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**The Painswick or Ifold Villa**

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## THE PAINSWICK OR IFOLD VILLA.

By W. St. CLAIR BADDELEY.

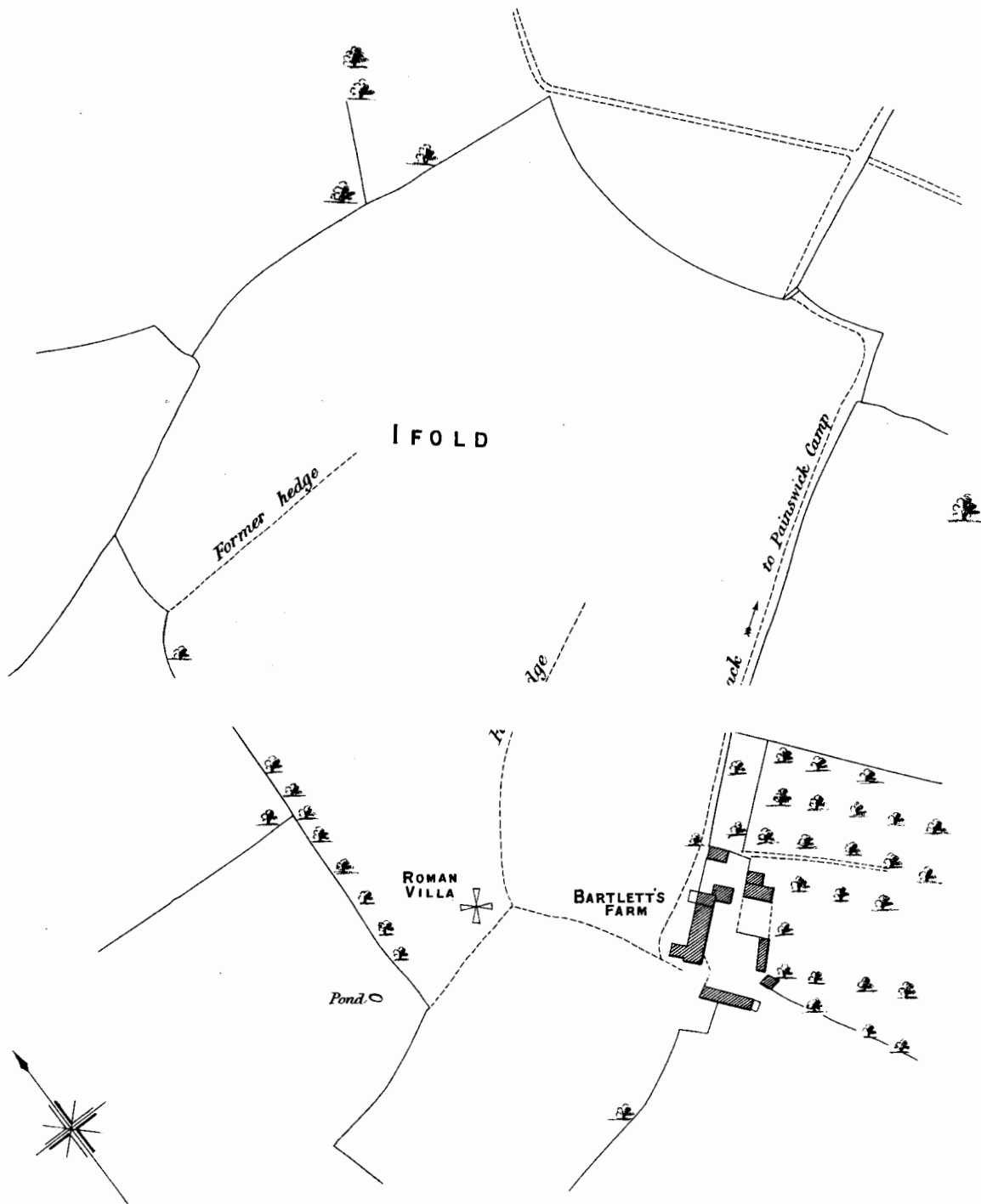
IN 1868 Roman remains, including an undescribed pavement, were discovered in an 18-acre field on the old demesne-land at Ifold, usually mis-spelled High-fold. There are other 'Ifolds'<sup>1</sup> in England dating from Saxon days. No one seems to have made any available notes of the 'find,' nor is there to hand any contemporary account of what was found or of what was left by the finders. Inquiry after facts has proved well-nigh fruitless.

Ifold Farm is situated, some six hundred yards north of Painswick, and at about the same distance west of the road leading to Gloucester. This town is five miles further northward. Ifold is reached from this main road by a farm-lane of gentle declivity in its first or upper half, possibly on the site of an ancient track. This leads directly down from quarries of valuable local stone,<sup>2</sup> a fact perhaps of importance, seeing that both Roman and mediæval Gloucester have been indebted largely to Painswick for their building stone, as Roman remains at Gloucester prove. The track, however, by which the villa was reached from Glevum must have travelled more directly from Holcombe.

On reaching the gate opening down into Ifold the lane takes a sharp turn to the left for forty yards, and then continues for two hundred yards in its original direction,

<sup>1</sup> Ifield and Ifold occur, both, in Bramber Rape, Sussex. Cf. Elwes, *Castles and Mansions of Sussex*, p. 132. Ifield is another form. We have also Iford, Ifley, and If-ham.

<sup>2</sup> The Duke of Norfolk has used this stone in the church at Arundel with conspicuous success.

