

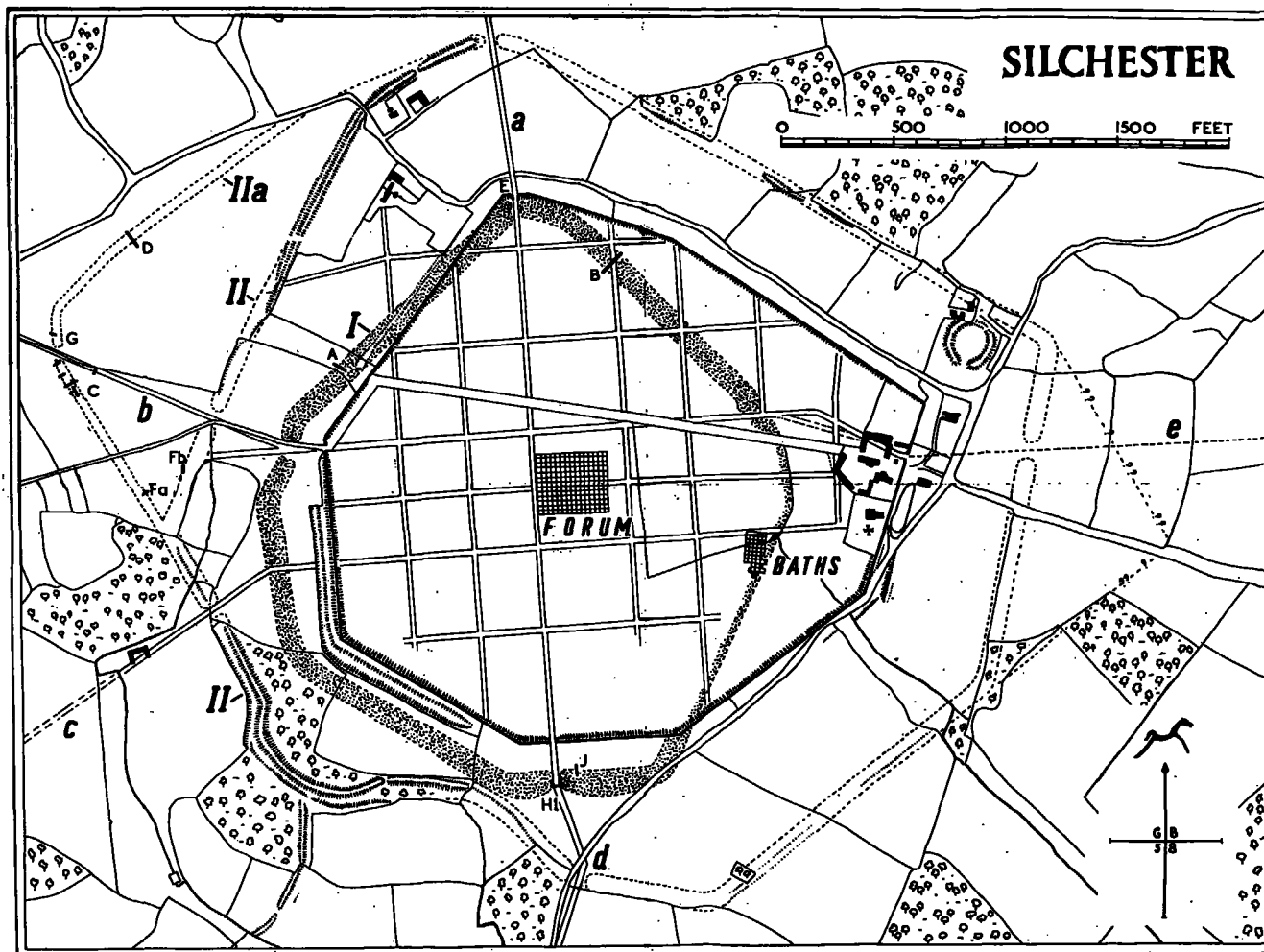


Fig. 1. I : The Inner Earthwork. II, IIa : The Outer Earthwork. Laid down from cropmarks and surface indications

(From the revised 25 inch Ordnance Survey plan, by the permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office).

Excavations at Silchester, 1954-7 : an Interim Report

by GEORGE C. BOON

THE Society of Antiquaries' excavations (1890-1909) mark the end of a phase in the exploration of Silchester, in which the recovery of the Roman town-plan was the main object.¹ A second phase, in which attention was expressly directed towards the elucidation of the history of Calleva, began in 1938-9, when Mrs M. Aylwin Cotton, O.B.E., F.S.A., undertook fresh excavations upon the defences and street-plan.² Since 1954, work has been particularly concerned with the pre-Roman period: that long blank in the archaeology of a site known, from numismatic evidence,³ to have been in being within a decade of the birth of Christ.

After the opening in 1954 of a trial trench (Trench A) across a defensive earthwork recognized by Dr J. K. St Joseph during aerial sorties in 1947-9,⁴ a SILCHESTER EXCAVATION COMMITTEE (see Appendix) was set up under Mrs Cotton's chairmanship. At the instance of Mr W. A. Smallcombe, B.Sc., F.M.A., F.I.I.C., then Director of Reading Museum, the Museum Committee adopted the suggested programme of investigation as part of its official policy of research. An appeal for funds launched in 1955 yielded sufficient for three seasons of excavation and field-work. All the sites (apart from some of those opened in 1956, by permission of Mrs Alec Waugh and Mr John Hopkins) have lain on the Wellington Estate; the Committee's thanks are therefore due to the Marquess Douro for permitting the excavations, arranged through His Grace the Duke of Wellington, K.G., F.S.A. Since Silchester is scheduled as an Ancient Monument, the permission and ready practical help of the Ministry of Works are also to be recorded. Mr Bonser and later Mr Massie of Manor Farm, Mr Barrett of Dicker's Farm, and Mr Garrett, afforded the excavators every courtesy, and the work was greatly aided by the support of many local residents, of whom I may mention the Rev. and Mrs W. S. Evans of Silchester, Col. and Mrs Battiscombe, Mr and Mrs Hartley, Mrs and Miss Karslake, Mr and Mrs E. J. Larbey, Mr F. R. D. Needham, F.S.A., and Mrs Fred Smith of the Calleva Museum. A personal tribute is due also to Mrs Cotton. Finally, the Committee extends warm thanks to its member Society, the Hampshire Field Club, for suggesting that this Interim Report should appear in the first issue of its new series of *Proceedings*.

SITE KEY

1. Year	Site	Description	Situation (Fig. 1)
1954	A	Inner Earthwork	Outside W. sector of Wall, p. 13.
1955	B	Inner Earthwork	Inside N.N.E. sector of Wall, p. 13f.

1. Summary, my *Roman Silchester* (1957), pp. 31 ff.

2. *Ibid.*; *Archaeologia* XCII, pp. 121 ff.

3. *Roman Silchester*, p. 49; cf. also 46 ff.

4. *Journ. Rom. Studies*, 1953, p. 69.

