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# A ROMANO-BRITISH BATH-HOUSE AT STONHAM ASPAL

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In February, 1962, the digging of a sewerage trench to serve Council houses at the western approach to Stonham Aspal, a village ten miles north of Ipswich (TM/13095964), revealed the presence of a wall, pottery, roofing tiles, and other evidences of occupation during the Roman period.

The land in question had been acquired by the Gipping Rural District Council with a view to the eventual erection of further houses; this made it desirable that excavation should take place. Permission was readily granted by the Council and by the farmer, Mr. C. E. Tydeman of Broughton Hall, and his son, Mr. A. Tydeman. As the field was under cultivation, the site was measured in, in preparation for digging after harvest.

The excavation was begun in September, 1962, and continued until the spring of 1965. The work was under the direction of the writers, both then members of the staff of the Ipswich Museum, and volunteer labour was used throughout. As this consisted largely of students and teachers, digging had to be confined to two to three weeks at Easter and in the summer vacation.

The site was on Chalky Boulder Clay, at a general level of 170 O.D. It lies on the southern slope of a small valley and about 500 feet from the stream which runs along it (Fig. 30). The A.140, which at this point follows the line of the Roman road from London to Caister-by-Norwich is a little less than a mile to the west (the Pye Road, 3d in Margary's numeration).<sup>1</sup> On the other side of this road, in the parish of Earl Stonham about two miles to the west, what was described by Hamlet Watling as 'a vast quantity of Roman and other remains' was discovered in the late 19th century, and is detailed in the Victoria County History.<sup>2</sup> Hamlet Watling's drawings of some of the finds are in the Ipswich Museum. On one of his sketch maps, dated 1900, an area stretching from Earl Stonham to Crowfield is designated: 'Hundreds of

<sup>1</sup> Ivan D. Margary, *Roman Roads in Britain*, vol. 1 (1955), p. 236.

<sup>2</sup> *Victoria County History: Suffolk*, vol. 1 (1911), pp. 316-317.

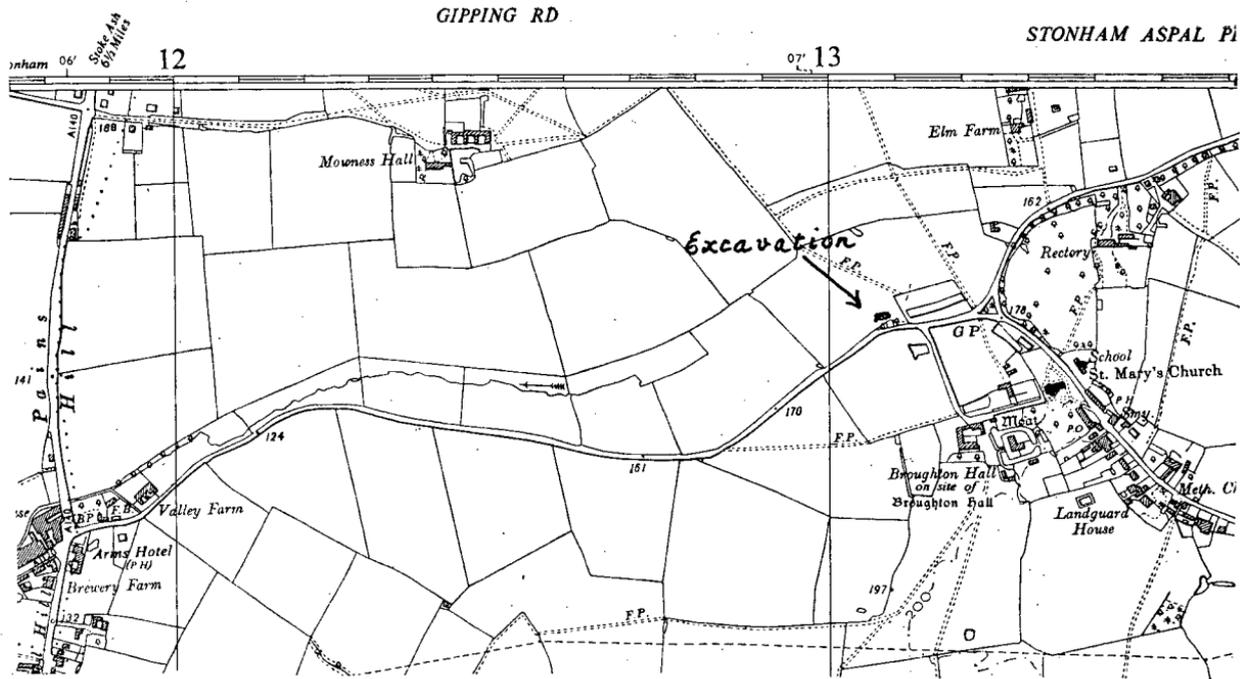


Fig. 30.—The area round Stonham Aspal.  
 From the 6-inch Ordnance Survey map. Crown Copyright reserved.

acres in which Roman Rems are found', and in a communication to the British Archaeological Association he stated that the occupation 'extended from the church of Earl Stonham to that of Stonham Aspell'.<sup>3</sup> An *unguentarium* half full of liquid was found in this latter village.<sup>4</sup>

In this century numerous finds of coins, all of Claudius II Gothicus (A.D. 268-270), suggest the presence of a hoard in a field near Broughton Hall, and some years ago levelling operations in the field immediately to the south of the present site, where a spring is situated, produced pottery reported by Mr. A. Tydeman to be Roman.

