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THE IRON AGE CAMP
AT POSTON
HEREFORDSHIRE

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SUMMARY

1. Flints found in the area indicate that the site of the fort was frequented by man from an early period. A water course eroded a channel in the soft glacial deposits during the Pleistocene period; this has silted up, but it can be traced diagonally across the north west corner of the fort, running in a line with the ditch of the existing rampart for a short length.
2. RAMPART AND DITCH I.
The first Iron Age earthwork, a single rampart and outer ditch, was erected at the end of the first century B.C. Finds from the hut sites occupied within the rampart show that hand-made pottery of Iron Age B type, common on other sites in the Severn and Welsh Marches area in the first century B.C., was used. (See Fig. 3.I.).
3. The ditch outside Rampart 1 was soon allowed to silt up and huts were built in the ditch itself. Pottery found on these hut floors suggests that this peaceful occupation continued until the middle of the first century A.D.
4. RAMPART AND DITCH III.
The area of the fort was extended and a second rampart and ditch was constructed following, for a short distance, the natural depression caused by the Pleistocene gully. A stone revetment was laid over this where the entrance into the fort passed over it. (See Fig. 3.II.).
5. RAMPART AND DITCH II.
During further reconstructions to the outer defences the entrance through the outer rampart was removed to the eastern end and a further rampart and ditch were laid out between the two existing ones. (See Fig. 3.III.).

PERIOD I, c. 100 B.C.—Early first century A.D.

PERIOD II, c. Early to mid first century A.D.

PERIOD III, c. Third quarter of first century A.D.

PERIOD IV, c. A.D. 75—Second century A.D.

THE HILL-FORT AT POSTON

THE SITE

THE river Dore, a tributary of the Monnow, which in due course flows into the river Wye at Monmouth, runs in a south easterly direction between two mountain ranges of Old Red Sandstone. The Golden Valley, as it is called, runs from Bach in the north not far from the Wye to Pontrilas in the south. The Wye curves to the east like an arc of a bow around the wide plain in the centre of which stands the city of Hereford. Three roads cut across the hills on the eastern side to link the valley with the Hereford plain. Poston stands between the gap from Peterchurch over Stockley hill and the pass known as the Batcho pass.

The hill fort stands on a spur thrust outwards from the range of hills on the east side of the Golden Valley which here rises to a height of over 700 ft. It commands a view to the north, the south and to the west towards the Black Mountains.

The internal area of the fort is five and a half acres and it is triangular in shape. The two sides which meet to form the apex of the triangle, one to north-east and the other to south-west are steeply scarped and are now wooded. The third side gently slopes to the north to join the main range, and across this side three ramparts and ditches were set up in succession to keep out the enemy; at the present time only one rampart and outer ditch survives; the remainder have been levelled and ploughed.

The fort itself is mainly on the red marl which here covers the Psammosteus limestone of the region. Bands of cornstone are included in the marl; this provided the fort constructors with the material for the revetment of the ramparts. A convenient out-crop occurs south of Poston House.

The red marl weathers into a heavy clay, though occasionally micaceous and sandy seams dry out to give the appearance of loam. The geological formation of the site complicated the deduction of the rampart structures. It appears that the west side of the site was composed of a natural sandy gravel formation which had in it large boulders of sandstone and cornstone of various sizes, while on the east only two feet below the top soil a thin covering of cornstone lay on hard red marl containing gravelly cornstone, presenting, in fact, an almost vertical face of rock to the formation on the west. This discrepancy has been explained as resulting from glaciation, since this area on the west of the county was in the course of a glacier which moved down the Wye valley through

Hay. It was responsible for leaving irregular deposits against sheer faces of rock. Since then the rocks have been weathered and rounded into a spur. The course of a stream running diagonally across the fort was determined by the softer and more easily eroded deposits laid against the hard red marl on the east.

Of the system of defence, only a portion of a single rampart still survives. This, with its outer ditch, which is clearly discernable, curves from the northern side of the fort towards the east and finishes at a modern gate. The rampart is 9-10 ft. high and has a rounded end. The levelling of the outer defences was carried out during intensive agricultural activity in the early nineteenth century. Beech trees were planted on the surviving rampart at the same time.

PREVIOUS REFERENCES TO THE SITE.

The name Poston is derived from the same root as Postling, which means Posse's people according to the manuscript reference Posse Hlaew 940 B.C.S. 75. Poston appears as Puttestun in the 1242 Fees Record. Sætan, being the O.E. for dwellers, is combined with the name of the spur or hill. In Domesday Book it is Poscetenetune.

The earthworks have been noticed in several maps, inventories and itineraries dealing with this part of Hereford. The earliest map to record it as a "camp" is that of Isaac Taylor dated 1754.

Other references are :

- (a) The Beauties of England and Wales, p. 544.
- (b) James Davies: British and Roman Encampments of Herefordshire, p. 14.
- (c) Thomas Powell: "The Golden Valley, Herefordshire", p. 19.
 "In the grounds are the remains of a high embankment and a moat, evidences of a former extensively fortified camp."
 (At the time when this was written the inner rampart had been levelled in order to increase the area under plough. Its presence was only detected by excavation.)
- (d) R.C.H.M. Hereford, Vol. I, p. 245 with plan.
 "Earthwork in Lower Park Wood 200 yards S. of Poston House and nearly 1 mile north of the church is a small promontory fort from which the ground falls away sharply on all sides, except the north. On this side it is defended by a bank and ditch which stop towards the east to provide an entrance to the work. On the west side is a scarp, which is largely artificial but the other sides are defended only by the fall of the ground. The area including the defences is about 5½ acres."

AN ACCOUNT OF THE EXCAVATION.

In the Autumn of 1932, Mr. R. S. Gavin Robinson dug trial trenches inside the existing rampart of the fort (at a point where Ditch I was found later), in order to obtain some evidence of the date of the site. Hand-made pottery characteristic of the Iron Age B was discovered at a lower level than wheel-made Romano-British pottery with forms current in the late first and early second century A.D.

When the excavation was continued in 1933, Mr. George Marshall was associated with Mr. Gavin Robinson and their chief aims, during the campaign of that year, were to examine the structure of the rampart and ditch and to obtain further information from the occupation area. A section of the outer ditch was obtained, revealing eighteen inches of silt at the bottom and the rampart standing to a height of 10 ft. on its inner side. These were later known to be Rampart and Ditch III.

In 1934 trenches were dug both inside and outside the existing rampart, which revealed the outline of the previously known outer ditch (see Section A, Fig. 3), and another on the inner side of the rampart and separated from it by a wide berm.

A further series of trenches was dug along the presumed line of the ditch which confirmed its direction.

Attention was focused during the 1935 season on determining the entrance. Four trenches were dug on the western side of the apparent break in the line of the existing rampart. Another four trenches were dug where the corresponding side of the entrance might be presumed to have stood before the destruction of the rampart in recent centuries. A trench dug through the entrance revealed the cobbled pavement.

The investigations were not continued until 1937, when Mr. Charles Green was appointed director of operations. An attempt was made to determine the chronology of the defence lines and to continue the survey of the gateway. A natural gully not previously visible in this area of the fort led to serious complications and caused erroneous deductions to be made in the earlier part of the season, resulting in the somewhat irregular lay-out of the trenches. When the natural feature had been detected work proceeded more smoothly.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DEFENCES.

A cutting was made on the outer side of the existing rampart (Trench G; 1933; Section A, Fig. 3),¹ which revealed the outline of its ditch. This measured 23 ft. across the top and 4 ft. across the base on which eighteen inches of silt had been allowed to collect, not

¹ See Interim Report, 1934.

before stones from the revetment of the rampart standing immediately above the inner lip of the ditch had fallen into it. Rampart III still stands 10 ft. high at this point, while the newly detected rampart had been almost wholly destroyed in modern times. The plan of Period III shows the existing rampart as Rampart II and that first detected in 1933 as Rampart III.

A series of trenches was cut inside the area of the fort (Trenches A, B, C, D, E : 1933 Interim Report, Woolhope Club *Transactions*, 1934, Fig. 1), in order to obtain some information about the occupation. Hut floors of rammed clay on which stood Romano-British pottery were discovered. One very large reddish-buff cooking-pot was uncovered standing in a hearth. At a level four feet below this hut floor were other hearths which were associated with hand-made pottery. The sherds of hand-made black ware of a very coarse fabric included some examples which showed the stamped decoration reminiscent of that brought by the Bristol Channel invaders who used the "Duck" motif. These invasions which have been studied on other excavated sites, notably those of Bredon Hill and Sutton Walls, have been dated to the first century B.C. The tendency is to bring the date nearer to the latter part of the century. This evidence establishes the fact that Poston was constructed by the same group of invaders and that the date must be at some period in the first century B.C.

On the side furthest from the existing rampart within the fort area, fallen masonry was observed in the ditch of Period I. This was the first indication that an inner rampart had been built. It was later proved that it followed a course similar to that of the existing rampart.

The Ditch II section showed it to be 15 ft. across the top, 2 ft. wide at the bottom and approximately 11 ft. in depth. Fine silt to a depth of eighteen inches was again noticed on the bottom of the ditch.

It may be deduced that the newly discovered rampart or Rampart I had been allowed to fall into disuse after having been in existence for only a comparatively short period. Huts were erected in this Ditch I. Pottery found in the hearths included beaded rim bowls and shouldered jars with short straight rims characteristic of the Iron Age B of the area (see Fig. 6). Above these huts, which can be dated to the first century B.C. were occupation levels which contained Roman pottery and coins. The forms of the mortaria (see Fig. 8), and flanged pie-dishes (see Fig. 9), correspond to those found in late second century levels in other sites.

Excavations inside the existing rampart and ditch, henceforth called Rampart and Ditch III, revealed the existence of a third line of defence. A trench cut across the line of Ditch II on the eastern sector (Trench W.4, 1935), revealed stones slipped from the outer revetment of Rampart II lying on the inner side of the ditch as if they had fallen from another rampart which once

stood beyond the ditch on the north. This was Rampart III which had been constructed by building up a clay bank and revetting it with courses of masonry and with timber beams at intervals along its outer edge. There was a berm between Rampart III and Ditch II ; it was possible to distinguish in this trench the clay which had fallen from the rampart down into the ditch after the stone revetment had given way.

Trenches were cut in a line with the rounded end of the existing rampart (Rampart III), in order to prove the existence of a gateway. Further trenches were dug across the supposed entrance and at a position where the opposite side of the gateway would have stood had it not been destroyed. It was found, however, that the ditch of Rampart II continued without interruption and that it still contained masonry and fallen clay from Rampart III (Trench E.11, 1935).

It was deduced from this evidence that Rampart III had been in existence before Rampart and Ditch II. Also that at some period of danger the inhabitants of the fort had been forced to increase their defences by digging another ditch and building up a bank between their two existing lines, namely Rampart and Ditch I and III. When this was done the masonry from the inner side of Rampart III, being too near the edge of the new ditch, began to give way and it had to be restored and strengthened with blocks of sandstone in addition to the usual slabs of cornstone of the revetment.

There followed an interval in which silt was allowed to collect at the bottom of the ditch before the inner side of Rampart III again fell into the ditch (sections through the defences Fig. 5.A. Trench 1 and E, Trench 5).

