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Exeter City Council

EXETER ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, 29th JUNE 1979

Report to Committee

1. EXCAVATIONS

North Gate (SX 91799271) with P. Bidwell.

The excavation of a section through the rampart and rear part of the City wall next to the site of the medieval North Gate was completed in December of last year. A block of flats is to be built on the site later this year. The following sequence was recorded:

- (a) The soil surface below the rampart contained a Durotrigian coin, the first to be recorded from Exeter, associated with first-century Roman material.
- (b) A bank of clay 1.1 m in height and at least 3.8 m in width was thrown up.
- (c) A roughly cobbled track was laid down over the tail of the bank.
- (d) The bank was cut away at the front for the insertion of the City Wall. This survived for a width of 2.7 m, the front having been removed in recent times, to a height of 3.3 m above the base of the foundation trench, which was cut into the natural clay to a depth of 1.2 m.
- (e) A rampart was formed by heightening the bank with deposits of clay interleaved with mason's chippings.
- (f) A ditch with a surviving depth of 1 m and a width of 80 cm was dug through the tail of the rampart; its fill contained pottery dating to the third century or later.

Stages (b) to (e) were all associated with Antonine material and appear to be broadly contemporary, suggesting that at this point in the defensive circuit construction of the wall and rampart formed part of the same building programme. The first bank is too feeble to have served a defensive purpose and may represent no more than the upcast from digging the foundation trench of the wall or spoil from a ditch beyond it. Before this excavation took place it was believed on the basis of earlier work that the Roman town defences were built in two distinct stages:

- (a) An earth and timber rampart, associated with stone gates, constructed in the late second century.

- (b) The addition of a stone wall at the front of the rampart at some date in the third century.

A re-assessment of Aileen Fox's excavations at Bedford Street and the South Gate and of the Unit's trenches of 1973 at Cricklepit Street has shown that in no case was the first bank higher than 1.5 m. In addition, none of the material associated with the construction of the wall at these sites need be later in date than the Antonine period. We may therefore conclude that the whole circuit is likely to have been provided with a stone wall from the first.

Lower Combe Street

A small trial excavation took place recently on a development site situated about 20 m to the rear of the City Wall at Lower Combe Street. A trench parallel to the wall and at right-angles to the street established that at this point the Combe Valley had been infilled to a depth of up to 1.5 m in the third and fourth centuries, i.e. after the construction of the defences. No Roman buildings were found.

Great Moor Farm, Sowton

An excavation has just started on the site of this late medieval farmhouse, demolished after a fire last year. A fairly comprehensive survey of the fabric was made before demolition but there are certain unresolved problems concerning the structural history of the building. It is also hoped to locate earlier buildings on the site, if any existed. The excavation is being carried out with the aid of a generous grant from the Devon County Council.

Watching Briefs

Contractors excavations have been watched at Holloway Street, Beedles Terrace, North Gate, 211 - 219 High Street, 207 High Street, The Quay, Mermaid Yard and Rack Street, and at Ashford Road, Topsham.

2. FUTURE SITES

Wheaton's, Friernhay Street (SX 9182 9243)

This large site is to be developed for flats and offices and lies across the defences on the south-west side of the legionary fortress. The excavation will fix the precise position of the defences and show whether

they continued in use during the second century, as was the case on the south-east side at Mermaid Yard. The projected line of a civil Roman street crosses the site from north-east to south-west. The street was probably extended beyond the line of the early defences in the late second century, when the street system was enlarged to fill the previously unenclosed ground within the circuit of the new town walls. It is hoped to confirm the existence of this street, to establish the date at which it was laid down, and to excavate as much as possible of any buildings which may have stood next to it. The site also contains part of the church of St. Nicholas' Priory.

Colleton Crescent (SX 9214 9212)

An office block is to be built on a site which is likely to be within the Neronian military enclosure on the south-east side of Holloway Street. The ditch found by Aileen Fox beneath the South Gate is thought to define the north-east side of the enclosure, but the positions of the other sides have not yet been established. This is probably the last site remaining in this area where it may be possible to determine the extent and character of the military enclosure.

Good Shepherd Hospital(SX 9228 9223)

The site is situated 140 m from the town wall, in the angle between Magdalen Street and Holloway Street, both of which probably follow the line of roads leading to the South gate of the Roman town. There is therefore a good chance that a cemetery existed here in the later Roman period. With the exception of a few isolated finds, no civil cemetery has yet been located at Exeter.

More important, however, is the position of the site in relation to the known areas of military activity adjacent to Holloway Street. In the Neronian period there appears to have been a rich cremation cemetery on the north-east side of Holloway Street; the two cremations recovered in 1973 were presumably outliers of a larger group near the road leading to the fortress porta principalis dextra, the projected line of which crosses

the Good Shepherd site. In the early Flavian period military buildings were erected on part of the cremation cemetery, and it is possible that these were contained within an extension of the Neronian enclosure. The excavation should help to clarify the sequence of military activity in this area.

3. STANDING BUILDINGS

15 Cathedral Close (formerly the Chancellor's House)

The opportunity to visit this previously unrecorded building arose in March, when internal alterations were made on its becoming part of the Cathedral School. We wish to thank the Headmaster, Mr. Watson, and the architects, Gundry-Dyer Partnership, for their co-operation in facilitating our visits.

In its present form the house is the product of two main periods of building activity. The western half is a sixteenth-century two-storied stone building which was enlarged c 1700 by the addition of a three-storied parallel range of brick, resulting in a double-pile structure with the main facade facing east towards the City Wall.

The sixteenth-century house measures 18.5 by 6.5 m internally and still retains many original features, although the roof was destroyed during the alterations of c 1700. There were originally two rooms on the first floor: a chamber at the north end, and a large hall, 12.5 m in length, to the south. The hall has been much altered, but fortunately the sides of a large moulded Beerstone fireplace have been preserved in the jambs of a Victorian window embrasure at the centre of the west wall. The chamber was served by a plain fireplace of volcanic stone which remains intact in the west wall. A pointed volcanic stone doorway to the north of the chamber fireplace may have provided access to a projecting garderobe turret which has since been demolished.

There were three rooms on the ground floor. The middle room was 7.5 m in length and may have functioned as a lower hall. It contains the remnants of a fine timber ceiling with moulded intersecting ribs and carved bosses. The other rooms were both 6.5 m long; that to the north was probably a chamber, since there is a round-headed doorway at the north end of the

west wall which could have connected with the garderobe turret inferred above. At the east end of the wall between the middle and northern rooms is a stone doorway with a pointed head. There are three sixteenth-century windows on the ground floor and one in the first floor chamber. It is not known whether the ground floor rooms were provided with fireplaces.

