

VI.—FURTHER EXCAVATIONS AT CAMBOKEELS IN WEARDALE.

BY E. J. W. HILDYARD, F.S.A.

The trial excavation at Cambokeels in 1946¹ had revealed it as a mediæval site of unexpected importance, and the need for further investigation was obvious. In 1947 work on a larger scale was made possible by financial assistance. In this respect I must record my appreciation to the North of England Excavation Committee for a small but valuable grant; to the Stanhope Agricultural Society who allowed me to hold an exhibition of finds, which raised a useful sum, at their annual show in September; to holders of fishing permits on my water who made donations, and to the members of the Sunderland Archæological Society who visited my house in June, saw the 1946 finds and subscribed towards further work.

This assistance made possible the hire of two full-time men, kindly lent by Messrs. Beaston and Johnson, for ten days in July and various part-time men in the Autumn. Nevertheless, paid labour probably accounted for not more than half² the actual work done and the remainder fell to the lot of my invaluable ally, Mr. G. V. Snowdon, and myself. Mr. Sidney Wilkinson very kindly assumed the role of official photographer and also helped in the digging, and Mr. J. E. Reed assisted with the plan and section.

Mr. William Bainbridge of Park House not only again kindly gave permission to dig but subscribed to the spoliation of his pasture. I am again indebted to Mr. William

¹ *Arch. Ael.*, 4th ser., xxv, 181-96.

² An overestimate! G.V.S.

Bulmer for cleaning the many small objects with his customary skill and patience and also to Mr. J. Seymour Lindsay, who has kindly drawn the objects in figs. 4, 5 and 6 and commented on their date and purpose. Finally my debt is greatest to Mr. John Charlton, whose pottery section forms

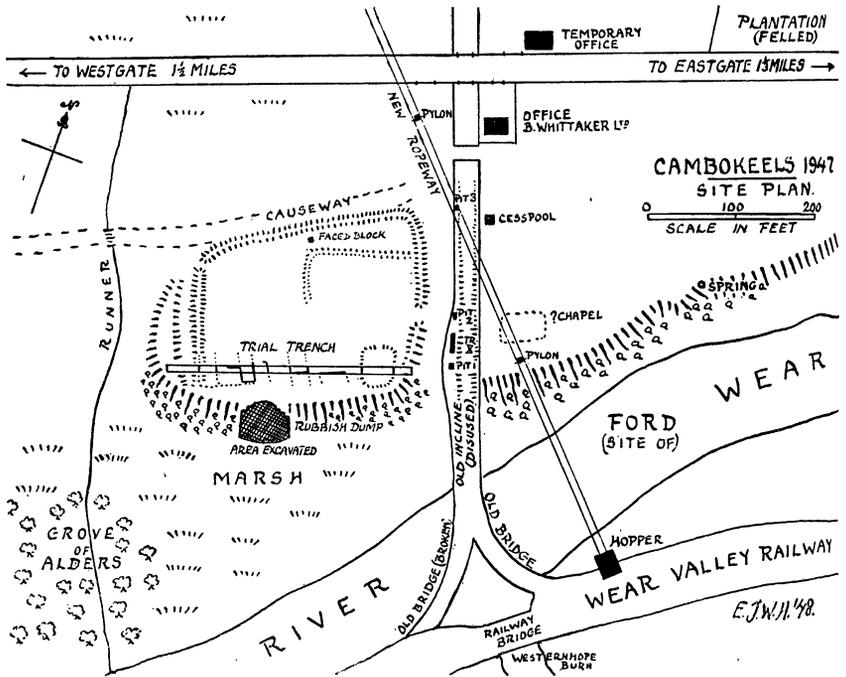


FIG. I. SITE PLAN.

an important part of this report and without whose expert guidance and constant encouragement this excavation would never have been undertaken.

THE SITE.

Something should here be said about the general situation of the "camp". The site plan here given (fig. 1) may

give some idea of the close correspondence of the site to the "regular camp" of Hutchinson's description,³ though confused by modern features more prominent on the plan than to the eye of a visitor on the field.

Several modifications and additions to the 25 inch O.S. have been necessary. The incline for railway wagons from Heights Quarry, on the brow of the hill some 500 ft. above, has been disused for more than twenty years and the rails lately removed. It crossed the river by two bridges of which the western was almost destroyed by the great flood of April 1947, and little more than the piers remain, though the eastern can still be used as a footbridge. The physical influence of the incline on the camp will be discussed later. In 1946, however, Heights Quarry was re-opened and an aerial flight constructed on the line shown in the plan. No remains were found when the pits were dug for the concrete bases of the pylons. Since then offices and a drainage system have been constructed east of the incline.

As to the camp itself the shape is slightly different to that shown on the O.S. where the north side runs parallel to the road. In fact the north-east corner is considerably nearer the road than the north-west and it may be noted that Hutchinson gives the length of the west side as 40 paces but that of the east as 60. The rampart surrounding the site on the three sides, apart from that overlooking the river, consists of a low, irregular mound never more than 3 ft. in height and about 12 ft. in average width. In places, stones show through the turf. There is a well-defined entrance gap in the east side and another less certain in the north-west corner. There is a possible third in the north-east angle.

Running along the outside of the northern rampart is a causeway, raised about 1 ft. above the ground beyond, with a curb of large, roughly squared blocks on its north side. This road crosses a small runner by a stone bridge of large oblong slabs, but its subsequent line is difficult to follow.

³ Quoted in the 1946 report, *ibid.*, pp. 183-4.

It is not clear if it is connected with the camp. Tracks seem to lead to traces of a small quarry in the north-west corner of the field, but whether this was opened for the camp buildings or for the later field walls is not apparent.

Inside the camp, apart from the buildings crossed by the trial trench, there are two sides of an enclosure in the north-eastern quarter. These are low mounds smaller in width than the "ramparts." The north side runs at a slight angle towards the northern rampart and in the middle of the space between the latter and the north-west corner of the enclosure a squared block still protrudes through the turf. This may mark the centre of some double gated entrance. There are other surface indications along the northern rampart and in the south-western sector north of the trial trench, but these are too indeterminate to show on the plan.

On the other side of the incline are the clearly defined outlines of another building which include an upright stone like a small monolith 3 ft. high near the south-east corner. For reasons to be seen later this may have been the chapel. On the south side of the camp an enclosure wall undoubtedly ran along the top of the bank; in places the stones protrude from the turf. It was interrupted above the middle of the rubbish heap for a cart track to run down the slope eastwards. Rubbish was, presumably, dumped over the side of the track after the western half had been filled. Hazel and thorn scrub grows right up to the western edge of the deposit, but there is an interval on the east side before the scrub begins again. The height and slope of the bank were shown in the section illustrated in the 1946 report.

THE EXCAVATIONS.

The objects of the excavation were twofold. First to complete the digging of the rubbish deposit which, being fairly closely dated, was of value for comparative purposes generally in mediæval archæology, and secondly to prove the existence of contemporary structures on the plateau and to

determine their character to some degree. Both these objectives were attained.

The excavation was divided into two parts. Work began on the rubbish dump on July 1st, 1947, and continued with a week's interval until July 25th. Work could not then be started on the plateau itself without serious damage to the pasturage, but with the kind consent of Mr. T. A. Saint, manager for B. Whittaker & Sons, a trial trench and a series of trial pits were dug during three days in August along the top of the western side of the incline cutting. (See site plan, fig. 1.)

Work was resumed on October 6th on a great trial trench completely crossing the camp site from west to east. This, together with two or three off-shoots, was completed by October 27th and was visited by Mr. Charlton on November 1st. There were thirty-two working days in all, exclusive of the subsequent filling in of the trial trench. We were fortunate to strike two very dry periods and the work was scarcely ever impeded by rain.

THE RUBBISH DEPOSIT.

