

V.—THE EXCAVATION OF TURRET 33B (COESIKE)

Roger Miket and Valerie Maxfield

Introduction

The excavation of Turret 33*b* (Coesike) was begun in March 1968 under the direction of Mrs. Joyce Moss, but due to the severity of the weather digging had to be suspended after only three days. The site was surveyed, back-filled and reurfed. We are indebted to Mrs. Moss for readily making available to us the results of this work. The investigation was resumed and completed by the present writers in a period of two and a half weeks at the end of August and early September 1970.

We are most grateful to the landowner, Mr. M. I. B. Straker, for permission to excavate, to Mr. A. Murray, the tenant farmer, for his ready cooperation and to the excavation committees of the Universities of Durham and Newcastle upon Tyne who jointly financed the work. Our thanks are due also to those who have provided us with specialist reports and services; Mr. R. A. G. Carson on the coins, Mr. J. P. Gillam on the pottery, Mr. G. W. I. Hodgson on the bones, Mr. R. P. Wright on the inscriptions and Misses M. M. Hurrell and J. Banks who gave invaluable assistance with the drawing. We are grateful also to Mr. C. Anderson and the Department of the Environment workmen at Corbridge for much help with practical problems on the site, to Dr. D. J. Smith of the Museum of Antiquities in Newcastle for assistance with all matters concerned with the treatment of finds and to those who have discussed with us the problems of Hadrian's Wall in general and of turrets in particular, notably Dr. D. J. Breeze, Dr. B. Dobson and Mr. J. P. Gillam. Last, but far from least, we should like to

thank Miss Janette Harley and Messrs. David Thornborrow and Dyfri Williams who worked so hard on our behalf, digging all day, washing and marking pot all evening, and without whose help the excavation would never have been completed.

All the finds from the two seasons of excavation have generously been presented by the landowner to the Museum of Antiquities where they are now housed together with the legionary building inscription. The centurial stone remains *in situ* on the north face of Hadrian's Wall, just to the east of the east wall of the turret which has been consolidated by the Department of the Environment.

The Site (Grid Ref. NY 821706) Fig. 1

Turret 33*b* was located in 1913, appearing on the O.S. 6" sheet of 1922 in a position 431 m (471 yards) east of milecastle 34¹ and 180 m (197 yards) west of the modern field wall which marks the approximate point where the modern road diverges from the line of the Wall, crossing the Coesike Burn to take the low ground in the rear of the Whin Sill. From west of milecastle 33 the Wall begins to climb steadily, taking the high ground up on to Sewing-shields Crags, turret 33*b* being sited on a fairly level stretch of ground 238 m (781 feet) above sea level.

Structure of the Turret Fig. 2 and Pls. XV, 1 and 2

The statistics of the turret are as follows:

Position of doorway	East	
Width of doorway	1.10 m	3' 8"
Internal dimension: north-south	3.96 m	13' 0"

¹ The distance given by R. G. Collingwood (*PSAN*⁴ iv, 183) is 469 yards, and that recorded by C. E. Stevens 462 yards.

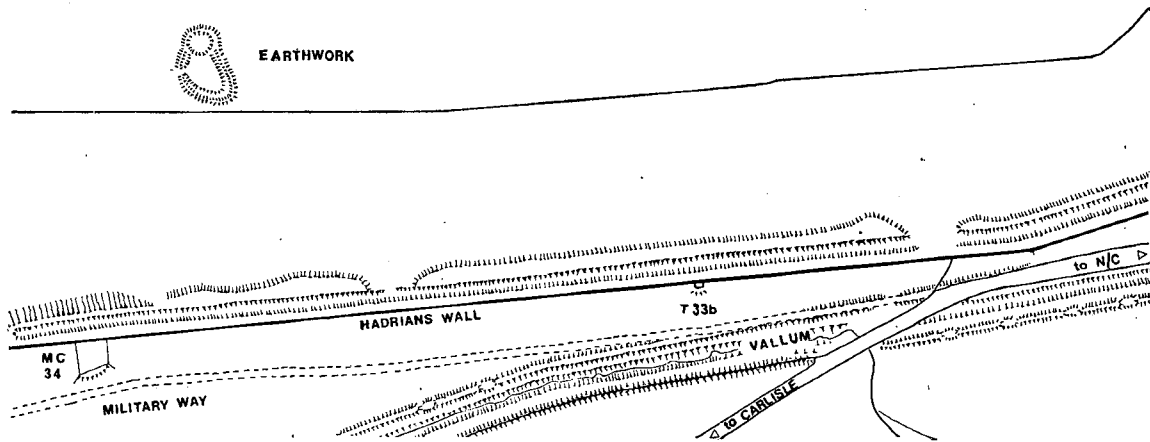
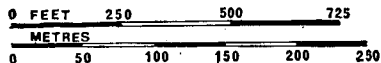


fig 1.

REPRODUCED FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP WITH THE SANCTION OF THE
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Internal dimension: east-west	4.18 m	13' 4"
Width of south wall	0.88 m	2' 11"
Width of east wall	0.92 m	3' 0"
Width of west wall	0.88 m	2' 11"
Depth of recess into Great Wall	0.84 m	2' 9½"
Length of western wing wall	2.94 m	9' 7½"
Length of eastern wing wall	2.88 m	9' 5½"
Width of wing walls	3.10 m	10' 2"
Width of curtain wall	1.96 m	6' 3"

The turret was constructed of the local yellow sandstone with a mortared freestone core, but with the occasional piece of whinstone used both in the facing and in the core. The construction was of standard A (one course only above the foundations before the offset), the lowest course of the south, east and west walls of the turret being offset internally approximately six to eight cms and externally eight to twelve cms. The foundations were composed of river cobbles bonded together with a clean yellow clay. These foundations projected some distance beyond the external face of both south and east walls, attaining a maximum width at the south-east corner where they were half as wide again as the wall which they supported. The reason for this phenomenon may be the instability of the subsoil at this point. The natural blue-grey clay into which the turret foundations were dug was found at the time of excavation to be in an extremely waterlogged condition and the eastern half of the structure in particular suffered from a constant seepage of water. The presence of this standing water may account also for the layer of river cobbles bedded into the natural clay and completely covering the eastern half of the turret interior, extending up to but not under the south and east walls (Pl. XVI, 1). These cobbles had been laid down at much the same time as or immediately after the construction of the turret walls, lifting the first floor level clear of the worst of the damp.