St. Annes Almshouses, Blackboy Road

Part of the building was completely rebuilt in the nineteenth century. There remains an L - shaped block, containing four sixteenth-century cells, which has been only superficially affected by alterations. The building is in a very dilapidated state, being unoccupied at present, and has recently been subject to vandalism.

The timber-framed internal partitions are infilled with horizontal hazel twigs woven between vertical staves. The outer walls are of stone. Each cell comprises a ground-floor room containing a fireplace, and an unheated chamber above. Over each chamber is a two bay jointed-cruck roof.

206 High Street

This sixteenth century building was recorded during demolition. No original internal partitions or floors survived, but close examination of the stone side walls yielded sufficient evidence to allow a reasonably full reconstruction to be made of the front block. The block measured 8.5 by 6.25 m, with its long axis at right angles to the street. It was a cellared three-storied building apparently having one room on each floor and a jetty at first floor level at the front. The ground floor room was unheated and probably served as a shop. The first floor hall or parlour had a fireplace in the west wall. Above was a chamber with a small hooded fireplace and a garderobe, both in the east wall. The plan and details of construction are similar to 198, High Street, recorded in 1975 and believed to date to the later sixteenth century. There are also similarities with 41 - 42, High Street, dated 1564.

The Globe Inn, Fore Street, Topsham

The building was visited during restoration. The nineteenth-century facade masks a large previously unrecognised late seventeenth-century house which remains substantially intact. It is a three storied brick house built parallel to the street and having gable-end stacks. A central cross passage gives access to a small hall on the ground floor and to the original stair, which has heavy turned balusters. This stair is very similar to one at 27, Fore Street, Topsham, dated 1697.

38 Holloway Street (Larkbeare House)

This is the sole surviving fragment of Larkbeare House, built by the Hull family towards the middle of the sixteenth century and later occupied by the Barings. The main part of the house was demolished in 1889. The property is currently being renovated by the Devon Historic Buildings Trust.

The building is a three storey block 4.6 m wide by over 6 m long. The front wall was removed during road widening around 1851. The ground floor room was a parlour with access through separate doors in the east wall to the hall and south wing of the main building. In the north wall is a third doorway and a large three-light mullioned window, now much altered. There is a fine timber ceiling with moulded intersecting beams which define small square panels occupied by moulded joists.

A similar ceiling formerly existed in the first floor room, but it was removed in the nineteenth century. In the west wall is a doorway which probably led to an external stair, and the remains of an elaborately decorated fireplace of Salcombe stone. The lintel is divided into three recessed panels containing carved heraldic badges. There is evidence of a large window in the north wall.

The second floor chamber has a fine open arch-braced roof. In the west wall a garderobe chute empties via a culvert into the Shutebrook stream, which runs under the building.

4. ANCIENT MONUMENTS

Polsloe Priory

A detailed fabric survey of the standing west range is in progress and should be completed by August. Work will then start on the preparation of the excavation report for publication. The City Council's architects are preparing plans for the restoration of the building, which will be started in 1980.

City Wall, Paul Street

Part of Section 8 of the wall, next to Maddocks Row, was cleared of vegetation and repointed earlier this year. This provided an opportunity to examine the wall in detail. The Roman herringbone rubble core was preserved along the whole of the section, but the front face and parapet were found to have been rebuilt in the fifteenth or sixteenth century and again in 1772, when the Maddocks Row archway was inserted.

5. POST EXCAVATION

Four new staff - a typist, two draughtsmen and a photographic assistant - were taken on in February under a Manpower Services Commission S.T.E.P. Scheme. They will work for one year on the preparation of excavation archives and publication drawings.

Almost all the Roman and medieval pottery has now been drawn and a start will soon be made on the backlog of small finds drawing.

Stewart Brown has completed the post-excavation analysis of the Exe Bridge site and the archives are now almost in their final state. All the detailed publication plans for the site are finished. The sections, block plans and the first draft of the excavation report will probably be ready by the end of September.

In August work will start on the publication plans for Volumes V and VI.

6. PUBLICATION

Volume 1.

The Cathedral Close report went to the printers (The Devonshire Press, Torquay) on 10th November 1978. We are expecting to take delivery of the bound copies on June 24th. The book will have been with the printers

for 32 weeks. The printer informs us that the final cost will be about the same as the original estimate of £10,200.

Of the 1,250 copies printed, 80 will be set aside for the author, minor authors, readers, referees, supervisors, D.O.E and other financial contributors, Copyright libraries, reviewers etc.

The Unit cost is made up as follows:

Printing	8.72 (based on 1,170 copies)
Advertising	.38
Postage	.86
Packing	.10
	<hr/>
Unit cost	£ 10.06

The retail price will be £17.00 and the pre-publication price £14.00.

Volume II

We understand from Dr. Collis that the manuscript is now with the editor. He anticipates that the report will appear towards the end of the year.

Volume III : The Medieval and Post-medieval Finds by J.P. Allan.

This volume will be the first of two dealing with the results of excavations on post-Roman sites in the City.

It has been decided to produce a separate finds volume for the following reasons:

- (i) There is an almost complete dearth of published stratified finds from Exeter and the South-west in general. Until recently there was therefore very little firm evidence for the dating of local medieval pottery. The Exeter sites have produced enough information to construct a ceramic sequence and to aid considerably the dating of other types of artifact. Inevitably, the sequence relies on the material from a number of sites, and it will be much easier to argue a chronology if the evidence can be presented in a single volume.

- (ii) With a few exceptions, the Exeter sites have not produced deeply stratified deposits or superimposed sequences of buildings. Most merely contained large numbers of pits, some of them rich in finds. The bulk of the finds thus bear no relation to structures.
- (iii) The excavations have produced some remarkable collections of artifacts which merit extended discussion. There are, for example, about 80 early medieval imported vessels, described by Dr. Hodges as the best collection of such wares in Britain. It would be much more satisfactory if these finds, from eight different sites, could be seen as a group, together with their associated local wares, in the volume in which they receive discussion. The collection as a whole reflects differences in wealth between particular areas in the City, and also changing sources of ceramic supply. It would be best if the evidence for observations of this kind could be presented in a single volume.