The excavation began with a trench 6 ft. wide parallel to and immediately to the east of the 1946 double trench. Work proceeded by the "strip" method of parallel trenches, the soil from the second being deposited into the first and so on. In this way four trenches (III, IV, V and VI) were dug on the east side of the 1946 excavation and three (VII, VIII and IX) on the west. In all an area about 52 ft. broad with a maximum height or length of 41 ft. was examined. The trenches near the edges of the area were not quite so long especially in the east where the rubbish had been tipped over a sort of rough track running diagonally down the slope. The deposit also thinned out from the centre being much less deep at the edges. On the west side trench IX was dug right up to the beginning of the hawthorn scrub and it is certain that the deposit does not

continue any farther on this side. On the other side a trial hole 15 ft. east of trench VI showed undisturbed ground so that the deposit must run out between trench VI and this point. There may however be a small area here still undug though the finds were relatively much scarcer in trench VI and the depth of the deposit down to a maximum of 2 ft. 6 ins.

It has not been thought necessary to publish another section of the deposit as the features shown in the 1946 section were repeated and the stratification has no significance. As before, the portion most productive of finds was the black layer just below the topsoil and the majority of the objects were again found in the upper half of the slope, but they occurred at all levels and right down into the bog. Owing to the dry weather it was possible to go deeper into the bog, but there were only a few sherds of pottery and no finds of note, and it was not thought worth digging farther out below the slope. There was again a great deal of ash, and the many pieces of partly burnt or unburnt coal showed that the inhabitants were not dependent merely on wood for keeping out the chill of the Weardale nights.

Probably nearly 10,000 cubic ft. of soil was examined and finds were again very numerous and varied. They are described in detail in a later section, but it may be remarked that from this point of view this must be the richest mediæval site in the north of England, and it would be difficult to find any more productive. Apart from over a cwt. of pottery there was nearly a hundred small objects of all kinds, including parts of twenty horse-shoes, fifteen spurs and more than a dozen knives of various kinds. Nearly all the objects fell into two classes; horse-furniture, spurs, bits, harness fittings, etc., or objects of domestic use generally connected with cooking, knives, skewers, meat-hooks, etc. There was also a small group of carpenter's tools.

In one sense the finds were disappointing in that the pottery was again so very fragmentary and could not be made to fit together, though at least we did get two pots

(pottery, fig. 8, nos. 12 and 13) complete in section. Only one more coin was found, identified by Mr. G. H. Askew as a Henry VI penny from the Royal Mint⁴ at York and dated 1422-25. This came from trench VIII and was found at a depth of 1 ft. 6 ins. near the middle of the slope.

THE PAVING.

It is difficult to say precisely how much the construction, about 1916, of the cutting for the incline affected the eastern side of the camp. Hutchinson speaks of "a very deep ditch," and it is clear from the 6 ins. O.S. edition of 1861 that there was formerly a cart track following the line of the present incline that turned at the bottom of the bank and ended at a ford rather lower down the river (see fig. 1, site plan). Excavation, however, threw some further light on this part of the site.

I had for long noticed, showing in one or two places in the west side of the cutting, what appeared to be a section of paving. Accordingly before we were able to begin work in the camp itself I took the opportunity to investigate this paving by a trench (x) 17 ft. long and three small pits, the position of which are shown on the site plan.

The stratification in trench x was as follows: below 6 ins. of topsoil came a band of hard grey clay 3 to 4 ins. thick on the west side of the trench but thinner near the cutting. Below this 2 ins. of brown soil and under it a rough but massive paving composed of stones of all sizes up to 3 ft. square. The paving was no less than 18 ins. thick and rested on the natural grey clay. It was traced by the pits and found to be running right along the eastern side of the camp and beyond it to the north. It can be assumed that there was always a natural gully which was used by the old track to reach the river's edge, and that this gully was also utilized when the incline was constructed and was widened and deepened, especially at the south end.

⁴ Unlike the episcopal York penny found in 1946.

The band of grey clay in trench x on top of the old surface level must have been thrown up when the incline was made.

The only finds in the trench were two hones and a flint scraper. It is difficult to see what was the purpose of this massive paving, but the lower levels were laid in dark silty clay suggesting, as in other parts of the site, that the ground was formerly much wetter and so possibly this paving was thrown into the boggy ground to make a firm area along the gully's edge. But why this was necessary is not apparent.

THE TRIAL TRENCH.

The most favourable place for a trial trench on the plateau itself seemed to be in the southern half near the bank where there were clear indications of buried walls and buildings. Accordingly a trench 280 ft. long and 4 ft. wide was dug straight across the site from west to east. What was revealed can be seen in the plan and section⁵ (fig. 2).

Starting at the west end the first feature encountered was the depression running along the western side of the camp. It was found to be some 5 ft. deep at this point and bounded by walls of natural rock and blue clay on each side. It cannot have been dug for any defensive purpose and the only explanation that seems to fit is that it was a quarry ditch. Probably there was a fault in the limestone outcrop at this point which invited quarrying, and this operation extended the fault into an irregular ditch-like depression.

There was no sign of a wall on the west side, but on the eastern side, that is the western "rampart" of the camp, the foundations of a narrow dry stone wall crossed the trench at right angles. Inside, the ground showed no trace of disturbance or occupation except that one of two large rocks that jutted up to within a few inches of the present surface had a curious circular indentation on it. This was

⁵ In the drawing the trench has been "extended" southwards 1 ft. for the sake of clarity.

CAMBOKEELS 1947.
TRIAL TRENCH.

