

ART. II.—*Trial trenching at Burrow in Lonsdale, 1947.*  
 By LT.-COL. O. H. NORTH, D.S.O., F.S.A. and  
 E. J. W. HILDYARD, F.S.A., with a contribution by  
 J. P. GILLAM, M.A.

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THE known facts about the Roman site at Burrow in Lonsdale have recently been surveyed by Mr Eric Birley;<sup>1</sup> this survey, and a recent change in the ownership of the estate, made it seem to the senior excavator a favourable time to carry out a long-cherished wish to investigate Burrow with the spade. Labour, however, proved even more difficult to obtain than had been expected, and in the event our labour strength was not really adequate, in the short time available, for tackling what proved to be a difficult site; the weather made inroads into our very limited time; we were operating from a rather distant base; and the numerous springs underlying the site, and the general state of the land after the phenomenal snowfalls of February and March, resulted in our efforts being constantly hampered by water. Nevertheless, if we have done enough to give future excavators a more definite starting-point, we shall feel that the effort was worth while.

Our grateful thanks are due first to the owner, Earl Temple of Stowe, who gave us every encouragement in our rather unsightly activities in the grounds of his residence, and to his agent Mr Taylor. Our labour force, which worked manfully under rather unpleasant conditions, consisted of Miss C. C. Foulds, Mr E. S.

<sup>1</sup> CW2 xlvi 126-156 (partly read on the site, 19 June 1946).

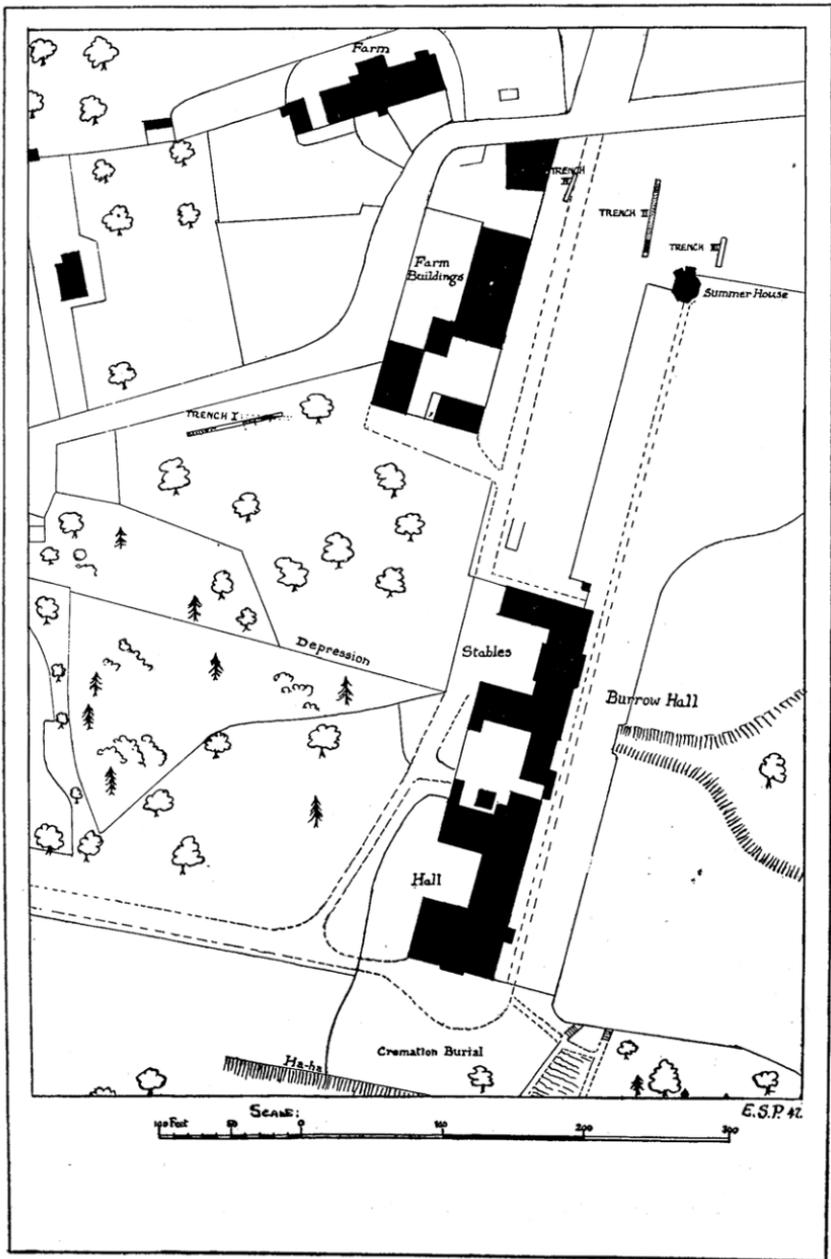


FIG. 1.—Excavations at Burrow 1947. Plan of trial trenches.

