

### Phase IV: Rebuilds of rampart walls

The rampart wall around the southern corner of the defences has been rebuilt twice (fig. 2). One of these lengths of rebuilt wall (Rebuild I) had been previously noted (Boon 1963) and so will be termed Rebuild I. It extended for c. 25 metres from a point 1.5 metres to the north-east of the rampart wall drain<sup>1</sup> to the crack in the rampart wall (Boon 1963, 7, fig. 3). It was built around the corner of the defences in two straight sections rather than in a continuous curved line. The second length of rebuilt wall (Rebuild II) extended for c. 24 metres from the crack in the wall to a point noticeable as a misalignment of the inner face of the rampart wall 25 metres south-east of the excavated interval turret (Site D). The naming of the rebuilds as I and II has no overtones for their relative dating, but merely reflects the history of their identification. The mortar used in Rebuild II is similar to that used in the original rampart wall, that is a mortar of variously pink, yellow and ginger hue with small (less than 10mm) pebble inclusions. In contrast, the mortar used in Rebuild I is white with brick and tile inclusions similar to the hydraulic water proofing mortar used in the Fortress Baths (Zienkiewicz 1986a, 66, 136). It is, in part, the superiority of this waterproofing mortar used in Rebuild I which is probably accountable for the good preservation of the rampart wall in the southern corner of the fortress. The junction between the two rebuilds is shown in fig. 20.

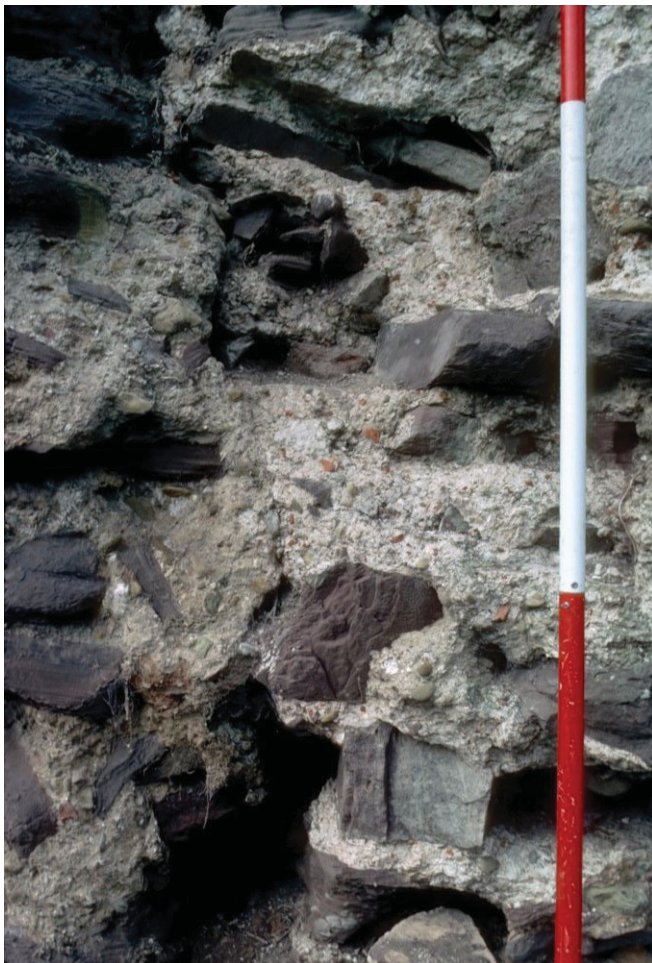


Fig. 20. Interface between Rampart Rebuild II (left) and Rebuild (I) right. Note the tile in the latter

<sup>1</sup> See p. 2.

Both lengths of rebuilt walling were constructed in a similar manner to the original rampart wall. First, the original wall was demolished and then the exposed earthen rampart was cut back (Rebuild II: E25). New footings and the rebuilt rampart wall were then built and the constructional cut was backfilled with residual, displaced rampart material (Rebuild I: A3, A11 and A15; Rebuild II; C1-3, E9-12, E21 and E27). Arguably, the foundations and lowest courses of the original rampart wall were not completely demolished. The plinth course of the wall, visible immediately to the north-west of the southern corner (in the area of Rebuild I), is curved unlike the overlying rebuilt walling, which was constructed in straight sections, suggesting that the plinth course and the underlying foundations were part of the original rampart wall (Boon 1963, 8). The rampart was cut back further than it had been to accommodate the original rampart wall, probably to facilitate the construction of the wider footings used in the rebuilds. In contrast to the original rampart wall, both lengths of rebuild included wider footings which projected internally. In Rebuild I the projection (A9) was massive (width c. 1.0m) (figs. 21 and 24) while in Rebuild II (E26) it was less substantial (width c. 0.30m) (fig. 7). The effect of both these off-set footings would be to increase the structural stability of the rebuilt rampart wall.

