

## CHEDDAR VICARAGE 1965

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**SUMMARY.** This report describes the results of a small-scale excavation in the grounds of Cheddar Vicarage, on the reputed site of a Roman villa. Roman ditches and burials were found, with pottery and coins of the late first to fourth centuries A.D. No definite structures were encountered, and there was very little building material. A cobbled area and some light stone footings were possibly of post-Roman date. Two ditches were probably of the Saxon period; in and near them was found late Saxon pottery similar to types known from the nearby palace complex.<sup>1</sup>

**THE EXCAVATION.** This was done at Easter 1965 under the auspices of the Bristol Archaeological Research Group with the aid of a grant from the Ancient Monuments Inspectorate of the Ministry of Public Building and Works.<sup>2</sup> The area was likely to be impinged on by redevelopment, and it was felt that this would be a useful opportunity to find out more about the vicarage area and its relationship to the palace complex in Roman and Saxon times. Resources permitted of no more than trench excavation, and there is no doubt that the site would repay area excavation if the opportunity arose.

**PREVIOUS REFERENCES** (*see* Fig. 1). The 25" O.S. map SOMER. XXVII. 1 (1930) shows the "Roman villa" antiquities mark in the vicarage garden. This is presumably based on discoveries in the area round the church in the second half of the nineteenth century.<sup>3</sup> A coin of Domitian was found in the churchyard at a depth of 5 or 6 feet; a coin of Hadrian, one of Victorinus, and about ten fourth century coins down to Valens were found in the vicarage garden; a coin of Antoninus Pius and five fourth century coins down to Valens were found in Parsonage Pen. There was also pottery, including samian. To these may be added several dozen third and fourth century coins down to Gratian, shown to me as having been dug up in the garden of Cleeve Guest House (north of Parsonage Pen), the Roman finds from the palace area recovered in 1960-62, and those from the present excavation. The reason for the precise location of the antiquities mark is not known. There is nothing to suggest that it represents the exact position of any structure found in earlier excavations. The most likely explanation is that in this part of the garden there is a pronounced raised area (Fig. 1) which has been

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 4, p. 54.

<sup>2</sup> I should like to thank Margaret Gray, Janet Escritt, Katherine Hughes and Lorna Watts for their work as site supervisors, and the Reverend and Mrs. R. Denman for their kindness and hospitality; and those who have contributed specialist work or reports: A. M. ApSimon (flints); G. C. Boon (coins); J. Hancock (X-ray); B. R. Hartley (samian and colour-coated pottery); W. Manning (iron and copper alloy objects); David Peacock (advice on pottery analysis); T. F. Spence (human bones).

<sup>3</sup> *V.C.H. Somerset*, 1, 359, derived partly from "Church of St. Andrew, Cheddar", in *Proc. Axbridge Branch Som. Arch. Soc.* (1898), p. 11.

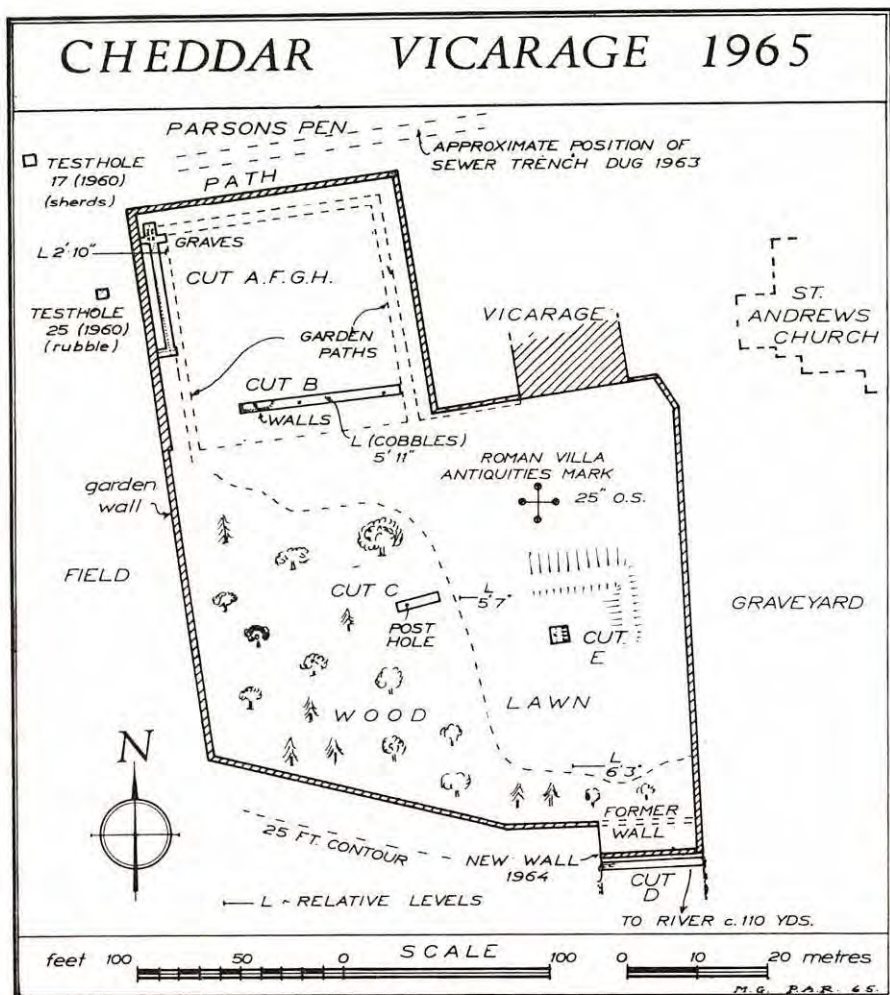


FIG. 1

well known to the successive incumbents of the vicarage as stony ground. In dry summers there are several parch-marks in the garden (including the L-shaped ridge in Fig. 1) which betray the existence of stone near the surface. These might be the sites of Roman structures, or may mark the position of later buildings, such as previous vicarages (the present house is no older than the eighteenth century).



The excavations on the palace site<sup>4</sup> showed that there was no building that could be identified as a chapel before palace period 2 (c. A.D. 930+). The chapels of periods 2 and later were relatively small buildings, hardly large enough to accommodate any ecclesiastical gatherings other than those of the king and his immediate circle. Nor was there a cemetery around the chapels. There are, however, references to a *minster* in the later tenth and eleventh centuries, and possibly to a religious community in the time of Alfred. Since no evidence for either of these was found in the palace area, it was thought that such buildings might lie in the area around the church of St. Andrew, the present medieval building being perhaps the successor of the Saxon minster church. The boundary separating Manor Farm (the palace area) from Church Farm (the church area) was shown to be possibly of ninth century origin. The 1965 excavation was done to test these ideas. There was also the possibility that there might be continuity between the supposed "villa" and any Saxon religious establishment; so it was important to locate the Roman structures more accurately. This last hope was not realised, but the excavation left little doubt that there was occupation in the vicarage garden contemporary with the pre-conquest phases of the palace complex; it seems reasonable to equate this occupation with that of the area around a minster church.

#### ABBREVIATIONS AND REFERENCES

- ST.* stone  
*B.C.* burnt clay  
*SL.* slag  
*GL.* glass  
*I.O.* iron objects  
*C.A.* copper alloy  
*B.O.* bone objects  
*H.B.* human bones  
*CO.* coins  
*P.* pottery sherds individually recorded and numbered.  
 fr. fragment  
 VC, VE, VG, VHH. post-Roman pottery fabrics (p. 76)  
 CVL: *Excavations at Chew Valley Lake*; H.M.S.O. publication by writer and E. Greenfield forthcoming; letters used are those of Roman type fabrics from this group of sites.  
 Henley Wood: Information from E. Greenfield, who excavated this Roman temple site in N. Somerset for M.O.P.B.W. in 1964.

<sup>4</sup> Publication forthcoming as M.O.P.B.W. Research Report by H.M.S.O.; interim report in *Proc. S.A.S.*, 108 (1964), 99-112, which is a reprint of that in *Med. Arch.*, 6-7 (1962-3), 53-66.

N.F.: New Forest kilns; Heywood Sumner, *Excavations in New Forest Roman Sites* (1927).

Congresbury: Late Roman kiln in N. Somerset, preliminary note in *Proc. Som. A. S.* **108** (1964), 172-174.

L on Figs.: Relative levels below a temporary site datum.

HG.: Ham Green medieval pottery kiln, near Bristol; see *Trans. B. and G. A. S.* **82** (1963), 95-126.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF CUTTINGS

(Letters and numbers in brackets are original layer numbers as marked on finds)

#### TRENCH A:

Trench N.-S. with extensions F, G, H, in NE. corner of vicarage garden (Figs. 2 and 3, plan and sections).

#### Layer A1 (=A1, F1, G1, H1)

Garden soil and other disturbed levels down to 18 ins. below path surface.

236 sherds, mostly Roman, few medieval and post-medieval. Samian *H1*, *A12*. *P.17*, *18* (VHH, late Saxon — early medieval). *GL.4*.

#### Layer A2 (=A6, A14, A15, A16A)

Loose stones and dark soil in main part of trench, over cobbling and over Ditch A1.

99 Roman sherds. Samian *A16A* and *A14*. Sherds of much of one early medieval pot towards S. end (Fig. 9, No. 26). Coarse stucco with limestone gravel backing similar to 10th-11th century material on palace site.

#### Layer A3 (=A4, A8, F2, G3)

Grey-brown gravelly soil above graves at N. end, see section in Fig. 3.

191 Roman sherds (those from A4 apparently later than F2, though layer looked same in digging and in section); including Fig. 8, Nos. 15-21. Samian *A8*. Sherds colour-coat mortarium (p. 74). *C.A.4* (terminal). *I.O.9*, 10.

#### Layer A4 (=F3, G4)

Light brown gravelly soil (see section, Fig 3) possibly buried soil, identifiable to E. and W. of graves.

41 Roman sherds, including late. *I.O.19*, 41 (? nails, possibly from west grave).

#### Layer A5 (=A11, H2)

Mixed red-brown soil filling graves.

98 Roman sherds, N.F. indented beaker with leaf dec. in white paint, and thin black metallic "Rhenish"; incl. Fig. 8, Nos. 11-14. *I.O.43*.

(Lower layers not excavated — see Trench B for natural layers).

#### West Grave

Female skeleton extended N.-S., head to N., facing W., arms fully extended at side (P1. II).

Coffin or stretcher iron fittings *I.O.20-32* (see also layer A4, *I.O.19*, 41). Sandal nails by feet *I.O.37/1-33*. Pottery spindle-whorl (p. 72, No. 22). Skeleton *H.B.2* with concretion or excreta, and soil sample from area of abdomen.