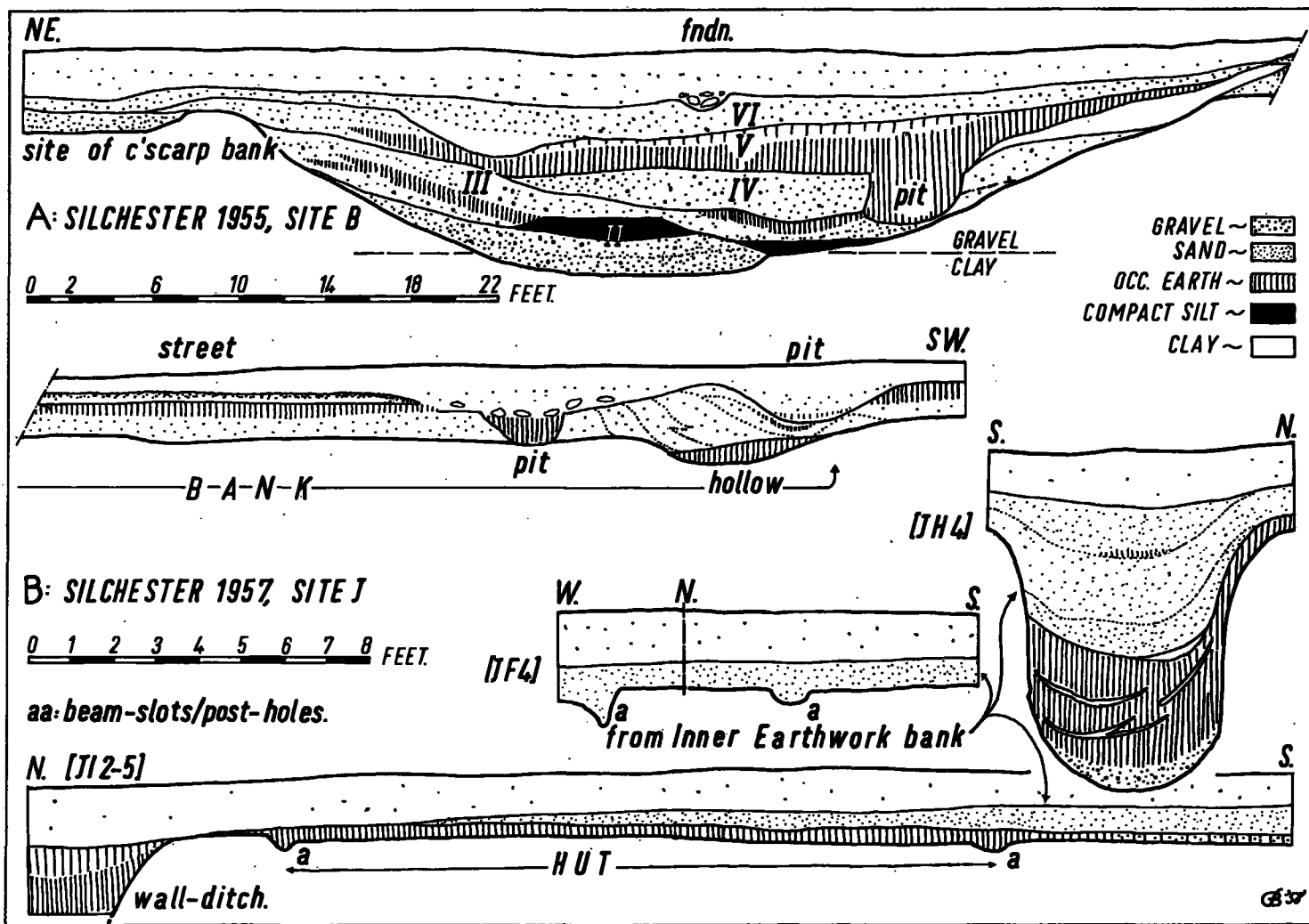


FIG. 2

EXCAVATIONS AT SILCHESTER, 1954-7

Year	Site	Description	Situation (Fig. 1)
1956	C, D, Fa, G	Outer Earthwork (extension)	W. of walled town, p. 19.
	Fb	Outer Earthwork	W. of walled town, p. 20.
	E	Alleged Bastion ⁵	Outer N.W. angle of Wall.
1957	H	Inner Earthwork (S. entrance)	S. of Wall, p. 14.
	J	Belgic hut	S. of Wall, p. 15.

2. In 1956, the Committee collaborated with officers of the Ordnance Survey Archaeology Division in a revision of detail. The result is shown in Fig. 1, traced with slight modifications from the 25-inch plan supplied to the Committee by the Ordnance Survey.

THE INNER EARTHWORK

The earthwork discovered by Dr St Joseph is shown as a crop-mark on aerial photographs⁶ (e.g. Plate IA) from which, and from Fig. 1, it can be seen that the earthwork is polygonal, enclosing about 85 acres, and runs partly inside, and partly outside; the enclosure of the Wall. Few traces of the earthwork (now named the Inner Earthwork) are to be seen on the ground, the most noteworthy being a sag in the Wall on the N.W.⁷ and a crack at its S.S.E. angle, both caused by the passage of the demolished Inner Earthwork below. There are also faint indications S. and W. of the walled town.⁸ The course of the earthwork on the S.E., as shown in Fig. 1, follows a weak crop-mark partly confirmed by electrical earth-resistivity soundings;⁹ but the precise course is unknown in the vicinity of the Public Baths, Insula XXIII, where, if completed, it presumably lay near the head of a wet declivity. The ditch was several times found in the old excavations, but its nature was not then understood.¹⁰ Except for the bold N.E. sector, most parts of this earthwork do not regularly appear in crop-mark; and this explains why it was not discovered before.

An intriguing feature of the Inner Earthwork concerns the number and disposition of its original entrances. It was at first thought that there were four, and that these corresponded broadly with the *kardo* and *decumanus* lines of the later street-plan. The only entrance so far opened, on the S., lies in a short, re-entrant sector of the work; on the W., a similar re-entrant occurs, and contains adequate indications of an entrance. But to maintain the suggested correspondence of line, original entrances on the N. and E. must be placed at, or very near, corners—a presumptive difference of siting which demands close scrutiny. The

5. In Aubrey's *Monumenta Britannica*, MS. Bodl. Top. Gen. C. 24, f. 211^v, occurs mention of a bastion at this point, and a marginal sketch appears to confirm it. A mound exists around the corner in question, and was trenched as Site E, but was found to consist of soil more or less free of the heavy flint-rubble to be expected here, where the Wall is very thin. No bastion foundations were found, and the mound may be spoil from the clearance of the N. Gate by Joyce in 1873. If so, Aubrey's mound must be located elsewhere—? N.W. for N.E.: cf. *Archaeologia* LXI, pp. 483 f.

6. Now augmented by a fine colour series taken by an officer of the U.S.A.F., Greenham Common, near Newbury, in July 1957.

7. *Roman Silchester*, pl. 4, p. 33.

8. See further, my *New Guide to S.*, 1957 ed. only, p. 6.

9. Conducted by H. J. Case, F.S.A., of the Ashmolean Museum.

10. On the marshy state of the ground about here, *Archaeologia* LIX, pp. 363 f. It is tempting to see, in the various pile-supported structures hereabouts, positive trace of the ditch of the Inner Earthwork (as e.g. immediately on the W. of the Baths, *Archaeologia*, LIX, p. 362, fig.; but this it is impossible to accept with the evidence at present at our disposal. The idea explained in *Archaeologia*, LIX, p. 363 f. seems still the best solution. Previous discoveries of the ditch, *Roman Silchester*, p. 51.