In the south-west corner of the turret were the remains

Turret

Turret 33b ~ plan

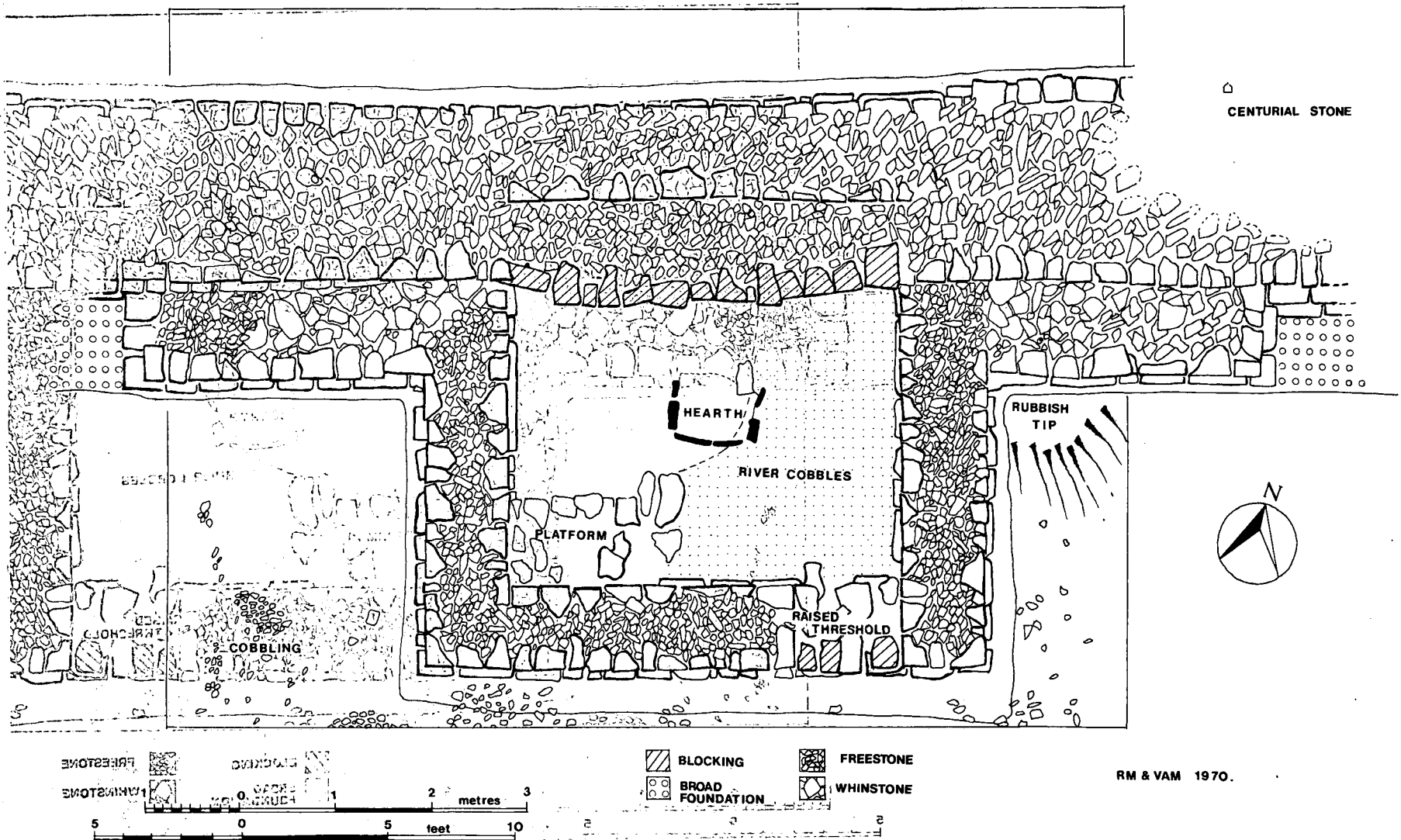


Fig. 2

of a platform measuring 0.90 m (3' 0") north-south and something over 1.36 m (4' 8") east-west. The precise east-west measurement was unobtainable as the eastern face and steps of the platform had been robbed away. The platform stood 0.36 m (1' 2") above the original floor level (Pl. XVI, 1).

The doorway was situated on the eastern side. The original threshold stone with slots for the doorjambs had disappeared, the entrance having subsequently been remodelled. The threshold had been raised two courses above its original level in order to accommodate a rise in internal floor level. Here again evidence for the threshold stone was missing. Later still the doorway had been completely blocked; all that remained of this final blocking were three building stones in position on the external face of the doorway.

The foundations of the curtain wall to east and west of the turret had been designed to a broad gauge, ready to take a broad wall; however, the decision to narrow the Wall was made before this sector was completed and the super-structure which eventually stood on these foundations was only 1.95 m (6' 3") broad. A short stretch of clay bonded cobble foundation jutting out to the south of the narrow wall was exposed; none of the facing stones constituting the footing course remained in position upon these foundations.

The turret wing walls had been built ready to bond into broad wall, and each was neatly squared off at its extremity where it jutted out some 1.10 m to south of the curtain. The wing walls stood uniformly three courses high above the footing course on the western side and from two to four courses on the east. A drain had been constructed through the curtain wall 1.24 m-1.54 m to the east of the end of the eastern wing wall.

After the turret had gone out of use the recess into the Great Wall was blocked, the line of the Wall being carried straight across the turret site. This involved the demolition of the structure probably down to much the same level as

that at which it now stands, that is an average of three to four courses above the offset but attaining a maximum of six and a minimum of two. Part of the Great Wall itself had to be demolished in order to bond the blocking securely into the Wall fabric, but it is not possible to ascertain the exact extent of this demolition. Clearly, however, only the south face of the Wall was involved, for the facing stones at the north of the recess, that is those which had formed the northern internal face of the turret, were still in position (Pl. XV, 2).

The relationship between the turret wing walls and the curtain was an interesting one, though there was some doubt as to whether the visible masonry remained in its original form or whether there had been some considerable alteration when the turret was levelled and the recess blocked. The curtain wall overrode the broad wing walls, using their rubble and whinstone core as a foundation. On the western side the wall had been recessed well into the wing, its bottom course being on a level with the first course above the offset of the wing (Pl. XVI, 2). In order to accommodate this the core of the wing wall had been cleared out to the requisite level, a thin spread of grey clay laid over what remained and the curtain laid on this. The recess between the south face of the curtain and the back of the facing stones of the wing wall had been packed with a sandy yellow mortar very similar in appearance and consistency to that found overlying the latest floor level in the north-west corner of the turret (*infra* 156), abutting up to the recess blocking. The curtain wall where it overrode the wing wall, was provided with its own footing course which tapered away and disappeared at its eastern end just short of the line of the western wall of the turret. This extra footing course did not end where the curtain came down off the wing wall but continued westwards (beyond the extent of the excavation), with the result that the stretch of Wall for an indeterminate distance westwards was provided with two instead of one offsets on its southern side. The curtain

which overrode the eastern wing wall was provided with no additional offset footing course, though the stretch of Wall immediately to the east of this was unusual in that it had an extra offset, two courses above the normal offset footing course of standard A construction. That part of the curtain overriding the eastern wing rose directly up from the rubble core of the wing wall into which it was recessed only very slightly. The bottom course of the curtain here was on a level with the second course above the offset of the wing wall, very little of whose core had had to be removed to accommodate it; the shallow recess that there was, was packed with a mortar fill similar to that found on the western side.

There are two possible interpretations of this structural sequence. If the wing walls had originally been constructed to any considerable height (and there is little evidence to indicate what did constitute the full height of a wing wall) the entire south face of the curtain wall where it overlies the broad wings to east and west must be a rebuild. In this case the elimination of the turret would have involved the reduction of the wing walls down to the height of roughly three courses at which they now stand as well as the demolition of the south face of the curtain wall from some distance west of the west wing to some way east of the east wing, a stretch of at least twelve metres. The rebuilt narrow wall would then have had to be carried straight across the turret site, recessed into the demolished remains of the wing walls. The alternative interpretation rests on the assumption that at no time did the projecting south face of the wing walls stand higher than the three to four courses visible today, either because the decision to narrow the wall came before the completion of the turret structure or because wing walls were never intended to go very high. The severe reduction in the standing height of Wall and turrets by the ravages of man and nature has left little evidence on the ground as to the original height to which wing walls were constructed though there are still some indications. At the

east side of Brunton Turret (26b) narrow wall overrides and is very slightly recessed into broad wing wall which stands to a height which varies from five courses close up to the east wall of the turret to three courses at its extremity. Since no blocking wall was ever bonded into the recess of this structure the visible relationship between wing and curtain is presumably the original one. There are indications of a similar relationship at Blackcarts Turret (29a), first noted in 1912 by Philip Newbold who wrote: "Certain indications at Blackcarts Turret suggest that these thickenings were later additions and that the original face of the Great Wall ran through behind them"². The thickenings to which Newbold refers are those parts of the broad wing walls which jut out to south of the narrow curtain wall, his failure to understand the true nature of these projections being due to the fact that it was not yet realised that there had been a change in gauge during the course of Wall construction. But his implication is clear; he had seen, running behind the south face of the wing wall, what looked like another wall face. Blackcarts Turret is, at this time, in the process of being cleared prior to consolidation by the Department of the Environment and Newbold's observation is therefore once again capable of verification. The western wing is not, at the time of writing, sufficiently clear of overburden for any firm conclusions to be drawn, but there are definite traces in the eastern wing of a row of facing stones, albeit now somewhat out of place, continuing the line of the south face of the curtain wall. These stones are recessed well into the wing wall which stands 5 courses high where it bonds into the turret itself and 2 courses high at its extremity. Blackcarts, like Brunton, had never been altered in order to receive a bonded blocking wall, so here too there is no good reason why the narrow wall recessed into the broad wing, if such it be, should not be primary. On the strength of these analogies it can therefore be accepted that the structural relationship between narrow curtain and broad

² AA³ ix (1913) 56.