### THE EXCAVATION

The site was laid out in a grid of twelve-foot squares. In order to leave as much land as possible free for ploughing, this was established parallel with the wall first exposed in the sewerage trench. In the event it would have simplified matters if it had been placed diagonally, for by an extraordinary coincidence the baulk immediately north of the trench coincided almost exactly with the main axis of the building. This proved to be a bath-house detached from the villa which it no doubt served, a not unusual precaution to avoid the spread of fire if the furnaces in the bath-house became overheated. There is some evidence that the building did in fact suffer damage from fire.

It was not possible to obtain permission to extend the area of the excavation in order to locate the villa, but no traces were revealed in the sewerage trench, which cut across the field from east to west. It probably lay on the higher ground to the south, nearer the spring. This seems to be borne out by the fact that only in this position would a stoke-hole not have been at some stage interposed between the two buildings. In any case, as the villa was probably of timber, with a clay floor, and the Roman level had not survived the plough, it could well have escaped detection even if it lay in close proximity to the bath-house.

Below the top soil was a layer of rubble extending over an area of some 50 feet by 25 feet. When this was removed, the foundations of the bath-house were revealed. Only the portions below floor level had survived; the rest had been destroyed by stone robbers and the plough.

The remains (Fig. 31) consisted of a rectangle, comprising two rooms both 10 feet long and some 8 feet wide. In the western part, the hypocaust pillars stood to an average height of one foot; those in the eastern part had been reduced to six inches, and incorporated

<sup>3</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 317.

<sup>4</sup> *Proc. Suff. Inst. Arch.*, I (1853), p. 24, and *Arch. Journ.*, III, p. 69.

in a rough floor of pink cement (*opus signinum*). Three blocks of masonry marked the division between the two rooms.

The bases of three flue arches were revealed to the east, north and west, and appeared to represent successive stages in the life of the bath-house. Also on the north side were two small plunge baths, lying side by side. Only the floor of *opus signinum*, and the quarter-round mouldings which made a waterproof joint with the wall, had survived.

On the south side was the wall first seen when the sewer trench was dug. Unfortunately the side walls had been destroyed by the mechanical excavator, making it difficult to establish its relationship to the rest of the building. On the south and west sides of the bath-house was a drainage ditch, from which came most of the small finds and pottery. In the north-east corner, a large pit had been dug in mediæval times; this had destroyed the east side of the northern flue arch.

#### PERIOD I: THE EAST FLUE

In its earliest form, the east end of the building (at this stage the hot room) would appear to have been apsidal. The apse had been almost entirely destroyed in subsequent rebuilds but a single layer of stones one foot nine inches wide was revealed after the removal of the tile flue and its wall (Plate XXXII, *a*). The flue was evidently in the centre of the apse, as here the sub-soil was burned red, with square patches of raw clay indicating the position of the hypocaust pillars; these underlay the later piers. The tiled floor on which the pillars were erected, and which extended as far as the junction between the two rooms, would seem to date from the first phase, as the burnt clay was quite clean and free of soot. Beneath the floor were four small shallow depressions, and a gully running beside the north wall, all of which contained fragments of pottery and re-used building material, showing that there was already some occupation in the vicinity.

The line of the north wall was probably the same throughout the life of the building; it also was one foot nine inches wide, composed of flints and septarian nodules, and built up against the undisturbed sub-soil; the foundations went no lower than the base of the hypocaust pillars. The lower two courses were firmly mortared, but in a subsequent rebuild the stones were laid in clay.

The south wall had been entirely destroyed by a rubble-filled ditch running the length of the building, and cutting down through the rubble layer to the sub-soil. This was at first thought to mark the site of a robber trench (Fig. 32, *b*), until it was found to continue to the east of the building (see Ditch D, page 230).

