

# Report on a Belgic and Roman Site at the Causeway, Horndean (1959)

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THE site is situated 200 yards west of the Portsmouth to London road,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of Horndean. It occupies a broad ridge of Reading Clay, 250 ft. above sea level and shelving gradually to the south.

Building operations, carried out by Nichols Ltd., had already reached an advanced state when a workman, Mr J. H. Horton, recovered a group of pottery and a quern stone (Site 2) which had been exposed in a drain trench. The find was reported to the Portsmouth Museum, representatives of which visited the site and excavated a small gully (Site 1).

Subsequently Mr Horton recovered pottery from Sites 3, 4, 5.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

### Site 1

A drain trench, cut between Nos. 2 and 4 Lyne Place, showed clearly a small gully. On excavation it was found to end 1 ft. south of the front garden wall and run in a south-westerly direction between the two houses for at least 28 ft. It must then either have ended or turned in a westerly direction under the house, for a trench cut a further 20 ft. to the south-west, failed to detect it. The intervening space was not available for excavation.

The gully was V-shaped in section, 4 ft. wide and cut to a depth of 2 ft. into the natural clay. It was sealed by 3 in. of plough soil and 9 in. of topsoil. The filling of the gully was of brown clayey soil containing thick patches of charcoal and burnt flints.

Finds consisted of quantities of pottery (Fig. 2), a fragment of the topstone of a quern and pieces of clay loom weight.

### Site 2

Drain trenches and sumps, dug outside the west corner of No. 2 Lyne Place, produced pottery and a quern fragment.

Inspection of the trench revealed a ditch, running in a north-south direction, 6 ft. wide and at least 4 ft. deep. It was filled with grey silty clay, packed with large unworn flints.

### Sites 3, 4, 5

Pottery from these sites was later rescued by Mr Horton. No details of stratigraphy survived.

## THE FINDS

### POTTERY (FIG. 2)

1. Large globular jar with a short neck and an everted rim. Red ware with a thin grey core; contains fine flint grit and is fired black on the surface.
2. Large jar with straight sides, a high shoulder and a well defined bead rim. Grey gritty ware, with traces of burnishing but the surface is very worn.

