

Site Aiv/v layer 381

- *90 Jar fragment in a pink fabric and a pale pink buff slip with applied decoration in red in the form of circles and rows of dots. For a similar style cf. *Gillam*, 1970, type 68. A.D. 80-130. (An earlier initial date would be possible in southern Britain).

Site Aiv/v layer 382

- *91 Lid of 'Castor box' in Nene Valley fabric. Off-white fabric with a brown colour coat internally and red externally. Cf. *Gillam*, 1970, type 341. A.D. 180-320.
- 92 Wall sherd of a jar in a grey fabric. A zone of decoration created by impressing and slightly raising the clay with the fingernail. For what appears to be a similar technique cf. *Brixworth*, no. 176. Flavian-Trajanic.
- *93 Sherd of a flanged bowl in a grey fabric with a reeded rim. For a possible restoration of this form cf. *Brixworth*, no. 78. A common Flavian-Trajanic type.
- *94 Rim sherd of a jar in a dark grey fabric with a black burnished surface. Cf. *Gillam*, 1970, type 139. A.D. 100-250.

General Comments on the Coarse Pottery

The pottery shows a preponderance of 1st-century types and many of these can be paralleled in the mid or mid to late 1st century. True Terra Rubra and Terra Nigra are absent (with the possible exception of no. 58) but there are several vessels in fabrics derived from Terra Nigra. An initial date of occupation some time in the reign of Nero would suit the coarse pottery evidence.

Quantities of pottery tail off from the late 1st century onwards, although there was certainly some occupation up to the middle of the 2nd century, judging from the few sherds of Nene Valley colour-coated fabric. The latest types represented are the fragments of 'Castor Box' (from levels 359 and 382). These must post-date c. A.D. 150-160 at which time the Nene Valley colour coat industry is currently thought to have begun. *Gillam* dates them to c. A.D. 180-320 in Northern Britain but examination of his evidence (*Gillam* types 341-2) shows only two occurrences of the type in dated contexts, both from mid to late 2nd century levels. Therefore, even without allowing for the possibility that the type may have been in circulation near its place of manufacture earlier than in Northern Britain, it is not possible definitely to claim any date later than the mid or mid to late 2nd century for this assemblage of pottery.

SMALL FINDS

All items are assumed to be of Roman date unless stated otherwise.

Bronze Objects, by Janet Webster

Nos. 1-4. Brooches

- 1 Colchester A. A one-piece brooch with the wire for the spring and that for the cord hook drawn out from the rear of the head, and the spring protected by short side wings hammered out from the sides of the head. This is a plain rather light-weight version of the type. Cf. for example *Camulodunum*, Pl. xc, 15. The date of this type of brooch at Colchester, where it was made in considerable numbers, ranges from the early years of the 1st century A.D. to the Boudiccan revolt (see *Camulodunum*, 308-310) (Fig. 38) (Find no. 10, site Aiv/v layer 311).
- 2 Langton Down C type, (see *Bagendon*, 175 for a definition of this type). The cylindrical spring cover has been fashioned by drawing out the metal at the rear of the head both upwards and downwards and then bending into a cylindrical form; the point of junction at the back of the cover is evident. The spring cover is decorated above the head with raised scroll decoration embellished with indented dots. Cf. *Camulodunum*, Pl. xciv, 107; *ibid*, Pl. xciv, 106 (from Andernach); *Bagendon*, 174, Fig. 32, 5; *Asciburgium*, 21, 1-3. Above the central triple dotted element of the ornament the cover is cut away, though this cut does not remove any of the ornamental detail, and a hinge pivot bar can be seen within the cylindrical case. Although two coils of wire are evident at the rear of the cylinder, where the pin should emerge, it seems likely that this brooch, at least in the final stages of its use, was hinged, the pin being hooked over an iron bar inserted after the removal of the original pin. This would account for the cut-away feature in the top of the spring cover which is unnecessary in the case of a sprung pin and for the considerable protrusion, now corroded beneath the pin stump, which presumably represents the stop usually fashioned in with the head of a hinged pin to act against the rear of the bow to afford tension to the pin when in the catch. The bow is broad and tapers only slightly towards the foot. It is decorated with longitudinal ribs plain and hatched, with the central triple group off alignment. A curved decorated cross moulding separates the cylinder from the bow. The latter is not centrally positioned in relation to the spring cover.

