

THE
Dorsetshire Archæological Journal

EXCAVATIONS AND DISCOVERIES
WITHIN THE LEGIONARY FORTRESS IN
DAVYGATE, YORK, 1955-8.

By PETER WENHAM.

PREAMBLE.

The discoveries here described were made at the junction of New Street and Davygate, York, where rebuilding took place in 1957/8. The site and its relationship to the legionary fortress wall and the south-west gateway (*porta praetoria*) is shown on figs. 1 and 2. The report is divided up thus:—

- I. Excavations conducted by the writer for the Ancient Monuments Inspectorate of the Ministry of Works 1955-6, when four small (Trenches Nos. 1-4 of fig. 2).
- II. The discovery of Roman buildings during preliminary trenching on the site in 1956, which led to the excavation by the writer of four more trenches (Nos. 5-8 of fig. 2).
- III. Incidental discoveries during the clearing of the site to a depth of 12-14 ft. by a mechanical excavator in 1956-8 (noted on fig. 2).

All photographs except plate VIII (by Mr. T. Manby), plate XXIV (by Mr. H. Bowes) and plates XXI-XXIII (by Messrs. Catcheside) are by Mr. R. A. Hill. Thanks are also due to Mr. H. Richardson who assisted in drawing the plans and sections, and to Mr. John Gillam, Mr. Brian Hartley, Mrs. Kathleen Hartley and Mr. Ian M. Stead (denoted in the text as J.G., B.H., K.H. and I.M.S. respectively); who helped in identifying the pottery—Mr. T. Manby has drawn the pottery; other acknowledgements appear in the text.

PART I.

TRENCHES 1-4 (fig. 2).

Permission to excavate was granted by the Yorkshire Insurance Company, the owners of the site. Work on trenches 1 and 2 began on 13th December, 1955, and ended on 8th February, 1956: trenches 3 and 4 were dug 9th April-12th May, 1956. Three workmen were employed throughout, and worked enthusiastically and energetically during both periods of excavation, particularly during the first, when the weather was very bad. Mr. T. G. Manby led the digging, and, under the writer's direction, was responsible for day-to-day recording of the finds and strati-

fication; without his keenness and close supervision the work could not have been done.

LEGIONARY FORTRESS, YORK

SITE OF 1955-1960 EXCAVATIONS
ON S.W. FRONT

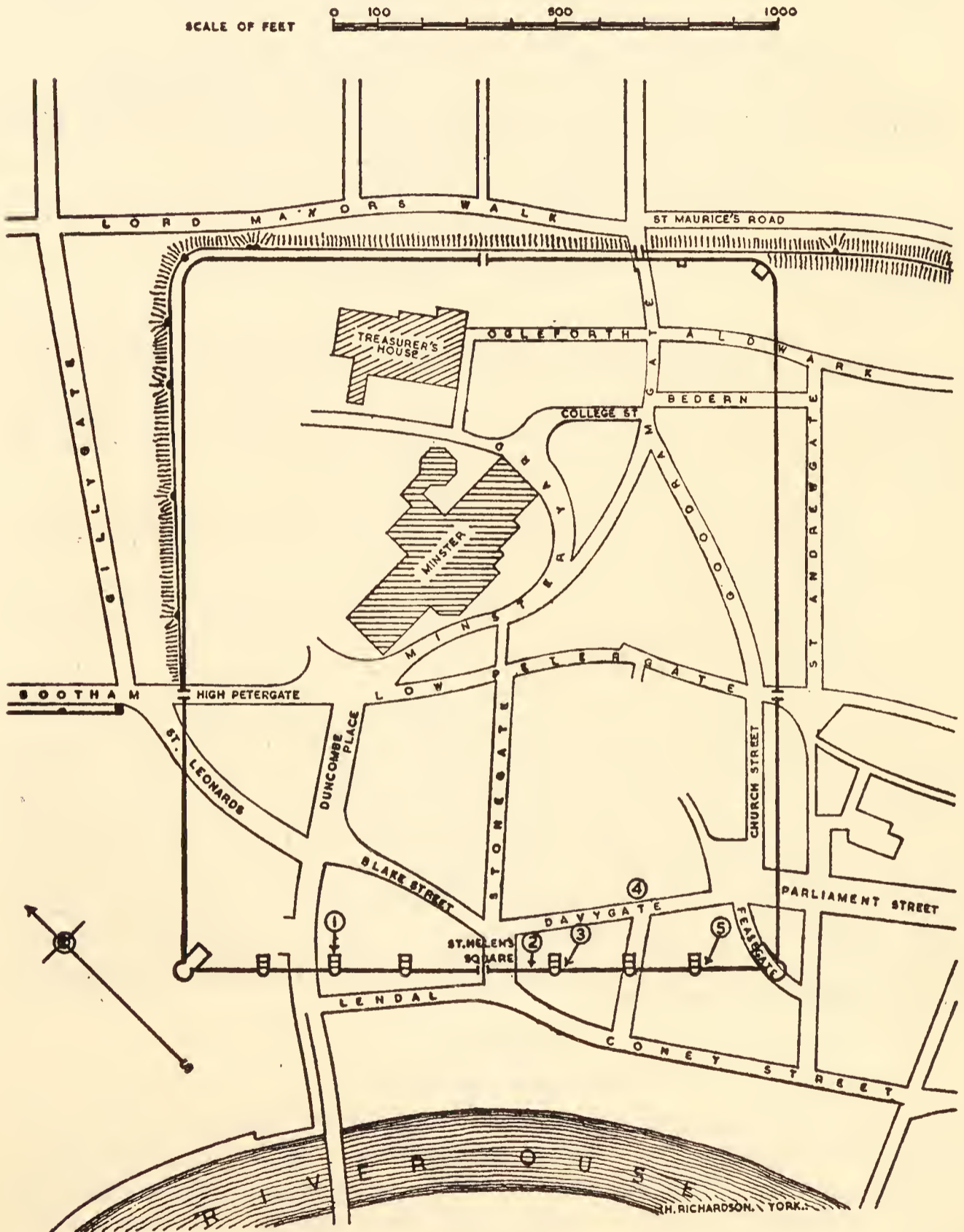


FIG. 1.

Key:—(1) 4th cent. interval tower (S.W.5) excavated 1960. (2) Site of H. G. Ramm's excavation in Coney Street, 1955. (3) Site of the Davygate excavations described in this report. (4) Site of G. F. Wilmot's excavation in 1958. (5) Site of Feasegate excavations described in the previous part of this Journal.

INTRODUCTION.

In 1955, Mr. H. G. Ramm dug a trench 16½ ft. long, on the inner side of the south-west wall of the fortress some 13 yards nearer the *porta praetoria* than the present excavation (see fig. 1). His work,¹ with that of S. N. Miller thirty years ago,² added considerably to the knowledge of the structural phases of the fortress on the south-west front. The purpose of this excavation was to dig, if possible, further behind the fortress wall than Mr. Ramm could do and so to amplify the picture of the defences. Trench 1 (6 ft. square), 14 ft. away from the inner side of the wall, just overlapped that covered by Mr. Ramm's 1955 trench. Trench 2 (9 ft. square) was dug 17 ft. further into the fortress than trench 1 (i.e. 37½ ft. away from the inner face of the fortress wall. These trenches proved complementary to those of the earlier excavations. Trench 3 (6 ft. square) encountered a deep cellar which had cut through and destroyed the Roman levels completely. Trench 4 (5 ft. by 7 ft.), dug in the same "horizon" as trench 3 in relation to the fortress wall (i.e., 62 ft. away from its inner face) was taken down to subsoil and produced valuable results.

In trenches 1 and 2, the various structural and occupational phases encountered are dealt with in the opposite order to that in which they were encountered, that is beginning with the earliest chronologically. In trench 4 they were described in the order in which they were met. The layer numbers relate to the layers in the sections of the three trenches:—trench 1, fig. 3; trench 2, figs. 7 and 8, and trench 4, fig. 14. In these trenches taken together, seven phases were recognised, four certainly Roman,³ one late Roman—pre-9/10th cent.,⁴ one late Anglian or Viking and one mediaeval. In the account which follows, similar structural or occupational phases in the various trenches dug are given the same number; it has been impossible, however, to employ the same "layer" numbers for corresponding layers in this way.

TRENCH 1.

(Plates I, III, IV and VI and figs. 3-6).

PHASE I.⁵

This is represented by the nineteen sherds of pottery from previous occupation found in the turf revetment (layer 13) built

¹ Published *JRS* xlvii (1956), pp. 76-90.

² Published *JRS* xv (1925), pp. 176-194 and xviii (1928), pp. 61-99.

³ Five—possibly six—Roman phases have now been recognised in the S.W. defences of the fortress here at York. The Severan may have been encountered in this Davygate excavation but could not be identified with certainty (see p. 523). It certainly existed, of course, see Messrs. Ramm and Miller (*op. cit.*) and p. 580 later.

⁴ For this phase see further pp. 531-3 and 537.

⁵ Soon after the excavation took place, I numbered this Phase Ia and postulated an occupation here earlier than that traditionally associated with the first (c.A.D. 71) in York (*vide* summary in *JRS* xlvii (1956), p. 76). The clearance of the site produced further information which disproved this.



TRENCH No. 1

SECTION D - A

SECTION C - B

SECTION C - D

SECTION B - A

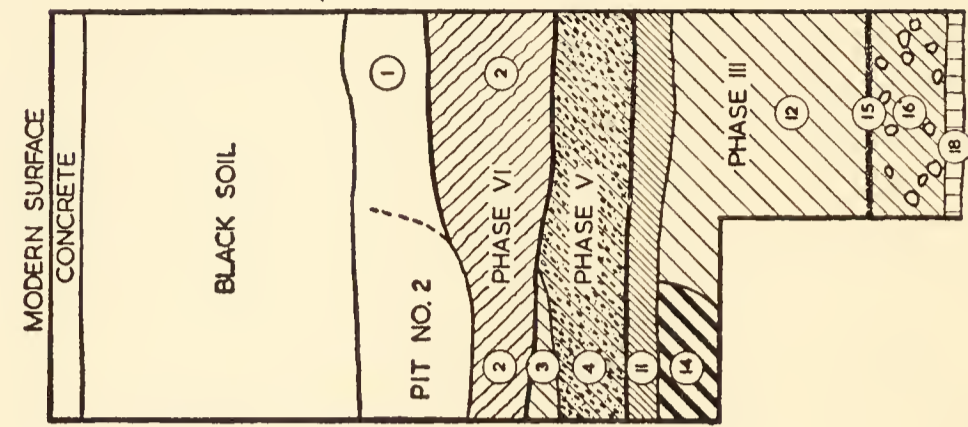
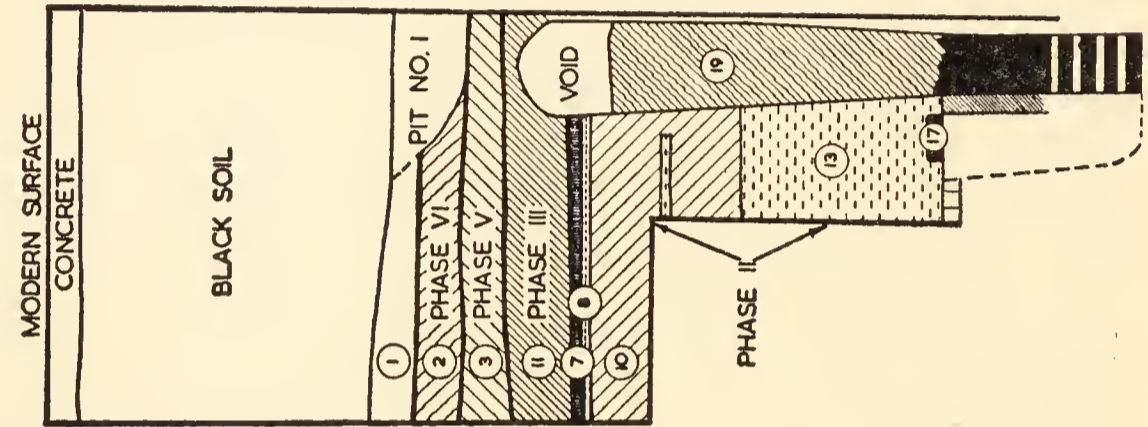
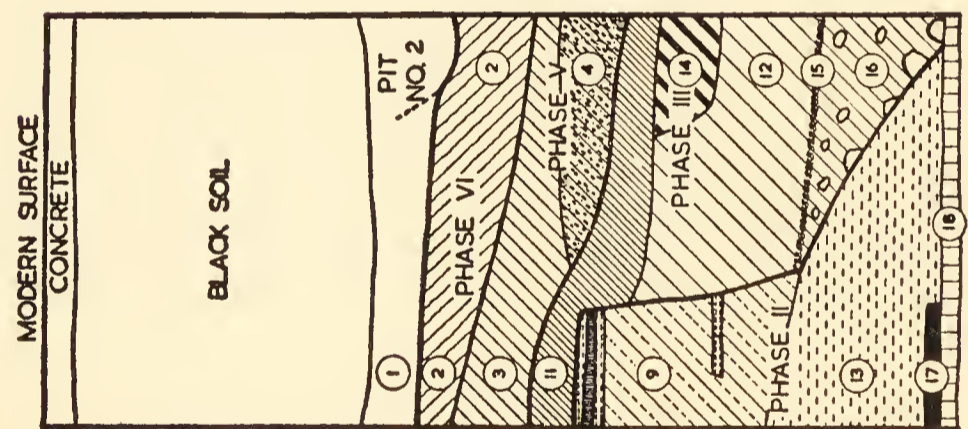
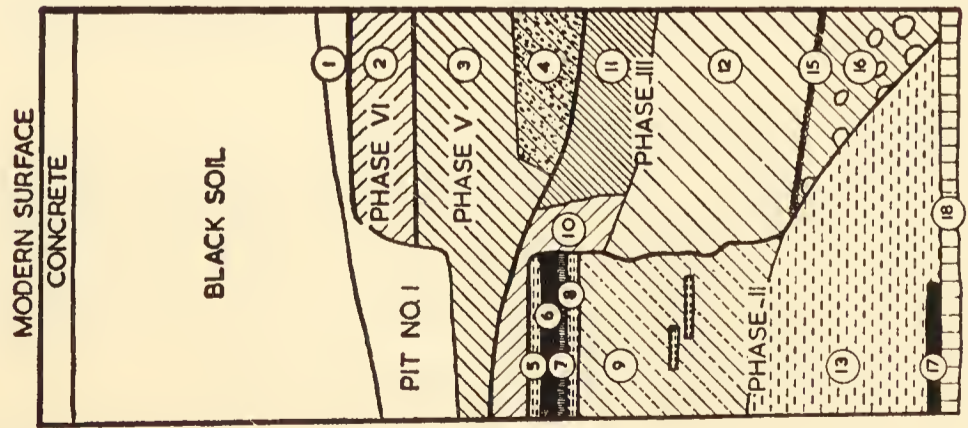
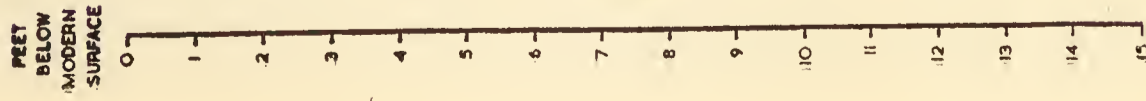


FIG. 3. Trench 1. Sections D-A, C-B, C-D and B-A.

up around a wooden interval tower inserted in the Phase II rampart (see pp. 512-3). These sherds (eight of which are illustrated in fig. 4 and described below) consisted of the following:—one Samian, Form 27 (not illustrated), one rusticated ware (illustrated no. 2 below), one amphora, one mortarium (illustrated no. 7 below), four grey ware (two—nos. 1 and 4 below—illustrated), five red ware (two—nos. 3 and 5 below—illustrated) and six buff ware (two—nos. 6 and 8 below—illustrated).

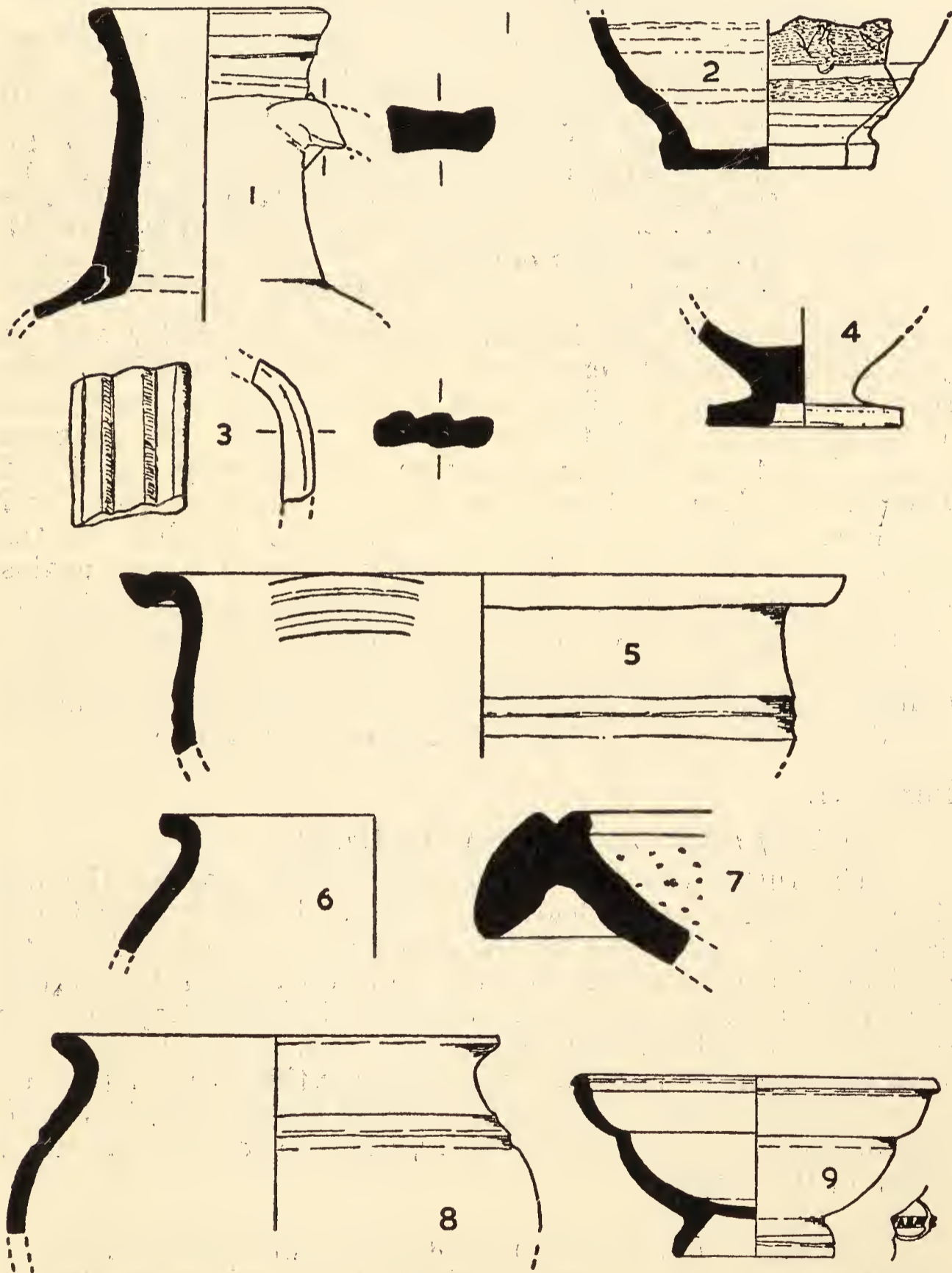


FIG. 4. Pottery.

Trench 1. Nos. 1-8, Layer 13, in turf revetment. No. 9, Layer 16. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

Fig. 4.

- No. 1. Neck of flagon in light grey fabric.
- No. 2. Base and part of sides of a grey, rusticated cooking-pot.
- No. 3. Treble reeded handle in dull orange fabric.
- No. 4. ?Pedestal base of small bowl or tazza in grey fabric oxidised dirty-buff colour on the outside.
- No. 5. Rim and shoulder of carinated bowl in dirty pinkish-cream fabric. Two shallow grooves in the rim and two broad grooves on the shoulder.
- No. 6. Rim and shoulder of cooking-pot or storage-jar in buff fabric, fumed grey on the rim itself.
- No. 7. Mortarium of red-brown fabric with darker surface, white and grey grit, and coarse scoring inside and on the flange. The inside is burnt black. Similar mortaria (Gillam type 237) have been recorded from the north of Britain previously. Brough-on-Humber (*IVth Interim Report*, p. 57, no. 57, Flavian pit), and Fendoch (*P.S.A.S.*, lxxiii, p. 144, fig. 15, no. 3, Flavian I, c. A.D. 83-90) are dated examples. The type was probably made in Britain, perhaps in military kilns. (K.H.).
- No. 8. Rim and shoulder of cooking-pot in dirty-buff fabric, fumed grey on the outside. Two well-marked grooves on the shoulder.

They are clearly Flavian. Professor Eric Birley and Mr. John Gillam, who have examined them, prefer a date after, rather than before, A.D. 80. These sherds, belonging to an occupation of the area from which the turves were stripped, give an upper dating limit to the rampart-structure in which they were found. They do not date the foundation of any original rampart, for it was later established (see pp. 557-9 and fig. 24) that the turf rampart was associated with a wooden interval tower, against which it had been built. The post-A.D. 80 date warranted by the pottery found in the turf rampart implies that the tower was rebuilt in the Agricolan Phase (II) of the fortress. The Phase I rampart (and possibly even a Phase I tower) was entirely removed in order to make room for the building of the new one.

PHASE II.

(i) *Turf revetment.* (Plate I and fig. 3).

The turf revetment was puzzling since this was the first time that such a feature had been observed in the York legionary defences.¹ It was revealed when the site was cleared by the mechanical excavator that it was built up against the vertical timbers of an interval tower. In view of the pottery found in these turves and already described above, this tower and its associated rampart could not belong to anything earlier than the second Flavian phase of the defences and might even, in view of certain other factors discussed later, have belonged to a modification of that phase.

¹ Mr. Ramm (*op. cit.*, p. 80) found hints of what he thought might have been a turf batter at the front of what corresponds to my Phase II rampart. Turf revetments at the rear of both the Phase I and Phase II ramparts were found in 1960 in Lendal (report impending).

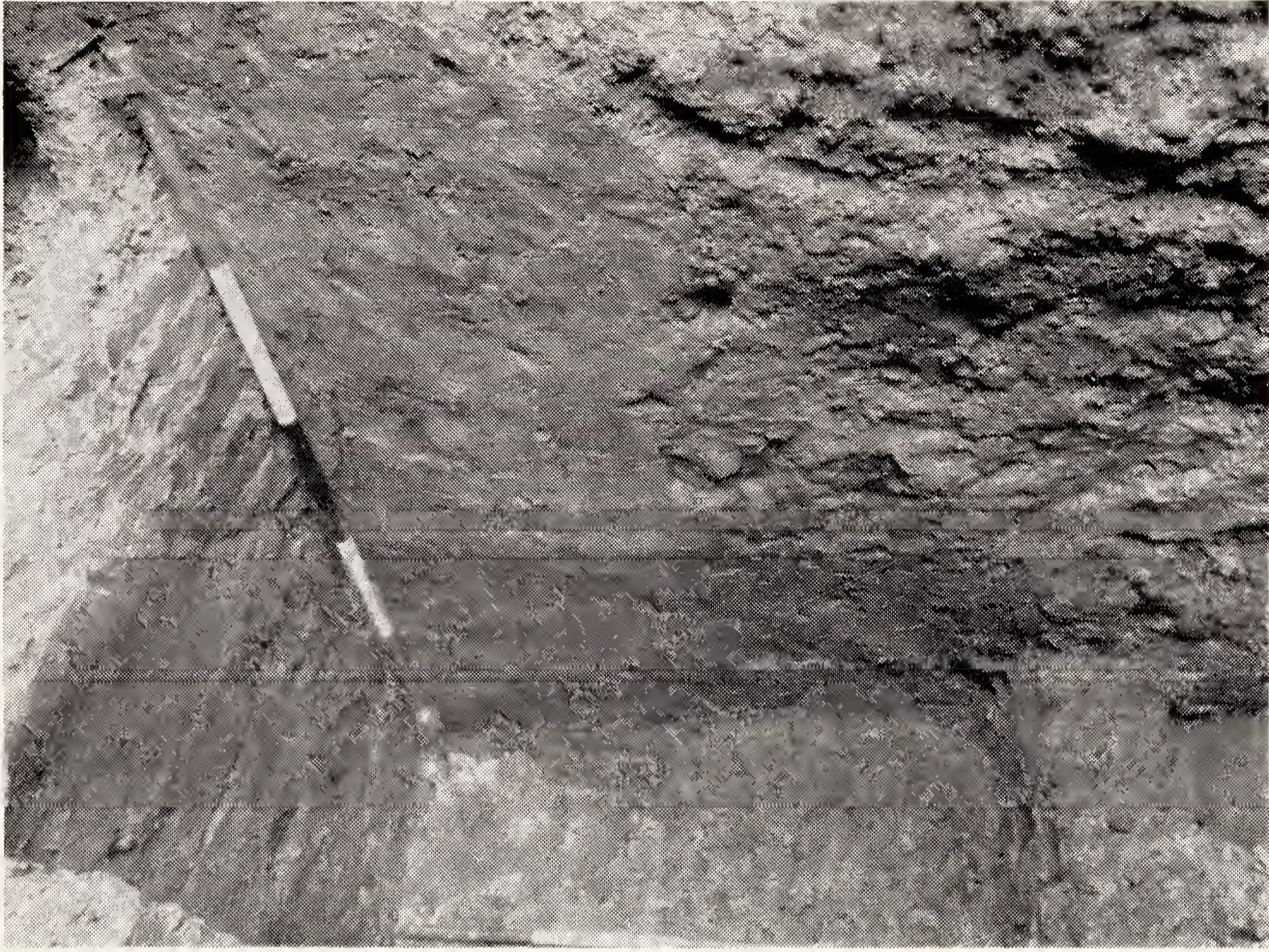


PLATE I.

Trench 1. Flavian (Phase II) rampart and turf revetment; Trajanic and 4th century ramparts; post hole of wooden interval tower; oak strapping below Flavian rampart.



PLATE II.

Trench 2. The pegs in the side of the trench denote the top of a layer of cobbles of the toe of the Trajanic (Phase III) intervallum.



PLATE III. Trench I. As Plate I. Note void at the top of the post-hole.



PLATE IV. Trench I. Part of the filling of the post-hole removed.

On fig. 3 layer 18, 3-4 ins. thick constitutes the top of the natural brown boulder clay stained by organic matter (plant roots &c.). On this were found what remained of parts of four¹ oak strappings (layer 17), lying side by side, they were so decayed that only approximate measurements could be taken. They were about 4 ins. wide, 1-2 ins. thick and were about 1 ft. 3 ins. apart, they projected 20-24 ins. into the trench and then continued under the unexcavated trench side, so that it was impossible to ascertain their original length. Pieces of them, examined by Dr. R. D. Preston, Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Leeds, were identified as oak.

On these stood the turf revetment (layer 13), standing at its highest (nearest to the outer defences) 2 ft. 11 ins. and tapering to nothing a few inches inside the trench. There was no indication of dark lines and lighter masses indicating coursing of the turves following the usual Roman practice, but the turves peeled off in excavation and two of them still had surface plants adhering to them (see report, in Appendix I). Among the turves lay the nineteen sherds of pottery already referred to, eight of which have been illustrated (fig. 4, nos. 1-8) and described (p. 512). They occurred at various levels in the turves, but none was found either on the boulder clay beneath them or above the turf work.

(ii) *Post-hole of one of the six supports of an interval tower.* (Plates I, III and IV and fig. 3).

At an early stage in the excavation, in cutting one side of the trench (section C-D), the soil fell away from the top of a deep and large post-hole an inch or so behind the face of the trench. Ultimately the hole was exposed in its entirety, drawn (Section C-D) and photographed (Plates I, III and IV). The stump of the post itself was still *in situ*, and when the area was later cleared by the mechanical excavator it was removed. It was 3 ft. long, square-bottomed and measured some 9 ins. by 12 ins. though broken by workmen in its extraction.

Four facts concerning this post-hole are particularly noteworthy. Firstly, the void at the top which measured 18 ins. in depth and 20 ins. at its widest, was circular rather than square or oblong in shape; secondly, the topmost 10 ins. of the void was above the top of the second Flavian rampart (Phase II) with which it was clearly associated; thirdly, the filling which was very loose brown clay, had never been compressed by ramming of any

¹ Many more were found during the clearing of the site. One important difference between this Davygate excavation and that of Mr. Ramm in Coney Street is that whereas he found two layers of strappings one above the other—the lowest relating to the first Flavian defences on the site and the uppermost to the second—in the section seen in Davygate, both in excavation and in clearing the site, only one layer was encountered. This is one of the reasons which leads to the suggestion that this tower and its attendant rampart represents a modification of the Phase II defences.

sort; fourthly, the post-hole tapered from about 11 ins. at the bottom where it was roughly rectangular to 20 ins. across the rounded top. Later, during the clearing of the site, the stumps of three other posts of this self-same interval tower were encountered nearby (see pp. 557-62). They too were approximately 11 ins. square. Further, it then became evident that a turf revetment had been built up alongside the tower in pyramid form alongside and inside at least a part of the tower when it was constructed

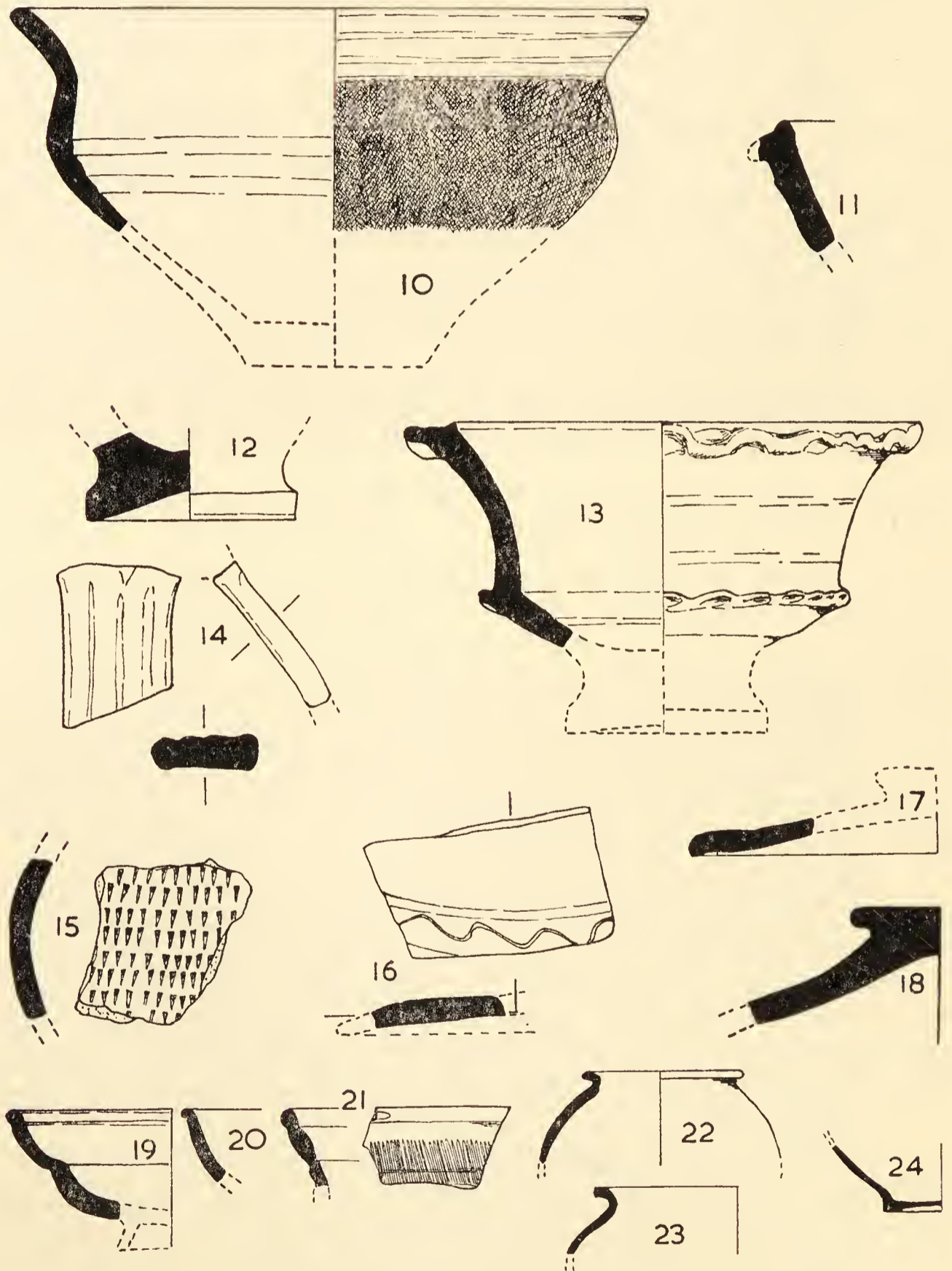


FIG. 5. Pottery.
Trench 1. Layer 11. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

(see fig. 24). The widening of the post-hole towards the top could, therefore, only have been due to the fact of its having been 'rocked'. Whether this was due to the effect of the buffetings of winds and gales to which the upper part of the tower must have been subjected or to an abortive attempt at its removal, can only be surmised. If the latter was the case the void noted at the top of the hole, above the top of the second Flavian rampart, can only be explained by assuming that this attempt to remove the post occurred after the Phase III (Trajanic) rampart had been built up to a height of at least 8 ins. above, and on top of, the second Flavian one. The post itself must have been left buried in the new higher rampart and the hole is explained by gradual rotting of the post from the top, with a trickle of falling soil gradually taking its place.

(iii) *Clay rampart above the turf.* (Plate I and fig. 3).

This (layer 9) was encountered only in the 3 ft. of the trench nearest to the outer defences, where it covered part of the turf revetment to a maximum height of 3 ft. 2 ins. (or 6 ft. above the natural boulder clay). It consisted of brown clay with a few isolated turves built into it, surmounted by two layers of turf (layers 5 and 8), each 2-2½ ins. thick, and separated by two thin bands of clay, (layer 6) 2-2½ ins. thick and (layer 7) 1-1½ ins. thick. Both turf layers occurred in the sections cut at right angles to the line of the fortress wall (D-A and C-B), but only the bottom one (layer 8) and the lower of the two bands of the intervening clay—the brown (layer 7), was detected in the section (C-D) running parallel to the defences.

Among the sections obtained in this trench (fig. 3) section D-A not only shows an almost vertical edge to the rampart but shows a top slightly overhanging the lower part (see Plate I). This section lies just inside the interval-tower, while section C-B lies outside it. As both sections show virtually identical profiles, this must mean that the rampart went through the tower unaltered below a tower on stilts as at Lincoln.¹ It is to be expected that inside the tower there was some shuttering against the back of the rampart and this might explain the slight overhang of section D-A. None was found in the excavation; it would presumably be removed when the tower was dismantled when the Trajanic (my Phase III) rampart was built up over it. The removal of such shuttering could well explain the crumbling away of some of the clay of the rampart immediately behind it. Another fact arising out of this (also referred to again later) is that the lowest room or chamber in the interval tower in view of the discovery of the rampart edge as shown on this section (D-A) could not have measured more than 7½ × 10 ft.—the latter measure-

¹ F. T. Baker, *Ten Seasons' Digging 1945-1954* (Lincoln Archaeological Research Committee) 1955, p. 5, fig. 2.

ment representing the distance between the two rear upright supporting posts. In this chamber would doubtless have been a ladder or *ascensus* giving access to the first storey of the tower at rampart level (for further on this see p. 559).

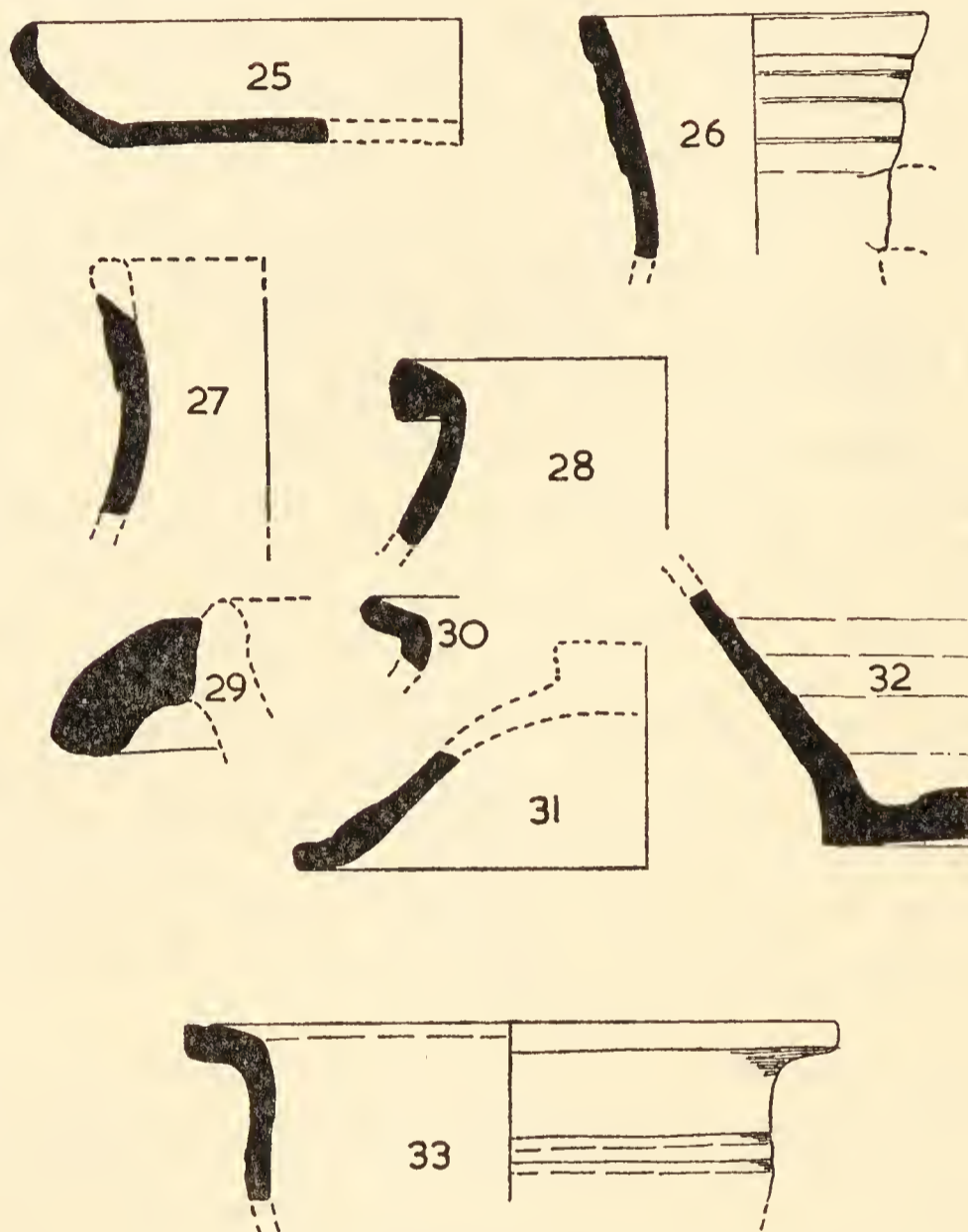


FIG. 6. Pottery.
Trench 1. Nos. 25-32, Layer 3. No. 33, Layer 2. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

(iv) ?Gravel intervallum and floor of interval tower.

