

8. Buildings in the North-East Area

with contributions by Andy McMaster

INTRODUCTION

(FIG. 8.1)

Small buildings were found in the north-eastern part of the excavated fort, to the east of the *via praetoria*. In this area, as in the central range, there was evidence of four periods of pre-fort activity. Post-dating these was a group of 'trench hearths', belonging to the construction phases of the fort. Three of the hearths at Newcastle produced charred plant remains, the most abundant being grains of wheat. It is suggested in the report by J. P. Huntley and J. R. G. Daniell (Part 20, p. 240) that the remains represent the production of food, most likely for human rather than animal consumption.

The hearths were overlain by primary fort structures, a pair of east/west aligned rectangular buildings facing each other across a street. There was no conclusive evidence for the function of these buildings; however analysis of charred plant remains from the southernmost building showed barley to be the most abundant grain, suggesting animal feed, and the very small number of finds included a fragment possibly from a harness pendant (not illustrated, no. 27). In the late third century or later the southernmost structure was replaced by two other buildings. At the same time repairs or modifications were made to the northern building, which continued in use.

Much later, probably in the earliest period of Anglo-Saxon activity on the site, the remains of the buildings were cut by a line of post holes, which may have belonged to a fence or timber structure.

Parts of the buildings were spread over four different excavation trenches. The remains were fragmentary because of disturbance by many later intrusions (fig. 8.1), and it is difficult or

impossible to assign precise phases or interpretations to many of the smaller patches of material or isolated pits and post holes. The sequence described below includes pre-fort features as well as the north-eastern buildings and their development. The *via praetoria* in this area is discussed in Part 9. The post-Roman collapse and Anglo-Saxon features preceding the cemetery are described in Part 12.

PRE-CONSTRUCTION FEATURES AND LEVELLING

(FIG. 8.2)

A number of hearths cut the levelling layers above the infilled pre-fort gullies but underlay the walls and floors of primary fort buildings and the metalling of the minor street running between the buildings. The hearths probably had a temporary existence during the construction of the fort, presumably being used while builders were working on other structures. When no longer needed, the hearths were demolished and covered by further levelling layers, on which the pair of small buildings was constructed.

Some hearths consisted simply of areas of burnt ground or pits filled with ash, but there were also more substantial stone-lined trench hearths. Other features included spreads of sandstone fragments.

Surface or spread of construction debris: The first levelling layer in RA28 (4026*, see Part 2) did not extend into the north-east corner of the excavation trench. In this corner were compacted deposits of small sandstone fragments and clay (4092). These could be masons' chipings from construction of nearby buildings such as the granaries. Tumble from these deposits down the slight slope to the south may

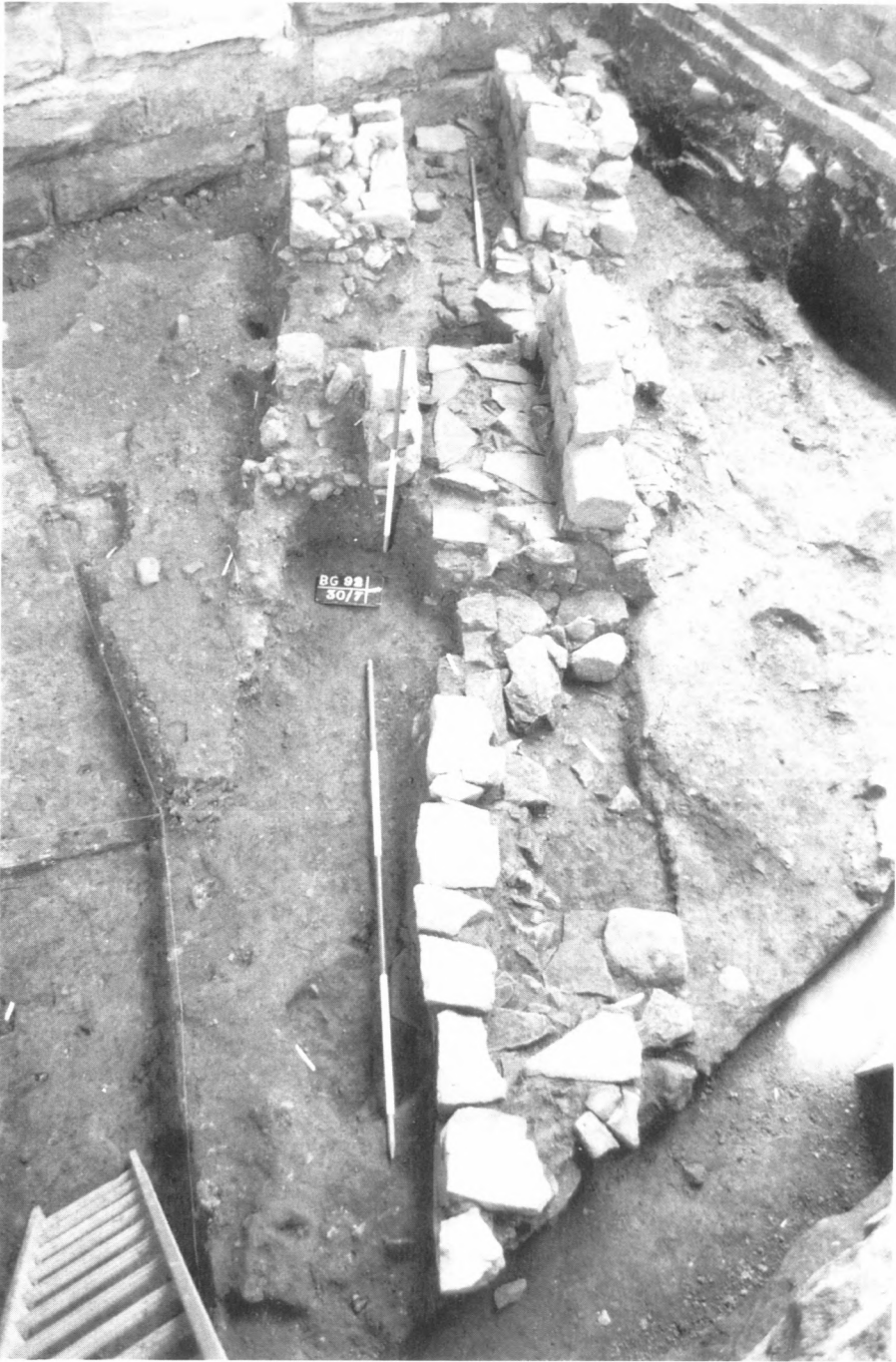


Fig. 8.1 Surviving portions of the south wall of Building III (on the right), partially overlying the remains of the south wall of Building II; remains of the north wall of Building IV to the left. Viewed from the east.