A rim of a storage jar common in the Flavian period was found on top of the stone slabs resting on the silt deposit between Ditch I and Rampart II (Fig. 5, A Trench 1). Unfortunately this seems to be the only dateable object to have been discovered in this important layer. It has been suggested that the strengthening of the defences may have been carried out in the last quarter of the first century A.D. During the campaigns of Julius Frontinus, Roman rule was extended into Wales ; there may have been a considerable amount of disturbance in the area. The small community at Poston may have needed some protection as much against lawless bands or robbers as against the possibility of a full-scale military attack.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ENTRANCES

During the early years of the excavation, trenches near the rounded end of the existing rampart had revealed a stone pavement which had been identified as the paved way into the fort. It was only after a great deal of exploration in 1937 that it was found that this paving was the cobbling of a road leading through the gateway

of Rampart III. It also ran over a natural gully which had passed through the area at a very early period, creating an area of disturbance measuring approximately 55 ft. by 25 ft.

A trench revealed that stone blocks, part of the foundations of Rampart III, continued across the area of the entrance. Trenches (Fig. 4, Trench 1), revealed the post-holes of the timber lacing which had strengthened the framework. This was further proof that Rampart and Ditch II had both continued to cut across the entrance of Period I and II (see Fig. 3). A complete reorientation of the entrance seems to have taken place when Rampart and Ditch II were constructed.

Further excavation was necessary to discover the area of the new entrance. Trenches 6 and 7 on Fig. 4 showed a paved trackway and Trench 5 revealed this paving overlying traces of rampart construction. This was later identified as the destroyed line of Rampart III, levelled when a new entrance was cut through the defence at this point. The pavement was part of the metalled roadway which ran through the entrance. A series of trenches was dug between Trench 1 and 5 to obtain further proof of this fact. The foundation of the retaining wall of Rampart III on its inner side was preserved to its second course in all cases; post-holes for timber lacing were also detected. All this evidence from the first two periods had been covered by the paved trackway of the third period.

Other trenches were dug on the eastern side of the newly discovered entrance. These revealed that Ditch III continued to the east beyond the line of the natural gully (the intersection was observed in a small angular trench) in Period II. This had been filled in and covered by the entrance in the same way as on the west. There was no evidence for the destruction of Rampart II or the filling in of Ditch II in this manner; this was added proof of the fact that they had not existed in Period II. The trackway in Trench 7 lay on natural soil and not on any previous structure.

CONCLUSION

The evidence from the excavations at Poston hill-fort reveals a type of settlement which must have been quite common in this area of the country in the first centuries B.C. and A.D. It was not a peaceful period; migration had followed migration since the fourth century B.C. It was not until the Roman imperial government had fully taken over Britain, that comparative peace and security was maintained.

The history of the dwellers in this hill-fort reveals the period of transition from the native Iron Age to the Roman methods in building and copying of Roman pottery types. As no evidence of fighting has, as yet, been revealed, the inhabitants seem to have lived a fairly peaceful existence with only temporary periods when

danger threatened. They continued to live in their fortified site and bought their pottery from local potters who also supplied the towns.

The first inhabitants were probably stock breeders who wandered up through the Welsh Marches in search of fresh pasture. Before the first century B.C. they thought it prudent to fortify their huts, situated as they were, between the small kingdoms of the Belgic princes to the east and the Bronze Age inhabitants of the hills to the west. Rampart I and its ditch was this first line of defence.

During the disturbances caused by the arrival of the Romans in A.D. 43, Poston may have been enlarged with the construction of Rampart and Ditch III, which would have increased the area of occupation and at this period the huts were constructed in stone and had clay floors.

A second period of threatened danger caused the defences, which had been allowed to become neglected, to be re-commissioned and strengthened by a third ditch and rampart constructed between the lines of the existing ones. Rampart III had to be restored soon after Ditch II had been cut. The entrance was removed to the eastern side. Ditch III was filled in and a paved trackway laid over it. Rampart III was demolished down to within two courses of its retaining wall and the same trackway continued over it. One side of the ditch still exists (see Pl. III). Such slight dating evidence has been discovered in the stratified layers of the defences that the various periods cannot be linked to recorded history with any degree of confidence. But it is not improbable that this restoration of the defence system may have been carried out when Frontinus was conducting his campaigns in the Welsh Marches.

TERRA SIGILLATA

Minute fragments of Terra Sigillata were found in the Roman levels. The only identifiable forms were those of Dr. 18/31 and the decorated form Dr. 37. Both these forms were in circulation from the Flavian period to the beginning of the second century A.D. In remote dwellings these types may have lingered in circulation for a considerable period.

PLAIN TERRA SIGILLATA

1. Dr. 18/31 part of rim.
2. Dr. 18/31 sherd of side and base.

DECORATED TERRA SIGILLATA

1. Fragment of base of Dr. 37 showing design of tendril and leaf.
2. Fragment of Dr. 37 showing figure in panel with beaded line. cf. *Wroxeter*, 1913, p. 24, pl. XII. Pre-Flavian.
3. Very worn fragment of Dr. 37. cf. *Arch. Camb.*, Vol. LXXXVII (1932). *Caerleon*, p. 278, No. 30.
4. Fragment of Dr. 37.

IMITATION SAMIAN

1. Sherd of native imitation of plain hemispherical bowl with no decoration. The type could have been in circulation after the end of the second century A.D.

IRON AGE POTTERY

FIG. 6
STAMPED WARE

1. Rounded bowl of thin black ware containing particles of white grit. Rim with stamped decoration composed of a grooved wavy line on the outer side below the edge. This was found in the lowest level of the hearths excavated in the line of Ditch 1, cf. *Sutton Walls* in *Arch. J.* CX, 1953, Fig. 11, No. 10.
2. Rim of a second rounded bowl with thicker walls than No. 1, but of the same fabric. Stamped decoration is more deeply incised and of triangular type more reminiscent of the "duck" motif. From the same pre-Roman level as No. 1. *Sutton Walls*, Rep. Fig. 11, No. 2.
3. Bowl with high neck rising from curved side terminating in a beaded rim and with a stamped pattern on the vertical surface. Same type of ware as No. 1. The decoration consists of three lines of incisions; diagonal stabs above and below a variation of the chevron type of motif. The scheme has not been exactly paralleled on other published sites, but the motif is a common one in the repertoire of the potters of the Iron Age B stamped wares.

These three important sherds are the proof that this site is among those first inhabited by the Iron Age B, or Bristol Channel B, people, as they have now been called, who are now believed to have begun to penetrate into S.W. Britain from the first century B.C. onwards.

UNDECORATED WARE

HIGH SHOULDERED JARS

Type 1. Short rim curving out. Black grit-filled fabric.

1. Beaded rim turning out with a pronounced curve on the outer side but straight inside. (Fig. 6, No. 4.)
2. Rim becoming thinner as it curved out.
3. More gradual curve on the external wall, bead flattened internally. Part of a very large jar. (Fig. 6, No. 8.)
4. Similar to No. 2 but smaller.
5. Similar to No. 3 but much smaller.

Type 2. Rim tapering to a point and thick wall below.

6. Short thick rim becoming narrower at the end. (Fig. 6, No. 5.)
7. Inner side of rim straight, rounded top and thick shoulder.
8. Slight depression on the top of the out-turned rim.
9. Slight curve on the inner side between neck of jar and rim.

Type 3. Rims flat or almost flat on top.

10. High rim straight on the inner side and slightly curved on the outside. Found in pre-Roman level near entrance of inner rampart. (Fig. 6, No. 6.)
11. More decided curve on the inner side of high bead.

12. Rim forming a long neck and turned out at top.
13. Rim straight on inner side and decidedly curved on the outside.
14. Rim turned out at a more pronounced angle.
15. Similar to No. 14.

Type 4. Rim turned out and flat on top.

16. Rectangular profile of a rim turned out at a decided angle. Two other examples were found with the same outline but with thicker walls. (Fig. 6, No. 7.)
17. Rim with rounded corners, curved internally and externally near the junction with the wall of the jar.
18. Decided curve on inner and outer side.
19. Thinner wall of jar and more decided curve.

Type 5. High rounded rim curving outward.

20. Short curve on outer side and straight on inner side.
21. Curve on outer side and sharp angular turn on inner side. (Fig. 6, No. 9.)
22. Thicker than No. 21.
23. Similar to No. 21 but with shorter rim.
24. Similar to No. 23.
25. Thick rim with slight incisions on outside.
26. Thick rounded rim.
27. Rim turned out at a more decided angle than No. 26.
28. Similar to No. 27.
29. Straight profile on outside.

Type 6. Thick rim rising at an angle from neck of jar.

30. Curved junction with side of jar. (Fig. 6, No. 10.)

STRAIGHT SIDED JARS

ALL MADE OF BLACK WARE AND CONTAINING PARTICLES OF WHITE GRIT.

Type 1. Rim with round top very slightly turned out of side of jar.

1. Very thick wall to rim of jar. (Fig. 6, No. 11.)
2. Slightly thinner rim than No. 1.
3. Thick neck tapering slightly to rim.
4. Similar to No. 3 but flat at the end.
5. Two very coarse types of rims. Very friable.

Type 2. Wall of jar thickening on the inner side below rim.

6. Rounded rim. (Fig. 6, No. 12.)
7. Rim decidedly turned outwards at an angle and having a narrow groove on the outside.

Type 3. Rim becoming shorter and thicker.

8. Decided curve between wall and rim.
9. Short thick curved neck. (Fig. 6, No. 13.)
10. Thinner neck with rounded top. (Fig. 6, No. 14.)

BEADED RIM BOWLS

Type 1. Bead formed by the swollen termination of bowl.

1. Wall of bowl very thick and very coarse in texture. (Fig. 6, No. 15.)
2. Marks of decoration very lightly made on the outside.
3. Thin side of bowl but with a very high burnish.
4. Thin wall but bead very prominent.
5. Similar to No. 4 but with an even larger bead. Coarser reddish ware.
6. With its prominent bead turned outward, with two slight grooves on the external wall.
7. Bead turned outwards.

Examples 5, 6, and 7, were found in the trenches dug near the eastern entrance. They could have been made in imitation of earlier forms and used at any period during the first century A.D.

Type 2. Top of bead flattened and slightly turned out and pressed inwards.

8. Wall of jar and bead uniformly thick but pointed on the inner side. (Fig. 6, No. 16.)
9. Beaded rim flattened internally and on top.
10. Very thick wall of bowl, bead has a very thick curve externally.
11. Bead is short and projects outwards slightly.
12. Wall of bowl thickens slightly towards curved bead.
13. Thin groove appears on the outside of the bowl.

Type 3. Beaded rim prominently raised and turned out.

14. Side of bowl prominently curved, bead rounded and turned out.
15. Similar to No. 14.
16. Rim turned out and with slight shoulder on the outside wall.
17. Rounded bead similar to No. 14.
18. Bead flattened on top.

Type 4. Rim turned out at a sharper angle from wall of bowl.

19. Bead slightly flattened on inner and outer side. Two other identical examples were noted. (Fig. 6, No. 17).
20. Rim more rounded than No. 19.

