

The Roman Villa at Ditchley, Oxon.

By C. A. RALEGH RADFORD

THE existence of Roman remains in Watts Wells Field South on the south-east side of Ditchley Park has been known to antiquaries for over a hundred years. This region, lying north and west of Woodstock, belonged in the Middle Ages to Wychwood, a royal forest of which Woodstock itself was once a part. A thirteenth century document¹ shows that the boundary then followed the line of Grim's Dyke, a linear earthwork passing about half a mile north of the site. Even at that date the record of assarts shows that encroachment had already begun and Ditchley itself seems to have originated as a forest clearing beside the Dyke.² But much of the woodland survived until a late date and the area with which we are concerned probably remained uncultivated until the end of the eighteenth century, when Lodge Farm, a pleasing building in the contemporary Gothic style, was erected. Since³ there were several Roman villas in the neighbourhood, there has been some confusion in the accounts of them. Of the others, that at Callow Hill, one mile SE. of Watts Wells Field, on the Charlbury-Woodstock road, being surrounded by a ditch and close to Grim's Dyke, is the best known. Another, one mile NNW. of Watts Wells Field, in Pump (formerly 'Roman') Copse, Kiddington, was recently discovered or re-discovered from the air by Major Allen. The records seem to mention a third, not now identifiable, in Ditchley Park, just north of the spring (Spurnell's Well) whence flows the stream which runs eastwards through a pond called Devil's Pool, and bounds the southern side of Watts Wells Field on its way to the River Glyme.⁴

¹ H. E. Salter, *Cartulary of Eynsham*, II (Oxford Historical Society, LI), 92-6.

² H. Alexander, *Oxfordshire Place Names*, p. 94. For the association of the element *leah* with woodland see *English Place-Name Society*, I, part 2, 45.

³ I am indebted to Miss M. V. Taylor for the following notes on the early history of the site.

⁴ Hakewill (*Roman Remains Discovered in the parishes of North Leigh and Stonesfield* (London, 1836, repr. from Skelton, *Oxfordshire*), p. 20 and map) notes 'ruins of buildings' and 'supposed Roman remains' hereabouts on his sketch-map, which is without scale and not, therefore, very precise. Col. Lane-Fox (*Journ. Ethn. Soc.*, n.s. 1, 3 ff.) may be referring to this when he notes 'two more [sc. villas] close together farther to the north-west [i.e. than Callow Hill] within the area of Ditchley Park,' the other being that in Watts Wells Field South. On the other hand when he adds 'I have examined the course of another Dyke [sc. than Grim's] of smaller dimensions, which runs from the neighbourhood of Callow Hill, straight up to one of the sites above mentioned, in Ditchley Park, which is strewn with Roman pottery, and from thence westward into Cornbury Park,' he may be referring to the Kiddington site. Akerman (*Archaeologia*, xxviii, 433) is doubtless quoting Hakewill when he says that 'at Ditchley Roman remains are frequently turned up by the plough.'

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The earliest reference to any of these sites is in a note¹ of a Roman tessellated pavement found about 1723 'in digging to plant a clump of firs, below [*i.e.* N. of] Challow Hill, near the new lodge [*i.e.*, Arthur's, formerly Castle's, in Kingswood Brake] on the right of the road from Blenheim at Ditchley,' but whether or not this is the villa in Watts Wells Field is not clear. The first satisfactory record which mentions Watts Wells Field South by name occurs in Jordan, *History of Enstone* (1857), p. 51, where the site is described as 'just on the brow of the hill, sloping beautifully to the South' and 'thickly strewn with stones . . . broken brick or tile, with some occasional remnants of pottery.' About ten years later General Pitt-Rivers, then Colonel Lane-Fox, who spent considerable time in an examination of Grim's Dyke and other antiquities in the neighbourhood, uncovered a pavement of the villa in Watts Wells Field South (probably that of Room 2, FIG. 9), and he rightly describes² the site as near Devil's Pool. The villa is marked correctly on sheet XXI SW. of the 1919 edition of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey Map, but nothing is now known of the 'tessellated pavement' marked on the same map in the next field westwards. Is it a mere duplication due to the confused nature of our information?

In 1934 the late Mr. E. W. Walford of Coventry flew over the site and drew attention to the buildings, which were clearly outlined in the growing crop. A series of aerial photographs taken by Major G. W. G. Allen in this and the following year revealed a plan of exceptional interest with a dwelling-house and subsidiary buildings set within a walled and ditched courtyard (PLATES III and IV, FIG. 8). Outside were further enclosures suggesting the possibility that excavation might disclose the nature of the field-system.

It was felt that the site offered a chance of solving some of the many problems connected with the Roman villa-system, and with the consent of the landlord and tenant an Excavation Committee was formed with Professor R. G. Collingwood as Chairman. Work was carried on for ten weeks during the late summer and autumn of 1935 and in spite of unfavourable weather the exploration was completed. The remains were then filled in and the field once more devoted to agriculture.

Before describing the excavations I desire to thank all those who assisted in various ways. To Mr. Walford and Major Allen the rediscovery of the site and the recognition of its importance are due. In particular the magnificent series of views taken by Major Allen both lightened the task of exploration and made it possible to carry the conclusions to a stage which would be impossible without aerial photography. Mr. Ronald Tree, M.P., the owner, not only granted permission to excavate, but generously supported the appeal and

¹ Warton, *Kiddington* (3rd ed., 1783), p. 67 n.

² *Journal of the Ethnological Society of London*, n.s. 1 (1868-9), 3 ff.

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afforded much assistance in other ways. To his Agent, Mr. E. B. Roche, and to Mr. C. Hunt, the tenant of Lodge Farm, I am indebted for help on the site, and to Messrs. Kimberley, the Contractors, and Mr. W. Hargreaves, Clerk of Works,

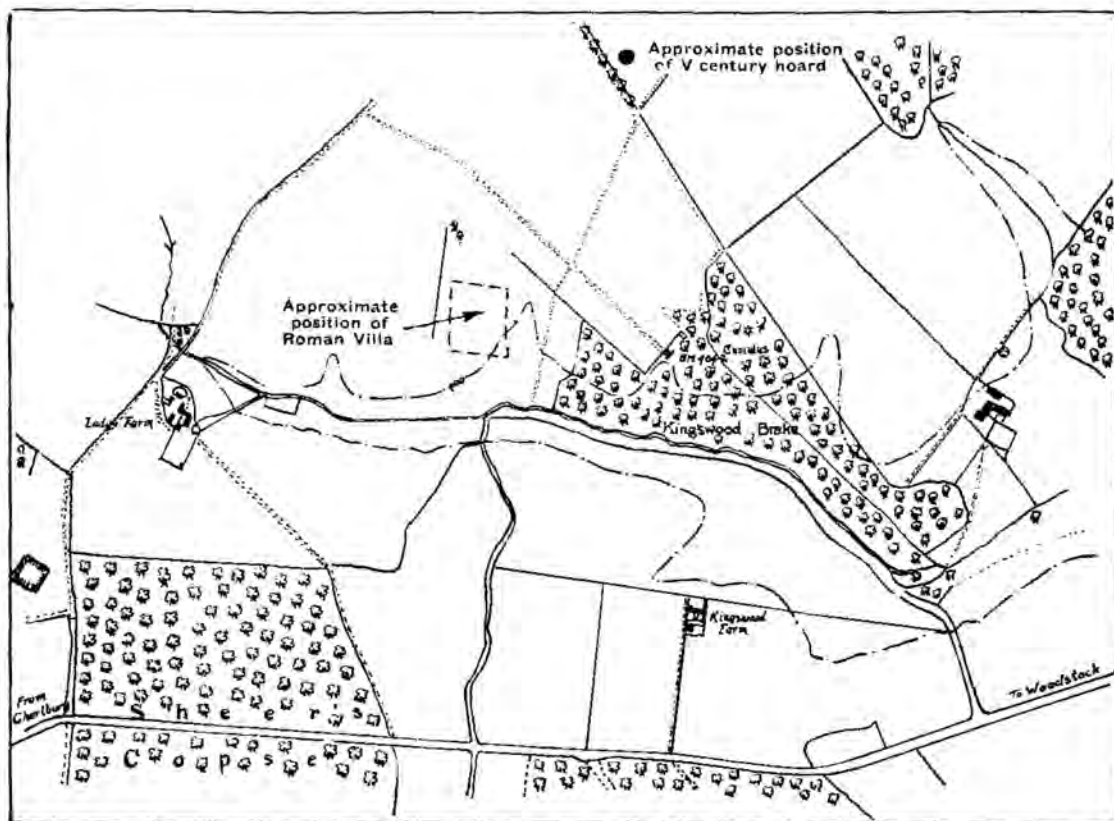


FIG. 7

SKETCH-MAP TO ILLUSTRATE THE POSITION OF THE ROMAN VILLA
AT DITCHLEY, OXON.

The find-spot of the Kiddington coin-hoard (pp. 70ff.) is also indicated.

Scale, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches = 1 mile.

Based on the 6-in. Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office.

for the loan of a hut and other material. For the plans and sections I have to thank Mr. J. J. Leeming who made a complete survey of the site and a record

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of the work carried out. I would also express my gratitude to Mr. H. S. Harrison for assistance in this connexion. During the first month assistance was given by Dr. K. D. Pringle, Miss D. de Labillière, Mr. W. H. C. Frend, Rev. R. C. R. Godfrey, Mr. H. N. Savory and other members of the University. The isolated position of the site made it necessary to take a house and those who used it are most grateful to Mrs. Harden, who acted as hostess. At the same time excavations were carried out on Grim's Dyke by Mr. D. B. Harden. These have been supplemented by further work in 1936 and the whole will form the subject of a separate report in a later volume of *Oxoniensia*. Finally, I desire to thank the members of the Committee and the subscribers to the Excavation Fund which was raised with the support of the Haverfield Bequest and Craven Committees, and several Colleges. To Professor R. G. Collingwood, Mr. E. T. Leeds, Miss M. V. Taylor, Dr. G. Bersu, Mr. C. H. V. Sutherland, Mr. D. B. Harden and Dr. Davies Pryce, I am more particularly indebted for advice and assistance both on the site and afterwards in the preparation of this report. The cleaning and sorting of the finds was carried out at the Ashmolean Museum, to which they have been presented, and I would thank the Keeper and staff for facilities and assistance in this work.

THE SITE

Watts Wells Field lies on the north side of a small valley, running eastwards toward the Glyme (PLATE VIII). The site is a quarter of a mile north-east of Lodge Farm (FIG. 7), and rather more than half a mile south-east of Ditchley House, lying on the right of a planned but uncompleted drive leading towards Woodstock. The position of the entrance to the courtyard and of the road leading to it suggest a lane connecting the villa with Akeman Street, which passes about two miles to the south. The site lies between 400 and 430 O.D. on the oolite, the layers of stone being separated by strata of clay. Much of the surrounding land is now used for corn growing and it may be suggested that its suitability for this purpose originally attracted settlers.

The existence of a series of aerial photographs dictated the method of exploration. Except for small details the plan was already known and it was only necessary to uncover an area sufficient for accurate measurement. Excavation was also required in order to establish the sequence of the various features revealed and to recover sufficient objects to fix the date of the different building periods. Trial trenches showed that the soil was so shallow that it was useless to explore the blank areas in the photographs. Fresh discoveries were made only under the accumulated rubbish of the buildings, and these necessitated a clearance more extensive than had been expected. This result holds good not

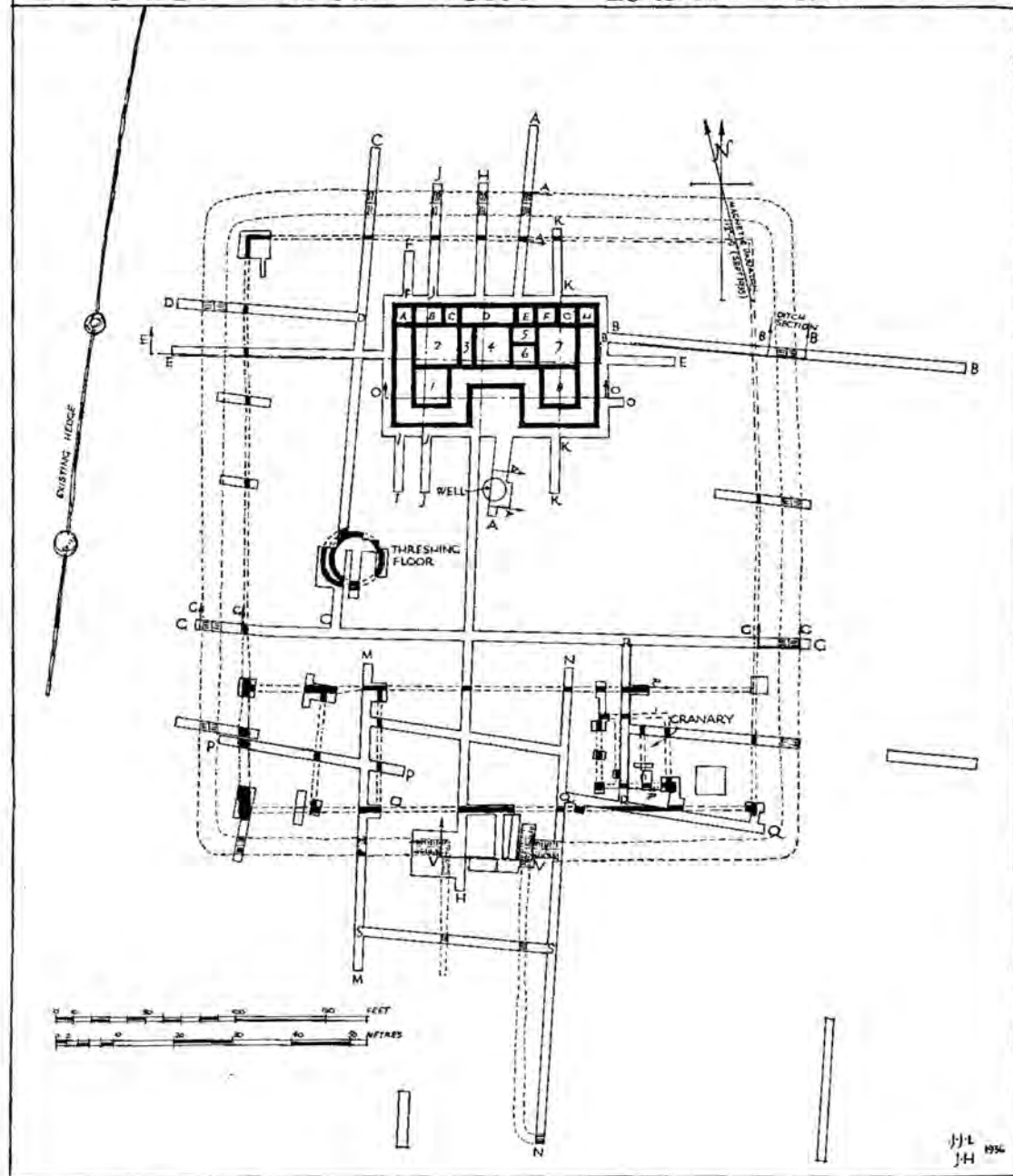


FIG. 8

GENERAL PLAN OF THE ROMAN VILLA AT DITCHLEY, OXON.
showing the house, enclosure and out-buildings, the site of the trenches excavated, and the
positions of the cross-sections recorded (PLATES XIII and XIV).

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only for the villa but for the trial trenches dug outside the courtyard, and in view of the conditions exposed it is legitimate to use both the positive and the negative evidence of the aerial photographs on this and similar sites, a conclusion of which the importance will become apparent when the field-system is discussed.

The method adopted was to cut a series of trenches (FIG. 8), which showed that the stone walls belonged to two main periods. They also revealed earlier and unsuspected wooden buildings under the house and at the southern end of the courtyard. The former was thoroughly explored but conditions were unfavourable to a complete examination of the latter and its plan was not recovered.

Of the sections recorded only a selection are published (PLATES XIII and XIV) to show the relation between the various periods in the house and in the southern building. Two (PLATE XIV) on a smaller scale indicate the position of the former within the courtyard and others illustrate the stratification of the well and of the ditch surrounding the courtyard. A fuller record has been plotted and filed in the Ashmolean Museum. To avoid confusion the whole house has been shown as though excavated but notes on the areas partly or wholly undug will be found in the description of the individual rooms.

