

Roman Road

- **'The Roman Road'**

Compiled by Stuart Miller, 2009

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Leaflet published by The Friends of the Roman Road

- **'A Romano-British site in Horseheath'**
by Catherine Parsons, 1929

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The Roman Road

The Romans built roads and canals in Britain from 60-300 AD. In Cambridgeshire there are several roads built by the Romans. Ermine Street passes through western Cambs between Royston and Caxton Gibbet to Godmanchester and Water Newton. Akeman Street connected Ermine Street to Cambridge, Ely and the fens. The Icknield Way can claim to be "the oldest road in Britain" extending from Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire to Knettishall Heath in Norfolk via Great Chesterford in Essex and Linton in Cambridgeshire.

Worsted Street linked Godmanchester to Cambridge and was to have linked Cambridge to the Colne Valley but was never completed beyond Horseheath. A spur connected the street to the camp at Great Chesterford, at the Icknield Way crossing. Way stations were built at Arrington Bridge and Horseheath. It was finished to the standard of a Secondary road, i.e. it was never paved with stone. Worsted Street is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

In 1952 Catherine Parsons wrote, "Available evidence suggests that the site of Horseheath village was first populated during the Neolithic age (4000-2200 BC) with plenty of examples of flint implements from that time found in the local fields. There is nothing to show that the area was inhabited during the Bronze and Iron Ages and it is possible that it was thickly wooded during that period. On the other hand there is unassailable proof of Roman occupation. In 1845 for example, a pot of silver coins representing all the emperors from Nero to Marcus Aurelius was unearthed near Limberys to the east of the parish; and in 1910 I was lucky enough to excavate a Romano-British site called Hanging (or Hangman's) Hill to the north of the Parish adjoining Worsted Street (Roman Road) – see *photos*. The coins discovered there suggest that the site was of the period Hadrian (117) to Constantine (350). An extensive Romano-British settlement in the adjoining fields was uncovered in 1951/52."

Catherine Parson's 1929 article, 'A Romano-British site in Horseheath' is included in this section

The Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke

This group was formed in 2001 to conserve and enhance the biodiversity, raise public awareness, improve access where appropriate and provide information. A grant of £5000 was received to restore the chalk grassland flowers and open a path for walkers. A Lottery Grant of £24,500 was awarded in 2002 for 'The Roman Road Enhancement Project.' A detailed Roman Road leaflet (*follows*) has been produced and 5 information boards were installed in 2007. During 2004 and 2005, several hundred yards of the overgrown hedges were set back, resulting in a wonderful increase in flowers. www.frrfd.org.uk

Fleam Dyke

Constructed by the Saxons over 1500 years ago, the Fleam Dyke is one of Cambridgeshire's most impressive earthworks. (Its neighbour, *the Devils Dyke*, is the largest monument of its kind in Britain). Today *the Fleam Dyke* is a ditch and rampart 26m wide and up to 3.5m high, running for 5km from Fulbourn across the dry chalklands to Balsham. In Saxon times it would have been a formidable barrier to movement from the southwest on the ancient Icknield Way.

Harcamlow Way

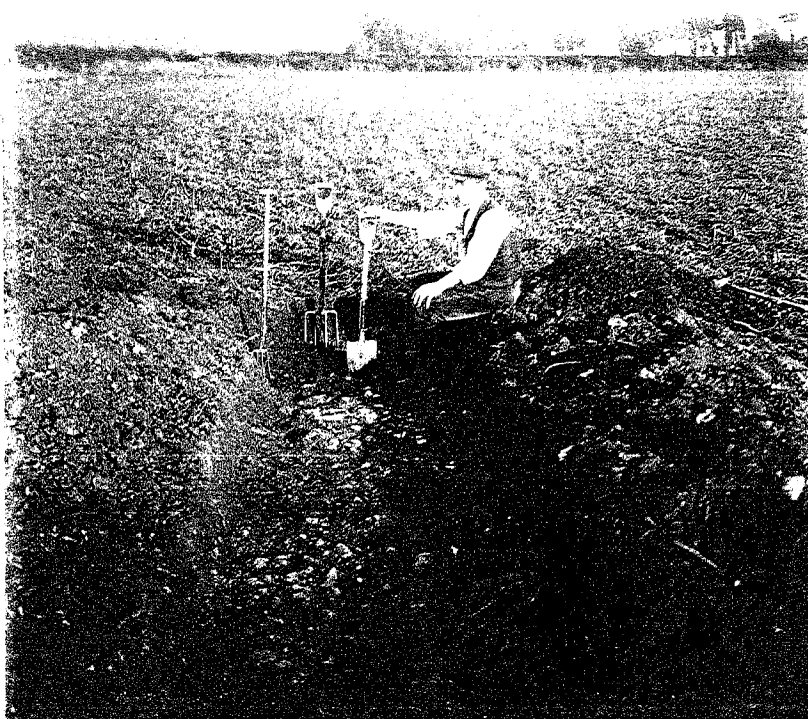
Horseheath is on the Harcamlow Way, which is a figure of eight walk with Harlow to the south and Cambridge to the north devised in the 1970's by the Essex Ramblers' Association. It runs for 141 miles and follows the whole of Fleam Dyke and part of the Roman Road through Balsham. It enters Horseheath parish from the Bartlow side of Cardinals Green, across the cricket field and out through Audley Way joining the Roman Road in the valley below Streetly Hall.



1910 archaeological dig on Hanging
(Hangman's) Hill adjacent to The Roman
Road

~~Rev. A.C. Yorke on left, Prof. and Mrs.
Hugh on right~~

photos courtesy Cambridge Collection



from left: Rev. C.A Yorke, Vicar of
Fowlmere; ;
Harry Stinton and George Atherton,
diggers;
Dr, William Palmer, Linton doctor;
Mrs. and Prof. McKenny Hughes

See also 'A Romano-British site in
Horseheath' by Catherine Parsons in
Roman Road section of Horseheath
Village, Part 2

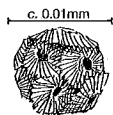
Today the Roman Road is home to a variety of plants and animals that were once found everywhere in the chalk grasslands of southern Cambridgeshire.

