

A ROMAN BATH-HOUSE AT LITTLE CHART, KENT

By JOHN EAMES

INTRODUCTION

Position

The site lies on the north-eastern slope of the Lower Greensand, looking across the village of Little Chart, $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles north-west of Ashford, towards the high chalk ridge on which runs the Pilgrims' Way (National Grid Reference 51/939458) (pl. I, and Fig. 1).

Immediately west of the village is a large, open field, known as Stammers Field, now bounded to north and west by woods and to the south by the Little Chart-Pluckley road, which here forms the northern boundary of Surrenden Park.

The south-western part of this field had been used over a period of many years by Messrs. Robert Brett and Sons, Ltd. of Canterbury (now the Kent Tarmacadam Co.) for the quarrying of Kentish rag.

Discovery

In 1942, in the course of stripping overburden in preparation for an extension of quarrying activity, a fragment of mosaic pavement was torn up by the bucket of a mechanical excavator. Work in this area was immediately stopped and, except to the outer face of the apse wall of the frigidarium plunge, no other damage was done.

In October of that year Major J. G. Brinson, R.E. (then Lieutenant), with a small party of assistants, was able to uncover a part of the building, comprising room B and its apsidal plunge, room C, part of the hypocaust of room D and a small area of room A.¹ This excavation was subsequently filled in and, owing to the preoccupations of war, work was not resumed until the September and October of 1947, when, under the auspices of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments of the Ministry of Works, the whole building was cleared with the assistance of members of the Ashford Archaeological Society and others.²

Thanks are in particular due to the late Mr. R. J. Geering, whose energy and enthusiasm were responsible for initiating the excavation, and to Mr. E. J. Kinnear of Robert Brett and Sons, Ltd., to whose appreciation of the importance of the site and assistance during the excavations are due the results embodied in this report.

¹ *A.C.*, 55 (1942) 76 f.: also reported in *J.R.S.*, 33 (1943) 77.

² A preliminary notice appeared in *J.R.S.*, 38 (1948), 96.

PLATE I



The site looking north-east. The bath-house lies between the figures at the confluence of the arrows.

PLATE II

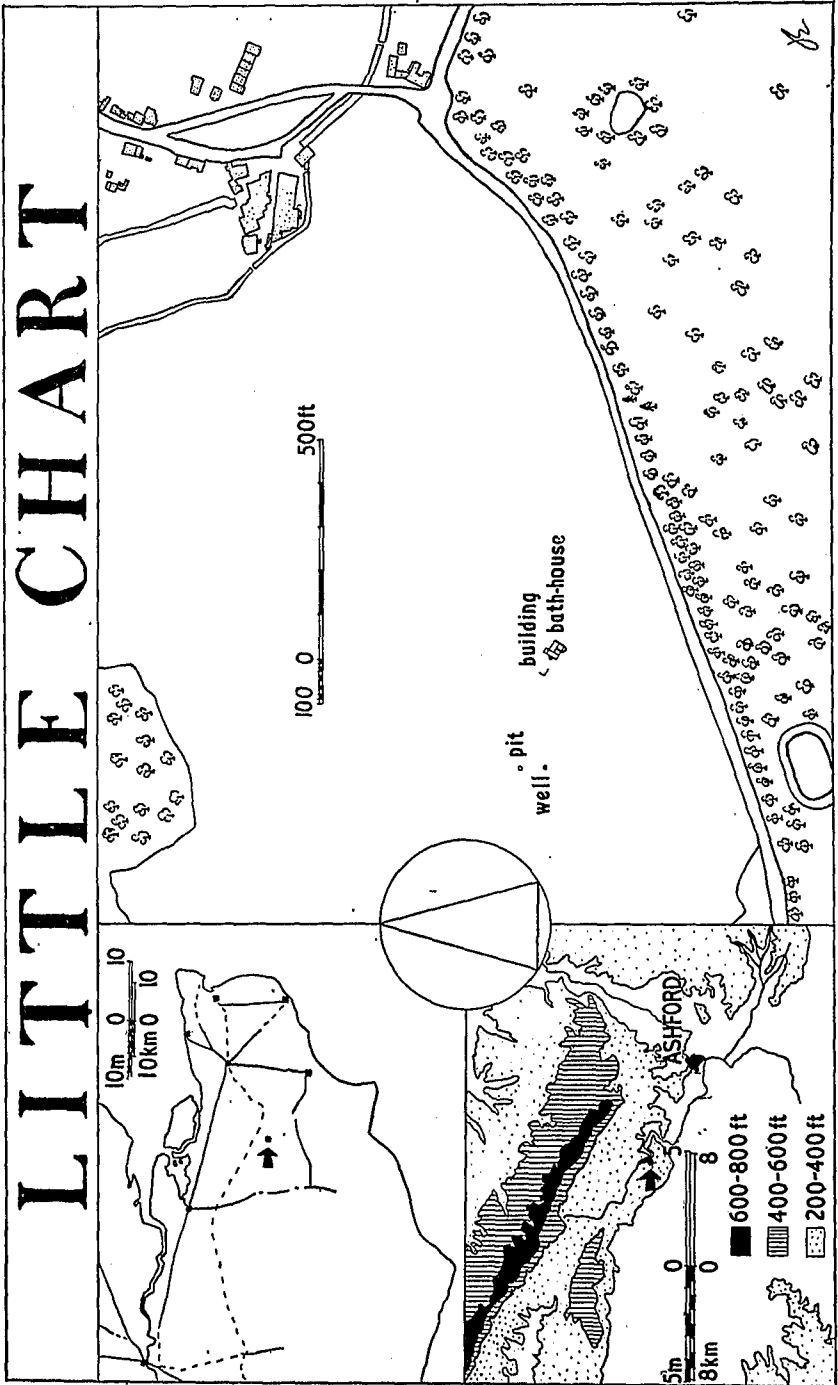


Apodyterium (A), *frigidarium* (B) and *tepidarium* (C), from the west.