Another discovery in this trench to be associated with this Phase II rampart is what may have represented part of the gravel intervallum and floor of the interval tower (layer 15). This was visible in three of the sections drawn—D-A, C-B and B-A.¹ It consisted of a layer (15), 1-1½ ins. thick, of rammed gravel overlying a layer (16) of brown clayey soil containing cobbles: the thickness of layer 16 varied from an inch immediately adjoining the foot of the rampart to 7 ins. just over 3 ft. away at the limit of the trench dug. This difference in level is clearly due to the slope of the underlying turf revetment.

¹ It was seen again during the clearing of the site, fig. 25, section J-K.

In sections C-B and B-A this gravel and the associated packing underneath, being outside the interval tower, presumably represented the beginning of the intervallum to be associated with the second Flavian rampart; (what was certainly a continuation of this same feature was met with again in section J-K, see pp. 562-4 and fig. 25); in section D-A, however, the gravel &c. as found would be inside the tower and must therefore have represented the floor of the lowest chamber there, already referred to above.

Eleven sherds of pottery and two pieces of *tegulae* (unstamped) were found in the packing (layer 16) beneath the gravel; the former consisted of one of Samian (form 27), three of rusticated ware, two of grey ware, two of red ware and three of *amphora*. Except for the Samian there were no rims and, in all except this one instance, they are too small to make illustration worthwhile. The first is illustrated and described:—

Fig. 4.

No. 9. Samian cup, Form 27, stamped *O]F ALBANI*.

This, and the other pottery found, was Flavian in date.

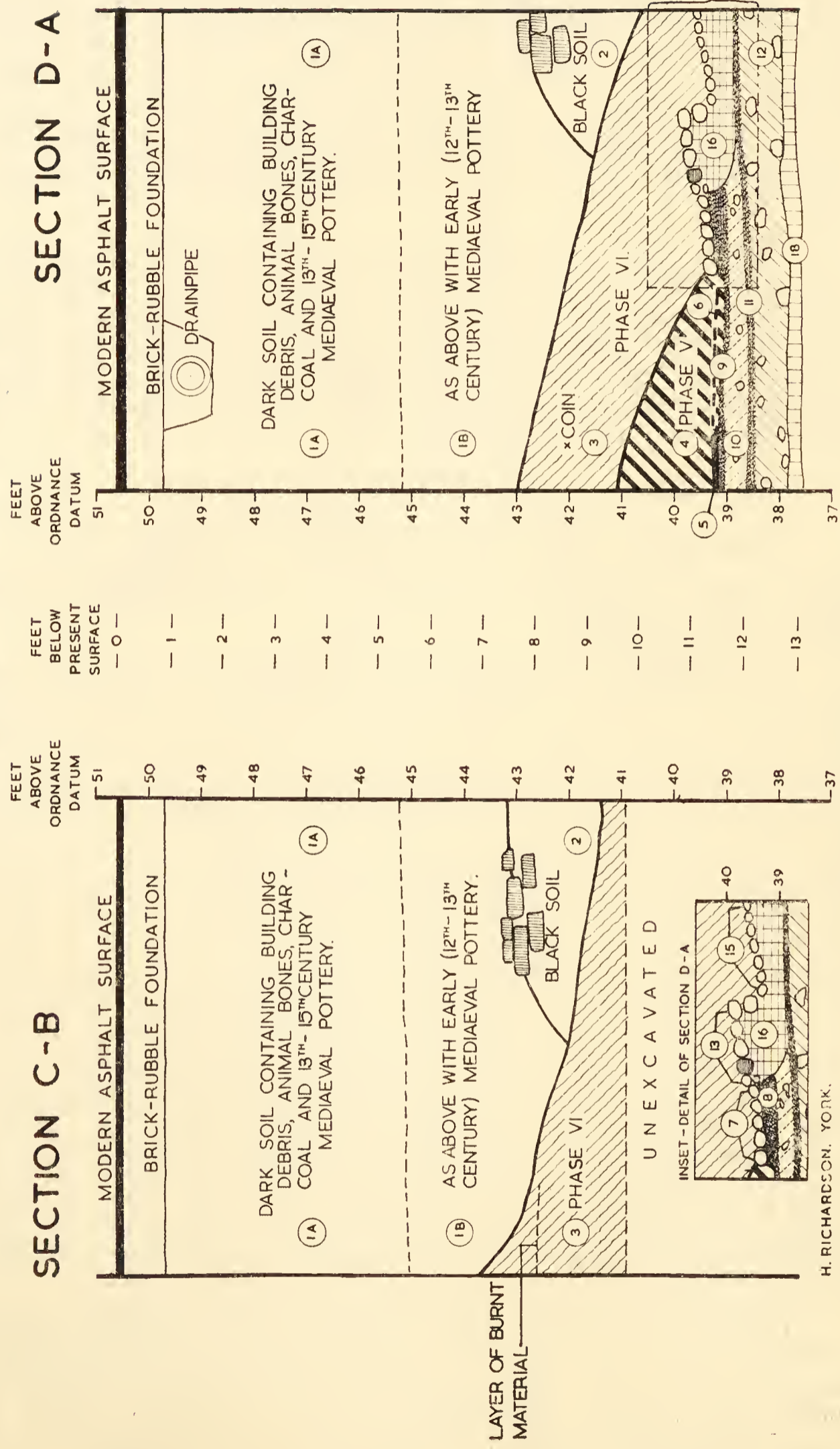
PHASE III CLAY RAMPART BELONGING TO THE FIRST (TRAJANIC) STONE WALL. (Fig. 3).

Starting at a point about a foot above the top (layer 5) of the Phase II rampart and sloping away from it to the edge of the area excavated, was a darker line in the clay, possibly a turf line, about an inch thick. This was quite different from the turf lacings themselves and presumably indicated a structural change. Beneath it and above the intervallum gravel of Phase II (layer 15) were four identifiable strata (layers 10, 11, 12 and 14). The lower one (12), of brown boulder clay, stretched across the entire area examined, contained no pottery and was cut into by a pit (layer 14) 1 ft. deep containing dark soil, building debris (tiles, bricks and stones), oyster shells, one fragment of glass and five sherds of pottery. These sherds—too small to illustrate—consisted of one of Samian (Form 27), one of grey ware and three of red ware. Sealing this pit and the layer (12) of brown boulder clay was a layer (11) of brown loamy clay containing building and other debris (the latter consisting of broken tiles and bricks, plaster, oyster shells and charcoal) and sixty-two sherds of pottery (fifteen of which are illustrated and described below)—none of which is post-Trajanic—and, in section D-A only, as if thrown up just over and under the lee of the Phase II rampart, a pocket (layer 10) of grey clay containing cobbles (and no pottery).

As was only to be expected, no Phase III rampart corresponding to this was found in trench 2. If the line of the rampart as represented in the trench 1 be continued at the same slope it would meet the line (extended) of the intervallum gravel of Phase II (probably still used for Phase III—but see further p. 523



TRENCH No.2



H. RICHARDSON, YORK.

Fig. 7. Trench 2, sections C-B and D-A.

below) about half way between the two trenches dug (see fig. 25).

The sixty-two sherds of pottery found in layer 11, consisted of four of Samian, fifty-four of red ware, two of rusticated ware and two of grey ware; fifteen of these have been drawn and their descriptions follow:—

Fig. 5.

- No. 10. Bowl in creamy-orange fabric; out-bent rim; all of the body still remaining below the rim rouletted.
- No. 11. Rim fragment of flanged bowl in light buff fabric, partly burnt grey-black on the rim.
- No. 12. Base of ? so-called "incense bowl" or tazza; creamy-orange fabric. (N.B. nos. 12 and 13 unquestionably belong to different vessels.)
- No. 13. Upper half of "incense bowl"; two cordons; creamy-red fabric.
- No. 14. Part of four-reeded handle in orange-cream fabric.
- No. 15. Two sherds (only one drawn) from the same vessel in coarse grey ware marked with regular, well-cut and deeply incised rows of rouletting.
- No. 16. Part of lid in pinkish-buff fabric, having as decoration wavy incised line, and groove.
- No. 17. Fragment of lid in smooth, buff fabric.
- No. 18. Lid in pinkish-cream fabric.
- No. 19. Samian, Form 27.
- No. 20. Samian, Form 18.
- No. 21. Samian, Form 29; rouletted shoulder.
- No. 22. Rim and shoulder of small and nicely made vase in dull cream fabric. Cf. nos. 23, 24 and 60 (fig. 11).
- No. 23. As no. 22. Rim, and much of outer surface, fumed grey.
- No. 24. Cf. no. 22. Part of the base and side of a small, nicely made vase or cup in pinky-cream fabric.

PHASE IV CLAY RAMPART BELONGING TO THE SECOND (SEVERAN) STONE WALL.

No evidence of this was found in this trench nor in trench 2 (unless part of the cobbled intervallum in the latter was Severan see p. 523). The implication is that, while the fortress wall was perhaps heightened a couple of feet or so, in the Severan reconstruction, the rampart itself was not altered.

PHASE V CLAY RAMPART BELONGING TO THE 4TH CENTURY (CONSTANTIAN) WALL.

Lying immediately over the Phase III rampart in this trench was the Phase V rampart. In the sections it is represented either by brown clay containing building debris (layer 3) (sections D-A, C-D and B-A), or brown clay containing gravel (layer 4) (sections D-A, C-B and B-A). These do not represent different structural changes but different fillings of the same feature. The highest point of this rampart still standing is 7 ft. 3 ins. above the boulder clay. Among the building debris mixed with the clay of layer 3 were over twenty fragments of unstamped tiles (both *tegulae* and *imbrices*), a dozen fragments of brick, specks of charcoal, plaster

Both Messrs. Ramm and Miller identified this phase in their excavations while the "tail" of this rampart was found in my trench 2 (p. 525 below).

The eight sherds of pottery illustrated are as follows:—

Fig. 6.

- No. 25. Shallow dish with slightly incurved sides; slightly domed base; creamy-pink fabric.
- No. 26. Part of neck of a flagon in orange-cream fabric.
- No. 27. As no. 26. The colour of this sherd is deeper than no. 26 which suggests that they were not from the same vessel.
- No. 28. Cooking-pot or storage jar in dull creamy-pink fabric.
- No. 29. Fragment of rim of a large mortarium in pinkish-cream fabric; no grit survives.
- No. 30. Rim fragment of beaker in cream fabric, fumed grey on the rim.
- No. 31. Lid; creamy-pink fabric, except for the 1/5 inch nearest the edge which is grey-black.
- No. 32. Base of jar in grey fabric which, on both the inside and the outside, an inch above the base has oxidised a dull grey-brown.

These sherds are all of 2nd century date and possibly represent "legionary" ware, being manufactured by the troops in, as yet, undiscovered kilns in York. Other pottery found in this, and other York excavations, particularly that which is termed "red", "cream" or "buff" ware probably falls into the same category.

PHASE VI CLAY RAMPART DATING TO THE ? MID-4TH CENTURY.¹

Except where post-Roman pits cut into it (designated "Pit No. 1" and "Pit No. 2" on all four sections) the Phase V rampart was everywhere covered and sealed by a still later one which I have designated Phase VI: it was of yellowish clay (layer 2). At its greatest remaining height it was nearly 9 ft. above the subsoil. This phase was also encountered in trench 2 (pp. 525-9) and in the section J-K (p. 564 and fig. 25). Although only one sherd of pottery—of Trajanic date—was found in this rampart in this trench, as many as 170 were found in trench 2 (see pp. 529-31). The single sherd found in this trench was as follows:—

Fig. 6.

- No. 33. Rim of carinated bowl in pinkish-cream fabric. Shallow groove on the rim and two grooves on the shoulder.

To be associated with this is the large portion of an unstamped *tegula*, measuring approximately 2 ft. 8 ins. by 8 ins. (Plate VI), which was found at the bottom of a medieval pit ("Pit No. 1" of the sections of fig. 3). Besides the tile and one sherd of Roman coarse grey ware (not illustrated) twenty-six sherds of late 12th century pottery were found in this pit, thus fixing its date. Four of these sherds have been drawn (fig. 30, Nos. 1-4) and described (Appendix 2, p. 583).

¹ For the dating of this see pp. 525-9.

[PHASE VII LATE ANGLIAN OR VIKING.

This phase, encountered in trenches 2 (pp. 531-3) and 4 (pp. 537-8) was not found in this trench.]

PHASE VIII MEDIAEVAL.

No mediaeval structures were found in any of the three trenches dug. The pottery—nineteen sherds—from the stratum of black soil (layer 1) in this trench immediately overlying the highest remaining Roman levels could be dated to the 12th-15th centuries. None is illustrated nor described here. To be linked with this phase are the two mediaeval pits ("Pit No. 1" and "Pit No. 2" of the sections); the second contained no pottery, the first, as explained above, contained twenty-six sherds, dating to the late 12th century.

TRENCH 2.

(Plates II, V, VII and VIII and figs. 7-13).

PHASES I-IV.

As it was difficult to disentangle the four earliest phases in this trench they are considered together.

The earliest feature identified consisted of a layer (11), 2-3 ins. thick, of rammed gravel—containing no pottery—resting on a packing (layer 12), 6-7 ins. thick, of brown clayey soil containing a few cobbles and twenty-two sherds of pottery, all of Flavian date (four of which are illustrated and described below, nos. 37-40, p. 524), below which was the undisturbed boulder clay (layer 18). In the 6 ft. of the trench nearest to the fortress wall (section D-A)¹ this gravel was overlaid by 2-3 ins. of grey-brown loamy soil (layer 10), 2-3 ins. thick containing lumps of boulder clay, a few cobbles, flecks of charcoal and twenty-four sherds of pottery, those large enough to identify being of Flavian-Trajanic date (two of these are illustrated, nos. 35 and 36 and described below, p. 523): above this was another layer (9) of rammed gravel, 2-3 ins. thick, containing a fragment of glass and five sherds of Flavian-Trajanic pottery (one of which is illustrated no. 34 and described below, p. 523): this upper layer of rammed gravel (layer 9) was similar in depth and appearance to the lower one (layer 11). (Besides the sectional drawings in figs. 7 and 8, Plate V shows this section.) The feature comprising layers 13-16 which, as suggested below (p. 525), was the beginning of the Constantian (my Phase V) intervallum, had cut through and destroyed layers 9 and 10 in the remaining 3 ft. of the trench.

Though both these layers (9 and 11) of rammed gravel were similar to the single layer found in trench 1 (layer 15) it is improbable that either of them represents a continuation of that

¹ In the rest of the trench the features were quite different as will be made evident later.

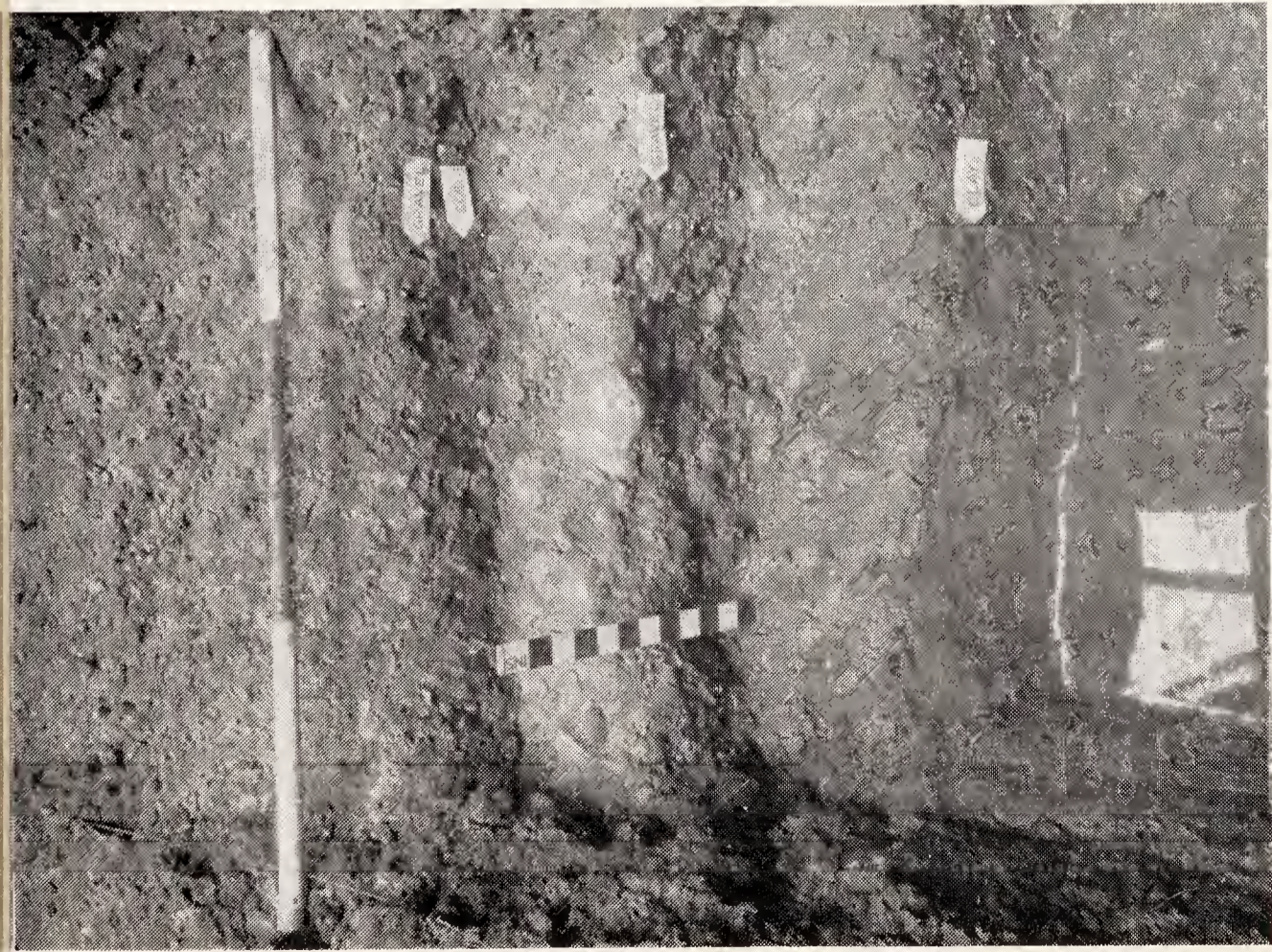


PLATE V. Trench 2. The lowest stratified layers. The lower of the two layers labelled 'gravel' may represent the surface of the Flavian (Phase II) intervallum.



PLATE VI. Trench 1. The horizontal measuring rods rest on the surviving surface of the Phase VI (second 4th century) rampart. Note the two post-Roman pits cutting into this, one of which contains a large part of an unstamped Roman *tegula*.



PLATE VII.
Trench 2. ?End of
wooden strapping
under the Phase V
(Constantian) rampart.

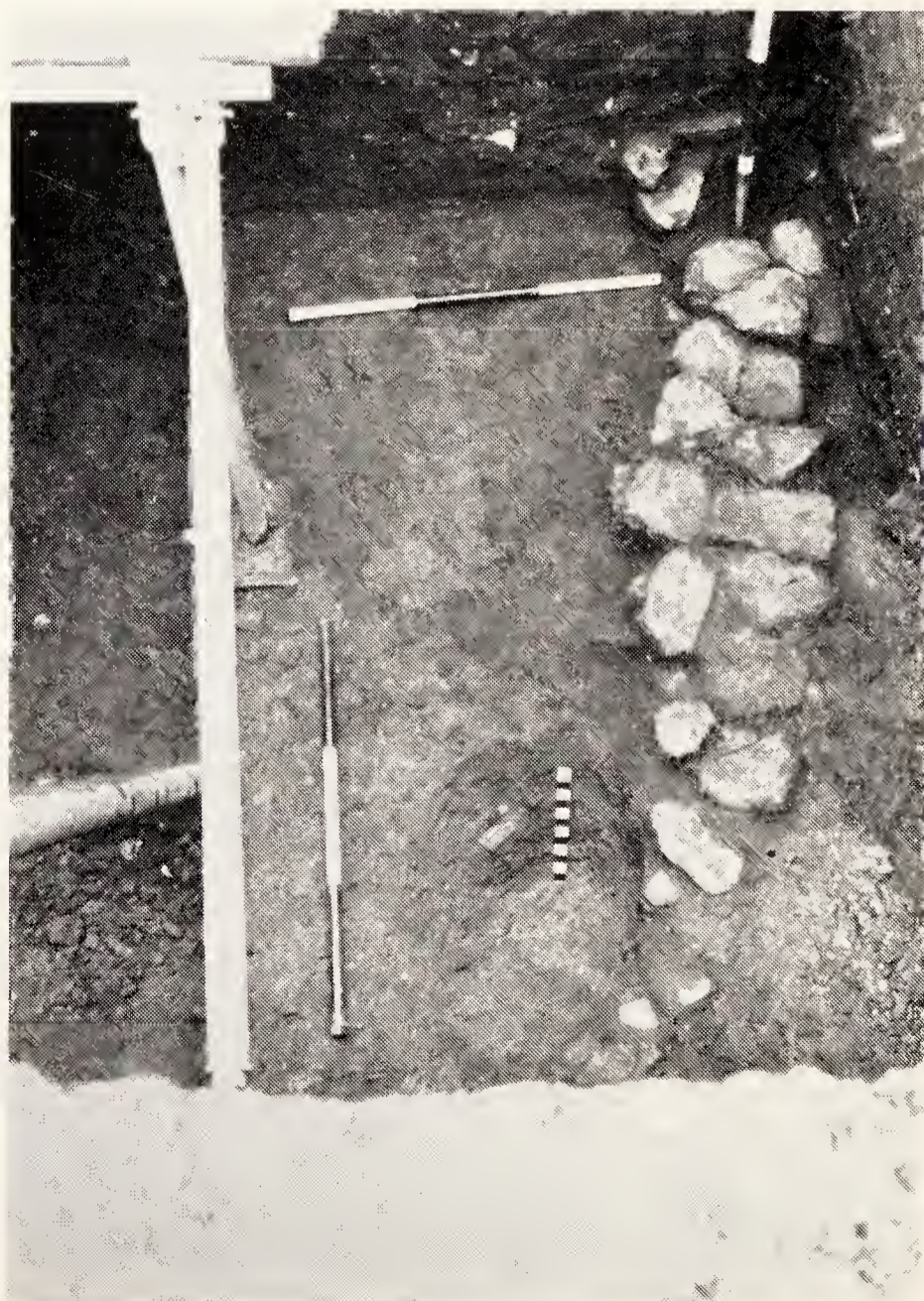


PLATE VIII
Trench 2. ?Foundation
of wall of building of post-
Roman date—possible
late Anglian or Viking. Note
post-hole, bottom centre.

layer. In this connection the section J-K (fig. 25) exposed during the clearance of the site (and not during the formal excavation) is important and must be considered in association with the section from this trench. On the section J-K a post-hole and/or a sleeper trench (A and B of fig. 25) 11 ft. beyond the base of my Phase II rampart probably represents the upright of a wooden building of some sort aligned alongside the intervallum. (The latter being, on such an assumption, 11 ft. wide.) It is possible that the uppermost of the two gravel layers in trench 2 represents the intervallum of the Trajanic (my III) phase of the fortress defences. The sherds of pottery found beneath the gravel and mentioned above would not conflict with this view.

Layer 7, consisting of five cobbles, and layer 8 (which contained no pottery)—the lightly packed gravel immediately beneath it—seemed to be related both to each other and to the layer (9) of rammed gravel immediately below. It is possible that this cobbling represented all that remained in this trench of the surface of the Phase III and/or Phase IV intervallum. (It is clear that when the Constantian (Phase V) rampart (of which more later, see p. 525) was constructed, it was much wider than the preceding Phase III (Trajanic) or Phase IV (Severan) rampart as a consequence of which much of the earlier intervallum became redundant and was buried beneath it.) It looks as though part of the cobbled surface (layer 7) was retained as a kerb or revetment just beyond the outer edge of the new rampart.

POTTERY &C., FROM PHASES I-IV.

- (i) Layer 9. Upper layer of rammed gravel. Five sherds of pottery (one of Samian, one of rusticated ware, one of grey, and two of red, ware) and a fragment of glass. Of these, only the first is illustrated and described:—

Fig. 10.

No. 34. Samian, Form 29; rouletted rim. Flavian in date.

- (ii) Layer 10. Grey-brown loamy soil between two gravel layers. Twenty-four sherds—one plain Samian, Form 27; one rusticated ware, one grey ware and twenty-one red ware: of these only two are described and illustrated.

Fig. 10.

No. 35. Flagon, three fitting sherds; double-reeded handle and part of side; pinky-cream fabric.

No. 36. Fragment of rim of cooking-pot in smooth, hard, grey fabric.

These appear to be Trajanic rather than Flavian in date.

- (iii) Layer 12. Clay/cobble packing beneath lower layer of rammed gravel. Twenty-two sherds and two fragments of *tegulae*.

The pottery consists of nine sherds of plain Samian (six belonging to the same vessel—no. 38 below), five of red ware, four of a whitish ware, two *amphora* and two of cream ware: four have been illustrated and described, *viz.*—

Fig. 10.

- No. 37. Samian cup, Form 27.
- No. 38. Samian cup, Form 27.
- No. 39. Rim fragment of shallow bowl or platter in cream fabric, apparently imitating Dr. Form 15/17.
- No. 40. A pedestal base of some vessel in cream fabric.

Flavian in date.

DAVYGATE — YORK

1955—1956 EXCAVATION

TRENCH No. 2

PLAN
OF 7-9-10TH CENTURY WALL FOUNDATION, PIT AND
POST HOLE

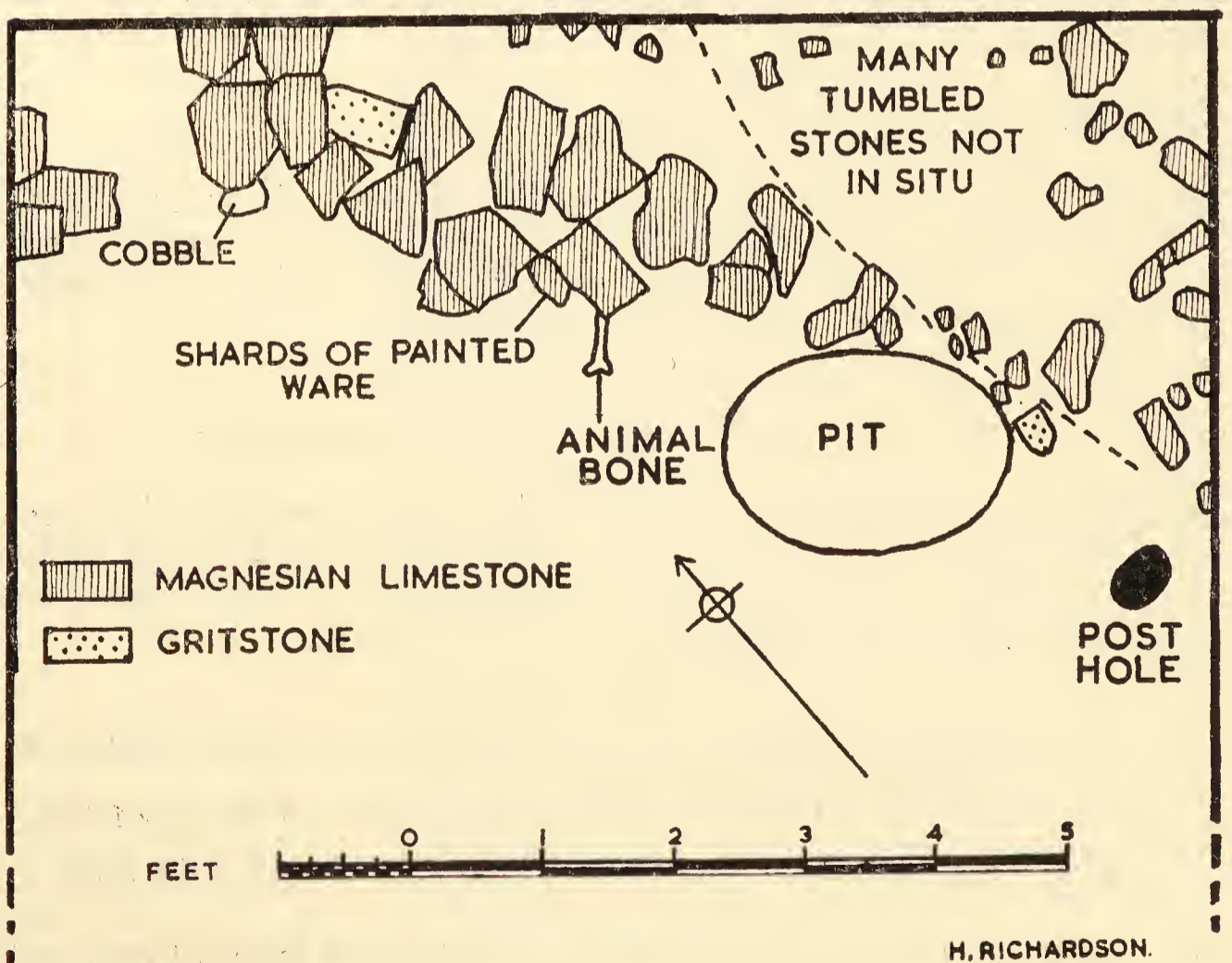


FIG. 9.

PHASE V CLAY RAMPART AND INTERVALLUM BELONGING TO 4TH CENTURY (CONSTANTIAN) STONE WALL. (Plate VII and figs. 7 and 8).

The last 4 ft.—“the tail”—of this Phase V rampart appeared in section D-A (layer 4). The brown clay containing building debris of which it was composed was similar to that of the Phase V rampart encountered in trench 1. The debris contained two fragments of bricks, three of unstamped tiles, pieces of mortar and of plaster, limestone chippings, charcoal and oyster shells, together with forty sherds of pottery made up as follows:—seven plain Samian Forms 27, 29 and 31, eight grey ware, twenty-four red ware and one amphora. All were very small, there were no rims nor bases and none is illustrated.

At the extreme south-west end of this trench, a black patch of decayed organic matter was found (section D-A, layer 5 and Plate VII), lying on the top of the upper layer of gravel (layer 9). In section D-C (layer 5) it was found to be 1 ft. wide and 3 ins. thick: its length could not be ascertained as it disappeared into the unexcavated trench side. It was too humified to identify the wood. It may have represented the end of a plank, used as a wooden strapping. In section D-A a black, broken line (layer 6) will be seen running into the trench beyond the end of this plank. It was of organic matter but the patches were too small and scattered to enable enough to be retrieved for analysis. It might perhaps represent the remains of twigs laid up to the edge of the rampart beyond the plank as a base for the clay. As suggested above (p. 523) some of the cobbles (layer 7) of what may have been the intervallum of Phases III and IV had been retained to form part of a kerb or revetment at the edge of the new Constantian (Phase V) rampart. This had been extended and heightened to give the kerb a tilt by the five cobbles and one piece of brick of layer 13. The latter were set on a gravel packing in which there was a large proportion of small limestone chippings. Such chippings were completely absent from the packing (layer 8) under the ? Phases III-IV cobbles (layer 7) but do occur, as the sole packing (layer 16), beneath the cobbles (layers 13 and 15) which, it is suggested, marked the beginning of the first Constantian intervallum. The seven cobbles of the latter (layer 15) had a pronounced slope, presumably representing the camber. In layer 16, among the packing of limestone chippings, were fifteen sherds of pottery mostly of 2nd century date—two Samian (both Form 37), one grey ware, eleven red ware, one amphora. Again they are very small; there are no rims nor bases; none has been drawn.

PHASE VI CLAY RAMPART DATING TO THE MID-4TH CENTURY.¹ (Plate VIII and figs. 7 and 8).

The Phase V rampart, (?) kerb and intervallum as exposed in this trench were everywhere covered by some 2-3 ft. of yellow

¹ See also fig. 25, section J-K.

clay (layer 3). The latter was similar to that of Phase VI as seen in trench 1. The layer of burnt material, 2 ft. 6 ins. long and 1 in. thick, noted about 1 ft. below the top of this rampart in one section (C-B, fig. 7) seemed to be merely incidental. Ten fragments of brick, two of *tegulae*, nine of plaster, numerous oyster shells, five nails, four pieces of glass and 170 sherds of pottery were found in this yellow clay. All dates, from Flavian times onwards up to, and including, the mid-4th century (represented by Crambeck ware) are included in this. The 4th century ware is, however, so sparse (see pp. 530-1) that the material must be derived from clearing out earlier levels somewhere.

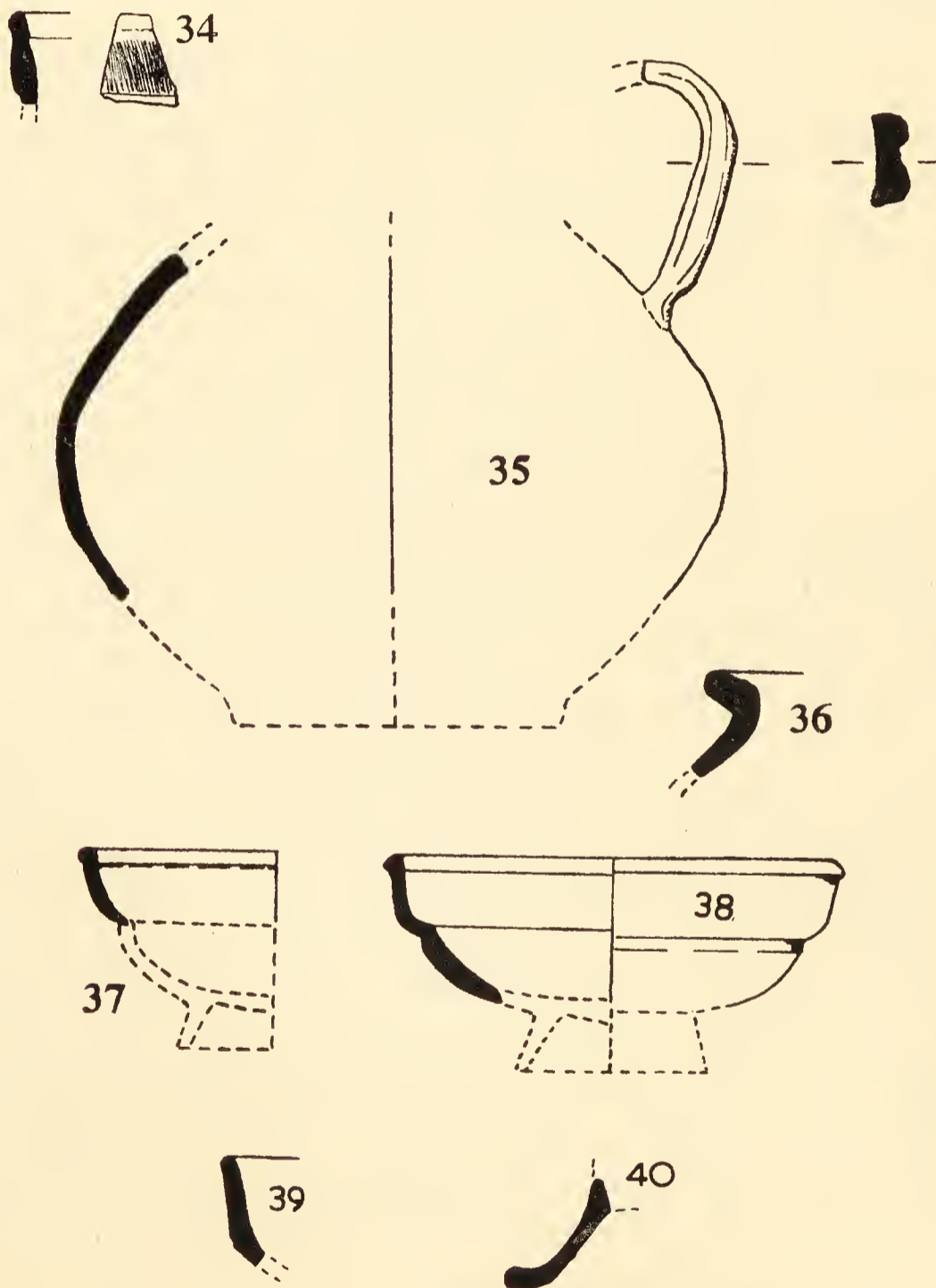


FIG. 10.
Trench 2. Pottery.
No. 34, layer 9.
Nos. 35 and 36, layer 10.
Nos. 37-40, layer 12.
Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

This rampart clearly extended beyond this trench—how far can be reasonably inferred. The slope of the rampart as revealed in sections C-B and D-A (1) is much too gradual and the clay of which it is composed must have spread—perhaps considerably—since it was originally put down. The nearby walls (N1-6 on fig. 2) of what is now known to belong to a 4th century (Constantian) interval tower extend 45 ft. behind the line of the inner edge of the fortress wall. It is reasonable to assume that the Phase V rampart would not be wider than this.

