ART. V – *The Roman Fort and Vicus at Ambleside: Archaeological Research in 1982*

By R.H. LEECH
WITH CONTRIBUTIONS BY D. SCOTT

RESEARCH in the 1960s and 1970s has provided evidence for an extensive settlement or *vicus* mainly north of the successive Roman forts at Ambleside (Figs. 1, 2 and below for references). Two watching briefs undertaken in 1982 by the Cumbria and Lancashire Archaeological Unit, the University of Lancaster, and financed by the, then, Department of Environment, provided an opportunity to investigate further the chronology and nature of this settlement and in particular to identify its north and north-east limits.

The excavation records are to be held in the County Record Office in Kendal. The finds, with a microfiche copy of the paper archive, will be deposited in Kendal Museum. The records may also be consulted through microfiche copies to be held by the National Archaeological Record within the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England.

A Watching Brief in Field OS 4369 by R.H. Leech

North of the Galava Gate Restaurant (Figs. 2 and 3), a two-day excavation was undertaken in April 1982 after a sewer pipe trench had cut through water-logged deposits of Roman date. An area 4 m by 2.2 m was examined, within the centre of which a brick inspection chamber had already been constructed.

Sealing the subsoil were layers of organic material, possibly of natural origin. These were, in turn, sealed by several features including the side of a wattle-lined pit, a post 0.24 m diameter, four stakes and part of a pit. These features were all probably similarly aligned on a north–south axis. Samples of the water-logged deposits were taken for analysis. Pottery associated with these features was of the late 1st or early 2nd centuries AD. Other finds included wood offcuts and a rolled and compressed strip of birch bark.

Filling the wattle-lined pit was a layer of stone rubble in turn sealed by layers of clay associated with a stone wall and in turn sealed by layers of soil and building debris. Within the last were fragments of clay fill including tegulae and pilae tiles associated with pottery of 2nd century date and a denarius of Vespasian (minted AD 69–72). Sealing these layers was the present topsoil.

The excavation took place *c.* 4 m from the west end of a trench excavated in 1964 (Charlesworth 1966), and to the north of the excavations of 1962–3 (Burkett 1965). The latter and this present excavation indicated that there are at least two major building periods to the *vicus* north of the fort, probably of 1st and 2nd century date. This excavation also again demonstrated the rich potential of the water-logged deposits for more extensive investigations.

Observation of the pipe trench to the north-east of the excavation also indicated the eastern limit of Roman occupation (Fig. 2). Beyond this point, no Romano-British

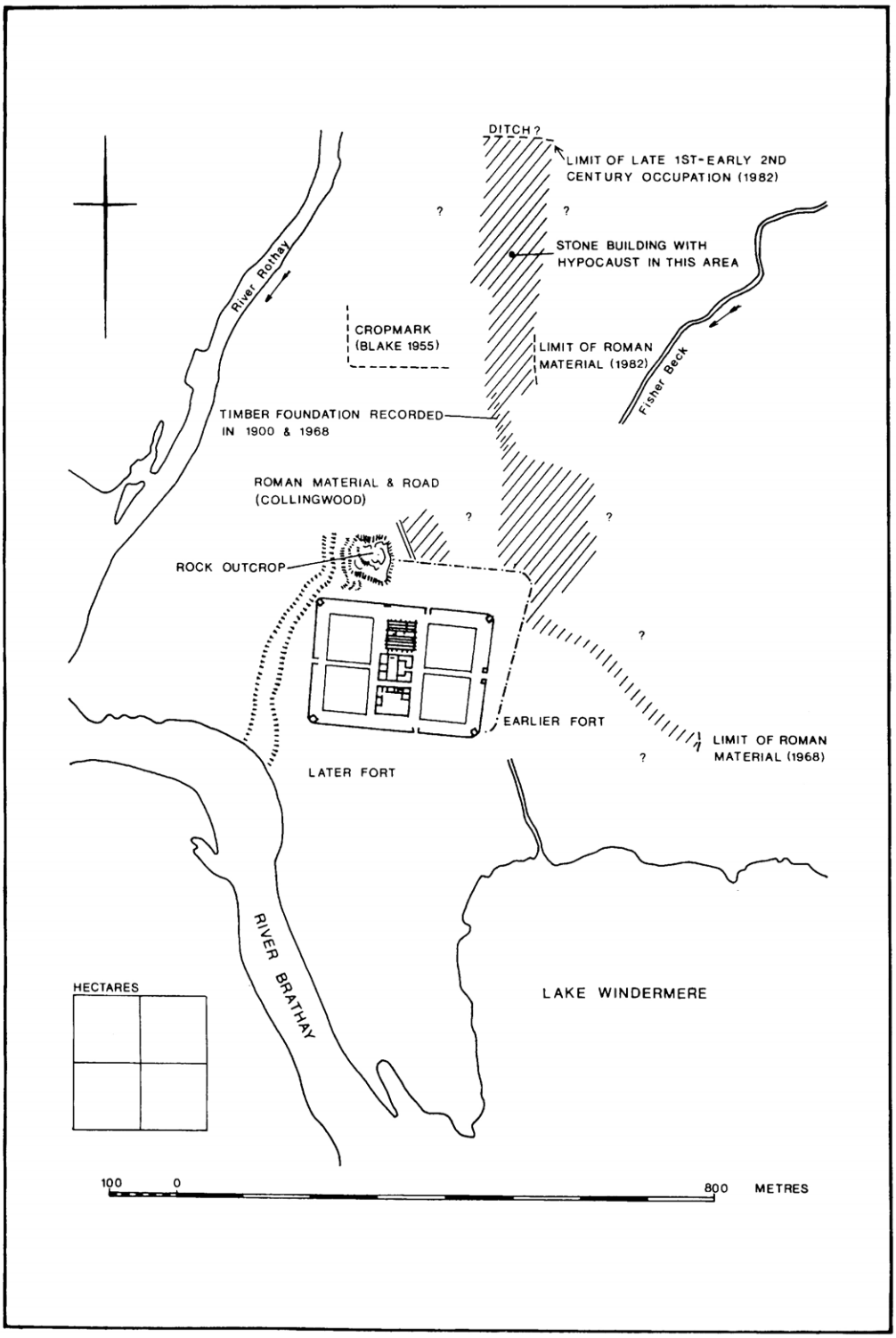

FIG. 1. The *vicus* at Ambleside, shown in relation to the successive forts and to Lake Windermere

material was found. Later, in 1985, a watching brief in the land parcel to the north was undertaken by Helen Dyson on behalf of the Cumbria and Lancashire Archaeological Unit. This demonstrated that the house, formerly known as Broadlands and now the Borrans Park Hotel, was to the east of the area of Roman occupation.

The Watching Brief in Advance of Road Construction

By R.H. Leech and D. Scott

A watching brief was undertaken from July to September 1982 during the initial stages of improvements to the A593 Coniston–Ambleside road, involving the widening of part of the existing road and the construction of a new length of highway from Rothay Road to Barrows Road, Ambleside (Fig. 2). The watching brief was carried out largely by D.Scott, with post-excavation work being undertaken by both the above. The work was concentrated in the area south of the new road where the existing road was widened.

Observation of a Post Office trench on the line of the old road in 1968 indicated that the Roman *vicus* probably extended this far to the north (Burkett 1977 and unpublished plan). The positions of stone and timber foundations then recorded are shown on Fig. 2. For full details of the 1968 discoveries reference should be made to the original plan, a copy of which is included in the records of the 1982 project.

East of the road (Figs. 2, 4)

East of the existing road it was possible to examine in greater detail an area 60 m long by 2–6.5 m in width, extending on the east to a temporary fence constructed for the road improvement works (Fig. 2). The uppermost 0.10–0.15 m of soil had been removed by machine and the excavation was mainly limited to an examination of the uppermost features and was completed over one weekend. The following, from south to north, were the principal features recorded at this level (C=Context):

C68 A layer of stone rubble; fragments of tile came from this area in the initial topsoil stripping.

C77 The base of a wattle and daub wall, of orange-red clay 0.4 m wide with four stake holes clearly visible. This was an important observation, for other bands of orange-red clay could then be interpreted as also possibly being of wattle and daub walls.

C78 The base of a wattle and daub wall, apparent as a band of orange-brown clay 6 m wide, parallel to C77. Between the two walls were fragments of clay tile.

C80 The base of a wattle and daub wall, a band of orange clay 0.7 m wide with a line of charcoal on the north side parallel to C77 and C78.

C82 A path or narrow road, 2 m wide and constructed of large water-worn boulders. On the south side a fragment of 2nd century pottery (C72) was sealed by the road.

