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**Frocester Court Roman Villa; First Report**

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# Frocester Court Roman Villa, Gloucestershire

First Report, 1961-67. Building A

By H. S. GRACIE, F.S.A.

THE villa is in a field called "Big Stanborough" in the parish of Frocester, ten miles south of Gloucester and half a mile from the foot of the Cotswold escarpment (Nat. Grid Ref. SO/785029). The Roman road from the Severn crossing at Newnham to the Fosse Way at Easton Grey<sup>1</sup> passes within 200 yards. Two minor Roman sites are known to exist within half a mile and villas have been found at St. Peter's Church<sup>2</sup> in the same parish, and at Whitminster and King's Stanley, all within two miles, while the great villa at Woodchester is four miles away over the hill to the east.

The existence of a Romano-British building was first observed by Mr E. G. Price, J.P., of Frocester Court, who found Roman material, pottery, tiles and tesserae, lying on the surface. At his invitation and with the kind approval of the owner, Major P. Graham-Clarke, excavation began in 1961 and quickly established the status of the building as that of a medium sized, winged corridor villa. Since there are indications of other Romano-British buildings in the immediate vicinity, this one is referred to as 'Building A'. During succeeding years observation was kept on the rest of the field while ploughing was in progress. A quantity of material, much earlier than that of the villa, was collected from the surface some distance from the house, towards the south-east. Subsequent excavation has revealed a boundary ditch (Ditch 7, FIG. 1) belonging to an earlier establishment and passing within 15 ft. of the villa. The silt in this ditch was topped up with gravel and blue clay, almost certainly from the deep foundation trenches of Building A. For some reason not yet discovered, it was decided to build a new dwelling house on fresh ground outside the old compound and to extend the perimeter to include it. It is this new building that forms the subject of this report.

<sup>1</sup> I. D. Margary, *Roman Roads in Britain: I*, p. 132. Road 543.

<sup>2</sup> H. S. Gracie, 'St. Peter's Church, Frocester', *Trans. BGAS*, Vol. 82 (1963).

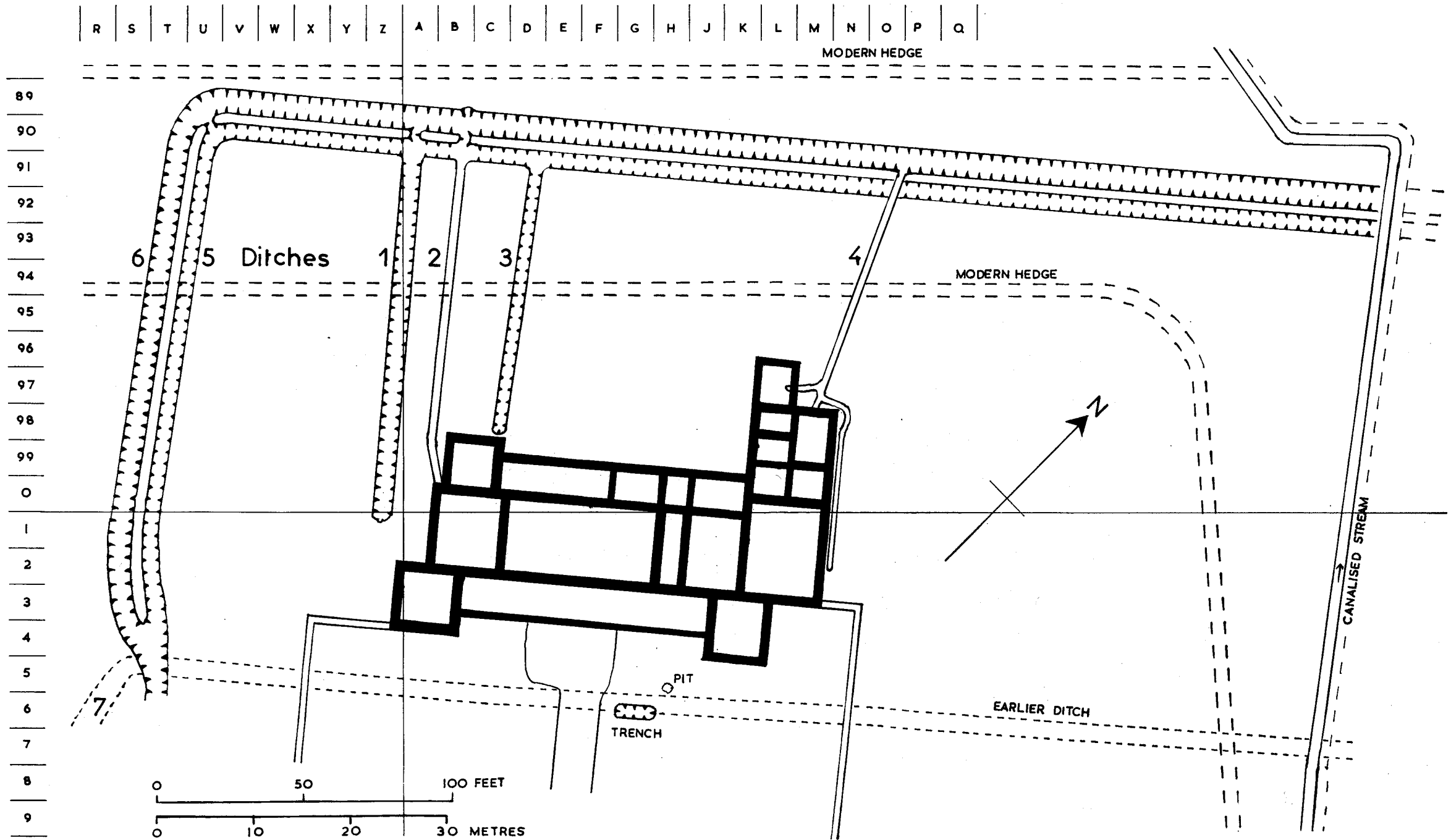


Fig. 1. Frocester Court; plan with drains and boundary ditches.

The site (FIG. 1) is a nearly level field. Under six inches to a foot of humus there is a spread of hard compacted gravel from two to four feet thick, which lies on the stiff Lias clay. A small stream running along the field boundary has clearly been diverted, probably in medieval times. Beyond it the land is not available for excavation. The villa faces S.  $40\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  E. (true).

The field name (Stanborough = stone fort) indicates that in the late Saxon or early medieval period a substantial stone building was still visible. Though sporadic raiding for building stone may have begun very early, the consistent filling of the trenches points to eventual systematic robbing. The building stone was removed to a depth of four feet in general and even down to nine feet in places. Potsherds and a coin of the last issue of Henry III in the demolition debris show that this robbing took place at the end of the 13th century. Stone and tile similar to that on the site can be found in the nearby tithe barn, built by John de Gamages, Abbot of Gloucester 1284–1306<sup>1</sup>. The robbers levelled the site by shovelling the adjoining deposits into the trenches. The field was ploughed on the ridge-and-furrow system in the Middle Ages but reverted to pasture at a later date: an estate map shows it to be park land in 1737. The furrows damaged at least half of every Roman floor, but the ridges protected the remainder. However, in the second world war the field was levelled again and the modern plough began to take its toll of the remaining floors. It was this that brought the Roman material to the surface and at the same time made immediate excavation desirable if anything more than the plan were to be recovered. During the Napoleonic wars a strip of land along the northern sides of the field was fenced off and planted with pear trees.

### *Summary*

Though a farming establishment had existed in the field for at least two centuries, a new house was begun *c.* A.D. 275, outside the old compound, to the north-west. New, double, boundary ditches were dug round the site enclosing nearly two more acres. The four rooms in the centre block were built with unusually massive foundations. Shortly afterwards the building was completed by the addition of the front (south-east) corridor and projecting wings, a row of small rooms along the back and an open-sided shed. Reorganisation, *c.* 340, involved the ejection of a corn-drier from Room 5, the insertion of a hypocaust in Room 7 and the laying of mosaics in two

<sup>1</sup> Gloucester Abbey Cartulary.

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rooms. It is probable that the formal garden in the courtyard was laid out at this time<sup>1</sup>. The north-east wing, including an elaborate bath suite, was added c. 360 and minor alterations were made to it during or after the time of Valens. Occupation continued well into the 5th century, after the abandonment of the bath suite and until the centre block was destroyed by fire.

### *Acknowledgements*

My grateful thanks<sup>2</sup> are due to Major P. Graham-Clarke for permission to excavate and for allowing the finds to be deposited in Gloucester Museum and to Mr. E. G. Price, the tenant, who fenced the area, provided the site huts and machinery and put up with considerable disruption of his agricultural activities; also for their specialist reports or comment to Mrs Eve Harris and Mr P. J. Fowler (pottery), Mr R. Reece and Professor Mattingly (coins), Mrs E. Fowler (bronze), Dr F. S. Wallis (geology), Dr D. J. Smith (mosaics), Mrs H. H. Clark (grain) Mr B. J. Ashwell (architecture), Mr J. C. Maby (charcoal, etc.), Dr C. R. Oyler (skeleton), Mr Irvine Gray (history) and Professor S. S. Frere who kindly read the manuscript and offered much valuable advice. The late Sir Ian Richmond frequently visited the site and gave constant advice. Without his encouragement the excavation might never have taken place.

### THE EXCAVATION

Since the site was nearly level and had no features showing above ground, the grid system was adopted. A 12-foot grid was laid out parallel to the straight boundary hedge on the north-west side, the north-west—south-east columns being lettered and the south-west—north-east rows numbered in Arabic numerals. The line between rows 0 and 1 was 76 feet from the middle of the hedge and the distance along this line from the division between columns Z and A to the eastern hedge was 270 feet. Within each square a 10-foot box was excavated leaving 2-foot baulks between each. Towards the end of the season all baulks that might yield further information were taken down. The successive layers were given Roman numerals. Thus a label such as F3 IV defines the grid square and the layer from which the object was recovered.

<sup>1</sup> The excavation of the courtyard being incomplete at the time of writing, the garden will be included in a later report.

<sup>2</sup> It is not possible to mention individually all those who helped on the site and earned my gratitude, but the 'regulars' to whom I am especially grateful include Mr Price, Mr Gray, Mrs Wylie, Miss Travell, Mr and Alan Cooke, Mr and David Wallace, Mr Hedgely, Mr Coombes, Miss Palser, Miss Hodges and Miss Paterson.

# BUILDING A

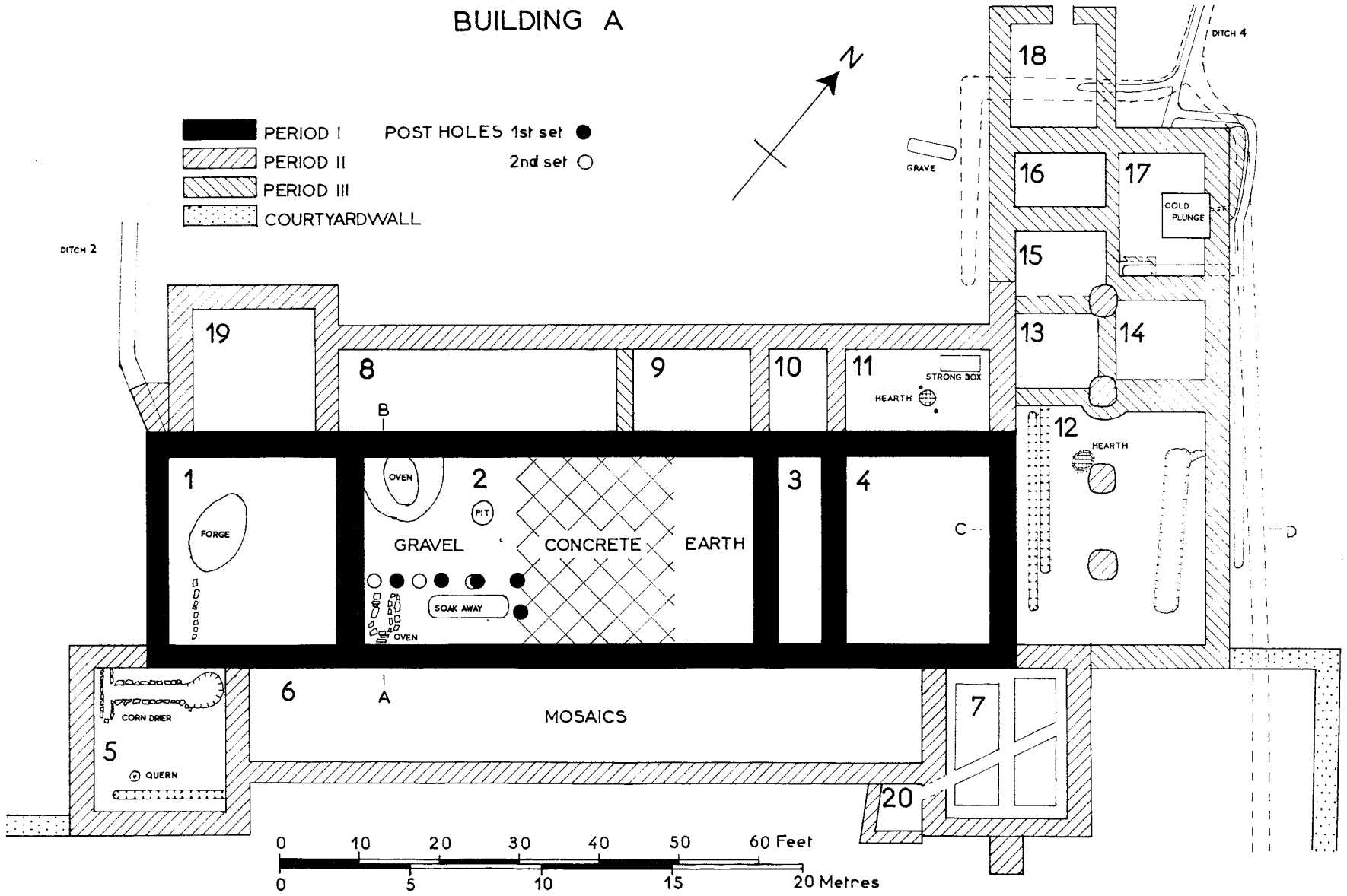


Fig. 2. Dwelling house.

*Summary of stages of development*

- Period I Late 3rd century, *c.* A.D. 275. Rooms 1, 2, 3, and 4 built.
- Period II Very shortly after Period I. Rooms 5, 6, 7, 8-9, 10, 11, 19 and Shed 12a added.
- Period IIa *c.* 340. Rooms 2, 5, 6, 7 altered and 20 added. The formal garden laid out.
- Period III *c.* 360. Rooms 12-18 built and 9 divided from 8.
- Period IV 5th century. Degeneration and decay.

*Building methods*

The foundation trenches were cut with nearly vertical sides allowing at most 2 or 3 inches either side except near the top. The lower courses were of slightly sloping pitched stones, many of them weighing 3 cwt. or more, packed with gravel or clay. Each course had been carefully placed by hand, starting from one end of the trench, alternate courses being laid from opposite ends. Similar techniques have been observed at St. Peter's, Frocester, in a town house in Parsonage Field, Cirencester, and elsewhere in the neighbourhood.<sup>1</sup> The upper three feet of footings were laid horizontally and mortared (where they survived to this height). A short stretch between Rooms 1 and 2 showed one course of the wall proper, which had 6-inch offsets on each side. These offsets have not been allowed for in giving the dimensions of the rooms, whose actual sizes may have been up to one foot greater in each direction. The plan (FIG. 2) shows the actual widths of the footings. The spaces on either side of the horizontal courses were packed with gravel, clay or topsoil, except near the surface, where stones up to 4 inches long (masons' chippings) had been rammed in. The foundation trenches of Period I were sunk 8 ft. 6 ins. below the Roman topsoil, but only 4 ft. 6 ins. or less in subsequent periods. When walls of the later periods were straight-jointed against existing walls a wedge of natural gravel was left projecting upwards between the two. This normally rose at least to the top of the pitched stone courses. Outside Rooms 17 and 19 earlier, and superseded, drains ran uncomfortably close to the walls, which necessitated revetment with heavy stones firmly mortared together.

All floors and the yards outside were built up on layers of masons' chippings and gravel or clay spoil from the foundation trenches. Except in the heated rooms the original topsoil was left

<sup>1</sup> For a discussion of the method see K. Richardson, *Ant. J.* XLII (1962), p. 180.

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in position. The absence of any remains of turf and the presence of a few finds of early material in the buried topsoil suggest that the area had been under the plough.

The stone used in the foundations was local oolite from a quarry near the top of the escarpment less than a mile away. Some shaped fragments of tufa in the bath suite suggested that this material had a place in the upper construction. The roof was made of Old Red Sandstone tiles from the Forest of Dean—a popular roofing material found in many Gloucestershire villas. They were hexagonal with a point downwards, varying in width from 9 to 13 inches. All sides were slightly chamfered. A few eaves tiles turned up which were straight along the bottom edge. Also, those to form the top course under the ridge were half the normal length and straight along the top. Some trapeze-shaped tiles suggested that some roofs were hipped instead of gabled. The nail holes were at the narrow end, which would be wrong for valley tiles. All tiles were secured with iron nails, many of which were still in position. The nail holes were always off the centre line so that, if a tile slipped, the gap between the tiles in the row below would not expose a nail directly to the rain. A very few fragments of clay *tegulae* and *imbrices* were found and some of the former had been re-used on the floor of the flue passing into the hypocaust of Room 7. It seems unlikely that they were used for any major roof of this building, except perhaps, for the corridor. One of the *tegulae*, re-used in Period IIa, was stamped ARVERI. Two bricks showed parts of stamps that almost certainly read RPG and a tile, TPLF. Outside most walls a spread of rammed stone 2 feet wide was placed, perhaps to support a stone gutter since robbed, or to break up the rain water from the roof and thus prevent the formation of gullies along the drip line.

The stone masons did much of their shaping outside the southwest end of the house, where they left a great deal of rubble. Southeast of this area, and separated from it by a gap of 6 feet, a mass of sandstone tile chips and a stack of tilers' rejects showed where the tilers shaped their tiles. The plasterers worked at the other end of the house beyond the approach road. They left behind a scatter of lime, sand and brick dust on the buried topsoil. A pit (FIG. 1), 3 feet across and 12 inches deep, had a thick deposit of lime in the bottom and a number of rounded stones, coated with lime, lay in and around it. This would appear to be the hole where lime was slaked with the help of pot-boilers.<sup>1</sup> The carpenters left no trace unless a trench,

<sup>1</sup> The practice of slaking lime in holes in the ground was still in use early in the present century.

12 feet long and 4 feet deep with post holes at one end (FIG. 1), had been a saw pit. Reddened clay in the bottom might suggest that the sawdust had been burned and removed for fertiliser.

## PERIOD I

*The first building, Rooms 1-4 (FIG. 2)*

Both the pottery and the coins point to the first construction taking place late in the 3rd century. A regular radiate coin (No. 246, A.D. 250-270) under the builders' approach road and a radiate minim under the spoil from the foundation trenches suggest a *terminus post quem* of c. 275. Although the plan is reminiscent of 2nd century buildings, it is very similar to the typical farm house of the Middle Ages and seems to be a natural arrangement meeting the requirements of local farmers.

The foundation trenches were 8 ft. 6 ins. deep below the Roman topsoil and 3 ft. to 3 ft. 6 ins. wide. The first 5 feet were filled with pitched stones in five courses. Above this, shaped stones were laid in horizontal courses. Architects familiar with the conditions can see no reason for such massive foundations: they are stout enough to carry a stone building several storeys high and are stouter than those of many Norman and medieval church towers still standing. The foundations of the villa at St. Peter's, on a similar geological succession, were less massive. Nevertheless, without any reinforcement, they carried a series of churches for a thousand years. Perhaps the builder had in mind the subsequent additions which would necessitate lighting the original rooms through clerestory windows. Even so, they are unnecessarily massive and an upper floor is highly probable with a staircase in Room 3. To allow for clerestory windows over the corridor (Room 6) the ceilings would need to be 12 feet high.

*Room 1 (23 ft. x 21 ft).<sup>1</sup>*

The greater part of the floor consisted of 9 inches of placed yellow clay with a rammed stone floor upon it. In an oval area, 6 ft. x 3 ft., the stone had been burnt to powder and the clay beneath to a deep red to its full depth. This can only have been caused by a fire much hotter and more continuous than that in the bake oven in Room 2. A forge is the most likely explanation. Many nails, pieces of iron, iron and copper slag were found in the room and adjoining robber trenches and in the open ditch (Ditch 1). Crucibles (p. 47).

<sup>1</sup> When giving dimensions of rooms the N.W.-S.E. measurement is given first.

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and fragments of clipped bronze (p. 63) show that the smith worked in bronze as well as iron.

*Room 2* (23 ft. x 48 ft. 2 ins.) FIG. 3, Section A-B.

This room was divided into three by light partitions. Unfortunately, early ploughing had destroyed any footings there might have been and blurred the edges of the differing floors. The divisions, however, are indicated by the changing floor material—gravel at the south-west end, concrete in the middle and earth at the north-east. Assuming that this was a room of five bays with tie beams 10 feet apart, the different floors would agree with divisions approximately 20, 20 and 10 feet wide. The western part was a kitchen containing bake-oven, cooking oven, soakaway and rubbish pit. Both ovens were built of stone which rested on placed clay, 3 feet deep under the bake-oven and 14 inches under the other. The footings under the bake-oven had been widened to project 2 ft. 8 ins. under the placed clay. Originally, i.e. before the soakaway was dug, the cooking oven opened towards the north-east and this part of the kitchen was partitioned off as shown by five post holes. Later, when the soakaway was dug, this oven was rebuilt to open towards the north-west. The partition posts had then to be rearranged as shown on the plan (FIG. 2). A coin of Claudius II (268–70) was found in the ash associated with the first arrangement. The soakaway was a hole 10 ft. 6 ins. long x 2 ft. 9 ins. wide and 18 ins. deep, filled with large, loose stones and a little black silt and covered over by the gravel floor. Access was obtained through a hole, 7 inches diameter, in the gravel floor. The rubbish pit measured 37 ins. x 31 ins. x 18 ins. deep. The kitchen floor had been mended many times by filling the larger holes with potsherds and levelling up with sand. It was largely from these sherds that the assemblage of kitchen pots (FIG. 7) was reconstructed.

The concrete floor in the middle of Room 2 had little contemporary Roman deposit upon it and would appear to have been kept clean up to the time of abandonment. The charred remains of an oak door provides further evidence of a partition as does burnt wall plaster with marks of wood on the back. This division of the room may well have been used for serving meals and the painted decoration seems to suggest family use. A coin of Tetricus II (No. 22, 270–73) was recovered from the gravel under the floor, but the concrete above it had been damaged.

The eastern end had an earth floor covered with ash and dirt containing bits of iron, potsherds and other rubbish, suggesting

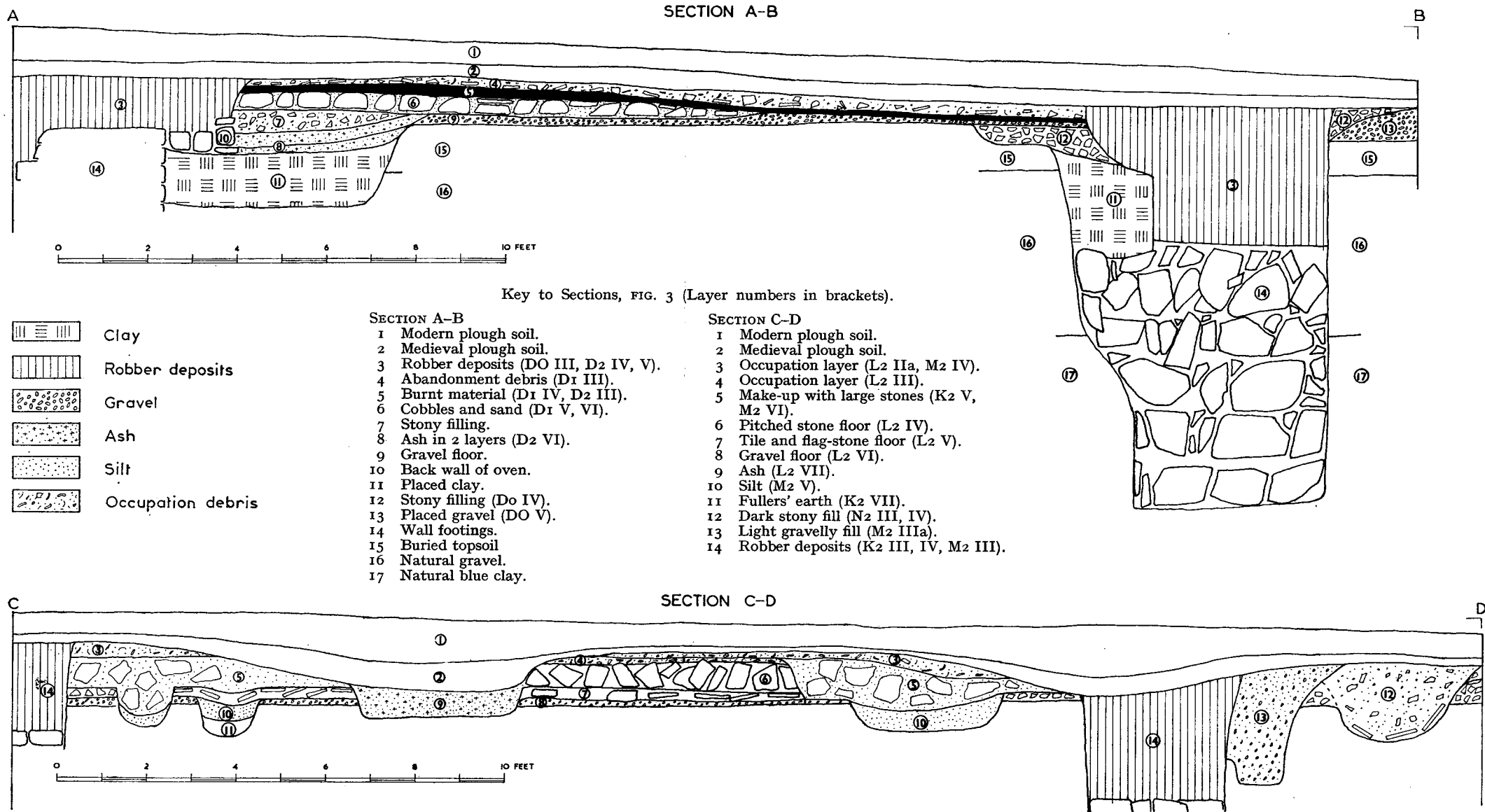


Fig. 3. Sections A-B, C-D.

some kind of work room or, possibly, a store with wooden floor subsequently destroyed by fire.

*Room 3 (23 ft. x 5 ft. 7 ins.)*

This room is just wide enough, allowing for offsets, to accommodate both stairs and a passage through the house. There was no direct evidence for this. No floor was left above the usual gravel spread and there was no hole in this that could have served for a newel post. With the available length, however, a newel post would not have been necessary. A straight run of eighteen steps with 10-inch treads would leave room for 4-foot landings at top and bottom.

*Room 4 (23 ft. x 18 ft.)*

This large room had a floor of *opus signinum* laid on concrete. There was a quarter-round moulding of plaster in the angle between floor and wall. The moulding was not found in position, but a length of it with the adjacent piece of flooring had slipped into a robber trench alongside. The floor was only 7 inches below the turf but was firm enough to allow the modern plough to ride over it without causing over-much damage. A little ash, some 4th century potsherds, charred grains of wheat and a coin of Theodosius I lay on a small burnt area near the middle of the room. Two groups of minute tesserae from the surrounding robber trenches are described by Dr D. J. Smith in Appendix I.

## PERIOD II

*Addition of Rooms 5-II, 19 and Shed 12a*

These additions were made soon after the first building. It is even possible that they were part of the original plan and were undertaken immediately after the completion of the first building operations. The spoil from the foundation trenches of Period I spread over an area 15 to 20 feet beyond Room I. This deposit was cut through by the foundation trench of Room 5. It was covered with masons' and tilers' chippings but no sign of occupation debris. These, in turn, were surmounted by the spoil from the new trench. Occupation debris on this surface contained a coin of Postumus and the hoard of radiate minimis.<sup>1</sup> Though these coins do not provide a

<sup>1</sup> See Professor Mattingly's report, p.83.

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*terminus ante quem*, the absence of any later ones suggests that the deposit was laid down well before the end of the 3rd century.

### Room 5 (17 ft. 8 ins. x 16 ft. 6 ins.)

This room was originally intended for corn drying. A typical T-shaped corn-drier<sup>1</sup> and stoker's pit occupied the north-west side. The shank of the T was 9 ft. 6 ins. long x 1 ft. 10 ins. wide and 20 ins. deep. The cross piece was 6 ft. long and 7 ins. wide. Both were lined with four courses of mortared stone walling.

### The Corridor 6 (11 ft. 6 ins. x 84 ft.)

The outer wall footings were slightly narrower than elsewhere (2 ft. 6 ins. wide) but the footings were continuous and showed no irregularities such as might be associated with a door, porch or pillars. They were quite strong enough to support a wall rising to roof level, but this does not preclude the upper part being open with pillars. A heavily metalled turning area outside indicates a door somewhere near the middle. When found, the corridor was paved with mosaics, but there were hints that it had originally been floored with flag-stones. This point will be discussed under Period IIa.

