

## Miscellanea

### STONE IMPLEMENTS IN CHESHIRE.

A flint implement (fig. 19) has recently been presented to the Grosvenor Museum by the Rev. E. P. Comber through the agency of Miss L. F. Chitty.

It was found in 1929 by Mr. Procter, professional rabbit catcher of Tilstone Fearnall, on the road-side of Peckforton Mere opposite Castle Lodge on a sandy deposit. It was purchased by Mr. Comber who was Vicar of Tilstone Fearnall 1924-36.



FIG. 19. Flint flake found at Peckforton ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )

The implement which is an exceptionally large flake has been examined by Dr. Grahame Clark who describes it as—"a beautifully struck flake showing signs of use on both edges. In spite of small blemishes the flint is of fine quality and the flake must have been struck from a fair size nodule, presumably imported."

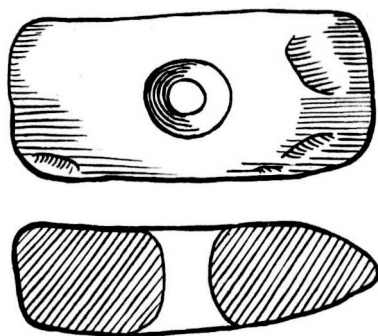


FIG. 20. Stone hoe found at Coole Pilate ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )

About 1938 a perforated stone hoe of square shape (fig. 20) was found in the parish of Coole Pilate in the north part of a field between the canal and the railway, about 370 yards due west of the Old Hall. The implement is now kept at Sound County Primary School.

G.W.

### ROMAN WALLING UNDER NORTHGATE BREWERY.

In excavating a lift-well on the premises of Northgate Brewery in February 1949, the foundations of two parallel walls were found which appeared to be of Roman construction (figs. 21 and 22, pl. IX 1). Through the kindness of the Brewery Company, the Curator was able to make a thorough investigation. The rubble foundation was 2 ft. 6 in. wide and 2 ft. deep and on its eastern edge were seated two courses of a masonry wall 1 ft. 6 in. wide. There were traces of wall plaster on both sides of this wall. At a distance of 3 ft. from the western side of the foundations was the edge of a similar footing of another wall running parallel to it, but the wall it would have carried has apparently been robbed out. The sides of the excavation were probed and the first wall appeared to extend for a total length of 13 ft without any cross walls being met.

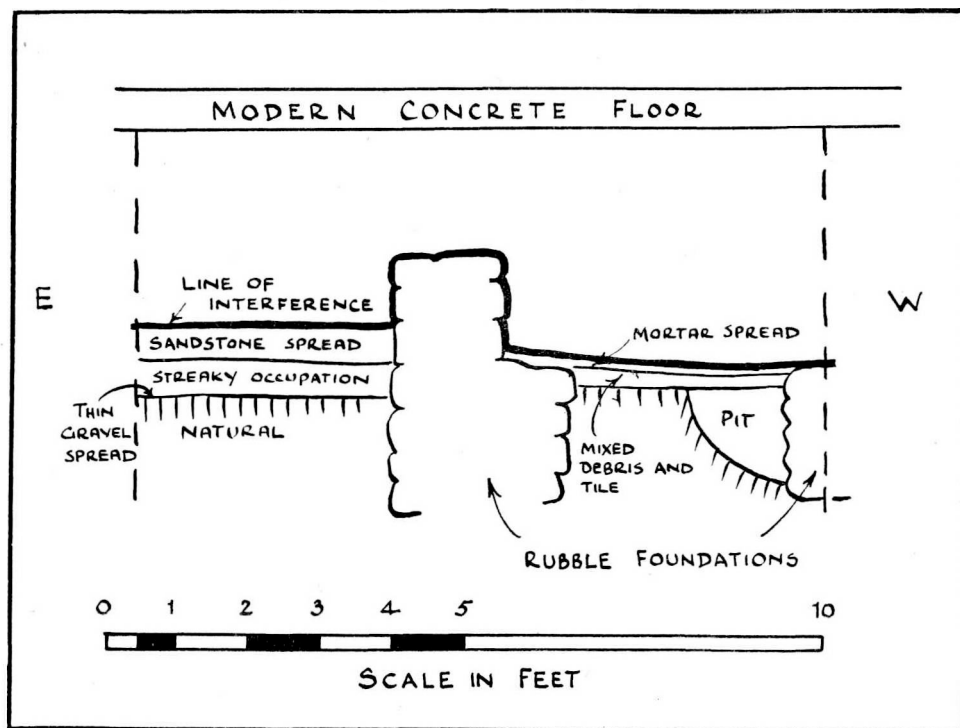


FIG. 21. Roman walling at Northgate Brewery.

Unfortunately there was no occupation level associated with these walls, but traces of a hearth and pit at the level of the foundations suggests occupation probably associated with the timber period of the fortress (i.e. c. A.D. 78-105).

