

From the *Transactions* of the
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

**Whittington Court Roman Villa, Glos.: A Report of the
Excavations undertaken from 1948 to 1951**

by H. E. O'Neil
1952, Vol. 71, 13-87

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WHITTINGTON COURT ROMAN VILLA,
WHITTINGTON, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

*A Report of the Excavations undertaken
from 1948 to 1951*

by HELEN E. O'NEIL, F.S.A.

THE presence of Roman remains in a field called Cow Pasture, east of Whittington Court, was first noticed during the autumn of 1947 by Mr T. K. Young, who found tesserae from a mosaic pavement lying on the turf close to rabbit burrows. This naturally excited speculation and when the delightful story of the find of Chedworth Villa was recalled, due also to the activities of rabbits, the present find promised great possibilities. These were fully realised later when a house of Roman date complete with tessellated pavements, hypocausts and bath building was uncovered.

Mrs Evans Lawrence of Whittington Court, the owner of the land, who had long suspected that ancient remains¹ lay in this field, invited Mr D. W. Herdman, then Curator of the Cheltenham Museum, to visit the site. This led to further visits in March 1948, from Mrs E. M. Clifford and Dr K. D. Pringle, when it was thought highly desirable by opening some trenches, to prove whether the site would repay a full scale excavation. Dr K. D. Pringle undertook to carry out this investigation with the help of friends, including some of the staff and students of the Oakley Training College in Cheltenham.

Work was started during the early part of the summer of 1948, when two trenches were dug across a part of the area

¹ On a former visit to this site in 1936 with Mrs Evans Lawrence we identified some sherds found lying on the surface as medieval and concluded they were remains from the reputed site of the old village of Whittington which lay hereabouts.



Part of the fourth century tessellated pavement from Corridor II,
Whittington Court Roman Villa

occupied by the rabbit warren. These revealed portions of a tessellated pavement *in situ* as well as masonry of a well-built wall. It was now considered that an excavation on a larger scale would be worth while. At the invitation of Mrs Evans Lawrence I undertook the supervision of further exploration. Four seasons of work followed, a fortnight in August 1948, four weeks in August, 1949, six weeks in August and part of September 1950 and a fortnight in April 1951.

Grateful thanks are due to Mrs Evans Lawrence for her permission to excavate and for her unfailing interest and encouragement throughout the four seasons of work, and not least, for all the help, facilities and hospitality enjoyed by the writer and the happy team of diggers.

To Mr T. Barrett of Whittington, the tenant of the land, I wish to express thanks and appreciation for the permission to excavate. To Dr Pringle is due the thanks of all for his preliminary work on the site and for his interest and help given in abundant measure especially in organising the camps for the helpers, which formed such an important feature of each season of the excavation. It is impossible to express adequate thanks to Mr and Mrs T. K. Young for their untiring efforts and unfailing help, so charmingly given throughout the whole of the excavation in all its various aspects, not least amongst which loomed the catering problem for the camps. To them, with the sincere admiration of all the diggers, I wish to accord our grateful thanks. To Miss O. M. Hogan, Miss C. Huxham, Miss Vera Lloyd, Mrs Shorter and Mrs Charles Green special thanks are due for their help in the arduous task of running the camps, a facility much appreciated by all the diggers. Lastly, to over ninety voluntary workers on the excavations go my personal thanks for the splendid help and support given, but, much as I desire it, lack of space prevents me naming them individually. I am also indebted for helpful advice from Professor Sir Mortimer Wheeler.

For help in the preparation of this report I wish to express my thanks to Mr G. C. Dunning, Mr P. Corder and Mr E. M. Jope for help with the pottery, to Dr N. Davey for a report on

the mortars, to Mr F. C. Vickery for help during the excavations and for planning the hypocausts of Rooms I and IV, to Mr T. Hay for help with geological problems, to Dr W. J. Arkell for the note on the Cotswolds slates, to Dr D. B. Harden for help with the glass, to Mr and Mrs C. Green for help in many ways as well as for the drawing of the pavement of Room I, to Miss S. Evans Lawrence, Miss Nancy Stevens, Mr W. N. R. Rogers, Mr G. F. Strawford and Mr J. Lindop for help with the tracings of the other pavements, to Mr C. D. P. Nicholson for information about tessellated pavements, to Mr and Mrs W. T. Jones for helpful advice on the photography and to the former for permission to reproduce his photograph of Room V (PLATE II), to Mr S. E. Rigold for the identification of the medieval coins, to my husband, last but not the least, for valuable co-operation and help in the interpretation of the archaeological evidence, as well as for the work on the Roman coins.

For financial help the Excavation Management are greatly indebted to the Society of Antiquaries of London, the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club and to many friends and visitors to the site. Thanks are also expressed to the Council for British Archaeology for a generous grant which has made a full publication of this Report possible.

History of the site

The villa has been called the Whittington Court Roman Villa, to distinguish it from the site of the Roman villa at Withington, a village some three and a half miles to the south, excavated by Samuel Lysons in 1811.¹ The site of the newly found villa lies on sloping ground some 10 feet above and on the east bank of the Whittington Brook,² where the latter runs

¹ *Arch.*, xviii, p. 118.

² There does not appear to be a local name for this brook, and it is therefore tentatively called the Whittington Brook in this Report. Dr G. B. Grundy in his *Saxon Charters and Field Names of Gloucestershire*, published by the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, September 1936, states in the Charter for Withington (p. 262) that Andoversford takes its name from the stream 'Anna,' the latter flowing from Whittington.

just east of the Church of Whittington and Whittington Court,¹ to join the River Coln in half a mile at Andoversford. The situation, at 590 feet above O.D. on the upper lias, near a strata of Cotteswold Sand lying at the base of the Inferior Oolite, was well placed with a spring line close at hand. The remains lie in an open position towards the northern edge of the undulating vale of Andoversford, sheltered by the higher hills to the north, culminating in Cleeve Cloud some 1,083 feet in height. (Pl. v a).

There is no doubt that the Andoversford vale had some attraction for man throughout the centuries, due not only to its more sheltered position in the north Cotswolds but also to the presence of a large spread of gravel, which provided a suitable site for occupation. This gravel occurs at a hamlet called Syreford. It was deposited by the River Coln after its passage through a narrow valley from its source at Charlton Abbots two miles distant. Finds from this area consist of polished stone axes² and Early Iron Age sherds. The latter were found and rescued by the writer³ in 1934 from a pit exposed by modern gravel digging, while a later find in 1947 produced sherds of the same date associated with remains of a hearth. Finally a large Romano-British settlement grew up and extended over most of the gravel spread. Excavations carried out on this site, known as Wycomb,⁴ by Mr W. L. Lawrence⁵ prior to the building of the Cheltenham-Bourton on the Water Branch Railway in 1873-81, which runs across the site on an embankment, produced evidence of extensive occupation.

¹ 6-inch O.S. Glos., xxvii, S.W. Site c. 330 yards E.S.E. of the Church.

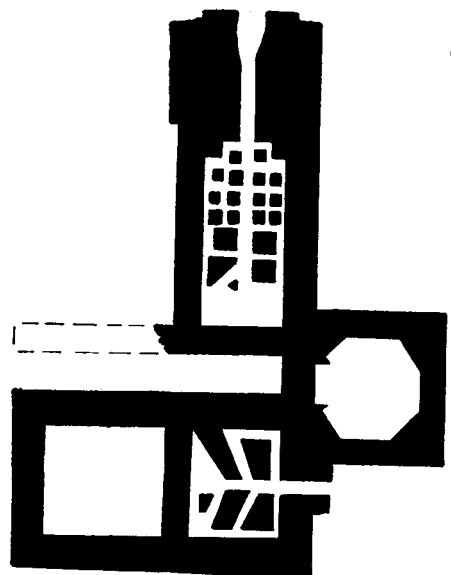
² A collection of four made by Mr G. B. Witts, three of which are in Cheltenham Museum. *Cotteswold Nat. Field Club*, x, p. 33, Plate III, nos. 15 and 18, see also p. 37.

³ The section of a pit 6 feet wide, 3 feet deep filled with earth and gravel débris was seen in the face of the gravel workings in 1934. At a depth of 2 feet lay a bed of ashes 2 inches thick. Sherds of Early Iron Age date were found above and below the ash layer. Information hitherto not published.

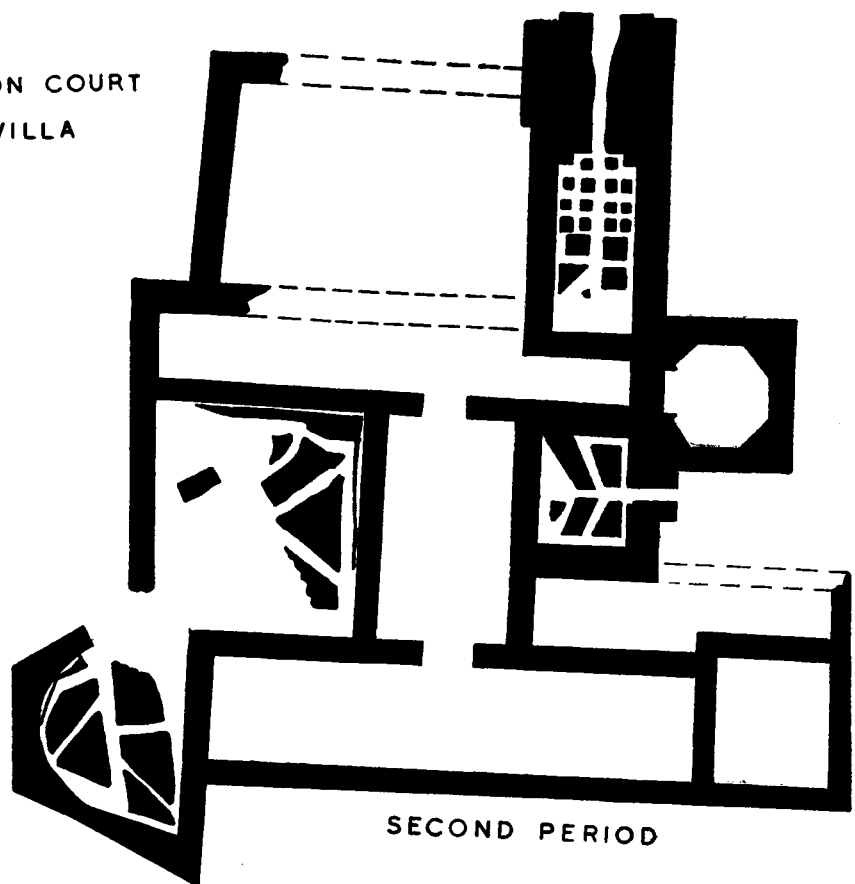
⁴ *Proc. Soc. Ants.*, vol. II, Second Series, p. 302 ff. (1863) and p. 422 ff. (1864).

⁵ Mr W. L. Lawrence was the grandfather of Mrs Evans Lawrence. He resided at Sandywell Park, an estate adjoining Whittington Court.

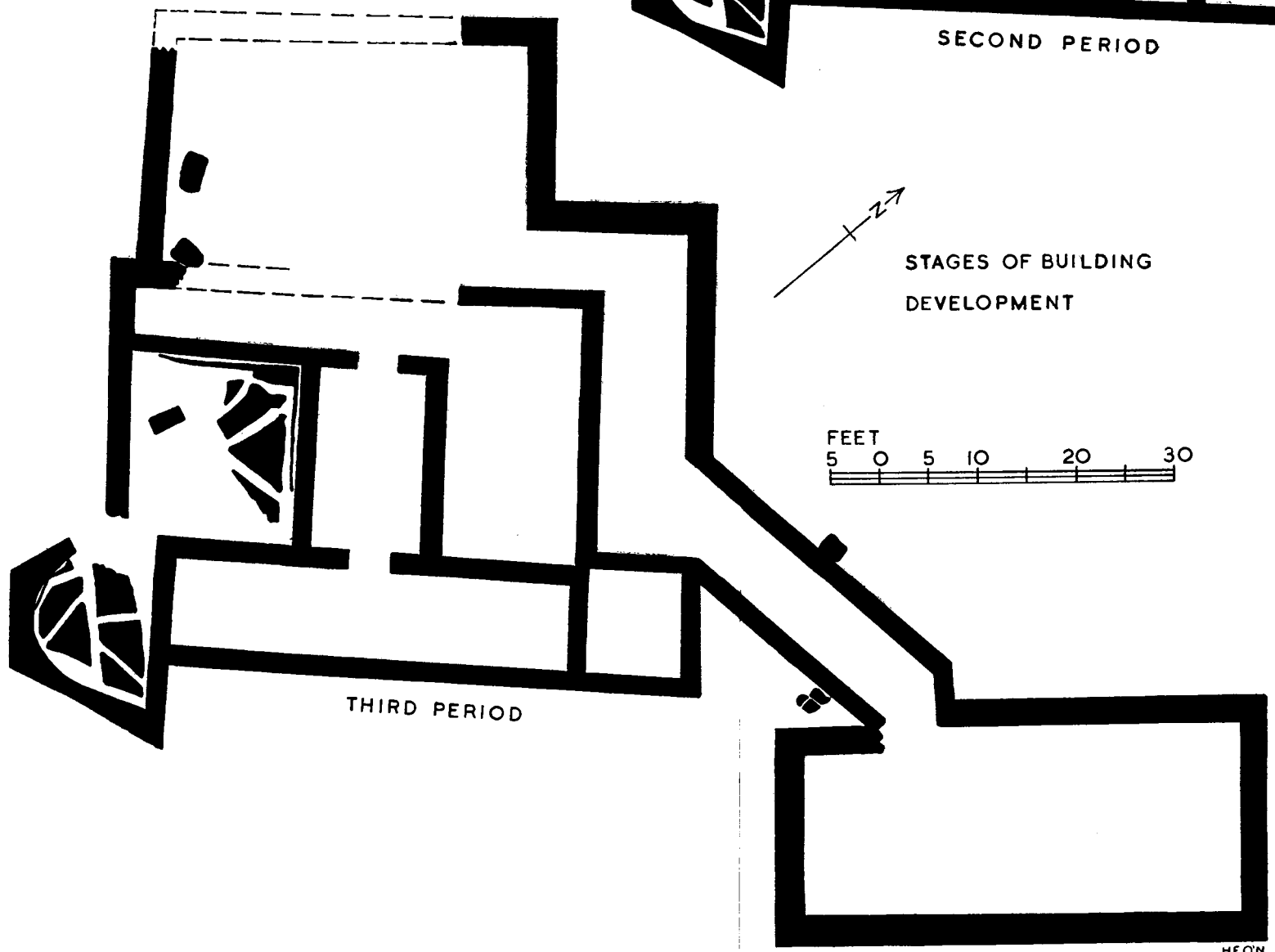
WHITTINGTON COURT
ROMAN VILLA



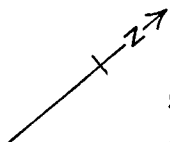
FIRST PERIOD



SECOND PERIOD



THIRD PERIOD



STAGES OF BUILDING
DEVELOPMENT



HEON
1951

Fig. 1
Building Development of Whittington Court Roman Villa, Gloucestershire.

Many finds were recorded consisting of thousands of coins, many brooches and metal work of all kinds. There was also a bronze statuette, several sculptured stone tablets and much pottery.¹ Since such a market centre existed here in the early centuries of our era, it is not surprising to find houses of the more wealthy in the vicinity. The present report concerns one such site, which lies three-quarters of a mile north-westwards of Wycomb.

General Summary of Excavation

The Excavation brought to light structures of four periods, three of Roman and one of medieval.

From a plan (FIG. 1) it will be seen that in the three Roman periods there were, first a Bath Building, second a small house incorporating the Bath Building and third an enlargement of the house, involving the destruction of the Bath Building and the re-use of its site. Later, squatters built a hearth in the deserted villa and finally, during medieval times, the site was robbed for its masonry, and levelled by ploughing, while field walls were erected across the Roman remains.

Dating evidence for the Roman periods from the finds of coins and pottery was meagre, although 114 Roman coins and hundreds of small abraded fragments of pottery were found. The sequence of erection of the different structures was, however, clear from the types of masonry and mortar used in the walls.

The building material used in all the periods was the local oolite, this being available in any quantity from quarries close at hand. The walls were built of well-laid courses of masonry, the earliest consisting of small 'axe-dressed' blocks of a white free-stone, set in a pinkish, clayey mortar, placed on footings of larger undressed white free-stone. The masonry of the two succeeding periods, though similar to each other, was of quite a different character from that of the first period. It was of roughly-dressed blocks, larger in size than before and of a

¹ In possession of Mrs Evans Lawrence at Whittington Court and Miss W. H. Lawrence, also some in the Harford Collection in Cheltenham Museum.

yellow oolite. The mortars of these two periods, however, were different, that of the second period being orange in colour and made up of clay and sand, the latter washed from the local gravel, while the third period mortar was of a harder consistency, lemon in colour and containing much fine gravel and lime.

The roofing slates (PLATE XIIIa and p. 85), found all over the site in quantity, were also of local origin, coming, probably, from the hill-tops at Sevenhampton and Puckham, a distance of half a mile to a mile away, where roofing slates are quarried to this day. They varied in size from very large to small but were all pointed at their lower ends. Present-day Cotswold slaters recognised those seen by them as 'presents.'¹ Remains of bricks, *tegulae* and *imbrices*, were scarce, indicating an almost total use of the local materials. Tiles were used, however, for the *pila* at the furnace end of the hypocaust of Room IX. The floor of the Plunge Bath was paved with various sized tiles, amongst which were a few *tegulae* used upside down. Red brick was also used for making tesserae for the pavements, while the bedding for the latter contained an enormous amount of crushed brick.

The layout of the buildings in the different periods, as is often found with villa sites in Britain, did not conform to expected plans; here, away in a remote rural neighbourhood, twelve miles from Corinium, it is evident that only native talent was available (Plan, FIG. 2). Hence the curious layout of Rooms I and X, Corridor II and the coarseness of the tessellated pavements. The construction of the buildings was, however, substantial and solid while the work and decorations, such as the painted plasters, remains of a stone column and a carved abacus (PLATE XIII a and b) as well as the amount of tessellated pavements laid down, showed an attempt at grandeur by some Roman-British family in prosperous times.

Two stone coffins were found during the construction of the railway line, a distance of 200 yards south of the villa site,

¹ A Cotswold name for the strata producing slates near the surface.

and were moved to Sandywell Park. There appears to be no reason why they should not be burials of Roman date and would therefore be of some of the inhabitants of the villa. Mr W. L. Lawrence in a manuscript map,¹ made during his excavations at Wycomb (p. 16), marks the position of the find.

First Period

The Bath Building is the earliest structure so far found. It consists of a rectangular block containing three rooms, two of which have hypocausts, Rooms VII and IX, a cold Plunge Bath, octagonal in shape (PLATE IX a and b), and a passage leading to it between the heated rooms. The plan of the hypocaust channels, with their furnace mouths in the outer wall of the building was clear. In Room VII there were masonry piers to support the floor, while both stone piers and brick *pila* were present in Room IX (PLATE XI a and b). No remains of the original floor levels of these two rooms were found; so it is not known if mosaic pavements were laid down here. At least one pavement may have existed, because a lump of floor bedding set with minute tesserae was found with pottery under Corridor I, close by, as described below. There was no direct evidence for dating this period, but sherds found in the yellow clay filling with the footings of the wall at the N.E. angle of the building are similar to others found below the foundations of Corridor I, a structure belonging to the next period. These are of late-first or early-second century date.

A date in the second century may, therefore, be given as the most likely for the erection of the Bath Building, the existence of which presupposes the presence of a house of the same date close by but not yet located.