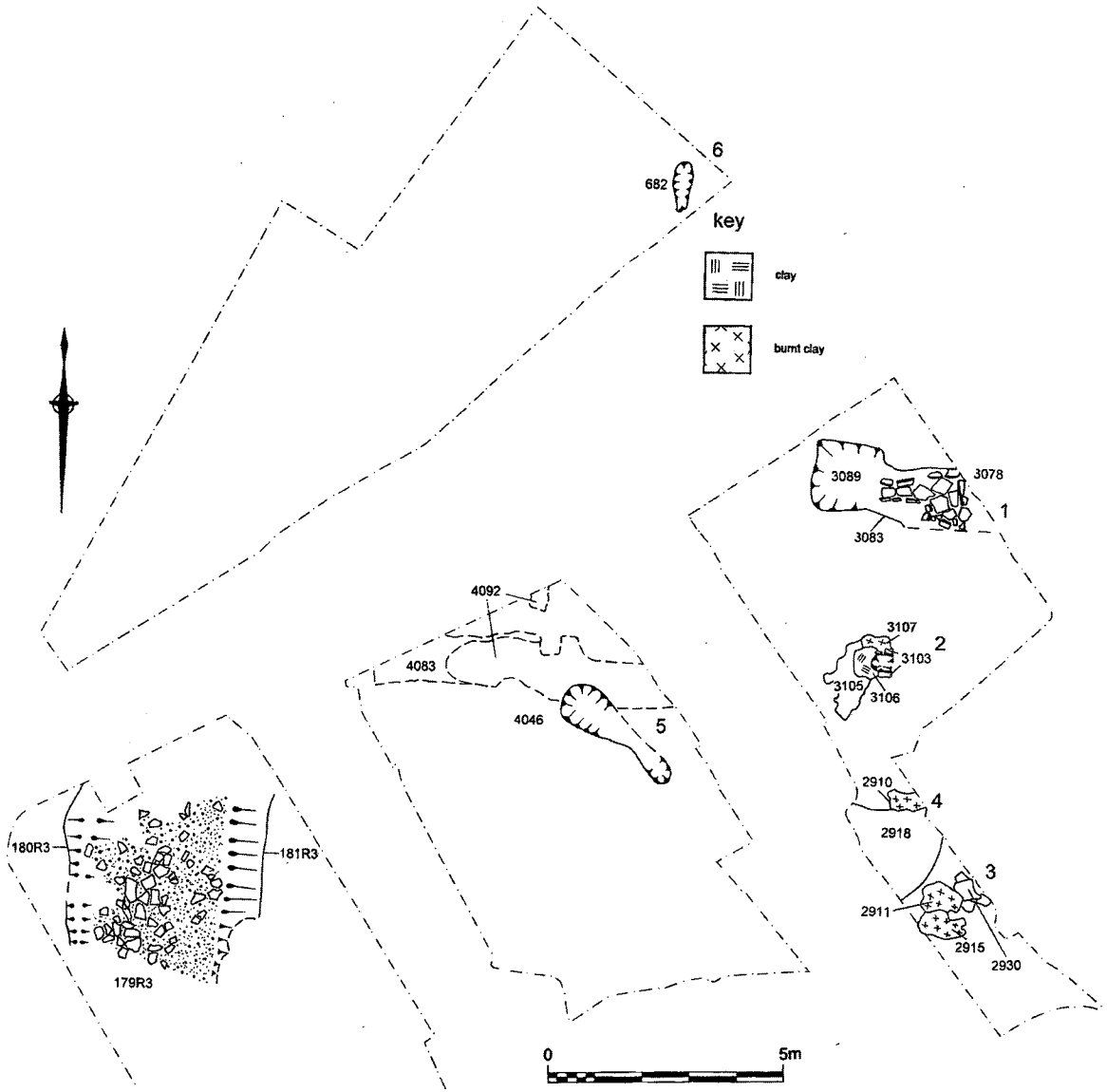


Fig. 8.2 Features pre-dating the construction of the buildings in the north-east area of the fort, comprising hearths and surfaces. Scale 1:150.

have been the source of the small stones lying on the upper surface of the pre-fort levelling layer (4026*) (see Part 2).

Hearth 1: Layers of clay reddened by fire (3086*), clay with ash (3087*) and clay with

crushed sandstone (3078) were cut by a well-constructed trench hearth. The cut (3089*) was lined with clay (3085*) which contained an assemblage of plant remains which included wheat and heather shoots, the latter presumably used for kindling a fire (see p. 239). The

hearth was originally L-shaped. The main branch was aligned west/east, then made a right-angled turn to the south; the southern end of this branch had been truncated by the construction of one of the stone buildings of the primary fort. Its sides and base had a lining of thin stone slabs (3083*), bonded with clay (3067*) and mortar (3081*). At the western end was a stoking pit which consisted of a roughly square-shaped cut. The fill of the hearth was mortar and charcoal (3075*) and clay (3077*). It was overlain by clay levelling layers or demolition material (3066*).

The form of this hearth is paralleled by a T-shaped or L-shaped hearth found in a mid-fourth-century context in the commanding officer's house at South Shields (N. Hodgson, pers. comm.). This was also lined with thin stone slabs rather than facing stones. The lack of evidence of intense heat or metal-working processes suggested that it was a corn-drier.

Hearth 2: To the south, truncated by the partition wall of the later stone fort building, was the surviving portion of another hearth. It overlay a patch of crushed sandstone (3116*) and clay (3119*). The hearth was constructed of roughly squared sandstone slabs (3103), with a pinkish-white burnt clay lining (3106), which contained a few poorly preserved cereal grains (see Part 20, p. 239). A deposit of coal and charcoal (3105) filled the remains of the hearth and also spread out to the west.

Also surrounding the hearth were layers of burnt clay with coal and charcoal (3112*, 3109* and 3107). Overlying this feature was a layer of mixed clay with occasional coal (3090*/3093*), which presumably represented levelling for the stone buildings.

Hearth 3: Overlying the fill of the southernmost pre-fort gully (2933*) were the remains of a stone feature (2930), which had subsided over the centre of the gully; its northern edge had been truncated by the cut for a seventeenth-century bastion. The feature consisted of a cut containing two rows of stones set on edge and capped by a large flagstone. At the western end were two patches of burnt clay and charcoal (2911, 2915). It was overlain by another mixed

clay levelling layer (2906*), presumably part of, or similar to, the levelling (3090*/3093*) mentioned above. As this clay layer also contained fragments of coal and charcoal, it is likely that the stone feature was the surviving remains of another trench hearth.

Feature 4 (possible hearth): Between Hearths 2 and 3, and also overlying the clay levelling layer (2906*), was a small patch of burnt clay and charcoal (2910), surrounded by a larger area of clay containing frequent lenses of charcoal and burnt material (2918). This could be the truncated remains of another hearth. The burnt clay and charcoal contained charred plant remains including heather, cereals and hazelnut shells (see Part 20, p. 239).

Hearth 5: A further possible hearth was found to the west, underlying the south wall of stone fort Building II. The cut (4085/4046) was aligned north-west/south-east. Its 'keyhole' shape suggested a hearth, although no signs of burning were recorded and the fills (4084* and 4047*) consisted of clay and greenish silt, which suggests a more organic fill. However, the sandstone and clay layers (4092, 4091* and 4083) which were cut by this feature contained coal and charcoal.