The apsidal bath of the *frigidarium*, showing (left, below) the period 2 drain of the bath and (above, in the foreground) the original drain of the *frigidarium* floor.

LITTLE CHART



[Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office. Crown Copyright reserved.]

FIG. 1

THE BATH-HOUSE (Figs. 2 and 3)

Stambers Field has in the past been extensively ploughed—in the nineteenth century with steam ploughs—and for a period it served as a hop garden. As a result the bath-house had been stripped to its foundations and the debris of its destruction completely removed. These operations had involved the disappearance of virtually every stone of the walls above and at floor level. They had also destroyed almost the whole floor of room B, together with more than half its underlying concrete, most of the pavement of room C, a small part of the tesserae of room A and the complete floor of room D. So thorough had been the disturbance in this room that only a few loose tesserae of the floor were found in the hypocaust filling, many of the bricks of the piers carrying the floor had been removed and at its northern end a hole had been broken through the hypocaust floor and its foundation of pitched stones.

The natural surface on which the building was constructed consisted of strata of rag, 2 to 3 in. thick, interleaved with bands of similar thickness of clayey grey-green glauconitic sand. Though there was rock within inches of the surface, its stability was considered inadequate for the construction of the building directly upon it and the foundation walls were carried down to a securer rock stratum some 4 ft. 6 in. lower. On the north-eastern and south-eastern sides of the building these walls are built up against the natural which inside the building is removed down to the lower stratum of rag. Those of the two opposite sides, however, are free-standing. The limits of excavation revealed the relation of the latter to the natural rock in two places only. At the western corner of the apsidal bath of room B, a spur wall runs up to the face of the rock, here cut back 6 or more inches from the wall-face and lying at a level about a foot lower than on the opposite side of the building, and from this point springs the curve of the outer face of the apse. On the north-western side the edge of the rock runs parallel to the wall face and 4 ft. 6 in. from it, but at a point 7 ft. from the western corner of the building turns away at right angles. It is impossible to say with certainty why all the foundation walls were not built alike, lining, as it were, the sides of a pit. No doubt, however, the building was founded in its own quarry and the quantity of stone required for its construction may well have been greater than that afforded by the resources of its superficial area.

PERIOD I

Construction

The quality of workmanship was everywhere of a high order. The walls and their foundations were constructed of random Kentish rag in