Why is the Chalk special?

During the Cretaceous period, about 100 million years ago, this part of Britain lay under several hundred metres of warm, blue seawater. The Chalk on which you walk is actually made of fossils, the skeletons of tiny algae and other organisms that rained down on the seafloor for millions of years.

Chalk is porous, which means water runs down through it to layers of impermeable clay, then along the top of the clay to appear as springs lower down in the valleys. Routes such as the Roman Road took advantage of high, dry chalk ridges, while villages grew up where water was available, near the springs.

Cretaceous sea-urchins are wildlife, too. Watch for these and other fossils in ploughed arable fields.



A coccolith, an algal skeleton.



Chalk grassland

True chalk grassland is full of wildflowers, including many special plants able to survive on shallow, dry infertile soil. Once much of Cambridgeshire between the fens and the clay-capped higher ground to the south-east was covered with grassland. Sheep grazed here for centuries, eating tree and shrub seedlings and thus maintaining the open downland. Large areas of this grassland were ploughed when arable farming became more profitable than sheep. Relatively little grassland survived, mainly remnants that were impractical to farm – including ancient tracks such as the Roman Road. Rabbit-grazing helped to maintain the grassland until myxomatosis arrived in the 1950s. Since that time the trees and scrub have grown until only a few areas of chalk grassland survive along the Roman Road.



The Common Lizard also enjoys hot, dry sites. Watch for them basking on patches of bare soil in full sunlight.

How to reach the Roman Road

on foot: The Roman Road is part of a good network of public paths. See OS Explorer maps 209 (Cambridge) and 210 (Newmarket & Haverhill).

by bus: The regular service from Cambridge to Haverhill stops at Wandlebury, Babraham, Hildersham, Linton and Horseheath. A separate service from Cambridge calls at Fulbourn and Balsham. Call 01223 717740 for details.

by road: There is limited car parking at the northern end of the Roman Road, where it meets Wort's Causeway; at Wandlebury (Pay & Display); and on the side road from Babraham where it crosses the A11 at Worsted Lodge.

Visitors with disabilities or restricted mobility may find the Wort's Causeway car park most convenient. For much of its length the Roman Road is a green lane on chalk, which may be muddy in wet weather. Mobility vehicles capable of crossing grass should be able to use the byway and bridleway; there may be stiles on any footpaths. The section east of Balsham Road is on clay; in wet weather this will be muddier than the chalk.

The Roman Road is maintained and improved by:

Cambridgeshire County Council: The Countryside Services Team is responsible for the Roman Road. To report problems, or for information on accessibility call 01223 717445 or visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/environment/countryside

The Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke organises work parties, records the wildlife of these sites and raises funds to maintain them.

The Cambridge Green Belt Project is a partnership working with communities in the Green Belt of Cambridge. We organise a regular programme of conservation work to restore and conserve important wildlife sites.

To find out more about the Friends and the Green Belt Project please contact

The Cambridge Green Belt Project
The Manor House, Great Cambourne
Cambridge CB3 6DH. Tel. 01954 713530
email greenbelt@wildlifebcnp.org
www.greenbeltproject.org.uk

This leaflet was funded by LHi, a partnership between the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Nationwide Building Society and the Countryside Agency



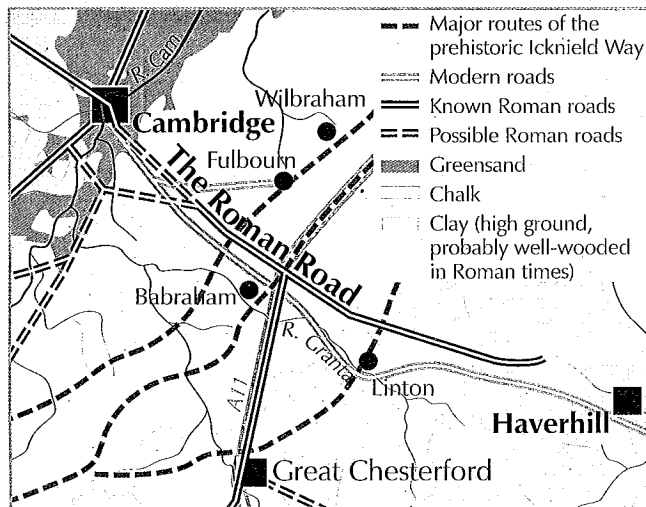
Local Heritage initiative

The ROMAN ROAD

Site of Special Scientific Interest
Scheduled Ancient Monument

A guide to this
10 mile/16km historic route



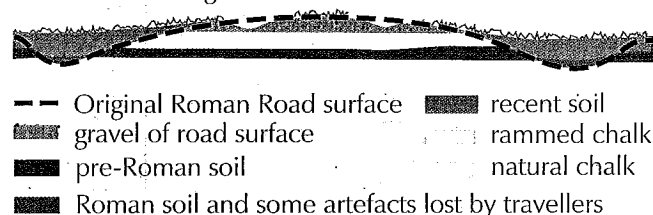


Britain had roads and tracks when the Romans arrived. The most important prehistoric route in East Anglia was the Icknield Way, a network of tracks running along the edge of the chalk from Norfolk to Wiltshire. Many settlements in this area lie on routes of the Icknield Way, connected by tracks running across the routes.

The Romans probably improved an existing track to create our Roman Road. It linked Cambridge with a road from Great Chesterford (roughly on the line of the modern A11), then continued southeast towards Haverhill.

To build this relatively minor road they rammed chalk rubble onto the surface of the existing track to form a mound or agger up to 1m high. Water ran off the agger into roadside ditches about 14m apart. On the section from Cambridge to Worsted Lodge the chalk rubble was surfaced with gravel to provide a good all-weather surface but there is no evidence of this further southeast, where it may have carried only local traffic.