Hearth 6: To the north-east pre-fort levelling layers (676*, 598*; see Part 2) were cut by a single stakehole (650*) and a hearth or oven (682) aligned north/south. The fill of the hearth (678*) was red, burnt clay and ash.

Finds

Dating evidence – pottery

The pottery group in the levelling layer (2906*) contained a number of BB2 vessels, mainly bowls or dishes and a single sherd of Antonine samian. The surface or layer of construction debris (4083, 4091*) contained BB2 cooking pot sherds (fig. 15.4, no. 13). The clay lining of Hearth 2 (3085*) produced two BB2 cooking pots, including sherds joining that found in the fill of the hearth (3105) (fig. 15.4, no. 15). All the burnt layers surrounding Hearth 3 (2911, 2915, 2918) contained BB2; context 2911 also contained a small sherd of Nene Valley ware. The burnt area comprising Feature 4 (2910) contained a

BB2 bowl or dish (fig. 15.4, no. 17). The fill of Hearth 5 (4047*) contained a single sherd of local grey ware. For the dating of BB2, see p. 153.

Other finds

From the fill of Hearth 2:

Lead: fig. 18.4, no. 64, decorated lead waste, 3105

From burnt layers surrounding Hearth 3:

Bone: fig. 18.6, no. 86, pin; not illustrated, no. 88, pin fragment; both 2918

PRIMARY FORT CONSTRUCTION

Buildings I and II, the street between them and other areas of metalling (fig. 8.3)

Building I

Building I was a narrow rectangular structure, aligned east/west, immediately to the east of the *via praetoria*; it was poorly preserved, but originally would have had an external width of 5.30m and an internal width of 3.80m. The maximum surviving length was 8m.

The north wall (555) survived to a length of 4m, of which the only remains were the south face and a few additional stones at the west end. It had been constructed on a layer of cobbles (600), which appeared to extend to the north, but did not extend within the interior of the building. It is possible that the north wall had been built over an earlier metalling surface, a small patch of clay (635) over the cobbles and beneath the wall representing a remnant of bedding for the wall. Alternatively, the poor preservation and limited space for excavation may have made it impossible to distinguish between the foundations of the wall and the cobbles of the *intervallum* street to the north.

The south wall and part of the west wall survived in two sectors constructed on a foundation layer (639). The western sector (536A) formed the south-west corner of Building I. It had an average width of 0.75m; three courses survived, the lowest course offset, and the third course disturbed. The eastern sector (536B) was only c. 1.40m in length and heavily disturbed.

The only remnant of possible primary floor surface associated with Building I was a c. 0.50m x 0.50m patch of flat sandstone fragments (685) located in the eastern half of the building. However there were a number of post holes and stakeholes which may represent features within the building, rather than belonging to the phase of levelling over the pre-construction hearths. These comprised three stakeholes (665, 666, 667), a double or recut post hole (9996) and two further stakeholes (683, 684). Further stakeholes and small post holes formed an east/west alignment, with a larger post hole at the western end and one outlier to the south (9995).

Street between Buildings I and II

The street between the two buildings was 3.80m wide. Most of the primary metalling had been terraced away in later periods. Deposits of brown sandy clay (3057* and 3059*) overlying subsoil at the eastern end of the excavated area may be the remains of levelling layers. These were overlain by metalling of clay with small stones, which had been heavily disturbed by grave cuts and only survived in small discontinuous spreads (3041, 3042). This had later been patched (3040) (fig. 8.3).

Running parallel to and abutting the south wall of Building I were the remnants of a stone-lined feature (653*), 0.75m in length, within a construction cut (689*). This was probably an eavesdrip gully which joined a drain running down the east side of the *via praetoria*. The *via praetoria* and its roadside drains are discussed in Part 9.

Building II

The width of this building was 4.80–4.90m (external) and 3.30–3.40m (internal) and its maximum surviving length was 15m. Adjacent to the north wall was a stone-lined eavesdrip gully matching that along the south wall of Building I.

Only three discontinuous lengths of the south wall survived. At the east was a short length of sandstone blocks (3082). To the west, within a

