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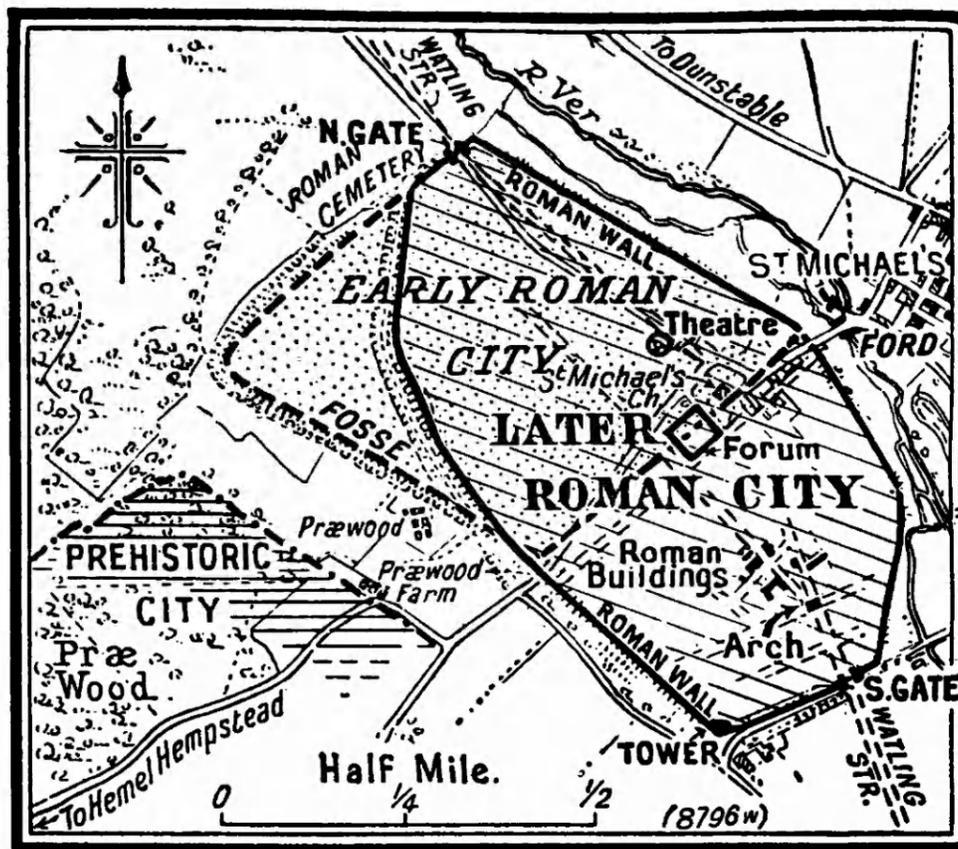


FIG. 1. MAP SHOWING THE SITES OF THE THREE VERULAMIUMS.
 (Reproduced by permission from "The Times.")
 (See p. 170.)



FIG. 2. SECOND-CENTURY MOSAIC FOUND IN 1932. (See p. 178.)

Summary of the Verulamium Excavations in 1932¹

BY DR. AND MRS. R. E. M. WHEELER

FOR the third year, the excavation of the successive British and Roman cities of Verulamium has been carried forward by the Verulamium Excavation Committee, under the presidency of the Marquess of Salisbury and the chairmanship of Sir Charles Peers. The work was continued on a large scale, and not least among the puzzles which, on the technical side, the excavations presented to the casual visitor was the spectacle of seemingly independent bands of excavators scattered at intervals across no less than six miles of the countryside. From the original centre in the field lying to the south of St. Michael's, the activities of the Excavation Committee have now extended, on the one hand to Prae Wood, a mile to the west of St. Albans, and, on the other hand, to Wheathampstead, over five miles to the north-east of the city. In the present summary, an attempt will be made to explain this far-flung line of excavation by approaching the problems involved in the sequence in which they presented themselves to the excavators.

It may be recalled that the historical problems which faced us were threefold:—(1) The discovery of that prehistoric Verulamium which, as the headquarters of King Tasciovanus, was the metropolis of a great part of south-eastern Britain at the end of the first century B.C.; (2) the exploration of the Roman successor or successors of that metropolis in the light of the historical fact that, under the Roman régime, Verulamium early attained one of the highest municipal ranks possible to a provincial city; and (3) the investigation of the extent and character of the city in the fifth century A.D. when, after the nominal close of the Roman period, Verulamium, alone of British cities, is

¹ For summaries of the work in 1930 and 1931 see *Transactions of the St. Albans and Hertfordshire Architectural and Archaeological Society*, 1930 and 1931. Reprints, 6d. (postage 2d. extra), may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Verulamium Excavations Committee, Warners, Russell Avenue, St. Albans.

known through reliable record (that of St. Germanus in the year 429) to have retained its urban identity.

It was inevitable that an excavator approaching these problems for the first time should begin by the partial exploration of the great walled city which, since Saxon times, has been recognized as the outstanding relic of Verulamium (Fig. 1). Accordingly, since 1930, both the defences and the interior of this city have been a subject of investigation, but as the work proceeded two facts soon became apparent. First, the defences in question were not built before the second century A.D., and, secondly, the deepest digging failed to reveal any trace of pre-Roman occupation in the area explored within them.

