

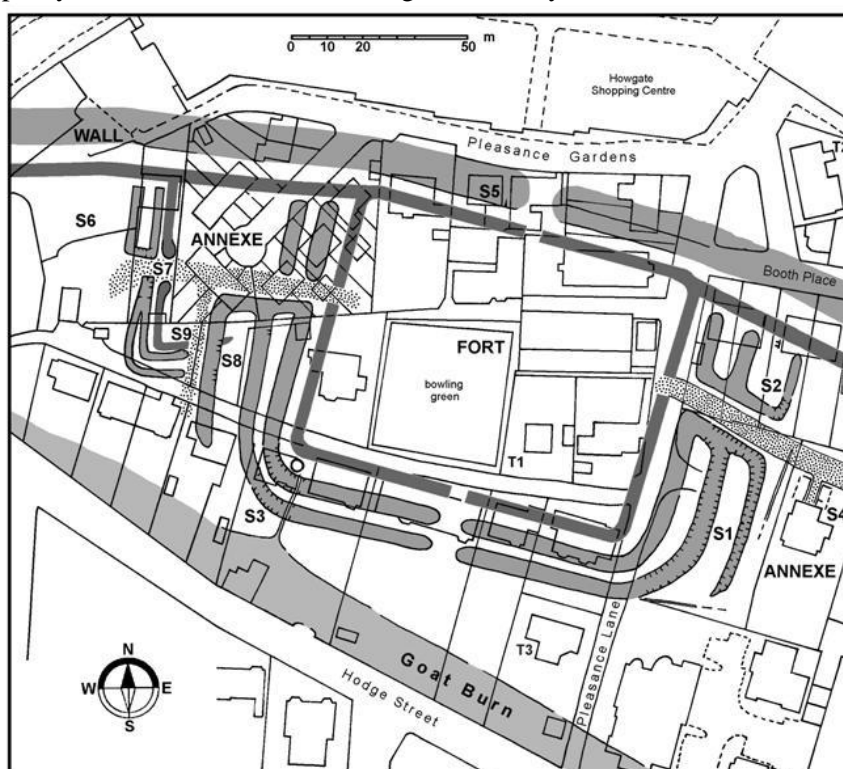
EXCAVATIONS AT 14 BOOTH PLACE, FALKIRK, 2021

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Introduction

Through the generosity of the owners the rear garden of 14 Booth Place (NS 8874 7973) was made available for archaeological exploration and an excavation took place over the period of 26 June to 10 July 2021. Five trenches were dug by hand and numbered T1-T5 in the order in which they were commenced. Features within each trench were allocated an individual F number, so, for example, F7 was a ditch. For the purposes of description in what follows site north is aligned with the garden.

This town centre site lies immediately to the south of the Antonine Wall and east of the Roman fort in an area identified as an eastern annexe (Bailey 2021). The garden occupies the highest point in the area with the ground sloping down to the Goat Burn in the south, to the end of the side valley known as the Howgate in the north, to the Cow Wynd in the east and the Roman fort to the west. It was partly for this reason that three large ditches lay between the site and the fort.



Illus 1: Location plan showing the Roman fort in relation to the modern streets. 14 Booth Place lies to the right of S2.

The natural soils consisted chiefly of a silty yellow sand with pale mottled grey bands meaning that the area is free-draining. Previous work in the general area at the Scout Hall site in 1991 (S1 illus 1), at 16 and 18 Booth Place in 2000, 2006 and 2017 (S2), and 12 Rosehall Terrace in 2006 (S4) has been published (ibid).

Phase I – Pre-Roman Iron Age

Above the natural sand in most trenches was a thin layer of silty grey-brown sand which varied in thickness from 0.05m (F66 in T5) to 0.12m (F15 in T1). It is assumed that this represents the soil horizon at the time of the arrival of the Roman army. It is severely leached, as we might expect given the sandy nature of the material and did not contain any finds. The Iron Age topsoil trapped under the Roman levels at Mumrills and Polmont Cemetery was thicker and more humic in character (Bailey 2021). In the south end of T5, where F66 was relatively thin, a search was made for possible ard



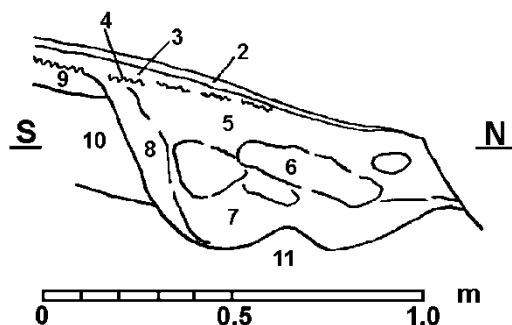
marks in the underlying natural. A series of linear marks were noted which might have been taken for animal burrows were it not for the occurrence of parallel sequences – SW-NE at the north end of the section examined and perpendicular to that in the south end. No features earlier than those assigned to the Roman occupation were seen to cut F66.

Illus 2: Possible ard marks in the south end of T5 looking east.

Phase II – Roman Fort

The first Roman feature on the site was the large circular pit F18. Its fill gives no indication of its function – the lower material consisting of dark grey-brown sandy loam and its upper fill of what appears to be decayed blocks of turf. Its relationship to the N/S ditch F16 is clear as the thin layer of comminuted charcoal (F17) which covers it slopes down into that feature to form a thick deposit.

Illus 3: T1 looking NE with ditch F16 across the centre cutting pit F18 (top centre) and then cut by ditch F7 on the right.



Illus 4: Section across F18. 2 – charcoal; 3 – grey clay loam; 4- ironpanning; 5 – pale brown sandy loam; 6 – pale cream and grey clay blocks (turf); 7 – dark grey-brown sandy loam; 8 – yellow-brown sand; 9 - pale grey-brown silty loam (Iron Age soil); 10 - gritty orange-yellow sand (natural); 11 – pale yellow sand – natural.

