

# The Winchester City Wall

by BARRY CUNLIFFE

## ABBREVIATIONS

- Arch.* *Archaeologia.*  
*Arch. J.* *The Archaeological Journal.*  
*Claesentum.* *Excavations at Clausentum, Southampton, 1951-54, By M. A. Cotton and P. Gathercole, H.M.S.O., 1958.*  
*H.F.C.* *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society.*  
*Camulodunum.* *First Report on the Excavation at Colchester, 1930-39. By C. F. C. Hawkes and M. R. Hull. Society of Antiquaries Research Report No. 14, 1947.*  
*Jewry Wall* *Excavations at the Jewry Wall Site, Leicester. By K. M. Kenyon. Society of Antiquaries Research Report No. 15, 1948.*  
*J.R.S.* *Journal of Roman Studies.*  
*Milner.* *History of Winchester. By John Milner. First edn. (1798), Second edn. (1809), Third edn. (1823).*  
*O. & P.* *An Introduction to the Study of Terra Sigillata. By F. Oswald & T. Davies Pryce, 1920.*  
*S. & S.* *Central Gaulish Pottery. By S. C. Stanfield & G. Simpson.*  
*V.C.H.* *Victoria County History of Hampshire. Four volumes, 1900-1912.*

## INTRODUCTION

TODAY little can be seen of Winchester's ancient defences; a stretch of wall bounding Wolvesey Castle, the Westgate, Kingsgate and two or three scraps of wall hidden from view in private gardens, are all the city can boast. This is indeed a sad contrast to the existing Roman walls of Colchester and Chichester or the medieval wall of Southampton. Archaeological investigation was entirely lacking until as recently as 1950 when the first sections were cut through the defences by Mr F. Cottrill. In the last ten years five separate sites have been dug, Colebrook Street in 1950, County Council offices in 1955, North Walls in 1959, Tower Street in 1960 and Wolvesey Castle (Pilgrims' School Playing Fields) in 1960, and opportunity was taken at a sixth, North Walls—just east of Northgate—to rescue archaeological material from telephone cable trenches.

The object of this paper is threefold: to record surviving and lately surviving sections of the defences, to offer detailed reports on the last ten years' excavations and finally, using topographical, archaeological and historical evidence, to produce a summary of the history of the walls and associated works. The history of Roman Venta Belgarum is necessarily based on archaeological evidence, the limitations of which must be clearly understood. In the first place the story presented here is probably only part of a more complicated series of events. We have only to look at recent work at Silchester<sup>1</sup> and Verulamium<sup>2</sup> to see that a city's defences were modified many times by pressures of population, periods of unrest and the dictates of the civil administration. Secondly, the total length of the defences at present excavated amounts to only 0.5 per cent. of the complete circuit of 1½ miles which enclosed the 138 acres of the Roman city. When further trenches are dug, more detailed evidence of structure and dating can be expected. All that can be said is that the story so far produced fits well with what is already known of other towns in Roman Britain. Many problems still remain unsolved; for example, practically nothing is known of the early Roman defences.

1. Boon, *Roman Silchester* (1957). *Idem*, Excavations at Silchester, 1954-7, in *Proc. H.F.C.*, XXI, Part I (1958), pp. 9-21.

2. Frere, Excavations at Verulamium, 1959. Fifth Interim Report, *Ant. J.*, XL (1960), pp. 1-24.

## HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB PROCEEDINGS

Only two small sections of these have so far been found and of the occurrence of Roman bastions we are entirely ignorant.

In the medieval period documentary evidence contributes to the archaeological and it is indeed gratifying that they should support each other to such an extent.

No mention has been made of the defences which must have enclosed the Iron Age settlement, evidence of which is now coming to light. Little is known of them and for this reason it has been decided to concentrate the present paper on Roman and medieval times and to leave the problem of the Iron Age circuit for a future paper in which it is hoped to bring together all the evidence of the Iron Age occupation of the city.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE WALL

It is proposed in the following section to describe existing remains of the city wall and to include descriptions recorded in cartographic and literary sources, including the first large scale survey of Winchester by Godson in 1750, various editions of Milner's *History of Winchester* and descriptions given by Bell (1818) and the anonymous account of 1829. The importance of these sources lies in the fact that their writers were actually witnessing the destruction of the walls and were thus able to provide a contemporary description of a process which was brought very much to the front of their minds. The description which follows will start at the wall north of the Westgate and work in a clockwise direction.

In 1798 the section of the wall from the Westgate to the Hermit's Tower was still standing. Milner<sup>3</sup> writing at the time describes the ruins of a turret 'which with another of the same form, protected the intermediate space of the wall, as far as what is called the Hermit's Tower at the Northern Extremity'. Twenty years later this stretch is described<sup>4</sup> as 'tottering remains', with the ruins of a small tower still surviving. In the autumn of 1824 the wall was removed by 'enterprising tradesmen',<sup>5</sup> one of whom was no doubt John Gauntlett. The Eleventh Book of Ordinance, preserved in the city archives, states (p. 184b) that this gentleman 'shall have the liberty to take down as much of the Old City Wall Northward from the Westgate of this City as the promises granted by this City Extends and shall have the materials of the said Walls for his Trouble and Expence in taking down the same . . . '.

The Hermit's Tower was situated at the north-west angle of the city wall. The whole site was subjected to drastic landscape gardening and redevelopment in about 1830, which obscured all the ancient structures. The 'Hermit's Tower', constructed at this period, was a brick summer house built on or near the site of the medieval corner tower.

In 1954 the collapse of a retaining wall which here followed the line of the city wall revealed the flint rubble core of the Roman wall about 15 ft. south of the angle. The core stood to a height of 7 ft. 6 in. above the floor of the adjacent Imperial Garage; behind and above it, the original ramp was visible for a further height of 2 ft. 6 in.

From the north west corner the wall runs eastwards for a distance of 145 ft. This length is completely obscured by accumulated rubbish and undergrowth banked up in front of it. East of the garden of No. 13, City Road, the wall and ramp have been removed. In the garden of this house, however, the core of the Roman wall was exposed until recently, 10 ft. in height and at least 6 ft. in thickness, showing the characteristic flint rubble set in pinkish-buff mortar.

3. Milner, II, p. 177.

4. *Historical Account of Winchester with descriptive walks*. Bell, 1818, p. 196.

5. *A Historical and Descriptive guide to the City of Winchester*. Anon, 1829, p. 64.

## WINCHESTER CITY WALL

The site of North gate lies under the road crossing at the junction of City Road, Hyde Street, North walls and Jewry Street. Nothing remains standing today, but trenches for electricity and telephone cables have exposed small fragments from time to time. It may safely be assumed that the Roman north gate occupied this site, for in 1955 excavations for the foundations of the Southern Counties Agricultural Trading Society's showrooms in Hyde Street, 300 ft. north of Northgate, exposed an 80 ft. length of Roman road running in a southerly direction towards the site of the gate. The road was 18-20 ft. wide and was constructed of gravel up to 4 ft. in thickness.<sup>6</sup>

In 1955, a telephone cable trench dug across the south end of Hyde Street sectioned the foundations of two walls running at right angles to the trench, 14 ft. apart. The inclusion of soft sandstone and the use of yellow mortar suggest a late 14th century date.

By the mid 18th century, the gate was in a ruinous condition. An old magazine<sup>7</sup> describes an accident which occurred in 1756. A christening party was held in the room above the gate when the floor gave way: '26 persons were crushed in a most terrible manner, some to death, others more lamentably . . . '.

The order to demolish the north and south gates came in 1771. The municipal archives for this date set out fully the reasons for this decision.<sup>8</sup> 'The lowness of the structure of the arches of the said gates, whereby a tun of hay and a load of straw cannot be brought in or out of the city through the said gates without a great deminution thereof to the apparent loss of the buyer of these commodities and it likewise has been reported to the Mayor and Aldermen that from the great resort of carriages passing and repassing the said gates, Foot Passengers have not only been interrupted by the carriages but have been in danger of their lives in attempting to go through the said gates when carriages have been passing the said gates and especially over the Northgate bridge. It is therefore agreed and ordered at and by this assembly that the said two gates be immediately taken down and the materials thereof sold '.

The wall from Northgate to Durngate was still intact in 1798 when Milner wrote that 'at certain distances we discover the traces and ruins of turrets made to strengthen it'.<sup>9</sup> In Bell's description (1818) the wall is still standing but by the time of Milner's third edition<sup>10</sup> in 1839 'many houses are now erected along a great part of the length of this wall, some slight remains of it, however, are still to be seen '.

In the grounds of St Bartholomew's Diocesan Maternity Home just west of Hyde Abbey Road, the original Roman core is exposed to a height of 12 ft. above the present ground surface. In structure it consists of coursed flint rubble set in pinkish buff mortar. No bonding courses were observed and all traces of the original facing had been removed.

Another telephone cable trench (Fig. 1, E) dug under the north pavement of North Walls against the forecourt wall of No. 25, North Walls, revealed the core of the Roman wall one foot below the present pavement surface.

6. The only fragment of Roman masonry to be found at the gate was sectioned in 1953 in an electricity cable trench which ran from the corner of Hyde Street and City Road to 20 ft. south of the corner of City Road and Jewry Street. The wall ran diagonally across the trench 13 ft. 6 in. from the north kerb of City Road. It was 2 ft. 5 in. in thickness, surviving to a height of 1 ft. above the rough offset on its south side; below this the wall was carried down a further 9 in. to rest on a foundation of rammed chalk.

The position of this fragment would fit well with the expected situation of a western gate turret, which would, in this case, be semicircular. One disquieting fact is the thickness of the wall which is less than would be expected.

7. Quoted in H.F.C., IV, p. 52.

8. *Transcripts from the Municipal Archives of Winchester*. Charles Bailey, 1856, pp. 9-10.

9. Milner, 1st edn., II, p. 210.

10. Milner, 3rd edn., II, p. 236, note a.

## HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB PROCEEDINGS

Little is known of Durngate which appears to have been quite insignificant. Leland<sup>11</sup> said that it is 'no great thing but as a postern gate named Bourngate'. By 1818 some remains were still in existence.<sup>12</sup> The earliest reference to it is in a Land grant dating between 1205-22.<sup>13</sup> Both the 1107 and 1148 surveys omitted to mention it.

During the construction of a sewer from Winnall to Eastgate Street in 1955, a masonry structure was sectioned in Eastgate Street a few feet north of its junction with Union Street. The structure, 11 ft. 6 in. wide, ran across the trench in an east-west direction. It was composed of two courses of sandstone blocks about 18 in. thick placed together without mortar, the top of the top course being 11 ft. below the present road surface. The age and function of this feature remain unknown but Speed's map of 1611 shows the medieval wall obliquely crossing this area between two different alignments of the east wall. It may well be that the stone blocks form the footing for it.

In 1848 workmen discovered in the part of the town known as The Lawn, near Eastgate Street, what was presumably the Roman wall lying underneath the medieval city wall. The otherwise excellent description of the find by the Rev. William Gunner<sup>14</sup> unfortunately omits further details of the location of the site; all we are told is that the wall ran parallel to the river, a few yards from it. Gunner goes on to describe a channel running through the wall 'Embedded in this masonry, the drain, or water conduit was found. It measured 9 in. in height and 14 in. width, and is formed of freestone; the stones being in places cemented together with pitch of which a quantity was found in different parts. The side stones are joggled into each other, and into those of the top and bottom. 'The workmen told me . . . (that) at a short distance it turned towards the river which it did not quite reach and that the mouth of it was quite below the present level of the river. In one part it was found lined with lead of which several hundred weight was removed'. Measurements were made which showed that the inclination of the culvert was from the river, indicating that it conveyed water into the city. After passing through the wall it ran parallel to it for some distance where 'it was covered with a thick bed of concrete having all the appearance of Roman mortar and containing much pounded brick'.

Nothing exists today of the Eastgate but in 1928<sup>15</sup> the 'massive Roman foundations', 13 to 14 ft. deep, found below the Great Western Hotel and St John's Hospital no doubt belonged to the gate. That the Roman gate existed at this point is indicated by a stretch of Roman road found outside the gate just south of the 'Cricketers' on the corner of Bridge Street and Water Lane. The medieval Eastgate was demolished by order of the Corporation in 1768.

The city wall bounding The Weirs for about 550 ft. south of Eastgate can be seen in places but for the most part it is incorporated in later property boundaries. The inner face of the southernmost few feet of this alignment (in the north-east corner of the Pilgrims' School playing fields) is, however, entirely of Roman material standing to a height of 6 ft. above the top of the ramp.

The southernmost alignment of the east wall and the eastern length of 450 ft. of the south wall is the finest section surviving today in Winchester. It stands in places to a height of 20 ft. and is up to 9 ft. broad at the base. Most of the facing is recent but in places it is possible to see patches of the bright yellow late 14th century mortar, the cream 13th century mortar and the pinky buff Roman mortar. Some parts of this sector are still crenellated.

11. Leland, quoted in Milner, II, p. 210, note 2.

12. Historical Account, op. cit., p. 196.

13. Winchester Cathedral Chartulary (ed. Canon A. W. Goodman), No. 463, p. 199.

14. Arch. J., VI, 398, 408.

15. J.R.S., XVIII, p. 297.

# WINCHESTER CITY WALL

## WINCHESTER CITY WALL

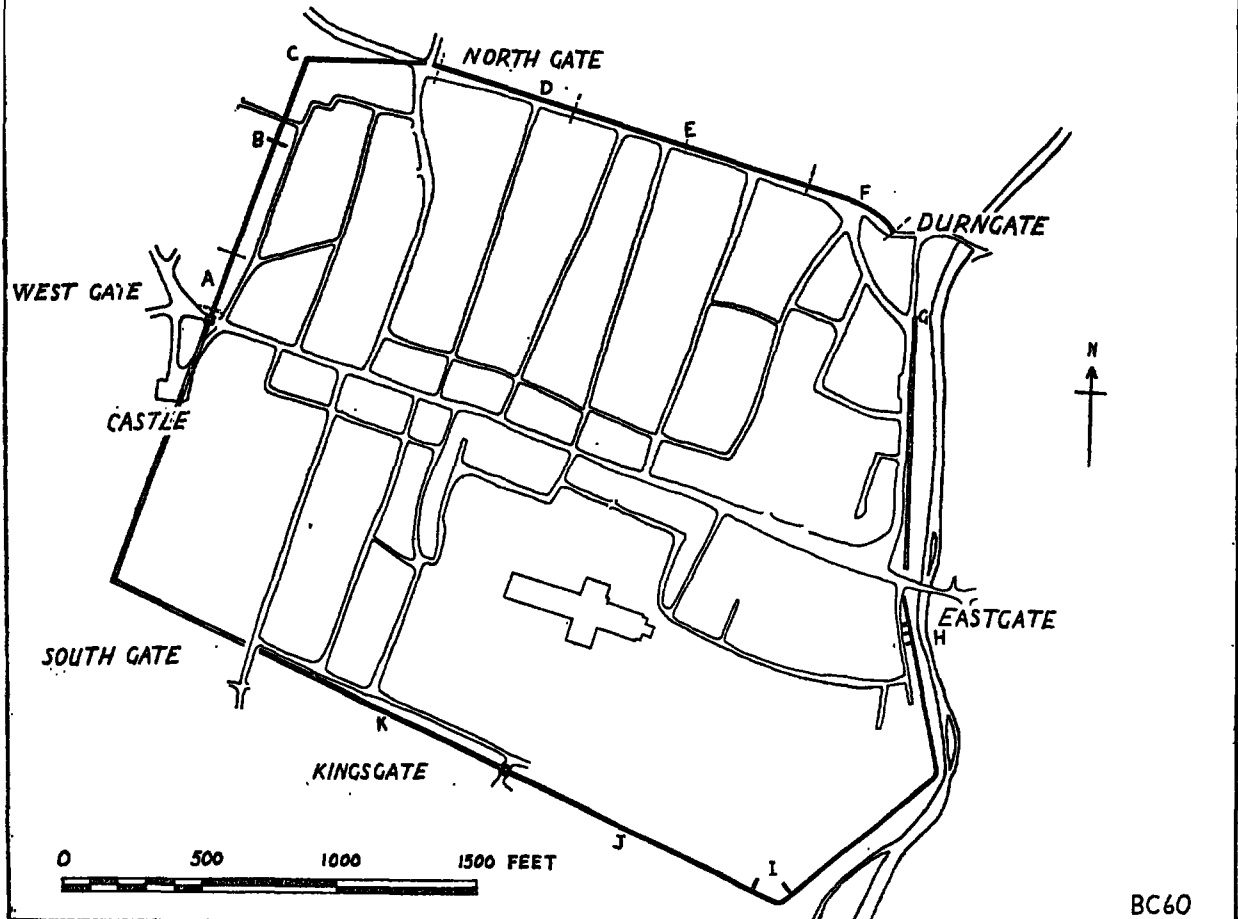


FIG. 1.