THE HOUSE

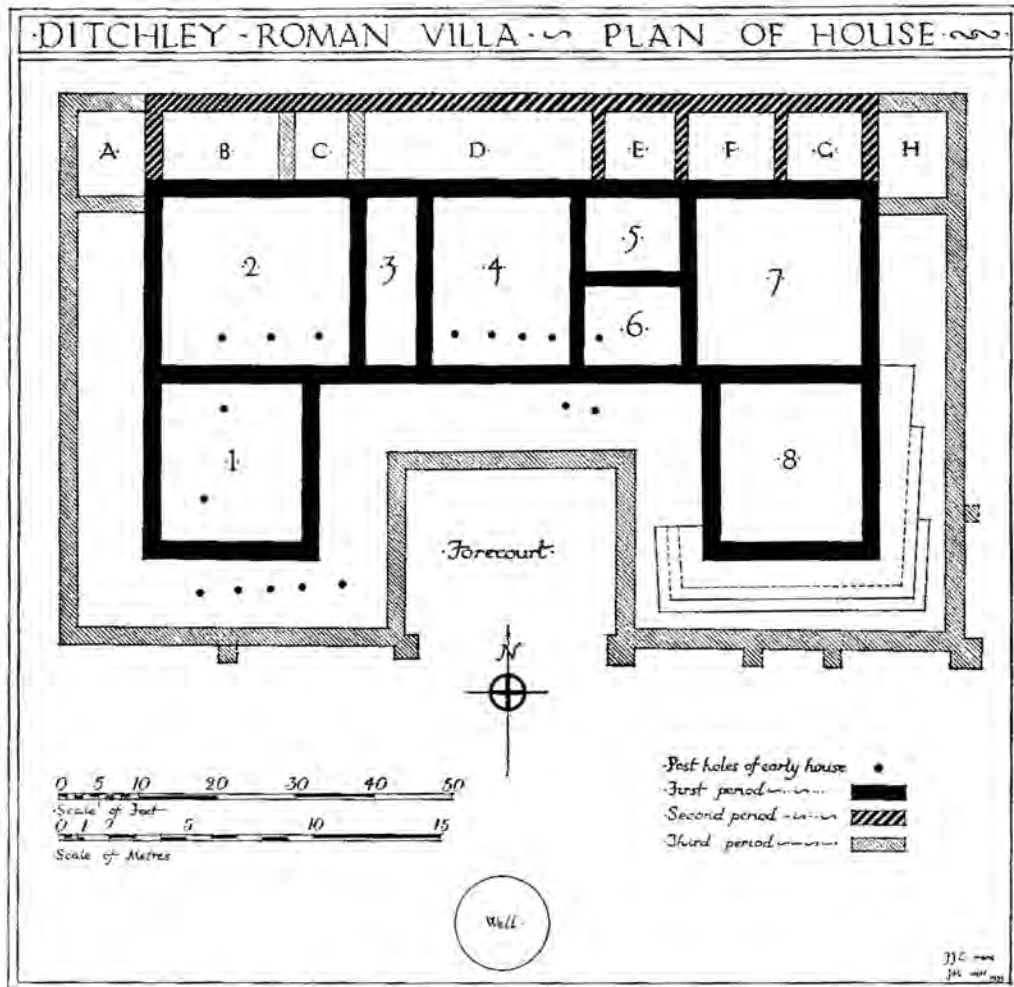
The house (FIG. 9) lay at the upper end of the courtyard. As shown on the air-photographs it was of the winged corridor plan with a row of small rooms at the back and a continuous corridor running along the front and sides. Two sections from east to west and three from north to south are illustrated (PLATE XIII). A hatched plan showing the different building periods is also published (FIG. 9). The destruction of all remains above floor level made photography difficult and unsatisfactory but characteristic views of the masonry and pavements are included in this report (PLATES VI and VII).

Section E-E (PLATE XIII) was cut from east to west along the main axis of the house. The undisturbed subsoil, a stiff brown clay with an outcrop of stone, fell gradually from 426 O.D. at the west end to 420. The thin layer of soil overlying the clay was much disturbed. Its depth exceeded three or four inches in only a few areas,¹ and it was clear that the turf had been removed, probably for use in the construction of the earliest wooden house or of the contemporary bank enclosing the courtyard. The upper part contained a few fragments of pottery and other rubbish including small fragments of clay, probably the remains of daub. This stratum could be noted over most of the area and in places it

¹ This shallow deposit was difficult to plot and in those places where it was thinnest it does not appear on the sections.

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was clearly in position when the foundations of the earlier stone walls were dug. Above this a spreading of small stone chips occurred in parts of Room 7, where it



PLAN OF THE HOUSE OF THE ROMAN VILLA AT DITCHLEY, OXON.
 showing the different periods of construction.

sealed the foundation-trench of the west wall, and in Rooms 2, 3, and 4. The material was typical masons' rubbish and the admixture of mortar droppings and

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in one case a heap of unused mortar showed that this deposit was contemporary with the earliest stone walls.¹ In addition to those marked on the sections thin traces of the same layer were recorded in other areas. Immediately above this level a small heap of burnt débris was found lying against the east wall of Room 2. It was covered in places with a thin layer of humus showing that it lay undisturbed for a certain period but both the heap and the overlying humus showed signs of subsequent disturbance and levelling. The last two strata were confined to the central area and were not noted in the verandahs. In the rooms the strata already described were sealed by a thick filling of tightly packed material. The greater part was clay, generally brown but in places of a lighter green tint. Patches of stone and other rubbish occurred and the whole contained much burnt material and pottery. This fill was brought to a level surface and covered with a spread of mortar two inches thick forming the base of a layer of obliquely pitched stones. This heavy foundation was finished with a slurry of mortar leaving frequent voids between the stones and on this the pavement of hard, pink mortar was laid. The pavement itself was only preserved in Rooms 2 and 3 and even there the surface had been badly abraded by the plough. Elsewhere it had been destroyed and in the more exposed eastern rooms only a layer of churned mortar indicated the former existence of other pavements. A similar fill occurred in both verandahs but neither foundation nor flooring could be noted although on the west side a thin layer of mortar suggested a pavement similar to, but less substantial than, that in the central rooms. In Room 2 a layer of earth containing many fragments of painted wall-plaster covered the floor. On the west side of the house a layer of fallen slates belonging to the latest building was piled against the face of the wall. On the east side the corresponding layer lay on a gravel path, beneath which a slight stratum of burnt rubbish was noted. The modern soil covering the building averaged barely six inches in depth and it was established that many stones had been removed, the plough gradually penetrating more deeply as the soil was carried down the slope.

Section O-O (PLATE XIII) was cut parallel to E-E crossing the wings and forecourt of the house. Except in the forecourt and the verandahs flanking it, the stratification resembles that already described. Attention may be drawn to the piles of burnt débris on each side of the west wall of Room 1. Similar piles often occurred against the outer face of the walls of the central block, and often as here, the wall was heavily burnt, suggesting a fall of blazing timbers which continued to burn after reaching the ground. In the verandah east of Room 8 the masonry structure formed part of a series of steps running along the outer

¹ To avoid confusion the periods as shown in FIG. 9 are assumed in the description of this section.

walls of this wing. In the forecourt and the verandahs flanking it, a thin layer of small stones, broken tiles, and other hard material covered the soil. In the forecourt it could only with difficulty be distinguished from the succeeding layer of broken tiles and mortar, but in the verandahs it was sealed by piles of burnt débris and rammed fill similar to that already described in the corridors flanking the house. The mortar coating of the outer walls of the verandahs ended at the surface of the second layer of broken tiles and mortar, which contained a certain amount of burnt débris, and it is clear that it was laid down when these walls were built in order to form a hard surface in the forecourt. Overlying this surface was a stratum of roofing slate, stone and other rubbish fallen from the house, the whole covered by a thick layer of soil.

Sections J-J, H-H, and K-K (PLATE XIII), cut from north to south across the two wings and the central block of the house, call for no detailed comment. In Rooms B and 2, section J-J was not carried below floor level, but it is known that the pavements of these rooms were set on a heavy pitched foundation like that previously described. All three sections show two layers of débris (called 'early' and 'late') piled against the outer face of the north wall. The lower was mainly composed of burnt rubbish including a high proportion of roof-tiles. The upper consisted of slates with a few tiles and showed no traces of fire. In K-K a modern hole of uncertain purpose had destroyed the north wall. In H-H the verandah in front of Room 4, had a stone spread of masons' chippings and mortar droppings similar to that in Room 2. This overlay the soil and was in turn covered by the packed fill. In K-K the lowest step and the base of the next one leading to Room 8 may be noted in the verandah.

Room 1 (FIG. 9) forms the centre of the west wing. An area five feet by eight feet¹ in the north-east corner was not cleared below the top of the fill. A few stones belonging to the pitched foundation of the latest pavement were found on the north side but no trace of the surface remained. The fill contained an exceptionally large proportion of burnt débris and many traces of burning were noted on the north wall. The objects found in the fill included fragments of Terra Sigillata (Drag. 18, 27 and 33), rusticated ware, an early jug, a grey vessel with cordons and a bowl with a flat, reeded rim. Two post-holes belonging to the early house were found in the natural soil.

Room 2 lies at the west end of the central range. Only a trench five feet wide on the north side of the section E-E was cleared. The pitched foundation of the pavement contained fragments of pottery including rusticated ware. Three post-holes belonging to the early house were found sealed by the layers of masons' chippings underlying the fill. The pavement had a fine surface of pink

¹ The measurement from north to south precedes that from east to west.

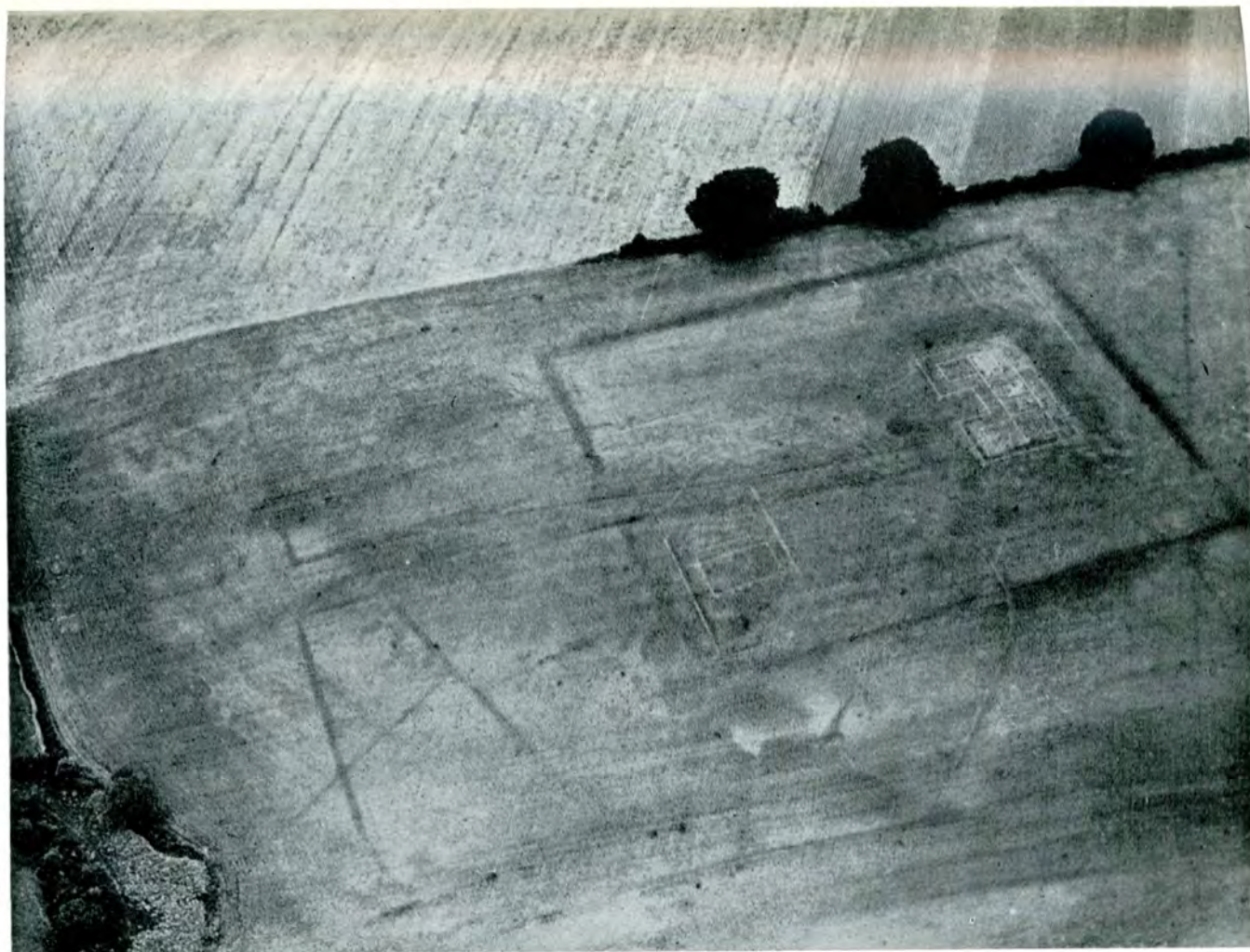


PLATE III

AIR-VIEW OF THE SITE OF THE ROMAN VILLA AT DITCHLEY, OXON., TAKEN FROM THE SE.
 The walls of the house and out-buildings, and the courtyard-wall can be seen outlined in white within the courtyard-ditch,
 which appears black, as do the field-ditches and others bordering the avenue of approach.

Ph. Major G. W. G. Allen.

From 'Antiquity,' vol. ix (1935), by courtesy of the Editors.



AIR-VIEW OF THE SITE OF THE ROMAN VILLA AT DITCHLEY, OXON., FROM THE SW.

The large black spot in the centre of the enclosure indicates the position of the well (p. 44).

Ph. Major G. W. G. Allen.

From 'Antiquity,' vol. 18 (1935) by courtesy of the Editors.

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mortar with a quarter-round fillet at the base of the walls. In two places fires had been lighted on the pavement and had burnt through the surface. A pile of wood ash six inches deep was found in one of these and was covered by fallen roof-tiles and other rubbish.

Room 3 was a narrow passage extending the full width of the central block. At the south end a strip two feet wide was not excavated. The surface of the pavement was much abraded except at the north end where a thin layer of soil covered it. The fill under the pavement included many fragments of corroded iron.

Room 4, in the centre of the main range, was completely cleared. The surface of the pavement was nowhere intact but the stone pitching remained except for a few gaps on the south side. The fill which included much stone contained fragments of Terra Sigillata (Drag. 18 and 27) several pieces of coarse ware, window-glass and wall-plaster. The four post-holes of the early house were sealed by the layer of masons' chippings.

Room 5, a small chamber on the north side of the house, was completely cleared. The stone pitching remained over the whole area but the pavement was everywhere destroyed. The fill contained a high proportion of stone and mortar débris with little clay.

Room 6, on the south side corresponding to 5, was also completely cleared. The greater part of the stone pitching remained. The fill included a single fragment of Terra Sigillata (Drag. 18/31) and many pieces of coarse jars and bowls none belonging to a recognizably late type. In the south-west angle a post-hole belonging to the early house was discovered.

Room 7 lay at the east end of the central block. Along the west side a strip seven feet wide was cleared only to half the depth of the fill except on the north side of section E-E (PLATE XIII) where a trench five feet wide was excavated down to the undisturbed subsoil. Only a small area of stone pitching was preserved and the fill on the south and east sides was unsealed but the dense nature of the material makes it improbable that the contents were contaminated with later objects. The lower part of the fill consisted of small stones with a slight admixture of earth and rubbish. Above this was a layer of burnt rubbish varying from one to six inches thick, on which lay the mortar base of the pitched foundation of the later pavement. This mortar contained much pottery including Terra Sigillata (Drag. 37, two fragments, one Antonine, 31, two fragments, 38 and globular, each one fragment) an early pie-dish (cf. FIG. 11, 9), a second century beaker, and a greenish-colourless glass bowl (FIG. 12, 1). The burnt layer below was even more prolific. The fragments of Terra Sigillata included Drag. 37 of Trajanic date, and another of the second century, one 18, one 27, two 31 and two 33, and two fragments with barbotine. Among the coarse ware

the following pieces may be noted: a white mortarium (*cf.* Collingwood, type 9),¹ a white jug (*cf.* Collingwood, type 51), two pie-dishes (*cf.* FIG. 11, 5 and 9), a small bowl, a jar with prominent cordons, and one piece of rusticated ware. Many fragments of the greenish-colourless glass bowl already noted were also found together with pieces of window-glass and painted wall-plaster. There was also a second brass of Nerva (p. 65, no. 5), but the most notable find from this level was the enamelled bronze terret (PLATE X, FIG. 10, p. 55). The unburnt filling below yielded only indeterminate scraps of coarse ware but a small deposit was found lying on the natural clay sealed by the stone spread contemporary with the earliest masonry. This included a fragment of Terra Sigillata (Drag. 29, Flavian, PLATE XI, 1) and two grey jars.

Room 8 formed the eastern wing of the house. Only trenches five feet wide on the south side of O-O and on the west side of K-K were cleared. The fill consisted entirely of stones covered by an undisturbed burnt layer most of which had been removed by ploughing. The stones below yielded a few fragments of pottery including Terra Sigillata (Drag. 18) and a beaker of early type. This packing showed no signs of fire.

The series of rooms at the back of the house are not all of one build nor is the arrangement shown on the plan original, but it will be convenient to describe them in this order reserving a discussion of their date until a later stage.

Room A in the north-west angle had a mortar pavement similar to but less well laid than that of the main rooms. At the base of the walls was a quarter-round fillet lying on a set-off of three inches. The whole surface of the pavement showed traces of fire but it had nowhere been burnt through as in Room 2. Over the pavement was a layer of fallen slates and mortar debris containing a few fragments of wall-plaster. The pavement was left intact.

Room B had a similar pavement laid on a layer of stones set horizontally. There was probably a door in the centre of the west wall and another in the east wall,² but their exact position could not be determined. Only a strip eight feet wide on the west side of the room was excavated below floor level. About eight inches below the pavement traces of an earlier floor of small stones and mortar were discovered (Section J-J). Fragments of native ware, a piece of late colour-coated bowl and painted wall-plaster were found lying on the pavement, beneath which were indeterminate scraps of coarse ware.

Room C also had a similar pavement. Near the centre, this had been burnt through by a small fire similar to those noted in Room 2. A pile of wood ash filled the hole and was covered by fallen slates from the roof. The pavement

¹ References are given to R. G. Collingwood, *The Archaeology of Roman Britain*, ch. xiv.

² No doors are shown in the plan as most of the walls are only preserved below the latest floors.