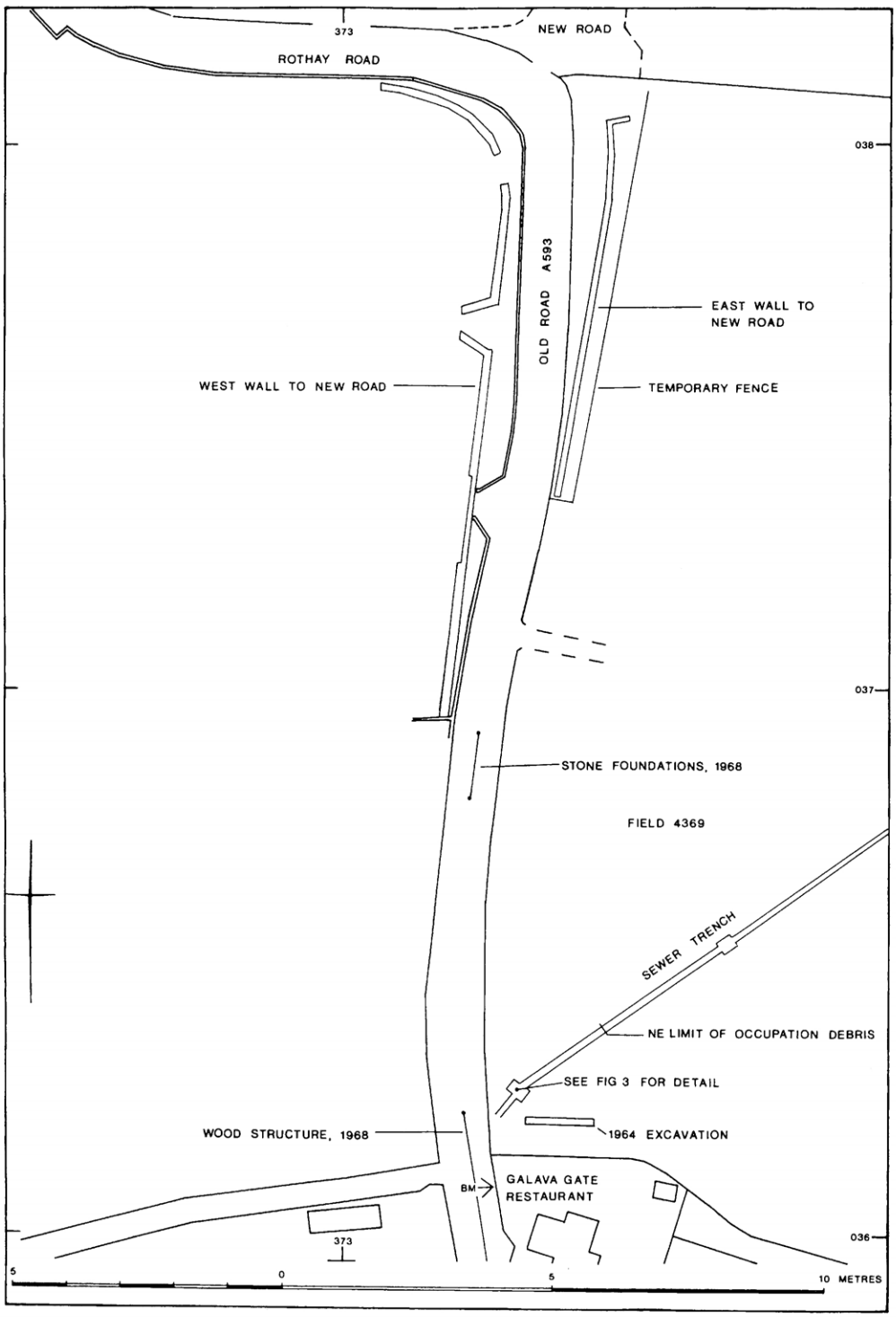

FIG. 2. Ambleside, the area north of the fort showing the location of archaeological excavation and observation in 1982

C89 A possible floor, consisting of flat, well worn stone slabs, set in an orange clay matrix.

C88 A layer of small stones in a matrix of dark brown soil sealing C84, a hard compacted surface, probably a floor.

C90 A layer of yellow sandy gravel the uppermost surface of which sloped sharply down to the north; possibly part of the ditch C125.

C00 A layer of stone rubble, possibly one of the uppermost layers sealing the possible ditch C125. Not assigned a context number but recorded in plan and shown on Fig. 4 to the north of C90.

More structural features, earlier in the stratigraphic sequence than those listed above, were recorded in the rapid observation of the foundation trench for the new boundary wall to the east side of the road and are shown in Fig. 4. These included further wattle and daub walls 0.10–0.20 m below the excavated surface, a layer of burnt soil with burnt pottery 0.35 m below the excavated surface and a ditch (C125) 7 m wide crossing the area examined in detail (see also Fig. 1). As the trench in which this was recorded was only 0.4 m deep, one cannot be certain that this was a ditch, but, since a similar feature was also recorded to the west of the road, the possibility that there was a substantial ditch at this point should clearly be considered.

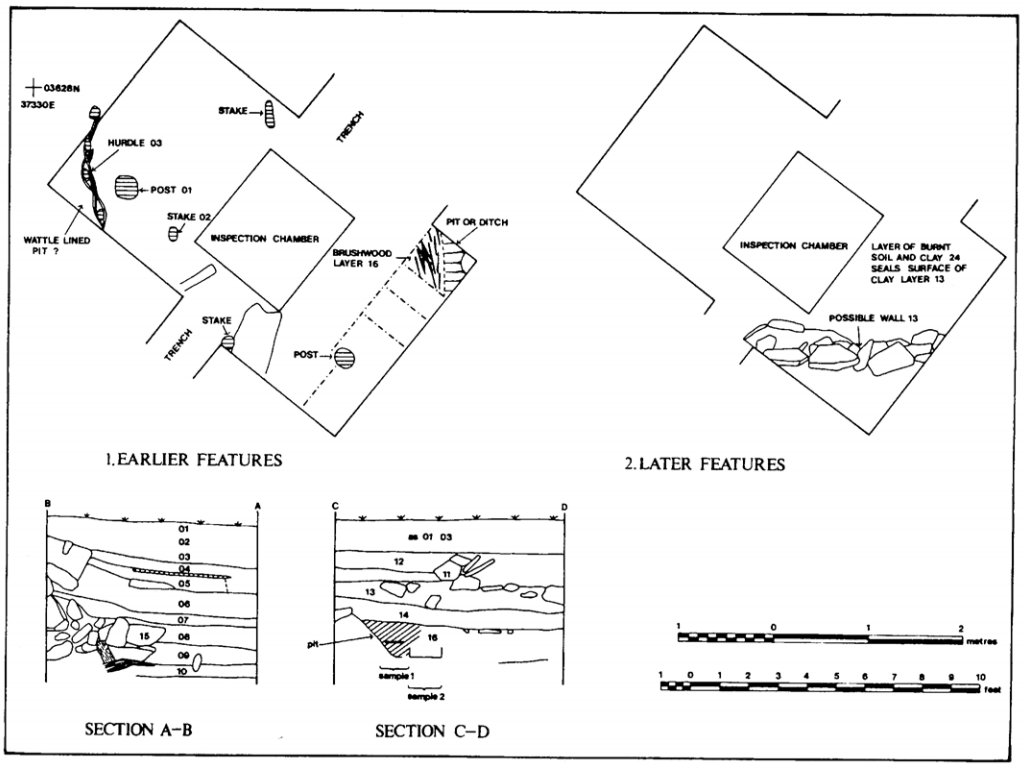

FIG. 3. Area examined north of the Galava Gate Restaurant

West of the road (Fig. 2)

West of the road, archaeological recording was restricted to observation of the contractors' trenches, which extended a further 40 m to the south of the area excavated in detail to the east of the road. The principal structural features and layers observed are shown in Fig. 4. On analogy with the area excavated in detail to the east of the road, the layers of orange clay not exceeding 1 m in length in section are possibly the foundations of wattle and daub walls; these were recorded consistently at depths between 0.5 and 0.65 m below the present ground surface, which had been raised here by the addition of hard core for a car park.

Some features were clearly earlier in the stratigraphic sequence. These included a layer of yellow orange clay at 0.5–0.8 m below present ground surface and a possible wall constructed of sandstone blocks at a depth of 0.8 m.

At the north end of the trenches for the new wall, two possible ditches were recorded in section. Unfortunately there was a break in the trench which prevented full examination of the southern ditch which may be the same as that (C125) recorded to the east of the road.

Area north of NGR northing 038 (Fig. 2)

North of line 038 archaeological observation was undertaken of most of the areas stripped of topsoil for the new road, a strip 30 m wide by 180 m north–south. Very little Roman pottery and no features or layers of Roman date were recorded. From the south part of the area stripped, 30 m wide by 90 m in length (C32, 33, 37, 38) came only one sherd of Roman pottery.

