

12. The Fort in the Post-Roman Period and During the Earliest Anglo-Saxon Occupation

INTRODUCTION (FIG. 1.6)

Two different phases have been identified in this part of the report. One is the decay and collapse of the buildings after the end of the Roman occupation. The other is a process of stone robbing, levelling and a very thorough clearance of some areas of the ruins, followed by the construction of features which ignored the Roman alignments (fig. 1.6). These features were a stone lined drain and water tank and an alignment of posts for a fence or timber structure. At least part of the northern fort wall was demolished and paved over. There is some surviving evidence to suggest the construction of new defences of ditch and counterscarp bank, with an entrance roughly in the vicinity of the former Roman north gate.

There is no dating evidence for these later activities. Clearly they post-dated the Roman occupation. It is equally clear they pre-dated the formation of the extensive Anglo-Saxon cemetery. None of the features to be described can be shown to cut graves, and most were overlain by graves. However, during the course of post-excavation analysis the accumulation of evidence pointed to the fact that these represent activities belonging to the first Anglo-Saxon occupation of the site, either before the cemetery was formed, or at least before it achieved its final size. Two factors are important in reaching this conclusion. By the time the new features were constructed, sufficient time had elapsed for the Roman buildings to have become so ruinous that they were unrecognisable; the northern fort wall was clearly no longer of use as a defence. Secondly, although none of these features actually cuts a grave, many of them contained small amounts of dispersed human bone, as described below.

A DRAIN OR AQUEDUCT AND WATER TANK

Introduction (figs. 6.3, 6.4, 12.1 and 12.2)

A substantial stone-lined drain or aqueduct was constructed. It ran north-north-east/south-south-west through the remains of the west granary and passing to the south across a small water tank, which possibly served as a settling tank or silt trap, then across the 'via principalis' and through the north-east corner of the *praetorium* (fig. 12.1). It is clear that demolition and levelling of at least this end of the *praetorium* and the eastern end of the granary had been carried out prior to the construction of the drain. The south wall of the granary appears to have been levelled off at a height of four or five courses (figs. 6.3 and 6.4), and the north wall may have been similarly treated. The corner of the *praetorium* had evidently been so thoroughly cleared that the underfloor channels of the early hypocaust system were revealed and re-used as part of the drain. There is no precise dating evidence for this event. A *terminus post quem* of 353 or later is given by the coins from the latest metalling of the 'via principalis'. The drain did not cut any of the Anglo-Saxon graves; in fact graves in this area were much later in the sequence.

However, it is highly unlikely that substantial walls were demolished to make way for a mere drain, which could have been routed around any buildings still standing to any appreciable height. It is also significant that this feature ignored the Roman alignments. It therefore seems likely that the buildings had collapsed to the point where their original shapes were no longer apparent, and the streets were blocked with tumbled masonry; a complete clearance was therefore necessary before the next period of activity could take place.

Construction of the drain and water tank (figs. 12.1 and 12.2)

The drain survived as several discontinuous lengths, interrupted by modern features. The most northerly length of the main channel was represented by a robber trench (324R2) cut through the metalling (335R2) to the north of the granary. Immediately inside the granary north wall was another length of channel (136R1). A possible trace of a substantial stone lining survived; running parallel to the east side of the drain was a short length of construction trench containing dressed facing stones (143R1), with rubble packing behind.

A third length of drain (also contexted as 136R1) survived where it cut through the south wall of the granary, to the east of the third buttress. The construction of the channel had removed dressed stones from the inner face of the wall and had cut through the rubble core. The sides of the cut had been lined with large cobblestones and there was also a lining of orange clay (155R1* and 157R1), the latter spread out over the stones of the buttress (shown on slides in the archive). The large drain cover slabs (146R1) survived intact. When it reached the outer edge of the wall, the drain forked. A side channel running west had been cut across the buttress foundation; no lining or cover stones survived on this branch.

The main channel appears to have run over the top of the surviving facing stones of the buttress and through the north-east corner of a stone-lined tank (160R1), which was 0.80m by 0.50m in size (fig. 12.2). The construction pit for the tank cut the latest metalling of the 'via principalis' (174R1, 154R1*, 149R1*) (see Part 5, p. 53 and fig. 6.7). The slabs forming the one long side of the tank rested on the lowest offset course of the buttress, and the rest of the tank projected out into the street. The bottom of the tank was lined with orange clay (169R1*), and similar clay (168R1) lined the sides (fig. 12.1). From the southern edge of the tank, a continuation of the main drain channel (166R1) was seen to cut the street metalling for a short distance before being truncated. The cover slabs and lining stones had been robbed, but

some of the orange clay lining (168R1) still remained in the channel.

To the south-east the corner of the *praetorium* appears to have been very thoroughly demolished and cleared. Site notebooks point out that no facing stones were found amongst the rubble in this area, although they were found in the rubble overlying the remains of the *principia*, which imply a gradual collapse. A layer of flat stones, possibly fallen roof slates (117C) (fig. 3.8), which lay in the alley between the *praetorium* and *principia* could be related to the collapse or demolition of either building.

The clearance in the *praetorium* was thorough enough to reveal one of the primary hypocaust channels (172.IIC); large stones were used to heighten and narrow this channel to form a drain (172.IC), which was covered by large flag stones (also contexted as 172.IC) (fig. 12.1 and Section 1, fig. 2.3). This sector of drain was on the same alignment as that which ran across the west granary and 'via principalis', and so is likely to be a continuation of it.

A cut (200C*) running roughly east/west may be the robber trench for the north wall of the *praetorium* (201C), or may have been associated with the construction of the drain. Overlying the cut was a layer of clay (412C*), overlain by stones (231C*), clay (232C*), a second layer of stones (233C) and more clay (229C* and 230C*); these may have been robber trench material or packing for the side of the drain.

The latest 'via principalis' metalling to the east of the drain was subsequently covered by a group of large stone blocks (148R1), which abutted the side of the water tank. These included a fragment of moulded stone. The blocks appear to form an L-shaped feature, but it is difficult to envisage this as a wall or part of a structure. The most northerly block shows signs of heavy wear, as if it had been in use as a surface. The blocks may be the remains of a more widespread layer, originally covering the whole of the street and raising its level to that of the drain, but subsequently robbed. Evidence of robbing comes from two ragged lines of smaller boulders (151R1 and 153R1), the latter overlain by smaller rubble and soil (150R1).

