

## EXCAVATIONS AT STRUTT'S PARK, DERBY, 1974

By JOSEPHINE DOOL

Evidence for a first-century Roman fort at Strutt's Park, Derby, has steadily accumulated during recent years. Strutt's Park is a residential area on the west side of the River Derwent, on high ground above the 200 foot contour and about a mile north of the town centre. Early military occupation had long been suspected on account of first-century Roman coins found in the area at various times (Brassington, 1970), whilst a survey of local gardens in the 1960s produced several scraps of samian ware indicating an initial occupation established not later than AD60 (Forrest, 1967). In 1970 a small-scale excavation was carried out by members of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society on a building site adjacent to 91 Belper Road. Examination of the builder's foundation trenches revealed two parallel gullies aligned north-south, associated with coins of Nero and Vespasian, and sherds of pre-Flavian samian (Brassington, 1970).

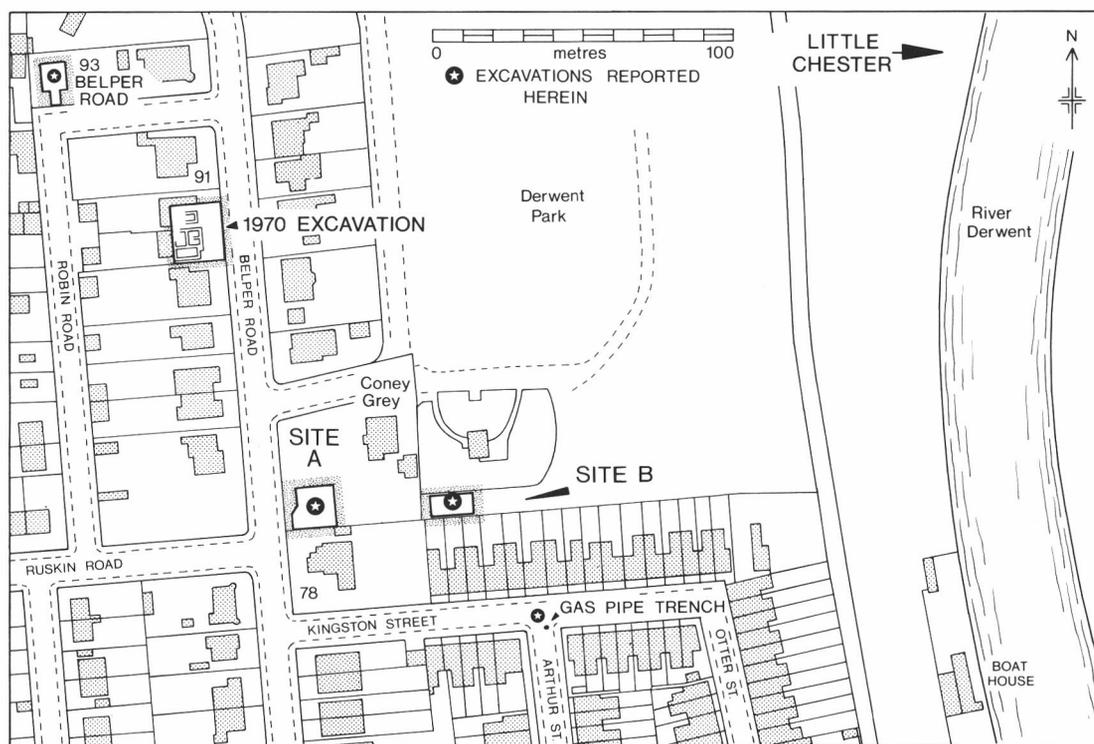


Fig. 4 Derby Strutt's Park: location plan. Scale 1:25,000. Crown copyright reserved.

During 1974 there occurred further opportunities for archaeological investigation in the area. In January that year the writer visited a plot of land adjacent to 78 Belper Road, on which residential development was taking place (Site A). The garden soil had been stripped mechanically, revealing clear traces of archaeological levels. The owner of the land, Mr Eric Taylor, gave permission for Derby Museum to carry out a few days' work on the site and to observe the foundation trenches as they were dug.

Site B was a small vacant plot of land in the south-west corner of Derwent Park, backing onto the garden wall at the rear of houses in Kingston Street. Permission to excavate was granted by Derby Corporation Parks Department and work took place under the direction of the writer, for Derby Museum, during the spring of 1974.

Appended to this report are notes on a pipe trench which was observed in Arthur Street; and a summary of an exploratory excavation at 93 Belper Road, which was carried out under the direction of Mr P. Brady in 1977.

#### Acknowledgements

The writer is grateful to Mr E. Taylor and to Derby Corporation Parks Department for granting permission to excavate Sites A and B respectively. The residents at 'Coney Grey' kindly undertook to house archaeological equipment on their premises during the excavation of Site A, while the Parks Department staff were generous in providing similar facilities during work on Site B. A grant for post-excavation work was received from Derby City Council. The volunteers who assisted on both sites were, in the main, members of the Archaeological Research Group of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society; special mention must be made of Peter Brady, who assisted in supervising the work and whose daily help and practical abilities proved invaluable. Thanks are expressed to those who undertook the specialist identifications: Dr Grace Simpson reported on the samian ware and Mr B.R. Hartley on the potters' stamps; Mr D. Walker of the Ashmolean Museum identified the coins; Mr M.F. Stanley of Derbyshire Museum Service the animal bones; Mrs K.F. Hartley the mortarium; and Mr J. May of Nottingham University commented on the iron age pottery. Mr P.J. Wright drew the pottery and small finds, except for Fig.9, nos. 22,23 and 29 which were drawn by Mr M. Brassington. The finds have been deposited in Derby Museum.

#### SITE A (SK 34923736)

As much information as possible was salvaged under difficult conditions; but the short time available for investigation together with the winter weather which ensured that parts of the site were always waterlogged limited the results that could be obtained. Observation of the builder's trenches as they were dug yielded some additional features, but sectioning and excavation of these features was not normally permitted. Elsewhere on the site, the excavation of features to any depth was discouraged. Additionally, up to 0.3m of the archaeological levels had, in places, been removed during machine clearance of the site. The function of the structural traces which were located is far from certain, but for the purpose of this report they have been designated Buildings I - III (Fig.5).

The subsoil was keuper marl, which dipped markedly eastwards, the fall from west to east across the site varying from 0.53 to 0.7m. There was also a gentle dip in the subsoil from north to south of the site, of c0.15m.

#### Building I

Roman levels in the northern part of the site were sealed by a deposit of compacted gravel, layer 4, only a small area of which could be removed in the time available. The

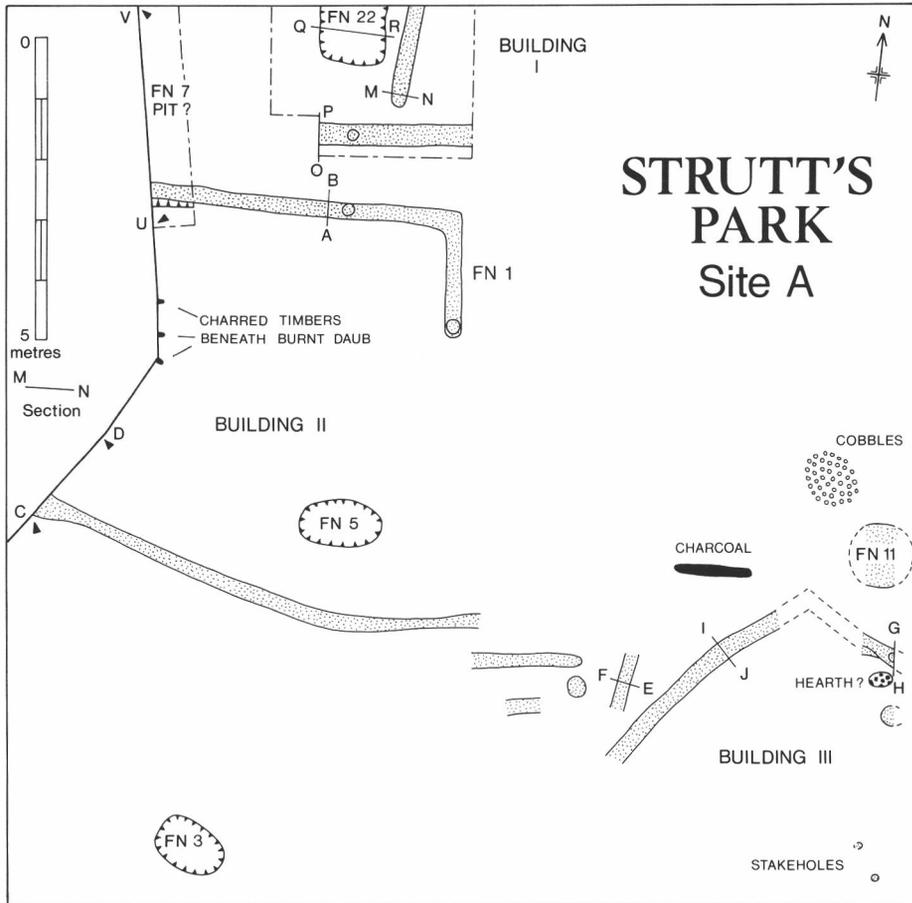


Fig. 5 Derby Strutt's Park: site A, plan. Scale 1:125.