One foot below the surface of the rampart at the point shown on section D-A, fig. 7, was found a coin—an AE. 15 of Delmatus, dating A.D. 335-7. It is too corroded to allow of any assessment to be advanced as to the possible time it was in circulation before being lost.

Delmatus A.D. 335-7 AE. 15

Obv: Laureate bust right.
[F]L D[E]LMATIVS NOB CAES

Rev: Standard between two soldiers.
[G]LOR[IA] EXER[CITVS]
In ex. ?TRS

Mint: Triers (second officina) Cohen, 6.

This coin was sealed by the rampart and therefore supplies a *terminus post quem* for its construction. This may have been long after the coin was lost and it may be argued, for instance, that this last extension to the south-west rampart was not Roman at all but Dark Age, Viking, Norman or even later. Another possibility is that this Phase VI “rampart” as found in this excavation represents nothing more than a convenient and localised dumping ground for debris, presumably from the interior of the fortress, either in the late 4th century (Roman) or post-Roman times. Admittedly the trenches (nos. 1 and 2) in which the rampart was identified were only small ones¹ and it may be considered dangerous to draw from them too firm a conclusion as to its date. Bearing in mind these limitations and giving to them all due weight it does seem possible, however, to argue a case for the rampart being Roman and for its dating to the middle of the 4th century, viz.:—

(i) 170 sherds of pottery—all Roman—were found in this rampart in this trench: this was a far higher number than in any of the other ‘ramparts’ excavated in this trench or in trench 1. If the rampart did, in fact, date to a period of (at the least) one century and (at the most) six centuries after the earlier Roman one identified (my Phase V), at least one non-Roman artefact among so many might have been anticipated. Admittedly here in York there has so far been a remarkable paucity of any post-Roman pottery before the Saxo-Norman of the 9th-11th centuries and so the non-appearance of non-Roman pottery &c. in this

¹ A much longer (continuous) section of the rampart was, however, uncovered during the clearing of the site (fig. 25, section J-K, pp. 562-4).

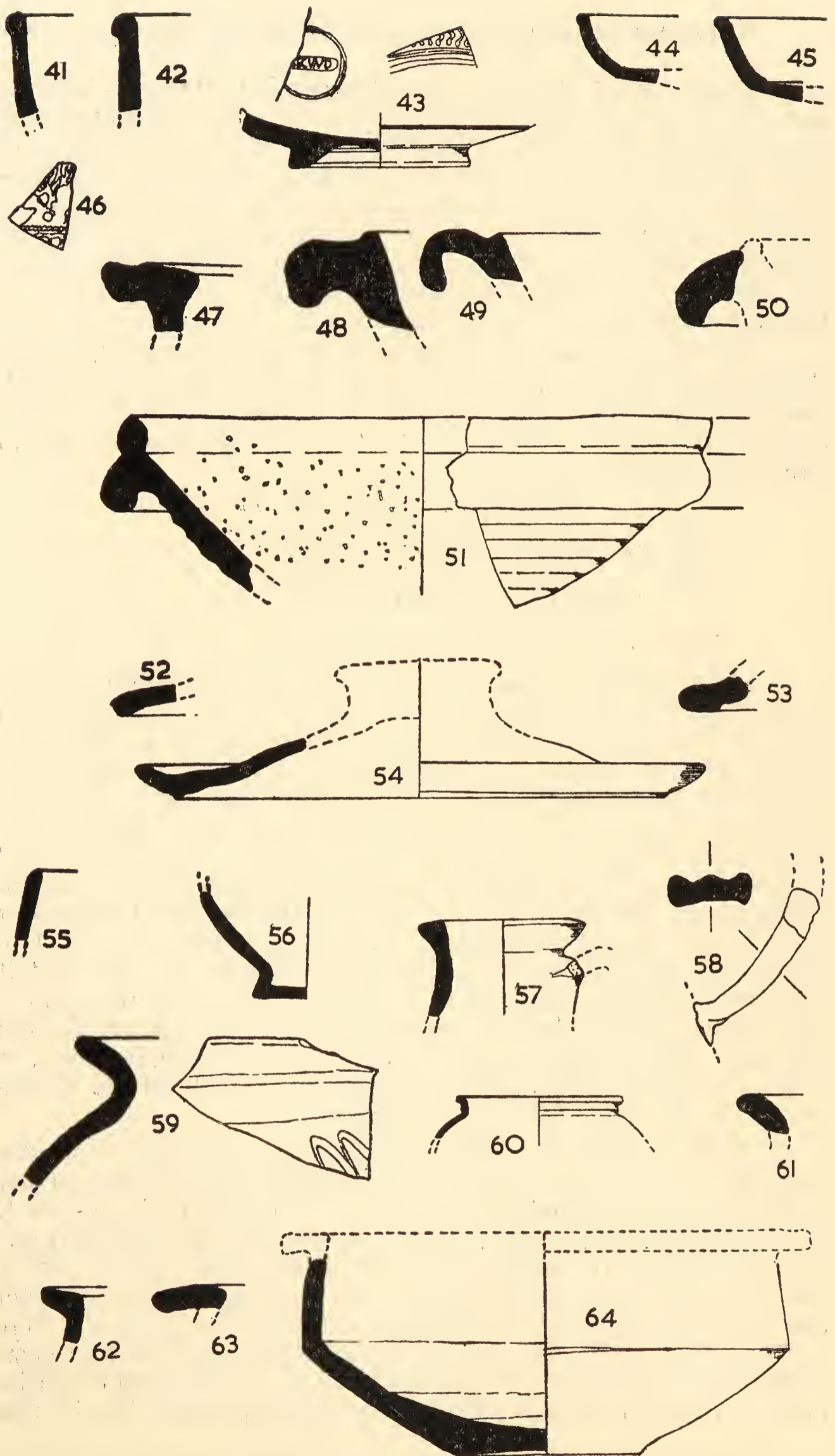


FIG. 11. Pottery.
Trench 2. Layer 3 continued. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

trench is, in itself, not a decisive argument, though it must remain a strong one. But what is surprising about the pottery found (see pp. 530-1) is that the mid/late 4th century (Roman) is only represented by a single sherd of Crambeck ware and 13 of colour-coated ware which could in fact be 3rd or 4th century. This is in marked contrast to the pottery found elsewhere on the Davygate site and especially in association with the barrack block building excavated in trenches 5 and 6 (see pp. 541-553) where more than half of the sherds found were of late 4th century date—Crambeck, colour-coated and Huntcliff ware. On the basis of the pottery found in the Phase VI rampart there is therefore not only a suggestion of a Roman date for it but of a mid-4th century one at that.

(ii) There was no sign of any occupation layer (other than what may have been a very thin turf line between layers 3 and 4—my Phase V and Phase VI ramparts).¹ This would be expected if there had been a gap in time and particularly if it had been a long one, between the two "builds".

(iii) The rampart is earlier than the building found built on it (see pp. 531-5), the date of which has been tentatively put in the 9/10th centuries.² Beneath the building and the rampart was 12-18 ins. of soil. On the analogy of other excavations in York³ it is not unreasonable to infer that in the immediate post-Roman era a long period covering centuries rather than a short one would be necessary for such an accumulation.

It appears therefore that a Roman, post-Constantian date may be ascribed to this Phase VI rampart and a mid-4th century one best fits the archaeological facts. A possible occasion might have been under Constans when in A.D. 343,⁴ there is evidence of widespread reconstruction on Romano-British town sites, if not on military ones. For what it is worth it should be noted that the latest floors found in the barrack blocks excavated in trenches 4 and 5/6 in this Davygate excavation suggested post-Constantian reconstruction. Is the rebuilding thus implied to be linked with a "filling-up" and extension of the Constantian (Phase V) rampart?

POTTERY FROM LAYER 3.

This consisted of 170 sherds made up as follows:—four figured Samian (mere fragments), thirteen plain Samian, thirteen colour-coated ("castor") ware, seventy-seven grey ware, fifty red ware, seven *mortaria* and six *amphora*. Forty-two of these have

¹ In the section J-K (see pp. 562-4) it was the same.

² This dating is based on the beads found in it (see p. 540), all the pottery found in it was Roman.

³ I.e. three trenches put down in Petergate 1957-8 (report impending).

⁴ See *inter alia* P. Corder, *AJ* cxii (1956), pp. 20-42.

been drawn and described, viz.:—

Fig. 11.

- No. 41. Samian, Form 37 with plain rim.
 No. 42. Samian, Form 31.
 No. 43. Samian. Base of Form 29 stamped SECVND.
 No. 44. Samian, Form 18.
 No. 45. Samian, Form 18.
 No. 46. Samian, Form 37 figured.
 No. 47. Rim of mortarium in pinky-cream fabric.
 No. 48. Hard, smooth, brick red fabric; white grit. The fabric and unusual form are reminiscent of the legionary mortaria made at the Holt kilns, though no precise parallel has been published. Civilian mortaria in red fabric usually have a cream or buff slip. Presumably late first to early second century in date. (K.H.).
 No. 49. Rim fragment of a thin mortarium in slightly sandy, cream fabric; translucent, colourless and brownish pink grit. Like no. 51 this was made in the Thames Valley (cf. *Oxoniensia* vi, p. 19, nos. 43 & 44). Again rare in the north. Second-century. (K.H.).
 No. 50. Flange fragment from the typically Flavian Bushe-Fox 14/18. (K.H.).
 No. 51. Hard, cream fabric with pinkish core; buff slip; translucent, colourless and brownish pink grit. Form, fabric and grit are typical of mortaria from the Cowley kilns near Oxford (cf. *Oxoniensia* vi, p. 19, no. 81). The date of this type of mortarium is not established, but it is unlikely to have been made before the third century. Mortaria made in this area are very rare in the north of England and Scotland. (K.H.).
 No. 52. Rim fragment of ? lid in pinky-cream fabric.
 No. 53. Fragment of large, heavy lid in smooth grey ware with pinkish tinge.
 No. 54. Lid, grey with creamy-orange slip.
 No. 55. Rim fragment of cup in colour-coated ware; cream fabric, colour-coated light brown.
 No. 56. Base of beaker in orange-cream fabric.
 No. 57. Part of the neck of a flagon in grey fabric, showing hints of pink colour-coating.
 No. 58. Part of treble-reeded handle in creamy-pink fabric, colour-coated orange-red.
 No. 59. Rim and shoulder of cooking-pot in smooth, fine, hard, light grey Crambeck fabric. On the shoulder is a decoration consisting of a wavy line.
 No. 60. Rim and shoulder of small and nicely made vase, in pinkish-cream fabric; (cf. fig. 5, nos. 22-24).
 No. 61. Rim fragment of jar in cream fabric.
 No. 62. Rim fragment of cooking-pot or beaker in cream fabric.
 No. 63. Flanged rim of some vessel in cream fabric.
 No. 64. Large portion of the side of a carinated bowl in pinkish-cream fabric.

Fig. 12.

- No. 65. Rim of jar in pinky-cream fabric.
 No. 66. Rim and shoulder of jar in hard, smooth, light grey ware.
 No. 67. Rim fragment of jar in coarse, very light grey ware, fumed grey.
 No. 68. Rim and shoulder of jar or beaker in smooth, grey fabric, fumed black.
 No. 69. Rim fragment of beaker in fine grey fabric, fumed near-black.
 No. 70. Rim fragment of beaker in fine grey fabric,

- No. 71. Rim fragment of cooking-pot or beaker in light grey ware with a grey core, fumed near-black.
 No. 72. Rim fragment of cooking-pot or vase in smooth, hard, fine, grey fabric.
 No. 73. Rim and neck fragment of narrow-necked jar in coarse grey ware, fumed near-black.
 No. 74. Rim fragment of beaker in smooth, hard, fine, light grey fabric.
 No. 75. Rim fragment of jar in fine, smooth, grey ware.
 No. 76. Rim and shoulder of beaker in fine, rough, grey fabric. Similar fabric to No. 82.
 No. 77. Rim of beaker or cooking-pot in smooth, grey fabric.
 No. 78. Rim fragment of a platter with a roll rim, in grey fabric, fumed near-black.
 No. 79. Rim fragment of a platter with a short or down-turned rim, polished grey-fumed ware with a pinkish tinge. Lightly scored with cross-hatching.
 No. 80. ? Shallow, wide-mouthed bowl in coarse, light grey fabric.
 No. 81. Straight-sided dish in smooth, fine, grey ware, fumed black.
 No. 82. Base of jar in fine, rough, grey ware. Similar fabric to No. 76.

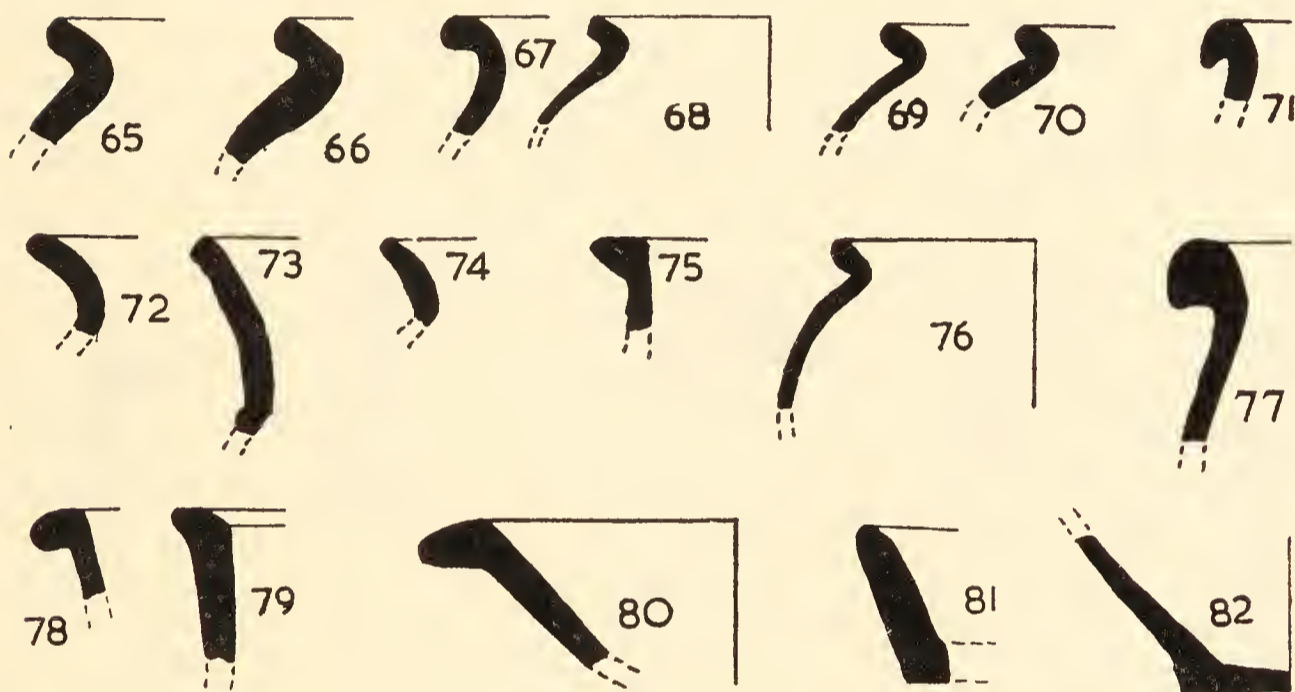


FIG. 12. Pottery.

Trench 2. Layer 3 continued. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

While the range of this pottery is wide-Flavian/4th century—the 4th century is only represented by a single sherd of Crambeck (No. 59) and possibly by some sherds of the so-called “grey ware” which are more indeterminate. The significance of this in dating the rampart has been discussed above.

PHASE VII LATE ANGLIAN OR VIKING. (Plate VIII and fig. 9).

Running obliquely across the north-east corner of the trench were some rough hewn stones which appeared to be the footings or lowest course of a very crude wall about 3 ft. wide (sections A-B, fig. 8; C-B and D-A, fig. 7). One of the stones was a cobble, two were of gritstone, while the remainder were of magnesian limestone—clearly re-used Roman stones. No indication of any foundation trench was detected below, or around, the wall stones.

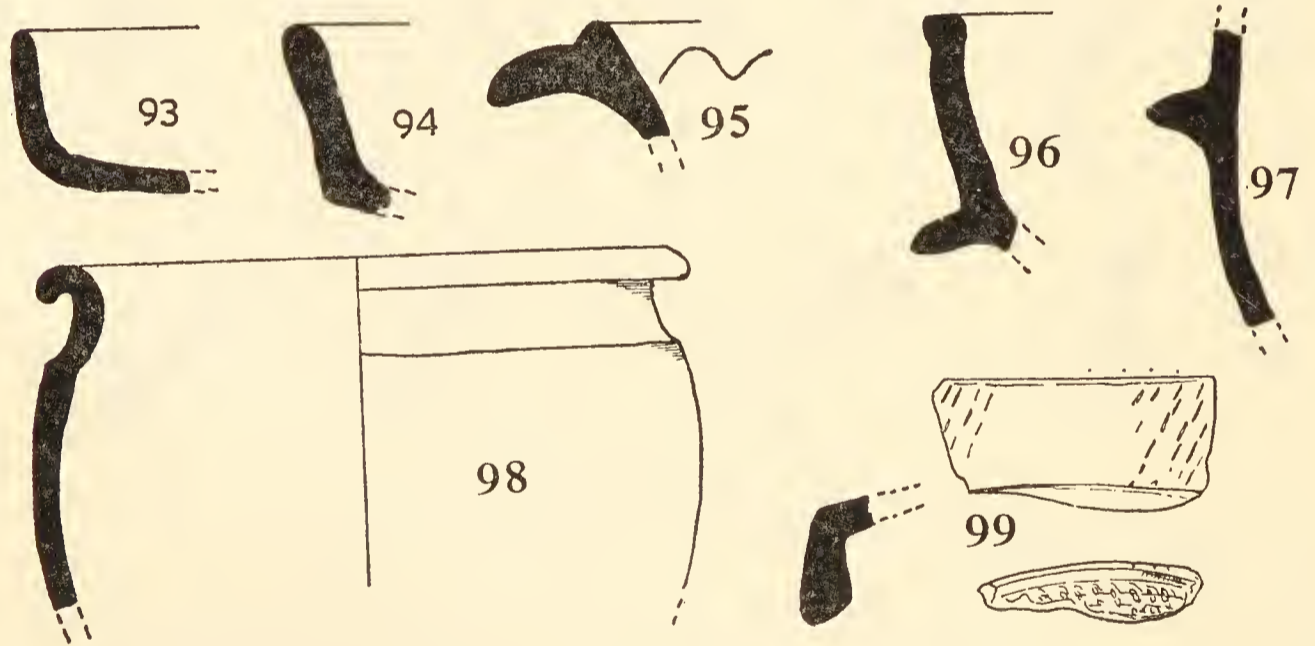
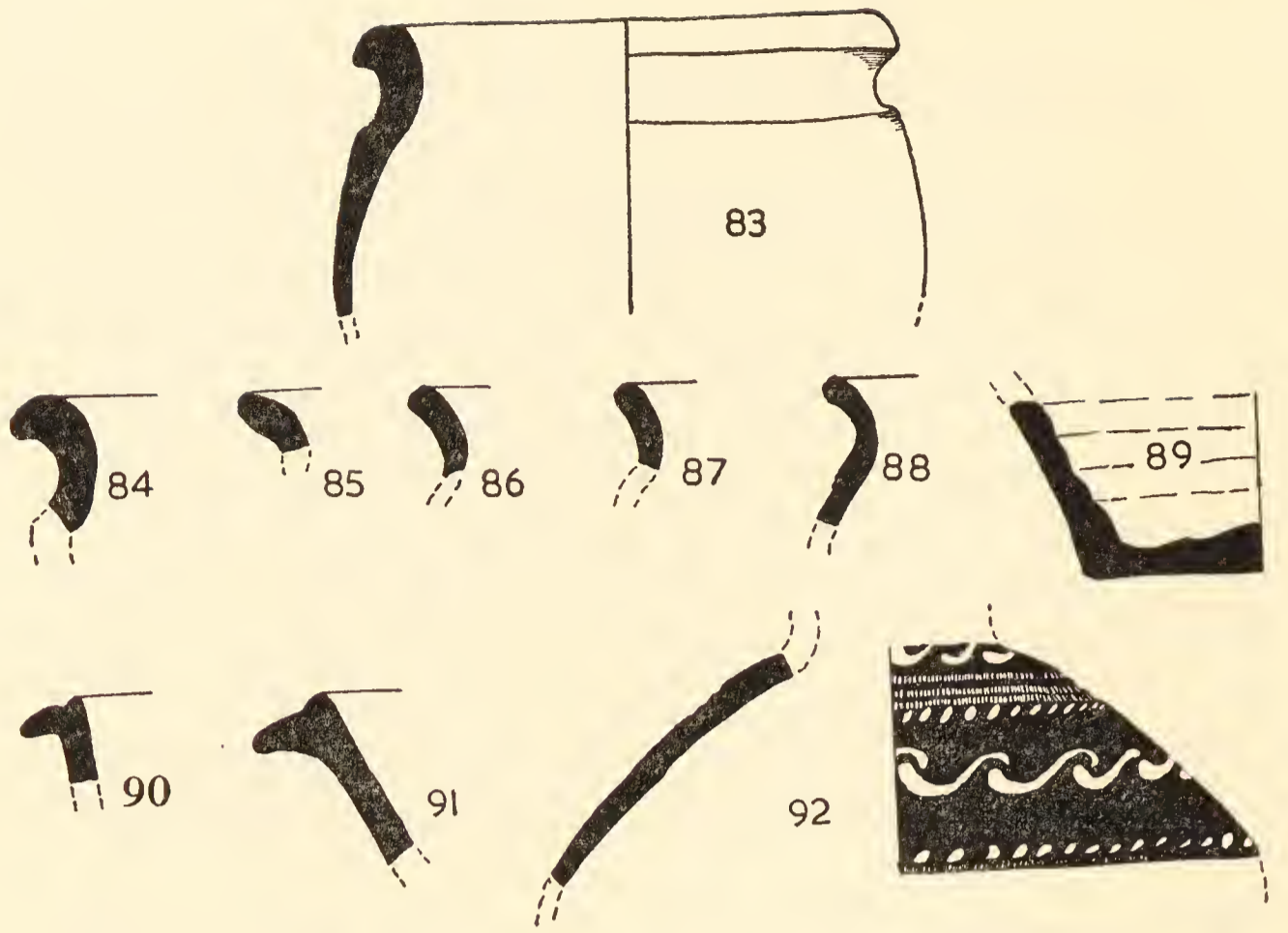


FIG. 13. Pottery.
 Trench 2. Nos. 83-92, layer 2(i). Nos. 93-99, layer 2(ii). Nos. 100-101,
 layer 2(iii). Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

They were bedded in brown clay which had also been used between the interstices. In the extreme north-east corner were similar stones, most of which were clearly not *in situ* and which appeared to represent nearby tumbled masonry.

A post-hole, roughly 6 ins. by 4 ins., oval in shape and 1 ft. deep was aligned with the outer face of this wall and might have been related to it. There were varying depths of from 2-20 ins. of black soil (layer 2 of the sections) between the bottom of the stones and the top of the Phase VI Roman rampart (layer 3). Lying in the black soil below the foundations of this building were thirty-five sherds of pottery (mostly of late 4th century date), two fragments of glass, ten of bricks, five of *tegulae* and two of *imbrices*—all Roman. The distribution of the pottery was as follows:—two chips of plain Samian, six conjoined sherds of painted colour-coated ware, another of colour-coated ware, fourteen grey ware, two *mortaria* and ten calcite-gritted ware; ten of these are illustrated and described below (nos. 83-92). In the upper part of layer 2 among the stones belonging to the building were thirteen sherds of late 4th century Roman pottery consisting of three colour-coated ware, seven of coarse grey ware and three of Crambeck ware; seven are illustrated and described below (nos. 93-9).

Cutting into the outer face of this building was a round pit about 2 ft. in diameter (Plate VIII and fig. 9 for plan). It cut right through layer 2 and penetrated the Phase VI rampart beneath. It contained twelve sherds of Roman pottery—three of colour-coated ware, four of red ware, one of grey ware, one of calcite-gritted (Huntcliff) ware, one of painted (Crambeck) ware and one *amphora*: two have been illustrated (nos. 100-1). The pit was later than the building itself.

The discovery of only Roman pottery below, amongst and above this rough walling suggested that the structure which it represented might be late Roman. There were, however, two serious objections to this. The character of the walling was quite un-Roman. Secondly, and much more to the point, was the accumulation of as much as 20 ins. of soil (at its deepest) between the top of the last Roman feature—the second 4th century rampart (layer 3)—and the bottom of the wall itself. In trench 4 (see pp. 537-8) similar masonry, similarly situated some 18 ins. above the last clearly Roman feature there—the floor of a building was proved to be either late Anglian or Viking. There can be little doubt, therefore, that the masonry found in trench 2 belonged to the same period—possible 9th-10th century. In fact, as trenches 2 and 4 were only 25 ft. apart the masonry found in both of them might well have belonged to the same building.

THE POTTERY FROM LAYER 2.

Fig. 13.

(i) *From below the foundations of the building.*

No. 83. Cooking-pot in very heavy black ware (not Huntcliff); soot still adhering to the outside. (J.G.).

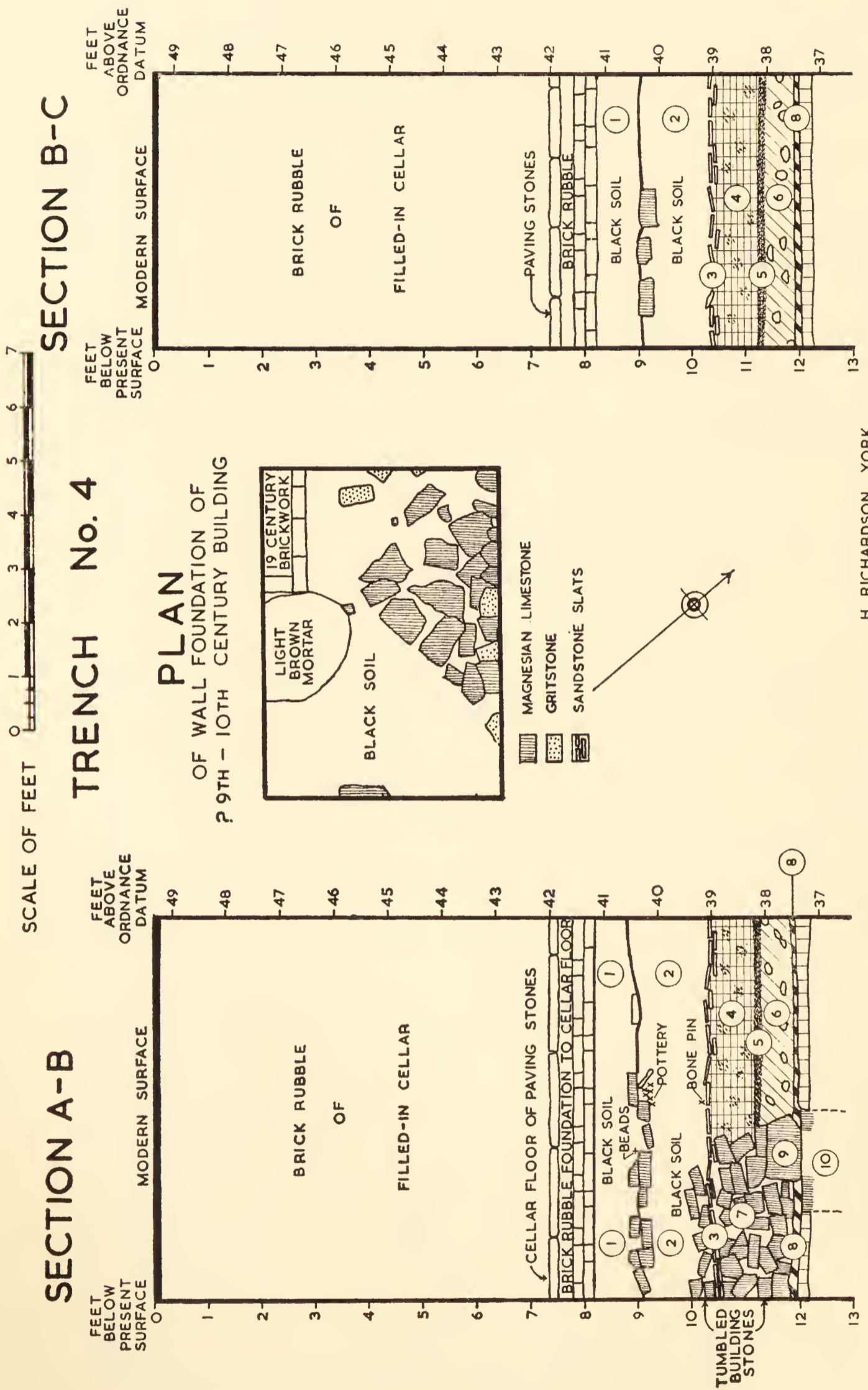


Fig. 14. Trench 4, sections A-B and B-C, and plan of ? 9th-10th century wall foundation.

- No. 84. Rim fragment of cooking-pot in coarse grey fabric, fumed black on the outside.
 No. 85. Rim of cooking-pot in heavy black ware.
 No. 86. Rim fragment of beaker in coarse grey fabric, fumed near-black.
 No. 87. Rim fragment of cooking-pot or beaker in smooth, fine, light grey fabric.
 No. 88. Rim fragment of cooking-pot in smooth, hard, grey fabric.
 No. 89. Base of cooking-pot in light grey fabric, fumed black on the outside.
 No. 90. Flanged bowl; pale grey core, grey surface.
 No. 91. Flanged bowl; grey core, grey-blue surface. Cf. *Throlam*, figure 10, 8.
 No. 92. Six conjoining sherds from the body of a globular vase; colour-coated ware, dirty-buff fabric, colour-coated reddish-brown on the inside and grey on the outside. At the base of the neck are three grooves rouletted, while part of another line of rouletting appears at the very bottom of the surviving piece. Around the neck and body is a design in white slip consisting of alternate rows of dots and ∞-shaped scrolls.

(ii) *From among the stones of the building.*

- No. 93. Dish with plain rim and slightly convex side, cream "castor" fabric, colour-coated brown.
 No. 94. Dish with plain rim in heavy dark grey ware, fumed black. Traces of soot on the outside.
 No. 95. Flanged bowl in smooth, pale grey fabric; inside, and $\frac{1}{4}$ in. below the rim is a rough wavy line of decoration.
 No. 96. Flanged bowl in smooth grey fabric, fumed on both inside and outside, reminiscent of Dr. Form 38.
 No. 97. Flanged bowl similar to 96 in calcite-gritted (Huntcliff) ware.
 No. 98. Rim and shoulder of wheel-finished cooking-pot with high, beaded rim, in light grey fabric; indications of rough oblique rubbing on the outside.
 No. 99. Lid of "castor ware box" in soft, light grey fabric, colour-coated black on the outside and greyish-brown on the inside. On the top and sides outside is rouletting. Badly weathered.

(iii) *In the pit.*

- No. 100. Rim of flanged bowl.
 No. 101. Rim fragment of fumed beaker in grey fabric.

PHASE VIII MEDIAEVAL/MODERN.

The pottery from layers 1A and 1B consisted of 54 sherds of mediaeval and 20 of Roman. In the lower layer (1B of the sections, figs. 7 and 8) all the Roman and 13 of the mediaeval (of 12th-13th century date) were found. None of the Roman has been illustrated; they included one sherd of Huntcliff ware and two of Crambeck, the rest being of miscellaneous coarse grey ware 2nd/4th century in date; 11 of the mediaeval are illustrated on fig. 30 (nos. 5-15) and described in Appendix 2, pp. 581-5. In the upper layer (1A) 13th-15th century mediaeval pottery was encountered (15 of which are illustrated on figs. 31 and 32 (nos. 16-30) and described in Appendix 2).

Lying a few inches above the top of layer 1B and 4 ft. 6 ins. below the modern surface was found the bronze head of a cock

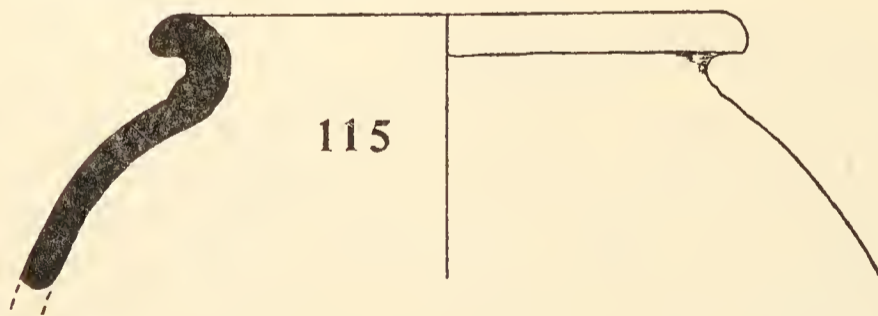
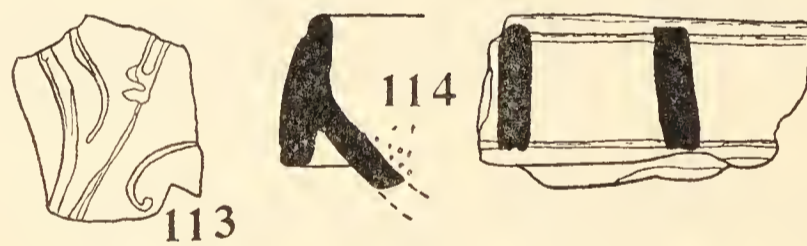
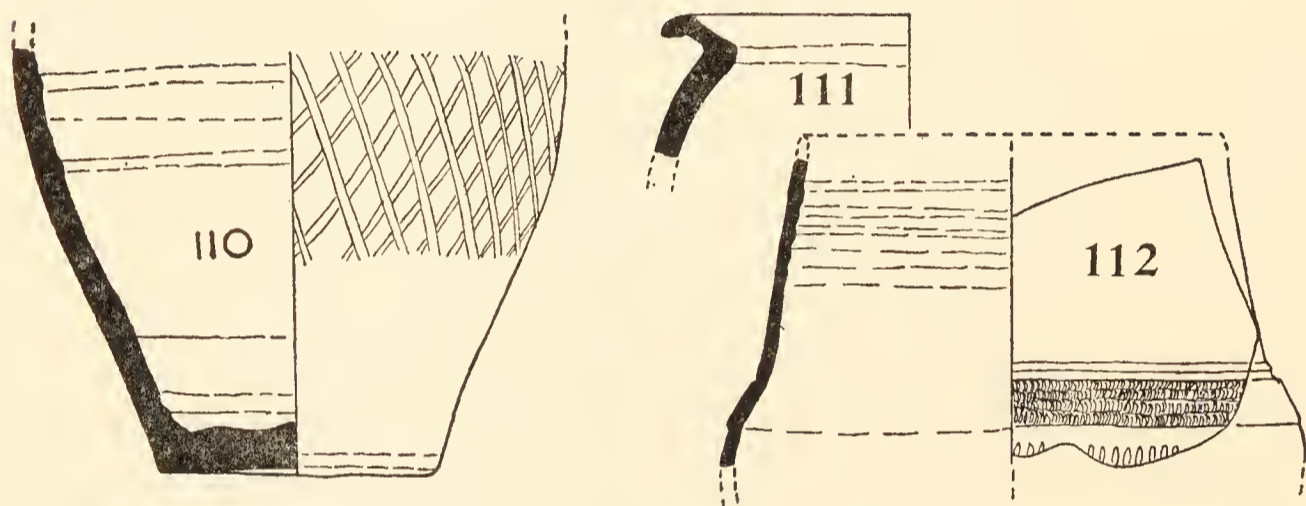
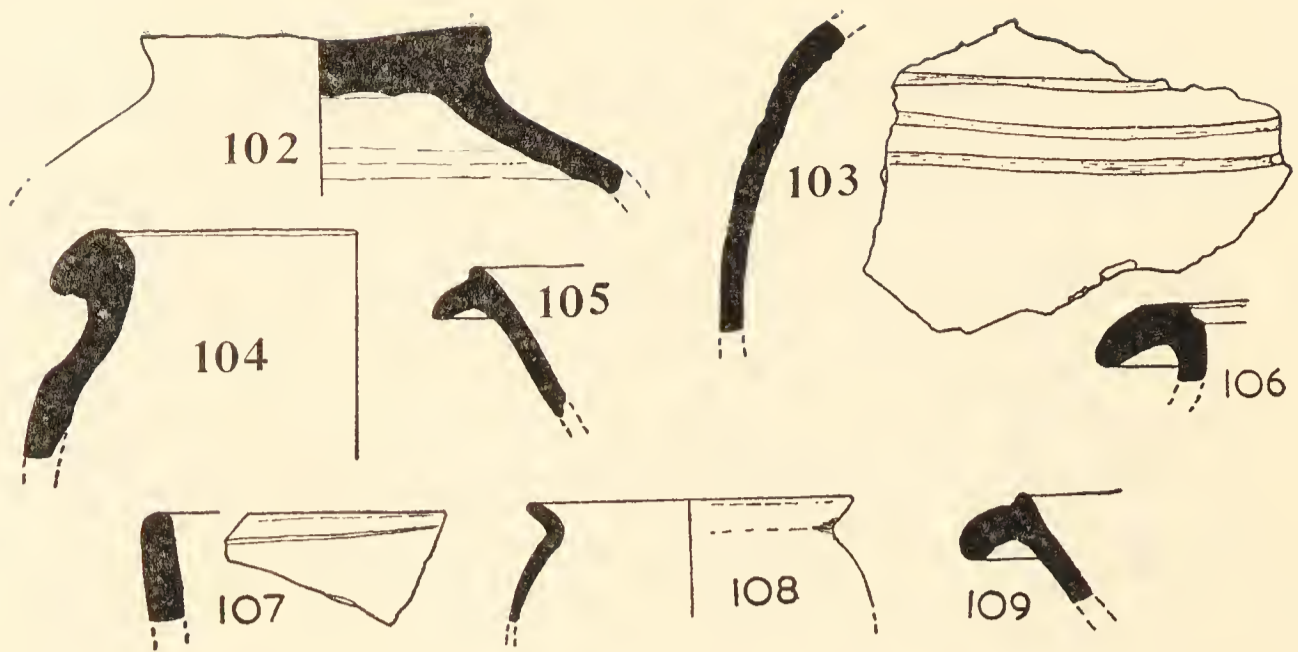


FIG. 15. Pottery.