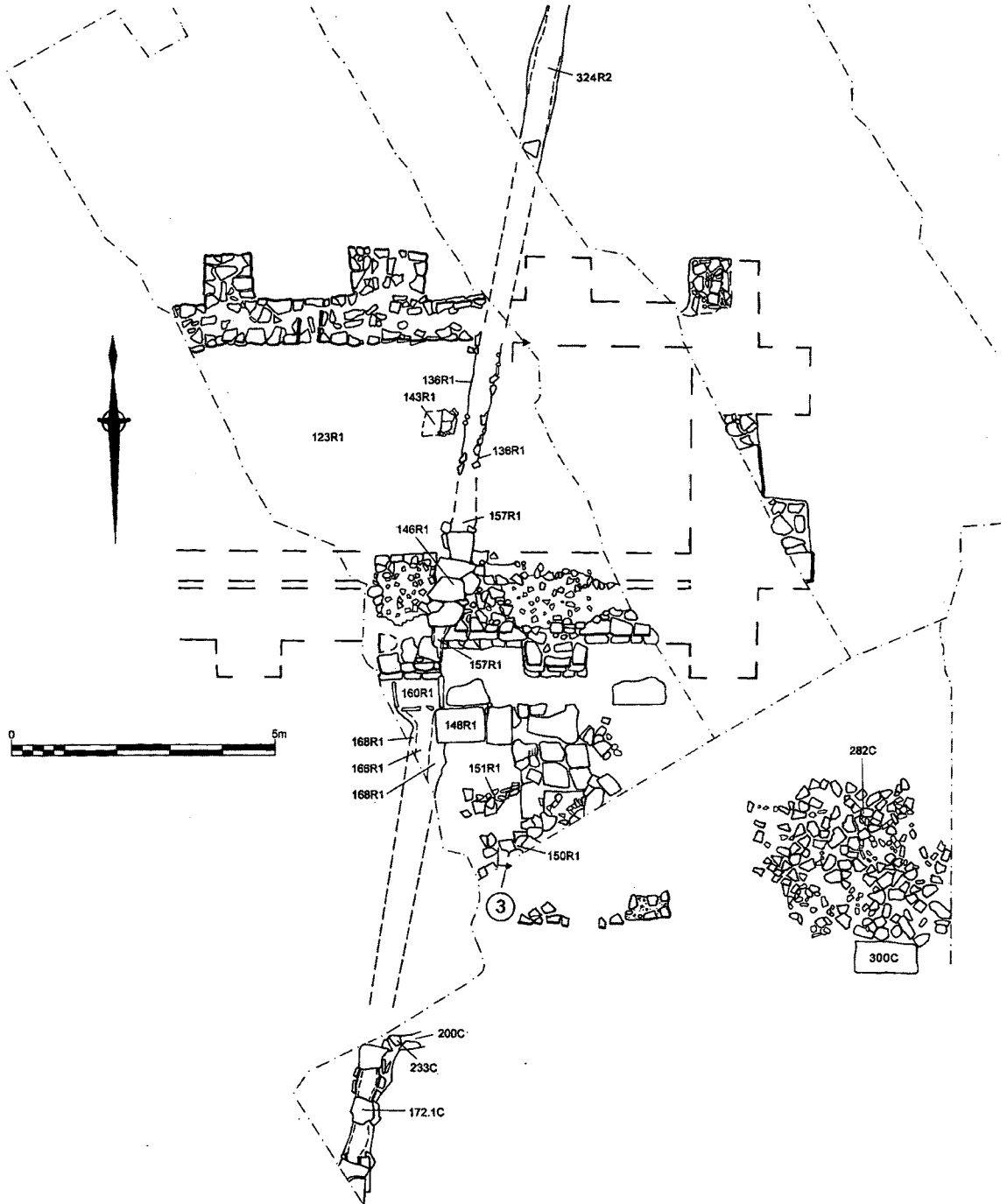


Fig. 12.1 The earliest Anglo-Saxon features, pre-dating the cemetery, including a water tank and a drain cutting through the remains of the west granary and the north-east corner of the praetorium. The former street surface was overlain by large stone blocks, a fragment of mortared wall and a raft of laid rubble. Section 3 is shown on fig. 6.3. Scale 1:125.



Fig. 12.2 Water tank belonging to the earliest Anglo-Saxon activity, abutting remains of west granary wall. Viewed from the north-east.

Disuse of the drain and water tank

The northern end of the drain through the metallated area to the north of the granary was filled with a dark brown soil (325R2*). The fill of the robber trench for the drain (323R2*) was loose gravel and small stones. The two lengths of drain within the granary were filled with a brown soil (147R1*).

The fill of the water tank was orange clay, soil and stones (165R1*), overlain by a brown soil (145R1). A similar brown soil (191R1*) overlay the surviving portions of the latest Roman street metalling (149R1*). All of these layers, and the group of stone blocks (148R1) were directly overlain by cemetery soil. The blocks (148R1), rubble (150R1), the drain cover slabs (146R1) and part of the core of the granary south wall (122R1) can all be seen protruding through the cemetery soil on a field drawing (not reproduced here).

The sector of drain within the remains of the *praetorium* (172.IC) became filled with clay and silt (194C*, 150C*, the latter containing human bone), overlain by a layer of black silt

(185C), also containing human bone (Section 1, fig. 2.3). A grey brown layer with mortar flecks (147C*) was found in the northern part of the building and overlay the drain. Another widespread layer of brown soil containing mortar and stones (133C) could be derived from the final decay or demolition of surrounding Roman buildings (fig. 2.3).

