

REPORT ON  
THE EXCAVATION OF A ROMANO-BRITISH  
VILLA AT SAUNDERTON,  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

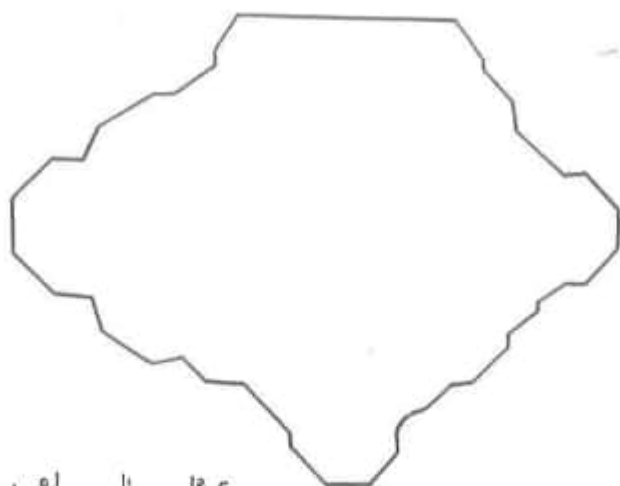
BY

DIANA ASHCROFT

*[I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Miss Kathleen Kenyon, F.S.A., Dr. F. G. Parsons, F.R.C.S., and Dr. F. Oswald, F.S.A. F.G.S., for their expert advice, which has been incorporated in this report, and Dr. H. F. Davies for making the drawings of the shale].*

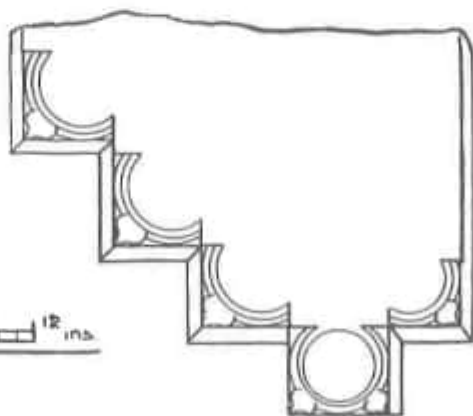
Close by St. Mary's Church, Saunderton, and about half a mile from the Upper Icknield Way,<sup>1</sup> is the site of a Romano-British Villa, to which attention was first drawn by Colonel Serocold, C.M.G., F.S.A. During the summers of 1936-37, under his direction and that of Mr. Edward Hildyard, a considerable amount of work was done upon the site. This work resulted in the laying bare of a large part of the building; a part which was sufficient to show that the building was too extensive to allow of the carrying out of systematic excavation by intermittent voluntary labour. Realizing this, Colonel Serocold approached the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, who willingly agreed to complete the work, the first of its kind that they had ever undertaken. Funds, however, were limited and the duration of the work was, of necessity, restricted to three and a half weeks. But if money was scarce, labour was abundant, and thanks are particularly due to Colonel Serocold and Mr. Hildyard for their whole-hearted help and collaboration; to Miss Barbara Parker, who was present for three weeks, and to Mrs. Maxwell-Hyslop, Miss

<sup>1</sup> Ordnance Survey Field Reference No. 113, Saunderton Parish O.S. Bucks, 37/11.



Scale 0 1 2 ft.

BASE OF S.E. TOWER PIER

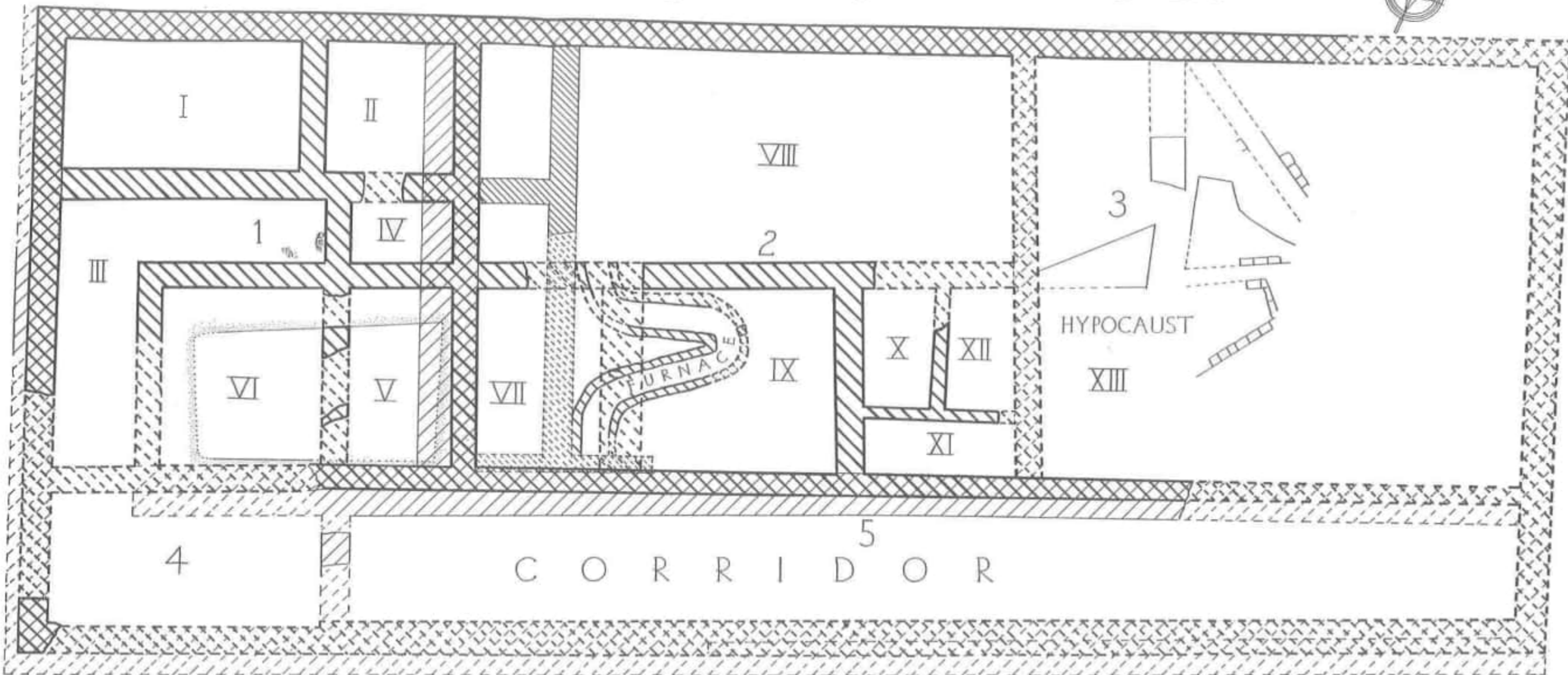


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CHAPTER HOUSE DOORWAY  
BASE OF JAMB.

Drawn by C. T. Bonds

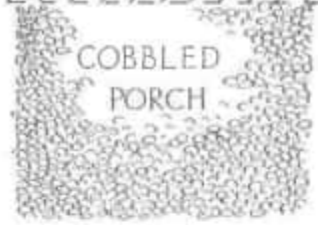
# SAUNDERTON ROMAN VILLA



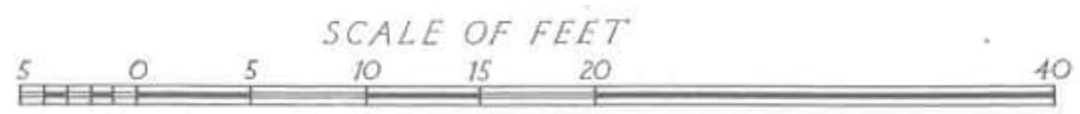
PERIOD I  
 WALLS [diagonal lines] ROBBER [cross-hatch]

PERIOD II  
 WALLS [diagonal lines] ROBBER [cross-hatch]

PERIOD III  
 WALLS [diagonal lines] ROBBER [cross-hatch]



NOTE: ROMAN NUMERALS REFER TO PERIOD I  
 ARABIC " " " " II



L. MONROE Del.



PLATE I. General view of the Site looking east.

Marian Silcock, Miss Mary Flower, Mr. Clive Rouse, Mr. Douglas North and Mr. John Neal, all of whom gave a great deal of their time and without whose valuable assistance it would never have been possible to finish in the limited period allotted to the work. Here, too, must be thanked Mr. John Ward Perkins for paying flying visits to the site to supervise the work; visits which invariably left behind them a wealth of good advice and encouragement for the future.

