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

**The Roman Villa at Witcombe**

by E. M. Clifford
1954, Vol. 73, 5-69

© The Society and the Author(s)
THE ROMAN VILLA, WITCOMBE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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

IN 1938 I was asked by Mr P. K. Baillie-Reynolds, Inspector for England, H.M. Office of Works (now the Ministry of Works) to undertake the re-excavation of Witcombe Roman Villa, prior to the consolidation of the fabric. This work continued until the outbreak of war in 1939, and the present report was written then, but could not be published, since the plan, stored for safety during the war, was not available. Afterwards it was hoped that the centre and east wing could be re-examined and the whole published together, but this has not proved possible.

THE SITE

The contour map shows that denudation has formed a wide combe, facing northwards in the Cotswolds escarpment between Cooper’s Hill and Crickley Hill. The Witcombe Roman Villa was built at the most southerly part of the combe, 450 feet above sea-level. The ground behind it rises steeply to the summit of the hills, some 350 feet above the Villa site. Ekwall says that the name Witcombe (Wydecombe A.D. 1270, fees, A.D.1291 Tax) appears to mean ‘wide valley,’ which would suit the topography. The highest ground is formed of Inferior Oolite limestone. This rests on the Cotswold Sands of Upper Lias clay. Water sinking through the limestone and sand comes out on the surface of the clays as springs. These served the needs of the Villa and form the northerly-flowing stream which now feeds the Gloucester Reservoir, made nearby on the floor of the combe.

The abundance of water must have added to the difficulties of the architect called upon to design so large a house on a

1 Nat. Grid Ref. SO/899142.
2 Dict. Place Names, p. 502.
Fig. 1. Witcombe Roman Villa. Lysons' Plan of 1818 Excavation.
sloping clay site, for it caused, and is still causing, minor landslips on the spot, as well as more serious ones in the neighbourhood. Some of the foundations of the Villa have been carried down the hill slope.

The site is one of great beauty. Facing the main Cotswold escarpment, it is sheltered from the west and south-west as well as from the east. Lysons wrote: 'No spot on this island could perhaps be pointed out, more likely to have been fixed on, by one of the superior officers of the Roman government in Britain for the erection of such an edifice. The situation is particularly striking...'. The underlying rock near the villa, being of limestone, sand and clay, produced a soil favourable to agriculture, but since the Villa itself is largely on clay alone, it is probable that its site had not been occupied by man before its erection. Indeed the 1938 excavations have produced little evidence of previous settlers. Half of a La Tène glass bead was found by Lysons in the 1818 excavations, and a complete one was found in a nearby field in 1936 in the course of ploughing.\(^1\) Lysons records a flint axe. There is also a part of a Bronze Age knife, FIG. II, no. 87, and two bronze rivets, FIG. II, no. 86, and one sherd of Early Iron Age pottery, the latter found in Trench F.

There is much of prehistoric interest in the immediate neighbourhood. On Cooper's, Birdlip, Crickley and Leckhampton Hills are camps of the Early Iron Age, while on the edge of the scarp, not two miles away, was found the famous Birdlip mirror, which belongs to the end of that period. Close to this Birdlip site there are several round barrows of the Bronze Age, while West Tump, a laterally chambered long barrow of the Neolithic period, is only a mile distant to the south-east.

**The History**

Witcombe Roman Villa was accidentally discovered in 1818 by workmen rooting up an old ash tree in a field called Sarendells, owned by Sir William Hicks, the seventh Baronet, of

\(^1\) In the Clifford Collection, Cheltenham Museum.
Witcombe Park. It was excavated for him by Samuel Lysons, who read papers to the Society of Antiquaries on his excavation on 30 April 1818 and 4 February 1819. These, together with his plan, Fig. 1, were published in Archaeologia xix, p. 176. He found that the doorjambs leading into Room 1 were standing 6 ft. 2 ins. in height, and that its walls remained in a perfect state to the height of 5 ft. 4 ins. to 6 ft. When first opened they were covered with a coat of stucco 2 ins. thick, painted in panels of different colours. The greater part of this soon fell off in consequence of the continual rains which immediately followed the discovery.

**Lysons’ Excavation**

Lysons laid great stress on the importance of Room 1 and says: ‘Several circumstances tend to prove that the room first discovered (No. 1 in the plan) had been appropriated to sacred uses, indeed it would be difficult to imagine for what other purposes it could have been designed. The decorations on the walls sufficiently indicate that it could not have been designed for any mean use; the stone just within the doorway, separated from the pavement by a border of brick tiles, seems to have been the base of an altar, and the recesses above mentioned [these are niches in the north wall and are marked on plan, Fig. 2] were probably designed for the reception of statues, as well as to strengthen the wall built against the high ground. The piscina or cistern was a common appendage to the Roman temple or other sacred edifice. The bones and horns found in this place were no doubt those of victims. This building seems to have been that kind of chapel or place of worship which sometimes formed part of the Roman dwelling-house and was denominated sacrarium. On the outside of this building in the court No. 12 was found the figure of a lyre cut in stone 2 ft. 3½ ins. high, and part of another which seems to have been placed on this building.’ The room measures 19 ft. 7½ ins. by 13 ft. 7 ins.

He says: ‘the rooms 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10 in the plan, exhibit perhaps the most complete example of the Roman baths, which
has been discovered in this country . . .,' and that 'several of
the walls still exist to the height of from 4 ft. to 5 ft. 4 ins. and
most of the doorways are preserved, formed by single upright
stones. These are rendered more interesting from the circum-
stances of very few entire door-ways having been discovered in
the remains of Roman buildings in this country.'

Lysons describes Room 5 as the *apodyterium* or dressing
room. It is 13 ft. 6 ins. by 12 ft. 10 ins. and the walls were
plastered and painted in panels. The hypocaust flue tiles were
in position and the furnace was in Room 12. The mosaic floor
consisted of nine octagonal compartments in red, blue and white
(PLATE VIII). Room 6 is 19 ft. 8 ins. by 17 ft. 4 ins. and the
mosaic floor consists of a fish and sea monster design in blue on
a white ground enclosed within a border formed by a double
fret (PLATE VI). Lysons records that the cracks in this floor
were several inches wide, owing to the fact that the ground had
slipped. There are two *baptisteria* or cold baths, the apsidal one
measuring 8 ft. 6 ins. was floored with brick tiles 16 ins.
by 11½ ins. and the sides were plastered, the oblong one was
19 ft. 8 ins. by 7 ft. 5 ins., the stucco floor being 8 ins. thick
at the bottom and 2 ins. thick on the sides. Both were much
damaged by landslip.

Lysons thought that Room 8 was the *tepidarium*, which was
usually placed between the *frigidarium* and the hot baths—the
last named consisting of the *sudatoria* and the *calida piscina*, or
hot water bath; and these unquestionably occupied the spaces
marked 9, 10 and 11 in the plan. Lysons records that Room 8
was heated by the hypocaust system and that several of the
piers formed of brick tile 8½ ins. square remained, the furnace
being at 'b' in the court 12. The *sudatorium* No. 10 is
8 ft. 10½ ins. by 6 ft. 3½ ins.; the mosaic floor consisted of squares,
circles and rhombs (PLATE VII). On one side of the room is what
seems to be the remains of a seat about two feet high, formed of
brick tiles. The hot bath, No. 11, measures 9 ft. 4½ ins. by
2 ft. 10 ins., is covered with a coat of stucco and painted red; and
adjoins the *sudatorium*. The doorway between Nos. 10 and 11
is only 1 ft. 11 ins. wide and Room 9, 6 ft. 9 ins. by 9 ft. 3 ins.
The summer of 1818 was apparently hot and dry, for the drought revealed the extensive range of buildings to the north-east, and Rooms 13 to 31 were excavated. The space between the west wing and the east wing was, however, not explored.

Several fragments of columns were found, but none was in position; pieces of white marble cornices were discovered in the bath block. Coins from the time of Constantine the Great to that of Valentinian, a small statera, or steelyard with its weights, an ivory comb, and a ploughshare of iron weighing 7\frac{1}{2} lbs. came to light. The last named was given by Sir William Hicks to the British Museum.

Lysons describes in some detail the objects found there, most of which can be identified in the collection still surviving at Witcombe Park; they are published in this paper by kind permission of Major W. W. Hicks-Beach, M.P. Lysons mentions fragments of cornices of white marble; one fragment of this has survived and was placed on loan in Gloucester Museum in 1927 by the late Mr Ellis Hicks-Beach. The late Mr St. Clair Baddeley in a lecture given to the Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society suggested that three marble Ionic capitals and two bases which were then lying in the garden of Paradise House, Painswick, had in some way been transferred from Witcombe Roman Villa to Paradise House. It is, however, extremely unlikely that they were found at Witcombe; if they had been Lysons would certainly have mentioned them, since, as we have seen, he noted the fragments of white marble cornices; nor is it, in my view, at all likely that their removal would have been sanctioned.

Dr Joan Evans has lately discovered among the correspondence of the Society of Antiquaries the following note which has apparently never been published:

(Read 8 June 1820).

1 Professor Gordon Ramley very kindly says that '1818 very fine, dry summer, June extremely warm (about 5° above average), July hot, one of the hottest of the century, August fairly hot, and a warm autumn (fine early October), 1819, also, a very warm summer, especially August, but not up to 1818. Both interesting, as 1816, 1817 were both cold.'

Sir William Hicks, Bart., communicates to the Society a Memorandum relative to certain Discoveries recently made at the Roman Villa at Great Witcombe in Gloucestershire, additional to those already described in the first Part of the 15th Volume of the Archaeologia by the late Samuel Lysons, Esq., V.P.

In Mr Lysons’ Plan, there engraved (Sir William Hicks observed), two Rooms marked 34, one of these which is to the North East of the Octagon, has been further opened in a N.W. direction, and in it have been discovered two Projections of Masonry of somewhat a semi-circular form, and raised above the floor. On one of these was a floor of forest\(^1\) paving. A small room has been discovered to the N.W. of the other Room marked 34, on the outside of which was a gutter for the conveyance of water, and an opening in which was a hollowed tile to lead it through the wall into the room. There was also a large opening into the Hypocaust of No. 34 between the two pillars which are marked in the plan.

On the N.W. side of 34 a Cold Bath has been opened, which has a stone gutter round three sides of it, and at the South corner was a leaden pipe, the end of which is still remaining to carry off the water. It was lined with the same red plaster which was used for the same purpose at the other Baths; and had a step down to it on the N.E. side.

The Praefurnium of the Hot Bath (II) had been opened. The Hypocaust is very perfect; and the top of it very curiously constructed of five coats of different kinds and thicknesses, and two tiers of tiles, one of which is so constructed as to leave interstices for the conveyance of heat. (see Fig. 4).

