

REPORT ON THE ROMAN VILLA AT ENGLETON, NEAR BREWOOD.

BY

DIANA ASHCROFT.

DURING the summer of 1937 the excavation of the Roman Villa at Engleton was undertaken by the Wolverhampton Archaeological Society, with the hope that it might prove to be the posting station on the Watling Street mentioned in the 2nd Iter of the Antonine Itineraries under the name of Pennocrucium. For many years archaeologists have been searching, as yet vainly, for this site which is known to be in the neighbourhood. Therefore when in March, 1937 Miss Dunkley notified the Wolverhampton Archaeological Society that a man at work in a gravel quarry, little more than a quarter of a mile distant from the Watling Street, had had a narrow escape from being buried beneath a chunk of fallen masonry, they naturally hoped that Pennocrucium had at last been located. Mr. Gerald Mander, F.S.A., the President of the Society, at once hastened to the spot and identified the remains as Roman by means of the quantities of lozenge shaped roofing tiles that were lying about. He and his committee thereupon entered into negotiations for the lease of the land with Mr. R. M. Walley, on whose property the quarry was situated and secured, at the suggestion of Sir Charles Marston, F.S.A., the collaboration of Miss Kathleen Kenyon, F.S.A., in the excavation of the site. It was a fortunate fact that although Miss Kenyon was already fully occupied, it did not deter her from promising to pay a weekly visit to the excavations to superintend the work, which was begun on August 16th and continued until October 6th. That the excavations were made possible was due largely to the enthusiasm of the committee, who helped the excavators with their constant encouragement and gave them every assistance

within their power. In particular I would like to thank Mr. Gerald Mander, the President of the Wolverhampton Archaeological Society, Mr. J. M. Hogan, the Secretary and Mr. H. R. Thomas; for it was their untiring efforts that kept the excavations supplied with everything, from eager volunteers to do the work, to empty tins for pottery and small finds; they were, in fact, the backbone of the excavations without whom all progress would have been very much retarded. To all three I am most grateful and I should also like to thank very sincerely Mr. R. C. Sikes for the infinite trouble that he took in surveying the site and drawing the plan, Messrs. E. R. Knight, A.M.I.C.E., and W. F. Whitehead, F.A.S.I., for the survey of the ditch, Mr. Gordon Bone and many boys, both past and present, of the Wolverhampton Grammar School for the very valuable help which they rendered in the actual work of excavation. Messrs. Lavender and Twentyman for making a measured drawing of the pillar drum and Mr. R. M. Walley for his kindness and consideration in affording us every facility for working on his land.

Excavations showed that the position of Pennocrucium has not yet been proved, revealing as they did a corridor villa approximately 120 feet long by 72 feet wide, with no evidence to show that it was anything but an isolated house. The exact extent of the building will never be known, for the southern extremity has disappeared in the quarry. Nevertheless the bulk of it remains and it is apparent that the original villa was twice subjected to extensive alterations and reconstructions.

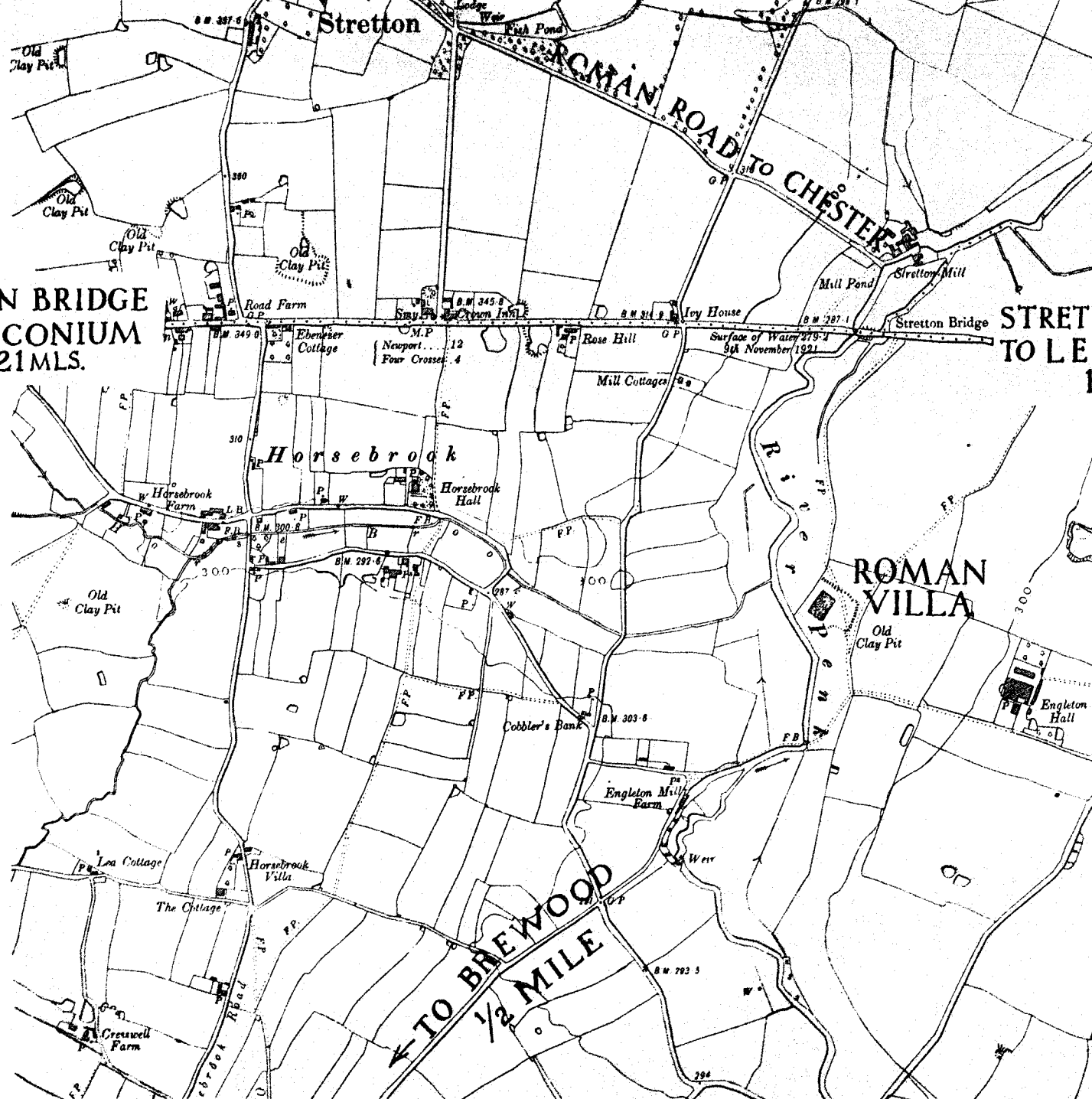
THE SITUATION AND THE DITCH. (See Map opposite).

The Roman Villa was built facing east at a point about five hundred yards south of the Watling Street and close by the place where the Roman Road to Deva, the Roman Chester, branches off it to the north. It was built on a slight eminence overlooking the River Penk in the midst of country which was in Roman times open woodland. The foundation was of dry gravel, which proved to be ideal for the preservation of such bronze articles as were found.