The Finds

The objects of stone (not illustrated)

1. Part of a slab of Red Sandstone, 47 mm thick, C83, Object no. 153.

The pottery

A detailed macroscopic analysis comprised the identification and quantitative assessment of the main fabrics and forms. Much of the pottery was very abraded so that only certain distinctive fabric types could be positively identified. These were as follows:

The Samian by B.H. Hartley and Brenda Dickinson (illustrated Fig. 5)

Severe erosion has rendered much of the plain samian in this collection undatable and many of the decorated and stamped pieces unassignable.

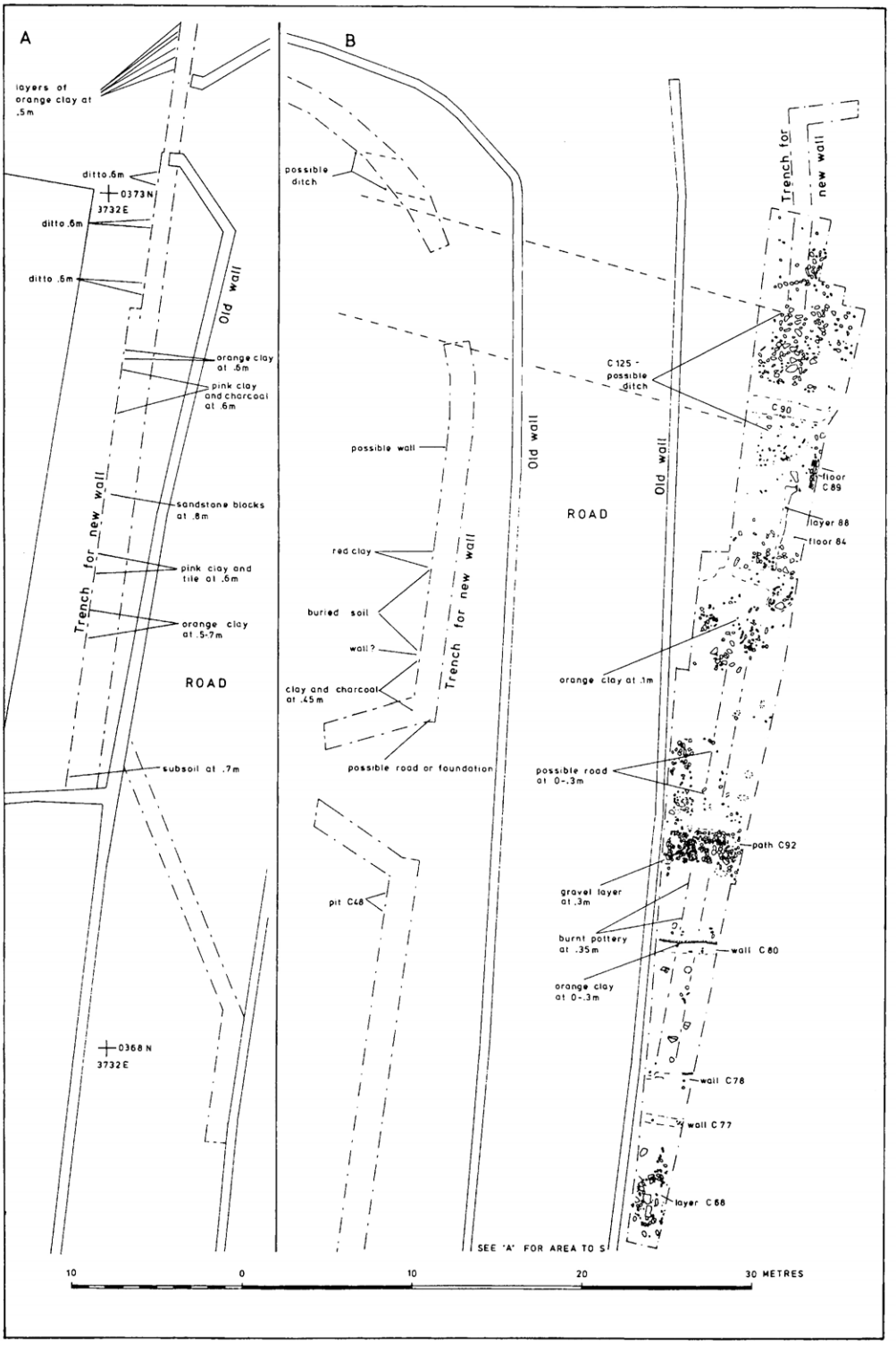

FIG. 4. Area of road improvement works examined in detail

The earliest material identifiable consists of a few late first or early second century sherds from La Graufesenque and slightly more Trajanic pieces from Les-Martres-de-Veyre. The latest material includes three dishes of form 31R and two decorated bowls by members of the Paternus v group (Stanfield and Simpson's PATERNFE). These are not likely to be earlier than *c.* AD 160, though not necessarily much later; and some of the bowls of Cinnamus ii, who is well represented in this assemblage, will be contemporary with them.

By far the greatest proportion of the samian, however, is Hadrianic and early Antonine, as demonstrated by the predominance of forms 18/31, 18/31R and 27 among the plain ware. The decorated ware includes bowls by potters such as Butrio, Divixtus i, Sacer i or his associates (4), X-5 and Cettus. With the exception of the last, from Martres-de-Veyre, and one piece of possible Montans origin, all the material of this period comes from Lezoux.

The samian from this excavation does not suggest any break in the occupation of the *vicus* between *c.* AD 100 and AD 160, or slightly later.

1. Form 37, Central Gaulish. Three fragments, one burnt, from a bowl with a zone of straight gadroons, each resting on an astragalus. The gadroon is on a bowl from London in the style of Pugnus ii (S & S, 1958, pl. 154, 17) and appears, with the horizontal astragalus, on a bowl from Margidunum, which is probably by him and not, as Oswald suggested (1948, pl. 82, 1), Moxis. *c.* AD 130–150.

2. Form 37, Central Gaulish, in the style of Censorinus ii. The ovolo (Rogers B138) is on a stamped mould from recent excavations at Lezoux. One panel contains a single festoon. The adjacent panel has an Apollo (D.55), as on a stamped bowl from Dorn, Gloucestershire. Censorinus frequently used the astragalus border (Rogers A10) horizontally but rarely vertically. *c.* AD 160–190.

3. Fragments of form 37, burnt, Central Gaulish. The decoration, divided into wide panels, includes a slave (D.374), warrior (0.199), ram's horn motif (Rogers G345), vine-scroll and large ring. Most of the details are known for Drusus ii, who most certainly made this bowl, *c.* AD 125–145.

4. Form 37, Central Gaulish. The beaded ring (Rogers C292), arcade (Rogers F41), acanthus (Rogers K17?), ovolo and beads below the decoration were all used by a Hadrianic Lezoux potter, who nearly always cut off his ovolo when finishing his rims. The decoration also includes a Pan (D.424), harpy (0.861), column (Rogers P86) and candelabrum (Rogers Q40).

5. Form 37, Central Gaulish, with ovolo Rogers B41. The panels include: 1A) a double festoon with leopard (D.799), over a row of rings between bead-rows, 2A) more rings, impressed vertically. The border dividing this panel horizontally, ends in a trifid motif (Rogers G219). The festoon depends from astragali (Rogers R25). A bowl by either Pugnus ii or Mapillus/Mapillio – if by Pugnus, it is in his middle style. *c.* AD 130–150.

6. Form 37, Central Gaulish. The ovolo (Rogers B233) was used by Pugnus ii and some of his associates in the Hadrianic or Antonine period. The figure in the right hand panel is rather similar to D.5 (a Jupiter), but no right arm shows. The column is not illustrated by Rogers. The acanthus at the top is Rogers K21. *c.* AD 130–150.

7. Form 37, Central Gaulish, with panels: 1A) A caryatid (a larger version of D.656). 2) An athlete (D. 377). Both figure types were used by Cinnamus ii and the hollow bead at the top of the border is diagnostic for him. *c.* AD 150–180.