LITTLE CHART BATH - HOUSE

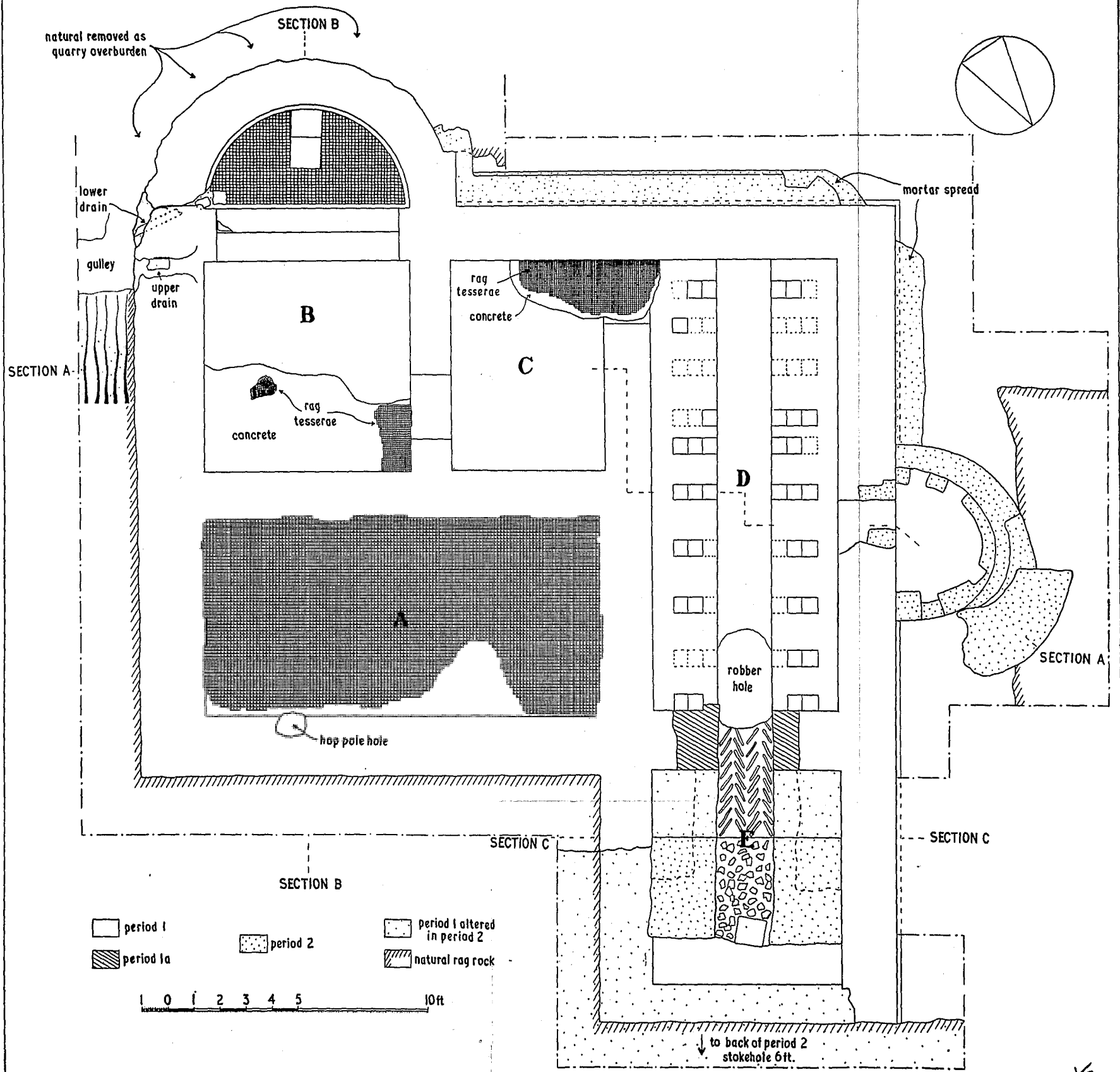
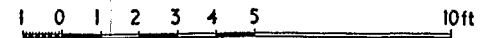
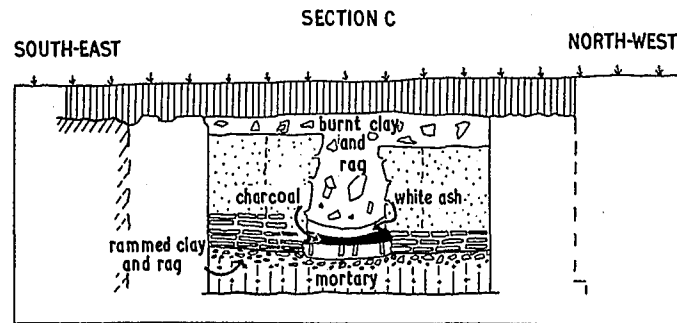
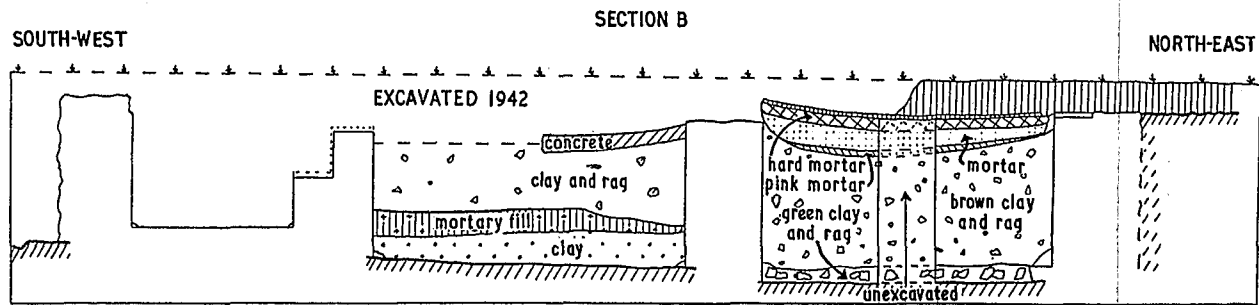
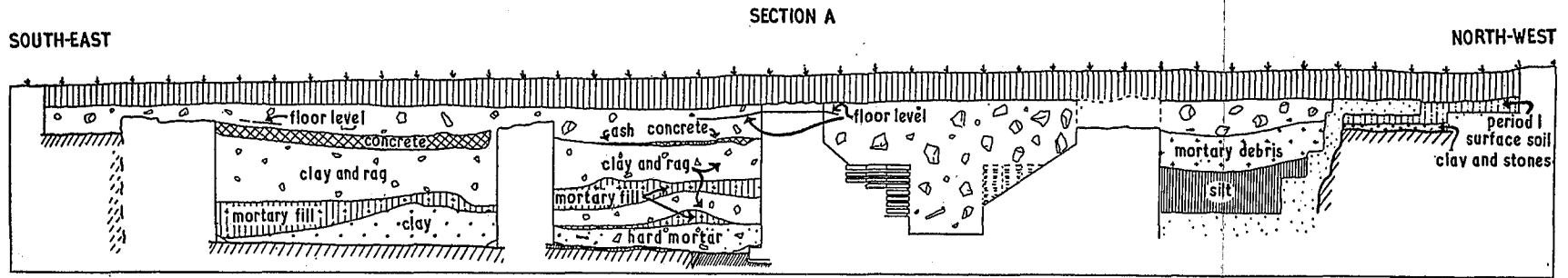


FIG. 2

LITTLE CHART

SECTIONS








-  period 1 walling
-  period 2 walling
-  plough soil
-  natural rag
-  natural greensand

FIG. 3

lime mortar, faced with neatly dressed stones of the same material of average dimensions of 4 in. by 6 in. by 5 in. The junction of wall with foundation was marked by a course of bricks along the inner face of the wall, some of which remained, though the majority left only their bedding mortar. The few wall stones surviving above this course showed that there had been a 2 in. offset at this point.

The apodyterium (A) Pl. II

No trace remained to suggest the position of the main entrance to the building, but reason demands that it shall have been in room A, which must have served on an *apodyterium*. The larger part of its floor of plain red brick tesserae, each 1 in. to 1½ in. cube, was undamaged though it lay up to 6 in. higher than the surviving level of the foundation walls. It had, however, owing to the subsidence of the filling beneath, assumed an evenly dished shape. The tesserae were bedded on a layer of hard, yellowish mortar some 3 in. thick, which in its turn overlay up to twice that depth of a softer mortar. Below this was a thin spread of mortar containing pulverized brick, perhaps the diluted surplus of the concrete underfloor in room B. The main body of the fill consisted of brown clay containing fragments and chippings of rag, the lowest layer of it, however, immediately above the rock floor, being of greenish clay and rather large stones.

The frigidarium (B) Pls. II and III

Stripped of his clothes, the bather passed by way of a doorway, of which nothing remained to indicate its exact position, into room B, the *frigidarium*. This was a small room, some 8 ft. square, with a mosaic floor of patterned black and white tesserae, surrounded by a plain border of rag tesserae, all approximately ½ in. cube (Fig. 4). Only a small fragment of the decoration of this pavement remained, together with a corner of the border. It had rested on a 4-in. raft of concrete, mixed with pulverized brick, which had disappeared over more than half the room. This in its turn rested on a filling of layers of clay or clayey soil, mixed with mortar or fragments of rag. In this room also subsidence had caused a concavity of the floor, the concrete slab being actually cracked.

