HINCKLEY BUST
Scale: ¼. (Height 15½ inches)
THE ROMAN SITES OF
SOUTH-WEST LEICESTERSHIRE

BY
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PART II
MANCESTER (MANDUESSEDUM)
SAPCOTE, BARWELL AND HINCKLEY
WITH NOTES ON ADJACENT SITES
Mancetter
(Manduessedum)
Plate II

There seems to have been little difference of opinion among early historians as to the site of the Manduessedum of the Antonine Itinerary.

The well-defined earthworks astride the Watling Street near the village of Mancetter conform in plan to other recognised Roman stations and approximately to the distance north of Venonæ (XII m.p.) given in the Itinerary.

Although many Roman antiquities have from time to time been unearthed in this neighbourhood, it was not until 1927 that any systematic investigation had been carried out to fix the station site definitely.

About this time, Messrs. Flowers & Sons, Ltd.—the owners of the Bull Inn—were contemplating the construction of a car park adjoining their premises. Fortunately, the earthworks had been scheduled by H.M. Office of Works under the Ancient Monuments Act of 1913, and, as the Bull Inn is entirely within the ramparts, no alterations could be made without their sanction.

As the time seemed opportune for investigation, the Birmingham Archaeological Society offered to excavate the site in question. This was carried out under the supervision of Mr. B. H. St. J. O'Neil, who published his report in that Society's Transactions of 1928. The ground excavated measured 106 ft. by 36 ft., with its longest axis parallel to and adjoining the Watling Street.

As at High Cross, no foundations or other masonry attributable to the Roman occupation was found in situ, but some seven cwt. of pottery was thrown out from the trenches, proving an intensive occupation of the site.

Coins of Vespasian and Nerva, a bronze signet ring and other interesting objects, including 1,000 pieces of plain and decorated Samian ware, were also brought to light.

The earthworks at Mancetter are rectangular in form with rounded corners. They enclose an area 200 yards in length by 150 yards in width. The Watling Street intersects the enclosure
Plate II.

Mancetter—looking south through station site

Mancetter—looking north
Bank on left is section of South rampart
at right angles, dividing the site into two not quite equal portions. As appears by an old map published in 1791 in Bartlett's *Manduessedum Romanorum* and reproduced by Nichols,¹ the larger North-East portion in the parish of Witherley and the county of Leicester was formerly known as Oufort Bank. The portion to the South-West in the parish of Mancetter and county of Warwickshire was known as Castle Bank.

The mound and vallum on the South and East are much more pronounced than their opposite sides. This is probably due to the fact that the river Anker and the surrounding marsh lands were found almost adequate for defensive purposes on the North-West.

There would appear to be two points to be determined in settling what has been called the problem of Manduessedum:—

1st. What was the nature and purpose of this so-called Camp? Was it a military Camp or merely a posting station along the Roman Highway to the North?

2nd. What was the date of its construction? Did it originate as an outpost of the frontier line thrown across the country from Trent to Severn by Ostorius in A.D. 46, which Mr. R. G. Collingwood has suggested followed the line of the Fosse Way?

In answer to the first question, Mr. O'Neil's investigation and conclusions, if they provide only negative evidence, certainly do not support the view that Mancetter was a military Camp. As to the second part of the problem, Mr. O'Neil states: "There is only very slight evidence of occupation before A.D. 70. From that date the site appears to have been occupied continuously for about eighty years. 'Round about the year A.D. 100 and for some twenty or thirty years occupation was continued and vigorous. After this the popularity of the immediate neighbourhood seems to have declined, since only a handful of sherds (a few dozen mortaria and one olla) appear to be of post-Antonine date, although in themselves they bring the occupation down to the end of the third century or the beginning of the fourth.'"

The possibility of another Roman site, traditionally said to be located in the village of Mancetter near the church, receives

some support from the discovery by the writer of a large quantity of Roman potsherds on both sides of the Nuneaton Road, near Mancetter Lodge, during recent building operations in that locality.

The Hartshill Pottery Kilns

Distributed over the Roman sites with which this paper deals, Mr. B. H. St. J. O’Neil had been able to identify a quantity of coarse pottery as being peculiar to this area. Later, on examination of a quantity of pieces given to me by Mr. Tippetts from his quarry at Hartshill, and other fragments from a kiln found in situ at Messrs. Abell’s quarry adjoining, he was able to confirm provisionally his theory of their local origin.

The first two kilns were found in Abell’s quarry when workmen were unburrowing for stone about 1893. In 1897 two more kilns were exposed. These were situated towards the top of the escarpment formed by the Cambrian beds of quartzite running parallel to, and a few hundred yards West of, the Watling Street. The rock is here capped with a varying thickness of Western Glacial Drift, with pockets of clay, intermixed with a local breccia, varying from a redeposit of pure red-marl to a white loamy clay resembling carboniferous fire clays. The furnaces were constructed in excavations of this drift and the same material was doubtless used for a paste. One small jar or pocula, of grey ware, was found intact in one of the flues, also a “shallow dish”.

A large quantity of fragments were scattered around the site. A large unbroken jar unearthed at a later date came into the hands of Mr. Cobb of Atherstone Grammar School. Two-thirds of the pottery were of the very light cream-coloured ware, first noted by Mr. O’Neil at Mancetter. These were described by Mr. Andrews in the Transactions of the Warwickshire Field Club as “shallow vessels about 10 to 15 inches in diameter and about four inches high, the interior studded with minute pebbles burnt in, and the rims of many decorated with brown or red spots or stripes”.

Most of the fragments in the writer’s possession are parts of similar mortaria, both of the roll-rim and hammer-head form.

1Transactions of the Warwickshire Field Club. Vol. 1897, pp. 27, 100.
The other type of vessel was a jar of varying size in the soft grey ware noted by Mr. O'Neil at Sapcote and Barwell. There were also a few terra cotta-coloured fragments of a soft pseudo-Samian character.

As recently as 1935, the writer found large fragments of four mortaria on the spoil heaps of a disused quarry, due East of the village of Hartshill, within a mile of Mancetter. These are of a hard cream-coloured ware. One rim has traces of colouring.
The recorded villa-site near Sapcote is situated near a disused "granite" quarry known as Calver Hill. This is on the South-East side of the village and 200 yards South-West of the Leicester Road, where it drops steeply to the Fosse Way. From this Roman Highway, it is 720 yards distant North. The site commands an extensive view over the upper Soar valley to the high ridge on the South-West, on which stands High Cross (Venonae). It might also be noted that it is situated on the base of the triangle of Roman roads, Venonæ—Ratæ—Manduessedum, in the centre of Roman England.

The first mention of the Sapcote site appears in Nichols' *Leicestershire* (Sparkenhoe Hundred),¹ where the discovery of a tesselated pavement is thus recorded.

"To the Eastward of Sapcote, and midway between the town and the Foss, is a rocky eminence, called Cover-hill;² adjacent to which is a piece of ground called Black-piece.

