

## SULLONIACÆ—1950

### Excavations at Brockley Hill

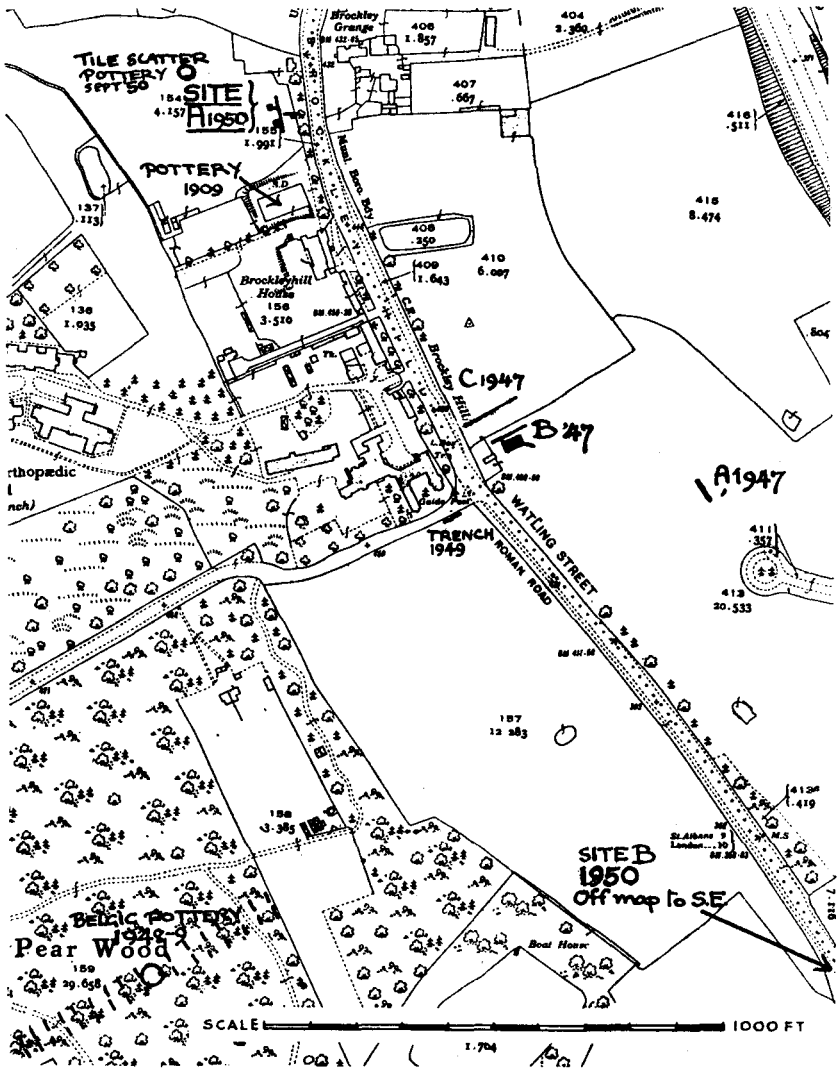
By SH. APPLEBAUM

IN 1950 the Sulloniacæ Excavation Committee, under the Presidency of Sir Frederick Handley-Page and the Chairmanship of Mr. W. F. Grimes, F.S.A., commenced a third campaign in the hope of finding some of the as yet undetected occupation area of Sulloniacæ. Work was located on two sites: A, Field 154 (O.S. Herts., XLIV, 12), west of the main road believed to coincide with the Watling Street; this is to the north of Brockley Hill House, now part of the National Orthopædic Hospital; B, in field 499 (O.S. Herts., XLV, S.W.) to the east of the main road, 870 yards south-south-east of Brockley Hill, in the north-east angle of the road and Green Lane leading past "The Chesters" to Newlands. The aim of investigating Site A was to look for habitations; at B it was hoped to settle the line of Watling Street by sectioning the bank which runs parallel with the present road. This bank is described by Mrs. H. E. O'Neil in Vol. X of the *Transactions*; it had previously been noted by the Committee as marking the possible line of the Roman highway.

The campaign was planned to last a fortnight, but owing to unfavourable weather during the second week, it actually lasted from 19th August to 5th September. Its scope was somewhat limited, not only by the weather, but in the second week by a shortage of more experienced volunteers.<sup>1</sup> For this and other reasons work on Site B was not completed and the publication of the report on this site is therefore postponed to another occasion.

The field in which was Site A lies to the west of the modern main road, immediately north of the tennis court of Brockley Hill House, where in 1909 Roman pottery and the die of a mortarium stamp (now in private possession, but to be published in due course) were found (Vulliamy, *Arch. of Middx.*, p. 204; *Trans. Lond. & Middx. Arch. Soc.*, n.s. X, p. 2). Immediately to the north was probably the site of "Mr. Philpot's house" where, according to Stukeley (*Itin. Curios.* (1770), p. 118), remains of buildings were discovered. Tile débris and potsherds litter the field, hence the prospects of

detecting further occupation were good. On the east edge of the field, inside the fence, a considerable mound, planted with trees, runs parallel with the road, and invited investigation. To the west the field drops from 432 to 400 ft. above



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FIG. 1. BROCKLEY HILL SHOWING THE POSITION OF 1950 EXCAVATIONS AND OTHER SITES.

sea-level, to a pond and stream originally running through boggy land northwards to Aldenham Reservoir. The soil consists of mould followed by loam overlying the London Clay, which is seldom here more than 2 ft. below the surface. At some points the mould tops the clay subsoil directly, and as at various places soil and turf have been removed for

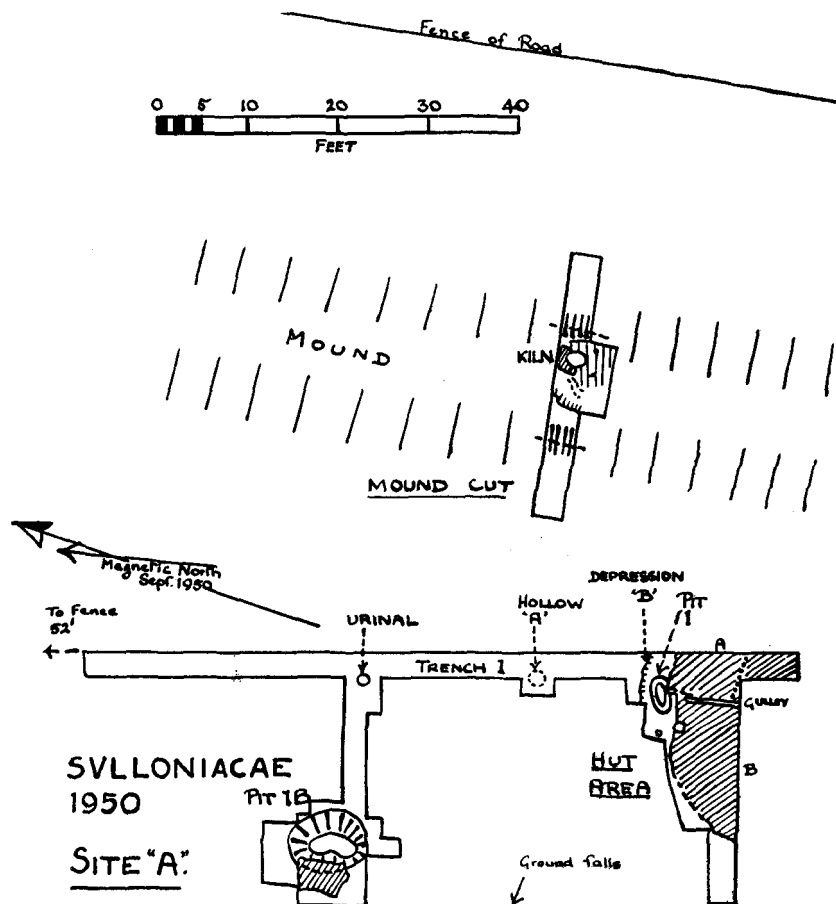


FIG. 2. GENERAL PLAN OF SITE A.

levelling purposes, occupations have been disturbed or denuded. This was found to be especially so towards the south end of the field.

