



Durobrivae

A Review of Nene Valley
Archaeology: 3
1975



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Editor's Note

The rising costs of printing and paper have compelled us, with regret, to raise the price of *Durobrivae*.

There has been no lack of material to include in this number of our Review. It has been our policy to give preference to reports on current excavations; the brief selection of small finds published here is far from a balanced picture. Only the final publications of current work — and imaginative museum display — can make these properly accessible to everyone.

John Peter Wild

Nene Valley Research Committee

The Nene Valley Research Committee wishes to record once more its thanks to the Peterborough Development Corporation Design Group for practical help with the design and layout of the Review. Credit should also be given to: Miss C. Bates for fig. 12; the Trustees of the British Museum for fig. 3; Mrs J. Coombs for fig. 10; Mr B. Howes for fig. 7; the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (Mr. C. C. Taylor) for fig. 11; Mr. S. G. Upex for fig. 14.

The cover shows Roman coins from the Waternewton Hoard (see page 10).

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The Year's Work: 1974

by John Peter Wild

The pace of housing and industrial development in the New Town of Greater Peterborough has quickened considerably in 1974. The first new township, that at Bretton, is well established and a start has been made on the second township in the Ortons, south of the river. The opening of the long-awaited second bridge across the Nene now provides a direct link between the two.

The pace of archaeological exploration has accelerated, too. So far, the Nene Valley Research Committee has managed to keep abreast, if not ahead, of new development. No major archaeological site has had to be consciously sacrificed — yet. Inevitably, however, an increasingly heavy burden has been placed on our present resources of manpower and money.

Despite the bleak economic outlook, two points give us cause for some satisfaction.

When plans were laid for an Archaeological Establishment in 1970, the Committee envisaged employing a Director of Excavations, supported by a number of assistants and technicians. Mr D. F. Mackreth was appointed Director in 1972, and he was supported by Mr A. Challands, Archaeological Field Officer to the Peterborough Development Corporation. Mr Challands, while remaining an employee of the Corporation, has now been seconded to the Committee in the capacity of Assistant Director with special responsibility for technical services. At the end of 1974 the Committee felt itself financially able to recruit three new members of staff. Miss Carolyn Dallas was appointed Assistant Director with responsibility for archaeological fieldwork, and Miss Sarah Jennings was appointed Finds Assistant. To study and publish some of the environmental material from excavations Mrs Gay Wilson was appointed Palaeobotanist to the Committee. The augmented staff is now in a much better position to cope with the publication of the results of archaeological fieldwork and the excavations planned for 1975-76.

The need for a permanent field-centre was again felt acutely in 1974. Consultations took place between the Nene Valley Research Committee and the local authorities in the Peterborough Archaeological Working Group and it was agreed that Ham House, Orton Longueville, would be the ideal spot for such a centre. The house is owned by Peterborough Development Corporation who are prepared to lease it to the Committee.

A detailed scheme is now being drawn up by the Director of Excavations and the relevant departments of the Development Corporation for conversion of the existing building (stage I) and the addition of further structures north of it (stage II). The Development Corporation has offered generous financial support for the scheme, and building work is expected to begin early in 1975. In the meantime premises in Padholme Road, the former W. H. Smith's store in Exchange Street and Helpston Old School are serving as accommodation for study and storage.

A full excavation programme was carried out in 1974. Three teams were in the field throughout the year and other groups worked for shorter seasons on specific projects.

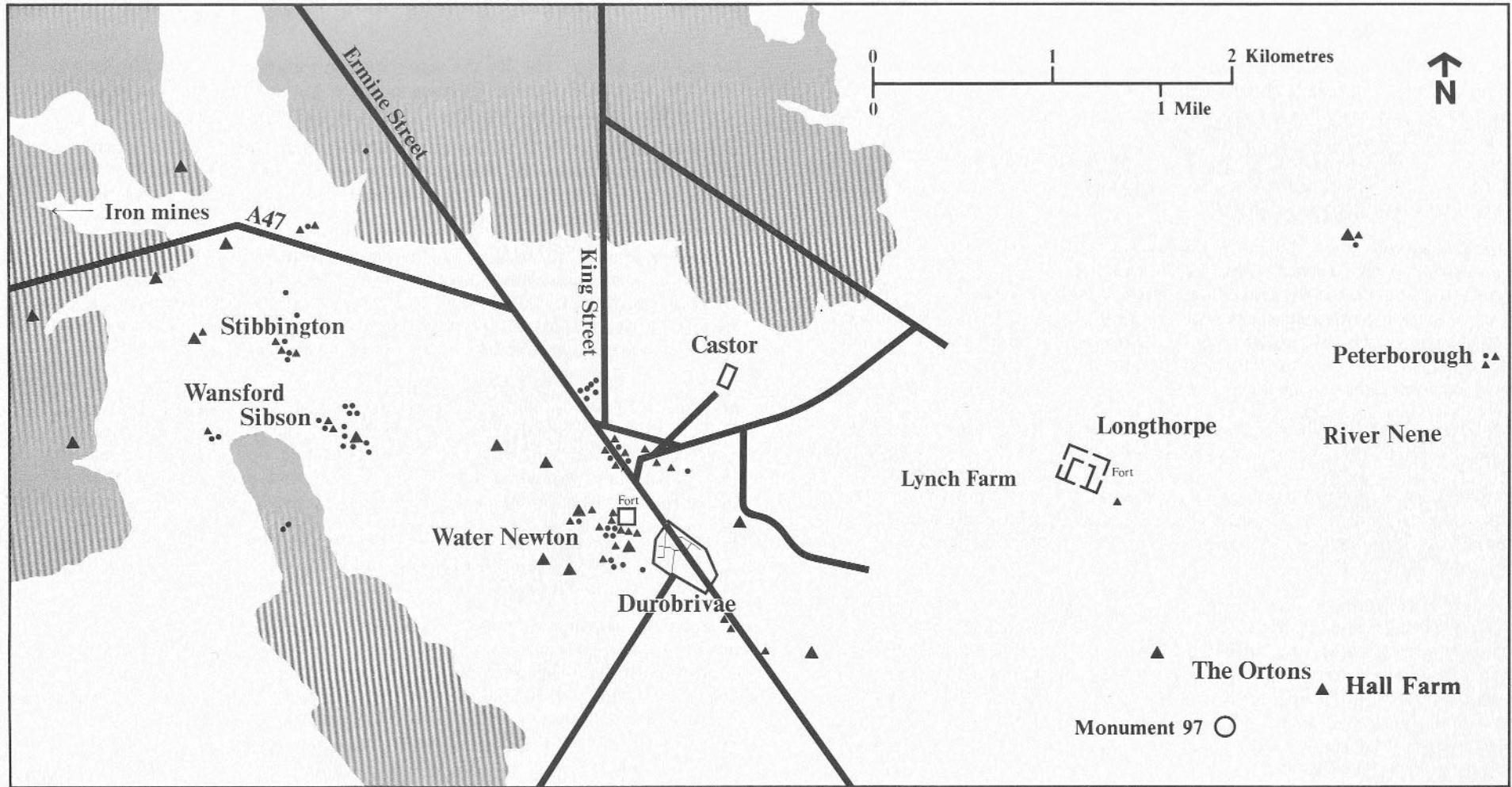
At *Fengate* the expedition from the Royal Ontario Museum led by Mr F. M. M. Pryor uncovered part of a complex field-system dating to the Middle Bronze Age (p. 7). The implications of the field-system for our appreciation, both of the technical ability of the Fengate community and of the character of their animal husbandry, are far-reaching and cast a new light on Bronze-Age society in eastern England.

A new site, potentially of equal importance to Fengate, has been discovered recently in the Peterborough area. Numerous flint cores and skillfully finished blades point to a late neolithic and early Bronze-Age settlement. There is at present no direct threat to the site.

At *Lynch Farm* (Site 1), Orton Longueville, Mr Challands brought his three-year campaign to a conclusion. The most notable find of 1974 was a pit containing a quantity of Beaker pottery and associated occupation material for which radiocarbon dates are being sought.

Road-works in the new *Orton* township early in 1974 appeared to threaten an isolated ring-ditch in Orton Longueville parish, discovered by aerial photography (TL 173958). Site prospection by Mr Challands and excavation by the Editor showed that nothing survived of it; but traces of late Iron-Age occupation were found instead.

Recent gravel-extraction on the Welland in *St Martins-Without*, Stamford, has brought to light fragmentary archaeological features of various dates. In December Mr Peter Donaldson began the investigation of a series of ring-ditches there for the Nene Valley Research Committee.



- Iron Age or Roman farm
- ▲ Roman building
- Potter's kiln
- Land over 100 feet (height)
- Roman roads

Fig 1 Map of the archaeological sites in the Nene Valley

Until 1974 no agricultural site with proven continuity from the Iron Age into the Roman period had been discovered in the Nene Valley — in striking contrast to the sites on the Welland. Miss Dallas' excavation of the Scheduled *Monument 97, Orton Longueville*, has provided, not just a site, but a type-site of this category (p. 26). In addition to the structural evidence for a Belgic farm the site has yielded rich organic deposits and some important groups of pottery.

The golf course near Thorpe Wood on the *Longthorpe* Scheduled Area was opened early in 1975. Easter 1974 was the last opportunity to complete the excavation of the early Roman pottery kilns east of the Longthorpe fortress, and a small excavation was directed there by Mr G. B. Dannell and the Editor (p. 18). While much remains to be learnt about the site, particularly about the pre-Roman occupation, the most vulnerable parts of it have been examined and the rest should be safe for the future.

The work of the Roman army was detected again this year at *Lynch Farm* (Site 2), where the excavation programme begun in 1972 was completed by Mr G. B. Dannell, M. R. Sauvaget and the Editor. Several periods of ditches were noted and assigned to a pre-Flavian date. They cut an Iron-Age pit-alignment. It is hoped that the most impressive features of this site will be conserved for display to the public in time for the opening of the Nene Park in 1978.

In *Castor* trial excavations were conducted along the line of the proposed Sutton Outfall Sewer by Mr Dannell and the Editor. To our relief, the line adopted proved to be clear of the main industrial complex in Normangate Field. Against Splash Dyke traces of Roman timber buildings came to light, but could not be completely excavated in 1974. At the eastern end of Castor parish no remains of the road leading to the Mill Hill villa were found to survive in the threatened sector, but a driveway leading to the so-called 'boathouse complex' of ditched fields was located and sectioned.

About 1 hectare (2.5 acres) of the late Roman farm at *Hall Farm*, Orton Longueville, has now been excavated by Mr D. F. Mackreth. The full plan contained three barns with ancillary structures and a series of possible stock-enclosures. Overlying this was found important evidence of Pagan Saxon occupation.

As a result of exploratory excavation by the Middle Nene Archaeological Group at *Ashton* near Oundle a new Roman small town can be added to

the growing list (p. 13). By the same token a putative villa must be struck off. The proposed Oundle by-pass poses a grave threat to the site; an appropriate large-scale excavation would be extremely costly.

In his latter years Mr E. T. Artis was able to demonstrate the importance of the Roman industrial settlement in the *Bedford Purlieus*. Mr J. A. Hadman and Mr S. G. Upex have reported on a pottery kiln recently found in that area and its products (p. 16).

Desultory excavation at *Helpston* over a period of years laid bare a small part of a substantial Roman villa examined first by Mr Artis. Before the site was backfilled in 1971, Mr C. C. Taylor of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments surveyed the site, and his plan with a commentary by Mr Challands is published in this number (p. 22).

In the Autumn of 1974 an excavation was carried out in *City Road*, Peterborough, by Miss C. Dallas, in the hope of locating the Saxon *burh* ditch. No such ditch was found; but instead an astonishing sequence of occupation levels was recorded. Several periods of Iron-Age and Roman settlement were identified, together with mediaeval pits and pottery ranging from the twelfth to the seventeenth century.

In the early modern sphere Richard Hillier has been active in recording some of Peterborough's threatened buildings — many of considerable architectural interest (p. 29).