Second Period

After an interval of probably as much as a century and a half the Bath Building was incorporated into a small house (Plan, FIG. 2). A corridor and three rooms, all having tessellated

¹ Manuscript Map in Portfolio of Gloucestershire Archaeology in the Society of Antiquaries' Library. (see also p. 85).

pavements, were erected on the south and east sides of the original building. The corridor, Corridor I, with a room at either end was built along the east side, but placed a few feet in front of the existing east wall of the Bath Building, the intervening space being added to the rooms west of the corridor. A room, Room I, apsidal in form, paved with a tessellated floor (PLATE VII, PLATE VIII a and b) and heated with a hypocaust, lay at the south end of the corridor (PLATE V b). Part of the room projected eastwards of the house, forming what might be considered a vestigial wing. A small rectangular room, Room V, also paved but not heated (PLATE II and PLATE VI a), lay at the north end of the corridor. A central room, Room III, paved in an unusual way with a pattern carried out entirely in large tesserae, led off the centre of the corridor (PLATE I). It overlay the unheated room of the Bath Building, whose east wall could be traced beneath the pavement. Adjoining Room III lay another room, Room IV, with a hypocaust, having had a pavement, of which only one small fragment remained and whose destruction was due to the overlying rabbit warren at this point. Along the west side of the house the passage of the Bath Building was lengthened to correspond with the addition of Room IV while Rooms VII and IX and the Plunge Bath occupied the north-west portion of the new house. In the angle between the Bath Passage and Room IX, another room, Room VIII, had been added and this has been identified as a kitchen because of the discovery of an oven in it.

No stratified coins or sherds were found to establish an exact date for the erection of this house. Nevertheless, as the coin series of the villa has very few specimens before the later issues of Constantine I, it seems permissible to suggest for this period a date not earlier than the second quarter of the fourth century. Although quantities of minute and abraded sherds were found all over the site, the pottery does little to help with this dating problem. There were sherds of the usual fourth century types, such as red-coated ware, both with rouletted and rosette-stamped patterns on bowls and mortaria of the same ware.

Third Period

After a short interval, without any evidence of destruction due to fire or disaster to the existing house, but for some special undetermined reason, a separate building, consisting of one very large room or hall, Room X, was erected to the east of the house and connected with it by a corridor, Corridor II. This room, 44 feet 6 inches long by 17 feet wide, had the remains of a handsome tessellated pavement but no hypocaust (PLATE VI b). The corridor, some 30 feet in length, had a tessellated pavement (PLATES III and IV, and Coloured Plate), found in perfect condition, due without doubt to the protection of its roofing slates which had not been disturbed since their original fall. The corridor was joined to the house at an unusual angle, and it was clear at the junction of its east wall with the north wall of Room V that the former abutted the latter and that the mortars varied.

A further corridor, Corridor III, with remains of tessellated paving ran along the north side of the house and across the Plunge Bath (PLATE X a). The walls of the latter were mostly dismantled, the masonry re-used and the bath filled in, but the tiled floor was left fairly intact. The fact that the floor was found in a clean state and with only a few tiles missing and with no presence of slime, sludge or any débris suggesting disuse does seem to point to a sudden decision in favour of alteration and not to a re-occupation of the house after an interval of desertion. The hypocausts of Rooms VII and IX were also filled in, and amongst the débris in one of the flues of Room VII was part of a stone drain, connected no doubt with the Plunge Bath. New floors of rammed gravel were laid, enlarging Room VII on its north side and covering part of the Passage to the Plunge Bath, while Rooms IX and VIII were incorporated into a new large room which occupied the rest of the western side of the house. Courtyards of rammed earth lay to the east of the house and on the north-west, where lay fallen masonry and roofing slates. Amongst the masonry on the east side were several stones suggesting their use as voussoirs in round-headed windows. The tops of the walls showed marks of

plough scratches, due to cultivation in later times. A trench was dug for a length of 20 feet northwards of Room X to test for further building, but only scattered stones were found, and these dwindled in quantity the further the trench extended.

The only direct evidence for the date of this period are two coins, one of Tetricus I (A.D. 270-3), the other of Constantine I (A.D. 330-7), found respectively under and in the mortar bedding for the pavement of Corridor III. Coins of this issue of Constantine I had, however, a long life, and it by no means follows that the alterations of Period III came very quickly after the building of the main villa in Period II, the date of which has been suggested as the second quarter of the fourth century. It is certain from the great number of coins of the Valentinian dynasty, thirty-one out of a total of 114, as also from the constant occurrence of sherds of late 'native' ware that life at the house was proceeding in a normal manner during the time of those emperors. It is tempting to suggest that the alteration and new building (Corridor III, etc.) took place after A.D. 367-8, when barbarian raids were widespread in Britain. There is no sign that the villa suffered at that time, but it may have been deserted by its tenants for fear of trouble. They or their successors may quickly have returned to make the splendid additions which the excavations disclosed.

The end of Roman occupation

How long the villa continued to be occupied by its rightful owners it is not possible to say, but the finding of as many as seventeen Theodosian coins of A.D. 386-95 does suggest that its use in some manner lasted into the 5th century. It appears to have fallen into gradual decay as shown by the collapse of the roof on to the pavement of Corridor II, which was not disturbed until the present excavation. The presence of a squatters' hearth on the floor of Room VII (PLATE X b), piled high with grey wood ash and containing a great quantity of iron nails indicates occupation when the villa was in some degree of ruin, and when rafters from the adjoining room made handy firewood. Beside this hearth fifteen coins were found,

one of Valentinian II, one of Arcadius, two others certainly Theodosian coins of A.D. 388-95 and the remainder illegible, but probably similar issues, while the whole was covered by a fall of roofing slates. The only destruction by fire was found in Room X and Room III, where the remains of burnt rafters were found under a fall of slates on both these floors, and where also a spread of charred wheat under débris was lying directly on the pavement of Room III. Small sherds of calcite gritted ware were found with the coins beside the squatters' hearth in Room VII.

Medieval Period

The ruins of the Roman house must have been visible and known for centuries, disappearing slowly and becoming completely covered only when the first houses of Whittington village were built and gardens were cultivated about the site. Some Saxon and many medieval sherds were found, mostly of the 13th century. Three coins of the 13th century were found and one of the preceding century. All were surface finds. A shallow sunken grassy path still runs across the south side of the villa and beyond the pathway are various mounds and banks in the grass. As some of the banks showed a rectangular form a trench was dug through one such site which stood beside the pathway and close to the villa. Loosely built walls of stone were found associated with medieval sherds. There are many more mounds and depressions in the field beside the winding pathway which runs in the direction of the present village, some quarter of a mile north-westwards. Nearer the modern village, the stone foundations of a small cottage can be traced in the grass and there is a stone-lined well some yards behind it. There is also Whittington Church and Whittington Court, both within a moated enclosure, some fifty yards beyond the brook which runs near the villa. It is interesting to note the long continuity of occupation here and to trace the growth and migration of a village.

There was no doubt of the extensive robbing of the masonry of the villa which made interpretation difficult; it was also

interesting to see how the tessellated pavements had been severely left alone as being of no value.

The cultivation and levelling of the site by ploughing seems to have taken place in a large measure before the 13th century, as pottery of that date was found amongst the stones of the loosely built field wall, which ran across the villa itself from south to north. Two more walls of the same build, parallel to each other and only a few yards apart, supporting slight terraces, ran east of the villa. Under one of these walls 13th century sherds were also recovered, and under both was a scatter of tesserae and other débris from the Roman villa.

DETAILED REPORT OF EXCAVATION

First Period. The Bath Building

The Bath Building was an 'L' shaped rectangular block, consisting of three main rooms and a passage, with a cold Plunge Bath against the north wall. The layout was on a small scale with the minimum of rooms usually associated with a suite of baths, which suggests that the house to which it belonged was also on a modest scale. The building was, however, well constructed and well equipped for its use.

The greatest length of the building, which lay west to east, was 46 feet 9 inches by 12 feet, while the shorter arm running north to south was 25 feet by 20 feet 3 inches. The annexe for the Plunge Bath measured 12 feet 6 inches by 10 feet 9 inches.

The walls still standing were on an average 2 feet high above their footings and ranged from a width of 2 feet 9 inches for the outer walls, with the exception of the N.E. angle where the wall widened to 3 feet, to a width of 2 feet 3 inches for the others.

The masonry throughout was similar, well coursed in small 'axe-dressed' blocks of a white oolite, set in a scanty amount of a pinkish clayey mortar. The footings of the walls were of larger blocks of undressed oolite and set two courses deep into the natural clay. Deeper and stronger foundations were present

WHITTINGTON COURT ROMAN VILLA

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

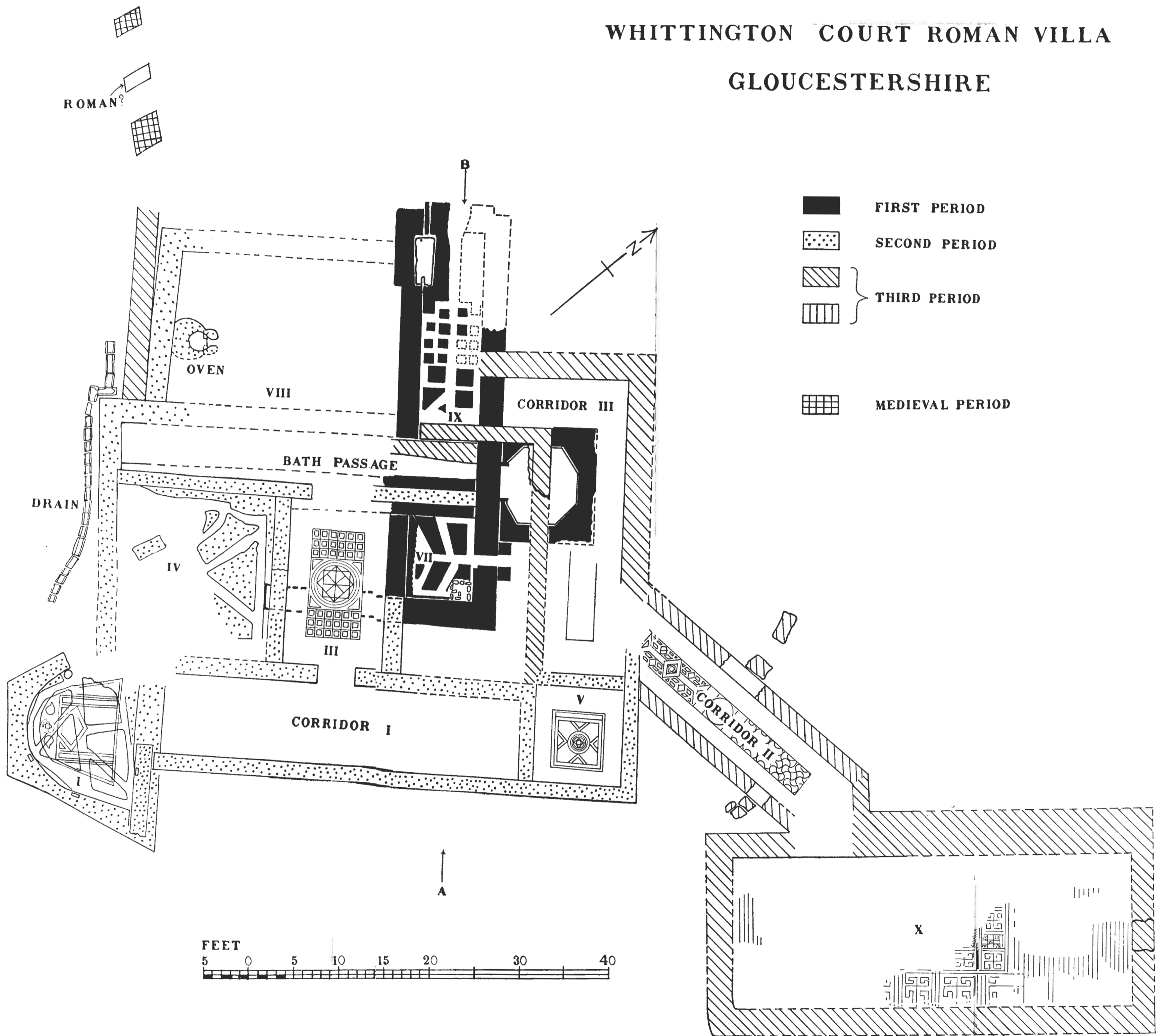


Fig. 2. Plan of Whittington Court Roman Villa, Gloucestershire

at the N.E. angle where there were three courses, one stone being 18 inches in length.

The use to which the three rooms were put was apparent. The first, at the south-east, was either the dressing-room or the cold room (Room III), as it was unheated. The adjoining room was the warm room (Room VII), which had a hypocaust, while the hot room (Room IX), was across the passage with a more elaborately-made hypocaust. The passage led to the cold Plunge Bath.

The Bath Passage

It was not possible to recover the exact measurements because of subsequent reconstruction, but the width must have been at least 4 feet while it may have been *c.* 22 feet in length. A narrow space had been left vacant between the walls of the rooms below the passage-floor level, and it is probable that an outlet drain from the Plunge Bath ran along here. This would correspond with the fall of the ground level. On excavation the vacant space was found tightly blocked with small stones and gravel below the floor level of Period III (FIG. 3 Section A, B).

The Dressing Room. Room III

The room measured 10 feet by 9 feet 3 inches; no floor level was found nor was it heated. No features remained except its four walls and it had been filled with building rubble when the floor of the succeeding period (Period II) was laid over it and across its eastern wall.

The Warm Room. Room VII

The room measured 10 feet by 9 feet 3 inches and was heated by a channelled hypocaust. It adjoined Room III but was separated from it by a substantial wall which abutted the east and west walls of the building. No original floor remained, but part of the floor of the last period (Period III) was *in situ* over the eastern half of the room which will be discussed below.

SECTION A-B

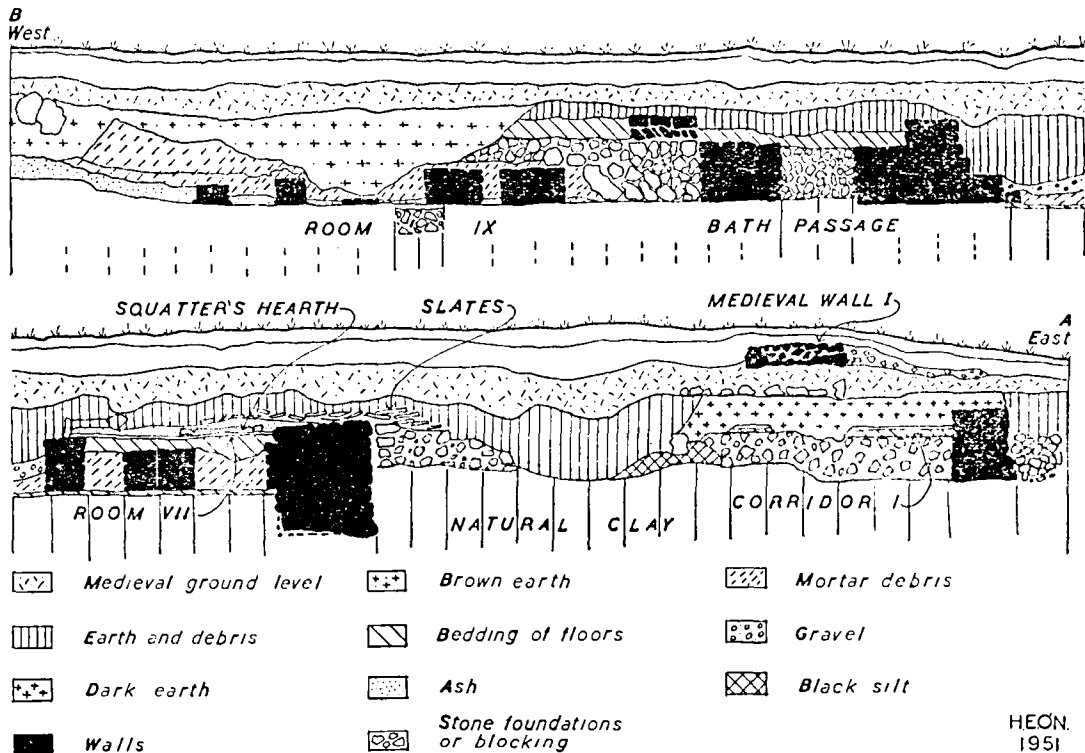


Fig. 3. Section A-B.

The layout of the hypocaust flues was irregular and the supporting piers for a floor were built of small well-laid courses of oolite, *c.* 5 to 6 inches long by 3 inches broad and standing 4 and 5 courses high. Along the south and east sides additional masonry was present to form supports for flue covers, the southern support being constructed with stones set in pitched formation. No flue covers were found *in situ*, but one slab of old red sandstone, which had been cracked into three pieces and then riveted, lay above the south flue though not in position. Covers of this material were used elsewhere in the succeeding period.

The construction of the s.w. pier was of interest as it abutted against the wall of the room. This seemed to indicate the blocking of the draught at this point and its diversion to some outlet for smoke and fumes. The central flue narrowed slightly from its entrance, where it was 15 inches wide, to 9 inches, while the side channels all varied in width. The floor of the channels was of rammed gravel. Only at one point along the west side did there remain any evidence of plaster on the walls of the flues. The stokehole was formed by the addition of two square stone piers outside the n. wall. A layer of soot lay along the first few feet of the floor of the central flue and signs of burning extended halfway across the hypocaust; otherwise the remaining stonework did not show signs of scorching. It was clear that both the masonry of the hypocaust and the walls of the room were similar and were constructed at the same time. The flues of the hypocaust were found deliberately filled with gravel and mortar débris and that part below Period III floor was rammed full of the débris of coloured plaster, amongst which lay half of a large channelled stone part of a drain, presumably from the nearby dismantled Plunge Bath.

The Hot Room. Room IX

The room measured 23 feet by 6 feet 9 inches and was heated by a hypocaust. It was a long and narrow room; its walls and the mortars used were of the same type as the rest of the Bath

Building. Part of the N. wall stood 8 courses high above hypocaust floor level. Destruction by stone robbers during medieval times had removed the N.W. corner of the room, so that a complete plan could not be seen. The footings of the N. wall were set in a trench and packed in with stones.

The hypocaust occupied only 15 feet of the eastern half of the room, while the remaining 8 feet was occupied by a construction of tiles, masonry and clay. This appears to have been designed to insulate the intense heat of the fire in the furnace from coming into contact with the masonry of the walls of the room and also formed a platform for a hot bath, which in this position would be over the hottest part of the furnace. The stokehole on its exterior face was of masonry, but within the furnace the walls were of tiles backed with rubble stone which again was packed in with clay up against the walls. Nothing remained to show how the actual bath was constructed, but thick lumps of mortar and broken *tegulae* lying here suggested a bath built up of tiles embedded in mortar. At the south side of the bath lay a large stone, 5 feet 4 inches long, 7 inches deep and tapering slightly from 2 feet 2 inches to 1 foot 11 inches in width (PLATE XII b). A small sloping runnel, 8 inches long and 1½ inches wide, was cut into the east end of the stone, while at the other was a small hole 2½ inches deep and 1¼ inches wide. The stone lay on the platform with its south edge overlying the inner face of the wall of the room and, as this edge was rough compared with the edge next the bath which was straight and smooth, it seems highly probable that it was incorporated into the wall. The stone must have been a step into and out of the bath while the runnel drained the drips left by the bather emerging from the bath. The small hole at the other end, placed in the corner of the room, may have held an upright which acted as a handle or support of some kind. It is hardly likely in this restricted space that a similar stone step existed on the other side of the bath; a bath about 5 feet 6 inches square could have fitted in here. The platform stood 20 inches above the floor of the hypocaust. Unfortunately the bath and the north side of the furnace had been destroyed

by the burial of an ox in medieval times; the bones and 13th century sherds were found here. A small portion of floor foundation remained around the E. end of the stone step. This consisted of a bedding, 3 inches thick, of gravelly mortar containing crushed tile.