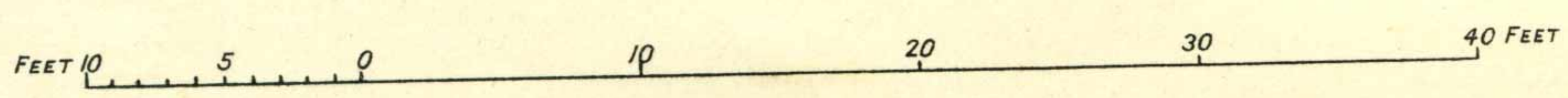
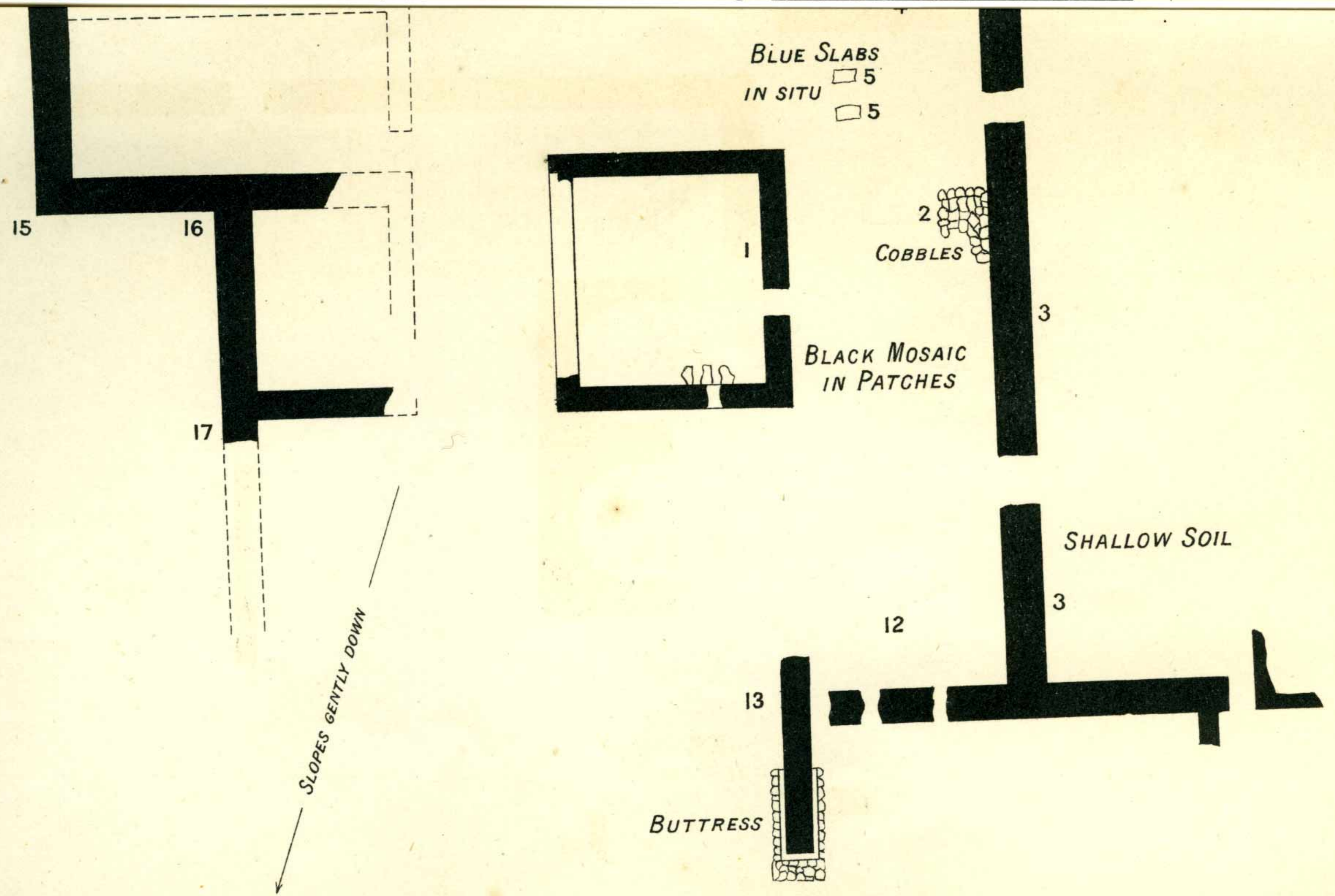
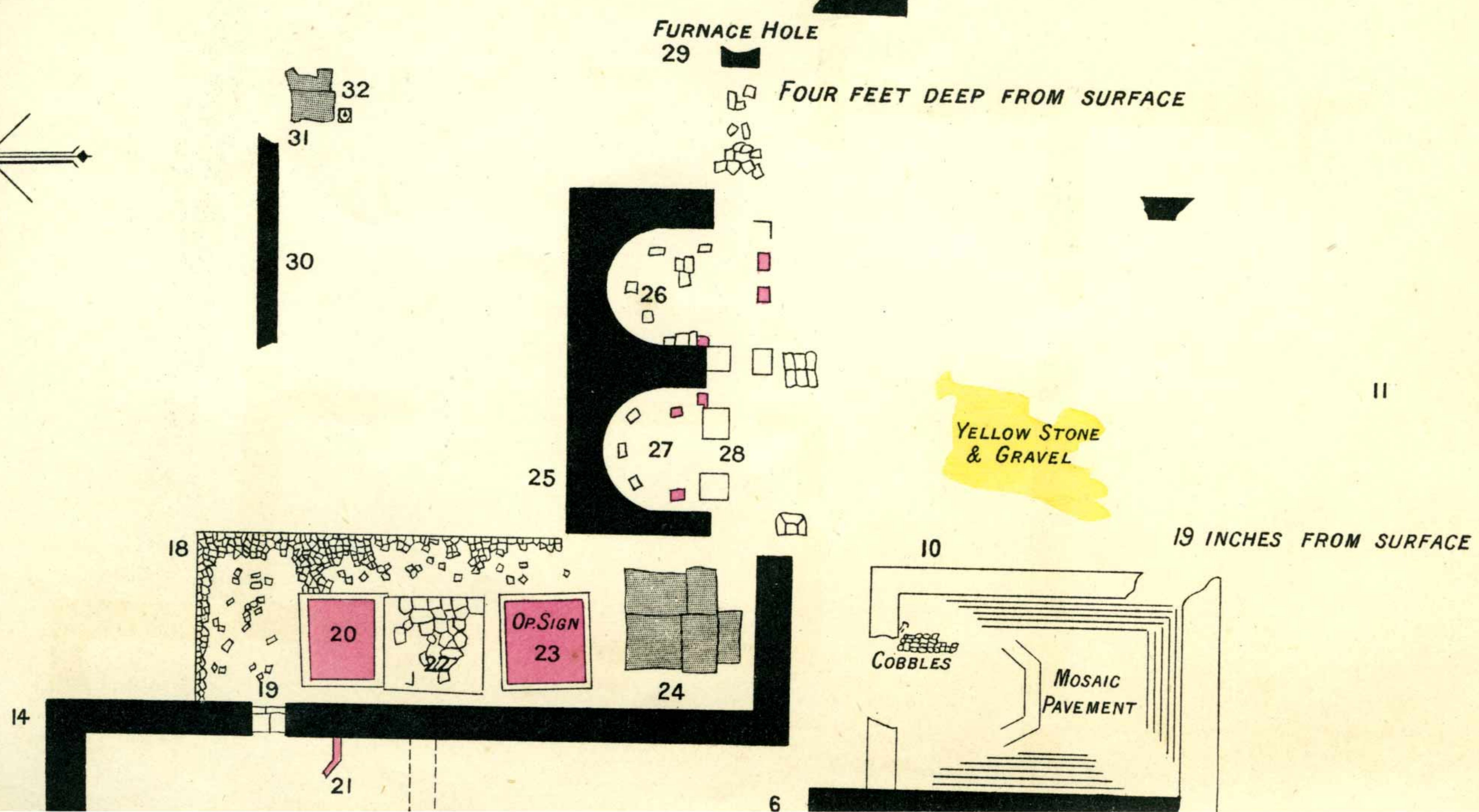
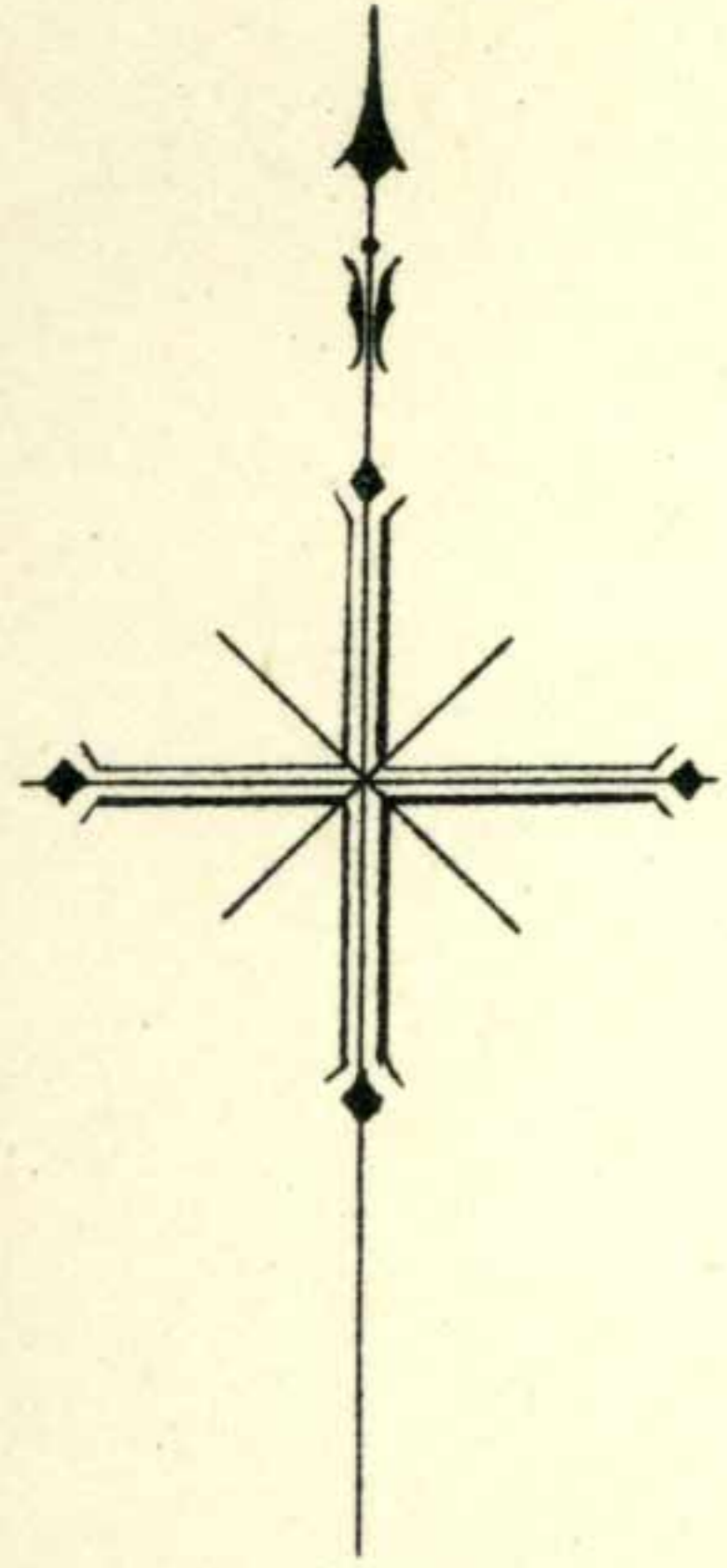