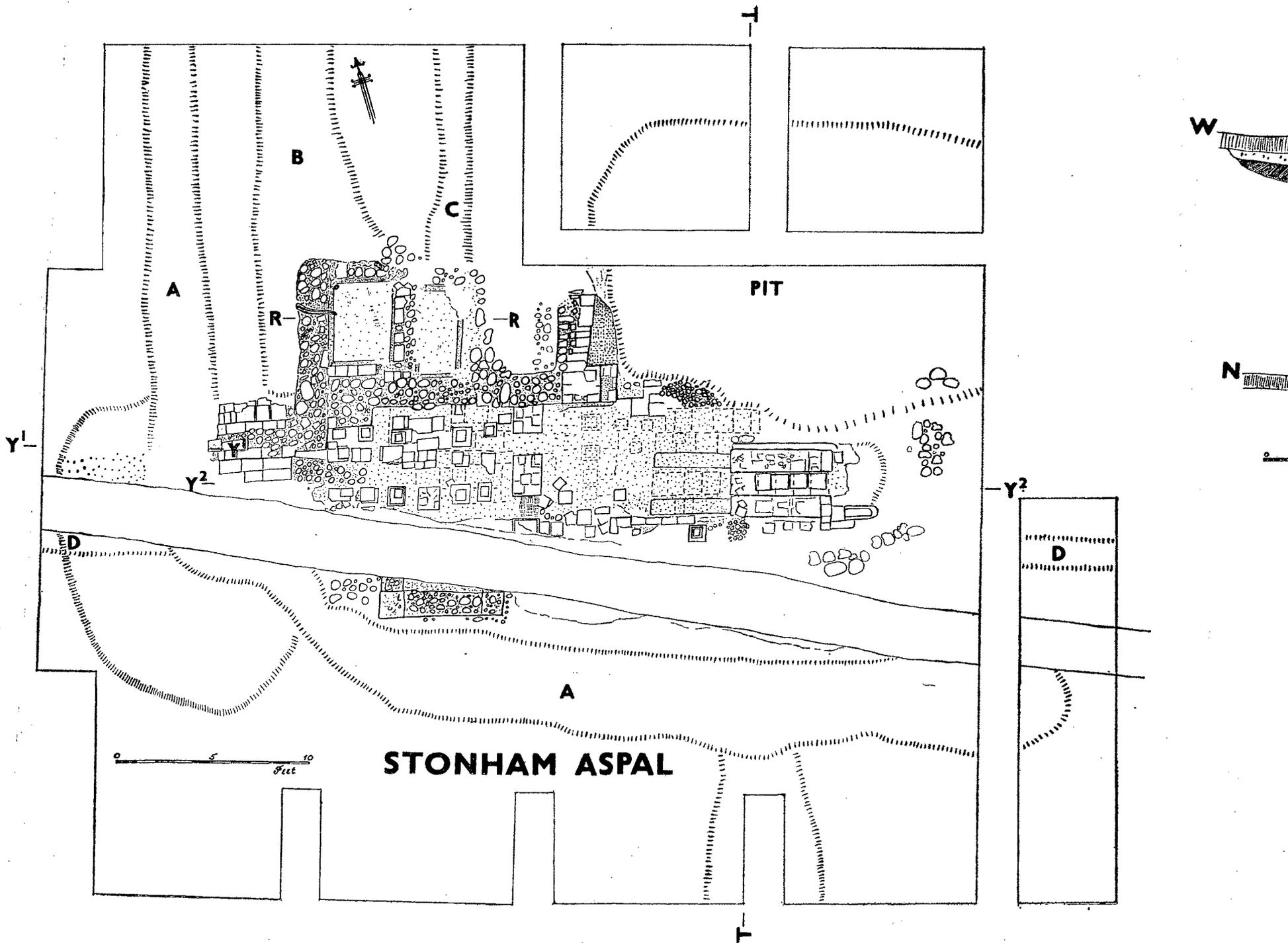


FIG. 31.—Plan of the bath-house.

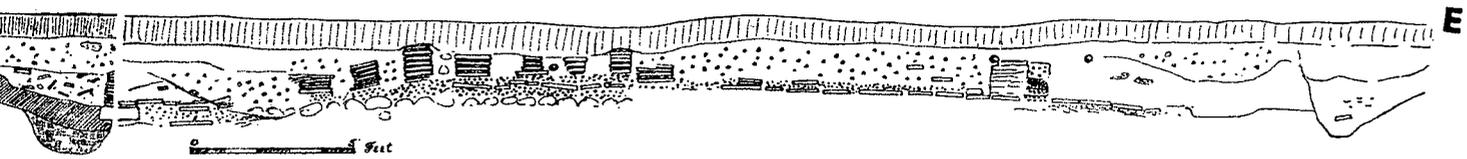


FIG. 32, a.—Section Y<sup>1</sup>—Y<sup>2</sup>.