The water from this floor emptied itself through the south-eastern wall at its southern corner by way of a drain, of which a fragment survived on the upper surface of the wall in the form of a roof tile.

On the south-western side of the room was an apsidal plunge bath (pl. III), to which access was gained by two steps, the upper level with the floor of room 2 and paved with bricks, of which only fragments of the bedding remained, and the lower covered, like the risers of both steps and the walls of the plunge, with concrete about 1 in. thick, con-

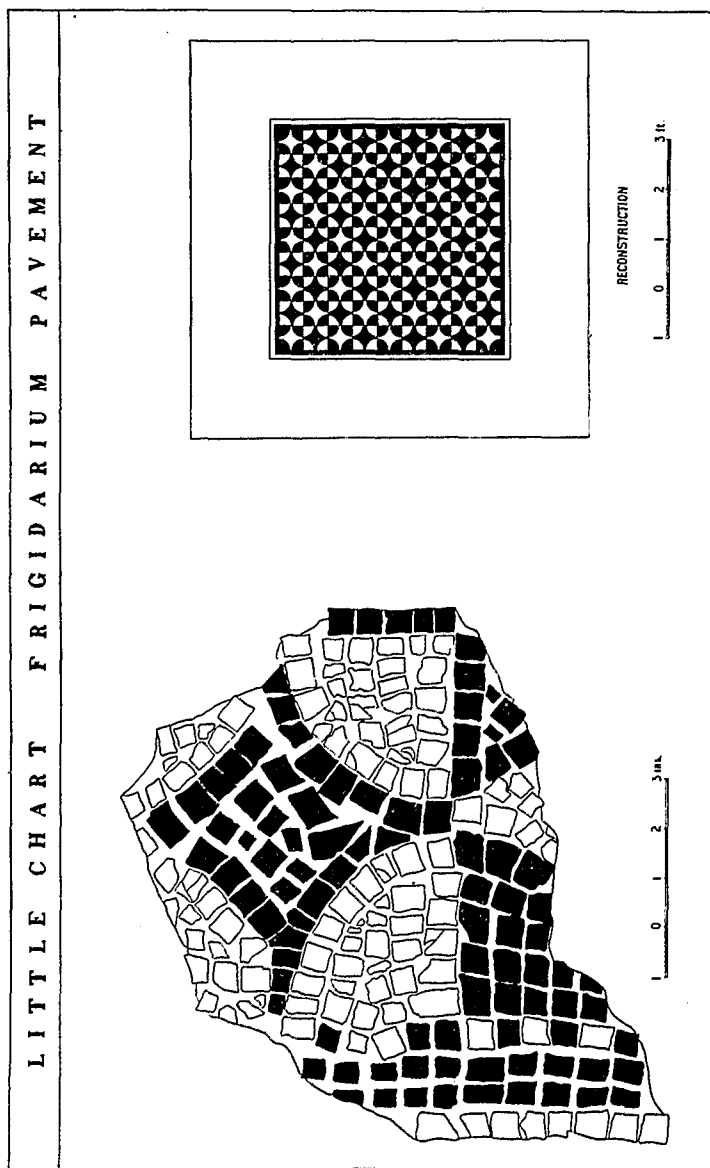


FIG. 4



Calidarium (D) : the hypocaust, looking south.



Calidarium (D) : the hypocaust, looking towards the stoke-hole (E).

PLATE VI



The period 2 furnace. To the right of the pole can be seen traces of the demolished rear wall of the period 1 stoke-hole.

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taining much pulverized brick. The floor of the plunge was paved with brick tesserae, with the exception of two whole bricks, set irregularly in the centre of the curve. These were certainly original and do not represent a repair of the floor. The outer of the two was sealed by a chamfer of white cement which ran right round the bath at the juncture between floor and side, being broken only by the drainage arrangements of period 2. The original drain seems to be represented by the hole, some 6 in. square, in the tesserae at the western corner.

The south-eastern foundation wall of room B had been built against the natural; the stub wall at the western corner of the plunge, together with the first 3 ft. of the curve of the apse, which here overrode the rock surface, were on the other hand free-standing. The exact juncture of these two modes of construction had been obscured, in part by the drainage arrangements of period 2 and for the rest by the complete removal of the natural down to the lower stratum of rag, coupled with damage to the outer face of the apse wall by quarry workings at this point. The complete absence of facing stones over the full height of most of the circumference of the apse suggests, however, that this is the raw, though damaged, back surface of a wall once built into the natural and that the point of juncture with free-standing wall was in approximately the position that the present state of the wall suggests.

The tepidarium (C) Pl. II

The doorway into room C, the *tepidarium*, lay near its eastern corner and was marked by the bedding mortar of tesserae on a brick threshold. These were continuous with the floor of room B and the same paving of rag tesserae once ran without interruption through rooms, B, C and D. Whether C and D also had decorative patterns in the centre cannot now be determined. In this room also the tesserae were bedded on 3 to 4 in. of concrete, topping a builders' make-up similar in general character to that of room B.

There was no evidence of arrangements for heating the room and this was presumably achieved by proximity to the *calidarium*, possibly supplemented by a brazier.

The calidarium (D) Pls. IV and V.

As the floor of the *tepidarium* extended through the doorway into the *calidarium* and remained projecting a few inches beyond, the margins at least of the floor in this room may be assumed to have been of white rag tesserae. It was otherwise totally missing, only a few tesserae being found in the disturbed filling of the hypocaust. The structure of the hypocaust had not, however, been seriously damaged.

The floor had been carried on a series of brick piers arranged in pairs down the length of the room. The distance between the two piers was

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about 2 ft. 2 in. and suggests that the interval may have been arched though no direct proof of this was forthcoming.