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was left intact. On it lay many fragments of a bowl of native ware (FIG. 11, 16) and pieces of painted wall-plaster, the whole covered by fallen slates from the roof. On the south side of Rooms B and C the outer face of the wall of the central block had been much burnt. The surface of the stone was bright red and very soft. This burning had taken place before the erection of the partition between the two rooms and the action of the fire could be seen on the stones against which the later wall was butted. The plaster contemporary with the late pavement was applied over the burnt surface but did not continue behind the inserted partition. Traces of the fire, again covered by a rendering of mortar about half-an-inch thick, were also noted outside the north wall of Room C.

Room D formed a long corridor in the centre of the north range. Strips eleven feet wide at the west end and six feet six inches wide at the east end were cleared leaving the centre unexplored below the stone-pitched foundation of the pavement. The latter was nowhere intact but the pitching was undisturbed. It lay on a fill of mortar, rubbish and broken roofing slates. These were unweathered and did not appear to have been used. In no case were these slates found in levels ante-dating the final rebuild and it may be concluded that here the spoilt and surplus roofing material was used as a convenient packing under the pavement. Below the slates was a layer of burnt rubbish and no trace of an earlier floor was found. The face of the south wall was burnt in several places. Pottery from the layer of slates and mortar included Terra Sigillata (Drag. 37, Trajanic-Hadrianic, one 18, one 27, three 31, two 33, and one globular vessel), a white jug (*cf.* Collingwood, type 51), four pie-dishes (FIG. 11, 5), an early beaker (FIG. 11, 11), two cups with handles (FIG. 11, 23), a red frilled tazza and a small rough-cast bowl. The burnt layer contained few pieces among which two second-century cooking pots may be noted.

Rooms E and F, which form part of the original design of this range, may be considered together. The cross wall separating them and the walls dividing E from D and F from G are bonded into the outer wall but butted against that of the central block. Both rooms were completely cleared. In each the pitched foundation of the late pavement was intact. Below this was a fill of clay and rubbish containing a few fragments of pottery which included a dish and a beaker (FIG. 11, 6) in Room F and a piece of Terra Sigillata (Drag. 18) in Room E. No trace of an earlier floor was found but it is clear that this lay one foot six inches below the later pavement. At this level offsets were found on the cross walls together with openings for doors four feet wide at the south end of the partition between D and E and at the north end of that between E and F. There was no door between F and G. The walls were finished with a thin rendering of dull grey plaster which did not reach below this floor. Above this level it could be seen covering the walls behind the pitching belonging to

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the later pavement. Many traces of burning were noted on every wall. In some cases the fire had removed the plaster, eating into the surface of the stone. Nowhere did these traces reach below the level of the floors showing that these were of a substantial construction. The burnt rubbish found at the bottom of the fill was clearly thrown there at the time of the rebuilding.

Room G was the last of the original northern range. The foundation of the later pavement was intact. Only a strip four feet six inches wide on the western side was cleared down to the subsoil. The rest was explored to various depths. On the side walls were offsets similar to those noted in E and F, but no trace of a floor remained at this level. Four inches above natural clay a thin spread of small stones and mortar formed a pavement contemporary with the central block and cut through by the other three walls of this room. Near the centre an extensive hearth of clay was located. The fill contained much burnt rubbish including three vessels of Terra Sigillata (two Drag. 31, one 33 with a stamp of Albucius). The traces of burning which occurred on all the walls reached to the foundations. The large hearth with its heavy deposit of ash shows that this room was the kitchen.

Room H, at the north angle of the house, was completely excavated. Much of the pitched foundation of the late pavement had been removed. The clay fill underneath included a fragment of Terra Sigillata (Drag. 27), and a piece of a late cooking pot, the latter unsealed and little below the disturbed level.

The Verandahs on the front and sides of the house were excavated except for a few narrow strips. Of these the only areas of importance are those lying within the early timber building. A strip seven feet wide on the west side of Trench H and extending as far south as section O-O and another three feet wide on the east side of section H-H were not cleared.

In the central verandah connecting the two wings, traces of a pitched stone foundation were found only in the north-west angle. Below this the usual fill of clay and rubbish extended to within a few inches of the natural clay, which was covered by a spread of masons' chippings and mortar similar to that noted in the central block. This sealed the two early post-holes. The fill included the small black beaker (FIG. 11, 14).

The other verandahs call for little detailed description. In every case the fill overlay a thin stratum of soil and rubbish. Only on the west side did a thin layer of mortar suggest a pavement similar to those in the central block. On this side piles of burnt debris and traces of fire were particularly frequent. Fallen roofing tiles were noted at the foot of every early wall except in front of the two wings. The five post-holes in front of the west wing were sealed only by the late fill as the earlier occupation-level was very thin in this area. Along the outer walls of the east wing ran a stone foundation which was covered by the

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later fill. On the outer side of this was a step, two feet three inches wide and one foot above the ground level. The base of a second step was preserved. If this and a third rise were equal to the first, they would reach the level of the floor of Room 8. On the west side these steps ended abruptly five feet from the angle. The spread of masons' chippings noted in the central verandah extended to within three feet of this line and it may be concluded that it indicates the front of the original verandah. As no trace of a stone wall could be found this front must have been carried on wooden posts. The rectangular piers projecting from the outer wall of the enlarged east wing were bonded into this wall as is that at the angle of the west wing, but the pier indicated in the centre of the latter was of much slighter construction and unbonded. Numerous fragments of pottery were found in the filling of the verandahs. All were of first- or second-century date. Under the stone spread already mentioned outside Room 8, a white mortarium of early type (FIG. 11, 1) was found in a pocket in the natural clay.

The layers of fallen rubbish outside the house have already been described in dealing with the sections. The earlier layer outside the north wall yielded no slates, but only roof-tiles, stones and mortar. It contained many fragments of pottery including a few later pieces, but the deposit was not sealed. The upper layer here and that outside the other walls were predominantly of slates with only a few fragments of tile. They contained pottery extending up to the end of the occupation with late wares predominating. Outside the east wing a gravel path some ten feet wide separated the two layers. The few pieces of pottery found in and under this gravel included no late types.

In the *Forecourt* the objects recovered from the lowest occupation were very few. Trampled in the surface contemporary with the earliest stone walls was a little worn coin of Trajan (p. 65, no. 6). The same level also yielded Terra Sigillata (Drag. 37 of Flavian-Trajan date, two 15/17, one 27, and one 33) a rough-cast beaker, ten fragments of rusticated ware and two early jars. The layer above this, consisting largely of broken tiles, stone and mortar levelled to form a hard floor contemporary with the last rebuilding, contained much pottery, including fragments of Terra Sigillata (two Drag. 27, two 31, one 33 and one ink-well), a piece of a Castor ware hunt-cup, four rough-cast beakers, four scraps of rusticated ware, an imitation 31 in red colour-coated ware and an Upchurch bowl with incised semi-circles. Above this the stratum of broken slates and stone contained pottery extending to the end of the occupation and the complete drum of a stone column.

The Wooden House. The earliest structure is represented by seventeen post-holes cut in the natural subsoil. When the lowest layer of soil had been

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removed and the surface scraped these appeared as round patches of darker soil some nine inches in diameter. They reached one foot below the surface of the subsoil making a total depth of about one foot six inches from the contemporary ground level. The edges were ill defined and no trace of wood was found in the holes. It is therefore probable that the posts were withdrawn when the site was cleared for more substantial buildings. The filling of darker soil represented the actual timber, the packing of rammed clay round it being indistinguishable from the undisturbed soil. In the forecourt, where the surface of the subsoil was much disturbed, it was not found possible to distinguish any post-holes even after the upper six inches of clay had been removed. But this is not conclusive as no clear surface was found even at this depth.

The character of the post-holes indicates a timber-framed building of slight construction with a series of untrimmed forked uprights carrying the horizontal timbers on which the roof rested. The irregularity of the spacing and the crooked lines show that the horizontal members were also untrimmed tree trunks, the uprights being set where they would most effectively support them. The discovery of a complete row of posts at the west end and the beginning of a similar row on the east is evidence of substantial beams supporting the ends of a hipped roof. A gabled roof would have only a light tie-beam similar to those of the other principals and not requiring intermediate support, and there was no trace of posts carrying the ridge-pole which this type would require. A few fragments of clay, which may represent daub fallen from the walls, shows that these were composed of wattle or wickerwork¹ plastered with the clay native to the site and in the absence of any trace of roofing materials it may be assumed that the building was thatched. This house measured 48 feet by 32 feet. Its width, though large, is not unparalleled in structures of this type and the longest timber required would not exceed 25 feet. The additional post near the north-east angle probably indicates the position of the door, covered by an internal porch.²

Modern European parallels to this type of building are cited by Oelmann in his report on the Roman villa at Mayen.³ None of these affords an exact parallel to the structure found at Ditchley, but the house from Livadi⁴ in Macedonia is very similar if allowance be made for the gabled roof instead of the hipped form of the reconstruction suggested. The early Roman dwelling at Mayen may

¹ The use of wickerwork hurdles in pre-Roman Britain is proved by the evidence from Glastonbury: A. Bulleid and H. St. George Gray, *Glastonbury Lake Village*, 1, 103.

² It is hoped at a future date to make a more detailed reconstruction of this and the later houses.

³ *Bonner Jahrbücher*, CXXXIII, 64.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 105, fig. 38.

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also be compared, though the more regular plan and the use of screen walls of stone have an air of sophistication alien to the English building.¹

As at Mayen, this timber-framed structure must have resembled a barn. It was doubtless used as a combined dwelling and cattle-shed though the later clearance of the site had removed all evidence of the occupation. Few objects were associated with this house, but it clearly represents the earliest building on this part of the site and it is not unreasonable to assume that it is contemporary with the enclosing bank and ditch, thrown up about A.D. 70. The earliest deposit in Room 7, including a fragment of Drag. 29 which can hardly be later than A.D. 80 (PLATE XI, 1) and the pre-Flavian type of mortarium (p. 59, no. 1), from the Verandah east of the forecourt, which clearly ante-dated the oldest masonry, must also be contemporary. The deposits in or under the succeeding builders' rubbish contain material reaching up to the reign of Trajan, which marks the demolition of the wooden building.

The Stone House. Examination of the stone walls revealed three building periods marked by successive extensions of the house (FIG. 9). To the first belongs the central block, a rectangular range of rooms with a wing projecting southward at each end. The first addition was a corridor and three small rooms covering the north side of the house. Later, long verandahs were erected completely enclosing the front and sides of the original building. It became clear during the work that the earlier addition was merely an extension of the first stone-built house and the two will be considered together. The latest work represented an entire reconstruction of the building which had been destroyed by fire and must be discussed separately.

The earliest masonry was built of irregular, well-dressed stones laid in shallow courses and set in a hard brown mortar. The material used was the local oolite. None of the outcrops uncovered on the site was sufficiently good for building. There is evidence of extensive quarrying on the opposite side of the valley less than quarter of a mile distant and though it would be rash to assume that this provided the material for the Roman house it is evidence that the builders need not go far to find suitable stone. The masonry of the northern range resembles that of the central block but the stones are less carefully chosen and the mortar is of rather poorer quality. When the foundations were investigated they showed a trench one foot six inches deep and about a foot wider than the wall. This was first paved with a layer of stones pitched on edge, above which the horizontal courses began. An offset sometimes marked the ancient

¹ By the courtesy of Dr. G. Bersu I have been able to see the plan of a similar building recently found under the Roman building at Laufen (Kanton Bern). In this case a central row of posts indicated a heavier type of roof, probably gabled.

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ground level but more often the contraction occurred immediately above the pitched stones.

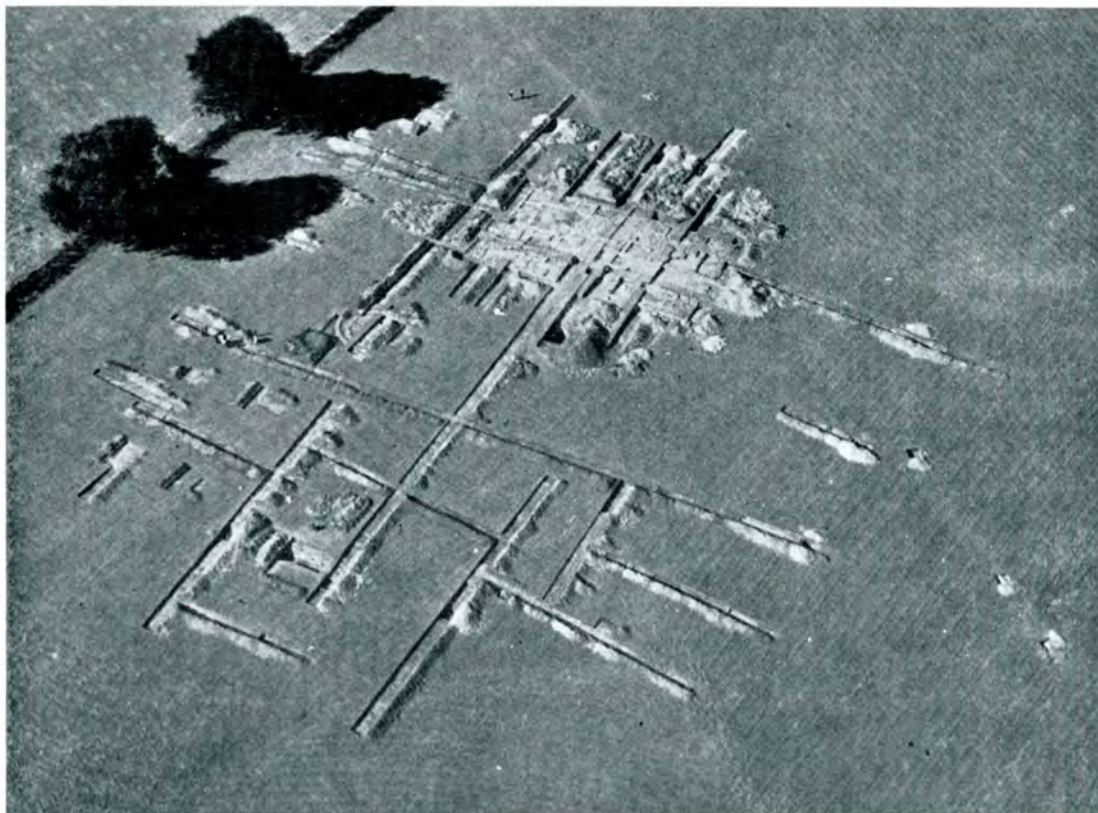
In the central block there were no openings for doorways, and the arrangement of the steps outside the east wing proves that the floors were approximately on the same level as the later pavements. It is therefore clear that the existing walls formed a substructure designed to level up the sloping site and form the foundations of the house. This is confirmed by the inner faces of the walls which are roughly pointed and never received any rendering of plaster. In the northern range there was evidence of floors about one foot lower than those of the main building, the upper part of the walls being either finely pointed or finished with a fair rendering of grey mortar.

The plan of the central block must be completed by a wide verandah the front of which is marked by the sudden end of the steps outside the eastern wing. The south side of this must have been carried on wooden posts. If these had stone bases the latter were removed during the final rebuilding.

Except in the northern range no trace of the floors was found and it is clear that they must have been carried on wooden joists with voids underneath. Only this assumption will account for the presence of burnt material lying directly over the masons' chippings under the floors. An exception may be made in the case of Room 8 where the undisturbed burnt material occurs on top of a thick layer of stones which may represent packing under the early pavement. The original floors in Rooms E, F, and G were also carried on joists resting on the offsets noted on the side walls. At the base of the filling in Room H an earlier floor, contemporary with the central block, was found.

The absence of fragments of stone in the burnt debris does not prove that the walls above floor level were built of some other material as a few burnt stones were found re-used in the masonry of period III. The existence of so solid a foundation would seem to call for stone walls, and the heavy tiled roof indicates a substantial building. The courses of masonry above the floor level of the northern rooms are also difficult to reconcile with a timber-framed superstructure and it is perhaps most reasonable to conclude that the walls were carried up in masonry. Many fragments of window-glass and painted wall-plaster show that all the rooms including the verandah were decently appointed. A noticeable feature is the absence of all evidence of heating, suggesting that braziers were used for this purpose.

The plan is a simple example of the winged corridor house common in Roman Britain and Gaul. The presence of the three steps running along the outer walls of the eastern wing shows that the main entrance was here. Room 8 should probably be restored as an open portico with wooden columns carrying the roof. Behind this, Room 7, one of the finest in the house, must be the



AIR-VIEW OF THE SITE OF THE ROMAN VILLA AT DITCHLEY, OXON., TAKEN FROM THE SE. DURING THE COURSE OF THE EXCAVATIONS.

FIG. 8 shows the ground-plan of the trenches here visible.

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PLATE VI



A. View of the central portion of the house taken from the SW. angle of the east wing
(see plan, FIG. 9).



B. View of the house taken from outside the NW. angle, Room A (see plan, FIG. 9).

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View of the eastern portion of the house, taken from the forecourt (see plan, FIG. 9).