Attention was therefore directed to an earthwork, known as the Fosse. This name is applied to a part of a great arm of bank and ditch which projects north-eastwards from the second-century defences, and is, as surface indications show, overlain by them and therefore prior to them. Exploration upon this earthwork has proved it to have been constructed by Roman hands in the first century A.D.; it was presumably erected after the destruction of the unwalled city by Boudicca and her rebels in the year A.D. 61. Later, the Roman town, spreading Londonwards, outgrew these early defences, and, somewhere between A.D. 120 and 150, they were demolished and their place was taken by two miles of flint, brick and earthwork defence which meet the eye to-day.

Here, then, were two successive Roman Verulamiums, a smaller and earlier one on the slopes of the hill, and a later and larger one along the valley. But the prehistoric city—the city of Tasciovanus—was still to seek. The previous discoveries had, at least, provided a clue for further search. Native pottery had already begun to appear in considerable quantities within the precincts of the earlier Roman town on the hillside; and, bearing in mind the general tendency of the prehistoric population to concentrate rather on the uplands than on the lowlands, the excavators next directed their investigations to the adjacent plateau. In particular, attention was directed upon certain hitherto uncharted earthworks in Prae Wood.

The results of these investigations have been

described elsewhere.² Here it will suffice to recall that they revealed the site of a prehistoric city with abundant evidence of occupation between the end of the first century B.C. and the Roman conquest of A.D. 43.

At this point the excavations were resumed in 1932. A number of important problems still awaited solution, and they may be summarized as follows:—

1. Since the days of Camden in the sixteenth century, a majority of informed opinion has been in favour of the identification of Verulamium with the unnamed stronghold of Cassivellaunus, which Caesar stormed in the year 54 B.C. Caesar's narrative lacks precision, but his general indications, combined with the fact that Verulamium was the headquarters of Cassivellaunus's successor, Tasciovanus, supported the identification. The exploration of the prehistoric site in 1931 failed, however, to confirm this. As already remarked, no indication of any settlement until a generation or more after the time of Caesar was found in Prae Wood. Where, then, was the stronghold of Cassivellaunus? Was it at Verulamium at all?

2. Attention has already been drawn to the interesting early Romano-British earthwork known as the Fosse. The extent of this earthwork where it is covered by the northern part of the late Roman city was unknown; and, in envisaging the development of the site as a whole, it was obviously necessary to determine the size of the first Roman town. Where lay the buried southern side of the Fosse?

3. Although many excavations of one kind and another have been carried out on the sites of the towns of Roman Britain, no systematic attempt has yet been made to work out the highly important problem of the economic development of city-life in Britain under the Empire. Verulamium, as a Roman city of the first rank, offers an unsurpassed opportunity for the investigation of this problem. Further excavation within the city both for this purpose and for the special object (referred to above) of ascertaining something of its

² R. E. M. Wheeler, *A Prehistoric Metropolis: The First Verulamium*, reprinted from *Antiquity*, June, 1932. Reprints, price 9d. (postage 2d. extra), may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Verulamium Excavation Committee.

condition in the fifth century A.D. was imperative upon the Verulamium Excavation Committee.

On the basis of these facts and problems, a summary of the investigations carried out in 1932 may now be given site by site.

I. PRE-ROMAN VERULAMIUM

The sites explored in Prae Wood in 1931 lay in the northern part of the prehistoric city. As already noted, the discoveries indicated an occupation in and after the end of the first century B.C. The next step was to discover how far southward the prehistoric site extended, and whether the occupation of the more southerly part of the town—lying as it did nearer to the cardinal line of approach to the ford across the river Ver at St. Michael's—approximated more closely in time the epoch of Caesar and Cassivellaunus.

For this purpose exploratory trenches were cut immediately north of the Hemel Hempstead Road and west of Prae Farm; and also in Pond Field, a hundred yards south of the same point. In both these cuttings were found drainage-trenches and pottery identical in character and contemporary with those found in Prae Wood. It is clear, therefore, that the prehistoric town extended north-west and south-east along the brow of the hill for a distance of half a mile or more; and, if the results obtained are typical, it would appear that there was no Verulamium here until considerably after the time of Caesar.

2. THE DEVIL'S DYKES AND BEECH BOTTOM

No exploration of prehistoric Verulamium could be complete without investigating the possibility of associating with it two notable stretches of ditch or dyke which lie respectively three-quarters of a mile to the north and two miles to the north-east of Prae Wood. The former, known as the Devil's Dyke, adjoining Maynes Farm, consists to-day of a hundred and fifty yards of dyke, V-shaped in section and fifty feet wide, with a low bank upon its southern margin. Beech Bottom is a well-known dyke of very much greater size, being a hundred feet across from lip to lip and still



FIG. 3. BELGIC OPPIDUM ("DEVIL'S DYKE") AT WHEATHAMPSTEAD, HERTS. THE MEN STAND RESPECTIVELY AT THE FOOT, MIDDLE AND TOP OF THE INNER SLOPE OF THE DITCH. (*See p. 174.*)

