

EXCAVATIONS AT PURBERRY SHOT EWELL, SURREY

A pre-Roman and Roman Occupation Site

BY

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DURING 1938, work commenced on the building of a block of flats on the site of a former large house which had been known as Purberry Shot.¹ The foundation trench disclosed Roman pottery in considerable quantity at the south-western corner, and news of this having reached Mr. S. S. Frere, F.S.A., the builders² consented to excavations being carried out in such parts of the site as were not required for the actual building work.

The site plan (Fig. 2) shows the extent of the digging which it was possible to carry out in 1939.

The whole of the work was carried out by volunteer labour, and thanks are especially due to Mr. Eric Jeal of Ewell and to members of the Epsom College Archæological Society, without whom the results achieved would not have been possible.

Position of Site.

The site, on the southern outskirts of Ewell, lies on the west side of the Ewell-Epsom main road (Fig. 1). It is about half a mile west of Stane Street, the course of which was proved in 1934 by excavations in the so-called Fair Field,³ and in the grounds of The Corner House,⁴ and only a few hundred yards west of the site of Staneway House, where, in 1847 and 1860, some unusual shafts containing much late 1st century Roman pottery were found during work at a small chalk quarry.⁵

It is also only a short distance south of the site at Tayle's Hill, where a Roman ditch, containing Antonine pottery in the rapid silt, was found in 1934,⁶ and of the Council School site, where

¹ It is believed that this name is not an original field name for this site, but the writer has not, as yet, been able to verify this. The name has been retained for the new building.

² The builders, Messrs. Bradley & Arthur, gave every facility for the work, including the use of ladders and timber for clearing the well, subsequently described, and erected a well-head over this so that it could be made a permanent feature of the site.

³ Excavations described in *S.A.C.*, Vol. XLIII, pp. 16-35.

⁴ *S.A.C.*, Vol. XLIV, pp. 145-146.

⁵ *S.A.C.*, Vol. XLII, p. 15; *Arch.*, XXXII, pp. 451 *et seq.*

⁶ *S.A.C.*, Vol. XLIII, pp. 16-35.

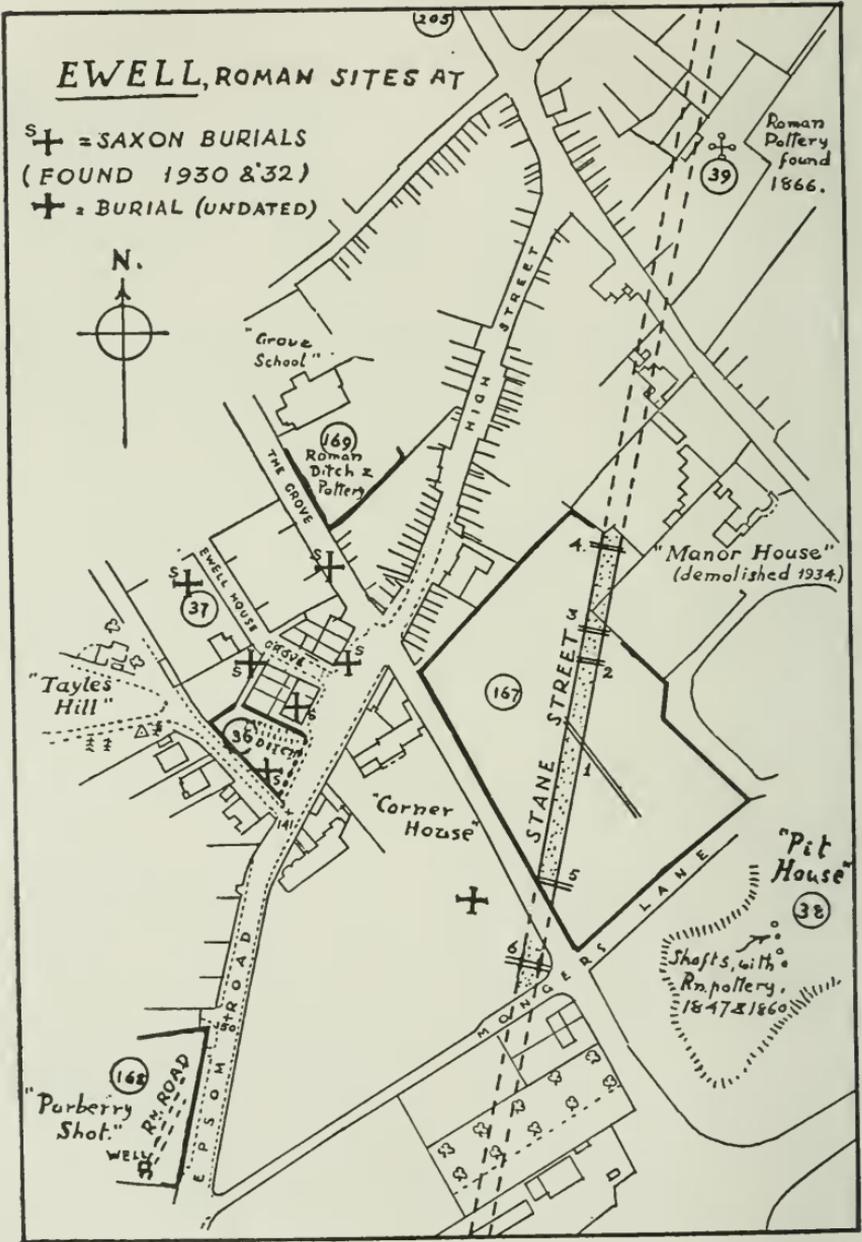


FIG. 1.

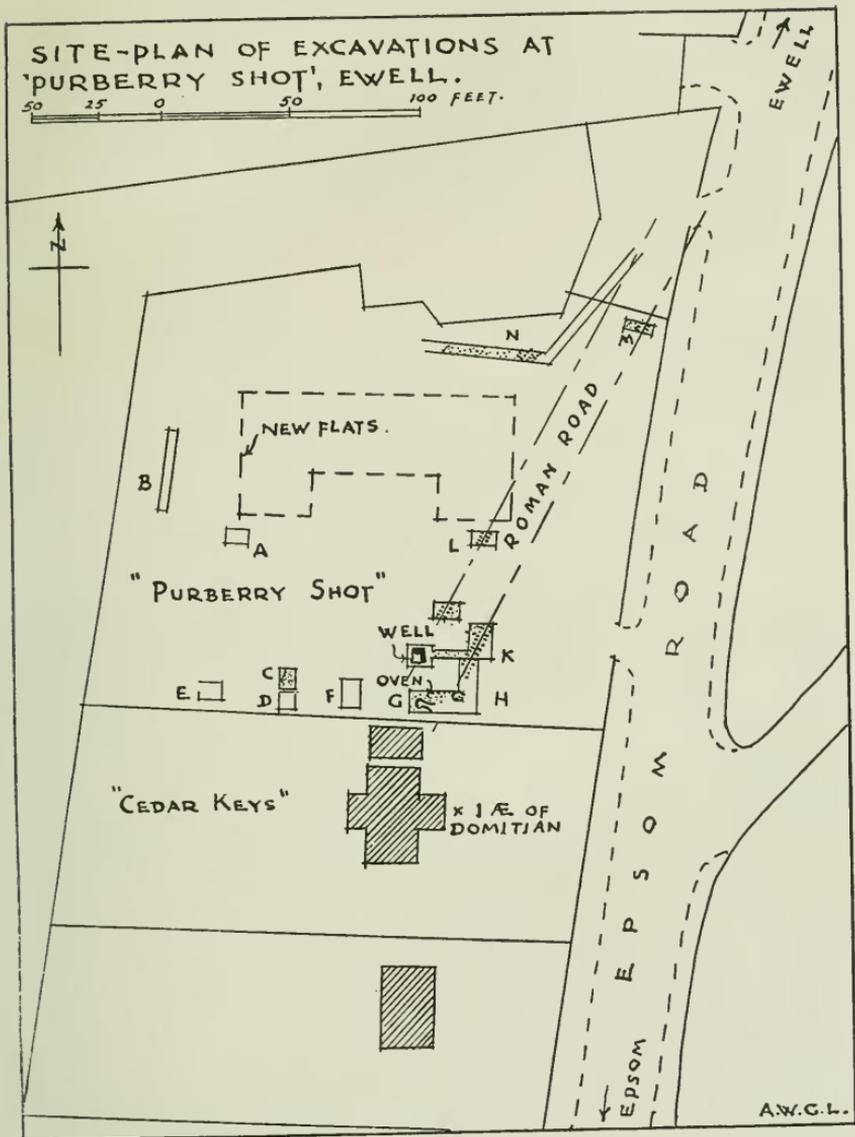


FIG. 2.

small ditches containing Claudian and Antonine pottery were found by Mr. Frere in 1940.¹

These are only a few of many sites at Ewell at which Roman pottery, coins, etc., have been found and which show that there was extensive occupation throughout the Roman period and,

¹ S.A.C., Vol. XLVIII, pp. 45-60. The original find was made during construction of air-raid shelters, and limited excavations were conducted by Mr Frere.

SECTION C - D .

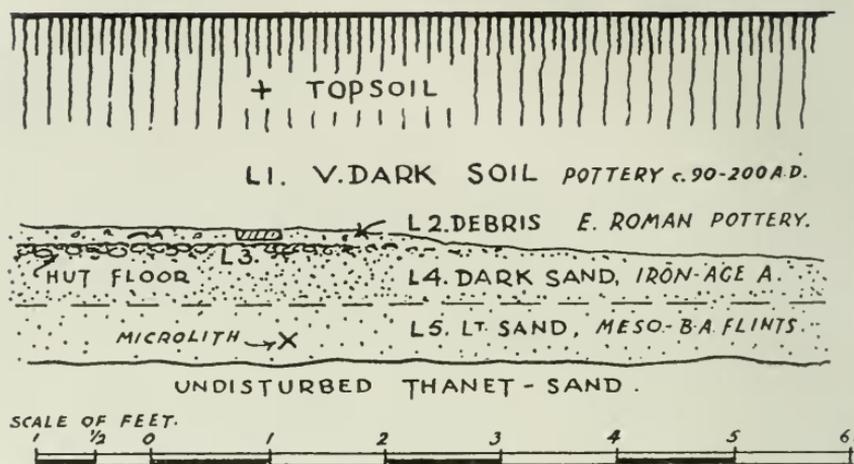


FIG. 3.

incidentally, also in Early Iron Age and Early Saxon times, no doubt partially accounted for by the spring which rises in the centre of Ewell and forms the Hogsmill Stream.

The site has a subsoil of Thanet sand, 20 feet in depth, resting upon chalk.

Summary of Results.

The excavations produced, from all parts of the site, but mainly from the lowest level resting on the Thanet sand, flakes and cores of an extensive flint industry (apparently of Bronze Age date) associated with numerous calcined flints. In addition, a few Mesolithic implements were found in this level, including some cores and flakes characteristic of this period.¹

Iron Age A occupation material was unexpectedly encountered on the site, mainly in the area of trenches C, D and E. The pottery consists both of shouldered pots with finger-tip decoration on rim and shoulder, and of bowls with shoulder, upright rim and burnished externally. Also small bag-shaped vessels and others with finger-nail ornament. The whole group is paralleled by that from Cæsar's Camp, Wimbledon Common,² from Epsom Downs,³ and from Cobham.⁴

Occupation appears to have been continuous at this site from (possibly) 200 B.C. to c. A.D. 150, when a road was made across it

¹ A single mesolithic microlith was found at the Tayle's Hill site (*S.A.C.*, XLIII, not figd.), another at the Council School site, and another (a pick) has been found in the neighbourhood, in the grounds of Nonsuch Park.

² *Arch. Journ.*, CII, pp. 15-20.

³ *Ant. Journ.*, XXII, p. 123.

⁴ *S.A.C.*, Vols. XXI, XXII, and awaiting publication.

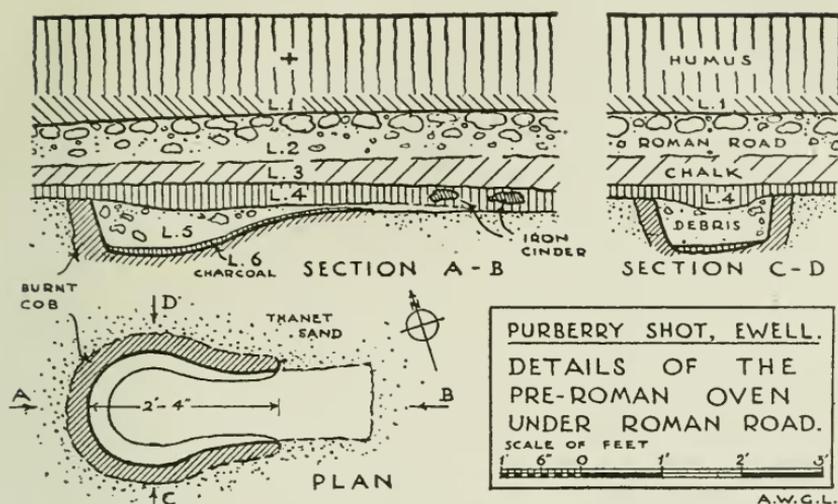


FIG. 4.

and huts, a well and an oven were, if still in use, done away with to accommodate the road.