In the course of this work it has become apparent that there exists a valuable body of documentary evidence regarding the post-medieval ceramics of the City. This enriches the interpretation of the physical evidence, and is complementary to it. Some of the results of study of the documentation will therefore be used in the present study. The evidence will be included for the sources and scale of pottery importation throughout the post-medieval period, and some discussion of the function, frequency and distribution of ceramics recording in the surviving Exeter inventories.

Synopsis of contents:

Chapter 1 : The sites.

Distribution within the City; brief description of their character and the kinds of information they yielded.

Chapter 2 : The analysis of the pottery.

Description of methods of examination and quantification used in the study.

Chapter 3 : The medieval pottery.

(i) Definition of fabrics.

(ii) The major stratified groups, illustrated by 50 pages of line drawings; presentation of other dating evidence for the groups; statistical summary of sherd numbers, sherd weights and minimum

vessel counts for the larger groups.

(iii) Publication of individual vessels from unstratified contexts or without useful associations. This will include some complete pots, some imported wares and a few vessels of types not present in the main groups.

(iv) Re-assessment of the dating of the Bedford Garage early medieval kiln, with a consideration of its parallels by John Hurst.

(v) Discussion of the Exeter jugs - their style and distribution.

(vi) Type-series of those wares sufficiently well represented at Exeter to make this worthwhile.

(vii) Chronological summary of ceramics with suggested dates and an assessment of the totals of imports present and their share of the market.

Chapter 4 : The post-medieval pottery.

(i) Definition of fabrics and a brief discussion of the problems of attribution of the local wares.

(ii) - (iii) Treated as for the medieval material. Mr L.L. Lipski will report on the Delftware, and Mr Hurst on the imported wares. There will be about 60 pages of line drawings.

(iv) Summary. Quantities and dating of different types, and the evolution of local styles. Distribution within the City.

Chapter 5 : Medieval tiles by J.P. Allan and L. Keen. There are about 80 designs recovered from excavations in Exeter. There will be a discussion of their dating, distribution and parallels.

Chapter 6 : The Glass by R.J. Charleston

Chapter 7 : The Clay pipes by A. Oswald.

Chapter 8 : The Coins by Prof. M. Dolley.

Chapter 9 : The Small Finds by Mrs I. Goodall and J. Allan.

Chapter 10 : The Ironwork by Mr I. Goodall.

Chapter 11 : The Leather by Mrs D. Friendship - Taylor.

Chapter 12 : The Textiles by Mr J. Hedges.

Chapter 13 : The Wood and the Dendrochronology by J. Allan and Mrs R. Morgan.

Cross reference and Index

Total c 180 pages line drawing. Total text c. 200 pages - very uncertain since several specialist report have not yet been written.
c. 10 pages photographs (B and W)

Volume IV : Excavations on Roman Sites in Exeter, 1971 - 8, The Finds by
P.T. Bidwell.

Now that almost all the Roman pottery has been studied and drawn it has become apparent that the most efficient and economical method of publishing this material will be to present a type-series in a single volume. A large proportion of the stratified Roman pottery from Exeter has been recovered from a comparatively small number of deposits which depend for their dating-evidence on samian and coins rather than coarse wares. Only a small proportion of the pottery comes from sites with complex stratigraphy. These deposits include:

- (i) fortress demolition deposits.
- (ii) the infilling of successive defensive ditches.
- (iii) miscellaneous pits and wells

More than half of the coarse wares are black-burnished ware types. The remainder is represented by the products of a small number of centres, the fabrics of which are readily distinguishable; the general location of some of these minor production centres is already known.

Thus the coarse wares from Exeter are mostly derived from well-dated contexts and can be assigned to a small number of fabric-types. Bearing in mind these two factors, the most economical way of publishing the pottery would seem to be a type-series.

The type-series will be sub-divided according to the fabric-types. It will include all the pottery from Exeter, and will be supplemented by material from other sites, where relevant.

The 'summary of stratified deposits' will serve as a link between the type-series and the excavation reports, both published and unpublished. It will consist of a list of deposits with a summary of the dating evidence and stratigraphical relationships.

Synopsis of contents:	Approximate No. of Pages
Introduction	6
Section A : Pottery	
I. Type-series of coarse wares (No. of illustrated pots c. 1200)	140
II. Samian : (i) Stamps by B. M. Dickinson (ii) Decorated samian by G. B. Dannell	70
III. Mortaria by K. Hartley	30
IV. Amphorae by ?D. P. S. Peacock	15
V. Pre-Flavian Fine Wares by K. T. Greene	10
VI. Post-Flavian Fine Wares by V. G. Swan	20
VII. Terra Nigra by V. Rigby	5
VIII. Lamps by D. M. Bailey	2
IX. Petrological Analysis by D. F. Williams	10
X. Conclusions : The Supply of Pottery to Exeter	20
Section B : Small Objects	
I. Bronze Objects (inc. Brooches by D. Mackreth) (No. of illustrated objects c. 350)	40
II. Bone Objects (No. of illustrated objects c. 50)	6
III. Shale Objects (No. of illustrated objects c. 50)	6
IV. Iron Objects (No. of illustrated objects c. 100)	15
V. Others, including : (i) Marble head by J. M. C. Toynbee (ii) Stone mortars	15
Section C : Coins by N. Shiel (400 coins)	20
Section D : Glass by D. Charlesworth (mostly published in <u>EAR I</u>)	5

- 13 -

Summary of stratified deposits

30

Total no. of pages

(465, say 480 with index)

Director, A. F. U.

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

EXETER ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE 7th Dec. 1979

Report to Committee

1. EXCAVATIONS

Exe Bridge

A small area of the old riverbed was excavated beneath Arch 5 to investigate the bridge foundations prior to landscaping. It can now be seen that each of the piers to the south-west of St. Edmund's church is founded upon layers of volcanic rubble and gravel occupying a scoop in the riverbed apparently no more than 50 cm. deep. These layers are contained and stabilised by rows of oak piles which penetrate up to 1 m. into the underlying sands and gravels. At one point traces of wattles were preserved woven between a row of piles. Piers 1-3, however, rest only upon a thin layer of volcanic rubble and appear to have no piles in their foundations.

The survey of the bridge fabric was completed this summer by Stewart Brown. Detailed examination of the masonry has shown that the eight and a half arches (82.8 m. in length) which survive all belong to the original scheme of c. 1200, although some of them were extensively repaired at a later date. It also seems possible to demonstrate that the piers and arches were constructed in sequence from north-east to south-west. The bridge almost certainly had 17 arches originally; the best estimate we can make of the full length between the abutments is 172.5 m. (based on the 18th century Chamber Map Book and the 1876 OS 1:500 map).