The supports of the floor of Room IX were built of both brick *pilæ* and stone piers (PLATE XI a and b). Sixteen *pilæ* were of bricks in four rows of four (remains of ten *in situ* were recovered) and these occupied the area nearest the furnace, while stone piers were placed at the far end. Three complete square stone piers and one triangular one were *in situ* with the corner of another triangular one. The remaining space had been filled with large undressed blocks of oolite introduced during reconstruction carried out in the last period when the east wall of the room also was rebuilt. The brick *pilæ* were made up of 8-inch square tiles with one large one at the bottom, 12 inches square (one of the latter measured 13 inches square). The highest remaining *pila* had five courses of tiles and stood 16 inches high. In the row of *pilæ* nearest the furnace the corner one was incorporated into the bath platform. The stone piers were built of well-dressed masonry, identical with that of the walls of the room. Three of them, 20 inches square and 20 inches high, stood four courses high, while only the lowest course of the triangular one remained. The floor of the hypocaust was of rammed gravel and mortar set on a firm foundation of rubble mixed with mortar on the natural clay. The walls, the *pilæ* and piers of the hypocaust showed intense scorching, deep layers of grey and red ash lay more than half way along the length of its floor, while a thick deposit of charcoal, 7 inches deep, lay in the furnace. The floor here, too, had been burnt into a hard brick-like consistency and in the stokehole the stone had been reduced to a pure white lime.

The Plunge Bath

The Plunge Bath was placed outside the main Bath Building, its s. wall being abutted against that of the latter. The overall size of this annexe was 12 feet 6 inches E. to W. and 10 feet

9 inches N. to S., while the actual bath, octagonal in form, measured 8 feet 6 inches across. Except for the S.W. portion of the surrounding walls, which stood *c.* 20 inches high, only the lowest course of masonry survived. It was of well-dressed stone, larger in size than used elsewhere in the Bath Building, but the same mortar was present. The floor was paved with red tiles, most of which remained *in situ*. The foundation for the floor was strongly built. The tiles were bedded in a 4 inch layer of pink concrete which lay on a foundation of two layers of stone rubble, 9 inches thick, set in mortar and gravel, laid on still another layer of pitched stones, placed on the natural clay. Most of the tiles were 11½ inches square, but others were 8 inches square, while five *tegulae*, 16 inches by 11 inches, had been used upside down. One was used on the edge of the bath floor where its flange formed the angle.

A space 3 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 3 inches on the south side of the floor was not paved and appeared to be the position for steps down into the bath. The plaster rendering of a jamb stood, 21 inches high, on the west side of this unpaved area. Red coloured plaster, 1 inch thick, remained on the portion of standing wall at the south-west, while a quarter-round moulding, 3½ inches thick in section, also red in colour, ran round the base of the wall, overlapping the edge of the floor. Embedded in this plaster jamb by the steps was the remains of a tile, which suggested that tiles may have formed the steps or at least the covering to stone steps. Two steps probably led down into the bath.

Second Period

This Period starts with the erection of a house, incorporating the Bath Building in its back premises. The new building consisted of a corridor, Corridor I, with a room at either end, Rooms I and V, a central room, Room III, with another room leading out of it, Room IV. The former Passage was lengthened to correspond with the additions and from it opened the kitchen, Room VIII. The long axis of the house lay from N. to S. The corridor was built 8 feet east of the earlier building,

while the two so-called 'reception rooms' (Rooms I and IV) lay at the southern end. The intervening space between the new and old buildings was filled with débris and incorporated into the new rooms. The corridor and all the new rooms of the house except the kitchen were paved with tessellated floors, while the two 'reception rooms' were heated with hypocausts. A detailed account of the pavements follows separately and though mentioned in passing will not be discussed as each room is described.

The masonry throughout this period was similar, an undressed yellow oolite, the stones larger in size than used in the previous period, and the mortar was orange in colour. The walls were substantially built with a rubble core and the courses well laid, though individual stones were not closely set together. A liberal amount of mortar was used in the joints. The walls on an average were 21 inches wide, set on footings of two courses of larger and rougher stones laid in the natural clay. The lower were offset on the exterior of the walls for as much as 6 inches in some places.

Corridor I

The corridor measured 40 feet in length and was 9 feet in width. The greater part of its E. wall remained standing three courses high, but little of its W. wall except the footings below floor level. It had been paved with a tessellated floor, but only two small fragments of pattern remained with some portions of plain border. However, most of the bedding for the pavement was intact, where the impressions of the tesserae were still to be seen. The bedding consisted of a thin layer of mortar with crushed tile, laid on a level, 3 to 4 inches deep, of small rubble embedded in yellow mortary gravel. This foundation lay on a greyish clay band containing flecks of charcoal and this in turn lay on the natural clay. On the grey clay and at the bottom of the rubble layer sherds were found dating from the late 1st century A.D. It appears to be the original turf level of Period I and the flecks of charcoal may be the result of burning and clearing of the ground prior to the erection of the new

buildings. Part of the floor and the internal wall of the corridor towards its northern end had been destroyed by the burial of an ox in medieval times. This had taken place before the erection of the medieval field wall which ran along the entire length of the corridor and above the burial. Sherds of glazed ware of the 13th century A.D. were found among its masonry. At another point on the E. wall of the corridor the Roman walling had been disturbed for a similar burial.

Room I. (PLATES VII, VIII a and b)

The room lay at the s. end of Corridor I and was in apsidal form, having a tessellated floor heated by a hypocaust. It measured 12 feet 6 inches from north to south and 18 feet 6 inches from east to west. The walls of the hypocaust varied in width but were substantially built of large stones. To accommodate the apse the walls of the room formed a triangle with the apex cut off. Half the length of the north wall (the base of the triangle) extended beyond the outer face of Corridor I, thus forming an unusual and awkward corner. The footings of the walls except the n. one were of pitched stones. The entrance to the hypocaust was placed on the s.w., but only one side of it remained, as the w. side of the room had been destroyed, making it impossible to complete the plan of the room. Just within the entrance part of a stone column (PLATE XIII a) with moulded base, standing 20 inches high, was found placed upside down. It was not incorporated into the flue walls, but may have supported the lintel of the entrance. Much damage had been caused to this room and the next (Room IV) by the rabbit warren which lay here, there being no doubt that the hypocaust channels served as burrows. Unfortunately it is also known that the warren was dug into by local huntsmen and poachers in search of foxes and ferrets.

The plan of the hypocaust channels was irregular. They varied in width, from 27 inches to 15 inches, and had floors of rammed gravel while the floor above was supported on large stone piers. These stood 3 feet in height and were massively built of masonry with rubble cores, the latter consisting of five



PLATE I. Pavement in Room III.



PLATE II. Pavement in Room V.



PLATE III. Pavement in Corridor II. N. end.



PLATE IV. Pavement in Corridor II. S. end.



b

PLATE V. a. General view of site during excavation.
b. Corridor I leading into Room I.



b

PLATE VI. a. Detail of pavement in Room V.
b. Detail of pavement in Room X.

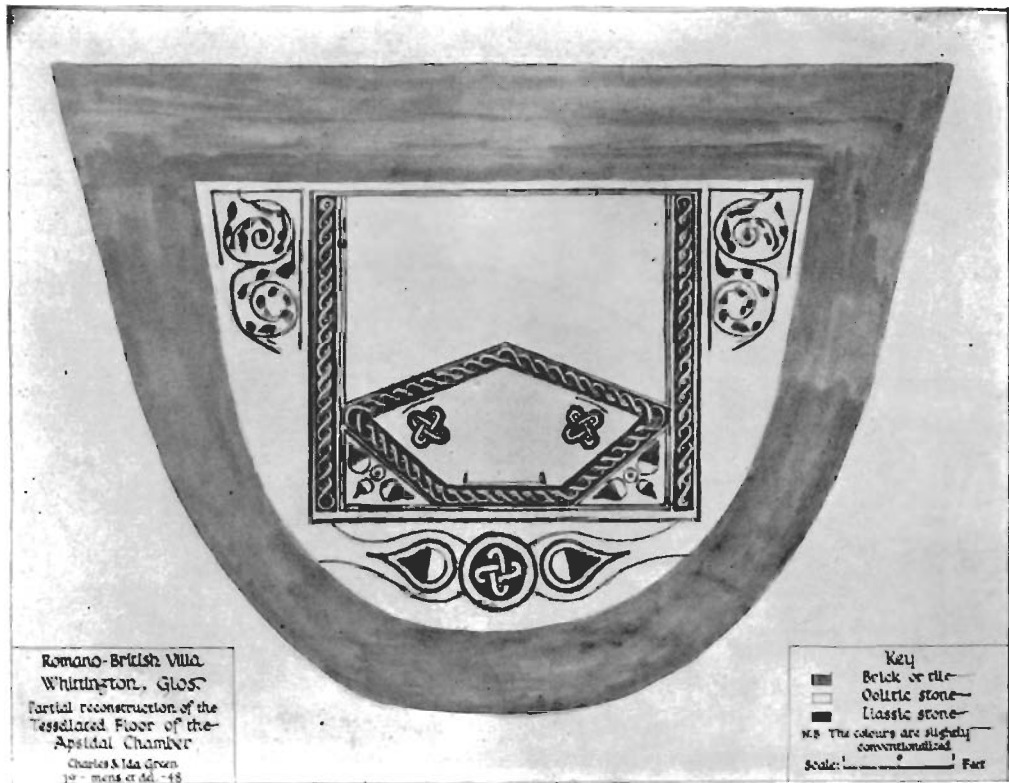


PLATE VII. Partial reconstruction of pattern of pavement in Room I.



b

PLATE VIII. a. and b. Details of pavement in Room I.



a



b

PLATE IX. a. Floor of octagonal Plunge Bath with remains of Corridor III wall lying across it.
b. Plunge Bath with Corridor III wall removed.



a



b

PLATE XI. a. Brick *pilæ* and stone piers of hypocaust in Room IX.
b. Brick *pilæ* of hypocaust in Room IX.



a



b

PLATE XII. a. Stone roofing slates (reconstruction).
b. Stone step of hot bath in Room IX.

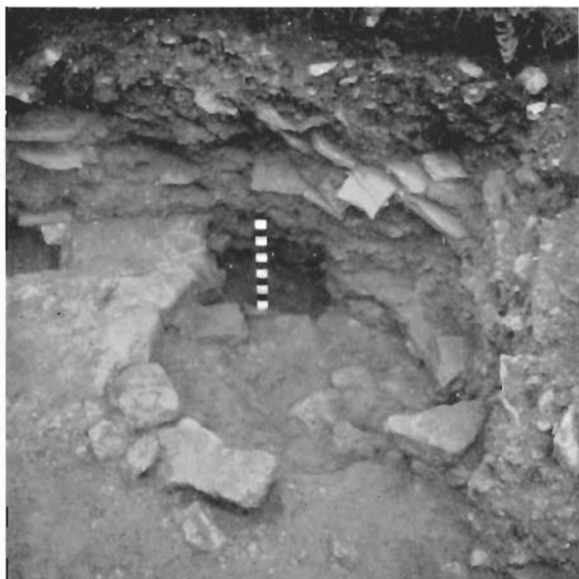


a

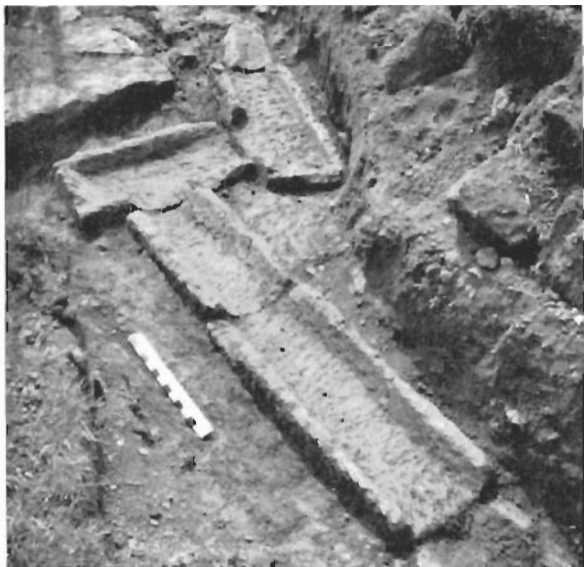


b

PLATE XIII. a. Stone column found in hypocaust of Room I. .
b. Fragment of carved impost.



a



b

PLATE XIV. a. Oven in Room VIII.
b. Stone channelled drain on s. side of villa.

alternate layers of small stones and gravel, set finally on wedge-shaped stones upright in the natural clay. Large 'plank-stones' or paving stones of oolite, some 3 feet long and 4 inches thick, covered the flues; amongst them were two slabs of old red sandstone. Three box flue-tiles and the seating for another were found *in situ* on the interior face of the walls of the room leading from the channels below. That it was intended to be a heated room there is no doubt, but no signs of firing or of scorching to the walls was found in the hypocaust.

The excavation of the hypocaust channels was done by local schoolboys, who vied with each other for the privilege of crawling in with candle, trowel and bucket. The filling consisted of earth at the far side, mortar débris with tesserae where the floor above had been broken away, and at the entrance more building débris with painted plaster, tesserae, animal bones and a few sherds of late 4th century date.

Lying on the 'plank-stones' was a bedding, 4 inches thick, of mortar containing crushed brick, the foundation for the pavement. The latter was found in a very fragmentary state, the central patterns missing, but some portions of the side panels and a great deal of the plain border still *in situ*. A portion of the border was in position, resting against wall plaster by the E. jamb of a presumed doorway into the corridor. Nearby lay two stones, one of which was dressed and chamfered and appeared to belong to a door jamb.

Room III

Room III opened off Corridor I. It was floored with an unusual tessellated pavement, the pattern of which was carried out entirely in large tesserae (PLATE 1). The room was not heated. It measured 18 feet 6 inches by 11 feet. The doorway leading into the corridor was 4 feet wide; this was indicated, not by door jambs but by the pavement which continued from the room into the corridor. Of the walls only part of the s. one and the s.w. return remained standing above floor level; the rest were traced by their foundations. The s. wall was superimposed on that of the earlier Bath Building and the E. wall of

the latter was indicated below the pavement by a slight rise in the floor. The N.E. quarter of the pavement was pitted with slight hollows, these were the result of the fall of roofing slates, some fragments of which were found embedded in them. There was also a heavy fall of slates on the S.W. quarter of the floor with the remains of burnt rafters below. Adjacent to this about the centre of the west side of the room lay a deposit of charred wheat below a thick layer of mortar débris. The mortar had in it a very worn coin, probably of the House of Theodosius I (A.D. 388-95). There was slight evidence for doorways into the adjoining room on the south, Room IV, and into the Passage on the west. A scatter of sherds was found in the entrance to the Passage; these were of 4th century date. Otherwise any sherds found were mixed with medieval ones and were small and abraded. Rabbits had churned the soil into hopeless confusion and in several places soft nests made of dry leaves and fur were found lying on the pavement, though in no case had a rabbit dug through the floor. In one of the rabbit runs, leading to a nest resting on the floor, 13th century glazed ware was found.

Room IV

Room IV opened off the central room, Room III, and was on a slightly higher level. A great deal of damage had been done, both by stone robbers and rabbits, but enough remained to show that it had been a heated one and had had a tessellated floor. A small fragment (12 inches by 7 inches) of the latter survived at the N.W. corner of the room; it was part of the border pattern on a bedding, 2 inches thick, of yellow mortar set on a layer, 3 inches deep, of gravel mixed with mortar. The site of the furnace to the hypocaust was missing, and the line of the S. wall was followed mostly by a robber's trench, but the S.W. angle of the room remained. The room measured about 18 feet 6 inches by 17 feet 6 inches, but was not strictly rectangular. The W. wall of the room abutted that of the S. wall.

Two stone piers and parts of three others were *in situ* in the hypocaust, while irregular additional masonry along the n. and w. sides served as supports for flue covers. The stone piers, standing 2 feet high, were similar to those in Room I, but were of even rougher construction, and the same mortar was used. Along the n. flue fragments of old red sandstone slabs remained embedded in mortar; these showed damage by deliberate wrenching out of position, as if needed elsewhere, and many chips of the stone lay in the flue. Other large slabs of the same stone were in the filling over the room. It is evident that the fire-resistant qualities of old red sandstone were known and preferred to oolite for the purpose of flue covers. A certain amount of coal was found in the flues; this commodity could be expected, since it and the old red sandstone come from the Forest of Dean. The filling in the flues was of mortar débris containing many tesserae, some of which were so small as to suggest a mosaic pattern rather than tessellated geometrical patterns, as found elsewhere in this house. In the flues at the n.w. angle of the room large sherds (FIG. 5, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5) were found as well as Kimmeridge Shale objects, the latter consisting of a large pot cover (FIG. 15) and two spindle whorls. These finds were not a deliberate deposit, and appear to have been swept in during the robbing of the house.

During the excavation of the n. flue, the side of which was built up against the exterior of the s. wall of the Dressing Room of the Bath Building (Period I), the s.e. angle of the latter was found beneath the south wall of Room III. The continuation of this last wall was built in an inferior type of masonry.

Room V. (PLATE II)

Room V lay at the end of Corridor I. It had a tessellated pavement and was not heated. Owing to the slope of the ground its floor level was $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches higher than that of the corridor, while the latter had a fall of 5 inches before reaching the entrance into Room I.

The room measured 10 feet 6 inches by 9 feet 9 inches. Three of its walls were standing two courses high, 20 inches wide, while the western wall was only traced below floor level. The tops of the walls showed scratching from ploughing. The remains of the Roman house, however, lay at such a shallow depth, in some places only at 6 inches, the floor of this room at 16 inches, that it was surprising that so much remained *in situ*.

The pavement remained in fairly good preservation except for its centre, where some burning material had broken up the tesserae and fused all the colours to a dark grey. A great deal of dressed masonry lay on the floor, thus contributing to the protection of the pavement. The medieval field wall also ran across the room, completely ignoring what lay so close below. Amongst the fallen masonry which lay on the courtyard east of the room were several stone voussoirs. A plan of these was made as they were found, in the hope of establishing that a round-headed window had lighted the room, and that they lay as they had fallen, but no coherent reconstruction was possible.

Room VIII

The room opened off the Bath Passage and was placed in the angle between the latter and Room IX. It measured 25 feet 6 inches by 16 feet 9 inches. The south wall of the room was of a rougher type of masonry than that used during Period II and only clay was found as a binding material. Its junction with the west wall of the Bath Passage was not bonded-in, thus suggesting that it was a lean-to building. The return of the s.w. angle of the room was found, but the n.w. junction with Room IX could not be located. The first trench dug across this area only revealed a floor which belonged to the last period of the villa. Later, it was realised that an earlier floor lay below, but there was only time to recover the south side of the room to which it belonged. This, however, had an oven, which established this room as the kitchen. The oven was of horseshoe form, built of stone, set into the floor (PLATE XIV a). Only its lowest course remained, as it had been dismantled, filled in with ash and covered by the yellow gravel-mortar

floor belonging to the next period. The interior measurement of the oven, which was circular, was 2 feet across. It had an elongated opening, 12 inches long, between rounded cheeks. The sides and floor were highly calcined. The back wall was 2 feet wide and was built up to the wall of the room. Two protruding stones within the stokehole marked the site of the oven door, where a slight rebate remained visible on the exterior of the stone on the west side.

Third Period

The Third Period saw a great change in the character of the house. The dominant feature was the large 'Reception Hall,' Room X, erected as a separate building outside the N.E. angle of the house. What the need was, it is, of course, difficult to decide, but from the fact that the 'Reception Hall' was on a grandiose scale and handsomely paved, though not heated, it is clear that it must have been for some form of entertainment. Did the house after the unsettling decade in the third quarter of the 4th century make a bid for popularity as a 'Country Club' to a rising Romano-British generation from the nearby market town of Wycomb?

In addition to the erection of Room X, drastic reconstruction was carried out on the north and west sides of the house. The Bath Building of the earlier periods was done away with and new corridors (Corridors II and III) were made at the N.E. corner and N. side, above the Plunge Bath, leading to Room X. The kitchen and Room IX were also dismantled, the former enlarged on the S. side and the two made into one room, a new floor being laid down. A stone surface drain to collect rain water from the roof was laid down outside the S. side of the house where it followed the new outline of the house of this Period (PLATE XIV b).

The masonry of this period was similar to that used in the preceding one, but the mortar was different, being lemon-coloured, of harder consistency and made of fine gravel and lime. Some of the stones used in the walls of the Plunge Bath appeared to have been re-used in the wall of Corridor III which crossed it.