Upon this ground, about the year 1770 was discovered a curious tesselated pavement, nearly similar to that found some years ago near the Cathedral at Lincoln; the quarries of various colours, about an inch square. Some bushels of these quarries were purchased by Sir Roger Newdigate at the time of its discovery, and some few are still preserved in the parish as curiosities; there being several turned up every time the land is ploughed to this day. Besides the above there have been found upon this spot some Roman coins, etc., which (together with several Saxon coins and tokens) are now in the possession of John Frewen Turner, Esq."

The finds specified are a Silver coin of the Emperor "Germanicus", a small Brass coin of Constantine, and a small "Brazen celt".³

Nichols also states that foundations of buildings were then to be seen, the stones strongly cemented together. The previous year (*circa* 1810) some massive Roman tiles, pieces of pottery and large covering slates were dug up in making a pit.

When the writer first examined this site in the autumn of 1923, there was nothing to be seen above ground to indicate a Roman occupation, so the services of an elderly quarryman

²"Calver Hill" on Ordnance maps.
³This so-called Celt, as depicted by Nichols, bears more resemblance to a small battle-axe.
named James Farmer (since deceased) were enlisted. He had worked in the Calver Hill Quarry from boyhood and remembered unearthing a large earthenware jar and portions of tesserae when unbearing for granite. He was also able to indicate the position of the tesselated pavement recorded by Nichols. From his evidence and that of another old inhabitant named Tansey, it would appear that the site has since been entirely cleared. So effectively has this been done that what was an elevated rocky plateau has been replaced by a deep quarry-working some 30 ft. deep.

From the evidence of these old inhabitants it would also appear that the villa stood on a comparatively small area and occupied the top of a flattened boss of granite rock some twenty feet above the surrounding land. Before quarrying operations began, the site was used as a garden. On this spot coins and tesserae had been dug up from time to time. What remained of the more substantial portion of the building was doubtless removed to waste tips as quarrying proceeded.

That the Roman site was not entirely confined to this elevated position seems to be probable from subsequent investigations.

In the field, marked C on the accompanying plan, is a rectangular earthwork with a well defined ridge running parallel to the valley, and a return vallum that follows the line of the West fence of field A. The lower mound is about 100 yards long, and the return can be traced some ten yards in a Northerly direction. There is no trace of an earthwork on the West side, the Southerly ridge seeming to end abruptly.

That the earthwork could be identified with the Roman occupation of the site is more than likely.

There is a straight road giving access to the quarry site from the Sharnford—Leicester Road. This would be the most direct line of approach from the Fosse Way. At the point where this line crosses the river Soar, a considerable amount of loose material, to be seen in the river bed and along the banks, suggests the existence of a ford.

The recovery of fragments of mortaria from the talus on the East side of the quarry-face led me to investigate the top soil

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4Mr. Farmer stated that Mr. William Spencer, the schoolmaster, had most of these. He thought some were in Leicester Museum.
PLATE III.

CALVER HILL (N.E. FACE)
SAPCOTE
(Arrow indicates site of tip)

PARISH GRAVEL PIT (N.W. FACE)
SAPCOTE
(Arrow indicates burial site)
Plate IV.

Metal and bone objects, chiefly from Sapcote

Rubstones and box tiles, Barwell and Sapcote
immediately above. It was here that I came across a rubbish tip composed entirely of Roman material and accumulated loam. This was excavated and traced into the field adjoining marked B on the plan.

On the far side of this field, near the barn, the tenant informed me that in digging out post holes he had found a number of flat stones and tiles piled upon each other. A trial hole near this spot (marked 3) gave broken Roman bricks and tiles, slates and a little pottery. The tenant, Mr. Messenger, who comes of an old Sapcote family, remembers hearing of spearheads and coins being found hereabouts.

In the same field, Mr. Tansey informed me that, in making a land drain many years ago, his father-in-law, Mr. Grewcock, found a flag pavement, three or four feet down. As far as he could remember, it was "two-thirds down the field and about two lants away from the hedge". (v. Plan, fig. 4.)

The rubbish tip, as the writer found it, lay on a natural surface some 2 ft. 6 ins. below the level of the adjacent grass lands, and so must have been deposited long before quarrying began. The contents of the tip proved that it had been deposited there later than the period of Roman occupation. Any date between these two would be problematical, but an early date, subsequent to Roman times seems likely.

The tip had little resemblance to a kitchen midden, except in the quantity of potsherds, bones and oyster shells present. It appeared to be principally composed of building material, the ruins of a Roman building of some pretensions. A quantity of molten lead, charred wood and distorted iron objects point to its demolition by fire. The discovery of early Saxon coins in the adjoining field, once known as the Black Piece, and a local legend that the spot is haunted, may be surviving echoes of one of many similar tragedies associated with the Saxon Invasion. About six square feet of the tip was excavated. This appeared to be its extent on the North and South sides, but we did not determine its extension into the field.

Among the more interesting objects recovered were several bone pins (v. Plate IV), a portion of iron shoe-last, a slate hone-stone, rubbing stones and a quantity of decorated wall plaster of vivid colouring and considerable variety, indicating a number of
living rooms. The other building material comprised heavy Swinland slates, roofing tegulae (flanged and semi-circular), tiles, bricks, a few coarse tesserae, a quantity of nails, and a little broken glass. Charcoal was plentiful. The waste tip contained the usual large quantity of bones and oyster shells. The fauna included boar or pig, deer, sheep or goat, ox, dog and a bird of the heron family. [Mr. Mayes states probably bittern.]

The pottery is of great variety, i.e. Salopian, a little; Black Belgic and Upchurch, plentiful; Castor, New Forest, Samian Ware, etc. Several rims of mortaria were painted but there is only one potter's mark among the whole collection of pottery. With few exceptions every potsherd appeared to belong to a different vessel. We found no coins on the site.

The only land adjoining the quarry available for further excavation I found to be a small triangular plot enclosed on the North-East side. Through the kind permission of the Enderby and Stoney Stanton Granite Company a trench and several trial holes were excavated here as shown on the accompanying plan.

Sapcote Site
(Calver Hill)

Field B
(The Black Piece)

Deep Quarry

^The wall plaster is illustrated by a coloured plate accompanying this paper.
Holes 1 and 3 proved blank; 4, 5, 6, and 7 contained charcoal and broken brick and tile work. In the trench at 8 was a rounded granite boulder, and at 9 and 10, two feet below the surface, a thick floor of mortar was exposed. This did not extend beyond the point marked 11 and was not proved beyond 9.

**Romano-British Burials**

Plate III

A burial-place in the parish of Sapcote of probable Roman date, possibly connected with the Villa site, was brought to the writer's notice in the following manner:

While searching for flint implements in the chalky-boulder gravels exposed on the North-West face of the Sapcote Parish Gravel Pit, Mr. J. H. Stephenson and I found a human bone. On searching the beds above we discovered a rib and other bones protruding from between the roots of a tree, together with the bowl of a human skull in a matrix of clayey loam. The skull, filled with an infiltration of fine sand, came away intact with the exception of some of the lower facial bones, part of these were found after careful searching in the talus below. The upper vertebrae were joined to the base of the skull, which lay face uppermost and indicated a burial North and South.