- |    |                          |    |                    |
|----|--------------------------|----|--------------------|
| A. | County Council Office.   | G. | Union Street.      |
| B. | Tower Street.            | H. | Colebrook Street.  |
| C. | Hermits Tower.           | I. | Wolvesey Castle.   |
| D. | } North Walls Telephone. | J. | College Street.    |
| E. |                          | K. | St Swithun Street. |
| F. | Cable Trench.            |    |                    |
|    | North Walls.             |    |                    |

## HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB PROCEEDINGS

Banked up behind the wall in the grounds of Wolvesey Castle is an earthen ramp 20 to 30 ft. wide and up to 6 ft. in height above the surface of the playing field. This has been shown to be of Roman construction.<sup>16</sup>

From the entrance to Wolvesey Castle to Kingsgate the wall is incorporated for the most part in later buildings.

In 1952, a trial trench was dug by the Winchester College Archaeological Society, against the outer face of the city wall, 15 ft. 3 in. to 18 ft. 3 in. west of the arch through which the stream passes opposite the College (Fig. 1, J).

The wall here appeared to be similar in structure to the first period medieval wall of Colebrook Street. The flint rubble face continued down vertically to the top of a chamfered sandstone plinth at a depth of 3 ft. 5 in. The bottom of the plinth was 3 ft. 11 in. down. Below this, mortared rubble with a vertical face continued down to the bottom of the excavation at a depth of 5 ft. 7 in. Adjacent to the wall face up to the height of the plinth was a mass of chalk rubble including mortar spills which extended for the whole length of the trench (8 ft. 6 in.). Presumably this material was deposited to consolidate the ground or fill up a hollow during the construction of the wall. It was sealed by a layer of dark soil up to 2 ft. 1 in. from the present surface. Above this, the wall face had been repointed apparently in recent times. The repointing and the building debris contemporary with it, probably date from the Georgian period at which time a brick coping was added to this sector of the wall.

Kingsgate is one of Winchester's two remaining medieval gates. It consists simply of a central arch 9 ft. 7 in. wide with side-walk arches added in the 18th century on either side. Above it the church of St Swithun provides the reason why the gate was not demolished in the 18th century. The gate has recently undergone restoration. The first record of it is in the 1148 Survey in which a south gate is mentioned twice<sup>17</sup> presumably indicating two gates on the south wall. During the de Montfort Civil War in 1264 both Southgate and Kingsgate were burnt down and were not repaired until 1266.<sup>18</sup>

In 1928<sup>19</sup> 'massive foundations of the town wall', 9 ft. thick, were found on the south side of Kingsgate. It is probable that the foundations referred to are Roman.

Little survives of the section of the wall, from Kingsgate to Southgate, which forms the southern boundary to the gardens of the houses of St Swithun Street. Two small sections may be seen (Fig. 1, K); both show a very dilapidated core of flints and sandstone set in bright yellow mortar remaining to a height of about 10 ft. At J, the lower 4 ft. is of cream mortar similar to the 13th century wall at Colebrook Street.

Nothing remains of the site of Southgate, but foundations for its west side were found during the construction of a garage.<sup>20</sup> The plan and brief description of this published in the *Proceedings* of the Hampshire Field Club give no indication of the structure, mortar or date of this foundation. The medieval gate was destroyed in 1771.<sup>21</sup>

From Southgate to Westgate the wall no longer exists. In 1711, however, it was still standing though in a ruinous condition. In the eighth book of Ordinance, the lessee of this land, Philipp Oades, was empowered to 'take and carry away' any stones 'which shall at any time fall or dropp from the city walls . . . '.

16. See p. 71, below.

17. Domesday Additamenta, p. 560.

18. Black Book of Winchester, p. 114.

19. *J.R.S.*, XVIII, p. 207.

20. *H.F.C.*, X, p. 71.

21. See above, p. 53.





View of the site of the County Council Offices during the contractors' work. Taken from the top of the Westgate looking north.  
The section through the ramp is drawn as Fig. 2

## WINCHESTER CITY WALL

From the south-west corner of the city to the Westgate the original line of the wall has been completely obscured by the construction of the Castle and later by the levelling for the present Winchester Barracks.

The Westgate still stands at the top of the High Street. It has been adequately described elsewhere<sup>22</sup> and further description here is not necessary.

### THE EXCAVATIONS

COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES, 1951, 1955-7

Prior to the construction of the County Council offices, the site available for excavation extended for 270 ft. north of the Westgate. In width, it covered the area from Sussex Street to Tower Street—a distance of about 250 ft. Extensive levelling had been carried out before excavation, removing all the archaeological levels and up to 5 ft. of the natural chalk and clay over the western two-thirds of the site. Only the lower layers of the city ditch and of a few deep medieval pits survived in this area. The eastern one-third, however, still retained up to 5 ft. of its archaeological levels (Plate I).

In 1951 the Winchester College Archaeological Society carried out exploratory excavations under the direction of Mr F. Cottrill. Later in the year, the Castle Committee of the County Council (by whose permission all the excavations were undertaken) paid for further digging, again under Mr Cottrill's direction. As a result of these excavations, it became apparent that the site contained an extensive Iron Age occupation which was overlain by the stump of a Roman defensive bank. In 1955, the Winchester Archaeological Society sponsored extensive excavations under the direction of Miss Isobel Smith and later Miss M. A. Bennet-Clark (Mrs Carey). During the initial building operations in the following year, Mr F. Cottrill carried out rescue work on the site.

#### *The Excavations*

The 1951 trial excavations had indicated two major features to be explored—the Iron Age occupation and the Roman and medieval defences. Accordingly, a grid was set out to explore the Iron Age layers (to reach these it was necessary to remove up to 5 ft. of Roman bank material) and a trench parallel to the trench dug in 1951, was put down to section the city defences<sup>23</sup> (Figs. 2 and 4).

This report will be concerned only with the defences; the extensive Iron Age material will be the subject of a separate paper. It is also hoped later to publish the groups of medieval pottery obtained from large rubbish pits cut into the Roman bank.

#### *Roman Defences*

Two phases were recognised in the Roman defences:

- (a) the early Roman bank;
- (b) the later addition to the bank and the construction of the city wall.

#### *The early Roman bank*

The stump of the early Roman bank runs the full length of the site from north to south. Drastic levelling of the area has reduced this structure to little more than 3 ft. in height but it is possible to estimate its width as about 36 ft. at the base.

22. H.F.C., IV, p. 51; H.F.C., XV, p. 58.

23. A more complete section of the defences was obtained in the contractors' excavation during the building's construction. This is reproduced here (Fig. 2, Plate I).



## HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB PROCEEDINGS

The structure of the bank consists in the main of brown soil interspersed with tips of orange gravelly clay and redeposited Iron Age occupation material. One feature which remains constant throughout is a small dump of grey clayey material representing a pile of turves 6 ft. wide and 9 in. in height, resting on the original ground surface below the main body of the bank. This is probably a setting-out bank derived from the initial stripping of the area in which the ditch was dug.

The few sherds of pottery from the early bank (not illustrated) can be dated to the 1st century. It is, however, inadvisable to lay too much stress on this dating; the group is very small and the sherds are fairly worn, suggesting that they were exposed on the surface before being incorporated into the bank. Between the period of construction of this bank and the later addition, to be described below, a sufficient period of time elapsed to allow a turf line to form.

### *The later addition to the bank*

In the 2nd century, the original bank was considerably enlarged by the addition of tips of brown soil, chalk and turves, resulting in a structure more than 60 ft. but less than 100 ft. in width.<sup>24</sup> The group of pottery from this addition and from the turf line between it and the earlier bank consists of a few unweathered sherds which may be assigned to the middle of the 2nd century (Fig. 12). A coin of Commodus (A.D. 180-192) was found in the excavators' dump derived from the material of this addition. It may safely be considered to belong to this feature, which would therefore date to not earlier than A.D. 180.

The exact position of the Roman city wall must remain uncertain for no trace of its foundations was discovered. It may be assumed from this that the wall was built on the front of the early bank and that its foundations were not carried down to the subsoil, all trace of it would then have been removed in the recent levelling of the site. It appears probable, in view of evidence obtained elsewhere,<sup>25</sup> that the enlargement of the bank was contemporary with the construction of the wall.

All trace of the Roman ditch, which must have run in front of the defences, was removed by the medieval city ditch.

### *Medieval Defences*

The medieval defences presumably followed exactly the line of their Roman predecessors. The wall has been removed but its limits (and indeed the limits of the Roman wall) are indicated by the lip of the city ditch in front, and a group of early medieval rubbish pits which must have been dug behind.

Of the ditch, only its inner lip was located. Its approximate width of at least 65 ft. was indicated by excavations for the foundations of the County Council Offices.

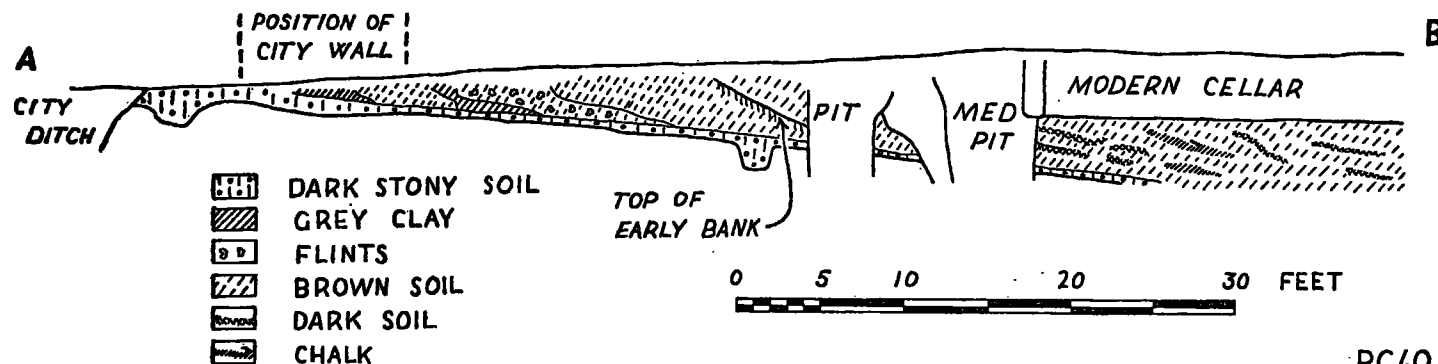
## TOWER STREET, 1960

During the preparation of this report a site over the western line of the city defences became available for excavation, after the demolition of two houses, Nos. 43 and 45 Tower Street. The houses were entered by front steps leading to the first floor, the ground floor being built at a lower level in front of the city wall on the berm and partly over the ditch. The demolition contractors left standing the lower 5 ft. of the eastern wall of the houses which runs

24. This measurement is arrived at by considering a trial hole dug in the garden east of Tower Street about 100 ft. from the supposed front of the Roman bank. In this hole, a fragment of a Roman wall was found but no trace of ramp survived.

25. Colebrook Street (see below, p. 69). Tower Street (see below, p. 60).

# COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES 1955



BC60

FIG. 2.

## TOWER STREET 1960 NORTH FACE OF TRENCH

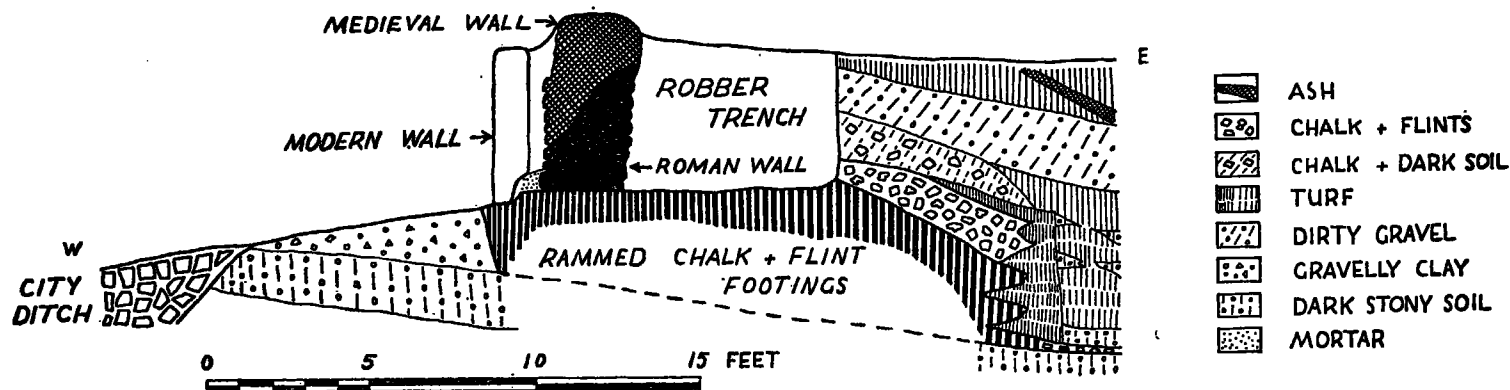


FIG. 3.

## HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB PROCEEDINGS

parallel to, and slightly in front of, the city wall. The removal of the front steps revealed a piece of masonry standing to a height of about 1 ft. above the garden level, resembling in structure the second period medieval wall of Colebrook Street.<sup>26</sup>

### *The excavations*

A trench  $14\frac{1}{2}$  ft. long and 4 ft. wide was dug against the back of the existing fragment of wall and at right angles to it. The trench was continued for a further 12 ft. in front of the modern wall (Fig. 3). Subsequently a hole was made through this wall to expose the front face of the city wall.

Two phases were isolated:

- (a) Roman wall and ramp;
- (b) Medieval wall II and city ditch.

### *Roman defences*

The construction of western defences of the town must have posed serious problems for the builders for they are laid across land sloping down from west to east at an average gradient of 1 in 15. Thus the wall could always be overlooked from the higher ground to the west. The natural slope of the ground at the Tower Street site is even more considerable, being 1 in 9.

The wall is built on a platform, 16 ft. wide and up to 4 ft. thick, of rammed chalk and flint, laid directly on the original ground surface in the east end of the section but cut into a bank of clayey gravel in the west. The date and size of this bank must remain uncertain; it has been cut by the city ditch to the west, the Roman wall footings to the east and the floor of the recent buildings above.

The back (east) face of the platform for the wall is revetted by a turf pile 4 ft. high interspersed with lines of chalk indicating the contemporaneity of the two structures. The upper  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -2 ft. of the footings behind the Roman wall is of unrammed chalk and flint. Above this and behind the turf pile, the main body of the rampart, consisting of tips of gravel, turf and black occupation soil, was piled—the total structure standing today to a height of 9 ft. above the original surface.

Of the wall only the lower courses of the front part survive, the remainder having been extensively robbed to foundation level (see below). It is possible, however, to estimate accurately for it a width of 9 ft. In the robber trench, several large slabs of limestone about 1 in. thick and at least 12 in. by 15 in. in size were found which presumably represent bonding courses. It should be noted that these have not been found previously in any form of association with the Roman wall.

The front face of the wall, surviving to a height of three courses, is built of knapped flint, the lowest course being offset by 2 in. Behind this, the body of the wall is built of coursed flint rubble set in pinkish buff mortar.

### *Medieval wall and ditch*

The medieval wall is simply a local refacing of the Roman wall. The hard yellow mortar incorporating flecks of chalk is comparable with mortar elsewhere dated to the late 14th century. A small trench dug 9 ft. to the south of the main trench over the supposed line of the medieval wall revealed robber trench fill consisting of Roman mortar without trace of the medieval mortar. This seems to imply that the surviving fragment of medieval wall remained unrobbed by virtue only of its hardness, and that the patch was only a local one.

26. See below, p. 69.

# COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES 1955

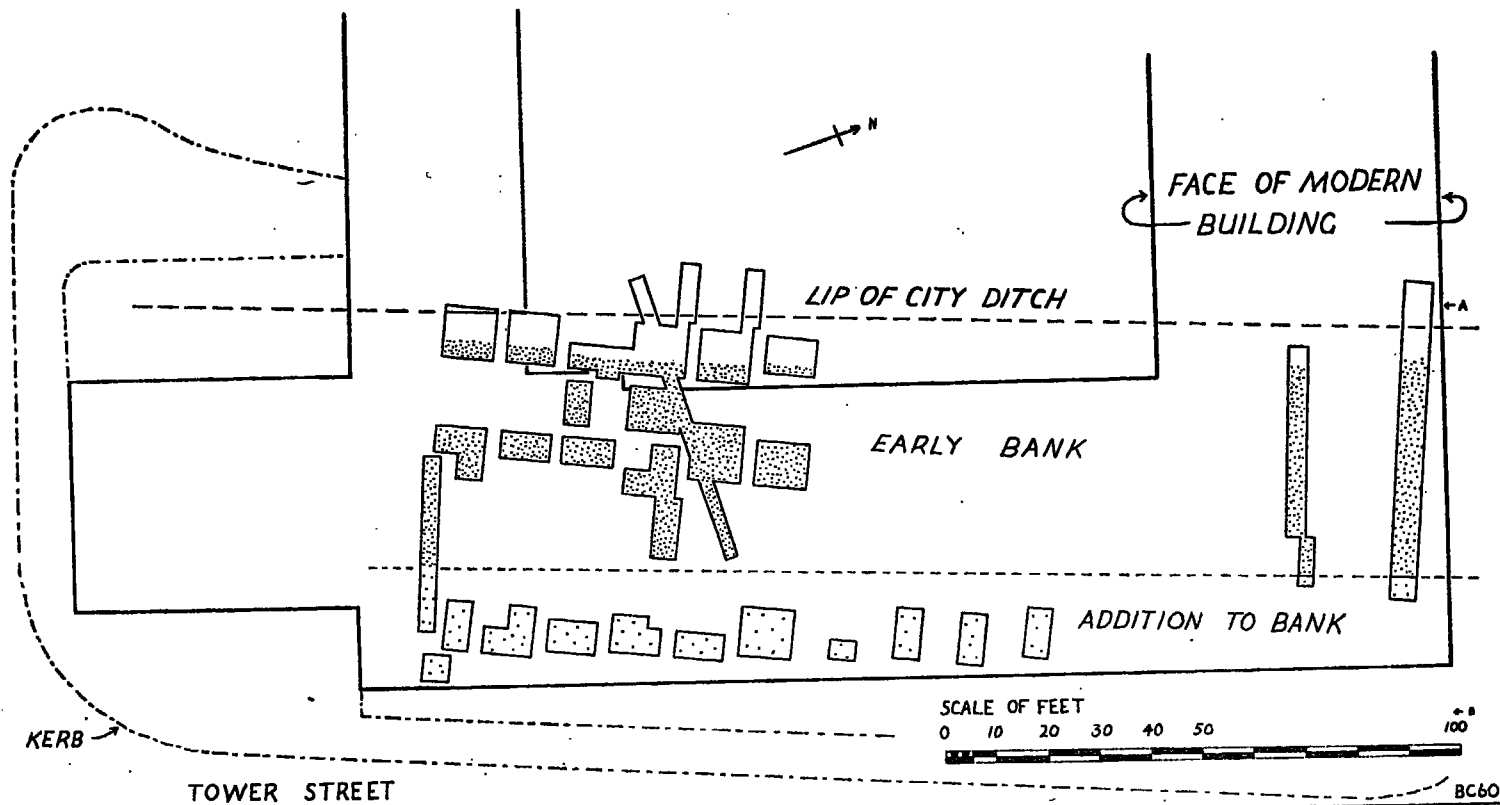


FIG. 4.

## HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB PROCEEDINGS

The inner lip of the city ditch, which was filled with chalk prior to the construction of the houses, was sectioned 9 ft. west of the face of the city wall. Surface features indicate the ditch to be about 140 ft. wide.

Milner<sup>27</sup> writing in 1839 tells us that 'these walls, as well as the adjoining ditch, were sold by the corporation some few years since. The various purchasers leveled them and made use of the flints of which they were composed, as also of an emense quantity dug out of the foundation, in building fences to the gardens into which the ditch was converted.' He adds that 'life and activity have taken the place of the stilness and solemnity which before held sway'.

### *Finds*

The only finds were a few sherds of Iron Age pottery from the material of the Roman ramp. These were evidently redeposited from an occupation level. No dating evidence was obtained for any phase of the defences.

### NORTH WALLS—TELEPHONE CABLE TRENCH, 1955 (Fig. 1, D)

A telephone cable trench measuring 2 ft. wide and 6 ft. deep was dug along the north gutter of North Walls from the site of Northgate eastwards to Hyde Abbey Road, a distance of about 500 ft. Throughout its length, the trench was cut into the ramp behind the Roman wall.<sup>28</sup>

### *The Ramp*

The structure of the ramp varied considerably along the length of the trench, reflecting closely the nature of the subsoil from which it was derived.

Just east of the site of Northgate the ramp, resting on the top of natural soil, 3 ft. 2 in. below the surface of the modern road, was largely constructed of chalky material mixed in places with gravel and flint. Further to the east, the chalky structure was replaced by tips of sand and sandy clay. In the section opposite the north-east wing of the School of Arts and Crafts, the surface of the original topsoil, at a depth of 7 ft., showed traces of burning. Above this the ramp, consisting mostly of greyish brown sandy clay with tip lines of other materials, survived to within a few inches of the present road surface.

The group of pottery (Fig. 13) from the ramp dates from the 1st century to the middle of the 2nd century.

### NORTH WALLS, 1959 (Fig. 1, F)

The site is situated in the north-east corner of the city on the north side of North Walls, extending for a distance of 300 ft. west from the site of Durngate. Eight trenches were dug along this line in order to study the structure and alignment of the city defences (Fig. 5). The excavation was sponsored by the Winchester Archaeological Society and was under the direction of Mr Barry Cunliffe.

### *The Excavations*

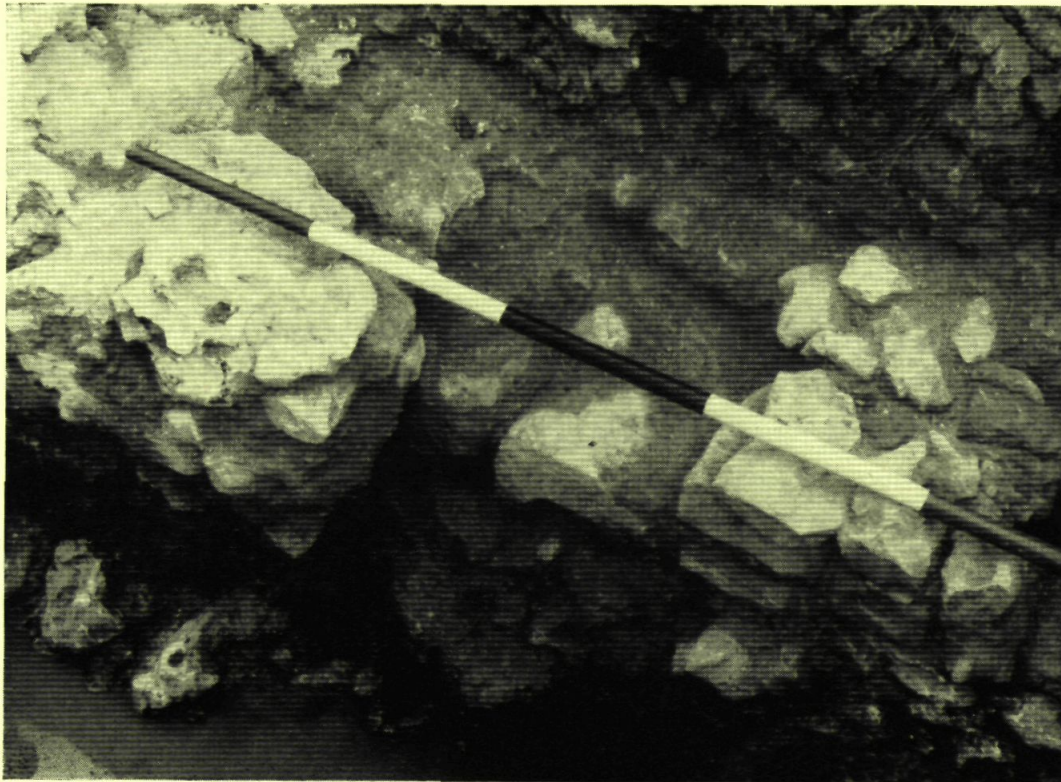
The following phases of the defences were isolated:

1. Roman defences
2. Medieval Wall I
3. Medieval Wall II.

27. Milner, 3rd edn., II, p. 209, note a.

28. The following report is based on notes and finds, kept by Mr F. Cottrill.

PLATE II

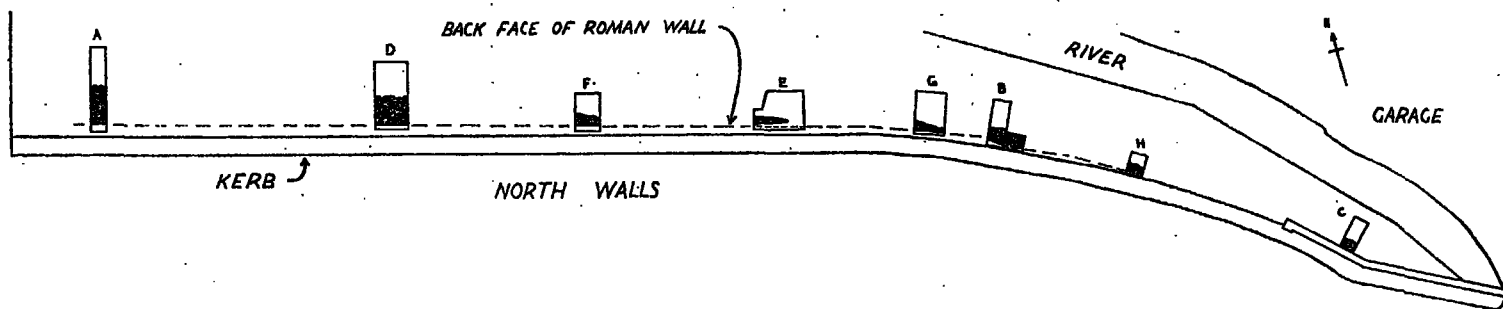


North Walls Trench E. Medieval wall I refaced by medieval wall II (left-hand side)

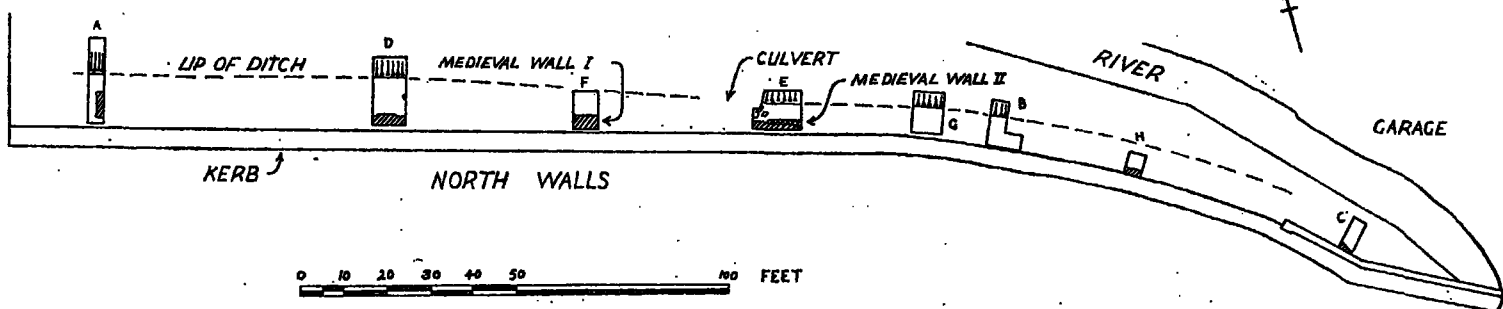


# NORTH WALLS 1959

ROMAN



MEDIEVAL



0 10 20 30 40 50 100 FEET

BC60

FIG. 5.

## HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB PROCEEDINGS

### 1. *Roman defences* (Plates III and IV)

The line of the Roman wall, which was traced along the whole length of the site, was followed closely by the curving frontage of North Walls. The core, of coursed flint rubble, set in a pinkish buff mortar, stands in Trench A to a height of 2 ft. 3 in. above a 2 ft.-wide offset, below which another 2 ft. of wall survives. In Trench D, the wall survives to at least 3 ft. 3 in. in height. The back face, however, is not vertical but is battered inwards towards the top of the surviving fragment (Fig. 6).

Trench B sectioned a point at which two Roman working parties had met. The join was not a good one: the back of the western section was 18 in. further north than that of the eastern section. This error was made good on the upper levels by curving the back of one section out to meet the other.

Of the ramp behind the wall only a length of 2 ft. 3 in. was sectioned. This consisted entirely of brown earth completely devoid of finds. In Trench A a building spread occurred in the ramp. No evidence of the early bank was found but in the small area excavated this could hardly be expected. In the contractors' excavation the original ground surface beneath the bank was recorded at a depth of 8 ft. below pavement level.

All traces of a ditch were removed by the construction of the medieval city ditch.

After the Roman period the surrounding land reverted to a marsh and the wall was reduced to a stump.

### 2. *Medieval wall I*

In the 13th century a new wall was built partly on the stump of the Roman wall and partly over the Roman ramp (i.e. a few feet to the south of the Roman line). It was constructed of flint, stone and chalk blocks set in a cream-coloured mortar. In Trenches C, E, F and H, the front face, built of roughly faced sandstone blocks and flints, survives. The back face is under the present pavement thus rendering impossible a measurement of its thickness, which must, however, have been greater than 6½ ft.<sup>29</sup>

Part of the early medieval drainage system of the city consisted of open streams, 'The Brooks', which ran along the present Lower, Middle and Upper Brook Streets. These streams must have passed through the city wall. Trench E was set out in order to locate such a position. Unfortunately a modern culvert passed through the wall at the crucial point removing the ancient structures. Two large chalk blocks which probably formed the eastern boundary of the culvert outside the wall, however, remained *in situ* (Plate VI and Fig. 7).

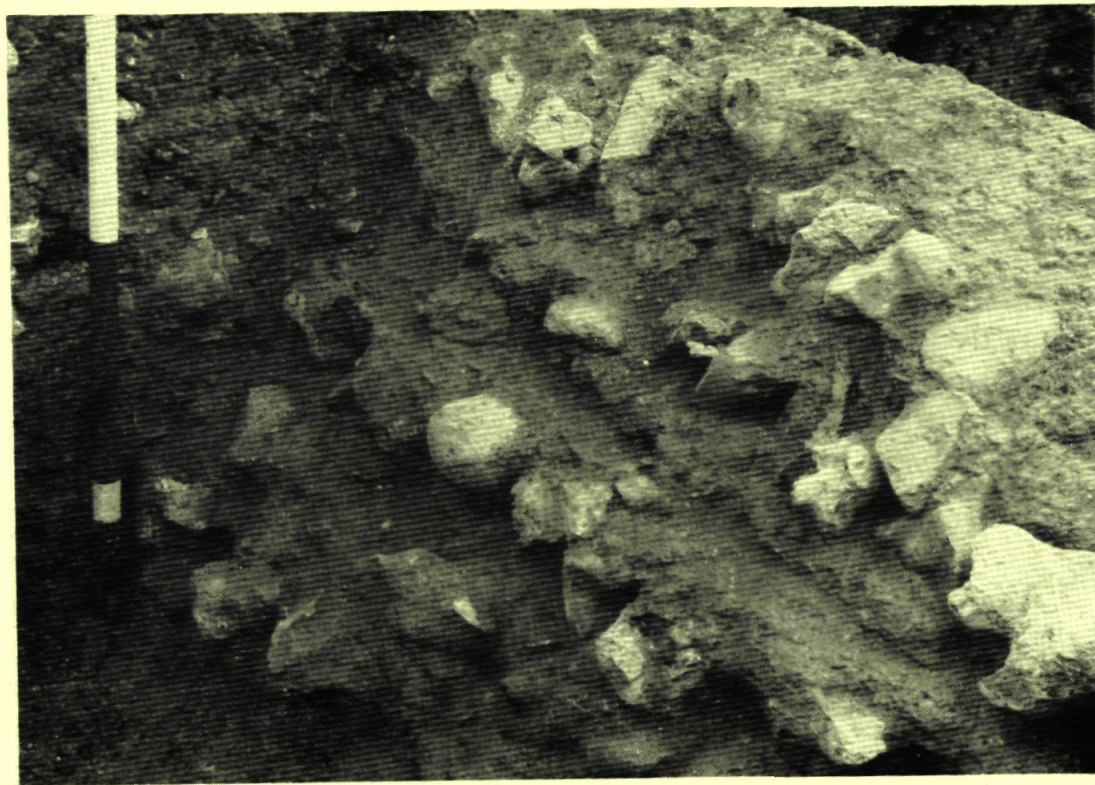
### 3. *Medieval wall II*

At a later date the wall was partially refaced by flints set in a very hard yellow mortar containing chalk flecks.<sup>30</sup> Refacing of this type extended to foundation level in Trench E only but it is probable that the upper part of the wall was more extensively reconstructed. The refacing was necessitated by the gradual undermining of the wall by water flowing in the city ditch. To combat this a berm of stiff grey clay 2 ft. in thickness was rammed in front of the wall to a width of 5 ft. The front of it was revetted in some places by timber stakes backed by wattle (Trenches A and E) whilst in others (Trench D) the revetting consisted of flints.

29. Cf. Medieval Wall I at Colebrook Street.

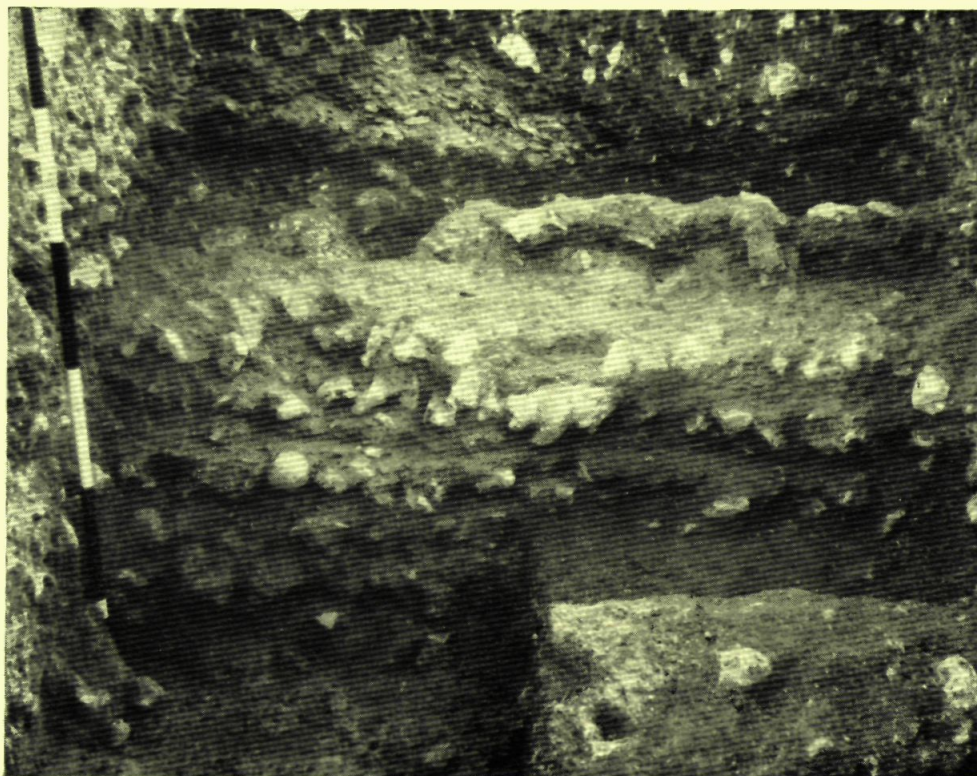
30. Cf. Medieval Wall II at Colebrook Street, dated to the late 14th century.

PLATE III



North Walls Trench D. The Roman wall core showing details of the construction

PLATE IV



North Walls Trench D. Roman wall core with Medieval berm and post medieval robber trench *in situ* on the right-hand half of the trench

# WINCHESTER CITY WALL

## NORTH WALLS 1959

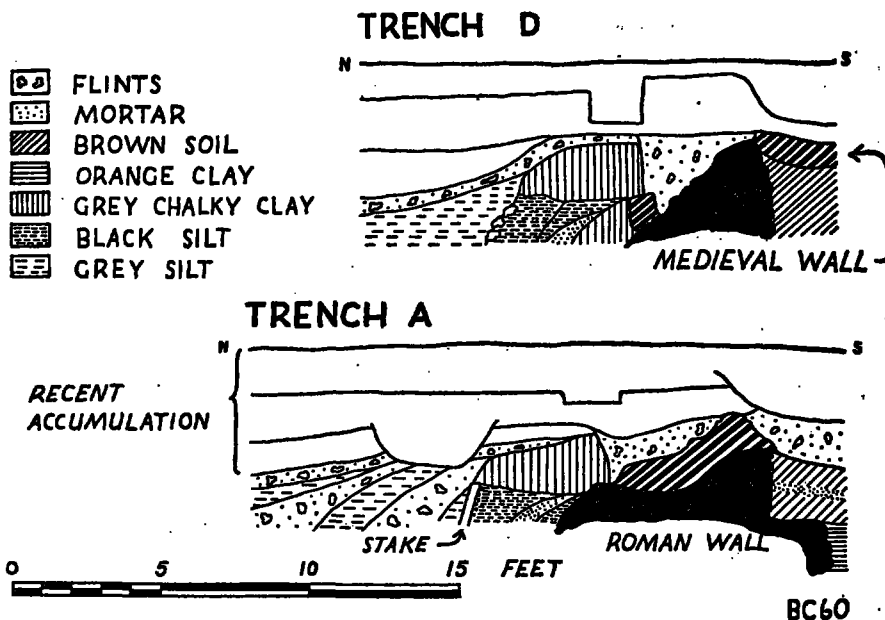


FIG. 6.

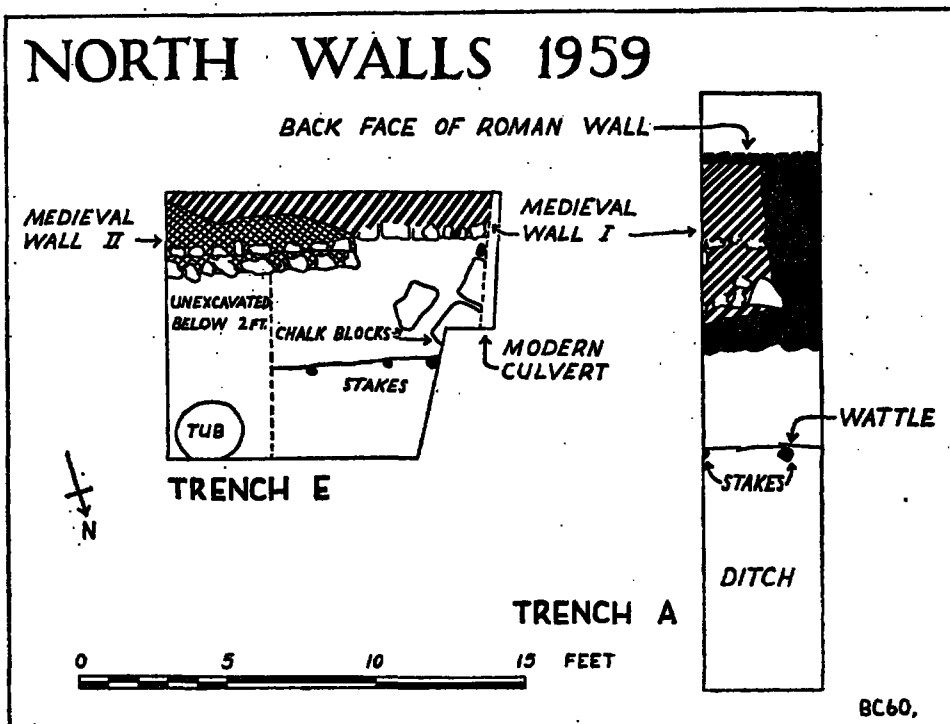


FIG. 7.

## HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB PROCEEDINGS

The wall at this stage was surmounted by battlements which were topped with moulded coping stones, two of which were found resting on the berm in front of the wall just as they had fallen when the wall began to decay (Plate V). Adhering to the stones was the characteristic hard yellow mortar. Milner, describing this sector of the walls in 1798, states 'in some places the wall retains its full height, being crenated or embattled, and having copings of free stone'.<sup>31</sup>

### *Later History of the Site*

A patched-up version of the wall was still standing in 1818 but soon after this date it was pulled down and its foundations were robbed for building stone.

Cut through the rubble of the dismantled wall (and thus later) were found three iron-banded wood tubs 2 ft. in diameter (one in Trench E and two in Trench B). They contained a white substance which is probably Fuller's Earth, indicating a fulling process.

In the middle of the 19th century a row of brick and stone cottages was built. These were pulled down in 1957. Work began in 1960 on a police station which now occupies the site.

### *Finds*

The location of the site would explain the lack of finds since in both Roman and medieval times this part of the city was presumably largely unoccupied. Only a few sherds of pottery were found, none of which was worthy of note.

### *Moulded Stones*

From the layer of rubble which had fallen on to the berm were found two moulded stones (Fig. 8, Plate V) associated with the bright yellow mortar characteristic of the second period of the medieval wall.

1. Dripstone (27 in. long) from a battlement coping. The stone has been worked with a serrated five-toothed chisel. Good quality Berestone from Seaton, Devon, of a type imported by William of Wykeham to repair the Cathedral nave.
2. Window mullion of Alton clunche. This stone must represent building material reused for the repair of the wall.

I am grateful to Mr. J. Harvey for commenting on the stones.