One of the highlights of 1974 was the discovery of the Waternewton hoard (p. 10). We have long recognised that the Nene Valley was an exceptionally wealthy area in the Roman period; but it is rare that individual finds on formal archaeological excavations prove this. The hoard of fourth-century gold coins and their receptacles found in February 1974 near Durobrivae have many unusual features — over and above their intrinsic worth as bullion. While it is sad that the material cannot at present be exhibited in Peterborough, we must be thankful that the entire find and not just the coins is in the hands of the British Museum through the kindness of Mr R. H. Waterworth.

Definitive publication of completed excavations is now as urgent a matter as new emergency excavations. The final report on the excavation of the Roman fortress at Longthorpe (*Durobrivae* 2, 1974, 20f.) by Professors S. S. Frere and J. K. S. St Joseph has just been published in *Britannia* V, 1974, 1ff. A sequel on the associated pottery kilns and Iron-Age farm by Mr G. B. Dannell and the Editor will follow in *Britannia* VII.

Fengate 1971-1974

by Francis Pryor

The aim of the Fengate project is to try to discern the changing patterns of settlement and land use in the Fengate area. This is necessarily a complicated business and the brief account that follows has had to be somewhat oversimplified.

Ancient man chose to settle along the Fen Margins because they were an ideal spot from which to exploit both the Fens and the slightly higher flood-free land around the edge of the Fen Basin. Both areas had much to offer: the undrained Fens gave excellent summer grazing; there was peat for fuel, brackish water for salt-extraction, reeds for thatch, and fish, eels and wildfowl for food, particularly during the lean winter months. Such abundance was also to be found on the slightly higher, better drained, land where the Nene, the Ouse and the Welland flow into the western Fens. The gravel soils there can be readily tilled, while the rivers themselves are an important source of fresh water and a natural means of transport.

Thanks to aerial photographs and excavation, we know that the river valleys were extensively occupied from neolithic times onwards. Most of these river and Fen Edge gravels are covered by continuous archaeological sites, extending in the case of the Nene some 15-20 miles upstream from the Fens. Fengate can be seen to form a small part of the settlement spread on the western Fen Margin.

If occupation was continuous in space, it was probably also continuous in time; but it would be a mistake to regard such settlement as static. The pattern would have altered over time and space and would inevitably have involved a number of different, probably interrelated, modes of existence. My own feeling is that we should regard all prehistoric settlement in these areas as temporary, unless we can demonstrate permanence.

The First Arrivals

We know almost nothing about the local hunting and gathering groups that preceded the earliest farming communities in the area, but by analogy with sites excavated elsewhere it is safe to say that these mesolithic folk would have relied on fishing in the slowly forming Fens, while deer would have been hunted further inland. Such a way of life is hardly conducive to permanent settlement. Material possessions must be kept to a minimum, not through technical or cultural poverty, but because objects

become an unnecessary encumbrance when it is time to shift camp. Interestingly enough, these groups would probably have had more time for pursuits not directly concerned with obtaining food than the farming communities which followed them. Organised in family bands, their culture would have had an elaborately developed ritual and ceremonial side.

The Neolithic Settlers

Towards the end of the fourth millennium b.c. (the term b.c. is used here to indicate that the dates cited are based on uncalibrated radiocarbon determinations) the pollen record in the Fens shows a sudden and dramatic decline in the number of elm trees present. This 'elm decline' probably marks the beginning of land clearance and the start of agriculture in the area. The pollen evidence was given dramatic support by the discovery at Fengate in 1972 of a rectangular house of the earlier neolithic period (*Durobrivae* 1, 1973, 18ff.). This house, marked on fig. 2 by a star, is only large enough to have sheltered a family of parents and children. Evidence for their economy is slender, but I feel sure that the site was selected to be near the grazing in the Fens. The discovery of two flint sickle fragments, both with clear signs of use, might indicate that cereals were being harvested. The house is sufficiently substantial to have been occupied for several years without a break; it is not the kind of structure one would expect a nomadic group to erect.

The clearing of the forest was not, we know, achieved overnight and the Fen Margins would probably have been dotted with small homesteads of the type just described throughout most of the third millennium b.c. The pattern alters radically, however, towards the neolithic period, c.2000 b.c. Everything points to a massive population increase at this time. There is the first evidence for settlements of more than one family — if the sheer size of the sites is anything to go by. Rubbish-filled pits containing Peterborough and Beaker pottery were found during gravel-digging in the early years of this century. Unfortunately the conditions under which these discoveries were made means that it is now well-nigh impossible to distinguish individual settlements within the area as a whole. We may safely conclude, however, that more than one community was represented.

In 1973-74 we excavated a settlement (A on the plan) that was first

occupied by later neolithic people using Grooved Ware pottery. This site contains two areas of domestic activity, one encircled by a large ring-ditch, the other near a double-ditched driveway. The settlements are linked by two rectilinear enclosures. In addition to living areas we have been able to isolate flint-working and cooking areas. There is also evidence that we are dealing with more than an agglomeration of families and should perhaps think in terms of a community united to form a tribal group. There is no evidence for cereal crops and these people probably relied almost exclusively on animals. Cattle were the commonest species found and would probably have grazed in the Fens during the dry summer months, returning to Fengate only when the Fen water-levels rose. Land management by means of stock-enclosures would therefore be necessary to conserve the meagre winter pastures. Fishing and fowling were common amongst Fen Edge communities in mediaeval and modern times — and presumably in the neolithic, too. Wild cattle and deer were also hunted. The large numbers of arrowheads and projectile points found underline the importance of hunting in neolithic times (*Durobrivae* 2, 1974, 10ff.).

Despite the fact that the settlement areas have been accurately located, no late neolithic house-plans have yet been recovered. The settlement's fields remained in use until about 1300 b.c., when a far more elaborate series of enclosures came into being.

We know of at least one other rectilinear enclosure of this period (B), but its precise function is still uncertain. Isolated features are also found, some containing Grooved Ware, most containing Beaker pottery. So the seasonal pattern of settlement just described probably formed part of a much more complex system of land use.

Later Neolithic to Bronze Age

Around 1200 b.c. the Fen Edge was divided into a series of strip fields by paired ditches laid out at right angles to the Fens (ditches 1-15 on fig. 2). Excavation in 1971 and 1974 showed the land between the ditches

to be carefully divided into smaller enclosures, using the main ditches as a base. The system involves many driveways, so there can be little doubt that it was intended for animals from the outset. Again, the seasonal hypothesis would seem appropriate, but the very much larger scale of the operation would imply a greater degree of centralised authority than had been the case before.

The Iron Age

This field system had gone out of use by the fourth century b.c. It was replaced by a quite different settlement pattern involving pits and post-holes rather than linear ditches. Pottery of conventional early Iron-Age type is found in great quantities and there is good evidence for cereal cultivation and animal husbandry. At least one settlement of this period was found in the pre-war gravel pits settlement area; another was found in 1972 (C on the plan) and yet another in 1974 (D). The latter site yielded two circular house-foundation trenches, one of 10 metres, the other of 20 metres diameter. Iron-Age occupation became more widespread, and in the last century B.C. ditched fields appear once again.

The Romans

The transition to a Roman economy was gradual. We know of at least two farms of this period (E and F). Farm E is particularly interesting in that it is laid out facing **away** from the Fens. At the close of the Roman period there were widespread floods which deposited several feet of clay over the lower-lying parts of the site.

So far we have found no evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation. We have still to examine the documentary evidence relating to the mediaeval and later use of the site, which, like the much earlier hunter-gatherer period, should not be forgotten simply because the purely archaeological data are lacking.

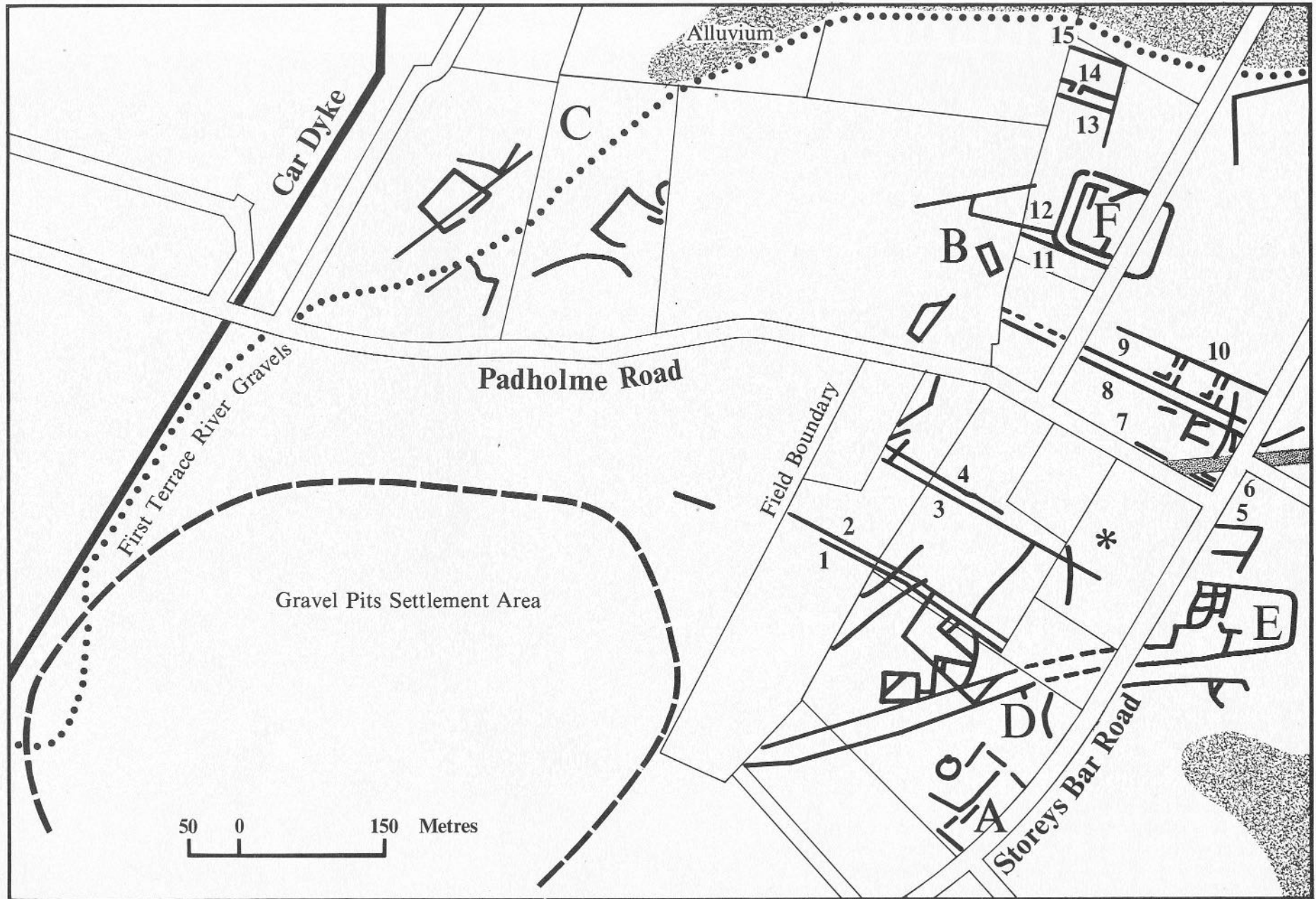


Fig 2 Fengate: the archaeological sites

The Waternewton Hoard

by Catherine Johns and Robert Carson

On 24th February 1974 a most interesting Roman find of the mid fourth century was made in a field some 200 metres from the A1 road at Waternewton. A pottery bowl, covered by a lid, was found to contain a bronze bowl (used as a liner), two pieces of folded silver plate, remains of a linen-lined leather purse, and 30 Roman gold coins.

The pottery bowl (rim diameter 15.8cm) is burnished on the exterior and has a dark grey to black surface. The upper part of the body is decorated by double lines in zig-zag pattern, enclosing in each triangle three impressed roundels. The style has been called 'Romano-Saxon'. The 'Castor box' lid (diameter 21.7cm) is a typical Nene Valley product.