Excavations revealed the foundations of a flint building; a villa whose total extent could not, at first, be gauged because the plot of land, leased for excavation purposes, did not cover the whole structure, the walls of which extended beneath the cornfield at the eastern end (Plate I). Later in the season, however, after the corn had been harvested, Miss Parker directed the digging of some trial trenches, which revealed the eastern limits of the villa only a few feet beyond the excavated area, and showed the measurements of the building to be 115 feet long by  $49\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide.

#### HISTORY OF THE SITE (see Plan).

In the foundations of the villa two major building periods were apparent, the earlier of which can be dated by the stratified pottery to the early Antonine Period. Evidence of a period of occupation prior to that of the villa was, however, present in the shape of a great rectangular cut through the chalk marl, approximately 18 feet long by 10 feet wide, and lying well within the confines of the villa. (Plate II). Here, it is perhaps worthy of note that the joint outlines of Rooms V and VI conformed to that of the cut, making it appear, at first sight, that the villa antedated the cut, but the fact that the wall common to both Room V and Room VI is certainly contemporary with the other Period I walls makes this impossible. Unfortunately, the use of the cut must remain a matter of

conjecture, for it is not possible to say what purpose it served. It cannot, as at first seemed probable, have been used for storage purposes, for no trace of a lining was found, nor can it have been a source of building material, for the chalk obtainable was totally unsuitable for this purpose. Only two possibilities suggest themselves, one that it was a pit from which chalk manure was obtained, the other that the chalk marl was used for the manufacture of cement. On the whole the latter would seem to be the more probable solution; for the cubic content of the pit would have been ample to produce enough mortar for an average size building,<sup>2</sup> presumably the one which antedated the Period I villa (see below), whereas as a source of fertilizer it is small. Nevertheless, chalk was used to this end in contemporary Roman times, for Pliny writes: "Aream ad messem creta praeeparare." (*Nat. Hist.*: XVIII, 71). All that can be definitely said, however, is that it was put out of action before, or possibly in order that, the villa could be built; for it had been filled in with gravel and through the filling one of the villa walls (that which separated Room V from Room VI) was sunk to a depth of fully five feet before it reached the undisturbed chalk, a depth of foundation which occurred nowhere else upon the site. A layer of clay containing many small chalk tesserae intervened between the bottom of the cut and the gravel filling (Plate II). This cut, therefore, points to a very early phase of Roman occupation, the centre of which, although at present unlocated, cannot be very far away. Moreover, it is significant that many first century sherds were found, for they form additional evidence for this period.

Subsequently, it would seem that during the mid-second century the Romano-British settlers, who lived close by, decided to build the Period I villa. No evidence shows how long they lived in it, but at a

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<sup>2</sup> The Cement Marketing Company has estimated that approximately 25 tons of cement could have been manufactured, a liberal amount when it is remembered that the superstructure was probably of wood.



PLATE II. The Great Cut.



PLATE III. The double T furnace looking west.



later period the house appears to have fallen into a bad state of decay; for sheets of fallen wall plaster were found lying face downwards in the soil, and they point to a period of neglect rather than of demolition. Demolition there must have been, however, for at the close of the third century the building was completely reconstructed and the whole internal plan transformed. The evidence for dating this period is scanty, consisting of a very few datable types of coarse pottery sherds that were found mainly in the filling of the furnace beneath Room 2, Period II. At what may have been a still later date some chalk walls were inserted into the building, but no contemporary floors were left associated with them, and consequently, neither their extent, purpose nor date could be ascertained. Thus, although the nature of these walls makes it improbable, it is not impossible that they also belong to Period II. The abundant unstratified pottery that was found upon the site testifies to its occupation late in the fourth century.

#### PERIOD I

The period I building consisted of a complex of small rooms with a corridor running along the south side. No doorways were found, for the remaining foundations were almost invariably below floor level, and but for Rooms VII, IX and XIII, there was nothing to show what purpose they had served.

*Rooms VII and IX.* Beneath Rooms VII and IX was a furnace (Plates III and IV) of a curious design, whose most striking parallel is to be found in the furnace known as the "Double T" in the 2nd House at Hambleton. Both at Hambleton and at Saunderton the furnaces were below floor level and consisted of "V" shaped channels, whose arms curved outwards. At Hambleton, these arms culminated in cross flues; at Saunderton they appear, both by analogy with Hambleton and by the shape of the cut in the chalk marl (for at this point none of the structure remained), to have ended in a like manner. Thus,

when applying the term "Double T," the "cross-strokes" refer to the terminal flues and the "downward-strokes" to the outward curving sides of the "V." The Hambleton furnace appears to date from the latter part of the first century and to have remained in use until the early fourth.<sup>3</sup>

Professor W. Gowland, in an appendix to the Hambleton Report, states that in his opinion the furnaces heated drying floors, which were used for drying the harvested grain, which was habitually reaped before it had completely ripened. It seems, therefore, probable that the Saunderton furnace served the same purpose; although, if it did, it is perhaps curious that it lay beneath two rooms in a house, diffusing its heat between them, rather than concentrating it, as at Hambleton, beneath a barn. Nevertheless, the analogy cannot be discounted for between the "Double T" furnace at Hambleton and that at Saunderton a remarkable similarity exists. In both cases the channels were dug through the natural soil and lined with chalk lumps, while at Saunderton a few brick tiles were built in seemingly without method among the chalk lumps. The natural chalk formed the floor of the flue passages. The use of chalk is important for it shows that the flues cannot have been intended to stand great heat, for a high temperature would have converted the chalk into lime. The main difference lay at the fire-end, which at Hambleton was bulbous, while at Saunderton it was no more than a continuation of the flue passage linking together the two "Ts." This implies a restriction of space that must have led to considerable difficulty in cleaning out the stoke-hole, the entrance to which must have been through a hole in the floor above. Nevertheless, at the junction of the downward "T" strokes a layer of soot covering the floor indicated the position of the fire, and, moreover, judging from the scant remains at this point, brick tiles here replaced the chalk lining

<sup>3</sup> *Archaeologia* 71, "Report on the Romano-British Homestead, in the Hambleton Valley, Bucks." by the late A. H. Cocks.

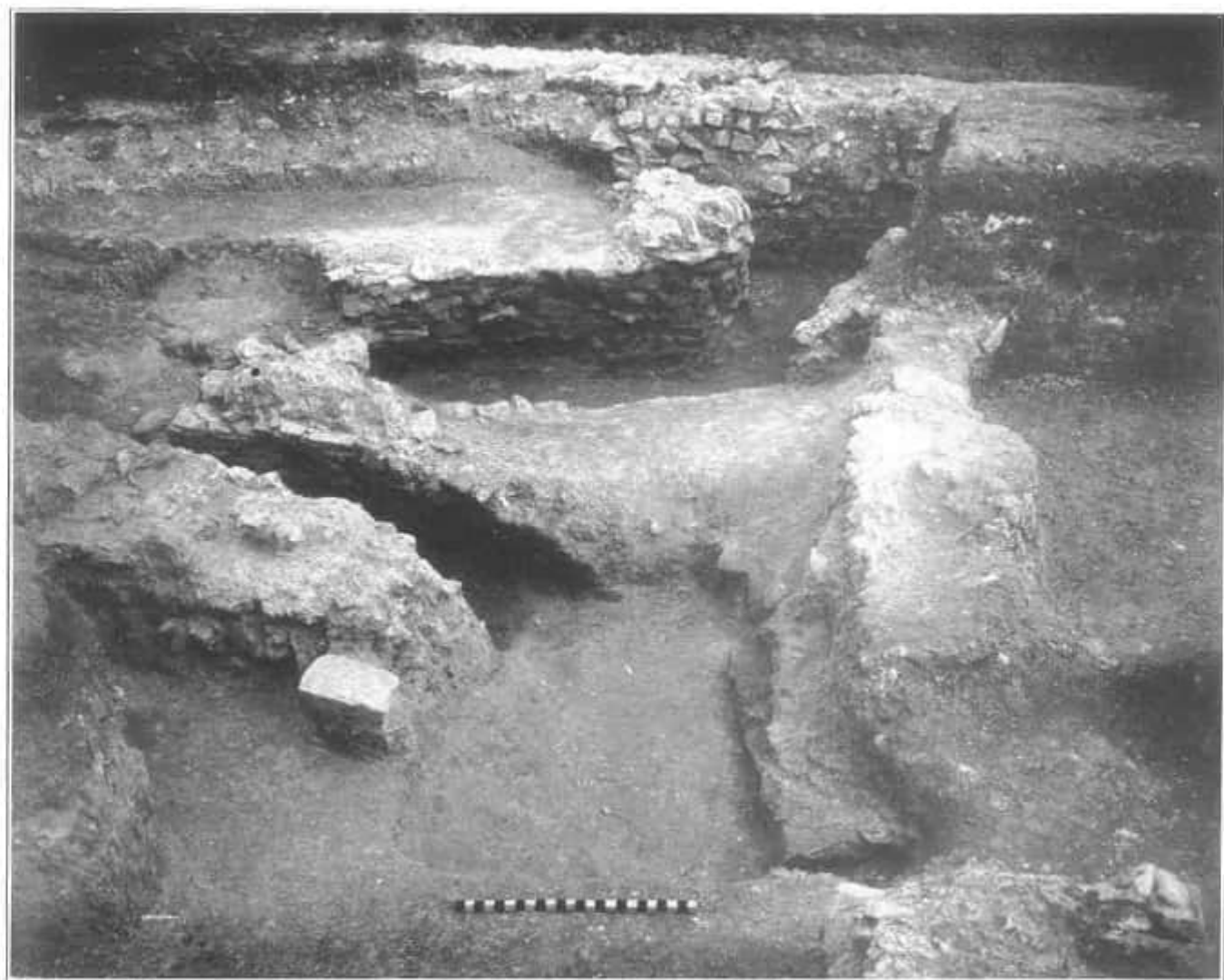


PLATE IV. The double T furnace looking south, showing the blocking wall.