— IFOLD VILLA —



[Note: centre part lost when binding removed]

# PAINSWICK VILLA



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and so reaches the farm, beyond which it does not go. It did not always take that turn or quirk.<sup>1</sup>

The field of Ifold<sup>2</sup> forms an irregular polygon. The soil is uniformly rich, and Ifold in mediæval times was in consequence one of the demesne-lands in the Manor of Painswick. The vegetable mould lies about 10 in. in thickness, covering a rich ochreous soil full of calcareous freestone belonging to the inferior oolite of these hills. Cereals and roots form the usual crops raised here.

The situation is commandingly beautiful in character. Immediately south-eastward the ground drops in rich sloping orchards to Blakewell with running water. Westward, again, it drops steeply into another watered and wooded coombe, while northward it maintains a broad level for some four hundred yards before it subsides into lower Holcombe. Due southward for four miles the folding hills west and east descend into the Painswick and Stroud valleys, until the high lands of Rodborough and Minchinhampton superbly close out the southward view.

Four years ago, being anxious to verify the tradition as to Roman remains, by permission of Mr. Bartlett, the present enlightened owner of Ifold, I searched the averred site of them, and soon picked up with an oyster-shell an undoubted piece of Roman brick. The owner later on brought me a small coin found there, which proved to be late Roman (Roma and the Wolf with twins, bronze), and he promised that one day between harvest and ploughing a trench should be opened. One thing and another, however, prevented this contingency until October 18th, 1903, when Mr. Bartlett sent to ask me to come and see some holes he had dug in his field, and on my arrival there I recognised a portion of a Roman wall, much reddened, as Cotteswold and many other stones become by exposure to

<sup>1</sup> The old tithing map, some seventy years old, shows that which is now one spacious field as formerly having been three fields. The villa remains lay then over a hedge from Ifold Farm. This hedge ran up from the angle of hedge and field just adjacent to the site of the Villa.

<sup>2</sup> See plan.

fire. It exemplified, in fact, the usual story, *i.e.* a burned villa. It is commonly held that the triumphant Saxons set fire to every Romano-British town and villa they met with. In many instances this may have been the case, and especially where resistance was offered. The amount of timber used in these villas was, of course, considerable, and some destructions by fire may well have been accidental. At any rate, here was a fresh example. The courtesy of the proprietor permitted me to begin examination by means of pick and spade without further delay. This continued until mid-January, 1904.