### Room 7 (18 ft. 6 ins. x 15 ft.)

This again was built at the same time as Room 5 and the corridor. It at first had a floor of *opus signinum* exactly on a level with that in Room 4 and was unheated. The hypocaust was inserted in Period IIa.

### Rooms 8 and 9 (10 ft. 2 ins. x 51 ft. 3 ins.).

These should, perhaps, be called a corridor. Only the gravel underlay of the floor remained in Room 8. At some time, probably in Period III, a wall 2 ft. 1 in. wide and with shallow foundations was inserted to cut off Room 9, which then received a concrete floor.

### Room 10 (10 ft. 2 ins. x 6 ft. 9 ins.)

This appears to be a continuation of the passage—Room 3. It is slightly wider than the passage and could have been used as a separate room.

### Room 11 (10 ft. 2 ins. x 18 ft. 6 ins.).

An iron-bound chest (PLATE 1C) sunk in the north corner points to this room being the office or dispensator's room. 23 coins, mostly

<sup>1</sup> A similar corn-drier at Farmington is described by Mr P. E. Gascoigne in *Trans. BGAS*, Vol. 88, (1968), p. 47.

of the late 3rd century, lay on and in the lowest floor. A small hearth in the middle of the room was provided with two post holes, one on each side. The floor was of sandstone tiles. It was here that the money and valuables were kept and various small financial transactions concluded. The sunk chest was 4 ft. 11 ins. long x 2 ft. 2 ins. wide and 1 ft. 8 ins. deep. Three iron angle pieces were still in position 6 ins. above the bottom. These were held in position by large-headed nails, one of which survived and, being 1 inch from the side, suggested very thick wooden walls for the box. Some large-headed copper nails may have been for decoration on the lid. One iron handle was found but no hinges.

*Room 19* (15 ft. x 15 ft. 3 ins.).

Ditch 2, dating from Period I, was evidently considered to be a hazard to the south-west wall. The bank between it and the foundation trench was cut back for 5 feet (FIG. 2) and replaced with a revetment of heavy stones mortared together. The angle in this ditch is nearly opposite the outer wall of Rooms 8-11, which suggests that Room 19 was intended to be a continuation of Room 8 on the original plan, but a decision to increase its size was made when the buildings of Period II were commenced. A waste pipe could have led from the room to the clay-lined Ditch 3; in which case the room might have been used as a dairy or laundry.

*The Shed 12a* (44 ft. x 11 ft.).

This open-sided shed was placed against the north-east wall of Rooms 4 and 11, which was extended northwards to accommodate its full length. The southern end was closed by the wall of Room 7. The roof was supported by four pillars whose foundation holes were approximately 3 ft. 6 ins. square and 27 ins. deep. The foundations of the pillars consisted of three courses of pitched stones, the uppermost extending 9 ins. above the Roman floor. One concrete bed for the pillar base survived and was 21 ins. square with the corners chamfered. The floor was a thin spread of gravel lying on the buried topsoil. Along the south-west side a narrow trench, 18 ins. wide and 10 ins. deep, extended the whole length of the shed and was half full of fullers' earth. There were a number of small hearths on the floor. The shed was evidently used for various processes of cloth making.

#### PERIOD IIa

This was a period of modernisation in which a number of alterations were effected.

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### *Room 2.*

Soon after A.D. 335 the south-eastern part of the kitchen received a new floor of cobbles and sand which passed over the remains of the cooking oven and soakaway. The heavy partition was removed and only the western post hole projected upwards through the new floor. A coin, *Urbs Roma* (330-35), was found under this floor and another of the same date in its construction. A heap of charred barley, possibly contained in a wicker basket (APP. III), suggested a new use for this part as a grain store. The rubbish pit was also filled in and a small oven built upon it.

### *Room 5.*

This was converted into a kitchen. The upper floors of the corn drier were removed and a cooking oven placed in the shank of the T, using broken roofing tiles for a floor. For this purpose much of the shank had been narrowed to half its width with a deposit of yellow clay. The floor of the rest of the room was of sandstone tiles and did not appear to have been renewed. The lower stone of a circular quern was in position near the south corner of the room. There was also a shallow trench, 14 ins. wide and 9 ins. deep, running along the south-east side of the room. It was filled with fine silt and a few large stones and belonged to the kitchen era, but its purpose was not apparent. A possible rubbish pit, 36 ins. x 30 ins. and 7 ins. deep was filled with ash.

### *The Corridor 6.*

A new floor with mosaic pavement was now laid in the corridor at a higher level. The lowest level consisted of 3 inches of mortared stone and was thought to have been surfaced with flag-stones. After the removal of the flag-stones, 3 inches of concrete had been laid on top of the mortared stone and supported the mosaic pavement. This had been put down on a thin skim of cement and the tesserae were bonded together by a very weak mortar which had leached out. A wide border of purple sandstone and yellow oolite all round left a space down the middle for 14 or 15 patterns, each about 5 feet square. Only 4 were sufficiently well preserved to enable the patterns to be reconstructed. The materials used in the patterns were oolite, white and blue Lias limestone and red brick. Dr D. J. Smith (APP. I) suggests that they were laid by mosaicists of the Corinian School.

### *Room 7.*

During the modernisation a channel-type hypocaust was inserted. The stone-lined channels came up to the original floor level and must

have been covered with flag-stones, which would necessitate a new floor at higher level. The large numbers of tesserae in the channel fillings indicate a mosaic pavement. The channels were 2 ft. 6 ins. deep and averaged 1 ft. 10 ins. wide. The stoke hole was dug in the angle between the south-west wall and the outer wall of the corridor. The tunnel through the wall was given a smooth floor of inverted re-used *tegulae*. The outer channels were hard up against the walls and this seems to have weakened the south-east wall, which in time had to be rebuilt and buttressed. In the bottom of the hypocaust channels a small amount of ash and soot was surmounted by a thick layer of fine silt containing parts of several glass vessels and a complete ox skull. The latter had had one horn sawn off but this had been thrown in with it. It had evidently been pushed in for destruction by fire but pushed too far. Abandonment must have followed soon afterwards for the whole was covered by the silt and it lay on top of the ash.

Many fragments of painted wall plaster were found in this room, in the surrounding robber trenches and in the stoker's pit.

*Room 20* (Average 6 ft. each way).

This was the stoker's pit, excavated to the depth of the hypocaust channels. It was bounded on the south-west by a narrow wall 20 inches wide, the only one not strictly parallel to the others. The entrance must have been on the south-east side but the walling here and any steps down had all been robbed. The pit itself was entirely filled with robber material. In the heap of gravel arising from the excavation of the original pit lay a coin dated 324-6.

The re-use of flag-stones in the new floor of Room 2 gives a somewhat tenuous connection between the alterations in the corridor and kitchens, which coin evidence shows to have taken place after 335. It seems reasonable to suppose that all the alterations took place at the same time, *circa* A.D. 340.

### PERIOD III

The addition of the north-east wing after the removal of the shed.

*Room 12* (29 ft. 6 ins. x 23 ft. 9 ins.). Plan, FIG. 2; Section C-D, FIG. 3.

This room was built in Period III replacing the shed. It was floored with sandstone tiles and oolite flag-stones. The latest coin (No. 65) under the floor was minted between 355 and 360, while

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another, (No. 64) dated 346-50, was found under the wall foundations. The tiled floor had been carried over the narrow trench containing the fullers' earth and a new, similar one was dug between it and the south-west wall of the room. It did not quite reach the walls at either end. A much broader, but shallower trench ran along most of the length of the north-east side. Flecks of iron rust suggested that it had been lined with wooden planks nailed together and possibly used for felting cloth. A drain from it discharged into the recut Ditch 4 outside the wall. Near the north-west end of the room a hearth had been constructed of sandstone tiles. Vertical tiles formed a kerb outlining an octagonal hearth lined with horizontal ones. Unburnt material below the tiles suggested that here a brazier had been used. A quantity of ash below the unburnt material showed that an earlier hearth had occupied the site. There were at least three other hearths in this room, one of which is shown in Section C-D.

At a later stage a heavy floor of pitched stones 9 inches deep had been laid over at least the south-eastern half of this room. On the north-eastern side it ended in a kerb 1 foot short of the broad trench: the plough had destroyed it on the other side. Beneath this floor a coin of Valens (No. 72) showed that it had not been laid down till near the end of the 3rd quarter of the 4th century or, from the state of wear of the coin, perhaps rather later. At the north-western end also the floor was raised, but it had a concrete surface on a mass of rubble including a quantity of painted wall plaster (see p. 77). The octagonal hearth was part of this reconstruction. Subsequently the trenches on both sides of the room had been filled in with large stones and occupation debris to bring the whole floor to a level. The occupation layer above this contained a coin of Arcadius (No. 71) and a penannular brooch (FIG. 13, 39). Outside this room 20 feet to the north-east, a rubbish heap yielded many potsherds, 4 coins (1 Maximinus II and 3 Constans) and some fullers' earth. It would appear to be occupation debris removed from the shed floor.

The most southerly pillar foundation remained in position with its concrete bed for the plinth level with the pitched stone floor. The uppermost course of the next had been removed by robbers or ploughmen. These two may have been retained as additional support for the ceiling or roof. The third was incorporated in the wall, whose foundation bulged out round it. The fourth may also have been retained and incorporated in the corner between four rooms.

Rooms 13-18 formed the bath suite and were added at the same time as Room 12.

*Room 18* (12 ft. 9 ins. x 11 ft. 6 ins.). The praefurnium or boilerhouse.

The furnace here provided heat for Rooms 16, 15, and 13 as well as hot water for the caldarium. The foundations were shallow suggesting that its walls rose to no great height. All fittings had been robbed but the north-western half of the floor was raised 12 inches above the remainder. A drain was provided to carry water away into Ditch 4.

The basement floor of the heated rooms was of concrete and sloped downwards towards the boiler-house with a 1:35 gradient. A few clay tiles 8 inches square showed that the floors of Rooms 15 and 16 had been supported on brick *pilae*. Under these rooms the basement had been excavated to a depth of 1 ft. 10 ins. below the original topsoil. The underlying gravel had been honeycombed with holes drilled to a further depth of 4 ft. 1 in. (FIG.4 and PLATE 1d). The holes were 5 inches in diameter and the last 15 inches tapered to a point. They were as close together as possible, often less than 1 inch apart. When found they were covered with 5 inches of concrete and empty except for a silting of loose gravel and sand in the lower part. It is not possible to drive wooden piles into this hard, compact gravel, so the holes must have been drilled. Their purpose is not obvious. Professor Frere drew attention to a similar arrangement at Farnham<sup>1</sup> where piles had been driven in, but this was thought to have been to strengthen the soft ground below the hypocaust basement. At Frocester, however, wooden stakes let into the holes are unlikely to have increased the load-bearing capacity of the gravel.<sup>2</sup>

*Room 16* (6 ft. 9 ins. x 11 ft. 6 ins.), the caldarium.

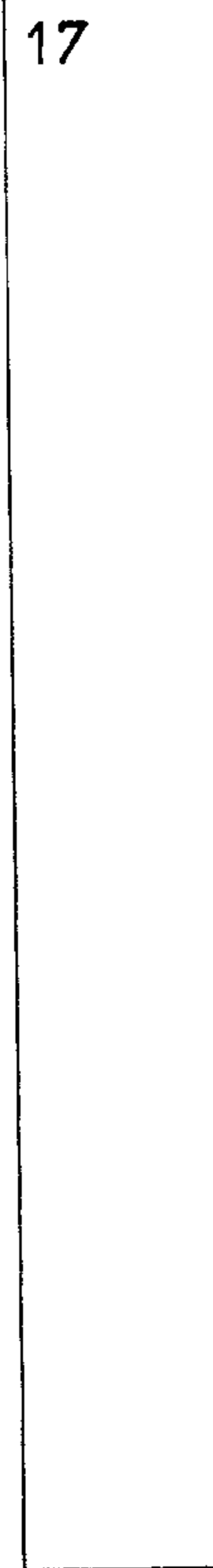
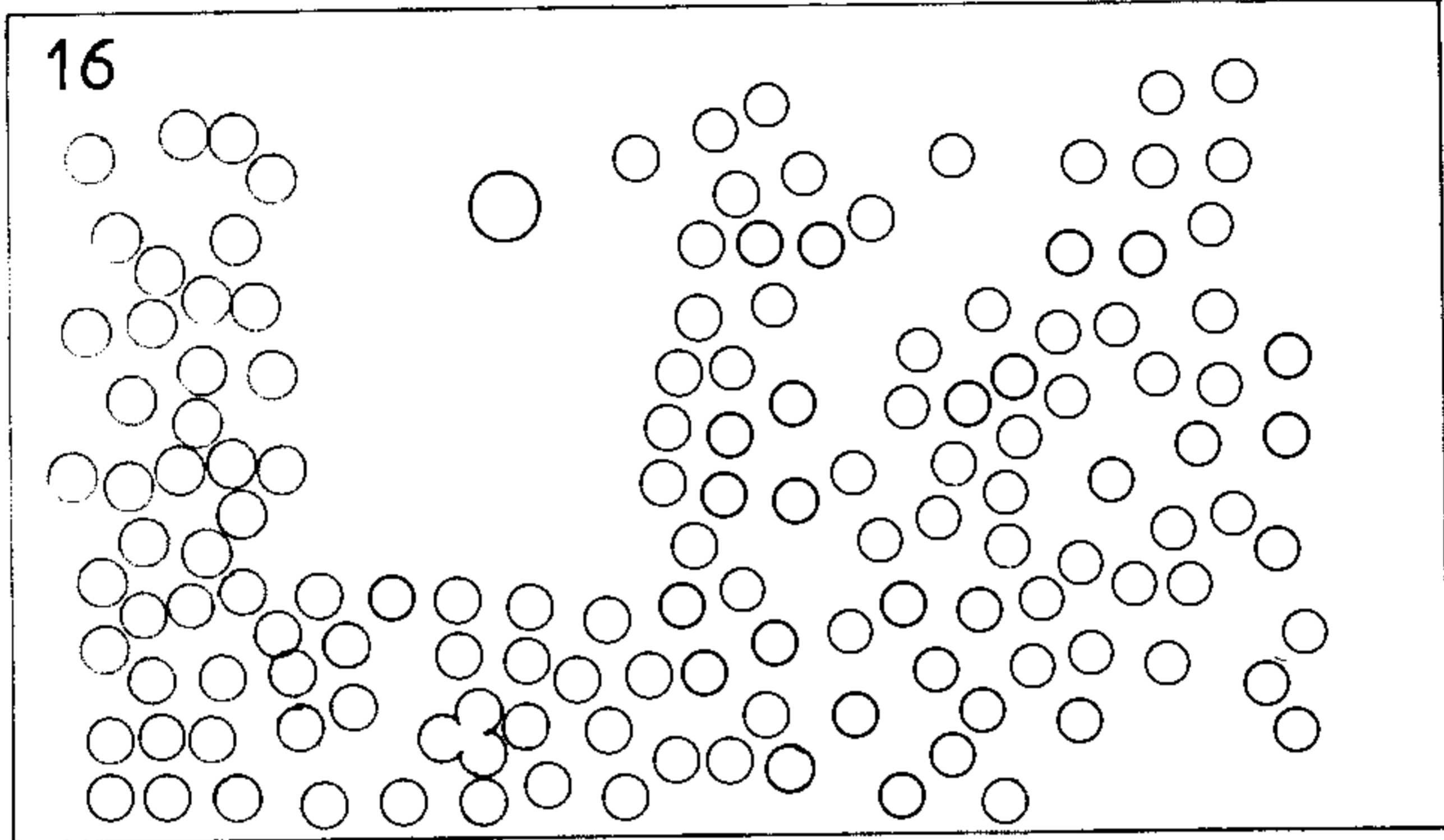
A rectangular area adjoining the boiler-house wall was not undermined by holes and may indicate the mouth of the flue from the furnace.

*Room 15* (8? ft. x 11 ft. 6 ins.), a second tepidarium?

This room was probably a second tepidarium, though it could have been the caldarium, in which case Room 16 might have held a hot plunge. The holes under the basement covered the whole area except under the remains of the pillar base. Both this and Room 16 had been robbed of nearly all their *pilae* and most of the concrete basement floor had been broken up. Lumps of *opus signinum* showed that the upper floors had been made of this material. It contained unusually large brick fragments ground down to a polished surface.

<sup>1</sup> A. W. G. Lowther, 'Report on the Excavation of a Roman Site at Farnham, Surrey' *Surrey Arch. Coll.*, 54 (1955) pp. 50-54.

<sup>2</sup> Sir Ian Richmond, who studied the problem on the site, concluded that the holes were probably for insulation.



SECTION

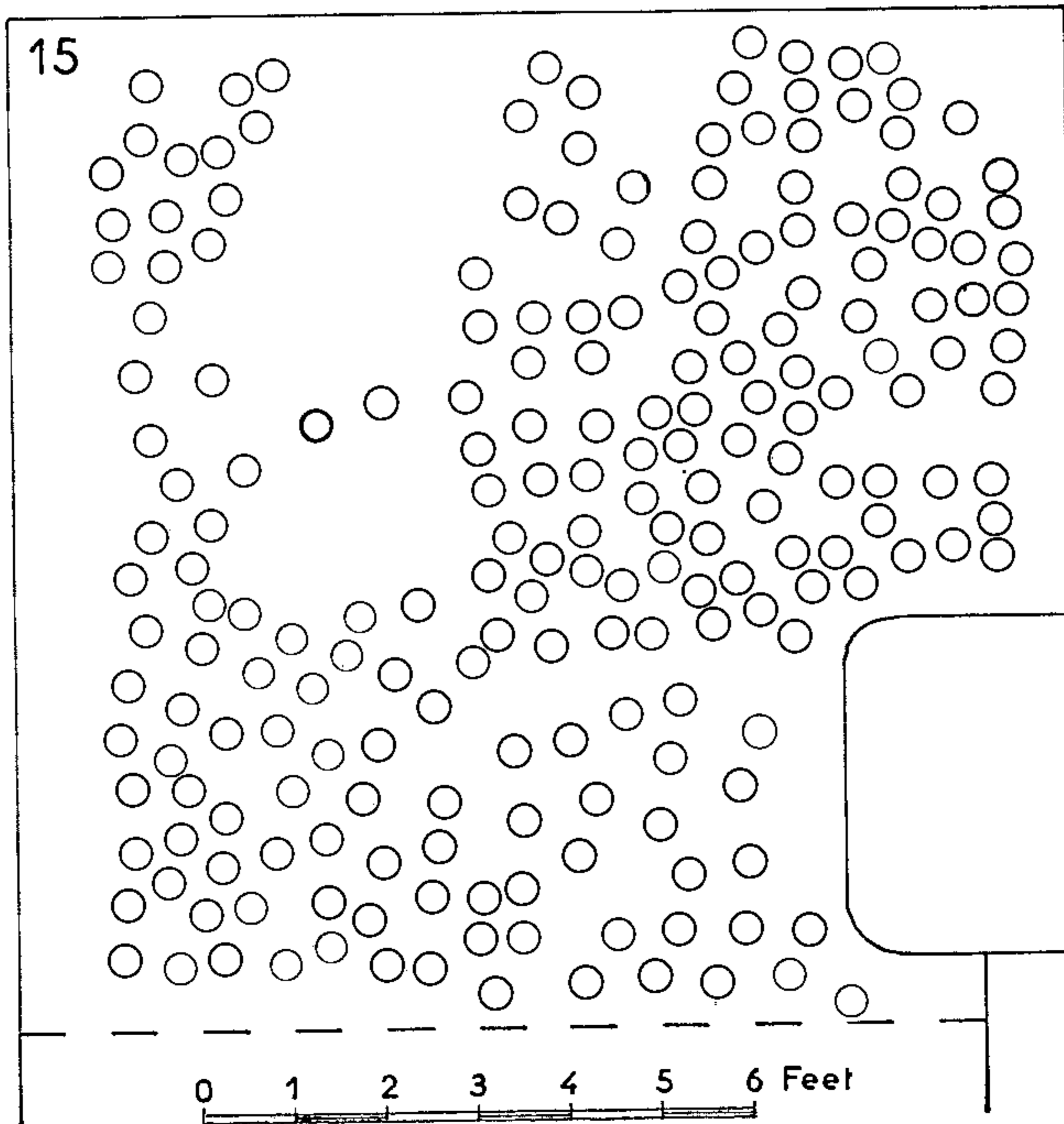
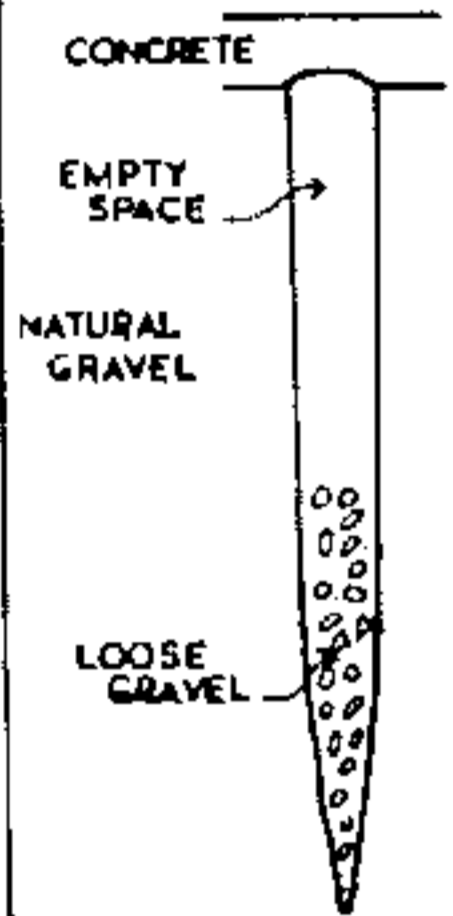


Fig. 4. Bath block; holes under basement floor.

*Room 13* (9ft. 8 ins. x 10 ft. 6 ins.), the tepidarium.

The floor had originally been supported on *pilae* but at some time it had been extended at the expense of Room 15 and a channelled hypocaust substituted, with triangular stone piers. One of the original through-flues, indicated by a slight depression in the concrete filled with soot, passed under a surviving pier. At this distance from the furnace stone would be acceptable since damage by fire would be unlikely. A similar arrangement was found at Whittington Court<sup>1</sup>. The partition between the two rooms had entirely disappeared. Its south-eastern side was indicated by the channel between it and the stone pier, but its thickness could not be determined. A very large number of tesserae showed that there had been a mosaic pavement, at least after the reconstruction.

*Room 14* (9 ft. 7 ins. x 11 ft. 3 ins.), the apodyterium or disrobing room.

The floor had entirely disappeared above a layer of large masons' chippings on which it had lain.

*Room 17* (15 ft. 4 ins. x 11 ft. 6 ins.), the frigidarium.

The cold plunge measured 5 ft. 8 ins x 6 ft. and at least 2 ft. deep. The north-east side was against the wall and the other sides were made of stones bound together in a matrix of pink cement. The bottom rested on 20 inches of the same material. The sides were lined with smooth pink plaster and the bottom was paved with flags of sandstone. A quarter-round plaster moulding was in the angle between floor and sides. A 2-inch diameter lead waste-pipe led to a drain outside the wall, falling 9 inches in its length through the wall. Another drain outside the north-west wall took splashed water from the floor of the room as at Kingsweston.<sup>2</sup> An interior drain along the south-east wall served a small latrine in the south corner of the room. No trace of the partition screening it remained, but it was probably as shown on the plan, in order to leave room for a door to Room 15.

The footings of the north-east wall by the bath remained *in situ* nearly up to floor level. They had been cut back 6 inches to accommodate the bath, which suggests there was a 6-inch off-set here as elsewhere.

When the bath suite was erected Room 11 was required to give access to it. Access should have been direct to the apodyterium, but

<sup>1</sup> H. E. O'Neil, 'Whittington Court Roman Villa', *Trans. BGAS*, Vol. 71 (1952).

<sup>2</sup> G. C. Boon, 'The Roman Villa in Kingsweston Park', *Trans. BGAS*, Vol. 69 (1950), p. 36 and plan.

## FROCESTER COURT ROMAN VILLA, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

the arrangements in Room 12 make this a doubtful proposition. A new floor of sandstone tiles was laid down and carried over the closed lid of the sunk chest. Inevitably, the lid collapsed and the floor above it was repaired. This new use for Room 11 involved the ejection of the dispensator and it seems probable that Room 9 was created at this time to form the new office. Room 9 was 10 ft. 2 ins. x 14 ft. 6 ins., 4 feet shorter than Room 11, but it contained no sunk chest. The length of Room 8 was now reduced to 34 ft. 8 ins.

### PERIOD IV

No additions were made in this period, but there is evidence of a gradual decline in the status of the occupants from that of gentlemen farmers to that of peasants. The deposits in Room 12 (p. 27) show that this room at least was in use till the very end of the 4th century or later. There is, however, no evidence of any degenerate occupation of the bath suite, which must have been the first part to be abandoned.

At the south-west end there is more evidence of decay. In the corridor Period IV was heralded by do-it-yourself mends in the pavement where good quality cement was used but left proud of the surface between tesserae—the work of an unskilled hand. Later, damaged areas were repaired with a crazy paving of old roofing tiles. These repairs were all at the western end where there was some sign of the last 30 feet having been partitioned off and a fire made on the pavement. Towards the end of the occupation Room 1 was given a new floor of rammed stone and converted into a stable. Some roofing tiles fell in and lay over part of the forge area, thus protecting some well-trodden dung from a subsequent fire. A stone kerb in the south corner could have delineated a manger at ground level. Repairs of some sort were carried out in wattle and daub.

The appearance in the top levels of crude, hand-made, grass-tempered pottery also points to a decline in the standard of living. This pottery has been found on Roman sites in North Wiltshire and has now been recognised at Congresbury Camp, Somerset, in association with imported ware of the late 5th Century.<sup>1</sup>

Over the whole centre block and the corridor there lay a quantity of ash, burnt logs, fire-damaged roofing tiles and discoloured wall plaster. Many more fire-damaged tiles and fragments of plaster were in the surrounding robber trenches. All this and the heap of charred barley (p. 25) clearly show that the centre block was burnt down, but there was no sign of such destruction in the north-east wing.

<sup>1</sup> See Mr Fowler's report, p. 50.

## DITCHES AND DRAINS

As mentioned in the introduction, the dwelling house described was built outside the perimeter of an earlier farmstead. The early boundary ditches were rearranged at least twice, leaving an extremely complex system. The ditches were double in the first two phases but the last phase left a single ditch—Ditch 7—passing across the south-east front of the house and parallel to its main walls. This last ditch was filled in with a sterile deposit of gravel and blue clay. The natural blue clay was usually encountered at a depth of 7 feet and it is, therefore, almost certain that the filling was derived from the foundation trenches of Period I, the only ones to reach this depth. A short stretch, just east of the approach road, was left open during building operations and a trench 4 feet deep and 10 feet long was dug alongside it (FIG. 1). These were filled in in Period II, the filling incorporating a number of 'pot-boilers' (see p. 19). As the filling sagged a succession of layers accumulated, with coins ranging from Gallienus to Theodosius I. Below the gravel and clay filling the silt is 3 feet deep and sterile except for a few sherds of 1st and 2nd century pottery. Thus, it is suspected that the site, or at least the ditch system, was abandoned for a time before Building A was erected.

*Ditches 5 and 6* (FIG. 1).

The new boundary was marked by two more parallel ditches with centres 8–9 feet apart. The north-western section is again parallel to the main walls of the house and is 20 yards from the back wall of Room 18. It is more than 130 yards long. At the eastern end it crosses a canalised stream which is still in use. The field beyond the stream is not available for excavation but probing shows both ditches to continue for at least another 20 yards. The south-western section is not precisely at right angles, but this appears to be an error. After 45 yards it turns to join one of the earlier ditch systems. At this point Ditch 6 is brought in to join Ditch 5. The primary silt yielded a radiate coin.

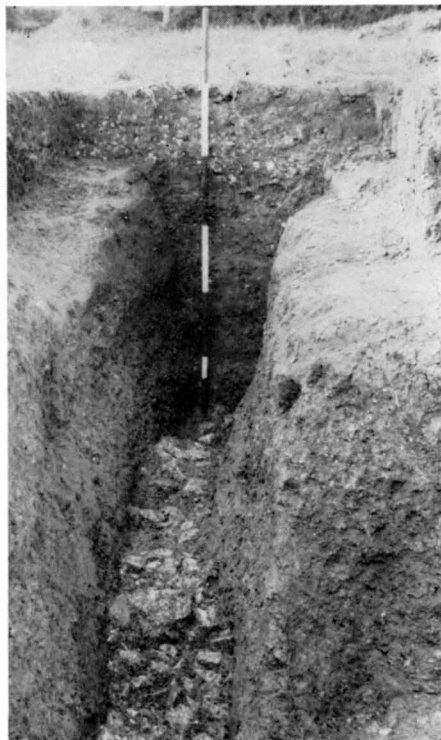
Along the north-west section Ditch 5, the inner one, is 5 feet 10 inches wide and the depth varies from 4 feet to 4 feet 7 inches. Ditch 6 is 9 feet wide and 5 feet 6 inches deep. The general gradient is 1:250 downwards towards the north-east. All drains from the house discharge into this section. Ditch 5 was allowed to silt up before the middle of the 4th century.