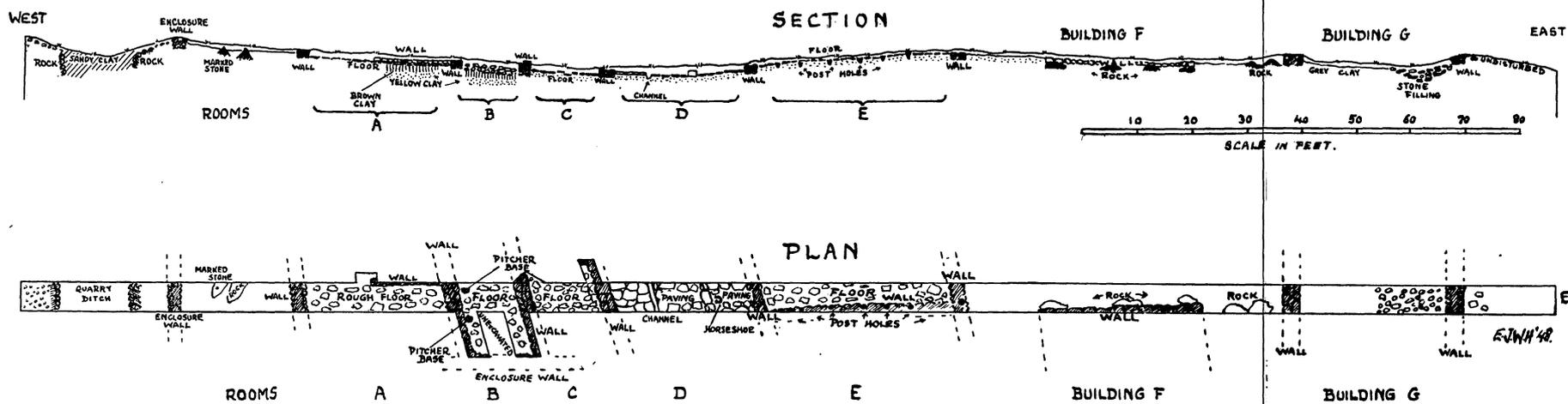
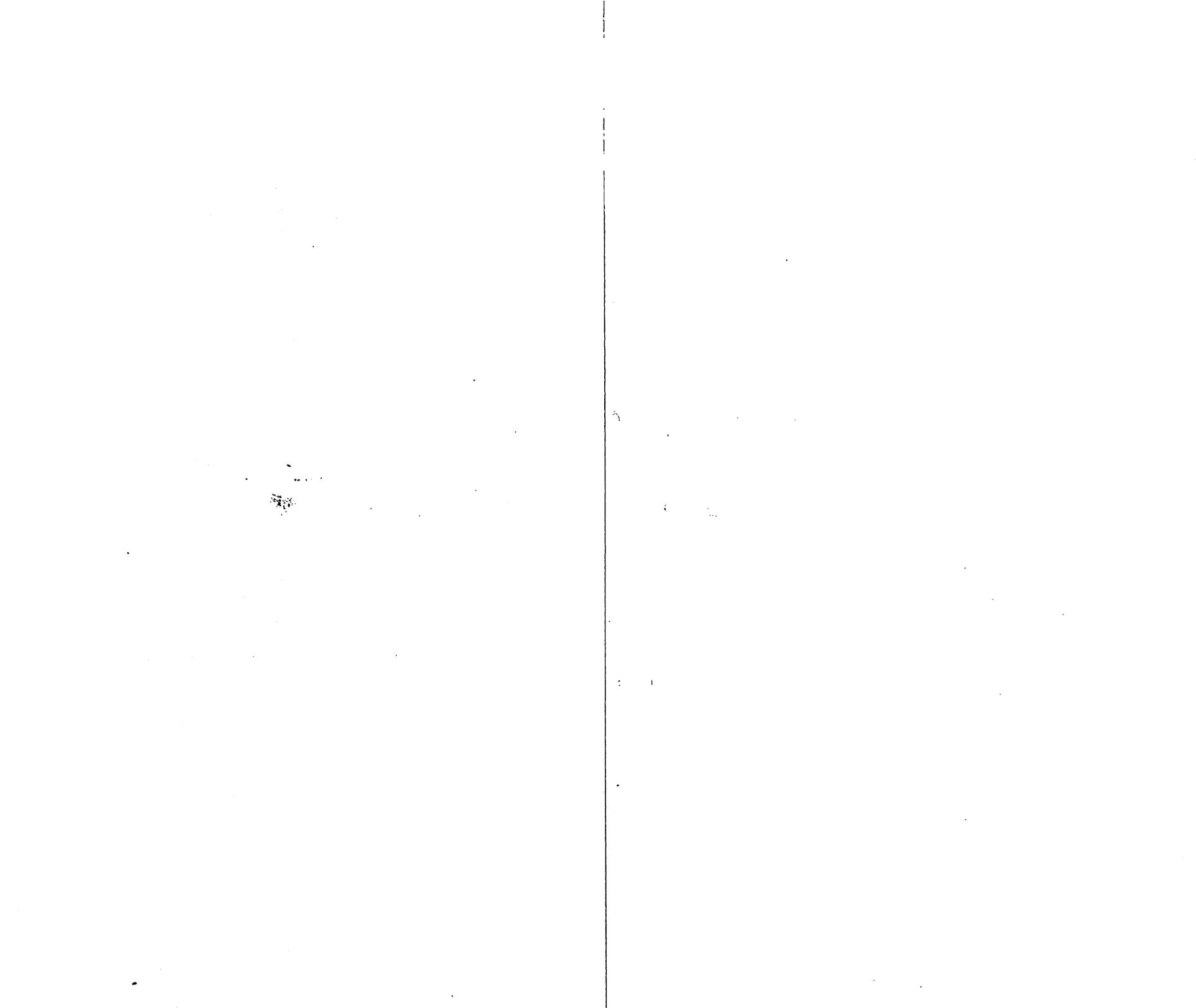


FIG. 2.



about $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in diameter with a raised circular portion in the centre. As the side of the rock was sloping not level, it cannot be connected with a door hinge. At the other end of the trench outside building F there was a similar marking in the natural rock from which, here being much softer, it was possible to break off the piece marked and remove it.

It may be assumed, then, that the first wall was an enclosure wall, but 20 ft. farther east another wall crossed the trench and this proved to be the beginning of a range of five rooms (Rooms A, B, C, D and E, see fig. 2) apparently all of one build. They all had drystone walls just over 2 ft. thick crossing the trench at a slight angle SE.-NW. This angle was confirmed by the finding of the south wall of room E running along the south side of the trench at a slight angle SW.-NE. The walls were very near the present surface, in one case a large block actually protrudes from the turf, and were never more than three, usually two, courses high. It may be questioned whether they were ever any higher, and it seems probable that they were only dwarf walls supporting a superstructure of timber perhaps with clay and cobble or rubble in-filling. This theory was partly confirmed by the presence of post-holes in the southern wall of room E. They were very difficult to detect, but we were expecting them and they distinctly showed up in the side of the trench. They were only a few inches deep and in diameter except for one larger hole in the western wall of the room. They were not very regularly spaced, but seemed to be about 3 ft. 6 ins. apart. They probably held some of the lesser members of the timber framing.

Further points to note are that the walls are too narrow to have been any great height as in dry stone walling even a field wall has to be broader than 2 ft. at the base. Some of the walls also appeared so level and smooth on top as to suggest that this was their original height. This was particularly noticeable in the wall dividing rooms C and D (fig. 2). Where the walls had begun to crumble it was

noticed that the stones had invariably fallen outwards and were probably so displaced when the timber framing was removed at the time that the building was dismantled, whereas ordinary dry stone walls always become hollow inside and collapse inwards.

The first room (room A) was 25 ft. wide internally. In the eastern half a length of walling ran for 12 ft. in the northern edge of the trench, but as this was running exactly parallel with the trench edge it was not, therefore, at right angles to the walls of room A. It was not bonded into the eastern wall and the paved floor ran under it. It may, therefore, be some later intrusion and not be connected with the original layout of the range of rooms. A cut at the west end failed to find a return (see plan, fig. 2). The paved flooring was very rough at the west end of room A, but more regular, with larger flags, at the east.

The next room (room B) was similar in character. It was 10 ft. broad internally and its walls were afterwards followed southwards for about 12 ft. until they joined the southern enclosing wall. This room produced the two large pitcher bases (pottery, fig. 7, nos. 3 and 4), the only instances in which any considerable number of fragments could be made to fit together, and three large pieces of iron slag⁶ within which a small linked bronze chain was embedded. The paving of this room was very rough and continued downwards in brown clay for a depth of nearly 2 ft. until it rested on natural yellow clay. Both rooms A and B seem to have been built over a slight depression which had been levelled up with stones and clay.

The floor of room C adjoining was sunk about 6 ins. It was also roughly paved, but there were more level and larger flags next to the east wall, and these had been blackened and cracked by fire, suggesting a hearth. The east wall was followed northwards for 3 ft. 9 ins. when the

⁶ This has since proved to be an interesting piece of scale armour with bronze inlay which is still being treated in the laboratories of the Ministry of Works.

corner was found, but there were no other signs of a fireplace.

The wall dividing rooms C and D was exceptionally well built and regular and perfectly level on top, and joining it on the east was a piece of paving 5 ft. 6 ins. wide bounded by a channel running across the trench at the usual slight angle. This paving was the best piece in the whole trench, and it was 3 ins. higher than the level of the floors of rooms C and D. Mr. Charlton suggests that it may have been the stillage, a low bench on which the barrels of beer and wine rested. Room D was 23 ft. broad. The paving was better than the average throughout. There was one large oblong block crossing the trench midway between the stillage and the east wall, but whether this was some form of division or not is not certain. In a hole in the paving just behind it was found an exceptionally well-preserved horse-shoe.

The last room (room E) was 35 ft. broad with similar paving to the others. The arrangement of the south wall and post-holes has already been described. The floors of rooms C, D and E were laid on the natural yellow clay which was here only a few inches down.