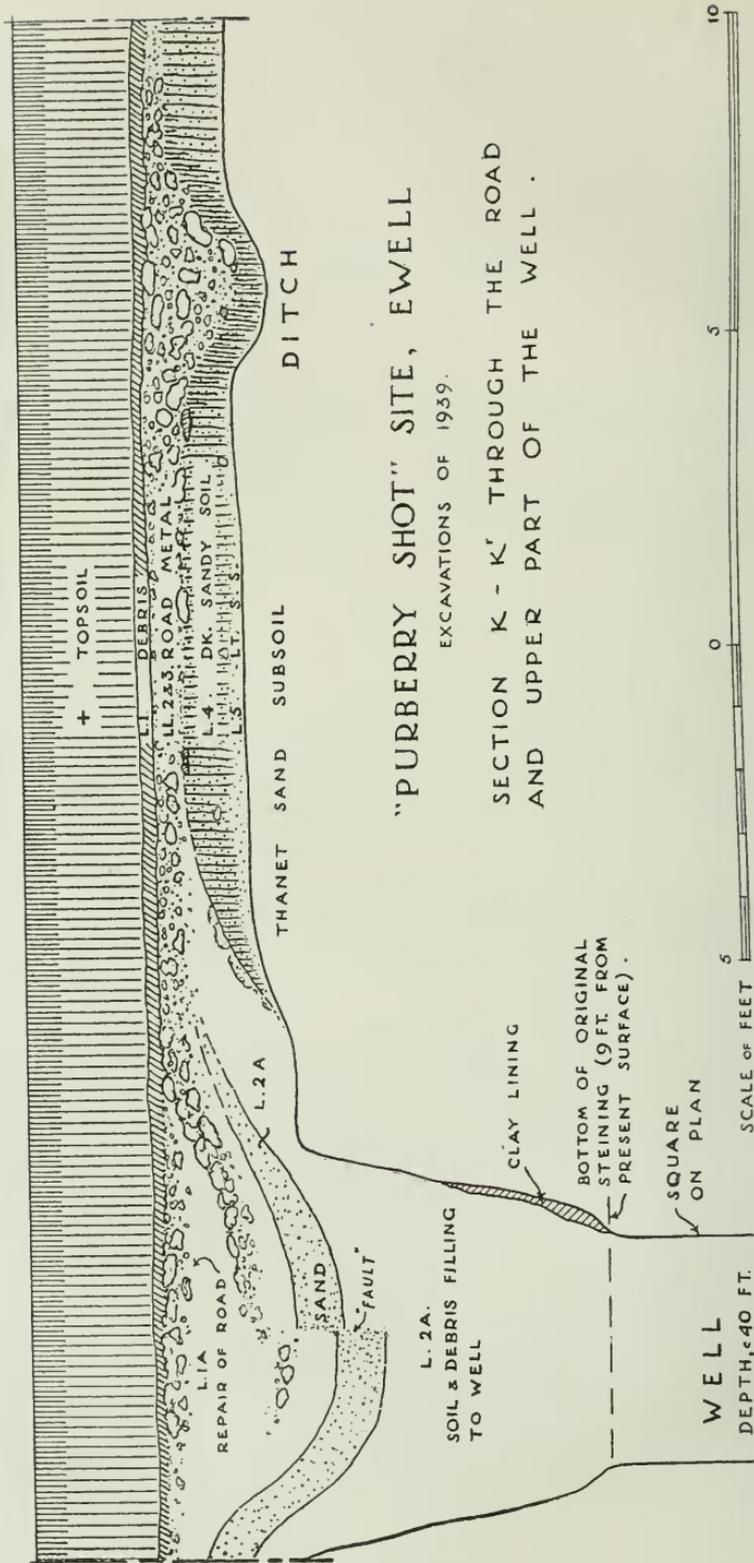
The latter part of the Iron Age is represented by decorated pottery (Fig. 14, Nos. F13 and 14), coarse bead-rim ware, and South-Eastern "B" ware apparently of Claudian date and including vessels of Patch Grove ware, as described by Ward Perkins in his report on Oldbury, Kent.¹ Among this pottery is an almost complete large jar of standard Patch Grove type (Fig. 17, F21) which is of special significance, being found close to a small oven with which it was clearly contemporary.² To this period belong timber huts with pebble-gravel floors, of which part of one was found in trench C and part of another exposed in the builders' drain-trench (N. on plan).

Apparently in this period there was considerable iron-working activity on the site, a quantity of iron-cinder, and a piece of iron ingot-bar, were found in levels of this period. (There was no clue as to where they obtained the ore used in the process, ironstone not being present in this area, but the writer was informed by the late Mr. Straker that there was evidence of certain ferruginous sands having been used for the extraction of iron at this period.)

Close to the oven and hut C, and sealed by the road already mentioned, was found a well about 40 feet deep, which had been

¹ *Arch.* 90, pp. 128-176.

² As described later, both had been encountered and destroyed by the makers of the road, which passed over them, the top of the oven being knocked in and the hollow filled, and the jar prised out of the hollow in the sand (at which time the missing rim-neck fragment probably became detached and was thrown elsewhere). The jar had then been thrown over into a hollow, close to the hole from which it had been extracted, crushed down and a load of flints, broken bricks and pieces of globular amphora thrown on top of it, in which position it was found during the excavations.



"PURBERRY SHOT" SITE, EWELL

EXCAVATIONS OF 1939.

SECTION K - K' THROUGH THE ROAD
AND UPPER PART OF THE WELL.

FIG. 5.

filled to receive the road. The latter had subsided to a depth of about 3 feet, but the hollow thus formed in the metalling had not been made good, suggesting that the road had only a brief existence, borne out by the absence of 3rd or 4th century pottery at this site. The latest pottery from the well-filling is of mid-2nd century date.

Both in the well (which seems to have been filled mainly with soil scraped off the site and containing pottery, etc., of all periods) and in the surrounding soil, pottery of the Flavian-Hadrianic period was abundant, and the several coins found were all of this period.

Antonine pottery from the well-filling, and a few pieces on and in the surface of the road, attest the date of the latter's construction and are the latest dating evidence from this site (excluding the radiate coin produced by one of the workmen as being found by him on the site).

The Flint Industries (Figs. 6, 7 and 8).

A number of worked flints, chiefly flakes and cores but including a few implements, were derived from all levels, but were most numerous in the sand immediately overlying the undisturbed subsoil (level 5). Seven of them have been selected for description and the following note and illustrations have kindly been supplied by Mr. W. F. Rankine, F.S.A. Scotland. (A mesolithic tranchet-axe (Fig. 8) found in Nonsuch Park, about a mile north of the site, in 1938, is figured here as being among the few implements of this period from the locality. It is of grey flint with yellow-brown patina, with a piece of white cortex at the butt end.)

Mesolithic.

A. Fragment of a microlith of brown flint (Type A, 2a). Found resting on undisturbed subsoil.

B. Two-way core of brown flint with cortex. Resembles Pit-Dwelling type as found at Farnham. Trench E, level 1.

C. Core of brown flint, with smooth cortex, identical with that of B. Appears to have been abandoned on account of cherty inclusion. Trench H, level 5.

D. ? Graver. Brownish-black flint. May be an unorthodox graver, but no backing and cut appears on base of flake.

Neolithic-Bronze Age.

E. Notched scraper of black flint, with thermal fractures on both surfaces. A so-called "Arrow-Shaft Smoother," with $\frac{3}{4}$ inch notch.

F. An abandoned core of black flint. Typical squat flake beds on the underside, like those seen on a tranchet axe. Very old, abraded surfaces on the opposite face show that it is not part of a pick.

Bronze Age.

G. Convex scraper of lustrous black flint with an orange band in the sub-cortex. A symmetrical specimen; treatment at butt suggests hafting. Trench K, level 4.

Iron Age A.

A stratified layer of dark sandy soil containing pottery and a bone point (Fig. 14, F7) rested, at an average depth of 3 feet, a

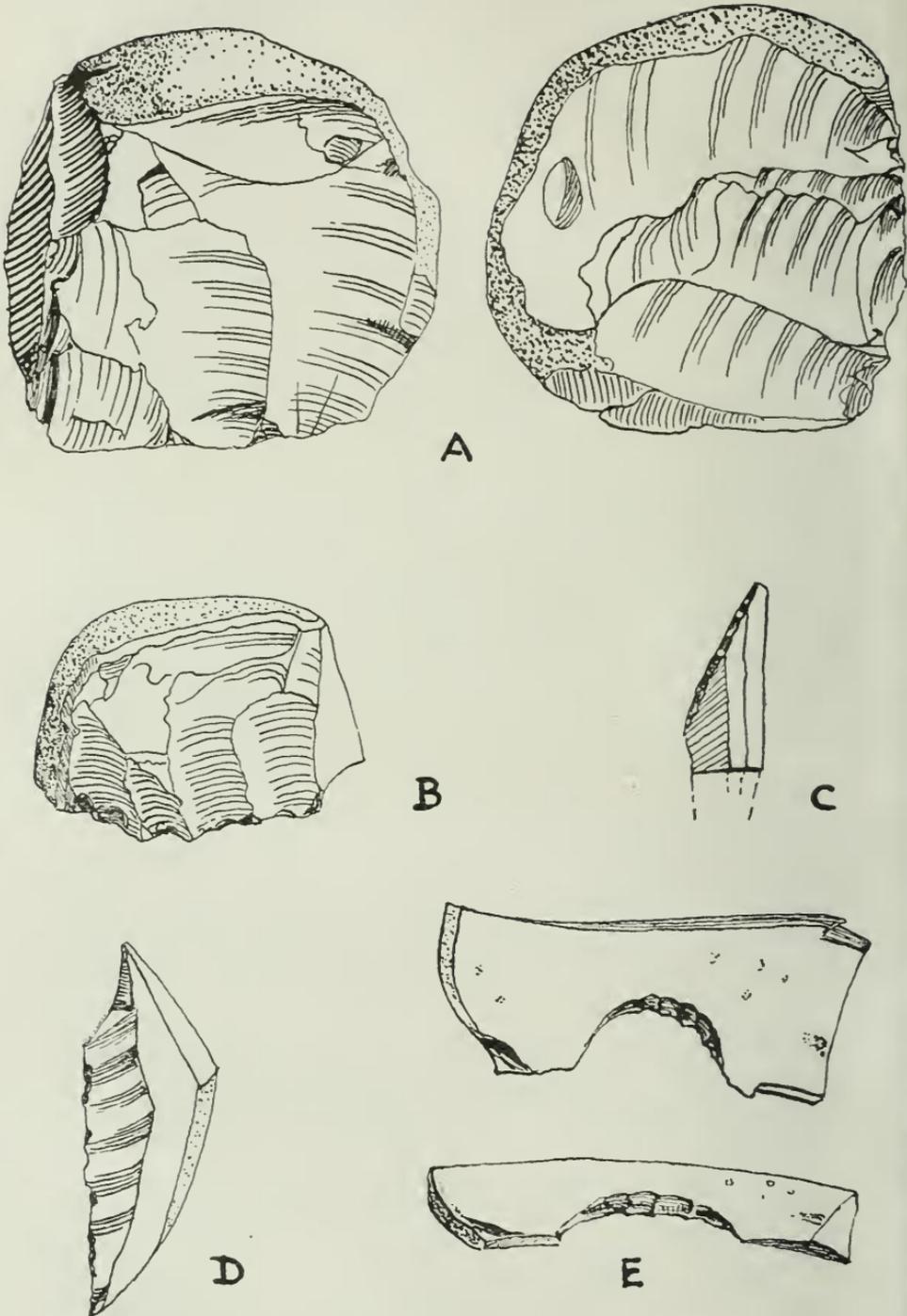
FIG. 6 (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$).

PLATE III



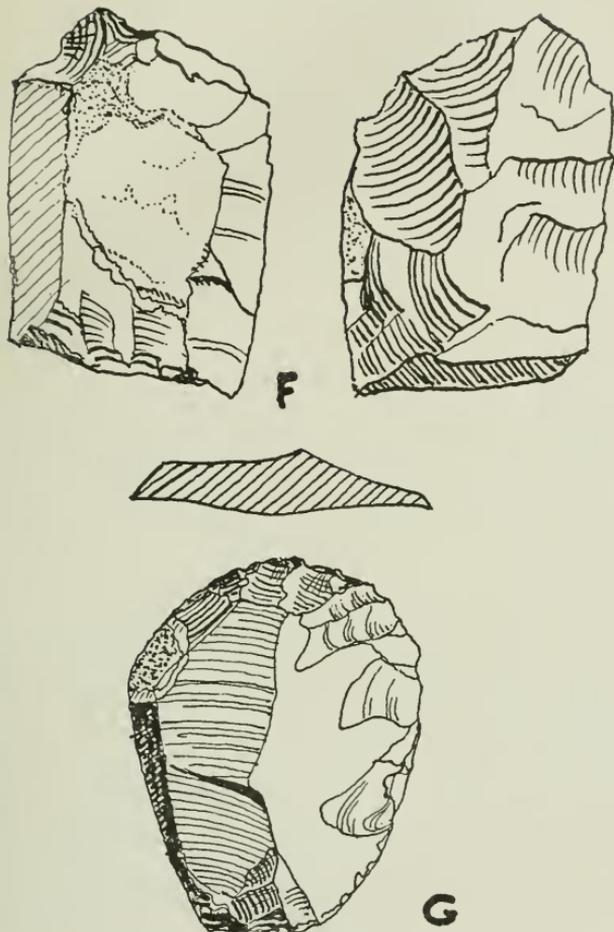
1. FRAGMENTARY PEBBLE HUT FLOOR IN TRENCH C-D.
2. METALLING OF ROAD WITH DITCH BELOW. SECTION K-K'.
3, 4 AND 5. VIEWS OF OVEN FOUND BENEATH THE ROAD.

Photos by S. S. Frere, F.S.A.]

PLATE IV



(A).—SECTION K-K' AT WESTERN END, SHOWING SETTLEMENT OF ROAD INTO THE UNDERLYING WELL.
(B).—SECTION K-K' AT EASTERN END, SHOWING ROAD METAL AND UNDERLYING SMALL DITCH.

FIG. 7 (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$).

short distance above the light-sand subsoil and, at one point (trench C), beneath the floor of a hut of Claudian-Neronian date.

The only finds from beneath this layer were the few mesolithic and Bronze Age flints already described.

This layer (level 4 on sections) was clearly an original ground level, which, from the manner in which pottery and pot-boilers were distributed throughout it, had been under plough during the Iron Age. No undisturbed deposit of Iron Age A date was found on the site, though that such had existed was shown by the quantity of pottery, etc., in certain areas, especially in the region of trenches C, D and E.

Part of a triangular burnt-clay loom-weight, belonging to this period, was found among the debris filling the Roman well which, as already described, had largely been filled with material which appears to have been scraped up off the site.

Ultimate Iron Age (Patch Grove or Wealden Culture).

There had clearly been considerable occupation on this site at about the date of the Claudian invasion, possibly commencing just prior to it, but in any case extending well into the Roman period, without any break.

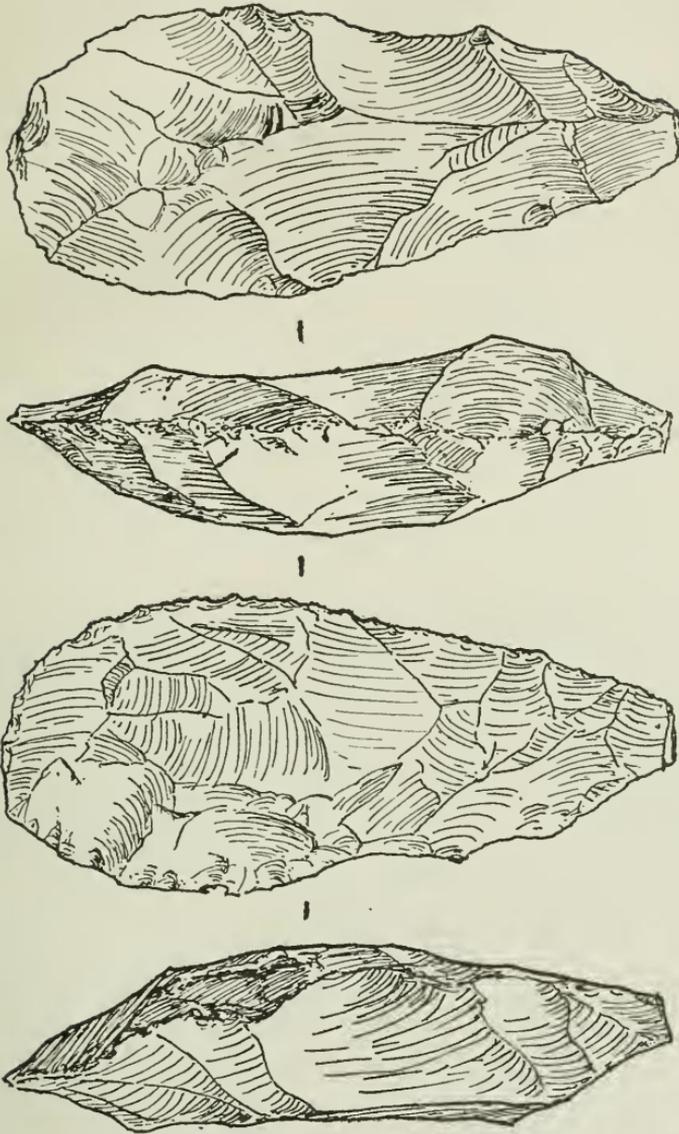
Pottery found in the upper part of level 4 is of a type which has been found of recent years at a number of sites in South-East England and has been fully described by J. B. Ward-Perkins in his report on the Oldbury Hill fort excavations,¹ where (pp. 174-5) reference is made to the site under discussion. This pottery, now conveniently termed "Patch Grove ware," is of a most distinctive type both as regards form and paste, and six examples (F16-F21) are figured here. Though, in part of the site, Roman pottery, both Claudian and Flavian, including Samian ware, penetrated into the same horizon as that which produced the Patch Grove pottery, yet the two were in no case actually found together in such a way that it can be claimed that they are contemporary.

