

Chronology and phasing at Pumsaint: the pottery from the 1972 excavations

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INTRODUCTION

The Roman fort at Pumsaint was first examined in 1972–73 in advance of redevelopment work and road widening in the modern village (Fig. 1), the results of which were published in the form of two interim reports in *Carmarthenshire Antiquary* (Jones and Little 1973; 1974). Neither report incorporated any detailed description or catalogue of the associated pottery assemblage, though references to the dating of the fort and its individual building phases depended (at least for the 1972 season) on a provisional study of the samian and the coarsewares by PVW. No further publications followed, though a basic archive list and online catalogue of the pottery was made in the 1990s by students of the Archaeology Department and extramural students of Cardiff University. At some point in the 1980s Kay Hartley also looked at some of the mortaria. The list was revised in the late 1990s and the pottery returned to Carmarthen Museum. As part of this process, most of the catalogued vessels were drawn by a variety of hands, producing drawings of varying quality, not all of which are suitable or capable of being adapted for the purposes of publication.

Further excavations were undertaken in 1989 in the northern part of the fort, adjacent to the northern defences sectioned in 1972 and immediately west of one of the 1973 trenches. In the resulting publication (Burnham and Burnham 2004) the chance was taken to include a tabular list of the known samian from the 1972 excavations (Hopkins 2004), together with a brief summary and reassessment of the associated coarsewares (Webster 2004), in such a way as to facilitate a wider discussion of the dating of the site alongside the 1989 material. There the matter might have rested, had it not been for the discovery of a further cache of 1972 samian among the archives of the late Professor Barri Jones. This material found its way to BCB in 2014 and was subsequently seen and listed by PVW. The result is that we now possess what would appear to be a complete catalogue of both the samian and the coarsewares from the 1972 excavations, though sadly (so far) nothing has emerged from those of 1973. This provides a suitable opportunity to put on record as definitive a list of the 1972 pottery finds as possible. It also affords a chance to reassess, where possible, the chronology and phasing of the 1972 excavations and to integrate this with the evidence derived from the more recent 1989 work.

ADDITIONAL SAMIAN FROM THE 1972 EXCAVATIONS

The new material is here tabulated by trench (Table 1) in the same format as that used for the samian previously recorded by Hopkins (2004, table 2.4). The more significant pieces of the decorated samian are also catalogued in a numbered sequence which follows on from that produced in 2004 (*ibid.* 118–19).

Catalogue

The decorated samian generally consists of small fragments and has not been illustrated. Digital photographs of catalogues pieces will be placed in the archive.

15. Form 37, Central Gaulish. Panel decoration is divided by vertical bead rows over a basal guideline. A Hadrianic–early Antonine date seems reasonable but the decoration is too abraded to discern. T1.1.
16. Form 37, South Gaulish. Zonal decoration above a basal line shows panel decoration with a wreathed festoon (cf. Knorr 1919, fig. 35, 69) containing a spiral and suspended from a bar from which is a pendant ?leaf spray. Mees 1995, taf. 78, 10 shows the decoration type and, as there, our bowl will have had an upper zone. *c.* AD 70–100. T1.15A.

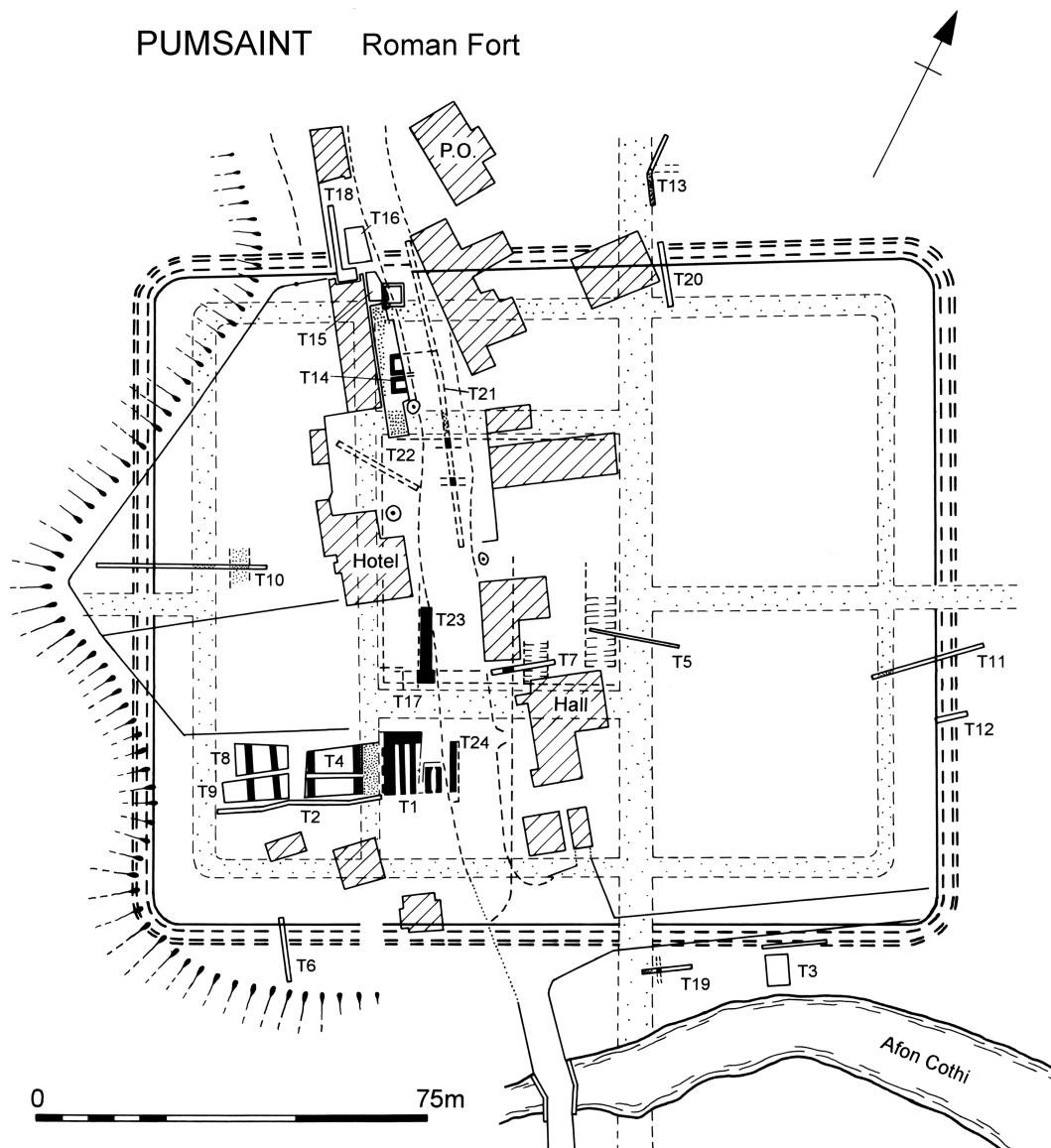


Fig. 1. Plan of fort and 1972–3 excavation trenches in relation to village.

17. Form 29, South Gaulish. Two joining fragments showing a small portion of the upper zone with opposing spirals. The right-hand one is suspended from a rosette within a festoon. *c.* AD 65–85. T1.45.
18. Form 37, South Gaulish. Ovolo with trifold tongue over a leaf spray apparently within a winding scroll. Probably part of a zonal decoration. *c.* AD 70–90. T1.45.
19. Form 37, South Gaulish. A very abraded fragment shows a frieze of plain triple-bordered festoons containing a spiral, separated by a pendant leaf and all suspended from a horizontal line below the ovolo frieze. A lower zone contains a leaf spray but is otherwise completely eroded. The overall zonal style suggests a date *c.* AD 70–90. T2+.
20. Form 37, Les Martres-de-Veyre. Only the rim and the very top of the decoration survives, indicating that the ovolo frieze (abraded but probably Rogers 1974, B28) lay beneath a bead row. *c.* AD 100–120. T2+.
21. Form 37, South Gaulish. Two fragments, probably from the same vessel showing a basal wreath of stylised leaves and a leaf spray above. Probably *c.* AD 70–90. T2.1.
22. Form 37, South Gaulish. A basal wreath abraded but apparently of leaf bunches lies beneath a winding scroll with the lobe to the right divided and with a running dog in its lower panel. *c.* AD 70–100. T2.4.
23. Form 37, Les Martres-de-Veyre. An imperfectly impressed ovolo frieze lies above panel decoration divided by bead rows with rosette terminals (Rogers 1974, C280). To the right is the rear of a running animal possibly a bear. *c.* AD 100–120. T2.18.
24. Form 37, South Gaulish. Panel decoration is divided by wavy lines with a basal wreath of short S-shaped gadroons. To the right is a running dog over the stag O.1738. To the right is a standing figure with legs crossed, O.928, possibly in a group with O.541 as in Karnitsch 1959, taf. 19, 5. *c.* AD 80–110. T2.19.
25. Form 37, Les Martres-de-Veyre. Four fragments include the ovolo, Rogers 1974, B28, over a bead row. The remaining decoration is almost totally worn away but includes a partially impressed rosette, Rogers 1974, C280, as, for instance on S&S, pl. 11, 141. *c.* AD 100–120. T2.19.
26. Form 37, South Gaulish. Panel decoration lies below a worn ovolo with trifold tongue bent to the right. The leaf in the corner of the right-hand panel recalls the work of Masculus but this does not appear to be his ovolo. A further fragment, probably of the same vessel comes from T4.12. *c.* AD 90–110. T4.1.
27. Form 37, burnt but probably Les Martres-de-Veyre. The surface has been almost totally eroded but there is a faint trace of the two dolphins, S&S, fig. 4, 4 (O.2407A), used by Drusus I as an ovolo substitute. Below, the design appears to have been arcades formed from inverted festoons with a figure to the right (cf. S&S, pl. 12, 146). *c.* AD 100–120. T4.1.
28. Form 37, South Gaulish. Two adjoining fragments show panel decoration below an ovolo with trifold tongue. To the left a small panel with a running dog (O.2004) above and two small cupids (O.406 and O.646) below. To the right is part of the erotic group O.C. Jacobs 1912, taf. 5, 32 shows the same group in a similar design. *c.* AD 80–110. T4.11 and T4.12.
29. Form 37, South Gaulish. Panel decoration is divided by vertical wavy lines with small rosette terminals over a basal guideline. To the left is the flute player, O.609; cf. Jacobs 1912, taf. 4, 23 for a similar design. A fragment probably from the same vessel comes from T2.1. *c.* AD 90–110. T4.12.
30. Form 37, Les Martres-de-Veyre. Two fragments, possibly but not certainly from the same vessel. The ovolo is badly abraded but is probably Rogers 1974, B28. The small wall fragment includes a curving tendril. *c.* AD 100–120. T4.12.