PLATE V. Remains of the Channel Hypocaust in Room XIV and part of  
the cobbled floor that cooled it.

of the furnace. Of the eastern end of the outer wall of the "V" only one small fragment remained, and nothing could be seen of the cross-stroke of the southern "T" which was completely blocked by a Period III chalk wall (Plate IV). To the north the downward stroke passed beneath the wall which separated Rooms VII and IX from Room VIII, and in consequence the cross-stroke, of which but little remains, save the cut in the chalk, lay beneath Room VIII. No outlets were found and it seems, therefore, that the necessary draught must have been created by chimneys running up the walls; in the one case up that between Rooms VIII and VII, and in the other between Room VII and the corridor.

*Room XIII.* Room XIII was the largest room in the building and was, during Period I, heated by a channel hypocaust, the remains of which were too mutilated for identification of the pattern (Plate V). The furnace which fed this hypocaust was not located, but it seems probable that it lay outside the villa near the south-eastern corner, for about three feet south of the corner, superimposed upon a layer of fallen plaster, Miss Parker discovered what she thought to be the debris caused by the destruction of the furnace. No further traces were found in the excavated area, but the complete robbery of the west wall of Room XIII and the fact that there was not time to clear all of Room VIII, make it impossible to state definitely that the furnace did not lie within the building. Room XIII must have been the most important living-room in the house, for none of the others were heated.

*Room III.* This was a small "L" shaped room beneath which were buried the skeletons of three infants (Plate VI). Dr. F. G. Parsons, who examined the skeletons, in conjunction with the Curator of the Museum of the College of Surgeons, writes:—

1. The three skeletons are those of children at birth. The anatomical points upon which we relied in determining this were:—

- (a) The measurements of the various bones.
  - (b) The absence of any sign of an epiphysis at the lower end of the femur.
  - (c) The absence of any fusion of the Tympanic Ring with the rest of the temporal bone.
2. It is impossible to say whether these infants were still born or had lived and breathed for a short time.
  3. It is equally impossible to determine their sex.
  4. The evidence, so far as it goes, is against their being triplets since they are not quite equally developed, and in triplets the bones are usually undersized."

Dr. Parsons adds: "A few fragments of animal bones were found close to one of the skeletons; these seem to have belonged to a large and quite young dog."

"Assuming that these skeletons can be dated to the first or second century A.D., the preservation of the bones is singularly good, much better than that of Saxon infants' bones buried five or six centuries later."

The layer in which these skeletons were found was that into which all the Period I walls were built and consisted of the same dark clay with which the rubble foundations of these walls were packed. Consequently, the skeletons must either antedate or belong to Period I. The fact that the surrounding clay showed no signs of having been disturbed for their interment has little significance; for some faint indication of disturbance may be logically assumed and must have been overlooked. Furthermore, the levelling which probably took place when the floor was laid down would in all likelihood have removed such evidence as would, if it existed, have proved the burials to have antedated the room. The lack of apparent disturbance, however, shows that the burials cannot have



PLATE VI. Room III, showing two infant burials and part of the cranium of the third.

been introduced during the first occupation of the villa, for had this been so, the surrounding clay would have been noticeably mixed. There remains the possibility that they may have been foundation burials; and this possibility becomes a probability when the position of the skeletons is taken into account. Two of them lay parallel with and close up to the south and east walls respectively; positions which can scarcely be accounted for by accident. The original position of the third was not established, for its bones were considerably scattered. This raises the subject of foundation burials, an interesting question, for although many infant burials have been found both inside and in the vicinity of buildings, few, if any of them, can be said to be foundation burials. Only two form possible analogies, No. 10 at Verulamium, of which Dr. R. E. M. Wheeler writes: "It would be rash to assume that the interment was in any real sense a foundation-burial, but its coincidence with the building may be noted;"<sup>4</sup> and one which was found by Miss Kenyon, at Wroxeter in 1937, but in this case the child appears to have been about nine months old.<sup>5</sup> The question of the significance of foundation burials in general and of the Saunderton burials in particular, must remain open, for in this case they may mean no more than that the children died at the time of construction. Both Juvenal (*Sat.*: XV, 139) and Pliny (*Hist. Nat.*: VII, 15) testify to the Roman custom of burying babies, who died before teething, within the city limits; excavations illustrate their writings and show that they were often buried inside the houses. The custom was also applied to the conditions of country life, for infant burials have been found at Hambleden, Ickleton and Chesterfield, within the villa precincts. This was a strange practice, considering that there was little to hinder them from being buried outside.

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<sup>4</sup> *Verulamium*, p. 138-139.

<sup>5</sup> *Exc. at Wroxeter*, 1937.



## PERIOD II

During Period II the building was altered to consist of three large rooms, Nos. 1, 2 and 3, a corridor, and one small room, No. 4, in the south west corner, an unorthodox plan for a villa, if such it continued to be. Almost complete demolition of the Period I building must have taken place to allow for these alterations. Thickening of the main walls was a characteristic feature of the Period II building. This was probably the result of a need for greater strength to compensate for the abolition of many early walls. It is probable that in Period II there was no form of heating. During this period the double "T" furnace was filled in and sealed by a floor which was twice relaid owing to a sag caused by insufficient packing beneath it: The hypocaust, too, may have been filled in and paved with chalk cobbles; no evidence, however, indicates whether this took place during Period II or III. Only the weight of probability would seem to be in favour of Period II, for it was the period of the most extensive alterations; nevertheless, the Period III reconstructions were exclusively of chalk, as was the remainder of the floor sealing the hypocaust. It is possible, however, that the question does not arise, for Periods II and III may be synonymous.

*Room 1.* A substantial brick floor covered Room 1.

*Room 2.* Beneath the floor of Room 2, two large sarsen stones were found. Possibly there were more, for the whole room could not be cleared. They may have been intended to carry extra weight.

*The Thickening of the Walls and the Courtyard.* During Period II, two of the outer walls were thickened, while the north wall and probably the east wall remained unchanged. Part of the thickened west wall alone remained; that to the south was represented by two adjacent cuts through the natural clay into which the wall foundations had been built. The east wall was represented by a robber trench which was both well defined and narrow, and which, there-