Trench 1 (see Map, Fig. 2) was dug north-south 60 ft. west of the field gate, to cut a point where tile-scatter occurred with particular frequency. At the north end was 1 ft. of brown

soil, then the undisturbed clay. Pottery was found down to natural, but the first signs of definite occupation appeared 33 ft. to the south, where beneath 3 in. of top-soil the base of an urn was found embedded 3 in. in the natural, which was here impregnated with a white deposit. This was evidently a urinal, and parallel finds have been made, for instance, at Caistor-by-Norwich (*Norf. Arch.*, XXIV). The top of the urn had been sliced off, no doubt by the plough. Much broken pottery occurred round the urinal, including part of a brown tazza of Belgic type (No. 44).<sup>2</sup>

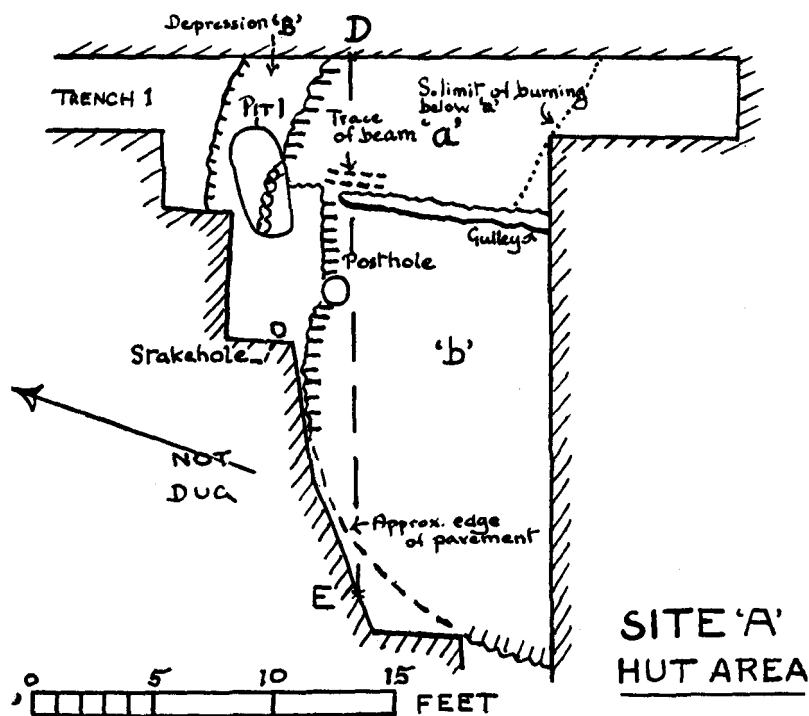


FIG. 3. PLAN OF HUT AREA, SITE A, AS EXCAVATED.

Twenty feet to the south of the above, in the west edge of the trench, was found a slight hollow in the natural clay, here about 1 ft. below the surface (Hollow "A"). It was full of broken pottery, which included parts of a reed-rim carinated bowl with girth-groove of Antonine date (14), parts of hook-rimmed mortaria of the late 1st or early 2nd century (3), fragments of orange ollæ, later recognised to be of local manufacture, and the rim of a mortarium of 2nd or 3rd century type (6).

Twelve feet to the south again, the clay, here 9 in. below the surface, rose slightly then dropped into a depression (Depression "B"), whose bottom lay at 1 ft. 7 in. from the top; this proved to be full of dark silt, which extended southward for 18 ft. to the end of the trench (see Plan, Figs. 2 and 3). Three feet from its northern edge a cobbled pavement ("a") with an average thickness of 5 in. commenced at 4 in. below the surface, and continued southward to the end of the trench, dropping to a foot below the turf, but shallower at the end, where the modern surface sloped (see Section, Fig. 4). The

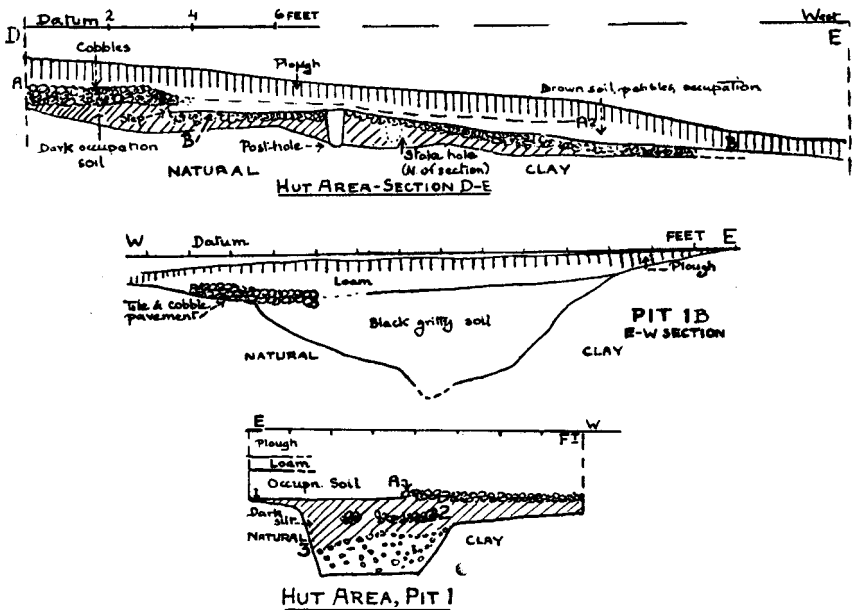


FIG. 4. SECTIONS ACROSS HUT AREA AND PITS, SITE A.

silt below it, extending from Depression "B," was 7 to 8 in. thick and charged with charcoal and pottery, the natural surface here lying at an average depth of 1 ft. 5 in. At the pavement's north edge an oval pit (Pit 1) was found, maximum depth from natural clay 1 ft. 5 in., its dimensions being 4 ft. 8 in. from east to west, and 2 ft. 6 in. across the top from north to south. Cobbled pavement "a" overlay its filling on the south side; over its south lip the pavement-edge returned abruptly south for 18 in., then continued westward in a straight line, finally curving off south-westward, but increasingly difficult to define as it was here immediately below the modern

surface and much disturbed. The cobbled pavement was traced southward for 14 ft. south of Pit 1, but had been increasingly interfered with by ploughing and soil-removal in this direction.

In line with the southern return of the northern edge, a slight north-south gully interrupted the cobbling, and west of it the pavement continued at a slightly lower level (Pavement "b"). Parallel and to east of it, a dark line extending from the pavement-edge for about 2 ft. showed where a beam had lain. Burnt matter below "a" ceased abruptly 6 ft. north of the south end of the trench, along an oblique line. It seemed probable that there had been a timber hut north of this line, and the same may well have existed over Pavement "a" that superseded it. Above "b," it was not clear whether Pavement "a" had originally continued, since there had been much disturbance by ploughing and grass-roots. At the south-west corner of the area cleared, however, "a" reappeared at the original level in a good state of preservation. Three feet west of the gully, at the north edge of "b," a post hole was found, 6 in. in diameter and a foot in depth. Another stake hole, 4 × 5 in. in diameter and 6 in. deep, existed in the occupation soil to north-west of it, beyond the limit of the pavement, evidently to be associated with pre-"b" occupation.

It seemed, therefore, that there was here a habitation area, consisting of a timber hut with cobbled pavement, whose full area circumstances prevented us from defining; it had superseded an earlier occupation stratum, with which at least one stake hole, a rubbish pit, and probably a timber hut, were connected.

As already stated, the pavements of this area were disturbed by ploughing, and fragments of comparatively modern pottery were found on, in and under "a," and over and on "b." With the reservation implied by this fact, the dating evidence was as follows.

Embedded in "a," on the east edge of the excavated area, was found a worn coin of the house of Valentinian, belonging to the second half of the 4th century. On the same floor, not far away, occurred a much-worn bronze sestertius of Faustina II, not likely to have been dropped before the latter part of the 2nd century and as likely to have been lost in the 3rd. In the deposit over "b," not certainly stratified, was a

worn brass of Vespasian; its circulation would hardly have lasted beyond the turn of the 1st and 2nd centuries.

Pit 1 was covered by 3 to 4 in. of dark silt (layer 1—see Section, Fig. 4), over which the corner of Pavement "a" had been laid; level with the top of its filling of dark soil, 5 in. below the level of the pavement, was a layer of small cobbles, confined to the south-western third of the pit (layer 2); 5 in. below this the silt became charged with pebbles that sloped downward in an easterly direction (layer 3), and continued to the bottom of the pit.