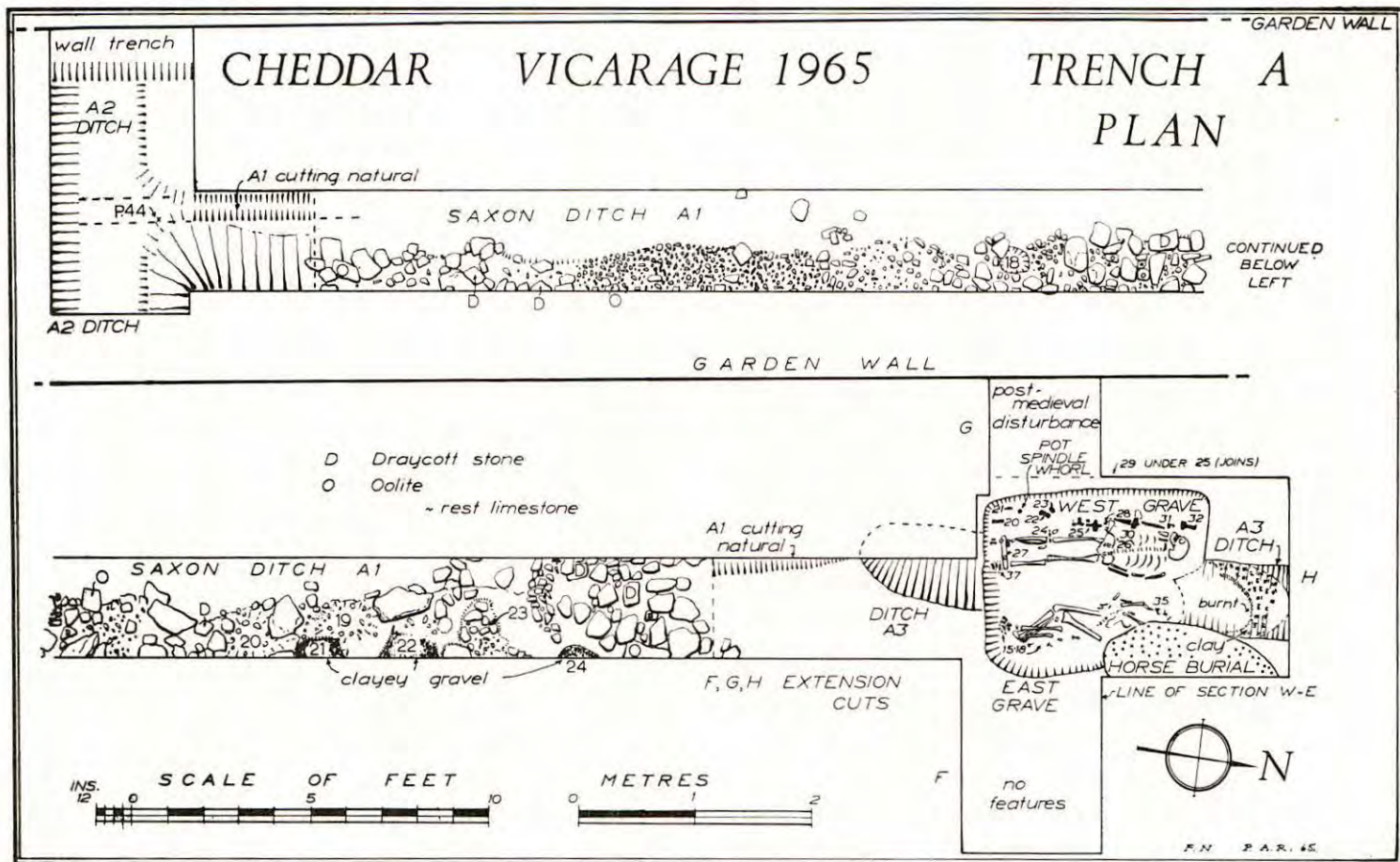


FIG. 2

**East Grave**

Male skeleton extended N.-S., head to N., slightly crouched, body turned to W., probably originally facing W.; partly destroyed by modern horse burial pit; possibly slightly later than West Grave (see section, Fig. 3) or could be contemporary.

Coffin or stretcher nails and sandal nails *I.O.*15-18 (p. 69), *I.O.*35/1-10 (p. 69).

Both graves cut Ditch A3.

**Ditch A1 (Saxon)**

*TOP* (=A2, A3, A5, A7)

Dark gravelly soil and stones, disturbed by garden to c. 6 ins. below level of natural.

291 sherds, mostly Roman, some medieval and later. Samian sherds *A2*, *A3*, *A5*, *A7*. Roman sherds *P.11*, 13, 14, 15, 16. Saxon or early medieval sherds *A7*, *A17* (two), *P.10*, 12, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 45, 46. (*P.27* is shown in Fig. 9, No. 25). Medieval sherd *P.22*. Roman coins *CO.1*, 3, 4, 6, 7, all third century. *C.A.3* strip. *I.O.6* pin, 7 ring, 11 nail-heading tool, 12 ? tool. Stones are waterworn limestone, Draycott conglomerate, and Doulting oolite.

*MID* (=A9)

Dark gravelly soil.

27 Roman sherds and *CO.13*, late fourth century. Early medieval sherd *P.54*, fits pottery from A2. Samian *A9*.

*BASE* (=A16)

Darker silty soil, some gravel in lowest 12 ins.

43 Roman sherds. Samian *A16* (two). *P.44* Saxon rim sherd (see position on plan, on base of ditch) (Fig. 9, No. 24).

**Ditch A2 (?Saxon) (=A17)**

Dark clayey soil, contaminated by later features.

45 Roman sherds, including double grey rim (Congresbury), and Fig. 8, Nos. 9, 10. Samian *A17*. *P.42* Roman sherd. *CO.2* third century, *CO.8* early fourth century. Iron slag. Saxon sherds *P.40*, 41, 43, 52, 53. *C.A.5* Decorated tag.

**Ditch A3 (Roman) (=A10, H3)**

Reddish clayey soil, heavily charcoal studded, with iron slag, 12 ins. deep below natural; cut by graves.

18 Roman sherds, including acute lattice mic. ware, and plain everted grey rim, and Fig. 8, Nos. 7, 8. Iron slag *SL.11*, 12, 13. Fused limestone *SL.17*. Furnace lining and fused pot *SL.22*.

**MISCELLANEOUS FEATURES**

A13 (see section, Fig. 3). Construction trench for garden wall. Victoriana and *CO.10*, fourth century.

A18-24 are possible features in cobbles and stony area east of Ditch A2.

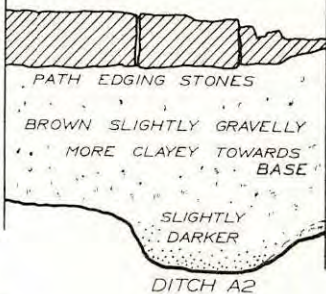
A18: 1½ ins. deep depression in cobbles with charcoal; A19: 1 in. deep depression in cobbles, with 14 Roman sherds (including thick grey rim), and charcoal; A20: 1½ ins. deep with charcoal, Congresbury plain grey everted rim; A21, 22, 24: patches of redeposited natural; A24: group of tightly set stones.



# CHEDDAR VICARAGE 1965

## SECTIONS TRENCH A

SECTION OF EAST FACE  
OF EXTENSION CUTTING  
AT SOUTH END OF TRENCH A



SECTION OF SOUTH FACE  
OF SOUTH END OF  
TRENCH A AND  
EXTENSIONS

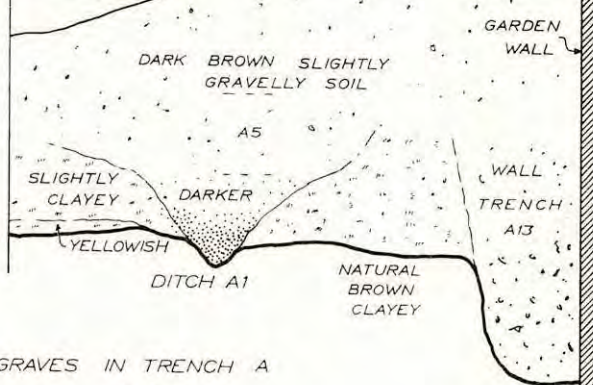
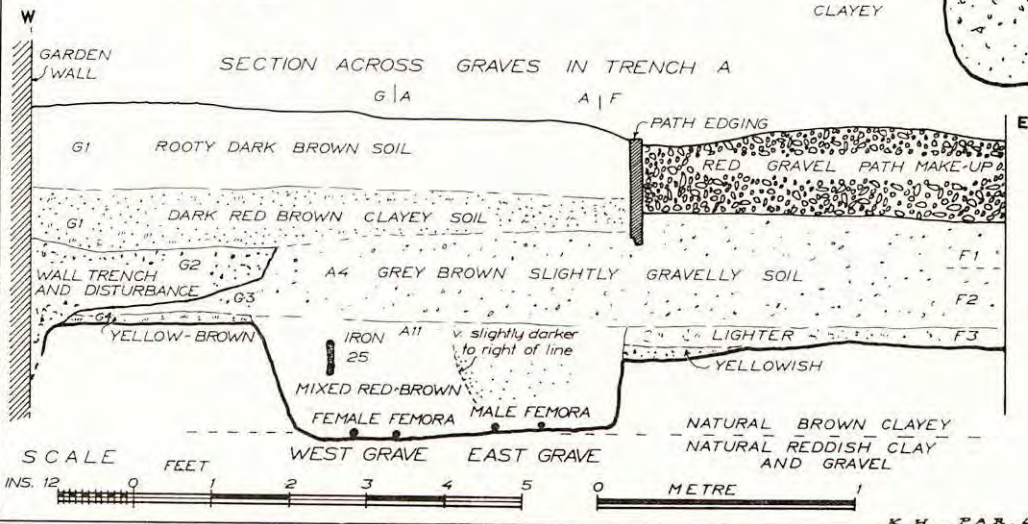


FIG. 3



G2 disturbance extending from wall trench with many slates, possibly post-medieval cess-pit.

#### DISCUSSION OF TRENCH A (Figs. 2, 3)

With over 1,000 Roman sherds from such a limited area, there can be little doubt that there was some Roman occupation here, particularly when contrasted with the number of sherds (some 200) from the larger area of Trench B. The pottery extended from the late first to the fourth centuries, and the coins from Gallienus to Gratian. Two features were certainly of Roman date, Ditch A3 and the double grave. Ditch A3 appears to have been associated with iron-smelting in the second or third centuries; just to the north of the graves there was a large plug of red clay, burnt hard on its south side (*see* Fig. 2); there may possibly have been a furnace here, destroyed by the later graves.

The graves were dug in the fourth century or later, as shown by pottery in their filling. They seem to have formed a double grave in the sense that they were deliberately placed side by side, but there is some evidence to suggest that the male burial was later than the female. There was a slight disparity in the depths, in the coffin or stretcher iron fittings, and in the posture; there was also a very slight difference in the stratification, seen only in section as shown in Fig. 3. Both skeletons were of similar age at death, 30-40 years old. It seems likely that they were man and wife, that the latter died first, and was soon followed by her husband. The male skeleton (east grave) was accompanied by only a rather random group of nails probably from a light coffin or stretcher, mostly on the east side, and by some sandal nails near the feet. The female skeleton (west grave) also had sandal nails, and some more complex iron fittings on the west side only. If these were coffin bindings, their absence on the east side is surprising. Possibly these iron fittings represent the hinges on the side of a coffin otherwise of wood. A pottery spindle-whorl may have been deliberately included, or may have been just part of the Roman layer.

There were many Roman sherds, both in the grave filling and in the soil above, a greater concentration than elsewhere, particularly of late Roman pottery. The source of this material cannot be ascertained without further excavation in this area; the material could have been dug through by the graves (it may have been dumped in a hollow left by Ditch A3), or it may have been put in at the same time as the filling of the graves.

It is possible too that the layer of cobbling seen only in a narrow strip on the east side of the trench was also of Roman date, though, like the cobbled area in Trench B, it could be later. One feature cutting it, A19, had Roman sherds in it, but this cannot be taken as significant in view of the large amount of Roman pottery in surrounding layers.



The cobbled layer did not extend to either end of the trench, but it was certainly cut by Ditch A1. This ditch was dated by a freshly broken rim, Fig. 9, No. 24, on its floor, probably to the Saxon period, possibly to the ninth century. Later Saxon and early medieval pottery occurred in the upper levels of the ditch. Ditch A2 was probably also of Saxon date, though its filling was not clearly defined or stratified in the small area dug.

On the east side of Ditch A1, on the cobbled layer, and tipping into the edge of the ditch, was a good deal of stone, local Carboniferous limestone, local Draycott conglomerate, and Doulling oolite. This may be a continuation of the structures in Trench B, or may be something quite separate. The only dating for this spread of stone was tentatively given by the late Saxon and early medieval pottery in the surrounding soil. No interpretation of the material, as buildings or as destruction material, can be maintained without area excavation. Nevertheless the amount of ? ninth century and later pottery and the existence of Ditches A1 and ? A2 suggest that there were late Saxon and early medieval structures in this area. It should be noted that there is no reason to regard the vicarage garden wall as being in any way a significant boundary to the Roman or later levels. Roman levels certainly extend further to the N.W, as shown by the Roman pottery found in test-holes 17 and 25 dug in 1960, while the rubble in 25 may be a continuation of that in Trench A.