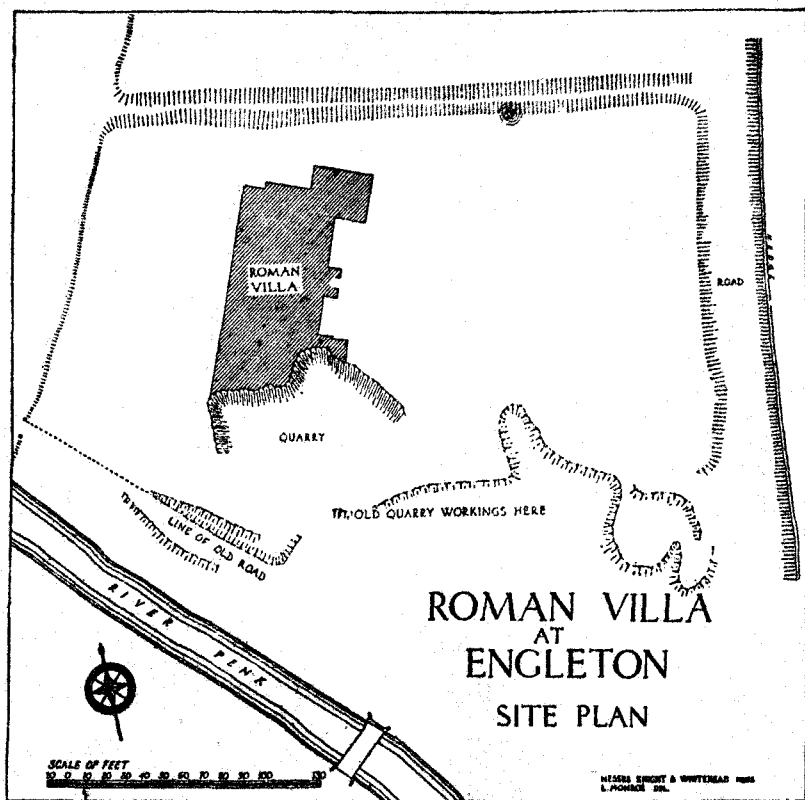
Antoninus gives 23 Roman miles as the distance from Viroconium to Pennocrucium and 12 miles as that between

STRETTON BRIDGE
TO VIROCONIUM
21MLS.

STRETTON BRIDGE
TO LETOCETUM
13¼ MLS.



Pennocrucium and Letocetum. Thus the tentative identification of Pennocrucium with Stretton Bridge is approximately correct with relation to Viroconium but three miles out with regard to Letocetum, whose actual distance from this point is about 15 Roman miles or 13½ English ones. The situation of the Roman Villa at Engleton was within half a mile south-east



of Stretton Bridge and is therefore also incompatible with the Antonine data.

Surrounding the villa there would appear to have been a boundary ditch (see Plan of Site above). This is clearly visible on the north side (Plate I). Beyond the north-west corner the ditch is incorporated in that of the existing hedge. Turning south it continues until it reaches an old road reputed locally to be Celtic. Here it stops, either because the road is genuinely

Celtic and was already in existence when the ditch was dug or because at a later date the road was built across it. Beyond the road the ditch is a very shallow scoop, which runs down to the river through wet and boggy soil. At the north-west corner the ditch also turns north and runs in this direction at a rather greater width and following the slight curve of the hedge to the northern extremity of the field, here however, it stops abruptly and this extension would appear thus to be only a modern field ditch. At the north-eastern corner the ditch also turns south and runs for a distance of about 200 feet beside the more recent road, then it turns west and is almost immediately lost in later gravel workings. The ditch would appear to be Roman in origin, for in the section cut through the ditch from north to south, a level containing a second century sherd, and into which the house walls were also built, was cut through, while the dark earth which filled the ditch continued in an unbroken line over the outer wall of Room 3. No other layer appears to have been cut but the nature of the soil is such as to render it so difficult to see that the possibility of a later and invisible layer having been cut through cannot be excluded. Thus although the possibility of a mediaeval farmer's ditch cannot be ignored yet the weight of probability is in favour of a Roman date. It was unfortunate that the cutting that was made happened to strike the outer wall of Room 3 at the exact spot where the wall had been repaired right down to the base of its foundations, thus destroying the stratification which might have shown the relationship of the ditch to the rest of the building. Here may have been the flue which linked the Period II hypocaust with a furnace no longer extant but the clearance of Room 3, could not be completed, so this could not be proved.

DATE.

On the evidence of the pottery the villa would appear to have been inhabited from the late second century until the fourth, but only for Period II is there actual stratified evidence as to date. Sealed by the floor of Room 7, and contained in the filling of the earlier hypocaust were sherds of late third century ware, these give an approximate date to Period II. For the rest it can be seen that the period of occupation began in the latter part of the second century and lasted well on into the

fourth. Study of the coarse pottery revealed that it can all be assigned to this period which also embraces the few coins and brooches that were found. The Samian ware is considerably earlier in date, but the fact that the coarse pottery is consistently later (with the possible exception of one sherd (Fig. 7 No. 10), which could belong anywhere in the second century), makes a late second century date likely, for the finer Samian ware probably represented the treasured relics of an earlier day. After the fourth century the site was never again inhabited; a Saxon coin of Eadred Rex 946-955 A.D., which was found in the surface soil, may possibly indicate a period of stone robbing but very little indeed of post Roman date was found. Slightly to the south of the main entrance was a roughly circular pit, approximately 12 feet in diameter and 9 feet deep. It had been cut through the hard floor of the court-yard. At the bottom of this pit was found the base drum of a pillar. The moulding of this drum was very debased in form, the torus being entirely missing, while the shaft had as good a reproduction of the classical entasis as was compatible with the character of the moulding. It represented a local copy of Roman work. (Fig. 1).

*all shown as
unstratified*

MATERIALS.

The walls of the villa were built of a red feldspathic sandstone; this is probably a Bunter sandstone, which could be found comparatively close at hand, while the roofing and flooring tiles came from considerably further off. The abundant lozenge shaped roofing tiles were of a dark grey micaceous and very calcareous flagstone, which was probably found near Wenlock, Ludlow or Malvern with the weight of probability in favour of Ludlow and the Welsh Borders, while the flooring tiles were of a thin bedded compact limestone almost certainly from the Rhaetic. Rhaetic occurs north-east of Wem and along the main Gloucester and Droitwich belt. During Period II, i.e. the first period of reconstruction, the foundations of the additional walls were composed of a hard blue rock, which was artificially fused out of what was probably originally rhyolite. This proved of great value in identifying the Period II extensions.

The interior of the building was decorated with gaily painted

plaster, which was found in fragmentary abundance in rooms and corridors of all periods. The main flue was of bricks irregular in size. In all probability the whole building was of

