

ROMANO-BRITISH OCCUPATION SITE ON THE DOWNS AT ASHTEAD, SURREY.

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A NEW site, yielding first to fourth-century pottery and various small finds, has recently been found at Ashtead, close to the parish church, and is in process of being excavated. The position of the site is of interest for several reasons. It is a few hundred yards to the south of the rectangular earth-work, presumed to be Roman, in which the church stands, and is also close to the line that must have been taken by Stane Street, but of which no trace has been found in this sector. It is also near the line of the road to the Villa and Brickworks on Ashtead Common, and which passed through Ashtead Park before joining Stane Street. There is thus the possibility of its throwing light on several problems concerning the former site, as well as on the Roman occupation of this district, and, possibly, on Stane Street itself.

The finds made so far may be divided into two categories,

viz. (a) Surface finds, and (b) finds from Rubbish Pits. The former are very numerous, consisting mainly of fragments of pottery of various "coarse" wares dating from the first to fourth centuries, including a little pre-Roman "La Tène," and some "Bead rim" pieces.

Among the latest in date

are pieces of a mortarium of Terra Sigillata ware, of typical third to fourth century form (Dr. form 45), the inside studded with

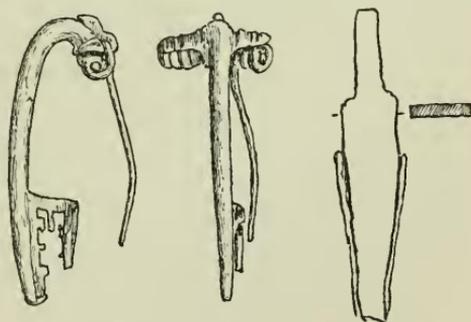


FIG. 2. (a) FIBULA.
(b) PART OF PADLOCK; IRON.
Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

grains of quartz. The small objects include a first-century bronze fibula (Fig. 2), with plain bow and pierced openwork catch plate, with Greek "fret" design. The spring guard is ornamented with two grooves on each side of the bow, and the length is $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. One coin, a second brass of Carausius (c. A.D. 290), was found on the surface. This is a hitherto unrecorded type, and is now in the British Museum.

Obv. IMP CARAVSIVS P F AVG.

Bust radiate, draped, right.

Rev. P M (TRP C)OS P P.

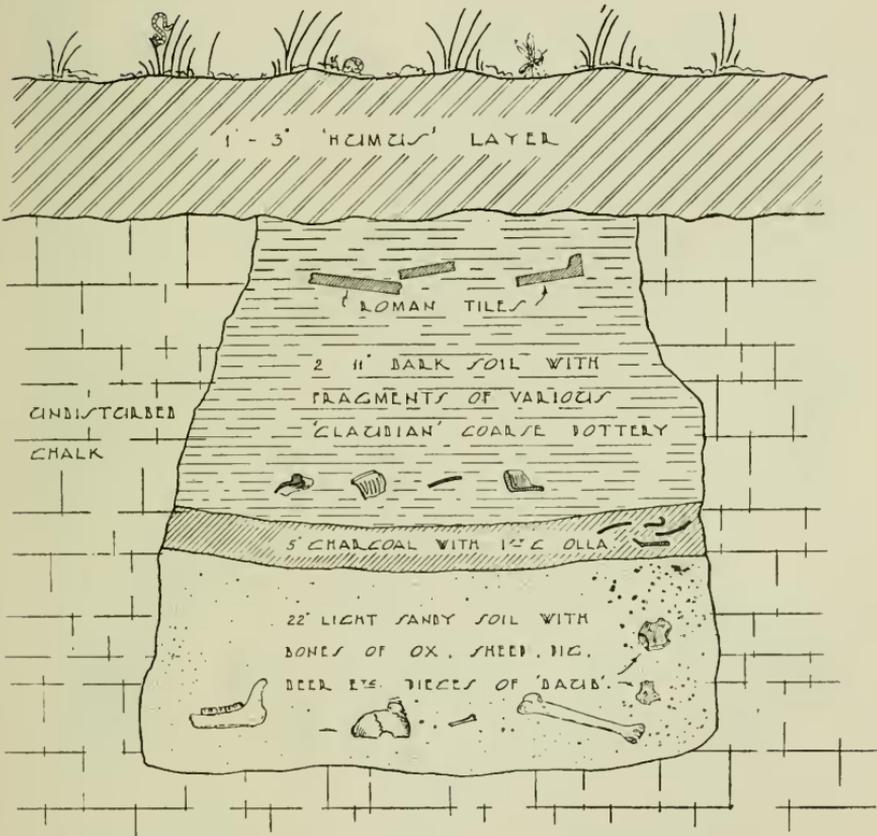
Emperor seated left on stool, globe in right hand, left hand on a parazonium. ex C. (? Camulodunum).