The bronze bowl (diameter 13.5cm, height 9cm) is of thin sheet bronze and consists of an upper band riveted to a lower part, formed from one piece of metal. Two handles were found inside it, loose; but their original points of attachment are marked by patches of solder. The two pieces of folded silver plate weigh respectively 642gm and 321gm. The linen purse-lining is in plain weave.

The finding of a hoard of Roman gold coins in Britain is rare. Previously only four such hoards with secure documentation were on record, and none from the mid fourth century, the date of this find. Although there are a few instances of silver coins hoarded with other silver objects, this is the first recorded find of gold coins hoarded with other precious metal objects. The 30 gold coins, all of the *solidus* denomination, the new gold unit introduced by Constantine I in A.D.312, are of Constantine I and his sons, and represent issues between A.D.330 and 350.

The coins fall into three chronological groups. The first group, four coins, was issued in the last years of the reign of Constantine I as Augustus and his three sons, Constantine II, Constantius II, and Constans as Caesars up to A.D.337. The earliest coin, showing a little more wear than the others, is of Constantius II as Caesar, issued by the mint of Thessalonica in A.D. 330-1. Also in this group is the coin of Constantine I from the mint of Nicomedia in A.D.335 and two *solidi* of Constans Caesar of about the same date from the Trier mint. The second group, only three coins, dates to A.D.337-340 when the three sons of Constantine I divided the empire between them and reigned as joint Augusti. The single coin of the eldest, Constantine II, who controlled the western provinces, was struck at Trier. The one *solidus* of Constans, whose domain included

Italy and the Balkans, was struck at Siscia. Although the third brother, Constantius II, had charge of the eastern provinces, his only coin in this group was issued at Aquileia in North Italy.

The bulk of the coins, 22 in number, falls in the third period between A.D.340, when the death of Constantine II left his brother Constantius II and Constans to share the empire, and A.D.350, when the revolt of Magnentius in the West removed Constans. The find contained no less than 14 *solidi* of Constans, five issued by the mint of Trier, three from Aquileia, five from Siscia, and one from Thessalonica. Of the eight coins of Constantius II of this period only the one from Constantinople is from a mint in his own part of the empire. The balance is made up of a *solidus* from each of the mints of Thessalonica, Siscia and Aquileia, and four from Trier. The final piece, making up the total of 30, is a contemporary forgery of a *solidus* of Constans from the mint of Trier. The coin is up to standard so far as weight is concerned, but is betrayed as a copy by the style of the obverse portrait and a small blunder in the inscription on the reverse.

The absence of any coins of Magnentius, who usurped power in the West in January A.D.350, makes it fairly certain that the hoard was closed in that year, and presumably concealed then or shortly afterwards. There is no tradition of an unusual disturbance in the area at this date which might have occasioned the concealment of the hoard, and the explanation must lie in local or personal circumstances which we cannot readily discover.

The Coin List

A.D. 330-337

1. Constantine I, *RIC* vii, Nicomedia 179.
2. Constantius II, cf. *RIC* vii, Thessalonica 176.
3. Constans, *RIC* vii, Trier 575.
4. Constans, *RIC* vii, Trier 576.



Fig 3 The Waternewton hoard

A.D. 337-340

5. Constantine II, C.195, TR
6. Constantius II, C.63, SMAQ.
7. Constans, cf. C.147, rev. VICTORIA DN CONSTANTIS AVG, SIS*

A.D. 340-350

8. Constantius II, cf. C.67, rev. FELICITAS REIPVBLICE, CONS
- 9-12. Constantius II, cf. C.261, TR (3), TES (1)
13. Constantius II, C.280, TR
14. Constantius II, cf. C.283, but VOT XX MVL XXX, *SIS*
15. Constantius II, C.288, SMAQ
- 16-19. Constans, C.88, TR (2), SMAQ (2)
20. Constans, cf. C.89, but VOT X MVL XX, *SIS*
- 21-22. Constans, cf. C.90, but VOT X MVL XV, SIS*(1), .SIS*(1)
- 23-24. Constans, C.171, TR
- 25-28. Constans, cf. C.174, but VOT X MVLT XX, TR(1), SMAQ(1), *SIS*(1), SIS.(1)
29. Constans, C.191, TES
30. Constans, cf. C.153, TR (contemporary copy).

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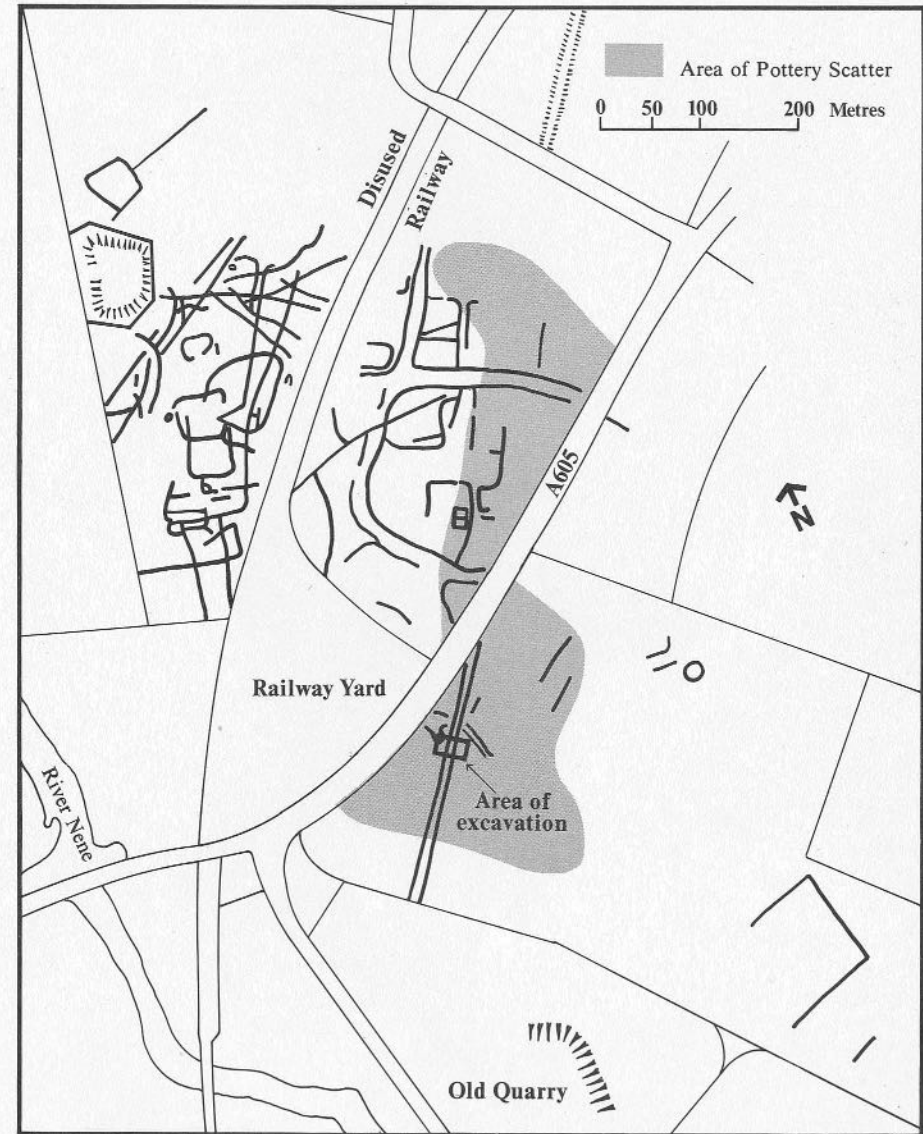


Fig 4 Plan of crop marks at Ashion, near Oundle

The Roman Settlement at Ashton near Oundle

by John Hadman and Stephen Upex

Early in 1974 Northamptonshire County Council published a leaflet *Oundle: Options for the Future*, which considers several possible schemes for the development of the town. The plans include a by-pass road following the disused Nene Valley railway line and crossing the river to join the present A605 east of the town. The point of juncture is to be a roundabout situated in the centre of a Roman settlement where the Middle Nene Archaeological Group conducted an exploratory excavation in 1971 (*BNFAS* 7, 1972, 12). In the Spring of 1974 aerial photography by Stephen Upex revealed an abundance of crop-marks here which had not been previously recorded (fig. 4). By coincidence it could be seen that in antiquity there had already been a road following almost exactly the route of the proposed new by-pass!

It was decided that, whatever might be the timetable for the proposed road-works, an investigation of this area was required immediately. A joint excavation by the Middle Nene Archaeological Group and Prince William School, Oundle, commenced in September 1974 with the kind permission of the Hon. Mrs G. Lane.

The area chosen for excavation was where there had been a considerable stone scatter. An open box, 31 metres by 17 metres, was mechanically cleared of topsoil. We quickly realised that the whole of the opened area was packed with features less than 30cm beneath the surface (fig. 5). When preliminary clearing had been completed, it was found that there was indeed a road running across the centre of the area and a junction with another, narrower, road at right angles to it, heading in a westerly direction.

The main road was 6.5 metres wide, and, although not yet sectioned, it is obvious that there were several phases of metalling and patching. The earliest surface now visible consisted of flat, well worn, slabs of local limestone, some of which showed evidence of burning. A source for this material lies less than 800 metres to the east. Gravel and in places a mortar-like material was used as an aggregate. The natural subsoil is gravel and sand, and a large pit excavated in 1971 approximately 20 metres to the north of the opened area could have provided some of this gravel. The later phase of road surfacing consisted of smaller pieces of limestone, some laid flat and some pitched. Again, gravel was used as a fill. This surface had been damaged by the plough.

The parch-mark in the crop was only evident in one field and ran from the A605 for 200 metres towards a bend in the river Nene. This suggests some kind of crossing — either a bridge or a ford. In the opposite direction an *agger* on a slightly different alignment crosses a field some 400 metres distant. The short section of minor road running almost due west is approximately 4 metres wide with a camber of about 13cm, and is surfaced with limestone cobbles and gravel. One cart-wheel groove is clearly evident. The projected line of this road can be traced by differential growth of shrubs where it goes under the hedge. If this road continued across the other side of the A605, it would run into the area where evidence of a Roman cemetery was noted in the nineteenth century during the construction of Oundle Station (Hartshorne (1847), 13).

The area to the east of the main road has not yet been investigated; but on the western side excavation has revealed buildings with a direct relationship to the alignment of both roads.

One building, represented by a considerable amount of collapsed stonework and one remaining course of its northern wall, had its long axis facing the main road. More excavation is needed to find the exact dimensions and the function of this building.

Investigation to date has been concentrated on a building at the road junction itself. This structure (fig. 5) had its short axis facing the main road, from which there had been a wide run-in or entrance. The wall-lines were represented by robber-trenches and only in one or two instances were pitched foundation courses noted. The building was 8.25 metres wide and the length has not yet been determined. The bulge in the sections taken through the foundation trenches suggests that the walls had supported a reasonable weight. However, no real evidence of the nature of the walls or roof was found. A mortar floor had later been replaced by one of blue clay which had been used to level up a depression running across the building parallel to the road. Examination of this showed that it was a ditch, probably associated with the original construction of the road and dating to the early part of the second century. This had been filled and packed prior to the construction of the buildings.

