

# Digital Chapter 5 : the Northern *vicus*

## Part 1: The pottery kiln products

(file name : Ch5DKiln)

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(for ease of reference figs. 5.4-6 from the letterpress volume are reproduced here)

## Digital Chapter 5: The Northern Vicus

### Part I: The pottery kiln products

#### The mortaria

Kay Hartley

Abbreviations used in this section:

U = obviously soft and underfired.

G = used where the fabric has been fired to grey throughout most or all of the fabric. Only rarely has the slip become grey and it is usually only a patch. It is unlikely that these vessels would have been unsaleable solely on account of their greyness or hardness. The greyness is the result of being in a reducing atmosphere in the kiln and the hard texture due to the kiln reaching too high a temperature.

DS = detached spout. The end of the spout has flaked off during firing, at the point where clay was added.

WC = Waster cracks, either fine or open, usually combined with some degree of distortion. WC is also used where the pot has very obviously broken along a radial waster crack.

S = the surface slip. Where a slip has been used, it covers all or most of the trituration grit indicating that the mortarium has never been used.

B = Underneath of base shows no wear.

The common features of reject pottery are represented among the mortaria attributable to the Piercebridge workshop. To avoid repetition the appropriate letters have been added after each entry. Distortion is also normal in such a group and is indeed present but there is little more visible than can be seen occasionally among mortaria which had clearly been sold and used. Mortaria usually develop radial waster cracks which are only noticeable as such when sufficient of the vessel has survived intact.

NB These mortaria were stamped in the way normally used on mortaria made in Roman Britain, once across the flange on each side of the spout. When two stamps are recorded, this means that both sides of the vessel have survived sufficiently to preserve them.

1535,1534, 1516, 1521 and 1503 are context numbers for the kiln

*Catalogue for figure 5.4.*

13 HS 80 AFB 1535 (kiln). 1280gms Dr. 240mms. 100%  
Four pieces joining to make up whole vessel. Fabric 34. Two stamps from die 1.  
(my serial no. 486; 19K) WC; S; B.

14 HS 80 AFB 1535. 1095gms Dr. 300mms. 70%  
Five joining pieces making up two-thirds of the vessel. Breakage obviously occurred  
along waster cracks since the three main pieces join at the base but diverge at the top.  
Fabric 33. Two stamps, from die 3 (Serial no. 496; 26K). WC; S; B.

15 HS 80 AFB 1535. 1528gms. Dr. 255mms. 100%  
Nine joining sherds making up the whole vessel which has open radial waster cracks.  
Fabric 34. Two stamps, from die 1. (Serial no. 495; 20K) WC. S; B.

16 HS 80 AFB 1535. 2 sherds. (Serial no. 497; 27K)  
HS 81 AHT 1453 (no. 267) 40gms Diameter 290mms 5%  
HS 80 AKB (code not listed for 1980; ?1850 already joined to above when sent)  
655gms. Diameter 290mms. 41%  
The four fragments join to make up one-third of the mortarium. Fabric 33. One stamp,  
from die 3 (on AKB) DS; S.

*Catalogue for figure 5.5.*

17 HS 80 AFB 1535. 1460gms. Dr. 240mms. 100%  
Nine joining sherds making up a whole mortarium in Fabric 34. Two stamps, from die 1.  
(Serial no. 493; 22K) G; S; B.

18 HS 80 AFB 1535. 1100gms. Diameter 250mms. 74% Three sherds making up  
three-quarters of the mortarium. (Serial no. 489)  
HS 80/ER 80 4680 1521. 315gms. Diameter 250mms. 26% Five joining sherds,  
joining with the above fragments to make up the whole vessel except for a tiny sherd.  
Fabric 34. Two stamps, from die 2. (Serial no. 490; 24K) S; B.

19 HS 80 AFB 1535. 1295gms Dr. 250mms. 98% Fourteen joining sherds (at  
least five of these are modern) making the vessel almost complete; it has broken radially,  
but there is no open crack and the breaks could post firing. There is one deeply  
impressed score (ante cocturam) across the rim. Fabric 34. Two stamps, from die 1.  
(Serial no. 491; 23K) WC; S; B.

20 HS 80 AFB 1535. 1065gms. Diameter 240mms 59% Two-thirds of vessel  
survives. Fabric 34. Two stamps, from die 2. (no. 492; 25K) G; DS; S; B.

