



EXCAVATIONS IN THE GARDEN OF  
No. 1 ABBEY GREEN, CHESTER, 1975-77:  
INTERIM REPORT

by J. C. McPeake, B.A., Margaret Bulmer, M.A.,  
and Janet A. Rutter

THE EXCAVATION

by J. C. McPeake, B.A.

This rescue excavation (Fig. 1) was undertaken by the author for the Grosvenor Museum Excavations Section as part of a long term programme of research into the Roman fortress. It has proved to be particularly important for the study of the 1st century A.D., Early Christian, and Civil War periods.

*Pre Roman*

If the scatter of flints found on most excavations in Chester is ignored, this is only the second site in the City, and the first within the area of the Roman fortress, to have produced evidence of pre Roman occupation. In 1966 Mr. D. F. Petch found evidence of pre Roman ploughing on the Frodsham Street (Mercia Square) site. At Abbey Green a series of striations in the sandstone bedrock in different parts of the site indicated pre Roman cultivation, while fragments of pottery found in the second of the Roman fortress ramparts, which presumably came from the plough soil, are probably of Iron Age or earlier date.

*Early Roman Occupation (Fig. 2. 1)*

Although it has long been assumed that the site of Chester was occupied by the Roman army somewhere between the late 40s and 60s A.D., hitherto no clear evidence for this had been found. However, this excavation revealed the fragmentary remains of a rampart constructed in what is thought to have been a pre Flavian style, together with the foundations of contemporary intramural timber buildings. Two parallel lines of post pits 3.50 m apart, together with cross tie beams and some earth filling, seemed best interpreted as the remains of a rampart of 'box' type construction. It is interesting to note that the alignment of this feature

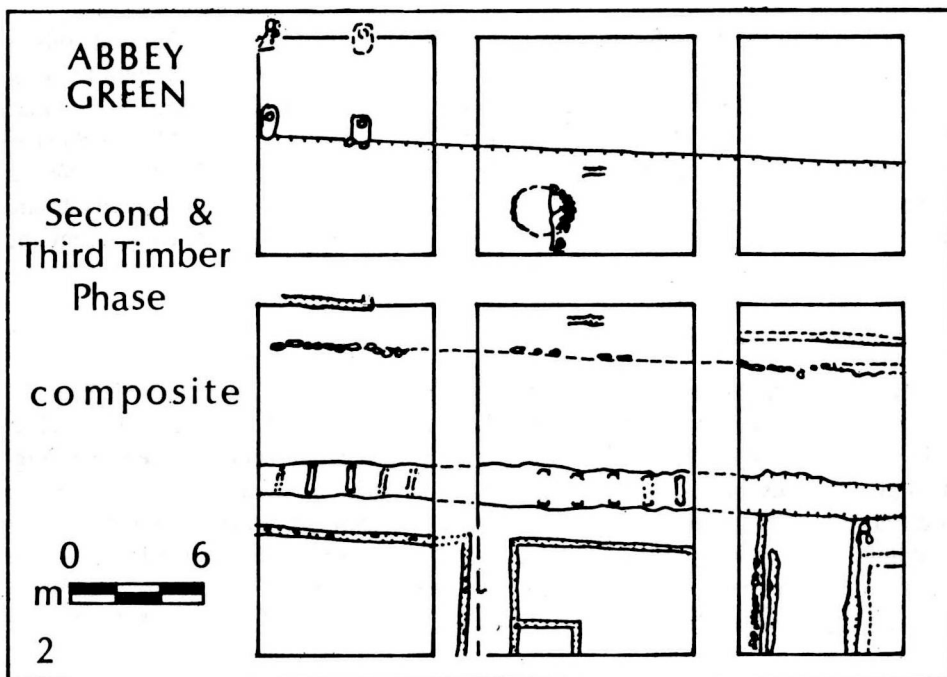
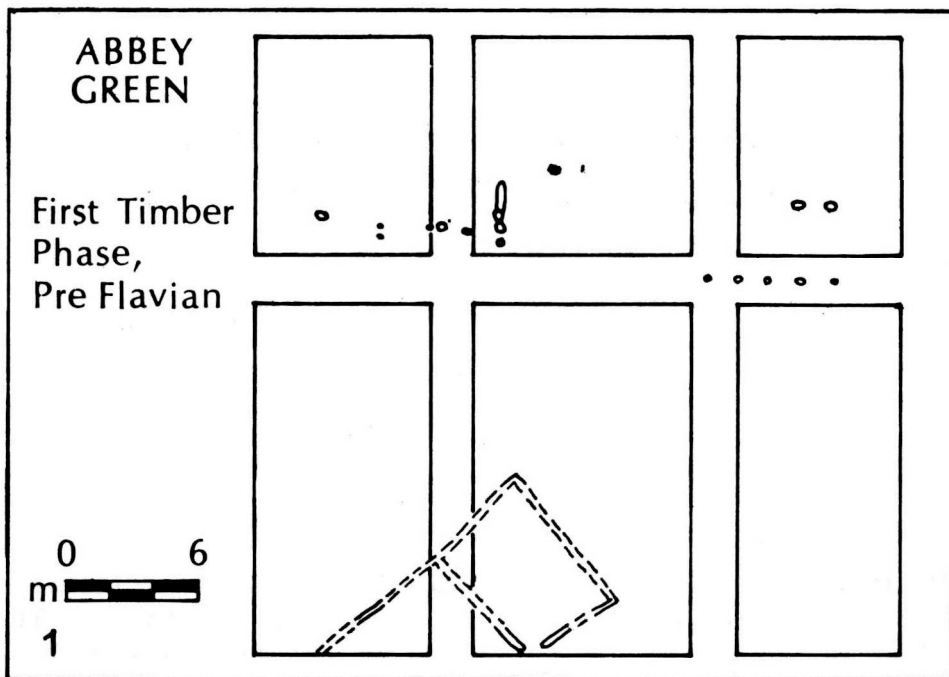


Fig. 2

is not quite parallel with the later ramparts. Two phases of internal buildings were found. The first was represented by the northern end of a timber building c. 7.50 m wide with its long axis aligned North East - South West. In view of its unusual alignment and short life, it is possible that it was a *fabrica* used during the construction of the camp. After its demolition three centurions' quarters of normal plan were erected. It is worth noting here that no rampart buildings were associated with this early occupation.

There is little evidence for the date of the initial construction. However, the later phase was directly overlain by deposits containing finds of the early Flavian period. Since some of the timbers of the box rampart were replaced on more than one occasion, it seems likely that it was in use for a number of years. Its construction could therefore be pushed back to the late 50s A.D. Possible historical contexts for these works are provided by the campaigns of Didius Gallus (A.D. 52-57) against the Brigantes, and those of P. Ostorius Scapula (A.D. 47-52) or Suetonius Paulinus (A.D. 58-61) against North Wales, and subsequent consolidation.

### *Flavian Period (Fig. 2. 2)*

The traditional concept of the construction of a new legionary fortress at Chester in the mid 70s is supported by the evidence from this site. Before building started, the existing structures were systematically dismantled. The first part of the defences to be constructed was a four posted timber interval tower approximately 4.00 m North-South by 4.25 m East-West. The posts were c. 0.35 m square in section and had been set in rock cut post pits which had ramped rear edges to facilitate erection. Next the rampart was constructed, comprising a corduroy of brush wood c. 4 cm diameter with approximately two metre wide turf revetments at front and rear enclosing a two metre core of sand and rubble. The whole structure was bonded together during its construction by two further courses of timber strapping similar to the corduroy in make up, at levels of 0.75 m and 1.50 m above the base. It does not appear to have been necessary to support the vertical face of the rear of the rampart in any way, nor had the rampart been cut back for the insertion of rampart buildings.

A short length of rampart walk survived *in situ*. It consisted of sandstone paving set directly on the turves c. 3.7 m from the vertical rear face and c. 1.9 m above the base. The significance of this discovery lies in the fact that it is possible to argue that on this particular site the rampart was intact at the time of excavation. Even allowing for a certain amount of loss through decomposition and compression of the turves and timbers, this gives an original rampart height at walk level of little over two metres in contrast to the much greater height proposed in an earlier study of the rampart at Chester (Webster, 1953, 5).