The interior of the building provided much evidence of smithing. There were five identifiable furnaces, four of them cut through the blue clay

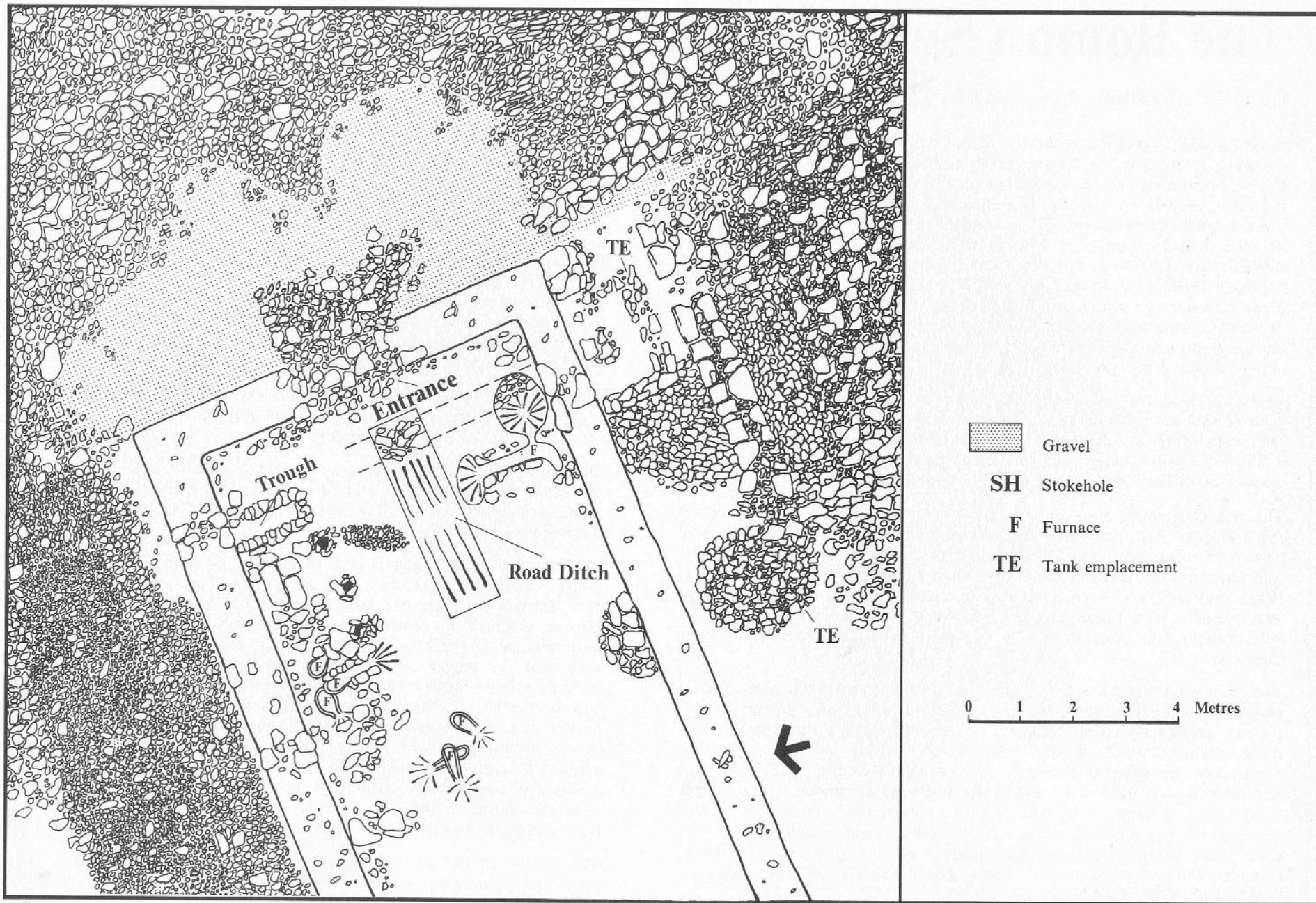


Fig 5 Plan of the Roman settlement at Ashton, near Oundle

floor. The best preserved furnace had a long firing-chamber with a side vent and stone emplacement, probably for bellows. A rake-out pit yielded small pieces of slag and much hammer-scale. Associated with another furnace, which had been re-lined several times, was a smith's hammer and a mower's anvil, similar to ones found at Lynch Farm (*Durobrivae* 1, 1973, 28ff.). Three metres away was a stone-lined trough which could have acted as a quenching tank. Considerable quantities of slag, nails and various iron objects scattered over the whole of the opened area pointed strongly to the building having been used for iron-working — at least in its later phase.

The site as defined by the crop marks and scattered pottery and building debris covers an area of over 30 hectares (75 acres). The evidence of the current excavations and the concentration of surface material in one spot suggests the existence of a small planned nucleated settlement at a river crossing. Evidence for a similar settlement also exists at Thrapston. The settlements may be said to lie at regular intervals between the known Roman towns of *Durobrivae* (Chesterton) and *Irchester*, and both are within 1500 metres of the Roman road (Margary no. 570).

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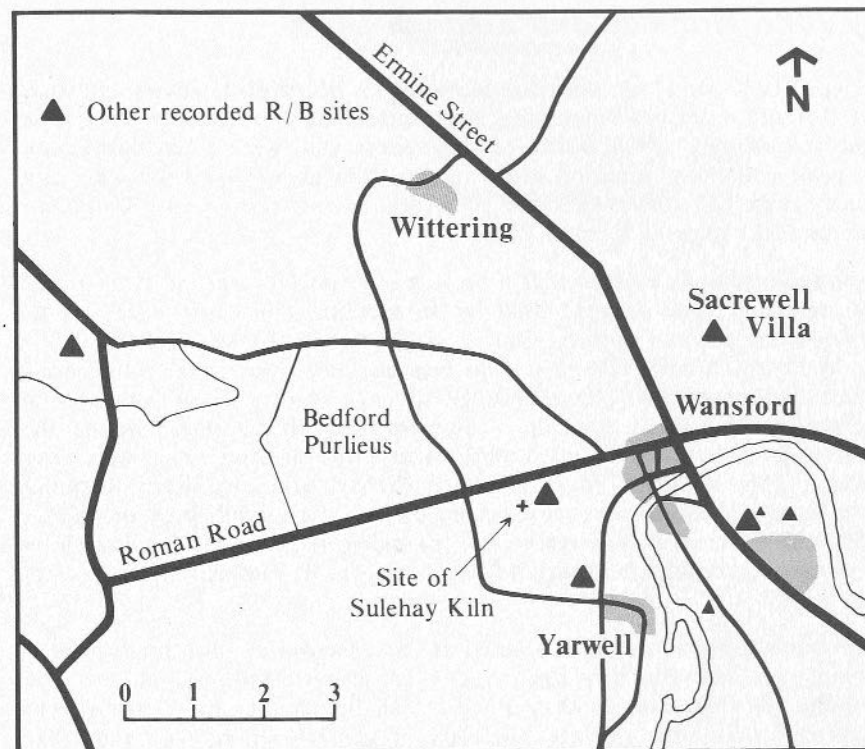


Fig 6 Site of Sulehay kiln and Bedford Purlieus

A Roman Pottery Kiln at Sulehay near Yarwell

by John Hadman and Stephen Upex

In April 1974 Mr D. A. Harrison working for Stonehill Quarries, Yarwell, cut through a feature containing large quantities of broken pottery. The find was brought to the notice of the writers who were given permission to make a brief examination of the feature. The area in question was on a quarry edge (TL 060991), close to a point described by the Ordnance Survey as the 'site of a Roman Villa'.

It was immediately evident that a pottery kiln has been partially destroyed by quarrying. Spoil dragged back by the machine contained large quantities of black ash and pottery. Only a small part of the kiln wall remained *in situ* in the quarry face. The kiln was dug into loose shaley limestone which had protected it from plough damage. Lying 20cm beneath the surface of the topsoil, the kiln must have been almost intact before the quarrying operations. A mass of broken kiln furniture was associated with it. This comprised large pieces of firebars and oven-floor, together with large quantities of broken curved clay 'dome-plates', grey in colour, and quite different in character from the lining of the kiln. The clay plates were up to 2cm thick and included much vegetable matter, mainly grasses and straw.

The orientation of the kiln seemed to be east-west, with the stokehole facing east. The chamber itself had been pear-shaped, the narrow end forming the flue. The north-south internal diameter of the chamber was 1.05 metres and the average thickness of the kiln-lining was 5cm. The east-west diameter may be estimated at about 1.20 metres; but the machine-cut prevented accurate measurement of this.

The machine had left little evidence of the base of the chamber floor (c. 75cm deep); but there was a thin layer of black ash on the very edge of the chamber, left in the section. Under this was 3cm of the flooring of the kiln, which seemed to have been laid down in the same 'smear' of clay as the kiln walls; for there was no break between floor and kiln-lining. Backing both was a thin layer of unburnt clay resting against the limestone into which the kiln had been cut. There was no evidence of a pedestal of any kind, and it was difficult to see how the oven floor could have been supported by the walls of the kiln.

The kiln is in an area which has produced a wealth of Roman material of all kinds. Buildings and burials have often been reported after quarrying at Sulehay and Mr Harrison pointed out an extensive scatter of third

and fourth-century pottery. (TL 056984). A large Roman building was investigated by Oundle School at Yarwell in 1953, and Mr E. T. Artis and Mr G. F. Dakin record buildings and iron-working in Bedford Purlicus on the opposite side of the Roman road from Durobrivae to Kings Cliffe. Here also two small statues from a funerary monument were discovered in the mid nineteenth century.

The Pottery

by John Peter Wild

While it is notoriously difficult to prove that a group of vessels was fired in a specific kiln, in this case the link is highly probable, despite the modern disturbance to the site; for the Sulehay kiln has all the hallmarks of the reducing kilns at Stanground, excavated in 1965-67. The greatest interest, however, lies in the fact that the pottery forms a single group, probably from a single firing.

Up to 90% of the pottery was meant to be Nene Valley grey ware, fired in a reducing atmosphere. The fabric is fairly fine, with sparing grog temper. The colour-coated vessels (less than 8%) have a fabric which is, to the eye, identical. Two calcite-gritted jars (fig. 7, 6) may also belong to the group.

A fault which developed in the firing of the kiln left a high proportion of the vessels discoloured. Often the grey surface (neutral 5) is dappled with light brown (brown A6 or B5), giving the pot a smoked effect. The grey fabric, too, often has a brown-yellow core (brown-yellow A7). The colour-coated vessels are similarly spoiled. It seems likely that an unwanted draught through a crack caused partial oxidation.

Over 60% of the vessels found on the site are jars or cooking-pots. These can be divided into heavy, wide-mouthed, jars (fig. 7, 1,4), medium-mouthed jars (fig. 7, 5), and small jars. Most of them have simple everted rims and grooves at the base of the neck. The potter had two special lines in jars: lid-seated jars (fig. 7, 2,3) and jars with slashed cordons (fig. 7, 9). Both types have burnished external surfaces and are well finished. The next most numerous class is the chamfered pie-dish (about 24%) (fig. 7, 12). Most have flattened bead-rims or grooves beneath the