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PLATE VIII



A. General view from the SE. showing its position on a slope facing southwards.
Ph. Mr. C. W. Phillips.



B. Post-holes of the early wooden house (p. 38).



C. Vertical section of the courtyard-ditch W. of the entrance gateway (p. 50).

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triclinium. This is proved by the presence of the kitchen (Room G) at the back. Originally this was a building of slight construction with a floor of small stones and mortar and a central hearth for cooking. When the northern range of rooms was added the position of the kitchen remained unaltered, the last room serving this purpose. A small door or possibly a serving-hatch would have pierced the back wall of the triclinium. The position of this apartment near the entrance may be compared with Pliny's description of his Tuscan villa¹ where it formed a spacious chamber at the head of the porticus. The two small Rooms 5 and 6 were probably required for the service of the triclinium and their position may be compared with the pantry and buttery at the lower end of the medieval hall. Beyond these Room 4 suggested the main living-room opening out of the Verandah which would serve both as a corridor and, in warm weather, as an additional living-room. If this reconstruction be correct the western chambers (1 and 2) would have been the private apartments and sleeping-quarters of the owner with a passage (Room 3) leading to the back of the house where the servants' rooms must be sought. The addition of the northern range not only provided a more substantial kitchen but two baths with the corridor leading to them. The explanation of Rooms E and F as baths was suggested not only by the more substantial floors but by the thin rendering of hard mortar which would withstand moisture more easily than the painted walls of the larger rooms. Their position adjacent to the kitchen may also be noted as this would be convenient for the provision of either hot water or fire for a vapour bath of the type described below. No evidence of an upper storey was found nor do other considerations suggest so extensive a dwelling.

The deposits contemporary with the building of this house include fragments of decorated Terra Sigillata of Flavian-Trajanic date and plain vessels (two Drag. 15-17, one 27, and one 23), together with several pieces of rusticated ware, a rough-cast bowl and a beaker (FIG. 11, 13). None of these need be later than the reign of Trajan. The discovery of a slightly worn coin of A.D. 104 (p. 65, no. 6) in a similar context was not sealed, but the evidence points to a date in the early years of the second century. The addition of the northern range cannot be closely dated, but there is no reason to suggest a long interval between the two buildings. The pottery found in the burnt deposits includes a fragment of Antonine Sigillata and the large quantity of ware shows that the occupation must have lasted until about A.D. 200, when the whole house was burnt. The fire seems to have been most fierce in the west wing and on the northern side. The flaming rafters of the roof fell to the ground and continued to burn against the outer face of the wall. The same evidence does not appear inside and it is possible that the fire was quenched after the collapse of the roof.

¹ Pliny, *Letters*, v, 6, 19: 'a capite porticus triclinium excurrit'; cf. also *ibid.*, 20-7.

Subsequently the building was left as a ruin. Piles of burnt rubbish fell through the rotten floors and accumulated in the voids beneath, becoming covered with soil. How long the house remained in this state cannot be estimated but the evidence requires an interval of at least one generation. This must be taken in conjunction with the scarcity of characteristic third century objects (pp. 59 and 65) and the architectural detail of the rebuilt house, which suggested a date in the fourth century.

The masonry of the latest walls consisted of regular squared stones laid in poor yellow mortar with wide joints. The outer face of the walls was covered with a thick coating of coarse white plaster. The burning on some of the stones shows that they were re-used material from the earlier walls.

The only traces of doorways are those noted at the west end of the northern range. In no case was the actual sill discovered, but the gaps in the masonry indicated the only positions where doors could have existed. Elsewhere the walls were not preserved above the level of the floor. The pavements of mortar set on solid pitched foundations have already been described. These were found in all the central rooms, and in those of the northern range, except H where destruction had reached too low. In the verandahs were traces of less substantial mortar pavements set directly on the fill.

The most unusual feature in this house was the row of four stone piers projecting from the front of the east wing. They were not spaced at equal distances, the central opening being slightly narrower. A further pier on the east front and another at the south-west angle of the forecourt also belonged to this design. The structure in the centre of the west wing is more slightly built and probably had some other purpose. It was clear that these piers carried substantial stone columns. Parts of three moulded bases were found among the debris in front of the east wing and a complete drum shattered into many fragments lay in the centre of the forecourt. This drum was one foot six inches in diameter and the bases belonged to columns of the same size, which can hardly have been less than twelve feet high. The arrangement of the columns on projecting piers of masonry shows that they were not designed to carry an architrave, and the façade should probably be restored as a wall with a door in the centre and arched openings in the spaces on either side. This would be crowned by an ornamental cornice carried round the head of the columns. The type of façade indicated is not uncommon in the late Roman period and Diocletian's Palace at Spalato may be cited as an outstanding example. In the more elaborate buildings the columns would support statues. No trace of such was found at Ditchley but this is not conclusive as they would probably be cast in bronze and be among the first objects removed when the main house was no longer occupied.

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The surviving fragments of the columns have a further bearing on the reconstruction. The minimum height of twelve feet represents the eaves of the verandah which would be covered by a low-pitched pent-roof. The point at which this abutted on the main walls could hardly be less than fifteen feet above floor level. If any provision is to be made for clerestory lights into the main rooms a further three feet must be added making a total height of eighteen feet from the floor to the eaves of the main roof. In every case the measurements suggested are the minimum, and they could reasonably be increased. But even if eighteen feet be accepted, the height was too great for a single-storied building. Even the large Rooms, 2 and 7, would have looked disproportionately high and it is difficult to believe that small chambers like 5 and 6 measuring twelve feet by ten feet were designed to rise to such a height. The long, narrow passage (Room 3) could easily have served as a staircase and a reconstruction on this basis would show the elaborate façade in its proper perspective.

The destruction of most of the area above floor level has destroyed the evidence for the internal arrangement. It may be noted that careful search failed to reveal any trace of an entrance in the centre of the forecourt and this was probably in front of the east wing, as in the earlier house. The only other evidence shows that the three rooms at the west end of the north range were used as baths. In A the surface of the pavement showed evidence of burning. Hot ashes would be spread on the floor and by dashing water on the heated surface steam would rise providing a hot vapour-bath. This system was in use in Central Europe until comparatively recent times and its adoption at Ditchley can easily be understood in view of the comparatively poor water-supply.

The roof of this house was covered with local slates from the Stonesfield beds. The tiles previously in use are very infrequent in the latest levels of rubbish. Painted wall-plaster was recovered from most of the rooms and from the verandahs and window-glass was not uncommon.

The date of this house is uncertain. It is clear that the fire which destroyed the earlier building occurred about A.D. 200 and that the site was then deserted for many years. The coin-list (p. 65) contains only four worn examples of the series with radiate crowns. In view of the frequency with which these issues are found on Romano-British sites it is difficult to believe that in the second half of the third century the site was occupied on a scale sufficient to account for the erection of a building of this size. Similarly the high-necked beakers with metallic finish and other vessels characteristic of this period are noticeably absent from the pottery recovered. The architectural design of the façade belongs to a type which was not common in the western provinces before A.D. 300 and was unlikely to have been adopted in a villa earlier than that date. The objects found under the pavements included nothing certainly later than A.D. 200

but this merely reflected the end of the earlier occupation and could only be used as evidence of a *terminus post quem*. The coin-series showed that occupation had once more begun under the Constantinian Emperors and the issues became progressively more numerous until those of Theodosius. The evidence therefore suggested that the last house is Constantinian and it is certain that it was occupied until the end of the fourth century. For how much longer we should postulate a survival depends on our view of the history of Britain in the fifth century. A period when the building was put to base uses was suggested by the fires burnt through the pavements of Room 2. But the roof was still standing and the excavation provided ample evidence of a slow decay unhastened by fire or deliberate demolition. Slates lay as they fell from the roof unmixed with mortar or stone and unbroken by the trampling feet of the spoiler.

THE WELL

The air-photographs (PLATES III and IV) show a dark circle lying in front of the forecourt. This was traced by a trench across the centre, subsequently enlarged to cover the eastern side when it had become clear that the circle represented a deep pit.

The pit was twelve feet in diameter. The excavation was carried to a depth of eight feet leaving a sector on the west side in order to show the stratification (PLATE XIII). At this stage heavy rain filled the hole to a depth of nearly two feet. The water which remained at a constant level was evidently fed by springs and it was obvious that further investigation would necessitate the use of a pump and costly timbering. As this did not seem to be justified, the excavation was filled in.

A stratum of natural stone was cut through between two feet and three feet from the surface but below this the shaft was sunk in soft clay which extended as low as the excavation was carried. At eight feet the filling was of clay, with a small amount of soil containing pottery of the first and early second century including a red-ware jug (*cf.* Collingwood, type 51) and a jar of rustic ware, together with a coin of Theodosius (p. 66, no. 46) and a few pieces of later pottery, among them a flanged bowl (*cf.* Collingwood, type 30). The lower part was tightly packed against the clay sides. In the centre, and higher up, the filling was looser and contained more soil, but no clear division could be established between the two types. In the centre an irregular pocket of darker material descended to a depth of six feet. This contained large fragments of decayed wood, and darker patches suggesting rotten straw. Except for a few late sherds and a coin of Gratian (p. 66, no. 30) this layer was barren of finds. Above this the filling was of soil with many abraded scraps of pottery, late wares predominating.

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In the centre the surface soil disturbed by ploughing could be traced to a depth of over one foot six inches, showing that there must have been an appreciable hollow when the land was cleared and suggesting the source of the field-name.

Its contents prove that the pit was open up to the end of the fourth century and that it silted up after the end of the occupation. The position, and the existence of a spring, prove that it was dug as a well but the clay sides could never have stood uncovered, as erosion was swift even during the short period that it remained open. The tightly-rammed clay suggests a packing between the sides of the pit and a timber shaft of the type normally found in Roman wells. The fragments of pottery date this packing to the early years of the second century and the position of the well in relation to the first stone house is further evidence that the two are contemporary. The irregular pocket of material must represent a small wooden well-house with a thatched roof, which collapsed and fell into the shaft as the timber gradually decayed.¹

The copious flow of water after heavy rain suggests a shallow spring. Several such rose in the field during wet weather. In particular attention may be drawn to one in the northern ditch in Trench A, a second near the west end of the southern building and a third a few yards below the east wall of the house. The first two caused little trouble but the last developed a considerable flow. It had clearly been inconvenient in the past and a dry stone drain built to carry off the water may be seen in the air-photograph. This was examined and cleared. It is not Roman but was unknown to the present tenant of the farm. None of these springs would provide an adequate supply but it is probable that the well, if carried down, would soon reach a level where a permanent though possibly restricted flow would be available.

THE THRESHING-FLOOR

On the west side of the courtyard about half-way between the house and the southern building the aerial photographs show an incomplete ring of masonry. Trenches cut across this revealed not one but two rings. The older and slightly larger was a pitched foundation, two feet three inches wide enclosing an area of thirty feet in diameter. The later ring had had a similar pitched foundation on which was a course of undressed stones set in mortar similar to that used in the latest walls of the house. There had originally been at least one more course, and even that which remained was not complete. The masonry was two feet wide enclosing a circle twenty-five feet in diameter. The floor of the circle consisted of hard, rammed clay laid over a cobbled foundation. The similar

¹ For form, compare the reconstruction at Cannstatt (O. Paret, *Die Römer in Württemberg*, III, 101). At Ditchley there is no evidence of a stone base, and the roof is of another material.

construction and the close correspondence in size suggest that both rings served the same purpose and as the earlier foundation was undamaged it is probable that its existence was not known to the later builders who discovered it during their work.

In plan, but not in size, the structure resembles one at Langton, near Malton,¹ but neither overlapping courses nor a central paving and hole were noted at Ditchley. It would be unwise to assume that the building was a mill and it should rather be compared with the open threshing-floors which are still used in the Balkans. The corn would be spread on the floor, probably on mats, and the beasts turned in to tread out the ears. The stone ring formed a low kerb to prevent the dispersal and loss of the grain.

THE SOUTHERN BUILDING AND THE GRANARY

In the air-photograph an extensive series of walls may be seen (PLATE III) covering the southern end of the courtyard. The incomplete plan suggested that the building had been much destroyed and trial trenches confirmed this deduction. West of the gate only the foundations survived. These being laid without mortar, did not affect the growth of the crop and consequently left no trace in the photographs. In this area the floor level had been torn up by the plough as the soil was carried downhill. Only on the east side were the more substantial remains of a later granary sufficient to prevent this process being carried so far as to destroy all stratigraphical evidence.

Section R-R (PLATE XIV). Section R-R was cut from north to south across the southern building and the granary. The subsoil was brown clay with no stone outcrop. In the centre the section cut obliquely across a slot dug into the natural soil. The slot was two feet wide and ten inches deep and originally contained the sill-beam of a wooden building. Above this and filling the slot was a layer of débris containing pottery of the first and early second century including three fragments of Terra Sigillata (two Drag. 33, one Drag. 27) and pieces of two early jugs. This layer became much thinner at the south end of the trench suggesting that the building had not extended so far. A similar reduction in depth was noted between four and eight feet north of the end of the section. The earliest walls were set in trenches dug into this layer, a slight offset marking the contemporary ground level where the débris had been spread out to form a hard surface. In other trenches patches of burnt material and small areas of paving reddened by fire marked the position of hearths on the floor of this building. A large mass of mortar in the centre of the section could

¹ P. Corder and J. L. Kirk, *Roman Malton and District*, Report No. 4, p. 40, fig. 47.

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not be explained. It was not fallen material and, though of a soft consistency, had been well mixed. Covering this floor was a layer of dark soil mixed with light-coloured clay which had formed a film over the whole area. Among this, patches of decayed thatch and timber occurred at irregular intervals. The layer contained pottery extending up to A.D. 200 and including fragments of second-century Terra Sigillata, a bowl with a reeded rim and six jars or cooking pots. Cutting through this layer at the north end of the section was a pit filled with burnt débris including substantial pieces of timber. It appeared to contain burnt rubbish from the clearance of the site and directly preceded the building represented by the two later walls. No floor level was associated with these walls, between and outside which was a thick layer of fallen masonry representing the collapse of the upper part of the building.

Of the earliest building, represented by the slot of a wooden sill-beam, little can be said. No trace of similar slots was found in the trench running eastward from this section. Nor did the slot discovered extend as far north as G or as far south as Q. Similarly no return was visible in the trenches cut to explore the south-east angle of the granary. It is therefore probable that the slot discovered running obliquely across R marked the eastern side of a timber-framed building of comparatively modest dimensions contemporary with the wooden house.

The next structure was more extensive, covering the whole of this end of the courtyard and measuring 280 feet by 70 feet. Except in the vicinity of the granary only the roughly-pitched stone foundations remained. The lowest course consisted of small cobbles driven into the natural clay. On this lay flat stones set in poor mortar. This masonry filled the foundation-trench up to the ground level. The walls rose on this foundation which showed an irregular offset, sometimes exceeding one foot, but often no more than one or two inches. Above ground the walls, two feet three inches thick, were rubble-built, the roughly dressed stones being set in a hard mortar similar to that used in the earliest masonry of the house. The best preserved part, north of the granary, stood to a height of nearly two feet. This served as the base of a timber-framed building with walls of wattle-and-daub and a thatched roof. Wherever modern ploughing had left the Roman levels intact a film of clay mixed with soil was spread over the whole area. It averaged about one foot in depth and completely sealed the layer of débris contemporary with the building. In the ditch south of the courtyard and in that flanking the east side of the road leading from the entrance a thick layer of darker soil represents the thatch which slid from the roof into the partly filled hollow of the ditch. This stratum was absent in trench P and in the cutting at the east end of the building, proving that it had a continuous gabled roof. No trace of post-holes was found either in the walls or in

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the interior. The building must therefore be restored with wooden sill-beams set on the stone base of the walls. The uprights mortised into these beams would carry the roof-principals for which further support would be provided by a double row of posts, set on stone bases and dividing the interior into three aisles. Endeavours to trace bases were defeated by the extent to which ploughing had disturbed the soil and by outcrops of natural stone which would render deep foundations unnecessary. But in spite of this failure a reconstruction on these lines is imposed by the width of the building (seventy feet), which is too great for a roof without intervening support.

At the west end this building was divided by two walls, which run obliquely across it. The junctions at either end were too badly destroyed to determine whether they were contemporary with the main structure, but the plan would suggest that they were later insertions.

In the area covered by the granary four small hearths were discovered on the floor level of the earlier building. Their existence and the large amount of pottery including many pieces of *Terra Sigillata* show that the southern building was, in part at least, used for human occupation. That it constituted the dwelling of the slaves or labourers, employed on the farm can hardly be doubted, as quarters so extensive would scarcely be allotted to the household servants. The fewer sherds found west of the gate may be explained by modern disturbance or may, perhaps, indicate the appropriation of this area for a barn or cattle-shed.

The small deposit recovered from the lower level of Trench R proves that this extensive timber-framed building was erected early in the second century. The sealed layers associated with it contained much second-century pottery including fragments of *Terra Sigillata* (one Drag. 37, two Drag. 18, one Drag. 27, and one Drag. 33) together with cooking pots and other coarse vessels. In the layer of fallen thatch filling the ditch were further fragments of *Terra Sigillata* extending up to about A.D. 200 (see p. 61). There is no evidence that this building was destroyed by fire and the spread of clay taken in conjunction with the decayed straw in the ditches rather suggests a period of desertion during which it gradually collapsed.

After an interval, which must have lasted many years, the site was cleared, the material being collected and burnt and the larger fragments buried in a hole. A small building measuring thirty-six feet square was erected between the gate and the south-east angle of the courtyard. The four parallel walls running north and south are two feet six inches thick and solidly built of stone set in a hard yellow mortar. The southern angles are marked by large square buttresses projecting two feet. The walls stood to a height of about two feet except on the north side where they had been destroyed by the plough. The existence of sleeper-walls within the building and the height of the floor, which must have

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been raised above the top of the existing masonry, indicate a granary, for which a solid construction would have been necessary.

No stratified deposits were found associated with this granary but the presence of fourth century pottery in the fallen masonry and in the superficial layers, proved that the building was contemporary with the latest phase of the house. It was not destroyed, but gradually fell into decay.