TURRET 33b

TURRET 33b ~ sections

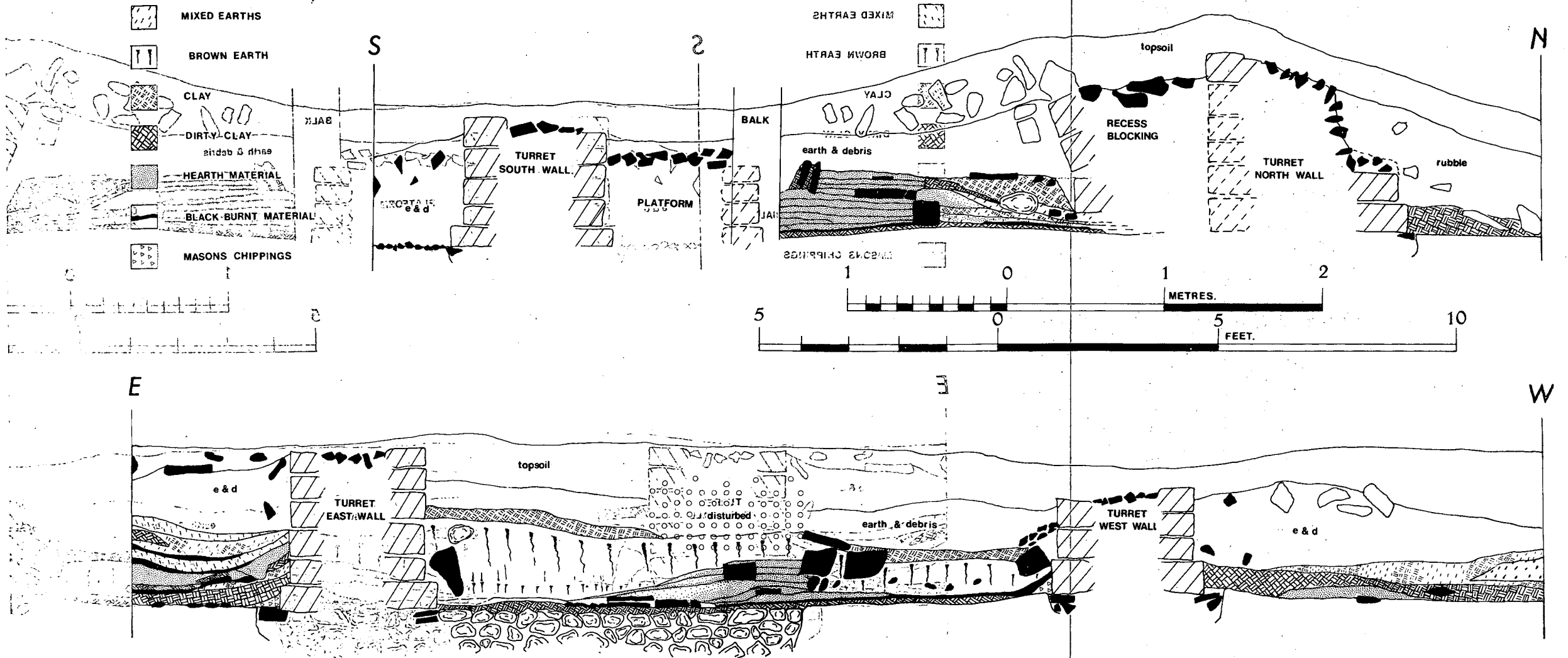


Fig. 3

wing observed at 33b may well be primary, modified, but not radically altered, when the turret was eliminated.

In this case the elimination of the turret will have involved the reduction of the superstructure and only of as much of the curtain as was necessary to bond the blocking securely into the fabric of the Wall. The appearance of the masonry itself gives no indication as to the extent of demolition and rebuild though one possible pointer is provided by the mortar fill in the west wing. As has been indicated above the recess between the south face of the wing wall and the south face of the curtain was filled with mortar; it was noted that the fill at the western extremity of the western wing was of a markedly different nature from the rest, being less sandy in texture and containing a good deal of rubble. It may be that this small patch is all that remains of the original packing, thus marking the extent of the rebuild of the curtain on this side. No such indication remained on the east.

The neatly cut facing stones used in the blocking doubtless came from the superstructure of the demolished turret; they included, used end on in the second course, a building inscription recording work by *legio VI Victrix* (Pl. XVII, 1).

Interior Fig. 3

Partially sunk into and projecting above the natural clay in the eastern half of the trench was a layer of cobbles; this was entirely absent from the western half and is tentatively interpreted as a device for raising the primary floor level well above the waterlogged subsoil. Standing water was constantly present in the eastern half of the trench but was absent from the west though even here conditions were extremely damp.

A thin dark band overlying the natural clay represented the ancient ground surface. Through it were cut the foundations of the turret and over it were found, particularly in the

north-west corner, the mason's chippings left by the turret builders.

The first floor was composed of a rather dirty grey brown clay, containing in its makeup a number of medium sized stones and cobbles and overlain in patches by a rough flagging. This floor level was less easily defined in the eastern than in the western half for here it was in an extremely soggy condition, merging with what lay above and below, due no doubt to the rising damp. This floor had subsequently been patched in places with a fresh layer of grey brown clay which contained much pottery. A hearth had been constructed on this floor. There was no trace of a hearth on the primary floor though it is possible that a concentration of amphora sherds underlying the earliest proper hearth had functioned as a makeshift one.³ It was not possible to determine the exact dimensions and position of the primary hearth for the hearth stones were missing and only the presence of extensive burnt material attested its existence. However, one upright stone set on edge and embedded in the clay flooring 1.70 m south of the north wall of the turret may have defined the northern edge. The burnt spread extended up to the platform in the south-west corner and to the entrance threshold. From the concentration of burning the hearth itself appears to have been situated slightly to east of the centre of the turret and to have covered a floor area some 0.70 m square. Ash, carbonised material and patches of hard red fired clay overlay and merged into the softer clay of the floor, giving the impression that clearing out of the hearth had not been very thorough, though a certain amount of burnt material which appeared in the rubbish tip outside the east wall of the turret doubtless came from this hearth or one of its successors. A Hadrianic coin, of A.D. 119, was found in the burnt debris within the turret.

³ M. H. Callendar, *Roman Amphorae* (Oxford 1965), 34 notes that the late Sir Ian Richmond's excavation at Milecastle 79 produced an amphora used as a primitive hearth and that similar examples were observed at Pompeii.

The accumulation of burnt material in and around the hearth caused the floor level to rise in a somewhat irregular fashion and this was levelled up with tips of clayey soil in which were embedded small to medium sized cobbles. A new hearth was built on much the same alignment and roughly the same size as the first; the flags which formed the base of this second hearth remained in position. The southern and western edges were clearly delimited by upright stones set in a hard grey clay, while to the north and east only the edges of the base flags indicated the extent of the feature. The uprights which remained had, at some time during their working life, become loose and had been secured in position with a wedge of clay which had been fired at a temperature of $600^{\circ}\text{C.} \pm 50^{\circ}$. It was, perhaps, at this same time that the northern and eastern uprights had fallen away, the burnt material within the hearth spilled or been raked out, and the edges of the feature redefined with a bank of hard grey clay. This remodelled hearth itself became choked with ash, charcoal and burnt debris which again spilt over on to the turret floor. By this time the hearth stood proud, the ground level sloping steeply away from it on all sides, and the final remaining phase of occupation is attested by the levelling up of the interior with a thick spread of rich brown earth and the laying of a fresh floor of mixed hard blue grey clay, shale and trampled earth. This floor appears to have been roughly flagged, for there remained *in situ* at the western side of the turret a number of large flat stones. At the same time as this took place the threshold of the door was raised, the packing material for the floor extending under the stones built up in the doorway with one potsherd firmly lodged half under a stone and half extending into the interior of the turret. This latest floor level was by no means homogeneous nor continuous across the entire turret area. It appeared in the south-east corner and down the eastern side but was much disturbed in the region of the platform and to the north where it had been cut into by the wall built across the recess. It was perhaps

at the same time as this floor was laid that a final layer of flagging (of which only part remained) was set in the hearth, the latest deposit from which yielded a coin tentatively dated to the Flavian period and a group of pottery described by Mr. J. P. Gillam as "typically IA".

When the recess was blocked the wall was cut through the latest floor level and the earthen packing below; it appears not to have penetrated down to the natural but rested on the clayey build-up of the earlier flooring. In time the wall, lacking a firm foundation, had subsided. This was particularly apparent towards the middle and west, the firm cobble underpinning in the eastern half apparently having prevented such severe subsidence at the east. The demolition of the turret prior to the blocking of the recess provided the building stones used in the construction of the blocking wall and much building debris was packed into the interior of the reduced turret. Chips of building stone and a yellow sandy mortar were cleanly compacted within the western half of the structure, though they were absent from the eastern half. Over all, both inside and outside the turret, lay a considerable quantity of building stone and debris intermixed with soil, fallen presumably from Hadrian's Wall when it too fell into disuse, began to collapse and was robbed for its building materials.