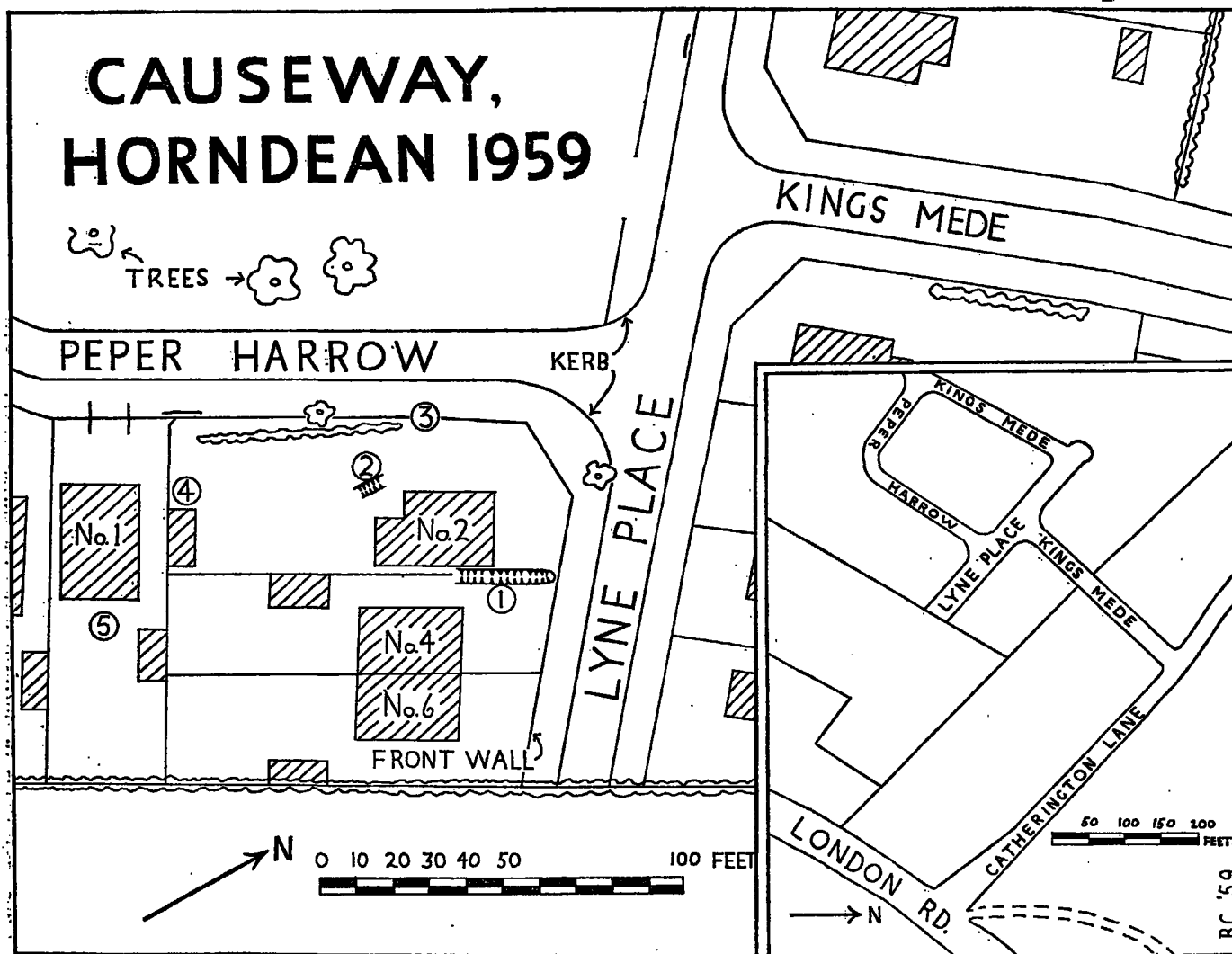


FIG. 1. Plans showing position of sites in relation to the modern houses.  
(Sites marked by figure in a circle.)

## BELGIC AND ROMAN SITE AT HORNDEN

Bead rim jars of this type have a wide distribution in the S. Belgic areas (Huckswood, H.F.C., XIX, p. 59, 15-19), and continued to be produced during the early Roman period (H.F.C. XVII, Fig. 4, 1-4, 7-9; Clausentum 1951-54, Fig. 20, 9-14.)

3. Small jar with everted rim and a high shoulder. Hard grey ware. (Clausentum 1951-54, Fig. 19, No. 7.)
4. Small jar with a black burnished surface and a shallow zig-zag design on the shoulder. Hard dark grey sandy ware. (Ver. 1936, Plate LI, No. 23.)
5. Large jar with a bead rim; black burnished surface with a shallow tooled wavy line on the shoulder. Hard dark grey sandy ware. (H.F.C. X, Fig. 66, Plate IV.)
6. Jar with a well marked bead rim flattened at the top. Black burnished surface; dark grey gritty ware.
7. Jar with an everted rim. Hard grey gritty ware, fired black on surface. (Clausentum, Type BER I; H.F.C. X, Fig. 78, Plate V.)
8. (Not illustrated.) Very small fragment of Amphora.
9. Bowl with a vertical rim and traces of burnishing on the shoulder. Body decorated with shallow vertical lines. Red sandy ware.

This group (1-9) is of Belgic date, probably early to mid 1st century A.D. The amphora fragment (8) may be accounted for as the product of trade with the continental Roman world.