THE COURTYARD

After all the buildings visible in the air-photographs had been explored, it was felt desirable to cut further trial trenches in order to examine the interior of the courtyard. The position of these is shown on the plan (FIG. 8). North-west and west of the house patches of roughly-cobbled pavement were found. The areas were not well defined and the shallow soil offered little hope of a successful excavation. It would appear that the structures had sleeper-walls of timber and cobbled floors and that they formed a series of scattered huts rather than a single building. It may be suggested that they represent the outbuildings and servants' quarters of the house. Similar traces were found further south but the east side of the courtyard was barren, probably on account of recent ploughing. The pottery found in these trenches belongs to the early occupation and none of the buildings would appear to have survived after about A.D. 200.

THE ENCLOSURE

The air-photographs show that the courtyard was bounded by a stone wall and ditch. Several trenches were cut and the ends of the ditch flanking the entrance were completely cleared. Three typical sections are published (PLATE XIV) : others have been drawn and filed for reference.

Section A-A lay north of the house. The surface of the subsoil consisted of brown clay below which was a band of stone over two feet thick. Beneath this the bottom of the V-shaped ditch six feet three inches below the modern surface was cut into a stratum of greenish clay. Two layers could be distinguished in the filling, which was covered by about one foot three inches of soil. Below three feet six inches a dark loosely-packed soil filled the bottom of the ditch. This contained pottery of the first century, including a carinated bowl with cordons. Above three feet six inches the filling was lighter in colour and more compact. The greater part of the pottery in this layer was of first or second century date but pieces of late colour-coated ware occurred at about two feet, above which level late fragments became common. Three silver coins of the fourth century (2 Julian and 1 Valens : p. 65, nos. 13, 14 and 18)

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were found at a depth of three feet six inches. The soil did not appear to have been disturbed and it was uncertain whether they had been deliberately buried. The wall lay twelve feet within the ditch and it was uncertain at what period it had been erected.

Section B-B lay east of the house. The ditch reached only four feet below the modern surface and was cut entirely in a stratum of brown clay. The same two strata were noted in the filling, but the lower was only a few inches thick. Colour-coated wares of the fourth century were found at a depth of over three feet. The wall had entirely disappeared and there was evidence of a considerable slip within the Roman period and of extensive modern denudation.

Section G-G lay near the centre of the east side. The section resembled A-A and calls for no special comment.

PLATE VIII, c shows the end of the ditch on the west side of the gate. Between one foot six inches and two feet six inches the thick dark layer of thatch fallen from the roof of the southern building can be seen. In and immediately below this layer much pottery was found including Terra Sigillata of the second century (PLATE XI). No fragments later than A.D. 200 were included in this deposit and fourth-century wares first occurred in the succeeding stratum. At the bottom of the silt was a fragment of Drag. 15 and other wares of the first and early second century.

One other deposit from the bottom of the ditch must be mentioned. In trench D the silt between four feet six inches and six feet contained Terra Sigillata of the first century (one Drag. 29, two Drag. 18), a rough-cast cup, a red-ware tazza with crinkled rim and early coarse wares. The stratum above contained pottery up to about A.D. 200, including a wall-sided mortarium of Terra Sigillata (Drag. 45).

The deposits in trenches A, D, and west of the gate show that the ditch was dug before A.D. 100 and that a considerable depth of silt had accumulated by the early part of the second century. A few fragments of pottery from other deposits confirm this dating and no wares that need be later than the reign of Trajan were found at this level. The V-shaped ditch implies an original earthen bank and slight traces of one were noted on the south side. The date of the wall was not stratigraphically established but the slight angle between the southern building and the adjacent stretches of wall suggest that the latter are of more recent date. The only other evidence is the presence of patches of green clay in the filling under the later floors of the house. This type of clay was only found at the bottom of the ditch on the north and west. It did not occur in the well. Presumably the clay dug from the ditch was first used to form a bank and was moved from this position to the house only when the earlier

ROMAN VILLA AT DITCHLEY, OXON.

bank was levelled. It is reasonable to connect this levelling with the erection of the courtyard wall and if this deduction be accepted the wall must be contemporary with the fourth century rebuilding of the house.

THE GATE

The entrance to the courtyard lay in the centre of the south side, where the ditch was interrupted by a causeway, fifty feet wide. There was no trace of post-holes belonging to a gate, but these may well have been covered by the foundation of the later wall. Subsequently the entrance was improved by two ditches running down hill on either side of the road. These were designed to carry off the water which accumulated in the main ditch and also to drain the interior of the courtyard. The necessity for some such provision was proved by the wet weather in September 1935, when small springs broke at many points within the courtyard and water stood in the ditch, where it had been excavated, to a depth of more than four feet. The ends of the main ditch were cleared on each side of the entrance and the adjacent stretch of the eastern flanking ditch was also excavated. The former dated from before A.D. 100 but the latter was only dug in the early second century. The lowest filling contained Terra Sigillata (one Drag. 37 of Trajan-Hadrian date, one Drag. 18 and one Drag. 35/6), a white flanged bowl (*cf.* Collingwood, type 33), a fragment of rustic ware, a small black bowl (*cf.* Collingwood, type 63) and other early wares. The reconstruction of the entrance may therefore be considered as part of the work carried out when the great southern building was erected in the early years of the second century. The western flanking ditch began in the angle of the earlier ditch surrounding the courtyard. It is V-shaped and only four feet deep, indicating the level to which the silt had accumulated at this date. The eastern ditch was designed to drain the interior of the courtyard. It was followed to within eight feet of the southern wall. Its end was not reached in this direction but the aerial photographs do not suggest any considerable extension. The V-shaped ditch four feet deep, had been dug at right angles to the line of the enclosure and was separated from the earlier ditch by a space of four feet. This was cut through, linking the two by a channel of the same depth as the later ditch, the width of the entrance being reduced to forty feet.

The two flanking ditches were carried down hill, becoming gradually shallower. In trench S, seventy feet away from the gate, they appeared as round-bottomed channels, four feet wide and two feet three inches deep. Beyond this the aerial photograph showed them extending for a further 120 feet. Between these ditches the area within and immediately outside the gate was covered with a thick layer of small stones. Part at least of this was deposited

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in the fourth century, but there is no reason to doubt that this rough roadway belonged to the original plan, although its irregular character prevented any separation of the strata.

THE FIELD-SYSTEM

The enclosure and the buildings within do not exhaust the interest of the aerial photographs (PLATES III and IV). On the south and east side dark lines appear enclosing rectangular areas. It was thought that these represented ditches enclosing the fields but trial trenches proved that this was not so. In the positions indicated by the aerial photographs there were wide accumulations of deeper soil. These can only represent the bases of earlier hedges not yet fully dispersed by ploughing. Both their layout and the discovery of numerous fragments of Roman pottery suggest a Roman date. The two enclosures together covered about four acres, and this area is obviously inadequate for the corn land belonging to the villa. Occasionally patches of darker colour on the aerial photograph suggest an alternative explanation. The stiff clay subsoil is unfavourable for growing fruit trees and it would probably be necessary to dig holes and fill them with richer soil. None of these patches were found and they would leave but slight traces on the growth of the modern crop.

The enclosures already explained as orchards form the only trace of the fields at Ditchley. Nor are enclosures shown on the aerial photographs of the other Roman villas in this district. On none of Major Allen's aerial photographs is there any indication of a field-system either 'Celtic' or of some other type. But the existence of so many villas in the corn-bearing district of north-west Oxfordshire must be connected with an agricultural exploitation of the land, which is borne out by the granary uncovered at Ditchley. In view of the historical evidence that Britain was exporting corn in the fourth century, it is unlikely that land as well situated for tillage would have been entirely pastoral.

The small Celtic fields with their well-marked outline and prominent lynchets could hardly have failed to appear in some of the aerial photographs and the negative evidence of the series cannot be neglected. The remains of heavy ploughs found at Witcombe Villa,¹ Silchester² and elsewhere point to a different type of field, the long-strip lynchet. If the strips run up and down the slope, this system leaves few accumulations of soil and its presence can hardly be detected by aerial photography. At Housesteads this method of cultivation was introduced during the Roman period replacing an early 'Celtic' field-

¹ *Antiquity*, IX, 339.

² *Antiquaries Journal*, XIII, 455.

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system.¹ In that case the stones, cleared from the surface and stacked on the baulks separating the strips, alone give the clue to the existence of this type of field. The more common strip-lynchet running along the slope would leave a series of terraces easily visible from the air, as at Housesteads, where this system overlies the two types of cultivation already mentioned.

It must be admitted that the direct evidence for connecting this type of cultivation with the Roman villa-system is scanty. But an examination of the early Welsh Laws provides further support for this hypothesis. In these it is clearly shown that the normal type of cultivation was in long strips with a heavy plough drawn by a team of several beasts.² Although the texts are later it is clear that they represent the state of affairs when the law was codified under Hywel Dda at the beginning of the tenth century. We know that a system of 'Celtic' fields was normal in north-west Wales during the Roman period³ but there is little trace of its survival into the subsequent Dark Ages. The change may be correlated with the desertion of the circular dwellings (*cyttiau'r Gwyddelod*) and the history of the district points to a connexion between this change and the establishment of the house of Cunedda during the fifth century. If this be admitted, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the introduction of strip cultivation was a legacy from Roman civilization. A Saxon origin is unlikely both on account of the differences between the two types of strip-lynchets and in view of the lack of contact between the Saxon and Celt during the earlier part of the Dark Ages. Such a transmission of agricultural practice is hardly conceivable before the ninth century, when Saxon models began to influence the Welsh crosses. But an introduction of strip-cultivation at this date would not account for its wide adoption as early as the time of Hywel Dda. In Ireland the only evidence, that of the recently discovered plough-share from the crannog at Ballinderry, also points to an adoption of the heavy plough and therefore of strip-cultivation before A.D. 1000.⁴

A change such as this in the method of farming would explain the agricultural wealth of Roman Britain in the fourth century. While the light plough of the Britons was suitable for the cultivation of the poorer uplands, the introduction of the heavier implements facilitated the clearance and exploitation of the richer lands. At the same time the political stability and ease of communication established by the *pax romana* would contribute to the more ample production and diffusion of the better implements required.

¹ *Antiquity*, v, 351.

² J. E. Lloyd, *History of Wales*, I, 295.

³ *Antiquaries Journal*, xvi, 295. See also *Introduction* to the forthcoming volume on Anglesey to be published by the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments in Wales.

⁴ *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, XLIII, 139.

The remains at Ditchley also throw some light on the extent of this villa. The granary belonging to the latest settlement has a floor space thirty-six feet square. This may be compared with the areas of the granaries uncovered in Roman forts.¹ It is approximately equal to the space allowed for the storage of a year's supply for a detachment of 500 men or in round figures 190 tons. The military granary represents a fixed allowance for a given period and would be built to accommodate this amount and no more but it cannot be assumed that the building belonging to a villa would be designed to hold only a normal crop and leave no space for the additional yield of good seasons. We should therefore reduce this figure by at least one-third in calculating the normal crop to be stored. Taking Steffen's figure of 395 lbs. avoirdupois for the medieval quarter, the reduced figure, 125 tons, equals 700 quarters. From the figures published by Sir William Beveridge² it would appear that a normal yield per acre for the period 1200-1450 was about 1.3 quarters. The same records show a four-fold return on the seed sown and this may be taken as a normal yield in view of Walter of Henley's dictum that a profitable wheat crop must produce at least threefold.³ There is no reason to assume that the yield in medieval England was substantially less than in Roman Britain and a harvest of 700 quarters would imply a cultivated area of 540 acres. Actually the area must be much larger since the absence in the last lay-out of agricultural buildings or dwellings for the labourers can only be explained by the assumption that the actual cultivation was carried out by tenants living on separate holdings and rendering their rent in kind. If the grain required for seed and that for support of the tenants and their dependants be added the area of cultivated land can have been little less than 1,000 acres. There are many possible sources of error in this argument but I have tried to calculate on a conservative basis and the resulting acreage is more probably too low than too high. We know nothing of the rotation of crops practised in this province and this might account for a large increase in the area belonging to the villa. In estimating that figure we must also include the pasture and other lands necessary to the separate farms. The villa then emerges as a considerable estate of some thousand acres, with several holdings not necessarily contiguous.

¹ *Cumb. and Westm. Antiq. and Arch. Soc. Trans.*, N.S. xx (1920), 127 ff. : *ibid.* xxviii (1928), 329 n.

² *Economic Journal*, May 1927. The calculations do not make any allowance for tithe and I have corrected the figure. Cf. Lennard in *Economic History*, February 1936.

³ *Le Dite de Hosbondrie*, edited by E. Lamond, p. 18.

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THE FINDS¹

SMALL OBJECTS OF METAL, BONE, ETC.

With the exception of the bronze terret and of a few brooches the small objects discovered are of little intrinsic interest. The terret and the more important brooches are illustrated, together with a selection of other articles.

Terret. PLATE X. FIG. 10

Bronze lipped terret with ornament chased in relief and inset with red enamel. The terret belongs to class 3 in the system of Mr. E. T. Leeds.² The relatively large size of the lips in relation to the diameter of the ring shows that this example belongs to the most

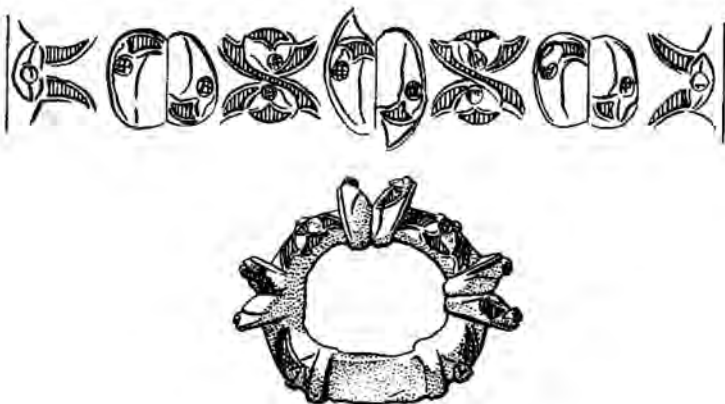


FIG. 10

BRONZE TERRET FROM THE ROMAN VILLA AT DITCHLEY, OXON.

side-view, and development of the ornament.

From a drawing by Miss C. M. Legge, scale, $\frac{1}{2}$.

flourishing period of this type. Degenerate examples with small lips occur in the second century at Newstead and Stanwick, but the terret from Ditchley may be compared with those from Bawdrip and the Polden Hills, which must belong to the first century A.D. The lipped terret is characteristic of the western artificers. House, room 7, burnt fill.

Brooches. PLATE IX

1. Bronze brooch with trumpet head, loop and stud on bow. Collingwood, Group R. First half of second century A.D. Trench N, unstratified.

¹ The following abbreviations are used throughout the ensuing catalogue :—

Collingwood = R. G. Collingwood, *The Archaeology of Roman Britain*, chh. xiv ff.

Richborough = *Research Reports of the Society of Antiquaries*, vi, vii, x (Richborough 1, ii, and iii respectively).

² E. T. Leeds, *Celtic Ornament in the British Isles down to A.D. 700*, pp. 119 ff.

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2. Bronze brooch with flat bow and knobbed head, the latter ornamented with projections holding studs of blue enamel. Cylindrical spring-cover and moulded foot. An uncommon form, which should probably be ascribed to the late first or second century A.D. Ditch on west side of entrance, one foot six inches (fallen thatch).
3. Bronze P-shaped brooch, the knick on the bow marked by a bold moulding. Collingwood, Group T. A Continental type of which a few specimens reached Britain in the middle of the first century A.D. Cf. *Richborough* III, 77, pl. IX, 7, found in a deposit of A.D. 50-120. Forecourt, débris of first stone house.
4. Flat brooch of bronze shaped like a human foot and filled with blue enamel. House, room 7, burnt fill.
5. Bronze brooch with moulded bow and cylindrical spring-cover. Collingwood, Group H. Late first or early second century A.D. Forecourt, on natural clay.
6. Bronze brooch with plain bow, wings covering spring, and pierced catch-plate. Collingwood, Group H. Late first or early second century A.D. Threshing-floor, unstratified.
7. Bronze brooch with moulded bow, cylindrical spring-cover and solid catch-plate. Collingwood, Group E. First century A.D. Well, five feet six inches, in packing at side.
8. Bronze brooch with plain bow and cylindrical spring-cover. Collingwood, Group H. First century and up to A.D. 150. Trench G, unstratified. Three other variants of this type were found—in trench Q, unstratified, beside the threshing-floor, unstratified, and in trench G, unstratified.
9. Bronze bow brooch with cylindrical spring-cover. A variant of the last. House, room 1, burnt fill.
10. Fragmentary bronze brooch of the Hod Hill type. Collingwood, Group P. Cf. *Richborough*, III, 77. The type is Continental and mainly Claudian. It does not survive beyond the reign of Vespasian and only strays occur so late. Trench G, unstratified.
11. Simple brooch of coiled wire with flattened bow. Collingwood, Group A. Cf. *Richborough*, II, 40. First century A.D. Forecourt, on natural clay. Another brooch of this type was found in the surface soil south of the east wing of the house.
12. Bronze brooch with heavy, ribbed bow and moulded foot. The form may be compared with the head-stud type but the characteristic features are less pronounced. Collingwood, Group Q. Second century A.D. Well, eight feet.
13. Bronze brooch with segmented strip-bow. Collingwood, Group K. This type tends to die out by the Flavian period. Trench R, under débris of north wall of south building. Another brooch of this type was found near the well.

Bronze Toilet-Instruments. PLATE X

14. Bronze pin. Trench B, unstratified.
15. Bronze pin. Débris on south side of latest house.
16. Ring-headed pin of bronze. Trench Q, unstratified.
17. Bronze pin. Well, three feet six inches.