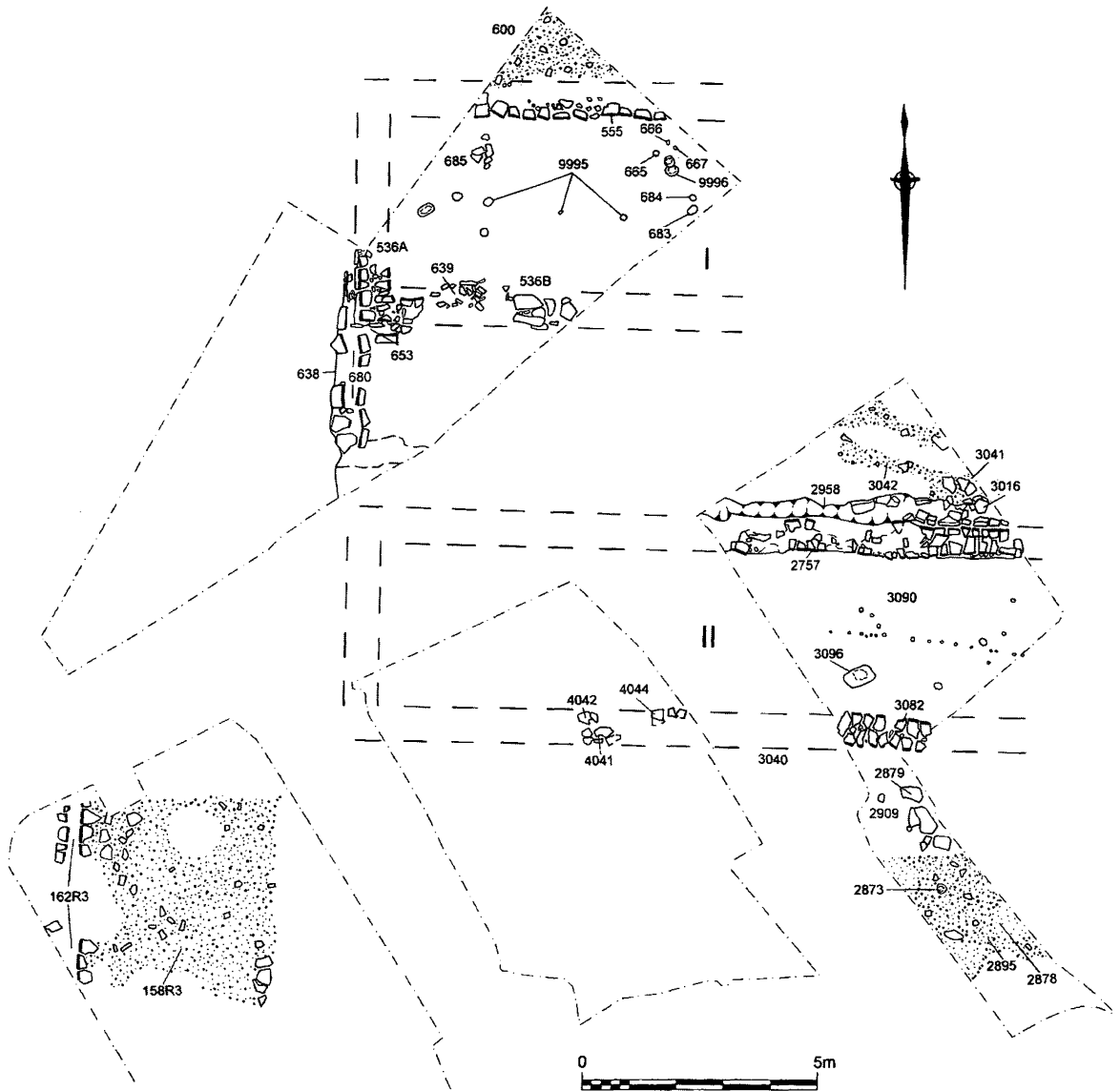


Fig. 8.3 The remains of primary buildings in the north-east area of the fort, with eavesdrip gullies and surviving metallurgy to the north and south of Building I. Part of the primary *via praetoria* can be seen at the south-east and part of the *intervallum* street at the far north. Scale 1: 150.

construction trench (4054*), was a foundation course of irregularly-shaped sandstone blocks with some cobbles (4042/4041/4044). Clay and stones (4045*) also filled the construction trench, and clay (4043*) was either bonding for

the wall or fill of the construction trench (or both). The south-west corner of the Building II had been truncated by the pier of the railway arch, and the west wall would have lain in the unexcavated area.

A 6.2m length of the north wall (2757) was found. The eavesdrip gully or drain abutting the north face of the wall was disturbed; at the west end only the cut (2958) survived, but at the east end some lining stones with clay bonding (3016) were still present, although tilted out of position.

It is difficult to determine whether any primary floor survived. A clay layer (3090/3093*) in this area could be interpreted as part of the levelling over the pre-construction hearths. Alternatively, it could equally well have been the primary floor of Building II. Some support for this comes from the fact that it was cut by an alignment of stakeholes running east/west (fig. 8.3), which could be the remains of an internal partition down the centre of the building. There were various other stakeholes not forming recognisable alignments. One large post hole (3096, fill 3095*) was covered by a flag stone.

Metalling to the south of Building II

Roman deposits, heavily truncated by later features, survived on a strip of ground adjacent to the western railway arch pier.

Above the remains of Hearth 3 described above (fig. 8.2) was a compact surface (2878) of crushed sandstone fragments in clay. There were several areas of patching, the largest being a layer of cobbles (2895) (fig. 8.3), laid over an area of subsidence into the fill of the pre-fort gully (2941/2946*). A post hole (2873, fill 2874*) was associated with this phase. At the north-western end of the strip, overlying the remains of the possible hearth 4 (2910, 2918), was a clay levelling layer (2909), overlain by large slabs (2879) and sandy soil (2871*); there were also patches of ash (2882*) and crushed sandstone (2881*).

Finds

Dating evidence – pottery

The cobbles underlying the north wall of Building I (600 (82FS)) contained a single sherd of local grey ware, and the construction cut for the eavesdrip gully of the building (689* (82GO)) contained a

single sherd of Central Gaulish samian, Form 33, of Antonine date. In the street between Buildings I and II there was also a single sherd, from a stamped mortarium of Bruscius, dated to 140–60 (fig. 15.3, no. 1). In the clay lining (3016) of the eavesdrip gully of Building II there was a sherd of Central Gaulish samian, Form 31, grooved for rivetting, of mid- to late Antonine date and a sherd of BB2 cooking pot. The small pottery assemblage from the primary metalling (2878, 2871) of Building II consisted almost entirely of BB2.

MODIFICATIONS TO BUILDING II

First phase of modifications (fig. 8.4, plan A)

Although deposits within Building II were cut by many later intrusions, the preservation was nevertheless better than in Building I, and a series of minor modifications was distinguished.

The south wall of Building II was demolished down to one foundation course, and rebuilt on the same alignment, but 0.30–0.40m further south, increasing the interior width of the building to 3.70m. There was no contemporary change to the north wall, but there was evidence for associated changes in the internal lay-out, with the insertion of a transverse partition. The rebuilt southern wall was contexted as 4040 to the west, where a maximum of two courses survived, and as 2981 in the east, where a maximum of three courses survived; it was constructed of sandstone blocks with clay bonding. A transverse partition was indicated by the cut for a beam slot (3071, fill 3070*). The northern end of the slot was truncated by an Anglo-Saxon grave; the southern end abutted the rebuilt south wall, having cut through part of the earlier wall. To the east of the beam slot, the primary clay floor and line of stakeholes were covered by a layer of mixed clay (3058*) and a dark humic soil (3063*). Rather than being a floor, these may be trample deposited during the construction process, or a make up for the new floor. To the west of the slot there was a patch of crushed sandstone (3060*), probably representing construction debris; a similar patch was also found outside the building to the north (not illustrated).

Within the building, the construction debris was overlain by a layer of sandy clay (3064*), itself overlain by a patchy spread of clay and coal (3061*); these seem likely to be the equivalents of the trample or make-up layers to the east of the slot.

The remains of the floor to the east of the slot consisted of sand and gravel (3052), in the centre of which rested a single large square flagstone. This could have been the base of a hearth. However, photographs suggest that although the stone was cracked, it was not reddened by burning. Perhaps it could have been the survivor of a robbed-out flagged floor. A patch of dark soil (3053*) over a hollow in the floor may be a remnant of occupation material. The floor to the west of the slot had been heavily disturbed by later grave cuts, and survived only as many discontinuous patches of clay (3055 and 3098). Abutting the inner face of the north wall in the western room were the remains of a hearth made of small irregularly shaped flat sandstone slabs, broken tile and clay (3056); beside it and also abutting the wall was a patch of reddened burnt clay (2960).

Finds

Dating evidence – pottery

The construction debris (3060*) contained sherds of BB2. The make up or trample in west room (3064*, 3061*) produced a small assemblage of BB2 and a single sherd of Antonine samian; the hearth in the west room (2960) produced BB2 and local grey ware. From the floor of the east room (3052) there was a single sherd of Antonine samian, BB2 and a sherd of a poppyhead beaker.

Other finds

From the floor in the east room:

Bone: Not illustrated, no. 84, needle fragment, 3052

From the hearth in the west room:

Bone: Not illustrated, no. 89, needle or pin fragment, 3058*

Second phase of modifications – replacement of floor and addition of soakaway in east room (fig. 8.4, plan B)

A make up layer of small rubble (2974) was laid in the east room; its western edge was formed by a line of larger cobbles which respected the position of the partition. Over the cobbles was a clay floor (3036) which had some damage from later grave cuts. Also incorporated in this floor was a dark brown layer of silt, coal and charcoal (3035), overlain by patches of fine yellow sand (3026*) and clay (3029*). A feature, probably a shallow soakaway, had been cut into the clay floor, so that the base of the soakaway was formed by the underlay rubble make up layer. The soakaway, of which a length of 1.20m survived, ran north/south from the centre line of the building towards the south wall, although the actual junction with the wall was lost because of later intrusions. The sides of the cut of the soakaway (3025*) were lined with small, irregularly shaped flat sandstone slabs (2991), bonded with a thick patch of clay (3024).