The level III archive, including a detailed account of the stratigraphy, and almost all the publication drawings for the Exe Bridge/Frog Street site have now been prepared. Mr. Brown will start work on the final report next winter.

Good Shepherd Hospital

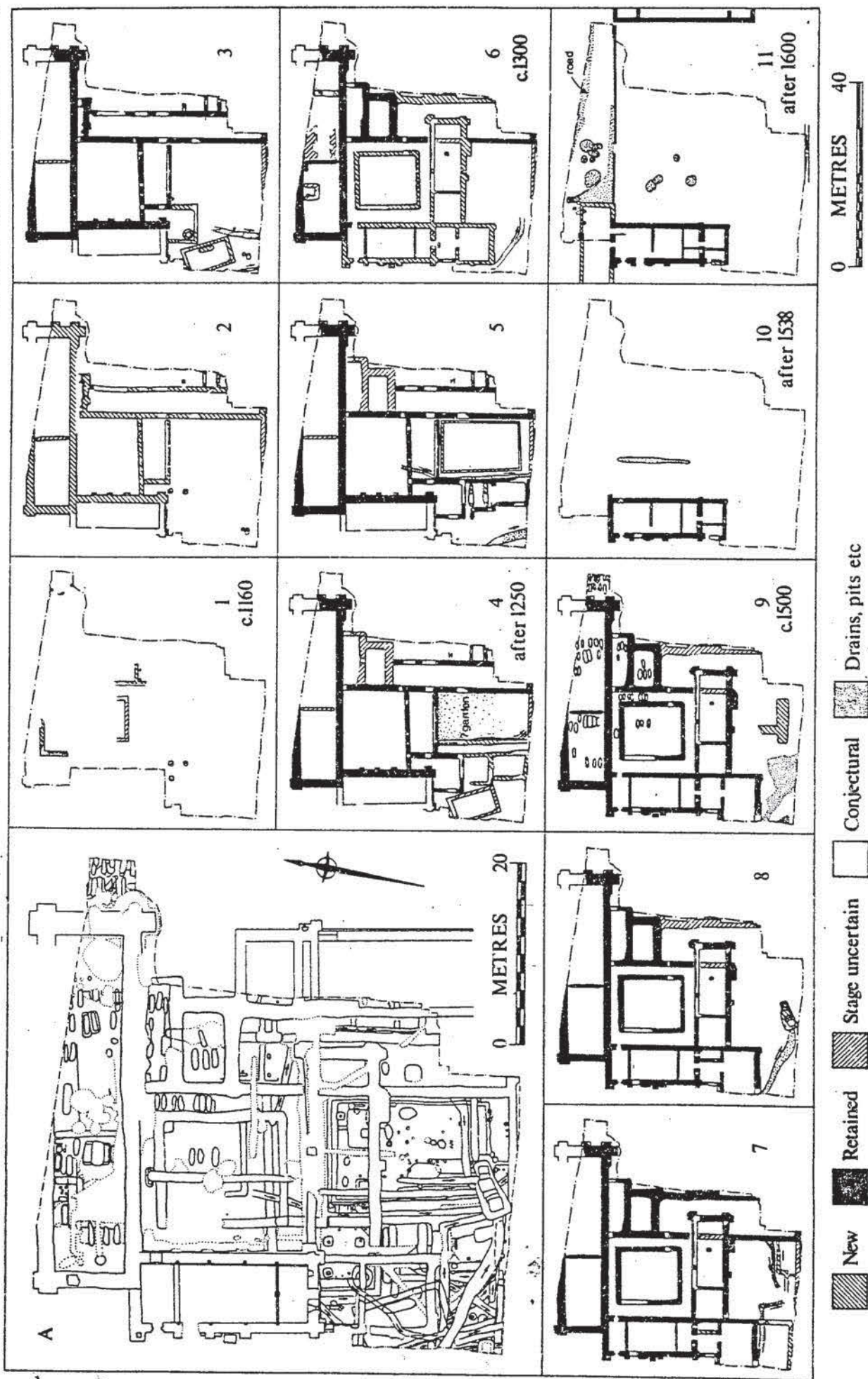
A trial excavation showed that all Roman deposits in this area had been removed by terracing in the 16th century. The presence of a few human bones in the topsoil suggests that there may have been an inhumation cemetery here in the Roman period. A pit and a ditch dating to the period 1610-30 produced useful groups of pottery including early clay pipes and part of a Raeren stoneware panel jug.

Polsloe Priory (with J. P. Allan)

The accompanying plan illustrates the sequence of buildings uncovered in the excavations of 1976-78. Plan A shows all excavated features, the standing west range, and the buildings revealed in the trenches cut in the 1930s by Mr. A.W. Everett. (1) Robbed wall trenches of an orientated building, perhaps a temporary chapel, precede the construction of the church nave. Fragments of a building earlier than the E. range and early buildings in the cloister and kitchen areas are also believed to precede the main ranges. (2) The church was massively constructed, with foundations up to 3 m. wide. It was long and narrow (c. 39 x 9 m.), without aisle or transept on the S. side, and this plan apparently remained unchanged throughout the life of the priory. The foundations of the W. range, with buttresses projecting into the cloister, bonded with the church. The first refectory and E. range were built on a modest scale, and it appears that the first chapter house did not project beyond the E. range. (3) A detached kitchen, aligned NW-SE, and a small room containing a well were built S. of the W. range. (4) Further rooms, linked by a corridor to the refectory, were added next to the kitchen. A deposit of brown loam, possibly a garden soil, accumulated in the enclosed area between the projecting dormer range and the kitchen range; small timber buildings later occupied part of the 'garden' area. (5) The kitchen and corridor were demolished and the adjacent rooms altered internally. A large rectangular building (c. 11 x 18 m.) with narrow stone footings was constructed in the former 'garden'. (6) The first W. range was replaced by the standing building, containing architectural details

POLSLOE PRIORY, EXETER 1976-78

INTERIM PLAN



of c. 1300. A new refectory, kitchen and cloister also appear to have been built at this time, but the E. range was reconstructed after the refectory. Plan 6 also shows features of uncertain date in the church. (7) A room was added to the new kitchen range, and another further E. (8) These two rooms and the projecting dorter range were demolished. A sunken rectangular 'cistern' with ashlar floor and walls was constructed; stairs led down on its E. side and water was fed to it by earthenware pipes. Contained in its backfill were Raeren and Beauvais stoneware, S. Netherlands maiolica and Spanish tin-glazed sherds. (9) The area S. of the refectory was covered by a large deposit of animal bones, apparently butchery waste. A 'T-shaped' area of rubble was laid over the infilled 'cistern'. Plan 9 also shows all the medieval burials. Many in the church were in stone-lined graves; the majority of those in the cemetery outside the E. end had wooden coffins. (10) The W. range was retained after the dissolution; all other buildings were thoroughly robbed.

