

ROMANO BRITISH POTTERY KILNS ON WEST STOW HEATH

By S. E. WEST.

The north bank of the River Lark, around the crossing of the Icknield Way, has long been recognised as a Roman settlement area. The geology of the area is uniform; the underlying chalk is covered by sand and gravel, which, in the case of West Stow Heath, is itself covered with an uneven deposit of blown sand, varying from a depth of a few inches to two feet, now overgrown with sand-sedge. Flanking the River Lark, separating the Heath from the River, are alluvial flood plains.

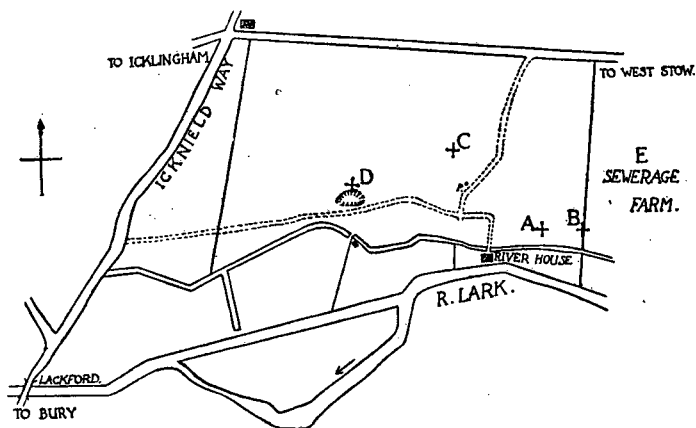


FIG. 6.—Map of West Stow Heath.

Key to Sites: A—Kilns 1 & 2; B—Smother Pit; C—Kiln 3; D—Pagan Saxon Cemetery; E—Area of Pagan Saxon Settlement.

Scale 6-in. to 1 mile.

The site is on the north bank of the River Lark about 1100 yards north of Lackford Church and 660 yards east of the Icknield Way. Kilns 1 and 2 (Site A) are situated on a low ridge running east to west, in the south-west corner of the rough heathland adjoining the Bury Sewerage Farm. Kiln 3 (Site C) is about 180 yards north-west of Site A. (Ordnance Survey Grid Ref: 52/796713). (See Map, Fig. 6).

The first record of Romano British kiln sites among the dune sands of West Stow Heath is that of Henry Prigg who dug two in 1878.¹

The *Victoria County History of Suffolk* also records the two kilns found by Prigg and goes on to mention five others which were dug in and around 1890, as follows:—

Potters' kilns were found on a slight ridge on the heath, in the spring of 1879. The first was circular in form, 3-ft. 6-in. in internal diameter, with a furnace chamber, also circular, attached to the east side. The walls were 1-ft. 6-in. high and 4-in. thick and were of puddled clay with a large admixture of chalk pebbles. Nothing of the upper floor of the kiln remained, but in one place halfway up the wall a triangular brick pierced in the centre remained. It was vitrified on the surface, and was the only indication left of the baking floor. Other perforated tiles, however, were found in the rubbish. A second kiln, 8-ft. south of the first, was only 3-ft. in diameter. The furnace was formed by walls with an outward splay. Bricks 1-ft. 1-in. long by 8-in. wide and 3-in. thick, each perforated with two holes 2½-in. in diameter, lay in the kiln, no doubt the remains of the baking floor; and a number of circular bricks 6½-in. in diameter and 3-4-in. thick were with them, evidently fragments of the *pilae* supporting this floor. [These two kilns are obviously those mentioned by Prigg]. The method of the construction of the kilns was clear. The earth had been dug in a circle to the depth of 4-ft., the bottom of the excavation filled with clay well trodden down, and then the walls to a height of some 18-in. or 20-in. were formed against the side of the excavation and the baking floor constructed. The pottery found about kiln 1 consisted principally of pieces of globular vessels with one handle, the vessels capable of holding one pint to two quarts. They were rather fine ware, ruddy in hue. With them were some remains of little bowls of light red ware with machine-made markings, and some few other fragments. The pottery found about kiln 2, which had been used occasionally as a smother kiln, was somewhat more varied. Fragments of urns resembling some kind of cinerary urns, some small jars of black ware ornamented with burnished lines as a diaper, a fragment of a jar with broad bands of dots in slip, and also pieces of a ware showing a micaceous glaze, lay about this kiln. On a spot about half a mile from the kilns to the east, and near the

¹ H. Prigg, *Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, vol. xxxvii, 1881, p. 152.

river (Lark), were a series of basin-shaped pits. It is possible that these pits were made by the potters in obtaining clay. Skeletons were discovered in digging for sand in an elevation of the land dividing the heath of West Stow from the meadows by the river not far from the kilns described. By the right side of one of these, which lay north and south, was a *patera* of black ware placed edgewise. It had a potter's mark in a label, apparently an N between two dots, and from the disturbed soil near was turned up part of the rim of a *mortarium* with the stamp ABIC^oF with the lettering reversed. The potters' works were only half a mile from the supposed Roman station at Icklingham. (*Journ. Brit. Arch. Assoc.*, vol. xxxvii, 152 *et seq.*). More kilns were discovered on the same site on West Stow Heath in and previous to 1890. The fragments found about the fifth kiln consisted of portions of a shallow bowl in fine grey pottery, bowls of buff and brown ware, the rims ornamented with patterns in slip of various colours, parts of two smaller and deeper bowls of fine light red pottery with circles and lines in darker slip upon them. Also *ampullae* of large size in buff coloured ware. In the kiln were found two coins, small brass of Constantius I (A.D.305-6) (*ibid.*, LXVII, 94). A vase of buff ware 5½-in. high now in the Bury Museum, was found here, and also a bronze brooch now in the British Museum.²

In 1940, two more kilns, which form the basis of this report were discovered by Mr. B. Brown and partly excavated with the help of boys from Culford School. The kilns, (Site A), were re-excavated in 1947 by the staff of the Ipswich Corporation Museum and Site B, a pit whose presence was disclosed by a spread of potsherds on the surface, was also excavated. The kiln Site A and the smother pit come within the area occupied by a Saxon settlement whose main occupation lay to the east on land incorporated in the Bury Sewerage Farm. Finds from this settlement are now in Moyses Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds.

