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**EXCAVATIONS AT FRIARS WALK,
EXETER, 1973.
PART 1: ROMAN MILITARY**

by

J.B. Bedford and J.P. Salvatore

Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit

Report No. 94.09

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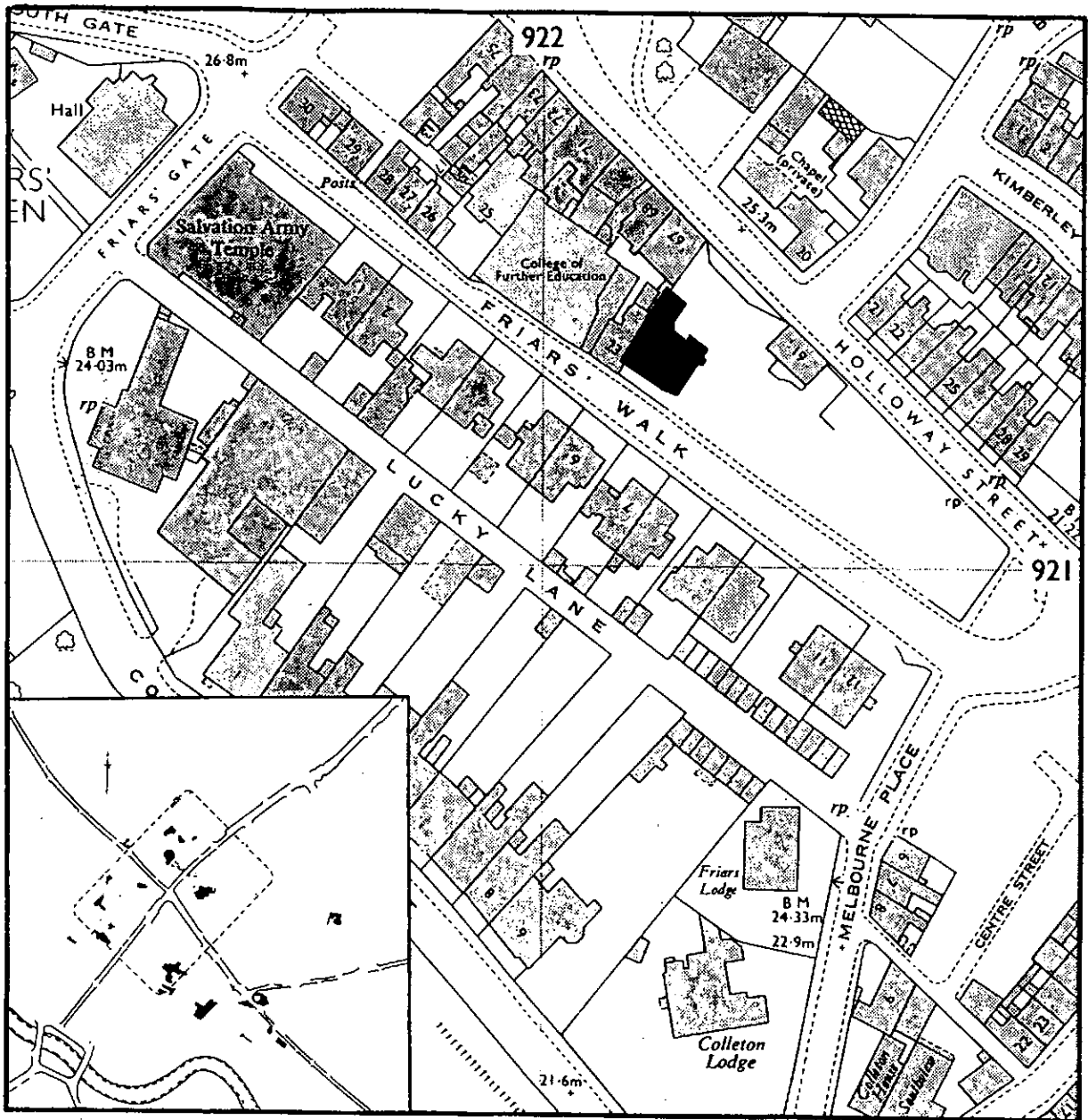


Fig. 1 The location of the Friars Walk excavations Exeter 1973. The inset shows the approximate position of the site outside the fortress defences.