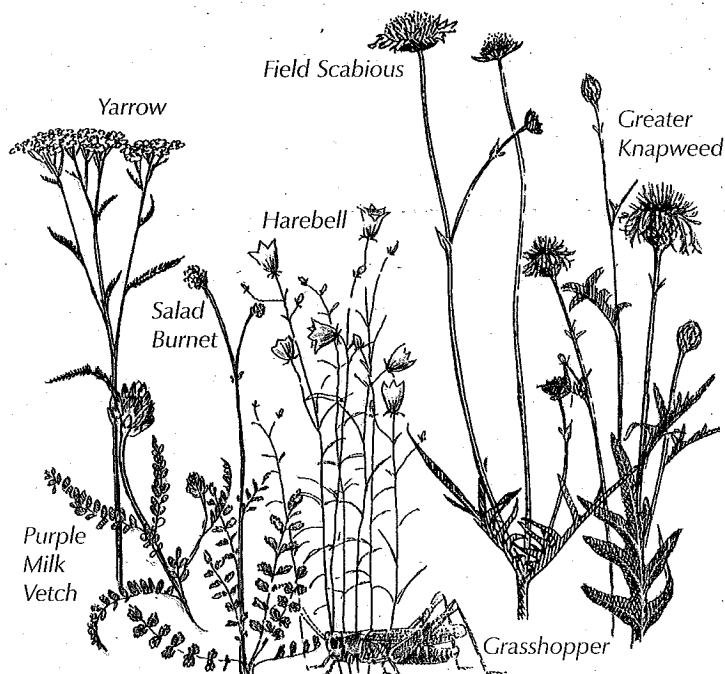
Cross-section of the Roman Road as it looks today, near Worsted Lodge.



Bringing back the wildflowers ...

The trees and shrubs that invade the grassland have deep roots that damage the structure of the road, while the grassland plants die in the shade they cast, so conservation work along the Roman Road benefits both wildlife and the archaeologists. We begin by maintaining and improving the best areas of flower-rich grassland. Scrub and trees are cut back (the work is timed to avoid the main flowering and nesting seasons) but we always leave some areas of scrub and the unbroken hedgerows to provide food and shelter for insects, birds and other animals. The grassland is then mown regularly and the grass-cuttings are removed to reduce nutrient levels and encourage wildflowers. If you walk here regularly you will be able to watch as seeds buried in the soil grow into new chalk grassland on the areas we have cleared.

The Cambridge Green Belt Project, Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke, Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, English Heritage, English Nature and those who own or manage the land are working together to conserve the Roman Road.



Roman Road wildlife

The chalk grassland is at its best between May and August but the species in flower will change through the season. In early summer watch for bright yellow Common Rock Rose and Horseshoe Vetch, delicate white Dropwort and the tight green flowerheads of Salad Burnet. Summer flowers include lilac-blue Small Scabious and the larger, lilac Field Scabious, the scented, tumbled masses of tiny yellow Lady's Bedstraw and sky-blue Harebells. Knapweeds have thistle-like bright purple flowers on tall stems; Greater Knapweed may be accompanied by the strange brown flowerspike of its remarkable parasite, Knapweed Broomrape. The pinks and mauves of Wild Basil and Restharrow add to the array of colours.

This variety of flowers brings a profusion of insects. Bees and bumblebees, solitary wasps, butterflies, moths, hoverflies, beetles and others compete for nectar and pollen from the flowers. There are also many less noticeable species (including spiders, grasshoppers and ants) living here. Some of these are only found on chalk grassland.



The Bloody-nosed Beetle gets its name from the red fluid it exudes to frighten predators. Look for it near large patches of Bedstraw, the plant on which its larvae feed.

This abundance of plants and insects in turn attracts larger predators. Listen for birds singing in the hedgerows: Whitethroat, Yellowhammer ("A-little-bit-of-bread-and-no-cheeeeeese"), Chaffinch and Corn Bunting, which has a song like a bunch of keys being shaken. Skylark, Meadow Pipit, Swallow, Sparrowhawk

and many more may be seen above or beside the Roman Road. Rabbits and their burrows are easy to spot but shrews, voles, moles and other mammals are less obvious; watch for their burrows and tracks.



Corn Bunting

THE ROMAN ROAD runs along the chalk ridge to avoid heavy soils and mud on lower ground. Known as *Woles Street* in the 13th century, later records refer to the Roman Road as *Woolstreet Way*. This suggests that traders in wool, sheep or worsted yarn (probably from Norfolk) used the road, from which it is also known as *Worsted Street*. Its third name, the *Via Devana*, was invented by 18th century historians who assumed the road ran from Colchester to Roman Deva, now Chester.

1 People lived and worked in this landscape long before the Romans arrived. The remains of what may be a prehistoric religious site were found here at the Park & Ride site. Some barrows and other prehistoric features still survive along the Roman Road – a reminder that people have walked this route for thousands of years.

2 The Beechwood and Wandlebury (see below) are Nature Reserves near the Roman Road; a third in Fulbourn includes the site of a medieval moated house. For more information visit <http://www.wildlifecbnp.org>

3 Theagger structure of the Roman Road is best seen here and in the sections to either side of the A11.

4 The Gog Magog Hills may have been named for the mythical giant(s) that lived in Albion, or for two tribes of barbarians who, according to the Bible, will appear as a sign of the Last Days. Two possible Bronze Age barrows 'The Twopenny Loaves' once stood near the road here but have been completely levelled.

5 Wandlebury Country Park and Nature Reserve contains an Iron Age hill fort that may have controlled the Icknield Way, the valley of the Cam and the settlement that became Cambridge. The circular banks and ditches were largely levelled in the 18th century when the Earl Godolphin built his mansion here. In 1954 the estate was purchased by the Cambridge Preservation Society. The ruinous house was pulled down but the stables, famed as the home of the Godolphin Arabian, an ancestor of the modern thoroughbred racehorse, were converted to offices and accommodation.



Wandlebury drawn by Richard Relhan in the 18th century. Reproduced by kind permission of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society.

Please help others to enjoy the Roman Road

Do not pick wildflowers: insects and birds rely on them. Please clean up after your dog: the faeces are unsightly and upset the balance of nutrients in the grassland.

Key

- The Roman Road
- Public Footpath
- Public Bridleway
- Public Byway

P Car Parking. Space is limited, and you park at your own risk. Please park considerately: do not block drives or gates needed for access to fields. You may be able to park at other places where roads cross the Roman Road.