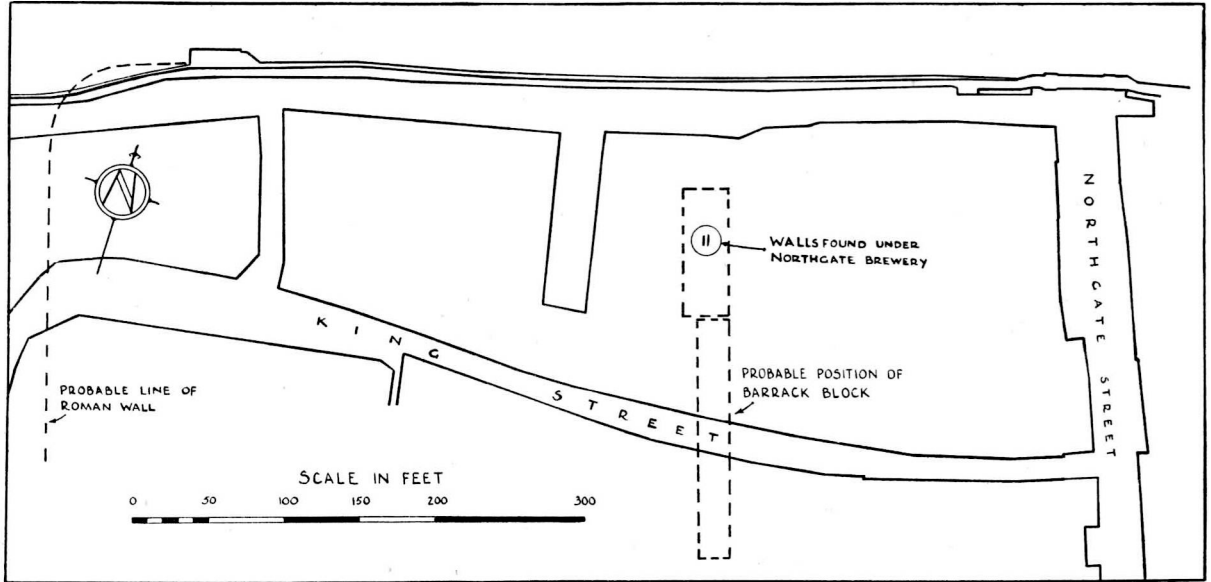


FIG. 22. Plan of Roman walling found at Northgate Brewery

The scraps of pottery found, though rather indeterminate, were consistent with this view. They included fragments of a flagon in a well-finished buff ware (fig. 23) with a heavily moulded lip, cupped within, belonging to a type of late 1st century vessel which while common in Germany (e.g. *Heddernheim* iv, taf. XII, 1—4) are rarer in Britain (cf. *Camulodunum*, Type 146).

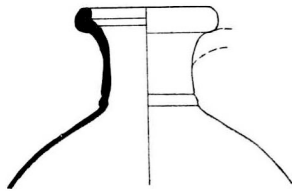


FIG. 23. Roman pottery found at Northgate Brewery (4).

The area in which this discovery was made was probably occupied by barrack blocks similar to those excavated by the late Professor Newstead in the Deanery Field (*Annals* xi, xviii, xxii, and xxiii.) In which case it is suggested that the two walls probably belonged to the central passage of a centurial block.

G.W.

## ROMAN COLUMN FROM COMMONHALL STREET.

In excavating for a drain at a point 70 ft. from the north side of Commonhall Street and 180 ft. from the west side of Bridge Street, a drum of a column was found lying in disturbed ground 3 ft. below the present ground level. The drum is 5 ft. 3 in. long and 1 ft 9 in. in diameter at one end and 2 ft. at the other. Its excavation and removal was permitted by the kindness of the owners of the property, Messrs. G. & W. Collins. It has been conveyed to the Newgate, where it will be incorporated in the Roman garden now under construction.

It is not possible to suggest to what Roman building this column may have belonged, as no other remains have been noted from its immediate vicinity, but buildings of a monumental character are known to have existed in this part of the fortress (Watkin's *Roman Cheshire* p. 148; *C.A.J.* vi, p. 395).  
G.W.

## ROMAN INSCRIPTION FOUND IN WATERGATE STREET.

A Roman building inscription was noticed in 1938 built into the cellar wall of 64, Watergate Street. A rubbing was taken by the late Professor Newstead and a note on the stone by Mr. R. P. Wright appeared in *J.R.S.* xxix, p. 225. Since then, our Secretary, Mr. H. C. Wickham, who is also the owner of the property, generously arranged for the stone to be removed and given to the Grosvenor Museum. When the stone had been cleaned (pl. IX, 2) it was found that the published reading was not correct and several new letters were revealed. The final version with a suggested, partial, restoration made by Mr. R. P. Wright is as follows:

... . MATRE  
... OPVS QVOD  
CONLAPSVM IN RVI]NĀM RESITVTVMEST

The stone appears to be the bottom right-hand corner of a dedicatory tablet for the restoration of a building which had evidently fallen into ruin. Unfortunately it is not possible to determine the type of building to which this fragment belonged, but from its style it may well have been a small temple or shrine.  
G.W.