Ascribable to this period is the small oven (Fig. 4 and Plate I) whose side and floor were formed of "cob," a mixture of chalk and clay, which had fired to the consistency of soft brick. No pottery or anything datable was found within it, and it was filled mainly with material from its destroyed upper part. Dark sand, of level 4, extended across it (fig. 4) so that it is possible that it was destroyed and abandoned some considerable time before level 3, the chalk foundation of the road, was laid down.

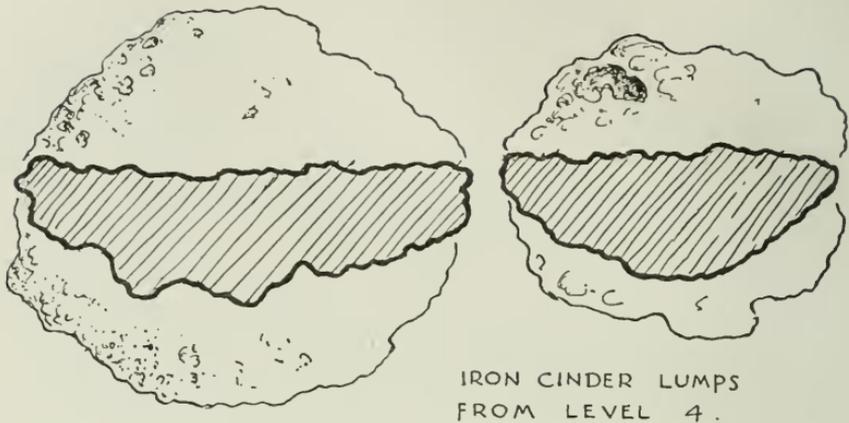
(On the conclusion of the excavations this oven was removed from the site, and has been stored during the war. It is hoped to have it on exhibition in the Guildford Museum.)

Trench K-K', dug with the object of getting a better section of the road which had been located in trenches G and H, disclosed a well at its western end, underlying the road metal (Fig. 5). The well shaft proved to be of rectangular cross-section, measuring 3 feet 5 inches by 3 feet 9 inches where it penetrated the Thanet sand, for its upper 20 feet, but from there on for another 20 feet, in chalk, it measured 3 feet 4 inches by 3 feet 4 inches. The uppermost part, to a depth of 9 feet from the present surface, was cut back irregularly, apparently due to this part having been lined with chalk blocks, with a backing of stiff yellow clay (some of which remained *in situ*), all of which had been prised out and allowed to fall to the bottom when the well was dismantled and filled in prior to the road being constructed. Owing to the water level (encountered at 38 feet) it was not possible to clear the well to the bottom, but prodding suggested that there was only another 2 feet of material (mainly chalk blocks referred to above). Also it was noted that for the lowest few feet the sides had been cut back as though to form a small chamber at the foot of the shaft. The shaft had apparently never been lined with timber

¹ "Excavations on the Iron Age Hill-fort of Oldbury, near Ightham, Kent," in *Arch.*, Vol. XC, p. 127 *et seq.*

FIG. 8 (Scale $\frac{2}{3}$).

as a shallow curved groove, 2 feet wide by 6 inches maximum depth, extended down the south side of the shaft to the point where it changed from sand to chalk and had apparently been caused by a bucket scraping against the side of the shaft. It was remarked that the sand was remarkably firm and compact, so much so that, in timbering the sides for security during excavation, it was found possible to nail planks direct to the sand so that they



IRON CINDER LUMPS
FROM LEVEL 4.

FIG. 9 (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$).

remained in position while the cross-struts were being inserted. Also, roots from a large pine tree, growing just clear of the well, extended for its full depth, forming a matted layer between the sides of the shaft and its filling. As already stated, the filling consisted largely of material which appeared to have been derived from the surface of the site and contained sherds of many hundreds of vessels, the bulk of which were of late 1st-century ware, including some Samian. There were, however, a few pieces of pottery of early- to mid-2nd-century ware and (from the upper 10 feet) a few almost complete vessels, including the mortarium (Fig. 21, No. 1), which is probably of c. A.D. 150.

Prior to its construction, the road had been set out with a couple of small ditches, one on each side, but that these served no other purpose was implied by the fact that soil had been allowed to silt in after they had been dug, and when the metalling was laid down it was allowed to fill them completely.

The remainder of the excavation was limited towards tracing the course of the road, but, owing to the limitations of the site, only a few small trenches could be dug; these, however, succeeded in showing it to run in a north-eastern direction, and to be about 22 or 23 feet in width.

A drain trench (N on plan), dug by the builder's workmen, was found to cut through a pebble-gravel floor similar to that found by us in trench C-D, and apparently belonging to another hut of the same period.

No late Roman pottery was found in any part of the site, and radiate coins (with one doubtful exception) were absent. The latest coin found during the excavations was a denarius of Hadrian.

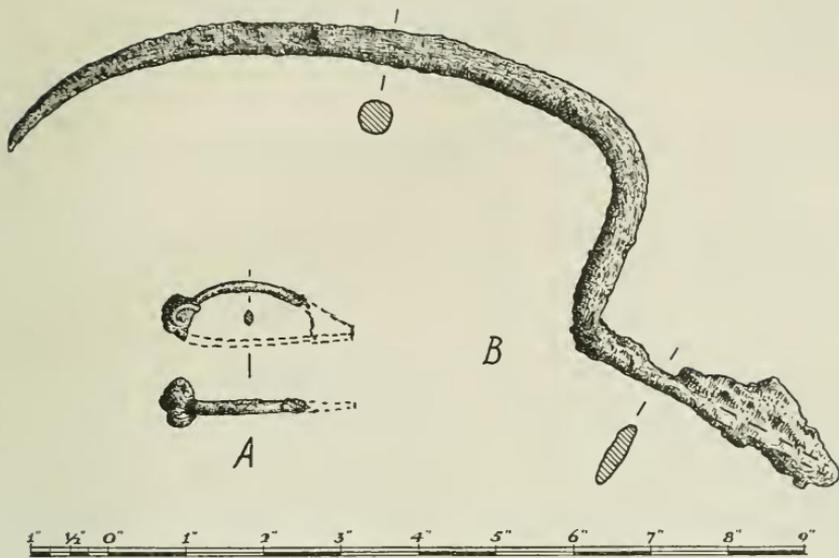


FIG. 10.

THE FINDS (excluding pottery).

1. Iron Age.

Fig. 10.

A. Part of an iron brooch of pre-Roman or early Roman date. Well-filling. (See note at end of article.)

B. Iron "latch lifter" key, of common Iron Age type. C-D, level 4, top of, and beside fragmentary hut floor.

Fig. 14, F7.

F.7. Bone point, of typical Iron Age form. C-D, level 4, closely associated with sherds of Iron Age A pottery.

(Not figured.)

Small rectangular lump of iron, found with iron slag (Fig. 9, in level 4. Size 3 inches \times 1½ inches \times ½ inch. Weight ¾ lb.

2. Roman.

Fig. 11.

a. Bronze pin, with turned head. Length 4 $\frac{5}{16}$ inches. K, level 4.

b and c. Bone pins. K, level 3, base of road; and G, level 4.

d. Catch plate of bronze brooch. Fish-tail shape, with border line and ornament of small punctured dots. Probably Early 2nd century (cf. *Rich.*, I, Pl. XII, No. 4). Well-filling.

e. Bead of pale greenish-blue glass. Well-filling.

f. Part of manicure set. Components of four sets were found in the well, including two tweezers.

Fig. 12 (Iron objects from the well).

1. Cutting implement, probably a razor. Somewhat similar ones of Bronze Age date have been found in Scandinavia (Brit. Mus.). The present specimen may be pre-Roman.

2. Blade of a cutting implement.

3. Ox goad (point missing; traces of wood in inner surface).

4. Iron object; with terminal loop.

5. Brooch; early- or pre-Roman.

6. Knife, with two rivets, for handle. Original length uncertain.

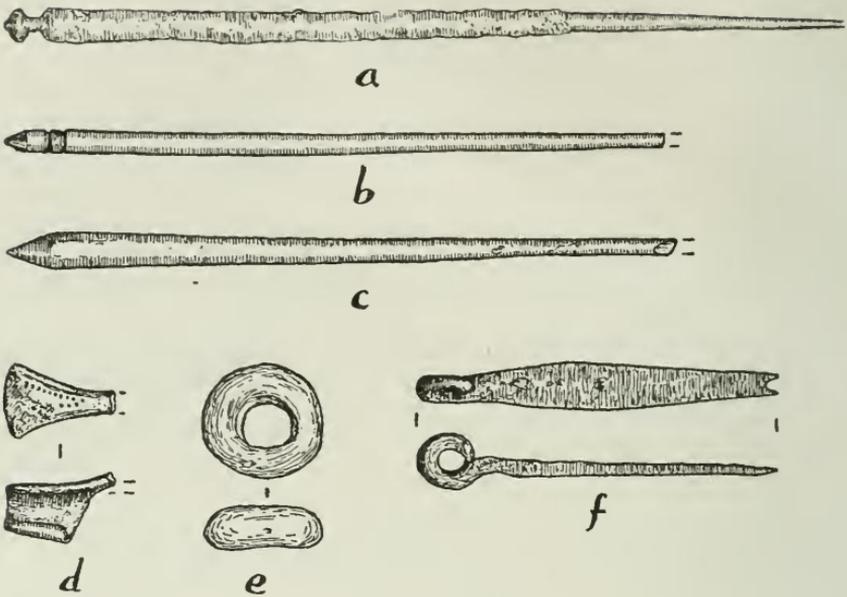
FIG. 11 (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$).

Fig. 13.

Part of an upper mill-stone of coarse sandstone of thin, flat type. It retains part of the slot into which the handle was fitted. Trench A, level 1. Associated with pottery of Hadrian-Antonine date.

IRON AGE POTTERY.

1. *Early Iron Age A Pottery* (Fig. 14).

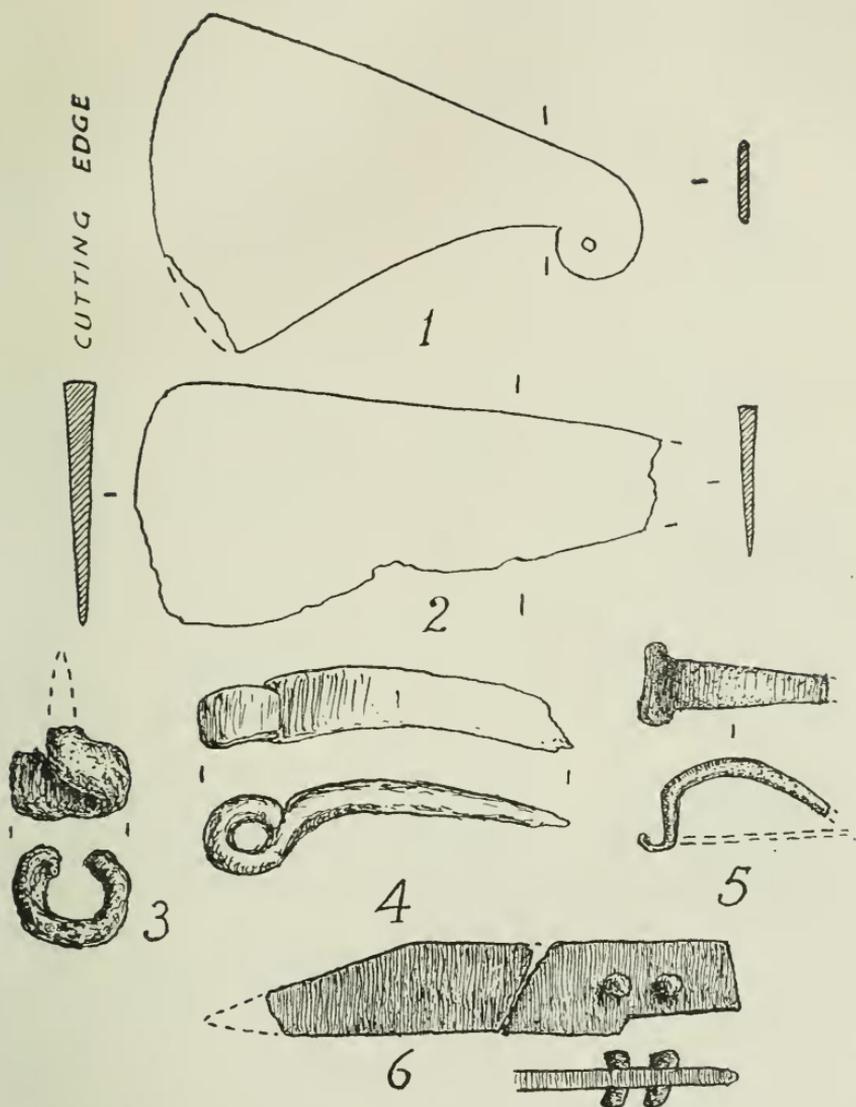
The Iron Age A pottery from this site includes a high proportion of vessels with both finger-tip ornamentation (on rim and bulge) and "slashed" (finger-nail) decoration (F2 and F3), but the greater proportion of the sherds are from plain vessels (F1, F4, F6 and F9).

It is comparable with the group of pottery found (in 1938) at Cæsar's Camp, Wimbleton, inside the east rampart; also with that from the Camp at Carshalton (1937 and 1939), though at the latter most of the pottery found was unornamented. Both these camps are single bank-and-ditch defences enclosing a circular area of remarkably regular setting out, and there is likely to be little or no difference in date between them.

F1. Dark grey-brown ware with red-brown burnished outer surface. Bowl with upstanding rim and angled shoulder. (F4 and F15 are similar vessels; F4, unburnished and gritted ware; F15 of black ware and highly burnished.) Trench E, level 4.