Exterior

A strip about 2.50 m wide was cleared to the west of the turret and about 1.50 m to the east. The construction trench in which the turret foundations were bedded was clearly visible on all sides, being overlain in parts on the eastern side by mortar and stone chippings from the construction of the walls. The area to the south, east and west had been roughly surfaced with a rather patchy layer of cobbles and small stones.

A rubbish tip was located to the east of the turret, built up against the east turret wall and the south face of the

wing wall. It was composed largely of fired clay and soil, charcoal and ash—evidently the rakings out of the hearth—much pottery and an enamelled bronze disc brooch. To the west of the turret, too, was a considerable scatter of occupation material, notably pottery, overlain by clayey earth and silt presumably deposited by wind and rain after the structure had gone out of use, and over this building debris, mortar, rubble, and facing stones which testify to the ultimate collapse of the Great Wall.

No traces were found of holes made for scaffolding or other such apparatus which may have been employed in the construction of the turret, although on all sides the original ground surface and overlying levels were untouched by later disturbance being well sealed by a fair depth of rubble and topsoil.

Conclusion

It is clear from the occupation material from within the turret that the structure remained in use long enough to require the floor to be twice raised, or extensively patched, and the hearth twice remodelled. But is it possible to put a date to these refurbishings? The pottery belongs predominately to Hadrian's Wall period IA: there are a few sherds representative of IB and a couple of vessels which should belong to the early to mid-third century. Mr. Gillam has described the group of pottery from within the latest hearth as "typically IA", so giving a *terminus ante quem* for the construction of all periods of hearth and the floors which go with them. The spread from the earliest hearth yielded a Hadrianic coin of A.D. 119 and the uppermost burnt level a coin which is tentatively assigned to Vespasian, issued by Titus (A.D. 80-81). Thus, even the laying down of the latest flooring and the raising of the threshold would appear, on the available evidence, to belong to IA. The turret was presumably abandoned in the early 140's when the frontier was moved northwards to the Forth-Clyde line,

and did not come back into anything like full use when Hadrian's Wall was reoccupied. Pottery belonging to period IB is scanty and appears to represent only a very brief or spasmodic occupation. There is no evidence for reflooring of the turret or for any structural modifications at this period apart, perhaps, from the evidence provided by the legionary building inscription.

This inscription, discussed below by Mr. R. P. Wright, records building by *legio VI Victrix*. But according to the "Simpson-Birley" rules for the attribution of structures to legions⁴ and to the modified version of this scheme set forth by Miss Joyce Hooley (now Mrs. Moss) and Dr. D. J. Breeze,⁵ turret 33*b*, having narrow walls and its doorway in an eastern position, should have been built by *legio XX Valeria Victrix*. Mr. Wright has suggested on this basis and on the basis of the style of lettering of the inscription that the stone belongs not to the initial construction of the turret by *legio XX* but to later structural modifications or repairs carried out, as after a period of disuse, by *legio VI*. However, evidence of occupation in period IB is so ephemeral as to throw doubt on the assumption that it was preceded by structural modifications of a sufficiently radical nature to justify their commemoration in stone. Nevertheless the possibility of such modifications cannot be altogether excluded for they may have been connected with the upper parts of the turret for which evidence is completely lacking. If the inscription is not to be attributed to later rebuilding it must belong to the original construction of the turret, an assumption which brings into question the whole attribution of turret, milecastle and foundation types to legions *VI* and *XX*.⁶

The small quantity of third century material presumably

⁴ Conveniently set out by C. E. Stevens, *The Building of Hadrian's Wall* (2nd ed., 1966) 10-11.

⁵ J. Hooley and D. J. Breeze, "The Building of Hadrian's Wall: a reconsideration", *AA*⁴ xlvi (1968) 100-101.

⁶ But against this interpretation note the view of C. E. Stevens *l.c.* "No evidence suggests that turrets in the original sectors were provided with similar inscriptions".

belongs to the Severan period when the reoccupation of Hadrian's Wall (by Caracalla rather than by Severus⁷) was accompanied by a systematic elimination of those structures which experience had shown to be superfluous. Hence, the blocking of the doorway of 33b may belong to its initial abandonment perhaps in the middle of rather than at the end of period IB, and its demolition and the blocking of the recess to the reorganization of the frontier in the Severan period.

THE INSCRIPTIONS⁸

R. P. Wright

1. Pl. XVII, 1

Buff sandstone building stone, 0.51 by 0.34 by 0.22 m, reused with one end exposed in the second course above ground of the walling inserted in the recess of the north wall. The well-cut text in a rectangular frame reads:

LEG.VI | VICTRIX | PIA FID.

The style of the lettering, and in particular the form of the G, suggests that this inscription be dated later than the initial construction of Hadrian's Wall and this is consistent with the fact that it is legions II and XX which recorded building in this sector of the Wall in the first period. Legion VI did repair work in A.D. 158 near Heddon-on-the-Wall (*RIB* 1389) and may have set this turret in order at the same time. The stone was reused in the thickening wall to replace the demolished turret when Hadrian's Wall was reoccupied early in the third century.

⁷ J. P. Gillam and J. C. Mann, "The Northern British Frontier from Antoninus Pius to Caracalla", *AA*⁴ xlviii (1970) 44.

⁸ These inscriptions were first published in *Britannia* II (1971) 291 and Plate XXXIX B.

2. Pl. XVII, 2

Building stone, 0.38 by 0.20 m, found during consolidation in the third course of the north external face of Hadrian's Wall 2.44 m to the east of the line of the east wall of the turret. The text, which has been pecked out, reads:

○ GRAN *C(enturia) Gran(iani)*

The foot of the curved letter is damaged. There is no name beginning CRAN, but Granianus is well attested.

POTTERY

Figs. 4, 5, 6, 7

The description of the pottery from Turret 33*b* is arranged according to the levels from which the material came, in the order:

topsoil
levels outside the turret
levels within the turret (beginning with the earliest).

A description of the fabrics represented by the body sherds with a rough guide to the proportions in which they were present, is followed by a list of all rims found and of certain other sherds thought worthy of individual mention. Each individually listed sherd has been given a number for ease of reference; most, but not all, of the numbered sherds have been drawn. Those sherds which have been drawn are identified by an asterisk.

Much helpful criticism and advice has been received at all stages during the preparation of this pottery report from Mr. J. P. Gillam.

Topsoil

Several amphora sherds, a weathered piece of b-b 2 and a few body sherds from vessels in grey and orange/buff fabrics. One



Fig. 1. Turret 33b from the south east. *Photo. T. Middlemass.*



Fig. 2. Turret 33b, looking westwards. *Photo. T. Middlemass.*



Fig. 1. The interior from the west.

Photo. R. Miket.



Fig. 2. Narrow curtain wall inset into broad west wing wall, looking westwards.

Photo. R. Miket.