#### TRENCH B

E.-W. across vicarage garden (*see* Fig. 4 for plan and sections).

##### Layer B1

Dark brown garden soil, rooty and gravelly.

12 Roman sherds. Samian B1. 14 medieval and later sherds and clay pipes.

##### Layer B2

Gravelly brown soil, charcoal, ash, slate, white mortar flecks and lumps, Draycott stone, Pennant roof tile.

Flint ST.1. 77 Roman sherds, including hard grey Congresbury double rim, rim of fine white eggshell ware, a sherd of a hard thumb-beaker (not New Forest), and eight soft reddish sherds; mostly grey. 5 medieval sherds including P.1, P.2. 17th century sherds to base of layer. I.O.1 knife, I.O.2 knife.

##### Layer B3

Gravelly brown soil with some larger loose cobbles.

Samian B3. 98 Roman sherds (including 6 pink or buff). 5 sherds of late Saxon or early medieval VHH including P.9. Medieval green glaze including P.3, P.4, P.5, P.6. One 17th century sherd P.7. Burnt daub (few pieces). I.O.5 amorphous lump. C.A.2 bronze or pewter ring. CO.12 late fourth century.

##### Layer B4

Cobbled layer, compact worn local limestone gravel up to 3 ins. thick; some Draycott, Pennant, oolite, and Old Red Sandstone towards west end; dipping slightly to S.

Flint ST.2. 11 Roman sherds, including rim of pink ring-necked flagon, among cobbles. I.O.4 fr. knife blade.

**Layer B4A**

Group of pot as shown on section, one-third of ? second century flanged bowl, in top 2 ins. of cobbles (Fig. 8, No. 23).

**Layer B5**

Natural reddish clayey soil under B4; mixed orange/brown in places, more orange in deeper part, with some charcoal and limestone in upper 10 ins.; lies on gravel "head" with some dark soil and "dried peas" on surface; some iron pan on surface just under lowest cobbles; "head" rising towards W. end; no finds.

**TRENCH B DISCUSSION (Fig. 4, Pl. I)**

The important features in Trench B were all associated with the cobbled layer B4; they consist of dips in its surface, possibly where timbers have been laid, cuts made through it, or stone groups or alignments laid on it. At one place towards the east end the whole layer had been replaced by clay and gravel. The features in the east half of the trench might prove to be meaningful if seen in a wider context, but they cannot represent more than timber or wattle and daub structures; nor can they be certainly associated with the structures in the west half. These structures were quite definite; they consisted of a single or in places double thickness of stones of various sizes and materials. They seem to have formed parts of two structures; the easterly one was either one end of an apse or the end of a building with rounded corners, possibly with a near-central axial partition; the westerly was of lighter stones, and appears to have been an L-shaped wall attached to the easterly one. The only apparent floor-level associated with these walls was the surface of B4, though it may have been higher. Further east were some out-lying stones, a rise in the surface of B4, and one or possibly two major post-holes.

The dating of these structures is uncertain; the substantial part of a Roman flanged bowl just above the cobbling suggests that this was a surface used, if not laid, in the Roman period. If the structures were Roman, more Roman pottery might have been expected on or just above the cobbling. Most of the Roman sherds were in fact in the upper layers, possibly derived from elsewhere. A few late Saxon or early medieval sherds came from a level which could be associated with the structures; or the latter might be of some earlier date. Only area excavation can give further information, by revealing their plan, by finding definite dating evidence, or by showing their relationship to other features of known date, such as the ditches in Trench A.

**CUT C**

This trench was cut in the wooded area west of the vicarage lawn. A rooty topsoil up to 19 ins. deep (C1) was separated from natural heavy gravel "head" and clay only by a thin layer of reddish clayey

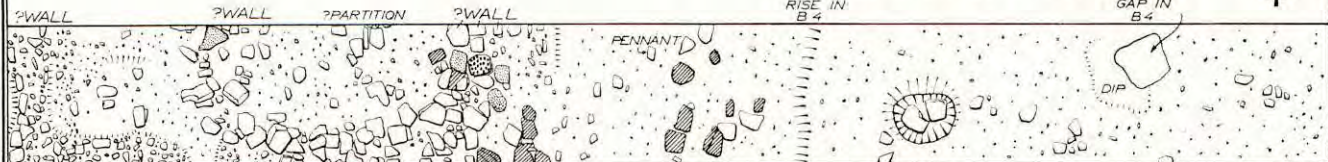


# CHEDDAR VICARAGE 1965

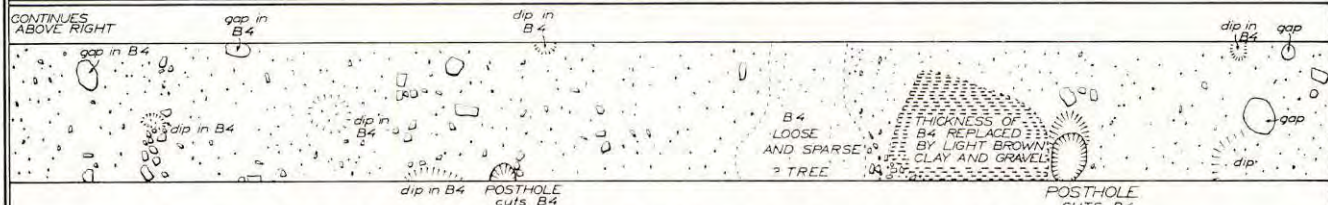
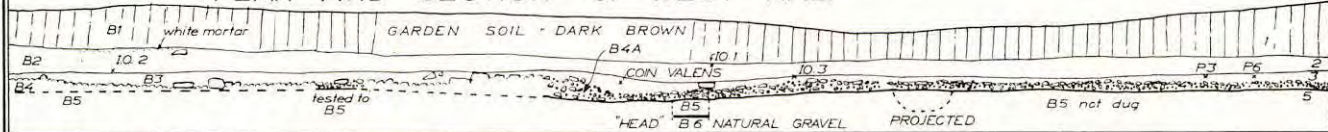
# TRENCH B

- DRAYCOTT STONE
- OOLITE
- OLD RED SANDSTONE
- REST WATERWORN LIMESTONE

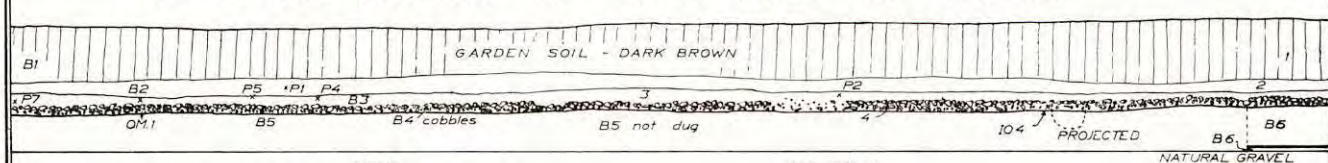
- B2 DARK BROWN CLAYEY SOIL
- B3 AS B2, OVER B4
- B4 COMPACT LIMESTONE GRAVEL
- B5 NATURAL LIGHT BROWN CLAYEY SOIL



## PLAN AND SECTION OF WEST HALF



## PLAN AND SECTION OF EAST HALF OF TRENCH



P.A.R. 45.

FIG. 4

soil (C2) (=B5) in the east part of the trench, and a thin layer of darker soil with some loose cobbles (C3) at the west end. There was no evidence of building material. The only finds were 67 Roman sherds from the topsoil, including CVL Roman fabric N (2 rouletted sherds), a late cavetto rim, a black-burnished second century pie-dish, and a sherd of cream slipped pot similar to a sherd from Henley Wood. There were 4 sherds from C3, two of CVL N, one black-burnished, one buff-slipped on both sides, and CO. 11, a mid-fourth century coin, from C2.

#### CUT D

This was cut across a narrow strip of ground between the graveyard and the grass field to SW. of the vicarage garden. The configuration of the ground suggested that there might be a hollow way here leading from the Roman site to the river. Excavation showed no evidence of this. In spite of disturbance by modern drains, natural hard gravel and clay were found at a reasonably even depth of about 2 feet. The appearance of a hollow way was due partly to the artificial making-up of the graveyard on the one side (up to 5 ft. has been added in recent times) and to mounding up on the other side, apparently the result of repeated clearing-out of a ditch separating this piece of ground from the grass field. The only finds in D were a few Roman sherds, three late Saxon or early medieval sherds (including P. 37, 38, 39) a few later medieval sherds (including P. 22), three flints (ST. 3, 4, and 5), a fragment of knife-cut medieval ceramic ridge crest, and a third century coin (CO. 5).

#### CUT E (Fig. 5)

This was a 6 ft. square hole and was the only cutting that could be made in the lawn area. It was possible because of the existence of a tree stump, which we were able to remove and dig beneath. This was the nearest cutting to the "Roman villa" antiquities mark. It was the only part of the excavation to produce a well-stratified series of layers and finds.

#### E1

##### Tree stump and rooty soil to 2 ft

84 grey and black sherds including late cavetto, obtuse lattice, and hard grey-blue fourth century wares. Samian E1. 3 sherds N.F. beaker, 2 painted cream-slipped pink sherds, rim hard fine buff. CO.9 early fourth century. 8 sherds of medieval and later pot, including Fig. 9, No. 27. 3 frs. of coarse hand-made ridge-crests. 1 fr. red tile. 1 sherd soft red base (? 14th). CO.14-21, 17th-19th century Chinese.

#### E2

##### Lower topsoil.

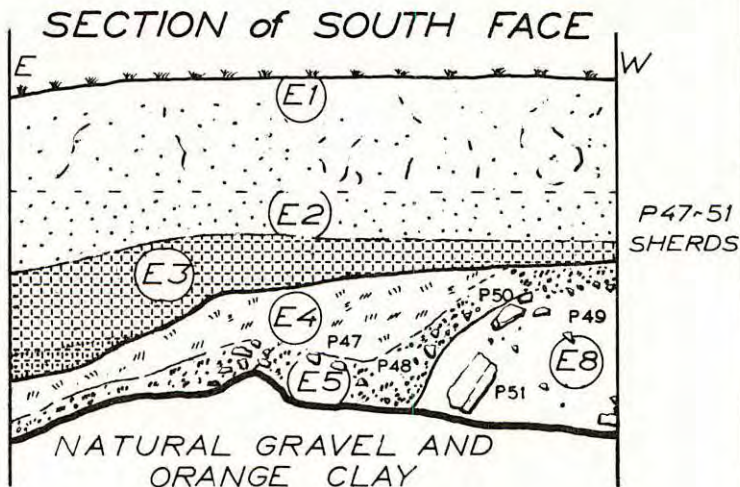
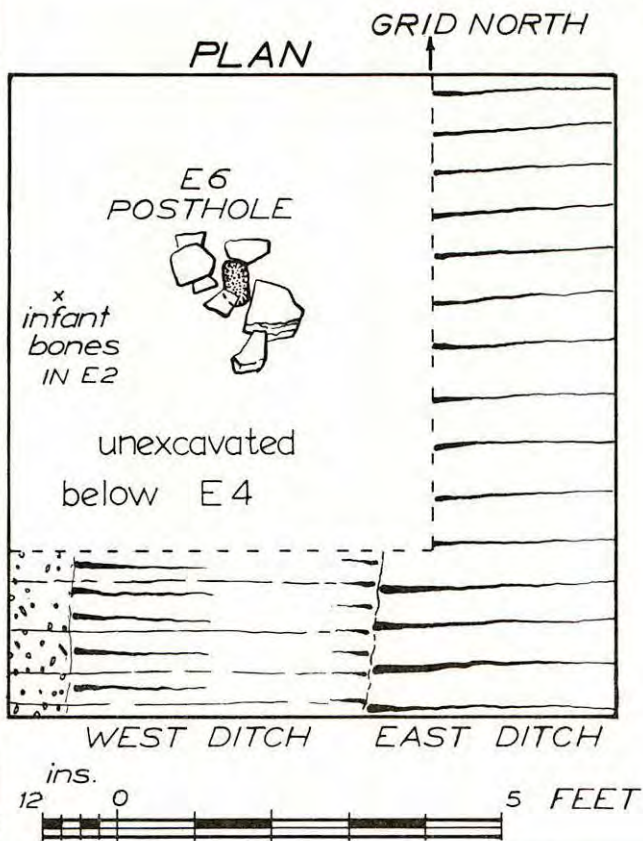
152 grey and black Roman sherds, including N.F. indented beaker, metallic matt grey slip, late cavetto and flanged bowls, and much hard late blue-grey, one grey-blue Congresbury double rim; sherd hard grey, cream-slipped, on red surface; two rims and base of colour-coat; soft pink-cream *en barbotine*, thick