F16 was V-shaped in section and measured 1.4m wide by 0.9m deep from the Roman ground level. It was aligned SSW/NNE and came to a square butt end in the north extension of T1 suggesting that it was respecting the line of the Rampart of the Antonine frontier to which it was perpendicular. Its southern terminus is not known, but it ended before T4, meaning that its total length cannot have exceeded 8m. Being cut through sand it is not surprising that the bottom fill consisted of 0.12m of silty sand (section 2 - layer 12). Above this was a thin band of black humic material (layer 11) which sloped down from east to west and which presumably represents a temporary stabilisation of the ditch sides. This was followed by more washed material (layer 10).

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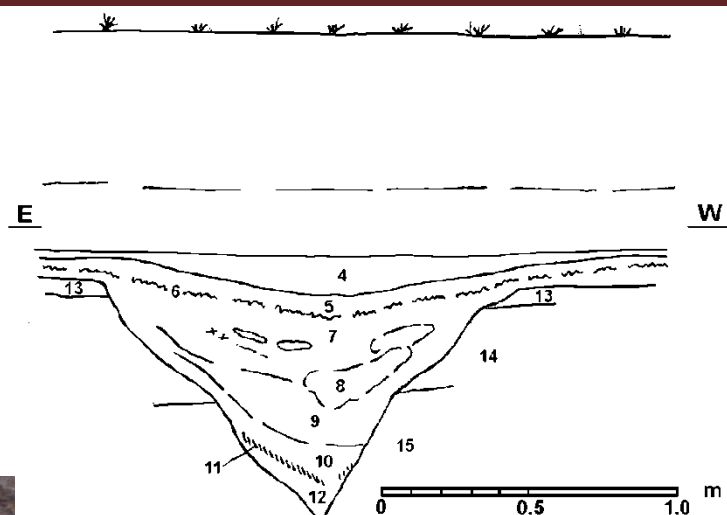
Illus 5: Section 2 across F16. 4 – coarse yellow sand (F27); 5 – mottled grey clay loam (F19); 6 – ironpanning; 7 – yellow-brown sand; 8 – patchy cream & brown clay (turf); 9 – yellow-brown silty sand; 10 – pale brown-grey silty sand; 11 – charcoal & humic material; 12 – grey/yellow silty clay; 13 – silty brown-grey sand (Iron age soil); 14 – coarse yellow sand (natural); 15 – fine pale yellow sand (natural).



commencing at its southern end and further north the upper fill included a large dump of charcoal and fired daub. The daub was thick and showed impressions of straw. Much of it was well-fired and incorporated iron slag showing that it was derived from a furnace/kiln rather than the wall of a building. The entire area of T1 was then covered by a thin layer of mottled grey clay (F19; section 2 - layer 5) averaging only 0.04m thick. This was quite even and compact suggesting trampling and eventually resulted in the formation of a layer of ironpanning at the interface between it and the more sandy soils below.

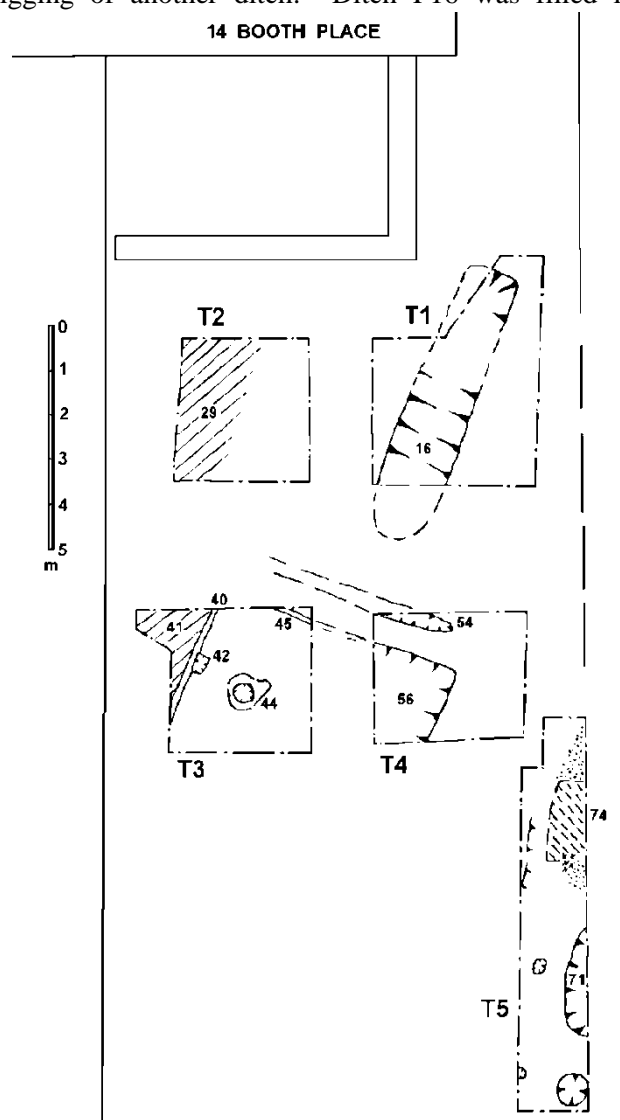
After a period of time F19 was covered by a layer of coarse yellow sand (F27) which extended over an extensive area. In T2 it lay over an area consisting of patches of grey, cream and white clay representing turf (F29). The eastern extent of F29 is not known because it was cut by a later feature, but it did not extend into T1. The consistency of F29 suggests that it was in situ and had not been redeposited from elsewhere. Given that it was fronted by ditch F16 it is tempting to see it as the base of a rampart or bank.

Illus 7: Plan showing the Phase II features.



Illus 6: Ditch F16 looking north.

Ultimately, however, the upper 0.6m of the ditch at Section 2 was deliberately backfilled using a mix of clay-based turf and sand. The latter of these may have been derived from the digging of another ditch. Ditch F16 was filled in



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F29 continued south into T3 where it is designated F41. Here it was bounded on the east side by a shallow flat-bottomed linear slot (F40), measuring 0.24m wide by only 0.10m deep, filled with mottled grey sand. Immediately to the east of F40 was series of two and sometimes three parallel soil marks around 0.2m broad (F50). These were very shallow but their orientation must surely be significant.



Illus 8: F40 running diagonally across T3 from the left end of the front ranging pole to just right of the rear one. F50 to its right.

Illus 9: Looking in the opposite direction.