Table 1. Additional samian from the 1972 excavations by trench

Context	Form	Source	Date	Comments
T1.1	18/31 31R 37 cup	?LMdV CG CG CG	100–130 160–200 ?120–150 120–200	2 joining fragments; cat. no. 15
T1.15a	36 37 37	SG SG SG	70–110 70–100 70–100	cat. no. 16 base
T1.16	18R	SG	70–90	seen in 1972/3; now missing
T1.45	29 37	SG SG	65–85 70–90	2 joining fragments; cat. no. 17 cat. no. 18
T2+	18 37 37 fragment 37	SG SG SG SG LMdV	70–90 70–90 70–100 70–110 100–120	with base probably from this vessel very abraded; cat. no. 19 ovolo abraded; cat. no. 20
T2.1	18 29 37 37 37 37 bowl 37	SG SG SG SG SG SG SG LMdV	70–90 65–85 70–90 70–110 70–100 90–110 70–110 100–120	fragments of at least two vessels central cordon 2 fragments; probably from same vessel, cat. no. 21 abraded ovolo and top of decoration rim leaf spray and saltire; prob. part of cat. no. 29, T4.12 wall sherd basal sherd
T2.4	15/17 or 18 37 37 Curle 11 footring fragment cup ?27	SG SG SG SG SG SG LMdV	70–90 70–100 70–90? 80–100 70–110 70–110 100–130	cat. no. 22 panel decoration slightly curving flange 2 fragments
T2.18	15/17 27 29 37	SG SG SG LMdV	70–90 70–110 70–110 100–110	rim rim fragments 2 fragments cat. no. 23
T2.19	15/17 18/31 ?18/31 37 37 37	SG SG SG SG SG LMdV	70–90 90–110 90–110 80–110 70–100 100–120	2 rim fragments cat. no. 24 abraded ovolo and 2 fragments 4 fragments; cat. no. 25

Table 1. Additional samian from the 1972 excavations by trench *continued*

Context	Form	Source	Date	Comments
T3A.1	18	SG	70–90	2 fragments, trifold ovolo
	37	LMdV	80–110	
T4.1	?18	SG	?70–90	small floor fragment
	27	SG	70–110	large cup
	37	SG	90–110	cat. no. 26
	bowl	SG	70–100	chip
	37	LMdV	100–120	cat. no. 27
	fragment	LMdV	100–130	
T4.11	15/17 or 18	SG	70–90	base
	18 or 18/31	SG	70–110	small fragment
	cup ?27	SG	70–110	
	37	SG	80–110	with joining fragment from T4.12, cat. no. 28
	67	SG	70–100	
	Curle 11	SG	70–90	straight flange
	fragment	SG	70–100	
	35	LMdV	100–130	2 fragments
T4.12	37	SG	90–110	probably with fragment from T2.1, cat. no. 29
	37	SG	80–110	with joining fragment from T4.11, cat. no. 28
	37	SG	90–110	probably part of T4.1; cat. no. 26
	37	LMdV	100–120	2 fragments; cat. no. 30
T4.19	37	SG	70–90	ovolo over winding scroll
	37	SG	70–90	flute above worn ovolo
	37	LMdV	100–120	cat. no. 31
T4.27	18/31	SG	90–110	base
	27	SG	70–110	
	27	SG	70–110	base fragment
	37	SG	90–110	cat. no. 32
	67	SG	70–100	2 fragments
	35	LMdV	100–130	3 fragments
T4.29	29	SG	65–85	cat. no. 33
	bowl	SG	70–110	
T4.29/35	27	SG	70–110	possibly 2 vessels
	37	SG	70–90	cat. no. 34
	37	SG	70–100	burnt; 2 joining fragments
	37	SG	70–110	base of decoration

31. Form 37, Les Martres-de-Veyre. Three joining fragments from the lower part of the decoration show a wreath of bifid leaves, Rogers 1974, G365, used by X-12, over a basal flute and below a bead row. The only extant fragment of panel decoration above shows the triple stylised leaf, Rogers 1974, G31, probably in a saltire as S&S, pl. 35, 413. *c.* AD 100–120. T4.19.
32. Form 37, South Gaulish. A basal wreath of small globular leaves lies above a basal guideline. Above is panel decoration divided by wavy line borders with rosette terminals. The abraded feet in the extant panel are probably those of the Peleus, O.883 (Hermet 1934, type 133). Probably *c.* AD 90–110. T4.27.
33. Form 29, South Gaulish. A small fragment of upper zone shows the bead row which framed the girth cordon. Above are rows of lanceolate leaves, probably from panel decoration. *c.* AD 65–85. T4.29.
34. Probably form 37, South Gaulish. Panel decoration is divided by wavy lines with rosette terminals. To the left is a panel with diagonal wavy lines framing a triangle of lanceolate leaf tips. To the right is a narrow panel of leaf sprays arranged vertically. The panel just clipped to the right may have contained figures. The whole suggests a zonal design *c.* AD 70–90. T4.29/35.

Discussion of the additional samian

The newly available samian adds to that surveyed in 2004, but in general serves to reinforce the impression gained then, that the military occupation of the site did not go beyond the early years of the reign of

Table 2. Totals of each vessel form

Source/Form	SG	LMdV	CG	Totals	Percentage
15/17	4	–	–	4	2.3
15/17 or 18	19	–	–	19	11.2
18	20	–	–	20	11.8
18R	1	–	–	1	0.6
18 or 18/31	1	–	–	1	0.6
18/31	8	2	1	11	6.5
27	29	1	–	30	17.6
27g	4	–	–	4	2.3
29	5	–	–	5	2.9
29 or 37	1	–	–	1	0.6
31R	–	–	1	1	0.6
33	2	–	2	4	2.3
35	2	2	–	4	2.3
36	4	–	–	4	2.3
37	41	8	3	52	30.6
42	–	–	1	1	0.6
46	1	–	–	1	0.6
67	3	–	–	3	1.8
Curle 11	3	–	–	3	1.8
Curle 15	1	–	–	1	0.6
Total	149	13	8	170	100
Percentage	87.7	7.6	4.7		

Hadrian (Webster 2004, 313–15). We can now update the summary of forms present (Burnham and Burnham 2004, table 2.5) and at the same time, separate vessels from Les Martres-de-Veyre from other Central Gaulish (probably Lezoux) sources (Table 2).

This demonstrates even more clearly the predominance of samian from South Gaulish sources which will have reached the site no later than *c.* AD 110. It also shows how the majority of the samian from Central Gaul is from Les Martres-de-Veyre (exporting to Britain predominantly in the period *c.* AD 100–120, although some later Les Martres vessels are found). The very small amount of samian from Central Gaul other than Les Martres is very clear and this must suggest that little samian was reaching the site after the cessation of major Les Martres imports early in the reign of Hadrian.

There seems no reason, therefore, to revise the suggestion made in 2004 that ‘the Central Gaulish material from 1972 carries the date of the fortlet into the AD 120s but seems too small to suggest a prolonged occupation, even in the Hadrianic period. Abandonment of the fortlet *c.* AD 125 is, therefore, tentatively suggested’ (Burnham and Burnham 2004, 313). This can be represented visually if we provide dates for all the samian from 1972 for which we can ascribe a form and render those dates in the form of a histogram showing vessel loss per half decade (Fig. 2).

This emphasises the predominance of pottery imported in the Flavian and earlier Trajanic period and the small amount of material later than *c.* AD 110. It should perhaps also be noted that the pattern of low-level mid- to late second-century vessel loss is accounted for partly by vessels which cannot be dated more narrowly than *c.* AD 120–200 and partly by a single late second-century piece, a bowl of form 31R from the topsoil in Trench 1.

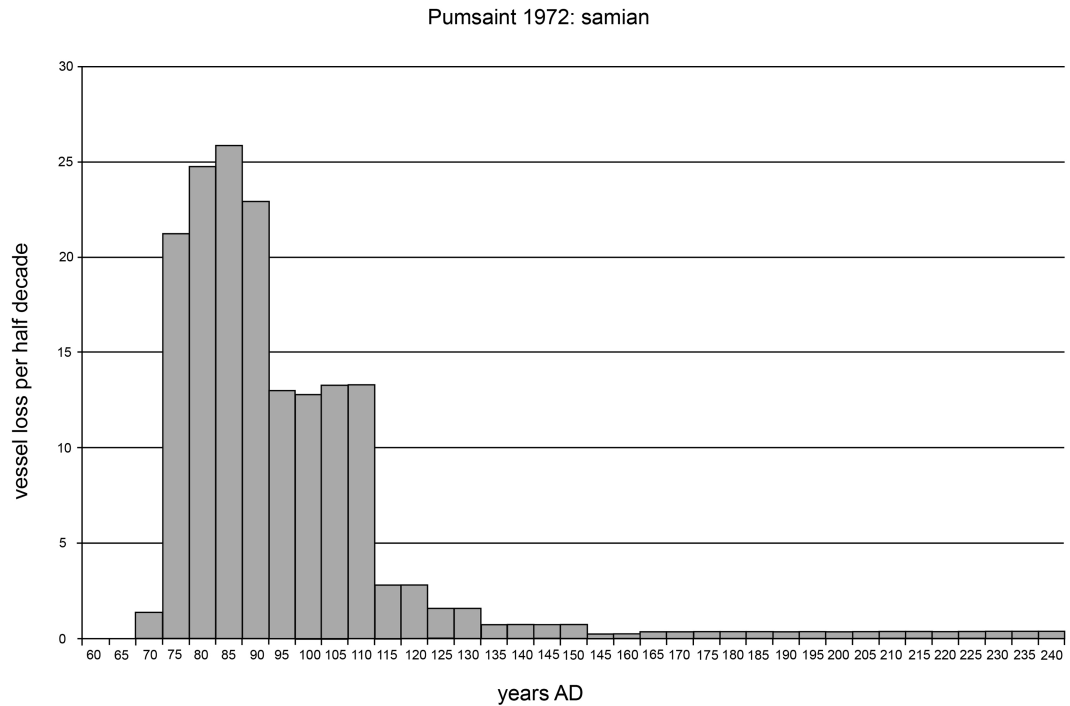


Fig. 2. Histogram showing vessel loss per half decade.

BROAD PHASING OF THE 1972 EXCAVATIONS

The broad phasing of the fort's defences and internal buildings as set out in the two interims can be conveniently represented in diagram form (Fig. 3). This has been accepted as the basis for the current analysis (for an explanation of the different periods represented in the Jones and Little interim reports and GDBJ's Unpublished Notes, see section below on the chronology of the 1972 excavations). The sequence can be summarised as follows:

The defences

Where excavated on the southern and western sides in 1972 (Fig. 1: Trenches 6 and 10) the defences revealed two distinct phases: initially, a turf-clay rampart with a later stone wall subsequently inserted in front. This was duly confirmed on the northern side both in 1973 (Trench 18) and again in 1989. On the eastern side, however, only a single-phase ditch system was recorded in the predicted location (Trenches 11 and 12), while what was identified as the secondary stone wall and its ditches were located somewhat to the west (Trenches 5 and 7), suggesting that the fort had been reduced in size to that of a fortlet. In the 1972 excavations in the car-park of the Dolaucothi Arms Hotel (Trench 1(B)), the presumed corner of the reduced defences was identified, represented by its intervallum road and an associated side drain, significantly overlying the demolished remains of an earlier stone granary (Fig. 4; also Jones and Little 1973, pl. VIA). No account is taken here of more recent discussion about the precise location of the eastern defences of the fort, where problems still remain (cf. Burnham and Hopewell 2012).

