

Phase V: Buildings cut in to back of rampart

The Phase V deposits consist of four, unrelated structures which were inserted into the back of the rampart. These structures are difficult to date as they were only partially excavated. However, the dating evidence which was recovered from them indicates they probably range in date from the first to the third century. Consequently, it must be noted that they do not form a chronologically close group and that their classification into a single phase is for convenience alone.

Latrine (Site E)

Of the four Phase V structures the least well dated is the latrine, two walls (E17 and E19) of which were partially uncovered in site E during the 1982 excavations (fig. 23). The latrine was originally excavated by Bosanquet and King and is discussed in detail in their excavation report (1963, 4-6, fig. 1). No datable material was recovered from it, either in 1982 or the more extensive 1909 excavations, and it remains undated.

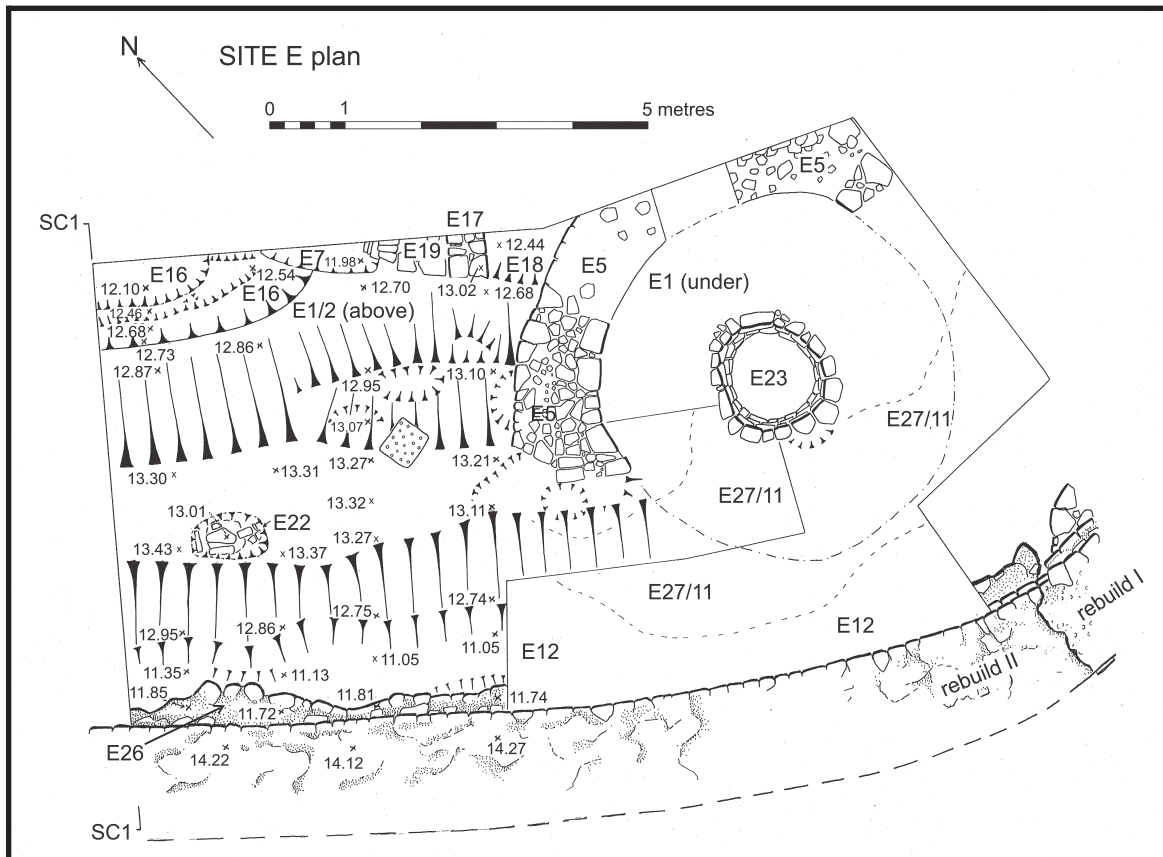


Fig. 23: Site E. Plan.