The silt layer over the pit yielded fragments of Terra Sigillata of the 1st and 2nd centuries, also of local kiln ware, of Castor ware with scale decoration, a reed rim, and part of the rim of an orange jar, another fragment of which was found sealed beneath Pavement "b"; it was probably datable to A.D. 120–160 (36). Over cobbles (2) were: another fragment of local kiln ware, and several rims of 1st century date; below them two fragments of 1st century Terra Sigillata; in pebble layer (3), more kiln ware and a fragment of roll-rimmed bowl not later than the Antonine period. The bottom of the pit yielded a scrap of 1st century Terra Sigillata and a rim of poppybeaker; the latter type dies out at Verulamium before 140. The pit itself, therefore, had nothing necessarily later than the 1st century, but the silt layer over it was still accumulating in the middle third of the second.

In the occupation deposit below "a" were found two hand-made rims of Early Iron Age technique (46, 47), a small piece of the rim of a Drag. 27 of 1st century date, the rims of small well-made beakers attributable to the same century, some probably of local make; an olla rim of the late 1st or early 2nd century (42), a fragment of hook-rim mortarium with illegible stamp, part of an orange gold-dusted flanged bowl not later than the mid-2nd century, part of a frilled incense bowl (early 2nd century), kiln wares and reed rims. There were also two fragments of colour-coated ware, hardly datable before the 3rd century. Finally, there were two fragments of mortarium flange stamped with the name of Bruc(ius), who was active 80–100 (9–10). In the cobble floor itself were: a beaker-rim of 1st century date, a Terra Sigillata fragment of the early 2nd century, poppybeaker, reed rims of 70–180, Castor fragments not prior to 140, roll-rim bowl fragments, a mortarium datable 120–160, a flanged bowl-rim of the same

period, another bowl-rim of that date, mortaria rims of the late 2nd or 3rd centuries, and a fragment of colour-coated ware.

Viewed in conjunction with the 4th century coin from the paving, therefore, the pottery indicates that floor "a" was laid down in the later 4th century; but the pottery suggests that the occupation in the third and first half of the 4th century, prior to the making of the floor, was sparse.

The wares found in the floor between topstuff and Pavement "b," which embodied a very doubtful continuation of "a," included nothing identifiable after the 2nd century, and were preponderantly of the late 1st or early 2nd; pottery more directly on "b" ranged from a rim of Early Iron Age technique to thick Castor of the late 2nd or 3rd centuries, with fragments of Terra Sigillata of the 1st and 2nd (50), reed-rimmed and flanged bowls of the late 1st or early 2nd centuries, an amphora rim and mortarium rims of the same period. The fragments in "b" itself (Early Iron Age—45; Drag. 18, 2nd century Terra Sigillata fragments and Castor) did not pass the 2nd century, nor did those below it, which included Drag. 18 or 18/31 (probably Flavian), a platter rim of 1st century date, a jar-rim of local kiln ware (25), another of the same origin, part of which occurred over Pit 1 (36), part of a jar datable 150-160, and some Castor ware. Floor "b," therefore, was put down not earlier than the middle of the 2nd century, but improbably as late as the 3rd.

Large coarse red brick tesseræ were found at the bottom of Pit 1, on and in Pavement "a," also in the soil above "b" and directly on it. Fragments of hypocaust tile, keyed with a fret design, occurred under "a"; hypocaust tile with comb-striation in the same cobbling and in "b." Fret-keyed hypocaust tiles have been noted at Ashted, Surrey, and elsewhere, not later than the 2nd century. Many fragments of iron ore were found in connection with both pavements and beneath them, and, in fact, everywhere about the site. Pieces of daub were noted on both Pavements "a" and "b."

#### THE MOUND CUT (Fig. 5).

About 22 ft. west of the east fence of Field 154, and coinciding roughly with the north-south boundary of the tenant holding, which runs inside the fence, is a low bank 20 to 24 ft. in breadth. One view holds that the Middlesex Grim's Dyke ran along the



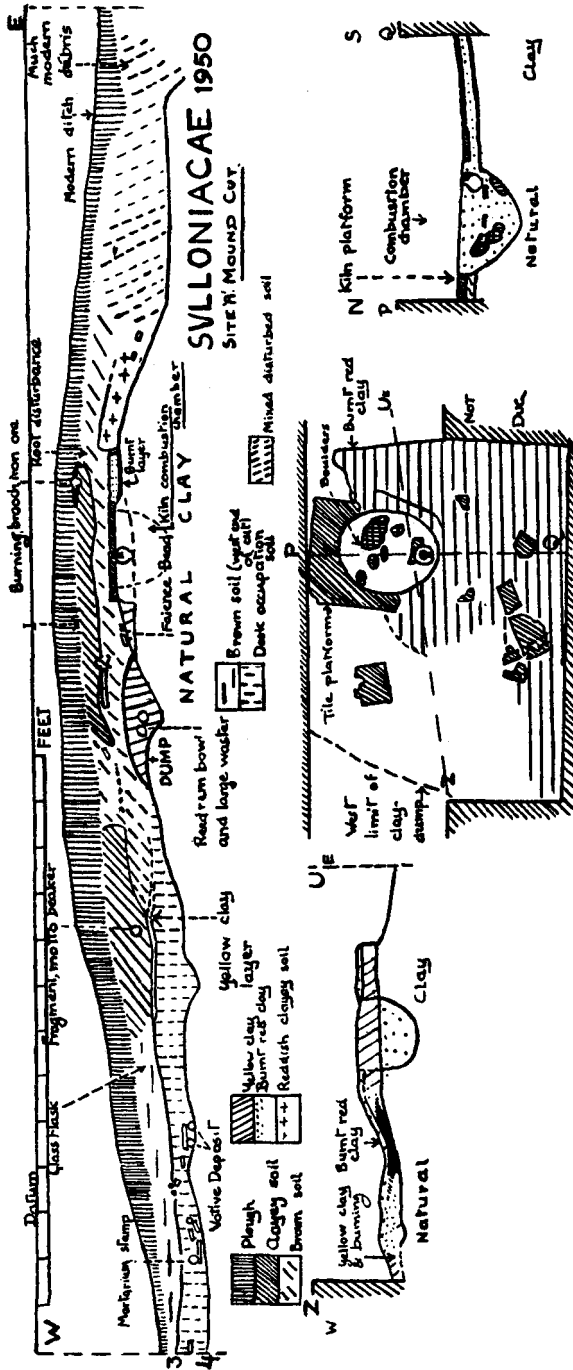


FIG. 5. CUTTING ACROSS THE MOUND, SITE A: GENERAL SECTION (above); PLAN AND SECTIONS OF KILN AREA (below).

north side of Wood Lane, and turned northward up Watling Street. There was, therefore, an opportunity to ascertain whether the mound here was ancient, and its proximity to an occupied Roman site offered the prospect of dating it, in the event of its being so. A section was cut 38 ft. north of the field gate, and served to establish the mound's antiquity.

Below plough soil and mould varying from 3 to 9 in., remains were found of a much flattened bank of yellow clayey soil, 14 or 15 ft. broad or more (see Section, Fig. 5). It remained to a height of no more than 1 ft. 6 in., and had been disturbed at several points by tree roots and recent excavations. At the east end of the cut, where the natural level sloped, all stratification had been destroyed, and much modern débris occurred down to the level of the London clay; here, within living memory, was a deep modern ditch, the west edge of which was found, and whether an ancient ditch once existed in this direction, trees and time prevented us from ascertaining. The base of the mound (stratum 1-2) rested on a layer of 3 to 6 in. of dark brown soil (stratum 2-3), suggestive of slow accumulation, but its west part overlay a layer of dark occupation soil (stratum 3-4) that covered the natural white-yellow clay here sloping to west; this was divided from the clayey soil of the bank by a thin spread of yellow clay, anterior to soil layer 2-3, since it was clearly connected with a yellow clay dump that had been put into a hollow in the natural subsoil immediately west of a natural elevation under the east half of the later bank. Over this elevation, 2-3 had accumulated to conceal the remains of a pottery kiln, made at the highest point in the natural clay. Against the west edge of 1-2, below plough, was a stratum of brown clayey soil (2-3 west).