Trench 4. Nos. 102-109, layer 1. Nos. 110-112, layer 2. Nos. 113-115, layer 4. Nos. 116-117, layer 8. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.



PLATE IX.
Trench 4. Beads and counter, dating ?9th-10th century.



PLATE X.
Trench 6. South-west wall of barrack block showing opening for drain.



PLATE XII. Trench 6. South corner of barrack block (inside).

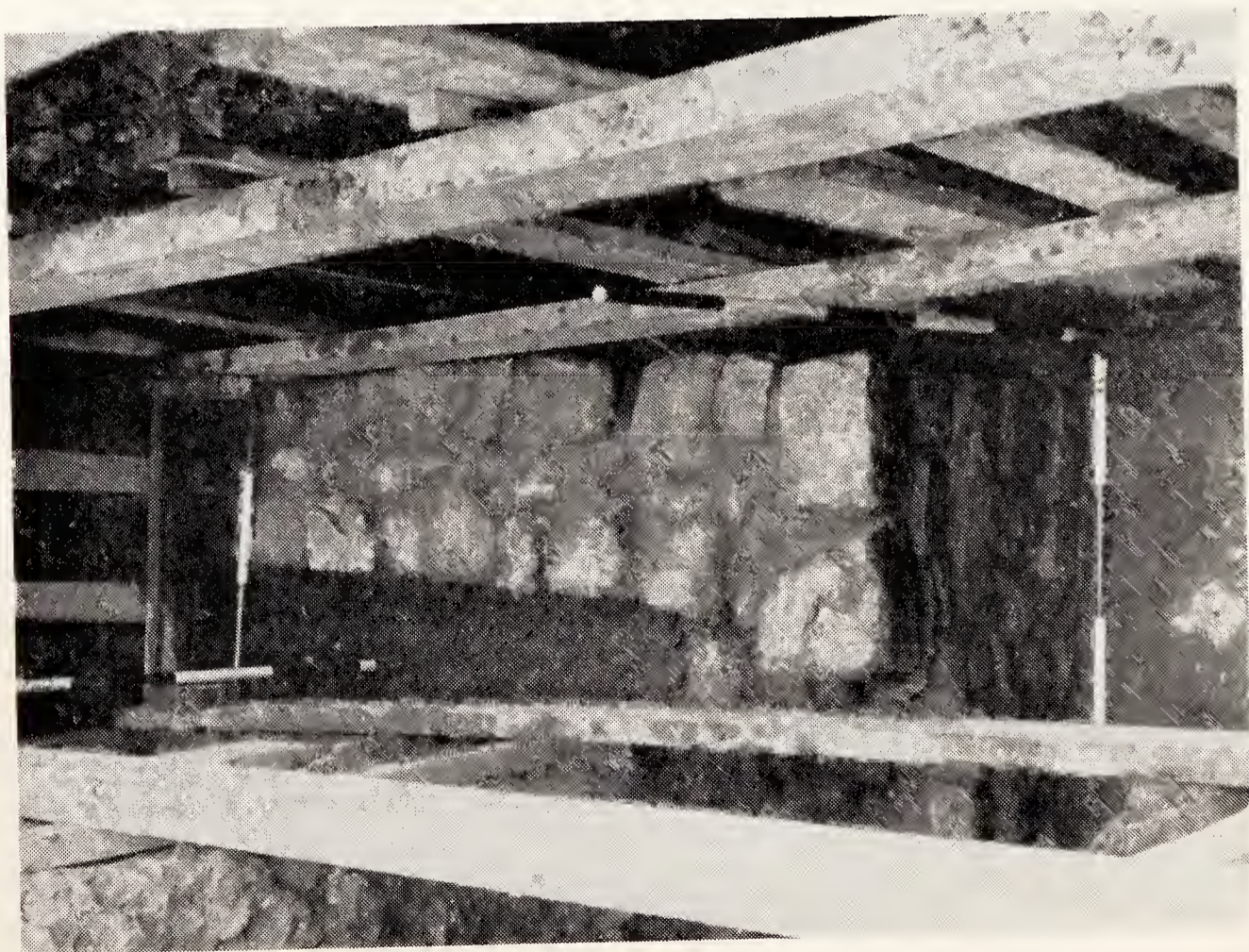


PLATE XI. Trench 6. South corner of barrack block (outside).

which appears to have constituted the head of a staff or wand of some sort. The date is uncertain. (Illustrated fig. 20, no. 194).

TRENCH 4.¹ (Plates IX and XIII and figs. 14-16).

Unlike trenches 1 and 2, the layers in this trench are reported upon here in the order in which they were met with. At a depth of 7 ft. 5 ins. below the modern surface, the first of two cellar floors was encountered. It was of flagstones resting on a rubble foundation 4 ins. thick. Immediately beneath this was another cellar floor consisting of two layers of bricks. Under this floor was a layer (No. 1), varying in depth 9-12 ins., of dark soil similar to that found at the same level in trench 2 (q.v.). In it were found forty-nine sherds of pottery—twelve mediaeval (none drawn—but of 12th-13th century date) and thirty-seven Roman, eight of which are illustrated (fig. 15, nos. 102-109) and described below (pp. 539-40). The distribution of the Roman pottery was as follows:—one plain Samian (Form 33, illustrated No. 107); two colour-coated ware; three red ware; seventeen calcite gritted (Huntcliff) ware and fourteen coarse grey ware (seven illustrated, Nos. 102-106, 108-109). Also in this layer and 1 in. above the foundation of the building which lay below it (to be discussed in the next paragraph) were found four cylindrical glass beads and a stone counter (Plate IX and fig. 16). These may supply the clue to the date of the post-Roman building of which these stones represent a part. They are reported on below (p. 540) and probably date to the 9th-10th centuries A.D.

The roughly hewn limestone blocks which lay under layer 1 (for sections and plan see fig. 14) formed the foundations of some crudely constructed post-Roman building. They were reminiscent of similar foundations found in trench 2 (described pp. 531-3) and, indeed, as suggested earlier, may have formed part of the same building. Like those in trench 2 they were bedded in brown clay and the interstices between them were filled with the same material. Near them was a quantity of very fragmentary rotten wood which might have been wattling. Amongst them were oyster shells, ox bones and a few pig bones. In view of the datable pottery found in layer 2 below this walling, the latter could not have been earlier than the 4th century. Everything, however, points to it being considerably later. The beads, noted above, found almost in the walling, supply the key to its date and, as suggested later (p. 540), they are probably late Anglian or Viking.

Below this wall foundation was 12-16 ins. of black soil (layer 2) resting on top of what was the floor (layer 3) of a Roman building. Lying on this floor was a bone pin (fig. 20, no. 193). The time necessary for the accumulation of this depth of soil in post-Roman times would again make a late Anglian/Viking date reasonable for the building above. In layer 2 only Roman pottery

¹ Nothing was found in trench 3 (see p. 509).

was found; there were twenty-eight sherds, twenty-three of which belonged to the same vessel, a large storage jar of Knapton ware; there were no rim sherds and only two small ones which were part of the base; it has not been illustrated. Of the other five sherds, one was of colour-coated ware (illustrated fig. 15, no. 112), one of red ware (not illustrated) and three of grey ware (two illustrated—fig. 15, nos. 110 and 111). There was also one stone *tessera*.

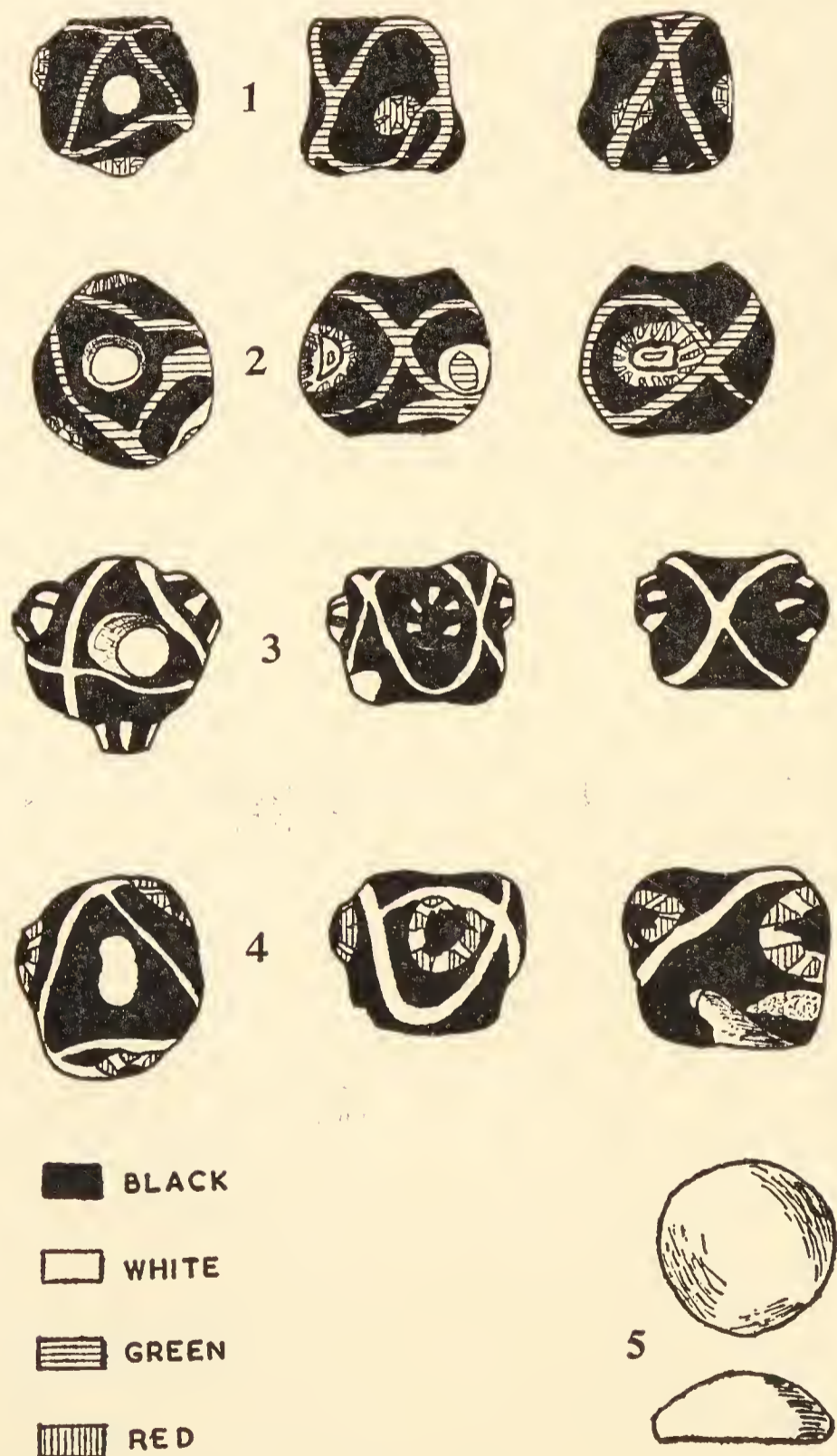


FIG. 16.
Trench 4, layer 1.
Nos. 1-4 Beads. No. 5 Counter. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

Layer 3 consisted of small slats of sandstone¹ and of limestone—both probably considerably larger when originally laid down but broken subsequently. They represented part of a floor of some building and, in view of the building line which could be deduced from the end of the barrack block discovered in trenches 5 and 6 (pp. 541-553 *infra*), there could be little doubt that it was inside another barrack block. (Since the above was written further excavations—in Petergate—have given added support to this suggestion that in the fortress the 4th century floors consisted of slabs of sandstone.)

Beneath this floor the trench section revealed two different and quite distinct features (section A-B). In the westerly half it consisted of a mass of tumbled building masonry (layer 7) resting on a thin layer (8) of black soil which, in turn, rested on the undisturbed subsoil of boulder clay. The eastern half of the trench (Plate XIII shows a photograph of this section) consisted of a layer of limestone chippings and gravel (layer 4), resting on a layer of gravel (layer 5), underneath which was clay and cobbles (layer 6), resting in turn on a layer of black soil (layer 8) which overlay the undisturbed subsoil of boulder clay. The demarcation between these two features was the large limestone block (layer 9) which looked as though it might represent part of the footing or foundation of some wall still *in situ*. This stone was removed just before the trench was filled-in and there was clearly another stone (layer 10) beneath it mortared to it which would support this suggestion of its being part of a wall.

In the layers beneath the Roman floor (layer 3) pottery was only found in two layers—4 and 8. In layer 4 there were ten sherds—one plain Samian (Form 33, not illustrated), three colour-coated ware (one illustrated, fig. 15, no. 113); two grey ware, —one illustrated (fig. 15, no. 115); two Crambeck ware (one illustrated no. 114); one red ware and one amphora (neither illustrated). They are of 3rd/4th century date and, for what they are worth, would imply that the floor above them was of post-Constantian, rather than a Constantian, date.

In layer 8 there were six sherds, three of grey ware (two illustrated, fig. 15, nos. 116 and 117) and three red ware (not illustrated): they looked as though they dated to the early 2nd century.

THE POTTERY FROM TRENCH 4.

Fig. 15.

(i) LAYER 1.

- No. 102. Part of a large lid in grey fabric with a tinge of red on the outside.
- No. 103. Sherd from the side of a large jar or cooking-pot in coarse grey calcite-gritted (Huntcliff) ware.
- No. 104. Rim and shoulder of cooking-pot in same fabric as no. 103.

¹ Known geologically as West Riding Coal Measure Sandstone.

- No. 105. Flanged bowl in smooth, light grey ware.
 No. 106. Rim of jar in same fabric as no. 103.
 No. 107. Rim of Samian, Form 33.
 No. 108. Rim and shoulder of small jar in smooth grey fabric.
 No. 109. Flanged bowl in light grey ware.

LAYER 2.

- No. 110. Base and side of jar in smooth, grey fabric; lattice decoration on the body.
 No. 111. Two conjoining sherds of rim and shoulder of jar in smooth, grey fabric.
 No. 112. Neck and shoulder of a globular vase of colour-coated "castor" type ware. Rouletting on the body below the plain neck. Greyish-white fabric, colour-coated slate.

LAYER 4.

- No. 113. Sherd from the side of a globular cup, "castor" type. Pinkish-cream fabric, colour-coated slate. Appliqué design of flowing lines in lighter colour.
 No. 114. Mortarium, Crambeck type 7 with painted stripes on the flange. This form occurred commonly in the Signal Stations and belongs to A.D. 370-400. (K.H.).
 No. 115. Rim and shoulder of cooking-pot in grey fabric with reddish-grey core.

LAYER 8.

- No. 116. Rim and neck of jar in light grey ware.
 No. 117. Rim of carinated bowl in pinkish-cream fabric. Shallow groove in the rim.

COUNTER AND BEADS FROM LAYER 1.

(Plate IX and fig. 16).

- (a) No. 5. Cylindrical stone counter. Diameter 15 mms.; height 6 mms.
 (b) Nos. 1-4. Four cylindrical beads of vitreous paste decorated with interlaced lines and multi-coloured bosses. Diameter—three $\frac{1}{2}$ in. and one $\frac{3}{8}$ in. The latter is slightly damaged and distorted. Height—all four $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

They can be dated to the 9th-10th century A.D. and are found fairly widely scattered over Western Europe. The best dated examples are:—

- (i) Jarlshöf¹. Found sealed in the Viking level beneath the floor of House 6. Date A.D. 850-1000.
 (ii) Moravian Museum, Brno, Czechoslovakia² where there is a necklace containing a number of beads identical with the York ones, dated to the second half of the 9th century.

TRENCH 4—CONCLUSIONS.

In drawing conclusions as to the significance of the discoveries in this trench, certain of the practical difficulties in digging it must be stressed. It was only a small trench (5 ft. by

¹ J. R. C. Hamilton, *Excavations at Jarlshöf, Scotland* (Ministry of Works Archaeological Report No. 1), 957, p. 152, fig. 70.1.

² Forman-Poulik, *Prehistoric Art* (Printed Czechoslovakia) Plate XVII (in colour). (I am grateful to Mr. James Dyer for drawing my attention to this reference.)

7 ft.); it was, of necessity, heavily shuttered as the rubble filling in the cellar was loose and unstable; water percolated through the sides all the time it was open and collected in the bottom. This meant that the exposure of the stratified remains at the bottom was subject to very real physical difficulties and their interpretation was consequently not easy.

Layer 3 unquestionably represented the floor of a building, probably a barrack block.¹ On the evidence of the pottery found in layers 4 and 8 beneath it (p. 540) it was of 4th century date though the two sherds of Crambeck ware (one—No. 114—illustrated) imply that it was post-Constantian. Layers 4 and 7 represented filling below the floor. The large block of limestone (layer 9) and the stone (layer 10) only partially uncovered beneath it appeared to be *in situ* and probably represented the foundation of an outer wall of some earlier, demolished building of which the tumbled levelled masonry of layer 7 was a part. From the few sherds of pottery of layer 8 beneath it, it could have been 2nd century. The gravel of layer 5 and the "bottoming" below it (layers 6 and 8) could have represented the beginning of a road of some sort outside this earlier building or a floor inside it.

PART II.

EXCAVATION OF TRENCHES 5-8.

(i) TRENCHES 5 AND 6 (figs. 17-20; Plates X-XII and XIV).

Trench 5, originally 4 ft. × 6 ft. was put down on instructions from the architects responsible for drawing up the plans for the new buildings on the site, in order to investigate the depth and character of the foundations of the adjoining party wall with the property belonging to the Halifax Building Society (see fig. 2). In this trench, at a depth of 6 ft. below the modern surface, they encountered the top and face of what ultimately proved to be the outer wall of a Roman building. Permission was granted by the owners, the Yorkshire Insurance Company, and the architects, Messrs. Brierley, Syme and Leckenby, for me to take over this trench, to lengthen and to widen it (it finally measured 9 ft. × 4 ft.) and to put down another one (trench 6), 14 ft. × 4 ft. at right angles to the newly discovered wall in the hopes of being able to establish its width and the nature of its construction. In fact this trench exposed the outer corner of a building (Plates X-XII and fig. 2).

12 ft. of the south-west wall of the building was exposed and 8 ft. of the north-east wall. The walls were standing 4 ft. above the foundation: the latter was of concrete, with a large admixture of limestone rubble, was 2 ft. deep and projected 4 ins.

¹ During the clearance of the site, further portions of walling of this particular building were found (fig. 2) and this trench clearly fell inside it.

TRENCHES No.5 & 6

TRENCH No.6

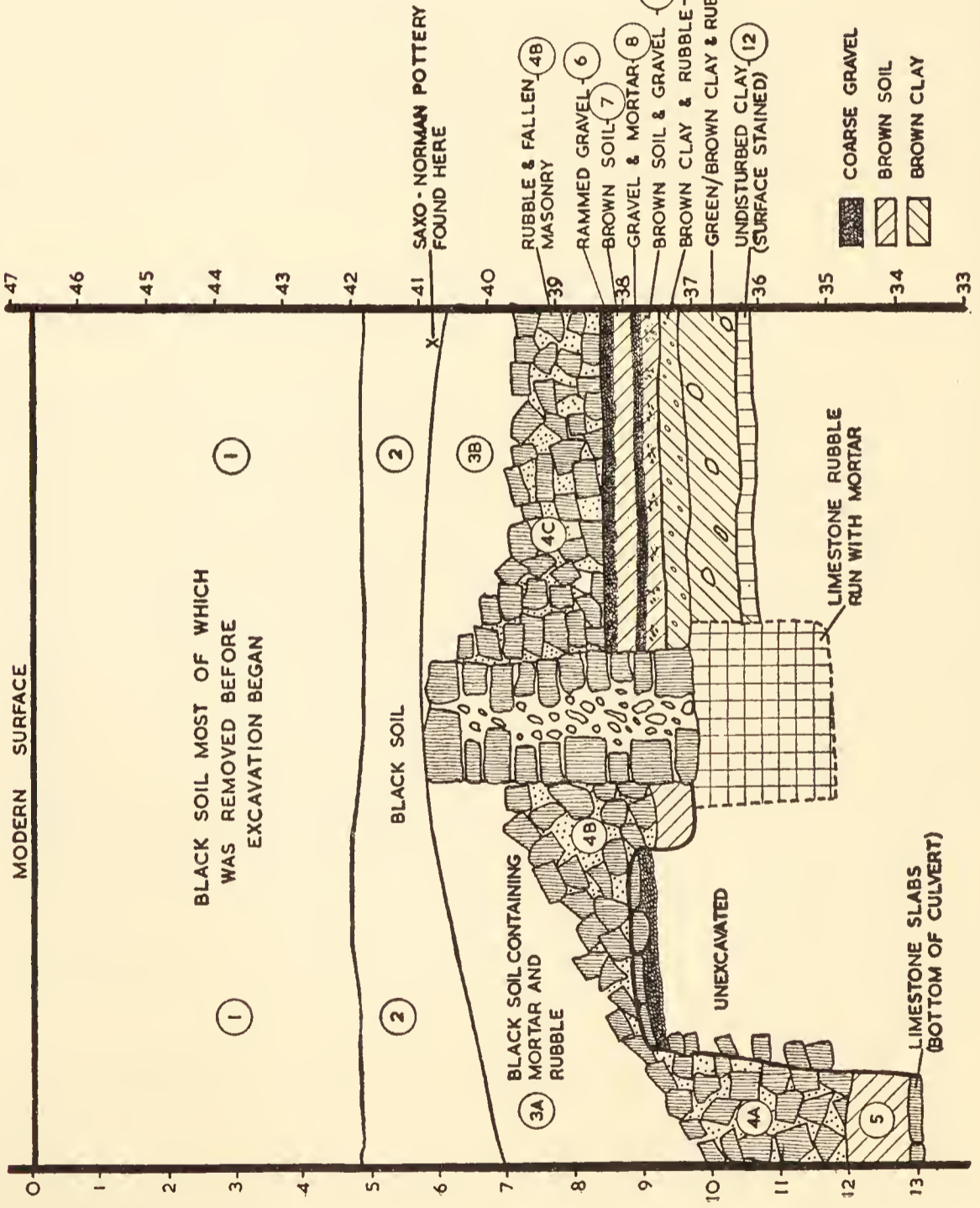
SECTION A-B

FEET
BELOW
PRESENT
SURFACE

SCALE OF FEET



FEET
ABOVE
ORDNANCE
DATUM

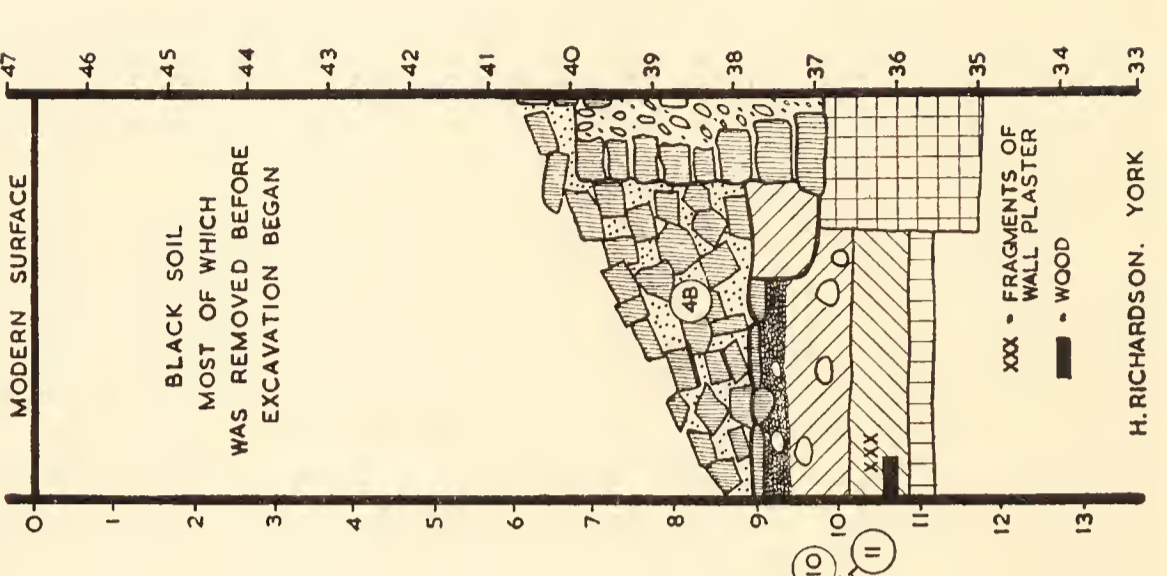


TRENCH No.5

SECTION C-D

FEET
BELOW
PRESENT
SURFACE

FEET
ABOVE
ORDNANCE
DATUM



H. RICHARDSON. YORK

FIG. 17. Trench 6, section A-B. Trench 5, section C-D.

in front of the wall, at the outer face and slightly less than this at the inner.¹

The top of the rampart roadway or *intervallum* outside the building was 1 ft. above the top of the wall foundation, while inside, what represented the surviving floor surface,² was 1 ft. 3 ins. above the foundation.

Nine courses of the wall—which was 1 ft. 9 ins. wide—survived above the foundation (Plate X). Its outer and inner faces were composed of blocks of oolitic limestone roughly dressed. The blocks were irregularly sized, the two largest (corner stones) measured 19 × 7 ins. and 21 × 8 ins. on the face³ and the smallest 5 × 6 ins. and 12 × 1 in.; the average was about 9 × 5 ins. The mortar bands between the stones were very wide— $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ in. The inner and outer facing stones projected back some 6–9 ins., into the core. The latter consisted of a very gravelly concrete with numerous unworked pieces of limestone carefully placed in it. The outer face showed considerable signs of weathering and, in places, of pointing apparently subsequent to its original construction. The walls—particularly at the corners—were of comparatively poor workmanship and, in character and appearance, were quite unlike the 4th century (Constantian) walls identified elsewhere within the fortress.⁴ The possibility that this represents a rebuild—either extensive or localised or merely of parts of particular buildings—in the *praetentura* later in the 4th century must be entertained.

Both inside (layer 4C) and outside (layer 4B) the walls was a large conglomeration of tumbled masonry amongst which was a considerable quantity of Roman pottery—102 sherds in all. An overwhelming proportion of this consisted of calcite-gritted (Huntcliff) ware, colour-coated (Castor) ware and grey ware much of which could be dated to the last two decades of the 4th century; earlier wares such as Samian and red (legionary) wares were, on the other hand, represented by only a handful of sherds. This suggests a late Roman occupation here. Too little excavation has hitherto been possible in the interior of the fortress to permit us to advance more than very tentative views of the degree and

¹ Owing to the restricted space in which this building could be examined the composition of the foundation could only be guessed at when the excavation took place. However when some months later the site was cleared there were better opportunities to examine it and the section A-B (fig. 17) is based on this.

² The top of the floor as found consisted of rammed gravel though, as pointed out later, it is likely that this was originally surmounted by flagstones.

³ The blocks used at the corner of the building were more massive than elsewhere, which is what one would expect. They looked, however, as though they might represent rebuilding at this point.

⁴ I.e. *inter alia* in Petergate (1957), Stonegate (1958) and Lendal (1960): reports impending. The walls of the 4th century interval tower found in this Davygate excavation and described on pp. 565–9 were also quite different in appearance.

length of the occupation in the various areas there, but a case seems to be growing up indicating an intensive late occupation in parts of it particularly in the *praetentura*.¹ Also amongst the tumbled masonry inside the building (layer 4C) were found—during the clearance of the site after our formal excavation—three fragments of wall plaster painted red.

In the south-west wall 2 ft. from the corner was the opening for a drain 9 ins. square (Plate X). The covering to this consisted of two large stones, each measuring approximately 19 × 6 ins. on the face and 10 ins. in width; both were only roughly cut. On the inner side the wall around the drain was leaning slightly outwards i.e. into the building (Plate XII). On the outer side the bottom of the drain was 2 ins. above the surface of the adjacent roadway. In the latter, alongside the wall starting where the drain emerged through the wall and continuing for 7 ft.² in the direction of the premises of the Halifax Building Society (see figs. 2 and 17 and Plate XIV), was a roughly cut hollow 7 ins. wide and 10 ins. deep. There were patches of mortar at the sides and bottom. There could be little doubt that originally a pipe or channel had run from the opening in the wall presumably linking up somewhere beyond the modern Halifax Society Building with the nearby deeper culvert to be described later.

The floor inside the building was examined but, as there was only a width of 1 ft. 3 ins. between the inner face of its south-east wall and the revetting of trench 6, there was insufficient room to dig right down to the subsoil. However, six months later, when the area occupied by this corner of the building was cleared it was watched with especial care and the section shown on fig. 17 is based on the findings of these two "excavations". Fortunately the clearing here was done by spade and not by mechanical excavator so that the findings resulting from it are of greater significance. The surface of the floor as exposed in our formal excavation consisted of a 2 ins. layer of rammed gravel (layer 6). Below this were five layers of brown soil, clay, gravel &c. (shown and labelled on fig. 17, layers 7-11), in all 2 ft. 10 ins. thick, resting on the subsoil of boulder clay (layer 12).

In view of the fact that the top of the highest gravel layer was 2 ins. below the bottom of the drain through the wall, it seems likely that originally this room had had a flagged floor.

¹ Dr. P. Corder (YAYAS vol. No. 1 (1933), p. 16 and p. 18, fig. 7) had this to say about the bath-house found in 1933 under the Mail Coach Inn in St. Sampson's Square:—"In the lowest layer of debris found among the pillars of the apse was a large collection of sherds that can be dated with certainty to the last thirty years of the 4th century". Dr. Corder illustrated twenty-seven of these. They include the same types of wares as found in this Davygate building and, as a collection, bear a remarkable similarity to the sherds illustrated in this report (figs. 18-20).

² In the remaining distance to the wall of the Halifax Building Society this feature had been destroyed in post-Roman times,

(Evidence of such flagging was found in adjoining buildings on this site which appeared to be of a similar character identified during subsequent clearing operations, see p. 574.) It is clear that this building is a barrack block and this particular corner probably represents part of the ablution room in a centurion's quarters,¹ such a surface must therefore be deemed essential.²

The *intervallum* (Plate XIV), or rampart roadway outside the building has already been mentioned. Its surface consisted of rough slabs, irregularly shaped and variously sized, of limestone 2-4 ins. thick, laid in crazy-paving fashion. In trench 5 a section was dug through the *intervallum* (fig. 17 section C-D). Beneath the limestone surface was 5-6 ins. of rammed gravel, overlying 9 ins. of soil and 9 ins. of (disturbed) clay. This, in turn, overlay the undisturbed boulder clay. Lying on top of the latter were three fragments (each roughly 2 ins. square) of wall plaster painted red together with a fragment of wood. Both plaster and wood could have been shovelled here in the bottoming to the *intervallum* though they might, equally well, have been there when the roadway was put down and so represent the remains of some early wooden structure on the site linking up with one of the Flavian phases of the fortress.

The final discovery in these trenches was that of the culvert (Plate XIV and fig. 17). In trench 6, 5 ft. away from the outer face of the south-west wall of the building, the *intervallum* surface ceased and the filling of a large robber trench was encountered. This was found to penetrate nearly 3 ft. below the surface of the roadway. The filling consisted of 2 ft. of building debris (Roman) (layer 4A) overlying 1 ft. of brown soil (layer 5). The bottom consisted of undressed slabs of limestone not unlike those of the surface of the *intervallum* itself. The width of the robber trench could not be ascertained owing to the trench ending only 1 ft. 6 ins. beyond its north-east side. At the time of its discovery, however, it was assumed that here there had been originally a Roman culvert or sewer, the stone or brick sides of which had been subsequently removed. In the confined space available to examine this, only tentative conclusions could be reached at the time of the excavation. However, later, when the site was cleared, certainty on this, and on other problems relating to this culvert, was established when a 45 ft. length of it was exposed in a direct line with this discovery made in trench 6.

In the 1 ft. of brown soil at the bottom of the culvert eleven sherds of pottery and four fragments of wall plaster were found

¹ This assumption is based on the analogy of Caerleon. "An examination of the centurion's quarters in the different buildings [i.e. barrack blocks] showed that in almost every case the end room in front was equipped with a paved floor and stone gulleys and had presumably served as the ablution room". V. E. Nash-Williams, *The Roman Legionary Fortress at Caerleon* (1952), p. 20.

² For further on this barrack block see pp. 574-5.

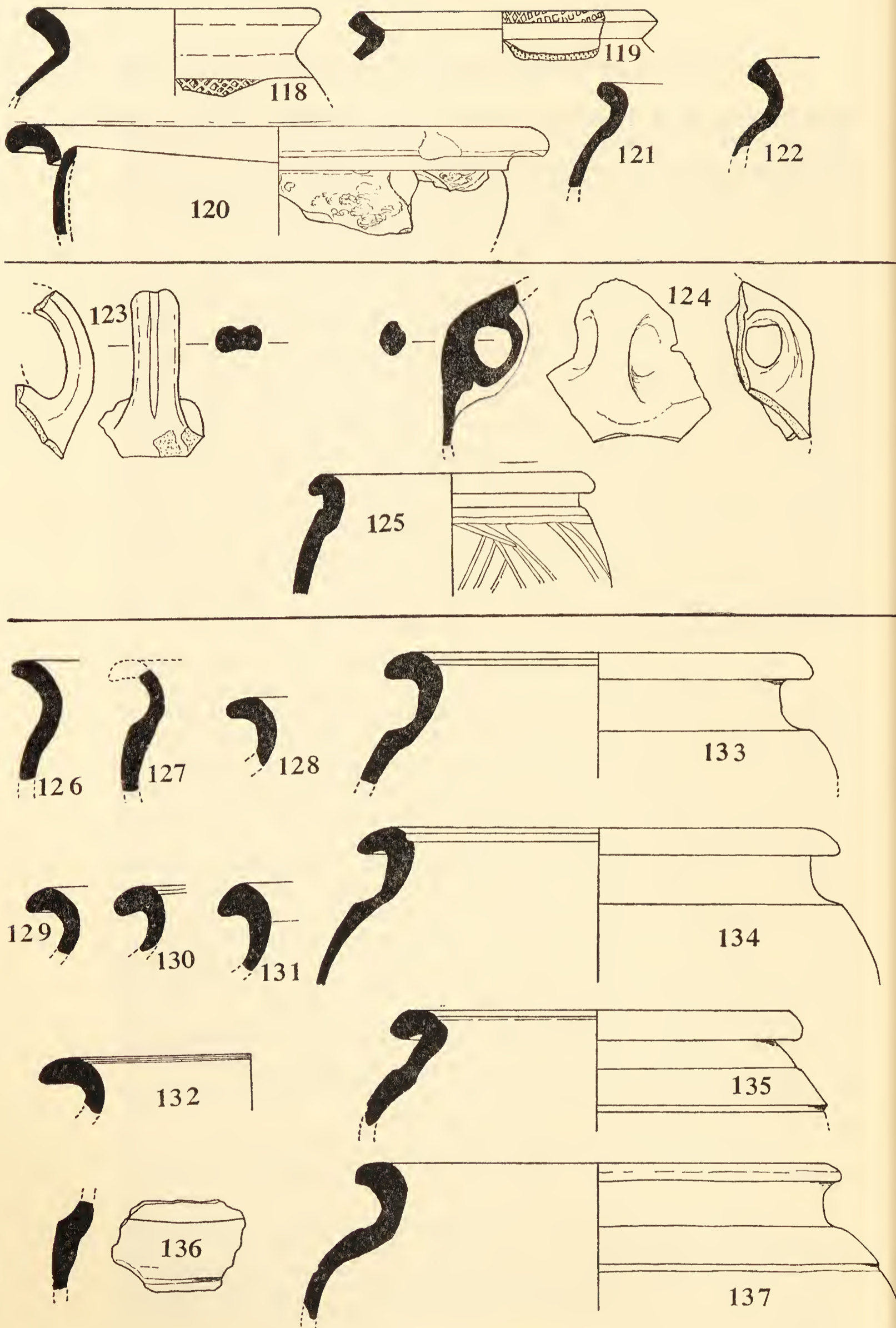


FIG. 18. Pottery.

Trench 6. Nos. 118-122 Saxo-Norman: Nos. 123-137 Roman.
 Nos. 118-120, layer 2. Nos. 121-125, layer 3. Nos. 126-137, layer 4. Scale $\frac{1}{3}$.

(for details see p. 553 later). Of the pottery five sherds were of calcite-gritted (Huntcliff) ware and so dated to the last two decades of the 4th century. Of the fragments of wall plaster, two were painted red and two white with a green band running across them.