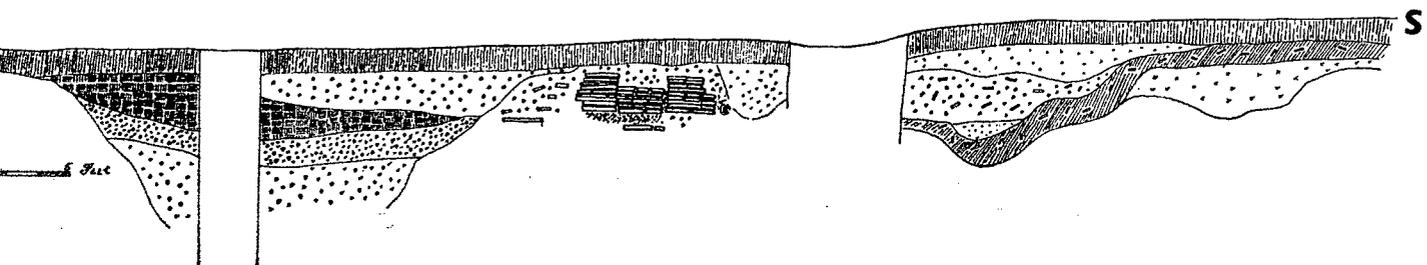


FIG. 32, b.—Section T—T.

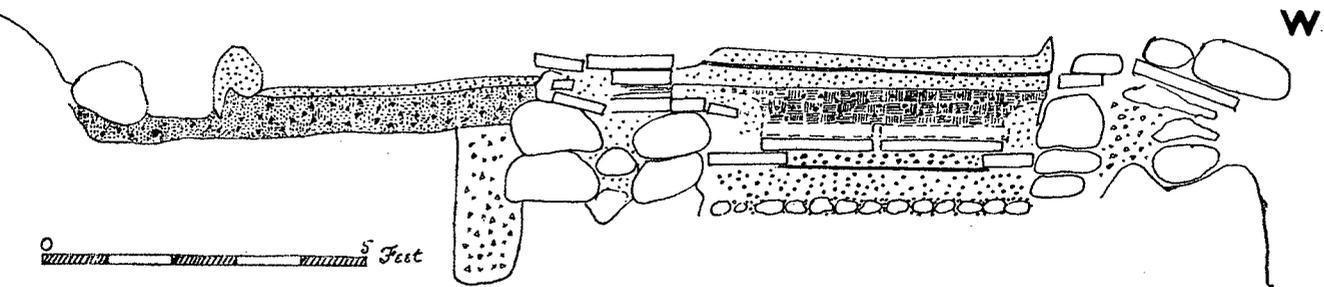
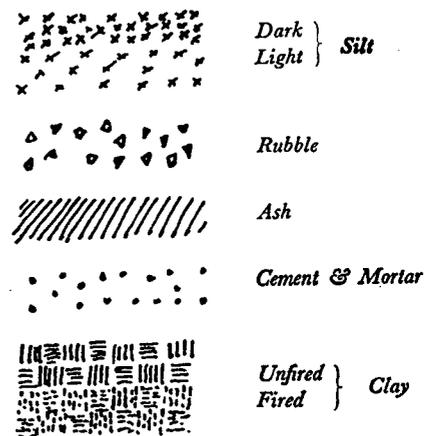


FIG. 32, c.—Section R—R.

KEY to SECTIONS & PLAN



It is probable that the flue which was still standing to a height of two feet at the time of the excavation belonged to this first phase. This was one foot three inches wide, and the side walls extended three feet to the west of the apse.

Subsequently the apse was demolished and replaced by a straight wall of tiles. This entailed the rebuilding of the portion of the flue which lay above the apse. There was a butt joint between the remainder and the new pillars, and the latter were resting on a layer of black earth (Fig. 32, *b*). This was of one build with the east wall, which can be seen in Plate XXXII, *b*; one stone of the underlying apse is visible in the foreground.

The wall was truncated by Ditch D on the south and the mediaeval pit on the north, and further mutilated by one of the mole-drains which ran from north to south across the field at about ten-foot intervals. Presumably at this stage the line of tiles was inserted which can be seen in Plate XXXV, *a* cutting through the apse.

Evidently the draught was inadequate, and at this stage or subsequently two piers, four feet six inches long, one foot six inches apart, and one foot wide, were built out into the room. In the white ash between these piers, sealed by the later floor, were found the fragments of glass beaker (Fig. 38, *a*).

The stoke-hole was defined by a semicircle of large stones which presumably formed the base of a retaining wall some four feet from the entrance to the flue.

#### PERIOD II: THE NORTH FLUE

The east flue was eventually sealed off (the blocking wall can be seen in Plate XXXII, *b*) and a new furnace built on the north. The stoke-hole and east wall had been destroyed by the mediaeval pit, but a portion of the clay floor remained, baked red to a depth of approximately two inches.

The west wall of this flue was not free standing, but was built against the undisturbed sub-soil; the facing was of tiles, backed by septarian nodules. The opening, one foot six inches wide, broached the north wall of the building at a point one foot six inches from the west wall of the furnace. The base only of the east pillar remained on the edge of the pit (Plate XXXIII, *a*). Some of the hypocaust pillars serving this furnace, and which rested directly on the tiled floor, must date from Period I, but others, resting on several inches of ash and rubble, were probably inserted at this stage.