Type 5. This group is made of hard well baked clay, black but without the whitish gritty particles. They all appeared in levels which also contained other Roman forms. Types 1-4 came from pre-Roman levels.

21. Very high rim turning out at an angle from the side of the bowl.
22. Similar to No. 21 but thinner.
23. Short rim turning out at a definite angle.
24. Neck of bowl narrower with turned out bead.
25. High rim turning out of curved side. cf. *Leicester, Jewry Wall*, p. 195 No. 39. (Fig. 6, No. 18.)

LARGE COARSE STORAGE JARS

FIG. 7

WIDE NECKED JARS WITH ROLLED RIMS

Type 1. Rim formed in a very thick rounded bead.

1. Large rim curved back on the shoulder of the jar. Wall becomes thinner as it passes downwards. Very coarse brownish grey ware with heavy gritty particles. (Fig. 7, No. 1.)
2. Rim projecting outwards from the wall of the jar. There are angular curves on the inner side of the jar and a sharp shoulder between grooved bead and side of vessel. (Fig. 7, No. 2.)
3. Rim projecting outwards from a straight sided jar. There is a double groove on top of the bead. Black coarse ware and gritty with a very soapy surface.

Type 2. Rim turned out at an angle from the neck.

4. Thick rim turning out at an angle from wall with curve on the under side. Black gritted ware.
5. Thick rim with a profile similar to No. 4.

Type 3. Right angle projection of rim and curved side to the wall of the bowl.

6. Rather high rolled rim with a groove below on the external wall and a slight depression on the inner side. Black gritted ware with a soapy surface.
7. Rim projects out horizontally with a wide groove on top and rounded angle at the joint with the sloping wall. The curve on the external side forms a ridge on the external side of the jar. Blackish brown ware.
8. Rim is very thick and set at a very high angle. Black gritted ware.

Type 4. Rim rounded and pressed back with an angle on inner side.

9. Straight side to rim and angular on the inner side. Depression on top of rim but curved externally. Very thick type with coarse brownish grey ware.

Type 5. Two grooves on horizontal rim.

10. Thick rim curving on outer side. Black gritty ware. (Fig. 7, No. 6.)
11. Right angled ridge between horizontal surface of grooves and side. Black coarse gritty ware. (Fig. 7, No. 7.)

Type 6. Flange turned downwards.

12. Thick rim turned downwards with a deep curve between rim and wall of pot. Black grit filled ware.
13. Rim flat on top with downward curving rim on the outer side. Black ware.
14. Very high ridge and an angular curve to a downward sloping flange. Black ware.

VERY LARGE NECKED STORAGE JARS

ALL THESE SHERDS WERE FOUND IN THE ROMAN OCCUPATION LEVELS

1. High neck with a wide groove on shoulder. Rim rolled out in a thick bead curving under. Reddish-buff coarse ware with roughened surface. Very thick walls. (Fig. 7, No. 3.)
2. Neck turned back from wide shoulder and rolled out in a heavy curved rim. Reddish-buff ware with thick walls. (Fig. 7, No. 6.)
3. Neck turning outwards in a very thick wall and rounded rim. Reddish-brown ware. (Fig. 7, No. 5.)

MORTARIA

FIG. 8

The bead is prominent in all the examples found on the site. The flange is short and has a tendency to turn out from the side of the vessel and curve under.

1. Flange short and thick projecting out at right angles from the side of vessel. Orange buff ware. Early second century. (Fig. 8, No. 1.)
2. Fragment of flange of buff ware similar to No. 1.
3. Groove on top of bead, horizontal flange. Whitish buff ware. (Fig. 8, No. 2.)
4. Flange thicker than No. 3 but similar in form and fabric.
5. Prominent bead, flange turned outwards and down. Orange buff ware. (Fig. 8, No. 3.)
6. Flange raised, turned under and folded. Buff ware. (Fig. 8, No. 4.)
7. Short blunt flange. Buff ware.
8. Flange turned outwards and under in a pronounced fold. Buff ware. (Fig. 8, No. 5.)
9. Flange thick and sloping downwards. Bead square on top and curved inwards. Walls of vessel are very thick. Buff ware. (Fig. 8, No. 6.)
10. Short square flange turned abruptly downwards with two grooves on the under side. Buff ware. cf. *Verulamium, Theatre*, Fig. 11, No. 30. (Fig. 8, No. 7.)

MUGS

Type 1. Narrow bead formed with a single groove near rim.

1. Thin walled beaker. Orange ware.
2. Thicker wall and more pronounced bead. Orange ware.
3. Bead turning out from very thin wall of mug. Orange ware.
4. Bead marked only by a very slight line and merged with the slanting line of the wall of the mug. (Fig. 8, No. 11.)
5. Similar to No. 4 but with thicker walls.
6. Only a slight angle to the wall of the mug. Orange ware.
7. Straight sided mug with only slight indication of bead. Orange yellow ware.
8. Similar to No. 7 but with traces of the handle. (Fig. 8, No. 10.)
9. Straight sided mug similar to No. 4. Orange ware.
10. Sides of mug slightly turning out. Orange yellow ware.

Type 2. Mugs with bead and a wide border marked on the rims.

11. High mug with wide border. Orange ware. (Fig. 8, No. 8.)
12. Short thick walled mug. Orange ware.
13. Similar to No. 11 but thinner.
14. Narrow bead. Orange ware.

Type 3. Mugs decorated with two parallel grooves near the top.

15. Thin walled mug with two grooves at the top. (Fig. 8, No. 9.)
16. Similar to No. 15 but with straighter side.

COARSE BLACK WARE

FIG. 9

STRAIGHT SIDED DISHES

Type 1. All black ware typical of the Roman period and all found on sites containing Roman pottery.

1. Tapering rim and fairly straight sides. (Fig. 9, No. 1.)
2. Straight sides with flattened rim. (Fig. 9, No. 2.)

Type 2. Slightly thinner walled and finer textured fabric than Type 1.

3. Straight sides with rounded rim curved out from the base.
4. Thicker wall but similar to No. 3.
5. Similar to No. 3 with very flat base.
6. Curved line to wall and with a very high burnish on the outside.

Type 3. Slight indications of a bead on the outside.

7. Shallow dish with rounded rim.
8. Slight curve on the inner side, but straighter on the outside.
9. Similar to No. 7.
10. Inner side straight but slight groove and trellis hatching on the outside.
11. Similar to No. 10.
12. Thickening of base towards the centre of the dish thicker walls.
13. Similar to No. 10 but highly burnished.

THICK WALLED BOWLS

Made from thick coarse black gritted ware but found on the hut floors of the Roman period.

1. Wall of bowl curving with uniform thickness from base to rounded rim. (Fig. 9, No. 3.)
2. Similar to No. 1 but with narrower opening. (Fig. 9, No. 4.)
3. Slightly bulbous at the rim to form a bead.
4. Straighter side and beaded rim. (Fig. 9, No. 5.)

CORDONED AND GROOVED JARS

Type 1. Body of jar divided into horizontal zones by deep grooves.

1. Bulbous bodied jar decorated by horizontal grooves. Neck tapering outward. (Fig. 9, No. 6.)

Type 2. Jar with sides decorated with cordons.

2. Bulbous bodied jar decorated with a raised cordon at base of neck and another below the shoulder. (Fig. 9, No. 7.)

Type 3. Horizontal lines incised on the side of the jar.

3. Narrow necked jar with short everted rim and bulbous body. Decoration consists of wavy lines between horizontal lines.

CAVETTO RIM JARS

1. Short thick rim turning out with a slight thickening at edge of rim.
2. Short curved rim with a swollen edge of rim.
3. Rim higher and turned out at a greater angle from neck of jar.

4. Fairly high curved rim.
5. Thick flared rim with very heavy joint with neck.
6. A thin rim flaring out with a pronounced bead.
7. Rim straight on the outside and curved inside with a prominent joint with the neck. The pot is highly burnished except for one horizontal band below shoulder. (Fig. 9, No. 7.)

PIE-DISHES

ALL THE EXAMPLES FROM THIS GROUP WERE FOUND IN OCCUPATION LAYERS IN THE LINE OF DITCH 1.

1. Short thick rim turned out at a sharp angle both internally and externally from the side of the dish. (Fig. 9, No. 9.)
2. Rim fairly high turned out of wall of dish with a sharp angle internally but with a curve externally. (Fig. 9, No. 10.)
3. Similar to No. 2 but with a less pronounced angle on the internal wall. (Fig. 9, No. 11.)

FLANGED DISHES

1. Fairly straight side with a shallow bead. Flange turned horizontally out at right angles from wall of dish and turned under to form a curve with side of dish. (Fig. 9, No. 12.)
2. Flange thicker than No. 1, slightly raised and with a rounded end. (Fig. 9, No. 13.)
3. Flange thin and turned downwards. Bead raised as high as highest point of flange. Sides of the dish are turned out at a more pronounced angle than in No. 1. (Fig. 9, No. 15.)
4. Flange short and thick but raised and slightly curved. Bead large and prominent. (Fig. 9, No. 14.)
5. Flange projecting from tapering wall. Bead standing high above flange. (Fig. 9, No. 16.)

NARROW NECKED JARS

FIG. 10

Type 1. Short straight neck ending in a bead.

1. Jar with curved shoulder. Grey ware. (Fig. 10, No. 1.)
2. More pronounced curve of side of jar and short neck turned out slightly. (Fig. 10, No. 2.)

Type 2. Neck turned out and flattened on top.

3. Raised bead at base of neck on the outside.
4. Neck of more uniform thickness than No. 3. (Fig. 10, No. 3.)

Type 3. Neck flaring out and rounded at end. Black ware.

5. Curved neck and body of jar. (Fig. 10, No. 4.) Rim flattened.
6. Slightly thicker neck and thin sided jar. Orange ware.
7. Neck of jar is defined by two ridges. Orange-buff ware.
8. Neck swollen at rim and slightly flattened on top. Orange-buff ware. (Fig. 10, No. 5.)
9. Thin walled jar with curved neck. Grey ware. Two examples.

Type 4. Short rim curving outwards.

10. Short thick rim. Black ware.
11. Similar to No. 10 but in orange ware.

Type 5. Rim turned out from top of short vertical neck.

12. Short neck with swollen rim and with flat top.
13. Short neck with rim turned out at an acute angle from neck. Orange-buff ware. cf. *Leicester*. (Fig. 25, No. 18.)
14. Thick neck and rounded rim. Orange ware.
15. Thin ware with an elongated bead curved outwards. Orange red ware.

Type 6. Neck curving out with a bead edge to rim.

16. Short angular neck. Orange ware. (Fig. 10, No. 7.)
17. Neck curving out from its base in a shallow curve. Orange ware.
18. High neck flaring out. Black ware.
19. Similar to No. 18 in Orange-buff ware.
20. High neck with slight bead at edge of rim. Orange ware. (Fig. 10, No. 8.)
21. Similar to No. 20 in Orange ware.
22. Very wide neck and flaring rim. Orange-buff ware. (Fig. 10, No. 6.)
23. Two examples of short necked jars. Orange ware.
24. Plain curved neck with slight bead. Orange ware. (Fig. 10, No. 9.)
25. Rim slightly thinner at the end. Black ware.
26. Double cordon at base of neck. Orange ware.