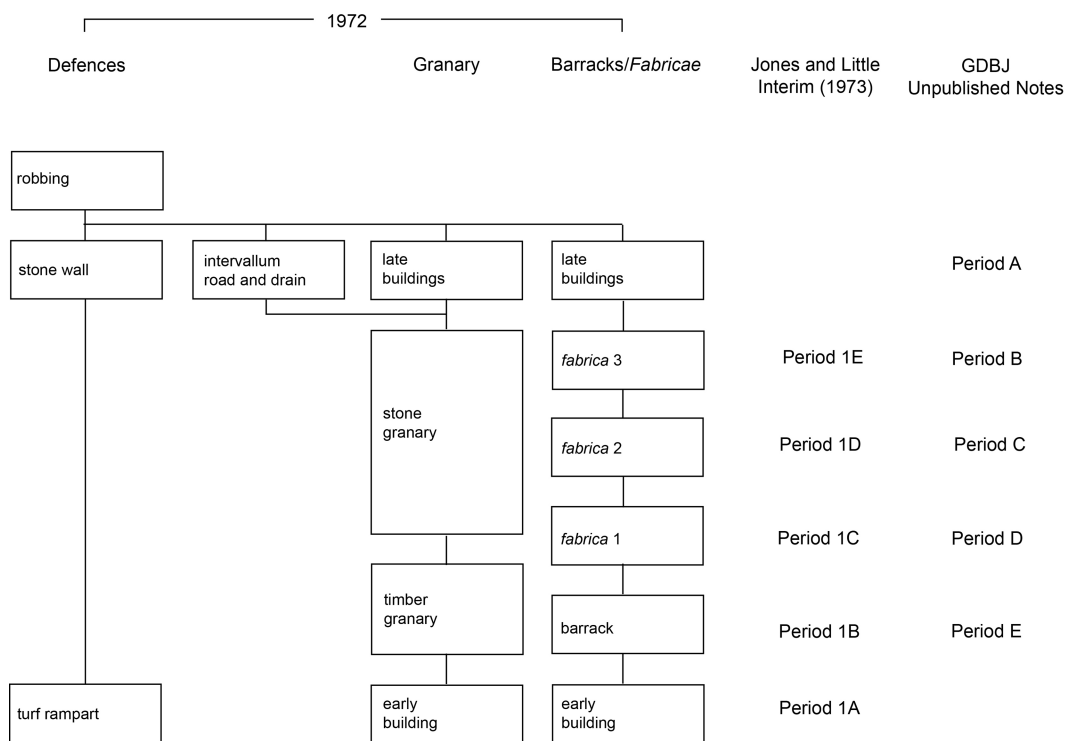


Fig. 3. Simplified site sequence for 1972 excavations.

The internal buildings (Fig. 4)

These were examined in detail in 1972 in the car-park of the Hotel (Trenches 1, 2, 4, 8 and 9), revealing a cross-section of the sequence to either side of one of the fort's principal north–south roads. To the west of the main road, a complex succession of buildings was identified, with evidence for an apparent dramatic change in alignment and function over time. The earliest phase (Jones and Little 1973: Period 1A) comprised a pair of probable barracks aligned east–west, each with a side drain flanking a narrow street or alley. The excavators even suggested that these buildings could have continued below the main north–south road and the granaries to the east, though this would be difficult to accommodate in the fort's layout as Jones and Little conceived it. The site was then realigned through 90 degrees, evidenced by the construction of a further north–south street which served to separate a series of four successive buildings along its eastern side (Trenches 2 and 4) from what was at least one phase of barracks to the west (Trenches 8 and 9). Only the former were examined in any detail. The lowest (Period 1B) proved to be a barrack divided into two sections, which had subsequently been demolished to make way for three successive phases of workshops or *fabricae* (Periods 1C–E), variously associated with several industrial hearths or furnaces. The excavators considered that Periods 1B–E were broadly contemporary with the timber and stone granary sequence to the east, though this was not proven on absolute stratigraphic grounds. Above the latest of the workshops were the very fragmentary remains of even later stone buildings, which may well be broadly contemporary with those in the granary area to the east.

To the east of the main road, a possible early phase of timber buildings was represented by some very fragmentary foundation trenches (Period 1A). These were overlain by what was identified as the fragmentary remains of a timber granary, which in its turn had been replaced by a substantial stone-built and buttressed granary, attributed to the central range of the fort. As already indicated this latter building had clearly been demolished and gone out of use by the time the fort was reduced in size, as its south-eastern corner had been overlain by the presumed intervallum road of the fortlet defences. Elsewhere, the granary was succeeded by the very fragmentary remains of a stone building, probably broadly contemporary with the latest phase of structures identified in the area to the west of the main north–south road.

THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE 1972 EXCAVATIONS

If it is accepted that the military occupation at Pumsaint started soon after the Flavian conquest of West Wales in the mid-AD 70s, and that activity ended early in the reign of Hadrian as proposed both in 2004 and in the section above on the additional samian from the 1972 excavations, then the six phases observed by Jones and Little have to be fitted into a period of no more than 50 years. Such a compressed chronology would strain the evidence provided by any site assemblage, but especially when, as here, the foundations of one phase cut down into the remains of its predecessor, making the presence of residual material in any one phase almost certain.

The detailed evidence for our suggested chronology is set out below by drawing together information on all diagnostic pottery from those contexts which can now be identified and grouped by feature and phase. The task has been complicated by the fact that not all the contexts from which datable material was recovered can be precisely located, either because they do not obviously appear on the published plans and sections or because it is now impossible to create a full stratigraphic matrix. Some clarification has been gleaned from unpublished typescripts and handwritten notes available to the authors, though caution is needed as these can sometimes be shown to contain the developing (rather than the mature) ideas and interpretations of the excavators at the different stages of their work; this is especially the

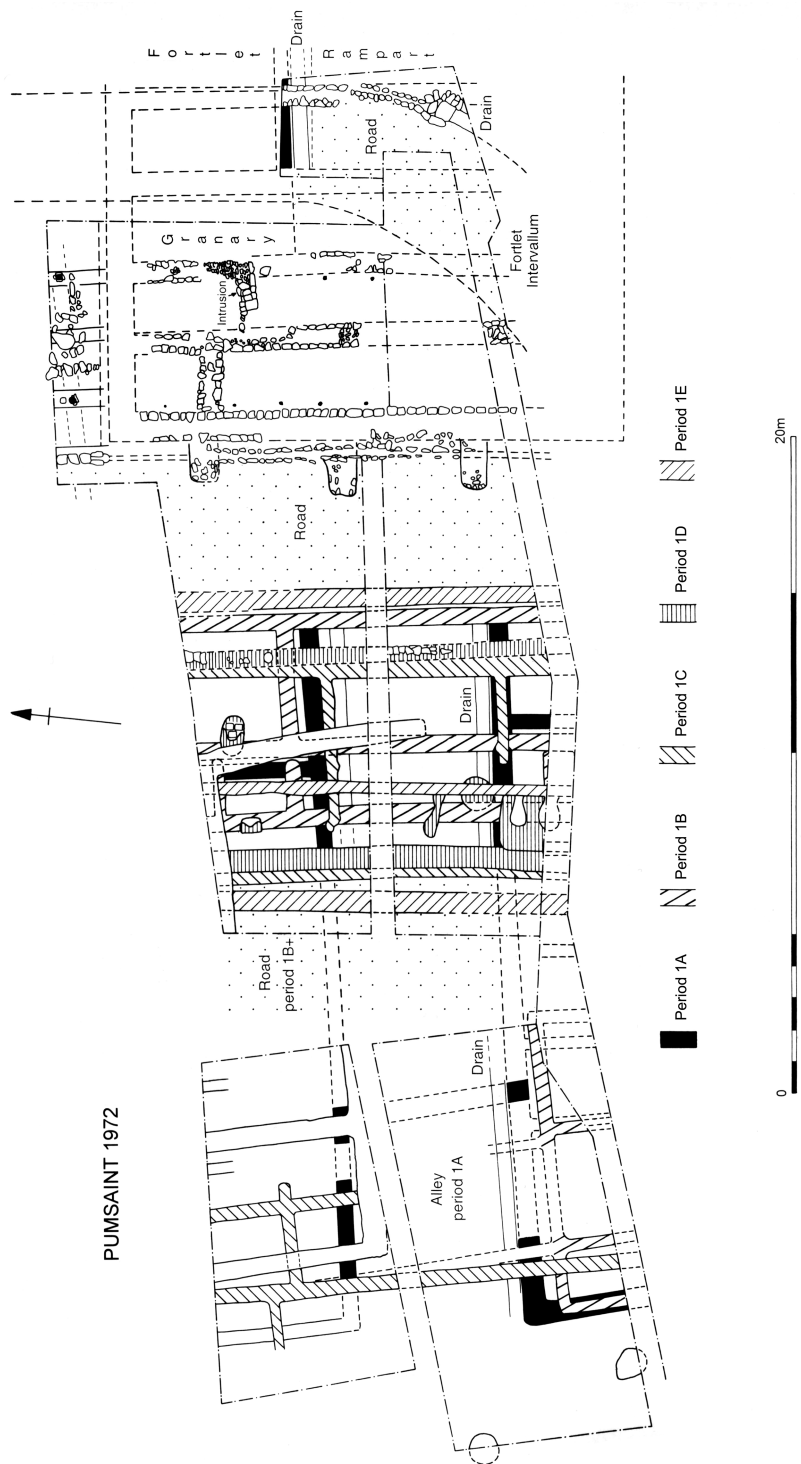


Fig. 4. Plan of 1972 excavations in car-park.

case where such handwritten notes record an early division of the *site* sequence into periods (GDBJ's Unpublished Notes (cf. Fig. 3): Periods A–E from the top downwards) which have to be correlated with the periods subsequently used in the 1972 interim to refer *only* to the buildings in the area west of the granary (Jones and Little 1973: Periods 1A–E from the bottom upwards). There are also a few discrepancies in the numbering of the specific contexts and the attribution of particular pieces, which may no longer be resolvable. A list of all pottery recovered, listed in context order will be placed in the site archive.

POTTERY CATALOGUE (Figs 5–8)

THE DEFENCES

Very little pottery came from the defences. The robber levels for the stone wall in Trench 6 produced a few pieces of early to mid-second-century date. The wall here presumably served the fortlet, which succeeded the earlier fort. One may reasonably connect the finds with the abandonment of the fortlet for which a date *c.* AD 125 is suggested.

The only other piece of note is the flanged bowl or dish in Black-burnished ware (cat. no. 38) from the sump of the inner fortlet ditch, T7.6 (cf. Jones and Little 1973, fig. 6). This potentially dates from early in the life of the fortlet. This type of vessel appears to be predominantly second century in date, although earlier examples cannot be entirely ruled out (cf. Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, 97–8 for a discussion of the evidence). This combines with other evidence from the fortlet to suggest a date for it in the earlier part of the second century, though it should perhaps be noted that, given our overall dating of the military occupation of the site, any extension of the life of the fortlet back before the later years of Trajan would compress the fort phases even further than seems probable. This revision of the date of the fort/fortlet transition will be discussed further below in the final discussion section.

Southern defences (T6)

Datable material comes only from the robbing of the stone wall:

T6.3: Stone wall, robber trench

- 35. Jar in Black-burnished ware; cf. Richmond and Birley 1930, fig. 14, 18c. Early to mid-second century.
- 36. Flanged bowl in grey. Probably intended to be reminiscent of flanged bowls in Black-burnished ware. Second century.

T6.12: Later fills associated with the robbing of the stone wall

With samian, form 18/31 from Les Martres-de Veyre (*c.* AD 100–130), and an orange flagon base:

- 37. (Not illustrated). Ring neck flagon in red fabric with a grey core. The rim and top ring are missing, but the surviving rings are very even, suggesting a first- or possibly a first- to early second-century date.

Western defences (T.10)

No coarse pottery or samian is recorded from the western defences themselves.

T10.8: Buildings outside the defences

Only a single piece of samian survives, a South Gaulish form 15/17 (*c.* AD 70–90).