Finds

Dating evidence – pottery

From the clay floor (3035) there was a single sherd of Nene Valley ware, and from the soakaway (3024) a sherd of BB2 (grey fabric).

Other finds

From the soakaway:

Bone: fig. 18.6, no. 93, pierced tusk, 2974

Third phase of modifications – late third century (fig. 8.4, plan C)

The partition wall was demolished. In its place was a strip of clay (2999), c. 1m wide, across the building in the position of the former slot, and overlying its fill. The straight eastern edge of this clay suggests the position of a sleeper beam. The soakaway also went out of use; its silty fill (2993*) was covered by a layer of sandy gravel (2990).

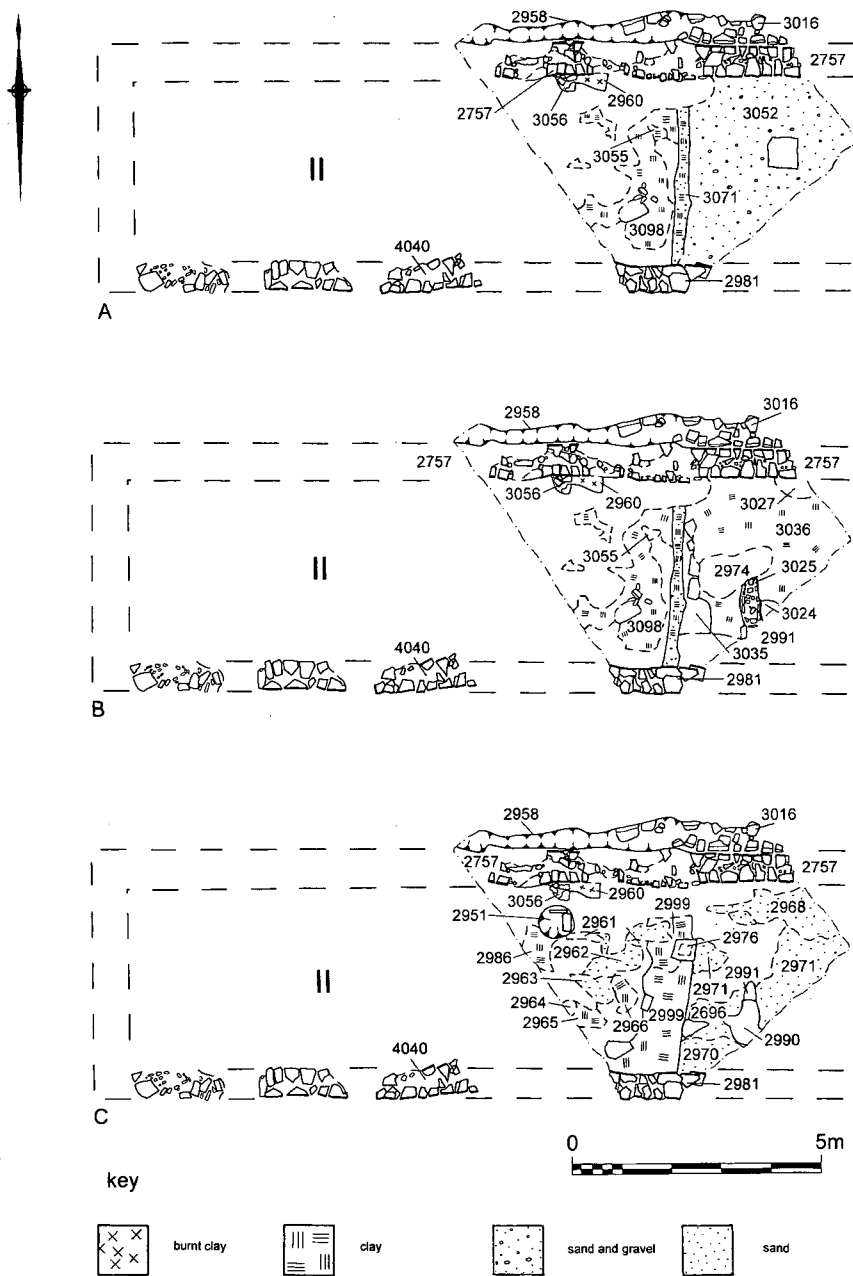


Fig. 8.4 Three phases of modifications to Building II. A: rebuilt south wall, internal partition and hearth. B: addition of new floor and soakaway. C: demolition of partition and laying of new floors in the late third century. All at Scale 1:150.

The partition wall was not replaced and a single floor surface seems to have been laid down over the whole of this part of the building, although it survived as a series of discontinuous patches of material disturbed by the later grave cuts. To the east of the former partition these patches were mainly sandy or silty with gravel (2968, 2969, 2970 and 2971), with a patch of clay (2972*). To the west were surviving patches of clay (2965, 2966 and 2987*, the latter overlying the demolition material of the partition wall), silt (2961), crushed sandstone (2964) and spreads of white mortar and stones (2963 and 2962) (the latter also overlying the demolition material of the partition wall). A square pit of unknown function (2976) cut the partition demolition material (2999).

The hearth may have remained in use, possibly for some industrial purpose, since a large circular stone-lined pit (2951), constructed immediately in front of it, may have been in use with it. Beside the pit was a spread of firm mixed clay with frequent coal and charcoal (2986). The fill of the pit was sandy clay with frequent stones (2950*).

Finds

Dating evidence – pottery

Most of the pottery from the possible floor layers (2968, 2961, 2987) was BB2 and BB1, with a sherd of Nene Valley ware and a small sherd that is likely to be East Yorkshire grey ware. From the fill (2950*) of the stone-lined pit there were a few sherds of BB2 and local grey ware. The clay layer (2986*) possibly in use with the the pit and the hearth produced a single sherd of Nene Valley ware.

Other finds

Partition demolition material:

Glass: Not illustrated, no. 115, melon bead, 2999

OTHER OCCUPATION – NOT CLOSELY DATED (NOT ILLUSTRATED)

Building I

Resting on the primary floor of Building I (685) was a patch of ash (669*), probably an occupation deposit.

Area to the south of Building II

In the south-eastern part of the strip a second layer of metalling survived as a make up layer of clay and crushed sandstone (2889*), overlain by cobbles (2869*). Overlying the northern edge of the cobbles was a large stone and a patch of charcoal (2868*), representing a small hearth. To the north-west were the remains of a larger hearth, consisting of an arc of stones (2880*) surrounding a patch of burnt sandy clay (2866*). The small hearth was overlain by a patch of sandstone chippings (2867*), and the south-eastern part of the site was covered by a third layer of metalling (2860*).