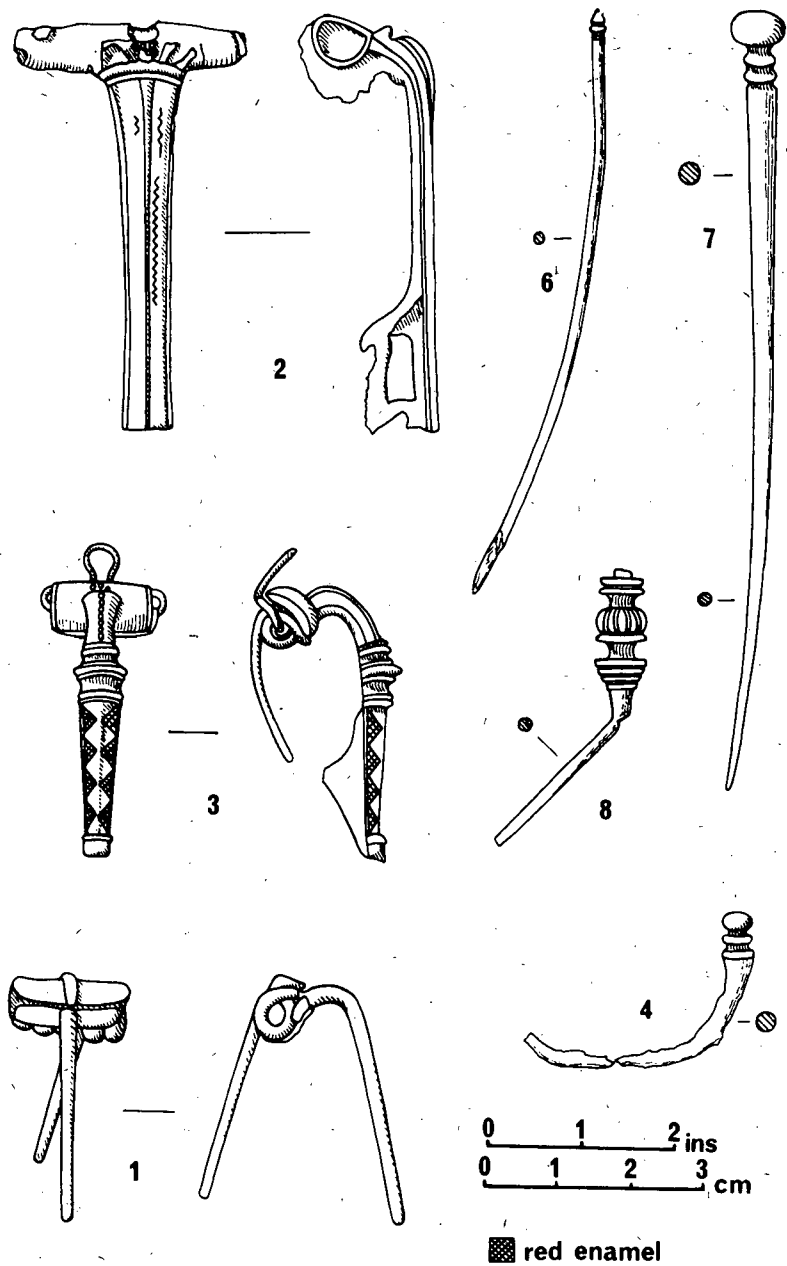


FIG. 38—Small finds: bronze (1:2).