Eastern defences (T11 and 12)

No coarse pottery or samian has survived or is recorded from the eastern defences.

Northern defences (T.13)

No coarse pottery is recorded, but the destroyed rampart yielded South Gaulish samian, form 15/17 or 18 (*c.* AD 70–90), and a glass vessel fragment. Partial re-excavation and expansion of the 1973 trench in 1989 also yielded nothing diagnostic, although the resultant publication does provide plans and sections not in the 1973 publication (cf. Burnham and Burnham 2004, 17–27, with the sparse dating evidence discussed *ibid.*, 26–7).

Fortlet defences (T.5 and 7)*T7.6: Inner Ditch Sump*

With a South Gaulish samian bowl fragment (first or early second century) and six oxidised sherds:

38. Rim of a flanged bowl or dish in Black-burnished ware. Although Black-burnished ware appears in South-East Wales from the conquest onwards and can be expected in small quantities in South-West Wales from the later first century, most flanged bowls and dishes appear to be second century in date.

THE BARRACKS/*FABRICAE* AREA

This area saw a succession of timber buildings, divided by the excavators into five phases (Jones and Little 1973: Periods 1A–E).

Period 1A

It is hard to identify the ‘some quantities of Flavian pottery’ noted in the interim (Jones and Little 1973, 9). However, the coarse pottery would all suit a Flavian date. If we assume that the fort was founded soon after the Flavian advance into West Wales and that its first phase is unlikely to have lasted more than 10–15 years, then a date of *c.* AD 75 to *c.* AD 85/90 would seem reasonable. However, as the succeeding Period 1B produces a closely similar assemblage it seems more likely that this phase lasted no longer than *c.* AD 80/85.

T8.10: North barrack, construction trench

39. Rim of a large storage jar in red-orange fabric with plentiful grit inclusions; possibly a Severn Valley product, cf. Rawes 1982, fig. 3, 50. First century. A further fragment comes from T8.4.

T4.57: Internal partition

40. Flanged bowl in light brown fabric, with grey exterior surface. Mica-dusted. Possibly the same as, or related to, cat no. 108 (T4.49).
41. Mortarium rim in early Caerleon fabric with an orange surface and grey core. cf. Zienkiewicz 1992, fig. 4.19, Flavian to early second century. The more complete profile of a similar or the same vessel from the unlocated context T4.48 is illustrated here.

Period 1B

This assemblage is close in date to the material from Period 1A and is unlikely to date much later than *c.* AD 90, giving a suggested date range of *c.* AD 80/85 to *c.* AD 85/90. The large number of samian cups from the drain may be noted, presumably a reflection of the use of the adjacent building as living quarters.

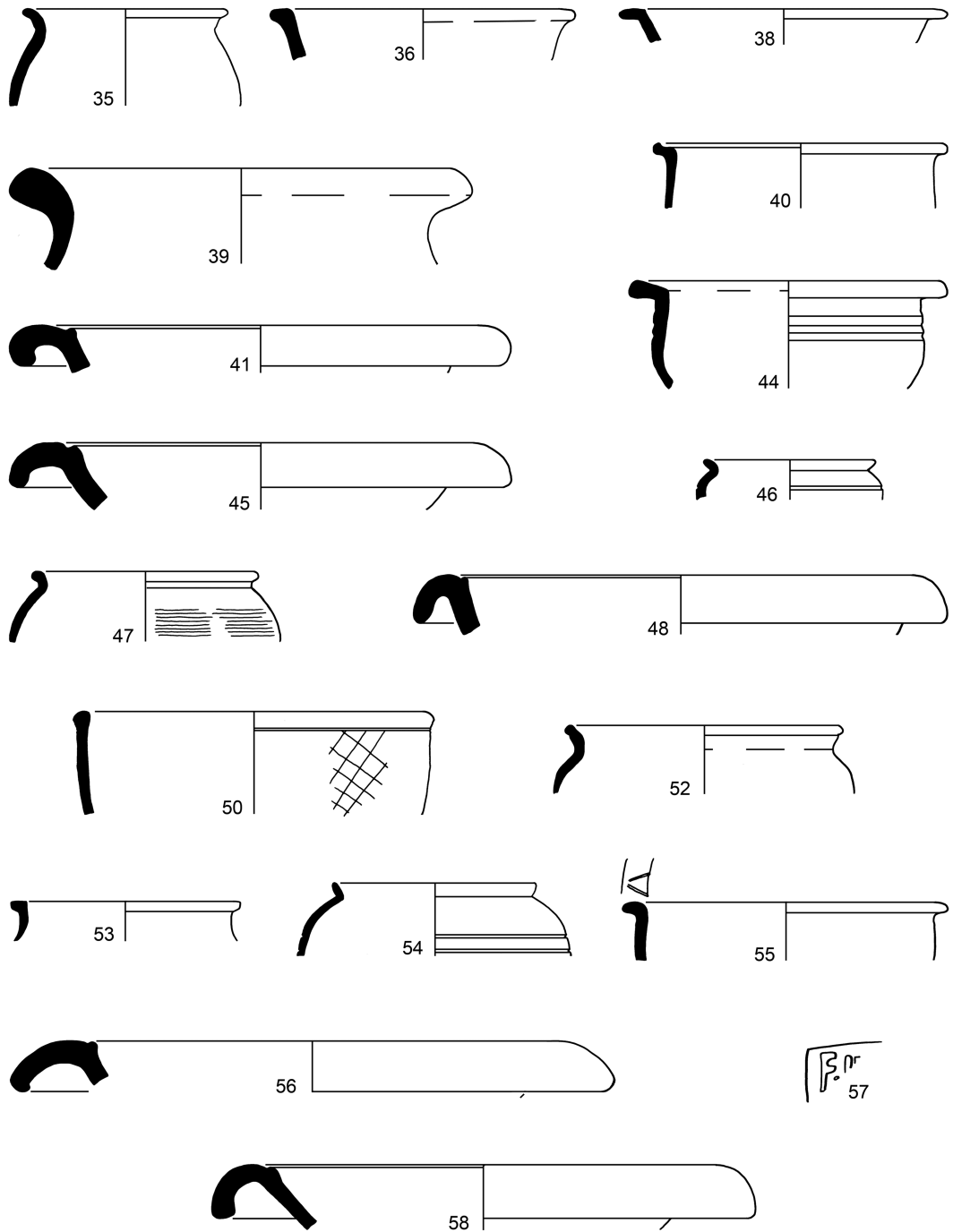


Fig. 5. Pottery. Scale 1:4 (stamp 1:2).

T4.52: Building trench

42. (Not illustrated). Mortarium in early Caerleon fabric, orange with a grey core; cf. Zienkiewicz 1992, fig. 4, 21. Late first to early second century.

T2.29: Drain or slot associated with T4.50/52

With South Gaulish samian, a probable form 15/17, forms 15/17 or 18 and three examples of 18 (all *c.* AD 70–90), seven examples of 27 (*c.* AD 70–110), four of 27g (*c.* AD 70–85) and two of 37 (*c.* AD 75–100, and 75–110):

43. (Not illustrated). Wide mouthed jar in Severn Valley Ware, burnt. cf. Rawes 1982, fig. 4, 75 (late first century).
44. Flanged bowl in coarse buff fabric with a filler which included clay pellets. One of the Flavian–Trajanic flanged bowls as Britnell 1982, fig. 48, 24.
45. Mortarium in orange-buff fabric with traces of a white slip and grey and white trituration grits. An early Caerleon product, cf. Zienkiewicz 1992, fig. 4.19; also cat. no. 41 (T4.57). Flavian to early second century.

T4.51: Internal partition

With South Gaulish samian, forms 27 or 33 (*c.* AD 70–110) and 37 (*c.* AD 75–110):

46. Everted rim jar in dark grey fabric with a black slipped or polished surface. Later first to early second century.

T4.58: Internal partition

47. Jar in coarse orange-buff fabric. Burnishing produces a rilled effect at the girth. There is black residue on the inner surface.
48. Mortarium in hard orange-buff fabric with red and grey grits and large inclusions; possibly Verulamium fabric as Manning 1993, fig. 187, 3. Mid- to late first century.

T4.60: Internal partition

49. (Not illustrated). Fragment of mortarium in granular buff fabric from the Verulamium region, broken near the spout. Late first to early second century.

T4.29: Portico eavesdrip

Samian included a South Gaulish decorated bowl fragment, form 29 (cat. no. 33, *c.* AD 65–85).

Period 1C, Fabrica 1

The latest material from this period comes from the two floors T2.18–19. Both contain Les Martres samian which should carry their date into the second century. As noted, the Black-burnished ware flanged bowl (cat. no. 55) is most likely to be second century. A date of *c.* AD 85/90–100/105 is suggested for this phase.

T4.29/35: ?Period 1B/C; cf. Fabrica 1 and Granary

With South Gaulish samian, forms 27 (*c.* AD 70–110) and 37 (three examples: cat. no. 34, *c.* AD 70–90, and two others, *c.* AD 70–100 and 70–110):

50. Jar in coarse dark grey fabric made without the aid of the potters' wheel, probably a Malvern product. There is faint lattice decoration. cf. Peacock 1965–7, fig. 1, 17. Late first to mid-second century.

51. (Not illustrated). Mica-dusted beaker with smooth orange-buff exterior. There is a groove at the girth and decoration of applied dots below; cf. Gillam 1970, fig. 8, 68 for the general type. Late first to early second century.

T4.24: Construction trench

The context included a mortarium fragment of Gillam 238 type (cf. cat. no. 71, T4.11, c. AD 65–110) and a Dressel 20, South Spanish olive-oil amphora handle.

T4.44: Internal partition

Samian included South Gaulish forms 15/17 or 18 (c. AD 70–90) and 27 (c. AD 70–110).

T2.18: GDBJ's Unpublished Notes, Period D, floor = Jones and Little 1973, Period 1C

The samian showed a pattern similar to that from upper phases: South Gaulish forms 15/17 (c. AD 70–90), 27 (c. AD 70–110), 29 (c. AD 65–85) and 36 (c. AD 70–110), as well as a form 37 from Les Martres-de-Veyre (cat. no. 23, c. AD 100–120). Several sherds of Black-burnished ware included:

52. Jar in Black-burnished ware; cf. Richmond and Birley 1930, fig. 14, 18c. Early to mid-second century.

T2.19: GDBJ's Unpublished Notes, Period D, floor = Jones and Little 1973, Period 1C

The samian from this context followed a very similar pattern to that from T2.18 above: South Gaulish forms 15/17 (c. AD 70–90), two examples of 18/31 (c. AD 90–110) and two examples of 37 (c. AD 70–100 and cat. no. 24, c. AD 80–110). In addition there was a form 37 from Les Martres-de-Veyre (cat. no. 25, c. AD 100–120).