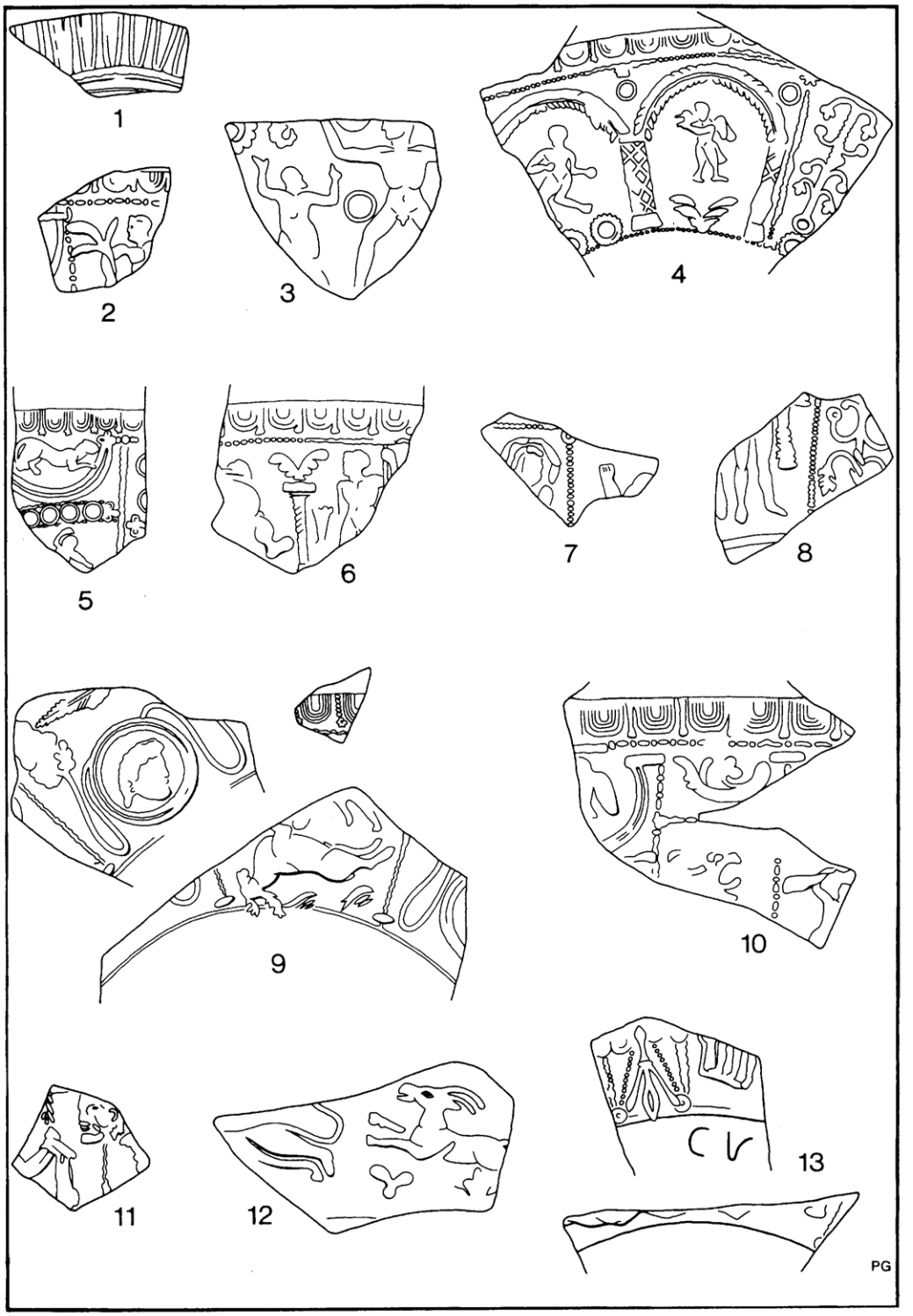

FIG. 5. Samian

8. Form 37, slightly burnt, Central Gaulish. The panels include: 1) A Hercules (D.444), 2) A candelabrum (Rogers Q42). The beads and candelabrum suggest Cinnamus ii. *c.* AD 150–180.

9. Fragments from a bowl of form 37, Central Gaulish. The ovolo (Rogers B31) was used at Lezoux by the potter X-5. The panels include: 1) a stag (D.852), upside down, over cushions (Rogers U97?); 2) a double medallion with mask (cf. S. & S., 1958, pl. 67, 8), with attached tendrils ending in leaves (Rogers H96). A pointed leaf (Rogers J33) is impressed horizontally above the medallion. X-5's characteristic striated spondles act as junctio masks. *c.* AD 125–140.

10. Four fragments of form 36, Central Gaulish, probably all joining. The ovolo is Rogers B70. The panels include 1) a double festoon containing an eagle (D.987); 2A) A leafy spray (Rogers H117); 2B) unidentified; 3) A scarf dancer (O.344). This bowl is almost certainly one of the later products of the Quintilianus i group. It cannot be assigned to a particular potter, but may be by Anunus or Laxtucissa, both of whom used vertical and astragalus borders. Probably after *c.* AD 140.

11. Form 30, Central Gaulish, in the style of Butrio. One of the panels has a leafy spray (Rogers J160) depending on the upper border, and probably a draped figure. The vertical border is topped by a mask (cf. S & S, 1958, pl. 58, 659 & 59, 665). *c.* AD 120–140.

12. Form 37, Central Gaulish. Freestyle decoration, with a goat (O1849A, reduced), lioness (D.793) and plant (Rogers L22). Hadrianic or Antonine.

13. Form 37, Central Gaulish. Two fragments from a bowl with a cursive signature of Criciro v, Cr [, retrograde, upside-down, below the decoration. The panels include: 1) A saltire with a trifid motif at the bottom (perhaps Rogers G76), as on a signed bowl of Criciro from Braintree; 2) An erotic group (Oswald, pl. XC, B). Another panel probably has the leopard D.799. *c.* AD 135–165.

Bibliography

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Karnitsch 1955	P. Karnitsch, *Die verzierte Sigillata von Lauriacum (Lorch-Enns)* (Linz, 1955).
O., Oswald	F. Oswald, *Index of Figure Types on Terra Sigillata (Samian ware)* (Liverpool, 1936–7).
Oswald 1948	F. Oswald, *The Terra Sigillata (Samian Ware) of Margidunum* (Nottingham, 1948).
Rogers	G.B. Rogers, *Poteries Sigillées de Gaule Centrale, Gallia* Suppl. XXVIII (1974).
S. & S. 1958	J.A. Stanfield and Grace Simpson, *Central Gaulish Potters* (London, 1958).

The Mortaria by K. Hartley and L.M. Hird (illustrated Fig. 6)

The mortaria date exclusively to the second century, except for one Mancetter-Hartshill fragment which could be third century, dating from AD 190–230. The rest are mainly dated to the first half of the second century with a few mid second century and Antonine forms. There is no vessel which need be earlier than *c.* AD 100 in date.

The vast majority of the material (over 70% by weight) was produced in the North and North-West. Fabrics 1, 2 and 4 in the North and Fabrics 5 and 8 in the

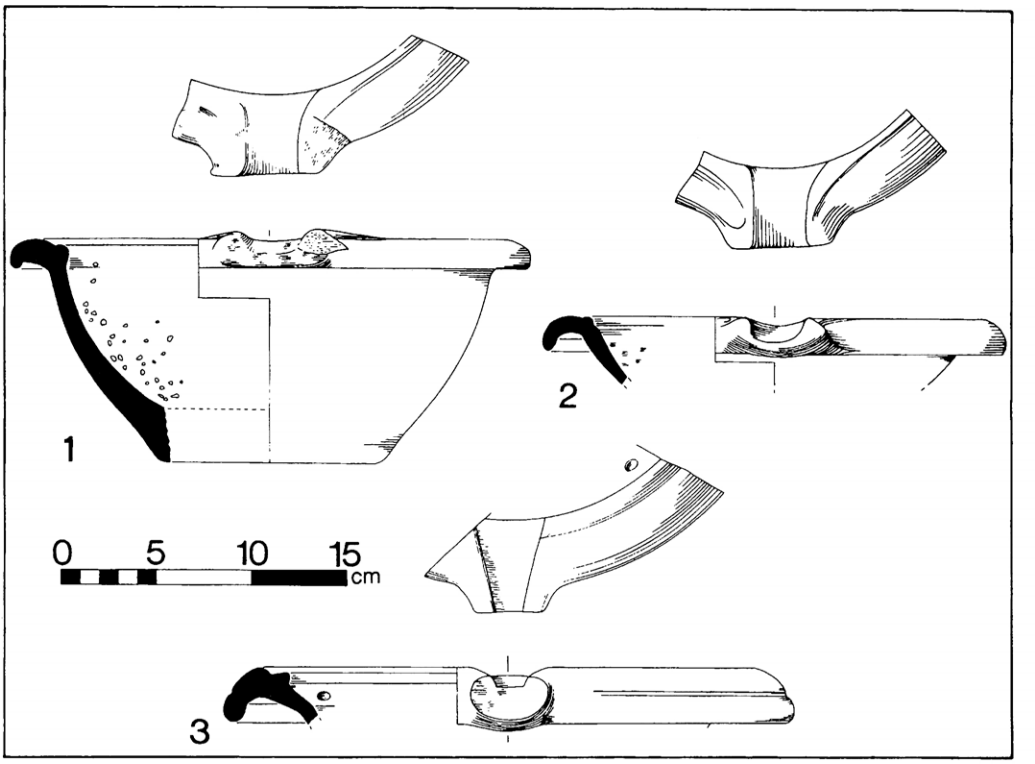

FIG. 6. Mortaria 1:4

North-West. Fabric 3 is from Wilderspool (11.5%) and Fabric 6 from Mancetter-Hartshill (10.24%). The only other non-local source is ?Wroxeter-Midland, Fabric 7, but it produces only 3.94% of the Ambleside material.