*Ditch 1* (FIG. 1).

This seems to have been another boundary ditch marking off a small paddock in the west corner of the compound. It was V-shaped



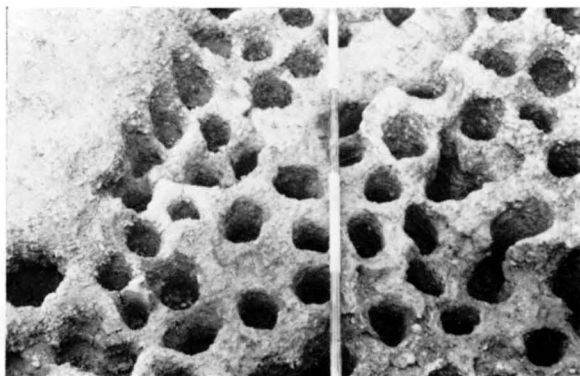
a.



b.



c.

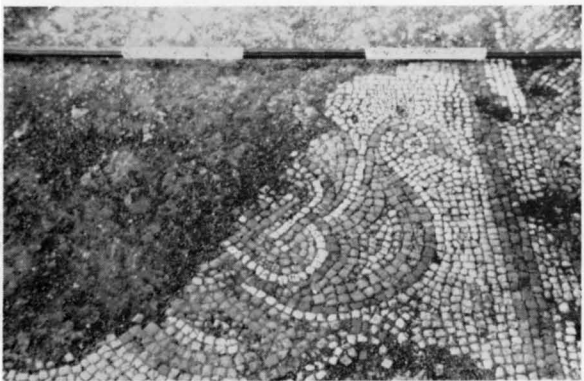


d.

PLATE I. a. Period I wall footings with robber deposit above  
b. Ditch 2  
c. Sunk Chest in Room 11  
d. Basement of Room 16



a.



c.

PLATE II. a. Panels 1 (right) and 2  
b. Panel 3  
c. Panel 4



b.

*facing p. 33*

## FROCESTER COURT ROMAN VILLA, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

with flared sides, 6 feet wide at the top and 13 inches at the bottom, which was 4 ft. 6 ins. deep. The silt in the bottom (layers IX, VIII and VII) was 21 inches deep in the middle and was formed of alternating ravel and clay in a manner that suggests that the ditch had been leaned out many times, but not completely, so that it gradually filled up. These layers contained few finds apart from large animal bones in VIII and unburnt stones in VII, whence also came the largest portion of an engraved glass beaker. Layer VI, 8 inches thick in the middle, was black soil with much pottery, charred wood and burnt stone, also scattered fragments of the beaker; all consistent with the abandonment of the ditch. Layer V was a dark soil with much pottery, fragments of box tiles, building debris and animal bones; consistent with a deliberate filling of the ditch from a rubbish dump. The coins in VI are mainly 4th century terminating with a "Falling horseman" minted between 353 and 360. Layer V, however, yielded 6 radiates but only one of the 4th century (335-41). One may reasonably deduce that the ditch went out of use and, after a short time, was filled in soon after the middle of the 4th century. Nevertheless, it passed through Ditch 5 after the latter had silted up and was connected to Ditch 6 by a shallow overflow.

### *Ditch 2* (FIG. 1 and PLATE 1b).

This drain started from the outside of the west corner of Room 1. It was 5 ft. 2 ins. deep with nearly vertical sides, 2 ft. wide at the top and 10 ins. at the bottom. It had not been left open to suffer even one winter's frosts. In the bottom was a layer of loose stones nearly a foot deep. Above this was a filling of gravel and clay—the spoil from the ditch itself returned as soon as the stones had been thrown in. Such a 'soakaway' type drain would not retain its efficiency for long and its purpose was to clear the foundation trenches of flood water. Nowadays, short spells of heavy rain bring the water table up into these trenches even in summer. No doubt the same thing happened while the first building was under construction. The drain starts off at an angle and, when nearly opposite the outer wall of Room 8, turns parallel to the other ditches. This was evidently to take it away from the projected foundations of Period II and suggests that Room 19 was a deviation from the original plan. The drain was dug before Ditches 5 and 6 because it is interrupted by both and ends 6 inches beyond the latter.

### *Ditch 3* (FIG. 1).

This drain starts just outside the north corner of Room 19. A bank of natural gravel, 6 inches thick at the top, separates it from

the foundation trench. It was U-shaped and clay lined, 3 ft. 6 ins. wide and 3 ft. deep. Its purpose could have been to clear storm water from the gutters, if such existed, but it is more probable that it took waste water from inside Room 19. Indeed, the clay lining suggests complete removal of dirty water rather than clean rain water that could have been allowed to soak away into the gravel.

*Ditch 4* (FIGS. 1 and 2 and Section C-D, FIG. 3).

There were two branches to this drain, which started life in Period II. The western one served Shed 12a and the eastern one came from the yard outside Room 7. They were brought together before running off to discharge into the outer boundary ditch. Both branches were U-shaped and the eastern, but not the western, was lined with sandstone roofing tiles. The area enclosed north-west of the shed had been excavated when the north-east wing was built in Period III so no evidence survived to show whether this had been an open yard or another building. When the north-east wing was built the drain was filled in and at the north angle of the building the wall impinged upon it, which necessitated some revetment outside the wall. A deeper and narrower drain was then dug, close to the wall but following the line of the old one after it had left the building. The new drain started at the outlet from the broad trench in Room 12 and took the effluent from the latrine and the cold plunge in Room 17. A tributary brought in water from the boiler house while another coped with the splashes from the floor of Room 17. This second drain was deep and narrow and is thought to have been piped. It is much too close to the wall to have been left open, an arrangement that would have made nonsense of the revetment. There is a nearly vertical line between the light coloured filling of the drain and the dark robber deposit in the foundation trench (Section C-D).

#### THE SURROUNDINGS

South-east of the house a large courtyard 180 feet wide was enclosed by stone walls. At the time of writing the whole courtyard has not yet been completely excavated so discussion of the later stages, which include a formal garden, is deferred for inclusion in a second report. The builders' working areas have already been described (p. 19).

The whole building was surrounded by a platform of clay and gravel derived from the foundation trenches, usually accompanied by layers of masons' chippings above and below. The platform sloped away to nothing at varying distances from the walls.

*The approach road and turning area.*

Road 1—the builders' road—was an irregular scatter of rammed masons' chippings bounded on the south-west side by the cemetery of the earlier establishment, upon which it did not encroach, and on the north-east by the plasterers' working area. Under it lay a regular radiate coin minted 250–270 but otherwise illegible. A layer of grey, sandy silt,<sup>1</sup> up to 2 inches thick, between two layers of plaster dust lay to the east of the road. It appeared again inside the corridor under the first floor, showing that the lower layer of plaster and the connected road belonged to Period I.

Road 2 was a heavy construction of cobbles added after the outer wall of the corridor had been erected in Period II. Against the house this was expanded into a turning area *c.* 30 feet by 22 feet. The road itself was cambered on both sides, the overall width, including the cambers, being 17 feet. A coin of Victorinus in its construction showed that it had been laid down after 270.

Road 3 had a further 6-inch thickness of heavy metalling and a gravel surface. Kerb stones, many of which had been displaced by the plough, defined the width, which was now 13½ feet. 50 feet from the house the metalling changed from local stone to fragments of sandstone tile and the kerb stones ceased. A slightly worn coin of Constantine I as Caesar (No. 257, A.D. 307) lay in the mud on Road 2 suggesting that Road 3 may belong to Period IIa. It is on a level with the mosaic floor in the corridor.

Both the last two roads were patched from time to time, especially over the line of the early ditch where sagging had required frequent building up. The final surface, being only 7 inches below the turf, had been heavily scored by the plough. Any later road would have been entirely destroyed by the same agency. However, the state of Road 2, after 50 years of use, suggests that Road 3, with patching, could have served for twice that time.

*North of the House.*

The area north-east of the house beyond the drains has not yet been closely examined, the only feature observed being the heap of rubbish described on p. 27.

North-west of the house, beyond the usual spread of rammed stone and overlapping the sloping platform of gravel, a layer of very dark soil, almost free of stones, suggests that this was not a yard but a vegetable garden. A grave in this garden contained the skeleton of a

<sup>1</sup> Perhaps the result of the heavy rainstorm that flooded the foundation trenches, (p. 33).

man aged 50–55.<sup>1</sup> There were no grave goods or coffin nails but he was wearing sandals with exceptionally coarse hobnails. The corpse could not have been more than 9 inches below the surface when buried. It might have become a nuisance if the whole house had still been fully occupied. All this suggests that the burial belonged to a late stage of Period IV.

### *The Paddock.*

The area between Ditches 1 and 5 forms a paddock some 22 yards by 60 yards. It would be useful for accommodating animals awaiting shoeing at the smithy or milking. A single section through the early boundary ditch (Ditch 7) yielded 4th century pottery and may indicate that it had been left open to form the fourth boundary of the paddock. A deposit, accumulated after the building of the new house, raised the level of the paddock by several inches. The area, however, had again been cultivated after the deliberate filling of Ditch 1 in Period III.

### DATING

The local coarse pottery has not been studied sufficiently for any close dating to be deduced from it. The material from distant potteries, apart from a few survivals, is all thought to be of the late 3rd or 4th centuries. The bronzes, too, tie in with 4th century material from Lydney. The grass-tempered ware (p. 50) belongs to the late 5th century. Occupation lasted from the late 3rd century till near the end of the 5th.

A coin of Commodus was found in the buried topsoil under the building. Two earlier coins, of Claudius I and Antoninus Pius found in robber trenches, must, therefore, be survivals. The other 340 legible coins range from Gallienus to Arcadius and show that occupation began in the late 3rd century and continued till at least the end of the 4th. Four other coins antedated Period I—a regular radiate (A.D. 250–70) under Road 1, a radiate minim under spoil from a foundation trench, one of Tetricus II under a damaged part of the first floor of Room 2 and a barbarous radiate in the primary silt of the boundary ditch. Any of these could be intrusive but it is improbable that they all were. It is reasonable to give A.D. 275 as the earliest possible date for the erection of the Period I building.

Period II followed close upon Period I, perhaps even the following year. Signs of occupation between the layers of builders' debris of

<sup>1</sup> For medical evidence see Appendix IV, p. 83.

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the two periods are negligible while the earliest deposit on the latter contains coins of Postumus and Tetricus I and a large number of barbarous radiate minims, but none of later date. The rough surface of Road 1 would have made a poor approach to a dwelling house and could not have been accepted for long. The coins of Victorinus in the construction of Road 2 do not point to any length of time between the two periods. The rearrangements of Period IIa are clearly dated by the *Urbs Roma* coins (A.D. 330–5) in and under the new floor in Room 2.

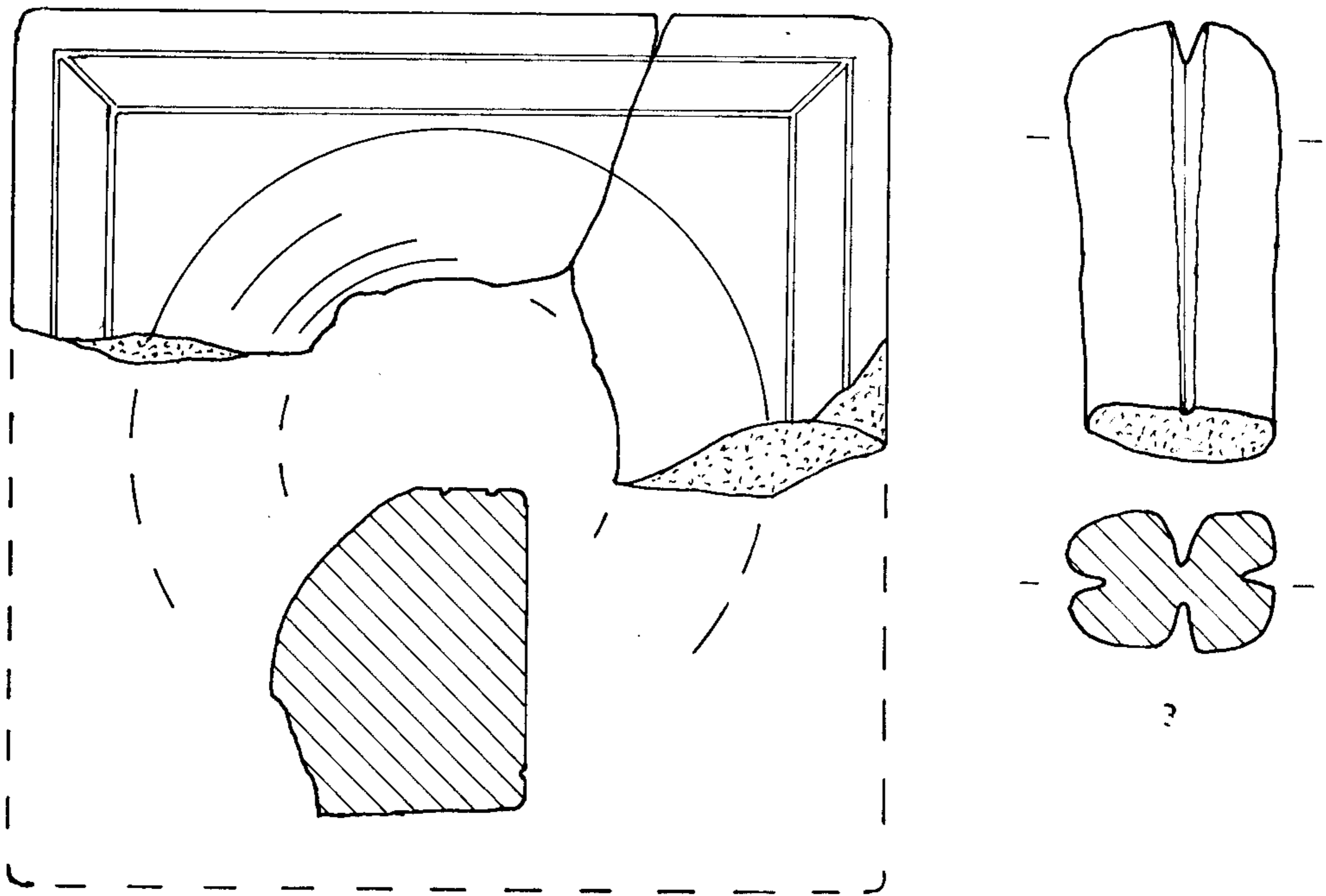
The building of the north-east wing, Period III, must have occurred c. A.D. 360. A coin (A.D. 346–50) under the wall foundations and another (A.D. 355–60) under the floor confirm this date. A minor alteration in Room 12 occurred in or after the time of Valens, whose coin (A.D. 367–75) was found firmly sealed under the pitched stone floor.

How long Period IV lasted is impossible to estimate. Coins of Theodosius I and Arcadius in the occupation deposits take it to the end of the 4th century. The grass-tempered pottery in the upper layers suggests a continuing, though less sophisticated, occupation for another century. The skeleton has the slender bones of a family accustomed to a life of ease. Yet this slight framework had been adapted to heavy manual labour. Perhaps here, at Frocester, the family lived on in part of the ancestral home for three or four generations, though in much reduced circumstances.

### THE SMALL FINDS

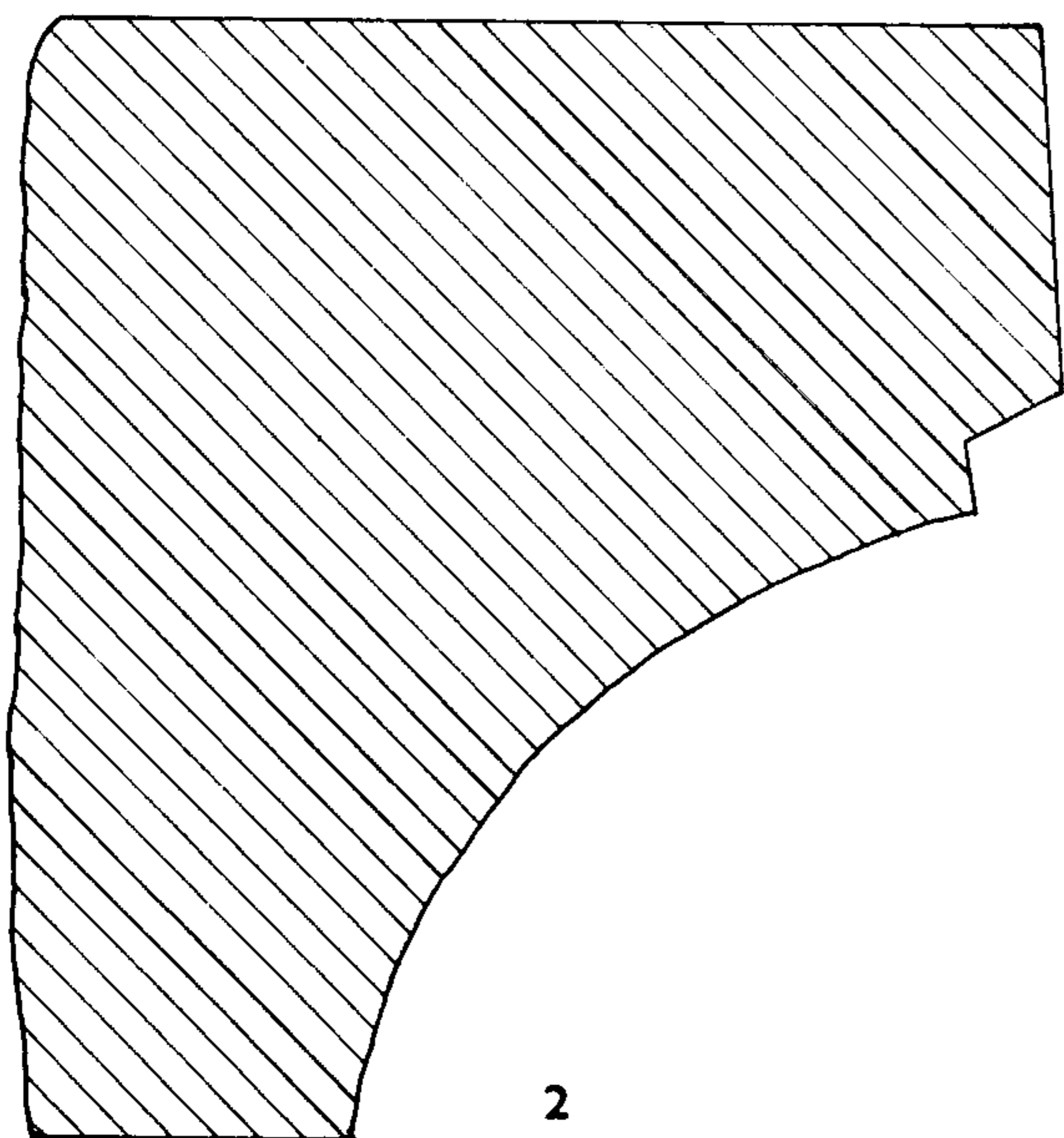
It is unfortunate that so many of the small finds found their way into the foundation trenches after the building stone had been removed by robbers. However, the undoubted Roman material, especially the imported glass and numerous coins, points to a fairly high level of sophistication. Possible contamination by medieval material is most likely to affect the iron objects and animal bones. For this reason the bones from the robber trenches were discarded on the site.

Descriptions of objects of iron, glass and bone and stratified animal bones are deferred for inclusion in a later report. The animal bones included ox, sheep, goat, pig, horse, dog, cat and domestic fowl, duck and goose. Shells of oyster, mussel and whelk were common. Coal, in small nubs, was found on most parts of the site.

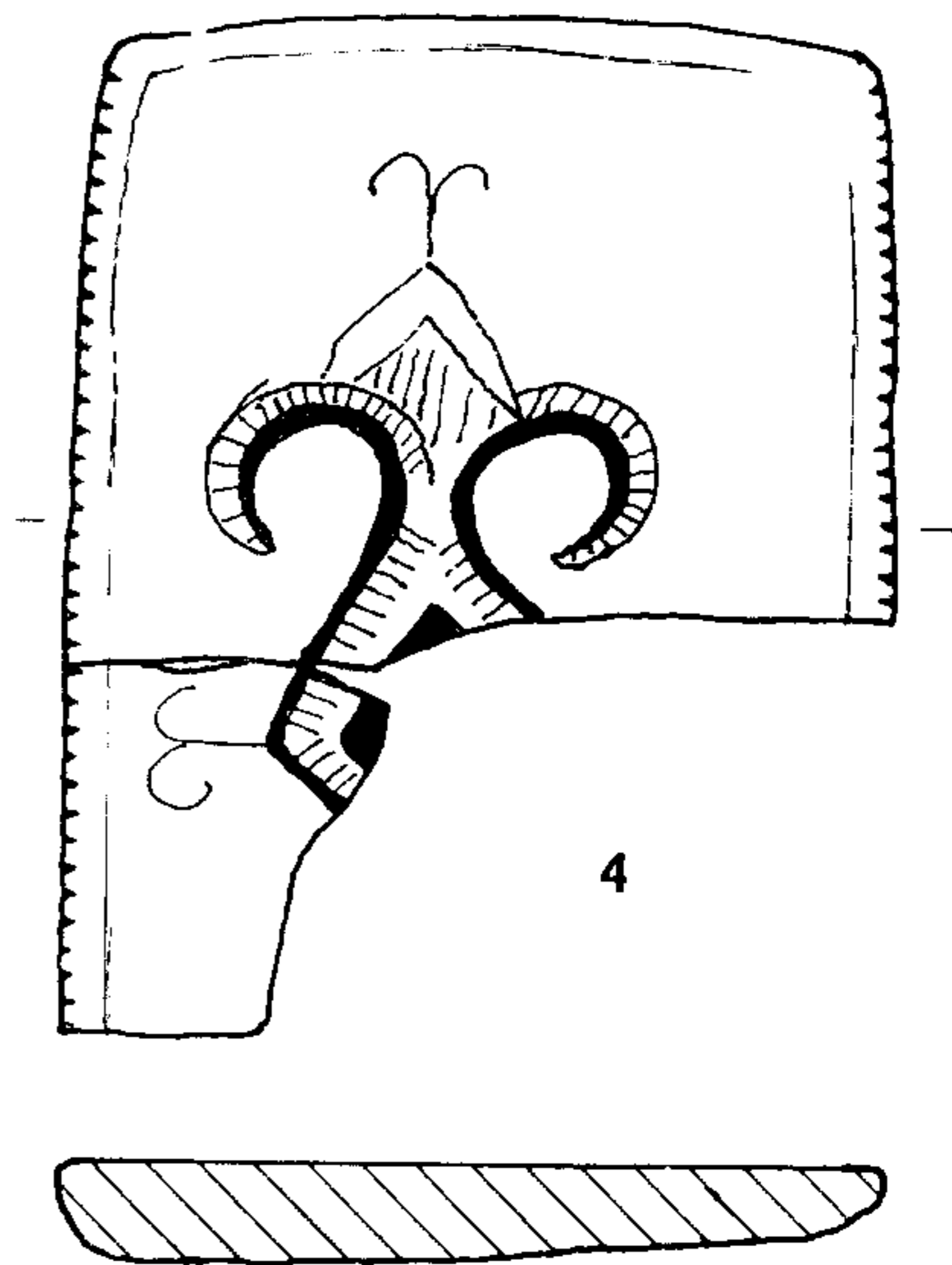


1

3



2



4

Fig. 5. Objects of stone and jet. Scales, 1 and 2 ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ), 3 and 4 ( $\frac{1}{1}$ ).

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## STONE

*Illustrated, FIG. 5.*

1. Square stand with flared, circular hole in the middle; base rough but flat; remainder smoothed; incised straight lines decorating top and sides; oolite. Unstable vases, FIG. 7, 9 and others, fit into the hole.

2. Fragment of moulding; top (as drawn) dressed; back, rough but with mortar adhering; oolite.

3. Needle sharpener, broken; tapering grooves along all four sides (only one reaching the break); Old Red Sandstone.

4. Jet plaque; engraved, polished on the upper face and on the bevelled edges below, under side scored as though for glueing to the lid of a wooden box. The engraving was done rather carelessly, the tool having slipped in several places.

*Not illustrated*

5. Lower quern stone, 15 inches diameter, complete and *in situ* in Room 5 (FIG. 2).

6. Upper quern stone: fragment with slot for handle. 7. Two counters or jettons; the larger, 17 mm diameter, local marble; the smaller, 14 mm diameter, a greenish stone, not local. 8. Fragments of 11 shale bangles; 3 decorated. 9. Four shale spindle whorls. 10. Flint; many chips and flakes, 1 microlith, 10 scrapers, 1 barbed and tanged arrowhead and a core with battered arrises that suggest use as a strike-a-light.

## CLAY

1. Tile stamped ARVERI, as Clifford, *JRS*, XLVI, Pl. xv, 15; re-used as floor of flue in Room 7 so made and used before A.D. 340. Further examples have been found at St. Peter's, Frocester, and in King's Stanley church.

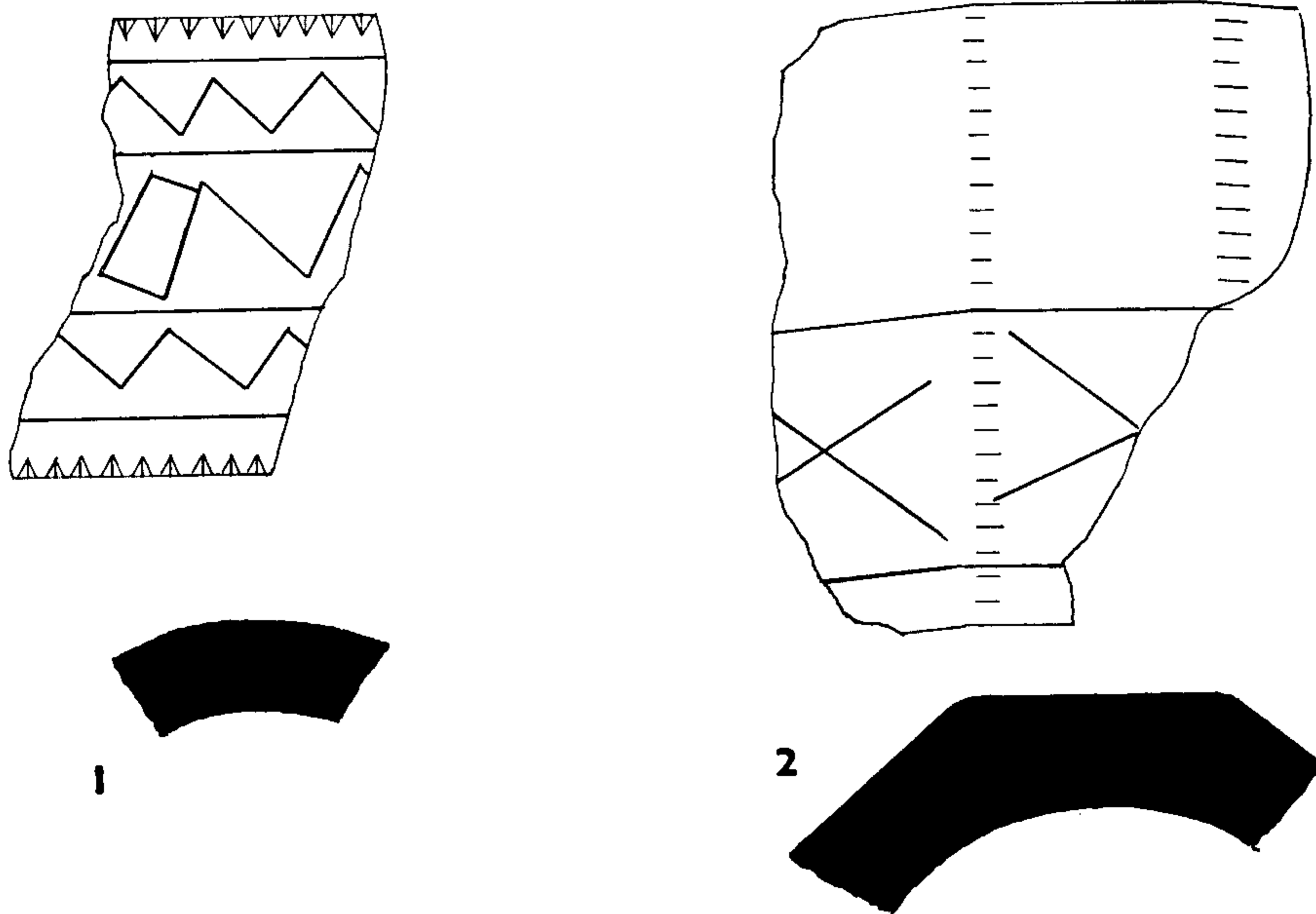


Fig. 6. Objects of clay, ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ).

## TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1970

2. Tile stamped (T)PLF, as Clifford, *op. cit.*, 13. Found in the courtyard and possibly from another building.
3. Tile stamped (R)PG; similar to Clifford, *op. cit.*, 1e.
4. Tile stamped RP(G), similar to Clifford, *op. cit.*, 1f.
5. (FIG. 6) Ten thick fragments of slightly burnt earthenware were found in the kitchen and on Roman rubbish dumps. They are from 3 to 4 inches long and the internal diameter varies from 3 to 3½ inches. Five are circular within and without (No. 1) and four of these are notched round the end. The other five are circular within but octagonal on the outside (No. 2). All are decorated with scratched straight lines. None survive sufficiently to show if they were complete circles or half rounds. The burning, always at one end, suggests that they were used as pot warmers or lamp guards, unless they were made for some industrial activity.