In 1951 another kiln (Site C) was excavated and its condition suggests that it was one of those dug in the 1890's and so is included in the number mentioned in the *V.C.H.*, which together with the two found in 1940 which were hitherto undisturbed, brings the total for the whole site to nine. Of these nine kilns, only the position of three can be accurately mapped; the position of Prigg's pair and the others being too vague for anything other than a general location.

² *V.C.H., Suffolk*, vol. 1, 1911, pp. 317-318.

SITE A.

KILNS 1 AND 2. Figs. 7 and 8.

The Kilns were both of the circular updraught type, described by W. F. Grimes in the Holt Report³ as Type IIA, and typical of Roman pottery kilns in Suffolk. They lay side by side on the top of the ridge, 4-ft. 1-in. apart on a line a few degrees west of north. The stoke-holes faced east. The kilns were of simple construction, consisting of a stoke-hole from which both kilns were fired, a short clay built flue leading to a circular clay-lined furnace with a permanent central pedestal.

The Stoke Hole was a rough hollow scraped in the sand in front of the kilns with no attempt at retaining walls to prevent its silting up with the loose sand in which it was dug. A great deal of pottery was found in it together with an intense accumulation of soot. Beyond the stoke hole and a little to the south of it was the kiln dump which consisted of a roughly circular pit, 4-ft. deep and 6-ft. across and filled with black earth, ash and fragments of pottery, evidently the refuse from the repeated use of the kilns.

The Flues. Both kilns had the arch over the flue intact, the tunnels being only 9-in. long, 10-in. high and 10-in. wide, sloping slightly up into the kiln. The extreme shortness of the flues may be partly due to damage incurred during the stoking or clearing of the kilns, but the normal length for the flues in Suffolk pottery kilns is never more than 18 inches.

The Furnaces were roughly circular, both measuring 44-in. from side to side and 48-in. from the inside of the flue to the back of the kiln. The walls, standing to a height of 1-ft. 8-in. and sloping slightly outwards, were of puddled clay with an admixture of chalk pebbles, 7-in. thick. The firing of the kiln had baked the clay on the inside of the walls to a very hard grey layer, 1½-in. thick, while the outer portion of the walls remained red and comparatively soft.

The Pedestals in the centre of the kilns were both constructed of solid clay and were joined to the walls by a clay floor. That of kiln 1 was somewhat damaged but intact enough to show that it was originally 10-in. high and 21-in. across, with a flattish top and rounded edges. An interesting feature was an irregular slot, 6-in. deep by 3½-in. wide cut into the side of the pedestal, so placed as to be just out of line with the flue (see plan, Fig. 7).

The pedestal of kiln 2 was lower, being 8-in. high and 20-in. across. The top is uneven and appears to have been damaged at

³ W. F. Grimes, 'Holt, the Works Depot of the Twentieth Legion at Castle Lyons', *T. Cymmrodor*, vol. xli, 1930, Fig. 31, p. 55.

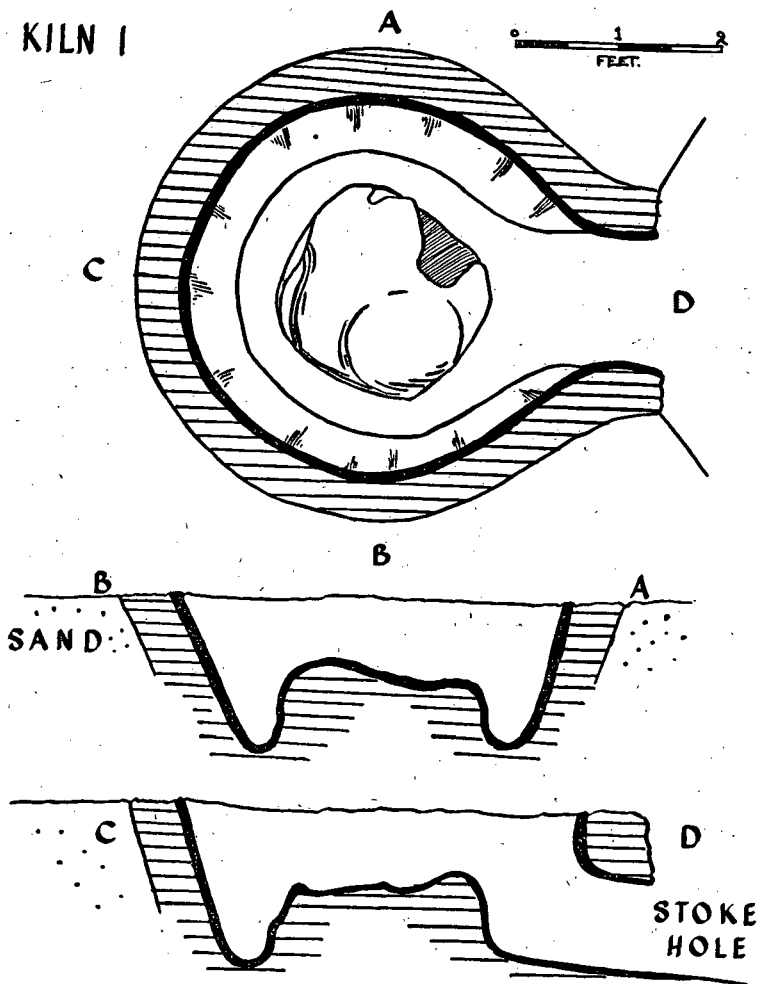


FIG. 7.—Plan and Sections of Kiln 1.