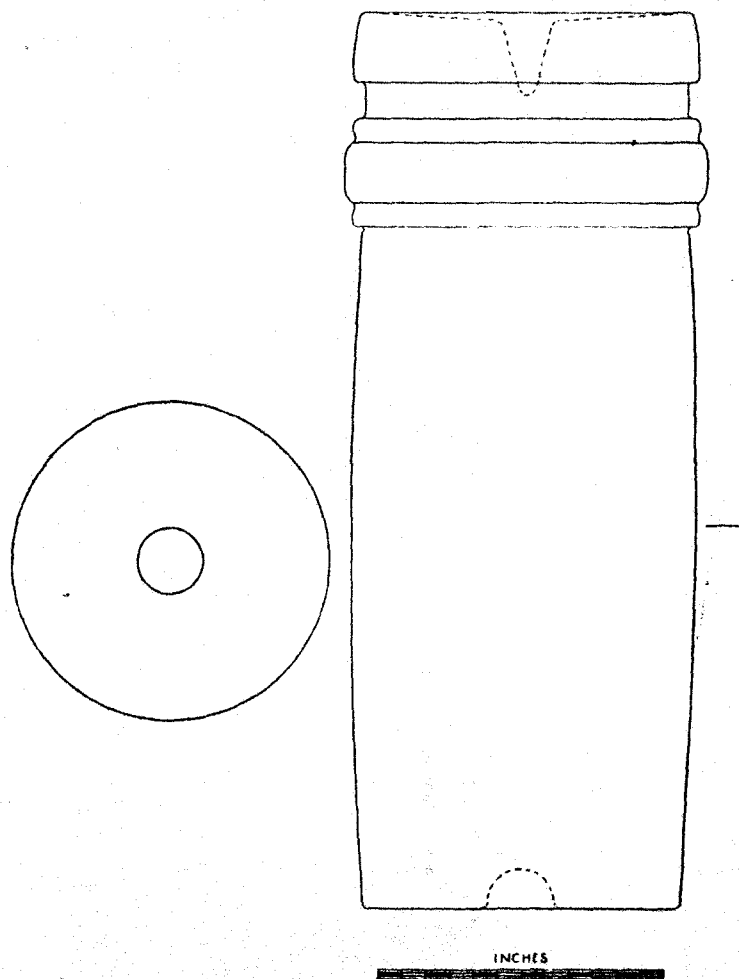


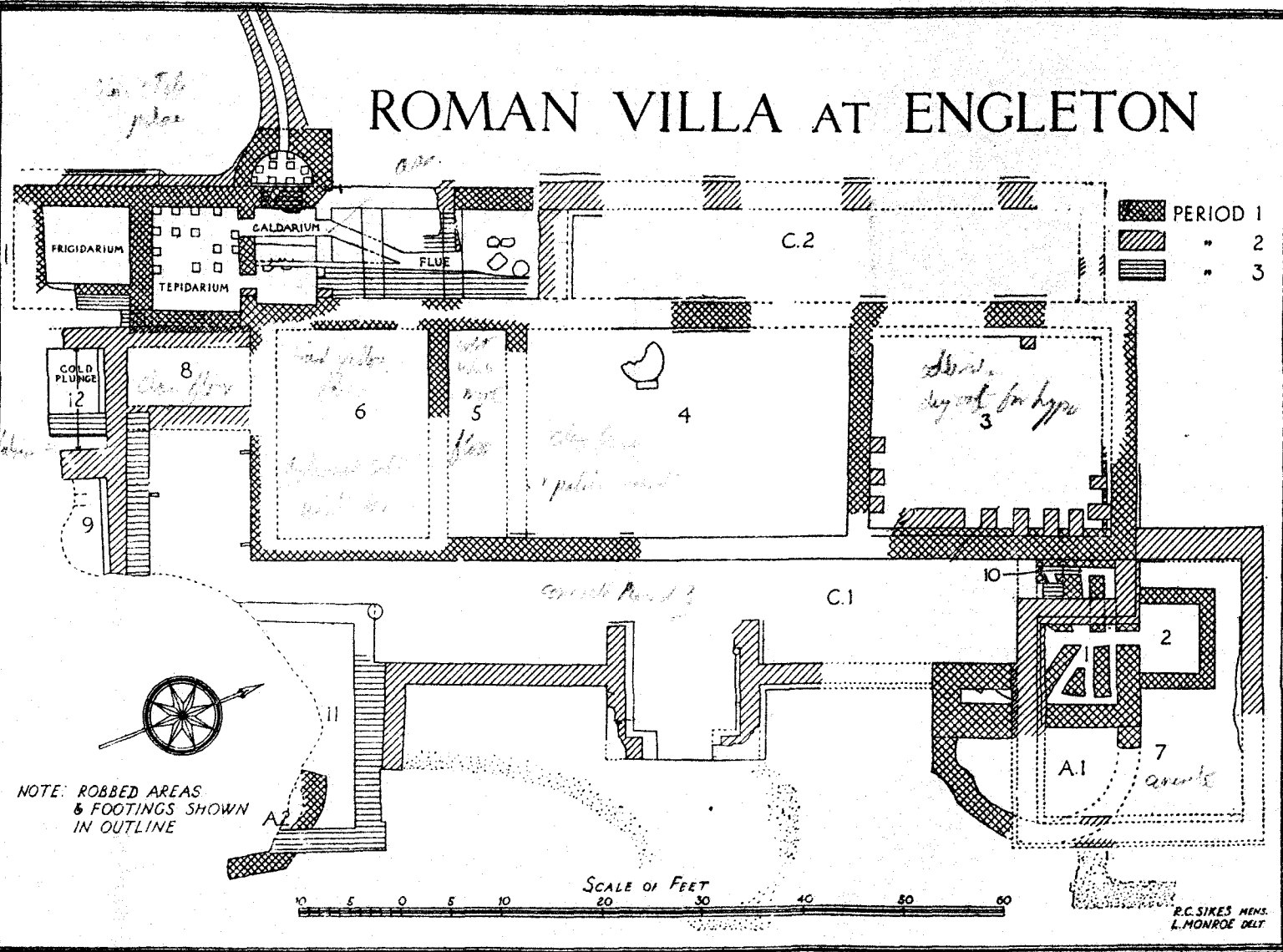
FIG. 1.

stone for there is no evidence in the existing foundations to show that they carried a wooden superstructure.

PLAN. PERIOD I. (See Plan opposite and general view, Plate 2).

The original Period I building was a winged corridor house of

ROMAN VILLA AT ENGLETON



the bipartite type. It consisted of a main block namely Rooms 3-4-5-6, a north wing containing Rooms 1-2 and the foundations of an apse, and a bath wing. In all probability there was a corridor on the east side, but this fact was not established, because it would have necessitated the destruction of the Period III corridor floor. At the southern end are what might be the fragmentary remains of a hexagonal apse, which from its position would have balanced that in the north wing. The connection with the main block, however, was not proved, and it seems more probable that it was part of an out-building, for in the face of the quarry there was no trace of this early wing, and had it existed the rubbish pit (Plate 3) beneath the Period III corridor floor would have been within the walls of the building. This pit contained the earliest group of potsherds that were found on the site, all of which can be assigned to the late second century and therefore in all probability to the first period of occupation. (Fig. 5 Nos. 1-2-3). Room 6 formed apparently the southern extremity of the original building, except where the Bath Wing, containing a Caldarium, Tepidarium, Frigidarium, Furnace and Flues, adjoins the south-west wall of the main block.

THE MAIN BLOCK.

The main block consisted of four large rooms 3-4-5-6 of unequal sizes, all of which were apparently unheated in Period I. The walls were not sufficiently preserved to show the position of doorways. The north and south walls connecting the rooms are both broken through in Room 4, but the construction of the main and dividing walls is similar, and clearly all belong to Period I. Rooms 4-5-6 apparently remained unaltered throughout the existence of the house.

Room 4. Room 4 seems to have had a clay floor, although concrete appears in patches. It was, however, very broken up by robbers and very little remains except the quantities of loose discarded boulders with which the filling abounded. To the west, a few feet from the gap in the wall, are the remains of a circular stone structure set in clay (Plate 4), which may possibly have been the base of an oven.

Room 5. Room 5 is little more than a passage. It had a soft

white mortar floor which at one time was covered with a clay make-up.

Room 6. Room 6 had a hard yellowish floor which was at a later date succeeded by a soft white one.

Room 3. Little of Room 3 remains in its original state for during Period II it was subjected to considerable alterations. The north, east and west walls have trench built foundations and along the north wall, at what must have been the original floor level, runs the remains of a pipe channel (Plate 5) which was put out of action during Period II. Not enough remains to say what purpose it served. The south wall is entirely different in construction. Its foundations are on a considerably higher level and are not trench built, nevertheless they also belong to Period I, for they also underwent alterations during Period II.

THE NORTH WING, ROOMS 1-2.

The projecting wing consisted of a room (No. 1) heated by a channel hypocaust (Plate 6), the floor being supported by a series of blocks of masonry of various shapes. The furnace (Room 2) lay to the north, with a flue passage through the intervening wall. East of Room 1 was apparently an apsidal room (Plate 7), but only the rough foundations remain and these are too irregular to say with any degree of certainty what form the apse originally took; possibly it was hexagonal and a pair to its hypothetical southern counterpart.

THE BATH WING (PLATE 8).

This wing continued in use throughout the life of the building but it certainly belonged to Period I for the following reasons.

The Tepidarium. The Tepidarium belongs to Period I for the south and east walls are built in one piece and the east wall is overlaid by walls of Period II and Period III (Plate 9). The west wall is also Period I for the south wall abuts on to it, thus proving it contemporary as it cannot be earlier. The north wall is divided into three parts to admit of two flue passages, the west junction bonding with the west wall while the eastern extremity separates the east wall of the Caldarium from the east wall of the Tepidarium; as both these walls abut on to it, it follows that it too is Period I. The floor of the Tepidarium is

of concrete covered in part by clay, while the hypocaust pillars are built of stone supplemented by occasional bricks.

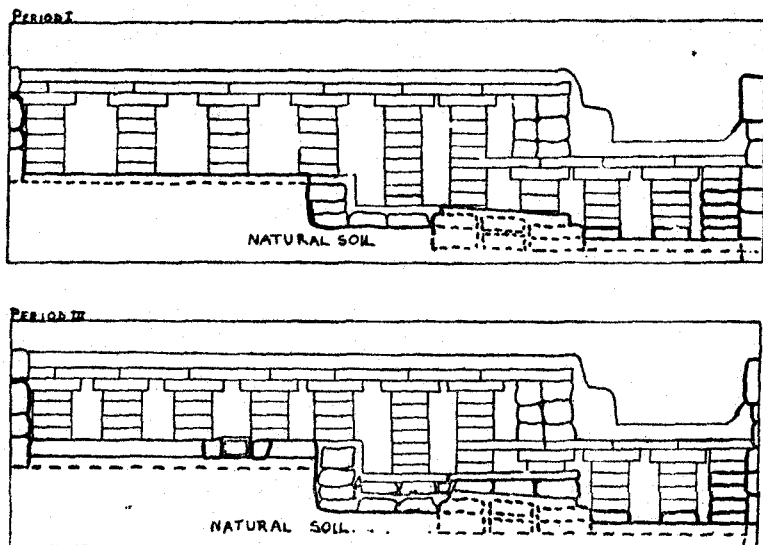
The Frigidarium. The Frigidarium is bounded on the north by the Period I walls of the Tepidarium and on the west by the continuation of the west wall. Only a small unattached fragment of the south wall remains. The east wall is built over by a Period III wall and must therefore belong to Period I for no structural reason exists for connecting it with Period II, and for the same reason it is logical to suppose the isolated fragment to be of the same date. (Plate 9).