Immediately behind the rampart a series of timber framed rampart buildings, ovens, and latrines was built fronting on to the *intervallum* road. Along the other side of the road a deep, rock cut, timber lined drain was constructed. South of



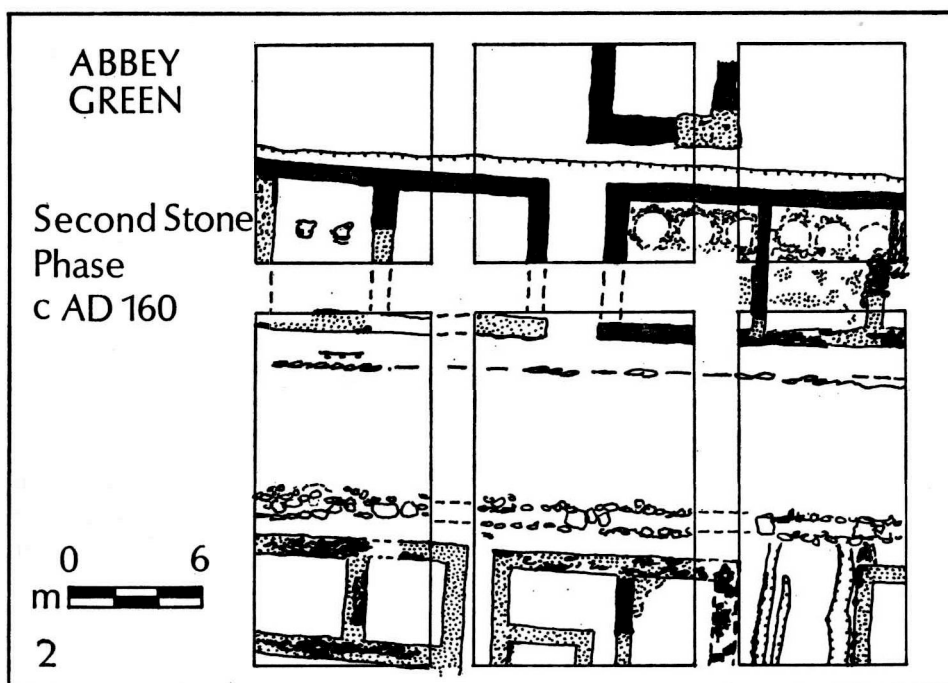
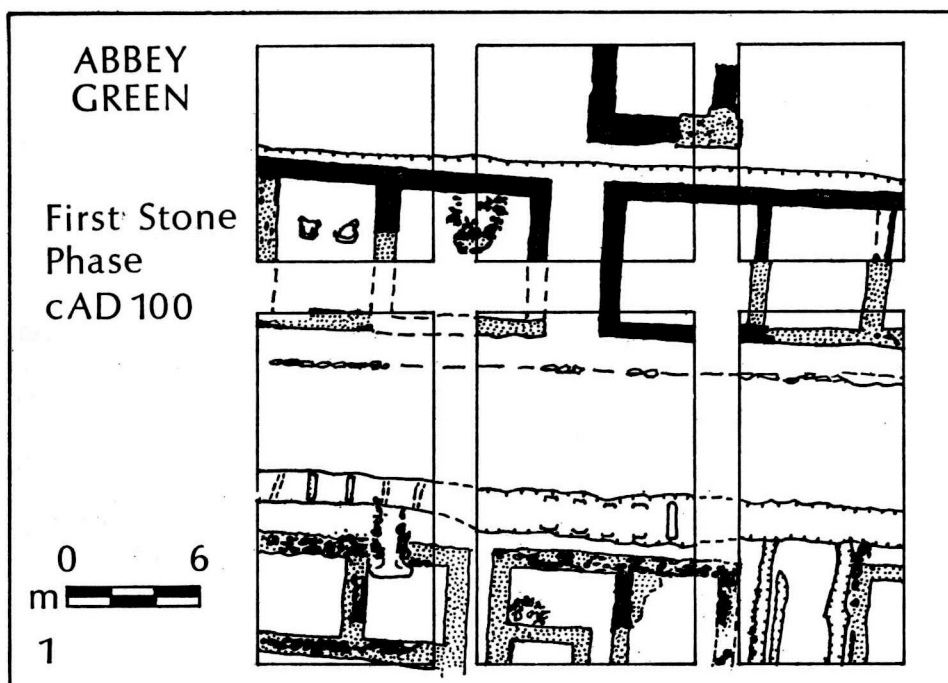


Fig. 3

the drain the northern ends of three timber framed centurions' quarters were found. Examination of the western pair of these buildings showed that they had been totally rebuilt in timber at least twice before the end of the 1st century.

### *The 2nd Century (Fig. 3)*

Shortly before the end of the 1st century, the timber rampart buildings were reconstructed in stone. It is interesting to note that the new buildings were no more than two metres apart, not widely spaced as is usually assumed. All three appear to have been of identical plan, being divided into three rooms of roughly equal size, each with different functions, among them possibly those of cook house and armoury. It is likely that the three rampart buildings served the cohort accommodated immediately to the South, with one being assigned to each pair of barrack blocks. Internal alterations were carried out in the easternmost building on three occasions between c. A.D. 100 and c. A.D. 150. The building was then partially dismantled, and bread ovens were constructed within the ruins. Subsequently, the walls in the southern part of the building were rebuilt and a roof was added to the stoking area in front of the ovens.

About A.D. 100 the three centurions' quarters were rebuilt in stone, the westernmost one having a lead lined latrine which flushed into the drain. The drain was rebuilt in stone in the mid 2nd century and this work blocked off the latrine.

During this century the Flavian rampart remained in use with the addition of a stone wall in front. However, a stone interval tower was built to replace the Flavian timber one, presumably at the same time as the construction of the curtain wall. The new tower was approximately 6.7 m square. Its walls were trench built within the rampart walk. Above this level the tower appears to have been hollow and to have had a tiled roof.

### *The 3rd Century*

About A.D. 200 the rampart was raised and extended over the remains of both bread ovens and rampart buildings. About this time the interval tower had its western and southern walls rebuilt. The centurions' quarters were also rebuilt, but evidence for the full extent of this operation was fragmentary owing to widespread demolition and paving of parts of the site at the end of the century. This demolition appears to have been general throughout the fortress, having been observed at Commonhall Street (Petch and Thompson, 1959, 49f), Goss Street (McPeake, 1974, 15), Crook Street (Strickland, 1975, 38), Northgate Brewery (Ward and Strickland, 1978, 26), and on the Deanery Field (Newstead and Droop, 1936, 51), although in the last report this event is dated a century earlier.

### *The 4th Century*

The mid 4th century timber buildings which have been discovered elsewhere

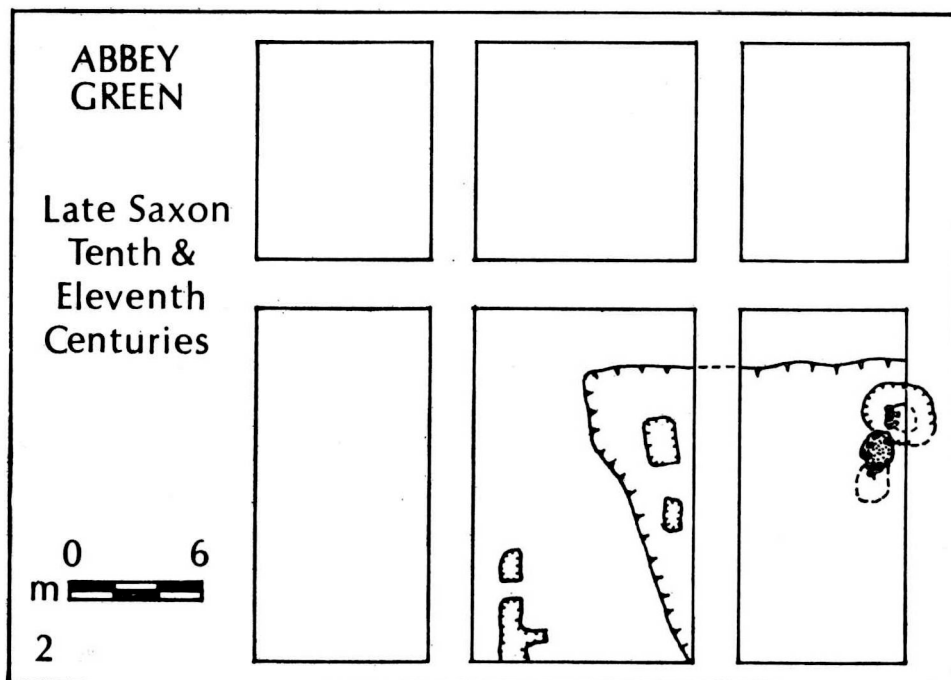
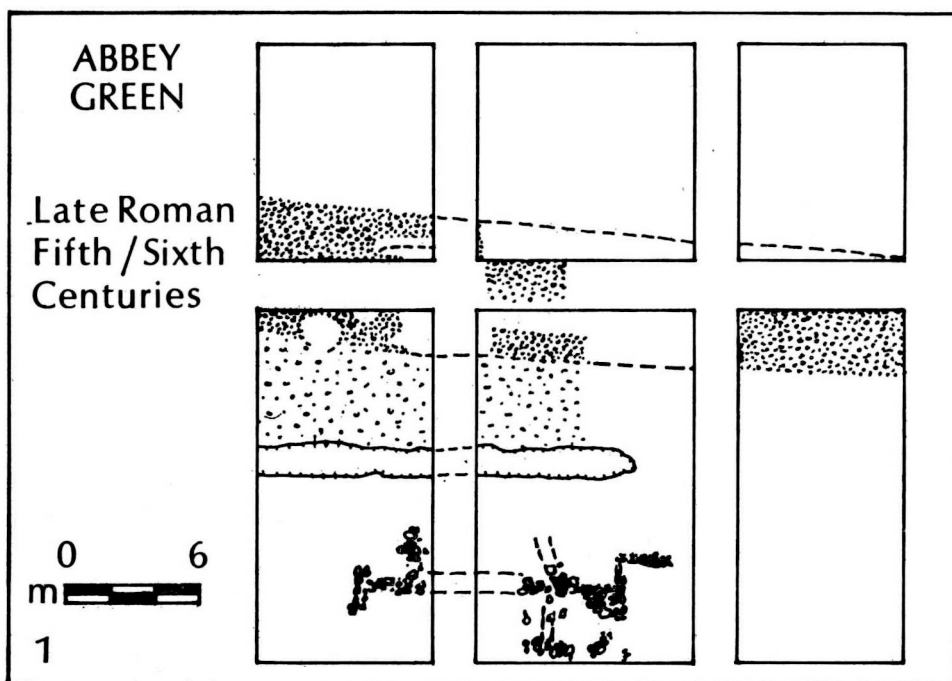