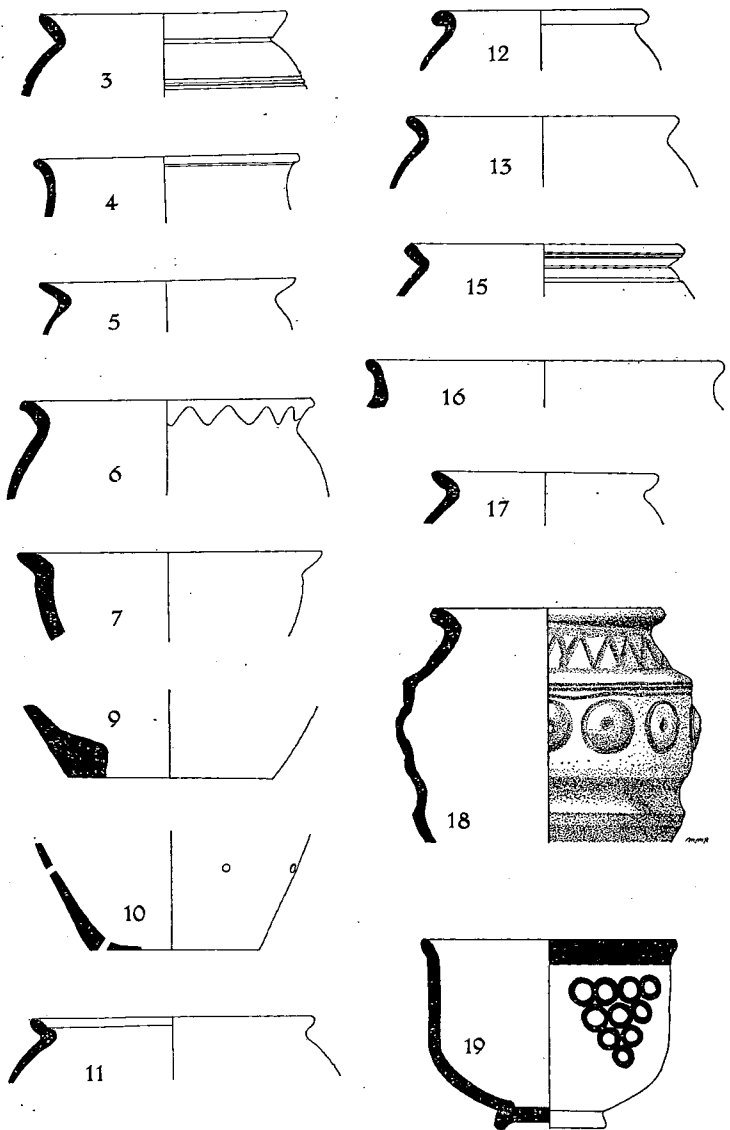


FIG. 4. SCALE 1:4

body sherd in pale orange fabric from what may be an indented beaker and a fragment of a vessel in white fabric with small reddish grits.

1. Rim of light grey cooking-pot (Gillam type 117).
2. Rim of grey cooking-pot (Gillam type 116).
- 3.*Rim and shoulder of grey jar with two grooves on shoulder and one around the neck; Trajanic-early Hadrianic (Gillam type 101).
- 4.*Rim of wide mouthed jar in pale grey fabric; probably Trajanic-early Hadrianic.
- 5.*Rim of cooking-pot in badly abraded b-b 2; last third of second century.
- 6.*Rim of cooking-pot in b-b 1 with wavy line around neck (Gillam type 125).
- 7.*Grey imitation of b-b 1 flat rimmed dish; Hadrianic-Antonine.

Rubble outside turret

Four fragments of amphora in a gritty orange fabric, representing two different vessels; five body sherds from a flagon, smooth sandy orange in colour; several fragments from jars and cooking-pots in grey and black-burnished fabrics, some with cross-hatching; one fragment of Rhenish ware, one of linear rustic ware plus several sherds of a thin pale grey fabric probably from a rusticated vessel. One sherd of a vessel in a thin white fabric with small dark reddish grits. Two pieces possibly of tile (*imbrex*) though perhaps of amphora.

8. Two base sherds of a samian dish; Dr. 18/31.
- 9.*Base of native vessel in gritty orange fabric with darkened outer surface.
- 10.*Grey jar with khaki outer surface, perforated on base and wall.
- 11.*Jar in coarse reddish fabric with reduced exterior; lid seating; 140-210 (Gillam type 150).
- 12.*Rim of pale grey jar; Hadrianic (Gillam type 115).
- 13.*Rim of grey jar with khaki interior; Hadrianic (Gillam type 116).
14. Rim of grey jar similar to 13.
- 15.*Rim of light grey jar with two grooved lines and short sharply everted rim; early Hadrianic.
- 16.*Rim of cooking-pot in b-b 1.
- 17.*Rim of jar in orange/buff fabric with reduced exterior; short rim slightly undercut; Trajanic-Hadrianic.

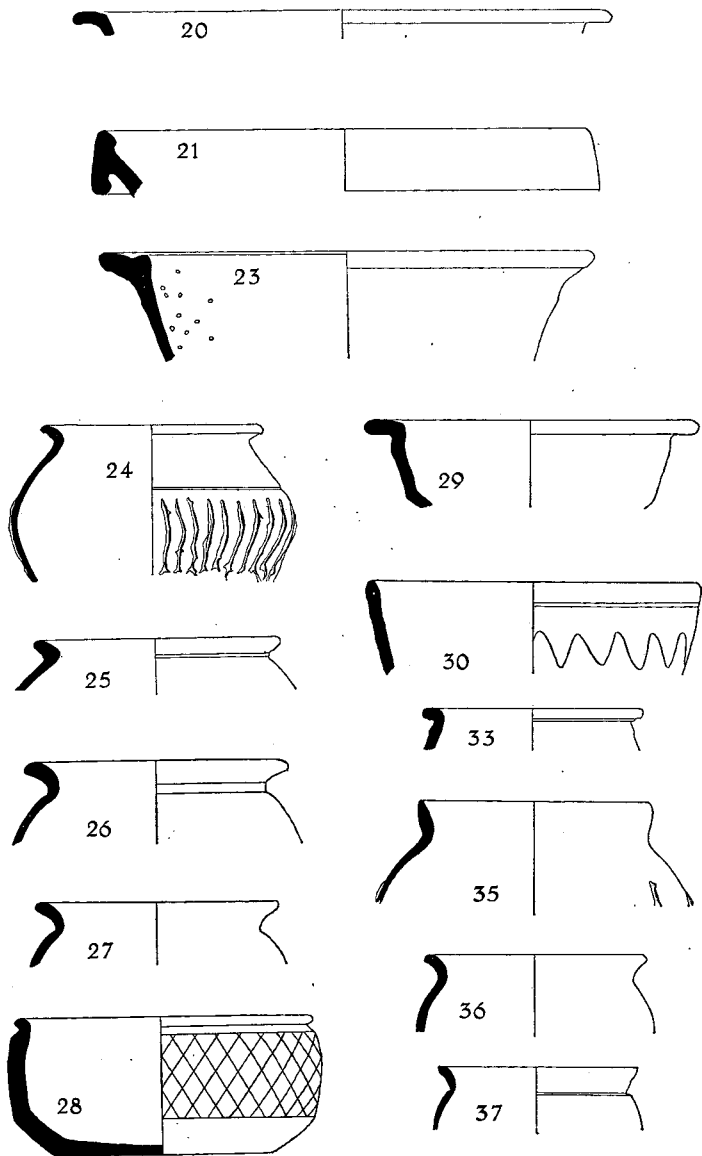


FIG. 5. SCALE 1:4

- 18.*Jar in black-burnished fabric, oxidized on its lower half. Wavy line burnished on the neck zone; 14 thumb indented bosses with a dimple in the centre and each surrounded by a groove, around the belly of the pot with raised cordons above and below.
- 19.*Almost complete bowl in fine buff (nearly white) self-coloured fabric. Decorated with a band of reddish/brown paint on and below the rim both internally and externally and three triangular designs composed of circles of reddish/brown paint. Probably made in the Midlands in the Hadrianic period.
- 20.*Flat-rimmed bowl or dish in b-b 1 fabric; Hadrianic-Antonine.
- 21.*Rim of hammer-head mortarium in light sandy yellow fabric with white grits (similar to Gillam type 280); late third century.
22. Rim fragment similar to 21 but from a different vessel.
- 23.*Mortarium in white fabric with multi-coloured grit; Hadrianic-Antonine.

Dirty stony clay overlying natural and below rubble outside turret

One body sherd of rustic ware and one of amphora; badly abraded fragment of Rhenish ware and the base of a grey jar.

- 24.*Rim of jar in fine pale grey fabric; conjoining rim and linear rusticated sherds from occupation material associated with primary floor, Nr. 42.
- 25.*Rim of sandy grey jar; Hadrianic (Gillam type 118).
- 26.*Rim of jar in light grey fabric with darker grey surface (Gillam type 117).

Clay layer to north of turret, level with offset below topsoil and tumble

Plain cutaway base and part of wall of grey jar; fragment of b-b 1 cooking-pot base; body sherd of Upchurch ware poppy-head beaker (Gillam types 70-71), Hadrianic-late second century.

- 27.*Rim of greyish buff jar; Hadrianic-Antonine.
- 28.*Deeply chamfered bead rim bowl decorated with acute angled cross-hatching; b-b 1 fabric; Hadrianic-early Antonine.
- 29.*Deeply chamfered flat rimmed bowl in grey fabric.
- 30.*Grooved rim bowl with wavy line decoration; b-b 2 fabric; A.D. 150-200.
31. Grooved rim bowl similar to 30 but broken above decorated zone; b-b 2 fabric; A.D. 150-200.