gravel yielded several sherds of Roman pottery including the base of a flagon, but the presence of a clay pipe stem, well-sealed, indicated that the gravelled surface must be of post-medieval date. A layer of pebbles of post-medieval date was encountered above the Roman levels on the 1970 excavation (Brassington, 1970). Beneath the pebbles was a layer of brown soil, layer 8, rather clayey in consistency and with flecks of charcoal. This yielded a bronze fibula, the horn-core of an ox, a sherd of samian (Dr.18), sherds of amphora and other small fragments of Roman pottery. Layer 8 sealed the structural remains of Building I. These consisted of two foundation slots cut partly through keuper marl and partly through a deposit of clean yellowish-brown sand. The slot aligned east-west was 0.33-0.36m wide and 0.2m deep, packed with red marl with some flecks of charcoal (Section O-P). One post-setting was visible, showing as a circular dark patch within the filling, 0.1m in diameter and 0.25m in depth. The other slot was aligned approximately at right angles and may represent an internal partition wall, as it was slighter in its dimensions, varying from 0.22 to 0.3m in width and about 0.12m in depth. Its filling consisted of dirty sand and red marl with charcoal flecks; no post-settings were observed. There was a slight gap between the two slots. Within the angle of these features there was a rectangular pit, FN 22, whose northern edge lay outside the

area available for investigation. Its dimensions were 1.15m by at least 1.20m and it was cut to a depth of 1m into the keuper marl. The pit had vertical sides and a flat bottom and was filled with alternating bands of red clay and yellow sand (Section Q-R). The filling was quite clean with no trace of organic material and the only finds, a fragment of a melon bead and several tiny coarse ware sherds, came from its upper layers. The clean nature of the filling would seem to preclude use as a latrine or rubbish pit, unless it were furnished with a removable wooden receptacle. Alternatively, it may perhaps have functioned as a water storage tank. A number of similar pits were excavated within barrack blocks of the Neronian-Vespasianic fort at The Lunt, Baginton (Hobley, 1972, p.35-36), where they were interpreted as water tanks. There seems no reason to

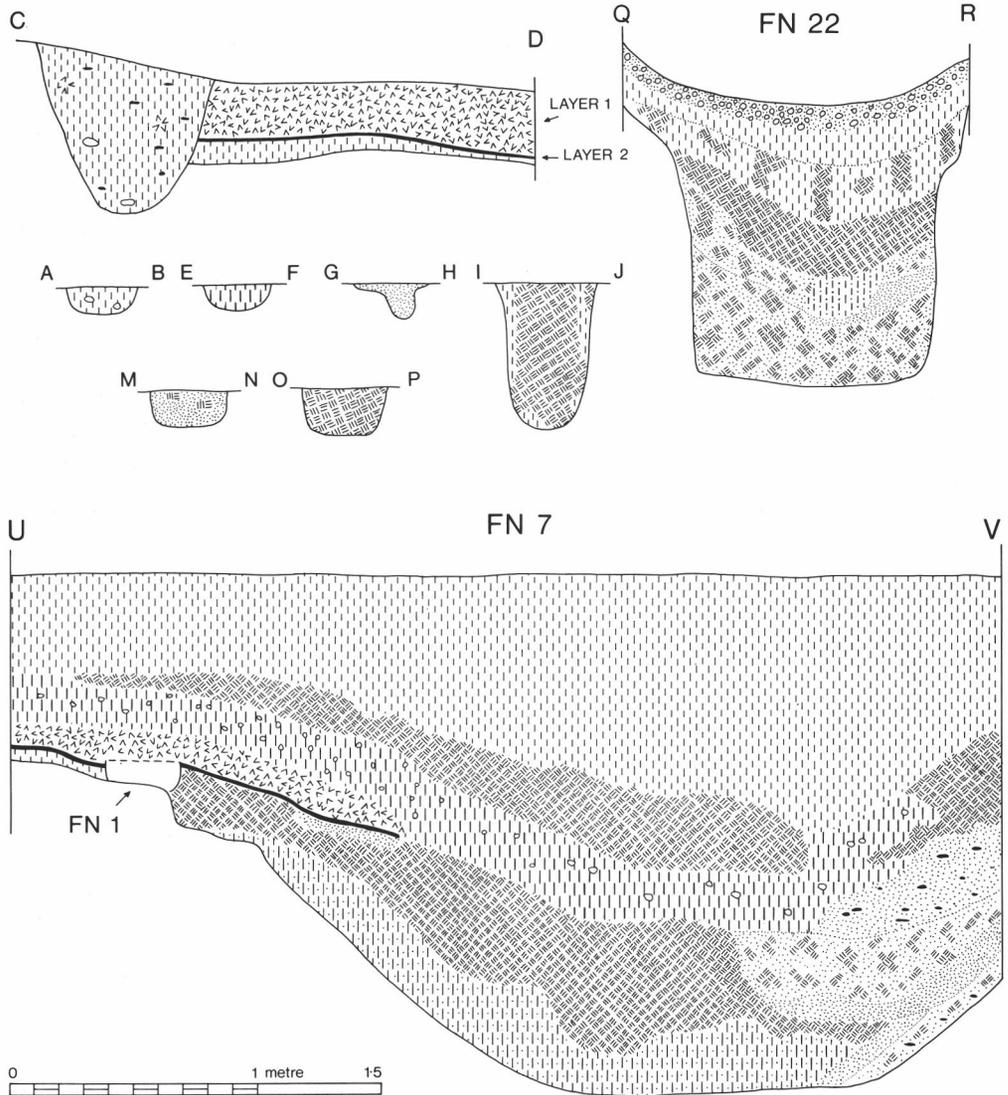


Fig. 6 Derby Strutt's Park: site A, sections. Scale 1:30.

doubt that the pit was contemporary with the post-trenches of Building I. Layer 4 and layer 8 had both slumped into the top of the pit after its filling had compacted.

### **Building II**

This appeared to be a separate structure to the south of Building I. It was defined by two slots or post-trenches aligned approximately east-west but not exactly parallel. The northerly slot turned south for a short length before terminating. It averaged 0.28m in width and 0.12m in depth; the filling was mixed, containing clay with flecks of charcoal and daub (Section A-B). It was not possible to excavate the feature fully, but two post-settings were located. These showed as individual post-holes dug c0.2m below the bottom of the foundation trench into which they had been set.

The slot which defined the south wall of Building II had been almost destroyed by machine clearance, the surviving depth of the feature varying from 0.05-0.2m. The filling contained a good deal of charcoal and burnt daub, in addition to several small pieces of unburnt daub (one showing a wattle impression), fragments of an iron nail and several scraps of coarse pottery. No post-settings were visible and the feature followed an irregular curving line as far as it could be traced.

