

ROMAN LONG MELFORD

By NORMAN SMEDLEY, M.A., F.S.A., F.M.A.

The Roman road from London to Colchester (*Camulodunum*) and thence to Caister-by-Norwich (*Venta Icenorum*) passes through Chelmsford. Here a subsidiary branches off, heading (as the Peddars Way) for Holme, near the mouth of the Wash. On its way, it appears to follow the main street of Long Melford, where it is crossed by an important west-east road which, leaving the Via Devana at Wixoe passes on to Baylham Mill (*Combretovium*), where five roads met. It seemed likely, therefore, that Long Melford had been a settlement in Roman times, and this was borne out by isolated finds recorded in the *Victoria County History*,¹ *Archaeologia*,² and in these *Proceedings*.³

In 1958 a mechanical excavator used in digging a sewerage trench across a field bordering on Liston Lane (TL/86064516) cut through a tessellated pavement. It was due to the prompt action of Mr. Wickham Partridge that observation was enabled to be kept on operations at this very early stage, and that the remainder of an obviously important site was saved from further destruction.

Subsequently it was possible to follow the ramifications of the sewerage system and to get a general picture of the extent of the Roman occupation. Although controlled archaeological excavation was not feasible, sections were drawn where possible, and pottery and other objects were collected by members of the Ipswich Museum staff and others, notably the children of the school of which Mr. Partridge is headmaster (who parted nobly if sometimes regretfully with their treasures), by workmen engaged on the scheme, and by Mr. N. E. Byford, postmaster at Long Melford. The site was visited as frequently as possible and the greatest care taken to check the exact location of all finds. Although the detailed stratification of each site could not be studied the relative abundance of datable types serves as some indication of the period of maximum occupation.

In 1960 work on a gas main trench added to material finds and to knowledge of the site, and some reference will be made below to those of the earlier finds which have either gone unrecorded or may help to complete the picture.

¹ *V.C.H.*, vol. I, pp. 312-3.

² *Archaeologia*, vol. xxiii (1831), p. 394.

³ *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, vol. II (1859), pp. 96, 97, 223; vol. xiv (1912), p. 286; vol. xv (1913), p. 267; vol. xxiv (1948), p. 168.

LONG MELFORD

0 100' 200' 300' 400' 500'

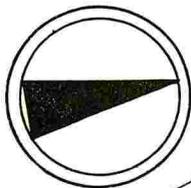
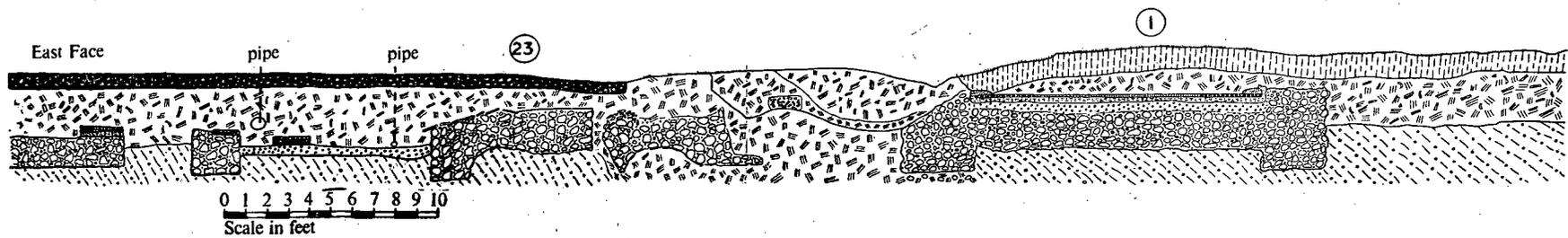
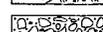
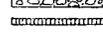
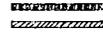
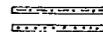
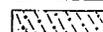


FIG. 43.—Plan of Long Melford.

Romano-British sites are marked in red.

(Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the Sanction of H.M. Stationery Office, Crown Copyright reserved.)



-  Road metalling
-  Silt/rubble
-  Masonry
-  White tesserae
-  Black tesserae
-  Tile
-  Pink cement
-  White cement
-  Natural

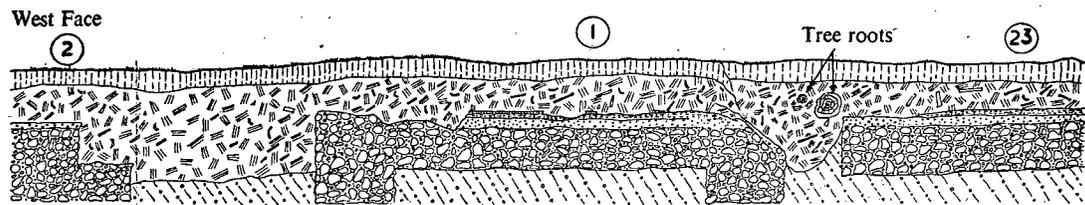


FIG. 44.—Sections through pavement.

The Ancient Monuments Department helped throughout by covering much of the cost of transport, and not least by scheduling as an Ancient Monument the site of the building of which the pavement formed a part.

FIND-SPOTS AND FINDS

A plan of the area, based on the Ordnance Survey 1/2500 map, with sewerage and water-mains trenches indicated, was kindly supplied by the contractors, Messrs. Sandford, Fawcett & Partners, through the good offices of Mr. J. R. Marsden, the resident engineer of the local authority. From this was prepared a plan (Fig. 43) on which the find-spots are shown, the lines of the trenches being omitted for the sake of clarity. The find-spots are numbered 1-49 (50 is the site of a Neolithic find). Later finds from a gas-main trench excavated in November 1960 are numbered 51 and 52. Earlier finds shown on the Ordnance Survey map Sheet TL 84 N.E. are generally coincident with the sites mentioned below and have not therefore usually been numbered. Sites were given numbers as they were found; in the notes which follow it has been considered more profitable to group the sites in their relation to one another rather than to list them consecutively.