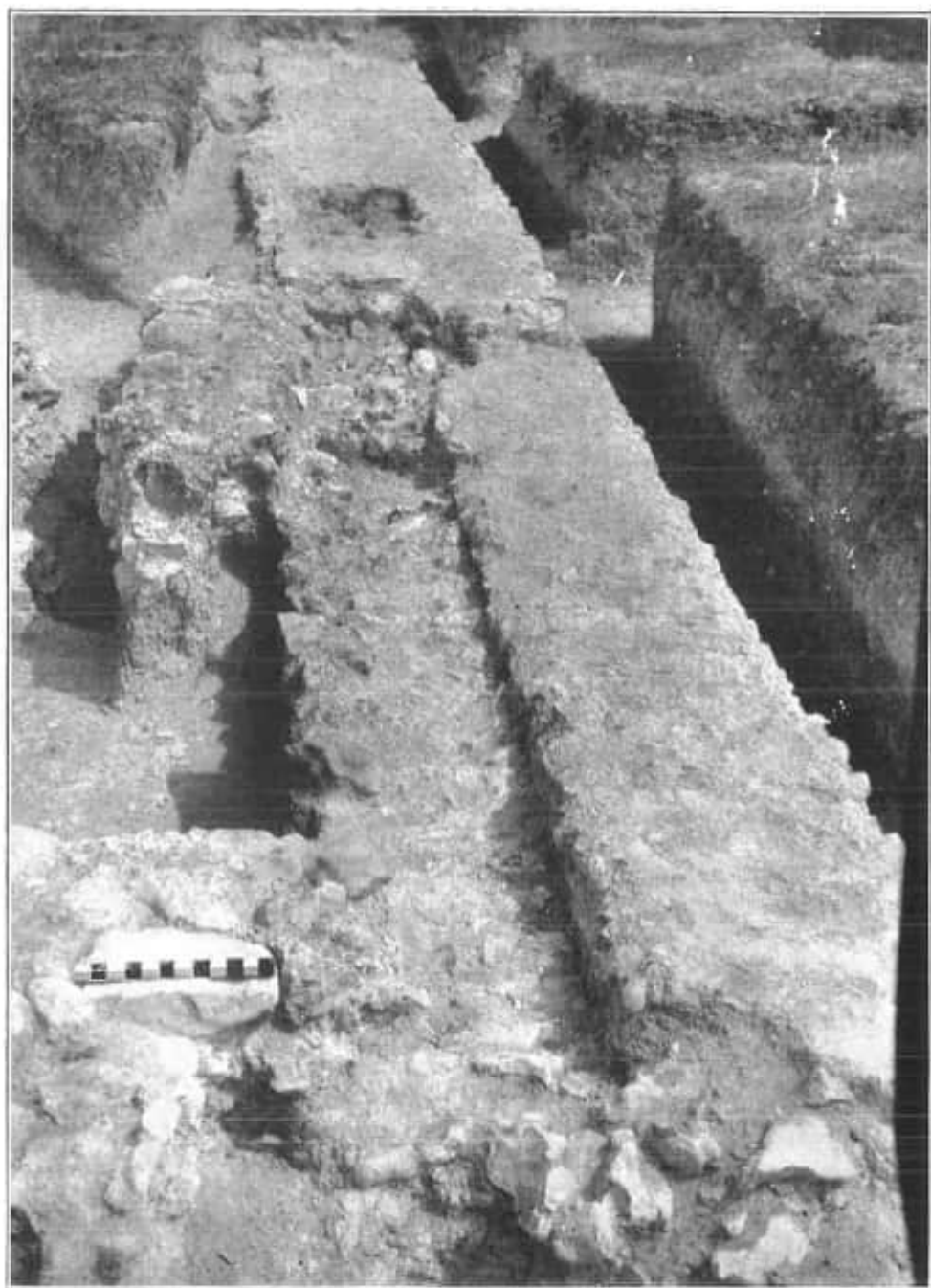


PLATE VII. Wall separating Rooms 1, 2 and 3 from the Corridor and Room 4, looking east and showing two periods of thickening.



PLATE VIII. Period III. chalk wall.

fore, indicates that it remained unchanged in Period II. Inside the building the wall separating Rooms 1 and 2 was thickened on the west side, and that between the corridor and Room 4 and Rooms 1, 2 and 3 (Plate VII) on the south side except at the western extremity where it stopped, thus making Room 4 into a reversed "L".

Outside the corridor an irregular mass of flint cobbles, petering out into a thin floor level, probably marks the site of a porch and courtyard. A widening of the foundation trench of the outside thickening wall running east from a point approximately two feet inside the western limit of the cobbles indicates that at the eastern end a more complete reconstruction of the wall took place.

### PERIOD III

When considering this period it must be remembered that the chalk walls representing it may actually be contemporary with Period II, in which case two additional small rooms must be attributed to the Period II house. Nevertheless, for descriptive purposes these walls will be referred to as Period III and are marked on the plan as such; for the style of their workmanship makes a different period probable. In any case, the inferiority of their material and construction points to their purpose having been of a subsidiary nature. During this hypothetical period the wall separating Room 2 from the corridor (Plate VII) was again thickened, this time on the opposite side and by the chalk wall which blocked the cross-stroke of the south arm of the Double "T" furnace. Only a fragment of this thickening remained, but the foundations of the chalk wall which ran across Room II joined it at right angles. Further north a substantial piece of the north to south wall, just mentioned as running across Room II, remained (Plate VIII), and from it ran a wall to join the west wall of Room II, thus forming two additional small rooms,

In conclusion, therefore, we have a building dating from the mid second century, rebuilt at the end of the third and probably altered at an even later date. Furthermore, there is evidence indicating an earlier occupation of a site, which must be in the neighbourhood and which should prove a profitable field for further investigation when it has been successfully located.

#### SMALL FINDS

The small finds were for the most part insignificant. Only two, the fragment of Kimmeridge shale illustrated in Fig. 1, and a small bit of stamped tile deserve mention. The shale appears to be a chip off a piece of furniture, and is similar to a fragment found at Biscot, near Luton, which is now in the Luton Public Museum. Both fragments are decorated with concentric circles, similar to those found on shale tablets at Rothley and Jordan Hill.<sup>6</sup> The tile was stamped with what appears to be a zigzag motif.

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<sup>6</sup> Pitt-Rivers, *Excavations at Cranborne Chase*, Vol: I, p. 174-6.

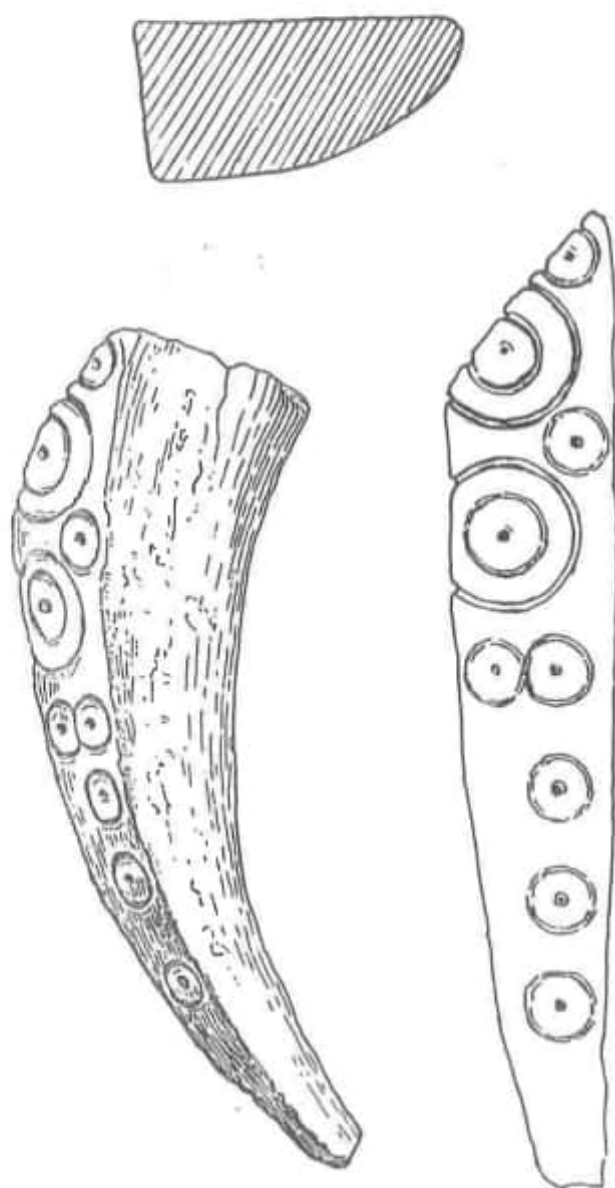


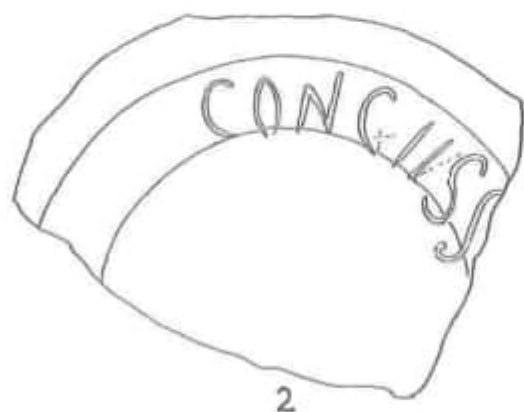
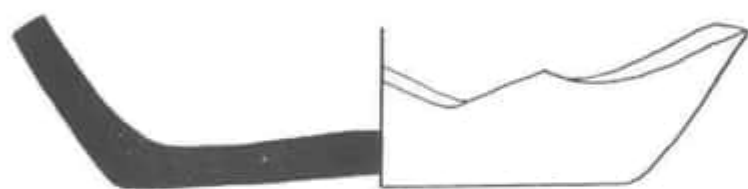
FIG. 1. Decorated Kimmeridge,  
Shale Fragment. Scale  $\frac{2}{1}$

GRAFFITI (Fig. 2 and Fig. 7, No. 19).