Type 7. Very wide curve with rim ending in an outward roll and pointed.

27. Long plain neck with short curve flattened at the end. Orange ware. (Fig. 10, No. 10.)
28. Blunt edge to curve. Orange ware.
29. Rather thin with high neck and a blunt edge to rim. Orange ware.
30. Similar to No. 29. Orange ware.
31. High curve with thick rim. Orange ware.
32. Rim rolled over and folded under. Orange ware.
33. Thick rim turned over and curving under. Orange ware.
34. Rim thinner than No. 33 with a downward bend. Orange ware.

Type 8. Rim triangular in section and turned over with a groove on the underside.

35. High neck with a shallow curve on the underside of neck. Orange ware. (Fig. 10, No. 11.)
36. Rolled rim slightly tapering. Orange ware.
37. Angular curves on rim. Orange ware.
38. High neck and wide curve, rather thick. Orange ware. (Fig. 10, No. 12.)
39. Slight curve on the underside of rim. Orange ware.
40. Thick blunt rim and ridged shoulder. Orange ware.
41. Thin neck and very heavy overhanging bead. Orange ware.
42. High ridged rim and small bead turned downwards and curving in on the underside. Orange ware. (Fig. 10, No. 13.)
43. Very thin walled jar with two grooves on under side. Orange ware with high burnish.
44. Two grooves beneath rolled out rim. Orange ware.

Type 9. High neck curving outwards and pointed with a groove on inner side.

45. Very high neck. Orange ware with high burnish. (Fig. 10, No. 14.)

COINS

CLAUDIUS II (A.D. 268-270)

Obv. Head of emperor with radiate crown to R.

D. N. CLAUDIUS. P. F. AUG.

Rev. Fortuna holding a cornucopia on right arm and scales in the other.

Den. Base Antoninianus.

Find-spot: Unstratified.

CONSTANTINUS I (A.D. 307-337)

Obv. Head of emperor to R. wearing diadem.

IMP. CONSTANTINUS. P. F. AUG.

Rev. Illegible.

Den. AE.

Find-spot: Ditch 1 hut site.

Obv. Head of emperor to R. wearing a diadem.

IMP. CONSTANTINUS. AUG.

Rev. Illegible.

Den. AE.

Mint mark: $\frac{1}{\text{PTR}}$ Treves.

Find-spot: Trench J Ditch 11 or B.

BRONZE OBJECTS

1. Fibula in two fragments approximate length 5 cms. Tapering bow narrowing to a catchplate; hinged pin and groove on the bow. Langton Hall type A.D. 80-120, cf. *V. C. H. Hereford*, p. 190. (Fig. 13, No. 1.) Found on Roman hut floor.
2. Fibula with very high bow and coiled spring. $3\frac{1}{2}$ cms. long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cms. high. Early Flavian c. A.D. 70-90.
3. Fibula with plain shallow bow 5 cms. long and 2 cms. high. Found on Roman hut floor.
4. Fibula with only part of the bow remaining showing enamel inlay. Fragment is 4 cms. long. cf. *Magna Excav.*, Vol. II, p. 15.
5. Fibula with plain bow, spring type with catchplate surviving 7 cms. long. Roman Hut floor.
6. Circular fibula of penannular type complete with long pin. c. A.D. 100.
7. Plain bronze ring $1\frac{1}{2}$ cms. internal diam.
8. Double spiral ring internal diam. $1\frac{1}{2}$ cms.
9. Plain ring similar to No. 7, internal diam $1\frac{1}{2}$ cms.
10. Plain ring with diam. of $3\frac{1}{2}$ cms. showing marks of an attachment. cf. *Ant. J.*, Vol. LX, 1931, p. 38. Found in pre-Roman level of Ditch A.
11. Sheet of bronze punched with holes. Found on floor of Iron Age huts.
12. Three fragments of thin bronze sheet moulded in to a curve. Found on floor of Iron Age huts.
13. One arm of what might have been a pair of tweezers 1 cm. wide and 3 cms. long decorated with two lines of dots on one side and broken at one end.

IRON OBJECTS

1. Fibula $5\frac{1}{2}$ cms. long with spiral hinge. Found on Roman hut floor.
2. Fibula with bow and hinge $5\frac{1}{2}$ cms. long and $\frac{1}{2}$ cm. high. Found high above Roman occupation levels.
3. Spiral ring 2 cms. diam. From trenches near entrance.
4. Spiral ring similar to No. 3, 1 cm. in thickness.
5. Thin ring or disc $\frac{1}{2}$ cm. in thickness and 2 cms. diam. Found in pre-Roman levels.
6. Square-headed iron bolt top measures 2 cms. by $3\frac{1}{2}$ cms., 8 cms. long. Found in Roman occupation levels.
7. Three iron points possibly bases of staffs varying in length from 2-3 inches. Found in Roman levels.
8. Small object measuring $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. long square at one end and tapering at the other as if it had been used as a small hammer. cf. *Bredon Hill, Gloucestershire*. (Fig. 6, No. 4.) First Century A.D. *Arch. J.*, Vol. XLV, pp. 73-4, 1939.
9. Thirty-eight iron nails of varying sizes were excavated from the Roman levels together with nine small iron studs and a miscellaneous collection of iron fragments which are too small for identification.

BONE OBJECTS

1. Bone weaving comb with seven teeth and a rounded end decorated with a design of concentric circles and dots. Length $9\frac{1}{2}$ cms. and 3 cms. wide at the widest end. Found in Iron Age occupation level. cf. Cunnington: All Canning's Cross. (Fig. 20.)
2. Bobbin 6 in. long with $\frac{1}{2}$ in. diam. hole at one end which has been flattened. Decorated with a design of dots and lines. Unstratified.
3. Spindle whorl, see list of spindle whorls.
4. Bone pin tapering to a point, the top is missing. $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. long. Unstratified.
5. Round headed bone pin $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. Iron Age hut floor.
6. Pin $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. Two parallel grooves on the top; the tip is broken. Roman hut floor.
7. Three antler points were found in the lowest levels of ditch of rampart A.
 - (a) $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, $\frac{1}{2}$ in. diam.
 - (b) $6\frac{1}{2}$ in., $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. diam.
 - (c) $7\frac{1}{2}$ in., $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. diam.
8. Fragment of bone 4 in. long, slightly curved, possibly used as a knife handle. Unstratified.
9. Several fragments of bone showing evidence of having been used as tools:—
 - (a) Two fragments of a tool 6 in. long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. wide and $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick, square at one end and chamfered at the other end. Iron Age occupation floor.
 - (b) Two fragments of a sheep's tibia 3 in. long. Unstratified.

SPINDLE WHORLS

1. Bone spindle whorl made of antler horn, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. diam. and with a hole in centre $\frac{1}{8}$ in. diam.
Found on floor of Iron Age hut in ditch of Rampart A.
2. Lead spindle whorl 1 in. diam. and with hole $\frac{1}{4}$ in. diam.
Found in trench through centre of first entrance.
3. Black earthenware spindle whorl $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. diam., $\frac{1}{8}$ in. diam. of hole.
Found on Roman level of rectangular hut floor.
4. Sandstone spindle whorl $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. diam., $\frac{3}{8}$ in. thick.
Found in pre-Roman level of ditch of Rampart A.
5. Sandstone spindle whorl $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. diam., $\frac{1}{4}$ in. diam. of hole and $\frac{1}{8}$ in. thick.
Found in Roman occupation level.
6. Sandstone spindle whorl $1\frac{7}{8}$ in. diam. with hole of $\frac{1}{4}$ in. diam. of hole.
Found in Roman level.
7. Spindle whorl of $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. diam., $\frac{3}{8}$ in. thick and $\frac{3}{8}$ in. thick.
Found in Iron age level in ditch of Rampart A.

SANDSTONE OBJECTS

Two discs one $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. diam. and $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick, the other 1 in. in diam. and $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick, one found in an Iron Age hut floor and the other in a Roman occupation level.

Spindle whorls, see list of spindle whorls.

Worked stone objects $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick, $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick and 1 in. in depth.

STONE OBJECTS

1. Upper stone of a quern of circular type, 12 in. diam. and with a hole in one side $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. diam. for wooden handle. Stone was 4 in. thick.
Found below Roman floor level.
2. An object which could have been used as a whetstone $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. long and $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick and $\frac{3}{4}$ in. wide. Unstratified.
3. Four flat stones which could have been used as polishers or pounders were discovered in the pre-Roman occupation levels.
4. An object shaped in the form of an axe $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, 2 in. at its widest point was found in the pre-Roman levels.

GLASS BEADS AND INTAGLIO

1. Half a melon shaped bead bluish in colour.
Found in Roman occupation level. cf. *Magna*, Pl. 1, No. 45.
2. Blue glass bead $\frac{3}{8}$ in. diam. and $\frac{1}{4}$ in. long.
3. Intaglio of whitish glass $\frac{1}{4}$ in. wide and $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick and just under $\frac{1}{4}$ in. long.
Found in Ditch B west of entrance.

REPORT ON THE ANIMAL BONES

Ox : Evidence from thoracic vertebrae, jaw bones, scapula, radius and fragments of skull including one example of a skull-bone with the base of the horn still in position.

Horse : Metatarsal, limb bones, hoof and several teeth.

Pig : Jaw bone, teeth and leg bones.

Sheep : Leg bones of full grown sheep.

Red deer : Leg bones, antler.

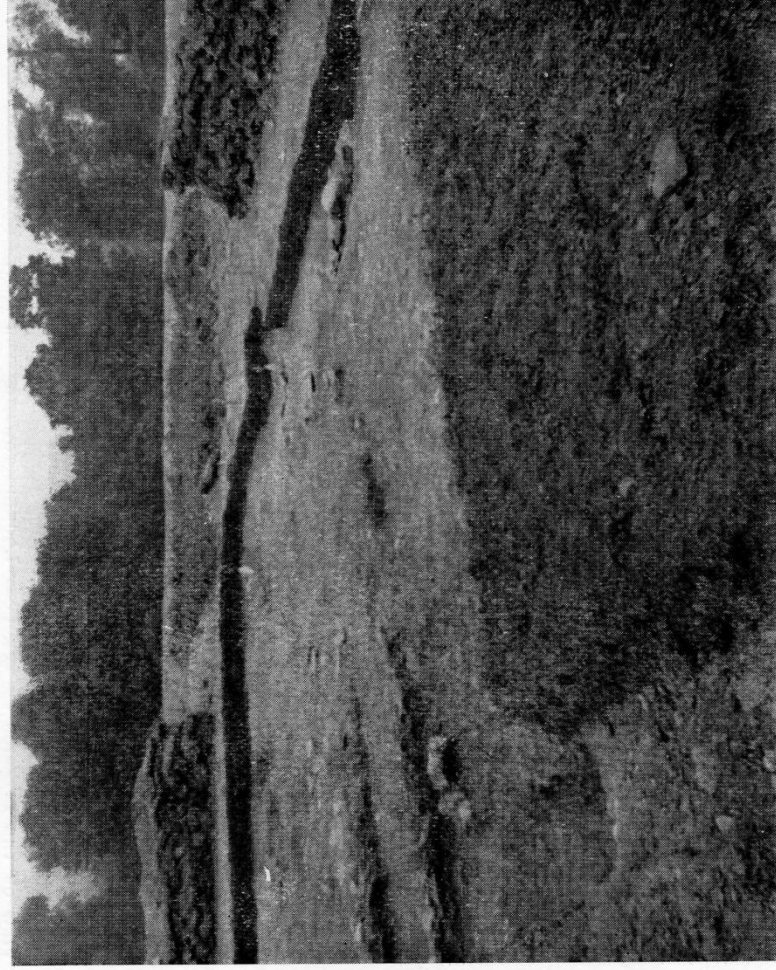
Bird : Fragmentary small bones found in the lowest level of Ditch A.