The catchplate is damaged but was open with a ridged surrounding margin. The continental origins and periods of importation to Britain of this type of brooch have been discussed by Wheeler (*Lydney*, 70ff.) and more fully by Hull (*Camulodunum*, 317ff.) and its popularity in Britain in native as opposed to early-military contexts has been noted (see *Richborough* v, 75–76). The decorative motif on the cylindrical spring cover and its association with the maker's name Nertomarus (illustrated, *Asciburgium*, 21, nos. 1–3) has not however been discussed elsewhere in English. The scroll decoration which accompanies the maker's name may be of high quality (*Asciburgium*, 21, no. 1) or crude (*ibid.*, no. 3) and it is tempting to see this motif as the trade mark of a particular man. Langton Down brooches with this motif on the cylinder may be divided into four sub-categories:

- (i) Those such as that from Andernach with finely executed scroll ornament, but no maker's name.
- (ii) Those with good or moderately good scroll ornament and the maker's name Nertomarus inscribed on the cylinder.
- (iii) Those with poor scroll ornament on the cylinder and the maker's name Nertomarus.
- (iv) Those with poor scroll ornament on the cylinder and no maker's name.

It may be that Nertomarus established a brooch-making factory which produced numerous brooches of varying quality all bearing the scroll decoration as a trade mark and some further being 'signed'. Or perhaps Nertomarus acquired a reputation for the elegant scrollwork on the cylinder and his work was copied, the less scrupulous (or more illiterate?) brooch manufacturers even copying his name along with the decoration. The type appears to have gone out of use in the reign of Nero (Fig. 38) (Find no. 12, site Bi, unstratified).

- 3 Brooch with a sprung pin and internal chord. The spring is secured to the brooch by means of a hollow tube of bronze which serves as an axial bar to the spring and passes through a pierced lug at the rear of the head of the bow. This hollow tube also affords the housing from which the wire head loop emerges. There are short, flattish side-wings, plain save for slight marginal mouldings, and in the centre, above the head of the bow, is a triangle of three incised circles. The motif of incised circles is repeated in a row down the centre of the short upper bow. The waist has a projecting button emerging from plain mouldings and there are the usually associated pairs of plain mouldings above and below. All these are half-round only. The sharply ridged leg is decorated with triangles of enamel running lengthways down the brooch. There is a small moulded foot.

The brooch has some affinities with the Langton Down C series described above, notably in the triangle of circles at the head and in the profile of the bow as it emerges from the head. Further, the use of decoration in the form of triangles of inlay in conjunction with a Langton Down C brooch is evidenced from Colchester where an otherwise plain, tinned brooch is decorated with a double row of triangles inlaid with silver; cf. *Camulodunum*, Pl. xcvi, no. 108.

The waist-mouldings, however, preclude any very close relationship between this brooch and the Langton Down C series. Similar half-round waist-mouldings are known to have been in use on trumpet brooches of the Neronian period (see an example from Usk already published by Boon and Savory, 1975, 53, Fig. 2, no. 9 and Webster in the forthcoming report on the Usk bronzes) and it may be from this type that the waist-mouldings on the Long Melford brooch are derived.

Taking all the features as a whole, the brooch has links with the several, often crude, series of hinged T-shaped brooches with waist-knobs and with enamel ornament either on the head or on the leg which were to become so popular in the 2nd century A.D.; cf. for example, *Nor'nour*, 31–2, Fig. 11, nos. 9–10 and the series described on page 40 of that report in discussion of brooch no. 94. The spring arrangement and the quality of the workmanship as well as the links with the Langton Down C series suggest that this brooch was in advance of the derivative series (Fig. 38) (Find no. 8, site Aiv/v layer 328).

- 3a Bronze brooch in several fragments and in very poor condition. The head of the bow is lost and the means of attaching the pin is, therefore, unknown but it is likely to have been secured by means of a hinge with the pivot secured in a fold of metal at the head.

The upper part of the bow was weakly curved. It tapers slightly from a wide head to a narrower waist. The extant fragments bear a wide shallow groove down the centre while the edges of the bow are decorated with small projecting knobs.

There is an elongated waist with a cross moulding at the top of the plain narrow leg. The leg tapers slightly but widens out at the shallowly moulded foot.