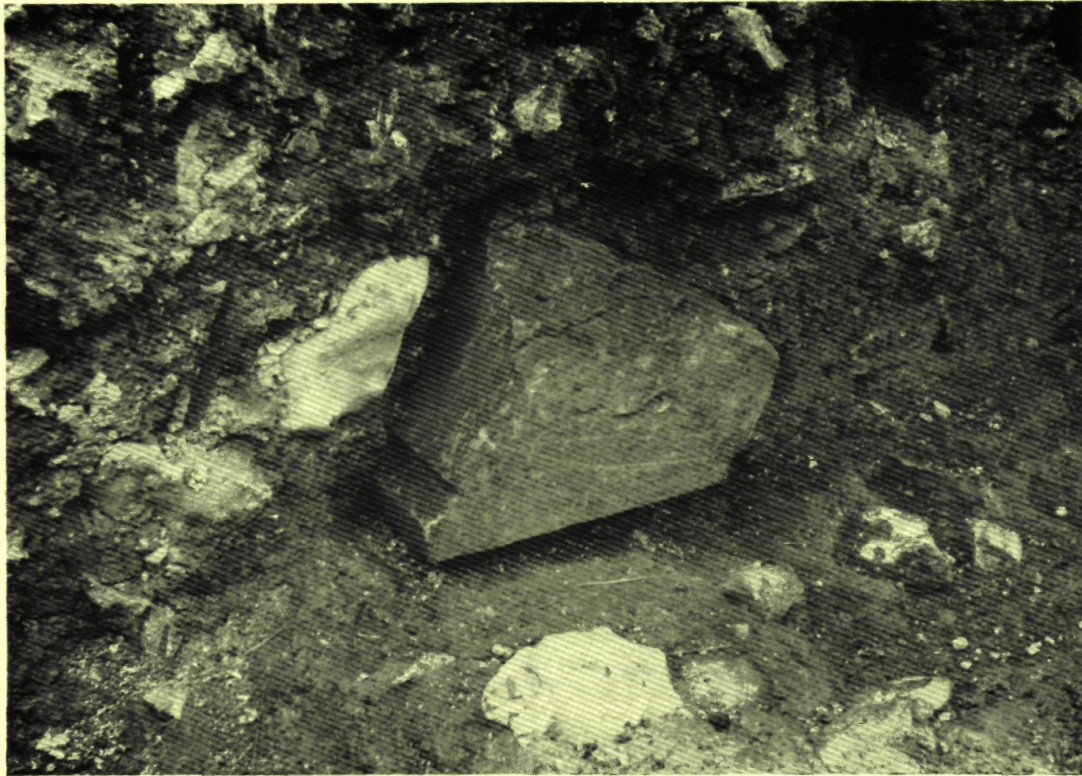
### COLEBROOK STREET, 1951

In 1951 trial excavations were carried out on the eastern defences of the city south of the site of Eastgate. The first excavations (trenches I and II) were made in a plot of land, situated between Colebrook Street and the River Itchen, which was given to the city by Mrs N. L. Alcock and has since been converted into the Scott Garden. The work, sponsored by the Museums and Library Committee of the City Council, was under the direction of Mr F. Cottrill. Later in the year the adjacent plot of land to the north became available on the demolition of Nos. 4 and 5, Colebrook Street. The Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society dug a third trench (Trench III) on this site by permission of the owners, Messrs. Eldridge, Pope & Co.

The exposure of the wall in Trench II was preserved by the City Council and may now be viewed by the public through a grating in the modern wall bounding The Weirs, a few feet north of the steps leading to Scott Garden.

31. Milner, 1st edn., II, p. 210.





North Walls Trench D. Battlement coping stone lying on the medieval berm

## WINCHESTER CITY WALL

### *The Excavations*

The three main trenches were concerned with exposing the internal face of the city wall and the layers behind it. In addition to these, three trial holes were dug in front of the existing wall in order to locate the front face of the city wall (Fig. 9).

The following chronological phases were isolated:

- |          |                                          |
|----------|------------------------------------------|
| Roman    | 1. Occupation—before the defences        |
|          | 2. Roman defences                        |
| Medieval | 3. Occupation— <i>circa</i> 12th century |
|          | 4. Medieval Wall I—13th century          |
|          | 5. Medieval Wall II—late 14th century    |

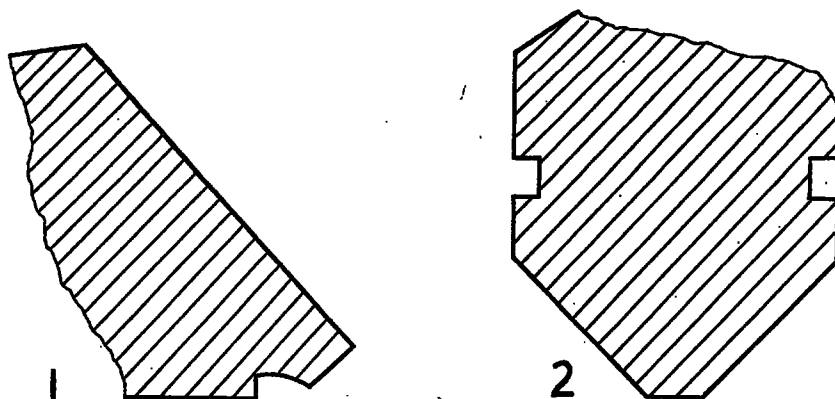


FIG. 8. Moulded stone blocks from North Walls.

### 1. *Early Roman occupation before the defences*

Occupation of this period is best shown in Trench III where it is represented by a 9 in. thick layer of grey clayey soil (probably the old turf line) which seals a shallow depression.

The coarse pottery from this period forms a loose chronological group. Some forms (Fig. 15, Nos. 1-12) are common in the third quarter of the 1st century whilst others (Fig. 15, Nos. 14-19) are not out of place in an early 2nd century context.

The Samian entirely supports this view, the most significant sherd being (b) (page 74) which may be attributed to mid-2nd century, thus providing a *terminus post quem* for the construction of the defences.

### 2. *Roman defences*

The Roman defences consist of a masonry wall backed by an earthen ramp.

*The wall.* The back face of the wall was located in all three trenches, although the front face was completely eroded away, rendering an exact measurement of its width impossible. If it is assumed that the fragment of Roman masonry in front of the modern wall is *in situ*, a

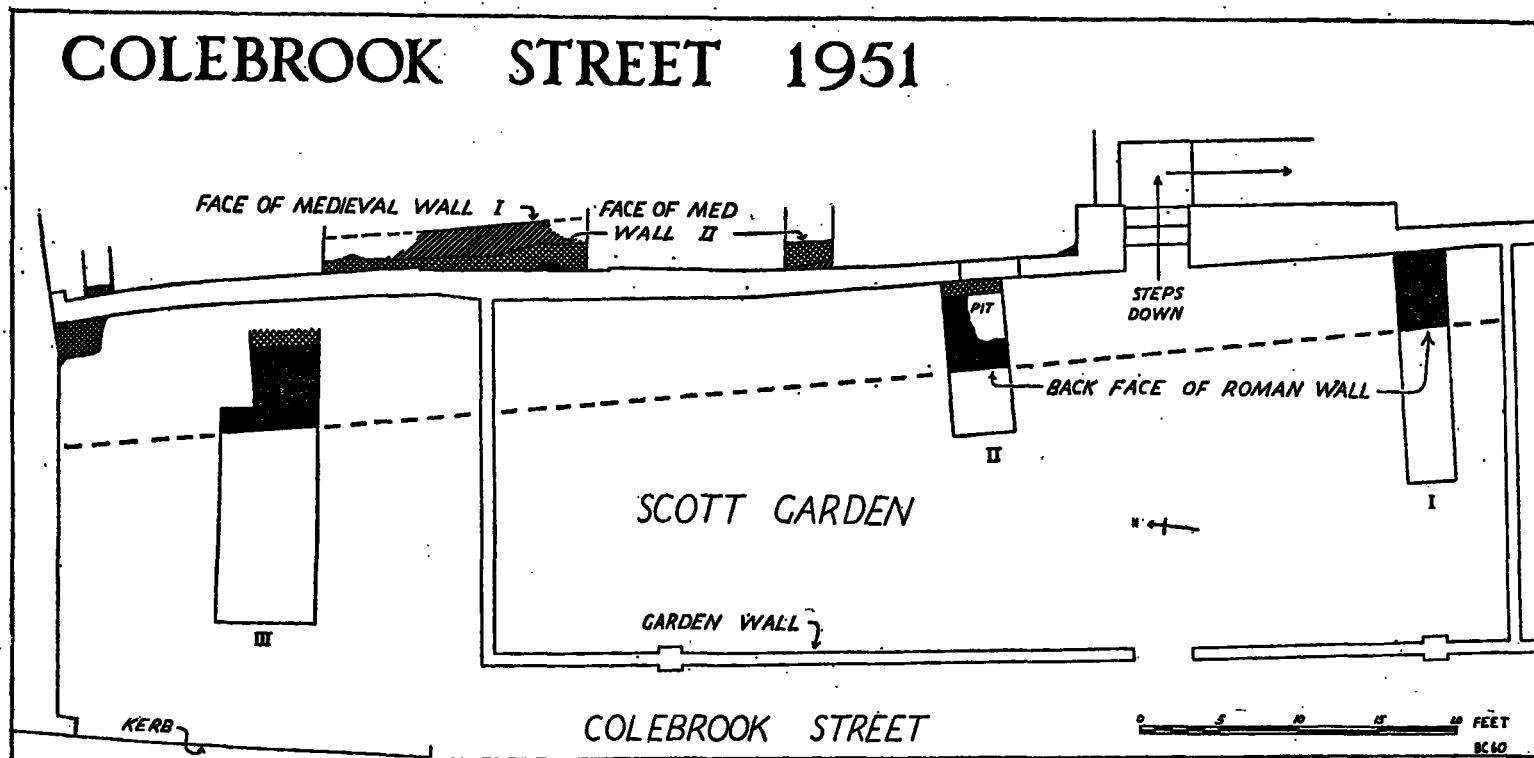
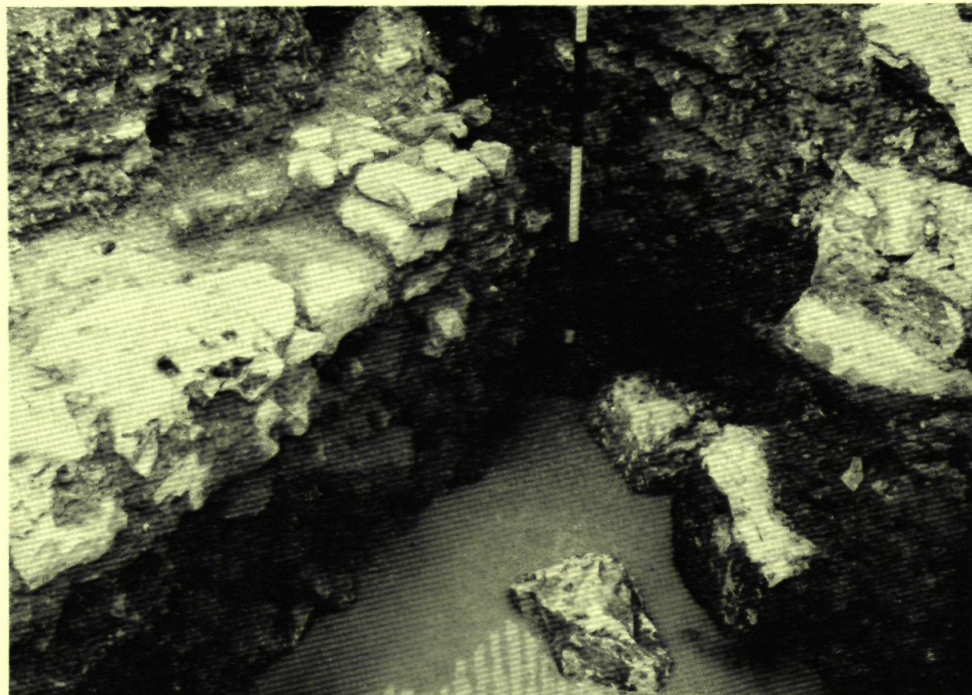


FIG. 9

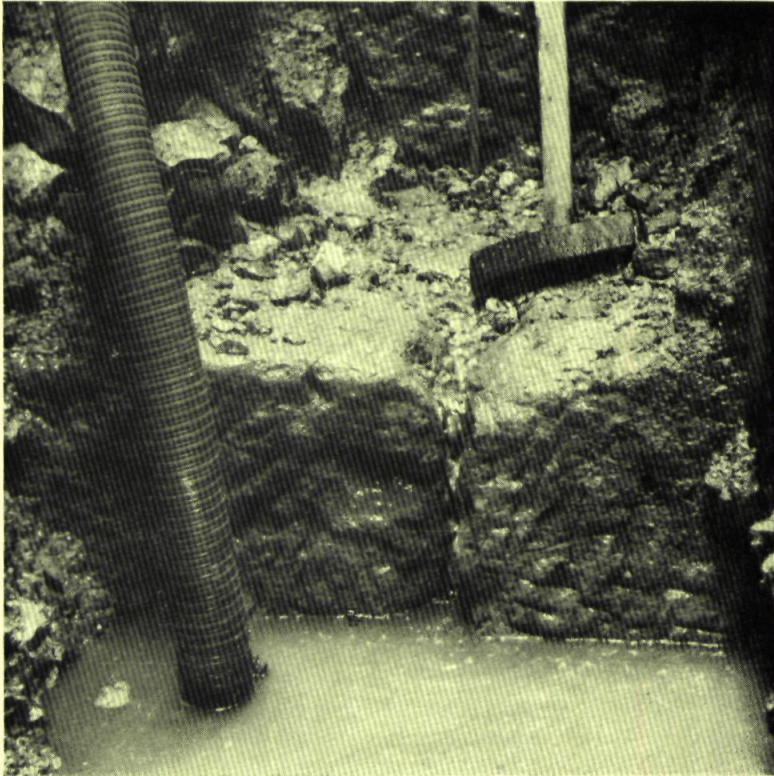
PLATE VI



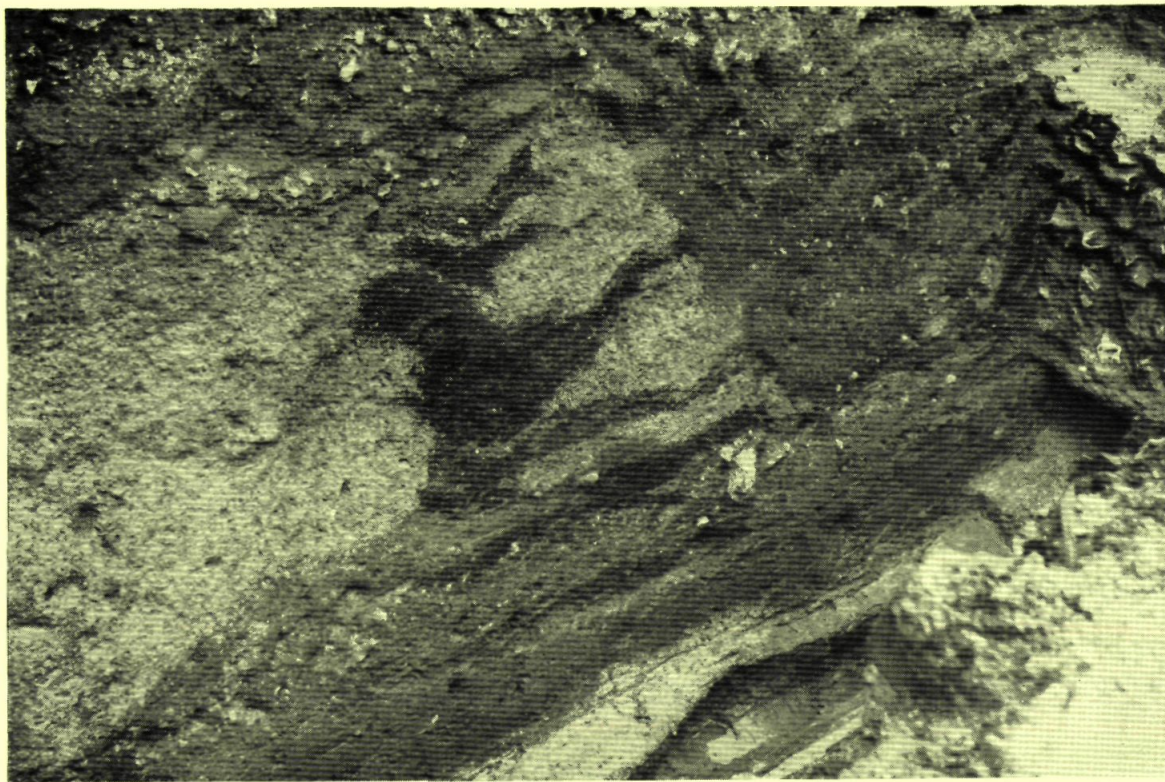
North Walls. The faces of the medieval walls I and II and the chalk blocks lining the culvert



PLATE VII



Stone blocks sectioned in the sewer trench in Union Street



Colebrook Street Trench III showing the back face of the Roman wall and the structure of the ramp.  
(For scale, compare with Fig. 10)





The outer face of the City Wall bounding the south side of the Pilgrims' School playing fields at Wolvesey Castle. Largely refaced in medieval times

## WINCHESTER CITY WALL

minimum width of 9 ft. is obtained.<sup>32</sup> The wall was built of coursed flint rubble set in a pinkish buff mortar. No bonding courses or offsets occur in the surviving height of 3 ft. 6 in.

