

The Defences of Roman Dorchester

By A. H. A. HOGG and C. E. STEVENS

ACCORDING to Professor Collingwood¹ all large Romano-British towns and some small ones are provided with defences: that such defences might exist at Dorchester (Oxon.), the Roman origin of which has been recognized since the time of Leland, was therefore possible on the general doctrine of Romano-British archaeology. Indeed, there was direct evidence which suggested as much, for Gough reported in the eighteenth century that 'the vallum is very bold with a double ditch in the fields on the Southwest side of the town and the churchyard,' and 'in one part of it,' he says, 'great quantities of foundation-stones were dug up.'² In 1882, the problem was taken up by Rev. Thomas Barns, who contributed an important letter which is appended to J. H. Parker's *History of Dorchester*.³ The relation of his work to the facts, as subsequently revealed by survey and excavation, is rather curious. Barns was anxious to demonstrate that Roman Dorchester preserved the measurements of a legionary camp, and was compelled therefore to take the defences into places where, as he confessed, they were not to be seen. Moreover, his actual field-work was vitiated by an assumption, pardonable but erroneous, that a sunken road which skirts the southern and western sides of the village was the Roman ditch. Yet though his detailed conclusions were mainly incorrect, his general sketch of the lay-out was so near the truth that anyone who visited Dorchester with Barns in his hand, and kept his eyes open, could set him right with little difficulty. Unfortunately the fact that this field-work appeared only as an appendix in a work devoted to mediæval Dorchester buried it completely from Romano-British archaeologists. There is no word of the town's defences in Manning and Leeds' *Archæological Survey of Oxfordshire*⁴ or even in the voluminous papers of Haverfield. It was a chance discovery of Barns' account which led the authors, with the co-operation of Mr. G. S. Keeney, to undertake in 1935 a field-survey of the site.⁵ A brief description of the results has been

¹ *Archæology of Roman Britain*, p. 95.

² Camden, *Britannia*, 2nd ed. (1806), 28.

³ J. H. Parker, *History of Dorchester, Oxfordshire* (1882), pp. xxxiii ff.

⁴ *Archæologia*, LXXI, 240.

⁵ See FIG. II, published by the kind permission of the editor of *Antiquity*.

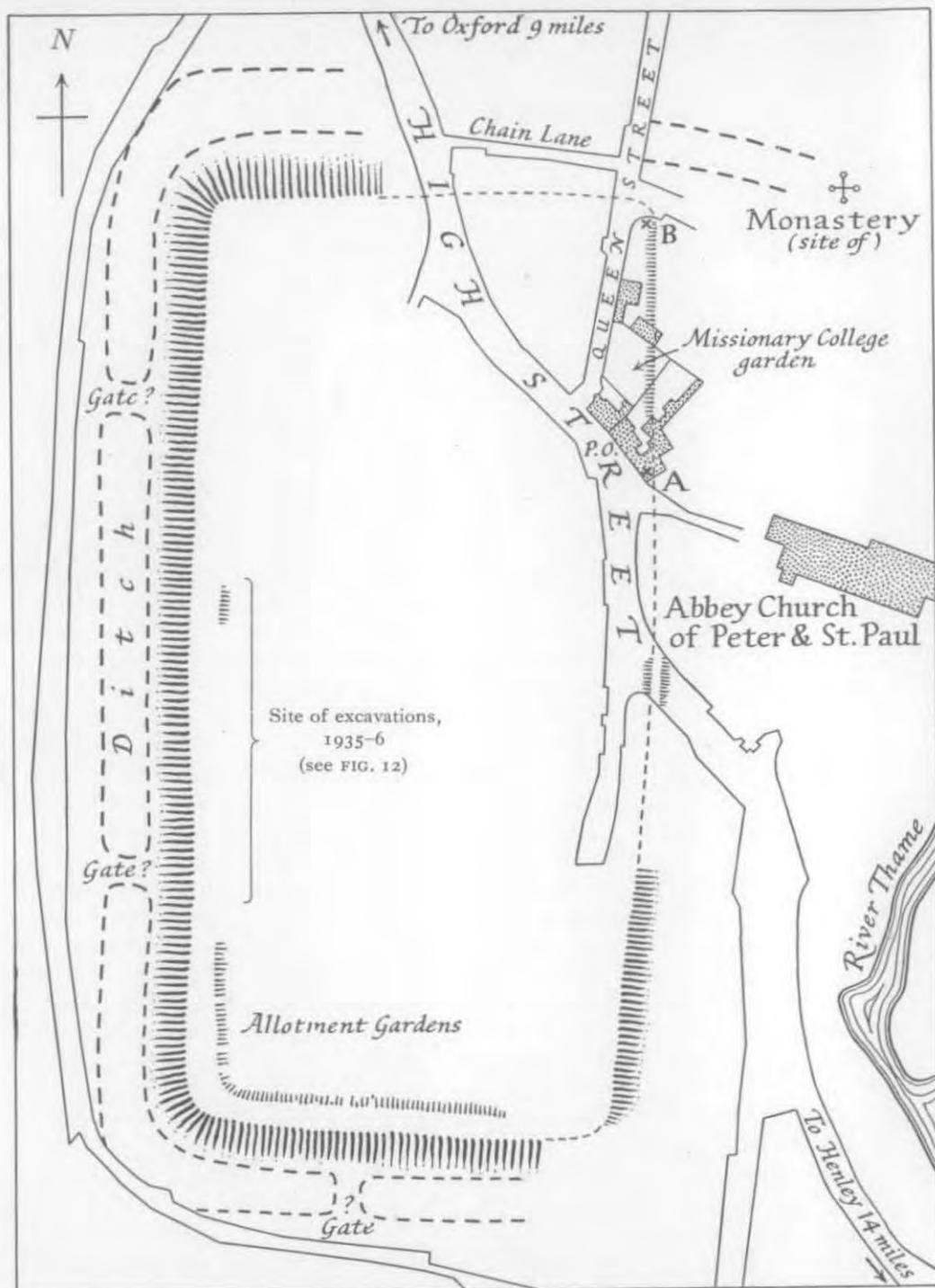
already published,¹ but it seems desirable to put on record a more detailed report of what was visible, for building operations and road construction may soon make it visible no more.

The whole line of the western rampart was very easily determined. Its NW. angle is visible in field 78 (O.S. 25-inch Oxfordshire XLVI, 13) and further south the fence bounding fields 91, 92, and 100 stands upon the crest of the visible bank, which here attains a height of about ten feet above the ditch-hollow in front of it. This hollow, the vestige, as excavation proved, of two ditches, though much silted, was clearly to be traced in this sector. In field 91 it appeared to have been interrupted by a causeway. The chicken-run and sheds of a cottage made it impossible to say whether there was a corresponding gap in the bank, but it may be permissible to conjecture that there was a gate at this point. Another and less definite interruption of the ditch was seen in field 100,—near to section A of the excavations. Here a cottage rested upon the bank, hiding any surface indications. We noticed, however, that the line of this causeway was taken up by a footpath running east and west. This footpath is slightly raised above the surrounding ground and seems to be on an old line. A gate is accordingly marked at this causeway, again with a query. The south-west angle and most of the south side of the rampart is clearly visible in the allotments-field (formerly Hemp Croft, field 102), and the ditch-hollow, though as usual faint, could still be traced. A possible causeway, over part of which a footpath runs, is marked with a query as the south gate, and there is a perceptible reduction of the bank at this point.

The turn of the south rampart was clearly seen at the south-east angle, the houses of Albert Terrace standing upon its crest: here it has been retained by a wall, the face of which, while certainly not Roman, may perhaps have been affixed to an earlier core. The actual turn occurs more or less under a house called the Mound. The behaviour of the ditch, however, is uncertain, as the hollow has evidently been deepened and its shape modified in modern times. It appears likely that it joined the river which is not more than 150 yards away; this would be consistent with the analysis of the mollusca from the excavated outer ditch, and a discoloured patch on the west wall of the garden of the Roman Catholic chapel could plausibly be explained by capillary attraction of the moisture of a silted ditch. It is fair, to say, however, that no traces were to be seen in fields 133 and 134.

On the east side the rampart could be seen north of the south-east angle standing as a crest perhaps fifteen feet above the lane to its east. It bisects field 104, and the iron railing at the back of the Castle public house is on the top

¹ *Antiquity*, IX (1935), 217.



50 0 50 100
 Scale of Yards
 A and B are Settlement Cracks

FIG. 11
 PLAN OF THE ROMAN DEFENCES, DORCHESTER, OXON.

After 'Antiquity,' ix, 218, by kind permission of the Editor.

of it. In the lawns to the north, where there might have been a gate to correspond with one of those in the western side, there was nothing to be seen ; and, indeed, further traces of the east rampart were few and not very satisfactory. The main road, before its rebuilding, showed a slight hump which would correspond with the position of the bank. Further forward the western boundary-wall of the graveyard should represent the line and does stand on a ridge, though disturbances in the graveyard make it dangerous to draw inferences from this. To the north a well-built eighteenth-century house has a serious settlement-crack. Houses in Dorchester are not noticeably liable to such cracks, and it is plausible to suppose that this house, as its position in the alignment suggests, was unevenly founded on the tail of the bank and the forced soil which, as excavation proved, exists behind it. Indeed there is still to be seen in the gardens of the Post Office and of the Missionary College a line of ridge which would correspond with the line of the back of the bank, and this line makes contact with a set of cracks in a modern stone wall at the angle of field 86. It is to be noted that there are no cracks in this wall at any other place.

If this is really the line of the rampart along the east side, it is strange that there is no evidence in the shape either of visible remains or of settlement-cracks to indicate the course of its ditches. It is possible, indeed, that they were at some time deliberately filled in : in the middle ages a castle and the Abbey church with its monastic buildings existed, and an open ditch would certainly have interfered with their amenities. Again it is conceivable that there was no ditch at all upon this, the river side. A third possibility, that the settlement-cracks and the ridge were mere coincidences, and that the rampart swung out in this north-eastern sector to take in the ground later occupied by the Abbey, was considered by the authors, but rejected. Though the Abbey does stand on a kind of platform which may be artificial, no evidence of such a deviation could be seen ; and it could not have extended far if the incineration burial found at the vicarage was, as a burial should be, outside the ramparts.

Nothing could be made out at the presumed north-east corner. The angle itself should underlie Queen Street ; the Schools should be on the ditches themselves, but they are a well-constructed and deep-founded modern building without settlement-cracks. Further west along the north side there has been extensive demolition in recent times and nothing is visible. But in 1882 Barns saw the ditch-hollow, as he says, ' very conspicuous at the junction of Chain Lane and High Street.' He further states that the north ditch ran eastward ' through the vicarage orchard, under the Manor House into the Thame.' The vicarage orchard is field 84 on the map, now an orchard no longer. A ditch slightly out of line from the others, does run across it in the direction of the Manor House. This ditch is actually the disturbance of a drain, recently laid

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by the County Council ; we were informed, however, by an intelligent villager that there had always been some sort of ditch upon this line. As the analysis of mollusca suggested that the outer excavated ditch was wet, levels were taken to see whether a diversion of the Thames along this line would actually produce a water-flow. The present summer level of the Thames (1937 June) is actually about 3 feet below the bottom of the ditch where it was excavated, so that some kind of dam would have been necessary for this.

Though the field-work strongly suggested that this rampart, laid out in straight lines around a Roman town, was itself Roman, the decisive test of excavation was needed, and in 1935-6 the Oxford University Archaeological Society cut sections through the defences in field 100 and the orchard to the east. Every facility was given by the landlord, Mr. Townsend, of Dorchester, and the authors take pleasure in paying a tribute to him for allowing, and to the Society for its tenacity in executing, a campaign of work which was undertaken intermittently for a long period. Various experts have collaborated in the production of this Report : their names will be found with the contributions that are theirs, and we are grateful to them all.

THE EXCAVATIONS

Before describing the sections cut through the defences, it will be as well to mention two pieces of work, which are to some extent independent of them. A trench in the same line as that of site C was carried along the axis of the narrow orchard inside the Roman town. It was hoped to find traces of Birinus' Dorchester and to learn the relation between the Saxon and the Roman settlement. No Saxon remains were found, and the excavators did not think it desirable to attempt the extensive openings which systematic exploration of the interior would demand. A description of this trial-trench has been deposited in the Ashmolean Museum.

As already stated, Barns had taken the sunken road for a ditch and it is probable that Gough, who is quoted above, had done the same before him. A trial hole was therefore dug in this road, and the appearance of natural gravel immediately below the metalling showed that their surmise was incorrect. In dealing with the problems of ditches, we are concerned with the hollow immediately outside the rampart and with that alone.