A large Bunter pebble of quartzite weighing 8 or 10 lbs. was adjacent to the skull. The remains were 4 ft. 6 ins. below the surface of the surrounding land, and appeared to occupy a place at the bottom of an excavation in the gravel 4 ft. deep by 5 to 6 yards wide, and a point about 3 ft. from the South-West side of the basin. At this distance undisturbed gravel comes to within 18 inches of the surface. Although careful search was made, no "associations" were found, with the exception of a small fragment of pottery, picked up at a later date in the bank below. This is part of the rim of a vessel made of blue-grey paste and appears to be Roman.

This is not the first time that human remains have been found here. In my collection I have the greater part of a human skeleton labelled "Sapcote Gravel Pit". These were in the possession of a Mr. Francis Drake, an architect of Hinckley, in the late '70s, and I have reason to believe are those exhibited by him at a meeting of the Midland Scientific Association at Burton-
on-Trent in 1869, as reported in the *Geological Magazine* of that date. They are there described as excavated at Sapcote from a depth of 16 feet. An old resident of Stoney Stanton says that he can remember human remains being found in the same gravel pit when he was a boy. It was stated at the time, he says, that coins were found between the skeleton's jaws. Nichols also records the exhumation of a skeleton from the site, and quite recently Mr. John Garratt of Sapcote, who can remember a skeleton being found there 40 years ago, himself excavated a complete skeleton, which, at the time of writing, he has still in his possession. This came from the highest portion of the quarry face at a depth of 2 to 3 feet and at a distance of 15 feet from the remains herein described. He states that he found no pottery, metal or anything else of interest near the site.

The possibility of these remains being an interment of Neolithic man whose implements and weapons have been found in the immediate vicinity occurred to me at the time, but we found no flint implements near the remains, although on the opposite side of the quarry we obtained a worked flake of Neolithic character, and on the North-East corner an implement of Paleolithic type. Three fields away there is undoubted evidence of an extensive chipping floor. On this site upwards of 1,000 worked flints have been found by the writer, and among the definite implements were several tanged-and-barbed and leaf-shaped arrow heads of a type now usually ascribed to the Bronze Age.

A Stone Celt is recorded for Stoney Stanton, and is depicted in Mr. Montagu Browne's paper on the "Evidences of the Antiquity of Man in Leicestershire". This was found at Lane's Hill Quarry, a distance of about 800 yards from the Sapcote Gravel Pit. A stone coffin or cist was also found on this hill about 30 years ago, but though a quarryman can remember its excavation when unbearing for granite, he could give me very few particulars of its character or contents. Nichols also has a note: "In getting stone here some years ago, there was found in the shivering rock a stone coffin and frag-


2 *Transactions of the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society for 1888*. 
merits of ancient pottery". The Sapcote Gravel Pit is situate at the same elevation as Lane's Hill, a small valley intervening.

Though the physical characteristics of these remains must be the deciding factor in the determination of their date, the following account by Nichols, affording inferential evidence of a contracted burial on this site, is worth further recording:—

"A house in this town (Sapcote) called ‘The Checquer’ was formerly a public-house, and kept by a person of the name of Greenwell. This house used to be frequented by travellers of every description and particularly by itinerant Scotchmen with packs. About the year 1770, a Scotchman who used to put up at this house disappeared suddenly, leaving his horse, pack and goods behind him, and was never after heard of. Greenwell, the landlord, was suspected of murdering this traveller for the sake of his property; and several places in Sapcote were examined for the purpose of discovering the body, but without effect. An advertisement appeared in the Leicester Journal, in which Greenwell offered a reward to any person who would give information of what was become of the Scotchman; but the man was never found or heard of. Suspicion went so far as to say that Greenwell had murdered him and buried him in his cellar. But whether Greenwell was guilty or not, he never could recover from the effect under which this circumstance placed him, the travellers all avoided his house, his trade failed, and he was finally obliged to leave the parish. He was living in the parish of Burbach in 1803, far advanced in years; and often when the story of the Scotchman came up he would produce the Leicester Journal in which was his advertisement, as a refutation of the horrid tale. About the year 1800 a human skeleton was found in a sitting posture in Sapcote gravel pit, which revived the tale of the Scotchman; but nothing more than conjecture has ever taken place in this dark business, which is likely to remain so till that great day in which the secrets of all hearts shall be opened."

An examination of the surface suggests that a low mound covered the site of the interment, though this is only indicated by a slight rise from within 3 feet of the quarry’s edge. I forwarded the bones to Sir Arthur Keith, at the Royal College of Surgeons, and he very kindly sent the following report:—

"The human remains found by Mr. Stephenson and you in Sapcote gravel pit include the bones of the head and neck, down to the level of the shoulders, of an old woman—a martyr to rheumatism. The rest of the skeleton must have been carried down and destroyed when the quarry face gave way. The most difficult problem we have to face is the date of burial. As I cleaned the fine sandy silt from the inside of the skull I found the leaf enclosed in separate piece of paper; it was next the bone in the silt. I notice at two places—in the substance of the head of the left humerus and on a rib—a slight greenish tinge, suggestive of brass or copper. On the other hand I also notice the black manganese spots on the outside of the skull, which are usually supposed to indicate a considerable neolithic antiquity. The bone is dry and almost free of organic matter. Might be any date up to Neolithic so far as condition

3Nichols' History of Leicestershire, Sparkenhoe, p. 898.
of bone is concerned. If I were asked to guess the race and origin of the skull I would assign it, not to the Neolithic period, but to the period of Roman occupation. The skull shows those features which one often sees in specimens from Roman-British graves but rarely, if ever, from British graves of a Neolithic date. Until we get more conclusive evidence we must, I think, presume as the date of burial an early century of our era. As to the characters: the cephalic index (the proportion of breadth to length) is 77.4, being the average index in our modern population. The maximum length was 177 mm., maximum width 157 mm., height of the vault above the ear-holes 109 mm., the 'bun' shaped skull so common in Roman-British graves. The forehead is steep and wide, minimum width 100 mm. The cranial capacity estimated (Lee-Pearson formula) at 1,258 cubic centimetres, about 50 below the modern average for women.

Only parts of the lower jaw are present. We cannot estimate the total length of the face because the region of the chin is wanting. The face, however, must have been of rather more than average length. The distance from the root of the nose to the point on the alomolus between the roots of the upper central incisors is 69 mm., the width measured between the zygomatic arches is 126 mm., giving an upper face index of 54.7 per cent. The nose was not sharp and prominent but wide and long. In the skull, the nasal measures 52 mm. high, the nasal width is 24 mm. The orbits are wide but not high. The width of the left orbit is 40 mm., its height 33 mm.—a primitive form of orbit—usual in Neolithic people but also seen at later periods.