Working eastwards the next 12 ft. were completely blank, but then we were again fortunate in catching another wall, this time in the south side of the trench (building F, fig. 2). This also was running at a slight SE.-NW. angle and was 27 ft. long. The rock was here very near the surface and parts of the wall were laid on it. This building must be fairly narrow as there is not much room between its north wall and the edge of the camp.

Fifteen feet east of this building lies the well-defined building mentioned by Hutchinson⁷ (building G, fig. 2). This is 25 ft. broad internally and, to judge from the surface indications, about 34 ft. long with an entrance on the north side. There was no paving or indeed any trace of a floor,⁸

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 184.

⁸ A few sherds of pottery proved the contemporaneity of this room with the other remains.

but near the eastern wall there had apparently been another natural depression with a maximum depth of 3 ft. which had been filled up with stones to make the floor level. The east wall was on the eastern "rampart" of the camp. There was no sign of disturbance for the next 15 ft. outside.

CONCLUSIONS.

There can now be no doubt that Cambokeels was one of the hunting lodges, of a semi-permanent character, of the bishops of Durham. The evidence of the trial trench added to that of the rubbish deposit and the other known factors, geographical situation and so on makes this quite certain. The character of the masonry, the dry walls and post-holes, the rough flooring and the scattered nature of the plan, in contrast to the compact mediæval house, all point to this conclusion.

It may be asked if it is possible to go further and identify the purpose of the different rooms. A description of the bishop's "hall in the forest" as given in *Boldon Book* was quoted in the 1946 report,⁹ but it is not necessary to expect Cambokeels, more than two centuries later, to correspond exactly with the measurements given. It is reasonable to suppose that the kitchens lie near the rubbish heap. From this starting-point we might provisionally identify the range of rooms as follows:¹⁰ Room A the main kitchen; Room B (with the pitcher bases) a servery or larder; Room C a privy kitchen for the preparation of the bishop's own food; Room D a buttery, with the stillage. Room E would then be the great hall. The paved areas have indeed a faintly stable-like character supported by the presence of the horse-shoe in room D, but these must be the main buildings, facing south, and the stables are more likely to be connected with the L-shaped foundation in the NE. sector. It is possible that the buildings were used for other purposes during a secondary occupation.

⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 189.

¹⁰ For these suggestions I am indebted to Mr. Charlton.

The isolated building at the SE. corner (building G) may be the bishop's chamber. By the fifteenth century the habit of ensuring greater privacy for the lord was well established. On the side of the incline the building opposite the eastern entrance to the camp may well be the chapel. It is about the right size,¹¹ it is correctly orientated, and it is away from the hurly-burly of the main courtyard, the stamping horses, barking dogs and yelling servants. The chapel was, in fact, often detached from royal country houses of the period. Nevertheless, while it is perhaps permissible to conjecture the use of these buildings, it must remain speculation until further knowledge brings some degree of certainty.

The date and duration of the occupation cannot be fixed with exactitude, but apart from a few fragments of pottery all the objects form a homogeneous fifteenth century group. It may be noted that all three coins fall within eight years (1420-1427), and taking into account the probable length of life of semi-permanent timber buildings it seems reasonable to assign the main occupation to the years 1430-1460 or, possibly, rather later. This falls within the episcopates of Thomas Langley 1406-1437, Robert Neville 1438-1457, and Lawrence Booth 1457-1476, but whether any of these prelates had particular sporting proclivities I have not been able to ascertain.

Pottery of a later character appeared in small quantities, but was widely spread in the rubbish heap and appeared also in rooms C and D. This, together with the wall in room A already noted out of alignment with the main block, suggests a brief secondary occupation, perhaps after an interval, extending into the sixteenth century.

It is not usual to introduce a personal note in an archaeological report, but perhaps I may be excused on this occasion. Among those who accompanied the bishop in his hunts at Cambokeels, his sheriffs must have been some

¹¹ 42 ft. by 26 ft. *The Boldon Book* says "they make a chapel in the Forest 40 ft. long and 15 ft. wide."

of the most regular attenders. Especially, perhaps, Robert Evers,¹² who held the manor of Bradley whose ancient walls still stand a few miles farther down the Dale.¹³ Could he have been vouchsafed a glimpse into the future he would, perhaps, have observed with amazement his successor for 1947 delving among the broken horse trappings and remains of his former repasts on what he remembered as the kitchen refuse heap!

THE FINDS.

OBJECTS OF STONE.

A. Flints.

In a district so far removed from natural sources of supply any flakes found are always worthy of notice. In view of the comparatively small amount of ground excavated it is rather remarkable that no less than fourteen pieces were found. They were scattered all over the area investigated, and this invites speculation on the number of flints that must litter the floor of this valley which has, of course, produced the famous Heathery Burn Cave and many other finds denoting the presence of Neolithic and Bronze Age man.

None of the pieces are finished implements from the collector's viewpoint, but they were doubtless put to various uses in a district where flint was scarce and valuable. The need for economy is shown by the fact that eight of the pieces retain part of the original crust. Nearly all colours are represented, black, grey, brown, white and red. In 1946 a knife or saw-flake, a rough thumb-scraper and a black core were found beneath the rubbish dump. Last year another core and a large end scraper were found there and

¹² Sheriff 1420-37.

¹³ A mile east of Wolsingham.

a thumb-scraper in the paving on the east of the camp (trench x).

Flints turned up all along the trial trench and consisted of: a large scraper with rounded face and triangular butt; a knife flake with secondary working; a rough thumb-scraper; a small flake of the shape of a rhomboid arrowhead and four indeterminate cores or flakes. Flints always appeared below the humus just above undisturbed subsoil.

B. Hones.

Over forty pieces of the local indurated shale were found with one or more faces polished indicating their use as whetstones or hones. This soft stone breaks naturally into oblong pieces rectangular in section. In the majority only one side had been used though some were polished on two or even four sides. Most had not been used much, but two or three had been considerably worn down. Only one, a small much-worn example, showed signs of the usual perforation, but the owner after beginning to make it on one side at one end had soon desisted. They vary considerably in size from 8 ins. in length and 2 ins. or more in breadth and thickness to small specimens 3 ins. long and $\frac{1}{2}$ in. or less broad or thick. The commonest size is about 4 ins. long and an inch more or less in section.

In view of the large number of knives found there is no need to speculate on their use, and at least two specimens show traces of blade marks, but Mr. Bulmer suggests that they may also have been used as rubbers for polishing armour.

C. Stone Discs.

As expected the curious stone discs¹⁴ again appeared in great numbers in the rubbish heap, and two or three were also found in the trial trench. In the former they were

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 195.

found at all levels and parts of the heap, but the great majority came from the black layer so prolific of other finds. They were nearly always made from the sandstone known locally as millstone grit, but a few were made from shale and three small specimens (not listed) from potsherds. They varied greatly in size. There was one very large specimen 9 ins. across but only chipped about three-quarters of the way round. Two or three specimens were semi-circular, possibly normal discs cut in half; one of these was exceptionally large being 5 ins. across and $1\frac{1}{4}$ ins. thick.

Some were scarcely chipped at all and were irregular pentagons or hexagons rather than circles, others were carefully worked with at least fifteen facets. Two unfinished specimens were found which show the method (or at least one method) of manufacture. In both cases the disc has been chipped for about two-thirds of the diameter, but there is a tapering tail attached to the remaining sector which had not yet been cut off.

Perhaps the most inexplicable feature of these discs is the fact that the thickness bears no sort of constant relationship to the diameter. This is shown by the accompanying table which leaves out the exceptional specimens mentioned above.

STONE DISCS.