# CHEDDAR VICARAGE CUT E

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Cheddar Vicarage 1965



- E1 ROOTS AND BLACK~BROWN SOIL
- E2 BLACK~BROWN SOIL
- E3 BLACK SOIL
- E4 YELLOW~BROWN CLAYEY SOIL
- E5 ORANGE CLAYEY SOIL AND GRAVEL
- E8 COMPACT ORANGE~BROWN CLAYEY SOIL AND GRAVEL

M. G. P.A.R. 65.

FIG. 5

white bands on olive-brown with rouletting. Samian *E2*. *P.34* Roman? *P.35* Saxon, fabric VC. *P.36* fr. medieval green-gl. ridge crest. Clay pipe-stem and slate. Infant or foetal burial at base of layer *H.B.1*. Slag *SL.1*. Glass *GL.2*. Bone pin *B.O.1* (Fig. 6).

### E3

Black soil, dipping into east ditch.

98 grey or black Roman, including late cavetto rim, plain rim in micaceous colour-coat, two sherds *en barbotine*, hard blue-grey, including rope-rim (?Congresbury), and two of N.F. beaker, painted white on purple, *cf.* sherds in *A3*, *A5*. Samian *E3* (Antonine). *C.A.6* ear or finger ring. *B.O.2*, 3 decorated bone (Fig. 6).

### E4

Yellow-brown clayey, upper fill of east ditch.

43 grey and black Roman, including late cavetto-rim, obtuse lattice, and hard blue-grey, but no definite fourth century otherwise; scribed sherds among grey-blue. *P.47* thin grey sherd, orange surfaces, joins *P.48* below, also on section. Fig. 8, Nos. 4, 5.

### E5

Orange clayey, fill of west ditch.

*P.48* (see above, also on section), *P.50* samian in lower part (*c.* A.D. 75-95). 10 grey and black Roman, including sherd CVL N fabric (no blue-grey ware); 7 fine pink or buff; 1 painted white on dark brown surface, red core, grey inside, Fig. 8, Nos. 2, 3. Samian *E7* (Trajanic-Hadrianic).

### E6

? Post-hole, seen at base of *E3*, fill as *E3*, extending few inches into *E4*.

3 hard sandy grey sherds with equal-angle; lattice hole possibly associated with infant burial *H.B.1*.

### E8

Orange-brown, fill of earlier ditch cut by east ditch.

*P.49*, *P.51* as on section; *P.49* CVL N rim, near shoulder; *P.51* black sherd acute lattice.

## CUT E DISCUSSION (Fig. 5)

The earliest feature here was a cut-away of uncertain size, shape and direction, but probably N.-S. This is represented by the abnormally low level of undisturbed natural found in the SW. corner, dipping slightly to the west. The fill of this earliest cut-away was *E8*, either silting, or more likely upcast from the west ditch. No dating can be given for the cut-away, but it was filled, and the west ditch dug, in the first century or later, to judge by *P. 49*, *51*; *P. 50* and *E. 7*, late first to early second century samian, could be derived from this level.

The west ditch was cut through *E8*, and was filled or silted in the third century or later, dated by sherds in *E5*. This was a N.-S. feature, probably draining south.

The latest east ditch was of uncertain width and depth — only its west slope was found, and it may well have been of substantial depth and well over ten feet wide. It was draining N.-S. If *E4* was its silting, then it was cut through the fill of the west ditch. *E4* contained sherds of the third century, some probably late third or



early fourth, and it seems likely that the east ditch was dug in the third century, or possibly the early fourth.

The remaining layers were clearly deposited when the ditches and cut-away had largely silted and had gone out of use. E3 contained much fourth century material and much ash. To this period may be attributed the ? post-hole and infant burial. E2 represented the disturbed top of E3, and E1 topsoil, tree-disturbed. The Chinese coins were probably hidden in the hollow stump of the tree which was removed. They were deposited there in the nineteenth century or later. They probably belonged to a lady missionary, who, the vicar tells me, used to live in the vicarage.

The concentration of two ditches and a cut-away, and the ash layer E2/E3 suggests Roman activity of some intensity at least in the third and fourth centuries, if not also in the first-second. It seems likely that the material was derived from the higher levels north of Cut E. This is indeed where the O.S. antiquities mark is located, and Cut E has provided strong supporting evidence for there being Roman buildings here. E2/E3 looked very much like the drains found near hypocausts, with much sooty ash.

The presence of Saxon and medieval pottery suggests later occupation in this area, while the medieval ridge crests suggest buildings at no great distance.

## CONCLUSION

### PRE-ROMAN

The few flints suggest a late Palaeolithic or Mesolithic occupation of the area, witnessed also by several dozen flints from the palace area. The conjunction of river and gravel terrace would seem to be a suitable environment.

### ROMAN

The excavation supported the evidence of Roman buildings in the vicarage area, probably north of E.

It may well be that the ditches in E belonged to some first-third century timber buildings, superseded by a late villa-type building—a pattern familiar in North Somerset.<sup>5</sup> The only evidence lacking in the whole excavation is any mortary soil or tile levels, so characteristic of the destruction levels of late Roman villas. Perhaps the buildings lie a little too far from the excavation holes; or they may be largely timber-frame structures on unmortared stone footings.

The Roman levels appear to diminish in intensity to the south and west of the vicarage, with the exception of a high pottery density around the double grave over 200 feet to the NW. of the supposed nucleus.

### POST-ROMAN

Saxon pottery was found in cuttings A and E, and in A it was associated with one or possibly two ditches. The dating for these is

<sup>5</sup> See CVL report.

probably of the ninth to the eleventh centuries, to judge by their similarity to fabrics found on the palace site. Although not associated with the structures found in B, these may be of Saxon date, or possibly earlier. In all the cuttings except C, later Saxon or medieval sherds were found. Any structures which exist in these areas are likely to be peripheral to the minster church, which is presumably on or near the site now occupied by the medieval church of St. Andrew; the pottery seems to confirm the existence of the monastic buildings implied in Alfred's will.

#### MEDIEVAL

A scatter of medieval and later pottery and roof-material may have been associated with successors to the monastic buildings, or more probably, in the post-conquest period, with buildings near the church, notably the medieval and later priests' houses and vicarages.

### THE FINDS (provenances in brackets)

#### FLINT ARTEFACTS (Fig. 6, ST. 1-5)

By A. M. ApSimon, M.A., University of Belfast

#### Stone

##### No.

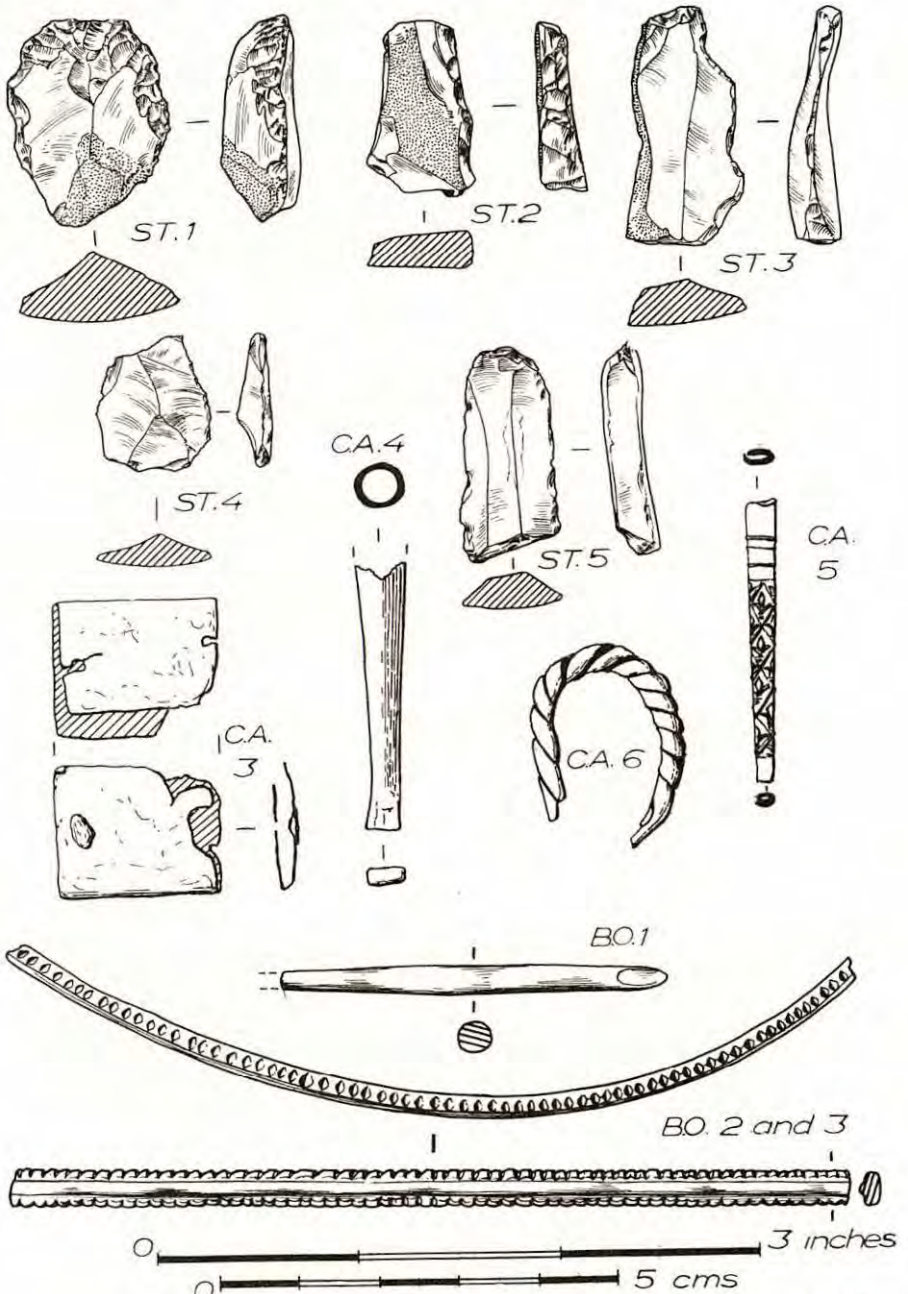
- ST. 1. Thumb scraper made on bulbar end of ridged flake, brown flint, slight grey patination, not present on some facets. The working edge is much used and perhaps also damaged (B2).
- ST. 2. Fragment of flake or blade, brown flint with milky blue-white patina. Three edges snapped or truncated, fourth edge shows steep re-touch with signs of much use (B4).
- ST. 3. Bulbar end of bladelet, brown flint with patina as previous. One edge shows irregular re-touch subsequent to patination (D1).
- ST. 4. Fragment, brown unpatinated flint, unworked (D1).
- ST. 5. Bulbar end of bladelet, heavily patinated, possibly chert. This implement is abraded but has traces of nibbling re-touch on the left-hand edge. The apparent oblique truncation of the distal end may be an accidental break (D2).