The Caldarium. The Caldarium consisted of a heated room with a sunk bath in the apse at the western end. (Plate 10) It belongs to Period I for it has already been shown that the south and east walls are of that date; so too are the chord of the apse and the apse itself for they are bonded together with the west wall of the Tepidarium. East of the chord the centre of the north wall has been completely robbed but it is probable that it matched the south one and that the hypocausts were fed by hot air passing through openings identical with those in the south wall. This suggests that in Period I, to the north of the Caldarium, there was another heated chamber, presumably a Sudatorium, and that hot air circulated through the three rooms in succession by means of the double openings. Moreover it is most unlikely that the furnace would have been placed so far from the first heated chamber. The base of the hypocaust at the west end of the Caldarium was at a lower level than that at the still extant east end in order to allow of sufficient space for the hot air beneath the sunk bath. (Fig. 2).

The Sudatorium and Furnace. Of the west wall of the Sudatorium and Furnace only one small part remains. It forms a continuous line with the chord of the apse and the Period I wall beyond. During Period II it was refaced on the outer side. Probably a wall ran from it to join the west wall of Room 4. This would account for the step down in the level of the natural soil between the base of the south wall of Corridor II and the floor of the Furnace-room. (Plates 11-12). All further traces of the connection between the Furnace-room and the Caldarium have been lost.

Date. No stratified pottery was associated with this period.

The only evidence, therefore, as to date is given by the earliest potsherds found on the site. The earliest coarse ware is late second century (page 290 and Fig. 5, Nos. 1-2-3 and Fig. 7, No. 10) and although some earlier Samian is found, this, as mentioned, may be a survival and the building is probably of a late second century date.



Reconstructed sections through the Caldarium. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1 ft.

Figs. 2 & 3. (See pp. 275, 281).

PERIOD II.

During Period II a corridor was built along the east side of the house, possibly taking the place of an earlier one, and was continued round the south side up to the projection of the bath wing. In the centre of the east side a porch was constructed (Plate 13), and at the north and south angles were projecting wings, the northern of which overlay the pre-existing north wing. That at the south angle was almost entirely destroyed by the edge of the quarry. Rooms were added on the south side of the south branch of the corridor, but their exact plan was destroyed by Room 11 Period III and by the quarry. A further corridor (No. 2) was added on the west side of the house, continuing the projection of the bath building along this side. Other alterations are described under the individual rooms.

THE MAIN BLOCK.

Rooms 3-4-5-6. The only alteration to the main block was in Room 3 which was apparently provided with a hypocaust. The original floor was cut away, and the existing floor is at a depth of 2 feet below it. This floor therefore exposes the foundations of the walls of the room and is in fact below the base of those of the south wall. (Plate 14). In order to support the wall thus weakened, a number of buttresses were added on the inside, of an average width and depth of 1 foot 5 inches by 2 feet 2 inches. The southernmost one against the east wall was, however, nearly three times the width. The eastern one against the north wall is built over the Period I drain running along the wall. This lowering of the floor can hardly have been for anything except the provision of a hypocaust, as it naturally is not sufficient to provide an actual basement. Evidence that this actually was so is given by the fact that the hard floor, which is founded on the blue rock typical of Period II, has a number of depressions probably representing the positions of the "Pilae," and also by the fact that the floor was covered by a layer of burning. The room was not completely excavated so the position of the furnace was not established. As mentioned above, however, the outer wall had been repaired at one point where there was much burning, and it is possible that the flue was there during Period II but was altered in Period III.

Room 7. Over the whole of the original, heated, north wing was built a large "L" shaped room (No. 7), whose concrete floor sealed completely Room 2, and a part of Room 1. The surrounding walls exist only round the western half of the room. From the point where the south wall turns at a right angle to form the "L" it also continues onwards and joins the east wall of Room 3 thus forming a very small Room 10 in the arms of the "L" (Plate 7). This continuation of the south wall passes beneath the concrete floor of Corridor 1. Wherever the walls of Room 7 cross the hypocaust in Room 1 the foundations of the walls rest directly upon the hypocaust pillars. (Plate 6). Their loose rubble foundations consist largely of the hard blue rock, which can be traced all round the room beyond the points where the wall ceases to exist. These foundations cut right through those of Apse 1. The concrete

of the floor, however, stopped short in an uneven line from north to south at a point above the middle of the east wall of Room 1. It may be that this break in the concrete indicates that here was a cross wall dividing Room 7; but no trace of this wall was found. The trial trench, however, which was cut N. to S. at the outset of the excavations, and disclosed the edge of the concrete, may have removed evidence of stone robbery such as would have established its existence.

Corridor 1 and the Main Entrance. A part of the outside wall of Corridor 1 and the whole of the Main Entrance portico have blue stone foundations. North of the portico the central portion of the outer wall is missing. To the north of the gap only the foundations remain and these lie upon the pillars of the hypocaust in Room 1 and do not contain blue rock. South of the entrance the wall continues until it reaches the north wall of Room 11 there it takes a right angled turn and runs eastwards parallel to the Period III wall of Room 11. Shortly after the main entrance the blue stone foundations are discontinued but nevertheless the wall must belong to Period II for two walls of the same period would not have been built against each other. The corridor wall ends with a rectangular turn to the south, both the north and east sides being faced. Nothing of this wall, however, is visible in the face of the quarry where the natural gravel is covered with the make-up of Room 11. The projecting wing thus apparently formed is rather smaller than the northern one. The foundations of the walls surrounding the portico are all of the blue rock and the floor was of clay laid over soft white mortar. To the right, on entering, in the north-west corner of the porch was a large post hole which probably held a door post. The surviving floor of the Main Corridor belongs to Period III.

Room 8. Between the end of the south wing of the corridor and the bath wing, at this period, was a small room which may have served as an "Apodyterium" or undressing room. The west wall was the Period I east wall of the Tepidarium, but when Room 8 was built this wall was thickened on the east side and built up to the level of the floor of the Tepidarium, at which point it was built over the original wall, and set back from the early face. This Period II wall was later sealed by the concrete

of the Period III floor. The south wall bonds with the west wall, and the east wall, whose junction is not exposed, is sealed also by the Period III concrete. The north wall which formed part of Period I Room 6, has been completely robbed away.

Rooms 9-12. South of Room 8 and of the southern branch of the corridor were two rooms. The fragments that remain of the north and west walls of both are of a piece with the south wall of Room 8 and therefore similar in date. The floor of Room 9 was of thick clay and under it passed a flue whose further extremity was never uncovered (Plate 15). The second room to the west was, in Period III divided up into a cold plunge and a latrine but its use in Period II cannot be identified.

THE BATH WING.

The Caldarium. During Period II two small buttresses were inserted into the eastern flue passages leading to and from the Caldarium thus making them narrower. The one in the north wall has a plaster face and is wedged in between the wall of the Period III flue and that of the Period I bath. That in the south wall balances it exactly but only one course remains.

The Furnace. The base of the wall which connects the west side of the brick flue passage with the Period I outer wall is of an intermediate date, for it abuts on to the outer wall and lies beneath, but not in line with, the Period III wall. (Plate 11). The furnace was thus apparently partially rebuilt. The facing of the outer side of the Period I wall together with the additional drain of the Caldarium are in all probability Period II also, for although a connection no longer exists a line drawn along the line of the chord, between it and the outer corner of Corridor II, is directly on the line of the small isolated piece of facing which remains where the flue and the wall are connected and in this place blue stone was found. (Plates 9 and 12).