We have no clue to stature except what is provided by the two collar bones. The left one measures 129 mm. in length, dimensions which suggest a stature of about 5 ft. or 5 ft. 2 in.

The most interesting features relate to disease. There has been a chronic abscess or gumboil at the root of the left upper molar teeth which has altered the left jaw. Some of the teeth are most deeply worn, almost the whole crown of some of them has been ground away. Other teeth have been lost from wear and root disease. The palate is wide (65 mm. between outer margins of second molar sockets) and flat as in primitive people. There are no third molar (wisdom) teeth; such have not been developed, a condition very common at all periods, particularly in women of the Roman period. I associate with the bad condition of the jaws and teeth (1) the thickening and spongy nature of the bones forming the vault of the skull. (2) the extreme rheumatic changes in the joints of the neck, especially between the odontoid process and anterior arch of the atlas. The neck must have appeared shortened and stiff during life. The sutures of the skull are partly closed, particularly in the sagittal suture. I suppose the woman to have been sixty years of age or more. We have thus the remains of a small woman with a head shaped midway between the long and round types and wide in comparison to its height, all features we are most familiar with in British women of the Roman period."

Sir Arthur retained the skull for the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons on account of its abnormal diseased condition.

From the foregoing evidence, the presence of Roman pottery and the incidence of the coins, there would appear to be little doubt that the Sapcote gravel pit was the site of a Roman Burial place.
Pottery (Sapcote Site)
Plate VIII

Mr. B. H. St. J. O’Neil, of the Office of Works, to whom I forwarded the pottery from this site, makes the following observations:

Two classes of pottery from this site deserve particular mention. The first is a chalky-surfaced ware, pure white in colour. It is quite different from the usual cream-coloured ware frequently used for mortaria. The surface is very smooth and soft and easily worn away by rubbing. Fragments of four mortaria (Nos. 16—19) and portions of a flagon occur in this ware besides some dozen other smaller indeterminate pieces. This class of pottery was found at Manduessedum during the 1927 excavations and has been discussed on page 187 ff. of the Report.4

Briefly, the conclusions arrived at in that case were that since parallels from Wroxeter are not forthcoming (and many of the other finds can be paralleled from that site) it may well be that this unusual ware is a local product. The suggestion is made that the source of origin was quite likely the modern Hartshill (Quarries), where kilns, apparently Roman, were found and destroyed c. 1897. At Manduessedum no mortaria of this type were found in the same ware, but this is not altogether surprising, since almost all the pottery found there is of earlier date. The only find from the Hartshill kilns of this ware, which can now be traced is, however, of the same “Hammerhead” variety.5

The other ware, which merits particular attention, is that which is represented by the major part of the finds at this site, apart from mortaria. In colour it is pale grey throughout. It has the same soft surface, easily rubbed off, as the ware already described, but is, also, actually gritty in feeling. The surface is covered with small particles of grit or with pinholes from which they have dropped.

Ware of this colour and inferior character is not unusual on Romano-British sites and may have been made at many different places. In this case, however, its great predominance over other wares, its repetition of a few types (some of them unusual) and

5In writer’s collection (A.J.P.).
its copying of types more commonly found in the still commoner and better very-dark-grey or black Roman ware (e.g. Nos. 10 and 13) suggest that here again we may be dealing with a local production. In common with the very white ware it has the inferior soft surface and it may, also, have come from the kilns at Hartshill where, according to the scanty records, it appears that a large amount of the pottery found was grey in colour.

Although many of the types of pottery illustrated are difficult to date with accuracy, it seems evident that there is really nothing which can be placed earlier than the second century A.D.

Occupation was probably continuous through that century into the 3rd, which is most abundantly represented. There is little or nothing which need be ascribed to the 4th century.

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6Vessel No. 4 from Barwell, which is apparently a waster, has a better surface; it has not been used, but otherwise agrees with this Sapcote pottery. See also vessels 3 and 5 at Barwell.
Inventory of Pottery

Plate VIII

1. Neck of large jar, of pale grey ware with soft gritty surface. Recurved rim rising from slight ledge. There are seven other rims of the same type, six being of the same ware.

2. Top of similar jar, wider neck, of same ware but rim at first vertical then curving outwards.

3. Similar to No. 2, in same ware but rim more everted.

4. Similar to No. 3, in same ware but rim heavier and with three or more grooves round neck.

5. Jar, similar to No. 4, and in same ware but much larger. Rim heavier still and no grooves on neck. There are two other sherds of the same type, one in the same ware. Vessels of this type, being one of the most natural and most useful forms, occur at almost every period of the Roman occupation, and, unless associated with other material, are difficult to date. No. 1, however, having a rather high shoulder may be late 1st, or early 2nd century in date.

6. Jar with short neck and heavy vertical-sided undercut rim. Coarse red ware with gritty surface. Cf. Wroxeter (1913) Fig. 19, No. 60. Late 1st or early 2nd century. There are two other rims of the same type, both in the pale-grey gritty-surfaced ware.

7. Jar of shape similar to No. 6 but with ledge for fitting cover on inside of rim. Clay pale-grey, gritty surface with top of vessel burnt to a darker shade. There are two other rims of the same shape and ware.

8. Olla with rim rising from the body almost vertically at first then sweeping round in the arc of a circle, forming a cavetto moulding. Ware coarse, dark-grey with black burnished outer surface. Probably late 2nd century in date. Rims of two similar vessels in the same ware but later in date, approaching the overhanging rim type.

9. Similar rim, but ware thinner and coarser, akin to the pale-grey ware (v. supr. page 171), but a dirty darker grey in colour. Probably a local imitation of the type of (8) and of the same period.
10. Rim, similar to No. 8, but more upright. Ware pale-grey with gritty surface (v. page 171).


12. Pie-dish with straight side and flat rim. Ware soft dark-grey and gritty. Collingwood No. 45. Second century in type. There is another rim similar, but more rounded, in the same ware.

13. Dish of very similar type, but wider rim. Ware pale-grey with gritty surface (v. page 171). Second century (see No. 12).

14. Dish of similar form, in hard dark-grey gritty ware. A groove between the body and the upper side of the rim makes the latter almost into a flange, the type approximating to later 3rd and 4th century flanged bowls, i.e. Collingwood No. 30. It may, therefore, be as late as the 3rd century.

15. Rim of very large heavy cooking or storage vessel, of rough "native" ware, dull red-brown in colour (grey core) containing much grit and brick dust. Many similar vessels were found at Manduessedum (not illustrated in report), and can here be dated to early or middle 2nd century A.D.

16. Mortarium with straight oblique rim below bead. Cream-coloured clay with slightly darker slip. For shape cf. Bushe-Fox (Wrox. 1912, Fig. 19, No. 102), probably not earlier than mid 3rd century. There is a fragment of a similar vessel in the very white ware (v. page 171).

17. Similar type, but altogether heavier and rim shorter. Nearer to hammer-head type. Probably 3rd century.


19. Similar to 18, but smaller and with only two grooves. There is also a mortarium of the ordinary cream colour of the "hammer-head" variety with reeded rim.

