

## EXCAVATIONS AT DORCHESTER ON THAMES, 1962

By SHEPPARD FRERE

Dorchester on Thames occupies the site of a small Roman walled town of about  $13\frac{1}{2}$  acres, the name of which is unknown, since the place-name TAMESE recorded hereabouts in the Ravenna Cosmography is held<sup>1</sup> to refer to the Thames ferry, where the road from Silchester crosses the river about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile south-east of the town. The modern village occupies the northern and eastern portions of the walled enclosure and extends outside it in these directions; but much of the western half still lies under orchards and gardens, and the south-west corner is occupied by a large field of allotment-gardens. Scattered finds have been made from time to time; of these the most important is the altar (now lost) set up perhaps in the early 3rd century by M. Varius Severus, a *beneficiarius consularis*. For such an officer, concerned with supplies, Dorchester with its rich surrounding corn-lands afforded a centre conveniently placed for road and river transport. The only excavations, however, so far recorded took place in 1935-6 when the defences on the west side were sectioned.<sup>2</sup>

During 1961 the village for the first time received main drainage.<sup>3</sup> House-building had already been taking place, especially on the south-east and south of the walled area, and it was evident that the existence of drainage would accelerate the process. By the initiative of Professor Hawkes an Excavation Committee was established and the present writer was invited to conduct excavations in the allotment field, this being the largest and most promising area still available.

Excavation, assisted by generous grants from the Ministry of Works, the British Academy, the Haverfield Trust, the Society of Antiquaries, the Royal Archaeological Institute, the Ashmolean Museum and the Craven Committee, lasted five weeks in July-August, 1962.<sup>4</sup> In this first season attention was primarily directed to the defences. Inside them no large areas could be stripped owing to the difficulty of finding space for dumps among the cultivated plots (Fig. 2); but one large allotment was explored (Site B, Fig. 5) in which a late Roman building and an early Saxon hut were excavated, and traces found of later Saxon timber buildings.

<sup>1</sup> *Archaeologia*, XCIII (1949), 46.

<sup>2</sup> Previous information down to 1938 summarized in *V.C.H., Oxfordshire* I, 290-6. For the 1935-6 excavations see also A. H. A. Hogg and C. E. Stevens, *Oxonienia* II (1937), 41-73; for the Dyke Hills see *ibid.*, III (1938), 169-71 with fig. 20; for the early Saxon burials on the Dyke Hills see J. R. Kirk and E. T. Leeds in *ibid.*, XVII/XVIII (1952-3), 63-76, and S. C. Hawkes, *Medieval Archaeology* V (1961), 1 ff.

<sup>3</sup> The trenches for this were watched by Professor C. F. C. Hawkes and Mr. J. A. Ellison.

<sup>4</sup> £587 was expended. My thanks are due to Miss M. G. Wilson, F.S.A., Mark Hassall and Michael Haynes, who acted as site-supervisors; to Mrs. S. E.

Hawkes, F.S.A., who managed the pottery-room and took the photographs; and to Miss J. Nicholson who shouldered the greater part of the background organization. I am further indebted to Miss Wilson for drawing the pottery except the decorated samian, which was drawn by Mr. D. S. Neal. Mr. B. R. Hartley, F.S.A., has kindly examined the samian pottery and Mrs. Hartley the *mortaria*. Mr. D. F. Allen, F.S.A., identified the four Belgic coins found and Mr. R. A. G. Carson did the same for the Roman coins. I am grateful to Mrs. Hawkes and to Mr. E. M. Jope, F.S.A., for help with the Saxon pottery and to Miss Dorothy Charlesworth for her report on the glass.

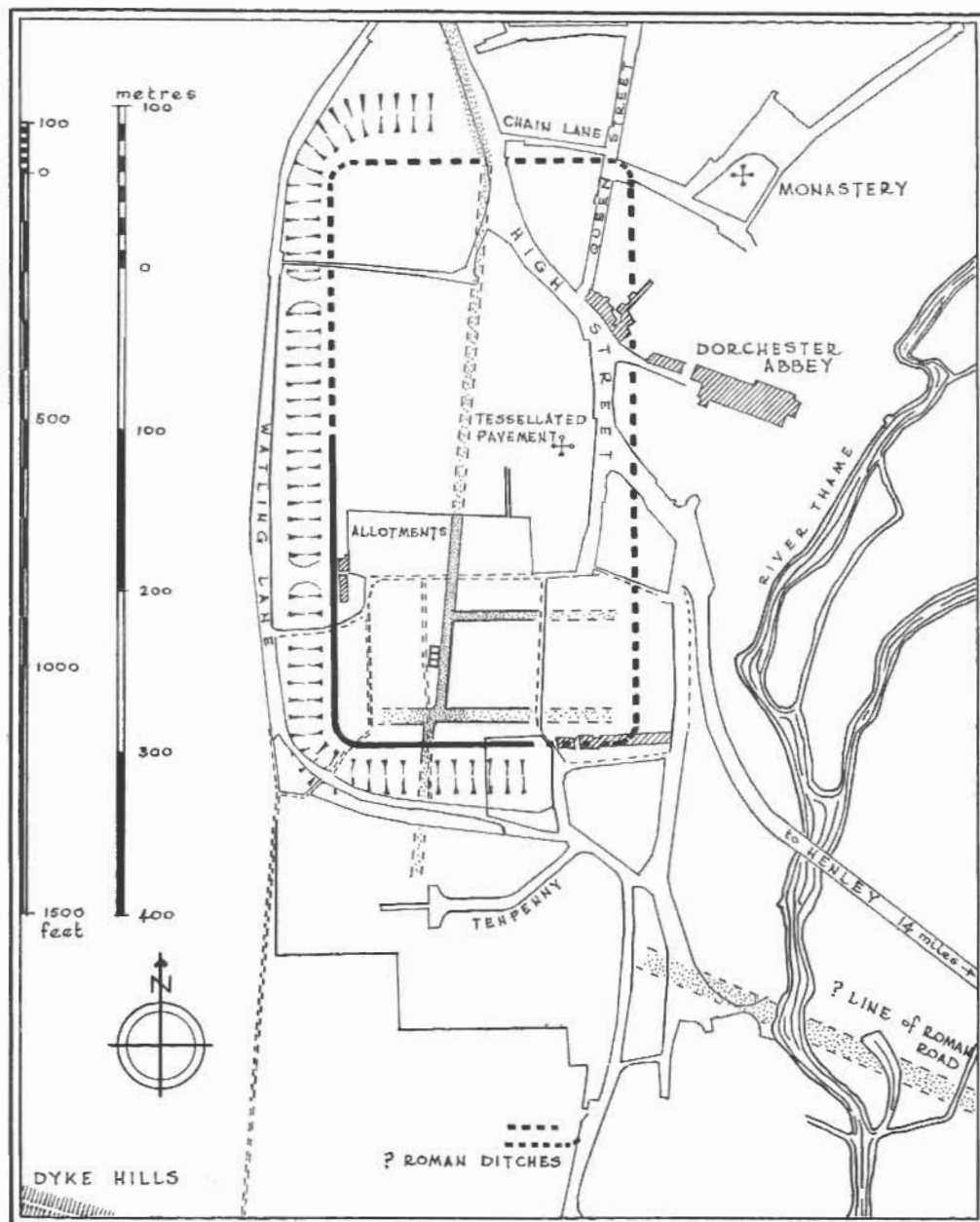


Fig. 1. Dorchester on Thames, general plan

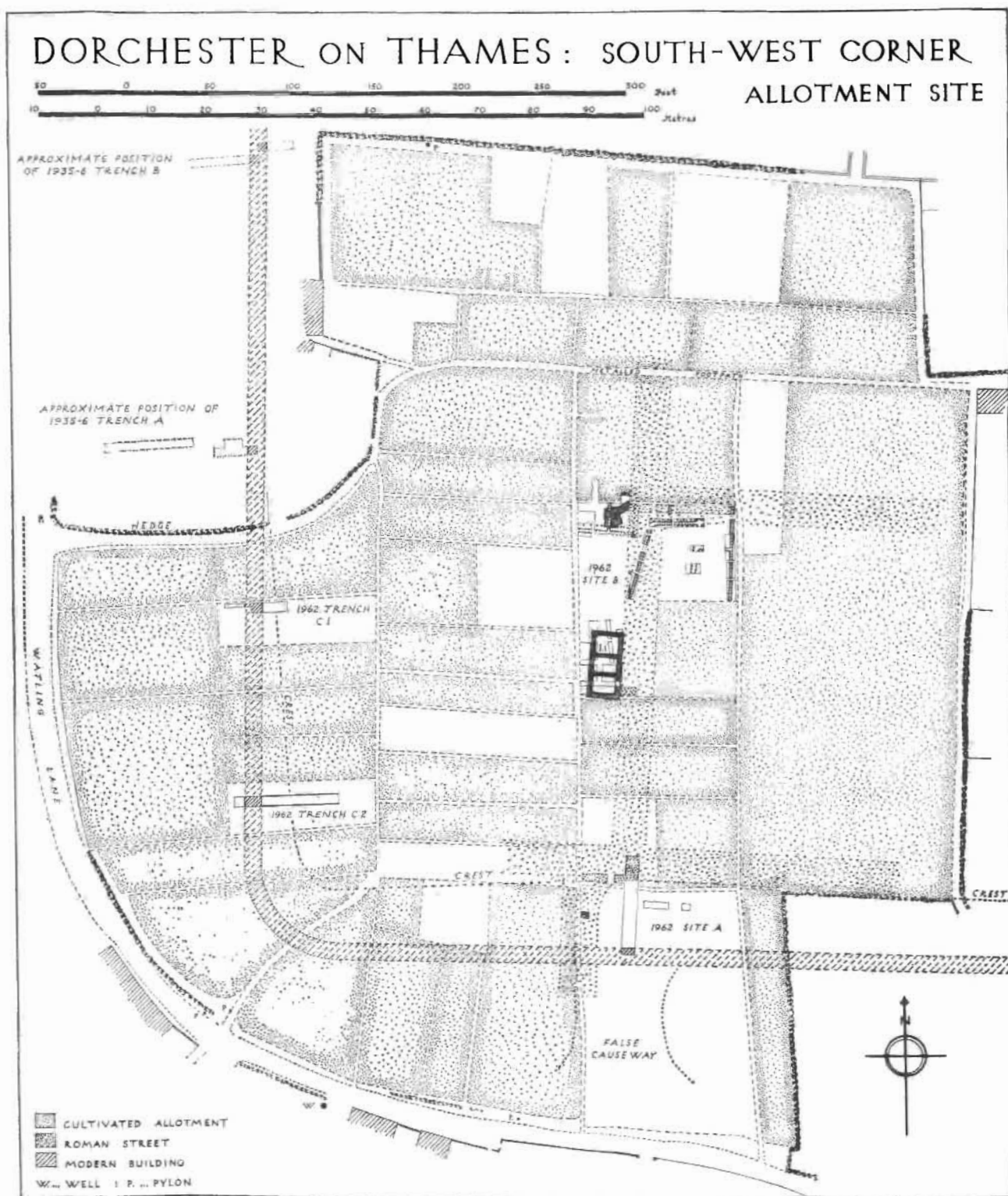


Fig. 2. The Allotments site, 1962

# DORCHESTER ON THAMES : SECTION OF WEST DEFENCES : C II, SOUTH FACE

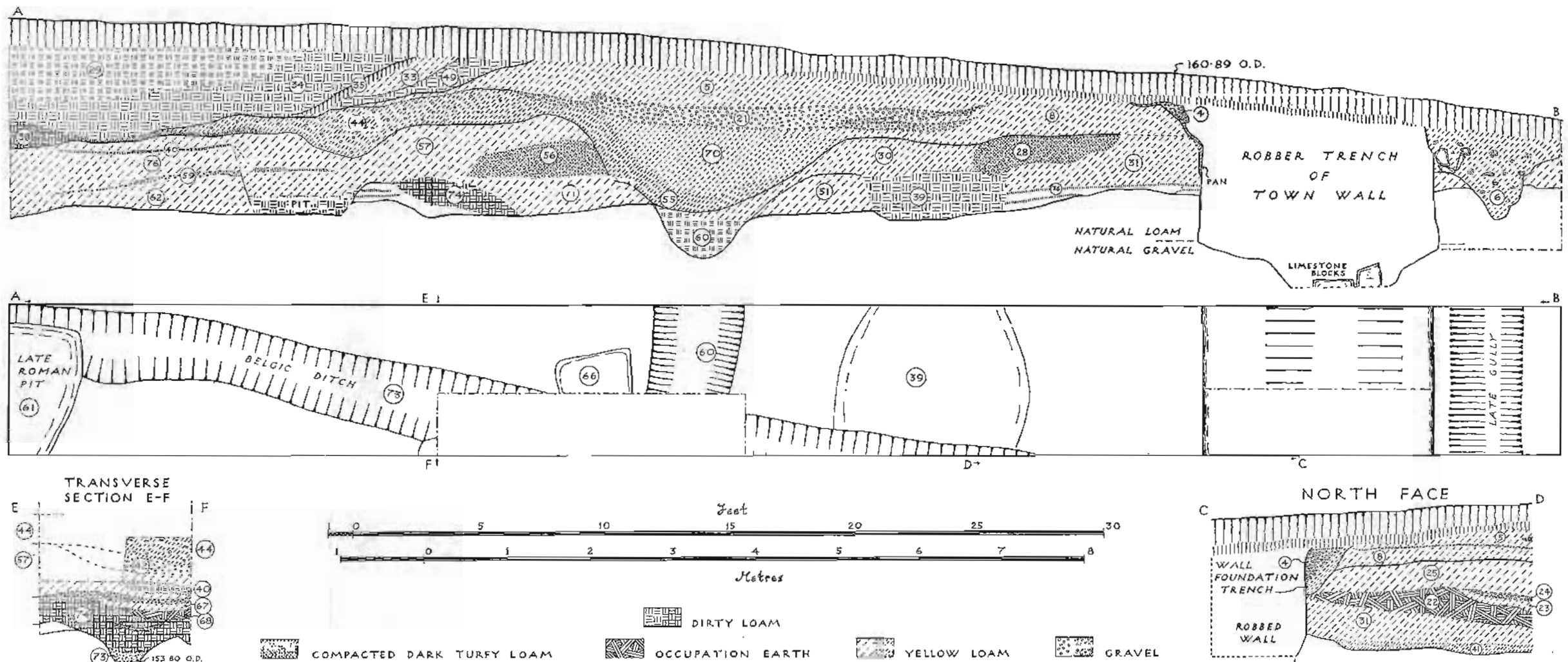


Fig. 3. Plan and Section, Site C II

## THE DEFENCES

The line of the defences — denuded bank and wide ditch-hollow — can still be traced on the surface and were mapped by Hogg and Stevens<sup>1</sup> in 1935-6. At that time three sections were cut by the Oxford University Archaeological Society on the west side of the town just north of the allotments, and the positions of two of them have been approximately plotted on Fig. 2. The dating evidence thus produced assigned the defences 'to the period A.D. 75-150, probably c. A.D. 125'.

The purpose of the present investigation was (a) to obtain further evidence bearing on the date, and (b) to discover whether the earth rampart was of an earlier period than the town wall.

The line of the robber-trench of the wall was picked up in trench C I (Fig. 2) but further work here was prevented by circumstances beyond our control. Definitive trenches were, however, cut at C II and A v.

*West Side: Trench C II (Fig. 3)*

Conditions in this 6 ft. trench were very similar to those encountered in 1935-6. The natural subsoil is gravel, capped by brick-earth (hereafter called loam). Moreover a gully was found below the rampart running obliquely to the line of our trench, just as had been found in Section C of the 1935-6 excavations. It contained Belgic material and an absence of samian ware, suggesting the probability that the settlement existed before the Roman conquest (see below p. 128). A second gully (60) ran from it at right angles.

Both the rampart and the layers below it were of yellow loam presenting a considerable uniformity of appearance which made interpretation difficult; and this difficulty was increased by the fact that the side of the trench did not give a true section, since the layers especially at its east end were dipping forwards over the sagging fillings of the gullies (and layer 57 sags over a pit which lies to the south behind the face of the trench). It was by no means easy to be certain where the base of the rampart lay. On the drawn section (Fig. 3) it has been indicated in what seemed the most probable position, but it is possible (though unlikely) that it should be put lower, at the base of layers 28, 30, 56 and 57. This, however, would place it immediately above the Belgic occupation material (22) in Section C-D (Fig. 3), which is improbable considering the relative dates of the two deposits.

The town wall and its footings had been completely robbed. The robber-trench (Pl. IIb) was 9 ft. 6 in. wide: at its base some very large limestone blocks lay in a V-shaped extension penetrating the soft loose natural gravel. Immediately in front lay a narrow ditch which produced 4th-century sherds, but which seems unlikely to have anything to do with the defences. The defensive ditches lay outside the area available for work.

It was just possible to see that the town wall was later than the rampart, for a narrow section of its foundation-trench (4) survived east of the robber-trench; this is best seen on the north side of the trench (Fig. 3, section C-D).

<sup>1</sup> *Oxoniensia* II (1937), 43, fig. 11; *Antiquity* IX (1935), 218.



