

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

Bourton Bridge Posting House

by H. E. O'Neil
1972, Vol. 91, 92-116

© The Society and the Author(s)

Bourton Bridge Posting House

Bourton on the Water

PART II—POTTERY AND FINDS

By HELEN E. O'NEIL

IT seems proper in producing a report on the pottery and other finds recovered on this site, where such a large quantity of Roman sherds were found associated with the various buildings of the settlement, to recall from the publication of Part I of my report in these *Transactions*, Volume 87 in 1968, on the excavations carried out then, that the settlement grew up here due to the establishment of a Roman Posting House on the Fosse Way at the crossing of the river, the Windrush, at Bourton on the Water.

Beside the necessity of a halt for crossing the river, there was also available merchandise from the nearby Iron Age market town of Salmonsbury. Here too, being at the regulation distance of about fifteen miles from or to a Roman halting place, in this case to Corinium, the site was the standard mileage for horse drawn vehicles and for a change and refreshment.

It would not have been long before advantage was taken of setting up small shops and eating establishments alongside the main road as soon as the Posting House and its stables came into existence, while later a metalled street was constructed leading off the Fosse Way eastwards to link up with Salmonsbury. Along the latter street houses rather than shops were erected, while a road-side ribbon development of small houses became established on either side of the Fosse Way for some distance north and south of the settlement. This can be verified at the present day by the find of Roman sherds at almost every disturbance of the ground in either of these directions.

Since the Fosse Way would have come into existence from an early period of the Roman occupation, after the establishment of the Legionary fortress at Glevum, the forming of a northward frontier became possible along the Warwickshire River Avon, which valley lay north of the native route running on the high ground of the Jurassic Way, thus bypassing difficult terrain, to link up with Leicester and Lincoln. Recent finds have shown that the gravel

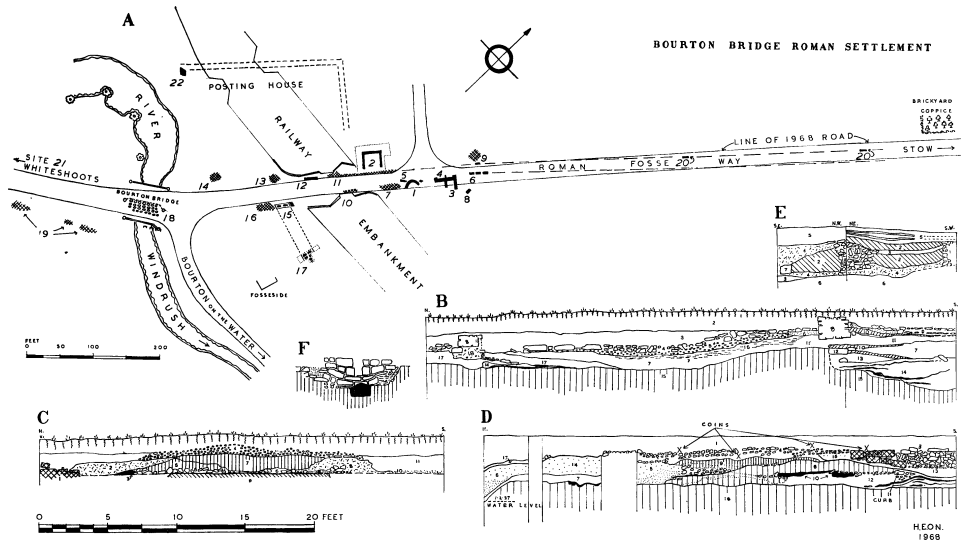


Fig. 1. Map of site

spreads associated with the River Avon were occupied from early periods and would thus prove of use for provisioning incoming conquerors. Of special interest to note in connection with the Roman military advance here, is the site at Tewkesbury where early Roman sherds were recovered some forty years ago from high ground commanding the junction of the River Avon with the River Severn. This site is not to be confused with the recent find of Roman remains during building operations in the town of Tewkesbury. These indicate a Roman civilian town of later date.

It is worth recording that the route of the Fosse Way and the Jurassic Way cross each other at Bourton on the Water.

Pottery of the whole Roman period in Britain can therefore be expected to be present at the Bourton on the Water Posting House.

Of special interest are the sherds with close Belgic affinities, since Salmonsbury produced evidence of a part occupation by that people at that site. Samian sherds at the Posting House settlement were in abundance from the recent excavation (1968), where they were also reported by Dr J. Moore who was present at the building of the railway line in 1878-88, which was constructed across the actual remains of the Posting House.¹ It appears an irony of fate that within a hundred years the railway here was doomed and disbanded in 1962, although it presented another opportunity for further excavation, but unfortunately allowing only for the finds of the foundations of ancillary buildings around the Posting House, where in 1881 on a visit to the site by the Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club some of the walls were still standing to a height of four feet.

Since the opportunity of the recent excavation has provided the chance of further study of the pottery, it is proposed in the following pages to illustrate groups of the sherds as they occurred together from their varied positions, which will not only help with their dating but their simultaneous use. The remains of some 240 vessels have been thus considered.

I am very grateful to Dr G. Simpson and Mr B. R. Hartley for help with the dating of the Samian, to Mrs K. Hartley for help with the mortaria and for information on the cheek-piece of a horse bridle to Mrs Catherine Johns, Research Assistant at the British Museum. To Mr M. R. Hull for help with the bronze brooches and to Mr G. R. Morton of the Wolverhampton College of Technology for information on the iron slags.

¹ *Transactions Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society*. Vol. 7, p. 40 and 57, pp. 234-259.

Samian pottery (FIG. 2).

Dr J. Moore is reported as having collected sherds of some fifty Samian vessels during the railway construction in 1878-88, recording ten potters stamps, dating from Vespasian to Antonine, while from the recent excavations Samian sherds were dated from Flavian through Trajanic to Hadrian-Antonine times. With the quantity and quality of the sherds recovered, it will be seen that a good class of clientele must have used the Posting House.

Forty-two Samian sherds were recovered from the river, in silt beside and on the east side of the stone paved ford. These consisted of twelve decorated pieces: thirteen rims of small 'cup' types, of which five were of Dr. 27, three of Dr. 33, two of Dr. 24-25 with rouletted pattern rims; five bases with footrings; six fragments of body pieces and one rim of a plain dish with double lead rivets *in situ*.

Site 18. Ford at river crossing.

Nos. 2 to 10 from river bed; Nos. 1, 11, 12 from black silt on river bed.

Illustrated. FIG. 2 (excavation identification numbers in brackets)

1. (B.141). Decorated bowl, Dr. 37, from lower black river silt or brushwood, by N. E. pillar of new addition to Bridge. O. and P. pp. 95/especially 102, PLATE XII c. Antonine. ? Free style of Antonine period, decoration smudged, difficult to decipher.
2. Fragment of decorated lower frieze of Dr. 31, S. Gaul, A.D. 80-100.
3. Fragment of lower frieze of Dr. 29. A.D. up to 85.
4. Fragment near base, Dr. 37. Potter X2. Small ram's horn border. Stansfield and Simpson PLATE 5, no. 51.
5. Fragment of rim, Dr. 37, with ovalo and fragment of snakey tree decoration. Trajanic.
6. Fragment, Dr. 29, S. Gaulish. Nero to Flavian.
7. Fragment, ? Dr. 29, Central Gaul. Hadrian to Antonine.
8. Fragment, with basal wreath, Central Gaul. Trajanic.
9. Fragment of rim of bowl with ivy leaf decoration, Dr. 36. Glossy. Neronian.
10. Fragment. Knorr 78. S. Gaul. Small figure with plumed helmet and shield. Flavian.
11. Fragment of base and ring-foot, Dr. 37. Decoration of small ram's horn border. Remains of rosette potter's stamp. The sherd burnt black.
12. Rim of plain dish with double lead rivet *in situ*.

Site 10. From trenches of road works on east side of Fosse Way associated with removal of railway bridge.

13. Fragment of Dr. 37. Double-bordered ovolo with very thin tongue on right side. Not quite the same as Stansfield and Simpson, p. 135, FIG. 14, 1, and p. 213, FIG. 34, 1, by Aritos and Ianvaris II respectively. The style is Trajanic or early Hadrian from C. Gaul, with a beautiful glossy red slip. The moss-like decorative detail repeated round the base is not in *Central Gaulish Pottery*, PLATES 62-4.