PLATE IX



BRONZE BROOCHES FROM THE ROMAN VILLA AT DITCHLEY, OXON. (pp. 55-6). Scale, $\frac{1}{4}$.



A

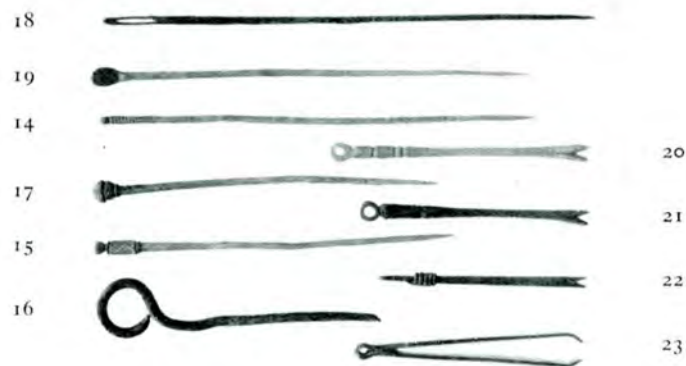


B

A, B. Side and end views of the bronze torquet decorated with red enamel (p. 55). Scale, $\frac{1}{4}$.

From 'Victoria County History of Oxfordshire,' vol. 1, by courtesy of the Editor.

SMALL OBJECTS FROM THE ROMAN VILLA AT DITCHLEY, OXON.



C. Bronze toilet instruments (p. 56). Scale, $\frac{1}{2}$.

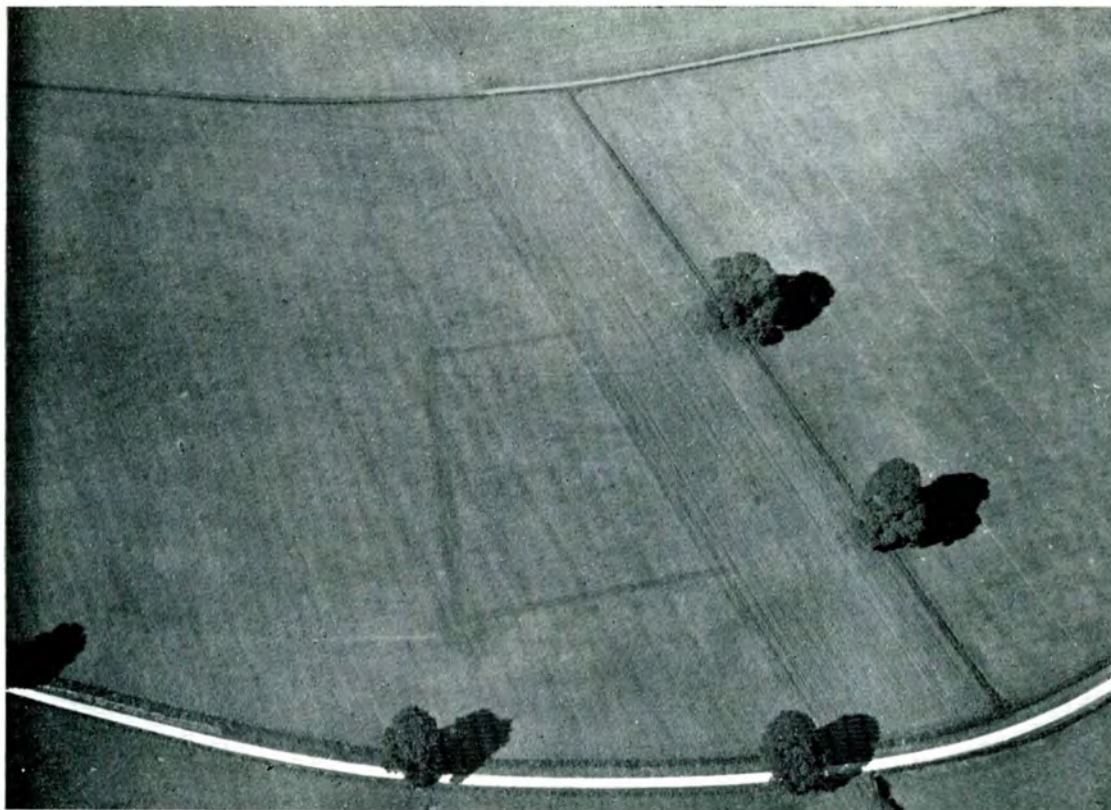


D. Iron objects (p. 57). Scale, $\frac{1}{2}$.

PLATE XI



FRAGMENTS OF TERRA SIGILLATA FROM THE ROMAN
VILLA AT DITCHLEY, OXON. (p. 61). Scale, $\frac{3}{4}$.



AIR-VIEW, LOOKING EASTWARDS, OF A RECTANGULAR DITCHED ENCLOSURE
ON OATLANDS FARM, FAWLER, OXON.

probably the site of a Roman Villa like that at Ditchley, Oxon. The non-appearance of the southern half of the enclosure is due to a difference in the crops.

Ph. Major G. W. G. Allen.

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18. Bronze needle. House, room 2, débris on latest floor.
19. Small bronze spoon. Trench B, unstratified.
20. Bronze nail-cleaner with loop for suspension. House, room 7, burnt fill.
21. Bronze nail-cleaner with loop for suspension. North-west corner of courtyard, unstratified.
22. Bronze nail-cleaner with loop for suspension. Débris outside north wall of first stone house.
23. Bronze tweezers. North-west corner of courtyard, unstratified.

Iron. PLATE X

35. Iron shears, twisted and incomplete. Débris outside north wall of last house.
36. Iron spear-head with split socket. The light weight suggests a hunting spear rather than a weapon. North side of courtyard, unstratified.
37. Iron clamp. Trench M, unstratified.
38. Imperfect iron key. Trench K, north of house, unstratified.
39. Iron key. Found with last.
40. Iron link with loop at each end. Over ditch on west side of entrance.
41. Iron ring. Under débris outside south wall of last house.
42. Iron ring. Entrance, unstratified.
43. Small iron tripod, the centre pierced to carry an upright. Débris outside west wall of last house.

Bone, Glass, etc.

44. Melon bead of blue vitreous paste. House, room B, débris over last floor.
45. Green glass bead. Ditch on west side of entrance, one foot six inches (fallen thatch).
46. Bronze bead. House, room 7, burnt fill.
47. Flint scraper of neolithic type. Surface. Watts Wells and the neighbouring fields have yielded many implements of neolithic type¹ and several were found during the excavations.
48. Rudely-worked flint arrowhead. Trench M, unstratified.
49. Bone pin. Ditch on west side of entrance, one foot eleven inches (fallen thatch).
50. Bone needle. Ditch on west side of entrance, two feet two inches (fallen thatch).
51. Bone counter.
52. Black glass counter. Ditch on west side of entrance, three feet three inches to four feet.
53. Ornamented knife-handle of bone with iron rivets for attachment of tang. Surface over well.
54. Burnt bone palette stained by contact with bronze and iron. West verandah, fill.

POTTER'S STAMP ON COARSE WARE

DOINV within a zig-zag border on a mortarium like Wroxeter, type 38 (A.D. 80-110). The same stamp has been found on this type at Wroxeter itself, see Wroxeter III, p. 60, no. 49; and the stamp has also turned up in London, *CIL*, vii, 74, and *B.M. Cat Rom. Pottery*, p. 435, M2829-30.

¹ Cf. *Journal of the Ethnological Society*, n.s. I (1868-9), 4.

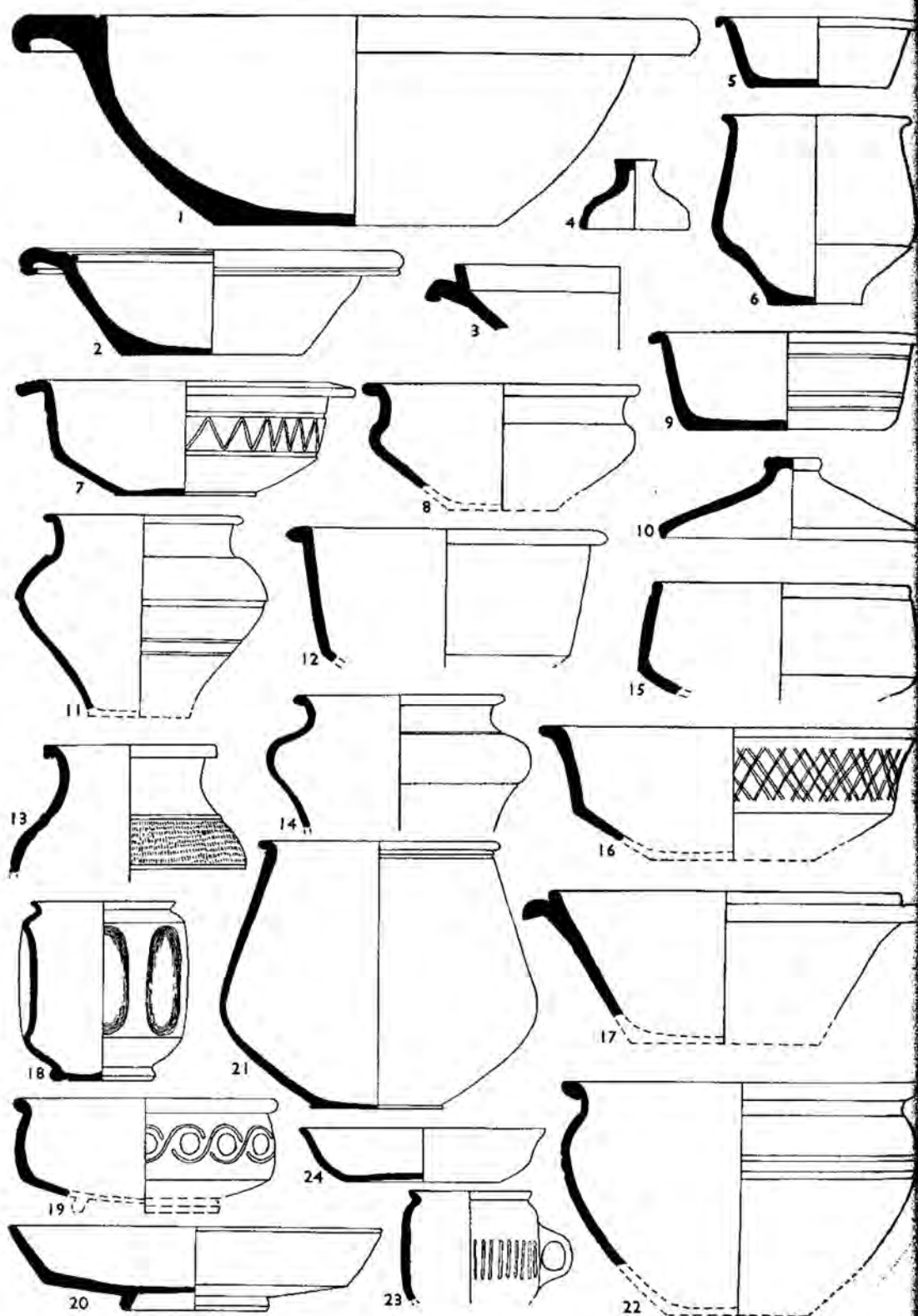


FIG. 11
COARSE POTTERY FROM THE ROMAN VILLA AT DITCHLEY, OXON. Scale, $\frac{1}{4}$.

ROMAN VILLA AT DITCHLEY, OXON.

COARSE POTTERY. FIG. II

The dating of coarse pottery in the south Midland region has not been extensively studied and the few stratified deposits at Ditchley provide little evidence for the chronology of the local wares. The illustrations in this report include only those types of which it was possible to reconstruct the whole or the major part of the profile.

The pottery included most of the wares common in southern Britain in the early and late periods of the Roman occupation but those of the third century were not represented. Only one fragment of a hunt cup and two other pieces of Castor ware occurred. The bulbous beaker with a high neck and small foot, characteristic of late third-century deposits at Richborough and elsewhere, was entirely lacking and ware with a lustrous metallic finish was represented only by two or three scraps.

1. Mortarium. Hard pinkish buff ware. Rough surface, the interior studded with grit. Cf. Richborough, type 356. First century A.D. Verandah on east side of forecourt in a pocket on natural clay.
2. Mortarium. Hard white ware, the interior studded with grit. Cf. Wroxeter (1912), mortarium type 18.¹ Late first century A.D. Ditch on west side of entrance, two feet six inches to three feet three inches (below fallen thatch).
3. Mortarium. Ware as last. Cf. Collingwood, type 12. Occurs rarely before A.D. 200 and becomes the standard type in the third and fourth centuries. Courtyard ditch, trench G, east, two feet.
4. Small lid. Hard red ware. House, room 7, fill.
5. Pie-dish with flat narrow undercut rim and conical sides. Hard grey ware with darker surface. This is the normal coarse ware at Ditchley in first and second century deposits. Cf. Collingwood, type 45. Second century A.D. House, room D, fill.
6. Bag-beaker with wide mouth and small foot. Ware as last. For form, cf. Richborough, type 302. A.D. 90-140. The shape is also common in Castor and other wares of the second and third centuries. House, room F, fill.
7. Carinated bowl with down-turned rim and scored chevrons on side. Ware as last. Cf. Collingwood, type 18 and Richborough, type 80. The type belongs to the first century A.D., but lasts into the reign of Hadrian. Ditch on east side of entrance, one foot to one foot six inches (fallen thatch).
8. Bowl with wide mouth and upright neck. Ware as last. Cf. Richborough, types 223 and 224. Flavian-Trajan. Courtyard ditch, trench D, silt.
9. Pie-dish similar to no. 5. Ware as last. Ditch on west side of entrance, four inches to one foot three inches (above or in top of fallen thatch).
10. Lid. Ware as last. Cf. Richborough, type 92. Probably early. Ditch on east side of entrance, one foot six inches to two feet (fallen thatch).
11. Tall beaker with upright neck and grooves on body. Ware as last. Cf. Alchester (1927), types 46 and 47.² Domitian-Trajan. House, room D, fill.

¹ *Research Reports of the Society of Antiquaries*, 1, 77, fig. 19.

² *Antiquaries Journal*, ix, 129.

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12. Bowl with heavy moulded rim and slight carination at base. Soft fine friable grey ware. Cf. Collingwood, type 24. Second century A.D. Ditch on west side of entrance, four feet six inches to five feet three inches (silt).
13. Tall beaker with cordon on shoulder and stabbed ornament on body. Hard grey ware with polished surface. Cf. Richborough, type 271, A.D. 80-120 and Alchester (1927), type 40.¹ House, verandah in front of west wing, mortar droppings under fill.
14. Squat beaker with wide mouth and girth grooves. Ware as last, but with black surface. Cf. Richborough, type 16. Claudian. House, verandah between wings, fill.
15. Carinated bowl with bead rim. Hard coarse grey ware with black surface. This is the normal coarse ware in the late deposits at Ditchley. Trench H, midway between house and north wall of courtyard, one foot six inches deep.
16. Carinated bowl with flat rim and scored lattice-pattern on side. Ware as last. Cf. Collingwood, type 21. Fallen debris from latest house, outside north wall. Another bowl of this type was found on the latest floor of room C and a third in the top three feet six inches of the filling of the well. All these are deposits contemporary with or later than the final occupation and show that the type dates from the fourth century and later.
17. Flanged bowl with conical side. Ware as last. Cf. Richborough, type 121, fourth century A.D., and Sandford, type 59.² Well, six feet to nine feet in centre of filling.
18. Upright beaker with pinched-in sides. Soft, friable ware, red inside but fumed black on exterior. Cf. Collingwood, type 78. This is an early form of this beaker and should belong to the second century A.D. Ditch on east side of entrance, one foot eight inches to two feet (fallen thatch).
19. Carinated bowl with decoration in white paint. Fine red ware with red colour-coating. Cf. Richborough, type 113. Mid-fourth century A.D. Forecourt.
20. Flat open bowl with high foot-ring. Soft red ware. This fabric is common in the last deposits at Ditchley. Cf. Sandford, type 6.³ This is an imitation of the well-known Samian form, Drag. 31. Well, three feet to six feet.
21. Large bag-beaker. Ware as last. Cf. Collingwood, type 77. The vessel from Ditchley is late in the series. Ditch on west side of entrance, four inches to one foot three inches (above fallen thatch).
22. Large bowl with wide mouth and grooves on body. Ware as last. Cf. Sandford, type 52.⁴ Well, six feet to nine feet.
23. Small, handled cup with scored decoration on side. Ware as no. 15. House, room D, fill.
24. Shallow plate. Soft grey ware. Courtyard ditch, trench M, two feet (fallen thatch).

¹ *Antiquaries Journal*, IX, 125.

² *Archaeologia*, LXXII, 241.

³ *Ibid.*, 228.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 241.

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POTTERS' STAMPS ON TERRA SIGILLATA

1. ALBVG I on 33. Albucius of Lezoux. Trajan-Antonine. House, room G, burnt fill.
 2. OFAPRO on 27. Apronius of Montans. Domitian. Ditch on west side of entrance, three feet three inches to four feet.
 3. AVNIM on 33. The glaze and form suggest a vessel of second century date. Aunus of Lezoux. Forecourt, fill below ground level of late house.
 4. —/MINIM on 33. Thick coarse vessel with orange glaze. Probably Geminus II of Lezoux. Hadrian-Late Antonine. Courtyard ditch, trench N, three feet ten inches.
 5. LVPPAF on 33. Luppa of Lezoux. Trajan-Hadrian. Ditch on west side of entrance, two feet (fallen thatch).
 6. OF MON/— on 27. Montanus I of La Graufesenque. Claudius-Vespasian. Débris outside north wall of south building.
 7. PATRICIV/— on 33. Poor glaze of orange shade. Patricius II of Lezoux. Trajan-Antonine. Ditch on east side of entrance, two feet to two feet six inches.
- Five other incomplete stamps were found:— —/RVCI/— on 31, —/ACVNAF on 33, —/IINIBINIM on 18/31, —/ONISCF on 33 and —/VINI on 18/31.

