

## 14. Building Materials

### INSCRIPTIONS

Three inscriptions were found during the excavations of 1976–92. The inscription to Julia Domna has been fully published, but because of its importance to the interpretation and dating of the site, the text is set out here. The text of the other two inscriptions has been published in *Britannia* summaries, but they have not previously been illustrated.

1. Inscription to Julia Domna, found in 1979. *principia*, unstratified (see Daniels and Harbottle 1980; *Britannia* 11 (1980), 405–6)

*Iulia[e Aug(ustae)] | NO[. . .matri] | [of the Emperor  
M(arci) Au]reli Anto[nini ac] | cas[tr(orum) ac  
senat(us)] | ac pat[riae pro pietate] | ac dev[otione] |  
[curante G(aio) Iul(io) Marco] | leg(ato Aug(usti)  
pr(o) [pr(aetore) coh(ors) (prima) Ulpia] | Traiana  
C(ugernorum) | c(ivium) R(omanorum) [posuit].*

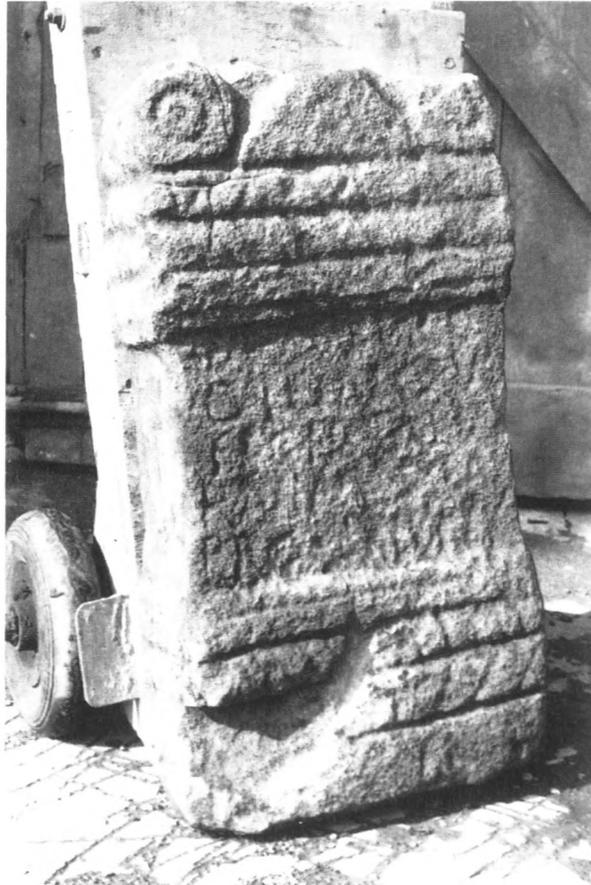


Fig. 14.1 Altar discovered in 1977.



Fig. 14.2 'Matribus' inscription from an altar discovered in 1977. (Photograph copyright University of Newcastle upon Tyne, published with permission of the Museum of Antiquities of the University and the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne.)

It has been restored as:

For Julia Augusta, our own, Mother of our Emperor Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, and of the Army and the Country, out of loyalty and devotion, under the charge of Gaius Julius Marcus, the Emperor's propraetorian legate, the first cohort of Trajan's Own Cugerni, Roman citizens, set this up.

2. Altar of yellow sandstone, found in 1977, near no. 3. (see *Britannia* 9 (1978), 475, no. 14) (fig. 14.1)

[.]E[O][...]CIDIVCV|F[.]CIT[... ]V|RNINVS[.]|  
PRO[...]  
perhaps *Deo* [...],...|*f[e]cit* [*Sat*]u|*rninus* [?] | *pro*  
[...]

3. Capital and part of the die of a buff sandstone altar, found in 1977, in Railway Arch 2, Anglo-Saxon deposit, 308. (see *Britannia* 9 (1978), 475, no. 13) (fig. 14.2)

MATRIBVS|[.]G[.]JO|[...]LEG|[...]V|[...]