Date. This period is dated to the third century by pottery from the filling of Rooms 1 and 2 (page 290 and Fig. 5, Nos. 4 to 9).

PERIOD III.

In this period the main alteration was the rebuilding of the south-east wing, making it project to the same extent as that of

the north-east. The other modifications were of a minor character.

Corridor 1 and Room 10. During Period III the existing concrete floor of Corridor 1 was laid down, presumably replacing that of Period II and sealing the Period II south wall of Room 10; while, at a point shortly beyond, another east to west partition was raised in its stead, making Room 10 even smaller. (Plate 7). No floor remained in Room 10 for the soft dark earth rested immediately on the hypocaust filling. The new concrete floor of Corridor 1 ran the whole length of the east and south arms of the corridor, and continued westward sealing Room 8 completely. Beneath the floor in the face of the quarry was the remaining half of an earlier rubbish pit (Plate 3) and running up to the south side of the south wall of Room 6 were two slots 11.8 inches by 3.6 inches which must at one time have held upright posts, while against the opposite wall was another and smaller slot. To the south the corridor abuts against a Period 3 wall which runs parallel with and overlays slightly the north wall of Room 9. This Period III wall is only one course thick and comes to an abrupt end where the concrete runs up to join the step down into the cold plunge. Here must have been a doorway, but nothing is left of the superstructure and only the foundations of the door jambs remain. The southern end of the corridor was bounded by the east wall of Room 11. Nothing remains to show the existence of this wall except the line of the concrete floors which ran up to it on either side. In the corner where it turned and ran east was a large post hole.

Room 11. Room 11 belongs to Period III for its north wall runs alongside the projection of the Period II wall of Corridor I, and it must therefore be either earlier or later. Its east wall bonds with the north wall and seals Apse 2 which belongs to Period I, therefore it can only belong to Period III (Plate 16). The wall is only one course thick. If the east and west walls, most of which were lost in the quarry, are produced on the plan to the place where the Period III south wall of Corridor I would have cut them, then Room 11 becomes almost a perfect square.

THE BATH WING.

The Cold Plunge. (Plate 17). The Cold Plunge was constructed during Period III when the east wall which abuts on

to the north one was added, dividing the Period II Room 12 into bath and latrine.

The Tepidarium. The floor of Corridor I sealed the Period II extension of the east wall of the Tepidarium and then stopped short leaving the Period I foundation projecting below. (Plate 9). Above this projection was the Period III wall which separated the corridor from the Tepidarium, but to-day only a fragment of the south-east corner exists.

The Frigidarium. The fragment of the Period III wall of the Tepidarium continued southwards and roofed over the drain leading out of the Cold Plunge. This wall extends in part over the east wall of the Frigidarium thereby making a step down into the bath which must have been renovated at this period. (Plate 9).

The Caldarium, Furnace and Flues. (Fig. 3). In Period I the heating system was considerably altered, since the Sudatorium was apparently abolished and the Caldarium connected directly with the furnace. The west wall of the flue leaving the furnace was rebuilt and a wall, or rather a thickening of the original wall of the main building, was carried across the east end of the furnace and Sudatorium, blocking the eastern opening into the Caldarium. This wall formed one side of the flue leaving the furnace, and was brick-faced for the distance that it was followed by the main flue. This main branch of the flue, of which the only tracings are cutting into the soil, led at a slight angle to the west entrance into the Caldarium, while a smaller branch followed the line of the new wall, and apparently continued across the base of the hypocaust in a box flue which was raised to cover it. It must have been carried directly up to the level of the Caldarium above. At first sight this at once suggested the much discussed ventilating channels at Mumrills and Chesters but the two are not really analogous for the channels at Mumrills and Chesters lead beneath the furnaces, while that at Engleton runs straight to it. Consequently it cannot have opened into the room above because burning charcoal gives off poisonous gas; it must therefore have served flues in the walls. Above the brickwork and the filling which lies between the Period I wall and the flue are the foundations of two walls which probably bounded a room above the flue

level. In the main flue close to the furnace were found the fragments of a large storage vessel, the only pot complete enough to reconstruct that was found upon the site. (Plate 19).

Date. The latest pottery found indicates that the villa was probably in use throughout the fourth century (p. 291 and Figs 6-7, Nos. 11-21).

GENERAL REMARKS.

No traces of earlier occupation were found upon the site and the villa appears to have been built on virgin territory. However, this is not surprising, when the fact is taken into consideration that it was built in the Brewood Forest, and that the Roman equipment was both more efficient and better adapted to the clearing and tillage of forest land, than was that of their predecessors. Thus, throughout the country, with the improved Roman methods, the cultivation of land was considerably extended, causing many villas to be built on virgin sites. This progressive expansion of the villa system appears to have continued unchecked from the first to the fourth century. Engleton Villa is an example of this growth and so too is the villa at Ditchley in Oxfordshire which was built in the Wychwood Forest. This latter was built during the Flavian Age, but for that at Engleton no proof of existence has come to light prior to the late second century. In common with most Romano-British villas it cannot be accurately dated, but although no exact date can be assigned to the building, it seems likely that it may have been constructed during the Severan Age when a new impetus was given to the villa system. To-day records of more than five hundred Romano-British villas exist, but of these very few indeed are in the Midlands and East Wales, and Engleton alone is in Staffordshire.

The complete plan of the villa must remain for ever a matter of conjecture; should the assumption of an original south wing be correct, together with that of a front corridor and projecting portico, then the Period I building conformed to the standard type of bipartite "E" shaped villa, but with the addition of a projecting bath wing at the south-west corner; but if, as seems more probable, there was no south wing, then with or without corridor it conformed exactly to no standard pattern. A close parallel to the bath wing has recently been

excavated at Prestatyn¹ in Flintshire by Professor Newstead; but whereas although at Prestatyn the order of contiguity is the same, the Frigidarium is an addition, and it and not the Caldarium is apsidal. There the baths form a separate building unattached to any villa. During the early fourth century the villa at Engleton was converted into a tripartite one by the addition of a south wing and a second corridor which caused the bath wing to come into line with the outside of the building. At the same time the front corridor as it now stands, together with the projecting front portico, was constructed. Thus, in plan, the later building deviated less from the standard type of villa than did the earlier one if indeed this latter was "E" shaped at all. Throughout all periods, however, the villa lacked the usual walled farm-yard, and appears to have had in place of it a boundary ditch. In the enclosure thus formed, with the probable exception of the hexagonal fragments, no traces of out-buildings were uncovered, but although it is possible that foundations of them exist to the east of the building, to the south-east and south the land has been so extensively quarried that nothing could have survived. A similar ditch but belonging to the first century seems to have surrounded the farm yard at Ditchley,² but there, at a later date, it was superseded by a stone wall, whose masonry was of such poor quality as to suggest that it belonged to the last building period and thus probably to the Constantinian age. Although the existing knowledge of boundary ditches is slight they do not appear to have been confined to any one period during the Roman occupation, for another has been found surrounding the Roman Villa at Langton near Malton in Yorkshire, which the excavators assign tentatively to the third century. The whole course of this ditch was not traced but it would seem to have been put out of action early in the fourth century. To the east of Langton Villa was still another ditch, the full extent and purpose of which was not established, but if it surrounded another house it must belong to the late fourth century. At Norton Disney⁴ in Lincolnshire is yet another villa surrounded by ditches but this villa does not afford a real parallel, for the complex system of ditches that exists there appears to have been constructed more for the

purpose of minor fortification or drainage than to replace a boundary wall. Other ditches in association with Romano-British villas, have recently come to light at Angmering, Sussex,⁵ and Welwyn, Hertfordshire,⁶ both of which belong to the first century. Thus on the available evidence it would appear that boundary ditches are not confined to any one particular area, as they are found in the North, the Midlands and the South, nor are they limited to any particular kind of land for they occur both in open country and in woodland.

REFERENCES.

- ¹ Prestatyn, *Journal of Roman Studies*, Vol. XXVII., p. 223.
- ² Ditchley, *Antiquity*, IX, pp. 472-476.
- ³ Langton, "Roman Malton & District Report 4."
- ⁴ Norton Disney, *Antiquaries Journal*, XVII, p. 138-178.
- ⁵ Angmering, this report will appear in *The Sussex Archaeological Collections*, 1938, Vol. 79.
- ⁶ Welwyn, this report will appear in the *Antiquaries Journal*, 1938.