Finds

Fill of drain:

Copper alloy: fig. 18.1, no. 3, disc brooch, 136R1

DECAY AND ROBBING OF THE *PRINCIPIA* (FIG. 3.8)

The late Roman flagged floor (74C) and occupation material (252C*) in the *principia* cross hall (fig. 3.8) was overlain by a deposit of brown soil, building stones and mortar (247C*), indicating that the building was out

of use. This layer also spilled out of the *principia* doorway into the alley, but was not found in the *praetorium*. As the *principia* decayed, layers of tumble consisting of soil, mortar and stones (260C*, 261C*, 257C*, the latter containing human bone) were deposited on the '*via principalis*', mainly at the western end of the excavated area. A strip of orange clay (285C*) near the west end of the north wall of the *principia* (248C) was cut by a feature which was interpreted as possibly the robber trench for the north wall or possibly a later grave cut. However this cut is interpreted, it is clear that the north wall had been robbed because a widespread layer of rubble and mortar was found (274C*). This not only lapped over the remains of the western end of the robbed north wall, but also put the street out of use, since it covered almost the whole of the excavated area. A layer of brown soil, mortar and stones (249C*) filled the cavities in the robbed out wall and a mortar layer (293C*) abutted it; both these layers contained human bone.

Evidence of collapse in the rear range consisted of a layer of mortar, rubble and facing stones (72C*). The flagged surface behind the *principia* (115C) (fig. 3.8) was overlain by a layer of soil and ash (113C*), which contained human bone. Overlying this and abutting the lowest three courses of the rear wall of the *principia* was a layer of dark soil and stones (77C*), also containing some human bone and red deer antler. Almost all of the cat bones recovered in the excavations came from this dark soil, together with bird bones including those of a raven; these add to the picture of a site deserted by all but a few stray animals. The dark soil and stones were overlain by a yellow mortary soil (76C*) abutting courses two to four of the wall and containing one or two facing stones.

Wall and rubble surface over the former '*via principalis*' (fig. 12.1)

Overlying the widespread rubble and mortar robbing debris (274C*) were dark soils (259C* and 273C*) containing a deliberately laid

rubble surface (282C), which contained human bone. This was found at the eastern end of the excavation area, the excavated length being 3.65m.

At the western end of the street was a feature, possibly the remains of a wall of dressed stones, 0.50m in width, with some mortar surviving. It is shown, uncontexted, beginning near the western end of excavation, running east/west, 1.20m north of the robbed north wall of the *principia*. It survived for a length of 2.80m; the space 2m in width between it and the rubble surface (282C) was disturbed by a later grave, over and around which are patches of mortar and dressed stones. The postulated wall may therefore originally have run as far as the rubble surface.

Final collapse or demolition

A widespread layer of soil, mortar and stones (251C*), containing some human bone, was found down the whole length of the former '*via principalis*', partly overlying the uncontexted wall mentioned above and in one place running across the robbed out north wall of the *principia* (248C). These layers were overlain by cemetery soil (149C*).

Finds

Rubble surface:

Copper alloy: Not illustrated, no. 29, terminal, 282C
Red deer antler was found in contexts 274C*, 293C*, 282C and 251C*.

Stone-robbing in the strong room, probably of Anglo-Saxon date (figs. 3.1 and 3.8)

All but the lowest courses of the large dressed blocks lining the strong room were robbed, and in the process the walls of the room over the strong room were totally removed. The robbing pit was filled in with rubble, demolition material, including facing stones, and soil. There was no precise dating evidence for this event; the only finds were fragments of red deer antler. However, the robbing must have taken place

after the end of the very late Roman occupation, since it involved the demolition of so many walls, and there is no evidence of there having been a floor over the fill of the robbing pit. The pit fill was overlain by cemetery soil and cut by several graves.

The robber trench for the strong room (193C) was a steep-sided cut at least 4m in length. The east side was obliterated by the construction of the Keep. The west side, and its relationship to the rear wall of the *principia* (73C), were partly disturbed by the post-medieval drain (4C).

At the bottom of the strong room, overlying the remains of the original floor make up or construction material (224C*), and lapping over a single large remaining floor slab (225C), was a very mixed layer (211C*). It consisted of yellow gravel with substantial lenses of clay, a small amount of rubble and black organic material (211C*), but contained no finds. This was evidently a compact layer; in the context book it is described as a floor and accumulation of rubbish. It is likely to be trample created during the process of robbing the large blocks from the walls after the original slab floor had been removed.

Above this, the lowest layer or robber trench fill was rubble (203C*), which included facing stones, large dolomite cobbles and sandy soil. Some of the original clay and rubble packing of the construction trench had been pushed into the robber trench from the west (192C*). The remaining layers of fill (described in the site archive) consisted of rubble, dark soil, lenses of mortar and some facing stones; many of these deposits contained red deer antler.

There were two shallow scoops extending out from the northern edge of the main robbing pit for the strong room, probably also part of the robbing. One (310C) had a fill of clay loam containing flecks of burnt material and mortar (301C*). It was cut by another scoop (308C), the fill of which was rubble (309C*), which included facing stones and red deer antler.

The robbing debris filling the strong room was cut by graves; it is not known what phase of the cemetery these represent.

ROBBING OF THE EAST GRANARY (FIGS. 7.2 A AND B)

Introduction

This period is very difficult to interpret because the evidence for a number of different events, potentially of widely differing dates, comes from only a few heavily truncated and scattered deposits.

The granary

At some stage the portion of the east wall within the excavation area had been reduced almost completely to a single course, with only two stones of the second course of the outer face still *in situ*. The inner face of the wall was cut by a small pit (3381*) filled by cemetery soil (3207*). Patches of mortar (3420) abutting the wall and the remains of one of the sleeper walls (3390) (fig. 7.2A) are probably upcast from this pit.

Within the central area of the building were deposits of mixed clay, rubble and mortar (3372*, 3375*, 3376*), lying both between and over the line of the sleeper walls. The first-mentioned of these layers contained human bone. Post-dating this layer (3372*) were deposits of black ashy loam with charcoal (3355*) overlain by an ashy layer containing frequent mussel shells (3354*). These were contexted as the remains of pit fills heavily truncated by later intrusions. They could represent refuse disposal, but unfortunately contained no datable finds, and since they were truncated, the level from which they were dug is unknown.

The loading bay

A layer of sandy clay with charcoal (3342) (fig. 7.2B) close to the buttress had slumped down into the post hole (3377) beside it. Above it was another fill of sandy clay (3365*) and an upper (3363*) of dark humic material with frequent coal and charcoal. The stony platform (3346) was overlain by silt and burnt clay containing large sandstone blocks and frequent inclusions of burnt sandstone and charcoal

(3320*). This could represent demolition and robbing of the remains of the east wall. The layer also contained human bone, as did similar silty deposits above.

The final demolition and robbing of the building appears to be associated with the cemetery, but this cannot be closely dated.