Pub

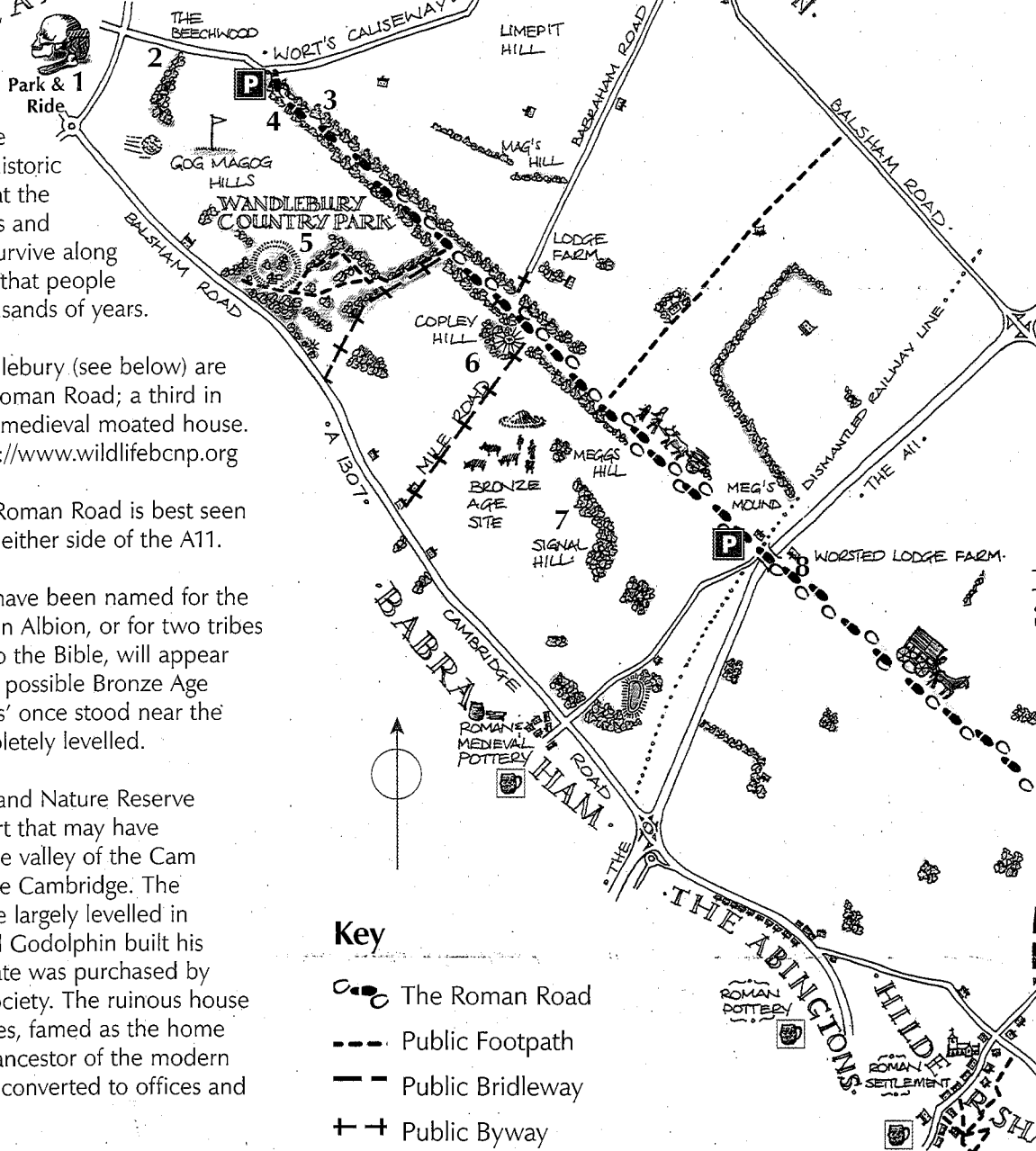
Please note that the Roman Road is a Byway but a Traffic Regulation Order restricts the use of wheeled vehicles. Horses are not permitted on the Roman Road east of Horseheath.

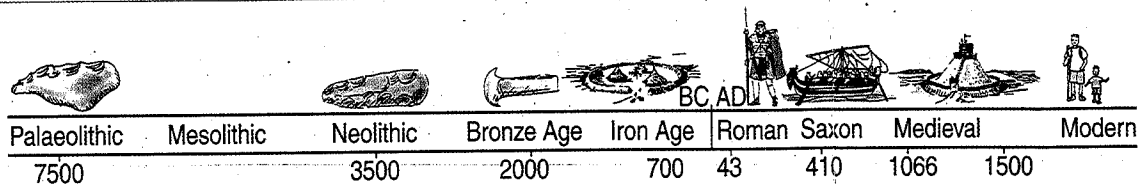
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CAMBRIDGE

FULBOURN

Common Blue Butterflies





6 Mile Road, an unassuming farm track, is actually a Romanised prehistoric track. A complex of Roman buildings once stood in the field to the northwest, while the field to the southeast is a Scheduled Ancient Monument preserving the site of Bronze Age livestock enclosures and a barrow. Copley Hill, at the junction of Mile Road and the Roman Road, was thought to be a barrow but is in fact a natural chalk knoll topped by what may be a barrow.

7 Signal Hill was one of a line of semaphore beacons transmitting news across the country during the Napoleonic War (1802–1815). During WWII a decoy runway was laid out in the field between Signal Hill and the Roman Road to lure German bombers away from Duxford, and Meg's Mound (near the point where the Roman Road crosses the A11) was a searchlight site.

8 The Roman Road joined another road running north from Great Chesterford on the line of the modern A11. Archaeological work here found the Roman Road is less well-built as it continues southeast toward Haverhill.

9 Chilford Hall is notable as the only vineyard along the Roman Road. Refreshments are available Friday–Sunday.

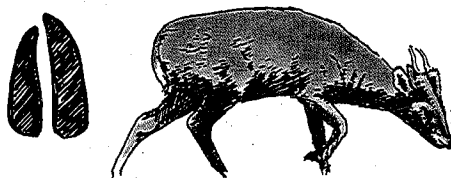
10 BORLEY, RIVEY HILL, BALSHAM and HARE WOODS are 'ancient woods' shown on 15th century maps. These may have been woodlands when the Romans arrived but the native trees of Borley Wood have been replaced by planted pines. A possible Roman barrow survives at the edge of the wood.