TERRA SIGILLATA

By T. DAVIES PRYCE

The Terra Sigillata included many decorated fragments covering the period from A.D. 65 to 180. Of those illustrated, nos. 1 and 3 are certainly and no. 2 is possibly associated with the early wooden house. The remainder belong to a group found in the layer of fallen thatch filling the ditch west of the entrance.

1. Form 29. Upper frieze: Festoon decoration. Large demarcating beads. Flavian, *circa* A.D. 80. House, room 7, under mortar droppings.
2. Form 37. The small compressed beads are characteristic of the first third of the second century. The repeated oval or ring ornament occurs frequently in the Trajanic period, as an ovolo or a vertical or horizontal *motif* (*cf. Journ. Roman Studies*, xxv, pls. xv, 2, IOENALIS; xvi, 3; xviii, 2). As upright or horizontal *motifs*, they are occasionally met with in the Hadrianic period. The piece is Trajan-Hadrianic, *circa* A.D. 100-120. House, forecourt on natural clay.
3. Form 29. Lower frieze: Palmate leaf of early type, especially characteristic of pre-Flavian period (*cf. Knorr, Terra Sigillata* (1919), 77, SENICIO FE, Sels; 56, MELVS FE; *Richborough* III, pl. xxii, 1, SENICIO FE). Although the Ditchley leaf is somewhat later than the above-quoted examples, it is certainly of a pre-Flavian rather than Flavian type. The period is probably A.D. 65-70. House, room 1, under mortar droppings.
4. Form 37. Ovolo characteristic of the Antonine period, as also the rows of large beads. In a panel, a Warrior (Déchelette 103, Oswald 177) which occurs in the work of the potters ALBVCI and DORCCVS who were chiefly active in the Antonine age. *Circa* A.D. 160. Compare with the Ditchley figure 13. Ditch west of entrance, one foot six inches to two feet three inches (fallen thatch).

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5. Form 37. Cupid (Déchelette 270), as used by LIBERTVS, who worked chiefly in the Trajanic period. Trajan-Hadrian. Same position as no. 4.
6. Form 37. Ovolò with swollen tongue-terminal bordered below by a sharply-defined wavy line. In panel, demarcated by medium-sized beads, a figure advancing to left. Trajan-Hadrian. Same position as no. 4.
7. Form 37. Ovolò with swollen tongue-terminal, bordered by a wavy line. Compare with no. 6. Trajan-Hadrian. Same position as no. 4.
8. Form 37. Ovolò with swollen tongue-terminal. Panel decoration, demarcated with rows of large beads. In one panel, the head of a lion or panther (*cf.* Déchelette 805, ALBVCIVS, CINNAMVS). Garland-festoons, reminiscent of earlier work. Hadrian-Antonine. Same position as no. 4.
9. Form 37. Single bordered ovolò with twisted tongue and terminal rosette, demarcated below by small, well-spaced beads. Seven-beaded rosettes in the field. All these features are highly characteristic of the Trajanic period (*cf.* *Journ. Roman Studies* xxv, pls. xvi, 2, xvii, 1, 2, 6, xviii, 3, for beaded rosettes; xvii, 3, 6, for ovolò; xvii, 6, xviii, 3, for small, well-spaced beads). Although some of these *motifs* occasionally occur in Hadrianic association, it is highly probable that the vessel is of the Trajanic period. Same position as no. 4.
10. Form 37. Ovolò with single border, twisted tongue and terminal rosette, bordered above and below by rows of small, compressed beads. Compressed beads of this type are characteristic of the first third of the second century (*cf.* *Journ. Roman Studies* xxv, pl. xix, 6). Seven-beaded rosette in the field. Warrior (Déchelette 131, Oswald 197), classed as Hadrianic by Oswald. Trajan-Hadrian. Same position as no. 4.
11. Form 37. Panel decoration, demarcated by wavy lines. Part of a human figure standing above an acanthus-leaf. The latter is a frequent feature on sigillata of the first third of the second century A.D. Trajan-Hadrian. Same position as no. 4.
12. Form 37. Free-style decoration, bordered above by a sharp wavy line. Panther (Déchelette 798, SECVNDIVS, CINNAMVS). Compare also Déchelette 799. Bear (Déchelette 809, BVTRIO). Hadrian-Antonine. Same position as no. 4.
13. Form 37. The ovolò, rows of large beads and figure-subjects are all characteristic of the Antonine period. In the panels are depicted a series of warriors, one of which (Déchelette 103) is similar to that on no. 4. Antonine, *circa.* A.D. 160. Same position as no. 4.

THE GLASS. FIG. 12

By D. B. HARDEN

A considerable quantity of glass was found, but unfortunately there were only six specimens which were worth listing in detail and illustrating, and only two of these were restorable, the shallow bowl, G.1, and the beaker, G.2, the metal of both of which is colourless with a green tinge and fine in quality. Indeed, the frequency of finer wares on the site was particularly noticeable. Apart from the examples illustrated, smaller fragments of bowls and beakers of colourless or almost colourless metal, often with wheel-cut

ROMAN VILLA AT DITCHLEY, OXON.

or trailed-thread decoration, were common, especially among the débris of the pre-Constantinian house. In regard to date, the great majority of this 'colourless' glass must, by all analogy of dating, belong to the second and third centuries A.D. The shallow bowl (G.1), which is undoubtedly an import from Alexandrian glass-houses, certainly does: it can be paralleled exactly by finds at Karanis in Egypt, and others in various provinces of the Empire,¹ and is, indeed, more likely to belong to the second rather than to the third century. The same might be said of the other 'colourless' fragments, many of which must, like G.1, be ascribed to Alexandrian glass-houses: colourless cut glass was not made, apparently, before the second century A.D., and, of the fragments

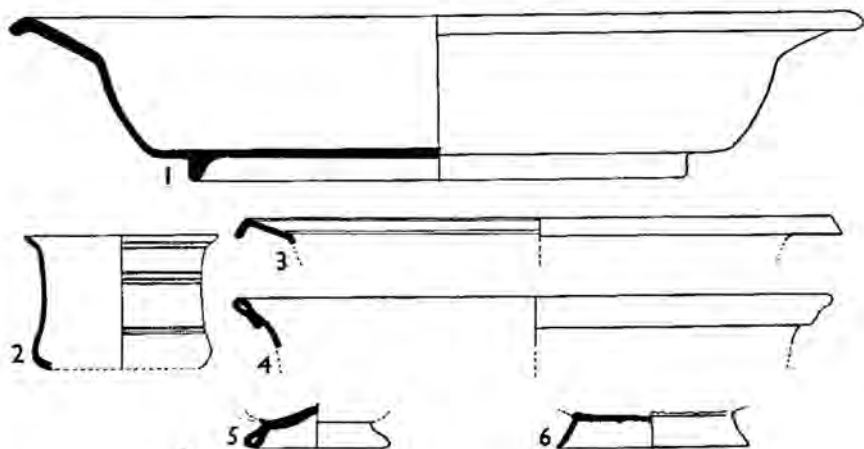


FIG. 12

GLASS VESSELS FROM THE ROMAN VILLA AT DITCHLEY, OXON.

Scale, $\frac{1}{2}$.

found at Ditchley none appears to be of the late greenish-colourless cut glass current in the fourth century.

Of other fine wares, there occurred the opaque red fragment (G.3), and a fragment of a pillar-moulded bowl of mottled blue and white millefiori glass. Both of these are first century fabrics. The opaque red piece was found among the pre-Constantinian débris in Room 7, a fact which suggests that here it must have been in use during the second rather than the first century: the other fragment was unstratified.

On the other hand commoner wares, though still, of course, in the majority, were not found in such quantity as one might have expected. Among the fragments of ordinary green and bluish-green glass few definite shapes could be recognized, much less restored on paper, and they call for no comment here. Window-glass fragments, however, of this metal were not uncommon: fragments of at least five panes were found in the

¹ The type and its connexions are discussed by Harden, *Roman Glass from Karanis*, *Univ. of Mich. Studies, Humanistic Series*, vol. xli, pp. 65-6 and 83, nos. 166-8, pl. xii.

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pre-Constantinian debris in Room 7. Presumably therefore the first stone house had glazed windows: definite evidence of glazing in the second stone house was not found, though in all probability some of the unstratified fragments of window-glass belonged to it.

Of other colours, dark (cobalt) blue was very rare, only one fragment of a flask being recorded and that in an unstratified position, and the only other fragments of note were the bowl-base (G.6) of olive green glass, and the bowl-rim (G.4) of greenish glass, both of which were found in the filling of the southern ditch, east of the gateway. Their metal and technique suggest a fourth century date,¹ and as they were found high up in the fill, their find-spot does not contradict this.

- G.1. Fragmentary shallow bowl, colourless with green tinge: no decoration; mould-pressed and polished. H. $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches. D. $13\frac{5}{8}$ inches. Room 7, debris of pre-Constantinian house. Second century A.D.

cf. Harden, *Roman Glass from Karanis*, pp. 65-6 and 83, nos. 166-8, pl. xii.

- G.2. Fragmentary beaker, colourless with green tinge: horizontal bands of wheel-cuts in groups, two, three, and two respectively; free-blown. H. $2\frac{1}{16}$ inches. D. 3 inches. Fill of southern ditch, E. of gateway, one foot six inches to two feet three inches. Second-third century A.D.

cf. Harden, *op. cit.*, pp. 134 and 146, nos. 383 ff., pl. xv.

- G.3. Fragment of rim of bowl, red opaque glass, much decayed; no decoration; press-moulded and polished. H. uncertain, but probably quite shallow. D. $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Room 7, debris of pre-Constantinian house. First-second century A.D.

For the shape *cf.* Harden, *op. cit.*, pp. 49-50 and 60, no. 73, pl. xi. The ware is a typical first-century variety, *cf.* *Mitt. d. Altertums-Komm. für Westfalen*, v, 371, fig. 16.

- G.4. Fragment of rim of dish, greenish: no decoration; free-blown, with rim folded outwards. Fill of southern ditch, E. of gateway, one foot six inches to two feet three inches. Third-fourth century A.D.?

For the type and its date *cf.* Harden, *op. cit.*, pp. 63 ff. and 70, no. 83, pl. xii.

- G.5. Base of bowl, colourless with greenish tinge: raised dot and circle on under side; free-blown. The base has had its edges nipped off evenly after fracture in order to be re-used as a dish or tray. H. $\frac{3}{8}$ inch. D. 3 inches. Room 7, debris of pre-Constantinian house. Second century A.D.

For similar examples of bowl bases nipped off and re-used after fracture *cf.* Harden, *op. cit.*, p. 85, nos. 176-7, pl. xii.

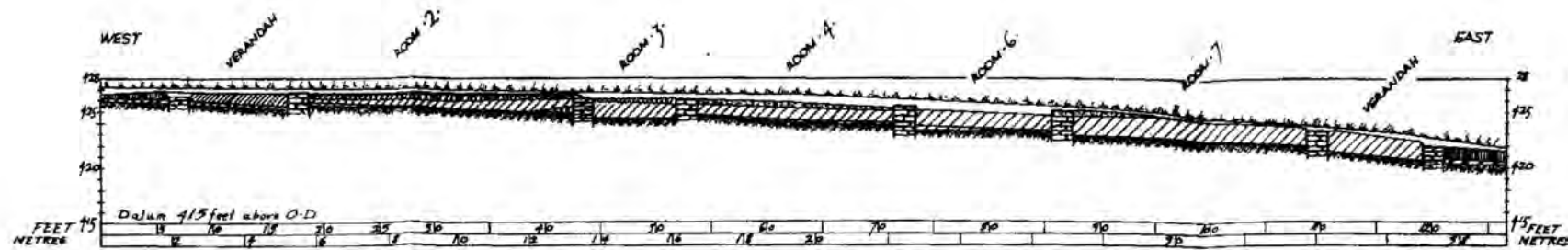
- G.6. Base of bowl or flask, olive green: no decoration; free-blown with pushed-in base ring. D. $2\frac{3}{16}$ inches. Fill of southern ditch, E. of gateway, one foot six inches to two feet three inches. Third-fourth century A.D.?

For similar pushed-in base-rings on late bowls and flasks *cf.* Harden, *op. cit.*, p. 109, no. 245, pl. xiv, and p. 207, nos. 589-92, pl. xviii.

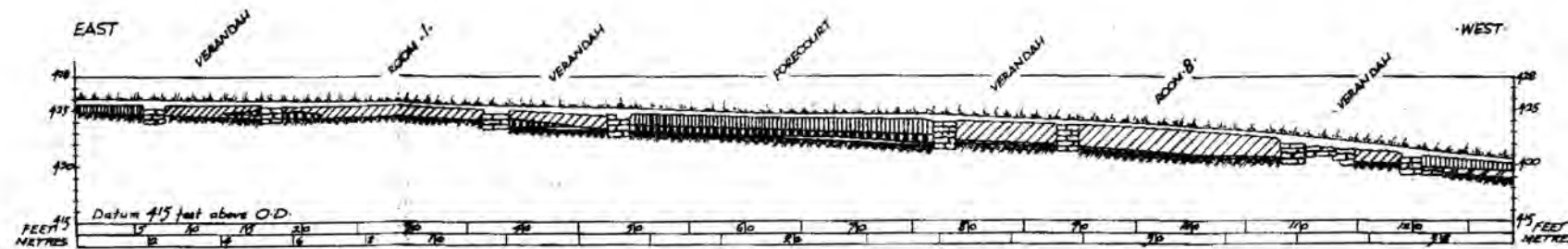
¹ The metal of the bowl-base is akin to Karanis, fabric 5, and that of the bowl-rim to Karanis, fabric 3, *cf.* Harden, *op. cit.*, pp. 22-3: for the types *cf.* *op. cit.*, p. 109, no. 245, pl. xiv and p. 70, no. 83, pl. xii respectively.

- SURFACE OF GROUND
- WALL
- PAVEMENT
- STONE PITCHING
- MORTAR
- FILL
- LATE DEBRIS
- EARLY DEBRIS
- GRAVE
- STONE SPREAD
- NATURAL SOIL

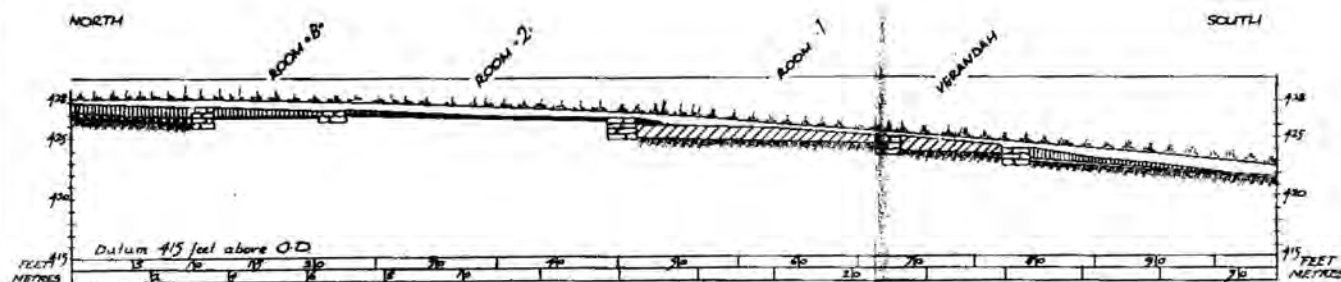
• SCALE - Cross-Sections on this sheet are plotted to a scale of $\frac{1}{8}$ inch = 8 feet or 1:64 to one inch or 1:64 to one metre