The structural join between Rebuild I and the pre-existing, Phase II corner turret was made by two small, projecting lengths of walling described as ‘toothing’ by Bosanquet and King (1963, 3). These projections were continuous, and therefore contemporary, with the rebuilt rampart wall and formed a butt join with the corner turret. In plan the massive footings of Rebuild I (A9) are scalloped so as to avoid the demolition of the corner turret walls (fig. 21).

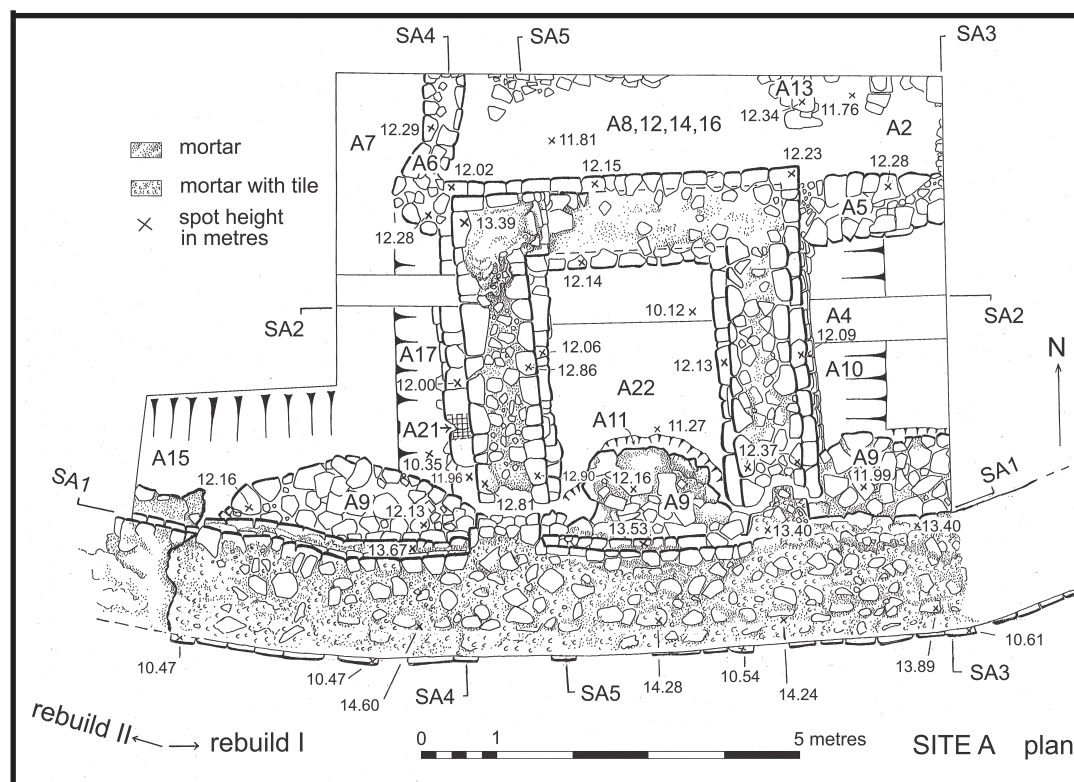


Fig. 21: Site A. Plan of corner turret

The elevation of the internal face of Rebuild I shows an off-set (width 0.17-0.20m) c. 0.75-0.80m below the surviving top of the wall (fig. 22). Above this off-set, between the corner turret walls, the dressed masonry was carefully coursed suggesting it was visible in antiquity. Similarly, immediately to the west of the corner turret the second course above the off-set is made up of stones carefully placed on their shortest edge and slightly inclined to form a herring-bone like pattern. The difference in height between this off-set and the external, plinth course at the foot of the wall averages 3.09 m inside the turret and 3.17m outside the turret. This data is examined further in the discussion where it is used to reconstruct the rampart wall. The reasons for the rebuilding of the rampart wall being required are also considered in the discussion.