In the examination of the defences three trenches (PLATE VI and FIG. 12, Section A, B, C) were cut. They were taken, whenever water did not interfere, down to the natural subsoil, which consists of about 3 feet of loamy brick-earth over a sandy gravel.

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Before describing the sections in detail, it will be convenient to discuss the conclusions reached. The section providing the evidence for each statement is indicated by a letter in brackets.

The earliest object found was a single fragment of Iron Age A2 ware (B), but no evidence was discovered suggesting permanent occupation before the beginning of the Roman period.

During the first occupational period part of the site was covered by an open settlement which extended under the defences of the later town (C). Most of the evidence for the nature of this occupation comes from the rubbish in a small drainage-ditch which had silted up before the construction of the rampart. Three pits found behind the rampart may belong to this period, but too little pottery was found to render their dates certain. Two may have been wells, but that containing a later hearth seems to have been a dwelling-pit. It must have been most unsuitable for the purpose, for the water level can never have fallen much more than a foot below the bottom, and must have covered it to some depth in winter. It seems probable that the more substantial buildings indicated by the rubbish in the small ditch had their floors at ground level. The rubbish showed that the buildings were of wattle-and-daub. One fragment of daub was covered with a wash of cream-coloured clay, and a scrap of plaster was decorated with a red stripe on white ground. The occupants used Samian pottery and other imported ware. Several flint flakes, some showing secondary working, were also found.

The construction of the defences is probably to be dated by the pottery *c.* A.D. 75-150, and a date *c.* A.D. 125, which seems the most likely, would bring the site into relation with the Alchester chronology.¹ The site was defended by two ditches and a stone wall about 9 feet thick supporting a bank 43 feet wide at the base, surfaced with stone pitching. The size of the ditches suggests that the wall was originally about 15 feet high. The overall width of the defences was 140 feet. The mollusca (p. 70) found in the ditches show that both were permanently wet, the outer ditch containing 3 or 4 feet of water (A) and the inner being shallower and overgrown with reeds (B). The water in the inner ditch was certainly clean, and it is possible that the outer ditch had a connexion with the Thames. FIG. 13 shows the ideal arrangement of the works.

The early Saxon burials found in the Dyke Hills² led the excavators to hope that the ditch might yield traces of Saxon occupation, but the outer ditch was cleared out about XI-XII century A.D., and only a few stray scraps of Saxon pottery

¹ *Antiquaries Journal*, XII (1932), 36.

² Manning and Leeds, *op. cit.*, p. 241, and *reft. ad loc.*

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were found mixed with the later fragments. The presence of stone low down in the filling suggests that shortly after the clearance of the ditch the wall was

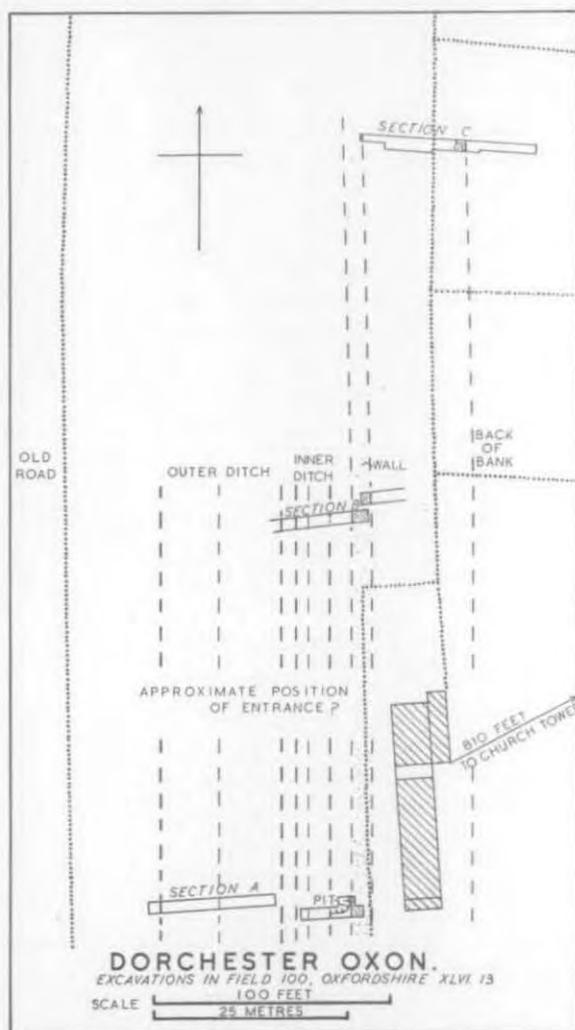


FIG. 12
THE ROMAN DEFENCES OF DORCHESTER, OXON.
General plan of the excavations, 1935-6

destroyed, and it is tempting to associate this destruction with the rebuilding of the Abbey (A.D. 1140). The pottery and other objects found are not inconsistent

with this. On the other hand a Bull of Eugenius III (1146; p. 73) seems to refer to the town wall.¹

The sections are all drawn with the west to the left. Objects found had their position recorded by 'chainage' measured from an arbitrary base-line and by level. The chainage and level are shown on the sections, and the relationship between the levels used on the site and Ordnance Datum is indicated.² In the descriptions the positions of the various strata, etc., will be indicated by reference to the chainage, with further reference to a site level if necessary.

Section A. Western portion.

This section crossed the outer ditch. On the outer lip of the ditch were traces of a mediæval timber structure which was not examined. All that was found was a gutter lined with rough stones and containing a few nondescript fragments of mediæval pottery, and a post-hole to the west, about 1 foot in diameter.

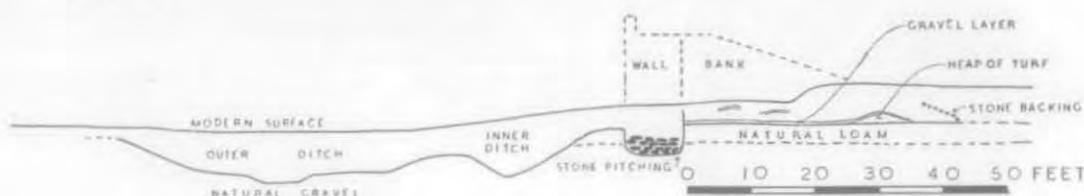


FIG. 13

THE ROMAN DEFENCES OF DORCHESTER, OXON.

Composite section through Ditches and Rampart (see p. 46).

In the ditch itself the lowest layer was 3 inches of grey silt containing a few scraps of Roman pottery and many snail shells (p. 70). The pot (FIG. 15, no. 2) was found lying on the natural gravel at the bottom of the ditch. Above the grey silt was about 1 foot of peaty clay, containing only a few small Roman sherds. These two deposits filled the deeper central section of the ditch (41-50). On the inner side (50-62) a thin layer of gravel, which had become very hard, had escaped destruction during the mediæval clearance of the ditch, and contained a little Roman and no mediæval pottery. On the outer side (37-41) was a deposit composed almost entirely of bones, with a few post-Roman sherds,

¹ The excavators are indebted to Mr. J. C. Dickinson for this information.

² The trenches were pegged out rather hurriedly to enable work to be started. It will be seen from the sections that when the levels were checked and tied in to Ordnance Datum, an error of 1 foot was found between Sections A and C. As some work had already been recorded it was felt that it would be more confusing to alter the records than to allow the error to remain.

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a bone implement (FIG. 18, no. 7), and an iron spearhead (FIG. 19, no 4). Above these deposits the ditch was filled with grey, discoloured loam, containing much mediæval and some Roman pottery. A layer of lighter gravelly or clayey material, containing little pottery, occurred in the inner half of the ditch (48 onwards), and may represent the remains of the destroyed bank. Nothing else of much note was found, except a layer of large flat stones (45-48) placed as though to form a platform on the mud. The large pottery dishes (FIG. 17, nos. 1-4), seemed mostly to be associated with these stones.

Section A. Eastern portion.

This section involved part of the inner ditch and the front of the foundations of the town wall. It provided valuable evidence for the date of the site, owing to the existence of a pit apparently dug after the erection of the wall. Unfortunately, before either the bottom of the inner ditch or the relation of the pit to the ditch had been examined, part of the trench collapsed, and the presence of a fruit tree prevented further excavation in the required direction. It was, however, possible to examine the relation of the pit to the wall in some detail.

The filling of the inner ditch was an almost sterile brown clay, becoming more gravelly towards the top. The rarity of pottery in the ditch is noticeable in contrast to its frequency in the pit, but it may be noted that pottery was less plentiful in that part of the pit remote from the wall, and that the bottom of the ditch, where relics would accumulate, could not be examined.

The foundation of the town wall was composed of large stones closely packed without mortar in a trench sunk 2 feet 6 inches into the natural gravel. The wall itself, and much of the foundation, had been removed, and the upper part of its site was covered with small stones and fragments of mortar, with mediæval pottery above. The mortar was composed of approximately two parts sand to one of lime.¹

The section drawn is that exposed in the south face of the trench (PLATE V). The relation of the pit to the wall was examined by a series of sections cut at horizontal intervals of 1 foot, and two of these are shown, 2 feet (PLATE VI, 1), and 4 feet (*ib.* 11) north of the north face respectively.

The filling of the pit proved very variable in character, but reduces essentially to the following arrangement. The lowest layer was a thick bed of perfectly clean loamy clay. Above this there appeared in the north face of the trench a thin layer of lumps of lime, which changed rapidly to a thick layer of burnt material in the more northerly sections. Next came a fairly well defined layer of very dirty loam, with pottery. Above this came cleaner loam, a thin charcoal

¹ The excavators are indebted to Mr. R. Preston, of the Roads Research Laboratory, for this analysis, and for identifying the lime from the pit.

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layer, more slightly discoloured loam and pottery, the smaller stones from the robbed wall, and humus. The ceramic evidence seemed to show that the pit had been filled in by the end of the second century.

Examination of the sections left little doubt that the pit was later than the wall, though absolute certainty could not be reached owing to the destruction of the latter; it is difficult, however, to explain clearly their relationship. It can perhaps best be described by considering the arrangements which might have been expected according to whether the pit or wall was the older. Considering first the plan, it was found that the boundary of the pit at first ran towards the wall and then turned and ran almost parallel to the wall face for at least 4 or 5 feet. If the pit were earlier than the wall it seems most improbable that their boundaries would have coincided in this way. Secondly, in every section there was visible either a thin division of undisturbed loam and gravel between the wall's foundation-trench and the pit, or, if this was absent, exactly so much clean loam and gravel appeared in the pit as would have fallen from such a thin division. Experience in the excavations showed that the gravel and loam retained a vertical face without much difficulty, but if this collapsed it did so in large masses. It seems incredible that if there had been no wall in existence when the pit was dug, the amount of the fallen material would in each section exactly equal that which would have come from the division.

The pit provided a fair amount of datable pottery, which is considered later (p. 58 f.).

Section B.

This trench was originally intended to cut both ditches and the wall, but, owing to the presence of water, time did not allow the outer ditch to be fully examined. Nevertheless the appearance of a gravelly layer about 2 feet below the surface permits the inference that its dimensions were of the same order as in section A.

The inner ditch had the irregular section shown, probably owing to differences in the consistency of the strata through which it passed. The grey silt at the bottom contained considerable traces of reeds, and the examination of the mollusca (p. 70) showed that the water was clean, but shallower than in the outer ditch. On the outer lip of the ditch were two courses of small thin stones set in mortar, perhaps the remains of a slight retaining wall.

The berm between the ditch and the town wall had been disturbed by a small ditch filled with stones. A rim of Iron Age A2 ware was found at about the old ground level here, so it is possible that the disturbance was due to early occupation. The wall itself had been thoroughly robbed, only about 12 inches of stone footing remaining. In the filling of the robber trench was a thin layer

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of burnt material containing a fragment of a mediæval sagging base. The width of the wall-foundation proved to be about 9 feet. The bank seemed to have been founded on a layer of gravel, but only the lowest foot remained.

Relics were scarce in this trench. A coin of Constantine II as Caesar (p. 69) was found high in the filling of the outer ditch (Chainage 45', Level 158' 6") but there is nothing to show at what date it reached its position in the ditch.

Section C.

This section ran from the back of the wall, across the bank, and a short distance into the area of the town. Its upper levels had been disturbed by the construction of a modern field-ditch and by modern animal burials. By remarkable good fortune, the line coincided for some distance with a small ditch underlying the bank, which provided some datable material and evidence as to the nature of the earlier settlement. It was filled with a slightly discoloured, clayey loam, containing pottery, a few metal objects, and some fragments of bone and charcoal. Pieces of daub and a scrap of painted plaster were also found.

