9.1. Southern counties (West)

By John Salvatore

Wiltshire

(1) **Minety**, *Brandier* (SU 015 916): a community excavation spanning three seasons was completed at a previously unknown Roman tile kiln. The site lies 2 km from two tile kilns investigated in the early 1970s at Oaksey Park, Minety. At Brandier there were three sequential tile kilns and a complex sequence of drains. Flooding was evidently an issue. Of the earliest kiln, only the central flue and a portion of the cross flues beneath the floor of the firing chamber survived. A drain was laid in the bottom of the main flue. This kiln was largely demolished when it was replaced by a new kiln aligned at right angles (north–south). This was also poorly preserved, although two associated drains survived. A roof covered the superstructure of the kiln to judge from two lines of post-holes on either side of it. This kiln was in turn replaced by a final structure which reverted to the orientation of the first kiln and partially reused a side wall of the original flue as a foundation upon which to found one of the walls of the firing chamber. A further five drains relate to this kiln which was made from ceramic building material (CBM). A central flue, stoke hole and southern part of the firing chamber were well preserved, the northern part much less so, but enough survived to show that the original chamber measured *c.* 5.4 m × 4.8 m (Fig. 30). The kiln was repaired on several occasions. A large clay-extraction pit, 3 m deep, was examined. The lowest fills were waterlogged and contained preserved timber planks. Above this the pit was backfilled with kiln rake-out, waste tiles and fragments of vitrified kiln wall. Some 9.4 tonnes, 31,000 fragments, of CBM were processed, including 218 tiles stamped variously LHS, TPF, TPFA,



Fig. 30. Minety. The third (final) tile kiln under excavation. The firing chamber to the left of the central flue is better preserved than the right-hand, north side (© *Cotswold Archaeology*).

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TPFB, TPFC or TPFP.[122] The pit was particularly productive of stamped tiles. Apart from a single LHS stamp found in the level immediately beneath the topsoil, all are from the TPF series, although curiously TPFB was not present in the pit at all. LHS stamps were much more common in the upper layers of debris associated with the third and final kiln and, with two exceptions, all came from the area in front of the stokehole, perhaps debris from the collapse of a roof covering the kiln. The LHS stamps are assumed to be the product of the final kiln and are thus likely to follow on chronologically from the TPF series.[123]

Supplementary material For supplementary material for this article, please visit https://doi.org/10.1017/S0068113X25100585.

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9.2. Southern counties (East)

By Owen Humphreys

Berkshire

(1) **Cookham**, *Heron's Court, Terry's Lane, SL6 9RR* (SU 88888 85620): excavation revealed multi-period presence beginning in the Late Bronze Age, with evidence for more substantial structures and land demarcation starting in the late Iron Age/early Roman transition period. Roman activity was divided into three sub-phases. The earliest phase was associated with disuse of a building assigned a late Iron Age/early Roman date, occupying the northern portion of the site. Elements of it were truncated by a rectangular enclosure ditch, possibly open from the second century A.D. To the south of it a single grave was recorded, containing pottery, an iron strap fragment and iron brooch (first–second century A.D.) in addition to highly fragmented human bones. Remains of a building incorporating beam-slots were found within the enclosed area. The structure was without evidence for associated floor deposits, and it is possible that it remained unfinished. To the west, two pits and ditch fragments suggest probable agricultural activity, and in the south-east further post-holes may belong to an enclosure or barn. The second phase was characterised by two rectilinear enclosures, found to the north and south, with associated pitting and a possible fence line. The enclosures were divided by ditches, along with a gated entrance. The southern enclosure was delineated by more substantial double ditches. Toward the end of the latest Roman phase the activity across the site became less intensive, the only evidence for occupation comprising limited dispersed pitting, dated to the fourth century A.D., of little interpretive value. This indicates an abandonment and possible shift in activity at the end of the Roman period.[124]

East Sussex

(1) **Bexhill**, *west of Mount View Street* (TQ 748 089): an archaeological excavation and watching brief revealed two phases of ditches, laid out in a roughly rectilinear pattern and probably forming parts of wider field systems, and a series of small, shallow pits, some of which

[122] Described in more detail in Section III: Inscriptions, in this volume.

[123] A community excavation under the auspices of Cotswold Archaeology. J. Cook sent information.

[124] Work by Stacey Harris, Lara Cook and Neil Hawkins of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd for DP Architects Ltd. Malgorzata Małecka sent information.

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