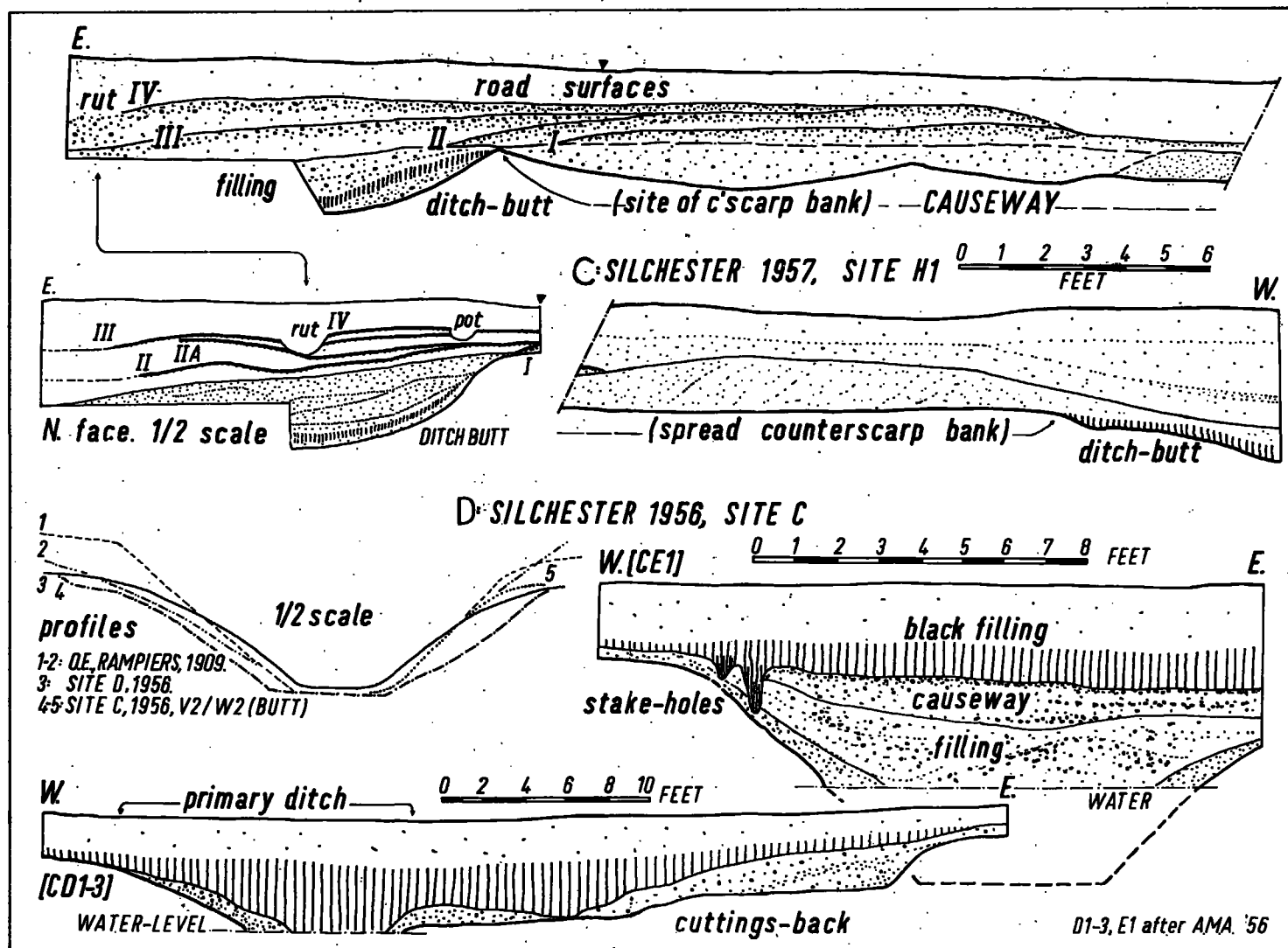


FIG. 3.

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colour photographs taken in 1957 do not, in fact, confirm an original entrance at either spot, and on the E. suggest that none existed. Now the Sorbiodunum road, on the S.W., is not connected with an inturned entrance: the earthwork was presumably slighted for the passage of the road. Gaps on the N. and E., therefore, may merely mark the path of streets or roads across the defence.¹¹

The early date of the Inner Earthwork was evident before excavation, for minor streets in the northern part of the town were seen to pass over its ditch (Plate IA). The street-plan was assigned to c. A.D. 90-120/30 in 1938; and from this it is clear that the earthwork was essentially a feature of 1st-century Calleva. Moreover, since the earliest occupation found in 1938, c. A.D. 45-65, lay 80 yards N.E. of the defence,¹² it seemed possible that the Inner Earthwork might be still earlier than this: a theory encouraged by the eccentric siting of the enclosure itself.

A : THE ENCEINTE. The 1954 section (Plate IB) was concerned entirely with the ditch of the Inner Earthwork for, in the place chosen, the bank had been destroyed by the wall-ditch. The ditch proved to be about 45 feet wide, with sloping sides and a flat bottom, 10 feet across, some 12 feet below the modern surface and 4 feet below the September water-level. The first filling, gravel from the former bank, was Flavian at the earliest (Dr. 27, IVLĪA; etc.) and probably contemporary with the main filling of earthy gravel, which was Trajanic (worn *dupondius* and *as* of Vespasian; unworn *dupondius* of Trajan; with samian and coarse pottery of similar date) or early Hadrianic. The rapid silt consisted of clean gravel capped, in the middle, by dense, black, odoriferous mud—the product of a long period of stagnation. The contents of this mud included samian of Dr. 15/17, 25, and 29, and also part of a leather garment¹³ among various organic remains. The obliteration of the defence, almost to the condition in which it is today, was no doubt necessitated by the extension of the street-plan far beyond its limits; and it is to this event that the main filling can be assigned.¹⁴

Trench B (1955) was opened about 25 yards S. of the N.E. corner of Insula XXIII.¹⁵ It revealed a ditch of similar profile, and showed that the bank, too, had been constructed on a base of about 45 feet, and had been of simple *glacis* type (Fig. 2A). The bank had been largely destroyed by being cast into the ditch, and a street had been built across it; but at the rear some basal traces of tip-lines remained, in and below which occurred 16 shards of unromanized appearance (including a scrap of imported white butt-beaker, and a local copy of a Gallo-Belgic platter, *Camulodunum* type 32 B/C). This material is inadequate for dating, but plays a part in confirming evidence from the ditch.

A further feature of Trench B was a hollow in the subsoil at the N.E. end. This seemed to mark the site of a counterscarp bank, the material of which was dug away to form the

11. This is a withdrawal from my statement, *Roman Silchester*, p. 51, due to the new aerial photographs.

12. *Archaeologia* XCII, p. 124.

13. Identified as goatskin (probably) by the late James McIntyre, F.S.A. There were scraps (one of them a gore) with hems and fine stitch-holes.

A similar mud-layer was formed in Trench B, but did not yield so much organic material. In both cases, the layer was domed, owing to the weight of the superincumbent filling, which deformed the layer first on one side, then on the other.

In the mud from Trench A, there were frequent flecks of vivianite. This mineral (hydrous ferrous phosphate, presumably formed from bones in the mud, of which very few survived) was white on excavation, and turned rapidly bright blue on exposure.

14. Cf. Layer V, Trench B (p. 14); probably such fillings are general throughout the circuit.

15. Throughout the length of Trench B, about 145 feet, no sign of the 1899-1900 excavations was met: cf. *Roman Silchester*, p. 212.

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bulk of Layer III in the ditch—the only layer of filling thrown in from the outer side. Such a counterscarp bank was identified on Sites H and J.

The rapid silt of the ditch was again useless for dating, yielding only a few crumbs of coarse ware. The several layers of filling, however, seem from their dateable content to have been deposited at successive periods. The sequence may be illustrated by means of the content of coins and samian ware in each:

- III (gravel, earth streaks) - 5 frr., 2 in Arretine tradition; date not later than c. 60. No coins.
- IV (gravel) - - - 18 frr., latest Flavian, c. 100. No coins.
- V (earthy gravel, earth) - 200 frr., latest Hadrianic, say c. 120. Coins: 2 Claudian *asses*, copies; Nero, *dp.*; Vespasian, *as*; Domitian, 2 *asses*, all worn.
- VI (gravel, earth) - - 80 frr., latest Antonine, say c. 200. Coins: Hadrian, *sest.*; Faustina I, *sest.*; Aurelius, *dp.*; all worn.