Owing to the presence of a cart-track, only the very back of the wall-trench could be opened. No stone remained, and the lower part of the trench was filled with thick black mud. Although this lay at the end of the small ditch, it seems unlikely that it represents a Roman sump. It is more probably due to seepage into the hollow left after the removal of the stone. A spindle-whorl made from the base of a Roman pot was found in the black mud, but similar whorls were found with mediæval pottery in the outer ditch. The bottom of the bank remained to a height of about 2 feet, and its back was surfaced with a layer of stones and flints.

When the defences were originally being constructed the turf from the area to be excavated was heaped up roughly on a line near the back of the bank, and the area between it and the wall was covered with a layer of gravel. The excavated material was then heaped on this.

It seems probable that the bank and both ditches belong to the same date. For the pottery shows that if either ditch is late it is the outer one; but the inner ditch by itself would only provide material for an insignificant bank. It is possible that material was obtained elsewhere, but there seems no reason why it should be. Owing to the destruction which has taken place it is not possible to determine whether the bank and wall were both constructed at the same time, but the dating of the pottery in the pit (p. 58 f.) and in the ditch beneath the bank (p. 56 f.) shows that no long interval can have separated them.

Too little of the pits behind the bank was examined to enable them to be dated with certainty, but it seems probable that they all belong to the early

occupation, and the pottery (p. 59 f.) suggests that the hearth and the pit containing it were in use about the time of the construction of the rampart. For convenience, the position of this hearth is shown in the plan (PLATE VI) although it is above site level 159. Immediately above the early material behind the bank, red colour-coated pottery appeared. This suggests that the occupation of the town did not extend over its whole area until about the middle of the third century. No remains were found with the hearth of burnt clay and tiles (176-180), but a coin of the house of Constantine was found below it (Chainage 178', Level 161' 4").

EARLY IRON AGE POTTERY

Only one fragment (FIG. 14) was discovered. It came from Section B (see p. 50), C. 93', L. 158' 4", in fill of inner ditch: a stray. A2 ware, handmade, dark grey inside, brown and grey outside. Diam. uncertain.

SAMIAN POTTERY (FIG. 14)¹

1. Two pieces, C. 124' 6", L. 160' 2" and C. 149', L. 161' 7". Ditch under Bank. Dragendorff, form 24-25, good and fairly light glaze. See O. and P. 171. I3-4.²
2. C. 97-8', L. 155' 6". Site A, Pit, low level. Dragendorff, form 27, rich colour, good glaze. See O and P. 187. I3-4.
3. Chainage and Level as 2. Rim fragment of Dragendorff, form 18. I3-4. Not illustrated.
4. Two pieces. C. 98' 6", L. 156'. Site A, Pit, low level. Dragendorff, form 18; incomplete stamp CAR/. I3-4.
5. C. 90-5', L. 157-9'. Site A, Pit. Worn fragment, which had evidently had much use before deposition. Perhaps East Gaulish, and Walters, form 79. Stamp retrograde TARIO FEC. Not illustrated.
6. Two pieces. C. 135', L. 162' and 163'. In Bank. Dragendorff, form 37. The ovolo with bead-row beneath is found on a pot from Silchester (*Catalogue*, pl. XXVI, 52) signed by ADVOCISVS of Lezoux, who alone, according to Mr. J. A. Stanfield, uses them in conjunction. II2-3.
7. Three pieces. C. 167' 10", L. 161' 2". Near old ground surface behind bank. Dragendorff, form 33, South Gaulish. I3-4. Not illustrated.

IMITATION SAMIAN (FIG. 14)

- a. C. 178', L. 161' 3". About 6' above top of hearth. Pattern in cream slip. *Richborough*¹, 113 (IV); *Mildenhall* (IV).
- b. C. 145-55', L. 164'-164' 9". On top of bank. Cp. *Richborough*¹, 127 (III3-IV).
- c. C. 170', L. 160' 9". Just above stones covering small pit. Cp. *Richborough*¹ XXX, 507 (IV).
- d. C. 170-5', L. 160'. Position as last. Diam. c. 7½". Cp. *Richborough*¹ 112 (IV2).

¹The authors are indebted to Mr. E. B. Birley, F.S.A., for assistance in this section of the report.

²In the *Catalogue*, Roman numerals denote centuries A.D.; arabic, the quarters of those centuries. Thus I3=third quarter of first century.

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COARSE POTTERY (FIGS. 15-16)

The excavators were fortunate in obtaining some material for an absolute chronology of the site. That a system of defences should be cut through at one point to find that they overlay a ditch is fortune to which excavators have no right; and there was the high probability, that the pit of section A was subsequent to them, so that its remains could tie the chronology at the other end.

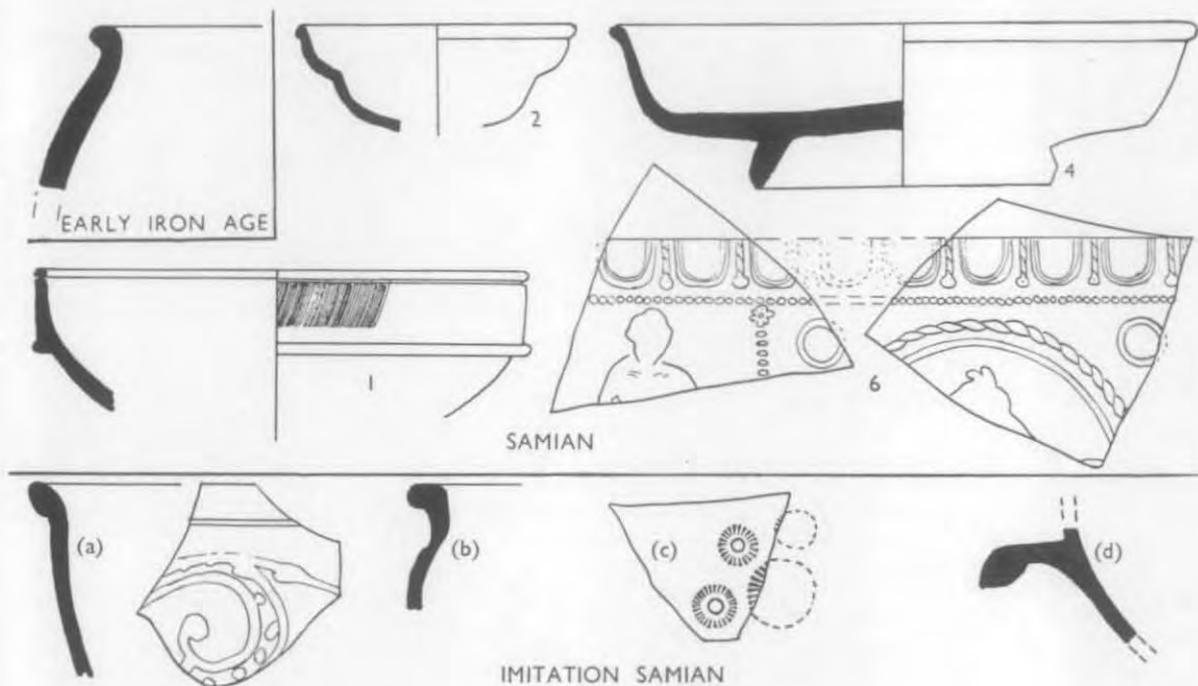


FIG. 14

POTTERY FROM DORCHESTER, OXON. Scale, no. 6, $\frac{1}{2}$; remainder $\frac{1}{4}$.
(see p. 52).

But to relate the stratification to history was not easy. No coins were found in stratified positions, and but a few objects of bronze or even Samian. Moreover on such a civil site as this the life of a Samian pot may be long, so that it can only be used with safety for an upper chronological limit. It was necessary, therefore, to use the evidence of coarse pottery; and the difficulty which should be felt on all southern excavations was felt here. Stratified material, dated upon its own merits, is so rare in the south that references to Northumberland and

Wales, so incongruous in an Oxfordshire report, could not be avoided. Moreover such counsel as exists in the south is darkened by excavators who publish incompletely, so that no inference can be drawn from the absence of a type in their reports, or who call in experts, the precision of whose chronology varies inversely with the evidence that justifies it. It is necessary, therefore to be very modest in estimates of chronology, however disappointing this modesty may be. And future workers should be reminded again that this material has only been dated by outside parallels and not upon its own merits. These parallels have been sought from the reports of all Romano-British excavations where strata are dated on their own merits, and of a few, especially in the neighbourhood, where they are not. The search has been complete enough to say that the absence of a stratified site in the catalogue means that the shape in question was sought for in the publication and not found. The excavators hope that this failure was normally of the publication to illustrate (and thus, as one hopes, of the site to produce), and not of their eyes to see, though a diet of jar-rim illustrations can break the heart. When sherds clearly belonged to one of Collingwood's figure-types, it was thought unnecessary to go into more detail unless it was possible to modify Collingwood's conclusions. For reasons of space no bibliography is given: those who cannot track a reference to an excavated site are unlikely to need it.

A. OUTER TOWN-DITCH

(a) *Mortaria*. - All flanged, pink ware, grey centre, white slip on surface. For the type see Collingwood, p. 221 (rare in II, standard in III and IV).

1. C. 43-4', L. 151'. On gravel at bottom of ditch. *Richborough*¹ 98 (IV).
2. C. 56', L. 152' 9". Hard layer. *Gayton Thorpe* XIV, 3 (II₃-III₄ ?); *Island's Thorns* XXXII, 14 (IV₂).
3. C. 66' 6", L. 155' 9". With mediæval sherds. *Wroxeter*¹ 146 ('probably late'); *Ditchley* 3 (IV); *Caerwent Defences* 55 (IV).

(b) *Jars*.

4. C. 56', L. 152' 9". Hard layer. Hard light-grey clay. Collingwood 67 (I₂-IV).
5. C. 64', L. 154' 3". Grey clay. This sharp-angled rim goes back to the earliest period of Roman Britain (*Claudian Well at Margidunum* 19, 22, 24), and is common on sites of I₃-4 (e.g. *Corbridge* 17; *Malton* 1, 18; *Segontium* 26; *Caerhun* 381). It becomes rare in II, cp. *Wroxeter*¹ 29 (II₁-2), but is occasionally found in the lowest levels of Hadrian's Wall (II₁-4) (e.g., *Limestone Bank* 20; *Appletree* 54).

(c) *Dishes*.

6. C. 62', L. 153' 6". Hard layer. Grey ware. Resembles Collingwood 39 (=Woodward type 1a). Of little value for dating as it occurs at all periods from I₄ (*Chester Amphitheatre* 36) to IV (*Richborough*¹ 105).

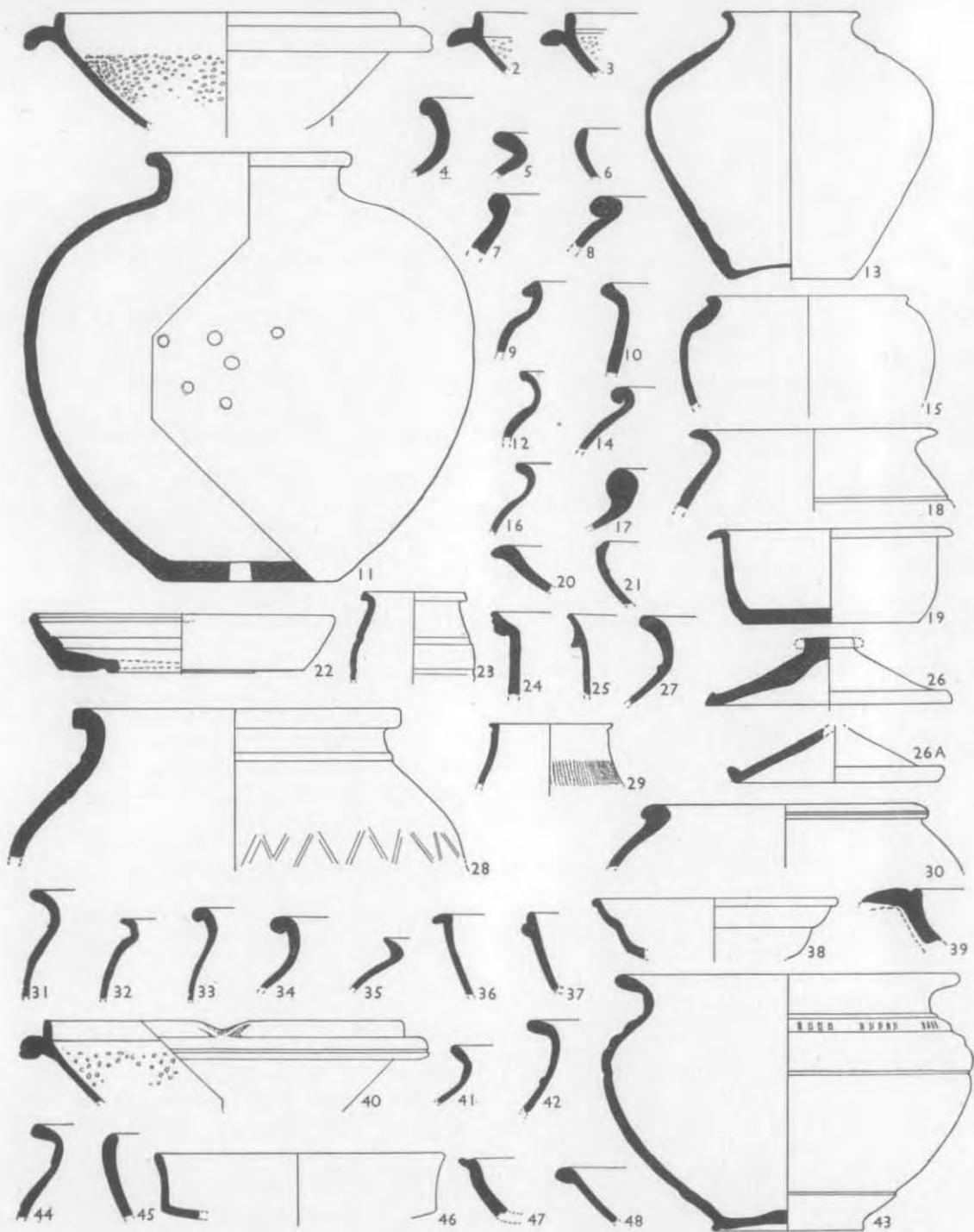


FIG. 15
 ROMAN POTTERY FROM DORCHESTER, OXON. Scale, $\frac{1}{4}$.
 (see pp. 54-9).