F40 and its associated linear marks were parallel to the ditch F16 and most of the linear features of this phase were on this or a perpendicular alignment. The largest of these was a rectangular area (F56) cut into the natural sand in T4. Its fill, a grey clay loam, was similar to that in F40. The northern side of this sunken area was in line with a rough slot (F45) observed in the north-east corner of T3. It represents the sub-floor of a timber building of sill beam construction, designated as Building A. F50 indicates the base of the sill beam on the western side. The base of F56, which stretched into T3, was flat and covered in patches of ironpanning. A large number of Roman pottery sherds and the coin of Trajan were found on this surface indicating that it was indeed an occupation level. Lying almost vertically against the eastern cut of F56 was a piece of a sandstone slab which had been used as a whetstone (Find No. 4). Two internal features were identified. F44 was an area of burning with in situ oxidation of the underlying sand and some charcoal. It contained small burnt fragments of heavily sooted pottery and calcined bone and presumably served as a cooking hearth. To the west of F44 was a small post-hole, 0.23m square and 0.30m deep, which cut into the side of F42.

To the north of F56 was a small gully (F54) with steep sloping sides and nearly a V-shaped section. It started almost in line with the east side of F56 and ran west beyond the limit of T4. Its fill of mottled orange-brown sandy loam included some pottery sherds indicating that it was left open in use. It presumably acted as an interceptor drain taking water away from the timber building on whose uphill side it lay.

A second timber building, Building B, was identified in T5. Unfortunately its northern end had been disturbed by subsequent Roman activity and these later features tend to mislead the eye. A cut in the natural to the west of F74 shows that B was similar to Building A. Parallel to and inside the cut was a band of dark charcoal rich soil (F78) c0.25m wide which extended for over 4m starting in the north along the west side of an internal hearth (see below).



Illus 10: Left – T5 looking south with F78 under the centre of the front ranging pole and the right tip of the second pole.

Illus 11: Right – The same view looking east.

The internal features included a large circular pit (F73), two small post-holes (F75 and F76), a clay-lined pit (F71), and a hearth. The hearth consisted of an area of soft pink clay (F68) 0.8m long from north to south, extending beyond the eastern edge of the trench. A solitary fire-reddened sandstone slab is all that remained of its flagged floor. To its north and south were patches of stone metalling. That to the south (F77) was of small stone and had been well rammed to form a durable flat surface. That to the north (F68) was composed of slightly larger stones set on cobbles to form a raised platform. A patch of charcoal lay over the southern end of the clay F68 and the stone of F77 (in the photographs above this patch gives the deceptive appearance of a band parallel to F78). Small pieces of iron slag occurred in many of the deposits in and around the hearth suggesting that it functioned as an iron smithy.



Illus 12: Left – metalling F77 looking south.

Illus 13: Right – the hearth F68 with sandstone slab and metalling F68 beyond, looking north.



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The clay-lined pit lay just over 1m to the south of the hearth. It had been dug into the natural sand and given a thin lining of cream coloured clay. The side sloped gently down to the base. The lining would have permitted it to retain water and its proximity to the hearth must be significant. It would have been useful for quenching hot iron.

Illus 14: Clay-lined pit F71 looking east.

The horizontal layers of silty sand and charcoal would have accumulated during use and reflect the water-borne nature of the sedimentation.



It may be simply a coincidence that the two post-holes, F75 and F76, form a line on the same alignment as the building. They appear to have been internal features perhaps associated with the working of the blacksmith's shop. Both contained a mix of yellow sand and dark brown sand with some charcoal indicating that the structure to which they belonged had been deliberately dismantled. The large pit, F73, contained a similar fill, but its upper level also had a Roman shoe, represented by the corroded hobnails. Here there was much burning and it seems that the top part of the pit provided a suitable receptacle for rubbish at the time of the demolition of building B.

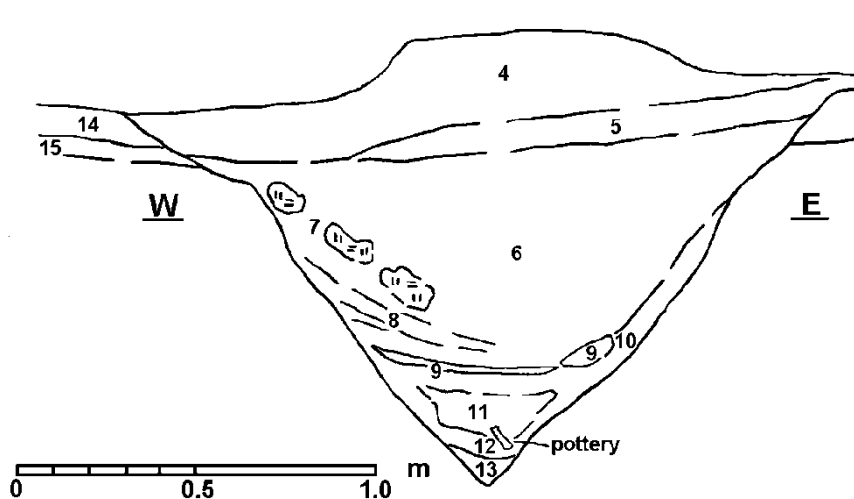


Illus 15: Pit F73 before excavation.