The warm Bath has also been opened. It is composed of a coat of plaster about three inches thick, curiously supported by iron cramps, and tiles which allow heat from the hypocaust of the hot bath to get round it. The discovery of this has rendered these, perhaps, as perfect a specimen of a set of Baths as any that we have.

Sir William Hicks accompanies this Memorandum with the

\(^1\) Paving stone from Forest of Dean.
exhibition of a very beautiful brooch¹ which was found in the ruins of the Villa, among rubbish, several feet deep. It is an emerald set in dead gold.'

Lysons died on 29 June 1819, and it is evident that Sir William Hicks carried out further excavations after his death, of which the foregoing seems to be the only account extant.

It should, however, be noted that on the plan included in Lysons' paper and published by the Society of Antiquaries in *Archaeologia*, Vol. xix, 1821, p. 182, there are not two rooms marked 34 and there is no evidence to show when they were added or by whom. There are, however, three reprints of this article, and in one, published by Henry J. Cochrane² of Cheltenham by permission of the Society (no date), the second room numbered 34 in the eastern wing, as well as other walls, have been added.

As a result of excavations in 1938 it was clear that Rooms 49, 1a, 50, 18 and 45 had been examined during the past hundred years or so, although they were not shown on Lysons' plan, since earthenware, not earlier than the beginning of the 19th century, as well as a much-worn farthing of George III, were found there. It is now known that it was Sir William Hicks and not Lysons who made these extended excavations, which also include further work in the north-east, as shown on the plan in the reprint already referred to.

Among the papers preserved at Witcombe Park there is a portfolio containing coloured drawings of the mosaic floors and sketches of the site during the excavation, made by Lady Cromie, the daughter of Sir William Hicks. Included is a plan with some walls marked in, which are not on the Lysons' plan, although it is not as complete as that in the reprint. There are therefore three versions of the plan. There is also a plan, on loose sheets (FIG. 3) of a building in front of, and much below, the villa, near to the stream. The description which follows is in the handwriting of Lady Hicks:

¹ This cannot now be traced.
² This name appears in a *Cheltenham Directory* of 1872.
'Plan of a building, Fig. 3, which stood in front of the larger building near the stream. As it appeared to have nothing very curious or important about it, it was destroyed. The use of it could not be discovered. There seems to have been a gutter or drain round it, probably to carry off the water that fell from the roof.

'No. 1 was plastered with red mortar having a red plaster floor with a doorway into No. 2, at the bottom of which was a grooved stone similar to that between 5 and 6 in the other building.' (A doorstep with groove still exists between 5 and 6 in Villa).

'Perhaps there was a doorway into No. 2.
'A great deal of plaster, some striped and some simply coloured, as well as some brown tiles for roofing were found here.'

'2 White tesserae and some brown tiles were found here, the floor was of red plaster.'

'3 Red plaster floor which extended over the wall between it and No. 4.'

'4 Red plaster floor.'
Room No. 4 is not marked on plan, but it may be assumed to be next in line to No. 3.

This is the only known record of this building. There is no scale to the drawing, but if it were drawn to the same scale as that of the coloured plan of the Villa in the portfolio (shown above) the building would be almost 100 ft. long. As the building is divided into 5 rooms it is probable it was not less than 50 ft. long.

At some unknown date, probably quite soon after Lysons' excavation, buildings were erected over Rooms 5, 6, 10 and 11 and this small area was enclosed by a fence. This fence was traced in 1938 by its post-holes, which in Room 1 had been dug through the Old Red Sandstone floor. In 1906\(^1\) it was stated that the pavements had been made more secure from injury by Mr W. F. Hicks-Beach, the owner.

In 1908 the\(^2\) roofs of these buildings, having collapsed, were repaired under the auspices of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. The cost was largely defrayed by public subscription, the Society providing the remainder.

In 1912\(^3\) an appeal for \pounds 65 to repair the mosaic floor (presumably in Room 5) was made by the Mayors of Gloucester and Cheltenham, but in the Annual Report of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society for 1913\(^4\) it was stated that the work had still to be carried out. An Inspector of H.M. Office of Works visited the Villa in March of that year (1913) and proposed that a comprehensive scheme for the repairs should be prepared, but apparently this was never done.

In 1919 H.M. Office of Works accepted the guardianship of the villa as the gift of the Hicks-Beach family of Witcombe Park. The larger area enclosing the villa proper as planned by Lysons was then surrounded with the present fence.

---

\(^2\) Ibid, 31, p. 15.
\(^3\) Ibid, 34, p. 12 and Vol. 35, p. 159.
\(^4\) Ibid, 36, p. 2.
THE 1938–9 EXCAVATIONS

It will at once be realised that little record of stratigraphy could be expected from the original excavations, when it is remembered that Lysons announced to the Society of Antiquaries when reading his papers\(^1\) that the 'proprietor of these interesting remains is determined to have the whole of the walls laid open.'

The greater part of the west wing has now been uncovered. It is clear that the house was built on four terraces; it has been possible in the plan now published, to make many additions to that produced by Lysons, Fig. 3.

Room 1 was believed by Lysons to have been a temple (Plate 1). The niches on the north side were examined and it was found that above and below the floor the stone work of which they were built was bonded into the wall behind. This shows that they formed part of the original plan and were not in the nature of an alteration or repair.

Beneath the floor level there are two separate walls, the thickness of walls and interspace together being 4 ft. This great thickness may have been considered necessary to support the higher floor-level in Room 49, which is 5 ft. 9 ins. above the floor-level of Room 1 (Plate 11b). The damaged cistern (Plate 11a) measuring 1 ft. 8½ ins. by 1 ft. 10½ ins. was always to be seen above the grass-grown Old Red Sandstone floor, but examination showed that this cistern had a stone base, and not a clay one as stated by Lysons. It was found that there was a water supply, which apparently came from the octagon; and from the cistern there ran a drain to carry the water away. The water-conduit, formed of semi-circular *imbrices* fitted closely together, passed immediately beneath the stone which was believed by Lysons to be the base of an altar. The water entered the tank through a hole cut near the base of the slab which formed its northern side, and the level of the water was determined by a hole cut in the western slab, ten inches from the bottom. The surplus water, as it spurted through this hole,

\(^1\) *Arch.*, Vol. xix, p. 183.
was confined by a semi-circular *tegula* placed outside the western slab, and from there it was conveyed to the main drain in the latrine (Room 3), thus ensuring a constant flushing of this office. This surplus-water conduit was triangular in shape, the base being formed of flat roofing tiles while the sides were of oolitic stones. Semi-circular *imbrices* were again utilised, where the conduit passed through the 2 ft. thick west wall of this room.

There was much coloured plaster (pink) remaining on the walls, and among the finds from beneath the floor were parts of two earthenware vessels, which had been used as paint-pots. One of these had pink paint adhering to it, while another had yellow paint, in sufficient quantities for Dr Plenderleith of the British Museum Laboratory to be able to say that it contained three distinct pigments. An oyster-shell used as a palette was also found; the colour of the paint discovered in it was red.

In the drain from the cistern, which was clogged with a mixture of clay and sand, five pieces of glass came to light. These included snake-thread fragments, three being parts of a single vessel. In the section of the drain which passed through the wall there was a piece of *millefiori* glass. Fragments of other glass vessels, as well as window-glass, were found in the crevices between the walls and the floor. Pottery from beneath this floor includes a piece of ware which can provisionally be dated to the very beginning of the 2nd century. An iron knife, a large number of nails, oyster shells and bones of sheep, pigs and birds were found in the make-up of the floor-foundation.

As Lysons noted in his report, the only entrance to this room was down the 6 ft. wide staircase (No. 2 on plan) and through a door, or doors, also 6 ft. wide. The sockets for the door jambs, the grooves for the doors and the two lowest stone steps still exist. These steps are clearly shown on his plan and three lines drawn across the stairway may indicate further steps, which no longer exist.

The general line of the rise of the stairway, can however, be seen by the lowest course of the wall on the western side. The plastered walls were coloured pink, yellow and green, with pink, red, yellow and white stripes.
There was much evidence of fire in this area, stones *in situ* being much discoloured. A coin of Tetricus A.D. 270–273 was found between the stair and the western wall.

**The Baths**

Room 10, the *sudatorium*, is 8 ft. 10½ ins. by 6 ft. 3½ ins. and the *calida piscina* (hot bath) measures 9 ft. 4½ ins. by 2 ft. 10½ ins. The bath proper measures 8 ft. 2 ins. by 2 ft. 4 ins. and is 1 ft. 7 ins. deep at the point where it is entered from Room 10. This wall of the bath is 2 ft. 8 ins. thick. The top, together with

![Diagram](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

**Fig 4. Formation of Hot Water Bath**

the inside of the bath, is composed of very smooth red concrete. The foundation of the floor of the bath consists of *pilae* surmounted by two series of roofing tiles to provide air-spaces, such series being topped by a layer of concrete. This double series of hot air-spaces would ensure a hotter and more quickly heated bath (see diagram), Fig. 4. A semi-circular fillet of concrete is laid at the junction of walls and floors in both the bath and Room 10. The original walls still stand to a height of 4 ft. with tufa *in situ*.

Lysons noted that on one side of Room 10 there was what appeared to be the remains of a seat about 2 ft. high. This seat is on the north side, and it still retains much of its original red plaster.
THE ROMAN VILLA, WITCOMBE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The mosaic floor of this room has been disintegrating for many years; but it is still possible to identify its geometric design as being that illustrated in Lady Cromie’s drawing (Plate VII) which shows a bold if conventional design. The hypocaust flue tiles around the walls are in position.

The furnace for heating these two rooms is in IIa (not discovered by Lysons) and the original archway is complete. We may infer that there was a window in the north wall over the hot bath and that it was glazed, as much window glass was found in the partial blocking of the furnace on both sides of the wall.

The doorway connecting Rooms 10 and 9 is only 1 ft. 11 ins. wide and Room 9 still awaits investigation. Lady Cromie’s drawing shows a mosaic floor (now destroyed) (Plate VIII) with small motifs sprinkled over a wide expanse of empty background which is rather an unusual treatment.

Room 8 is the tepidarium (warm room), but the hypocaust of the floor was filled in solid sometime after A.D. 378. The excavation showed that it originally had a mosaic floor of red, white and blue tesserae.

It was found that some of the roofing tiles at the bases of the hypocaust piers were actually cut through by the drain which passes down the centre of the room, showing that the drain was later than the hypocaust and was possibly laid down when the floor was made solid. The coins found in the filling of this floor include those of Valentinian I and Valens.

Rooms 7a and 8a await investigation.