F4 and F6. Dark brown, unburnished ware. These were found with the bone point F7 in level 4, section C-D, beneath the gravel floor of a later hut.

F2 and F3, shoulder fragments with finger-nail-formed slashed ornament, or coarse brownish ware, are from the same level as the last described pieces, as is also F5, part of a large vessel of very black ware with out-bent rim and typical finger-tip ornament.

FIG. 12 (Scale $\frac{1}{4}$).

A few scraps, as F13, a rim fragment of brown ware with a considerable amount of white grit (found in section K-K', level 4). show traces of linear ornament, but most unusual of all are the two pieces figured as F14. These are of a dull-black, uneven surfaced ware, markedly uneven but rather more shiny on the inner surface. Externally ornamented with a design formed of curved lines bordering alternately plain and pitted spaces. (The ware appears not to be wheel-made, and it is uncertain whether the fragments are figured the correct way up.)

FRAGMENT OF ROMAN QUERN
FROM TRENCH 'A', LEVEL 1.

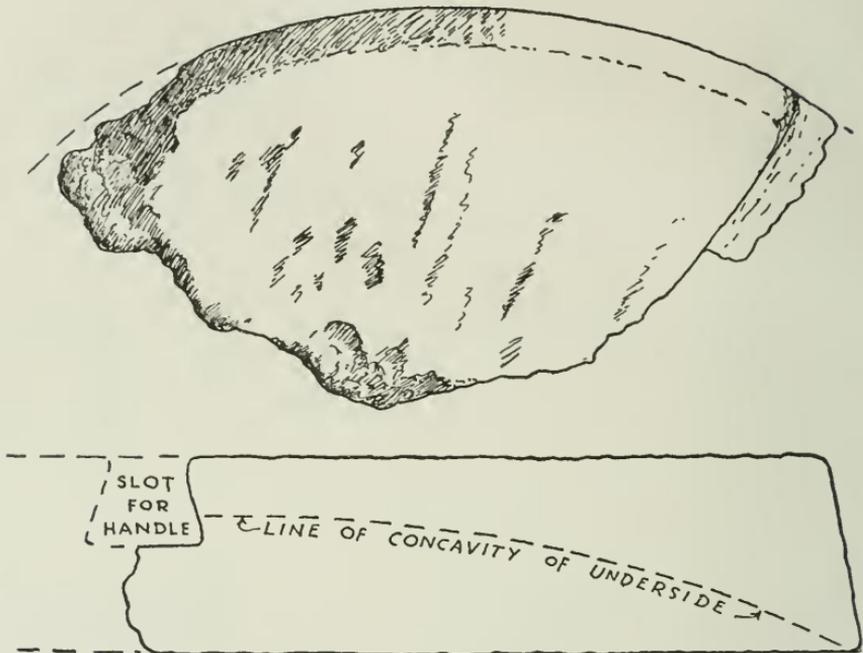


FIG. 13 (Scale $\frac{2}{3}$).

F14 is the only vessel of its type from the site, which suggests its having been imported from elsewhere, possibly by trade. It is reminiscent of the pottery from All Cannings Cross, Wilts, some of which is decorated with punctured dots filling similar angular designs, but is likely to be more closely related to the Kentish pottery of the type found at Margate (*Ant. Journ.*, Vol. V, p. 165, fig.), though the latter has scroll ornament of Glastonbury type. The Margate vessel is furnished with a thick outbent rim (see p. 18) characteristic of much of the Oldbury pottery, and since (as described later in this report) pottery of the Oldbury "Patch Grove" type was found at the Purberry Shot site, and some of it in the same level (level 4) as the Iron Age A ware, it is likely that it should, in reality, be referred to the later "eastern B" group of vessels.

This vessel also furnishes a link with the Surrey site at Wisley (*Ant. Journ.*, Vol. IV, p. 45, Fig. 10), which, as well as many vessels with linear ornament, has provided one fragment (Fig. 10c) with similar punctured-dot ornament. However, until publication of the reports on the Carshalton and Wimbledon sites, on another group of Iron Age pottery from Ewell, and a quantity of pottery from the Wisley site, still unpublished, it is probably

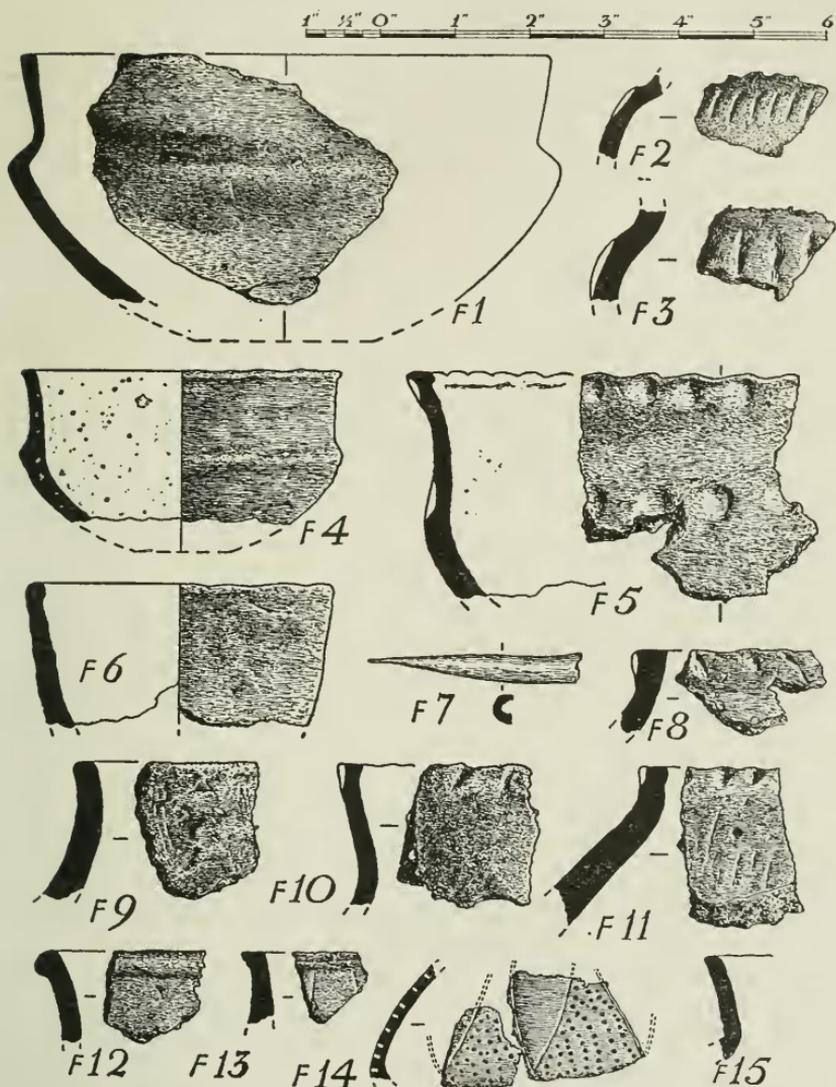


FIG. 14.

better to defer any detailed discussion bearing on the relation of the pottery from this and other Surrey Iron sites.¹

2. *Ultimate Iron Age (Patch Grove type) Pottery* (Figs. 15-18).

A certain quantity of pottery ascribable to the end of the Iron Age, and whose manufacture seems to have continued for a time after the Claudian invasion, was found at this site. It is not of

¹ These reports have now been published (*S.A.C.*, XLIX, "Carshalton Camp"; *Arch. Journ.*, CII, pp. 15-20, "Wimbledon Camp"; *P.P.S.*, 1945, pp. 32-38, "Wisley.")

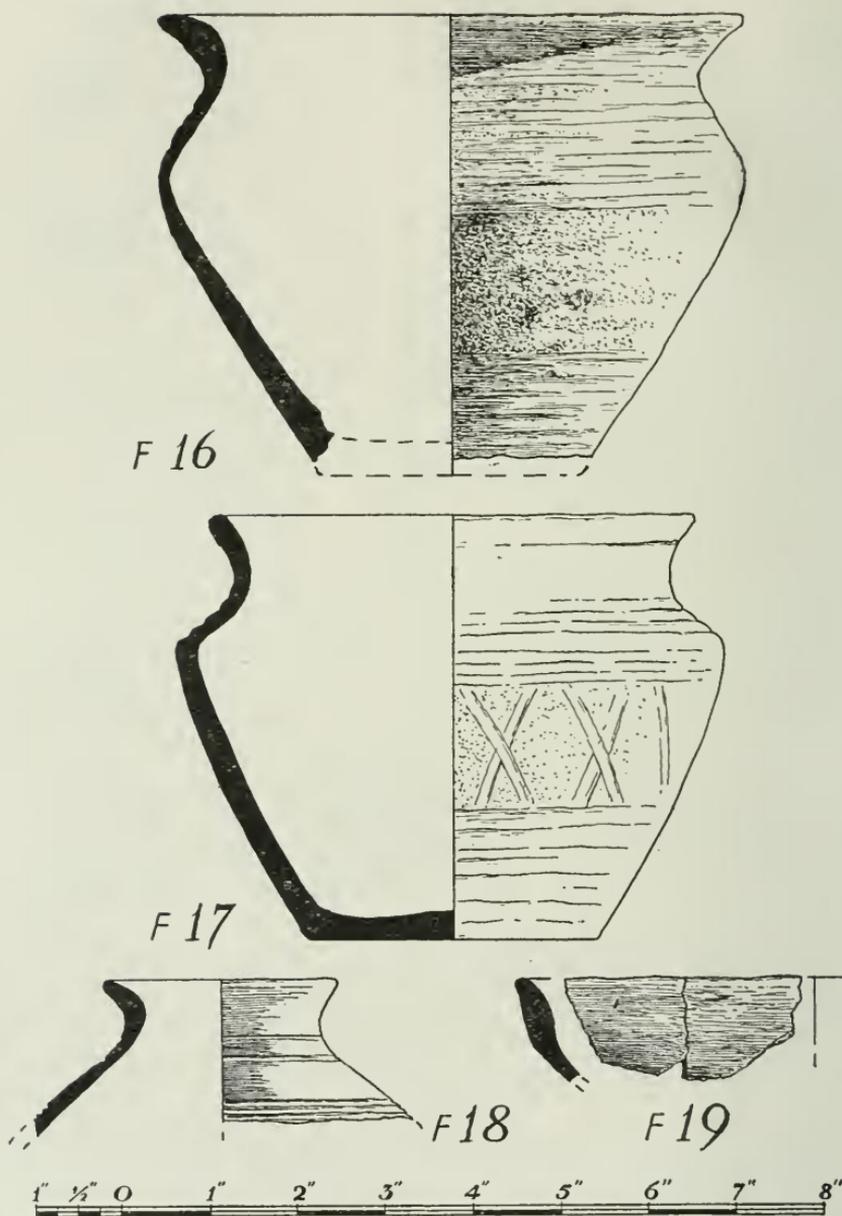


FIG. 15.

normal Belgic type, such as that from the pre-Roman Verulamium or Colchester sites, but is identical with that found in the Oldbury excavations and now known as Patch Grove ware. This has been dealt with very fully by J. B. Ward Perkins in his report, (see

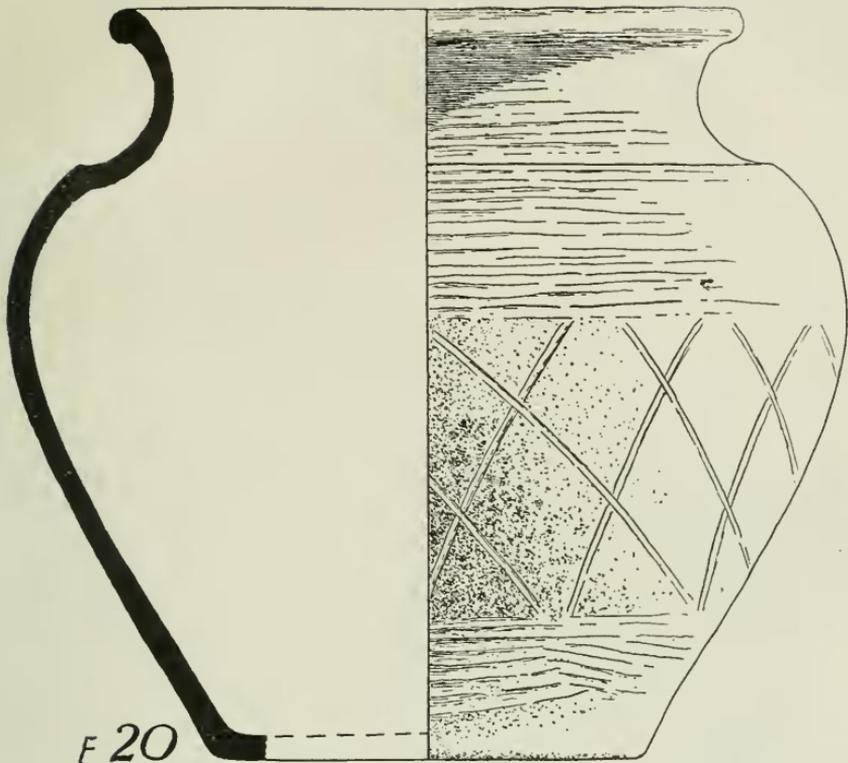


FIG. 16.

footnote p. 18) and he lists the sites at which it has been found (p. 175) as well as giving a map of their distribution (Fig. 9).¹

Fig. 15.

