

93.09 QUEEN STREET (MARKS AND SPENCER) 1978

(Roman Military)

**EXCAVATIONS AT THE OLD WOOL MARKET, QUEEN STREET  
(MARKS AND SPENCER) EXETER, 1978  
PART 1: ROMAN MILITARY**

by  
**J.B. Bedford and J.P. Salvatore**

**Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit**

**Report No. 93.09**

## CONTENTS

### Section 1

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Organisation of this report	1
1.2	The site	1
1.3	Method of excavation	1
1.4	Excavation summary	1
1.5	Post-excavation applications	1
1.6	Site narrative: Roman military	1
1.7	Conclusions	2
	Acknowledgements	2
	Bibliography	2

### Section 2

2	Introduction	3
2.1	Context matrix identification	3
2.2	Group and sub-group identification	3
2.3	Context information	3
2.4	The matrices, group discussions and sub-group descriptions	3
	Matrices	4
	Group discussions and sub-group descriptions	7
	Group/sub-group matrix	10
	Context/group/matrix index	10
2.5	The context descriptions and main indices	11
	Context descriptions	11
	General context index	13
	Archive section index	13

### Section 3

3	Introduction	18
3.1	The finds listing	18

### List of illustrations

Fig. 1	The location of the Queen Street (Marks and Spencer) excavations 1978.	overleaf
Fig. 2	A composite plan of the early Roman military features. Scale 1:250.	1
Fig. 3	A composite plan of the later Roman military features. Scale 1:250.	2
Fig. 4	Simplified plan: Groups 1-2. Scale 1:200.	6
Fig. 5	Simplified plan: Groups 3-5. Scale 1:200.	8
Fig. 6	Plan of the Roman military remains (801) Scale 1: 100.	14
Fig. 7	Sections through the Roman military and civil remains (806) Scale 1:100.	15
Fig. 8	Sections through the Roman military and civil remains (807) Scale 1:100.	16
Fig. 9	Section W/X through the Roman military, civil and later remains (808) Scale 1:50.	17

### Appendix 1

	Probable early civil timber buildings at Queen Street	19
Fig. App.1	Composite plan of the suspected Flavian period building and street. Scale 1: 200	20
Fig. App.2	Plan of the early civil remains (802). Scale 1:100.	21
	Pottery inventory and photographic index.	22

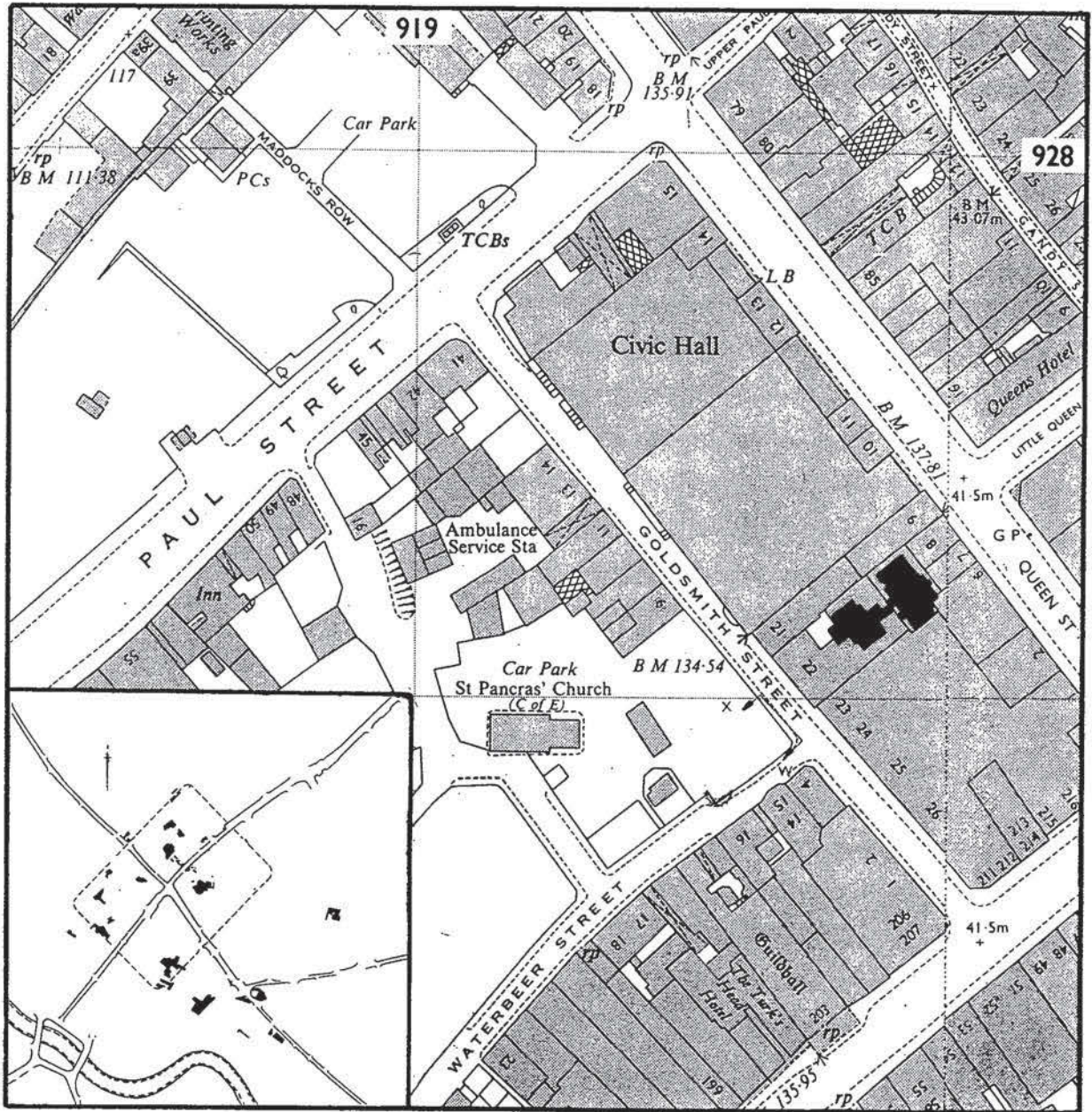


Fig. 1 The location of the Queen Street excavations Exeter 1978 (and section W/X of 1979).  
The inset shows the approximate position of the site within the fortress.



## SECTION 1

### 1 Introduction

From August to October 1978 the Exeter Museums Archaeological Field Unit (EMAFU) undertook an excavation within standing buildings behind numbers 7-8 Queen Street in the area of the Old Wool Market. This was in advance of the new Marks and Spencers store. The excavation was funded by Exeter City Council and was directed by C.G. Henderson and P.T. Bidwell. The site supervisors were J. Allan, S.W. Brown and J. Thorpe. The post-excavation work for this research archive report was undertaken in 1992 by J.B. Bedford and J.P. Salvatore.

#### 1.1 The organisation of this report

This report comprises three sections and an appendix. Section 1 includes a site narrative which summarises the results of the excavations on the Roman military levels at the Queen Street (Marks and Spencer) site of 1978 (for site location see Fig.1). This narrative is an interpretive and stratigraphic account based upon the discussion of the archaeological records contained in Section 2.

Section 2 contains the detailed archaeological evidence for the stratigraphic development of the site during the Roman military period. The excavation records are presented in a processed form using matrices and stratigraphic groups and sub-groups with standardised descriptions of individual contexts. In Section 3 information is given on the dateable finds material.

Appendix 1 deals with a substantial timber building of late military or early civil date.

#### 1.2 The site

The site was situated in the rear of 7-8 Queen Street Exeter in the Old Wool Market, at SX 9197 9272. The site is within the area of the former Roman legionary fortress. A separate section (W/X) was recorded in a position approximately 17m south-west of the site (see Fig. 1).

#### 1.3 Method of excavation

Excavation was by the open-area method within the confines of the standing building and with accompanying sections to recover details of the stratigraphy.

#### 1.4 Summary

Remains of the Post-medieval, the Medieval and the Roman civil periods were recorded overlying the deposits of the Roman military period which at Exeter is dated from c.AD 55/60 - c.75/80. The Roman military levels were first encountered at about 40m OD.

#### 1.5 Post-excavation applications

No post-excavation work had been conducted on the site since excavation. Both John Allan of the Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Christopher Henderson of the EMAFU were consulted with regard to the interpretation. The site records, comprising context sheets, field plans, plans on drawing film, and photographic material, are stored at the EMAFU offices at Gandy Street, Exeter under project number 68.

### 1.6 Site narrative: Roman military

The position of the site is within the *retentura* of the legionary fortress astride the right lateral street which is suggested by Henderson (1984, 20; Fig.14) to have run the length of the fortress. Very little evidence of the early military timber buildings in the area of the site survived (Fig. 2). Two parallel post-trenches which predated the laid street surface perhaps represent part of a temporary timber building (Building 1) constructed early in the life of the fortress. Similar remains were located on the north-western edge of the site (Building 2). It was interesting to note that these earlier structures were erected in accordance with underlying Roman military plan for the fortress. Thus, Building 1 was aligned *per scamna* as was the later barrack on the same site whilst Building 2 was probably aligned *per strigas* and this alignment too was later repeated in the barracks.