In preparation for the building of the wall, the ground surface was levelled. This necessitated the filling of a hollow with chalk blocks and turves (sectioned in Trench II) and cutting a shallow foundation trench in other places (Trench I). In Trench III the wall was built directly on the original ground surface (Fig. 10).

*The ramp.* The longest section of the ramp was cut in Trench III. (Trench II was very short, whilst in the west end of Trench I a medieval pit removed the Roman layers.)

The main body of the ramp, sectioned in Trench III, is built of yellowish-grey chalky clay strengthened in places with turves. The space between the front face of this structure and the back face of the Roman wall, a distance of 3 ft., was filled with a brown earth which, in Trench I, contained a layer of ash (Plate VIII).

The significance of the relationship of the two masses is a problem. The sparse finds from the chalky clay structure consist entirely of sherds derived from earlier layers. It has been noted above, however, that the bank seals a Samian sherd of mid 2nd century date. The ash layer in Trench I produced a group of pottery, the latest sherd being that of a Drag. 37 bowl made by Cinnamus (No. e, p. 74).

Two interpretations are possible: either it is assumed that the complete bank and wall are contemporary, the differences in structure of the ramp being ascribed to different phases in the same overall plan of construction, or the chalky clay bank is assigned to an earlier period of defence (in this case Antonine) which was later faced with a masonry wall and the intervening space filled with brown earth. The existence of an Antonine bank would be in keeping with evidence from many other towns in southern Britain.

A ditch probably never existed along this section; the close proximity of the River Itchen would render such a structure unnecessary.

### 3. *Early medieval occupation*

By the 12th century the Roman wall and ramp were reduced to mere stumps. In this period, a gully 9 in. wide and 9 in. deep was cut into the Roman bank in Trench III. Nine stake holes were associated with it. This was overlaid by an area of cobbling confined to the western 5 ft. of the trench.

### 4. *Medieval wall I*

In the 13th century the city wall was reconstructed largely on the line of the front of the Roman core. It was built of flints and chalk set in a pale cream coloured mortar and must originally have been 7 ft. in thickness. The structure of the back of the wall in Trench III shows two minor horizontal breaks which probably represent local repairs. Contemporary with this wall is a layer of building debris which spreads over the Roman bank. In Trench II it seals a pit cut into the Roman wall.

### 5. *Medieval wall II*

The first period wall was repaired extensively in the 14th century with flints and chalk set in a hard yellow mortar containing chalk flecks. Mortar of this type is associated with late 14th century work in the Westgate. The width of the wall was reduced to 5 ft. The core of this wall survives in the north-east corner of the site of No. 4 Colebrook Street, and immediately north of the steps leading to Scott Garden.

32. Cf. Tower Street.

# HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB PROCEEDINGS

## COLEBROOK STREET 1951

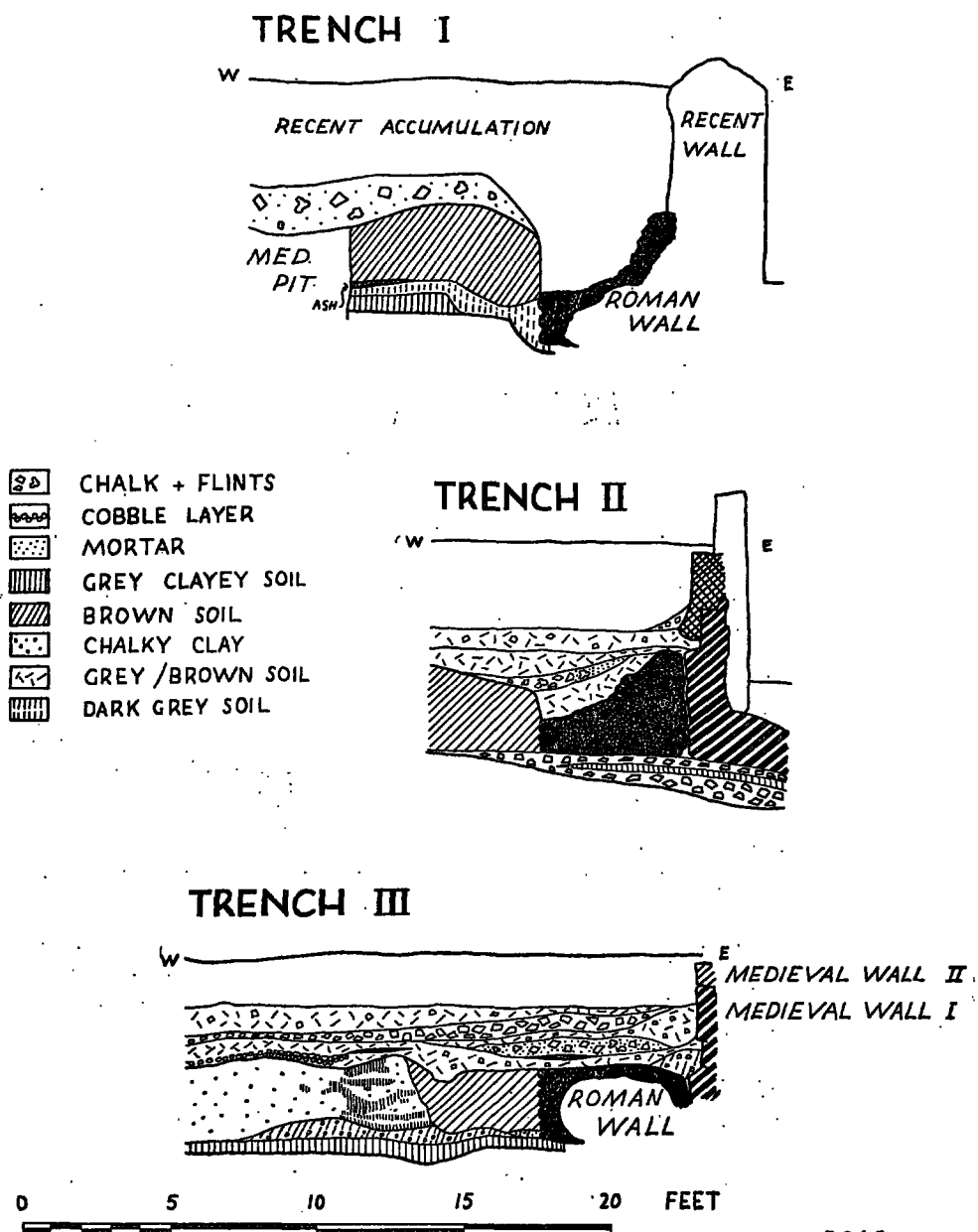


FIG. 10.

BC60

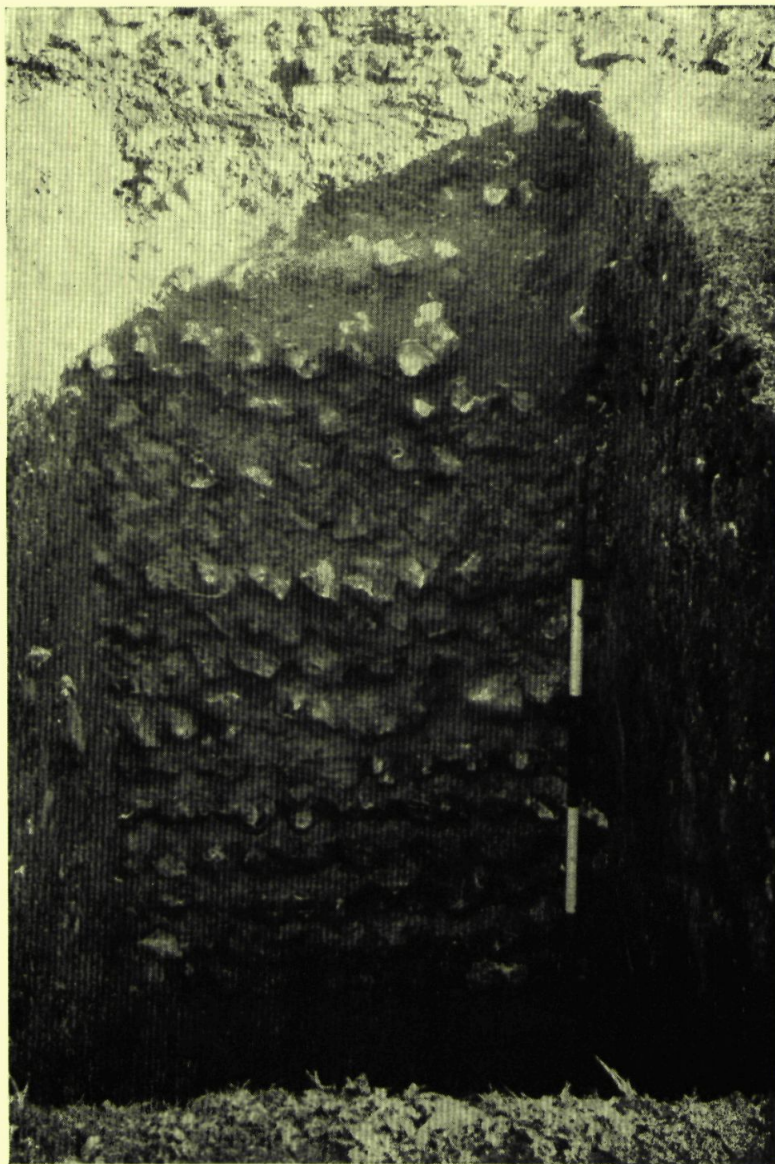
PLATE X



Wolvesey Castle Trench A, showing Roman wall footings in  
the bottom 3 ft. of the trench



PLATE XI



Wolvesey Castle Trench B, showing the structure of the back  
face of the Roman wall

PLATE XII



Inside south-east angle of the city wall bounding the Pilgrims' School playing fields.  
The ramp behind the wall, and Wolvesey Castle Trenches A and B, can be clearly seen



## WINCHESTER CITY WALL

### EXCAVATIONS IN WOLVESEY CASTLE GROUNDS, 1960

#### (Pilgrims' School Playing Field)

During the preparation of this paper, it became obvious that for the sake of completeness, trial trenches should be dug through the ramp behind the city wall in the grounds of Wolvesey Castle on the Pilgrims' School playing fields. Accordingly, in September 1960, a limited excavation was carried out by kind permission of Mr H. J. Salwey, headmaster of the Pilgrims' School.

#### *The Excavation*

Two trenches were dug: Trench A, against the south city wall, and Trench B, against the southern alignment of the east wall (Plates X, XI, XII and Fig. 11).

Evidence was found of:

- (a) Roman wall and ramp
- (b) Medieval refacing, I—13th century
- (c) Medieval refacing, II—late 14th century.

#### *The Roman Defences*

*The wall.* The wall was built on a rammed chalk footing, 9 in. in thickness, which rested on the natural river silt—here grey chalky clay. The back face of the wall survived in Trench B to a height of 7 ft., the upper 2 ft. being refaced in the medieval period. In Trench A, 3 ft. of the wall face remained above a 6 in. foundation offset.

*The ramp.* The main body of the ramp was constructed of dumps of river silt consisting of stony clay with small lumps of chalk. In Trench B, on top and slightly in front of this, the ramp was built of turves interspersed with dark soil. Turves also occurred in the stony clay sectioned in Trench A. A few scraps of pottery were found in the ramp which may be dated to the 2nd century.

#### *Medieval refacing I*

In Trench B, the top 2 ft. of the Roman wall was refaced with a cream mortar. A similar refacing occurred in Trench A where the wall was also patched with chalk blocks. The level contemporary with this patching contained fragments of a 13th century pitcher and was sealed by a mortar spread contemporary with the second period refacing. This phase is contemporary with the period I medieval wall of Colebrook Street.<sup>33</sup>

#### *Medieval refacing II*

This phase occurred only in Trench A. Here the face of the first medieval wall had been repointed in hard bright-yellow mortar with chalk flecks. Only small patches remained on the wall, the rest having been removed by subsequent weathering. The mortar spread of this refacing survived, sealing the 13th century level and itself being cut by two rubbish pits producing 15th century pottery. The mortar is exactly similar to the medieval period II mortar of Colebrook Street<sup>34</sup> dated there to late 14th century.

The two 15th century pits were sealed by another building spread, confined to the north part of the trench, which is no doubt contemporary with a later refacing. Above this is 3 ft. 6 in. of recent accumulation.

33. See above, p. 69.

34. See above, p. 69.

# HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB PROCEEDINGS

## THE ROMAN POTTERY

### INTRODUCTION

The ramp piled up behind the Roman city wall consists of material either dug out of the ditch or scraped up from the surrounding area. By virtue of this fact, as Dr Corder has pointed out,<sup>35</sup> we cannot expect to derive an accurate date from material incorporated in the structure unless a very large sample is taken. This is certainly the case for the pattern so far produced in Winchester. The existing pottery group represents an accumulation taking place over more than a century. For this reason most of it can be regarded as rubbish survival and, as such, not worthy of publication.