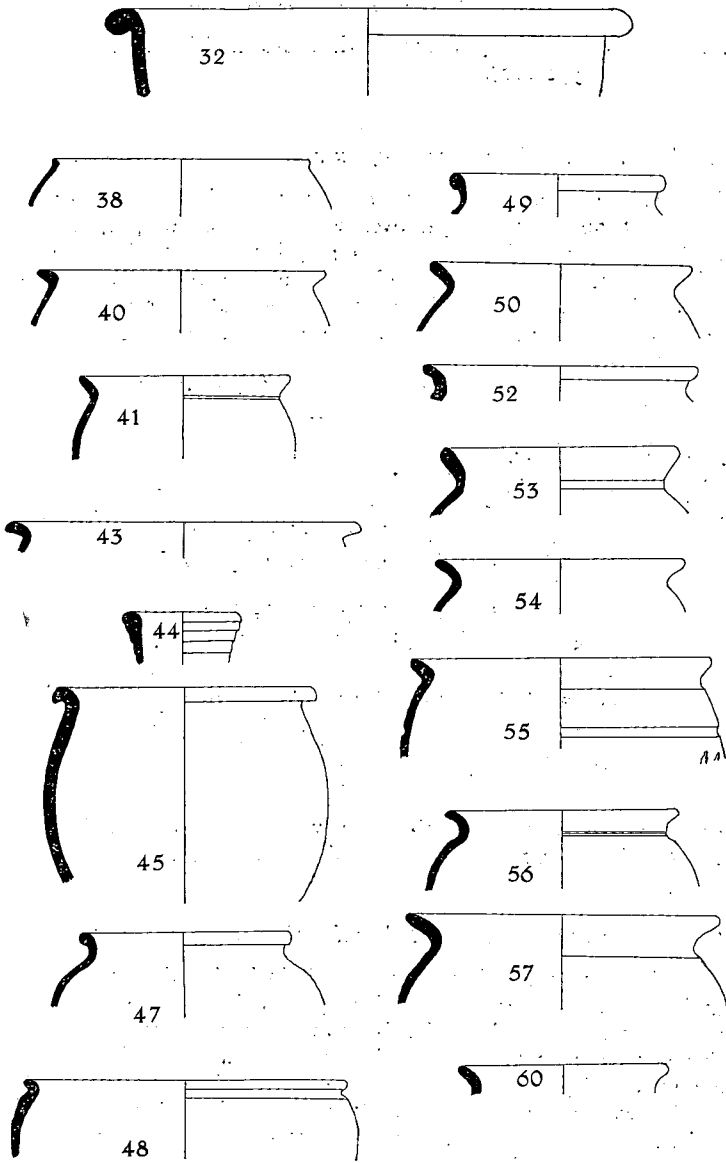


FIG. 6. SCALE 1:4

- 32.*Bowl with heavily rounded rim; b-b 2 fabric; A.D. 200-250 (Gillam type 225).

Rubbish tip outside east wall of turret

Twelve sherds of amphora in a number of different fabrics in shades of buff and orange; over seventy sherds of grey jars and cooking-pots; complete base of one grey jar and part of four others; thirteen body sherds of vessels in b-b 1, eleven cross-hatched; several fragments of vessels in orange and buff fabrics, frequently reduced on the outer surface; body sherd of a vessel in rough-cast fabric; four rusticated sherds and fragment of a vessel in off-white fabric; part of reeded handle and two body sherds of a flagon in smooth sandy orange fabric.

- 33.*Rim of grey jar.
 34. Rim of cooking-pot in b-b 1 fabric (Gillam type 122).
 35.*Rim of jar in coarse orange fabric, reduced on the outer surface and with traces of rustication; Trajanic-Hadrianic.
 36.*Rim of cooking-pot in light sandy grey fabric (Gillam type 115).
 37.*Rim of jar in light grey fabric; Hadrianic-Antonine 120-150.
 38.*Thin-walled vessel in red self-coloured fabric; Hadrianic or earlier.
 39. Flat rimmed bowl or dish in b-b 1: similar form to Nr. 20.
 40.*Rim of jar in smooth light orange/grey fabric with a short everted rim; Hadrianic-Antonine 120-150.
 41.*Rim of light grey thin-walled jar; Hadrianic.

In the debris from the rubbish tip were also found a small sandstone ball c. 30 mm in diameter and a fossil; *stigmaria ficoides*.

Occupation material associated with primary floor

A large number of amphora sherds in buff and orange fabrics, including the bottom half of a yellowish buff turnip shaped amphora; some of these sherds showed signs of burning. Several sherds of grey and buff wares including about thirty fragments of a thin-walled grey jar; grey jar with footstand (a type earlier than the jar with plain cutaway base); body sherds and part of a two ribbed handle of a reddish buff flagon; base of a flagon.

42. Rim and body sherds of a grey jar in linear rustic ware with groove on the shoulder; same vessel as 24.

43.*Rim of grey jar; Hadrianic (Gillam type 115).

44.*Rim, neck and top of handle of flagon in sandy orange fabric; large top ring with smaller but evenly sized rings below; Hadrianic. (Between Gillam types 4 and 5.)

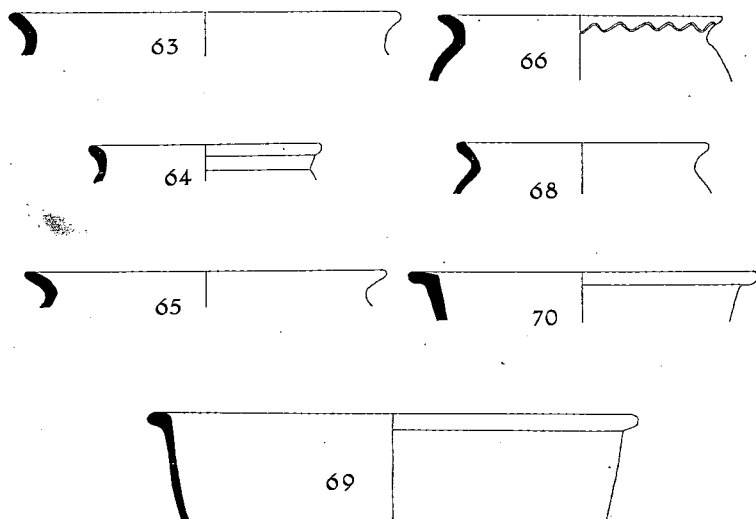


FIG. 7. SCALE 1:4

Spread of burnt material from primary hearth

Part of the lip and one body sherd of amphora; 22 fragments of wheel turned grey jars; several pieces of a thin-based grey vessel of cooking-pot shape; two wall fragments of a perforated vessel; plain cutaway base of grey jar; b-b 1 cooking-pot base.

45.*Jar in light grey fabric with darker surface (similar to Gillam type 113 but without cross-hatching); Trajanic-Hadrianic.

46. Jar in light grey fabric with barbotine dots (Gillam type 68).

Uppermost burnt layer within primary hearth, immediately below base flag of secondary hearth

A few sherds of grey vessels, badly abraded and one body sherd of a vessel in a white fabric with small reddish grits.

- 47.*Rim of grey jar similar to Gillam type 109 but less undercut; early Hadrianic.

Levelling-up material for construction of second hearth

One piece of rustic ware and one of good b-b 1; few sherds of grey ware.

- 48.*Bead rim cooking-pot in b-b 1; Hadrianic-early Antonine (Gillam type 118); a conjoining fragment was found in the rubble within the turret, Nr. 67.

Occupation material and burnt debris associated with secondary hearth

Three sherds of amphora; four sherds of linear rustic ware, two with grooves on the shoulder; two body sherds of a jar in b-b 1 with cross-hatching (Hadrianic); fragment of a carinated vessel; fragments of grey jar.

- 49.*Rim of grey jar; two further fragments of this same vessel were found in the make-up of the latest floor (Nr. 62). Same type vessel as Nr. 47.

- 50.*Rim of jar in coarse grey fabric with blackened exterior; Hadrianic.

51. Rim of pale grey jar with reduced outer surface; same type vessel as Nr. 50; Hadrianic.

- 52.*Rim of jar in b-b 1 (Gillam type 121).

Build-up of burnt material within latest phase of hearth

One fragment of amphora; base of a wheel-made jar; five fragments of a jar in linear rustic ware.

Loose brown soil packing below latest floor level

Five sherds of amphora (probably all from the same vessel); two sherds of linear rustic ware; one fragment from a slip-coated vessel in a red fabric with black slip; tiny fragment of samian; body sherds from several wheel-made grey jars, some light grey throughout, others light grey in the centre with a darkened surface (these are successors not precursors of b-b); body sherds in a light

orange fabric, probably from flagons; base sherd from a black-burnished vessel.