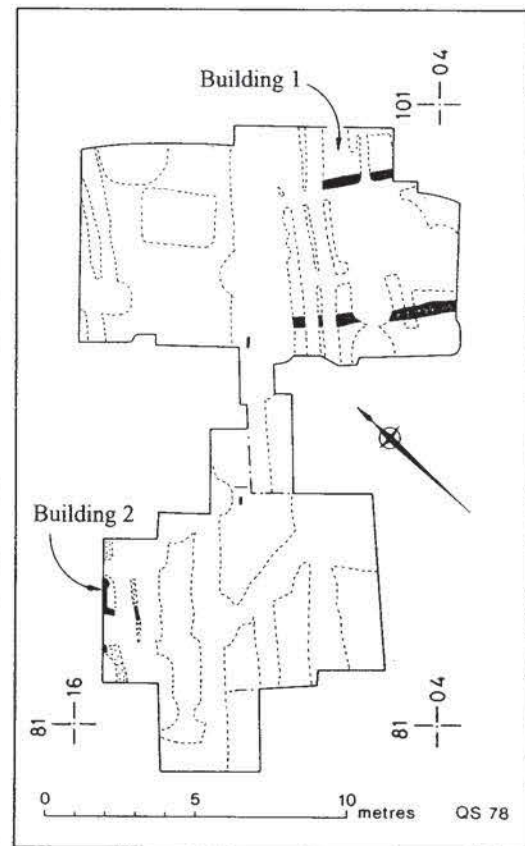


Fig. 2 A composite plan of the early Roman military features. Scale 1:250

In a later stage of development evidence is seen of the right lateral street of the fortress (Fig.3). This street was recognised also in the *praetentura* at Mary Arches Street (Bedford and Salvatore 1992a). The fact that the street was metalled is an indication of its importance; minor streets, for instance those between opposing barracks, were often left without any prepared surface (see Salvatore and Simpson 1992, 16; Fig.5). It was not possible to be certain of the precise width of the street at the Queen Street site, metalling was recorded at various positions which would suggest a maximum width of about 5.5m. This is considerably wider than that recorded at Mary Arches Street where the width

was no more than 3.5m. At Mary Arches Street however the street was located between houses that were almost certainly for officers whilst that located at Queen Street probably separated two cohort-blocks of barracks where the everyday movement of the troops perhaps demanded a greater width of passage.

Later developments, still within the Roman military period, suggest that the area was given over to the type of barrack accommodation that might be expected to be found in this position (i.e. in the area of the *retentura* adjacent to the defences) in a Roman fortress. Thus, the post-trenches forming the corner of a room (Building 3) shown on Fig. 3 are thought to represent the rear end of a timber barrack (Barrack A) that was aligned *per scamna* with its centurial quarters adjacent to the *via decumana*. (An identical arrangement was discovered in the equivalent cohort-block in the *praetentura* where the rear end of two barracks showed that the alignment was again *per scamna* with the centurial quarters this time adjacent to the *via praetoria* - Bedford and Salvatore 1992b, 1-2). The room that was exposed was almost certainly the *arna* (outer room) of the rear and last *contubernium* within a barrack facing to the south-west.

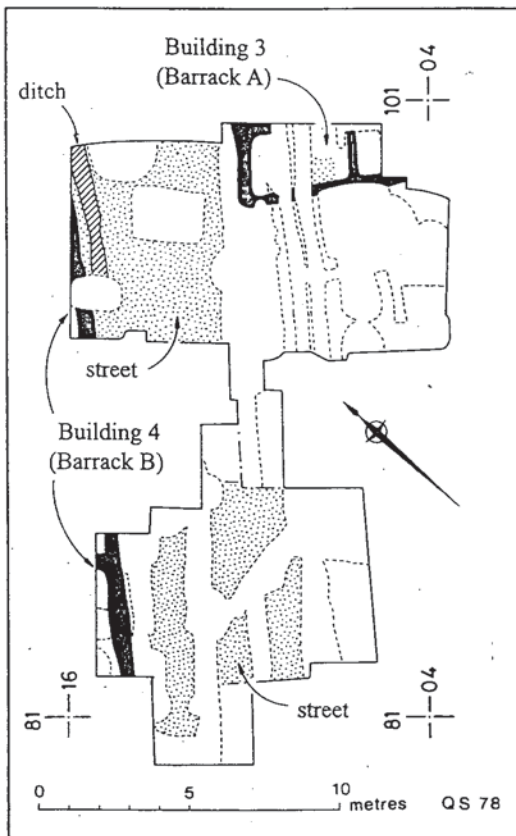


Fig. 3 A composite plan of the later Roman military features. Scale 1:250.

A further building (Building 4) is also most likely to be interpreted as a barrack (Barrack B shown on Fig.3). A length of some 16m of a post-trench flanking the north-western side of the street, and therefore aligned *per strigas*,

was discovered. This was perhaps the outer side wall of a barrack where the centurial quarters would have stood adjacent to the *via sagularis*. Evidence from the equivalent cohort-block in the *praetentura* shows that the barracks there were clearly aligned *per strigas* (Salvatore and Simpson 1992). The existence of a trench at right angles to the main outer trench on its north-western side provides evidence of an internal wall which, if the building was a barrack, may have been a division between neighbouring *contubernia*. A roadside ditch was observed to have run parallel to the street and the outer wall of Building 4 over a distance of about 5m. Part of the same street and what was probably the same roadside ditch were seen in section W/X at a distance of 17.5m south-west of gridline 81.

### 1.7 Conclusions

The site was of importance in confirming the existence, from the earliest stages, of a pre-existing plan for the division and layout of the fortress. Although little building evidence was recovered enough was seen to be reasonably confident that the cohort-blocks in this part of the *retentura* mirrored the arrangement found in the *praetentura*. The section W/X, which was recorded to the south-west of the site, was important in demonstrating the presence of a building, probably a barrack, adjacent to the right lateral street, which formed a pairing with a barrack on the Goldsmith Street site. This is dealt with in greater detail in an Appendix to the Goldsmith site report (Salvatore and Earwood 1993). 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

The plans in this report were drawn by T. Ives and were photographed for reduction by G. Young. The 800 series plan was drawn by B. Jupp and T. Ives. The matrices were produced by A.G.Collings who also typed Section 2 of the text. Pottery listings were provided by G. Langman.

### Bibliography

- Bedford J.B. and Salvatore J.P. 1992a *Excavations at Mary Arches Street, Exeter, 1975 Part 1: Roman military*, Report of the EMAFU: 92.40.
- Bedford J.B. and Salvatore J.P. 1992b *Excavations at St. Nicholas Priory, Exeter, 1983-84 Part 1: Roman military*, Report of the EMAFU: 92.34.
- Henderson C.G. 1984 'The plan of the Roman legionary fortress' in Henderson C.G. (ed.) *Archaeology in Exeter 1983/4*, EMAFU, 18-21.
- Henderson C.G. 1988 'Exeter (*Isca Dumnoniorum*)' in Webster G. (ed.) *Fortress into City: The consolidation of Roman Britain, first century AD*, 91-119.
- Holbrook N. and Bidwell P.T. 1991 *Roman Finds From Exeter*, Exeter Archaeological Reports: 4.
- Holbrook N. and Bidwell P.T. 1992 *Roman Pottery From Exeter 1980-1990*, Report of the EMAFU: 92.30.
- Salvatore J.P. and Earwood C. 1993 *Excavations at Goldsmith Street, Exeter, 1971-72 Part 1 Roman military*, Report of the EMAFU: 93.34.
- Salvatore J.P. and Henderson C.G. forthcoming *The Roman Legionary Fortress at Exeter*, Exeter Archaeological Reports.
- Salvatore J.P. and Simpson S.J. 1992 *Excavations at Bartholomew Street East, Exeter, 1980-81 Part 1 Roman military*, Report of the EMAFU: 92.33.



## SECTION 2

## 2 Introduction

This section of the report contains a record of the detailed archaeological evidence and basic interpretation upon which the narrative produced in Section 1 is based. The stratigraphic sequence is presented in the form of context matrices. The matrices have been produced according to a series of stratigraphic groups and sub-groups which illustrate events and stages in the archaeological record. Individual contexts are described in a standardised form in numerical order.

Make-up	mk
Metalling	mt
Natural	nat
Occupation	occ
Post-hole	ph
Post-trench	pt
Stake hole	sh

## 2.1 Context matrix identification

Matrices have been produced for the contexts of the Roman military period. The context matrix diagrams have been divided by horizontal lines at significant points; these illustrate the divisions between stratigraphic groups. The group number is located on the left hand side of the matrix diagram immediately below the horizontal line that defines its limit. Further sub-division of the groups into sub-groups is indicated by the sub-group number which is found in bold type to the left of the contexts that form the sub-grouping.

## 2.2 Group and sub-group identification

The Roman military contexts for the Queen Street site have been divided into thirteen groups. Each group represents an archaeological event. The nature of each group is given in the group discussions, this includes the basic interpretational conclusions that can be drawn from a consideration of the stratigraphic and other evidence. Stratigraphic relationships between the groups are illustrated by the group/sub-group matrix.

Where appropriate, the group may be divided further into sub-groups. These sub-groups represent distinct stages in an archaeological event and they usually consist of a number of contexts that have a clear association. The nature of each sub-group is given in the sub-group descriptions. The stratigraphic relationships between the sub-groups are themselves illustrated by the group/sub-group matrix.