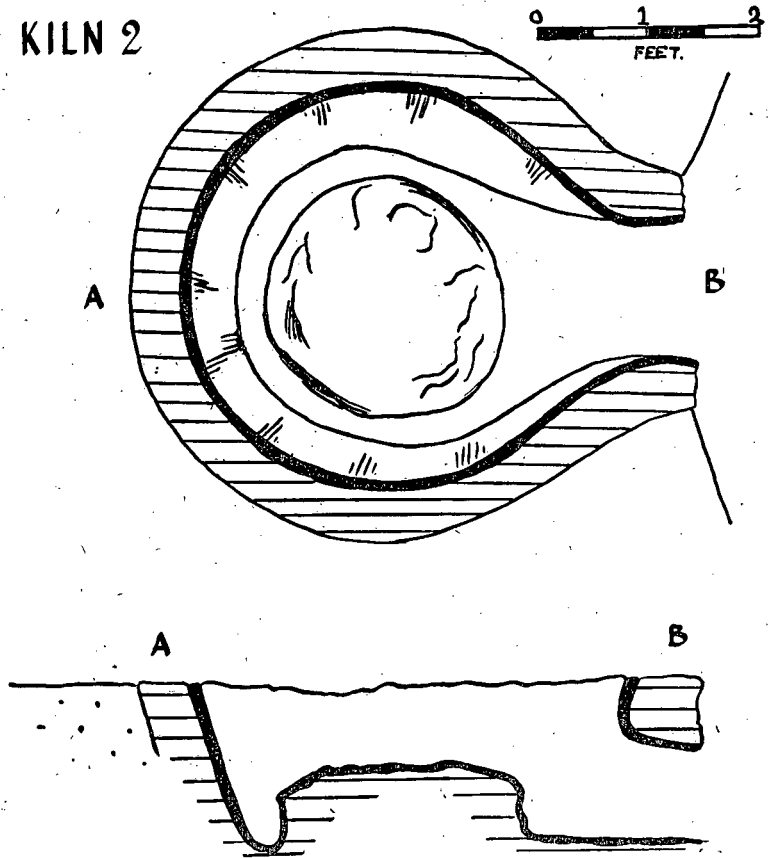


FIG. 8.—Plan and Section of Kiln 2

some period during its use but to have continued in use without repair. The solid pedestal, so much a feature of Roman pottery kilns in this area was an inefficient and costly method of kiln construction. The solid mass prevented the equal distribution of heat immediately above it and pots placed on or above it would not be fired to the same degree as those round the edges of the kiln.

The Kiln Furniture consisted of:

(1) Three complete bricks and a quantity of fragments of others. The bricks were roughly rectangular and can be divided into two distinct varieties:

(a) Rectangular, measuring 8.75 by 3 by 3.5-in.

(b) Tapering, measuring 7.5 to 8.5-in. long, by 3.6 by 2.75-in., at the widest end, narrowing to 2.7 by 2.6-in.

(2) One small cylindrical brick, roughly shaped, some 3.5-in. long by 3.5-in. in diameter, and a portion of a much larger cylindrical brick with two flattened sides was recovered, the diameter of which was approximately $5\frac{1}{2}$ -in. and the height at least $7\frac{1}{2}$ -in.

A number of rectangular and tapering bricks were found round the pedestal of kiln 1 and could well have tumbled from the pedestal or slipped down the sides. The presence of these bricks must indicate the method used for constructing or supporting the baking floor on which the pottery for firing was placed. As no perforated tiles or other similar furniture were found, it may be supposed that the bricks were built up in some way on the pedestal with others horizontally to the furnace walls, or were intended to be wedged between the pedestal and the wall. It was noticed that the tapering bricks are sloped at the widest end which may mean that they were designed to fit against the slope of the furnace wall. The more probable of the two possibilities is, perhaps, the first, for if the bricks were wedged between the pedestal and the furnace wall, only a narrow channel eight inches deep would be left for the fire underneath, and the suggestion that the bricks were built up on the pedestal could also incorporate the use of the purely rectangular and the cylindrical bricks.

No indication of any form of cover for the furnace, either of a permanent or temporary nature was found, but it can be assumed that the cover was, as is usual in small kilns, of a temporary nature, possibly made only of turves and not covered with clay as were those at Wattisfield.

SITE B

THE SMOTHER PIT. FIG. 9.

45-yds. to the east of the kilns, on the same ridge and adjacent to the fence surrounding the Sewerage Farm, a shallow pit was discovered. Its presence was indicated by a spread of potsherds on the surface of the ground. The pit was roughly circular, 4-ft. 6-in. in diameter. A section showed it to be flat bottomed with steeply sloping sides. Originally the pit was 1-ft. 2-in. in depth, but blown sand had covered it to an average depth of 1-ft., the deposit thickening on the northern side, owing to the slope of the hill. The filling of the pit consisted of a black deposit of soot and charcoal, crammed with fragments of pottery, the amount of soot and charcoal increasing considerably towards the bottom. The pottery was practically all highly polished or coarse black or dark grey ware with few examples of bottles or flagons.

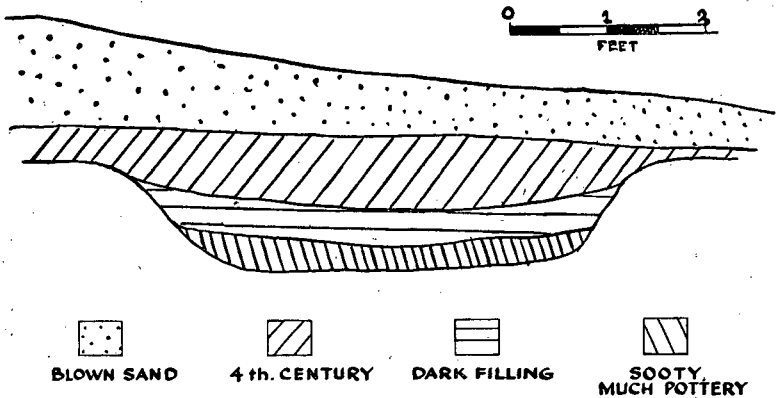


FIG. 9.—Section N.—S. of the Smother Pit.