Pinfold, F.G.S. (to whom we are also indebted for fig. 1) and his son Mr P. E. Pinfold; the two gardeners, E. N. Sugden and C. Fox, and one paid man from Stanhope, J. Jameson; and Mr J. P. Gillam, whose careful and exhaustive report on the pottery contributes so largely to the results obtained. In the initial stages we had the benefit of Mr Birley's advice, while Dr Felix Oswald has given us notes on the samian pottery; the drawings of coarse pottery were made by Lieut. Alfred Kühne of Hanover, then at No. 18 Prisoner of War Camp.

### A. THE EXCAVATIONS.

Although Burrow has been known as a Roman site for many centuries, the location of the fort itself was not known, though it was generally agreed that it must have stood somewhere on the low hill east of the modern main road, where Burrow Hall now stands. It will be recalled that R. G. Collingwood believed that the depression east of the terrace of Burrow Hall—which continues under the stables and, in a much shallower form, through the shrubberies west of the buildings—marked the line of the ditch along the north rampart, and that the ha-ha in front of the house marked that of the south ditch.<sup>2</sup> Foster, however, records a cremation burial under the lawn in front of the house, and for this and other reasons Mr Birley was included to place the fort further north.<sup>3</sup> The only other topographical information available to us was that Anthony Moorhouse, in his unpublished digging forty years or more ago, had found the north-west corner of the fort in one of the small paddocks beyond the plantation west of the house.<sup>4</sup> The ground available for us to dig in was limited by the presence of buildings, drives and gardens; even in the plantation some of the timber

<sup>2</sup> Cf. CW2 xlvi 134.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. CW2 xlvi 133, 149 f.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. CW2 xxxvii 49, xlvi 134 f.; the late F. Villy was the source of this account; our own investigations suggest that it is incorrect: see p. 33 below.

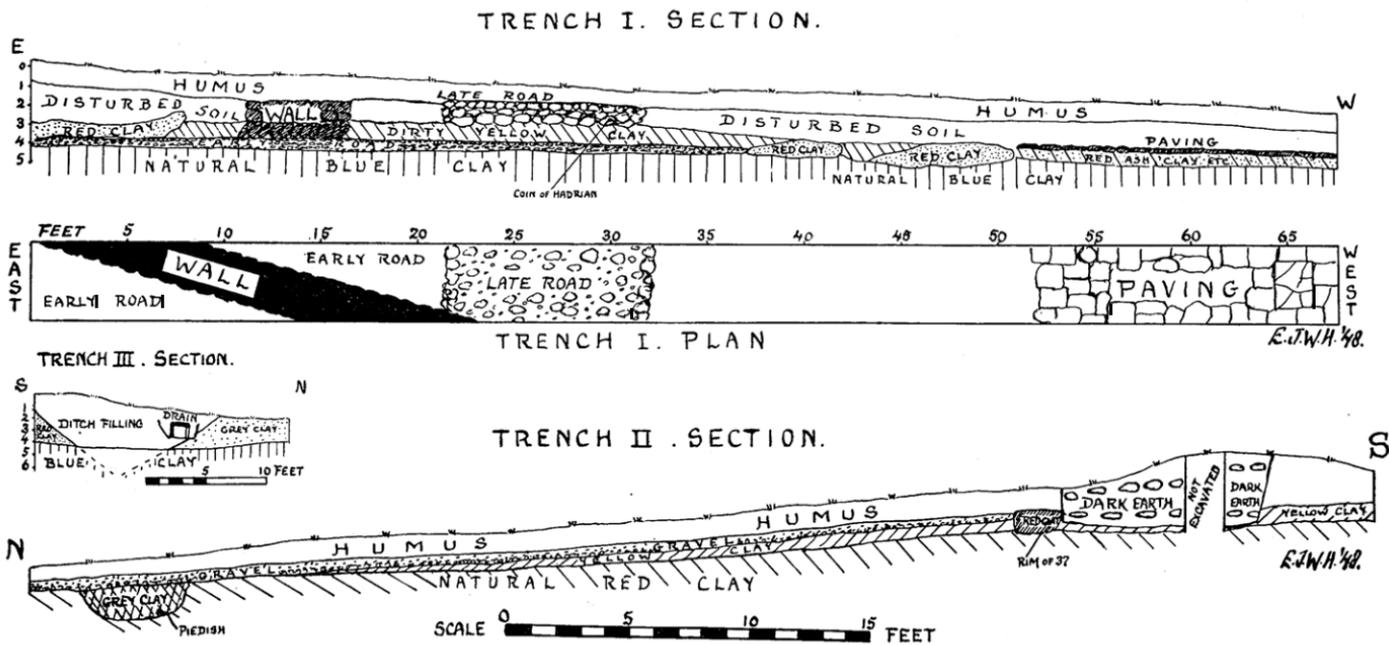


Fig. 2.

was still standing, but much more had been felled and not yet removed. Work began on 1 May 1947 and continued every day until 10 May.