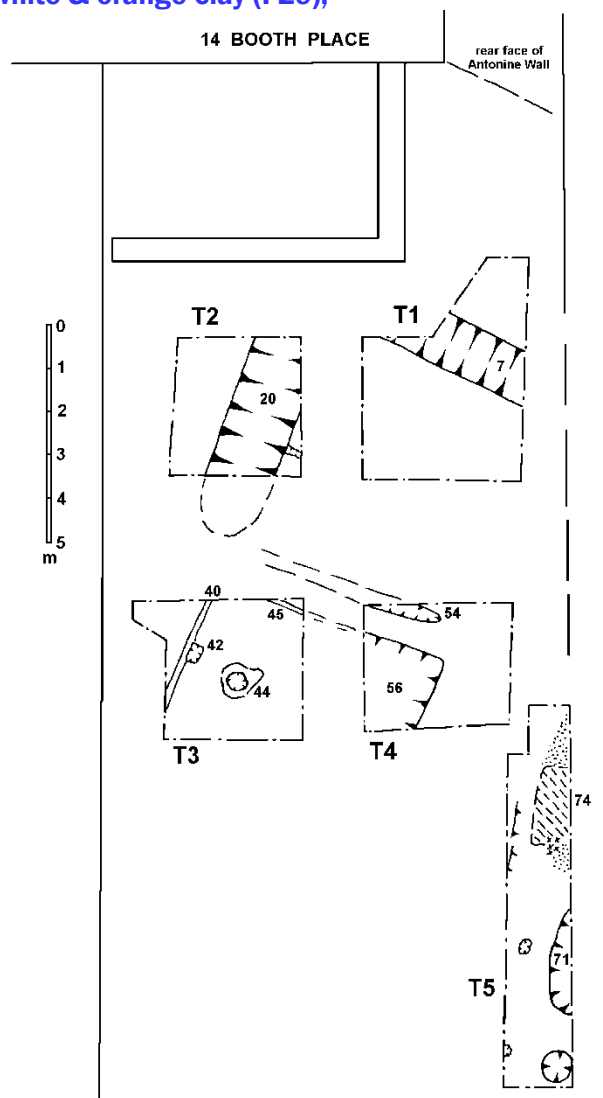
The floor of Building A was simply of trampled earth and was defined by a dark brown compact layer of charcoal-rich silty clay loam (F47) containing small pieces of calcined bone and small sherds of pottery. Here too was a burnt denarius of Trajan.

Phase III

Some of the Phase III features have already been mentioned in connection with Phase II. The N/S ditch F16 was filled in, commencing in the south. The burnt material of F17 was particularly prominent in the fill and contained pieces of furnace lining. Another ditch, F20, was dug parallel to it 2m to its west and may have been the source of some of the sandy material used to backfill its predecessor. It cut through the remnants of the rampart (F29/41), material from which subsequently slowly dribbled into it (Section 4 – layer 7). F20 appears to have been a straight forward replacement of F16. Their function is uncertain and speculation will be reserved for the discussion section. The upper part of that rampart had been levelled and partly used to fill its associated ditch (Section 2 - layer 8). Like its predecessor, F20 did not continue far southward and did not appear in T3. This may indicate that Buildings A and B were still in use.



Illus 16: Section 4 across ditch F20. 4 – grey sand with iron lines; 5 – pale cream clay; 6 – brown-orange clay loam; 7 – brown-orange clay loam with clay nodules; 8 – lenses of iron and black; 9 – pale grey clay; 10 – pale yellow-brown sand; 11 – dark brown sandy loam; 12 – pale orange sand; 13 – pale yellow sand; 14 – coarse yellow sand (F27); 15 – patchy grey, white & orange clay (F29),



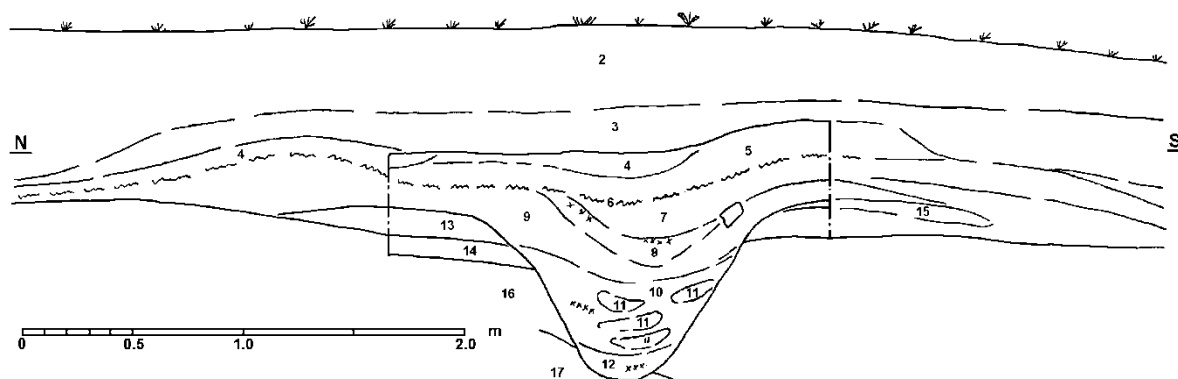
The bottom of ditch F20 quickly silted up (Section 4 - layer 13), though in this sandy soil that could represent a few days' rain wash. Along the bottom of the ditch above this were periodic dumps of clay/turf and charcoal which were reminiscent of the defensive slot containing wooden stakes seen in a similar position to the south of the Military Way (Bailey 2021, 408). That slot was also V-shaped in section and only slightly smaller in scale. The fills of F20 stabilised for a time level with the top of layer 9, after which there was slow erosion of the former rampart on the west.

Illus 17: Plan showing the Phase III & IV features.

A small W/E gully, F24, in the south-east corner of T2, ran into ditch F20 and water from it formed an erosion channel down the side. It was at this time that the thin layer of grey clay F19, mentioned above, occupied the area to the east of F20.

Phase IV

The next development on the site was the imposition of yet another small ditch. F7 was dug at right angles across the line of F20. It was much the same size, 1.2m wide and 0.8m deep, but was U-shaped in section. The spoil from its excavation was thrown to either side forming mounds and can be seen in Section 3. It was probably during the excavation of F7 that sand (F5 & F27) from it was spread over the clay floor (F19) and remnants of the rampart base.



Illus 18: Section 3 across ditch F7. 2 - topsoil; 3 - mottled orange-brown clay loam (cultivation beds); 4 - white clay; 5 - pale brown-grey sandy clay; 6 - iron panning; 7 - pale orange-brown silty clay loam; 8 - cream & pale yellow clay loam; 9 - mottled brown & yellow clay loam with charcoal flecks; 10 - dark brown-grey silty clay loam; 11 - pale blue-grey silty clay (turf blocks); 12 - yellow-brown sand; 13 - orange-brown sand with lenses of ironpanning; 14 - grey-brown silty sand (Iron Age soil); 15 - pale grey clay.

Phase V

The W/E ditch F7 was deliberately backfilled using large blocks of turf (Section 3 – layer 10-11).



Illus 19: Left – Section 3 looking east showing the turf lower fill. Illus 20: Right – turf seen in plan at the bottom of F7.