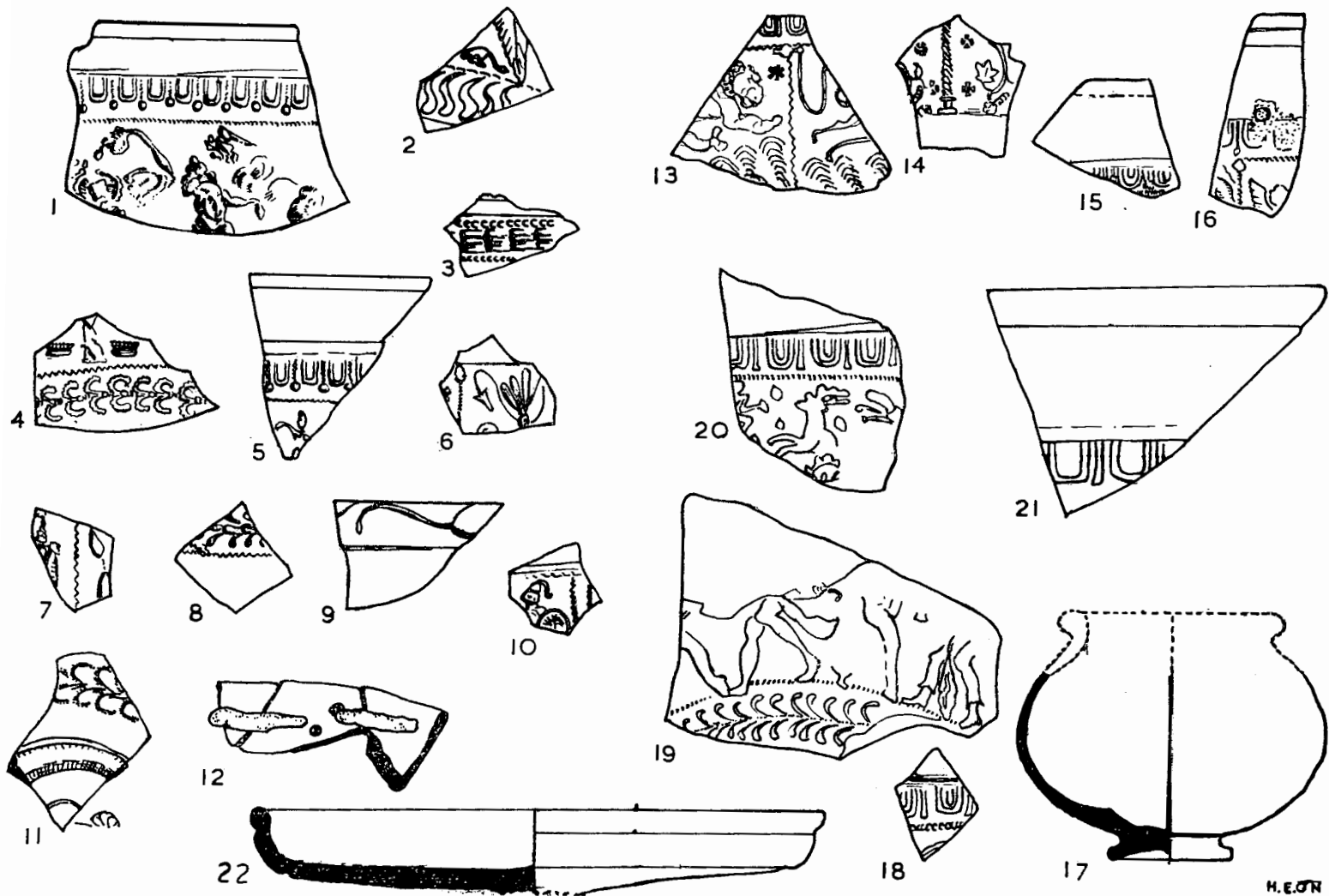


Fig. 2. Samian pottery (†)

14. Fragment, Dr. 37, decorated. C. Gaul. Hadrian to early Antonine.
 15. Fragment of rim with ovolo, Dr. 37, C. Gaul. Trajanic.
 16. Fragment of rim, Dr. 37, heavily burnt black surfaces, grey core, lead from rivet fused, leaving glaze on surface. Decoration of Cupid with wing. Early to mid Flavian. Oswald Index Figure type no. 378. *Die Verzierten Terra-Sigillata-Gefässe von Rottweid*. R. Knorr, (1907) PLATE XIII, no. 3.

Site 7. From area adjoining south side of Wayside Shrine (Site 1) to Site 10. Six sherds of Samian recovered including two rims of thin glossy ware (one of Dr. 37) and one body sherd of c. Dr. 18.

17. Base and lower portion of small plain gobular jar (rim missing). Dechelette 72. (see O. and P. PLATE LXXIX, 1-3). The form matches fairly closely some recent examples from Lezoux. c. Antonine date.
 18. Frag of ovolo.
 19. Fragment of decorated basal sherd. Dr. 37. Typical of Potter X2. Large figures. Compare Stansfield and Simpson PLATE VIII, no. 108. Trajanic. Right hand figure of legs in trousers of fisherman with fish.

Site 2. From courtyard of Stables (1959 excavations).

20. Fragment. Dr. 37. Decorated. Cinnamus Group. Antonine. Stansfield and Simpson. PLATE 63.
 Also from this site a fragment of base, Dr. 37 with potter's stamp LV----. (*not illustrated*).

From Site 19.

21. Fragment of rim with ovolo. Dr. 37. Cinnamus ovolo 1. Antonine.

Site 20. From west verge of the Fosse Way.

22. (B.129). Shallow dish, with curved wall, inturned rim, flat base on foot stand but latter is missing. Walters form 79/80, good Central Gaulish fabric. Mid to late Antonine period. c. A.D. 155-180.

COARSE POTTERY

Site 18. Pottery from the river bed (FIG. 3).

During the County Council work on the widening of the eastern half of the present Bourton Bridge, many Roman sherds and thirteen coins were recovered from the river. The remains of at least seventy-eight vessels, with in addition forty-two fragments of Samian ware were dredged up. It was remarked how little modern rubbish was found. Very little stratification was possible due to river control during the present work, but a dating range from the coins, Vespasian to Antonine and the evidence from the Samian, which has been identified as running from Neronian to Antonine, including Flavian, Trajanic and Hadrian types, show early and continuous occupation near by, with the river a suitable dumping ground for broken ware. *Illustrated*. FIG. 3. Nos. 1 to 34. (*All from excavation site B 141*).

A selection of sherds from thirty-four vessels is illustrated featuring some unusual types, chief amongst which is the black polished bowl (no. 11) with cordons on the shoulder above a zone of moulded flutings on the body. Fragments of two other similar bowls were also recovered from early positions of the Posting House settlement. As noted above in the Introduction to this Report attention was drawn to this type of pottery's close affinity to the Belgic ware from Salmonsbury.

There was a preponderance of flanged bowls, some in a hard smooth-surfaced pewter-coloured fabric. Sharp carinated forms amongst the pottery were very much in evidence, some bowls decorated with vertical lattice patterns deeply incised, while one bowl (no. 32), a thin orange-red ware had white painted festoons on its flange and a portion of a potter's mark on the interior of the base. Small jars were next in quantity, one slightly larger (no. 12) in a pale grey paste was decorated with large applied circles in self-same paste. Rims of large storage jars as well as sherds of amphorae, a complete handle and a stopper of the latter make were present and though there were numerous sherds of what can be termed kitchen ware, pie dishes were absent as well as the black burnished with lattice pattern cook pots so common at a later period. There were also sherds with large nodular rustication patterns.

This assemblage of sherds belong to early types of vessels, and those connected with types from Belgic Salmonsbury indicate a date from the earliest Roman occupation of the district in the 1st century A.D.

1. Flanged bowl, rim diameter 7 inches, black, burnished, sloping wall to base after slight angle. Decorated with almost vertical burnished lattice pattern. Interior with burnished horizontal lines. The exterior lower band of burnishing overlaps the lattice pattern.
2. Flanged bowl, rim diameter 6 inches, black, burnished but dull and water worn. Sharp angle to lower portion. base missing. Crude burnished lattice pattern.
3. Flanged bowl, rim diameter 7 inches. Dark grey, burnished lattice pattern. Lower half of vessel missing but fracture suggests acute angle.
4. Flanged bowl, rim diameter 7 inches, hard paste, very dark grey, no burnishing or decoration. Two grooves on surface of wide everted rim. Sharp angle near base.
5. Flanged bowl, rim diameter 7 inches, light grey, thin hard paste, hooked rim, no decoration.
6. Flanged bowl, rim diameter 6 inches, hollow-top everted rim, black hard paste (appeared burnt) crude wavy pattern just under rim and again in hollow of rim.
7. Flanged bowl, flat rim, diameter 5 inches, dark grey, burnished, almost vertical lattice pattern.
8. Flanged shallow bowl, rim diameter 7 inches, black but with metallic silvery appearance, perhaps due to submergence in river. Ring base, sharp shoulder angle.