*Trench I.*

The first trench (TR.I), 70 ft. long by 4 ft. wide and running approximately east and west, was dug parallel to the north wall of the plantation (fig. 1); its general aspect can be seen in the plan and section, fig. 2. Below the humus came a thick layer of disturbed soil containing pottery, ashes and all the usual signs of occupation. A portion of the east end of the trench had been disturbed in recent times and modern rubbish deposited there, and at this point early pottery (fig. 4 nos. 1 and 4) was found near the surface with modern glass and china; otherwise, only late pottery occurred in the top three feet. The structural feature nearest the surface was a road (called *Late Road* in fig. 2) crossing the trench, near its middle, at right-angles. Most of the metalling had gone from the surface of the road; its foundation consisted of large stones, many water-worn, and these, interspersed with gravel, continued to a depth of at least two feet; it is likely, therefore, that the road had been re-made at least once. Beneath the first layer of heavy foundation was found a plated *denarius* of Hadrian and, associated with it, a small group of late 2nd-3rd century pottery (fig. 4 nos. 10, 17 and 20); the copper core of the coin has entirely disappeared, but when first found the emperor's head was plainly visible on the silver covering, which itself later partly disintegrated. It is now thought<sup>5</sup> that these plated *denarii* represent "an attempt to bolster up the strength of the *denarius* in face of competition by the *antoninianus*," and that they should be assigned to the early third century irrespective of what emperor's head appears on their obverse; this coin of Hadrian may therefore be a century later than his reign.

<sup>5</sup> Sutherland, *Coinage and Currency in Roman Britain* 44-48.

The main feature of the east end of the trench was a wall 2 ft. 6 in. wide, crossing at an acute angle, so that it was running nearly due east and west; it was built of local stone, including river cobbles, roughly faced, but had been very badly robbed. Not much mortar had been used in it. The footings were rather better preserved, laid in rough herring-bone fashion in yellow clay. This wall appeared to be unconnected with the later road.

Running under the wall, and for the full width of the trench for 37 ft. from its east end, was a road, of an average depth of six inches, composed of fine compact gravel with slightly larger gravel beneath laid directly on the natural blue clay. Above this road (called *Early Road* in fig. 2) was a layer of dirty yellow clay interspersed with patches of red clay several feet in length and up to one foot in thickness; this combination continued west of the early road and as far as the beginning of a piece of paving. From under the wall and on or in this road came a fragment of samian form 37 (no. 1 and fig. 3 no. 3), which Dr. Oswald would date *c.* A.D. 115-125; a samian base (no. 2), probably from the same bowl, was found near by, to the north of the wall, in the red clay—which appeared to have been burnt to a brighter hue than the natural red clay that underlay other parts of the site; this suggestion was supported by two pieces of a samian bowl. form 38 (no. 3), burnt quite black, also found in the same patch of red clay: the vessel bore part of a stamp which Dr. Oswald attributes to MARCVS of Lezoux. Other finds from this level included a blue faience bead (fig. 3 no. 2) and a badly corroded 2nd brass of Domitian.

The ground fell away steadily towards the west, consequently the water level steadily rose. The last 15 ft. of the trench produced a paving of thin flags, mostly of local slate, at a depth of 2 ft. 6 in.-3 ft.; the flags ranged in size up to 2 ft. or more square, but the larger ones were cracked and broken. From this level came a rustic-ware

fragment, a Trajanic cooking-pot (fig. 4 no. 2), a carinated bowl (fig. 4 no. 6) and a trumpet-fibula (fig. 3 no 1). Below the paving there was red and yellow clay, as in the layer at the east end of the trench, but we could dig no deeper because of the water.

### *Trench II.*

Having found what was apparently the interior of the fort, it was obviously desirable for us to strike the defences at at least one point. At the north end of the Hall grounds, beyond the summer-house, the ground begins to drop sharply towards the lane; this seemed the most promising of the places available. Accordingly a trench 50 ft. long (TR.II) was cut, running northwards from the top of the slope. Here we were fortunate in finding a section of dark earth full of large stones, including a few faced, which had the appearance of a wall-slot; but when the trench was extended down the hill there was no sign of a ditch, and beneath the humus (which contained very little pottery, all of late 2nd century or later date) a layer of very compact gravel, with large cobbles below, offered strong resistance to its removal. Owing to the water and mud it was not at first recognised, but it soon became plain that we had struck a road, apparently entering the fort from the north. Beneath the road came a band of yellow clay, and under that the red clay which was here the natural subsoil. The nature of the road was finally and fortunately demonstrated by a find near the northern end of the trench: here had been a small natural hollow in the ground, 4 ft. across and with a maximum depth of 2 ft. (cf. fig. 2), which had been filled up with grey clay to level the surface carrying the road; and at the very bottom, on the natural subsoil, was found an almost complete pie-dish of mid-2nd century date (fig. 4 no. 11).

The wall-slot had not at first been very obvious, as the wall and footings had both been entirely robbed, but its identity was shown more clearly by the unexpected

appearance of a small pocket of very compact red clay (of the same colour as that in the lower levels in TR.I) 2 ft. wide and rather over a foot thick (cf. fig. 2); beneath this pocket, lying directly on the natural red clay, was a rim fragment of a samian form 37, unfortunately undatable. This band of red clay, occurring at the top of the slope next to the wall-slot, had presumably been rammed in to prevent the footings slipping downwards.