Rubbish Pits. Several of these have been located, but only one has been cleared out as yet (Fig. 1), and can be described in this report. It will be seen from the section that the sub-soil consists of chalk and the filling consists of irregular layers of debris and chalky loam. The sides are roughly cut, with a widening out towards the bottom. Several pieces of roof tiles and bricks were among the upper debris, but without any traces of mortar on them; there were, however, several lumps of "wattle and daub," suggesting the presence of timber buildings somewhere near by, possibly inside the earthwork. The large pot, of gritty, dark grey ware, found in the charcoal layer in the lower part, is of late first-century form, and is ornamented with a band of inclined lines, grouped in threes, just below the rim, which is of plain outturned form. Max. diameter, 13 inches (Fig. 5). A quantity of animal bones (ox, sheep and pig), mostly at the bottom of the pit, constitute ordinary food refuse, and several of the larger bones have been split to extract the marrow.

The sequence of dates arrived at from the finds made so far is approximately as follows:

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| PRE-ROMAN. | "La Tène" potsherds. |
| | Numerous pot boilers. |
| A.D. 1-50. | "Bead rim" pottery. |
| | "Reeded" ware. |

- A.D. 50-100. Rubbish pits containing pottery, bones, tiles, "wattle and daub," etc.
Bronze fibula from surface.
- A.D. 100-300. Pottery of "Sigillata" ware, and other wares.
- c. A.D. 290. Coin of Carausius.
- c. A.D. 390. Pottery of colour-coated type with "slip" decoration.



SECTION THROUGH 1 1/2 CY RUBBISH PIT
 ONE OF SEVERAL IN A FIELD ADJOINING ASHTEAD PARISH CHURCH.

SCALE 0 1 2 3 1 FOOT

FIG. I.

POTTERY (COARSE WARES) (Figs. 3-5)

Fig. 3.

No. 1. Side fragment of flanged bowl with upright rim, form Dr. 38; traces of scroll design in white slip on top of



FIG. 3. NO. 1.

Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

flange. Diameter at rim, $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Clay, hard, grey to red at surfaces, coated with scarlet slip, largely worn away from exterior. Several small fragments of other vessels (mortaria and rouletted

ollae) of this ware were found. May, *Silchester Pottery*, p. 126, Type 94, pl. liv. Salzmann, *Sussex Arch. Soc. Colls.*, LII, p. 91, pl. ix, No. 5, fourth to fifth century ware. Newbold, *J.R.S.*, II, p. 227, fig. 40, Nos. 6 and 7, from Huntcliff Fort, near Saltburn (A.D. 370-395). Bushe Fox, *Richborough*, I, p. 104, No. 112, pl. xxviii.

Nos. 2-6, and No. 8. Small bowls of dark grey to black ware. Diameter, 7-8 inches. Nos. 3, 4 and 6 a type that did not occur at the Ashtead Common site, hence, possibly, third century or later. (A late date for this form is confirmed by finds at other sites.)

No. 7. Small fragment of mortarium rim. Clay, white with quartz-grit to inner surface.

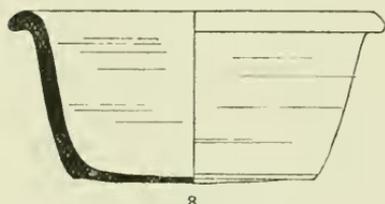


FIG. 3. NO. 8.

Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

FIG. 3.

Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

Fig 4.