Fabric 1 Very sandy, soft orange fabric. Surface treatment unknown. Mixed trituration grit. North-Western.

Fabric 2 Same or similar fabric as 1, but with cream slip.

Fabric 3 Very sandy, soft orange fabric with mixed, quite large, trituration grit. Wilderspool.

Fabric 4 Raetian. Sandy, orange fabric with pinkish-orange core. No red slip remains on most fragments.

Fabric 5 Hard, fine-textured, smooth, brick-red fabric with cream slip. North-West.

Fabric 6 Hard, white, 'pipe-clay' fabric. Mancetter-Hartshill.

Fabric 7 Soft, powdery, cream fabric, fairly fine-textured with some sand in fabric. Core may be pale pinkish-orange. Occasional grit *c.* 1 mm, some of soft red grog.

Fabric 8 Sandy, soft, pinkish-cream fabric with red pebble inclusions up to *c.* 3 mm. North-West.

TABLE 1

Fabric	Weight	Sherds	%Weight	%Sherds
1	1185g	39	17.98	27.65
2	1415g	26	21.47	18.43
3	760g	11	11.53	7.80
4	1075g	12	16.31	8.51
5	70g	2	1.06	1.41
6	675g	14	10.24	9.92
7	260g	4	3.94	2.83
8	1150g	33	17.45	23.40

Catalogue of illustrated mortaria

1. Fabric 4 North-Western, AD 110–150?
2. Fabric 2 Northern
3. Fabric 4 ?Carlisle area, Raetian, Hadrianic/Antonine or Antonine

Amphora were entirely of Dressel 20 type (see below no. 59)

Nene Valley ware

Eight sherds were recorded, all from beakers (see below nos. 57–8)

Black Burnished Ware Category 1 (referred to hereafter as BB1)

For a detailed description of the fabric and forms see Farrar 1973, Gillam 1976, Peacock 1973, and Williams 1977. The forms represented were entirely of the 2nd and early 3rd centuries AD (see below no. 1–30). Bowls with grooved rims, the most characteristic 3rd century form, were completely absent.

TABLE 2: Type fabric quantification

Fabric	Sherd count	%	Sherd weight (kg)	%
Samian	432	20	5.23	14
Amphora	236	11	14.94	40
Mortaria	145	7	6.10	16
Nene Valley	8	.4	.02	.06
BB1	558	27	5.19	14

Catalogue of illustrated pottery (Figs. 7–8)

1–2. Jars with slight everted rims, 1st or early 2nd century (Gillam 1976, 67), *BB1*, C51.
3–4. As 1–2, C93.
5. As 1–2, C96.
6. As 1–2, C101.
7. As 1–2, C118.
8. As 1–2, C119.
9. Jar with everted rim, wavy line decoration on rim, very well burnished exterior, before *c.* AD 150. (*idem.*, 63), *BB1*, C08.
10. As 9, C51.
11. Jar with everted rim, *BB1*, C21.
12. As 11, C41.
13. As 11, C51.
14. As 11, C101.
15. As 11, C111.
16. Beaker of cooking pot form, early to mid 2nd century (Gillam 1976, 67), *BB1*, C41.
17. Bowl with flat rim, incised lattice decoration, 2nd century (*idem.*, 67–70), *BB1*, C08.
18. As 11, C13.
19. As 11, C21.
20. As 11 but with eroded surface and no visible decoration, C41.
21. As 11, not decorated, C51.
22. As 11, but of unusually small diameter, *BB1* or similar fabric, C94.
23. As 11, *BB1* or similar fabric, C99.
24. As 23, C122.
25. Bowl with flat rim, late 2nd or early 3rd century, decoration of intersecting arcs, (*idem.*, 68), *BB1*, C13.
26. As 25 but only small area of decoration survives, C09.
27. Bowl with plain rim, decoration of intersecting arcs, late 2nd century or later (*idem.*, 76–6), *BB1*, C51.
28. Bowl with plain rim, *BB1*, C51.
29. Lid, *BB1*, C101.
30. Possibly a lid, *BB1*, C93.
31. Beaker of cooking pot form with handle, hard dark grey fabric with micaceous inclusions, handmade, C101.
32. Jar with everted rim, medium hard grey exterior with oxidised core, heavily vesticulated with many voids, C101.
33. Jar with everted rim, hard buff fabric, reduced exterior, C62.
34. Large jar or flagon with flared rim, hard grey fabric, C96.
35. Similar form to 34, but fabric similar to *BB1*, with striations from handwiping, C53.
36. Fragment of fine ware bowl with rusticated decoration, hard grey fabric, C120.
37. Base, well burnished, grey fabric, C13.
38. Bowl, or possibly lid, grey fabric, C12.