Between the two slots of Building II was a layer of burnt daub, bright orange in colour, whose thickness varied from 0.16-0.24m (Layer 1). This had largely been removed by machine clearance but was clearly visible in an undisturbed section (C-D) on the west of the site, and elsewhere small patches of it remained *in situ*. The original eastward extent of the burnt daub was uncertain, owing to the machine clearance. It extended slightly north of Building II and formed part of the filling of FN 7 (see below). A piece of daub with wattle impressions was recovered and the layer also yielded some sherds of rustic ware. There seems little doubt that this deposit must represent the fired remains of wattle-and-daub walling. In places the burnt daub was mixed with a sandy material (decayed wall plaster?). Immediately beneath layer 1 and covering much the same area was a uniform, thin deposit of charcoal, layer 2, never more than 10mm in thickness. Finds from layer 2 comprised a few fragments of coarse pottery, including a rustic ware sherd. It is suggested that this thin layer of charcoal may represent the carbonized remains of a wooden floor. Between layers 1 and 2 were the remains of some charred timbers, revealed in the section left by the machine on the west of the site. In places there was a thin layer of greyish clay beneath the charcoal; elsewhere the natural red keuper marl was encountered immediately beneath the charcoal. The section C-D illustrates the relationship between the southern construction trench or slot of Building II and the layer of burnt daub and charcoal. It is apparent that here the construction trench had been much disturbed and enlarged at some time, probably during demolition of the building when the main structural timbers may have been salvaged. As stated above, its filling contained much burnt daub and charcoal.

The shallow pit FN 5 was an oval depression cut c0.1m into the natural marl. Its filling contained burnt daub and charcoal, and there was a slab of sandstone at the bottom which had been subjected to intense heat and burnt to a very soft condition. There was a similar shallow depression, FN 3, to the south of Building II, and in this was found a bronze 'one-piece' brooch (below p.294 Mackreth, no.34).

An area of extremely hard, compacted, brown soil was noted immediately north-west of Building II and a narrow section, 0.55m in width, was excavated in order to ascertain its nature. (The builder would not permit the investigation of any larger area). The section revealed part of an enigmatic feature, FN 7, cut c1.4m into the natural marl, with a flat bottom and sloping sides. The southern edge or lip was located but the northern edge unfortunately lay beyond the area available for excavation. Assuming that both sides sloped uniformly, the dimensions of the feature from north to south

would have been about 4.2m. The alignment could not be judged very accurately within such a narrow section, but it appeared to be east-west. The east-west extent of the feature remains unknown. The filling consisted mainly of hard, compacted layers of sand or clay, or a mixture of both and gave the impression of tip-lines of material thrown in alternately from north and south (Section U-V). The filling was very clean throughout but in places contained a few flecks of charcoal and burnt daub. The finds comprised a few small fragments of samian and coarse wares. The northern construction slot (FN 1) of Building II was observed on the southern edge of the feature, as were its associated deposits of burnt daub and charcoal (Layers 1 and 2) which had subsided, or had been thrown into, the partially filled-up FN 7. The uppermost layers of FN 7, (a), (b) and (c) also sealed layers 1 and 2 and must therefore post-date the destruction of Building II. The relationship of FN 7 to Building I could not be determined: certainly there were no traces of any construction slots observable in the filling of FN 7. The function and extent of this feature remain totally uncertain. It does not have the V-shaped profile of a military ditch and it is perhaps best interpreted as a large pit.

### **Building III**

The structural features which have been designated on the plan as Building III were on a different alignment from Buildings I and II. There was a substantial construction trench aligned north-east/south-west, c0.38-0.4m in width and c0.6m in depth with almost vertical sides (Section I-J). It was packed with red clay and earth. No post-settings were observed, but it was not possible to excavate all the fillings. Possibly meeting it at right angles was another slot in which one post-setting was located (Section G-H), and which was filled with clean sandy material. Both these features had been cut through a layer of light brown soil (layer 6) which extended over most of the eastern part of the site, overlying the natural keuper marl to a depth of c0.35m. The natural subsoil dipped eastwards fairly sharply across the site, and layer 6 may have been a 'make-up' deposit to level the area prior to the erection of structures. Finds from this layer included part of a slipped flanged bowl (Fig.10 no.1) and a bronze pin (Fig.11 no.2). Traces of other features, probably structural, were observed between Buildings II and III, but it was not possible to investigate the area fully.

A number of other features was observed at the bottom of house foundation trenches on the very eastern part of the site. These had not been visible at the same level as the slots of Building III, and appeared to be earlier features cut into the marl prior to the deposition of the 'make-up' layer 6. Unfortunately full investigation of these features was not permitted, but they included a possible hearth (a shallow oval depression filling with charcoal and burnt cobbles), a small pit (?), two stake-holes and part of a cobbled surface. Smears of very dirty mixed soil with flecks of charcoal were observed at the bottom of the foundation trenches. It was evident that more than one phase of activity was represented on the site.

### **SITE B (SK 34973736)**

The area excavated was a small plot of rough grass at the extreme south-west corner of Derwent Park, south of the public conveniences. From here the ground drops away to the River Derwent, and therefore it was hoped that the eastern defences of the early fort might be located. Excavation, however, demonstrated that the area lay within the defensive system, which may perhaps be represented by the ditch (?) which was observed in Arthur Street (see below). The subsoil was a sandy boulder clay, presumably a Pleistocene deposit which here overlies the keuper marl.

### **Stratification**

Beneath the topsoil was a layer of brown soil, layer 2, which contained material of all

dates down to the eighteenth century, and so the Roman material which came from it has been classed as unstratified. Finds of Roman date included four first-century coins (nos. 1, 3, 4 and 6 in the coin report) of which three were copies of Claudian *asses*, fragments of samian and sherds of amphora, flagons, rustic ware and Derbyshire ware. This single sherd of Derbyshire ware represents the only evidence from either Site A or Site B for Roman occupation later than the first century AD and is best regarded as a stray find.

Cutting through layer 2 were several modern disturbances including land drains and a substantial brick-and-stone culvert or drain running north-west to south-east across the site. This latter had been constructed in a wide and deep trench, and had consequently destroyed archaeological levels over a large area. Cutting through Roman deposits in the eastern part of the site were five rectangular features which at first sight looked like military post-pits. Excavation, however, proved that they were all of post-medieval date, their fillings yielding sherds of eighteenth century pottery, clay pipes and brick. The function of these five pits, neatly dug with vertical sides and flat bottoms, remain unknown.

Roman levels were encountered at a depth of c0.8m from the ground surface. These were irregular in level, dipping both to the south and to the east. They were disturbed not only by modern features, but also by the action of tree roots in the northern part of the site. Over much of the area there was a mixed deposit of hard, dirty, sandy clay, which contained fragments of burnt daub and flecks of charcoal (Layer 3). It was up to 0.15m in depth and sealed structural features in the northern and central parts of the site. Finds from layer 3 included an *as* of Vespasian (no.5 in the coin report), a lead spindle whorl, fragments of sheet bronze and samian and coarse wares, the latter including sherds of ring-necked flagons and rustic ware. Layer 3 sealed many of the features and appeared to have been deliberately deposited upon the abandonment/demolition of the site.

### Structures

The features which were located consisted, in the main, of construction slots and post-holes. These, it is suggested, probably formed part of one building with internal partitions, aligned north-south and c9m in width.

The eastern side of the building was represented by a substantial construction trench, FN 25. This varied in width from 0.42-0.6m with a maximum depth of 0.47m. Its filling was a dirty sandy clay with flecks of charcoal and daub and a few potsherds. No traces of any post-settings were observed within the trench, except beneath the northern bank of the site, where the 'shadow' of a disturbed post-hole was visible.

The western side was represented by a line of post-holes, FN 14, 15/16, 18, 19 and 29. FN 15/16 was probably two successive post-holes, recut or replaced, although the relationship was not clear. FN 29 may have been a replacement for the smaller FN 19, or vice versa. The western part of the large post-hole (or post-pit) FN 29 was cut deeper and presumably the timber had been set against this side of the pit. These post-holes ranged in depth from 0.21-0.45m, their fillings composed of dark sandy material mixed with red marl, a little burnt daub and flecks of charcoal. FN 14 and 15/16 also yielded some sherds of pottery. FN 15/16, 18 and 19 all showed distorted edges or 'ramps' on one side, possibly the result of their timber posts having been rocked loose upon demolition of the building.