The total for Layer V is explained by its earthy character. It also contained appropriate amounts of coarse pottery, brooches, and other 'finds'. But in Layer III, the samian was associated with an overwhelming mass of coarse pottery, of which about two-thirds were of native, unromanized character, and included various Gallo-Belgic products (Fig. 4). The only other contents were two La Tène III (one-piece, or *Collingwood* 'A'-type) brooches, part of a shale armlet, and some iron-slag.

B: THE SOUTH ENTRANCE. The apparent coincidence of the Roman street-plan with the W. and S. entrances of the Inner Earthwork was tested in the latter case. Trench H1, near the outer edge of the ditch (Fig. 3c), was so placed as to section the causeway leading into the entrance proper. This causeway, composed of the natural Bagshot sand which underlies the Pleistocene gravel of Silchester and here outcrops,¹⁶ was about 30 feet wide, but was formerly constricted by the return of the counterscarp bank flanking the ditch-butt on either side. Only the western portion of this bank remained, however, as a spread and confused mass of sand and fine gravel: the eastern portion had evidently been removed to make way for the passage of the first Roman street. The entrance, therefore, was in being before even the main line of street had been laid down: in other words, the street-plan must form a homogeneous whole, for, as has been observed, the defence is crossed by several streets in the northern part of Calleva.

The first street was about 17 feet wide, and terminated at the eastern brink of the ditch. Associated with it was an unsealed, worn *as* of Domitian (at the top of the counterscarp bank), which serves to point the 1938 dating of the street-plan, as does other evidence from Trench H4.¹⁷ The street was later extended eastward (see Fig. 1) so that it finally reached

16. The gravel, beginning roughly here, increases in thickness N. and W. In Trench B it was 7½ feet thick; in Trench A 10½ feet.

17. Traces of a Flavian hut, consisting of small post-holes at an angle to the street and partly beneath it. The hut was later rebuilt, no doubt to conform with the street-alignment, as often at Silchester: *Roman Silchester*, pp. 69, 136 ff.

Trench H5 was opened to recover more of the hut-plan, but encountered obstacles in the form (a) of a deep pit apparently belonging to the second phase of the hut; and (b) of a deep, square shaft cutting into this pit. Two similar, but shallower, shafts occurred in H1 and H4, and none had more than a few tiny scraps of tile, etc., in it. Their date and purpose are obscure. The H5 shaft *may* be connected with a bridge, or causeway over the wall-ditch; or, perhaps, all three are traces of an adjunct to the wall-defences in the form of a pattern of defensive pits ('*hilia*': cf. *Rough Castle, Roman Wall in Scotland* (1924), pl. XLIII, pp. 234 ff.). The position opposite the S. Wall is very obscure: *Archaeologia* LXII, pp. 322 f., and fig. 4 (the ditch there mentioned can be seen on aerial photographs).

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a width of 35 feet,¹⁸ and in the ditch (Plate IIa) sealed material yielding Flavian pottery. Below this filling was another layer, probably silt, not explored.¹⁹

THE BELGIC HUT

Site J was a *sondage*-system opened, between 50 and 100 feet E. of the mid-line of the Roman street issuing from the S. Gate, in order to discover occupation behind the bank of the Inner Earthwork. The bank, being composed of sand, was found to be much spread. Traces of a hut, probably of sleeper-beam construction, were found, and within the area an occupation-layer containing pottery which, when considered with the contents of an adjacent deep pit (Fig. 2b), seems ample enough in quantity and of sufficiently distinct and un-Romanized type (Fig. 5) to show beyond much doubt that the hut was pre-Roman. This is the first time that pre-Roman occupation has been so certainly identified at Silchester.

The entire complex was covered by yellow sand from the bank of the Inner Earthwork (Fig. 2b), but it is not yet known whether this sand is in part undisturbed bank-material, or wholly wash: it was naturally structureless. Both lips of the ditch opposite the hut were identified, the inner lip lying 40 feet and the outer 113 feet S. This measurement allows for a bank of width similar to that found in Trench B, but the excessive width of the ditch (due, no doubt, to its having been cut in sand) may possibly have led to the formation of a wider bank at this point. It is not therefore known whether the hut precedes, or is coeval with, the Inner Earthwork, and further excavation is planned to settle the matter.

The sand was cut by an early 2nd-century rubbish-pit a few yards E. of the hut, and was therefore well in position by that date, and no doubt many years before. The few pieces of dateable pottery in it included some of early Roman type.²⁰

INFERENCES

The following remarks must be regarded as preliminary. The profile of its ditch links the Inner Earthwork with a group of fortifications explored by Wheeler in Belgic Gaul.²¹ This type is characterized by the breadth and comparative shallowness of its single, flat-bottomed ditch, and the height and stone cresting of its rampart; and was a form of defence probably designed against Roman assault-tactics. In Britain, the type at present seems to be rare, but another example is at Oldbury near Ightham in Kent²² and is assigned to a late pre-Roman date.

18. Due to the S.E.-ward turn of the road on leaving the entrance. The beginning of the angle was found in Trench H2, 29 feet N. of H1. The deflection of course takes the road to the alignment-point of the Winchester road (near the N. end of Church Lane Copse, see Fig. 1). The road does not run straight from the entrance, either because of marshy ground due S. of it, or because the entrance was not considered as important when the Roman road was laid out. The normal width of the street between the S. Gate and the S. entrance of the Inner Earthwork was 24 feet (Trenches H3, H4). On the W., the street continues past the W. entrance of the Inner Earthwork (Fig. 1), where the Speen road diverges from it. On the S., as proved in a *sondage* 50 feet S. of Trench H1, this does not occur.

19. A similar filling on the W. was not sealed except by a late slip of the counterscarp bank, and contained later objects, of which an elaborate bronze key and a voussoir-brick may be mentioned.

20. The portion of the bank explored proved to contain several pits, mostly of 1st-2nd century date. The same phenomenon was observed in the bank area of Trench B, where a primitive bowl-furnace, later used for rubbish, was of Trajanic date.

21. Wheeler and Richardson, *Hill Forts of N. France* (1957), pp. 8, 62 ff., the Fécamp type. Cf. profiles, fig. 2, p. 10; Fécamp itself (pl. XXVIII) shows several entrances, but not disposed as at Calleva. The ? main oppidum of the Gaulish Atrebatés, Etrun near Arras, may be of the same type: p. 132, no. 93.

22. *Archaeologia* XC, pp. 127 ff. For the remodelling of The Caburn in this style, *ibid.* XLVI, pl. xxiii, and *Sx. Arch. Coll.* LXXIX, pl. I (cutting 2) opp. p. 174. I am informed by Mrs. Cotton that another example almost certainly occurs at High Rocks, near Tunbridge Wells.