20. Jar in grey ware.
Samian Ware - Sapcote

Plate X

5. Form 37, Ovolo characteristic of Paternus, e.g. as on a 37 at Amiens and at Tours, York and Colchester. A blurred bead row between ovolo and decoration in free style with hindquarters of a bear to right (Déchelette 810) used by Paternus on a 37 mould from Clermont at Oxford and on a 37 at London (Brit. Mus.) and on a 37 at Angers. It is also used by Butrio, Lastuca and Juliccus. The little stag to right (Déchelette 860) is also often used by Paternus, so that this fragment can almost certainly be ascribed to Paternus of Lezoux of the Antonine period. (Mid. 2nd Cent.)

31. Rim of shallow dish, Form 32 from Rheinzabern. Ludowici Tf, Antonine age (v. Terra Sigillata, Oswald & Pryce, Pl. LXIII, 7.)

30. Large fragment of bowl, Form 31 (S 6) probably Antonine (v. Ibid. Pl. XLVII, 6.)

32. A similar fragment of a smaller bowl.

35. Rim of Pocula, Form 27.

35a. Beaded rim of vessel, slightly convex outline.

36. Rim of shallow dish with bead.

37 & 38. Two fragments of deep pocula, Form 33 (v. Ibid. Pl. LI, 3.)

39. A rim of a similar but stouter vessel (not illustrated).

42. Rim of a light vessel, possibly portion of No. 50.

43. Worn fragment of vessel with medallion design.

50. Base of small vessel, with portion of potter’s mark—10.

51. Rim of a stouter vessel of wide diameter.

54. Beaded rim of a large hemispherical bowl.

There are also a dozen or more fragments of an indeterminate character.

Identifications kindly supplied by Dr. Felix Oswald.
14. Cup, Form 33, with stamp ALBILLI MA. Cherry Orchard (? Hinckley) Glaze somewhat orange. This is the potter ALBILLIVS cf. La Madeleine Period (Trajan-Hadrian). His stamp ALBILLI M occurs fairly often in Britain but the fuller stamp ALBILLI MA. had not yet been recorded.

**Lychgate Lane, Burbage**

*Plate IX*

This site is situated near a disused claypit and brick works a few yards South of the lane from Burbage to Aston Flamville, and 800 yards W.S.W. of the latter village.

The pottery found here when unbearing for clay was exhibited at a meeting of the Leicestershire Archaeological Society in 1902 but no particulars were appended as to the circumstances of the find or their description.

Mr. B. H. St. J. O’Neil has dated most of the fragments to the late first or early second century. Two pieces of heavy coarse ware Dr. Felix Oswald ascribes to the 1st Century.

The dated pottery is as follows:

1. Upper half of flanged bowl of very hard and rough white clay. Two grooves on rim which is flat; may be of local manufacture. For the type cf. Wroxeter (1912) Fig. 17; No. 10; Caerleon (*Archaeologia*, Vol. 78) p. 179, Fig. 19. esp. No. 12. Probably late 1st or early 2nd Century.

2. Mortarium of very white clay with reddish-brown slip. For shape cf. Bushe-Fox (Wroxeter 1912 p. 77), Nos 34 & 38; also 54; Richborough VII (1928), Plate XXXI, 157. Late 1st or early 2nd Century.

3. Mortarium of hard gritty brown ware, similar in shape to foregoing but with flange more drooping and bead prominent. Cf. Bushe-Fox (Wroxeter 1912 p. 77), No. 58. Late 1st or early 2nd Century.

4. Stone jar, thick coarse red ware with combed markings characteristic of Nero-Vespasian period at Margidunum. (F.O.) (Not illustrated).

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*Trans. of Leicestershire A. & A Soc., Vol. IX, parts III & IV.*
HIGH CLOSE SANDPIT (N.W. FACE)
BARWELL

HIGH CLOSE SANDPIT—BARWELL
Spring and section of Roman Occupation Level
THE unrecorded Roman site at Barwell is still quite undefined. All that can be said for the present is that the uncovering of a considerable quantity of heavy building material and potsherds in a sandpit near the Church indicates the close proximity of an occupation site of Roman date, and a building or buildings of substantial character.

This sandpit is situated in the middle of a large field known as the High Close, East of and adjacent to the churchyard. The High Close occupies an elevated position about 400 feet above O.D., overlooking many miles of the South Leicestershire plain, and dips steeply to the South and East. There is here evidence of a continued occupation from Neolithic time onwards.

Its earliest phase is indicated by a hearth of burnt flag stones and pot boilers, horns and bones of *bos longifrons* and Red Deer, and a number of well defined Neolithic flint implements. The succeeding period is identified by the finding of a large cinerary urn and fragments of another, both belonging to the late Bronze Age. Following this, a Roman occupation is certain, the heavy building material found on the site suggesting the presence of either Baths or a Villa, and indicating a place of permanent residence, albeit, from the evidence of the pottery, a comparatively short one. Finally, a considerable quantity of green and yellow glazed pottery, including several large pitcher handles, makes it certain that this site was very much resorted to throughout the Mediaeval period and later. It is not difficult to account for this continuity.

Its earliest residents were doubtless influenced in their choice of a settlement here, in the first place by the presence of an excellent spring of water, and secondly by its high, commanding position on a Southerly slope. The persistence of early British sites throughout the Roman occupation has been so often proved that it needs no comment here, but the purpose for which I would suggest it was resorted to in Medieaval times may also have had something to do with its Roman associations.

The waters of the spring are chalybeate, and it is more than likely that its curative and medicinal properties were known to
HIGH CLOSE
Bronze Age Urn
Neolithic Floor
Roman Debris
Wooden Trough
Kiln
Mediaeval Site
Brick Kilns

Scale: approximately 15 inches to one mile
the Romans. In fact, it is quite probable that the village of Barwell actually took its name from this chalybeate spring. The proximity of the church to some extent supports this view. Most of the springs in Barwell and Hinckley have their source in the glacial gravels that occupy the higher ground, and alternate with beds of sand and chalky boulder clay. At Hinckley, one of these springs was known as the Holy Well, and still gives its name to a locality on the Burbage side of the town, although the site of the well is almost forgotten. Another, once known as Cogg’s Well, is close to the Barwell site and at one time had a reputation for its medicinal properties.

The sandpit at Barwell, in which up to the present nearly all the Roman material has been obtained, occupies the Western and upper side of an oval depression some 40 or 60 yards in extent. This depression is purely artificial, and has every appearance of having been occupied by a sheet of water held up by the construction of banks on the lower sides. An overflow dyke can be traced from the S.E. corner, through the field, to the boundary ditch.