There was evidence for both east-west and north-south partitions within the building. The east-west partition is represented by the post-holes FN 27, 26, 22, 20, 28 and a possible post-hole in one corner of FN 17. Their depths ranged from 0.46-0.65m and their fillings were similar to those of the post-holes defining the western side of the

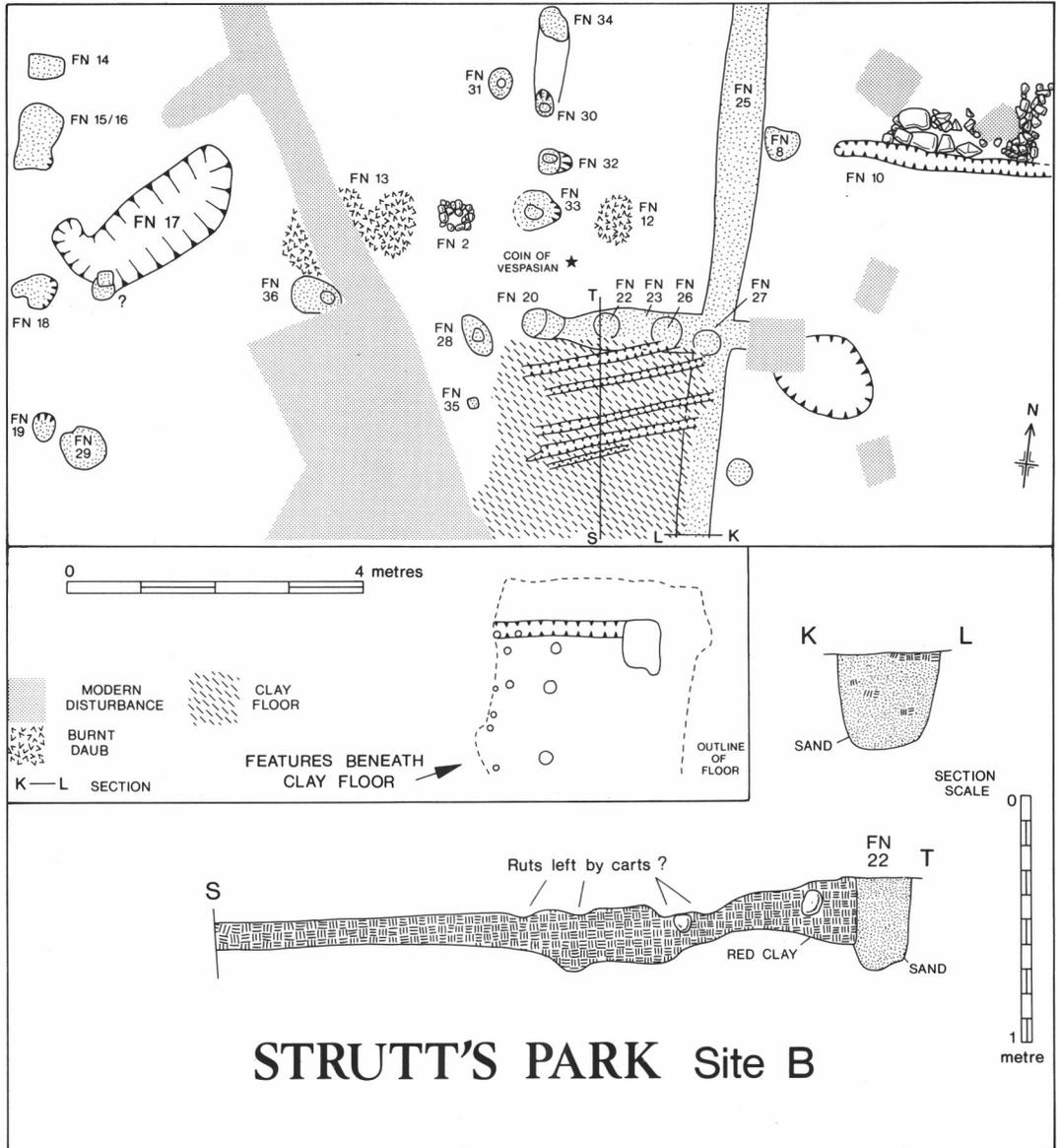


Fig. 7 Derby Strutt's Park: site B, plan and sections. Scales 1:100 and 1:30 respectively.

building. FN 27, 26, 22 and 20 were set into a construction trench or slot, FN 23, which was c0.3m in depth and 0.3-0.5m in width. The post-holes were dug below the bottom of the construction slot.

The north-south partition was defined by the post-holes FN 34, 30, 32, 33 (and 20). Their depths ranged from 0.55-0.7m and there were traces of a shallow slot connecting FN 34 and 30. FN 30, 32 and 34 all produced sherds of pottery, including samian, and an iron nail was found in FN 34. FN 30, 32 and 33 showed 'ramps' or distorted edges. There were three slighter, shallower post-holes (FN 2, 31 and 35) to the west of those described above, and these did not seem to fit into the main structural outline.

The south-east division of the building contained a well-laid floor of red marl, whose full extent to the south could not be ascertained, as it lay outside the area available for excavation. This floor varied from 0.1-0.3m in thickness and had been terraced into the ground to a depth of c0.3m in order to provide a level surface where the ground sloped southwards. The red clay overlapped, in places, the construction slots FN 23 and 25, indicating that it had been laid after the main timber uprights had been erected. The surface had been scored by a number of parallel depressions running in an east-west direction. These gave the appearance of ruts caused by a wheeled vehicle traversing the site (upon evacuation/demolition?). The clay of the floor incorporated a few sherds, including amphora and rustic ware and many fragments of thin sheet lead, most of them twisted and buckled and some with nail holes. (See report on the small finds.) When the clay was lifted, a number of earlier features were found sealed beneath it. (Fig.7). These included a linear feature, a possible post-pit (sub-rectangular), three post-holes and eight stake-holes. They were all very shallow and were probably partially destroyed when the ground was terraced to receive the clay floor. No finds were recovered from beneath the floor.

Within the building were two very shallow depressions, FN 12 and 13, which were entirely filled with burnt daub and charcoal. The natural sandy clay beneath FN 13 had been scorched to a depth of 30mm, suggesting burning of material *in situ*. FN 17 was a shallow, irregular feature filled with dark sandy material, some charcoal and many burnt cobbles. The cobbles did not appear to have been burnt *in situ*, since the surrounding deposits were not scorched, and some of the stones were scattered haphazardly outside the feature. This was, perhaps, a demolition pit into which stones from a dismantled hearth had been tipped. The filling produced two fragments of Roman pottery and a sherd of early-iron-age type (Fig.10, no.31).

Outside the building, to the north-east, there were remains of stone footings (?) or sills (?), which apparently had formed the corner of a structure of which only part remained. The stones were of the soft, greenish 'skerry' which can be found in bands throughout the keuper marl. They were not set into a foundation trench and rested directly upon the natural sandy clay. A large, flat sherd of amphora had been placed beneath one of the stones, and two more large pieces of amphora were found inset into a gap between some of the stones — to form the base for a timber post? An alternative explanation might be that the stones formed a base for a tank or other above-ground container. West of the stones was a shallow post-hole, FN 8. Immediately south of the stone sill (?) was a shallow, irregular linear feature, 0.08-0.14m in depth (FN 10). This did not have the appearance of a construction slot and seems more likely to have functioned as a gully or drip trench.

The nature of the structure(s) represented by all these features must now be considered. The writer tends to the conclusion that they are part of a single building, aligned north-south and c9m (29 feet) in total width. Evidence was obtained for internal partitioning and one area thus divided had a carefully laid floor of red marl. The total width would compare favourably with the known dimensions of first century timber barrack blocks. For example, those of the Neronian fort at Nanstallon were 24-28 feet wide (Fox and Ravenhill, 1972, p.80) and of the Flavian fort at Pen Llystyn almost 30 feet wide (Hogg, 1969, p.134). The partitions within the Strutt's Park building would indicate *contubernia* with widths of c6.2m and c2.8m respectively (but of unknown length), representing the men's sleeping quarters with adjacent smaller rooms for storing equipment. Whether the masonry feature in the north-east of the site formed part of the overall design, or was something completely separate, is problematic. If an integral part of the building, then it could be interpreted as a corner of the officers' accommodation at the end of a barrack block. The variety of constructional techniques

employed is unusual for Roman military timber-work; construction trenches, individual post-holes and stone sills (?) are all represented, whereas the standard military practice was to dig continuous trenches or slots into which the main timber uprights were set.