BI. PRE-WALL DITCH

(a) Jars.

7. C. 124-5', L. 160' 9". Top levels, under Bank. Grey clay, slightly darker surface (diam. 7"). Cp. Collingwood 59/61 (I3-II3); *Gorley Hill* 16.
8. C. 122', L. 159'. Middle levels, under Bank. Grey clay, smooth dark-grey surface. Cp. Collingwood 59/61 (I3-II3).
9. C. 121', L. 159'. Middle levels, under Bank. Grey-buff ware (diam. 7"). Cp. *Caerhun* 382 (I3-4).
10. C. 128-9', L. 160' 3". Top levels, under Bank. Dirty grey clay (diam. 5"). *Caerleon* (A.C. 1933) 25 (I4); *Segontium* 4 (II1).
11. C. 158', L. 158' 6". Low levels. Red ware, grey centre, dark grey surface with buff patches; six holes drilled in side and one in base. No exact parallel found.
12. C. 141, L. 159' 3". Middle levels, under Bank. Hard grey ware with smooth outside surface (diam. 5½"). Delicate everted rim with very slight shoulder. *Brecon Gaer* 46 (II1).
13. C. 159-61', L. 158-9'. Low level. Pink-buff ware, grey fracture; surface originally smooth on shoulder and belly. Derives from a pre-conquest type (e.g., *Swarling*, 1, 8, etc.). Cp. *Richborough*¹ 485 (I2); *Claudian Well at Margidunum* 12, 13 (I2); *Newstead* xxv, 15 (I3-4); *Brecon Gaer* 6 (I4); *Wroxeter*² 58 (I4-II1); *Lowbury Hill* 64; *Stratford-on-Avon* 18.
14. C. 148' 9", L. 157' 9". Low level under Bank, Dark grey sandy ware. Heavily undercut bead-rim. *Newstead* xxv, 13 (I4); cp. *Old Kilpatrick* xxiii, 5 (II2-4).
15. Two pieces C. 155', L. 158' 6", and C. 149' 9", L. 158'. Low level under Bank. A late variety of the well-known bead-rim bowl (cp. *A. J.* LXXXVII, 280); *Verulam* xxxiv, 56 (I2); *Forden Gaer*¹ xvi, 48 (II1); cp. *Hengistbury Head* xxiii, 7. The type survives longer than is usually recognized and even appears at *Rockbourne Down* ix, 4 (III2+).
16. C. 125', L. 159' 6". Middle levels under Bank. Hard dark grey ware. Flat everted rim, a local type apparently. Cp. *Hambleden* 168; *Twynford Down* 40; but only dated from *Alchester*³ 20 (I2-3).
17. C. 121'-122' 6", L. 156' 6". Low level under Bank. Coarse, incompletely-baked, grey ware, light grey fracture. The heavy 'cocked-up' bead rim: *Casterley* viii, 24.
18. C. 156' 9", L. 161'. Top levels, but not under Bank. Grey clay, smooth bluish-grey surface (diam. 6"). *Caerwent Defences* 2 (I3-4); *Slack* 46 (I3-II1); *Forden Gaer* (II3-III).

(b) Bowls and Dishes.

19. C. 145', L. 159' 3". Middle levels, under Bank. Light grey clay. Patchy grey and cream surface. The overhanging plain rim is known from I3-4 deposits at *Corbridge*, but is rare before II1 (e.g., *Slack* 70). Common on the lowest levels of Hadrian's Wall (II1-3) (e.g. *Birdoswald* 71, 72), it becomes rarer in the Antonine period (II3-4) (*Forden Gaer*¹ 22; *Balmuilty* XLVII, 3), but it does even survive into III (*Norton Disney* 59).
20. C. 123' 9", L. 159' 11". Middle levels under Bank. Light red ware. Cp. *Corbridge* 86 (I3-4).

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21. C. 133' 6", L. 160' 6". Top levels under Bank. A variety of 6 (*q.v.*). *Balmuldy* 28 (II2-4) shows some likeness and *Lowbury Hill* 18 (undated) seems to represent an earlier typological phase of the shape.
22. C. 140', L. 159' 9". Middle levels under Bank. Imitation in Belgic *terra nigra* of Samian 15/17. No parallel in Belgic ware could be found: the variety of the Samian form imitated seems to date I3 (O. and P., p. 175).

(c) *Beaker*.

23. Three pieces, C. 120', L. 158' 3-9", C. 121'-122' 6", L. 158' 6", C. 126', L. 159'. Low levels under Bank. Delicate biscuit-coloured ware with roulette-decoration (*Verulam* LV). No parallel found. The rim resembles *Haltern* 84B.

(d) *Flagons*.

24. C. 122' 6", L. 160' 3". Top levels under Bank. Cream-coloured with gritty surface (diam. 4"). No exact parallel found. According to Miller's analysis of 'screw-necked' flagons (*Balmuldy*, p. 82), this piece should come rather late in the series.
25. C. 126', L. 158' 11". Middle levels under Bank. Light brick-red clay, brownish fracture, white slip below rim (diam. 3½"). Again difficult to date. The type is Collingwood 53, which is said to belong to II. But the rim can be as early as II-2 (*e.g.*, *Haltern* type 49 B), and the nearest British parallel—*Caerleon Amphitheatre*—is dated I3-4; cp. *Silchester* LXII, 116.

(e) *Pot-Lids*.

26. C. 136', L. 159' 6".
- 26A. C. 147' 6", L. 163' 4". Both in slatey grey ware, and both in fragmentary condition. The chronology of pot-lids has not yet been systematically worked out, and neither specimen invited the attempt.

B2. OLD GROUND LEVEL AT BACK OF BANK (UNSEALED)

Jars.

27. C. 175', L. 159' 6". Grey clay, darker surface, cordon at base of neck (diam. 8"). Cp. Collingwood 68/69. *Alchester*³ 33 (I2-3); *Hardham* 55 (I3-II1); *Corbridge* 68 (I3-4); *Caerleon* (*A.C.* 1929) 9 (I3-II1); *Alchester*² 41 (I4-II1); *Brecon Gaer* 68 (II1); *Templeborough* 209c.
28. C. 175', L. 159' 6". Light grey clay, darker surface, cordon at base of neck, trellis on sides (diam. 8"). *Chester* (1928) 24 (I3-4); *Appletree* 78 (II3); cp. *Lowbury Hill* 32.
29. C. 175' 6", L. 160' 3". Grey clay, surface rouletted (diam. 3"). No parallel found.

C. BANK

(a) *Jars*.

30. C. 130', L. 161' 10". Black ware, reddish-buff surface, two grooves around rim. *Gloucester* IV, 4 (I3-4); *Stratford-on-Avon* 9.

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31. C. 145' 9", L. 164'-164' 6". Upper part of bank make-up. Dark grey clay, surface partly burnished, two grooves in shoulder, sharp edged cordon at base of neck (diam. 7"). Cp. Collingwood 68/69. Quite a long-lived type, apparently; *Brecon Gaer* (II1); *Dorchester Kiln* 27 (II); *Ospringe* 326 (III).
32. C. 142' 9", L. 164'. Top of Bank material. Fine grey clay, darker surface (diam. 3½"). *Gayton Thorpe* 31 (II3+) was the only parallel found, but no doubt there are many more. The salient features of jars like this hardly appear at all on a drawing when it has, as in most reports, been reduced to quarter size.
33. C. 145' 9", L. 164'. Top of Bank material. Fine grey-brown clay, smooth outside, two grooves just below shoulder (diam. 5"). No parallel found.
34. C. 147' 6", L. 164'. Top of Bank material. Grey clay, outer surface smooth, rough band just below rim (diam. 7"). *Slack* 23 (II1); *Holt* 63.
35. C. 148', L. 163'-164'. Light grey clay, smooth surface (diam. 4"). Cp. Collingwood 63 (I3-II); *Richborough*¹ 62/63 (I); *Gellygaer* XI, 8 (II1).

(b) *Bowls and Dishes.*

36. C. 133-4', L. 161' 9"-162' 3". Dark grey ware, smooth surface. See notes on 19 above.
37. C. 143-5', L. 163' 9"-164'. Top of Bank material. Dirty red-brown ware, smooth black surface, cross-hatched internally. The history of the type and the significance, if any, of varieties such as this (for which no exact parallel was found) are unknown. The type is found as early as I3-4 (*Caerleon Amphitheatre* 16; *Old G.P.O.* 30).
38. C. 148' 3", L. 162' 9". Grey ware, purplish-grey, smooth outer surface. Imitation of Samian form 27. Like the Samian form, this may date from the earliest period of the Roman occupation (e.g., a grave-group from Whitechapel, *Roman London* (Royal Commission) LXV, 28). It survives the Samian form, however, for many years, and, according to Wheeler (*Segontium*, p. 165) occurred at Cologne in a grave of the late third century. The latest date yet recorded in this country seems to be II3-4 (*Caerleon* (A.C. 1933), 212, 213); cp. *Richborough*¹ 45 (II).

D. POST-WALL PIT

(a) *Mortaria.*

39. C. 96-8', L. 156'. Low level. Pinkish cream ware. Collingwood 2 (I3-II4) but rare even in the earliest part of II.
40. C. 90', L. 157'. Upper fill. Pink ware, grey fracture, covered with white slip. Flanged type for which see notes on 1-3. Cp. *Richborough*¹ 98 (IV); *Lydney* 18 (IV4-V); *Rose Hill* 13.

(b) *Jars.*

41. C. 90-2', L. 159'. Among small stones. Grey clay, smooth bluish-grey surface. Cp. *Caerleon* (A.C. 1929) 25 (I4-II1). No other parallel was found, but the remarks made on 32 above certainly apply here.
42. C. 90-2', L. 157-9'. Grey clay, darker surface (diam. 6"). Cp. Collingwood 68/69; *Gloucester* VI, 8 (I4-II1); *Slack* (II1).

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43. C. 98', L. 155' 10". Low levels. Hard grey ware. Derives from a pre-Roman shape. But the 'flaring,' everted rim seems first to appear at Margidunum (*Claudian Well* x, 7; I2-3). See also *Richborough*¹ 28 (I2-3); *Hinksey Hill* 55. The degenerate 'pedestal' base suggests an early date.
44. C. 90', L. 156-7'. Hard grey ware. No datable parallel found but *Twyford Down* 40, from a site apparently abandoned soon after the conquest, may be quoted. See again, however, the observations on 32.