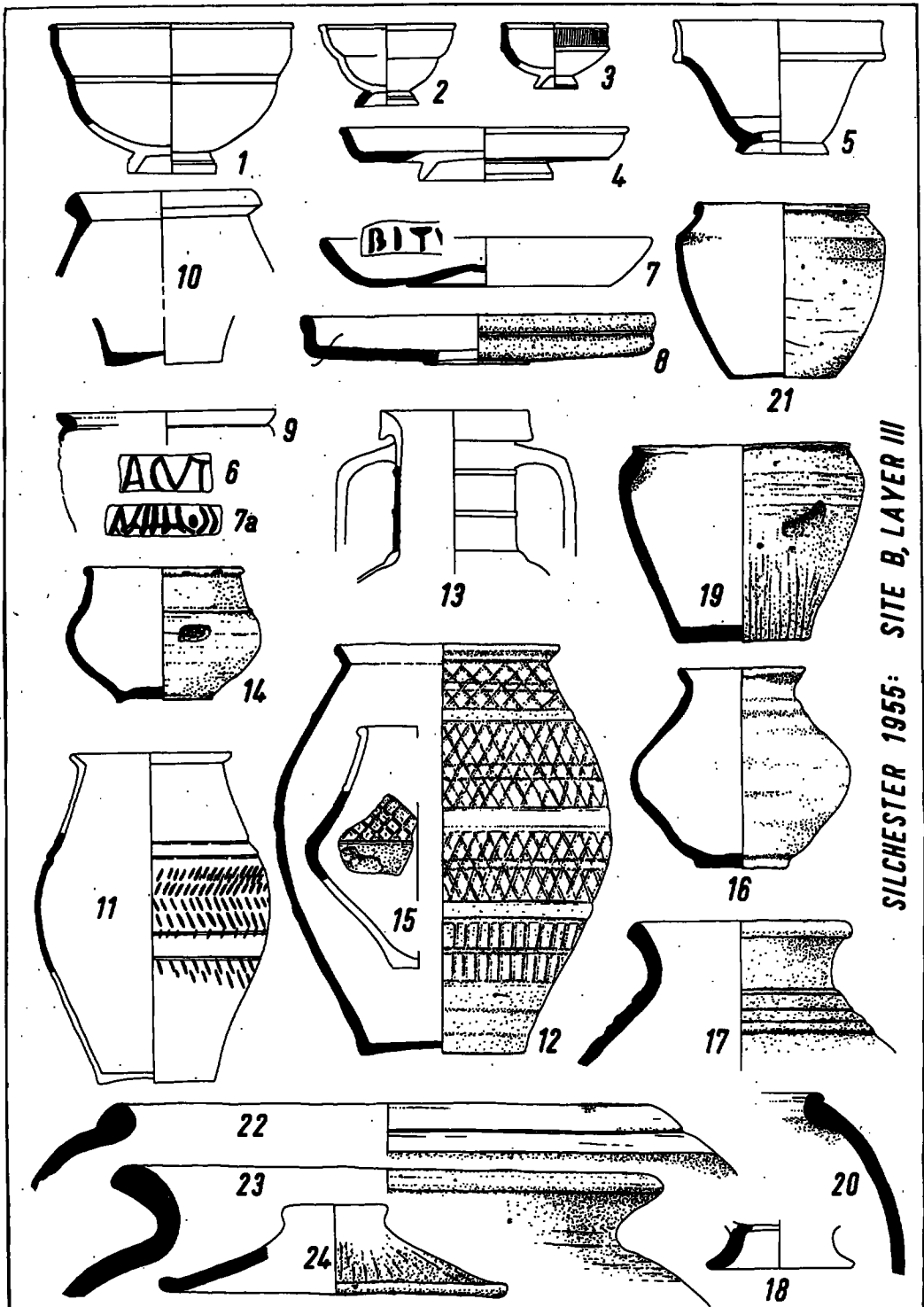


FIG. 4. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$; $\frac{1}{8}$ for stamps.

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Sound dating of the Inner Earthwork depends heavily upon the stratification of Site J, to be elucidated in 1958 (*see Addendum*). If the Belgic hut lies beneath the Earthwork and not behind it, pots like Fig. 5, 10 set the *terminus post quem* not far from 43. Furthermore, this occupation-material being what it is, probably a further examination of the relationship of the Roman roads to entrances in the *enceinte* will alone be able to show whether that *terminus* lies before or after 43. Since there is some reason to believe from Trench B that the Earthwork was obsolete about 60, and was being gradually filled in, the immediate evidence is in favour of a pre-Roman dating, but the less comfortable alternative must still be borne in mind.

THE OUTER EARTHWORK EXTENSION

From aerial photographs and ground survey,²³ an extension to the circuit of the Outer Earthwork was identified on the W. of the town (Fig. 1) and trenched in several places in 1956. The line of this extension consists, roughly, of two straight lengths springing from the S.W. (or Rampier Copse) and N.W. (or Wall Lane) shoulders of the Outer Earthwork, and meeting about mid-way in a rounded corner. On the N.W., however, the Outer Earthwork and the extension do not exactly coincide, as on the S.W.

The ditch of the extension is about 25 feet wide and 6 feet deep, with steep sides and short, flattish bottom. The bank has been largely destroyed. As the ditch was excavated under

23. Part of the run of the ditch was observed by Maclaughlan in 1850: *Arch. Journ.* VIII, pl. p. 227.

FIG. 4. SELECTED POTTERY FROM LAYER III, TRENCH B (p. 14)

1. Dr. 27, transitional fabric; constriction-grooves. *Camulodunum* S. 14, mostly pre-Conquest.
2. Dr. 27, fr. deeply-grooved base-ring. Claudian.
3. Dr. 24, small. Claudian. Also fr. larger, transitional fabric.
4. Dr. 18, ledge at outside base of wall. Soft ware, dull friable orange surface, micaceous. Claudian, trial-piece or copy, cf. VITLVS bowl, *May, Silchester Pottery* (1916), pl. II, 5.
5. *Terra nigra* cup, *Camulod.* 56, good quality. Also two smaller in *terra rubra*.
6. *Terra nigra* 24/5 copy, ACVTus, completes stamp, *Camulod.* no. 10.
7. *Terra nigra* plate, *Camulod.* 16, BITVcanos? Other T.N. forms: 2, 5, 12; T.R., 8 (one only).
- 7a. This stamp radially on large coarse *terra nigra* plate.
8. Native brown ware, *Camulod.* 32 or near; another from the bank area of Tr. B, p. 13. Other platters in native and romanized wares: *Camulod.* 21, 30; cf. Hurstbourne Tarrant barrow, *Arch. Journ.* LXXXVII, p. 307, fig. 32, nos. 9-10; 'lids', 12-13.
9. *Terra rubra* girth-beaker and fr. of cross-hatched decorated zone (not illus.), cf. *Camulod.* 54.
10. Butt-beaker, cream ware, import. Also many fr. rouletted zones from this and other beakers.
11. Native ware (red).
12. Soft brown ware, as *May*, type 152, which does not do justice to the vessel. Also other butt-beaker copies.
13. Jug-neck, hard white ware, *Camulod.* 161 or similar. Also body fr. of this or another jug.
14. Jar, soft brown or red-brown ware, soapy, burnished, several examples, some with girth-grooves below belly. Cf. *Archaeologia* XCII, p. 153, fig. 11, 9; also in pit 21, 1901.
15. Brown ware, similar to *May*, pl. LXXXVII, 4, but decoration lower.
16. Hard grey sandy ware.
17. Romanized black ware.
18. Sandy grey ware pedestal foot.
19. Coarse, flint-gritted ware, very common at Silchester and in this layer; no. 20 is a large example. 'Bead', never very good, often degenerate: cf. Fig. 5, 11.
20. See 19.
21. Hard, red-brown ware. Angular shoulder probably Roman: cf. Fig. 5, 10.
22. Romanized, large bead-rim jar, grey-black, with reserved band.
23. Large storage jar, ware as 19, but reddish: very common at Silchester, cf. *Archaeologia* XCII, p. 153, fig. 11, 31; p. 166, fig. 16, no. 8; also on Site J (hut; not illus.; rare).
24. Lid, ware as 19. Common form.