TRANSACTIONS FOR THE YEAR 1972

9. Bowl, base with ring foot and lower portion of body remaining, rim missing, dark grey with dull metallic appearance as no. 8 above, slight grooves at possible carination.
10. Bowl, base with ring foot and lower portion of body, thin paste, black but much water worn. Sharp carination at shoulder, three shallow grooves.
11. Bowl, rim diameter 5 inches, slightly everted rim with two deep wide cordons on shoulder above a zone of moulded fluting on body. Black, polished, but paste grey. Belgic affinities, re. the Belgic fluted jar found in Salmonsbury Camp, the Iron Age site at Bourton on the Water now in Cheltenham Museum. Sherds of two similar vessels to no. 11 were recovered from the dark filling below the level of the stable floor. (Site 2).
12. Jar, thin everted rim with diameter of $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Bulging shoulder ending with two grooves at its base, grey paste. Decorated on body with roughly applied large circles of same paste, base missing.
13. Jar, rim diameter 6 inches, hard grey paste, everted rim, smooth curved shoulder ending in groove, large nodular rustications impinge on the groove. (See *Antiquaries Journal* 38 (1958) pp. 26 ff.) c. 1st Century A.D.
14. Sherd of nodular rustication on black coarse ware with dark grey interior, one groove above rustication.
15. Sherd with nodular rustication, smooth shoulder, thin well turned grey ware but with metallic gloss. The nodules placed far apart.
16. Jar, rim diameter 6 inches, coarse pinky grey buff hard ware with porridgey texture, two slight grooves on shoulder.
17. Butt beaker, rim diameter 4 inches, high neck with pointed rim, thin grey-fawn paste, poorly executed rouletting.
18. Cooking pot, rim diameter 5 inches, coarse ware with bulbous shoulder.
19. Dish, diameter 6 inches, shallow, plain sloping upright rim, hard gritty grey paste.
20. Dish, rim diameter 6 inches, plain upright rim, flat base, hard pale grey paste.
21. Jar, diameter 6 inches, rolled rim, three wide shallow grooves on shoulder. Carinated, hard paste, dark grey, decoration of vertical applied dots.
22. Jar, rim diameter 5 inches, pronounced cordon at base of neck, polished black.
23. Jar, rim diameter 6 inches, sharp angular rim, light-fawn grey in colour.
24. Bowl, hooked flange of light-red ware, flange only remaining, imitation of Dr. 38. Two well marked grooves at base of flange.
25. Jar, small globular, rim diameter 5 inches, thin orange red paste, everted rim. A common type in Gloucestershire.
26. Jar stopper in pottery. Fawn-grey in colour. Spike holes on surface for leverage action.
27. Handle for jar, three reeded, in white paste.
28. Bowl, diameter 5 inches, carinated, in thin pale grey paste.
29. ? Base of mug, diameter of base 3 inches, slight ring foot, light-red in colour.
30. Jar, rim diameter $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, rolled everted rim, small vessel in light-red colour.
31. Jar, rim diameter 5 inches, body and base missing but the upright form suggests a butt-beaker type, light red in colour, two pronounced grooves below shoulder area.
32. Flanged bowl, rim diameter 7 inches, red coated shallow vessel, white painted festoon pattern on flange. Half of a worn potters mark on base of interior H.A.
33. Sherd of shoulder portion of vessel in light-red ware, row of nodular rustication below one shallow groove, much water worn.
34. Sherd of shoulder portion of vessel in hard paste, dark light-red in colour with band of rouletting above band of applied dots.

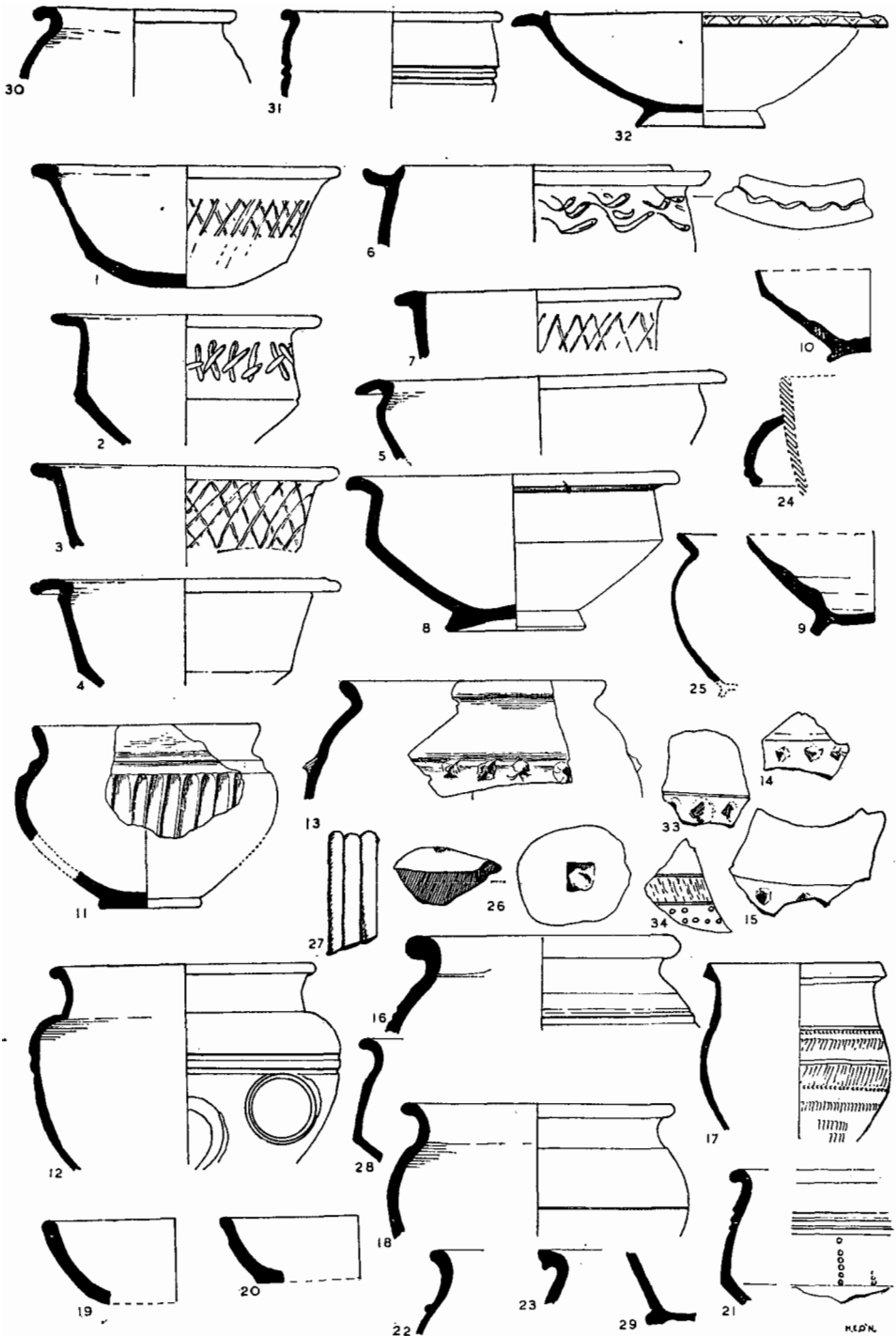


Fig. 3. Pottery from river bed (†)

Site 2. Waste Ground north of the Stables (FIG. 4, nos. 35 to 47).

The area north of the Posting House appears to have been a piece of wasteground prior to the erection of the Stables. Here, in gullies for drainage and rubbish trenches, much household debris had been deposited. The lowest levels of rubbish lay in damp black peat-like silt reaching to water level. Animal bones, amongst which was the skeleton of a dog and one fragment of a baby's skull and a large quantity of pottery sherds. A total of at least seventy-eight vessels were represented from the dark filling, while forty-eight more vessels were found below the stone paving of the adjoining Stable floor.

The earliest types of vessels from the lowest levels were the black carinated jar, partly hand made of situla form (FIG. 4, no. 35) and the remains of two bowls with moulded fluted walls of Belgic form (FIG. 4, no. 36), a similar vessel having been recovered from the river bed at the ford (FIG. 3, no. 11). These three vessels are associated with the form of the Belgic fluted jar found in Salmonsbury as noted above, p. 97. Other early types of vessels were sherds with nodular rustication, fragments of which were also recovered from the river bed. But at higher levels were sherds of mortaria of later dates, from A.D. 170.

Pottery illustrated (FIG. 4).

35. (B.33). Jar, derived situla form, sharp carination on shoulder, hand made, with rim and neck wheel finished, rim diameter 5 inches, grey-brown paste, dark grey almost black exterior, fawn-brown interior on a slight red backing. Everted curving rim but walls of body of uneven thickness. Decorated with uneven horizontal burnished lines on body but base plain. Belgic affinities. Bushe-Fox discusses this form of pottery in his Report on Excavations at Hengistbury Head, Hampshire, (1911-12), p. 39. where he says that a prototype is of the high-shouldered Hallstatt bronze bucket.
36. (B.56). Bowl, black polished, with double cordons on shoulder and base enclosing band of shallow mouldings or fluting on the body. Rim diameter 5 inches, base missing. Slightly everted rim. Similar in form to another vessel found in the river bed and another sherd from this area but belonging to another vessel. These three vessels with Belgic affinities appear to be unique for Gloucestershire.
37. (B.47). Bowl, well made, hard reddish-fawn paste and colour, small everted rim $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, stepped shoulder band on sharp carination below which is a band of decoration of half circles in a white wash on a dark brown and red patches of colour.
38. (B.49). Jar, storage of coarse porridge ware, rim diameter 12 inches, rolled everted rim on neck with groove on sharp everted shoulder. Fawn-grey coating on orange-brown, paste pale-fawn grey.
39. (B.27). Mortarium rim diameter 7 inches, cream coloured, upright rim with wide flange, two grooves on flange next the neck and two on top of rim ridge, very small dark grit, from kilns in vicinity of Oxford. Dating c. A.D. 170-230. (See references with No. 79, Fig. 6.)