11 MARK'S GRAVE is a mystery: we don't know who Mark was. Perhaps an old parish boundary marker was mistaken for a gravestone!

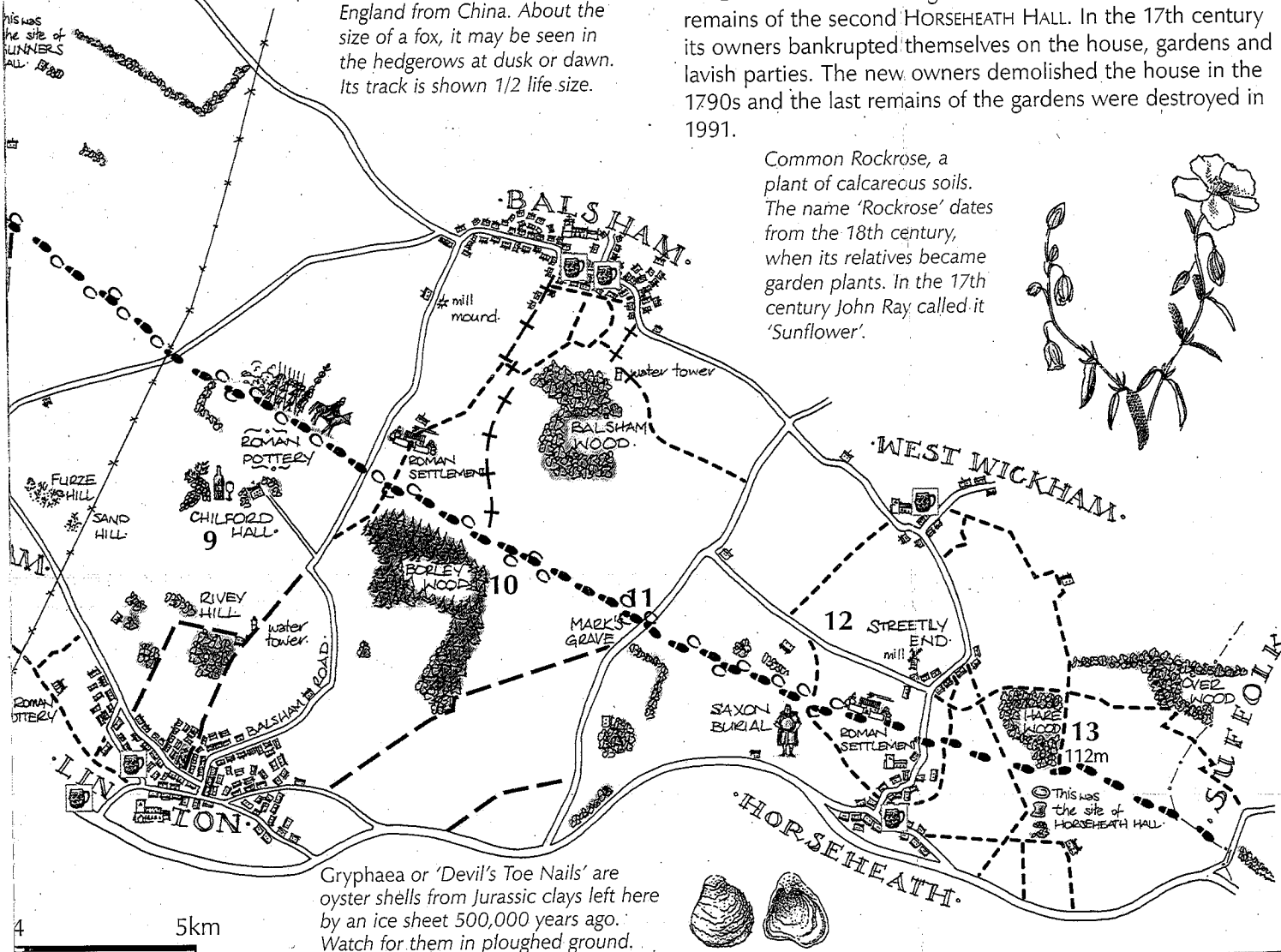
12 Recorded as *Stretlaie* in 1086, STREETLY means 'clearing by a Roman Road or Street'. Many Roman finds have been reported from this area.

13 At 112m above sea level this is the highest point on the Roman Road. The great Cedar of Lebanon is all that remains of the second HORSEHEATH HALL. In the 17th century its owners bankrupted themselves on the house, gardens and lavish parties. The new owners demolished the house in the 1790s and the last remains of the gardens were destroyed in 1991.

Common Rockrose, a plant of calcareous soils. The name 'Rockrose' dates from the 18th century, when its relatives became garden plants. In the 17th century John Ray called it 'Sunflower'.



Reeve's Muntjac was brought to England from China. About the size of a fox, it may be seen in the hedgerows at dusk or dawn. Its track is shown 1/2 life size.



Gryphaea or 'Devil's Toe Nails' are oyster shells from Jurassic clays left here by an ice sheet 500,000 years ago. Watch for them in ploughed ground.



son and friend. That must remain speculative; what does seem to emerge as the result of the enquiry is

1. The arms are those of Rant.
2. The only possible person of that name who can have been thus commemorated is Rant, the college lawyer.
3. Rant, the lawyer who served the college from 1664 to 1696, was John Rant, son of Roger Rant of Swaffham Prior.
4. John Rant may have owed his introduction to Christ's to his sister's marriage to John Meadows, a sometime Fellow;

and we may hazard the conjecture that this same John Rant who was the head and founder of the Cambridge branch of that name, may deliberately have changed the armorial tinctures and other details to blazon that fact, while retaining the general character of the charges to proclaim his descent. Such armorial changes were frequently made without authority in order to avoid expense; and the tombstone over Rant's place of burial, as also the tombstones of his descendants, seem to show that his son preferred the ancient coat which had the sanction of the College of Arms.