Two sherds bearing graffiti were found, and these were submitted to Dr. Felix Oswald, F.S.A., who returned the following tentative readings:—

1. On the base of the grey urn the inscription might be read "CONGIVS S" although both the second stroke of the "V" and the cross stroke of the "G" are thin. It might then be read "CONGIVS SEMIS", half a congius (2.88 pints), and it is possible that an urn of this kind, which may be Antonine, might have held this quantity of liquid.

2. The graffiti on the yellow jug is possibly "PPX" repeated, but there may be an additional "V" or "X", "PP." might stand for the plural of "PONDIVS" and "PPX" might mean 10 librae or pounds, possibly of honey (1 Roman lb. = 12 ozs. a.d.p.).

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



## THE ILLUSTRATED SAMIAN WARE, Fig. 3

BY  
J. A. STANFIELD

No. 1 (Pryce No. 1) is Dragendorff, form 24, of the smaller size. The glaze is good without being lustrous, and the workmanship is very neat. An uncommon feature is the separate sharp angle, under the projecting flange, at the junction with the curved wall of the bowl. Date, Claudius-Nero.

No 2 (Pryce No. 16) is Dragendorff, form 15. Like No. 1 the glaze is good but not glossy, and the workmanship neat with mouldings clearly cut. Date, Claudius-Nero.

The remaining three pieces are of Dragendorff, form 37, and are all of different dates.

No. 3 (Pryce No. 4) comes from the Central Gaulish potteries, probably Vichy. The fragment has been burnt a dark brown, but has retained its fairly high glaze. To the left is part of the wing of the large eagle, Déchelette 978. In the middle is a wavy or zig-zag ridge on which are set two little beaded bowls, generally referred to as "crowns". On another zig-zag line to the right are the bird, Déchelette 1009 and the bow and quiver, Déchelette 1104. All these ornaments constantly occur on the bowls of a potter who used the double-D monogram, Class I, a notable example having been found at Brecon. Another example is the bowl at the British Museum (Walters C.R.P., M. 1148) on which the double-D monogram, the bow and quiver, and the "crowns" all occur. The eagle is restored from a fragment by the same potter in the Guildhall Museum, London.

No. 4 (Pryce No. 5) is of Lezoux manufacture and has a lightish-red glaze, tending to flake, and poor moulding. The ovolo ornament is composed of complete ovals with a central vertical depression and a single border, the intervening "tassels" being devoid of rosettes. To the left is the poorly-designed triton, Déchelette 18, and to the right the bearded mask, Déchelette 711. The bowl could only have been made by LIBERTVS or BVTRIO, every element of decoration mentioned having been used by both. Date, Trajan.<sup>7</sup>

No. 5 (Pryce No. 8) is also from Lezoux, and has a good glaze. The well-moulded, slender ovolo with ringed tassel, the row of small beads and the tripod, Déchelette 1068, were all used both by PATERNVS and CENSORINVS, but I have not found the bird, Déchelette 1009, reversed, on the work of the latter potter, so that the fragment is more likely to be by PATERNVS. Date, Hadrian.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> For varying dating of No. 4 and No. 5, see Report by Dr. T. Davies Pryce, in which Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are Nos. 1, 16, 4, 5 and 8 respectively.

## GENERAL REPORT ON THE SAMIAN WARE

BY

DR. T. DAVIES PRYCE, F.S.A.

*Stratified evidence for dating Period I.*

1. Fig. 3, No. 1. Two fragments. Form 24/25. Good early dull glaze. Pre-Flavian; might well be Claudian.
2. Wall and Rim. Form 27. Nero-Vespasian.
3. Two fragments. Form 29 or 37. Straight wreath below a fine wavy line. Design closed by festoon containing rosette of early type. Nero-Vespasian, or Early Flavian.
4. Fig. 3, No. 3. Fragment. Form 37. Partly burnt. Good workmanship. Crowns and bow and arrow or quiver on sharp zigzag lines. Compare J.R.S., XXV, Pl. XIV, 14, 18, 19; XVI, 1. Trajanic, possibly early Hadrianic.
5. Fig. 3, No. 4. Fragment. Form 37. High plain band. Negligent work. Ovolo composed of circles and rod-like Tongues OIOIOI after the manner of the Trajan-Hadrian potters LIBERTUS and BUTRIO. Rarely this type of ovolo occurs in the work of the Hadrian-Antonine potter CINNAMUS. The neat wavy line beneath the ovolo suggests early work, i.e., that of the Hadrianic period. Period, Hadrian-Antonine, C. A.D. 130-150.
6. Base. Form 31. Hadrian-Antonine.
7. Base. Form 31. Hadrian-Antonine.
8. Fig. 3, No. 5. Fragment. Form 37. Good ovolo, the tongue of which has a small annular termination (C. F. Newstead II, p. 221, 1). Remains of a demi-medallion. Demarcation by upright bead and reel line, as often met with in the work of ALBUCTUS and other Hadrianic-Antonine potters. Period, Early Antonine, C. A.D. 150.
9. Rim and wall. Form 33. Lip defined internally. Probably first half of 2nd century.
10. Fragment. Form 18/31. First half of 2nd century.
11. Fragment. Form 37. Dolphin of Antonine type.
12. Fragment. Form 33. 2nd century Antonine.
13. Rim. Form 31 or 37. 2nd century; probably Antonine.
14. Rim, Form 18/31 or 31. 2nd century.

*Unstratified Samian Ware.*

15. Fragment. Form 18. Early dull glaze. Pre-Flavian; might well be Claudian.
16. Fig. 3, No. 2. Fragment. Form 15/17. Early dull glaze. Short, relatively upright and tall, as in early examples. The rim has a gentle "inbend", a characteristic of many examples of Form 17. (Cf. O & P. XLII, 4, 7 and 8). Pre-Flavian, might well be Claudian.
17. Fragment. Form 18. Good glaze. Probably Pre-Flavian.
18. Wall and Rim. Form 18. Good glaze. Curved wall, neat lip. Pre-Flavian.
19. Wall and Fragment. Form 18. Probably Pre-Flavian.
20. Fragment. Form 18? Probably Pre-Flavian.
21. Wall and Rim. Ritt. 12. Late example. Nero-Vespasian or early Flavian.
22. Wall and Rim. Form 18. Flavian, probably early.
23. Fragment. 1st century.
24. Fragment. 1st century.
25. Fragment. Probably 1st century.
26. Wall. Form 33. Concave externally. Late 1st or early 2nd century.
27. Wall and Rim. Form 27. Late 1st or early 2nd century.
28. Base. Form 33. Stamp? MASCVSF. Probably MASCVVS of Domitian-Trajan age.
29. Base. Form 18. (Cf. O. & P. XLV, 16, Newstead I). Domitian-Trajan.
30. Footstand and Base. Probably early 2nd century.
31. Rim. Form 38. 2nd century.
32. Rim of globular vessel (Cf. O. & P. LXXIX). 2nd century.
33. Footstand and Base. Form 31. Coarsely rouletted ring. Mid 2nd century.
34. Wall and Base. Form 31. Mid 2nd century.
35. Wall and Rim. Form 31. Mid 2nd century.
36. Wall and Rim. Form 32 (Cf. O. & P. LXIII). Mid to late 2nd century.
37. Wall and Rim. Form 32, variant (Cf. O. & P. LXVIII, 9), Period as No. 22.
38. Base. Form 33. Heavy ware. Mid to late 2nd century.