A small continuation trench southwards was successful in locating the inside edge of the wall-slot, which was thus shown to be some 13 ft. wide. There was no clear sign of a rampart behind, though above the subsoil there was a layer, a few inches thick, of disturbed yellow clay which yielded a few sherds of pottery, including an early cooking-pot (fig. 4 no. 3). If, however, it is supposed that our trench had struck the road where it enters at the north gate, and that the wall-slot represents one side of the latter, a rampart would not be expected, but rather the interior of a guard-chamber. There was no sign of the road inside the slot.

#### *Trenches III and IV.*

In the short time remaining it was essential to attempt to find out more about the defences. Accordingly a short trench (TR.III), 20 ft. long, was cut parallel to and 48 ft. east of TR.II (see fig. 1), where it was hoped to find a ditch. Besides the water there were two unexpected factors which made it particularly difficult to interpret the section: one was that the edge of the slope proved to be the point where the subsoil changed from red to blue clay; the other was the presence of a modern flagged culvert, which had been dug into and parallel with the north side of the ditch, thus obscuring its slope. But it was possible to detect the descending sides of the ditch, though not, because of water, to excavate it completely (see section, fig. 2); as far as could be estimated the ditch was some 16 ft. wide and probably about 8 ft. in maximum

depth from the present surface. The filling was sandy grey clay, with a few pieces of tile and pottery, including a tazza rim (fig. 5, no. 29).

It was thought at first that the ditch was crossing TR.III at an angle towards the north-west, and accordingly a small cut (TR.IV) was taken beside the west edge of the back drive (see fig. 1), at a point where it was hoped to pick up the southern edge of the ditch; this trench was 53 ft. west of TR.II. What we found, however, was the northern or outer lip of a ditch, beginning to descend at a point 5 ft. 6 in. from the south end of the trench. It is possible that this was the same ditch as in TR.III, continued westwards after a break for the road to the gate; but if the ditch in TR.III was crossing the trench at right-angles (and in a narrow trench it is difficult to be precise), then the lip of the ditch in TR.IV is some 40 ft. further north, in which case it may well be part of a second ditch.

## B. CONCLUSIONS.

Any excavation undertaken at Burrow might be expected to throw some light on three main questions: the location and, indeed, the existence of the fort, its history and occupation, and the general character of the site. On none of these is the illumination yet very brilliant, but a few gleams do begin to pierce the darkness.

First, the remains revealed entitle us to say that the existence of a fort is now proved, and some information has been gained about its location: TR.I plainly lies within the interior, and the defence system suggested by TR.II, III and IV gives the approximate line of the north rampart and the position of a gate and road running northwards. It may be noted that the defences seem to lie nearly due east and west, in accord with the orientation of the wall in TR.I; this seems to support Mr Birley's

alternative (b),<sup>6</sup> which makes the long axis of the fort east and west. The north-west angle may then lie, as Mr Birley was informed by employees of the Burrow estate, in one of the small paddocks north of the lane: there are surface indications to support this. On this scheme we may suppose that the depression already referred to marks the line of the south rampart, thus leaving room for the cremation burial to lie outside the fort.

Secondly, as to the duration of the occupation: Mr Gillam notes that first-century occupation is securely attested by several pieces of pottery, and a thin scatter of fragments carries us through the second century; the third century is represented by a few scraps, and the fourth century by as many as eight pieces that can be securely assigned to the period *c.* A.D. 300-367. There are as yet no later fourth-century pieces, but this proves nothing in view of the small total volume of pottery.<sup>7</sup> It would be unwise to put forward a scheme of dated periods on the basis of two or three pieces of stratified pottery and one coin, but it looks as if we have at least two and probably three periods at Burrow. The first is represented by the first-century pottery and the early road, and is presumably Agricolan; the second is represented by the wall in TR.I and the defence system in TR.II, III and IV, and may be assigned to some time in the first half of the second century. It is not clear to which period the paving belongs. A third period is probably represented by the late road, which may be third-century or later in date.

On the third point we can only shed some indirect light. Just after the close of our excavation we succeeded in finding a man who had actually dug with Anthony

<sup>6</sup> CW2 xlvi 150.

<sup>7</sup> It may be noted that in a far larger quantity of pottery found in the 1931 excavations at Watercrock there were no late 4th century types, but these finally turned up there in 1944.

Moorhouse, our member Mr J. Wilson of Kirkby Lonsdale. Mr Wilson subsequently pointed out to us the place where the "corner" had been found; this proved to be a spot about 300 yds. inside the large field opposite the lodge gates, west of the main road, where a slight mound still marks the place; and he also showed us where trenches in the small plantation, in the next field to the south, had picked up the line of a road running towards the Lune. The distance from our excavations to Moorhouse's "corner" makes it most unlikely, in view of the lay-out and contours of the ground, that the latter can have been part of the fort in the Hall grounds, even supposing that it was a south-west and not a north-west corner that Moorhouse pointed out to Villy.<sup>8</sup> Indeed it is difficult to see how the two sets of remains can be directly connected; it seems far likelier that Moorhouse was working in the extensive civil settlement west and south-west of the fort,<sup>9</sup> and if that was provided with an enclosing wall of its own, it presumably did constitute "sum notable Town", as Leland put it;<sup>10</sup> but further digging will be needed before its character, extent and history can be recovered.