*Comment:* The presence of patinated bladelets among these flints rather suggests an advanced Palaeolithic or Mesolithic attribution as does the steep re-touch of ST.2. The scraper, ST.1, could be at home in such a context but is not diagnostic.

#### SLAG (No specialist report available)

- SL. 1. Furnace bottom, clay and slag (E2).
- 11, 12, 13. Iron slag (Ditch A3).
17. Fused limestone and slag (Ditch A3).
18. Furnace bottom and fused pottery (Ditch A3).





CHEDDAR VICARAGE : STONE, COPPER ALLOY, BONE .

FIG. 6

GLASS (No specialist report available). (Scraps only)

GL.2. Thin amber-coloured (E2).

4. Fine colourless (A1).

#### IRON OBJECTS

*Grave Fittings:* A number of iron objects were found in association with both west and east graves in Trench A. These were heavily corroded and covered with wood traces and corrosion products. They have been X-rayed but not yet cleaned or scientifically examined. A full report on them, and on the coffins or other objects which they represent, is therefore not included here, but will be published separately on a future occasion. Only brief details are given here and provisional drawings of some of the more important pieces are in the upper part of Fig. 7, and numbered on the plan in Fig. 2.

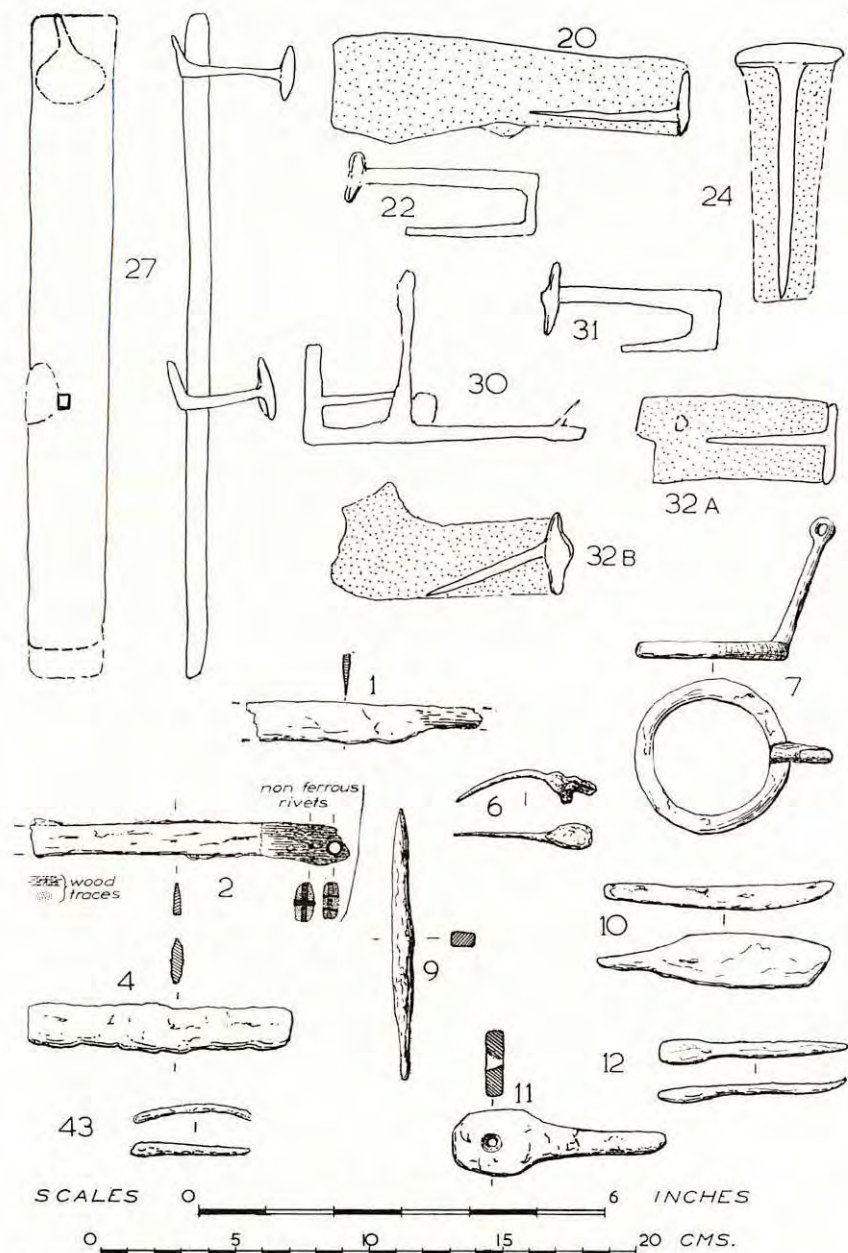
Those from the east (male) grave only survived *in situ* where the skeleton was not disturbed, as shown in Fig. 2. There was a small group, 15-18, near the SE. corner, of four nails with sub-circular heads of 1.7 cm. diameter, average length 7.5 cm., and a group of corroded sandal-nails. There were traces of wood on 16, which was also bent over at the end probably to secure wood of *c.* 4.5 cm. thickness. 35 was a group of ten nails of similar size, but too close to the disturbance to be useful as evidence.

Those from the west grave are more useful. A selection of the important pieces are shown in outline in Fig. 7 (20, 22, 24, 27, 30, 31, 32A and B). The iron across the foot of the grave (27) appears to have been binding for a piece of wood *c.* 26.5 cm. long and 2 - 2.5 cm. thick. On the west side there appear to have been similar pieces of wood, secured by nails and more complex fittings such as 30.

It is uncertain whether these iron fittings were really from coffins, or from slighter objects such as stretchers. It is possible that there were iron fittings on the east side of the west grave which had been displaced by the insertion of the east grave, if this was indeed secondary. But none were found on the west side of the east grave, and it may be that the fittings were on the perimeter of some double structure used for both burials, if they were interred at the same time. It is possible on the other hand that the fittings *do* represent a coffin or coffins, which were made partly of jointed timber, and partly secured by iron nails and fittings. The more complex ones on the west side of the west grave may be connected with hinges for a lid. Further examination will, it is hoped, resolve some of these uncertainties.

*Other iron objects:* I am indebted to Dr. W. Manning of the University of Cardiff for examining these objects; the following section is based on his comments. He points out that none of the iron objects *must* be Roman; some probably are, but a post-Roman (*i.e.* dark age or Saxon) date is not excluded in several cases.





CHEDDAR VICARAGE

IRON OBJECTS

FIG. 7

The knives in particular are all straight-bladed, and, while such knives do occur in the Roman period, other forms would be expected as well. This, Dr. Manning suggests, may be an argument for a post-Roman dating.

- Fig. 7.* 1. Tang and fragment of blade of straight-bladed knife; Roman or later (B2).  
 2. Fragment of blade and flat tang with non-ferrous lined eye and a small bronze rivet; wood residues; probably post-Roman (B2).  
 4. Fragment of knife-blade; Roman or later (B4).  
 6. Pin of a small brooch, possibly Roman (Ditch A1 top).  
 7. Ring with looped arm welded to it; function obscure; Roman or later (Ditch A1 top).  
 9. Small tanged awl for leather working; Roman or later (A3).  
 10. Function uncertain; Roman or later (A3).  
 11. Head of nail-heading tool with tapering hole; type known from Silchester (Reading Museum), but type has survived into recent times; probably Roman (Ditch A1 top).  
 12. Object like stylus-end but too thick to be one; function and date obscure (Ditch A1 top).  
 43. Bow of brooch; late pre-Roman Iron Age or Roman (A5).

#### COPPER ALLOY AND SILVER

Dr. Manning has also kindly examined these objects, and this section is based on his notes.

- Fig. 6. C.A.3.* Fragment of binding; sheet rivets; date uncertain (Ditch A1 top).  
*C.A.4.* Terminal; date uncertain (A3).  
*C.A.5.* Shoe- or clothing-lace tag stamped with fleur-de-lys pattern; medieval or later (Ditch A2).  
*C.A.6.* Twisted silver ear or finger ring; three strips; date uncertain, but late Roman parallels<sup>6</sup>.

#### BONE OBJECTS (Roman)

- Fig. 6. B.O.1.* Part of pin with slightly faceted end (E2).  
*B.O.2 and 3.* Joining pieces of rib bone with notched decoration; probably bracelet (E3).

#### HUMAN BONES (pp. 80-84)

- H.B.1.* Few bones of foetus or infant (E2).  
*H.B.2.* Female skeleton, mature adult, with concretion or excreta and soil sample from abdomen area (West Grave).  
*H.B.3.* Parts of male skeleton, mature adult (East Grave).

<sup>6</sup> *E.g.* in CVL report.



## ROMAN COARSE POTTERY (Fig. 8)

## CUT E

1. Black-burnished, roughly finished, acute lattice (layer 8) (not illustrated).
2. Hard grey, ? Congresbury, obtuse lattice (layer 5).
3. Grey, lightly incised acute lattice (layer 5).
4. Grey, reddish patches, micaceous (layer 4).
5. Grey, blackish surfaces, sandy (layer 4).
6. Fine pale grey, black slip inside, red-brown slip outside, white paint decoration (layer 3).

## TRENCH A

7. Grey-black micaceous, CVL fabric N (Ditch A3).
8. Hard grey (Ditch A3).
9. Grey smooth micaceous (Ditch A2).
10. Pale orange micaceous (Ditch A2).
11. Grey micaceous (grave fill A5).
12. Black-burnished micaceous grey (grave fill A5) (as No. 15).
13. Sandy orange (grave fill A5).
14. Off-white flaky (grave fill A5).
15. Black-burnished micaceous grey (soil above graves A3) (as No. 12).
16. Micaceous grey, dark surfaces, CVL fabric B (A3).
17. Hard fine orange micaceous (A3).
18. White, brown slip, raised decoration, N.F. (A3).
19. Pale grey, dark grey-brown slip, white paint decoration, N.F. (A3).
20. Indented beaker, grey stoneware, matt red slip inside, lustre red-brown outside, white paint leaf decoration, N.F. (A3).
21. Reconstruction from non-joining sherds, grey stoneware, maroon lustre outside, circular heavily-incised panels, white-painted decoration, with white-painted trellis and dot pattern between, N.F. (A3).
22. (not illustrated) Spindle whorl, micaceous grey ware, ovoid, made of curved piece of pot,  $4.0 \times 3.5$  mm., hole 9 mm., thickness 8 mm. (West Grave).