The concentration of black ware in the filling suggests that the pit was used to obtain the black finish, by reduction under a clamp. A black finish is obtained in this way in Nigeria to-day by using a clamp fire and a smoky fuel. From the upper level, sealing the pit, a 4th century face, in red ware, from the neck of a flagon was recovered. A spread of 4th century sherds was found to extend for some distance around the pit.

SITE C

KILN 3.

Further investigations were carried out by the Ipswich Museum in 1951, with a view to obtaining more information about the site plan. A disturbed kiln site was found and cleared. The kiln lay

on a west-east slope, 190 yards north-west of kilns 1 and 2, 51 yards north-north-west of the pump marked on the Ordnance Survey 6-in. map and 161 yards north-east of the Saxon cemetery.

Excavation of the site revealed the northern edge undisturbed, except for the all too numerous rabbit burrows. The kiln itself was found to be entirely collapsed, only a fragment of the rear wall, 17-in. long, remaining in situ. The rest of the kiln was represented by a mass of kiln debris intermingled with ash and dark soil. The kiln material was of puddled clay with an admixture of chalk pebbles. In form, the kiln was probably circular, about 3-ft. in diameter with the stoke-hole, 7-ft. across, to the east. The stoke-hole was filled with black soil and ash.

The position of the kiln was traced, but only approximately, by a deposit of sand, burnt bright red by the heat of the kiln. No trace of a central pedestal was found but fragments of kiln brick were present. Some of these had been vitrified to such an extent as to produce a green glaze over most of the surface. Two fragments had traces of a hole pierced through them but it was not possible to determine the size and shape of these bricks or tiles. There can be little doubt however, that they formed part of the baking floor.

The site produced mainly buff bottles and flagons. Fragments of small bowls in soft red paste imitating Samian Form 37 and ornamented with stabbing were also present, together with a few sherds with inscribed concentric circles. The examples were unpolished and usually smaller than the types from kilns 1 and 2. The southern half of the site had been disturbed by a trench which had been cut into the kiln deposit.

THE POTTERY

The interest of the West Stow kilns lies mainly in the study of the pottery. A variety of wares was produced at this site, the coarser pottery forming the bulk of the material. The ware may be classified as follows:—

(1) Highly polished and well finished ware, with a fairly soft brown or grey paste, and either a brown or a black surface. Of the vessels found in the kiln area the majority were brown and all those found in the smother pit were black surfaced. The polishing is exceptionally fine, with no trace of any actual burnishing lines. Vessels in this ware were Types 1, 2, 4 and 6.

(2) Pink and buff bottle ware with a very fine finish and well turned necks and bases. Types 4, 8 and 10.

(3) Large quantities of coarser, hard white flagons and bottles in plain unsmoothed ware, with two examples of

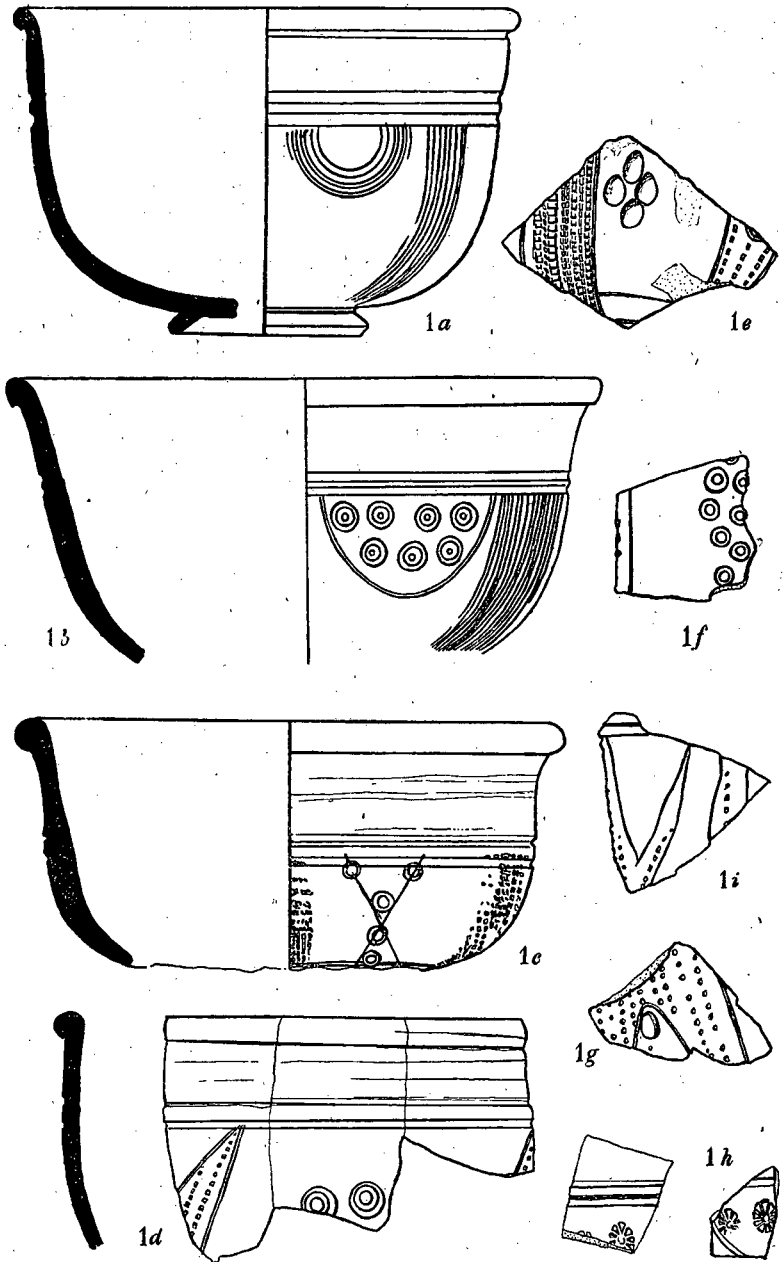


FIG. 10.—West Stow Pottery ($\frac{1}{2}$).

mortaria forms. Of the two kilns, the finer pottery was found to be more abundant round kiln 1 and the flagons round kiln 2. Few examples of the flagons could be restored. Types 3, 4, 8 and 9.