The survey was valuable not only for the positive evidence, but for the negative evidence which it produced. It demonstrates that the main area of occupation lay to the west of the reputed line of the Roman road; few remains were found to the east, and one of these (40) was a burial.

The trench cutting through the pavement area (1) also sectioned a ditch (4) which formed the southern boundary of a raised platform some 40 feet inside the road-ditch, running from 42 feet west of the trench for 440 feet. This platform is visible in an air photograph of Long Melford taken by Dr. J. K. S. St. Joseph.⁴

Some of the coarse ware has been seen by Mr. M. R. Hull of the Colchester & Essex Museum, and identifications by him are followed by the initials (M.R.H.). Mr. Brian Hartley of the University of Leeds also examined the figured samian and his notes are incorporated, with the initials (B.R.H.).

1. Tessellated pavement (Pl. XXXVI and Fig. 44). The pavement was formed of tesserae of double-cube form, $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch square and 1-inch deep. The exposed width showed a central area of white limestone tesserae 7 feet 6 inches in width, flanked

⁴ M. W. Beresford and J. K. S. St. Joseph, *Medieval England: An Aerial Survey*, Fig. 104.

on either side by 2 feet of tesserae of black bituminous limestone. A red tile, 1 foot 6 inches in length, was inserted centrally, but is not shown in the section from which it is set back. At either end, and overlapping the black area for 10 inches, was a quarter-round moulding of red tile, and at one end a line of upright tesserae above this indicated that the structure had been walled with tesserae and was in all probability a bath rather than a room.

An angled fragment of painted wall-plaster probably came from a window surround.

As may be seen from the sections (Fig. 44), the tesserae were set in a layer of pink cement (*opus signinum*), 3 or 4 inches thick, which again rested on a 6-inch layer of white cement. Beneath this the floor of flint pebbles was nearly 2 feet in thickness, with another foot depth for the wall-footings.

Incorporated in the rubble overlying the pavement was a *tegula* and a few 1-inch cubes of red tile, cement adhering to which indicated that they had formed part of a pavement.

Pottery sherds from this site included fragments of coarse brown combed ware evidently from the Claudian phase of the occupation, to which period must be attributed a sherd from a butt-beaker in Terra Rubra 4, a local copy of a Gallo-Belgic prototype (M.R.H.). A sherd from a grey poppy-head beaker was of second century date, and grey coarse ware included the lower half of a jar. A fragment of a samian form 37 bowl is described by B. R. Hartley as follows:—Form 37, South Gaulish. Sub-divided panel decoration of the kind favoured by BIRAGILLVS, MERCATO, MASCVVVS and their contemporaries c. A.D. 85–105 (B.R.H.).

- 1a. It was natural that the site should attract local attention, and a number of sherds were collected and eventually handed in. As these could not always be definitely attributed to the actual area over the pavement, and may have included the boundary ditch (4), they are here listed separately.

Finds attributable to the first century included a sherd of a bowl with decoration similar to that figured (Fig. 45, *h*), fragments of coarse combed ware and of large storage jars.

Grey ware was probably largely of second century date; a sherd from a rough-cast colour-coated beaker was of a type found in Hadrianic times and later (M.R.H.).

Samian included sherds of form 18/31 (at least two bowls), form 27, and the following:—