(c) *Bowls and Dishes.*

45. C. 90-2', L. 156-7'. Probably middle or late level. Light grey ware, smooth dirty grey-brown surface. Collingwood 39, Woodward type 1a. See the observations on 6 above.
46. C. 87', L. 156' 2". Actually in ditch, but probably a stray from upper levels of pit. Light grey ware, smooth pinkish-buff surface. Derives from a pre-Roman shape (*Verulam* v, 15). In the Roman period, the cordons disappear, as on this specimen. *Caerleon* (*A.C.* 1929) 120 (I3-4); *ib.* (*A.C.* 1933) 446 (I3-4); *Wroxeter*¹ 19, 20 (I4-II1); *ib.*² 64 (I4-II1). A reappearance of the shape on imported wares of very late date (*Birdoswald* 51 (IV3-4)) can hardly be in question here.
47. C. 95-6', L. 157'. Middle fill. Grey ware, smooth black surface. No exact parallel found, but see *Newstead* xxvi, 13 (I3-4); *Gellygaer* x, 14 and xii, 14 (II1); *Old Kilpatrick* xxiii, 12 (II2-4).
48. C. 90-2', L. 156-7'. Middle fill. Dark grey ware, sandy black surface, partly smoothed. Woodward type li d. No exact parallel found. Cp. *Mumrills* ci, 21 (II2-4); *Lowbury Hill* 30.

E. HEARTH

Jars.

49. C. 184', L. 159'. Below hearth level. Grey clay, smooth surface. Collingwood 62 (I2-II1).
50. C. 180-4', L. 157' 9"-158' 9". Below hearth level. Grey clay, smooth ring below rim. Collingwood 77 (I3-II3).
51. C. 179' 10", L. 160'. Hearth level. Fine red clay, red-brown surface. Cp. *Richborough*¹ 14 (I2), but see again observations on 32 above.
52. C. 184', L. 160' 3". Hearth level. Buff clay on inner, dirty brown sandy outer surface (diam. 6"). *Richborough*¹ 41-43 (I3-II1); *ib.*³ 269 (I3-4); *Caerleon Amphitheatre* 65 (II1); *Gellygaer* xi, 2 (II1); *High House* 100 (II1-2); *Verulam* 41 (II1-3); *Gayton Thorpe* 24 (II3+). Reappears at a late date (*Richborough*³ 336, IV).
53. C. 182', L. 162'. Fill over hearth. Dirty brown clay, fine sandy surface (diam. 8"). *Richborough*³ 247 (I4-II1).
54. C. 177', L. 162' 6". Fill over hearth. Grey clay, dark grey sandy surface (diam. 5"). *Gloucester* vi, 11 (I3-4); *Caerleon Amphitheatre* 59 (I4); *York* (1925) xciv, 16 (II3 ?); *Balmuildy* xxiii, 7 (II2-4).

F. PIT AT BACK OF RAMPART

Jars.

55. C. 162'-165' 6", L. 161-2'. Hard grey-buff clay, smooth surface (diam. 3½"). *Malton* VII, 10 (III1-2), was the only parallel found, but see observations on 32 above.
56. C. 163', L. 159'-159' 6". Dark grey ware, smooth black outer surface; shoulder and rim burnished. No dated parallel could be found: the rudimentary pedestal suggests an early date. *Stratford-on-Avon* 34 (undated) is similar.

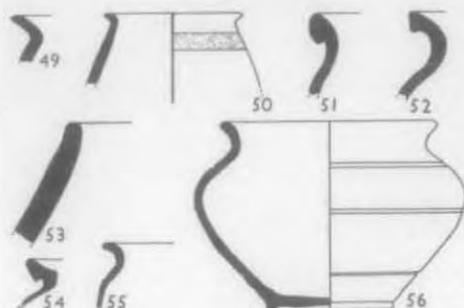


FIG. 16

ROMAN POTTERY FROM DORCHESTER, OXON. Scale, ¼.

(see p. 59 f.).

MEDIÆVAL POTTERY FROM THE OUTER DITCH¹ (FIG. 17)

1-4. *Wide dishes.* Cp. *Clarendon Palace*, IX, 3 (*Ant. J.*, XVI, 552, XII-XIV), and *Llandaff* (unpublished, in National Museum of Wales).

1. C. 46' 9", L. 153'-153' 3". Below stones. Hard grey clay, covered with buff slip, showing brush marks. Dirty greyish buff outside (diam. 14½"). The technique of 'brush-marking' occurs as early as late Saxon times (*Ant. J.*, XV, 186), is common c. 1100-1200 and lasts into the 13th century (Henry III).
2. Two pieces. C. 47' 6", L. 154' and C. 46' 4", L. 154' 2". Among stones. Ware similar to 1. Finger impressions on rim at intervals of an inch (diam. 13").
3. C. 47' 6", L. 154' 2". Among stones. Not illustrated. Section as 2, but finger-impressions at half-inch intervals; perhaps part of 1. Similar rims from C. 45-50', L. 153-4' and C. 44-9', L. 154'-154' 9".
4. C. 47', L. 154' 2". Among stones. Grey ware, no grit. Black outside, dirty brown inside. Sides of uneven thickness, finger-impressions on rim. A similar rim from C. 44-9', L. 154' 6"-155'.

¹The authors are much indebted to Mr. John Charlton for assistance in this section of the report.

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5-13. *Cooking pots.* Cp. pots in National Museum of Wales, unpublished, from Cardiff.

5. C. 41', L. 156'. Hard grey clay, sandy slip. Surface dirty grey-brown. Cp. *Rayleigh* 6.
6. C. 61-3', L. 156-7'. Dark grey clay. Uniform dark grey sandy surface. Cp. *Ogmore* 36-38 (1130-40); *Rayleigh* 47 ('early').
7. C. 47', L. 154' 2". Among stones. Ware resembles 1. Surface dark smoky grey.

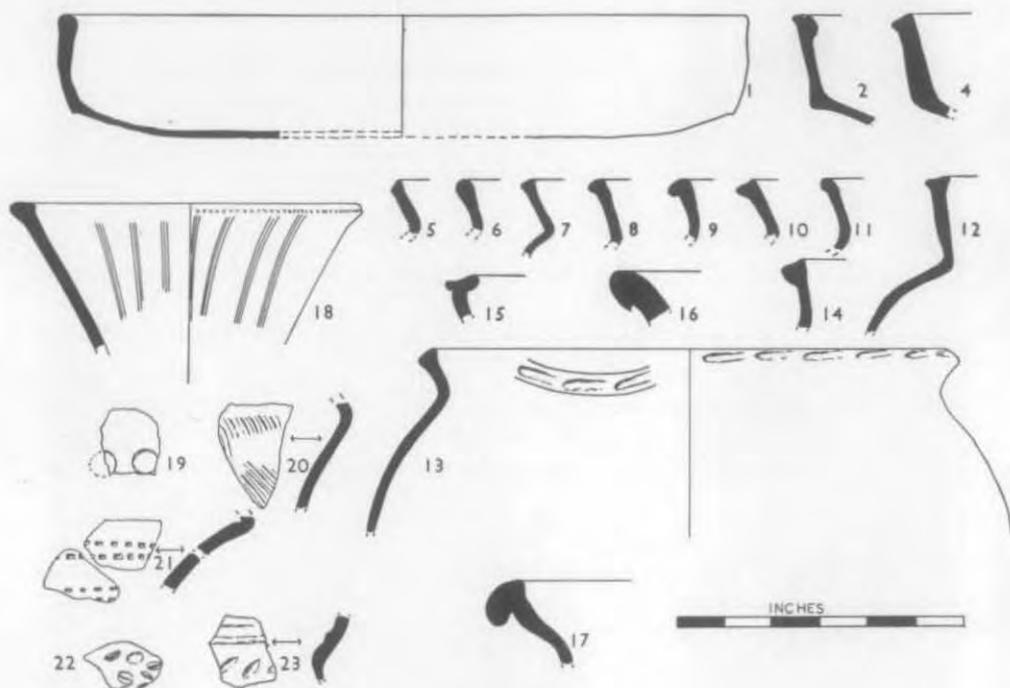


FIG. 17

SAXON AND MEDÆVAL POTTERY FROM DORCHESTER, OXON. Scale, $\frac{1}{4}$.
(see pp. 60-4).

8. C. 48', L. 155' 4". Very light grey clay. Inner surface light grey, outer smoky-buff and grey.
9. C. 41', L. 156'. Hard light grey clay. Uniform grey outer surface, creamy grey slip inside. Cp. *Lydney* 15 ('Stephen'); *Rayleigh* 53 ('early.')
10. C. 44-9', L. 153'-154' 6". Hard light grey clay, buff inside, dirty buff outside.
11. C. 49', L. 154' 6". Similar to last. Smoky grey surface. Cp. *Ogmore* 36-8 (1130-40).

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12. Top soil. Ware as 1. Light grey-buff surface.
 13. Two pieces. C. 50', L. 154' 9" and C. 51', L. 155' 9". Hard light grey ware. Inside, buff at rim merging into light grey; outside patches of light grey, smoky grey, and buff. Stick impressions on rim (diam. 10½"). The last are characteristic of 12th century wares. Cp., e.g., Old Sarum (*Ant. J.*, xv, 186); the rim suggests XI4 or XII.

14-18. *Miscellaneous.*

14. C. 55' 3", L. 154' 6". Under clayey layer. Hard buff clay fracture and surface.
 15. C. 45', L. 157'. Hard grey clay, buff inside, grey outside. Cp. *Stamford Castle* (*Ant. J.*, xvi, 407, XII).
 16. C. 51', L. 153' 6". Hard grey clay with shell fragments. Buff surface.
 17. C. 45', L. 157'. Hard grey clay. Buff surface, smoky grey patches on outside.
 18. C. 53' 6", L. 155' 3". Hard grey ware with dull olive-green glaze. Decorated inside and out with lines formed of three grooves, and with small indentations on rim. Bowl or perhaps pitcher neck. An unusual piece.

19-23. *Decorated fragments.*

19. C. 44-9', L. 153' 3"-153' 6". Coarse grey ware, dark grey inside, dirty brown outside. Decorated with roughly impressed circles.
 20. C. 52', L. 155' 3". Hard grey ware, dark grey inside, lighter grey outside. Decorated on outside with faint parallel grooves.
 21. Two pieces, C. 48' 3", L. 153' 3" and C. 44-9', L. 154' 6"-155'. Hard grey ware with sandy red surface, impressed with horizontal rows of small rectangles. This decoration was not infrequent. Six other examples were found:—
 (a) C. 44-9', L. 154' 6"-155'. Brownish grey ware, light buff interior. Shape as 21.
 (b) C. 44-9', L. 153' 6"-154'. Light grey ware, grey inside, dark grey outside. Impressions very irregular.
 (c) C. 47', L. 154' 2". Similar to (b), less sandy. Two very faint rows of small oblong impressions.
 (d) C. 44-7', L. 154' 6"-154' 9". Similar to (c) but thicker.
 (e) Top soil. Similar to (b). Three rows of rectangles.
 (f) C. 50' 9", L. 155' 7". Hard red ware, grey fracture. Weak brownish glaze on outside. Closely covered with rows of triangles and trapezoidal impressions.

This general type of decoration is found as early as the pagan Saxon period, but seems to become most common XI-XII, though found later e.g., at Dyserth Castle (XIII2-3). Cp. also find from Alstoe Mount (*Ant. J.*, xvi (1936), 396).

22. C. 50-6', L. 155' 6"-156'. Small fragment. Brown-black ware, slightly sandy. Decorated at random by raising small lumps of clay with the finger nail. Saxon?
 23. C. 51', L. 155'. Hard grey clay. Smooth black surface, marked with indentations around its greatest girth. Saxon? For these two pieces cp. *Collect. Antiqua.*, II, 167, pl. XLI B, 1 and *Proc. Suffolk Arch. Inst.*, 1, 328, pl. 1, 3 (Stow Heath); also specimens from Sutton Courtenay (Berks.) and Icklingham (Suff.) in Ashmolean Museum.