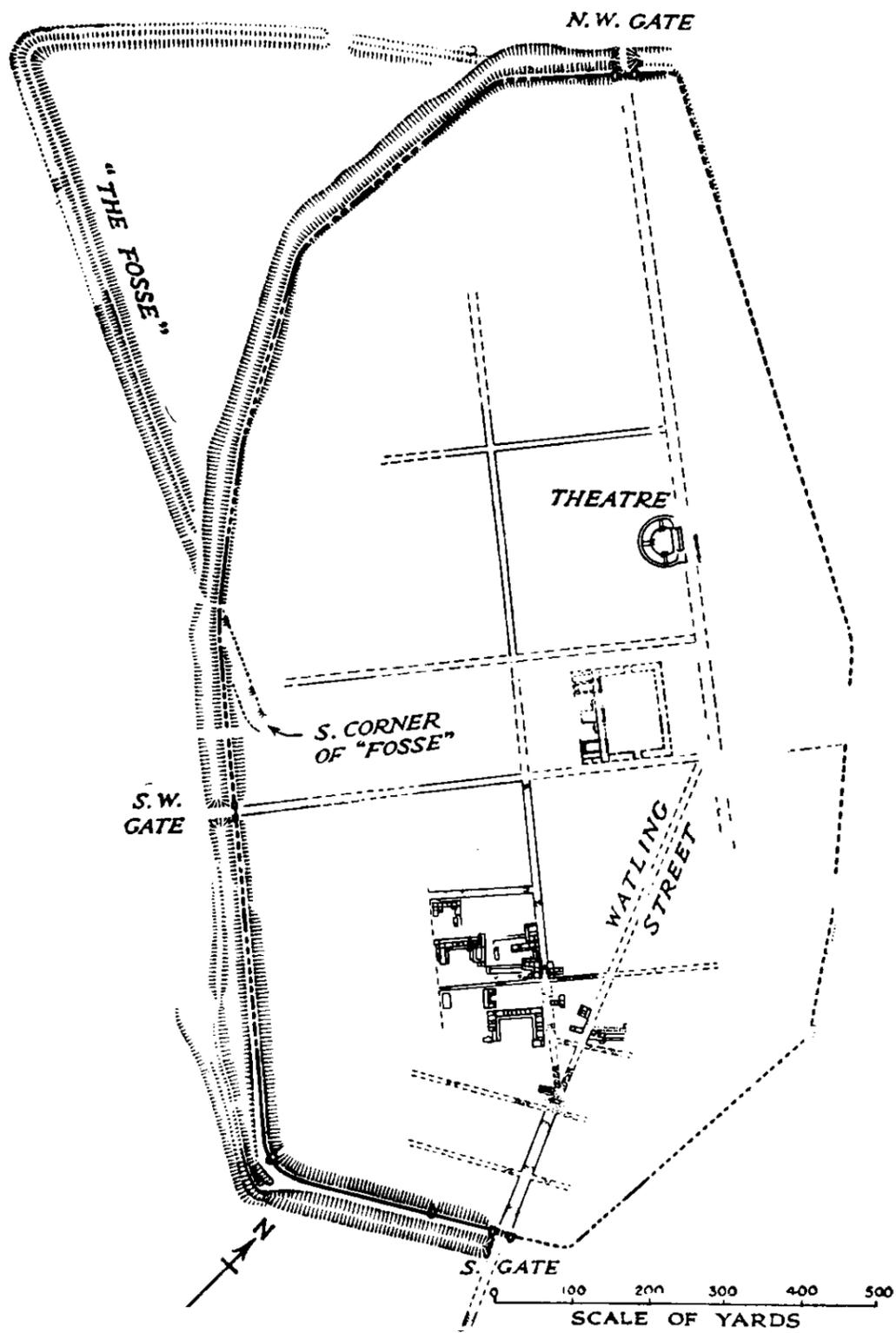


FIG. 4. GENERAL PLAN OF VERULAMIUM, SHOWING THE EARLIER AND THE LATER ROMAN CITIES. (See p. 175.)

upwards of thirty feet deep where best preserved; it has now an intermittent bank on both margins, but that on the south is generally of greater magnitude. Both dykes are confined to valleys. The Devil's Dyke runs westwards at right angles to the Ver towards the formerly wooded slopes upon which Gorhambury House now stands. Beech Bottom, as its name implies, winds along the bottom of a transverse valley running eastwards from the Ver.

Until 1932, nothing was known as to the period or former function of these dykes. In July of that year, a single fortunate discovery solved the major problem. Men digging at a depth of fourteen feet in the filling of the Beech Bottom dyke, immediately west of the St. Albans-Harpenden road, threw out "two shovelfull" of silver coins. Most of these coins were at once dispersed beyond recovery, but thirty-three of them are adequately recorded, and show that the hoard was deposited about A.D. 120-130. Its historical significance is at once apparent. The dyke was obviously there, and indeed partially filled, before the hoard was dropped into it, and is therefore earlier than A.D. 120-130. On this basis we may go a step further. With its slavish adherence to contour, it is obviously not the work of a first-class Romano-British city in the early years of the Roman occupation. It is, therefore, clearly pre-Roman.

What, then was the purpose of this prehistoric dyke? It is still traceable for a distance of one and a quarter miles, and its further course, long obscured by agricultural operations, can be predicted with reasonable certainty. To the west, it may be supposed to have continued along the bottom of the transverse valley until it struck the water-meadows of the Ver, a short distance to the north of the St. Michael's ford. Towards the east, it clearly underlies the present Sandridge road, and its natural goal in this direction is the valley of the Lea in the neighbourhood of Wheathampstead. There can be no doubt that the primary purpose of the dyke now represented by Beech Bottom was to delimit, towards the north-west, a tract of country bounded on the south-west by the Ver and the north-east by the Lea.

Setting aside for a moment the Devil's Dyke north of Prae Wood, we now turn our attention to another

Devil's Dyke, on the south-eastern outskirts of Wheathampstead. On the upper slopes of the valley, overlooking a ford across the Lea, the Wheathampstead Devil's Dyke, one of the three or four largest earthworks in Great Britain, forms part of a defensive enclosure a hundred acres or more in extent. At its best, the ditch of this earthwork is a hundred and thirty feet across and forty feet deep (Fig. 3). No one who has seen it and the Beech Bottom dyke can for a moment doubt that the two are the work of the same people. In view of the obvious connection of the Beech Bottom earthwork with Verulamium on the one hand, and with the Wheathampstead Devil's Dyke on the other, the partial excavation of the Wheathampstead earthwork became incumbent upon the Verulamium Excavation Committee.