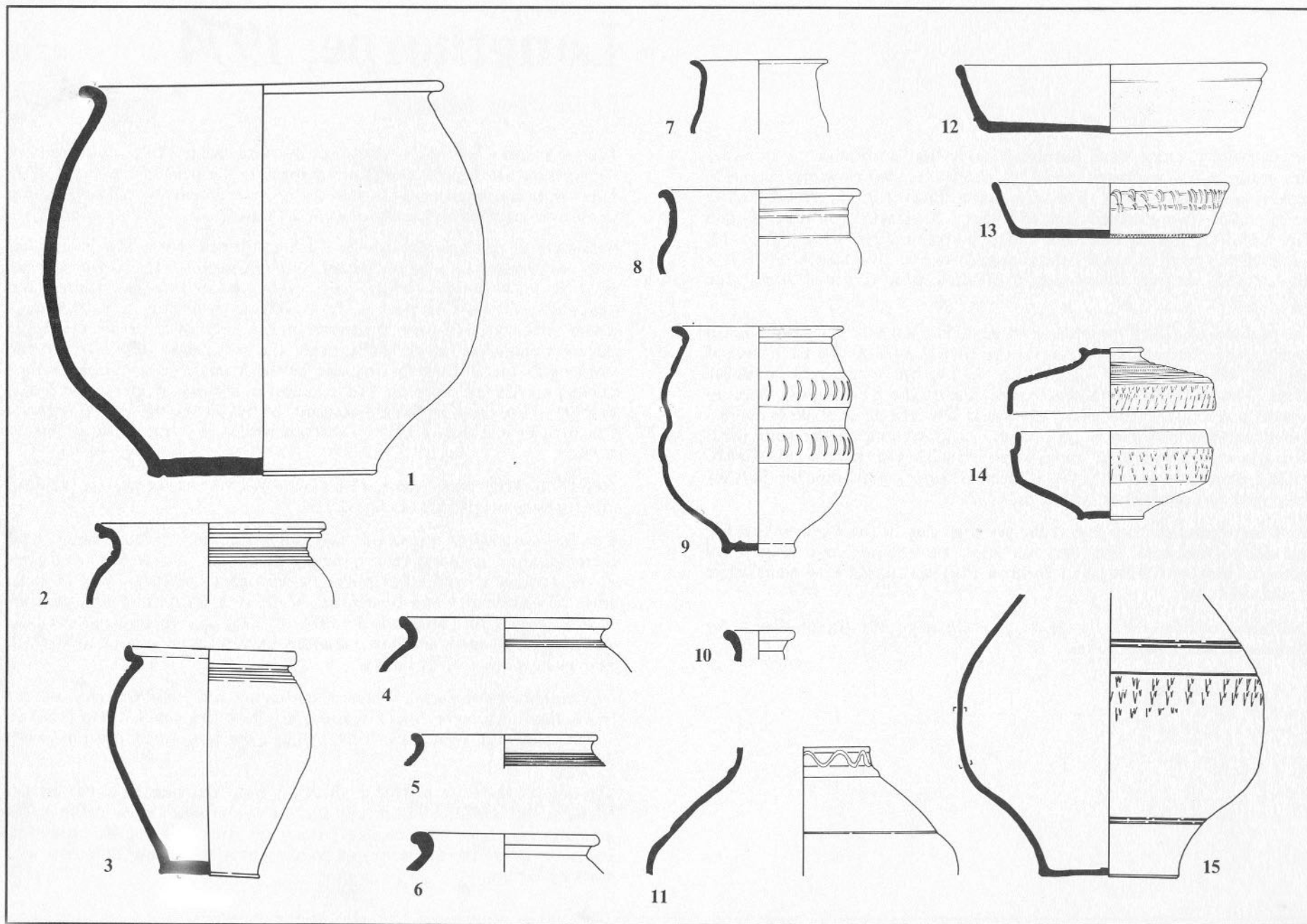


Fig 7 Selected vessels from the Roman pottery kiln at Sulehay, near Yarwell

Longthorpe, 1974

by Geoffrey Dannell

rim externally; some have burnished wavy-line decoration. The potter also made a few carinated bowls — unless the sherds represent high-necked jars (fig. 7, 7,8). The grey-ware flasks (fig. 7, 10,11) and a strainer are two further limited lines. A single rouletted flagon (fig. 7, 15), 5 'Castor box' lids and 3 corresponding bases (fig. 7, 14) make up the total of black colour-coated vessels. In addition there is a curious and unusual colour-coated pie-dish with rouletted decoration (fig. 7, 13).

The problem of dating the pottery remains. Jars with lid seats and slashed cordons have been loosely dated in the Nene Valley to the early second century. The high-necked vessels (fig. 7, 7,8) are reminiscent of Belgic forms. The undercut or flattened bead-rim of the pie-dishes is hard to parallel before c.A.D.100, easy after c.A.D.120. The Nene Valley's colour-coated industry may not begin before c.A.D.140, and so the association of colour-coated and grey wares here is crucial. Our neat, small, Castor boxes are an early type. On this evidence it seems likely that the Sulehay potter was in business just before A.D.150.

No other second-century kilns have yet been dug in the Nene Valley. We had always assumed that they lie near Durobrivae; but clearly the industrial area of Sulehay and Bedford Purlieus should now claim more of our attention.

The fabric colours refer to the *Colour Chart* of the Study Group for Romano-British Coarse Pottery.

The final season was spent filling out our knowledge of the kilns fronting the northern stock-yard ditch, linking together the work of 1971 and 1972. There were no surprises, but some useful, new details rounded off a long and tantalisingly broken series of excavations (fig. 8).

A number of sections through the ditch confirmed that it had been filled with the remains of a bank, pushed in from outside. This material subsided to leave hollows which were made up with deposits containing quantities of Iron-Age pottery. By a curious inversion very little pre-Roman pottery came from the lower levels of the ditch, while the upper make-up contained much. Presumably the occupation debris within the stock-yards was sufficiently irregular for the Romans to level it when they cleaned up the site after the end of military activity. A cremation-burial in a grey-ware jar with slashed cordons, buried in the top filling, suggests that the site was free of military control by the late first or early second century.

Five or six kilns were traced, all surface-built with stoke-pits on the edge of, or overlapping, the Iron-Age ditch.

Careful excavation suggested that all belonged to one basic type, although their outlines were variously preserved. The degree of erosion of the furnace chamber and stoke-pit depended on the number of times that individual kilns had been fired. While it is possible to find parallels with Wood's types (*Britannia* V, 1974, 264, fig. 2), the surface-built kilns at Longthorpe seem to show variation only through use or differential preservation and not by design.

The curious bowl-shaped hollows containing soot and charcoal on the inner ditch edge were found again. They look like small 'camp fires' on which those who stoked the kilns through the long firing process heated kettles.

The edge of the large platform which cut away the western ditch-rim was found at the northern end of our site. Its corner was clearly defined. The platform may have been created initially by gravel-digging for roads and pathways inside the fortress. The potters merely made use of it later as a working terrace.

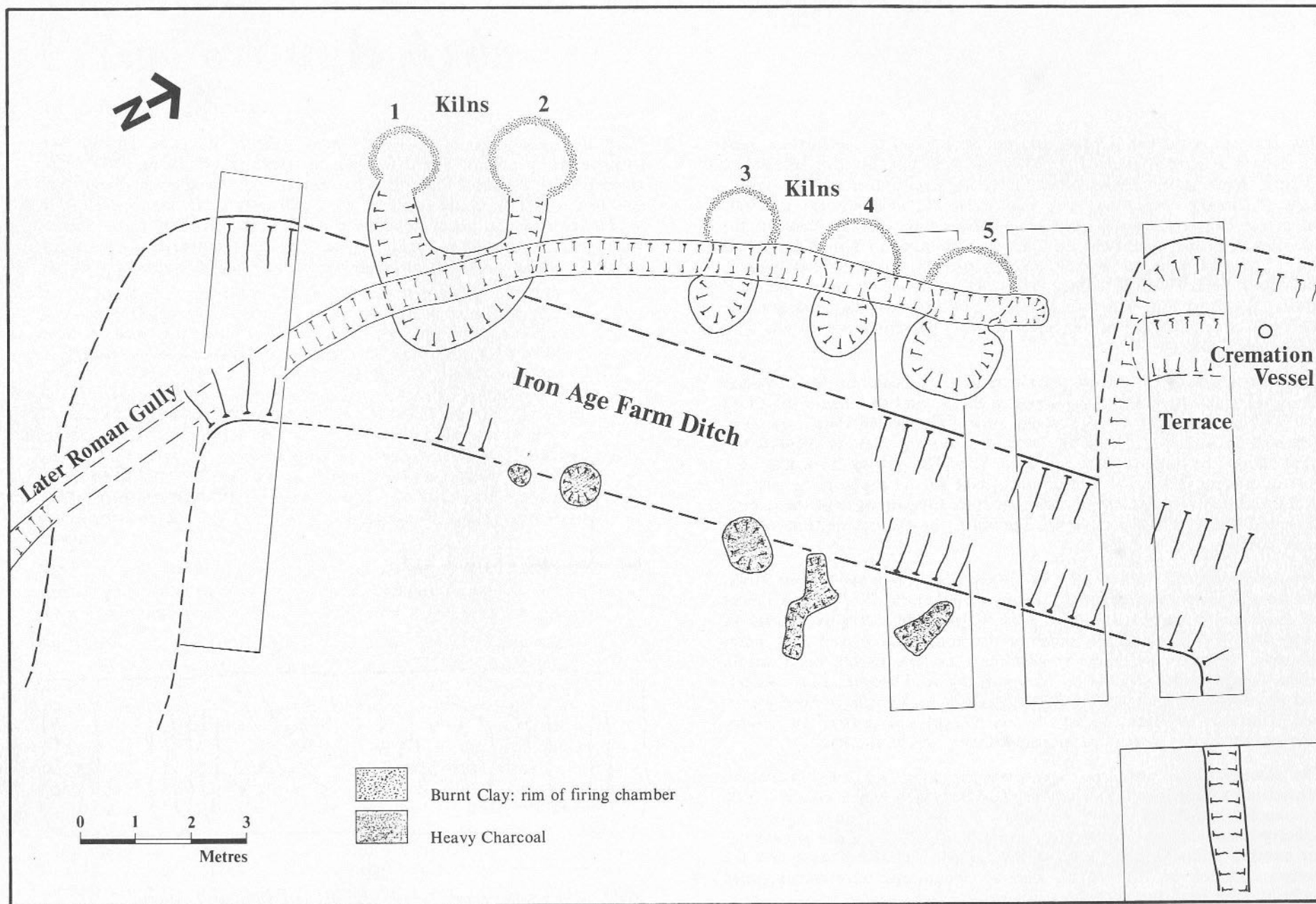


Fig 8 Plan of the excavation at Longthorpe, 1974

Now that our work has finished and the excavation of the fortress itself has been published (*Britannia* V, 1974, lff.), the kiln site can be seen in context. Work in the Upper Nene Valley suggests that the initial movement of ceramic technology was eastwards. No evidence for sophisticated late Belgic wares has yet been found on the Lower Nene in the pre-Roman period, and when the decision was made to plant the vexillation fortress at Longthorpe, it is possible that the army looked towards the Upper Nene for their potters. However, although the kilns there are similar, the wares and forms are different, and there can be no doubt that the work at Longthorpe was directed by army personnel to patterns provided from elsewhere.

The paste is heavily filled with ground-down waste material. Many vessels are extraordinarily thin for such a coarse fabric, and the rims show sharp and distinctive profiles. Copies of old favourites like the rough-cast cups imported from Lyons, 'Hofheim' jugs and samian platters from South Gaul betray the military eye, if not the hand. As yet we have not been able to emulate Mr K. T. Greene and point to the geographical origins of this distinctive ceramic style; but Germania Inferior was not the source. Since the Ninth Legion came from Pannonia, the net will have to be cast more widely.

Two questions still need answering. Where did the potters come from, and what happened to them after the unit moved in c.A.D.65? The evidence on the Upper Nene for elaborate painted pots points directly to France, where the pre-Roman potters north of the Somme decorated their wares similarly. A grey-ware industry developed on the Lower Nene before colour-coated wares appeared. In Normangate Field, Castor, wasters and wood-ash are frequently found in pits, but no kilns have been identified. This may represent activity by the Longthorpe potters' successors, who stayed to start a rich commercial industry in the locality.

The stock-yards of the Iron-Age farmstead were not fully excavated, apart from a large clay-pit. However, traces of slag and a crucible from Roman levels suggest that in addition to pottery there may have been military metalworking. Across the Nene at Lynch Farm there is evidence for another military enclosure, and pits containing samian ware and the pottery common on the military sites at Longthorpe were accompanied by briquetage from the saltboiling process.

Such an assemblage of industry under military direction should not surprise us. Professor Frere suggests a garrison of about 2500 men, permanently stationed for 12 years before the Boudiccan revolt led, first to a reduction in the defended area, and later to abandonment under a changed strategic policy. The basic needs of a patrolling army with a large permanent station could not be met from native resources. The industrial activity at Longthorpe gives a hint of what to expect elsewhere.

