



APPENDIX 1

A Roman military pit at 37 North Street

Site no. 38

Excavations carried out in the summer of 1971 by the EMAFU under the directorship of Michael Griffiths revealed a number of features of various date at the rear of Number 37 North Street. The site was located at SX 9185/9265 and was within the area of the former Roman legionary fortress at Exeter, more specifically, within the *latera praetorii*.

Amongst the features excavated was a pit (Fig. App. 1) which was subsequently found to contain material dating solely to the Claudio/Neronian period. It is likely that this pit was backfilled during the Roman military period or shortly thereafter during a period of demolition of the fortress. This was the only confirmed Roman military feature which was located on the site. The pit (context 22) was about 0.6m deep and 0.8m square with several distinct layers of backfill and a marked overhang when fully excavated. The primary fill (22-3), which adhered to the edges, was a greeny sand. This was overlain by a layer of dark brown clay loam with patches of sand and with fragments of shell and slate (22-2). This in turn was overlain by an orange/brown sandy clay with charcoal flecks (22-1). Most of the pottery finds were found around the edge of the pit in layer 22-3. Included in the finds was a metal ladle found in the north-west corner of the pit (see below).

The finds listings

Glossary of abbreviations for finds inventory

Fabric No. Type

- 40\* South-Western Black-Burnished Ware
- 81\* Hand-Made Grey-Burnished Ware
- 151\* Exeter Sandy Grey Ware
- 406\* Flagon Fabric
- 500 Samian-South Gaulish Type
- 1000 Unspecified/Unclassified Fabric

(\* = Fabric Number used in EAR 4)

For descriptions and discussions of fabric and types mentioned see Holbrook and Bidwell (1991).

Type abbreviations

- 999 Unspecified Type
- Cu. Curle (Samian type)
- Dr. Dragendorff (Samian type)
- FL Flagon

Miscellaneous

- MNV Minimum number of vessels
- Qty Quantity
- Wt Weight in grams

FINDS INVENTORY

Pottery

22

Fabric	40	MNV	2	Wt	535		
Type	16.1					Qty	1
Type	999					Qty	1
	(base with pedestal detachment scar)						
Fabric	81	MNV	1	Wt	20		
Fabric	151	MNV	1	Wt	345		
Type	18.1					Qty	1
	(P.159, 18.1)						
Fabric	406	MNV	1	Wt	35		
Type	1.2b					Qty	1
	(P.141, 1.2b)						
Fabric	500	MNV	3	Wt	50		

Type	Cu.11					Qty	1
	(?Neronian)						
Type	Dr.24/25					Qty	1
	(Claudian)						
Type	Dr.27					Qty	1
	(Claudian)						
Fabric	503	MNV	1	Wt	5		
Fabric	1000	MNV	1	Wt	?		
Type	FL					Qty	1
	(P.144, 10)						

Metal objects

Found within the pit was a fragmentary ladle with an out-turned rim of rectangular section. There is no sign that the bowl, which has an incised double circle on the outer face, was perforated. The long handle narrows towards the centre before expanding to a leaf-shaped end with a globular terminal. Diameter: 98mm, Length of handle 210mm (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 257 and fig.116.107). An iron object found in close association with the ladle has not survived.

Also recovered were a number of hobnails with traces of attached organic material which is probably leather (Alison Hopper pers. comm.) and some fragments of a shale bracelet.

Bibliography

Holbrook N. and Bidwell P.T. 1991 *Roman Finds From Exeter*, Exeter Archaeological Reports: 4.

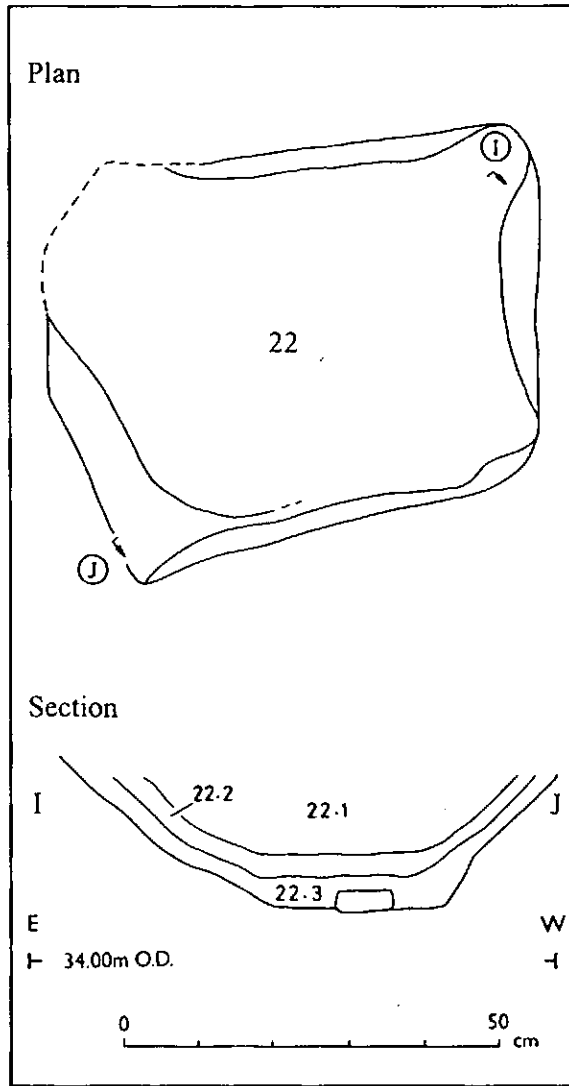


Fig. App. 1 Plan and section of Pit 22. Scale 1:10