Room VIII

Room VIII was enlarged southwards and a new wall erected; this was found to overlap the original south wall of the kitchen at its junction with the Bath Passage. Room IX was also absorbed into the new room which now measured 33 feet from N. to S. and at least 22 feet from E. to W. The latter measurement is calculated by the extent of the find of floor bedding, as the S.W. return of the wall was not found. The floor was followed by a trench dug across the room from N. to S. It was made up of a layer, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches thick, of mortar and crushed brick on a 3 inch layer of fine gravel. Several large paving stones lay on the floor at the S. side of the room but were not in any special position. One of them overlay the oven of the kitchen below. To strengthen the foundations on the N. side of the floor which lay over the hypocaust of Room IX, large undressed stones and gravel were deposited in the E. end of the hypocaust. A great deal of masonry and roofing slates lay scattered on the floor. Pottery recovered from the filling over and on the floor was of fourth century date but was mixed with medieval sherds.

Corridor III. (PLATE X a)

Corridor III was constructed on a firm foundation, superimposed as it was on so much of the earlier Bath Building. It led off Room VIII and ran northwards for 8 feet, before turning a right angle eastwards, to continue for 32 feet to link up with Corridor II. The corridor was 6 feet wide in its first length and thereafter was 8 feet 6 inches wide. Except for its wall over the Plunge Bath, which stood four courses high, most of the line of the walls of Corridor III could only be traced by robbers' trenches. The portion of wall remaining, however, showed good construction, much gravel mortar being incorporated in that part crossing the bath, where there was also an offset on the S. side of the wall. The filling in the bath was mostly gravel, but a 6-inch layer of building débris lay between it and the bedding for the pavement above. Amongst the building débris was a large amount of painted

plaster, some of which was of a beautiful pale blue colour. Two coins were also found, one of Constantine I (A.D. 330-7) in the bedding of the pavement and one of Tetricus I (A.D. 270-3) in the building débris under the bedding. The bedding for the pavement was 3 inches thick and consisted of three layers of mortary gravel, coloured successively orange, grey, orange. In the section dug across the bath these layers peeled off each other easily, suggesting that each layer had been allowed to dry before the next was applied. This feature was not noticed elsewhere on the site. Though the corridor had been paved, most of the tesserae were missing except for a small portion of plain coloured border at its two ends. Impressions from the tesserae in the bedding, however, suggested a replica, in part, of the pelta pattern appearing at the N.E. end of Corridor II pavement.

In the earth filling above the corridor and over the bath part of a human skull was found, associated with sherds of Roman date. The deposit appeared to be quite fortuitous and must be the result of some disturbance in the medieval period.

Corridor II. (PLATES III and IV, and Coloured Plate)

Corridor II was a continuation of Corridor III and connected the house with the outlying new room, the 'Reception Hall,' Room X. It had a tessellated pavement which was found in almost perfect condition. It ran for 30 feet before turning for a short distance to enter Room X. It was 7 feet wide and both its walls, 20 inches wide, stood two courses high above floor level. The masonry was well coursed and similar to the rest built in this period. The s. wall was clearly seen to abut the exterior of the n. wall of Room V (Period II), and therefore is later in construction, while the n. wall of Room V continued to run below the junction of the Corridors II and III. The colours of the two mortars were easily differentiated here. The bedding of the pavement consisted of a level of a pinky orange mortar from $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches to 4 inches in depth, set on a firm foundation, 7 inches deep, of small stones, embedded in mortar, laid on the

natural clay. The remarkably good preservation of the pavement in spite of being only some 16 to 18 inches below ground level was due to the collapse of its roof, the slates being found *in situ* as they had fallen. There was no sign of burning. The medieval field wall passed over the central part of the corridor.

There were two doorways in the walls of the corridor leading out into courtyards. The doorway on the n. side was placed some 11 feet along the corridor from the west end, where there was a break in the masonry on the level of the floor, 5 feet wide and smoothed down with a layer of mortar. Outside lay a large well-worn paving stone, 2 feet 4 inches by 2 feet and 4 inches thick, with another one lying 3 feet further out. More of these stepping stones were looked for, but none was found. The other doorway lay 17 feet along the s. wall and was 2 feet wide; its surface had been carefully laid with fitting roof slates, while outside lay two smaller paving stones. In the courtyards on either side of the corridor, quantities of masonry and many roofing slates were found, a concentration of the latter being found in the angle between Room V and the corridor. These slates appeared to come from a different quarry from those used elsewhere on the house; they were smaller in size, of a softer consistency and in a very friable state when found. Painted wall plaster was found in some quantity above the slates on the corridor floor, and in several places the plaster was still adhering to the bottom of the walls, the colour being a dark crimson.

Room X. 'Reception Hall'

Room X, the largest room of the establishment, measured 44 feet 6 inches by 17 feet. It lay outside the main part of the house to the N.E., and was connected with it by Corridor II. It had had a tessellated pavement, but most of it had been destroyed by the growth of a large tree on it, as also from the fact that at some points it lay only 6 inches below the turf. The room was on a slightly higher level than Corridor II, and must have been entered by one shallow step, but no evidence of this remained. Part of the n. wall of the room was recovered;

otherwise all the walls were missing and the shape of the room was only found by following the robbers' trenches. The N. wall was 2 feet wide and stood one course high above floor level. It had similar masonry to that of Corridor II and lemon-coloured mortar. Outside the N.E. angle of the room lay two large paving stones, but they were in no significant position and may have belonged to a garden path.

The ground before excavation revealed no sign that the house extended in this direction, and it was only during the erection of fencing posts that tesserae and a hard surface below ground were noticed. This was confirmed by the find of Corridor II and the direction in which it ran. A slight hollow was then seen some feet beyond the end of Corridor II, giving hopes that a bath building lay here, as at that time the Bath Building of Period I had not been found. The area of the hollow was roughly circular with a diameter of 6 feet and was 3 feet deep. A trench was dug across the hollow and at the bottom, extending into the bright yellow clay which directly rested on the oolite, six small holes, *c.* 6 inches in diameter, appeared, in no special order and without filling. Further trenching produced another hole which contained decayed root fibre, thus proving that a tree had flourished here. Amongst the crushed roofing slates, tesserae and disintegrated floor bedding lying around the tree hollow, a thin layer of whitish green clay was noticed. A visiting geologist at the time suggested that it represented the residue from stagnant water, such as rain drops falling from the tree for centuries. To prove this, a trial hole was dug under a near-by group of beech trees and the same clay was found; this form of clay was not found elsewhere on the excavation. A thick layer of roofing slates, much broken up, lay over the entrance into and over the N.W. area of the room. Among the slates were some made of old red sandstone, small in size with nail-holes hammered through on one side of the top end, as were those of oolite. Under the slates lay a thick layer of charcoal, amongst which samples of charred rafters were seen; some of these measured from 2 to 2½ inches in breadth.

Eight coins (2 Gratian, 4 Valentinian, 1 Arcadius, 1 Theodosius) were found in a small area just above the weathered bedding of the floor in the N.W. corner of the room. These may represent a dispersed hoard.

Of the tessellated pavement the entire centre was missing, a small portion of the border remained at the S. side and a length about 12 feet by 8 feet along the E. side towards the N.E. corner of the room (PLATE VI b). Portions of pavement on the N. side showed a border 14 feet wide of plain tesserae. The bedding was a thick layer of mortar containing a quantity of crushed brick, and was laid directly on the natural red clay. The workmanship of the foundation for this floor was very poor, compared with that found under the other pavements.

Stone Drain

A surface drain (PLATE XIV b) to take water from the eaves was found lying some 8 inches outside the walls on the S. side of the house. A continuous length of 30 feet remained *in situ*, set in a 'pathway' of rammed worn oolitic rubble. That it belonged to the third period occupation could be seen by the route taken by the drain, as it followed the outline of the latest building developments, *i.e.* at the S.E. corner of Room VIII. The drain was constructed from lengths of the local stone, varying from 8 to 26 inches in length and from 9 to 10 inches in width and cut with shallow channels about 5 inches wide. Neither end of the drain was found, but, following the natural fall of the land, the highest point was to the west. The method employed to carry the rain-water round the angle of the house was ingenious, though simple in construction, and when tried with a bucket of water during the recent excavation was most effective in conveying the water round an awkward bend.

The End of the House

As already stated (p. 22), the house probably decayed slowly for want of occupants and maintenance early in the 5th century. In only two of the rooms (Rooms III and X) was there indication of destruction by fire involving the collapse of the roof,

while the evidence from extensive stone robbing suggests that plenty of good stone remained standing in the walls centuries after its final abandonment. The robbers' trenches contained medieval pottery. The squatters' hearth on the floor of Room VII, accompanied by the scatter of Theodosian coins, was evidence of the last occupation of any kind.

The squatters' hearth (PLATE X b) was made on the floor and edged with small stones. Its over-all measurement was 28 inches by 27 inches, the actual fire hole being 13 inches by 14 inches. The floor of the room had been relaid during the reconstruction of Period III and was of rammed gravel. It therefore could stand up to any amount of heat, but the stone surround had been so calcined that it was found in a very friable state. A thick layer of grey ash filled the hearth as well as spreading over the floor, and it contained an enormous amount of iron nails. Finally a layer of roofing slates covered both the hearth and floor.

Medieval Period

A few trenches were dug to explore some of the various ridges and mounds around the site of the Roman remains. A ridge (Medieval wall I) running from the pathway on the S. side of the Roman house, crossed Room I, continued along the whole length of Corridor I and crossed Room V and Corridor II. A parallel ridge (Medieval wall II) ran 40 feet east of it, the two ridges continuing some distance up the field and finally meeting by right angle returns, thus enclosing a long and narrow 'garden.' Nowhere within this enclosure did there appear to be a building of any sort and from the evidence of the large quantity of abraded sherds, both Roman and medieval found during the excavation, intensive cultivation seems apparent. Another ridge (Medieval wall III) ran parallel to the enclosure but 18 feet east of it. Medieval wall I remained only as the footings of a field wall. It was 2 feet 9 inches wide and loosely built of large rough stones without mortar. None of the stones of the wall appeared to have come from the ruins below. Amongst stones of the wall some 13th century glazed

sherds were found. Medieval wall II also remained as the footings of a field wall, but was 3 feet 3 inches wide and stood 9 inches high; it supported a terrace-like formation, as the ground fell away slightly on its E. side, and here the wall was 2 feet 3 inches in height. In the earth and rubble packing of the wall and on the clay directly below tesserae were found as well as minute fragments of Roman pottery and tiles. Medieval wall III was only indicated by a line of small stones and rubble and was *c.* 22 inches in width.

Medieval Building

In a large uneven mound, having a roughly rectangular shape and lying close to the pathway opposite the s.w. corner of the Roman house, a dry stone wall standing 3 feet 6 inches wide and three courses high was found. The masonry was of rubble but some of the stones appeared to have been reused. Though the wall had a resemblance to the other medieval ones found it was of better build and had probably belonged to a cottage. Another wall, though much ruined, gave an interior width of *c.* 9 feet 6 inches for this room. Medieval sherds were recovered in association with the walls and no Roman pottery was found. Nevertheless, below the first wall recovered here, lay mortar and rubble and part of another wall of better masonry, suggesting one of Roman date, but it was not possible at the time to carry out fuller investigations.

Medieval Pathway

The pathway, still a modern right of way, runs across the s.w. corner and along the s. side of the villa. It is now a shallow sunken grassy path between the banks covering the remains of the villa and medieval buildings. The surface of the medieval pathway consisted of hard-worn oolitic rubble, and where it overlay Roman remains was only a few inches deep. On its surface medieval sherds and a Charles I farthing were found. Below the pathway sherds of Roman date occurred.

On other parts of the site of the Roman villa fragments of 17th century clay pipes were found.

TESSELLATED PAVEMENTS

The remains of eight tessellated pavements were found on this site. Five of them (Rooms I, III, IV, V and Corridor I) belong to Period II of the life of the villa, while the remaining three (Room X, Corridors II and III) belong to Period III.

From the evidence produced by the excavation of the site a date in the second quarter of the fourth century has been suggested for Period II and a date in the last quarter of the same century for Period III (p. 22). A coin of A.D. 330-7 was found in the bedding of the pavement of Corridor III (Period III), which forms at least a basic date, but the other evidence suggests an even later date than that of the coin. The similarity of the materials used, the size of the tesserae, the geometrical patterns and the general coarseness of the work also point to their being laid at a late date in the Roman era, but to a closeness in date for construction in the two Periods.

The materials used for the tesserae were the local oolites, both of white and olive-grey neutral shades, a blue-grey limestone, in pale blue and dark blue, red tile and the purple of the old red sandstone, the latter being the only material imported into the neighbourhood, coming from the Forest of Dean. It will be seen, therefore, that the materials were mostly at hand, and were in fact 'left-overs' from building operations. It will have been noted that the masonry used in Period I was a white oolite, while the other oolites used in Periods II and III masonry were in olive-grey-yellow shades. The pale and dark blues are from limestone; for example the dark blue is a shade that is found in the strata of Chipping Norton limestone, occurring not far off, while the purple was from the old red sandstone, procured from fragments of flue covers used for the hypocausts in the villa. The red colour was, of course, from broken *tegulae*, tiles and box flue tiles. Portions of the usual scored patterns on the latter were seen on some of the red cubes. These colours and the materials composing them are common to other pavements in Gloucestershire, although more varieties in shades do occur on other sites in this county.

The tesserae were large. The borders to the pavements were mostly of the olive-grey-yellow shades of oolite, the cubes measuring from $2\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inches square, the average being $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches square. An occasional old red sandstone cube was introduced, but with no intention at design, these measured from $2\frac{1}{8}$ to 1 inches square, with an average of $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches square. Red tile cubes were used as well as old red sandstone in the borders of Room V pavement. The borders in plain oolite were wide and in some places there were large expanses of plain tesserae, as for example the width of 14 feet on the N. side of Room X. No difference could be detected in the execution of these pavement borders in the two Periods. The cubes for the patterns were smaller, measuring from $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch for both Periods. The cubes of the pattern in the pavement of Corridor II were slightly larger, from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

The foundations for all the pavements, except for the one in Room X, were strongly laid. Layers of mortar with crushed brick, placed on rubble and gravel or mortar, were used for Rooms I, V, X, Corridors I and II, while Rooms III, IV and Corridor III had layers of mortar without crushed brick. Room X had a thick layer of mortar and crushed brick, but no stone foundation. It will be seen from the above that the analysis of the mortars could not be relied on for dating the different periods of pavements, as was possible with the wall mortars, since the mixtures of the pavement beddings appeared to be identical in both the Periods II and III. The tesserae were fixed, in most cases where this evidence remained, by a thin trickle of lime on the bedding, best shown in Corridor II.

For execution in the designs Room V appeared to be the best of the five patterned pavements. The patterns were missing from Room IV and Corridor III, where only fragments of border remained, and, although two small portions of pattern were in Corridor I, they were too small to suggest any definite design.

Room I. (PLATES VII and VIII a and b)

The patterns used in this pavement had to be fitted into the apsidal room and are therefore peculiar in form. The

northern part of the central area was missing. At the apex of the apse was the two-link motif within a circle, and on either side pear-shaped motifs containing a pointed leaf. A border of single guilloche twist outlined each side of the central area while an irregular pentagonal lozenge outlined in guilloche twist occupied the southern part of the central area. Two corners between the lozenge and the border were filled with a design of three pointed leaves and a circle, which lack the connecting stalks to the leaves. Within the pentagonal lozenge were two more two-link motifs. On either side of the central area were tapering panels containing circular leaf scrolls. The leaves were in red and the type of scroll an unusual one. The colours used were from red tile, pale blue limestone and the white oolite.

Corridor I

The only portion of a pattern recovered from here showed a border of lines in red, white and blue and a design that might have been squares of white outlined in blue with red in the centre.

Room V. (PLATES II AND VI a)

The pavement in this room remained in a good enough condition for the design to be easily seen. The design consisted of a cross with equal arms within a square panel, the latter outlined in a single guilloche twist, an extra line of guilloche being added along the w. side. Between the arms of the cross and in the centre of each side were triangles, edged with guilloche twist. A circle, edged with guilloche twist, occupied the centre of the cross and in it was the two-link motif. Patterns in the arms of the cross consisted of the pointed leaf and circle design, again without stalks, as well as diamond-shaped figures. The colours used were red tile, pale and dark blue limestone, and white oolite.

Room III. (PLATE I)

The dominant feature, and an unusual one, of this pavement was that the whole of it, border and pattern, was done with

large tesserae. The design was geometrical, consisting of two interlacing squares placed diagonally within a square. Two panels of three parallel rows of six small squares were placed at the two ends. The corners of the square, enclosing the central design, were filled in with triangles. The average size of the cubes were, for the white oolite $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch squares, the red tile 1 inch, the old red sandstone 1 to $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches, while the wide plain oolite of the border was $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The pattern was carried out in red on a white background, while the centre of the small squares in the end panels was in the purple of the old red sandstone.

Corridor II. (Coloured Plate and PLATES III and IV)

This pavement was perfectly preserved. It consisted of a long narrow panel, like a carpet, down the centre of the Corridor with differing patterns at each end and a central portion occupied by a circle, outlined in a single guilloche twist enclosing a two-link motif. A narrow panel of alternating red and white squares lay on either side of the central panel. The design at the s. end of the pavement was of two six-pointed stars divided by a diamond-shaped figure containing a two-link motif. A great deal of old red sandstone was introduced into this part of the pavement. For the n. end of the pavement the pelta-pattern was used.¹ This was carried out on a white oolite background, the pelta outline being in pale-blue limestone with red tile for its centre. The dark-blue limestone was used in parts of the central circle.

Room X. (PLATE VI b)

So much of this pavement had been destroyed that there remained no indication of the pattern of the central theme. Only one small fragment of guilloche twist was found, which indicated that a colourful pattern must have existed. The portions of pavement recovered showed that a wide panel, 4 feet wide, ran along the east side of the room, with a design

¹ For a discussion on this pattern see *Soc. Ants. Research Report*, No. ix, Lydney, p. 66.

carried out in large tesserae of the interrupted fret pattern, done in red tile on a white oolite background. The same pattern was used in a panel done in smaller tesserae of pale blue and white, which ran across the N. side of the room. On the S. side of the room part of a border in large tesserae was done in lines of red tile, white oolite and old red sandstone.

COINS

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

The coins found in this excavation were well preserved and had suffered little from corrosion. Their use as dating evidence has already been apparent in the main body of the report. Here it is only necessary to emphasize the fewness of the coins minted before A.D. 330, and to point to the continuous occupation of the villa until the end of the 4th century, as attested by the number of the coins of the Valentinian dynasty. The issues of the House of Theodosius I are also much in evidence. Taken in conjunction with most of those classed as illegible, which are probably of the same date and type, they have been used above as evidence of a squatter's occupation well on in the 5th century A.D.

I am indebted to Mr S. E. Rigold for interpreting the Medieval coins.

M. & S. indicates Mattingly and Sydenham, *Roman Imperial Coinage* and C.=Cohen, *Monnaies frappées sous l'empire romain*, 2nd edition.

LIST OF THE ROMAN COINS

- ? *Antoninus Pius* (A.D. 138-61)
1. *Obverse* Bust laureate, draped, r.
Reverse Illegible. *As* (worn).
- Julia Soaemias*
2. *Obverse* IVLIA SO Bust draped, r.
Reverse Illegible. *Denarius*.