- 53.*Rim of grey jar with two grooves around the neck; Trajanic-Hadrianic.
- 54.*Rim of grey jar; Trajanic-Hadrianic (Gillam type 111).
- 55.*Rim of jar in coarse grey rustic ware with short rim and pronounced groove on shoulder just below the neck; Flavian-Trajanic; clearly a survival in its context.
- 56.*Rim and shoulder of jar in light grey fabric with darkened exterior; three grooves around the neck and short everted rim; Hadrianic (Gillam type 117).
- 57.*Rim of jar in grey fabric with small grits; Trajanic-Hadrianic (Gillam type 111).
58. Fragment of a native vessel in a coarse orange/buff fabric with large grey grits.

Clay, shale and trampled earth of latest floor level

Six sherds of amphora (one burnt) representing two different vessels; large number of fragments from one or two grey jars and several pieces of other grey jars with plain cutaway bases; one sherd each of linear rustic ware, black-burnished, a white fabric with reddish grits and plain samian.

59. Bead rim cooking-pot in b-b 1 (Nr. 48 is a vessel of the same type); Hadrianic-early Antonine.
- 60.*Light grey jar with short sharply everted rim (Gillam type 116).
61. Light grey jar with short sharply everted rim; similar to Nr. 60 but in a coarser fabric blackened on the exterior.
62. Rim of grey jar; same vessel as Nr. 49.

Rubble inside turret immediately below topsoil

Eight sherds of amphora; 24 body sherds of light grey rustic ware one with shoulder groove, representing at least six, probably more, different vessels (23 linear rustic, 1 "caltroped"); two sherds dark grey linear rustic; several body sherds of wheel-turned grey jars and cooking-pots; seven sherds of b-b 1; eleven sherds of a thin-walled reddish/buff coloured vessel.

- 63.*Rim of jar in sandy orange fabric; probably grey originally but oxidized.

- 64.*Grey jar with upright rim thickening towards the top; Hadrianic.
- 65.*Rim of grey jar (Gillam type 115).
- 66.*Rim of cooking-pot in b-b 1, with wavy line on neck; Hadrianic-early Antonine (similar to Gillam type 125).
67. Beaded rim cooking-pot in b-b 1 (same vessel as Nr. 48).
- 68.*Rim of jar in buff fabric; probably grey originally but oxidized; Trajanic-Hadrianic (Gillam type 111).
- 69.*Bowl with rounded rim in b-b 2; mainly first half of the third century, emerging at earliest in the closing years of the second.
- 70.*Flat rim bowl or dish in b-b 1; Hadrianic-early Antonine.

CONCLUSIONS

J. P. Gillam

The pottery from the turret, taken as a whole, and by itself, is interesting, and in some respects slightly puzzling. There is a high proportion of types and wares which were already on the market in Trajan's reign and continued in use in Hadrian's. Types and wares which first came on to the market in Hadrian's reign and continued in use for some time afterwards, are present, but not in overwhelming quantity. Types and wares which came on to the market under Antoninus Pius and Marcus Aurelius seem to be completely absent. The handful of characteristic types which appear in IB in other turrets, seem not to be represented. On the other hand there is a small number of pieces of types which arrived or emerged late in the second century, if so early, and undoubtedly continued in use well into the third. The pottery alone might suggest that there was no occupation in IB, but that something was happening early in II.

GLASS

Spread of burnt material from primary hearth

Fragment of green window glass.

Uppermost burnt layer within primary hearth, immediately below base flag of secondary hearth

Small fragment of green glass.

THE COINS

*R. A. G. Carson**Spread of burnt material from primary hearth**Sestertius*

Obv. IMP CAESAR TRAIANUS HADRIANUS AUG
Bust laureate r. undraped.

Rev. PONT MAX TR POT COS III S C
Felicitas standing l. holding caduceus and cornucopiae.

BMC Hadrian 1152=RIC Hadrian 653a.

Issue A.D. 119.

*Occupation material and burnt debris associated with secondary hearth**Sestertius*

Obv. Uncertain.

Rev. Deified emperor in quadriga of elephants to r.

This reverse is found for several emperors from Vespasian onwards. Precise identification is difficult, but possibly Divus Vespasianus issued by Titus; cf. RIC II, 133, nr. 43. A.D. 80-81.

THE METALWORK

Figs. 8, 9

Rubble outside turret, immediately below topsoil

Badly corroded iron nail; length 4.5 cm.

Badly corroded unidentifiable iron object; length 6.3 cm

Badly corroded unidentifiable iron object; length 5.6 cm.

Rubbish Tip outside east wall of Turret

Iron stud.

Bronze disc brooch (Fig. 8.1) decorated with red and blue enamel in concentric circles around a central boss. The outermost

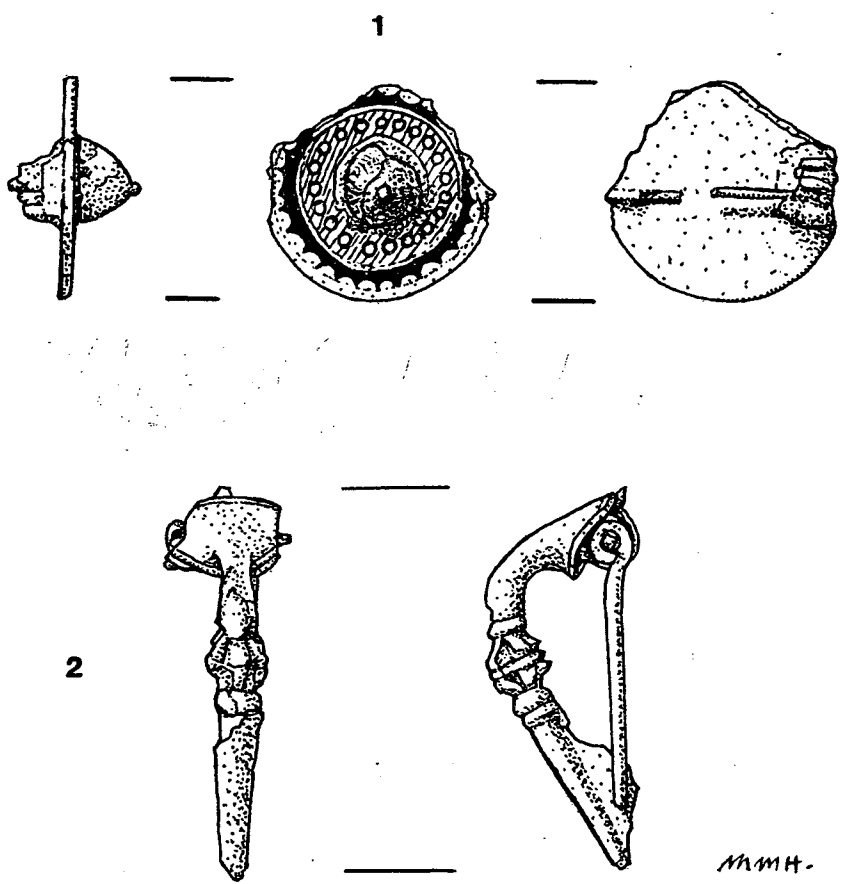


FIG. 8. SCALE 1:1

MMH-

METALWORK.

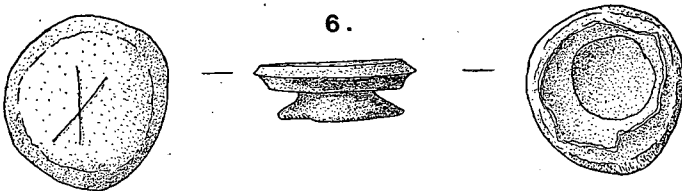
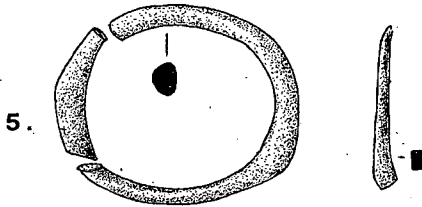
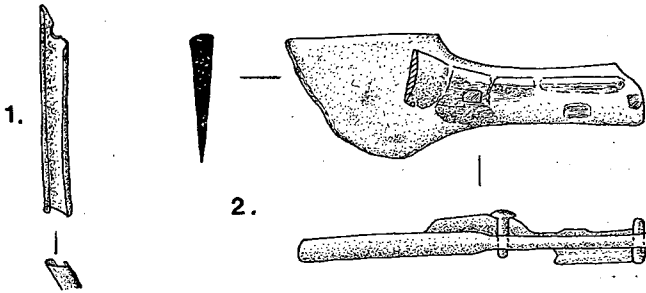


FIG. 9. SCALE 1:2

circle has a scalloped design in red enamel; between this and the boss is an area of blue enamel containing a ring of twenty small bronze spots. The central boss is broken but sufficient remains to be able to reconstruct the profile. The pin, which is partly missing, is jointed to the back of the brooch with a spiral spring. The catch-plate is missing. This brooch is closely paralleled by an example from Newstead,⁹ which exhibits the same scallop and spot design though in this case the colours are white and red; the central ornament, presumed to be a boss, is missing. The provenance is given as the north end of the *praetentura* with no indication as to which structural period it is to be related to. Another enamelled disc brooch from Newstead¹⁰ exhibits the same spot design and space for a central boss, but it lacks the scallop design on the outer ring. This example was found in the south annexe to the fort.