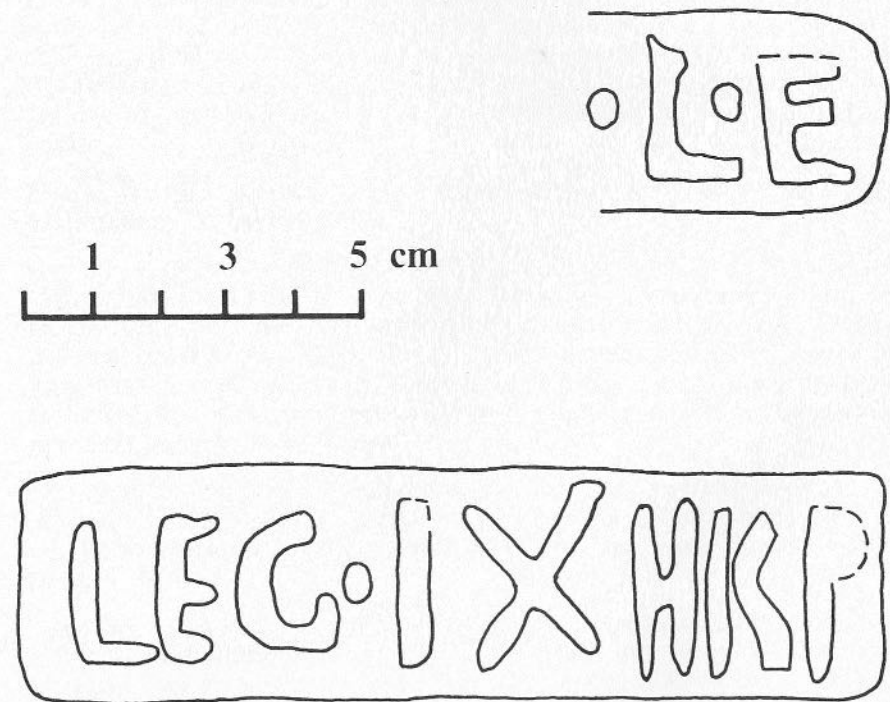


Fig 9 Tile stamps from Sacrewell (top) and Bainton (bottom).

Two Roman Stamped Tiles from the Peterborough Area

by Adrian Challands

Roman stamped tiles are far from common in the Peterborough sector of the Nene Valley. Of the two here described, one was found recently, while the other, an old find, is the only tile out of a small number in Peterborough Museum with a secure provenance.

During work on the villa and attendant industrial site at Sacrewell near Thornhaugh (*Durobrivae* 2, 1974, 13-19) a fragment of tile was found 100 metres south of the villa (fig. 10). It lay on top of a badly damaged feature containing charcoally loam and iron slag which was in close proximity to three bowl furnaces. Unfortunately, the tile is fractured and bears only the end of the stamp J.L.E. While it is reminiscent of the Fifth Legion stamps at Lincoln (*LHA* I, 1966, 29-31), the comparison will not stand up to close examination on epigraphic grounds (kind comments of Mr M. Todd of Nottingham University). The tile has been fired to achieve the usual red fabric and can be interpreted as a *tegula*; but certain features about it are unusual. These are the very substantial ironstone inclusions in the fabric and the small dimensions of the flange. It is probable, in view of the findspot, that the tile is the work of a civilian company in the locality rather than of military origin. The resolution of the abbreviation L E is obscure.

Mr E. T. Artis in his *Durobrivae* (Artis (1828), pl.XXV) illustrates tiles used as moulds at ironworking sites in Bedford Purlieus — which raises some interesting possibilities in view of the ironworking at Sacrewell.

The second tile (fig. 9) is a rib voussoir with a stamp of the Ninth Legion on it (LEG IX HISP). It was found in 1867 at Hilly Wood in the parish of Bainton (TF 112044) on the Roman King Street. The circumstances in which it was found are not absolutely clear. It is stated to have been 'ploughed up' in the unpublished papers of Mr J. T. Irving (1886). However, Mr T. Davis Pryce ((1938), 46, fig. 3) states, from information furnished by the then 'Directors of the Peterborough Museum', that it was associated with an inhumation burial and a 'rilled' pot of late first-century date. J. T. Irving in his papers sketched his interpretation of how the voussoir could be placed to form a tile-grave, presumably based on a tile-burial found at York which utilised a LEG IX *tegula* (*Archaeologia* II, 1773, pl. X). No source records other tiles found at the time which would substantiate his interpretation. Again, interesting problems are raised about how the tile came to be at Hilly Wood and what its significance

may be in the military history of the Peterborough area in the first century A.D. The Ninth Legion may have provided troops for the Longthorpe fortress.

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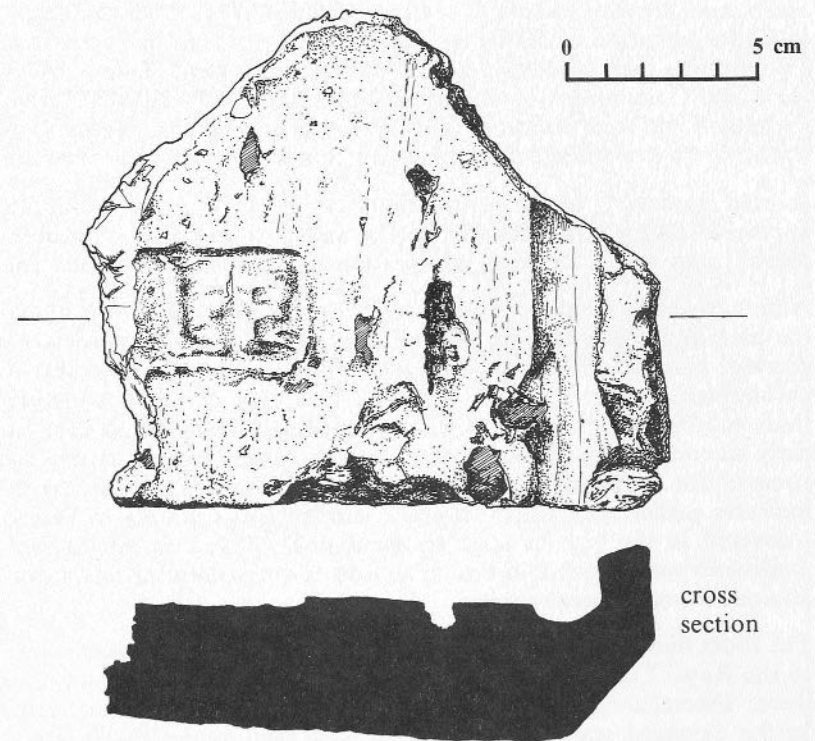


Fig 10 The stamped tile from Sacrewell

The Roman Villa at Helpston

by Adrian Challands

The villa is situated just over three quarters of a mile south of Helpston village (TF 123042) on limestone at about 16 metres above OD. The land slopes gently north-east.

The villa was located in the early nineteenth century and partially dug by Mr E. T. Artis. Unfortunately, he only illustrated a mosaic pavement (Artis (1828), pl. XXIV) and did not produce a plan. In late 1967 re-excavation was commenced on a very informal basis under the direction of Mr Michael O'Brien (*BNFAS* 3, 1969, 11). Various individuals and groups worked on the project, often not supervised. Consequently, a detailed report cannot be published. Later the site was abandoned and became a prey to the elements and 'treasure' hunters, until the Nene Valley Research Committee called the attention of the Department of the Environment to the situation. The site was then scheduled as an Ancient Monument. Before backfilling the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments was asked to survey the partially excavated building. The survey (fig. 11) was executed by Mr C. C. Taylor and the site finally backfilled in early 1971.

A brief summary of the excavations to the end of 1968 has already appeared (*BNFAS* 3, 1969, 10-14). The aim of this article is to publish the overall plan and additional information obtained from various sources.

Although only a small proportion of the original building was excavated, the plan and topographical survey show that it was probably a winged corridor villa. While it is impossible to produce from the available data a chronological series of plans for what is a very complex structure, the finds suggest that the villa began life modestly, perhaps as early as the early second century. It was then a cottage, which may be represented by some of the walls in the numbered areas. Considerable subsidence here indicates earlier occupation to which late Iron-Age pottery of Belgic type recovered in the vicinity may be attributed. Structural alterations were made and wings added in the third and fourth centuries when the villa attained its maximum extent.

The room numbering system (1 to 13) used in *BNFAS* has been transposed to the Royal Commission's plan and additional walls added as described there. Discrepancies in dimensions which occur may be accounted for by the damaged state when surveyed. New features excavated after 1968 continue the notation (14 to 23).

Four rooms (14 to 17) forming an extension to the south were bounded by

walls 75cm to 1 metre thick. They were all 6 metres north-south and respectively 2.4, 1.5, 2.7 and 2.7 metres wide. Rooms 16 and 17 were floored with rough limestone slabs bearing extensive signs of burning. Towards the western end of 16 a type of furnace was located. The east wall of 5 was seen to continue south for 5.5 metres, perhaps linking up with the villa's south wing. The wall inferred by the Royal Commission bounding 18 to the east could be the base for a colonnade 19 metres long. No 19 may represent a room 14.5 by 4 metres in the north wing or perhaps a corridor serving rooms 11 to 13. Two rooms west of 7 and 8 not recorded in *BNFAS* are numbered 20 and 21. They are respectively 6 and 5.2 metres long and 2.4 metres wide. A 60cm wide party-wall serves the two rooms, ending in a butt-joint against the main west wall.

Immediately east of rooms 11 to 13, which contained mosaics, robber trenches indicate further structures in what must be the principal rooms of the north wing. A very strange structure (22) was noted 6.4 metres east of 11 to 13. It consisted of a room 3.7 metres square bounded by 53cm thick walls on the north and east, a 46cm thick wall on the west and a badly damaged external wall 30cm thick on the south. A rough limestone floor was noted 50cm below the top of the serving wall. Centrally placed on the floor was a substantial block of limestone. Its socket, 61cm in diameter, had been cut 16cm deep. It is unfortunate that no dating evidence exists for this structure; for it may post-date the domestic use of the north wing and is probably for industrial or agricultural use. Two substantial limestone bases (23), 1.22 metres square, cannot be connected with the stone in room 22, although they had similar sockets in the top when found.

In conclusion the Helpston villa can be seen from the scraps of information gleaned to have been a large and palatial establishment at the height of its prosperity. It had decorated walls and mosaics. Only a well-planned excavation, however, can elucidate its history and scope.

Thanks are due to Mr C. C. Taylor of the Royal Commission for the basic plan and to Mr R. Hillier for additional information.

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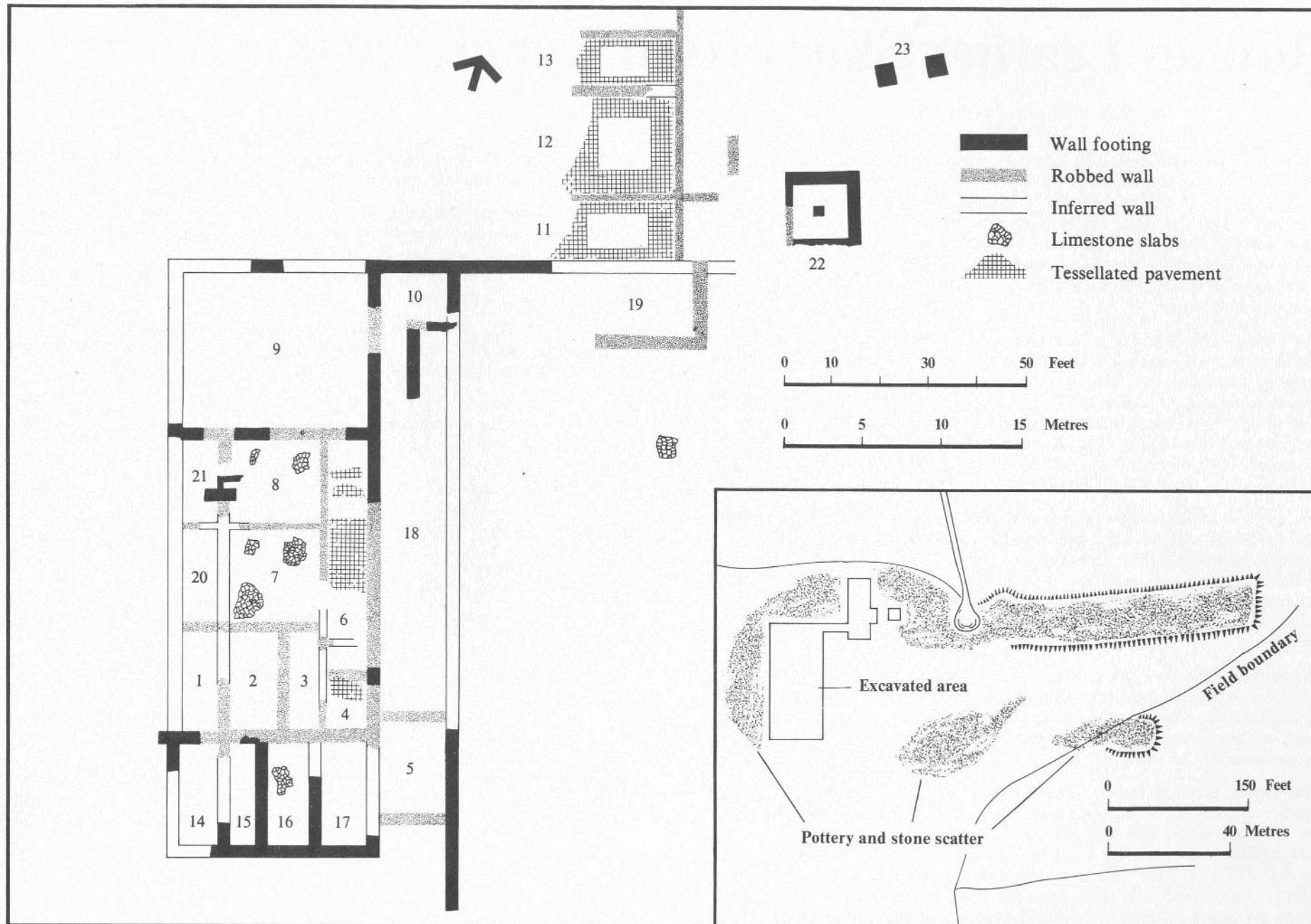