PLATE XXXVI

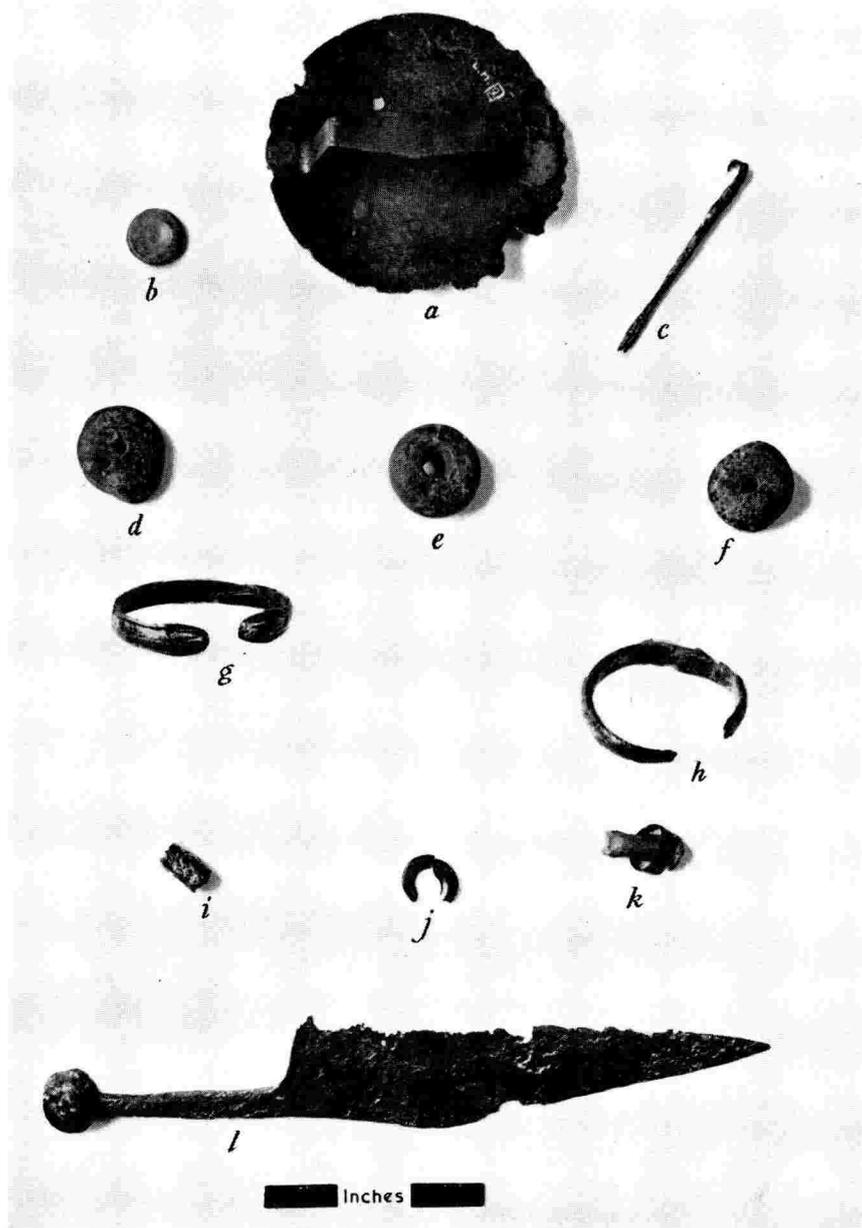


a, The pavement showing quarter-round moulding and run of vertical tesserae



b, The pavement showing inset tile

PLATE XXXVII



Small Finds

Form 37, Central Gaulish (almost certainly Martres de Veyre, judging by the fabric). The zone of beaded-circles at the base occurs on a Caerleon bowl with the finisher's stamp DONNAVCVS (*C.G.P.*, Pl. 42, 486), and the column is not uncommon on bowls in the same general style. The names of the mould-makers responsible for these schemes of decoration are not known, but the general date, *c.* A.D. 100–200, is scarcely in doubt (B.R.H.).

2. Some 12 feet south of the pavement, the section of another floor appeared in the west face of the trench but not in the other face, indicating that the trench had cut off the end of it. The masonry bore a coating of cement, but if the floor had been tessellated the surface must have been destroyed at some earlier date, possibly by ploughing.
3. In the west face of the sewerage-trench, divided from pavement (1) by a field-ditch, was another pavement, followed for 10 feet (see section) and continuing under the road, although the section was not drawn beyond this point. Trenching along Liston Lane for a gas main in October 1960 indicated that this pavement probably extended westwards to the limit of the raised platform. According to workmen who had seen the trench open at all stages, it was missing just west of the sewerage trench for 15 feet, but this may have been due to disturbance by the mechanical excavator, or to faulty observation.
4. The raised platform on which must have stood the building of which the pavement (1) formed a part, was bounded to the south by a ditch. Here there was a preponderance of early material, including a polished red bowl in native Belgic fabric (Fig. 45, *a*, and cf. *Camulodunum*, 214 (M.R.H.)), and a cooking-pot with horizontal combing on the body (Fig. 45, *b*). Quantities of sherds from large storage jars with combed decoration, and some with finger-tipping on the shoulder, and black fumed ware, red at fracture, are also of early first century date. Highly micaceous harder grey pottery was of romanising Belgic type. From this site also came an awl (Pl. XXXVII, *c*).
23. The main building must also have extended for some distance to the north under Liston Lane and the short length of road linking it with St. Catherine's Road. Pavements were traced for at least 45 feet from the northern edge of the first pavement, and some of these, as may be seen in Fig. 44, showed traces of pink cement.

Related to the pavement area were several pits in the region between St. Catherine's Road and Liston Lane.

10. A manhole in the angle of the trench serving houses in the southward extension of St. Catherine's Road running to Liston Lane, and the associated trenches, disclosed a large pit or disturbed area extending 28 feet east and 24 feet north and possibly also in the directions undisturbed by the excavation.

Very coarse hand-made red combed ware may indicate occupation before the turn of the century, although this and the heavy, thick-rimmed storage jars persist at least into the earlier post-conquest era.

The Claudian period is represented by bowls in reddish-buff native ware (*Camulodunum*, 218 *c*), and in romanising Belgic, one with lattice pattern on the shoulder, another with decoration as in Fig. 45, *h*.

A bowl with thick reeded rim, and a carinated bowl (Fig. 45, *q*), may find parallels in the *Jewry Wall* series (Figs. 21 and 38), datable to the late first or early second century.

A dish with short thick rim of triangular section brings the date to late in the second century, to which may also belong red painted coloured wall-plaster.

Bones of sheep and dog were found on this site, and iron nails and a staple.

11. At the eastern end of this pit the trench cut through a grave containing a skeleton. A full and detailed report from Dr. Calvin Wells, F.R.A.I., is in the Museum files. It identifies the skeleton as that of an adult female with severe osteoarthritis and a periostitis probably resulting from repeated blows on the head. The trench at this point also yielded a coarse, corrugated tile, a tessera of sandstone, a nail, fired red clay with grass-markings, possibly from a kiln, fragments of a large storage jar with stabbed decoration, and one sherd from a poppy-head beaker. Bones of pig were also recovered.

7. Rubbish pit in the garden of 25 St. Catherine's Road. Pottery reported but retained by the finders.

6. Rubbish pit in the garden of 23 St. Catherine's Road. Pottery ranged from storage jars and romanised Belgic ware of the first century to one sherd of a flanged bowl of the late fourth century (cf. *Jewry Wall*, Fig. 55, *Homersfield*, Fig. 30, *g*), with a preponderance of second century types.