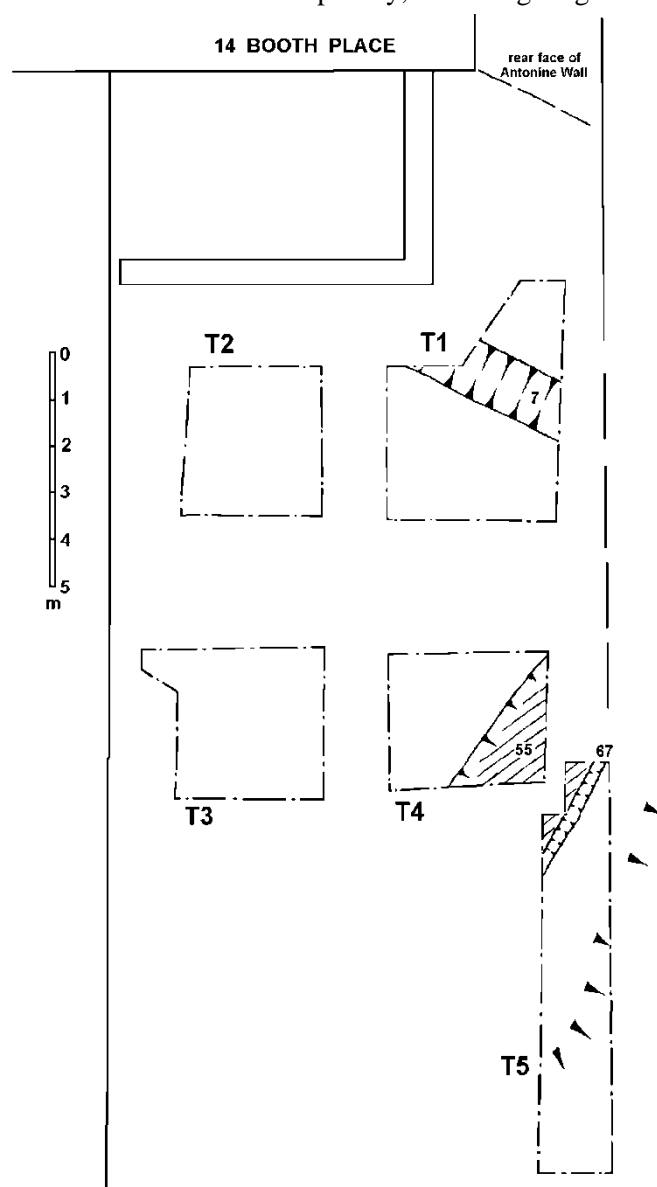
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The origin of this turf is not known. It may have derived from F55 nearby. F55 consisted of a layer of turf blocks, similar to F29, set on a slight terrace dug into the natural sand whose western cut was recorded in T4. It was fronted by a flat-bottomed slot F67, giving it a width of 2.3m – too narrow for a normal rampart (Jones 1975, 70). The top had been truncated by later activity.

F55 and its terrace were set at a slight angle to the earlier timber buildings and would have required their demolition. Broken pottery, including large un-abraded sherds of a flagon, occurred on the

metalling to the north of the hearth in Building B, where they were protected by a covering layer of yellow sand. The depth of this redeposited sand (F79) increased to the south and here tip lines could be seen showing that it was derived from a new ditch just beyond the eastern limit of the archaeological dig (the next tip layer above was designated F72). The combination of turf bank and ditch suggests an internal division within the annexe.

Illus 21: Plan of the Phase V features.



Phase VI – medieval

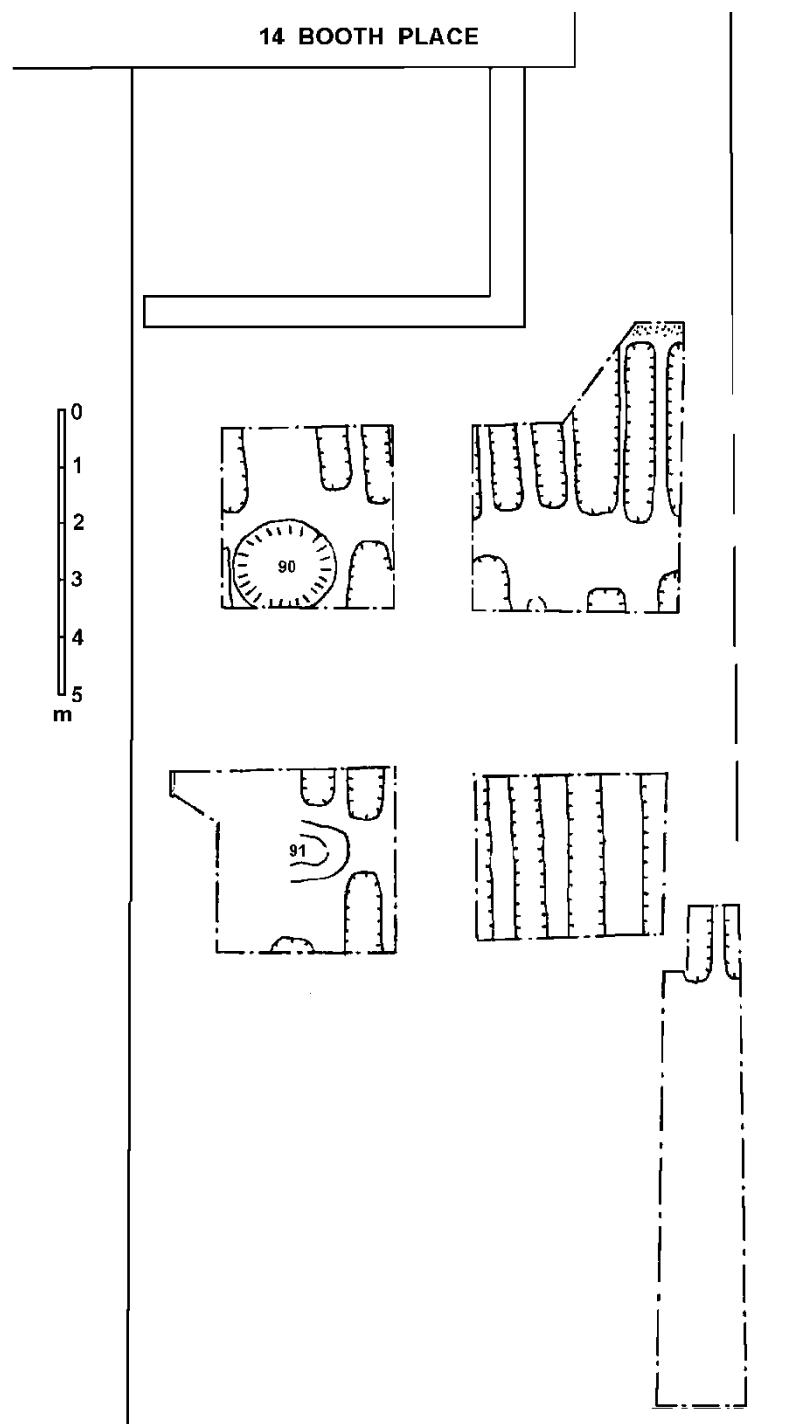
After the Roman phases the first sign of occupation comes in the medieval period in the form of a rig in T4. It occupied the whole of the eastern half of the trench and was aligned N/S. Its sloping sides were similar to those found at the Scout Hall site in 1991 and its upper fill contained some green-glazed wares and 17th century tobacco pipe fragments.

