

Downderry, 1 The Drive, Farnham Road, Guildford, Surrey.
Guildford 3034

15 July 1965

Dear Frank,

Herewith my dubious prognostications about the Wingham villa, a little late I fear, but I hope not too late. It was a great pleasure to spend some time with you last Saturday after such a long interval.

The indications are not particularly strong, so I hope you will forgive me if I am at all misleading; also that you will come straight back at me with what you do find, so that I can perhaps modify the interpretation in the light of it.

The traverses do suggest that the main villa is in the middle of the field as we thought. It seems to be a winged building with the wings running toward the stream. I have drawn the graphs not in the order in which we made the traverses, but in their natural order on the ground, so that you can lay them in sequence. Moving downhill, they are in the order II, I, III, with IV running at right angles to the others at 240'. Trav. II seems to run along the main building; Trav. I to cut the wings; while Trav. III seems to miss it altogether: a slight rise in the traverse probably indicates the floor of the courtyard. A trench on the line of Trav. I between 166 and 171 feet, or at right angles to Trav. II between 162 and 290 feet would probably be good starting points.

There are high readings in the area of the disturbed ground near the starting points, and I wonder if these might represent a bath house. Unfortunately, I forgot to record where the first three traverses crossed Trav. IV, but you could do this from the pegs: I think you will find that the highest readings of IV coincide with II. It looks as though the house is about 25' wide, both in the main body and wings.

Good luck, and let me know how things go.

Yours ever,

Tony

WRY65-67/R1/3

This building was well constructed with foundations 2 ft deep and 2 ft 6 ins wide of flints laid in mortar. Only the lowest course of flints belonging to the walls survived in places to show that they had a thickness of 1 ft 9 ins., thus providing external and internal offsets at the original floor level. The building was planned as a detached rectangular structure lying east and west, 79 ft long and 51 ft wide, divided internally into a rectangular central space 46 ft by 19 ft, with aisles 10 ft wide along the north and south sides, connected at the east end by a transverse aisle of similar width, which fronted on to a series of three rectangular compartments built across the extreme east end of the building.

Access to the building was from the open ground to the south, through a doorway situated at a point to the west of the centre of the external south wall. This doorway was 6 ft wide with an external projection on each side of it, and led into the south aisle. On the other side of the aisle and immediately opposite this door was another of similar dimensions which gave access to the central area, i.e. the nave. Another door in the same position on the north side of the nave was slightly wider viz., 8 ft., and gave access to the north aisle, but there was no corresponding doorway through the north wall of the latter. The external walls on the north and south sides of the building had been extensively robbed so that only the rubble filled foundation trenches remained, but the foundations and lowest courses of the inner walls of the north and the south aisles survived to show that originally the doorways had tile built jambs. It was also seen that at a later time the doorway to the north aisle had been reduced in width by a packing of flints against each jamb.

At the extreme west end of the building appears to have been the main entrance which opened on to the nave. It was a triple entrance consisting of a central portal 8 ft wide flanked by smaller portals about 4 ft wide. No trace of a road or track led up to this entrance from the west, and the ground just beyond the end of the building was very black and waterlogged in the lower levels which suggested the bank of a small river or creek.

It is unlikely that the aisles were divided off into compartments since no signs of partitions were found, as seems to be the case in other buildings of this class found in Britain. Small isolated spreads of mortar no more than 2 ins in thickness rested on the original ground level in the aisles and in places

overlapped the internal offsets at the base of the walls ^{may be the} ~~could be taken as~~
vestiges of flooring material but could equally have been mortar droppings left
by the original builders. It has been noted elsewhere in Britain that the
central space in buildings of this class generally has an earth floor, and never
has any provision for the drainage of rain water, and the same applies to the
building under discussion. It is possible therefore, that the nave was roofed
over and was lit by clerestory windows.

~~Phase~~
~~Period~~ II.

It is not known how long the ^{Phase}~~Period~~ I building lasted, but if the conclusions reached in our discussion of the adjacent bath-building are correct, then it is possible that it had a similar history, that is, it was abandoned at the end of the second century or in the early third, and left to fall into dereliction until the end of that century when the villa estate was re-occupied. Whatever the reason it is clear that the building underwent drastic structural alterations, and the work was vastly inferior to that of the earlier building.

The nave was now enlarged eastwards to include the area formerly occupied by the transverse aisle. This was accomplished by demolishing the west wall of that aisle down to ground level, and by the insertion of roughly hewn rectangular blocks of Kentish ragstone packed with stones without mortar in cavities crudely cut for the purpose in the top of the east wall of the transverse aisle and in those of the north and south walls of the nave to the east of the side entrances. It seems likely that these blocks supported uprights of some kind to support the roof over the nave but what material was used cannot now be determined, for the tops of these blocks, where they survived in situ were devoid of any traces of mortar which might have retained the impressions of what they had once supported. The complete destruction of the outer walls of the building by robbers for building materials in later times, so that only the rubble filled foundation trenches now survive, precludes any attempt to prove how much of the original building was incorporated in the new work, but if we may hazard a guess these walls were retained and restored at that time.