However, recent work has tended to emphasise the fact that pottery types are essentially local and may only be used for dating purposes when the types in question have elsewhere been dated by associations. Even then, dating based on strict typology of coarse wares is dangerous, for some types have a great survival value.

These general points are made to justify the inclusion in this report of a high proportion of the pottery from the defences, most of which will be regarded in the light of further work as too early to be significant. As no pottery has so far been published from Winchester, it is considered necessary to publish this quantity in the hope that future work will enable it to be dated more closely.

### SAMIAN REPORT

by G. B. DANNELL, B.Sc.

#### COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES

##### *Decorated Pottery from the addition to ramp*

- (a) Drag. 29—portion of side wall showing arrow-head infill. c. A.D. 75-85. South Gaul.
- (b) Drag. 37—small fragment of side wall. In the style of DRVSUS. In panel decoration with bead rows; showing legs of Venus (O 286) and a portion of the branched ornament. S. & S., p. 156, Fig. 20, No. 1. c. A.D. 120-140. Central Gaul.
- (c) Drag. 37—fragment of base without decoration. Hadrianic. Central Gaul.
- (d) Drag. 37—small fragment showing torso of dog or hare running to right. c. A.D. 85-95. South Gaul.
- (e) Drag. 37—sliver in the style of PATERCLUS. Cf. S. & S., Pl. 72, No. 34, showing part of the lion and ring. c. A.D. 125-145.

##### *Undecorated pottery from late addition to ramp*

- (f) Drag. 18/31—two examples both Trajanic. Central Gaul.
- (g) Drag. 18/31—with rivet hole. Trajanic/Hadrianic. Central Gaul.
- (h) Drag. 27—a late type with typical flattening of upper contour. *Jewry Wall*, p. 49, No. 12. Hadrianic. Central Gaul.
- (i) Drag. 31. Cf. O. & P., XXVII, 3. Antonine. Central Gaul.

35. Corder, P. The Reorganisation of the Defences of Romano-British Towns in the Fourth Century. *Arch. J.*, 112 (1955), pp. 20-42.

# WOLVESEY CASTLE 1960

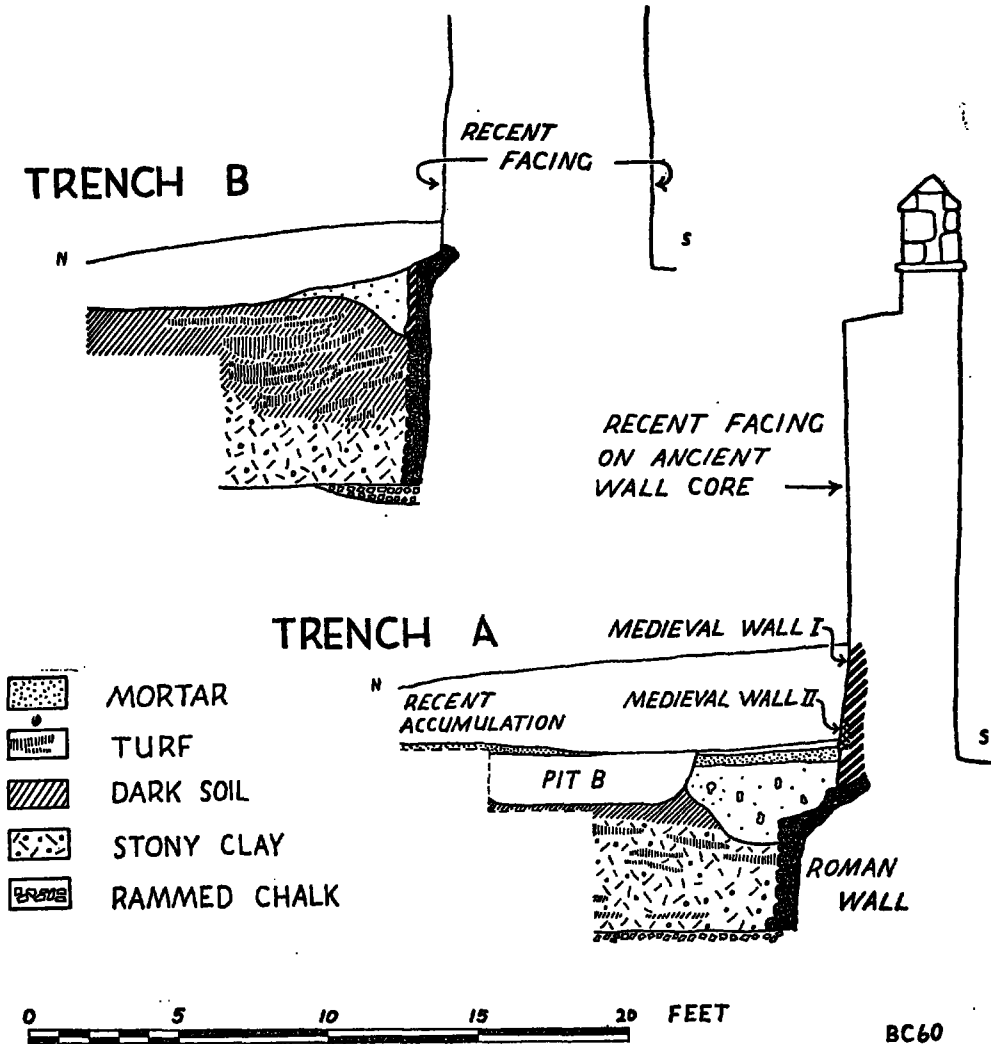


FIG. 11.

## HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB PROCEEDINGS

### NORTH WALLS (Telephone cable trench)

#### *Pottery from the ramp*

##### *Decorated:*

- (a) Drag. 29/37—style of DONNAUCUS, part of basal section showing continuous band of circles used as wreath. Cf. *S. & S.*, Pl. 47, No. 552. A tree ornament similar to that on No. 557 *ibid* is employed and the tendrils of the scroll end in bunches of grapes and small leaves to be seen on that sherd only. c. A.D. 100-120. Central Gaul.
- (b) Drag. 35/36. Trajanic-Hadrianic. Central Gaul.

##### *Undecorated:*

- (c) Drag. 18. Flavian. South Gaul.
- (d) Drag. 18. Trajanic. Central Gaul.
- (e) Drag. 18/31. Trajanic-Hadrianic. Central Gaul.
- (f) Drag. 27. Flattening of the upper part of wall. Hadrianic. Central Gaul.
- (g) Drag. 27. Trajanic-Hadrianic. Central Gaul.

### COLEBROOK STREET

#### *Pottery from the occupation layer under the defences*

##### *Decorated:*

- (a) Drag. 37—a small fragment of a bowl including the ovolo and the beginning of the decoration. Almost certainly the work of BIRAGILLUS. Domitianic. South Gaul. Cf. *O. & P.*, Pl. 16, No. 3.

##### *Undecorated.*

- (b) Drag. 33. Antonine I. Central Gaul. *O. & P.*, Pl. LI B, but with internal rim ledge.
- (c) Drag. 15/17. Claudian/Neronian. South Gaul. The side wall is not heavily fluted and should therefore be regarded as an earlier and less common example.
- (d) Drag. 18. Domitianic/Trajanic. Central Gaul.

#### *From Roman ramp—infill against back wall face*

##### *Decorated:*

- (e) Drag. 37—By the factory of CINNAMUS of Lezoux. Cf. *S. & S.*, Pl. 162, No. 61. The ovolo is no. 4 *ibid*. c. A.D. 145-175.

##### *Undecorated.*

- (f) Drag. 18. Trajanic. Central Gaul. Cf. *O. & P.*, Pl. XLV, 13.
- (g) Drag. 18/31 R.<sup>36</sup> Trajanic/Hadrianic. Central Gaul.
- (h) Drag. 27. Trajanic. Central Gaul.
- (i) Drag. 27. Domitianic/Trajanic. Central Gaul.
- (j) Drag. 15/17. Neronian South Gaul. Cf. *Camulodunum*, pp. 181-2, Fig. 42, no. 21.

36. Term used to designate an 18 or 18/31 with rouletting on the inside of the pot over the foot ring.

# WINCHESTER CITY WALL

## COARSE WARE

### COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES (Fig. 12)

#### *Pottery from the addition to the bank*

1. Plain walled platter with slightly everted side. Carinated. Grey sandy ware.
2. Bowl/platter with hollow rim. Carinated. Cf. Colebrook Street, Fig. 15, nos. 5 and 6.
3. Bowl with well defined bead rim and sharply carinated shoulder. Grey sandy ware. Cf. Colebrook Street, Fig. 15, no. 4.
4. Wide-mouthed bowl with high neck and out-turned rim. A cordon at the junction of the neck and shoulder. Hard grey sandy ware. *Clausentum*, Fig. 24, no. 14.
5. Oblique-rimmed beaker in grey sandy ware.
6. Pie dish with thin flat broad rim which forms a sharp angle with the wall. The wall is chamfered off towards the base. Decorated on outside with acute-angled trellis. (Remains of three dishes of this form survive.)
7. Straight-sided pie dish with a reeded rim with two grooves. Black burnished surface.
8. Base of ovoid beaker in cream ware. Rough-cast.
9. Ovoid beaker with everted rim. Hard reddish paste coated outside with a grey slip. Rough-cast body. Hadrianic-Antonine.
10. Mortarium with a bead and rolled rim: the bead being well below the level of the rim. Buff ware. Early 2nd century.
11. Amphora—cream ware.

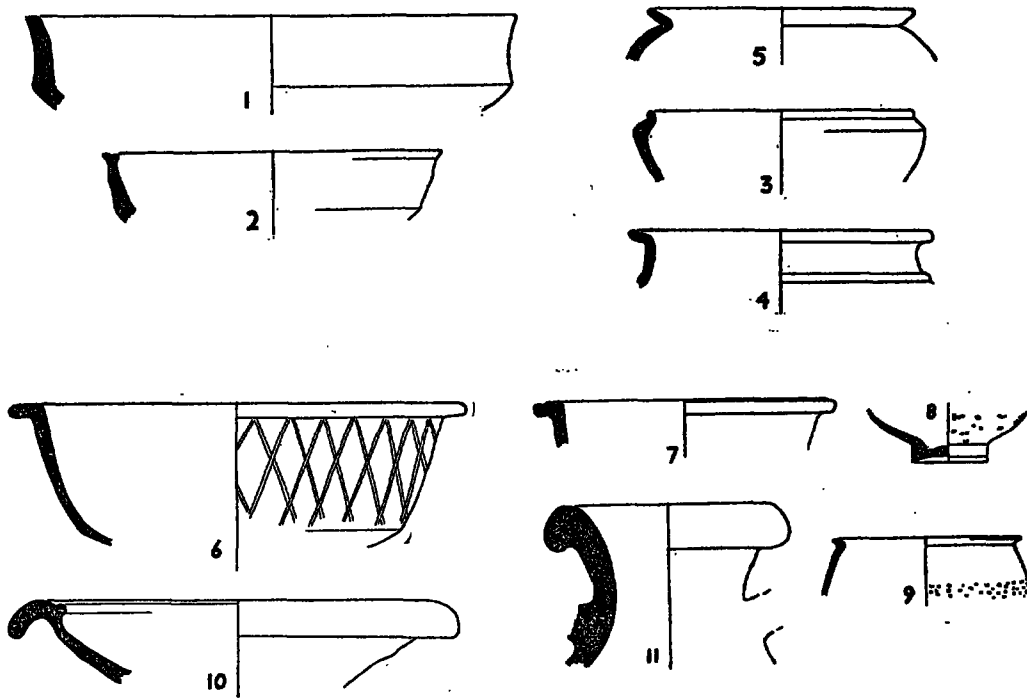


FIG. 12. (†) Roman pottery from the County Council Offices. From the addition to the ramp.

## HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB PROCEEDINGS

### NORTH WALLS (Telephone cable trench)

#### *Pottery from ramp sectioned in the telephone cable trench*

12. Bowl with level ground rim and a girth groove on the wall. Hard grey sandy ware. Silchester, *Arch.*, 92, Fig. 11, no. 22. Wide distribution in Flavian times.
13. Platter with grooved rim and foot ring. Hard grey sandy ware with dark grey surface.
14. Platter with concavity below rim giving a beaded appearance. Internal shallow tooled lattice decoration. Hard grey sandy ware. *Clausentum*, Fig. 21, no. 5.
15. Necked bowl with sharply carinated shoulder. Hard grey sandy ware.
16. Jar with out-turned unthickened rim and weak rounded shoulder. Grey ware with burnished black surface.
17. Beaker with incurved neck. Dark grey sandy ware fired red on surface.
18. Wide-mouthed jar with everted rim hollowed for a lid. Hard grey sandy ware. Same type as *Clausentum*, Fig. 19, no. 14.
19. Base with foot ring. 'Native' form of pedestal base. Hard grey sandy ware.
20. Four-ribbed flagon handle in fine cream ware. *Clausentum*, Fig. 19, no. 5.
21. Mortarium with a broad low beading separated by a shallow groove from a thick, short horizontal flange. Buff ware fired red in parts, lightly gritted inside.
22. (Not illustrated.) Fragment of the base of a dish in black burnished ware with a circular scribbled decoration. *Clausentum*, Fig. 22, no 3, where it is dated A.D. 120-150.

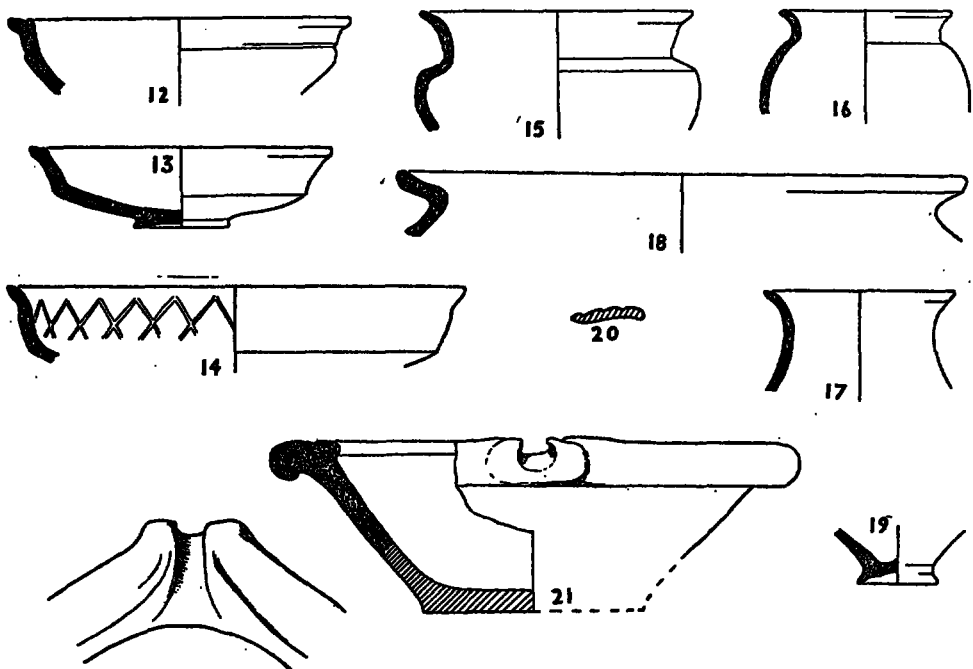


FIG. 13. (‡) Roman pottery from ramp sectioned by the telephone cable trench at North Walls.