### CHARCOAL

Mr J. C. Maby has identified the following woods: oak, ash, poplar, hawthorn, box and hazel.

### POTTERY *By Mrs. Eve Harris*

The pottery shown in FIG. 7 was found incorporated in repairs to the latest kitchen floor (south-west end of Room 2) which was laid sometime after A.D. 340. It may therefore be considered to represent a selection of culinary ware typical of a reasonably prosperous farmstead in the fourth century A.D. There is no imported pottery but the wares (imitation samian) of the later Oxfordshire kilns are represented. The apparent lack of any small drinking vessel or plate form in the group may suggest that either wooden utensils served for this or that table wares were kept separately.

### DISHES

- 1 Buffish grey ware covered with a black slip and decorated by a few curved lines of burnishing.
- 2 Slightly sandy grey ware covered with a self slip. Rather roughly made. Nearly complete.
- 3 Oval dish of micaceous buff ware with a dark grey surface. Roughly trimmed and burnished all over. Two strap, lug-like handles.
- 4 Hard, very micaceous light grey ware covered with a thin self slip. Some burnished lines inside.

### MORTARIUM

- 5 Hard, reddish grey ware with traces of self slip over the rim and outside; well covered inside with flint grits. Base not turned.

### BOWLS

- 6 Hard, slightly sandy feeling; micaceous orange to buff ware; traces of dark samian-coloured slip; white painted decoration round the rim, rouletting on the

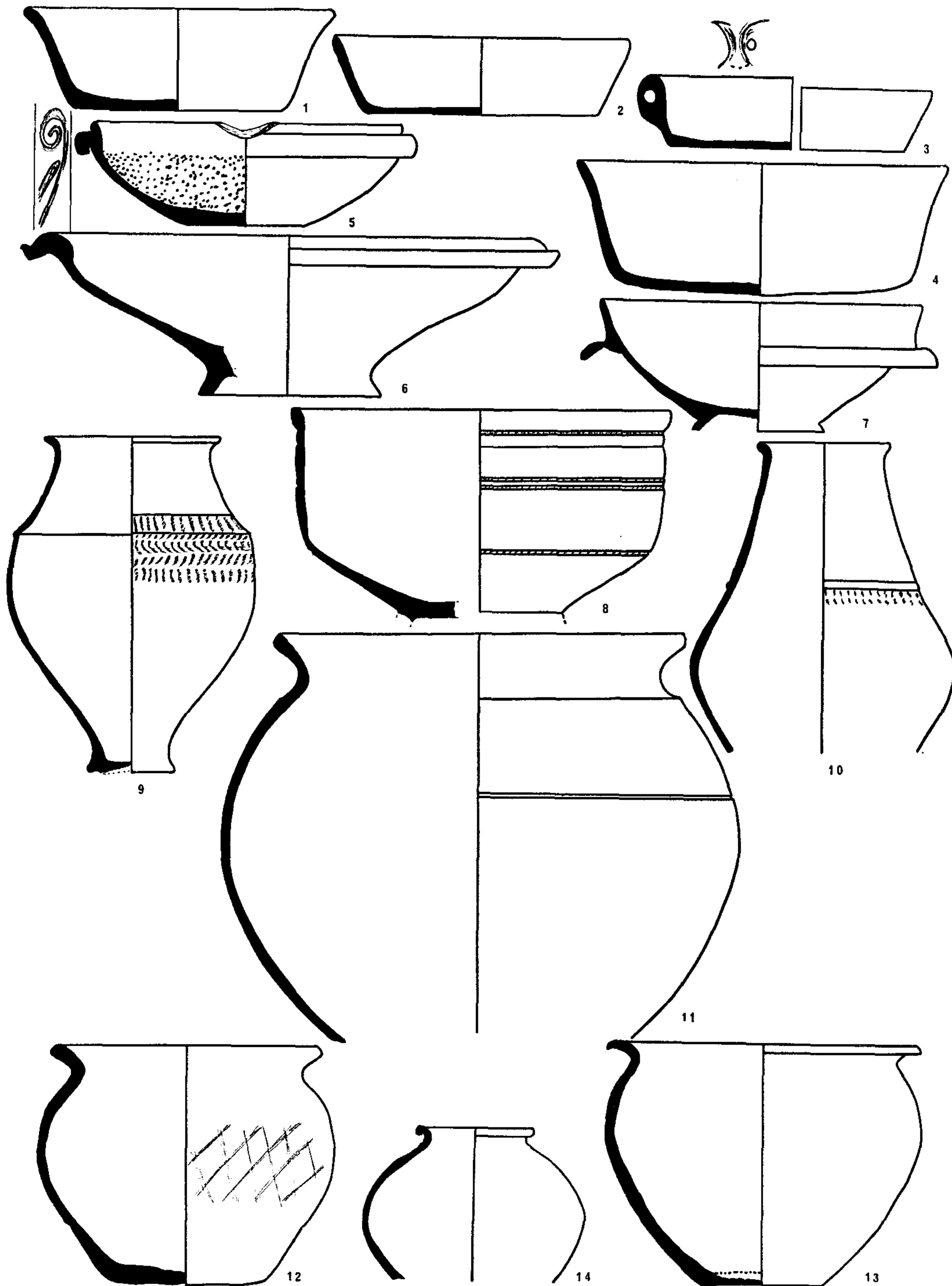


Fig. 7. Pottery from kitchen floor,  $\left(\frac{I}{4}\right)$ .

## TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1970

inside of the bowl. Form derived from Drag. 36. Fragmentary *Trans. B.G.A.S.* 82 (1963); p. 161, 45).

- 7 Hard, slightly sandy feeling micaceous orange ware covered with a shiny dark samian-coloured slip which has worn off on the interior base and along the flange edge and the outside of the rim. Form derived from Drag. 38. Virtually complete: part somewhat darkened by fire. (*Archaeologia* 72 (1921-22), p. 228, FIG. 1, No. 8, p. 229).
- 8 Hard, slightly sandy feeling micaceous orange/buff/orange ware with remains of a slightly shiny dark samian-coloured slip. Rouletted. Form derived from Drag. 29. (*Trans. B.G.A.S.* 82 (1963); p. 161, No. 44. *Archaeologia* 72 (1921-22); p. 229, FIG. 2, No. 15, pp. 231-2).

### JARS

- 9 Hard buff ware with a matt brown slip over the outside and on the inside of the rim. Rouletted. Turned base.
- 10 Hard micaceous grey ware. Rouletted. The jar is rather roughly made; the rim is uneven and the outer surface of the body is burnished so roughly that it would almost appear to have been turned. Base missing.
- 11 Hard micaceous sandy grey ware.
- 12 Gritty, dark grey/black ware with traces of slip over the rim and outside of the body. Acute angled lattice decoration over the body. Turned base. Rather coarsely made.
- 13 Hard, slightly sandy feeling micaceous grey ware. ? covered with slip. Base largely missing.
- 14 Hard, slightly sandy feeling micaceous buff ware; traces of a self slip over the outside and on the inside of the rim. Fragments from the upper part only survive.

Pots from other parts of the site are illustrated in Figs. 8-11.

### Fig. 8

- 1 Micaceous grey ware. MO III.
- 2 Light grey ware. Associated with no. 22 and colour-coated ware (imitation samian). Late 4th century. K4V, Room 7.
- 3 Hard, sandy feeling micaceous orange/buff ware with grey lines in the core. E2 v, Robber trench.
- 4 Fine hard buff ware. Covered with slip. EO III, E2 II.
- 5 Fine hard light grey micaceous ware. DI III.
- 6 Hard light grey ware. Slip over rim and on outside. D/EI III.
- 7 Micaceous grey ware covered with dark grey slip. EI pit.
- 8 Calcite gritted grey ware containing much shell. Base not turned. Fragmentary. Associated with nos. 9, 23. D2 II.
- 9 Soapy feeling, calcite gritted grey ware. Traces of buff slip over rim and shoulder. Turned base. Associated with nos. 8, 23. D2 II.
- 10 Sandy feeling grey ware. The traces of slip vary in colour from white to dark grey. Band of obtuse angled lattice over the body. D2 III.

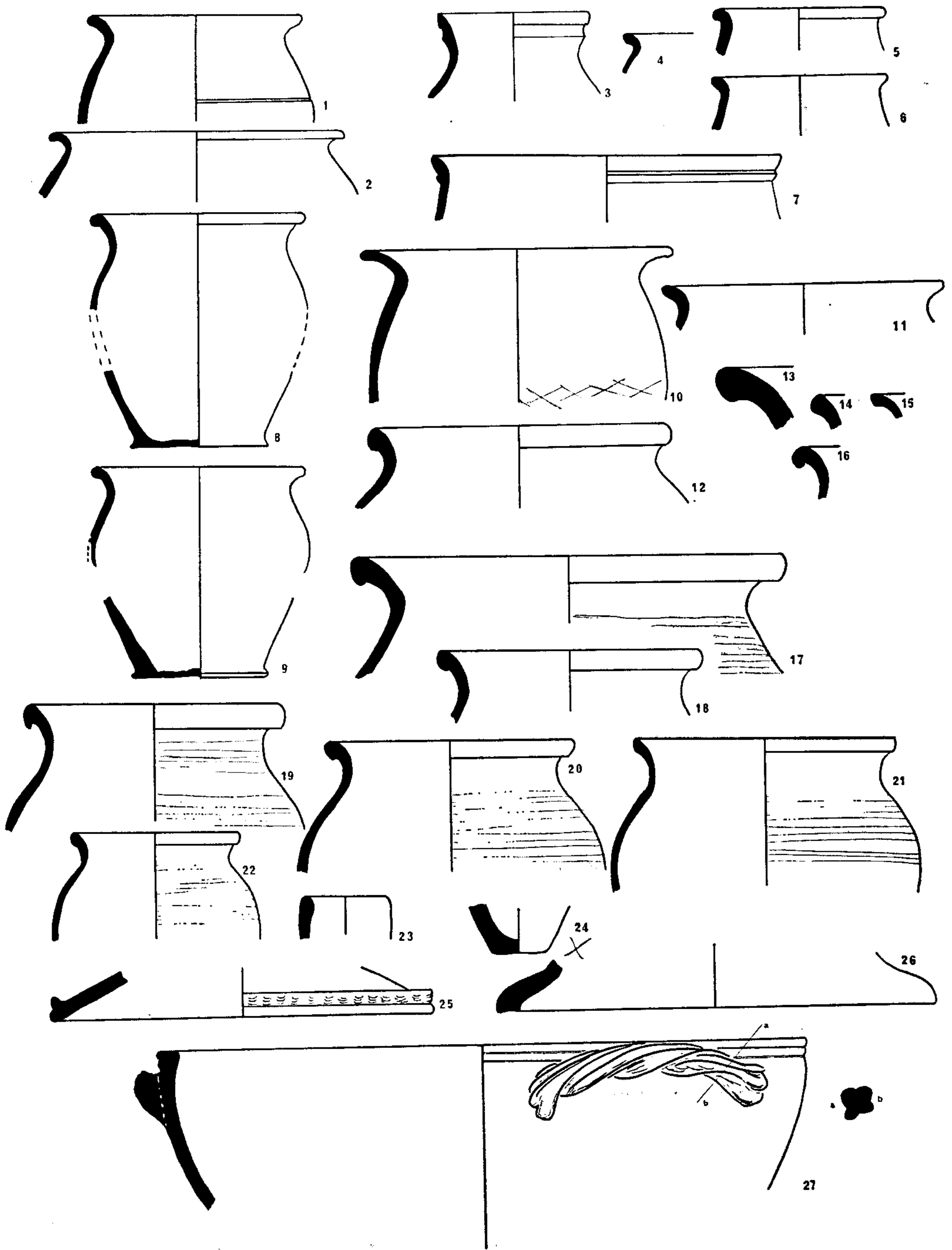


Fig. 8. Pottery, ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ).

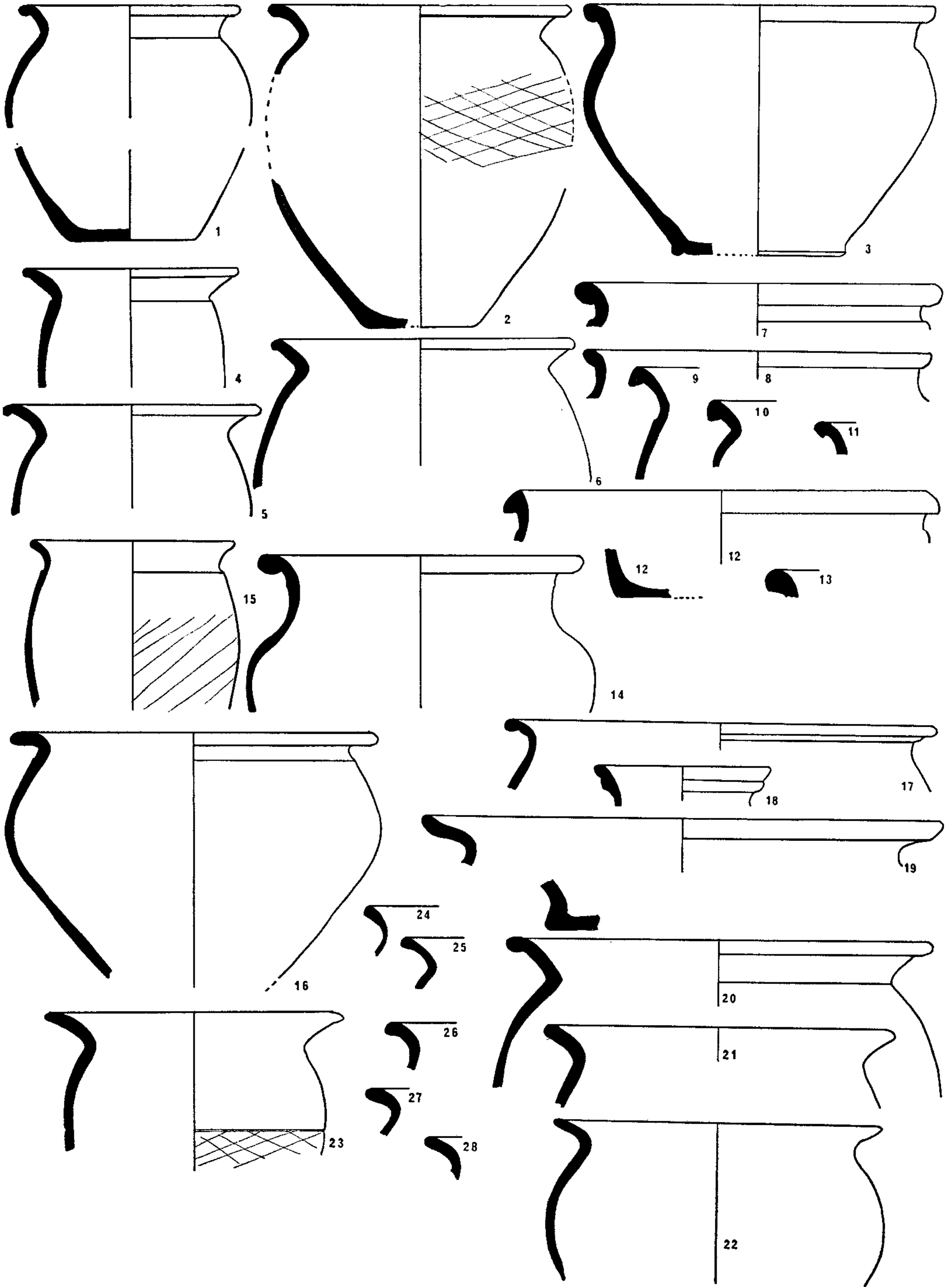


Fig. 9. Pottery,  $\left(\frac{1}{4}\right)$ .

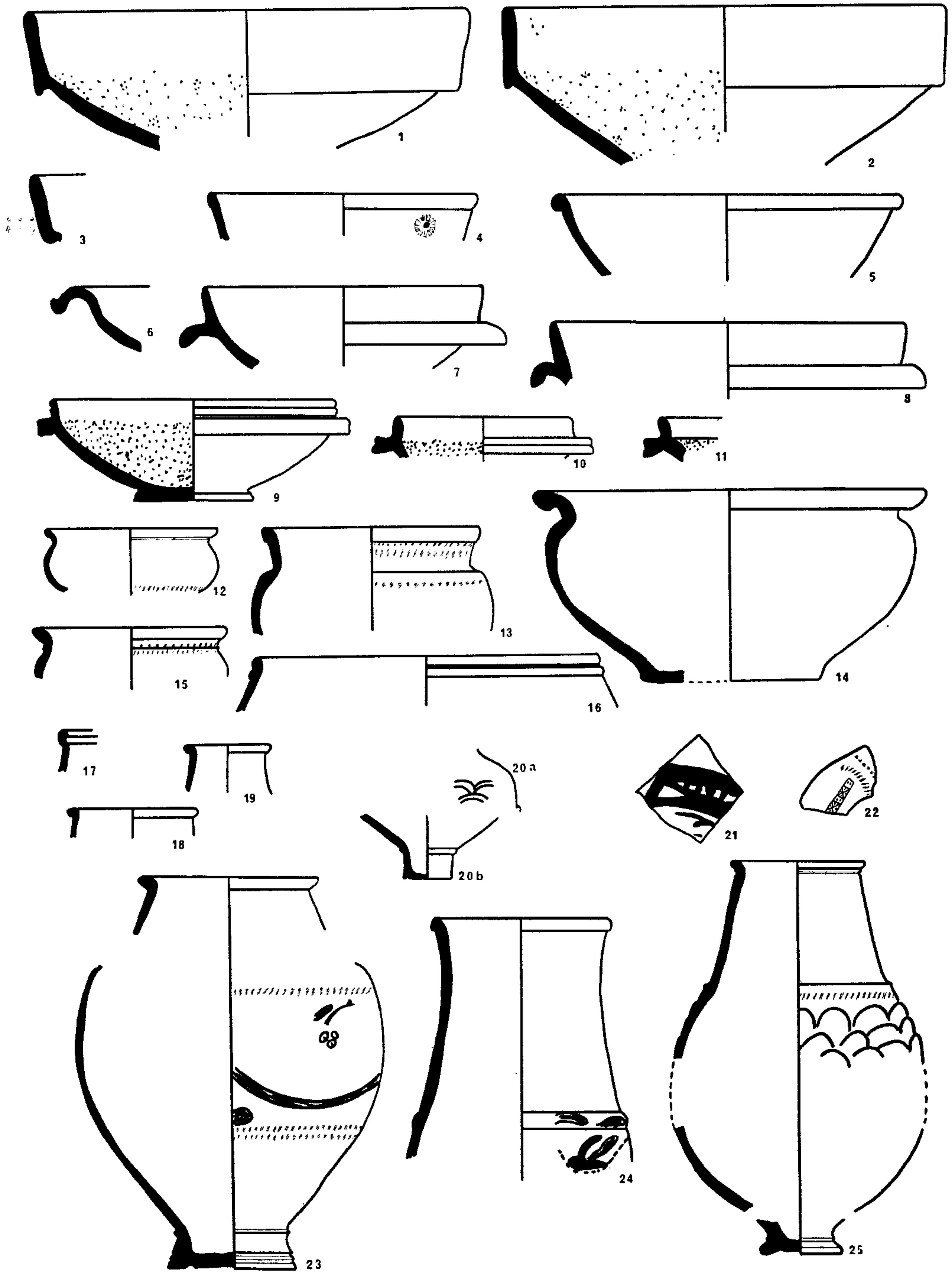


Fig. 10. Pottery,  $\frac{1}{4}$ .

TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1970

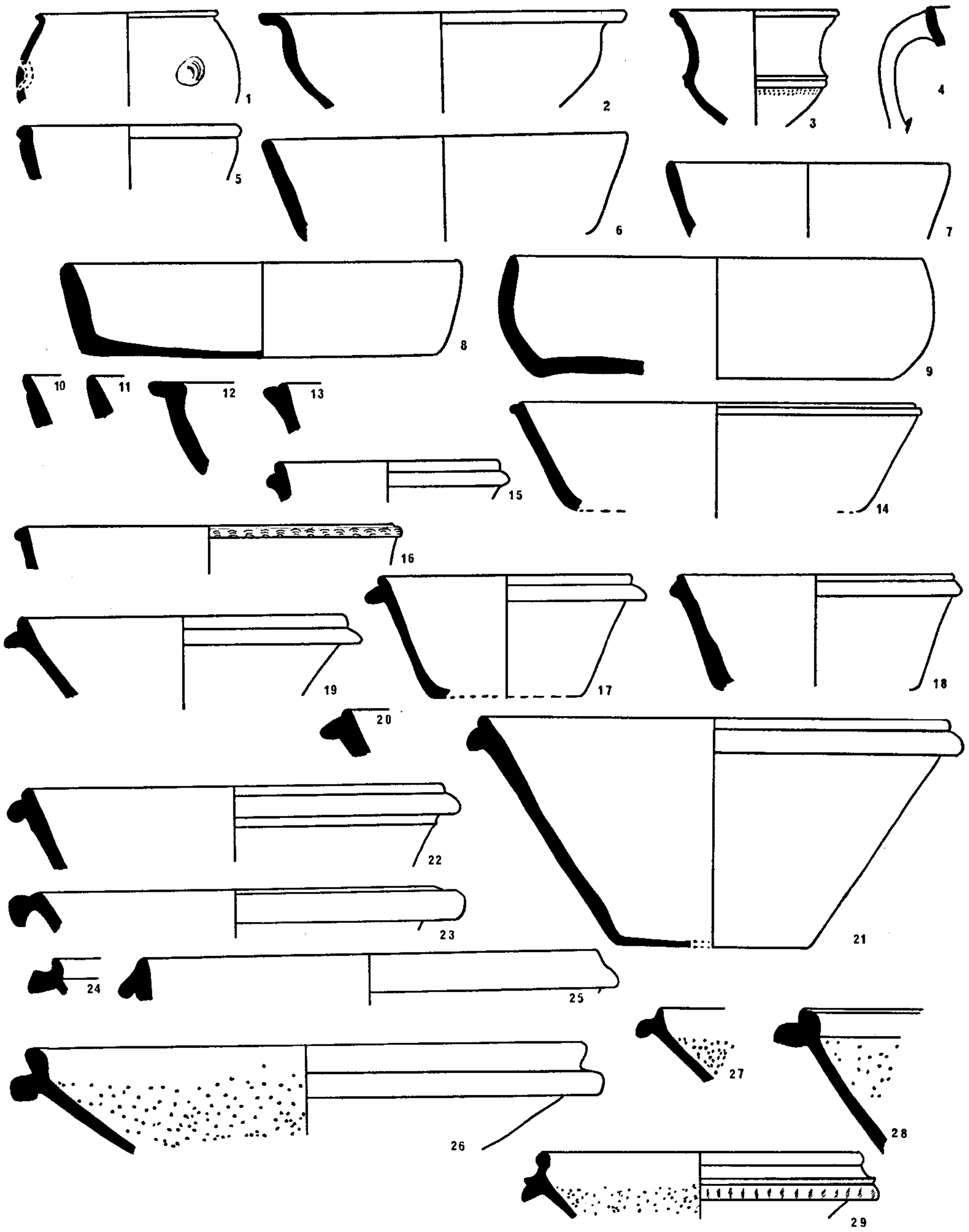


Fig. II. Pottery, ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ).

## FROCESTER COURT ROMAN VILLA, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

- 11 Calcite gritted buff/grey ware. Covered with slip. D2 v.
- 12 Soapy, calcite gritted grey ware. Associated with nos. 14, 15. E3 II.
- 13 Coarse calcite gritted ware. Cracking and damaged fragment from a large mouthed vessel. E2 v. Robber trench.
- 14, 15 Soapy, calcite gritted grey ware. Associated with no. 12. E3 II.
- 16 Soapy, calcite gritted grey ware. D3, E3.
- 17 A few fragments of a large storage jar of calcite gritted ware varying from grey to buff in colour. Traces of slip. Rilled over part of the body. Turned base. D2 II, III and v. Fragment of a smaller similar rim in D1 IV.
- 18 Very soapy feeling, calcite gritted black/buff ware. Rilled over body. 3-4 century. J4 v. Robber trench.
- 19 Calcite gritted grey/buff ware. Rilled. D0 III.
- 20 Coarse, calcite gritted ware, patchy dark grey and buff in colour. Rilled over body. Late 4 century. L99 v.
- 21 Soapy feeling, calcite gritted grey ware. Lightly rilled. C3. Robber trench.
- 22 Calcite gritted grey ware. Slightly rilled. Similar sherds in Room 12 of late 4 century date. Associated with no. 2 and colour-coated ware. K4v. Room 7.

### CRUCIBLES

- 23 Small fragment of grey crucible with lump of glassy substance outside. Associated with nos. 8, 9. D2 II.
- 24 Hard sandy feeling micaceous grey ware. X scratched on reverse of turned base. E3 II.

### ? LIDS

- 25 Slightly sandy feeling light grey ware. Frilled decoration on projecting rim. H4.
- 26 Slightly sandy buff ware. Orange slip. Very worn. E2 v. Robber trench.

### HANDLED BOWL

- 27 Slightly sandy feeling orange ware containing small grits. Surface worn off. ?Two horizontal "rope" handles and traces of grooved line decoration. C7 III.

### Fig. 9

- 1 Slightly gritty sandy black ware. Traces of burning. Complete rim M1 IV. Trimmed base probably belonging to the rim L1 IV.
- 2 Hard slightly sandy grey ware. Slip over rim and outside. Obtuse-angled lattice decoration. Fragmentary. D1 various.
- 3 Slightly sandy orange/buff/orange ware containing a few small white lumps. Traces of slip over rim and outside. Turned base. D1 III-IV.
- 4 Slightly gritty black ware. Burnished or slipped over rim and on the outside of the shoulder. Roughly made. X7 III.
- 5 Slightly gritty feeling hard grey ware covered with dark grey slip. D2 II-v inc. (same level as 7).
- 6 Coarse grey ware. Slip over inside of rim and on outside. K4 III.

## TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1970

- 7 Rim fragment of a large colour-coated jar of buff ware covered with samian coloured orange slip. D2 II (same level as 5).
- 8 Pinky buff ware. Traces of brown slip (colour coat).
- 9 Micaceous buff ware. D1 IV.
- 10 Orange ware. Traces of slip. E1 pit. (See 21).
- 11 Very hard grey ware. E3.
- 12 Slightly gritty orange ware. E2 III and IV. Fragments of turned base (E3 II) appear to be part of the same vessel.
- 13 Very hard grey ware. E2 II.
- 14 Fragments of large grey olla: light grey inside, dark grey outside. E1 IV, G2, F2 II.
- 15 Slightly sandy feeling hard grey ware. Slip over rim and shoulder. Narrow diagonal burnished lines over body. NO. III.
- 16 Hard sandy feeling light grey ware. Traces of dark grey slip over rim and parts of body. The many fragments do not include the base. D1 IV.
- 17 Hard sandy red ware. Traces of slip. D2 II.
- 18 Hard sandy buff/grey ware.
- 19 Very hard light grey ware. Traces of slip. Base cut off wheel and trimmed on outer surface of foot only. E1 pit.
- 20 Hard, slightly sandy black ware. Covered with slip. Fairly roughly made. K99 v.
- 21 Slightly gritty feeling dark grey ware. Covered with slip. E1 pit. (See 10).
- 22 Hard micaceous sandy light grey ware. Traces of slip. D2 III. Found with fragments of a waster, similar but larger.
- 23 Slightly gritty black ware. Obtuse-angled lattice decoration below the burnished shoulder. 4 century. A4 II.
- 24 Sandy feeling reddish ware. Traces of slip. D1 II.
- 25 Fine hard sandy feeling micaceous light grey ware. Traces of slip. D2 III.
- 26 Sandy light grey ware. D4 VI.
- 27 Sandy orange/buff ware. Traces of slip. E0 III.
- 28 Sandy feeling micaceous grey ware. ? Traces of slip. Post A.D. 350 LI IV.

### *Fig. 10*

- 1 Hard, well gritted orange ware (imitation samian). Dark red slip. Based on Drag. 45. E1 II Associated with 10. See 2.
- 2 Very good imitation samian ware: the lower part of the body has a grey core. Heavily gritted with red and white grits. Dark slip wearing slightly. Based on Drag. 45 D-E1 II. See 1. Fragments of eight similarly shaped but more worn mortaria were recovered from D-E1 III and E1 V: one had a band of rouletting round the base of the straight side and one showed traces of white slip.
- 3 Hard pinky buff ware. Matt slip, browner inside than outside. Rouletted design on the base of the straight side. Based on Drag. 45. D3 II.
- 4 A worn and burnt fragment of imitation samian ware now buff with traces of brown slip. D1 IV. A fragment from E3 II was patterned with a different rosette design.

