

ROMAN SITES ON THE HARROWAY IN THE BASINGSTOKE AREA.

By S. E. WINBOLT.

(Map reference. All these sites are on the one-inch O.S. England and Wales, sheet 123.)

Based mainly on the notes of G. W. Willis and J. R. Ellaway.

1. Little Deane Wood. N.W. of Church Oakley, and 350yds. N. of the Harroway. Outside the S.E. angle of the wood in a ploughed field, with a rumulus to the E. on Summer Down Farm. The site of the villa is marked by a raised area of the field on which are abundant flints and tile fragments; pottery, including Samian, coin, nails. This promising valley site (as the Deane names suggest) would repay excavation. O.S.

2. Battle Down Farm and three other sites between Worting and South Ham Farm (see previous article, Nos. 20-23) may belong as much to the Harroway as to the Winchester—Silchester road, as also may the site in May Street Basingstoke (No. 24), being $1\frac{1}{4}$ m. from the Harroway, and therefore nearer to it than to the Winchester—Silchester road.

3. Wellocks Hill, 1 m. N. from the Harroway where it skirts Hackwood Park, and on the London road 1 m. E. of Basingstoke. Midden holes in a chalk pit: pottery, bones, spindle whorl; and part of a bronze fibula on field surface above the pit. This site and those at Basing House, Mapledurwell and Upper Nateley are probably related to the Harroway *via* a route linking Five Lanes End to Sherborne St. John. See previous article, under No. 27.

A group of three sites near Tunworth (Nos. 4-6).

4. S. of Harroway (1 m.) in the N.E. angle of the Tunworth cross roads. A burial; skull with food vessel, excavated some years ago. Skull in Basingstoke Museum, vessel lost.

5. About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S.E. from No. 4 by the road along the E. edge of Herriard Park, in the angle between White Lane and the Weston—Tunworth road: an area of pottery fragments (including Samian), coin. Indications of later occupation.

6. Nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N.E. from 5, in Green's Copse, Tunworth. Both 5 and 6 are close E. of the lane leading from the Harroway. Fragments of pottery along the N. edge of the copse.

7. Bidden, at Springhead on the Whitewater, c. 530yds. from Harroway. Excavation for a trout farm disclosed much pottery, fragments of large vessels, and tiles on gravel below peat.

8. The road following down the right bank of the Whitewater leads to (and no doubt led to) North Warnborough and the villa on its left bank at Lodge Farm, 2 m. from 7. Its communication with the Harroway was facilitated by the river; and it is probable that the Harroway was connected with the Silchester—Staines road at Ridge Farm by a N.E. route roughly on the line of the road Alton, S. Warnborough, Odiham, Hartley Row and Finchampstead. The Lodge Farm site is distant 7 m. from both the Silchester—Winchester and the Silchester—Staines road: such a connection with the first was suggested in the previous article (No. 27), and with the second as above. I was present on two occasions at the excavations carried out by Miss D. Liddell

at North Warnborough, and reported in H.F.C. *Proceedings*, Vol. X, Pt. 3, pp. 225-36 (1931). Probably a large farm house, mainly of fourth century occupation, though two or three periods of reconstruction are indicated. The report of the first year's excavation in typescript is at the Basingstoke Museum, and still awaits what it surely deserves, publication in book form.

9. Cholesey's Farm, 1 m. S.W. of Odiham. See 6in. O.S. Hants, XXX S.E. Brief summary H.F.C. *Proceedings*, Vol. XIV, Pt. 3, pp. 366-8 (1937). A late E.I.A. site, and early Roman-British period, showing continuance into the fourth century, preserving all through "the basic peasant life of the Belgic and pre-Belgic Iron Age."

10. About $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. S.E. from No. 8, and *c.* $\frac{1}{2}$ m. S.E. from Odiham at Hill Side. The site is $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. N.-N.-E. of the Harroway at Long Sutton. Tile and other fragments along a hedgerow.

11. New Farm, 1 m. S.-S.-E. of S. Warnborough, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. S.W. of Long Sutton Church: about $\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. from the route suggested above (No. 8). S. of the farm a compact area of many tile fragments and tesserae, and sparse pottery. Perhaps a farm building.

12. N. of Bentley, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Jenkin Place, and 1 m. S. from Harroway. Pottery excavated by Major Wade.

13. About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. N. from Harroway and 1 m. S. from Crondall: 200yds. N. of Badley Pound. Two fields covered with tile fragments. A large villa: *V.C.H.* I, 305. Three rooms only excavated in May, 1817. In one a mosaic pavement, with nine octagonal compartments, the central one having a two-handled vase, the others four-petalled flowers and tulip-like ornaments. Destroyed in 1858.