BUILDINGS IN THE NORTH-EAST AREA

Buildings III and IV (*fig. 12.3*)

The narrow space, 0.70–0.80m wide, between the walls of Buildings III and IV became blocked. At the eastern end of the gap was a deposit (3915*) which the context sheet describes as a gradual accumulation rather than a single dump. The lower levels contained many flat sandstone fragments, possibly roofing slates; the upper levels consisted of sandy clay containing many animal bones. At the western end of the gap was a similar layer (3955*), which contained many antlers as well as animal bone.

There were collapse or demolition layers in Building III (details in site archive), one of which (4011*) may be mixed with cemetery soil. Other layers in the area were of clay and ash (4025*) and charcoal (4001*). Other deposits include a hollow (4062*), overlain by a loamy soil (4012*); there were also soil layers (3905* and 4004*), recorded in the baulks left between later grave cuts.

Overlying the remains of the north wall of Building IV and its disturbed core (4005) was more disturbed masonry and rubble (4006*), containing human bone, and rubble with mortar (3981*, 3898*). These layers were cut by the slot (3907) for a fence or timber structure, described below.

Area to the east of Building IV (Not illustrated)

Over the area of metallurgy found on the surviving strip of stratigraphy to the south of the former building was loose yellow sand (2895) containing human bone, overlain by compact dark brown clay (2853*). Above this were

layers of mixed clay with sandstone fragments (2849* and 2838*), the latter containing frequent inclusions of charcoal.

A feature which cannot be tied into any period is a linear cut (2856*), running down the centre of the south-east part of this strip. It survived for a length of 2.10m, and the surviving width was 0.55m, the north-eastern side having been truncated by a nineteenth-century intrusion. Its fill was silty soil with frequent charcoal and crushed sandstone (2855*) and sandy soil with pebbles and sandstone fragments (2846*). Within the fill were two large irregularly-shaped sandstone blocks. If this is a robber trench, it is unlikely to be for a Roman building, since it ran north-west/south-east, not on the alignment of the Roman features.

Building I (*fig. 12.3*)

The late occupation material, consisting of a widespread ashy layer (583*, 624*) was overlain by a deposit (605*), which in turn was overlain by a stony layer (604*) and a clay deposit (603*). These in turn were partially overlain by another stony layer (602*). The ashy layer was also cut by two large pits (633 and 652). Elsewhere there were several small pits or post holes (595, 619, 626 and 629). It is not clear whether these features could represent a final use of Building I, or whether they were cut through the ruins of the building.

Finds

Coin

Collapse of Buildings III and IV:

3898*	No.284, Constantius II/Constans, 348–50, SW/C
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Other finds

Clay to the east of Building I:

Glass: Not illustrated, no. 112, bead, 2849*

A fence or timber structure (figs. 8.1 and 12.3)

Running north/south through the whole of the north-east area was an alignment of post holes

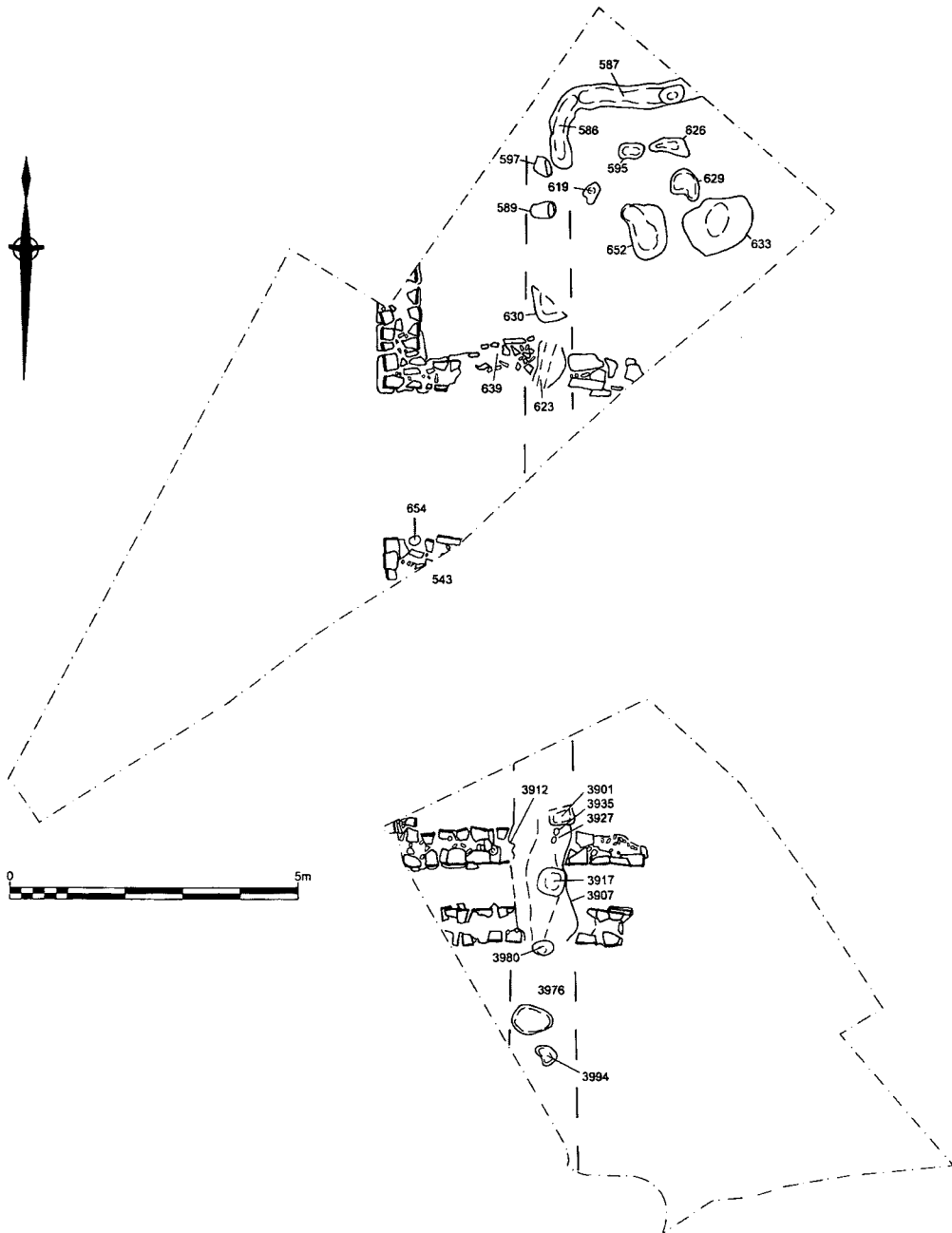


Fig. 12.3 The north-eastern area in the earliest period of Anglo-Saxon activity, showing a north/south alignment of post holes set in a V-shaped slot cut through the remains of Buildings I, III and IV. Scale 1:125.