- Gallienus* (Sole Reign, A.D. 260-8)
3. M. & S. 193, (~~1~~).
4. *Obverse* GALLIENVS AVG. Head radiate, r.
Reverse Illegible. *Antoninianus* (v. worn).
- Claudius II* (posthumous, A.D. 270)
5. M. & S. 266, (~~*1~~).
- ? *Tetricus I* (A.D. 270-3)
6. *Obverse* IMP [TETRICVS] AVG. Bust radiate, cuirassed, r.
Reverse PA[X AV]G. Pax with wreath and upright sceptre.
Antoninianus.
- Tetricus I* (Barbarous)
7. *Obverse* RICVS.
Reverse Barbarous figure.
- Tetricus II* (A.D. 270-3)
8. *Obverse* RICVS C Bust radiate r.,
(barbarous).
Reverse Illegible. *Antoninianus* (barbarous).
- Radiate Head*
9. Illegible, but head probably of Claudius II. Very worn.
- Barbarous Radiate Head*
10. Barbarous head; altar on reverse.
- Constantine I* (A.D. 306-37)
- 11-12. C. 255 ($\overline{\text{PLG}}$), C. 487 var. ($\overline{\text{PTRG}}$).
13. *Obverse* D N CONSTANTINVS AVG. Bust laureate, cuirassed, r.
Reverse GLORIA EXERCITVS. Two soldiers; two standards.
Mint $\overline{\text{PLG}}$ Semi-barbarous.
- Theodora*
14. C. 5. (illegible).
- Constantinopolis*
- 15-17. C. 21. ($\overline{\text{PLG}}$, $\overline{\text{PLG}}$, $\overline{\text{TRSF}}$).

Urbs Roma

- 18-23. c. 17 ($\overline{\text{PLG}}$, $\overline{\text{SCONST}}$, $\overline{\text{TCONST}}$, $\overline{\text{TR}}//$).
and one barbarous and one either *Constantinopolis* or *Urbs Roma*.

? Constantine I

24. Head of Constantine I (?); otherwise indecipherable.

Constantine II (A.D. 317-40)

25. c. 122 ($\overline{\text{STR}}$).

Constantius II (A.D. 324-61)

- 26-27. c. 45 ($\overline{\text{PLG}}$). c. 100 (illegible).
28. *Obverse* | TIVS P F AVG. Bust [diademed, draped], r.

Constans (A.D. 333-50)

- 29-36. c. 179 ($\overline{\text{D}}$, $\overline{\text{TRP}}$, $\overline{\text{TRP}}$, $\overline{\text{TRS}}$, $\overline{\text{TR}}//$, $\overline{\text{TR}}//$, $\overline{\text{TR}}//$, and two illegible).
37. *Obverse* CONSTA|NS P F AVG. Bust diademed, draped, r.
Reverse [FEL TEMP REPARATIO]. Phoenix on globe.
Mint $\overline{\text{TRS}}$.
38. *Obverse* CONSTAN | Bust diademed, . . . r.
Reverse [FEL] TEMP [REPARATIO]. Legionary spearing fallen horseman.
Mint Illegible.

Constantius II or Constans

- 39-40. Two victories type $\overline{\text{TR}}//$ and one illegible.
41-3. *Fel Temp Reparatio* type. One illegible and two barbarous.

House of Constantine I (A.D. 306-61)

- 44-5. *Gloria Exercitus* type with two standards ($\overline{\text{CONST}}$ and illegible).
46. *Gloria Exercitus* type with one standard ($\overline{\text{PTR}}$).
47. Illegible, but ? Constans.

Valentinian I (A.D. 364-75)

- 48-52. *Reverse* GLORIA RO | MANORVM.
Mints $\frac{\text{SMAQ}^{\text{S}}}{\text{SMAQ}^{\text{S}}}$, $\frac{\text{IA}}{\text{SMAQ}^{\text{S}}}$, $\frac{\text{OFI}^{\text{M}}}{\text{CON}}$, $\frac{\text{OFI}^{\text{N}}}{\text{LVCP}}$, $\frac{\text{OFI}^{\text{H}}}{\text{////}}$
- 53-6. *Reverse* SECVRITAS | REIPVBLICAE.
Mints $\frac{\text{OFI}^{\text{L}}}{\text{CONS}^{\text{S}}}$, $\frac{\text{A}}{\text{FSISCS}}$, $\frac{\text{F}}{\text{////}}$, and one illegible.

Valens (A.D. 364-78)

- 57-8. *Reverse* GLORIA RO | MANORVM.
Mints $\frac{\text{PLVG}}{\text{PLVG}}$, $\frac{\text{OFI}^{\text{L}}}{\text{////}}$
- 59-69. *Reverse* SECVRITAS | REIPVBLICAE.
Mints $\frac{\text{A}}{\text{SMAQP}}$, $\frac{\text{OFI}^{\text{L}}}{\text{CON}}$, $\frac{\text{L}}{\text{CON}}$, $\frac{\text{OFI}^{\text{L}}}{\text{CON}}$, $\frac{\text{L}}{\text{SCON}}$, $\frac{\text{OFI}^{\text{L}}}{\text{LVGP}}$, $\frac{\text{OFI}^{\text{L}}}{\text{LVGP}}$, $\frac{\text{C}^{\text{L}}}{\text{////}}$, $\frac{\text{PI}}{\text{////}}$, $\frac{\text{L}}{\text{////}}$, and one illegible.

Gratian (A.D. 375-83)

- 70-3. *Reverse* GLORIA NO | VI SAECVLI.
Mints $\frac{\text{PCON}}{\text{PCON}}^{(2)}$, $\frac{\text{CON}}{\text{CON}}$ and one illegible.
74. *Reverse* GLORIA RO | MANORVM.
Mint $\frac{\text{FI}}{\text{////}}$
75. *Reverse* SECVRITAS | REIPVBLICAE.
Mint $\frac{\text{OFI}^{\text{L}}}{\text{////}}$
76. *Reverse* VOT XV MULT XX.
Mint $\frac{\text{LVG}}{\text{LVG}}$

House of Valentinian I (A.D. 364-83)

77. *Reverse* GLORIA RO | MANORVM.
Mint Illegible.
78. *Reverse* SECVRITAS | REIPVBLICAE.
Mint $\frac{\text{OFI}^{\text{L}}}{\text{CON}}$

Valentinian II (A.D. 375-92)

- 79-80. *Obverse* D N VALENTINIANVS P F AVG. Bust diademed,
 draped, r.
Reverse SALVS REI | PVBLICAE. Victory left.
Mint Illegible.

81. *Obverse* D N VALENTINI | ANVS P F AVG. Bust diademed, draped, r.
Reverse VICTOR | [IA AVGGG]. Victory left.
Mint P̄CON

Theodosius I (A.D. 379-95)

82. *Obverse* D N THEODO | SIVS P F AVG. Bust diademed, draped, r.
Reverse VICTOR | IA AVGGG. Victory left.
Mint T̄CON

Arcadius (A.D. 383-408)

- 83-6. *Obverse* D N ARCADIVS P F AVG. Bust diademed, draped r.
Reverse VICTOR | IA AVGGG. Victory left.
Mints P̄CON', T̄CON', T̄CON', and one illegible.

Honorius (A.D. 393-423)

87. *Obverse* D N HON . . . Bust diademed, draped, r.
Reverse VICTOR | IA AVGGG. Victory left.
Mint P̄CON
88. *Obverse* As foregoing.
Reverse SALVS REI | PVBLICAE. Victory and captive.
Mint ĀQ̄P̄

House of Theodosius

- 89-91. *Reverse* SALVS REI | PVBLICAE. Victory and captive.
Mints ĀQ̄S', R̄T', and one illegible,
- 92-4. *Reverse* VICTOR | IA AVGGG. Victory left.
Mints Three illegible.
95. *Reverse* Illegible.
Mint Illegible.

Illegible

- 96-114. Nineteen in all, of which fourteen at least are by size and appearance almost certainly 4 Æ of the House of Theodosius I. The other four also are of the 4th century, one being part of a 3 Æ, perhaps of the House of Valentinian I, another being of smaller than 4 Æ size. No 'minimissimi' were found.

MEDIEVAL COINS

by S. E. RIGOLD, M.A.

1. Halfpenny cut from *Short Cross Penny*.
Group II. (c. 1189-96, under Richard I), mint unrecognizable.
HEN]RICVS RE[X / --]D. ON[-
2. Halfpenny cut from *Long Cross Penny* (Henry III).
Group V (c ?) c. 1253-1258/60, London or Canterbury.
HENRICV]S REX III / NIC]OLE ON[- --
3. Halfpenny cut from *Long Cross Penny* (Henry III).
Group V d. c. 1253-1258/60, Canterbury.
HENRI[CVS REX]III / ROB[ERT ON C]ANT
4. Farthing. Alexander III, King of Scots (1249-1285/6). Like all farthings, contemporary with later part of 2nd issue (c. 1280-1286 or possibly posthumous, but before 1292) Burns, *Coinage of Scotland*, vol. I, p. 184, pl. XVII, 196-199. No indication of mint.
ALEXANDER REX/ SC/OT/OR/VN
5. Farthing. Charles I.
CAROLV DG MA BRIT/CROWN/FRA ET H REX/Rose

POTTERY

Very little of the pottery, both Roman and Medieval, recovered during the excavations was stratified and its fragmentary and abraded condition showed that it had been much affected by the intensive cultivation which had occurred over the site. It has, therefore, not been possible to illustrate much of the material. The finds that are to be described below have their identification number placed in brackets, which shows their position on the site. This information is to be made available for further study when the excavation material is placed in Cheltenham Museum with the original index of the bag contents and site.

EARLY WARES. Unstratified.

Samian Ware

This ware is hardly represented at all and none of the sherds, mostly small chips, was stratified. There are two rims of plain Samian ware, one of Form 31 (Bag 441) and the other Curle 15 (Bag 442), both of the 2nd century A.D. A large decorated sherd of a bowl, Form 37 (Bag 150), is in free-style relief pattern of leaves and a bird, one leaf having two lobes. This may also be dated to the 2nd century A.D.

COARSE WARE. Stratified.

Corridor I

Over 70 sherds were found in the filling below the Corridor floor. They are all small fragments, but as a group they are homogeneous and can be dated late 1st century or early 2nd century A.D. (Bags 45, 228, 417, 484, 526). They include several sherds of orange-buff ware of mugs, similar to ware from Glevum,¹ some with the trellis pattern, while one sherd with a sharp angle appears to belong to a type of beaker, also as found at Glevum.² These types were common in the late 1st century, persisting into the 2nd century A.D. The lower part of a handle belonging to a two-handled flagon, in fine red-buff ware, is similar to a type from Glevum.³ A group of rim sherds of grey ollæ of very hard ware appear to be of early date. A sherd of a globular beaker of thin hard grey ware is decorated with a series of irregularly placed impressed pin-dots and scratches above and below a double groove, the latter below the shoulder of the beaker. The rim is missing, but enough remains to show that the sherd belongs to a type with sharply everted rim and is of the form of poppy-head beakers. Another sherd of grey ware has barbotine dots as on a poppy-head beaker.

¹ C. Green in *J.R.S.*, xxxiii, p. 16, fig. 2, no. 3.

² *ibid.*, fig. 2, no. 1.

³ *ibid.*, fig. 5, no. 9.

Room VII. Period I

In the clay packing of the foundations of the N.E. angle of the room seven small sherds of indefinite form were found (Bag 259). Four of the sherds were of orange-buff ware, similar to those found below Corridor I.

Room IX

A rim sherd of a mug of orange-buff ware (Bag 535), similar to those mentioned above, was found in the clay packing of the s. wall of the room.

COARSE WARE. Unstratified.

A sherd from the body of a beaker of thin hard-grey ware has a band of horizontal combed, wavy pattern (Bag 10). The pattern is sharply incised and a groove cuts across the edge of it. The sherd appears to belong to a vessel with upright sides and one from Glevum of grey-fumed ware with this pattern is probably an analogy,¹ of early 2nd century date.

LATE WARES

The sherds discussed above represent some of the 70 early pieces found on the site. The remainder of the pottery found at the villa is of forms commonly used in the 4th century A.D.

The most noticeable found are a group of late 4th century type of ware, charged with calcite grit. The surfaces are hard and porridge-like and generally covered externally with fine horizontal rilling.² On examination some of the grit was found to be crushed shell, the corrugations of the shell being visible. Characteristics of the vessels were their well-made forms from Roman types and in spite of the coarse paste the thinness of the walls of the body of the pots. Two unusual features were the presence of incipient foot-rings on two of the pots, FIG. 4, no. I (Bag 525) and one sherd decorated with a scroll pattern, FIG. 4, no. II (Bag 533).

¹ *ibid.*, fig. 6, no. 53.

² The Roman Villa at Park Street. *Arch. Journal*, CII, p. 93, fig. 2c, nos. 5, 6, 7, 8.

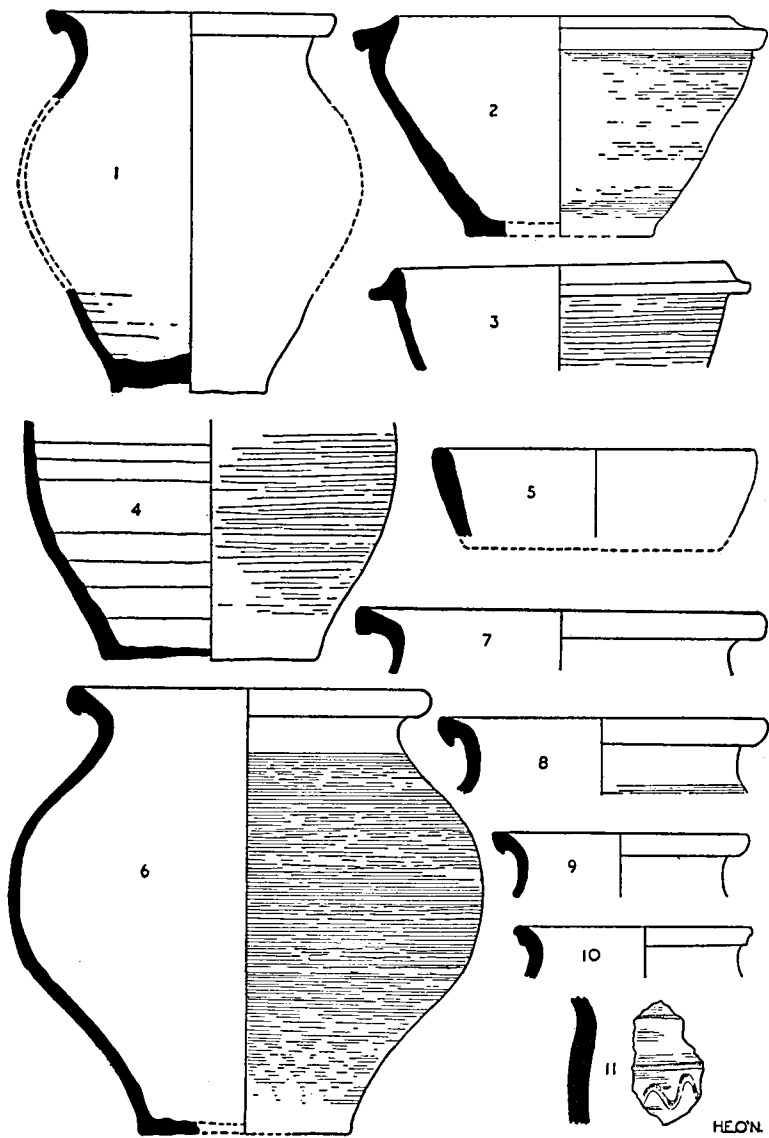


Fig. 4. Calcite gritted ware (4) (p. 56).

From 150 to 160 sherds were found and a rough computation of them in connection with their find sites suggest they belonged to about 60 vessels. Of these there are rims belonging to about 21 cooking pots, FIG. 4, nos. 6, 7, 8, 9 (Bags 473, 409, 450, 524), rims of 10 flanged bowls, FIG. 4, nos. 2, 3 (Bags 131, 125), 1 rim of a dish, FIG. 4, no. 5 (Bag 145), and 1 rim of a large storage jar. Four of the flanged bowls were found in the area of the kitchen (Room VIII).

Stratified sherds of this ware were found in the filling below Corridor III, FIG. 4, no. 10 (Bag 376), and under the spread of ashes and nails on the floor of Room VII around the squatters hearth (Bag 231). The ware was also found in the filling of the hypocaust of Room IX, FIG. 4, no. 11 (Bag 533). Ware of this type and similar in forms to FIG. 4, no. 2, has been found on the Bon Marché site at Gloucester. The writer is indebted to Mr E. M. Jope for this information.

Room IV

A group of pottery associated with the Kimmeridge Shale pot-cover, FIG. 15, no. 1, and two coins were found in the hypocaust flues at the N.W. corner of the room. The coins are (No. 77) Valentinian family, A.D. 364-83, and the other (No. 59) Valens, A.D. 364-78. The finds were not strictly stratified but appeared to have been deposited all at once by being swept into the flues of the hypocaust when the old red sandstone flue covers were robbed as many chips of the latter were amongst the filling. The group consists of five vessels (Bag 128a): a small black burnished bowl with a band of wavy scroll pattern on its girth, FIG. 5, no. 1, a small flagon with one handle, in a polished light-brown ware, a band of slightly impressed rouletting on the girth and other bands of scored lines, the interior being sharply grooved, FIG. 5, no. 2, an oval black dish with two handles, FIG. 5, no. 3, a small saucer in hard pale-grey ware, the interior of the base and walls scored with coarse lines, FIG. 5, nos. 5, 6, and another smaller saucer of plain red-coated ware, FIG. 5, no. 4, which had been subjected to fire causing it to change colour.

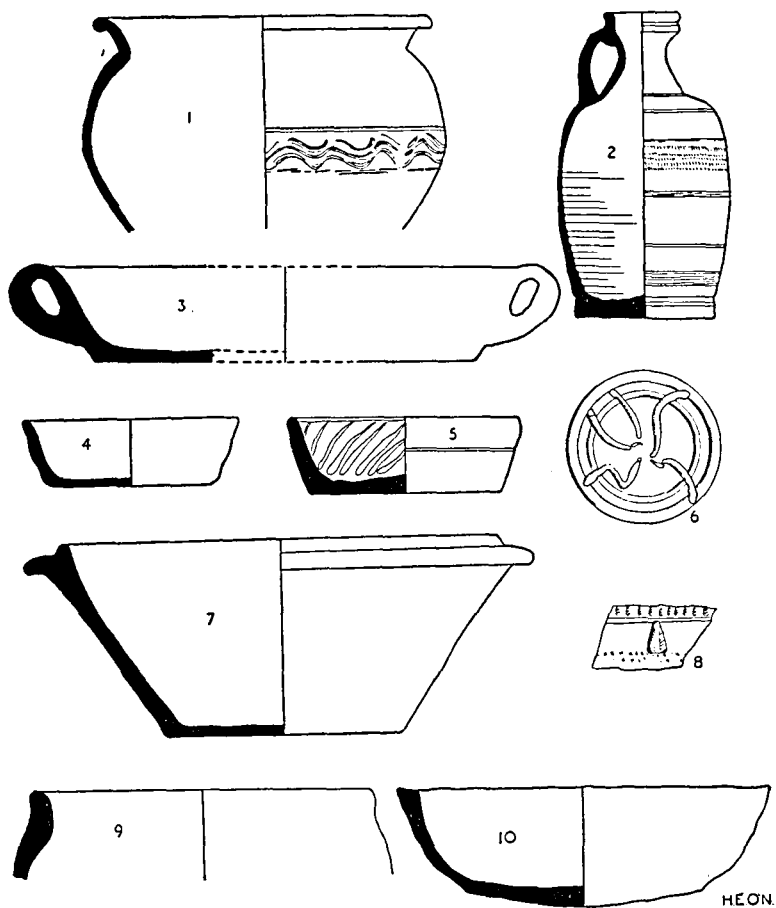


Fig. 5

Pottery from Room IV (nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6) (†) (p. 58).

Late Saxon pottery (nos. 9 and 10) (†) (p. 60).

Room VII

More than half of a large flanged bowl was found in the filling of the furnace of the hypocaust, FIG. 5, no. 7 (Bag 401).

Amongst the remaining sherds, red-coated ware with rosette and rouletting patterns were numerous. Of the latter type one of interest is a sherd showing a fern stamp in association with faint indications of a row of rosettes, FIG. 5, no. 8 (Bag 37). Sherds from the filling in the furnace of the hypocaust of Room IX belong to a mortaria of the Samian form 45. A scroll pattern in white slip decorates the outer side (Bags 534, 539).