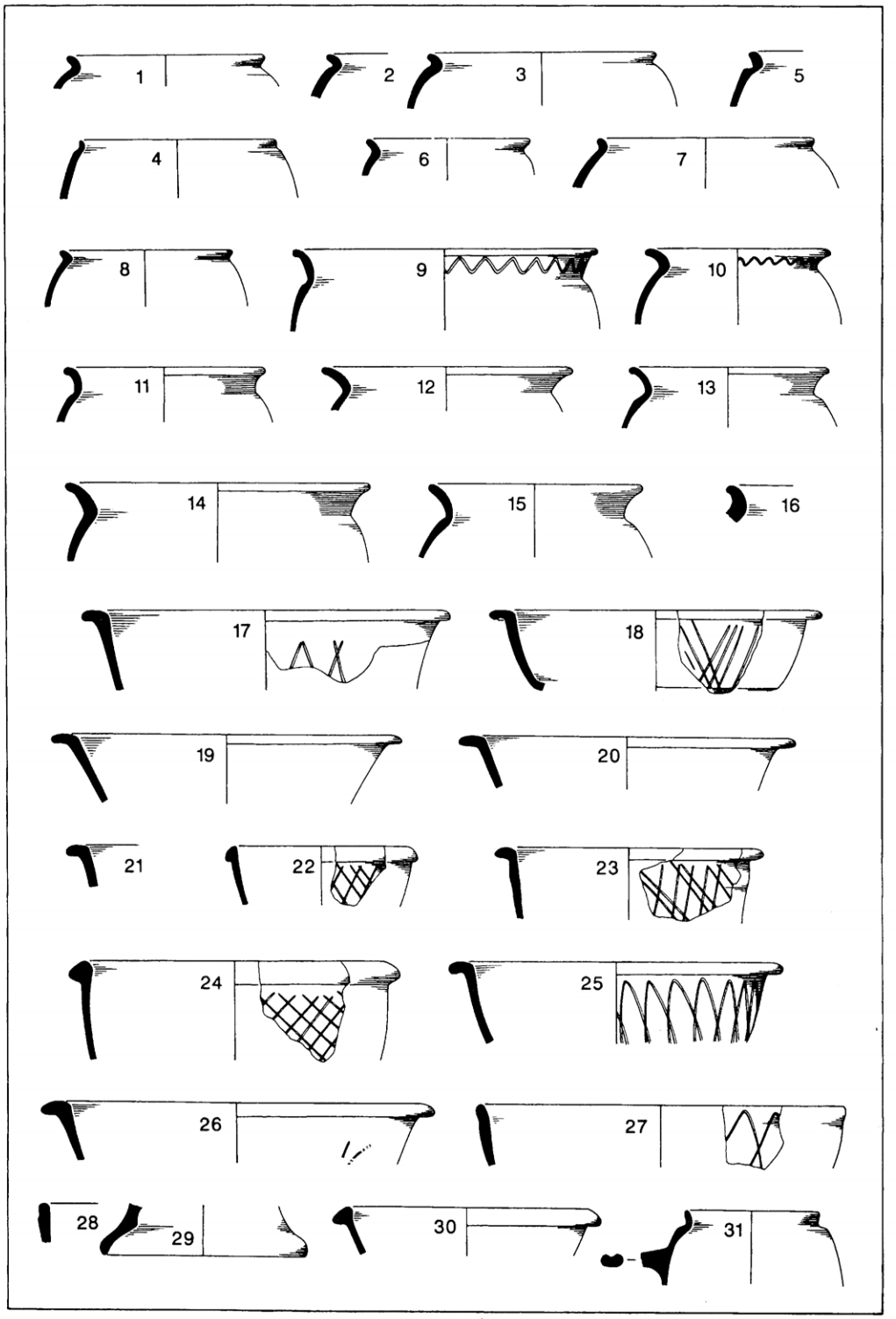

FIG. 7. Other pottery, nos. 1–31 1:4

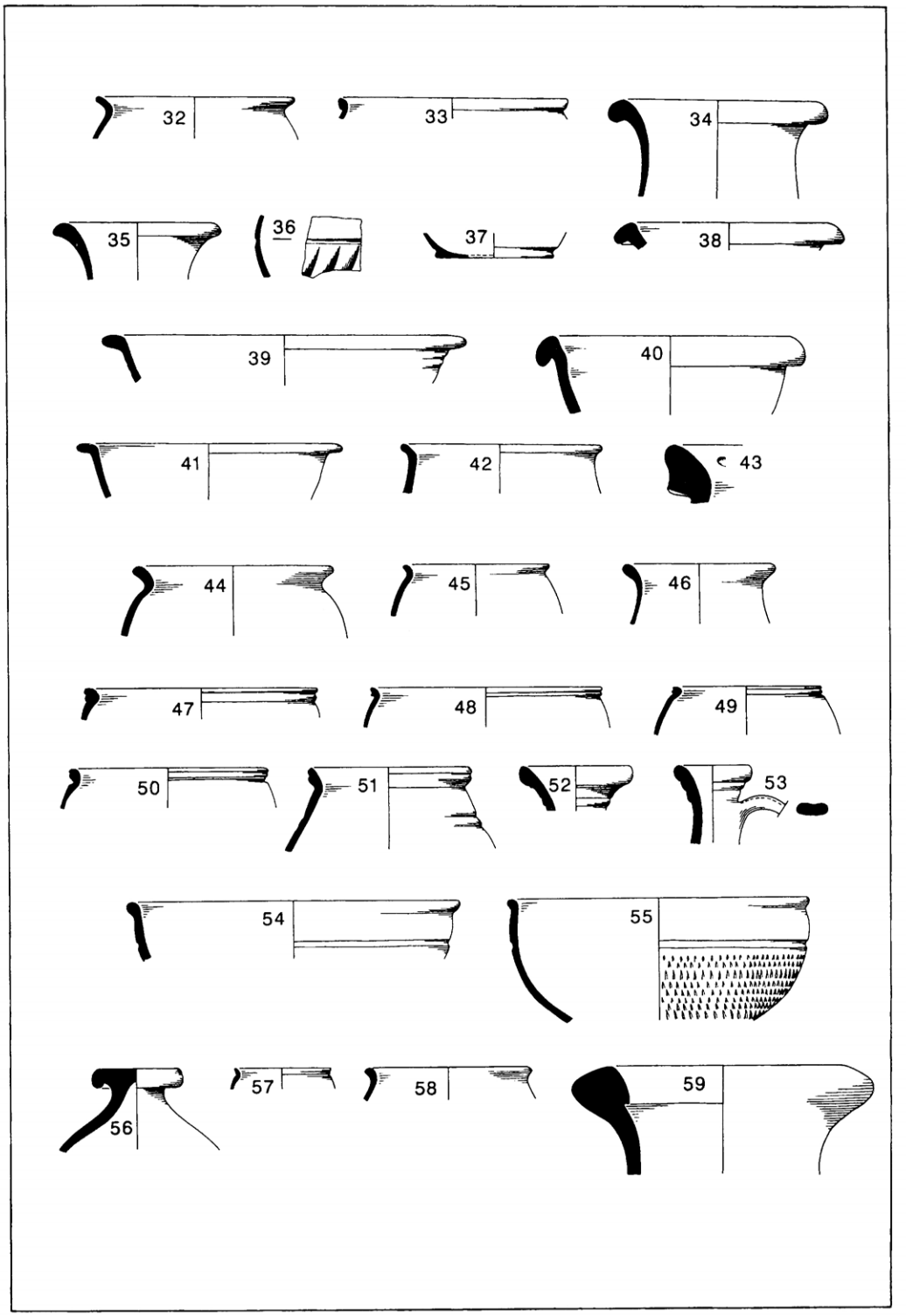

FIG. 8. Other pottery, nos. 32–59 1:4

39. Bowl with flat rim, grey fabric, inclusions include fossil shell, C23.
40. Bowl, grey fabric, C66.
41. Bowl with flat rim, grey fabric, C72.
42. Jar or flagon with flared rim, possibly grey fabric, C51.
43. Large storage jar, hard buff fabric, C66.
44. Jar with everted rim, soft red fabric, C41.
45. As 44, C66.
46. Jar or flagon with flared rim, soft buff-red fabric, C43.
47. Bowl with cornice rim, hard fine red fabric, traces of darker red slip, possibly late 1st/early 2nd century, (see Potter 1979, Fig. 100, no. 93), C22.
48. As 47, C48.
49. As 47, C57.
50. As 47, C94.
51. Beaker, hard buff fabric with traces of dark brown slip, C101.
52. Flagon, hard red fabric with traces of cream slip, possibly late 1st century (see Potter 1979, Fig. 97, nos. 13, 15, 16), C09.
53. As 52 but with part of handle surviving, C22.
54. Bowl, fine red fabric, C03.
55. Bowl with rouletted decoration, soft red fabric, traces of darker red slip, possibly mid 2nd century (see Potter 1979, 245, Fig. 101, no. 114), C66.
56. Lid, hard orange-red fabric with traces of cream slip, C118.
57. Beaker, hard buff fabric, *Nene Valley*, C68.
58. Beaker, as 57, C69.
59. Amphora, Dressel form 20, C94.

The gold bracelet (Fig. 9)

A bracelet of twisted gold wire was found in contractors' spoil at NY37327 03689. This was subsequently examined by Dr B.K. Jones and Mr N.S. Lawson of the Department of Physics, University of Lancaster; reflection, white, X-ray photographs of the bracelet and of a specimen of very pure gold showed identical rings. The bracelet is thus of very pure gold.

The coins from Ambleside by Dr D.C.A. Shotter

One Roman coin was recovered, a moderately worn denarius of Vespasian (AD 69–72). This can be added to the handful of recorded coins from the site, most of which came from Collingwood's work earlier this century (see references at end of report). These other coins are as follows:

Augustus (31 BC–AD 14)	2	(1 AR/1 AE)
Claudius (AD 41–54)	1	(AE)
Trajan (AD 98–117)	1	(AE)
Hadrian (AD 117–138)	2	(1 AV/1 AE)
Faustina II (AD 145–176)	1	(AR)

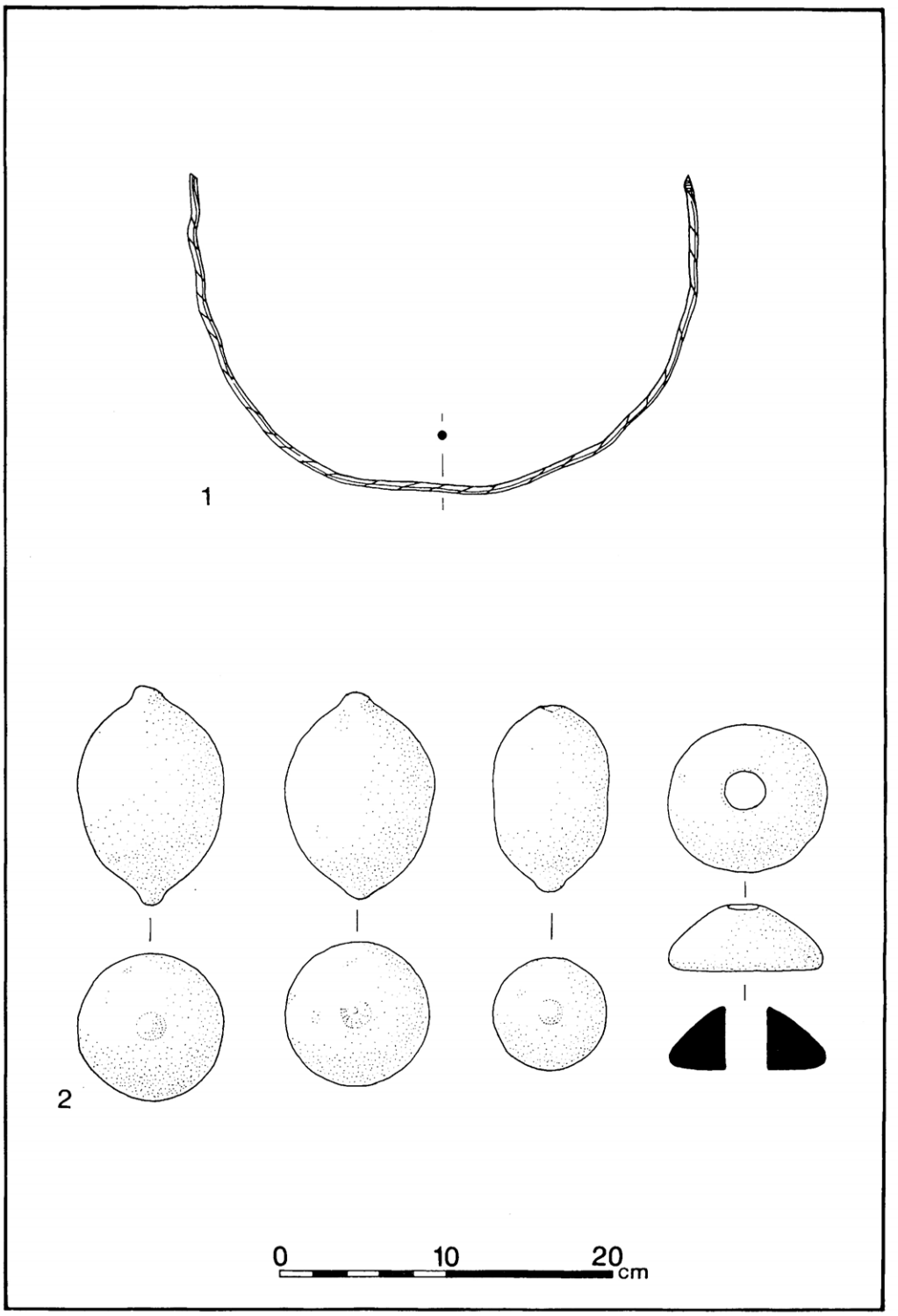

FIG. 9. Objects of gold and lead

Commodus (AD 180–192)	1?	(AR)
Julia Domna (AD 193–217)	2	(AR)
Constantius II (AD 337–61)	1?	(AE)
Valens (AD 364–378)	1	(AR)
Illegible	3	