Table showing diameter and thickness to the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

<i>Thickness.</i> <i>Diameter</i>	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$1\frac{1}{4}$	1	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	<i>Total.</i>
$4\frac{1}{2}$	1			4			5
4			6		2		8
$3\frac{1}{2}$	1	5	2	6	5	2	21
3			2	9	11	3	25
$2\frac{1}{2}$		1	1	16	16	4	38
2			1	5	13	4	23
$1\frac{1}{2}$				1	3	4	8
1					1	1	2
							130

There have been many suggestions as to their use. As Mr. Charlton pointed out, their irregularity of size, especi-

ally as now shown in the table, makes it difficult to see how they could have been used in a game, but his suggestion that they were used in dressing skins is also open to an objection. They always seem to have been chipped from one side, this having the effect of making them usually slightly and sometimes very decidedly conical in section. The natural way to hold them for rubbing or scraping would be the same way as they had been chipped with the larger end downwards. This lower side, therefore, might be expected to be usually smoother than the upper surface. In fact, however, it is usually the upper surface that is the smoother due probably to being made from a water-worn stone out of the river. But in many cases neither side is at all smooth and sometimes not very flat. It is easier to reject suggestions than substitute any more satisfactory.¹⁵

OBJECTS OF BRONZE.

Of the objects published in the previous report a further word may be said about the bronze tube.¹⁶ It has recently been suggested¹⁷ that it was part of a funnel. This would explain the tapering shape of the tube and the circular cap to clamp it on to the upper part of the funnel, and, in view of the presence of the stillage, seems to fit into the picture very well. Other objects were as follows:

Three pieces of the rim of a bronze cauldron (two found in 1946) 9 ins. in diameter. When found they were still coated with hard, burnt soot and each had a hole for the suspension ring.

Foot of a bronze statue, possibly part of a lion or similar animal, found in 1946. The fragment is $2\frac{1}{2}$ ins. high and weighs $12\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. The back surface is flat as if the statue had stood against a wall.

¹⁵ Since this report was written I have seen some stone discs identical in material, size and technique with the Cambokeels discs, in the Thorpe Prebend Museum at Ripon. These were found at Castle Dykes, a mixed Roman and mediæval site.

¹⁶ 1946 report, p. 195, fig. 3, no. 12, A.A.⁴ xxv.

¹⁷ By Dr. D. Thomson of Stanhope.

Thimble, very similar to the modern pattern (fig. 3, no. 11). I have been unable to find any mention of mediæval thimbles, and Mr. Bulmer also believes this is a most unusual, if not unique, find.

Bronze purse frame similar to London Museum Mediæval Catalogue, fig. 53, no. 5 (fig. 3, no. 10).

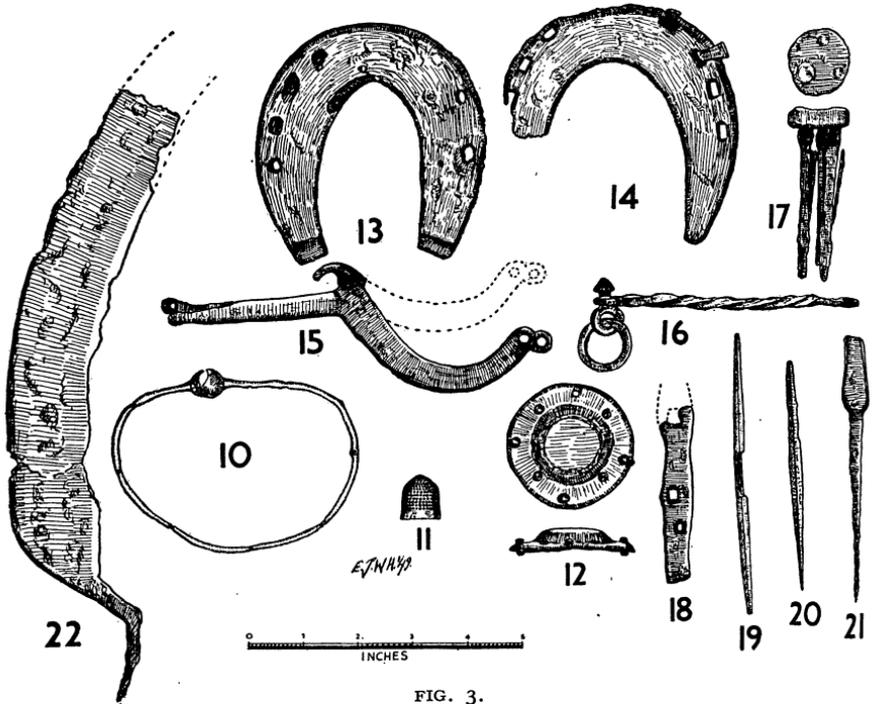


FIG. 3.

Bridle boss (fig. 3, no. 12). A plain version of the type illustrated in L.M. Cat., fig. 22.

OBJECTS OF LEAD.

In 1946 in the rubbish heap a piece of lead ore¹⁸ was found and another shapeless lump. In 1947 another melted

¹⁸ There is a lead vein nearby.

piece had assumed a curious, but fortuitous, shape, perhaps a hole in the flagged floor had acted as a mould. There were also three small lead discs and four others, $1-1\frac{1}{2}$ ins. in diameter, with a perforation roughly centred. Another more regular specimen could be called a washer. There was also a small ring, but the most interesting find was a leaden bullet $\frac{5}{8}$ ins. in diameter. Although it is tempting to see in this an early use of firearms for sporting purposes, it seems more likely to have been used in a cross-bow.

OBJECTS OF IRON.

HORSE FURNITURE.

Horse-shoes. Fragments of some 20 horse-shoes survived, of which three were nearly or entirely complete. The specimens illustrated are typical of the group. Some, like fig. 3, no. 13, and the heavier type found in room c, had calkins, but the majority had not (fig. 3, no. 14 and 1946 report, fig. 3, no. 1).

Spurs. Fragments of 15 spurs were found, five reasonably complete. They were all of rowel type (the rowels were always missing), but except for one specimen with a short shank they all had the characteristic fifteenth-century long shank. They nearly all belonged to L.M. Cat., type B.1, though there was one example of type B.3, but there seemed to be two fairly distinct weights, a heavier type (see fig. 3, no. 15) and a lighter type (see 1946 report, fig. 3, no. 4). Possibly the former were used with armour, the latter on more peaceful occasions.

Other horse furniture included two harness buckles similar to L.M. Cat., pl. LXXIX, nos. 1 and 2; a harness fitting (fig. 4, no. 8); two iron links 4 ins. long and pinched in the middle, possibly the mouthpiece links of snaffle bits (L.M. Cat., fig. 20, no. 1), and an attractive straight bit, the mouthpiece being twisted (fig. 3, no. 16). The small round buckle (fig. 4, no. 9) may also be a harness fitting.

DOMESTIC ARTICLES.

