

final phase the road is not very wide and the possibility that it may be a branch road linking 33a to the road from Wixoe to Peasenhall (Margary's no. 34) should not be ruled out. The real question centres on why, if the interpretation of the silted up road ditches is correct, the road went out of use so early and what replaced it. It is of course still possible that a later road from Chelmsford to the Wash could have been realigned along the route of the main street of modern Long Melford (A134):

Roman occupation in the area of Chapel Field appears to have continued until around the end of the 2nd century. Sometime during this latter period the baby was disposed of in the fill (377) overlying the ditches on the north-western side of the road. The corpses of infants of this age were frequently discarded in this cursory manner. The depression for the oven was cut into a layer containing Hadrianic and Antonine pottery. The southern end of the oven with its clay walls formed the main part of a circular domed oven. This would have been heated with blazing fuel fed into it from a stoke-hole at the northern end. It would then have been raked out, loaded with bread and tightly shut until the specified time for baking had elapsed. The sherd of Castor ware found in the infill of the stokehole area (352/382) suggests that the oven must represent one of the latest features on this site.

Note

Most of the work at this site was undertaken by Thomas Howlett, who died at a tragically early age within a year of the excavation being completed. I was only involved in three months' work at the site in late 1970. The preparation of this report was only in its initial stages when Thomas Howlett died and, consequently, I have only been able to deal with that part of the work in which I was directly involved. This consisted of the main part of the excavation of the transverse section of the Roman road on site Aiv/v and that of an oven and an infant burial on site Avi. Two earlier trenches (sites B and C), which were laid down to establish the alignment of the road, produced a number of important finds and, wherever possible, I have tried to relate the features (mainly the road ditches) in which these objects were found to those located in the main road section (Aiv/v). All the finds, plans and notes relating to the excavation have been deposited in Ipswich Museum.

This report updates and revises the views expressed in Owles, 1971, 99-100.

THE SAMIAN POTTERY

by Kevin T. Greene

Site Aiv/v layer 300

- 1 Dragendorff 15/17. South Gaulish, Flavian.
- 2 Dr. 18/31. South Gaulish, Flavian.
- 3 Dr. 27. Central Gaulish, Trajanic-Hadrianic.

Site Aiv/v layer 301

- 4 Dr. 15/17. South Gaulish, Neronian.
- 5 Dr. 15/17, two sherds. South Gaulish, Flavian.
- 6 Dr. 18. South Gaulish, Neronian-Vespasianic.
- 7 Dr. 18. South Gaulish, Flavian.
- 8 Dr. 18/31. Central Gaulish (Les Martres-de-Veyre ?), Trajanic.
- 9 Dr. 27, four sherds. South Gaulish, Flavian.
- 10 Dr. 27. Central Gaulish (Les Martres-de-Veyre ?), Trajanic.
- 11 Dr. 30; footing only. South Gaulish, Flavian.
- 12 Dr. 35/36 ? South Gaulish, Flavian.
- 13 Dr. 37. Central Gaulish (Les Martres-de-Veyre ?), Trajanic. See below.
- 14 Dr. 37, small sherd with undiagnostic decoration. Central Gaulish, Trajanic ?
Also 2 indeterminate South Gaulish sherds.