which could represent either a fence or a timber structure (fig. 12.3). The post holes lay within a slot cutting through the remains of Buildings I, III and IV. Because of the build-up of debris and soil layers, it is unlikely that the remains of the walls would have been visible by this stage; their outlines are shown on fig. 12.3 purely in order to locate the later features in relation to them. It is significant that the slot cut a layer of disturbed masonry (4006*) containing human bone, suggesting that the alignment was of Anglo-Saxon rather than sub-Roman date.

In the area of former Buildings III and IV, a slot of V-shaped profile running north/south (3907/3912) (figs. 8.1 and 12.3) cut through the remains of the north wall of Building IV, the south wall of Building II, the south wall of Building III, and the accumulation of material (3915*/ 3955*) which between the buildings and contained fallen sandstone roofing slates and red deer antlers. It also cut two stake holes (3935, fill 3934* and 3927, fill 3926*), which themselves cut the footings of the wall of Building III. The slot could not be traced to the north or south, possibly because it ran through deposits heavily disturbed by grave cuts. The fill of the slot was clay and ash with stone fragments (3906*/3897*). This in turn was cut by two post holes (3901, fill 3899*, and 3917, fill 3916*); a third post hole (3980*, fill 3979*) lay just beyond the surviving southern end of the slot, with a fourth (3976, fill 3977*) further south. The four were equidistant and in line north/south, suggesting they were part of the same feature. A truncated fifth post hole (3994, fill 3993*), adjacent to 3976, may also be associated. The line is *c.* 3m east of the eastern edge of the Roman *via praetoria*, which raises the question of whether the street was still usable by that time, or entirely covered by soil accumulations.

Overlying the collapsed wall rubble at the south-west corner of Building III was a row of three large stone slabs (3949*), overlain by silty clay (3942*). Many other deposits in this area were said to be mixed with cemetery soil and there were also other post holes, some arranged in pairs, which may belong to the cemetery.

In the area of the former Building I there was also an alignment of features similar to those cutting the remains of Buildings IV and III (fig. 12.3). A pit or slot (623) cut through the remains of the south wall of Building I, and to the north of it was part of a pit (630), which could have been an extraction pit for a post hole. Beyond that were two post holes (597 and 589) both containing packing stones. These two post holes cut the late ashy layer (583*); the other two features on the same line apparently did not have a direct relation to it.

Cutting the metallurgy to the north of Building I were two features which appeared to be post trenches (fig. 12.3). One trench (587) aligned east/west, contained a post hole at the eastern end. Adjoining the western end was a shallower trench (586) running north/south, which petered out after a length of *c.* 1.50m. It was not quite aligned with the row of post holes described above, but in view of the disturbed nature of features in this area, it is certainly possible that these trenches represent the truncated continuation of the north/south alignment, and its east/west return. At the southern end of the excavation area, a small post hole (654) cut the north wall (543) of Building III.

Finds

Coins

Pits in Building I:

652 (82FY) No.84, radiate, 260–73, C/C

Fill of post hole cutting through remains of Building III:

3899* No.75, Tetricus I?, 270–73?, C/C

Fill of slot cut through walls of Buildings III and IV:

3897* No.112, Carausius, 286–93, SW/SW

3906* No.47, Salonina, 260–68, SW/C

Other finds

Pits in Building I:

Copper alloy: Not illustrated, no. 40, stud, not illustrated, no. 53, ring, both 633

Fill of slot cut through walls of Buildings III and IV:

Jet and shale: Not illustrated, nos 128 and 129, armlet fragments, both 3906*

THE NORTHERN DEFENCES

Introduction

The intervallum street, the infilled drain and other features were overlain by a rough paving of large stones, which also overlay the demolished remains of the fort wall. When the first phase of paving had been in use for long enough to show signs of wear, it was overlain by a second layer of paving. This was in turn overlain by layers of dark earth, ash and charcoal.

Demolition of the fort wall and deposition of Paving 1 (figs. 12.4 and 12.5)

Fort wall, west. This part of the fort wall was demolished. The layer immediately overlying the remains consisted of demolition material (2499*) of broken stones and mortar. A surface of large stones (2470/2487), Paving 1, was deposited over the demolition material of the fort wall and the remains of the latest Roman street and disused drain (fig. 12.5). Plans and photographs show that this paving, a second layer above it, and two layers of paving found in the extra-mural area (see below) were not quite the same in character and appearance as the street surfaces of large slabs and cobbles found in the fort in the second half of the fourth century.

Fort wall, east. A robber trench (3614*, fill 3618*) along the length of the wall cut through the levelling layer (3014*) to the south, and reduced the wall down to the foundation

stones. The robber trench and the wall foundation were themselves cut by a post hole (3626) (fig. 12.4). The post hole fill (3617*) contained much charcoal which was interpreted as a post burned *in situ*. No paving was found in this area.

There was no dating evidence for the sequence on the upstand to the south of the wall. This consisted of rubble (2680*), overlain by grey soil and stones (2679*) and a layer of silt and animal bone (2678*), the latter implying disuse and abandonment. These were overlain by a rubble surface (2677) (probably equivalent to Paving 1 at the western part of this wall; see fig. 12.4).

Layers and features lying between the two surviving fragments of wall (fig. 12.4)

Two post holes (2506 and 2509) on the projected line of the fort wall cut only natural subsoil, and their fills were truncated by medieval disturbances, so it is not possible to say from what level they were cut. However, they are in line with the post hole which cut the eastern portion of fort wall and could be part of the same feature. Since the most easterly of the three possibly contained a post burnt *in situ* and, as described below, the most westerly was overlain by a patch of burnt material, this alignment of posts could have destroyed in the same event.