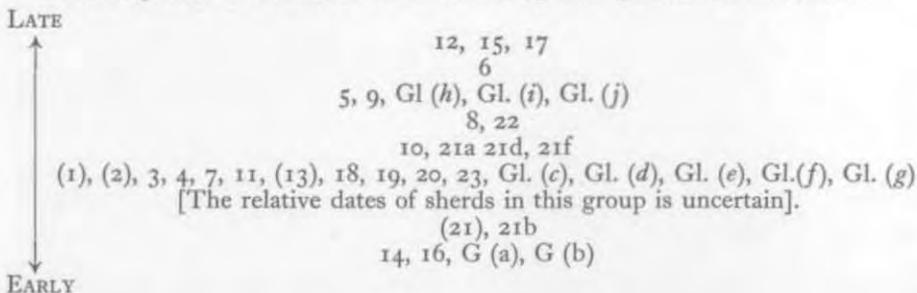
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In addition to the two fragments of *glazed ware* mentioned above (18 and 21f) the following ten fragments were found:

- Gl. (a) C. 53' 4", L. 153' 8". Below clayey layer. Sagging base. Light red ware. Two patches (perhaps ends of vertical stripes) of thin orange-red glaze on inside; thick irregular olive-green glaze on outside.
- Gl. (b) C. 54' 8", L. 154'. Below clayey layer. Very small fragment. Similar to (a) but dirty brown inside. Faint decoration of parallel lines on outside.
- C. 50-6', L. 155' 6"-156' 3". Three fragments.
- Gl. (c) Pink ware, dirty buff inside, yellowish olive glaze outside.
- Gl. (d) Similar. Sagging base.
- Gl. (e) Grey ware, dirty red inside, weak grey-green glaze outside.
- Gl. (f) C. 50-7', L. 155'-155' 3". Grey clay, pale buff inside, greenish yellow glaze outside.
- Gl. (g) C. 61-3', L. 156-7'. Thin pink ware. Pale yellow transparent glaze with green speckles on outside.
- Gl. (h) C. 44', L. 155' 6". Pink ware, grey fracture grey inside. Olive-green glaze outside and raised decoration, but the fragment is too small to show its form.
- Gl. (i) C. 45-7', L. 155' 6"-155' 9". Very small fragment of grey ware, with weak greenish glaze on one side.
- Gl. (j) C. 44-50', L. 155' 6"-156'. Small fragment of pink ware with grey fracture. Traces of pattern in weak orange glaze on outside.

The total of mediæval fragments found below the top soil is about 350: excluding the pots described in the catalogue, 21 sagging bases were found and probably more, as a curved side and a sagging base can be easily confused: 6 flat bases all of small diameter and probably the bases of pitchers were found.

The sequence of the sherds as indicated by their position is as follows:—



Those shown thus (1) must have been broken approximately at the date of their deposition, as more than one fragment occurs. The others may be strays from earlier deposits.

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The excavation showed that the ditch had been cleared out in mediæval times, and the probable occasion for the clearance seems to be the foundation of the Abbey in A.D. 1140. There is nothing in the character of the pottery which would forbid the hypothesis of a clearance at this date, followed by a fairly rapid deposition of silt. This hypothesis would place all the sherds in the catalogue except 5, 6, 9, 12, 15, 17, Gl. (h), Gl. (i), and Gl. (j) to a period XII₂-XIII₁.

The scarcity of glazed ware and flat bases, the absence of pinched bases, and the general forms of decoration do not conflict with the hypothesis, and it may be noticed that the tops of the rims all slope outwards. The rims from Coity, Ogmores, Grosmont, and White Castles were almost all flat topped, and these sites are mostly later. On the other hand those from Lydney resemble ours in a general way, and sites like Old Sarum (*Ant. J.*, xv (1935), 175), Alstoe Mount (*ib.* xvi (1936), 396), Stamford (*ib.*, 407), and West Woodhay (*Trans. Newbury District Field Club*, vii, 261) have produced pottery which resembles the Dorchester finds in the main sufficiently closely to suggest the period XII₁-2, as the probable date of manufacture of the latter.

SMALL OBJECTS

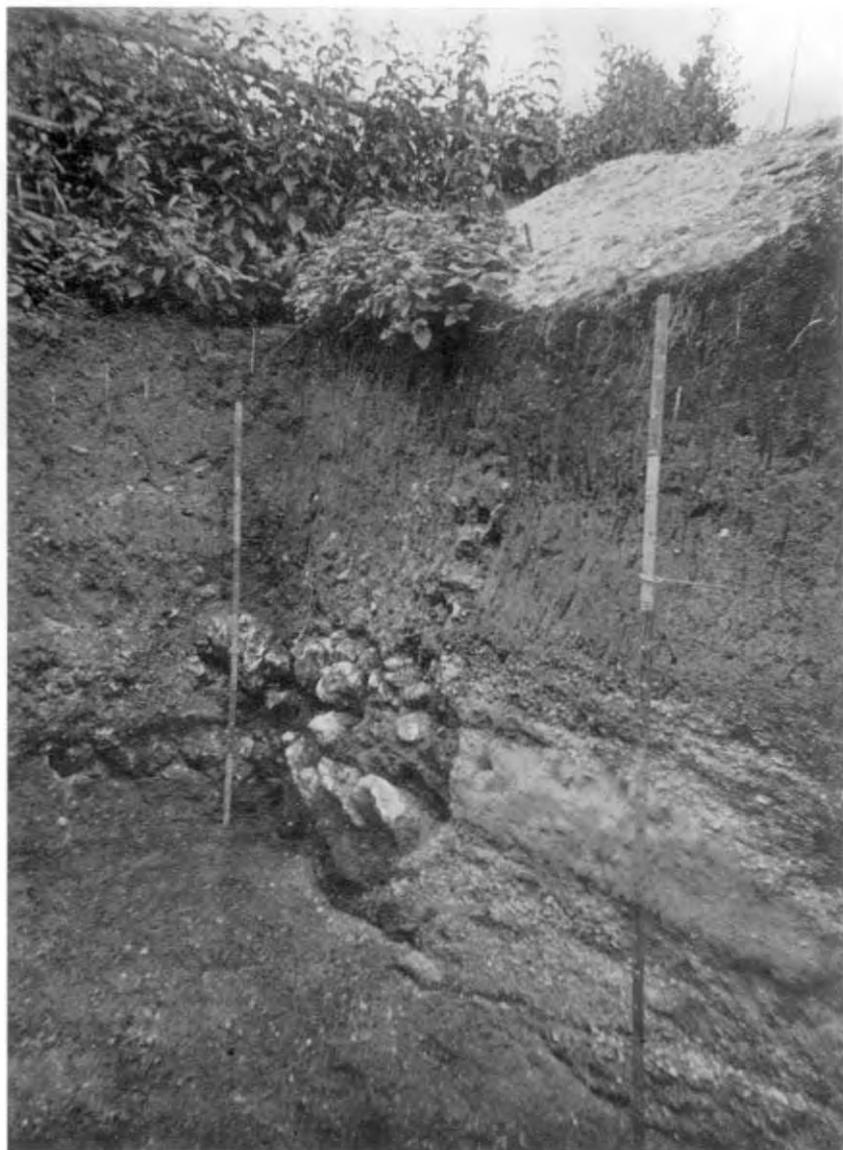
By D. B. HARDEN

BRONZE AND BONE (FIG. 18)¹

1. Brooch, bronze, fragmentary: multiple coil-spring in tubular cover; elaborate bow in form of two debased animal's-heads addorsed; at the end of this, on the under side, a small knob; incised or punched decoration of dots and lines; pin and catch-plate, etc., missing. L. $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches. W. $\frac{7}{8}$ inch. This shape of brooch, with the upper part of its bow ending in a knob on the under side, is best paralleled by the second century (?) brooch from Hook Norton in the Ashmolean (no. 1937, 146): Collingwood, fig. 63, type 92; *P.S.A.* 2 ser. xxiii, 406 fig. The lower part of the bow, to which the catch-plate was attached, was made in a separate piece, which hooked on to the knob. Section C, pre-wall ditch. C. 156' 6", L. 158' 6".
2. Brooch, bronze, fragmentary: bilateral coil-spring, flattened bow. L. $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches. W. $\frac{7}{8}$ inch. For the type and its date (first century A.D.) see Bushe-Fox, *Richborough*, II, 40, pl. xvi, no. 1; Collingwood, fig. 60, type 2. Section C, fill behind bank. C. 160', L. 162' 9".
3. Knife (?), iron with bronze-mounted handle: incised borders on handle; most of blade missing. L. $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches. W. $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. T. $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Section C, in bank. C. 153', L. 162' 3".
4. Disk, bronze, fragmentary: part of the openwork decoration of a box (?); two rough nail-holes for attachment. D. $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches. T. $\frac{7}{16}$ inch. Section A, among stones of robbed wall. C. 98' 7", L. 158' 4".

¹ For the drawing of FIG. 18, no. 1 the authors are indebted to Mr. D. Wynn Roberts.

PLATE V



THE ROMAN DEFENCES OF DORCHESTER, OXON.
Robber-trench, and stone footing of wall, Section A, S. face of trench.
(See plan, FIG. 12).

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5. Strap-end, bronze : tongue-shaped, with split butt ; bronze rivet still in place ; incised borders. L. $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches. W. $\frac{3}{8}$ inch. For the type and its date (fourth-fifth century A.D.) see Bushe-Fox, *Richborough*, II, 47-8, pl. XXII, 2, nos. 46-9. Section A, topsoil of ditch. C. 18' 6", L. 158' 9".

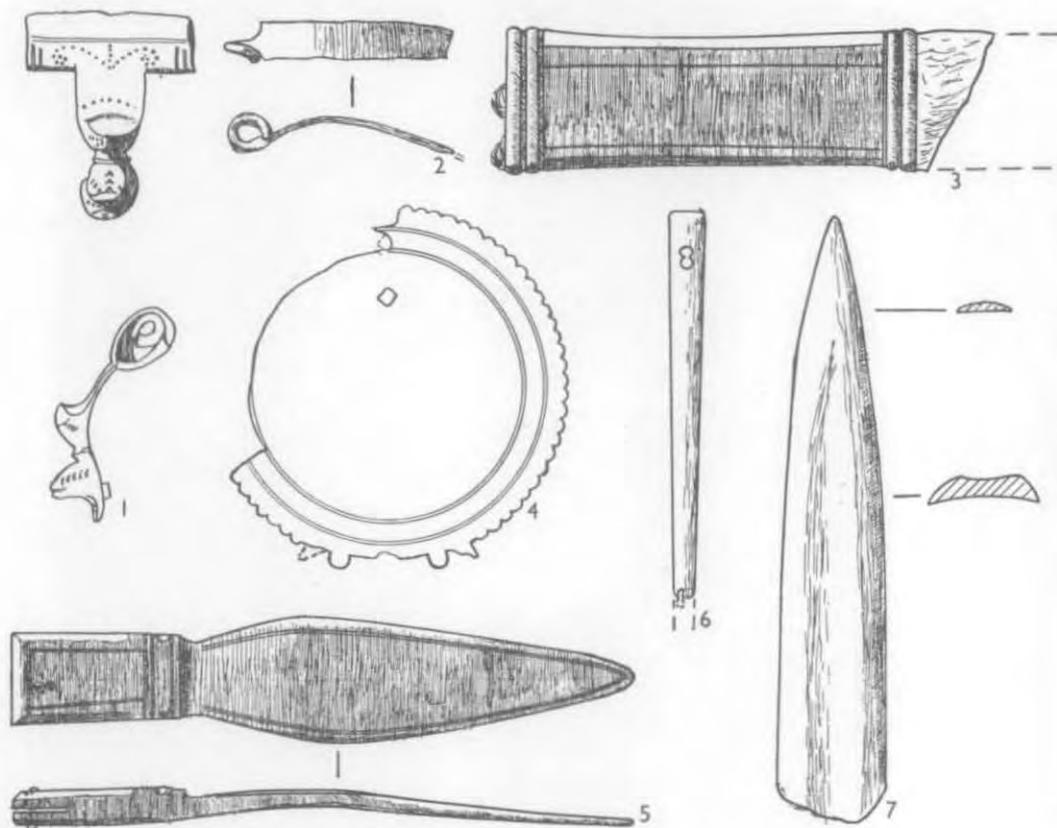


FIG. 18

BRONZE AND BONE OBJECTS FROM DORCHESTER, OXON. Scale, $\frac{1}{4}$.
(see p. 64 f.).

6. Needle, bone : point missing ; figure-of-eight eye. L. 2 inches. T. at top $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. Section C, pre-rampart. C. 127', L. 160' 4".
7. Borer or burnisher (?), bone : butt broken off. L. $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch. W. $\frac{7}{16}$ inch. Section, A, among bones in ditch. C. 43', L. 153' 3".

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IRON (FIG. 19)

1. Key, iron : square ward, bent at right angles to shank. L. 5 inches. W of ward 1 inch. Section A, outer ditch, at 4' 6". C. 53'.
2. Key (?), iron : solid ward at right angles to shank ; hole for suspension. L. 3 inches. Section C, among stones backing rampart. C. 156', L. 151'. Found with nail, no. 3.