### C. THE FINDS.<sup>11</sup>

#### (a) *Small objects.*

1. (Fig. 3 no. 1; TR.I, on paving at west end). Trumpet-fibula, badly corroded and pitted, the head-loop, foot and catch-plate missing; it is difficult to say whether it belonged to Collingwood type R(ii) or R(iv); there are, however, many trumpet-fibulae which do not quite fit either class, and in which some modified form of moulding is carried round the back of the waist-knob: this specimen probably belonged to the same variety. A.D. 120-140.

<sup>8</sup> CW2 xxxvii 49, xlvi 134 f.

<sup>9</sup> Cf. CW2 xlvi 150 f.

<sup>10</sup> Cf. CW2 xlvi 127.

<sup>11</sup> Unstratified items are marked with an asterisk.

2. (Fig. 3 no. 2; Tr.I, \*.) Segmental bead of blue vitreous paste, showing traces of diagonal ornament.

(b) *Samian ware*.

Thirty-six fragments of samian ware were found, mostly badly worn and flaked; the forms represented were 15, 18/31, 31, 33, 36, 37 and 38. All have been examined by Dr Oswald, but only four call for description here:—

1. (Fig. 3 no. 3; TR.I, under wall, in early road.) Fragment of form 37, showing Perseus (Oswald's type 234) to right and a nude figure with hands tied behind back (O. 1146) which was probably intended for Andromeda; the two figures occur together on various pieces of the period Trajan-Hadrian (cf. Ward, *Gellygaer* pl. xiii 5, and Baillie Reynolds, *Caerhun* fig. 16, p. 309), to which this fragment may be assigned.

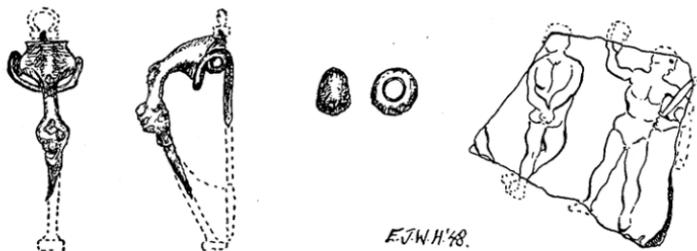


FIG. 3. (1).

2. (TR.I, in burnt red clay north of wall.) Part of form 37, with neat footstand and trace of sharp wavy line closing the decoration, of which no more survives; this may well be part of the same bowl as no. 1.

3. (TR.I, found with no. 2.) Two pieces of a bowl, form 38, burnt black by a wood fire. One piece includes part of the base, with the first two letters of a retrograde stamp, JAM, which Dr Oswald has been able to identify as that of the potter MARCVS of Lezoux, whose stamp MARCI M retrograde occurs on a bowl of the same form at York. The distribution of this potter's stamps shows that he was working during the Antonine period, probably after rather than before 160.

4. (TR.I, on the early road.) Worn fragment of a platter, from 18/31, with part of a stamp, apparently LA[, which Dr Oswald is unable to identify.

(c) *Coarse pottery, by J. P. GILLAM, M.A.*

Eighty-six fragments of Romano-British pottery were found during the excavation; these once formed part of as many as 59 separate vessels. The bulk of the pottery was unstratified, but as no pottery from the site has been published hitherto, a fairly large selection—33 pieces—has been chosen for illustration; the pieces which have not been drawn include fragments of dark grey rustic ware of pre-Hadrianic—possibly even first-century—date, and insignificant scraps of vessels similar to those drawn. A number of the types from Burrow can be matched by examples from dated deposits elsewhere in the northern military region, and therefore shed some light on the history of the fort. A description and discussion of individual pieces follows.

(i) *Pre-Hadrianic vessels.* (Fig. 4 nos. 1-8).

1. (TR.I, \*) Rim and shoulder of cooking-pot in hard light-grey unpolished ware; shallow but regular and sharp rustication rises in waves almost to the rim. Cf. *Newstead*, pl. li 1; *first century*.

2. (TR.I, at level of, but east of, paving.) Three fragments of rim and shoulder of necked jar or cooking-pot of smooth cream-coloured material; the rim profile is that of a very common Trajanic type, and though the fabric is unusual, a pre-Hadrianic date is not precluded for it. Cf. *Chesterholm*<sup>4</sup> 29.

3. (TR.II, in clay behind wall-slot.) Small fragment of rim of similar vessel, in sandy light-grey clay with a darker grey unpolished surface; fabric and profile combine to date this to the period immediately before or immediately after the building of Hadrian's Wall. Cf. *Chesterholm*<sup>4</sup> 30, *Haltwhistle Burn* 14 and *High House turret* 36 (period Ia of Hadrian's Wall).

4. (TR.I, \*) Small fragment similar to no. 3.