The features survived on a narrow strip of ground against the northern baulk, separated from the two portions of wall by the cut of a medieval ditch terminal (2380*). Both ran into the baulk, so their full size and shape is unknown, but they may have been substantial; the depth of one (2506) is recorded as 0.63m. This post hole was lined with stone slabs and also contained a Roman facing stone. It had a fill of grey soil, clay and stones (2507*). The other post hole (2509) lay close by to the east. A field drawing (not reproduced here) suggests that this was also stone-lined; the fill was grey sandy soil (2508*).

To the west was a layer of mixed burnt material (2505), which also lapped over the fill of the westerly post hole (2506). There were

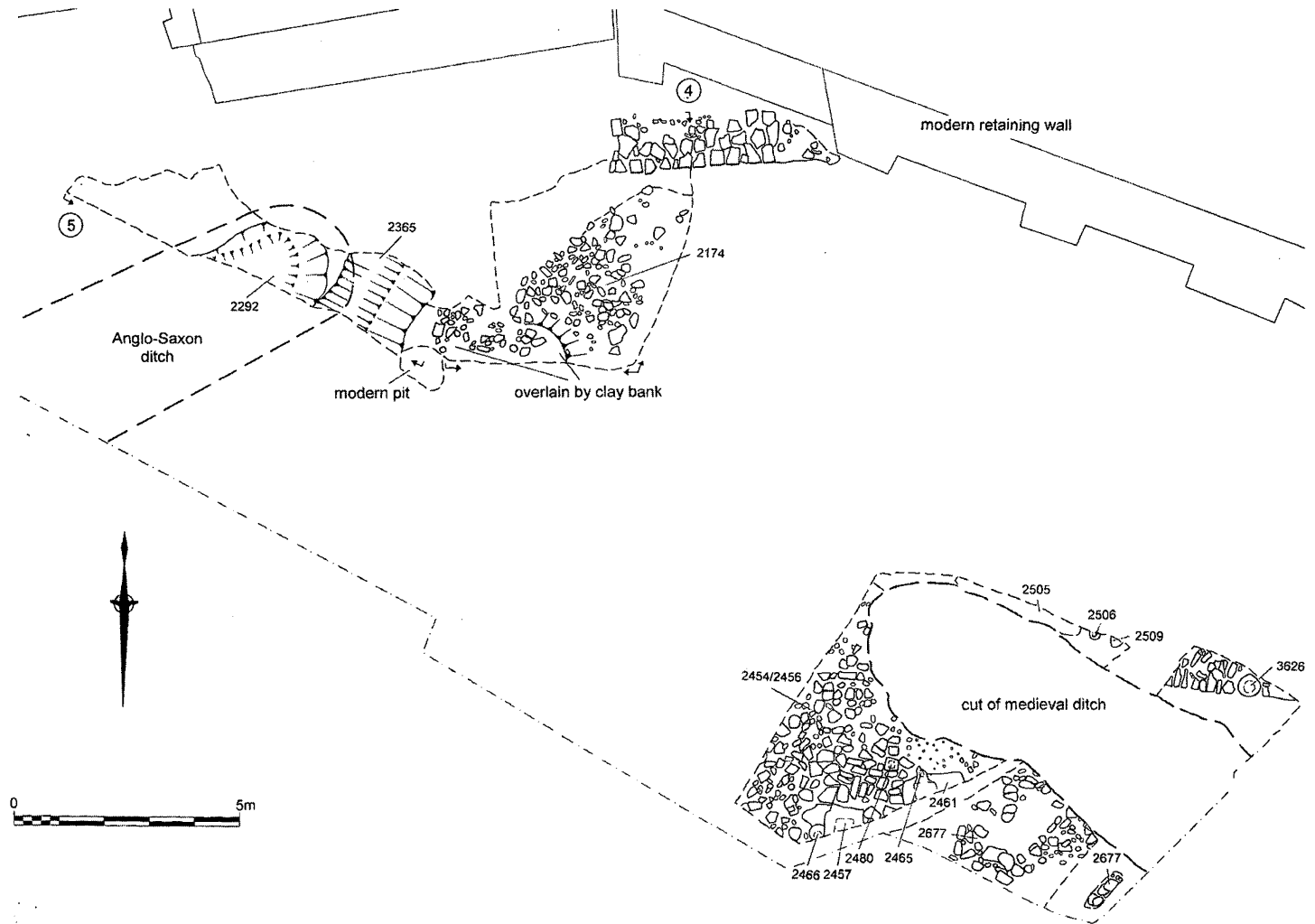


Fig. 12.4 The northern defences in the earliest period of Anglo-Saxon activity, showing a metalling of re-used blocks overlying the remains of part of the fort wall. The metalling was itself cut by large pits and post holes and the terminal of a medieval ditch. In the extra-mural area the latest layer of paving was post-dated by a gully, then a ditch terminal and possible counterscarp bank all of which may be of Anglo-Saxon date. Sections 4 and 5 are shown on fig. 12.7A and B. Scale 1:150.

several different lenses within this layer, the lowest being dark soil with some clay inclusions (2505A). Above it, and close to the post hole was burnt clay (2505B), while further west was black soil with much charcoal and coal (2505C).

Finds

Coins

Fort wall, west, Paving 1:

2487* (86BV) No. 39, Gallienus (joint reign),
253–58, SW/SW

Other finds

Fort wall, west, Paving 1:

Shale: Not illustrated, no. 135, whorl, 2470*

Post hole fill:

Lead: Not illustrated, no. 67, cramp, 2507*

Second layer of paving, pits and post holes (figs. 12.4 and 12.5)

Fort wall, west. Paving 1 (2470*) was in use for long enough to show signs of wear. It was overlain by a patch of sandstone (2469*) and then Paving 2. This was itself a mixed layer consisting of patches of several different materials, large rubble and probable re-used Roman dressed stones (2454) together with sandstone chips (2455*) and rubble (2456) (fig. 12.4).

Just appearing at the southern edge of excavation were parts of two large square or rectangular pits (fig. 12.5). One pit (2457) filled with loose rubble (2459*) measured 0.90m by at least 0.70m; one edge was cut by a smaller post hole (2466) filled with gravel (2467*). Another pit (2461) measured 1.30m by at least 0.50m and was cut by a smaller post hole (2465) filled with compacted clay and stones (2462*). The pits were sealed by clay layers said in the archive to be Anglo-Saxon or Norman.