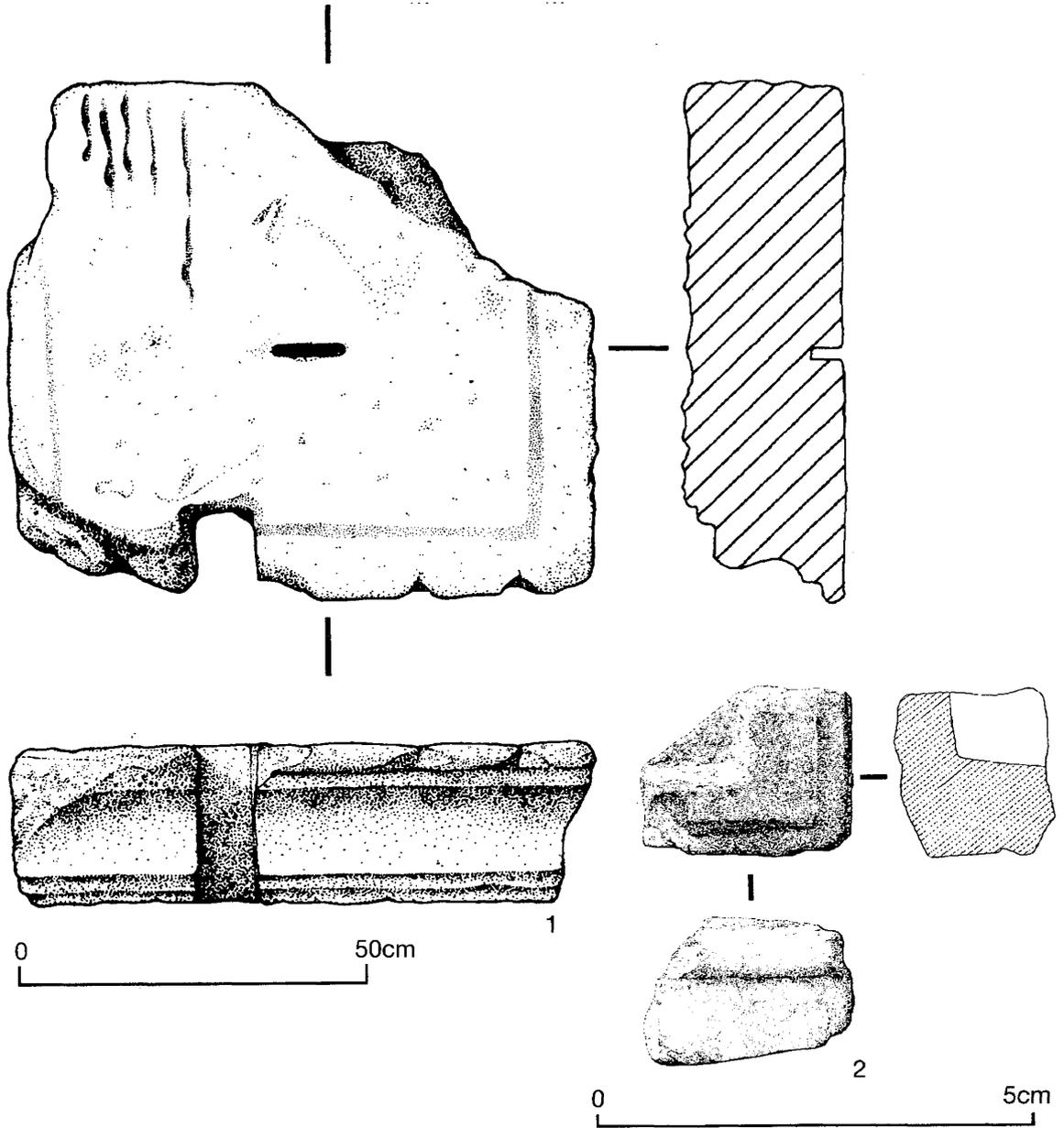


Fig. 14.3 No. 1, capital, scale 1:10; No. 2, socketed stone, scale 1:8.

ARCHITECTURAL STONEMWORK

Impost block (L:840mm W:740mm B:232mm)  
*Principia*, late Roman re-occupation, 77C. (fig. 14.3,  
 no. 1)

Impost block with concave moulding on two sides; lewis hole cut in the upper surface of the block, and indications of weathering or more careful finishing above the mouldings where the block projected

beyond the face of masonry set above. The block might have been from an arched opening between the cross hall and one of the rooms of the rear range. A slot has been cut through the moulding on one side; this may have been to accommodate the top of a wooden or iron screen. (Present whereabouts of block unknown; drawing based on detailed site photographs and sketch).

*P. T. Bidwell*

2. Socketed stone (L:230mm W:170mm B:85mm). Via praetoria (north), Anglo-Saxon cemetery, 518, S49. (*fig. 14.3, no. 2*)

Corner fragment of sandstone socketed stone, with a half-round moulding surviving. The stone above the moulding, which has broken off, is narrower than the base. The decoration suggests use as a base stone for an altar or similar, although the socket is unusually deep for such a purpose.

*A. T. Croom*

3. Roof slate.

Northern defences, post Roman/Anglo-Saxon, 2462 (86BA)

Incomplete sandstone roof slate with nail hole. Sandstone roofing tiles were also used on occasion at South Shields and Wallsend forts (unpublished).

*A. T. Croom*

## TILE AND BRICK

*A. T. Croom*

A total of 1371 fragments of tile and brick were examined. There were no complete examples of brick or tile amongst the whole of the assemblage, but it included the usual range of *tegulae*, *imbrices*, box tiles and constructional bricks. The full tile report is in the site archive.