Without entering into details,³ it will suffice here to state that the excavation of the Wheathampstead site revealed drainage-ditches similar to those already discovered in prehistoric Verulamium, but associated with a great mass of pottery of earlier date. Here, it is clear, was a great Belgic *oppidum* or city approximately of the period of Cassivellaunus and Caesar. Here, if anywhere in this district, would appear to be the city stormed by Caesar's legions.

It will now be seen that our knowledge of the pre-Roman occupation of the region is beginning to expand to a somewhat remarkable degree. On closely similar sites, each of them overlooking a river-ford, are the prehistoric (Belgic) cities of Wheathampstead on the Lea and Verulamium on the Ver, linked together by a cross-country boundary dyke, which would serve the double purpose of a visible frontier-line in a map-less period and a check to cattle-raiding in a lawless one. Excavation has suggested that the heavily-fortified Wheathampstead site is the parent-city, and Verulamium the daughter-city a generation or two later in date; and it would further appear that the daughter-city outlived and supplanted the parent.

To the period of the foundation of Verulamium, probably by Tasciovanus himself in the last thirty

³ For a fuller account of the dykes and the Wheathampstead earthworks, see *Antiquity*, March, 1933.

years of the first century B.C., may with reason be ascribed that smaller Devil's Dyke which lies across the valley to the north of Verulamium. By means of a series of trenches cut in Gorhambury Park in 1932, it was possible to trace the course of the dyke to its end at the foot of the hillside, a hundred and eighty yards from the lodge gates.⁴ Reference to the geological drift-map explains the termination of the dyke at this point. Here the clay-land forest formerly began, constituting a natural barrier of which the Devil's Dyke was the artificial extension across the relatively open valley plain. Dyke, woodland and river thus combined to form a meandering but continuous frontier-line from the direction of Wheathampstead and the Lea valley, to the Ver above the essential ford, and so for a mile northwards along the river Ver itself, thence westward again to the forests north of Verulamium.

In summary, we may say that for the first time we are able to visualize something of the regional lay-out of one of the most important districts of Britain in the last pre-Roman phase. To confirm our picture in detail, it remains, in 1933, to continue the exploration of pre-historic Verulamium and to place beyond doubt the period of its foundation.

3. THE SECOND VERULAMIUM: THE FOSSE

At a point adjoining Prae Wood House, the Fosse is overlain, as has already been said, by the second-century defences. To the north-west and outside them, the bank and ditch of the Fosse stand for a distance of nearly a quarter of a mile in something approaching their original state. Beyond this point, the plough has levelled them to a mere ripple, traceable to a sharp return north-eastwards, where their course has been identified by excavation towards the north gate (see plan, Fig 4).

Within the town-walls and prior to their erection, the Fosse was deliberately demolished to make firm ground for the town that was a-building. The investigation of the point where the second-century wall-builders carried their defences obliquely across the earthwork revealed a

⁴ In three of these trenches, small sherds of Belgic pottery were found, deep in the filling of the Dyke.

section of some fifteen feet in depth (Fig. 5). At the bottom lay the lowest point of the Fosse-ditch, in which a generation of Roman rubbish had accumulated. Above this, orange gravel from the former Fosse bank had been rammed in as the basis of the new wall. At the building-level of this wall, mortar-spill and flint chippings underlay the great earthen bank which formed an integral part of the second-century defences. The débris in the Fosse ditch, below these defences, incidentally affords further confirmation for their date. This rubbish included nothing that was later than the year A.D. 100 or 110, and perhaps tends to bring emphasis on the earlier rather than the later part of the period A.D. 120-150 suggested for them.

South-eastwards from this point of crossing, and within the second-century town, the line of the former Fosse was followed by a series of trenches to the Hemel Hempstead road (see plan, Fig. 4). Here, in the garden of the most westerly house on the northern side of Blue House Hill, the wide swing of the south corner was identified.

4. THE THIRD VERULAMIUM: THE LATER ROMAN CITY

1. *The Defences.* (a) The South-West Gate

Excavation in 1930 and 1931 had revealed the remains of the great south and north gates by which Watling Street had entered and left the town. At a point where the road from the forum or market place must have emerged from the town-walls on its way towards Silchester and the west, the remains of the south-west or "Silchester" gate were laid bare in 1932 (Fig. 6). The "London" and "Chester" gates had been imposing structures, as befitted the main entries to a Roman city of the first rank. The "Silchester" gate was smaller, only seventy feet across. Although the town-wall and the greater part of the gateway itself had been entirely removed, the fronts of two square-fronted towers, with remains of their ancient floorings, were exposed. These had flanked two footways with a central carriage-way of rammed gravel. The gate was contemporary with the second-century defences; the latest repairs to the tower floors were associated with third-century coins. Since