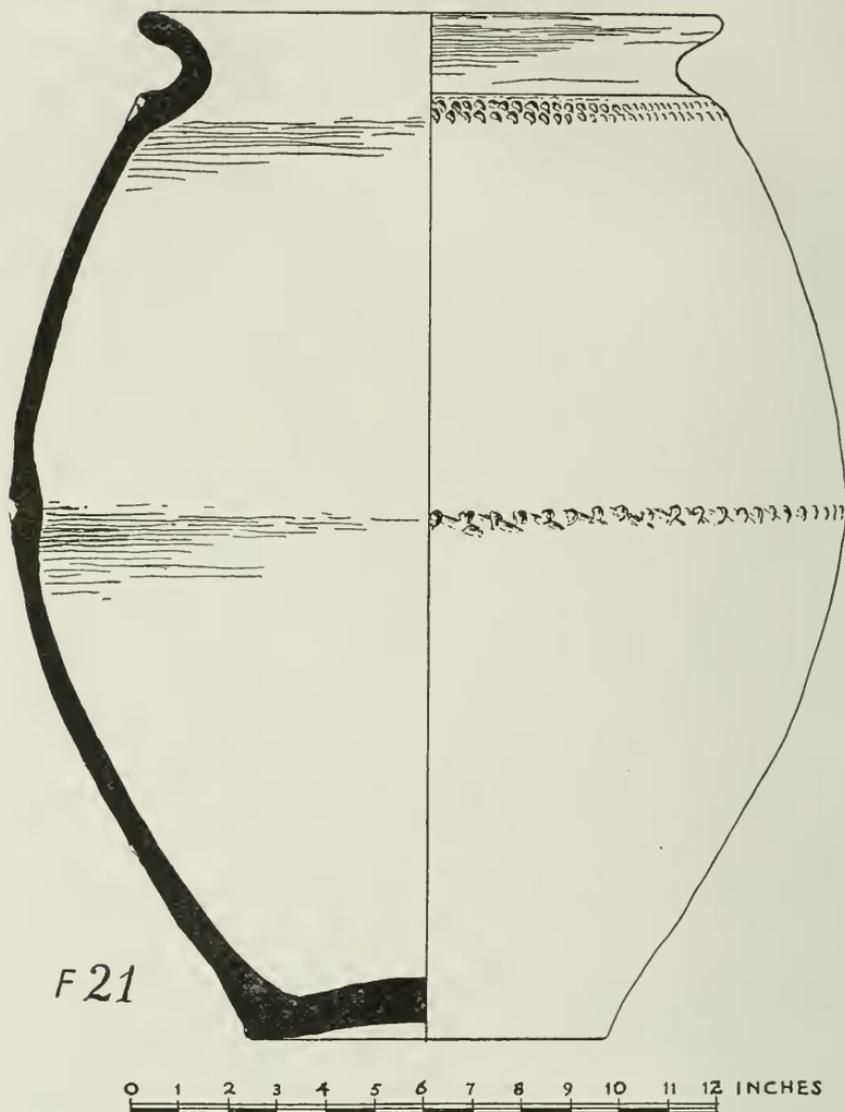
F16. Pot of black surfaced grey ware, with heavy outbent rim. Roughly burnished outer surface, which has a soapy feel distinctive of all ware of this class. K-K', level 4.

F17. Grey ware with red-brown surface and rough burnishing with lattice ornament. K-K', level 4.

F18. Brown ware with horizontal groove ornament.

F19. Black ware dish rim fragment, with internal thickening and external splay. K-K', level 4. (Compare *Oldbury*, Fig. 14, No. 5.)

¹ An additional site should be shown, on the north side of the Thames Estuary, the writer having (1917) found part of a vessel of this type on the foreshore between Thorpe Bay and Shoeburyness (unpublished). Pieces of another vessel of this type and ware have (1948) been found by Mr. L. W. Carpenter at Old Malden, Surrey.



F21

FIG. 17.

Fig. 16.

F20. Large jar of brown surfaced grey ware. Decoration as F17. K-K', level 4. (Compare *Oldbury*, Fig. 13, No. 5.)

Fig. 17.

F21. Very large jar of Patch Grove type (*Oldbury*, Fig. 16). Found beneath the Roman road, where its fragments had been used to help fill a hollow in the ground. Complete save for a rim and neck fragment. Grey

PLATE V



JAR OF PATCH GROVE WARE (see Fig. 17).



THE WELL DURING EXCAVATION. SUNKEN ROAD-METAL SHOWING ABOVE LOWER OF THE TWO PLANKS TO RIGHT.

ware with red-brown surfacing. Ornamented with a double row of fingertip impressions below the neck and a single row at mid-girth. (The latter apparently served to conceal the junction at this point, as the pot appears to have been made in two halves and united, before firing, along the centre line, thus causing a thickening of the pot along the line of its greatest circumference.)

Fig. 18.

Bead-rim Vessels of Native Ware.

Fragments of four bead-rim pots made of native ware (three of them heavily gritted) were found, all of them in the upper part of level 4 (section K-K'). This is of particular interest since, at this site, a very large number (fragments representing some hundreds of vessels) of bead-rim pots of Roman grey-ware fabric were found (associated with other ware of *c.* A.D. 90-100), and it is clear that they were manufactured locally.¹

F22. Black ware pot, with burnished rim and wavy-line ornament. Compare with this the group of similar vessels found at Farnham (*S.A.C., Prehistory of Farnham*, Figs. 89 and 90), and those found in London (*Roman London*).

F23. Heavily gritted grey ware, with reddish soapy surfacing, through which the grit shows as a white speckling. A similar rim was found at Hawk's Hill, Leatherhead (with Iron Age and 1st-century Roman pottery) also, with similar associations, beneath the Roman villa at Windmill Bank, Walton-on-the-Hill.²

F24. Similar ware to last, but with a hard rough surface. (An identical vessel found at Otford, Kent, and dated *c.* A.D. 50-75, is figured in the Oldbury Report, p. 164, Fig. 14, No. 15.)

F25. Bead-rim of hard, grey-brown, gritted ware. Sharply inbent rim, forming a flat bevel just below the beaded edge. Side, somewhat more vertical than normal, decorated with shallow horizontal grooves.

Fragments of two foot-ring bases were found in the well, but are of native ware (brown, soapy surface) similar to that of the Patch Grove ware.

F26. From the way in which this fragment has fractured, it is clear that a double process was employed in fashioning the pedestal part of the foot-ring. First, it was formed with an abrupt ring (identical with that of F27), and then this was lengthened by working on additional clay. (Part of this extension has flaked off, leaving the original foot exposed.)

F27. As last. It is possible that this base also originally had an extension on its foot-ring for, as the previous example shows, this can break off without leaving any trace at the point of junction.

These bases may have belonged to vessels similar to F18, being of identical ware.

¹ These were found mainly in the well, but also in upper levels elsewhere on the site, and were accompanied by pieces, in similar quantity, of dishes of a peculiar form (Fig. 29, Nos. 1-14) and cordoned pots of Belgic-derived types (Fig. 27, Nos. 1 and 2). These three types were made locally in large quantities and have been found together at other local sites—viz., Church Street, Ewell, Ashted Common Roman Villa (in the pre-villa level) and at Cobham, Surrey.

The latter bead-rim pots have, almost without exception, an encircling groove just below the rim, which is absent in the native-type vessels.

² Excavated in 1940. Report now in preparation.

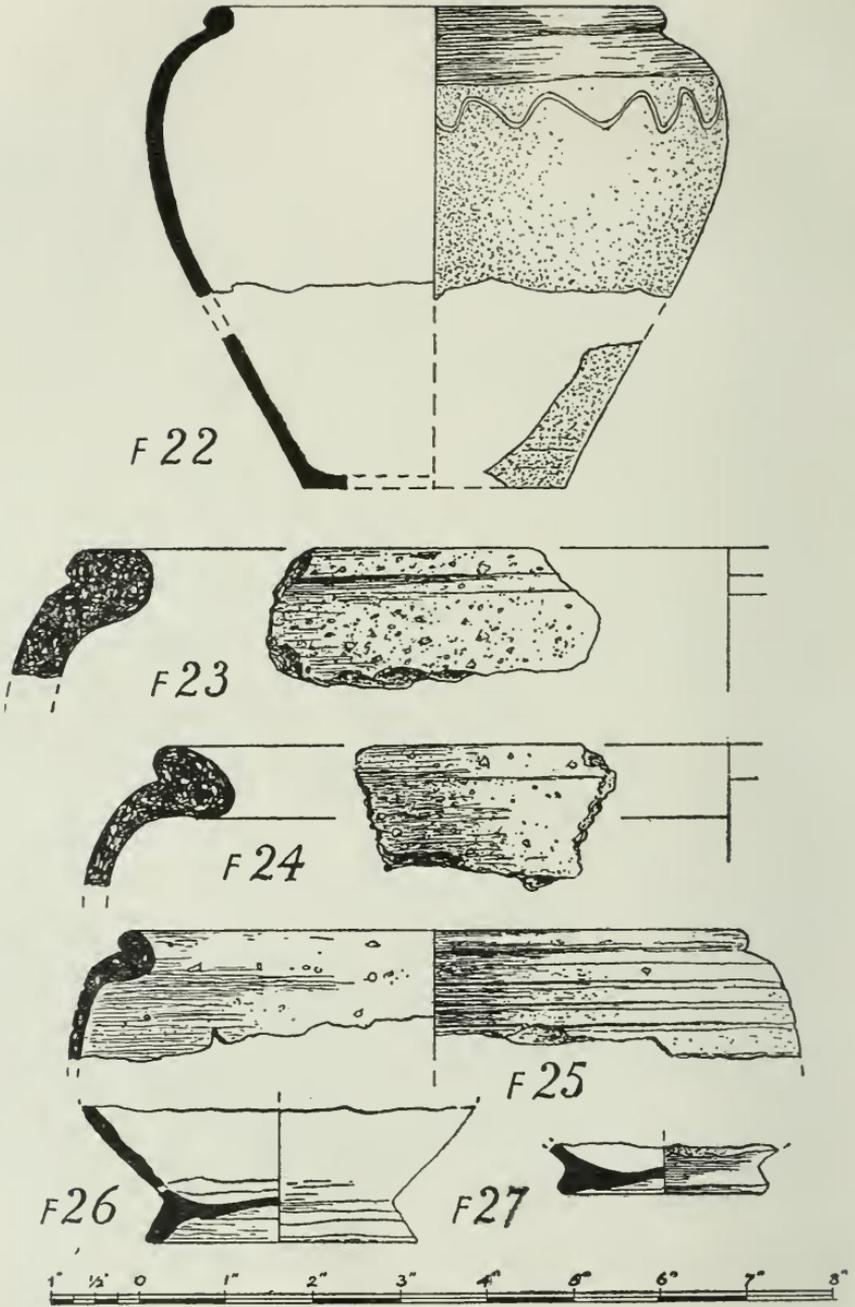


FIG. 18.

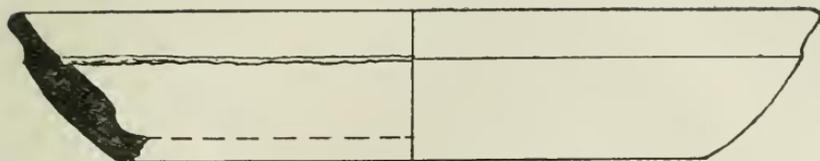
FIG. 18A (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$).

Fig. 18A.

Fragment of Belgic dish from Section K, level 4.

ROMAN POTTERY.

1. *Claudian Ware.*

Only one fragment of Claudian Samian ware was found, a rim of Dragendorff 15/17, found in an upper level in trench A. (Not figured.)

Coarse ware ascribable to this date was fairly plentiful, and included pieces of some interesting vessels. It was found both in the well-filling and at the top of level 4.

Fig. 19.

1. Small carinated pot of smooth-surfaced grey ware with traces of original black external coating. K, level 4.

2. Carinated bowl of very fine grey ware, with burnished black outer surface and thin out-turned lip. The base subsequently perforated with (at least one) circular hole. Well-filling.

3. Pot, of similar ware to last, probably of similar shape to No. 5. Traces of rouletted decoration appearing at point of fracture just above the bulge. Well-filling.

4. White ware beaker with rouletted ornament (*cf. Arch.*, Vol. 90, "Report on Excavations at Verulamium, Insula XVII, 1938," by Miss K. M. Richardson, Pl. XIX, *c.* and p. 113 for description of ware similar to this and to Nos. 6 and 7, which were found in a "red daub and ash" layer, of *c.* A.D. 61). K, level 4.

5. Upper part of grey ware pot. A type found at many sites, including pre-villa level at Ashtead. Well-filling.

6. Hard, pale buff ware beaker, decorated with "tears" in barbotine. *Cf.* note on last item but one, p. 114 of reference. K, level 4.

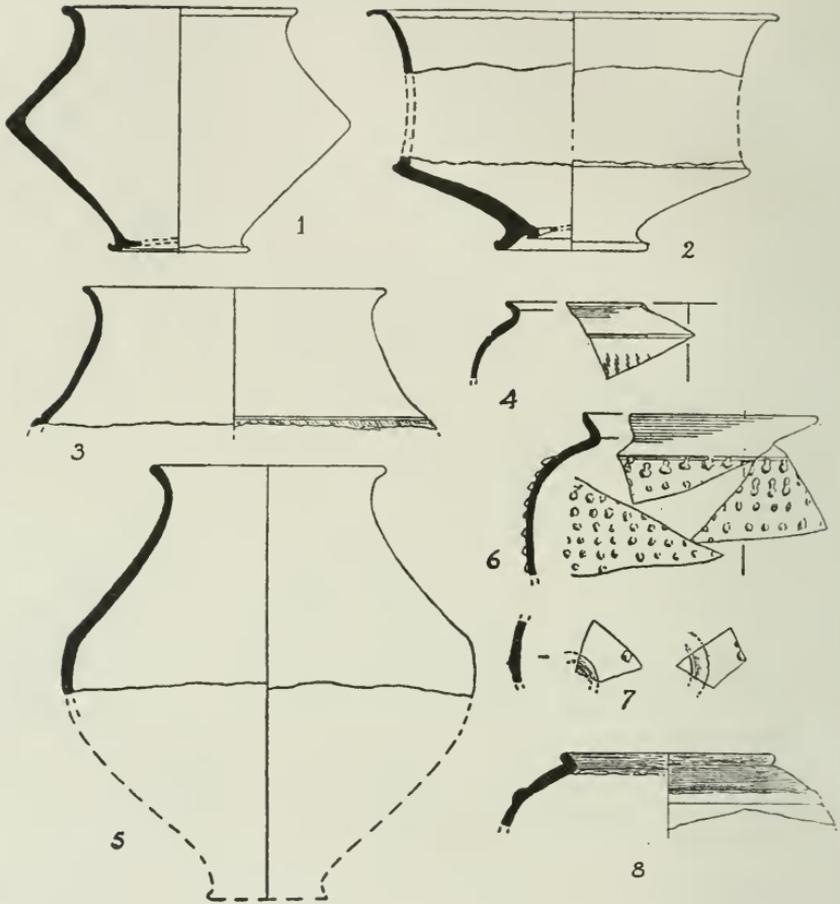
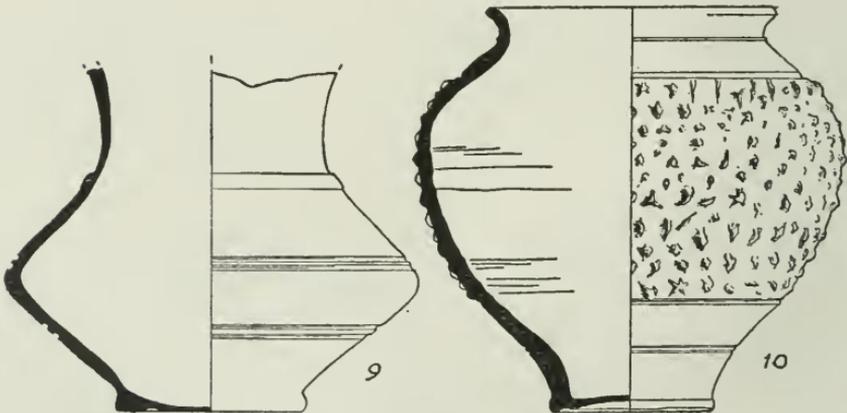
7. Fragments of a beaker of thin hard red-yellow ware decorated with horseshoe ornaments and dots in barbotine. For identical ware, see reference to No. 4, p. 113, and Pl. XIX *c.* K, level 4.