BOURTON BRIDGE POSTING HOUSE

40. (B.27). Dish, high sided upright rim diameter 10 inches, dark grey.
41. (B.27). Dish, shallow, upright rim diameter 6 inches, black.
42. (B.92). Plate, shallow, rim diameter 8 inches, well made dark grey-black. The good finished surface is similar to vessels from the river. Bushe-Fox, Hengistbury Report, PLATE xxvii, no. 28, p. 55. Belgic type.
43. (B.49). Dish shallow, upright rim diameter 6 inches. Polished brown-orange ware of Glevum type pottery.
44. (B.109). Sherd of nodular rusticated black ware.
45. (B.49). Jar, rim diameter 5 inches, hard pale grey ware, burnished horizontal lines on neck. Rim only present.
46. (B.29). Mortarium, wall sided, grey paste. rim diameter 8 inches. Origin uncertain, perhaps late 3rd or early 4th century A.D.
47. (B.13). Miniature bowl, native coarse black ware, rim diameter 4 inches, short neck with curved rim.

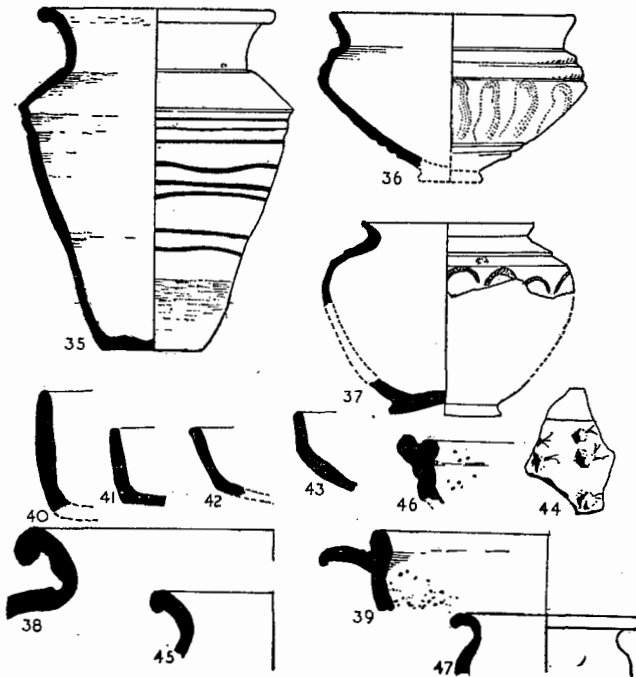


Fig. 4. Pottery from waste ground N. of stables (½)

Site 2. On the Stable floor (FIG. 5).

Numerous sherds were found amongst the final debris on the paving stones of the Stable floor, which must have lain there since the destruction or abandonment of the building, so thus gives a very late date for the material at the end of the fourth century and running into the fifth century A.D. at the take-over by Saxon administration. Only a few vessels are thus illustrated. Flanged bowls, pie

dishes and mortaria rims appear to preponderate suggesting, that, either the kitchen quarters were adjacent or that the Stables had taken on a new use as a cooking establishment. Of special interest amongst the sherds were the very large size of the black burnished lattice-patterned cook pots (FIG. 5, no. 66). The flanged bowls were in colour-coated wares, both in red or brown colours and some with a cream wash. Some of the mortaria were in a white ware.

FIG. 5. *Illustrated.*

48. (B.19). Bowl, rim 4 inches, small vessel, hard pale grey paste rounded shoulder with grooves top and bottom, everted rim.
49. (B.103). Neck of water carafe, rim diameter 3 inches, dark grey paste, decorated with burnished vertical lines on neck.
50. (B.4). Cover lid, rim diameter 5 inches, dark metallic slip decorated with rouletting on side and top surfaces, two grooves on angle to upper surface.
51. (B.36). Sherd only of thin buff ware with red-brown coating and white slip decoration.
52. (B.36). Sherd only of light-red coarse thick ware with buff coating and painted pattern in brown colour.
53. (B.36). Dish, rim diameter 8 inches, cream washed coat with pattern of red paint bands on the rim, turn at lower angle as well as at the lower angle of the interior.
54. (B.28). Bowl, flanged, plain red coated ware, diameter 7 inches.
55. (B.36). Bowl, flanged rim diameter $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, glossy black coating on pale grey paste. Resemblance to Terra Nigra, certainly not burnt Samian.
56. (B.4). Pie dish, rim diameter 6 inches, with small rim ridge and small flange, black but has been burnt.
57. (B.4). Pie dish, rim diameter 6 inches, small rim with wider ridge than No. 56. Black burnished type.
58. (B.4). Pie dish, rim diameter 7 inches, thick rim and flange, brown colour coating.
59. (B.40). Pie dish, rim diameter 7 inches, thin rim and flange, black burnished type.
60. (B.110). Pie dish, rim diameter 7 inches, thick rim, small flange, black burnished type.
61. (B.19). Mortarium, rim 15 inches diameter, thick coarse stone-coloured ware, upright thick rim with wide slightly sloping flange folded back under rim. From kilns in vicinity of Oxford. The form is unusual but general characteristics suggest a date in the late 2nd or early 3rd centuries A.D.
62. (B.30). Mortarium, rim c. 13 inches diameter but actual rim is missing. Smooth cream ware, wide bowed flange with groove on outer edge. From potteries in vicinity of Oxford (cf. Cowley; *Oxoniensia* VI (1941), p. 19, FIG. 5, No. 63 for a possible parallel). Probably c. A.D. 150-200.
63. (B.19). Mortarium, rim 6 inches diameter, sagging flange.
64. (B.102). Amphora, rim at mouth 4 inches, in white paste, interior of rim badly finished.
65. (B.36). Jar, rim diameter 12 inches, large coarse storage jar in buff paste with white shell. There was also another smaller vessel of same make but with higher neck (B.3).
66. (B.102, & 110). Jar, wide mouthed storage, rim diameter 8 inches, in dark-grey,

BOURTON BRIDGE POSTING HOUSE

hard paste, smooth exterior, rough interior. Slight carination at base of shoulder. Decorated with burnished horizontal bands above and below band of nearly vertical lattice pattern. Base missing but vessel as found 10 inches high.

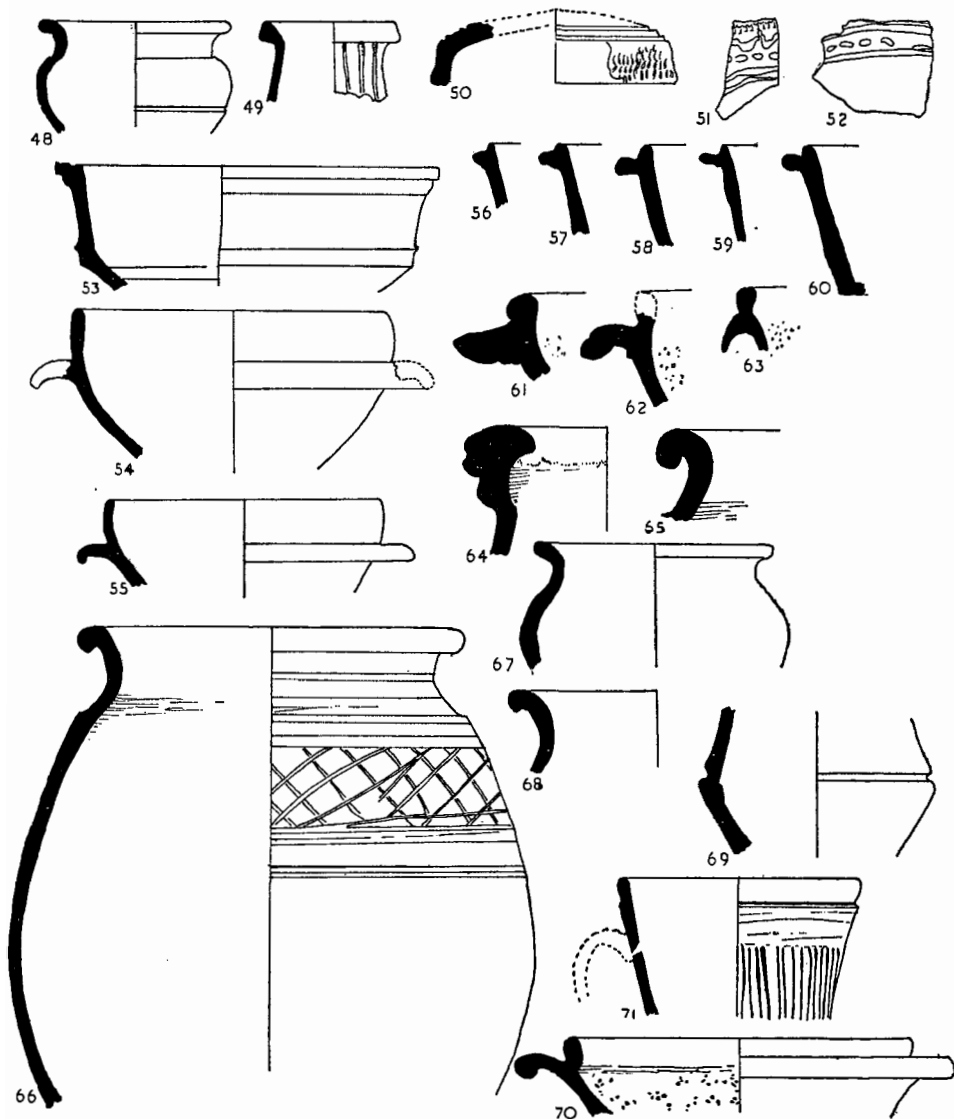


Fig. 5. Pottery from stable floor (‡)

From rubbish pit below Stable floor at its south-east corner in lowest levels in black filling, with slag and animal bones.