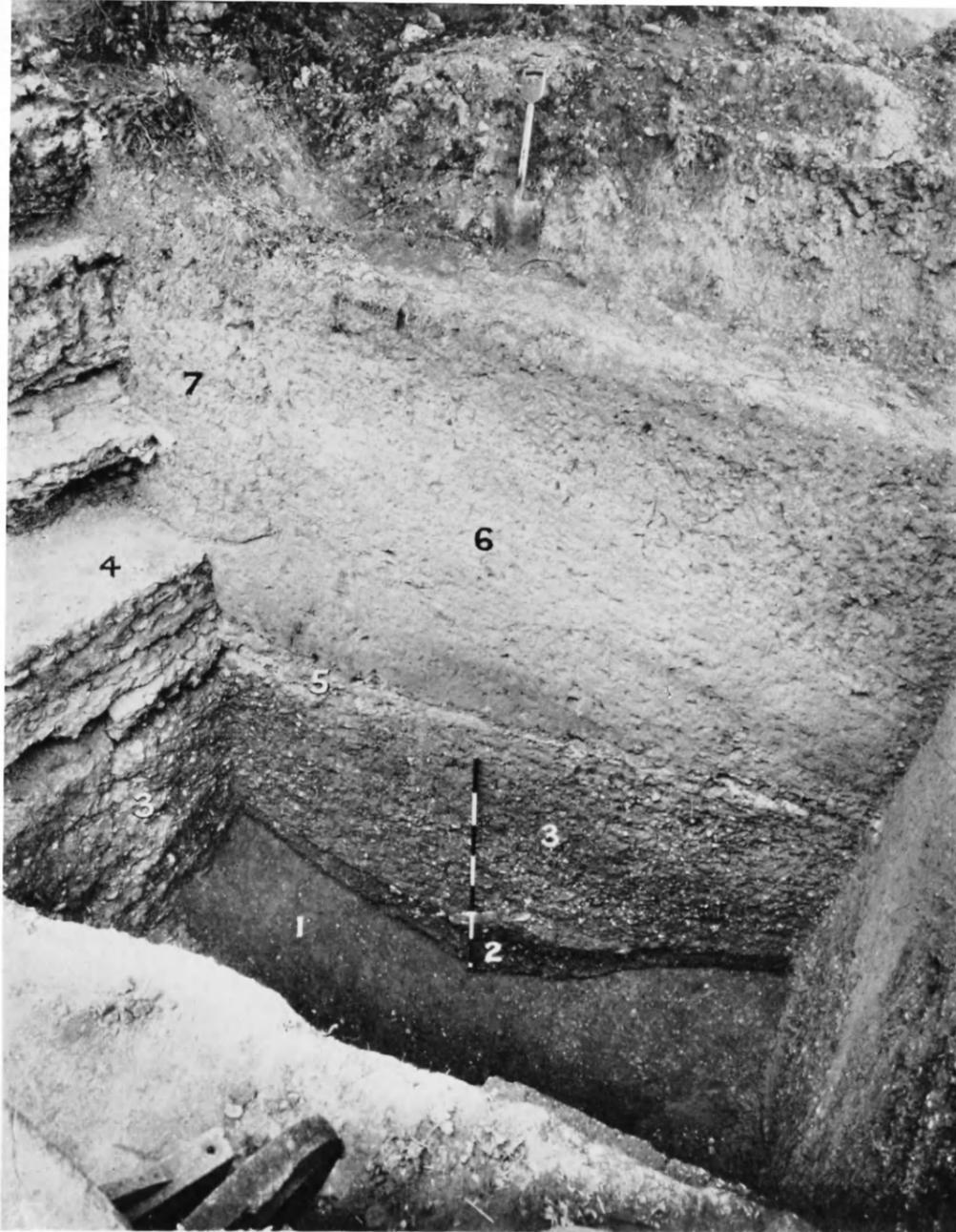


FIG. 5. CUTTING SHOWING : (1) THE DITCH (THE SO-CALLED " FOSSE ") OF THE EARLY ROMAN CITY ; (2) THE SILT IN THE DITCH ; (3) THE MATERIAL OF THE EARLY ROMAN RAMPART THROWN BACK INTO THE DITCH TO FORM A BASIS FOR (4) THE DEFENSIVE WALL OF THE LATER ROMAN CITY. (6) IS THE BANK CONTEMPORARY WITH THE WALL, AND (7) IS THE TRENCH, DUG PROBABLY IN THE ELEVENTH CENTURY BY NORMAN TILE-ROBBERS. THE HEIGHT OF THE GRADUATED POLE IS $7\frac{1}{2}$ FEET. (See p. 176.)



FIG. 6. WEST GATEWAY: OUTER FRONTS OF TOWERS, WITH ROADWAY
IN MIDDLE DISTANCE. (See p. 176.)

there is no local stone in Hertfordshire, Verulamium has been an age-long quarry for subsequent builders; but three blocks of freestone have escaped the stone-seekers. These, one carved with the moulding of an architrave, lay forgotten in the filled-up ditch which fronted the tower, and provide the first hint of the architectural qualities of the superstructure of the gateway.

(b) The South Tower.

It will be recalled that those stretches of the second-century defences which lie within the property of the Corporation of St. Albans have been placed under the guardianship of H.M. Office of Works. During the winter, the process of cleaning the front of the south wall revealed a semi-circular projection, 290 feet from the south gate, similar in character to the front of the tower discovered in 1931 at the south corner. Further excavation at this point brought to light the corresponding square chamber behind the wall; and the remains, like that at the south corner, indicate a great tower straddling the wall with a projecting front semi-circular on plan, and solid at least as high as the first floor, and with an open room for storage, etc., at the back. Here, later, tile-robbars had scamped their work, and had left three feet of the original brick-tothing at the junction of one of the internal chamber-walls within the main town-wall. The tower, as excavated, is now preserved as a national monument and is open to visitors.