The brooch seems likely to belong to the Bagendon C series as defined by Hull (*Bagendon*, 176–9, particularly 178ff.). The brooches are poor cast imitations of the Bagendon A and B types. The latter have a profile similar to, though not as strongly arched as, the Aucissa series to which the Bagendon brooches are related. Through their upper bows are passed iron bars with additional embellishment in the form of knobs at the outer edges and sometimes in the middle also (see *Bagendon*, 177, no. 46; 178, Fig. 33, no. 1). The Bagendon C type is a poor imitation of the A and B series and omits the iron bars but incorporates the

knob ornament by casting small projections down the sides of the bow. Brooches of this group are less strongly arched than the A and B types and the final derivative in the series, the Bagendon D type, omits the dummy knobs altogether and has a profile much closer to the Hod Hill series.

The Long Melford brooch retains the imitation knobs down the sides of the bow; in profile it is closer to the Hod Hill series than to the Aucissa.

The presence of a Bagendon C brooch at Long Melford implies that the derivative series at least was not confined to the single manufacturing centre of Bagendon and its environs. Not illustrated. (Find no. 37, site Ci, unstratified).

- 4 Bent silver pin with moulded head, or perhaps fragments of a silver penannular brooch. Penannular brooches with double or triple mouldings at the terminals are evidenced from a number of sites, though none is exactly similar to the Long Melford fragments.
Cf. *Maiden Castle*, 265, Fig. 86, 4; *The Lunt Second Interim*, Fig. 22, 27; *Roman Cheshire*, 82, Fig. 20, 11 (from Wilderspool); *Wroxeter 1923-1927*, Pl. 47, H.93.
If the fragments do belong to a penannular brooch, they must belong to Fowler's A3ii category or her A3iv. The former has a 1st to 3rd century A.D. date range, the latter occurs in the 1st century A.D. and appears in Anglo-Saxon graves (Fowler, 1960, 175) (Fig. 38) (Find no. 36, site Bi, unstratified).
- 5 Bronze balance. This type of balance is common in Britain, cf. *London in Roman Times*, 85, Fig. 22, 1-2 and *Richborough II*, Pl. XXI, Fig. 2, 56. The Long Melford balance is particularly well made. The balance arm itself is of circular cross-section and tapers evenly towards the loops for the suspension of the scale pans, and the suspension rings are separated from the arm proper by means of neat mouldings. Similarly the central suspension loop for the balance has a decorative treatment; the loop itself rises from between two curved scrolls, partly defined and embellished by incised line ornament.
Accompanying the balance is the suspension fitting which must originally have been attached to the central suspension loop (Fig. 39) (Find no. 1, site Aiv/v layer 361).
- Nos. 6-8. Long Melford produced an elegant set of bronze pins.
 - 6 Pin having a cone-shaped head with a collar moulding beneath and a slender shaft (Fig. 38) (Find no. 9, site Avi layer 377).
 - 7 Pin having a large knobbed head with two collar mouldings beneath. This type of decoration at the head of the pin is popular in Roman Britain; cf. *High Cross 1955*, 33, Fig. 12, 7; *London in Roman Times*, Pl. xli, 6 (Fig. 38) (Find no. 7, site Aiv/v layer 336).
 - 8 Bronze pin which has been silvered and has a very elaborately ornamented head (Fig. 38), (Find no. 11, site Aiv/v layer 358).
 - 9 A small bronze shaft tapering at both ends and with moulding at the centre. It could perhaps be part of a spatula probe/cosmetic spoon, cf. *Fishbourne II*, 109, Fig. 42, 59 (Fig. 39) (Find no. 5, site Aiv/v layer 300).
 - 10 Two fragments of bronze which may be parts of a pair of tweezers with simple line ornament down the blades, cf. *Caerleon: Prysg Field*, 86, Fig. 34, 44 (Fig. 39) (Find no. 40. Sewer trench, Rubbish pit B, Chapel Field).
 - 11 Probably a fish-hook (Fig. 39) (Find no. 6, site Aii, unstratified).
 - 12 Functional ring (Fig. 39) (Find no. 13, site Aiv/v layer 334a).
 - 13 Fragments of a brooch spring of 7 or more turns and of the associated pin. Not illustrated (Find no. 15, site Aiv/v layer 337).
 - 14 Strip of sheet bronze, pierced by 2 rivet holes (Fig. 39) (Find no. 29, site Xiv/ix layer 409; post-medieval boundary ditch).
 - 15 Ring of thin bronze wire with strip of iron bound round it and associated iron fragments. Purpose unknown. (Fig. 39) (Find no. 14, site Aiv/v layer 359).
 - 16 Bronze buckle of rectangular shape with a knob at each corner. A central bar crosses the short axis of the buckle and provides support for the tongue which is simply bent round it. There is a recessed projection to receive the tip of the tongue. The object is from topsoil and there is, therefore, some doubt about its authenticity as a Roman find particularly in view of the central pivoting of the tongue. Such pivoting can, however, be paralleled in Roman contexts; cf. *O.R.L.*, B.vii, K.72, Weissenburg, Taf. vi, no. 18; and the general similarity in style of this buckle to a rectangular type of buckle popular in the Roman period, albeit with a different application of the tongue, seems to suggest that the find may be of Roman date. Cf. *The Lunt Second Interim*, Fig. 22, 17. Less similar are *Richborough V*, Pl. xxxv, 97-8; *Wroxeter 1914*, Pl. XXI, Fig. 1, 5; *Newstead*, Pl. xcii, 1; *Novaesium*, Taf. xxx, B, 76. (Fig. 40) (Find no. 42, site Bi layer 001; topsoil).
 - 17 Fragment of the knife-edge foot and catchplate of a brooch. This is likely to be of 1st or 2nd century A.D. date (Fig. 39) (Find no. 47. Sewer trench, Rubbish pit B, Chapel Field).