(4) A considerable amount of coarse grey pottery. A wide variety of Types 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.

Wasters of all types were found in the dump and in and around the kilns.

Type	Description	SITE A		SITE B	
		No. of Rims	%	No. of Rims	%
1.	Copies of Form 37	62	18	23	8
2.	Copies of Form 30	7	2	2	1
3.	Narrow-mouthed jars	20	6	7	2
4.	Medium-mouthed jars	178	50	180	56
5.	Bowls	5	1	15	5
6.	Dishes	8	2	67	22
7.	Lids	12	3	5	2
8.	Flagons	58	16	6	2
9.	Mortaria	2	1	—	—
10.	Incense Burner	1	1	—	—
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		353	100	305	100

(As Site C was much disturbed, no true analysis for that kiln is possible).

TYPE 1 (Copies of Form 37). These are all small, between 5 and 7-in. in diameter, except the few examples in kiln 3 which average 3½-in. in diameter. The plain band below the rim is usually convex but is, in a few examples, concave. The polishing is confined to the outside but both inside and outside are of the same colour, i.e. brown or black.

- 1 a. Inscribed concentric semi-circles, interspaced with bands of vertical combing. Number of lines in combing 8-11. Number of concentric circles 7-9. (Fig. 10).
- 1 b. Groups of impressed concentric circles enclosed by an inscribed free-hand line. Each group is separated by a combed band. Number of combed lines 15. (Fig. 10).
- 1 c. Groups of impressed circles joined by crossed lines separated by bands of bad rouletting. (Fig. 10).
- 1 d. Free groups of impressed circles and lines of rouletted dots enclosed by slanting lines. (Fig. 10).

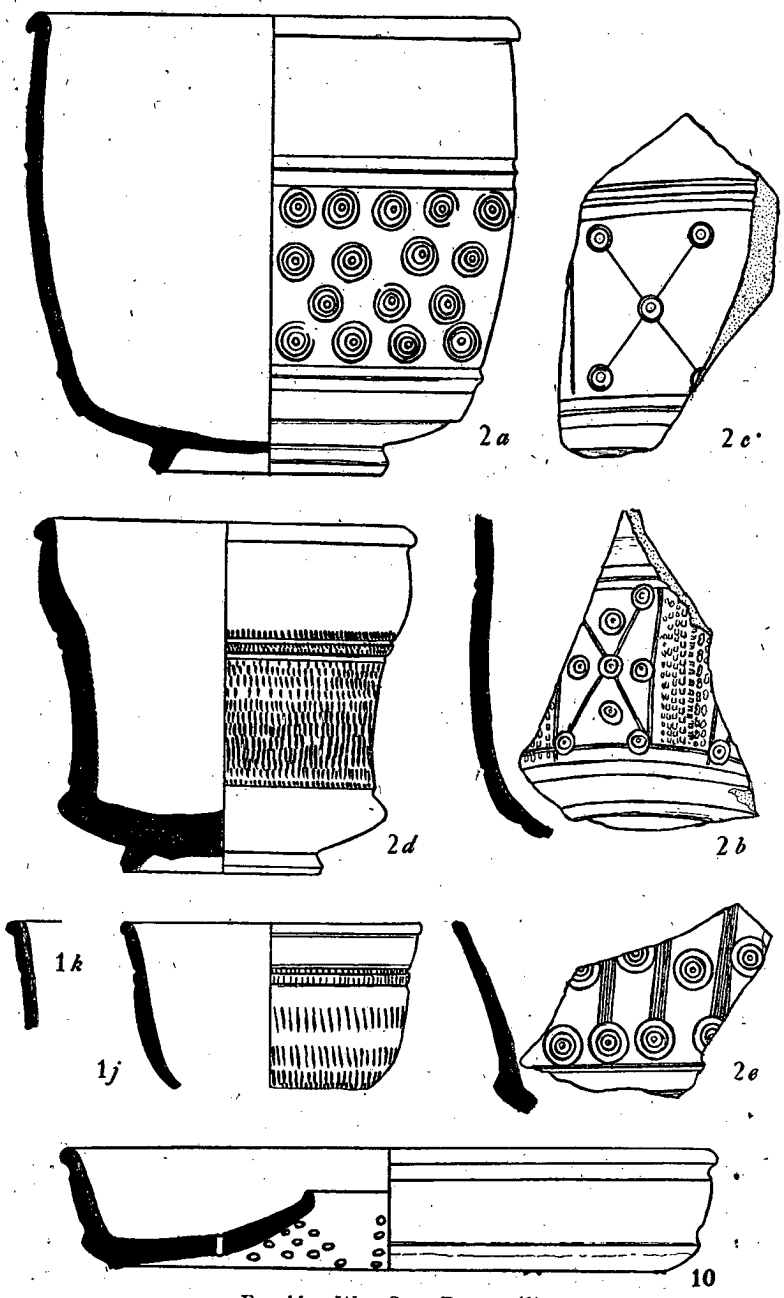


FIG. 11.—West Stow Pottery ($\frac{1}{2}$).

- 1 e. A cluster of 4 impressed ovals close together; a broad band of upright rouletting and impressed circle with rows of dots between sloping lines. (Fig. 10).
- 1 f. A single fragment with an unenclosed group of impressed circles, smaller than normal. (Fig. 10).
- 1 g. A number of sherds with an irregular area of dots bordered by an inscribed line with an impressed oval. (Fig. 10).
- 1 h. Oval rosettes, in one case enclosed by a scored line, 10 petals. (Fig. 10).
- 1 i. Irregular slanting lines enclosing rows of dots. (Fig. 10).
- 1 j. Small unpolished bowl with vertical rouletting. (Fig. 11).
- 1 k. Plain. (Fig. 11).