The Portway.

14. Balchester, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. E. of the Portway in a line through Ewhurst Farm, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. from the Winchester—Silchester road. The site is *c.* 700yds. S. of Skeyer's Wood, Ramsdell, near the top of a westerly chalk slope, close to the 500ft. contour. The name is borrowed from the *History of Manydown* (Bigg Wither), where Balchesterlonde is quoted from a fifteenth century document. *Cf.* Balstone Farm, near Ibworth. Both elements, Bal and chester, suggest a Saxon naming. Bal probably as in Baldon (Beald's dun), Balsdean (Beald's valley), corrupted to Balstone: Balchester (Beald's chester, or Beald's land with Roman villa). A villa site. Here were found stone roof tiles (some complete), abundant red brick and chalk tesserae, and painted wall-plaster. "A tessellated pavement was excavated and covered in": report by the late Rev. G. Sampson, Rector. O.S., but not *V.C.H.*

Roman sites by the Portway are fully recorded on Haverfield's map, *V.C.H.* I, 266, especially in E. (W. of Whitchurch) and W. (E. of Kimpton) angles formed by the crossing of the Portway by the Winchester—Marlborough—Cirencester road: As appertaining to the Basingstoke district may be noted a site at Kingsclere and two at Burghclere.

15. Kingsclere. Coins. H.F.C. *Proceedings*, III, 177.

16. Burghclere. 'Ridge Moor' Farm: remains of burials—skeletons, glass, pottery, iron coffin nails. *Proc. Soc. Ant.*, II, iv.

17. Burghclere. Beacon Hill. Coins. H.F.C. *Proceedings*, III, 177.

The Portway as a whole is mapped and described by Colt Hoare, *Ancient History of North Wiltshire* (1819), second part, pp. 46 *et seq.*

Sites away from these Roads.

18. About $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of church at Shalden, N.W. of Alton. Remains found near Manor Farm (O.S.). *V.C.H.* I, 346.

19. Wivelrod, $2\frac{1}{2}$ m. W.-S.-W. of Alton, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. S.-S.-E. of Bentworth, close S. of the road. In excavation of a tennis lawn at the house of Commander Sholto Douglas, much varied pottery, now in Alton Museum: probably a

villa. The pottery was examined in 1929 by Messrs. Reginald Smith and C. F. C. Hawkes and identified as covering the Roman occupation from first to fourth century.

20. On the N. border of Bighton Wood, N.E. of New Alresford, $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. N.E. of Bighton, and c. 600yds. S.E. of Lanham Down Farm. Abundant flints, tiles, and pottery. Two slickstones. A villa. Bica's people probably helped themselves to its building material.

Slight traces have also been found at Andwell—Bangor near Wield Wood, c. $1\frac{1}{2}$ m. S. of Preston Candover—Blackwood, N. of Stratton Park—Mapledurwell Tumulus, near the road running N. at Will Hall, $\frac{1}{2}$ m. W. of Alton.

Belgic and Roman Chalk Pits.

Nos. 12, 21, 29 and 30 in previous article, and No. 3 in this, suggest a short note on Belgic and Roman pits close to the Roman Road Winchester - Silchester, and along the edge of the chalk where it borders on the narrow belt of Reading Beds which separates the chalk from the London clay. Such remains close to the edge of a chalk pit may mean either that there was on the site a Roman building, the vestiges of which have gradually subsided into the pit as it has been widened : this may be the case at Monk Sherborne, where sherds are still found falling down the steep slope. Here I amply confirm G. W. Willis. Or, that Romano-British workmen had their meals at the quarry's edge.

Pliny is our authority for the Belgic and Roman practice of marling the heavier soils in Britain, the process being very necessary because farm lands were not systematically drained. Pits, some of which may date B.C., are now seen for a distance of $5\frac{1}{2}$ m. N.W.—S.E. along the chalk edge between Ewhurst and Sherborne, twenty in number, and mostly quite near the clay : the farthest away being the more western of the two Balchester pits near Ewhurst, some 650 yards. There was a Roman house c. 160 yards S.E. of the eastern pit (No. 14), but one cannot directly connect pit with house : the pit may have been opened in later times. The biggest of the score is that in Monk Sherborne, on the track W. from Lower Farm : it must have taken many centuries to excavate so vast a tonnage of chalk. Next in size is Marnell Dell, and third Tames Dell, which has a direct opening on to the Roman Road 300 yards away. It seems probable that more pits, especially the large ones, than have at present produced Roman *indicia*, were worked in Belgic and Roman times.