Rooms 5 and 6 are covered by modern buildings. In 1818 it was stated that the mosaic floor in No. 6 had cracks several inches wide in it, caused by landslip. The floor is composed mainly of blue and white tesserae with a few red ones mixed in with them, and the design shows fishes and sea creatures (Plate VI) whose great sprightliness should be noticed. They suggest a rather individual treatment of the standard sea animal and fish that circulated in copybooks for the mosaicists throughout the Roman world. The animated conversation between the seal (?) and the baby sea-lion in the lower right hand corner is.
particularly charming. The blocked doorway to Nos. 4 and 3 is clearly seen in the north wall and the doorway of No. 5 has the door jambs in position, the eastern one being 3 ft. 6 ins., and the western one 4 ft. 3 ins. high. The connecting wall is 3 ft. 6 ins. in height. The western wall of Room 5 is 4 ft. 8 ins. high and retains some of the original plaster, which is painted white. One of the most interesting features of this villa is a slype which gives direct access from Room 8 to Room 5. The stone slabs which form the jambs of this passage-way still stand to a height of 3 ft. 9 ins. A modern wall is built up to them and between them, thus blocking the passage way. It was found necessary to complete the wall in this way when separate buildings were erected over the mosaic floors in the last century. This slype is believed to have no counterpart in any villa in Britain. The original arch-way over the furnace in the west wall is in perfect condition; but a modern archway has been erected in front of it. It was under the floor of Room 5 that the stone columns illustrated in 1908 were used as *pilae*.

Many of the *tesserae* of the mosaic floor which include some made from Samian ware are loose and there are holes which enable one to see the make-up of the concrete in which the tesserae are set. These are particularly small. It is possible to identify Lady Cromie’s coloured drawing of the floor, and attention should be called to the fluted chalice and the whirling wheel motifs (PLATE VIII).

Hypocaust flue tiles are in position around the walls.

This room (No. 5) is heated by the furnace in Room 12 and beneath its jaws there is a flue or vent formed of semi-circular roofing tiles, which is connected with the drain running through the centre of 12 and 8 (PLATE IIIB). These channels occurred at Lydney* and Hucclecote*; and Macdonald has described a complete system of ventilation channels at Chesters, Northumberland.* It is possible that these vents or drains were necessary to

---

take away water which might collect either from condensation, surface water, or flood water on these lower levels. If water were allowed to remain beneath a hypocausted room the result would be a damp heat. This suggestion finds support from the existence beneath the original doorway, leading from Room 5 to Room 4, now blocked, of a triangular stone construction extending only 6 ft. from the door step, which cannot have been a ventilation flue, since both floors are solid. To attempt to trace it under the floor of Room 5 would have involved damaging the floor; but in all probability it follows the course of the other drains down the hill slope.

Owing to earth movement, Room 7, the apsidal cold bath, is almost completely detached from the main building, but the quarter-round moulding of opus signinum at the junction of the floor and walls still remained. In the outlet of this bath, an iron knife, 4th century pottery sherds, bones and tesserae were found.

Room 4 was the passage-way to the latrine; the blocking of the door can be seen in Room 6. It had a mosaic floor of small red tesserae, and its plastered walls were coloured pinkish purple, as the western wall still shows extremely well. Other plaster fragments were coloured white and cream with a red stripe.

Room 3 was the latrine. The main drain on the north side was formed of stone and is 1 ft. 9 ins. wide; it passes under the wall of 41a and then down the hill slope (PLATE IVb). In the late 4th century this room was stripped of its fittings, which may have been of a fine sandstone, since several pieces of this material were recovered from the débris, which was 1 ft. 6 ins. thick. In it there were also painted and native wares. On top of this débris Lysons had deposited all the loose tesserae of the Villa. They formed a layer, 1 ft. in thickness, and among them were many made of Samian ware. The plastered walls were coloured white with red stripes and patches of pink.

Other rooms.

In Rooms 49 and 1a small patches of concrete foundations gave indications of level, but the actual floors have disappeared.
The foundations were examined but only indeterminate pottery sherds were found beneath them.

Concrete formed the floor of Room 46, but at its southern end a strip 5 ft. 6 ins. wide was paved with tesselae of extremely small size, mostly \( \frac{3}{8} \) inch square, some \( \frac{3}{8} \) in. by \( \frac{1}{2} \) in., some of which had been cut from Samian ware of the first half of the 2nd century. Lysons' drawing of this area suggests the existence of a division, possibly of timber, between it and the remainder of Room 46, but no trace of such a division could be discovered in 1939. This mosaic floor, being barely covered by the turf, had entirely disintegrated, whatever its condition may have been in 1818.

Until more work is done it is not possible to say what Room 41a really was. It may have been an open verandah. Near to the western wall there was an enormous mass of roofing tiles and building-material, some of which was undoubtedly laid to level up the site. But there was much which suggested the collapse of a roof, lying upon what was in all probability the remains of a mosaic floor, since a number of tesselae of large size (1\( \frac{1}{4} \) ins. by 1\( \frac{1}{2} \) ins.) were found. In the north end of this room there are two buttresses which must originally have been of great size; in the present condition one measures 5 ft. by 4 ft. It is not bonded into the wall and represents an addition or repair against the landslide, which is so marked a feature of this site. In all cases where there is a change of floor-level, provision has been made for extra support against the weight of earth behind and the constant thrust of the heavy overlying beds of stone to the north. Cream, red, yellow and white plaster was found in this room.

Rooms 12 and 11a were probably covered yards in which the three furnaces were situated. The level of the floor was raised in the 4th century, since sherds of that period were incorporated in the filling. The narrowing of the jaws of the furnace of Rooms 11 and 10 would also have been done at this time (PLATE IIIa). This would fit the date at which the hypocausts of Rooms 9 and 8 were abandoned. The narrowing was done by fitting a row of stones to the western jaw of the furnace.
Nos. 45 and 48 are water tanks and later additions to the Villa. The inside measurement of No. 48 is 4 ft. by 8 ft. It was plastered with opus signinum and its final floor, of sandstone, is complete, except for one slab. Its eastern wall, built up against, but not bonded into, the 2 ft. thick wall of 50 and 34a, is strengthened with tiles and is 3 ft. 9 ins. thick. In the south-western corner there is a 3 inch leaden pipe leading from the tank through the stone wall to the stone water channelling, which surrounds the tank on its three sides. The lead pipe is encased with opus signinum as it leaves the tank and by semi-circular roofing-tiles where it discharges. The plaster with which it was lined was coloured cream and grey. No. 45, as already stated, is also a water tank, but owing to the large amount of destruction in that area it is not possible to be certain of its size. The rain water channelling which surrounds this part of the villa is remarkably complete. It is formed of flat stones with others placed on the sides; a method of channelling which still survives in the Cotswolds (Plate Iva). In the east and west walls of No. 48 there was a crack which extended across the sandstone floor; and when this floor was lifted it was found that it rested on a floor of red earthenware tiles. Nothing datable was found between the two floors. The second floor was also lifted and revealed a third floor of red earthenware tiles; and in the mortar on the underside of these tiles was found a coin (No. 5) of Tetricus II, A.D. 272. Thus in A.D. 272 or thereabouts a new floor was fitted to No. 48 and the house must have been in use long after that date, if it was necessary to fit two further floors. A coin of Carausius (No. 6) A.D. 280–293, was found 9 ins. deep in a trench cut to expose the western side of No. 45.

In Room 34a there is much evidence of fire, the foundations of the floor being burnt to a depth of 1 ft. 3 ins. The stone construction has been so extensively robbed that it is impossible to be sure whether this extensive damage was due to accident or design. In Rooms 46, 34a, 13 and 14 pieces of slag were found, which Mr Oliver Davies says is fused clay or brick, of the type produced in a conflagration or from over-heating a kiln. The plaster here was coloured pink.
On the floor of 34a, beneath the accumulated rubbish, a coin of the House of Valentinian I was found, A.D. 364–375.

The house is a large example of the courtyard type and is built on four terraces on the slope of a hill, the lowest terrace of the west wing being occupied by a set of baths. This terracing must have made the house a very attractive one, and is perhaps without parallel in Britain. The fact that Lysons found walls standing to a height of 6 ft. suggests that the house was built entirely of stone and was not half-timbered. The west wing consists of some twenty rooms; but the precise number cannot be stated, since the interior walls in the north-west part of the house have been completely robbed. It is this area which is nearest to the extensive farm-buildings of Cooper’s Hill Farm and some of the stone may have been re-used there. It can be said that five (in the Bath wing) of these twenty rooms were heated by hypocausts.

The material used in the walls is without exception local oolite, and only in one or two places are red tiles or tufa incorporated into the core of the walls. Much tufa has however been found on the site, some in the core of the walls, and some used for wall facing. A few roofing tiles of Old Red Sandstone have come to light, but by far the greater part of the roof tiles are of earthenware. They are 14 ins. by 10 ins. and the semi-circular imbrices are 1 ft. 2 ins. long, 7 ins. wide, tapering to 5 ins., in which nail-holes were very frequent. The semi-circular imbrices were also largely used for drainage purposes and the flat tiles were only occasionally used in this way. The latter were frequently employed to form the bases on which were built the columns of square earthenware tiles, forming the pilae for the hypocausted floors. Grey and red sandstone from the Forest of Dean area was sometimes used for floors and doorsteps, while other doorsteps and door jambs were made of oolite limestone. There were many pieces of a fine sandstone resembling marble, which was probably used for lining walls, since some of it still bears traces of colour, while other pieces of a coarser kind, were painted yellow. No marble was discovered in the 1939 excavations, although Lysons, as already noted, found several
fragments. One piece of this marble has lately been examined at the Geological Survey and Museum, and the report says 'there is no reason from microscopical examination to suggest it is other than Carrara.' This is an interesting fact; we may infer from it that Italian marble was being imported into this country in some quantity in the early part of the 2nd century. It will be remembered that imported marble statues were found by Lysons at the Woodchester villa, while a marble Bacchus was found in a grave near Sudeley Castle, Winchcombe. All these objects are in the British Museum. The Ifold villa at Painswick, Glos. was excavated in 1903, and some of the finds have been housed in a garden-room at Painswick House by the Misses Hyett, on whose estate the villa lies. The writer was recently invited to examine them and found among them some green porphyry, which Dr G. F. Claringbull, Dept. of Mineralogy, British Museum Nat. Hist. has kindly examined; he says it is almost certainly the *pergido verde antico* quarried and exported in classical times from Marathonisi in Greece.

There is some fine broaching on some of the oolitic stones, in particular on the great blocks which buttressed the north wall in Room 41a. The West wing appears to have been built at one time, with the exception of the 3rd century additions of Nos. 48 and 45. It has a coherent plan and in the rooms so far examined, all the material is of a uniform character.

Since fragments of coloured plaster have been recovered in almost all of the rooms it is probable that all were plastered. It is known there were mosaic floors in eight rooms and sandstone floors in three others. Most of them must have had glazed windows, for even in this second examination fragments of glass were found in eight rooms.