SECTION 1

1 Introduction

From May until June 1973 excavations took place on a plot of land fronting onto Friars Walk which was due for redevelopment. The site was excavated by the Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit (EMAFU) under the directorship of Michael Griffiths. The site supervisor was Penny English and the site assistant was John Thorp. The post-excavation work for this research archive was undertaken by Jon Bedford and John Salvatore.

1.1 The organisation of this report

Section 1 contains a site narrative for the Roman military period. This narrative is an interpretive account based upon the discussion of the evidence detailed in Sections 2 and 3.

Section 2 contains the detailed archaeological evidence for those features found on the site which were thought to date to the Roman military period.

Section 3 contains a finds inventory which includes summary dating evidence provided by the pottery.

1.2 The site (Fig.1)

The site was situated about 190m south of the South Gate of the City Wall at SX 9222/9214 and was outside the Roman legionary fortress about 320m south-east of the of the fortress defences.

1.3 Method of excavation

Excavation was by the open area method with accompanying sections and profiles.

1.4 Excavation summary

Remains of the post-medieval, the medieval and the Roman civil periods were recorded overlying features of the Roman military period which at Exeter is dated from c.AD 55/60 - c.75/80. Roman military features were first encountered at about 27.3m O.D. Only five features of suspected Roman military date were found four of which were pits and one a well.

1.5 Post-excavation applications and site records

The original site notes were typed up and entered onto disc, these were subsequently converted to Word Perfect. The site records, comprising context sheets, field-plans, and plans on drawing film, are stored at the EMAFU offices, Gandy Street, Exeter under project number 46.

1.6 Site narrative: Roman military

Found on the site were five features which could with reasonable confidence be ascribed to the Roman military period. Three of these features were suspected at pits (10, 15 and 69). Examination of the finds from these

pits did show a marked preponderance of what could be termed as personalia (a brooch and a lamp for instance) and the presence of burnt bone fragments is suggestive but the interpretation, whilst possible, remains unconfirmed. These pits could be slightly earlier in date than the well (47) which produced Flavian samian suggesting that it survived until the end of the Roman military occupation in this area.

For further discussion see Groups 1-3 and Fig. 3 in Section 2.

1.7 Discussion

The excavations at Friars Walk have demonstrated the presence of Roman military activity well beyond the immediate environs of the fortress. This activity probably took place at the very edge of Roman occupation, perhaps just outside the military enclosure of pre-Flavian date which was bounded to the north-east by a palisade trench running parallel to the line of the military road. This road, which may have led to a military establishment at the head of the Exe estuary (see Bidwell 1980, 44), ran in a south-easterly direction from the *porta principalis sinistra* of the fortress (see Fig. 2). If some of the pits located at Friars Walk were cremations then they may have been placed alongside the road in a similar manner to the pre-Flavian cremations on the north-east side of the road but closer to the fortress which were discovered at the Valiant Soldier site (Bedford and Salvatore 1994c). Further pits of Roman military date were found at Lucky Lane some 90m due west of the Friars Walk site (Bedford and Salvatore 1994a) but only one pit of military date (Neronian/Vespasianic) was located on the Holloway Street site of 1978 just to the south-east of Friars Walk (Bedford and Salvatore 1994b).

The relationship of the site to the fortress as a whole will be discussed in a future Exeter Archaeological Report (Salvatore and Henderson forthcoming).

Acknowledgements

Field plans were drawn by K. Whidden.

The plans in this report were drawn by various members of the EMAFU and were photographed for reduction by G. Young. Section 2 was typed by A.G. Collings. Pottery listings were provided by G. Langman.

Bibliography

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- Bedford J.B. and Salvatore J.P. 1994b *Excavations at Holloway Street, Exeter, 1974. Part 1: Roman military (with an appendix on the Holloway Street excavations of 1978)*, report of the EMAFU: 94.10.
- Bedford J.B. and Salvatore J.P. 1994c *Excavations at The*