8. Rim of cordoned beaker of reddish ware with brown, varnish-like slip applied to upper part. K, level 4.

Fig. 20.

9. Jug (spout and handle missing) of hard, light buff ware with smooth-surfaced exterior. Sharply angled body, of squat shape with very upright neck. Flat cordon at junction of neck and body, and a series of sharply incised grooves as ornaments. *Cf. Colchester Pottery*, May, Pl. LXVI, No. 319 and p. 119, which is of similar clay but a more upright form of vessel. Well-filling.

10. Large beaker of dark blue-grey ware with "rustic" ornament to central zone of body. A small cordon just below the rim, and series of grooves on the plain area. Well-filling.

FIG. 19 (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$).FIG. 20 (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$).

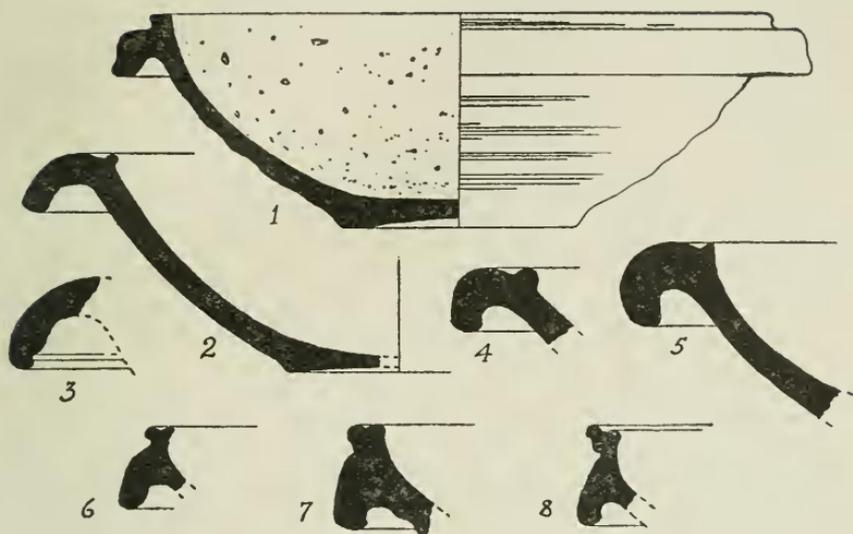
FIG. 21 (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$).2. *Mortaria*.

Fig. 21.

Parts of eight mortaria were found, three of them in the well, four on the surface of the road, and one (No. 5) in trench C-D, level 1.

1. This mortarium, of sandy buff ware, was found broken but fairly complete in the upper part of the well-filling. (Cf. an almost identical one found at Verulamium with a group of pottery dated *c.* A.D. 160¹.) Near to it was the complete beaker of "poppy-neck" type (Fig. 25).

2, 3, 4 and 5. "Bead and roll" type, possibly slightly earlier than the last. Well-filling.

6, 7 and 8. Type with upright double-beaded rim and down-bent flange. Probably not earlier than Antonine.² Found on surface of the road.

3. *Decorated Samian*.

Fig. 22.

(Examined by the late Dr. Pryce, whose comments are appended in italics.)

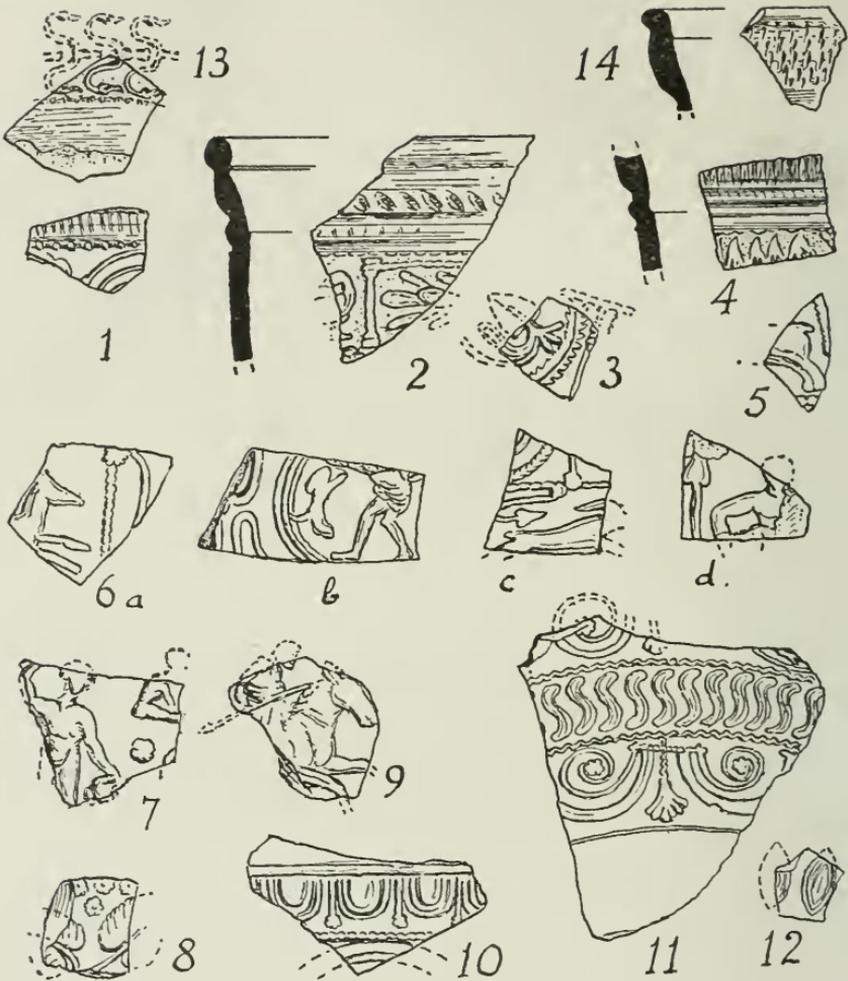
1. *From the material filling the well and sealed by the metalled road.*

No. 1. Form 29. Fragment with neatly executed tendril scrolls. *Vespasianic, or might be pre-Flavian.*

No. 2. Form 29. Decoration—backward-looking bird (Dechelette 1035 and 1009) and wreath ornament in architectural frame. *Early Flavian.*

¹ "A Roman Pottery of the Hadrian-Antonine Period at Verulamium," by P. Corder, F.S.A., in *Ant. Journ.*, XXI, p. 281, and Fig. 3, I-M. Here, as at the Ewell site in the well-filling, mortaria of both "bead and roll" and of "bead and flange" types were found together.

² Similar mortaria were found with the villa on Ashtead Common and seem to have been among the latest material from this site (*S.A.C.*, Vol. XXXVII, Fig. 3, 17*a*, *b* and *d*).

FIG. 22 (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$).

No. 3. Form 29. "Spurred-leaf" ornament. *Flavian*. Cf. *Caerhun*, Fig. 1, S.7, and *Wroxeter*, I, Pl. XIII.

No. 4. Form 29. Grouped arrow-head ornament. *Early Flavian*.

No. 5. Probably Form 29. *Flavian*.

Nos. 6 (a-d). Form 37. Apparently four fragments of the same bowl. Figure and animal decoration, with tendrils and (b) medallions. *Flavian*.

No. 7. Form 37. Ornament, in very high relief. Figure decoration, and small rosette in field. Female figure with right arm raised, and holding a jug in left hand. *Early 2nd Century*.

No. 8. Form 29. Fragment from lower part of side, with leaf and rosette ornament. *Flavian*. Compare *Newstead*, p. 213, No. 4. *La Graefesenque ware*.

No. 9. Form 37. Horseman, as used by Attianus (*Dechelette*, 158). *Lezoux ware*. *Hadrianic*. Compare *Verulamium*; pottery from Pit 6 (*ant. Journ.*, XXI, Fig. 9, and pp. 294-295, by P. Corder), where date

was "perhaps nearer A.D. 130"; also Ins. XVII (*Arch.* 90, Fig. 10, p. 103), where a bowl with this motif is dated "Trajanic."

No. 13. Form 37. Lowest zone showing wreath of type. *Walters*, M.1206.

2. From the surface of the road.

No. 10. Form 37. Fragment with ovolo ornament, the intermediate tongues ending in rosettes. Below a beaded line, part of a large medallion with thick frame. Thick, rather crude, ware. *Antonine*.

3. From above the road (level 1).

No. 11. Form 37. *S. Gaulish c.* A.D. 70-80. (Compare *Richborough*, I, Nos. 14-18, and *Newstead*, p. 209, No. 2.)

No. 12. Fragment with part of a row of ovate leaf-ornaments.

From the decorated Samian, it will be seen that a date of about A.D. 150 may be suggested for the filling in of the well (apparently to allow of construction of the road which passed over it), and it will be seen that this date is also implied by the plain Samian and the coarse ware.

4. Plain Samian.

1. From the material filling the well.

The following forms (not figured) were represented among fragments found in the well:—

Forms 18, 18/31 and 31 (Dishes). Numerous fragments, both Flavian and post-Flavian, the earliest (a rim fragment) being dated by Dr. Pryce as "probably pre-Flavian," and the latest "Hadrianic."

Form 35. (Small bowls, with barbotine ornamented flange). Several fragments. "Flavian."

Forms Ritterling type 1, and Dragendorff 27, 33 and 36 are also represented.

2. From other parts of the site.

In addition to pieces of all the above forms, the following were found:—

a. Dr. 15/17. Rim fragment. *Nero-Vesp.* (A.D. 65-75). Trench A, level 1.

b. *Walters* 79. Rim and side. *Antonine*. G, level 1.

c. Curle 15. Rim. K, level 1.

d. Dechelette 72 (globular vase with incised ornament). Several small pieces, all from level 1.

POTTERS' STAMPS.

CETVS.FE 18/31 (*cf. Wrox.*, I, No. 32). Fig. 23, No. 3. Well.

KALENDI.O 18/31 Hadrian. Fig. 23, No. 1. Well.

LITTERAF 18/31 Hadrian. Fig. 23, No. 2. Well.

PAT(ER.F) 35 or 37. Hadrian-Antonine. Well.

OF.VA(XTI) ? Early; good ware. Well.

(M)AGNV(S.F.) 33 Antonine. H, level 1.

5. Coarse Ware (Post-Claudian).

Only a selection of the considerable quantity found can be published here.

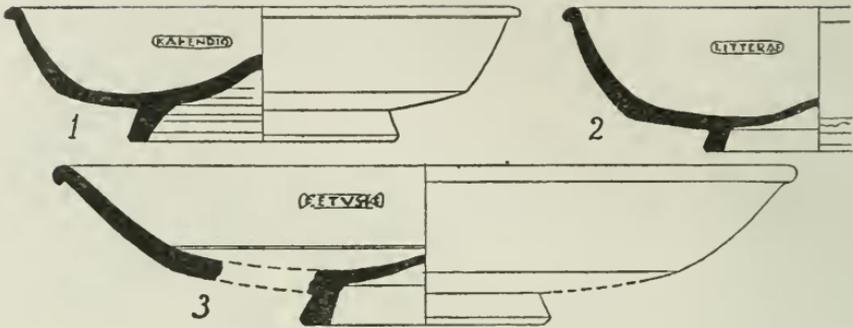
FIG. 23 (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$).

Fig. 24.

A type of pottery of which fragments of many vessels were found in the well, and which is of particular interest. It consists of bowls made of a smooth, soapy surfaced ware, varying in colour from red to grey. Provided with foot-ring bases (as Nos. 6 and 7), they are decorated most frequently with rouletted or combed ornament, but also occasionally with impressed patterns (as Nos. 5 and 9). From a large amount of vessels of this ware found in London (Guildhall Museum), and which includes wasters, it appears that London was at any rate one of the places of its manufacture.

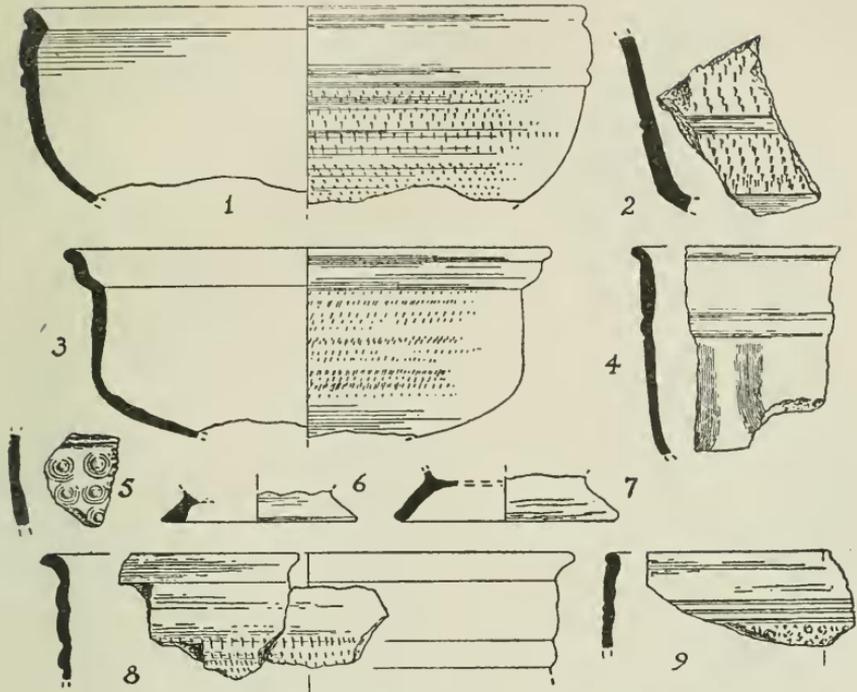
It formed a large part of the pottery found in the debris-filled shafts at the Staneway House site,⁵ close to the present site, but was also present at Verulamium, with a group of pottery found in Insula V, pit 6, and recently described by P. Corder (*Ant. Journ.*, XXI, p. 296 and Fig. 10; also p. 298, where reference is made to the Ewell vessels).

The Verulamium vessel (with ornamentation as Nos. 5 and 9) was associated with pottery dated in the Hadrian-Antonine period, but, as Mr. Corder states (p. 298), is of the same fabric as bowls which are dated a century earlier at some sites, though they are likely all to be the product of the same factory, which presumably was operating from the end of the 1st century at least to the middle of the 2nd century. The Ewell vessels, from their association, are more likely to belong to the "late 1st century" period of this factory's existence than to its latter part.

1. Red-ware bowl, smooth surfaced, with inner bevel to rim, plain moulded zone at top of remainder of surface covered with fine rouletting. Foot missing, but Nos. 6 and 7 belong to vessels of this type, of which many fragments (representing over a dozen different bowls) were found in the well.

2. Identical ware, but from a vertical-sided bowl, similar to No. 8.

3. Pale grey ware (colour difference apparently due to different treatment during firing, as the paste is otherwise identical with that of the red ware vessels). Well moulded, out-bent rim. The form of this bowl is clearly modelled on that of the 1st-century decorated Samian ware bowl, Drag. 29, while No. 1 is copied from the Samian form of rounded bowl, Drag. 37. (This imitation of Samian ware accounts for these bowls being generally of a red colour.)