The piers themselves rested on two stepped ramps, 2 ft. 6 in. wide and running the full length of the room. The steps had been smoothed into a glacis with a covering of cement, which extended down to the top of the lowest riser. Between the two ramps and their piers the floor of the central channel of the hypocaust was of concrete, resting on a pitching of stones directly on the natural clayey sand.

The purpose of these sloping ramps was, of course, to block a functionally useless part of the hypocaust which would otherwise serve only for the accumulation of relatively cold air. It is surprising that the economy effected by the construction was not more widely recognized. The only other examples known to me are the clay ramps of the late Antonine bath-house in the Lullingstone villa¹ and the very feeble versions in chalk at Darenth.²

The virtually complete destruction of the floor and of the walls above its level made it impossible to determine whether the *calidarium* had been further heated by wall flues, but the absence on the site of any fragments of box tiles suggests that any flues there may have been were not extensive.

The Stokehole (E) Pls. VI and VII.

The stokehole was an extension of the *calidarium* hypocaust, and was separated from it by brick-faced stub walls, carried forward as far as the full width of the benches and leaving a furnace arch of the same width as the central channel of the hypocaust. They served also to carry the main north-eastern wall of the building against which the pent-roof of the stokehole would have in all probability abutted.

The furnace itself was extended to nearly 5 ft. by building into the adjacent corners of the stokehole rectangular piers of mortared brick rubble, regularly faced with brick. The floor of the furnace was paved to the full extent of these piers with rectangles of broken brick, set on edge herring-bonewise in concrete, in four parallel rows. The junction of the furnace floor with that of the hypocaust had been destroyed by the robber hole.

No trace remained of means of access to the low-level floor of the stokehole, being, no doubt, obliterated by the alterations to the stokehole in period 2.

Dating

Removal of the builders' make-up below the floors of the southwestern half of the *frigidarium*, the whole of the *tepidarium* and 32 sq. ft.

¹ I am obliged to Lt.-Col. G. W. Meates, F.S.A., for details of these.

² *A.C.*, 22 (1897) pl. G : *A.*, 59, pt. 2 (1905), pl. lix, fig. 2.



The furnace : period 2 structure removed on the right, revealing the remains of the period 1 furnace. Robber hole in the background.



Apsidal tank, added in period 2 to the *calidarium*.

PLATE IX



The well, with steyning partly removed.

PLATE X



Belgic pottery from the pit.

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at the south-eastern end of the *apodyterium* failed to produce a single piece of evidence to date the structure. Nor was the stokehole ash sealed by the furnace of period 2 any more productive.

The soil back-filled along the faces of the western walls of the building was also, where excavated, entirely without objects, which suggests that the immediate site had hitherto been unoccupied and that this back-filling process had occurred, as might be expected, in the course of construction, before occupation debris had been allowed to accumulate on the surrounding surface, and not in anticipation of the thickening of these walls in period 2 (see below, p. 138).

The earliest material from the vicinity is the pottery from a pit (see below, p. 142), 40 ft. from the west corner of the bath-house. This was the only one excavated of a series of pits and hollows sectioned in the face left by a mechanical excavator in the process of removing the overburden. The type of occupation represented by this pit cannot be determined on present evidence, but if it may fairly be supposed that 260 ft. is not too far for occupation material to wander (and if the unexcavated pits and hollows be assumed contemporary with this one, the distance would be half that amount) and so appear in, for example, the back filling against the western walls, then the bath-house can hardly be later than the pit which its pottery places at latest in the latter part of the first century (p. 144). This evidence is extremely tenuous, but would accord very well with what may be inferred from the quality of the construction.

PERIOD 1a

The corrosion of the brickwork of the furnace arch eventually became sufficient to necessitate its replacement. The old brick facing and part of the rubble and mortar core were dressed back, further at the spring of the arch than at floor level where the lowest course remained untouched, and the whole archway was renewed in dressed rag.

The masonry was not greatly inferior to the work of period 1, and was structurally and qualitatively distinct from the furnace extension of period 2. It is, therefore, certainly earlier than the major alterations of the latter period, and probably to be dated closer to period 1 than period 2.

PERIOD 2

The alterations here listed may be assumed to be contemporary, though their association is generally to be inferred rather than proved. They share a like crudity of workmanship, being much inferior to the work of period 1.

The drain of the frigidarium plunge

Blockage or fracture of this drain made it necessary to open another, which was inserted into the eastern corner of the plunge. This was some 3 ft. below the level of the rock surface outside, and, to provide an outfall for the new drain, the natural rock and greensand were cut away from a point 14 ft. 3 in. from the east corner of the building, leaving the raw exterior face of the foundation wall exposed. This cut sloped down for 4 ft. 5 in. and then dropped into a gully which ran away in a south-eastern direction.

The new drain was inserted into the wall by quarrying through a rough hole into the corner of the plunge. Two pieces of *imbrex* used to floor the drain remained cemented in position.

The thickening of the western walls

The southern slope of the gully had been destroyed by the quarry workings and the outer face of the apse had also received rough treatment from the same cause. It is, therefore, impossible to say at what point the thickening of the free-standing western walls by the addition of some 2 ft. 4 in. of inferior masonry began. This addition survived only from a point 3 ft. 2 in. from the western corner of the plunge. Had it once run round the apse as far as the southern lip of the gully and been stripped in the removal of quarry overburden (as well it might be, being of poor masonry and crumbly mortar) from the raw outer face of the apse, exposed in period 2 by the dressing down of the natural in this quadrant of the building, the rather battered appearance of the outer face might be explained.

The thickening wall ran along the south-western face of the building, but at the western corner it had disappeared. Up to a point 9 ft. along the north-western wall nothing of it remained except the thick spread of crumbly mortar on which it had been built over soil filled back against the outer face of the wall of period 1.