Fig. 4

in the fortress were not found here, possibly because the site had been extensively quarried for building materials in later periods. However, contemporary coins and pottery could indicate that the site had either been occupied or used for rubbish dumping at this time.

#### *'Sub Roman' Occupation (Fig. 4. 1)*

Possibly in the early 5th century a large timber framed building was constructed on stone foundations. At present it is impossible to determine its function or length of occupation. It seems, however, to have been modified on more than one occasion. At this time a road, metalled with small pebbles, ran parallel to the defences and overlay the tail of the Severan rampart. Evidence from other sites suggest that this road ran right round the fortress in much the same way as the earlier *intervallum* roads had done (e.g. Road 3 at Newgate Street (Thompson and Tobias, 1957, 34 and Fig. 3), which unlike the road at Abbey Green, had a sandstone foundation).

Subsequently, a timber building which seems to have been occupied by a bronze smith was constructed in the area previously occupied by the *intervallum* road. It was replaced by another, similar building with a bowl furnace and ore enrichment hearth just outside it, possibly indicating use by a blacksmith. This building was in turn deliberately demolished. The whole site was then ploughed. The occupation of these buildings can only be said to have lain between the demise of the 'Sub Roman' structures described above, and the activity associated with 'Chester ware' and other Saxon material.

#### *Late Saxon (Fig. 4. 2)*

Activity on the site during this period ranged from widespread quarrying and stone robbing to the digging of various kinds of pits. One of these was stone lined, with a clay and stone sluice leading into it, and appears to have been used for the removal of cow horn from the horn cores.

#### *Post Conquest Period*

Throughout the medieval period the site, and quite probably the surrounding area, was farmed as part of the St. Werburgh's Abbey estate. After the dissolution of the Abbey, garden boundary walls were built across the site. Across these 16th century gardens, on the site of the Roman rampart buildings, was a trench, probably cut during the Civil War to cover a breach made in the City Wall by the Parliamentarians. This trench was later backfilled, and the site reverted to gardens until the present day.

## THE FINDS

The excavations produced an estimated three tons of finds, which have as yet only been subjected to preliminary sorting. These notes aim to draw attention to those finds that are characteristic of periods of occupation previously little recorded in Chester, and to those that are of outstanding intrinsic interest.

## PRE ROMAN TO SAXO-NORMAN

by Margaret Bulmer, M.A.

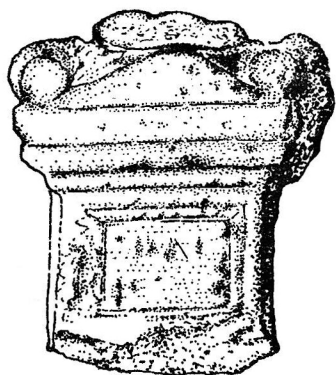
*Flints and Pre Roman Pottery*

Pre Roman activity in the vicinity is indicated by potsherds possibly of Iron Age date and by the presence of worked flints, both in the natural sand under the box rampart and in the Timber Phase II rampart. On the other hand, the numerous flints from 1st century occupation layers in the centurions' quarters and from 5th to 10th century levels could be contemporary with these contexts, as could have been the case with those found in 1st century military contexts at Pen Llystyn (*contra* Houlder in Hogg, 1969, 160), and in Early Christian levels at Dinas Powys (Alcock, 1963, 168).

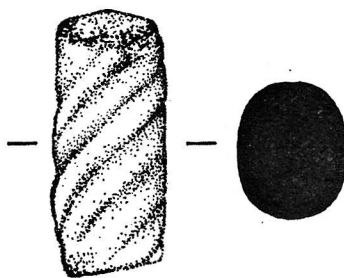
*The Earliest Roman Occupation*

Among the vast pottery assemblage, the early South Gaulish samian ware should be particularly useful in the dating of the 1st century timber phases. The earliest vessel so far recognised is a cup of form Dr. 24 stamped by Senicio, who started work at La Graufesenque in the Claudian period; it was, however, found as rubbish survival in a Dark Age context. A preliminary survey of the pottery has revealed many other early imports from the continent. Besides micaceous samian from 1st century kilns at Lezoux, there were sherds of 'Gallo-Belgic' *Terra Nigra*, and a number of colour coated drinking vessels with roughcasting or with 'hair pin' decoration *en barbotine* produced in Lezoux and Lyon between A.D. 40 and 70 (Greene, 1978, 15-16). Associated with these colourcoats are examples of Pompeian Red 'non stick' platters, so called from their lustrous internal slip.

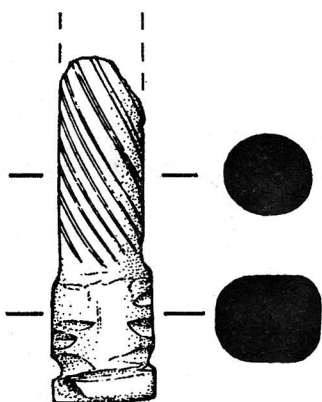
The coin evidence for the timber phases included an *as* of A.D. 77-79, which came from the make up of a floor in the eastern timber rampart building, and one of A.D. 86 which gave a *terminus post quem* for a Timber Phase II floor in its western counterpart. An *as* of Nerva (A.D. 97) was found in a pit sealed by the concrete floor of the stone rampart building, and may support a date in the late 90s for its construction.



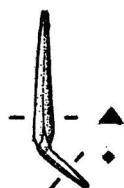
1



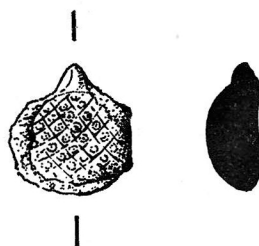
2



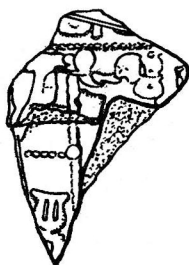
3



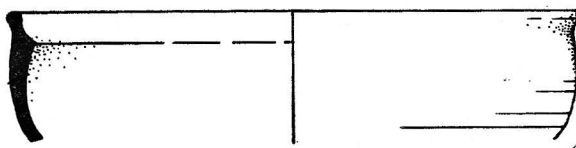
4



5



6



7

Fig. 5

*Finds of the High Empire**(i) Evidence of ritual*

The coin of Nerva just referred to may have been placed in the pit deliberately as a foundation deposit. Likewise, a Domitianic *sestertius* of A.D. 85-96 appears to have been deposited intentionally in the primary hearth of the western stone rampart building, perhaps as a votive offering to the spirits of the hearth (the *Lares*). Another possibly ritual burial was found in a pit inside the eastern stone rampart building, probably dug at the time of its construction in the last years of the 1st century. The burial consisted of an *as* of Vespasian dated A.D. 69-79, thought by Mr. D. J. Robinson to be a forgery, along with an iron *pugio* (dagger) in an organic sheath, some bronze plating, and six bronze dome headed studs which perhaps survived from a leather belt.