TRENCHES 5 AND 6—THE POTTERY.

Fig. 18.

LAYER 2.¹ BLACK SOIL—POST-ROMAN.

The following three sherds of pottery were found in this layer:—the first two being of Saxo-Norman date (9th-11th century) and the third Roman.

- No. 118. Cooking-pot in *Thetford-type ware*. Round everted rim, dark bluish-grey surface, very well fired. A band of roller-stamp decoration below the neck. The rim shape is unusual (I.M.S.).
- No. 119. Cooking pot in *Thetford-type ware*. Squared rim slightly hollowed inside, and with roller-stamp decoration along the top. The rim shape is very typical, cf. South Corner Tower, York, *Y.A.J.*, xxxix, 1956-8, 523, fig. 4, no. 4. (I.M.S.).
- No. 120. Two fragments, drawn in their original relationship, from rim and shoulder respectively of a wide-mouthed jar or bowl in light yellowish buff fabric with a darker orange surface. The shoulder fragment, which had broken off horizontally from the rim, is now firmly attached, though not in its original position, to the broken edge of the rim fragment, by a yellow translucent vitreous glaze which covers the broken edge of the rim as well as part of the surface of both pieces. In places this substance forms white opaque blobs, and it is clear that the vessel, which is of Roman form and is probably to be dated to the 3rd century, became glazed accidentally after it was broken. (J.G.).

LAYER 3. BLACK SOIL CONTAINING MORTAR AND RUBBLE.

In this layer twenty-two sherds of pottery were found:—two were probably Saxo-Norman, viz.:—

Fig. 18.

- No. 121. Cooking-pot. Dark bluish-grey 'pimply' surface, sandy grit; the fabric and colour suggest that this is Saxo-Norman ware, but the rim is unusual. (I.M.S.).
- No. 122. Cooking-pot, of a type common in East Anglia in Pre-Conquest context, e.g. *Proc. Camb. Ant. Soc.*, xlix, 1956, fig. 4. The type is rare at York, but a rather similar vessel was found in the earliest Saxo-Norman level at Petergate (*Petergate* No. 3). Similar in colour to Thetford-type ware, but the surface is more 'pimply' and the grit is coarser, up to 3mm, and includes some bits of chalk. (I.M.S.).

The remainder of the pottery found was late or sub-Roman² and consisted of the following:—

Calcite-gritted (Huntcliff) ware—8 (none illustrated).

¹ Throughout this section these layer numbers refer to fig. 17.

² Some of these types of pottery—particularly the calcite-gritted ware—may well have continued in use after the departure of the legion in A.D. 410.

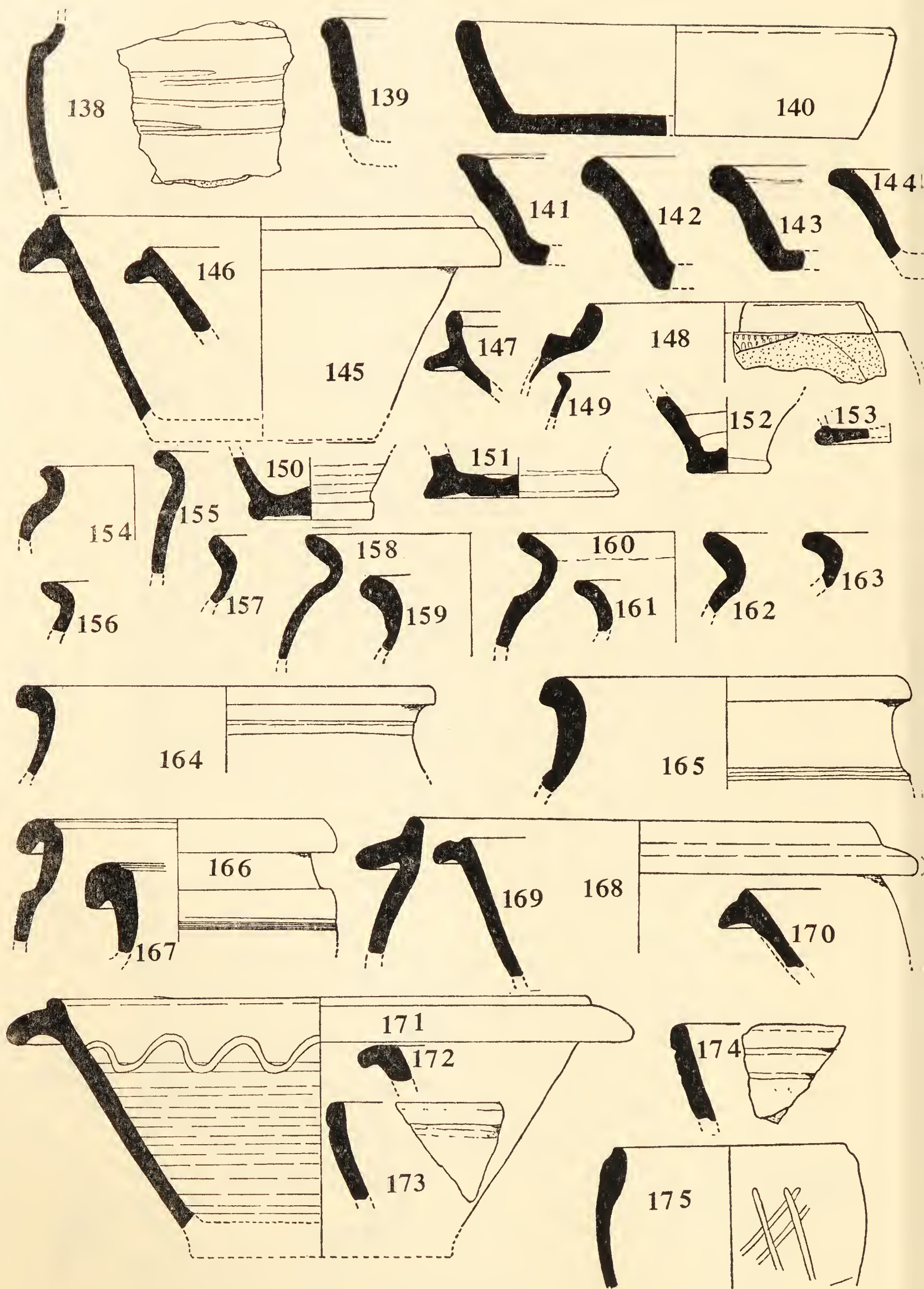


FIG. 19. Pottery.
Trench 6. Layer 4 continued. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

Colour-coated ("castor") ware—7 (two—nos. 123 and 124—illustrated).
 Coarse grey ware—2 (one—no. 125—illustrated).
 Crambeck—3 (none illustrated).

Fig. 18.

- No. 123. Handle of jug or beaker in dirty white fabric with dark brown iridescent colour-coat. Characteristic of products of Nene Valley potteries in the second half of the 4th century. Similar fabric and colour-coating to no. 151 later. A date after *c.* A.D. 350 likely. (B.H.).
- No. 124. Sunken handle from ? double-handled vase. Fabric similar to no. 125 above, colour-coating grey/slate. Dates 4th century.
- No. 125. Rim and shoulder fragment from a cooking-pot in dense heavy fabric, black throughout, lightly scored on the outer surface with groups of broad strokes forming an irregular lattice pattern; late 4th century; cf. *Birdoswald* No. 21 (CW 2 xxx, p. 191), *Signal Stations* fig. 9, no. 13 (*AJ* lxxxix, p. 241) and, for a fuller discussion, Birley in *CW* 2 xlvi, p. 294. (J.G.).

LAYER 4. RUBBLE AND FALLEN MASONRY. LATE/POST-ROMAN.

The pottery—all Roman—found in this layer consisted of these sherds:—

Calcite gritted (Huntcliff) ware—33 (19—nos. 126-144—illustrated).
 Colour-coated ("Castor") ware—21 (17—nos. 145-161—illustrated).
 Coarse grey ware—33 (23—nos. 162-175—illustrated).
 Crambeck type ware—1 (illustrated—no. 176).
 Coarse red ("legionary") ware—6 (2—nos. 177 and 178—illustrated).
 Samian, both Form 31—2 (neither illustrated).
 Mortaria—6 (2—nos. 179 and 180—illustrated).

Figs. 18 and 19.

- Nos. 126-144. All calcite-gritted (Huntcliff) ware; black fabric, with white calcite grit. Datable to last third of the 4th century.
 Nos. 126-138. Jars and cooking-pots.
 Nos. 139-144. Bowls and dishes.
- Nos. 145-153. Colour-coated ("castor") ware. Fabrics mostly white, grey or buff; colour-coatings grey/slate and dark brown.
 Nos. 145-147:—Bowls; nos. 148 and 149:—Rims of jars;
 nos. 150-153:—Bases of jars.

Representative is no. 145 described thus:—

A large piece from a straight-sided flanged bowl in dirty white fabric with dark brown iridescent colour-coat. This is the fully developed form which was characteristic of the Nene Valley potteries in the second half of the 4th century. It was common in the Great Casterton destruction deposit (Corder, *Great Casterton I*, p. 35) of the end of the century or the early 5th century. The starting date is less certain, though the prototype of the form had already appeared by the end of the 3rd century at Stibbington. On the whole a date after *c.* A.D. 350 seems highly likely. (B.H.).

- Nos. 154-175. Various shades of grey ware.
 Nos. 154-163:—Jars; nos. 164-167:—Cooking-pots; no. 168:—Wide-mouthed jar or bowl; nos. 169-172:—Flanged bowls; nos. 173-174:—Dishes with beaded rims; no. 175:—cooking pot or beaker.

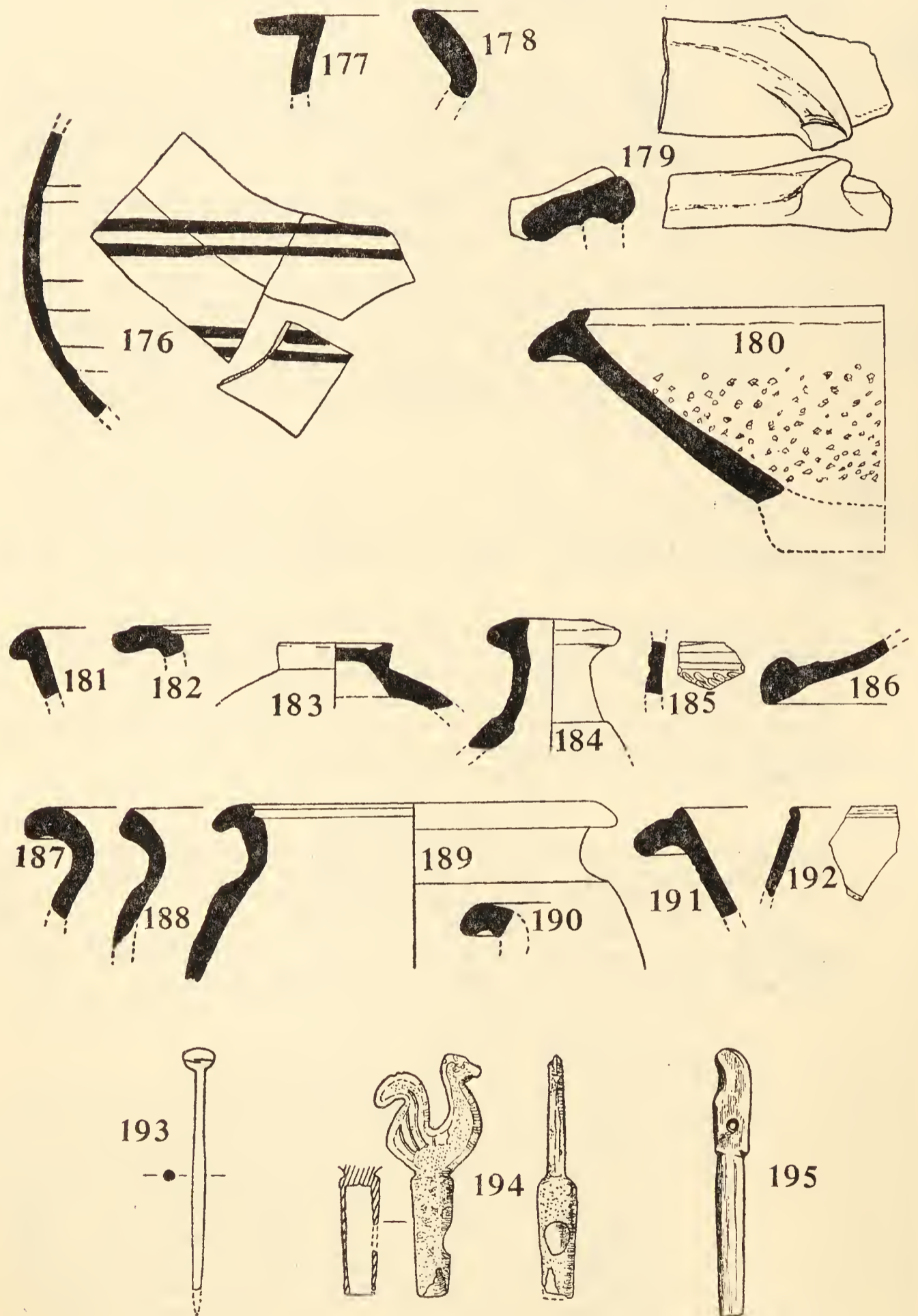


FIG. 20. Pottery and other finds.

Trench 6. Nos. 176-180, layer 4 continued. Nos. 181 and 182, layer 7. Nos. 183 and 184, layer 9. Nos. 185 and 186, layer 10. Nos. 187-192, layer 5. No. 193, trench 4, layer 3. No. 194, trench 2, layer 1A. No. 195, found at X2. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.



PLATE XIII. Trench 4. 4th century floor and stratified layers beneath.



PLATE XIV. Trench 6. South corner of barrack block, with intervallum outside and culvert beneath it.



PLATE XV. Trench 7. Corner of building of Trajanic date. Flagon *in situ* buried in gravel filling beneath internal flagged floor.



PLATE XVI. Trench 7. The flagon. The topmost hole was put in by the pick when it was found, the other two were inserted before its burial.

None of these appears to be earlier than the late 3rd or 4th century though some can be fairly confidently placed very late in the 4th century viz. no. 171 which closely resembles J. P. Gillam's type no. 231¹ which is dated A.D. 370-400. No. 175 is representative of a number of these sherds:—

No. 175. Fragment from a cooking-pot or beaker in dense heavy fabric, black throughout, lightly scored on the surface with broad strokes forming an irregular lattice pattern; cf. *Signal Stations* fig. 10, No. 5 (*AJ* lxxxix, p. 242), late 4th century. (J.G.).

Fig. 20.

No. 176. Four sherds—three conjoining—of the side of ? a bowl; yellowish-white fabric with red painted decoration. Similar to, though not identical with, Crambeck ware. The type is late 4th century.

Nos. 177 and 178. Red ("legionary") ware.

No. 177. Dish with flat rim; no. 178:—Jar. Date 2nd-3rd century.

Nos. 179 and 180. Mortaria.

No. 179. The fabric suggests an origin in the East Midlands, probably the Nene Valley kilns. It cannot be earlier than the end of the 2nd century and is more likely to be 3rd century. The spout is intermediate in form between late 2nd century vessels and the Stibbington type of the late 3rd century. (K.H.).

No. 180. A mortarium of the same form as Crambeck type 6 (*Ant. J.* xvii, 402), though not in Crambeck fabric. The type was not found at the Signal Stations or in the late levels at Malton, so it is earlier than A.D. 370. c. A.D. 330-370 may be suggested. (K.H.).

LAYER 6—RAMMED GRAVEL.

Six sherds of pottery—4 red ("legionary") ware and 2 grey ware—none illustrated. Date 2nd—3rd century.

LAYER 7—BROWN SOIL.

Eight sherds of pottery—3 red ("legionary") ware; 2 rusticated ware and 3 grey ware (2—nos. 181 and 182—illustrated).

No. 181. Rim of bowl in smooth grey fabric. ? Late 2nd/3rd century.

No. 182. Rim of bowl with reeded rim; light grey fabric; decoration, consisting of oblique lines, on the rim. ? 2nd century.

LAYER 8—GRAVEL AND MORTAR.

One sherd of grey ware—not illustrated.

LAYER 9—SOIL AND GRAVEL.

Nine sherds—3 red ("legionary") ware (One—no. 183—illustrated); 5 sherds grey ware (none illustrated); 1 Samian (base of Form 31—not illustrated) and neck of a flagon (no. 184—illustrated).

No. 183. Part of a lid in smooth pinkish-buff fabric. ? 2nd century.

No. 184. Neck of single-handled flagon. Self-coloured fabric, grey core, reddish-grey on the outside. ? 2nd century.

¹ AA⁴ xxv (1957), p. 24.

DAVYGATE - YORK

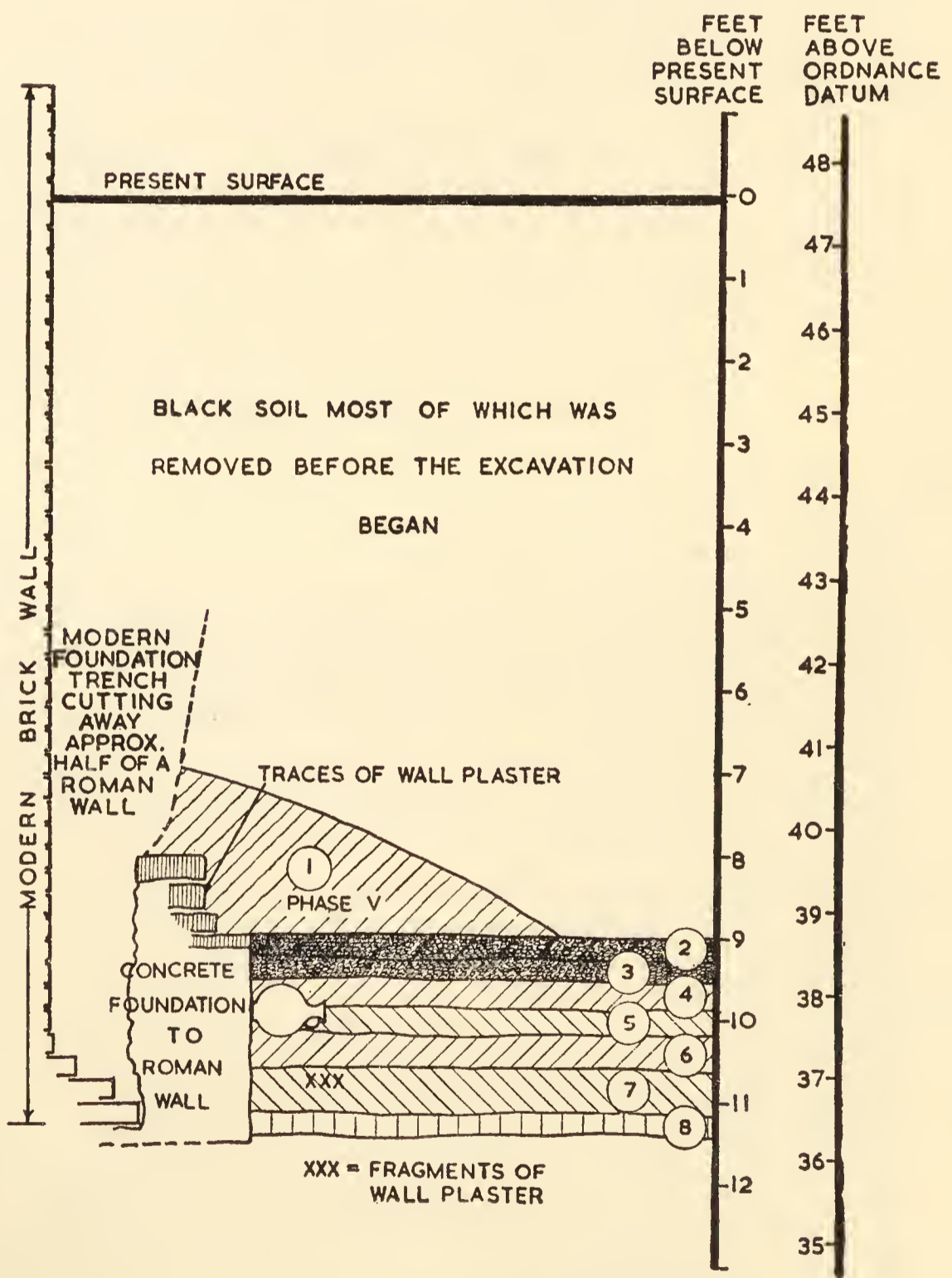
1955-1956

EXCAVATION

SCALE OF FEET 

TRENCH No.8

SECTION A-B



H. RICHARDSON. YORK.

FIG. 21. Trench 8, section A-B.

LAYER 10—BROWN CLAY AND RUBBLE.

Five sherds—2 Samian (One base of Form 31; the other—no. 185—illustrated—decorated); 3 red ware (One—no. 186—illustrated) and 2 buff ware (not illustrated).

No. 185. A fragment of a South Gaulish Form 29 with part of a straight wreath. The date of manufacture is not in doubt *c.* A.D. 70-85. (B.H.).

No. 186. Three sherds—2 conjoining—of part of a large lid (diameter *c.* 1 ft. 3 ins.) in coarse red fabric with darker core. ? Late 1st century.

LAYER 5—BROWN SOIL AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CULVERT.

Eleven sherds were found in this—5 calcite-gritted (Huntcliff) ware (Four—nos. 187-190—illustrated); 2 colour-coated ("castor") ware; (Two—nos. 191 and 192—illustrated) and 4 of grey ware (none illustrated).

Nos. 187-190. Cooking-pots in Huntcliff ware.

Nos. 191 and 192. Colour-coated ware, whitish-grey fabric.

No. 191. Flanged bowl, coloured slate.

No. 192. Beaker, coloured light-brown.

(ii) TRENCHES 7 AND 8 (figs. 2 and 21; Plates XV and XVI).

Trenches 7 and 8, like trench 5, were dug on instructions from the architects so that the foundations of the buildings alongside which they lay (the Halifax Building Society and a warehouse belonging to Messrs. Border's respectively) could be examined. Trench 7 measured 6½ ft. × 4 ft. Except for a few sherds of unstratified Roman pottery (none drawn nor described) and the clay of one of the ramparts behind the fortress wall (in view of its distance away from the wall it must have been the 4th century, my Phase V or VI) nothing of archaeological significance was forthcoming. It is clear, however, in view of the finds made soon afterwards in trench 8, that the wall of a Roman building, parallel to, and lying almost under the wall of Messrs. Border's warehouse, existed only a few inches beyond the western limit of this trench. (This was confirmed later when the site was cleared; it is shown on fig. 2.)

Trench 8, measuring 8 ft. × 4 ft., revealed the inner faces of two adjoining walls i.e. the corner of a room or building. Of these two walls, that which ran parallel to the warehouse stood three courses high above the foundation, while of the other only one course survived. The two walls were bonded into each other, so that they were clearly of the same date. The wall courses—of magnesian limestone—were about 4 ins. deep and were somewhat rough and irregular, being straight cut only on the face visible (Plate XV). Nothing of the core of the second of these walls was seen and only a little of the first, since half of the latter had been cut away to accommodate the footings of the warehouse wall (fig. 21).

Permission was granted to me by the architects to take over this trench for 48 hours, during which time it was possible to

clear it down to the subsoil throughout. Both walls had the same type of foundation—of limestone rubble run with cement—2 ft. 6 ins. deep and set in a square trench with about 4 ins. projecting beyond the wall itself (fig. 21). On the face of the wall running alongside (i.e. parallel to) the warehouse were small patches of white plaster still *in situ* indicating that this had been an inner wall. The filling beneath the floor of the room thus implied was 2 ft. thick above the undisturbed boulder clay (layer 8 of fig. 21) and consisted of four layers (nos. 4-7) each about 4 ins. thick—of clay (the lowest one of which contained three fragments of greyish coloured wall plaster) surmounted by two layers (nos. 2 and 3) (each about 4 ins. thick) of rammed gravel, the topmost one of which had been run with cement. It seemed that this had been finally surmounted by a flagged floor, which would have rested on the lowest offset of the wall footings encountered in the excavation (see Plate XV).

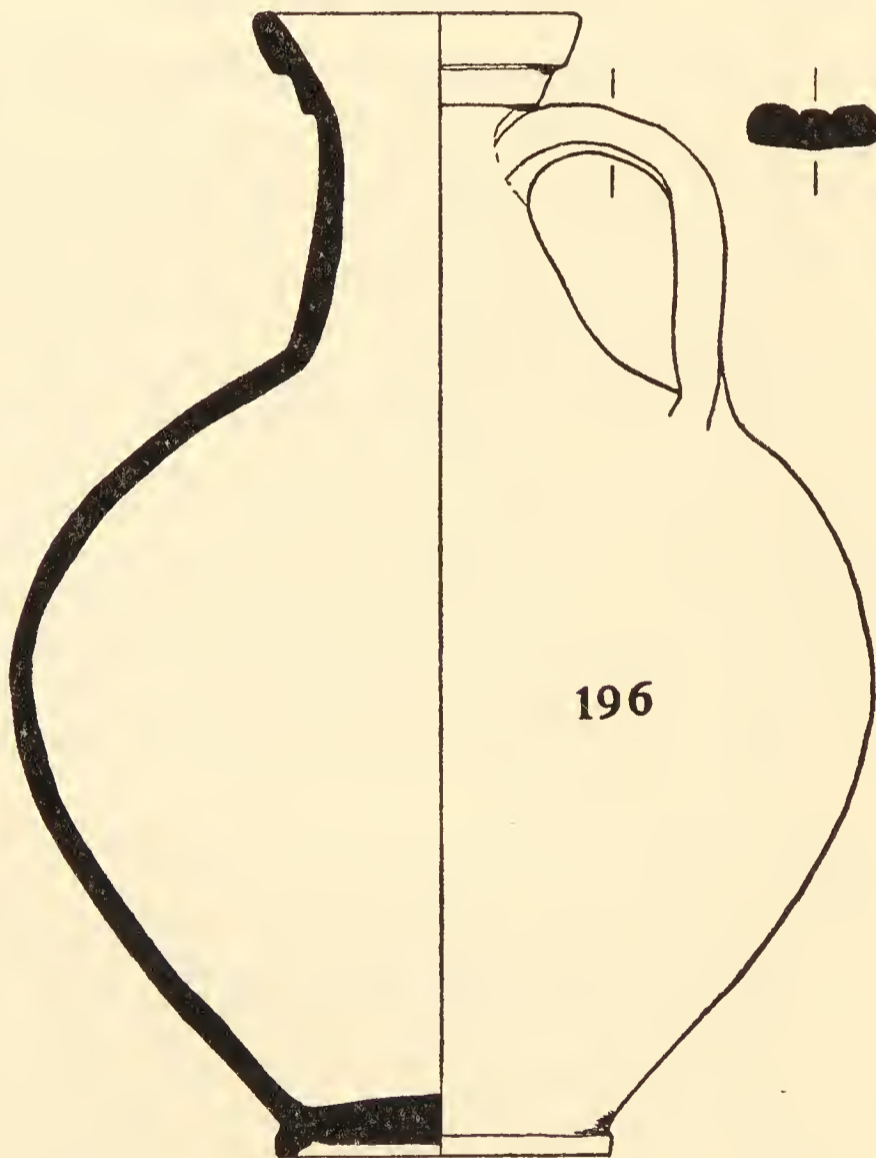


FIG. 22.

Flagon found in trench 7. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$.

During the course of the removal of the filling below this floor a surprising find was encountered. In the corner, inserted in the three topmost layers of clay, and covered by the two topmost

layers of gravel, was a complete and empty flagon. The hole seen on it on Plate XV and the largest hole seen on it on Plate XVI was caused by a pick at the time of its discovery, the two smaller holes (Plate XVI) had clearly been put into it intentionally before it was buried. That it had been deliberately buried in the position in which it was found could not be in doubt, and it may have been placed there as a dedicatory or ritualistic offering.¹ As there was nothing to indicate that it was a later insertion it must be presumed to be contemporary with the building with which it was clearly associated. The holes in its side probably had a two-fold purpose, firstly, to emphasise its ritualistic significance by destroying its original utilitarian character and secondly, to render it useless and so unattractive to despoilers or robbers.²

Fig. 22. no. 196. The flagon. Fabric pink, colour-coated dull red. Professor Eric Birley and Mr. John Gillam report upon it as follows:—

- “(a) It does not look to come from any large-scale factory, which sent its products far and wide: indeed, we don't recall an exact parallel to the type of rim-neck (or rim/neck, whichever you prefer).
- (b) But it is clearly based on a professional tradition, and we suggest that it comes from *legionary* kilns.
- (c) As to its date, it is evidently later than the Flavian period, and earlier than the latter part of the 2nd century: on balance, we both incline to suggest that it is Trajanic, from the kilns of the Ninth, rather than Hadrianic.”

This implies that this building is Trajanic and must, therefore, have been built into the rampart at the time of, or soon after, the construction of the first stone wall of the fortress (my Phase III). It was clear, too, that this building had been deliberately demolished at some subsequent period, for the clay of the first 4th century—my Phase V (layer 1 of fig. 21)—rampart overlay it.³

Since the two walls seen in these trenches clearly represented part of an inner room of a building, it was anticipated that an outer wall (or walls) would be found beyond the end of trench 8 when the site was cleared by the mechanical excavator. None was, in fact, noted.

¹ The only British parallel on a military site to such a find as this appears to be at Corbridge where a complete cup and flagon were found together below a 2nd century floor. Professor Ian Richmond and Mr. John Gillam in their report (AA⁴ xxxi (1950), p. 238 and fig. 12, No. 51 and 52) stated that “the close association of the cup and the flagon suggest that they had been used and lost together”.

² In the Roman cemetery excavated by the writer in Trentholme Drive, York 1951-8 some cinerary urns and also some pots buried as grave furniture with inhumed skeletons were found, some with one, and some with two, holes like these in them.

³ Miller *JRS* xviii (1928), pp. 89-94 found a rampart building (his building VI) in the Dean's garden adjoining the north-west fortress wall to which he ascribed a Trajanic date which had been demolished and a later rampart thrown over it.

WOODEN INTERVAL TOWER

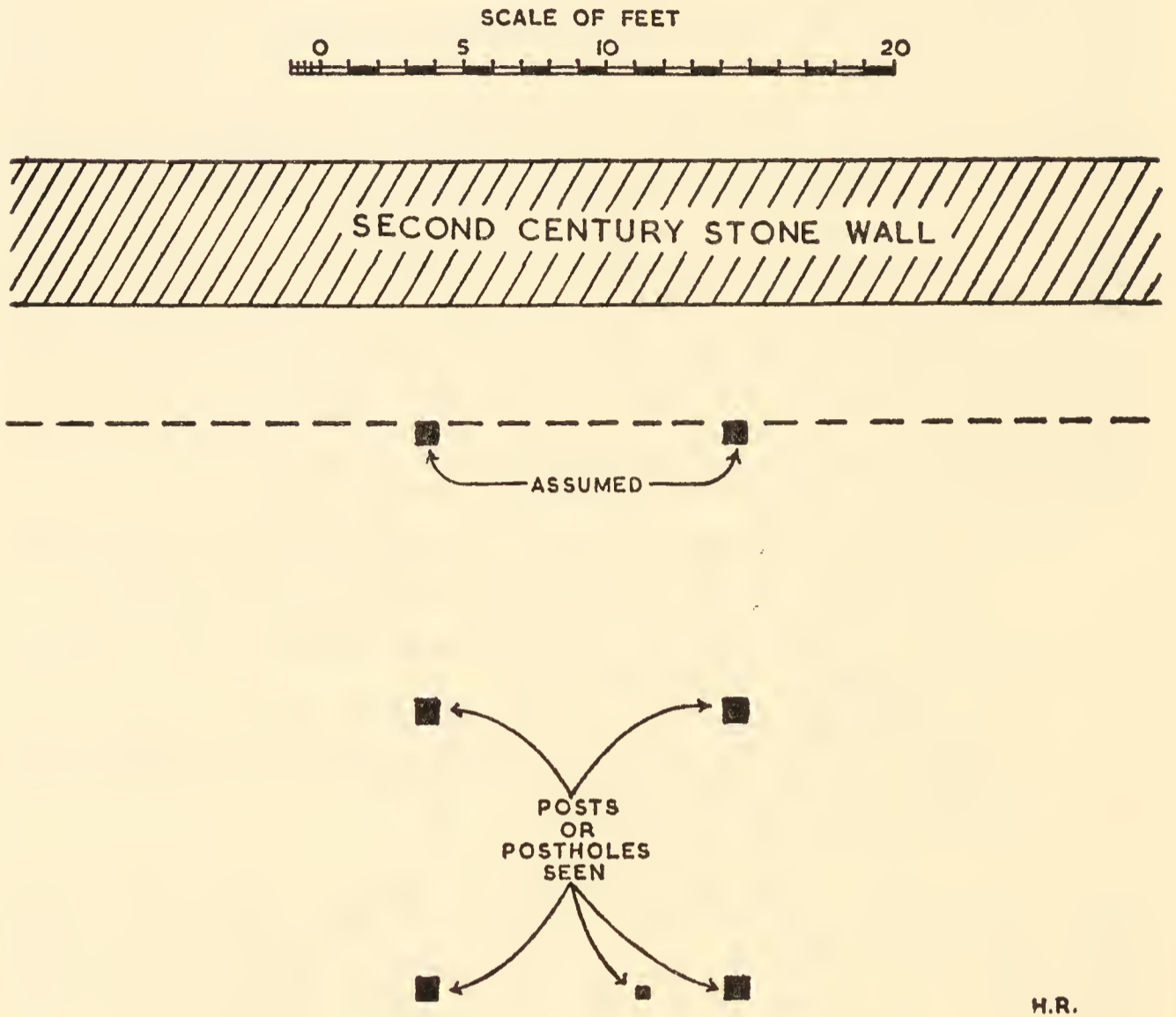


FIG. 23. Wooden interval tower.

PART III.

INCIDENTAL DISCOVERIES DURING THE CLEARANCE OF THE SITE.

Before rebuilding on the site much of it was cleared to depths varying between 12 and 14 ft. The soil was removed by a mechanical excavator and, over nearly all the site, all the topsoil above the virgin clay was taken away. The contractors and workmen were most co-operative and kept the writer informed of anything which had been found. As the following account will make clear the finds were important and significant and much was doubtless lost which a large-scale systematic excavation would have revealed.

The site was cleared in two parts—that now forming the premises of the Yorkshire Insurance Company (December 1956—February 1957) and that the Prudential Insurance Company (September 1957—January 1958). These areas and the findspots of the discoveries made are shown on fig 2.

(1) FORTRESS WALL.

The inner face of this wall was exposed, 7 ft. 6 ins. below the modern surface, at points A and B on fig. 2. In each instance the length uncovered was $6\frac{1}{2}$ ft. The face was of roughly hewn, irregularly sized, undressed blocks of magnesian limestone, i.e. it was of typical 4th century (Constantian) workmanship.

(2) REMAINS OF A WOODEN INTERVAL TOWER.

The stumps of four of the six posts of a wooden interval tower associated with the second (my phase II) rampart were uncovered at D, E, F and G on fig. 2.¹ They were 10 ft. apart from centre to centre. A line drawn between D and E is parallel to the fortress wall and is 12 ft. distant from its inner face. The slot which Mr. Ramm found in his nearby Coney Street excavation and which he assumed was associated with the palisade of this first rampart was some 2 ft. behind the stone wall² and must, therefore, have been about 10 ft. away from these posts, making the symmetrical pattern for the uprights of the tower as shown on fig. 23.

Both the top of the stump seen at D and its associated post-hole 9 ft. high (again exposed and visible during the clearance of the site) had already been seen in trench 1 in my formal excavation and has been described on pp. 513-5. The workmen clearing the site found it necessary to remove the stump, and, although it was broken during the operation, the pieces were retrieved, fitted together and photographed (Plate XVII). It was 30 ins. long and the square-cut base measured about 9×9 ins. (The swelling of the wood subsequent to its removal from the ground made precise measurements impossible.) The base had clearly been sawn, while the sides showed marks of the adze. The hole into which the post had been placed was $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. below the Roman ground level. Samples from this stump have been examined by Dr. R. D. Preston, Professor of Bio-chemistry in the University of Leeds and identified as oak. He reports that it represents a piece cut out of a much larger tree, the growth rings indicating that it was at least 150 years old at the time that it was felled. This means that it was growing (? in the nearby Forest of Galtres) when Christ and Julius Caesar were alive.

Stump E was not removed from the ground; the void of the post-hole above it was, however, visible in the section (fig. 24) and was of the same height as that at D. Like the latter, its top projected 12 ins. above the remaining top of the phase II rampart implying that it had been rocked in the same way as that found at D (see p. 515).

¹ Miller found what he thought was a post-hole associated with this rampart at the north-east corner but gave no details of it. *JRS* xviii (1928), p. 65 and fig. 16.

² *JRS* xlvi (1956), p. 79 and fig. 11.