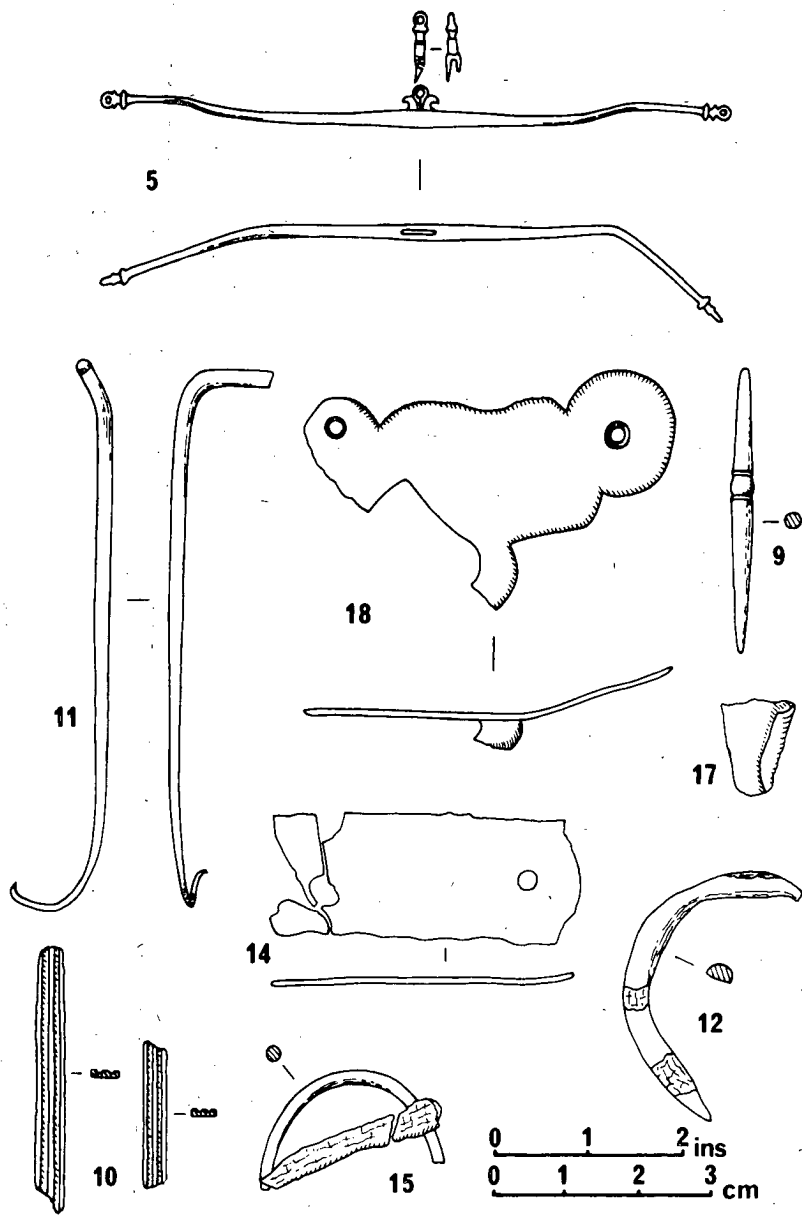


FIG. 39—Small finds: bronze (1:2).