### PERIOD III: THE WEST FLUE

In this period, the bath-house was drastically reorganised.<sup>5</sup> The north flue was abandoned, and a new one constructed at the west end of the building, the position of the hot and cold rooms being of course reversed. The pillars and piers in the east room were reduced to six inches, and incorporated in a rough floor of pink cement, over which floor boards were probably laid. In the west room, previously the *apodyterium*, or unheated dressing room, the floor was raised on pillars of tiles, some still standing to a height of a foot or more at the time of the excavation.

The west flue would appear to have been one foot three inches wide, but the south wall had been destroyed by the sewer trench (Plate XXXIII, *b*). A heavy foundation was constructed of three layers of tiles, set in exceptionally hard white mortar, the tiles projecting on the north side beyond the line of the wall.

### THE STOKE-HOLE

The stoke-hole extended twelve feet to the south of the flue, and was twelve feet from east to west. Its relationship to the southern section of Ditch A had been obscured by the sewer trench, but it would appear that by the time it was dug the ditch had silted up to a considerable extent, and the stoke-hole was cut into the fill. Since it was not as deep as the ditch, the course of the latter could be traced running beneath it, and the presence of a thick layer of soot immediately to the north, resting on only nine inches of silt, shows that this portion of the ditch had been kept comparatively clear. A rough spread of pink mortar running from the flue to the western lip must have served as a path for the stoker. Building debris left over after the reconstruction was found lying against the southern slope, neatly sealed under a layer of clean clay.

### THE PLUNGE BATHS

These were in reality no bigger than hip baths; they lay side by side on the north of the building. That on the west measured five feet by three feet six inches, that on the east four feet nine inches by two feet six inches; between the two was a stone and tile wall, with a quarter-round moulding. An unexplained feature was an isolated pit, possibly a post-hole, which appears on the section (Fig. 32, *c*).

<sup>5</sup> The constant re-positioning of the flues may have been occasioned by difficulty experienced in getting a satisfactory draught. Dr. Graham Webster, however, points out that this practice is by no means rare in Roman bath-houses, and instances a similar set of circumstances discovered during his excavations at Wroxeter. He attributes this merely to the fact that when a flue has become worn out it is easier to rebuild in a fresh place.

The west bath had been rebuilt three times; the sub-soil here was one foot eight inches below the final layer. The original bath consisted of a three-inch layer of *opus signinum*, resting on a bed of stones two-and-a-half inches thick, set in yellow mortar. Fragments of painted wall-plaster and re-used roofing tiles were found in this mortar. A thin layer of soot rested on the floor, suggesting that the bath-house may have been damaged by a fire, though a minor one as no burnt daub or blackened wall-plaster was found. In the subsequent reconstruction a line of tiles was laid along the walls to support a floor, also of tiles, two layers thick. The quarter-round moulding associated with this period survived at the south end (Plate XXXIV, *a*), and was of a much better quality than that of the final phase.

For the next rebuild, stiff clay with small rubble was packed in to the level of the top of the moulding, and this was covered with one-and-a-half inches of exceptionally hard cement. Above this was a thin layer of dirt, presumably deposited during a period of reconstruction when the bath was temporarily exposed to the elements.

The final floor consisted of one-and-a-half inches of soft and crumbly *opus signinum*. This bath was six inches wider than the original one.

Initially, the west bath was emptied by means of a circular tile drain, six inches in diameter, which ran into Ditch B, leading north towards the stream (Plate XXXIV, *b*). When the floor level of the bath had been raised this proved inadequate and was replaced by a lead pipe, running through the west wall, and emptying into the southern extension of the same gully (Plate XXXIII, *b* and Fig. 34). The south and east walls of the west bath were original and well-constructed of stone and tile; the former was one foot nine inches wide, being in fact the outer wall of the main building, the latter one foot six inches wide. The north and west walls, however, had evidently collapsed, owing to the proximity of the gullies, and were of exceptionally shoddy construction, set in clay and including a number of large pieces of red-painted door jambs, lumps of mortar and *opus signinum* and broken tiles. The west wall was leaning over the ditch at an appreciable angle.

The east bath lay on approximately the same level as the west bath, and its floor resembled the final floor of the latter. It consisted of one-and-a-half inches of *opus signinum* of inferior quality. This rested on four inches of rubble, below which was the undisturbed clay sub-soil. On the east side, the quarter-round moulding was still standing to a height of four inches, but the stone wall behind it had been robbed out almost entirely. The remains of a tile drain led from it to Ditch B; more adequate provision was subsequently made by digging a further ditch, C, to the east. No

trace of the outlet between it and the bath had, however, survived. It is not possible to say definitely whether the east bath superseded the western one, but it seems more likely that they were both in use together during the final period; such an arrangement is not unknown in the later stages of the Roman occupation. The east bath, though nearer the second *apodyterium*, was not directly accessible from it.