No clue was forthcoming to explain the function of this addition to the walls. Had it run right round the frigidarium apse it might be supposed to have afforded it a decent face, but the condition of the period 1 walls as surviving do not suggest it was necessary along the remainder of its length, unless these had been extensively destroyed at a higher level, the old masonry and addition being topped by walling contemporary with the latter and of such similar inferiority as to require greater width for stability.

The apsidal tank (Pl. VIII)

The mortar foundation spread of the wall thickening impinged on the topmost surviving stones of the hypocaust beneath a small apsidal

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addition near the centre of the north-western wall of the *calidarium*. No trace of the tank, which must have stood at the floor level of the *calidarium*, remained. The hypocaust was heated with air borrowed from that of the *calidarium* by way of a channel roughly broken through the intervening wall. The roughness of the passage was partly smoothed by a patching of the sides of the channel.

The hypocaust had been built by excavating a roughly semicircular hole in the soil filling the gap of about 4½ ft. between the outer face of the *calidarium* and that of the natural. The rough rag masonry rose as a lining against the sides of this hole in a series of narrow steps, impinging at the rear of the hypocaust against the face of the natural itself. The apse wall above rested on the surface soil, sandwiching between itself and the rock surface, where it overlay the latter, a thin layer of period 1 surface soil.

Apart from the projecting piers of the lowest step, which may at a higher level have been carried out to match corbelling from the wall of the *calidarium*, there were no indications to show how the floor of the tank above was carried. There was no trace that there were ever piers on the hypocaust floor.

The Stokehole (Pl. VI)

In order to increase the size of the furnace to cope with the extra demands made upon it by the addition of the apsidal tank, it was virtually doubled in length. The square furnace piers of period 1 were largely demolished and were replaced by two rectangular piers of rough rag masonry set in clay, with a core of rubble and earth. Where the new piers extended beyond those of period 1, they overlay 3 in. of ash which covered the earlier stokehole floor of rammed clay and fragments of rag topping a mortar fill over bed-rock. The concrete furnace floor was also extended with a paving of broken brick roughly set in mortar. A single whole brick was incorporated in the floor at the mouth of the furnace. The inner faces of the piers leaned irregularly towards one another and presumably enclosed the furnace in a roughly corbelled tunnel.

The resultant furnace structure would have almost filled the stokehole, which was, therefore, enlarged by demolishing its rear wall and most of that on the south-eastern side down to the floor level. Both these walls had in period 1 been built against cuttings in the natural, which was now quarried back beyond the limits of excavation, but, behind the stokehole, to a point which could be established by surface indications and a small trial hole to be 7 ft. 3 in. further back.

The calidarium hypocaust

To be associated with these various constructions are a number of

patches making good corrosion of the sloping sides of the hypocaust of the *calidarium*. Access below the floor could readily have been obtained while either the hypocaust of the apsidal tank or the renewed furnace were under construction.

Dating

The sole dating evidence for the structural alterations of period 2 is afforded by heavily burnt coins found in the ash of the stokehole (p. 145). These proved indecipherable, but provide a fourth-century date.

The duration of period 2 cannot have been long. The sides of the furnace, for example, which, being of rough masonry set in clay, would be eminently corrodable in the fire, and the reused furnace arch of period 1a, were not badly damaged. Some part of the fourth century would, therefore, appear to cover both the beginning and end of the period.

The long interval between the two periods of occupation makes the very good condition of the floors the more surprising. The surviving pieces show no sign of patching or renewal and must have been protected by an accumulation of material upon them. The occupiers of period 2 will, therefore, have been obliged in part to excavate the building before re-roofing it and adapting it to their needs.

THE WELL (Pl. IX)

While excavation on the bath-house was in progress, blasting operations at the quarry face, at a point 82 yd. from the corner of the calidarium, exposed the outer face of the steyning of a cylindrical well.

The upper part of the well, to an estimated depth of 6 ft. 2 in. from the modern surface, had been swept away unobserved in the mechanical removal of the quarry overburden. The excavated portion, 10 ft. 6 in. deep and about 3 ft. 4 in. in diameter, had been quarried through the rock and lined with roughly squared, unmortared stones. Excavation was discontinued 2 ft. below the level of the quarry floor. These last 2 ft. were subsequently filled in; the upper part, discovered in the working face, has now been quarried away. A considerable depth remains untouched, for layers of reddish ash in the filling were depressed towards the centre of the well as much as 3 ft. below their outer edges.

The fill was of a consistent grey-black mould, at intervals layered with ash, and contained only fragments of pottery (p. 143) and window glass. Pieces of the same bowl (Fig. 5, 3) were found at both top and bottom of the excavated portion.

The date of the filling of the well is given by the pottery as not later than the mid-second century. Its original construction may perhaps be associated with that of the bath-house, though its distance from the