FIG. 24 (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$).

4. Red ware, upright-sided bowl, decoration consisting of (apparently U-shaped) lines formed with a very fine-toothed comb.

5 and 9. Fragments from two bowls of similar type. No. 5, brown ware with panels of impressed concentric circles, as showing on extreme right edge, alternating with panels of small ornament like that on fragment No. 9. (For a complete vessel of this type, see *Ant. Journ.*, XXI, as referred to above.) No. 9 is of reddish ware, as are most vessels of this group.

6 and 7. Bases of vessels of this group, and of similar red ware.

8. Bowl similar to the last, but with rouletted ornament.

Fig. 25.

Slip-coated Ware.

Fragments of a considerable number of vessels of white slip-coating and ornament of applied clay dots (the class of ware that used to be known as Upchurch ware) were found, mainly in the well. Most are of the poppy-neck type, but many have belonged to beakers with small moulded rims.

1. A complete globular poppy-neck beaker with vertical bands of dots and two diamond-shaped patches (evidently inserted to fill a void caused by the vertical bands being wrongly spaced out).

Found in the upper part of the well-filling and apparently of Hadrian-Antonine date.

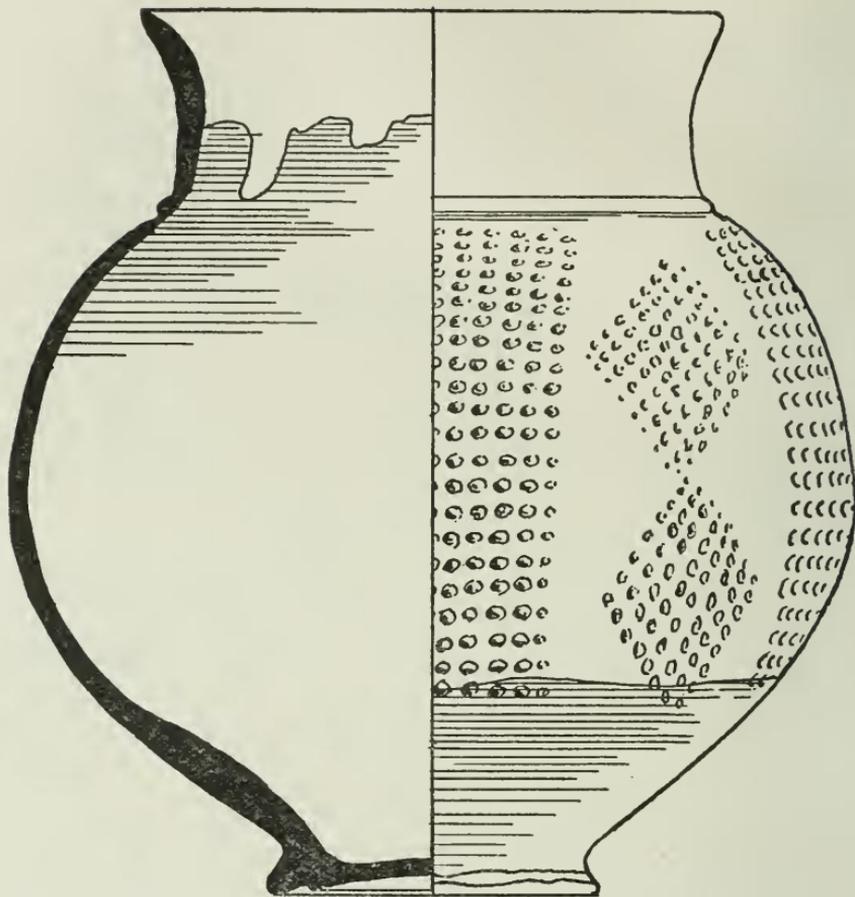
FIG. 25 (Scale $\frac{3}{4}$).

Fig. 26.

Mica-dusted Ware.

Pieces of a number of dishes of this ware were found in the well-filling. It appears to be of late 1st-century date. (Cf. *Caerhun*, VI, No. 282, "80-120 A.D.")

1. Shallow dish, with ridge at junction of wall and base. Grey pottery, with brown surfacing and mica coating.
2. Rim of bowl of same ware as No. 1. Wedge-shaped rim, bent out at right angles. Late 1st-century. Well.

Bowls ; Various Wares.

3. Grey ware ; flange recessed to carry a lid. (Cf. *Caerhun*, VI, 118 ; *Richborough*, I, 22.) Flavian. Well.
4. Bowl with reeded rim. Soft red ware with cream slip. Flavian. Well.
- 5 and 6. Reeded rims. 5, of hard, red ware, with cream slip ; 6, of buff ware. From G, level 1, and the well respectively.
7. Curved rim. Smooth grey ware. Flavian. Well.
8. Thin, bead-tipped rim of very fine smooth grey ware, with black slip coating. Flavian (or earlier). Well.

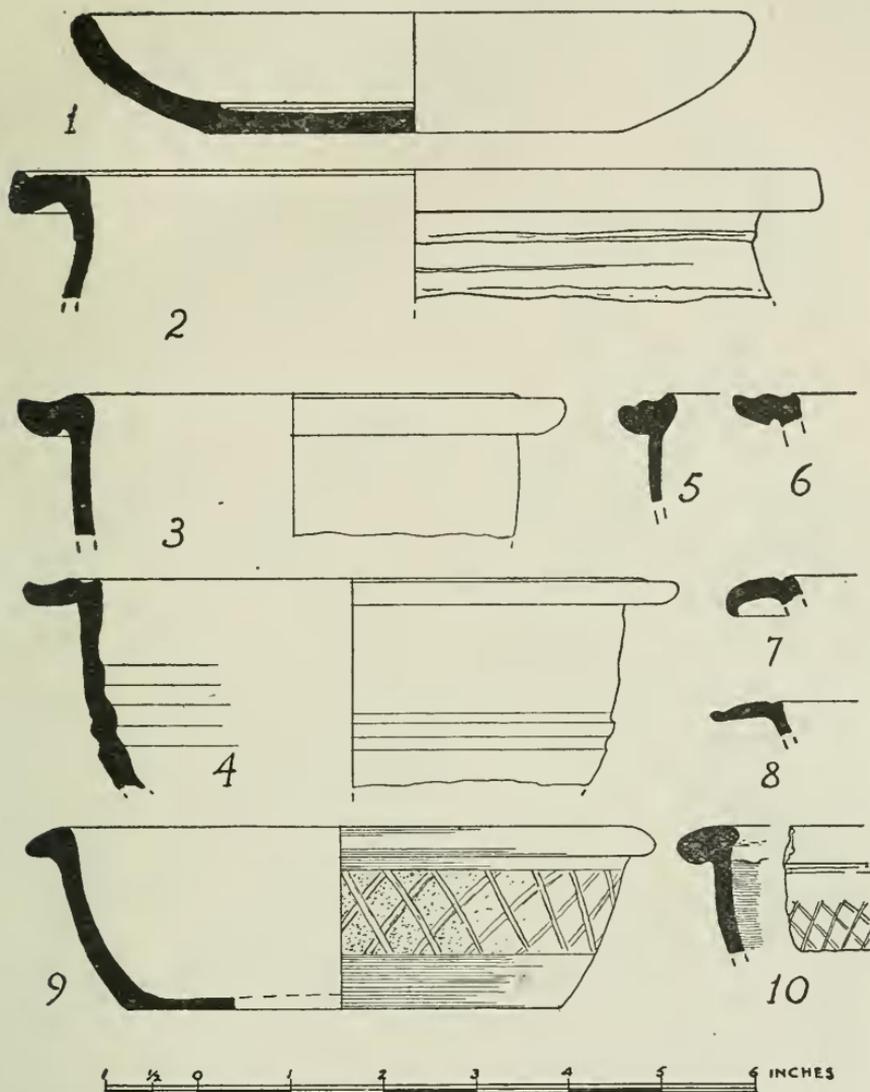


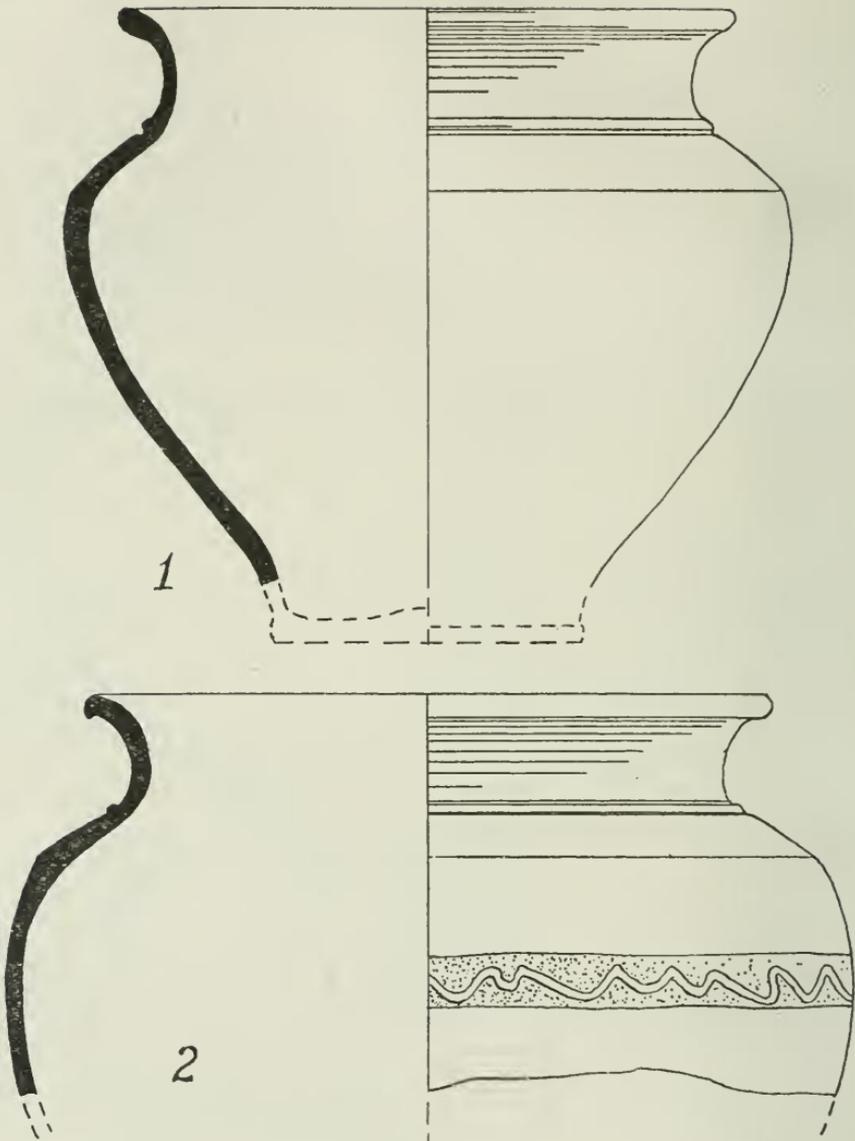
FIG. 26.

9 and 10. Lattice decorated bead-rim bowls of Hadrian-Antonine date. No. 10 has cream slip coating. Well.

Figs. 27, 28 and 29.

Locally made Ware.

A group of three types of vessels, found in such quantity as to imply that they were of local manufacture, was found in the well-filling. Other members of this group were found in other parts of the site, whilst another large group of them (still to be published)

FIG. 27 (Scale $\frac{1}{2}$).

was found in 1937 in Church Street, Ewell, during the digging of a cable trench.

These consist of :—

1. Pots (of Belgic-derived type) with out-turned rim and bead moulding at junction of neck and body. (Fig. 27.)
2. Pots (also Belgic derived) of bead-rim type (Fig. 28). For similar rims from the Ashtead villa cf. *S.A.C.*, XXXVIII, p. 16, Fig. 7.

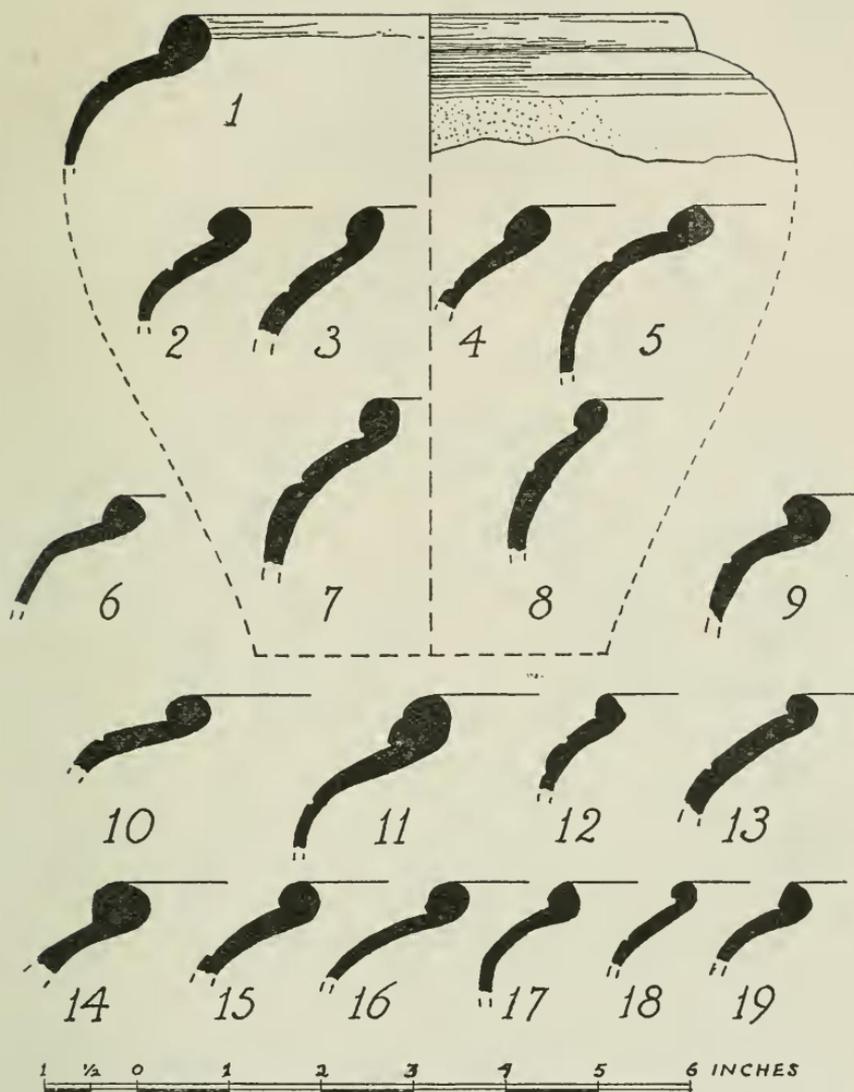


FIG. 28.

3. Dishes, of carinated type, with moulded side, grooved rim and base, and (usually) a series of concentric grooves forming a ring in the centre of the underside of the base. (Fig. 29.)

