

Phase III: Dumping in ground floor of interval turret

After a period of time the paved floor (D7) of the basement room of the interval turret was dismantled and the room was used for dumping waste material through the door in the back of the turret as the tip lines show. The dumped deposits of the interval turret were divided into three contexts for the purposes of excavation: lower (D6), middle (D5) and upper fills (D4) (see figs. 17-8). The two drawings show a graphic compromise in the number of layers represented in the dump deposits; in reality the deposits were more finely banded than it was possible to represent in a drawing (see fig. 19). All three contexts consisted of a series of episodic dumps of burnt clay, ash and charcoal which is interpreted as material cleaned out of cooking ovens located nearby. The lower fills (D6) contained little burnt clay in comparison to the middle and upper fills (D5 and D4) suggesting that, for the duration of their deposition only the rake-out of the fire was being dumped in the turret, while afterwards oven linings were also being included. The dumped deposits spread out of the rear of the interval turret into the area adjoining the *via sagularis* (fig. 17) but it was not possible to excavate them here as they were overlain by the cookhouse subsequently built on to the turret.

When reviewing the artefactual dating evidence for the dumped deposits it is essential to remember that all three contexts actually consisted of a series of separate deposits, and that both individually and as a group they represent a single, albeit episodic, continuum of deposition. Consequently, the latest date for artefactual material recorded from any of the three contexts does not necessarily provide a *terminus post quem* for the beginning of its deposition. Unfortunately, greater resolution on the basis of artefactual evidence is not possible, as the relative position of the finds within each context was not recorded due to a lack of time. The arbitrary character of the divisions between these contexts also explains the partial overlap in date of the material recovered from adjoining contexts.

The latest material recovered from the lower fills (D6) includes a samian fragment dated to c. A.D. 100-120¹; a Black-burnished ware bowl with early to mid-second century parallels and a mortarium fragment dated to c. A.D. 110-150². There is also a finger ring belonging to the first half of the second century³. However, the bulk of material recovered from this context (D6) was of Flavian date which could indicate that dumping in the interval turret, and by extension the dismantling of the underlying paved floor surface, began significantly earlier than the date of the latest material, and continued episodically throughout the first years of the second century.

The best dating evidence recovered from the middle fills (D5) was a heavily worn *ses-tertius* of Domitian dated to A.D. 92-4⁴. Boon considered the wear on this coin to be consistent with at least forty to fifty years of circulation indicating a likely date of deposition in the second quarter of the second century. The latest material from D5 includes a fragment of samian ware which is either late Flavian or Trajanic to Hadrianic in date⁵, a Black-burnished ware bowl with parallels in Hadrianic to early Antonine contexts elsewhere at Caerleon, and a mortarium

1 See p. 49 no. 6.

2 See p. 59 nos. 60, 63.

3 See p. 81 no. 10.

4 See p. 49 no. 3.

5 See p. 49 no. 11.

paralleled by an example from Usk dated to c. A.D. 120-160¹. In contrast to this material the majority of the coarse ware pottery is of a Flavian to Hadrianic date which suggests that D5 is only slightly later in date than D6. Deposition of D5 probably began in the second quarter of the second century and continued until the middle of the second century if not slightly later.

As a group, the coarse pottery from the upper fills (D4) is comparable with Hadrianic-Antonine groups recovered elsewhere from Caerleon although the absence of Caerleon ware copies of late samian forms suggests a possible *terminus post quem* for the beginning of deposition of c. A.D. 150/160². Later material from D4 includes two Black-burnished ware jars with mid to late second century parallels; a beaker in an orange fabric similar in form to examples of Caerleon ware recovered from contexts of Antonine to mid-third century date³; and a piece of decorated samian dated to c. A.D. 170-90⁴. This evidence suggests that deposition of the upper fills (D4) began in the mid-second century and possibly continued into the last quarter of the second century.

Taken as a whole the dating evidence for Phase III suggests that the paved floor of the interval turret was dismantled and deposition of rubbish had begun by the early years of the second century, only a short time after the construction of the turret, and that it continued until the last quarter of the second century. A particularly interesting find from the middle deposits (D5) was part of the skeleton of an 8-8½ month foetus, i.e. a premature baby⁵. The presence of children inside the fortress is attested to by the recovery of three milk teeth in the upper drain deposit of the Fortress Baths dating to c. AD 160-230. These had been lost naturally suggesting an age for the individuals of 11 to 12 years (Whittaker in Zienkiewicz 1986b, 223 nos. 1-3). This premature baby is indicative of women, and possibly children, present within the fortress at an earlier date.

1 See p. 62 nos. 86 and 91

2 See p. 62

3 See p. 63 nos. 98-9, 111

4 See p. 49 no. 13

5 Identification by G.G. Jones. Measurements of the humerus, femur and radius (lengths 51.5mm, 55.5mm and 41.5mm respectively indicate the age (Fazekas and Kosa 1978).