## TRENCH B

23. Complete section flanged bowl, hard fine light grey, possibly second century (B4A).

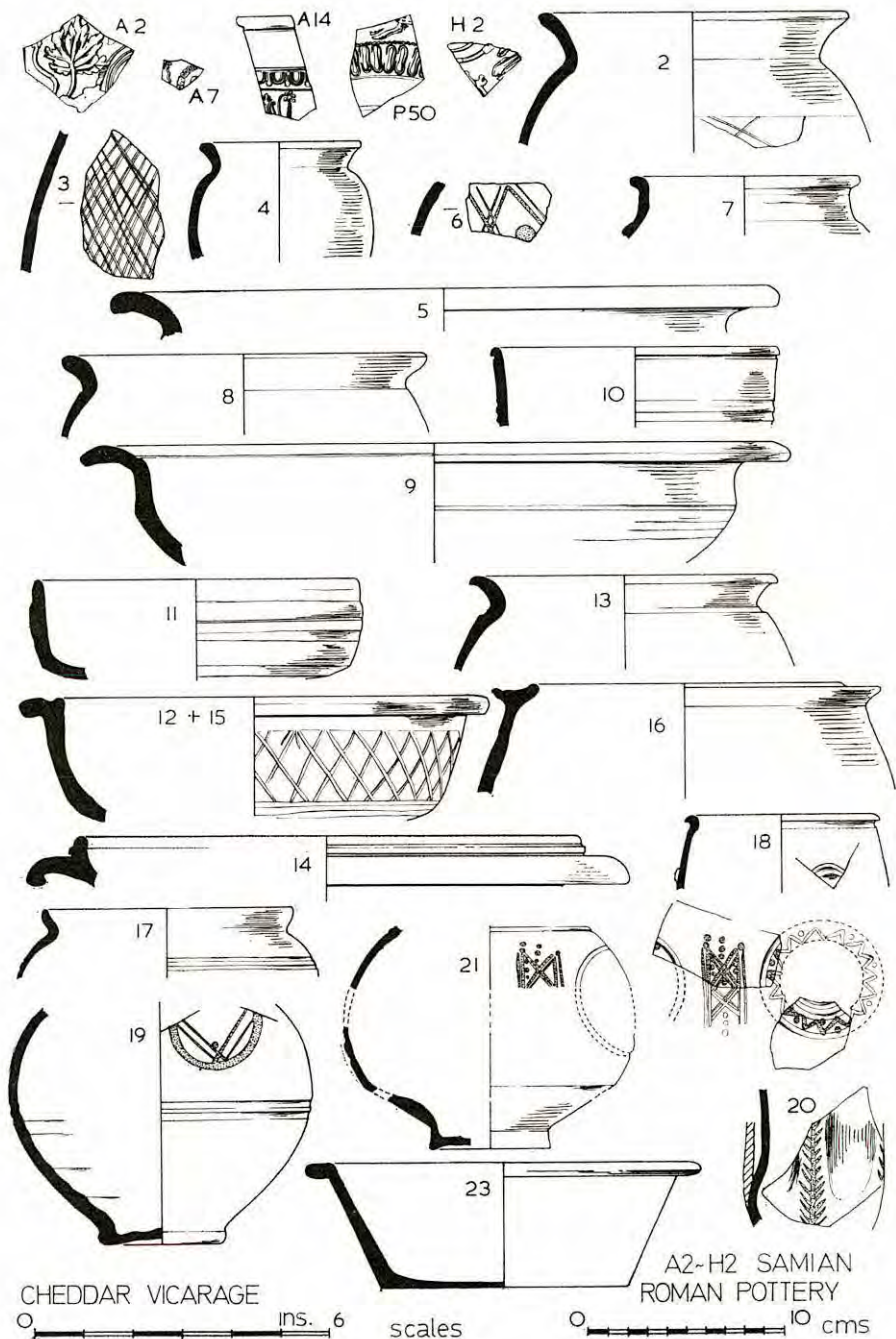


FIG. 8



## SAMIAN POTTERY

By Brian Hartley, M.A., F.S.A., University of Leeds

\* Illustrated in Fig. 8 (provenance in brackets)

*No. on  
Sherds*

- A2\* (i) Form 37, Central Gaulish. This fragment is from a bowl with large winding scroll with medallions in the lower loops. It matches some products of CINNAMVS closely (*cf.* Stanfield and Simpson, *Central Gaulish Potters*, pl. 162, 60, 61, etc.) and, though attribution to him is not quite certain, it may be dated *c.* A.D. 150-190.  
(ii) Form 33, heavily burnt but probably Central Gaulish. Antonine.  
(iii) Form 38 rim, Central Gaulish. Antonine.  
(iv) Form 37 rim, Central Gaulish (?) Second-century (?) (all Ditch A1 top).
- A3 Form 37, South Gaulish. This piece has only a fragment of the basal wreath, but that and the fabric suggest origin *c.* A.D. 80-100 (Ditch A1 top).
- A5 Form 37 scrap with rivet-hole. Part of a figure, probably a small version of the Minerva Dech. 77 survives. Though Central Gaulish, this piece cannot be dated closely within the second century (Ditch A1 top).
- A7\* A small fragment of form 37 with details diagnostic of the potter usually known as GELENVS or G. IVLIVS VIBIVS (*Central Gaulish Potters*, pl. 65, 1). The signatures on his bowls are always difficult to decipher, but a clear one at Richborough gives the reading GEMINVS and it will be as well to adopt this. The military site-dating in Britain demonstrates activity within the period A.D. 120-140 (Ditch A1 top).
- A8 Form 31 footring, East Gaulish. Late Antonine or early third-century (A3).
- A9 A fragment of form 37 with the ovolo and characteristic irregular beads of Stanfield's X-3 (DRVSVS I) in the fabric of Les Martres de Veyre *c.* A.D. 100-120 (Ditch A1, mid).
- A11 Form 31, Central Gaulish. Antonine (A5).
- A12 Form 31, Central Gaulish. Antonine, probably later than A.D. 160 (A1).
- A14\* Form 37, Central Gaulish. The ovolo, fine and coarse beads and all the details are close to Stanfield's DONNAVCVS - SACER Group. Pieces in the same style and fabric have recently been found at Lezoux in a large pit-group with signed work of DRVSVS II, SACER and ATTIANVS. That group belongs to the period *c.* A.D. 125-135 and a date *c.* A.D. 120-140 seems certain for the Cheddar piece (A2).

- A16 (i) A small burnt flake from a moulded bowl, probably Central Gaulish and Antonine (Ditch A1, base).  
 (ii) Form 36 or a similar dish. The fabric recalls Trajanic products of Les Martres de Veyre (Ditch A1, base).
- A16A Form 18 or 18/31, South Gaulish. Flavian (A2).
- A17 Form 37 rim, heavily burnt and with a rivet-hole. Probably Central Gaulish and early second-century (Ditch A2).
- B1 Form 31, slightly burnt, Central Gaulish. Late Antonine (B1).
- B3 Form 33, Central Gaulish. Late Antonine (B3).
- E1 Ludowici Tb variant (*cf.* Oswald and Pryce, pl. LIX, 4), burnt. Probably Central Gaulish and Antonine (E1).
- E2 (i) Form 18/31 or 31, Central Gaulish. Hadrianic (E2).  
 (ii) A fragment from the wall of a large vessel of uncertain form. Probably Central Gaulish. Late Antonine (?) (E2).
- E3 Curle 23, Central Gaulish. Antonine (E3).
- P.50\* Form 37, South Gaulish. The zone of closed godroons at the base was used by FRONTINVS and his contemporaries (Curle, *Newstead*, p. 209, 104). *c.* A.D. 75-95 (E5).
- E7 Form 18/31, Central Gaulish (probably from Les Martres de Veyre). Trajanic or early Hadrianic (E5).
- H1 Form 37 foot-ring, South Gaulish. Flavian or early Trajanic (A1).
- H2\* (i) Form 37, Central Gaulish. This is a small fragment from a bowl in the manner of CINNAMVS and his contemporaries with a large winding scroll. *c.* A.D. 150-190 (A5).  
 (ii) Form 31, heavily burnt, but probably Central Gaulish. Late Antonine (A5).

The vicarage samian calls for little general comment. It suggests occupation of the site from the late first century to the late second century. The sherds are unweathered and contrast markedly with the comminuted appearance of the samian from the palace site.

There is an unusually high proportion of decorated sherds, but in such a relatively small collection it is difficult to be sure that this is a true reflection of the status of the site.

#### COLOUR-COATED WARE

By Brian Hartley, M.A., F.S.A

Six fragments, some joining, from at least two red colour-coated mortaria imitating samian form 45. Vessels of this type were made in the Thames Valley potteries near Oxford (e.g. Dorchester, *Oxoniensia* I and VI) and are predominantly fourth-century, though they may have appeared in the late third century. Indeed, emergence at such a date would best explain their closeness to the samian form, since East Gaulish examples of form 45 would still be in use as late as A.D. 275, but scarcely much later (A3).



## POST-ROMAN POTTERY

Forty-six sherds were found which are likely to be of Saxon or medieval date. 21 are probably pre-conquest, 11 and a large piece of one pot may be pre- or post-conquest, while the remaining 14 should be thirteenth century or later. The first two groups are similar to types found on the palace site, and there named as fabrics C, E, G, and HH. Another prominent palace site fabric, B, is not paralleled among the vicarage finds.

Although there are close resemblances, if not identity, between the two groups from contexts only a few hundred yards apart, it has been thought safer to name them separately, using the palace letters, but with the prefix letter V.

*Fabric VG:* Ten sherds were found, in Ditch A2, in the base and upper levels of Ditch A1, and in the topsoil A1. They are reddish, or brownish, with white grits, and smooth surfaces, some lightly tooled. They include a rim sherd (Fig. 9 No. 24); no rims or sherds of definitive forms were found on the palace site in fabric G.

The general appearance of VG is similar to, though less soapy than, palace fabric G; but David Peacock,<sup>7</sup> who has examined both VG and G, tells me that the grits are not the same, those of G being Iceland Spar, while those of VG are calcite or limestone. On the palace site, G was not closely dated or prolific but was thought to be the earliest Saxon pottery on the site, of ninth century or earlier date. Its stratigraphical position there was antecedent to that of fabric C, as VG is to VC, as far as can be ascertained. A similar dating may be suggested therefore for VG.

P.12, 19, 33, 40, 41, 43, 44 (rim) A7, A17 (two).

?*Fabric VG:* Three sherds from top of Ditch A1; darker, grey-brown and smoother than examples above.

P.20, 23, 24.

*Fabric VE:* One sherd (P.30) from top of Ditch A1; 1 cm. thick, grey gritty with smooth surface, possibly allied to fabric E on palace site (tenth century) but not really like.

*Fabric VC:* Seven sherds, six from top of Ditch A1, one from E2; very similar to palace C sherds; harsh gritty orange-red to dark grey through brown; two sherds have fine grooves probably due to grits being dragged along surface; includes rim, Fig. 9, No. 25: palace dating for C, late tenth - early eleventh century.

P.10, 26, 27, 29, 31, 35, 46.

*Fabric VHH:* Eight sherds and large part of pot (Fig. 9, No. 26); from middle and top Ditch A1, A1 topsoil, soil above graves A3, loose rubble layer A2, and D1; soft thin gritty hand-made brown-

<sup>7</sup> Dept. of Geology, University of Birmingham.





PLATE I

CHEDDAR VICARAGE, 1965

Trench B, wall foundations at west end from east



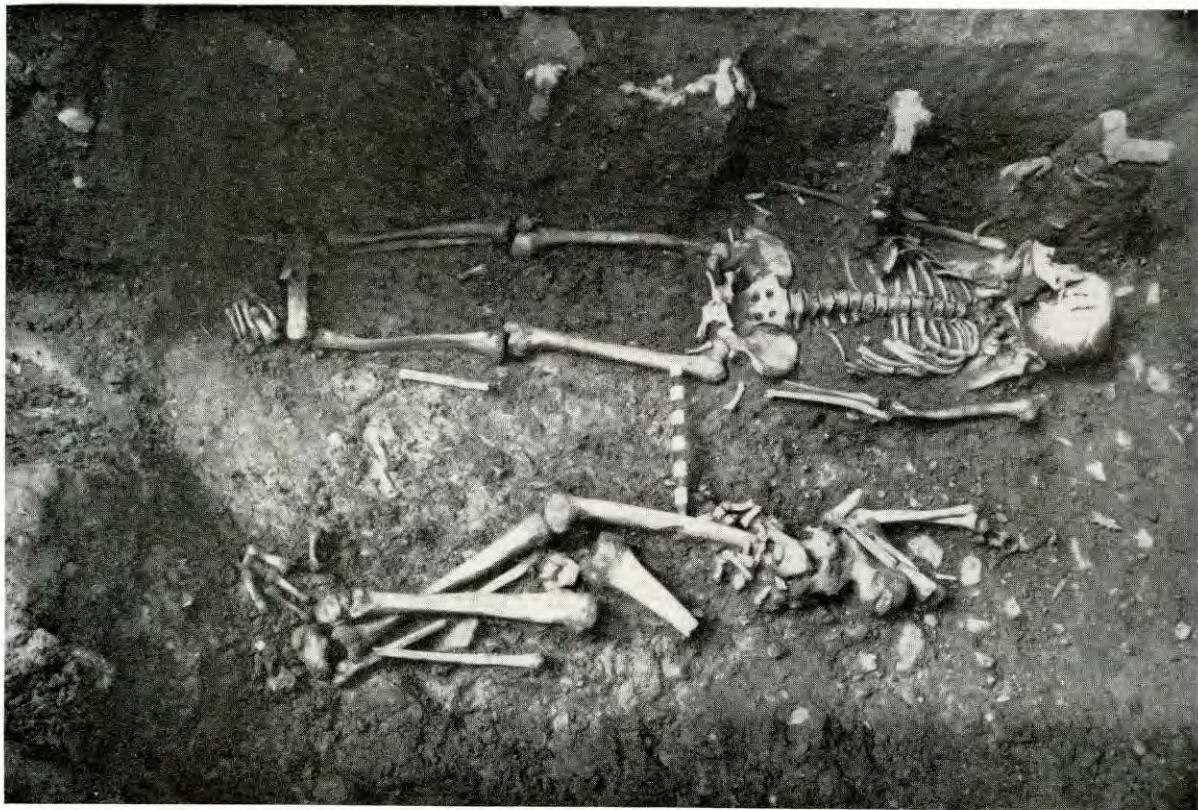


PLATE II

CHEDDAR VICARAGE, 1965  
Roman burials from east





PLATE III

*Photo: the late M. B. Cookson*

BATH CITY WALL EXCAVATION, 1951

East face of City Wall exposed in 1941 by the bombing of buildings which backed on to it. SE. corner of City Wall on left; original wall face (Roman?) extends downwards from bottom of wall end in foreground (large blocks) to cornice on right; wall above this is boundary wall of the former Weymouth House School