5. (TR.I, in the red clay.) Rim and wall of a bead-rim bowl of hard smooth grey clay with a polished black surface; the fabric resembles that of the so-called Upchurch ware; the vessel has two deeply scored lines round its side. Cf. *High House milecastle* 47, *Slack* 94 (in different fabric) and *Balmuildy* pl. xlix 13. The occurrence of this type at both Slack and Balmuildy raises an interesting question. It has in the past been fairly generally assumed that the occupation of Slack ended shortly after the arrival of the sixth legion in Britain (A.D. 122), and that Balmuildy was first occupied when the Antonine Wall was built (c. A.D. 142); but there is some reason to suppose that Slack continued in occupation later, not necessarily without one or more interruptions; and the pottery from Balmuildy

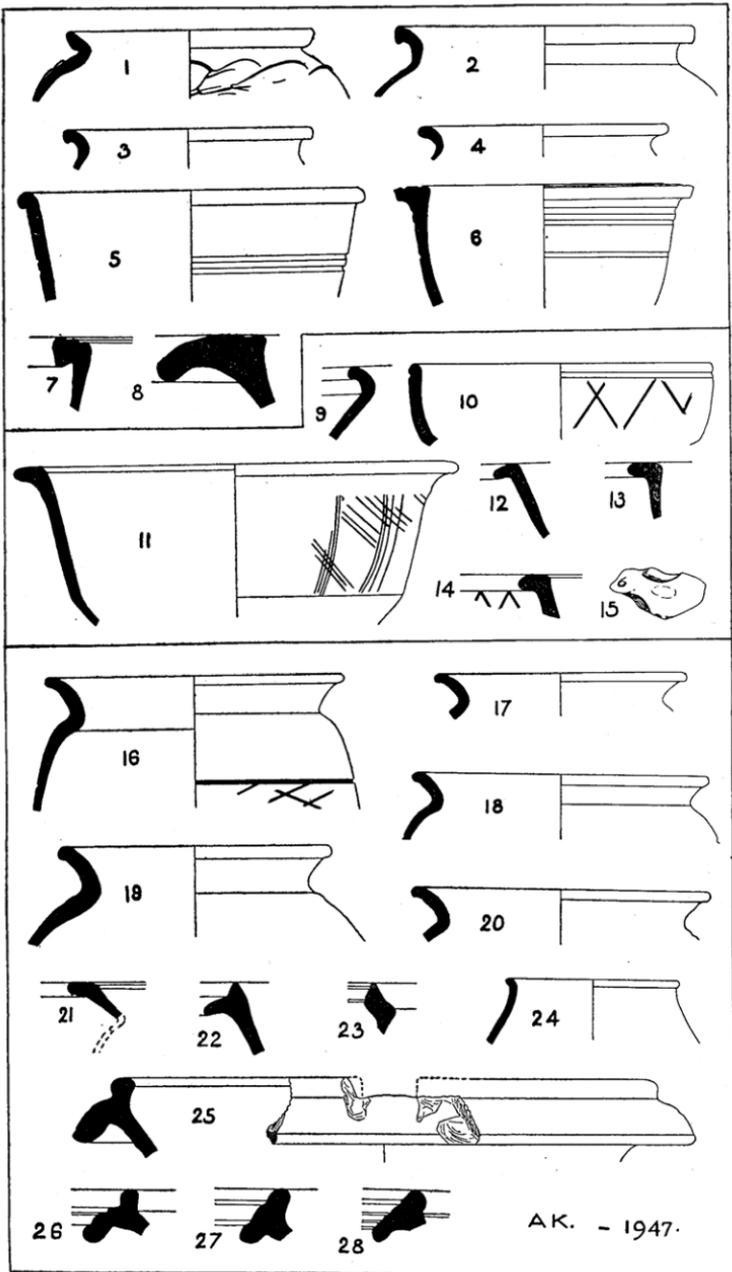


FIG. 4. (1).

includes several pieces which seem best assigned to a first-century occupation, structural remains of which have yet to be recovered. The type also occurs, unstratified, on Hadrian's Wall; on present evidence it cannot be assigned a closer dating than between A.D. 80 and 200.

6. (TR.I, west of early road, on subsoil.) Rim and wall of small carinated bowl in hard gritty light-brown clay; it has a reeded rim and pronounced girth-grooves. Cf. *Corbridge* 1911 5, *Chesterholm*<sup>4</sup> 11 and *Haltwhistle Burn* 1.

7. (TR.I, on early road.) Fragment of rim of vessel of same class as no. 6, in soft light-grey clay; diam. c. 7 in. Cf. *Corbridge* 1911 4.

8. (TR.II, on red clay.) Fragment of rim of mortarium in soft yellow sandy clay, with white opaque grit showing; diam. uncertain but large. Wroxeter type 14/18 = *Corbridge* 1911 12 and 13.

Of the above eight vessels the cooking-pot no. 1 and the mortarium no. 8 could have been in use as early as A.D. 80.

(ii) *Later second-century vessels.* (Fig. 4 nos. 9-15).

9. (TR.I, \*) Two fragments of rim and shoulder of cooking-pot in black fumed ware; diam. 7 in. Cf. *Birdoswald* 18b (Wall period I).

10. (TR.I, under late road, associated with plated coin.) Several fragments of a small bowl in black fumed ware, with beaded lip and cross-hatched decoration. Cf. *Corbridge* 1911 83, *Corbridge* 1938 fig. 8, 5 (second Antonine period), *Poltross Burn* pl. liii 30 (Wall period Ib) and *Birrens* fig. 30, 6. This class of vessel is common from the time of Hadrian until that of Carausius; the profile and fabric of the present example suggest a date in the second half of the second century.