(11) The standing building has a complex post-medieval structural history. Stuart Blaylock carried out a complete survey of the range in the summer. The publication drawings for the building will be finished by mid December. Mr. Blaylock will write an account of the structural history of the range in late December and will then start drawing up the excavation plans for publication.

2. WATCHING BRIEFS

Friars Walk

Several walls and robber trenches belonging to the Franciscan Friary established in the 1290s on land between Holloway Street and the Exe were recorded when a new sewer was dug along Friars Walk connecting to a block of flats which is being built on the corner of Friars Walk and Holloway Street. Part of the site was excavated by Exeter University and the A.F.U. in 1973, when the end of a chapel containing burials and a tiled floor was uncovered. The chapel seems to have been attached to the north side of the church, which lay outside the area excavated. A large robber-trench seen in the contractor's trench probably marks the position of the north wall of the church.

A number of burials, presumably within the church, were found to the south of the robber-trench and also large fragments of the late medieval Purbeck marble grave slab of John Taylor^u Tynenunham. A few metres to the north of the robber trench was a stone-lined pit 3.10m wide and c. 3.45 m. deep with trap walls c. 70 cm. thick. This appears to have been a large and unusually well constructed garderobe pit, since the bottom fill consisted of layers of cess.

211-219 High Street

Various features were discovered during the excavation of the basement for the new Marks and Spencer store. Those of Roman date included post-trenches belonging to military and early civil timber buildings and a stone-lined well of late second-century date. The well contained waterlogged deposits in which were preserved a number of organic objects including a wooden bowl, barrel staves, some fragments of leather, a piece of rush matting, a wooden comb and quantities of plum stones and hazel nuts. Flotation samples yielded insects remains, seeds, pieces of moss and small snail shells. A complete stone bowl c. 55 cm. in diameter also came from the well.

An eleventh-century pit produced a group of Saxo-Norman wheel-thrown pottery of the type made in the Bedford Garage kiln excavated by Aileen Fox; and a well contained a fine collection of jugs and cooking pots dating to c. 1400.

3. FUTURE EXCAVATIONS

Sites in the Friernhay area (see plan).

Three sites in the Friernhay area will probably require excavation in 1980-81: Wheaton's A (February-April 1980); Batholomew Street C^f (April-May); and Wheaton's B (1981).

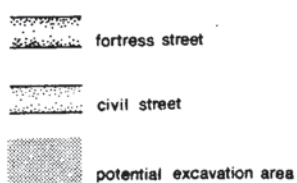
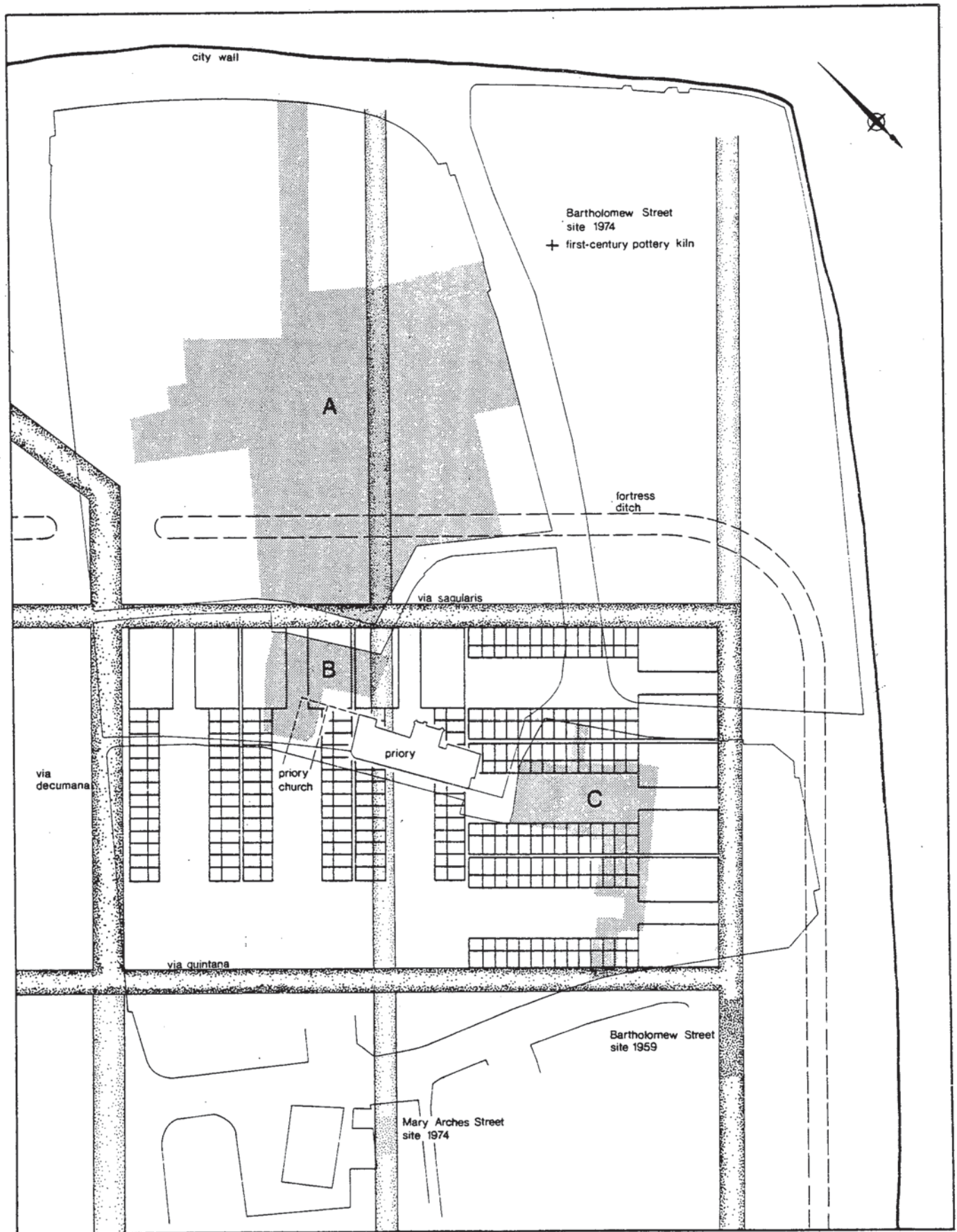
The combined results of these excavations are likely to make significant additions to the plan of the fortress and town. The accompanying plan is intended to give an indication of the archaeological potential of the area. It is almost entirely conjectural, the layout of the fortress defences and streets being based on our present understanding of the overall fortress plan (discussed in E.A.R. I). The dimensions of the barracks are assumed to be the same as those of the barracks excavated in the Guildhall area.