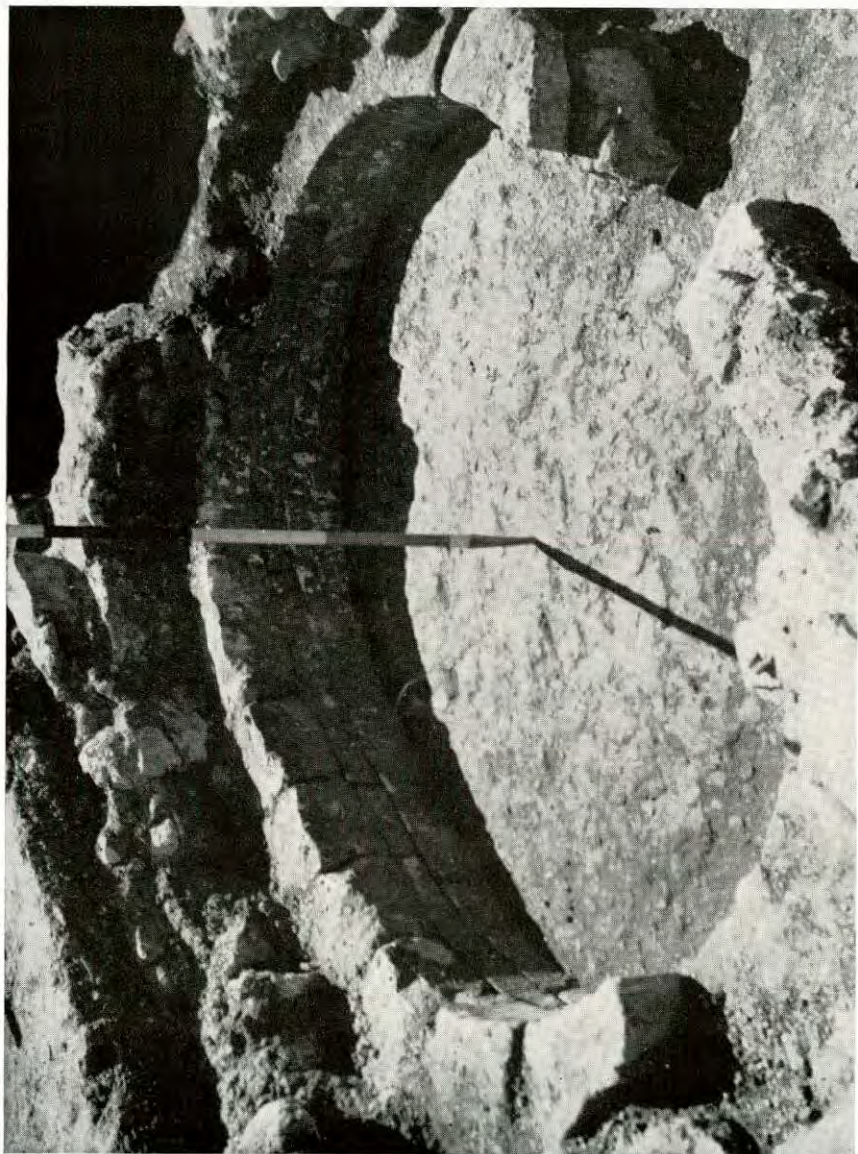


PLATE IV

BATH CITY WALL EXCAVATION, 1951  
Stone-lined oval bath, 19th century

Photo: E. West





PLATE V

*Photo: the late M. B. Cookson*

BATH CITY WALL EXCAVATION, 1951  
Water Culvert

*Note:* City Wall (re-used stones) built on culvert wall and marl clay side of culvert trench, lower left-hand corner of picture





PLATE VI

*Photo: E. West*

BATH CITY WALL EXCAVATION, 1951

Ham Gate, with its blocking wall of re-used stones;  
early wall (Roman?) to left of survey pole





PLATE VII

*Photo: E. West*

BATH CITY WALL EXCAVATION, 1951

Left side of Ham Gate, with outer blocking wall removed to show inner blocking wall and cobbled roadway





PLATE VIII

Photo: E. West

JUNCTION OF NEW ORCHARD STREET WITH HENRY STREET, BATH

The SE. corner of the City Wall formed the back wall of the house in the foreground. The 1951 excavation was on the site of the two single storey buildings opposite the waggon to the left of the picture. The high building in the top centre of the picture is the Rotunda. The tower of St. James' Church is in the top left-hand corner and the Abbey Church Tower is to the right of the Rotunda. The Shakespeare Tavern is now the Manvers Hall.

Reproduced from a sketch dated 1851, now in the Hunt Collection, by kind permission of the late R. Wright, Librarian to Bath City Council

grey. Palace HH fabric was rather variable, but defined as soft and friable, dated broadly to the eleventh century or early twelfth.

P.17, 18, 21, 25, 32, 38; G3 (two); pot marked A 16 A+P.54, from A2 and Ditch A (Fig. 9, No. 26).

*Fabric ? VHH*: Three sherds from B and D; similar to HH, but harder, more porridgy and gritty; possibly nearer to palace H, characteristic of the twelfth century.

P.9, 37, 39.

*Medieval, thirteenth century and later*: Sherds from all cuttings except C. That from E1 is shown in Fig. 9, No. 27; all paralleled among period 5 and 6 fabrics on palace site; also a few of *post-medieval* date from upper levels and feature A13.

*Post-Roman pottery illustrated* (Fig. 9).

24. Rim sherd VG fabric, inner part reddish-buff, more reddish towards outer surface, with a darker reddish-brown surface; heavily white-gritted, soft when found, slightly soapy; outside looks hand-made, with the rolled rim irregularly folded in to a deep groove; inner surface looks more wheel-made; outer surface lightly tooled.

The rolled, folded-in rim is reminiscent of late Iron age or Roman store-jars. The rather hand-made appearance suggests that it is not in fact Roman, and there is no other pottery from the site of possible Iron age date, except the other sherds of VG fabric; and these occur only in ditches A1 and A2, and mainly in the upper levels, and in no other cuttings. It seems reasonable to think therefore, that this rim, and the other VG sherds are of Saxon date (*see* remarks on fabric, p. 76). (P.44, Ditch A1 base).

25. Rim sherd VC fabric, reddish to dark brown with grey core; very hard and harsh gritty; rather thinner than palace C rims, and might be later, though probably pre-conquest. (P.27, Ditch A1 top).

26. Complete section about one-third of cooking-pot, fabric VHH, soft grey-brown friable, hand-made. (layer A2 and Ditch A1 mid).

27. Rim sherd, probably of large pan, red-brown, grey core, small white grits, wheel-made, probably thirteenth or fourteenth century. (E1).

#### LIST OF P. SHERDS, individually recorded:

- P.1. Medieval ? ridge crest fr., thick light buff, grey core green glaze both sides (B2).
2. Grey, pink surfaces, green gl., ? HG (B2).
3. Thick grey, green gl. (B3).
4. Grey, reddish surfaces, green gl., ? post-med. (B3).
5. Fine cream-buff, dark flecks, lemon gl., green flecks, ? fourteenth century (B3).



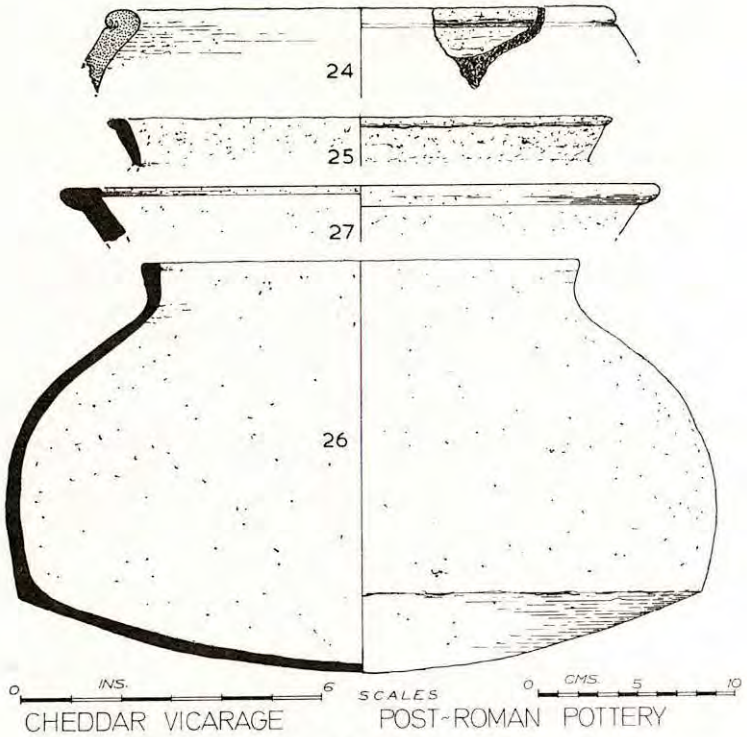


FIG. 9

6. Orange sandy, green mottled gl. (B3).
7. Orange, olive gl., girth grooves, ? sixteenth century (B3).
9. Gritty grey/buff, possibly pre-conquest, not unlike reconstructed pot from A2 (Fig. 9, No. 26) (B3).

10 - 16. from Ditch A1, top:

10. Harsh grey gritty, orange-grey surface, VC.
11. Roman grey.
12. Red, white-gritted, smooth surfaces, VG.
13. Roman, pink, grey surfaces.
14. ? Roman, grey, grey/orange surfaces, fine-texture.
15. Roman, cookpot, late obtuse lattice.
16. Roman, grey gritty.
17. Thin grey gritty, VHH (A1).
18. Grey gritty, VHH (A1).