None of the post-holes or slots showed any voids or soft, dark areas to suggest the rotted stumps of timbers. Many of the post-holes had 'ramps' or damaged edges, indicating that the timbers had been rocked loose or levered out. The impression given by excavation of the post-holes was that they had been deliberately back-filled and rammed firm after the timbers had been removed. All this points to deliberate and systematic demolition by the Roman army upon evacuation of the site.

### ARTHUR STREET (SK 35003732)

In May 1974 the writer observed the digging of a gas pipeline trench on the corner of Arthur Street and Kingston Street. The metre-wide section of the trench revealed one side of a feature cut through the natural sandy clay, and dipping down at a fairly steep angle in an easterly direction. Its total depth could not be ascertained; the bottom of the pipe trench was c1.2m from the modern road surface (Fig.8). The filling of the feature consisted of dirty greyish sand with many flecks of charcoal and a few tiny flecks of burnt daub, suggestive of a Roman date. The steep profile would not be inconsistent with that of a Roman military ditch and, if so, this could represent part of the eastern defences of the early fort. No firm conclusions can be drawn, however, on the basis of such slim evidence.

### 93 BELPER ROAD (SK 34853750)

In August 1977 a small excavation was carried out in the garden at the rear of this property, prior to the erection of a garage, with the kind permission of the owners Mr and Mrs D. Thomas (Fig.4). The work was directed by Mr Peter Brady, who sent details to the writer. Assistance on site was provided by members of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society and Derby Museum.

The trenches which were excavated did not reveal any structures or deposits which could be assigned a Roman date. The ground appeared to have been cultivated in post-medieval times, and there was a considerable amount of disturbance as the result of levelling for a lawn by a previous occupant. The natural keuper marl was encountered at depths ranging from c1-1.3m. In one area, a hard-packed pebbled surface was found immediately above the natural, and in another part of the garden numerous stake holes were located, with depths of up to 0.25m. These features could not be dated. A number

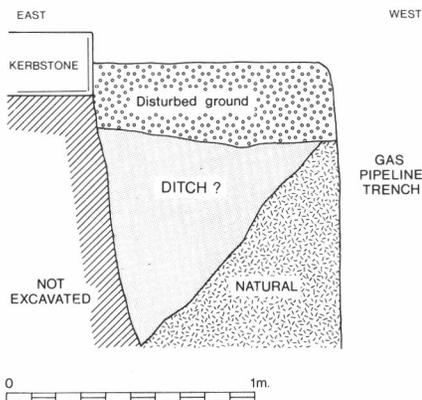


Fig. 8 Derby Strutt's Park: Arthur Street section. Scale 1:30.

of parallel depressions running north-south across the site were interpreted as plough scrapes in the natural marl.

There were a few Roman finds, but these came from disturbed ground which also contained post-medieval material. They comprised some pottery sherds (including amphora and rustic wares) and a bronze bow brooch.

### GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

The excavation of Sites A and B produced structural evidence for first-century Roman military occupation in the Strutt's Park area, hitherto attested only by the gullies or slots observed at 91 Belper Road (Brassington, 1970). The traces of timber buildings located on Site A, under unfavourable conditions, were fragmentary but consistent with Roman military structures, and more than one phase of activity seemed to be represented. The structures excavated on Site B probably formed part of a barrack block with internal partitions, aligned north-south. Destruction or demolition deposits in the form of burnt daub and charred timbers were attested on both sites, more especially on Site A. The evidence outlined for Site B strongly hints at systematic demolition by the Roman army, involving the salvage of usable timbers, when the fort was evacuated.

The extent of the early fort remains uncertain, since the defences have not yet been located. The only clue may lie in the section of ditch (?) observed in Arthur Street: this may possibly represent part of the eastern defensive system. No military equipment was recovered to indicate the type of garrison, although some bronze fragments found on the 1970 excavation were identified as typical of Claudian-Neronian legionary equipment.

As yet, nothing more than tentative conclusions can be made concerning the date of the early fort. The samian pottery indicates a foundation not later than AD60, and in view of the number of Claudian pieces which have been identified, a date in the early 50s AD seems certain. There are two known historical contexts which could have provided the impetus to establish a military presence guarding the Derwent valley.

Disturbances among the Brigantes had broken out as early as AD48, causing Ostorius Scapula to break off his campaign in Wales in order to send military support for Cartimandua's régime. (Tacitus, *Annals* xii. 32). It is conceivable that a garrison could have been placed at Strutt's Park in the aftermath of this, to keep watch on the southern approaches to Brigantia. However, there is at present little archaeological evidence to support the notion of a network of military posts established north of the Trent during the governorship of Scapula (47-52), whose years in Britain were dominated by campaigns against the turbulent tribes of Wales. It is probable that the existing arrangements established by Plautius on the Humber-Trent line were maintained until the governorship of Didius Gallus (52-57).

Gallus inherited problems on both the Silurian and the Brigantian fronts. Internal struggles between Queen Cartimandua and her former consort Venutius necessitated the dispatch of auxiliary forces to restore Cartimandua's authority in Brigantia. A fierce battle ensued, and later a legion (no doubt Legio IX) under the command of its legate had to be deployed. (Tacitus, *Annals* xii:40). Such serious disturbances in the client kingdom clearly necessitated an adjustment to the northern frontier of the province, in order to bring the areas north of the Trent, and nearer to Brigantian territory, under constant surveillance and control. Tacitus, although in general scornful of Didius Gallus' abilities, grudgingly admits that "He also advanced further into native territory, building just a few forts so that he might win the glory of having increased the area under his control." (*Agricola*:14). This is the most likely context for the establishment of the fort at Strutt's Park, along with other sites which have yielded material datable to the 50s AD, such as Chesterfield, Templeborough and Trent Vale.

(For a full discussion of military dispositions under Didius Gallus, *see* Webster, 1981, especially pp.98-103).

It must be assumed that military occupation continued at Strutt's Park until the establishment of a new fort at Little Chester on the opposite bank of the Derwent. In view of material of Flavian date which has been recovered from Little Chester, this move is thought to have taken place in the early 80s AD, during the governorship of Agricola (78-84). There are a number of coins of Vespasian known from Strutt's Park, including one from Site B, dated AD72-78, which was corroded but unworn when deposited (coin report, no.5). Occupation down to cAD80 therefore seems certain. The relative lack of early-Flavian samian is a little curious, although admittedly the sample involved is small and not all the sherds were closely datable. The unstratified coin of Domitian dated AD95-96 from 91 Belper Road (coin report, no.10) is perhaps best regarded as a second-century loss post-dating the military evacuation.

### SAMIAN POTTERY

By GRACE SIMPSON, with notes on the potters' stamps by B. R. HARTLEY

The following sherds are all from vessels made at La Graufesenque in South Gaul. Because most of them are very small, it is not possible to date some of them closely, but it should be noted that none has the very high gloss which is characteristic of the Neronian period and, where dating is certain, it is Claudian. None therefore is likely to be later than about AD60, with the possible exceptions of Nos.6, 19 and 35, but this last was too badly blurred by its maker for identification.

#### Samian Pottery (Fig.9)

1 Dr.29, a small sherd, much rubbed. There seems to be a small altar, closest to Hermet, 1934, pl.16, 56 or 66. Brown-red gloss, probably Claudian.

Site B, unstratified.

2 Dr.24/25 rim, Oswald and Pryce, 1920, pl. xl and p.171. Claudian.

Site B, unstratified.

3 Dr.27, with flat-topped rim and characteristic slight inbending at the rim, see H & H, 186, S14b; Richmond, 1968, 107 and fig.52, 11a and b. Early-Claudian.

Site B, unstratified.

4-5 Dr.27 fragments. Brown-red gloss, probably Claudian.

Site B, unstratified.

6 Dr.29, a tiny sherd showing a spray of vegetation with a small cordate object on the top of some leaves. For the spray, see Hermet, 1934, pl.68, 8-12. Not attributable, cAD55-75. Site B, layer 3.