It had been apparent at the south corner that the demolition of the room behind the wall was earlier than the general (probably Norman) spoliation of the defences for the purpose of obtaining building material; but evidence of the period of demolition was lacking until 1932, when, in this south interval-tower, a hoard of fifty-one "radiate" coins (dated between the years A.D. 258 and 273) was discovered low down in the débris. It is now clear from this discovery that, as early as the latter part of the third century, the rear half of the tower at least had already been scrapped.

2. *The area within the south half of the later Roman city.*

Attention in 1932 was concentrated upon *Insula IV*,

of which the streets bounding the east and south, with certain buildings within them, had been identified in 1931. In 1932, the northern street was located, and the insula now proves to be of the exceptionally large dimensions of 400 by 340 feet (see plan, Fig. 7).

Four more structures were identified during the season's work, two of them in the insula in question. One of these, Building 8, calls for special comment (Fig. 8). This is a house, partially excavated in 1931. It was originally built after the middle of the second century on an E-shaped plan. Its eastern wing was represented only by the foundation-trenches of its former walls; but the western wing stood in places seven feet above basement level. Five rooms (2, 6, 7, 8 and 15) were centrally heated from three furnaces of unusual disposition, on the well-known Roman hypocaust system.⁵

The western wing included a bath-range, akin to the Turkish baths of the present day. Room 2 was the *sudatorium*, or sweating-room. Room 6, which was heated by the same furnace, may be identified as the *caldarium*, or hot-room. The *tepidarium*, or warm-room, had an independent furnace, from which, through a brick-turned arch below the floor-level (see Fig. 9), a ten-foot brick-built channel led to a small central space. Here the weight of the tessellated floor above was supported on four brick pillars corbelled out to take a continuous roof of two-foot tiles (Fig. 10), which formed the substructure of the mosaic. From this small space, four channels radiated to the wall-flues (in three cases these survive above floor-level), which carried the hot air upward. The almost complete mosaic floor of this room (Figs. 2 and 9) consisted of sixteen panels of intricate pattern of black, grey, blue, red, yellow, pink and green *tesserae*, with a border of interlacing circles in black, white and red at the north and south ends. It belongs in date to the original building, as indeed does the Ocean

⁵ In this system, it may be recalled, the floors were built over shallow basements or channels through which hot air circulated from an adjacent furnace. The hot air warmed the concrete floor of the room above, and was also carried upwards in the thickness of the wall through vertical box-tiles, to small chimneys along the eaves. The fuel normally used was wood, but, in some cases, the more cleanly charcoal was substituted, thus enabling the hot air to be admitted into the room from the wall-flues.