19 - 33. from Ditch A1, top:

19. Reddish, white-gritted, tooled surface, VG.

20. Grey gritty thick, ? VG.
21. Grey gritty, pink surfaces, VHH.
22. Hard grey fine, green gl. outside (D1).
23. Sagging base sherd, thick grey, buff-brown surfaces, pitted inside, ? VG, possibly allied E; 15 mm. thick at base angle.
24. Thick grey white-gritted, ? VG.
25. Grey gritty, buff outside, VHH.
26. Harsh grey gritty, VC.
27. Reddish, dark grey harsh gritty, VC (Fig. 9, No. 25).
28. —
29. Harsh grey gritty, VC, fine grooves, dragging of grit.
30. Thick light grey, dark grey surfaces, probably allied to VE.
31. Harsh grey, VC.
32. Soft grey white gritty, VHH.
33. Reddish, white grits, tooled surface, VG.
34. Hard thin off-white fine sandy, probably Roman (E2).
35. Hard gritty, VC (E2).
36. Green gl. roof crest fr., like HG fabric (E2).
37. Coarse pale grey-buff gritty, dark inside surface, *cf.* pot from A2 (Fig. 9, No. 26) (D1).
38. Thin dark gritty, VHH (D1).
39. Thick porridgy, some white grits, Cheddar ? VG or possibly later, *cf.* Fig. 9, No. 26 (D1).
40. Reddish, white grits, smooth, VG (Ditch A2).
41. Crumb only reddish, white grits, smooth, VG (Ditch A2).
42. Roman, hard sandy red, incised dec. (Ditch A2).
43. Reddish, white grits, smooth surface, VG (Ditch A2).
44. Rolled rim coarse gritty, VG (Fig. 9, No. 24) (Ditch A1, base).
45. Reddish, white grits, smooth, VG (Ditch A1, top).
46. Harsh gritty, VC (Ditch A1, top).
47. Roman, thin fine, grey core, as 48 (E4).
48. Roman as 47 (E5).
49. Roman fine micaceous, CVL N fabric (E8).
50. (dec. samian) (E5).
51. Roman black-burnished, acute lattice, rough finish (E8).
52. Scrap red, white gritty VG (Ditch A2).
53. Red, white grits, smooth, VG (Ditch A2).
54. Sherd from reconstructed pot (Fig. 9, No. 26) (Ditch A1, mid).

#### THE COINS

By George C. Boon, B.A., F.S.A., National Museum of Wales

#### (A) ROMAN

1. Gallienus, 260-8; *Victoria* type, perhaps RIC\* 299. Slightly worn to worn (Ditch A1, top).
2. Victorinus, 268-70; *Salus* type, RIC 67. Very slightly worn (Ditch A2).

\* RIC: *The Roman Imperial Coinage* V, i (1927), ii (1933).



3. Victorinus, 268-70; *Salus* type, RIC\* 71. Very slightly worn (Ditch A1, top).
4. Barbarous radiate, full size; Tetricus II, *Spes* type? c. 270-5 (Ditch A1, top).
5. Barbarous radiate, 14 mm.; Tetricus I, *Fides Militum* type? c. 270-5 (D1).
6. Barbarous radiate, 12 mm.; c. 275-85? (Ditch A1, top).
7. Barbarous radiate, 11 mm.; Victorinus, *Pietas* (implements) type c. 275-85? (Ditch A1, top).
8. Constantine II, 330-5. *Gloria Exercitus* (two standards)  $\overline{\text{SCONST.}}$ <sup>u</sup>. Arles, LRBC\* I, 73. Unworn to very slightly worn (Ditch A2).
9. Constantius II, 335-7. *Gloria Exercitus* (one standard)  $\overline{\text{TRST.}}$ . Trier, LRBC I, 94. Slightly worn to worn (E1).
10. Constans, 341-6. *Victoriae Dd. Auggq. Nn.*  $\frac{\text{D}}{\text{//////////}}$  Trier, LRBC I 140. Unworn? (Feature A13).
11. Constans, 341-6. *Victoriae Dd. Auggq. Nn.*  $\frac{\text{D}}{\text{//////////}}$  Trier, LRBC I 154. Very slightly worn (C2).
12. Valens, 367-75. *Gloria Romanorum*,  $\frac{\text{OF/1}}{\text{CON*}}$  Arles, LRBC II, 520. Very slightly worn (B3).
13. Gratian, 367-75. *Gloria Novi Saeculi.*  $\frac{\text{//////} \text{////////}}{\text{//////////}}$  Arles, LRBC II, 529? Worn (Ditch A1, mid).

## (B) CHINESE

Ching Dynasty cash, some of small size. Iron-staining may be an impurity of the brass; or may be a trace of the iron wire, or pin, on which such cash were frequently fitted — to form the shape of a sword, etc., for the tourist traffic. Found near a 1917 worn penny in the roots of an old tree, Cutting E, layer 1.

14. *K'ang Hsi*, 1661-1722. Hangchow mint.
- 15-18. *Ch'ien Lung*, 1735-1796. Peking: Board of Revenue mint (1); Board of Works mint (1); emperor uncertain (1) and mint (poor) (1).
19. *Chia Ch'ing*, 1796-1820. Peking: Board of Works mint.
- 20-21. *Tao Kuang*, 1820-1850. Peking: Board of Revenue mint (1); Soochow mint (1).

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE SKELETAL MATERIAL  
FROM CHEDDAR VICARAGE (Pl. II)

By T. F. Spence,

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## CONDITION OF MATERIAL

These bones were cleaned prior to arrival in this department. The adherent material that was still attached was recovered by brushing with a camel hair brush while the foramina were cleaned out by using needle seekers and dental chisels.

\* RIC: *The Roman Imperial Coinage* V, i (1927), ii (1933); LRBC: Carson Hill, & Kent, *Late Roman Bronze Coinage* (1960).

## RESULTS

*Identification*

West grave skeleton *H.B.2.*

*Skull*

The majority of the bones of the vault are present. Many can be reconstructed.

The supraorbital ridges are prominent and the bones are unusually thick.

Much of the base of the skull is missing and such that remains is badly broken and cannot be reconstructed. However, the left and right temporal bones are fairly intact, while parts of the maxilla can be reconstituted.

The mandible is complete but broken (lateral to the symphysis menti). It was reconstructed for examination.

The following is the tooth pattern:

8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	X	2	3	X	X	6	7	8
X	7	X	X	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	4	5	X	7	8

*Vertebral column*

Many of the vertebrae are present. The missing ones are C3, 4, 5 and 6 (though there are some fragments of the spinous processes of two of these vertebrae which cannot be reconstructed). The body of T4 is also absent.

*Ribs*

The ribs are badly fractured and reconstruction would be a major enterprise. The majority of the rib heads are present with the exception of R1 and ? R4.

*Sternum*

Only the manubrium is present.

*Clavicles*

Both the left and right clavicles are present, the former being broken at about mid shaft.

*Innominates*

Some parts of both innominate bones can be seen but they are badly broken (17 pieces). Nevertheless, it is possible to undertake some reconstruction. When the pelvic girdle is assembled as far as possible, it is seen that the suprapubic arch is wide, the sciatic notch large and the sacrum wide and flat.

*Scapulae*

Some pieces of both of the scapulae are present and in each case the area around the glenoid cavity, including the coracoid process, is intact. Although the acromion process and part of the scapular spine from the right bone are intact, only the process itself from the left side is present.

*Ulnae*

Only the right ulna is present (broken at the level of the neck and the mid-shaft).



*Radii*

Both radii are present, the right one being fractured at mid-shaft level.

*Hands*

The following bones from the right hand are present: the trapezoid; 1, 2, 3 and 4 metacarpals; ? 2, 3 and 4 phalanges (proximal); 2 and 3 phalanges (middle).

The following bones from the left hand are also fairly intact: 2 and 4 metacarpals.

*Femora*

Both femora are in reasonable condition, although one is broken in two places and the other at mid-shaft level. Both could be reconstructed to a limited extent.

*Patella*

The right patella is present.

*Tibiae*

Both tibiae are present, the left is broken in two places and the right in three. Some reconstruction was possible.

*Feet*

With the exception of the middle cuneiform, all the right tarsal bones are in fairly good shape, as were the right metatarsal bones and the first right proximal phalanx, of course, some are broken and chipped.

Of the left carpals, only the talus and navicular are present. The metatarsals are difficult to identify because they are so badly broken. ? Two proximal phalanges are present.

*Age*

This individual was probably between 35 and 40 years of age.

*Sex*

Female.

*Height*

Probably between 5 ft. 3 ins. and 5 ft. 4 ins. (may be taller).

*Build*

Well built.

*Pathology*

The crowns of the teeth upper R4 and upper R6 are completely missing due to caries. The upper R6 has a distal cavity. The upper L8 has an occlusal cavity and also cementosis. All of the teeth are grossly worn — the cusps have disappeared in all cases except the upper L8. This means that this particular tooth was outstanding i.e. it was inclined buccally — further confirmation of this is found in the fact that this tooth had cementosis as has already been noted.

It is possible that a fibrous or gritty diet was responsible for the tooth wear.

Many of the vertebrae are badly lipped, so it is likely that the subject suffered from osteoarthritis.

*Identification*

East grave skeleton (H.B.3)

*Skull*

The vault fragments are broken into some 23 pieces. These probably consist, in the main, of parietal bones, but there is a piece of the occipital bone which includes the external occipital protuberance, and another piece which is part of the frontal bone at the level of the orbital margin.

Half of the mandible is missing, but in the remaining piece the following teeth are intact:

---

5 6 7 8

*Vertebral column*

Only one cervical, two thoracic and three lumbar vertebrae are present.

*Ribs*

Six broken pieces of rib shafts are present. None can be reconstructed.

*Clavicle*

Part of the sternal head and shaft of the right clavicle is present.

*Innominates*

Two large pieces of the innominate bones were from the blade area. The next largest fragment is a piece of the right pubis (including the joint area). There are also five smaller pieces of innominate bones.

*Scapulae*

Only two pieces of the right scapula can be observed, one consists of the glenoid cavity, the acromion and part of the vertebral border; while the other is the coracoid process.

*Humeri*

The right humerus is in two pieces which can be reconstructed.

There are several pieces of the left humerus i.e. the shaft and both heads, it can only be partially reconstructed and is not complete.

*Ulnae*

The right ulna is completely intact, but only two parts of the left ulna can be seen: they are the proximal head, together with part of the shaft and another piece of shaft.

*Radii*

The right radius is broken about a third of the way down its shaft; however, it could be reconstructed. Only one piece of the distal end of the left radius can be seen.

*Hands*

None of the carpal bones are present from the left hand, but the metacarpals are complete. There are probably three proximal and two middle phalanges also.

The right hamate is present together with four right metacarpals, four proximal phalanges and three middle phalanges.



*Femora*

The right femur is nearly complete, but broken in the middle of the shaft. The left femur is broken in several places and the neck is missing.

*Tibiae*

Both the left and right tibiae are present, the left one being broken at the distal end of its shaft.

*Fibulae*

The distal end and part of the shafts of both fibulae are present.

*Feet*

The right calcaneus, talus and navicular are present. All the right metatarsal bones are also present together with the proximal phalanges. As many of these bones are broken and chipped, absolute identification is difficult.

The first left metatarsal bone is intact and possibly two other left metatarsals.

*Age*

The individual may have been between 30 and 40 years of age.

*Sex*

Male

*Height*

At least 6 ft. 2 ins.

*Build*

Very heavy.

*Pathology*

The teeth remaining in the mandible have no caries. The lower right 7 and 8 are misaligned, while the cusps of the lower right 6 are absent due to wear. The rest of the teeth are also worn.

There is some lipping of the vertebrae — so the subject suffered from a degree of osteoarthritis. One of the lumbar vertebrae may show evidence of injury during life. This has not healed well or may not have healed at all. If it is an injury (and this is far from certain) it may have been caused by a sharp, square-sided object. A photograph is attached.

*The remainder of the bony material*

There is a left ulna that may not belong to either of the individuals noted in the previous part of this report. It is adult and measures some 245 mm., making the possible height of the person 5 ft. 3 ins. if female, and 5 ft. 5 ins. if male.

Some of the fragments cannot be identified; it would, for instance, not be reasonable to comment on the so called foetal bones (*H.B.1*). Certain other fragments are horse bones.

The Editorial Committee gratefully acknowledges a grant towards the cost of printing this paper from the Ministry of Public Building and Works.