Other possible votive offerings were found either in the centurions' quarters of the 2nd century A.D. or above them in contexts representing Dark Age disturbance. The most explicit of these objects is a miniature altar, carefully carved in sandstone (Fig. 5. 1). Also possibly of ritual significance are two miniature columns (Fig. 5. 2-3). It is highly probable that all these objects came from shrines (*aediculae*) in the form of miniature classical temples. Of this type was the *lararium*, shrine of the household spirits, to which Petronius has Encolpius refer (*Satyricon* 29: *Praeterea grande armarium in angulo vidi, in cuius aedicula erant Lares argentei positi Venerisque signum marmoreum et pyxis aurea . . .*) ('Meanwhile I noticed a large cupboard in a corner; in the tiny shrine which it held had been set silver *Lares*, a marble figure of Venus and a golden toilet-box . . .'). Examples of *lararia* have been found throughout the Roman Empire, and a number have been tentatively identified in Britain. Closely comparable are the *aediculae* embossed on silver votive plaques found in religious contexts (Toynbee, 1964, 328 ff.). A number of these bear dedicatory inscriptions and show gods in shrines whose pediments are supported by twisted columns. Although private shrines have rarely been recorded from military contexts, there seems no reason why centurions should not have had them in their quarters, dedicated perhaps to the spirits of hearth and store, or to one or more gods of the Roman pantheon. The silver model of a spear (Fig. 5. 4) may also have been associated with the shrine. It could have belonged to a bronze figurine, perhaps of Mars or of Minerva, but it could also have been a votive offering symbolising the donor's profession. Comparable, although much rougher, are the miniature lead spear (?) and chisel found at Heronbridge (Hartley and Kaine, 1954, 35, Nos. 3 and 2). The deliberate bending of the Abbey Green spear would seem to support its votive function. It is possible, however, that it was bent and broken along with the altar and columns on the dismantling of the shrine or shrines, rather than when it was first dedicated.

The representation of cult animals is supposedly much less frequent in the North than in the civil zone (Green, 1976, 111). However, two such miniatures

were found at Abbey Green. Again, both could have been placed as votive offerings in a shrine. Of the first, a pipeclay bird, probably a pigeon, only the tail has survived. This was found in the westernmost centurion's quarters in a pit dug in the 2nd century A.D. but containing much 1st century material. Such pipeclay figurines were made from the 1st to 3rd centuries in the Allier region of Central Gaul. In Britain they are particularly common finds in the civil zone, but some also appear at northern military sites (see Green, 1978, 24 etc.). They seem to have answered a demand for cheap votive offerings for household shrines and graves, being found frequently on the continent in temples, tombs, baths, and *lararia*. They seem to reflect the popular Romano-Celtic religions: particularly frequent at northern military sites (e.g. York) is 'Venus' whose attributes were, in fact, the pigeon and dove, and her Celtic counterpart. The second is a tiny bronze tortoise, only 15 mm long but with clearly marked shell, head, and feet (Fig. 5. 5). The tortoise's appearances in art are restricted: it occurs with the gods Mercury, Harpocrates, and Sabazius, and also in the Orphic cult. This, too, could therefore have been set in a small shrine.

Also of religious significance may be an inscribed Central Gaulish samian dish of Dr. form 18/31, dated c. 130-60 (see Hassall in Hassall and Tomlin, 1977, 435, No. 40). A graffito below the base inside the footring reads ΔJTHEI[. This is probably a fragment of a name with the stem ATHEN-, but it is uncertain whether this is simply the signature of the owner or a dedication to the Greek goddess Athena. Her Roman counterpart was Minerva, with whom the silver spear could have been associated and to whom, therefore, the miniature shrine could conceivably have been dedicated.

## (ii) *Militaria and personalia*

The military equipment represented at Abbey Green includes all those accoutrements to be expected in a fortress under the High Empire: the component parts of legionary armour, ornamental attachments, etc. A fairly large number of weapons was recovered from the site, although, paradoxically, such discoveries are rare in military establishments (Manning, 1976, 7). They include various missile heads, primarily of spears (*hastae*), the blades from several daggers (*pugiones*) and knives, and numerous sandstone *ballista* balls and iron bolts — the ammunition of the legion's artillery.

Personal equipment included at least forty gaming counters and fifty melon beads, a number of enamelled seal boxes, *styli*, samian inkwells, and pottery oil lamps with lead holders. Probably among treasured private possessions was a single handled conical flagon in fluted olive green glass of great fragility, which was recovered in many pieces from late 1st or early 2nd century contexts in the western stone rampart building. Apparently intended as a label for personal property was a bronze disc punched L. V. N. ABENI, presumably the owner's name (Hassall in Hassall and Tomlin, 1977, 434, No. 37). Of a more official



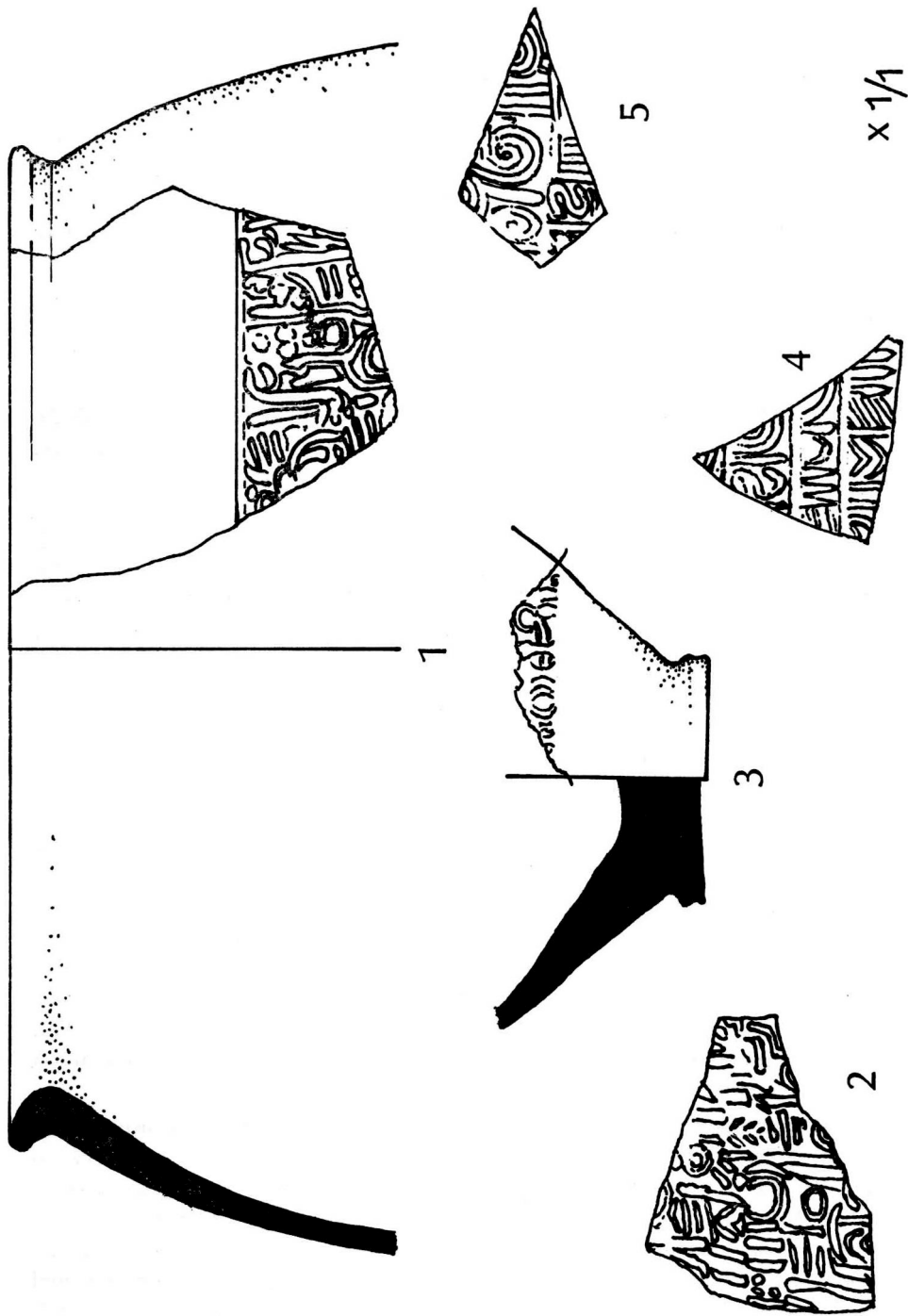


Fig. 6

character is a lead luggage tag inscribed with the name of L. Vanius of the ninth cohort, relating to 'property for Setinus, sent by pack animal' (ibid., No. 35).

Alongside this direct evidence of movement of material, there are many indications amongst the pottery of trade with other parts of Britain (e.g. Oxfordshire) and with the continent (e.g. colour coated beakers from France, the Mosel, and the Rhine) or of casual importation by individuals, suggested by the occasional sherd of, for instance, New Forest ware. Pottery such as African Red Slip Ware may have been brought in by soldiers from the East or Mediterranean, like the 1st century Thracian in Legio II Adiutrix or the 2nd century Syrian *praefectus castrorum* in Legio XX Valeria Victrix commemorated by tombstones found in the North Wall (Collingwood and Wright, 1965, Nos. 475, 490). Amongst the finds of exotic origin is a bronze coin found in the Severan rampart, of the *homonoia* (concord) type issued between A.D. 89 and 96 by the associated mints of Smyrna and Ephesus with legends in Greek, and the many breasted cult statue of Artemis of Ephesus on the reverse.