SAXON POTTERY

by G. C. DUNNING, F.S.A.

FIG. 5, nos. 9 and 10

Several sherds of a shallow bowl with a sagging base, and one rim sherd of a cooking-pot were found, the former under the mediæval field-wall over the n. end of Corridor I, and the latter in débris outside the s. end of the same corridor.

Both vessels are hand-made, of thick hard black fabric containing large stone grits and fine sand. The exterior of the bowl is leathery-brown or grey and tooled smooth; and the cooking-pot is buff-grey and rough. The interior of the latter is black and shows rough marks of wiping within the neck.

Close parallels for these vessels are not forthcoming, but in general comparison maybe made with the hand-made bowls and cooking-pots from the Saxon Monastery of Whitby,¹ and with the pottery from the Saxon settlement at Selsey Bill.² The most determinate feature of the Whittington pottery is the sagging-base on the bowl, which indicates a date for it not earlier than the 8th or 9th century. On the other hand the primitive technique, the character of the ware, and the simple rim sections favour a date earlier than the 11th or 12th century. For these reasons the pottery is referred to the late Saxon period, and it is to be associated with the Saxon objects from the same layers of débris (see p. 77).

¹ *Archæologia*, LXXXIX, 76, fig. 25.

² *Antiq. Journ.*, XIV, 393, fig. 2.

MEDIEVAL POTTERY

by E. M. JOPE, F.S.A.

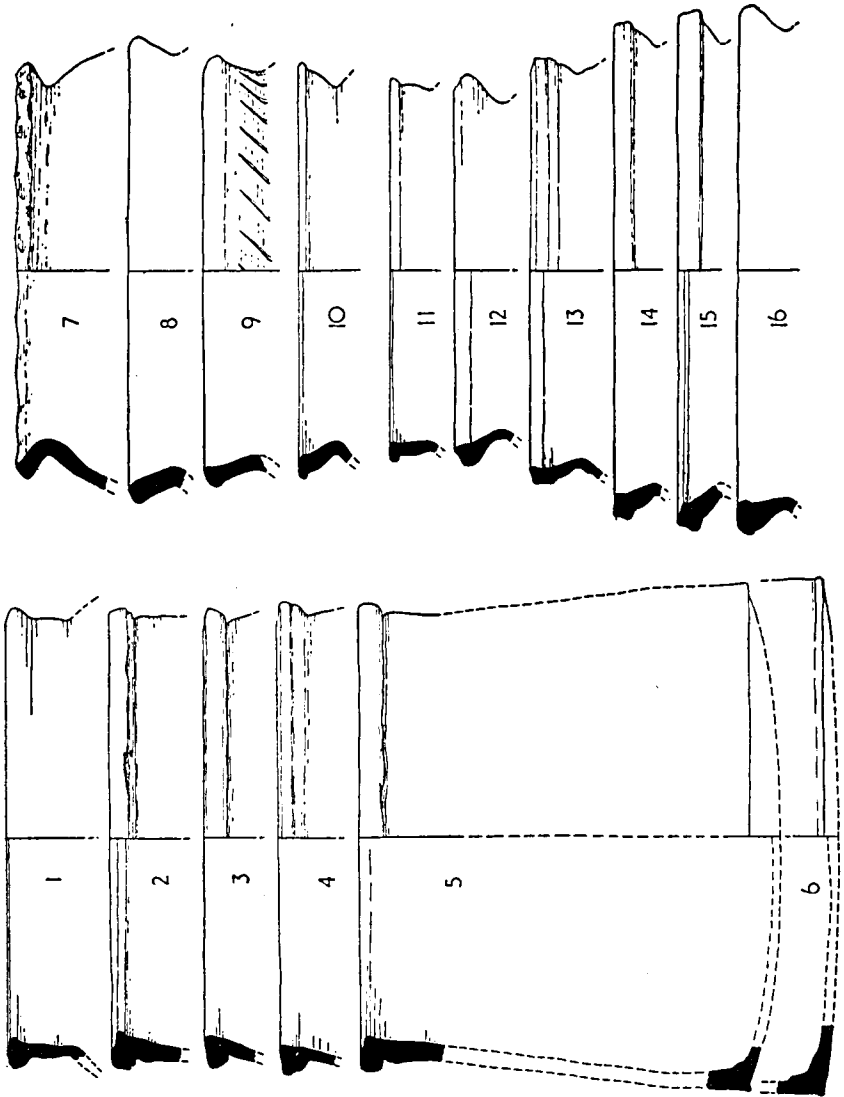
The collection of medieval pottery from the site is fairly large, as it lay on the outskirts of the medieval village of Whittington, considerably depopulated at the end of the Middle Ages. It includes examples datable to most periods between the 11th and 16th centuries, but the main bulk appears to be of late 11th, 12th and 13th centuries. This group raises points of interest, in revealing local styles, and possible instances of trading from other areas.

Part of the work summarised here has been carried out with a Leverhulme Research Grant. I am also grateful to the museums and private owners who have helped me.

Pottery of 11th and 12th century types

The site produced a full range of baggy cooking pottery with out-turned rim flanges, the general type found universally over most of Britain at this period. The recent excavations under the Castle Mound at Oxford (*Oxoniensia* 17 (1952), in press) have shown that those vessels with simple rim flanges, undecorated (8) or with light finger-tipping (7) or slashing (9) were already in use before A.D. 1070 in Oxford, and these types may well be as early here in Gloucestershire, especially as other more distinctive late Saxon types known from the Oxford region eastwards (*Berks. Archaeol. J.* 50 (1947), 54-6) are not found here. They represent the late Saxon background upon which the cooking pottery tradition of the 12th and 13th centuries was developed, and the sequence is illustrated in FIG. 6, 7-16, showing the thickening and appearance of moulding at the rim top in the later 12th and 13th centuries. 7-9 could be late 11th century, 10-13 are probably 12th, and 14-16 are late 12th or 13th century.

There was also a number of rims and bases of a distinctive regional type, to be found only round the Cotswold area (*Oxoniensia* 13 (1948), 68-72), with almost vertical sides and clubbing at the rim instead of a flange. This type also probably



had a late Saxon origin, and was going out of fashion during the second half of the 12th century, the examples here illustrated (2-6) being late 11th-early 12th century. These vessels are easily recognisable by the sharp base angle (5, 6) or as rims; in dealing with rims, however, it is necessary to have sufficient depth of body profile attached, as there is another form of vessel with vertical rim and clubbed top, to be found in this area and elsewhere, which nevertheless has a marked shoulder (1), and is in fact a halfway stage between these vertical sided and the more general baggy cooking pots.

Descriptions of Pottery illustrated

Fig. 6. Cooking pottery of the later 11th and 12th centuries.

- 1-6. All vessels of these types are turned on a slow wheel and much hand-worked after throwing, of fairly well-fired shelly ware with grey core, 1, 3 and 4 having buff surfaces, and 2, 5 and 6 dark-brown to blackish.
- 7-16. Illustrate the variety of rim forms of the standard type of cooking pot of this period. 7 shows much hand-working after throwing, and has slight finger-tip decoration on the rim, and 9 has been fingered in carrying out the shallow diagonal slashing. All the rest bear the marks of throwing on the wheel unobscured by subsequent finger working. The body sherds and bases (not illustrated) show varying degrees of finger-working: all the bases are convex, as normal on such types, and this base was produced by pressure from inside after removal from the turn-table.

7-10 are of shell-filled fabric with smooth rather clayey surfaces; they are grey in core, 8 and 10 having light brown, 7 buff and 9 light-red surfaces, 11 and 16 are of rougher shell-filled ware with grey core and light-red surfaces. 14 is of hard fired ware with grey core and buff surfaces, filled with a little sand and crushed stone. 12, 14 and 15 are of a ware filled with sand composed of small water-worn quartzite particles, 12 containing some crushed shell; 12 and 14 are friable, with grey core and brown surfaces; 15 is harder fired with pale-grey core and patchey-grey to black surfaces.

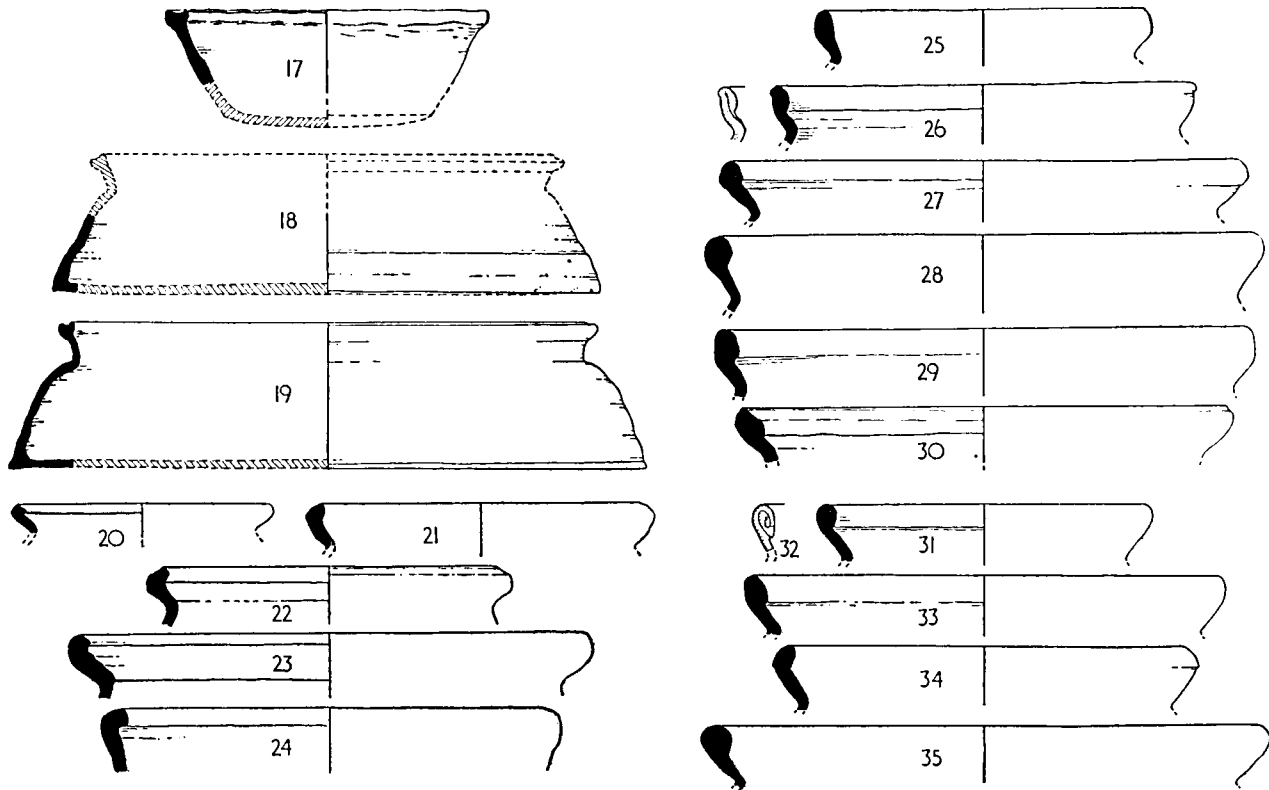


Fig. 7 Pottery of the late 11th to 12th centuries and later (†) (p. 66).

Bowls, in common use during the Middle Ages (*Berks. Archaeol. J.*, 50 (1947), 58), are rare on this site, 17 being the only clear example; 24 may also have been a bowl.

A peculiar shallow flat-bottomed form of vessel, like the truncated top part of a cooking pot, is shown in 18 and 19,

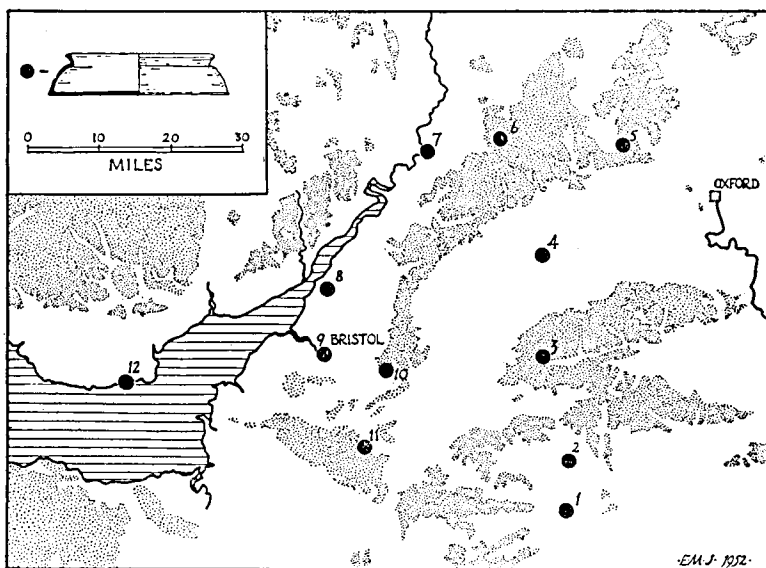


Fig. 8. Distribution map of large shallow flat-bottomed vessels (p. 67).

(Mr G. C. Dunning has recently brought to my notice several examples of vessels of this type from Dorset extending as far south as Poole.)

and is datable to the later 11th or first half of the 12th centuries. It is now well recognised in the west country, and its known distribution is shown in FIG. 8. This illustrates the linking of the Bristol Channel coastlands with its hinterland in the western English counties. Its use remains unknown; some have holes halfway up the sides, formed in the soft clay before firing. The type cannot be distinguished from ordinary baggy cooking pots on rim sherds alone unless sufficient body is

attached, but, even though no complete section be available, it is easily recognised by its sharply-inturned base angle (18).

An unusual feature about the pottery from this site is the prevalence among the cooking pot rims (forty-three, half the total) of forms in which the rim flange is turned over inwards to thicken the edge. This type is not particularly common on other sites, though 20 may be compared with the prevailing type at Lydney Castle, Glos. (*Antiq. J.*, XI (1931), 257, and pl. xxxiv) and found on other sites in the Gloucester area. In the Lydney type, however, the junction at the end of the fold is left almost aggressively open, whereas among the earlier examples at Whittington (except 20) this junction has been smoothed into a marked channel by the potter's fingers. This Whittington type was evidently very persistent locally, and almost identical forms may be seen in fabrics characteristic of each century from the 12th to the 15th and 16th, or even 17th, the range of forms being illustrated in 21-35. This suggests a local pottery industry catering for local needs, and working continuously with traditions of pot shapes tenaciously held by craftsmen not entirely following the general trends in design through this period. It is rarely that such persistence of detail in pottery forms can be shown over such a period, even where, as at Brill, Bucks. (*Oxoniensia* 10 (1945), 96) an industry is known to have operated continuously from the early 13th to the end of the 19th century.

Fig. 7. Pottery of the late 11th to 12th century and later.

17. Rim of bowl in smooth surfaced dark-brown ware containing much crushed shell.
18. Sherd of lower part of shallow vessel, of hard clayey ware with light-grey core and buff surfaces.
19. Part of similar vessel, of similar ware. From Knighton Farm, Durrington, Wilts. Devizes Museum.
20. Rim sherd of small cooking pot with folded-in edge to rim flange, a common type at Lydney (*Antiq. J.*, 11 (1931), 257): of fine hard sandy-brown ware.

21-35 illustrate the variety of the type with folded-in rim flange from this site, a series extending in date from the 12th century to at least the later Middle Ages. In 26 and 32 the drawing shows the folding-in process whereby the rim is made. 21-30 are of very similar fabric, fairly hard, with fine powdery surface, often containing fairly large lumps of stone. Colour is variable; 21, 24, 26, 27, 28 being brownish-grey; 22, 25, 29, 30 buff with greyish core; and 23 a bright orange-buff with light-grey core. 31, 32 and 33 are of a slightly finer ware, a little harder with buff to black patchy surfaces and grey core; 34 has an orange surface with grey core, with small patches of olive glaze, altogether more like the usual 13th-14th century jug fabrics; and 35 is of a light red bricky fabric with a darker almost purplish sheen over much of the surface, characteristic of later medieval or even 16th-17th century wares. Thus it would appear that 20-27 are probably 12th century, 28-30 13th century, 31-33 14th century, and 34 later 15th or 16th century.

Fig. 8. Distribution of a large shallow flat-bottomed vessel type of the late 11th-12th century. The following are the sites mapped.

1. *Old Sarum, Wilts.* From pits containing a coin of William I. (*Antiq. J.*, xv (1935), 189, fig. 5, 28).
2. *Knighton Farm, Durrington, Wilts.* An example showing a complete section of the side. This paper, fig. 7, 19. Devizes Museum.
3. *Avebury, Wilts.* Several examples among the large collection of Medieval pottery from the area of the circle: in M.I.A.R. Museum at Avebury.
4. *Cricklade, Wilts.* Several examples among pottery from several sites in the town submitted to me by Dr T. R. Thompson.
5. *Ascot-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire.* One example found during excavations of the mid-12th century castle. (Note in *Oxoniensia*, xi-xii (1946-7), 165-7).
6. *Whittington, Glos.* This report, fig. 7, 18.
7. *Gloucester.* Two examples among pottery shown to me by Mr J. N. Taylor and Miss Rennie from Bull Lane, Gloucester (1951). Gloucester Museum.

8. *Alveston, Glos.* One example among pottery brought in to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.
9. *Bristol.* One example showing complete section, from the excavations of the Ancient Bristol Exploration Fund. *Trans. B.G.A.S.*, LXX (1951).
10. *Lansdown, Bath.* Several examples among much 12th and 13th century pottery from excavations on this site. Bath Literary and Scientific Institution Museum.
11. *Holcombe, Somerset.* Information from Mr A. D. Hallam, Taunton Museum.
12. *Barry Island, Glamorgan.* Numerous examples from John Storrie's excavations (*Antiq. J.*, xvii (1937), 314-17; *Trans. Cardiff Naturalists Soc.*, LXIX (1936), 31-4).

13th century cooking pottery

The site produced a number of examples of a type of vessel peculiar to the west country, and datable to the middle part of the 13th century, which has already received some study (*Trans. B.G.A.S.*, 68 (1949), 30-44; and this vol., p. 88). The usual form is the normal cooking pot with out-turned flanged rim often with characteristic moulding on the outer edge. A few shallower pans are known (36, cf. *Trans. B.G.A.S.*, 68 (1949), 39, fig. 5, no. 3, from Barnwood, and some also from Avebury, and Ascot-under-Wychwood, Oxon.). The fabric is hard fired and shell-filled, and a particular feature is the thin wash of poorly fired glaze round the inner surface of the rim, which has been shown to contain an unusually high proportion of tin, demonstrated spectrographically here in 36, 38 and 43 (this vol., p. 96). Decoration is not common, though lightly stroked parallel lines down the surface (36, 43), or an occasional girth band with finger tipping, may be found (43): the stabbing of 46 is an isolated example. The range of rim forms is illustrated in FIG. 9, and the rim moulding is apparently produced by folding over outwards, as seen clearly in one or two examples (e.g. 39), by contrast with the type 20-35 (FIG. 7), which are thickened by folding over inwards.