In this section layer 22 is a thick deposit of black Belgic occupation earth filling the top of the oblique ditch. That the defences were of two periods was later conclusively established in trench A v. But in C II the rampart was so denuded that little of the later bank contemporary with the wall survives. A comparison of bank-dimensions suggests, however, that layers 33 and 49 may be secondary; but they produced nothing later than a samian sherd, form 18/31 R, of Flavian-Trajanic date. Above (33) lay a buried turf-line which certainly marks a rampart slope; and since (34) produced red colour-coated sherds of the 4th century it follows that either (33) and (49) belong to the second bank or this bank is not present here at all.

Little pottery and no coins were found in this trench to date the defences; however, one sherd from layer (30), just below the bank, is of a type known in the north of England, but not before c. A.D. 170 (see No. 42, p. 134). Much of the pottery found was Belgic, from the early gully and overlying occupation levels, and a selection of this is published and illustrated; it is clearly not earlier than the reign of Tiberius. Two Belgic coins were also found. (See Appendix I, pp. 131-135.)

#### *South Side: Site A (Figs. 2, 4)*

The available site on the south defences lay opposite a slight apparent causeway on the line of the ditches, to which attention was drawn in the 1935-6 report, where it is marked on the plan as the possible site of a gate. Accordingly some trenches were first dug (Fig. 2) along the line of the present crest of the rampart to test for a gap. Owing to denudation the crest (Fig. 2) was found to be unexpectedly far behind the robbed wall; but in all these trenches the tail of a rampart was encountered, and below it in A I and II was the metalling of a street running east-west. The problem of the street-plan is discussed below (p. 121). In the absence of a gap for a gate, trench A v, 8 ft. wide, was next dug at right angles to section the defences. Owing to the unpredictable depth encountered (natural gravel lay 11 ft. 6 in. from the surface at the south end and 13 ft. 6 in. in the middle) it became impracticable to attempt to section the ditch-system as well. Behind the rampart and partly below it ran the east-west street. On its south side four successive loam floors (55, 53, 46 and 19), separated by occupation soil, had been laid down over some thick deposits of dirty loam overlying the natural gravel. The lowest pottery-producing levels (49) and (48) contained only Belgic material; (40) produced some Roman sherds as well as many Belgic, and (56) is of pre-Flavian date. The houses represented by the floors were occupied from c. A.D. 70-185. Above the floors lay the first rampart, founded on transverse timber strapping (Pl. III) set in gravel. The rampart (25) was largely built of turves and there was a very marked turf revetment at the back, with which a further less well-organized turf-pile (18) behind seemed, by its relationship with individual turves in the revetment, to be integral.<sup>1</sup> Our trench, however, ran along the junction between the work

<sup>1</sup> Such an effect *could* have been obtained by subsequent compression; but that the two deposits

are contemporary is shown both by their contents and by the behaviour of (21).

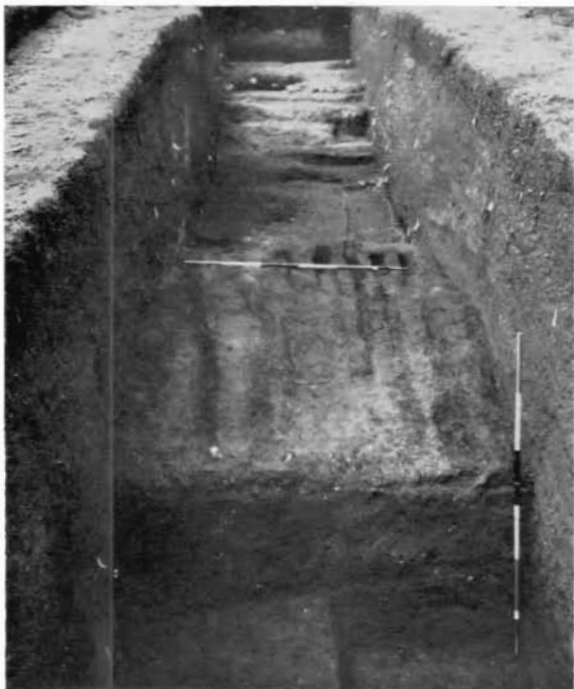


A. Trench A v, east face:  
robbed footings of town  
wall. (p. 119.)



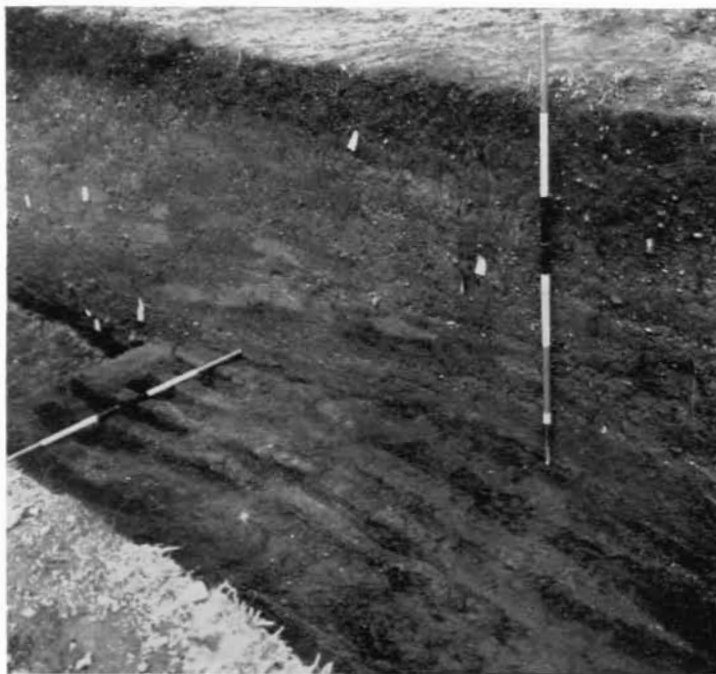
B. Trench C11, south face:  
rampart and robber-trench  
of town wall, looking west.  
(p. 117.)

PLATE III



A. Trench Av, looking north:  
timber strapping below rampart,  
and street behind. (p. 118.)

B. Trench Av, east face: turf  
rampart resting on timber strap-  
ping. (p. 118.)





# DORCHESTER ON THAMES: SECTION OF SOUTH DEFENCES: EAST FACE

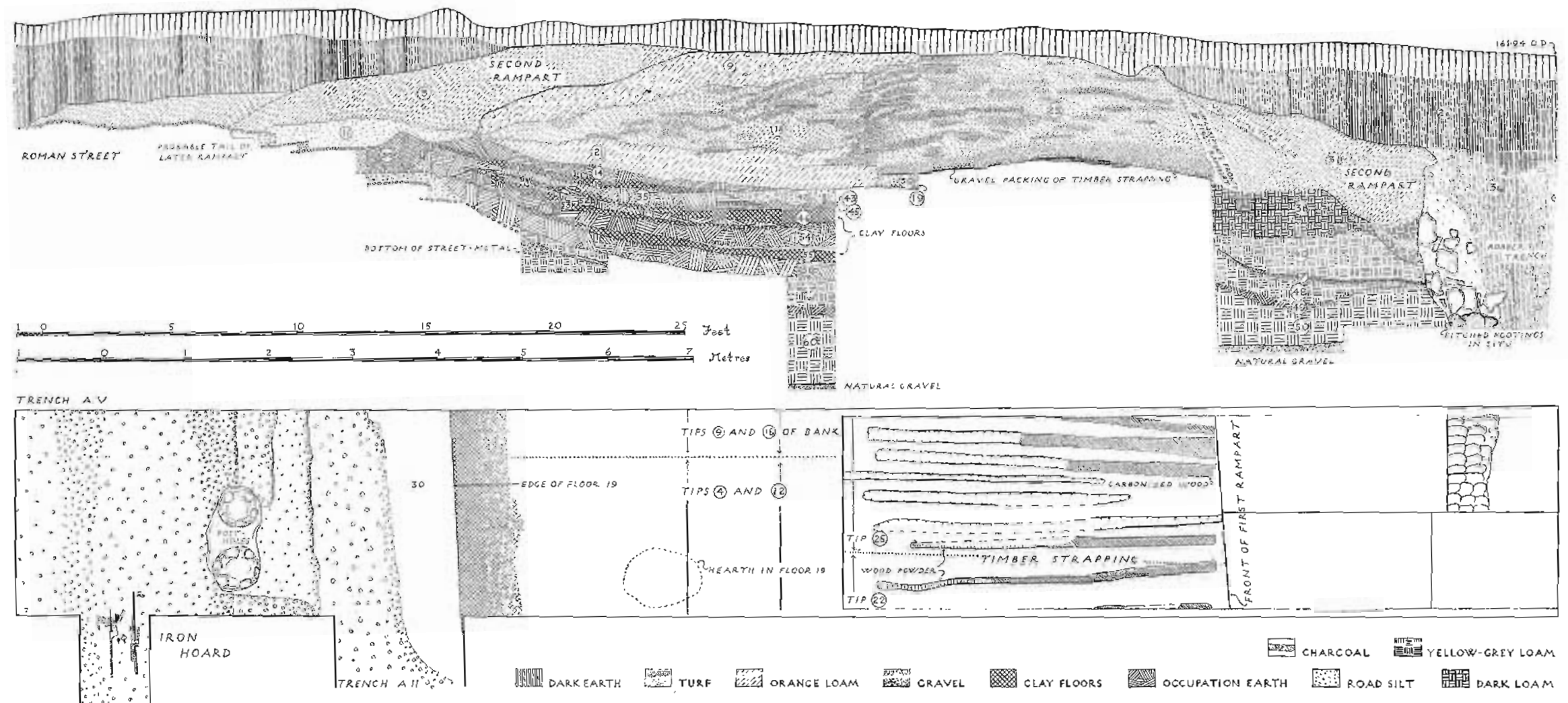


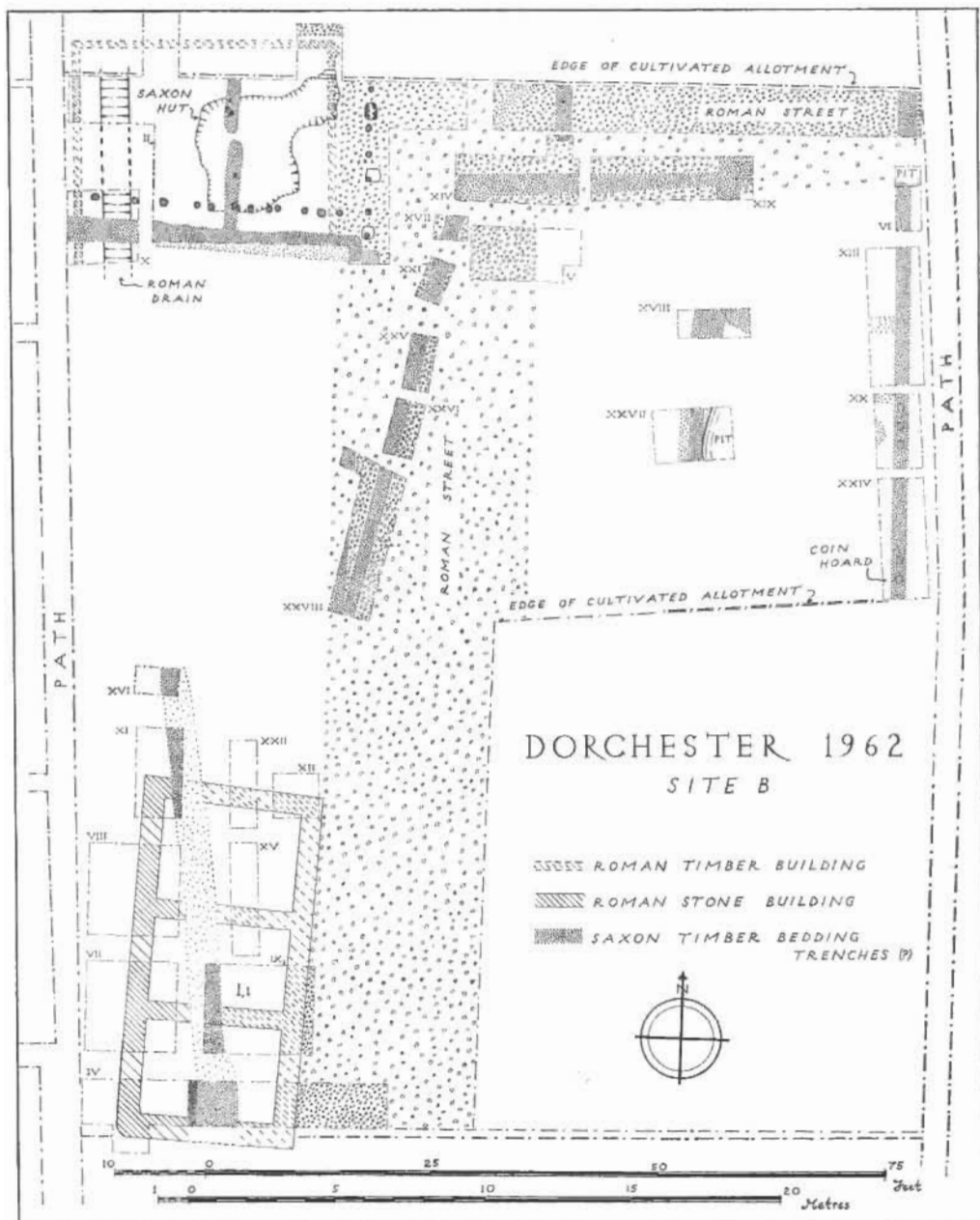
Fig. 4. Plan and Section, Site A v

of two construction gangs, and the west face (Pl. IVB) presented a strikingly different appearance. The turf revetment was there, but (21) continued through the body of the rampart below it, while behind the revetment the place of (18) was taken by a pile of orange road-silt containing, however, a turf or two. At first it appeared possible that we were cutting across the edge of a gap through the first bank to accommodate the road which lies just west of the trench (Fig. 2), and that (18) might be an *ascensus*. But the absence of gate-posts, the continuity of the strapping over the whole trench, the fact that the line of division between the two halves of the trench was not a continuous line (see dotted indication on Fig. 4, plan), and the mutual inter-relationships of the various layers behind and in front of the revetment, show that gang-work is the most likely explanation of the differences. One other possible explanation might account for them: the presence of a wooden gate just west of the trench, its later removal leading to a collapse of the vertical sides of the passage followed by a plugging of the gap. Further work would be required to settle the point: but the continued presence of the turf revetment in the west face of the trench, where on this theory it should be part of the plugging, militates against it.

The front of the early rampart could not be distinguished: it is taken to lie where the strapping ends and where turves are no longer visible. Later it had decayed and silted forwards, the turves disintegrating into yellow loam, and a faint vegetation-line was observed at the angle of rest. Later still, the foundations of the town wall were inserted in front of this talus (Pl. IIA), and the bank was widened, and no doubt heightened, by the addition of layers (3) and (31).

Layer (3) had eventually spread northward to cover the whole of the east-west street, but it is practically certain that the bank was originally designed to respect the street: a large double post-hole at the edge of the upper metalling was no doubt part of a revetment. The thin layer of bank-material over the street produced 4th-century red colour-coated sherds, which were absent from the body of (3), and a late 4th-century piece of glass (Fig. 20, 2). Buried in this silting there was found an interesting hoard of iron-work (Pl. VIIA), including a plough-coulter, a crowbar-like implement which may be a ploughshare, and other fittings. This has still to be cleaned and studied. Sealing this whole deposit was (2), a thick layer of dark soil containing much 4th-century pottery (Fig. 18). Though no Saxon or medieval sherds were found in it, it is possible that this accumulation is of post-Roman date.

Roman pottery was both more plentiful and better stratified than on Site C. Accurate dating of local Romano-British wares, however, is hindered by the almost total absence of published stratified groups in the region to which well-founded dates can be assigned. To remedy this state of affairs rather more pottery from successive levels is offered than would otherwise have been necessary, but extensive parallels have not been quoted since the stratification and association for the most part speaks for itself. Thus a beginning has been made in constructing a dated series for Dorchester and its region covering at



least the first two centuries. In the lists below (Appendix II, pp. 135-145) each group is taken together, listing first the coins, secondly the samian and thirdly the coarse pottery, layer by layer.

#### THE ROMAN STREET PLAN

The alignment of the Alchester road coming from the north appears to be pointing to the Thame crossing (Fig. 1). A north-south street of gravel was encountered on site B. If produced northwards, this street reaches the north gate to intercept the Alchester road. It does not however divide the walled enclosure equally; and at the south end, after probably making contact with the east-west street behind the defences, it continues south on a line set about 25 ft. further west. This continuation was sealed beneath the second rampart (so that there was no gate in the wall at this point): it is probably sealed beneath the first rampart also. First and second-century pottery can be found in the gardens of the new housing-estate at Tenpenny, and it is possible that a conquest-period fort occupied this site (p. 129); but it is not yet clear how far these factors influenced the street pattern. The oblique alignment of the north-south street might be due to a fort, or it might be aligned on an entrance through the east end of the Dorchester Dykes. A second cross-street running east was found at the north edge of Site B, but its width could not be determined.

