

Note on a Roman Site at Bedminster Down.

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In a previous number* a reference was made to the discovery in 1922 of Roman pottery and fragments of tile on the edge of a quarry 150 yards to the south of the Bridgwater road, and about 440 yards S.W. of its junction with the Bishopsworth road.

Previously, in 1904, Roman pottery had been found close to the Bridgwater road opposite the 1922 site. The whole of the area between the two sites consisted up to the past year of filled in quarries, but now the whole area in question has been turned into a housing site, and houses have already been erected. Trenching for roads, sewers and foundations revealed two facts. Firstly that a small portion of Roman walling existed where the pottery was found in 1922, and plaster as well as a number of pot sherds also came to light, including a small quantity of Samian ware. Secondly that the site discovered in 1922, was but a very small remnant of what was once a much larger one, extending northwards as far as the Bridgwater road, alongside which pottery was found in 1904, and that there was no extension of the 1922 site southwards or westwards while to the east it had already been quarried away.

At first site this would appear to be an isolated site, far from any known Roman road; but Mr. O. G. S. Crawford suggested to the writer that the road passing over Dundry Hill to Bishopsworth, and thence to Bedminster, and through Bristol to the Horfield and Filton road, is in reality the line of a lost Roman road. At all events the stretch from Dundry to Bedminster Down, if we ignore modern deviations, is remarkably straight. Thus the Roman site at the latter place obtains fresh significance as an important piece of evidence in support of this supposition, and the presence of a possible Roman road is a point in favour of the site being a villa. In fact each is the complement of the other.

* *Proc.*, Vol. 2, No. 1, p. 89.