EXETER : ROMAN MILITARY SITES S.E. OF THE FORTRESS

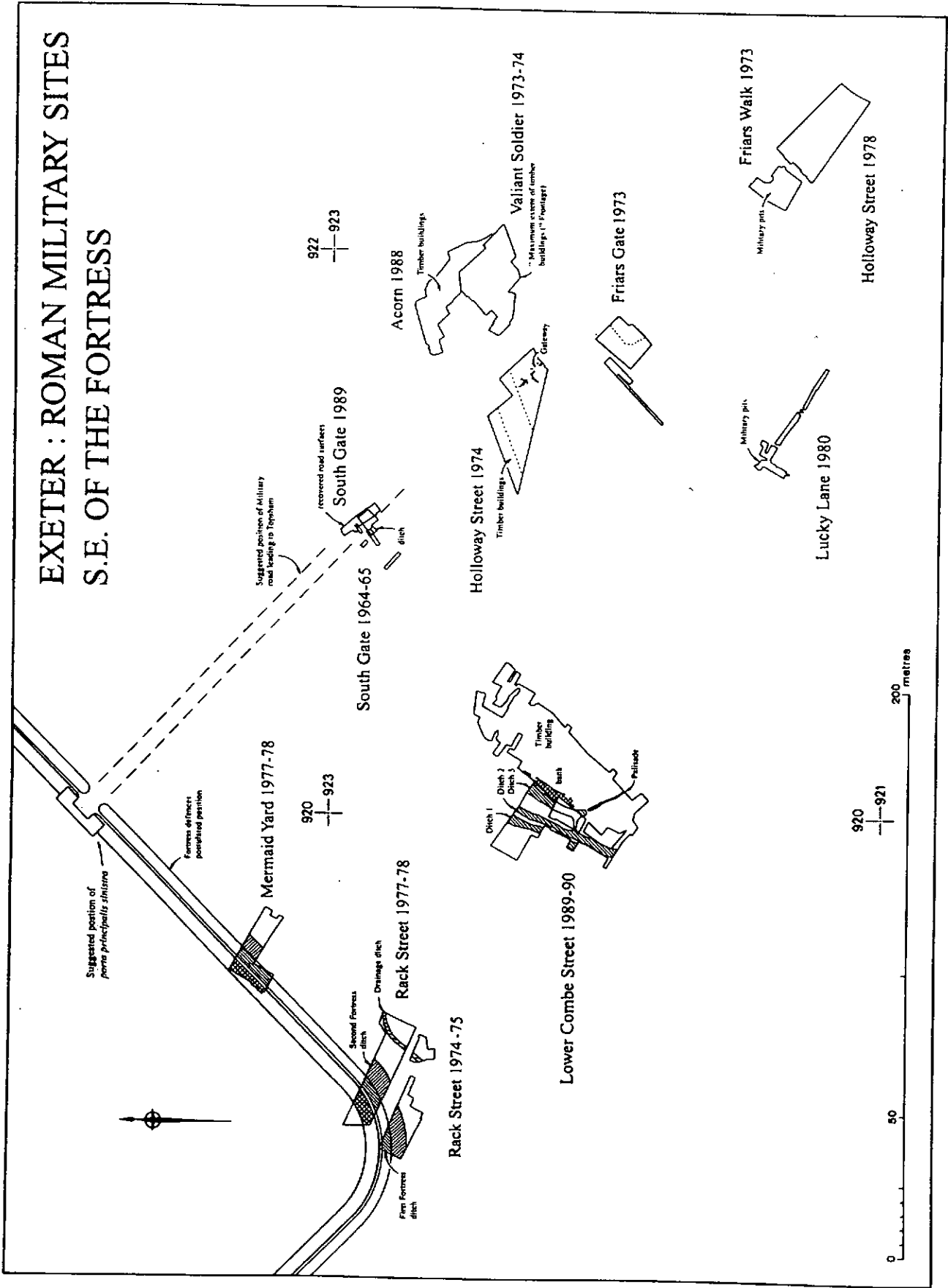


Fig. 2 The Friars Walk site in relation to other Roman military sites outside the fortress. Scale 1:2000.

Valiant Soldier, Exeter, 1973-74. Part 1: Roman military, report of the EMAFU: 94.11.

Bidwell, P.T. 1980 *Roman Exeter: Fortress and Town*. Salvatore J.P. and Henderson C.G. forthcoming *The Roman Legionary Fortress at Exeter, Exeter Archaeological Reports*.

SECTION 2

2 Introduction

This section of the report contains a record of the detailed archaeological evidence upon which the narrative produced in Section 1 is based. The lack of a clear stratigraphic sequence for the Roman military levels on the site has resulted in no matrix diagrams having been produced although the features have been grouped and individual contexts are described in a standardised form in numerical order.