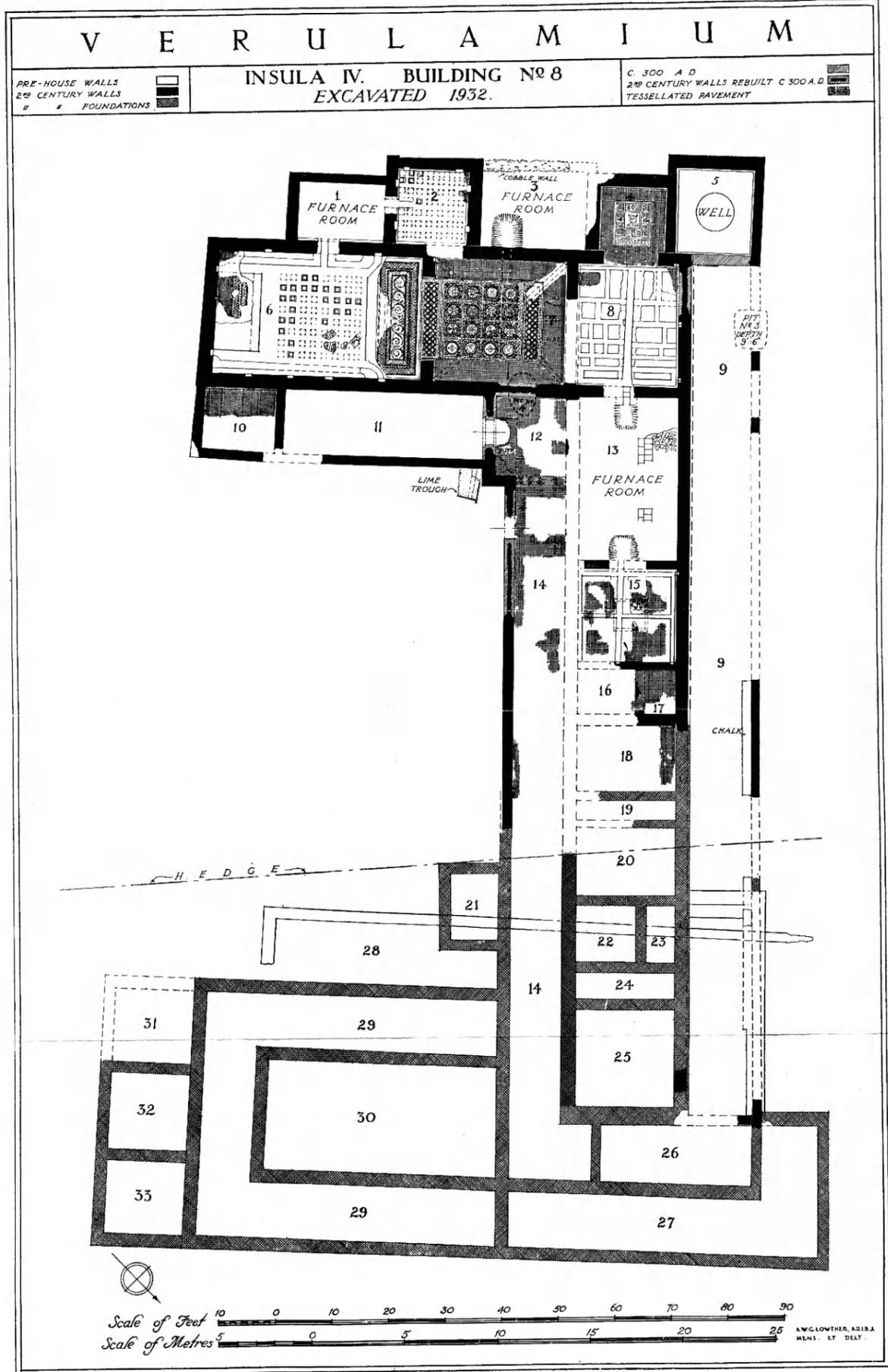


FIG. 8. PLAN OF SECOND-CENTURY HOUSE, REBUILT c. A.D. 300. (See p. 178.)

pavement⁶ removed in 1931 from the unheated Room 4. Room 5 had been intended as a well-room (Fig. 11). It must have proved a sore disappointment. The well-shaft, a remarkably symmetrical boring into the chalk, went no lower than thirty-eight feet. It was unlined; its sides showed no sign of water-inlet or wear; and it was filled up, within a short time of the erection of the house, with débris. Both archaeological and geological evidence went to show that the well had never held water, and that the attempt to sink it effectively was abandoned. Instead, it had been refilled, almost immediately, with the material from some rubbish-dump. Masses of pottery (Fig. 12) made in the period A.D. 150-190, several glass vessels, and great quantities of food débris—bones of ox, sheep, pig, hares, poultry, countless shells of oyster, mussel, whelk and remains of several lobsters—were found amongst the contents, and throw an interesting light upon the daily life of the household.

At the end of the third century the house had partially collapsed, owing probably, in part, to the sudden appearance of a natural swallow-hole (shown on the plan as "pit 4") in the underlying chalk. The damage, however, was reparable. The swallow-hole was filled up with late third-century débris, and House 8 rose again on the old ground-plan. Parts of it, notably Rooms 7 and 4, were sufficiently stable for their floors to be incorporated in the new scheme. The border alone in Room 7 needed partial renovation, but in other rooms more drastic reconstruction was necessary. The hypocaust of Room 6 had become choked with broken fragments of its former flooring. This débris was levelled, and a new floor, with a mosaic, was laid across the solid filling. Of this mosaic, one panel of scroll-pattern survives, and is noteworthy for the comparative freedom of its design in contrast to its more geometric neighbour. Similarly, the channelled hypocaust in Room 15 was filled up and a mosaic floor laid again on the solid filling. Coins of Carausius and Tetricus from this filling showed that the new floor was not put down before the end of the

⁶ This, together with two other mosaics, is preserved in the temporary Museum on the site. The large pavements referred to in the text have been preserved *in situ* by the erection of a shed over them on the initiative and at the expense of the St. Albans Corporation.

third century, a piece of evidence which gives added interest to the surviving fragment of the central panel of *pelta* or amazon-shield ornament in black, white, yellow and red.

Of the later history of the house, the plough had left little trace, save that its spoliation, especially for brick, was so discriminating as to show that it was standing recognisably when plundered. If we attempt to reconstruct the general appearance of this large dwelling-house in its prime, we may imagine a long, low-lying building, probably with an upper storey over the whole or a considerable part of it. It faced, like other houses excavated at Verulamium, towards the south, and on this side the ground storey was protected from sun or rain by a continuous verandah along the main block and the inner sides of the two flanking wings. These wings probably ended in rather flat gables, and the whole building would be roofed with heavy tiles, similar to those used on many Italian buildings to-day. The windows would be fairly small but numerous, and might have either square or semi-circular heads. Along the eaves of the western wing, where, as we have seen, the rooms were heated by hypocausts, a series of small earthenware cowls would emit the wood-smoke rising through the wall-flues. In front of the whole building stretched a large expanse of garden.

At the back or northern side of the house another length of verandah was used for service purposes, including doubtless the storage of the considerable masses of timber needed for the hypocaust-furnaces; it is at least significant that, during the later history of the house, when most of the hypocausts were disused, this verandah was demolished.

Internally, the house clearly presented an appearance of considerable luxury and comfort in accordance with the strikingly modern standards of the day. In the main range the rooms were for the most part small, and included two narrow compartments which may have contained stair-cases. Both the front verandah and many of the floors had been tessellated, and some of them had been enriched by decorative mosaic panels. The walls, together with those of the western wing, had



FIG. 9. BUILDING IV 8: MOSAIC (MOSTLY SECOND CENTURY) OF ROOM 4, WITH
ARCHED FLUE OF HYPOCAUST IN FOREGROUND. (*See p. 178.*)



FIG. 10. BUILDING IV 8 : HYPOCAUST (2½ FEET HIGH) UNDER ROOM 7.
(See p. 178.)

been painted at first with simple panel designs, but later with free and elaborate compositions of flower and leaf patterns. At the junctions of the walls and floors were normally placed the quarter-round moulding, which served both to mask the junction and prevent the accumulation of dust; but in some cases this moulding was concave instead of convex, and so resembled almost exactly a modern method of dust-proofing.

A surviving doorway had a wooden sill, and the jambs were faced at both the outer and inner angles by vertical timbers let into the masonry. The medieval and modern method of rebating the jambs to take the door had not yet come into use.