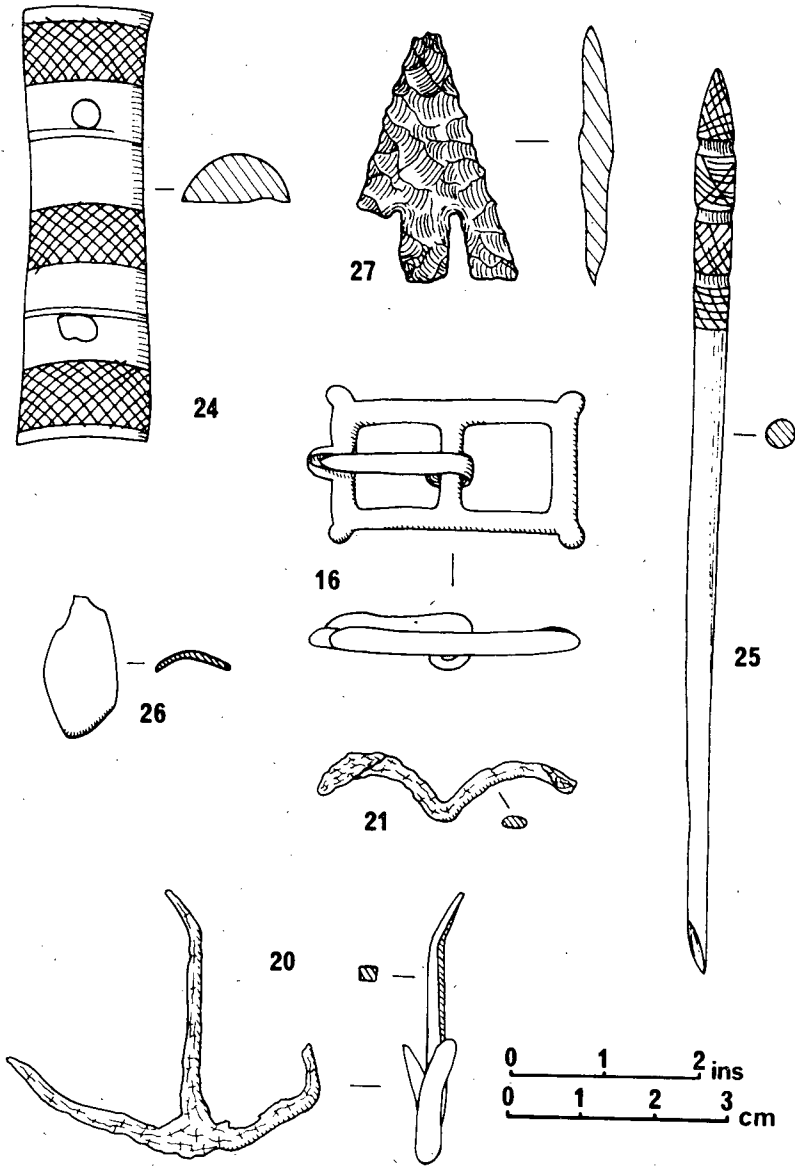


FIG. 40—Other small finds (1:2).