21 HS 80 AFB 1535. 1575gms. Diameter 250mms. 100% Vessel complete in  
seven joining sherds, with one possible open, radial waster crack. Fabric 34 (not clearly  
visible). Two stamps, from die 1. (Serial no. 494; 18K) WC; S.

35 HS 80 /ER 80 4680 1521. Dr. 240mms. Fabric 33/34. One stamp from die 1 survives. (Serial no. 535; 30K) S.

36 HS 80 / ER 80 4680 1521. 330gms. Diameter 275mms. 32% Three joining fragments making up about a third of the upper part of a mortarium. Fabric 34. One stamp, from die 1. (Serial no. 500; 28K) S.

37 HS 80 / ER 80 4680 1521. 105gms Diameter c280mms 6% Fabric 33. The spout has flaked away from the rim during firing and shows clearly that the potter pressed his fingers or possibly a stick across the flange to provide keying for the 'sausage' of clay added to form the spout. (Serial no. 501) G; DS; S. The stamps do not survive. It is very close to 348 and could perhaps be part of it; it is probably not part of 502, though again it is similar in form.

*Not illustrated*

HS 80 / ER 80 4680 1521. 1340gms. Diameter 240mms. 80% Fabric 34. Six joining sherds make up all of the vessel except for the end of the spout which had flaked off during firing, and a small portion of the flange. (Serial no. 487; 21K).

HS 80 AFB 1535. 100gms 20% Four small joining flange fragments and two joining spout sherds, these join my Serial no. 487 to make up the entire vessel which is distorted, but usable. Two stamps, from die 1. (Serial no. 488) G; DS; S; B.

HS 80 ADA 1072. 50gms. Diameter c280mms 6% A small rim sherd plus a tiny body sherd, not necessarily from the same vessel. Fabric 33. Probably a different vessel from any listed above. (Serial no. 63) DS.

HS 80 ABT. 1180. 140gms Base and body flake in Fabric 33. (Serial no. 239) B.

HS 80 / ER 80 4739. 1503. 125gms. Diameter 330mms. 10% Overfired rim sherd in Fabric 33. One stamp, from die 3. (Serial no. 462; 31K) G

HS 80 AER 1516. 30gms Fabric 33. One rim sherd plus a body sherd perhaps from same vessel (no. 348), G.

HS 80 / ER 80 4680. 1521. 105gms Diameter 300mms 13% One rim sherd probably from the same mortarium. Fabric 34. The very edge of stamp survives, probably die 3. (Serial no. 502; 29K) G.

HS 80 / ER 80 4688. 1521 210gms More than 20 small fragments and flakes from a soft, underfired mortarium; almost all the sherds have only one surface surviving, the other having split away. Fabric 35. (Serial no. 370) U.

HS 80 AFB 1535 Fabric 35. Diameter 280 (Serial no. 536) U.

HS 80 AFB 1535. 110gms. Diameter 270mms. 15% A rim sherd from a mortarium in Fabric 33. (Serial no. 498).

HS 80 AFB 1528. 35gms Diameter c270mms. 5% A rim sherd from a mortarium similar to my Serial nos. 370 and 251 in Fabric 35. (Serial no. 499).

HS 80 AEZ 1534. 25gms. A rim sherd and body sherd from a mortarium similar to my Serial no.499. Fabric 35. (Serial no. 251).

HS 80 AEZ 1534. 20gms. Base flake in Fabric 34. B.

HS 81 AKD 1869. 45gms. Body flake in Fabric 33.

HS 81 AGX 1387 10gms Base flake in Fabric 33.

### **Catalogue of the coarse pottery**

L. Hird (with additions by A. T. Croom, R. M. McBride, and P. T. Bidwell)

Late first or early second century. All in kiln fabrics.

#### *Catalogue for figure 5.4.*

1. Orange to exterior and grey to interior, with thick cream wash. HS80 1535.
2. Waster, over-fired to grey. Fine horizontal wipe marks on the neck. HS80 1535.
3. Waster. Oxidised. HS80 1535.
4. Reduced. HS80 1535.
5. Burnished on shoulder and rim. Reduced. HS80 1516.
6. Oxidised and reduced in patches. HS80 1535.
7. Oxidised. HS80 1516.
8. Reduced. HS80 1516.
9. Reduced. HS80 1535.
10. Reduced. HS 80 1503.
11. Reduced. Faintly scored pattern on upper surface of rim. HS80 1516.
12. Oxidised (drawn from two non-joining pieces). HS80 1520.
13. Mortarium. Large white quartz grit. One stamp. HS80 1535.
14. Mortarium. One complete and one incomplete stamp. HS80 1535.
15. Mortarium. Large white quartz grit. Stamp either side of spout. HS80 1535.
16. Mortarium. One stamp. HS80 1453, 1535, 1850.