### (iii) Unusual types of pottery

From a preliminary survey of the pottery assemblage, some unusual varieties have already been recognised. One remarkable vessel of the samian form Dr. 37 with moulded decoration had been produced, not in samian ware, but in a soft, orange micaceous fabric with traces of a thin red wash (Fig. 5. 6). This may have been made in Britain, but was produced from an actual samian mould belonging to the Central Gaulish workshop of the Cerialis-Cinnamus partnership in the early Antonine period (Bulmer, 1979, 23).

A number of sherds came from beakers or small jars in a fairly soft, orange fabric with roller stamped decoration suggestive of a barbarically stylised samian ovolo (Fig. 6. 1-3). From 3rd to 4th century contexts came two other roller stamped sherds in hard, buff orange fabrics whose decoration includes a motif which again resembles the samian ovolo (Fig. 6. 4-5). They bear a striking resemblance in style to the stamped Argonne ware of late Roman date (cf. Hübener, 1968, 258). A sherd with the same decoration was found in the Deanery Field excavations, but was thought to be Antonine (Newstead and Droop, 1936, 28 and Pl. xviii. 2).

Unusual, too, are several sherds in slightly granular, hard orange fabrics with polished slips of a similar colour, reminiscent of African Red Slip ware. The Chester sherds include a rim comparable to Hayes (1972), form 9, which imitated the samian bowl Dr. 37, and was manufactured in Tunisia in the earlier 2nd century. On the other hand, a small bowl or cup in a very hard orange fabric with an internal ledge at the rim (Fig. 5. 7) certainly does not appear among the published African material. A coarse sherd apparently of a late African cooking ware form, Hayes 61A, No. 21, dated c. 325-400, was also found (Fig. 7. 1); its interior was slipped a muddy brown and possibly polished. From contexts of the 4th century onwards came a number of shallow, thick walled platters in red slipped, granular

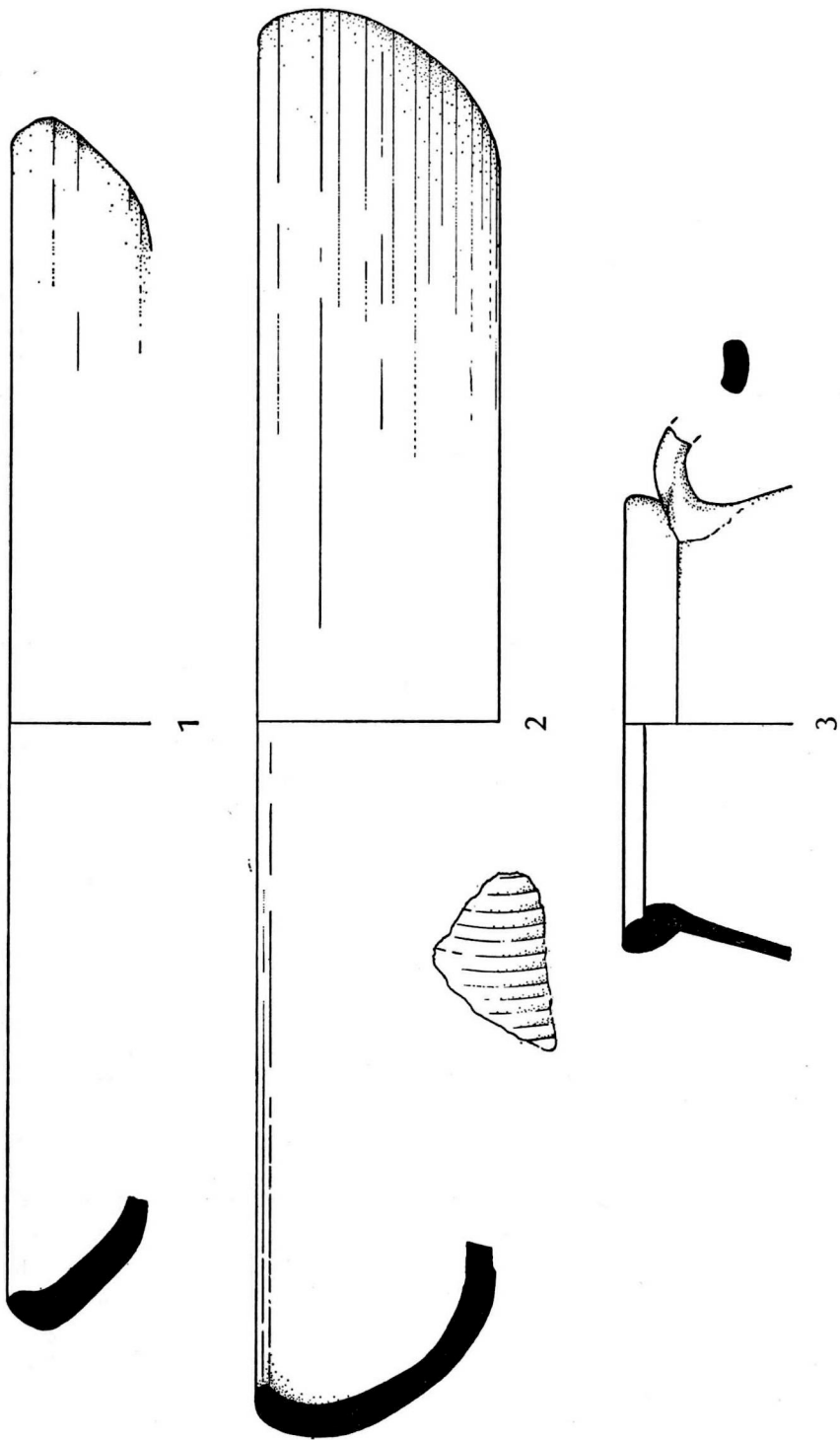


Fig. 7

red or orange fabrics full of white or golden mica and quartzitic particles. Many are characterised by a flat, rilled base (Fig. 7.2). They may be related to the African wares, but as yet their origin and date are unclear.

### *The Late Roman and Dark Age Occupation*

Coins of the late 3rd and 4th centuries are represented at Abbey Green, although not in the proportion that would be expected of a site under steady occupation throughout the Roman period (Reece, 1972, 273; 1973, 227 f.; brought to the author's attention by Mr. D. J. Robinson). Indeed, among the 4th century collection at least seven bronze coins belonging to the reign of Constantine the Great may be part of a dispersed hoard rather than casual losses, having been found scattered over a late Roman surface on top of the Severan rampart. After a few coins of the mid 4th century, the last numismatic evidence of the Roman period on the site is a coin of the emperor Valens, dated A.D. 367-75 but found in a post medieval context.

Bronzework representative of the later Roman period was also found. One buckle loop with blue and green enamelling and beaked zoomorphic terminals may date to the 3rd or 4th century (Fig. 8. 1; cf. Hawkes and Dunning, 1961, 42. g). It could be connected with the so called 'Germanic' buckles, which were not, however, exclusive to Germanic irregulars in the Roman army but, according to Simpson (1976, 204-06), a regular part of the 4th century military uniform. A rectangular bronze belt plate with the remains of its gold plated inlay in the centre (Fig. 8.2), may also be of 3rd to 4th century date. In chip carved style was a fragment of bronze bracelet, comparable with those from Verulamium which have been dated c. 370-410+ (Frere, 1972, Fig. 32, Nos. 33-34).

From late Roman to Dark Age contexts, along with much shell gritted ware, came wheel thrown pottery probably imported from the continent between the 5th and 7th centuries (Thomas, 1959, 89-111; Radford, 1956, 59-70; Alcock, 1971, 201-09). Of these the most frequently found are 'B' ware amphorae, which probably originated in the Eastern Mediterranean. At Abbey Green several varieties of these thin walled vessels have been tentatively identified. The buff sherds are mostly characterised by horizontal fluting, while the orange fabrics are marked by either deep or shallow rilling. Also present were bowls apparently in 'D' ware, of softish, grey fabric with a black slip. These belong to the class of *paléochrétienne grise* common from the 5th to 7th centuries in southern and western France, especially around Bordeaux. Seemingly in 'D' ware fabric was a strap handled pitcher with a ledged or lid seated rim (Fig. 7. 3); its form, however, is more characteristic of 'E' ware, produced in Aquitaine during the 6th to 7th centuries. Further Dark Age imports probably await recognition.

A number of vessels in late to sub Roman contexts show repair by rivetting. In some cases the lead rivets have survived either *in situ* or separately. One in particular is very similar in its appearance and large size to rivets found at Shakenoak in 4th and early 5th century contexts (Brodrigg *et al.*, 1968, Fig. 32. 3-4).