- 18 Fragment of heavy sheet bronze. The piece is elaborately shaped and two of the ends are circular with pierced holes. The object is not dissimilar from an item from *Rheingonheim* (taf. 43, no. 8), tentatively identified as a wooden box fitting (*ibid.*, 51) and perhaps a lock plate. However, the Long Melford piece can never have been a quadrangular plate like the Rheingonheim example since its only broken edges are close to the smaller of the circular ends and on the projecting leg (Fig. 39) (Find no. 4, site Avi layer 376).

Iron Objects

- 19 Nail of square section with only part of what appears to have been a round head surviving. Length 2.6ins (6.7cm). Not illustrated. (Find no. 34, site Aiv/v layer 309).
 20 T-clamp which has been bent out of shape. Cf. *Fishbourne II*, 126-127, Fig. 55 nos. 1-3 (Fig. 40) (Find no. 30, site Avi layer 382).
 21 Curved fragment. Length 1.4ins (3.5cm) (Fig. 40) (Find no. 35, site Avi layer 377).
 22 Pointed object, possibly with the remains of a tang; perhaps an awl. This object may not be of Roman date. Length 2.4ins (6.0cm). Not illustrated. (Find no. 31, site Avi layer 376).
 23 Two-pronged object, possibly with the remains of a tang. This object may not be of Roman date. Length 3.9ins. (10cm). Not illustrated. (Find no. 32, site Avi, layer 376).

Bone Objects

- 24 Knife handle with 2 rivet holes, one of which has been re-bored. The decoration, which had been untidily executed, consists of three bands of cross-hatching (one at each end and one in the centre) and between these 2 sets of two parallel lines. Length 2.2ins (5.5cm). Cf. *Roman London*, Pl. xxxvii, nos. 3, 5 and 6 (Fig. 40) (Find no. 3, site Bi layer 007; upper layer of Roman road ditch).
 25 Hairpin which has been broken at the point. This has a cone-shaped head incised with a crudely executed cross-hatched pattern. There are three further bands of similar decoration below the head on the upper part of the shaft. The uppermost of these is characterized by a more distinctive series of crosses. Length 4.5ins (11.5cm). For vaguely similar examples cf. *London in Roman times*, 103, Pl. xli nos. 8 and 10 (Fig. 40) (Find no. 2, Rubbish pit B, unstratified).
 26 Small piece of unidentifiable worked bone with the lower edge showing distinct signs of wear. Length 0.7ins (1.8cm) (Fig. 40) (Find no. 39, site Avi layer 377).

Flint Object

- 27 Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead with one barb broken off. Length 1.2in (3.0cm) (Fig. 40) (Find no. 16, site Ci Ext. 189; lower layer of Roman road ditch).

Glass

A number of glass fragments was found during the excavations, mainly from unstratified contexts. However, one group of fragments was of particular interest. They came from a dark blue hollow-tubular rimmed bowl, free-blown with a pad base and a post mark. The bowl was somewhat misshapen and tilted to one side. The fragments were found in layer 184a on site Ci Ext., which formed the lower part of one of the road ditches. A sherd of South Gaulish samian of type Dr. 24/25 or Ritterling 8 (stamped VENI), of Neronian date, was found in the same layer (Pl. XVIIIa and Fig. 41).

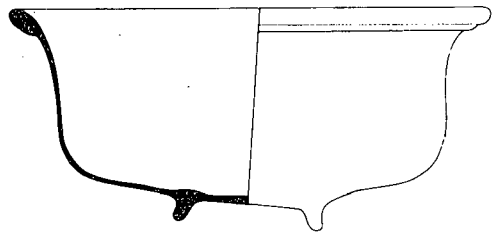


FIG. 41—Blue glass bowl (1:2).

Coins

- 1 Vespasian. As, A.D. 72-73. *B.M.C.* 824. Much worn. (Find no. 19, unassociated).
 2 Vespasian. Dupondius, A.D. 77-78. *B.M.C.* 837 var: (two oblong, as well as two round, shields). Worn. (Find no. 18, site Avi, unstratified).
 3 Nerva. Dupondius, A.D. 97. *B.M.C.* 126. Slightly worn. (Find no. 20, site Aiv/v layer 336).
 4 Illegible. Very worn (Find no. 21, site Avi layer 376).