A frilled rim (Fig. 45, *d*) in hard grey ware compares with *Colchester*, Fig. 64, 60 and Fig. 65, 63, and *Verulamium*, Fig. 32, 46. A thick sherd from a large red jar has a band of wavy-line combing (cf. *Gillam*, 29). A mortar (Fig. 46, *c*) has the overhanging rim of the early second century.

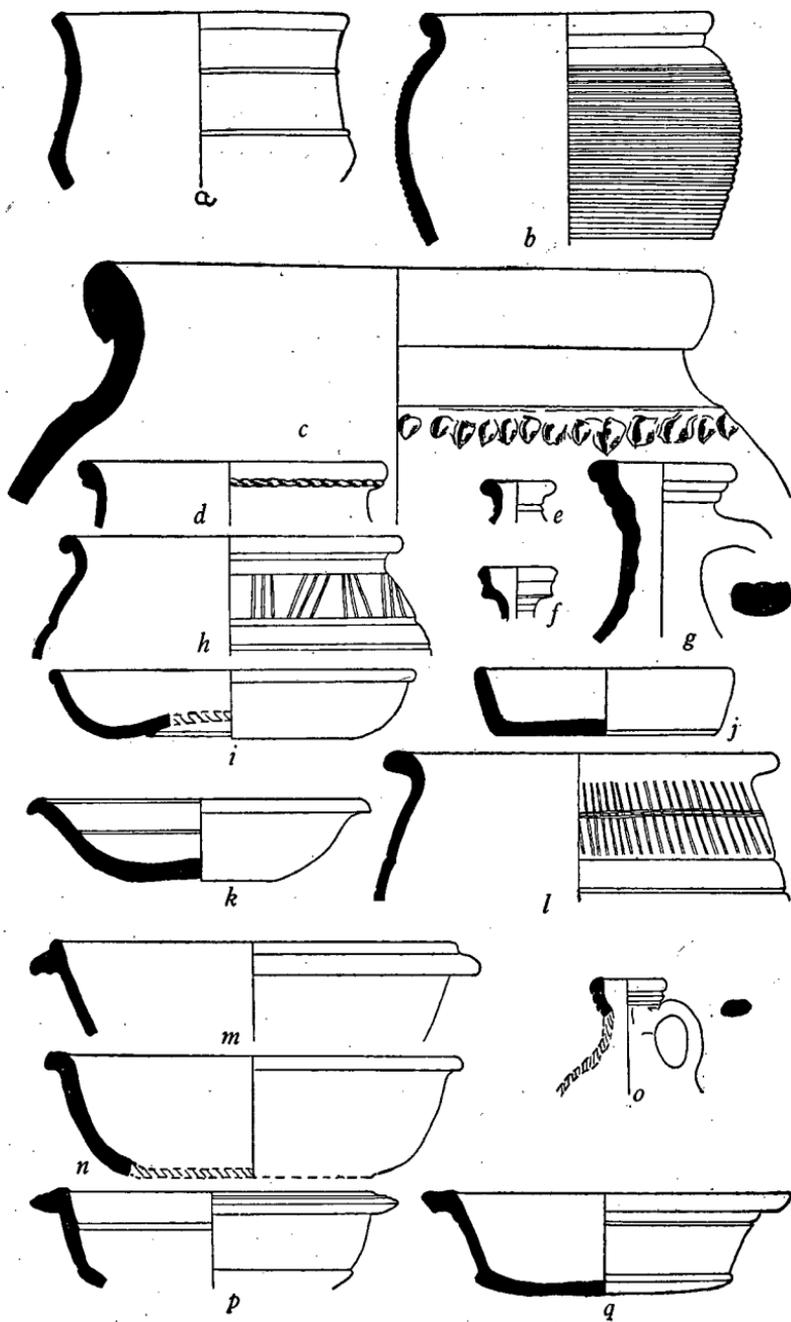


FIG. 45.—Pottery (4)

The neck of a small flagon (Fig. 45, *f*) is difficult to parallel, but the cupped form may indicate an Antonine date.

The rim of a small jar in colour-coated ware (Fig. 45, *e*) is of third/fourth century date.

Samian from this site included part of a large base of form 18, with rouletted circle, and sherds of form 18/31 and form 33, in addition to the following:—

Form 18/31 or 31, *SECVNDIIM*. A recent example from Canterbury makes it clear that this is not an aberrant stamp of *SECVNDINVS* but a stamp of the rare potter *SECVNDILLVS*. On the Canterbury piece the tails of the L's are just visible. The Canterbury piece and a form 79 from London (*Stamps*, p. 286) attest Antonine activity. The Long Melford dish could be Hadrianic or early Antonine. (B.R.H.).

Form 37, Central Gaulish. Small bowls in this style are not uncommon in Antonine contexts. They have commonly been assigned to *CINNAMVS*, but his stamp never appears on them, the normal ovolo is not one of his, and the glaze is usually much more brilliant (as with the Melford bowl). The centaur (*Figure-Types*, 732), gladiator (*Figure-Types*, 1059) and leaf-tips in the field all commonly occur on these bowls. As the normal ovolo is on a signed *PAVILLVS* bowl from Lezoux (Ronne Museum—unpublished), they were perhaps made by him or his associates and may provisionally be assigned to a 'Paullus Group'. Several have been found in an Antonine 1 group at Mumrills, and a general date *c.* A.D. 145–170 may be suggested (B.R.H.).

A bone gaming counter (Pl. XXXVII, *b*) came from this site.