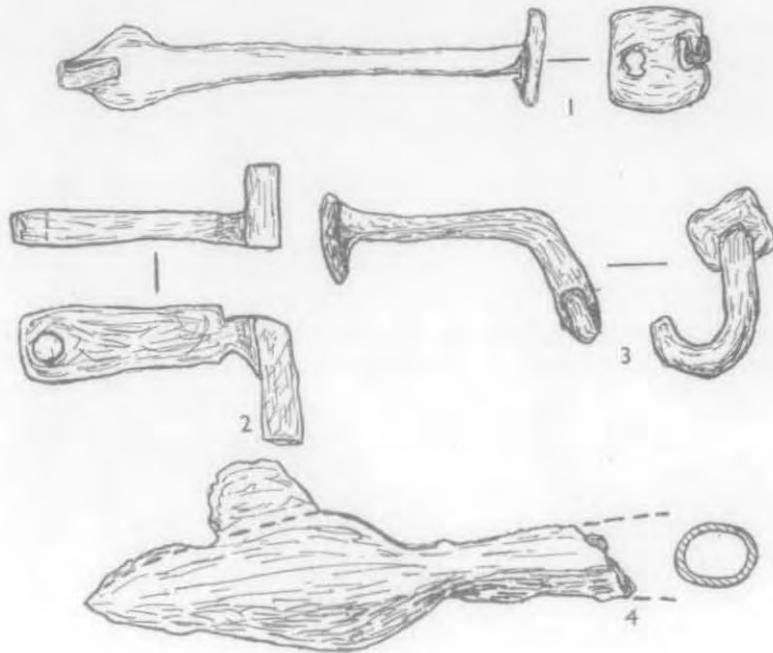


FIG. 19

IRON OBJECTS FROM DORCHESTER, OXON. Scale, $\frac{1}{2}$.

3. Nail, iron : bent shank. L. $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches. W. of head $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. Section C, among stones backing rampart. C. 156', L. 151'. Found with key, no. 2.
4. Spear-head, iron : solid socket (part missing). L. $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches. W. $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Section A, outer ditch, among bones. C. 37', L. $153\frac{3}{4}$ ".

DORCHESTER DEFENCES

COINS

By C. H. V. SUTHERLAND

The records of coins found at Dorchester—and many coins *have* been found there—are uneven and misleading. Like Alchester, the site has been known for its abundance of coins over too long a period; and a great number of Dorchester coins must have been lost to examination by their continual incorporation in the collections of local residents and by the inevitable dispersion of such local collections. Moreover, unless a local collector is sufficiently keen and methodical to acquire any and every coin, holding local origin to be more valuable than fine condition or appearance (and the late Mr. Percy Manning was a happy example of this scientific method), then it is likely that the coins which he obtains locally will be only the more attractive looking specimens. This, in regard to the Roman series, implies that the coins which are from time to time brought to his notice will include, for the most part, the silver *denarii* and the large bronze coins, *sestertii*, *dupondii* and *asses*, which are representative of the first two centuries of Roman occupation; if the profuse and sometimes monotonous copper coins of the later periods do find a place in his local cabinet, it is improbable that they will be represented in numbers proportionate to those in which they were originally issued.

These reflections were prompted by a comparison of four groups of Dorchester site-finds:—

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|---|---|
| (i) The coins, derived from miscellaneous sources, which are contained in the Ashmolean Museum. | } Possibly including some coins found outside the confines of modern Dorchester but probably dispersed by the medium of the ancient Dorchester. |
| (ii) The very summary list of stray finds, compiled by the late Mr. William Cozens, which is printed in the <i>Berks., Bucks. and Oxon. Archaeological Journal</i> , IV, 81. | |
| (iii) The coins which, recently handed over to me for examination, were labelled as having been obtained by Mr. Frend from inhabitants of Dorchester. | |
| (iv) Coins found in the 1935-6 excavations. All except one (p. 51) came from the trial-trench (p. 45) within the town, mostly on a floor of burnt clay (Ch. 315-323', L. 163'). | |

Group (i) is characterized by the presence of large bronze coins at the beginning of the series,—1 Caligula $\text{Æ}2$, 1 Claudius $\text{Æ}2$, 1 Vespasian $\text{Æ}1$, 2 Trajan $\text{Æ}1$, 1 Trajan $\text{Æ}2$, 1 Hadrian $\text{Æ}1$, 1 Antoninus Pius $\text{Æ}2$. Thereafter, apart from 2 Caracalla $\text{Æ}1$, the series gives representative examples of $\text{Æ}3$, for the periods of the Gallic Empire, the Reformers, and the British Empire (3 Gallienus, 2 Claudius, 2 Tetricus, 1 Probus, 2 Carausius, 2 Allectus), followed by a rather fuller series for the dynasties of Constantine I and Valentinian I, all $\text{Æ}3$ except for two $\text{Æ}2$ of Constantius II. It is remarkable that, although there are 24 coins of the dynasty of Constantine I, and 12 of that of Valentinian I, there is not a single coin later than Gratian. In group (ii), in which the numbers of the various items are not stated, we can see that the chief emphasis is on the silver coins, of which there are specimens of Nero, Otho, Vespasian, Domitian, Trajan, Pius, Domna, Plautilla, Geta, Elagabalus, Alexander, Maesa, and (after a long interval) Julian. These coins are accompanied by a bronze series (apparently representative, but numerically uncertain) from Claudius to Honorius.

In default of further evidence, therefore, the coins of groups (i) and (ii) might well have been interpreted as showing a weakening in the life of Roman Dorchester about or

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soon after A.D. 375. That this conclusion is out of the question is proved by the coins of groups (iii) and (iv), of which brief lists are subjoined:—

		GROUP (iii)
1	Domitian	(<i>dupondius</i> , greatly worn).
1	Gordian III	(<i>antoninianus</i> ,— <i>Fort. Redux</i>).
3	Claudius Gothicus Æ3	(<i>Pax</i> , (?) <i>Virtus</i> , <i>Consecratio</i>).
4	Victorinus Æ3	(<i>Fides Militum</i> , <i>Pietas</i> , <i>Spes</i> , <i>Virtus</i>).
1	Tetricus II Æ3	(<i>Pietas Augustor</i>).
2	Radiate copies Æ3	(<i>Hilaritas</i> , <i>Pax</i> ; Tetrican models).
2	Carausius Æ3	(<i>Pax</i> , <i>Salus</i>).
14	Constantine I Æ3	(1 <i>Beata Tranquillitas</i> , $\overline{\text{STR}}$; 1 <i>Gloria Exercitus</i> [2 standards], $\overline{\text{TRS}}$; 1 <i>Soli Invicto Comiti</i> , $\frac{\text{T}}{\text{F}}$; $\overline{\text{TTTTT}}$; 2 <i>Victoriae Laetae Princ. Perp.</i> , $\overline{\text{PLN}}$, $\overline{\text{TTTTTT}}$; 2 <i>Constantinopolis</i> ,—one with uncommon $\text{VOT} | \text{XX} |$ $\text{MVLV} | \text{XXX}$ reverse, and one with usual anepigraphic 'Victory' reverse, $\overline{\text{CONS}}$; 2 <i>Urbs Roma</i> , $\overline{\text{PLG}}$, (?) $\overline{\text{TRS}}$; 2 Helena— <i>Pax Publica</i> , $\overline{\text{TRP}}$, $\overline{\text{TTTTT}}$; 1 Divus Constantinus, with uncertain hybrid reverse; 2 Constantine II as Caesar— <i>Gloria Exercitus</i> [1 standard], $\overline{\text{TRS}}$, (?) $\overline{\text{PLG}}$.
2	Constans (Aug) Æ3	(<i>Victoriae Dd. Augg. Q. Nn.</i> , $\overline{\text{P.T}}$, $\overline{\text{TTTTT}}$).
3	Constantius II (Aug) Æ3	(2 <i>Fel. Temp. Reparatio</i> [horseman],—one semi- barbarous; 1 <i>Victoriae Dd. Augg. Q. Nn.</i>) (<i>Fel. Temp. Reparatio</i>).
1	House of Constantine I (uncertain) Æ3	(<i>Securitas Reipublicae</i> , $\overline{\text{SMAQS}}$, $\overline{\text{PCON}}$).
2	Valentinian I Æ3	(1 <i>Gloria Romanorum</i> ; 3 <i>Securitas Reipublicae</i> , —one $\overline{\text{PLVG}}$).
4	Valens Æ3	(1 <i>Gloria Novi Saeculi</i> , $\frac{\text{OF} | \text{I}}{\text{CONS}}$; 1 <i>Vot. v Mult. x</i> , $\overline{\text{LVGP}}$; 1 <i>Vot. x Mult. xx</i>).
3	Gratian Æ3	(1 <i>Gloria Novi Saeculi</i> , $\frac{\text{OF} | \text{I}}{\text{CONS}}$; 1 <i>Vot. v Mult. x</i> , $\overline{\text{LVGP}}$; 1 <i>Vot. x Mult. xx</i>).
1	Magnus Maximus Æ4	(<i>Spes Romanorum</i> , $\overline{\text{SMAQS}}$).
2	Valentinian II Æ4	(1 <i>Spes Romanorum</i> , $\overline{\text{LVGS}}$; 1 <i>Victoria Auggg.</i>).
1	Theodosius I Æ4	(<i>Victoria Auggg.</i> , $\overline{\text{LVGP}}$).
5	Arcadius Æ4	(2 <i>Salus Reipublicae</i> , $\overline{\text{AQS}}$, $\overline{\text{TTTTT}}$; 3 <i>Victoria Auggg.</i> , $\overline{\text{TCON}}$, $\overline{\text{TTTTT}}$ (2)).
1	Honorius Æ4	(<i>Victoria Auggg.</i>).
6	House of Theodosius I Æ4	(3 <i>Salus Reipublicae</i> , 3 <i>Victoria Auggg.</i>).
3	Small Radiates, Æ3-Æ4	(1 <i>Pax</i> to r (?), 2 standing female figure with cornu- copiae).
2	Small Diademed types, Æ3-Æ4	(1 perhaps a <i>Fel. Temp. Reparatio</i> [horseman] copy; 1 uncertain).
3	Illegible	

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GROUP (iv)		
1	Mamaea AR (? plated)	
1	Tetricus I Æ ₃	(Imitation, <i>Victoria</i>).
1	Tetricus II Æ ₃	(Illegible and much corroded).
1	Uncertain Radiate Æ ₃	
3	Constantine I Æ ₃	(1 <i>Urbs Roma</i> ; 1 Constantine II as Caesar,— <i>Gloria Exercitus</i> [2 standards], $\overline{\text{FLG}}$; 1 Constantius II as Caesar,— <i>Gloria Exercitus</i> [2 standards], $\overline{\text{TRS}}$).
1	Constans (Aug) Æ ₃	(<i>Victoria Dd. Augg. Q. Nn.</i> , $\frac{\text{D}}{\text{|||||}}$).
1 (?)	Constantius II (Aug) Æ ₃	(<i>Fel. Temp. Reparatio</i> [horseman]).
3	House of Constantine I (uncertain) Æ ₃	(2 <i>Gloria Exercitus</i> [1 standard], 1 <i>Victoriae Dd. Augg. Q. Nn.</i>).
1	Magnentius Æ ₂	(<i>Felicitas Reipublice</i> , $\overline{\text{RPLG}}$).
1	Valens Æ ₃	(<i>Securitas Reipublicae</i> , $\overline{\text{CON}}$).
2	Theodosius I Æ ₄	(1 <i>Victoria Auggg.</i> , 1 <i>Vot. x Mult. xx</i>).
4	Arcadius Æ ₄	(<i>Victoria Auggg.</i> , —one LVGF).
1	Honorius Æ ₄	(<i>Victoria Auggg.</i>).
10	House of Theodosius I Æ ₄	(4 <i>Victoria Auggg.</i> , 3 <i>Salus Reipublicae</i> , 3 uncertain).
1	Possibly Theodosian	
3	Illegible: possible Theodosian	

It will be apparent from these lists that groups (i) and (ii) offer an incomplete and deceptive coin-series. To some extent, indeed, group (iii) also is incomplete, for the period A.D. 43–260 is represented by only two coins. Nevertheless, it is not unlikely that this scarcity of early coins in group (iii) should be connected, in some degree at least, with their relative frequency in group (i). Each is a 'composite' group, collected locally over a period of time: it would not be surprising if some of the larger, earlier, and therefore more conspicuous coins were, after being quickly singled out, absorbed by the local collections from which group (i)—prior, in date of formation, to group (iii)—was combined, thus leaving the later and more ordinary coins still in the possession of the inhabitants of the village, from whom the coins of group (iii) were obtained. In consequence, a combination of groups (i) and (iii) might be regarded as giving a roughly accurate idea of the distribution of Dorchester coins over the whole time-scale concerned.