The main topics to be investigated are listed below.

Fortress

- (1) Locate the exact line of the via sagularis, rampart and ditches.
- (2) Excavate a length of the early ditch to obtain further evidence for the date of its infilling - thought to be within a year or two of the foundation of the fortress.
- (3) Confirm the presence of barracks; establish their size, plan, disposition and number of building phases, and confirm that the Guildhall barrack-type represents the norm for Exeter.
- (4) Obtain dating evidence from the construction trenches of the barracks, particularly for the final phase. The early phases on the Guildhall site yielded few finds; the last phase, however, produced a relatively large group of pottery, including a few pieces of early-Flavian samian which provide support for the view that the fortress continued to be occupied into the early 70's. Confirmation can only come from excavation of other late construction deposits in the fortress; these have so far been encountered only in the barracks - the 'special' buildings usually have one phase only.
- (5) Locate the via quintana.
- (6) Seek evidence of extra-mural industrial activity associated with the probable pottery kiln and kiln-waste material from the 1974 Bartholomew Street site.

EXETER : conjectural plan of fortress left retentura and civil streets



Early Roman Town

- (7) Confirm that the fortress defences were retained in the early town.
- (8) Establish whether the via sagularis and via quintana became part of the civil street system, and whether the early civil street found in 1974 at Mary Arches street continued as far as the via sagularis.
- (9) Investigate the chronology, character and extent of occupation in this corner of the town.
- (10) Look for evidence of extra-mural activity, eg., cultivation, industry.

Later Roman Town

- (11) Obtain a further sample of pottery from the civil ditch to confirm a late second-century date for its infilling and the slighting of the rampart.
- (12) Establish whether the street found in Mary Arches street was extended across the early defences and, if so, at what date.
- (13) Clear as large an area as possible of any buildings associated with the putative street in site A.

Medieval

- (14) Most of the excavation areas are well to the rear of the medieval street frontages. Rubbish pits will not be dug out below the base of the Roman deposits except where one is found to contain an exceptional group of finds.
- (15) The part of the church of St. Nicholas' Priory underlying the proposed office block on site B will be excavated as fully as possible. The area between this and the priory building is to be landscaped. Here the surface will be cleared to a depth of a few centimetres to allow a plan to be made of the robber trenches - visible very near the surface.

Paul Street/Queen Street

A new store is to be built in the Spring on a 0.6 acre site bounded by Paul Street, Queen Street, Maddock's Row and the City Wall. The back of the building will be 9 m. from the rear face of the City Wall, so there should be little or no disturbance caused to ^{the} bank behind the wall. The main defensive ditch of the legionary fortress is believed to run parallel with Paul Street just inside the site. A trial excavation will take place in January to establish the exact line of the ditch.

41-42 High Street

The floor level of the basement in this building is to be lowered by 50 cm. Early Roman levels are almost certainly preserved beneath the present cellar floors and an excavation will therefore take place in January to locate the position of the fortress via praetoria and investigate any buildings lying to the south-east of the street.

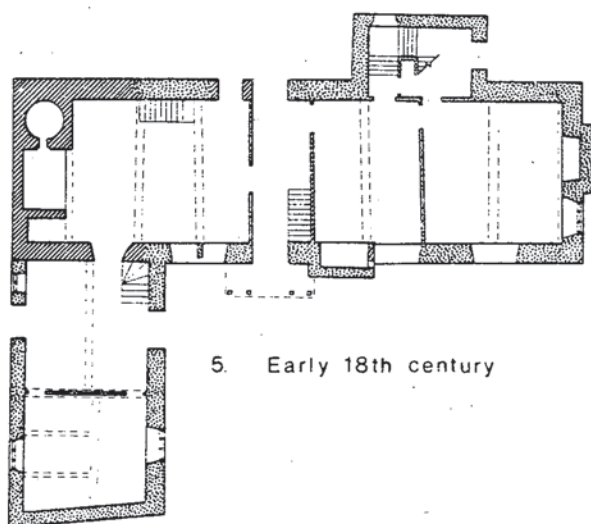
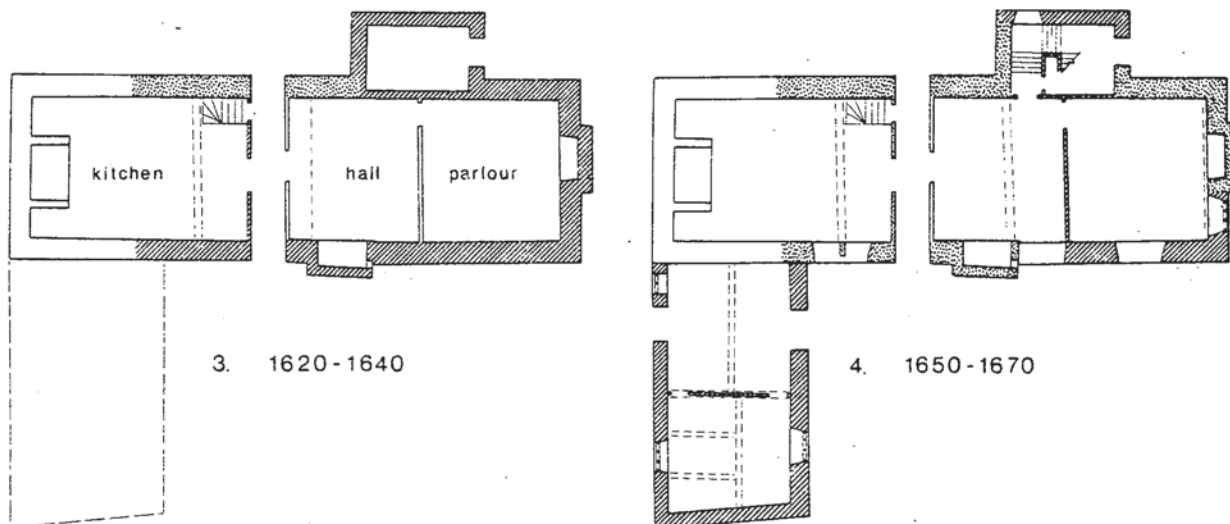
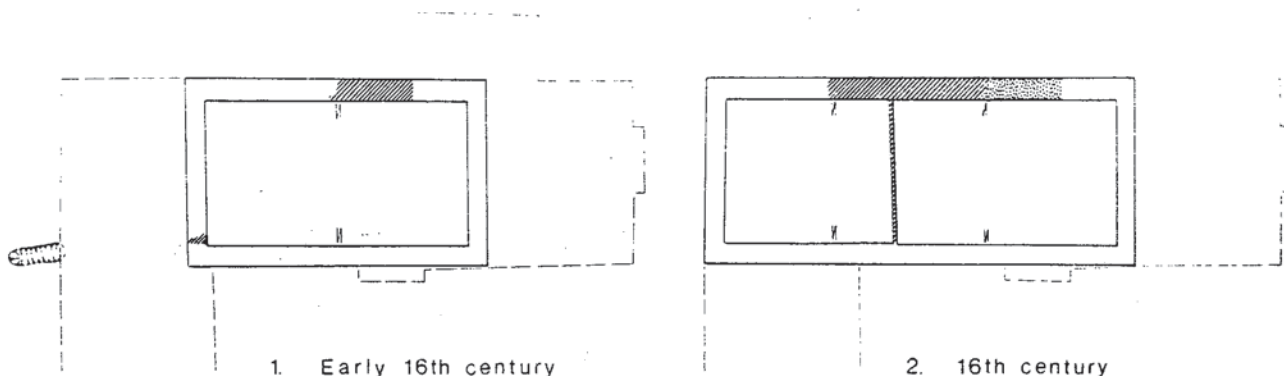
4. STANDING BUILDINGS