Fig 11 Plan of the Roman villa at Helpston

Roman Leather Shoes from Lynch Farm

by June Swann and Alison Metcalfe

The leather artefacts described here were recovered from a square, stone-lined, well during excavation of the Lynch Farm complex (Site 2) in 1972 (*Durobrivae* 1, 1973, 20f.; *Northamptonshire Archaeology* 8, 1973, 11f.). The well-filling contained not only organic refuse, but also a quantity of small animal bones, beetle cases and a little fourth-century pottery. The well was deliberately demolished and backfilled with its own lining. The archaeological context is such that the leather can be given a positive fourth-century date.

The child's shoe (fig. 12) is interesting in that it is unlike other known fourth-century Romano-British shoes. The shoe is quite sturdy and, to judge by the repair and the condition of the sole, it has obviously seen considerable wear. In all probability it belonged to a child from a rather poor family; for it has a wide sole and was made for either foot, not shaped for right or left as was usual in Roman footwear. The hob-nails set round the outer edge in a single row are also unusual; for they are rather larger than the norm. This of course is particularly apparent on a child's shoe.

The upper is attached between the sole and the insole by thongings, which was a normal method employed on shoes of this size. The upper has a high-cut vamp with a repair at the toe. The method of attaching the vamp to the quarters is by a seam on each side. The quarters themselves, which are rather low (although part of the top edge may be missing), are reinforced in the usual Roman way with a triangular-shaped stiffener set in the back.

The fastening is not in the Roman manner, but typical of the Dark Ages. A leather lace is slotted through and across the inside side-seam, to pass through a pair of slots on the centre throat of the vamp, then through three pairs of slots in the quarters, passing right round the back of the heel, to tie, presumably, on the inside side-seam.

This lacing through slots in the quarters occurs in England on tenth-century shoes from Winchester and York, and the method continued into the twelfth century. The only shoe so far found in England which is at all comparable was excavated at Portchester in 1973 in a context dateable to A.D.325-345. This was a child's ankle shoe with the characteristic Roman hob-nailed sole and front-slit with lacing across the opening, which continues through slots round the back of the heel in the quarters.

As seen in fig. 12, the Lynch Farm shoe is somewhat flattened. This is a result of the pressure of the well-filling on the layer in which it rested.

Another interesting specimen illustrated in fig. 12, is that of the vamp and forepart sole of a shoe with a pointed toe. The sole layers are thonged together in the Roman fashion, but the decoration down the centre of the vamp is found in Dark-Age shoes. The decoration is usually made by a double row of fine stitches.

It is probable that further excavations on fourth-century sites with water-logged deposits may yield more examples of what can only be called Romano-Saxon hybrid shoes.

The authors wish to thank Mr T. Ambrose for showing the Portchester shoes to one of them. Mention of it will be made in a forthcoming number of the *Antiquaries Journal*.

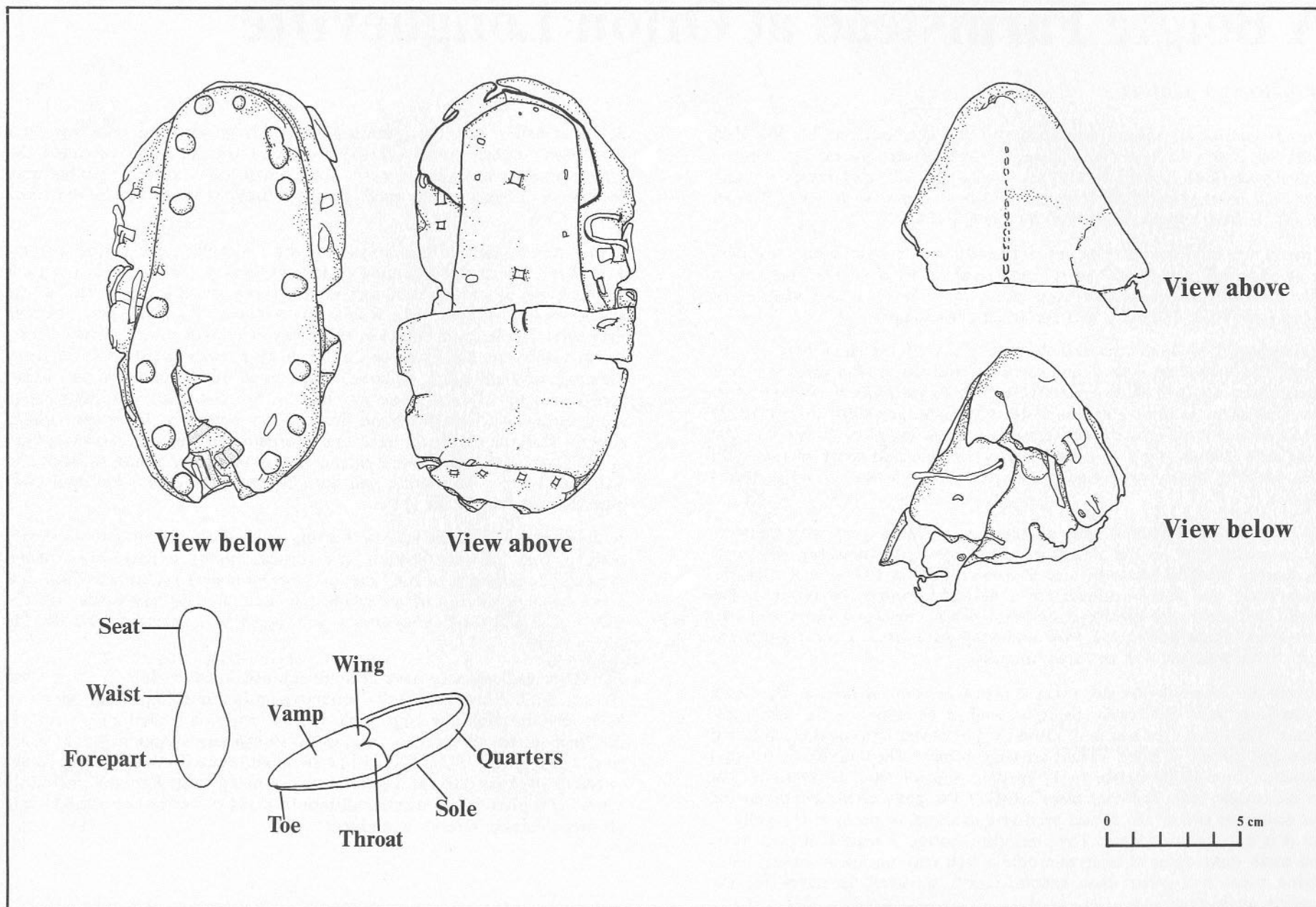


Fig 12 Fourth century leather shoes from Lynch Farm, Orton Longueville

A Belgic Farmstead at Orton Longueville

by Carolyn Dallas

The site (scheduled ancient monument no. 97) is situated at TL 16659525 south of Orton Longueville village on Nene river gravels. It consists basically of three ditched rectangular yards (fig. 13), and seems to have been continuously occupied from the late Iron Age into the early Roman period, i.e. from approximately 100 B.C. to A.D. 140.

It was not possible to uncover the entire site, and certain areas only were totally stripped of topsoil. The rest was sampled by trial-trenching with a JCB machine. The accompanying plan (fig. 13) is a combination of information from site plans and the aerial photographs.

The earliest ditch found formed the first phase of the small yard on the north. This was recut with a new entrance, and the second ditch was half silted up by the time of the introduction of Belgic pottery into the area. The first phase of the largest yard was contemporary with this, although it had been almost entirely obliterated by recutting. The living area for these early phases seems to have been to the west and south of the small yard where evidence was found of curving gullies, a hearth and a water-hole.

The medium-sized yard on the north-west produced very little pottery, but seems to date to the Belgic period. Criss-cross trenching produced no internal features whatever and it is possible that this area is a stock-yard. There was some evidence for a palisade around the inside of the ditch. The small yard produced evidence of an internal division and two post-holes which post-dated this, and may have been a work-yard; for burnt grain was found in the division gully.

During the Belgic period there was a major revision of layout. The ditch of the large yard was totally recut, leaving an entrance on the north-east corner. The living area was laid out in the north-west area of this yard, and three hut circles in good condition were found. They range in internal diameter from 10.70 metres to 12 metres, and all have an entrance-gap on the eastern side. It is not clear whether the gully circle comprises the hut walls; for two of the circles produced evidence of posts in the gully — but it is only thin evidence. The area also showed a scatter of post-holes and small stake-holes of uncertain date which may represent fences, pens, drying racks and other such accoutrements as were necessary for the running of the farm.

By the middle of the first century A.D. this large yard was redefined by a small ditch which closed off the north-east entrance and extended the yard to the south. Evidence exists for a small yard, corral or garden area defined by gullies over the small yard, the ditch of which was by that time totally filled.

A final major phase of the farm spans the first half of the second century A.D. The large yard, continuing on its own, was again given a larger ditch (about 2 metres wide by 1.50 metres deep) with an entrance on the north-east corner. Postholes with Roman pottery in them show that at some time after the Roman conquest the living area was moved further eastwards within the big yard. In the north-west corner of the yard a small cemetery of eight adult skeletons was found, separated from the living area by a gully. Two of these had coffins, but none had any accompanying grave-goods. Scraps of late first-century pottery in the grave fillings suggest that the deceased were the occupants of the penultimate phase of the farm. All bodies were extended and had their heads towards the north-west. One old woman had been beheaded, and the skull had been placed in the foot of the grave.

A large pit on the east side of the big yard produced mid first-century pottery from the very bottom, and seemed cut by a small ditch which respects the presence of the large yard on its course eastwards. This, and some drainage ditches of uncertain date also running eastwards, are the only evidence for a field-system which might be associated with the life of the farm.

The farmstead seems to have been abandoned in the middle of the second century A.D. A drainage gully producing colour-coated pottery seems to have been cut after the large yard was no longer inhabited and is part of the field-system of another settlement. A pottery dump of some 3,000 sherds dating to c. A.D. 120-140 (with some residual material) was found in the final-phase ditch at a point near the living area. Perhaps the family moved to a place which was too distant to make it worthwhile transporting all the remaining kitchen equipment!

