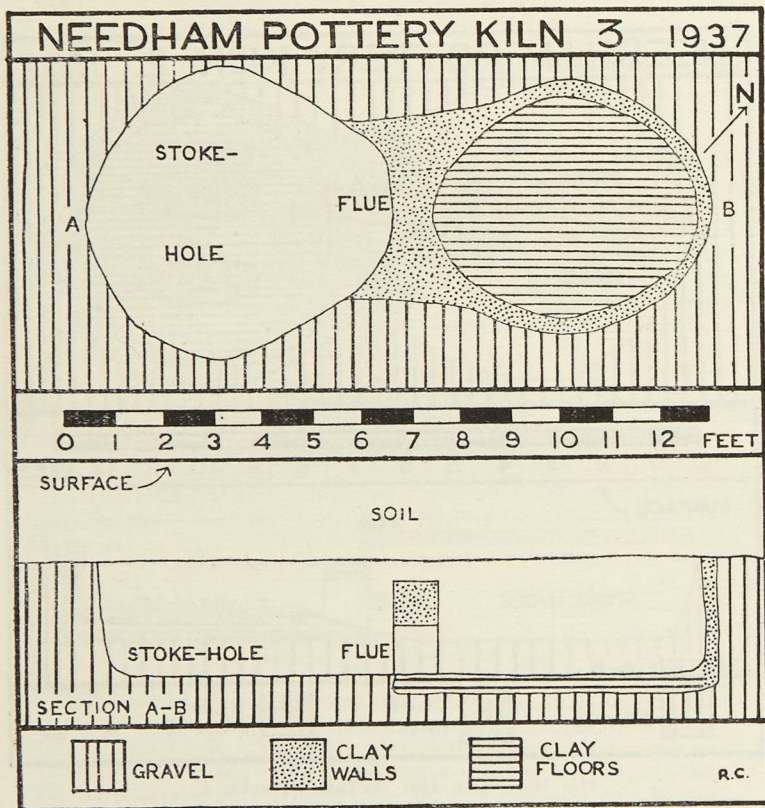


FIG. II.—PLAN AND SECTION OF KILN 3

The Needham kilns do not, however, coincide exactly with any of his sub-types in that general class. Kiln 2 seems a modification of type II in which the floor of the oven is supported by a circular column, here divided into two pillars by a central channel and so displaying some affinity with type III. Kiln 3, on the other hand, with its apparent absence of permanent internal supports,

¹ *Y Cymmrodor*, XLI, 1930, 53-56 and Fig. 31.

seems of his type IV, in which the oven floor of daub was upheld by a wooden framework, renewed after each firing. It may be noted that Kiln I at Needham was also of this same general class though its exact typology is uncertain and those who saw it may possibly have confused stokehole and flue.

Grimes' types II and IV both have a wide distribution, and this would be more apparent but for the defective recording of many old discoveries. Up to 1930 type II had been identified at Colchester and South Shoebury, Essex, at Old Sloden and Radlett in Hampshire, at Castor, Chesterton and Water Newton in the Nene Valley, at Warrington in Lancashire, Winterton in Lincolnshire, Hartshill in Warwickshire, and Weybourne in Norfolk. Since 1930 a group of seven kilns of this type, functioning in the early second century, has been investigated at Wattisfield, Suffolk, only sixteen miles from Needham, and the best preserved has been removed to Ipswich Museum.¹ In 1937, three kilns of type II were found on Weatherhill Farm, Icklingham, Suffolk, and have not yet been published, but the pottery would appear to date their period of activity as the early third century.² One kiln there was very similar to Kiln 2 at Needham, measuring 4 ft. 4 in. by 4 ft. 6 in. internally, with pilasters 2 ft. long at the base of the central pedestal, but having the additional feature of draught stops in the surrounding channel. Type IV has occurred in the New Forest area; at Springhead and Swanscombe, Kent; at Crambeck, Castle Howard, Yorkshire; Hedenham, Norfolk;³ and West Stow, Suffolk. An unpublished specimen of this type similar in dimensions to the Needham kiln was discovered at Two Mile Bottom, Thetford, Norfolk, in May 1892, by W. G. Clarke and H. Russell, who apparently did some digging on the site, though no plans survive.⁴ The following account is derived from a manuscript note by W. G. Clarke and from notes kindly furnished by Mr. A. Q. Watson, who saw the remains in January 1893. The site lies about 20 ft. above the Little Ouse River and some 20 ft. from its north bank, by the railway cutting leading westward from Fison's manure works (site marked on O.S. 6-in. Norfolk sheet 93 S.E.). The kiln was probably built in a hole to case its walls, as pottery was found from 1 to 8 ft. below the surface. At 7 ft. down two upright pillars of fired clay were found, 2 ft. 6 in. high, 2 ft. across and 1 ft. 8 in. apart, linked by an arch, forming the flue from the stokehole to the combustion chamber. This was 5 ft. 6 in. in diameter with a floor of chalk marl 3 in. thick and walls of the same material 2 ft. 3 in. high and 6 in. thick. The interior of the oven was full of potsherds, charcoal, red baked and yellow unbaked clay with finger and thumb marks, some

¹ *Wattisfield*, 1936.

² From information kindly furnished by the Rev. H. Tyrrell Green, F.S.A.

³ *Norf. Arch.* VI, 1864, 149-160, 5 feet diameter with shelf 4 feet above the floor.