67. (B.1). Bowl, small, thick grey paste, rim diameter 5 inches. Bulbous body form, pale-grey exterior.
68. (B.1). Jar, rim diameter 6 inches, only rim found, large pale grey coarse kitchen ware.
69. (B.1). Body sherds only of jar type vessel. Polished black exterior, sandy-brown interior, sharp carination below one deeply incised groove, probably placed half way down the vessel. Of early date.

From east side of Fosse Way, north of Bakehouse (Site 3).

70. (B.122). Mortarium rim, hard grey unusual looking paste but possible with cream wash. Rim diameter 7 inches. From Oxford kilns. c. 3rd rather than 4th century A.D.

From south-east corner of Bakehouse (Site 3).

71. (B.57). Mug, large size, rim diameter 5 inches, in grey paste. Decorated with vertical rillings below horizontal groove, handle missing.

Smith's Hearth in Stables (Site 2) FIG. 6.

Some fragments of iron slag found associated with the ash from the hearth was sent to the Wolverhampton College of Technology and kindly examined by Mr G. R. Morton. From the analysis of some of the slag it was seen that the hearth was that for a blacksmith, and for the various activities of that trade and not for smelting ore. The many finds of nails and other iron objects such as hinges, hooks etc. are in keeping with the work of a smith, so it is with surprise to find a great amount of sherds of cooking pots and other kitchen ware all over the Stable floor in the final deposit of rubbish left at the end of the life of the settlement. It thus appears that the Stables lost their use to become a kitchen, the addition of a second fire place alongside the Smith's Hearth and built on the stone floor bears out such a suggestion.

FIG. 6.

Site 2. Finds associated with Smith's Hearth on Stable Floor. From ash-pit adjoining east side of Hearth.

72. (B. 16, & 17). Cooking pot, black burnished ware, rim diameter 6 inches, with narrow band of closely placed obtuse lattice pattern.
73. (B.17). Cooking pot, black burnished ware, rim diameter 9 inches, height 10 inches. Unusually large specimen. Wide band of obtuse lattice pattern. Overhanging rim. Found in the ash in squashed condition. Another large cooking pot (B.37) was found in the filling of the mouth of the flue of the Smith's Hearth with wider band of obtuse lattice pattern.

From filling near the Smith's Hearth.

74. (B.45). Sherd of red-coated ware with rosette stamped pattern.
75. (B.114). Sherd of orange-coated ware of fine quality with stamped pattern.

BOURTON BRIDGE POSTING HOUSE

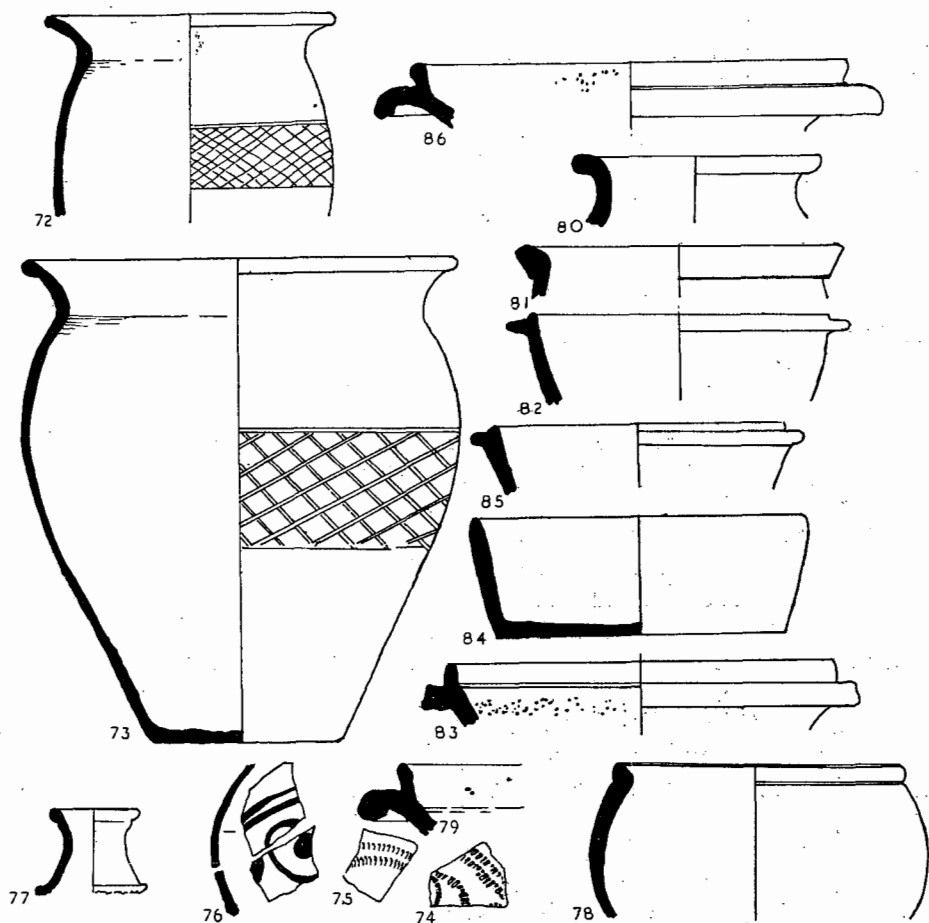


Fig. 6. Pottery from Smith's Hearth (4)

From filling in mouth of Smith's Hearth.

76. (B.34). Sherds of ware with rich brown polished slip, scroll pattern in black.
 77. (B.37). Jar, neck of water carafe, rim 2 inches, hard grey paste, grey in colour.

Associated with filling from Smith's Hearth.

78. (B.15). Cooking pot with bead rim, rim diameter 6½ inches, thick ware of burnished native type.
 79. (B.15). Mortarium, rim diameter 13 inches, orange-buff colour, high ridge to rim and wide well made flange. Made at the potteries in the vicinity of Oxford, at some such kiln as those at Cowley, Sandford, Headington, Dorchester, etc. (*Oxoniensia* VI (1941), 19-21; *Arch. LXXII* (1922), 225-42; *Oxoniensia XVII/XVIII* (1952-3), pp. 224-5; *ibid.*, I, 81-102). 3rd or 4th century A.D.

From ash debris in front of Smith's Hearth.

80. (B.50). Jar in calcite grit ware, rim diameter 5 inches. Fawn colour on rim.
 81. (B.50). Jar, rim diameter 7 inches, hard dark grey paste with folded back rim.
 82. (B.50). Pie dish, rim diameter 7 inches, black burnished.

On surface of yard outside south wall of Stables.

83. (B.101). Mortarium, rim diameter 8 inches, reddish-buff colour, high rim ridge, small level flange, small dark grits. A weathered fragment from a red colour-coated mortarium made at one of the kilns in the vicinity of Oxford (see No. 79 above), (mortaria in this fabric were particularly common at Dorchester). These mortaria are primarily 4th century in date but this production is likely to have begun in the late 3rd century.
 84. (B.101). Pie dish, rim diameter 7 inches, black burnished type, medium high ridge, small flange.
 85. (B.101). Dish, rim diameter 7 inches, plain upright form, dark grey colour, much worn.
 86. (B.44). Mortarium, rim diameter 9½ inches, buff colour high rim ridge with bowed flange. Incised cordon on inside edge of flange. Small dark grits. From Oxfordshire kilns, c. A.D. 170-230.

Site I. "Wayside Shrine" (FIG. 7)

No sherds were found on the actual surface of the floor of the Shrine. From a section dug through the floor five sherds were recovered from a grey occupation silt below the floor. The silt lay on natural ground level. The sherds were fragmentary and much abraded and consisted of one scrap of Samian, two of thin coarse black cook-pot ware, one of thin pale grey ware while one larger sherd of a shoulder fragment in a hard thin orange-buff ware with darker wash on the exterior was decorated with an uneven burnished scroll pattern (FIG. 7, no. 87).

On the gravel floor of the ambulatory circling the Shrine, residual sherds were found in a very fragmentary condition, ten sherds in all representing at least six vessels, these included amphorae, Samian, polished light-red, dark grey and black ware.

On the northern edge of the Shrine, where the floor had been broken up with marks of burning and much disturbance of the doorway that lay there, a large quantity of sherds in small fragments had been dumped, probably on the abandonment of the site. Among the sherds were pieces of amphorae, Samian scraps of which two rims were of Dr. 18-31 form, a great deal of black kitchen ware, while the largest sherd belonged to a mug of light-red ware decorated with vertical burnished lines (FIG. 7, no. 88). At least twenty-six vessels were represented.