SECTION I - J

FEET ABOVE ORDNANCE DATUM

FEET BELOW PRESENT LEVEL



SCALE OF FEET

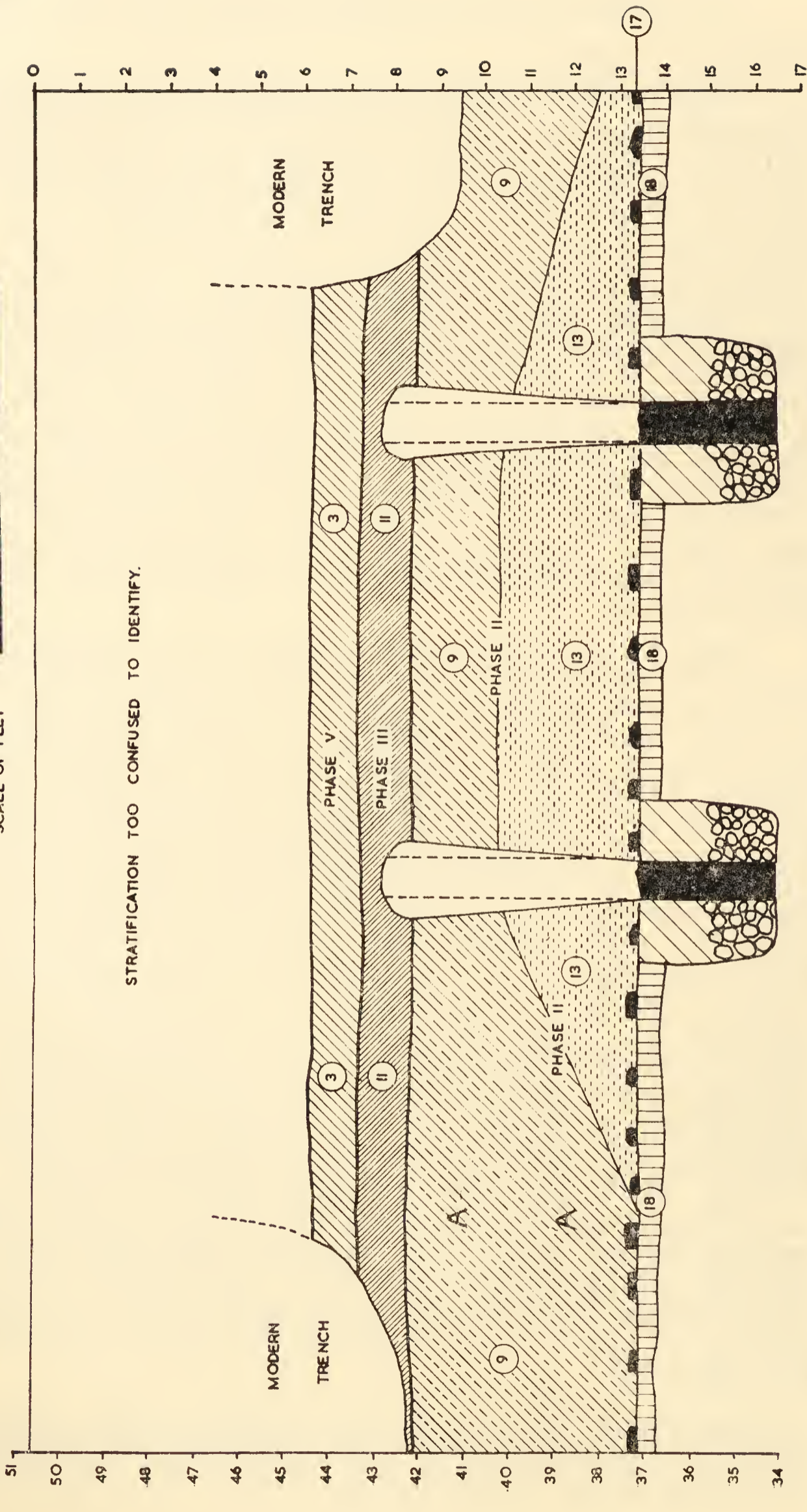


FIG. 24. Section I-J of fig. 2.

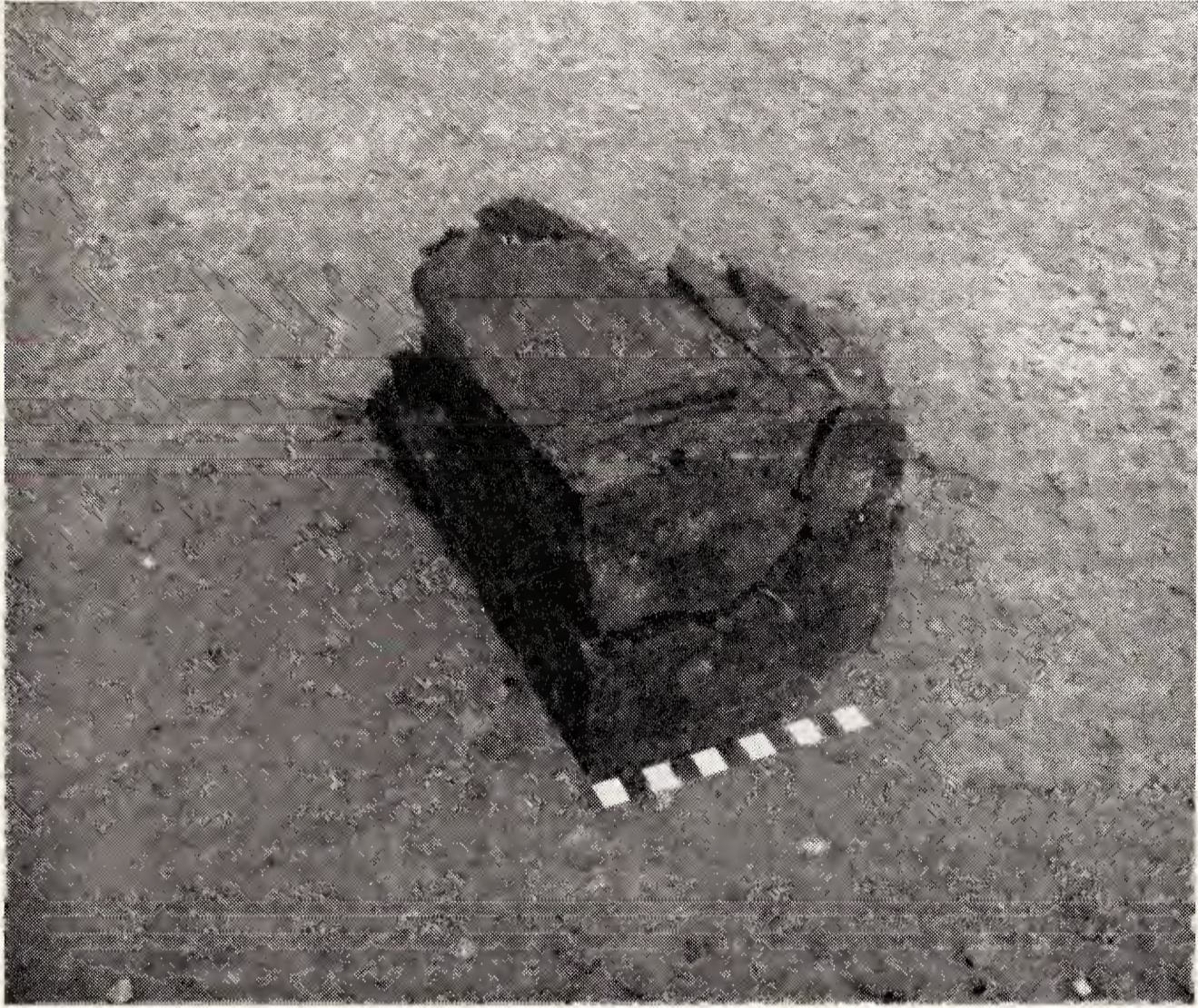


PLATE XVII.

Findspot D. Stump of one of the six wooden uprights of the Flavian interval tower.



PLATE XVIII.

Findspot G. Another stump of the upright of the Flavian interval tower.

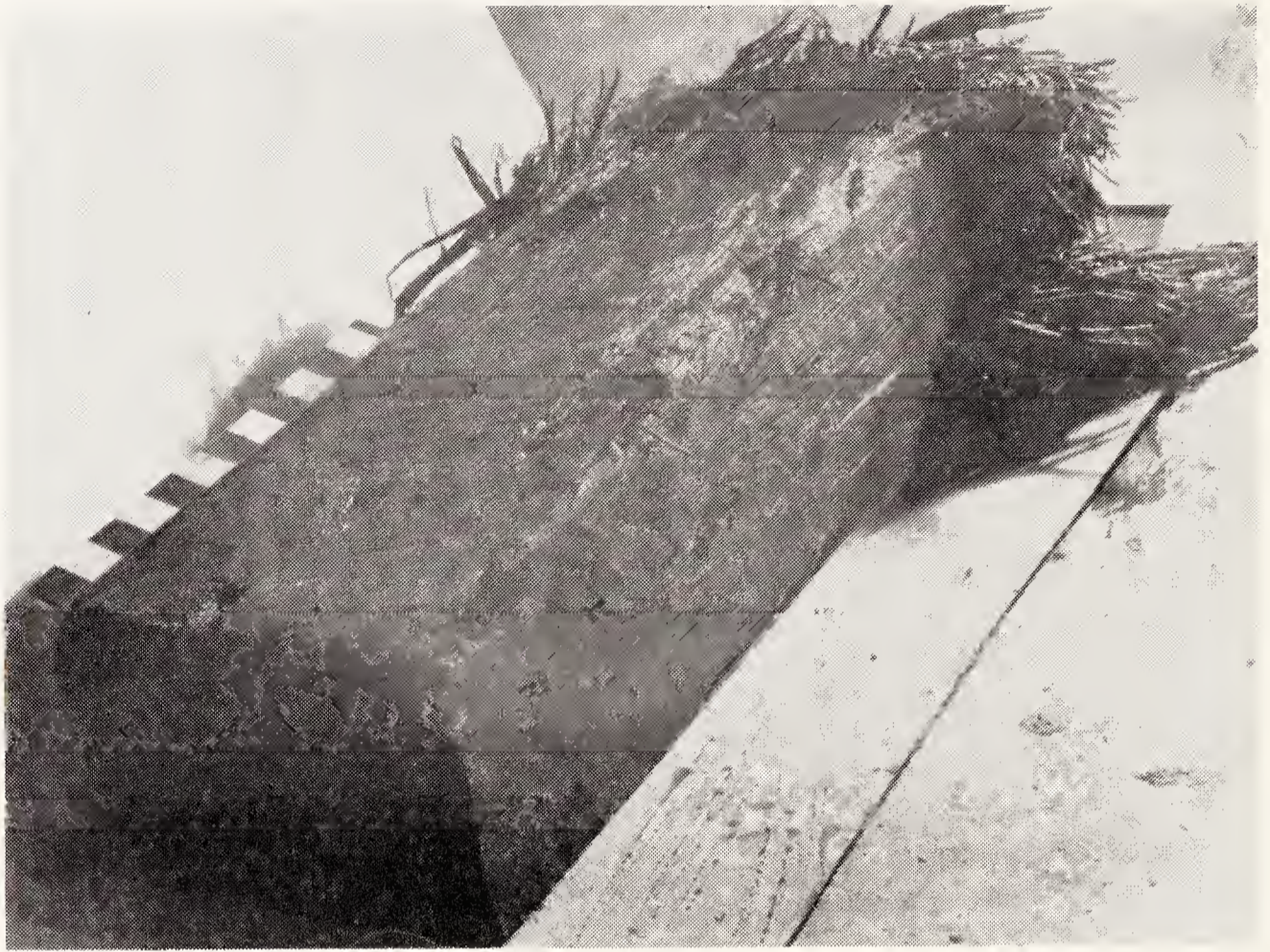


PLATE XIX.
As Plate XVIII. Note adze marks on the sides.



PLATE XX.
Wooden strappings beneath Flavian rampart. Seen in section I-J (fig. 24).

Stump F was just visible above the level of the subsoil. It was not removed, neither was it photographed.

Permission was given by the contractors for the careful excavation and removal of stump G. This proved to be 3 ft. long (Plates XVIII and XIX) though it was clear that it had been still standing at least a foot higher than this before being struck and damaged by the mechanical excavator. (On the plates the "mane-like" appearance of the upper part of this post is due to the fibres having been forcibly pulled apart by the action of the excavator.) The square-cut base (evidently cut by a saw) measured $8 \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ ins. On the side were the marks—clearly shown in plate XIX—of the adze employed in shaping it. It also was of oak.

The excavation showed that this post had originally been inserted into a circular hole of about $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. diameter at the level of the Roman surface and dug to the same depth (see fig. 24). In the bottom 18 ins. was a packing of cobbles; the rest of the filling was of boulder clay. The latter was doubtless that dug out of the hole, replaced above the cobbles and rammed.

At H between stumps F and G and 3 ft. inside the latter, was a near-square post-hole (roughly 5×5 ins.) which, like stumps D and G penetrated $3\frac{1}{2}$ ft. below the Roman ground level. No wood remained in the hole and permission could not be obtained to excavate it. The fact that the post-hole was void in its entirety suggested that this post, like those at D, E, and G had been left in the ground when the latter rampart (the Trajanic—my Phase III) was thrown over it and that it had rotted away. No corresponding post-hole was found at a like distance inside stump F and the possibility that it had originally contained the jamb of a doorway seemed a reasonable explanation.

The straightening by hand (as opposed to clearing by mechanical excavation) of a 30 ft. long section through the rampart, parallel to and 14 ft. distant from the inner face of the fortress wall (I—J on fig. 2), provided a valuable section (fig. 24) to use as a check against the much smaller one (only 6 ft. long) which had been encountered in the excavation of trench 1 (fig. 3, section C—D).

Valuable though this section was it should, however, be explained that it was never exposed in its entirety at one and the same time. As sectors were cleared substantial revetting was placed in position very soon afterwards. Though facilities were granted to examine the stratification the opportunities were limited both in time and scope. The section clearly revealed that the turf revetment (layer 13)¹ and clay (layer 9) of the phase II rampart, with which the tower must have been associated² had been built up against the posts after they had been erected.

¹ These layer nos. relate to fig. 24 and also correspond to similar layers found during the excavation of trench 1 (fig. 3).

² For reasons see pp. 512-3.

SECTION J - K.

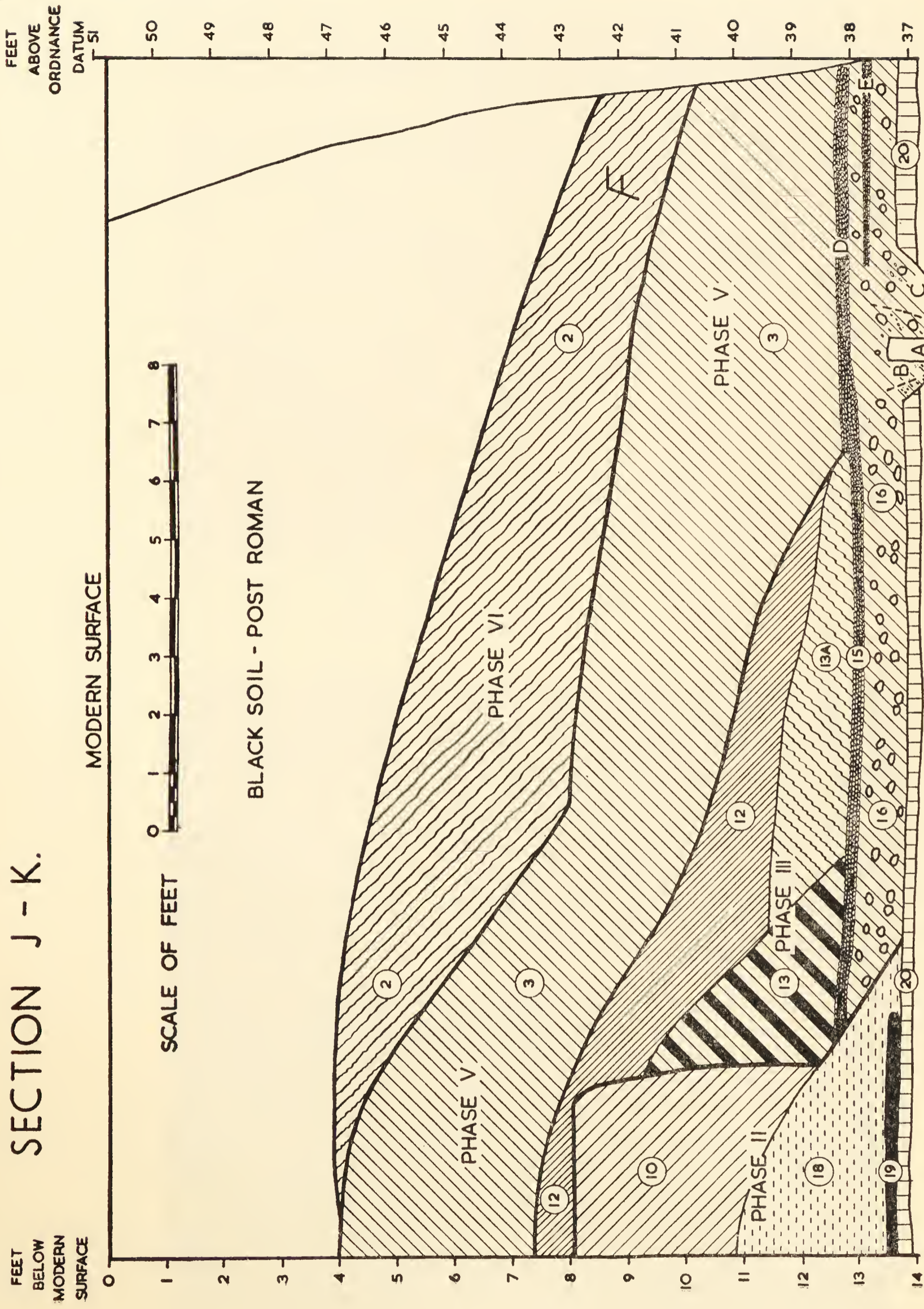


FIG. 25. Section J-K of fig. 2.

VOID OF POST HOLE

This may imply that turves were only used in the construction of the Flavian rampart(s) here in York in the vicinity of the interval towers though, of course, it is clearly dangerous to generalise from only one example.

Another striking feature of this section I—J was the layer (17) of wooden strappings which was exposed (fig. 24 and plate XX). Twenty of these were visible at one and the same time: they lay directly on the clay subsoil and were seen both under the turves and the clay. Three samples have been examined by Mr. J. F. Levy of the Department of Botany of the Royal College of Science, London, who identified them as oak: his report appears in Appendix 3(ii). The majority appeared to be roughly shaped planks but some looked like roughly trimmed boughs.¹ They varied considerably in size from only an inch or two square to as much as 9 × 4 ins. They were between 12 and 18 ins. apart. It must be emphasised that there was only a single layer of these strappings and not two—one above the other—as Mr. Ramm found in his Coney Street excavation.² Mr. Ramm described the upper of the two layers of strappings which he found as “a series of planks”, which corresponds closely to the ones found in this Davygate discovery. He related them to the second Flavian/Phase II period of the defences and it is to that phase (or a subsequent modification of it) that these in Davygate also belong.

Above the top of the Phase II rampart was a 12 ins. layer (no. 11) of grey/brown clay which presumably constituted part of my Phase III (Trajanic) rampart. It will be noted that the tops of the post-holes of two of the uprights of the interval tower are some 4 ins. below the surface of this. This Phase III rampart was surmounted by a darker layer an inch or two thick which may represent an occupational turf line. Overlying this was a foot of yellow clay (layer 3) which corresponds to what was found in trenches 1 and 2 and must be part of the Phase V (Constantian) rampart. Above this the section could not be interpreted owing to post-Roman disturbances—associated with the new building under construction—to a depth of 6 ft. below the modern surface.

It has been shown earlier in this report that in view of the date of the pottery in the turf revetment (? post-A.D. 80) the tower and revetment must be related to the Phase II rampart (or to a later addition or repair of this) and not as an integral part of the Phase I defences. In such a case it would seem that some archaeological evidence of the local clearance of the rampart in the region immediately surrounding the tower which this would have necessitated would have been evident in the section

¹ Doubtless the trunks of the oak trees which were cut down supplied the posts for the towers. The outer strips of these carrying the bark may have constituted my “roughly shaped planks” which, with the “roughly trimmed boughs”, were used as strappings.

² *JRS* xlvi (1956), p. 79 and f. and fig. 11.

exposed i.e. in the region of A-A of fig. 24, layer 9. None was, in fact, detected.

(3) RAMPART SECTION J—K (fig. 25).

In addition to the rampart section I—J (figs. 2 and 24) parallel to the fortress wall and discussed above, another one—J—K of figs. 2 and 25—was cut through the rampart at right angles to the wall in the course of the clearing of the site. It was unfortunately only exposed in its entirety for 24 hours as it started to collapse and had to be heavily revetted. Photographs were taken but none merits reproduction. It was $20\frac{1}{2}$ ft. long and was of particular importance as it covered nearly all the unexcavated 16 ft. between my trenches 1 and 2. The section is considered here under the Phases as established in the formal excavation.

Phase I. The workmen engaged on the work handed me three sherds of pottery which they said they had picked out of the turves. They were small and lacked rims and are not illustrated. All three were of a pinkish-cream fabric similar to the sherd of a carinated bowl (fig. 4 no. 5 and p. 512) found in the turf revetment in the formal excavation: they are of early Flavian date.

Phase II. (i) The turf revetment (layer 18)¹ was seen in the 6 ft. of the section nearest the rampart.

It was 5 ft. wide at its base and 2 ft. 6 ins. high at its highest above the subsoil, it rested on a wooden strapping (layer 19) and sloped down to the subsoil at an angle of about 45°. It confirmed the fact that this revetment had only been built up around the interval tower.

(ii) Clay rampart above the turf (layer 10). This was standing 3—4 ft. high above the turf, its profile being similar to that encountered in the formal excavation (fig. 3, sections D—A and C—B). It will be noted that the edge of the turf revetment projected 2 ft. below and beyond the near vertical edge of the rampart.

(iii) Gravel intervallum. The 2—3 ins. thick layer (15) of rammed gravel overlying a 9—10 ins. packing of clay and cobbles (layer 16) links up with the similar feature found in trench 1 (see pp. 516-7).

(iv) Also to be associated with one or two of the Flavian Phases (my Phases I and II) were the finds of firstly, the void of a post (A) with its associated post-hole (B)² and secondly, what was possibly a V-shaped sleeper trench (C).² Both were very close together some 29 ft. behind the rear of the fortress wall; both cut about a foot into the subsoil, the post-hole being an inch or two deeper than the trench. Although so close together,

¹ These layer numbers relate to fig. 25.

² These letters relate to fig. 25. On fig. 2 the post-hole is lettered L.

the two features appeared to be quite separate and distinct, the post-hole being clearly the later as it cut through the filling of the trench. The V-shaped trench was 30 ins. wide at the top where it cut through the surface of the subsoil: the corresponding measurement of the post-hole was about 14 ins. The void of the post was still to be seen and was 5 ins. wide. The stump of the post which had originally been in it had never been removed but had rotted away; nothing of it remained when examined.

These two discoveries—post-hole and sleeper trench—are in exactly the same 'horizon' in relation to the fortress wall as similar features seen at M (fig. 2 and p. 569), while yet another "hollow" which I have also designated as a sleeper trench was seen at N4—0 fig. 2 (see also p. 565) and ran at right angles to these "trenches" seen at L and M. All three presumably relate to the same Flavian Phase of the fortress while the post-holes at L and M possibly relate to another, when the internal buildings were of wood. Chronologically the sleeper trenches are earlier than the post-holes. Do the former link up with my Phase I and the latter with my Phase II of the defences?

Phase III. Layers 12, 13 and 13a of various types of clay represent the build-up and extension of the rampart to be associated with the Trajanic phase of the fortress. The section is of particular importance in establishing the width of this Phase III rampart as between 27 and 28 ft. behind the inner face of the fortress wall.

The layer of gravel (D of fig. 25) did not appear to be a continuation of layer 15 and, as it appears at the toe of the Phase III rampart, it presumably represents the intervallum to be associated with that phase. In the horizon D—E of the section the stratification was very confused and the section as drawn is schematic. The salient points about it are these:—the filling around the post-hole consisted mostly of brown clay and cobbles like layer 16 but contained a great deal of gravel and was much darker in colour—possibly due to the presence of rotted wood. E represented a second layer of gravel 6 ins. lower than the one at D. It presumably links up with one or other of the Flavian Phases as represented by the post-hole (A) and ? sleeper trench (C) possibly as the internal floor of a building of some sort.

Phase IV. This section revealed nothing which could be associated with a Severan widening of the defences. This negative "evidence" is important in that it does not conflict with a similar conclusion which was reached as a result of the excavation of trench 1 (see p. 519).

Phase V. This—the Constantian, fourth century, rampart—was represented in the section by yellow-brown clay (layer 3), 3—3½ ft. thick similar to that found in trenches 1 and 2. The toe of this rampart was seen in trench 2 which gives it a width of about 46 ft.

Phase VI. This, the ? mid-4th century "addition" or enlargement of the Constantian rampart overlay the Phase V rampart in practically the whole of the section to depths varying from a few inches to 3 ft. At F it contained a large quantity of (Roman) building debris, especially tiles, mortar and rubble.

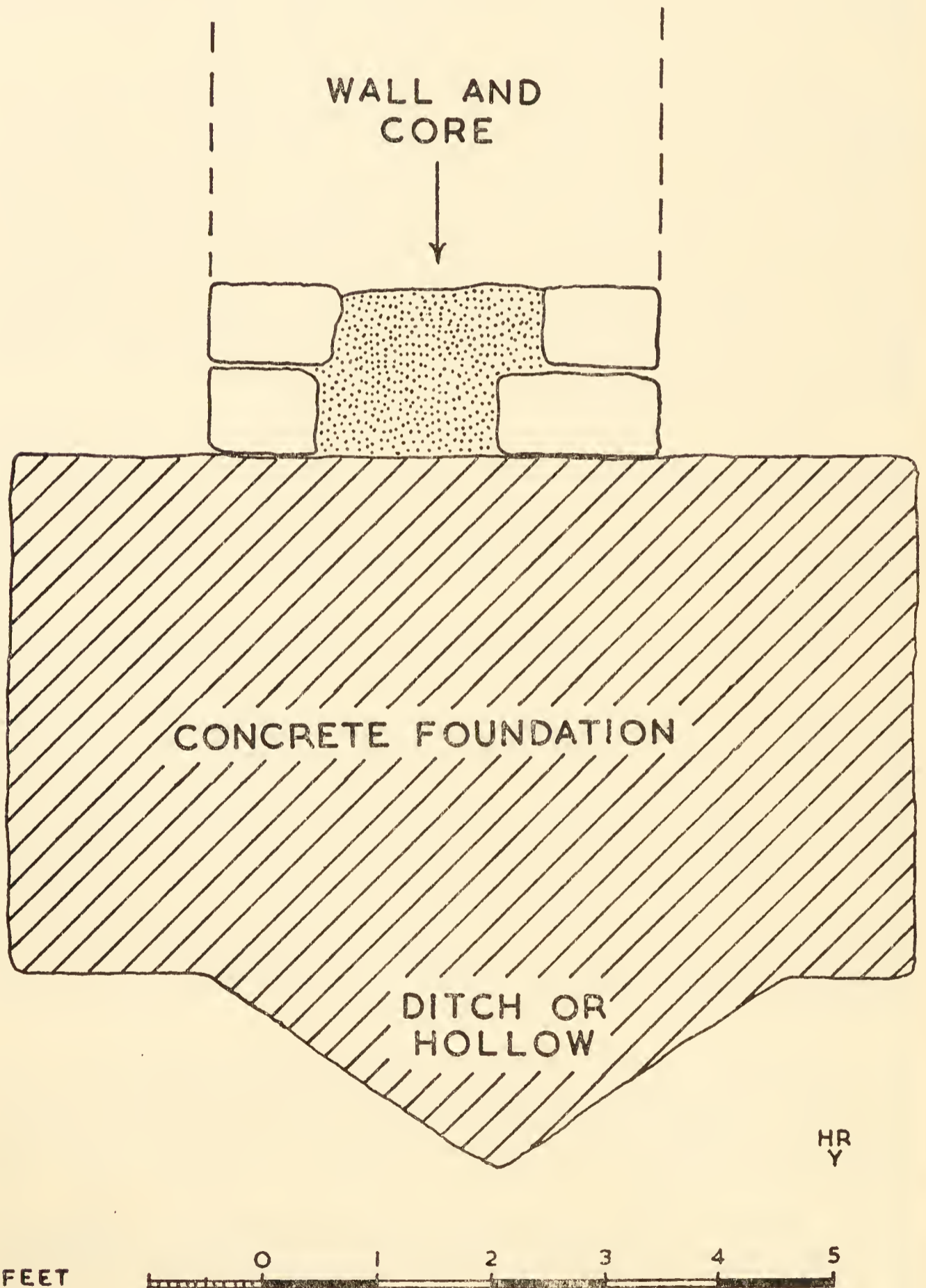


FIG. 26.

Wall and foundation of rear wall of 4th century interval tower at N4 of fig. 2.

(4) 4TH CENTURY (PHASE V) INTERVAL TOWER.

During the clearing of the site more of the building found in trenches 7 and 8 of the excavation (described in Part II above, pp. 553-6) or of another adjoining one was uncovered. The walls so encountered are marked N1-6 on fig. 2. I should perhaps explain that I only saw the wall foundations (these I did see throughout) and in two small sectors—each about 2 ft. long—at points N1 and N3, any of the wall itself. More of the actual wall may have been standing and indeed probably was, but, owing to:—firstly, the way in which the mechanical excavator operated and secondly, the limited time I was able to give to watching the site, it was impossible to establish this. As regards the first of these points, the excavator worked in this way:—the soil to be removed was undercut and then scooped out which resulted in the upper soil falling to the bottom making it well nigh impossible, without the closest continuous scrutiny, to establish the stratification of any of the levels and particularly of the lowest ones.

Both walls and foundation were substantial, the latter being 6 ft. wide and the former 3 ft. at N1 and 4 ft. at N3; the foundation was 4½ ft. deep. At N4-0 the foundation was 6 ft. deep and filled what looked like a V-shaped "trench" or hollow which had clearly preceded the building itself. The "trench" was 3 ft. wide at the top of the subsoil and looked artificial (see fig. 26). It was traced in the direction of the fortress wall as far as the wall of Messrs. Border's warehouse (O) but was not noticed in the other direction. (It should be stressed, however, that where this "trench" was in fact located the soil was there removed by the spade and not, as elsewhere, by the mechanical excavator and therefore, even if present, would not necessarily have been noticed.)

A somewhat similar V-shaped trench was noted in the section J-K near the post-hole L of fig. 2 and again under the oven base seen at M. Were these perhaps sleeper trenches or gulleys relating to wooden buildings associated with the Flavian Phase of the fortress—my Phase I or II?

At N2 only the lowest course of the ashlar (of magnesian limestone) of the wall was still *in situ*. This was 12 ft. below the modern surface. At N3 it was 2 courses high. The foundations were of concrete composed chiefly of limestone chippings but containing a few cobbles together with a few pieces of red brick/tiles. Ten pieces of the latter were noted, the largest measuring 6 × 4 × 3 ins.

In connection with this building it is necessary to consider some nearby discoveries made in 1939 during alterations to Messrs. Border's warehouse (fig. 2). Four short accounts of these finds—all from the pen of the Rev. Angelo Raine—have been published¹ while

¹ *JRS* xxx (1940), p. 166; *YAJ* xxxv (1940), pp. 79-80; *Yorks. Gazette* 14th July 1939, and *Yorks. Evening Press* 8th July, 1939. The last account adds that the City Engineer (Mr. C. J. Minter) "is having plans and sections of the find made". Mr. Minter informs me that these were indeed made but were destroyed in the Guildhall fire caused by enemy action in 1942.

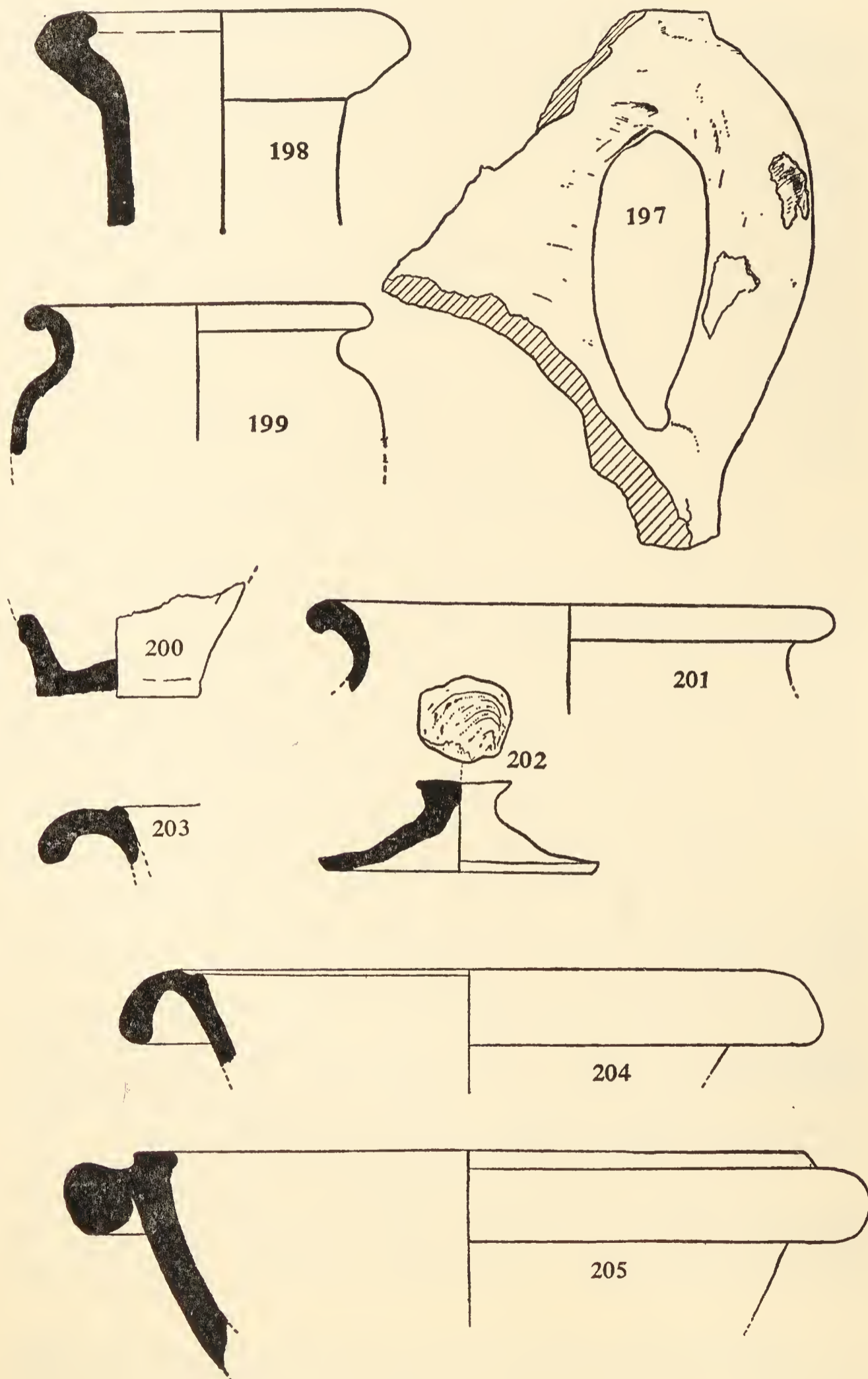


FIG. 27.

Roman pottery found during the clearing of the site. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.



PLATE XXI. Messrs. Border's cellar. 4th century wall
C.1 and threshold of doorway on fig. 2.



PLATE XXII. Messrs. Border's cellar. 4th century wall
C.2 and threshold of doorway on fig. 2.



PLATE XXIII.

Messrs. Border's cellar. 4th century wall C.4 on fig. 2.



PLATE XXIV.

Part of base of oven, made of unstamped *tegulae*, at toe of Phase III (Trajanic) rampart. Each tile was approximately 15 ins. square.

in the York Public Library are four photographs three of which have been reproduced here¹ (Plates XXI-XXIII) and a rough plan. Some of these walls can still be seen in the cellar below the warehouse. They have been re-examined by Mr. H. Ramm of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments who reports on them thus:—

SURVIVING REMAINS.

Built into the south-west wall of Messrs. Border's cellar is an 11 ft. 3 ins. length of Roman wall (C4 of fig. 2)—i.e. the face of a wall parallel to the fortress wall, and a section cut through another wall (C5) joining this at right angles. The facing of the first wall stands seven courses high (2 ft. 11 ins.) above the present cellar floor i.e. 6-7 ft. above Roman ground level. The facing consists of small dressed blocks of magnesian limestone 8-9 ins. long by 4½ ins. high with mortar joints ¼-½ in. thick.

At the north-west end of this is an offset in the modern wall of 17¼ ins. consisting both of modern brick and Roman facing stones. (C5). Three of the latter go behind the facing of the Roman wall and show this angle to be original. A section of a wall at right angles to the first is in fact preserved in the modern wall at this point. Its width is 2 ft. 9 ins. Both core and facing stones are visible—the north-western facing stones being rougher than the south-eastern. This wall survives to a height of 9 to 10 feet above Roman ground level.

1939 SHAFT.

In sinking a shaft to erect a girder outside the S.E. wall of the cellar but only a few feet away from the walls described above, further remains, now destroyed, were discovered.

Photographs, a sketch plan, and brief descriptions survive. The photographs (Plates XXI-XXIII) show the face of a wall (C1) similar to that described along one side of the shaft. Centrally placed and at right angles to it is another wall (C3). At the point of juncture is a threshold and a doorway (C2).

That this second wall with a doorway in it is part of the same wall as that surviving in Messrs. Border's cellar is indicated by the orientation of these features given in a contemporary newspaper description (*Yorks. Gazette* 14th July, 1939), the sketch plan in the Public Library, and the definite statement of the Rev. Angelo Raine in *JRS* xxx (1940), p. 166.

The wall with the doorway is 2½ to 3 ft. thick and the doorway approximately 5 ft. wide. (It is difficult to scale the photograph accurately.) The near wall (C3) parallel to the fortress wall survives to a height of 13 courses and is similar to that in the cellar. Ripple tooling similar to that inside the west corner tower is also visible on the photographs.

SUMMARY.