## FROCESTER COURT ROMAN VILLA, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

- 5 Hard pinky buff ware. Orange slip. EO III.
- 6 Imitation samian ware. Based on Drag. 36. L98 III.
- 7 Red/grey/red ware. Red slip wearing. Well made. Based on Drag. 38. J2 II.
- 8 Pinky buff ware. Orange slip. Based on Drag. 38. DI III and IV.
- 9 Soft micaceous,, well gritted ware. Traces of red slip. Turned base. Post A.D. 350. N99 II. Part of a similar mortarium, 8 ins. in diameter was found in GI III.
- 10 Orange ware with grey core. Well gritted with red and white grits. Slip almost all worn off. D-EI II Associated with 1. See II.
- 11 Hard, gritted orange/grey/orange ware. Traces of slip. c2 II. See 10.
- 12 Imitation samian ware. Traces of white slip (?scroll pattern) decoration on body. Rouletted L98 III.
- 13 Slightly micaceous orange ware. Slip worn off. Rouletted. 4 century. N3 II.
- 14 Fairly coarse buff ware. Matt orange/buff slip inside and outside. G3.
- 15 Micaceous orange/buff ware. Slip nearly worn off. Traces of two bands of rouletting round the neck. J4 III Robber.
- 16 Orange buff ware. Traces of orange slip. 4 century. Y6 II.
- 17 Small fragment of a bottle neck. Buff ware. White slip. Post A.D. 350. M2 VI.
- 18 Buff ware. Brown slip (colour coat). E2 v Robber trench.
- 19 Buff ware. Partially metallic brown slip. DO III Robber.
- 20 Fragments from the shoulder and base of a vessel of extremely hard, very fine grey ware. Scale pattern on body. DI IV and VI.
- 21 Small base fragment from a dish of white ware decorated inside with a design in orange/brown paint. EO II.
- 22 Small base fragment bearing part of a potter's stamp of imitation samian with a brown streak in the core. Slip wearing off. The fabric is slightly harder than most imitation samian from this site. YO II.
- 23 Light red/buff ware. Matt black slip over outside. Thin, white barbotine decoration. Rouletted. LI III.
- 24 Fine hard reddish buff ware. Traces of good, glossy samian coloured slip. The remains of white barbotine ornament (thick in places) suggest an animal pattern similar to that illustrated by May (*Arch.* 72 (1921-22), p. 231, FIG. 3, a and d). The fragments included part of a well turned base with footring; several showed signs of burning. D2 II and III and E2 v.
- 25 Reddish buff ware. Covered with chocolate brown slip, now wearing off. Band of rouletting and fish scale design over body. Turned base. Incomplete. LI IV.

### Fig. II

- 1 Micaceous dark grey ware with small circular indents round the body. FO III Room 8. Associated with 2.
- 2 Micaceous sandy light grey ware. FO III Room 8. Associated with 1.
- 3 Sandy feeling, buff/grey/buff ware. Traces of a handle extending from the rim to immediately above the double band of rouletting. Mid 4 century. L98 v.
- 4 White ware. Matt brown colour coating. E2 IV.

## TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1970

- 5 Very sandy black ware. Coarsely made. *c.* A.D. 275. B6 XIX.
- 6 Micaceous sandy feeling light grey ware. L2 VI. Some sixteen straight sided bowls were recovered from the area of Room 12 and were dated by the coin evidence to post A.D. 350.
- 7 Fairly hard, slightly micaceous buff ware. Traces of burnishing or slip outside. D2 III. Fragments of similar vessels occurred in D1, D2 and E0 III. Late 4 century.
- 8 Coarse dark grey ware containing small flints. Slip covered. E1 pit.
- 9 Coarse, gritty grey ware. Slip covered. Patches of burning inside and outside. ? 4 century. C2 III Robber.
- 10 Slightly gritty grey ware. Slip covered. G2 II.
- 11 Gritty grey ware. Outside covered with slip which appears to have been applied with a "comb-like" brush. D1 II. Same level as 19, 22, 24 and 26.
- 12 Sandy feeling orange ware with grey core and containing a few very small grits. Slip surface worn off. *c.* A.D. 275 B6 IX.
- 13 Sandy, slightly calcite gritted, buff/grey/buff ware. E2 II.
- 14 Micaceous grey ware. The heavy-feeling sherd is burnt black and buff. Early 4 century. B1 IV.
- 15 Slightly gritty grey ware. 4 century. L98 III.
- 16 Grey ware. "Rope" pattern on beading. E3 II.
- 17 Very sandy feeling micaceous grey ware. Traces of slip. F99 III Robber trench.
- 18 Smoothish feeling slightly micaceous dark grey ware. *c.* A.D. 350.
- 19 Sandy feeling micaceous hard buff ware. D2 II. Same level as 11.
- 20 Coarse mid-grey ware covered with light grey slip. D1 IV.
- 21 Hard gritty buff ware originally covered with white slip. Traces of burning. Fragmentary. D2 III. Same level as 7.
- 22 Hard slightly coarse grey ware. D2 II. Same level as 11.
- 23 *Micaceous grey ware.* J4 IV Robber.
- 24 Pinky buff ware. Trace of brown/red colour coating. D2 II. Same level as 11.
- 25 Soapy calcite gritted ware. K4 III.
- 26 Hard, well gritted, light grey ware. Remains of spout. Small rivet hole from ancient repair. D2 II. Same level as 11.
- 27 Hard white ware. Traces of burning. C2 Robber.
- 28 Well gritted white ware. Late 3 century. K/L2 VII Room 12.
- 29 Micaceous gritted, red/buff/red ware. Traces of red colour coating inside and outside. Rouletted design on flange. 4 century. S5 VI.

Mr P. J. Fowler kindly contributes the following Note on Some Coarse Potsherds from the Roman Villa.

The following 41 sherds, picked out from the mass of material from the excavation of the above site (SO 785029) by the excavator, Capt. H. S. Gracie, were examined in the light of a suggested similarity with the post-Roman pottery recently noted in Wiltshire (*W.A.M.* 61 (1966), 31-7). Macroscopic examination leaves no doubt that, in all essential characteristics, most of the pottery (*Section A*) is virtually identical with that from Westbury and Ogbourne St. George, Wilts. The fabric, firing and

## FROCESTER COURT ROMAN VILLA, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

technique of construction as indicated notably by the superficial grass-tempering and the layering of the clay in the body demonstrate a remarkable similarity in such coarse, hand-made pottery from three widely separated sites; and the six everted rims in the Frocester material are exactly paralleled amongst the Westbury material. Generally the description of the Westbury pottery (*op. cit.*, 34) can be applied without alteration to the Frocester sherds.

The eight sherds in *Section B* are also in coarse, hand-made wares but either lack one or more of the 'Westbury' characteristics, notably impressions of grass-tempering, or appear otherwise slightly different. Two (27-8) contain mica whereas the 'Westbury sherds' are markedly free of inclusions. Nevertheless, the complete profile (26) of a platter with an applied, unperforated lug suggests that it, and probably the other sherds listed in *Section B*, are contemporary and of post-Roman date.

The initial difficulties of dating more precisely this type of pottery have already been outlined (*op. cit.*, 34-5), but more evidence has since come to light. Four sherds from Enford, Wilts. (*W.A.M.* 62 (1967), 126) were recovered from an area of Romano-British occupation and one of them, a rim, was actually in a pit with Romano-British pottery. The case for the association, already noted on Overton Hill, Wilts., of the grass-tempered pottery with pagan Saxon cemeteries (Petersfinger, Wilts., Kingsworthy, Hants.) has recently been strengthened (*W.A.M.* 63 (1968), 103-5); and at Portchester, Hants., the ware has been found in 5th-8th century contexts (*Antiq. J.* L(1970), 67-85. Grass-tempered sherds associated with imported Mediterranean A and B wares of c. 500 A.D. were found in 1968 and 1970 at Cadbury Camp, Congresbury (*Cadbury Congresbury, Somerset, 1968: An Introductory Report*, Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Bristol, 1970) confirming this association already demonstrated on Glastonbury Tor (P. A. Rahtz in Ashe, G. (ed.), *The Quest for Arthur's Britain* (1968), 145). Its absence from post-380 A.D. pottery groups of coarse wares at, for example, Nettleton and Overton Down site XII, both North Wilts., may be significant in suggesting a *terminus post quem* of c. 400 A.D., even though the ware has several times occurred on Romano-British sites and with conventionally late-Roman material.

At Frocester, the occurrence of the sherds in the top-soil, robber trenches and a late occupation deposit (8), indicates that they come right at the end of the Romano-British occupation (? early 5th century at earliest on coin and metalwork evidence) or later; and if later, then here, as on several of the other sites, it becomes necessary to erect the historically unsatisfactory hypothesis of deliberate Saxon occupation, at earliest late 6th century in this area, on abandoned Roman settlements. The Frocester evidence again suggests that grass-tempered ware may be earlier than this and, while apparently possessing pagan Saxon traits, could well be 'native' sub-Roman pottery in manufacture and use during the 5th-7th centuries before the N. Wilts./Glos./Somerset area was absorbed politically and culturally by West Saxons. Obviously the question remains open as to whether this pottery is 'Saxon' in any sense other than chronological, but its repeated occurrence on Romano-British sites suggests an early post-Roman origin and perhaps a non-Saxon background for its appearance in the west. On the other hand, if it is meaningfully 'Saxon' pottery, here it must be late 6th century or later in date unless there was some Saxon settlement of the area earlier than the documentary evidence indicates. From this point of view, the repeated domestic, non-funerary character and associations of this pottery, here as on the other sites, can be stressed, a feature emphasised obliquely by the unassociated find of 11 sherds on the M5 Motorway in 1969 at Eastington (SO 773062), only 2 miles N.W. of Frocester Court, and by similar sherds found 1969-70 in the field system related to the Barnsley Park 'villa', 19 miles east of Frocester Court. (*Transactions* 1971).

TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1970

CATALOGUE

A. *Identical with 'Westbury' ware*

(R.T.—robber trench)  
(P.S.—medieval plough soil)

<i>Provenance</i>	<i>No. of sherds</i>	<i>Notes</i>
1. G2 II Rm. 2 (P.S.)	1	
2. L3 IV Rm. 12 (R.T.)	5	including everted rim
3. CO II	1	
4. G3 II (R) (P.S.)	1	
5. J4 IV (R.T.)	1	
6. N3 II (P.S.)	1	
7. L2 II Rm. 12 (P.S.)	1	
8. E99 IV Rm. 8, outside	1	From 'late occupation deposit'
9. Y6 IV	1	Just below rim. Occupation layer above and between ditches 7 and 8
10. E99 III Rm. 8 (R.T.)	1	
11. C97 IV	1	Outside house at back on stony surface
12. K4 III Rm. 7 (R.T.)	1	
13. J3 V (R.T.)	1	Everted rim
14. J3 III Rm. 6-7 (R.T.)	2	
15. C98 V Outside Rm. 19	2	'Occupation deposit'
16. L2 II Rm. 12 (P.S.)	1	
17. K4 II (P.S.)	3	
18. HI II Rm. 3 (P.S.)	1	Everted rim
19. G5 V	1	Stony soil between garden-beds
20. H2 III Rm. 3	1	Everted rim. Debris on floor of passage
21. J3 IV (R.T.)	1	Everted rim, trimmed
22. L4 III	1	Mud on gravel yard
23. E7 II (P.S.)	1	
24. D8 II (P.S.)	1	
25. N6 III	1	Robber deposit in courtyard wall trench
	—	
	33	
	—	

B. *Similar to 'Westbury' type*

26. L98 III Rm. 16 (R.T.)	1	Complete profile of shallow, flat-bottomed platter with small applied lug. Not grass-tempered.
27. KI III (R.T.)	1	Buff ext. with small grits and mica
28. M99 III Rm. 10 (R.T.)	1	No curvature. Micaceous ext.
29. M0 III Rm. 14 (R.T.)	1	Not grass-tempered. Round holes in ext.
30. K7 III	1	Reddish brown, both surfaces, Large limestone grits. Mud on gravel yard
31. E8 III	1	Greyish, slightly bulbous everted rim. Mud on approach road.
32. F8 II (P.S.)	1	Reddish ext.
33. N6 III	1	Reddish ext. Robber deposit in courtyard wall trench
	—	
	8	
	—	

## FROCESTER COURT ROMAN VILLA, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

### NON-FERROUS METALWORK (to end of 1968) *By* ELIZABETH FOWLER

The metalwork from this villa has been divided into groups, a practice following that in the resurvey of the material from Traprain Law (Burley, 1955) and in the report on the Woodeaton bronzes (Kirk, 1949). The objects are described and numbered consecutively in the complete catalogue lodged with the material in Gloucester City Museum. A selection of the pieces has been made for this paper, and the omitted items are briefly described at the end of the group to which they belong. Comments on each group precede the catalogue; illustrated objects are indicated by an \* and a figure reference. Each object is further identifiable by having its location within the excavation grid included.

#### BRACELETS

The large number of bracelets, the diversity of types and yet the similarity of many to those from the Lydney temple site (Wheeler, 1932) suggests either manufacture on the spot (see below p. 63) or possibly a common source for both the Frocester and Lydney armlets. Bracelets are a notable feature of many third and fourth century sites in the Severn Basin–Cotswold–N. Wilts. and Somerset area, whether villa, peasant farmstead, temple or market site, a fact which implies a considerable demand for them and perhaps even that they somehow were a form of investment. By comparison bow brooches are not nearly so common, though there are penannular brooches (p. 59) and some undistinguished dress or hair pins (p. 64). The sheer number of bracelets at Frocester is thus of considerable interest.

- 1 \*Bronze, fragment only, 3.5 cms long. Thin rectangular cross section decorated on upper surface with pairs of dot and circle motifs separated by ribbing. Decoration close to Lydney types G and H, FIG. 17 and the dot/circle design is an extremely common one on both bronze and bone. D2 III, Room 2, on cobbled floor. FIG. 12/1.
- 15 \*Bronze, complete, internal diameter 6.4 cms. Flat section, decorated on upper surface with diagonal grooves within parallel lines. "Hook and eye" fastening. FO III, rooms 8–2, robber trench. FIG. 12/15.
- 17 \*Bronze possibly nearly complete, internal diameter c. 6.2 cms. Flat section decorated with alternate triangular groovings. Probably "hook and eye" fastening. ZO V, ditch 1, deliberate Roman filling c. 360 from earlier rubbish dump. FIG. 12/17.
- 21 \*Bronze, fragment, 3.5 cm long. Narrow strip decorated with alternate triangles produced by punching into soft bronze across narrow edge from each side in turn. Z99 V, ditch 1, deliberate fill as 17. FIG. 12/21.

TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1970

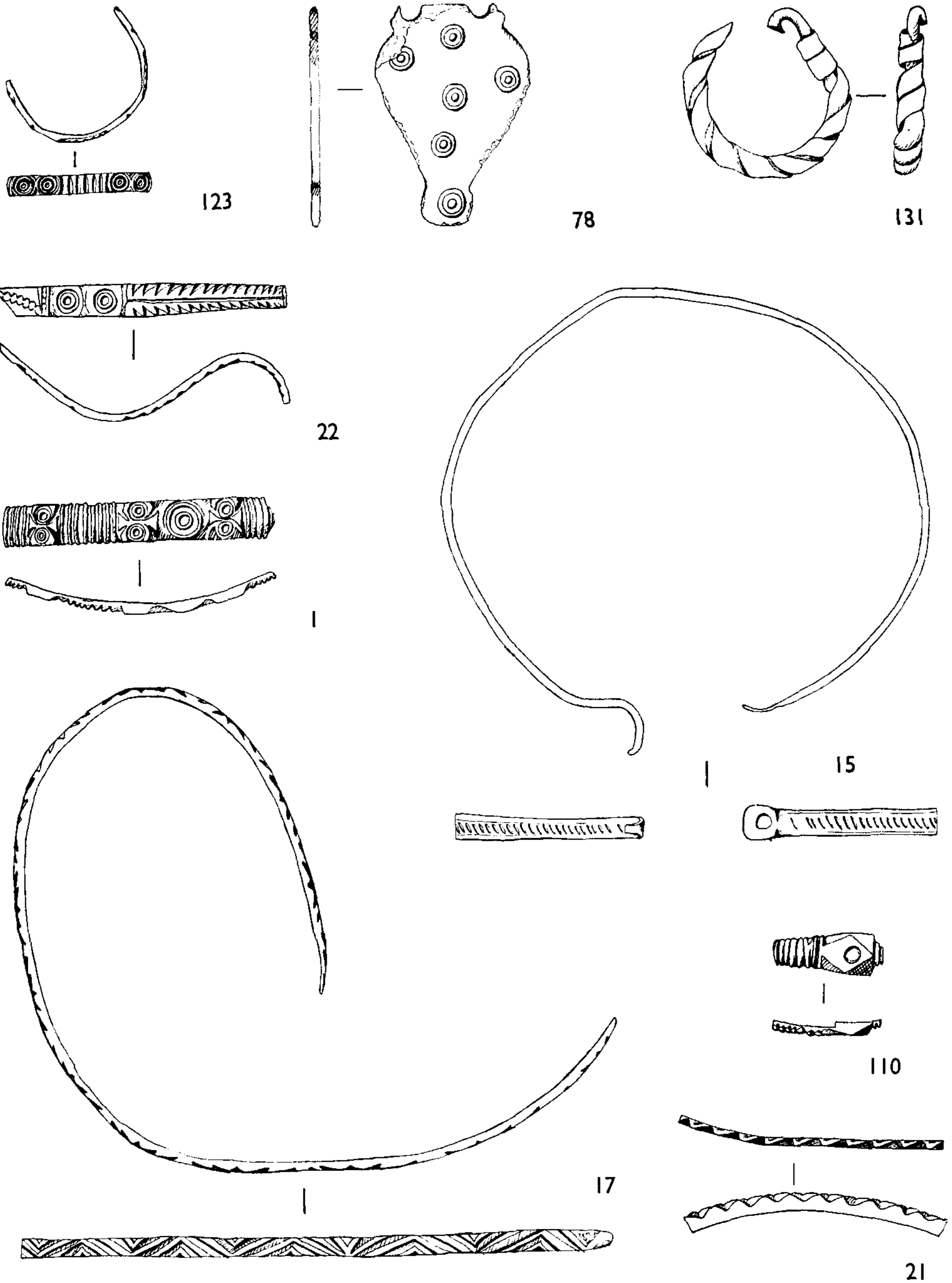


Fig. 12 Bracelets, Rings, Pendant and a possible Brooch fragment.

FROCESTER COURT ROMAN VILLA, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

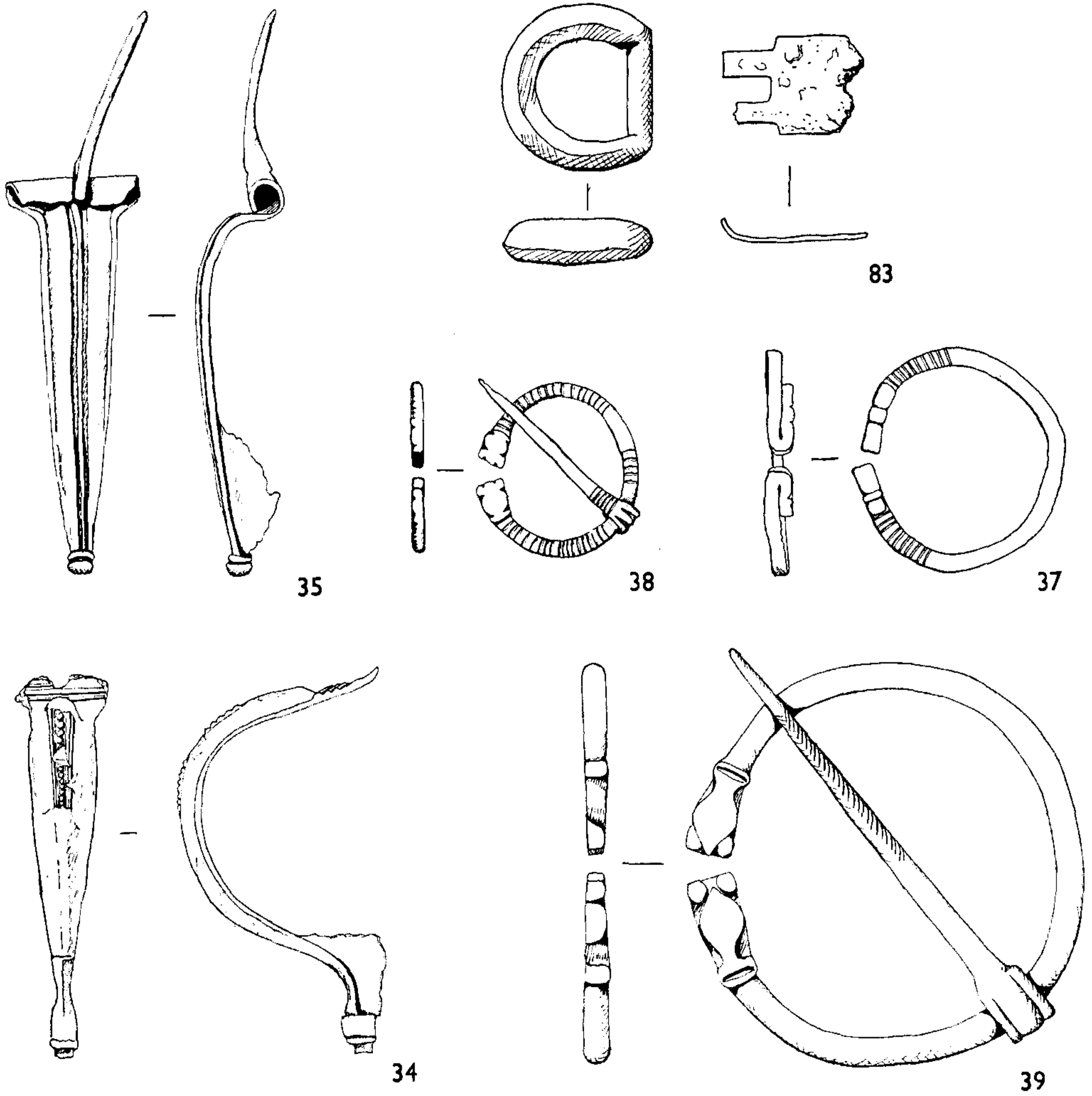


Fig. 13 Brooches, and Buckle.

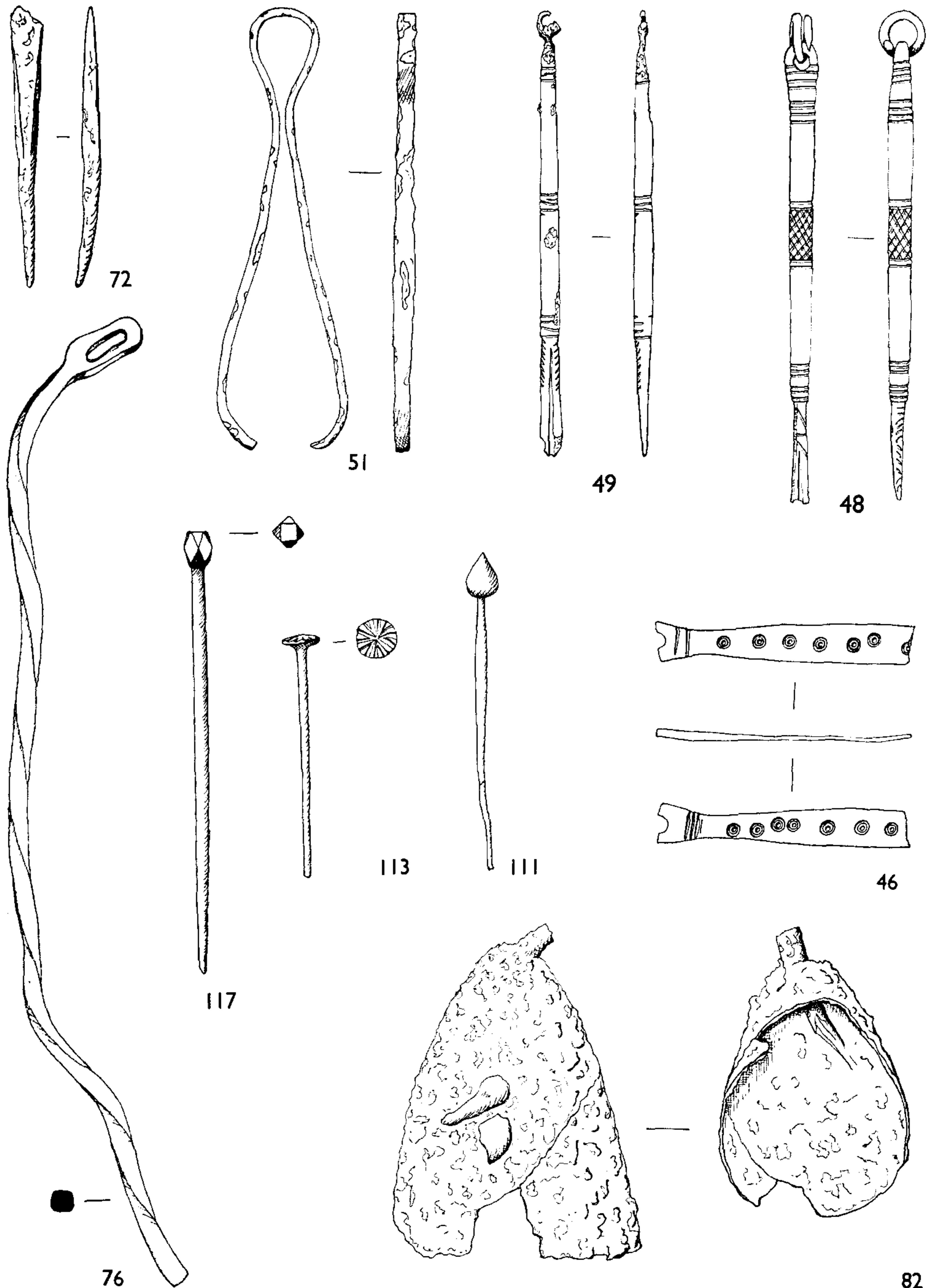


Fig. 14 Cosmetic Articles, Tools, Sheep Bell and Pins.

FROCESTER COURT ROMAN VILLA, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

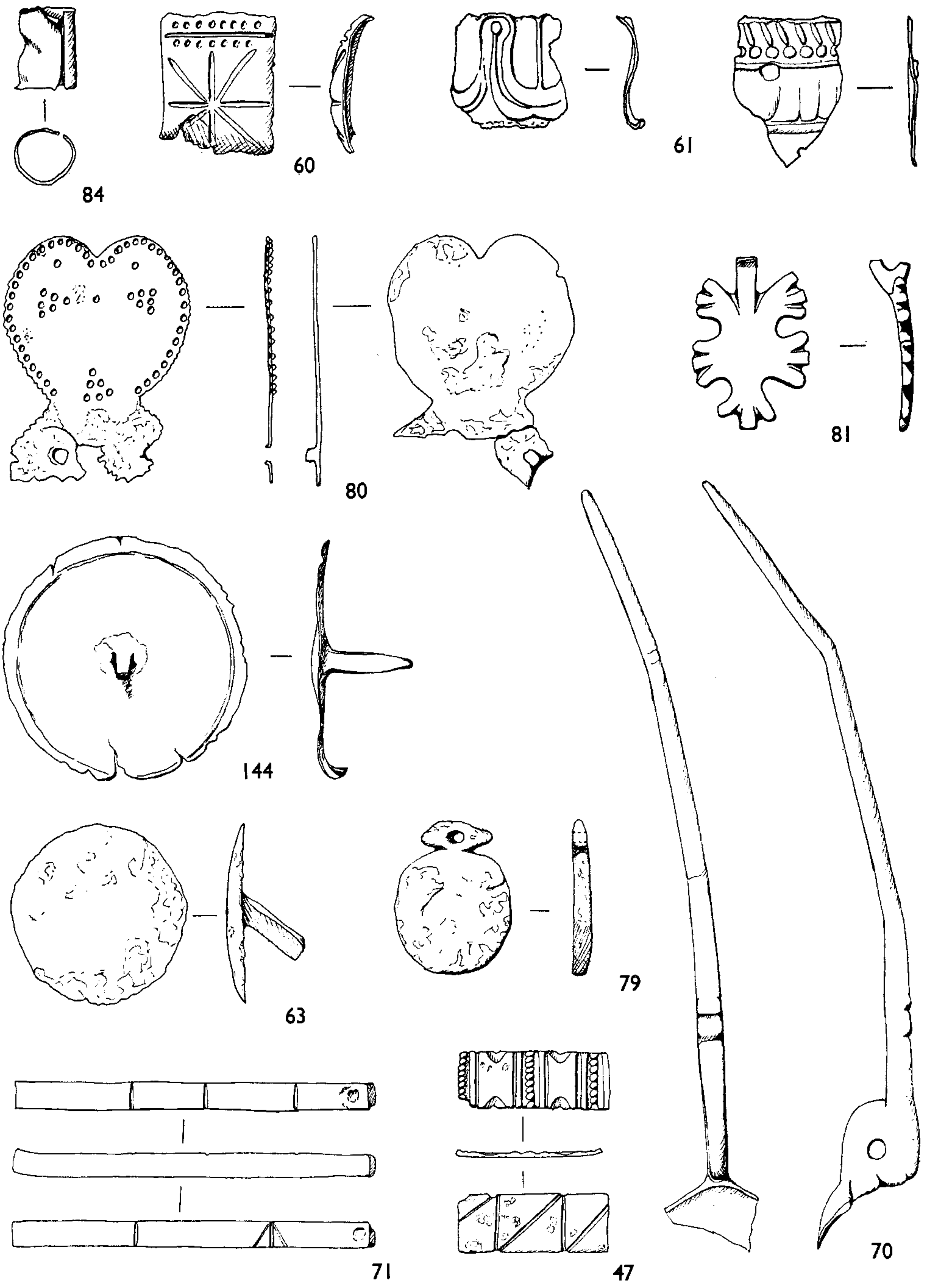


Fig. 15 Spoon, Steelyard rod, Harness pendants, Embossed sheet bronze, Decorative studs.

## TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1970

- 22 \*Bronze, fragment, 4.5 cm long. Flat strip decorated with at least three separate elements, dot/circle, linked round bosses and oblique lines each side a central groove (cf. no. 3). Z97 IV, over ditch 1, Roman cultivation. FIG. 12/22.
- 26 Bronze, squashed fragment, flat strip, 5.5 cms long. Possibly a finger ring but decoration of dot/circle plus rows of punched dots with pairs of incised triangles along edge resembles bracelet styles. J3 II, room 4-6, robber trench.
- 30 Bronze fragment, internal diameter 4.5 cms. Rounded section, undecorated, one end terminating in a pointed knob with groove below. Possibly a bent dress pin rather than an armlet. B6 V, courtyard garden soil.
- 31 Bronze nearly complete, internal diameter 5.5 cms. Fine wire possibly originally with hooked or slip knot ends. D8 IV, buried turf over cemetery.

### *Bracelets, none complete.*

2 triple stranded, twisted hollow armlet. 3 as Lydney, FIG. 17/H. 4 two as Lydney Type S. 5 Flat section, ribbing either side of diamond-like boss, possibly enamelled. 6 double stranded, twisted wire. 7 Flat, notched along upper surface. 8 as No. 6. 9 retains "eye" of "hook and eye" fastening, Cf. Lydney, FIG. 17/58. 10 thinner version of 9. 11 three stranded, twisted wire. Cf. Woodeaton, FIG. 4/15. 12 opposed alternating nicks round circumference. Cf. Woodeaton, FIG. 4/15. 13 Cf. Lydney, FIG. 17/M. 14 double stranded, twisted wire. Retains "hook" of "hook and eye" fastening. 16 as No. 13. 18 as Nos. 9 and 10. 19 twisted wire. 20 flat strip, wavy S-scroll across width, "eye" fastening. 23 Flat strip, squared, grooved bosses separated by narrow constrictions. 24 flat section, slightly convex upper surface. 25 quadruple strand, twisted wire. 27 as Lydney, FIG. 17/58. 28 as 27 but narrower. 29 like Lydney, FIG. 17/57. 32 double strand, twisted wire. 33 plain flattened strip, undecorated.

### *BROOCHES*

The decline in popularity of the bow brooch is borne out by the Frocester material, for the two complete brooches and the five pin fragments are clearly survivals from the earlier occupation on the site. The penannular brooches appear to be in context and no. 39, the Type F brooch is, because associated with a coin of Arcadius, of more than local significance. Few F brooches are at all reliably dated. Another Gloucester villa site, Witcombe, also produced a Type F brooch and strengthens the idea of production in this area of this type.

- 34 \*Bronze, bow brooch, 4.7 cms long. Very worn, no pin, head of brooch broken, decoration of little bosses between parallel lines is much eroded. "Aucissa" type brooch, see Hod Hill, 8, FIG. 8/C46, and Camerton, 226, FIG. 52/28, both mid first century A.D. YO VI, S.W. of house, buried Roman ploughsoil, before 270 A.D. FIG. 13/34.
- 35 \*Bronze, bow brooch, 4.8 cms. long. Locally-made version of the "Langton Down" brooch. Pin hinged on a small rod, now lost, passing through the rolled-over head. Bow decorated with grooves. See Hod Hill, 8, FIG. 7/C38 for a similar variant and Camerton, 229, FIG. 53/42. B7 VI, buried Roman topsoil. FIG. 13/35.

## FROCESTER COURT ROMAN VILLA, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

- 36 Bronze, penannular brooch, internal diameter 3 cms. Broken and corroded, but sufficient remains to indicate a Type C penannular with loose coil and straight pin (Fowler, 1960, 165-166) with a date range of CI B.C. to C6 A.D. G2 II, room 2, deposit on earth floor.
- 37 \*Bronze penannular brooch, internal diameter, 2.3 cms. Type DI, without pin. Square section is partially grooved near terminals which are bent back and notched (Fowler, 1960, 152, FIG. 1). N97 III, ditch 4, upper filling. FIG. 13/37.
- 38 \*Bronze complete penannular brooch, internal diameter, 1.6 cms. Type E, neatly made, with groups of grooves round hoop, pin slightly humped, bent round hoop and grooved. Terminals flattened and nicked to resemble an animal head. Not closely paralleled elsewhere but the type in general seems to have flourished in the mid and late C4th. K4 III, room 7, robber deposit in hypocaust channel. FIG. 13/38.
- 39 \*Bronze, complete penannular brooch, internal diameter 4.2 cms. Type F in mint condition. Pin humped, bent round hoop and barrelled, and made from a strip of bronze bent over and squashed into a flattened pointed tube. The terminals cast, and show odd groove on underside. No close parallel but nearer to the English examples than the Irish (Fowler, 1964, 103-105, FIG. 3). A possible date given by its associations. L2 IIA, cloth-working room, occupation level with coin of Arcadius. FIG. 13/39.
- 40 Bronze, fragment of a coil spring from a bow brooch. J8 III, Corridor 6, deposit on disintegrated mosaic.
- 41 Bronze fragment of a hinged pin from a bow brooch. Traces of securing rivet survive. K4 II, Room 7, plough disturbance.
- 42 Bronze, spring and pin of a bow brooch, 3.5 cm long. The projecting pin from the centre of the coil was designed to push into the underside of the head of a Collingwood Group Q or R bow brooch. N97 IV, ditch 4, lower filling.
- 43 Bronze pin, 4 cms long. Probably a pin from a bow brooch but could be a dress or hair pin. Y3 II, S.W. of house, plough disturbance.
- 44 Bronze, brooch pin, 3.3 cms long. A type of pin hinged on a small rivet pushed through the head of the brooch, like no. 35. The pin is made from a strip of metal, bent over and squeezed together to make a pointed flattened tube, like the pin of 39. C7 V, soil with burial urns, undisturbed C2-C3.
- 45 Bronze, brooch pin, 5.5 cms long. Piece of wire with one end beaten flat and bent round; almost certainly from a penannular brooch. H7 IV, shallow pit in yard.

### *COSMETIC AND SURGICAL ARTICLES*

The usual collection of items used for cosmetic or surgical purposes requires little comment except to note the fragmentary and broken nature of many of the items. The nail cleaners seem to be a late Romano-British type.

- 46 \*Bronze, fragment of a nail-cleaner or wick-lifter, 3.4 cms long. Flattened strip narrowing at one end where the suspension loop is broken. The terminal is broken too; decoration of the dot/circle motif is on both sides. J4 II, stoke hole, plough disturbance. FIG. 14/46.

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- 47 \*Bronze, fragment of a toilet implement, 2 cms long, Flat strip decorated one side with oblique and straight lines (a common motif on these articles), and on the other alternate ribbing and incised triangles. A4 II, courtyard, plough disturbance. FIG. 15/47.
- 48 \*Bronze, complete example of a nail-cleaner (or wick-lifter), 6.7 cms long. Wire coil for suspension, broken points. Typical decoration of engraved lines. Very similar to Traprain Law 249. E4 III, Corridor 6, robber trench. FIG. 14/48.
- 49 \*Bronze, complete, but corroded plainer version of No. 48, 6.2 cms long. Broken suspension loop, and points again snapped off. Decoration largely confined to one side. M1 III, room 12, late occupation deposit, after 350 A.D. FIG. 14/49.
- 50 Bronze, fragments of a chain, possibly the means of suspension of no. 49 and found near it. M1 II, room 12, plough disturbance.
- 51 \*Bronze, complete pair of tweezers, 6 cms long. Usual type, inturned ends undecorated, cf. Lydney FIG. 18/60. N98 III, ditch 4, lower filling. FIG. 14/51.
- 52 Bronze, complete pair of tweezers, though ends broken, 5.1 cms long. Lump of corroded iron attached to one end. N98 IV, ditch 4, lowest filling, c. 350 A.D.
- 53 Bronze, one arm of a pair of tweezers, 5 cms long. Usual flat strip with narrowing one end. G5 IV, courtyard garden soil.
- 54 Bronze, fragment of a spatula or unguent spoon, 3.7 cms long. Flat strip, one end widened and spatulate shaped. Cf. Woodeaton, FIG. 6/1 and Jewry Wall, FIG. 86/6, and 7. Y5 VI, ditch 7, occupation deposit on fill, late C3.

### DECORATIVE

These pieces have been classed together, because they are pieces of decorated bronze forming part of the ornamentation either of small wooden or bronze boxes, or of leather belts and straps. There are also a number of large flat headed nails, and small dome-headed rivets which also formed decorative patterns on similar objects. Lastly a number of U-shaped tubular bindings which probably strengthened belt edges or knife scabbards. Cf. Woodeaton, 36-7, 41-44, FIG. 9 and PLATE VIA for the sheet bronze and Traprain Law, 188-9, for the nails, rivets and tubular binding, also Hod Hill I, FIG. 1. Some pieces should perhaps be classed under metal working.

- 55 Bronze, narrow strip 3.4 cms by 1.4 cms, broken and bent. Along one edge a line of small bosses. No rivet holes certainly identifiable. H4 II, courtyard, plough disturbance.
- 56 Bronze, pentagonal plate 3.1 cms by 2.4 cms, slightly curved. This piece could once have been square with an off-centre square perforation but one corner has been sliced off. Could have been fastened on to a belt with a small rivet. A3 II, room 5, plough disturbance.
- 57 Bronze ?tinned, 2 fragments under 1 cm long. No decoration and impossible to say what these were for. KI III, room 4-II, robber trench.
- 58 Bronze, narrow strip 3.8 cms by 1.8 cms. Two, possibly three, rivet holes for attachment. Undecorated. L2 IV, room 12, on shed floor.

## FROCESTER COURT ROMAN VILLA, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

- 59 Bronze, square or rectangular sheet, 2.6 cms long. One edge broken and clipped. Possibly a small oval rivet hole in centre for attachment. M1 IV, Room 12, deposition on floor after 350 A.D.
- 60 \*Bronze, rectangular curved and hollowed plate 2 cms by 1.6 cms. The design, an eight-armed sunk star pattern with 2 lines of small dimples separated by a line edging the star, seems designed to be seen from the convex side. It is difficult to envisage how it was mounted, particularly as the convex side is smooth and worn as if polished by contact with cloth or leather. B5 III, courtyard, demolition debris. FIG. 15/60.
- 61 \*Bronze fragments of decorated embossed sheets. One piece seems a swelling U-shaped pattern alternate with dividing lines, the other, with an oval rivet hole, is largely geometrically designed. Impossible to say what original object was, but see Woodeaton FIG. 9 and Lydney, pls 27-29 for similar pieces. B8 IV, cultivation. FIG. 15/61.
- 62 Bronze domed stud, 1 cm diameter. Remains of filling inside dome. Probably decorative, from a wood or leather article e.g. a stool. E2 IV, Room 2, kitchen, on cobbled floor after 335 A.D.
- 63 \*Bronze, five large flat-headed nails, diameters 2.6 cms, 2.6 cms, 2.5 cms, and two impossible to measure. Length of shanks 2 cms. Probably decoration on a large box or piece of furniture. K0 V, Room 11 (1 nail) and K0 VI, Room 11, (4 nails), filling of strong box. FIG. 15/63, one only.
- 64 Bronze, tiny domed rivet, 0.8 cms diameter with tiny shank. Probably from a studded leather belt. N3 II, outside Room 12, plough disturbance.
- 65 Bronze domed cap on an iron nail, 4 cms long, cap 1.4 cms diameter, shank 0.8 cms diameter. A functional nail but also decorative. S7 V, boundary ditch.
- 65A Bronze domed cap on iron shank, dimensions like 65, but broken shank. F0 III, Room 8, robber trench.
- 66 Bronze, narrow tubular binding 1.7 cms long. 0.4 cms deep. One oval rivet hole at one end. D8 III, demolition layer.
- 67 Bronze, 4 fragments of narrow tubular binding, once all joining, forming a piece 8.6 cms long. Probably edging for a leather belt or strap. V7 IX, early ditch fill, C2 or C3 A.D.
- 68 Bronze tiny fragment of binding, 0.8 cms long, with minute rivet for attachment. C8 III, demolition layer.

### *DOMESTIC/HOUSEHOLD*

The following 25 items have been arbitrarily divided into two groups: those which seemed to belong more to the household, domestic, internal life and those which pertained more to the farm-yard and external life, of the villa. Several "tools" and implements are included in the former group which may seem illogical but not if the excavation evidence which indicates industrial activities within the villa is recalled. Some items might possibly be classed with either the preceding group, Decorative, e.g. nos. 78, 80, 81, 84, 85 or with the next but one, Metalworking, e.g. nos. 72, 73, 74, 77. The most

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interesting items are the folding clasp-knife or razor, no. 69, the sheep-bell, no. 82, the steel yard fragment, no. 71 and the curious harness pendants, if that is what they are, nos. 79-81.

- 69 Bronze knife or razor, with carved bone handle, 4.4 cms long, with blade folded back, approx. 3.5 cms long by 1.6 cms at broadest part. The bronze is heavily corroded but it is possible to see a narrow groove at the top of the bone handle, which at this point is sheathed in bronze, into which the base of the blade would have fitted when in use. The bone handle, consisting of three ribs, decreasing in size, separated by narrow pieces, has also a narrow longitudinal groove, immediately below the blade edge, exactly like a modern clasp knife, to protect the blade when closed. It is small for a knife but a razor seems feasible. E6 VII, approach road, in mud on road 1, late c3.
- 70 \*Bronze spoon, bowl broken and fragmentary, handle in two pieces, 10.5 cms long. Since the spoon is shouldered at junction of bowl and handle, probably the bowl was oval (Woodeaton, 27, FIG. 7, 10). The shoulder is pierced, and though the piece is largely undecorated most closely resembles Lydney, FIG. 19/91. G8 V, garden soil. FIG. 15/70.
- 71 \*Bronze part of a steelyard rod, 5 cms long. Rod is approx. 0.5 cms by 0.4 cms thick and marked on two opposing sides into lengths by narrow grooves. At one end a possible suspension hole is heavily corroded. Cf. Jewry Wall, FIG. 87/4 for a complete example. M98 III, Room 17, robber deposit, N. wall. FIG. 15/71.
- 72 \*Bronze, rod, one end pointed, the other chisel-like, 3.9 cms long. Probably a metalworking tool. M99 III, Room 17-14, robber trench. FIG. 14/72.
- 76 \*Bronze, ? tool, square section bronze wire, slightly twisted, 13.5 cms long. One end broken, the other flattened and pierced longitudinally by a rectangular hole. Z7 IV, upper filling of early ditch, c3 or earlier. FIG. 14/76.

### *HARNESS FITTINGS/FARMYARD*

- 78 \*Bronze, harness pendant, 3 cms by 2.1 cms. suspension loops broken. Flat oval plate with a circular foot, decorated with dot/circle motif. K3 III, Room 7, robber filling of hypocaust channel. FIG. 12/78..
- 79 \*Lead circular pendant, 1.6 cms diameter, with oval pierced suspension loop. E99 II, Room 8, plough disturbance. FIG. 15/79.
- 80 \*Bronze, two thin heart-shaped plates found stuck together, 3.4 cms by 2.6 cms. Two tiny bronze rivets broken off from the bottom (or top) of the piece. Decoration of tiny punched dots. Possibly a belt tag? Cf. Traprain Law, FIG. 5/270, for similar type of decoration. Z0 VI, ditch 1, silt after abandonment. c. 350 A.D. FIG. 15/80.
- 81 \*Bronze, floriated pendant or decorative hinge, 2.5 cms long. F7 IV, garden soil. FIG. 15/81.
- 82 \*Bronze, sheep-bell, broken and corroded, approx. length 4.8 cms, possible diameter of bell 3 cms. Iron suspension hook and clanger, both corroded. A possible similar example from Hod Hill, FIG. 2/A33 has slightly out-turned edges to the bell and is smaller. D2 II. FIG. 14/82.

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- 83 \*Bronze D-shaped buckle plus part of attachment plate. Combined length 3 cms. Pin of buckle and back of attachment plate lost. Must have been for a narrow strap from harness or body armour. Cf. Hod Hill I, FIG. 3/A54. LI IV, Room 12, above first floor. FIG. 13/83.
- 84 \*Bronze sheathing for a wooden handle, 1 cm long. Clench marks show ribbed effect and the tubular effect was produced by rolling a piece of sheet bronze round the handle. Traprain Law, 189, nos. 303-5. Hod Hill, FIG. 1/A19. FI II, Room 2 (middle section) plough disturbance. FIG. 15/84.
- 85 Bronze, perforated rectangular sheet bronze plate, 1.8 cms by 1.5 cms. Could be a bit of scale armour, Cf. Newstead, Pl. XXIV. C4 III, courtyard on gravel path.
- 91 White metal split ring, D-shaped section, 1.4 cms diameter. Probably part of a necklace. E6 II or III, verge of road, on turf. Possibly modern.
- 92 Bronze, heavy square washer, 1.8 cms by 2.9 cms, with central oval perforation, MI IV, Room 12, deposit on early floor after 350 A.D.
- 93 Bronze, small square washer, 0.6 cms by 0.5 cms, circular central perforation. Y3 IV, S.W. of house, occupation deposit, c. 270-290.

### *Domestic/Household.*

73 rod, probably a metalworker's punch. 74 borer, probably for leather. 75 ?needle, broken, or shoe lace tag. 77 pointed rod, ?graver.

### *Harness fittings/Farmyard.*

86 split ring, 2.4 cms diameter. 87 ring, probably part of a chain, 2.6 cms diameter. 88 ring, rounded section, 1.6 cms diameter. 89 ring, as 87, 2.6 cms diameter. 90 ring, round-sectioned, 1.9 cms diameter.

## METALWORKING

The majority of these fragments are bronze clippings, or pieces of sheet bronze, once originally part of objects, like bowls or bucket bindings. There are pieces of bronze wire, ready for making pins, needles or tools, and long folded strips of bronze, perhaps roughouts for armlets. There is one broken piece, no. 110, perhaps the terminal of an armlet or penannular brooch, which has a red enamel spot in the centre. This might possibly be evidence for enamel working at Frocester. The amount of metal ready for the crucible points to metalworking on the spot.

- 95 Bronze, large piece of sheet bronze, clipped edges. B2 II, Room 1 (smithy) plough disturbance.
- 96 Bronze, folded piece of sheet bronze, with two paper-clip rivets at one end. Z99 IV, above ditch 1, Roman cultivated soil after 360 A.D.
- 99 Bronze, three pieces of sheet bronze. One piece has two rivet holes. Possibly binding for a bucket. S5 IV, ditch 5, deliberate filling.
- 110 \*Bronze fragment, 1.5 cms long. Terminal of an armlet or Type G (or H1) penannular brooch. Hoop ribbed. Red enamel spot in centre of diamond on upper surface. Unstratified. (Fowler, 1964, FIG. 1, FIG. 4/4 and p. 107-8 for Type G brooches). FIG. 12/110.

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### *Metalworking.*

94 fragments, corroded. 97 tinned fragments, clipped ready for melting. 98 thick sheet bronze, laminated in section. 100 miscellaneous fragments including six pieces clipped for melting. 101 pointed wire, unfinished pin. 102 twisted wire, ?broken armlet. 103 wire. 104 wire 11 cms long. 105 sheet bronze rolled into a tube. 106 as 105. 107 strip, rectangular section, 5.5 cms long. 108 strip, rectangular section, 21 cms long. 109 miscellaneous fragments, unstratified.

### *PINS*

A small group of dress or hair ornaments made of bronze or silver with similar rounded or flat heads. All typical pin types.

- 111 \*Bronze ? tinned, piriform knob head, 4.7 cms long, broken shank. Similar to Woodeaton, FIG. 4/7. D2 III, Room 2, deposit on cobbled floor, after 335 A.D. FIG. 14/111.
- 112 Bronze, broken point, plain head, 4.5 cms long. Possibly once had a glass, jet or amber bead on the top, cf. Traprain Law, 172.
- 113 \*Bronze, broken point, flat ribbed head, 3.3 cms long. Not a common type, but see Fowler 1964, 132, 156 for other examples, all probably late Roman. c98 v, outside Room 19, undisturbed Roman deposit. FIG. 14/113.
- 114 Bronze, fragile pin, rounded head, 2.2 cms long. Head and shank apparently grooved circular wise top to bottom. Very like modern pin. M2 II, Room 12, plough disturbance.
- 115 Bronze, broken point, rounded head 4 cms long. Resembles the common bone pins. Cf. Jewry Wall, FIG. 89/7. E6 II, courtyard, plough disturbance.
- 116 Silver/lead pin, broken in two, 7.4 cms long. Slightly conical head, Cf. Woodeaton, Pl. A/7. E6 III, verge of road, plough disturbance.
- 117 \*Silver or lead/silver pin, complete, 6.2 cms long, faceted head. Cf. Woodeaton, 18, FIG. 4/2 for a more elaborate version. F7 IV, garden soil. FIG. 14/117.

### *RINGS*

A variety of ring types, including three possible earrings, made of bronze, but none are of particular significance except no. 119 which carries a blue glass intaglio in the bezel. The rings look locally designed and made, and parallels are not easy to find, though Lydney, the Jewry Wall site, Camerton and Woodeaton all produced somewhat similar rings.

- 118 Bronze ring, round sectioned ring, 2 cms diameter, rectangular bronze bezel, T5 v, ditch 5, deliberate Roman filling.
- 119 Bronze ring, D-shaped section, 1.7 cms diameter. Ring is shouldered, triangular shaped and decorated externally with a triangular groove. Round setting to hold opaque blue glass intaglio, representing a ? bust portrait of a man. In style very like Lydney, FIG. 16/53-55. The ring was damaged by fire. D6 IX, ditch 7, builder's debris on sagged filling, c. 275 A.D.

## FROCESTER COURT ROMAN VILLA, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

- 123 \*Bronze ring, incomplete, 1.9 cms diameter. Decorated with pairs of dot/circle alternating with ribs, Cf. Lydney, FIG. 17/K (bracelet). E3 III, corridor 6, on damaged floor. FIG. 12/123.
- 131 \*Bronze ring, doubled stranded twisted wire, 2.3 cms diameter. Hook and eye fastening. T6 V, boundary ditch. FIG. 12/131.
- 132 Bronze ring, double strand twisted wire, 2 cms diameter. Slip knot fastening, like Camerton, FIG. 57/1B, very fragile. M5 II, side road, demolition debris.
- 133 Bronze hook, broken fragment of a plain loop earring. E0 III, Room 2, kitchen deposit on last floor.
- 134 Bronze loop, S-curved, probably part of an earring. H0 II, Room 10, plough disturbance.

### *Rings.*

120-122, 124-130 and 132 common finger rings; parallels, 125, Lydney, FIG. 17/57; 132 Camerton, FIG. 57/1B. 133-135, earrings.

### *STUDS*

Apart from no. 136, a true hobnail, most of these studs may have been more decorative than functional, so should be considered with nos. 62 to 65, with which they have much in common. Most of this group is badly worn and corroded.

- 136 Bronze shoe-shaped stud with iron rivet. 1.6 cms by 0.8 cms. Possibly a stud from a sandal or shoe sole but could also have been a decoration for a leather strap. G2 II, Room 2, E end, deposit on earth floor.
- 137 Bronze domed sheet bronze boss, 2.2 cms diameter. Like Jewry Wall, FIG. 88/17. Could be capping for wooden or bone pin head. F1 V, Room 2, middle, under second floor.
- 138 Bronze domed sheet bronze boss, 1.6 cms diameter. Like 135 but has heavy ? iron filling. Probably a large iron nail with bronze capping. M5 III, side road, demolition debris.
- 139 Bronze, tiny nail head, 0.4 cms diameter. Jewry Wall, FIG. 88/11 for type. L99 III, Room 15, robber deposit in hypocaust basement.
- 140 Bronze, tiny nail head, 0.3 cms diameter. Like 137. E1 III, Room 2, on last kitchen floor.
- 141 Bronze, tiny nail head, 0.7 cms diameter. Like Jewry Wall, FIG. 88/10. E1 III, Room 2, on last kitchen floor.
- 142 Bronze, flat domed stud, incomplete, 2.8 cms diameter. Close to Jewry Wall, FIG. 88/16. E1 IV, Room 2, in patched kitchen floor.
- 143 Bronze, flat domed stud, corroded, 3 cms diameter. No trace of shank. M5 III, side road, demolition debris.
- 144 \*Bronze, large flat headed nail, 3.5 cms diameter of head. Broken square sectioned shank. Jewry Wall, FIG. 88/1 for close parallel. M4 III, side road, make-up of road, c. 360 A.D. FIG. 15/144.

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THE ROMAN COINS *By* RICHARD REECE

The coins from the excavation have been grouped according to their stratigraphical position. Some of the coins are useful in dating deposits by themselves, some form part of a series of coins in a deposit, while some are completely unstratified. To help in using the coins for dating purposes in this report, and indeed if the coins are used in any subsequent study, an attempt has been made to describe the condition of each coin by fitting it into one of four groups labelled  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta$ , or, if the coin were corroded,  $\omega$ .

$\alpha$  apparently uncirculated

$\beta$  visibly worn, but still in very good condition

$\gamma$  well-worn but still legible

$\delta$  worn almost smooth.

References used in the list are:

RIC—*Roman Imperial Coinage*, Mattingly, Sydenham and others.

HK—*Late Roman Bronze Coinage*, Carson, Hill and Kent, Part I.

CK—The same, Part II.

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*Summary and discussion.*

The 365 coins found (note coin 153a) can be summarised briefly in the following table.

First and second centuries, 4:

- Claudius I, As.
- Antoninus Pius, Sestertius.
- Commodus, Sestertius.
- Crispina, Sestertius.

Radiates, 166:

<i>Central Empire</i>		<i>Gallic and British Empires</i>	
Gallienus	7	Postumus	1
Salonina	2	Victorinus	7
Claudius II	4	Tetricus I	6
Quintillus	1	Tetricus II	2
Probus	2	Carausius	2
Diocletian	1	Allectus	1
Maximian I	1	Barbarous	125
	Illegible 4		

Fourth Century, 195:

	<i>Regular coins</i>	<i>Copies</i>	<i>Total</i>
294-317 Folles	6	—	6
317-330 Early Constantine	1	1	2
330-341 Mid Constantine	56	9	65
345-348 Two Victories	24	—	24
348-350 Early 'Fel Temp'	10	—	10
350-353 Magnentius	3	1	4
353-360 'Fel Temp', Fallen Horseman	6	8	14
356-360 Silver	2	—	2
364-378 Valentinian	34	—	34
378-388 AE 4	15	—	15
Illegible		18	18

Since the barbarous radiates, most of which belong to a scattered hoard, are being studied in detail by Mr Mattingly, and will form the substance of a separate report, there is no need to discuss them further here except to emphasise the contexts in which they were found. Out of the total of 125 some 70 occurred in deposits of the late third century, 8 in robber trenches and 17 in plough soil. This

leaves a scatter of only 25 found in deposits of Constantinian date and later and argues very strongly for a production date in the last quarter of the third century.

The few coins of the 1st and 2nd centuries have little to add to the history of the site as they were all extremely worn when lost. Two of them were sealed by the early phases of building operations. One of these was minted for Commodus, whose coins remained in circulation for a very long time. Its state of wear suggests a date after 240 at the earliest. The presence of radiates in several building levels suggests that the construction must have been under way in at least the last quarter of the 3rd century and the occurrence of four folles, which are normally uncommon and had a life of not more than 30 years, in building deposits, suggests that building of some form was still going on at the turn of the 4th century.

The intensity of coin loss stayed stable throughout the 4th century if the numbers of coins are judged against a background of British coin finds as a whole, although two silver coins of Constantius II are an interesting feature which points to an occupation well above a subsistence level. A second factor which at least suggests discrimination in the matter of money is the small number of copies of coins of the period 330–341, and the almost equal numbers of copies and regular coins of 353–360. Some other country sites in these periods were using large numbers of copies, and very few of the originals, but an exact interpretation of this phenomenon has not yet been attempted.

Now that the radiate and Constantinian copies are generally agreed to belong to the same period as their originals the coin list can say very little about the end of the villa, for the latest coins on the site are the same as the latest coins commonly found in England, or the latest coins commonly minted in the West, and these can only take us into the first ten years of the 5th century. The absence of coin evidence after this date should act not as a deterrent, as it has so often done in the past, to suggesting later phases of activity, but a spur to the examination of such phases so that different criteria for dating may be established.

Stratigraphical position of the coins.

*Mosaic Corridor 6.*

- 1– 5 Lying on the surface    Barbarous radiate, otherwise illegible β; Constans as HK 148 ω; Constantius II silver, Rev. VOTIS XXX MVLT XXXX, mm. illegible β; House of Constantine as HK 87 ω; Valentinian I CK 723 β.