## WINCHESTER CITY WALL

### COLEBROOK STREET

#### *Occupation before the defences*

This group represents an accumulation of sherds over a period of 100 years or more from the beginning of the Roman period.

- 1-3. Bead-rim jars in dark grey gritty Roman ware.
  4. Bowl with well defined bead rim and sharply carinated shoulder. Hard grey Roman ware.
  5. Bowl with hollow rim decorated with a shallow zig-zag line. Hard grey ware.
  6. Bowl with hollow rim and carination. Grey sandy ware, fired red.
- Nos. 5 and 6 are a local type. A presumed grave group from Crab Wood, near Winchester, produced similar forms in association with Samian ware stamped OF SEVERI which is dated A.D. 70-100.<sup>37</sup> Cf. also, *Camulodunum*, Form 47B, Pl. LII and page 225. Mid 1st century.
7. Platter in grey sandy ware.
  8. Wide-mouthed jar with cavetto rim. Grey ware.
  - 9-12. Cavetto rim vessels with internally flattened rims. Nos. 11 and 12 may belong to butt beakers.
  13. (Not illustrated.) Fragment of a sharply carinated beaker. Thin grey ware with brown smooth surface. *Camulodunum*, Pl. LVIII, no. 120.

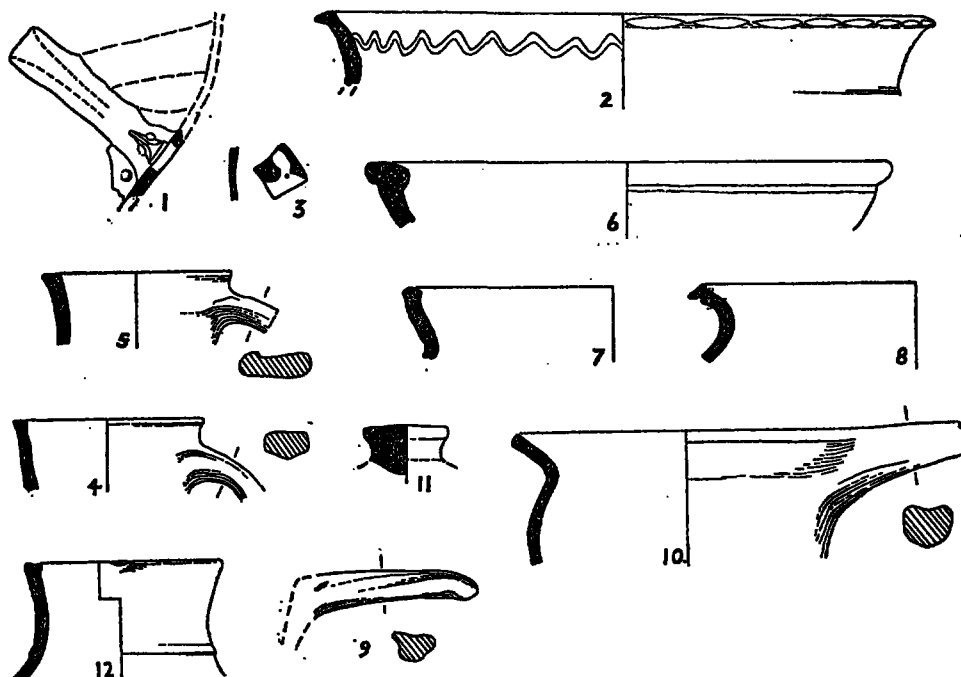


FIG. 14. (1) Medieval pottery from the City defences at Colebrook Street.

37. The group, on display in Winchester City Museum, is as yet unpublished.

## HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB PROCEEDINGS

### *Pottery from the infill against the Roman Wall*

14. Bowl with internal wavy line. Hard grey ware.
15. Cavetto rim jar in dark grey ware with black burnished surface.
16. Jar with internally flattened everted rim.
17. Wide-mouthed jar with high neck and out-turned rim. Rounded shoulder. Dark grey ware. *Clausentum*, Fig. 24, no. 14.
18. Necked jar with hooked rim. Hard grey ware.
19. Footstand base in dark brown ware with black surface. *Clausentum*, Fig. 21, no. 2.

## THE MEDIEVAL POTTERY

### COLEBROOK STREET

#### *Pottery predating the second phase of construction of Medieval Wall I*

1. Tubular spout from a spouted pitcher. The spout shows the position of the attachment of the strut which joined it to the neck. At the junction of the spout and body, three stylised human faces were moulded. Faces of this kind have been dated by historical evidence to the period between 1288-1308 at Kirkcudbright Castle (Kirkcudbright Castle, its Pottery and Ironwork, *P.S.A.S.*, XCI, 1957-8.  
Grey ware fired red. Speckled green glaze. The sherd was found in Trench III sealed in a layer later than the first phase of construction of Medieval Wall I (1228 on documentary evidence) but predating the second phase.
2. Everted-rimmed cooking pot with the top of the rim pulled out and slashed. Internally the rim is decorated with a tooled wavy line. Hard dark grey ware fired red on the outer surface. Cf.: A 13th century Midden at Windcliffe nr. Niton, Isle of Wight, *Proc. I. O. W. Nat. Hist. & Arch. Soc.*, Vol. III, Part II, 1939, Fig. 1, no. 9.
3. Pingsdorf ware jar. Fine cream ware with red paint on the surface. This sherd is already published in *Med. Arch.*, III (1959), p. 58, Fig. 29, no. 11.

#### *Pottery post-dating Medieval Wall I but pre-dating Medieval Wall II*

4. Pitcher neck with a plain squared handle. Red ware with a dark green glaze.
5. Pitcher neck with a wide handle grooved on the upper surface. Red ware with a dark green glaze.
6. Bowl with a thickened rim expanded internally. Coarse gritty red ware.
7. Cooking pot with an everted rim slightly hollowed inside. Hard dark grey ware.
8. Cooking pot with an everted rim pulled out and flattened at the top. Hard grey ware fired red on the surface. Cf.: A 13th century Midden at Windcliffe near Niton, Isle of Wight, *Proc. I.O.W. Nat. Hist. & Arch. Soc.*, Vol. III, Part II, 1930, Fig. 1.
9. Pipkin handle. Grey ware fired red. Orange glaze speckled dark green.

#### *Pottery contemporary with the construction of Medieval Wall II*

10. Pipkin with everted rim. Red ware with orange glaze, speckled green.

#### *Pottery post-dating the construction of Medieval Wall II*

11. Terminal button of a roof finial. Grey ware with a heavy dark green glaze.
12. Pitcher with a small pulled out lip. Grey ware fired red with a green glaze.

## WINCHESTER CITY WALL

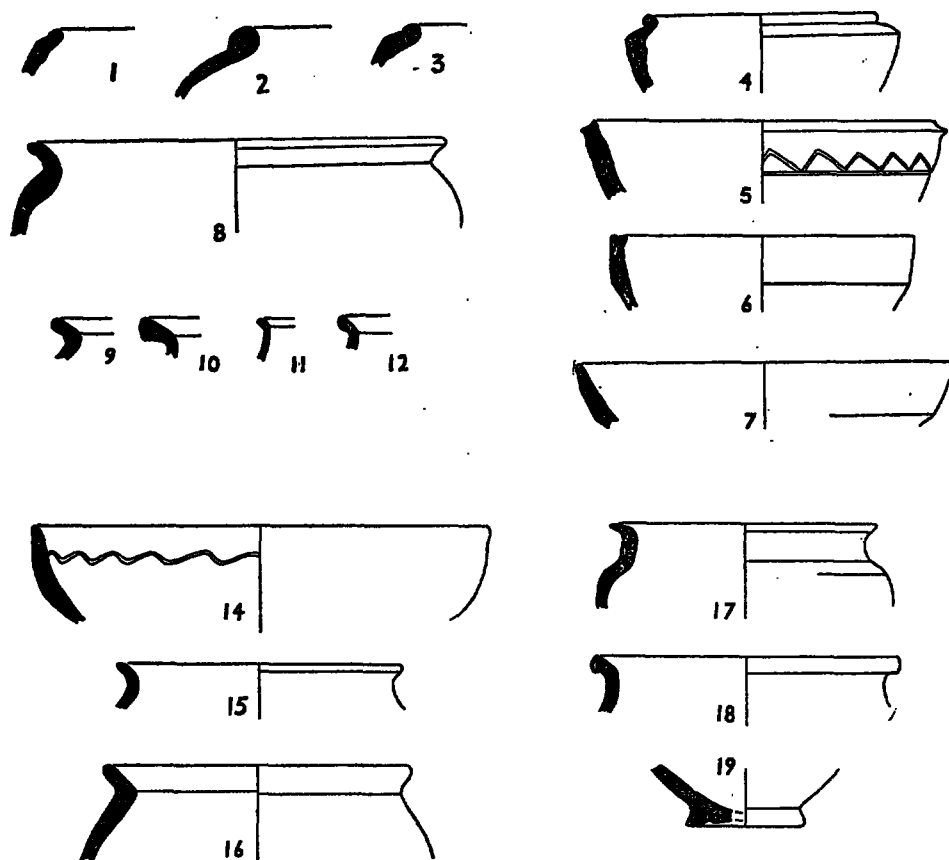


FIG. 15. (1) Roman pottery from Colebrook Street. 1-12 from the occupation layer below the defenses. 14-19 from the defensive bank.

### SUMMARY OF THE ROMAN DEFENCES

It is outside the scope of the present paper to include a detailed description of the supposed pre-Roman defensive system. Suffice it to say that the large earthwork on Oram's Arbour, to the west of the city, is considered to be of Iron Age origin, but its date is not yet proven.

#### *The Early Roman Defences*

Two sites have produced evidence of an earthen defence work, predating the Roman city wall. At the west end of the city (County Council Offices site) a bank, 45 ft. wide at the base, was sectioned beneath a larger bank which was presumably contemporary with the addition of the city wall about A.D. 200. Finds from the early bank were sparse, but among the few sherds of pottery recovered there was nothing to preclude a 1st century A.D. date for its construction. A considerable turf line had accumulated before the c. A.D. 200 addition.

## HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB PROCEEDINGS

At the east end of the city, at Colebrook Street, the structure of the ramp could be interpreted as an early bank cut back to receive a wall at a later period. This explanation is certainly favoured by recent excavation in other towns.<sup>38</sup> The material from the 'early bank' would suggest a date of construction in the middle of the 2nd century, which is again well in keeping with evidence from elsewhere.

To draw many far-reaching conclusions from such slight evidence would be unwise but the following observations may suggest a line which future work might take. The possibility of a 1st century bank at the west end of the city demands a consideration of its course. Little trace of it appears at Tower Street,<sup>39</sup> where, however, the city wall is built on a massive revetted footing which could suggest soft soil (e.g. a ditch) beneath. If the 1st century defences turn west before the Tower Street site, the change of alignment in Jewry Street, which in all probability lies on the Roman street, would coincide with the north line of the hypothetical defences.

The 'Mid 2nd century defences' at Colebrook Street pose another problem particularly since no trace of such a bank was found in the Wolvesey Castle excavations. If the existence of such a bank is accepted (see above, p. 69) one must conclude that only part of its line was subsequently followed by the masonry wall.

### *The Wall c. A.D. 200*

The enclosure of the city by a stone wall backed by an earthen ramp took place at the end of the 2nd century or the beginning of the 3rd century. The material from the ramp dating its construction has already been discussed in detail in the separate reports, but may be summarised here:

- (a) A fairly large quantity of coarse ware and Samian dated to the Hadrianic-Antonine period which is in most part a survival of earlier material.
- (b) Coin of Commodus.<sup>40</sup>
- (c) Drag. 37 of Cinnamus<sup>41</sup> dated to A.D. 175 or possibly later.

On the above evidence, it is safe to assume that Winchester, along with many other towns in Britain (e.g. Silchester, Chichester and others), received its walls about A.D. 200.

In structure the wall was 9 ft. wide at the base and built of flint rubble faced with knapped flints. Nowhere have bonding courses been observed *in situ*, but in the Tower Street section limestone slabs suitable for this purpose were found in the robbed debris of the wall.

The ramp, a composite structure including earlier banks, has not been completely sectioned, but an indication of a width of more than 60 ft. was obtained at the site of the County Council Offices. This exceptional size was no doubt necessitated by the position of the western wall<sup>42</sup> across ground falling away to the east. Surface indications in the grounds of Wolvesey Castle suggest a width of 20-30 ft. for the ramp against the eastern and southern walls.

No trace of the ditch which must have existed outside the walls remains. On the north, west and south sides of the city it was replaced by the medieval city ditch, whilst on the east side the River Itchen would have removed the need for such a structure.

There is little doubt that the Roman gates occupied the positions of the four medieval gates at the cardinal points—Roman walls have been found on the site of the Northgate and

38. e.g. Silchester, *Arch.*, 92, p. 129; Cirencester, *Ant. J.*, XLI, p. 63.

39. The gravel spread in front of the wall remains unexplained.

40. See p. 58.

41. See p. 74.

42. See p. 60.

## WINCHESTER CITY WALL

possibly the Eastgate, whilst the plan of the Southgate,<sup>43</sup> though tantalisingly inadequate, may represent a Roman structure. The position of Roman roads pointing at all four gates is additional proof.

### *Bastions*

Bastions were added to many late Roman towns in the 4th century as a result of a change in military tactics.<sup>44</sup> Winchester provides no direct archaeological evidence for such structures, but 'turrets' frequently feature in 18th and 19th century descriptions of the walls. Milner,<sup>45</sup> describing the north wall in 1798, states that 'At certain distances we discover the traces and ruins of turrets made to strengthen it...' and again in his description of the west wall, north of the Westgate, he mentions two turrets<sup>46</sup> which 'protected the intermediate space of the wall as far as what is called the Hermit's Tower at the Northern extremity'. These bastions were certainly in existence in the 14th century, for the 'walls, turrets, gates and dykes' are mentioned in a contemporary document. The presence of bastions at this period suggests that they may well be a refaced version of Roman predecessors.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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43. H.F.C., X, p. 71.

44. Corder, *The Reorganisation of the Defences of Romano-British towns in the 4th century*, *Arch. J.*, CXII (1955), pp. 20-42.

45. Milner, 1st edn., II, p. 210.

46. *Ibid.*, 1st edn., II, p. 177.