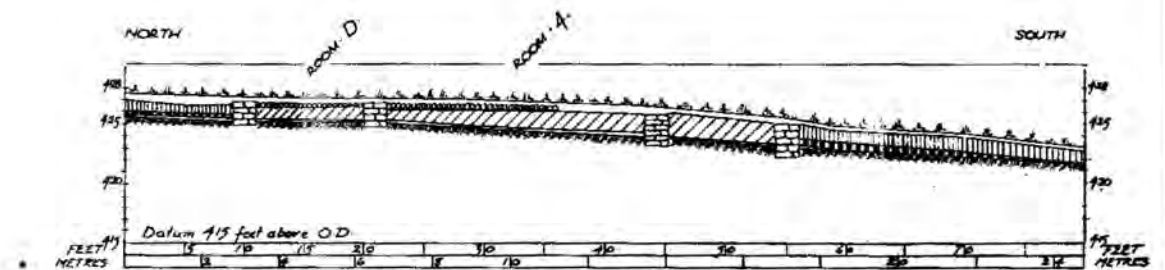
• CROSS-SECTION - E-E •



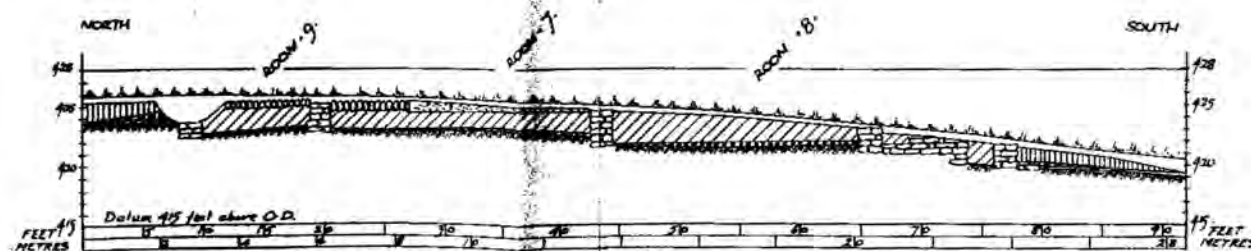
• CROSS-SECTION - O-O •



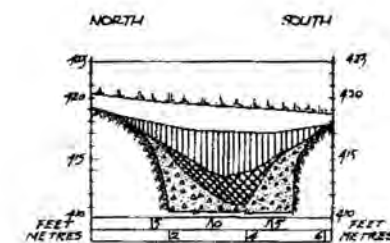
• CROSS-SECTION - J-J •



• CROSS-SECTION - H-H •



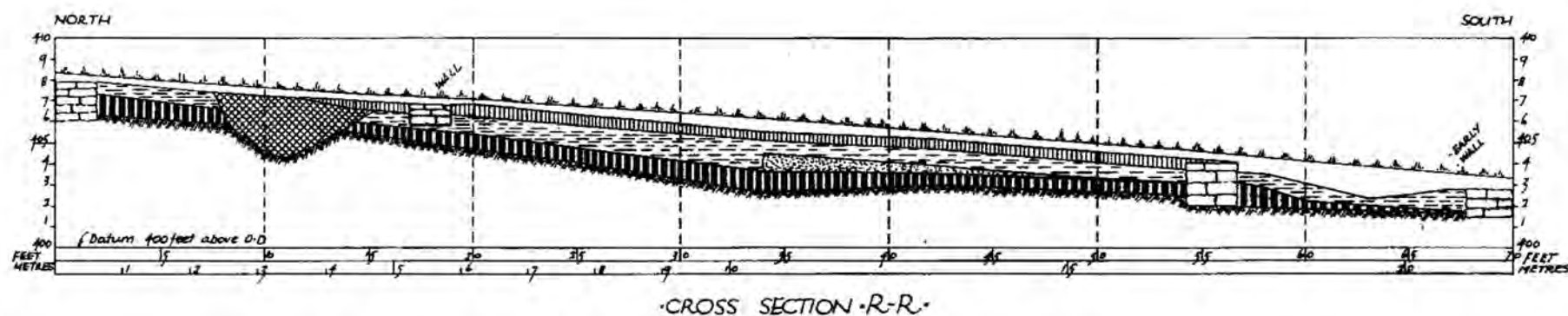
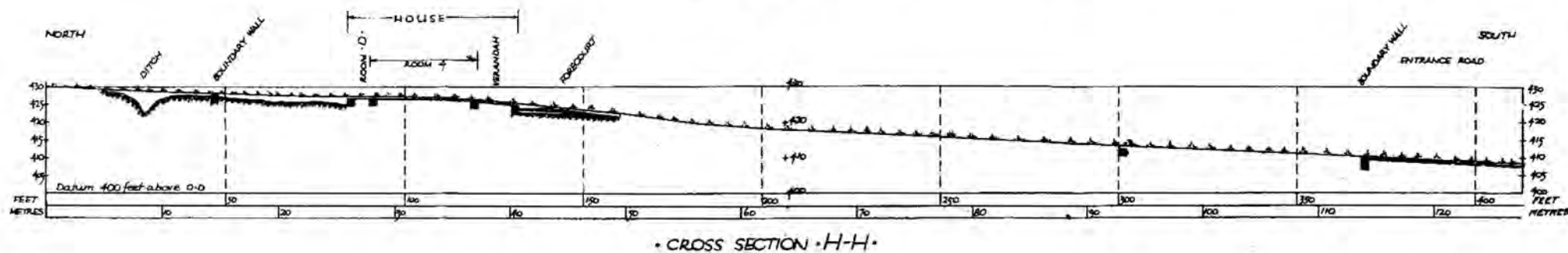
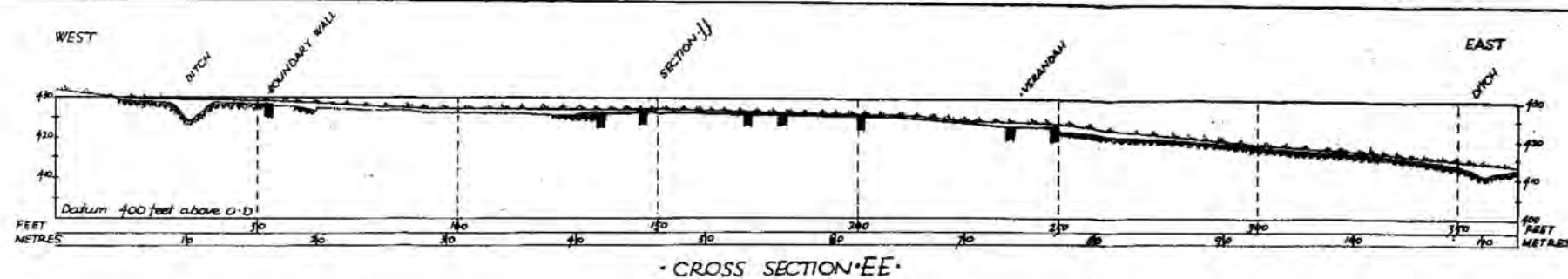
• CROSS-SECTION - K-K •



• SECTION THRO' WELL •

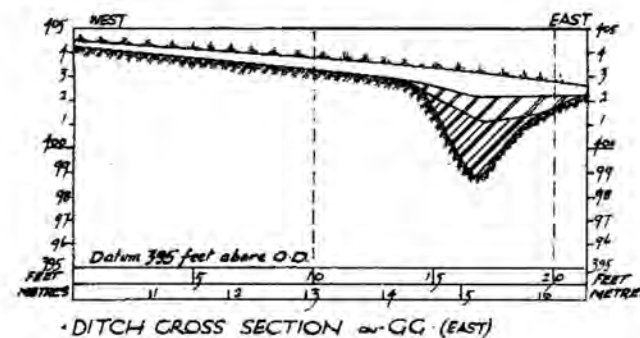
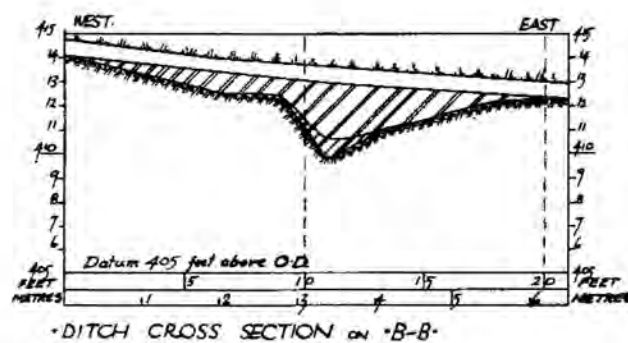
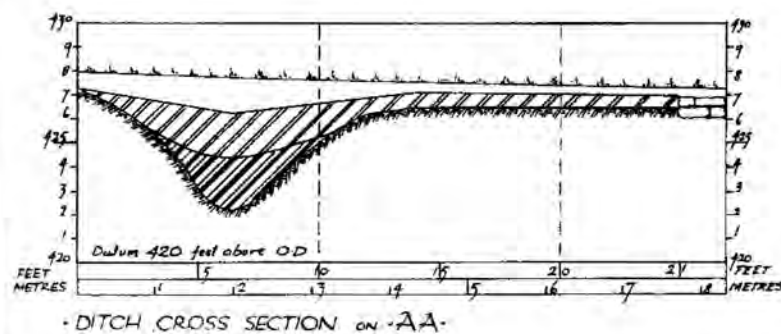
- CONVENTIONS FOR WELL SECTION
- LATE DEBRIS
- BURNT DEBRIS
- SILT

PLATE XIV



NOTE: Cross Sections E-E & H-H are plotted to a scale of $\frac{1}{250}$ or 20.8 feet to one inch. Cross Sections R-R, A-A, B-B & G-G are plotted to a scale of $\frac{1}{10}$, 4 feet to an inch or 2.083 m to a metre.

CLAY



EARLY FILL

LATE FILL

ROMAN VILLA AT DITCHLEY, OXON.

THE COINS¹

By C. H. V. SUTHERLAND

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| CLAUDIUS I A.D. 41-54 (1 coin) | | | |
| 1. | Copy of <i>As.</i> | M. & S. I, 129, 66. 3.08 gm. | Worn. |
| NERO A.D. 54-68. (1 coin) | | | |
| 2. | Æ2 | <i>Rev.</i> illegible through corrosion and wear. | |
| VESPASIAN A.D. 69-70 (1 coin) | | | |
| 3. | Æ | M. & S. II, 27, 109 (1). | Fresh. |
| NERVA A.D. 96-98 (2 coins) | | | |
| 4. | Æ2 | <i>Rev.</i> illegible through corrosion and wear. | |
| 5. | " | " " and burnt. | |
| TRAJAN A.D. 98-117 (2 coins) | | | |
| 6. | Æ1 | M. & S. II, 280, 503. | Very little worn. |
| 7. | Æ2 | <i>Rev.</i> illegible through wear. | |
| 'RADIATES,' <i>circ.</i> A.D. 270-300 (4 coins) | | | |
| 8. | Æ3 | Victorinus or Tetricus. ? <i>Pietas Aug.</i> | Worn. |
| 9. | " | Uncertain reign. <i>Obv.</i> and <i>rev.</i> illegible. | |
| 10. | " | " " Types almost corroded away. | |
| 11. | " | (small) ? a much debased radiate copy. | Greatly worn. |
| CONSTANS A.D. 333-350 (1 coin) | | | |
| 12. | Æ3 | <i>Cf.</i> C. 46 ff. M.m. illegible. | Rather worn. |
| JULIAN A.D. 360-363 (2 coins) | | | |
| 13. | Æ | C. 144 PLVG | Fairly fresh. |
| 14. | " | C. 163 LVG | Rather worn. |
| VALENTINIAN I A.D. 364-375 (3 coins) | | | |
| 15. | Æ3 | C. 12 $\begin{array}{c} [-] [-] \\ LVG[-] \end{array}$ | Worn. |
| 16. | " | C. 37 M.m. illegible. | Fairly fresh. |
| 17. | " | " $\begin{array}{c} OF I \\ CO[-] \end{array}$ | Rather worn. |

¹ References are to Mattingly and Sydenham, *Roman Imperial Coinage* (=M. & S.), and to Cohen, *Description historique des monnaies frappées sous l'empire romain*, 2nd edition (=C.) The abbreviation 'M.m.' signifies 'mint-mark.'

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VALENS A.D. 364-378 (4 coins)					
18.	Æ	C. 109	TRPS·		Fresh.
19.	Æ3	C. 11	O F[—] CON[—]		Slightly worn.
20.	"	"	[OF] II CON[—]		Rather worn.
21.	"	C. 47	M.m. illegible.		Much worn.
Of the time of VALENTINIAN I or VALENS (5 coins)					
22.	Æ3	<i>Gloria Romanorum</i>	M.m. illegible.		Worn—much worn.
23.	"	"	"		Worn.
24.	"	<i>Securitas Reipublicae</i>	"		Rather worn.
25.	"	"	"		Worn and corroded.
26.	"	(?)	"		Worn.
GRATIAN A.D. 367-383 (4 coins)					
27.	AR(pl.)	Cf. C. 86	M.m. illegible.		Slightly worn—worn.
28.	Æ3	C. 13	"		Much worn.
29.	"	Similar type	"		Worn.
30.	"	? C. 78	"		Slightly worn: a broken half-coin.
(?) THEODOSIUS I A.D. 379-395 (1 coin)					
31.	Æ4	Cf. C. 30	M.m. illegible.		Worn.
(?) ARCADIUS A.D. 383-408 (1 coin)					
32.	Æ4	? <i>Victoria Auggg</i> (1 Victory).	M.m. illegible.		Worn.
HONORIUS A.D. 393-423 (2 coins)					
33.	Æ4	C. 32	M.m. illegible.		Worn.
34.	"	C. 39	"		"
Of the time of THEODOSIUS I (13 coins)					
35.	Æ4	<i>Victoria Auggg</i> (1 Victory).	M.m. illegible.		Much worn.
36.	"	(cut down) "	"		Fairly worn.
37.	"	"	"		"
38.	"	"	"		Worn.
39.	"	Type uncertain	"		"
40.	"	"	"		Much worn.
41.	"	"	"		Worn.
42.	"	"	"		Much worn.
43.	"	Type illegible	"		Worn.
44.	"	(broken) "	"		Much worn.
45.	"	(cut down) "	"		Worn.
46.	"	"	"		"
47.	"	"	"		Very much worn.

ROMAN VILLA AT DITCHLEY, OXON.

RADIATE MINIMS (2 coins)

- | | | |
|-----|--|---------------------------|
| 48. | Æ4 (small) <i>Spes Aug</i> type. | Greatly worn : very thin. |
| 49. | Æ, 10 mm.,—a clipped quarter of an Æ3 flan.
? <i>Oriens Aug</i> type. | Fresh. |

ILLEGIBLE MINIMS (3 coins)

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------------|
| 50. | Æ, 10.5 mm. <i>Obv.</i> and <i>rev.</i> illegible. | Worn : condition bad. |
| 51. | " " " " " " | |
| 52. | Æ4 " Possibly of the Theodosian period. | Worn nearly " smooth. |

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

There were two main periods of occupation at Ditchley. The first began about A.D. 70 and lasted until about A.D. 200. During these 130 years the settlement was a farm of growing wealth and civilization. At the beginning it consisted of a rectangular enclosure 300 yards square, surrounded by a bank and ditch within which were a wooden house and other simple buildings. The bank and ditch are on too small a scale to be defensive and should probably be explained as an enclosure designed to protect the stock from wild beasts. There is little trace of pre-Roman occupation in this part of Oxfordshire and the district was probably forest, a state to which it reverted in the early Middle Ages. There are several ditched sites of this character in the immediate neighbourhood. At New Inn, Wootton, two miles N. of Woodstock, air-photography has revealed an enclosure with no trace of masonry buildings. At Oatlands Farm, Fawler (PLATE XII) and at Pump Copse, Kiddington, the same feature is clear, but in both cases a flat terrace visible on the ground at one end of the courtyard betrays the existence of a Roman dwelling of masonry similar to the house at Ditchley. At Callow Hill the road from Oxford to Charlbury cuts through another of these ditched rectangles and here also are traces of a substantial stone building.

These sites represent an occupation of the forested area and may be compared to the *Viereckschanze* of Southern Germany. In this area a large number of angular, ditched enclosures has been recorded and a recent writer would explain them as an attempt to open up the land in the period immediately succeeding the Roman Conquest.¹ The distribution maps of pre-Roman remains and of the earthworks support this hypothesis but it is not without difficulties, as some of the excavated sites have elaborate fortified gateways which must have been defensive.² This does not necessarily involve the rejection of

¹ K. Bittel, *Die Kelten in Württemberg*, p. 99.

² *Antiquity*, II, 50.

the former explanation. On the more exposed frontier of Roman Germany the farms might well need some defence against raiders even as the unsettled condition of the Balkans led to the erection of the towers and parapeted walls surrounding many of the monastic granges (*μετοίχια*). Another parallel may be quoted from Anglesey where the third and fourth century A.D. saw the gradual occupation of the forested centre of the island, and advance marked by a number of earthworks influenced by Roman military design.¹

From the beginning the settlement at Ditchley was in touch with the commercial life of the Roman province. Industry of the native type is represented by the enamelled terret, while the Terra Sigillata and some of the brooches are imports from the Continent. Soon after A.D. 100 increasing wealth enabled the owner to reconstruct the house on a larger scale and in more substantial materials and a similar extension and improvement of the subsidiary buildings quickly followed. Further additions to the house are noted during the earlier half of the second century but when all was completed the settlement remained a farm, the dwelling provided with the comforts of Roman country life but without a trace of luxury or ostentation. The labourers or slaves were housed within the enclosure and there are indications of humbler structures, probably cattle-sheds and barns.

This house was burnt about A.D. 200 and the site was then deserted, the lesser buildings being allowed to fall into ruin. The exact date of the re-occupation is uncertain but the period of prosperity under the house of Constantine seems to be indicated. The new house was planned on more generous lines. The addition of an upper storey, the ample corridor along the front and sides, the great colonnade adorning the entrance, and the solid structure of the floors contrast strangely with the more modest dwelling of the second century. The absence of a bath-building may be explained by the scarcity of water. Even more striking is the contrast between the earlier and later layout. The labourers' dwelling and most of the agricultural buildings have disappeared. Only a threshing-floor and a granary remain to show that the new owner was interested in the exploitation of the land. The enclosure, no longer needed as a farmyard, was probably laid out as a garden. This change should be brought into connexion with the increased importance of the colonate which is reflected in the legal texts of the period. The advantage of a peasantry tied to the soil and paying their rents in kind is clear, and the new owner, more wealthy or more ostentatious, no longer needed to live in close contact with his serfs. The coins show that the occupation extended down to the end of the fourth century, and the large number of issues belonging to the period after 364 (nearly 75 per cent.)

¹ *Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments in Wales and Monmouthshire*, introduction to forthcoming volume on Anglesey.

ROMAN VILLA AT DITCHLEY, OXON.

suggests that it continued into the fifth century, a contention corroborated by the discovery of a fifth-century coin-hoard (pp. 70 ff.) in a neighbouring field in Kiddington parish. The house was neither sacked nor burnt but was gradually allowed to fall into decay. During this process people camped within the walls lighting their fires on the mortar pavement of Room 2. We may perhaps envisage a long period when the villa continued to function as an economic unit. The house, no longer inhabited, would serve as a temporary shelter for the landowner or his agent who came to collect the rent in kind paid by the *coloni* on their farms.