## 2.3 Context information

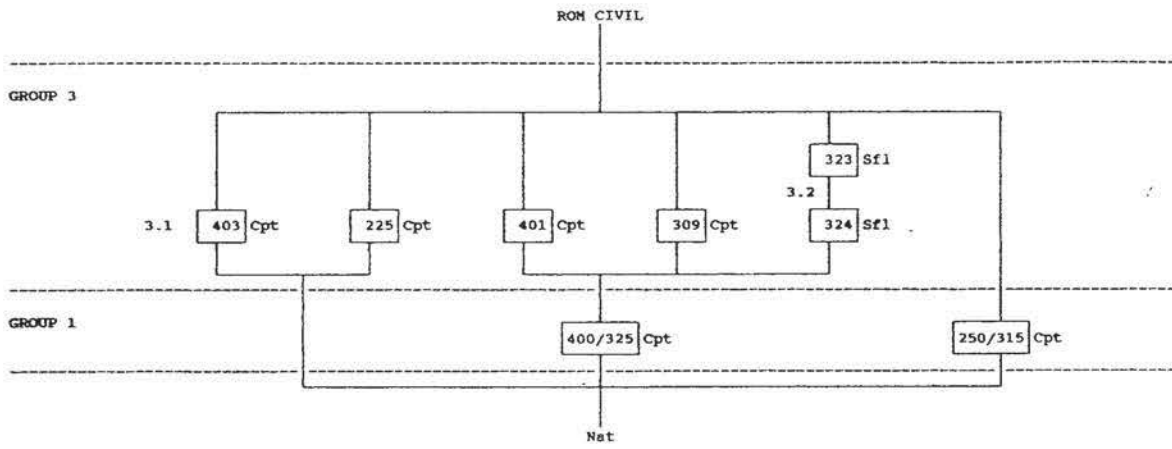
Information about individual contexts is provided in two forms. Firstly, the context number as it appears in the context matrix is annotated with an abbreviated 'type' description (e.g. Cph = Cut, post hole). The glossary of abbreviations is given at the beginning of the matrix diagram. Secondly, a standardised summary description of each context in numerical order is included in the report.

## 2.4 The matrix diagrams, group discussions, and sub-group descriptions

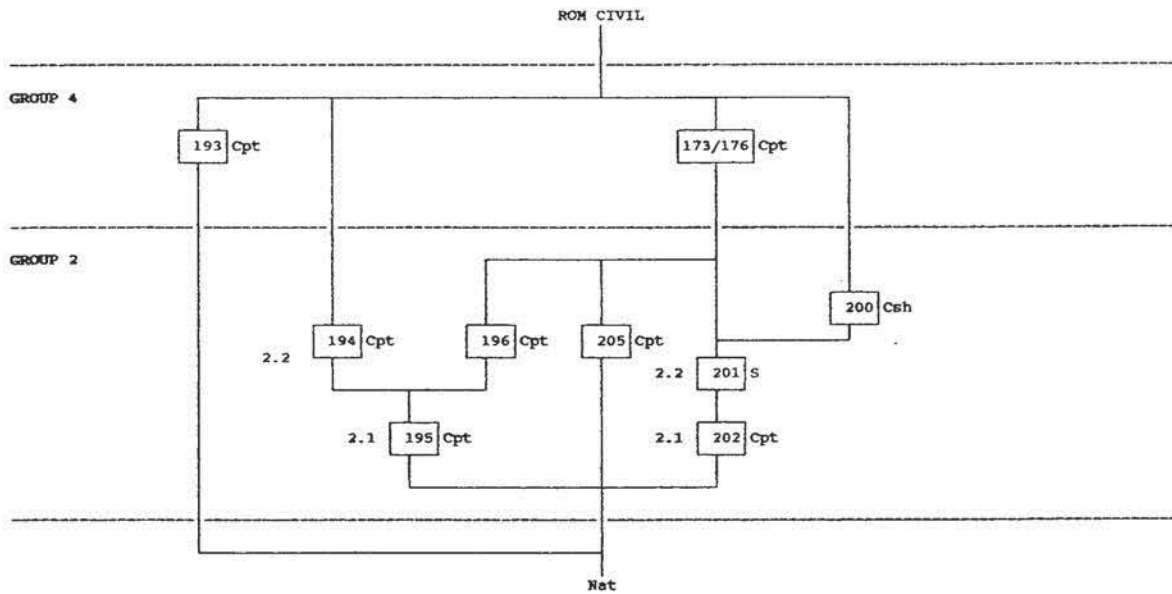
List of abbreviations (for matrices).

Cut	C
Fill	F
Layer	L
Surface	S
Miscellaneous	Misc
Ditch	dt
Dump	dp
Floor	fl

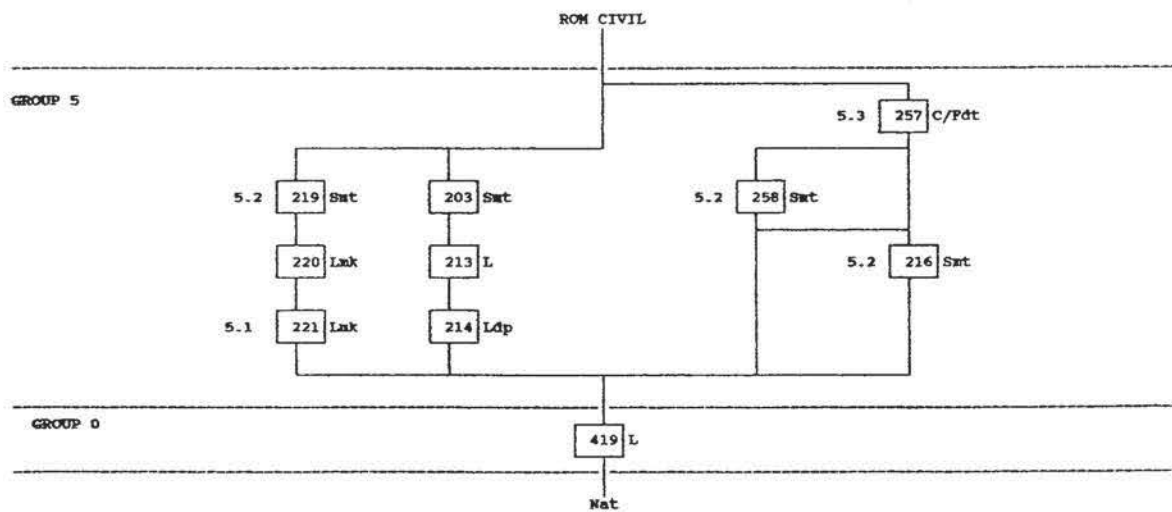
MATRIX 1 GROUPS 1 AND 3



MATRIX 2 GROUPS 2 AND 4

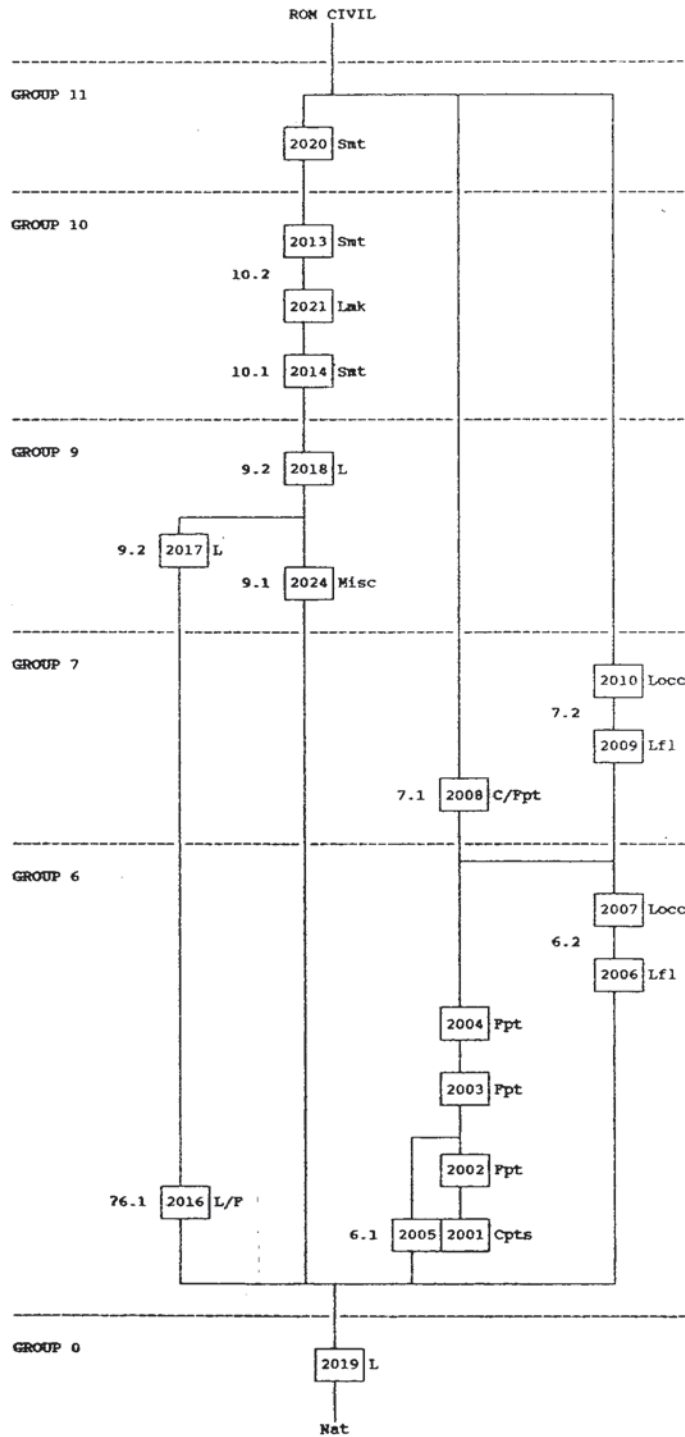


MATRIX 3 GROUPS 0 and 5





MATRIX 4 (SECTION W/X)