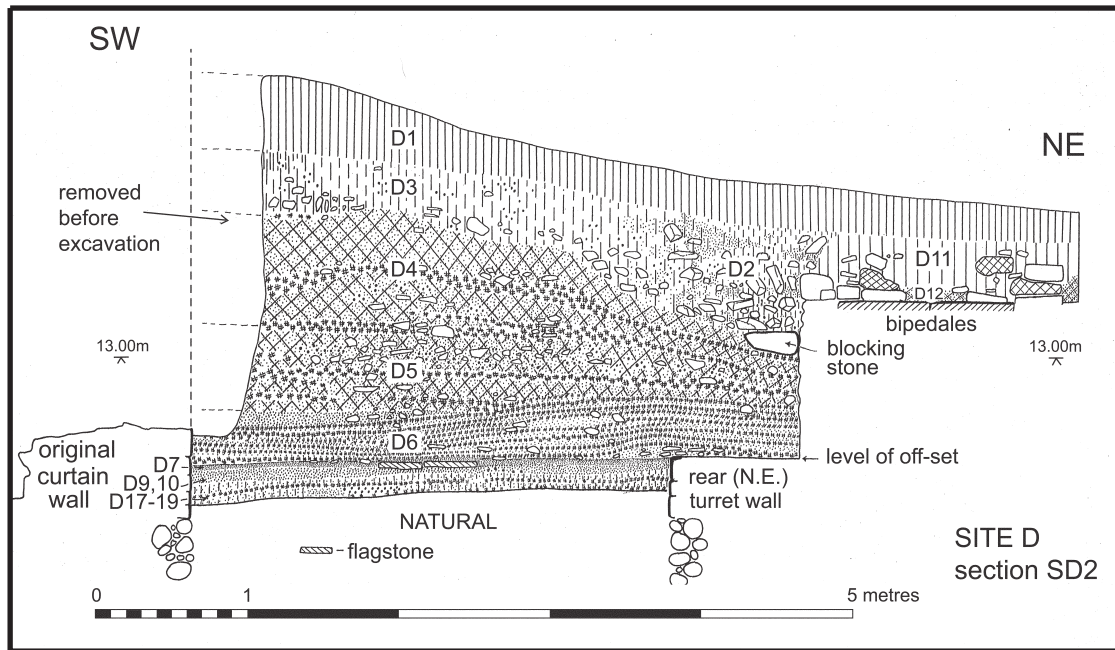


Fig. 17: Site D Section SD2. Longitudinal section through interval turret. (Key as fig. 5).

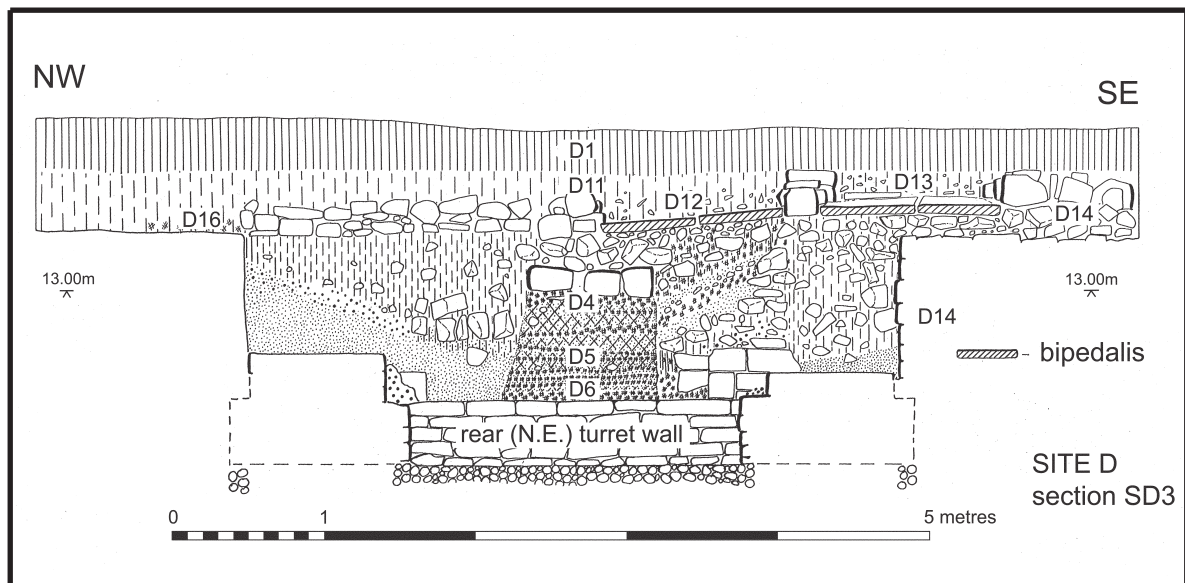


Fig. 18: Site D Section SD3. Section across outside of rear wall of interval turret showing Phase III fill in blocked doorway. (Key as fig. 5).



Fig. 19: Site D. Deposits in blocked doorway from the south west