### Chimney pots

Hard, pale orange fabric with slightly darker surfaces and scattered fine red inclusions. Although Roman chimney pots usually have a number of prominent external ridges which are frequently decorated, the Newcastle examples have only an apparently undecorated, very shallow ridge. A fragment from near the top of a chimney pot has heavily rilled, thin walls, whilst all the fragments show evidence of

circular and/or oval vents. Chimney pots are generally not common on fort sites (Bidwell and Speak 1994, 159): although the fort at South Shields has produced over 40 fragments, the large-scale excavations at Wallsend fort produced only two fragments. Despite the smaller scale of excavation at Newcastle, at least three fragments have been recovered.

1. South curtain wall (1970), residual, NCC (70KM) (*fig. 14.4, no. 1*)

Remains of two close-set rounded vents.

2. South curtain wall (1968), residual, NCC (68FW) (*fig. 14.4, no. 2*)

Heavy rills on the thin-walled body and traces of a vent.

### Pipe

3. Central range, Anglo-Saxon deposit, 149 (79GB) (*fig. 14.4, no. 3*)

End fragment of pipe in hard, sandy orange fabric with occasional opaque white inclusions of varying size. The end has an internal ledge for the seating of the next pipe, which is a feature found on examples of pipe from the fort at South Shields but which appears rare elsewhere, as the more common treatment is a flared end. Such pipes could have as use as water pipes, smoke flues or vaulting tubes, although sooting on some of the examples at South Shields would suggest a use as smoke flues.

## PAINTED PLASTER

*A. T. Croom*

There were 16 fragments of painted plaster, almost all of which were very small and in poor condition. Although the majority of fragments came from the Anglo-Saxon fill of the robber trench of the strong room wall in the *principia*, the varied make-up of the plaster shows that the pieces originally came from at least five separate rooms or sections. Fragments of interest include a piece from a concave corner angle with a thick base coat of *opus signinum*, and another which is a layer of replastering over a pecked surface. Most of the plaster has visible

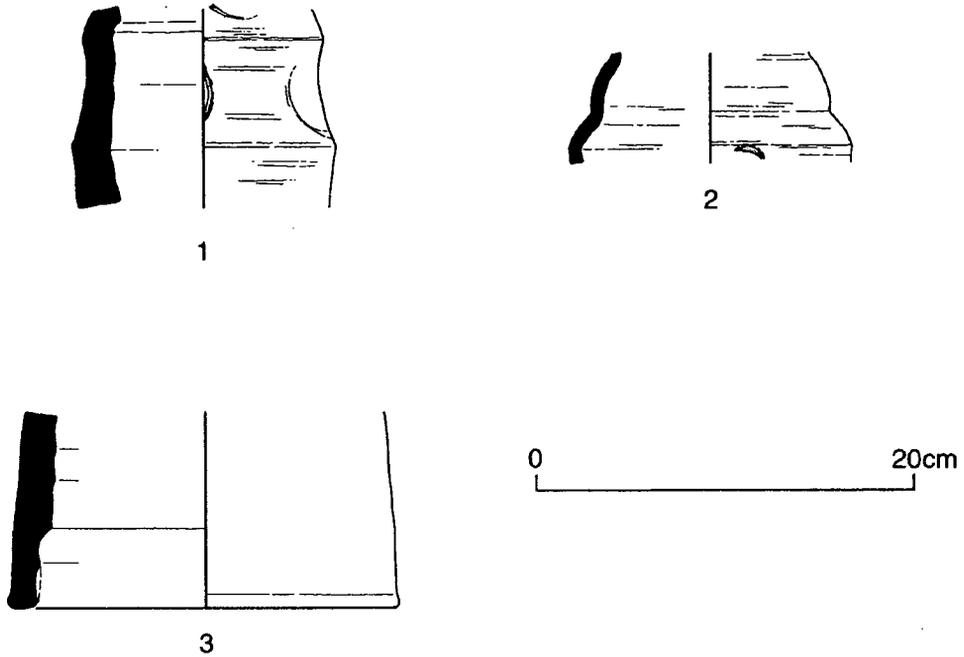


Fig. 14.4 Nos 1–2, chimney pots; no. 3, pipe. All at scale 1:4

sand aggregate, but there are at least two fragments with a very pure white plaster with no visible inclusions.

All three of these fragments were painted red, in a mixture of shades. There was also a fragment with a pink (or faded red) strip 13

mm wide, with an area of white on one side and green (pale and patchy) on the other, at least 29 mm wide. From the demolition material from the east wall of the *praetorium* (second half of fourth century) there was a fragment of solid mid-green at least 40 mm wide.