2.1 Group identification

The contexts suspected to be of Roman military date on the Friars Walk site have been divided into three groups based loosely on their interpretation.

There was no stratification of the military levels.

2.2 Context information

Information about individual contexts is provided by the general context index. This index employs an abbreviated 'type' description (e.g. C/F = Cut/Fill). Secondly, a standardised summary description of each context in numerical order is included in the report.

2.3 The group discussions

Group 1

This group includes three pits (10, 15, 69) which have tentatively been interpreted as cremation pits.

Pit 10 contained fragments of burnt bone, a bronze brooch, and flagon and amphora shards. In addition, it was noted to have contained some possible cess traces. The pit is not closely dated.

Pit 15 contained a few fragments of burnt bone, a sandy-grey ware rim dated c. 60-780, shards of Claudian and pre-Flavian samian ware, and shards of Dressel 20 and South Spanish amphora. This points to a military, and probably a pre-Flavian date, for the infill of pit 15.

Pit 69 contained a considerable amount of pottery shards dating from c. 60-780 AD, some pre-Flavian samian, two shards of samian dated to 60-75 AD, and a fragment of a pottery lamp dated c. 40-80. A military date for the infill of the pit seems certain.

Contains contexts: 10, 15, 69.

Group 2

This group was created for one feature (47) which has been interpreted as a well. It comprised a sub-rectangular wellhead approximately 1.6m long by 1.2m wide; it was unbottomed at a depth of 3.9m. From the finds recovered from the infill of the well (which included Flavian samian and a mortarium dated AD 70-100) it appears that it may have gone out of use either within the latter period of Roman military occupation or shortly thereafter. A possible context for its abandonment may have been the demolition of the Roman military buildings outside the fortress in the early Flavian period as witnessed on the Valiant Soldier site (Bedford and Salvatore 1994c).

Contains context: 47.

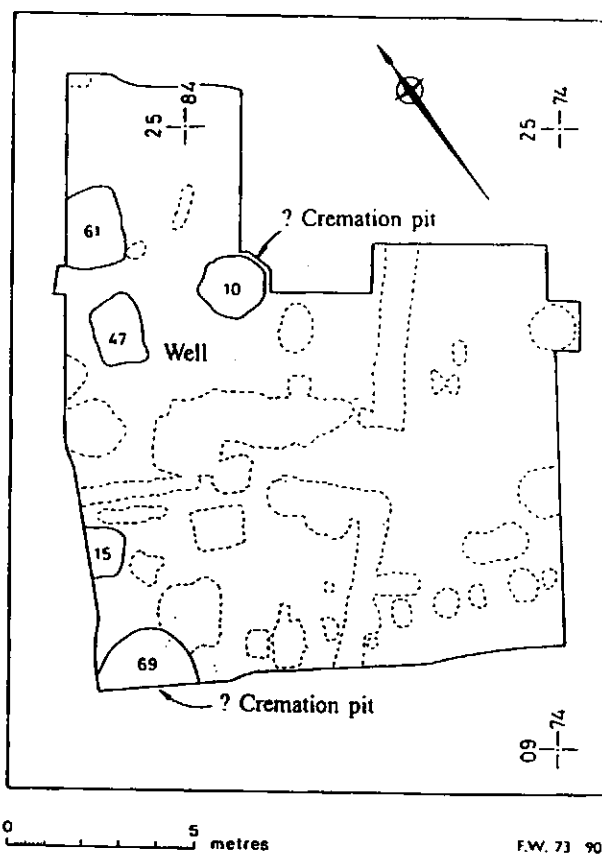


Fig. 3. Simplified plan of Groups 1-3 showing the suspected Roman military features. Scale 1:200.

Group 3

This group encompasses the single remaining pit thought to date from the military period (pit 61).

The upper fill of this pit produced a considerable number of pot shards including Neronian/Vespasianic samian, and mortaria dated from c. 50-85 AD. Like the well (47) this pit may have been infilled at the end of the Roman military occupation.

Contains context: 61.