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Phase VII – late 18th century

By the late 18th century the site was part of a large garden nursery providing fruit and vegetables for the growing town of Falkirk as well as tree stocks for the local estates. For over a century it lay in the hands of the Booth family after whom Booth Place is named. In the ground this period is reflected by

a series of N/S cultivation beds which are 0.5-0.8m wide and terminate in rounded ends. These ends tend to line up suggesting rough W/E paths at these points. At the very northern end of T1 one of these paths had been metalled with stone set in clay.



Phase VIII – Rosehall House

The Victorian villa known as Rosehall House was constructed for James Neilson c1850 and the area of the present excavation was incorporated into its grounds. A N/S stone boundary wall ran under the later path between T1/T3 and T2/T4 (see trial trench). To the west of this wall were the formal garden grounds and to the east was a small grazing field.

Illus 22: Plan showing the late 18th century cultivation trenches, the Z-trench (F91) and the Lewis Gun emplacement (F90).

Phase IX – World War II

Rosehall House was occupied by the Home Guard during the Second World War and the excavations at the Scout Hall site uncovered a large number of slit trenches within its grounds. Along the eastern

side of that site these were interwoven with “Z-trenches” more typical of the previous world war. The base of one of these curving trenches was observed in the bottom of T3 cutting the late 18th century cultivation beds.

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In T2 a large circular pit, 1.8m in diameter, with radiating spade marks around its perimeter is so similar to pits found at the Scout Hall that it must have performed the same function. These were identified with the help of visiting members of the public as Lewis Gun emplacements (Bailey 2021, 415). That at 14 Booth Place would have been 0.6m deep from the contemporary ground level; to which the bank of excavated material should be added.



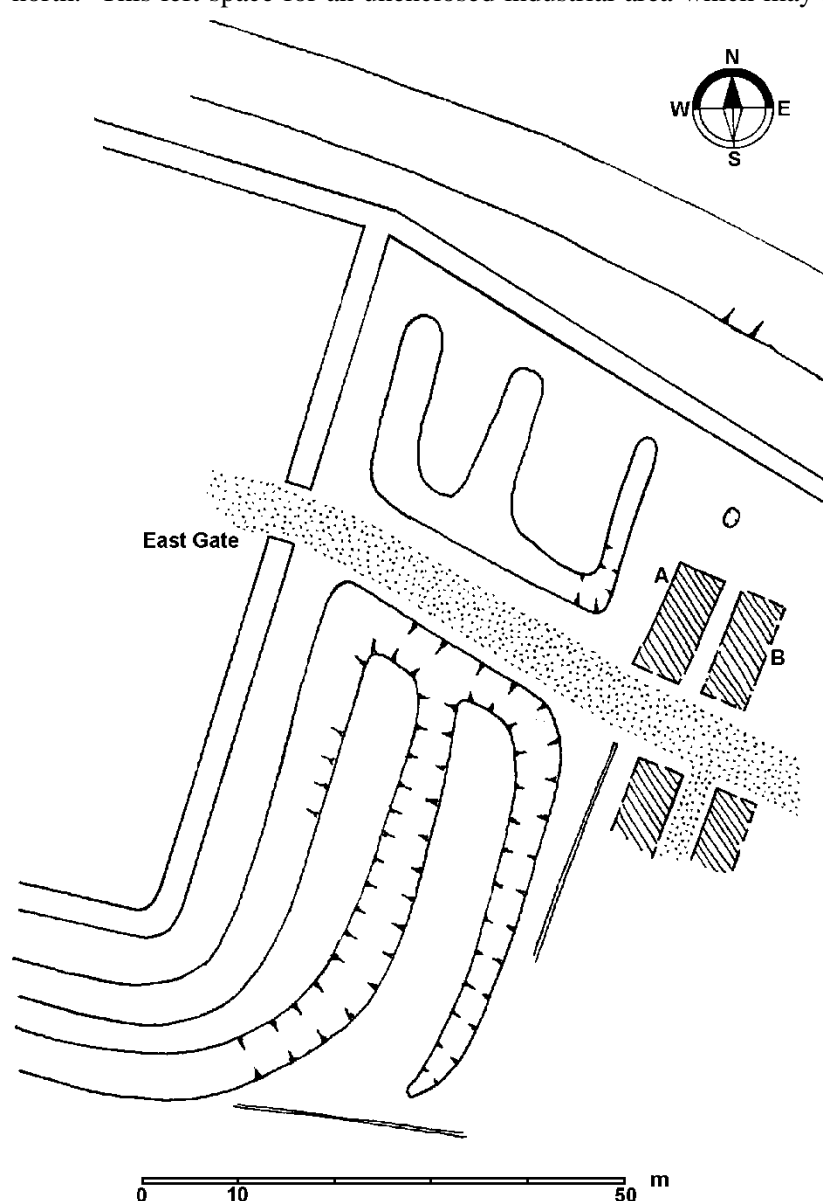
Illus 23: T2 looking NW with the Lewis Gun emplacement around the left ranging pole.