Two walls (C1 and C5) coming inside at right angles to the fortress wall and about 25 ft. apart, are joined by a third wall (C3/C4) parallel to and 3½ feet inside the fortress wall. The third wall is pierced by a doorway (C2).

The Rev. Angelo Raine interpreted this wall C3/4 as the rear wall to a fourth century projecting interval tower. The recent (1960) excavation of such a tower—no. SW (5) (fig. 1²)—at the

¹ By kind permission of the City Librarian, Mr. O. S. Tomlinson.

² For a plan showing the arrangement of the 4th century interval towers on the river (SW) front see *YAJ* clix (1961), p. 335, fig. 5.

junction of Lendal and Museum Street which has supplied a nearly complete plan¹ makes it clear that, while this wall was not the rear wall of such a tower, it did indeed belong to it being,

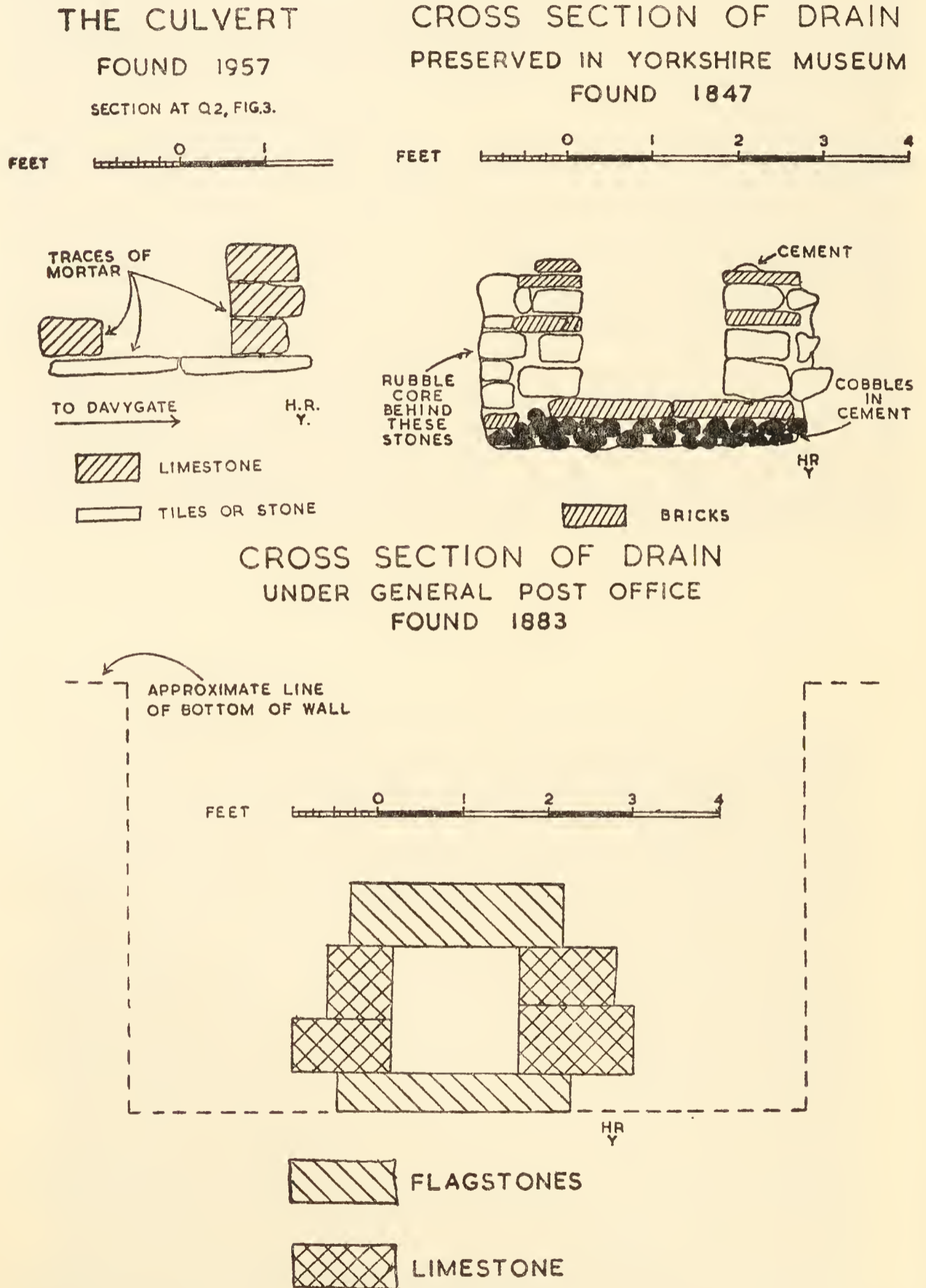


FIG. 28.

Culverts and drains found associated with legionary fortress. Top left: Davygate 1957. Top right: Yorkshire Insurance Buildings, St. Helen's Square, 1847. Bottom: Post Office, Lendal, 1883.

¹ Published *JRS* li (1961), p. 168, fig. 16.

in fact, part of one of the two party walls. On fig. 2 the plan of the Lendal tower is drawn in relationship to the walls discovered in the Davygate excavations, to Mr. Raine's excavations in 1939 and to the existing remains in Messrs. Border's cellar. They fit exactly. The only difference is this: in the Lendal tower the doorway (C2)—not located at all in Lendal was certainly not at the SE end as here.¹

(5) POST, ? SLEEPER TRENCH, ? BASE OF AN OVEN AND INTERVALLUM

At M of fig. 2 during the clearance of the site three finds of note were forthcoming. Firstly, a post-hole with a stump still *in situ* was found. This was in exactly the same horizon, in relation to the fortress wall (being 29 ft. away) as what looked like a similar post-hole at L. The latter was seen in the section J-K and is described on pp. 562-3. Fragments of this stump found at M were retrieved and sent to Mr. J. F. Levy, who identified them as oak: his report is published in Appendix 3(i). Secondly—and again like the find at L—this post was close to, and was possibly related with, a foundation or sleeper trench. The direction of this trench—parallel to the fortress wall—was the same as that at L; its precise depth and shape could not be ascertained as only a limited area was excavated here by the workmen.

The stump, post-hole and ? sleeper trench were all in the subsoil i.e. 6-8 ins. below the Roman surface. The third find here was 2 ft. above the original Roman surface and consisted of a layer of red tiles. These had clearly been re-used (i.e. after their initial use on buildings) as some had mortar adhering to them. They were carefully laid side by side; the majority were *tegulae* though there were a few *imbrices*. Through the co-operation of the contractors it was possible to photograph three of the tiles still *in situ* (plate XXIV); and fourteen of the larger fragments were removed from the site and have been preserved.

In section, a 10 ft. long layer was visible; it may have been longer as the workmen's revetting at this point made it impossible to establish the precise limits. For what it is worth the area exposed appeared to form part of the segment of a circular or oval area. None of the tiles was stamped. Nearly all showed signs of burning and a layer of charcoal and burnt material overlaid them. They probably formed the base of an oven.² An

¹ There is no reason to doubt that it existed in the Lendal tower, presumably at a point where part of the wall was completely robbed, only the foundations remaining.

² Professor I. A. Richmond, "The Agricolan Fort at Fendoch", *PSAS*, lxxiii (1938-9), p. 137 described these thus:—"The Roman military oven is well known to have been a round platform of flat stones, served from a hob, from ground level, or from a stoke hole, and covered by a dome of rough stones luted with clay. It was operated by filling the interior with flaming brushwood, raked out when consumed. On inserting the food to be cooked the door was closed, and the dishes were withdrawn at the appropriate moment."

approximate date to be ascribed to the oven could be arrived at in three ways. Firstly my Phase V rampart overlay it; secondly, it lay in the horizon of the toe of the Trajanic (my Phase III) rampart (about 3 ft. of the oven nearest the fortress wall would have been inserted into the rampart); thirdly, two sherds of late 1st century pottery (fig. 27, nos. 202 and 203 and p. 576) were found below it. (Three other sherds from near here were unstratified: they belonged to the same Samian Form 27.) It seems likely therefore that the oven related to the Trajanic (Phase III) rampart.

Ten inches below these tiles was a thin layer of charcoal running their whole length. (Between it and the tiles was clay.) Immediately below this layer of charcoal were some cobbles and a few roughly hewn limestone blocks, some of which had signs of burning on them. These may have represented an earlier disused oven on the same site. Below this lower stratum of charcoal and above the subsoil was an 8 ins. layer of rammed gravel—presumably the *intervallum* to be associated with one of the Flavian ramparts (my Phases I or II).

The base of only one other such oven has been identified inside the fortress at York, being found during the building of the Public Library in Museum Street in 1927. It is plotted on one of the plans in Miller's first report¹ while this account of it is given by F. R. Pearson:—²

“Thirty feet or so inside the city wall at this point was found the base of an oven, the floor of which had been paved with tiles, one of them bearing the stamp of the Ninth Legion Lumps of burnt clay lay scattered around in such a manner as to suggest that the oven had been constructed within a clay rampart, while fragments of Samian ware found on the site were identified as belonging to the earlier part of Vespasian's reign (A.D. 68-79).”

From these accounts it looks as if it were sited at the toe of the first or second Flavian rampart. It is still to be seen near the Public Library (plate XXV), being moved to its present position soon after it was found. It clearly suffered quite radical changes during this process and it now rests on a base of modern concrete. Above this, its perimeter consists of rough undressed blocks of magnesian limestone about 18 ins. wide. Inside this is a layer of tiles (mostly *tegulae*), all unstamped (there seems to be no record of what happened to Pearson's stamped tile),³ roughly 10 feet wide. On one side are some projecting blocks of stone which may represent a hob. It will be clear from these descriptions that, even though it probably related to a different phase in the history of the fortress, it has certain features in common with the new base found in Davygate.

¹ *JRS* xv (1925), p. 186, fig. 98. He shows it 25 ft. inside the wall; the caption against it reads—“Oven 8 feet below ground level”.

² *Roman Yorkshire* (1936), pp. 44-5.

³ Illustrated *JRS* xv (1925) Plate XXVIII where it looks like a brick (*pila*) rather than a tile.



PLATE XXV.

Oven base (restored and reconstructed) near Public Library, York.



PLATE XXVI.

Detail of the south 'wall' of the culvert near Q.1.



PLATE XXVII.
Bottom of culvert. R1 of fig. 2.

(6) THE CULVERT. (Figs. 2 and 28; Plates XXVI-XXIX, XXXII).

On 6th February, 1957 during the clearance of the first part of the site the mechanical excavator exposed the bottom of part of the stone culvert under the rampart roadway. It was 12 ft. 6 ins. below the level of the adjoining pavement in Davygate and 3 ft. below the Roman road surface as established by the excavation in trenches 5 and 6 (see p. 545). The contractors kindly granted a respite of 48 hours to the remains so that they could be cleaned, examined, drawn and photographed (Q2—R1 on fig. 2).

The base, roughly 2½ ft. in width, consisted of rough undressed blocks and slabs of limestone of various sizes mostly from 12-15 ins. square though a few were even larger; they were from 3-4 ins. thick. The large ones were laid carefully edge to edge and the smaller ones in crazy-paving fashion. They were mortared together. Mortared on to this base were roughly hewn blocks of similar stones, the inner (culvert) faces of which had been roughly dressed. They varied considerably in size, their inner face measuring from 6-17 ins., their width from 4-9 ins. and their depth from 4-6 ins. They were mortared together and behind them was a rubble and cement core. The channel thus formed varied in width from 15-19 ins. In two places the stone base was covered with a thin layer of mortar one example of which is shown on plate XXXII—and the inference is that originally the bottom and sides had been cemented over.

A 45 ft. length of the culvert was exposed (Plate XXVII) but it clearly extended further in both directions, (i.e. beyond Q2—R1 on fig. 2) and, in fact, eight months later another 30 ft. length of it was found beyond Q2 (Q1—Q2 of fig. 2) (see pp. 572-3 below). It certainly extended at least another 40 ft. beyond R1 as the earlier excavation of trench no. 6 (see fig. 2 and plate XIV) had already revealed part of it. There was a decided "hump" in the bottom of the culvert at the point (Q3) shown in fig. 2 which nowadays certainly acted as a watershed. (As the site was waterlogged during the whole time that this examination took place there was ample opportunity to establish this fact!) It was impossible to prove whether this was incidental or intentional. In the vicinity of this "hump" the side stones of the culvert had been removed by the mechanical excavator.

Only a single layer of the side stones of the culvert remained *in situ*. The workmen operating the excavator were closely questioned but could not recollect having removed similar blocks from this area at a slightly higher level. (This, however, means little in view of the way in which the excavator worked—described earlier on p. 565.) It is possible, however, that the upper layers of the culvert walls were of brick and/or tiles rather than of stone. Numerous small fragments of both Roman brick and tiles were found in the culvert and in the interstices between the wall blocks,

while in three instances small specks of red tiles/bricks were still adhering to the tops of the blocks. It is interesting to note that the "walls" of another Roman culvert examined in York (discussed below) was of alternate layers of stone and brick.

The only other finds in the culvert other than the brick/tile fragments noted above were three sherds of coarse pottery (drawn—fig. 27 nos. 199-201—and described—p. 576), one of which was of Huntcliff ware, three heavily corroded pieces of iron which could not be identified and four fragments of wall plaster, all of which were mainly dirty-white, though one had patches of green, and another of pinkish/dark red, paint on it.

In September 1957 another 30 ft. of the culvert was encountered (fig. 2, Q1—Q2) and it too was cleaned, examined and photographed. On the north (Davygate) side the culvert walls were still standing throughout two courses high and in one sector, 15 ft. long, they were three courses high. (Plates XXVI and XXIX and fig. 28); on the other side they were only one course high. The magnesian limestone blocks of which they were formed were roughly dressed on the inner (culvert) side and were carefully aligned and laid, being mortared together and to the flagged base below them. In one place (plate XXIX) fragmentary tiles had been used in the base. The width of the interior of the culvert was the same as in the earlier February find.

The only other Roman culvert which has been examined inside the fortress was found not far from this present discovery in St. Helen's Square on the site of the Yorkshire Insurance Company and again in Lendal under the modern Post Office. It is possible that the newly discovered Davygate culvert debouched into the latter. The culvert in St. Helen's Square was discovered where it passed under the foundations of the *porta praetoria*, the north-western part of which lay under the Insurance buildings. It was described thus¹:—

"Part of a drain 18" square, found on the site of the Yorkshire Insurance Company, amongst the foundations of buildings supposed to have been attached to the gateway near the river, in the south-western wall of the Roman Station. This fragment is an interesting specimen of Roman sewerage, and at the same time illustrates the Roman method of constructing walls by alternate courses of brick and stone—[presented by] *The Yorkshire Insurance Company, 1847.*"

Part of it is preserved in the Yorkshire Museum. It is large and well built, of an internal width of 20 ins. and a height of at least 19½ ins. (fig. 28). Its base is paved with bricks 11 × 7 ins. and 2¼ ins. deep, resting on a cobble and concrete foundation. Its sides are built of magnesian limestone blocks with dressed face inwards. After two courses of stone there is a course of brick, then another course of stone, then another one of brick. Behind the facing stones is a rubble and cement core with jagged and unfaced outer side. No evidence of "roofing" has survived but it

¹ *Handbook to the Yorkshire Museum* 1891 ed. J. Raine, p. 73, no. 102.

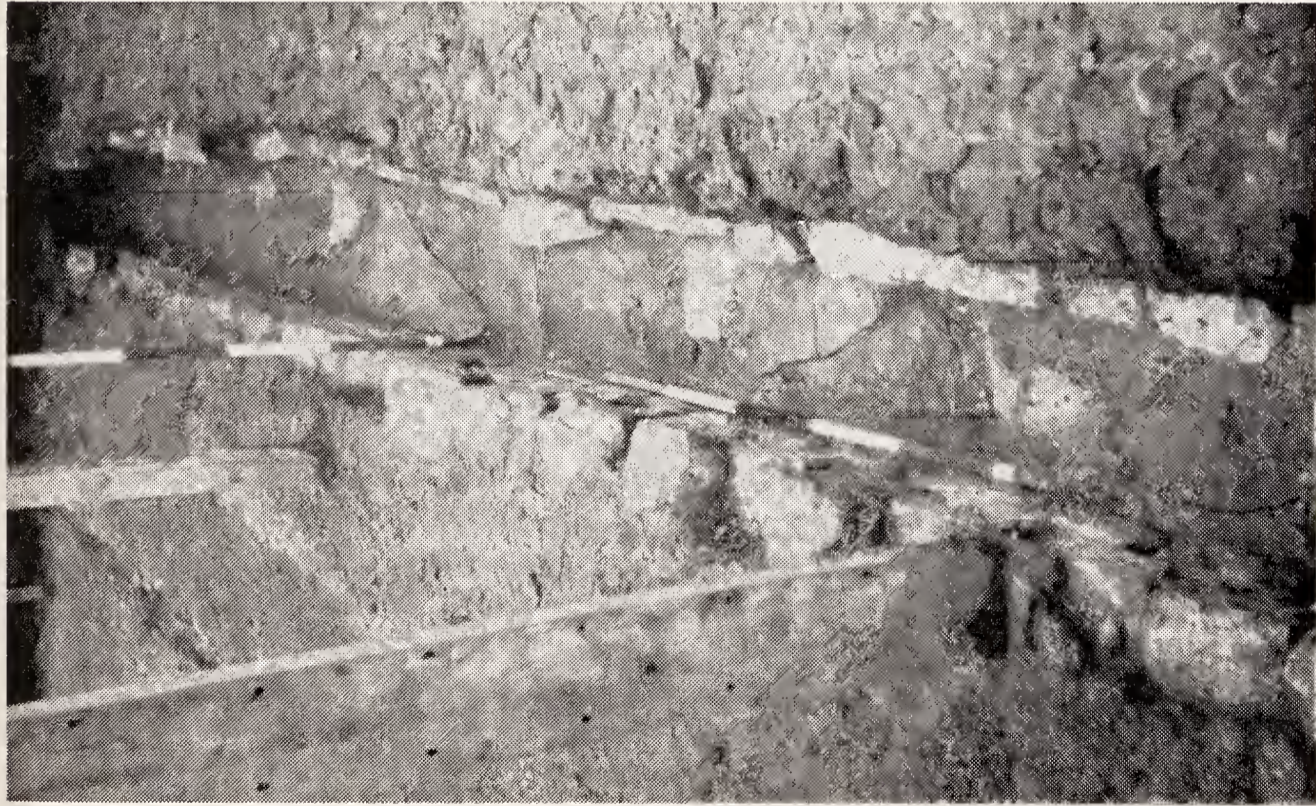


PLATE XXVIII. Bottom of culvert. Q1—
Q2 of fig. 2.



PLATE XXIX. Detail of the 'floor' of the
culvert near Q1. The top end of the sur-
veyor's pole lies on a *tegula*.



PLATE XXX. 15th century sculptured head.

must obviously have been covered. The total length of drain preserved is 3 ft. 4 ins. A drain of similar dimensions was found in October 1883 of which a sketch (reproduced in fig. 28) by James Raine entitled "Plan of the Roman Wall on the site of the New Post Office, York" is in the possession of his son, the Rev. Angelo Raine. The Post Office is on the opposite side of Lendal facing the Yorkshire Insurance buildings and it is therefore probable that this is a continuation of the same drain outside the fortress. Beyond the Post Office it presumably debouched into the river.

This same culvert may have been seen about 1800 near the Petergate end of Stonegate. Wellbeloved writing in 1842¹ records "the discovery of a Roman street, with channel tiles, about forty years ago, when a deep sewer was made along the middle of Stonegate"; by "channel tiles" he presumably meant culvert. Modern Stonegate has a bend to the south-east and so a road starting fully on the line of Stonegate near the Roman gate would only overlap it by the time it reached Petergate. Wellbeloved's find in the middle of the modern roadway caught the "channel-tiles" at the north-western edge of the *via praetoria* and must have been nearer the Petergate end of Stonegate.

(7) WALLS AND FLOORS OF OTHER BUILDINGS (? BARRACK BLOCKS)

(a) During the clearing of the first part of the site.

It was disappointing that in the 20 ft. strip of the site adjoining Davygate so little in the way of Roman structures and associated finds were forthcoming. The explanation for this became increasingly evident as the area was cleared by the mechanical excavator. The 19th century buildings lining this side of the street had had very deep cellars, 10—11 ft. below the modern surface. As the top of the subsoil is here about 12 ft. below the modern surface, it is clear that the Roman structures (assuming, of course, that they had indeed existed) would have been largely destroyed when the cellars were dug. It will be relevant to add—for this is the explanation of the poor section disclosed along the Davygate edge of the area cleared—that Davygate was widened to its present width in 1939/40 so that now portions of these filled-in cellars still exist under the modern pavement and adjoining roadway.

Walls—each about 21 ins. wide—with shallow concrete foundations 12—16 ins. beneath them, were detected in the section alongside the Davygate pavement at points U, W, Y and Aa, and also at S. (While the bulk of the clearing of the site was done by mechanical excavator this edge and all the others were cleared and cut by the spade which meant that the finds were easier to identify and to examine.) Aa is clearly a continuation of the north-east wall of the building found in the excavation trenches 5 and 6.

¹ *Eburacum*, p. 54, note 2.

Along this same section, parts of what were clearly the floors of Roman buildings (of sandstone flags¹ similar to those uncovered in trench 4) were seen at T1-2, X1-4 and Bb and patches of (?) road metalling (of rammed gravel) were noted at V and Z1-2. The buildings which are assumed from these finds—walls, floors and roadways—are shown with dotted lines on fig. 2. Both floors and road surfaces were about 9 ft. 6 ins. below the present pavement level. At T1 an amphora handle (fig. 27 no. 197) was found in the clay/gravel filling 9 ins. below the surface of the floor and at X2 18 fragments of part of another amphora (fig. 27 no. 198) were found 6 ins. below the floor. At X4, lying on the floor, was a 4th century coin viz.:—

Constantine II (317-340) AE 20
Obv. CONSTAN[TINVS] IVN NOB. C
 Laureate head right.
Rev. [CA]ESARVM NOSTRORVM
 In wreath VCT X
 Mint mark illegible. Cohen 38

At X2, a foot above the Roman floor, was found the bone object (fig. 20 no. 195). Apparently a handle of some sort, which is not necessarily Roman.

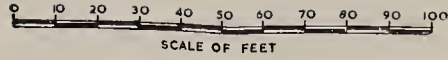
(b) During the clearing of the second part of the site.

During this operation September/November 1957 the clay/cobble footings of three more walls—each about 30 ins. wide—were encountered (Cc, Dd and Ee on fig. 2). They all penetrated about 15 ins. into the clay subsoil beneath. At Cc in the section underlying the modern New Street the wall itself was still standing two courses high above the foundation. Very little of it remained and it was impossible to examine it in any detail though it appeared to be built of smaller and more regular sized ashlar than the corner of the barrack block excavated in trenches 5 and 6.

As a result of these chance finds in Davygate it has been possible for the first time to place on the plan of the fortress the ends of four barrack blocks. They are of especial importance in view of another nearby discovery a few months later. In July 1958 portions of the walls of Roman buildings were discovered on the north side of Davygate during alterations to the cellars of Martins Bank (previously Davy Hall); they are to be linked with the walls of the barrack blocks reported on above. These walls under Martins Bank were examined and reported upon by Mr. G. F. Willmot, keeper of the Yorkshire Museum.² On fig. 29 the walls of that find and those of the Davygate—New Street excavation/discoveries have been plotted on the same plan. Mr. Willmot was of the opinion that in his excavation two buildings were to be identified. He summed up his findings thus:—"The

¹ As found the largest measured no more than 6 ins. square. Presumably they were originally much larger.

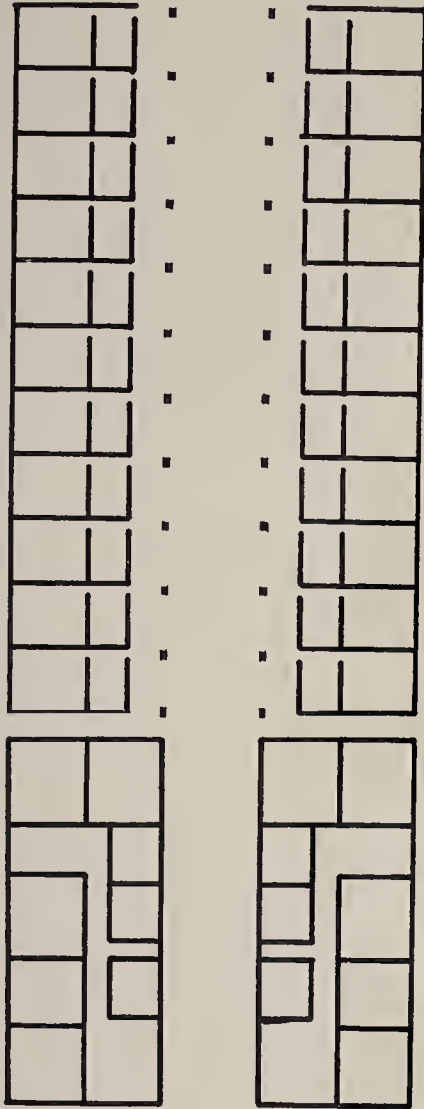
² In *Martins Bank Magazine* vol. 14, no. 2 (Summer 1959), pp. 12-15.



CHESTER

YORK

CAERLEON



FINDS IN THE CELLAR OF MARTINS BANK (A & B) RELATED TO THE STRUCTURAL FINDS OF THE ROMAN BARRACK BLOCKS UNCOVERED ON THE DAVYGATE-NEW STREET SITE.

--- ROMAN WALLS PRESUMED
 ■ ROMAN WALLS SEEN

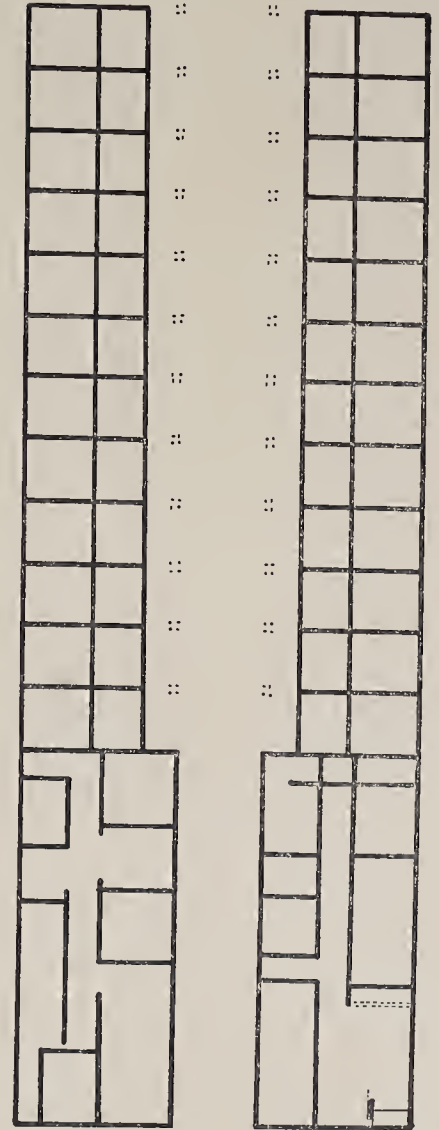
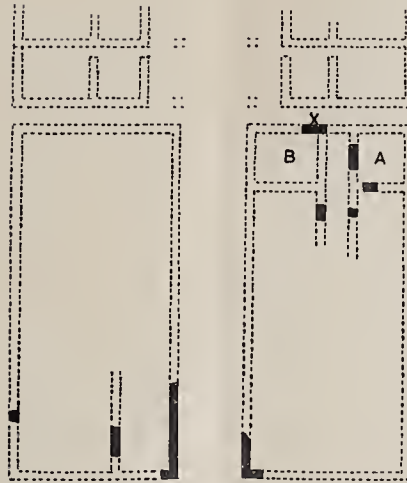
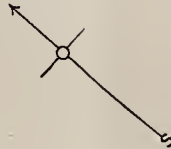


FIG. 29. Barrack blocks of three legionary fortresses.

H. RICHARDSON.

two buildings, though similar, were not identical, the walls of the south-easterly building [A of fig. 29] being 5 inches wider than the north-westerly one. The north-westerly building [B of fig. 29], taken in conjunction with the foundations found on the other side of Davygate and from its position in the fortress, is likely to have been the centurion's quarters at the end of a striga. The external wall at the N.E. corner of the N.W. building suggests that at this point the corridor commenced, running along the front of the legionaries' quarters."

If, as shown on fig. 29, it is assumed that the walls seen on the Martins Bank site formed part of one and the same building, they present a perfectly logical pattern as part of the centurion's quarters which existed at the end of a normally planned legionary barrack block. As no other barrack building has ever been identified in the fortress at York there is no local parallel to which reference may be made; they must be looked for in other fortresses in Britain. At Chester¹ the centurial quarters of one of the barrack blocks excavated (see fig. 29) measured 85 × 36 ft. and at Caerleon² 85 × 40 ft.: at York the building as plotted on fig. 29 measures 85 × 41 ft. In the Chester and Caerleon examples the centurial quarters are divided into suites of rooms: the same feature is emerging at York. The 6 ft. 'gap' between A and B which led Mr. Willmot to describe them as two separate buildings is paralleled by a corridor which is a prominent feature of all the centurial blocks excavated at both Chester and Caerleon. In every instance from these fortresses it is at or near the centre of the buildings extending parallel to their long axes as it is at York. One further point of interest: Mr. Willmot says that the wall found at X of his building B was an external one. This would imply that the centurial quarters in this barrack block at York—and therefore presumably in the others too—were separate from the legionary quarters as at Chester rather than joined to them as at Caerleon.

(8) BALLISTA BALL.

In November 1957 the workmen engaged in clearing the site found a ballista ball (Plate XXXI) of limestone and weighing 2¼ lbs. which they said had been found near Ee of fig. 2. [Illustrated on the same plate is a much larger ballista ball, also of limestone, weighing 7½ lbs. now preserved in Gray's Court. It and four others are reported³ as having been found in 1860 in

¹ F. H. Thompson, *Deva, Roman Chester* 1959, pp. 26-27 and fig. 7.

² V. E. Nash-Williams, *The Roman Legionary fortress at Caerleon, Monmouthshire* 1952, pp. 19-20, fig. 2 and folding map C at the end.

³ *Yorkshire Gazette* 8th June, 1861; B.A.A.J. n.s. xxxiii, p. 236; cf. *JRS* xlv (1956), pp. 77-8. A drawing of the ball appears in G. Home, *Roman York* (1925), p. 118.

Home *op. cit.* says that of the five balls found one, "about 7 inches in diameter, is preserved in Gray's Court, another, 5 inches in diameter, in the museum at York". The latter has not been identified.

the garden of what is now Gray's Court during the excavation of a building apparently of the 4th century date constructed in the rampart of the fortress near the north-east (*decuman*) gateway.]

(9) POTTERY.

Numerous sherds of pottery etc. were found by the workmen during the clearance of the site, most of them being, of course, unstratified. Those which could be stratified, together with a few of the individually more interesting, are described here.

Fig. 27.

(a) *From under floor of barrack block at T1.*

No. 197. Amphora handle; light grey fabric, colour-coated, pinkish buff.

(b) *From under floor of barrack block at X2.*

No. 198. 18 sherds—some conjoined—of an amphora in coarse buff fabric.

(c) *From bottom of culvert.*

No. 199. Rim and shoulder of cooking pot in dark calcite-gritted (Huntcliff) ware.

No. 200. Base of jar in fine, light grey ware.

No. 201. Rim of large storage jar in fine, light grey ware.

Four fragments of wall plaster (not illustrated). The predominant surface colour of all the pieces is a dirty white, though two have green patches and another of pinkish/dull red.

(d) *From the clay of the rampart at M below the tiles of the oven base.*

No. 202. Lid in pinkish-buff ware.

No. 203. Rim of mortarium. Sandy, pinkish buff fabric with some white, grey, black and brown grits.

The shape is a variant of Bushe-Fox 34/38 but the hook is somewhat shallower. Both the shape and fabric are closely similar to mortaria made at Brockley Hill by such potters as MATUGENUS and MELUS in the late first and early second centuries. It is, of course, impossible to assign it to one particular potter but we can be virtually certain that it was made in south-east England during this period. (K.H.).

(e) *Found by workmen near V, unstratified.*

No. 204. Mortarium rim; stamped; in smooth, drab, greyish-cream fabric from which much of the surface has exfoliated. A little brown and white grit survives.

Most of the surface of the stamp has gone but there is sufficient left to assign it with certainty to the potter AESICO. It appears to be from the same die as an unpublished retrograde stamp at the Yorkshire Museum. The shape is also consistent with this attribution.

Stamps of AESICO have been found on the following sites:—Aldbrough (unpublished), Brough-on-Humber (2), Elsack (misread VESTAI), York (2 exx. unpublished), "a site in north-west Lincolnshire" (3 exx., at Leeds University). The three stamps from a now unknown site in Lincolnshire appear to have been found with fragments of kiln furniture and overfired pottery. It is thus highly probable that he worked there and the distribution of his stamps supports this so far as it goes,

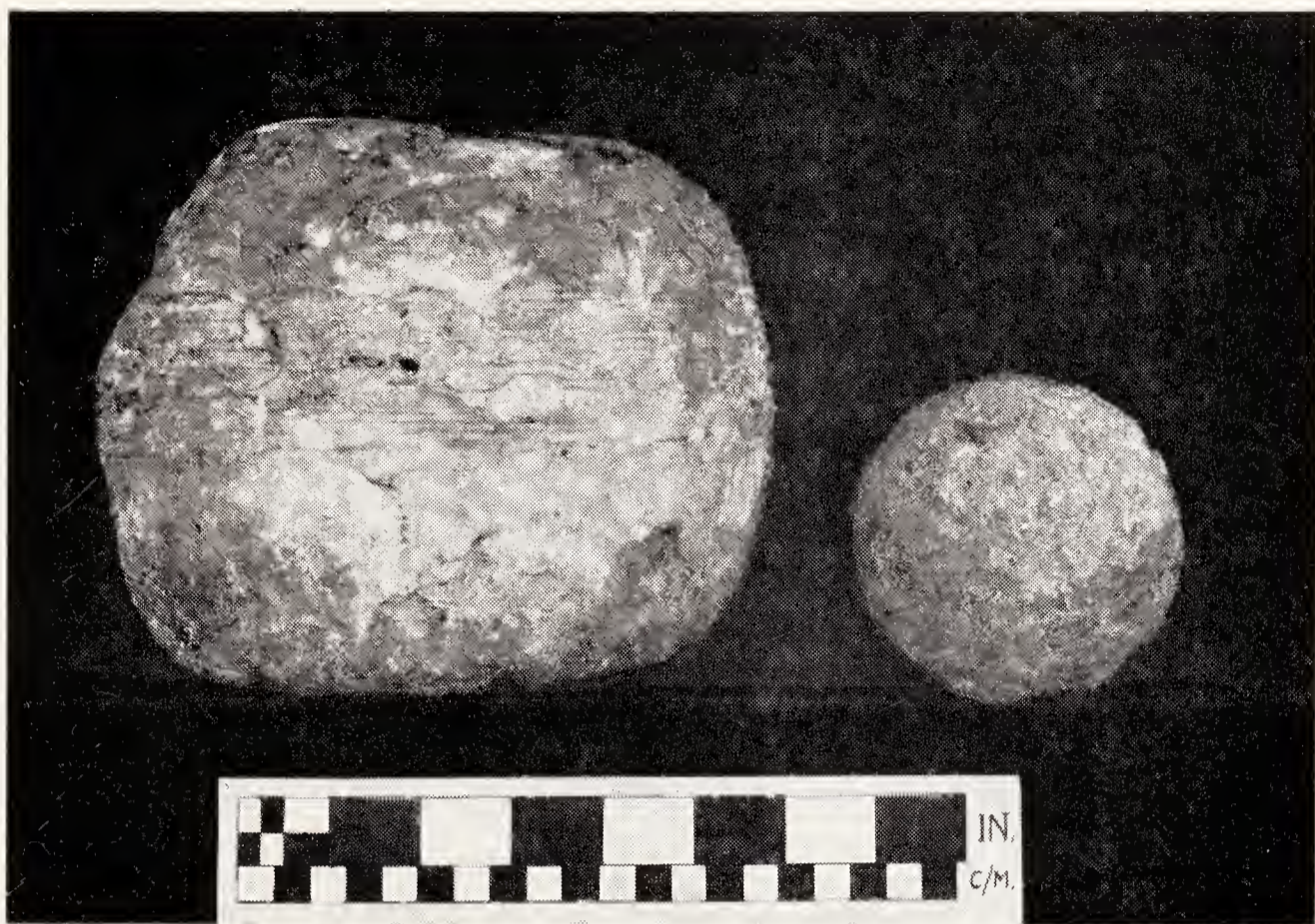


PLATE XXXI.

Ballista balls from York. The smaller one found in Davygate in 1958; the larger in a rampart building behind Gray's Court in 1860.



PLATE XXXII.

Detail of culvert, showing mortared base (Q3 of fig. 2).