SMALL FINDS.

Bronze Objects. (Unstratified, Fig. 4).

1. Crossbow Brooch. A type common in the late third and fourth centuries.
Collingwood, *Arch of R.B.*, p. 257, No. 76, Fig. 63.
Bushe-Fox, *2nd Richborough Report*, pp. 44-45, No. 17, Plate XVIII.
2. Fragment of a Crossbow Brooch similar to No. 1.
3. Pin with a ring head set at an angle with the stem. Roman copy of Celtic prototype. Not well dated.
Wheeler, *Report on the Lydney Excavations*, 1928-9, p. 83, No. 63-64, Fig. 18.
Reginald Smith, *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries*, Vol. XX, p. 344.
4. Fragment of an armlet, snake pattern, common, probably fourth century.
Bushe-Fox, *2nd Richborough Report*, p. 49, No. 59, Plate XXII.

Iron Objects. (Unstratified, Plate 18).

1-2-3. Staples.

4. Arrowhead.

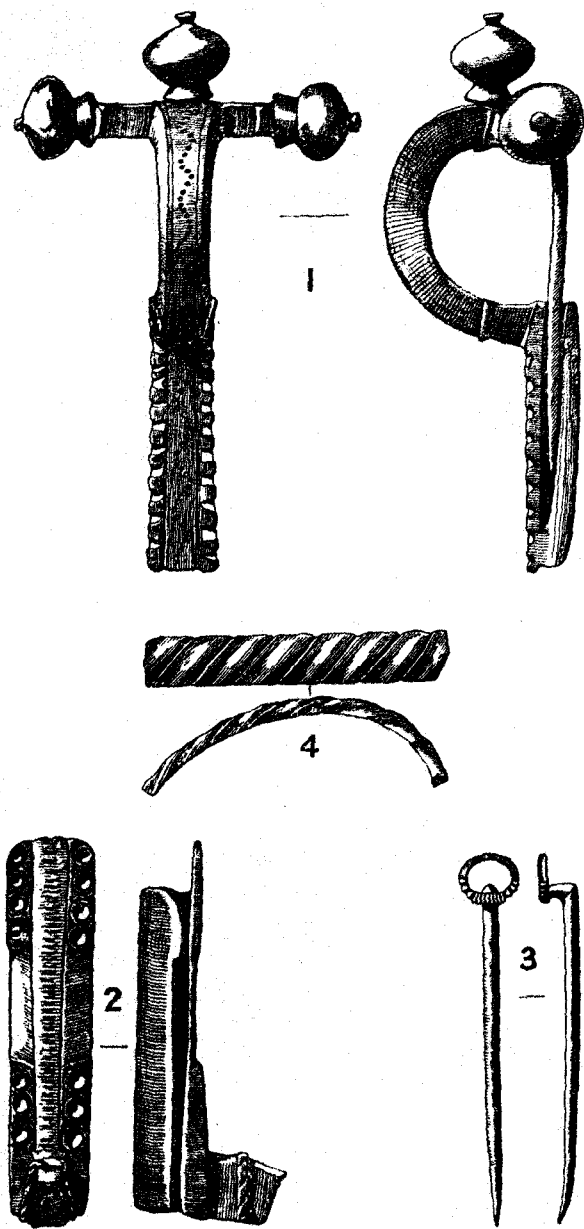


FIG. 4 (actual size).

- | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| 5. Ferrule. | 12. Wedge. |
| 6. Joint. | 13. Knife. |
| 7. Hook. | 14. Spearhead. |
| 8. Staple. | 15. Linchpin (not illustrated). |
- 9-10-11. Unidentifiable Objects.

THE ROMAN COINS.*

1. Claudius II (posthumous) A.D. 270. M. & S. 261 (1)
2. Tetricus II A.D. 270-273. M. & S. 270.
3. Barbarous Radiate. Probably 3rd century A.D.
4. Constantine I. Constantinopolis. A.D. 330-337, c. 21/22 (TRS). Trier.
5. 6. 7. Constantius II. A.D. 337-361, C. 293 Mintmarks

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \vee & S \\ D, & \vee & T \\ \overline{\text{TRP}} & \overline{\text{TRP}} & \overline{\text{PGL}} \end{array}$$

(Trier, Trier, and Lyons mints).

M. & S.=Mattingly and Sydenham, *Roman Imperial Coinage*.

C.=Cohen, *Monnaie frappées sous l'empire romain*, 2nd edition.

Report by Mr. B. H. St. J. O'Neil, M.A., F.S.A.

MISCELLANEOUS COINS.

1. A Saxon Penny of King Eadred 946-955 A.D. B.M. Catalogue Type I.

This coin was struck by Rodberht, and bears the legends:—

+ EADRED REX

and RODBER/TESMOT

The meaning of the latter is probably "Rodberht's die." Rodberht is known as a moneyer of Edmund 939-946. On the obverse the coin bears the letter "M" in the field; this letter occurs on a fair number of coins in this reign and has never been explained. There is no evidence of where (the coin was struck. *See illustration*, plate 19).

2. A silver Halfpenny of Edward III, 1350 A.D.

Report by Mr. Derek Allen.

* It may be worth noting, in view of Mr. C. H. V. Sutherland's study of the question in his *Coinage and Currency in Roman Britain* (1937), pp. 58-9, that nos. 1, 2, 3, are barbarous imitations, showing a high proportion of debased currency, but perhaps a normal feature at this period. [G.P.M.]

SAMIAN WARE. (Unstratified).

1. Part of a wall base, Form 18, Flavian.
2. Two fragments of the same vessel, Form 33. Slight difference in glaze due to provenance. Late first to early second century.
3. Splinter of base, Form 18/31. Domitian-Trajan.
4. Base, probably Form 18/31. Rather coarse rouletting, Domitian-Trajan.
5. Footstand with base of probable Form 37. The footstand shows only a slight splay and is almost rectangular in section. More closely allied to the first century examples than those of the Hadrian-Antonine Period. Domitian-Trajan.
6. Form 37. Nude man (cf. Déchelette 338; Oswald Figure-Types 96, Form 37, style of BVTRIO, Guildhall Museum). Hadrian-Antonine 130-150 A.D.
7. Form 37. free-style; (cf. O. & P. XII, 1, and Curle, Newstead II, p. 227, 1) Antonine 150-160 A.D.
8. Form 37, with squat footstand characteristic of mid-second century and later work. The circular "blob" at the end of the bead-row often used by CINNAMVS. Antonine 150-160 A.D.
9. Fragment of decorated ware mid-second century.
10. Footstand and base Form 31, second century.
11. Form 31 or 37, heavy lip, second century.

Report by Dr. T. Davies Pryce, F.S.A.

STRATIFIED COARSE POTTERY.

Sherds from the Rubbish Pit beneath Corridor 1 (Fig. 5).

1. Large mouthed vessel of hard red clay with undercut roll rim. The majority of this type are later than the second century. Wroxeter Report III, p. 64. No. 78, Plate XXVIII.

Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, 1934. Excavations at Bourton-on-the-Water, p. 110, No. 1, Fig. 4.

2. Conical Flanged Bowl with acute angle trellis pattern. Black sandy fireproof clay. This begins in the second century but does not become common until the third and fourth.