The sample is too small for discussion, though a few observations may be made; i) the presence of two Augustan coins and one Claudian, two of which are bronze, is a striking feature in so small a sample. Such coins are not found widely in contexts later than early Flavian; ii) the absence of Flavian bronze coins may indicate a lack of activity in early Flavian times at least; iii) the total absence of mid 3rd century radiates and local copies is noticeably at variance with the samples from many other north-west military sites, which commonly have 20–30% of their samples made up of coins of these types; iv) the possibility of late 4th century occupation is kept alive by the presence of the siliqua of Valens.

The lead objects (Fig. 9)

1–3. Glandes or sling bullets, respectively:
   1. (C22) weight 78.5g.
   2. (C66) weight 69.8g.
   3. (C68) weight 42.1g.

4. Circular weight or washer (C66) weight 19.1g.

The wood objects (Fig. 10)

A number of wooden objects was recovered from the watching brief to the north of the Galava Gate Restaurant. All were drawn for the archive record prior to being examined for environmental data and conservation where appropriate. Eleven samples were identified. Five were oak, five were alder and one of silver birch.

1. Right angle moulding, now 120°, but probably warped from 90°, length 173 mm, width 80 mm, object no. 3, from contractors' spoil.
2. Strut notched at both ends, length 155 mm, width 35 mm, object no. 12, context 9. (other items only illustrated in archive)
3. Offcuts with chisel or adze marks, object nos. 9, 10, 11 and 21, all from context 9.
4. Offcuts from branches, possibly cut for wattle work, object nos. 15–18, all from context 9.
5. Base of post 0.24 m diameter, see Fig. 3.
6. Five stakes, maximum length 0.94 m, three indicated on Fig. 3, object nos. 2, 4, 13, 22, 24. A sixth stake, complete and 1.45 m long, was deposited in the Lake District History Centre at Ambleside.

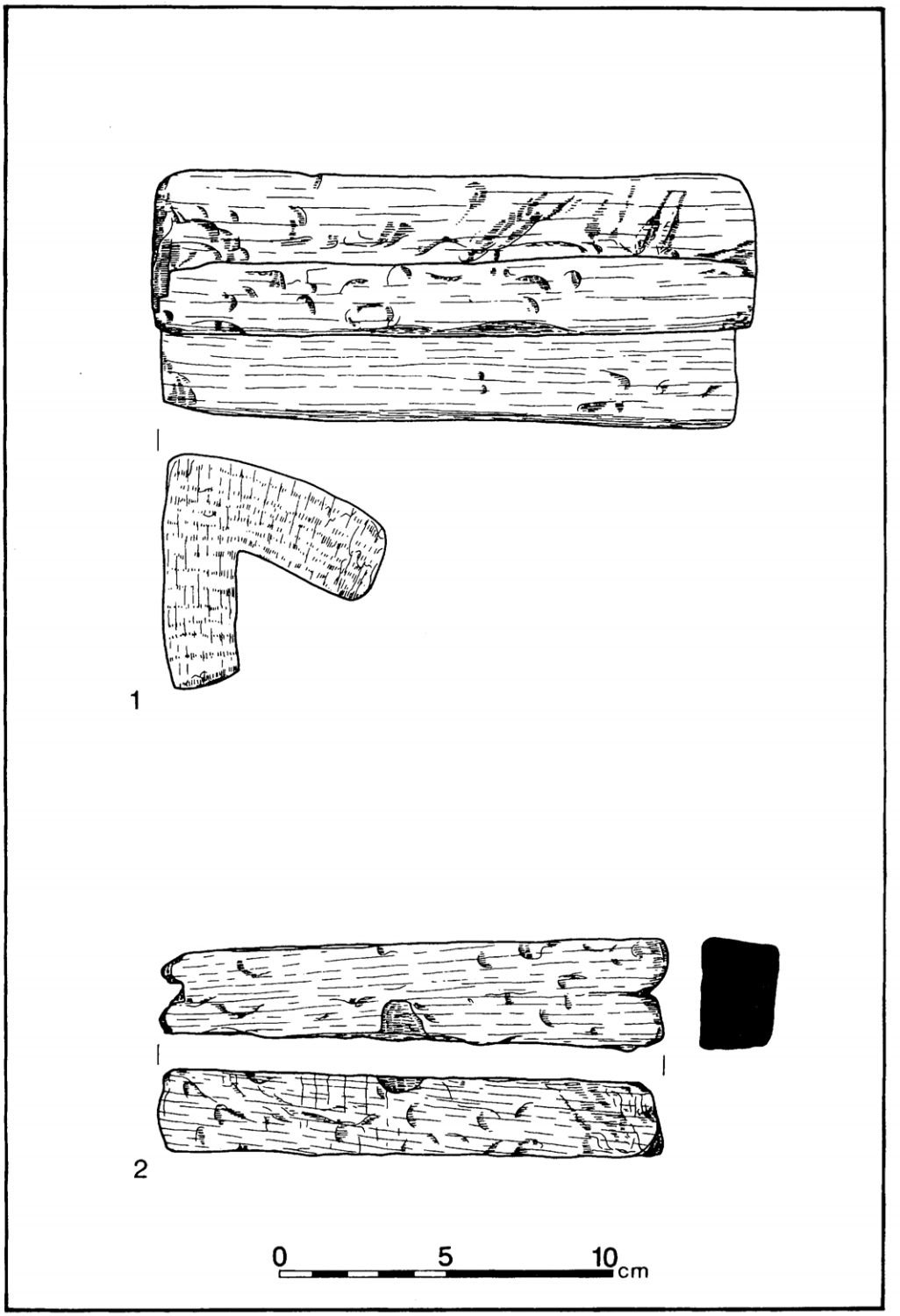

FIG. 10. Objects of wood

The leather objects (Fig. 11)

1–2. Parts of two composite shoe soles, both showing traces of hobnails. Recovered from contractors' spoil, object no. 23.
3. A thin flexible piece possibly an upper but with no evidence of stitch hobs or seams. Provenance as for 1–2.
4. Not illustrated. Unfinished heel piece, thin and flexible, length 120 mm, width 75 mm, object no. 7, context 21.
5. Not illustrated. Trapezoidal patch or applique – probably reinforced edge of tent piece.

Discussion

The extent and chronology of the settlement to the north of the fort (Fig. 1)

From the above evidence the northern limit of the settlement can be delineated with some certainty 360 m north of the fort. It is also likely that this northern limit was marked by a ditch across which the trenches cut in 1982 were of insufficient depth to provide an adequate section. It is thus possible that the *vicus* was actually surrounded by a defensive ditch; alternatively this ditch to the north could have been associated with the ditch suggested by Blake's observations to the south. Further research, either by excavation or geophysical survey, would be useful here.

Further south, the 1982 work also provides evidence for the east limit of the settlement, immediately to the east of Miss Charlesworth's trial excavation. Still further south the settlement extended considerably further east, well to the east of Fisher Beck, the evidence for this coming from the excavations of 1962–3 and observations of 1968.

The 1982 work provided no further evidence for the road leading north from the fort recorded in 1900 and 1968. This is most likely to have passed immediately to the west of the area examined in advance of the road widening scheme, the buildings within the area examined in detail thus fronting on to the road.

The part of the settlement examined in 1962–3 and 1982 appears to have been occupied only from the late 1st to the early 3rd centuries AD. The dateable pottery forms, Samian, *BB1*, the mortaria, are all of this period with no earlier or later forms present. Although subsequent flooding could have removed the latest deposits on the site, this is unlikely since no surviving intrusive features from higher and now removed contexts were recorded.