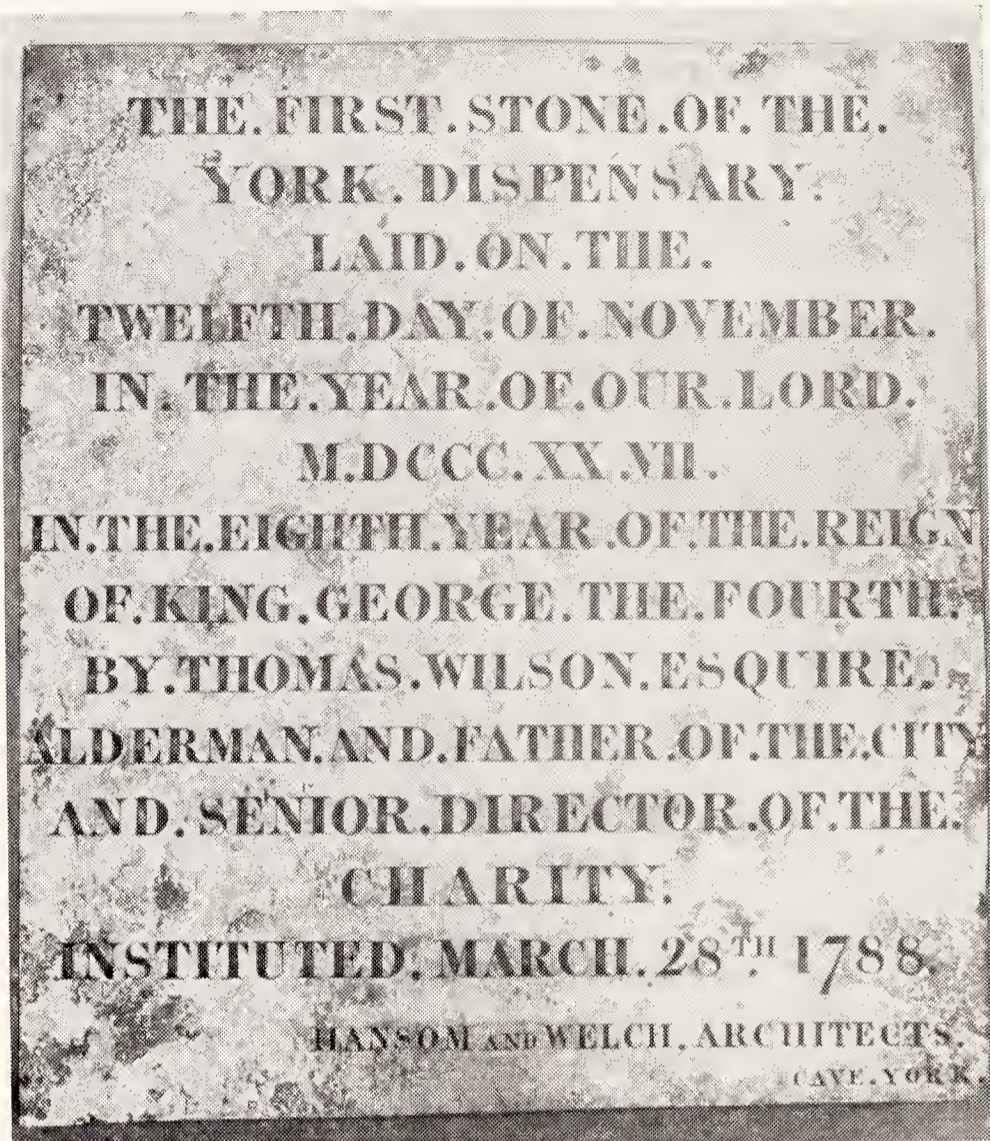


PLATE XXXIII.

Text on brass plate lying on foundation stone of York Dispensary in New Street. Date 1827.



PLATE XXXIV. York Dispensary in New Street. Opened 1829.

The dating evidence is meagre but suggests that AESICO was working during the mid-second century though the terminal dates of his activity remain uncertain. (K.H.).

(f) *Found by workmen in rampart I-J, unstratified.*

No. 205. Eight sherds making most of the rim of a mortarium in smooth, cream buff fabric with some white, grey and brown grit. The grit extends not only to the top of the unusually developed bead but also on to the bead and the side of the flange. There are traces of internal rilling.

The shape is most uncommon and I can quote no parallel, though it may belong to the same basic type as Bushe-Fox 26/30. The fabric and character of the mortarium suggest a Flavian or early second century date, but in view of the lack of evidence this can be only conjectural. (K.H.).

(g) *Found at X2 a foot above the Roman floor.*

Fig. 20.

No. 195. Bone ?handle; not necessarily Roman.

(10) MEDIAEVAL SCULPTURED HEAD.

At point P (fig. 2) during the clearing of the site, a small mediaeval sculptured head (plate XXX) was found, 18 ins. below the modern surface. Its presence on the site was plainly quite incidental. It had clearly been hacked off some larger piece of statuary, possibly at the time of the Reformation. Mr. Lawrence Stone of Wadham College, Oxford, reports on it thus:—

“It belongs to that group of ‘primitive’ carvings that are found all over the country in the late 15th century. The highly stylised beard is of a type found repeatedly all through the late 14th and 15th centuries. The gouged eyes with (?) some sort of filling, is unusual at this period and I cannot think of a parallel. It has been a statuette or part of a group rather than from a corbel table or small bracket. It might represent the head of a prophet or evangelist or have been part of a group—for instance St. Joseph in the Nativity or the Adorations. It is certainly a piece with a certain primitive charm and evidently belongs to that truly gigantic output of imagery of the late 15th century of which today virtually nothing remains.”

(11) YORK DISPENSARY.

The last discovery on the site occurred on 21st January, 1958 when the workmen found—somewhere in the vicinity of Ff on fig. 2—the foundation stone of the York Dispensary. I did not see this stone but the workmen described it as measuring about $4 \times 2 \times 2$ ft. with a small recess cut into one side. In this cavity was a brass container measuring $7\frac{1}{4} \times 4\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{4}{8}$ ins. inside which were three documents:—(i) A paper-backed copy of “*The Stranger’s Guide through the City of York* Published and sold at Bellerby’s New Circulating Library, Stonegate [York] 1826”. (ii) A newspaper cutting from the *York Chronicle and General Advertiser* of 15th November, 1827. This contained both a short history of the Dispensary and a long account of the foundation stone ceremony which had taken place three days before. (iii) Two documents—one the *Annual Report* of the

Dispensary dated 1824 and the other of a similar nature but too fragmentary to piece together. Lying on top of the stone was a brass plate (Plate XXXIII) measuring $13\frac{3}{4} \times 12$ ins., with this inscription engraved on it:—

“The first stone of the / York Dispensary / laid on the / twelfth day of November / in the year of Our Lord / M.DCCC.XX.VII / in the eighth year of the reign / of King George the Fourth / by Thomas Wilson, Esquire / Alderman and Father of the City / and Senior Director of the / Charity / instituted March 28th, 1788 / Hansom and Welch, Architects. / Cave, York /”

A short history of the York Dispensary has been published.¹ This shows that the institution was founded in 1788 to provide free medical attention for the poor and was housed in the Merchant Adventurers' Hall in Fossgate. In 1807 it moved to a house in St. Andrewgate and in 1829 to the site in New Street where this foundation stone was found. The new Dispensary then constructed is illustrated on Plate XXXIV. In 1897 the present dispensary was built in Duncombe Place.

Oswald Allen's *History* (p. 76) has this paragraph which is pertinent to the present discovery:—

During the following night [i.e. after the foundation stone ceremony on 12th November, 1827] some individual or individuals removed the brass box and all its contents, and also the brass plate, which was inscribed with the above inscription; and therefore another box and plate had to be procured and deposited, being made secure by the workmen, lest a like attempt should be made for its removal, by some similarly dishonest and cowardly hand. No attempt was however made to discover the perpetrator; but the Directors left the individual or individuals to their own feelings, which could not yield them much satisfaction of pleasure, when they reflected upon the act of which they had been guilty.

Of the architects Hansom and Welch named on the plate the first was Joseph Aloysius Hansom (born 1803; died 1882)² who, in 1834, when resident in Preston invented the safety cab which bears his name. This Dispensary was the first building for which he was responsible in York: others of his buildings there are the Savings Bank in St. Helen's Square and St. George's Roman Catholic Church. In 1831 in partnership with Edward Welch (born 1806; died 1868) he won a competition against 69 other competitors for Birmingham Town Hall. After some delay the work was put in hand, the present controversial building being the result.

Cave, the engraver of the brass plate, came from a well-known York family of engravers of which Henry Cave (born 1779; died 1836) was the most celebrated.³

¹ Oswald Allen, *History of the York Dispensary*, pub. York 1845.

² For his obituary notice see *Illustrated London News* 15th July, 1882 and Ms. in York Public Library.

³ For particulars of the family see T. P. Cooper, *The Caves of York*, City of York Art Gallery Publications, 1934.

PART IV.

CONCLUSIONS.

Certain general observations must be made about the excavations and discoveries on this site in order to put them into their proper perspective. The trenches (nos. 1, 2 and 4) put down in the 'formal' excavation were small, deep and, of necessity, heavily revetted. The sections could not be interpreted and drawn in their entirety but only in 4 ft. 'depths' before the timbering was inserted. Weather conditions, as pointed out earlier in this paper, were, generally speaking, bad throughout the whole of the time that the trenches were open. The work on trenches 5-8 was hurried owing to the limited time allowed on them by the site owners. The unsatisfactory nature of the discoveries during the clearing of the site with the mechanical excavator has already been mentioned. These factors are noted and stressed here because it would be wrong to imply in any way that these excavations and discoveries, even when taken in conjunction with the earlier ones conducted by Messrs. Ramm and Miller, have supplied answers to all the questions relating to the S.W. defences of the fortress. In fact, as with so many excavations, they have created almost as many problems as they have solved. What is required on this S.W. front is a continuous trench, some 70-80 feet long across the wall, the ditch(es) in front of it and through the ramparts behind it. Such a trench—providing the Roman stratigraphy be undisturbed—would give the 'picture' so much more clearly and authoritatively than these isolated trenches possibly could. Such a site would seem to be available—near the west corner tower (the Multangular Tower) in the open ground behind the Public Library (inside the wall) and in the grounds of the Yorkshire Museum (outside the walls).

The general conclusions to be reached from this site are as follows:—

ROMAN.

On this south-west front of the fortress there were six phases (and not five as hitherto supposed) in the defences. Five of these were found in Davygate.¹ For purposes of comparison the following table of Messrs. Ramm's and Miller's and of my own numbering of the phases encountered in our respective excavations &c. is appended; it is a modification of that published in 1956 as an appendix to Mr. Ramm's Coney Street excavation.²

¹ As already pointed out no evidence of the Severan was found.

² *JRS* xlvii (1956), pp. 89-90.

		S. N. Miller	H. G. Ramm	L. P. Wenham
Flavian ..	..	{ I II	I	I
Trajanic		III	IIa and IIb?	II
Severan ..	..	IV	III	[IV]
Constantian ..	..	V	IV	V
Mid-4th century ..	..	..	..	VI

FLAVIAN—PHASES I and II.

- (i) Ramparts and wooden strappings. Trenches 1 and 2. Sections I-J and J-K.
- (ii) Wooden interval tower and attendant turf revetment. Trench 1 and D, E, F, G, and H, of fig. 2.
- (iii) Sleeper trenches and/or post holes relating to ? buildings near the rampart. L., M. and N4-0 of fig. 2.

TRAJANIC. PHASE III.

- (i) Rampart. Trenches 1 and 2 and sections I-J and J-K.
- (ii) ? Foundation of wall of a barrack block. Trench 4.
- (iii) Walls of rampart building with floor below which was the dedicatory burial of a flagon. Trenches 7 and 8.
- (iv) Base of a tile-built oven. M. of fig. 2.

[SEVERAN PHASE IV. Not identified with certainty though the cobbling of the intervallum found in trench 2 may relate to it.]

4TH CENTURY CONSTANTIAN. PHASE V.

- (i) Rampart. Trenches 1, 2 and 8 and sections I-J and J-K.
- (ii) Fortress wall. A and B of fig. 2.
- (iii) Interval tower. C1-4 and N1-6 of fig. 2.
- (iv) Portions of walls of four barrack blocks with fragments of internal floors and external roadways; Trenches 5 and 6 and fig. 2. (Some of these may, however, relate to a later phase—phase VI or a modification of it.)
- (v) Part of intervallum roadway with stone lined culvert beneath. Trenches 5 and 6 and Q1-R1 of fig. 2.

MID-4TH CENTURY. PHASE VI.

- (i) Rampart. Trenches 1 and 2 and section J-K. (At least part of one of the barrack blocks found in trenches 5 & 6 may belong to this phase or a modification of it.)

POST-ROMAN.

- (i) Stone foundations of a building of ?late Anglian or Viking, 9th-10th century date. Trenches 2 and 4.

- (ii) Carved head from a piece of 15th century ecclesiastical statuary.
- (iii) Stone, brass tablet, brass box and contents associated with the laying of the foundation stone of the York Dispensary on 12th November, 1827.
- (iv) Bronze head of ? staff (pp. 535-7).

APPENDIX I.

TURF FROM RAMPART.

The following are the various reports on the samples taken from the turf rampart surrounding the wooden interval tower:—

1. Dr. G. Taylor, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey.
Three species of moss have been identified at the Herbarium. These are:—

Brachythecium Rutabulum (Hedw.) B. & S.
Eurhynchium Praelongum (Hedw.) Hook.
Eurhynchium Swartzii (Turn.) Curn.

These three species are at present very abundant, and occur in a variety of habitats, such as at the foot of walls and trees, and on soil in rather damp and shady places.

The remaining vegetable material is too fragmentary for precise identification, but it includes a fair proportion of grass which could be recognised by the silica bodies in the epidermis. Numerous fragments of fine roots were also present, many of which might quite well have been grass roots.

A few seeds extracted from the material have been tentatively identified as follows:—

Chenopodium sp., possibly *C. Album*—A member of the *Caryophyllaceae* possibly *Lychnis* sp.
Ranunculus sp. possibly *R. Repens*—Some unidentified seeds.

2. Mr. A. G. Davis, British Museum (Natural History).
 - (i) Single mollusc *Cecilioides Acicula*.
This species is the usual one found in interments or middens. It is subterranean and feeds on decayed matter. It has a long range in time from Pleistocene to Recent and is widespread in England.
 - (ii) *Coleoptera*.
 - (a) Family *Elateridae*: *Agriotes Obscurus* L. (A 'Click Beetle' which is a pest species today).
 - (b) Family *Curculionidae*: *Sitona* sp. (A 'weevil'.)

APPENDIX 2.

MEDIAEVAL POTTERY REPORT.

By T. C. M. BREWSTER.

UNGLAZED COARSE WARE.

All the mediaeval coarse ware pot sherds from the Davygate excavations are, with one exception, in a smooth, hard fabric, with small round pro-

truding grits covered, except where eroded, by a slip probably produced by sponging when leather hard. This characteristic fabric is described by the writer as pustular ware in East Yorkshire, in order to separate it clearly from the hard sandy Staxton ware series fired at Potter Brompton and Staxton during the 13th and 14th centuries. Pustular ware varies in colour from buff to dark grey and buff to dull red with dark tones in both cases. Apparently, it occurred throughout Yorkshire during the 12th century, but

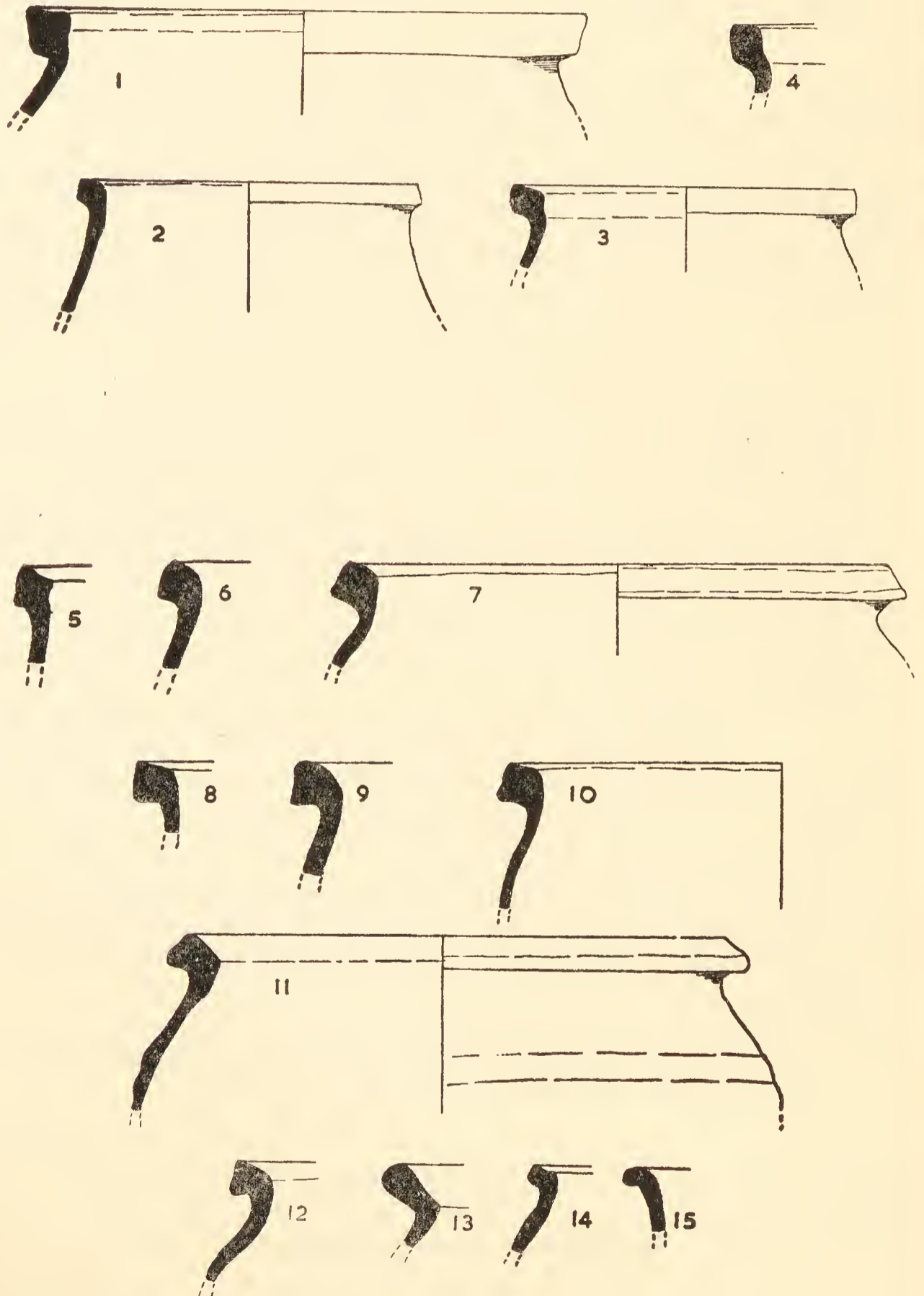


FIG. 30.

Mediaeval Pottery. Scale $\frac{1}{3}$.

Nos. 1-4. Trench 1. From mediaeval pit in 4th cent. rampart.

Nos. 5-15. Trench 2. layer 1.

was ousted by Staxton ware on the Wolds, in the greater part of Holderness and the Vale of Pickering during the early 13th century. Examples of the fabric and typical rim forms have occurred on excavations at Hutton's Ambo, Wharram Percy, York, Almondbury, Knaresborough and Kirkstall Abbey. Mrs. Le Patourel's important works on the Kirkstall Abbey pottery are invaluable in studying the West Riding pustular ware groups. Rim forms vary a little in different localities, or at slightly earlier or later periods, during the late 12th century, but the fabric and general rim form are remarkably uniform. Considerable research is still required as to the origin of the fabric, pot forms and the location of the potteries. The potters must have used similar raw materials and the same technique, but cannot have worked at one centre. Nearly all the Davygate rim sherds belong to the pustular ware series dated by Mr. D. H. Waterman and Mrs. Le Patourel to the late 12th/early 13th century at Kirkstall and Knaresborough. Rims of the same form occurred in East Yorkshire prior to *c.* A.D. 1220-50 where they were superseded by somewhat similar Staxton ware forms. There appear to be two main body forms at Davygate, a small medium cooking-pot and a small cooking-pot corresponding to the Staxton ware Type V group.

(i) *Trench 1. Pottery from Pit No. 1 cutting into the second 4th century rampart.* (Cf. pp. 521 and 522).

Fig. 30.

- No. 1. Rim of small medium cooking-pot muddy buff, pustular ware fabric with light black tones. Slight bevelling outer, upper and inner surface of the rim. Diameter *c.* 7 ins. Late 12th century. Cf. KAR. 1953, fig. 18.2 and 1954, fig. 24.1.
- No. 2. Rim and wall of small cooking-pot in dull buff bisque with muddy and black tones. Diameter *c.* 4½ ins. Late 12th century. Cf. KAR. 1952, fig. 12.2 and 1955, fig. 10.9.
- No. 3. Rim of small cooking-pot in same fabric as No. 1. Diameter *c.* 4½ ins. Late 12th century.
- No. 4. Small fragment of cooking-pot rim in light creamy buff ware. Internal bevel. Diameter *c.* 4½ ins. Late 12th century.

(ii) *Trench 2, layer 1B. Coarse ware.* (Cf. p. 535).

Fig. 30.

- No. 5. Small fragment of small cooking-pot rim in light buff bisque with dull orange and black tones. Outer, upper and inner edges bevelled. 12th-13th century.
- No. 6. Fragment of medium cooking-pot rim. Interior light grey and exterior dull orange tones on grey core. Diameter *c.* 7 ins. Cf. KAR. 1955, fig. 10.8. 12th century.
- No. 7. Medium cooking-pot rim. Buff with black tones. Diameter *c.* 7 ins. Late 12th-early 13th century. For rim cf. Knaresborough. *AJ.* xxxiii, p. 212, fig. 1.13.
- No. 8. Medium cooking-pot rim in normal buff fabric with orange tones on top. Diameter *c.* 7 ins. Late 12th-early 13th century. Cf. Knaresborough *AJ.* xxxiii, fig. 1.17.
- No. 9. Medium cooking-pot rim in dull buff bisque. Diameter *c.* 7 ins. Late 12th century. Cf. Kirkstall 1955, fig. 10.8 for rim form; Knaresborough, *AJ.* xxxiii, fig. 1.12.

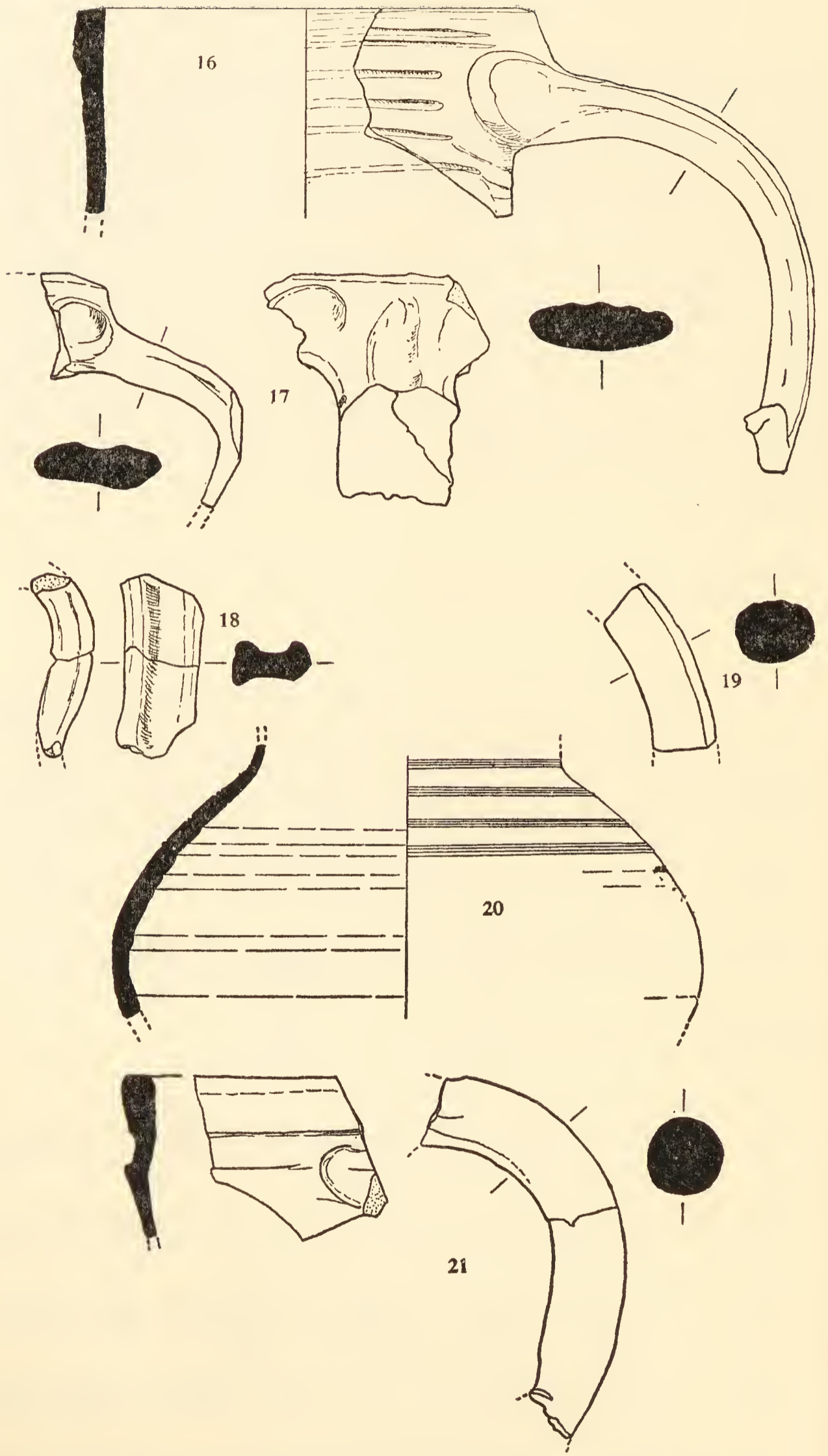


FIG. 31. Mediaeval Pottery—Glazed. Trench 2, layer 1A.
Scale $\frac{1}{3}$.

- No. 10. Medium cooking-pot rim and wall fragment. Dull buff with grey tones. Diameter *c.* 7 ins. Cf. *KAR.* 1955, fig. 10.7. Late 12th century.
- No. 11. Hard, dull buff bisque with dull red tones. Departure from normal rim angle, but normal 12th-13th century fabric. Diameter *c.* 7 ins. For rim angle and general form, cf. Kirkstall 1953, fig. 18.2: Knaresborough *AJ.* xxxiii, fig. 1.13.
- No. 12. Small medium cooking-pot rim. Muddy buff with orange tones. Diameter *c.* 7 ins. 12th-13th century.
- No. 13. Everted rim with slight internal bevel. Bisque resembles Romano-British gritted ware and, to a certain extent, some rare Anglian fabrics. Compares fairly closely with St. Neots ware. Cf. *Proc. Cambridge Antiq. Soc.*, xxxiii, 1931-1932.
- No. 14. Small cooking-pot rim. Grey bisque with black tones. Diameter *c.* 4½ ins. 12th-13th century.
- No. 15. Small cooking-pot rim. Black exterior, dull brick-red interior. Diameter *c.* 4½ ins. 12th-13th century.

(iii) *Trench 2, layer 1A. Glazed and associated pottery.*¹ (Cf. p. 535).

Fig. 31.

- No. 16. Rim and strap handle of large pitcher. Dull buff with red tones, grey core. Lustrous light green glaze covers most of the rim and handle. The handle has four shallow grooves running up the outside and has been stabbed by a pointed tool to assist drying. At the junction of the handle and the body are well-marked thumb prints. Beneath the rim are several narrow grooves covered with glaze. 13th-14th century.
- No. 17. Fragment of jug rim and handle in hard grey ware with bright olive green glaze. This piece may have been a waster as the handle had been partly fractured on the outside before the glaze had melted. 14th-15th century.
- No. 18. Fragment of jug handle in hard grey ware. Lustrous light green glaze.
- No. 19. Small circular grooved handle in dark olive green glaze. Hard grey core. 14th-15th century.
- No. 20. Wall of pitcher in light green glaze on light grey bisque. 13th-14th century.
- No. 21. Rim and handle fragments of pitcher. Dull buff exterior glazed, in places, with a fine mottled light green glaze. 13th-14th century.

Fig. 32.

- No. 22. Base of jug in fine hard buff ware with red tones.
- No. 23. Rim in dull red ware and light green glaze.
- No. 24. Dull light red rim with traces of brown glaze.
- No. 25. Rim of jug in fine buff ware with grey interior. Probably 13th century.
- No. 26. Rim of jug in fine buff ware with deep olive glaze. 14th century.
- No. 27. Fragment of rim in hard grey bisque with traces of green and brown glaze.

¹ This ware is rather mixed and dates 13th-late 15th century suggesting a somewhat disturbed deposit.—T.C.M.B.

- No. 28. Rim fragment of pitcher. Hard grey bisque with medium green lustrous glaze 13th-14th century.
 No. 29. Jug handle in light green mottled glaze.
 No. 30. Fragment of jug handle in red to grey buff ware with dull green glaze.

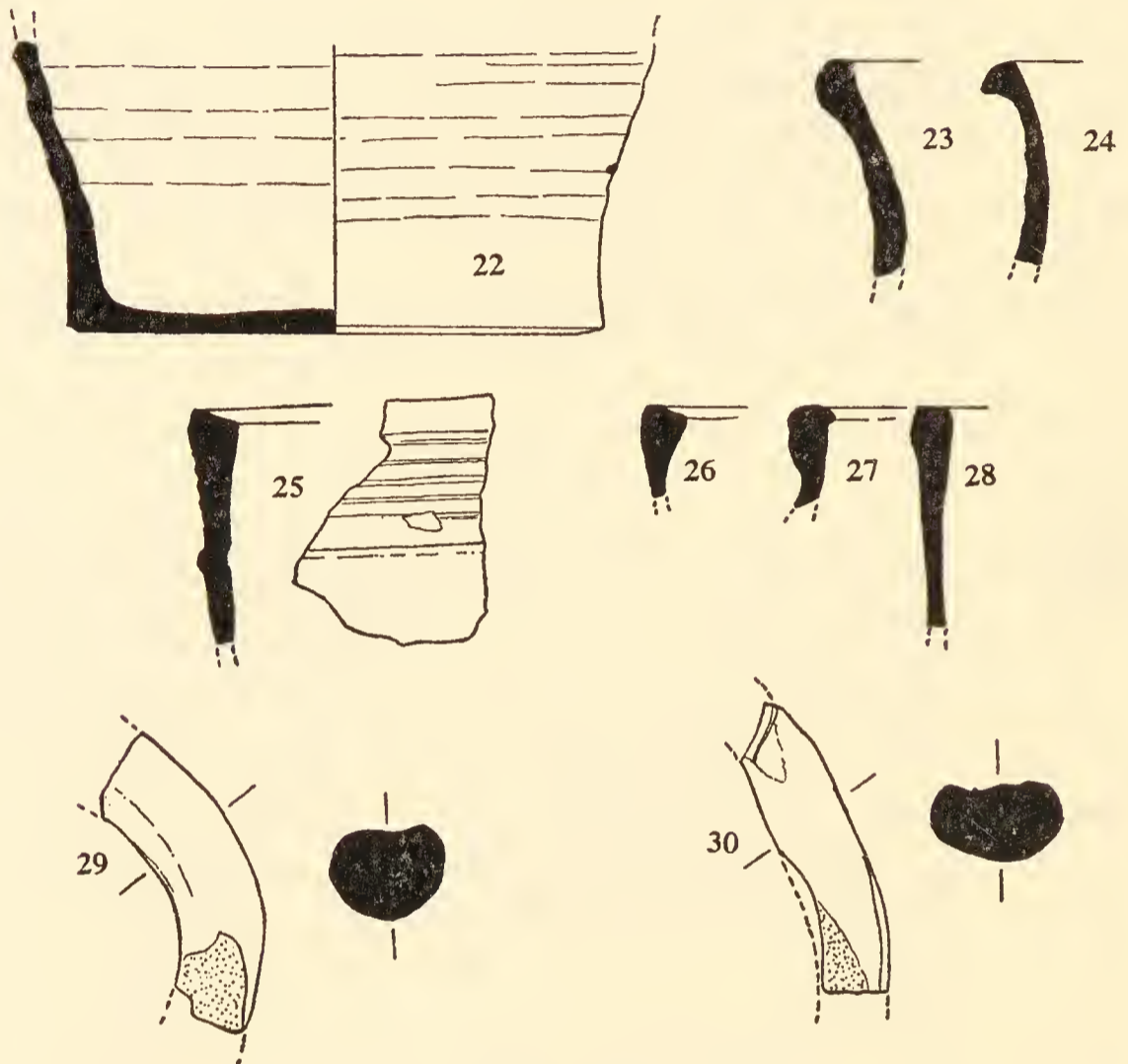


FIG. 32.

Mediaeval Pottery—Glazed. Trench 2, layer 1A. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

APPENDIX 3.

TIMBER.

Mr. J. F. Levy, B.Sc., A.R.C.S., F.L.S., of the Department of Botany of the Royal College of Science, South Kensington, London, reports as follows on samples of wood submitted to him:—

- (i) Wood from broken-off stump of upright post. (Find-spot M; out of posthole belonging to one of the Flavian phases of the fortress.)

OAK (*Quercus* sp.).

Triangular cross-section, with two radial faces and one tangential one. The latter might have been squared off, but the two radial faces could equally well be cleft or remains of squared-off round post, thus:

OUTLINE OF CROSS-SECTION
OF SAMPLE SHOWING
POSITION FROM WHICH IT
WAS CUT.

POSSIBLE, CONJECTURAL
OUTLINE OF "SQUARED"
POST.

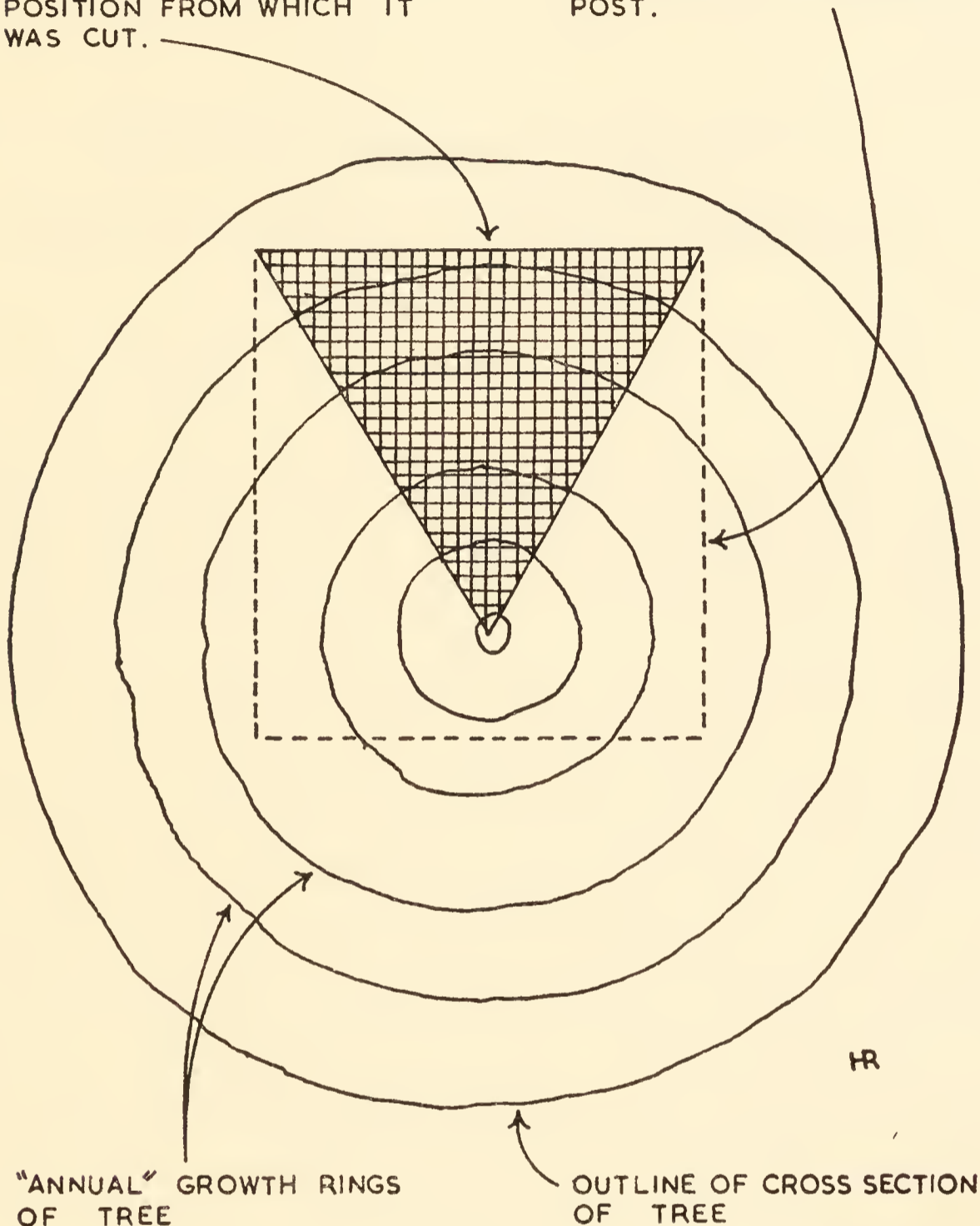


FIG. 33.

Section of wooden post: the triangular section measured roughly 6 x 6 x 6 ins.

- (ii) Three fragments of wood from strappings (Find-spot section I-J).
ALL OAK (*Quercus* sp.).

Two specimens show lateral compression, and in one of them this is considerable. The third shows very little sign of it.

All pieces must have been "worked" in some way as they all show two wide radial faces and very much smaller tangential ones; but there is no evidence of how they were worked, and they might well have been cleft.

NOTE. In the last part (159) of the Journal in my article *Excavations and Discoveries adjoining the South-West Wall of the Roman Legionary Fortress in Feasegate, York, 1955-1957*, the scale was inadvertently omitted on the drawings illustrating the pottery. These were fig. 7 (p. 340), fig. 8 (p. 341), fig. 9 (p. 343) and fig. 10 (p. 348). In every case the drawings were one-third of the originals.