Groups 1-2

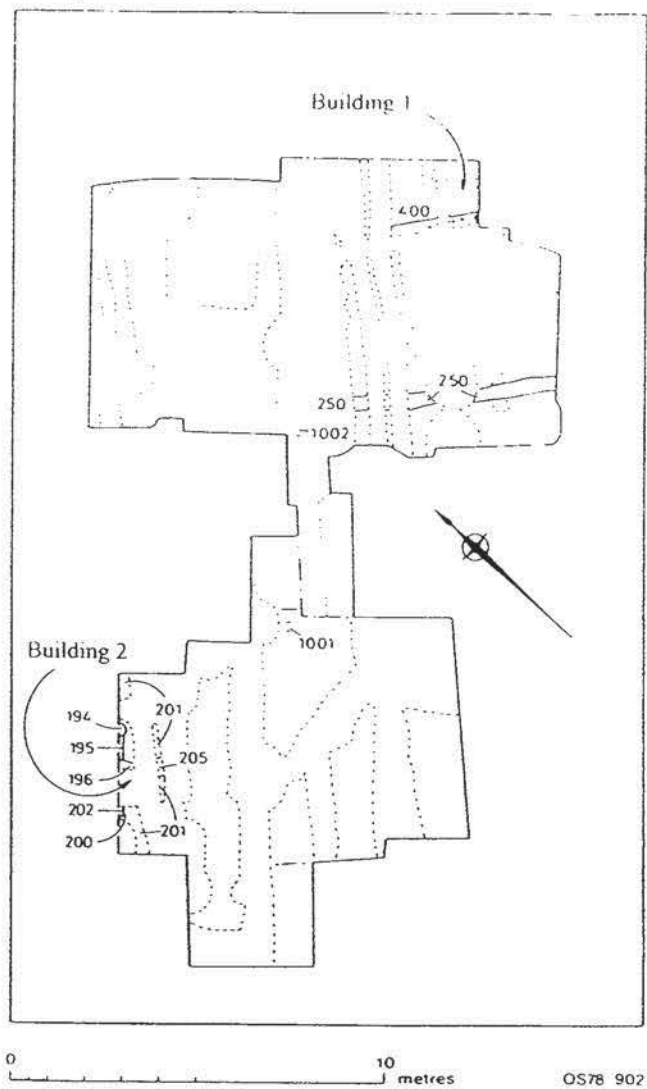


Fig. 4 Simplified plan: Groups 1-2. Scale 1:200

## GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND SUB-GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

**Group 0** Matrices 3 and 5

This group concerns two layers (419 and 2019) which probably represent the existing pre-Roman ground surface at the time that the fortress was constructed.

Contains contexts: 419, 2019.

**Group 1** Matrix 1 (for simplified plan see Fig. 4)

This group concerns the truncated remains of two parallel post-trenches found in the back room of the excavated area. These post-trenches almost certainly represent longitudinal walls, perhaps of the same building (Building 1). The post-trench (400) was recovered over a length of 2.3m and included four unnumbered post-holes that were recognised within it. It was overlain by the remains of a barrack (see Group 3) on the same alignment. The parallel post-trench (250/315) was recovered over a length of 5.5m. The two trenches were 4.5m apart and if associated may represent an early, and presumably temporary, building that corresponds to the Roman military alignment. If trench 1002 (seen in section Y/Z, only\*) was part of the same building then the outer wall at that point must have been sited further to the south-west than 250. It was observed that 1002 underlay the later street surface.

Contains contexts: 250, 315, 325, 400, (1002).

**Group 2** Matrix 2 (for simplified plan see Fig. 4)

This group was created for the fragmentary remains of a building to the north-west of that in Group 1. These remains, like those of Group 1 may represent the post-trenches and other remains of a building (Building 2). It is difficult, from the very restricted area that was excavated, to understand the nature of this building. Like Building 1 it may have had a relatively short life at the beginning of the fortress and was later superseded by a more substantial building that was perhaps a barrack (see Group 4).

Contains sub-groups: 2.1, 2.2, 2.3.

**Sub-group 2.1**

This sub-group concerns an early linear feature in Building 2, possibly a post-trench, but it was heavily truncated by later features, so its function remains uncertain.

Contains contexts: 195, 202.

**Sub-group 2.2**

This sub-group concerns some cuts and surfaces apparently representative of some secondary activity associated with Building 2. A post-hole cut [2.1]. A post-trench (205), which is aligned at right angles to the later barrack wall, would appear to have been heading out under the street although it presumably terminated within the cut-out immediately to the south-east; no traces of it were found under any of the street surfaces. Also in this sub-group are a surface contemporary with these cuts and a stakehole.

Contains contexts: 194, 196, 200, 201, 205.

**Sub-group 2.3**

This sub-group for a trench seen only in section Y/Z. It is uncertain whether it did in fact belong with Building 2. It was observed that 1001 underlay the later street surface.

Contains context: 1001.

\* For location of section Y/Z see Fig. 6.

**Group 3** Matrix 1 (for simplified plan see Fig. 5)

This group was created for a series of post-trenches and other features that together provide evidence for the rear end of a timber building (Building 3) that was almost certainly a barrack (Barrack A) that was aligned *per scamna* and which faced to the south-west. The front longitudinal post-trench (309) partially overlay trench 400 (Group 1). Evidence of the internal trenches suggests that the end room was the front outer room (*arma*) of the *contubernium*. The internal dimensions of the room were just over 3m in width by just under 2m in depth; part of the floor surfaces survived.

Contains sub-groups 3.1, 3.2.

**Sub-group 3.1**

This sub-group concerns the surviving remains of a number of post-trenches that together formed the side and end wall of a barrack and the internal divisions of a *contubernium*. The outer walls had widths of about 0.40-0.45m, as excavated. The internal walls were of different widths, that which would have separated it from a neighbouring *contubernium* was 0.25m wide whilst the internal room division was unusually wide at 0.5m.

Contains contexts: 225, 309, 401, 403.

**Sub-group 3.2**

Two surfaces found on the inside of the post-trenches that formed the end of the barrack were probably floor surfaces associated with the end outer room of the barrack. The primary surface was of clay, the secondary surface was of volcanic stone chippings.

Contains contexts: 323, 324.

**Group 4** Matrix 2 (for simplified plan see Fig. 5)

This group concerns the rear wall post-trench of a building (Building 4) that may have been a barrack (Barrack B), aligned *per strigas*. It was recovered in two areas so that a total of nearly 16m of its length could be established. It ran north-east/south-west parallel to the street (sub-group 5.1) and cut through the earlier activities detailed in Group 2. A trench running at right angles to it (193) is probably representative of an internal division between *contubernia*.

Contains contexts: 173, 176, 193.

**Group 5** Matrix 3 (for simplified plan see Fig. 5)

This group concerns the street running north-east/south-west between adjacent cohort-blocks. It consisted of rough gravelly make-ups and a worn surface that had perhaps been repaired at some time, though in one place the material used as a street surface was laid directly over the old turf line without any signs of re-surfacing. The street may have been up to 6m wide and was provided with a gully (257) on its N/W edge.

Contains sub-groups: 5.1, 5.2, 5.3.

**Sub-group 5.1**

The make-up for the street was of coarse, gravelly material with volcanic stone chips.

Contains contexts: 213, 214, 220, 221.

**Sub-group 5.2**

This sub-group concerns the compacted street surfaces which were of the same composition as the make-ups.

Contains contexts: 203, 216, 219, 258.

Groups 3-5

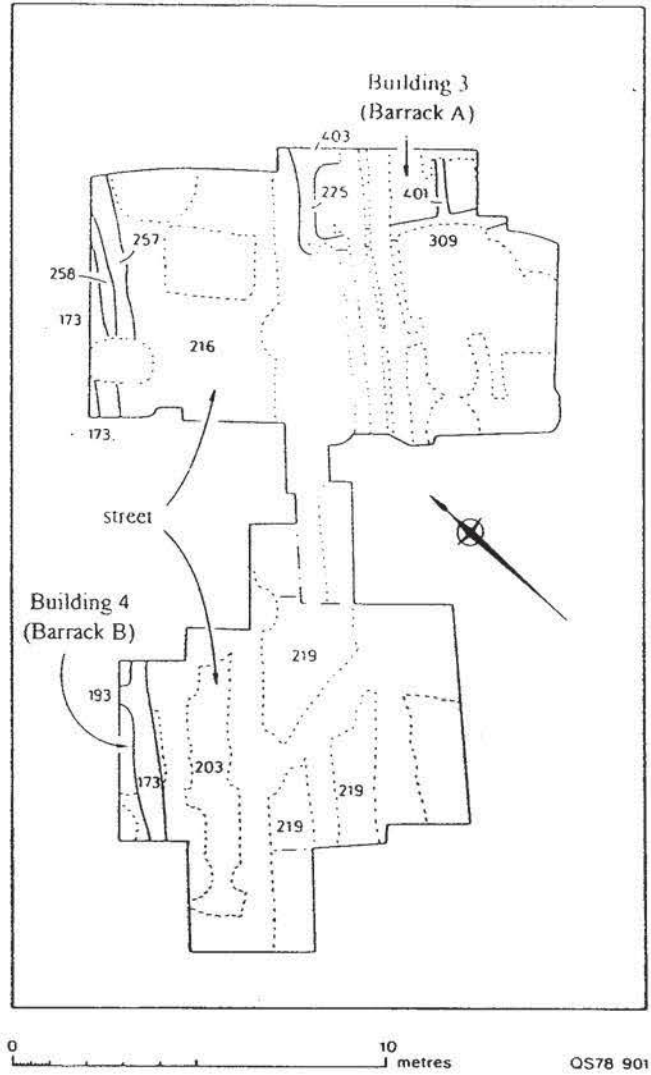


Fig. 5 Simplified plan: Groups 3-5. Scale 1:200



**Sub-group 5.3**

This sub-group concerns a roadside gully found in the north-east corner of the site and running parallel to the outer wall of Barrack B (though only surviving for a distance of just over 4m). It is unclear whether the gully continued further to the south-west.

Contains contexts: 257.

THE FOLLOWING GROUPS RELATE TO THE LATER OBSERVATIONS IN SECTION W/X etc.

**Group 6 Matrix 5 (contexts from this group shown on Fig. 9)**

This group is for two post-trenches at right angles to each other which were recorded in section W/X. These post-trenches appeared to form an outer wall and part of the internal wall of a building with an associated floor which is discussed in greater detail in Appendix 1 of the Goldsmith Street site (Salvatore and Earwood 1993).