14. Rubbish pit in garden of 21 St. Catherine's Road. Pottery reported but retained.
13. From a pit in the garden of the house adjoining the school yard came the base of a buff flagon.
12. Pit in school yard. One sherd of coarse combed native ware storage jar.
9. The Ordnance Survey map shows Roman material as having been found in the garden of Melford Place (54). Some 200 feet to the west of this site the sewerage trench brought to light two objects of some interest, an iron knife (Pl. XXXVII, *l*) and a circular bronze hand mirror (Pl. XXXVII, *a*), $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and slightly convex, with a flat handle (detached) behind. Mr. Graham Webster has examined this mirror and reports examples in the Museum at Vaison and the Musée

Calvet at Avignon, and says that others have been found at Cavaillon and Apt. They came from family cinerary urns of the first and second century, and some may also act as box tops to powder boxes.

22. One of the few sites to the east of the main road was Chapel Green, where Roman material was also found in 1922. The base of a large storage jar may indicate some earlier occupation, but a frilled rim comparable with Fig. 45, *d* should be datable to the early part of the second century; the rim of a waster may indicate the proximity of a kiln.
8. Maltings behind Chapel Green. A date in the second half of the first century may be indicated by a bowl in the romanising Belgic tradition (M.R.H.) (Fig. 45, *l*). A sherd from a large jar has finger-tipping below the neck. Black fumed ware, some with decoration of polished lines, is also of early date, and the sherd of a mortarium with thick, heavy flange is probably Claudian.
52. Opposite Rotten Row, the 1960 gas-main trench produced a flagon neck of early second century date (Fig. 45, *g*).

Rather less than half a samian dish, form 18, has the flat base and triangular foot-stand of Claudian date.

5. An isolated pit some 400 feet north of Chapel Green, but to the west of the road, coincided with a manhole and produced a more abundant supply of pottery than would otherwise have been the case. Of many sherds of large coarse storage jars, some had combed decoration. A bowl in romanising Belgic ware had a bulge between grooves, decorated with paired diagonal incised lines. A large jar in fumed black ware had burnished lattice decoration on the bulge. Part of a dish in black fumed ware resembles *Camulodunum* 16, Nero-Vespasian (M.R.H.) but has a grooved rim (Fig. 45, *i*). A sherd of a bowl in black fumed ware was stained inside with madder, possibly used as a dye.

A pie-dish with thick, triangular rim (cf. *Jewry Wall*, Fig. 19, 20) has impressed zig-zag decoration, and should be datable to the second half of the second century.

Sherds of a buff mortarium liberally gritted with white and grey flints, bead slightly above flange, is of a type usual in the late first to early second century (Fig. 46, *a*). There is also a buff copy of samian Dragendorff 46.

The samian includes sherds of form 27, form 31, form 36 and Ludovici T1, and the following:—

Form 31, *Stamps*, pp. 206, 406, Pont-des-Rêmes, Antonine, MINVSO F. Chenet and Gaudron (*Terre Sigillée d'Argonne*) only give the form MINVSVS from the Argonne, but the fabric and distribution of vessels stamped by MINVSO leave little doubt that Oswald was correct, so the stamp is presumably a variant of the name (cf. RANTO—RANTVS, etc.) (B.R.H.).

Form 37, Central Gaulish. The ovolo, sharp wavy line, shields and column are all common in the work of the potter or potters styled X-2 by Stanfield (*C.G.P.* p. 5 ff.). The fabric and workmanship of this piece are not up to the usual standard, but there is little doubt about the attribution or date, c. A.D. 100–125.

34. This pit was found to be continuous with site 5.
19. From the area known as Stonylands Field a bowl in romanising Belgic ware (Fig. 45, *h*) has burnished bands on neck and on the bulge at the shoulder, with decoration of triple burnished lines between these zones. Large coarse storage jars and black fumed pottery were also present. Sherds of grey ware may be datable to the second century or later and there is a fragment of a colour-coated pot with rough-cast decoration.

Form 30, Central Gaulish. The ovolo and figures (*Figure-Types* 368, 286 and 647 from left to right) are all known on signed DRVSVS bowls, and the general style fits his (cf. *C.G.P.*, Pl. 88, 8). On the whole, then, attribution seems secure, though we still need to know more about the work of potters of this period. No bowls in the style of Drusus seem to occur in Scotland and a date c. A.D. 120–140 fits the available evidence (B.R.H.).

51. Near this site the digging of a trench for a gas main produced a fine little poppy-head beaker of the circular form attributed to the late first or early second century (Fig. 47, *f*). According to the workmen by whom it was found it contained cremated bones and was standing in a dish (Fig. 47, *h*). Both were intact.

It was from this area that a number of whole pots were recovered in 1913 during excavations for gravel. According to the published reports,⁵ they accompanied a large skeleton. They included a vessel described as a *guttus* (Fig. 47, *b*, cf. Fig. 47 *a*, and *Silchester*, Pl. LXIV, 124), a dish in grey ware, grooved inside rim and mid-wall (Fig. 45, *k*), a straight-sided dish in black-burnished highly micaceous ware (Fig. 45, *j*), the lower half of a jar or flask in grey ware, with decoration of

⁵ *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, vol. xiv (1912), p. 286 and xv (1913), p. 267.