7 Dr.29, two sherds joining. Delicate tendrils and cordate leaves and the same two types of tendril-bindings as on Hawkes and Hull, 1947, pl.XXV, 6a and 6b. Early-Claudian.

Site B, layer 3 and FN 3.

8-9 Dr.27 rim fragments.

Site B, layer 3.

10-13 Dr.17? The sherd is broken at the

angle and therefore it is impossible to say whether it is a Dr.17 without a quarter-round interior moulding, or a Dr.15/17 with the moulding, as defined by Oswald and Pryce, 1920, 173-4. It appears to be an early form with an almost vertical wall, very slight concavity, and fine exterior groove just above the angle of the vessel where the break occurs. Brown-red gloss. Claudian. Nos.11-13 are tiny fragments. Site B, layer 3.

14 Dech.67. Two tiny sherds, from the rim, join. This globular form developed during the Claudian period and is most common during the last quarter of the first century, Oswald and Pryce, 1920, 126-7, pl.xxi, 8-13.

Site B, layer 3.

15 Two sherds join, probably from the side of a Dr.36, Oswald and Pryce, 1920, pl.liii. Site B, layer 3 and layer 9.

16 Dr.17 or 15/17, see No.10 above. Three sherds from the same vessel. The wall is low, and it has mouldings like Oswald and Pryce, 1920, pl.xliii, 36-7. Early-Claudian.

Site B, layer 7, FN 25 and FN 30.

17 Dr.15/17, large quarter-round moulding only.

Site B, FN 1.

18 Dr.29, a scrap, showing a small ten-petalled rosette within a spiral.

Site B, FN 16.

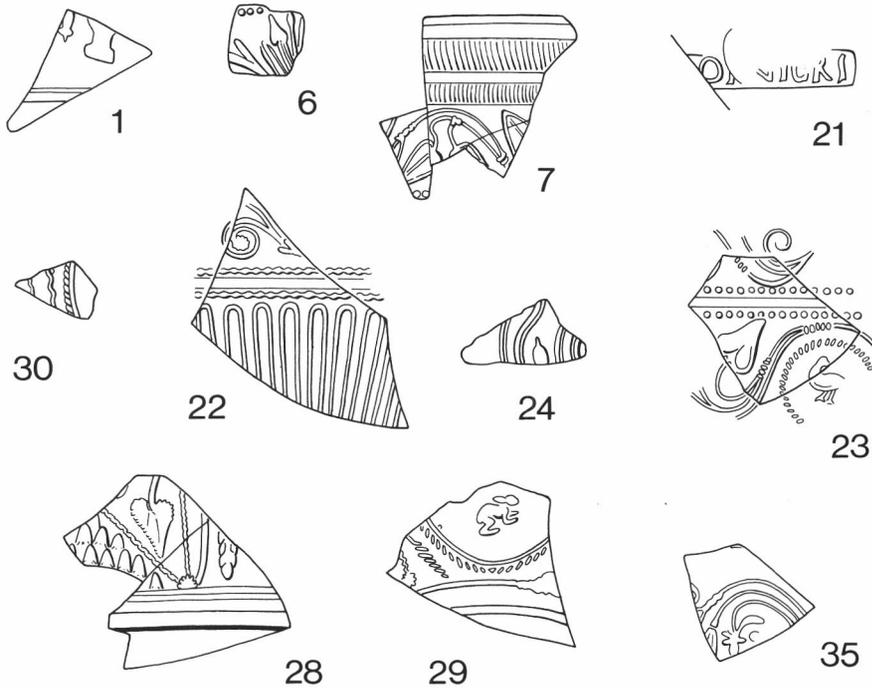


Fig. 9 Derby Strutt's Park: samian. Scale 1:2 except no. 21 at 1:1.

19 Potter's stamp. Mr B.R. Hartley has identified this as follows:

SECVNDS.FE Secundus ii (Die 24a) of La Graufesenque. No dated sites except Hedderheim for this particular stamp, but the general record implies activity *c*AD55-75.

Site B, FN 24.

20 Dr.27, a scrap with a small ridge at the exterior base of the upper curve, an unusual feature.

Site B, FN 30.

21 Dr.29 base, stamped in the centre interior OFNIGRI. Mr.B.R. Hartley reports as follows: This is Die 2a of Niger ii of La Graufesenque. It was used only on dishes (including Ritterling 1) and on form 29. There seems to be little doubt that it was basically Neronian (e.g. Fishbourne in period 1 and at Zwammerdan also in period 1), though it does appear occasionally at sites founded about AD70 (e.g. Nijmegen fortress and at Rottweil and Hochmauren). In view of this, a date *c*AD55-70 seems certain for the stamp. But the surviving fragment of decoration on this piece looks suspiciously like one of the curved gadroons derived from the nautilus shell, and those are

characteristic of Claudian and early Neronian pieces, so I would think that this piece belongs to the early part of the range, probably before AD60. See No.24.

Site A, unstratified.

22 Dr.29. The details of the scroll in the frieze are not clear. The straight gadroons are common in Claudian and Neronian times, see Hawkes and Hull, 1947, pls.xxvii-viii, xxxi. The profile is rounded, not carinated, and indicates a Claudian period of manufacture.

Site A, unstratified.

23 Dr.29. A cordate leaf in a scroll with five-beaded tendril-bindings. Rounded profile, probably Claudian.

Site A, unstratified.

24 Dr.29, a tiny fragment which shows volutes or curved gadroons on No.21 like Hawkes and Hull, 1947, pl.xxiii,32, early-Claudian.

Site A, unstratified.

25 Dr.17?, see Nos.10 and 16 above, but a different vessel.

Site A, unstratified.

26 Dr.15/17, a different vessel from No.25, with a quarter-round moulding.

Site A, unstratified.

- 27 Dr.24/25 rim, a small cup, probably Claudian.  
Site A, unstratified.
- 28 Dr.30 with matt gloss. The cordate leaf with serrated edge is a detail used by MASCLVS, Knorr, 1919, Taf.52,33, and the long pendant leaf was used by INGENVVS, *ibid.*, Taf.42 M. Claudius-Nero.  
Site A, unstratified.
- 29 Dr.29. The medallion is larger than H & H, pl.xxxiv, 18, by ARDACVS, but it is also composed from curved fronds. It contains a small rabbit, near to 0.2045. Cracked brown-red gloss.  
Site A, unstratified.
- 30 Dr.29 or 30. Part of a curved frond, as on No.29 above, and see Hermet, 1934: pls.30, 2-6, and 73, 14. The bold wavy line was used by several potters. Late-Claudian to Neronian.  
Site A, unstratified.
- 31 Dr.18. The small bead rim and exterior offset are early features, but it lacks the interior offset, discussed by Oswald and Pryce, 1920: 181-2, and see pl.xlv, 1, 9, 11 and 12 the last found at Newstead. Not datable.  
Site A, layer 8.
- 32 Dr.17 or 15/17, compare Nos.10 and 16 above.  
Site A, FN 7(b).
- 33 A high footing with a low exterior groove, compare Richmond, 1968, fig.52, 16; 53, 32.  
Site A, FN 7(c).
- 34 Ritterling type 12. Two sherds probably from the same vessel. This early flanged bowl has the characteristic swelling inside the rim, but the flange is broken away. See Oswald and Pryce, 1920, pl.lxxi, 1-6. Beautiful, silky, brown-red gloss. Claudian.  
Site A, FN 7(c) and 7(f).
- 35 Dr.29 frieze, showing a cordate, spurred and stipuled leaf within scrolls. All the details are damaged by careless removal from the mould, and the gloss is badly cracked; apprentice-work or somebody's 'off-day' product. Found in flowerbed in Derwent Park, near Site B.
- COARSE POTTERY (Fig.10)**
- 1 Soft, micaceous, orange fabric with buff core. (Reconstructed from fragments). The fractures and surfaces are abraded, but there are slight traces of an orange slip-coat. Probably an imitation of the samian form Ritterling 12, typically pre-Flavian, see Oswald and Pryce, 1920, pl.lxxi, 1-8.  
Site A, layer 6.
- 2 Rim of globular amphora. (Reconstructed from fragments). Hard, sandy, buff fabric.  
Site A, unstratified.
- 3 Rim fragment. Soft, sandy, orange fabric with grey core. Traces of matt red slip-coat on exterior.  
Site A, FN 7(f).
- 4 Thick white fabric, fairly hard, with a few small inclusions of limonite and haematite.  
Site A, layer 4.
- 5 Hard, sandy, light grey fabric with a darker grey core.  
Site A, FN 2.
- 6 Soft, micaceous, buff fabric with traces of a matt orange slip-coat.  
Site A, layer 8.
- 7 Hard, sandy, light grey fabric with barbotine decoration.  
Site A, layer 8.
- 8 Micaceous, fairly soft, grey fabric.  
Site A, layer 8.
- 9 Coarse, vesicular, orange fabric with grey core.  
Site A, unstratified.
- 10 Smooth, dark grey fabric with reddish-brown core.  
Site A, unstratified.
- 11 Beaker. Hard, white fabric, slightly burned after fracture.  
Site A, unstratified.
- 12 Cup-mouthed flagon. Hard, micaceous, white fabric. Hawkes and Hull, 1947, pl.LXVI, 169, for a similar but not identical example.  
Site A, unstratified.
- 13 Hard, sandy, orange fabric, probably flagon rim.  
Site B, layer 3.
- 14 Storage jar. Hard, orange fabric with grey core.  
Site B, layer 3.
- 15 Soft, white, slightly micaceous fabric.  
Site B, layer 3.
- 16 Hard, cream fabric.  
Site B, layer 3.
- 17 Hard, cream fabric with small inclusions of haematite and limonite.  
Site B, layer 3.
- 18 Hard, sandy, grey fabric with reddish-brown core.  
Site B, layer 3.
- 19 Fairly soft, sandy, buff fabric.  
Site B, layer 3.
- 20 Hard, light grey ware. There is a careless smudge of clay beneath the groove, probably not intended as rustic decoration.  
Site B, layer 3.