Finds

Dating evidence – pottery

The occupation layer (669* (82GK)) in Building I produced two sherds of BB1 and BB2 (grey fabric). From the third metalling in area to the south of Building II (2860*) there was a single body sherd of BB1.

LATE THIRD CENTURY OR LATER

Demolition of Building II (fig. 8.5)

The fill (3007*) of the eavesdrip gully along the north wall of Building II was grey sandy silt. Building II was demolished and replaced by Building III; described below.

In the western end of Building II were demolition deposits of clay and burnt material; other burnt deposits overlay post holes (4078, 4082 and 4080) and stake holes (4076 and 4020). Layers of clay, rubble and gritty soils overlying the remains of the building and some of the street metalling to the north may be levelling material for the construction of Building III. These deposits are fully described in the archive account.

Finds

Dating evidence – pottery

The fill of the eavesdrip gully of Building II (3007*) contained 0.949kg of pottery (excluding amphora),

of which 79.3% was BB2 and 11% SENK. An almond rimmed amphora sherd provides a date after the middle of the third century. Most of the pottery related to the demolition of Building II was BB2 or SENK, with a single sherd of Nene Valley ware. There were, however, three mortarium sherds; two body sherds of Lower Nene Valley (third or fourth century) and of Crambeck (late third or fourth century) and a flange fragment of Crambeck (fourth century). Contexts 2877, 4027*, 4031*, 4033* and 4049*.

The latest dated pottery from the fills of the post holes (4077*, 4079*, 4081*) was third-century BB2 and Nene Valley ware. The area of burning or possible hearth (4074*, 4028*) produced three body sherds of BB2 and SENK. There was a small group of pottery from the demolition material or levelling (2980*, 2985*) which was mainly BB2 and SENK, apart from a sherd of samian and a featureless body sherd of calcite gritted ware.

Coin

From the demolition of Building II:
4049* No.388, illegible C3rd/4th coin,
C/C

Other finds

From the demolition of Building II:
Copper alloy: Not illustrated, no. 38, stud, 4027*
From layer of coal over possible hearth:
Copper alloy: Not illustrated, no. 27, possible harness pendant, 4028*
From the demolition material or levelling:
Glass: Not illustrated, no. 114, melon bead, 2985*

Construction of Buildings III and IV; repairs to Building I; remodelling of drains; remetalling of street between buildings (figs. 8.1 and 8.5)

Introduction

The two buildings constructed in this period were poorly preserved. They were rectangular and constructed back-to-back with a gap of 0.70–0.80m between them (fig. 8.1). The remains of Building III overlay the demolished western end of Building II and Building IV lay to the south (fig. 8.5). The western walls of both buildings were aligned with the edge of the *via praetoria*, but all traces of the eastern extent of

these two buildings had been removed by terracing. The new buildings were similar in that their stone walls were mortared rather than clay-bonded. However, Building IV was smaller, and was constructed partly in stone, partly in timber.

The street between Buildings I and III was resurfaced and provided a new drain. The *via praetoria* was remetalled at this time, as described in Part 9.

Building III

This building was wider than any of the others in the area. Its external width was 5.70m and internal width 4.30m. The south wall partially overlay the remains of the south wall of Building II (fig. 8.1). It had been cut by a north/south trench probably belonging to the earliest Anglo-Saxon activity on the site, pre-dating the cemetery. Only two short discontinuous sectors survived. At the south-west end, just incorporating part of the return for the west wall, was a length of wall three courses high (4051), with rubble core (4035*). There was a short sector to the east (4052), also three courses high, resting on footings (4098*) which themselves overlay part of the remains of the secondary south wall of II. A clay layer (4039*) was probably also part of the footings (4098*). Masonry at the north-west corner (543) survived as two courses of rectangular sandstone blocks and lay on substantial rubble foundations (656*).

Minor features surviving within Building III were two shallow cuts (4034*, fill 4030* and 4024*, fill 4022*), in the south-west corner; these probably relate to the construction processes of the building.

Building IV

Immediately to the south of Building III was Building IV. If in use together, they would have been back to back, with a gap between them of 0.70–0.80m (fig. 8.1). Their dimensions however, were not identical. The external width of Building IV was only 4m and internal width only 2.50m.

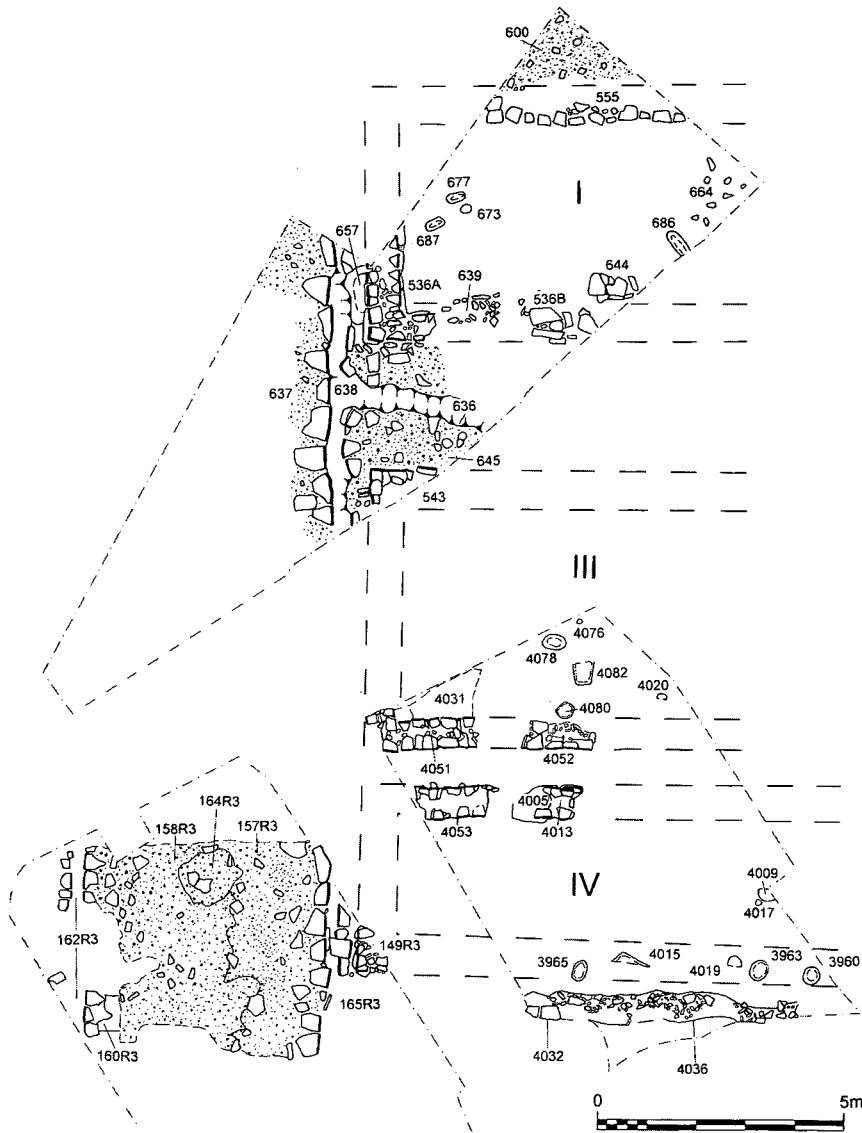


Fig. 8.5 The north-east area in the late third century or beyond. Construction of Buildings II and IV and renovation of Building I. Second metalling of the *via praetoria* and street between the buildings, and laying of new drains. Scale 1:150.