Building of unknown function (Site A)

A building of unknown function was partially excavated in Site A. It was represented by two heavily robbed, crudely built external walls (A6 and A5) which butted on to the rear of the corner turret; part of a less substantial internal wall (A13) (fig. 21); and a lower (A16) and upper series (A2 and A22) of fills (figs. 15 and 24). The structure was fully excavated in 1909 (Bosanquet and King 1963, 3, fig. 1) where its external dimensions were revealed to be c. 7.0 x 7.6 m. Bosanquet and King argued that the southern wall of the building formed a revetment to the rampart because it was not faced (1963, 3), the 1982 excavations confirmed this observation. The walls of the building butt on to the corner turret (Phase II) providing, by extension, the structure with a terminus post quem of A.D. 86. No artefactual dating evidence from the either the 1909 or 1982 excavations was recovered to refine this date.

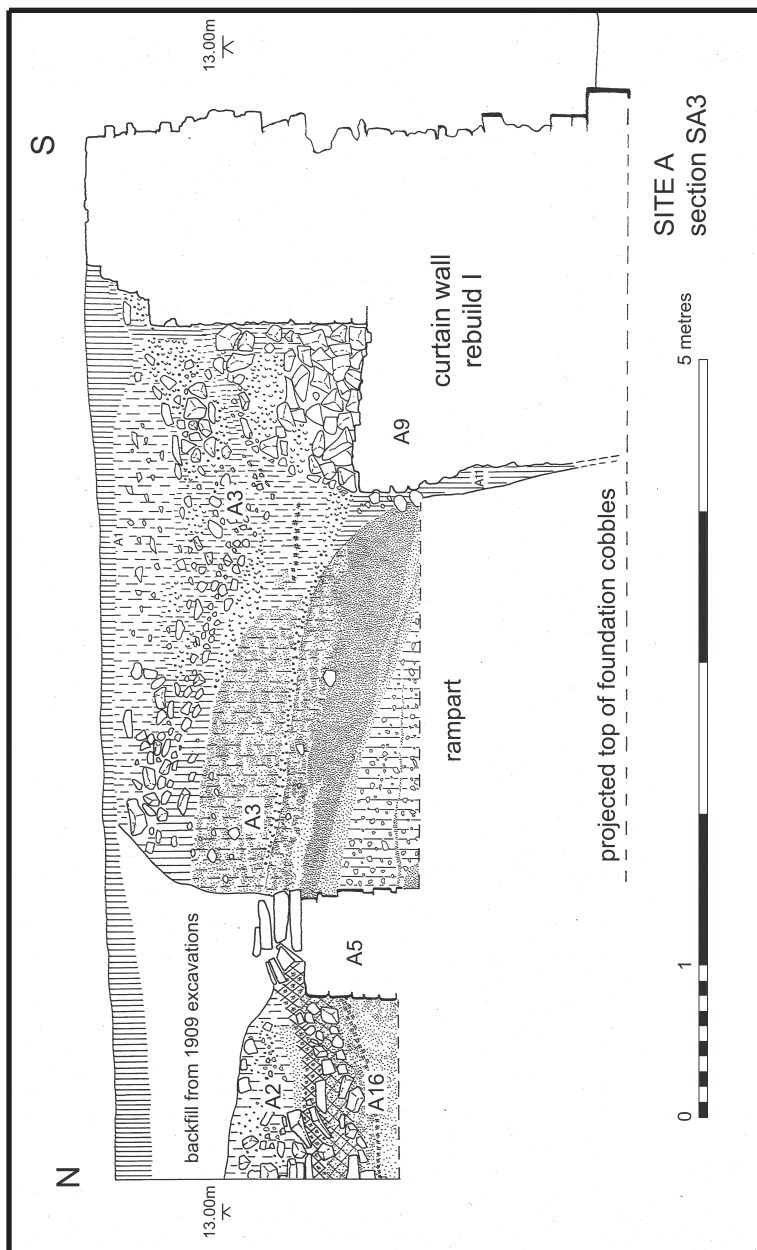


Fig. 24: Site A.
East section.
(Key as fig. 5)