11. (TR.II, under grey clay filling.) An almost complete large flat-rimmed bowl in gritty black fumed ware. This is a good example of the type which succeeds the carinated bowls with reeded rims, such as nos. 6 and 7; it must be dated to the time of Hadrian or, at latest, to that of Antoninus Pius. Cf. *Poltross Burn* pl. liii 5 (period Ia) and *Appletree* 65 (period Ib).

12. (TR.II, \*) Fragment of flat-rimmed bowl in sandy black fumed ware; diam. uncertain; this belongs to the same series as no. 11 but is typologically later. Cf. *Corbridge* 1938 fig. 8, 16 and *Birrens* fig. 28, 8.

13. (TR.II, \*) Similar fragment in hard grey fumed ware; diam. c. 5 in. Cf. *Birdoswald* 67 (Wall period I).

14. (TR.I, \*) Small fragment of rim of black polished bowl; diam. uncertain. Cf. *Birdoswald* 74 (period I) and *Birrens* fig. 26, 2.

15. (TR.I, in late road.) Small fragment of "Castor ware" showing head, back and forequarters of an animal in applied relief, cream core, coated black internally and brown externally. This vessel cannot be earlier than the latter part of the second century, and may well be later.

(iii) *Vessels of the third and fourth centuries.* (Fig. 4 nos. 16-28).

16. (TR.I, \*) Four fragments of rim and shoulder of a typical black burnished cooking-pot, with obtuse-angled cross-hatching and a horizontal scored line above the zone of decoration. Cf. *Bewcastle* fig. 25, 39. *Early fourth-century.*

17. (TR.I, under late road, with no. 10 above and plated coin.) Fragment of rim of dark-grey fumed cooking-pot.

18. (TR.II, \*) Rim and shoulder of black fumed cooking-pot.

19. (TR.I, \*) Rim and shoulder of thick hard coarse light-grey cooking-pot of only 5½ in. diameter.

20. (TR.I, with nos. 10 and 17.) Fragment of rim of black fumed cooking-pot.

Nos. 17-20 are sufficiently similar to be taken together; parallels to the type suggest a date in the third century: cf. *Birdoswald turret* 21, *High House milecastle* 119 and 120, *Denton Hall turret* 15 (all Wall period II), *Birrens* fig. 32, 4 and 6, *Corbridge* 1938 fig. 7, 2 and 3.

21. (TR.I, in yellow clay.) Small fragment, diam. uncertain, of dark brown ware with black core, slightly pitted on the surface and resembling Huntcliff and various native wares; the parallels quoted below reveal not only the date but also the nature of the vessel: it is part of the rim of a cooking-pot, and the broken line in the drawing is a restoration based on parallel instances. Two similar fragments are among the Watercrock material which Lt.-Col. North has kindly put into my hands for study. Cf. *Poltross Burn* pl. v 16 (Wall period III), *High House milecastle* 116 (period II), *Chesterholm*<sup>1</sup> fig. 3, 1 and *Bainbridge* 170; as the type occurs in Wall periods II and III it must be dated c. A.D. 300.

22. (TR.I, \*) Fragment of straight-sided flanged bowl in hard brick-red fabric with traces of cream slip. I know of no exact parallels; the shape is a very common one in the fourth century: flanged bowls with straight sides do not appear in the

north of Britain before the third century, and the flanged bowls with curved sides which are fairly common in the second century belong to a distinct type.

23. (TR.I, \*) Fragment of an unusual vessel in hard rough biscuit-coloured ware with grey core; diam. uncertain. There are no very close parallels, but cf. *Corbridge* 1938 fig. 7, 11 (third century).

24. (TR.I, \*) Rim of a bulbous beaker in fine smooth soft ware, fumed black externally; possibly early fourth-century.

25. (TR.I, \*) Rim and broken spout of flanged mortarium in very hard ware, with a buff surface and off-white core; no grit survives. Exact parallels are lacking in the north of Britain; the position in the typological series suggests a date late in the third century.

26. (TR.II, \*) Rim of mortarium with the flange grooved into steps, in hard buff ware with thick orange slip, no grit showing; diam. uncertain. Wroxeter type 170 (early fourth century); cf. *Bewcastle* fig. 22 (several examples, similar but not identical).

27. (TR.I, \*) Fragment of soft gritty orange-coloured mortarium, no grit showing; diam. *c.* 9 in. The profile, hammer-head with two grooves, is typical of the early years of the fourth century; Wroxeter type 194, cf. *Bewcastle* fig. 22, 14. Although the Bewcastle mortaria belong to Wall period II, most of them had been in use at the close of the period; the Wroxeter dating, based on the coin evidence from Poltross Burn, is thirty years too early.

28. (TR.II, \*) Tiny fragment of hammer-head mortarium with reeded rim, no grit showing; diam. uncertain. Wroxeter type 178 = *Poltross Burn* pl. v 3 (Wall period III); cf. *Birdoswald* 11(c) and *Bewcastle* fig. 22, 15.

(iv) *Unusual vessels.* (Fig. 5 nos. 29-33A).