The remains of the north wall had been bisected by the same trench which cut Building III. The two sectors of wall, of which a maximum of three courses survived (4053 and 4013), the latter overlying a foundation layer

(3971*). Above context 4013 were deposits of disturbed wall core (4005).

The south-west corner (149R3) of this structure survived to a maximum of four courses. Though only a small fragment, it served to

indicate the alignments of the west and south walls. The lower courses or foundations were clay bonded, but the upper were recorded as probably mortared.

On the same alignment as the fragment of south wall was a line of post holes extending to the east. The most easterly (3965, fill 3966*) was circular; beyond it lay part of a large square hole (4015, fill 4014*) and a smaller circular hole (4019, fill 4018*), both truncated by an Anglo-Saxon grave cut. At the western end were two more circular post holes (3960, fill 3961*, and 3963, fill 3962*). There was some regularity in their spacing, and there would have been space for another post hole in the area between features 4015 and 4019, which was truncated by the grave. Any features originally in the area between the most westerly post hole and the remains of the stone wall would have been obliterated by the construction of the arch of the railway viaduct. This area had been heavily terraced so the post holes survived only as features cut into the pre-fort levelling layers, with no indication of the height from which they were cut. Nor were there any finds from the fills to suggest their date. However, the simplest interpretation is that Building IV had been built with a timber front wall (*cf.* the part-stone, part-timber construction of barracks of the mid-third century at Segedunum (Hodgson forthcoming)), and of Period 5 at Arbeia (Hodgson 1997–8, p. 26–9). An outlying post hole (3991*, fill 3992*) lay to the south of this line.

At the southern limit of surviving deposits was an east/west linear feature. Within a cut (4036) was a stony fill (4032), which included two roughly dressed blocks aligned along the edge of the cut, the remainder of the fill consisting of small stones. This could be the remains of a stone-lined eavesdrip gully for the south wall of Building IV.

The only features found within the building were a post hole (4009, fill 4008*) and a stake hole (4017, fill 4016*).

Repairs to Building I (*fig. 8.5*)

When Building II was replaced with Building III, it would seem that Building I continued in

use on the same plan, with at least one minor repair or alteration.

There was a repair or rebuild visible in the east face of the west wall of Building I (indicated on field plans and archive photographs, not reproduced here). A section 0.50m in length was constructed of more irregular stone and was mortar-bonded as opposed to the clay bonding of the rest of the wall. The southern extent of this repair seemed to abut a straight vertical edge; this may represent the blocking of an entrance onto the *via praetoria*. This section of wall probably represented a rebuild at the time of the construction of the similarly mortar-bonded walls of Buildings III and IV.

In the south-eastern part of the building was a small stone lined feature (644), probably a drain. Also in the south-east corner was a small part of a surface (664) of cobbles with some broken tile, and there was a scatter of cobbles (uncontexted) elsewhere. This surface overlay two of the post holes and stake holes (683, 684) of the earliest period of activity.

Also within the building were also a number of small pits and scoops (673, 686, 677 and 687), which probably represent occupation activity.

Street between buildings

There was a re-working of the drainage system along the *via praetoria* and the street between Buildings I and III. The eavesdrip gully (653) adjacent to the south wall of Building I was filled (642*). A drain consisting of a channel (636), *c.* 0.40m in width, was constructed down the centre of the street. This then joined a new north/south drain (638) on the *via praetoria* (see Part 9). The street between the buildings was re-surfaced (645*). This was later robbed, and only a small patch survived at the western end of the street. At the eastern end several patches of white mortar (2953*) found overlying subsoil may be construction debris from construction of Building III.

Finds*Dating evidence – pottery*

The latest pottery from these contexts was a sherd of East Yorkshire grey ware, from the foundations of the north-west corner of Building III (656* (82GB)).

LATE THIRD TO MID-FOURTH CENTURIES

Modifications to Building I and surrounding streets (fig. 8.6)

Building I

The probable drain (644) became blocked. Two pits within the building were filled in, and sealed by a patch of floor surface 3.00m x 1.60m in size consisting of a clay make-up layer (617) overlain by medium irregular sandstone slabs (607). An interesting small find from the clay make up layer (617) was a carnelian intaglio representing either Apollo or Mercury (see below). In the north-west corner of the building was another remnant of a possible floor surface consisting of a deposit of clay (634) and clay with stone fragments (628). Cutting the former was post hole or small pit (651), and a similar feature (627) cut the latter. Elsewhere a widespread layer of unspecified composition (632*) was recorded. Post holes (620, 621 and 622) and pits (590, 651) belonging to this period of activity did not form any meaningful alignment.

Intervallum street

North of the north wall (555) of Building I were two layers of metalling (601 over 631*), interpreted as patching or surfacing of the street.

Street between Buildings I and II

The surviving patches of metalling at the eastern end of the street were overlain by mortary sand and small stones (3038*); above that was more patching (2952*).

Finds*Dating evidence – pottery*

The fill of the drain in Building I (644 (82FU)) contained sherds from an east Yorkshire ware

flanged bowl and a calcite gritted ware base sherd, as well as BB2 and grey ware. Pottery from the floor of Building I (617* (82FK)) contained third-century material (BB2 and Nene Valley ware), and in the fill of a pit in the building (673* (82GH)) was a single worn sherd of calcite gritted ware. Two post holes (621 (82FM) and 622 (82FN)) contained small quantities of third-century pottery, another post hole (620 (82FL)) contained sherds from two East Yorkshire grey ware vessels and a sherd of calcite gritted ware. The pottery from an unlocated deposit in Building I (659* (82GD)) included a calcite gritted ware body sherd with grooves which are usually associated with Huntcliff type rims, suggesting use continued into the second half of the fourth century.

From the patching of the *intervallum* street (601 (82FJ)) there were only two sherds, one of East Yorkshire grey ware and one of a highly micaceous grey ware. The second metalling of the street between the buildings produced a single rim sherd of East Yorkshire grey ware.

