

corner of the field. All pits were laid out at right angles to this eastern hedge and the 2 metre side of pit 1 was parallel to it. (See Fig 1).

2.3 PIT 2 (FIG 1) Once again an average depth of 0.3 metres top soil on chalk. The top soil produced small pieces of stone tile and brick, 2 iron nails and 2 small sherds of pottery (unidentified). A small depression in the chalk below this layer contained a bone of a young ox (metatarsal), otherwise the chalk was undisturbed.

The pit was 14 metres at right angles to datum and the 2 metre side was parallel to the hedge. No drawing produced.

2.4 PIT 3 (FIG 1) The pit was 17.5 metres NE of datum and 49 metres from the hedge. The 2 metre side was at right angles to the hedge. (See Fig 1)

The top soil produced numbers of flints and pieces of stone tile. A hard mass of flints, tile and debris was uncovered, apparently a collapsed wall. Patient investigation of this by Mr T Robbins finally revealed the foundations of a wall 0.66 metres wide (Fig 2), and consisting of 3 layers of flints laid in mortar on one side and 2 layers of flints on the other, taking account of a slight difference in the level of the chalk. There was a layer of mortar on the chalk and the flints were laid on this and then built up in layers laid in mortar.

The occupation layer (below the level of the top of the wall), contained 2 sherds of samian ware, 3 very small sherds of thin grey-blue pottery (unidentified) a small piece of coloured plaster, iron nails, oyster shells, pieces of Purbeck stone tiles, pieces of red tile, pieces of plaster, small pieces of burnt wood and charcoal, 2 small animal teeth and pieces of bone. Snail shells were present and were of the following types, Roman snails, hedge snails, *Helix pomatia*, *Carychium tridentatum*, *Retinella pura* and 1 Chrystal snail.

2.5 PIT 4. This pit was at right angles to the datum and 49 metres from it. The 2 metre side also at right angles and not parallel to hedge. (See Fig 1).

The top soil (depth 0.28 metres) produced a knife blade which is similar in shape to one found at Chalton in a Saxon context but it is not possible to draw any conclusions from this, it could in fact belong to any period. Other finds included iron nails, pieces of stone tile and small pieces of red tile, and 1 very small piece of glass, similar to Roman glass.

Below the top soil was an area of rammed gravel 0.11 metres thick. This extended over the whole trench and had been rammed hard. Underneath this was the natural chalk but when the gravel was cleared away an inspection of the surface of the chalk showed intermittent patches of mortar. There is no point in laying gravel in mortar and this may indicate that the foundations of a building were originally laid here. I think the gravel either represents a courtyard or an occupation road. At the northern end of the pit a small gully ran diagonally across it in the chalk and was filled with earth. (See Fig 3).

2.6 This marked the end of the first stage of the excavation. I felt however that the artifacts and remains recovered so far did not give definite proof of Roman occupation and so I decided to continue. Rather than dig holes at random I thought it better to confine my attentions to the area of pits 3 and 4 and try to discover the corners of the building, which would at least help any future excavator and might result in definite proof of Roman occupation. The second stage was carried on Monday 4th Sept and Tuesday 5th Sept 1972, when pits 5, 6 and 7 were opened.

2.7 PIT 5. This was 6.3 metres NE of datum and 49 metres from hedge. At right angles to hedge and not parallel to it. (See Fig 1). It was later extended



a further 2 metres SW in an attempt to follow the wall. (Originally 2x1 metres, extended to 2x2 metres).

The top soil produced small pieces of stone tile and pieces of red tile and brick. The top soil averaged 0.28 metres in depth and below this was again a mass of debris, flints, tiles etc, of a collapsed wall. It was not possible to pick up a continuous line from the wall in pit 3 here and a further extension (on top of the debris only), in the direction of pit 4 failed to discover a corner of the building. Logically there should be one between the rammed gravel of pit 4 and the line of the wall in pit 3. I think this would have been found if more time had been available. However, finds among the debris included 6 pieces of red tile keyed for plaster or decoration, an 11.5" diameter imbrex, the lower left jaw of an adult ox with 1st and 2nd pre-molars missing and the 3rd in situ in wear. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd molars in situ in wear. A fragment of lower jaw of ox and a fragment of left ox ulna. A bird bone, either leg or wing was also recovered. Other finds included a piece of iron pyrites (natural) 2 small pieces of stone probably from the Swanage or Lyme Regis area, a piece of floor plaster (with some similarities to opus signinum) iron nails and small pieces of red tile (not keyed). As no detailed examination was possible there is no drawing for this.