Overlying Paving 2 were layers of dark soil, ash, charcoal and soil with evidence of burning

(full details in the site archive); one of these deposits (2446*) contained Roman coins and small finds.

Finds

Coins

Paving 2:

2455* (86AV) No. 102, radiate copy ?, 273 + ?,
C/C

Fills of post holes:

2467* No. 278, Constantius II/Constans,
346–48, C/SW

Layers over Paving 2:

2446* (86AQ) No. 345, Valens, 364–78, SW/SW
No. 353, Hse of Valentinian,
364–78, ?W/W
No. 359, Theodosius I, 388–95,
SW/?SW

Other finds

Layers over Paving 2:

Copper alloy: Not illustrated, nos 43, 44, studs,
2446*

THE EXTRA-MURAL AREA (FIGS 12.6 AND 12.7)

Introduction

A rough paved surface was laid over the area and was probably a continuation of the post-Roman paving over the fort wall, although separated by a zone of disturbance 4m in width. A gully ran north-east towards the edge of the promontory.

A second phase of paving was overlain by a deep layer of dark earth. Post-dating this there were traces of a ditch terminal, aligned north-north-east/south-south-west, with a possible counterscarp bank, which may belong to the Anglo-Saxon period. This bank was overlain by the Norman clay rampart, and the ditch terminal was cut by the broad medieval ditch which formed part of the western defences of the medieval castle.



Fig. 12.5 Remains of the earlier of two layers of paving (2470/2487) overlying a demolished sector of the northern fort wall. Post holes and pits at right and lower left. Viewed from the south-west.

Gully and hearth on the strip of ground at the south-west (figs. 12.4 and 12.7B)

Cutting the most widespread of the early silty layers (2299) on the surviving strip of ground to the south-west was a gully (2365) (fig. 12.4)

of which only a short length was preserved, running south-west/north-east. As the area had been truncated by later ditches, its original dimensions and profile are not easy to determine. The plan (fig. 12.4) and section



Fig. 12.6 Earlier of two layers of paving (2200) in the extra-mural area. The steep drop in this layer, at the upper right, suggests a landslip at some time in the post-Roman period. Viewed from the north-west.

(fig. 12.7B) show a much deeper slope on the east side than the west. Either this was a steeply V-profiled feature, c. 2m deep and 3m wide, the western edge having been truncated by the cut for a ditch terminal (2292), or alternatively, there could have been a natural slope to the west, with a small gully 1–1.50m deep and 1–1.50m wide.

This gully can be assigned to the early post-Roman period because of the material contained in its fills (see below) and because of its alignment. Comparison of figs. 10.1 and 12.4 shows that the south-eastern end of its line would have crossed the Roman *via praetoria* as it ran out of the north gate of the fort, which is unlikely. Its alignment is however, the same as that of the ditch terminal (2292) of probable Anglo-Saxon date, and that of the medieval castle ditch. It is impossible to tell whether it

represents the remains of a precursor of these later defences or simply a drainage gully.

At the top of the slope to the east of the gully were layers of dark soils (2324*, 2328*, 2294*), overlain by an arc of stones (2225), covered by dark soil and charcoal and suggested to be a hearth. The latter also overlay several minor layers and there were other minor layers on the strip of ground (details in site archive).

Disuse of the gully

At the bottom of the gully was primary silt (2385) and mixed clay and soils (2377), the latter containing East Yorkshire grey ware dated to 360 or later. It was overlain by some large paving stones (2370) and dark soils (2366*, 2371*). The uppermost fills were a layer of dark soil, mortar, burnt wood, clay

and some large stones (2369), possible demolition material, and a patch of clay (2335). It is recorded in the context book that the possible demolition layer (2369) also contained probable human bone. Overlying these were other layers of clay or dark soil (2303, 2304, 2306, 2307), and there were other associated layers (2337 and 2341).

A layer of mixed clays with some inclusions of dark soil (2296) was deposited over the filled-in gully; its original depth is unknown because it was subsequently cut by the possible Anglo-Saxon ditch terminal (2292) (fig. 12.7B), described below.

First phase of paved surface (figs. 12.4, 12.6 and 12.7A)

A surface formed of rubble (2200), Paving 1, was found on top of the eastern end of the narrow surviving strip of ground and extended further east over the flat triangular upstand (fig. 12.4). The paving fell in a sharp drop of more than 1m from the top of the strip down onto this triangular area (figs. 12.6 and 12.7A), suggesting a landslide at a later period (see below).

A low-lying area at the northern corner of the paving was filled with soil (2189), flat sandstone fragments (2191*), dark silt and clay (2190) and clay and charcoal (2188) containing animal bone and pot, possibly deliberate patching of the hollow. Above these was a layer of soil and charcoal (2183), possibly hillwash down the slope into the hollow.

Finds

Layers overlying paving:

Copper alloy: Not illustrated, no. 45, rivet, 2183

Second phase of paved surface (figs. 12.4 and 12.7A)

Another surface of rubble paving (2174) occupied the same area as the previous paving (2200). Like its predecessor, it fell down a steep drop, likely to have been caused by a landslide later in the post-Roman period (figs. 12.6 and

12.7A). A clay layer (2170*) was associated with the second phase of paving. Overlying the paving (2174) was a layer of soft, compact black soil (2168), over 0.20m in depth, which had many stones scattered over the upper surface (fig. 12.7A).