⁴ No. 107 in Grimes' list in *Y Cymmrodor*, XLI and marked on Map IV of Fox's *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, 1923, and on the O.S. *Map of Roman Britain*, 1928.

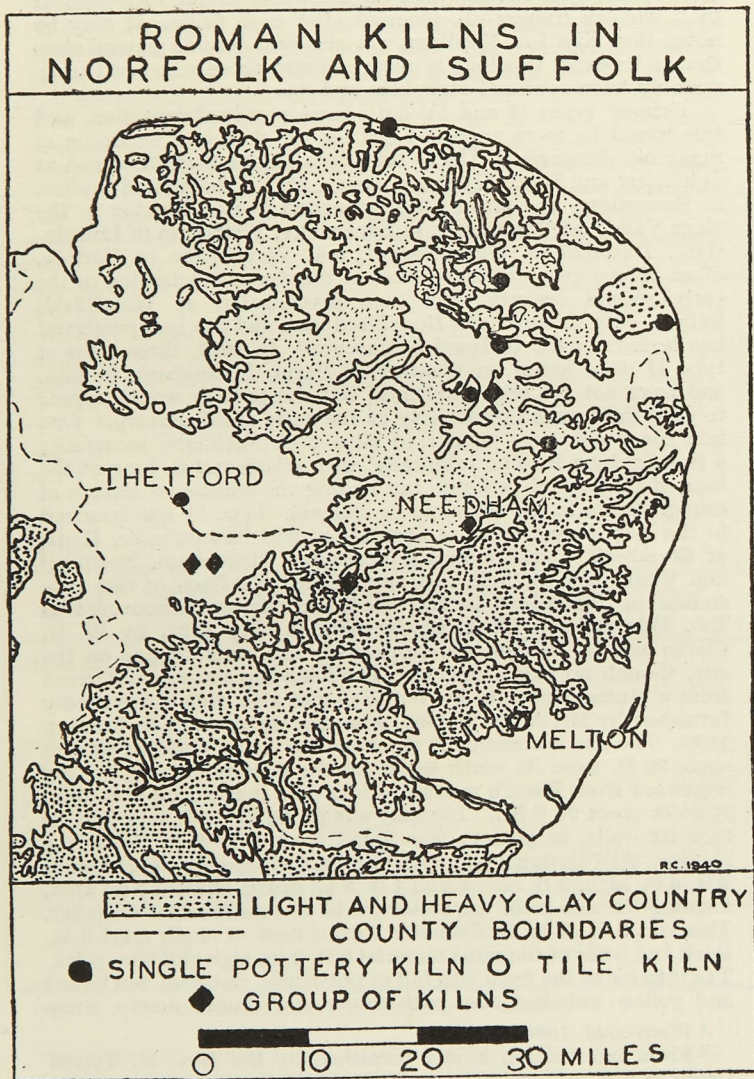


FIG. 12.—DISTRIBUTION OF DISCOVERIES OF ROMAN POTTERY AND TILE KILNS IN NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK IN RELATION TO CLAY SOIL.

bearing the impress of grass and straw, obviously part of some temporary dome as well as of the oven floor. Unspecified bones, perhaps refuse, are also said to have been found inside. The pottery was all broken save one lid and base, and none of it has been preserved, so that its dating in the Roman period remains uncertain. Some of the ware was black, grey, and red, but a yellowish fabric was the commonest. The only decoration recorded consisted of chevron-like stabs between incised cordons. Potsherds were found widespread over the site.¹

A detailed study of the Romano-British pottery-kilns of East Anglia cannot be published here, but a few preliminary remarks may be made. The life and location of kilns are controlled by the existence of local supplies of suitable clay and fuel. A physiological map shows this to be true for Norfolk and Suffolk (Fig. 12), where the kilns obviously cling to the wooded boulder clay areas, or areas where the clay is thinly masked by sand or gravel. Kilns came into existence in response to a local market for their wares, but in Norfolk and Suffolk most of the kilns so far discovered lie in the clay zone or east of it, while the main concentration of population in this period lay west of the clay area, in Breckland and west Norfolk, where wares of the kilns further east have not been identified in any quantity. Conversely the distribution of Castor ware from the Nene Valley suggests that the main East Anglian market was west of the clay zone, and only spasmodically did this pottery reach the villages and villas on the further side of the wooded area. The rise, then, in the early second century of the pottery industry in east and south Norfolk may be due to the difficulties of local topography, which prevented the wares of the Fenland basin from reaching the markets east of the wooded zone in any quantity.

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¹ Now in Thetford Museum, which contains a fragment of clay from this site.

216 ROMANO-BRITISH VILLAGE AT NEEDHAM

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APPENDIX

The presence of flint flakes was noted in the interim report.¹ It is now certain that a number of these belong to a mesolithic industry, which will be reported on at a later date, and have no connection with the Roman occupation. One such mesolithic flake came from Pit E; a micro-burin was found in Pit H; and a typical core in Ditch 3. From this it may be deduced that many if not all the other flakes found in the pits, some patinated and some not, are also strays from different ages,² particularly as they also occur in the humus away from the pits. None can definitely be ascribed to the Roman period in the absence of typological criteria, and on existing evidence it would be unwise to press further such a fortuitous association as has been done at Needham and Scole.³ The writers are indebted to Dr. Grahame Clark for examining the flints.

¹ *Brettenham and Needham*, 149.

² A Neolithic or Bronze Age scraper was found in Ditch 3.

³ *Scole*, 263, and Plates II and VI.