The dishes of type 3 are all of similar grey ware though (partly through use) varying from light grey to black in the colour of their surfaces. They are of Flavian date, and have been found at a number of Surrey sites, as well as in London. (*Ashtead Common Villa*, early levels and associated with the Flavian Bath-house. *S.A.C.*, XXXVII, p. 160, Nos. 1-3; *Cobham*, *S.A.C.*, XLII, pp. 111-113; *Farley Heath*, *S.A.C.* XLII, p. 68; *Byfleet* *S.A.C.*, XLVI, p. 131.)

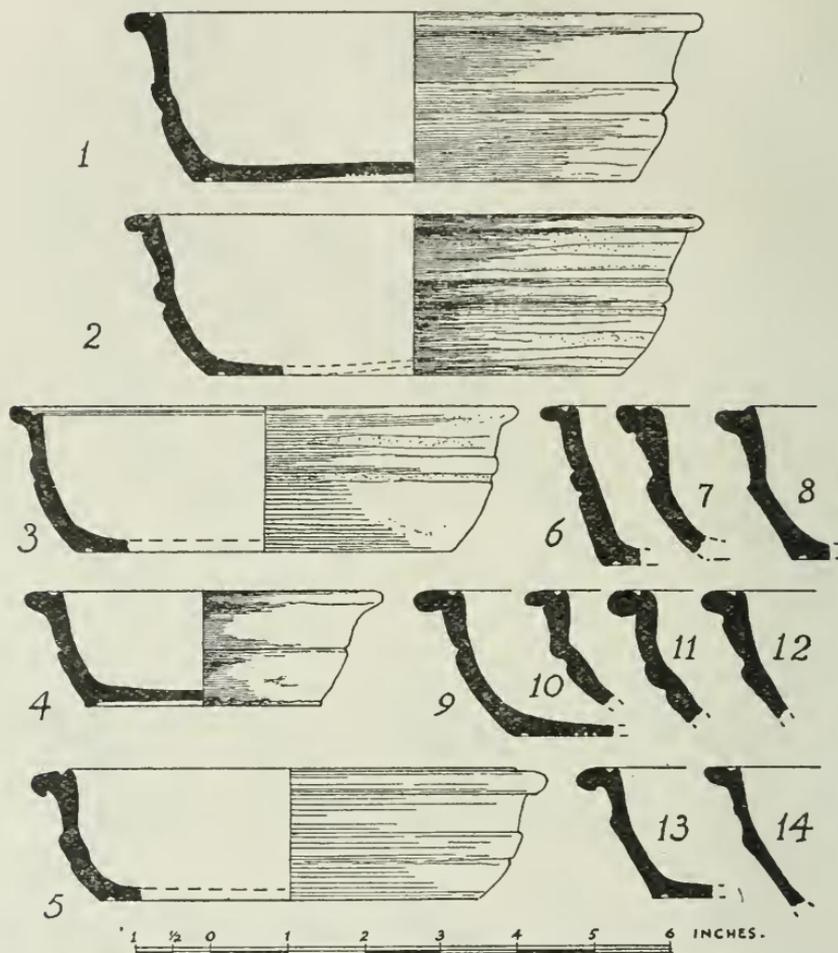


FIG. 29.

Type 1 (Fig. 27).

Two typical examples of these vessels are illustrated; No. 1 plain, and No. 2 with wavy line ornament. (Another vessel of this type, found with a small group of pottery in the drain trench, is shown on Fig. 30, No. 3.) A distinctive feature (though not present in a few cases) is the angular shoulder just above the bulge. Both vessels are from the well.

Type 2. (Fig. 28).

All those figures are from the well with the following exceptions: Nos. 9, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 16. These are from upper levels at various points on the site.

Type 3 (Fig. 29).

Nos. 1-4, 6-8 and 10-12 are from the well-filling. Colour ranging from grey to black.

Nos. 5 and 13. Grey ware. From C-D, level 2 (Fig. 3), on pebble floor.

No. 9. Dark grey ware. This is from the group found in Church Street, Ewell (October, 1937).

No. 14. From drain trench, with pottery shown on Fig. 30.

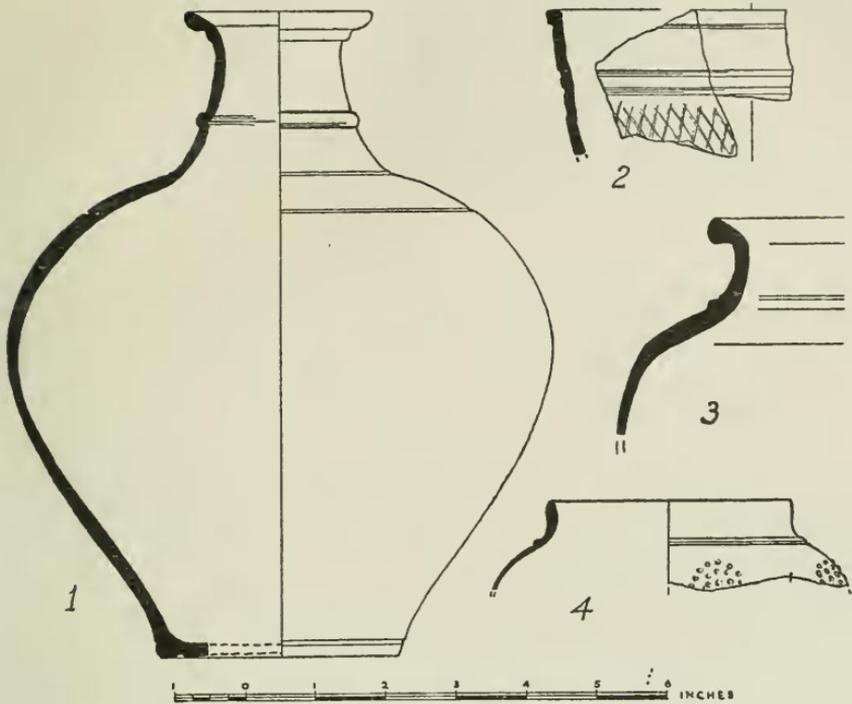


FIG. 30.

Fig. 30.

Pottery from the Drain Trench (N on Fig. 2).

A small group of pottery was encountered by the workmen digging the drain trench shown on the plan. It consisted of part of five vessels, of which four are shown on Fig. 30.

1. Flagon of hard grey ware. Hadrianic. Several of this type were found at the Ashtead Common Villa, *S.A.C.*, XXXVIII, p. 142, Fig. 4.

2. Lattice-ornamented bowl of grey ware, with groove-moulded upper band. For a similar vessel from *Verulamium*. *Ins. XVIII cf. Arch.*, Vol. 90, Fig. 15, No. 25. This was found with Hadrianic pottery belonging to "phase 3" dated "not later than A.D. 160."

3. Red-brown ware, with black outer surface. Diameter at rim 8 inches. See discussion of pottery of this type for Fig. 27.

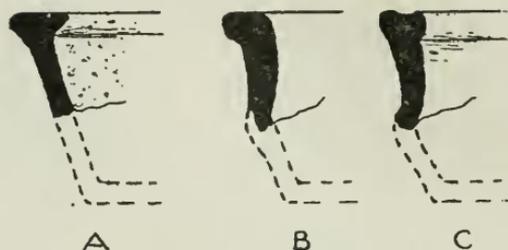
4. Beaker of hard, fine, light grey ware, with ornament of circular groups of applied clay dots.

COINS.

Only three coins were found on the site, but two more were found in the garden of "Cedar Keys," a house that adjoins the site on the south side. Four of these five are 1st-century coins, the other (found by a workman in digging the building foundations) is a late 3rd-century radiate.

Claudius I (A.D. 41-54).

1. *As*. Imitation of *Antonia* type. Very worn specimen. *Ins.* illegible. K-K, level 4.



PURBERRY SHOT; PIECES OF
EARLY MEDIÆVAL DISH-RIMS
(12TH-13TH CENTURY) FROM THE
TOPSOIL. (SCALE 1/2)

FIG. 31.

Vespasian (A.D. 69-79).

2. *Sestertius* of type Cohen 436. Rather worn. From adjoining ground to south.
3. *As. Obv.* IMP CAES VESPASIAN AVG COS III
Rev. SECVRITAS (AVGVSTI) S.C.
Vespasian seated r.
A.D. 71. From adjoining ground to south.

Domitian (A.D. 81-96).

4. *As.* of type Cohen 647. Rather worn. Among material filling the well.
(A specimen of this coin, in mint condition, was found in 1938 in West Street, Ewell, a short distance north of this site.)

Trajan (A.D. 98-117).

5. *Denarius.*
Obv. TRAIANO AVG GERM D (AC PM TRP) COS III.
Bust to r.
Rev. Illegible. Seated figure to l. Staff in raised l. arm.
Trench M, level 1.

? *Tetricus I* (A.D. 270-273).

6. 4Æ. Barbarous.
Rev. PAX and figure with spear. Surface find.

Early Mediæval Finds from the top-soil. (Fig. 31).

A small amount of Early Mediæval pottery, including the three dish-rims here described, was found in the top-soil. Also (not figured) part of a horse-shoe, of the "wavy outline" 12th-century type, was found in this level.

Of the pottery figured, the description is as follows:—

A. Light-grey ware, with orange-red, soapy, shell-gritted surfacing. Apparently part of a large dish, with outward-sloping sides and a flat-topped rim, which projects both inwards and outwards. This is probably earlier than either B or C, and may be of late 11th or early 12th century date.

B and C. Hard, gritty, grey ware, the former with reddish-, the latter buff-surfacing. Both, apparently, from large dishes, with carinated sides. The one with flat-topped, outward-projecting rim, the other with a slight hollow at the top, and a slight inward projection. Both probably of late 12th or early 13th century date.

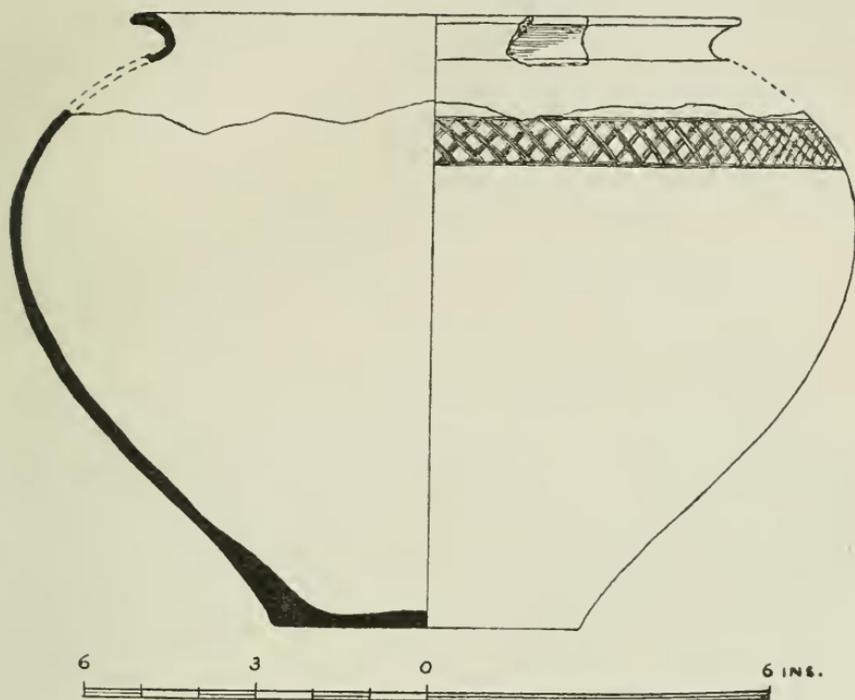


FIG. 32.

Rubbish-pit, of Early 3rd-Century date, found (1948) on the west side of the "Purberry Shot" site.

In a garden immediately against the western side of the "Purberry Shot" site, Mr. Jeal encountered a small rubbish-pit, or rubbish-filled hollow, containing the greater part of a jar, associated with a coin (2 Æ) of *Severus* (A.D. 192-211) and some nails, bones, oyster-shells, etc. (Fig 32).

The jar, of hard, light-grey ware, is a wide-mouthed one, with plain out-bent rim, of which only one small piece remains, and with a band of combed lattice ornament, formed with a small three-toothed comb. In form, ware and decoration, this vessel is identical with Antonine vessels, mainly "wasters" found (1947) at Farnham, at the "Six Bells" site, in a pre-building level. One of these vessels retains the imprint of an Antonine coin (a 2 Æ) which had dropped into it while the clay was still soft, and has left an imprint of part of the obverse of the coin, including the letters *TONINVS* of the name *ANTONINVS*.

The Ewell jar was most likely a product of the Farnham potteries, and its date that of the first quarter of the 3rd century A.D.

This pit and its contents are of interest as belonging to the later phase of the Roman occupation at this site, namely the period after the filling in of the well and the construction, about A.D. 180, of the road, as described above.

The description of the coin is as follows :—

2Æ of *Septimus Severus* (A.D. 192-211).

Obv. Laureate bust to right.

Ins. L SEPT SEV PERT AVG IMP M[AX]

Rev. Draped female figure standing, facing left, pouring out a libation over altar with right hand, *cornu copiae* held in right.

Ins. (mostly illeg.) ANN In field—S.C.

Additional Note on the two fragments of Iron Age pottery with "punctured dot" ornamentation (Fig. 14, F. 14).

In the recently published report on the excavations at Meare Lake Village, Somerset (Vol. I, by A. Bulleid, L.R.C.P., F.S.A., and Mr. H. St. George Gray, M.A., F.S.A.) is a description of three pieces of pottery bearing ornamentation which resembles closely that on two of the pieces from the "Purberry Shot" site (Fig. 14, F. 14). Both fragments are from the same vessel.) The Meare pieces (P65, on Pl. XII, and P221, two fragment, on Pl. XV) are also described as being of a "quartz-gritted ware," similar to that of the Ewell pieces. Mr. St. George Gray has kindly permitted me to examine the larger of the two pieces of P221, and a close inspection and comparison of it alongside the Ewell pieces reveals the fact that all are identical as regards their paste, colour, amount of grit, and surfacing (traces of a black, burnished outer surface). Also the punctured dots are of similar size and depth. Only in the thickness of the pieces is there any observable difference, the Meare fragments (which are fully twice as thick) being from vessels of considerably larger size than that from Ewell.

In brief, it seems probable that these vessels have a common origin, possibly from some site on the continent. (Dr. Bulleid, on p. 31, calls attention to a similar vessel found at Ueberlinger See, published by Keller, in *The Lake Dwellings of Switzerland*, 2nd edit., 1878. Pl. XXX, Fig. 7.) In any case it is clear that the vessel represented by the two pieces found at "Purberry Shot" was an "import" to this site.

Additional Note on Brooch (Fig. 10, p. 21).

Brooches of similar type (viz., made of one continuous piece of wire shaped to form bow, spring and pin, as with the modern safety pin) but of bronze have been found at several 1st-century Roman sites. For note by E. Curwen, F.S.A., with figure of one found at Compton Down, West Sussex, see *Sx. Notes and Queries*, IX, No. 8, p. 171.