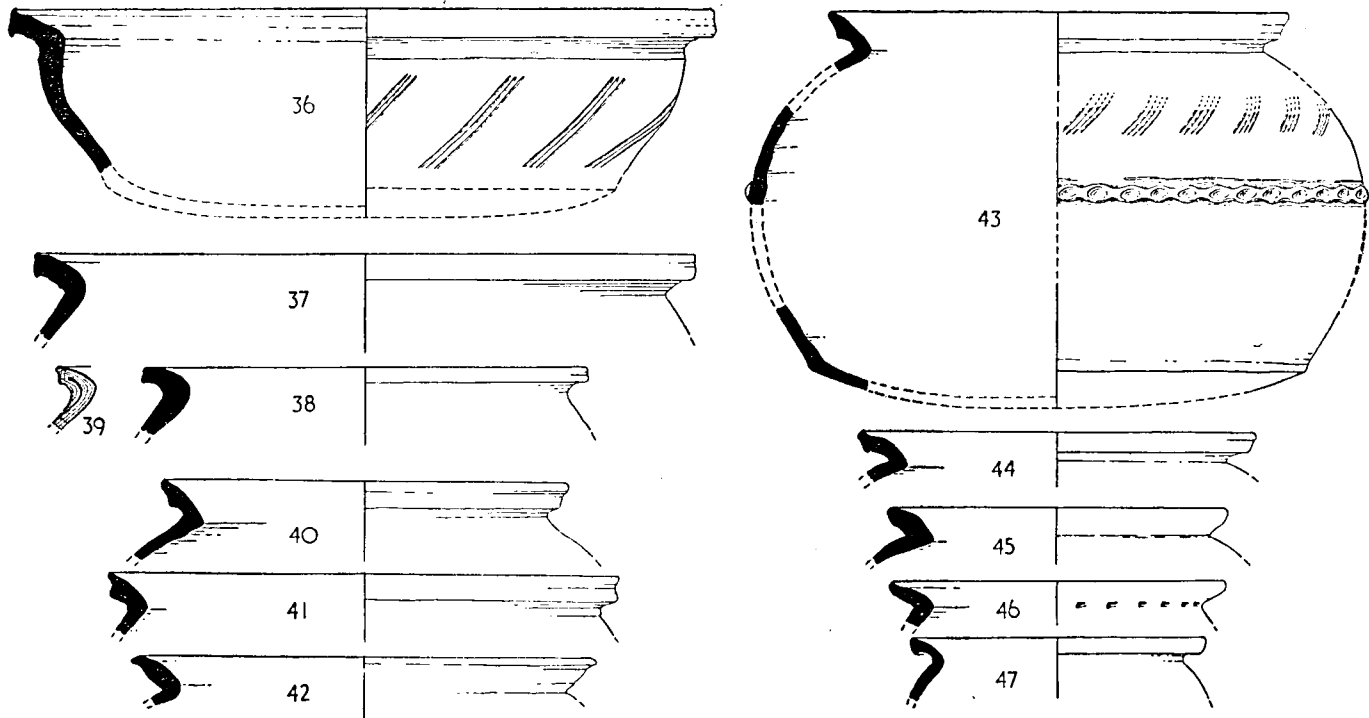


Fig. 9 Cooking pottery and pans of the 13th century (†) (p. 70).

Fig. 9. Cooking Pottery and Pans of the 13th century.

36-47. Pan and cooking pots of hard-fired shell-filled ware with grey core and buff to greyish surfaces, the shell sometimes dissolved out to give a corky appearance. All except 39, 44, 46 and 47 carry a thin wash of patchy yellowish glaze on the inner surface of the rim flange, spreading occasionally elsewhere. This lead silicate glaze is poorly fired, and often opaque, apparently due to yellow lead oxide in suspension, and weathers off easily, 39 is softer and more flaky than the rest, being less well-fired.

Jugs of the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries

The earliest jug fragments here, probably late 12th-early 13th centuries, are parts of tripod pitchers (not illustrated) in shelly ware with a thin wash of pale yellow-green glaze cf., *Antiq. J.*, xx (1940), 108-9; *Oxoniensia*, 15 (1950), 49; *Trans. B.G.A.S.*, 68 (1949), 38, fig. 5, no. 2). The jug rim 57 is also early 13th century.

There are three glazed fragments in fairly hard buff wares of a fine sandy texture, usual on jugs of the 13th century, which have rouletted decoration (54, 55, 56), a survival of a style more usual in the west country in the 12th century (*Antiq. J.*, xi (1931), 259-61).

Standard products of the 13th century are the jug with white painted crossing stripes under a dark olive-green glaze (53), and 52. Strap handles are usual at Whittington, either plain, or with slashing (51) or stabbing up the back. The site produced a variety of jug bases; the thumb-pressed form (59) came into use in the early 13th century (*Antiq. J.*, xv (1935), 330-335) and lasted at least through the following century; several examples with a foot-ring, below which the convex base protrudes, are also of the 13th-14th century.

Some of the harder fired jug fragments, especially those with a purplish bloom over the surface, may probably be ascribed to the 15th century, the forms (not illustrated) being simple, undecorated versions of the styles current in the 14th century.

· 13th century jugs imported from the Oxford Region. There is no reason to consider the above as other than comparatively local products. There are from this site, however, a number of distinctive sherds revealing wares and jug forms which are most common in the region round Oxford, to the east, and which make up only a small proportion of the 13th century pottery on these Cotswold sites. Particularly characteristic are the biconical jugs (48, 49) and other shapes with applied dark vertical strips, the 'double checkers' with horizontal zones and applied strips (*Antiq. J.*, XVI (1936), 177, fig. 1; *Berks. Archaeol. J.*, 50 (1947), 62, no. 3); *Oxoniensia*, 3 (1938), pl. XIX, B.), the great waisted pitchers, especially with spiral decoration, or with vertical applied strips carrying rouletting with the pattern square to the strip and not diagonal to it (*Oxoniensia*, 7 (1942), 72, fig. 17, 1, 3, 8), and characteristic slashed strap handles, often with thumb and finger marks at the top junction with the body. All these are in fine buff hard fabrics, with good but patchy glazes. All are types which are known to have been made in the kilns at Brill, Bucks. (*Oxoniensia*, 10 (1945), 96), and, though they may also have been made elsewhere, are nevertheless characteristic of the Oxford area where they abound. Examples are occasionally to be found outside the Oxford region, and their distribution is shown in FIG. II. At Whittington there are about seven such jugs represented among some twenty-five jugs of this period. To the south, they are represented in similar proportion among the large collection of medieval pottery from Avebury, and to the north-east occasional examples are found as far afield as Bedford, Northampton (this paper, FIG. 10, 48) and Cambridge, where they stand apart from the usual local medieval styles. These Oxford style jugs, perhaps made in the kilns at Brill, which were working on a large scale by the later 13th century, are a probable instance of trading in higher class wares at this period, such as Mr Dunning has observed in the Midlands (in K. M. Kenyon Leicester Jewry Wall site, *Soc. Antiq. Res. Rep.*, xv (1948), 243-4). The circle of 20 miles radius round Brill represents the limits of the range of the good quality cooking

pottery being made at Brill at this period (*e.g. Oxoniensia*, 7 (1942), 74-5), but it is reasonable to find finer wares traded farther afield. Some attempt has been made to show, by crosses on the map, those 13th century groups which do not include these 'Oxford' types of vessel, thus mapping the negative evidence and defining more satisfactorily the limits of distribution of these jug styles.

This distribution of these Oxford-style jugs is of considerable interest, revealing once again the importance of the clay vale, running from the Cambridge region in the north-east to north Wiltshire and east Gloucestershire in the south-west and west, as a channel of human contact, the underlying geographical influence of which can be traced at various periods from Neolithic times onwards. Earlier in the Middle Ages pottery trading and influence was coming south-west along the vale from the Cambridge region (*Oxoniensia*, 5 (1940), 42-9; *Berks. Archaeol. J.*, 50 (1947), 50-2). From the 13th century onwards documentary evidence enables us to place this archaeological distribution evidence in its context as trading activity, for traders and servants of monastic houses and colleges of the Oxford region frequented the great marts of eastern England, such as Sturbridge at Cambridge or St. Ives, and were also to be found in Bristol (*e.g. Cart. Eynsham*, II, (*Oxf. Hist. Soc.*, 51 (1908)), xx, lxxxvij; see also E. M. Carus-Wilson in *English Trade in the 15th Century* (ed. Postan and Power, 1933), 187-90), and other west country towns (*e.g. Winchcombe, Chron. Abingdon*, II (*Rolls Ser.*, 1858), 300, 326). It is most striking, that though these products seem to have a range from Oxford of 70 miles to the north-east, and 35 miles to the south-west, so few examples are to be found either beyond the chalk-uplands of the Berkshire Downs and Chilterns to the south and east, or beyond the Cotswolds to the north-west. At Reading there is one Oxford-type baluster jug (*Berks. Archaeol. J.*, 50 (1947), 64, fig. 8, 1), at Gloucester one jug with face masks (cf. *Oxoniensia* 4 (1939), 102, fig. 24 K; 7 (1942), 72, fig. 17, 4), and, at Alcester Priory, Mr R. I. Threlfall excavated in 1939 some jugs with Oxford-style rouletted

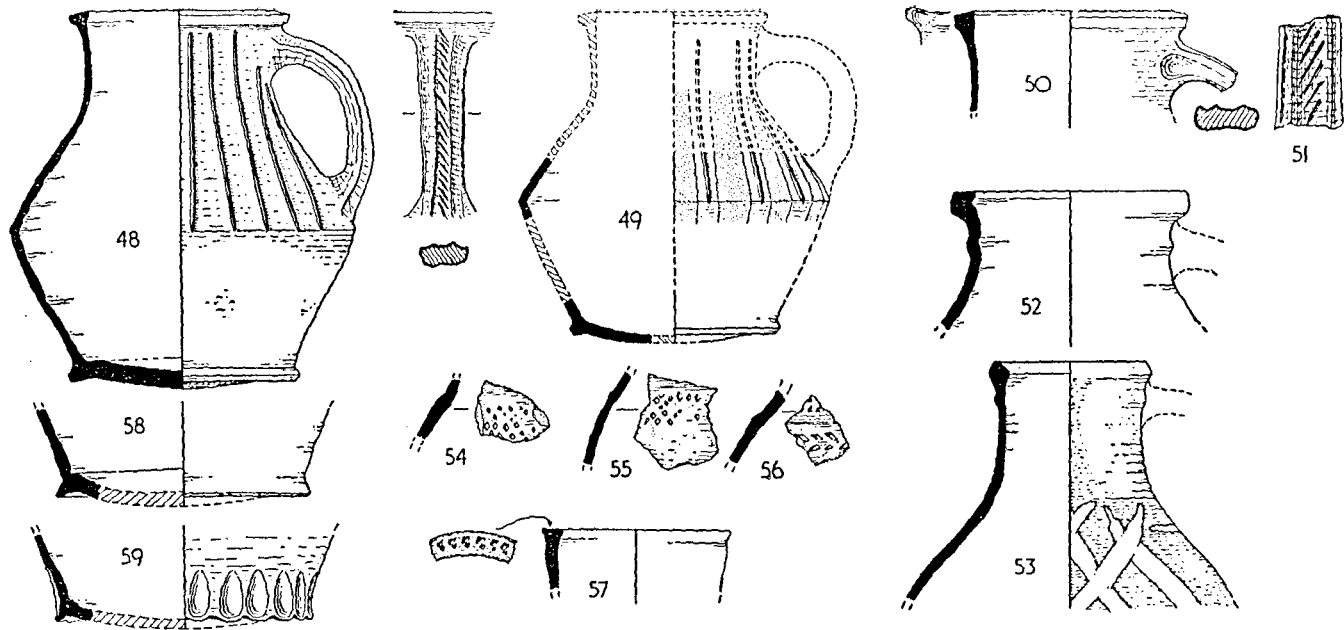


Fig. 10. Jugs of the 13th and 14th centuries (†) (p. 74).

applied strips. These jugs may clearly be expected on more sites in the west country, as well as to the east of Oxford and, although a fairly detailed search of available material has been made, such a map as FIG. 11 represents only a preliminary survey of the subject.

Kilns known to have been working during the 13th century are also shown in FIG. 11, both those for which the site is known, either the kiln structure or the finding of wasters, and those for which there is documentary evidence. This aspect of the map emphasizes the lack of medieval pottery kilns known in the west country. The reputed site of a kiln at Hunts Mill, Wootton Bassett (*Wilts. Archacol. Mag.*, 28 (1895), 263) must unfortunately be rejected, as there are no wasters among the pottery preserved in Devizes Museum from the site, nor can wasters be found on the site today; it may have been merely an oven. The site in the south Cotswolds is at Didmarton, where two men thinking a potter had done them an injury, broke his pots (*Proc. Cotteswold Nat. F.C.*, 27 (1941), 132; I have been unable to trace the original source of this, and should be glad of further information). Five potters (*figuli*) are recorded in the Domesday Survey (fol. 168b) as paying 48^d at Haresfield, 4 miles south of Gloucester, but there seems to be no later evidence here. The surname 'le Potter' occurs commonly enough in the 13th and 14th centuries in such places as Bristol, Gloucester and Cirencester, and west country villages (*e.g.* 1327 *Lay Subs. Roll. Glocs.* (ed. Sir Thomas Phillips, 1856); *Pleas of the Crown, Glocs.*, 1221 (ed. F. W. Maitland, 1884)), and such clues would be worth following up in the field, for pottery must have been made in many places in the area during the Middle Ages, and the usefulness of the study of medieval pottery is much enhanced by a knowledge of the kilns and their products.

Fig. 10. Jugs of the 13th and 14th centuries.

48. Biconical jug of hard fine buff ware with patchy light-olive glaze over upper part, and dark-brown applied stripes. From Northampton Castle (Northampton Museum).

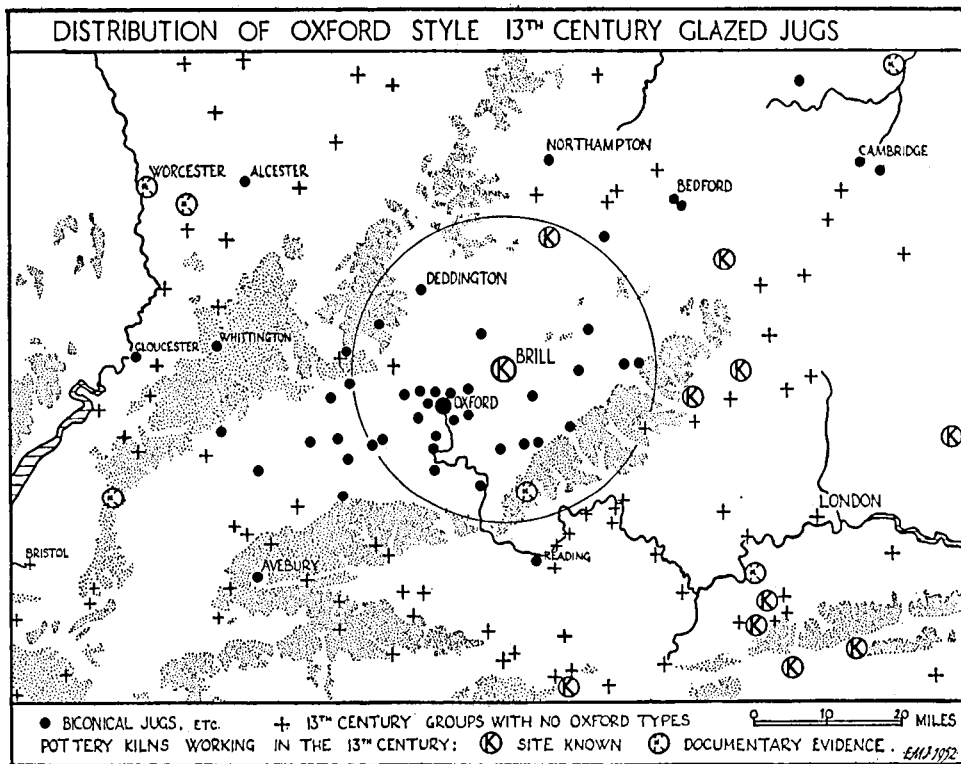


Fig. 11

49. Parts of biconical jug, fabric as 48; orange-yellow glaze, with dark-brown applied stripes and broad green vertical painted stripes between. Mid or later 13th century.
50. Part of top and handle of jug, perhaps biconical, with top junction of handle emphasized with thumb and finger impressions: slashed decorations down strap handle. Hard fine buff fabric with patches of olive glaze speckled with deeper green. Later 13th century.
51. Part of slashed strap handle of similar type and ware to 50.
52. Rim of large pitcher of rather friable buff ware with grey core, and patchy olive-brown glaze on exterior. Second half of 13th century.
53. Four sherds fitting together, of top part of a jug of hard grey ware with purplish bloom on exterior surface, carrying a patchy olive glaze under which is a criss-cross pattern of painted white stripes. This jug, as well as 48, 49, 50 and 52, probably had simple pinched lips. *c.* mid-13th century.
54. Sherd of body of jug of sandy buff ware with exterior olive to orange glaze, decorated with an irregular stamped or rouletted pattern of impressed diamonds. 13th century.
55. Sherd of body of jug of fine hard buff fabric with orange glaze speckled with green: decorated with irregular stamped or rouletted pattern of diamonds. 13th century.
56. Sherd of body of jug of hard grey ware with buff interior and dirty-green glaze on exterior, decorated with stamped or rouletted pattern. 13th century.
57. Rim of jug in hard dark grey shell filled ware, carrying a thin decayed wash of slightly opaque yellow-green glaze: decorated on top with stabs. Early to mid-13th century.
58. Part of a jug base of hard grey ware with buff to brown surfaces: unglazed, but a similar sherd carries an iridescent bright green glaze. Later 13th or 14th century.
59. Part of a jug base in hard buff ware, unglazed, decorated with thumbing at the base angle. Later 13th or 14th century.

GLASS

Very little glass was recovered and those specimens found were in very small fragments. There were nineteen fragments belonging to vases or bowls, nine of which were of rims belonging to five green and four white vases. These can be dated to the 3rd-4th centuries A.D. Two fragments of blue glass belonging to the base of a square bottle and found below Corridor I are of late 1st century date. There were nineteen finds of window glass, two fragments of which have grozed edges. Half of these finds were from the masonry débris of the east courtyard.

BRONZE OBJECTS¹

Roman. Fig. 12.

- No. 1. (W.C.R.V., O.32). Trumpet-headed brooch. From rubble layer over pavement of Corridor III. Early 2nd century date.
- No. 2. (W.C.R.V., O.10). Decorated terminal, perhaps of a heavy type of bracelet. From surface level over N.W. corner of Room IV.
- No. 3. (W.C.R.V., O.12). Cheek-piece of bridle. Similar types have been found at Old Sarum (*Ants. J.*, xvii (1937), p. 438), Wittenham Clumps, Berks. (*Oxoniensia*, xiii (1948), p. 30, fig. 11, no. 2) and elsewhere. The subject has been discussed at some length in the two references above but the evidence in each case for dating is inconclusive and again with the Whittington specimen. Though stratified, it was found below the medieval field wall which contained 13th century glazed ware; its association with a Roman level could not be established.
- No. 4. (W.C.R.V., O.1). Spoon of tinned bronze. From disturbed filling in hypocaust of Room IV.

LATE SAXON OBJECTS FROM WHITTINGTON

by G. C. DUNNING, F.S.A.

Fig. 13.

The post-Roman levels above the Whittington Court Villa produced no less than seven metal objects of the late Saxon period. The relative scarcity of small objects of this period, except on sites in the eastern part of England where large-scale excavations have taken place, such as the Saxon Monastery of Whitby and the Saxon Town of Thetford, makes the occurrence of these finds in Gloucestershire all the more noteworthy.

The objects comprise a mount, unfortunately incomplete, with zoomorphic decoration, four clips or hooks, and two pins. Taken separately, each class of object can be assigned to the 8th or 9th century, more probably to the later century. All the

¹ I am much indebted to Miss E. Meikle for the drawings of the bronze and bone objects.