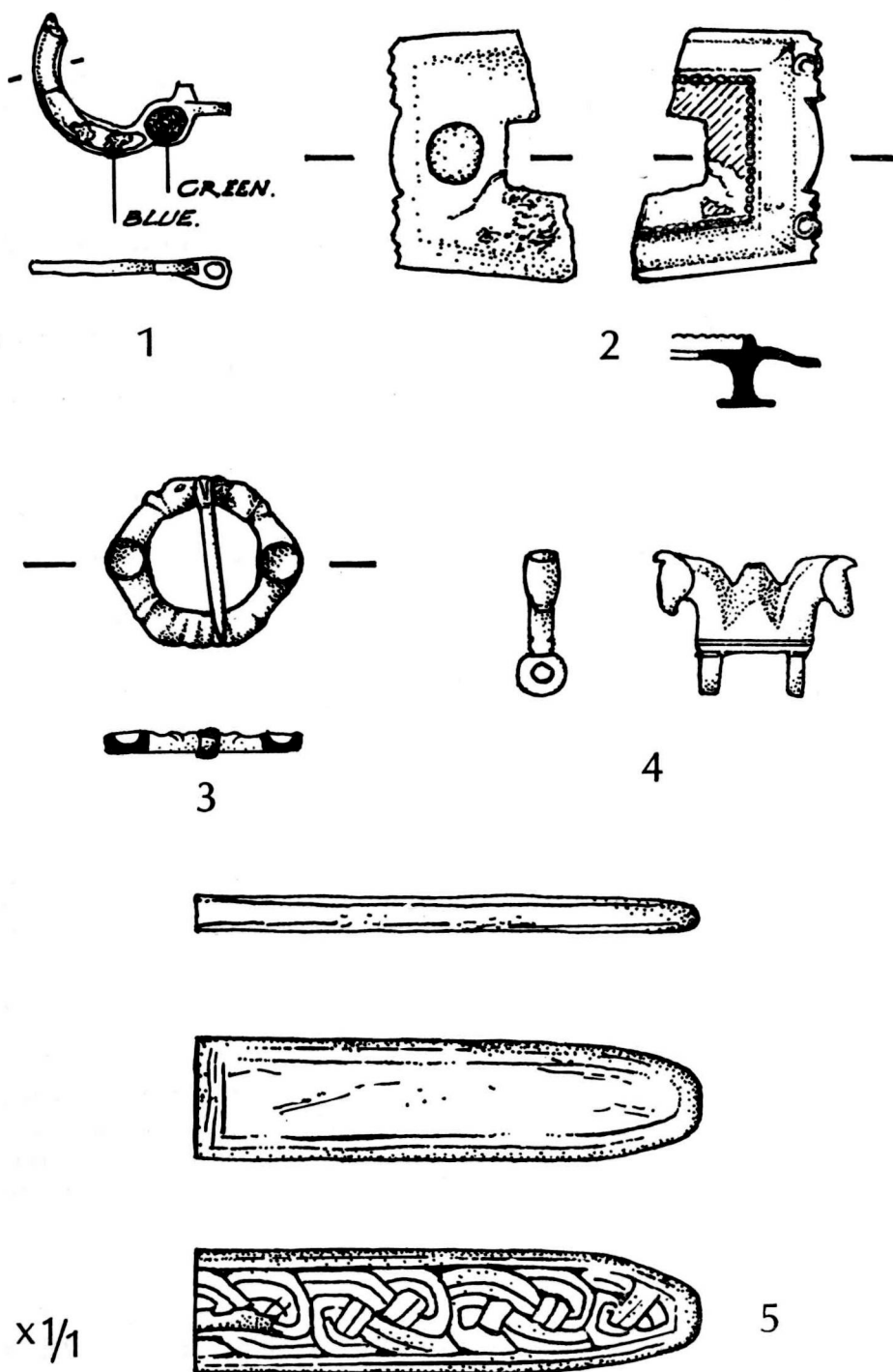


Fig. 8

Further study of repairs and evidence of wear may shed light on the degree of pottery usage in the late Roman period.

An annular bronze brooch of plano-convex section (Fig. 8. 3) may be dated stylistically somewhere between the 5th and 8th centuries. It was found with late 10th to mid 11th century glazed Stamford ware in the robber trench of a Roman building, dug through a sub Roman structure, and hence could have been associated with any of these phases. Finally, from a post Roman clay floor came a horse headed ornament (Fig. 8. 4), which may have been a trial piece for a belt buckle centre. The material is lead with a high silver content. Although its style seems to be Germanic, comparable with the late to sub Roman double horse headed buckles illustrated by Hawkes and Dunning (1961, 23, 46, 48), the Chester piece is unusual and may well be considerably later.

### *Saxo-Norman Industry*

Finds from what may have been a horn, antler, and bone working industry were associated with many sherds of Saxo-Norman 'Chester Ware'. The successive (soaking?) pits and the sluice used in the industry contained much waste material, including cow horn cores, deer antler, and sawn bone blanks for making combs together with cow, goat, and pig bones. The bone and antler working industry in Viking Dublin was again characterised mostly by the raw material, largely shed antler and a few deer bones, together with comb makers' waste including trial pieces and sawn plaques of antler (Ó Riordáin, 1971, 75; Pl. viia). Similar blanks of bone characterised the debris of the comb making industries at Southampton (Wilson, 1976, Pl. xiv) and at York (MacGregor, 1978, 46 ff.). The earlier pit at Abbey Green also contained not only flint flakes, perhaps used for the cutting of horn or leather, but also part of a quernstone which might have been used in the production of glue or of ammonia, distilled from antlers for use as a bleach or fertiliser (Hodges, 1967, 151, 163; Wenham, 1964, 38). Also from the Abbey Green pits and related contexts came numerous worked deer antler tips (Fig. 9. 1-3), comparable with those from Portchester (Cunliffe, 1975, 225, No. 125) and York (Macgregor, 1978, Fig. 31. 1-5). They were probably tools, possibly used for horn working. While metal tools may have been necessary to work antler, antler tools would certainly have been strong enough to prise off the soaked horn from the cores (Hodges, 1976, 154 f.) and would not have scratched it. However, this interpretation must remain a tentative one, for horn working tools have not yet been recognised at any other Anglo-Saxon centres. Horn artefacts of the Anglo-Saxon and Viking era found elsewhere include lantern shades and drinking horns, while in Anglo-Danish York antler was worked into combs, handles, gaming pieces, etc. A fragment of animal rib decorated with a tightly interlaced ribbon design carved on one side (Fig. 8. 5), possibly an unfinished knife handle, may be one of the products of the Abbey Green industry. It is comparable in size and style to the handle of a 10th century craftsman's knife found at Canterbury (Graham-Campbell, 1978).