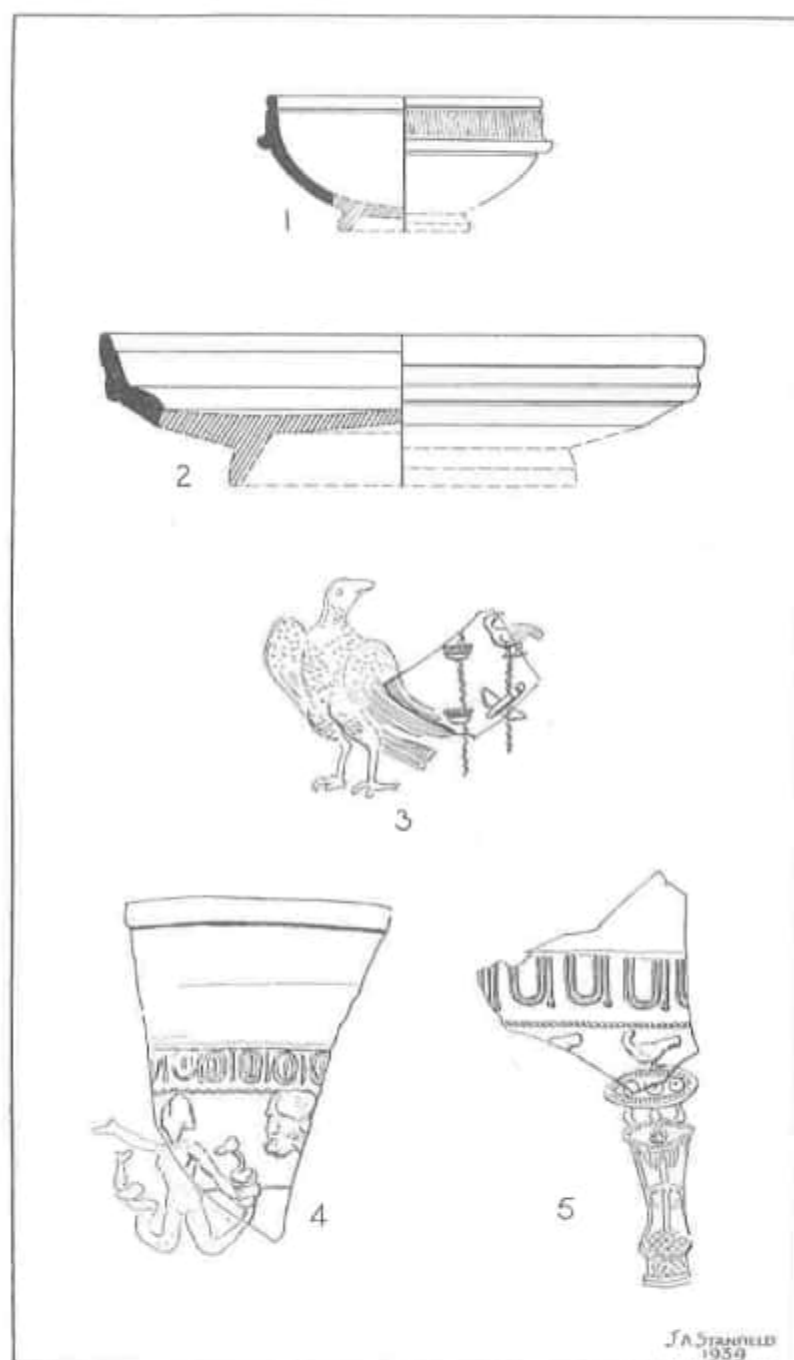
FIG. 3. Samian Ware. *Scale*  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

FIG 3. Samian Ware. Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
*Stratified Coarse Pottery, Period I (Fig. 4).*

1. Mortaria, Buff clay. Rim folded back on the wall of the bowl, probably a development from No. 1, Abb. 78 "Das Fruhrömische Lager bei Hoffheim", Ritterling.

2. Beaker. Orange-buff clay and slip, rouletted. This is an unusually straight-sided specimen of a type similar to one found at Caerhun. Late first century, early second century. *Archæologia Cambrensis*, Vol. LXXXIX, Part 1, Fig. 34, No. 427.

3. Beaker with everted rim. Hard grey clay. Common second century type.

4. Small Beaker. Reddish clay with purple-brown slip and stamped design of oblique parallel lines. The design is unusual, but the small beaker is not uncommon. London Museum, A. 10590. Late first century from Lombard Street.

*Stratified Coarse Pottery, Period II (Fig. 5).*

5. Pie Dish. Hard grey ware. Late third or fourth century. A.J. Vol. XVIII. Report on Lockleys. Fig. 9, No. 12.

6. Large black vesiculated storage vessel.

7. Olla. Black, vesiculated ware with horizontal rilling on the shoulder, circa 300 A.D. In Leicester, these occur in very late third or early fourth century levels.

*Unstratified Coarse Pottery (Fig. 6).*

8. Mortaria with deeply undercut flange. Buff clay.

9. Mortaria. Red clay with grey core and red slip decorated with rouletting. Late third or fourth century. Richborough, I. Pl. XXVIII, No. 99. Silchester. Pl. LVI, No. 103.

10. Flanged bowl. Brick coloured clay with grey core and red slip. Imitation Samian, Form 38. Decorated with rouletting. Late third to fourth century. Collingwood, Fig. 54, No. 32. Richborough, I. Pl. XXVIII Nos. 109-111.

11. Wide bowl. Buff clay covered with golden-brown paint. Form, Samian, 36. Late third to fourth century. Silchester, Pl. XLVIII, No. 57. Richborough II, Pl. XXXII, No. 178.

12. Pie Dish with narrow flattish rim, sides decorated with intersecting hoops. Very common in the mid-second century. Collingwood, Fig. 54, Nos. 44-45.

13. Mortaria, flanged. Buff clay. Wroxeter I, Type 146.

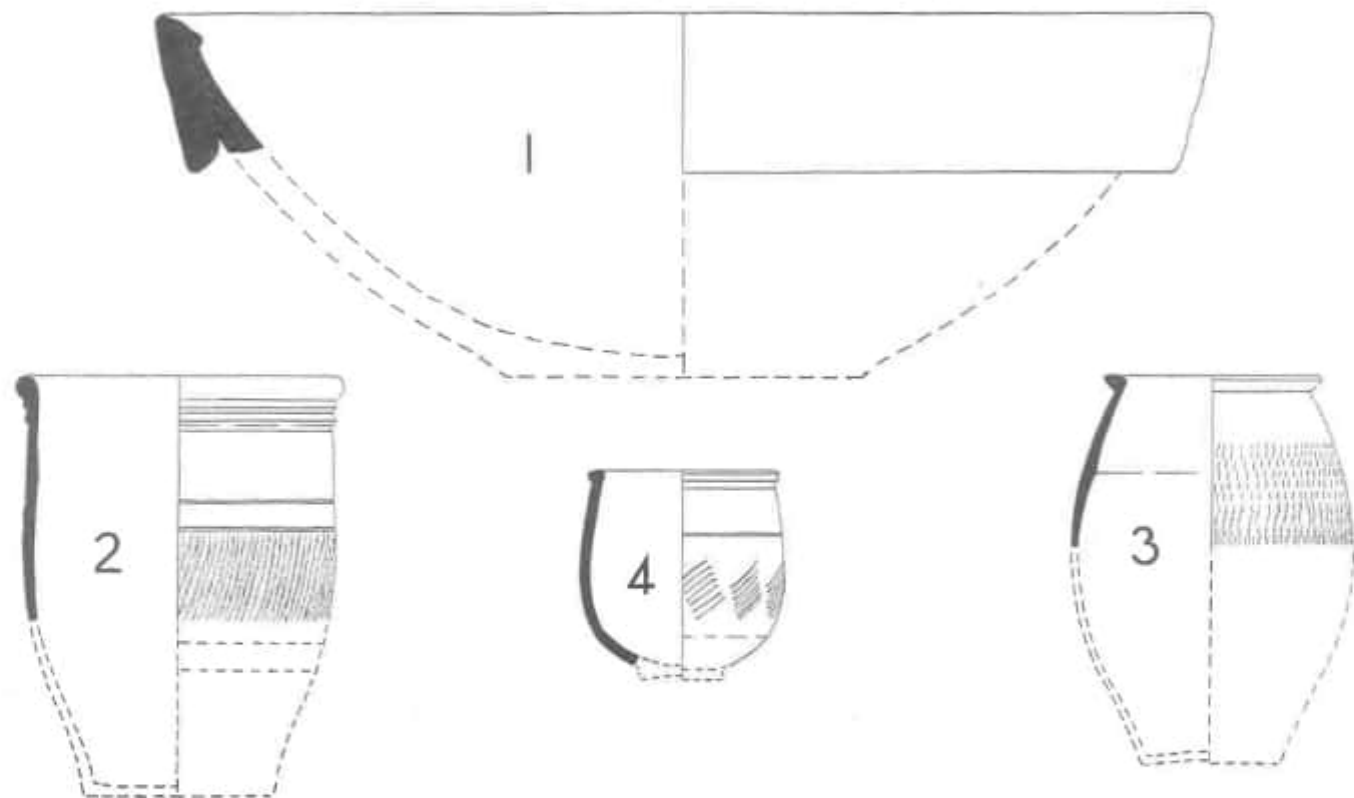


FIG. 4. Stratified Coarse Pottery. Period I. *Scale, one-half, and not  $\frac{1}{2}$  in accordance with Figs. 6 and 7.*