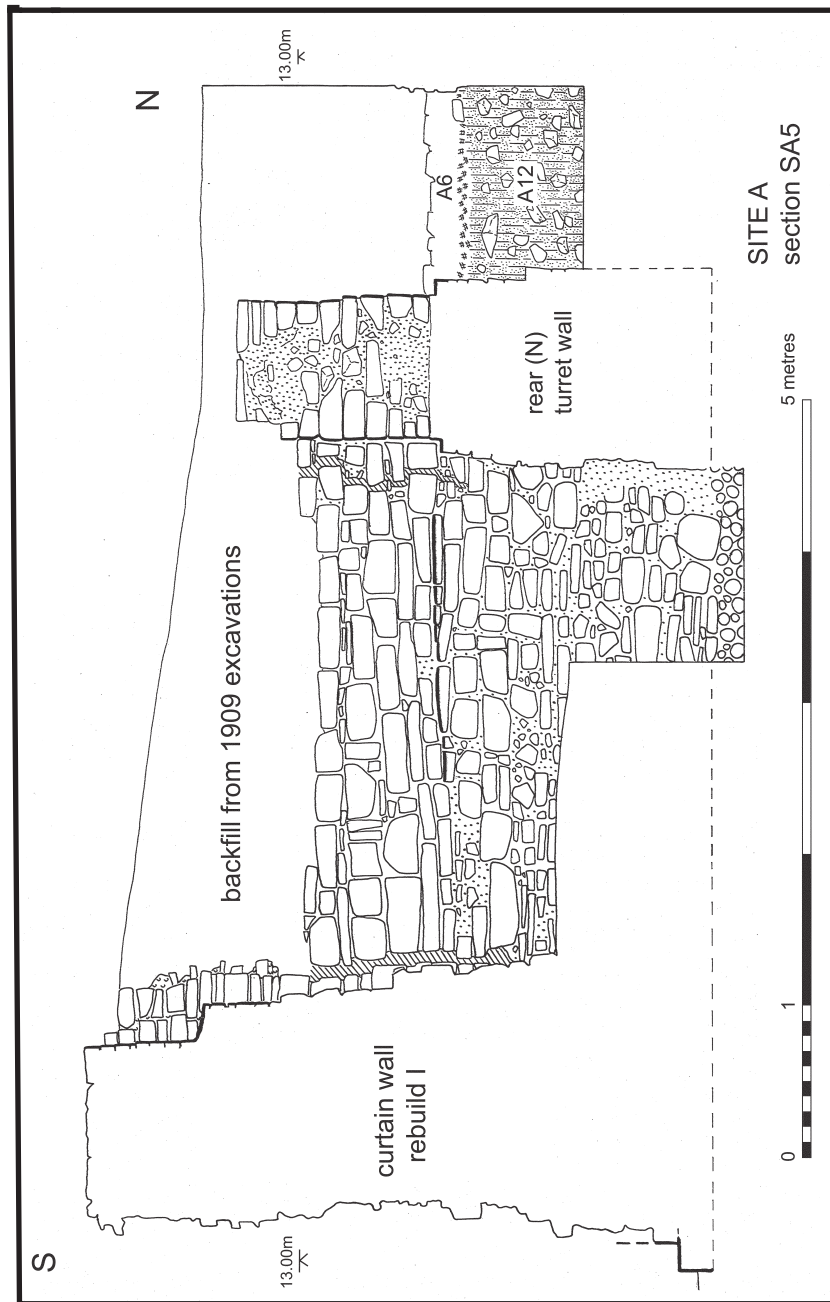


Fig. 25: Site A. Elevation of east face of the west wall of the corner turret.

Possible cooking ovens (Site B)

The back of the rampart in Site B was cut back to accommodate one, if not two, partially excavated substantial, unfaced stone structures which are probably, but not certainly, cooking ovens (B2) (figs. 5 and 26). These structures were associated with charcoal and detritus spreads similar to the rubbish deposits from cooking ovens found butted against the rear of the rampart in the Prysg Field (Nash-Williams 1931, 104-7, fig 6). The coarse pottery recovered from the feature is Flavian in date and a rim and neck of a blue-green flask is also likely to be of first century date because of its rim formation¹.