Outside the south side of the Shrine, on its ground level more amphorae sherds, light-red ware and remains of a dark grey dish were found.

BOURTON BRIDGE POSTING HOUSE

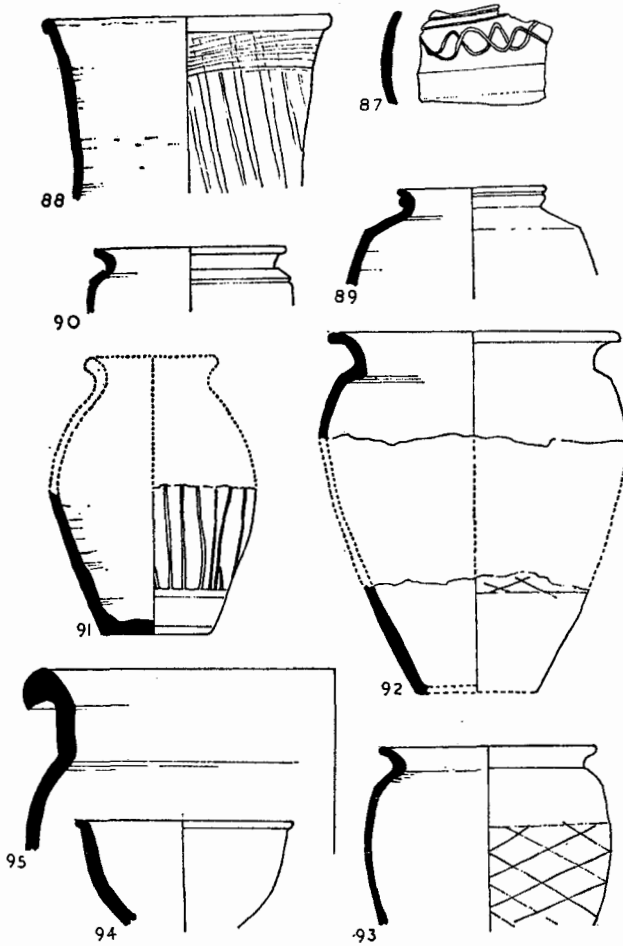


Fig. 7. Wayside Shrine (†)

No stratification was forthcoming to help with the dating of the erection of the Shrine or the length of its duration, except that the Shrine was not the first use of the site, as seen by the occupation silt below its floor.

Illustrated (FIG. 7).

87. (B.77). From filling below floor of Shrine. Jar, shoulder sherd, in hard thin orange ware, dark coloured wash on exterior, decorated with burnished band and irregular scroll.
88. (B.2, 94). Mug, large, slightly flared towards rim, 6 inches diameter, light-red colour, hard paste, decorated with vertical burnished lines but a band of horizontal lines below rolled lip.

- 89. (B.9). Jar, narrow neck, rim diameter 3 inches, well made hard thin orange-buff ware, dark wash on exterior, sharp carination on shoulder, reeded short neck.
- 90. (B.2). Jar, rim diameter 4 inches, hard thin pale grey, everted rim, sharp shoulder band with grooves.
- 91. (B.2). Jar, base and body sherds only, dark grey with vertical burnished lines ending in broad burnished band at base.
- 92. (B.2). Cooking pot, rim and base only, rim diameter 6 inches, high shouldered, burnished grey-brown, trace of lattice pattern.
- 93. (B.2). Cooking pot, small everted rim diameter $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches, wide lateral scratched lattice pattern.
- 94. (B.18). Bowl, rim diameter $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches small, thick hard ware of Glevum type, light-red in colour.
- 95. (B.18). Bowl, rim diameter 15 inches, large hard ware of Glevum type, light orange-red in colour with polished exterior.

Site 19. *From habitation areas on east side of the Fosse Way, south of Bourton Bridge.*

FIG. 8. *(All with identification mark B.200).*

- 96. Samian bowl, rim 6 inches, Dr. 37.
- 97. Samian cup, rim diameter 6 inches, Dr. 33. Plain.
- 98. Samian cup, rim diameter 5 inches, Dr. 33. Plain.
- 99. Mortarium, colour-coated wall-sided, light red with darker slip, rim diameter 7 inches, small white quartz grit. Vessel in style of Dr. 45.

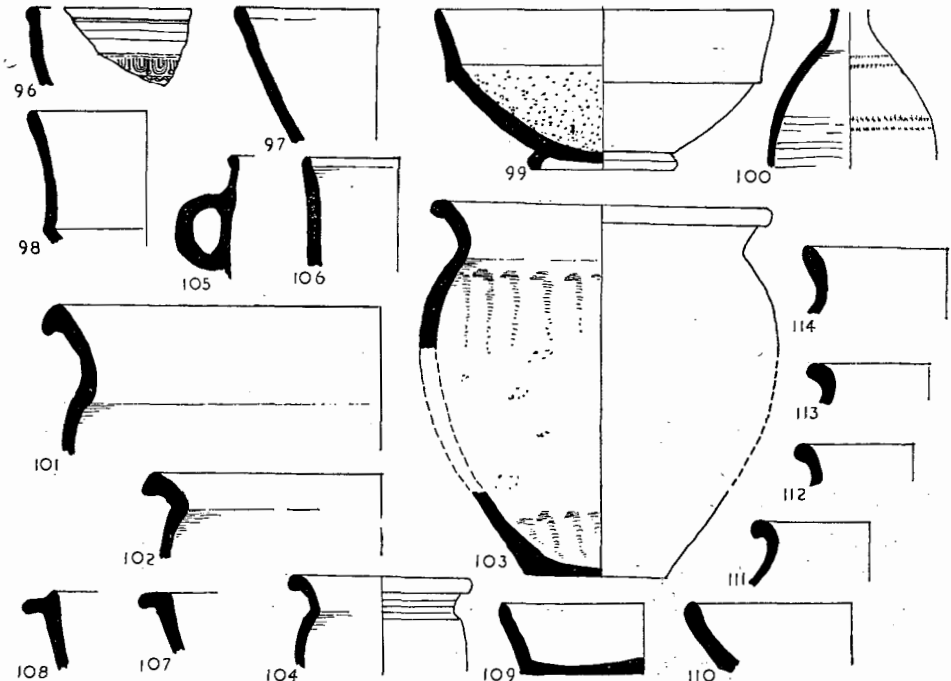


Fig. 8. Occupation area on E. side of Fosse Way, S. of Bourton Bridge (†)

BOURTON BRIDGE POSTING HOUSE

100. Oil jar, rim missing, buff surface on grey paste, decoration of rouletting.
101. Bowl, wide mouthed, rim diameter 14 inches, light red colour.
102. Bowl, wide mouthed, rim diameter 10 inches, light red colour.
103. Bowl, coarse native type with much shell grit, rim diameter 7 inches. Hand made with finger wiping on interior but rim wheel turned.
104. Jar, small black burnished, rim diameter 4 inches.
105. Mug, rim and handle only, rim diameter c. 3-4 inches, rough brick-red in colour. Handle two reeded.
106. Mug, rim diameter c. 4 inches, orange-red paste, vertical stripes below horizontal lines on exterior.
107. Pie dish, black with flange, rim diameter 7 inches, decorated with lattice pattern.
108. Pie dish, black with flange, rim diameter 6 inches, plain.
109. Dish, coarse grey shallow form, rim diameter 6 inches.
110. Dish, shallow, in smooth black dark grey paste, rim diameter 7 inches.
111. Jar, hard dark-grey paste, small, rim diameter 5 inches, horizontal burnished lines on neck.
112. Jar, slight rolled rim, dark grey paste, rim diameter 5 inches.
113. Jar, slight rolled rim, dark grey paste, rim diameter c. 5 inches.
114. Jar, everted rim, rim diameter c. 6 inches, type with lattice pattern decoration.

Pottery from the sites on west edge of the Fosse Way. (FIG. 9).

Remains of twenty-nine vessels were recovered lying at Site 20, an occupation area stretching along the west edge of the Roman road, to the north of the Stables (Site 2) reaching as far as Brickyard Coppice (FIG. 1). From a single narrow trench dug across the Roman road towards Site 9, lying nearer the Stables, the rim and upper parts of a cream coloured mortarium was recovered. (FIG. 9, no. 115). Another trench for a water main in 1970 at Site 9 leading up the hillside to Slaughter Farm, uncovered foundations of a hard rammed gravel floor and some masonry accompanied with many sherds. Amongst these were fragments of amphorae, rosette stamped red-coated ware, two scraps of Samian and various small samples of grey kitchen ware.

The foundations of the Roman road itself was encountered at Site 20, where four levels of road construction were examined. The rim of a buff coloured mortarium lay on the lowest level, of Antonine date (FIG. 9, no. 116), on the surface of the level above, lay a sherd of Samian and a sherd of the orange-red Glevum ware, with rims of a grey-black burnished dish and the base of a brown colour-coated indented beaker type of vessel.