Plate I



Photograph by F.C.M.

GENERAL VIEW OF THE INTERIOR OF THE FORT LOOKING TOWARDS THE NORTH-EAST. RAMPART III, THE ONLY SURVIVING RAMPART IS ON THE LEFT. THE TRENCHES ON THE RIGHT ARE ON THE LINE OF RAMPART I.



Photograph by F.C.M.

HUT SITE FROM WEST ON THE LINE OF DITCH I.



Photograph by F.C.M.

RAMPART AND DITCH III AT THE NORTH-EAST ENTRANCE.

REPORT ON HUMAN BONES

Fragments of human skulls were found in three areas of the fort. They were discovered near the hearths of the earliest occupation levels and are in such a fragmentary condition that it is not possible to make any conclusive deductions from them.

REPORT ON THE FLINTS FOUND AT POSTON

By R. S. GAVIN ROBINSON

It is probable that the various flints recovered during the excavations of the Iron Age hut sites and ditches are the remains of the Neolithic and Bronze Age occupations of the ground, rather than evidence of systematic use of flint by the occupants of the camp during the Romano-British period.

During none of the excavations carried out in the camp, has any accumulation of flint debris been discovered, which would indicate that flint working was carried on during the Iron Age period, and the flint flakes are found sparsely scattered, either on, or near the Iron Age surface, or in ditch filling.

The adjoining ploughed field (Ord. No. Vowchurch 80), has produced a quantity of flint implements and flakes, and it seems more than probable that both this field, and the area now included in the Camp, were at one time occupied by flint users, prior to the arrival of Iron Age man.

During the excavation of the Iron Age barrow near the camp, (Ord. No. Peterchurch 1158), in September, 1933, a report of which appears in the Woolhope Club *Transactions* for that year, five flints were found. The barrow was attributed to the occupants of the camp, and had they habitually worked and used flint, the implements deposited in the barrow during the funeral ceremonies would probably have originated from the flint factory in the camp, and shown distinctive points of resemblance. Whereas, each of the five flints show a definitely different degree of patination, and three of the specimens appear to be made from flint of a different texture. This would seem to indicate that the flints deposited in the barrow were "strays" found on the surface, and put into the barrow in accordance with the funeral practices of previous cultures.

If, as the actual evidence shows today, flint flakes could have been found scattered over the area of the camp, it seems possible that these five flakes were actually found there, and utilised for carrying out the pre-Iron Age custom of providing the deceased with implements or weapons of flint for the next world.

Flint No. 7 which was found on the hut floor, cleared in 1937, may have been a "stray" picked up and utilised by the occupants of the hut, the iron staining over the patination indicating the formation of the latter, before contact with iron. The unpatinated

working along the cutting edge may have occurred during use in the hut, or equally well at an earlier date, and the occurrence of this flake on the hut floor may be accidental. A number of flints have been found at Stockley Hill (Ord. No. Peterchurch 1175), $\frac{1}{4}$ mile distant, with a similar patination, and showing an unpatinated re-working edge.

FLINT No. 1

A square flake, with part of the bulb of percussion remaining. It is impossible to say if it was ever worked, as the edges are fractured, but it does not appear to be part of any of the usual type of implement. (The square fracture of the edges almost suggest that it was possibly a crude gun flint, made from a "stray" picked up on the surface.) The colour of this flint, and the patination on it, are similar to specimens found during the excavations of a small indeterminate earthwork in Birches Wood (Ord. No. Peterchurch 514), and to implements found on the Hill farm (Ord. No. Vowchurch 113).

FLINT No. 2

A small flake, patinated white, showing slight flaking on two edges. The flake has been broken, and has only been worked on one side, the other showing the ridges of the original fracture.

FLINT No. 3

An irregular flake, showing signs of use as a scraper on two edges. No attempt had been made to shape the flake into an implement, and it appears to have been used in a rough state.

FLINT No. 4

Chip.

FLINT No. 5

A small triangular chip with no working.

FLINT No. 6

A flake apparently broken from the edge of a larger piece during manufacture—has not been worked.

FLINT No. 7

Worked flake, showing two periods of use, with pale blue patination and iron staining. This appearing to be a flake which acquired a blue patination, and was later used as a scraper, there is evidence that it was in use when the majority of the chippings along the cutting edge occurred, and these show no sign of patination. The iron stains are subsequent to the formation of the patination.

FLINT No. 8

A disc scraper of pale brown flint, with two patches of the original crust remaining. This is a fine specimen of the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age scraper, and shows very little wear. It was found on what was probably the swampy surface of the Pleistocene gully, prior to the establishment here of the Iron Age camp at the beginning of the first century A.D. The discovery of this flint indicates that there was a Neolithic or Bronze Age settlement near the swamp that existed over the gully. That such a settlement was in existence is proved by the large quantity of flints that have been found in the field adjoining the camp (Ord. S. No. 80 Vowchurch). A similar scraper has been recovered, in conjunction with arrows of the Long Barrow type, from a small settlement site from the edge of a swamp on the Greenway farm (Ord. No. Peterchurch 442), two miles from Poston.

ASSOCIATED SITES : TIMBERLINE CAMP.

Earthworks have been observed on a spur of the mountain range to the south of Poston in Timberline Wood (Nat. Grid. 38837). Trial trenches were dug in 1934 and 1950 which revealed slight traces of Romano-British pottery on occupation floors but little was ascertained of the structure of the camp itself.

1934 TRIAL TRENCHES

- Tr. I 26 ft. long on the east side of the camp. Slag and a few sherds of pottery were found 9 in. above the natural cornstone. There seems to have been a natural ironstone floor at this point.
- Tr. II 33 ft. long in a line with Tr. I and to the west of it. A hearth appeared in the S.E. corner.
- Tr. III This was dug in line with the other trenches and reached the natural occupation without finding the habitation. Similarly Trs. IV and V.
- Tr. VI This was dug two feet from Trench II. It only revealed more charcoal not likely to have been associated with a prehistoric hearth.
- Tr. VII Was dug inside the rampart at the presumed point of entrance on the north side some stones were found resting on the natural cornstone. These may have formed part of the revetment of the inner side of the rampart but the trench was not continued.

Section across the rampart and outer ditch, near the N. Entrance.

The rampart at this point seems to have been 19 ft. high, the ditch 25 ft. wide at the top. 2 ft. 6 in. below the surface in the silt infilling of the ditch the tip of a spear head was found.

Other trenches were dug which failed to reveal the occupation floor which may have been disturbed by the roots of the trees.

The pottery and other objects found are listed below and are housed in Hereford Museum.

1. Fragment of thin walled pot of orange red ware.
2. Base of native cooking pot.
3. Base of a narrow urn or beaker.

IRON OBJECTS

Three small iron points as if for small darts.

- (1) 6 Iron nails approximately 2 in. long, some are smaller and warped ;
- (2) Iron spear head or even possibly the top of a seventeenth century pike ;
- (3) Rectangular piece of iron.

Another site in the Golden Valley which has some connection with the Iron Age culture is at Walterstone.

The Brampton Hill site marked on figs. 1 and 2 is probably Roman.

ILLUSTRATIONS

PLATES

- Plate I General view of the interior of the fort looking towards the north-east. Rampart III, the only surviving rampart, is on the left. The trenches on the right are on the line of Rampart I.
- Plate II Hut site from the line of Ditch I.
- Plate III Rampart and Ditch III at the north-east entrance.

FIGURES

1. Map of the Dore Valley.
2. Map showing the position of Postan and some of the neighbouring Iron Age hill-forts of Hereford.
3. Plans of the fort during the three stages of its development.
4. Plan of the excavation at the north-east entrance.
5. Sections through the defences.
 - A. Trench 1 : Ditch II and retaining wall of Rampart III.
 - B. Trench 2 : Construction of Rampart III.
 - C. Trench 3 : Terminal construction of Rampart III in Period II.
 - D. Trench 4 : Rampart and Ditch III with stone revetment on the other side of Ditch beyond gully.
 - E. Trench 5 : Inner side of destroyed Rampart III in Period II.
 - F. Trench 6 : Cross section of metallised roadway in Period III.
 - G. Trench 7 : Trackway leading from the second entrance.
6. Iron Age Pottery.
7. Large Coarse Storage Jars.
8. Mortaria and Mugs.
9. Black ware.
10. Narrow-necked Jars.

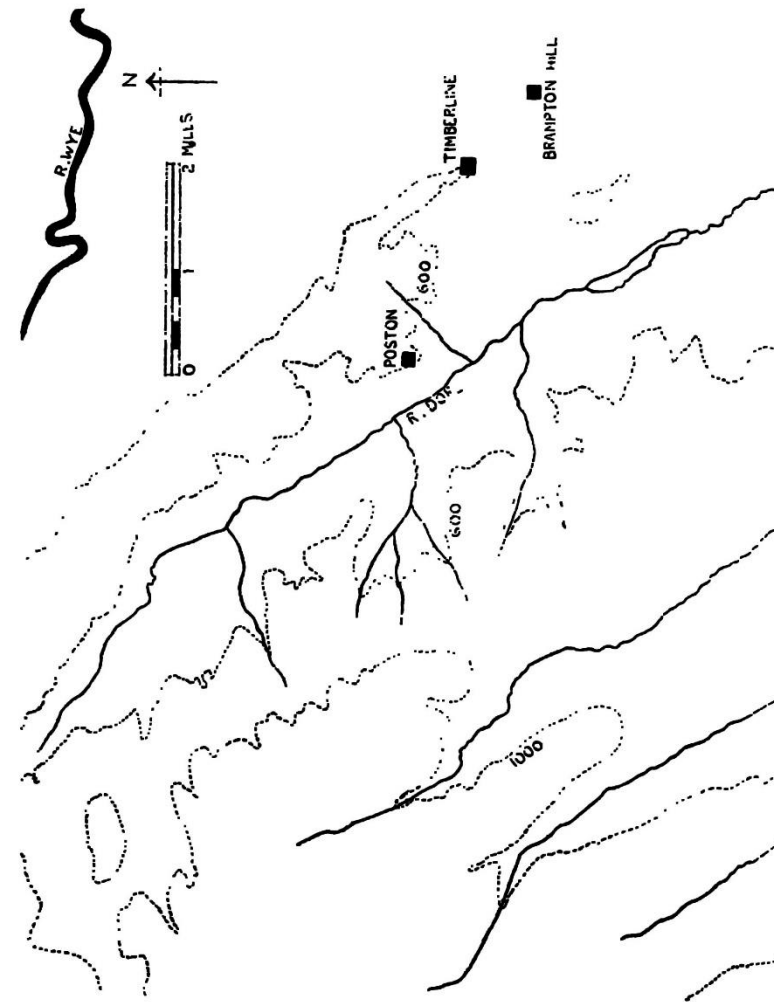


Fig. 1. Map of the Dore Valley.