This series may be compared with those from the 'earliest occupation' and pre-Outer Earthwork deposits, *Archaeologia* XCII, *loc. cit.*

SILCHESTER 1957: SITE J [HUT & PIT]

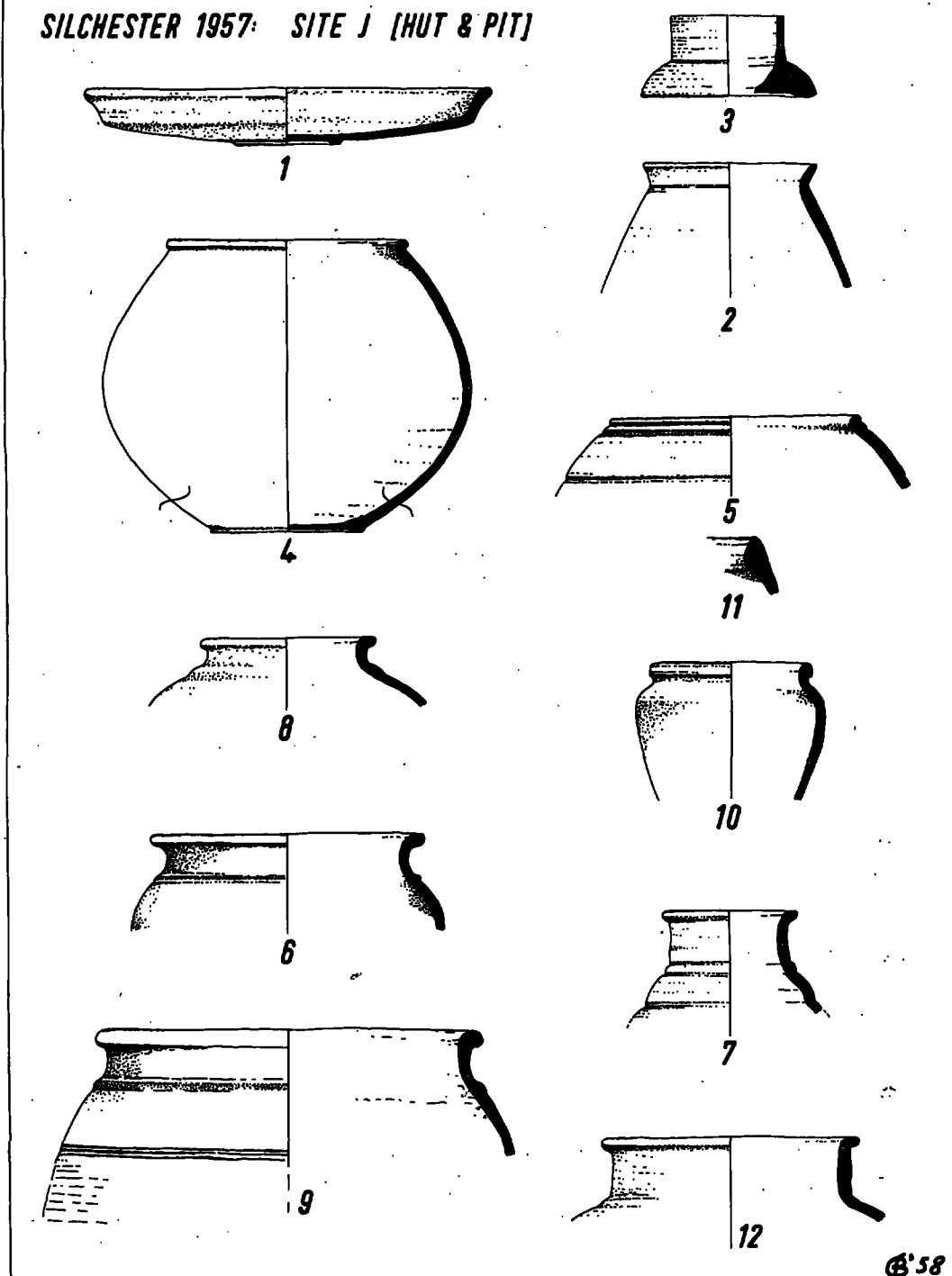


FIG. 5. Scale $\frac{1}{4}$.

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great difficulties—the soil-water coming, at times, within 2 feet of the grass—little dating evidence was recovered from it, although this appears to have been rare in any case. In Trench D, a little worn 1st-2nd century pottery was found in the gravel silting, and on Site C²⁴ two fragments of 2nd century pie-dish rim were found on the base of the ditch in two cuttings.

The filling of the ditch was accomplished in Roman times in two stages: (a) clean, yellow (bank-) gravel, containing earthy pockets with pottery and coins as late as c. 200; and (b), black occupation earth, with pottery and coins going down to c. 350. It therefore seems likely that the extension was partially obliterated in connexion with the building of the inner defences of Calleva at the end of the 2nd century.

The extension was interrupted for the passage of the Roman road to Speen,²⁵ but the gateway was not explored. Tumbled flints found near by suggest that it was of substantial build. The most interesting feature of the work, however, is a secondary entrance only 50 yards S. of that mentioned. It was made by digging back the ditch on either side of the chosen spot, and using the gravel thus obtained to afford a well-rammed causeway over the lower or gravel filling (a; Plate IIB; Fig. 3D). Both the recut portion of the ditch, and the causeway itself, were covered by the black fill (b), and so the secondary entrance is to be referred to some time in the 3rd century, or perhaps the early 4th. A pair of stake-holes

24. The difficult excavation of Site C was under the direction of Mr ApSimon.

25. The area W. of the Wall was occupied in late Roman times, to judge from the *sondages* of Site C. The only building explored (incompletely) was of wooden construction, in alignment with the Speen road. Post-holes and a beam-slot set into a very compact gravel floor were found; the floor lay directly on the natural gravel. There was no surviving occupation-layer; the floor was covered by wash from the road, and this held a coin of Constantine I. The road was about 20 feet wide, having been once made up where sectioned; the wash mentioned lay below the upper metalling. The road, like many local gravel lanes not subjected to heavy traffic, and like other Roman roads opened at Calleva, was 'shouldered' by traffic rather than heavily rutted.

FIG. 5. SELECTED POTTERY FROM SITE J (HUT AND PIT) (p. 15)

1. Native copy of plate, *Camulod.* 32, soft brown ware. Others, not illus.; no *terra nigra* or *rubra* occurred.
2. Native copy of butt-beaker, pinkish brown ware, slightly soapy. Two others in harder, sandier, thinner ware, not illus. Only two small shards of imported butt-beaker occurred.
3. Base of large pedestal-urn, upper part uncertain shape. Soapy brown ware, soft; horizontal rilling may be indicative of the use of a turn-table rather than a fast wheel. This may thus be a local copy. This is the only base of its sort recorded from Silchester. Such vessels are very rare in the region; there is one (or two?) from Theale: *Trans. Newbury Field Club*, VIII, p. 59, no. 27, *Reading Mus.* Another, with curious upper part, Hurstbourne Tarrant, *loc. cit.*
4. Bead-rim jar, apparently with base-ring, although no perfect section remains in any of several examples. Soapy ware, red-brown burnished surface. J. W. Brailsford, F.S.A., compares similar ware (not form) at Maiden Castle. Apart from the base-ring, similar to 'Wessex' bead-rims; cf. *Archaeologia* XCII, p. 153, fig. 11, 21, 24. The wide belly suggests affinities with S.E. 'B'. There are versions of the S.E. 'B' jar in romanized grey-ware, with or without decoration, at Chichester: *Sx. Arch. Coll.* XCV, p. 128, fig. 9, 1, with base-ring. Of the unromanized type, some have concave bases, which might under Belgic influence develop into base-rings, as indeed on one from Colchester: *PPS*, IV, pp. 163 ff. For another type of S.E. 'B' vessel from Silchester, see May, pl. LXXV, 9.
5. Variant, with double bead and groove possibly delimiting decorated zone. One only.
6. Soapy brown ware; several variant examples.
7. Cordon jar; soapy, light brown, hard ware: a common form; cf. May, pl. LXXXVII, etc.; *Archaeologia* XCII, *loc. cit.*, no. 16.
8. Sandy grey ware, hard; buff slip?—trace on rim. Possibly overfired or burnt.
9. Soapy black ware, coarse girth grooves.
10. Slightly soapy, soft brown ware, cf. Fig. 4, 21.
11. Coarse, flint-gritted ware; cf. Fig. 4, 19; two only.
12. Softish, soapy grey ware; cf. May, pl. LXXXVI, 8.

HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB PROCEEDINGS

towards the outer side of the causeway suggest that the passage-way was closed by a light hurdle and no more.²⁶

The function of this entrance is suggested by a large hollow immediately to the W., which may have been an ancient gravel-pit. No more distant objective should be sought, for obvious reasons.

The area enclosed by the extension and the Outer Earthwork proper to the E., is about 45 acres. The Ordnance Survey officers engaged upon the Silchester revision²⁷ note the possibility of a similar extension on the opposite side of Calleva (Fig. 1).

INFERENCES

It is suggested that this westerly extension is a primary line for the Outer Earthwork; and that the present line (which runs, as now proved in Trench Fb²⁸ (Fig. 1), straight across the neck of the promontory, on which Calleva stands, from the N.W. end of Rampier Copse) is a later phase in the history of this interesting *enceinte*. Since the extension and the Outer Earthwork proper do not coincide on the N.W., it is however evident that the planning of the whole must have been altered during the actual course of its construction.

Reasonable evidence of a two-phase construction of the Outer Earthwork was obtained in Rampier Copse in 1909, as well as some suggestion that its ditch, in the upper portion, was enlarged.²⁹ This may have taken place upon the suggested replanning of the earthwork, for previously the ditch corresponded well with that of the extension (profiles, Fig. 3d). Further light on the question of a two-phase construction is thrown by earth-samples taken from the 1952 exposure of the Outer Earthwork at Wall Lane. These appear to show that there was a lapse of time between the erection of the core of the bank and the deposition of its overburden, there being a small increase in humus at the line of junction between the two, as if vegetation had grown there.³⁰

The Wall Lane exposure is, however, in a sector which *ex hypothesi* should have been of simple build: that cutting off the unwanted western extension (Fig. 1). The enlargement of the bank and ditch must, accordingly, have taken place after the reduction in the size of the enclosure; and may, perhaps, be referred to a time when the Outer Earthwork was no longer merely a town-boundary (as possibly it was at first) but mainly a defensive work. Whether the 'New Town Plan' is to be connected with the vicissitudes of the Outer Earthwork, as traced in this paper, as well as with those of the Inner Earthwork, is a promising subject, but one to be kept for a later report.

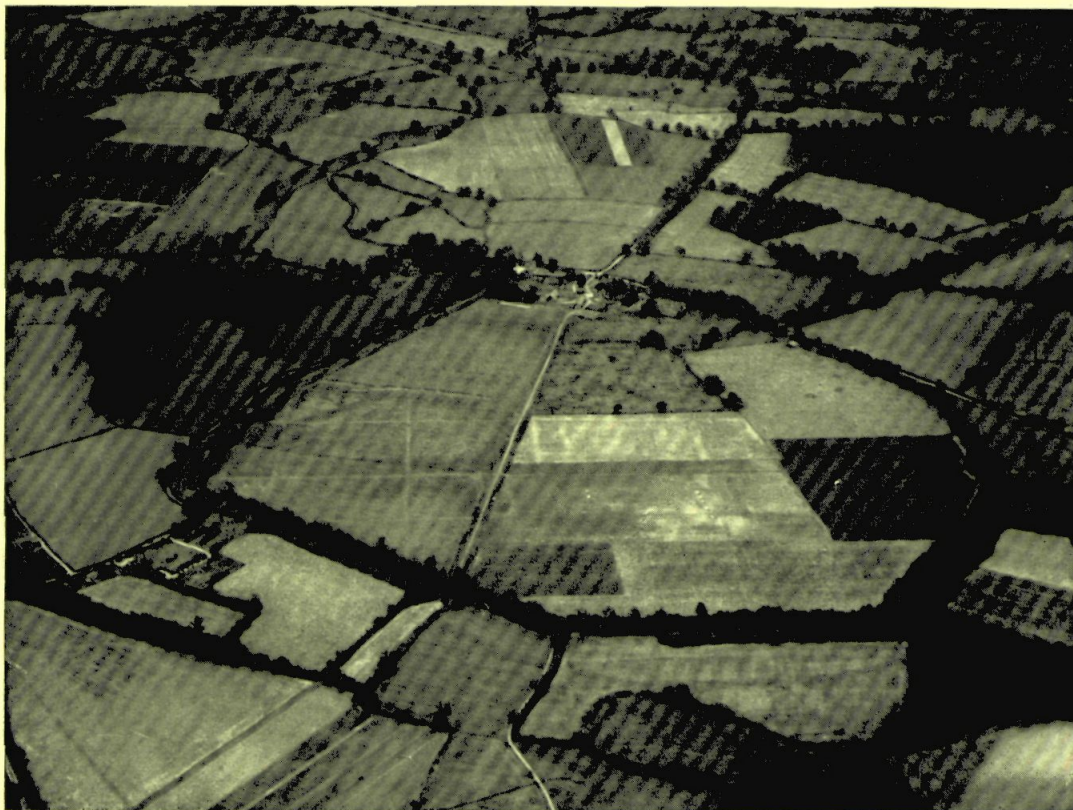
26. This implies that the gravel filling was not so complete as to render the ditch useless as a barrier. On Sites D and Fa, large, irregular, beam-emplacements were found, butted into the bank in the first instance, and in both containing iron nails. Prof. Hawkes suggests that these were remains of cattle-sheds belonging to a period when the 'annexe', as the area had become on the reduction in the size of the Outer Earthwork, was used as a cattle-pound.

27. Messrs. A. Clarke and W. C. Woodhouse, whose help in 1956 was invaluable in many ways, particularly in their devoting a day's leave to demonstrate surveying methods to Museums Assn. Diploma Course students.

28. Situated on the W. side of a marshy declivity, crossed by the Outer Earthwork near the N.W. end of Rampier Copse. Cf. *Roman Silchester*, p. 72. Fb was actually opened to section a 'bank and ditch' thought at the time to be part of the extension. It proved to be of recent formation.

29. Poor sections, *Archaeologia* LXII, p. 318 (top) from good originals intended for publication in the Final Report of the present operations.

30. Examined by Dr I. W. Cornwall of the London University Institute of Archaeology. 0.132 mgm/gm. humus at the point of juncture, as opposed to 0.080, 0.086 in the core of the bank and 0.096, 0.092 in the overburden. The section was exposed during road-widening.