The pottery from the area of occupation was of interest, producing four sherds of Samian, one sherd was the half of a shallow platter in a bright glossy glaze (FIG. 2, no. 22) of mid-second century date, while remains of six vessels of the polished orange-red Glevum

ware were also recovered. These latter sherds were encrusted with hardened gravel which showed their final use as road foundation purposes but indicating early dating (FIG. 9, nos. 117, 118, 119, 120, 121). Sherds of the base and portions of the body of an orange-coloured thin walled jug was also recovered (FIG. 9, no. 122), a type of ware often found on Gloucestershire sites, e.g. in the Romano-British settlement of Bourton on the Water and the neighbourhood. In the disturbed earth filling above the occupation level were some scraps of Samian, red-colour coated ware with rosette stamps and some calcite gritted ware of native type.

A few yards away a complete half of a small bowl in a bright silver-green metallic slip on a red paste was picked up. It had an interior mark on its base of indented circles. Probably an import of Rhenish ware (FIG. 9, no. 123). A handle of a small vessel heavily dusted with mica and a small black burnished cook-pot with band of obtuse lattice pattern and overhanging rim give a late date to the latter finds.

Site 20. FIG. 9.

From trench dug across Fosse Way near Site 9.

115. (B.125). Mortarium, rim diameter 9 inches, cream coloured portion of spout remaining, small reddish grit. *c.* A.D. 170-230.

From surface on lowest (4th) level of Fosse Way.

116. (B.132). Mortarium, rim diameter 10 inches, cream coloured, dark grit. *c.* A.D. 170-230.

From area of occupation.

(B.129). Samian platter, see FIG. 2, No. 22 for illustration and p. 96. Mid Antonine date.

117. (B.129). Bowl, open mouthed, rim diameter 8½ inches, polished orange-red Glevum ware. Decorated with wide band of closely set irregular lattice pattern between horizontal lines at top and bottom of band.

118. (B.129). Jar, rim diameter 9 inches, polished orange-red Glevum ware.

119. (B.129). Jar, rim diameter 8½ inches, dull orange-brown Glevum ware.

120. (B.129). Jar, shoulder only, rim missing but *c.* 7 inches, polished orange-red Glevum ware, decorated with two narrow cordons on either side of a wide one, edged with grooves.

From filling over occupation area.

121. (B.130). Bowl, rim diameter 8 inches, polished orange-red Glevum ware.

122. (B.130). Jug, base and lower part only, thin orange coloured ware on grey paste, wiped down with grey horizontal markings.

Casual find on surface by road workers.

123. (B.135). Bowl, miniature, rim diameter 3½ inches, bright silver-green metallic slip with ring foot. In good glossy condition. An incised mark of circles on interior base.

BOURTON BRIDGE POSTING HOUSE

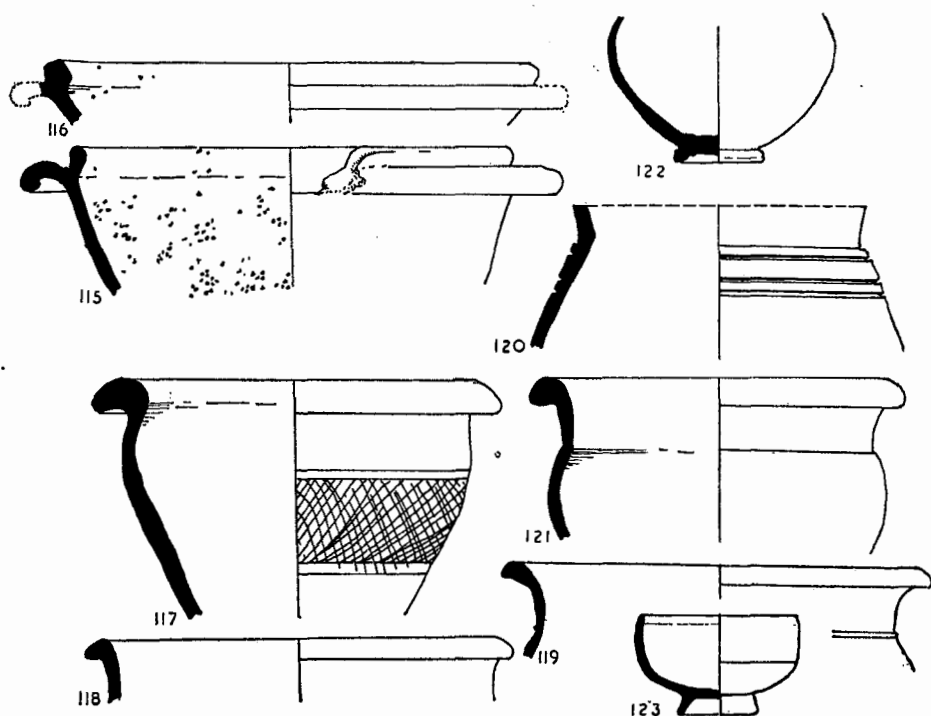


Fig. 9. Pottery from W. edge of Fosse Way (†)

Objects from the Roman Settlement at Bourton Bridge,
Bourton on the Water, Gloucestershire. 1967.

Objects in Bronze. (FIG. 10)

Some sixteen objects in this metal, mostly fragmentary were recovered from the various areas included in the Bourton Bridge Posting House complex. Most noticeable and in perfect condition was the brooch of Polden Hill type (FIG. 10, no. 1). From the surface of the Stable flooring of stone paving came fragments of pins, a ring, tweezers, bracelets and a handle while below this flooring along with the dark filling of earlier trenches came a wire necklet (FIG. 10, no. 3) tweezers, nail cleaner, brooch, bracelet and the handle for a spoon.

1. (O.16). Brooch. From occupation silt on area adjoining south side of Wayside Shrine, (Site 1), on east side of Fosse Way. Developed Polden Hill type, late 1st or early 2nd century A.D. Mr M. R. Hull has examined the brooch and has kindly provided the following note. "This is what I call the developed Polden Hill type. It belongs to the West Midlands and S.W. and is especially strong at

Wroxeter. The Polden Hill series probably begins before the conquest, but the developed type is Roman in date. One at Wroxeter was from a Flavian layer, another was in a pit dated late 1st-early 2nd century. In another place Bushe Fox says four were found in strata of A.D. 80-120. One at Newstead should be Flavian rather than Antonine. Your brooch is exactly like one from Frith (National Museum of Wales. 48-152-30), but the rest of the parallels have a completely round toe-knob (where yours is), allowing for this difference you have parallels from Wroxeter (4), Withburgh, Bagindon, Sutton Walls, Caerleon, London, Wall and Kingsholme."

2. (O.4). The disk brooch in private possession, neither of these objects are illustrated).
Brooch, fragment of head only of type of No. 1 above, from dark filling of gully north of N. wall. A complete disk brooch of gilt on silver with sapphire blue glass boss from surface of Site 17. A similar brooch is illustrated in the Roman Britain Guide of the British Museum, FIG. 11, No. 36, p. 23 and p. 20, most common in the second century A.D.
3. (O.9). Necklet of double link chain in figure of eight form, from occupation silt below stone flagged floor of stable, c. 2nd century A.D. Only two short lengths surviving but a small circular bronze bead at one end indicates the position of fastening. A somewhat similar form of figure of eight chain, but in gold, is illustrated in the Roman Britain Guide of the British Museum (1951) PLATE I, No. 1, opposite p. 28. In silver see *Archaeological* 55 (1896) p. 179. In bronze, W. J. Wedtake, *Carmerton*, FIG. 58, No. 26.
4. (O.10). Tweezers and Tegula, attached together on an iron pin, from occupation silt below stone flagged floor of stable, as No. 3.
5. Tweezers, of crude type and of plain metal, from floor of stable at south end.
6. (O.15). Bracelet, plain thin bronze wire with hook fastening at one end, from Site 16, in ash on floor of courtyard adjoining south side of Roman street junction with Fosse Way.
7. Bracelet, complete and decorated with a single row of dots, ending in perforated hole for fastening in the form of a serpent's head with collar of stripes, a hook at the opposite end represents the serpent's tail with a band of stripes, completes the fastening, from stone flooring of stable.
8. (O.22). Bracelet, of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch width and decorated with pattern of circles and dots, from dark filling of trench on north side of N. wall.
9. (O.6). Wire handle, from filling below stable floor level.
- 10 (O.8). Toilet nail cleaner with circular top of bone dyed green, pattern of crosses on shaft, from dark filling of trench outside N. wall.

Lead

13. (O.35). Cover or lid, a crumpled half remained, narrow decoration of overlapping Vs on the edge, diameter c 6 inches. From below stable flagged floor with many sherds including Samian and rusticated types.
Deposits of molten lead were recovered from the level of the stable floor. A total weight of 2 lbs 11 ozs was found.

Bone

11. (O.11). Pin with roughly bulbous circular head, all in one piece from stone paving of stable.
12. Needle stained green from contact with bronze, from Site 21, first bungalow erected on Whiteshoots Hill in 1937.

BOURTON BRIDGE POSTING HOUSE

14. (O.23). Knife handle, polished and decorated with raised bands, from stable floor level.