**Evidence for Dating**

In the re-examination of the west wing in 1938–9 one coin of Domitian (A.D. 77–8) was discovered on the old turf line, and there

---

1 Pieces of a similar marble were found in a Roman building in South Cadbury Camp and are in Taunton Museum.
were two coins of the 2nd century. The 'Hod Hill' brooch is of the 1st century; the Samian ware of the first half of the 2nd century; glass of either the 1st or the early 2nd century, and Glevum ware of the late 1st to early 2nd century were recovered.

These facts seem to provide sufficient evidence to suggest that the house was built towards the end of the 1st century, and, as Glevum ware is present, it may be asked if the house were built at this early date as a summer residence for an official of the Colonia of Glevum, which was founded under Nerva.

There is no break in the occupation of the Villa, but there are signs of retrenchment at some time after A.D. 375. The floors of two of the rooms of the bath-block were made solid and the jaws of the furnace which heated them were narrowed. In the 5th century, from the evidence of the penannular brooch, the comb, and the bronze curled dog, we can assume that people of some culture were still living there.

**The Last Phase of the Villa**

In the last phase of the Villa the northern, or highest, terrace was used as a 'camping site,' an oven and a corn-drying flue being in use there at this time (Plate V).

The floor of this site was made of parts of doorsteps, sandstone floor-slabs, roofing tiles and other material. On this floor there were coins of Valentinian I and Valens (A.D. 364–375), a broken whetstone, a spindle-whorl made of lignite, bones and teeth of domestic animals, part of an egg-shell, pottery of native type (or tradition) of the late 4th to early 5th century. Everything suggests a normal 'Squatters' economy. A barbed and tanged flint arrow-head of Bronze Age type was also found, Fig. II, No. 85. The roof of this part of the Villa (Rooms 34a and 46) may have collapsed by this time, since post-holes, which in all probability carried a covering of some kind, were discovered close to the walls.

This late occupation extended to the northern end of 41a as well as to 13, but since there were no post-holes in either of
these their original roofs may have remained. A ‘fireplace’ made on the floor shows the way of life of these last occupiers.

Gloucestershire is rich in Roman villas. Amongst these are the well-known and important ones at Woodchester, Chedworth and Spoonley Wood; the lesser ones at Hucclecote and Dry Hill are even nearer to Witcombe.

It is worth noting that the Hucclecote Roman Villa site\(^1\) was occupied both in the Late Bronze, and in the Early Iron Age, and the difference in type between the Hucclecote and Witcombe villas should also be recalled. At Hucclecote we have, in all probability, the corridor house of a local landowner, built on a site which had been already occupied for a long time. At Witcombe a large courtyard house was built on a site perhaps chosen for its beauty and water supply, and the abundance of timber and stone nearby.

The Villa can to-day be approached from the Ermin Street, over a farm road which leads to Copper’s Hill Farm. But a trackway (still used for timber-hauling and farm purposes) which now climbs up from the reservoir, and passes the Villa, was no doubt the connecting link between the Villa and the Ermin Street in Roman days.

This great Ermin Street (less than a mile distant) gave easy access to the important town of Glevum (now Gloucester) and Corinium (now Cirencester). The former is 6 miles, the latter 13 miles, distant. Beyond Glevum and over the Severn lies the Forest of Dean, the source of iron, coal and sandstone. Lysons records that coal was found at Witcombe in the 1818 excavations and there is much evidence of the use of the Sandstone from that area for roof-tiles and for floors.

**The Finds**

The finds from the 1938–9 excavations will be first discussed, then I shall consider Lysons’ finds collectively, and build up from both series a general picture.

The Coins.

The earliest coin is that of Domitian (A.D. 77–8). This was found on the old turf-line in Room 34a. From a disturbed area in Trench G came a coin of Lucius Verus (A.D. 161–2) in mint condition. In Room 34a a rather worn Sestertius of Commodus (A.D. 180–92) was found. There are three coins of the 3rd century, one of which is of Carausius, probably from an occasional mint and therefore of some interest, but the 4th century provides, as usual, the largest number, three dating from its first, and 15 from its second, half.

The Samian Ware.

Among the Samian ware there is one sherd of the first half, five sherds from the second half of the 2nd century, and one sherd of the 3rd century.

Imitation Samian Ware.

These pieces belong to the second half of the 3rd century and to the 4th century.

Terra-Cotta Fir-Cone.

The terra-cotta fir-cone was found in Room 41a, which is immediately east of the ‘temple’ among a number of roof tiles. It was published by the late Mr Reginald Smith who suggested that it may have formed an element in the cult of Mithras (PLATE XI). It is made of clay similar to that used in making Glevum ware.

Glevum Ware.

There are seven pieces of late Flavian type. They can be fairly closely dated and that stratified under the ‘temple’ floor, No. 1 can be c. A.D. 100. There is much coarse ware of c. A.D. 100 which suggests that the Villa was built not long after that date. A pink mortarium was also found under the temple floor, and this too is of early date 1st–2nd centuries.2

The absence of stamped tiles at Witcombe may be accounted for by the supposition that the Villa was built before the Colonia tilery was in being.

2 Prysg Field (Pottery Report, Pt. iii) Arch. Camb, 1932, No. 229, etc.
Glass.

The piece of *millefiori* glass is of the 1st or early 2nd century, but it could have been lost at a much later date. The Cologne snake thread glass is c. A.D. 200, while the fragments of glass beaker are of the 2nd-3rd centuries. All these were found in the drain which carried the water away from the tank in the ‘temple,’ and they show that this drain was in use in all probability in the early 2nd century, and further that these fine vessels were used there. The *millefiori* was found almost at the point where the drain discharged through the wall into the latrine.

There is much window-glass and Dr Harden was able to piece three pieces together; but since none had more than one angle, it is impossible to be certain of size. Fragments were found in Rooms 12, 3, 8, 2, 1, 10, 11A, and 41A.

Quern.

One third of a quern was found in Room 13.

Tesserae.

*Tesserae* are made of the local oolitic limestone—cream or white; earthenware—red; liassic limestone—blue, while Samian ware was occasionally used. Some are large and measure 1 in. by 1½ ins., others ¾ in. by 1¼ ins., ⅔ in. by ½ in., ⅔ ins. by 1 in., ¾ in. by ¾ in., and 1 in. and ½ in. square.

Animal and Bird Bones and Shells.

The animal and bird bones include those of dog, horse, sheep, ox, hare, and fowls. There were many oyster shells and four species of non-marine Mollusca which include *Helix pomatia* and *H. aspersa*, but there were no indications that the former had been used as food.

Soils and Charcoals.

Ash, sweet chestnut, wild cherry, hazel, hawthorn, hornbeam, maple or perhaps dog wood, horse chestnut, common oak and alder have been identified.
Lead.
A lead pipe is still in position in Room 48, while in Bath 7 there were strips of lead as there were in 41a, 46, 11a, 8 and 12. There is also a plano-convex disc of lead, with remains of loop or shaft.

Iron Objects.
These include knives.

The Bronze Mount. (Plate IX).
This little mount is cast in the form of a tightly coiled long-snouted dog of a breed which is beyond a doubt related to that of the Lydney bronze dog. The Witcombe find may perhaps be connected with the 4th century Nodens cult.

The Inscribed Tile.
The graffito done with a stylus on the wet clay of a flanged tile was published by Collingwood in J.R.S., xxx (1940), 188, fig. 20. The wet tile was first marked by a horizontal line and by a number of roughly parallel scratches running obliquely to, adjacent to and crossing, the line later taken by the text. Other accidental markings, probably made later by a finger nail, occur near the middle.

The letter (with subscript dots making doubtful letters) seems to be:—

\[ \text{NNNNTUNNT} \]

The third letter might be vi, not N. The Roman writer seems to have been practising verbal terminations.¹

Miscellaneous finds.
There are two hones of fine-grained sandstone, a spindle whorl of lignite, another of hard arenaceous limestone, while a further one is made from the base of a pot of perhaps 4th century date, fig. 11, No. 83. The rubbing stone is a flattened

¹ Note kindly supplied by Mr R. P. Wright.
ovoid pebble of pale brownish coloured quartzite. A gaming piece is of Old Red Sandstone. A triangle of bone, which is not human and has no cancellous tissue, was perhaps cut from a shoulder blade of a large animal; it is of unknown use. A hexagonal bone object was cut from a humerus of a horse, **Fig. II, No. 84.**

**Other Small Finds** (not illustrated).

(1) Piece of bronze chain.
(2) ? Part of 3-piece Horse's-bit (loop for Cord).
(3) Bronze straps.
(4) Bowl of spoon.
(5 and 6) Handles of spoons.
(7) Part of bracelet.
(8) Blade of iron knife.
(9) Iron handle.
(10) Part of key.

**FINDS MADE BY LYSONS** (preserved at Witcombe Park)

**Fig. II, No. 1.** A version of the Dolphin type brooch.

cf. Verulamium, **Fig. 44, No. 27,** where it is early 2nd century.


**Fig. 13, No. 1.** Bronze object flattened at one end; such objects have been described as unguent spoons, earpicks, etc.


**, 2. Penannular brooch of Welsh type. This type has been fully discussed by Sir Mortimer Wheeler in the Lydney Rep., p. 78, where full references are given and the evolution through the Roman period discussed. It is the predecessor of the elaborate penannular brooches of Ireland and Scotland.**


where this type is described as a southern form.


**, 4. Buckle, Georgian.**

**, 5. Buckle, 17th century.**
Fig. 14. No. 1. Penannular brooch; cf. Lydney Rep., Fig. 14, No. 38, where it is the final form in Sir Mortimer Wheeler's series.

2. Fragment of Hod Hill type brooch, 1st century. 

Nos. 4 and 5. Fragments of glass vessels.
No. 6. Small glass vessel.

Fig. 15, Nos. 1 and 2. Keys, iron.


4. Knife, " " " " No. 331.


Fig. 16, No. 1. Metal spoon; cf. Lydney Rep., Fig. 19, 89.

2. Metal spoon.

3. Metal spoon; cf. ibid, No. 92.

4. Metal spoon; cf. ibid, No. 89.

5. Metal ligula.

Fig. 17, No. 1. Fragment of Bracelet; cf. Lydney Rep., Fig. 17, n.

2. Bracelet (fastenings missing), cf. Lydney Rep., Fig. 17, No. 56.

3. Similar (one fastener missing).

4. Fragment of bracelet; cf. Lydney Rep., Fig. 17, m.

5. Bracelet similar to No. 1, Jewry Wall, Fig. 83, No. 1, 4th century.

6. Fragment of bracelet.

Fig. 18, No. 1. Half of a glass bead, pale blue-green.

2. Bone object, use unknown.

3. Bronze base, weighted with lead.

4. Part of ornamented Kimmeridge Shale bracelet. 
   cf. Lydney Rep., Fig. 19, No. 84.

5. Coiled bronze metal finger ring; cf. Maiden Castle Rep., Fig. 86, 14.


Fig. 19, No. 1. Bone comb, late Roman, with coarser teeth on one side
than the other, with Zoomorphic terminals. 
   cf. Third Richborough Report, Pl. xiii, No. 35 and 42.
   and Lydney Rep., Pl. xxxii, No. 181, where the type is discussed, late 4th century.