#### *Catalogue for figure 5.5.*

17. Mortarium. Two stamps. HS80 1535.
18. Mortarium. One stamp. HS80 1535.
19. Mortarium. Two stamps. HS80 1535.

20. Mortarium. Stamped either side of spout. HS80 1535.
21. Mortarium. Two stamps. HS80 1535.
22. Reduced. HS80 1503.
23. Burnished. Form as above, but with groove on top of rim. Reduced. HS80 1535.
24. Burnished all over apart from the lower part of the exterior wall. Reduced. HS80 1535.
25. Inner surface faintly decorated with scored wavy lines. Oxidised. HS80 1535.
26. Reduced. HS80 1503.
27. Over-fired brown fabric and thick cream slip. HS80 1521.
28. Over-fired. Reduced. HS80 1521, 1535.
29. HS80 1521.
30. Waster. Slightly darker grey burnished surface. HS80 1521.
31. HS80 1521.
32. Oxidised. HS80 1521. 2735
33. Oxidised and reduced in patches. HS80 1521.
34. HS80 1521.
35. Mortarium. One stamp. HS80 1521.
36. Mortarium. One stamp HS80 1521.
37. Mortarium. HS80 1521.

Figs. 5.4-5.6 from the letterpress are reproduced here for ease of reference

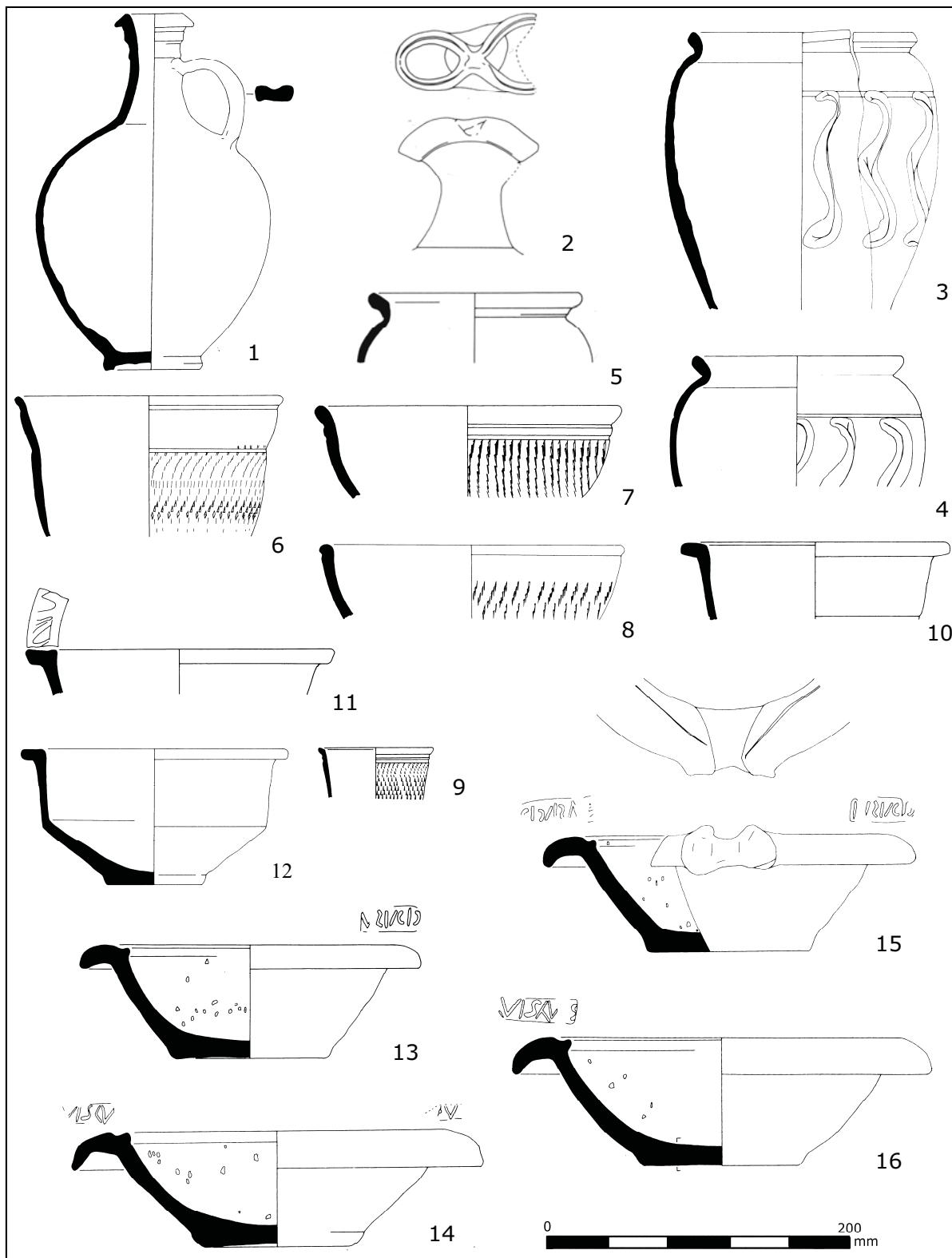
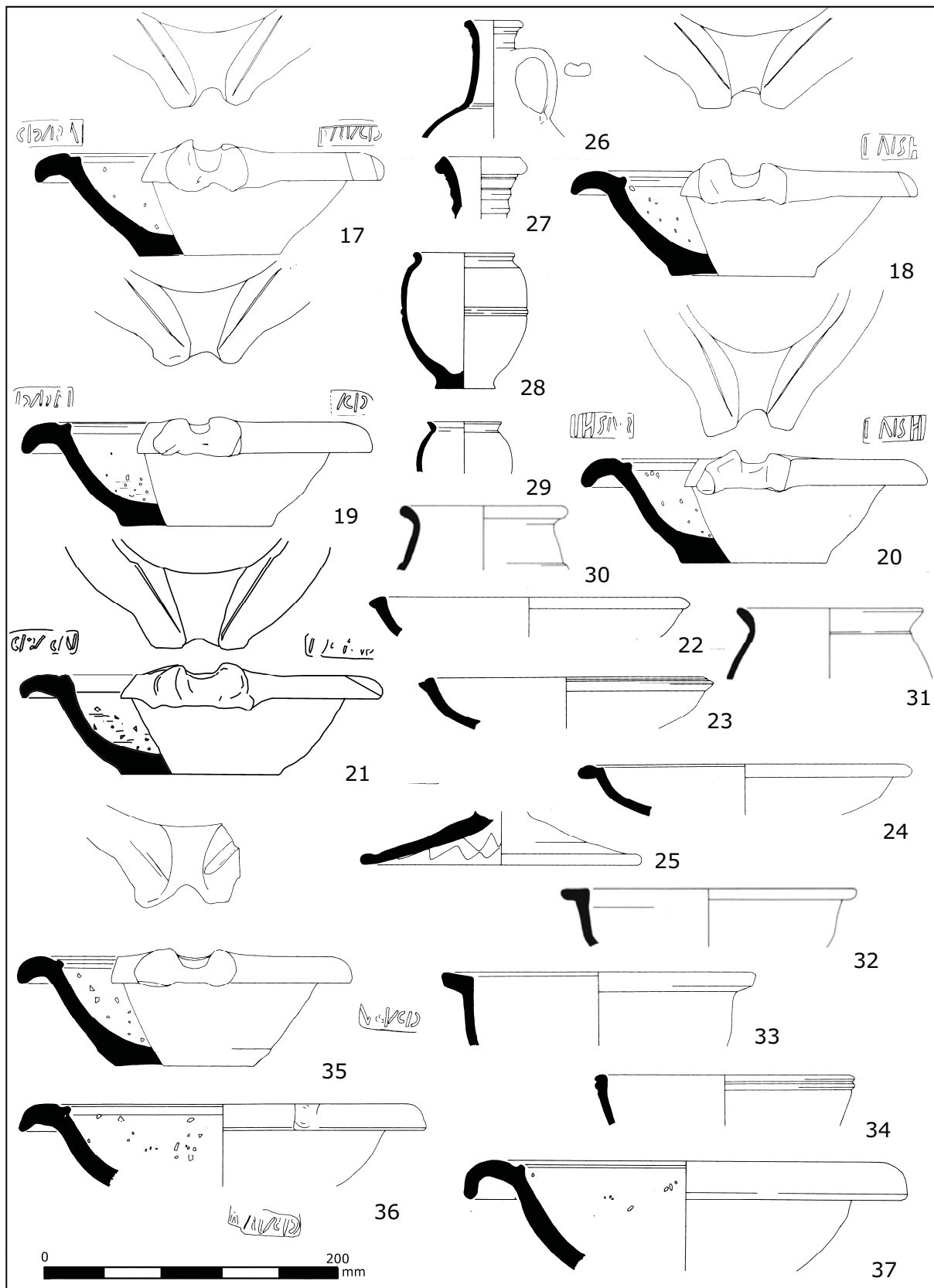