FROCESTER COURT ROMAN VILLA, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Room 1

- 6 in fallen roof Barbarous radiate, otherwise illegible  $\gamma$ .  
 7 In first floor Victorinus RIC 78  $\gamma$ .  
 8 On wall footings *Constantinopolis* RIC 7 Tr 543  $\beta$ .

Room 2

- 9 Under charred grain *Constantinopolis* RIC 7 Tr 523  $\beta$ .  
 10 On burnt earth by oven *Urbs Roma* RIC 7 Lug 257  $\omega$ .  
 11 Under relaid stone floor *Urbs Roma* RIC 7 Tr 542  $\beta$ .  
 12 In ash of first oven Claudius II RIC 20 $\gamma$ .  
 13-15 On last floor of kitchen Constans as CK 33  $\gamma$ ; Constantius II as CK 40  $\omega$ ; Illegible  $\delta$ .  
 16-18 In mended kitchen floor Tetricus I RIC 100  $\gamma$ ; Constans HK 133 $\beta$ ; Constans CK 33  $\gamma$ .  
 19 Filling of late post hole Illegible  $\omega$ .  
 20-21 Debris under 2nd kitchen floor Claudius II illeg.  $\delta$ ; *Urbs Roma* RIC 7 Tr 529  $\beta$ .  
 22 In gravel under concrete floor Barbarous copy of Tetricus II as RIC 254  $\gamma$ .  
 23-25 In earth floor at east end Salonina illeg.  $\omega$ ; completely illeg.  $\omega$ ; Allectus RIC 124  $\omega$ .

Room 4

- 26-27 On floor Radiate, otherwise illeg.  $\delta$ ; House of Theodosius as CK 796  $\gamma$ .

Room 5

- 28-38 On last kitchen floor Barbarous copy of Victorinus as RIC 112  $\gamma$ ; *Urbs Roma* as HK 51  $\gamma$ ; Constans HK 274  $\gamma$ ; Constantius II HK 1149  $\gamma$ ; House of Constantine copy as CK 25  $\omega$ ; Valentinian I CK 525  $\beta$ ; Valens CK 280  $\alpha$ ; 480  $\gamma$ ; 499  $\beta$ ; House of Valentinian as CK 96  $\delta$ ; Valentinian I 485  $\beta$ .  
 39 Silt in gully House of Constantine as HK 87  $\beta$ .

Room 7

- 40 On *op. sig.* floor Valens as CK 283  $\gamma$ .  
 41 Silt in hypocaust Salonina RIC 30  $\gamma$ .  
 42 Robber filling in stokehole Magnentius as CK 8  $\beta$ .  
 43 Under builders' debris outside stokehole Constantius II RIC 7 Tr 480  $\beta$ .

Room 11

- 44-48 Debris on floor Barbarous radiates otherwise illeg.  $\gamma$ ,  $\delta$ , Probus illeg.  $\beta$ ; Gratian CK 505  $\gamma$ ; Constantius II copy as CK 25  $\gamma$ .  
 49-53 In tiled floor Gallienus RIC 164  $\gamma$ ; Barbarous radiates otherwise illeg.  $\gamma$ ;  $\omega$ , Diocletian RIC 6 Lon 28a  $\beta$ , Sisc 140a  $\beta$ .  
 54-56 Under tiled floor Victorinus RIC 114  $\beta$ ; Tetricus I RIC 100  $\gamma$ ; Barbarous radiate otherwise illeg.  $\delta$ .

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- 57-60 Collapsed floor in strong box  
Constans HK 140 γ; House of Constantine as CK 25γ, illeg. ω; completely illeg. ω.
- Room 12*
- 61-62 Late gully along east side  
Constantius II CK 25 γ; Valens CK 492 β.
- 63 Yard outside  
Constans HK 261 γ.
- 64 Under foundations  
Constans CK 888 β.
- 65 Under floor of room 12  
Constantius II silver, Rev. VICTORIA DD NN AVG, mm. LVG β.  
Copy as CK 256γ.
- 66 On floor of room 12  
Barbarous Claudius II as RIC 266 β.
- 67 On floor of shed 12a  
*Constantinopolis* RIC 7 Lug 256 β; Valentinian I as CK 275 γ; House of Valentinian as CK 275 γ; Arcadius as CK 164 δ.
- 68-71 Occupation on pitched stone floor  
Valens as CK 97 γ.
- 72 Under pitched floor  
Maximinus II RIC 6 Tr 845a α; Constans HK 150 β; 243 γ; as 138 γ.
- 73-76 Pit with refuse from shed 12a  
Constans as CK 33 γ; House of Constantine as HK 51 ω; as HK 52 ω; as CK 25 γ; as CK 32 δ; illeg. 3 ω.
- 77-84 Early gully along east side of shed  
Valentinian I CK 512 ω; Gratian CK 517 β.
- 85-87 Early silt in broad gully  
Valentinian I CK 520 β; 967 γ; Arcadius CK 1107 β.
- 88-89 Late filling of broad gully
- Ditch 1*
- 90-91 Roman deposit above filling  
*Urbs Roma* as HK 51 δ; Constans HK 140a β.
- 92-97 Deliberate Roman filling  
Tetricus I illeg. γ; Barbarous copies of Claudius II as RIC 261 β; of Tetricus II as RIC 256 γ; Barbarous radiate otherwise illeg. β; House of Constantine as HK 87 δ; copy as CK 25 γ.
- 98-107 Upper silt  
Barbarous radiates otherwise illeg. β, γ; *Constantinopolis* as HK 52 γ; Constans CK 35β; Constantius II HK 148 γ; CK 253 β; copy as CK 72 γ; House of Constantine as HK 87 ω; as HK 180 γ; Magnentius, copy as CK 8 β.
- 108-112 Lower silt  
Barbarous radiates otherwise illeg. 2 δ, ω; Constans HK 154 β; House of Constantine copy as CK 25 δ.
- 113 Primary silt  
Barbarous copy of Tetricus II as RIC 256 δ.
- Ditch 4*
- 114 Under outfall of bath  
House of Constantine as HK 48 γ.
- 115 Loose gravel  
Victorinus RIC 114 β.
- 116-119 Bottom of drain  
Gallienus RIC 144 β; Tetricus I RIC 121 β; Constans HK 160 γ; Constantius II HK 261 γ.
- 120-121 Roman filling  
Barbarous copy of Tetricus II as RIC 267 γ; Constantine II HK 93 β.
- 122-123 Upper filling  
*Constantinopolis* RIC 7 Tr 530 γ; Valentinian I as CK 275 .
- 124 Silt  
Claudius II RIC 266 δ.

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*Ditches 5 and 8*

125 Deposit above sag Magnus Maximus as CK 156 γ.  
126 Sag filling Valens CK 513 γ.

*Ditch 5*

127-138 Above filling Victorinus RIC 114 ω; Barbarous radiate otherwise illeg. δ; *Urbs Roma* RIC 7 Ro 370 β; *Constantinopolis* RIC Tr 530 β; as HK 52 γ; Constans HK 150 δ; House of Constantine as HK 48 γ, copy as HK 48 γ, copy as HK 87 ω, δ; House of Theodosius as CK 162 γ; 4th century illeg. δ.  
139-144 Upper filling *Urbs Roma* as HK 51 δ; Constans CK 35 β; House of Theodosius illeg. δ; 4th century illeg. 3 δ.

145-146 Middle filling Constantine I RIC 7 Tr 537 β; *Constantinopolis* RIC 7 Tr 543 γ.

*Ditch 6*

147-148 Primary silt Barbarous radiate otherwise illeg. δ; 4th century illeg. ω.

*Ditch 7*

149 In stony layer above filling House of Constantine copy as HK 51 δ.

150 Above filling House of Constantine copy as HK 48 γ.

*Ditch 8*

151 Above filling Claudius II illeg. γ.  
152-153 Sag filling Probus RIC 333 β; Magnentius copy as CK 8 γ.

*Courtyard*

153a Top layer of cobbles Barbarous radiate β.

154 Under Road 2 Victorinus RIC 114 γ.

155 Under builders' debris Commodus illeg. γ.

*Stone surface outside Room 5*

156-204 Occupation layer above surface Postumus RIC 78 β; Barbarous copies of Claudius II as RIC 266 4 δ, of Victorinus as RIC 112 β, of Tetricus II as RIC 256 β, as 270 α; Barbarous radiates otherwise illeg. 12 β, 29 γ, ω.

205-208 In surface Barbarous radiates otherwise illeg. β, 2 γ, δ.

209-214 Occupation S.W. of stone surface Barbarous copy of Claudius II as RIC 266 γ; Barbarous radiates otherwise illeg. 2 β, 2 γ, ω.

*Roman deposits W. and S. of Room 5*

215 On stone surface Barbarous radiate γ.

216-217 Occupation beyond stone surface Gallienus RIC 226 γ; Barbarous copy of Claudius II as RIC 266 γ.

218-229 On heap of tilers' chippings Tetricus I regular but illeg. δ; Barbarous copies of Tetricus II as RIC 254 β, γ, of Claudius II as RIC 266 2γ; of Victorinus as RIC 112 γ; Barbarous radiates illeg. β, 5 γ.

*Roman cultivation S. W. of Ditch 1*

230-235 Gallienus illeg. γ; Barbarous radiates illeg. β, 2γ; Gratian as CK 144 δ; 4th century illeg. δ.

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*Stone surface S. W. of Ditch 3*

236 Barbarous radiate illeg. γ.

*Occupation N.E. of Ditch 4*

237 Constans HK 148 β.

*Mud on Road 1*

238 Crispina RIC (Commodus) 672b δ.

*In surface of Road 3*

239 Galerius RIC 6 Lug 186b β.

*Robber trenches*

240 Claudius I good copy as RIC 66 δ.

241 Antoninus Pius illeg. δ.

242 Gallienus RIC 164 β.

243 Tetricus II RIC 247 ω.

244-45 Carausius RIC 117 β, as 878 β.

246 Regular radiate otherwise illeg. ω. Under builders' road.

247-54 Barbarous radiates, one overstruck on Gallienus RIC 180 γ, seven otherwise illeg. 2 β, 4 γ, δ.

255 Diocletian RIC 5, 34 α.

256 Maximian I RIC 5, 399 β.

257-58 Constantine I RIC 6 Tr 734 β (in mud on Road 2), 7 Tr 590 β.

259 Constantine II copy as RIC 7 Tr 527 α.

260 Theodora HK 113 α.

261-62 *Urbs Roma* RIC 7 Ro 370 ω, Arles 407 β.

263-64 *Constantinopolis* RIC 7 Arles 352 β, 374 β.

265-68 Constans HK 133 β, 148 β, 150 γ, 462 β.

269-71 Constantius II HK 137 γ, 242 β, RIC 7 Aqu 120 β.

272-81 House of Constantine. As HK 48 β, copy as HK 48 γ, copy as HK 51 γ, copy as HK 52 δ, hybrid of reverses of HK 51/52 γ, copy as HK 87 β, as HK 137 γ, ω, copies as CK 25 β, γ.

282 Magnentius as CK 19 γ.

283 Decentius CK 10a (as 10 but D3R) α.

284-85 Valentinian I CK 311 β, 514 β.

286-87 Valens CK 492 β, as CK 1416 δ.

288 Gratian CK 517 γ.

289-90 House of Valentinian. As CK 279 β, as 479 γ.

291 Valentinian II CK 562 β.

292-93 Arcadius CK 167 γ, 392 β.

294-96 House of Theodosius. As CK 162, 2 δ, as 796 δ.

297-98 Fourth century illeg. 2 ω.

*Medieval plough soil and modern humus*

299-300 Gallienus RIC 192a (no mm.) β, 270 γ.

301 Claudius II RIC 266 γ.

302 Quintillus RIC 28 β.

303-04 Victorinus RIC 118, 2 γ.

305 Tetricus I illeg. δ.

306 Tetricus II RIC 270 ω.

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- 307-23 Barbarous radiates. Copy as Claudius II RIC 266 γ, otherwise illeg. 2α, 4β, 9 γ, δ.
- 324-28 Constantine I RIC 6 Lug 287 γ, RIC 7 Lon 158 β, HK 87 β, 180 γ, 352 β.
- 329 Constantine II HK 198 γ.
- 330 *Urbs Roma* copy as HK 51 γ.
- 331-33 *Constantinopolis* as HK 52, 2 β, δ.
- 334-40 Constans HK 90 γ, 150 δ, 160 γ, 267 β, 401 γ, CK 35 β, as 35 β.
- 341-42 Constantius II RIC 7 Lug 245 γ, CK 253 β.
- 343 Constantius Gallus as CK 254 but mm. PAR and Obv legend CONSTANTIUS NOB CAE β, may be irregular.
- 344-52 House of Constantine. As HK 48 δ, copy as 51 ω, as 87 γ, 2 ω, as 137 δ, copy as CK 25 α, γ, illeg. δ.
- 353 Valentinian I CK 487 γ.
- 354-56 Valens CK 328 γ, 497 β, 1002 β.
- 357-58 Gratian CK 98 γ, 529 γ.
- 359 House of Valentinian. As CK 96 δ.
- 360 Theodosius I CK 565 γ.
- 361-63 House of Theodosius. As CK 162 γ, as 796 ω, illeg. δ.
- 364 Fragment illeg. δ.

### APPENDIX I

#### THE FRAGMENTS OF MOSAIC FROM THE FROCESTER COURT VILLA<sup>1</sup>

By D. J. SMITH

The only survivals of mosaic were remains of the border and four ornamented panels of the pavement of the corridor ('Room 6'; p. 25) and two small lumps of mortar with tesserae of dimensions suggesting *opus vermiculatum* from Room 4 (p. 22). The latter may date from the period of construction of the villa, i.e. c. A.D. 275 (p. 36), but the mosaic of the corridor was probably not laid before c. A.D. 340 (p. 37). It will be convenient to consider first the fragments from Room 4.

#### THE FRAGMENTS FROM ROOM 4 (FIG. 16)

The larger of these two fragments preserves 17 tesserae occupying an area c. 3.0 x 2.5 cm maximum. Three tesserae of blue lias limestone are arranged in the form of a right angle, suggesting a pattern such as a maeander. The rest are all of creamy white lias limestone and apparently formed part of the plain background to the pattern. Individually the tesserae are not larger than 0.6 cm square and 0.5 cm deep. They are set in a whitish cement on a bed of hard, gritty mortar originally at least 2.0 cm thick, the first application of which included a proportion of crushed tile. The mortar forming one side of this fragment is so straight and smooth as to indicate that it abutted against some structural feature such as a frame or surround.

The smaller fragment preserves only 10 tesserae, three of which are of blue lias and the rest of tile. Here, although other curvilinear patterns might be visualized, the arrangement most strongly suggests part of a pelta with blue centre and red outline—a motif quite common in late Romano-British mosaic.

<sup>1</sup> I am grateful to Captain Gracie for inviting me to comment on these fragments and for placing the necessary drawings, photographs and information at my disposal. I have examined the fragments from Room 4 but did not see those of the mosaic of the corridor.

Strictly speaking, both fragments were recovered not from the actual room but from robber trenches bounding it. They cannot, however, be considered as deriving from the floor of Room 4 for this was of *opus signinum* (p. 22). In any case, although exceptionally small tesserae may be found here and there in mosaic pavements of any period, their employment throughout both background and pattern is quite unknown in any Romano-British pavement from so late a period as that of the villa of Frocester Court. These fragments, therefore, are more probably remains of wall mosaic. This would accord both with the size of their tesserae and with their discovery in robber trenches on the lines of the walls of a room. They may thus be added to the relatively small number of instances of wall mosaic recorded in Britain.<sup>1</sup>

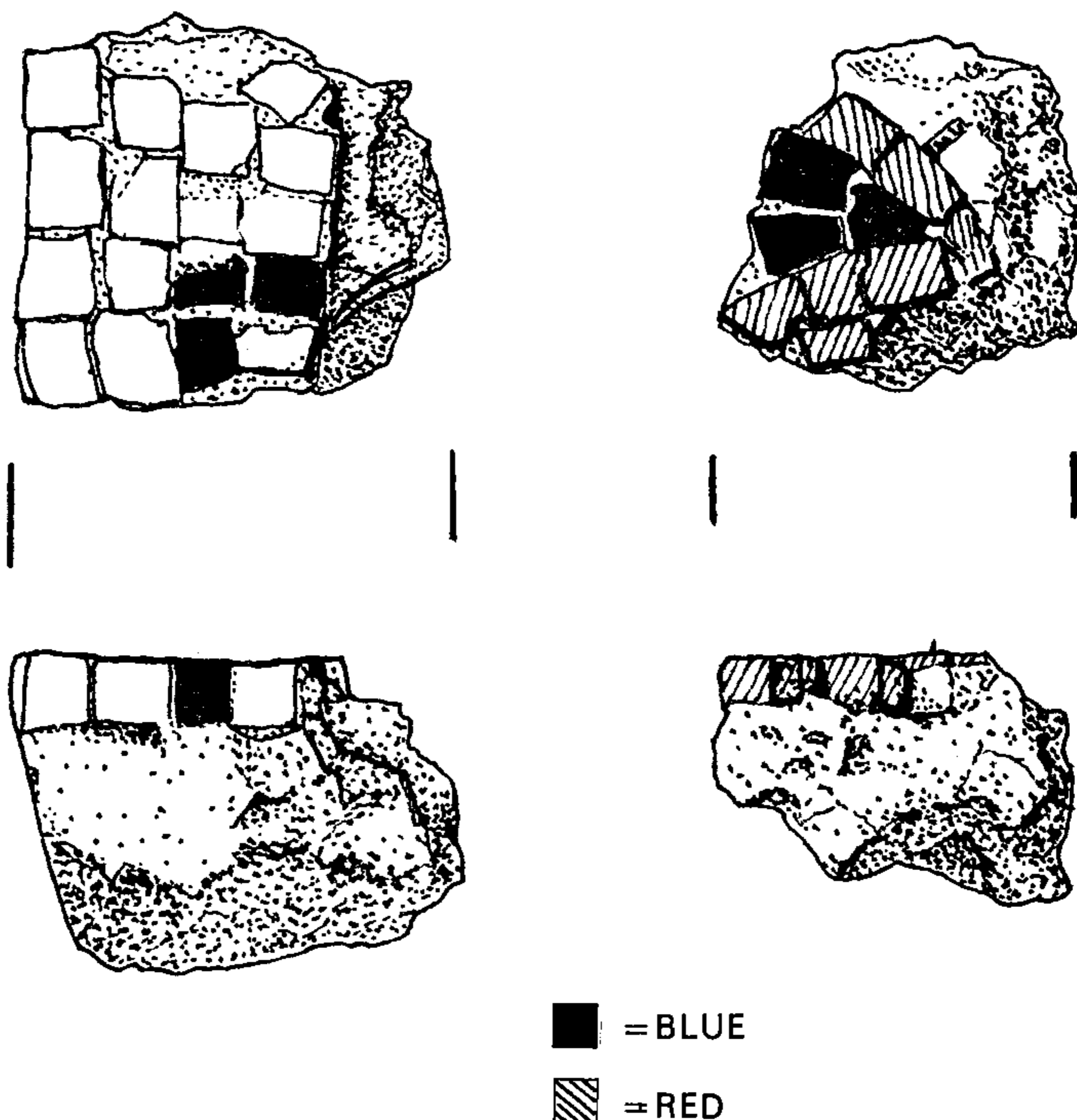


Fig. 16. Fragments of mosaic from Room 4 ( $\frac{I}{I}$ ). Drawn by Mary M. Hurrell.

### THE FRAGMENTS FROM THE CORRIDOR (ROOM 6) (PL. II)

#### *Description*

The corridor measured 25.6 x 3.4 m or 84 ft. x 11 ft. 6 in. Originally it was paved with stone (p. 25) and not until considerably later, probably when other floor levels were raised (p. 25), was the floor of the corridor raised and surfaced with a

<sup>1</sup> So far as I am aware only two other sites in Britain have yielded acceptable evidence of *opus vermiculatum*. One is Eccles (Kent), the context being c. A.D. 65-120. I am indebted to Mr A. P. Detsicas for information of this most recent discovery. The other is Fishbourne (Sussex): see *Antiquaries Journal* XLIV (1964), 5.

## FROCESTER COURT ROMAN VILLA, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

patterned mosaic. The tesserae in the border (see below) were approximately 3.2 cm (1.25 in.) square, in the patterns 1.6 cm (0.625 in.) square, but often irregularly shaped, and their colours comprised blue and white (lias limestone), yellow (oolitic limestone), red (tile) and purple (Old Red Sandstone, from the Forest of Dean across the Severn).

The patterns were surrounded by a simple border of two bands each 33.15 cm (13.5 in.) wide, the outer white and the inner purple. Within this border there survived the remains of four patterned panels (PL. II). These were sufficient, however, to indicate that the total number of such panels had been probably not more than fifteen, as well as that the design of the mosaic as a whole had been based upon at least—and also possibly at most—three different motifs set singly in approximately square panels and so repeated several times.

Panel 1 (PL. IIA) consisted of a simple guilloche arranged in the form of a single unit of key-pattern into which L-shaped narrow bands were inserted. Panels 3 and 4 (see below) suggest that the guilloche of Panel 1 and of any repeats of this panel may have been carried on to border or frame some adjacent panels and so perhaps to run like a connecting thread throughout the length of the mosaic. Admittedly no guilloche survived around the adjacent panel 2 (PL. IIA); but the pattern of this panel formed a square of the same size as that of Panels 3 and 4 within their frames of guilloche, and it is therefore almost certainly safe to assert that a guilloche once also surrounded Panel 2. The pattern of Panel 2 consisted of four small squares arranged quarterly each containing smaller squares concentrically, and all enclosed by an inner and an outer border both formed by a double line of tesserae.

Panel 3 (adjacent to 2) and Panel 4 (some distance from 3) were almost identical (PLS. II b and c). Both were framed by a simple guilloche, that of Panel 3 apparently running on to border Panel 2 (see above) and that of Panel 4 to border the missing panels on either side. In these two panels a single motif was contained in a square linear frame within the guilloche border. The motif was compounded of a guilloche knot, set diagonally, and four peltae, each fitted in to one side of the knot, with a spiralling tendril reaching out from the dexter tip of each pelta towards the nearest angle of the enclosing square frame.

### *Discussion*

The simple quartering of Panel 2 forms too plain a pattern to offer any unequivocal evidence either for the attribution or for a closer dating of the mosaic as a whole and so evokes no further comment. The key pattern in guilloche of Panel 2 is equally uninformative, being recorded in Britain in late mosaics differing in style and content and from sites as far apart as Aldborough (Yorks.),<sup>1</sup> York<sup>2</sup> and Wellow (Som.).<sup>3</sup>

The motif repeated in Panels 3 and 4, however, is of much greater interest and significance for this is paralleled in two mosaics elsewhere which can be attributed to a mosaicists' workshop (*officina*) almost certainly established in Cirencester-Corinium in the early 4th century and most conveniently described as 'the Corinian school'.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> H. E. Smith, *Reliquiae Isurianae* (1852), Pl. XII.

<sup>2</sup> R. C. H. M. (England), *Eboracum—Roman York* (1962), Pl. 24.

<sup>3</sup> Soc. Ants. Lond., *Vetusta Monumenta I* (1747), Pl. LII.

<sup>4</sup> D. J. Smith, in *La Mosaique Greco-Romaine* (Paris, 1965), 105-111; *ibid.*, in *The Roman Villa in Britain* (ed. A. L. F. Rivet, 1969), 97-102.

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One of the two mosaics in question is that of Room 1 at North Leigh (Oxfords.),<sup>1</sup> the other a pavement of a 4th-century house excavated in Cirencester in 1964.<sup>2</sup> There is therefore reason to think that it was craftsmen of the Corinian school who laid the mosaic of the corridor at Frocester Court.

The rather peculiar motif on which this conclusion can be based appears to have been invented and employed only by the Corinian school and this in itself is sufficient to warrant the attribution. At the same time it may be noted in addition that rows of square panels each containing a single motif or pattern and repeated either alternately or, as at Frocester Court, two or more times throughout the length of a pavement, are another feature of mosaics attributable to the Corinian school, e.g. in another room at North Leigh,<sup>3</sup> and in two pavements at Woodchester<sup>4</sup> (only four miles to the east of Frocester Court), while patterns and their arrangements in one of the latter are paralleled at Withington (Glos.).<sup>5</sup>

Although one of the most modest examples of the work of the Corinian school, the mosaic of Frocester Court is especially significant, for it can confidently be regarded as dated in so far as a *terminus post quem* has been established on external evidence and is the only one of the many mosaics attributable to the Corinian school—some forty in all—of which this can be said. It thus affords for the first time an objective clue to the period of activity of this important school. To be exact, of course, its significance in this respect is limited to the light that it throws on the period of those mosaics which have been mentioned above, and most particularly those of North Leigh and Cirencester 1964, which there are stylistic grounds for regarding as possibly amongst the last of the Corinian school's products.<sup>6</sup> It cannot be too strongly emphasized, therefore, that in the absence of a *terminus ante quem* the dating of the mosaic of Frocester Court, however suggestive, is not definitive, and that even the *terminus post quem* is not applicable without appropriate reservations to any related mosaic.

### APPENDIX II

#### THE WALL PLASTER

By E. G. PRICE

All walls having been robbed to below floor level, no plaster was found *in situ*. A great many fragments were recovered from the robber trenches and destruction deposits, including a large piece from the middle of Room 2, and some from stratified deposits under the last floor of Room 12. Quarter-round mouldings, in *opus signinum* and normal lime plaster, were found in the vicinity of Room 4 and *in situ* in the cold plunge. Many angled sections, suggesting the edges of window splays and sills and door openings, were set at 90°, 135° or 150°. Many re-entrant, right-angled fragments came from the corners of rooms and a number from an arched niche. Three moulded fragments suggested a pilaster.

<sup>1</sup> H. Hakewill, *An Account of the Roman Villa discovered at Northleigh*, etc. (1826), Pl. 2, FIG. 1; reprod. in *Antiquaries Journal* XLIX (1970), Pl. XL.

<sup>2</sup> *Antiquaries Journal* XLV (1965), 102-4, Pl. XXXIIIa.

<sup>3</sup> Hakewill, *op. cit.* Pl. 3, FIG. 1.

<sup>4</sup> S. Lysons, *Reliquiae Britannico-Romanae II* (1817), part I, Pl. XXII, mosaics B and G; *ibid.*, *An Account of Roman Antiquities discovered at Woodchester*, etc. (1797), Pls. XI, XII.

<sup>5</sup> S. Lysons, *Reliquiae Britannico-Romanae II* (1817), part I, Pl. XIX.

<sup>6</sup> D. J. Smith, *Antiquaries Journal* XLIX (1970), 242.

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On the plan the plaster falls into six main groups:

1. Robber deposits in and around the bath block;
2. Stratified deposit under the last floor of Room 12;
3. Roman deposit in the ash under the octagonal hearth in Room 12;
4. Robber deposits in the wall trenches, hypocaust channels and stoke hole of Rooms 7 and 20;
5. Robber and destruction deposits round the middle section of Room 2;
6. Robber deposits on the north-east side of Room 4 and extending into Room 12.

Five different types of plaster were distinguished, as follows:

A. An *opus signinum* plaster of brick fragments, screened local gravel and lime, making a fairly hard but powdery, mellow, pink material. This was used extensively in the bath block. Walls were rendered with up to three  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch layers finished to a smooth white surface with rendering marks often as nearly vertical as possible, suggested by the position of the flue tile impressions on the reverse. Edgings were brushed so that the marks follow the lines of the edges.

Found in groups 1 and 2.

B. An *opus signinum* plaster differing from A in that there is little or no gravel present. This produces a sharper, whiter material. It is applied to walls in thick layers often found based on Type A. The finish is similar to, and often better than, A, showing no rendering marks. There are, however, some flue tile impressions on the reverse.

Found only in group 1.

C. This is composed of screened gravel, sand and lime with little or no brick. It is usually applied in thinner layers than A or B. It usually has a smooth, white finish, but a quantity shows very rough rendering, sometimes in Room 2 almost a rough-cast. Some reverses from Room 7 suggest timber backings and there is some evidence of flue tile impressions.

Found in groups 3, 4, 5 and 6.

D. At first glance this appears to consist of foreign aggregates, although it is found in the same deposits as Type C and is often on a C base.

An experiment with a Type C fragment—heating it in an open fire for two hours—produced material identical with Type D, even to the apparent redness of the upper layer only. From this it is suggested that D is actually C subjected to the fire that destroyed part of the house. This is further borne out by the badly discoloured and often unrecognisable paint work from these areas.

Found in groups 5 and 6.

E. This is a daub type plaster of soft clay and lime. It is found only in deposits 4 and 5. In 4 it is used as a re-plastering material on a Type C painted base. Usually it is very thin and is found only in a small quantity. In 5 a similar material is used as a base for a Type C finish half an inch thick. This backing is 1 inch thick and shows distinct traces of wattle and horizontal and vertical lath work. There is some evidence of fire blackening.