On October 20th we started following the exposed portion of a wall with a trench 2 ft. 6 in. wide, and within 2 ft. from the surface we came upon quantities of finely-cut hexagonal stone<sup>1</sup> slats 18 in. in length, with large iron nails still remaining in the head-holes. This wall runs from north to south.<sup>2</sup> Within two hours from commencement we had cleaned corners N.E. and S.E. of a chamber,<sup>3</sup> which proved to be isolated, measuring 10 ft. 6 in. by 9 ft. 6 in., full of burned timber and débris, with rough pottery belonging to kitchen utensils, including a portion of a cullender and a bottom of a red-glazed pot having a good potter's stamp designed as a wheel of eight spokes, such as has been found in Gallo-Roman remains not infrequently, and measuring  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. in diameter. Between the spokes are round dots (see Fig. I.). A cold chisel 6 in. long, with a blade breadth of  $\frac{3}{4}$  in., next turned up, and several more iron nails. In the course of the day was found also a tile  $\frac{7}{16}$  in. thick bearing a greenish-yellow glaze (often regarded as mediæval, but in reality Roman also), with some fragments of pale-yellow pottery with external black glaze. The fire which had prevailed had burned with especial fierceness here; slats and stones lay thick in a general bed of sooty soil. Small lumps of 'opus signinum' also occurred; but whenever the spade reached the floor-level mortar-gravel was found without pavement. The

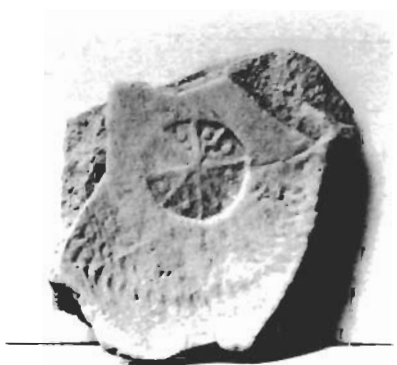
<sup>1</sup> Forest stone.    <sup>2</sup> No. 1 on plan.    <sup>3</sup> No. 1 on plan.



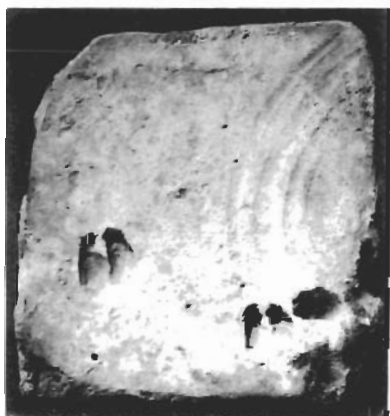
DECANTER.



HANDLE OF AMPHORA.



POTTERY STAMP.



TILE WITH IMPRESS OF  
YOUNG PIG'S FOOT.



11.

IFOLD. FLUE-TILE, STAMPED R(es) P(UBLICA) G(LEVENBIUM).

paving flags, if any were here, had therefore been removed. On the east side of the room, however, three or four broken flags were cleared in site, with a drain-hole running out through the wall (south) between two of them. A few animals' bones occurred above them belonging to pigs and sheep, and some oyster shells. The walls in most parts had been destroyed to the footings. The west wall was nearly obliterated. Slightly north of the middle, in the east wall, a well-defined rough step and doorway, much burned, was cleared, and work was continued forthwith outside (east) the latter. The measurement of this isolated room proved to be 10 ft. 6 in. N.—S. by 9 ft. 6 in. E.—W., with a uniform wall-thickness of 1 ft. 5 in.

As the ground falls gently westward and southward over the entire site it was to be expected that where parts of the Villa must have cropped out, ploughing operations during centuries, and general exposure, must have destroyed them considerably; for the superficial soil would naturally become thinner over these, and the ploughshares will have torn the stones out of position, scored and scattered them.

Next day and the following gave work, for the stone slats (19 in. by 11½ in.) lay very thickly, and the walling stones lay everywhere scattered among them. At 6 ft. east beyond the doorway (No. 2) a rough but well-set pavement of large cobbles was now met with lying *in situ*, on the top of which lay a neat mortarium (quern), 13 in. diameter, upside under, and its exposed side (bottom) only was brightly reddened by the action of fire, but its other side not at all, as if the fire had passed and burned over it. It was unbroken, well-formed, and showed a shallow pouring lip.<sup>1</sup> It has a depth of 4 in., and its inner depression measures 1 in. At 8 ft. east was found a satisfactory 2 ft. wall running north and south (No. 3). The cobble-pavement, being now cleared, gave out at 7 ft. southward. As it presented a fairly well-laid appearance, albeit rough, it was to be recognised as late Romano-British work. Lifting a portion of it, when com-

<sup>1</sup> See photo of group of objects, III.

pletely cleared and swept, numbers of the original large hexagonal tiles were lying beneath it, while a little below these again were found patches (in site) of a mosaic pavement composed of black tesserae of three sizes.<sup>1</sup> Other tesserae were wanting, so that considerable alterations in the floor had taken place here. Animal bones were plentiful, but only, as before, in the upper débris.

This fresh wall (No. 3) was presently followed both north and south, and it proved to measure 41 ft., having sharp angles at each extremity showing walls running due west, like those of a small court. A fragment of a curved stone chair-back (?) was met with here.

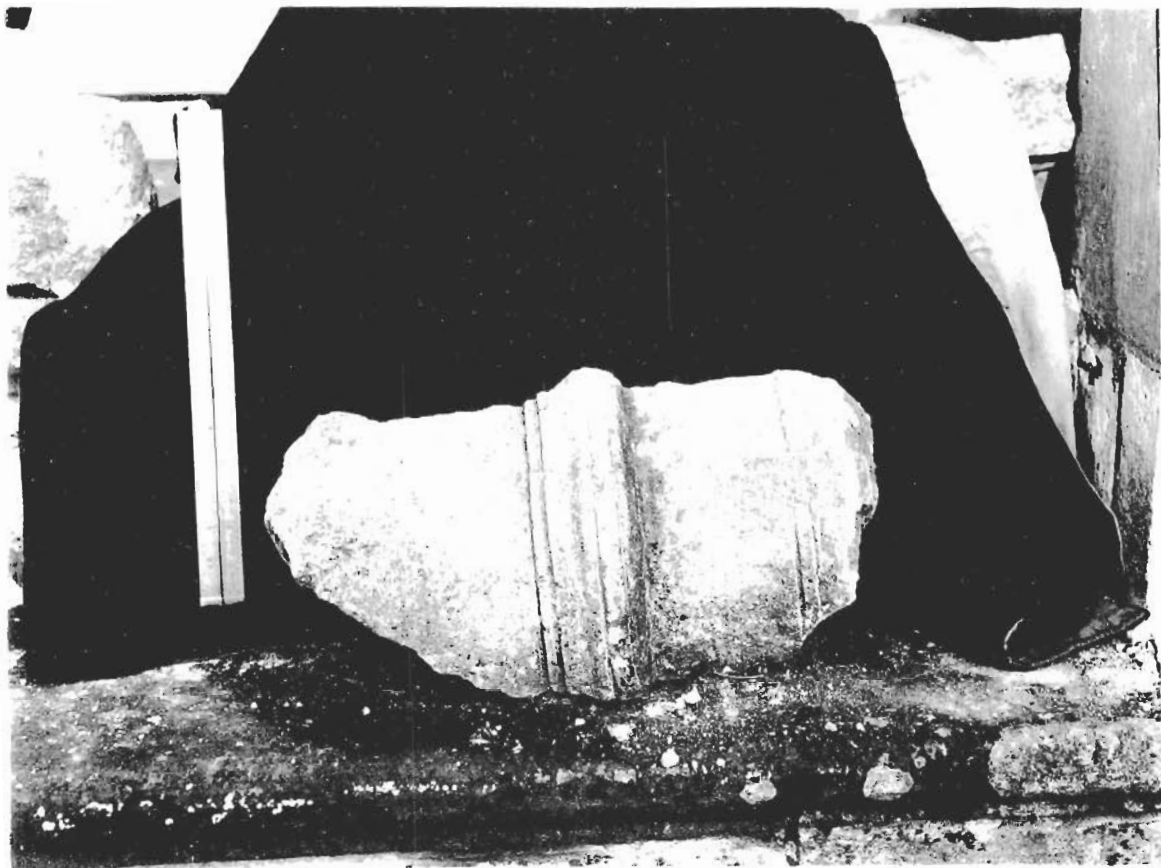
At a distance—3 ft. north of the above-mentioned cobble-pavement, in the débris, and slightly above it in level—lay portions of a stone column (No. 4), with collarino and typical cap “all of a piece” with it, having a diameter of 9 in. (see Fig. IV.): that is to say, it has been turned on a lathe. Four feet further north, and slightly west, beyond the angle of the previously-explored room, a well-worn large flag of hard grey argillaceous stone lay in site (No. 5), and still further in line (north) with it, at a distance of 6 ft., were two more like it. These lay firmly fixed in rammed gravel above virgin soil. Between them lay (not in site) the much-burned but distinct base of the former column.<sup>2</sup> No mosaic appeared hereabouts. The flags presented well-cut sides, but there came to light no more than these three. The north end of this area, therefore, had been paved with lias flags, while further south it had been paved with dark tesserae. This might indicate that while some portion of it was closed in from the weather originally, some portion was also purposely exposed to it.