Contains sub-groups: 6.1, 6.2

**Sub-group 6.1**

Cut and fills of post-trench 2001 and cut and fill of post-trench 2005. Respectively, probably the outer wall and internal wall of a building.

Contains contexts: 2001-2005, 2016.

**Sub-group 6.2**

Clay floor (2006) and occupation layer (2007) associated with post-trench 2005.

Contains contexts: 2006-2007.

**Group 7 Matrix 5 (contexts from this group shown on Fig. 9)**

This group is for a post-trench (2008) which appears to have been a rebuild of the outer wall post-trench discussed in Group 6. It has an associated clay floor and occupation layer (sub-group 7.2).

Contains sub-groups 7.1, 7.2.

**Sub-group 7.1**

Sub-group for post-trench 2008, recut of 2001.

Contains context: 2008

**Sub-group 7.2**

Sub-group for clay floor (2009) and occupation deposit (2010) associated with a room of which post-trench 2008 would be an internal wall.

Contains contexts: 2009, 2010.

**Group 8**

Observation to the north-east of section W/X.

This group is for a post-trench (2011) which may have been an internal wall of the same building as that discussed in Group 6. The trench is recut in a subsequent build (2012).

Contains sub-groups: 8.1, 8.2.

**Sub-group 8.1**

Sub-group for cut and fill of post-trench 2011.

Contains context: 2011.

**Sub-group 8.2**

Sub-group for cut and fill of post-trench 2012.

Contains context: 2012.

**Group 9 Matrix 5 (contexts from this group shown on Fig.9)**

This group for deposits which pre-dated the laying of the first street surface.

Contains sub-groups: 9.1, 9.2.

**Sub-group 9.1**

This sub-group for a feature infilled with identical material to 2018.

Contains context: 2024.

**Sub-group 9.2**

This sub-group for two layers beneath the first street surfacing.

Contains contexts: 2017, 2018.

**Group 10 Matrix 5 (contexts from this group shown on Fig.9)**

This group for the military street and associated features seen in section W/X.

Contains sub-groups 10.1, 10.2.

**Sub-group 10.1**

Sub-group for a street make-up and its surface. Lowest recorded street surface in the military sequence.

Contains context: 2014.

**Sub-group 10.2**

Sub-group for a street make-up, surface (2013) and associated gully (2015).

Contains contexts: 2013, 2015, 2021.

**Group 11 Matrix 5 (contexts from this group shown on Fig.9)**

This group for a street make-up and surface. Possibly the final street of the military sequence or an early civil surface.

Contains context: 2020.

**Group 12 (contexts from this group shown on Fig. 9)**

This group for a large post-trench (2022) and its infill (2023).

This post-trench could be a continuation of a post-trench 248 recorded on the main Queen Street site and may be part of a civil building (see Appendix 1).

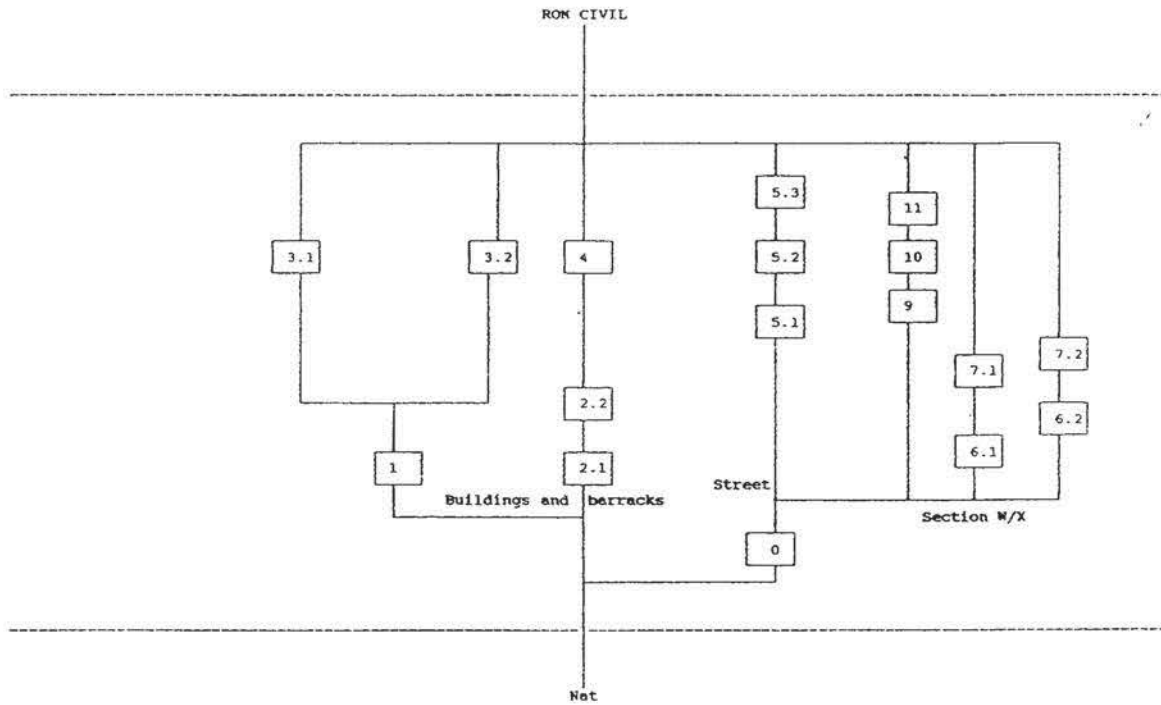
Contains contexts: 2022, 2023.

**Group 13 (contexts from this group shown on Fig. 9)**

This group for a feature of unknown function and period.

Contains context: 2025.

GROUP/SUB-GROUP MATRIX



CONTEXT/GROUP/MATRIX INDEX

Context	Group	Matrix	Context	Group	Matrix	Context	Group	Matrix
173	4	2	257	5.3	3	2007	6.2	5
176	4	2	258	5.2	3	2008	7.1	5
193	4	2	309	3.1	1	2009	7.2	5
194	2.2	2	315	1	1	2010	7.2	5
195	2.1	2	323	3.2	1	2011	8.1	-
196	2.2	2	324	3.2	1	2012	8.2	-
200	2.2	2	325	1	1	2013	10.2	5
201	2.2	2	400	1	1	2014	10.1	5
202	2.1	2	401	3.1	1	2015	10.2	5
203	5.2	3	403	3.1	1	2016	6.1	5
205	2.2	2	419	0	3	2017	9.2	5
213	5.1	3	1001	2.3	-	2018	9.2	5
214	5.1	3	1002	1	-	2019	0	5
216	5.2	3	2001	6.1	5	2020	11	5
219	5.2	3	2002	6.1	5	2021	10.2	5
220	5.1	3	2003	6.1	5	2022	12.1	-
221	5.1	3	2004	6.1	5	2023	12.1	-
225	3.1	1	2005	6.1	5	2024	9.1	5
250	1	1	2006	6.2	5	2025	13	-

## 2.5 The context descriptions and main indices

## List of abbreviations (for contexts).

Length	Le
Depth	D
Height	H
Width	Wth
Diameter	Diam
North	N
South	S
East	E
West	W
Frequent	Freq
Occasional	Occ
Fragment(s)	Frag(s).
Waterworn	ww
Volcanic	Volc

## CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

- 173 Post-trench to the NW of the road, same as 176, aligned NE-SW, fill of khaki silted clay with small pebbles. Le = 9.3m, Wth = 0.60m, D = 0.40m.
- 176 Post-trench, same as 173.
- 193 Post-trench, at right angles to 173, fill continuous with 173, representing an internal dividing wall between *contubernia*. Le = 0.40m, Wth = 0.50m, D = 0.25m.
- 194 Post-hole, fill of grey-red mixed sticky clay, cuts 195. Diam = 0.30m, D = 0.30m.
- 195 Possible post-trench, parallel to 173, very shallow, fill of clean yellow clay. Le = 0.70m, Wth = 0.15m, D = 0.20m.
- 196 Post-trench, cuts 195, fill of clean yellow clay with gravel, poss. cut by 173. Le = 0.40m, Wth = 0.30m, D = 0.15m.
- 200 Stakehole, fill of soft grey clay silt. Diam = 0.15m, D = 0.55m.
- 201 Floor surface, no occupation debris, very compact grey-brown clean mixed clays. D = 0.08m.
- 202 Post-trench, poss. continuous with 195, fill of clean yellow clay with grey clay lumps. Le = 0.30m, Wth = 0.15m, D = 0.20m.
- 203 Street surface, small gravel and volc chips, with good surface that extended throughout the block. D = 0.02m.
- 205 Post-trench?, cut by 173, aligned SE-NW, fill undescribed. Le = 0.10m, Wth = 0.45m, D = unrecorded.
- 213 Layer of whitish loose mortar, in section but only extended W and E for approx. 1m. D = 0.05m.
- 214 Dump layer of fairly compacted small to medium gravel, but definitely not a road surface. D = 0.25m.
- 216 Lowest road surface, 4 make-ups, from the bottom upwards: 1) layer of gravel bonded with clay, D = 0.10m; 2) compacted gravel and volc chips, unworn, D = 0.05m; 3) medium to large gravel with worn upper surface, poss. road surface, D = 0.12m; 4) poss. resurfacing of 3), small to medium gravel with worn surface, D = 0.03m.
- 219 Street surface, equivalent to 203 and 216, over 220, 221. D = 0.10m.
- 220 Dump layer of gravel in mixed green and purple clays, under 219. D = 0.05m.
- 221 Make-up layer for 219, undescribed. D = 0.20m.
- 225 Post-trench, continuous with 309, 403, fill undescribed, aligned NE-SW. Le = 2.5m, Wth = 0.45m, D = unrecorded.
- 250 Post-trench, aligned NW-SE, cuts natural, fill undescribed. Le = 5.5m, Wth = 0.40m, D = 0.25m. See also 1001.
- 257 Roadside ditch, fill undescribed, aligned NE-SW. Le = 4.2m, Wth = 0.60m, D = 0.45m.
- 258 Street surface, medium to large gravel set in gritty soil and finer gravel, over a layer of small volc chips in purply clay, seems to be quite separate from 216. D = unrecorded.
- 309 Post-trench, continuous with 225, aligned NW-SE, fill of red brown sandy loam, dirty with bits of gravel, tile, volc stone. Le = 5.5m, Wth = 0.40m, D = unrecorded.
- 315 Post-trench, ?continuous with 250, aligned NE-SW, not planned, fill undescribed, dimensions unrecorded.
- 323 Floor surface over 324, compact volc stone fragments packed together. D = 0.05m.
- 324 Floor surface, same extent as 323, mixed mauve and orange clays. D = 0.04m.
- 325 Post-trench, same as 400?, fill of mixed yellow brown clays and gravels, fairly clean. Dimensions unrecorded.
- 400 Post-trench, aligned NW-SE, fill undescribed, contained four unnumbered stakeholes. Le = 2.3m, Wth = 0.3m, D = unrecorded.
- 401 Trench at right angles to 309, fill continuous with it, cuts 400. Le = 1.5m, Wth = 0.25m, D = unrecorded.
- 403 Post-trench, continuous with and at right angles to 225. Le = 1.0m, Wth = 0.50m, D = unrecorded.
- 419 Old turf line, over natural, under 216, undescribed. D = 0.20m.



## CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS (SECTION Y/Z)

- 1001 Cut and fill of post-trench, aligned NW-SE. Seen in section Y/Z only. Fill of mixed clean clays. D = 0.56. Wth = 0.48.
- 1002 Cut and fill of post-trench, aligned NW-SE. Seen in section Y/Z only. Fill of fawn/grey clay. D = 0.33m, Wth = 0.24m. Possibly association with 250.

## CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS (SECTION W/X)

- 2001 Cut for post-trench. Depth = 0.66m, Width = 0.9m+.
- 2002 Lowest fill in post-trench 2001, yellow clay with coarse gravel. D = 0.29m.
- 2003 Middle fill in post-trench 2001, mixed yellow clays. D = 0.16m.
- 2004 Upper fill in post-trench 2001, yellow clay with gravel. D = 0.21m.
- 2005 Cut and fill of post-trench. Fill as 2003-4.
- 2006 Red/brown clay floor. D = 0.04m.
- 2007 Thin occupation layer on 2006.
- 2008 Cut and fill of post-trench, rebuild of 2001. Fill of yellow clay with gravel. D = 0.48m.
- 2009 Floor of yellow clay with gravel. D = 0.05m.
- 2010 Thin occupation layer on 2009.
- 2011 Cut and fill of post-trench. Fill not recorded. D = 0.76m, Wth = 0.64m.
- 2012 Cut and fill of post-trench, rebuild of 2011. Fill not recorded. D = 0.48m, Wth = 0.64m.
- 2013 Street make-up and surface. Water worn pebbles and gravel, volcanic stone make-up to NW. Depth = 0.12m.
- 2014 Street make-up and surface. Water worn pebbles and angular volcanic chippings on a clay base. Depth = 0.06m.
- 2015 Cut and fill of gully. Loose silty clay with pebbles, charcoal flecks and estuarine shells. Depth = 0.20m+.
- 2016 Layer. Undescribed. Could be an overspill of the infill of 2001.
- 2017 Layer of soft brown clay loam. D = 0.03m.
- 2018 Layer of loose silty clay with flecks of burnt clay and some pebbles. D = 0.06m.
- 2019 Layer of disturbed yellow clay above natural. Depth = 0.08m.

- 2020 Street make-up and surface. Water worn pebbles and gravel in purple silt. Depth = 0.05m
- 2021 Volcanic rubble. May be part of make-up for street 2013. Max. depth = 0.11m.
- (2022) Cut of large post-trench. Could be continuation of 248 on the main site. Depth = 0.79m, average width = 0.74m.
- (2023) Infill of 2022. Clean mixed orange/yellow clay with many volcanic fragments.
- 2024 Cut of unidentified feature. Fill is 2018. Depth = 0.13m, width = 0.28m.
- (2025) Post-hole. Not described. Depth = 0.17m, width = 0.12m.

\* Contexts in brackets could be Roman civil.



## GENERAL CONTEXT INDEX

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Plan</i>
173/176	C	801
193	C	801
194	C	801
195	C	801
196	C	801
200	C	801
201	S	801
202	C	801
203	S	801
205	C	801
213	L	801
214	L	801
216	S	801
219	S	801
220	L	801
221	L	801
225	C	801
250	C	801
257	C	801
258	S	801
309	C	801
315	C	801
323	S	801
324	S	801
325	C	801
400	C	801
401	C	801
403	C	801
419	L	801
1001	C/F	801
1002	C/F	801
2001	C	-
2002	F	-
2003	F	-
2004	F	-
2005	C/F	-
2006	L	-
2007	L	-
2008	C/F	-
2009	L	-
2010	L	-
2011	C/F	-
2012	C/F	-
2013	L	-
2014	L	-
2015	C/F	-
2016	C/F	-
2017	L	-
2018	L	-
2019	L	-
(2020)	L	-
2021	L	-
(2022)	C	-
(2023)	F	-
2024	C/F	-
(2025)	C/F	-

## ARCHIVE SECTION INDEX

<i>Context</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Sheet</i>	<i>Location</i>
173	6, 15	806/7	801
176	6, 15	806/7	801
193	7a	806	801
194	7a	806	801
195	7a	806	801
196	7a	806	801
200	6	806	801
201	6	806	801
202	6	806	801
203	4	807	801
213	4	807	801
214	4	807	801
216	10, 15	807	801
219	5	807	801
220	5	807	801
221	5	807	801
225	-	-	-
250	12a	806	801
257	15	807	801
258	-	-	-
309	-	-	-
315	-	-	-
323	-	-	-
324	-	-	-
325	-	-	-
400	-	-	-
401	-	-	-
403	-	-	-
419	10	807	801
1001	Y/Z	807	801
1002	Y/Z	807	801
2001	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2002	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2003	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2004	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2005	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2006	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2007	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2008	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2009	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2010	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2011	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2012	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2013	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2014	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2015	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2016	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2017	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2018	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2019	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
(2020)	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2021	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
(2022)	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
(2023)	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
2024	W/X	808	Fig.1 only
(2025)	W/X	808	Fig.1 only

\* Contexts in brackets could be Roman civil

## EXETER : QUEEN STREET 1978

801

Roman military

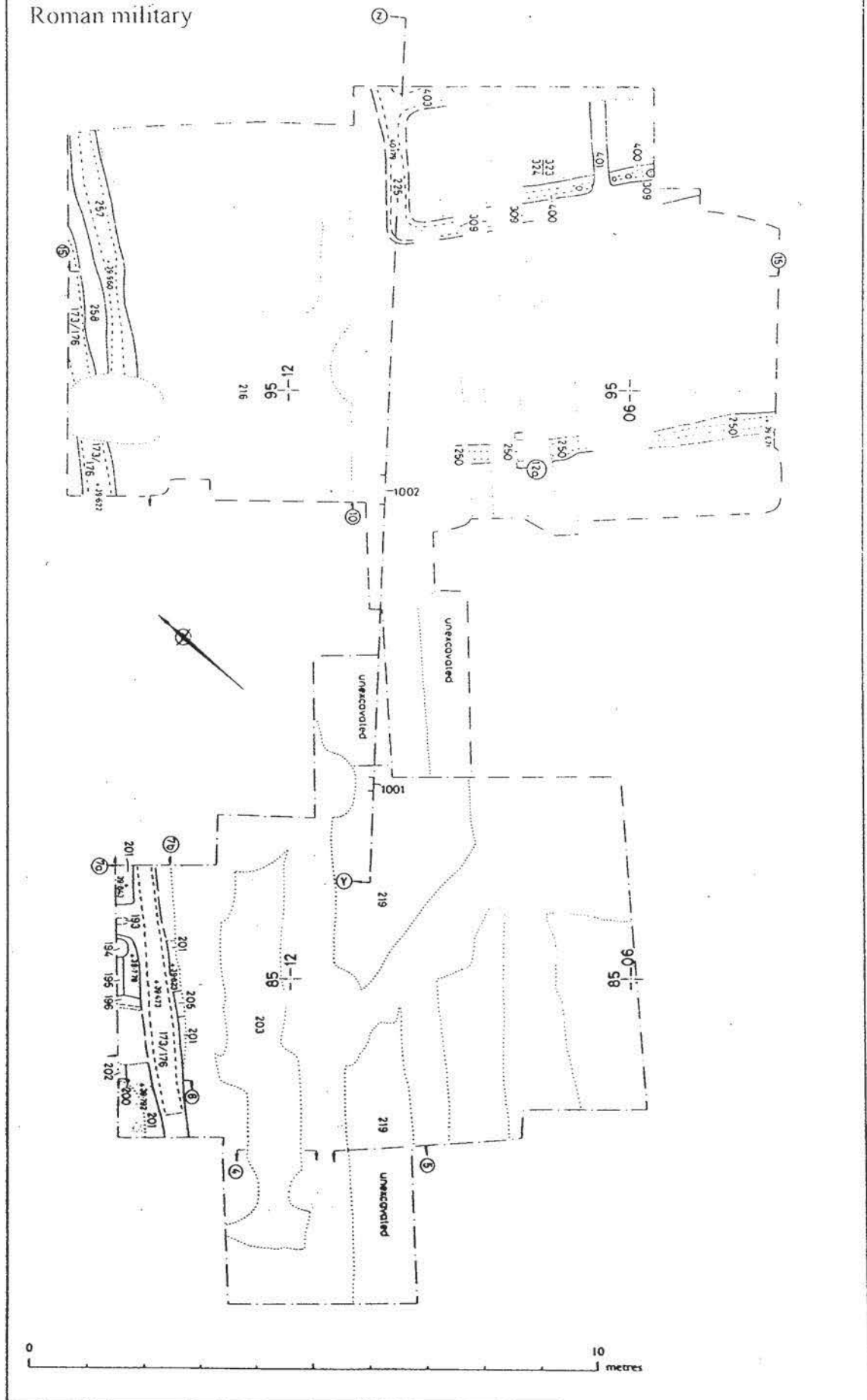


Fig. 6 Plan of the Roman military remains (801). Scale 1:100.