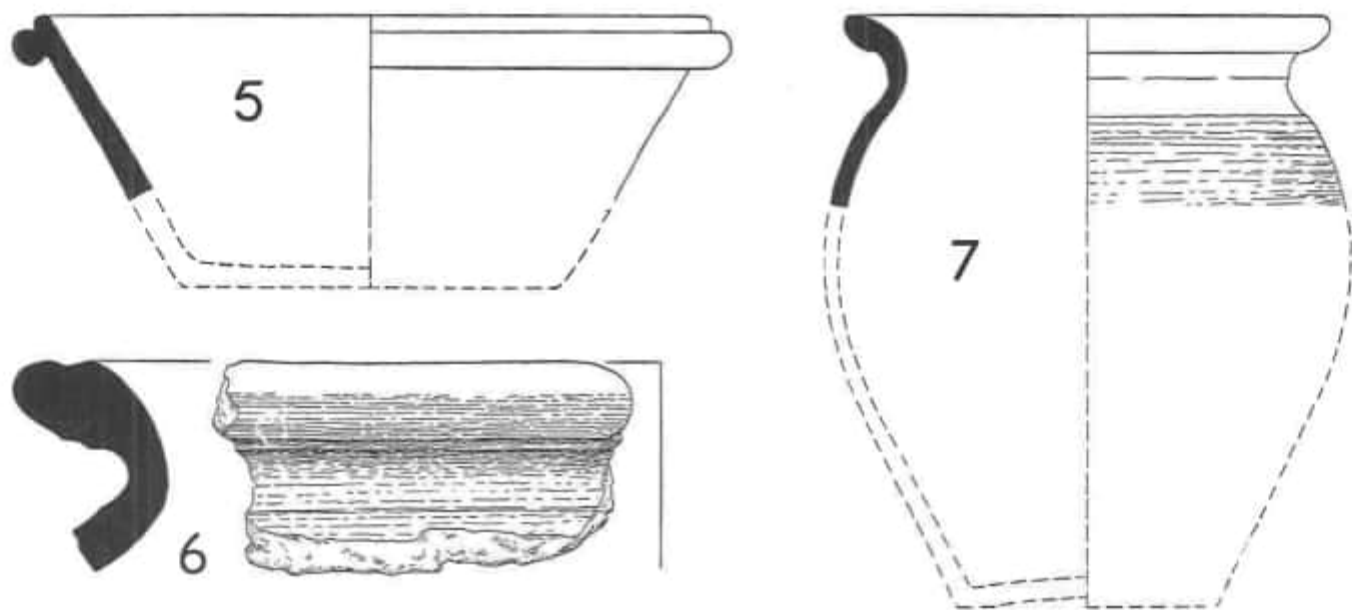


FIG. 5. Stratified Coarse Pottery. Period II. Scale, one-half, and not  $\frac{1}{4}$  in accordance with Figs. 6 and 7.

*Unstratified Pottery (Fig. 7).*

14. Dish or Bowl. Red clay and slip. Imitation Samian form Ludovici (Tk). Probably late third or fourth century. Richborough II, Pl. XXXII, No. 174.

15. Miniature ring-necked jug. Buff clay. The short expanding neck is normal to the period 120-150 A.D. Miniature jugs are uncommon. Verulamium, p. 196, Fig. 35, No. 67.

16. Mask-mouthed flagon. Reddish-clay with grey core and orange slip. Probably late third or fourth century. Colchester Pottery, p. 115-6. Pl. LXIII, No. 301 and Pl. XLI, Nos. 138 and 140. Richborough II. Pl. XXXIII, No. 184.

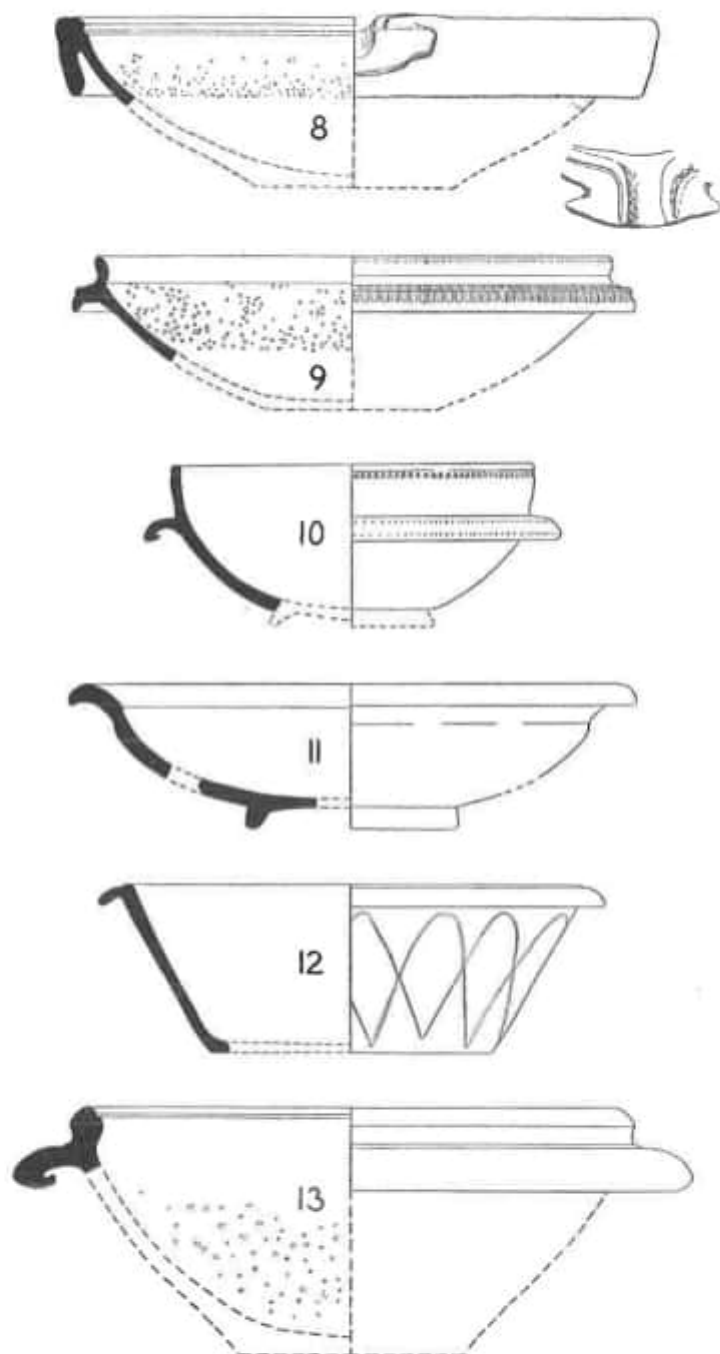
17. Small Pot. Buff clay decorated with horizontal circles of red-brown paint on the shoulder. This decoration is similar to that found on a common fourth century ware, e.g., Arch. LXXXIV, Verulamium Theatre, Fig. 11, No. 24, but the shape is different.

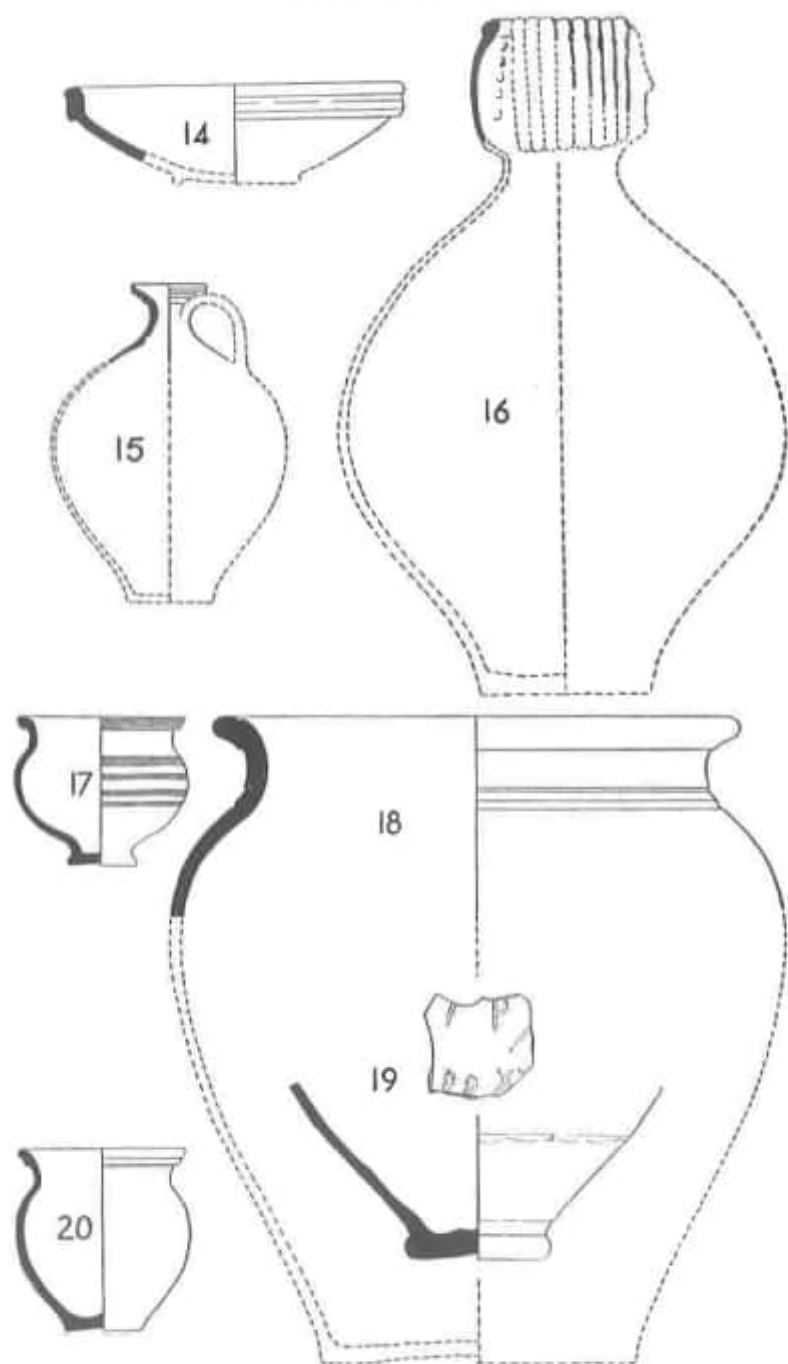
18. Large jar. Hard grey ware. Probably second century.