### Site 2

10. Jar with outcurving rim. Hard grey Roman ware.
11. Large jar with a short vertical neck and outcurving rim. Hard grey Roman ware.
12. Flagon neck with a single handle which emerges just below the rim. The surface is very worn but there are slight traces of vertical lines on the neck. Red/grey sandy ware. This is a 3rd or possibly 4th century type. It bears similarities to Winchester types (H.F.C. XVIII, Fig. 2, No. 2, and Chilbolton Down, H.F.C. XV, 212.)
13. Very large coarse storage jar. Soft grey gritty paste, fired black and red in patches. Other fragments of storage jar bear finger impressions on the inside. These are usually found in Mid to Late Roman sites. (For discussion of this type see page 14 of this volume).

### Site 3

14. Very large storage jar with a bead rim. Dark grey ware with large flint grit, fired red and black in patches. Hand-made native pot. (Ver., Fig. 23, 2.)
15. Similar to above but smaller.
16. Everted rim jar with weak shoulder. Hard grey Roman ware.

### Site 4

17. Large bead rim jar with black burnished outer surface. Dark grey ware with small flint grit. Hand made native pot. (Clausentum 1951-54, Fig. 20, No. 9.)
18. Everted rim jar in grey Roman ware.
19. Butt Beaker with burnished lines on the neck. Grey sandy ware, Belgic.