Coins

Fill of pits in Building I:

677* (82GJ) No.208, Constans, 346–48, UW/SW
651 (82FX) No.366, illegible, C4th (?H.of Th.)
341–402, C/C

Floor in Building I:

617* (82FK) No.52, 'Claudius II, posth.', 270 +,
SW/SW
No.100, radiate copy, 273 +, C/C
628 (82GE) No.377, illegible C3rd/4th, C/C
No.280, Constantius II/Constans,
346–48, C/C

Post holes:

620 (82FL) No.114, Carausius?, 286–93?, C/C

Patching of *intervallum* street:

601 (82FJ) No.211, Constans, 346–48, SW/SW

Other finds

Floor in Building I:

Gemstone: fig. 18.7, no. 120, intaglio, 617

Post holes

Clay: Not illustrated, no. 160, spindlewhorl, 620

THE SECOND HALF OF THE FOURTH
CENTURY
(FIG. 8.6)

Building I

The post holes (620, 621 and 622) and pit (590) mentioned above (fig. 8.6) were sealed by an ashy layer (583* and 624*).

Building III

In the south-west corner of Building III was a small remaining patch of a surface or floor made up of small irregular sandstone flags (4007*), which were sketched and photographed, but not planned. These had probably survived because of subsidence into a hollow – in places three successive layers of flags had been laid down apparently to combat subsidence.

Above the paved layer was an ashy deposit (3959*), containing bone, glass and brick or tile, which may be the debris from a hearth or an accumulation of occupation material; the layer also contained two coins of Constans and pottery consistent with a late fourth-century date. Within or protruding up into this layer from the paving below were two substantial strips of clay, probably the remains of a demolished feature, although apparently not a hearth, as they were unburnt. Above this was a similar ashy layer (3956*), also containing the same range of finds.

At the northern end of the surviving remains a short alignment of stones (4023*) running north/south, possibly represents the remains of an internal feature, possibly belonging to the later periods of occupation. It was sketched, not planned and was too fragmentary for interpretation.

Building IV

The following deposits were too fragmentary to be worth illustrating, but serve to demonstrate that there were occupation or demolition deposits overlying the post hole alignment at the southern end of the site.

Above the fill of one of the post holes in the alignment at the southern limit of the excavation (4015) was a layer of mixed yellow clay (4000*), overlain by fragments of paving (3999*). At the eastern end of the excavation trench, and overlying the post hole (4009) and stake hole (4017), were layers of burnt material (4003*, 3996* and 3939*), noted in the context book to be similar to the burnt paving (3999*).

Finds

Dating evidence – pottery

The ashy layer in Building I (583* (82EK), 624* (82FW)) produced 0.495kg of pottery (excluding amphora), of which 84% was East Yorkshire grey ware and calcite gritted ware. Pottery from the ashy layer in Building III (3959*) included a Huntcliff type rim. From the area of burning in Building IV (3939*) there was a body sherd of Italian almond rimmed amphorae, dated after the mid-third century.

Coins

Ashy layer in Building I:

- 583* (82EK) No.138, Constantine I, 330–335,
SW/SW
No.66, Victorinus/Tetricus I,
268–73, C/C
No.210, Constans, 346–48,
UW/UW
No.337, Valentinian I, 364–75,
UW/UW
No.378, illegible, C3rd/C4th, C/C
624* (82FW) No.230, 'Constantius II', 348+,
UW/UW

Building III, ashy layers:

- 3959* No.70, Victorinus/Tetricus, 268–73,
SW/SW
No.110, Carausius, 286–93, SW/SW
No.213, Constans, 346–8, SW/SW
No.218, Constans, 348–50,
UW/UW

Other finds

From the ashy layers in Building IV:

- Antler: Not illustrated, no. 95, polished tine, 3959*
Clay: fig. 18.9, no. 161, samian spindlewhorl, 3959*

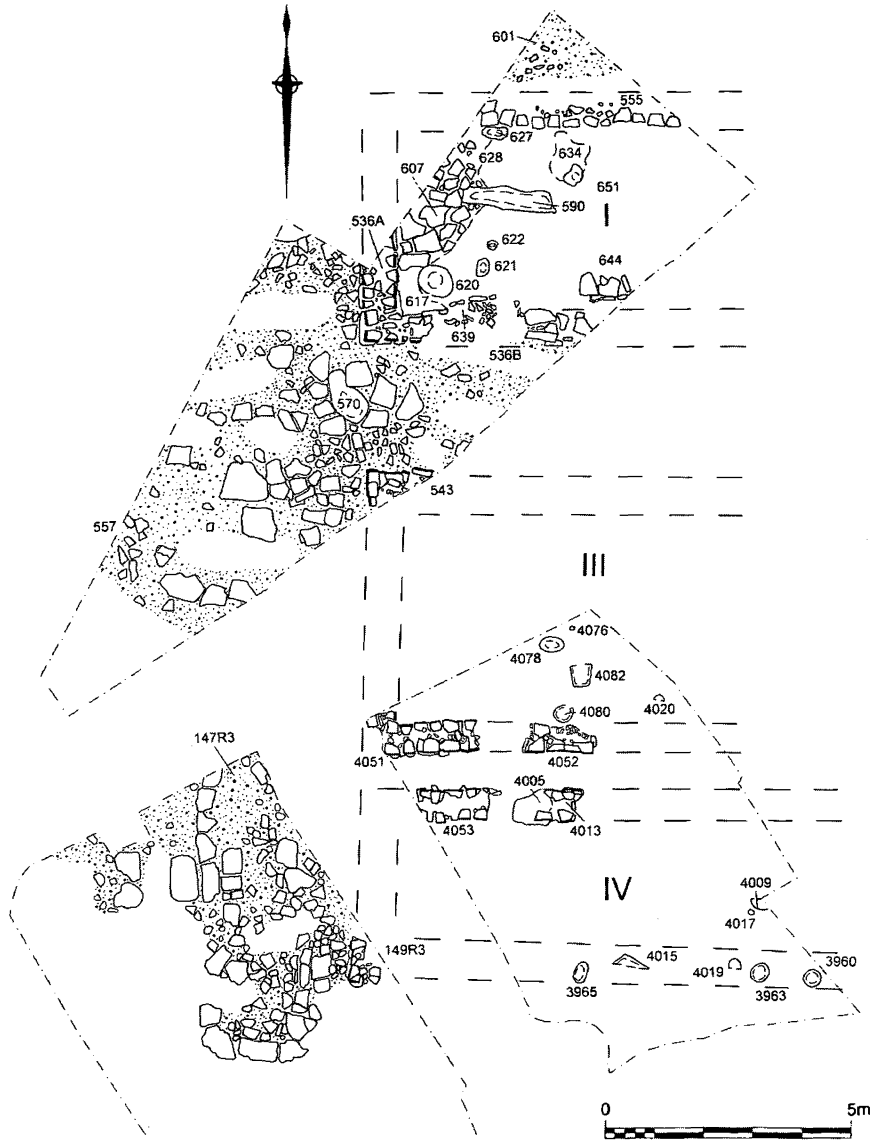


Fig. 8.6 The north-east area in the second half of the fourth century, with pits and new floor surfaces in Building I and a remetalling of the via praetoria including large re-used blocks. Scale 1:150.

END OF ROMAN OCCUPATION

The decay and collapse of these buildings is described in Part 12.