Knives. Except for one dagger with a bronze pommel and a dagger-point all the knives or knife blades (9 in number) appear to belong to table cutlery. The handles

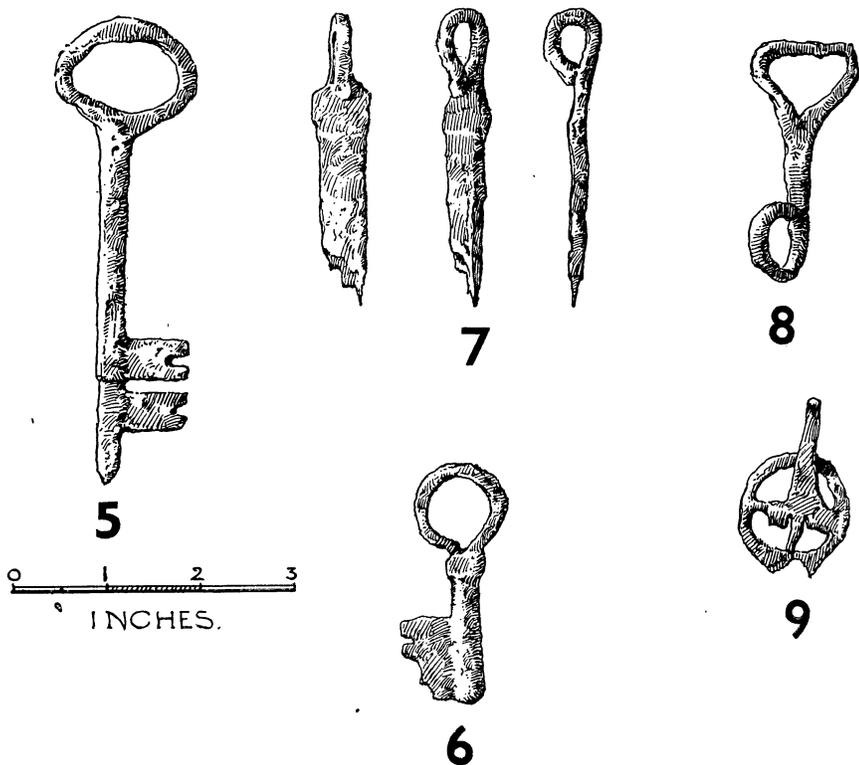


FIG. 4.

had been bone, secured by rivets on each side, but very little of the bone survived.

Articles from the kitchen included :

Flesh hook (fig. 5, no. 2). This implement, used for examining and tasting food stewing in great cauldrons, had the two lower hooks welded on to the stem which originally

had a wooden handle. This is an important dated example of an implement known from Roman times. The twisted stem, a characteristic ironwork treatment, is of particular interest.

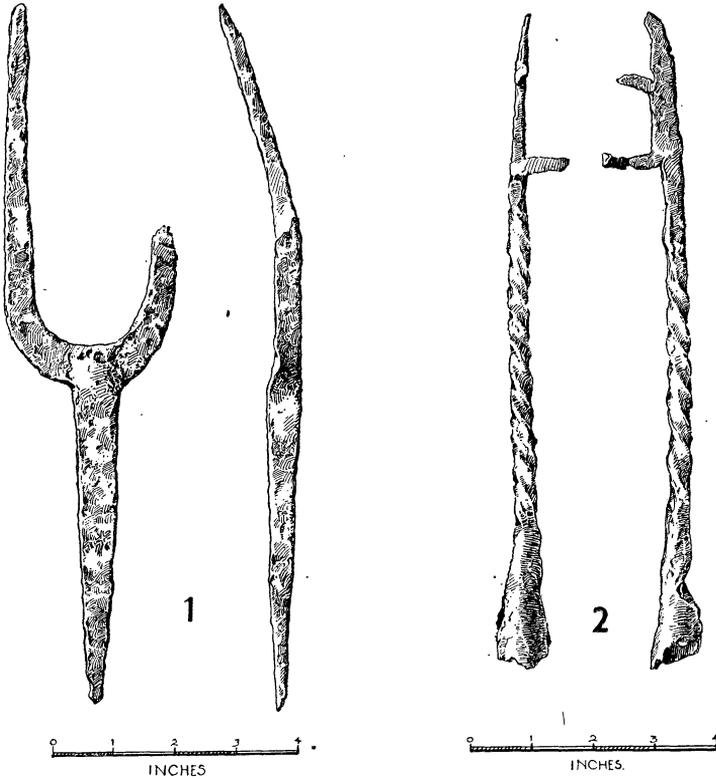


FIG. 5.

Flesh fork (fig. 5, no. 1). Mounted on a wooden shaft it may have been used for much the same purpose as the flesh hook. Mr. Lindsey says it was "used in connection with a great seething pot or cauldron, probably of bronze" (of which we have visible signs), but it also seems possible it was a hay fork used to fodder the horses.

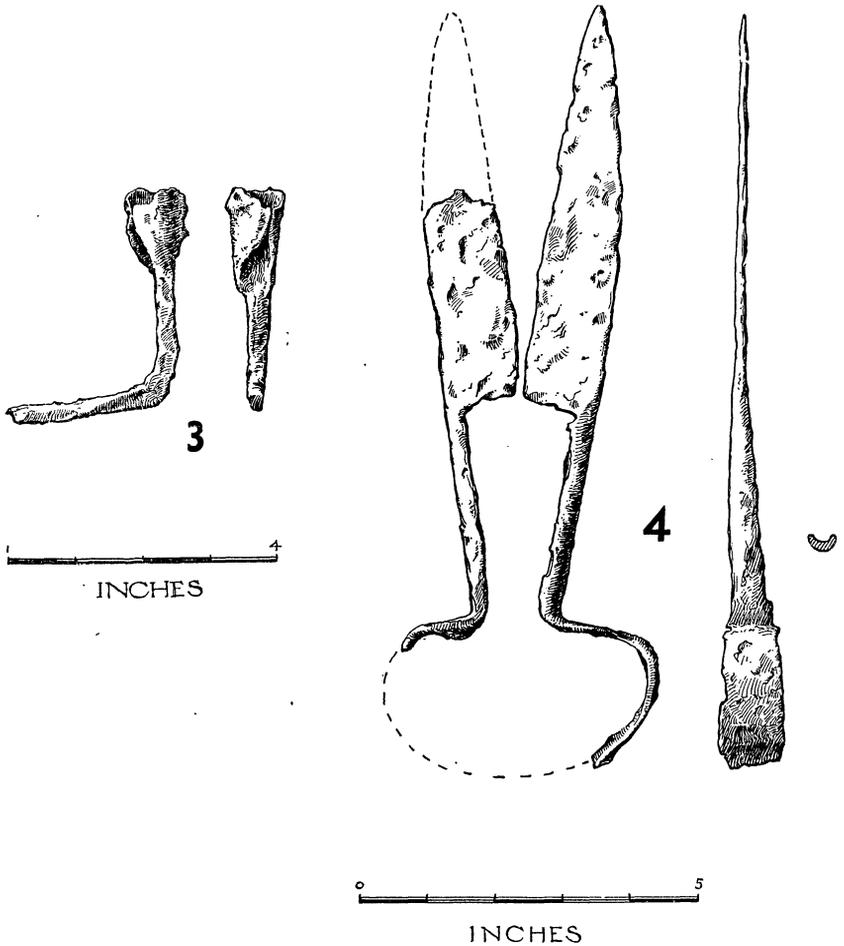


FIG. 6.

Other kitchen articles included: part of the leg of a trivet (see 1946 report, plate VII); part of a well-made meat hook, diamond shaped in section; another large hook; several skewers and the looped iron strip (fig. 4, no. 7), probably the terminal of a skimmer or small ladle.

Apart from nails there were two awls (fig. 3, nos. 19 and 20) and a spanner-like object (fig. 3, no. 18) to fit different sized drills, and a chisel with a haft for mounting on a wooden handle (fig. 3, no. 21).

An interesting group connected with locks included the following: A padlock key and the barrel-padlock itself (fig. 3, no. 17). This is another very long-lived type of object, specimens very similar to this being found in the Belgo-Roman level at Maiden Castle.¹⁹

Two keys, a door key (fig. 4, no. 5) and chest key (fig. 4, no. 6). Mediæval keys are very common, but very few dated specimens indeed exist; the London Museum Catalogue gives only eight dated keys, and of these three are foreign. These specimens therefore add very considerably to the list. The chest key belongs to L.M. Cat., type V; the door key to VIIA.

Finally three objects of particular interest must be mentioned.

The sickle (fig. 3, no. 22) is in poor condition, but it was thought worth illustration because there appears to be no certainly mediæval sickles known in this country.²⁰

The candleholder (fig. 6, no. 3) has lost its end spike by which it would be driven into timber framework or a wall-joint, an appropriate type of lighting fitting for a structure such as the hunting-lodge. This is also a most important find as there appears to be no dated mediæval specimens extant.²¹

The shears (fig. 6, no. 4) add another example to the very small number of dated specimens²² known. This pair belongs to L.M. Cat., type III, which hitherto has not been dated at all closely. It may be remarked that almost identical shears are still in use at "clipping time" in Weardale.