It is possible that the entrance through the south wall of the nave aisle was reduced in width at this time (see Plan I above)

PHASE III.

Despite extensive damage caused by wall robbing enough evidence survived for a plan of the structure assigned to this phase to be drawn up. ~~It was~~ ^{building with foundations} ~~A~~ small detached ~~building~~ ^{now} ~~had been~~ built over the east end of the aisled building which by that time must have been demolished for it was found that ~~it~~ ^{the new concrete} overlapped the stone bases of the Phase II building, and had incorporated the foundations of that of Phase I. ~~The house was~~ ^{mainly small pieces of rubble} ~~substantially~~ ~~built~~ of ~~laid in courses~~ in mortar. It is noteworthy that with the exception of the outer east wall foundations and those of a partition wall dividing Rooms 5 and 6 all the other foundations were 3 ft wide, and this had been achieved by incorporating the foundations of the Phase I building in its construction. It consisted of five rooms at ground level with an external furnace built in a central position on to the west wall. It was clear that the building had not been examined during the 1881-2 excavations for ~~this area, as in fact all that~~ ^{all the} ~~occupied by the~~ ^{it and the} earlier aisled building, was covered by an overburden of clean loamy soil averaging ^{about 2 1/2 ft} ft deep from ground level. From this it is clear that natural agencies and agriculture, ^{causing down hill sweep of the soil} have considerably modified the gradient of the rising ground on this site.

For convenience in reporting the rooms belonging to this house are numbered 4 - 9 inclusive of the furnace.

THE WEST ANNEXE.

As the area immediately west of the aisled building has not been completely explored the layout at that end is only partially known. As it has been established that the building was subsequently extended in that direction it has been decided for purposes of identification to refer to it hereafter in this report as the West Annexe.

This additional work was not bonded into the original building as revealed by the vertical joint. The foundations of a wall were laid down on the same east-west alignment as ^{the} south wall of the north aisle and continued the line westwards for a distance of 24 ft where they turned at right-angles to go south for a distance of 12 ft where they extend beyond the area covered by the excavations. Nothing was found to establish the date of these foundations but it is possible that the work was carried out in this phase in the development of the building (i.e. Phase II).

Due to the absence of dating evidence it is not clear when further alterations were carried out at the west end of the building. At a later date, how late we cannot determine, it became necessary to increase the width of the foundations of the West Annexe, the east-west foundations were now increased in width by 9 ins, and those of the west wall by 2 ft 9 ins, providing overall widths ^{of} ~~respectively~~ 4 ft and 5 ft 10 ins, respectively. Although more excavations must be carried out in this area, it is possible that it became necessary to strengthen these foundations as they had been sunk into the marshy sub-soil bordering the stream, unlike those of the original aisled building which were based on the firm natural undisturbed yellow clayey loam. As the date of this work is at present unknown ~~and~~ it has been provisionally assigned to Phase II A.

ROOM 4.

This room was built over the remains of Room 1 belonging to the Phase I aisled building, and the foundations of the latter were incorporated in its foundations. The foundation which had once supported the east wall of the long since demolished transverse aisle was increased in thickness during this work. With the exception of the foundations of the north and south walls the others forming this room had been completely robbed out and only their rubble filled trenches remained. *A coin of Allectus (292-296) was found resting on the top of the foundation of the north wall.*

The floor lay at about 3 ft below present day ground level, and was paved with flat rectangular yellow tiles, *all badly worn* averaging 1 ft 7 ins long by 1 ft wide and a little over 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ in thick. *It was sealed by a layer of dark soil containing a small quantity of broken tiles.* These were laid on a deposit of mixed soil which contained no dateable objects, and the surface of the floor was 6 ins above that of the south aisle of the Phase I building which by that time was no longer used. As the edges of this floor were intact the room measurements were evidently 9 ft 6 ins north-south by 10 ft east-west. *It was also seen that the west edge of the paved floor was lapped by the north face of the east wall at the east end of the south aisle.*

ROOM 5.

This room measured 14 ft east-west by just under 10 ft north-south internally. The foundations for the east wall incorporated those of the east wall of the transverse aisle of the Phase I aisled building, thus increasing its thickness by 1 ft along the west side, the full width now being 3 ft. *if similar walls were built of the same stone and blocked the south end of the transverse aisle.* The foundations of the south wall also incorporated the earlier foundations *at the west end* so that the width was now 3 ft, by inserting the new foundations along the north side. These foundations overlapped the south-east angle of the Phase I nave, as also two of the stone bases belonging to the Phase II building.

All that survived of the floor in this room was a small fragment of white concrete with a smooth greyish coloured upper surface, which was still in situ in the south-east corner. From this it could be seen that this floor was about 6 ins below the level of that in Room 4 described above.

ROOM 6.

This room adjoined Room 5 on the north, and although its north wall foundations and their trench had been almost destroyed enough remained to establish that was about the same size as the former. All traces of its

ROOM 7.