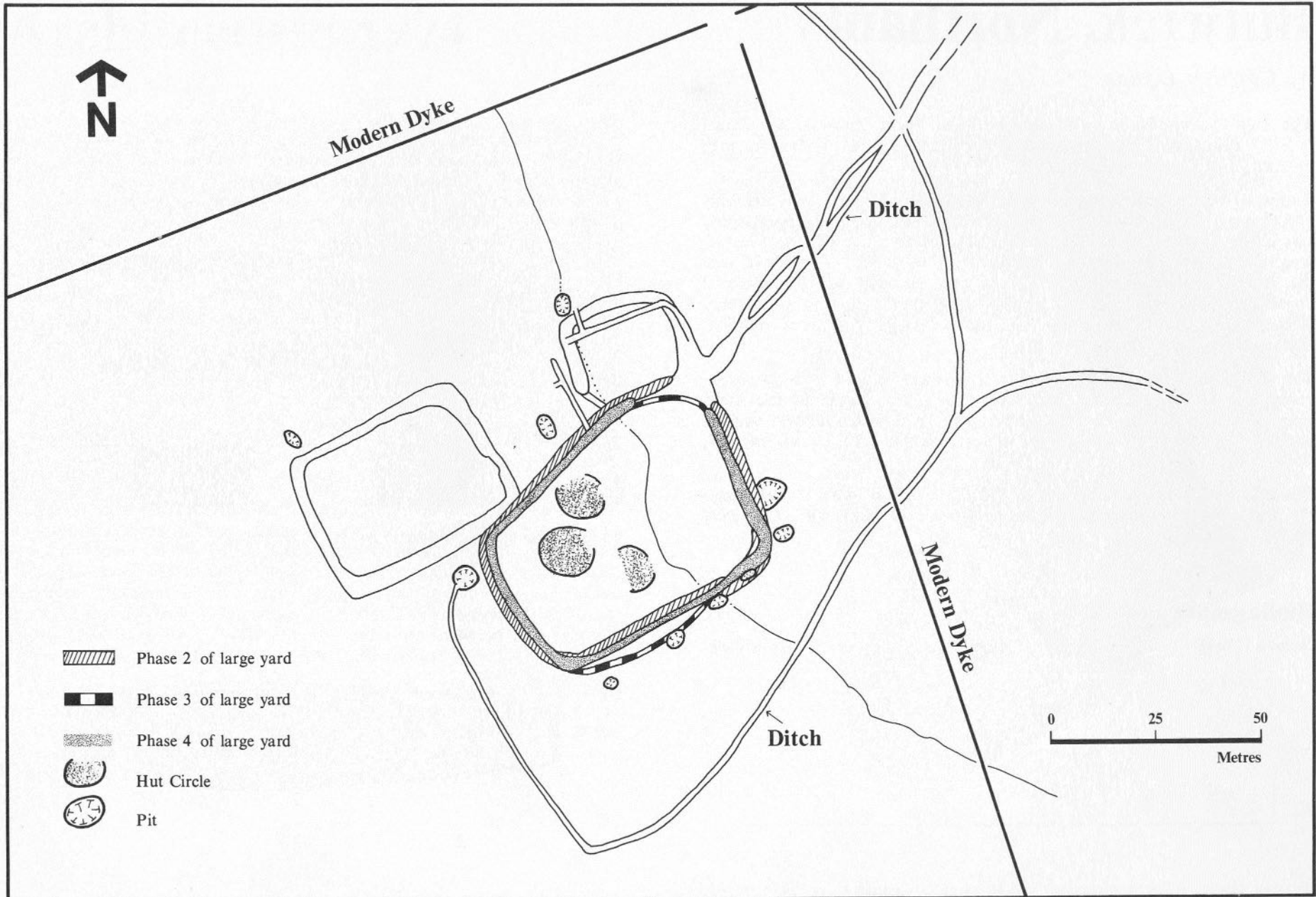


Fig 13 Plan of the Belgic farmstead at Orton Longueville

An Anglo-Saxon Strap-End from Bulwick, Northants

by Carolyn Dallas

The strap-end was found on Blackmore Thick Farm, Bulwick, Northants, at SP 982929, and thanks are owed to Mr and Mrs T. M. Colyer for permission to review the object (fig. 14).

The strap-end is 4.1cm long and is made of bronze which was originally tinned on all sides. The central panel contains an interlace design which was inlaid into the silver surface and is now largely missing (for a reconstruction see fig. 15). When the object was first found, it appeared that this inlay was made of gilt; but this has since dropped out. The terminal consists of an animal head with protruding eyes of yellow or clear glass. The ears are oval with lunate openings and there is some trace of eyebrow, although the object is much worn.

The split end has two rivet-holes with a pendant leaf motif in the intervening panel. The back is plain. The object is dateable to the ninth century A.D. and strap-ends in similar style have been found in various parts of the country (Wilson (1964), nos 71, 72, 138, 116; cf, nos 24, 137, 144).

The findspot has produced no other archaeological material, although the field has been ploughed down to the natural cornbrash and is watched by the Colyer family.

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Fig 14 The Anglo-Saxon strap end from Bulwick

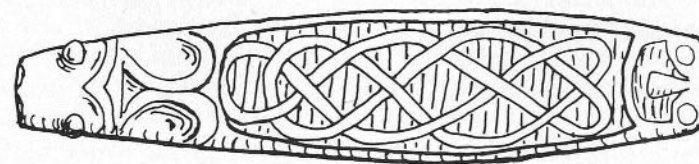


Fig 15 Reconstructed drawing of the strap end

Industrial and Vernacular Architecture 1974

by Richard Hillier

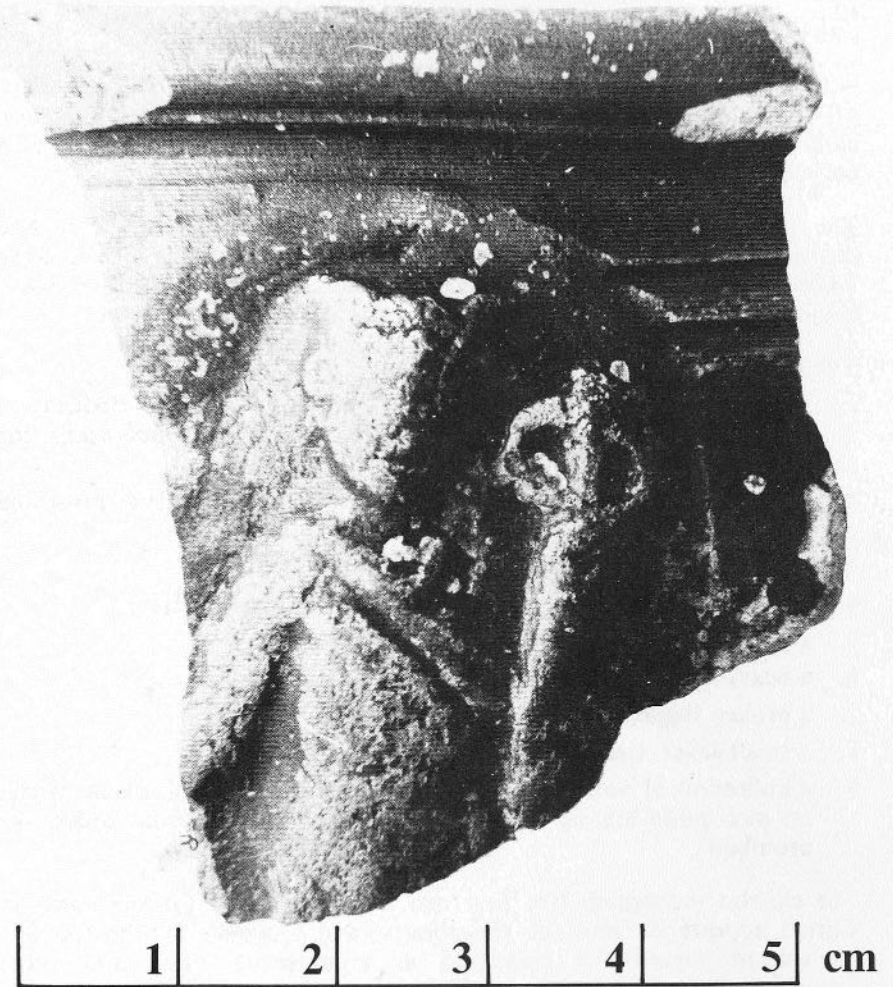
In April 1974 Miss Anne Sandford, who has now moved to Hereford Museum, became involved in recording the floor levels of the early to mid seventeenth-century building at 8a Church Street, Peterborough. Since the building was undergoing alterations, I was asked to record topographically the remaining internal features. In view of the strong rumours of demolition I was also allowed to record both the interior and exterior of Wentworth Methodist Church, built in 1874.

During September 14-15 Long Causeway was recorded and planned. This is a late seventeenth or early eighteenth-century house, occupied from c. 1720 to 1960 by the Beaver family. Five of their business ledgers — covering 1902-1911 — were found and have been preserved. In November a mid eighteenth-century house at 20 Westgate was recorded and planned.

Two surveys were completed in December, that of the former Deacon's School, Deacon Street (1884 and 1910), and the remainder of the Monument Street Brewery which had not been surveyed in 1972.

Demolitions this year include: the London Road Windmill (built 1850-7); the massive Carlton Mills at Fletton (built 1902 and 1914); the north gate-house to Fletton Tower (built 1847); Railway housing at the junction of Grove Street and Tower Street (built in the mid nineteenth century); former telephone exchange at 11 Queen Street (built in the late nineteenth century); and Snowden's Rope and Tarpaulin Works behind 8 Exchange Street (built soon after 1900). The last two were recorded and planned before demolition; the others were simply photographed.

My own recent research has culminated in a brief history of the Cadge and Colman's Flour Mill (built in 1848). Other research in the same field includes that of Mr Ronald Russell, who is writing a history of the River Nene for publication during 1976.



Above: the god Mercury; a moulded decoration of a black colour-coated bowl found in Nottinghamshire, but made in the Roman kilns at Stanground, Peterborough.

Stop Press, 1975

Amazement — even disbelief — greeted the news that a *second* hoard of Roman treasure had been found at the Roman town of Durobrivae early in 1975. The find follows hard on the heels of the first hoard, a collection of gold coins, which came to light in 1974 (see p. 10).

The new hoard consists of fourth-century Roman silver plate, and seems to have belonged to a wealthy Christian community in the Nene Valley. Indeed, its value as bullion pales into insignificance when compared with its unique importance for early Church history.

The hoard contains the following items:

1. a simple bowl or chalice carrying round its rim the dedication: 'Lord, I humbly honour your sacred altar', and underneath the donor's name, Publianus;
2. a bowl with the inscription: 'Innocentia and Viventia presented this (chalice)';
3. a small pedestalled cup with two handles;
4. an elaborately decorated shallow bowl in sheet silver;
5. a plain flat silver dish;
6. a heavy ornate flask without handles;
7. a broken flagon-neck;
8. a small silver wine-strainer;
9. a collection of votive palmettes in sheet silver, one of which carries an inscription stating that the donor 'fulfilled the vow which she promised'.

The chi-rho monogram (the first two letters in Greek for the name of Christ) appears on most of the objects, and it would not be too far-fetched to regard the collection as communion plate and other furnishings from a Christian chapel.

A coroner's inquest will be held on the hoard in September 1975.

J. P. Wild

Publications

The Nene Valley Research Committee has published the following works:

J. P. Wild, *The Romans in the Nene Valley* (1972) (price 15p)

F. M. M. Pryor, *Prehistoric Man in the Nene Valley* (1973) (price 15p)

F. M. M. Pryor, *Earthmoving on Open Archaeological Sites, Nene Valley Archaeological Handbook 1*, 1974 (price 35p)

Durobrivae 1, 1973 (price 60p); 2, 1974 (price 60p)

F. M. M. Pryor, *Excavation at Fengate, Peterborough, England: The First Report, ROM Archaeology Monograph 3*, 1974 (price £1.25)

These publications, together with this Review for 1975, are available post-free from Mrs C. Mackreth, 32 Hall Lane, Werrington, Peterborough PE4 6RA.