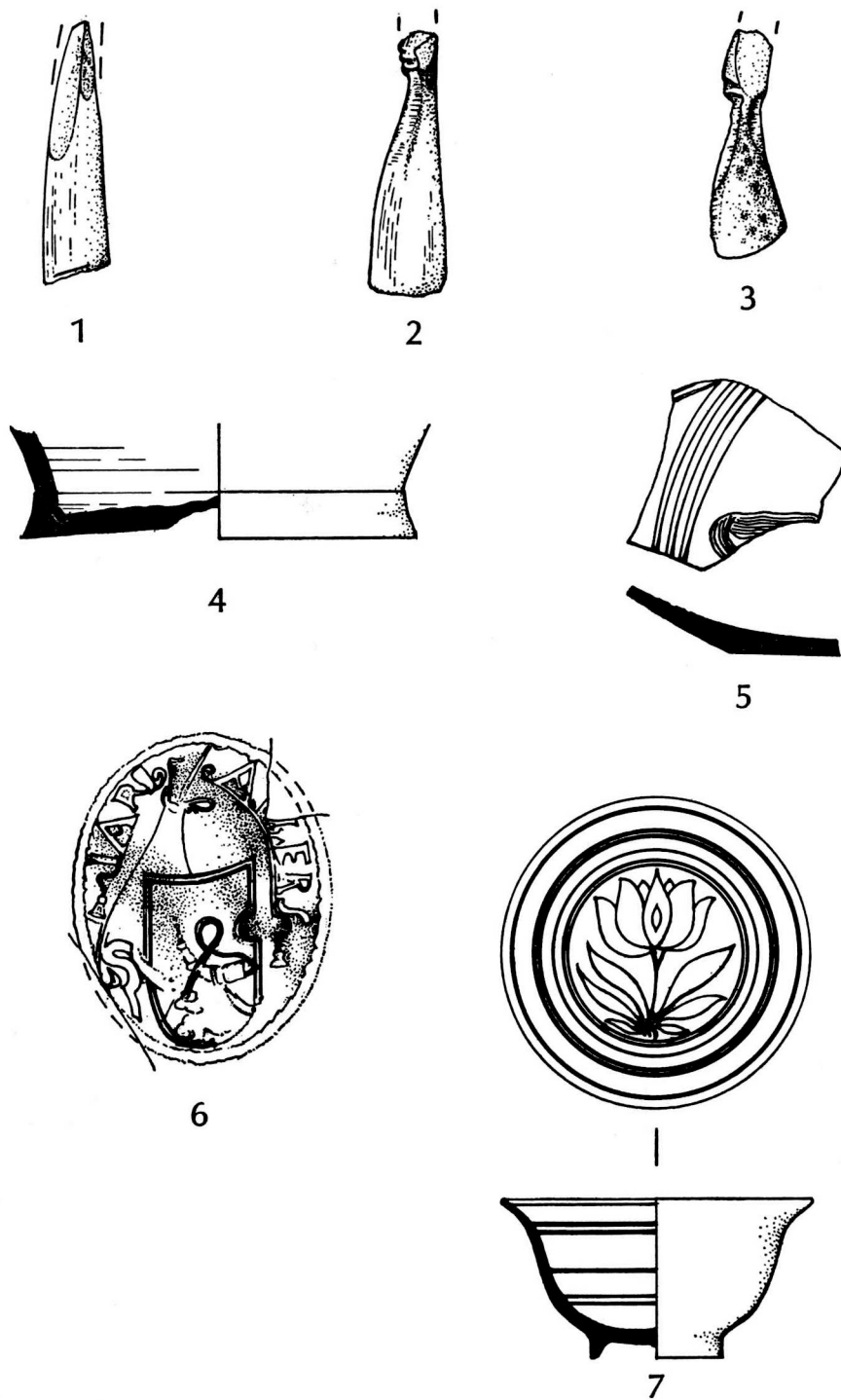


Fig. 9

## SAXO-NORMAN TO POST MEDIEVAL

by Janet A. Rutter

In comparison with the Roman and sub Roman material, the quantity of finds from these periods is small and the majority are post medieval. However, the undeveloped Stamford ware sherd mentioned above is significant as only a few vessels in Stamford ware, either developed or undeveloped, have previously been recovered from Chester (Davey and Rutter, 1977). The sherd comes from the base of a vessel, probably a spouted pitcher, coated externally with a thick, green tinged yellow glaze, and has been classified by Miss K. Kilmurry as Fabric A Glaze 5, dating from the late 10th to mid 11th century (*in litteris*, 1977; *see also* Kilmurry, 1977).

Considering the size of the area excavated, relatively few fragments of continental imported wares were found. However, the Civil War trench produced several classes. An intriguing vessel from this context, thought to be of Mediterranean origin, is an internally green glazed jug base with a patch of tin glaze on the exterior (**Fig. 9. 4**). There is a fragment from the base of a fine 16th century Beauvais dish, knife trimmed and with a sgraffito decorated red slipped interior. The clear glaze over the interior is characteristically coloured green in one spot (**Fig. 9. 5**). German stoneware included a small sherd of a mid 16th century Cologne drinking jug and a large decorative medallion from a Frechen jug, with patches of blue in a mottled brown glazed exterior, dating to the early 17th century (**Fig. 9.6**). An important pottery find from this trench was a mid 17th century oval slipware dish (**Fig. 10. 1**) in a fine, dense pink-brown coloured fabric, internally decorated with a pale cream trailed slip design based on the teal plant. It is similar in type to vessels that have been found in Buckley, particularly to dishes recovered recently from the Brookhill kiln site (*see* unpublished reports by Mr. J. Bentley in Clwyd Record Office, Hawarden; also Davey and Amery, 1979).

Of early to mid 18th century date there are a number of classes of fine ware, including several press moulded slipware dishes, unfortunately from mixed contexts. Of particular note is a small, finely moulded, English tin glazed bowl from a robber trench, probably made at Bristol in the first quarter of the 18th century (**Fig. 9. 7**). It is decorated internally with bands of cobalt blue with a tulip in the centre of the base outlined in red-brown and coloured with antimony yellow and a bright copper-green. Also of importance is a series of English stonewares, mainly drinking vessels. These included an elegant cylindrical brown tankard with rouletted decoration beneath an everted rim (**Fig. 10. 2**), made in Staffordshire c. 1715, and a number of white saltglazed vessels, two of which have unusual decoration. **Fig. 10. 3** shows the base of a squat drinking cup of a fairly rare type, ornamented with an applied squirrel in blue stained clay, datable c. 1730 (*see* the similarly decorated fragment from Sneyd Green, Staffordshire, in Mountford, 1971,



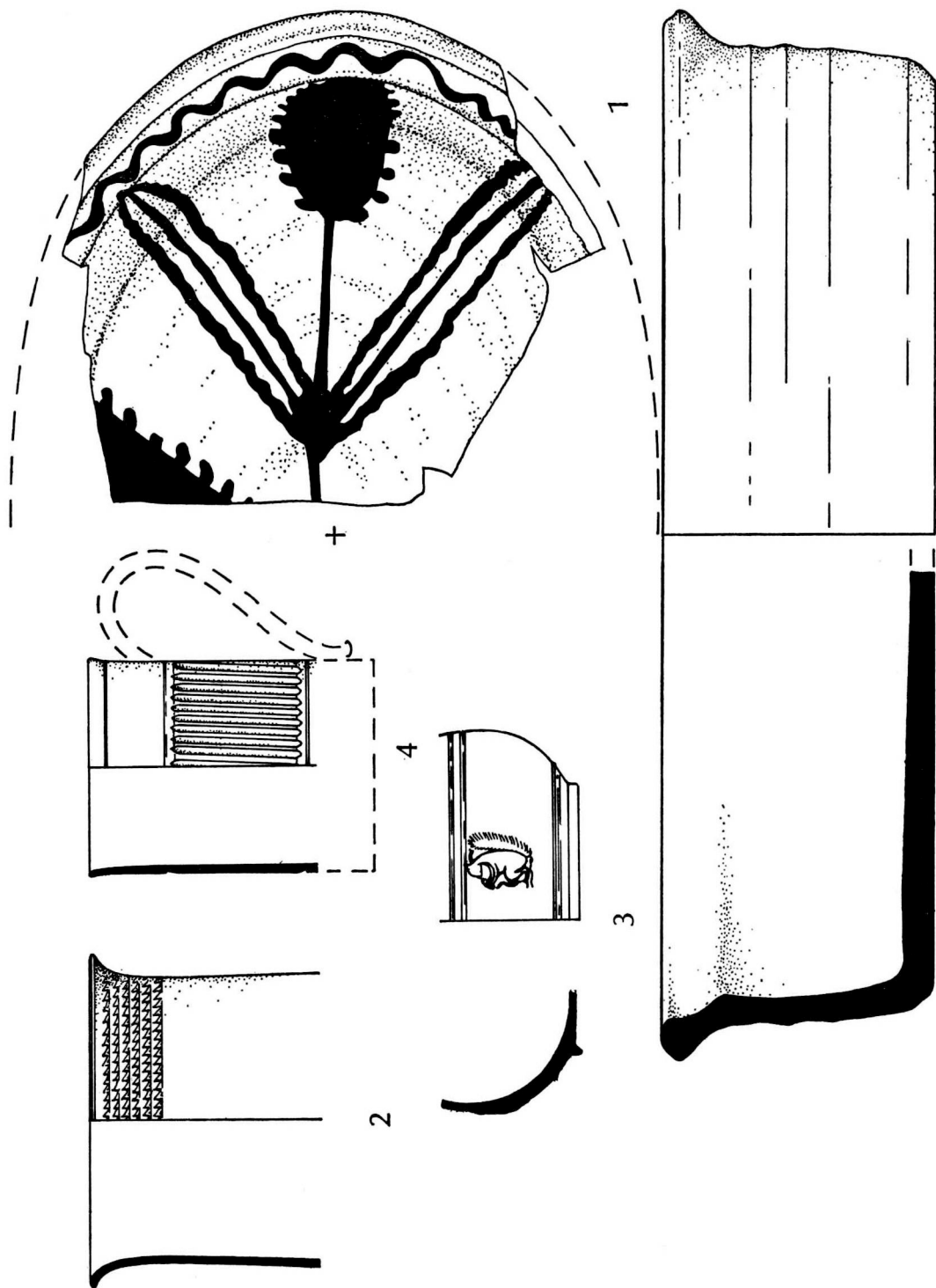


Fig. 10

41, Pl. 71). The second vessel (**Fig. 10. 4**) is a small cylindrical tankard with a carved central band around the body and turned decoration towards the base (*ibid.*, Pl. 81), dating to c. 1740. The sizeable collection of clay pipe fragments has been processed largely by Mr. J. Cossins, while the decorated and stamped pieces have been catalogued with others from excavations in Chester (*see* Rutter and Davey, 1980).