Very little can be said about this room for here the building robbers had been most destructive, but its scanty remains suggested that ~~it was the counterpart of Room 4 at the south end of the building and was of similar dimensions. It has~~ ~~it was the counterpart of Room 4 at the south end of the building and was of similar dimensions. It has~~ therefore been tentatively restored as such on the plan.

ROOM 8.

This room was built on the site formerly occupied by the central room in the range across the east end of the Phase I aisled building described above as Room 2. The new room (4) had been extensively robbed of its building materials, and the robbers had dumped a thick deposit of tightly packed building debris in the space that it occupied. In this debris were many lumps of thick concrete evidently floor material for a number of pieces had a smooth greyish coloured finish on one face, identical to the fragment of floor found still in situ in the north-east corner of Room 5 described above. Nothing of the floor of Room 8 had survived, but it is possible in view of the quantity of floor debris filling it, that more than one floor had been destroyed, and this floor may have been one of them.

THE FURNACE (No. 9 on plan).

A furnace was installed against the west wall bounding Rooms 5 and 6. It consisted of a foundation built of flints in mortar forming a rectangular structure open ended on the west side. The vertical joint showed that it had not been bonded into the main building. In the centre of that part of this flint structure which butted on to the building was a space presumably for a vertical flue or chimney. Associated with this structure were two parallel horizontal channels roughly built of fragments of tiles set in clay to form the furnace, which was stoked from the west end. *The surface of the soil along the east end of these channels enclosed by the flint foundation was burnt.*

Nothing of the superstructure which had ~~been supported~~ ^{once stood} on the flint base had survived, but patches of opus signinum on the upper surface of the latter ^{and extending on to the opposite wall of Rooms 5 and 6 adjoining it.} suggested that ~~it was probably~~ a heated water tank, probably having an overall external measurement of about 8 ft by 5 ft. There were no signs of ^{any channel passing through} ~~any entrance in~~ the west wall of the building, ~~here~~, and the end of the partition wall occupied part of the space where one could have been, hence it is difficult to determine whether or not there was access to the tank from within the building. Probably there was not and in that event one can only suppose that the hot water was conveyed from the tank in pipes which passed through the west wall. ^{at a high level now gone.}

At either end of the west wall was a foundation which projected out for the same distance as the flint built base of the furnace. As there was ^{space of} definitely no cross wall joining these projections, the structure they supported must have been open-ended and ^{may have} had a lean-to roof to protect that end of the furnace. It was also very evident that the surface of the soil along each side of the furnace channels and in front of the furnace mouth had been subjected to intense heat. For a distance of 2 ft out, the ^{forming a sub-rectangular area} surface was baked very hard and ~~was~~ much fire-reddened diminishing to nothing at the margins. This strongly suggests that the actual furnace stood out in the open, for the risk of an accidental fire would have been very great, hence if part of the earlier aisled building's central area still survived, it seems reasonable to think that it was no longer roofed over.

PHASE IV.

The archaeological features belonging to this the final phase in the history of the site were unexpected and are of great interest and of some importance for they provide a brief glimpse of what happened there in the post-Roman period. The first came to light in the area enclosed by the much destroyed foundations of Room 7 of the Phase III house. This was sealed by a deposit of silty black soil, which had fairly well defined edges ^{filling} to form a shallow depression which on plan was ^{sub-}rectangular ^{and measured 4 ft x 6 ft}. Only two post-holes spaced about 3 ft apart ^{and 4 ft centre to centre} were found near the north-west corner of this feature and at right-angles to the line of the west side. However, it is virtually certain that this was the site of a squalid dwelling having an earthen floor which had been established within the ruined room. The absence of any other post-holes around its margins could be explained by assuming that the walls of the room by that time were ruinous and served as dwarf walls to support some kind of roof. Unfortunately this cannot be confirmed for the foundations of these walls ^{had been} ~~were found to be~~ completely robbed out and only the rubble filled trenches remained. From the floor of black soil came a few pieces of Roman pottery, mainly undateable, but one certainly of late 4th century type, and a piece of burnished black ware bearing a grooved decoration of a type now recognised as Anglo-Frisian. Finally there was an iron ^{and an iron spearhead of a spear} arrowhead, of Germanic type.

Another shallow depression but without any well defined edges and definitely not associated with any post-holes was found in the open space outside and to the south of Room 4. This was less than 6 ins deep towards the centre and was filled with a similar black soil deposit. From this came a few pieces of Anglo-Frisian pottery, part of a double-sided bone comb of late Roman or post-Roman pattern, and fourteen fragments of glass vessels, eleven of which represent cone beakers which in Dr Harden's opinion are probably of 5th century date.

In addition to these, part of a pottery vase with a pedestal base in burnished black ware, bearing a grooved decoration, was found in the building ^{the dark loam over the} debris in the south-west corner of Room 5 ^{and an iron knife of 5th century date against the north face of the south wall} ~~of the Phase III house~~. Finally pieces of a wide-mouthed pottery bowl in the same ware was also found in the ash at the bottom of the roughly built furnace channel (20) on the site of the bath-house.