2.4 The context descriptions and main indices

List of abbreviations (for contexts)

Depth	D	North	N
Diameter	Diam	Occasional	occ
East	E	South	S
Fragment	frag	Volcanic	volc
Frequent	freq	Waterworn	ww
Height	H	West	W
Length	Le	Width	Wth
Maximum	Max		

CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

- 10 Pit, possible cremation pit, circular with fairly straight sides, two fills: 1) brown clayey soil with charcoal fragments, patches of charcoal, possibly cess material, small stones, burnt bone, bronze stud and bronze brooch (lying open); 2) upper fill clayey, scattered fragments of amphorae, other potsherds. Diam = 1.6-1.8m, D = 0.43m.
- 15 Pit straight-sided, possible cremation pit, fill of loose brown black clay soil with many water-worn pebbles. Many small fragments of samian, coarsewares and amphorae, occasional tile, burnt bone. Possibly burial. Fill more gravelly and clayey to the bottom. Le = 1.05m, Wth = 0.85m+, D = 0.75m.
- 47 Well, sub-rectangular, mortar lined, six fills: 1) brown / reddish tinged soil with a few small water-worn pebbles, coin approx 1m down, merges into L2 at about 1.5m; 2) reddish clay soil with charcoal; 3) sticky green clay soil with occasional charcoal, d = 2.65m from surface; 4) reddish clay soil with some charcoal / yellow flecks, depth at SW corner 3.05m, subsiding slightly towards centre. Produced very corroded ?medallion. Three features in walls of pit: a) small circular post-hole, diam 0.22m, 2.90m from surface, 0.78m from SE corner, 0.20m from SW corner; b) post-hole in N wall, 0.13m in diam; c) elliptical hole in E wall, 0.45m x 0.32m, depth = 0.23m; all of these features lined and back-filled with very pure red clay, presumably construction features; 5) orange / yellow clay layer 3.55m from surface. There was also a band of sand running around pit 0.15m from surface, approx. 0.16m wide. For 47, Le = 1.60m, Wth = 1.25m, D = 3.9m.
- 61 Pit, upper fills confused by later features. Fill of brown silty soil with many orange clay lumps; some charcoal and a number of large stones and water-worn pebbles. Produced considerable amounts of Roman pottery including a complete amphora neck. Layer of greenish sand, below this brown soil with no clay. Le = 2.0m, Wth = 1.5m+, D = 0.95m.
- 69 Large shallow pit, possible cremation pit. Sealed with a layer of Heavitree gravel dipping towards centre, placed there in later times, probably to counteract subsidence. Considerable number of finds all on bottom of pit. Fill of mid-brown sandy clayey soil with small water-worn pebbles and stones. Circular, diam 2m, dip to centre to a maximum depth of 0.50m.

GENERAL CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Type	Plan
10	C/F	801
15	C/F	801
47	C/F	801
61	C/F	801
69	C/F	801

ARCHIVE SECTION INDEX

Context	Number	Sheet	Location
10	4	801	801
15	-	801	801
47	2	801	801
61	3	801	801
69	1	801	801