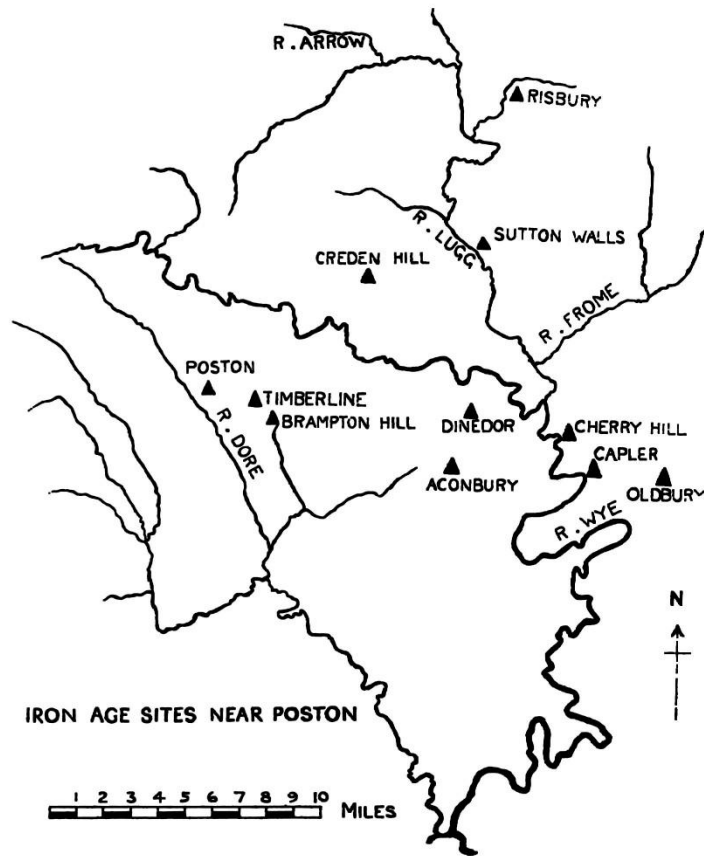


Fig. 2. Poston and neighbouring Iron Age hill-forts. There is another fort at Walterstone between the Monnow and the Dore to the east of their junction.

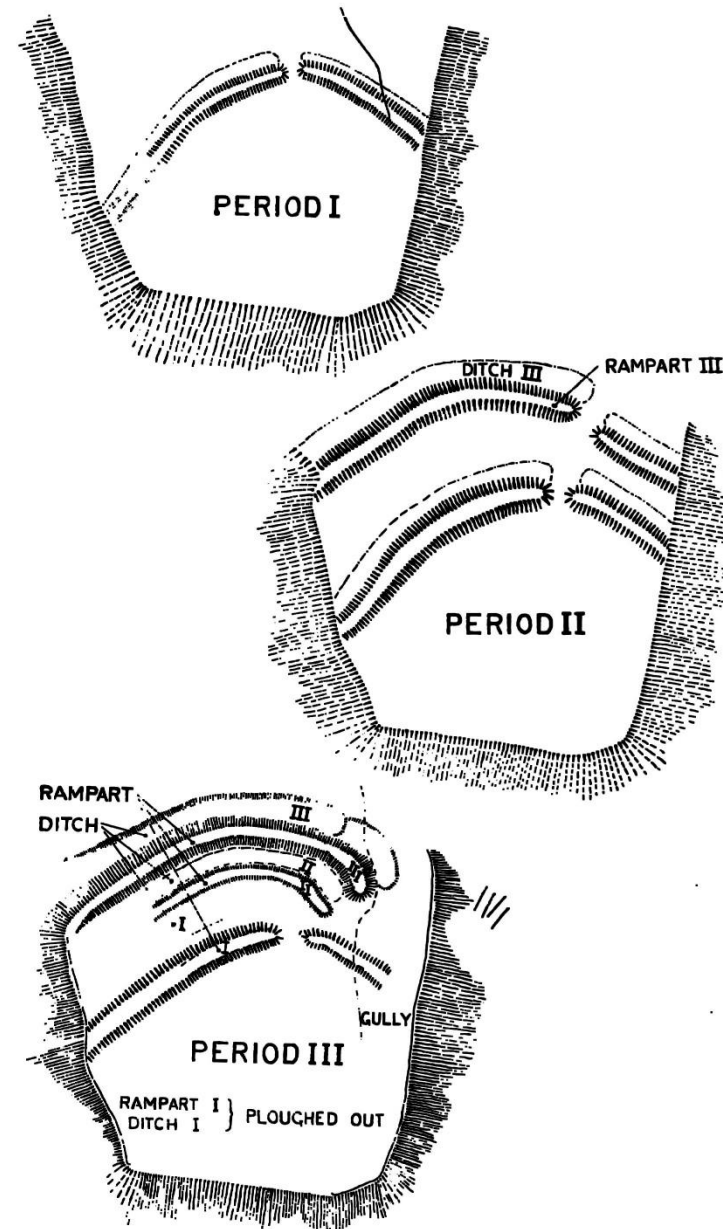


Fig. 3. Plans of the Fort during the three stages of its development. (The gap in Rampart I is doubtful.)

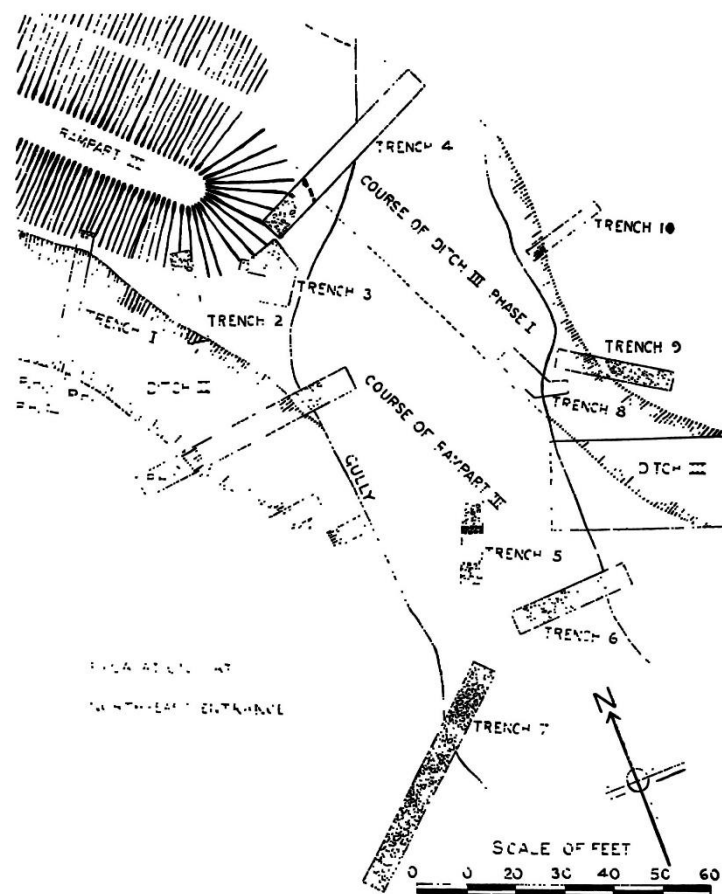


Fig. 4. Plan of excavations at north-east Entrance.

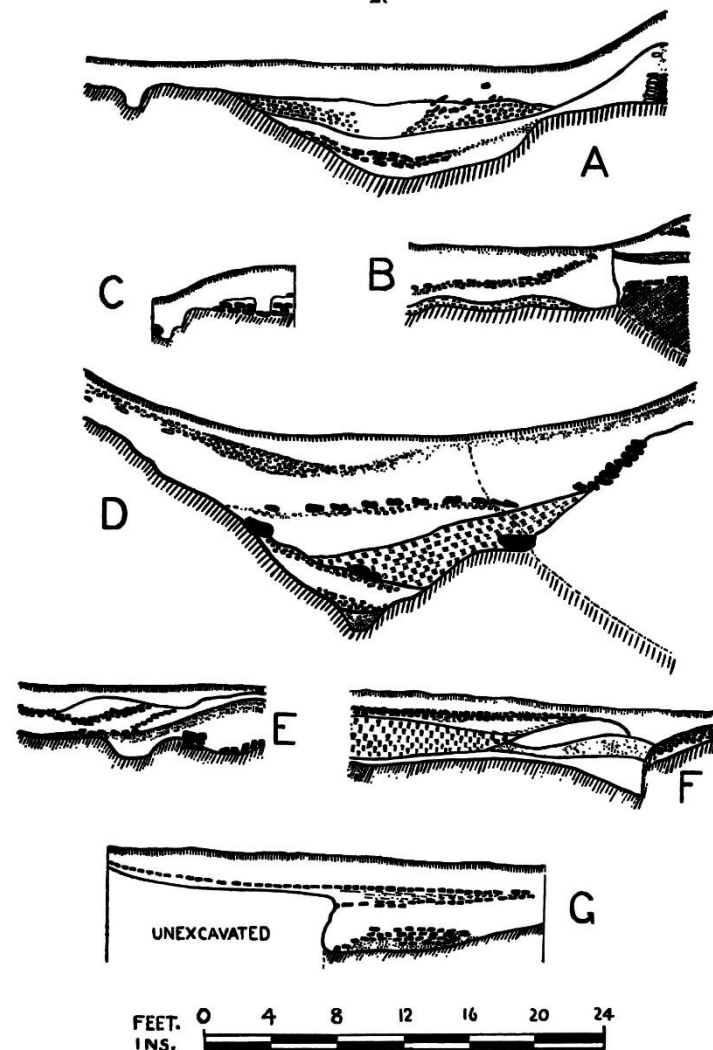


Fig. 5. Sections through defences.

- A. Trench 1 : Ditch II and retaining wall of Rampart III.
- B. Trench 2 : Construction of Rampart III.
- C. Trench 3 : Terminal construction of Rampart III in Period II.
- D. Trench 4 : Rampart and Ditch III with stone revetment on the other side of Ditch beyond gully.
- E. Trench 5 : Inner side of destroyed Rampart III in Period II.
- F. Trench 6 : Cross section of metallised roadway in Period III.
- G. Trench 7 : Trackway leading from second Entrance.