#### INTERNAL STRUCTURES, SITE B

##### *Late Roman Stone Building, Insula I, 1*

At the south end of Site B (Fig. 5) the stone footings of a small building lay adjacent to the west side of the north-south street. A small cut in the neighbouring allotment established its south-west corner; the building measures 40 ft. by 19 ft. 6 in., and contains three rooms with external walls 2 ft. 4 in. wide and internal walls of 2 ft. (Fig. 6). The western external wall and adjoining portions of the others survived as very shallow footings of limestone set in mortar, at the most two courses thick (Pl. IVa), resting without foundations directly on the underlying layers. It is probable that such flimsy bottoming supported a half-timbered upper structure. The eastern two-thirds of the building had been entirely robbed away, and a curious feature of the robber-trenches was that they were cut about 2 ft. below the bottom of the walls. Outside the west wall was an area of rough limestone cobbles. At the south end of room 1 the robber-trench of the party wall was found in trench xv at its expected position, but two feet north of it was a limestone foundation resembling that of the building; this did not appear to be mortared, and could not be followed up.

The building overlay a coin of Honorius of A.D. 394-5<sup>2</sup> in very worn condition (see Fig. 6, section). It is not, however, a medieval structure since it is cut through by a Saxon foundation-trench; moreover the latest material

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Carson, Hill & Kent, *Late Roman Bronze Coinage* (1960) II, 349.

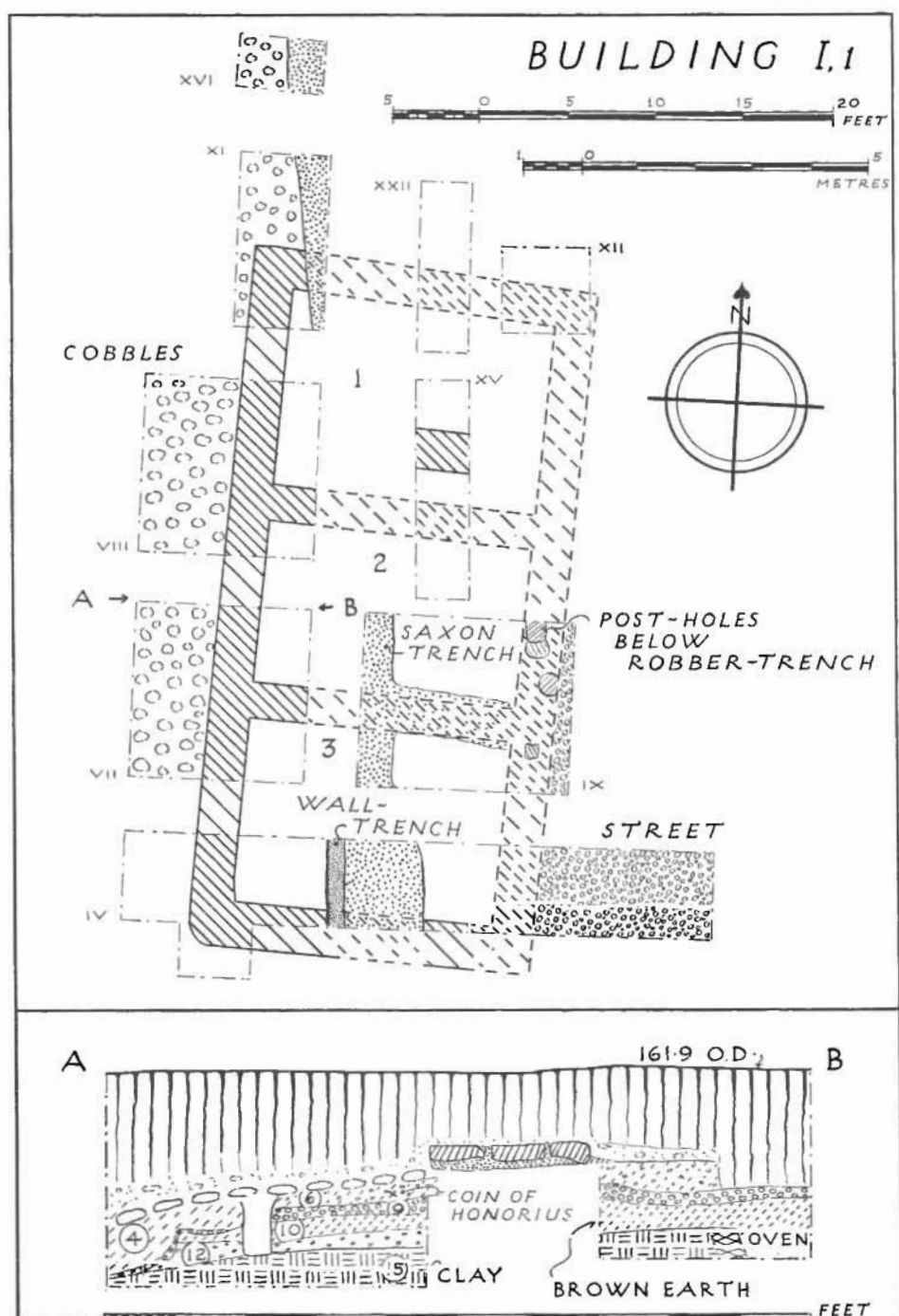


Fig. 6. Site B, Building I, 1

in the robber-trenches was Saxon. It can be securely dated, therefore, to the first half, and probably the first quarter, of the 5th century.

Below the building was a series of layers belonging to timber-framed buildings containing samian of the 1st and 2nd centuries<sup>1</sup>; but they were so badly cut about by Roman pits and later robber-trenches that very little was recorded of their plans except that they faced the street (the metalling of which is 4 ft. thick). There were no certain traces of pre-Flavian occupation at this site, but Flavian and later occupation was intense.

#### *Early Saxon Hut (Figs. 7-11)*

At the north-west end of site B a Saxon hut was excavated, lying beside the north-south street to which its entrance led. The hut consisted of a hollow about 2 ft. 6 in. deep with sides which must have been vertical originally. The entrance at its north-east corner led down three small narrow steps into a short vestibule. The surface outside had been roughly metalled with limestone flags where the ground was soft over the corner post-hole of a Roman timber-framed building below (Fig. 5), and into this they had partly subsided. At the foot of the steps a rectangular hollow, some 7 in. deep, perhaps held a wooden tread. The top two steps had risers and treads of about 5-6 in. but the bottom riser was about 10 in., which suggests a wooden block set in the hollow and projecting above it to form the first tread. Round the sides of the hut-hollow and into the entrance vestibule ran a series of stake-holes (Fig. 8); on the east side of the vestibule were two larger post-holes, but these may have belonged to the Roman structure, the east wall of which adjoined the street on this line. The arrangement of the stakes suggests that they represent not a revetment pure and simple but some sort of benching or lockers or bedding round the sides, which only incidentally revetted the edge. In the north-west corner was the remains of a hearth and near it a rectangular hollow in the floor some 5 in. deep, which perhaps contained a fuel-box.

The hut-hollow had been gradually filled up by successive re-floorings: these were of yellow loam, which very likely came from successive reconstructions of the surrounding walls. In one of these stages, seen in Fig. 9, there was a 6 in. step down from the entrance passage into the hut proper, and further west another of 3 in. In this area, but at this level only here, was another mass of stake-holes (which are hard to explain unless they supported floor-boards), and nearby another hollow once again adjoining the hearth: this one contained a ring of stake-holes. Other similar roughly rectangular hollows (but without stakes) occurred in subsequent floors. All were filled with rather clean sandy earth. In all phases the hearths were in the north-west corner; after the early phases they tended to be right up against the edge. They were badly preserved, but some may have been ovens rather than open fires (Fig. 10); it was difficult to decide, owing to the disturbance caused in this area by the later wooden foundation-trench, whether in some phases both hearth and oven were present together, but the large number found

<sup>1</sup> e.g., Fig. 14, 13: form 29, South Gaulish, c. A.D. 75-85 (from B VII, (15), see Fig. 6, section).



suggests that this is so. All were constructed in hollows, from 4 to 10 in. deep, sunk below the contemporary floors, clay-lined with successive burnt loam floors (Pl. VIb); some were burnt hard, some only slightly burnt. Between the burnt surfaces were make-up layers mainly of clean yellow loam, containing sometimes crushed Roman pottery,<sup>1</sup> sometimes gravel. One, which was certainly an oven, was floored with pieces of limestone bordered with rough limestone lumps and with traces of a clay lining.<sup>2</sup> There were shaped pieces of burnt daub in the main hut-hollow, and also in some of the floors: these reinforce the suggestion of ovens. Two ovens were partly ringed round with 2 in. stake-holes (Fig. 10), the stakes being both in the wall and also in the red floor. The floors of the hut were kept remarkably clean. In the south part they consisted of yellow loam sometimes incorporating chunks of oven, and were divided from each other only by their occupation layers with few finds and no pottery; in the entrance-vestibule the floors had been converted to trampled sandy earth containing a few Saxon sherds. The uppermost floor was capped with gravel which had been burnt red, and above it lay dark soil with much daub both burnt and unburnt, together with charcoal. It was evident that the hut had been burnt down. This latest floor could be traced on the south side beyond the limits of the hut-hollow for about 1 ft. at one point; it thus sealed at least one row of the surrounding post-holes, and suggested that the hut had been successively enlarged.

Surrounding the hut-hollow was a forest of post-holes (Pl. V) from 5 to 12 in. deep. It was impossible on grounds of size, depth or filling to make a coherent pattern of these. On Fig. 9 they are shown undifferentiated (except for those which from their burnt daub content might be supposed to be the latest). On Fig. 8, however, certain of them have been arbitrarily selected for emphasis as making possible alignments.

Reconstruction of such a building is difficult. No rectangular pattern can be imposed on the post-hole plan. Two possible methods of roofing the irregular outline suggested on Fig. 8 are illustrated<sup>3</sup> on Fig. 7. In (A) the roof has been given a short ridge which allows more full-length main rafters; and the smoke can escape through louvres below the ridge-ends. In (B) the roof is conical, and again smoke escapes through a vent below the apex. In each case the thrust of the roof is reduced by horizontal timbers round the top of the walls, and it is possible that further cross-ties were employed higher up.

After the destruction of the hut, rubbish had been deposited in two scoops (Fig. 9, section A-B (10) and C-D (24)). The latter lay over the entrance to the hut and contained many animal bones. Associated with it was a small structure consisting of two lines of post-holes (Fig. 11). It was impossible to say whether this had happened earlier or later than the life-time of the building next to be described.

<sup>1</sup> e.g., Fig. 14, 12: form 37, South Gaulish, c. A.D. 70-80. Fig. 14, 14, stamp of Calendio, was unstratified above the hut.

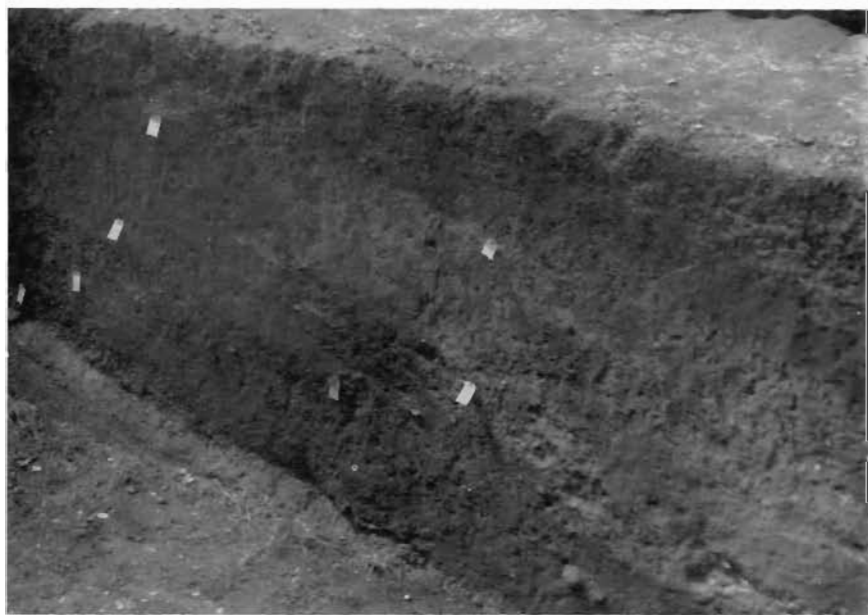
<sup>2</sup> One of the upper ovens (Pl. VIb), which happened to be fairly well preserved, was sampled for remanent magnetism by the Oxford Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art.

The results were rather scattered, but indicated that the magnetic directions were roughly an angle of dip of 62° and a declination of 1° west. See *Archaeometry*, v (1962), 11, 20, 25.

<sup>3</sup> I am indebted to my wife for making these drawings.



A. Trench Bvii looking west, showing 5th-century foundations of building I, 1. (p. 121)



B. Trench Av, east face showing orange road-silt (12) behind the turf revetment to left. (p. 119)



A. North part of 6th-century Saxon hut from the east showing entrance vestibule: later post-holes in foreground. (pp. 123, 125)

B. Saxon hut and surrounding post-holes, with later foundation trench to left: looking west.



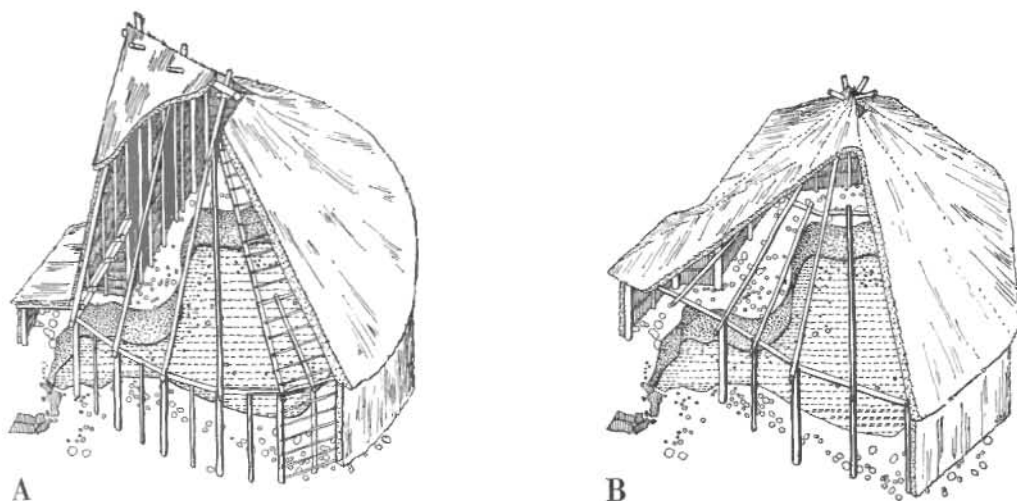


Fig. 7. Reconstructions of the Saxon hut

*Later Saxon wooden buildings*

A.—Cutting through the destroyed remains of the early Saxon hut was part of a larger, more regular wooden building. A main wall ran east-west just south of the hut (Fig. 9): this appeared as a trench 2 ft. deep and 2 ft. 10 in. wide in which areas of loose brown earth alternated with areas of original packing with Roman mortary rubble. The loose brown earth was usually splayed out towards the top, indicating that the uprights it represented had been removed by rocking them in the trench. The uprights had stood at approximately 3 ft. intervals, centre to centre. Parallel with this wall and just over 3 ft. north of it was a row of post-holes 5–6 in. in diameter at the top, tapering to 3 in. at the bottom, and about 2 ft. deep. A line of similar but slightly larger posts ran north from the east end of the main wall. The south post of this row may have been a replacement, since it had packing stones in a slightly larger hole than usual. The second post north of this stood in the corner of a shallow square hole, which was perhaps the base of the original excavation into the corner of which the actual post was hammered deeper. Three posts north of this again was a cluster of seven smaller holes in a similar hollow (Pl. VA); as they are in line with the others and had similar tapering shapes and dark fillings, they are taken to be part of this structure. A narrow trench dug for 13 ft. 6 in. northwards into the cultivated allotment (Fig. 5) failed to find any return wall. Cutting through the earlier hut itself was an internal partition in two parts. The southern 11–12 ft. of this had been reconstructed twice. Only in the third phase was it continued northwards by a separate foundation trench in alignment but with its centre 8 in. further west. Owing to the impossibility of stripping the cultivated allotments to the north and west it cannot be decided whether this length of trench (18) is blocking an earlier central doorway, but the absence of any east-west return for at least 30 ft. north of the

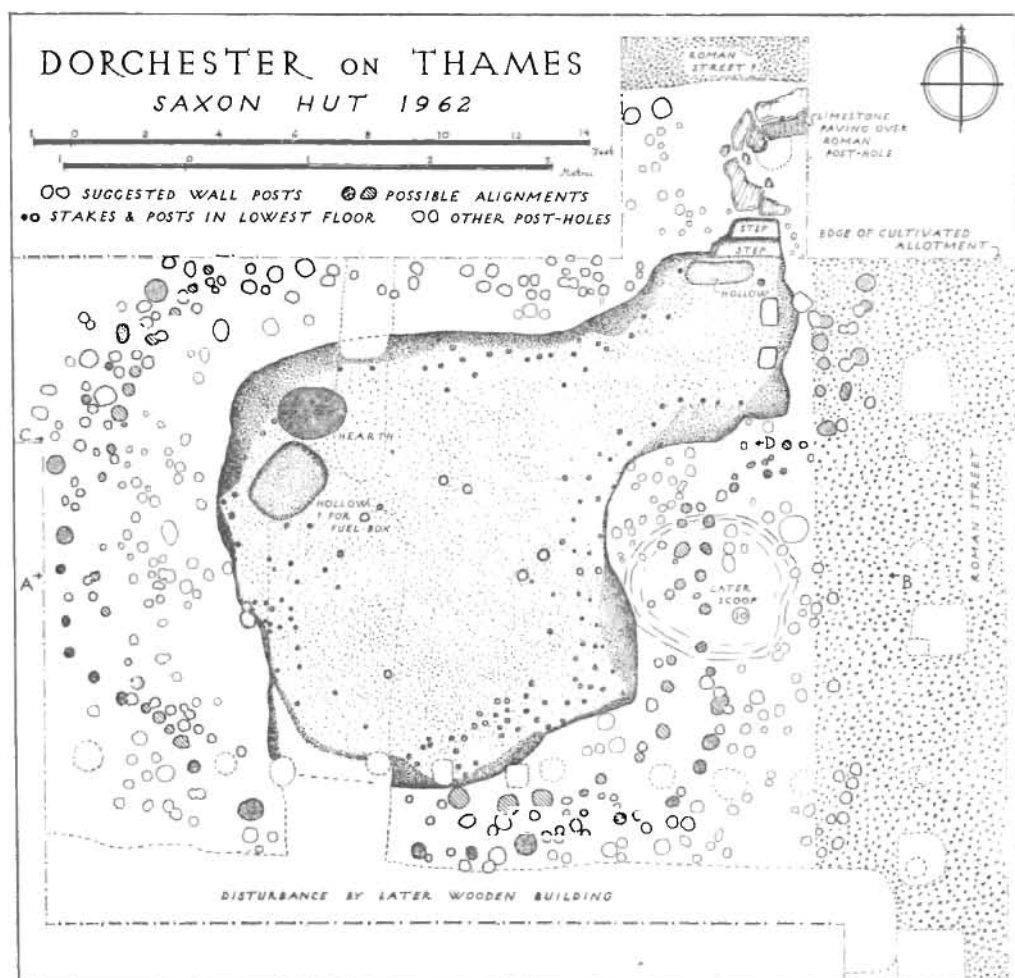


Fig. 8. The Saxon hut, first phase

south wall suggests that it is possible. The position of upright posts in these cross-trenches could sometimes be identified.