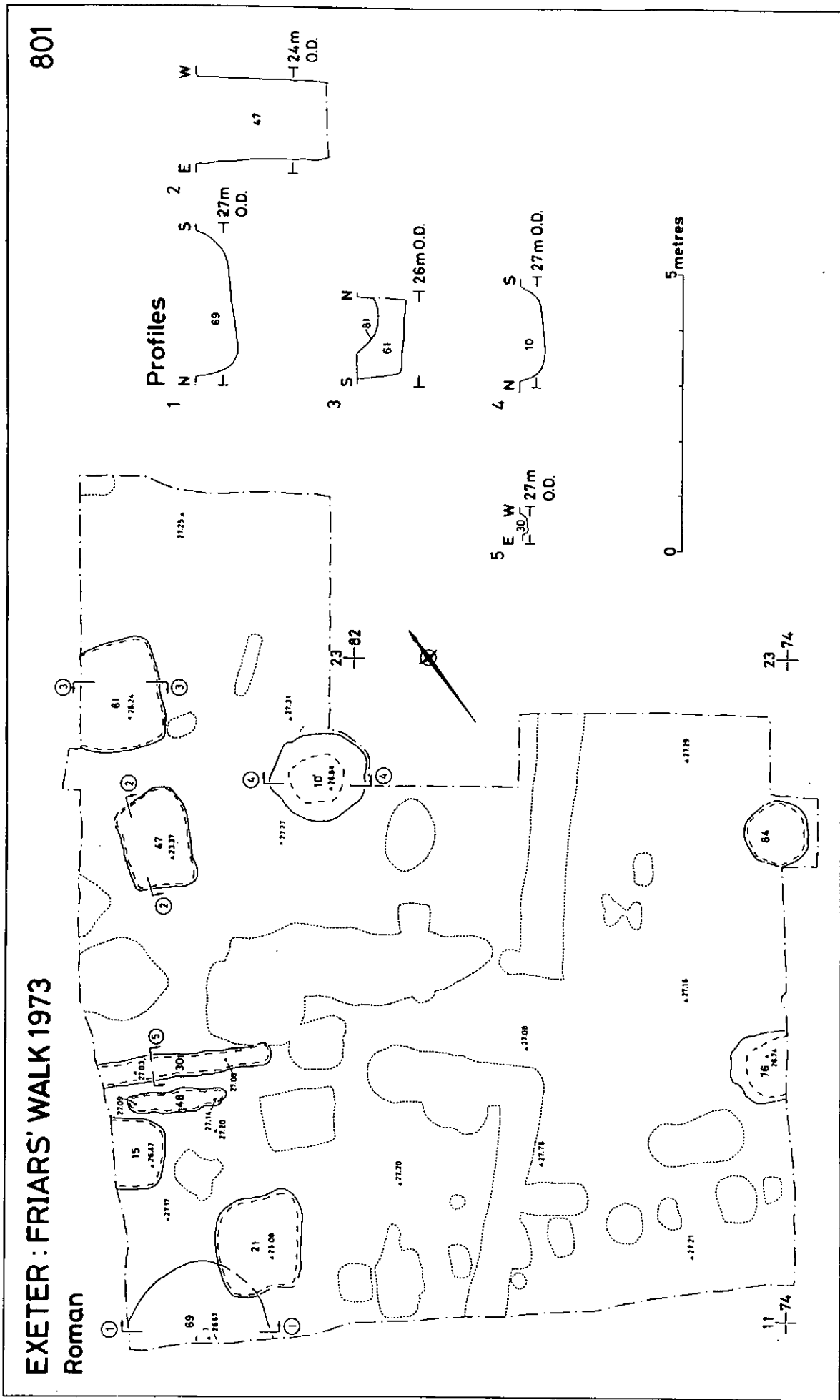


Fig. 4 Plan and profiles of the Roman military remains (801). Scale 1:100

SECTION 3

3 Introduction

Found below are details of the pottery finds including some notes on the dating of individual shards and other information where relevant. Page and figure references (eg. p.159 No.24.1; Fig. 59/24.1) refer to page numbers and illustrations in Holbrook and Bidwell 1992. Pottery from the site is stored at the RAM Museum, Queen Street, Exeter under site code BFW 73.

The finds listings and other indices

Glossary of abbreviations for finds inventory

<i>Fabric No.</i>	<i>Type</i>
2*	Gabbroic Ware
3*	?Local Coarseware Fabric
31*	South-East Dorset Black-Burnished Ware
40*	South-Western Black-Burnished Ware
81*	Hand-Made Grey-Burnished Ware
151*	Exeter Sandy Grey Ware
190*	Fortress Ware B
191*	Fortress Ware C
220	Butt Beaker (EAR 1)
371*	Fortress Ware A
406*	Flagon Fabric
435*	Flagón Fabric
440*	Flagon Fabric
500	Samian-South Gaulish Type
503	Lyon Ware (Pre-Flavian)
505	Central Gaulish Ware (Colour-Coated, Pre-Flavian)
516/3	Pompeian Red Ware Peacock Fabric 3
517	<i>Terra Nigra</i> (Gallo-Belgic Ware)
524	Unspecified/Unassigned Fine Ware
600	Dressel 20 (Peacock & Williams 1986, Class 25), amphorac
602	Dressel 2-4, amphorac
604	South Spanish, amphorac
605	Rhodian Style Peacock Fabric 1, amphorac
607	Carrot (Peacock & Williams 1986, Class 12), amphorac
610	Richborough 527 (Peacock & Williams 1986, Class 13), amphorac
612	Unspecified/Unassigned, amphorac
705	FC3 (Gallia Belgica), mortaria
710	FC7 (Central France), mortaria
711	FC8 (Central France), mortaria
712	FC9 (Central France), mortaria
713	FC10 (Central France), mortaria
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
BKR	Beaker
CAM	<i>Camulodunum</i>
CF	Closed Form
Dr.	Dragendorff (Samian type)
JAR	Jar
LAMP	Lamp (Lyon Ware)
LID	Lid