It was not possible to ascertain the relationship between the two lengths of rebuilt rampart walling. The character of their junction, where it is exposed in the rampart wall, is ambiguous and it is not possible to ascertain which section is keyed in to the other. Furthermore, the stratigraphic relationship between their respective backfilled construction cuts (in the front of the rampart but behind the rampart wall) was not obvious during excavation. That the rebuilt sections of rampart wall post-date Phase II is demonstrated by the fact that the backfilled construction cut associated with Rebuild I cut through the backfilled foundation trench deposits of the corner turret. Ascribing a more precise absolute date than the terminus post quem of A.D. 86 for the turret which this stratigraphic relationship provides (see above) is problematic. Although the Rebuilds were not stratigraphically related to the Phase III deposits artefactual evidence suggests they post-date them. The majority of the small amount of material recovered from the backfilled construction cuts was, unsurprisingly considering the character of the contexts, residual. Most of the coarse pottery was Flavian in date although one Black-burnished ware bowl is dated to the early to mid-second century<sup>1</sup>. A later date is suggested by the decorated stone which was recovered from the fabric of one of the rebuilds. The decorative face of the stone was weathered during its original setting and study of the mortar adhering to it indicates it was reused at least once before it was incorporated into the rampart wall rebuild<sup>2</sup>. This sequence for the stone's use before it was employed in the rebuilt section of the rampart wall suggests the rebuild belongs to a date considerably later than the stone's probable late first or second century date. This evidence is refined by Boon's analysis of the coinage from Bosanquet and King's 1909 excavations which places the rebuilding of the rampart wall not before the end of the second century (Boon 1963, 9).

---

1 See p. 65 no. 126.

2 See p. 87.

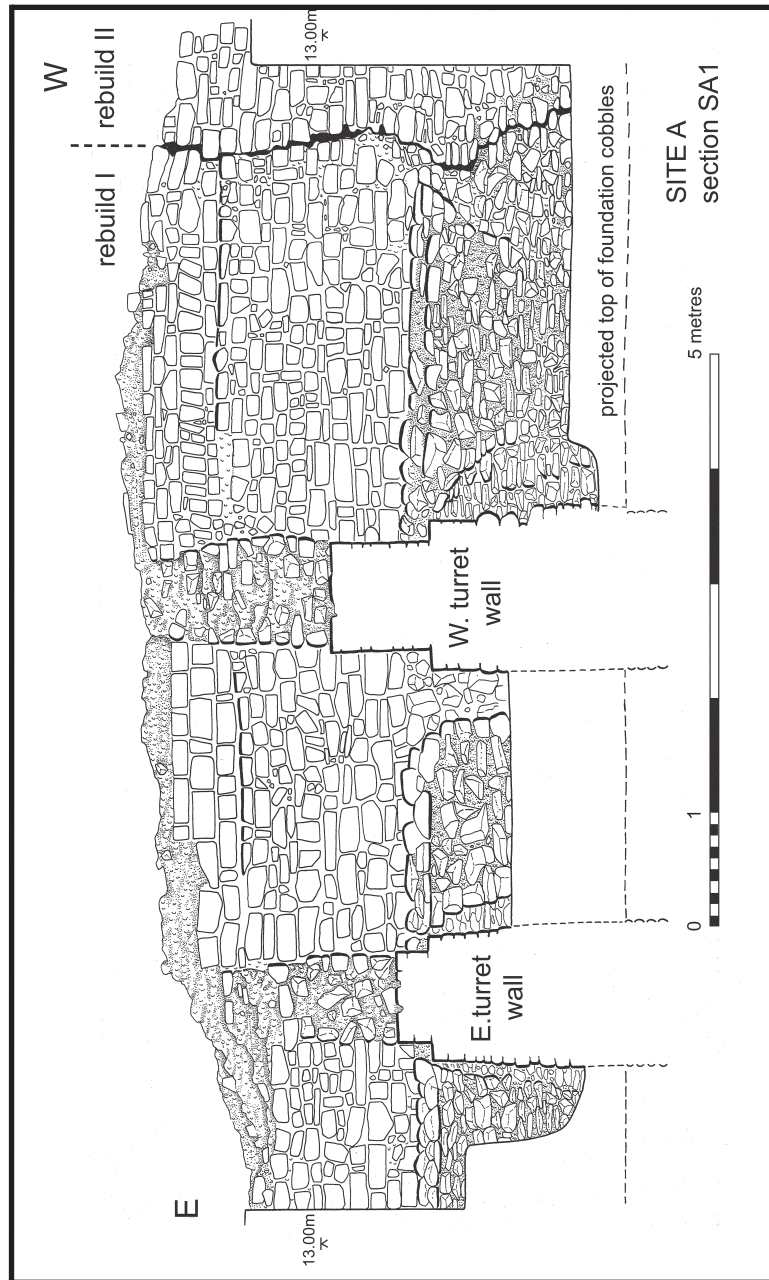


Fig. 22: Site A Section SA1. Elevation of the inside face of the perimeter wall.