Beyond this the northern wall of this area, or court, brought its western extremity (No. 6), a spur-wall, almost

<sup>1</sup> Here occurred fragments of a patera (black) with diameter  $6\frac{1}{8}$  in.

<sup>2</sup>  $10\frac{1}{2}$  in. by  $10\frac{1}{2}$  in. with a depth of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  in., and plinth-depth  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in.; the upper surface much reddened with fire.





IFORD Column and Cap

into a line with the eastern wall of the isolated room at some 12 ft. to north of it. It rises in three courses of well-cut stones above its footing (see Fig. V.), and measures in thickness 2 ft. (with footing 2 ft. 6 in.). Another object now met with was a large fragment 18½ in. by 9½ in. of a quadrangular stone bearing (raised along its circumference) a deep, sharply-moulded cornice, or frame, as if to contain an inscription; no lettering, however, appeared upon it. A second and smaller fragment was found later on near by; but, although presenting the same mouldings, this gave no further indication of lettering. It must have measured as much as 2 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft., if indeed it was not square when intact. Near this lay a small oblong box-like tank, likewise of stone, measuring 11½ ft. by 8 in., with an exterior depth of 6 in. and an interior of 5 in.

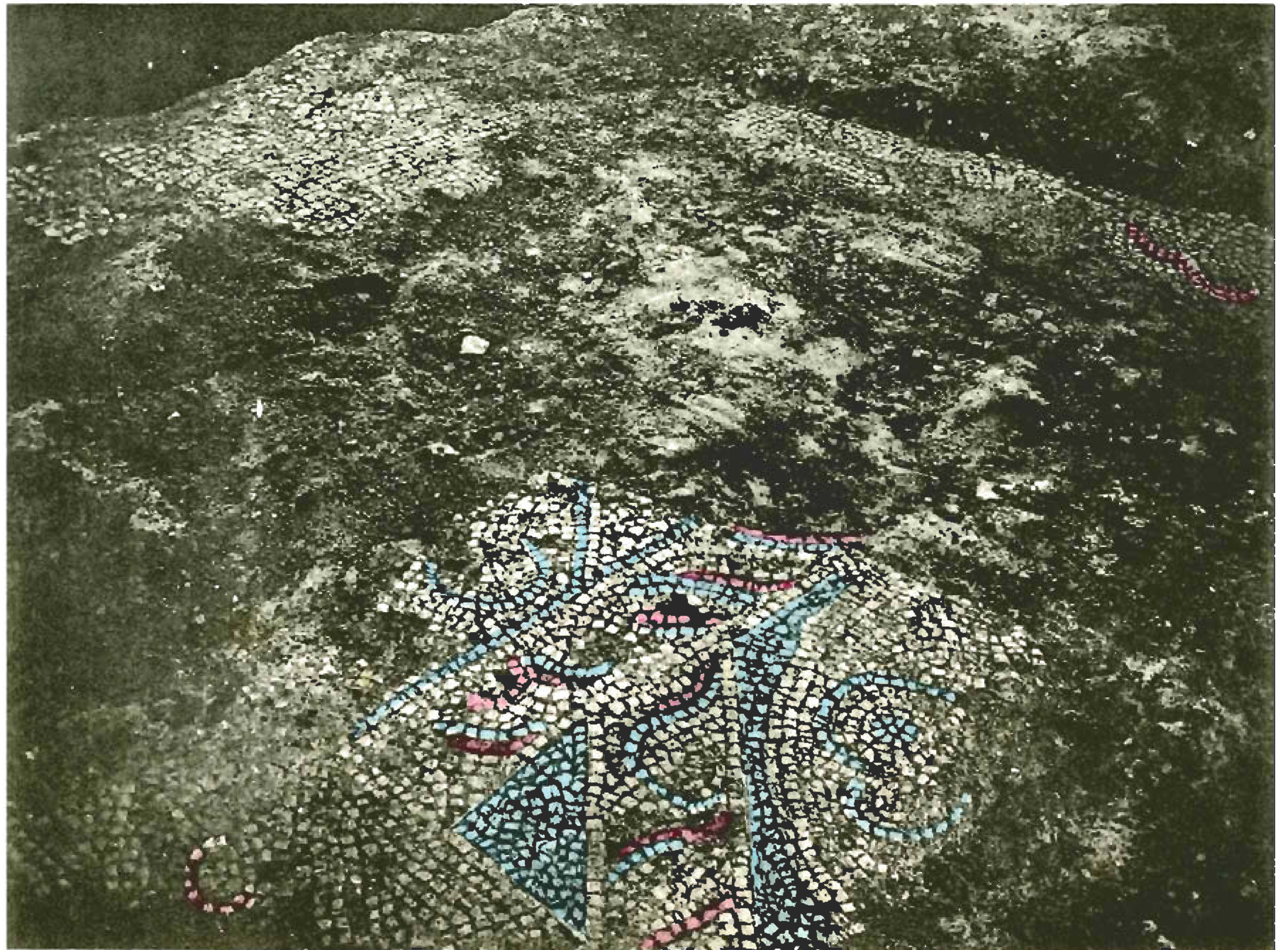
Many iron nails, some of great size (9 in.), and of three varieties, were found; a boar's tusk, and abundance of snails (*Helix nemorosa*). None of these latter were of the kind usually called Roman snails (*Helix pomatia*). The presence of clusters of these oolitic snails (white, with a banded reddish spiral) of varying sizes, in pockets of soil, strongly suggested their hybernation, perhaps in days when the ruins were still covered with overgrowth.