A ROMANO-BRITISH SITE IN HORSEHEATH.

By CATHERINE E. PARSONS.

(Read 4 November, 1929.)

In certain parishes there are certain fields which, in some sort of way, command distinction over other fields, and an arable field of twenty-five acres called Hanging Hill, on my brother's estate in Horseheath, is one such field. It is numbered 250 on the *Ordnance Survey* map of 1886. In the days of the open field system of agriculture it formed part of Valley Field. Hanging Hill is a modern 19th century name, probably given to the field on account of the difficulty in ploughing the heavy clay on the hill side, but the romantic parishioners of to-day have erected an imaginary gallows on the top of the hill giving the name a criminal origin, which is as authentic as the underground passage from this field to the castle at Camps. Witches held their frolics in this field where I found my first Neolithic flint, and here some twenty-five years ago I found some fragments of Roman pottery. The field is pleasantly situated with a southern slope, and has for its northern boundary the ancient Way called Worstead Street which here divides Streetly End from Horseheath. The name of this boundary seems to be a corruption of the 13th century Wolves Street. In records relating to Horseheath I find the name spelt Wluestrete¹. Wlmerys Dych² occurs in the 14th century, and Wolnerys Strete³ in the 15th century. There is the Woolstreet Way⁴ of the 17th century—a link with the modern name of Worstead Road.

It was in September, 1910, after several preliminary attempts, that I definitely set to work to find something somewhere of Roman interest in this field, other than the fragments of pottery on its surface. I dug pits 1 foot by 2 feet across the field from east to west to the depth of the natural undisturbed clay, at

¹ *Rotuli Hundredorum*, Vol. II, p. 422.

² *Addit. MS.* 5823, f. 250.

³ *Addit. MS.* 5823, f. 249.

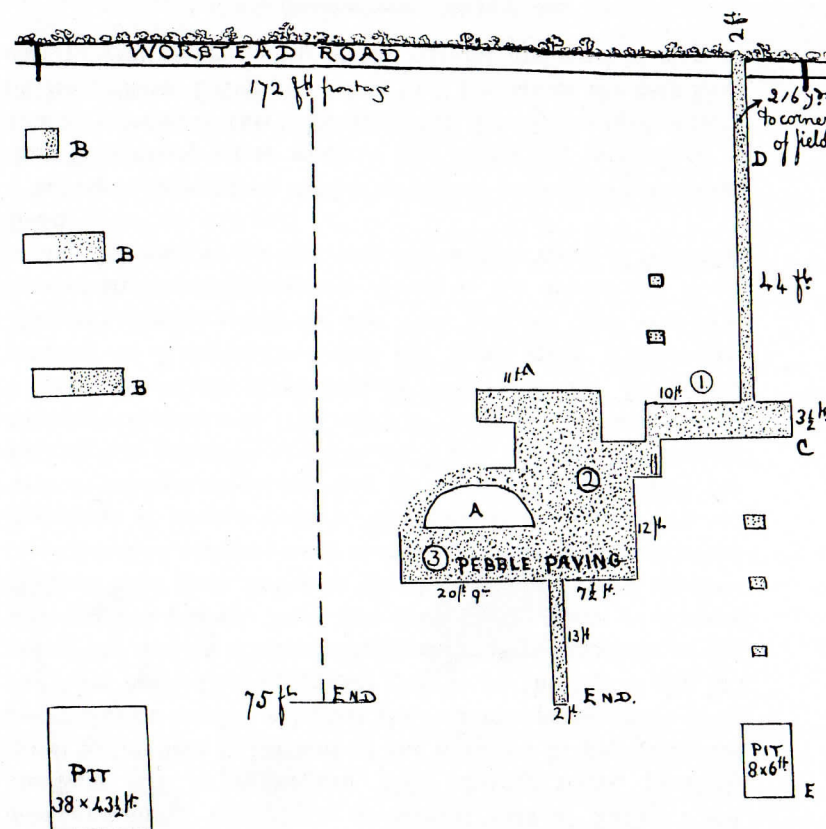
⁴ *Ely. Terriers*, 1638, 1692.

PCAS XXXI for 1928-30 (1931)

intervals of about ten paces apart, taking care that the pits in each line alternated with the pits in the previous line, in this way I thought no considerable area would be left untapped. I began this work near a stream at the south of the hill. The pitting went on daily, yielding nothing but the natural bed of clay till I was within a few yards from the northern boundary, and, thoroughly disgruntled with my system of search, when in one pit the monotony was broken by the find of a few stones, the next pit in the same line yielded neatly laid stones with a fragment or two of pottery on them. This find, on 26 September, excited my curiosity, and on enlarging the pit I found that I had struck some paving scattered with remains of the Romano-British period. Then I dug many pits and trenches which showed that the paving covers an area of about 172 feet from east to west, and about 75 feet north to south, laying by the side of the Worstead Road, some 648 feet from the east corner of the field as shown on the sketch Plan. (Pl. I.)

The complete uncovering and filling in of such an area would have necessitated much time and labour, and the field, just cleared of its wheat crop, was wanted for autumn ploughing; but, judging from the pitting done, I doubt if more work would have given any different result.

On 3 October, with the aid of a tripod camera swaying in the wind, I took four bad photographs of the work in progress. One of them gives some idea of the close proximity of the pits over the site, and shows the friends who were working with me that day (Pl. II, fig. 1). Prof. McKenny Hughes is sitting on the edge of a pit. Mrs Hughes and Dr Palmer are seen looking for treasure in the soil thrown out, then come my two diggers, Harry Stinton and George Atherton, an onlooker, and the Rev. C. A. Yorke, rector of Fowlmere. The hedge in the distance is the eastern boundary of the field. I think these pits are those which were dug to link up a trench you will see on my sketch Plan, reaching to the Worstead Road at the north of the field in order to get to the depth of the paving north and south. The photograph (Pl. II, fig. 2) of a trench marked 1 on the Plan is certainly north of the latter. This trench runs east. There is the same hedge in the distance, but it shows the north-east



A Romano-British Site in Horseheath.



Fig. 1.