The chief information supplied by groups (iii) and (iv), is, of course, to the effect that Dorchester, as a community, was still alive at least as late as the end of the fourth century. From Magnus Maximus onwards there are 33 coins—the majority of them being struck probably in the name of Arcadius. About half of these coins were in circulation long enough to become considerably worn, and, although there is no series of imitated minims numerous enough and close enough in style to suggest prolonged activity in the fifth century, nevertheless the numbers and the condition of the Theodosian coins certainly justify the hypothesis that the life of Dorchester continued without any interruption into the early years of the fifth century, perhaps (though this is only to conjecture) until the end of the limited re-occupation recently discussed, and now accepted, by Professor Collingwood.¹

¹ See Collingwood and Myres, *Roman Britain and the English Settlements*, ch. xviii (pp. 291 ff.).

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ANIMAL BONES

Animal bones were found scattered in the outer ditch, where, of course, the date of their deposition could not be determined, and in the hearth at the back of the wall, where they provide evidence of a kind for the Roman fauna. The bones were examined by Messrs. P. N. Steven and H. G. Vevers of the Zoölogy School of the University of Oxford.

Ditch. Sheep: upper molar, rib, right metatarsal and left metacarpal. Ox: rib, left ulna and rib of young ox.

Hearth. Sheep: molar, left humerus, right femur. Ox: left metatarsus, third lower-jaw incisor. Horse: molar. Badger: left rib.

MOLLUSCA

By A. S. KENNARD

Material from both the inner and outer ditches was submitted for examination. There was no difference in the composition, which was practically a fine mud with a few small pebbles and two or three very small fragments of probably Roman tile. Shells were very common. They were mostly badly preserved, but many were identified and seventeen species were represented:

				Inner Ditch	Outer Ditch
Limnaea	stagnalis	(Linn)	.. ..	—	8
..	pereger	(Müll)	.. ..	73	3
..	palustris	"	.. ..	—	1
Planorbis	planorbis	(Linn)	.. ..	—	40
..	corneus	"	.. ..	—	5
..	contortus	"	.. ..	—	8
..	vortex	"	.. ..	—	15
..	crista	"	.. ..	37	1
..	complanatus	"	.. ..	—	1
Ancylus	lacustris	"	.. ..	—	2
Pupilla	muscorum	"	.. ..	1	—
Vallonia	excentrica	(Sterki)	.. ..	—	1
Arion	sp.	.. ..	.. ..	—	5
Trochulus	hispidus	(Linn)	.. ..	—	7
Limax	sp.	.. ..	.. ..	—	3
Succinea	pfeifferi	(Rossm)	.. ..	21	1
Pisidium	miliun	(Held)	.. ..	—	2 valves

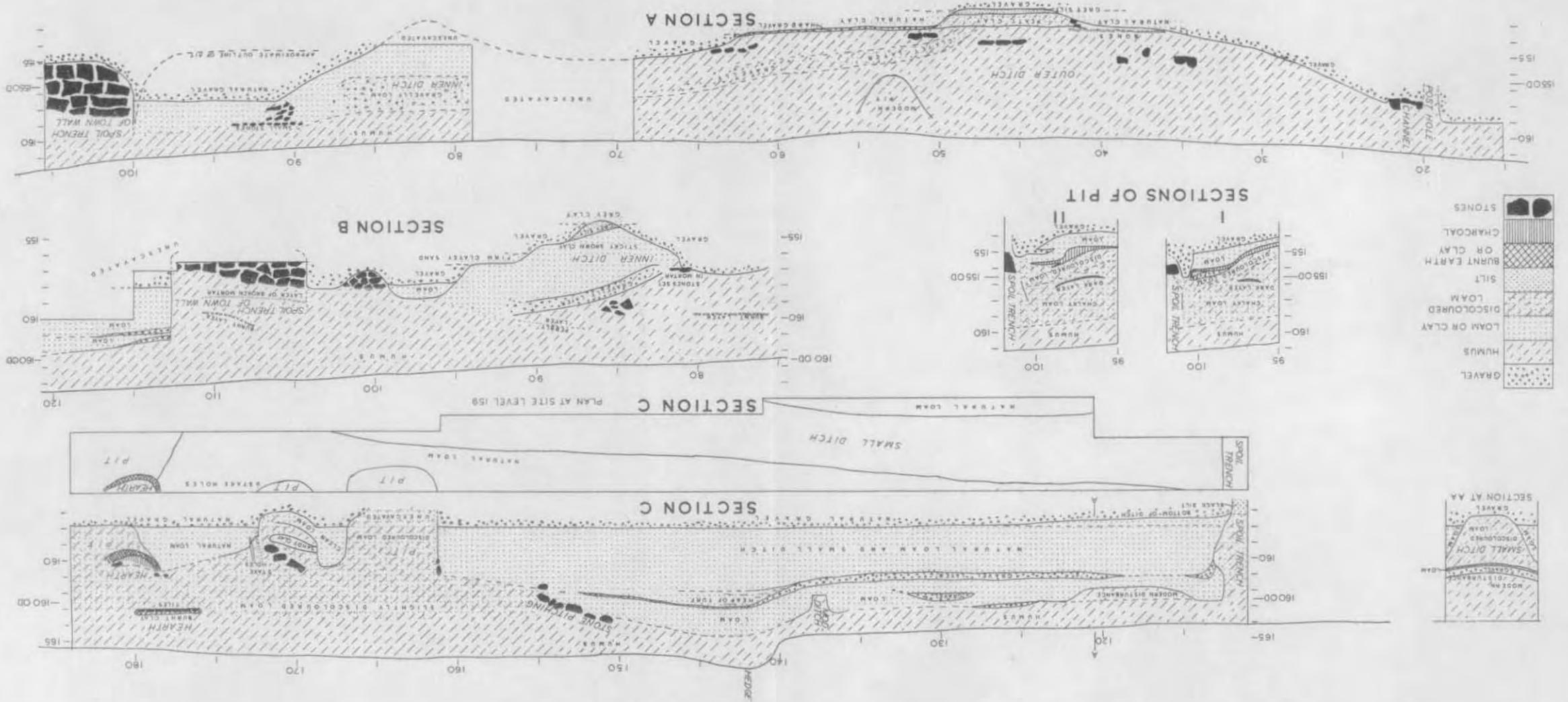
The numbers are the specimens identified.

Ostracoids, Caddis Worm cases, and insect remains were also present in the material from the inner ditch.

The great differences between these two faunules indicate very different conditions. The outer ditch must have had permanent deep water, say three or four feet, with a certain amount of floating water-plants, and too deep for a reed belt. There was probably a connexion with a fairly deep stream, either directly on in time of flood. The banks were probably covered with grass.

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Sections across Ditches and Rampart (see plan, fig. 12).



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The inner ditch was much shallower with a fair growth of reeds, but the water was permanent and not subject to desiccation whilst the banks were also grassy. It is probable that the inner ditch was cleaner than the outer, for caddis worms like clean water.

Cockle Shell.

From the filling of Pit A, a single shell of *Cardium Edule*. (Linn).

CHARCOAL

By DR. K. B. BLACKBURN

Two specimens from small ditch under bank (C. 149' 9" and 120-5') both *Hawthorn*.

Two specimens from the lowest level of 'Pit A' both *Oak*.

Wood from the bottom of the Inner Ditch. Very crushed *Willow*.

CONCLUSIONS

It is evident from the pottery that the outer ditch, at least, was cleaned at a late date, and whatever its earlier shape, assumed now that amorphous appearance characteristic of town-ditches (Silchester, *Arch.*, LXII, 320; Caerwent, *Arch.*, LXXX, 268). Pottery of the third and fourth century A.D. was found on the bottom of this ditch. On the other hand FIG. 14, no. 5, also from the bottom, disturbs the harmony of these late sherds; and we may presume that it was dropped into the original ditch soon after the digging, and that it survived the later clearance. It would be unwise, however, to base chronological arguments upon it, for pottery which cannot be proved to have been broken where it lies is not to be used for the upper dating of a stratum.

Extensive robbery has made it impossible to say whether here, as so often, the clay bank preceded the wall, nor is it easy to date the bank itself within narrow limits. The absence of typical flaring-mouthed bowls enables us to go behind the third century, and it may be worth remarking that the typical cooking-pot with sharp shoulder was completely absent. Collingwood pointed out (*Arch.*, LXXI, 13) that this type became dominant in the north about A.D. 140, and occurs only as a rarity in sites of the early second century. Of course, we need to know whether this doctrine is valid in the south and must hope in due course for evidence. Yet these negative conclusions are confirmed by the pottery itself, so much of which, whether from early ditch, bank, or pit, seems assignable to a period I3-II2. Even to accept, however, such a wide margin is risky, for the parallels come mostly from northern or Welsh sites: no doubt it could take time for a shape to travel so far, but we do not know how long. And even if types travelled with lightning speed, there is another difficulty. Thanks to the accident of a forward military policy, dated sites are at

least ten times as common in the third quarter of the first century as in earlier years, so that the appearance of a type may merely connote the appearance of a dated stratum for it to be lost in. Moreover precision is forbidden by the circumstances of this particular site. The finds from the pit of cutting A might in themselves point to a first century date for the defences: three of the Samian fragments found in it seemed to be as early as this, and it would be difficult to believe that no. 43 of the coarse pottery, a 'Romano-Belgic' jar with pedestal base, which was broken where it lay in the bottom of the pit, could have been made long after the beginning of the second century, if so late. Nevertheless the priority of the defences to this pit was not conclusively proved; while if they are earlier—and it must again be stated that the excavators regarded this as nearly certain—the longevity of Samian and the uncertainty of a typological time-scale for coarse pottery alike permit the date of deposition of these sherds to be advanced. For there was evidence which seemed to argue against a first-century date. No. 24 of the coarse pottery was quite certainly deposited in a stratum which was sealed by the subsequent bank. It is a fragment of a flagon, and though no exact parallel could be found, such exotic forms tend to develop consistently all over Britain, so that here the typological argument has more weight. Our sherd has gone far on the road which leads to extinction of the type in mid-second century, and it would be unlikely to find so degenerate a shape as early as the first. Again, it may be mentioned for what it is worth, that no first century parallels for nos. 31 and 34, coarse sherds from the bank itself, could be found. Indeed, if Samian no. 6 could be pressed into service, it would clinch the argument for a second-century date without more ado. *Advocisus* is a potter who, according to Oswald's *Index*, was working c. 125–150 A.D. On the other hand, the lower of the two pieces which compose it was found only a few inches below the bottom of the humus, and the ground in this part of the site had been much disturbed in recent times by animal burials: the evidence might therefore be dismissed as intrusive, though it is not easy to say where, if not from the original bank, the pieces could have intruded from. The facts, therefore, as summed up, seem to indicate as most probable a date around the period of c. 125 A.D. for the construction of these defences; but a more precise chronology they do not allow. Such uncertainty is a disappointing result from a site not sparing of finds, but, at least, it challenges the further study of local wares which might resolve it.

The dating of the bank involves finding an earlier date for the small ditch; but we can do no more than note the existence of Samian form 24 and certain coarse sherds which have early parallels; there is a hint here of a Claudian or Neronian date. The hearth appears contemporary rather with the bank than with the ditch.

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APPENDIX

EXTRACT FROM BULL OF EUGENIUS III (1146)

[*Registrum Antiquissimum* (Lincoln Record Society, xxvii), i, 286, ll. 27-51]

Ipsam videlicet ecclesiam beati Petri de Dorcestria cum libertatibus suis quas habuit rationabili concessione Remigii Lincolniensis Episcopi ex quo sedes episcopalis ad beatae Mariae Lincolniensem ecclesiam auctoritate apostolica ab ea translata fuit, cum decimis & capellis suis, scilicet capella de Bensintuna, capella de Cliftona, capella de Baldenduna, capella de Chiselentona, capella de Stodeham, capella de Draetona, terram quam tenuit Hunfredus presbyter, terram de Brademera cum prato pastura et aliis pertinentiis suis, molendinum de Tamisia, molendinum de Tamensi quod est ultra pontem ex parte orientali, ita tamen ut inde Lincolniensi episcopo xx solidos annuatim persolvatis, totam curtem et croftam que fuit Hunfredi presbiteri, decem bordarios, domos Episcopales et *quicquid infra murum habetis*. *Extra murum a parte occidentali terram quae est inter praedictam partem muri et viam qua itur ad domum Dunningi*, totum ambitum grangiarum Episcopaliū et croftum retro ipsum ambitum grangiarum, gardinum et totam culturam retro ipsum gardinum extensam usque molendinum de Queneford in qua centum acrae continentur, pasturam sive pratum quod est inter praedictam culturam et aquam, Pratum de Suiftelac quod eidem pasturae sive prato rivulo intercurrente continuatur viginti acras de dominio episcopi de Midentona cum prato eis pertinente.