29. (TR.III, in grey clay ditch-filling.) Part of the rim of a *tazza* or incense-cup in gritty bright-orange ware. The typology of *tazze* has not yet been worked out; they occur in deposits from Flavian times until the early part of the third century.

30. (TR.II, \*) Fragment of rim and side of a vessel in rough hard gritty brick-red fabric; diam. *c.* 6 in. There are no close parallels; several vessels which are not dissimilar have been noted in turrets and milecastles in deposits of periods Ia and Ib; it may be an imitation of the samian cup, form 33.

31 and 32. (TR.I, under late road, in early road.) Two

fragments of the rim of a lid-seated jar, and a handle (which does not join, but is in the same hard pasty pinkish-buff ware); diam.  $6\frac{1}{2}$  in.

33. Fragment of a vessel which, for want of a better term, we may call the *Castor box*. The fabric is hard; in fracture the colour is a whitish buff, but the vessel has had an orange-coloured coating, fine but quite clear and definite: in places, especially on the external surface of the rim (where it is represented by shading) it has turned brown. Below the shoulder there is decoration in a rouletted pattern, each individual mark being triangular; the indentations of the rouletting are filled with grey

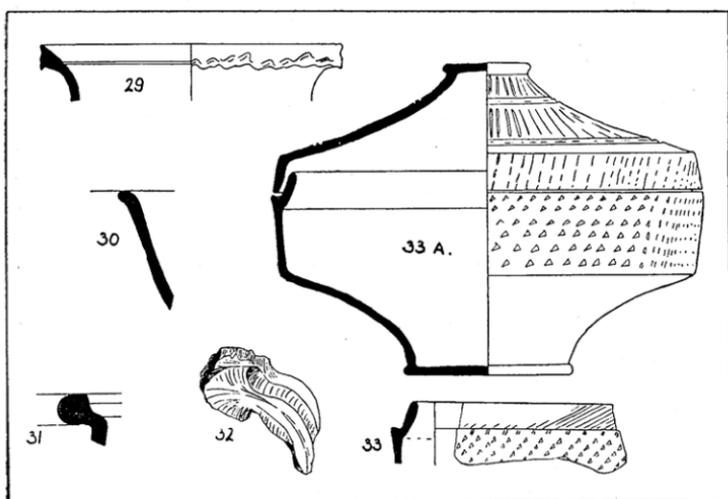


FIG. 5. (†).

paint. The *Castor box* is rare in the northern military area, though not quite so rare as the paucity of published examples might suggest; in the lowland zone it is by no means common, though the number of published examples is greater. Most references to published examples of the box or its lid have been collected by Mr. Graham Webster, F.S.A., and Mr Norman Booth in their report on a kiln at Swanpool near Lincoln (*Antiquaries Journal* xxvii 67, footnotes); in our own region the only published example of a fairly complete specimen is *Corbridge* 1911 63.

33A. A reconstructed drawing of the Burrow vessel, based on more complete examples from elsewhere. The narrow base

follows the published Corbridge example, and the flat knob on the lid is based on an unpublished example from Benwell. The Corbridge collection contains, in addition to the published piece, 12 fragments of boxes and 8 of lids, and there are 3 boxes and 2 lids in the Chesters Museum. All the northern examples are unstratified, and we must turn to the lowland zone for dating evidence; there it normally occurs with pottery best paralleled with material from Wall period III, suggesting a date in the first half of the fourth century. It is true that the published Corbridge box is stated to have come from an Antonine deposit, but the same deposit yielded examples of the late fourth-century Crambeck types 1b and 16, so that it has no value for dating purposes.

(v) *Key to references used in sections (i)-(iv).*

<i>Apple tree</i>	.. ..	Turret 50b, CW2 xiii 297.
<i>Bewcastle</i>	.. ..	CW2 xxxviii 195.
<i>Birdoswald</i>	.. ..	CW2 xxx 169.
<i>Birdoswald turret</i>	.. ..	Turret 49b, CW2 xiii 297.
<i>High House turret</i>	.. ..	Turret 50a, CW2 xiii 297.
<i>High House milecastle</i>		Milecastle 50, CW2 xiii 297.
<i>Poltross Burn</i>	.. ..	Milecastle 48, CW2 xi 390.
<i>Bainbridge</i>	.. ..	<i>Proc. Leeds Philos. Soc.</i> III 16.
<i>Balmuildy</i>	.. ..	S. N. Miller, <i>The Roman fort at Balmuildy</i> .
<i>Birrens</i>	.. ..	PSA Scot. lxxii 275.
<i>Chesterholm</i> <sup>1</sup>	.. ..	AA4 viii 182.
<i>Chesterholm</i> <sup>4</sup>	.. ..	AA4 xv 222.
<i>Corbridge 1911</i>	.. ..	AA3 viii 137.
<i>Corbridge 1938</i>	.. ..	AA4 xv 243.
<i>Denton Hall</i>		Turret 7b, AA4 vii 143.
<i>Haltwhistle Burn</i>	.. ..	AA3 v 213.
<i>Newstead</i>	.. ..	J. Curle, <i>A Roman frontier post, etc.</i>
<i>Slack</i>	.. ..	<i>Yorks. Arch. Journ.</i> xxvi 1.