2. ? Fish hook.

3. Bronze buckle.

4. Fragment of bronze.

THE ROMAN VILLA, WITCOMBE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Fig. 20. Two fragments of Castor ware.
Fig. 21. Five bone pins; cf. Maiden Castle Rep., Fig. 96, No. 5 and Lydney Rep., Fig. 18, no. 70.
Fig. 22. Part of Samian bowl, Dragendorff, Form 45, late 2nd century.
Fig. 23, No. 1. Samian bowl, Walters, Form 79, second half 2nd century.
   2. Hollow pottery base; cf. O. and P. lxix, 3. Dr Felix Oswald thinks that it may be the base of a Lampstand.

Bronze Steelyard.

Plate ix. Bronze steelyard in perfect order. There are two scales on the square bar and therefore two suspension hooks. On the heavy side the scale is from 3 lbs. to 8 lbs. 10½ ozs. On the light side the scale is from 5 ozs. to 3 lbs., with 4 oz. graduations. The poise-ball (made of lead, with iron hook) weighs 1 lb. 5 ozs. cf. B.M. Guide, Roman Britain, 1951, Fig. 40, No. 11. Fourth Richborough Rep., Pl. xxxviii, No. 133 and Soc. Ant. Research Rep., xv, Kenyon, Jewry Wall, Leicester, p. 259, Fig. 87, No. 4.

Plate x. Part of handle of earthenware vessel. The incised figure may represent a highly schematized human representation.

Plate x. Bronze statuette, Flora, found just below Villa in 1859 when City Reservoirs were being built. (see Appendix, No. 3). There is much decorated wall-plaster in the collection and there are 49 coins ranging from Gallienus (A.D. 253-68) to House of Theodosius.

Evidence of Agriculture

In 1935 Prof. C. F. C. Hawkes reviewed the evidence for the introduction of the heavy plough into England and published, for the first time, the plough coulter which was found by Lysons at the Witcombe Roman Villa in 1818, and presented at that time to the British Museum by Sir Wm. Hicks, Bt. Prof. Hawkes describes the Witcombe coulter and says that it is 27½ ins. long and weighs 7½ lbs. It is a characteristic fitting of the wheeled plough or caruca. This type of plough implies long strip ploughing and as the land up to the line of the Villa is heavy clay land, a massive plough, to which this coulter would belong, would be necessary, Fig. 5.

1 Prof. C. F. C. Hawkes has kindly looked at it and says that the human forms on the Farley Heath Sceptre binding, repoussé on bronze, must not be forgotten, B.M. Guide R.B. 1951, Vol. 78, Fig. 31, no. 8, and Dr Nash-Williams writes that the nearest parallel in Wales is his Pl. 1, 71, p. 81, in Early Christian Monuments of Wales. He refers to the same technique being used on altars in Gloucestershire. Clifford, Trans. Bristol and Glos. Arch. Soc., Vol. 60, 1938, 297.

Colonel Karslake produces evidence in favour of the introduction of the heavy plough into Britain by the Belgae, but their connection with the Witcombe area is at present obscure.

From the site of the Villa an interesting group of long strip agricultural ridges and furrows can be seen, extending only to the general line of the Villa, but their date is uncertain. Near to the Villa there is evidence of cultivation in small areas which may indicate the Villa garden.

Fig. 5. Plough coulter by courtesy of British Museum

POTTERY

GLEVUM WARE: related to Caerleon Legionary Ware.

Fig. 6

1. Neck of large wide-mouthed vessel with beaded roll rim and with high neck, orange coloured, inside of neck burnished, specks of mica, heavy ware. Gloucester.

2. (J.R.S., xxxiii, fig. 2, No. 19). Bourton-on-the-Water.

Trans. B.G.A.S. 56, p. 111, Fig. 4, No. 1

3. Late 1st century.


5. Neck of jar, bright orange, burnished outside, beaded rim. Late 1st century.

6. Neck of jar, with short neck, bright orange coloured, undercut rim. Late 1st century

7. Neck of jar, burnished bands, over fired. Late 1st century.


This pottery has recently been identified by Mr Green who contributes the following note: he considers it is the ware made in the Colonia of Glevum after the departure of the Legion to Caerleon. The above dates are arrived at by him from comparison with dated Glevum material and they tell us that the house was in use by c. A.D. 100.

Fig. 6. Glevum ware
THE DISTRIBUTION OF GLEVUM WARE

The discovery of late-Flavian Glevum ware at Witcombe seems to me to be of high importance in establishing the status of this great house. Since this excavation was completed, a descriptive summary and a detailed analysis of Glevum ware have been published\(^1\), and later discoveries have strengthened the inferences then set forth.

The ware is first found in quantity at Gloucester, where in the third quarter of the 1st century A.D. it marked the occupation of the Kingsholm site by the Second Legion. Sherds found by Mrs Clifford in 1947\(^2\) in an early context at Cirencester point, as she suggests, to a temporary occupation of that place by, at least, a detachment of the Legion before it came down into Severn Vale. When the Legion went on to Caerleon, its potters accompanied it and there, with some differences of clay, produced comparable wares which we know as 'orange legionary ware'.\(^3\)

But some of the potters stayed in the civilian settlement at Gloucester, which was now growing in importance. Their characteristic ware of the last quarter of the 1st century is recorded from the new settlement sites in the modern town. When, at the end of the century (A.D. 96–8), Glevum was made a colonia, a sudden increase in the quantity of the ware began to be matched by a progressive decrease in its quality.

By the middle of the 2nd century, Glevum pottery had become known in outlying areas and we now find it scattered up the vales of Severn and Avon and on occasional Cotswold sites. As already noted, wide-mouthed jars of this period (late 2nd century) have been found at Spoonley Wood villa and at Bourton-on-the-Water.\(^4\)

More recently, examples of the ware have come to light at Tewkesbury\(^5\), Broadway\(^6\), Worcester\(^7\) and at sites on Bredon Hill\(^8\). All this ware is of the later period and is largely restricted to a few shapes such as wide-mouthed jars and bowls, and drinking vessels. These finds, too, have shown that the ware tentatively described as 'fumed Glevum ware',\(^9\) is, in fact, no less. It is of the same fabric, fired in a somewhat

---

3 *Archaeologia*, lxxviii (1928), 178 ff.
4 *JRS*, xxxiii, 18.
5 Unpublished. I am grateful to Colonel and Mrs H. M. B. Salmon of Tewkesbury Park for the sight of this pottery, which, together with fragments of tiles and brick tesserae, was turned up in 1945 near their home, when a wooden pylon was installed.
8 *Trans. B.G.A.S.*, lxxix (1950), 199–200. By the courtesy of Mr A. Moray-Williams, I have examined the whole of the very considerable collection of Glevum ware found by him on the Bredon sites.
9 *JRS*, xxxiii, 25.
different fashion from the characteristic tan-buff ware, to produce a medium-grey 'finish.'

It is this 2nd-century 'export trade' of Glevum's pottery, probably by water-transport up the vale, that stresses the importance of the Witcombe pottery. As late Flavian ware of this kind has otherwise not been found outside Gloucester, it seems to point to a closer association than mere propinquity between new colonia and new house. One may tentatively suggest the possibility that here we have a new official residence—or the residence of a newly-established official—of the Nervan foundation.

Confirmation may, perhaps, be drawn from the remains of the Dryhill villa, which stood a mile or two to the north. The account of the excavations here, published in 1849,\(^1\) contains the figure and description of a pot which is probably a wide-mouthed Glevum ware jar of the late 2nd century type. As, however, the absence of Samian ware suggests that this may be a later foundation, the evidence is by no means conclusive.'

**Fig. 7**

9. Upper part of small cup or beaker. Sandy grey ware, girth groove on bulge. Cutting J

10. Fragment of small beaker with everted rim. Soft pink ware. BARNWOOD. Trans. B.G.A.S., 52, p. 240, Fig. 15, No. 32. CAERLEON. Pt. III (early 2nd century), Fig. 54, No. 31. HUCCLE-COTE. Trans. B.G.A.S., 55 Fig. 25, No. 9. Room 11C

11. Urn. Hard grey ware. BARNWOOD. Trans. B.G.A.S., 52, Fig. 11, No. 4. Room 41A

12. Small beaker with rounded rim, grooved cordon on shoulder, hard grey ware. Room 8

13. Rim of cooking jar. Bitumen coated, black. HUCCLE-COTE. Trans. B.G.A.S., 55, Fig. 26, No. 32. Room 33

15. Rim of urn of hard red ware, well made, smooth. Trans. B.G.A.S., 52, Fig. 11, No. 2 Cutting J

16. Urn with everted rim, groove at base of neck, smooth hard ware. HUCCLE-COTE. Trans. B.G.A.S., 52, Fig. 12 No. 8. Room 44

17. Urn with rounded rim. Red soft ware, perhaps made from local clay. CRYPT. Ibid, 55, Fig. 6, No. 9. BARNWOOD, Ibid, 52, Fig. 12, No. 10 Room 8

---

Fig. 7. Jars
THE ROMAN VILLA, WITCOMBE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

18. Urn of bitumen coated chocolate brown ware with groove on bulge. Hucclecote, Ibid, 55, Fig. 26, No. 23.

19. Soft red? local ware. Ibid, 52, Fig. 13, No. 14.

20. Neck of jar with outbent recurved rim. Ibid, 55, No. 3. Denmark Road. Glos. Proc. C.N.F.C., XXV, p. 200, Fig. 8. Crypt. Trans. B.G.A.S., 55, p. 283, Fig. 4, No. 11.

21. Similar.

21A. Urn. Well-made grey ware, small mica content. Hucclecote. Ibid, 55, p. 282, Fig. 25, No. 6. Crypt. Ibid, 55, Fig. 4, No. 12.

Fig. 8

23. ? Imitation of tazza, soft red ware. Wroxeter Report, No. 1, Fig. 17, No. 19.

24. Base of pot with foot ring, grey ware, black coated.


27. Hard brown ware, lower half black coated, curved side. Caerleon. Fig. 60. No. 324. Hadrian-Antonine. Crypt. Trans. B.G.A.S., 55, Fig. 6, No. 14 (in collapsed material).

28. Similar, but with non-spill feature inside rim Caerleon. Fig. 60, No. 325, where it is Antonine.

29. Brown ware, sagging base, burnished inside, burnished lattice pattern.

30. Black hard ware, bead rim.


32. Black pie dish. Hucclecote. Trans. B.G.A.S., 55, Fig. 28, No. 58.

33. Similar, thin base.

34. Pie-dish, thick walls.

34A. Fawn ware, mica content, decorated horizontal lines.