53. Flange-rim jar in light grey fabric with a dark grey external surface. The general form is derived from a type popular in the mid-first century (cf. Manning 1993, fig. 4, type 11) but variants continued to be made into the second century.
54. Everted rim jar in grey ware with two grooves around the body; cf. Manning 1993, fig. 109, 16. Mid-first to early second century.
55. Flanged bowl in Black-burnished ware with a rounded V incised on the flange before firing. Second century. A further flanged bowl fragment resembled cat. no. 69 from T4.11.
56. Mortarium rim of Gillam 238 type, from North Gaul. cf. Hartley 1977, fig. 2.1, 3; also Hartley 1998, 201–6; Hartley and Tomber 2006, 24. c. AD 65–110.
57. Mortarium in granular cream fabric with orange tinges and grey and brown trituration grits. The rim is stamped F.LV[GVDV], the counter stamp of the potter Albinus of the Verulamium region (illustrated at 1:2); cf. Frere 1972, fig. 145, 6. Mid- to late first century.
58. Mortarium spout in granular buff fabric with a grey core and grey and brown trituration grits. A Verulamium region product; cf. Frere 1984, fig. 111, 2656. c. AD 70–110.
59. Mortarium rim and spout in hard yellow-buff granular fabric with brown and grey trituration grits. A Verulamium region product, cf. Frere 1972, fig. 110, 363. c. AD 50–90.
60. Lid in Black-burnished ware; cf. Manning 1993, 283, fig. 131, 37.2; Grimes 1930, 218, fig. 66, 100; Burnham and Burnham 2004, fig. 2.84, 17. Probably second century with other fragments from T4.21.

Period 1C or 1D

Contexts T2.23, T4.28 and T4.32 are linked by a brief note of correlations between contexts in trenches 2 and 4 sent to PVW shortly after the excavation. Unfortunately none receive a mention in the interim and our best guide as to their place in the stratigraphic sequence is the appearance of T4.28 in a preliminary handwritten phase list prepared by Barri Jones, which places it in both his Periods C and D (Jones and

Little 1973, Periods 1D and 1C respectively; cf. Fig. 3). The list of correlations is not without its problems but the link between the three contexts seems secure. As the excavators appear to have been uncertain whether these three contexts were in Period 1C or 1D we have placed the finds between these phases.

These three contexts fit reasonably into the pattern for Periods 1C and 1D and one suspects a high residual content as in Period 1D. The Central Gaulish sherd from T4.32 is anomalous and may suggest intrusions from higher levels.

T2.23

Finds included South Gaulish samian, form 27 (c. AD 70–110).

T4.28

This collection seems most likely to be late first century. Samian was all South Gaulish: forms 15/17 or 18 (c. AD 70–90), three examples of 18, including a small fragment of a stamp (c. AD 70–90), 35 (c. AD 70–110), 37 (c. AD 75–110) and Curle 11 (c. AD 70–90). In addition there were:

61. (Not illustrated). Rim of a Malvern jar similar to cat. no. 100 (T3a.2) and cat. no. 94 (T8+). Late first to mid-second century.
62. Everted rim jar in coarse light grey fabric. An associated sherd has the multiple wavy line decoration (probably executed with a stiff brush) common on vessels in South Wales Reduced Ware (cf. Manning 1993, fig. 109, 16.2). Mid-first to early second century.

T4.32

With South Gaulish samian, form 18 (c. AD 70–90) and Curle 15 (c. AD 80–110), Central Gaulish samian, form 42 (c. AD 120–150), a mortarium rim of Gillam 238 type (cf. cat. no. 56 from T2.19) and a Malvern jar similar to cat. no. 94 (from T8+) was:

63. Rim of a Dressel 20, South Spanish olive-oil amphora; cf. Martin-Kilcher type 30, Peacock and Williams 1986, fig. 66, 30 (Late first to mid-second century). A joining fragment comes from the unlocated context T4.10 and is the source of our illustration.
64. Necked jar with beaded rim in gritty grey fabric. The form appears to be related to a common mid-first-century jar type (Usk fortress type 11, Manning 1993, fig. 4) which remained popular into the second century. cf. Burnham and Burnham 2004, fig. 2.85, 36.
65. Flanged bowl in grey fabric; one of the mid-first- to early second-century series. One of two of the flanged and carinated bowl series from this context.

Period 1D, *Fabrica 2*

There is nothing from this period to distinguish it from what has gone before and it may, indeed be entirely residual. Dating must rely upon the dating of periods 1C and 1E. A date c. AD 100/105 to c. AD 110 is suggested.

T2.8: Furnace

66. Mortarium fragment in pale orange-buff with part of a two-line stamp of Matugenus of the Verulamium region (illustrated at 1:2); cf. Frere 1981, fig. 118, 85 and p. 286. c. AD 80–125.

T4.18: GDBJ's Unpublished Notes, Period C = Jones and Little 1973, Period 1D

The samian is entirely South Gaulish: forms 15/17 or 18 (c. AD 70–90), two examples of 18 (c. AD 70–90), five of 27 (c. AD 70–110), 33 (c. AD 70–110) and 37 (c. AD 75–90). With a fragment of the lid cat. no. 73 (T4.11) and a Dressel 20 amphora handle was:

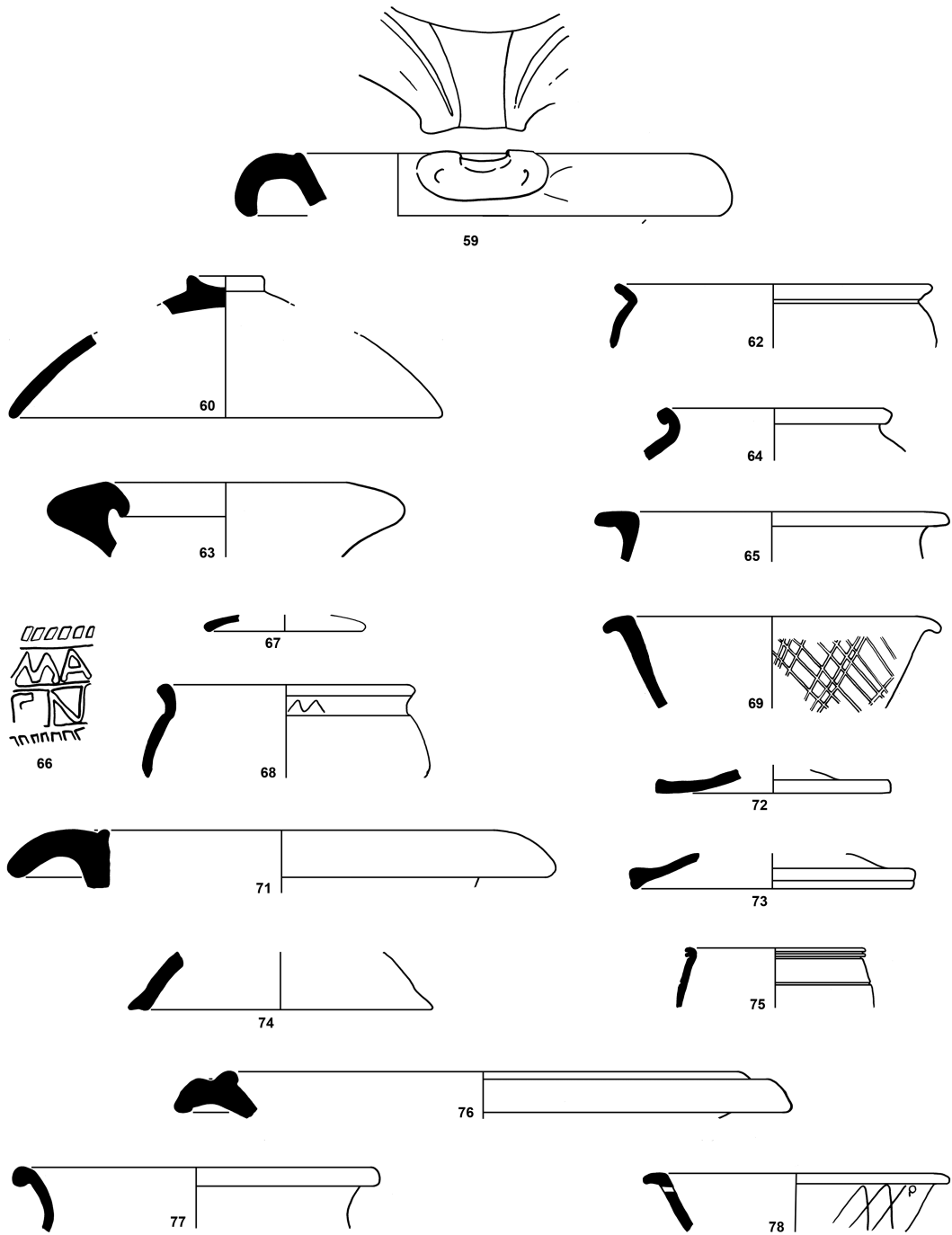


Fig. 6. Pottery. Scale 1:4 (stamp 1:2).

67. Amphora lid fragment; cf. Manning 1993, fig. 49, 67 and fig. 177, 24F. From a South Spanish olive-oil amphora.

Period 1E, *Fabrica 3*

Jones and Little (1973, 11) note that the floor of this phase had been largely destroyed by modern gardening. The major collection of pottery comes from T4.11, assigned to this phase by Barri Jones in a note to PVW shortly after the close of excavations, and from the construction trench for *Fabrica 3* (T4.12). The large amount of Black-burnished ware in the former and the presence of Les Martres samian in both contexts suggests an early second-century date. A date *c.* AD 110 to *c.* AD 115/20 seems reasonable.

T4.11: GDBJ's Unpublished Notes, Period B = Jones and Little 1973, Period 1E

The samian follows a pattern familiar for later levels, with a number of South Gaulish pieces: forms 15/17 or 18 *c.* AD 70–90, 18 or 18/31 (*c.* AD 70–110), two examples of 27 (*c.* AD 70–110), 37 (*c.* AD 80–110, joining a sherd from T4.12, cat. no. 28); 67 (*c.* AD 70–100), and Curle 11 (*c.* AD 70–90). There was also a single example of form 35 from Les Martres-de-Veyre (*c.* AD 100–130). Coarse pottery included:

68. Jar in Black-burnished ware with a faint zigzag pattern around the neck. cf. Gillam 1976, fig. 1, 1. Late first to mid-second century in South Wales.
69. Flanged bowl in Black-burnished ware. Second century. One of three Black-burnished flanged bowls.
70. (Not illustrated). Wall and part of the lower body of a tazza in orange-red fabric with evidence of burning in the interior. The general type is common at Caerleon (e.g. Nash-Williams 1932, fig. 61, 408–23) but much rarer on auxiliary sites. However, an example from the 1989 excavations may be noted (Burnham and Burnham 2004, fig. 2.84, 24).
71. Mortarium of Gillam 238 type; from northern Gaul. The origins and dating of Gillam 238 are discussed in: Hartley 1977; 1998, 201–9, and Hartley and Tomber 2006, 22–4. *c.* AD 65–110.
72. Lid in coarse grey and brown fabric. The form is so simple that production at any period seems possible; cf. Manning 1993, fig. 117, 70.2 for a similar form in a different fabric.
73. Lid in orange-buff fabric; cf. Manning 1993, fig. 117, 72.2; Burnham and Burnham 2004, fig. 2.84, 26. A further fragment came from T4.18.
74. Lid in hard orange fabric. The thickened rim has a concave edge.

T4.12: Construction trench

The pattern of samian is similar to that from T4.11 above: three examples of South Gaulish form 37, including parts of vessel also in T2.1 (cat. no. 29, *c.* AD 90–110), T4.1 (cat. no. 26, *c.* AD 90–110) and T4.11 (cat. no. 28, *c.* AD 80–110), along with a form 37 from Les Martres-de-Veyre (cat. no. 30, *c.* AD 100–120). Coarse pottery included a fragment of South Spanish olive-oil amphora, Dressel 20 and:

75. Roughcast beaker in North Gaulish fabric; cf. Anderson 1981, fig. 19.3, 26. Later first to mid-second century. One of two similar beakers.