### THE CISTERN

The wall which was first observed in the side of the sewer trench (Plate XXXIV, *b*) was six feet nine inches long, and still standing to a height of one foot six inches (all but the stumps of the side walls had been destroyed by the mechanical excavator). It was one foot three inches wide, six inches narrower than the main north wall of the building, and had a tile course just above floor level.

The wall was free standing and perilously near the ditch; in fact the central section, two feet six inches in extent, had been repaired from just above the tile course. The mortar here was soft and pink whilst the rest was white and of better quality. Re-used material had been employed in the patch and in the original wall, and painted wall-plaster was found in the footings. Traces of cement rendering were visible on the inner face of the wall, and on the remains of the floor, which was on the same level with the base of the hypocaust pillars.

It may have belonged to a cistern, as water would be needed to fill the plunge baths, and replenish the basin which stood over the flue to provide the steam in the hot-room. It would be well placed to serve the final flue, and the re-used material would seem to indicate that it was not part of the original construction. If, however, an earlier version had existed at the east end, it had been completely destroyed by the mediaeval pit or the sewer trench. If the assumed line of the south wall of the building is correct, the tank would have been some two feet wide.

At nine feet from the west corner and one foot three inches from the floor an iron hold-fast (Fig. 36, *f*) had been driven into the wall from which it projected eight inches. Objects of this type were used to fasten box-tiles etc. to the wall. This may have been used in connection with some form of pulley for raising and lowering buckets, or it may have served as a clamp for an infall pipe. It is not possible to say whether water was conveyed to the bath-house from the spring to the south by a channel of wood or tiles spanning the ditch, as this would have been destroyed by the plough. It is quite likely that the small amount of water required would be transported by hand. Dr. Kenyon considered that the public

baths at Leicester were, towards the end of their lives, supplied in this manner.<sup>6</sup>

#### DITCH A

The bath-house was bounded on the south and west by a ditch between three and four feet wide at the top. The bottom was about one foot six inches below the base of the hypocaust pillars, four feet six inches below the present ground surface, which seems to be little higher than it was in Roman times. The ditch was evidently designed to prevent flooding, which must have been a constant threat in this impervious soil; it had nevertheless been allowed to become choked up. The bottom layer of the east end was black from the soot thrown in when the adjacent stoke-hole was in use. As already mentioned, the second layer of the section which ran north from the west stoke-hole was severely affected.

Elsewhere the fill consisted of clayey silt interspersed throughout with building rubble including wall-plaster and window glass, and with food bones, oyster shells and pottery. This reached to within six or nine inches of the plough line. Above this was fairly clean silt in the eastern section, while the rest was filled with a rubble layer representing the final destruction of the building.

In the primary silt behind the cistern were found a *denarius* of Julia Domna, and a fragment of 'hunt-cup' (Plate XXXV, *b* (*t*)). To the north of the stoke-hole, in the upper fill but below the rubble spread, was an *as* of Severus Alexander.

#### DITCH B

This ditch was two feet six inches deep and six feet wide at its widest point. It ran north from the west bath, and must have been contemporary with the first period, as the original outflow pipe emptied into it. Just below this pipe, in the bottom of the ditch was lying an almost complete beaker (Plate XXXV, *b* (*u*)). The southern section stops exactly at the wall of the western flue, which might suggest that it post-dated it. It is difficult to see what purpose it served, as the lead waste-pipe could easily have been placed above its predecessor, to flow into the ditch at the same point and, as has been seen, this portion of the ditch undermined the west wall of the bath and caused its collapse.

#### DITCH C

Ditch C was two feet wide and one foot six inches deep, running north from the east bath. It contained virtually no pottery.

<sup>6</sup> K. M. Kenyon, *The Jewry Wall Site, Leicester* (1948), p. 7.

## DITCH D

This was two feet wide and two feet deep. It continued the line of the ditch which had destroyed the south wall of the building (see p. 224), beyond which its course converged with that of the sewer trench. It contained nothing but Roman material, but must have been of post-Roman date. The gully on the west lip of the west stoke-hole, filled with early mediaeval pottery (Fig. 41, x), was almost certainly part of this ditch, but it could not be followed for more than a few feet.<sup>7</sup>

## THE MEDIAEVAL PIT

A large pit, fourteen feet in width and of unknown length, and at least six feet deep, had destroyed the north-east corner of the building, and half the north flue. The fill consisted of clayey silt with a certain amount of rubble and Roman pottery. Perversely enough, four of the seven coins found during the excavation came from this pit, namely a *sestertius* of Antoninus Pius, and three third century *antoniniani*, one of Gallienus and two of Tetricus I. Scattered throughout the fill were occasional sherds of early mediaeval pottery.