2.8 PIT 6. This pit was 21.3 metres NE of datum and 49 metres from the hedge at right angles and 2x1 metres in extent. (See Fig 1).

The top soil on average 0.25 metres produced an iron nail and small pieces of tile.

Below this a single line of flints continued the southern edge of the wall in pit 3 but the rest had been ploughed out and all that was left was a scatter of flints and pieces of tile. Below the top soil was a mixture of soil and chalk clearly the result of ploughing. Here was the spot 'where the plough breaks'. As the ground sloped downwards there was no point in continuing the search for a corner here. (See Fig 4).

2.9 PIT 7. This was 31.6 metres NE of datum and 44.2 from the hedge. It was 2x2 metres square. (See Fig 1). This pit was not part of the original plan. It was dug because a young lady who was a friend of the farmer, began working the site with a metal detector and discovered a piece of ~~lead~~<sup>lead</sup>. I explained that this would wreck any archaeological investigation and I hope it will not recur. Mr Redman recovered the piece of ~~lead~~<sup>lead</sup> from the young lady and it is shown at Fig 6. I had only approximate details of where it was found but a search in the area indicated duly revealed a small hole dug into the earth. I thought that the ~~lead~~<sup>lead</sup> might indicate metal working and so centred pit 7 on it.

The top soil averaged 0.25 metres and contained 1 base sherd and 3 other sherds of Romano-British pottery (with some similarities to pottery found at the Sparsholt villa), small pieces of tile, a piece of plaster, iron nails, a fossilised hazel nut and a plain bronze ring.

Below this was what I can only describe as a disturbed plough layer. As in pit 6 this consisted of a mixture of soil and chalk. It was soft and the trowel sank in up to the hilt all over it. It contained a scatter of flints and pieces of tile except in one place where there was a burnt patch 0.6 metres across. This contained pieces of burnt clay, (burnt on one side only), and a burnt substance which I could not immediately identify. Thinking the burnt clay might indicate the lining of an oven I took specimens of the burnt substance to the archaeological laboratories of Southampton University for analysis in case it might (possibly) be bread. It proved however to have a linear structure and is probably burnt wood. The burnt patch extended to a depth of 0.18 metres. (See Fig 5).

3.1 PITS 3 & 6 CONNECTION. I put in a connection between pits 3 and 6 to confirm the line of the wall (See Fig 1). This produced iron nails, burnt wood, small pieces of plaster and a piece of bone. (Horse, 1st Phalanx).

3.2 All finds remain with Mr W W G Redman of Nutley Farm, Salisbury Road, Broughton, Hants, except for the 11.5" diameter imbrex and a piece of keyed tile. These are temporarily at Southampton University where an <sup>under</sup> ~~post~~-graduate research student is investigating Roman tiles. It may be possible to determine their origin.

3.3 It is worth remarking that the site is in an area where the lost Roman settlement? (or mansion) of Brige might be found; although Brige should be on the Roman road from Winchester to Old Sarum and the site is some 1200 metres north of it.

3.4 I do not intend to carry out any more excavations on the site as the sole object was to confirm Roman occupation and this has been achieved, but I hope to be able to carry out a resistivity survey during 1973 in order to determine the extent of the occupation area. I can only regret that lack of time prevented more being done at this excavation.

3.5 Thanks are due to Mr & Mrs Redman of Nutley Farm for permission to dig and their enthusiasm and support during the dig. To David Johnston, Tutor in Archaeology at Southampton University, David Leigh of the Archaeological Laboratories, Southampton University and students of the archaeological techniques class who identified the bones. Finally to Tom Robbins, Wally Beckett, Dai Booth and Mike Roberts who did the digging. Tom Robbins also produced Figs 2 and 6.

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