Fig 5.4 - the vessels associated with the pottery kiln





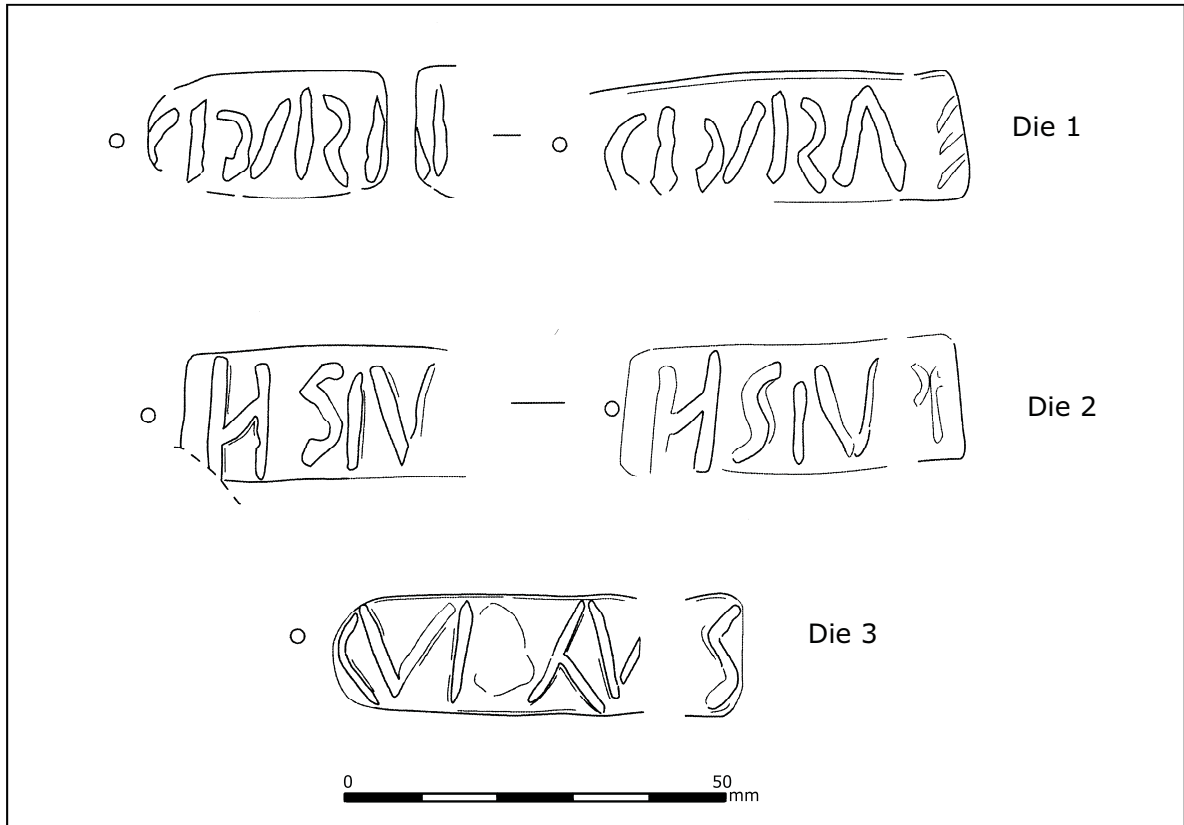


Fig 5.6 - examples of the stamps used on the mortaria associated with the pottery kiln