¹⁹ Maiden Castle—fig. 95, nos. 2 and 3.

²⁰ L.M. Cat., p. 124, "The ascription of the three sickles illustrated in pl. xxiii to the Middle Ages rests solely upon their general similarity to the other tools of known Mediæval date."

²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 177. Recent excavations in London may have by now altered the picture regarding dated small finds.

²² *Ibid.*, fig. 48.

THE POTTERY.

BY JOHN CHARLTON, F.S.A.

Pitchers, Class A (fig. 7).

Fragments of three-handled pitchers with bung holes (see first report) were again most numerous and include the more complete examples here figured (fig. 7, nos. 3 and 4). There was, however, a great increase in fragments of single-handled pitchers, the whole constituting two important groups.

Class B (fig. 8, nos. 1, 2, 7 and 9), the better represented of the two, consists of vessels with nearly straight rim, generally inturned lip, with slight internal hollow, sharp angle or, occasionally, a cordon an inch or more below the lip. The body is rounded but not so bulbous as contemporary vessels in the south; bases appear to have been rounded or partly rounded, and handles of simple ribbon or strap type, with the thumbings where it is attached (often rather carelessly) to the body.

Class C (fig. 8, nos. 3, 4 and 8), the other group, falls typologically between A and B. The vessels are more of the scale of and are closer as regards ware to the three-handled pots, and they have the latter's "pie-crust" neck. They have, however, the straight rims of class B and apparently only one handle.

Decoration.

Classes A and C have, as has been said, "pie-crust" ornament round the rim, though in the case of class A it is often merged in the "thumbing-on" of the upper part of the handles. The same ornament is occasionally found on the sides of large storage jars—an unusual occurrence in the north (cp. fig. 7, no. 1). Otherwise, the commonest design is the wavy line in various forms, the most frequent being that made with a comb-like instrument (fig. 7, no. 6). In a few very fragmentary examples a pinched cordon has been applied to the pot; one pitcher (probably class B) has

several narrow raised bands, punched with the end of a twig (fig. 8, no. 6); and another similar vessel has a row of small bosses made by pressing from inside with a finger tip (fig. 8, no. 7). A small vessel of unusual character has rows of applied discs (fig. 8, no. 10).

A point of interest arises from the relative quality of these three pitcher groups. Most of the pots in class A, though often very heavily made because of their great size, are first-class articles of their kind. Those of classes B and C, however, though they show, e.g. in potting and decoration, that they come from competent potters, are often almost "wasters". Their rims vary so much in section as to suggest distortion in baking and their sides show dents and bulges suggesting minor accidents before baking. Perhaps these "seconds" are to be regarded as the pots used by the lesser folk of the hunt or by the villeins of the forest parishes, while the great three-handled jars were drawn from the bishop's stores.

Other classes of pottery are comparatively sparsely represented. There are, however, a number of bottles or small pitchers with splayed bases (fig. 8); these, too, sometimes show marked signs of damage in the kiln. Among the rather rare types are fragments of mammiform costrels, a small bottle and a chafing dish. This last, together with the fragments of stoneware, of which further examples were found in 1947, appear to belong to the beginning of the sixteenth century, and they may represent an occupation about the time of disafforestation or indeed even later. The possibility must, of course, be remembered of more than one occupation: or of a gap between the earliest occupation and the latest. The excavations of 1947 suggest that all the structures are not of one date, though there is nothing to suggest, so far, that the main occupation extended beyond the second half of the fifteenth century. But the late fragments suggest that further excavation may encounter traces of a brief occupation marked, incidentally, by the relatively high quality of its scanty pottery remains.

DESCRIPTION.

I. Class A. (Nos. 1-4: bases, fig. 7.)

The examples figured well illustrate the heavy character of these large vessels. The shape of the heavy base is slightly rounded and, compared with the rest of the vessel, somewhat clumsily made. As a rule, the potting of the interior has produced a series of grooves internally—grooves called for convenience “corrugations.” The general characteristics of the type are described in the first report, pp. 192-3. All the examples figured, unless otherwise stated, are of smooth grey ware with green or brownish-green external glaze and are from the rubbish-pit.

No. 1 is decorated with a “pie-crust” cordon. These applied cordons are not common on the body of ware of this class, but they occur, e.g. on a fine pot found at Yarm. The Cambokeels example is glazed internally.

No. 2 also has internal glaze, the common corrugations and the heavy construction of the class. It is, however, possible, in view of its narrow shape, that it belongs to the related Class C.

Nos. 3, 4 and 4a are from the trial trench and usefully link the buildings there found with the material from the rubbish-pit.²³ They are excellent examples of their class, corrugations and bung-hole being highly characteristic. The variation in the thickness of the base is interesting, but may be merely an accident of potting.

No. 5 is a handle with sharp grooving instead of the usual “strap” type.

No. 6 shows the broken base of a handle with wavy-line decoration on the body of the pot. The vessel is of dark grey ware and it is possible, despite its proportions, that it belongs, e.g., to class C rather than class A. A similar sherd from another vessel is also of dark grey ware, with brown, manganese external glaze.

²³ I am indebted for the drawings of these pots and of fig 8, no. 13 to Mr. Hildyard.

II. Class B. (Fig. 8, nos. 1, 2, 7 and 9.)

No. 1 is of brown ware with irregularly placed brownish-green external glaze and a cordon at the neck. Its outside is slightly corrugated.

No. 2, also of brown ware, with dull greenish-brown external glaze, is rather distorted; it has a rough cordon at the neck and a rudimentary spout.

No. 7 has a body of fine hard dark grey ware. Outside, below a neck-cordon, are a series of lightly incised grooves beneath a dull brownish-green glaze. The main decoration is a row of small bosses, forced out from within the pot by the tip of the potter's finger.

No. 9 is of grey ware with some internal corrugation and brown and green glaze outside. There is a simple "strap-handle" rather lightly joined to the body. There are, incidentally, several cases where handles are somewhat carelessly joined in this way, with very light "thumbing" on to the pot, and in a few cases the handle has broken away from the body complete.

III. Class C. (Fig. 8, nos. 3, 4 and 8.)

No. 3 is of grey ware with light brown surface and external brownish-green glaze. The neck has a well-made appliqué "pie-crust" cordon.

No. 4 is of grey ware with brownish-green glaze and a rather carelessly made cordon which is little more than a decorated thickening of the neck.

No. 8 is similar, but its decoration has been even more carelessly applied, or has suffered more in handling before baking or in the kiln.

IV. Decorated sherds (fig. 8).

No. 6 is of very dark grey ware. It has a series of moulded ridges, perhaps part of a chevron design, which have been marked, when the clay was wet, with the end of a twig or the like.

No. 10 is part of a small jar of buff ware with good green glaze and is decorated with applied discs, which bear

an impressed star design alternately with a crude imitation of a "long cross."²⁴

No. 11 is characteristic of several. It is of grey ware and decorated with lightly scored wavy lines somewhat obscured by rather thick green glaze.

V. Miscellaneous (fig. 8).

No. 5 is of light grey ware with grooved exterior, its narrowing at the neck suggests a bulbous body. Though not varying greatly from other Cambokeels pots of similar size, its fineness, hardness and section point to a date at the end of the occupation.

No. 12 is a small jar of grey ware with green glaze.

No. 13, a complete bottle, represents a relatively common type, which is stylistically probably the earliest found on the site, suggesting a fourteenth rather than a fifteenth-century date. It has a light brown surface and some glaze on the upper part of the body (indicated by shading).²⁵

No. 15 is the base of a similar but more bulbous vessel of the same type.