34B. Hard brown ware. Hucclecote. Trans. B.G.A.S., 55, Fig. 28, No. 64

34C. Hard brown ware, extremely thick wall.
Fig. 8. Dishes
Fig. 9. Dishes (flanged)
Dishes (Flanged)

35. Flanged bowl of black ware with burnished lattice pattern on side. Hucclecote. *Trans. B.G.A.S.*, 55, Fig. 27, No. 39, where examples quoted are 1st century.

36. Black. Caerleon. Fig. 61, No. 369. Trajan.

37. Hucclecote. *Trans. B.G.A.S.*, 55, Fig. 27, No. 45.

38. , , , 48, Fig. 27.

39. , , , 41.

40. , , , 50.

42. 

43. , , , 45, A.D. 80–120. Lydney, Fig. 27, No. 54.

44. , , , 38, Brown ware.

Room 1 (under floor)

Room 8 (in drain cutting)

Room 41A

Room 4

Cutting J

Room 4

Room 41A

Room 41A

Room 1 (under floor)

Castor Ware


52. Pedestal base, pink.

53. Pie-dish sagging base, cream ware, chocolate coating.


54A. Brown washed, funnel neck. Richborough II, Pl. xxxii, No. 165. Lydney, Fig. 27, No. 47, where it is stated that a similar example was found at Carnarvon with late 3rd century coins and the type also occurs on the late 3rd and 4th century site at Ashley Rails in the New Forest.
Fig. 10. Castor ware, Nos. 51 to 54A, Native ware, Nos. 55 to 64
Imitation Samian 64a to 64c
Native Ware

All late, but in use and broken before A.D. 375 (see p. 19) coins of this date being incorporated in contemporary filling with which the floor of Room 8 was made solid. Associated with it in Room 46 on a 'camp' floor, there was a Bronze Age type barbed and tanged arrow head, stone hones, spindle whorls (one made from the base of a late 4th century painted ware pot), a coin of probably the House of Theodosius.

Fig. 10

55. Pie dish. Room 45
56. Pie dish. Room 41A
57. Cooking jar. Bourton-on-the-Water; Trans. B.G.A.S., 56, Fig. 5, No. 9. Lydney, Fig. 27. No. 57. Hucclecote, Trans. B.G.A.S., 55, Fig. 29, No. 87. Room 8
58. Cooking jar. Ibid. Room 2A
59. Cooking jar. Ibid. Room 41A
60. Cooking jar with bevelled rim. Room 11B
61. Flanged pie dish. Room 8
62. Flanged pie dish. Hucclecote, Trans. B.G.A.S., 55, Fig. 29, No. 89. Room 3
63. Flanged pie dish. Room 7
64. Flanged pie dish. Room 8

Imitation Samian and Late Colour-Coated Ware

There is a large amount of Imitation Samian and painted ware and it was in use at the same time as native ware.

Fig. 10

64A. 4th century type. Room 8
64B. Flanged bowl of grey ware, with red colour-coated surface. Bourton-on-the-Water. Trans. B.G.A.S., 55, p. 112, Fig. 5, No. 12. Room 8
64C. Flanged bowl of grey ware, with red colour-coated surface. Hucclecote, Ibid, 55, p. 363, No. 72. Richborough 1, 112. Room 3

Dr Davies Pryce has kindly examined some of these sherds and has pointed out their similarity to many found at Richborough which may be definitely assigned to the 4th century. He remarks that the half rosette impressions (as on sherds from Room 4) had already appeared on Sigillata vessels of the late 2nd and early 3rd centuries (cf. O. & P. XVIII, TCAIRO of Trice, No. 9, Neumagen).
Mortaria

Fig. 11. Brooches
Fig. 11

45. Cream.
46. Cream heavily gritted, with some particles on rim.
47. Cream, Caerleon, Fig. 59, No. 289, where it is probably late 3rd and early 4th century.
48. Cream. Huclecote, Trans. B.G.A.S., 55, p. 365. Fig. 31, No. 92. Richborough 1st Report, 100, where it is 4th century.
49. Red, Richborough 1st Report, No. 97, 4th century. Room 8

45, 46, 49 and 50 should all be late 4th century, as they were found in the make up of the floor of Room 8, which was made solid some time after A.D. 365, while the other two examples figured are also 4th century. These are, perhaps, of very local manufacture as they do not fall into types found elsewhere. 45 and 47 have a definite non-spill ridge inside the rim.

Decorated Sherds

Fig. 12

65. Fragment of brown ware with grey core, decorated with band of combed wave pattern.
66. Cream ware, with painted red band. Huclecote. Trans. B.G.A.S., 55, p. 360, Fig. 29, No. 66A. May Silchester, LV, Fig. 4.
68. Fragment of grey urn with cordon and lattice pattern.
69. Pink ware, brown wash with lightly stamped band.
70. Thin hard red ware with brown colour-coating decorated with fish scales. Trans. B.G.A.S., 55, p. 288, Fig. 23. Mid-1st century at Wroxeter (Wroxeter Report, 1914, p. 63, No. 73), Richborough (Richborough Report, 1926, p. 98, No. 59).
71. Neck of jar with widely outbent rim, hard brown ware. Huclecote. Trans. B.G.A.S., 55, p. 354, Fig. 25, No. 3. Crypt, Glos. Ibid, p. 283, Fig. 4, No. 11.
72. Soft red colour-coated ware with incised lines.
73-4. Portions of vessel of light brown hard ware with mica content, cordon on base of neck and base with slight foot ring.
Fig. 12. Ornamented pottery fragments, etc.
75. Fragment of soft ware, light brown, decorated with stab ornament.

76. Soft red ware, brown colour-coated, with two rows of rouletting.

77. Fragment of hard ware with lustrous metallic finish inside and out, decorated with bands of rouletting.

78. Pale grey hard ware with burnished bands and letters CP.

79. Fragment of jar with pinched inside thin black hard ware, mica content.

80. Neck of jar with lustrous metallic finish.

81. Fragment of jar of dark grey ware, showing that hole was made and handle pushed through, neither of which were smoothed off afterwards.
82. Spindle whorl made from part of vessel, black hard ware.  Room 1 (under floor)
83. Spindle whorl made from base of vessel, soft pink colour-coated ware.  Room 41A

Fig. 14

84. Piece of shaft of mammalian long bone, more or less hexagonal, pierced through centre, use unknown.  Room 8
85. Flint barbed and tanged arrow-head.
86. Bronze rivets.
87. Tip of bronze knife or dagger, ? Bronze Age.
I. Bronze Dog

This little mount (width 1.15 inches), which seems to be the hinged lid of a capsule, is cast in the form of a tightly coiled long-snouted dog, whose head, reaching downwards and inwards, nuzzles the knee of a hind leg that is tucked beneath the belly (Plate IX). The little figure, though curled almost to the point of contortion, is nevertheless perfectly logical in design and has a recognisable natural grace, particularly as regards the convincing line of the neck and shoulders, and the drawing of the ribs; it is, however, a design that is nearing the stage in which the convincing details of the animal dissolve into incoherent animal-pattern. Moreover, the stylisation of the fine long head is carried so far that what we have here is a triangular symbol with ring-and-dot eyes rather than an attempted naturalistic image. The piece therefore shows the operation of a strongly felt native taste, and though the little mount cannot be dated with certainty, it may be said that on general stylistic grounds it is difficult to think of it as earlier than Late Roman period. The terminal of the 4th or 5th century silver spoon from Barham, Kent.²

¹ Found when Reservoirs were constructed.

² T. D. Kendrick, Anglo-Saxon Art, Pl. xv, 5, shows us a crushed-up little creature that illustrates these transitional forms and serves as a period-guide for our piece. It is interesting to note that this Witcombe dog is beyond a doubt related to the Lydney Bronze dog (Wheeler, Lydney Excavations Report, 1932, Pl. xxv), and represents the same kind of animal. It is possible, therefore, that this new find is also to be connected with the 4th century Nodens cult.
Fig. 15
2. Coins

The coins found during the excavations of 1938–9 call for no special numismatic comment. The paucity of early issues is not unusual, but the great preponderance of coins minted in the middle and later 4th century A.D. is here very marked, and must indicate that this was the flourishing time of the villa now visible. There is only one doubtful example of Theodosian coinage, but it will be noted that nearly half the total of 26 is comprised of the issues of the House of Valentinian I. Valentinian I and Valens became emperors in A.D. 364, and only three years later there occurred the great barbarian raids, which are thought to have destroyed much of the civilisation of Roman Britain. It does not seem likely that such a preponderance of Valentinian coinage could have reached Witcombe in only three years. It should follow that this Roman villa was not affected by the barbarian raids of that time, but continued in use for perhaps 20 years thereafter. There is evidence from other villas in Gloucestershire that they remained unaffected by the disasters which befell some other parts of the province. The villa at Whittington Court seems to have flourished until an even later date,¹ and so does at least one house of the small Roman town at Bourton-on-the-Water.²

Domitian (as Caesar)

1 Obv. CAESAR AVG F DOMITIANUS. Head laureate r.
Rev. COS V. She wolf and twins.

Lucius Verus (Died A.D. 169)

2 Obv. IMP CAES L AVREL VERVS AVG. Head r.

Commodus (A.D. 180–92)

3 Obv. M COMMODVS ANTON AVG PIVS BRIT. Head laureate, r.

Tetricus I (A.D. 270–3)

4 Obv. IMP (c) TETRICVS P F AVG. Bust. rad., dr., cuir., r.

Tetricus II (A.D. 270–3)

5 Obv. C PIV ESV TETRICVS CAES. Youthful bust. rad., dr., r.

² Ibid, lvi, 105 ff.
THE ROMAN VILLA, WITCOMBE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE 53

Carausius (A.D. 287–93)

6 Obv. IMP CARAVSIVS PF AVG. Bust rad., dr., cuir., r.
Rev. PAX AVG. Peace standing left with upright sceptre.
Mint. ANTONINIANUS. M. & S. 880.

Constantius II (A.D. 324–61)

7 Obv. DN CONSTANTIVS PF AVG. Bust diad., dr., cuir., r.
Rev. FEL TEMP REPARATIO. Legionary spearing fallen horse-
man.

Constans (A.D. 333–50)

8/9 Obv. CONSTANTIVS PF AVG. Bust diad., dr., cuir., r.
Rev. VICTORIAE D D AVG G NN. Two victories facing.
Mint. \(\frac{\epsilon}{\text{TRSM}}\), \(\frac{\epsilon}{\text{TRP}}\). (Trier). 3 æ. A.D. 340–5.

House of Constantine

10 ? Constantin II Fel Temp Reparatio type, restruck on
Urbs Roma type of Constantine I. 3 æ.

11 Barbarous Fel Temp Reparatio type. 3 æ (small).

Magnentius or Decentius (A.D. 350–3)

12 Obv. Illegible, but head bare, r.
Rev. . . . . . . . D N N . . . . . . Two victories; between
them a shield inscribed O M T X
Mint Illegible. 3 æ. Semi-barbarous.