The order therefore was :

- 1-2. Mound, partly coeval with 2-3 west.
- 2-3. Dark brown soil—slow accumulation.
- 3-4. Occupation soil divided from 1-2 on the west by a yellow clay spread, associated with clay dump; kiln dug in the natural clay (see Section, Fig. 5).

On top of 1-2, where it met plough, were found fragments of a bronze fibula too damaged to date, and pieces of iron ore. On 2-3, where it encountered 1-2, lay a large piece of roofing tile. 1-2 yielded fragments of 1st and 2nd century Terra

Sigillata (Drag. 18, 18/31), a roll-rim sherd, a jar rim with strong overhang characteristic of the 3rd or 4th century, a rim sherd of a New Forest beaker, and colour-coated fragments. There were also a fragment of Rhenish motto beaker (late

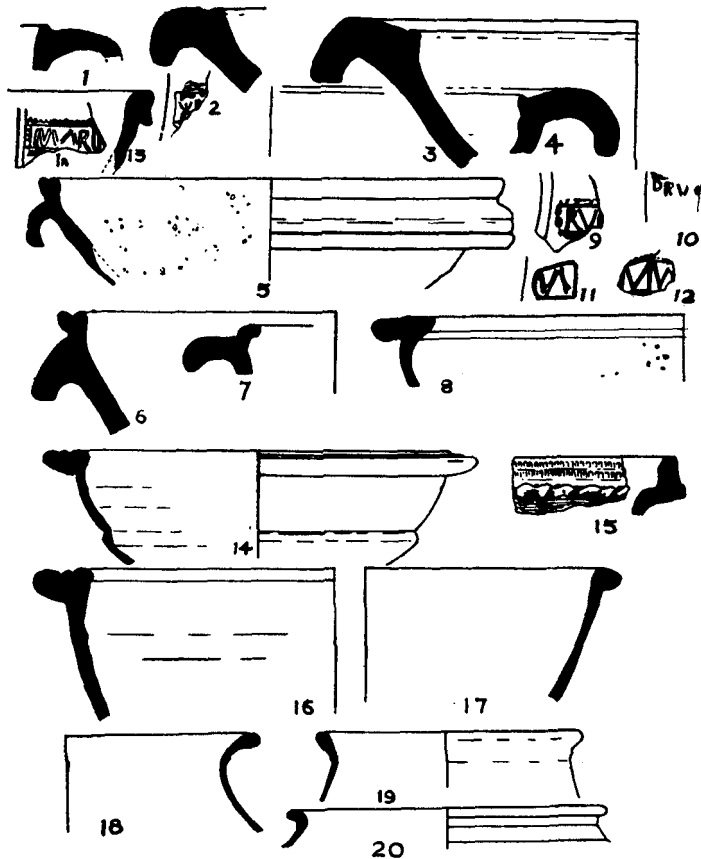


FIG. 6. POTTERY TYPES 1-20 ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ).

2nd, early 3rd century—No. 63), and a hook-rimmed mortarium sherd with incomplete stamp (2).

In 2-3 west, which may be partly earlier than, partly contemporary with, mound 1-2, were found an Early Iron sherd, parts of a screw-necked flagon of Flavian-Trajanic date, of poppybeaker, colour-coated ware, and of a glass flask of the later 2nd or 3rd century (52). Here occurred the only fragment of imitation Samian seen during the dig.

2-3, pre-mound, had wares from the 1st to 4th centuries; the period of the later 1st and early 2nd was probably most abundantly represented, including poppybeakers, reed-rim bowls and hook-rimmed mortaria, one with a fragmentary stamp (12). This immediately overlay the kiln, which was

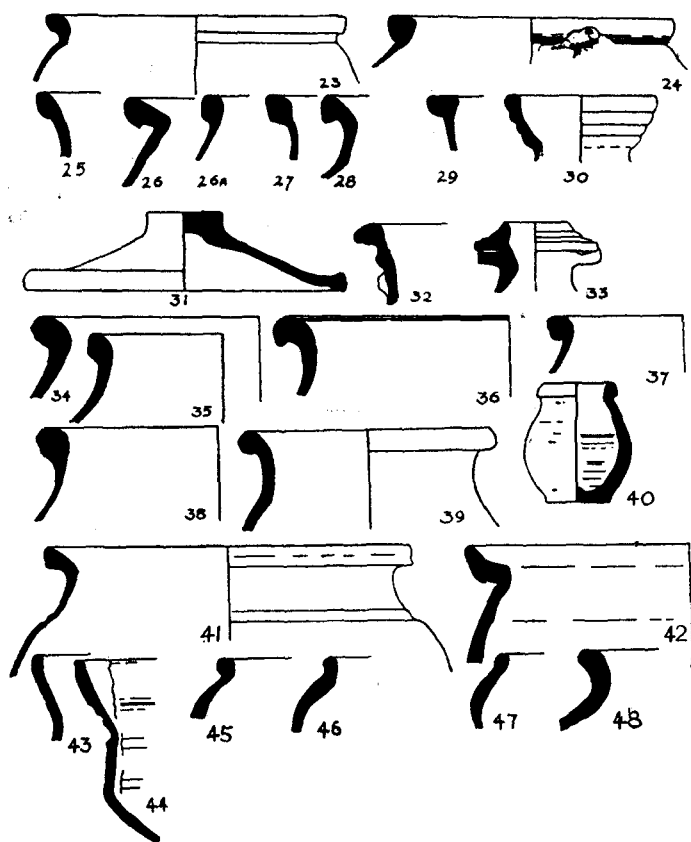


FIG. 7. POTTERY TYPES 23-48 (½)

constructed on an elevation of the London clay. To its west was a hollow in which a mass of yellow clay had been dumped to level up the surface after the kiln had fallen into disuse. The fire-pit consisted of an oval bowl-shaped excavation, 15 in. in depth, 2 ft. 2 in. from north to south, and 1 ft. 9 in. from east to west. It was framed at ground-level by a rectangular tile platform, originally 2 ft. 3 in. east-west, and probably 3 ft. 9 in. north-south; but only the northern third,

a single large tile 2 in. thick, survived. Isolated fragments of the corners remained *in situ* on the south-west and south-east. This platform must have carried the walls and dome of the kiln, for no traces of a flue dug in the London clay were found, and therefore the kiln must have stood above ground-level, using the tile platform as a foundation. The fire-pit

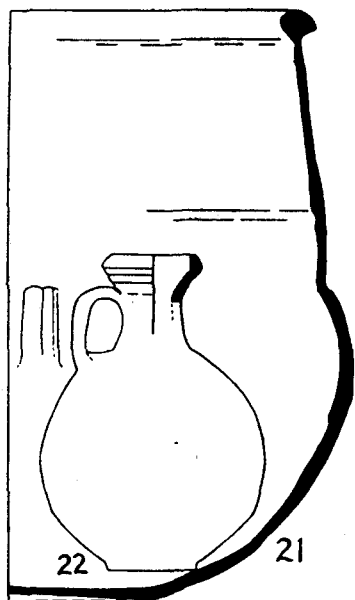


FIG. 8. POTTERY TYPES 21, 22 ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ).

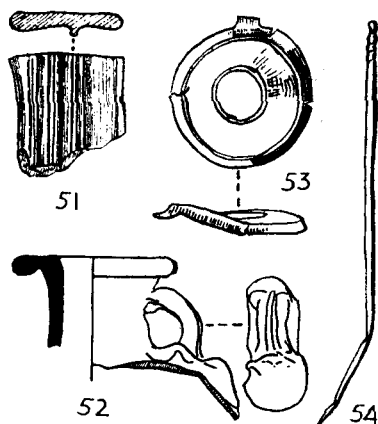


FIG. 9. OBJECTS OF GLASS (51, 52) AND BRONZE (53, 54) ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ).

was filled with burnt red clay, and contained three small boulders thrown in after the kiln had been abandoned; these were accompanied by fragments of fret-keyed hypocaust flue, which, being unburnt, must have found their way there in a similar situation. No traces of supports for a firing floor were noticed. From the kiln there spread to south-west, south and east, over the natural clay, a 4 to 5 in. laminated layer of fire-reddened clay and charcoal. It was tempting to interpret several large fragments of tile structure to the south-west of the kiln, as remains of a splayed flue-check, but these overlay the lamination, and were not therefore coeval with the making of the kiln. About 1 ft. to the east of the kiln platform the burnt clay layer ended with a well-defined edge; here the ground fell to eastward. The full extent of the area covered

by the burnt clay and charcoal was not traced. Six inches below the top of the tile platform, within the south lip of the fire-pit, was found a waster, a screw-necked flagon of orange ware, of late 1st century type, standing nearly complete (22), and probably marking where the flue had entered. Its top had been knocked off, showing that people had gone to and fro directly over the demolished kiln, oblivious of its presence.