TYPE 2 (Copies of Form 30). Only nine examples were recovered from the whole site and of these, one only could be reconstructed. Three of the vessels represented were in unpolished buff ware and the remaining six in the highly polished ware of Type 1. The decoration varies considerably, as can be seen on the illustrated sherds.

- 2 a. Thin walled vessel in polished black ware, slightly undercut rim and well turned base. Decorated with zone of circles impressed with a stamp and somewhat irregular in shape. (Fig. 11).
- 2 b. Decoration divided into panels containing five impressed circles joined by lines with one free circle in each space, reminiscent of the St. Andrew's Cross ornament on the Samian proto-type. The panels are separated by upright bands of rouletting. (Fig. 11).
- 2 c. Panelled division as before, the panels containing five impressed circles joined by lines, interspaced with vertical bands of rouletting. (Fig. 11).
- 2 d. This vessel in hard buff paste has a heavy base, well turned foot ring and an out-turned bead rim with two grooves at its base. The whole of the wall of the vessel is covered with rouletting. This shape must properly be a derivative of Form 30 although a degenerate one. (Fig. 11).
- 2 e. Impressed circles and combed lines. (Fig. 11).

TYPE 3 (Narrow mouthed jars). These vary considerably in size from 5-ins. to 9-ins. in height. The majority are plain but a number have either one or two zones of lattice pattern on the shoulder bounded by grooves. (Fig. 13).

TYPE 4 (Medium-mouthed jars). This type forms 50% of the total quantity of pottery from sites A and B. It occurs in all the four listed wares and shows a considerable variety within the form.

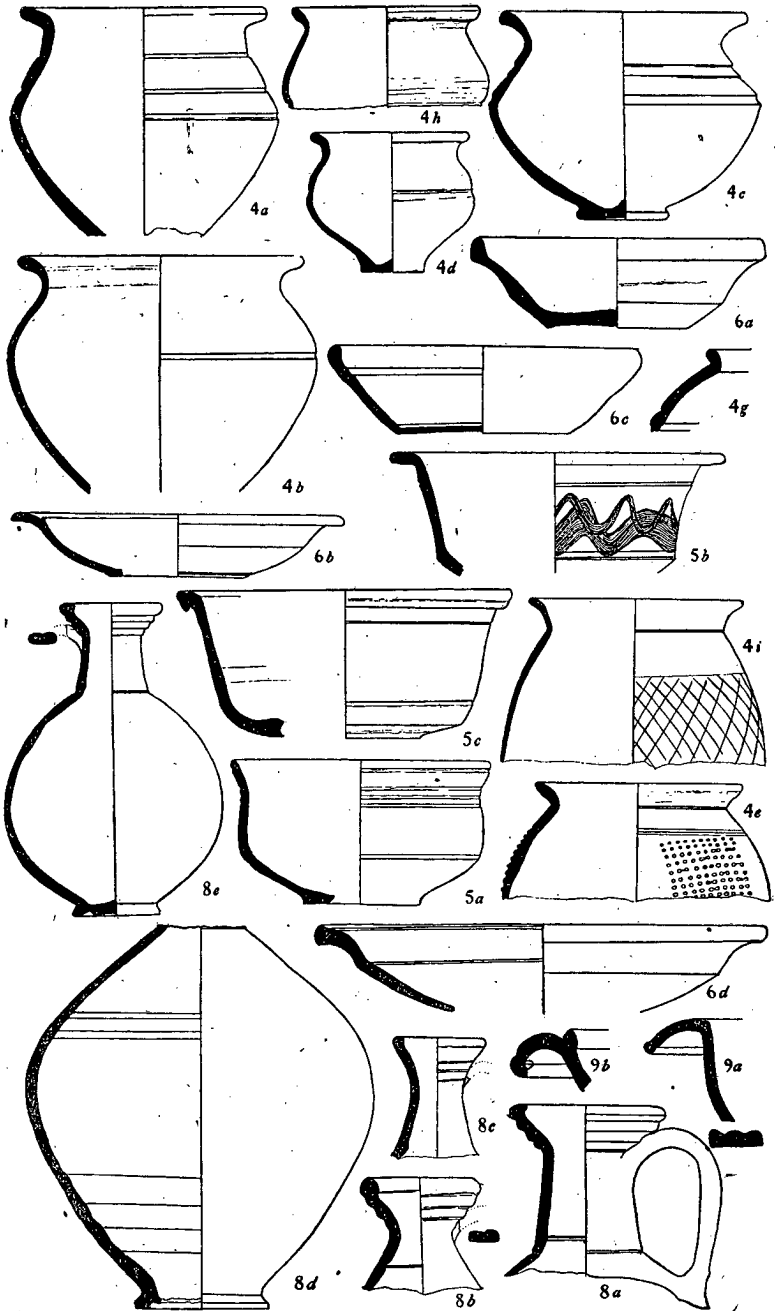


FIG. 12.—West Stow Pottery ($\frac{1}{4}$).