It is obvious that much of this building lies north and west of the area explored: it is possible that it continues southwards also, since a foundation trench in alignment with the east end of the building was found in trench B xxviii: but this was discovered on the last day of the excavation and could not be followed up. No pottery later than Saxon was found in these foundation trenches except one glazed medieval sherd in the very top of the east-west trench. Though most of the sherds must have come from the disturbed hut below, the absence of later finds suggests a Saxon date for the structure. Two small sherds of Badorf ware from B ix and a late Saxon jar (Fig. 21, 19) from B iv, prove occupation of the area in or soon after the 9th century.

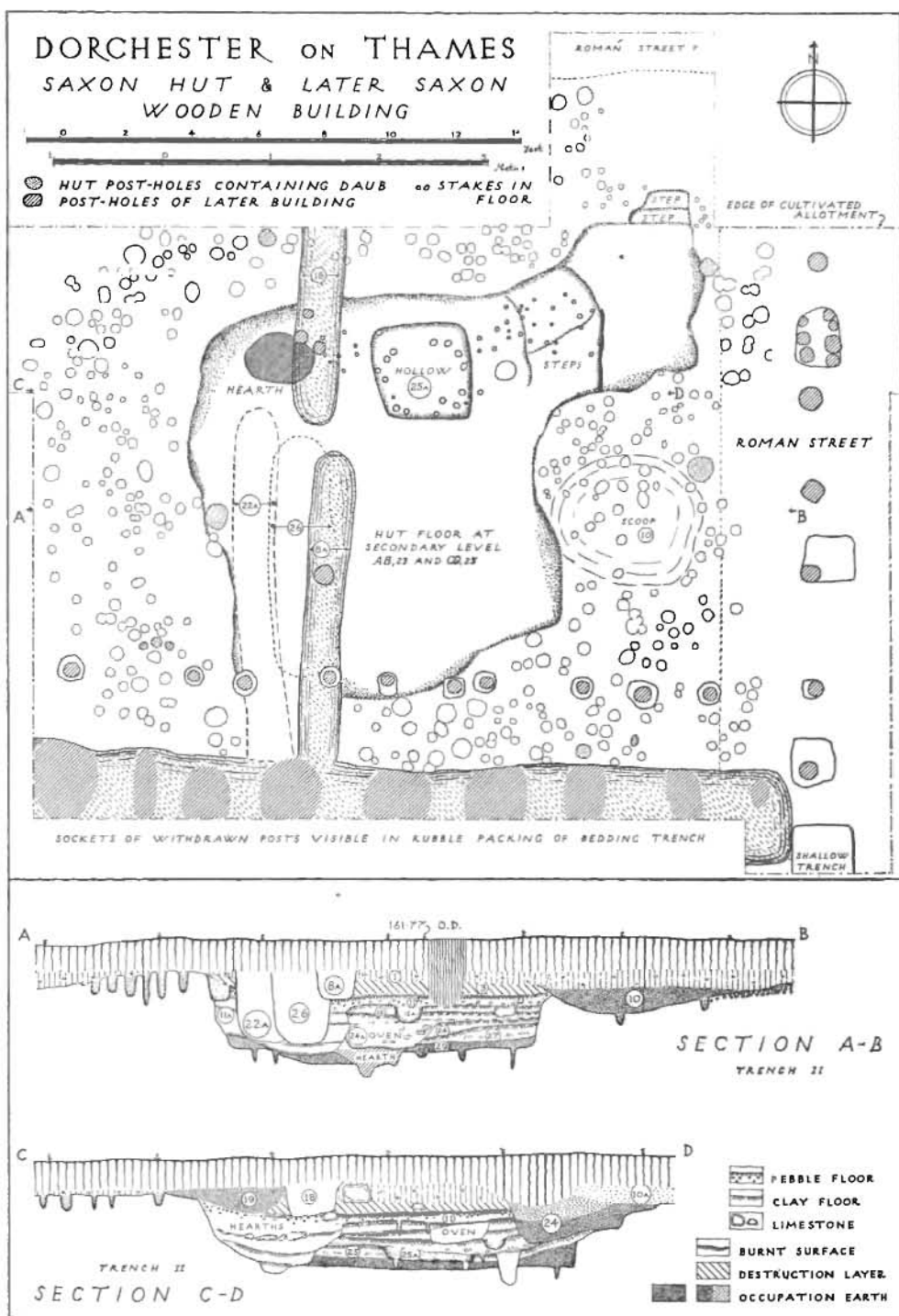


Fig. 9. The Saxon hut, secondary phase



B.—A long north-south wall was found at the east side of Site B (Fig. 5) in trenches I, VI, XIII, XX and XXIV; in two of these, impressions of squared uprights 10 by 10 in. were identified. The foundation trench appeared to have disturbed a hoard of 43 coins, largely of Honorius and Arcadius, at the south end of XXIV. Other foundation trenches were encountered nearby, one of which (in trench XIV) had been recut. There was, however, no dating evidence apart from the disturbed hoard, since these trenches contained only late Roman pottery. Since, however, some of them are cut through the Roman street-metalling it is evident that they are later. More extensive stripping will be necessary before sense can be made of this complex.

In trench B IV another foundation trench 4 ft. 6 in. wide at the top and some 3 ft. deep was found; it ran northwards cutting through Building I, 1. Below its western side was a narrower earlier foundation trench 8 in. wide and some 2 ft. deep, also of Saxon date.

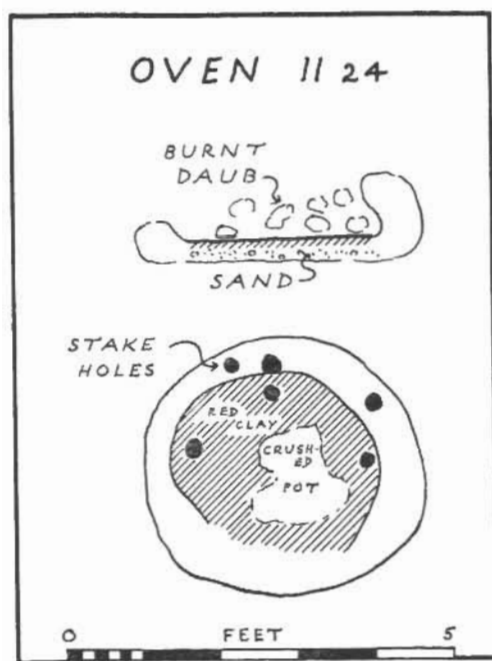


Fig. 10. Saxon oven

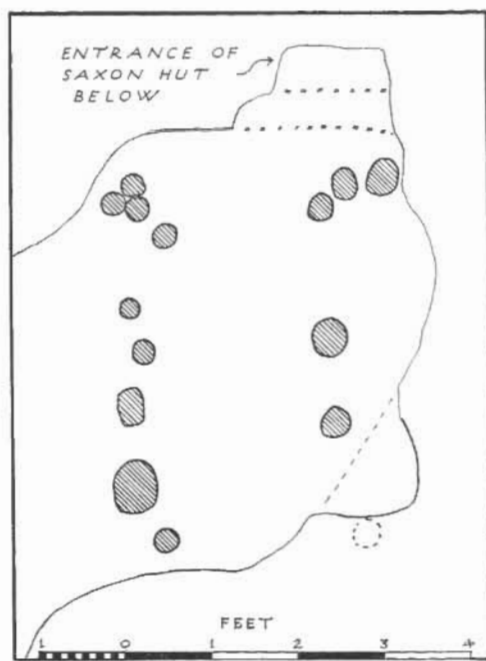


Fig. 11. Wooden structure overlying entrance to Saxon hut

### CONCLUSIONS

It seems very probable that Dorchester began as a pre-Roman Belgic settlement. Pottery of this date was plentiful on site C where two Belgic coins were found. Similar Belgic pottery occurred at site A, and here also two Belgic coins were found (pp. 131, 140). Add to this the 18 pre-Roman coins found

in the area previously<sup>1</sup> and virtual certainty of Belgic occupation in the vicinity appears, though we do not yet know what part the settlement within the Dyke Hills<sup>2</sup> played in this distribution. Native Belgic pottery in the excavations was always associated with Gallo-Belgic imports, themselves of Tiberio-Claudian types. Thus its date is late within the Belgic period, and it is just possible that it could be explained as a native settlement newly sprung up beside a Claudian fort. Such a fort is not yet attested, but suggestive crop marks yet to be investigated were observed south of the village (Fig. 1). The native settlement is characterized by gullies or drainage ditches which appeared below the western ramparts both in 1935-6 and in 1962; these probably define fields. Simple ditched field systems, yielding Romano-British pottery, were recently investigated just north-west of Dorchester by the Oxford University Archaeological Society.<sup>3</sup>

During the 1st and 2nd centuries the settlement contained timber-framed buildings of a somewhat lowly sort with clay floors on which some thickness of occupation was allowed to accumulate. Traces of such buildings were found below the south ramparts, below the stone building I, 1, and also below the Saxon hut; but little is at present known of their plans.

A study of the pottery (see Appendices) shows that the local Oxfordshire potters were experimenting with brown colour-coat and white slip decoration as early as the period A.D. 80-115 (Nos. 70, 71, *cf.* 125); and the bright red colour-coat which became so common in the 4th century begins to appear no later than *c.* A.D. 185 (No. 144). The potters were also stamping some of their vessels in the later 2nd century (No. 135, *cf.* No. 206). Mortaria were introduced from outside in the 1st and early 2nd centuries, mainly from the Verulamium region, but local production was catching up from *c.* A.D. 110 (p. 146). Another interesting result is the discovery that Dorchester was receiving the products of the Midland (?) kilns which manufactured that black-burnished ware which was so widely exported to military sites in the north (Nos. 42, 126, 155, 159, 162, 165-6, 168, 190). This enables close dates to be fixed for the layers in which these products occur. The introduction begins with Gillam<sup>4</sup> types 306-7, and 123-4 in the period A.D. 125-160 and then becomes more frequent.

#### *Date of the Defences*

At the end of the 2nd century an earth rampart was erected around the town and at a subsequent period a wall was constructed in front of this rampart and the bank extended. The evidence on which the dates of these events is to be calculated is set out above and in Appendices I and II. In summary the salient points are as follows. Below the first rampart is a series of stratified layers (Site A), the contents of which end with Hadrianic-Antonine samian and a dish (No. 126) of Gillam type 307 dated A.D. 125-160. On this showing, the first rampart, which overlies a coin of 154-5 in layer 21, could be as early

<sup>1</sup> See detailed site lists in Allen, 'Origins' (in *Frere, Problems of the Iron Age in Southern Britain*).

<sup>2</sup> *Oxoniensis*, III (1938), 169-71 and fig. 20.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, XXIII (1958), 131; XXIV (1959), 99; XXV (1960), 131.

<sup>4</sup> J. P. Gillam, 'Types of Roman Coarse Pottery Vessels in Northern Britain', *Arch. Ael.*, 4th series, XXXV (1957).

as c. A.D. 160. But though its core on Site A (layer 25) produced only two vessels of samian form 31, which need be no later, on Site C layer 30 produced a dish (No. 42) of Gillam type 310, which does not appear in the north before c. A.D. 170. Moreover, on Site A, layer 38 which ante-dates the first rampart produced (No. 60) a sherd of colour-coated beaker of general hunt-cup type which is not usually thought to appear before c. A.D. 170-180.<sup>1</sup> And it should not be forgotten that the 1935-6 Section C produced<sup>2</sup> two pieces of a samian f.37 in the style of ADVOCISUS, whose period of activity is today placed<sup>3</sup> c. A.D. 160-190: these sherds certainly came from the primary rampart. Sherds of a vessel by CETTUS of identical date came from the additions to the primary core of the rampart on Site A (layer 12), and it has been argued that layers 12, 18, 4 and 9 in this section are all part of the original construction of the bank. Layer 12 also produced three black-burnished ware vessels of the period A.D. 160-200 (Nos. 162, 165, 166), and one (No. 159) of Gillam type 66, dated A.D. 180-250. Thus a date as late as 190-200 would be possible for this defence; but in view of the difficulty of extending the life of the underlying wooden buildings as late as this, a date c. A.D. 185 is suggested for the first rampart.

The town wall must be dated by the contents of the second rampart (3) and (31), and related layers. In fact most of this material was not later than late Antonine; but in trench A 1, on the road below the bank, was a 3rd-century mortarium (No. 242), and in the rampart in the same trench two 3rd-century mortaria (Nos. 243, 244), of which the former possibly dates after A.D. 250. A date in the second half of the 3rd century, probably c. A.D. 270-290, would be reasonable in view of the date of the original defences, and is supported by that now known for the town wall of Canterbury.

Though no section was cut through the ditches in 1962, it is clear from the 1935-6 report that a V-shaped ditch contemporary with the earth rampart was succeeded by a wide flat-bottomed ditch of the type recognized today as of 4th-century pattern. This would suggest that external towers were added to the wall c. A.D. 360, but it is just possible that the ditch is contemporary with the wall.

That the town still existed in the early 5th century is clear both from the masonry building I, 1, and from the evidence of the contemporary Germanic burials from the Dyke Hills and from north of the town.<sup>4</sup> These, as Mrs. Hawkes has shown, were certainly Roman troops of a sort, and it can hardly be doubted that they were garrisoning the town. The sherds of Anglo-Frisian pottery (Fig. 21), though not directly related to the hut found on Site B, point to Saxon occupation in the middle or second half of the 5th century. The hut itself is probably rather later than this, and is best placed about the middle of the 6th century, though its relationship to the Roman street might tempt one to think it before rather than after 550. A comparison of the pottery from the

<sup>1</sup> Kenyon, *Jewry Wall Site, Leicester* (Soc. of Antiquaries Research Report, 15 (1948)), 120.

<sup>2</sup> *Oxoniensis*, II (1937), 52 and fig. 14, 6.

<sup>3</sup> Stanfield and Simpson, *Central Gaulish Potters* (1958), 207.

<sup>4</sup> *Oxoniensis*, XVII/XVIII (1952-3), 63-76, and S. C. Hawkes, *Medieval Archaeology*, V (1961), 1 ff.



A. Entrance vestibule of Saxon hut, looking east. (p.123)



B. Oven in Saxon hut. (p.124)



A. Iron Hoard lying on street in trench Av,  
looking south-west. (p. 119)



B. Sherd (No. 167) in orange ware with figures in cream slip (almost  $\frac{1}{2}$ ) (p. 139)



hut with that from similar huts at Sutton Courtenay and Cassington is made below (see Appendix V, p. 149).