The clay dump to west of the kiln gave up sherds of a waster—a cooking jar of very similar orange fabric (18), and much of a remarkable large store urn with globular body and vertical neck (21), very difficult to parallel. It too had been spoilt in firing. With these were stratified another waster-rim (20), part of a frilled tazza (A.D. 70–100), of the base of a flagon like that found in the fire-pit, of a flagon-mouth datable 120–160 (30), and of another similar of mid-2nd century type (cf. 14). There was also a fragment of colour-coated ware, showing that the clay had been dumped in for levelling-off not before the 3rd century.

In the filling of the fire-pit itself were: a fragment of roll-rimmed bowl, part of a red-buff lid (31), of the base of an orange flagon, and of a small beaker rim with red slip coat. From the burnt clay about the kiln came fragments of poppy-beaker, of a Hadrian–Antonine reed-rim bowl, of roll-rim bowls, of Drag. 27 probably 1st century, and of a cream butt-beaker with moulding (41), dating 120–160.

It will be seen that with the exception of the fragment of colour-coated ware, all the datable sherds found in association with the kiln fell within the late 1st century and about 160. One or two strongly everted jar-rims of local fabric did, however, suggest that the industry here went on into the 3rd century.

To the west of the kiln over the natural clay spread an occupation level of dark soil, full of pottery, charcoal and tile. The abundance of tile fragments near the west end of the trench suggested the proximity of a wall, but careful search failed to reveal any trace of a foundation trench. Five feet from the west end, on natural clay beneath a flat laid tile, were a small jarlet of a type already known at Verulamium in a votive context (40), a bronze pin (54) and a spoon-shaped piece of lead (55). The lid of bronze seal-box (53) found in the spoil-dump immediately over this point, in soil derived from the same level (3–4), must have been part of this deposit. Pottery in the stratum began in the Belgic period, with two

hand-made jar-rims (55) and a tazza (43); but here again the bulk of the datable forms fell within the period 70–160, with the exception of two pieces of colour-coated ware. Parts of the waster jar (18) found in the kiln-dump were also taken from this stratum, showing that its occupation corresponded with the kiln-working period. There were scraps of Terra Sigillata of the 1st and 2nd centuries; the datable types were composed chiefly of reed-rim and roll-rim bowls, and hook-rim mortaria.

After sparse occupation in the Belgic period, therefore, intensive activity connected with pot-making had begun in the late 1st century; this perhaps went on into the 3rd, but at a time when the rubbish from the kiln was mixed with material from the 3rd and possibly the 4th century, over it, the kiln had been utterly destroyed and forgotten, the ground by it having been then or later levelled off. At a time hardly earlier than the 4th century, a mound or bank was thrown up over the accumulation that covered the spot, and as part of stratum 2–3 west, containing colour-coated and imitation Samian fragments, had accumulated against it, it is probable that it was made somewhere about the middle of the 4th century.

#### PIT 1B (Fig. 4).

Fifteen feet west of the urinal found in Trench 1, a dark water-logged depression suggested the presence of a pit, and Trench 1A was driven towards and over it to investigate the spot. A pit was found, oval in form with long axis north-south, and sloping sides. It was 10 ft. from north to south and 8 ft. 6 in. from east to west (Fig. 4). Its greatest depth from the Roman level was 2 ft. 6 in. It was entirely filled with gritty black soil heavily charged with pottery, fragments of iron and charcoal or carbonised wood. Over the edge of its western lip and partly laid on the filling, was a roughly rectangular patch of cobbles and broken tile fragments, about 6 ft. by 3 ft. 9 in. It may have been part of a path or larger floor, but its extensions were not found. The pit's bottom was composed of highly plastic white clay which would need a minimum of levigation for potting.

Owing to continuous water-logging and the nature of the bottom, it was not possible to get pottery from the pit's lowest level, but an examination of the pottery found showed that

the filling was not a gradual accumulation; it had been put in almost entirely at one time. Thus, parts of the same sherd occurred both in the 9 to 12 in., the 12 to 18 in. and in the lowest (30 in.) spits, including pieces of 3rd century mortaria; and 4th century wares were more numerous from 18 to 30 in. than they were above 18 in. Castor ware occurred consistently at all levels throughout the pit, and kiln-ware was also represented in the first foot, between 18 and 24 in. and near the bottom. This being the case, we must conclude that Pit 1B was dug in the 4th century, and—judging by the presence between 24 and 30 in. of sherds datable in the first half of that century—not before 350. A jar-rim, datable 250–350, was found in the pavement laid over the pit-filling, and the paving also sealed colour-coated wares and a rim of the first half of the 4th century. The aim of the pit, then, was to dispose of refuse and burnt rubbish from the vicinity, possibly when the site was being cleaned up for reoccupation; this would correspond with the laying of a cobble pavement not earlier than the second half of the 4th century in the Hut Area, and probably with the raising of the bank along the west edge of the Watling Street. It is hard not to connect this rehabilitation with the period after the disaster of 367, but more confirmation is needed.

Among the pottery in the pit-filling may be noted a considerable part of a bulbous Castor beaker with barbotine dot and scroll decoration, found at 6 to 12 in., and datable in the earlier 4th century (cf. May, *Silchester*, Pl. xlv, B1.; *Jewry Wall*, Fig. 32, 25); also part of a pipeclay ware circular tubular "flower vase" with attached urnlike cups (cf. May, *Colchester*, 145, A/B).

## I. COINS.

### THE FINDS

For classifying the coins I am indebted to Messrs. V. Sutherland and A. Thompson, of the Department of Numismatics of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.

1. Ae. Fragmentary. Illegible. Mound Cut, west, 3–4.
2. Ae. House of Valentinian (second half of 4th century). "Wreath and vota" type. Hut Area, in cobbles "a."
3. Ae. Vespasian. Reverse, Pax or Felicitas with Cornucopia. Much worn. Hut Area, over "b."



4. Ae. Sestertius of Faustina II. Reverse, Venus seated. Much worn. Hut Area, on cobbles "a."  
 5. Ae. Fragmentary. Illegible. Hut Area, over "b."

## II. POTTERY.

### A. *Terra Sigillata*.

Very little *Terra Sigillata* was found that is worth illustrating; all was fragmentary and nearly all badly flaked; the small size of the fragments was such that individually very little was of dating value. Forms represented were: Drag. 18, 18/31, 27, 31, 35 or 36 (?), 37, i.e. utilitarian types preponderantly of the late 1st, 2nd and 3rd centuries. The analysis of the fragments was:

Claudius-Nero	..	..	..	1
1st century	..	..	..	7
Late 1st century	..	..	..	3
2nd century	..	..	..	3
Antonine or later	..	..	..	12

The two distinctive decorated pieces were:—

49. Drag. 37. Oswald, *Figured Terra Sigillata*, No. 689, Déchelette 398: Lezoux, Domitian-Antonine, characteristic of Butrio, Paternus and Caletus. To left: seahorse? Trench 1, north of Hut Area, occupation over natural.

50. Ovolo and bead-row of Drag. 37. Cf. Oswald and Pryce, *Terra Sigillata*, Pl. xxx—90-92, Trajan-Antonine. Hut Area, over "b."

### *Mortaria*.

#### B. *Coarse Wares*

1. Hook-rim mortarium with grey paste and cream surface, stamped MARIN(us) (1a). Trench 1, unstratified. *Wroxeter*, I, Fig. 16, 6—80-110; *Arch. Ael.*<sup>4</sup>, 185, 33 (Corbridge)—70-100—a Lugudunensian potter. A fragmentary stamp possibly of Marinus was found at Brockley Hill in 1947 (*Trans. Lond. & Middx. Arch. Soc.*, n.s. X, p. 20, No. 3).