T2.4: GDBJ's Unpublished Notes, Period B, yellow clay = Jones and Little 1973, Period 1E

With South Gaulish samian, forms 15/17 or 18 (*c.* AD 70–90), 37 (two examples, *c.* AD 70–90 and 70–100, cat. no. 22) and Curle 11 (*c.* AD 80–100); also a Les Martres-de-Veyre cup, perhaps form 27 (*c.* AD 100–130), a Black-burnished ware jar sherd, and a Verulamium mortarium rim similar to cat. no. 58 from T2.19:

76. Mortarium in cream fabric with small dark inclusions; Bushe-Fox type 22–30 with an origin in Gallia Belgica or possibly the Rhineland; cf. Manning 1993, 401, imp 18 and fig. 186, 18. *c.* AD 70–150.

T2.6: GDBJ's Unpublished Notes, Period B = Jones and Little 1973, Period 1E

The context included a Hofheim-type flagon in light orange-buff fabric. Mid- to mid-/late first century.

THE GRANARY AREA

It should be clear that the material from the stone granary poses a number of problems of interpretation. It seems likely from the western part of the 1972 site and the 1989 excavations (Burnham and Burnham 2004, 39–42) that the fort layout was completely re-aligned after its initial phase. The timber granary could belong either to this initial phase or its successor, but the correlation of stone granary/store over timber granary could suggest that both belong to phases later than the first. If we can assume that all the buildings excavated on the east of the 1972 site from which we have pottery post-date realignment and, if our dating of the fortlet is correct, then the two phases on the east fit within the period *c.* AD 80/85 and *c.* AD 115/120. This would suit the small amount of material available, although it would imply that the two pieces of Central Gaulish pottery (from T1.25 and T1.31) were both from activity associated with the overlying fortlet. These two sherds seem too few to necessitate compressing the fortlet period any more than in our suggested overall scheme. Thus, we suggest that the two phases on the granary site correspond to the four phases (Jones and Little 1973: Periods 1B–E) further west. With so little from the timber phase especially, it is difficult to know how the two granary phases divided. Dates of *c.* AD 80/85–95/100 for the timber granary and *c.* AD 95/100–115/20 for its stone successor are tentatively suggested.

Timber granary

Very little material came from the small area of the earlier granary explored. A single oxidised sherd is recorded from construction trench T1.53 but is obviously not enough to place this building within the sequence observed further west.

Stone granary (pre-fortlet)

The dating of the stone granary/store building poses a number of problems, due partly to the incomplete nature of the records, partly to the closeness of the remains to disturbed and topsoil levels. The following contexts can be firmly associated with the stone building:

T1.33: External drain of stone granary

With South Gaulish samian, form 18 (*c.* AD 70–90), was a brick or drain fragment, not certainly Roman.

T1.15a: Robbed north wall of granary

We have assumed that T1.15 and T1.15a refer to the same feature. There seems no reason to date this small collection later than the end of South Gaulish samian importation (*c.* AD 110) and a slightly earlier date seems possible. Samian from T1.15a includes three South Gaulish vessels, forms 18/31 (*c.* AD 90–110), 36 (*c.* AD 70–110) and 37 (cat. no. 16, *c.* AD 70–100), and a mortarium similar to the Verulamium examples from T4.58 (cat. no. 48). Also:

77. Wide-mouthed jar in orange-buff Severn Valley Ware with a grey core. cf. Webster 1976, fig. 4, 22. Second to third century.
78. Flanged dish in Black-burnished ware with decoration of intersecting inverted chevrons. There is a rivet hole below the rim. cf. Manning 1993, fig. 129, 30.2–4. Second century.

T1.25: Internal wall foundation

A single sherd of Central Gaulish samian, form 33 should be Hadrianic or later, although the foundation (apparently a southern continuation of wall 22 seen on Jones and Little 1973, fig. 4) is in an area disturbed by robbing and later intrusions. We are not inclined, therefore, to place a great deal of weight on this single piece.

T1.31: Layer between T1.22 and T1.35 in granary

This context appears between walls T1.22 and T1.35 on the 1973 plan. It contained Central Gaulish samian, form 33 (Hadrianic or later), the significance of which is discussed above.

T1.32 and T1.42

Neither of these layers appears in the interim text, draft typescript or plans. The only reason for associating them with the granary is a hand-written list made by Barri Jones towards the end of the 1972 excavations. There he placed them in his latest phase (GDBJ's Unpublished Notes, Period A), though he also wrote 'Granary' against them. As the remaining contexts listed in this phase are upper ones (and indeed most of the contexts listed are on the western half of the site) we are inclined to associate T1.32 and 42 with the end of the granary or the fortlet levels above it.

T1.32

With South Gaulish samian fragments (*c.* AD 70–110), a Dressel 20, South Spanish olive-oil amphora fragment and Black-burnished ware sherds, including one jar similar to cat. no. 35 (from the south defences, T6.3), probably early to mid-second century:

79. (Not illustrated). Wide-mouthed jar rim fragment in orange Severn Valley Ware with a grey core. Probably from a vessel similar to cat. no. 77 (T1.15a). Second to third century.

T1.42

80. Jar in Black-burnished ware, burnt; the angle of the neck might suggest a late second-century date (cf. Gillam 1976, no.4) but similar vessels appear in the Hadrianic Alley deposit at Birdoswald, cf. Richmond and Birley 1930, fig. 14, 18c–e. cf. Burnham and Burnham 2004, fig. 2.84, 15. Second century.

T4.25: North–south road, levels A–K

The roadway dividing the stone buildings from the *fabricae* and barracks to the west was resurfaced several times (the excavators distinguished 11 surfaces). Pottery from it does not appear to have been differentiated. The only find was a South Gaulish samian dish, form 15/17 or 18 (*c.* AD 70–90).

THE FORTLET AND LATER BUILDINGS

The upper levels in the 1972 site were clearly heavily disturbed. It has already been noted that the small amount of Central Gaulish (Lezoux) samian present, even in unstratified levels, makes occupation after the early years of Hadrian unlikely. Our suggested date for the Fortlet and associated buildings is, therefore, *c.* AD 115/20 to *c.* 125. On the basis of the amount of Black-burnished ware present, one might wish to advance this date to *c.* 130 but the low level of Lezoux samian present is against this and it is better to suggest that the site was receiving Black-burnished ware in quantity from the later Trajanic period.

T4.2: Building construction trench

With South Gaulish samian, forms 15/17 or 18 (c. AD 70–90) and 37 (c. AD 75–110):

81. Bead rim bowl in Black-burnished ware with decoration of intersecting zigzags or chevrons; cf. Gillam 1976, no. 52, but see Manning 1993, 282 and fig. 130, 31.4 for the general second-century dating.
82. Lid in Black-burnished ware with zigzag decoration on the exterior and on the under-side. cf. Woodward, Davies and Graham 1993, fig. 137, 64; also Wallace and Webster 1989, fig. 2.10; Burnham and Burnham 2004, fig. 2.84, 17. Probably second century.

T4.9: GDBJ's Unpublished Notes, Period B, late post hole from fortlet phase

With South Gaulish samian, form 29 or 37 (c. AD 65–110), and a Black-burnished ware rim similar to cat. no. 81 (T4.2), second century:

83. Dish in grey fabric, a dark grey core and lighter grey surface, perhaps related to Terra Nigra. This appears to have similarities to Gallo-Belgic dishes such as Hawkes and Hull 1947, pl. 49, 12–13. Later first to early second century.

T8.4: Possible late building

The context included a fragment of cat. no. 39 (T8.10), first century.

T1B.8: Fortlet intervallum road

Written texts divide T1B.8 into 8a and 8b but there is no evidence that the finds were so divided. The context includes several examples of Black-burnished ware. With a flanged bowl fragment similar to cat. no. 38 from the inner ditch sump (T7.6) was:

84. Flanged bowl in Black-burnished ware with decoration in the form of intersecting chevrons. cf. Gillam 1976, no. 34 (early to mid-second century).
85. Flanged bowl in Black-burnished ware; similar to cat. no. 84 but smaller.

T1.16: GDBJ's Unpublished Notes, Period A

South Gaulish samian included substantial fragments of a single vessel of form 18R (c. AD 70–90), seen by PVW in 1972, but now missing, a probable form 27 (c. AD 70–110) and miscellaneous fragments.

T1.29: Disturbed late building floor and footing

Three sherds of post-medieval green glazed fabric suggest the date of the disturbance. From Roman activity there is only a sherd of Black-burnished ware.

UPPER LEVELS

With so little material which can be related to the fortlet buildings and with clear evidence of later disturbance, it seems worthwhile to consider upper disturbed and unstratified levels to look for evidence of Roman activity later than the date suggested for the fortlet and indeed for post-Roman activity. Remarkably, in view of the later pottery from the Melin-y-Milwyr site (Burnham and Burnham 2004, 315), there is very little later Roman pottery from the 1972 excavations. Only a Central Gaulish samian bowl of form 31R from T1.1 and the Caerleon Ware bowl from T5+ (cat. no. 92) need be later than the dated sequence already outlined. The material from upper levels strongly suggests that there was little activity after the suggested date for the abandonment of the fortlet. Indeed there is little evidence of

activity on the 1972 site between the Roman and the post-medieval period. It should be noted, however, that this leaves unexplained the absence of pottery contemporary with the wooden cellar found in 1989. Items of intrinsic or chronological interest are shown below.

Trenches T1 and 1B

T1B+: Topsoil

Along with eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century sherds were two sherds of Central Gaulish samian, form 37 (Hadrianic or later).

T1.1: Modern and modern intrusions

Post-medieval pottery included North Devon Gravel Tempered ware (mid-seventeenth to eighteenth century), a press-moulded slipware plate (eighteenth century) and blue transfer-printed ware similar to the Two Temples II pattern, variation Brosely (cf. Copeland 1990, 60, fig. 24) of the early to mid-nineteenth century. Samian included form 18/31 from Les Martres-de-Veyre (probably *c.* AD 100–130), a Central Gaulish form 37 (cat. no. 15, probably Hadrianic-Antonine) and one of the few later Antonine pieces from the site, a Central Gaulish form 31R (*c.* AD 160–200). There was also a fragment of Caerleon Ware roughcast beaker of early to mid-second-century date and:

86. Jar in Black-burnished ware, burnt. The neck has wavy line decoration, cf. Manning 1993, fig. 123, 8.2–4; Burnham and Burnham 2004, fig. 2.84, 19. Second century.
87. Tallow lamp rim and wall in light red-brown fabric with a light grey surface on the inside. It is of open lamp (or Crusy) type with a shallow flat base. There is a plain wall; cf. Greene in Manning 1993, 15, fig. 6, 27 and discussion 40–1.

T1.11: Intrusions above east wall (T1.22)

These intrusions were probably late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. Finds included a North Devon Gravel Tempered bowl rim, with internal orange glaze and external glaze runs (cf. Evans 1979, 20, fig. 1.25. Mid-seventeenth to late eighteenth century), and a slipware plate of eighteenth- to early nineteenth-century date (five fragments).

Trenches 2, 2A and 4

T2+: Modern and T2.1: Topsoil

Material from these contexts was wholly or mainly Roman. The amount of purely Flavian samian suggests some disturbance of earlier levels. The vessels listed in our samian table show nine vessels dating *c.* AD 65–90 (one 29, five 15/17 or 18 and three early 37, including cat. nos 19 and 21); five vessels which can only be dated generally to the period *c.* AD 70–110 and only one (a form 37) of *c.* AD 90–110, along with two Les Martres 37s of *c.* AD 100–120 (including cat. no. 20). Along with a single Black-burnished ware jar which might be either later first or second century (the lattice decoration which might be a guide is missing) and a mortarium of Bushe-Fox 22–30 type (later first to mid-second century), there was:

88. Mortarium in granular buff fabric from the Verulamium region, with a poorly preserved two-line stamp reading *Marinus* retrograde. For the form see Frere 1972, fig. 120, 750. The stamp is illustrated at 1:2. Late first to early second century.