It is probably significant that the one certain trace of a rectilinear Saxon building is subsequent to the hut. It has been a matter of controversy whether such huts were independent habitations or were specialist buildings such as cooking or weaving huts attached to larger buildings on the adjacent surface.<sup>1</sup> Though it is impossible to prove that this hut is not a cooking hut (since it contained hearths and ovens), no contemporary surface structure has yet appeared and the hut itself is entered from the Roman street as if it were a building in its own right. A rather similar state of affairs was found in 1960 at Canterbury when a row of six of these huts lay parallel to, but about 30 ft. from, a Roman street.


Dr. W. A. van Es tells me that in Holland such huts are certainly outhouses of larger dwellings during the Roman period, but that in the migration period the situation is less clear, and the question is still controversial. At Cassington Mr. E. M. Jope found only huts, despite clearance of a large area.<sup>2</sup> It would seem quite natural to assume that the type of man represented by the ordinary mercenary soldier and his descendants in the towns of Britain should require no more than this sort of habitation. The hut itself is of less regular outline than its continental analogies. At present we know all too little about this type of structure, especially as in some earlier excavations no search was made for post-holes on the surface, round the hollow. But even on existing knowledge it is clear that several different types exist, some having major post-holes in the hollow itself, and some with these on the surface outside. Both types are represented at Canterbury, but only the first type seems to have parallels on the continent.

At a later date a rectangular hall-like (?) structure replaced the hut. Direct dating evidence is lacking, but it may be significant that sherds of 9th or 10th-century ware were found nearby. Very little medieval pottery was found in the excavations. A rim-sherd of the second quarter of the 12th century from the robber trench suggested that the town wall was destroyed about this date.<sup>3</sup>

#### APPENDIX I

##### THE DATING EVIDENCE FOR SITE C

###### A. BELGIC COINS<sup>4</sup>

1. Rampart: (8). Mack 221, AE, 36-882 grains.
2. Layer (40). New type, AR, 14-815 grains. Obverse: head, probably to right, bearded, but details obscure. Reverse: horse left,  below.

<sup>1</sup> See C. A. Raleigh Radford, 'The Saxon House,' *Medieval Archaeology* I (1957), 27-38, esp. 37.

<sup>2</sup> See *Medieval Archaeology*, VI, forthcoming.

<sup>3</sup> The sherd has been seen by Mr. E. M. Jope, who tells me that though the shape and method of construction occur as early as the second half of the 11th century, its fine harsh-gritted fabric is more appropriate to the first half of the 12th century. He compares vessel B1B17 from the Clarendon Hotel,

Oxford (*Oxoniensia*, XXIII (1958), fig. 16), which occurred in a floor sealing a late 11th-century well and itself earlier than a stone vault of c. 1150-70 (*ibid.*, p. 13), and he recalls the pot found in 1935-6 in the outer ditch at Dorchester (*Oxoniensia*, II (1937), 62 and fig. 17, 13) there associated (p. 64) with the foundation of the Abbey in 1140.

<sup>4</sup> I have to thank Mr. D. F. Allen for examining these coins.

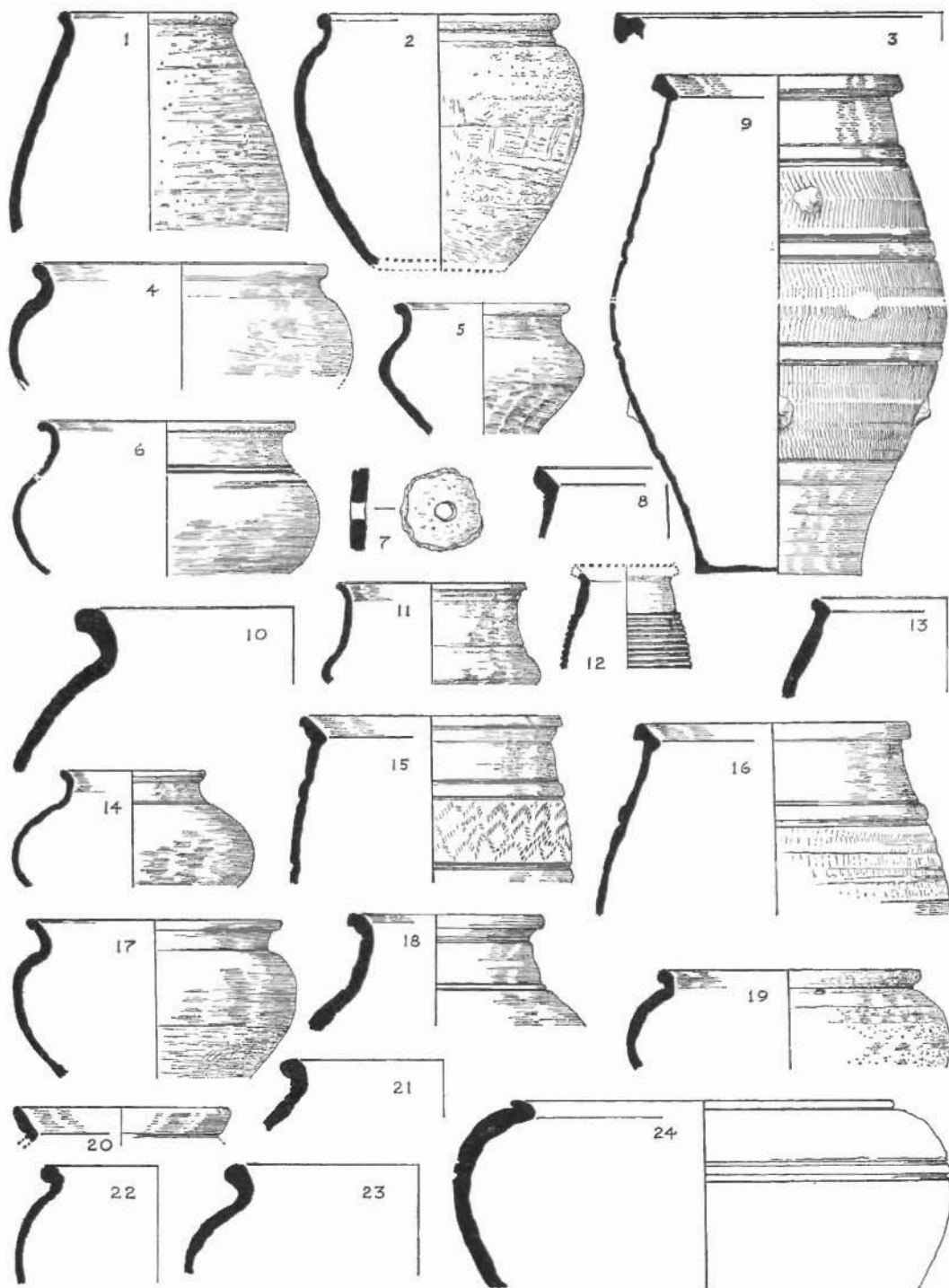


Fig. 12. Pottery, Site C (4)

B. SAMIAN POTTERY<sup>1</sup>

- Pre-rampart: (40) Loeschke 5, Gaulish, Tiberio-Claudian (Fig. 14, 15).  
f. 18, South Gaulish, probably Flavian.
- First rampart: (44) f. 18, South Gaulish, Neronian.  
(8) f. 33, Central Gaulish, Trajanic-Hadrianic.  
f. 33, Central Gaulish, Hadrianic-Antonine.
- Second rampart: (49) f. 18, South Gaulish, 1st-century.  
f. 18/31 R, South Gaulish, Flavian-Trajanic.

## C. BELGIC POTTERY (Figs. 12, 13)

*Provenance:* Nos. 1-3 from (73), the primary silt of the Belgic ditch; 4-10 from (68), and 25-27, 30-31 from (22), occupation soil over this ditch; 11-13, 19 from (74); 14-18, 20-24 from (59); 28-29 from (40); 32, 34 from (39); 33 from (57). The following were incorporated in the rampart: 35, 36, 38, 41 from (8); 37 from (5); 39 from (44), and 40 from (49).

1. Coarse granulated dark grey-brown ware with large and medium flint grits; uneven burnished surface; three sherds in (74). Cf. *Camulodunum*<sup>2</sup> 249D.
2. Dark grey-brown sandy ware, smoother than 1.
3. *Terra nigra* plate, light grey paste, dark grey-black surface.
- 4, 5, 6. Rather coarse finely granulated grey-buff ware, uneven burnished surface.
7. Spindle-whorl from dark grey storage-jar sherd.
8. Native butt-beaker, ware as 4.
9. Butt-beaker in sandy orange ware with applied bosses probably arranged quincunx; sherds also in (59). Probably imported.
10. Storage jar, porridgy grey-buff ware unevenly burnished.
11. Granulated orange ware, burnished outside.
12. Butt-beaker, finely granulated deep cream coarse ware, finely burnished. Perhaps an import.
- 13, 14. Finely granulated grey-buff (13) and dark grey (14) ware, burnished.
15. Native butt-beaker, finely granulated reddish ware, blackened surface; comb-stamped decoration.
16. Native butt-beaker, feintly rouletted; finely granulated buff ware, burnished. A good copy of an imported vessel.
- 17, 18. Finely granulated grey-buff ware, burnished; 18 has a few flint grits.
19. Coarse granulated dark grey ware with flint grits, burnished on rim and shoulder: rivet (?) perforation on shoulder.
20. Girth-beaker in *Terra rubra* 3.<sup>3</sup>
- 21, 22, 23. Coarse granulated light grey-brown ware with mixed grit.
24. Hard light grey sandy ware, not quite Romano-British, unevenly burnished from rim to below cordons. This form though not found at Camulodunum appears at Bagendon (form 151) and parallels exist at Prae Wood (*Verulamium*,<sup>4</sup> fig. 22, 4) and Stanton Harcourt (*Oxoniensis*, VIII/IX (1943-4), fig. 24, 4).
25. Coarse grey-buff ware, furrowed body.
26. Grey-buff ware, with medium flint-grit, burnished.
27. Dark grey granulated ware, unevenly burnished.
- 28, 29. Granulated buff (28) or grey (29) ware, rough surface, burnished rim and neck.
- 30, 31. Girth-beaker, rouletted (30), Globular beaker (31) (*Camulodunum*, 91A), both in *Terra rubra* 3.
32. Gallo-Belgic globular beaker, fine hard cream ware.

<sup>1</sup> Kindly identified and dated by Mr. B. R. Hartley, together with the other samian recorded below.

<sup>2</sup> C. F. C. Hawkes and M. R. Hull, *Camulodunum* (Soc. of Antiquaries Research Report, 14 (1947)).

<sup>3</sup> Cf. *Camulodunum*, 204, for classification of *Terra rubra*.

<sup>4</sup> R. E. M. & T. V. Wheeler, *Verulamium* (Soc. of Antiquaries Research Report, 11 (1936)).

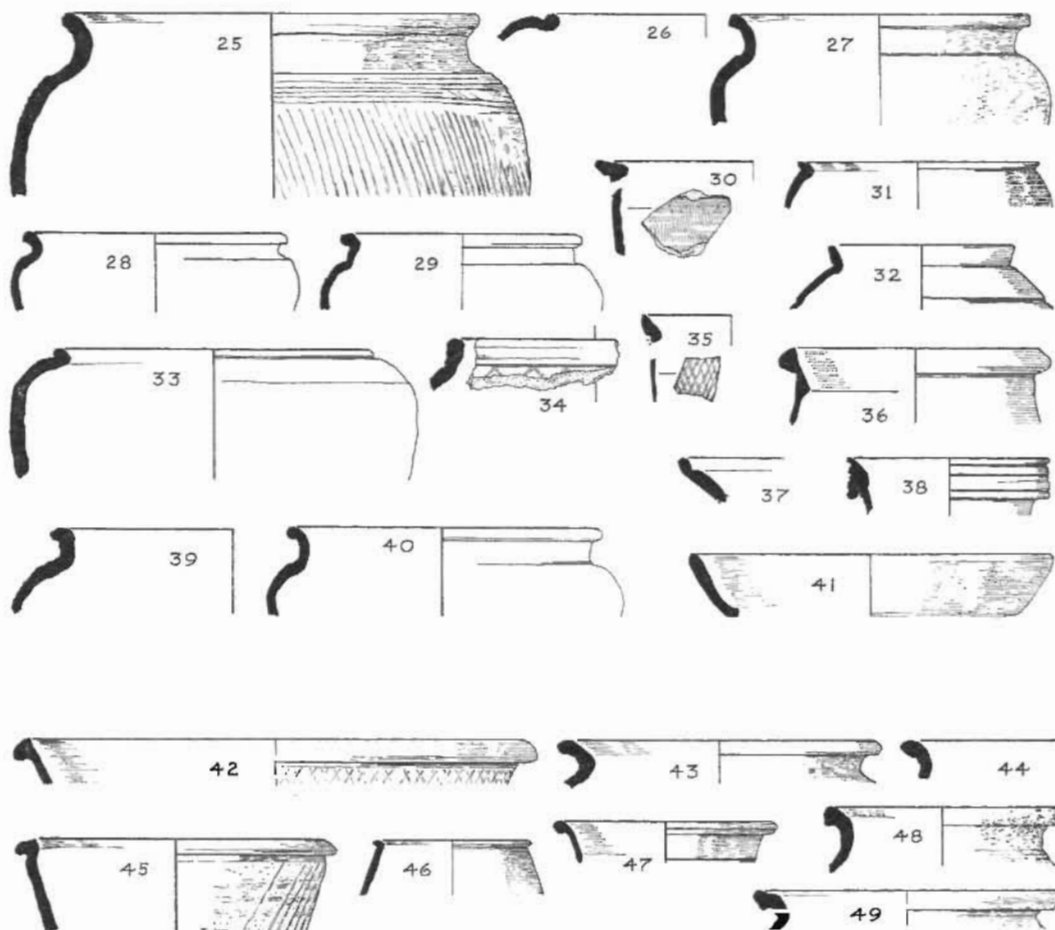


Fig. 13. Pottery, Site C (1)

- 33. Hard light grey ware, rough surface, burnished rim and shoulder.
- 34. Light grey ware, burnished rim, top of burnished chevrons.
- 35. Girth-beaker, incised decoration, *Terra rubra* 3.
- 36. Gallo-Belgic butt-beaker, fine cream ware.
- 37. *Terra nigra* plate, white paste, dark grey surface.
- 38. Jug, fine hard white ware burnt grey-black. Cf. *Camulodunum*, 163, Tiberio-Claudian.
- 39. Coarse granulated dark grey ware, rough surface, burnished on rim and neck.
- 40. Finely granulated grey ware, burnished.
- 41. *Terra nigra* plate, light grey paste, poor light bluish surface, worn.

The group is clearly not earlier than the reign of Tiberius, to judge by the imported pieces. The question of date is further discussed above (pp. 128-9).

#### D. POTTERY DATING THE RAMPART (Fig. 13)

*Provenance*: Nos. 42-44 come from the upper part of (30) below the bank; Nos. 45-47 from (5), a rampart-tip; Nos. 48-49 from (34), a post-rampart accumulation.

- 42. Black-burnished ware, slightly pink inside; cf. Gillam type 310 (A.D. 170-210).
- 43. Reddish core, light grey sandy surface.

- 44. Buff core, grey-black surface.
- 45. Hard sandy light grey ware.
- 46. Coarse grey sandy ware, burnished surface.
- 47. Fine hard grey ware, burnished.
- 48. Grey-buff calcite-gritted ware, probably 4th-century.
- 49. Light grey granulated ware.

Of these No. 42 is very significant; it is of non-local black-burnished ware, coming from the same kilns as supplied the military markets of the north, where this form did not arrive before *c.* A.D. 170. Nos. 48 and 49, later than the rampart, were associated with red colour-coated bowls resembling Nos. 215 and 220 below.

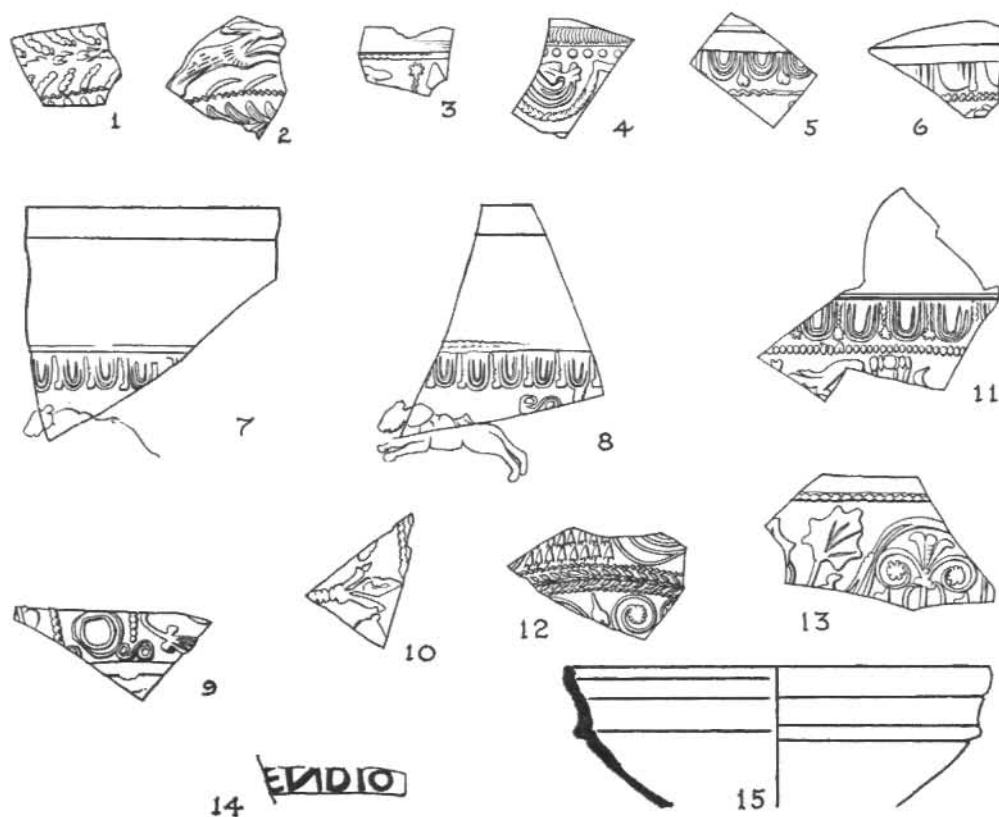


Fig. 14. Samian ware. No. 14 ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ), the rest ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )

(For nos. 1-3, see p. 137; nos. 4-6, p. 140; nos. 7-10, p. 141; no. 11, p. 143; nos. 12 & 14, p. 124 *n.*; no. 13, p. 123 *n.*; no. 15, p. 133.)