2. Hook-rim mortarium of similar fabric, the interior yellow-buff. Mound Cut, stratum 1-2. Stamp BR(ucius?), with additional signature MSON . . . or MSOM . . . . A similar additional signature, Regulus, occurred on a SVLLON(iac) stamp at Corbridge (*Arch. Ael.*<sup>4</sup>, XV, p. 280, Fig. 12); this may mean either that BR . . . was a local potter, or that BR . . . also represents a place-name. The

first alternative seems more acceptable, in view of the discovery of two other stamps of BRVC(ius) on Site A (below).

3. Buff. Hollow "A." Cf. *Verulamium*, Fig. 35, 65—110—140.

4. Buff, light brown paste. Mound Cut, west, stratum 3-4. *Wroxeter*, 54—80—120.

5. Buff, red paste. Pit 1B. This type is difficult to date, as it appears both in the 2nd century (Ewell, Ashted, *Surrey Arch. Coll.*, L, p. 33, Fig. 21, 6-8); and in the late 3rd century (*Richborough*, II, p. 360).

6. Light tile-buff. Hollow "A." Cf. *Surrey Arch. Coll.*, loc. cit.; *Richborough*, IV, p. 513—A.D. 275-300.

7. Light tile-red. Mound Cut, 2-3. *Silchester*, 113, type 135—200—250.

8. Buff. Pit 1B; parts in the uppermost filling and from the very bottom of the pit. Cf. *Wroxeter*, 202—3rd to 4th century.

13. Rough whitish-grey, with sandy surface. Hut Area, over Pavement "b."

#### *Mortarium Stamps.*

9. Yellow-buff, with grey-red paste. BRVC(ius). Hut Area, below cobbles "a." *Arch. Ael.*<sup>4</sup>, XXVI, p. 177, No. 7, "probably Continental," 80-100. But his stamp has occurred till now, it would seem, only "retro."

10. Cream, with grey paste. BRVC(ius). Hut Area, below Pavement "a."

11. Pipeclay ware. Illegible fragmentary stamp, which may be the other way up. Mound Cut, 3-4.

12. Buff, fragmentary. . . . MV? Mound Cut, central, 2-3.

#### *Bowls.*

14. Cream reed-rim bowl with girth-grooved carination. Hollow "A." The greater part of a similar bowl, a buff waster, occurred in the Mound Cut, in the clay dump west of the kiln; rim fragments of allied types were frequent on the site, in Mound Cut, 3-4, in and under Hut Area, Pavement "a," over "b," in association with Pit 1, and at all levels of the filling of Pit 1B. A number of these bowls were found in the 1947 excavations to the east of the Watling Street (op. cit., X, p. 8, Nos. 11-30) in buff and orange ware, and their general

date is Flavian–Antonine. This example is probably Hadrian–Antonine. The waster sherd from the Mound Cut leaves little doubt that this type was manufactured at Sulloniacæ. See also No. 29.

15. Tile-red open bowl, with roulette decoration and “pie-crust” flange. Mound Cut, 3–4. Similar decoration is seen at Alchester, *Ant. Jnl.*, VII, p. 178, Fig. 9, 10–11—70–100; cf. Jack, *Kenchester*, 142, 6.

16. Heavy buff bowl with dark grey paste. Pit 1B. Verulamium, *Ant. Jnl.*, XXI, p. 225, Fig. 2a—120–160.

17. Dark grey roll-rim bowl. Pit 1B, associated with 16. This type is preponderantly 4th century at the local sites of Park Street (*Arch. Jnl.*, CII, p. 86, Fig. 18, 9) and Lockleys (*Ant. Jnl.*, XVIII, Fig. 9, 9); but in Verulamium it is found in deposits of 150–200 (Fig. 33, 51–52) and 160–190 (Fig. 27, 6). At Site A it occurred in various fabrics in Pit 1, Mound Cut (in the firehole of the kiln and strata 1–4); in the Hut Area, over Pavements “a” and “b”; on natural near Hollow “A” and in Pit 1B. A long-lived type.

#### *Kiln Ware: Jars, Flagons, Bowls, Lids, Urns.*

The fabrics manufactured in the kiln were initially identifiable from those of the reed-handled flagon (22) found in the firehole, of the waster jar from the clay dump to west (18), and of the reed-rim carinated waster bowl from the same provenance (cf. 14). The first two were of soft red paste with orange surface; the bowl had grey paste with a buff exterior blackened by smoke. The big waster storage urn found in the clay dump (21) was of hard light buff to yellow clay. Small waster fragments suggested that fabrics of small dun-coloured paste with tile-red, sometimes smoke-blackened exterior, were also produced. Apart from the above, the forms here reproduced as kiln wares, are included as such, because they were obviously spoilt in firing, or because the fabric is conspicuously like one or other of those mentioned.

18. Red jar with orange–tile-red surface; friable. Mound Cut, clay dump by kiln.

19. Orange. Hollow “A.”

20. Light tile-red, the exterior smoke-blackened; a waster. Mound Cut, clay dump.

21. A large waster urn of yellow-buff ware with flattish bottom slightly “kicked,” bulbous body, straight slightly

tapered neck and uncommon projecting rim, which is badly buckled. Mound Cut, clay dump. Not easy to parallel, but the Belgic influence is evident.

22. Pale orange-buff reed-handled screw-neck flagon, red paste. An under-fired waster, the rim of the mouth slightly distorted. From the kiln firehole. The vertical lower handle suggests a late 1st century date.

23. Light orange-red. Pit 1B.

24. Light orange, smooth surface. Topstuff over 1B. Remains of a handle below the rim.

25. Bright tile-red. Hut Area, under Pavement "b."

26. Brick-red with darker paste. Pit 1B.

26a. Orange. Pit 1B. Cf. Verulamium, *Arch. Jnl.*, XXI, p. 282, Fig. 4, 5, etc.—120-160.

27. Black, exterior buff-tile-red, interior yellow. Pit 1B.

28. Bright orange waster. Pit 1B.

29. Orange reed-rim. Pit 1B, with Castor ware, 2nd century fragments of Terra Sigillata, and a late 2nd to 3rd century mortarium rim. Cf. No. 14.

30. Top of screw-neck flagon, tile-red. Mound Cut, clay dump. Cf. *Verulamium*, Fig. 35, No. 68—120-160.

31. Orange-buff lid, a waster. From the filling of the firehole of the kiln. A number of orange ware lids were found in 1947 (op. cit., X, p. 14, Nos. 59-67); this rim differs slightly from those there illustrated.

32. Orange screw-neck flagon. Pit 1B. Cf. *Ibid.*, p. 10, Nos. 32-38.

33. Light buff. Pit 1B. Cf. Sandford, *Arch.*, LXXII, p. 235, Fig. 5, 21; rough parallels from Richborough, Silchester and Baldock suggest a date in the second half of the 2nd or the 3rd century.

#### *Other Wares (Jars and Cooking Pots).*

34. Cream pipeclay ware. Pit 1.

35. Good sandy-cream ware. Cf. 34.

36. Orange. Hut Area, under Pavement "b"; another part was found in the silt over Pit 1. Cf. *Verulamium*, *Ant. Jnl.*, XXI, p. 285, Fig. 6—120-160.

37. Buff, dark grey paste. Pit 1B, with 2nd to 3rd century wares.

38. Bright buff-pink, with traces of external red slip. Pit

1B. Possibly kiln-ware; a fragment of similar ware came from the kiln firehole.

39. Dun grey jar with black soapy surface. Mound Cut, 3-4.

40. Small rough jarlet, dirty yellow sandy fabric; the base appears to have been completed by hand. Mound Cut, west, 3-4, with a piece of lead, a pin and probably a bronze seal-box lid (below). Several of these jarlets were found in the excavations of 1947 (op. cit., X, p. 13, No. 48); cf. *Verulamium*, Fig. 32, 45, and Pl. lxxix; *Ant. Jnl.*, XXI, p. 289, Fig. 5, 9—120-160.

41. Cream, with moulded shoulder. Mound Cut, clay dump by kiln. The shape is extant A.D. 43-65 at Camulodunum (*Camul.*, 119*b*), but persists, and occurs at Verulamium (p. 285, Fig. 6*f*), 120-160.

42. Hard dirty buff with some grit. A waster. Hut Area, under "a." Cf. *Leicester, Jewry Wall*, Fig. 27, 9—70-120; the general type, Verulamium, *Ant. Jnl.*, XXI, p. 282, Fig. 4, A-L—120-160.