# EXETER: QUEEN STREET 1978

## Sections

806



Fig. 7 Sections through the Roman civil and military remains (806). Scale 1:100.

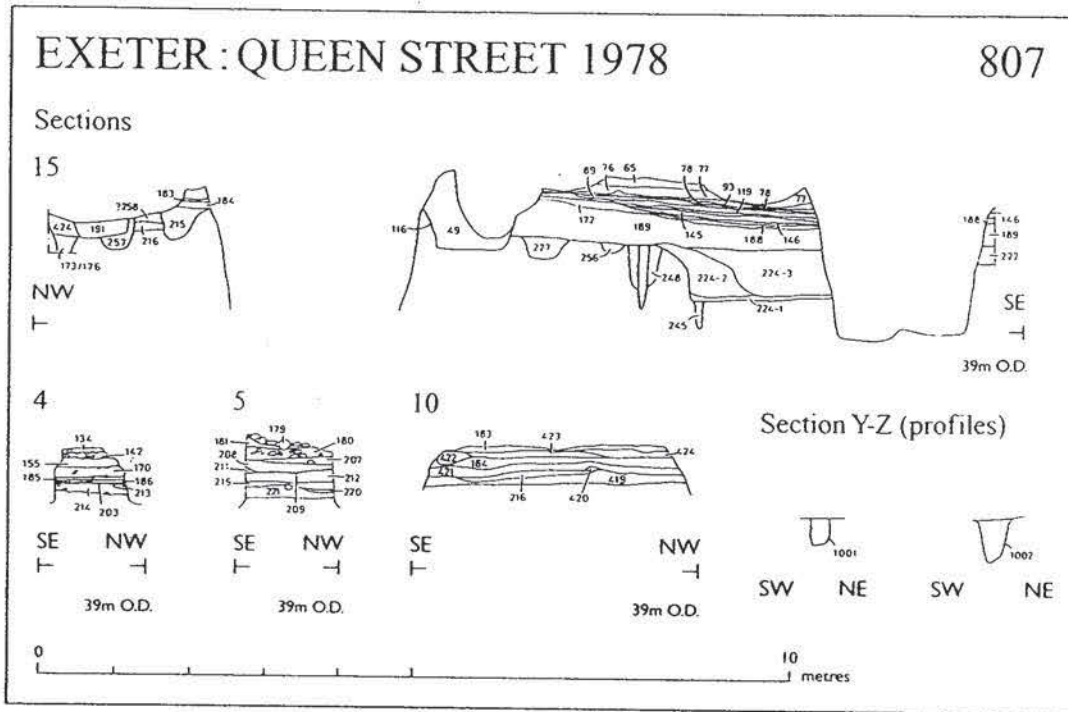


Fig. 8 Sections through the Roman military and civil remains (807) Scale 1:100.



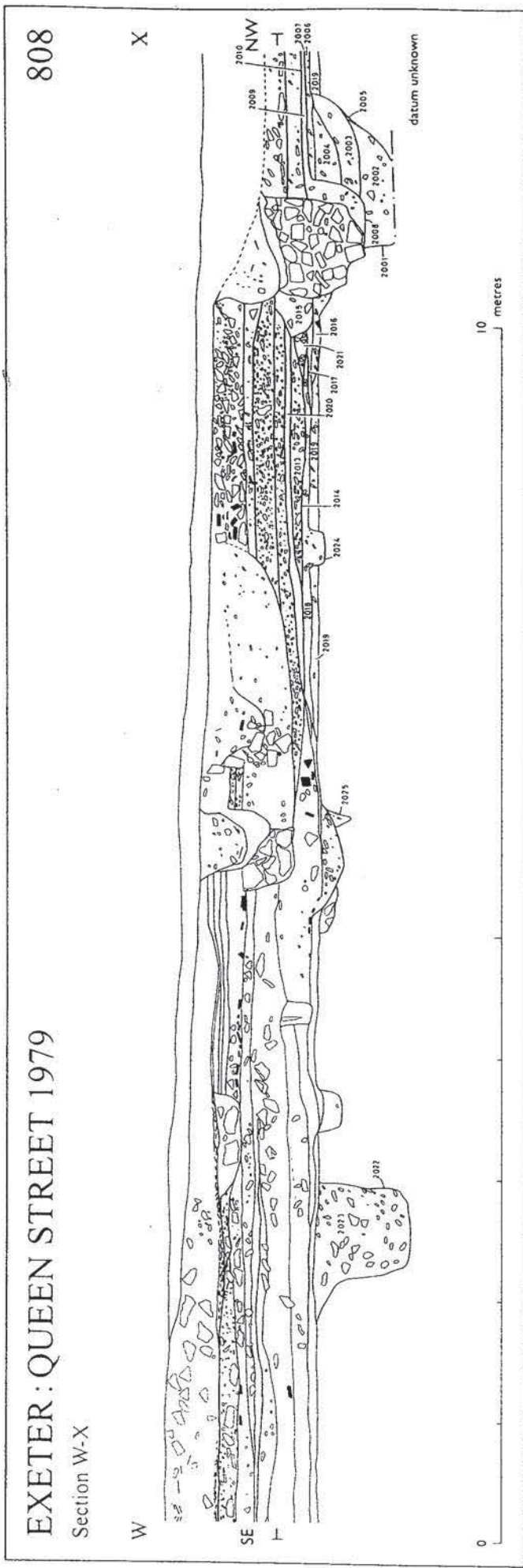


Fig. 9. Section W/X through the Roman military, civil, and later remains (808) Scale 1:50.

## Section 3

## 3 Introduction

Listed below is a finds inventory with additional evidence on the dating given in brackets.

## 3.1 The finds listing

Glossary of abbreviations for finds inventory

*Fabric No. Type*

406*	Flagon Fabric
440*	Flagon Fabric
600	Dressel 20 (Peacock & Williams 1986, Class 25), amphorae
705	FC3 (Gallia Belgica), mortaria
706	FC4 (Gallia Belgica), mortaria

(\* = Fabric Number used in EAR 4)

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

*Type abbreviations*

TC Type Continental (mortaria)

*Miscellaneous*

MNV Minimum number of vessels  
Qty Quantity  
Wt Weight in grams

## FINDS INVENTORY

*Pottery*

176

Fabric	705/706	MNV	1	Wt	?	Qty	1
Type	TC20						
	(c. 50-85 AD, P.198, TC20)						

203

Fabric	600	MNV	1	Wt	165
--------	-----	-----	---	----	-----

221

Fabric	440	MNV	1	Wt	10
--------	-----	-----	---	----	----

250

Fabric	406	MNV	1	Wt	10
--------	-----	-----	---	----	----

## APPENDIX 1.

PROBABLE EARLY CIVIL TIMBER BUILDINGS  
AT QUEEN STREET

The remains of a substantial timber building were recognised post-dating the latest known Roman military buildings on the Queen Street site (Fig. App. 1). A post-trench (248/312) was recorded flanking a later surface of the right lateral street of the fortress on its south-eastern side. Its frontage onto the street was at least 17.5m (Bidwell 1980, 55). Two internal post-trenches (288 and 410) were continuous with the main outer trench and would have provided a room with an internal width of 2.2m. This suggests that the building was divided into a number of rooms, probably of differing size; no further room divisions were recorded along the 7m length of outer wall that were observed on either side of the recognised room. The dating of the construction of this building is of some significance. It is highly probable that it was erected in the Flavian period as the trench for its outer wall cut a shallow pit (299) which contained Flavian samian. Building activity of this date (perhaps late 70's or early 80's AD) is rarely in evidence at Exeter (Henderson 1988, 109).

At least part of the building was rebuilt. The outer wall trench (248) was replaced by a trench cut further to the north-west just beyond its outer edge. The replacement trench (249/273) was recorded over a length of about 7.5m. It is noted that the internal room division of the first build (288) was mirrored in the second build suggesting that the function of the building had remained the same. A shard of a reeded rim dish found in trench 249 is of a type found in late first century contexts at Exeter (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 96-7). It is likely therefore that the building and its subsequent rebuild were erected early in the period of civil administration at Exeter. This is supported the alignment of the buildings which appears to be at right angles to the underlying military buildings (Fig. App.1). The successive resurfacing of the street beyond the military period does suggest that in this part of the fortress the military street system was retained for an initial period of time perhaps into the early second century. This continuity of military street surfaces into the civil period was recorded also at Friernhay Street (Bedford and Salvatore 1992, 3). The second phase of the timber building under discussion here was apparently not demolished until the first half of the second century (Bidwell 1980, 55).

The street and what may have been a continuation of the large timber building were recorded also in Section W/X (Fig. 9 above) situated approximately 17.5m south-west of grid-line 81 on the main site. A deep trench (2022) was seen to line up with trench 248 suggesting that either the building was very large or that two adjoining buildings had flanked the street with the gap between them having occurred somewhere in the unexcavated area between the site and the section.

The features discussed above are shown in plan on Fig. App.2 and in section on Figs. 8 and 9 above). They will

be dealt with in greater detail in the research archive report dealing with the Roman civil deposits for Queen Street.