- 4 a. Carinated bowl of fawn pink, with a pronounced lip. Base wanting. Hard, well polished ware. (Fig. 12).
- 4 b. Red paste with dull red finish. Burnished to just below the girth groove. (Fig. 12).
- 4 c. Small carinated jar, light buff ware, base almost flat, with boss in centre. The ware is the same as that of some of the bottles, and not usually used for forms other than bottles. (Fig. 12).
- 4 d. A soft pink vessel, this represents part of the last firing of the kiln as it was intact inside kiln 2. This form became common in Antonine times. (Fig. 12).
- 4 e. Upper portions of a jar of hard light grey ware, with smoothed exterior. Panels of dots in barbotine (*cf.* S. Frere and R. R. Clarke, 'The Romano-British Village at Needham, Norfolk', *Norf. Arch. Soc.*, vol. xxviii, 1947, Fig. 29, p. 193; J. Bushe-Fox, *Soc. Ant. Research Report, Wroxeter 1913*, p. 50. Both examples 80-120 A.D.). (Fig. 12).
- 4 f. Fine hard brown ware, rim and shoulder burnished, lower half left matt. Fired light brown with patches of dense black. Base wanting. (Fig. 13).
- 4 g. Rim and shoulder of buff jar with girth cord. Bead rim. Unsmoothed, (Fig. 12).
- 4 h. Thin red paste, sooty black outside and in. Burnished on the outside with a deep girth groove which weakened the vessel. Lower portions missing. (Fig. 12).
- 4 i. Cooking jar with sharply everted rim. Decorated with scored lattice pattern. Red smoothed ware. (Fig. 12).
- 4 j. Fragment red ware, with black surface. A row of impressions on a polished band. Similar impressions, only more triangular, were present on another sherd. (Fig. 13).

TYPE 5 (Bowls).

- 5 a. Hard black bowl with small bead rim which outcurves slightly from the body, three grooves at this point. Irregularly burnished on the outside. Flat base with a single groove. (Fig. 12).
- 5 b. Incurving sides with two overlapping bands of combing. (Fig. 12).
- 5 c. Plain with single groove on rim, base flat. (Fig. 12).

TYPE 6 (Dishes). Of these Type 6 a, with incurving sides, a polished interior and an area of polishing on the lower parts of the body forms the majority, the ratio being 69 to 6 of types 6 b, c and d, with 65 of these from site B. (Fig. 12).

- 6 b. Hard grey ware, flanged rim, plain flat base with single groove above it. (Fig. 12).

- 6 c. Light grey ware with mica content. Flat base with smooth finish. (Fig. 12).
- 6 d. Plate with overhanging rim of fine grey brown ware, (*cf.* Bushe-Fox, *Soc. Antiq. Research Report, Richborough 3*, Fig. 209, p. 168). The sharp angle between the side and the base has devolved to a groove round the inside and a vestige of a foot ring remained. Central portion of the base missing. (Fig. 12).

TYPE 7 (Lids). Fragments of 17 lids were recovered from sites A and B of which none were reconstructable.

TYPE 8 (Flagons). A considerable quantity of flagon fragments was recovered, practically all from site A. The funnel shaped mouth has three or four rings, the upper one being pronounced and forming a lip on the inside. The conical neck joins the body at an angle and usually with a narrow groove on the line of demarcation. The neck and mouth was made separately from the body, the line of attachment being quite obvious in a number of fragments. The handles have either two or three ribs and spring from the bottom of the rings of the neck and touch the first and second rings. Several examples of over-fired or flattened wasters were found in and around kiln 2 which appears to have been used more for firing flagons than kiln 1.

- 8 a. Neck and handle of typical hard buff bottle. (Fig. 12).
- 8 b. Neck in soft brown paste. (Fig. 12).
- 8 c. Neck in soft white ware, of different character to the rest. Probably non-local. From the area round the kilns. (80-110 A.D.). (Fig. 12).
- 8 d. Body and base of hard white bottle, neck and handle missing. Plain, well turned foot ring, strong grooves on the inside. (Fig. 12).
- 8 e. Small flagon, handle wanting, of hard buff ware, base and parts of the sides pink and deep red. Finely turned foot ring with central kick. Surface evenly smoothed, partly encrusted with lime. The missing handle had two ribs. (Fig. 12).

TYPE 9 (Mortaria). Only two rim sections were recovered.

- 9 a. Rim section of mortaria form, with weak flange and bead rim. Hard thin buff ware without grit. (Fig. 12).
- 9 b. Hard buff paste, similar to No. 70 in the Wroxeter report and which is dated 80-120 A.D. (Bushe-Fox, *Wroxeter 1912*, Fig. 19, p. 78). (Fig. 12).

TYPE 10 (Incense burner). Upper portions of an incense burner, originally attached to a receptacle underneath; hard fine paste of buff-pink ware, upper surface and walls polished, under surface rough. The floor of the vessel forms a low cone, having a central aperture with a small rim. Pierced holes, making a pattern of triangles alternating with single lines, radiate from the central hole. This portion of the vessel apparently came adrift from the main body during firing and was consequently discarded as a waster. No fragments have been recognised as belonging to the lower half. A similar vessel is illustrated by Sir Cyril Fox in *Archæology of the Cambridge Region* (Fig. xxi, pp. 189, 208-9) from Litlington, but is deeper in the upper bowl and unpolished. Other examples have been found at Silchester and the Wall, and also on the continent. (*cf. Mainz Museum Catalogue*, 1910, Pottery Section, illustrations 410, 411 and 412). (Fig. 11).