### *Belgic.*

43. Tazza of grey paste with sandy grey-black surface. Mound Cut, west, 3-4. Cf. Baldock, *Arch. Jnl.*, LXXXVIII, p. 259, Fig. 2, 4458, dated to the turn of the 1st century B.C. and the 1st century A.D.

44. Orange tazza, much as preceding form, perhaps originally with pedestal. Trench 1, on natural immediately south of the urinal. The similarity of the ware to that of some of the kiln products suggests that among the late 1st century potters were local Belgæ; this is further suggested by the Belgic influence perceptible in No. 21.

45-47. Rough hand-made bead-rim jars of Early Iron Age tradition. 45, in cobbles "b" of Hut Area; 46, Hut Area, below "a"; 47, Hut Area, below "a." Cf. Park Street, *Arch. Jnl.*, CII, p. 78, Fig. 15, 10—A.D. 1-25; *Verulamium*, Fig. 21, 66 and 171—A.D. 40-65. Other hand-made wares were noted in Mound Cut, west, 3-4, and in Pit 1B; platters of Belgic influence datable in the 1st century in the Hut Area, below "a," and in the occupation to north of the hut; a wheel-made fragment of rim of pre-Belgic form occurred south of the urinal.

48. Rough light dirty grey, hand-made. Mound Cut, west, 3-4.

### III. GLASS.

51. Deep blue reeded handle. Mound Cut, west, 3-4. Examples of this glass from Camulodunum, London, Wroxeter and Newstead are of 1st century date.

52. Top of flask from Mound Cut, west, 2-3, accumulated against the late bank. Mr. D. B. Harden, F.S.A., has kindly supplied the following note:—

“Neck, rim, and handle of spherical pilgrim flask, green: a normal type which seems to occur throughout the period late 1st to late 3rd or early 4th century A.D. This example is probably 2nd to 3rd century, but the typology has not been worked out (if, indeed, it ever can be).”

52a. Two small pierced glass beads came from the firehole filling of the kiln (Mound Cut).

### IV. BRONZE.

53. Lid of a seal-box with remains of the hinge. Mound Cut, west, spoil-dump, in soil from 3-4 and directly over the votive deposit, of which it almost certainly formed part. Cf. Atkinson, *Wroxeter Excavations*, 1923-7, p. 211—late 1st to early 2nd century; other examples from Wroxeter (III, Pl. xix, 1-3), dated pre-150, are rather larger.

54. Pin with moulded head. Mound Cut, west, 3-4, with votive deposit. Similar examples are known, for instance, from Lowbury (Atkinson, Pl. xii, 10, 11), Newstead (Curle, *Newstead*, Pl. xcii, 18—70-180) and Woodcutts (Pitt-Rivers, *Excavations*, I, Pl. xvi, 1). Their typology appears to have been neglected. The date of the present example, on the basis of associated objects, is 120-160.

### V. LEAD.

55. A flattened spoon-shaped piece of lead, part of the votive deposit, Mound Cut, west, 3-4. Not dissimilar pieces, crescentic in form, have been found with 1st century material at Caerhun, Wales (Bailey-Reynolds, *Caerhun*, Fig. 52, 5, and p. 94). Another piece of lead was found in the pavement overlying the west lip of Pit 1B.

### VI. STONE, ETC.

56. The lower stone of a saddle quern. Pit 1B. (Not illustrated.)

57-58. Two small pieces of hard grey stone found respectively in Mound Cut, west, 2-3, and in the clay dump west of the kiln. Both were faceted, reddened by fire, and have expanded ends showing signs of polish. The subjection to heat suggests that they were used as kiln-staggers, but the facetting and polished expanded ends recall the "plough stones" found in the moulding boards of Early Iron Age ploughs (*Pr. Prehc. Soc.*, IV, pp. 230, 338-9), and layer 2-3 of the Mound Cut may well represent ploughing of the later Roman period.

59. Piece of worked sandstone, one end squared, tapered towards the other. Hut Area, under "b."

59a. A cylindrical blue faience bead; from the bottom of the clay dump by the kiln. Mound Cut. (Not illustrated.)

#### VII. GRAFFITI: INSCRIPTION.

60. Grey ware sherd with buff rilled surface; part of graffito: M/. Hut Area, below "a."

61. Light tile-red to buff sherd. Part of graffito: \/. Mound Cut, from the late bank.

62. Light buff base: graffito: V. Hut Area, to west of Pit 1, in cobbles "a."

63. Fragment of Rhenish "motto beaker," of grey-white fabric, external polished black slip and blue-grey interior. White barbotine letter, part of M; the inscription would have been BIBE MECVM or similar. Mound Cut, west, in the late bank. For these beakers, see Oelmann, *Niederbieber*, 35, 29-41 (A.D. 190-260); *Bonner Jahrbücher*, CXIV-V, pp. 356, 371, 376, etc. They date from the end of the 2nd century to about 300.

#### VIII. CHARCOALS.

Mrs. F. L. Balfour-Browne, of the British Museum (Natural History), was so kind as to report on the various finds of charcoals and carbonised woods. Her findings have been rearranged according to stratification.

<i>Pit 1.</i>	<i>Occupation west of</i>	<i>Depression "B."</i>
	<i>Pit 1.</i>	
Oak.	Willow or	Oak.
? Oak.	poplar.	
? Hazel		
(first 6 in.).		

*Mound Cut, burnt  
clay round kiln.*  
? Oak.  
Ash.

*Mound Cut, west,*  
3-4.  
? Oak.

*Mound Cut, 2-3.*  
Oak (2)

*Hut Area. In "b."*  
Birch.

*Pit 1B.*

1-6 in.  
Oak (2; 1 doubtful).  
Ash.  
? Birch.

6-12 in.  
Oak (2).  
? Ash.

12-18 in.  
Ash.  
Oak.

18-24 in.  
Oak (5; 3 doubtful).  
Willow or poplar (2).  
Ash (2).

24-30 in.  
Oak (5).  
Ash.  
Willow or poplar.

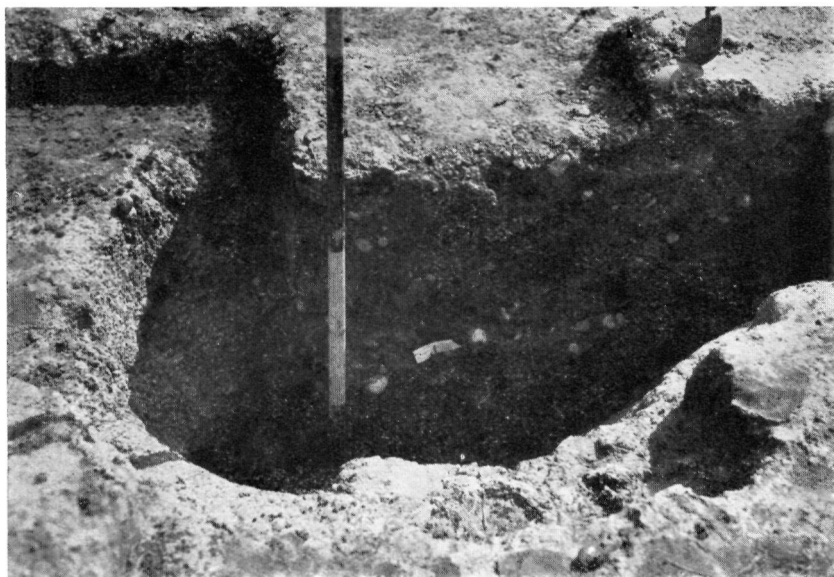
The finds show that the surroundings of Sulloniacæ in Roman times were wooded preponderantly with oak and ash, whose wood was also used in the kiln. The apparent confinement of willow or poplar to the lower filling of Pit 1B suggests that it was on top of the rubbish cleared into the pit in the 4th century, and that in the later period the inhabitants were going to damper sites for their timber and fuel. The limitation of hazel to Pit 1 (1st century) is perhaps to be explained by its use in wattle and daub construction; or perhaps the smaller bushes were earlier cleared. The rarity of birch, a colonist of cleared areas, is interesting, and suggests that local deforested tracts were kept constantly under plough.<sup>3</sup>

#### SUMMARY

Neither the scope nor the findings of the 1950 campaign justify conclusions; but a summary of results may be desirable.