T2a.1: Below topsoil

The context included one of the few pieces of Central Gaulish samian from the site, form 18/31 (*c.* AD 120–150), along with a fragment of the Severn Valley jar, cat. no. 77 (T1.15A).

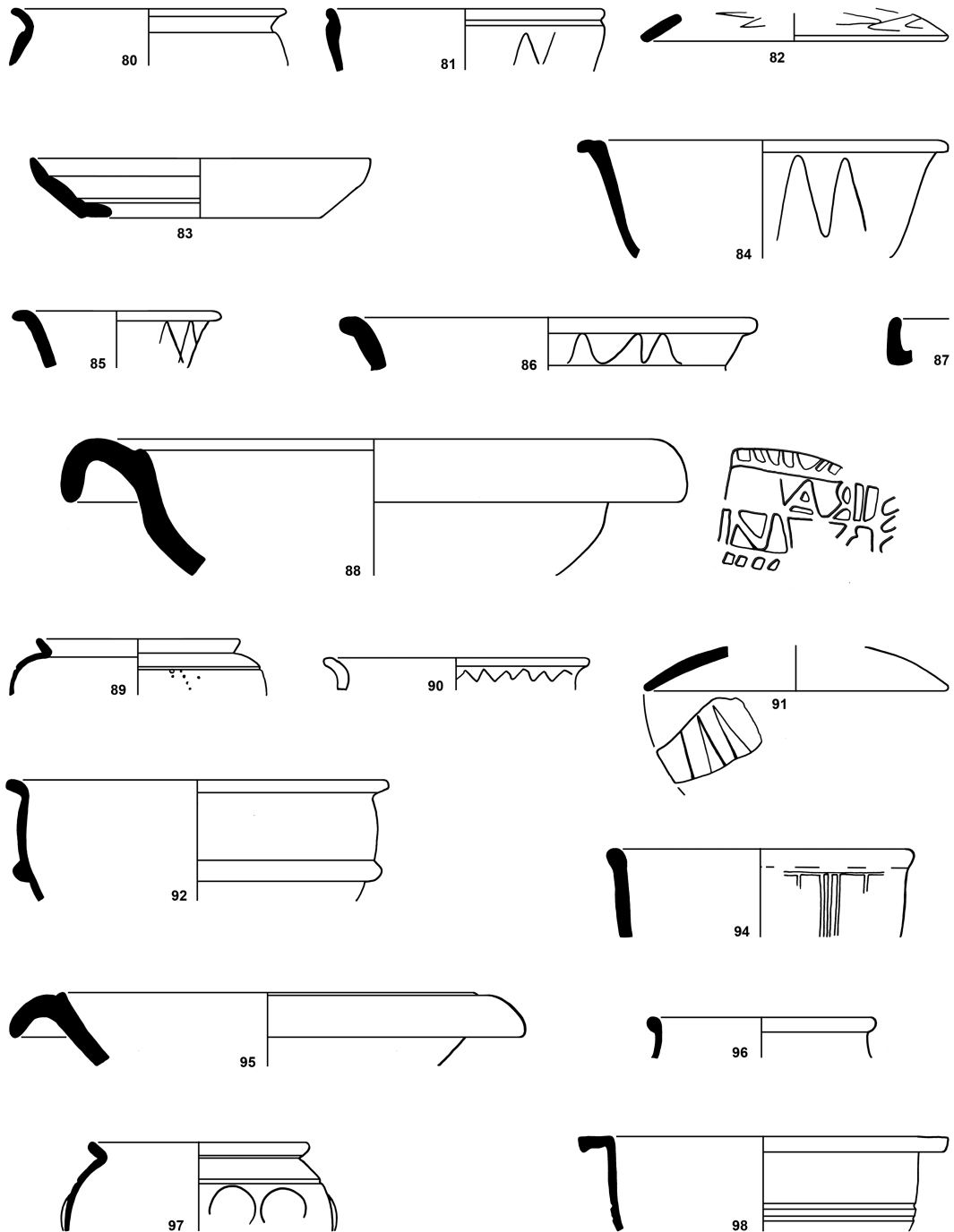


Fig. 7. Pottery. Scale 1:4 (stamp 1:2).

T4+ : Topsoil

89. Everted rim jar in a fine orange fabric with a grey core. The body has applied circles and dots in approximate vertical lines; for the general style cf. Gillam 1970, no. 68. Late first to early second century.

T4.1: Topsoil/below topsoil

The samian from this context shows a not dissimilar pattern to that from upper levels in trench 2. There are two vessels (forms 15/17 or 18) dated *c.* AD 70–90, one which dates generally to *c.* AD 70–110 and a form 37 of *c.* AD 90–110 (cat. no. 26), along with two Les Martres fragments, a 37 which is certainly *c.* AD 100–120 (cat. no. 27) and a fragment which is probably of similar date. Also:

90. Jar in Black-burnished ware with wavy line decoration on the neck; cf. Manning 1993, fig. 123, 8.2; Burnham and Burnham 2004, fig. 2.84, 19. Second century.

91. Lid in Black-burnished ware with zigzag decoration on the under-side. cf. Woodward, Davies and Graham 1993, fig. 137, 64; also Wallace and Webster 1989, fig. 2.10; Burnham and Burnham 2004, fig. 2.84, 17. Probably second century.

Trench 5*T5+ : Unstratified*

92. Bowl in Caerleon Ware, orange with an orange slip. The form is reminiscent of the samian form 44 and likely to have the same Hadrianic-Antonine date. cf. Manning 1993, fig. 119, 12.1, Nash-Williams 1932, fig. 58, 177–81, Webster and Webster 1998, fig. 4, 64. It thus probably post-dates the fortlet.

There seemed to be little evidence of activity between the Roman and the post-medieval period. Seventeenth- or eighteenth-century? gardening is indicated by:

93. (Not illustrated). North Devon Gravel Tempered bowl; a variant of Allan 1984, type 3A (cf. Evans 1979, fig. 2, 32). Mid-seventeenth to eighteenth century.

Trench 8*T8+*

Unstratified levels yielded post-medieval pottery, mainly or predominantly of eighteenth- to nineteenth-century date. Roman pottery included:

94. Jar of Malvern type in coarse reddish-grey with a black surface and burnished vertical lines externally; cf. Peacock 1965–67, fig. 1, 7; Burnham and Burnham 2004, fig. 2.84, 20. Late first to mid-second century.

T8.1–2

Only Roman pottery was found. The samian follows a familiar pattern for the site, with a series of South Gaulish vessels, forms 18 (five examples; *c.* AD 70–90), 27 (*c.* AD 70–110), 37 (*c.* AD 75–110) and Curle 11 (*c.* AD 70–95)

Trench 9

Material from this area seems mainly to have come from upper levels. Although potentially disturbed, contexts 9.1–4 are predominantly first century with a few early second-century pieces.

T9.1

The samian is indicative: South Gaulish forms 27 (*c.* AD 70–110), 36 (*c.* AD 70–110) and 37 (two examples, *c.* AD 70–85 and *c.* AD 75–110); there is also a single form 37 from Les Martres (*c.* AD 100–120).

T9.2

With a necked jar with a beaded rim similar to Usk Fortress type 11.1 (Manning 1993, fig. 4) and possibly first century in date:

95. Mortarium in red fabric with gravel-like inclusions. Perhaps a local product.

T9.3

The context included a sherd of Terra Nigra, possibly from a carinated beaker as Greene 1979, fig. 52, 1V2. The form has its greatest frequency in the Neronian to early Flavian period suggesting that this vessel reached the site early in its Roman occupation. Also:

96. Necked jar with beaded rim, similar to Usk Fortress type 11.1 (Manning 1993, fig. 4) and possibly first century in date.

97. Everted rim jar in gritty cream fabric (three fragments). Below a shoulder groove are raised circular bosses; cf. Frere 1972, fig. 103, 128 (c. AD 60–110).

98. Flanged bowl in light grey fabric; one of the mid-first- to early second-century flanged and carinated bowl series.

T9.4

99. Bowl of mortarium shape in light grey fabric with probable fired clay inclusions and a darker grey surface. There are no trituration grits and this may be best classified as a locally produced mortar-like bowl. Probably late first to early second century.

TRENCHES SOUTH OF THE SOUTHERN DEFENCES (T3A AND B)

All finds appear to be from upper levels and do little more than confirm the chronological pattern observed within the fort.

T3a.1

Finds included South Gaulish samian, forms 18 (c. AD 70–90) and 37 (c. AD 80–110), 11 fragments of Gauloise 4, South Gaulish wine amphora and the rim of a Severn Valley Ware jar similar to cat. nos 77 and 79 from T1.15a and T1.32.

T3a.2

100. ‘Malvern’ type jar in coarse dark grey with vertical burnished lines externally; cf. Peacock 1965–67, fig. 1, 7; Burnham and Burnham 2004, fig. 2.85, 40. Late first to mid-second century.

T3b+

Samian consisted of South Gaulish forms 18 (two examples c. AD 70–90), 37 (c. AD 70–100) and 67 (c. AD 70–85).

T3b.1

101. Dressel 20, South Spanish olive-oil amphora handle stamped QAGS (illustrated at 1:2). Callender (1965, no. 1417c) expands this to QAG SVBVR (*ibid.*, fig. 14, 10 and 11); see also Martin Kilcher 1987, 94, ST 3 for a related stamp (Callender no. 1417b) dated late first to early second century.

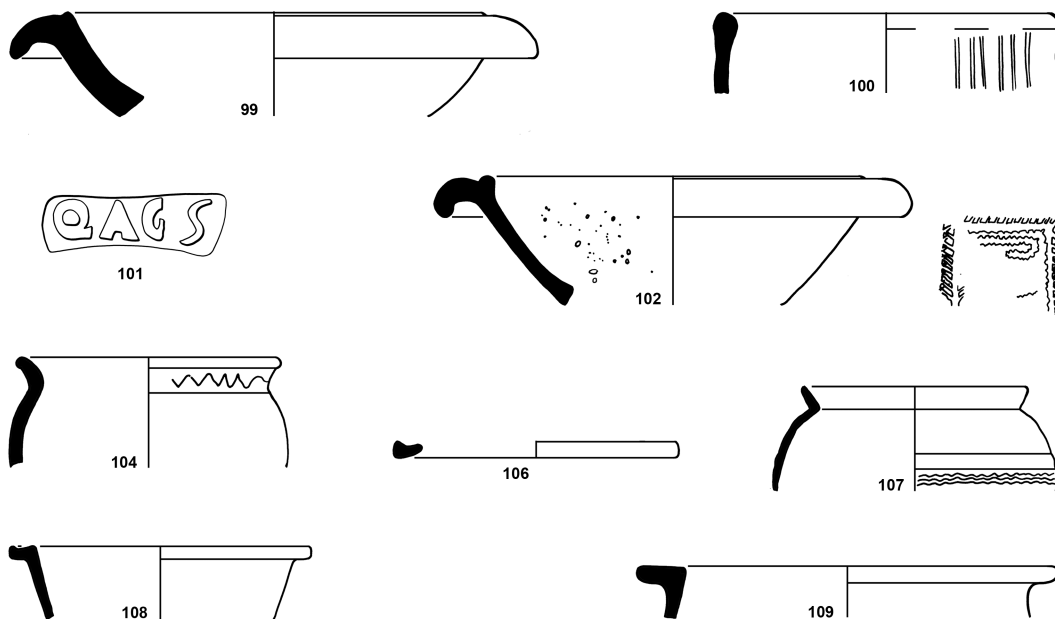


Fig. 8. Pottery. Scale 1:4 (stamps 1:2).