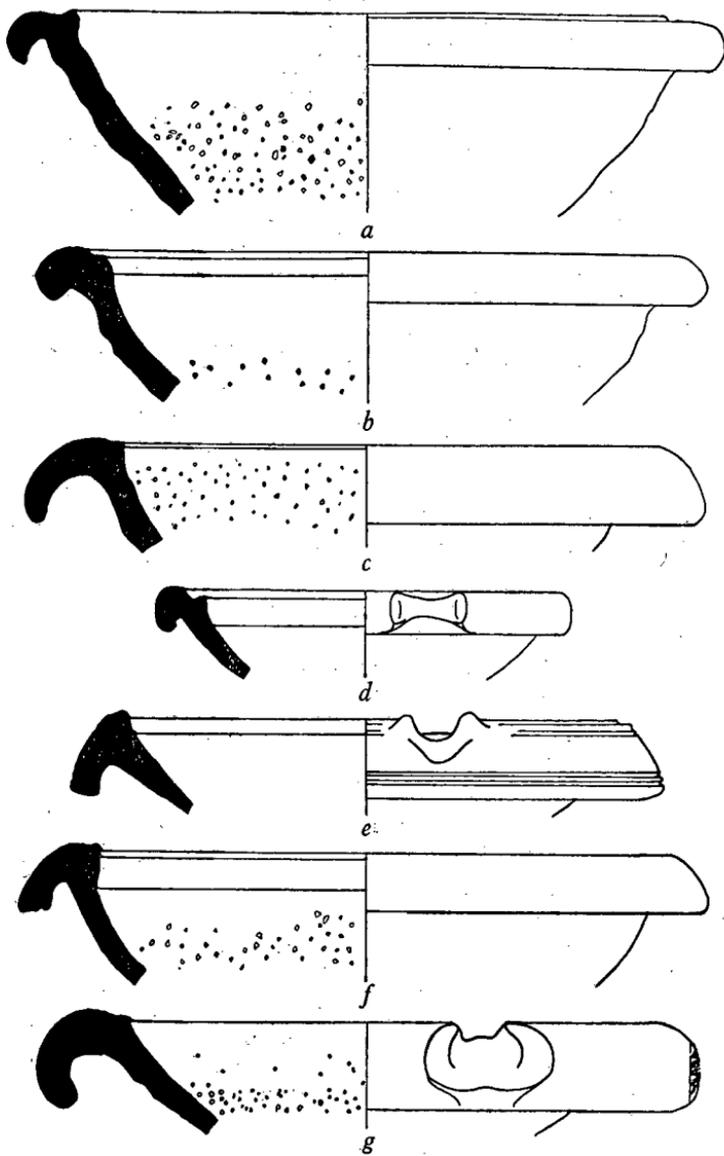


FIG. 46.—Mortaria ($\frac{1}{4}$)

horizontal grooves and vertical groups of incised lines (Fig. 47, *c*) reminiscent of some West Stow decoration, a small slender grey jar with zone of lattice decoration (Fig. 47, *g*), a cylindrical jar, apparently having had a small aperture in the top (Fig. 47, *j*), and a glass unguentarium (Fig. 47, *i*). With these was a small samian bowl described as follows by Hartley:—

Q.V.C. on form 27, *Stamps*, p. 256, Lezoux, Hadrianic-Antonine. A stamp from Newstead must have arrived there in the Antonine period, and the frequent use of typologically late examples of form 27 suggests a Hadrianic-Antonine date. But the fabric and glaze is always unusual and cannot be matched at Lezoux. Perhaps the potter really worked at one of the minor centres. Q.V.C. presumably gives the *tria nomina* of a citizen [Q(uintus) V(alerius) C] (B.R.H.).

It would thus appear that this area was in use as a cemetery during the last half of the second century, and possibly earlier.

16, 17, 18. Three rubbish pits were sectioned by the rising main as it cut across the fields to the north of the cemetery area.

16. Sherds in considerable quantity were mostly from large storage jars and both native and Roman pots of the first century A.D. A sherd of a Gallo-Belgic girth-beaker in Terra Rossa 3 belongs to the first half of the first century.

There were a few fragments of later date, including a minute sherd of black West Stow ware with concentric circle decoration, and a number of tegulae indicating the proximity of a building.

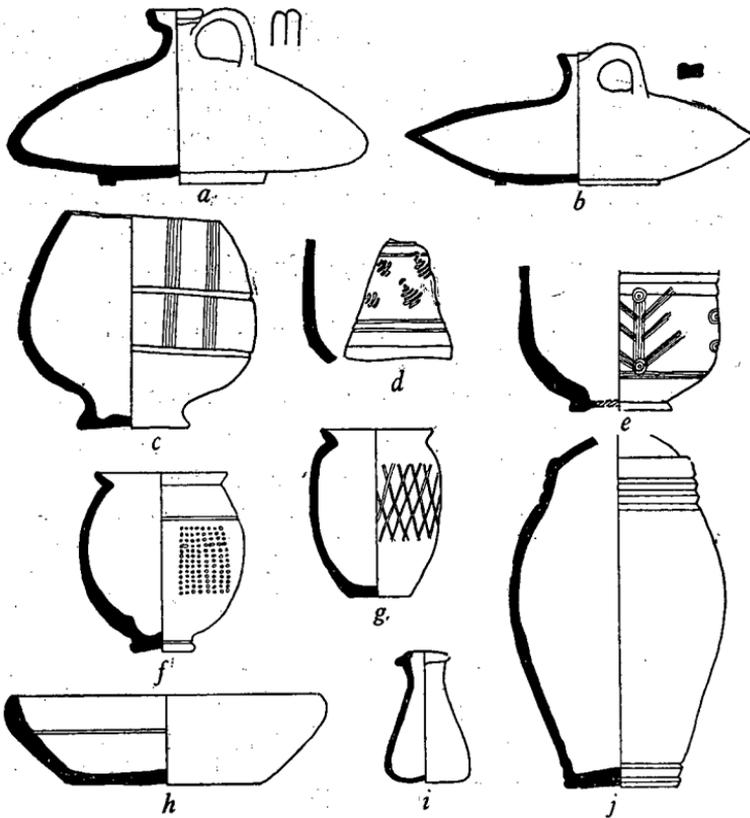
Samian included sherds of form 18/31 and form 27 and a small pedestal base.