There are traces of slight but definite Belgic occupation on Site A, and this is further hinted by Belgic influence amongst some of the kiln products. Evidence at Verulamium (*Verulamium*, 114-5) showed that the Watling Street dated from the first days of the Roman conquest, when ribbon-settlement developed along it outside the city. The occupation found at Site A may have been comparable. But it is not clear if occupation was continuous from Belgic times to the late 1st century, when potting began on a more or less





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NO. 3. SITE A. HUT AREA. PIT 1



[Copyright photo by J. C. Burt

NO. 4. SITE A. HUT AREA, FROM THE NORTH

intensive scale, flagons, jars, carinated bowls, store-urns and lids being turned out. Mortaria were also made, with the participation (probably initiation) of Lugudunensian potters, and the finding of two stamps of Bruc(ius) in the Hut Area, and a possible third in the Mound Cut, with local characteristics, raises the possibility that this potter was active at Sulloniacæ, perhaps through a deputy. The kiln's life was within the period 70–160; some pottery forms, and stratigraphical considerations, suggest that the industry went on into the 3rd century, although it may be doubted whether the individual kiln itself was used for more than a few years. That the occupation contained till the end of the 2nd century is evident from the laying down of Pavement "b" in the Hut Area some time after 150, as well as from Terra Sigillata found. There were buildings with rough tessellated pavements at Sulloniacæ in the 1st century—unless the tesserae were being manufactured for markets elsewhere—and buildings with hypocausts would seem, with the same qualification, to have existed at Sulloniacæ prior to the 4th and probably as early as the 2nd century. Some time prior to the mid-4th there were literate people among the inhabitants. The later 2nd century date of Hut Area, Pavement "b," agrees with the evidence of the Itinerary of Antonine, which shows Sulloniacæ as a posting-station at that time.

What was the degree of occupation in the 3rd century is difficult to estimate yet, since nothing structural could be connected with that period, though some mortaria and probably some Castor and colour-coated ware belonged to it. Stratum 2–3 in the Mound Cut suggested a period of ploughing in the 3rd century, and the yellow clay layer below it was the dump near the kiln spread probably by the plough.<sup>4</sup> But in the mid-4th century a rehabilitation occurred, whether general or localised we are not yet in a position to say: a pavement was made in the Hut Area, refuse from the site was shot into a specially dug rubbish pit (1B), and another piece of cobble floor was put over its edge. The exact nature of the bank then thrown up over the kiln is not evident; its width was about 15 ft., or if its eastern part in the Mound Cut had been removed (as the much-disturbed soil suggested), perhaps 19 ft. Vulliamy (*Arch. of Middx.*, p. 271) describes the bank and ditch of Grim's Dyke as 60 ft. in width, so that the bank at Site A, at least in so far as we know it, is hardly comparable.

Nor can we say yet whether it had a ditch to its east or not. The mound, which continues for some distance northward inside the hedge of the modern main road, is hardly to be explained as covering a complete battery of kilns, as its date is much later. Nor can we say much of the later 4th century occupation; not a great deal of the pottery was attributable to that period, and the bulk of distinctively 4th century types came from Pit 1B, and were therefore pre-350-370. The relative scarcity of New Forest ware, and particularly of imitation Samian, whose main incidence was in the second half of the century, does not favour an intensive occupation after that date. Whether the alleged fragment of Watling Street, apparently of late date, found at Site B, should be connected with the 4th century reoccupation, it is too early to say: south of Verulamium the Street was relaid some time after 330 (*Verulamium*, pp. 63-64).

Sulloniacæ belongs to a category of place-name better represented in Gaul, and embodying the suffix "-ac," meaning "estate or place of," attached to a personal name. (A. de Jubainville, *Récherches sur les origines de la propriété foncière*, p. 125; *L'alleu et le domaine rural*, p. 34.) French archæologists hold that many of such names were the result of the settling of proprietary rights of native owners when the Roman cadastral survey was carried out. (Grenier, *Roman Gaul*—T. Frank, *Econ. Survey of the Rom. Emp.*, III, p. 494; *Manuel d'arch. gallo-rom.*, VI, ii, 914 ff.) This usually took place simultaneously with the organisation of the road system (*Sic. Flaccus*, Lachmann, p. 146). The early date of the Watling Street precludes that such rights were settled immediately on its construction, but it is useful to know that the name Sulloniacæ was in existence at least in the last thirty years of the 1st century, and it suggests that the first Roman cadastral survey had by then been completed.

#### APPENDIX I

#### REPORT ON ANIMAL BONES

By J. E. KING (British Museum, Natural History)

Unfortunately all the specimens are very small and some are too fragmentary for identification. The remainder consist of incomplete teeth of ox, sheep or goat, and pig.

## APPENDIX II

REPORT ON GEOLOGICAL SPECIMENS<sup>5</sup>

BY MRS. E. MOREY (Geological Survey and Museum)

## (a) PIT 1B (6-12 IN.): SADDLE QUERN.

This specimen is a fairly coarse grit, composed of large and small angular and sub-angular grains of white and colourless quartz or quartzite fragments, much white and a little pink feldspathic material, generally kaolinised. Fragments of black and brown cherty and limonitic material are present, the fragments being well cemented in a sandy and quartzitic matrix. This rock is probably Millstone Grit, which formation outcrops naturally in Somerset and Gloucester, South Wales and the Midlands, and North England, but the fragments could have been transported in the glacial boulder clay of eastern England.

## (b) MOUND CUT: FIRE HOLE OF KILN. BOULDER FRAGMENTS.

Quartzite or quartzitic grit. (On another fragment of this stone from another stratum, Mrs. Morey says that it "weathers with an iron-stained surface.")

## NOTES

1. Thanks are due to Major S. B. High, the House Governor of the National Orthopaedic Hospital, for permission to dig at Site A, and for every courtesy and assistance; to the owner of the field, for permission to operate on Site B; to all members of the Committee for their interest and help—especially its Secretary, Mr. T. A. N. Henderson, and to Mr. C. F. Baylis; to Mr. F. Canes for the loan of equipment; to Mrs. C. F. Baylis for her handling of finds and pots; to Mr. F. P. Suggett who acted as quartermaster and sometimes adjutant; to Dr. W. B. Hunt for transport facilities and metallurgical advice; and to the following very devoted volunteers: Messrs. I. Chalk, Green, A. J. Perceval, M. Biddel, G. F. Cole, B. W. Bathe, M. Harris, A. G. Roberts, M. Alpert, A. Master, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Burt and the Misses V. Olyett, J. Cray, A. M. C. Kahn, B. Crosby and S. Leech. Mr. C. Lee-Davis aided winding-up arrangements. The section drawing of the Mound Cut is partly the work of Mr. I. Chalk. Special thanks are due to Messrs. Perceval and Biddel for their assistance in sorting the finds, and to the authorities of the London Museum for providing facilities for this work. The Institute of Archæology undertook the cleaning of iron finds. We are indebted to Mrs. F. L. Balfour-Browne, Mr. J. E. King and Mrs. E. Morey for their reports on charcoals, bones and geological specimens respectively, which are printed as appendices to this report. The photographs are the work and copyright of Mr. J. C. Burt. Any omissions are quite involuntary, and all, mentioned or unmentioned, merit the Committee's gratitude.
2. Numbers in parenthesis refer to the items in the finds report following, pp. 217ff.

3. Three square "Celtic" fields are to be seen on air photographs associated with an ancient road crossing "Lover's Lane," north of Edgewarebury; the road aligns with Wood Lane, Brockley Hill, thus shown to be an ancient route. These fields were first noted by Mr. G. F. Cole and the writer.
4. It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that the posting-station was, some time in the later 3rd or earlier 4th century, moved to Elstree, where the Roman site is nearer to the highway than is normal for Roman farms. Cf. the shifting of the posting-station of Hardham, Sussex, to Pulborough, about A.D. 150 (*V.C.H. Sussex*, III, p. 38). Hardham also had a pottery industry.
5. Most of the stone samples submitted to Mrs. Morey come, it would seem, from the Brockley Hill district; and for this reason and because of expense, it has been thought unnecessary to reproduce the detailed analysis, except in regard to the specimens described above.