Great Moor Farm

The Excavation of the farmhouse was carried out by a small group of diggers for six weeks in May and June. The building had previously been stripped and recorded prior to demolition, and the summary account which follows combines the observations made above ground with the evidence revealed by excavation.

There were no finds of medieval date from the site: the earliest piece of pottery was a sherd of South Netherlands maiolica of a type found elsewhere in contexts of c. 1475-1525. The earliest documentary reference to the farm indicates that it was already in existence by 1529. The first two building phases cannot be dated closely, but they can be shown to precede a rebuilding dated on pottery evidence to c. 1620-40. It therefore seems likely that the first building on the site was erected in the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century.

GREAT MOOR FARM, SOWTON



-  new work
-  retained
-  conjectural



0 10 30 metres

Phase 1: The earliest house was built of cob set on low, shallow-founded stone footings 80 cm. wide. It measured 10.4 x 5.6 m. internally and would almost certainly have been of one storey throughout. The roof was probably of four equal bays c. 2.5 m. wide. All that survived above ground was a 3 m. length of wall associated with a jointed-cruck truss. The position of the west wall was indicated by a short length of robbed foundation trench and that of the east wall can be inferred from the character of the Phase 3 foundations at their junction with the conjectural north-east corner of the early building.

Phase 2: The west end of the house was rebuilt and extended by 5 m. - an increase in floor area of 48%. Two roof trusses - one a closed truss dividing the building into two parts - remained from this period together with a section of wall 4.9 m. long. The western end was certainly unceiled since both ~~of~~ the open truss and the west face of the closed truss were blackened by smoke from an open hearth. Whether the east end was also unceiled is not clear but probably it was open to the roof and unheated. Preserved in the north wall at a height of c. 2.5 m. above the floor was the lower part of a splayed window opening 76 cm. wide.

Phase 3: (c. 1620-40) The house was extended by 5.7 m. at the east end with most of the front (south) wall and part of the back being completely rebuilt. For the first time there is definite evidence for a three-part cross-passage plan and for the existence of first-floor accommodation in part of the building. Fireplaces were provided in the ground-floor hall and parlour and in the room over the parlour. The kitchen was only part-floored^{end} and the hall was probably unceiled^{over}. A projecting room measuring 4.1 x 2.1 m. at the rear of the house had an outside door but it is not known whether it connected with the hall or parlour; if it did, it may have functioned as a buttery and stair-turret combined. The unusually long kitchen first noted by Dr. Alcock in his 1962 study evidently resulted from the piecemeal way in which the building was enlarged and modified. The screen between kitchen and passage was inserted at this period.

Phase 4 (c. 1650-70): The eastern half of the house was rebuilt extensively with the addition of an attic floor throughout, a new staircase, and fireplaces in the room over the hall and the eastern attic room. Several fireplaces were decorated with painted designs similar to the sgraffito designs found locally in houses of this date. Plaster plaques were put up over the fireplaces in the parlour and principal chamber. The windows of this phase have ovolo-moulded mullions and the chamfered beams terminate in scroll stops. The hall screen described by Dr. Alcock was inserted at this time, though it was probably re-used from the previous hall. A two-storied annexe at the kitchen end measuring 9.5 x 4.7 m. appears to have been built during this period. It was clearly intended to provide living accommodation but did not contain any fireplaces.

Later History: The late 17th and early 18th century saw a large number of ^{alterations} changes ~~take place~~ in both kitchen and parlour ends. In the period 1690-1710 the parlour received a decorated plaster ceiling and the fireplaces were brought up to date by the addition of bolection chimney-pieces. The kitchen end was completely rebuilt on one occasion and altered twice subsequently. The storied porch was added to the front of the house and the passage widened. In the 19th century many of the windows were replaced and the eastern half of the house was given a new roof.

The investigation of Great Moor Farm has made it possible, perhaps for the first time, to give a reasonably comprehensive account of the structural development of a typical Devon farmhouse over a period of 450 years or more.

9 The Close

The late-medieval front range of this courtyard house was recorded when alterations were made recently. A full account will be given in the next report to the Committee but an illustration is included here of a wall painting, dated c. 1450-1500 and believed to depict Samson and the Lion, which came to light during the building works. We understand that the Dean and Chapter are taking steps to preserve the painting.



