

ROMAN ROAD AT BEDHAMPTON.

IN May 1938 Belmont House, Bedhampton (O.S. 6in., LXXXVI,1) had been demolished and the grounds were being developed as a building estate.

Several drainage trenches, in the London clay, crossed the line of the Roman road from Chichester to Bitterne. The road appeared to have been made by digging a ditch, of an over-all width of about 15ft. and depth in the middle of about 4ft., filling it with flints, chalk and a surface of gravel. The best exposure was in a trench N.W. of the site of the house, running north and south and cutting the road at nearly a right angle. This showed, in the middle of the road, 6in. of soil, 2 to 3in. of gravel, 2ft. 3in. of chalk blocks in small chalk and 1ft. of flints. Other trenches, crossing the road at more acute angles, and tree-holes on the line, confirmed the evidence generally, but the construction seems to have been very rough.

Mr. O. G. S. Crawford traced this road in a straight line from Wickham to Bedhampton, where it joins the line of the main road to Chichester.

C. BETTON ROBERTS.

**NOTES ON THREE ANCIENT BUILDINGS
IN AND NEAR HAMBLEDON, NOT NOTICED IN
"THE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY."**

THE MANOR FARM, HAMBLEDON. The south wing appears to date from c. 1200. It is a two-storeyed building, consisting of a western part about 36ft. by 18ft. and an eastern part 21ft. by 11ft., interior measurements. The north walls of the two parts are in line, with a buttress at the junction. There is another buttress in the middle of the west wall. The walls are 3ft. thick in the lower storey, set back to take the floor in the upper storey. They are of flint rubble with chalk dressings and quoins. There is a good deal of old plaster, especially on the east wall, and I believe the whole, including the chalk, was covered with plaster. With the loss of the plaster the chalk has weathered badly and there is a good deal of patching in brick of various dates, especially in the buttresses. The west front has recently been covered with Portland cement. The only original doorway remaining is an interior one, connecting the upper storeys in the eastern and western parts. It is round-headed and is near the north end of the cross wall. The only opening in the east wall appears to have been a narrow rectangular

light, high in the gable. This does not show inside. In the other walls are also narrow rectangular lights, with two wider ones, also apparently original. In the south wall of the eastern part is a blocked round-headed arch, its head about 4ft. above ground level. A recess in the interior wall appears to show that there were steps down to a cellar here. In the south wall of the western part was a range of three round-headed arches, two now blocked and the eastern one mainly destroyed when a doorway was inserted in the sixteenth century. The chalk blocks of its eastern jamb were used in this doorway. There is one blocked round-headed arch in the north wall of this part; the western part of this wall is masked by a wing added in the sixteenth century.

The upper storey in the eastern part has been unused for a great many years and shows the bare original walls; there are iron hinge pins in one of the window jambs.

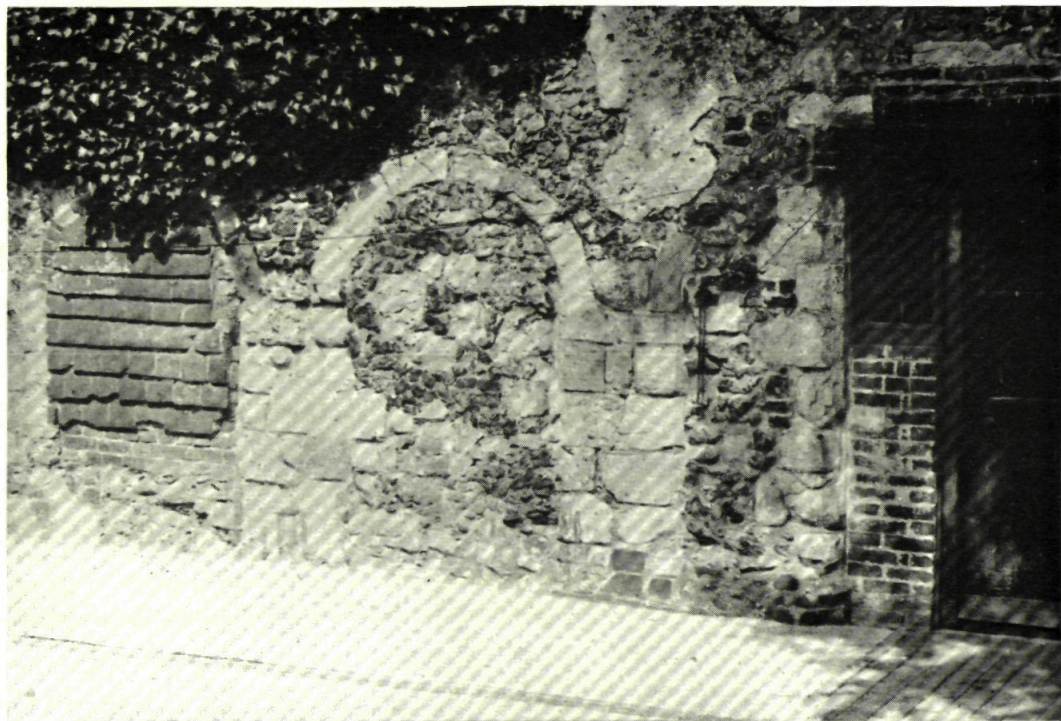
The only extensive rebuilding is the east gable of the western part. This is half-timbered.

The second building is in Denmead, now a separate parish, but formerly in Hambledon parish. The *Victoria County History* says: "The window-arches and general appearance of one of the farm-houses near the village suggest that it contains the structure of a chapel. . ." This vague and unsatisfactory statement must refer to the farm known as Rookwood, though marked on the O.S. map as Denmead Farm, N.E. of Forest Gate. Like the Manor Farm, Hambledon, the ancient part of this house is in two storeys. There is a widely splayed round-headed window in the upper storey on the south side, with a dripstone; both dripstone and arch plastered. On the north side, also in the upper storey, is a similar window, but with the dripstone chipped away and the plaster removed from the chalk blocks of the arch. At the south-west corner are the remains of a buttress. This building also probably dates from c. 1200. It too has sixteenth century and modern additions.

Close to the Hambledon boundary, but in Soberton parish, at East Hoe Farm, is a circular, roofless, pigeon house, with a pointed doorway. The exterior is plastered and marked in a large masonry pattern. The pigeon-holes are formed in chalk blocks. There are no buttresses. It was probably built in the thirteenth century.

There are a number of photographs of these buildings in the Club's collection.

C. BETTON ROBERTS.



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THE MANOR FARM, HAMBLEDON.

[Photograph by the late Capt. W. Middleton.

Part of South wall, showing two blocked round-headed arches, and remains of a third.