The face of the sandpit is on the West side of this depression, and now forms a semi-circular escarpment some 15 to 18 feet high. On the North side of this face the section was 4 ft. 6 in. of dark loam, 6 inches of drift material composed of angular pieces of sienite, flat slabs of limestone and bunter pebbles underlain by 3 inches of ferruginous sand. Below this, are undisturbed glacial sand beds. At their base, an impervious bed of clay holds up the waters collected in the overlying beds and accounts for the presence of springs at its outcrop.

The ferruginous sand is the Neolithic horizon. Numerous pot boilers, burnt hearth stones, a bone pick, a horn of a long-faced ox, flint cores and implements have from time to time been obtained from this band, wherever it has been exposed on the pit face. There was no pottery present at this Neolithic horizon, but in one locality burnt stones were so numerous as to suggest a cooking place. Several of these ancient hearths were identified in this neighbourhood by Mr. T. Crosbie Cantrill, when he was engaged on a geological survey in 1913. They are invariably found, as this was, in close proximity to a spring. The method of cooking is supposed to have been by heating large stones in a fire, and placing them in an earthenware receptacle filled with
water, until it was brought to boiling point. Miss Layard has, however, pointed out that the absence of pottery from these primitive cooking places makes the term "pot-boiler" a misnomer, and suggests that they were either dropped into water-filled troughs formed by the skins of large animals suspended on props, or used to line pits in the ground. Another possible method, she suggests, was to fill the body cavity of the animal with heated stones, so that the animal became its own cooking vessel.

The band of rubble lying above the Neolithic floor may have been a rough pavement of Roman date. It contains a quantity of bones and potsherds, chiefly of black Upchurch ware, mortaria and a blue-grey ware very common to this locality. The 4 ft. or more of dark loam overlying this pavement contains broken Roman building material in profusion. A trial-hole in the centre of the sandpit yielded a quantity of pottery (Roman and Mediæval), blackened bones, horses' teeth, boars' jaw-bones, tusks, etc. Resting on a black vegetable mould was a boat or trough of worked timber, black and sodden with age and moisture. This measured 5 ft. 6 in. long by 2 ft. 4 in. wide, and was too decayed to remove.

A CIRCULAR KILN

In the south bank of the pit, the removal of sand disclosed a large furnace or kiln, constructed of large angular pieces of "granite" with their inside faces blackened and cracked by heat. This appeared to be a circular structure about 4 ft. in diameter and 5 ft. high. The base was about 6 ft. below the surrounding land. On this was four inches of burnt marl or lime, and above this two feet of a fine creamy-white ash, soluble in acid, and a "beefy" material, quite insoluble, which ramified through the ash. I was unable to identify this kiln as Roman with any degree of certainty, as no pottery was found in situ. It may have been one of the simpler well-known circular kilns of that period. In that case, the furnace chamber must have been carted away during the removal of the surrounding sand before I had the opportunity of inspecting it. The presence of a rim of a large unused olla, warped in the baking, which I picked up near by, might suggest a Roman date. On the other hand it may have

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1The Roman Era in Britain. Ward, pp. 176-8.
been a small lime-kiln used during the building of the church in the thirteenth century. Its age is to some extent indicated by the fact that a large wych elm, several hundred years old, stood immediately above the furnace and had planted its roots deep in the structure (v. Plate VI).

AN ANCIENT BRICK-KILN

Another neighbouring site that might repay excavation is situated about 300 yards S.S.W. of the High Close on the West side of the Barwell Lane (site No. 7 on accompanying plan). Here several arches of brickwork were exposed by a farm labourer when digging a trench around a mangold camp. Six arched flues were uncovered some 18 inches below the surface of the field. From these I obtained several partially-baked thin bricks. The flues or kilns were sooted on the inside surface and pieces of coal were in the surrounding soil. This brickwork was covered up soon after discovery. My impression at the time was that it was probably a 16th or 17th century brick-kiln, but the late Mr. Thomas Powers, to whom the land belonged, informed me that he had found several Roman coins on the site.

A BRONZE AGE BURIAL

On the high ground immediately above the High Close sandpit, the discovery of Bronze age remains gives a very early date to the Barwell settlement. As no report of this discovery has hitherto appeared in any scientific journal, I append my notes taken at the time.²

Shortly before the Christmas of 1917, some workmen employed by the late Mr. Thomas Powers were excavating for the foundations of an engineering shed at the rear of the Manor House, Barwell; while so engaged, one of the workmen put his pick into what he at first thought was an old drain pipe, but noting some peculiarity of one of the pieces, and displaying more than the average intelligence about such matters, he reported the matter to Mr. Powers.

A few days later Mr. Powers, who had the fragments placed on one side, was kind enough to let me know of these discoveries, and at the first opportunity I went over to inspect the site and,

²A note of this find is given by Mr. H. J. Francis in his *History of Hinckley*, p. 8.
if it proved to be important, to make a record. The earthenware shown to me was readily recognisable as parts of a cinerary urn of early date. On a close examination of the surrounding soil, several other pieces came to light, including part of the moulded rim of another urn, a large fragment of a Roman mortarium and a flint implement with a serrated knife edge. Some 60 to 70 pieces of one urn were recovered, and, as sufficient remained to indicate its contour, I was able to restore it to approximately its original shape (v. Plate VI.)

The Barwell urn was found buried in a bed of sand two or three feet below the present level of the ground, in an upright position. The ashes which the workman indicated had come out of it can be seen under the microscope to consist chiefly of calcined bones. The earthenware is roughly hand-moulded with a dull-red brick exterior, and a blackened interior caused by baking from the inside, and of an average thickness of two-thirds of an inch. Restored, it measures 14½ inches in height, and has a circumference outside the rim of 38 inches. It is of bucket shape, with slightly curved sides; the rim is straight, and decorated with a narrow band ornamented by a succession of marks made by the pressure of the potter's thumb while the clay was plastic. This ornamental pattern displays an unusual feature in being produced on a band of clay affixed after the shaping of the vessel. Unfortunately, the entire rim could not be found, and what was left of it was so badly crushed on the upper surface that it has reduced the height of the urn by about half an inch. This was probably due to the constant passing of traction engines directly over the site; nevertheless the urn is one of unusual size, and in shape and character I believe it is unique in the Midland Counties.

As far as I am aware, only four other vessels of this period have been found in the county,5 one small one was found on Mountsorrel Hill in 1859, another, a little larger, at Aylestone Park in 1875; both of these are of the beaker type and not more than five inches high. They are more of the character of food vessels placed with inhumed remains in barrows of a slightly earlier period. Two others approach more in size and character...
to the Barwell urn, but are distinct in having overhanging rims and an incised decoration made with a sharp-pointed implement. One of these was found in a tumulus called the "Round Hill" at Syston, many years ago, and was presented to the Leicester Museum by Major G. Knight, in 1880. This is 13 inches high, and has a circumference outside the rim of 28½ inches. The other large urn, 16½ inches high, was found at Mountsorrel.4

Mr. Reginald Smith, F.S.A., of the British Museum, to whom I submitted a photograph of the urn after restoration early in 1918, wrote to me as follows: "You are safe in assigning the Barwell urn to the latter part (I should say the last third) of the Bronze Age, say 900-600 B.C. The change from inhumation to cremation took place about 1,000 B.C., and yours must be between that date and the Iron Age. The cylindrical or bucket type is generally called the Ashford (Middlesex) type from a large series here. . . . The flake and Roman pottery were no doubt buried respectively before and after the interment."