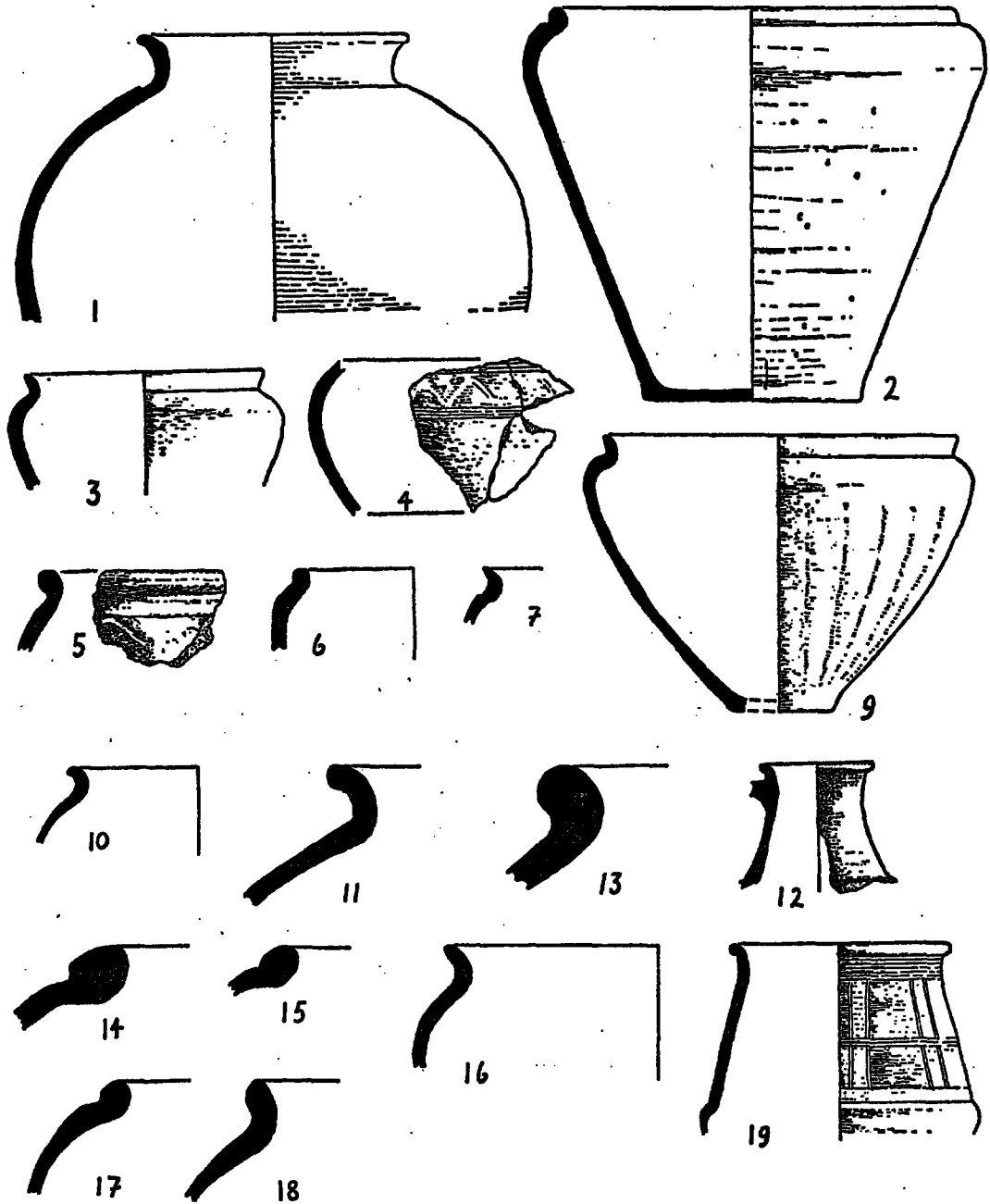


FIG. 2. Causeway Horndean Pottery, 1/4.

## BELGIC AND ROMAN SITE AT HORNDEAN

### Site 5

It contained only a few sherds of soft grey Roman ware (not illustrated).

#### QUERNS (not illustrated)

1. Site 1. Found in the bottom of the gully. Fragment of the top stone of a quern, radius 18.7 cm., 11.5 cm. thick at outside.  
This is a typical quern of the period 50 B.C. to A.D. 50 (*Antiquity*, Vol. 15, p. 23, Fig. 24a).
2. Discovered on Site 2 in a builder's trench. Large part of the bottom stone of a quern, 18.5-19.5 cm. radius and 5 cm. thick at outside.  
A typical quern of the late Roman period (*Antiquity*, Vol. 15, p. 23, Fig. 27).

#### LOOM WEIGHTS (not illustrated)

### Site 1

Fragments of several triangular loom weights made of ill-fired clay were found at the bottom of the gully. One fragment showed a perforation  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. diameter at right angles to the apex. (Cf. Wheathampstead, Ver. 1936, Plate LII, Fig. 5.)

## CONCLUSIONS

The area bears witness of occupation during the first four centuries A.D.

The only stratified group of finds (Site 1) may be assigned to the latter part of the Belgic period, i.e. the first half of the 1st century A.D. Isolated Belgic sherds also occur in the other sites, e.g. (Fig. 2) 14, 15, 17, 19, but it is conceivable that they represent the native traditions lingering on during the Roman period. At Clausentum (1956) native types are found as late as Flavian times.

Occupation continued during the 2nd century, Fig. 2 (10, 11, 16, 18) and into the 3rd and possibly early 4th centuries. It is to this period that the pottery and quern of Site 2 may be attributed.

A similar site occurs at Huckwood (H.F.C. XIX, 47 ff.) 4 miles to the north-east of the Causeway site. Here occupation dates back to Iron Age A2/AB and continues until the 4th century A.D. It should be noted that the Huckwood site is situated on open chalk land, whereas the Causeway site is situated on clay,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of the chalk.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks are due to Mr Horton, who had the foresight to realise the importance of the pottery and to report it; to Nichols Ltd., for permission to dig on their land; to Mr A. Corney of the Cumberland House Museum, for drawing our attention to the site and for help and advice given during and after the excavations, and finally to Mr S. Potter and Mr A. B. Norton for their help in the excavations.

## ABBREVIATIONS

H.F.C. *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club.*  
Ver. *Verulamium. A Belgic and Two Roman Cities.* Wheeler, 1936.  
Clausentum. *Excavations at Clausentum, 1951-1954.* Cotton and Gathercole, 1958.