19. Jug with graffiti (see p.        and Fig. 2).

20. Small Jar. Buff clay, smoky at the base.



FIG. 6. Unstratified Coarse Pottery. Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

FIG 7. Unstratified Pottery. Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

## THE ROMAN COINS

## REPORT BY

B. H. St. J. O'NEIL, M.A., F.S.A.

1. TETRICUS II. (A.D. 270-3).  
*Obv.* (C P(IV) E (SV) TETRICVS) CAES.  
 Youthful bust radiate, draped, right.  
*Rev.* Illegible.  
 Female figure, left. Antoninianus.
2. CONSTANTINE I. (A.D. 306-37).  
*Obv.* CONSTANTINOPOLIS  
 Bust of Constantine, helmeted, left.  
*Rev.* No legend.  
 Victory, left.  
*Mint.* — (Aquileia).  
AQS  
 3 Æ A.D. 330-7.
3. CONSTANTINE II (as Caesar). (A.D. 317-40).  
*Obv.* CONSTANTINVS IVN NOB C  
 Bust laureate, draped, cuirassed, right.  
*Rev.* GLORIA EXERCITVS  
 Two soldiers; between them two standards.  
*Mint.* — (Trièr). 3 Æ A.D. 330-5. C.122.<sup>8</sup>  
TRP  
 Condition: good.
4. CONSTANTIUS II (as Caesar). (A.D. 324-61).  
*Obv.* FL IVL CONSTANTIVS NOB C  
 Bust, laureate, draped, cuirassed, right.  
*Rev.* GLORIA EXERCITVS  
 Two soldiers; between them one standard.  
*Mint.* — (Trièr). 3 Æ A.D. 333-7. C. 92.  
TRS  
 Condition: fair (die worn).
5. VALENS (A.D. 364-78).  
*Obv.* (D N VALEN)/S P F AVG  
 Bust laureate, draped, cuirassed, right.  
*Rev.* (SECVRITAS)/REIPVBLICAE  
 Victory, left.  
*Mint.* Illegible, 3 Æ A.D. 365-78.  
 Condition: poor and worn.

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<sup>8</sup> C—Cohen, *Monnaies frappées sous l'empire romain*, 2nd Edition,

## THE GEOLOGY OF SAUNDERTON

NOTE BY

KENNETH P. OAKLEY, Ph.D., F.G.S.

The Saunderton "Villa" is situated on the outcrop of the marls of the Lower Chalk at an elevation of 400 feet above O.D. It lies on the south-west side of the Risborough Gap, and less than half a mile to the north of an important pre-Roman traffic route—the Upper Icknield Way. It is perhaps noteworthy, too, that the "villa" has been built close to the spring-line determined by the impervious marls which underlie the Totternhoe Stone in the Lower Chalk. Several springs arise immediately to the south and south-west of the site.

The wall-footings of the house had been constructed mainly of roughly trimmed nodules of flint, although blocks of hard chalk had also been utilised to a limited extent for internal construction. The Lower Chalk, which is the immediate country rock, is devoid of flints in situ. The nearest source of fresh flint is the Upper Chalk exposed on the higher ground a mile or so to the south-east. However, there is a scatter of weathered flint nodules on the surface of the Lower Chalk in this region. Many of the nodules used in the wall-footings have some weathered, naturally fractured surfaces, so that it is possible that this building material was largely scavenged from the soil of the surrounding land. The small blocks of chalk may have been obtained in the same way; they are clearly derived from the hard beds which overlie the Chalk Marl to the south-east of the site.

Two large weathered blocks of pinkish-brown siliceous sandstone occurred amongst the foundations of the "villa." These are *sarsens*, ultimately derived from the Reading Beds, and let down on to the surface of the Lower Chalk through the disappearance of higher beds by solution and general denudation. Although this must be about the most westerly occurrence of "Reading" *sarsens* in the Chilterns, there is no suggestion that they have been transported from any great distance. Several other blocks, bearing no relation to the "villa", occur in and around Saunderton.

## NOTE ON THE MOLLUSCA

Snail shells found in the course of the excavations were submitted to Mr. A. S. Kenward, A.L.S., who identified them as follows:—

<i>Arianta arbustorum</i> (Linn.)	...	...	3
<i>Cepaea nemoralis</i> (Linn.)	...	...	4
<i>Helix aspersa</i> Müll	...	...	1

The presence of *Arianta arbustorum* is evidence of damp ground. *Helix aspersa* is the large edible snail almost invariably found on Roman sites.

Oyster shells, in common with many other Romano-British sites, were numerous.

## THE VERTEBRATE REMAINS

NOTE BY

DOROTHEA M. A. BATE

This collection is a small one, and the specimens are generally in a fragmentary state of preservation. Remains of seven species have been identified, but the great bulk of the collection consists of portions of skulls, jaws and limb bones of Ox. This is a medium sized animal of *B. longifrons* type with moderately short and curved horns. Two complete metapodials have a maximum length of a little over 18 cm., but other specimens evidently achieved a somewhat greater size.

The following is a list of the species identified:—

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. <i>Canis</i> sp.                 | Dog or Wolf.<br>Represented by the crown of a right lower canine, which is probably that of a large dog.                                 |
| 2. <i>Sus scrofa</i>                | Pig.<br>Represented by three or four pieces of jaws with teeth.  |
| 3. <i>Capreolus capreolus</i>       | Roe Deer.<br>Represented by a single shed antler.  |
| 4. Sheep or Goat                    | Represented by a few fragmentary jaws, and limb bones.   |
| 5. <i>Bos</i> cf. <i>longifrons</i> | Ox of medium size.<br>Represented by imperfect skulls, isolated teeth and limb bones.  |
| 6. <i>Equus</i> cf. <i>caballus</i> | Horse.<br>Represented by a single incisor.   |
| 7. <i>Gallus</i> sp.                | Domestic Fowl.<br>Represented by a humerus, a medium sized tarso-metatarsus with a moderate spur, and by two tarso-metatarsi of pullets. |

## THE CHARCOALS

NOTE BY

J. C. MABY, B.Sc.

The charcoals are in unusually good condition. Only two species are represented:—

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Hazel ( <i>Corylus avellana</i> ).         | Wood from medium-sized branches or coppice - shoots of small diameter. One transversely cut. Three specimens.  |
| Common European Oak ( <i>Quercus</i> sp.). | From small branches, three specimens.<br>From large branches near bark, three specimens.<br>Ditto, rather knotty, mature wood of some large bole. Evidently chipped by axe. One specimen.<br>Ditto, naturally fractured. Five specimens. |

The last two lots of mature oak wood are well grown, and might have been derived from large constructional timbers. The other specimens are all small, and the oak specimens are poor, weak timber, brushwood or fencing material, perhaps.

Among a further batch of charcoals obtained from the excavations, Mr. G. Tandy, of the Botany Department, British Museum of Natural History, was able to identify one specimen as probably being Willow (*Salix* sp.).