The depth of deposits of 2nd century date and the sequence from timber to stone based structures recorded both in 1962–3 and 1982 show that there were at least two major periods of building. However, more extensive excavations will be necessary to provide an adequate structural sequence for useful discussion.

The excavations and watching briefs in 1982 provided a further three lead sling bullets, bringing the total found both in the fort and the settlement to the north to 18, viz.:

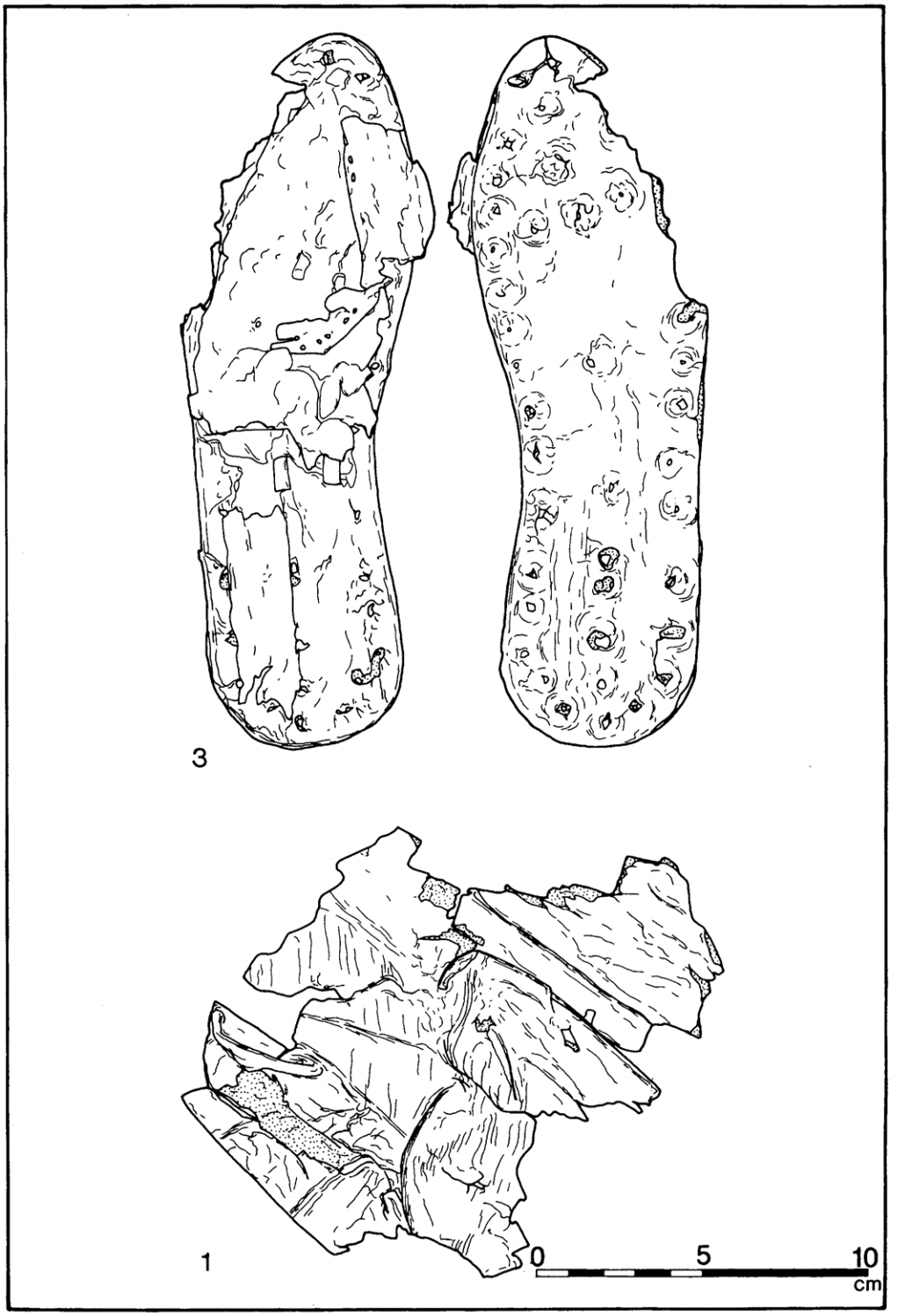

FIG. 11a. Objects of leather

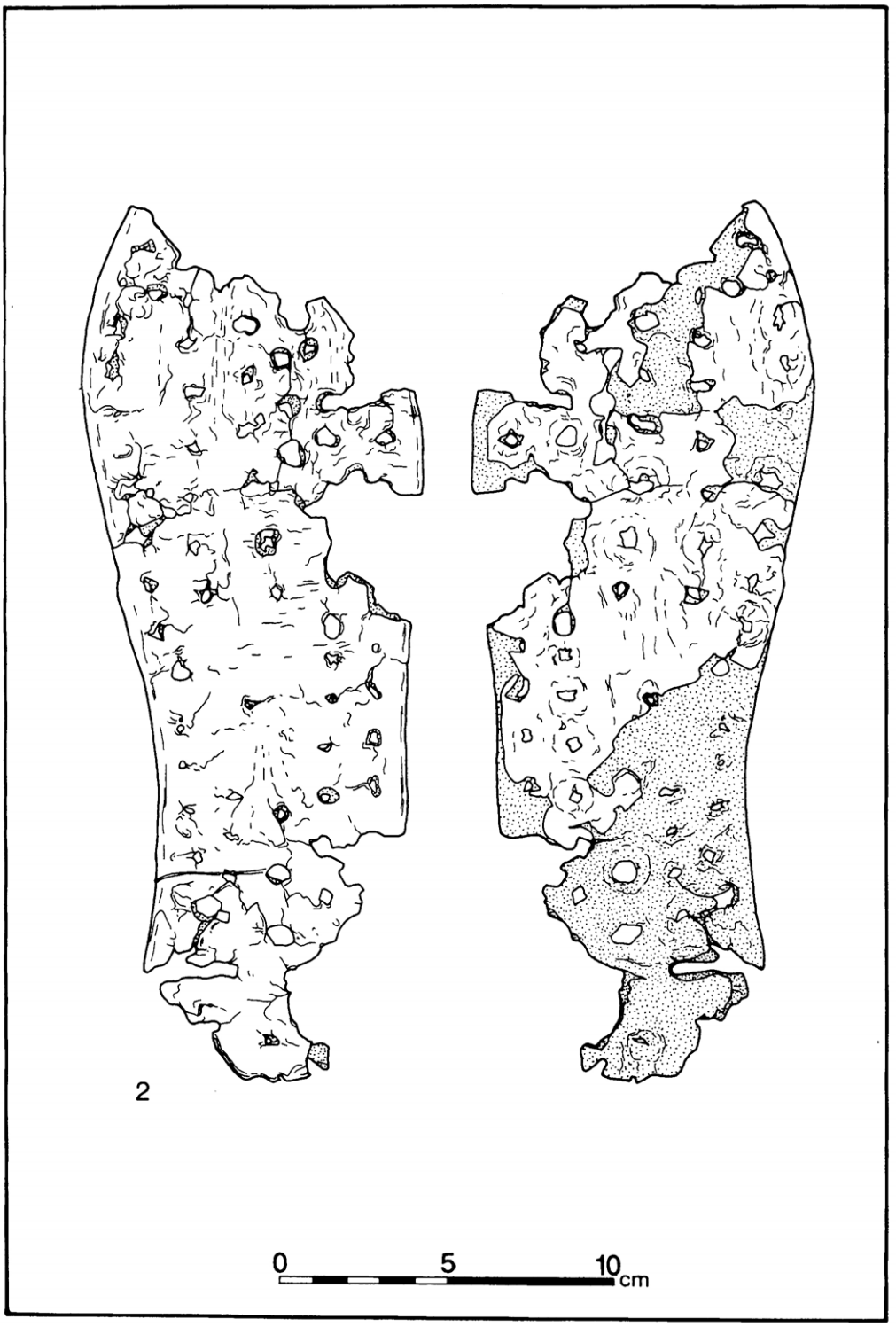

FIG 11b. Objects of leather

Quantity recorded	Reference
1	Cowper 1902, 36
9	Haverfield and Collingwood 1914, 462
7	Collingwood 1915, 60–2
1	Burkett 1965, 91

These finds could provide evidence for there having been an attack on the fort and *vicus*. Other evidence for this, at Ambleside, is the only tombstone from a Romano-British context to bear the inscription "killed within the fort by the enemy" (Burkett 1965, 87). The tombstone itself, if contemporary, would provide evidence that order was subsequently restored, but only much more detailed research would establish whether this was accompanied by rebuilding within the fort and/or *vicus*. Elsewhere in Britain lead sling bullets have been found in considerable numbers only at Burnswark, where they are recorded as having been used by British troops in AD 197 at the battle of Tinurtium (Collingwood and Richmond 1969, 306), and St Albans (Greep 1987, 182–200).

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