On October 22nd, trenching eastward beyond the upper, or northern, angle of this court, and following on, a wall was found going due east (No. 7), but it gave out at 9 ft., showing signs as of a deliberate uprooting. On the way to that point more fragments of a small (9 in.) lathe-turned verandah column were found (No. 8). It lay parallel (south) with the wall then being followed. These small columns, perhaps, point to a low parapet-wall upon which they stood supporting a tiled lean-to roof, facing westward. Unfortunately (for want of further evidence) the inter-columniations cannot be determined.

Examining the breach of continuity in this last wall, evidences showed that a 1 ft. 8 in. wall had turned sharp northward at this point (No. 9). This indicated the near

presence of a room of considerable size. Turning direct north, then, to follow the line of that vanished wall, red tesserae soon began to show in site lying in a clean, inviting line, 19 in. below the surface. Here, therefore, is a room with a mosaic floor. The trench was carefully continued for 10 ft. more, until no tesserae showed themselves on our left. In the afternoon another trench was made so as to follow around the west end of the north court wall. We then worked in eastward, so as to follow that wall on its north side. Having reached the set-off of another broken wall running north at 4 ft. from that western extremity, or spur, it became clear that on the other side of that wall lay the rest of the chamber containing the above mosaic floor. This must have measured, consequently, 15 ft. in length, W.—E.

The mosaic was laid bare (after cautiously skinning the entire surface for 14 in.), at a depth of 19 in. But most of the western half of it had disappeared, and in place of a portion of it, in this side, had been laid down a large patch of rough cobbles bordered E.—W. by a line of upright stones, such as cattle-stalls are provided with. The bedding, or 'rudus,' of the mosaic near it had been trampled out of recognition and stained black with, probably, animal (drainage) matter. At 6 ft. eastward, however, the mosaic began to take up well in larger patches, showing good design (see Fig. VI.); and in direct contact with it, at one point, lay half of the skull of an adult pig. The rest of the room was cleared, and the nature of the mosaic discovered itself to be of combined geometric and scroll type, having a broad chequer border at the east end (in small red and white squares), measuring 2 ft. 3 in. in width, and that was further bound in by a thin band of larger red tesserae, three deep; the whole being set in a bedding of soft cement 3 in. thick. The tesserae used here are of three sizes, the largest measuring  $\frac{11}{16}$ ths of an inch square; the next,  $\frac{1}{2}$  in.; and the smallest,  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. square. Fat and exceedingly long earthworms (11 in.) came up where the tesserae were wanting. The colours used in the mosaic were three only—



VI.

IFOLD. MOSAIC PAVEMENT.

blue, red, and white, made of lias, tile, and Painswick stone (see coloured Fig. I.).

It seemed evident that much of the destruction of this floor may have been wrought by animals; and much also by the heavy stones and tiles which had fallen upon some portions of it. Among these lay fragments of fallen 'intonaco,' excellent in thickness ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  in.) and firmness of make, having a white ground decorated in panels, with bright red bands (width 1 in.). Few objects, save animals' bones and teeth, were met with, and the iron sheath of a dagger or long knife. The north wall of this room proved to be entirely destroyed; but the edge of the mosaic nevertheless remained quite clear. The spoiler had only required building stone ready-made. Judging from this and the soft layer spread over the mosaic itself, I should conjecture that much stone has been removed methodically from the site at no distant period: possibly to build the neighbouring farm.

The room measured 15 ft. E.—W. by 10 ft. N.—S. Evidences of fire again became prominent, though the pavement itself nowhere showed them; but only the upper soil, as if, perhaps, later wooden sheds which may have taken its place, rather than the original room, had been so destroyed. The lumps of 'intonaco' (wall plaster) were none of them blackened, and their well-mixed colours are still vivid.<sup>1</sup>

Beyond the 'mosaic' room, and adjoining it northward (No. 10), the concrete bedding of a portion of floor only told of another room (No. 11), perhaps of like size; similar traces eastward from this, in shallowing ground, told of yet another but smaller one. One of these had been supplied with a flue from a hypocaust. So far, there was met no trace of any apsidal chamber.

<sup>1</sup> It may be of use to remind those whom it may concern not to obey the rather natural 'instinct' to throw water on a newly-found mosaic. It is often done in order, it is hoped, to clean and make it discover its design. As the setting-bed or 'rudus' is invariably soft, the water loosens further still the only apparently firm tesserae, and they come away from the design upon the slightest provocation, or on the bottom of the workman's shoes.

It now became roughly possible to estimate the breadth of that which is evidently the western wing of the Villa at 32 ft.; and to mark, once for all, that most of the flags of the court on this side had been taken away; that the roofing tiles had fallen apparently after this; that still later owners repaved portions of it over these fallen slates, &c., who still used the Roman querns; and that these folk and their successors kept plenty of cattle, oxen, sheep, and pigs, in whatever parts of the building they could conveniently turn into sheds, and probably slaughtered them on the spot; finally, that these sheds had been burned, and perhaps some of the cattle in them. The Villa, therefore, would seem to have experienced many vicissitudes. That, apparently, is its historic outline. The latest recognisable coin found there belongs to Constantine the Great (A.D. 312-336).

Meanwhile the court was explored to its southern end (No. 12), and two openings in its wall, much-torn, but possibly both of them doorways, were found; one at 13 ft. from the north end, the other at 6 ft. from the south end. At 41 ft. the southern angle was caught sharply-defined, and its (still) 2-ft. wall being now followed westward, finally gave out to a narrow opening at 3 ft. 6 in. It then took up for 2 ft. more, and gave out with another slightly wider, but sharp, opening (see plan). This E. to W. wall ended in an isolated 2-ft. square base. But 1 ft. east of this a 2-ft. wall (No. 13) was encountered running to S., that is at right angles to it, which soon terminated in a large buttress immediately south of us. This buttress-base footing measures 3 ft. in width, E.—W., and is 6 ft. 10 in. in length. Three courses of it remain. From it a 2-ft. wall holds out straight northward for 9 ft., travelling toward the isolated chamber first-explored. It, however, proved never to have continued so far as that chamber. Its termination, as found, corresponded with the southernmost doorway of the court-wall.