Finds

Paving 2:

Stone: Not illustrated, nos 140, 141, discs, both 2174

Layer over Paving 2:

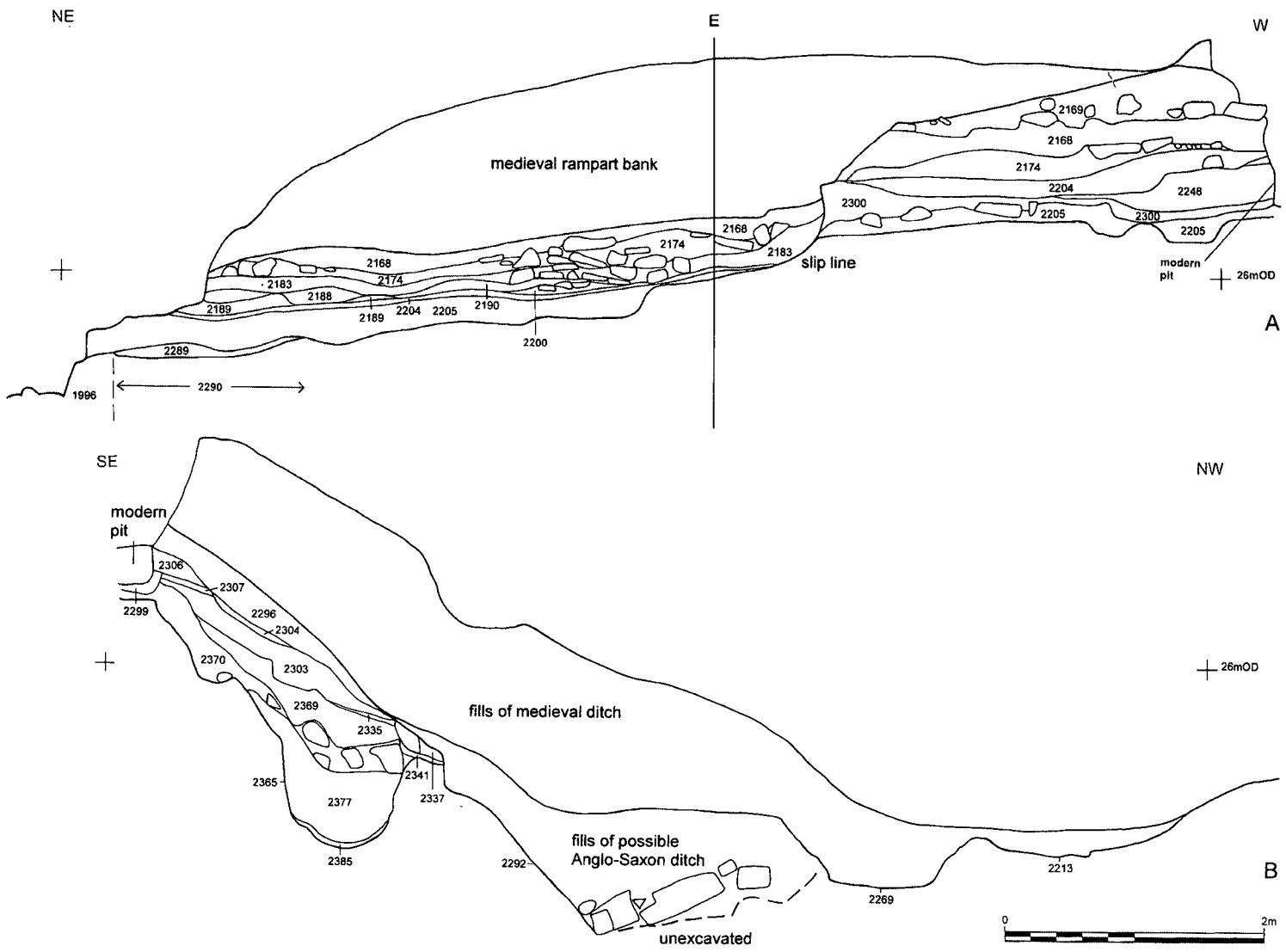
Bone: fig. 18.5, no. 76, knife handle, 2168

Stone: fig. 18.8, no. 138, bar mould fragment, not illustrated, no. 147, whetstone, both 2168

POSSIBLE ANGLO-SAXON ENCLOSURE (FIGS. 12.4 AND 12.7B)

Fig. 12.7B shows that the western end of the black soil (2168) overlying the latest paved surface was itself overlain by a layer (2169), maximum surviving depth 0.40m, which consisted of mixed soils, rubble and material interpreted as redeposited natural clay. Immediately post-dating the redeposited material were the clay tip layers of the Norman rampart.

It is unfortunate that these deposits cannot be related directly to the features on the strip of ground to the west because of the modern pit and disturbance around it, which interrupted the stratigraphy (fig. 12.4). However, it is notable that a feature resembling the cut of a ditch terminal (2292) was roughly co-terminal with the patch of redeposited material (2169), suggesting a ditch and counterscarp bank (fig. 12.4). The full depth of this ditch was not excavated (fig. 12.7A). It apparently ran on the same alignment as the early post-Roman gully (2385) and the line taken later by the medieval castle ditch. However, it is difficult to tell from the section drawing whether the ditch was a broad one, cut from the eastern edge of the gully, or a narrow one, cut from somewhere close to the western edge. The ditch terminal was subsequently cut by another ditch or gully



(2269) on the same alignment. The final cut in this area was that of the broad medieval castle ditch.

Fig. 12.7A shows the possible counterscarp bank only found on the ground above the line of the landslip (and see fig. 12.4). Possibly the intention was to make use of the difference in height already brought about by the landslip. Alternatively, cutting the ditch terminal and piling up a weight of bank on an unstable scarp may have been the cause of the landslip.

There may have been a similar ditch terminal and bank to the south-east. In that area (fig. 12.4) the layers of late Roman paving, the dark soil above and the large pits and post

holes were overlain by clay layers said in archive notes to be Anglo-Saxon or Norman. They were in turn overlain by deep layers of the Norman earth rampart, and this was cut by the medieval ditch terminal. On pottery evidence, this was not filled until the thirteenth century.

It is possible that this terminal was a medieval re-cut of a post-Roman or Anglo-Saxon predecessor. The earliest of the clay layers to the south of it could represent the remains of a counterscarp bank beneath the Norman rampart. Ditch terminals in these positions would have allowed access onto the defended promontory from a road running north-west/south-east along the present route of The Side.

Fig. 12.7A Section 4 (upper drawing), through the extra-mural area, showing an early levelling layer overlying the edge of the stone wall foundation, a widespread ashy layer of the third century, paving belonging to the earliest period of Anglo-Saxon activity, dark earth and medieval rampart layer. Position of section shown on fig. 12.4. Scale 1:50.

Fig. 12.7B Section 5 (lower drawing), through the extra-mural area, showing the cut of a Roman gully, infilled in the late fourth century or beyond, the fills cut by a ditch terminal of Anglo-Saxon date. The fills of the latter were cut by the medieval castle ditch. Position of section shown on fig. 12.4. Scale 1:50.