Form 67, South Gaulish. The cupids (*Figure-Types*, 435 and another to right) and grass-tufts are common on late South Gaulish ware of the period *c.* A.D. 85–105. (Oswald's drawing 435 is a poor version of Hermet's 34). (B.R.H.).

18. Sherds from cordoned bowls are of both native and romanising Belgic type. A shallow grey platter is perhaps a local copy of a Gallo-Belgic form in hard grey Roman ware (cf. *Camulodunum*, Pl. XLIX, 24B). A sherd of reddish ware with alternate zones of vertical and oblique comb-stabbings (cf. *Colchester*, Fig. 55, 35 and 38) dates from the turn of the century.

A carinated dish resembles Fig. 45, *g* from site 10, but is in red ware.

A sherd from a large poppy-head beaker is of the circular early form. Sherds with zig-zag rouletting may be second century or later.

FIG. 47.—Pottery and glass ($\frac{1}{4}$)

15. A rubbish pit in the yard of Messrs. Clement Theobald & Sons, Builders, in St. Catherine's Road yielded a variety of types with a general emphasis on the second century, although a few pieces may be earlier.

The base of a jar with rough-cast decoration is Hadrianic or later (M.R.H.).

A fumed black rim, slightly coved and externally grooved should be datable to the early second century.

An interesting mortarium spout (Fig. 46, *g*) bears the stamp TVTA. Mrs. K. Hartley writes:—

The surviving border of the stamp is an unusual one and only one potter is known to have used it. All stamps known so far are from the same die and read TVTA retrograde—presumably an abbreviated name.

His market was evidently predominantly in East Anglia, where his stamps are recorded at Bury St. Edmunds Museum, Colchester (3), and now at Long Melford. The distinctly yellowish cream fabric and the grit is typical of second-century Colchester mortaria. It is probable that TVTA also worked in the Colchester area, perhaps in the first half of the second century, but certainty must await examples of his stamps from dated contexts (K.H.).

Samian ware includes a base of form 18/31 and the following:—

OF PATRIC on form 27. The well-known South Gaulish potter, *c. A.D. 70–100*.

Form 18 with stamp Ⓢ FROMI. Although the apparent reading is OF FROMI, there can be really little doubt that the stamp is from a defectively cut die of FRONTINVS, the well-known late South Gaulish potter, *c. A.D. 75–105*.

Form 37 in the distinctive style of GERMANVS of La Graufesenque. The basal wreath and the stamp used for the conventional vegetation (or rocks) are among his regular repertoire (Hermet, *La Graufesenque II*, Pls. 99–102). *c. A.D. 75–95 (B.R.H.)*.

A fourth century coin with obverse VRBS ROMA and reverse of wolf and twins was reported from near this site.

A sherd from a small polished grey bowl has round impressions and bosses (*cf. Colchester, 338*, for decoration only) and may be dated to the fourth century.

20. In a large pit in a trench behind the gardens of the houses on the north side of St. Catherine's Road were sherds of several large storage jars, with thick rims in various stages of eversion; one very heavy bead-rimmed vessel has coarse finger-tipping on the shoulder and is a common type at Long Melford (Fig. 45, *c*). Bowls in romanising Belgic ware have decoration similar to Fig. 45, *l*, but without the horizontal lines. A sherd from a globular beaker has zones of vertical comb-stabbed decoration (*cf. Camulodunum, 108*, pre-Flavian to second century). There is much black fumed ware in both red and grey paste.

A neck and handle in red clay may belong to a flagon or a two-handled jug, and several flagon bases are probably of the second century.

A native copy of samian form 27 is in blackish-brown ware. Samian forms include form 18, form 18/31, 27, 33 and 38.

21. Another pit a little to the east of the above contained a very similar assemblage of pottery types with the addition of a sherd from a pie-dish similar to one from site 10, with triangular rim, late second century, and a flat-rimmed micaceous dish with external horizontal grooving.

Samian types were form 18, form 18/31 and form 27.

- 24-33. A trench running parallel to the main street and some 250 feet or so west of it cut through a series of ten pits, the surface diameters of which were respectively 25, 15, 6, 5, 10, 7, 4, 4, 10 and 8 feet. All showed a range of material of first and second century types and only those of particular interest are noted below.

24. Almost half the top-stone of a quern of Niedermendig lava, 15 inches in diameter, was accompanied by many sherds of large storage jars, part of a bowl in romanising Belgic ware with decoration of impressed oblique and horizontal lines, a small bowl of highly micaceous clay with a groove below the shoulder (cf. *Colchester*, 299), and samian form 18/31. This pit also contained a quantity of ox-bones.

25. Although in most cases the base of the pits was not reached by the trench, four feet in depth, the opportunity occurred to examine this pit which had a depth of 5 feet 6 inches.

26. A fragment of one of the storage jars had an unusual decoration on the shoulder of circles of stabbed dots. A trumpet-shaped base from a pedestal urn was in red coarse ware.

32. A mortarium sherd (Fig. 46, *b*) had a rolled rim rising above the beading (cf. *Colchester*, 496, but rim heavier, and *Gillam*, 248 (A.D. 130-160).). Here were many bones of sheep and ox, some cut, one fabricated into a point or scoop.

This trench was frequently visited by children living near, and some of the material handed in could not be definitely assigned to any particular pit in the series.

Of storage jar sherds, some were combed, one had finger-tipping on the shoulder. A bowl in romanising Belgic had decoration comparable with Fig. 45, *h*, and a bowl with two bulges between grooves resembled *West Stow*, 4*a*, *c*. A.D. 100. The wall of a dish with wavy line decoration came from a copy of samian form 37, probably third century (M.R.H.), and a flanged bowl indicated continuation into the fourth century.