ROMAN MATERIAL

Several hundred potsherds were recovered from the High Close sandpit, comprising most of the well known coarse varieties, portions of eight or ten mortaria mostly pure-white ware, Castor ware, and a little Samian ware. Some of this pottery is described and dated by Mr. B. H. St. J. O'Neil on the page following.

From this evidence the site can be dated to the late 1st and early 2nd Century A.D. It is therefore presumably earlier than the site at Sapcote.

The amount of brick and tile rubble on the site is considerable. This comprises very massive roofing tegulae, flanged and semicircular, floor tiles (one with a well-impressed sheep's foot), wall bricks and box tiles. Bones were plentiful and included Boar, Equus caballus and Bos longifrons. A few one-inch tesserae and a rubstone or whetstone were also found here (v. Pl. IV).

Pottery (Barwell Site)

Plate IX


2. Beaker with everted rim of hard, gritty, poor "Native" ware, dark-grey on the surface but with lighter core.
   This shape is very common at Mancetter, Pl. XXV, Nos. 14-26, and at Wroxeter (1912, Fig. 17, Nos. 25-7) where it is dated C. 80-110 A.D.

3. Large vessel, with recurved rim and ledge at base of neck. Clay grey and soft (see Sapcote). The general type is common in all periods, including 80-120 A.D. at Wroxeter (1912, Fig. 18, Nos. 31-35).

4. Rim of unused vessel, probably a waster. It is of similar type to No. 3 but has a heavy roll-rim. Cf. Mancetter, Pl. XXIV, No. 7. This find may indicate the proximity of a pottery kiln (v. Pl. VI) but on the other hand may have come from Hartshill (see pp. 160 and 171).

5. Plate, of smooth grey clay of the same fabric as No. 3. This shape is an imitation of Samian form 15/17 and has but faint traces of the quarter-round moulding. Cf. Mancetter, Pl. XXVI, No. 52; other parallels are difficult to find. Period probably C. 80-120 A.D. For the ware, see under Sapcote, p. 171.

The remaining fragments, which number several dozen but lack significant detail, do not seem inconsistent with the period of occupation of this site as indicated by the pottery which has been described, i.e., c. 80-120 A.D. Two of these vessels (Nos. 3 and 5, and possibly No. 4) are of the same ware as the majority of the finds from Sapcote (p. 171), which, it is suggested, may be the products of Hartshill or other local kilns.

There were also five fragments of Samian ware belonging to five different vessels including a large hemispherical bowl and a shallow dish. These were of a plain character and undatable with any degree of accuracy.

¹Several hundred fragments were found but only a representative number were submitted to Mr. O'Neil for examination.
Hinckley

ALTHOUGH no particular locality in this parish has been definitely identified with Roman occupation, there is much scattered evidence pointing to the probability that Hinckley was an occupied site in Romano-British times.

By far the most important evidence is afforded by a recent discovery near the Priory Barn of a sculptured stone bearing close resemblance to the first-century work of the Romans (v. Plate I).

The work is a life-size bust of a Roman citizen of youthful appearance, carved from a block of oolitic limestone. When found it was in two pieces; the head severed from the bust. The features were unfortunately badly mutilated, and the stone was much weathered by time. In spite of this, the work is impressive and vigorous, and retains much of the classic beauty of the ancients. The height of the bust is 15\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches and the width of the base 9 inches. A hole has been drilled in the base, apparently for the insertion of a wood or metal dowel. This would suggest that the bust once stood on a plinth or was fastened to the base of a niche or small alcove (v. Plate XI).

Mr. Reginald Smith, F.S.A., of the British Museum, to whom I submitted photographs, confirms its Roman origin and states that it probably dates from the first century.

Dr. Felix Oswald, D.Sc., F.S.A., states that the find is certainly important; "the arrangement of the hair on the forehead is similar to the heads of Augustus and Trajan and in general of male heads of the First Century".

The bust was found, early in January, 1930, by a Grammar School boy named Alien Mawby, who had already been in my company examining another site in the town which I had reason for believing to be Roman. Seeing these carved stones barely covered in a heap of rubbish at the corner of the Grammar School field, he took them to Mr. G. E. S. Coxhead, the Headmaster. The strong resemblance to Roman sculpture immediately aroused the Head's curiosity and the stones were preserved.

Assuming its Roman origin, the problem from the first has been to discover how the bust came to be in the place where it was found. Soon after its discovery, the writer carried out a number of excavations on the site. The rubbish heap where the bust was found was near the hedgerow dividing the Grammar School playing-field from the garden at the rear of the Priory Barn Cottage, and at a distance of 30 feet from the Leicester Road fence. Trial holes near this spot in the field and garden gave undisturbed ground below 12 to 18 inches of loam, but in the front garden of the cottage a hollow three feet or more in depth appeared to have been filled up with rubbish. This consisted chiefly of brick and tile work and a good deal of wall plaster. From this material, I obtained a fragment of a Roman jar and a piece of wall plaster with white cement surface and a narrow line of dark-red pigment.

From enquiries, I learnt that this site had been used as a tip during the demolition of some old cottages, near the Parish Church of St. Mary, known as Hunter’s Row. This group of cottages stood on the site of the old Priory.

Further search should therefore be made in the vicinity of the Church or Argents’ Mead. Beneath Argents’ Mead, now laid out as a park, subterranean passages are traditionally believed to connect the castle with the church. Buried masonry may well have given rise to this belief.

The following are records of Roman discoveries in or near the town:

**LEICESTER ROAD.** The late Mr. H. Doughty stated that in 1905 a man brought some Roman remains to him that he had found in an allotment near the Priory Barn. These he described as a patinated glass tear-bottle with thumb depressions, about 6 inches high (? an unguentarium), fragments of pottery and portions of a tesselated pavement. The exact site has never been recorded, and I did not hear of the finds until several years later, when they had been sold to a dealer out of town.

**LANCASTER ROAD.** Mr. Thos. Daniels, senr., in February, 1913, reported to me the finding of a cobble-stone pavement when putting in a sewer in Lancaster Road. This was about eight feet below the surface and twenty yards from the Regent Street. The trench was filled in before I heard of this discovery, but Mr.
Daniels stated that many of the stones were coloured and arranged in a pattern. Extended ten to twelve feet.

**Regent Street.** During the enlarging of the main sewer from the Borough to Sketchley in 1913-14, a pavement constructed of a double row of kidney stones was exposed five feet below the surface. A broken top-stone of a quern lay above this level. This was of a coarse millstone grit. The pavement ran for many yards along the Regent Street. Mr. Thomas Harrold had recorded this many years previously at the Regent Street and Coventry Road Corner.