The wall of the court then examined immediately east of the exposed buttress, travelled for 10 ft. 6 in. beyond the



V.

IFOLD.

north to south wall, and it then also turned northward, but soon became obliterated in the shallow soil. The shallowness of the soil here, and the action of the plough, had almost destroyed it within 3 ft. of the above turning.

Here were found a piece of the lip of a vase of whitish pottery, painted red, and a fragment of a column smaller in diameter by 2 in. than the previous example, thus measuring but 7 in. instead of 9 in. in diam. Traces of construction, however, extend still east of this in the shallow soil, together with occasional tiles and oyster shells. But nothing is quite determinable there owing to the aforesaid obliteration and scattering.

It is clear that a buttress of large size must have backed the all-important south wall of the court. No trace of any important or wide entrance to the building was found hereabouts, but merely that of a postern.<sup>1</sup> The remainder of the south wall has disappeared.

The chambers above-described in the eastern side of the Villa, proving to have been destroyed (although remains of a wall at the northern extremity of the wing gave the full length of the Villa as 105 ft. N. to S.), it now became necessary to look for the western side of it. This was found (No. 14) on November 16th by striking a trench E. to W. in virgin soil at a guess, and reaching a N. to S. wall with, fortunately, but little waste of labour. This wall proved to measure 2 ft. in thickness, and it was met with close to where it takes an acute turn eastward. Having caught that angular turn at our immediate north, we first of all followed it southward. At 20 ft. 4 in. south of this turn occurred a corresponding turn (No. 15) also directed eastward. This lay in line with the N. wall of the isolated room first explored. At 9 ft. 6 in., nevertheless, this again turned off sharp southward (No. 16), finally gave out at 13 ft., and could not be traced further (No. 17). Turning now to

<sup>1</sup> About twenty yards south, on the lower edge of the sloping field, after rain the ground becomes quagmire, evidently from a spring. Exploration there will probably discover the water-supply of the Villa, perhaps a well. None was found within the Villa itself.

work the inner side of these walls, it became evident that the tiles which lay so thickly were not of the same dimensions with those formerly met with in the eastern side of the Villa, though made of the same material and having the large-headed iron nails remaining in the stud-holes. Numbers of these tiles are perfect, and measure  $16\frac{1}{2}$  in. in length by  $10\frac{1}{2}$  in. in width. Here could faintly be traced foundations of the walls of three small rooms.

The breadth of the Villa (as at present remaining) is found to be 63 ft. It is a small villa of irregular 'courtyard' type. The first room explored stood out entirely isolated, surrounded and surveyed by segments of long and short verandahs, indenting an unsymmetrical courtyard.

Taking the north side of the W. to E. wall (No. 14) and following it at 8 ft. eastward a clean-cobbled pavement (No. 18) was encountered, and at 11 ft. (No. 19) a clear passage, 2 ft. in width, interrupted the wall. At one foot eastward of this, after having met with several lumps of 'opus signinum' (some presenting a half-round moulding), a well-preserved bath (No. 20), made of the same material, was cleared, measuring 4 ft. 10 in. N. to S. by 4 ft. E. to W., and having its floor made of a large single slab of dark micaceous slate, and its sides more or less perfect, smooth inside, to the height of 16 in. Across the wall south of it was found the red drain pipe (No. 21) belonging to it. A half-round moulding travelled around the base of the bath, and masses of broken 'signinum' lay within it.

North of it, as we proceeded eastward, quantities of coloured and striped wall-plaster occurred, both blue, red, and white, with purple stripe, also a large splash of lead and portions of pots of various makes and sizes, including a fragment of an Aretine (terra sigillata) lid. The level of the bath inside stood 10 in. above the cobbled pavement upon which the structure rises.

Next this bath eastward occurred the solid<sup>1</sup> concreted

<sup>1</sup> Solid, that is to say, to considerably above the level of the floor of the adjacent bath (*i.e.* 1 ft.). Villas so situated were probably well furnished with rain-water tanks.





base (No. 22) of a square construction, well-built, and possibly made for the purpose of carrying a tank for rain-water. Beside it (north) were found an Upchurch vase<sup>1</sup> without handles. The tiles met with hereabouts were of the smallest or third size found, measuring but 14 in. by 9 in. Here were turned up nineteen voussoir-like cakes of concrete; also portions of a spheroidal stone weight reddened by fire externally, but having a finely-smoothed surface and a diameter of 3 in. It is made of pebble belonging to the inferior lias of the Severn valley. Beyond the supposed tank-turret occurred another bath (No. 23) quite similar to the former one, except that in this the entire floor was likewise made of 'opus signinum,' which was unbroken. It showed the same half-round moulding.

Immediately east, adjoining this, was now laid bare a space 9 ft. by 10 ft. paved (No. 24) with thin large slabs of brown slate-like stone, bound in on the east by a wall running north and south.

Here, therefore, in a band across the centre of the villa lie its baths; and the abundance of tiles and sooty material told that the hypocaust must be close at hand to the north of these. These baths seem to have been entered on the south from the courtyard.

Work being resumed next day at a projecting angle close to the easternmost bath, a good wall (No. 25) was found, and followed along northward for 18 ft., until it gave out. Turning to examine it inside (eastward), I presently found myself standing within an apsidal chamber (No. 26) with stone pilæ, more or less broken, and abundant soot. The pilæ are squared white monoliths just 2 ft. in height. Following round the southern curve of the apsis, the wall soon turned off sharply and led me into a second and parallel apsis (No. 27) of similar dimensions, being 7 ft. wide by 6 ft. in depth. In the latter, side by side with its fellow, the pilæ were all

<sup>1</sup> Height,  $5\frac{1}{8}$  in.; diam. top rim,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in.; diam. base,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  in.; circumference of widest bulge, 15 in. wide. Colour, yellow-washed, with black core.

standing untouched, and on the tops of some were square brick tiles. To this communicated a low-arched entrance (No. 28) for the hot air to pass between the two central (or easternmost) pilæ. Here was found a crumpled-up, thin, pewter-pot, handle, neck, and base; a dented piece of chalk,<sup>1</sup>  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. long,  $3\frac{1}{8}$  in. wide, and 2 in. thick, together with the rim of a Durobrivian pot, with white applied scroll ornament; a little red-painted vase, 4 in. high (Fig. III.); two hinge-bands (iron), 7 in. by  $\frac{3}{4}$  in.,  $7\frac{1}{4}$  in. by 1 in.; a fragment of a tiny column made of 'opus signinum,' painted white with a blue stripe; many fragments of plaster (intonaco), having three parallel bands of red, purple, and light blue, divided from one another by white lines, thinner between the red and purple and thicker between purple and blue, the main ground being pure white.