LONG MELFORD

Site Aiv-v

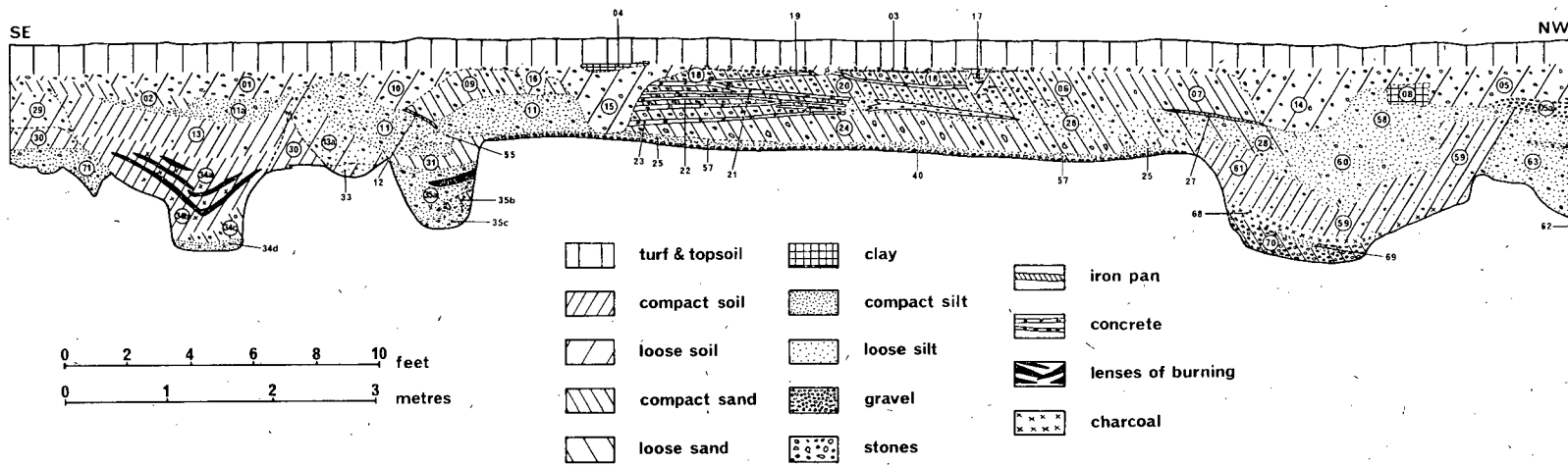


Fig. 36—Section of the road and its associated ditches on site Aiv/v.

Site Aiv/v layer 311

- 15 Dr. 18/31R. Central Gaulish, Antonine.
- 16 Dr. 27. South Gaulish, Neronian.
- 17 Dr. 27. South Gaulish, Neronian-Vespasianic.
- 18 Dr. 29. South Gaulish, Neronian. See below.
- 19 Dr. 33. South Gaulish, Flavian.
- 20 Dr. 33. Central Gaulish, Trajanic ?
- 21 Dr. 37. South Gaulish, Flavian.
- 22 Curle 11. South Gaulish, Flavian.

Site Aiv/v layer 328

- 23 Dr. 18. South Gaulish, Neronian-Vespasianic.

Site Aiv/v layer 334a

- 24 Dr. 15/17. South Gaulish, Claudian-Neronian.
- 25 Dr. 24/25 or Ritterling 8. South Gaulish, Neronian.
- 26 Dr. 27. South Gaulish, Neronian. Stamped, see below.
- 27 Dr. 29. South Gaulish, Neronian. See below.

Site Aiv/v layer 335a

- 28 Dr. 18. South Gaulish, Claudian-Neronian.
- 29 Dr. 30. South Gaulish, Claudian-Neronian.

Site Aiv/v layer 335c

- 30 Dr. 29. South Gaulish, Neronian. See below.

Site Aiv/v layer 336

- 31 Dr. 37. South Gaulish, Flavian. See below.

Site Aiv/v layer 337

- 32 Dr. 18. South Gaulish, Flavian.

Site Aiv/v layer 359

- 33 Dr. 15/17; two sherds. South Gaulish, Neronian.

Site Aiv/v layer 360

- 34 Dr. 27. South Gaulish, Flavian.

Site Aiv/v layer 361

- 35 Dr. 18. South Gaulish, Neronian-Vespasianic.
- 36 Dr. 18/31. South Gaulish, Flavian.
- 37 Dr. 27, burnt sherd. South Gaulish, Flavian.

Site Aiv/v layer 368

- 38 Dr. 29. South Gaulish, Neronian. See below.

Site Aiv/v layer 371

- 39 Dr. 29, base only. South Gaulish, Flavian.
- 40 Dr. 30, base only. South Gaulish, Flavian.

Site Avi layer 375

- 41 Dr. 18. South Gaulish, Flavian.
- 42 Dr. 37, sherd burnt and riveted. South Gaulish, Flavian.

Site Avi layer 376

- 43 Dr. 18/31. South Gaulish, Flavian.
- 44 Dr. 18/31. Central Gaulish, Trajanic-Hadrianic.
- 45 Dr. 33. Central Gaulish, Antonine.
- 46 Dr. 33. East Gaulish, Antonine ? (joins that from Avi 381 - 51).

Site Avi layer 379

- 47 Dr. 18/31. Central Gaulish, Trajanic ?
- 48 Dr. 37. South Gaulish, Flavian-Trajanic.

Site Avi layer 381

- 49 Dr. 18/31. South Gaulish, Flavian-Trajanic.
- 50 Dr. 27. South Gaulish, Flavian.
- 51 Dr. 33. East Gaulish, Antonine ? (joins that from Avi 376 - 46).