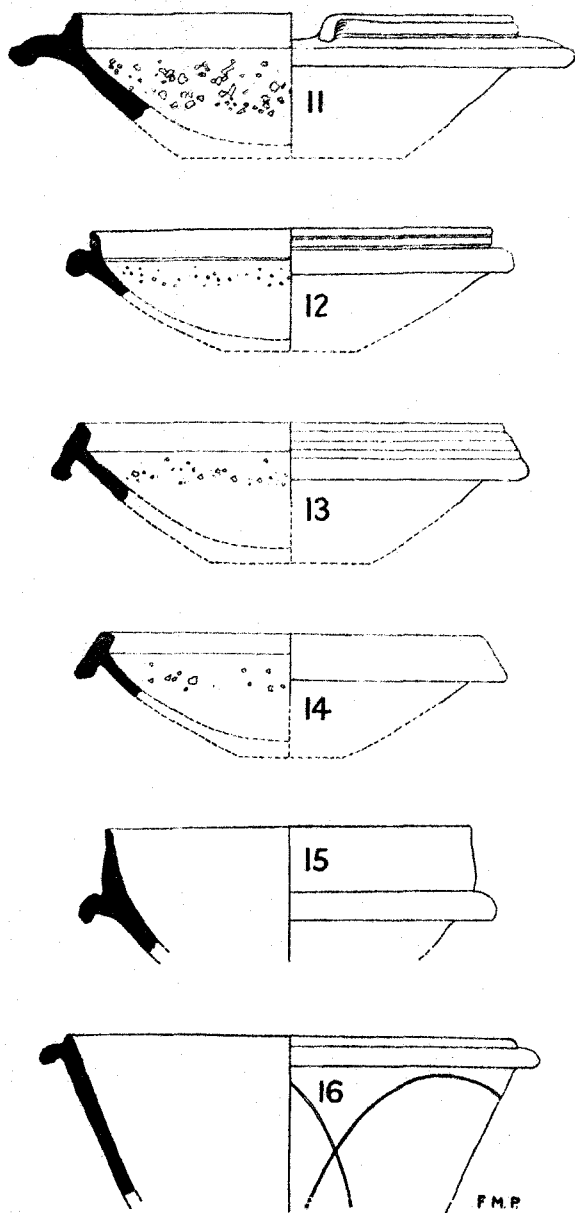


FIG. 6. (4).

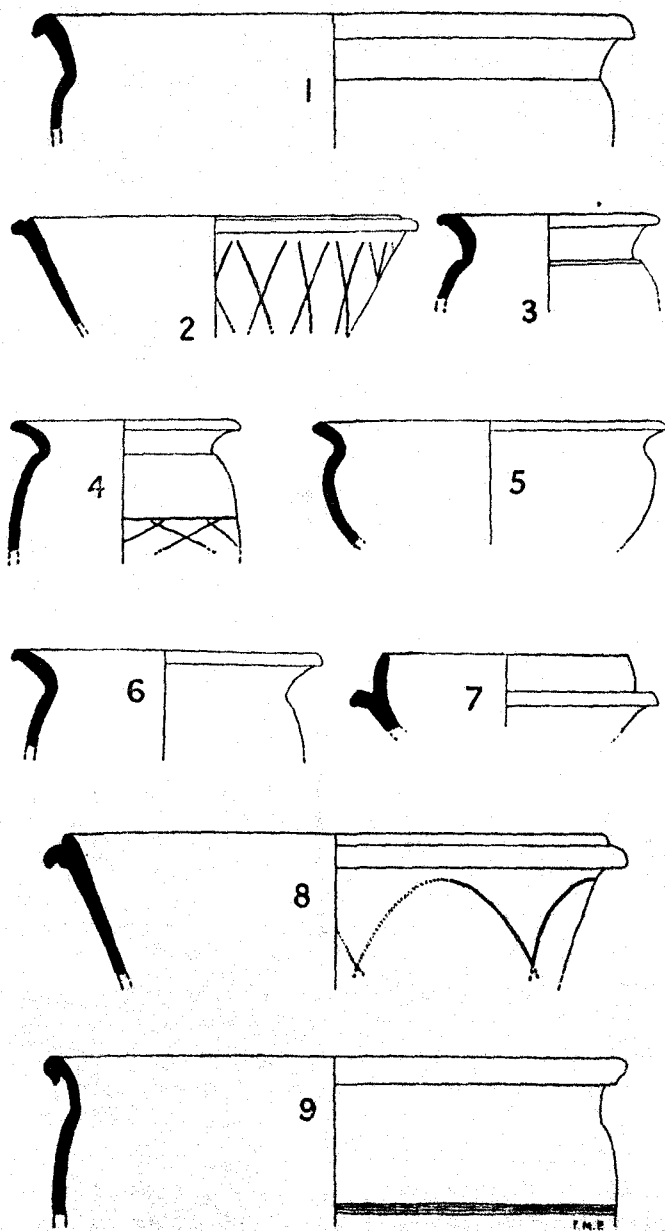


FIG. 5 (1).



The North Side of the Boundary ditch.

See p. 269.

Collingwood, *Arch. of R.B.*, p. 224, No. 30, Fig. 53.

3. Neck-rim Jar. Black sandy fireproof clay, second century.

Ibid., p. 232, No. 65, Fig. 65.

Sherds from the Hypocaust and Furnace-Room filling, Rooms 1-2.
(Fig. 5).

4. Olla with obtuse angle trellis pattern. Black sandy fireproof clay, belonging to the transitional period between the early and late cavetto rim.

Ibid., pp. 233-235, Nos. 72-73, Fig. 57.

5. Bowl with recurved rim, light brown clay.

6. Olla with late cavetto rim. Black sandy fireproof clay. Late third and fourth centuries.

Wroxeter II, p. 53, No. 67, Fig. 19.

Collingwood, *Arch. of R.B.*, p. 235, No. 73, Fig. 57.

7. Hemispherical Flanged Bowl, imitation of Samian Ware, Form 38. Reddish clay with dark red slip. Late third and fourth centuries..

Richborough I, p. 103, No. III, Plate XXVIII.

Collingwood, *Arch. of R.B.*, p. 224, Fig. 54, No. 32.

8. Flanged Bowl with pattern of overlapping semi-circles. Black sandy fireproof clay. Similar type to No. 2.

9. Large Wide-mouthed Vessel. Similar to No. 1.

Sherd from the level cut by the Ditch. (Fig. 7).

10. Pie Dish with acute angle trellis pattern. Black sandy clay. Second century.

Richborough I, p. 97, No. 46, Plate XXIV.

Collingwood, *Arch. of R.B.*, p. 227, No. 44, Fig. 54.

UNSTRATIFIED COARSE POTTERY. (Figs. 6-7).

11. Mortarium. Buff clay with orange-red slip on the inside and on the flange. Late third and fourth centuries.

Ibid., p. 220, No. 11, Fig. 52.

Wroxeter I, pp. 79-80. 20, No. 174.

12. Flanged Mortarium. Buff clay with purple slip on the inside.

Lydney Report, p. 97-98, No. 18, Fig. 26.

Richborough I, p. 102, No. 101, Plate XXVIII.

13. Hammerheaded Mortarium. Buff clay. Late third and fourth centuries.

Wroxeter I, pp. 79-80. Fig 20, No. 178.

14. Hammerheaded Mortarium. Whitish clay with orange-red paint on flange. Late third and fourth centuries.

Wroxeter I, pp. 79-80. Fig. 20, No. 214.

15. Bowl with folded in flange. Imitation Samian Ware Form 38. Buff clay with orange-brown slip. Late third and fourth centuries.

Richborough I, p. 103, No. 109. Plate XXVIII.

Collingwood, *Arch. of R.B.*, p. 224, No. 32, Fig. 54.

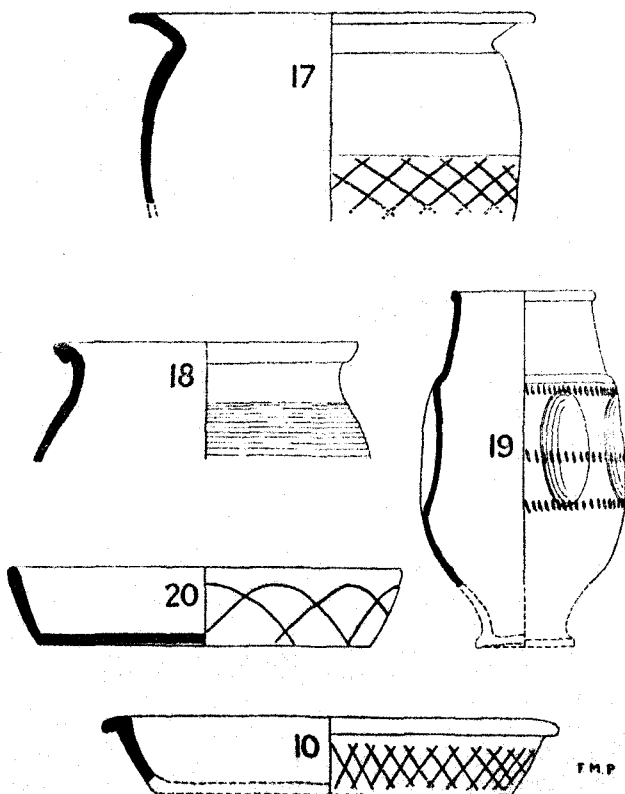


FIG. 7. ($\frac{1}{2}$).

