

was employed in forming the shoulder. Typologically, piece no 2 corresponds to Campbell's type AE6 (*ibid*).

Denticulated blade

This piece is plano-trapezoidal in transverse section and assymmetrically concavo-convex in longitudinal section. The piece measures 69mm in length and 15mm in width. Denticulate re-

touch occurs along the upper half of the left edge with utilisation damage along the right edge parallel to the retouch. Typologically, this piece corresponds to Campbell's type FB1 saw (1977, 8, 152 Fig 2).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Author: W A Boismier, Archaeology Section, Planning Dept, The Castle, Winchester

A SECTION ACROSS THE OTTERBOURNE-NEW FOREST ROMAN ROAD (ROUTE 422)

Summary

The section revealed a re-surfaced first century road.

Introduction

In December 1982 the Central Excavation Unit of the Department of the Environment excavated by hand a 2m wide section of the road (Margary 1973, 94) at SU 426 198 (Fig 3). This work was occasioned by the construction of a main sewer to service the new industrial estates being erected on either side of the road. The road is now a fenced-off strip within this development.

Excavation Results

The first stage of road construction after the sighting in of its line, was the preparation of the ground. The topsoil and vegetation were stripped off to reveal the underlying natural clay. This process is evidenced by the absence of any buried soil beneath the road.

Two wheel-ruts (8, 9) were found cut into the clay. They were 0.18m and 0.20m wide and 0.05m in depth and indicated an axle width of 1.70m (centre to centre). It is likely that this was

formed by a broad-wheeled cart or carts, presumably carrying the material that made up the first road surface (6). This was a very compact layer of pebbles with a small proportion of gravel and some flints, set in light grey sandy clay. It lay over and infilled the cart ruts and made a cambered surface 5.65m (18½ft) wide and 0.14m high.

The resurfacing of the road (5) increased the width mainly on the north side, to 9.00m (29½ft) and the height of 0.20m. The material used was gravel with a high proportion of grit and some pebbles. No wheel ruts were found on either road surface but there was some post-medieval disturbance (CEU Archive). An area 4.70m on the south side of the road and 6.60m on the north side was excavated and no side ditches were found.

A coin, a possible Claudian copy (Reece, R, CEU Archive), was found pressed into the clay beneath surface 5. It is not possible to state with which phase this coin is associated.

Discussion

The width of the first period road, 5.65m,

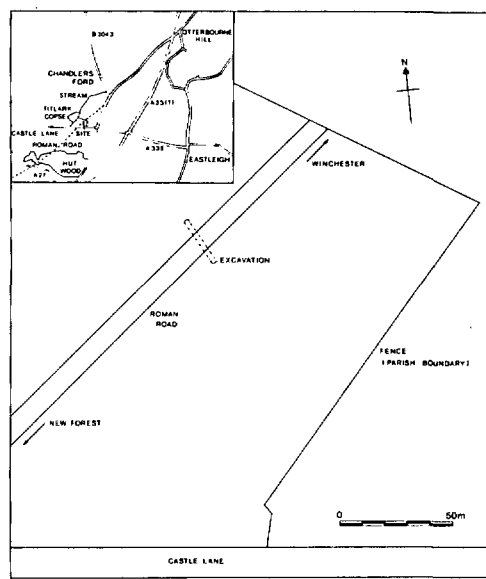
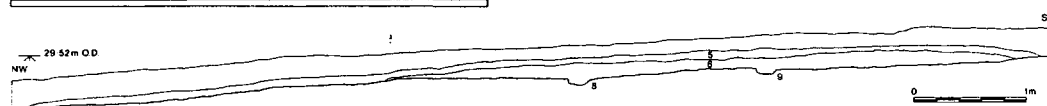


Fig 3. Otterbourne-New Forest Roman Road: location of excavation and section across the road.



compares with widths of 6.70m and *c* 5.50m recorded in sections at Cadnam (Soffe & Johnston 1974, 111). The first century date which may be assigned to this road section places it within the early layout of the South Hampshire road network (Soffe & Johnston 1974, 118).

Acknowledgements and Archive

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Author: F McAvoy, Central Excavation Unit, Historic Buildings and Monument Commission, Fortress House, 23 Savile Row, London W1