## THE SEWER TRENCH

This was three feet wide, and ran on a slightly oblique line from west to east. When masonry first appeared, the workmen dug into the south side of the trench in an endeavour to uncover more of the wall, and to extract sherds of pottery, etc.

## THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BATH-HOUSE

The foundations were of too slight a character to have carried walls of masonry, and the large number of nails found on the site further indicate that the building was half-timbered like most Suffolk houses up to the eighteenth century.

The walls were decorated with painted plaster. A few fragments may indicate a sparing use of floral motifs, but the predominant patterns were geometric, probably in bordered panels or stripes. The effect must have been gay, not to say garish, as the following colours were employed: black, red, yellow, green, blue, pink, orange, mauve, grey, the commonest combination being red and white. However, not all these colours were necessarily in use at the same time, though it is not possible to assign a colour scheme to either room or to any particular building phase. Some frag-

<sup>7</sup> As the lip of this ditch would cover some of the hypocaust pillars it has for the sake of clarity been omitted from the plan where it impinges on the building.

ments give positive evidence of redecoration in the form of two superimposed painted surfaces. Numerous fragments of the usual opaque green window glass were also present, widely scattered throughout the site.

As might be expected in a humble building of this type, there were no mosaic pavements. Chunks of *opus signinum*, about one-and-a-half inches thick, lying in the rubble, were all that remained of the floor which had rested on the hypocaust pillars.

The roof was tiled with the normal flat *tegulae*, seventeen inches by twelve inches, and half-an-inch in thickness, flanged on either side to interlock with the arched *imbrices*. A single fragment of stone roofing tile (Fig. 33) found in Ditch D evidently came from some other building. Fragments of the hollow box-tiles which carried the hot air up through the walls were also found in some quantity.

Since the foundations had not survived up to floor level, it was not possible to determine the position of the entrance. In the first two periods a door probably led through the west wall directly into the *apodyterium*. In the final period, when the position of the two rooms was reversed, the entrance would also be moved to the east. If the door was in the south wall of the *apodyterium* at this stage, the ditch must have been bridged. No traces of post-holes to support this could be detected, but a simple plank might have been considered adequate.

### THE DATE OF THE BATH-HOUSE

Most of the samian pottery from the site dates from the late second or third century, all but one of the coins from the third century, and the bulk of the datable coarse pottery and glass from the third and fourth centuries. In the primary silt of Ditch A was a *denarius* of Julia Domna (A.D. 193-211) and a fragment of 'hunt-cup'; this and the beaker (Plate XXXV, *b*), which was in the primary silt of Ditch B, below the outfall from the first plunge bath, were both dated by Mr. Hartley to the early third century. These can only be used to date the building if, from the first, the ditches were allowed to silt up. That this was the case is indicated by the fact that the soot from the first stoke-hole was still lying at the east end of Ditch A. The western section of this ditch, however, may have been cleared out at first as only nine inches of silt had accumulated before it received a sooty deposit from the final stoke-hole, and a fourth century cooking pot (Fig. 40, *b*) was found in the bottom layer. Nothing datable was found in the pits under the building but three sherds of colour-coated ware had been incorporated in the wall separating the west plunge bath from the main building. This wall was well constructed and since the successive

floors of the bath were built up against it, it was evidently original. These sherds are stated by Mr. Hartley to be of local manufacture and not closely datable, but they are not earlier than the third century. The glass beaker (Fig. 38, *a*) which was found in a layer of ash inside the east flue, sealed by the later cement floor, has been dated by Miss Charlesworth to A.D. 150–250.

In the absence of fourth century coins it is not possible to say when the building was abandoned, but the number of alterations which it underwent imply a considerable span of life, and fourth century pottery was found in Ditch A some two feet below the rubble layer which resulted from its destruction.

It seems reasonable, therefore, to assume that the bath-house was constructed in the first half of the third century and continued in use until the late fourth or even fifth century.

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The cutting of a sewer trench on the western outskirts of the village of Stonham Aspal in East Suffolk resulted in the discovery of a bath-house erected in the early 3rd century. Originally this consisted of a cold room at the western end and an apsidal, heated room at the east end; a small plunge bath led off the cold room. At first the flue was at the east end but was then transferred to the north. Finally the position of the two rooms was reversed and a new flue constructed at the west end. Probably during the final phase another plunge bath was added and also a water tank.