9, The Close: medieval wall painting.

5 ANCIENT MONUMENTS

Larkbeare bridge

A medieval bridge was discovered a few years ago next to Larkebeare House, where the culverted Shutebrook Stream runs under Holloway Street. The Unit has recently made a detailed drawing of the bridge and a plan showing its position. The bridge has a single pointed arch 2 m. high with six chamfered ribs and a chamfered basal plinth. It is 4.8 m. wide but has a span of only 1.5 m. Dr. Young has inspected the bridge and is arranging for it to be scheduled.

City wall

Part of the wall at Quay Lane is being restored at the moment. Close examination of the masonry has shown that the Roman core is preserved here sandwiched between later refacing to front and back.

6 EXETER 1900

The City Council recently issued the following press release explaining the background to the proposed 1900th Anniversary Festival. (next page).

THE 1900th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF EXETER

The origin of Exeter as a self-governing civil community

The City Council has decided to celebrate 1980 as the 1900th anniversary of the foundation of Exeter as a self-governing community and regional centre of the South West - a status which in many respects it has never lost.

The historical and archaeological basis for this has in some important respects been established through the work of a City Council department - the Archaeological Field Unit of the Museums Service. For some eight years now, this Unit, with generous grant-aid from the Department of the Environment and the help and co-operation of Exeter University, has been excavating in Exeter in advance of important redevelopment schemes. This work has resulted in an enormous amount of extra knowledge of the history of Exeter and added to the pioneering work of Lady Aileen Fox, the first Archaeologist to excavate in Exeter in the post-war period and who herself encouraged the creation of the City's Archaeological Field Unit.

Recent excavations have shown that the first intensive settlement on the site of Exeter took place c55/60 when the Second Augustan Legion constructed a fortress c40 acres in extent in what is now the centre of the modern City. The fortress served as the centre of administration for the whole of South-west England and was linked to a network of forts by a system of roads which extended from Cornwall to as far East as the Dorset/Hants border and Northwards into Gloucestershire. In c75 the Second Augustan Legion was transferred to Caerleon in South Wales and took part in the conquest of Wales. The fortress at Exeter was abandoned, but in c80 a civil settlement and centre of administration was established on its site. This settlement ranked as civitas peregrina, i.e. a self-governing community of non-Roman citizens within the Roman Empire. The area which was administered from Exeter coincided with the tribal boundaries of the Dumnonii, a tribe which occupied Devon and Cornwall and parts of Somerset and Dorset. Exeter at this time was called Isca Dumnoniorum and the territory which it administered was the civitas Dumnoniorum.

Excavations carried out from 1971-77 in the Cathedral Close at Exeter uncovered part of the forum and basilica, the market-place, hall of justice and administrative offices of the town. Previous excavations had uncovered part of the public baths in the Deanery Garden. These buildings were erected in the late first Century.

It is possible to fix the date when the town of Exeter was founded with some precision. A biography of Agricola, the governor of Britain from c79, by his son-in-law Tacitus, mentions that in the winter of 79/80 Agricola "with private encouragement and public aid pressed forward the construction of temples, fora and town-houses". This probably refers to a general transfer of authority from the Roman Army to self-governing communities throughout much of Southern Britain, attended by the construction of public buildings for new towns. There can be little doubt that Exeter would have been granted its status as a self-governing community at this time and thus its foundation date can be fixed in about AD80.

7 PUBLICATION

To mark the Anniversary the Council has commissioned Paul Bidwell to write a general book entitled Roman Exeter: The Fortress and Town. This will be an A4 paperback of approx. 140 pages including bibliography and index and approx. 30 figures and 16 plates. The scope and purpose of the book are as follows: (i) to provide an authoritative overall account of Roman Exeter suitable for the interested general reader as well as students of Roman Britain. (ii) to review the results of previous excavations, publish the most important recent finds from the fortress and town, and provide an interim account of unpublished work. (iii) to place Roman Exeter in its wider historical and archaeological setting. The book will go to press in February in time for publication in the early summer. It is intended that the price should be kept below £5. The pre-publication offer price will be around £3.75 - £4.00.

Synopsis:

- I Previous research: the legendary history of Exeter - early antiquarians - modern research.
- II The Roman army in South-West England: the South-West before the Roman Conquest - the conquest - Roman forts and auxiliary regiments in South-West England - military administration and exploitation of the South-West - Exeter, Gloucester and the end of the military occupation.
- III The legionary fortress at Exeter: Iron Age settlement in the Exe Valley - location of the fortress - defences - plan - barrack-blocks - fabrica - baths - other buildings - garrison - dating evidence.
- IV The foundation of the town: the establishment of a civilian administration - the construction of the basilica and forum - the public baths - the early defences - the street-plan - occupation within the town - extra-mural streets and buildings - speculations on the population of the early town and its relationship to the civitas.
- V The later defences: the bank: an independent phase of the defences? - the wall - gates - ditches - date and purpose.

- VI The later town: replanning and extension of the street - grid - town-houses - alterations to the basilica and forum - the end of the town.
- VII Economy and society: the nature and extent of Romanisation in the civitas - pottery ~~##~~ building materials - animal husbandry - coins and currency - evidence for religious life - late Roman imports.

Epilogue: the cemeteries on the site of the basilica and forum - post-Roman occupation - the rebirth of the town.

Appendix: Roman Exeter: a select bibliography.

3.90

£46

Exeter Archaeological Reports Volume II

The volume, entitled Faunal Studies in Urban Archaeology: the animal bones from Exeter 1971-75 by Mark Maltby, is with the printers and will appear in February or March. The price will be £5.50 after publication and £4.75 for copies ordered in the next two months. It will have approx. 230 pages, 20 figures and 122 tables.

Volume III

The catalogue and main text are almost ready for final typing but a few drawings remain to be finished after Christmas. There seems a very good chance that the whole report will be complete by Easter if the six outstanding specialist reports are received in time.

The following estimates of printing costs have been submitted by the Devonshire Press:

<u>Copies Printed</u>	<u>Number bound</u>	<u>Cost of printing and binding</u>	<u>Unit cost bound</u>	<u>Selling price</u>
500	500	11160	22.32	37.25
750	500	11700	16.40	28.50
1000	500	12180	13.38	24.00

The selling price is calculated by adding £2.50 to the unit cost to cover profit, postage, packing and advertising, and then adding 50%.