On the whole, it may be said that the building represented a greater degree of domestic cleanliness and comfort than can have characterised most of the houses of Saxon and medieval times, and even of later period.

3. *The economic development of the later Roman city.*

The work on the town-site in 1932 confirms and amplifies the conclusions as to the main building-periods in this quarter of Verulamium, postulated in 1931. The western end of *Insula IV* was remarkable in one respect. The second-century house was mainly built on hitherto undeveloped land, with little or no sign of previous occupation. The second-century town was spreading within its walls comfortably away from the Watling Street, along which had clustered here and there a few simple dwellings of the previous age. It is clear that the second century was the period of wealth and development. Houses of magnitude, fully equipped in the Roman manner, and standing within their large gardens, are typical of the era.

By the end of the third century this phase of intensive, and probably artificial, Romanization had given place to general decay. The latter part of that century had been a period of political chaos throughout western Europe. The restoration of imperial authority in the last years of the century seems to have given a fresh if transitory impetus to urban life in Britain. At Verulamium a sort of renaissance—an Indian summer—supervened.

Houses were built or rebuilt still in the conventional Roman fashion, but generally with inferior skill. Thereafter the story of that part of Verulamium which has now been excavated is one of gradual decline to what appears to have been a relatively peaceful extinction. There is no clear evidence of any ultimate disaster; so far as can be seen at present, the end of Verulamium was due to economic decadence, rather than to a repetition of the "fire and crucifixions" which had overwhelmed the city in the early days of Roman Britain.

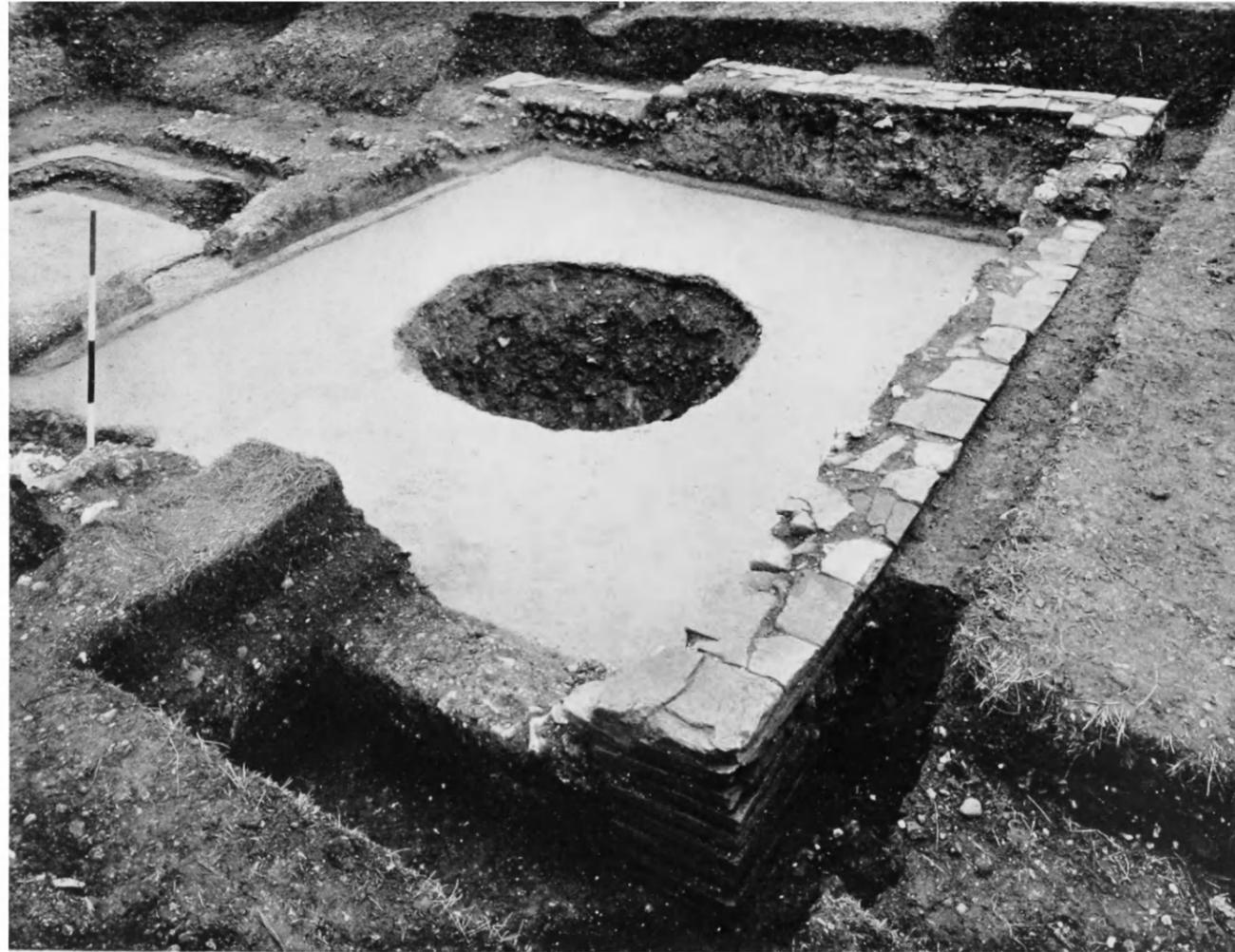


FIG. 11. BUILDING IV 8: WELL-ROOM (NO. 5 ON PLAN). (*See p. 179.*)



FIG. 12. POTTERY RECOVERED FROM THE WELL IN HOUSE 8. ROOM 5. (See p. 179.)