## Bibliography

- Bedford J.B. and Salvatore J.P. *Excavations at Friernhay Street, Exeter, 1981 Part 1: Roman military*, Report of the EMAFU 92.35.
- Bidwell P.T. 1980 *Roman Exeter: Fortress and Town*.
- Henderson C.G. 1988 'Exeter (*Isca Dumnoniorum*)', in Webster G. (ed.) *Fortress into City: The consolidation of Roman Britain, first century AD*, 91-119.
- Holbrook N. and Bidwell P.T. 1991 *Roman Finds From Exeter*, Exeter Archaeological Reports: 4.

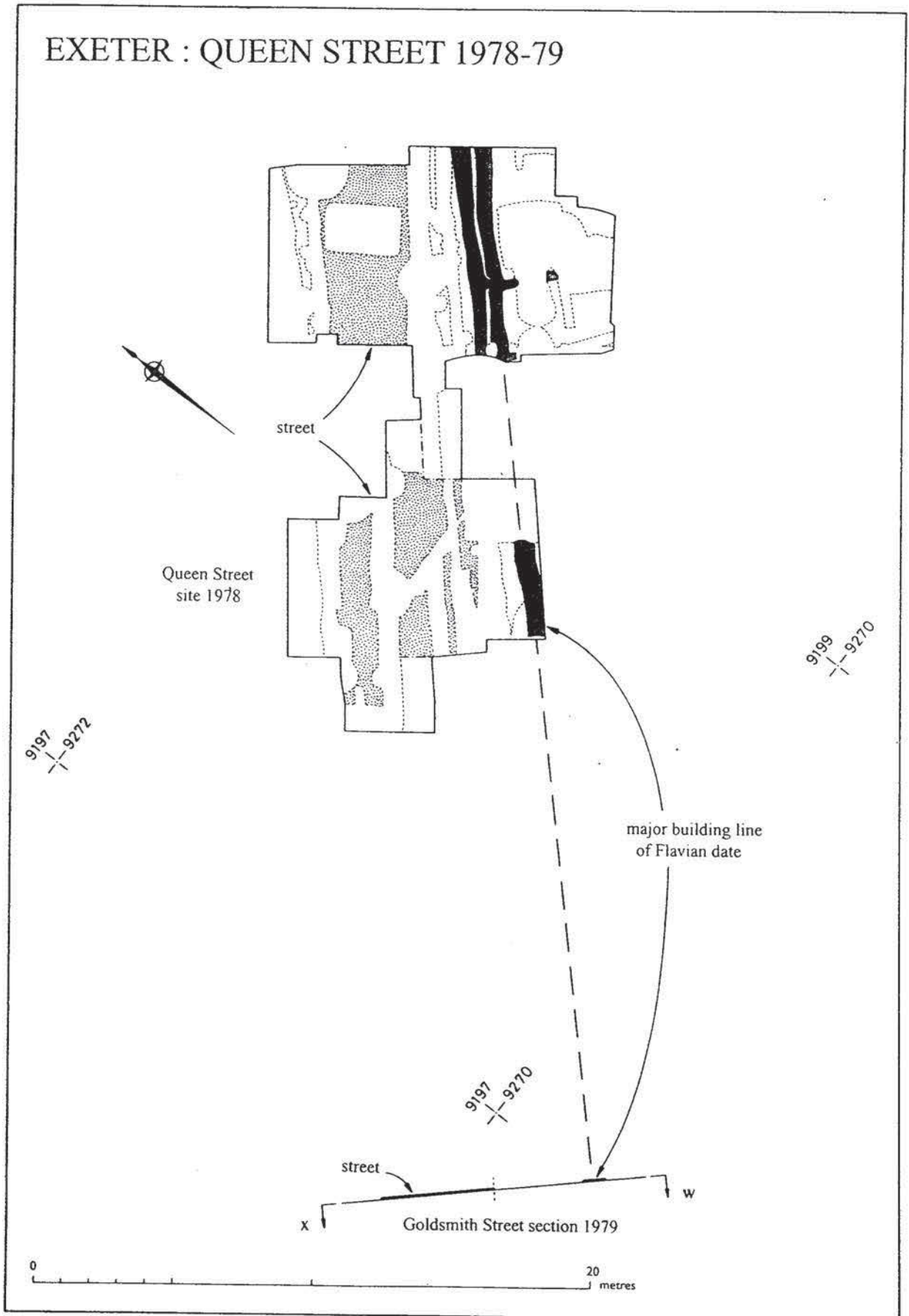


Fig. App. 1 A composite plan of the suspected Flavian building and street. Scale 1:200.



# EXETER : QUEEN STREET 1788

802

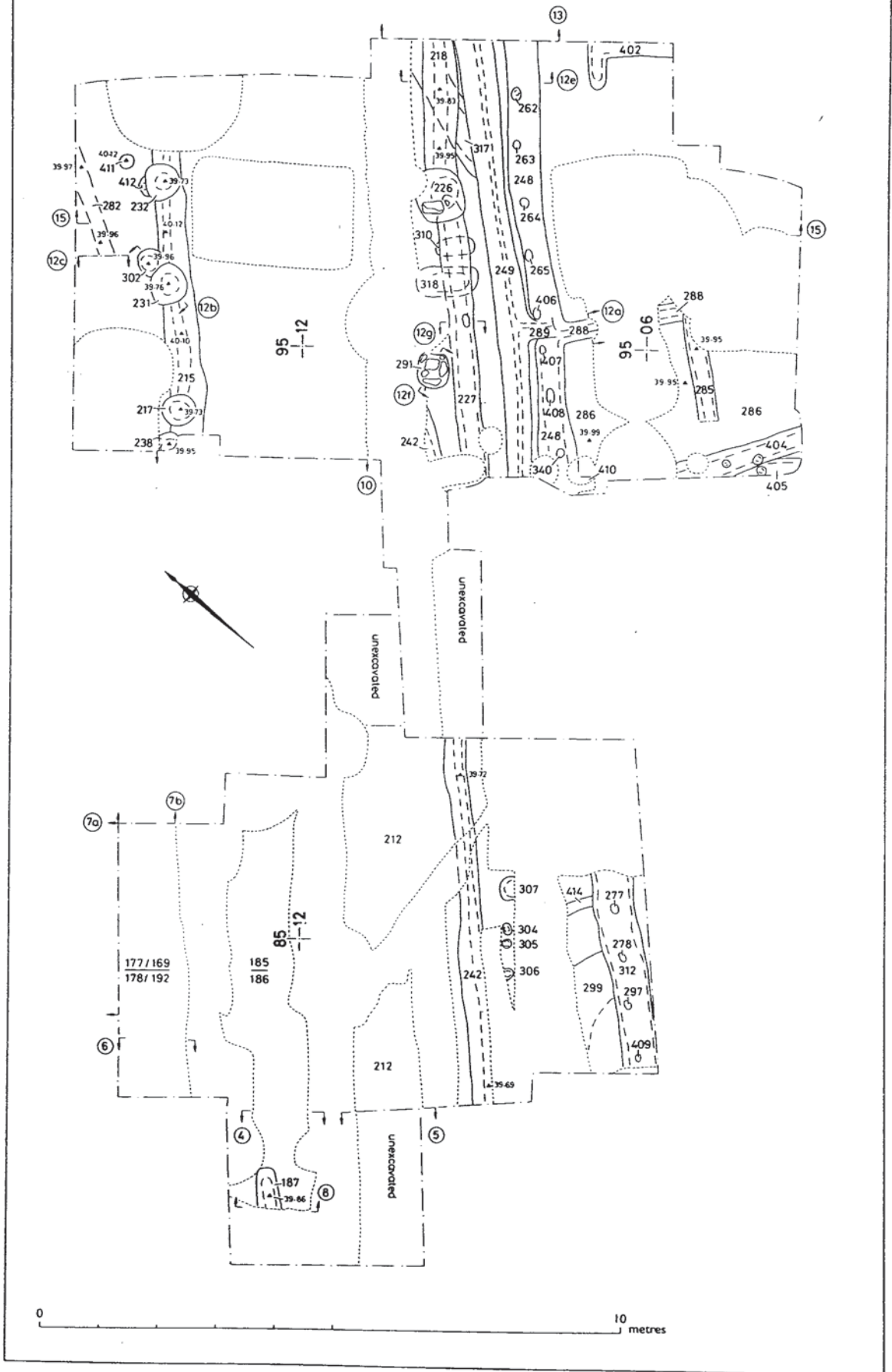


Fig. App.2 Plan of the early civil remains (802). Scale 1:100.

## FINDS INVENTORY

*Pottery***249**

Fabric	40	MNV	1	Wt 10
Type 70				Qty 1
(late 1c type)				
Fabric	406	MNV	1	Wt 5
Fabric	435	MNV	1	Wt 5

**299**

Fabric	406	MNV	1	Wt 20
Fabric	435	MNV	1	Wt 120
Type 8.1				Qty 1
(P.141, 8.1)				
Fabric	500	MNV	2	Wt 20
Type Dr.27				Qty 1
(Flavian)				
Type Dr.29				Qty 1
(c. 75-90 AD)				
Fabric	503	MNV	1	Wt 5
Type 20.1				Qty 1
(P.73, 10)				
Fabric	1000	MNV	1	Wt 5
(pink micaceous sherd)				
Fabric	1000	MNV	1	Wt5
(vessel in grey granular fabric)				

**312**

Fabric	406	MNV	0	Wt 40
(same vessel as context 299)				
Fabric	1000	MNV	0	Wt 15
(vessel in grey granular fabric, same vessel as context 299)				

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

View	Slide
General	1
?2011/2012	2
Section W/X NW end	3
As above	4
Section W/X central	5
2022	6
General	9
2022	10
Section W/X NW end	11