OF	Open Form
Ritt.	Ritterling (Samian type)
SJ	Storage Jar
TC	Type Continental (mortaria)

Miscellaneous

MNV	Minimum number of vessels
Qty	Quantity
Wt	Weight in grams

FINDS INVENTORY

Pottery

10

Fabric	406	MNV	1	Wt	15
Fabric	600	MNV	1	Wt	825

15

Fabric	31	MNV	1	Wt	10
Fabric	40	MNV	1	Wt	50
Type	OF				Qty 1
Fabric	151	MNV	1	Wt	125
Type	24.1				Qty 1

(p.159 No.24.1 Fig. 59/24.1)

Fabric	440	MNV	2	Wt	485
Fabric	500	MNV	5	Wt	50
Type	Dr.18				Qty 1
Type	(pre-Flavian)				Qty 1
Type	Dr.27				Qty 1
Type	(pre-Flavian)				Qty 1
Type	Dr.29				Qty 1
Type	(pre-Flavian)				Qty 1
Type	Ritt.8				Qty 1
Type	(Claudian)				Qty 1
Type	999				Qty 1
Type	(1C, Lugena)				

Fabric 600 MNV 1 Wt 80

Fabric 604 MNV 1 Wt 95

47

Fabric	40	MNV	1	Wt	40
Fabric	81	MNV	1	Wt	10
Fabric	151	MNV	2	Wt	130
Type	2.1				Qty 1
Type	LID				Qty 1
Fabric	190	MNV	1	Wt	25
Fabric	191	MNV	2	Wt	265
Fabric	220	MNV	1	Wt	10
Fabric	371	MNV	1	Wt	10
Fabric	406	MNV	2	Wt	15
Fabric	435	MNV	5	Wt	500
Fabric	500	MNV	16	Wt	310
Type	Dr.15/17				Qty 1
Type	(pre-Flavian - from Layer 1)				Qty 1
Type	Dr.18				Qty 1
Type	(pre-Flavian - from Layer 1)				Qty 1
Type	Dr.18				Qty 1

(Neronian-Vespasian - from Layer 4)

Type	Dr.24 or 27	Qty	1
	(Neronian, p.51 No.105 - from Layer 1)		
Type	Dr.24/25	Qty	1
	(Claudian - from Layer 4)		
Type	Dr.27	Qty	1
	(Tiberian-Claudian - from Layer 1)		
Type	Dr.27	Qty	1
	(pre-Flavian - from Layer 1)		
Type	Dr.27	Qty	1
	(pre-Flavian or Neronian-Vespasian - from L2)		
Type	Dr.27g	Qty	1
	(Neronian or earlier, p.51 No.99 - from L3)		
Type	Dr.29	Qty	2
	(both c. 65-75 AD or c. 55-70 AD - from L1)		
Type	Dr.29	Qty	2
	(both c. 65-80 AD - from Layer 2)		
Type	Dr.29	Qty	1
	(c. 70-85 AD, p.58 No.28; Fig.12/28 - from L2)		
Type	Dr.33	Qty	1
	(Neronian-Vespasian - from Layer 1)		
Type	Dr.37	Qty	1
	(c. 70-85 AD, p.58 No.29; Fig.12/29 - from L2)		
Fabric	517	MNV	1 Wt 15
Type	CAM 8	Qty	1
	(from Layer 1)		
Fabric	524	MNV	1 Wt 10
Type	JAR	Qty	1
	(1 small globular jar in whitish fabric)		
Fabric	600	MNV	1 Wt 105
Fabric	604	MNV	1 Wt 675
Fabric	605	MNV	2 Wt 205
Fabric	607	MNV	1 Wt 20
Fabric	612	MNV	1 Wt 245
Type	LID	Qty	1
	(p.219, 1, coarse gritty buff fabric. Diameter: 118mm)		
Fabric	705	MNV	1 Wt ?
Type	TC24	Qty	1
	(c. 70-100 AD, p.198, TC24)		
Fabric	710-712	MNV	1 Wt ?
Type	TC17	Qty	1
	(c. 50-85 AD, p.195, TC17)		
Fabric	1000	MNV	1 Wt 10
Type	BKR	Qty	1
	(miscellaneous other coarsewares of unknown origin, p.185, 7. Soft buff fabric with occasional small black & red inclusions, burnished externally).		