Interpretation and discussion

The discovery of ard marks on the surface of the natural sand under the thin Iron Age cultivation soil occasions no surprise. Although the marks were faint the occurrence of a series of parallel lines was sufficient to demonstrate that they were not animal burrows. Those at the southern end of T5 ran SW to NE, whilst a little to their north they were set perpendicular. The pre-Roman cultivation soil is a regular feature of town centre sites and was also observed over large areas at the Scout Hall in 1991 and Williamson Street in 2018. It is thought that the centre of the settlement at this period was in the vicinity of Wormit Hill (later the site of the bus station – Bailey 2016).

When the Roman army arrived the area was cleared and the fort and linear frontier barrier constructed. The alignment of the Antonine Wall in the vicinity of the fort shows that they were contemporary. The fort was set to take advantage of the local topography with small valleys on each side other than the east – the West Burn to the west, the Goat Burn to the south and the Howgate to the north. This left space for an unenclosed industrial area which may have been a *vicus* on the east. It

now seems pretty certain that many of the forts had such an area of extramural activity before annexes were introduced (Bailey 1994) and it is a moot question as to whether or not they housed civilians, civilian contractors, or army specialists. Three ditches separated the fort from this settlement. Buildings A and B lay just beyond any upcast from these ditches and fronted the Military Way on the south. *A priori* we would expect such buildings to have been of the so-called “strip house” type, with a gable onto the road and a long linear tail. This would fit the available evidence from 14 Booth Place where they were 5m wide and over 9m long (the position of the Military Way suggests a length of c12-14m).



Illus 24: Suggested layout of Phase IIA.

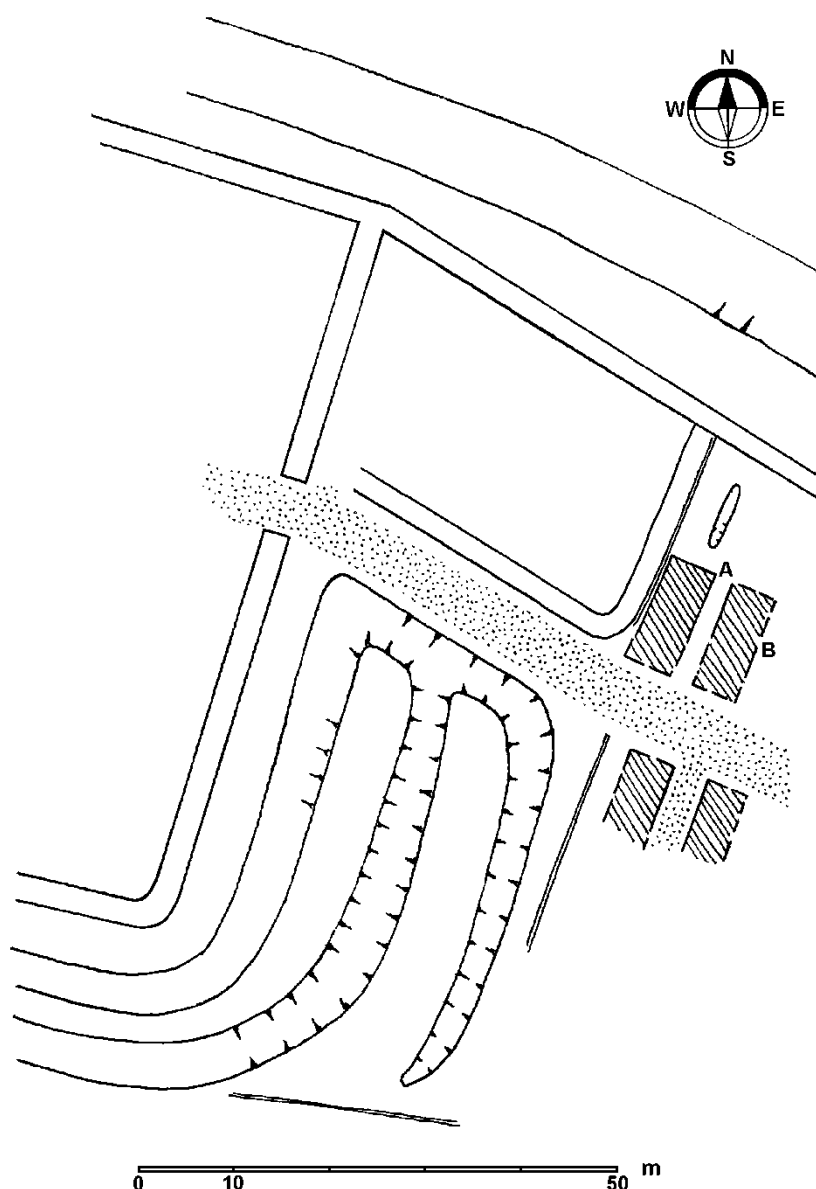
Only the rear of Building A was excavated and this contained an oven/hearth possibly associated with cooking. In a *vicus* building the rear room would have provided living accommodation or a

workshop, whilst the front room would have been a shop. In Building A the back compartment looks like living accommodation. The early date of the building is indicated not only by its stratigraphic position but also by the unworn nature of the coin of Trajan found within it. In Building B the rear

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area was associated with a workshop in connection with blacksmithing. The pit to the north, F18, may be contemporary with the construction of the buildings.

Immediately to the west of Building A was a broad N/S band of laid turf (F39/41). Its breadth was not ascertained and its height is unknown due to later truncation. A comparison to a similar feature, F55, suggests that it would have been around 2.3m wide, far less than a fort rampart - it may be more pertinent to call it a turf dyke. However, it should be noted that the clay fronted rampart of the western annexe at Falkirk was only 2.5m wide (Bailey 2021, 476). That F39/41 served a defensive function delineating the military zone to the west and the *vicus*/annexe occupation to the east is reinforced by the presence of an appropriately scaled N/S ditch (F16) to the north of Building A.



Illus 25: Suggested layout of Phase IIB.