Occupation material associated with primary floor of turret

- 2 iron studs with concave heads.
- Unidentifiable iron object; length 4.3 cm.
- Unidentifiable iron object; length 6.5 cm.

Spread of burnt material from primary hearth

- Fragment of iron nail; length 5.9 cm.
- Unidentifiable iron object.
- Bronze edging strip; (Fig. 9.1) length 6.0 cm. A perforation 3 mm in diameter, partially broken away at one end of the strip, probably held a rivet. The object bordered by this strip was 5 mm deep. A similar bronze edging strip was found in turret 26a.¹¹

Uppermost burnt layer within primary hearth, immediately below base flag of secondary hearth

- Iron stud.

Levelling up material for construction of secondary hearth

- Iron nail fragment; length 3.5 cm.

⁹ J. Curle, *A Roman Frontier Post and its People; the fort of Newstead in the parish of Melrose* (1911), 331 nr. 3; Pl. LXXXIX, fig. 1.

¹⁰ Curle *o.c.* 331 nr. 4; Pl. LXXXIX, fig. 6.

¹¹ AA⁴, xliii (1965) 148 fig. D.

Occupation material and burnt debris associated with secondary hearth

Fragment of iron knife; length 9.3 cm. Attached to the haft by at least two square headed rivets are the remains of a bone handle with chamfered edges. It is in too fragmentary a condition to determine whether or not it had been decorated (Fig. 9.2).

Bent iron nail square in section and with concave head; length 3.1 cm (Fig. 9.3).

2 iron studs, 1.3 cm in diameter; traces of leather adhered to the tapering shank which is 1 cm in length (Fig. 9.4).

Loose brown soil packing below latest floor level

Iron buckle, oval in shape; maximum length 6.6 cm; maximum width 5.3 cm. It is roughly semi-circular in section. Found near to the buckle was an iron fragment, presumed to be the tongue; it is square to oblong in section. The extant portion is 4.4 cm in length. The buckle is undecorated (Fig. 9.5).

Iron stud.

5 unidentifiable iron objects.

Clay, shale and trampled earth of latest floor level

Fragment of iron nail; length 5.1 cm.

Fragment of iron nail; length 5.2 cm.

3 unidentifiable iron fragments.

Circular lead object of unknown function. Diameter of head 4.5 cm; diameter of base 3.4 cm. The head is flat and has a cross incised on it; the edges are bevelled. The underside of the head, is concave in part, giving way to a rough hollow foot-like arrangement (Fig. 9.6).

Rubble inside turret, immediately below topsoil

Bronze trumpet brooch of the type Group R, subgroup Rii in the classification of Collingwood and Richmond¹² (waist knob set between opposed cusps of acanthus leaves). The pin, which is broken away from the body of the brooch, had been attached with a spiral spring. The clasp is broken at the edge where the catch plate would have been bent back to retain the pin in its closed position.

¹² R. G. Collingwood and I. A. Richmond, *The Archaeology of Roman Britain* (1969), 296-297.

The head plate too is broken at its edges and there is no trace of either the "foot-stand" or head loop. Apart from the knob and acanthus leaf motif at the centre of the bow, the brooch appears to be undecorated, showing no traces either of enamel or of incised or relief decoration. According to Collingwood and Richmond this developed type of trumpet brooch flowered at the beginning of the second century and is extremely common in the military areas of Britain, and particularly in the north, during the first half of the second century (Fig. 8.2).

THE ANIMAL REMAINS

G. W. I. Hodgson

The animal remains were from only three species, cattle, sheep and pig. The species were in that order of abundance. The cattle remains were almost certainly all from the celtic shorthorn variety, *Bos taurus longifrons*, whilst the sheep remains were from the slender legged variety of sheep typical of Romano-British sites. In the absence of any direct evidence as to the presence of goat no attempt was made to distinguish between sheep and goat.

The animal remains were heavily butchered. Where possible the proximal and distal widths of articular surfaces of long bones is recorded. All the measurements taken fall within the known size ranges published for animals recovered from *Corstopitum*.¹³ Most of the remains came from young animals, there being no evidence of old animals being present.

Topsoil

Cattle—*Bos longifrons*

2nd phalanx (l = 4.2 cm; b = 2.9 cm).

2nd phalanx (l = 4.2 cm; b = 2.9 cm).

3rd phalanx (l = 6.3 cm; b = 2.4 cm).

7 butchered fragments from scapula, vertebrae and ribs.

Sheep—*Ovis aries*

left scapula (min. width of neck = 1.8 cm).

left radius (prox. width = 2.7 cm).

pelvis fragment (left acetabulum).

right calcaneum (l = 4.5 cm; b = 2.1 cm).

¹³ G. W. I. Hodgson, "A comparative Account of the Animal Remains from Corstopitum and the Iron Age site of Catcote near Hartlepool, County Durham". *A.A.*⁴, xlvi (1968) 127f.



Fig. 1. Building stone of the Sixth Legion. *Photo. T. Middlemass.*



Fig. 2. The centurial stone.

Photo. T. Middlemass.

*Rubble outside turret immediately below topsoil*Cattle—*Bos longifrons*

- 1 vertebra.
- 5 fragments of rib.

Sheep—*Ovis aries*

Possible single rib and single vertebra. Identification uncertain because of erosion.

*Clay layer level with the offset to north of the turret, below topsoil and tumble*Cattle—*Bos longifrons*

- 3 fragments of skull—1 worn selenodont bovine pre-molar.
- 1 fragment of long bone ? *Bos*.

Sheep—*Ovis aries*

right metacarpal (prox. width = 1.9 cm; dist. width = 2.2 cm; l = 11.6 cm).

*Rubbish tip outside east wall of turret*Cattle—*Bos longifrons*

- 1 single third permanent molar (unworn).
- 1 second phalanx (l = 4.0 cm; b = 2.6 cm).

*Occupation material associated with primary floor*Cattle—*Bos longifrons*

- 4 fragments of vertebra—probably *Bos*.
- 2 rib fragments—probably *Bos*.

*Levelling up material for construction of secondary hearth*Cattle—*Bos longifrons*

- 4 possible fragments of long bone.

*Occupation material and burnt debris associated with secondary hearth*Cattle—*Bos longifrons*

- 12 fragments of long bones and ribs—probably *Bos*.

3rd phalanx (eroded making identification or measurement difficult).

Rib fragment—probably *Bos*.

left mandible—teeth lacking.

1 unworn selenodont bovine molar.

Sheep—*Ovis aries*

right mandible—teeth lacking (eroded making identification or measurement difficult).

unworn 3rd molar.

Loose brown soil packing below latest floor

Cattle—*Bos longifrons*

2 large thoracic vertebrae—probably *Bos*.

1 unworn selenodont bovine molar.

fragment of pelvic girdle.

2 single metapodial condyles.

1st phalanx (l = 5.7 cm; b = 2.6 cm).

7 fragments of long bones—probably *Bos*.

Pig—*Sus domesticus*

left mandible—bearing two young pre-molars split longitudinally.

Clay shale and trampled earth of latest floor level

Cattle—*Bos longifrons*

1st phalanx (l = 5.6 cm; b = 2.5 cm).

2nd phalanx (eroded making identification or measurement difficult).

5 fragments of rib, skull and vertebrae—probably *Bos*.

Sheep—*Ovis aries*

2 possible rib fragments.

Rubble inside turret immediately below topsoil

Cattle—*Bos longifrons*

2 vertebrae—1 butchered.

2 fragments of long bones—possible *Bos*.

Sheep—*Ovis aries*

1 possible rib fragment.