Fig. 26: Site B. Rear section showing possible ovens

Cookhouse (Site D)

The partially excavated building interpreted as a cookhouse in site D was built on to the rear wall of the Phase II interval turret (fig. 27). The doorway in the back of the turret, through which the Phase III rubbish deposits were dumped, was blocked with stones preventing further dumping of rubbish. Three of these stones had survived the extensive robbing of the site. The cookhouse walls (D14) were faced on the inside only, presumably because they butted on to the rampart. Three ovens were excavated in the interior of the cookhouse: two were of a square form (Ovens A and B) and the other was horseshoe-shaped (Oven C). The two square ovens (A and B) had bases made up of four, heat shattered bipedales and walls of stone (internal dimensions 1.30 x 1.30m) while the horseshoe-shaped oven (C) was stone built with a base made up of fragments of a broken flagstone. It is possible that Oven C was never fired as its walls showed no sign of burning. A partially excavated charcoal rich deposit (D16), probably rake-out of the ovens, butted against the edge of Oven C. All three ovens and the charcoal spread were overlain by a series of possible collapse or demolition deposits (D11, D12, D13 and D15).

¹ See p. 66 nos 127-32 and p. 76 no. 7

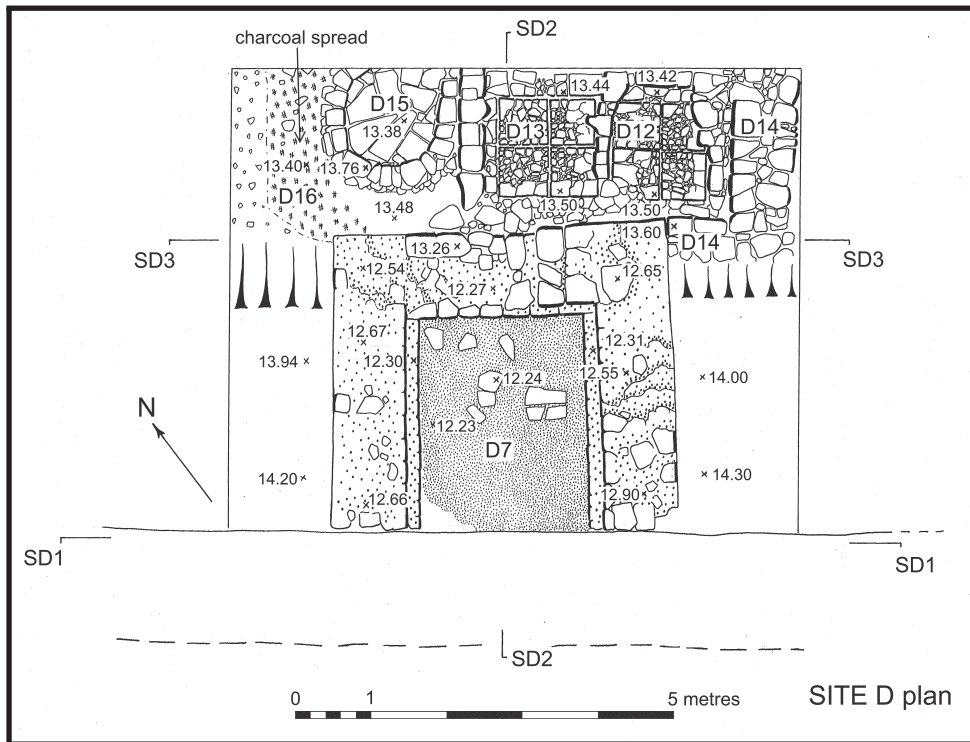


Fig. 27: Site D. The interval tower with cookhouse and ovens at rear. Above - plan. Below - view of cookhouse and ovens from the north east.

The end of Phase III deposition, probably in the last quarter of the second century, provides a terminus post quem for the construction of the cookhouse. Datable material from contexts probably contemporary with the use of the building is scant. A Black-burnished ware bowl with mid-second century parallels, and a Caerleon ware bowl paralleled with a vessel recovered from late second to early third century contexts at the Fortress Baths¹ were recovered from the charcoal spread equated with rake-out from the ovens (D16). Some material was also recovered from the possible collapse or demolition deposit overlying the ovens (D11) including two Black-burnished ware jars with parallels dated variously to either the late second to mid-third century or the early to mid-third century². This evidence suggests a date for the construction and use of the cookhouse in the last quarter of the second century with its demolition or collapse tentatively dated to the end of the second century or possibly later.

1 See p. 66 nos. 135-7

2 See p. 69 nos. 194 and 196