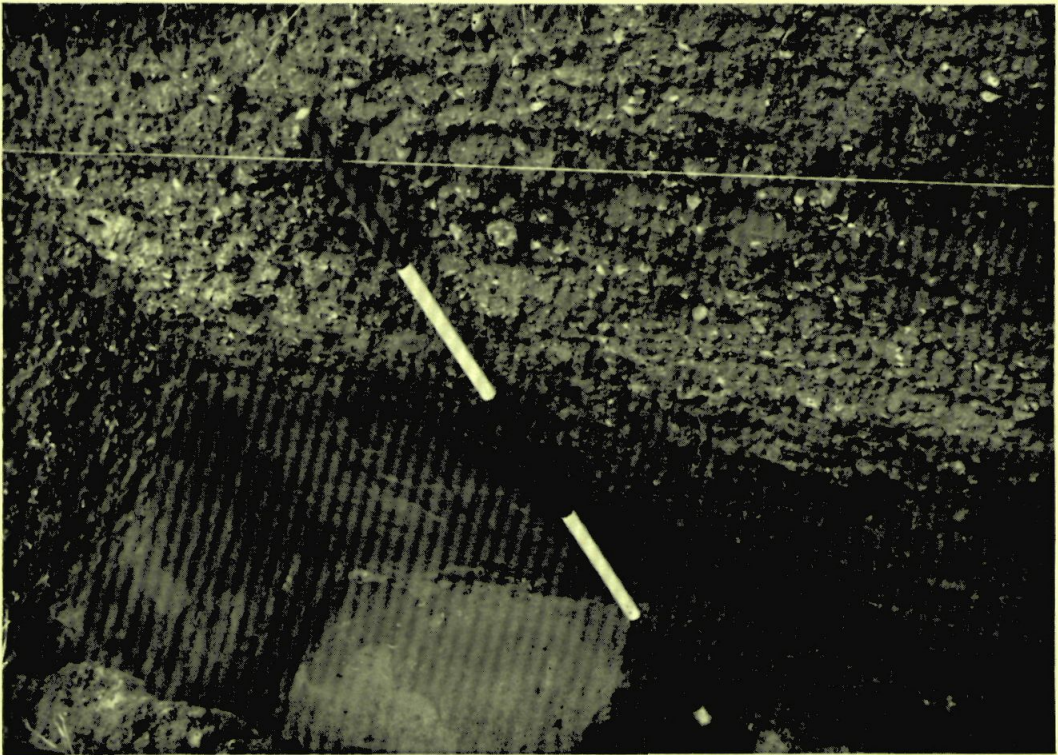


Silchester from the west showing the Inner Earthwork as a crop mark
 (Crown copyright reserved; Photo J. K. St Joseph, Cambridge University Collection; Block by courtesy of Max Parrish & Co. Ltd)



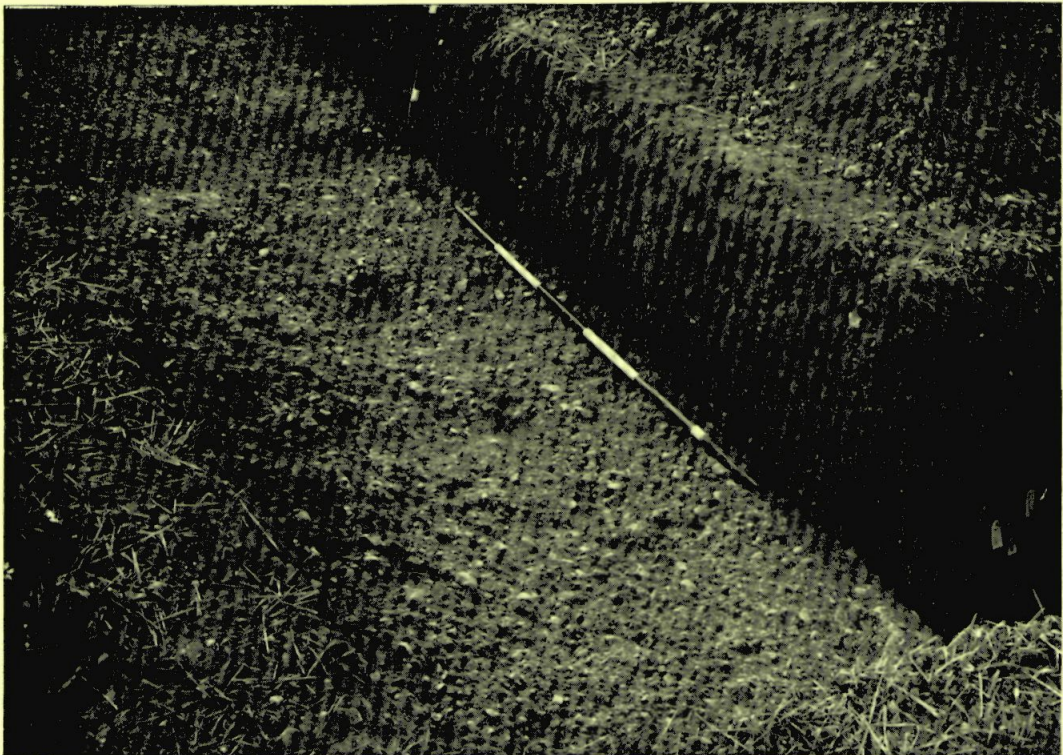
Trench A (1954). The ditch of the Inner Earthwork, during excavation (looking east) ;
 shows scarp slope, and top of gravel silt on counterscarp slope (foreground)

PLATE IIa



Site H 1 (1957) : part of north face, showing gravel street metalling overlying ditch-butt and filling ; also part of the natural sand forming the casueway at the south entrance of the Inner Earthwork

PLATE IIb



Site C (1956). Causeway across Outer Earthwork Extension ditch at the secondary entrance (trench E 1, etc.). The standing pole marks the junction of the metalling with the counterscarp lip of the underlying ditch. The black filling can be seen above the lower pole

EXCAVATIONS AT SILCHESTER, 1954-7

APPENDIX

THE SILCHESTER EXCAVATION COMMITTEE is composed of the following:

His Grace the Duke of Wellington; the Rev. W. S. Evans; Dr J. K. St Joseph; Prof. C. F. C. Hawkes; F. R. D. Needham, Esq.; the Ashmolean, Calleva, Newbury and Reading Museums; the Berkshire Archaeological Society; the Hampshire Field Club; the Haverfield Trust; the Ministry of Works; the Newbury Field Club; the Royal Archaeological Institute; the Society of Antiquaries of London; and the University of Reading.

Officers: *Chairman*—Mrs M. Aylwin Cotton; *Treasurer*—Col. C. N. Rivers-Moore; *Secretary and Director of Excavations*—George C. Boon; *Deputy Director*—A. M. ApSimon; *Camp Supervisor*—Mrs G. C. Boon.

ADDENDUM

In 1958 (the last excavation of the series) it was proved that on SITE J (p. 15) the Inner Earthwork had in fact been constructed over the hut, where more pottery, including pedestal bases, occurred. It was also proved that there had been no original entrance at the spot (SITE K) where the main *kardo* street crosses the line of the Inner Earthwork on the E. The street, of which both earlier (dotted, in Fig. 1) and later courses were identified, was carried across the ditch on a mass of filling. Fig. 1 requires correction hereabouts in the light of SITE K results, and it is also now thought that the Inner Earthwork runs more or less straight to its SSE. angle from SITE K, although there may be a re-entrant, with an original entrance, where the earthwork would be intersected by the road from London. A study of the Inner and Outer Earthworks, the Dykes, and the road- and street-systems of Calleva, in which the Inner and Phase I Outer Earthworks are given to King Cogidubnus, will appear in the forthcoming 'Roman Britain' number of *Antiquity and Survival*.

G. C. B.