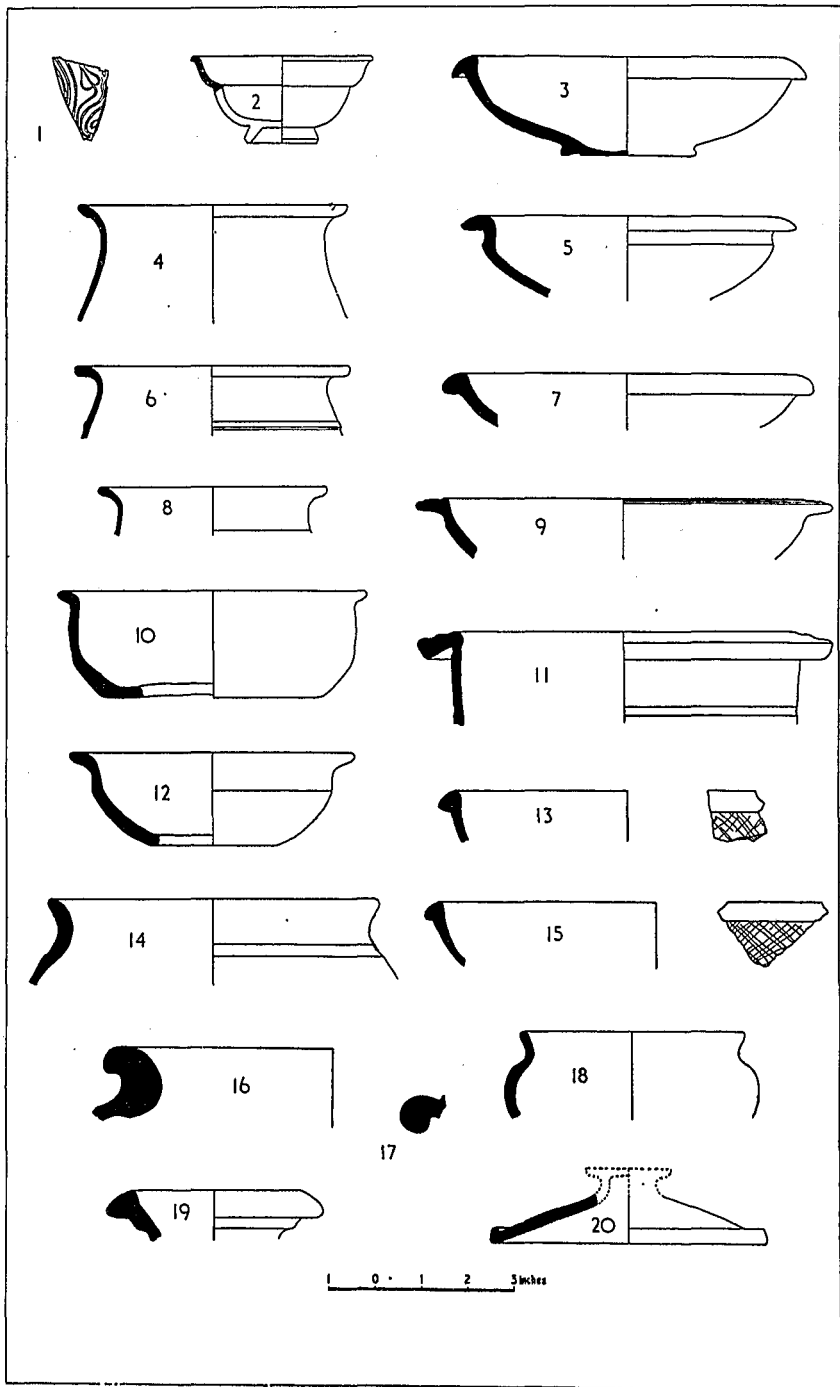


FIG. 5

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latter shows that its primary function was not to supply water for bathing.

BUILDING 2

During the winter of 1947-48 quarrying operations 16 yd. north-west of the bath-house demolished the corner of a building, of which it was possible to trace short lengths of the two adjacent walls (see site plan, Fig. 1). They were built of random rag, faced with dressed stones, about 2 ft. thick and plastered internally. They were very similar in construction to those of period 1 in the bath-house.

It was not possible to investigate further and the structure has since been consumed by the quarry.

THE PIT

The removal of quarry overburden had left an exposed face west-north-west of the bath-house. In it were visible a number of shallow pits and irregular hollows extending for 130 ft. Only the largest pit was excavated. It was the furthest from the bath-house and lay at a distance of 260 ft. from its western corner.

It was 6½ ft. in diameter and 3 ft. deep, and proved to have lost to the mechanical excavator about a quarter of its volume. It was bowl-shaped in section and uniformly full of fine grey soil containing fragments of Belgic ollæ (below, p. 144). No specific function could be detected for it.

CONCLUSION

In the reports of the 1942 excavations¹ mention was made of "evidence during periods of dry weather, of masonry near to the surface both adjoining to and nearby". Apart from building 2 of which there was no trace on the surface, but which was subsequently exposed in the course of quarrying, no remains could be discovered to substantiate this conjecture despite extensive digging of trial holes and probing to the north and north-east of the bath-house, in that part of the field unaffected by quarrying operations. In all cases the rock surface was met at a depth varying eastwards from 2 ft. 6 in. to 9 in., the surface declining relative to the level of the rock with the fall of the ground in that direction.

It is not possible, therefore, to be precise concerning the activity with which the bath-house was associated, though the identification of building 2 might have greatly assisted in this. An earlier find, however, suggests that it may have been farming. In 1936² a pit containing

¹ *A.C.*, 55 (1942) 76 f. and *J.R.S.*, 33 (1943), 77.

² *A.C.*, 48 (1936) 234 f. For other finds at Little Chart see *V.C.H.*, III, 168 (Roman cremations near Warren House) and *A.C.*, 48 (1936) 235 (Anglo-Saxon burials in the Stammers Field quarry).

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charred wheat was reported to have been discovered "just outside the walls of Surrenden Park, Little Chart", but, inconsistently, its exact position is given as lat. 51° 11' 20" N. and long. 0° 46' 39" E. The description, however, allows Stammers field as a possible site.

No description of the pit is given which might in fact identify it with a storage pit of the type best known from the Iron Age A site of Little Woodbury¹ and the Romano-British farms of Cranbourne Chase.²

The wheat proved to contain a few grains of oats and barley, and seed of the cornfield weed *Bromus secalinus*.³ A Roman date is most probable in view of the presence over the pit of a flanged tile and inside it of two stones of a species of *Prunus*, perhaps cherry, a tree of Roman introduction.⁴

THE POTTERY (Fig. 5).

The well

This group of fragments was found in the excavated section of the well between the stripped rock surface and the quarry floor. The filling was consistent throughout and pieces of the same vessel (3) were found at both top and bottom.