Some tiles from the hypocaust measure 16 in. by  $11\frac{3}{4}$  in. Here also were found two flange-tiles, bearing clearly impressed the hollow letters **R. P. G.** (Respublica Glevensium,<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* Commonwealth of Glevum) (Fig. II.), and on the back of one the marks of the factor's fifteen-toothed metal comb.

The hypocaust being cleared and photographed, the flue, furnace-pit, and stokehole (No. 29) were sought and found—the latter northward at a distance of 30 ft., as indicated in the plan. Eastward from the hypocaust two flues ran to what may have been a triclinium or dining-hall (No. 10), next the mosaic-room. West of the hypocaust numbers of large tiles occurred, and also the neck and one handle of a two-handled glass decanter  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. in height, which has miraculously escaped (see Fig. I.). Besides these were found a large perforated grindstone and another stone quern<sup>3</sup> (the darker one in photographic

<sup>1</sup> Chalk was used by the Romans for whitening shoes and garments, and for keeping talleys, as well as for marking slaves, and victims, 'Hostia.'

<sup>2</sup> It may be well to recall here the inscription which shows that Glevum was colonised by Nerva: D.M. M. VLPPIO NER. QUINTO GLEVI MIL. FR. LEG. VI. V. CALIDIUS QUIETVS COLLEGA FRATRI OBSERVATO PHSIMO B.M.F.C. (CORPUS INS. LAT. VI. 3346). It is interesting to note how the little communities of even distant provincial centres clung to the old style.

<sup>3</sup> Mortarium.

group of objects), and a pot studded within with broken pebbles for a similar purpose.

At 16 ft. 6 in. west (the virgin soil cropping up higher and higher owing to not having been dug out here for foundations, and probably forming the small vestibulum), a dry wall N.—S. (the only one met with) was found (No. 30) and followed northward. It led to a spot 30 ft. distant from the cross-wall behind (south of) the baths, where were two large rough slabs 3 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft. 3 in. of forest stone (No. 31). One lay flat and one stood on end; perhaps used once for door-stones, but, as found, suggesting a grave. Near by these lay an octagonal stone base (No. 32), 18 in. diameter, of Painswick stone, carrying (made with it in one) a portion of a column 9½ in. diameter, and drilled (not in the centre) with an octagonal hole designed for a rod or thin post.

It is probable the Villa was entered here from a track at its northern end by a door; but if that was the case the plough has obliterated all but the barest traces of it as well as of the track which led down from what is now Holcombe, to it.

BONES, TEETH, and SHELLS of the following animals were found:—

Mussel (*Mytilus edulis*).

Snails (*Helix nemoralis* and *Helix rufescens*).

Whelk (*Buccinum undatum*).

Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), large and small.

Stag (*Cervus elephas*), points of antler.

Goat (*Capra hircus*), a horn-core and fragmentary skull.

Horse (*Equus caballus*), jawbones, teeth and ribs.

Pig (*Sus scrofa*), jaw, teeth, feet-bones and thigh-bones; and impression of feet on a brick.

Sheep (*Ovis aries*), several bones and two jaws.

Dog (*Canis familiaris*), teeth and bones.

Badger (*Meles*), teeth and cranium.

Weasel (*Mustela vulgaris*), vertebræ and teeth.

BRONZE OBJECTS. A thin scale with a small hole in it, 1 in. by 1½ in., but with only one true edge.

Two coins—Helmeted Roma; reverse, the wolf and twins. Constantinus (small bronze), Securitas (?) (or Felicitas) Augusti.

WINDOW-GLASS. Two small fragments.

LEAD AND PEWTER. A mass of splashed lead, and a small pewter-pot with triangular-moulded handle.

Base diameter,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in., slightly domed.

Height,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  in.

Mouth diameter,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in., with spout-lip.

Handle, 3-sided,  $\frac{1}{4}$  in., tapering to top.

Thickness of metal, 1 m.m.

WORKED BONE. One or two fragments showing traces of workmanship, but of no determinable purpose.

BEADS. Six coloured and perforated glass-beads.

IRON. Hinge-bands—

(1) 7 in. by  $\frac{3}{4}$  in.

(2)  $7\frac{1}{4}$  in. by 1 in.

(3)  $10\frac{3}{4}$  in. by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in.

A perfect thin horse-shoe ring ending in pierced loops from which hangs an iron single and a double or triangular link; the former passed through the latter. Ring measures 4 in. by  $3\frac{3}{4}$  in. Perhaps for tying a horse or a serf to in a yard.

The scarcity of coins and fibulæ is remarkable.

A gold ring and other objects were found here in 1868, but have been lost beyond tracing. Rumour has it also that coins were found, but they are not traceable. One, a gold solidus of Valentinian, was offered here four years back as having come from Ifold, but I did not see reason then to credit this.

It is likely that as adjuncts to the villa there were barns or farm buildings. These will be searched for another year with the owner's permission. They should be on the eastern side of it. Search on the western side proved useless. The present farm stands but eighty yards from the rustic-villa.

It is noteworthy that in this Villa all the older materials were of good make: the colours, the bricks, the 'opus signinum,'

the tesserae and mosaic design, and the walls; doubtless the timbering corresponded. The wall-mortar was everywhere finely sifted. As far as could be disclosed, no wall once built had been altered or re-erected. Only one 'dry' wall, a poor one, was found. With the pavements, as shewn, this was not always the case.

Everything was either good or bad, there was no third character in it. And the general type of the workmanship, together with the letters on the bricks, gave the impression that the Ifold villa may be classed as a probably late second-century Romano-British villa. It is admittedly a difficult matter to obtain necessary elements for forming a comparative standard of style whereby to distinguish precise periods in provincial Roman art. Had this Villa been in Italy, its character in materials might have denoted a slightly earlier date; so good are these.

The most telling feature, perhaps, gathered by the excavator out of this exploration is the care with which the courtyard portions had been tiled with regard to effect. We have, from three separate portions, of lessening dimensions, the three following stone tiles found in them:—

Court (East), length 41 ft.; size 19 in. by 11½ in. tile.

„ (West) „ 18 ft.; „ 16½ in. by 10½ in. tile.

„ „ „ 10 ft.; „ 14 in. by 9 in. tile.

The nail-holes occur invariably to the left of the median line of the tile. No wooden pegging as used to-day was employed, but only iron nails of varying size.

The interesting occurrence of stamped bricks belonging to the Colonia of Glevum may be due to various causes: (1) The owner may have contracted with workmen from that city; or (2) he was an official himself of that Colonia; or (3) the territorium of Glevum may, for peculiar reasons, have extended so far as to include the valuable quarry and forest-lands of Painswick; or (4) he may have bought from the city-yards.