No. 1. Upper part of small olla, with sharply outbent rim. Diameter, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Very smooth, reddish-buff clay, fine texture. Slip coating of same colour, producing a glazed finish.

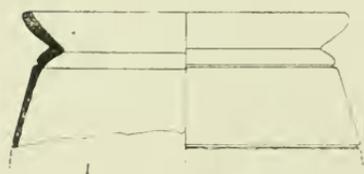
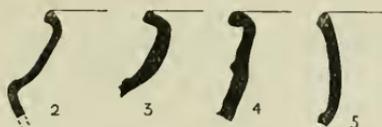


FIG. 4.

Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

Nos. 2-4. Rim fragments of coarse grey ware vessels. First century.

No. 5. Upright rim of coarse, gritty black ware. Cordon at base of neck. Pre-Claudian.



Nos. 6-10. "Bead-rim" pottery of Claudian date. No. 7, typical form, with groove just above bulge, the same as found on Ashtead Common (2nd Report, Fig. 7). Hard, light to dark, grey ware.

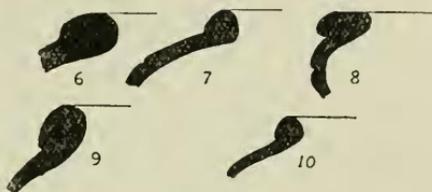


FIG. 4.
Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

Nos. 11-13. Grey ware with shallow, combed decoration.

No. 11. Fragment, from above bulge, of large vessel (c. 12-18 inches diameter), with unusually thick sides. A band of thick white slip above; deep grey slip coating with combed ornamentation below.

Nos. 12 and 13. Small fragments (of same thickness). Grey ware with combed, wavy decoration. Traces of white slip glaze to plain part of No. 13.

No. 14. "La Tène" rim fragment of coarse gritty red ware.

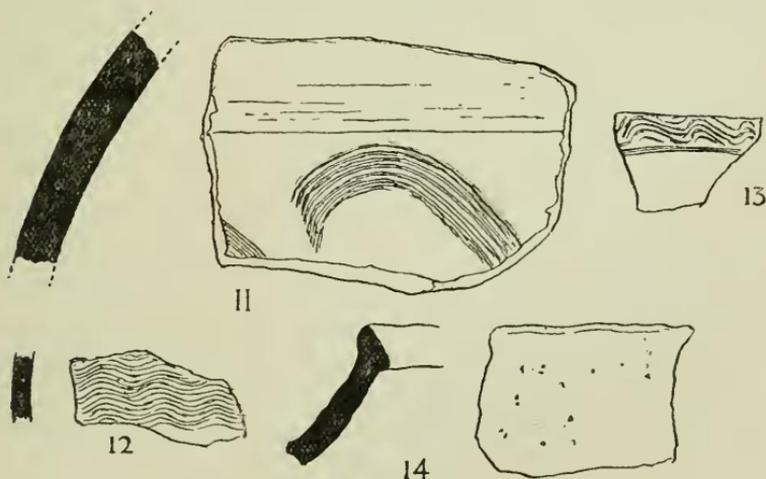


FIG. 4.
Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

Fig. 5.

Large store jar with outward-curved neck and plain bead rim. Cordon at top and bottom of band below neck. Ornamentation of groups of diagonal lines (polished, on a rough

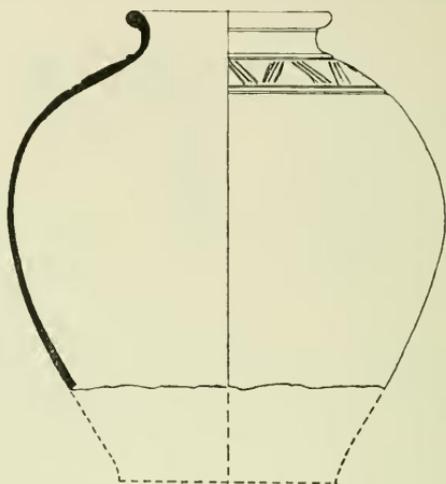


FIG. 5.

Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

surface) formed with a blunt instrument. The rim and body slightly polished. Base missing. Diameter at rim, 6 inches; bulge, $12\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Clay, hard, dark grey. A.D. 50-100.