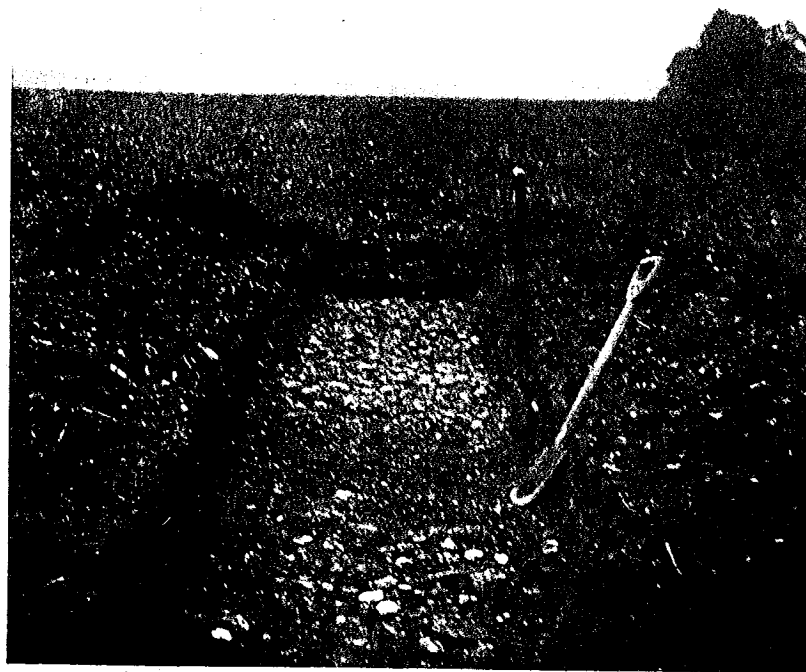


Fig. 2.

A Romano-British Site in Horseheath.

corner of the field and part of the Worstead Road, now here, only a grass path with a hedge on its north side. This view is to some extent a record of the position of the site. It also gives some idea of the depth of the paving beneath the surface soil, stones may be seen on the floor, and, on the earth thrown out, quantities of bones, potsherds and oyster shells should have been recorded by the camera. A photograph (Pl. III, fig. 1) which is marked 2 on the Plan gives a south-east view of the site looking across the valley. The stacks seen in the distance on the horizon to the right are by the road from Cambridge to Horseheath. The steps on the right down to the cleared floor indicate the paving beneath the surface at this particular position. A path is worn from the steps, but this piece of paving was uncovered with the fragments left *in situ* so that my friends might see the exact nature of the find. Another photograph (Pl. III, fig. 2) marked 3 on the Plan is a trench running west. The clump of trees on the right is by the side of the Worstead Road at the top of the hill. At the end of the trench the pebbles are evenly laid and littered with oyster shells, bones and scraps of pottery. The spades in the trench show how much nearer to the surface the paving is here than that shown by the steps in the photograph above (Pl. III). This variation in depth puzzled me. I found no reason for it. Nor did I arrive at any definite plan in the paving. There was a variety of blanks, some were small patches, some as shown in this photograph were clearly made through field drainage. At some places it seemed amazing that an implement going no deeper than a plough had not disturbed the floor which in places appeared to be worn by the tramp of feet. An absence of pebbles at A on the Plan is in the form of an apse. This spot is just west of the cleared floor shown in Pl. III, fig. 1. The pits marked B indicate the west end of the paving. C shows the east end. D is the trench 44 feet long and 2 feet wide running north up to the Worstead Road, and to my surprise I found the paving here actually under the present line of this ancient Way. E is a pit south of the paving.

With regard to the fragmentary objects found on the floor of the pit marked 2 on the Plan at a depth of 3 feet, I found part

PLATE II



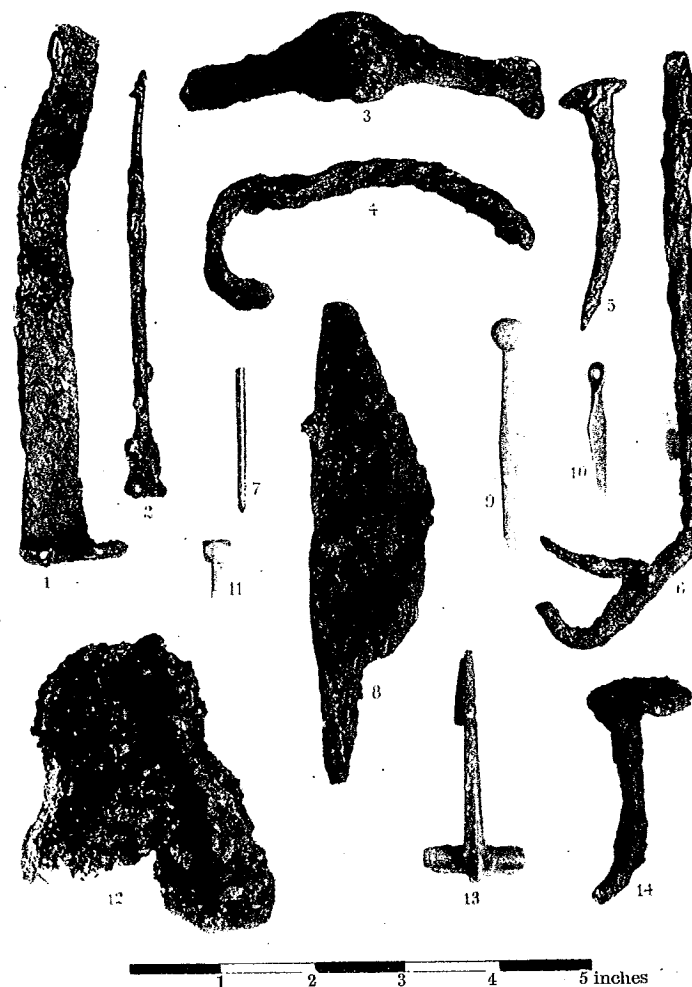
Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

A Romano-British Site in Horseheath.