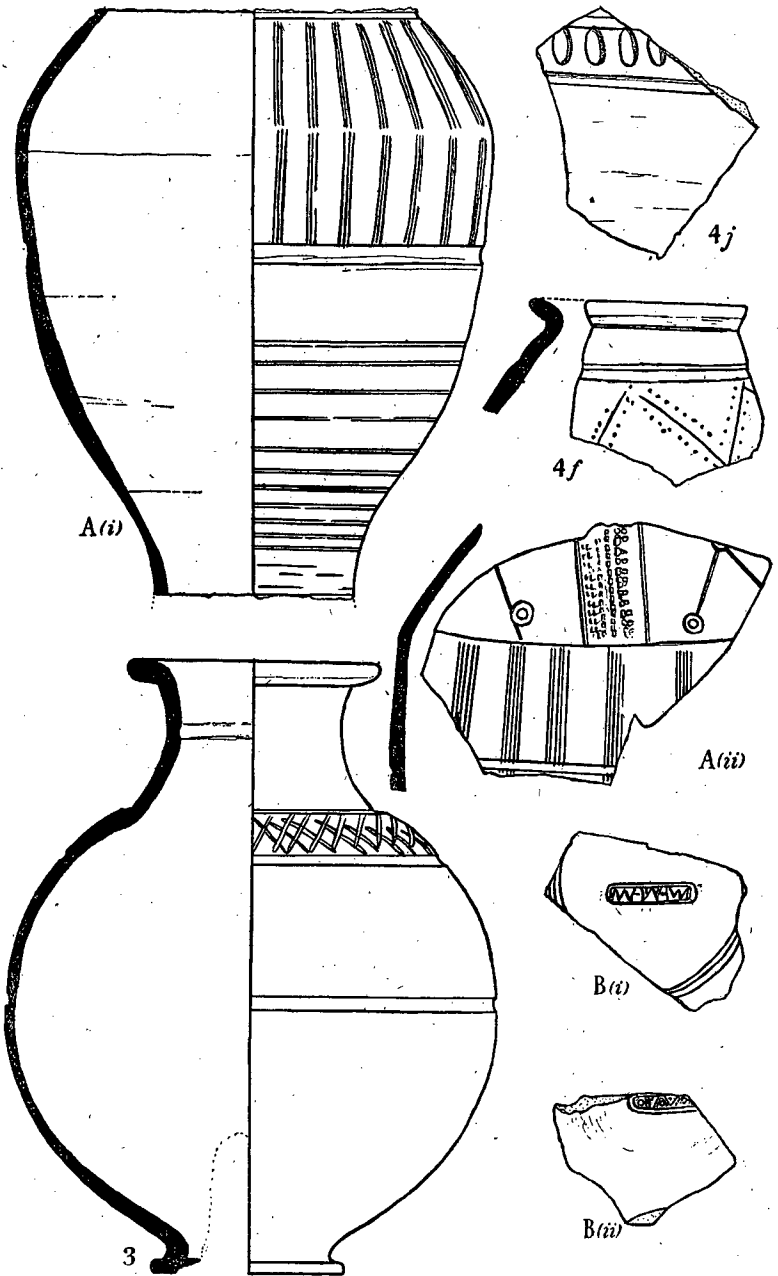
The following two vessels, A (i) and A (ii), and two potters' marks, B (i) and B (ii), were also found but, as they are incomplete, do not fit into any of the above categories:

- A (i) Tall vase or jar of dark brown polished ware, ornamented with horizontally scored lines and groups of vertically combed lines in threes, separated by a well defined girth groove. No base or rim was recovered. Fragments of a similar vessel on a larger scale were also recovered, the upper half of which had a zone of bands of rouletting above the angle and bands of vertical combed lines in groups of 11 below. (Fig. 13).
- A (ii) Portions of a similar vessel differing from the above in that the decoration above the girth line consisted of vertical combed lines, above which are areas of impressed circles joined by lines and interspaced with upright bands of rouletting. Highly polished ware. (Fig. 13).
- B (i) From the centre of a base, possibly of a shallow bowl. (Fig. 13).
- B (ii) Fragment of hard grey clay, also centre of base. Imitations, made in the second half of the 1st century, of potters marks on Gallo-Belgic ware imported in the 1st half. (Fig. 13).

THE DATE AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE POTTERY

The distribution of the wares from these kilns appears to have been fairly local. Sites which have produced pottery which can be assumed to have come from West Stow are: Needham Harleston,⁴ on the Norfolk-Suffolk border, Fakenham, Lakenheath and Baylham Mill (Coddtenham).

⁴ Frere and Clarke, *loc. cit.*

FIG. 13.—West Stow Pottery ($\frac{1}{2}$).

Needham Harleston: Nos. 36 and 62 in the report bear the closest resemblance to the ware in question, 36 having upright bands of rouletting and combed lines, was found in Pit M, which lasted until 140 A.D., although a date nearer 70 A.D. is suggested for it. Number 62, which can, for all its aspects, be ascribed to West Stow, is dated as *c.* 100 A.D.

Fakenham: Sherds, with a stamped decoration of groups of concentric circles and single lines of rouletted dots, and of a ware identical to that of West Stow were found in association with early 2nd century pottery.

Lakenheath: Sherds of similar ware and motif from a black patch containing pottery of the 2nd century.⁵

Baylham Mill (Coddendam): During the excavation of the Roman road from Colchester to Caister-by-Norwich in 1953, one large sherd of polished black ware stamped with concentric circles—West Stow type 2 *a.*—was found in material containing two fibulae of the first half of the 2nd century.

In the same class are the 'bowls from the War Ditches at Cherryhinton, Cambridgeshire, which are described by Fox in *The Archaeology of the Cambridge Region* as 'of smother-kiln ware with polished surfaces'. Closely allied are the fragments of stamped ware at Colchester, which are considered by Mr. M. R. Hull, Curator of the Colchester and Essex Museum, to be of the period 80-120 A.D.

The West Stow types are similar to a group of 1st century imitations of Forms 29 and 37 found in London and now in the Guildhall Museum. (Also *cf.* *Richborough* 3, 283 and 284 (dated 80-120 A.D.), *Silchester*, 163, 164, and *British Museum Guide to Roman Britain*, 1922, p. 114, for similar decorations).

From these parallels, and the stratagraphical evidence from Baylham Mill, a date of 100-120 A.D., would not appear inconsistent for the manufacture of these vessels from West Stow.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The writer is indebted to Mr. Basil Brown of Rickinghall, who discovered the site and did much of the excavation, for his ready co-operation; to Dr. P. Corder, M.A., LITT.D., Mr. M. R. HULL, M.A., F.S.A., Mr. R. R. Clarke, M.A., F.S.A., for their observations and advice; and to Mr. H. J. M. Maltby, F.M.A., who obtained permission to investigate the site. Thanks are also expressed to the masters and boys of Culford School, and others who assisted in the excavation.

⁵ From information kindly supplied by Lady Briscoe, F.S.A.