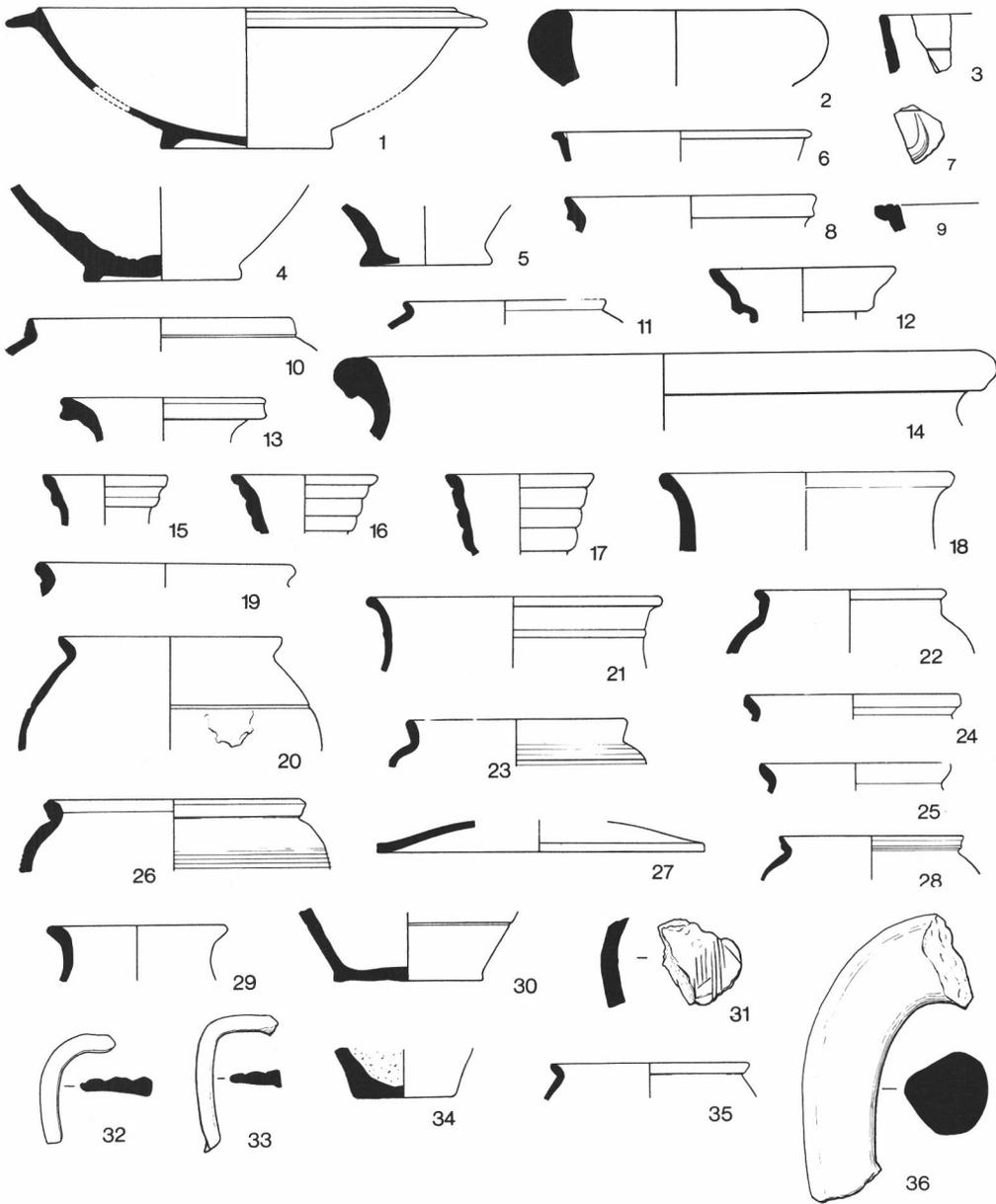


Fig. 10 Derby Strutt's Park: coarse pottery. Scale 1:4.

21 Cordoned vessel in rather soft, sandy, light brown fabric with a grey core. Slight traces of burnishing on the neck. A late La Tène type, in both form and fabric.

Site B, layer 3.

22 Same fabric as No.18 above.

Site B, layer 3.

23 Hard, slightly micaceous, light grey fabric. The groove on the shoulder suggests that this may be a rustic ware jar.

Site B, layer 3.

24-25 Hard, light grey fabric.

Site B, layer 3.

26 Hard, sandy, light grey fabric. Rilling below the shoulder.

Site B, layer 7.

27 Fine, micaceous, pinkish-white fabric.

Site B, FN 7.

28 Beaker. Very hard, thin, reddish-brown fabric. Also a base in the same fabric (not illustrated).

Site B, layer 8.

29 Hard, sandy, light grey fabric.

Site B, FN 15.

30 Same fabric as No.21 above. Burnished on exterior.

Site B, FN 34.

31 Sherd in crude, hand-made, grey fabric tempered with quartz and gritstone. Decorated with lines scored on exterior. Jeffrey May identifies this as an early-iron-age type.

Site B, FN 17.

32 Ribbed flagon handle, fairly soft cream fabric.

Site B, unstratified.

33 Ribbed flagon handle, hard, sandy, orange fabric. Possibly from same vessel as No.13 above.

Site B, post-medieval pit.

34 Base in thick, hand-made grey fabric, brown on interior surface. Jeffrey May identifies this as an early-iron-age type.

Site B, unstratified.

35 Soft, light grey fabric.

Site B, unstratified.

36 Handle of globular amphora. Hard, sandy, buff fabric.

Site B, unstratified.

### Not illustrated

Mortarium base. Mrs K.F. Hartley comments: "This is likely to be Flavian, from the South-East east or Gaul. It seems to be well-worn and has been slightly burnt after fracture."

Site A, FN 19.

### THE COINS

1 Claudius I. AD41-54. Æ coin, very poor. Probably a copy. *Rev.* Minerva advancing right SC

Site B, layer 2.

2 Claudius I. Æ coin, very poor. Copy of Constantia type. *Rev.* Figure standing left holding sceptre SC

Site A, found during initial cleaning and unstratified.

3 Claudius I. Æ coin, very poor. A very crude copy of a Claudian *As*.

*Rev.* Uncertain

Site B, layer 2.

4 Claudius I. Æ *As*, very poor. Probably a copy.

*Rev.* Traces of SC and a figure.