Among other finds were numerous fragments of wine bottles of largely 18th century or later date, but little fine glass, and a large number of post medieval coins and tokens, in particular a fine series of Nuremberg counters largely of late 16th century date, many of which were probably lost while people promenaded along the City Walls parallel to the site.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The excavation was made possible by the kind permission of the Dean and Chapter of Chester. The authors also wish to thank the staff of the Grosvenor Museum and volunteers too numerous to mention here, and in particular: Mr. D. F. Petch (formerly Curator), Mr. C. N. Moore (Curator), Mr. T. J. Strickland (Field Officer), who organised and helped with the running of the excavation and prompted the writing of this report, Mr. T. E. Ward (Photographer), Mr. P. H. Alebon (Draughtsman), Mrs. R. McNeil-Sale (Assistant Director), Mrs. G. M. Morris (Site Assistant, who also studied the flints), Mrs. J. M. Burrows and Mrs. M. D. Ford (Secretaries), and Mr. J. V. Burke (Chargehand). Dr. G. Lloyd-Morgan and Mr. D. J. Robinson supplied valuable advice on the bronzes and coins respectively, while Mr. K. L. Taylor and Miss B. A. West gave helpful information on the bones. Miss B. M. Dickinson identified the samian stamps, and others consulted on specific topics included Mrs. M. J. Green, Dr. K. T. Greene, Mr. B. R. Hartley, Mr. M. W. C. Hassall, Mr. R. A. Hodges, Mr. J. G. Hurst, Miss K. Kilmurry, Mr. J. K. Knight, the late Mr. L. Lipski, Miss J. Liversidge, Mr. A. Oswald, Miss V. Rigby, Dr. G. Simpson, and Dr. C. J. Young. Finally, the authors are indebted to Dr. P. Carrington who commented on earlier drafts of this report and also provided much valuable advice.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Alcock, 1963  
 Alcock, 1971  
 Arthur and Marsh, 1978  
 Brodribb *et al.*, 1968  
 Bulmer, 1979  
 Collingwood and Wright, 1965  
 Cunliffe, 1975  
 Davey and Rutter, 1977  
 Davey and Amery, 1979  
 Frere, 1972  
 Graham-Campbell, 1978  
 Green, 1976  
 Green, 1978  
 Greene, 1978  
 Hartley and Kaine, 1954  
 Hassall and Tomlin, 1977  
 Hawkes and Dunning, 1961  
 Hayes, 1972  
 Hodges, 1976  
 Hogg, 1969  
 Hübener, 1968  
 Kilmurry, 1977
- L. Alcock, *Dinas Powys*, 1963  
 L. Alcock, *Arthur's Britain: History and Archaeology, A.D. 367-634*, 1971, reprinted 1974  
 P. Arthur and G. Marsh, eds., *Early Fine Wares in Roman Britain*, British Archaeological Reports, British Series, 57, 1978  
 A. C. C. Brodribb, A. R. Hands, and D. R. Walker, *Excavations at Shakenoak Farm near Wilcote, Oxfordshire, Part 1*, Oxford, privately published, 1968  
 Margaret Bulmer, 'An Introduction to Roman Samian Ware, with Special Reference to Collections in Chester and the North West', *J.C.A.S.*, 62, 1979, 5-72  
 R. G. Collingwood and R. P. Wright, *The Roman Inscriptions of Britain, Vol. 1, Inscriptions on Stone*, 1965  
 B. Cunliffe, *Excavations at Portchester Castle, Vol. 1: Roman*, Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, 32, 1975  
 P. J. Davey and Janet A. Rutter, 'A Note on Continental Imports in the North West 800-1700 A.D.', *Medieval Ceramics*, 1, 1977, 17-30  
 P. J. Davey and A. Amery, 'Post-Medieval Pottery from Brookhill, Buckley, Clwyd (Site 1), *Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales*, Bulletin of the Welsh Medieval Pottery Research Group, 2, 1979, 49-85  
 S. S. Frere, *Verulamium Excavations, Vol. 1*, Reports of the Research Committee of the Society of Antiquaries of London, 28, 1972  
 J. Graham-Campbell, 'An Anglo-Scandinavian Ornamented Knife from Canterbury, Kent', *Medieval Archaeology*, 22, 1978, 130-32  
 M. J. Green, *The Religions of Civilian Roman Britain*, British Archaeological Reports, British Series, 24, 1976  
 M. J. Green, *Small Cult-Objects from the Military Areas of Roman Britain*, British Archaeological Reports, British Series, 52, 1978  
 K. T. Greene, 'Imported Fine Wares in Britain to A.D. 250: a Guide to Identification', in Arthur and Marsh, 1978, 15-27  
 B. R. Hartley and K. F. Kaine, 'Roman Dock and Buildings', *J.C.A.S.*, new series, 41, 1954, 15-37  
 M. W. C. Hassall and R. S. O. Tomlin, 'Roman Britain in 1976, II: Inscriptions', *Britannia*, 8, 1977, 426-49  
 S. Hawkes and G. C. Dunning, 'Soldiers and Settlers in Britain, Fourth to Fifth Centuries, with a Catalogue of Animal-ornamented Buckles and Related Belt-Fittings', *Medieval Archaeology*, 5, 1961, 1-70.  
 J. W. Hayes, *Late Roman Pottery*, 1972  
 H. Hodges, *Artefacts: an Introduction to Early Materials and Technology*, 1976  
 A. H. A. Hogg, 'Pen Llystyn: a Roman Fort and Other Remains', *Archaeological Journal*, 125, 1969, 101-92  
 W. Hübener, 'Eine Studie zur spätrömischen Rädchensigillata (Argonnensigillata)', *Bonner Jahrbücher*, 168, 1968, 241-98  
 K. Kilmurry, 'An Approach to Pottery Study: Stamford Ware', *Medieval Ceramics*, 1, 1977, 51-62

- MacGregor, 1978 A. MacGregor, 'Industry and Commerce in Anglo-Scandinavian York', in R. A. Hall, ed., *Viking Age York and the North*, Council for British Archaeology Research Report 27, 1978, 37-57
- McPeake, 1974 J. C. McPeake, 'Chester SJ 40456634: Goss Street', *Cheshire Archaeological Bulletin*, 2, 1974, 15-16
- Manning, 1976 W. H. Manning, *Catalogue of Romano-British Ironwork in the Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle upon Tyne*, 1976
- Mountford, 1971 A. R. Mountford, *The Illustrated Guide to Staffordshire Salt Glazed Stoneware*, 1971
- Newstead and Droop, 1936 R. Newstead and J. P. Droop, 'Excavations in the Deanery Field and Abbey Green, 1935', *University of Liverpool Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology*, 23, 1936, 113-47
- Ó Ríordáin, 1971 B. Ó Ríordáin, 'Excavations at High Street and Winetavern Street, Dublin', *Medieval Archaeology*, 15, 1971, 73-85
- Petch and Thompson, 1959 D. F. Petch and F. H. Thompson, 'Excavation in Commonhall Street, Chester, 1954-6: the Granaries of the Legionary Fortress of *Deva*', *J.C.A.S.*, new series, 46, 1959, 33-60
- Radford, 1956 C. A. R. Radford, 'Imported Pottery found at Tintagel, Cornwall', in D. B. Harden, ed., *Dark Age Britain: Studies presented to E. T. Leeds*, 1956, 59-70
- Reece, 1972 R. Reece, 'Short Survey of the Roman Coins found on Fourteen Sites in Britain', *Britannia*, 3, 1972, 269-76
- Reece, 1973 R. Reece, 'Roman Coinage in the Western Empire', *Britannia*, 4, 1973, 227-51
- Rutter and Davey, 1980 Janet A. Rutter and P. J. Davey, 'Clay Pipes from Chester', in P. J. Davey, ed., *The Archaeology of the Clay Tobacco Pipe: Vol 3*, British Archaeological Reports, British Series, 78, 1980, 41-272
- Simpson, 1976 C. J. Simpson, 'Belt-Buckles and Strap-Ends of the Later Roman Empire: a Preliminary Survey of Several New Groups', *Britannia*, 7, 1976, 192-223
- Strickland, 1975 T. J. Strickland, 'Chester SJ 40386631: Crook Street', *Cheshire Archaeological Bulletin*, 3, 1975, 38
- Thomas, 1959 C. Thomas, 'Imported Pottery in Dark Age Western Britain', *Medieval Archaeology*, 3, 1959, 89-111
- Thompson and Tobias, 1957 F. H. Thompson and F. W. Tobias, 'Excavations in Newgate Street, Chester, 1955', *J.C.A.S.*, new series, 44, 1957, 29-40
- Toynbee, 1964 J. M. C. Toynbee, *Art in Britain under the Romans*, 1964
- Ward and Strickland, 1978 S. Ward and T. J. Strickland, *Excavations on the Site of the Northgate Brewery, Chester, 1974-5: a Roman Centurion's Quarters and Barrack*, 1978
- Webster, 1953 G. Webster, 'Excavations on the Legionary Defences at Chester, 1949-52, Part 2', *J.C.A.S.*, new series, 40, 1953, 2-23
- Wenham, 1964 L. P. Wenham, 'Hornpot Lane and the Horners of York', *Annual Report of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society*, 1964, 1965, 23-56
- Wilson, 1976 D. M. Wilson, 'Craft and Industry', in D. M. Wilson, ed., *The Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England*, 1976, 253-82