## APPENDIX II

### THE DATING EVIDENCE FOR SITE A

In the following lists, each group of finds is described together, first the coins and samian if any, and then the coarse pottery, layer by layer (see Fig. 4).

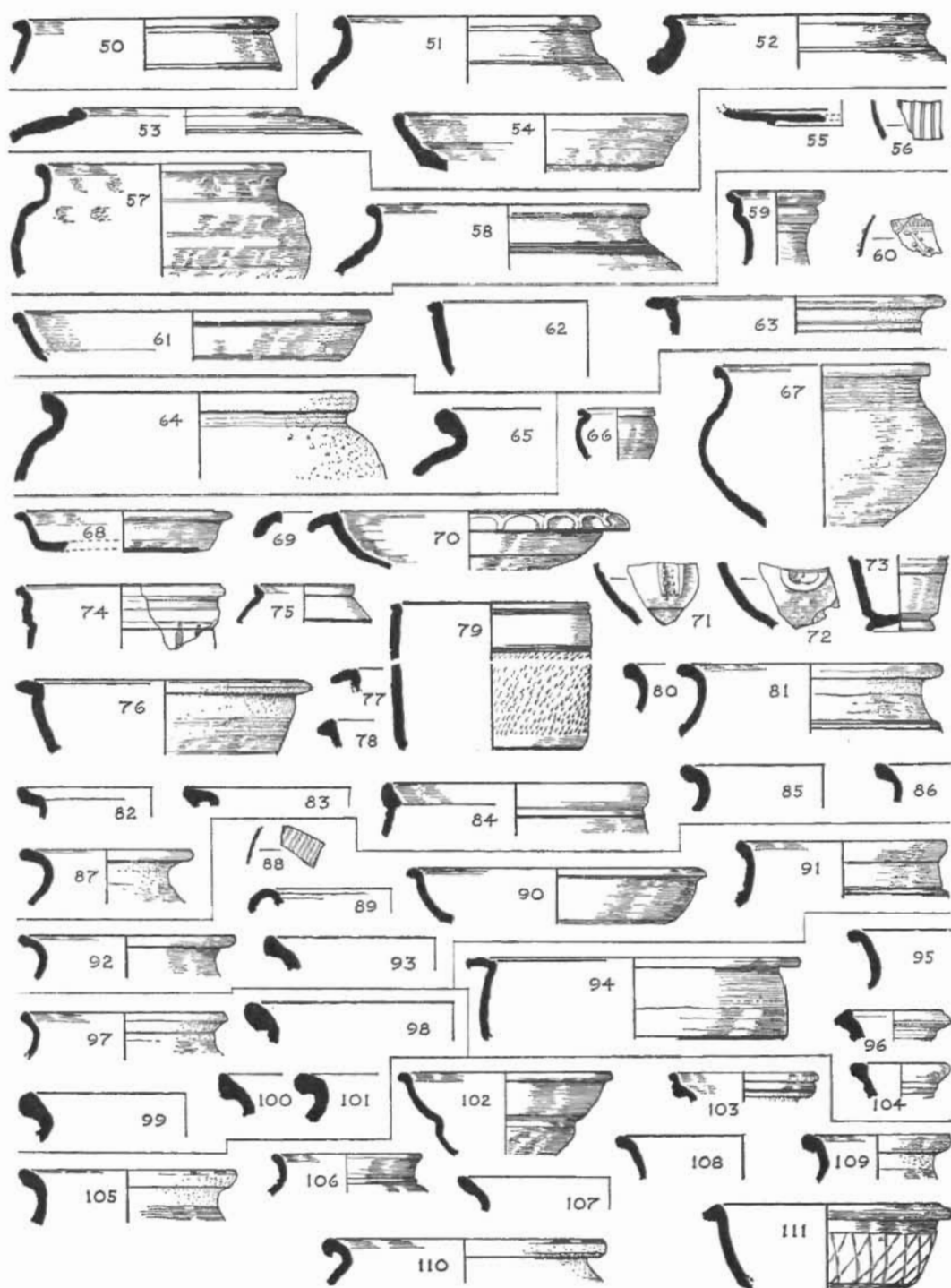


Fig. 15. Pottery, Site A (4)



## A. PRE-RAMPART DEPOSITS (Figs. 15, 16)

## Layer (49)

50. Finely granulated light grey ware, burnished. Belgic.

## Layer (48)

51. Finely granulated grey-brown ware, burnished.  
 52. Coarsely granulated dark grey-black ware, burnished.  
 53. Granulated grey-brown ware, unevenly burnished.  
 54. Native copy of Gallo-Belgic plate: finely granulated dark grey-brown ware, unevenly burnished.

All pottery Belgic.

## Layer (40)

Samian: forms 17 (two), 27, Claudian; and 27, 18, 15/17, Claudian-Neronian. All South Gaulish.

55. *Terra nigra* plate, rouletted: white paste, worn grey surface.  
 56. Girth beaker sherd, *Terra rubra* 3.  
 57. As 52: traces of finger-moulding inside neck, upper part burnished.  
 58. As 51.

All the above are Belgic, but there were also a few sherds in more Romanized fabric.

c. A.D. 43-70.

## Layer (38)

Samian: forms 27 (two), Claudian; 18R, 27, pre-Flavian; Ritt. 1 (?), probably Claudian; 18R, 37, 18 (four), 67, Flavian; all South Gaulish. 33, Trajanic, 27, probably Trajanic, Central Gaulish.

59. Hard fine grey ware, burnished: cf. *Camulodunum*, 134 (down to A.D. 65).  
 60. Beaker sherd: very fine hard orange paste, red-brown colour-coat, white slip decoration and rouletting. Oxfordshire kilns.  
 61, 62. Grey ware, 62 burnished outside only.  
 63. Grey gritty ware.

The latest samian is Trajanic, but dishes like Nos. 61, 62, do not appear much before 125-130; the layer was unsealed until the first rampart, c. A.D. 185. It appears to be exactly contemporary with the buildings represented by layers (55) - (19).

## Layer (56)

Samian: 18 R(?), Claudian-Neronian; Ritt. 7 (hole for rivet), Claudian; and uncertain form, pre-Flavian. All South Gaulish.

- 64, 65. Coarse hard light grey-buff sandy ware, some large flint grits (64), or mixed grit (65).  
 c. A.D. 43-65.

## Layer (54), occupation

Samian: eight Neronian sherds including f. 18 stamped OF PRIMI ; 37, c. A.D. 70-85 (Fig. 14, 2); 37, Flavian (Fig. 14, 1); 29, A.D. 70-80 (Fig. 14, 3); 29 (rim), Vespasianic; 18 (four), 27, Curle 11, 36, Flavian; 27 (illegible stamp), Flavian-Trajanic. All South Gaulish.

Glass: ribbed piece from bulbous-bodied flagon or jar of a type made in the Seine-Rhine area, c. A.D. 70-120.

- 66-69, 73. Fine hard light grey ware, burnished.  
 70, 71. Fine hard orange ware, red-brown colour-coat, white slip decoration. Oxfordshire kilns.  
 72. Lighter orange ware, burnished, white slip decoration.  
 74. Hard sandy white ware, brown slip decoration.

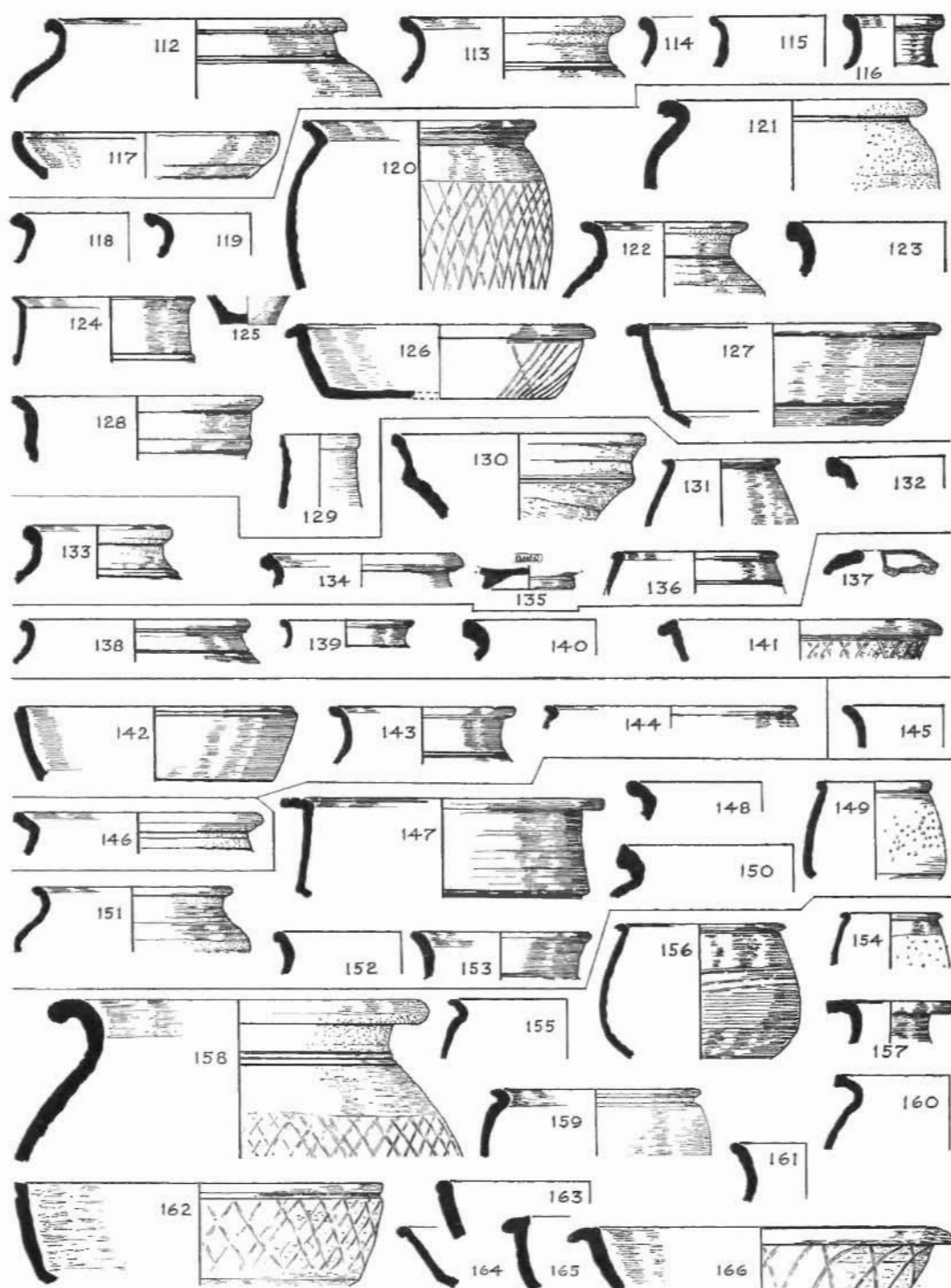


Fig. 16. Pottery, Site A (4)

- 75. Fine cream ware, burnished outside. Cf. Gillam 166 (A.D. 70-110).
- 76. Carinated bowl, hard gritty dark grey ware, partly burnished.
- 77. Fine grey-black ware, burnished.
- 78. Sandy grey-brown ware, burnished.
- 79. Sandy reddish ware, burnished slip, rouletted (?).
- 80, 81, 85-87. Light grey-buff gritty ware, partly burnished.
- 82, 83. Reddish-buff ware, grey-black surface.
- 84. Brown ware, partly burnished.
- 167. Fine hard orange ware, grey core; cream slip decoration, knife-trimmed (Pl. VIIb, Fig 17).<sup>1</sup>

The bulk of the samian is Flavian; so also is the bulk of the coarse ware; but 70, though of local manufacture, seems best placed as Trajanic (cf. *Jewry Wall*, 89) as is 76; while 78 is unlikely to be earlier than this, and may be later (but cf. *Roman Colchester*,<sup>2</sup> form 37 (A.D. 70-150). c. A.D. 80-115.

#### *Layer (53) clay floor*

Samian: f. 18/31, South Gaulish, Flavian.

- 88. Beaker sherd, fine hard whitish paste, glossy copper-coloured slip, red inside, rouletted. Probably an import.
- 89, 90, 91. Ware as 66.
- 92. Hard grey-buff ware, partly burnished; sooty lip.
- 93. Light grey gritty ware, burnished line on lip.

#### *Layer (52). occupation*

Samian: 3 Flavian sherds and f. 27, South Gaulish, Flavian-Trajanic.

- 94. As 66.
- 95. As 80.
- 96. Sandy whitish ware, yellow surface.
- 104. Smooth reddish ware.

Also a sherd from a folded beaker, hard grey ware, green-glazed; and a mortarium-sherd, late 1st or early 2nd century, possibly from the Verulamium region.

This appears to be a Hadrianic level. A.D. 115-135.

#### *Layer (46), clay floor*

Samian: f. 18/31, South Gaulish, Flavian-Trajanic.

- 97, 99. Buff ware, grey surface, partly burnished.
- 98. Coarsely granulated buff ware, greyish core.
- 100, 101. As 65.

Also a mortarium-sherd, first half of 2nd century, from the Verulamium region, and 3 poppy-head beaker sherds, one rouletted.

#### *Layer (43), floor*

Samian: 1st-century only.

- 102. As 66.
- 103. Jug: light grey gritty ware, partly burnished.
- 104. See layer (52) above.
- 105, 109. Hard sandy light grey ware, burnished lines.
- 106. Early form of poppy-head beaker: fine grey ware, darker burnished surface.
- 107, 108. Coarse grey buff ware, burnished line on lip.
- 110. Coarse grey ware.
- 111. Fine dark grey ware, sooty.

Also a sherd as 72.

These floors above (52) and covered by the occupation (35) date c. A.D. 135-45.

<sup>1</sup> For this type of vessel which is probably ritual, see *Germania*, XXX (1952), 111-112.

<sup>2</sup> M. R. Hull, *Roman Colchester* (Soc. of Antiquaries Research Report, 20 (1958)).

*Layer (30), wall trench of floor (19)*

Samian: 1st-century only, including f. 29, South Gaulish, *c.* A.D. 60–75 (Fig. 14, 4).

112, 115, 116. Light grey ware, burnished; 112 slightly coarser.

113, 114. Gritty buff ware, partly burnished.

117. Hard reddish ware, mica-coated surface. All *c.* A.D. 160–185.

*Layer (35), occupation on (43) and (46)*

Samian: four Neronian sherds; and forms 37, 36, 27, 35, South Gaulish, Flavian-Trajanic; 18/31, Central Gaulish, probably Hadrianic.

118, 119. Coarse grey-black (118) or light grey (119) ware, partly burnished.

120. Fine grey-buff ware, grey-black outside surface, finely burnished. A Hadrianic-early Antonine type (*cf.* Gillam, types 115–116).

121. Grey-black gritty ware, sooty.

122, 123, 128. Rather coarse granulated grey-buff ware partly burnished.

124, 127. Fine hard sandy grey ware, burnished.

125. Hard reddish-buff ware, brown colour-coat.

126. Dish, burnt to buff colour: probably black-burnished ware. Gillam type 307 (A.D. 125–160).

129. Orange buff ware, cream slip.

Also mortarium 235, Oxfordshire kilns, A.D. 110–140. This occupation layer with the two floors below it (46 and 43) covers the period *c.* A.D. 135–160.

*Layer (19), clay floor*

Samian: 1st-century only, including f. 37, South Gaulish, *c.* A.D. 70–90 (Fig. 14, 6); and 30, South Gaulish, *c.* A.D. 70–85 (Fig. 14, 5).

130. Tazza without the frills: ware as 132, sooty inside and out.

131. As 66.

132, 133. Coarse granulated light grey ware.