Site B, layer 2.

5 Vespasian. AD69-79. Æ *As*, corroded but unworn.

*Obv.* [IMP CAESAR VESPASIAN]AN AVG COS[Laureate head right.

*Rev.* Eagle standing front on globe [SC]

*B.M.C.* 822/848. Dated AD72-78

Site B, layer 3.

6 Æ coin, illegible. Probably first century AD

Site B, layer 2.

7 Æ coin, illegible.

Site B, layer 3.

8 Æ coin, illegible.

Site A, found during initial cleaning and unstratified.

In January 1977, two coins were brought to Derby Museum for identification. They had been found a few years previously by a workman on the building site on the south side of 91 Belper Road (the site of the 1970 excavation). They are published here as additions to the coin list for the Strutt's Park area (Brassington, 1970).

9 Vespasian. AD69-79. Æ *Dupondius*, corroded but unworn when deposited.

*Obv.* [IMP CAESAR] VESPASIANVS AVG COS[

Radiate head right.

*Rev.* [SECVRITAS AVGV]STI. SC in exergue. Securitas draped, seated left on throne; altar right.

10 Domitian. AD81-96. Æ *As*, corroded but unworn when deposited.

*Obv.* IMP CA[ES] DOMIT AVG GERM COS XVII CENS PER P P

Laureate head right.

*Rev.* MONETA [AVG]VSTI S C.

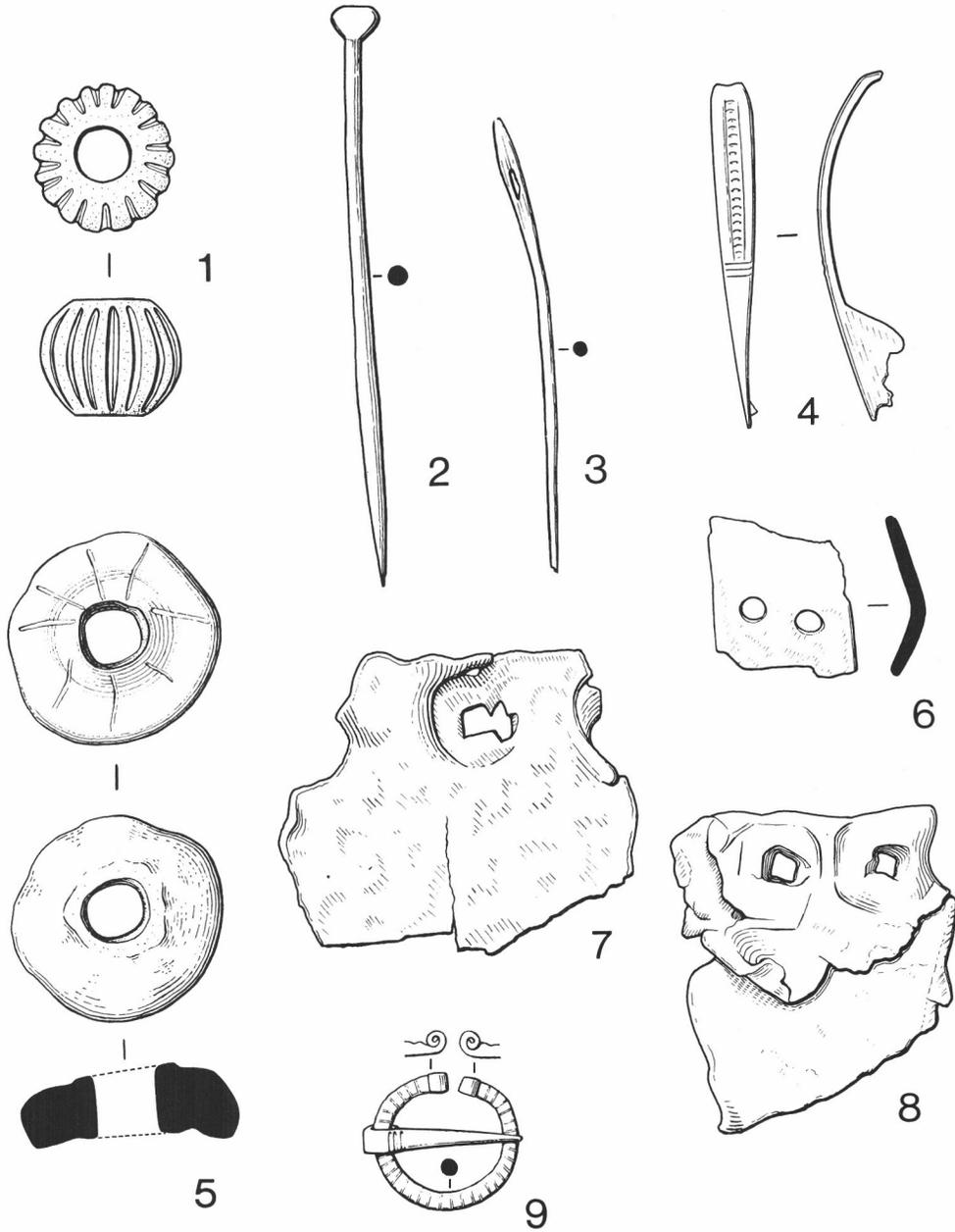


Fig. 11 Derby Strutt's Park: small finds. Scale 1:2 except no. 1 at 1:1.

Moneta standing left, holding scales and cornucopiae.  
B.M.C. 479+. Dated AD95-96.

### THE SMALL FINDS (Fig.11)

1 Melon bead, blue-green faience, identified by J.Bayley, A.M.Laboratory.  
Site A, layer 8.

2 Bronze pin with a plain knob head.  
Site A, layer 6.

3 Bronze needle.  
Site A, unstratified.

4 Fragment of a bronze brooch. Only the bow, which is slender and tapering, survives, and the catch-plate is fragmentary. The central part of the bow bears incised ornament terminating in three transverse grooves.  
Site A, unstratified.

5 Lead spindle whorl. One side has been decorated with incised lines radiating from the central hole.  
Site B, layer 3.

6 Small piece of sheet bronze, bent, with two nail or rivet holes.  
Site B, layer 3.

7 Sheet lead, slightly buckled, averaging 1-1.5mm in thickness. The nail hole indicates the use of a nail with a square shank 4mm x 4mm, and a circular head c12-13mm in diameter.  
Site B, red marl floor.

8 Sheet lead similar to 7 above, except that the lead has been folded over at the top to form a double sheet. The two holes indicate the use of nails of similar dimensions to those in 7.  
Site B, layer 3 (above red marl floor).

A number of other fragments of sheet lead, mostly very small and buckled, were found either sealed within the red marl floor or in layer 3 above and near the floor. They may, perhaps, represent the remnants of lead roofing.

9 Small, penannular bronze brooch complete with pin, and with spiral terminals coiled at right-angles to the plane of the ring. The upper surface of the ring is decorated. This is Type C in Fowler's classification of penannular brooches (Fowler, 1960), current by the beginning of the first century AD.

Found in June 1975 in the garden of 73 Belper Road and brought to Derby Museum for identification. (Retained by finder).

10 One-piece bow brooch with 4-coil spring (see p.294 no.34). Site A, FN3.

11 Bow Brooch with 8-coil spring and perforated catch-plate. (see p.281 no.1).  
Site A, layer 8.

### THE ANIMAL BONES by M.F. STANLEY

A very small sample.

*Site A*  
Ox vertebra, axis.

Layer 1.  
Sheep metapodial.  
Layer 2.

Ox horn core.  
Layer 8.

Ox lower molar.  
FN 3.

Ox naviculo-cuboid, right.  
FN 7.

*Site B*  
Pig tooth

Layer 5.  
Deer?, left ulna.

Layer 7.  
Sheep/goat mandible.

Layer 7.  
Young ox, 4 teeth and fragments of scapula.

Layer 8.  
Domestic fowl (*gallus domesticus*) humerus.

FN 9.  
Sheep/goat right mandible.

FN 10.  
Ox second phalange.

FN 10.  
Ox upper molar.

FN 10.  
Young ox left astragulus.

FN 15.  
Ox, 3 upper molars and 1 upper pre-molar.

FN 17.  
Fossil ammonite.  
Layer 5.