42. A few yards north of 33, the finds resumed. Here the bulk of the material was early, and included a large fragment of a bowl of pure native Belgic manufacture.

43. A similar assemblage was accompanied by bones of horse, sheep and probably duck.
41. A large sherd of form 42 compares with *Oswald & Pryce's* Colchester type, Pl. LIV, Fig. 4, and may be Flavian in date. A figured sherd of form 37 was also found, but has not been available for examination.
44. Some coarse ware accompanied a few sherds of samian. ALBVCIANI on form 33. *Stamps*, p. 11, Lezoux. The forms used, and the presence of several stamps on Pudding Pan Rock, suggest activity c. A.D. 160–200 (B.R.H.).
38. Pegg's Yard. This was a most prolific site, with examples of all periods up to the second century, the following being the more notable:—
- Rim and shoulder of a bowl in pink, probably West Stow ware (*West Stow*, 4a).
- Copy of form 30 in pink with decoration made by a twisting stroke of a comb (Fig. 47, d).
- Copy of form 30 in pinkish buff, with decoration of impressed circles and combed lines (Fig. 47, e) (cf. *West Stow*, 2, e).
- These three are all probably West Stow products, dating c. A.D. 100–120.
- Neck of small white flagon (Fig. 45, o) (cf. *Jewry Wall*, Fig. 28, 12) Antonine.
- Samian included part of a base of form 18/31, and the following:—
- VESPONI on form 31. *Stamps*, pp. 332, 442, 'Lezoux, Hadrian-Antonine'.
- The available evidence agrees well with Oswald's dating for VESPO. The Long Melford piece could be Hadrianic or early Antonine. (Irregular genitives are not uncommon: stamps in the nominative give VESPO) (B.R.H.).
- Form 37, Central Gaulish. Style of IANVARIS II or BVTRIO. The figure-type (*Figure-Types*, 907) and three-leafed ornament were used by both potters, but the rhomboidal beads are not so far attested for IANVARIS, though the fabric is not unusual for him, while it would be unusual for BVTRIO. Hadrianic or early Antonine (B.R.H.).
35. One of the few indications of occupation to the east of Hall Street was an inhumation at this point.
53. A fourth century coin (Ae. 3) of Constantine I was found 150 feet north of site 35, on the west side of the street, in 1939.

37. A cinerary urn containing cremated remains was found behind the Old Country Club, and together with samian sherds and a flask of the type variously described as a *guttus* or *gutturium*, remains in the possession of the proprietor who, however, kindly lent the last item for the purpose of making a drawing (Fig. 47, *a*). It compares with May's drawing in the *Silchester Report*, 1916, Pl. LXIV, 124.

39. This site was eventually sub-divided into Nos. 42, 43 and 44.

45. It was fortunate that many interesting finds turned up in the garden of the Post Office, where they were secured by Mr. N. E. Byford.

They included a large quantity of coarse ware, e.g. a carinated bowl in grey Roman ware closely resembling in form *West Stow*, 4*a*, but lacking the groove at the carination which is sharp, and several mortaria.

Three sherds from the rim of a mortarium in pale buff ware (Fig. 46, *f*), and with white grit should be of early second century or even first century date. Two in reddish clay, both with spouts (Fig. 46, *d*, *e*) may be as late as the early third century, but dating on rim-sections is untrustworthy.

One samian base came from this site:—

BV∩DOF (BVRDOF) on form 33. *Stamps*, pp. 49, 362 and 424, 'Lezoux, Trajan-Hadrian'.

Central Gaulish origin is certain, but stamps on Ludovici Tg. 38 and related forms attest Antonine activity. A Hadrianic-Antonine date is, therefore, probable, with the Melford piece probably early in the period (B.R.H.).

36. In Cock and Bell Lane, fragments of a human cranium were found in a pit also containing black fumed ware and grey ware of second century character, and a sherd of a grey dish with vertical white stripes of painted slip internally, probably fourth century. Two purely native Belgic bowls in the Moyses's Hall Museum, Bury St. Edmunds, came from a site opposite the Cock and Bell Hotel.

46. Two feet from 45 a male skeleton lay at a depth of 3 feet 6 inches.

47, 48 & 49. Three pits in the same group contained sherds of large storage jars and some other coarse ware, pit 49 also yielding a dupondius of Nerva's Third Consulate, A.D. 97, with reverse of 'Fortune' (*M. & S.*, 84).

40. In Woollard's garden, opposite the Post Office, on the east side of Hall Street was a burial of a young girl, with two bronze bracelets, (Pl. XXXVII, *g, h*), one penannular with snake-head terminals, a bronze ring which had been worn on, and had stained the penultimate phalanx of, the fourth digit, (Pl. XXXVII, *k*), a broken ring of jet, (Pl. XXXVII, *j*), three amber beads (Pl. XXXVII, *d, e, f*), a cylindrical bronze mount, (Pl. XXXVII, *i*), fragments of a glass vessel, three coffin-nails, and the bases of two small colour-coated beakers of the third or fourth century.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

A survey of Roman Long Melford, made possible by the cutting of trenches for a sewerage system and an associated rising main, in 1958, trenching for a gas main in 1960, and a consideration of such earlier finds as can be sited with reasonable accuracy, enable an assessment to be made of the extent in area and time of the Roman occupation. It was bounded on the south by the site now occupied by Long Melford Place, and stretched to a little way north of the Post Office.

There is very little to the east of the main road. To the west, evidence points to a Belgic occupation before the conquest, and settling down well under the new rule, with perhaps its peak of prosperity in the second century when the public bath-house was built. Thereafter the community would appear to have dwindled, to very small proportions by the fourth century.

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