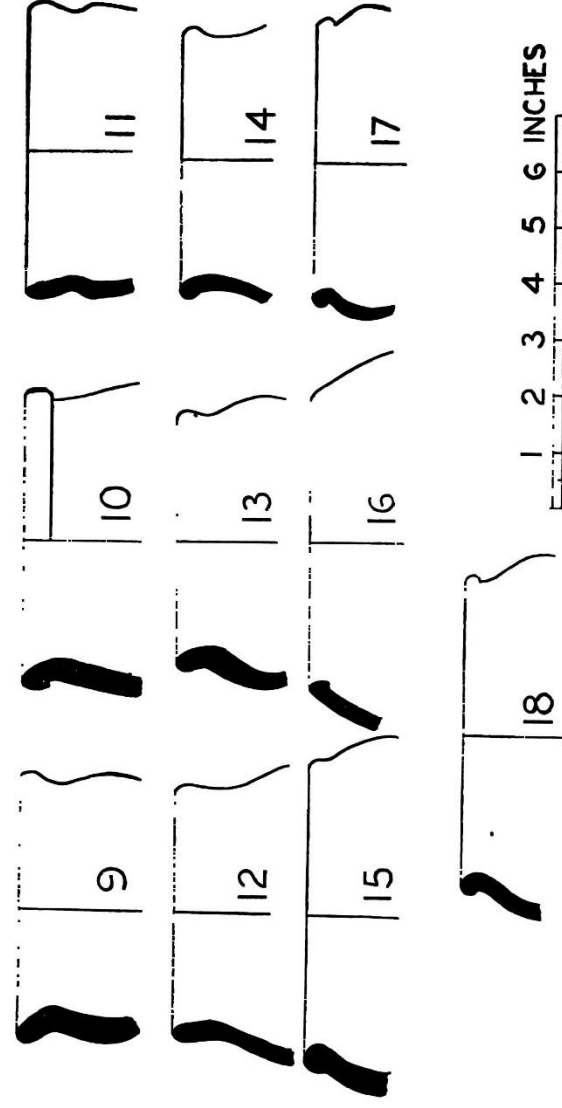
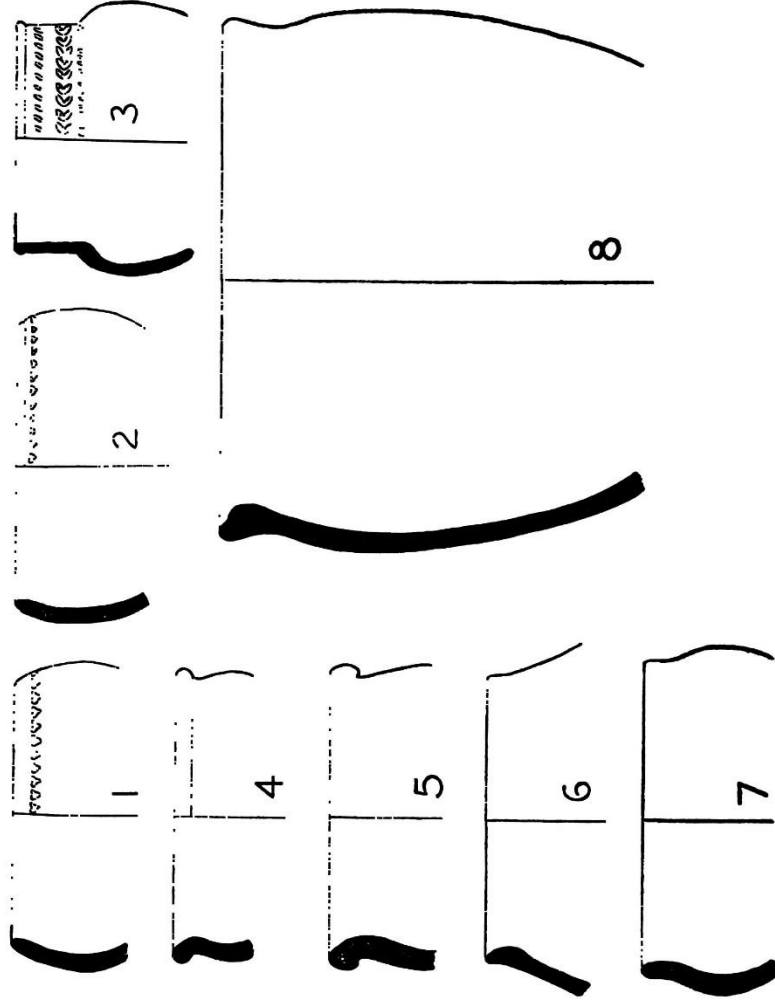


Fig. 6. Iron Age Pottery.

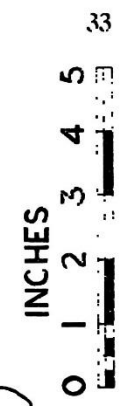
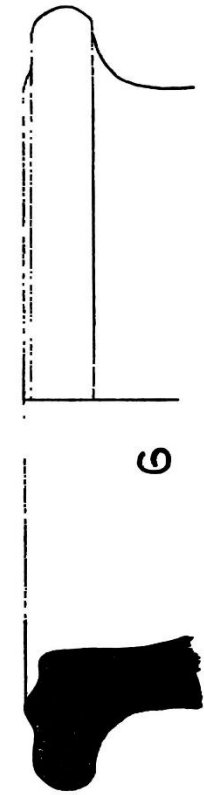
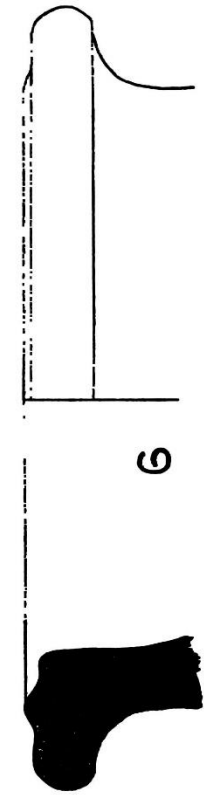
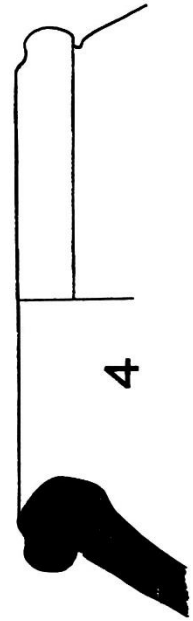
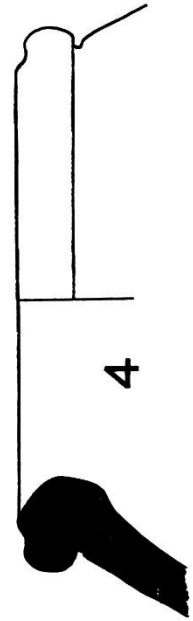
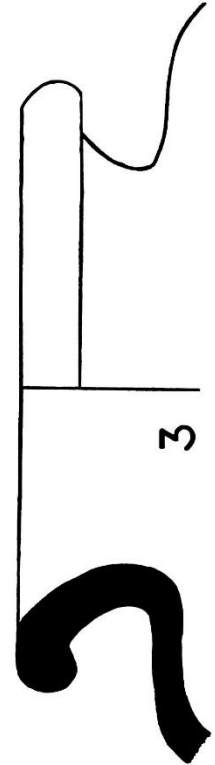
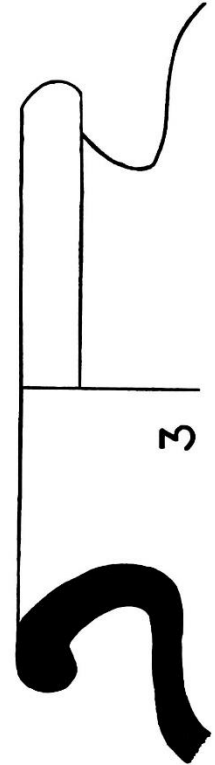
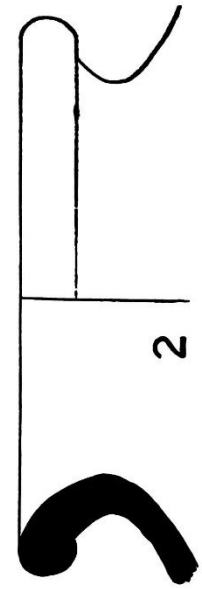
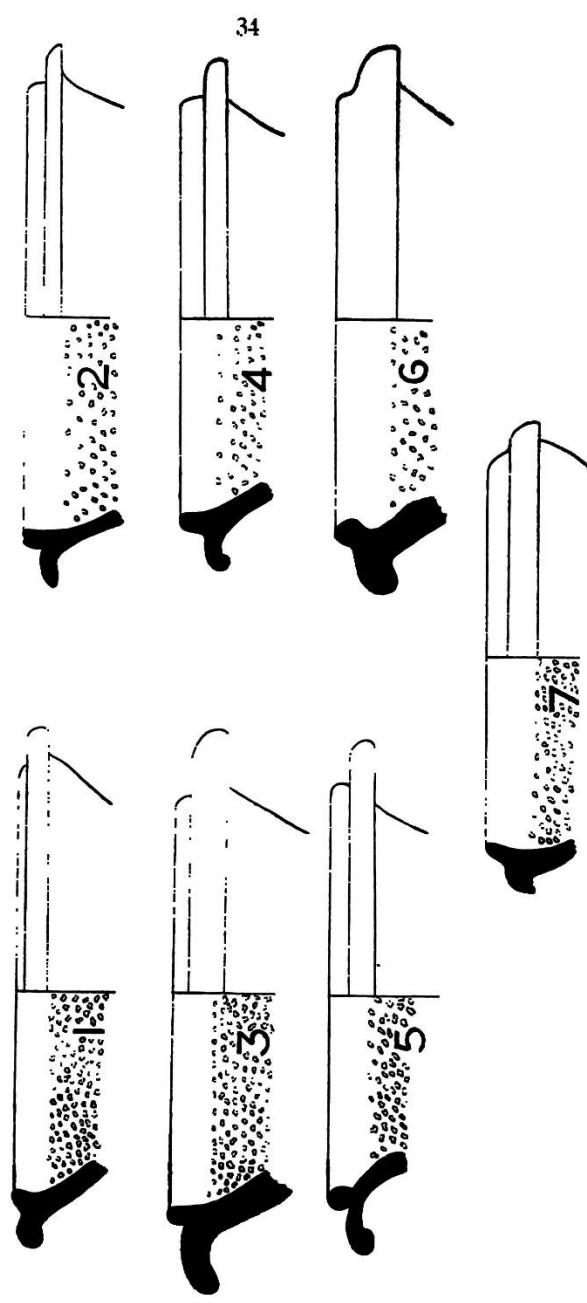
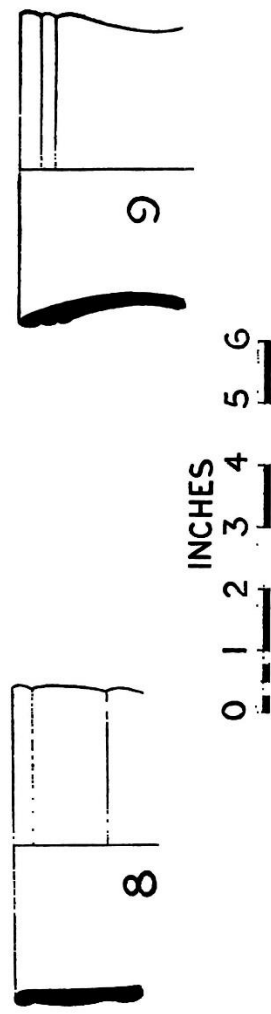


Fig. 7. Large Coarse Storage Jars.