**Castle Hill.** A heavy bow-shaped Bronze fibula, now in Leicester Museum, is labelled "Site of Hinckley Castle". No record of the exact site or circumstances of this find can now be traced.

**Castle Street.** At the rear of the Co-operative Stores and close to the foot of the Castle Hill, the late Mr. Thos. Harrold records the discovery of an ancient well. From the following note that he gave me of this discovery there appears to be strong evidence of Roman origin:

"A rather curious discovery was made in removing the soil from this site, for a cellar. In the centre of the cottage, two feet below the floor, was a circle four feet in diameter, surrounded with thick oak stakes pointed at the bottom—quite black but perfectly sound, about four feet in length. It was filled in with what appeared to be moist clay and was paved round on the surface with large rough pebbles six or seven inches in diameter, and another pavement of smaller pebbles two feet six inches in width extended from it to the back of the house. But the whole of these had been carted away and tipped into a sandpit, which I visited hoping to recover some of them, but in vain. On excavating the whole area to a depth of nine feet it was evident that the subsoil had never been disturbed, there being three feet of gravelly loam, two feet of brown clay and the remainder a hard blue clay containing the usual fossils of the locality."

**Harrow Farm.** Within the boundary of the parish near to the Harrow Farm on the Watling Street, an earthenware vessel containing a hoard of Roman Silver Coins was found in 1871 during the construction of a railway line from Hinckley to Stoke Golding. Eight of these, in my possession, are in mint condition and comprise coins of Vespasian, Trajan (3), Hadrian, Antoninus (2), and Faustina. Thompson states that the hoard "furnished examples of every Roman Emperor from Otho to Marcus Aurelius".²

RUGBY ROAD. Near the Railway Bridge on the Rugby Road, a stone mortar was found some 40 years ago and brought to me by the late Mr. W. Peacey. This is of encrinitical limestone, with four projecting lugs. Height 6 ins., circumference 30 ins.

A smaller mortar of similar shape, very much battered and worn, came from the foundations of the Regent Club, Regent Street.

GRANVILLE ROAD. A Sestertius of Trajan and a Dupondius of Titus came from the gardens at the rear of Walton Terrace, Coventry Road.

SAPCOTE ROAD. In Mr. W. Taylor's Sand Pit at the South corner of the Sapcote and Burbage Roads, three small Roman jars were unearthed in 1933. They were found 18 inches down in a layer of tilth overlying undisturbed beds of glacial sand. The site is 85 yards distant from Burbage Road, and 75 yards from the Sapcote Road. Two were small jars of dark grey ware and the other a Beaker of Castor ware.

One of the grey jars was destroyed before I came on the scene; the other, illustrated on Pl. VII, 1, is 5¼ inches in height by 14 inches maximum circumference. It has a bulge near the base and a small foot-ring, and a large thumb depression near the base caused by faulty moulding.

The Beaker in Castor ware is a smaller vessel 4½ inches high with a decoration round the bulb in white paint. (Plate VII, 2.) Mr. O'Neil suggests a 3rd-century date for both these pots.

UNRECORDED SITE.—In a recent article on the "Racial Affinities of the Romano-Britons" Mr. L. H. Dudley Buxton mentions a Romano-British skull found at "Hinckley, Leicestershire" This is now in the Museum of Human Anatomy at Oxford. I understand that the skull was originally in the collection of Canon Greenwell, but have been unable to trace any record of its discovery.

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1. **Jar of Dark Grey Ware**
   With bulge near the base and small foot-ring
   ? 3rd Century

2. **Beaker of Castor Ware**
   With decoration in white paint
   ? 3rd Century
Hinckley Coins

(1) Denarius of Vespasian, 69-79 A.D.  
O. Head of Emperor, right.  
VESPASIANVS AVG. IMP CAESAR.  
R. Victory, left. COS VIII.

(2) Denarius of Trajan, 98-117 A.D.  
O. Head of Emperor, right.  
TRAIANO AVG GER D  
R. Victory with spear, left.  
COSV S P Q R OPTI...

(3) Denarius of Trajan, 98-117 A.D.  
O. Head of Emperor, right.  
IMP TRAIANO AVG GER/DACEM TRP.  
R. Winged Victory, left.  
COSV. S P Q R OPTIMO PRINCI

(4) Denarius of Trajan, 98-117 A.D.  
O. Head of Emperor, right.  
IMP TRAIANO AVG GER DAC P M TRP COSV.  
R. Fortuna with Cornucopia, left.  
S P Q R OPTIMO PRINCIPI.

(5) Denarius of Hadrian, 117-138 A.D.  
O. Head of Emperor, right.  
HADRIANVS AVG COS III PP  
R. Victory seated, right.  
VICTORI AAVG.

(6) Denarius of Antoninus Pius, 138-161 A.D.  
O. Head of Emperor, right.  
ANTONINVS AVG PIVS PP  
R. A Pulvinar. COS III.

(7) Denarius of Antoninus Pius, 138-161 A.D.  
O. Head of Emperor, right.  
ANTONINVS AVG PIVS PPTRP COS III.  
R. Victory, left.  
APOLLINI AVGVSTO.

(8) Denarius of Faustina, C. 150 A.D.  
O. Head of Empress, right.  
DIVA FAVSTINA.  
R. Victory, left.  
AVG VSTA.

1Nos. 2, 3 and 4 of Trajan are struck from three dissimilar dies.
(9) Dupondius of Titus, 79-81 A.D.  
O. Head of Emperor, right.  
R. A Centaur.  
SECURITAS.

(10) Sestertius of Trajan, 98-117 A.D.  
O. Head of Emperor, right.  
R. Defaced.

Sapcote Coins

NICHOLS. Sparkenhoe, p. 898.¹

(1) Silver Coin of "Germanicus", C. 10 A.D.  
O. Head of Emperor with laurel leaf, right.  
GERM. IMP AVG. TR.P. AVFEC.  
R. A Tripod. AVVIL ACRMC?

(2) Small Brass ? Coin of Constantine I, 306-337 A.D.  
O. Head of Emperor, right.  
CONSTANTINVS AVG.  
R. Two winged Victories supporting shield over altar.  
VOT. PR. on shield. VICTORI, etc.

References  
(used in pottery reports)

Bushe-Fox = Wroxeter, 1912, figs. 19 and 20.  
Collingwood = The Archaeology of Roman Britain, figs. 52-9.  
Richborough = Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries, VI (1926) and VII (1928).  
Wroxeter = Ditto, I (1912), II (1913), IV (1914).

¹Nichols also mentions several Saxon Coins and Tokens found on this site, then in possession of John Frewen-Turner, Esq.
COARSE POTTERY - SARCOTE)
PLAIN AND DECORATED SAMIAN WARE
(CHIEFLY FROM SAPCOTE)
Hinckley Bust

Front View

Side View

Back View

Bottom View
Fragment from Pompeii inserted for comparison.

COLOURED WALL PLASTER FROM SITE OF ROMAN VILLA, SAPCOTE.