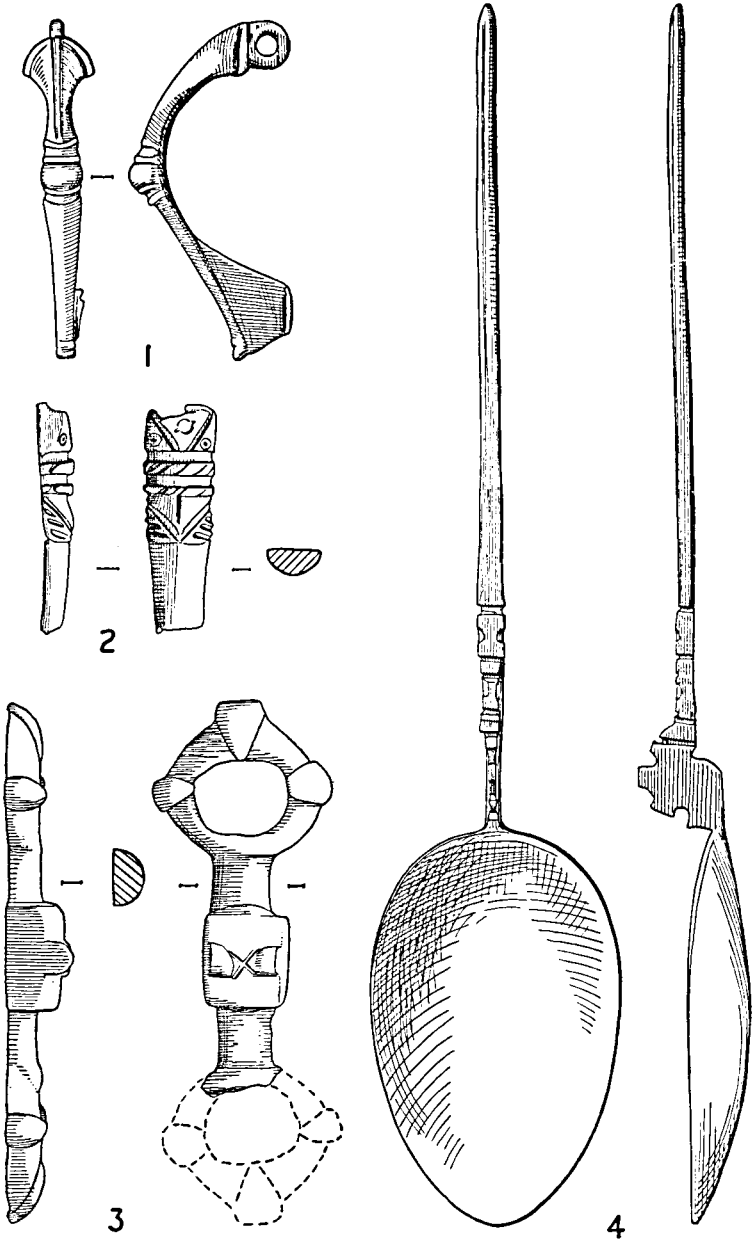


Fig. 12. Roman bronze objects (†) (p. 77).

objects are of a domestic character, and could have been sewn or attached to clothing; together they indicate settlement on or close to the site of the Whittington Court Villa at that time.

1. Fragment of open-work bronze mount. The thinness of the metal and the two perforated lobes suggest that this was a small rectangular mount or appliqué stitched to cloth or leather, or possibly fixed to a casket, rather than a strap-end. Examination of several strap-ends from Whitby¹ and other sites in the British Museum shows that these are more substantial and narrower than the Whittington plate, the sides taper in to the pierced lobes, and the decoration is incised or engraved, but never open-work.

The design consists of the hind leg of a beast, tied in a knot, with a cloven hoof. The body has longitudinal markings giving the impression of stripes or a coat of long hairs. Several mounts with zoomorphic decoration are known in southern England and show much variation in detail; in the absence of a close parallel no restoration of the beast on the Whittington mount has been attempted. The plate may have been twice as long as shown in the drawing, and the other panel occupied by a similar beast. For these mounts and the beast-style see J. Brøndsted, *Early English Ornament* (1924), pp. 127-32 and pp. 145-7; R. E. M. Wheeler, *London and the Vikings* (1927), p. 44; and G. Haseloff, *Der Tassilokelch* (1951), pp. 34 ff.

Found in débris over Room VII (W.C.R.V., Q.42).

- 2-5. Four clips or hooks of thin bronze, each having a triangular plate with two perforations. No. 2 is decorated with five incised ring-and-dots forming a cross enclosed by fine lines; No. 3 has three ring-and-dots, No. 4 has shallow grooves forming triangles, and No. 5 is plain.

Similar bronze clips have been found in late pagan Saxon graves in the Anglian districts of England, e.g. in grave 1 at Burwell, Cambs.,² and in grave 67 at Shudy Camps.³ The clips

¹ *Archaeologia* LXXXIX, 55-8, fig. 11.

² T. C. Lethbridge, *Recent Excavations in Anglo-Saxon Cemeteries in Cambs. and Suffolk*, (1931), p. 48, fig. 22, 1.

³ T. C. Lethbridge, *Cemetery at Shudy Camps, Cambs.* (1936), p. 21, fig. 1, E 2.

have also been found on sites of middle and late Saxon date; e.g. several from the Saxon Town of Thetford, not earlier than the 8th or 9th century, and five from Whitby, of which three are large and broad and two of a narrower pattern (not mentioned in the published report). The latest in date are two plain silver clips found at Tetney, Lincs.,¹ with a hoard of Saxon silver pennies of the 10th century, deposited about A.D. 970.

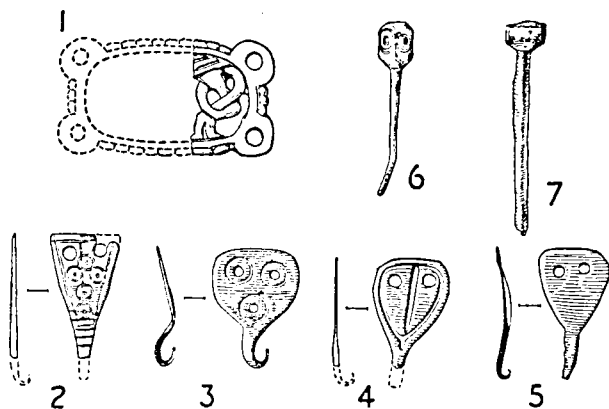


Fig. 13. Late Saxon objects (†) (p. 77).

The available evidence suggests a range in date for these clips from the 7th or 8th century until the 10th century. Their use is uncertain, but the positions in which they have been found in burial points to their having been sewn on to some article of clothing.

Found in surface levels at widely separated positions. Over Room VIII in west Courtyard, over Corridor I and over Corridor II. (W.C.R.V., O.47, 48, 49, 50).

¹ *Numis. Chron.*, 1945, p. 81.

5. Bronze pin. Cubical head with chamfered corners, ring-and-dot on each side.
Surface find. (W.C.R.V., O.62).
6. Iron pin. Plain cubical head with chamfered lower corners.
Surface find. (W.C.R.V., O.63).

Compare numerous pins from Whitby,¹ and other late Saxon sites.

Medieval. Fig. 14. Objects of bronze

- No. 1 (W.C.R.V., O.7). Strap-end, of a thin single layer of bronze, two projections at wider end turned over to clasp a buckle. Decorated with incised zig-zag pattern round all sides. Five perforations for attachment studs, one of which remained. The type is illustrated in the *Medieval Catalogue*, London Museum, pl. LXXVI (opp. p. 272), nos. 1 and 2.
From filling over s. end of Corridor II.
- No. 2 (W.C.R.V., O.31). Strap-end, with metal bent over to form double layer to enclose a strap of leather or other material forming the belt. Decorated with incised zig-zag pattern round all sides. Four studs remaining, penetrating both layers of metal. Illustrated as above.
From rubble filling in E. Courtyard.
- No. 3 (W.C.R.V., O.43). Single buckle, of medieval type. Slight decoration on boss in front, small swivel on bar at back.
From filling over Corridor II.
- No. 4 (W.C.R.V., O.11). Single buckle, of medieval type.
From filling over Corridor III.
- No. 5 (W.C.R.V., O.21). Brooch, of medieval type. Thin metal. In heart-shaped form, decorated with crosses.
From filling over Plunge Bath.
- No. 6 (W.C.R.V., O.20). Small bell, with perforation in form of a cross on bottom, a minute lump of metal or gravel inside makes a tinkling sound. Probably connected with some form of horse trapping.
From surface layer over Room X.
- No. 7 (W.C.R.V., O.20). Thin strip of metal, punctured with various-sized holes, some as ornament and others for attachment to some article. Of medieval appearance.
From amongst fallen slates over w. side of Room X.

¹ *Archaeologia*, LXXXIX, 63, fig. 14.

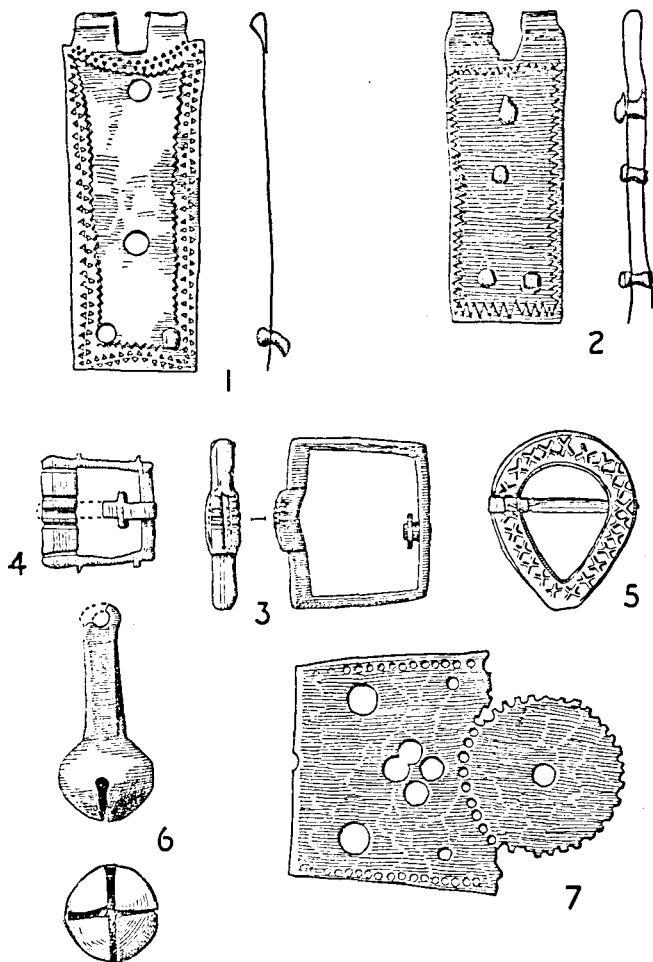


Fig. 14. Medieval bronze objects (†) (p. 81).

OBJECTS IN BONE, KIMMERIDGE SHALE AND LEAD

Fig. 15

- No. 1. (W.C.R.V., O.4). Pot Cover, of Kimmeridge Shale, diameter of 5 inches, height $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. Turned on a lathe and decorated with 8 concentric rings diminishing in size to the centre where there is a flat-topped knob, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch across. There are two grooves as decoration on its edge. From filling in the N. flue of hypocaust of Room IV. Associated with 4th century pottery. (See FIG. 5, nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5).
- No. 2. (W.C.R.V., O.5). Spindle whorl in Kimmeridge Shale, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. Undecorated. From same filling as No. 1. Not illustrated. Four other spindle whorls were found, very similar to the one illustrated in FIG. 15, in Kimmeridge Shale and another one in bone.
- No. 3. (W.C.R.V., O.19). Lead weight, diameter $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches, weighing $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. There is a wide groove in its circumference, probably for an attachment for suspension. Found embedded in red clay packing of the S. wall of Room IX. Belonging to 1st Period of the Villa. c. 2nd century A.D.
- No. 4. (W.C.R.V., O.35). Bone tool or handle. Polished and decorated with criss-cross pattern, pointed at narrow end, two perforations at wider end for attachment. Unusual object, might be of Roman or later date. For decorated bone object somewhat similar in character see Whitby Report, *Archaeologia*, LXXXIX, 72, no. 117; fig. 21. From débris on floor of Corridor I.
- No. 5. (W.C.R.V., O.36). Bone shaft with iron point embedded at narrower end. Polished and decorated with fine dots arranged in diamond formation. The pattern suggests a derivation from native tradition. Hollow and with two perforations for suspension at wider end. From débris over hypocaust of Room VII.
- No. 6. (W.C.R.V., O.33). Bone game-piece, domed and decorated with ring-and-dot pattern. Found in burnt débris over hypocaust of Room VII.
- Not illustrated. A group of 18 iron shoe-studs were found fused together in the burnt débris of the blocked N.E. flue of the hypocaust of Room VII. They have domed heads and shafts of c. $\frac{3}{8}$ inch long. Fragments of five bronze bracelets were found, of common types. Part of a rim of a bronze bowl, two finger rings, and a balance rod are amongst the remaining bronze finds. An iron knife with accompanying tang, about 7 inches in total length, of Roman date, was also found, and an iron sheep bell which is probably of much more recent date.

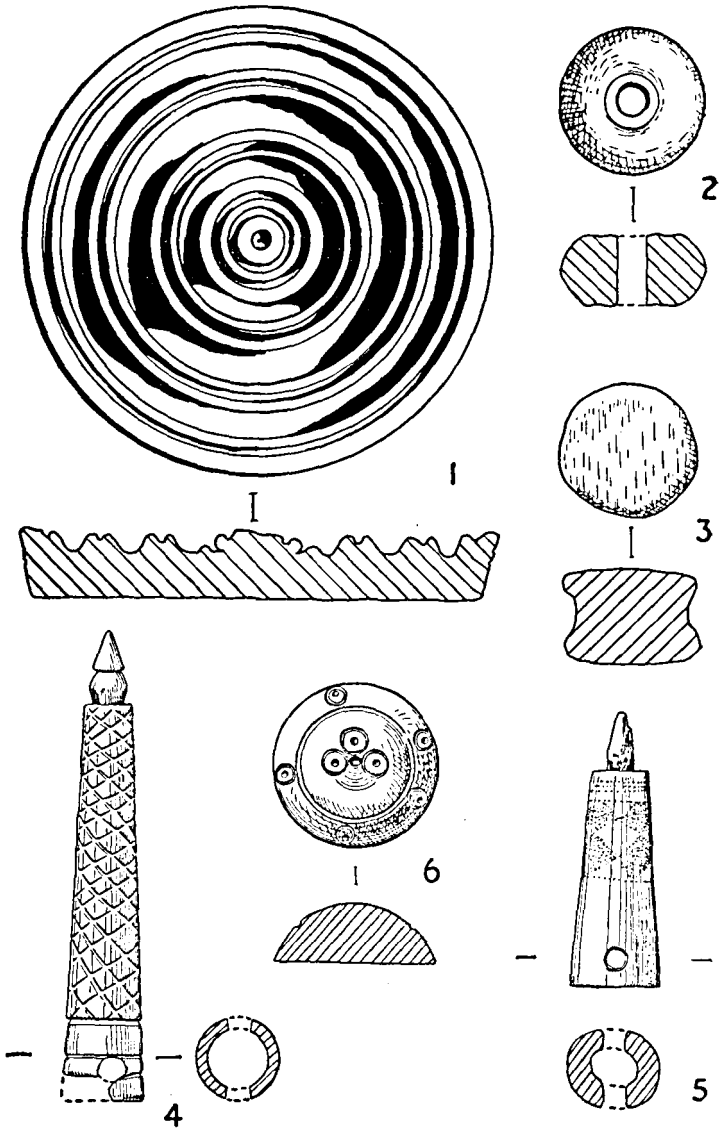


Fig. 15

Kimmeridge shale pot cover and spindle whorl (nos. 1 and 2) ($\frac{1}{2}$) (p. 35).

Lead weight (no. 3) ($\frac{1}{2}$) (p. 83).

Bone objects (nos. 4, 5 and 6) ($\frac{1}{4}$) (p. 83).

STONE COFFINS

Two stone coffins were found during the construction of the railway line in 1873-81, when they appeared to have been moved and incorporated into the walls of a drain in the backyard of Sandywell Park. No published record is known of the find or of the disposal of the coffins. Hence some interest was aroused when they were refound in their new position in *c.* 1934. At first they were thought to have been removed from the churchyard¹ which is at no distance, as at that time the site of the new villa was not known. In 1936 Mr W. St. Clair Baddeley informed the writer that he had been to see the coffins in the drain at the invitation of Colonel Colville, the then owner of Sandywell Park, and that he thought they must be of medieval date.

The writer, with others, inspected the drain at Sandywell Park in 1949. Access is only through a manhole in the ground of the backyard, where the drain, running north to south, is *c.* 2 feet 6 inches wide and 4 feet high. The base of the drain is some 6 feet below ground level. The two coffins are built into the stone walls of the drain, one on either side. The coffin on the east side is 7 feet 6 inches long and 1 foot 10 inches high, cut out of one stone. There is no lid. A hole made in the rubble walling above shows much sheet lead in the coffin, but nothing else is visible. The coffin on the west side is 6 feet 6 inches long and 1 foot 4 inches high, also cut out of one stone. There is a cover stone, 5 inches high, with broad chamfered edge. A piece of the cover has been broken away, revealing much lead lining as in the other coffin and there were bones of a skeleton in disarray. (See p. 19 and note 1).

COTSWOLD SLATES

Slates were found in some quantity all over the site. They varied in size from quite small ones to large, the largest found being 20 inches long and 16 inches broad. They were all pointed

¹ *B.G.A.S. Trans.*, 61, p. 135.

at their lower ends, and most of them had holes for nails pecked through, not centrally but towards one side of the top of the slate. Some slates had no holes at all. In many cases the nails were still in position when found. Local slaters said that both 'Presents' and 'Pendles' had been used; 'Presents' being slates from a strata near the surface which do not need weathering before use, and 'Pendle' being slates from a lower strata which need frosting to cause splitting.

Dr W. J. Arkell has kindly reported on three specimens sent to him.

'Three Tiles. At least two, probably all three, are Cotswold slates. One has part of a small *Trigonia*, probably the characteristic *T. impressa*, and this and one of the others have many *Placunopsis*. All three are presents.

'The Cotswold Slates are geologically on the same horizon as the Stonesfield Slates. Beyond doubt these examples would have come from the deposits on Sevenhampton Common, only a mile to the north where there have been celebrated quarries for centuries. It is very interesting to have this evidence of their being worked for slates so early.

'Sorry I cannot say anything useful about the piece of freestone, but it looks to me like Great Oolite, Taynton Stone beds (though of course not necessarily from Taynton), rather than any of the surrounding inferior oolite freestones.'

Sculptured stone. (PLATE XIII b)

Part of an impost with sculptured pattern in chip-carving relief was found in débris over Room IV. There was no evidence as to which of the building periods it belonged. Mr G. C. Boon, in his report on the Kingsweston Villa,¹ where he found similar sculptured stones, dates his to the 4th century.

Whetstones. (Not illustrated)

One complete and five fragments of whetstones were found, only two of which were from stratified positions. One (W.C.R.V.,

¹ *B.G.A.S. Trans.*, vol. 69, Pl. IIb, p. 21, note 3 and p. 22.

O.54) from below the pavement of Corridor I can be dated to the first period of the villa, 2nd century A.D. The other (W.C.R.V., O.53) from below the Medieval field wall which ran across Corridor I.

The Geological Museum, South Kensington, Petrographical Department, has kindly examined the whetstones and has sent notes on each, which are incorporated in the following descriptions.

- W.C.R.V., O.56. Fragment of hone, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length with square section of *c.* $\frac{1}{2}$ inch where fractured. 'A greenish grey slightly micaceous grit. This can be matched fairly closely with a specimen, in our collection, of Upper Trenchard Sandstone (O.R.S.) from Ellwood.'
- W.C.R.V., O.52. Complete hone, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches square. Worn in centre from use. 'A purplish, micaceous, fine grained sandstone which is similar in appearance to specimens, in our collection, of Old Red Sandstone rocks from Gloucestershire.'
- W.C.R.V., O.53. Fragment, 3 inches in length, roughly circular in section, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch in diameter. 'Fine grained buff-grey calcareous sandstone which is not unlike some specimens of Stonesfield Slate from Gloucestershire.'
- W.C.R.V., O.51. Fragment, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length with square section of $\frac{5}{8}$ inch. 'Similar in appearance to O.53.'
- W.C.R.V., O.54. Fragment, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, with roughly square section of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. 'Fine grained buff-grey, fissile, slightly micaceous sandstone. We have been unable to match this with specimens in our collection.'
- W.C.R.V., O.55. Fragment, $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches in length with square section of $\frac{5}{8}$ inch. 'Brownish grit possibly derived from Palaeozoic rocks to the north-west but we have been unable to match this specimen.'