The *terra nigra* (3, 5 and 7) cannot be long post-Claudian, but some pieces, including the inferior wares of pronounced native character (10, 12, 14 and 18), may be as late as the early second century. The pottery is consistent with the disuse of the well and its deliberate filling over a comparatively short period of time not later than the mid-second century.

Figured Samian

Fig. 5 : 1. Form 30 Drag. Good pinkish-red glaze. Vine scroll with pointed heart-shaped leaf; double outline. Perhaps Claudius-Nero.

Plain Samian

Fig. 5 : 2. Form 27 Drag. Dull, reddish glaze; overfired. Full bead-rim; perhaps a grooved foot-ring. Mid first-century.

Gallo-Belgic : terra nigra

Fig. 5 : 3, 5 and 7. *Bowls*. Well levigated, pale grey ware; black wash mostly disappeared. Terra nigra rarely occurs after Claudius.

¹ Gerhard Bersu, Excavations at Little Woodbury, Wiltshire. *P.P.S.* 6 (1940) 30 ff., esp. 48 ff.

² General Pitt-Rivers, Excavations in Cranbourne Chase I, 1887, 7 ff. and II, 1888, 51 ff. C. F. C. Hawkes, Britons, Romans and Saxons round Salisbury and in Cranbourne Chase, *Arch. J.*, 104 (1948), 27 ff., esp. 36-48.

³ Prof. John Percival, *A.C.*, 48 (1936), 235.

⁴ M. P. Charlesworth, *The Lost Province*, Cardiff 1949, 71 f.

Coarse pottery

- Fig. 5 : 4, 5 and 6. Everted rim beakers, 6 with shoulder cordon. Hard brownish-grey ware, burnished. *Richborough I* : 75-7 and *III* : 290 ; A.D. 80-120.
- Fig. 5 : 9. Reeded rim bowl. Ware as last.
- Fig. 5 : 11. Reeded rim bowl. Dense granular grey ware. *Richborough I*. 79 : first century.
- Fig. 5 : 10 and 12. Bowls. Coarse grey-black ware, varying to brown, soapy surface ; hand made. Cf. *Richborough I* : 73 and *III* : 223 and 224 ; A.D. 70-120.
- Fig. 5 : 13 and 15. Pie dishes. Grey ware ; black-brown slip, lattice on outer face ; late first-early second century.
- Fig. 5 : 14. Olla. Black ware with soapy surface, as 10 and 12, but wheel-turned. Cf. *Richborough I* : 52 and *Leicester* Fig. 42 : 30.
- Fig. 5 : 16. Storage jar. Heavy rolled rim ; coarse, unevenly fired ware, grey to brown.
- Fig. 5 : 17. Mortarium. Pinkish-buff ware. Cf. *Richborough IV* : 495 ; late first century. *Wroxeter* 1912. Fig. 19 : 22, 26 and 30 ; A.D. 80-120.
- Fig. 5 : 18. Jar. Black ware ; soapy surface, as 10, 12 and 14 ; perhaps hand-made. Cf. *Richborough I* : 13 and *II* : 140 ; both Claudian.
- Fig. 5 : 19. Flagon. Pink ware. Cf. *Wroxeter* 1912 : 2 ; A.D. 80-120. *Silchester* pl. lxii, 118.
- Fig. 5 : 20. Lid. Hard grey ware with granular surface. *Leicester*, p. 119, type C ; conquest-mid-second century.

The pit

With the exception of an unidentifiable fragment of Roman ware, the pottery from the pit was Belgic. There is, however, no reason to believe that any of it is pre-Roman, as the ware continued in vogue well into the second half of the first century.

Ollae with combed decoration

Coarse, gritty grey fabric. The ware is discussed in *Richborough II*, pp. 97-9 ; v. pls. xxix and xxx : 135 and 136. Cf. *Canterbury 1945 and 1946* no. 61.

- Pl. X : 1. Body fragment of a large olla, maximum diameter perhaps 26 in. Oblique combing in bands of alternate direction, 1½ in. wide.
- Pl. X : 2-5. Rim fragments of smaller bead-rim ollæ with plain band, 1-1¼ in. wide, below rim, and horizontal combing below.
- Pl. X : 6. Body fragment of similar olla with combing horizontal above and, below, curving diagonally down.

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Pl. X : 7. Body fragment of a large olla comparable in size to 1, with applied strip of finger-pinched decoration. Cf. *Verulamium*, pl. li, 17, from Wheathampstead oppidum.

THE COINS

Tetricus I (270-3)

1. Ant. *M. and S.* 100. Obv. IMP C TETRI . . . bust rad. dr. r.
Rev. PAX vert. sc.
2. Ant. *M. and S.* 101/2 (barbarous).

Carausius (287-93)

3. Ant. *M. and S.* 101. Obv. Bust rad. dr. cuir. r. Rev. PAX vert.
sc. $\frac{F/O}{ML}$

Fausta

4. AE3, reduced 12.5 Obv. ? FLAV MAX FAVSTA AVG diademed bust, r. Rev. ? Victory *Cohen* 7, p. 337 : 24. ? *Constantine II* as Cæsar (317-37).
5. AE3, reduced 13.5-15. Rev. GLORIA EXERCITUS two soldiers and standard. ? $\frac{\quad}{TRS}$

None of the coins listed above was found in a stratified context. Four illegible coins were recovered from the top layer of stokehole ash—1 AE2, 1 AE3 and 2 AE4 (thick flan. 8-9 mm.).

SMALL FIND

Bone pin. *Leicester* type C.2, fig. 90 : 8. From the top layer of stokehole ash (fourth century).

ABBREVIATIONS

A. *Archæologia.*

A.C. *Archæologia Cantiana.*

Arch. J. *Archæological Journal.*

J.R.S. *Journal of Roman Studies.*

P.P.S. *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society.*

V.C.H. *Victoria County History.*

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