No. 14 is one of several similar sherds. Though none provides a complete section, it seems they must be parts of mammiform costrels, as restored in the drawing. Possibly some of the necks of bottles like no. 13 really belong to the costrels, which they resemble in ware: generally brown or light brown.

No. 16 is of hard grey ware, much corrugated inside, and has been damaged in baking, like others of this class. It has brown exterior and patchy external glaze, and like nos. 13 and 15 belongs probably to the early part of the occupation.

No. 17 is one of several stone-ware fragments. It is of hard grey ware, with brownish-grey surface and thin glaze and should belong to the sixteenth century.

²⁴ Cp. *Arch. Ael.*⁴ XIII, p. 289 and fig. 3, no. 12.

²⁵ The type is fairly widespread in the north, e.g. a good specimen in Carlisle Museum. Southern analogies appear to be earlier in date.

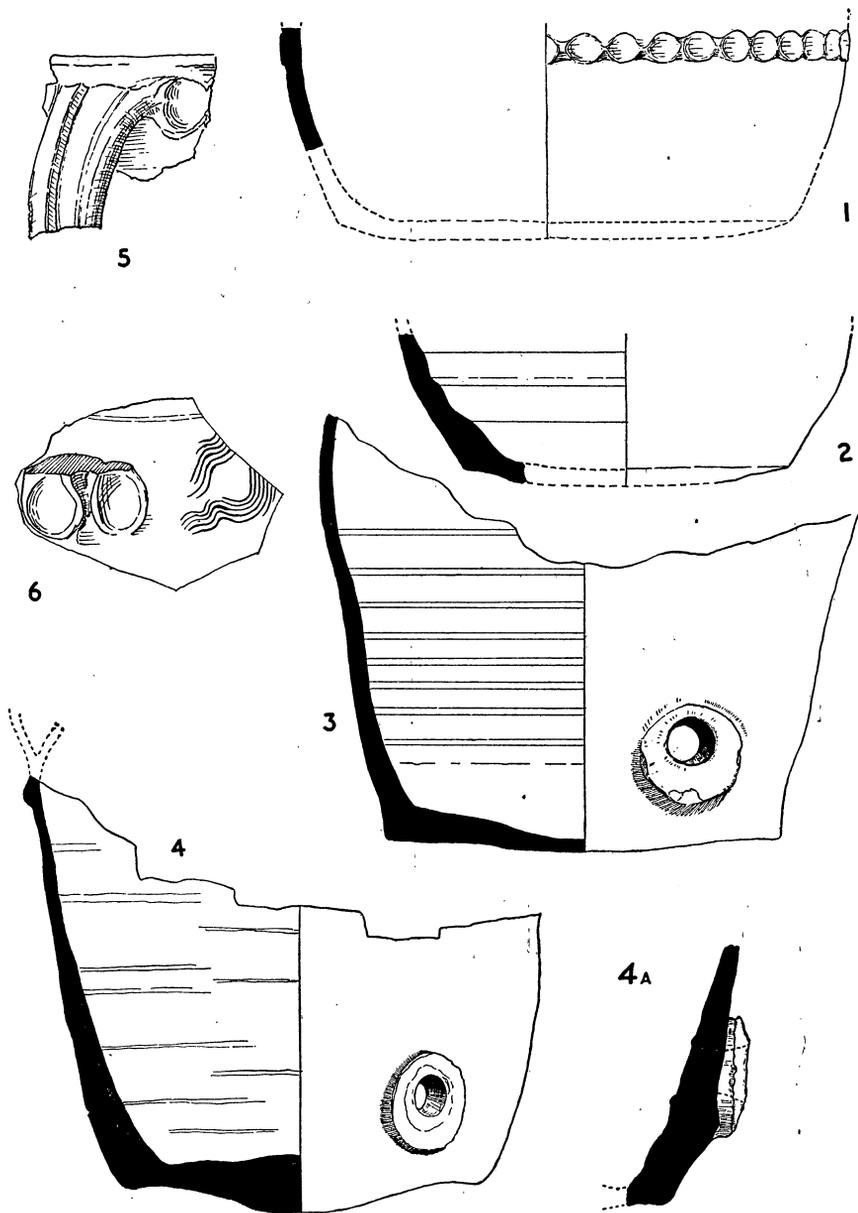


FIG. 7 (SCALE $\frac{1}{4}$).
 POTTERY FROM CAMBOKEELS.

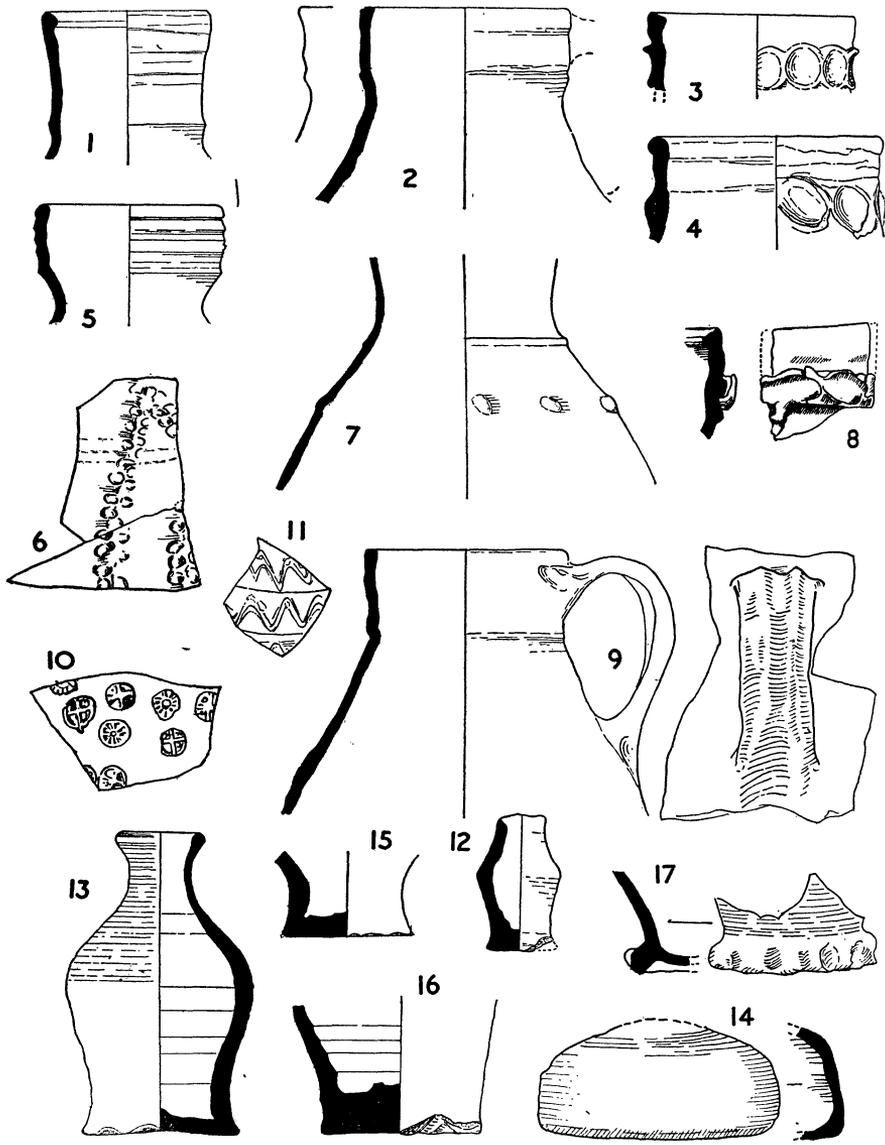


FIG. 8 (SCALE $\frac{1}{4}$).
 POTTERY FROM CAMBOKEELS.