of an iron hinge. At a depth of 4 feet there was a coin, an iron knife, part of an iron lamp, part of a twisted iron handle, a quantity of iron nails, mussel, oyster and snail shells, bones, clinkers, a bronze fibula without its pin, and a few fragments of glass. Here there were fewer bones and more potsherds—including fragments of *terra sigillata*—than in some places. Practically everywhere on the pavement there were iron nails of various sizes. These I carefully classified into what I thought three distinct types, square heads, long heads and round heads, hoping to be informed as to the use of each type, instead of which Mr Ruffle, the village blacksmith, told me that they were all intended to have square heads, but that the wind blew when they were being forged; a pleasing excuse for a blacksmith's work when it does not turn out as it should do. The largest nails were probably used as one sees them to-day, to secure iron dogs, the ties for woodwork or for shoeing wheels. On the paving marked 3 there were two bone pins with round heads, part of an iron band and an iron key for the earliest type of tumbler lock which is still used in Egypt. In either the extension of this trench, or in another trench running west I found three coins, a stylus, the head of a bone pin, a piece of thin bronze plate with a rivet in it, in addition to bones, oyster shells and potsherds. My note book records certain objects found together, but their position is not always marked on the sketch Plan, which I was unable to finish before the work of filling in was started, and so it does not show the extent of the floor uncovered, or the number of small pits dug over the site. But in a trench 3 feet 4 inches wide and 6½ feet long pebbles were neatly laid from 4 to 5 inches off the clay and were strewn with bones, oyster shells and pieces of pottery. Here I found an iron key for a padlock of the barbed spring type. At another spot mussel shells at a depth of over 4 feet were found with nails, clinkers and burnt glass. Of two pits at the south-east corner, one is shown on the Plan and is marked E. That not shown contained 6 feet of made earth. Digging in the E pit had to be given up at a depth of 8 feet on account of water coming in. In this pit bones were more plentiful than potsherds, there was a little charcoal which was rather a rare find. I also found in this pit the head of a wooden pin decorated



1 Iron key. 2 Stylus. 3 Saddle bridge. 4 Handle. 5 Nail. 6 Key.
7 Bone pin. 8 Iron knife. 9 Bone pin. 10 Bronze pendant.
11 Wooden pin. 12 Iron lamp. 13 Bronze fibula. 14 Iron nail.

A Romano-British Site in Horseheath.

with chip carving and some fragments of bone pins. In another pit there were mussel shells, thick black pottery and two pieces of bronze; one piece is probably a pendant, it has a suspension hole and is decorated with lines, the other is a piece of thin bronze plate. I also found here an iron object very like a saddle bridge, the ends where it would have been riveted to leather are broken off. Several boars' tusks and ox horns' cores were found, and amongst the large quantity of teeth and bones Dr Palmer told me that none of them is human. There was very little glass, just a few pieces of rim and fragments of sheet glass such as might have come from the side of a square bottle. As was the case with nails, potsherds were everywhere, but, owing to the fragmentary nature of the latter, the coins found possibly best date the length of the occupation of this site.

The coins are all brass and twenty-nine in number, ranging from about the time of Hadrian 117 to Constans 350. Ten of the coins are undecipherable, but the reigns of Antoninus Pius, Faustina, Marcus Aurelius, Valerianus, Gallienus, Claudius II, Tetricus senior, Constantine the Great, Constantine II and Constans are represented. Some of these coins I found actually lying on the pavement and others were in the loose earth above.

Both Neville¹ and Babington² mention a pot of Roman silver coins found at Horseheath in 1854, representing nearly all the Emperors from Nero to Marcus Aurelius. I think this must be the pot of coins I have often heard of in this village which was found in Money Lane, by Limbery's farm. This find of coins, some of them earlier, and some of them contemporary with my coins, may or may not have a connection with the people who occupied the site on Hanging Hill. Although I found no coin of the 1st century, some of the potsherds would seem to suggest that date. But I am at a loss what to say about the large quantity of potsherds. They include fragments of platters, beakers, dishes, mortars, strainers, bowls, jars and a great variety of vases. I have recently compared them with some of the Romano-British pottery from Chesterford, and with specimens in the Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology at Cambridge, with the result that

¹ *Arch. Journal*, Sept. 1854.

² Babington, p. 35.

I am surprised at the extremely representative nature of my scraps. Amongst them are pieces of decoration, rims, bases, and handles in a large variety of wares from the coarsest domestic Horningsea ware to the finest *terra sigillata*. On this ware I found part of two potters' marks, VT. AL and VAL. One piece of *sigillata* has been riveted with lead, and there are pieces of ten different dishes with the leaf pattern, the rope and tassel pattern, and other designs are also represented in this ware. Some of the Castor ware fragments have a very fine metallic glaze, some of this ware is painted. There are fragments of slip ware, biscuit ware, gritted ware and a large variety of grey pottery in both soft and hard paste, some of the latter being Belgic. The base of one grey pot still has soot or some charred substance adhering to it, and a piece of coarse buff ware is interesting because it has fine hair or vegetable fibre in its composition, so that the pot from which it came must either have been sun dried, or dried in a cool kiln, otherwise its hair would have been singed.

As you will have seen, there is nothing of spectacular interest in this site. Yet it is evident that Romans, or Romano-British men and women of some position lived here. They had treasure to lock up, ornamental belongings to wear and to use. They were thoroughly supplied with up-to-date utensils, and, apparently, there was no shortage of either food or money. When for some reason or other they vacated the site, it seems to have been according to a definite plan with time to carry it out. No valuables were left behind. The serviceable building materials may have been used again, since only a few broken bricks, ridge and flue tiles were left with some rubble, and their mill-stones may still be seen in some of the cottage garden paths in Horseheath.

The position of the site, by the side of the Worstead Road, may be the most interesting feature of this discovery, for if considered in conjunction with the name of Streetly End and the ancient name of the adjoining hamlet the End Way, there seems to be a possibility of a junction here of early date, which may further support the statement made by Dr Fox, that Roman Settlements not infrequently occur at road junctions¹.

¹ Dr Cyril Fox, *Archaeology of the Cambridge Region*, p. 228.



Fragments of Pottery,
A Romano-British Site in Horseheath.

PLATE VI



1 2 3 4 5 inches

Fragments of Pottery.
A Romano-British Site in Horseheath.