Bead

15. (O.14). Oblong jet spacer bead, with flat back and bored with two holes for stringing, from stable floor.

Glass

Very little glass was found, seven fragments in all. Two pieces from stable floor level, one piece from rubbish pit on S. side of stable and three pieces from Sites 3 and 4 on the E. side of the Fosse Way.

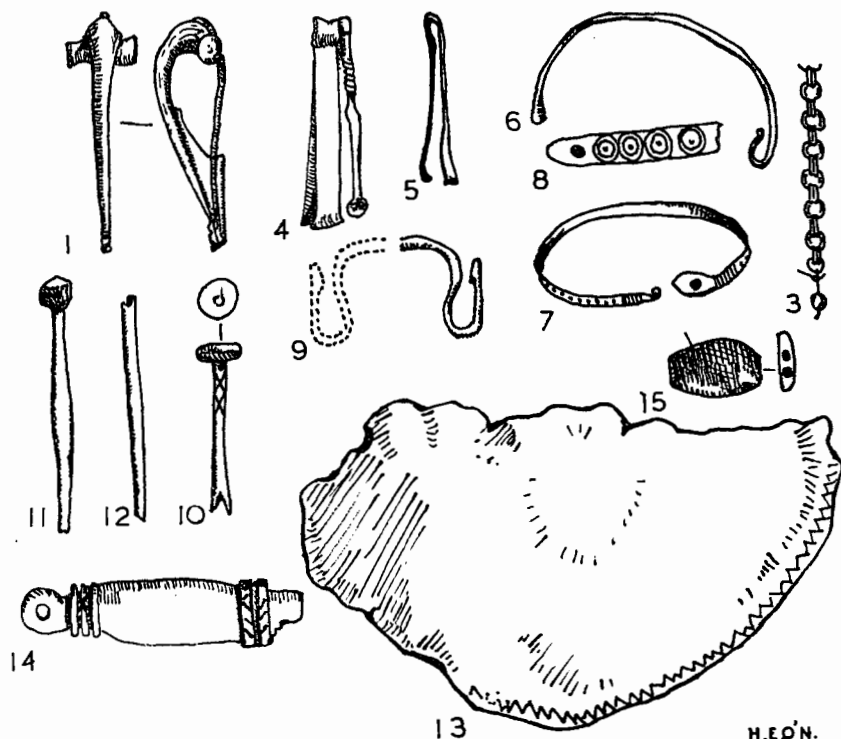


Fig. 10. Objects in bronze (†)

IRON OBJECTS

Fig. 11

Many fragments of iron were recovered. From the debris on the western half of the stone floor of the Stable, large nails were found indicating repairs of large objects such as carts, etc., brought to the Smithy in the Stable.

Of special interest that may be mentioned is the cheekpiece of a

horse bridle (FIG. 11, no. 7). It consisted of a well finished iron bar showing considerable traces of bronze plating on the iron. The recessed portion at the centre of the bar showed at each edge rings with a silvery appearance but this may be evidence from considerable wear. I am indebted to Mrs Catherine Johns for the identification and information on the cheek-piece. A lamp hook and a wall staple were recovered from the stable floor. An iron hook and door hinge came from below the stable floor. Two fish hooks were found in the silt on the stone ford across the river and a complete horse shoe from the ditch beside the Fosse Way some hundreds of yards N.E. of the Posting House. Two horse shoe nails, one from the stable floor and one from a dump of soil on the opposite side of the Fosse Way.

1. (O.25). Fish hook from silt on the Roman stone ford in the River Windrush.
 2. (O.26). Fish hook, in river bed as above.
 3. (O.38). Lamp hook from stable stone floor (Richborough 11, p. 47, PLATE XX, 39).
 4. (O.37). Wall staple hook from stable stone floor.
 5. (O.40). Hook from below stable floor.
 6. (O.33). Door hinge from below stable stone floor.
 7. (O.42). Cheek-piece of bridle from stable stone floor.
 8. (O. ?). Nail from stable stone floor.
 9. Nail from silt in river.
 10. (O.36). Nail from stable stone floor.
 11. Nail from stable stone floor.
 12. Nail from stable stone floor.
 13. Nail from stable stone floor.
 14. (O.30). Horse shoe, from ditch beside the Fosse Way, some hundreds of yards N.E. of the Posting House. Found recently in widening the modern road.
 15. Horse shoe nail with rectangular head, from earth dump on E. side of the Fosse Way opposite the stables.
 16. Horse shoe nail with flattened semi-circular head, from stable stone floor.
- Other iron objects (not illustrated) are handles of a spoon, a stilus, a wide strap hinge from the stable stone floor, while large lumps of iron were recovered below ash on a floor level in Site 4, the "Transport Café". The inner workings of a barrel lock was found on the west side of the Fosse Way some 200 yards N. of the stables.

Stone

Column. The lower part of a stone column of oolite, was recovered from debris filling the Oven 2, in Site 3, the "Bakehouse". The overall diameter at base was 1 foot 6 inches and at the height of 7 inches was 1 foot 3 inches. The back of the base had been straightened as if for use as a semi-detached column. The presence of the column denotes a building with some pretension.

Roof Tiles

Roof tiles in fragments and complete were found scattered about the excavation and were of the usual Cotswold Stonesfield variety,

BOURTON BRIDGE POSTING HOUSE

a bed of this strata occurring in the near neighbourhood, as at Eyford. As noted in Part I of the report (p. 38) roof tiles were found in stacks on the stable yard floor and this was noted in similar stacks at the time of the building of the Railway in 1875-1881 which destroyed so much of the actual remains of the Posting House.

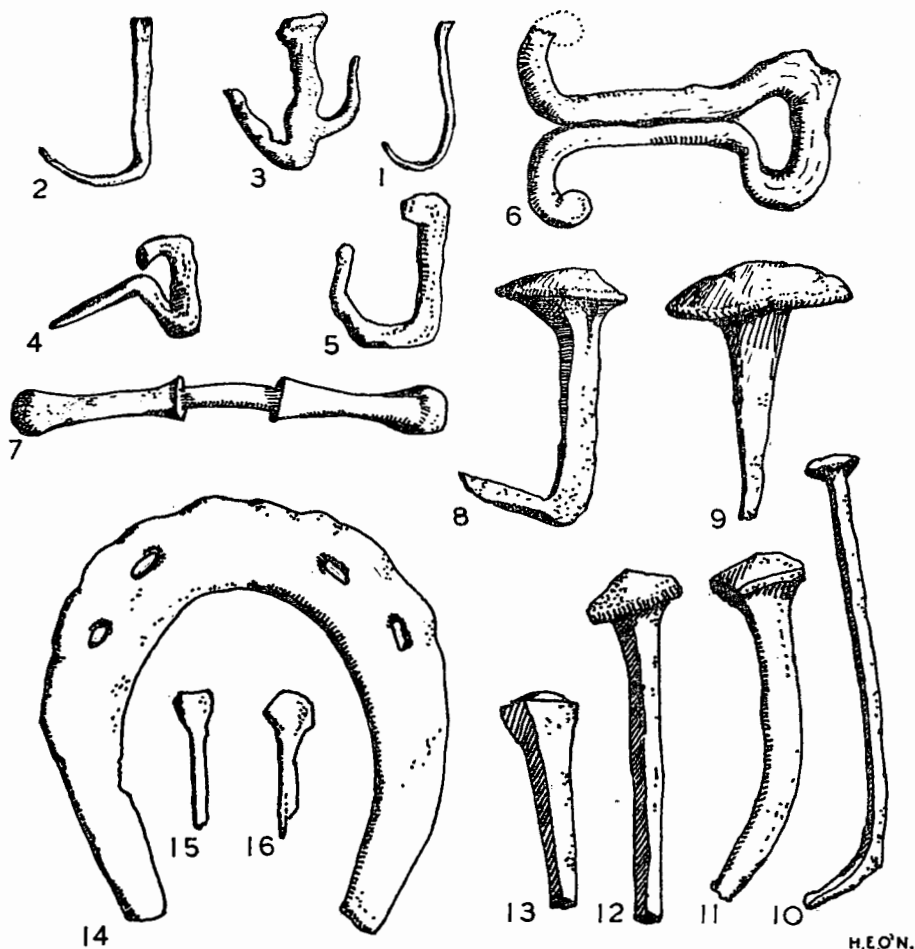


Fig. 11. Objects in iron ($\frac{1}{2}$)

The complete stone tiles were of varying dimensions, pointed at their lower ends, on average the largest measured 14½ inches by 11 inches. Holes were hammered out for nails for attachment and not bored. Some tiles still retained their iron nails when found. Some

half-sized tiles 8 to 9 inches deep by 10-11 inches wide had straight edged tops for levelling at the ridge top, where they would have been covered by semi-circular ridge stones.

Quern

A fragment of the lower stone of a quern in mill-stone grit (which had some large quartz pebbles embedded in it) was found on the surface of the stable courtyard. An estimated diameter of the mill stone was 18 inches and there was a hole in the centre. The stone was 4 inches thick.

Stone with plough marks

A large stone lying on the stable courtyard had narrow sharp grooves incised on it indicating marks from a ploughshare or some sharp implement.