61

Fabric	40	MNV	1 Wt 20
Fabric	151	MNV	1 Wt 50
Type	34.1a	Qty	1
Fabric	500	MNV	4 Wt 170
Type	Dr.18	Qty	1
	(pre-Flavian)		
Type	Dr.18R	Qty	1
	(IC)		
Type	Dr.29	Qty	1
	(c. 60-75 AD, p.56 No.26; Fig.11/26)		
Type	Dr.29	Qty	1
	(c. 60-75 AD, p.58 No.27; Fig. 12/27)		

Fabric	503	MNV	1 Wt 2
Fabric	602	MNV	1 Wt 25
Fabric	612	MNV	1 Wt 75
Fabric	710-713	MNV	1 Wt ?
Type	TC13	Qty	1
	(c. 50-85 AD, p.195, TC13)		
Fabric	710/713	MNV	1 Wt ?
Type	TC16	Qty	1
	(c. 50-85 AD, p.195, TC16)		
69			
Fabric	2	MNV	1 Wt 535
Fabric	3	MNV	1 Wt 45
Type	5.1	Qty	1
	(p.182 No.5.1; Fig. 73/5.1)		
Fabric	31	MNV	3 Wt 735
Type	3.2	Qty	2
	(p.100 No.3.2; Fig.27/3.2)		
Type	CF	Qty	1
Fabric	40	MNV	2 Wt 165
Type	16.2	Qty	1
	(p.118 No.16.2; Fig. 37/16.2)		
Fabric	151	MNV	3 Wt 320
Type	17.1b	Qty	2
	(p.157 No.17.1b; Fig. 59/17.1b)		
Type	23.1b	Qty	1
	(p.159 No.23.1b; Fig. 59/23.1b)		
Fabric	190	MNV	1 Wt 10
Fabric	406	MNV	2 Wt 270
Fabric	435	MNV	1 Wt 55
Fabric	500	MNV	6 Wt 115
Type	Dr.18	Qty	1
	(?pre-Flavian)		
Type	Dr.24/25	Qty	1
	(?pre-Flavian)		
Type	Dr.29	Qty	2
	(both IC)		
Type	Dr.30	Qty	2
	(both c. 60-75 AD)		
Fabric	503	MNV	1 Wt 45
Type	LAMP	Qty	1
	(c. 40-80 AD, p.76 No.29; Fig.21/29. Loeschcke type I or IV)		
Fabric	505	MNV	1 Wt 135
Fabric	516/3	MNV	3 Wt 25
Type	CAM 17	Qty	2
Type	LID	Qty	1
	(p.80, table 9)		
Fabric	600	MNV	1 Wt 800
Fabric	605	MNV	1 Wt 240
Fabric	607	MNV	1 Wt 40
Fabric	610	MNV	1 Wt 970
	(p.218 No.2; Fig.89/2)		
Fabric	612	MNV	2 Wt 215
Fabric	1000	MNV	1 Wt ?
Type	SJ	Qty	1
	(miscellaneous other "Native" types, P.184, 1. Rough, slightly soapy light grey fabric, with abundant large white non-calcareous inclusions & large black cindery inclusions. Buff exterior surfaces, dark grey interior)		

Fabric 1000 MNV 1 Wt 35
 (I thick base with very irregular stabbed
 decoration. Sandy ware)

Coins

Coin abbreviations

A - virtually uncirculated

B - little wear

C - well circulated

D - very worn

RIC - Mattingly *et al* 1923-67

Claudian copies

(classification as in Sutherland 1935)

Context Identification

47.1 D *As*, Claudian copy as RIC 66 AD43-64

47 D *As*, Claudian copy AD43-64

Coin identifications by N. Shiel.

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR FINDS INVENTORY

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Peacock D.P.S. and Williams D 1986 *Amphorae and the Roman economy*.

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