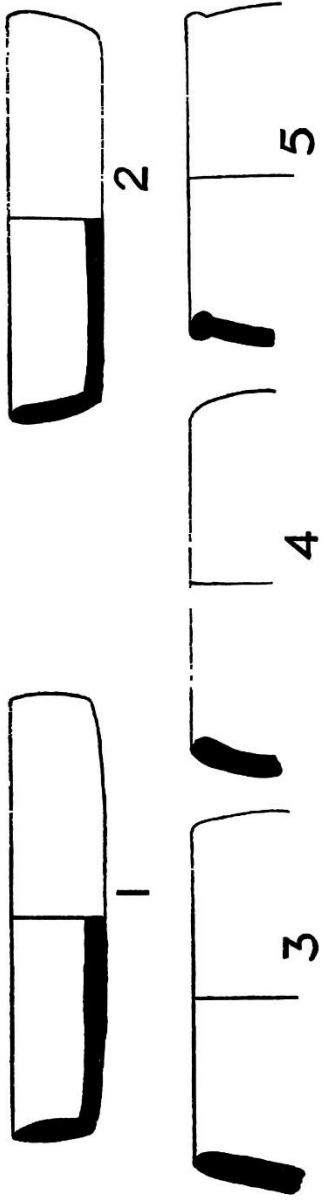


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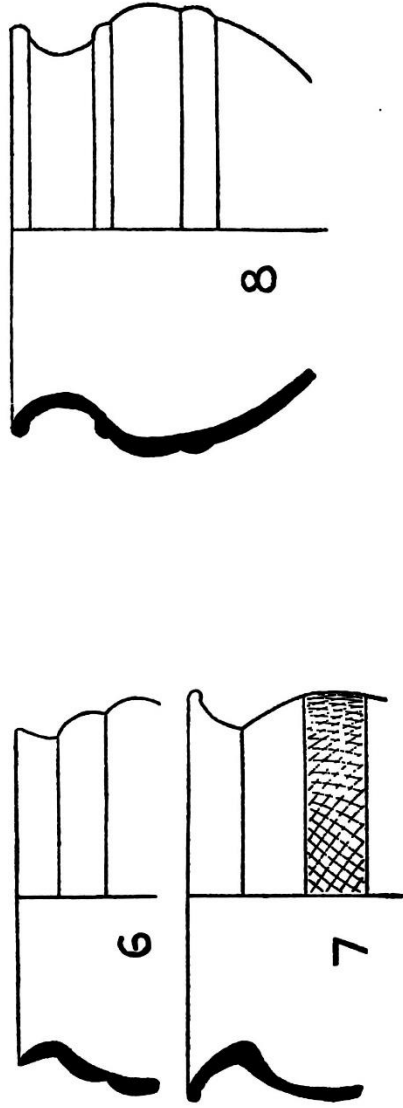


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Fig. 8. Mortaria and Mugs



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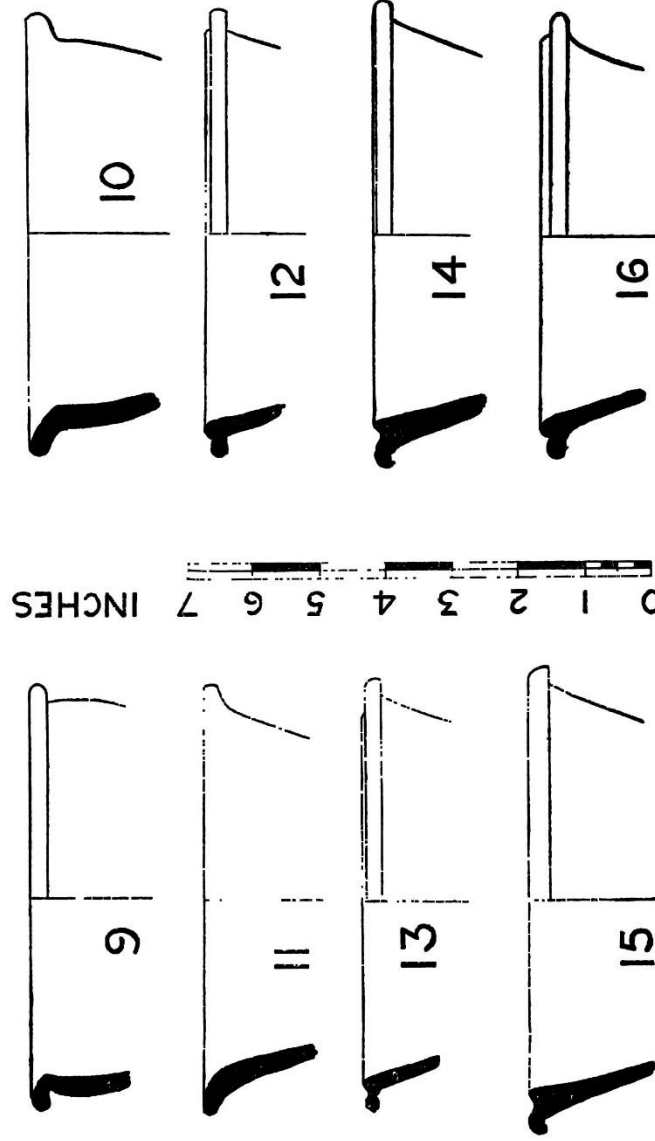


Fig. 9. Black ware.

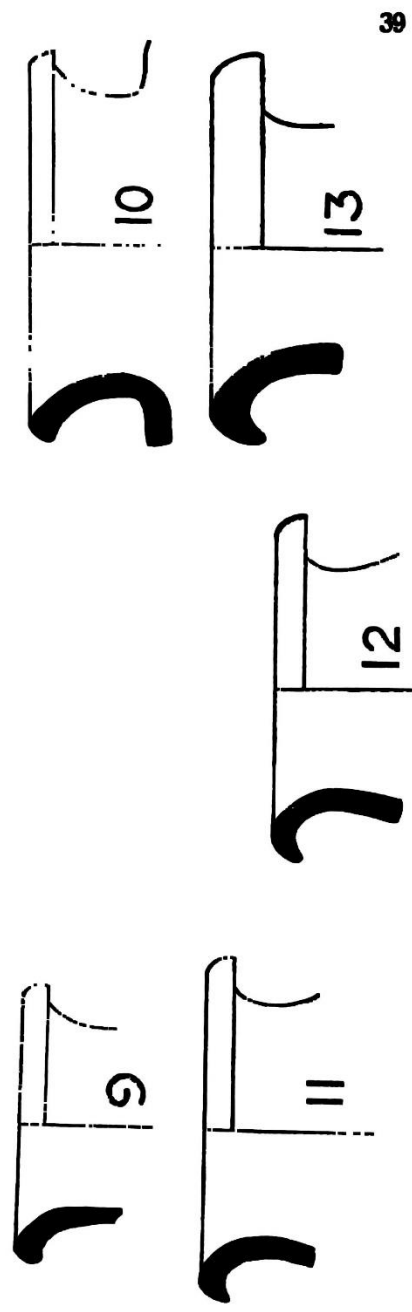
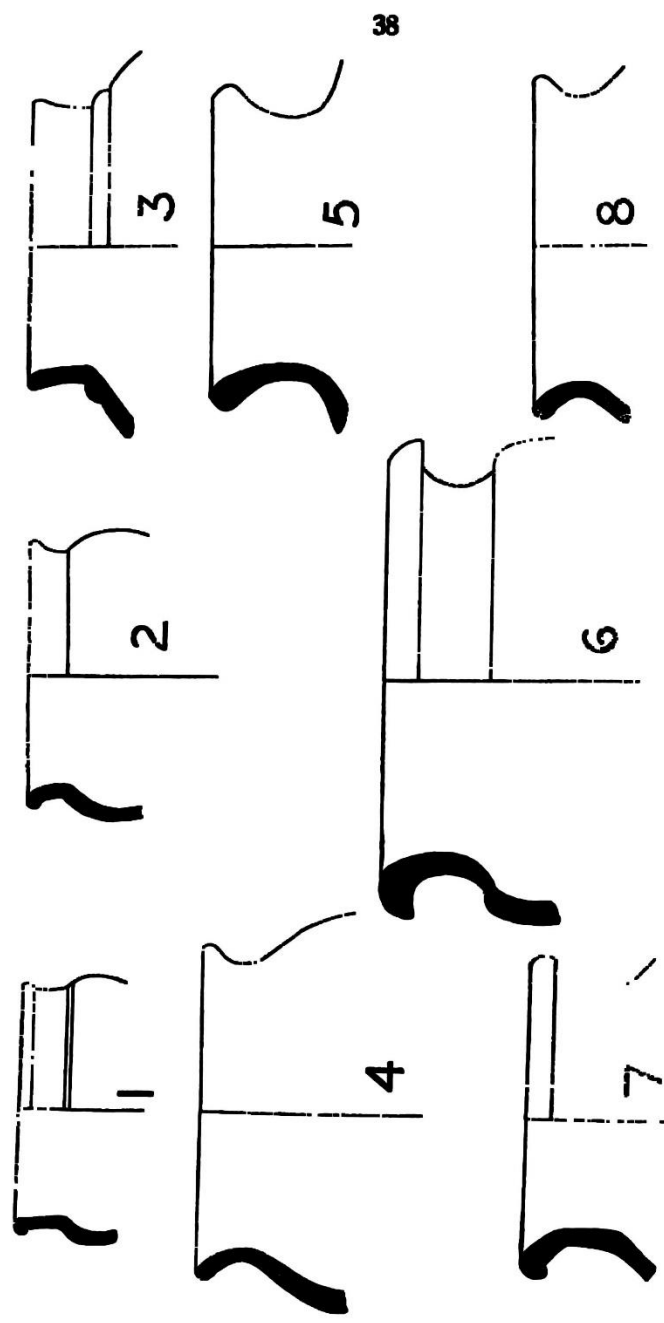


Fig. 10. Narrow-necked jars.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Excavations at Poston hill-fort took place between the years 1932 and 1937. Mr. George Marshall, F.S.A., the author of an interim report on the work done prior to 1934, died before further work, which might have solved some of the problems still unanswered, was possible after the war. This account of the work carried out at Poston is now a tribute to the tremendous enthusiasm he brought to this study and to all his archæological activities in this part of Hereford.

Associated with him in these excavations was Mr. R. S. Gavin Robinson, the owner of the land, but for whose energetic and practical interest in the hill-fort, this record would not be possible.

Numerous other people were closely associated with the work at different periods, notably among them Mr. Charles Green who directed the operations in 1937. He is responsible for the plans, sections and notes of that season, and it was he who discerned the complications caused by the presence of the Pleistocene gully and worked out the history of the defences.

Captain F. B. Ellison was responsible for all the surveying and plans except those done by Mr. Green in 1937. Mr. F. C. Morgan, F.S.A., was the photographer who recorded each season's work.

A number of experts, among them Mr. Raleigh Radford, F.S.A., also visited the site. But for the numerous other helpers the work could not have been carried out.

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