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When plotted on the plan we find the different types fall into the different groups as follows:

<i>Group</i>	<i>Types</i>
1, Bath block	A, B
2, Under floor, Room 12	A
3, Ash pit, Room 12	C
4, Rooms 7 and 20	C, E
5, middle of Room 2	C, D, E
6, Room 4	C, D

This distribution indicates that Type C only was used in Periods I, II, and IIa. A makes its first appearance in the bath block in Period III, mid 4th century. The discarded fragments of A under the late floor of Room 12 suggest that the alterations to Room 13 (p. 30) occurred at this time, i.e. in the last quarter of the 4th century. Type B was probably introduced at this time. It is found based on Type A. Type E was used extensively for re-decorating Room 2 and sparingly for minor repairs in Room 7. Type D confirms that the centre block was destroyed by fire. The wattle and lath work impressions on the reverses of fragments from Room 2 confirm the deduction that that room was divided by light partitions (p. 21). The evidence of timber backing on the reverses of a few fragments in group 4 suggests that Room 7 could have been a half-timber construction, though they could equally well represent door jambs or window frames. A great many fragments of white-painted plaster were found in all parts of the villa.

### *Colour finishes*

Type A was found only in the bath block and under the late floor of Room 12. Its first appearance, then, is in Period III. The deposit in Room 12 was not accompanied by any Type B material and was probably derived from the alteration to the partition between Rooms 13 and 15. The most striking patterns are geometric. Those shown in FIG. 17 are in red, green and brown on a white background. Nos. 1 and 3 match exactly and suggest a vertical zig-zag pattern (a diagonal Greek key seems improbable). No. 2 has minor differences and is another version of the same pattern. The pattern occurs again in No. 4 where in one arm of the acute angle the bead motif is in two shades of green and in brown in the other. There are also two examples of obtuse angles but in one case the bead motifs are in brown in each arm while in the other they are in green. A very similar pattern, with the acute angle, was found in purple, red and pink. The bead motif occurs again in the niche (*infra*, p. 80). Another panel border, in stripes and bands in red, pink, purple, mauve and yellow, is 8 inches wide over all.

Within the panels the finds are too fragmentary for any definite pattern to be established. A mock marble effect in yellow and blue stippling on a pink background may come from a dado, as may another in red and blue on a pink base. Other motifs include a lattice pattern in yellow and purple; a zig-zag red line with yellow abstract design; a hint of a grape-like pattern in purple and mauve; a diagonal row of red dots. In one room of the bath block there was extensive use of blue and a brown vertical stripe, while room corners show broad bands of red and window splays are in red and blue or red and white. The group is reminiscent of Type C Colour schemes and apparently comes from an unheated room, perhaps the dressing room.

Wall angles usually have red bands on both walls and then the vertical stripes of panel edges. The corners of window splays and sills and door openings are usually

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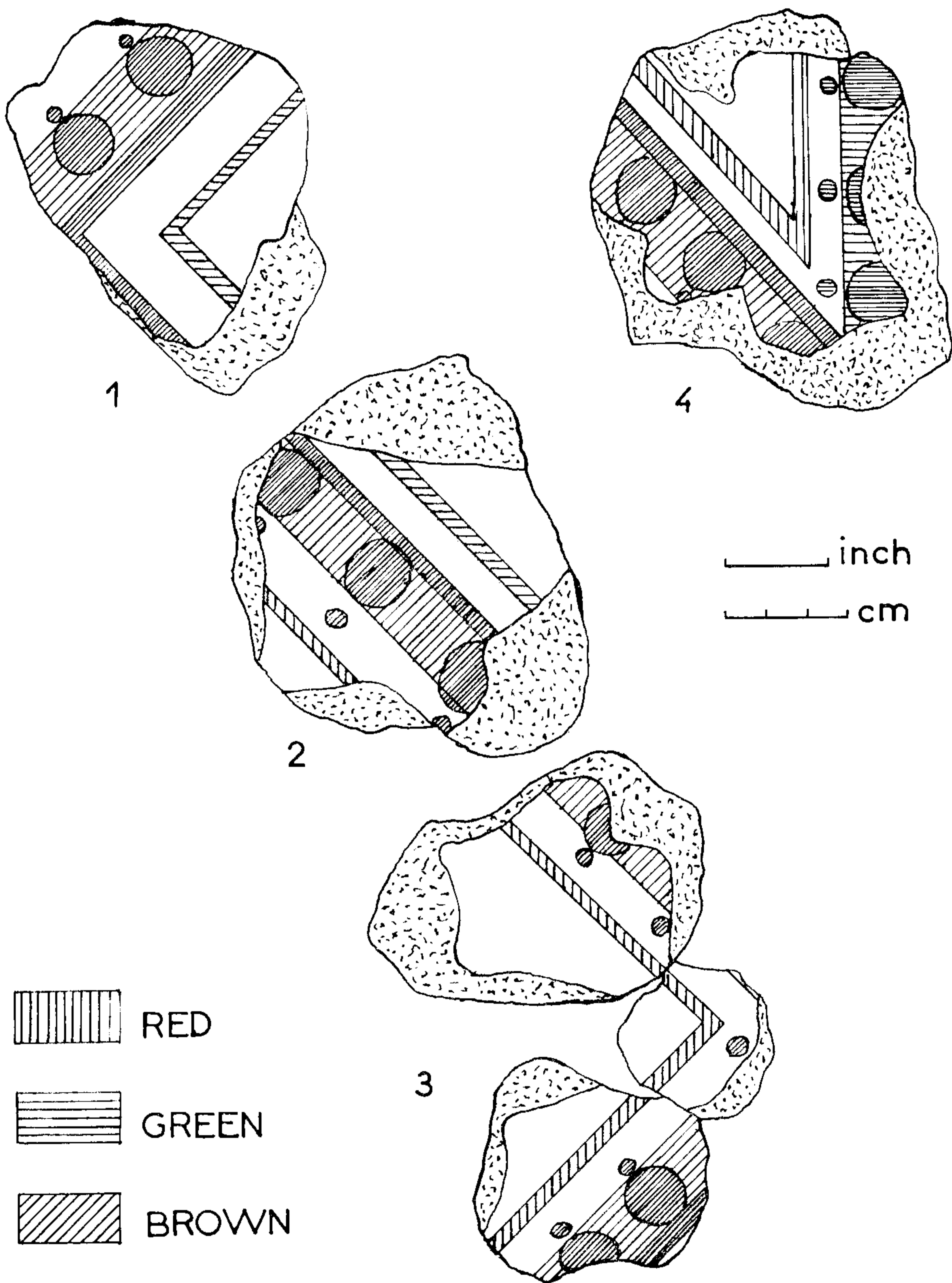


Fig. 17. Painted wall plaster.

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outlined in red on both sides, though there are examples in red and blue and red and white. In one corner, however, we have interlacing bands of red, brown, purple and mauve.

FIG. 18, 1 shows a restored portion from the wall at the back of an arched niche. Several sections were found of straight chords inside a curved red band. The straight sections are about 2 feet long, but the angles are not all quite the same. This suggests that the arch was not precisely semicircular and could be anything from 6 to 9 feet wide, depending on whether there were 5 or 6 angles. The bead motif is in two shades of green on a white ground. All the fragments were found in Group 2 and were probably derived from Room 13 or 15 when alterations required complete redecoration. There are impressions of flue tiles on the reverse.

Type B, found only in the bath block.

The colours here are essentially violent with a preponderance of purple. Incised lines were used to mark out the patterns on a prevaingly white background of good quality. Examples of wide bands in purple, red, pink, mauve and green were common. There was also a panelled pattern in purple and mauve with, inside, a hint of a grape-like pattern including a green leaf. (FIG. 18, 4). Window splays at 135° had purple edges. One fragment with a white vertical finish had been up against a wooden door or window frame. A quantity of re-plastering over Type B which in turn covered unpainted Type A, and repainting covered an original design in red with purple and yellow. This type would appear to date from the redecoration of Rooms 13 and 15 after the re-building of the partition towards the end of the 4th century or it might have been for a specialised purpose. The find spots were concentrated in this area.

Type C was concentrated in and around Rooms 2, 4 and 7 and offers three different colour schemes. That from Room 2 was mixed with fire-damaged Type D. Grey or mauve seems to be the background colour on a roughly finished, white-faced plaster. Fragments show purple and green stripes, mauve-red-mauve stripes and unidentified patterns in blue, green, brown and purple. One other fragment suggests a mock stone effect in yellow with red splashes, outlined by a red horizontal band on one side. In the corner of the rooms was a wide red band. A large piece of painted plaster was found upside down in the middle of the room.

Room 4. Most of the fragments from the vicinity of this room had been whitewashed over the paint and a few showed traces of re-painting over the whitewash. Many pieces showed up to five straight stripes and narrow bands in different colours, none of which were large enough to show whether they enclosed panels, though this is probable. The colours were white, black, blue and varying shades of red and yellow. There was, however, one large piece with horizontal stripes and bands in black, grey and white with a white area above it, apparently the top of a dado. Other fragments showed a suggestion of lattice work in yellow on white and stylised floral designs in red and green, while on others were monochrome areas in green or brown with curved edges sometimes outlined in red. A number of marbled fragments in mauve with purple and white splashes, not whitewashed, are thought to have come from a dado. Re-painting over the whitewash was in purple and mauve or red above the original more mellow colours.

Room 7 seems to have been decorated in panels of different colours. The one illustrated (FIG. 18, 2) shows, outside a red field, a band of chocolate, a blue line, a white band, two narrow bands of chocolate with semicircular and elongated protuberances and finally another chocolate band. A similar one is in chocolate and blue

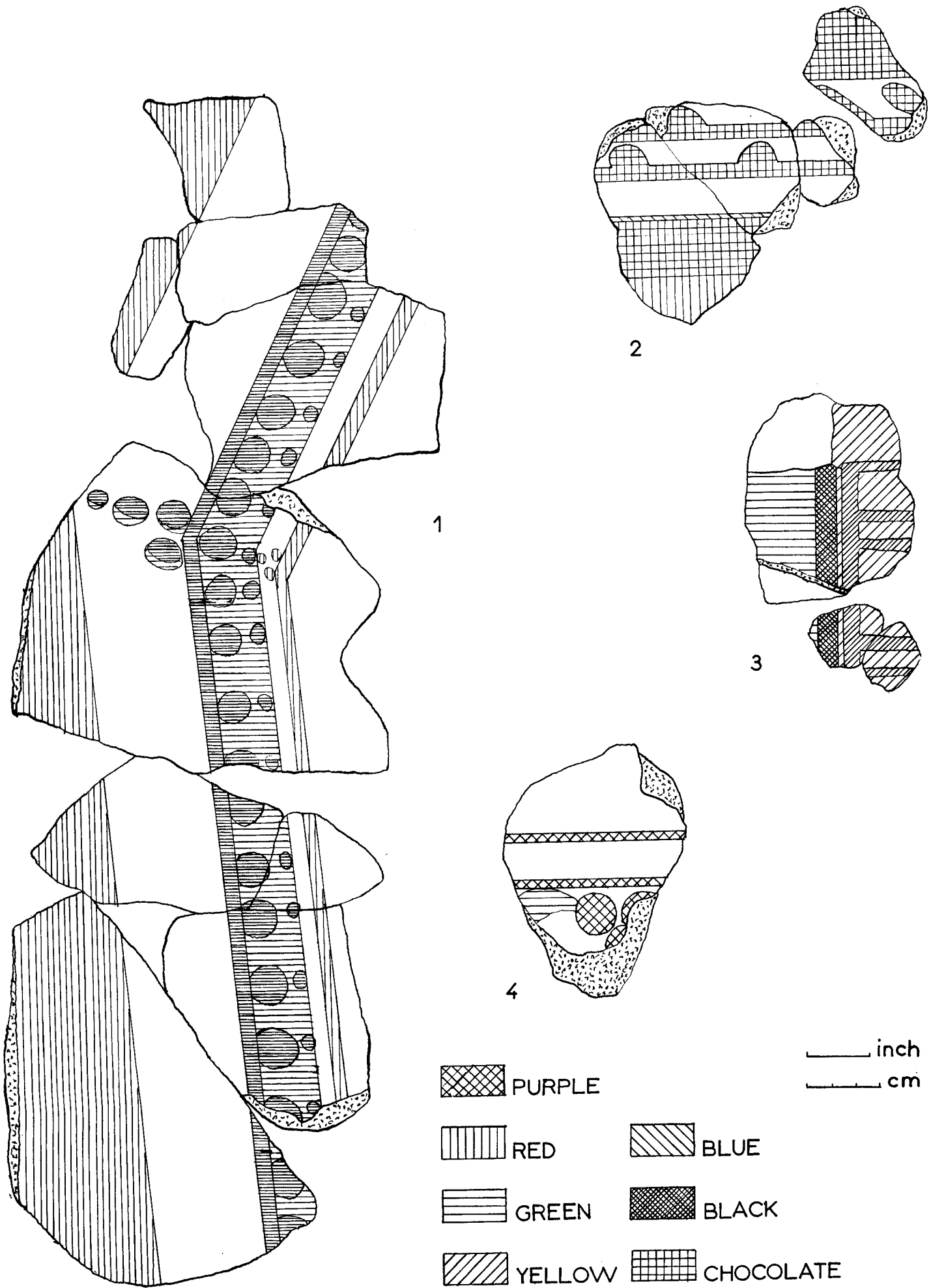


Fig. 18. Painted wall plaster.

## FROCESTER COURT ROMAN VILLA, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

and another in dark and pale yellow. The protuberances are a feature of these. There are simpler panels outlined in red or purple and mauve or yellow and pink bands without the protuberances. The patterns within the panels are all fragmentary but there are several arabesques, formalised leaf and floral designs; also a number of monochrome areas bounded by curves up to 4-inch radii. The colours include purple and mauve, blues, greens, reds and yellows. In a wall corner there was a 2-inch red band next to a pattern of red markings on a blue ground. Many fragments show re-decoration with up to three paintings. In one case a window splay was painted four times—in yellow, purple, mauve and purple.

Type D is found in Rooms 2 and 4. The designs and colours appear to be the same as Type C, but fire damage renders identification uncertain.

Type E comes from Rooms 2 and 7. Fragments from Room 2 are again similar to those of Type C. They include a red corner band 2 inches wide on a white background. Some of those from Room 7 were painted in mauve, purple and black. There was also evidence of a wide green vertical band edged with black, enclosing a dark yellow lattice pattern on a lighter ground (FIG. 18, 3).

### APPENDIX III

#### GRAIN

By MRS. H. H. CLARK

A sample of 736 c.c. of charred material was sent for examination to Mrs H. H. Clark of the Department of Plant Science, University of Newcastle upon Tyne. She reports<sup>1</sup> that this was composed of a large number of cereal grains loosely embedded in a matrix of compacted charcoal dust and sand.

A striking feature was the almost perfect condition of the actual cereal grains which comprised the bulk of the sample. These had suffered the minimum of distortion and gave the impression that the grain had been in some way protected during burning and that the carbonization process had been relatively slow. The plump and unblemished appearance of the grain, the entire lack of any signs of germination and the almost complete absence of chaff, weed seeds and other vegetable impurities, strongly suggested that one was dealing with well-grown, clean, healthy crops which had been harvested and stored under ideal conditions. Unfortunately, as a result of the cleanliness of the sample, and the apparent efficiency of the threshing process, parts of the cereal ear other than the grains were not available for examination and identification was thereby made more difficult.

#### *Cereals*

##### 1. Six-rowed hulled Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*)

There was sufficient evidence to show that the barley was six-rowed but, in the absence of internodes of the axis, it is impossible to say whether they were lax or dense. The average, minimum and maximum measurements compare well with similar published data for other barley finds from Roman Britain and confirm the impression that the Frocester barley was a well-favoured sample.

<sup>1</sup> A more detailed report has been lodged at Gloucester Museum and it is hoped that this will be published elsewhere in due course.

## 2. The cultivated wheats.

It was apparent, even from superficial examination, that at least three groups could be recognised differing considerably in size and morphology. It was, again, difficult to determine the exact species. There were four possibilities. Either or both of the glume wheats, Emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*) and Spelt (*T. Spelta*), could be present accompanied by either or both of the naked bread wheats, Bread Wheat itself (*T. aestivum*) and Club Wheat (*T. compactum*).

Without the help of spikelet parts it is practically impossible to distinguish between the carbonized grains of Emmer and Spelt. In Roman times Spelt was by far the commoner of the two in Southern England, where it had almost completely replaced Emmer by the beginning of the 1st century. A single broken glume fork from the charcoal dust was unmistakably of the Spelt type and not the Emmer. Furthermore, the dimensions and ratios are very close to those determined by Helbaek for the Spelt of the Rivenhall (Roman) find. On the whole, it is felt that the cumulative evidence justifies the conclusion that the Frocester glume wheat is Spelt.

It is extremely difficult to distinguish between carbonized grains of Bread Wheat and Club Wheat. In early material the grains of the Club Wheat are distinctly smaller than those of the true Bread Wheat, and as a distinct size difference was detectable in the sample, it is tempting to suggest that both the forms were present. In the complete absence of corroborative morphological evidence, such as is supplied by portions of the ear, it is unwise to make an exact identification. I have therefore designated them wheats of the *Triticum aestivum* group, Type A (large) and Type B (small).

## 3. Seeds of Weed Grasses.

The following species were identified by means of their morphological features and the dimensions of the carbonized grains.

- (a) Bristle-pointed Oat (*Avena strigosa*)—present in quantity.
- (b) Wild Oat (*Avena fatua*)—one fruit only.
- (c) Rye Brome-grass or Chess (*Bromus secalinus*).
- (d) Perennial Rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*)—in fair quantity.

In addition, one piece of the matrix, when treated with water, disintegrated to release a large number of carbonized grass "seeds" which have not yet been identified with certainty. They strongly suggest the common Couch-grass (*Agropyron repens*), an arable weed not previously recorded for the Roman field. Further investigations are in progress.

## 4. Weed Seeds.

Only one weed seed was detected, that of either Redshank (*Polygonum persicaria*) or the closely related species, Pale Persicaria (*P. lapathifolium*).

## 5. Charcoal.

A few pieces of charcoal were found. All were Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), recognisable by the radially arranged lines of wood vessels and strongly marked medullary rays. The pieces were so small that not more than two annual rings could be counted in any of them, but the curvature suggested that they were from slender twigs not more than 2 cms in diameter.

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## APPENDIX IV

### HUMAN REMAINS

*By* Dr. C. R. OYLER

The skeleton buried in the angle between the centre block and the north-east wing (FIG. 2) was examined by Dr. C. R. Oyler, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. His detailed report is lodged in Gloucester City Museum. The following is a summary of his report.

The skeleton is undoubtedly that of a male probably 50–55 years of age and about 5 ft 8 ins in height.

A clear-cut ovoid depression, about the size of a pea, in the skull indicates the existence of an aneurysm of the middle meningeal artery. It is impossible to deduce whether the aneurysm was intact at death or not but, if it ruptured during life, it would certainly have caused death, probably within moments. Probable symptoms during life include headache, with vomiting; epilepsy; difficulty of co-ordinating movements of the lower limbs; sudden, violent, inexplicable rage; difficulty in co-ordinating emotion.

The teeth are outstandingly poor. There are heavy tartar deposits and many cavities and the lower molars were lost 10–20 years before death. In the absence of opposing molars much chewing seems to have been done with the incisors. In theory this should have been the cause of chronic indigestion and peptic ulcer. The 2nd and 3rd cervical vertebrae are fused, as are the 5th and 6th. The fusion is probably congenital and would have resulted in a stiff neck and the head being held over to the left side.

The long bones are more slender than is usual in Romano-British skeletons. The prominence of certain muscle attachments and the vascularity and polishing of articular surfaces indicate that this relatively frail framework had been adapted to heavy manual labour for which it was not physically built. The joint changes that have been observed indicate traumatic osteoarthritis which occurs in certain susceptible subjects in joints exposed to constant heavy use. The arthritis, however, would not have caused much distress.

## APPENDIX V

### THE FROCESTER COURT VILLA HOARD OF 'BARBAROUS RADIATES'

*By* HAROLD B. MATTINGLY

This small hoard of 'barbarous radiates' is completely typical of a strange Romano-British currency, which seems to be paralleled only in Gaul.<sup>1</sup> All its 68 copies—whether in obverse legend, portrait or reverse type—are modelled on the regular coinage issued by the mints of the Central Empire between A.D. 260 and 282 or by those of the Gallic Empire in the fifteen years of secession before the Tetrici succumbed—inevitably—to Aurelian in A.D. 274. Most of the coins

<sup>1</sup> I must thank Richard Reece for drawing my attention to this hoard, and Capt. H. S. Gracie for allowing me to study it and the related material at leisure. For a good survey of 'barbarous radiates' in Gaul see J. B. Giard, *Annuaire de l'École pratique des hautes études* 1965–6, pp. 461–468.

in it are of small module. No less than 53 fall below 13 mm diameter and may be termed 'minims'; 28 are of less than 10 mm, and a quarter of these do not even exceed 8 mm. The two tiniest copies have 6 mm diameters only. With this marked preponderance of really reduced copies the hoard closely parallels the much larger deposits from the Verulamium Theatre and from Worthing.<sup>1</sup> The prototypes are always antoniniani—the standard 'silver' denomination until A.D. 274 (with a silver surface, but minimal silver content)—or the reformed coin introduced by Aurelian when he ended the Gallic secession. On these coins the Emperor wears a radiate crown.<sup>2</sup>

### *I. Description of the hoard*

There are two regular issues, one Central Empire and one Gallic:

1. GALLIENVS AVG/LAETITIA AVG *Roman Imperial Coinage* (RIC), v, 1, no. 226 (sole reign: Rome). c. A.D. 263? 18 mm.
2. IMP C POSTVMVS P F AVG/PAX AVG. *Roman Imperial Coinage* (RIC), v, 2, no. 78. A.D. 266/7? 21 mm.

The great majority of the irregular coins are of too reduced module or of too poor style, one would think, to have passed as forgeries of genuine antoniniani or of the reformed 'silver': yet some people may have been taken in, however briefly, and led to assign a higher status to the coins than they deserved. We could more easily believe this, if we could assume that the copies also originally had a silvered appearance. Many of the real 'minims' are struck on well-rounded flans and show a neat, sometimes even artistic style on both sides. If they shone silver (for a while), the ignorant at any rate may have thought them valuable.<sup>3</sup> But I am still inclined myself to regard the *cruder*, smaller pieces as a form of local divisional currency, designed to help remedy a chronic shortage of small change. About one copy there can be no doubt at all. It is a very passable imitation of the posthumous issue struck for Claudius II (A.D. 268–270) by his brother Quintillus and Quintillus' successor Aurelian. The diameter is 17 mm and the reverse type is an altar (as RIC v, 1, no. 266). This is clear forgery.

Classification of the other 67 coins is difficult. Copies nos. 2–33 have reasonably recognisable portraits and often parts of an imperial name.<sup>4</sup> We find Victorinus (A.D. 268–270)—a Gallic emperor—twice, Claudius II ten times, Tetricus I eight times and his son only once less often; there are also three 'Tetrican' portraits. One Victorinus copy has the unusual reverse type of 'Mars striding left with spear and trophy' (*Mars Ultor*). Five other reverses in this group derive from the posthumous 'Altar' issue for Claudius II. This type strongly appealed to the irregular moneyers,

<sup>1</sup> See T. V. Wheeler, *Num. Chron.* 1937, pp. 215 ff. and 221 ff. with Pls. XI–XXX; G. D. Lewis and H. B. Mattingly, *Num. Chron.* 1964, pp. 189–199 with Pls. XVI–XVIII.

<sup>2</sup> For the metallurgy of the 'antoninianus' and the reform coin see L. H. Cope, *Num. Chron.*, 1969, pp. 145–161.

<sup>3</sup> See G. Boon, *Camb. Arch. Ass.* 1967, 119–121. When studying hoards I have noted quite a few copies with silver-rich surfaces—one was found in association with this hoard (see p. 85)—but they tend to be large 'forgeries', I find, rather than minim copies.

<sup>4</sup> Professor Mattingly's numbering differs from Mr Reece's. The Key is lodged with the coins in Gloucester City Museum. Ed.

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since it gave ample scope for developing abstract design, and nos. 33–34 are further examples. Another favourite type, with good decorative possibilities, was *Pietas Augg* ('the Emperors' piety') with its sacrificial implements. It occurs five times in nos. 2–33 and nos. 45–49 present some more interesting variations.<sup>1</sup> Beyond this I can do little. Nos. 50–60 include some intriguing portraits, but the reverses are hard to decipher and sometimes illegible.

There seem to be no die-links between hoard coins, which suggests that no 'mint' lay very close. But there is one group (nos. 61–67) characterised by thin fabric and very low relief. I think that these are probably products of a single centre of manufacture. There is also a suggestive affinity of portrait style between nos. 34–36 and 45–46. Perhaps these copies came from a second Gloucestershire 'mint'.

Only one hoard coin has any connection, as far as I can see, with another hoard that I know. No. 68 has a Tetrican portrait with sharp features and an uncertain reverse. It reminds me of a small cluster of copies in the large hoard from Calverton (Notts.), but I have not yet been able to confirm this impression and it may prove illusory.

The date of the hoard would be clear from the predominance of tiny copies alone. It must belong to the end of Probus's reign or that of Carinus (A.D. 282–284). In fact there is one copy (no. 15: 7 mm) with the emperor's head turned left. This appears to be a feature of 'barbarous' hoards of Proban date, since heads left are much more common on his coinage than on those of his predecessors.<sup>2</sup> There is also one copy (no. 14: 10 mm) which seems to show part of Probus's legend—OBVS—and has a distinctive portrait not unlike that Emperor.<sup>3</sup>

### *II. Coins that were possibly once part of the hoard*

The hoard had been scattered in Roman times 'through an occupation layer 16 x 8 yards in extent and 3 inches thick, 10 of the coins being in contact and forming a nucleus in grid square z4'. This layer was disturbed by ridge and furrow ploughing and 33 other 'barbarous' copies and one regular piece may reasonably be regarded as having once formed part of the hoard.<sup>4</sup> I list them separately here. The orthodox coin is an antoninianus of Gallienus with illegible reverse (18 mm). Only 6 of the copies are of 15 mm or over, 19 fall below 13 mm and 9 of these below 10 mm. The smallest is a mere 7.5 mm in diameter. Three large copies (19, 17 and 19 mm) are clearly good contemporary forgeries and the first—Gallienus' *Dianae Cons. Aug.* (RIC V, I, no. 180)—is even silver-washed. The two other types copied are the posthumous Claudius II 'Altar' issue and the *Pietas Augg* type of Tetricus II.

The rest again are hard to classify. From no. 4 to no. 14 there are recognisable portraits—Victorinus (2), Claudius II (3), Tetricus I (4) and Tetricus I or II (1). Four of the reverses derive from *Pietas Augg* (implements). One (no. 9) is copied from the posthumous 'Eagle' issue for Claudius II, which is rarely attempted. Nos. 15–17 present variations of the 'Altar' type, all of only 9 mm module. Nos. 18–22 are marked by variant portrait-styles, whilst nos. 23–31 are virtually illegible. The two most interesting minims are nos. 32 and 33, which link up with groups known from the

<sup>1</sup> Dr C. H. V. Sutherland discussed and illustrated some fascinating variations on these two themes from the Whitchurch Hoard (*Num. Chron.* 1934, pp. 92 ff.).

<sup>2</sup> For the question of module see Boon, *loc. cit.* (n. 4). For left-facing busts see *NC* 1964, pp. 191 and 196; *Sussex Arch. Coll.* CV (1967) p. 56 f.

<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately it cannot be profitably photographed.

<sup>4</sup> My information comes from Capt. H. S. Gracie, from whose letter I quote.

## TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1970

Calverton and Worthing Hoards. No. 32 belongs to the group which I have discussed in *Num. Chron.* 1964, p. 198 and illustrated on Pl. xvi, 27–30.<sup>1</sup> No. 33 is part of a large and important series of imitations which I discussed on p. 199 of that volume and illustrated on Pl. xvi, 34–58.<sup>2</sup>

Once again the frequency of small minimis would impose a late Proban dating for these copies. And once again they seem to include one—no. 9—with the portrait and name of Probus himself (13 mm: ROBV).

### *III. Other 'barbarous radiates' from the site*

Some 25 imitations from the rest of the site provide valuable comparative material. 14 of them are under 13 mm in diameter, and of these 7 are under 10 mm and 3 run from 7.5 down to 6 mm. Seven are large contemporary forgeries—one of the Claudius II posthumous 'Altar' issue (17 mm), one of Victorinus (17 mm) and five of Tetricus I (three at 18, two at 17 mm). Nos. 8–11 have fair portraits of Claudius II (2) and Tetricus I and II. Nos. 12–17 are a miscellaneous group—a few intriguing portraits and varied reverses. No. 17 is a rather typical example of muddle. The reverse type of 'Peace' (with vertical sceptre) has been copied back to front and the legend reads VIRT(us Aug?) instead of the expected PAX AVG. Nos. 19–20 show odd portraiture, whilst nos. 21–25 are illegible. None of these copies need be any later than A.D. 282.

<sup>1</sup> Other specimens are shown in *North Staffs. Journ. Field Studies* 111 (1963), Pl. III, Nos. 10–13.

<sup>2</sup> The reverse is normally Pax. Aug. with olive-branch and cornucopiae ('horn of plenty') over her left arm. On the Frocester specimen we have rev. variant (d), where this arm terminates oddly (as on Nos. 55–56 in *Num. Chron.*).