Valentinian I (A.D. 364–75)

13–14 Obv. DN VALENTINI|ANVS PF AVG. Bust diad., dr., cuir. r.
Rev. GLORIA RO|MANORVM. Emperor placing hand on head of
captive and holding labarum.
Mint. \(\frac{\text{OF}}{\text{LVGSP}}:\) (2) (Lyons) 3 æ.

Rev. SECVRITAS|REIPVBLCAE. Victory left.
Mint. \(\frac{\text{PCON}}{\text{LVGSP}}\) (2), \(\frac{\text{OF}}{\text{LVRPS}}\) 3 æ.
(Lyons)

Valens (A.D. 364–78)

18 Obv. DN VALENTINI|ANVS PF AVG. Bust diad., dr., cuir., r.
Rev. As nos. 13–14.
Mint. \(\frac{\text{OF}}{\text{LVGSP}}\), \(\frac{\text{PCON}}{\text{ASISC}}\) + 1 illegible. 3 æ.
(Lyons) (Arles) (Siscia).
TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1954

House of Valentinian I (A.D. 364–78)

23 Obv. Illegible.
Rev. As nos. 13–14.
Mint. Illegible. 3 æ.

24 Obv. Illegible.
Rev. As nos. 15–17.
Mint. Illegible.

Possibly 4 æ of House of Theodosius I.

Lysons’ Coins at Witcombe Park
No. 1–9 are all Antoniniani.

Gallienus (A.D. 253–68)

1 Obv. GALLIENVS AVG. Head radiate, r.
Rev. IOVI PROPVGNAT. Jupiter walking l., holding thunderbolt.

2 Obv. As foregoing.
Rev. PIETAS AVG. Pietas stg. by altar, hands raised and outspread.

Aurelian (A.D. 270–5)

3 Obv. IMP C AVRELIANVS AVG. Bust rad., cuirassed, r.
Rev. FORTVNA REDVX. Fortuna stg. l., holding rudder and cornucopiae.

Tetricus I (A.D. 270–4)

Obv. [IMP (C) TETRICVS] PF AVG. Bust rad., dr., r. (in all cases).
4 Rev. PIETAS AVG. Pietas stg. l. at altar, holding box of perfume.
5 Rev. SPES . . . Spes walking l., holding flower and raising robe.
   M. & S. 130–6.
6 Rev. VICTORIA AVG. Victory walking l., holding wreath and palm.

Carausius (A.D. 286–93)

7 Obv. IMP C CARAVSIVS PF AVG. Bust rad., dr., cuir., r.
Rev. PAX AVG. Peace stg. l. with olive branch and vertical sceptre.

8 Obv. IMP CARAVSIVS PF AVG. Bust rad., dr., cuir., r.
Rev. PAX AVG. Pax stg. l., holding upright sceptre and cornucopiae.
THE ROMAN VILLA, WITCOMBE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

**Allectus (A.D. 293–6)**

9 Obv. IMP C ALLECTVS PP AVG. Bust rad., dr., cuir., r.
Rev. LAETIT AVG. Laetitia stg. l. with wreath and anchor.
Mint. $\frac{SI}{C}$ (Colchester). M.&S. 76.

**Constantine I (A.D. 307–37)**

10 Obv. . . . . CONSTANTINVS PP AVG. Bust laur., dr., ? cuir., r.
Rev. PRINCIPI IVVENTVTIS. Emperor stg. l., holding two standards.
Mint. $\frac{TR}{PTR}$ (Trier). A.D. 308. 3 æ.

11 Obv. [IMP CONSTANTINVS AVG]. Bust helmeted, cuir., r.
Rev. VICTORIAE LAETAE PRINC PERP. Two victories facing and placing on altar a shield inscribed VOT PR.

12-14 Obv. VRBS ROMA. Bust of Roma helmeted, cuir., l.
Rev. Wolf and twins.
Mint. $\frac{FL}{T}$ (Lyons) + 2 illegible. C. 17/18.

**Constans (A.D. 337–50)**

15 Obv. [CONST]AN | S PP AVG. Bust diad., dr., r.
Rev. VICTORIAE DD AVGGG NN. Two victories facing, holding wreaths.
Mint. $\frac{TR}{PTR}$ (Trier). A.D. 340-5. C. 179.

**Constantius II or Constans**

16 Obv. Illegible, but bust diad., dr., r.
Rev. FEL TEMP REPARATU. Phoenix on rock.
Mint. Illegible. 3 æ.

17 Obv. As 16.
Rev. As 16, but type of legionary spearing fallen horseman.
Mint. $\frac{TR}{T}$ (Trier). 3 æ.

18-22 Imitations of the foregoing type, more or less barbarous.

23 Similar, but very barbarous and very small (8 mm. diam.) and thick (1.5 mm.).

**Magnentius or Decentius (A.D. 350–3)**

24 Obv. Illegible, but bust bare, dr., r.
Rev. VICTORIAE DD NN AVG [ET C AE(S)]. Two victories holding shield inscribed VOT V MVL X.
Mint. Illegible.
Valentinian I (A.D. 364–75)

Obv. D N VALENTINVS P F AVG. Bust diad., dr., cuir., r., in all cases.

25–6 Rev. GLORIA RO|MORVM. Emperor dragging captive and holding labarum.

Mint. [MINT] (Lyons) + 1 illegible. 3 æ.

27–8 Rev. SECRITAS|REIVPVBLICAIE. Victory l.

Mint. [MINT] (Arles) + 1 illegible. 3 æ.

Valens (A.D. 364–78)

29–32 Obv. D N VALENS P F AVG. Bust diad., dr., cuir., r., in all cases.

Rev. SECRITAS|REIVPVBLICAIE. Victory l.

Mint. [MINT] (Arles) + 2 illegible. 3 æ.

Gratian (A.D. 368–83)

33–4 Obv. D N GRATIANVS AVGG AVG. Bust diad., dr., cuir. r.

Rev. GLORIA NO|VI SAECVLI. Emperor r. with shield and labarum.

Mint. [MINT] (Arles) + 1 illegible. 3 æ.

House of Valentinian I (A.D. 364–83)

Obv. Illegible, but bust diad., dr., cuir., r., in all cases.

35–6 Rev. GLORIA RO|MORVM. Emperor dragging captive and holding labarum.

Mint. [MINT] (Arles) + 1 illegible. 3 æ.

37 Rev. SECRITAS|REIVPVBLICAIE. Victory l.

Mint. Illegible. 3 æ.

House of Theodosius I

38 Obv. Illegible, but bust diad., dr., cuir., r.

Rev. [SALVS REI] | PVBLICAIE. Victory dragging captive.

Mint. Illegible. 4 æ.

Overstrike

39 Very barbarous Fel Temp Reparatis type with legionary spearing fallen horseman overstruck on irregular flan.

Illegible

40–49 All of the 3rd or 4th century, mainly the 4th; one possibly of Gratian.
3. Bronze Statuette

Flora.

Found when building the Witcombe Reservoirs, near the Witcombe Villa (Plate x).

The goddess is standing upright, in chiton and chlamys, holding a wreath made from flowers in her left, and perhaps remains of a flower in her right hand. On her head it seems to be possible to observe a small wreath of flowers. (cf. for this type S. Reinach, Répertoire de la statuaire Grecque et Romaine i, p. 384; II, p. 214). The hair-dress of this goddess (cf. Pauly-Wissowa, Realenz-art. Haartracht) is very similar to that of the Empress Crispina (in front curls, in the neck small knot or bun), the wife of Commodus, which dates the piece (end of the 2nd century A.D.).

The style of this statuette points to the English South Coast region from Kent to Cornwall. The bronzes made in these sea districts are of very good taste, and similar to Italian and Southern Gallic examples: local characteristics are almost missing. The Roman Imperial civilization intrudes here from the sea and it is therefore rather difficult to separate imported and home made South Coast pieces.

4. Glass

Window-Glass.

I have succeeded in piecing together three large fragments of almost colourless window-panes, Roman, none of which, unfortunately, has more than one angle, so the dimensions are still uncertain.

Other Glass.

41 A. One piece of Roman window-glass, green, and two indeterminate fragments of vessels, probably Roman.

Room 1, between stairs and floor. One piece of colourless window-glass, Roman, and numerous fragments of a green vessel, Roman.

Room 1, in crevices between walls and floor. Fragment of green window-glass, Roman; one fragment of modern ditto; fragment of shoulder of thin glass flask, colourless, Roman (probably 3rd–4th century rather than earlier); two fragments of a vessel of colourless glass with pale blue trailed threads, almost certainly Cologne 'snake-thread' ware of c. A.D. 200, but shape of vessel uncertain; several other fragments of good colourless glass of mid-Roman date.

Room 1, drain from cistern. Three fragments, contiguous, of colourless beaker with four pairs of horizontal wheel-cuts; complete shape uncertain, but the vase probably had a plain flattened base and a plain rim knocked off and ground smooth; 2nd–3rd century A.D. Also four other tiny fragments of colourless vessels, same date.
Millefiori fragment. There is little to say about this beyond the fact that it is millefiori and that it is too small to tell the shape of its vessel. The colours appear to be yellow, brown, green and blue. The date of manufacture would be 1st to early 2nd century, the date of loss might of course be much later.

Fragment of bowl. Rounded rim, convex sides, greenish colourless; 2nd–3rd century A.D.

5. LEAD AND PAINTS

A preliminary examination of the lead from the Witcombe Roman Villa showed that it had been desilverised, but on account of the war no further work could be done.
Dr Moss has examined the paint on Mrs Clifford's Roman pottery fragments, and has found three distinct pigments, namely:

(a) Pinkish mixture of haematite and calcium carbonate.
(b) A green earth.
(c) Calcium Carbonate (whiting).

It is interesting to have identified green earth, as we have a record of Cornwall being the source of this pigment in Medieval times.

6. Hones, etc.

Spatula.
The spatula from the Witcombe Villa has been examined in B.M. Department of Minerals by Miss J. M. Sweet. She reports that it is glass, adding the following details: 'light brown in thin section; Isotropic; refractive Index between 1.600 and 1.199.'

Hones, 34a.

Hard, fine-grained sandstones of greenish-grey colour. Possibly from one of the finer beds in the Old Red Sandstone. This Lithology is not sufficiently distinctive to warrant speculation as to actual source, but I might mention the O.R.S. of the Forest of Dean as one possibility.

G.—Ditto. Rather coarser.

Small Spindle-Whorl.

Hard arenaceous limestone; pale grey in colour. Possibly from Lias: Fig. 12, No. 82.

Rubbing Stone.

Flattened ovoid pebble of pale brownish coloured quartzite; reddened surface. Ultimately derived from Triassic pebble-beds, but doubtless obtained from local gravels containing erratics from the Midlands.