## A ROMAN LEAD WEIGHT.

A Roman lead weight with the figures VIII clearly impressed on it (fig. 24) has been found in the garden of a farm at Kelsall and has been presented to the Grosvenor Museum. In spite of several attempts it has not yet been possible to establish a closer provenance. The weight is shaped like

a small flat cheese. It is very similar to those already in the Museum, one of which was found in 1885 at Vicar's Cross (Watkin *Roman Cheshire*, 207) and the other in excavating for the extension to the Grosvenor Museum in 1893. (*E.E.* VII, 1158).



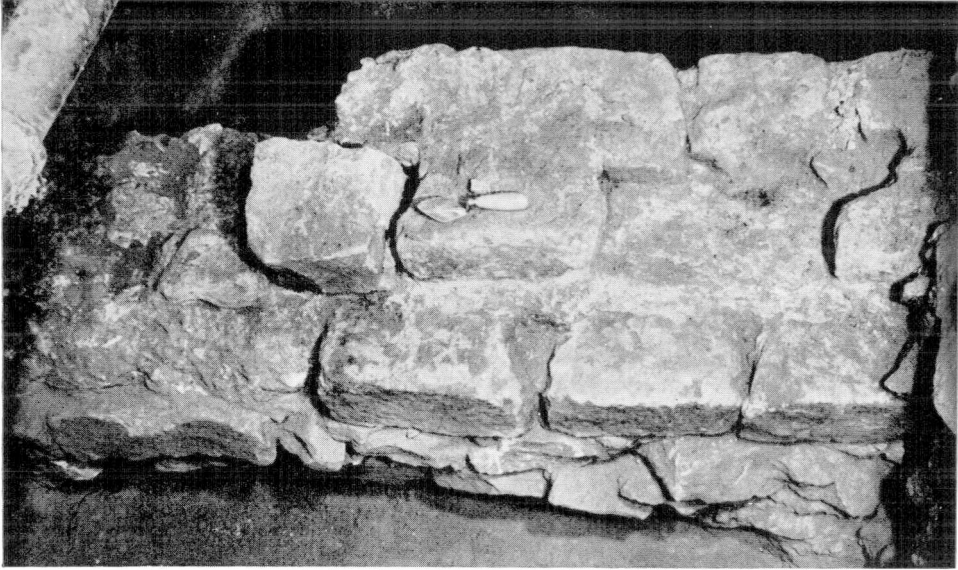
FIG. 24. Roman weight found at Kelsall ( $\frac{1}{1}$ )

It weighs  $3302\frac{1}{2}$  grains, which is only 64.2 grains less than the 8 unciae it claims to be. This loss of weight can be easily accounted for by the slight decomposition and the scratch on the surface.

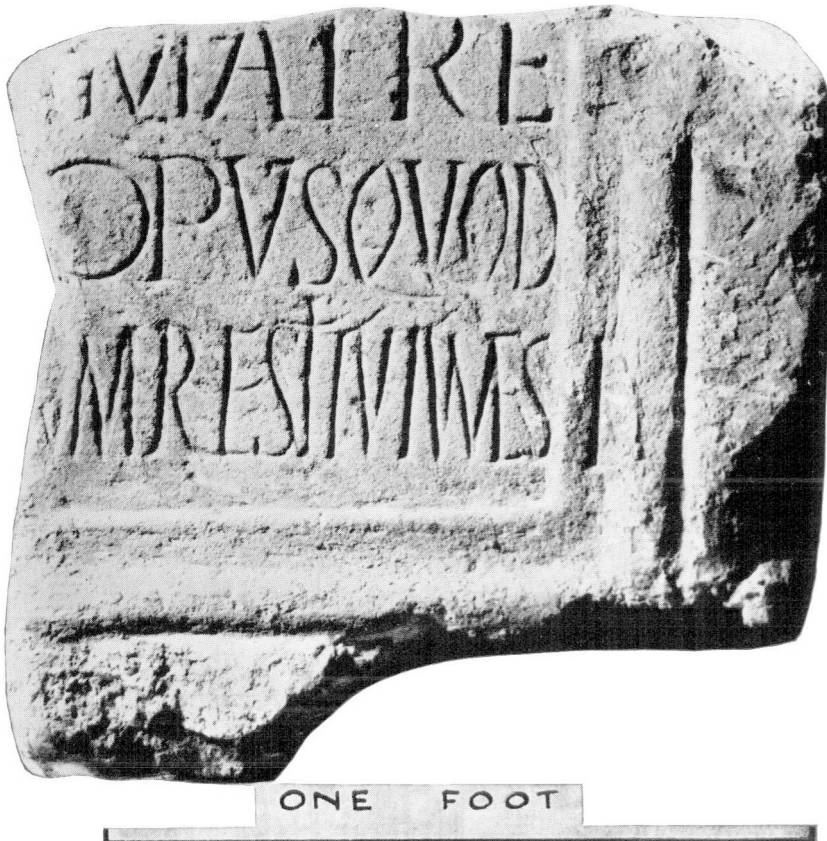
G.W.



PLATE IX.



1. Roman walling at Northgate Brewery



2. Roman inscription found in Watergate Street