134. Fine, hard orange-red ware, burnished.

135. Reddish sandy ware, burnished, probably copying samian f. 33. Stamp: ] QSM.

136. As 124.

*Layer (14), occupation on (19)*

Samian: six 1st-century pieces; and f. 36, Trajanic or Hadrianic, and 31, Hadrianic-Antonine, both Central Gaulish.

137. Reddish sandy micaceous ware, burnished.

138. As 124.

139. As 66.

140. Coarse grey-buff ware.

141. Hard sandy light grey ware.

This floor and occupation together with (30) (above) cover the period *c.* A.D. 160–185, when the rampart was built.

**B. FIRST RAMPART (Figs. 16, 17)***Layer (39)*

Coins: Cunobelin AE, Mack 246, 23.356 grains; Cunobelin AE, Mack 222, 29.529 grains.

Samian: 1st-century and Trajanic only.

142. Hard fine light grey-brown ware, burnished.

143. Hard grey-buff ware, burnished.

144. Fine buff ware, red colour-coat outside and on lip.

*Layer (34), that part of (21) which is below tail of turf revetment*

145. Poppy-head beaker, sandy grey ware, worn.  
 146. Ware as 145, burnished lip, sooty.  
 168. Black-burnished ware cooking pot: Gillam types 123-4, A.D. 125-60.

*Layer (25), core of first rampart*

Samian: four 1st-century sherds, and f. 18, South Gaulish, Flavian-Trajanic; 31 (two), Central Gaulish, Antonine.

- 147, 153. Fine hard grey ware, burnished.  
 148. Light grey ware, partly burnished.  
 149. Rough-cast beaker, coarse hard orange-buff sandy ware.  
 150, 151. Hard light grey sandy ware, 151 partly burnished.  
 152. Hard dark grey ware, unevenly burnished.

*Layer (12), corresponding on the west face to (18)*

Samian: f. 35, probably Hadrianic; 18/31 Hadrianic; 37, no decoration, but traces of a cursive signature, probably Hadrianic; 31, Antonine; 72, probably Antonine; 37, four sherds of same vessel in style of CETTUS, c. A.D. 160-190, (Fig. 14, 7-10). All Central Gaulish.

154. As 149.  
 155. Black-burnished ware: Gillam type 127 (A.D. 130-170).  
 156, 157. Fine hard grey ware, burnished.  
 158, 160. Coarse sandy light grey ware: 158 unevenly burnished and warped in firing.  
 159. Black-burnished ware: cf. Gillam types 66 (A.D. 180-250) and 172.  
 161. Hard light grey ware, unevenly burnished.  
 162. Black-burnished ware. Gillam type 318 (A.D. 160-200).  
 163, 164. Hard grey ware, burnished. For 163 cf. Gillam type 317 (A.D. 130-220).  
 165, 166. Sandy grey-black ware, unevenly burnished: cf. Gillam type 309 (A.D. 160-200).

This deposit contains a good proportion of dated types and though it could be assigned to as late as A.D. 190-200, the difficulty of extending the buildings below later than c. 180-185 makes the latter date more likely.

167. See layer 54 (p. 139). 168. See layer 34 (above).

*Layer (21), below 18 and the tail of the revetment (see (34) above)*

Coin: Antoninus Pius, As, R.I.C. 934 (Britannia type), A.D. 154-5, little wear.

Samian: 1st-century only.

- 169, 170, 172. Coarse grey ware, unevenly burnished.  
 171, 178. Fine hard grey ware, burnished.  
 173. Grey gritty ware, burnished lip.  
 174. Reddish core, grey-brown surface, fine white grits, partly burnished.  
 175. Sandy whitish ware, yellowish surface.  
 176. Poppy-head beaker: fine light grey ware, matt finish.  
 177. Hard light grey ware, dark burnished surface. Also a mortarium sherd, A.D. 80-120, from the Verulamium region.

*Layer (18)*

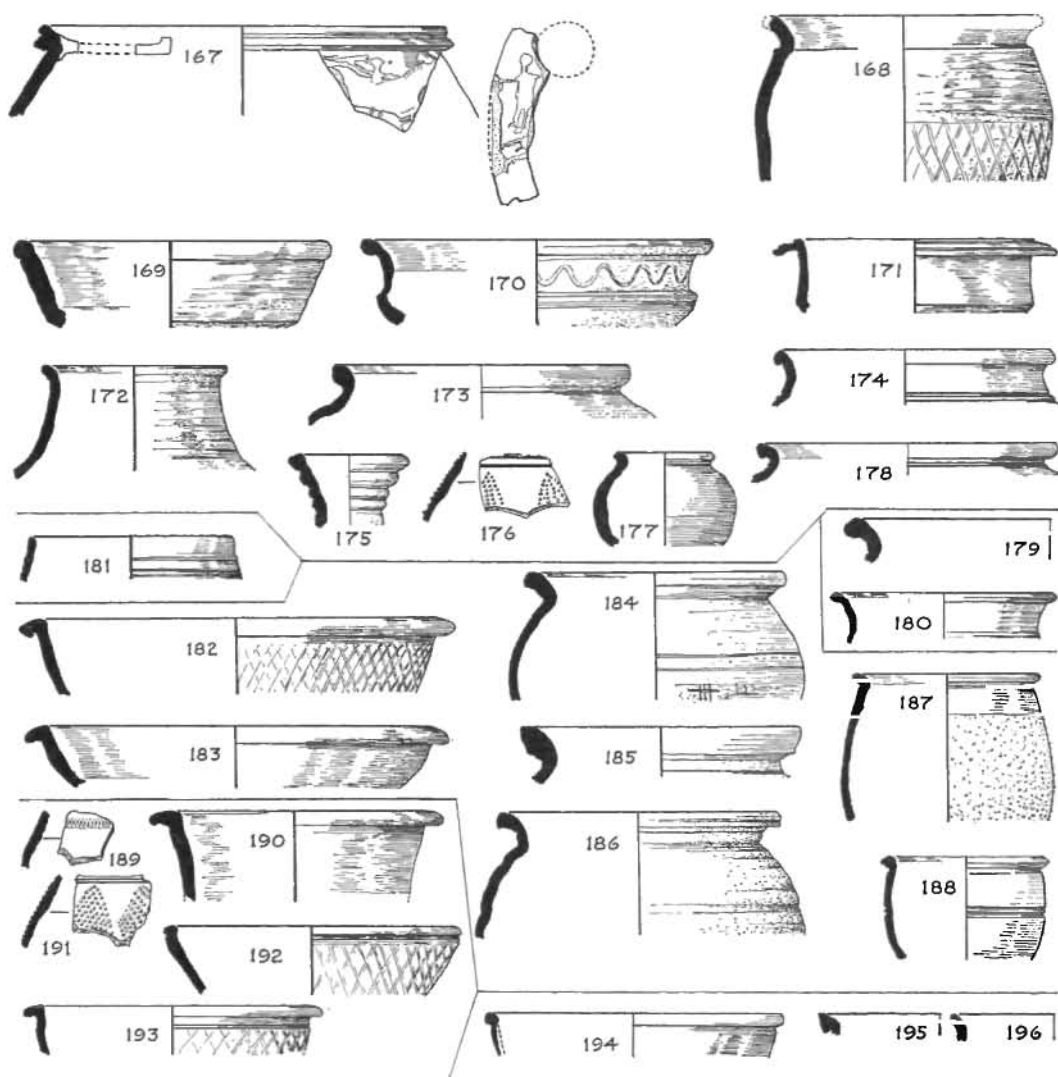
Samian: f. 18/31, South Gaulish, Flavian-Trajanic.

179. Hard light grey gritty ware.  
 180. As 171.

*Layer (9)*

Samian: f. 31, Central Gaulish, Antonine.

181. Colour-coated beaker; fine hard whitish paste, dark grey-brown colour-coat.

Fig. 17. Pottery, Site A ( $\frac{1}{4}$ )

*Layer (4), in west face, corresponding to (9)*

Samian: f. 18/31 (two), Hadrianic; 31R, Antonine. All Central Gaulish.

182. Fine hard whitish ware, light grey surface, burnished.

183. Fine hard grey-brown ware: late 2nd-century type.

184, 185, 186. Hard granulated grey-black ware, sooty.

187. Fine hard grey ware, rough cast.

188. Hard sandy cream ware, burnished.

Also a mortarium sherd, 2nd-century or later: Oxfordshire kilns.



## C. LAYERS RELATING TO SECOND RAMPART (Figs. 17, 18)

*Layer (11), road-silt below second rampart*

Samian: f. 18, South Gaulish, Neronian or early Flavian; 27, Hadrianic; 37, probably by ATTIANUS (Fig. 14, 11), c. A.D. 125-145; both Central Gaulish.

189. Orange ware (grey core), brown colour-coat, rouletted.

190. Black-burnished ware, cf. Gillam type 306 (A.D. 125-160).

191. Poppy-head beaker; fine grey ware, darker surface, burnished but not polished: another sherd, waster.

192, 193. Light grey ware. For 192 cf. Gillam type 316 (A.D. 125-160).

*Layer (15), filling of large double post-hole in road*

194. Fine grey ware, black burnished surface.

195. Sandy grey ware.

196. Fine hard grey-brown ware, burnished.

*Layer (3), second rampart*

Samian: f. 33, stamp AETERNIM retro., A.D. 160-190; 31, 31R, 33, Antonine. All Central Gaulish.

197, 199, 200. Fine hard light grey ware, partly burnished.

198. As 196.

201. Hard reddish paste, brown colour-coat (reddish on inside).

202. Ware as 191.

203. As 195.

*Layers in Trenches A1 and A11 identical with (3)*

Samian: Four 1st-century sherds; and f. 27, 18/31, Trajanic-Hadrianic; 31 (two), 31R, 33. Antonine; 79 (burnt), late Antonine. All Central Gaulish.

204, 205. Coarse granulated grey ware.

206. Hard reddish ware, burnished surfaces; probably stamped but stamp destroyed; partly burnt. Cf. nos. 70, 135.

207, 209, 210. Fine hard light grey ware, burnished.

208. Hard whitish paste, coppery black slip (over decoration), slightly metallic sheen. Probably not a Nene Valley product (B.R.H.).

Also the mortaria 242, 243, 244 and 245. Of these 245 is from the Verulamium region, c. A.D. 80-120; 242, 244 and 245 are local Oxfordshire products, the first dating to the 3rd century (or later); the second probably dating to the first half of the 3rd century and 245 also being 3rd century but probably of the second half.<sup>1</sup>

These three mortaria are thus the latest datable objects for the second rampart; and since the first rampart is clearly late Antonine there is nothing surprising in the date they suggest. Except for 242, which lay on the road below the bank, they came from A1 in the material of the second rampart, below the remains of a clay oven which had been cut into the tail of the bank at a later period; but there was nothing to suggest that the mortaria were intrusive.

## D. FOURTH-CENTURY OR LATER ACCUMULATION AT THE BACK OF THE DEFENCES (Fig. 18)

Nos. 211, 212, 214 came from the silted bank material covering the east-west street. The remainder come from layer (2). Nos. 211-227 are all in red colour-coated ware; Nos. 228-230 are in orange paste with brown colour-coat; No. 232, in hard grey-white paste with worn metallic brown slip, is perhaps a Nene Valley product (of the later 4th century). Nos. 231, 233, 234 are in calcite-gritted ware, No. 233 being rilled. The group (except No. 232)

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to Mrs. K. F. Hartley for examining and reporting on these mortaria.

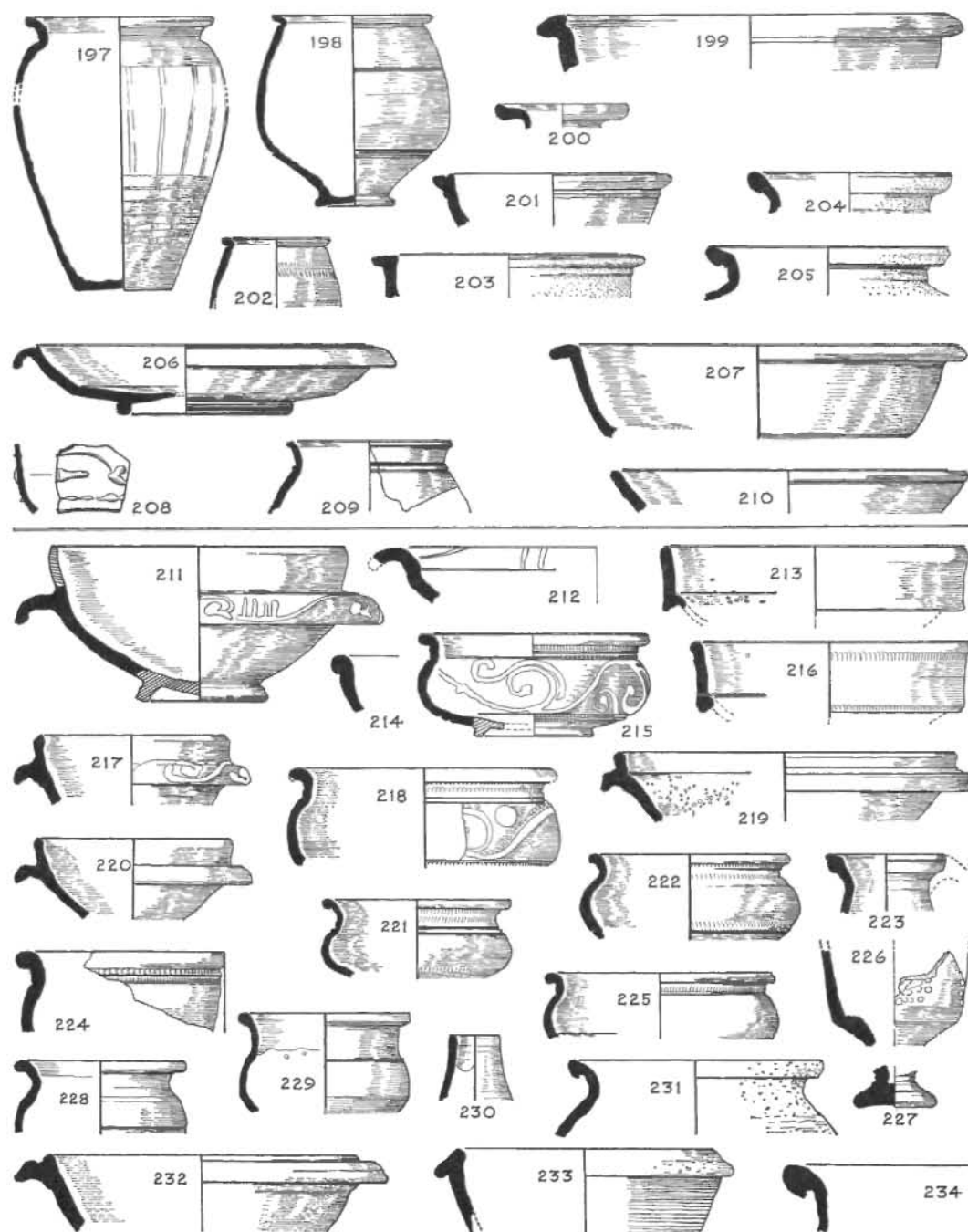


Fig. 18. Pottery, Site A (†)

illustrates the products of the local pottery industry in the late 4th century. Two coins of the House of Theodosius (A.D. 388+) were associated, but layer (2) was not sealed and may be a post-Roman accumulation.

## APPENDIX III

MORTARIA<sup>1</sup> (Fig. 19)

235. Hard finely granulated buff ware, surface deep yellow, large translucent red-brown grits. Oxfordshire kilns *c.* A.D. 110-140. (A v, layer 35.)  
 236, 238, 239, 241. Hard reddish ware, grey core, cream slip, many translucent reddish grits. Oxfordshire kilns, after *c.* A.D. 250. (A v, layer 2.)  
 237. As 236. Oxfordshire kilns, 3rd-century. (A v, layer 2.)  
 240. Smooth hard buff ware, yellowish surface, translucent brown grits. Oxfordshire kilns, 3rd or 4th-century. (Robber-trench of town wall.)  
 242. Hard whitish ware, translucent reddish grits. Oxfordshire kilns, 3rd-century (or later). (Surface of street below rampart, trench A1.)