OTHER CONTEXTS

As a full context list has not survived, we are reliant upon the published interim report and its preliminary draft along with a few notes for the location and phasing of contexts. Inevitably this has resulted in a number of unlocated contexts. Finds from these are recorded in the archive list. In no way do they contradict our general conclusions and only a few vessels seem worthy of note here.

T1.45

The context yielded one of few examples of the decorated South Gaulish bowl, form 29 (cat. no. 17, *c.* AD 65–85), as well as an early form 37 (cat. no. 18, *c.* AD 70–90)

T1B.2

With three examples of flanged bowls in Black-burnished ware (second century) was:

102. Caerleon Ware mortarium with an abraded stamp (illustrated at 1:2), probably Nash-Williams 1932, fig. 68, 36. Early to mid-second century. A further example, probably with the same stamp comes from T1B.9.

T1B.11

103. (Not illustrated). Malvern-type jar in dark grey fabric made without the aid of the potters' wheel; cf. Peacock 1965–67, 17, fig. 1, 7. First to mid-second century.

T4.38

104. Jar in Black-burnished ware with wavy line decoration on the neck; cf. Richmond and Birley 1930, fig. 14, 18c. Early to mid-second century (although an earlier date of introduction is possible in south Wales).

T4.48

With a South Gaulish samian, form 37 (*c.* AD 75–90):

105. (Not illustrated). Mortarium in early Caerleon fabric with an orange surface and grey core. *cf.* Zienkiewicz 1992, fig. 4, Flavian to early second century.
106. Lid in orange-red with a buff surface with some black inclusions; *cf.* Burnham and Burnham 2004, fig. 2.84, 26.

T4.49

With South Gaulish samian, form 35 (*c.* AD 70–110), two examples of 37 (*c.* AD 75–90) and 46 (*c.* AD 80–110), and part of the mortarium (cat. no. 105 from T4.48):

107. Everted rim jar with a girth groove over wavy line decoration; *cf.* cat. no. 62 (T4.28). Late first to early second century.
108. Flanged bowl in coarse red fabric with a mica-dusted finish. *cf.* Hawkes and Hull 1947, pl. 80, 245. Probably mid- to late first century. *cf.* cat. no. 40 (T4.57).
109. Flanged bowl in dark grey fabric. A large version of the common mid-first- to early second-century flanged and carinated bowl.

DISCUSSION

Chronology of the 1972 site

In summary it is possible to propose the following broad chronology for the different elements of the 1972 site:

Defences

Phase 1 turf-clay rampart: not otherwise dated except by the general range of material from the fort. Mid-AD 70s to *c.* AD 115/120.

Phase-2 stone wall: an early to mid-second-century vessel from the primary fill of a ditch potentially comes from early in the life of the fortlet. Robber levels in Trench 6 produced a few pieces of early to mid-second-century date. *c.* AD 115/120–125.

Barracks/*Fabricae*

Period 1A: *c.* AD 75–80/85

Period 1B: *c.* AD 80/85–85/90

Period 1C: *c.* AD 85/90–100/105

Period 1D: *c.* AD 100/105–110

Period 1E: *c.* AD 110–115/120

Fortlet

c. AD 115/120–125

Granaries

Timber Granary: perhaps *c.* AD 80/85–95/100

Stone Granary: perhaps *c.* AD 95/100–115/120

It has to be emphasised that these dates are suggested ones and that further excavation may well cause some alteration. However, the date of foundation for the fort seems reasonably certain from what we know

of military movements in the Flavian period and the samian evidence will hardly allow any prolongation of the occupation beyond *c.* AD 125. Thus, with six phases to fit in on parts of the site within no more than 50 years, the room for manoeuvre is limited.

While this broadly confirms the overall dating set out in Burnham and Burnham (2004) one significant change concerns the date at which the fort was reduced in size to that of a fortlet. This has always caused some difficulty, partly due to the truncation of upper Roman levels on both the 1972 and 1989 sites. In the report on the latter, it was possible to argue that the probable demolition pit, exposed in the river section south of the fort, first published by Burnham and Burnham (1986) and reconsidered by Webster (1992), dated the reduction to *c.* AD 100. Now that we can look at the dating for the 1972 site more closely, this seems too early. Provided that one accepts the assumption by the excavators that their barracks/*fabricae* sequence, Periods 1A–E, all belong with the fort (and it has to be admitted that, however probable this may be, they failed to establish any clear stratigraphic link between the sequences on the east and west of their site), then the reduction in fort size must have happened at the close of Period 1E and of the stone granary. As samian from Les Martres-de-Veyre, first imported into Britain *c.* AD 100, appears in their Period 1C, we suggest a later date for the reduction of *c.* AD 115/120.

Correlation between the 1972 and 1989 sites

We also need to consider how the 1972 sequence fits with that derived from the 1989 excavations, where some five successive phases of buildings were recognised (excluding the much later burnt timber building). The date of these individual phases depended on even more scanty evidence than on the 1972 site. In the publication, the excavators argued that the first three building phases (1–3) most probably belonged with the fort, while the remaining pair (4–5) were assigned to the fortlet, in part because they had increasingly encroached on the line of its intervallum road, perhaps in response to pressures on space (Burnham and Burnham 1989, 172–4). This hypothesis fitted well with a fort/fortlet transition which was then dated at *c.* AD 100, but this is no longer sustainable in the light of the later dating advanced in the preceding section. In this context it is also important to remember a discrepancy between the samian assemblages from the two sites: the 1972 excavations certainly produced a small amount of samian which should belong to the AD 120s, whereas the 1989 site did not. Given the small quantities involved this could simply be an accident of survival, though it might equally suggest that the 1989 site was less extensively used (if at all?) at a time when the 1972 site was occupied by the very latest phase of fragmentary buildings associated with the fortlet. Other explanations are possible, but for the moment it is sufficient to note that the only certain evidence for activity after *c.* AD 120 would seem to be at the southern end of the fortlet complex.

Irrespective of the finer points of detail, it is a safe assumption that the 1989 site was occupied and used over broadly the same time span as the 1972 one. Accepting this it is possible to arrive at the following viable sequence (Fig. 9).

Nothing in this suggested sequence is contradicted by such dating evidence as we now possess, though inevitably it would probably be refined or challenged by further excavations. One final point concerns the date at which the fortlet wall was robbed and the status of the site thereafter. The associated pottery certainly suggests that the robbing occurred soon after the abandonment of the fortlet *c.* AD 125, after which there is a marked absence of Roman pottery on both the 1972 and 1989 sites: only two pieces from the former site (a Caerleon Ware bowl derived from samian form 44 (cat. no. 92) and a samian bowl form 31R from T.1.1) and three pieces from the 1989 site (a Dressel 20 amphora, a dish in Black-burnished ware, and a jar in Black-burnished ware; Burnham and Burnham 2004, CP 2, 6 and 15) seem likely to belong to the mid- to late second century. Despite the paucity of such evidence, the presence of a much later burnt timber building or cellar on the 1989 site (Burnham and Burnham 1989, 52–63) poses

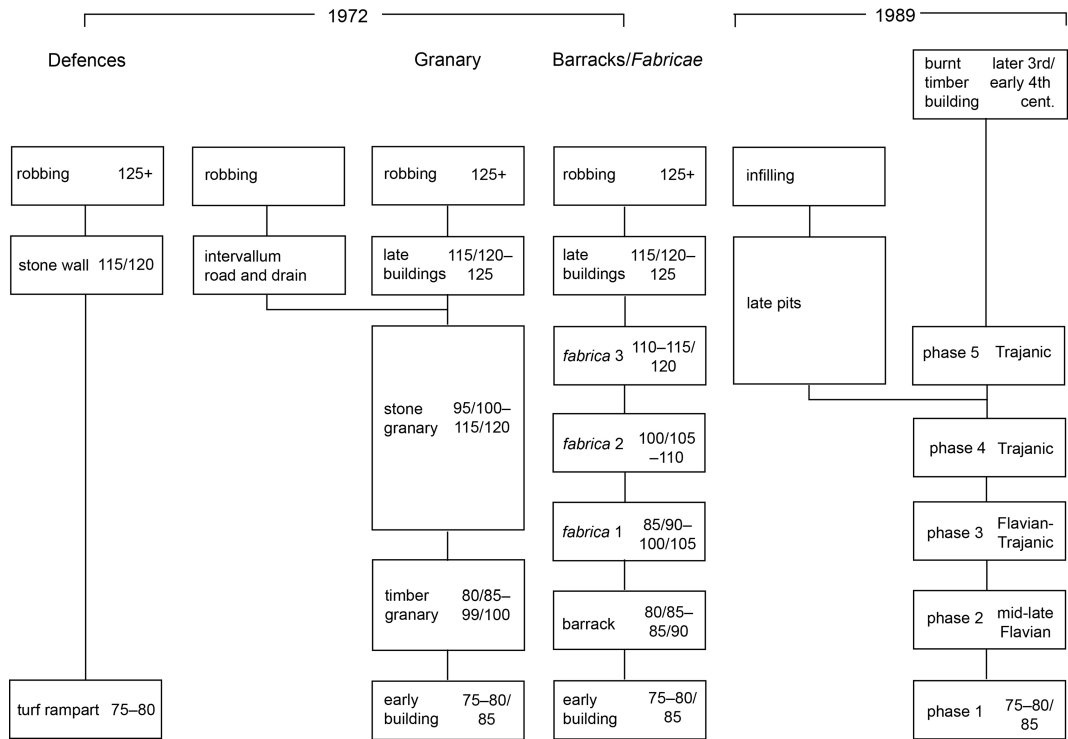


Fig. 9. Simplified site sequence for 1972 and 1989 excavations.

interesting questions about whether the area of the enclosure was retained largely empty but in military hands long after the withdrawal of any formal garrison.

Sources of Roman pottery

Both sources and vessel types from both the 1989 and the 1972 excavations were summarised in the 2004 report (Burnham and Burnham 2004, 109–14, 119–20). Little needs adding here. Samian remains the only fineware present in any quantity. The further work on the phasing and chronology of the 1972 pottery reinforces the view expressed in 2004 that the apparent frequency of Black-burnished ware from the 1972 site is due to its concentration in later levels. It first appears in the late first- to early second-century Period 1C of the barracks/*fabricae* area and is more numerous in later phases like Period 1E and the stone buildings of the fort and fortlet. Despite the presence of Black-burnished ware in south-east Wales, for instance in the fortress phases at Usk and in small quantities in pre-Trajanic Caerleon, there is no clear evidence for its appearance at Pumsaint before the Trajanic period. The presence of Caerleon mortaria, both those associated with the ‘Caerleon Ware’ industry of the early to mid-second century and those associated with its later first- and early second-century predecessor may also be noted

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Abbreviations

O = Figure type in Oswald 1936–37.

S&S = Stanfield and Simpson 1958 and 1990 (the plate and figure numbers are identical unless specifically indicated).

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