16. Conical Flanged Bowl. Similar Type to No. 8.
17. Olla with obtuse angle trellis pattern and late cavetto rim. Late third and fourth centuries. Black sandy fireproof clay.

Lydney Report, p. 99, No. 39, Fig. 27.

Collingwood, *Arch. of R.B.*, p. 235, No. 73, Fig. 57.

18. Olla with rilling on the shoulder. Coarse black gritty ware. Fourth century.

Richborough III, p. 183, Plate XL, No. 338.

19. Folded Beaker. New Forest Ware, reddish clay with iridescent black slip, and three rows of horizontal rouletting. Late third century.

"Report on the Excavations at Verulamium in 1934," *Antiquaries Journal*, XVII, pp. 41-42, Fig. 10, No. 12.

20. Dish, decorated with overlapping semi-circles. Second to fourth centuries. Black sandy clay.

Collingwood, *Arch. of R.B.*, p. 226, No. 36, Fig. 54.

21. Large Storage Vessel of reddish clay with wavy line round the shoulder. Fourth Century. (Plate 19).

The Roman Theatre at Verulamium, St. Albans, p. 258, No. 31, Fig. 11.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking very sincerely Miss K. M. Kenyon, M.A., F.S.A., Dr. T. Davies Pryce, F.S.A., Mr. B. H. St. J. O'Neil, M.A., F.S.A., Mr. Derek Allen, Dr. Phemister, D.Sc., F.R.S.E., F.G.S. and Dr. Pocock, D.Sc., F.G.S., for their expert knowledge which has been incorporated in this report.

MISCELLANEOUS SMALL FINDS.

Clay Tobacco Pipes.

1.

JOHN
ROB
ERTS

 = Broseley No. 282.

See Shropshire Archaeological Society's *Transactions*, 3rd Series, VII, Plate 5, opposite p. 164.

This is a typical mid-17th century Broseley Pipe of the time of the Civil War, or shortly after. A John Roberts occurs in a local parish register in 1616 (and a Thomas Roberts in 1624), [see p. 162 of the reference given above], but this may be the date of his Baptism. On the whole a date in the Civil War is likely, for it increased the popularity of smoking.

WE

This cannot be matched amongst the published Broseley marks but there is a "WE" mark (with serifs) in the Shrewsbury Museum from Wroxeter with other pipes of late 17th or early 18th century type. It may indicate William Evans.

The form of this example may, however, be slightly earlier and many pipes of about this size and of the same shape were found outside the Chapel of Ludlow Castle, marked in the same style, "WV" usually but not always in a heart-shaped depression. This pipe may also be as early as the Civil War, and is certainly of local, i.e. Midland manufacture.

Report by Mr. B. H. St. J. O'Neil, M.A., F.S.A.



See p. 272.

General View of the Villa.



See pp. 273, 280.

Rubbish Pit beneath Corridor I.



See p. 273.

Circular Stone Structure in Room 4.



See p. 274.

North-East Corner of Room 3 showing pipe channel.



See pp. 274, 277.

North-East Corner of Room 1 and Room 2.



See pp. 274, 277, 280.

The North Wing, looking east.



See p. 274.

The Bath Wing.



Looking South: the Caldarium, Tepidarium and Frigidarium.
See pp. 270-3, 274, 281.



Looking West: the Frigidarium, Tepidarium and the Caldarium.
See pp. 274-5.



The Furnace Room, looking east.
See pp. 275-276.



See pp. 275, 279.

Furnace Room and Main Flue, looking south.



See p. 279.

The Main Entrance.



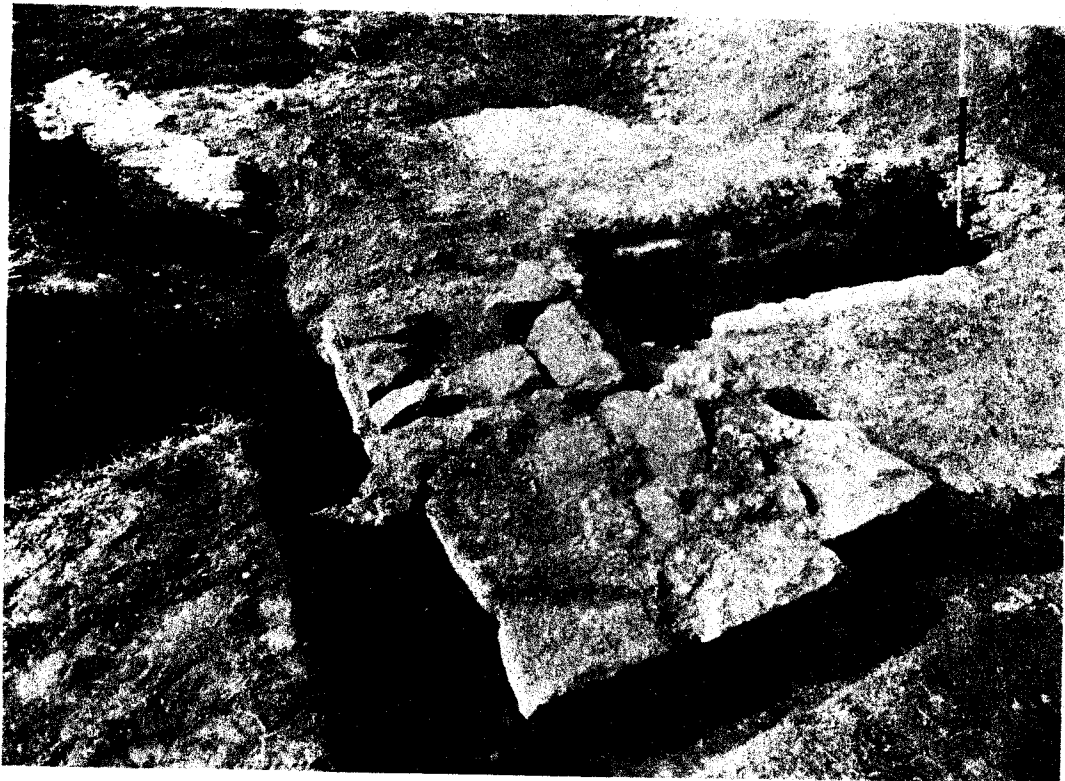
See p. 277.

Room 3, the South-East Corner.



See p. 276.

Flue beneath Room 9.



See p. 280.

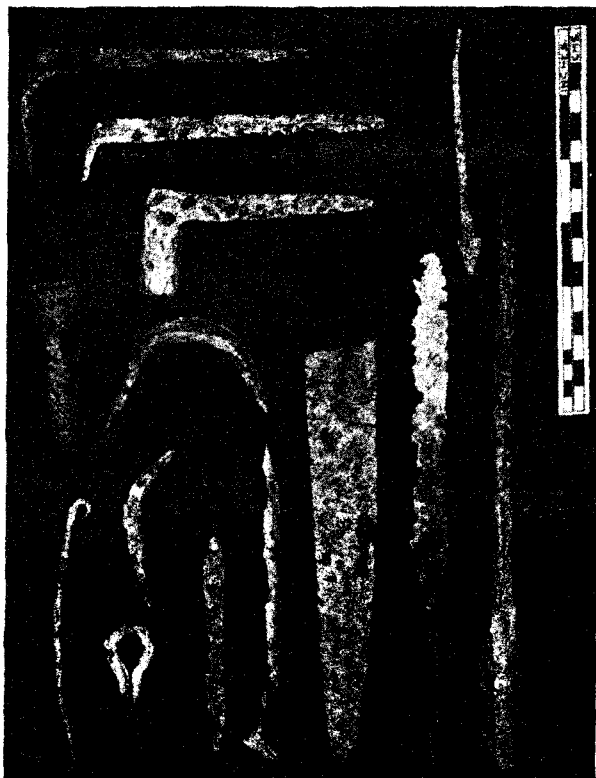
Room 11 and Apse 2, looking south over edge of quarry.



See p. 280.

The Cold Plunge (exposed at edge of quarry).

PLATE XVIII.



12

13

14

Iron Objects.

See pp. 285-6



Large Storage Vessel
(Now in Wolverhampton Art Gallery)

See p. 282.



Penny of King Eadred.

See p. 280.