7. Non-Marine Mollusca

Four species were determined viz:—

Goniodiscus rotundatus (Müll)
Arianta arbustorum (Linn)
Helix pomatia (Linn)
Helix aspersa (Müll)

It is interesting to record the presence of Helix pomatia but there are no indications that this species had been used as food.
Terra Sigillata.

(1) Probably first half of the 2nd century.
(3) Form 31. 41a, under floor. 3 fragments. Poor dull glaze, as frequent in late Central and East Gaulish Ware. Deep, slightly rounded wall.

Internal ridge at the junction of the wall with the base, a characteristic of this type of deep dish (cf. O. & P., XLVI, 5, 6, 15 and XLVII). The nearest homologues to the Witcombe form are O. & P., XLVII, 5, CONATIVS; 6, MAINACNI, Pudding Pan Rock; 7. PRIMITIVS, Niederbieber (A.D. 190–260), probably late 2nd century. The piece must be assigned to the second half of the 2nd century, probably late rather than early.
Fig. 19. Bone comb, etc.
(4) Form 33. 41a (2), beneath floor. Glaze much as no. 3. Note the outwardly curved wall, compare O. & P., li, 16, Atillani, Pudding Pan Rock. Second half of 2nd century.

(5) Form 31. 11c. Two fragments of two dishes. Glaze and shapes, as no. 3, approximately. Second half of 2nd century.


Remarks: Although it is difficult to date closely fragmentary examples of plain ware, the pieces, with the exception of Nos. 1 and 8, appear quite definitely to assign themselves to the second half of the 2nd century. No. 1 probably belongs to the first half of the 2nd century and No. 8 to the 3rd century.

Imitation Samian.

The imitation-sigillata of the first 3 to 4 centuries of the Empire, commences with the imitation of Arretine and early Gaulish Ware in the reigns of Augustus and Tiberius, e.g. terra rubra and nigra. Little is known about the late imitation-ware of which these fragments are examples. The fact that many of these imitation forms are close copies of late sigillata vessels, such as forms 38, 36, 41 and 45 all of which were being produced in the late 2nd century and early 3rd century, suggests that their manufacture commenced about mid-3rd century; to take the place of the no longer imported samian products. Further, it would appear probable, judging by 1st century practice, that, already at a slightly earlier date, there was some imitation of contemporary sigillata-types. My knowledge of this ware is almost entirely confined to Richborough, where much of it is of 4th century date. See especially Richborough Rep. 1, pp. 89–92, where Mr Bushe-Fox deals with the question. There, the imitations found in pits 1, 5, 6 may be definitely assigned to the 4th century.

Many of the types find their parallels at Richborough:

\[
\text{Wilcombe} \quad \text{Richborough}
\]

Compare 41a, 41a+, 46 (Form 38) with Rich. i, 109–111.

```````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````````
9. Animal Remains

The remains submitted to me by Mrs Clifford are very fragmentary, as is usual from such sites. They consist mainly of the bones and teeth of domestic animals slaughtered for food by the dwellers on the site. The list is as follows:

**Dog.** One loose canine tooth.

**Pig.** Fragments of jaws with teeth (young and old); loose teeth; few bones; one large and robust right humerus may be that of a domestic boar: it measures 162 mm. from the head to the distal condyles.

**Horse.** Few upper and lower teeth (molars, incisors and canines); distal end of a tibia, and an astragalus. The remains suggest a larger animal than the Celtic Pony of Early Iron Age sites.

---

*Fig. 20. Fragments of Castor ware*

**Sheep.** Fragments of jaws with teeth (young and old); loose teeth; slender limb-bones of the usual Romano-British breed.

**Ox.** The remains are more numerous than those of the other animals, and consist of many loose teeth, both lower and upper; split and broken limb-bones, including shank-bones (metacarpals and metatarsals); astragali; calcanea; and fragmentary horn-cores. The remains sort themselves into two groups, one lot belonging to small cattle of the Celtic Shorthorn (*Bos longifrons*) type, the other is much larger. Of the small group there are two short horn-cores; three astragali measuring 60, 64 and 65 mm. over all; a metacarpal with a full length of 168 mm. and a mid-shaft width of 33 mm., also parts of others of the same slender type.
PLATE I "Temple" Room 1. Niches in north wall
PLATE IIa  Tank in Temple with water conduit and drain

PLATE IIb  Character of masonry, "Temple" Room 1
PLATE IIIa  Furnace jaws, Room 3a, showing material used to reduce size on right

PLATE IIIb  Ventilation flue under furnace jaws in No. 12
PLATE IVa  Open drain round Room 48

PLATE IVb  Latrine drain, Room 3, as it passes under east wall
PLATE VI  Mosaic floor, Room 6, with panel inset in plain border leading into Room 8
PLATE IX  Bronze steelyard and Bronze dog
PLATE X  Earthenware handle with incised human figure.  Bronze statuette ‘‘Flora’’.
PLATE XI  Fir cone in earthenware
Of the large group there is a fragment of a long and robust horn-core; two astragali measuring 68 and 70 mm. over all; a metacarpal with a full length of 187 mm. and a mid-shaft width of 39 mm., and another broken one of about the same size; a metatarsal measuring 216 mm. with a mid-shaft width of 29 mm., also

parts of others of equal size. It is interesting to recall that cattle of two types were met with during the excavations of the Roman Villa at Hucclecote, near Gloucester.¹

In addition to the foregoing there are many bones of the Rabbit (probably intrusive) and the distal two-thirds of a humerus of Hare (dark-stained and probably belonging to the site). There are also a number of bird-bones, mostly of Fowl.

Apart from the main collection of bones there are three lots, as follows:

A. From a late ‘camping’ floor.
   Ox. Few bone-fragments and four upper teeth (two milk and two adults).
   Sheep. Three teeth and three bones.
   Pig. Three teeth and one bone.

B. From place of fire.
   Many burnt bone-fragments of which some are of sheep.

C. From Room 1, believed to be the Temple.
   Ox. Few broken bones.
   Sheep. Two broken bones.
   Pig. Few broken bones.
   Birds. Few broken bones.
   Shell. Fragment of common oyster (also found at Hucclecote).

10. Soil and Charcoal

Note. The charcoals were a very interesting lot, representing an unusual number of different tree species, of which only one or two were a little uncertain, owing to bad state of preservation. Note especially the presence of sweet chestnut in the lot from Trench c, Room 1. The edible chestnut is supposed to have been introduced by the Romans, though it used, at one time, to be thought that it was a native of Britain.

Trench C. Room 1. (2 lots).

Ash wood charcoal (Fraxinus excelsior) Mature, poor wood 1
Good mature wood 5

Chesnut, sweet (Castanea vesca) One large fragment of
good wood, not oak wood 1

Cherry, wild (Prunus sp.) Mature wood 5

Hazel (Corylus avellana) Early formed wood 4

Sample 11A.

Apparently several twig fragments and dust of cherry wood or sloe.

(Prunus sp.) 4

3rd Niche. Room 1.

Ash wood ? (Fraxinus excelsior) Large, uncarbonised, but
much rotted and col-
lapsed specimen. Identifi-
cation a little dubious. 1
Fig. 22
**Furnace under 5a.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorn (Crataegus oxyacantha)</td>
<td>Early formed wood</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazel (Corylus avellana)</td>
<td>Mature wood</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hornbeam (Carpinus betula)</td>
<td>Mature (Rare to find)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple ? (Acer sp.)</td>
<td>Might be dogwood</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common oak (Quercus sp.)</td>
<td>Mature wood</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Room 1.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alder (Alnus glutinosa)</td>
<td>Mature wood (Rarely found in ancient deposits)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry (Prunus sp.)</td>
<td>Early formed wood</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorn (Crataegus oxyacantha)</td>
<td>Early formed wood</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazel (Corylus avellana)</td>
<td>Early formed wood</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse chestnut (Aesculus hippocastanum)</td>
<td>Early formed wood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rarely found</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hawthorn (Crataegus oxyacantha)</td>
<td>Mature wood</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry (Prunus sp.)</td>
<td>Mature wood</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common oak (Quercus sp.)</td>
<td>Mature, good timber</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)</td>
<td>Mature wood, poor growth</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazel (Corylus avellana)</td>
<td>Early formed wood</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Also several fragments of lignite (soft coal)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>from compressed wood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Room 46.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alder (Alnus glutinosa)</td>
<td>Mature, good wood</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry (Prunus sp.)</td>
<td>Rarely found</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dogwood (Cornus sanguinea)</td>
<td>Branchwood. Rarely found</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Oak (Quercus sp.)</td>
<td>Mature. Seemed like red oak, but that seems to be impossible</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Room 34A.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ash (Fraxinus excelsior)</td>
<td>Mature wood and twig</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry (Prunus sp.)</td>
<td>Early formed wood</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Fir Cone**

*Fir-Cone in Earthenware.* This was published by the late R. A. Smith in *Antiq. Journ.*, Vol. xix, 1939, Pl. xliv. It was found in the next room to the ‘temple’ which he describes. He goes on to say: The water-supply is still adequate, and this, combined with the low level of the room, suggests a Mithraeum, which would give significance to the fir-cone, found with pottery of the 4th century. The symbolism was discussed by Mr Dalton in our *Proceedings*, xxxii, 58–62, and opinions are quoted
that the fir-cone was an emblem of fertility in that cult of Mithras which was for a long time the dangerous rival of Christianity, and passed into the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire from Mesopotamian Persia (61). Our fellow Mr Stewart Piggott, supplies a reference to *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.* XIII, 1878–9, 267. There are five from the Roman camp at Middlebie, and one each from Papcastle, Northumberland (Bruce, *Lapidarium Septentrionale*, 457), Inveresk, Chesterholm, Kirkley Shore, and Carlisle (with snake coiled round it). A monument to Aurelia Aureliana at Carlisle has pine-cones on the pilasters and another to Crescentius from Brougham has an incised fir-cone above the inscription. It may be added that three natural fir-cones, found in the City of London with Roman remains, are preserved in the Guildhall Museum.'

Fig. 23. Samian ware

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Thanks are due to the following for help in various ways:—

Prof. C. F. C. Hawkes
Sir Thomas Kendrick
Dr Kenneth Oakley
Mr Oliver Davies
Mr A. S. Kennard
Dr D. B. Harden
Dr Davies Pryce
Dr J. Wilfrid Jackson
Mr G. C. Dunning
Mr Charles Green
Dr Pledgerleith

Prof. Jocelyn Toynbee
Dr Joan Evans
Miss Simpson
Mr F. G. Hudson
Mr Harold Mattingley
Victoria and Albert Museum
Miss J. M. Sweet, Nat. Hist. B.M.
Mr Edward Camm
The late Mr B. H. St. J. O'Neil
Dr F. M. Heichelheim
Dr Felix Oswald

and especially to Mr P. K. Baillie-Reynolds for all his help during the excavation, and the Ministry of Works for the invitation to excavate.