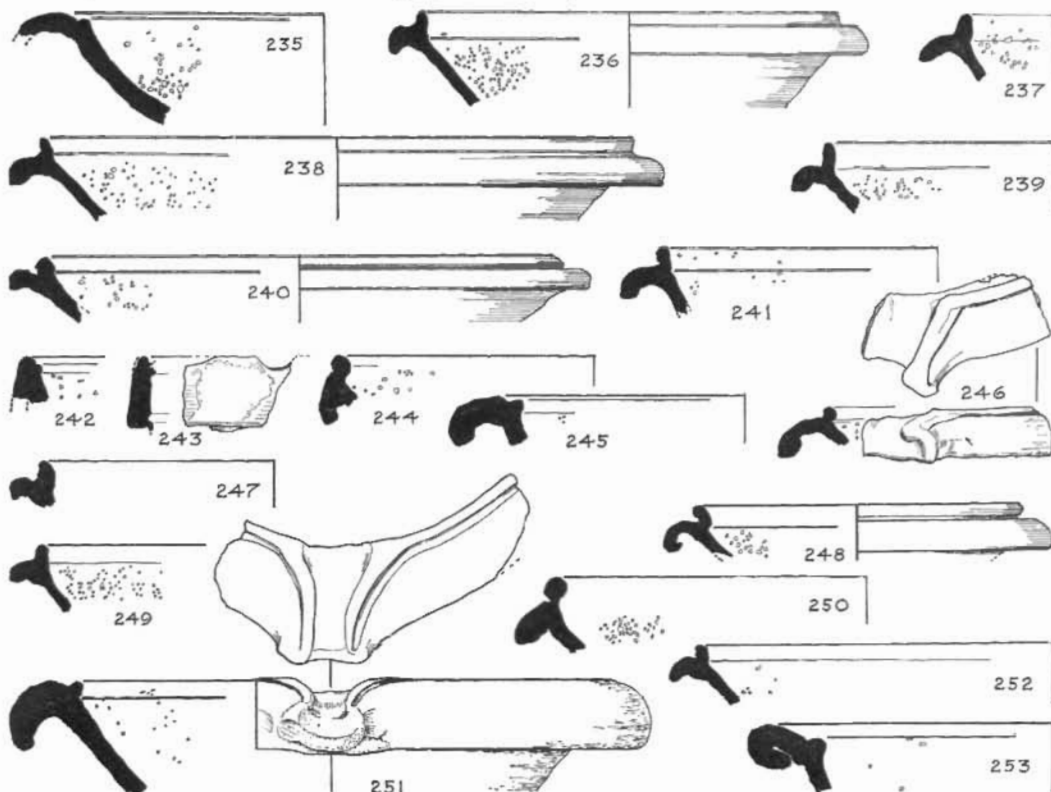


Fig. 19. The Mortaria (1/4)

243. Smooth whitish ware, some reddish grits under spout-scar. Oxfordshire kilns, 3rd-century after *c.* A.D. 250. (Second rampart.)  
 244. Smooth hard cream ware, translucent red-brown grits. Oxfordshire kilns, 3rd-century, probably first half. (Second rampart.)

<sup>1</sup> I am indebted to Mrs. K. F. Hartley for examining these vessels and dating them.

245. Hard finely granulated cream ware, a few small white grits. Verulamium region, A.D. 80-120. (Second rampart.)
- 246, 247. As 244, Oxfordshire kilns. 246, A.D. 150-200 (post-rampart accumulation); 247, 4th-century (above Roman street near Saxon hut).
248. Smooth hard cream ware, pinkish core, red-brown grits. Oxfordshire kilns, late 2nd or early 3rd-century. (Robber-trench, Building I, 1.)
249. As 236: diameter  $9\frac{1}{4}$  in. Oxfordshire kilns (*cf.* Headington), late 3rd or 4th-century. (Saxon hut.)
250. As 242 (burnt). Oxfordshire kilns, 3rd-century. (Above Roman street, Site B.)
251. Hard sandy greyish-white ware, a few small white grits. Verulamium region, A.D. 70-100. (Hearth in Saxon hut.)
252. As 236. (Trench B VIII 2, outside Building I, 1, above cobbles.)
253. As 235. Oxfordshire kilns, A.D. 100-150. (Pit in B IX.)

A study of the mortaria shows a steady increase in their use, though this is to some extent offset by the lesser exploration of early levels. A graphic illustration of the numbers is best postponed until after further digging: at present the figures are thus:

First Century	2	Third Century	12
A.D. 80-120	5	Third or Fourth Century	8
Second Century	6	Fourth Century	7

Another interesting fact is that apart from one possible import of the 1st century, Dorchester drew its mortaria from the Verulamium region in the 1st century. Down to A.D. 120 the Verulamium imports are still in the majority, but local production accounts for two dated 110-140 and one dated 100-150, whereas there is only one Verulamium mortar dated 100-150. Thereafter the local products become exclusive as well as much more numerous.

#### APPENDIX IV

#### THE ROMAN GLASS

By DOROTHY CHARLESWORTH

Most of the fragments belong to the 1st and 2nd centuries and cannot be more closely dated. Three coloured pieces, two blue<sup>1</sup> (Fig. 20, 3) and one amber<sup>2</sup> are more likely to date from the Flavian period as the fashion for dark coloured glass seems to have died out towards the end of the 1st century. The rest of the early pieces are all in blue-green glass, fragments of 7 bottles, one cylindrical,<sup>3</sup> the remainder square<sup>4</sup> (Fig. 20, 4), two ribbed pieces<sup>5</sup> from bulbous-bodied flagons or jars of a type<sup>6</sup> made in the Seine-Rhine area *c.* A.D. 70-120, and two hollow tubular-rimmed bowls<sup>7</sup> (Fig. 20, 1), a type which seems to begin *c.* A.D. 50 and to continue to the end of the 2nd century.<sup>8</sup>

There is no glass of the 3rd or early 4th century, but two pieces of late 4th-century yellowish-green glass. One<sup>9</sup> is unidentifiable, the other<sup>10</sup> (Fig. 20, 2) part of the rim of a bowl. The unworked rim is typical of the period A.D. 370 until the end of the century. Late cemeteries in the lower and middle Rhineland have produced a large number of bowls of the type to which this must belong.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>1</sup> From A v (21), the other from below building I, 1 (B VIII (10), a layer corresponding to Fig. 6, layer (12)).

<sup>2</sup> From the Saxon hut.

<sup>3</sup> From below building I, 1 (B VIII (13)).

<sup>4</sup> From above Saxon hut; remainder from A v (25), (30), (46), and below building I, 1 (B VII (6) and (12)).

<sup>5</sup> From A v (25) and (54).

<sup>6</sup> For types see W. A. Thorpe, *English Glass* ed. 2 (1949), pl. III b & c.

<sup>7</sup> From A v (34); other from A v (12).

<sup>8</sup> *Guide to Antiquities of Roman Britain* (British Museum, 1951), pl. XII, 6.

<sup>9</sup> From B IX (27).

<sup>10</sup> From A v (5), silt on road.

<sup>11</sup> *Bonner Jahrbücher* (1942), 256, from Mayen.

Another rim fragment<sup>1</sup> (Fig. 20, 5) is probably of 5th to 6th-century date. There is no hard and fast division between the late Roman and the early Saxon glass. The metal is similar, in this case more green in colour, poor quality with striations and bubbles, but the unworked rim of the late 4th is superseded by a rounded, slightly thickened rim. From this fragment it is not possible to identify the type of the vessel with certainty. It is either a cone beaker or pouch bottle.<sup>2</sup>

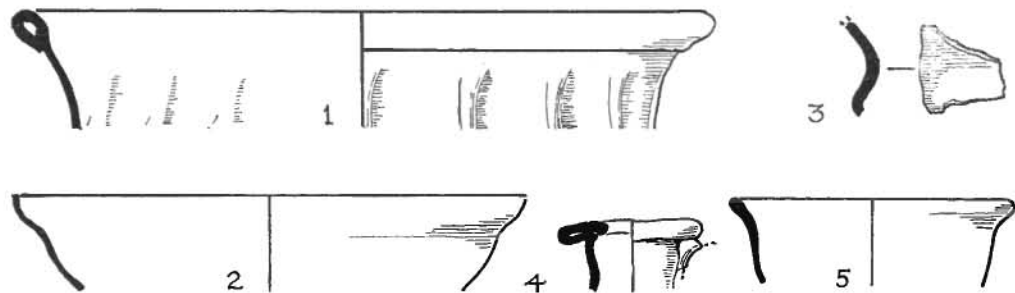


Fig. 20. The Roman glass ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )

#### APPENDIX V

#### SAXON POTTERY (Fig. 21)

##### 1-5. Pottery from Hut

1. Hand-made, very finely granulated dark grey ware, surface partly buff; burnished with horizontal and diagonal strokes inside and out. (Destruction level.)
2. Hand-made, very finely granulated dark grey-brown (partly reddish) ware, uneven surface, burnished above and below decoration and inside; combed lines. (Sherds scattered, Section A-B (24) and in destruction level; also in foundation trenches of later building.)
3. Ware as 2, form as 1. (Section A-B, (11)).
4. Chaff-tempered sherd, dark grey burnished surface: illustrated as the only example of this ware found (Intermediate floor below (11) in Section A-B).
5. Finely granulated dark grey ware, roughly hand-made: pitted, burnished surface: base supplied from foundation trench of later building. (Section A-B (29), earliest occupation.)
- 6-12, 20. *Sherds stratigraphically later than the hut, but probably derived from it.* Nos. 6, 8, 10-14, 20 come from the foundation trenches of the rectilinear building (= F.T. below).
6. Ware as 2; band of horizontal combing on shoulder. (F.T.)
7. Very finely granulated dark grey ware with smooth but irregular red-buff burnished surface. (Above destruction level of hut.)
8. Very finely granulated dark grey-brown ware, burnished. (F.T.)
9. Red brown ware burnished inside; horizontal bands of deep finger-pinching, showing thumb and finger-nail impressions. (Destruction level of hut.)
10. As 8. (F.T.)
- 11, 12. Two shoulder-sherds with wide rather irregular horizontal grooves: rather coarse dark grey-brown ware with a mixture of fine shell and sand grit; burnished inside and out. Though the ware has a hint of late Roman technique, the decoration is reminiscent of an Anglo-Frisian type. (F.T.)
13. Handle: very finely granulated dark grey ware, polished black surface, wheel-made. Possibly Romano-British (?) (F.T.)

<sup>1</sup> From B VIII (2): Building I, 1, above the cobbles.

<sup>2</sup> *Dark Age Britain* (1956), D. B. Harden, 'Glass vessels in Britain', fig. 25, III and VII.

14. Ware as 13. (F.T.)  
 15. Ware as 2. (Above destruction level of hut.)  
 20. Dish with broken knob-handle and perforation, probably wheel-made but paste and finish rather more Saxon than Roman.

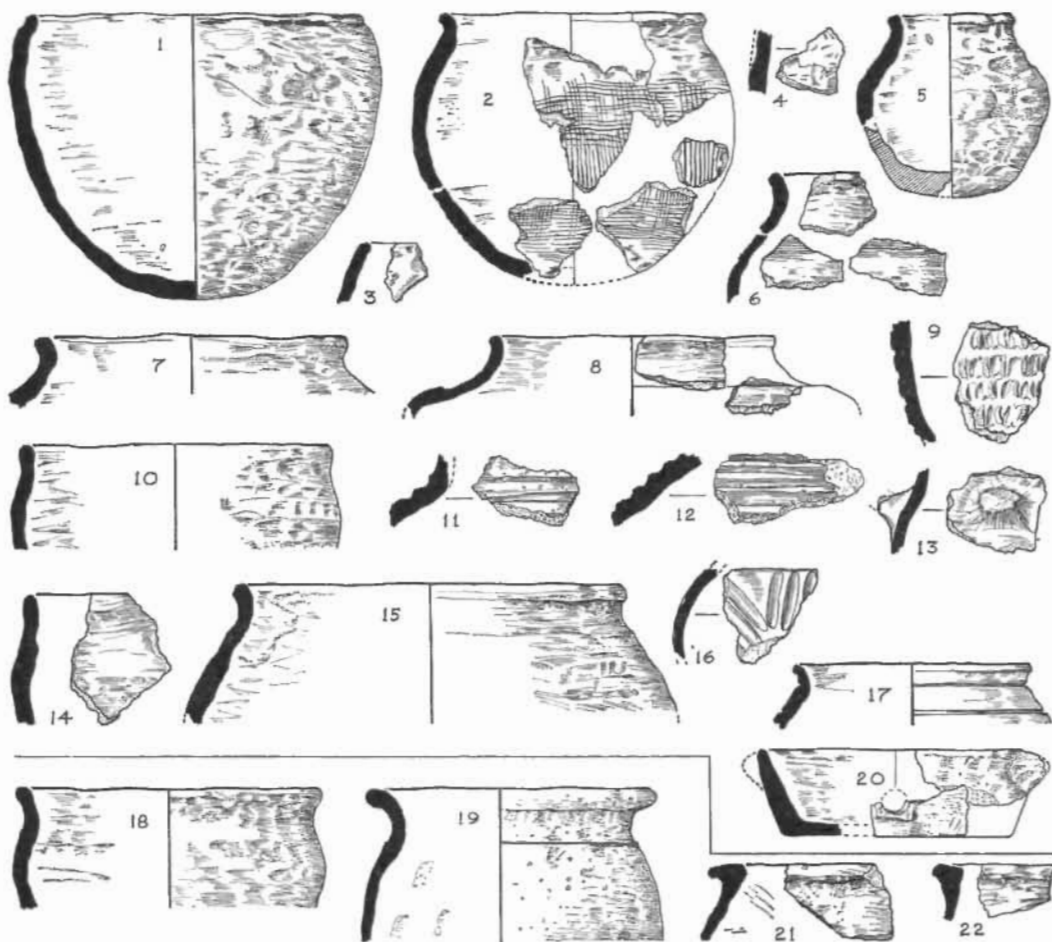


Fig. 21. Saxon pottery ( $\frac{1}{4}$ )

- 16, 17. *From surface of street, near but.*  
 16. Shoulder with horizontal and two sets of three diagonal shallow grooves; very finely granulated buff to grey ware, smoothly burnished. Anglo-Frisian.  
 17. Very finely granulated dark grey ware, partly buff surface, burnished. Anglo-Frisian.  
 18, 19, 21, 22. *Sherds from elsewhere.* (18, 21, 22 from dark soil above cobbling west of Building I, 1, trench B VIII: 19 from foundation trench cutting through Building I, 1, trench B IV.)  
 18. Finely granulated dark grey-buff ware, uneven burnished surfaces.  
 19. Rather coarse buff and light grey shell-gritted ware, irregular fingered surface but showing wheel marks outside. Probably late 9th/early 10th-century, like the Badorf sherds in the robber-trench in B IX. St. Neots type ware, now thought to be local.



20. See above, after 15.
21. Coarse sandy reddish-grey ware, roughly trimmed and burnished surfaces.
22. Finely granulated grey-black ware, surfaces unevenly trimmed and burnished.

DATE OF THE SAXON POTTERY<sup>1</sup>

No. 6 is a typical piece of Anglo-Frisian pottery; No. 7 is in very similar ware and is best taken as the same. Both were found over the Roman street and though thus virtually unstratified they prove occupation in or soon after the middle of the 5th century. Nos. 11 and 12 were in a disturbed position, in a foundation-trench of the later building. They seem to be in a sub-Roman rather than a Saxon ware, but are modelled on Anglo-Frisian types — truly Romano-Saxon in fact — and they too must be assigned to the second half of the 5th century, if not earlier. With these may go No. 20 which also seems to be in sub-Roman ware, though here the shape copied is a Roman dish. No. 13, being wheel-turned, may be a Romano-British survival.

There is not much pottery that can be related to the hut itself and what there is is mainly plain and lacking major diagnostic features. It is almost all well-made, highly burnished ware, and two vessels (Nos. 2 and 6) are scored with combing. This is not a common method of decoration on Anglo-Saxon pots, but as it happens it can be paralleled locally both at Sutton Courtenay house XXII and at Cassington hut E3. I am indebted to Mr. E. M. Jope for the information that the latter hut produced a late saucer brooch trodden into the floor. The brooch was a failed casting made in the hut. Stylistically it cannot be earlier than c. A.D. 550 and is likely to belong to the second half of the 6th century.<sup>2</sup> With this brooch was associated combed pottery like No. 2. Such pottery, then, was certainly current in the district in the second half of the 6th century; how much earlier it occurs cannot yet be said. The Cassington hut also produced parallels to Nos. 1, 5, 6, 8 and 9. Rusticated pottery like 9 is quite common locally, e.g. in the West Ditch and in house XXI at Sutton Courtenay,<sup>3</sup> from a hut floor at Cothill, Berks.<sup>4</sup> and an example from West Stow (Ashmolean Museum, 1932.887). The Dorchester hut thus belongs to the sixth century, perhaps not earlier than 550, though the fact that the Dorchester sherds are on the whole better finished and more burnished than the Sutton Courtenay and Cassington parallels may incline us to a date slightly earlier, perhaps just before rather than just after the middle of the century.

Of the sherds found elsewhere, No. 18 is of much the same date as the pottery from the hut. No. 19 is of St. Neots type ware, probably early in the series and perhaps of local manufacture,<sup>5</sup> and 21 and 22 cannot be readily paralleled at present. They are doubtless of middle Saxon date.

<sup>1</sup> I am grateful to Mrs. S. E. Hawkes, Mr. E. M. Jope and Dr. J. N. L. Myres, all of whom have examined this pottery. Mrs. Hawkes most kindly compared it with that preserved in the Ashmolean Museum from other local sites, and I have made full use of the note she sent me. I have profited much from discussions with all these scholars

but must not evade responsibility for the final presentation.

<sup>2</sup> *Medieval Archaeology*, vi, forthcoming.

<sup>3</sup> *Archaeologia*, xcii (1947), pl. xxiii.

<sup>4</sup> *Oxoniensia* XIV (1949), 75.

<sup>5</sup> See E. M. Jope, *Oxoniensia* XXIII (1958), 44-45.