The building was half-timbered on stone wall footings with a tiled roof, glazed windows and gaily painted walls. It was quite well constructed, though the north and west walls of the plunge bath show a drastic lowering of standards towards the end, presumably in the 4th century. It was of modest size, though not much smaller than, for instance, the bath-house at Old Durham,<sup>8</sup> and must have been adequate for the needs of a single family. The rubbish in the ditches shows that the owner was a farmer of moderate means. Only seven coins were found and of these only one was silver. There was little fine table ware or glass and the tweezers and bone pins were of the simplest kind; only the folding knife could boast any distinction. Mr. Harcourt's study of the animal bones show that cattle predominated, though sheep and pig were also kept. It is somewhat surprising that pig and deer are not better represented as the site is on heavy land which must have been forested except where it had been cleared for agriculture.<sup>9</sup> Exami-

<sup>8</sup> 'A Civilian Bath-House of the Roman Period at Old Durham' by I. A. Richmond *et. al.*, *Arch. Ael.*, xxii (1944), p. 1.

<sup>9</sup> One of Hamlet Watling's drawings, however, of bones from Stonham shows five fragments of red deer antler.

nation of the charcoal shows that these forests were largely of oak.

The villa and farm buildings could not unfortunately be located; they may well have been older than the bath-house, though how much older it is not possible to say. Nothing was found which could be dated earlier than the second century.

The elaborate steam bath was one of the most conspicuous manifestations of Roman civilisation. It was adopted immediately after the conquest by the towns and the wealthy land-owners, but about two centuries passed before the ordinary farmers, whose ancestors lived in round huts of West Harling type, became sufficiently civilised and prosperous to acquire this luxury, which was also doubtless a status symbol.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our thanks are due to Messrs. Sadler and Sons who reported the site to the Ipswich Museum; to the Gipping Rural District Council, who gave permission for the excavation to be carried out and whose surveyor took various levels on the site; to Mr. Tydeman and his family who throughout displayed the utmost kindness and generosity; to the Ministry of Public Building and Works who provided an excavation hut; and to Messrs. B.X. Plastics who gave polythene sheeting to protect the site during the winter. Contributions towards the cost of excavation were made by the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and the Southwold Archaeological Society. Upwards of seventy volunteers helped at various times with the digging, some travelling considerable distances. It would be invidious to select any for special mention, but without their help the excavation would have been impossible.

We are indebted to the following for their specialist reports: Dr. F. W. Anderson on the roofing tile; Miss D. Charlesworth on the glass; Mr. R. A. Harcourt on the animal bones; Mr. B. R. Hartley on the samian and colour-coated ware; Mrs. K. Hartley on the mortarium; also to Mr. J. P. R. Arthur who identified the carbonised seed; to the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew for undertaking the identification of the charcoal; to Dr. J. P. C. Kent who checked our identification of the coins; and to Dr. D. Peacock who examined the black-burnished ware. We are grateful to Mrs. H. B. Miller for drawing the decorated samian; to Mr. E. Greenhalf who took the photographs for Plates XXXIII, *a* and XXXIV, *b*; and to Mr. F. W. Simpson who prepared the remaining plates for publication.

Finally, our thanks are due to Miss P. M. Butler, Curator of the Ipswich Museums, for giving facilities for the preparation of this report. All finds from the excavation are in the Ipswich Museum.

## THE FINDS

## THE COINS

1. Antoninus Pius, A.D. 138–161. Sestertius. *Rev.* Anona. B.M.C. 1654. From mediaeval pit.
2. Julia Domna (wife of Septimius Severus), A.D. 193–211. Denarius. *Rev.* Juno. R.I.C. 560, B.M.C. 42. From primary silt of Ditch A south section.
3. Severus Alexander, A.D. 222–235. As. *Rev.* Sol. R.I.C. 543, B.M.C. 961. From fill of Ditch A west section at depth of one foot seven inches.
4. Gallienus, A.D. 253–268. Antoninianus. *Rev.* Laetitia Aug. R.I.C. 226. From mediaeval pit.
5. Claudius II, A.D. 268–270. Antoninianus. *Rev.* Fides Exerci. R.I.C. 36. From mediaeval pit.
6. Tetricus I, A.D. 270–273. Antoninianus. *Rev.* Virtus Aug. R.I.C. 145. From mediaeval pit.
7. Tetricus I, A.D. 270–273. Antoninianus. *Rev.* uncertain. From west stoke-hole.

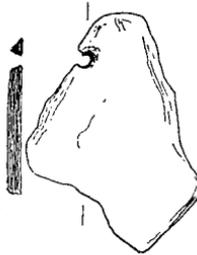


FIG. 33.—Fragment of stone roofing tile ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ).

## STONE (Fig. 33)

By F. W. ANDERSON, D.S.C., F.R.S.E.

Fragment of stone roofing tile. This has split off parallel to the bedding: only half the depth of the hole is left, assuming that, as is usual, the hole was bored from both sides. The rock appears to be a limestone of Lower Carboniferous age. It is thus a foreigner to the area. It was probably made from a glacial erratic boulder in the drift, or else was imported from north England, south Scotland or possibly Belgium, but it is impossible to say which is the right answer. One can, however, say that the stone is not that normally used by the Romans—i.e. it is not Purbeck or Collyweston