The location of this minor “defensive” system shows that it belongs to neither the fort nor the annexe. The fort defences lay to the west and the annexe buildings continue well to the east. It must mark an internal line of demarcation within the annexe and the only parallel available is that of the “proto-annexe” at Rough Castle (Macdonald 1933). The distance from the turf dyke (F39/41) at Falkirk to the fort’s eastern rampart would be approximately 35m, whilst the equivalent measurement at Rough Castle was 33.5m. The respective internal north/south dimensions of these inner enclosures were c20m and 15m. The major difference is that at Rough Castle this enclosure was contemporary with the fort and consequently there were no fort ditches there, whereas at Falkirk the fort ditches were filled in to incorporate either the enclosure in question or the annexe. In neither case is the purpose of

the inner annexe enclosure known. From the diminutive size of the ditch and rampart it seems to have been of lesser military importance than the fort. At Falkirk it was clearly not felt worthwhile to remove Building A in order to extend the ditch along the full length of the enclosure.

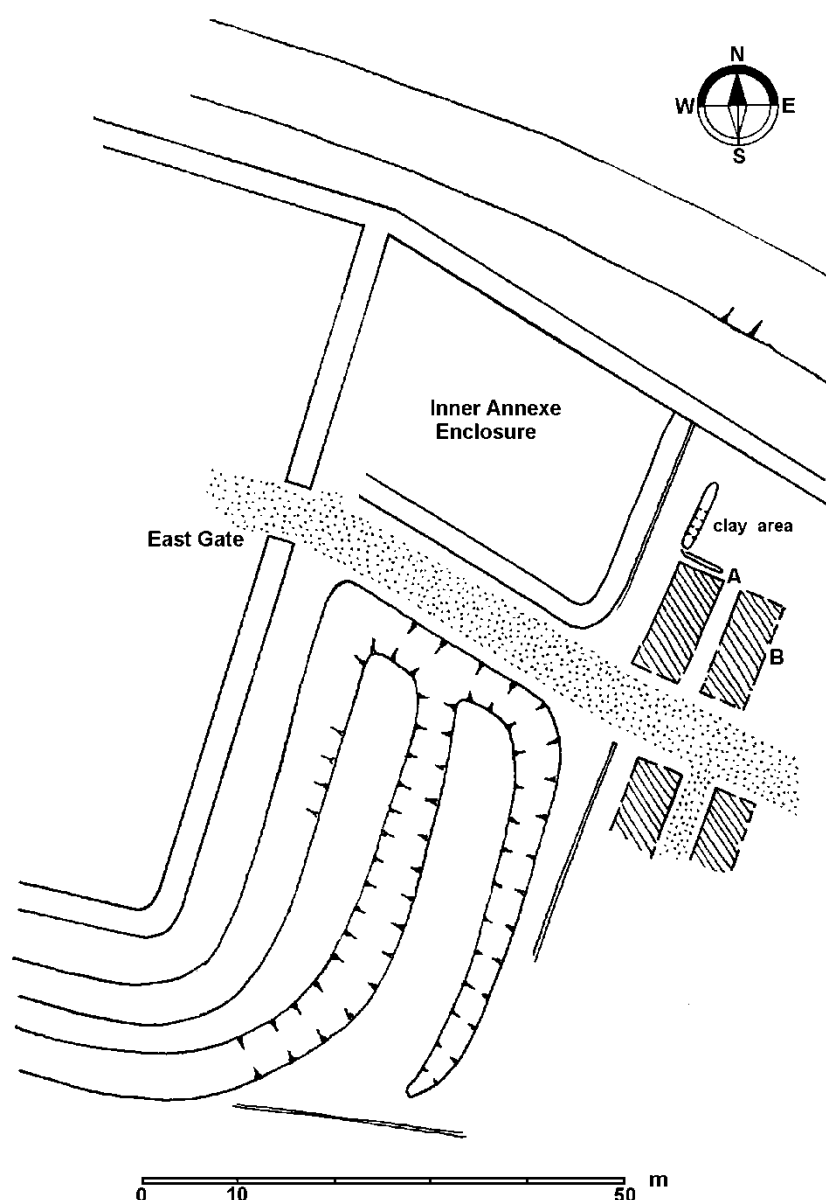
Comparatively scaled enclosures occur at fortlets (Bailey & Cannel 1996) where it was suggested that they might house unsavoury features such as latrines due to the limited nature of the accommodation within the fortlets. However, this cannot have been the case at the forts where latrines formed an essential adjunct to the internal bathhouses (Bailey 1994). The only indication of function at Rough

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Castle was the persistence of the inner annexe enclosure which had a cobbled surface and went through several modifications,. The cobbling suggested to Macdonald the possibility of a barrack-yard for drill (Macdonald 1933, 261). This seems highly unlikely and an area outside the south gate of Rough Castle would be more appropriate for the parade ground. Nor does it seem likely that they were for essential stores for which there was adequate space within the forts. Lying adjacent to the fort gates clearly rules out a place of refuge or flight for the occupants of the annexe/vicus. One possibility is that the occupants of these inner enclosures exercised some form of oversight over the extended settlement/annexe, bridging the gulf between the fort commander and the official in charge of the annexe.

The inner annexe enclosure at Falkirk was also long-lived and it too was altered over its lifetime. The first ditch (F16) was replaced by a similar one (F20) on the same alignment only a few metres to the

west. Presumably this involved a corresponding shift of the turf dyke to the west. Even later the whole thing was relocated 8m to the east (F55 et al) – but that is to anticipate. F16 was filled in from the south using furnace material that in all probability came from Building B and then sand from the excavation of F20.



Illus 26: Suggested layout of Phase III.

The new short ditch (F20) may have been contemporary with ditch F7 which ran perpendicular to it on a course that took it parallel to the rampart of the Antonine Wall and some 5m to its south. Unfortunately, the point of junction between these two ditches was not available for investigation but the fact that F16 was covered with sand which also occurs to the west of F20 whilst neither F20 nor F7 were thus encumbered shows that they were both later than F16. On balance, it seems that F20 was probably the earlier and a direct replacement for F16. Almost

at the very bottom of F20 were sherds from a jar of Falkirk Ware. This pottery is not found on any other fort along the Antonine Wall and must have been manufactured at Falkirk, most probably in the adjacent annexe/vicus.

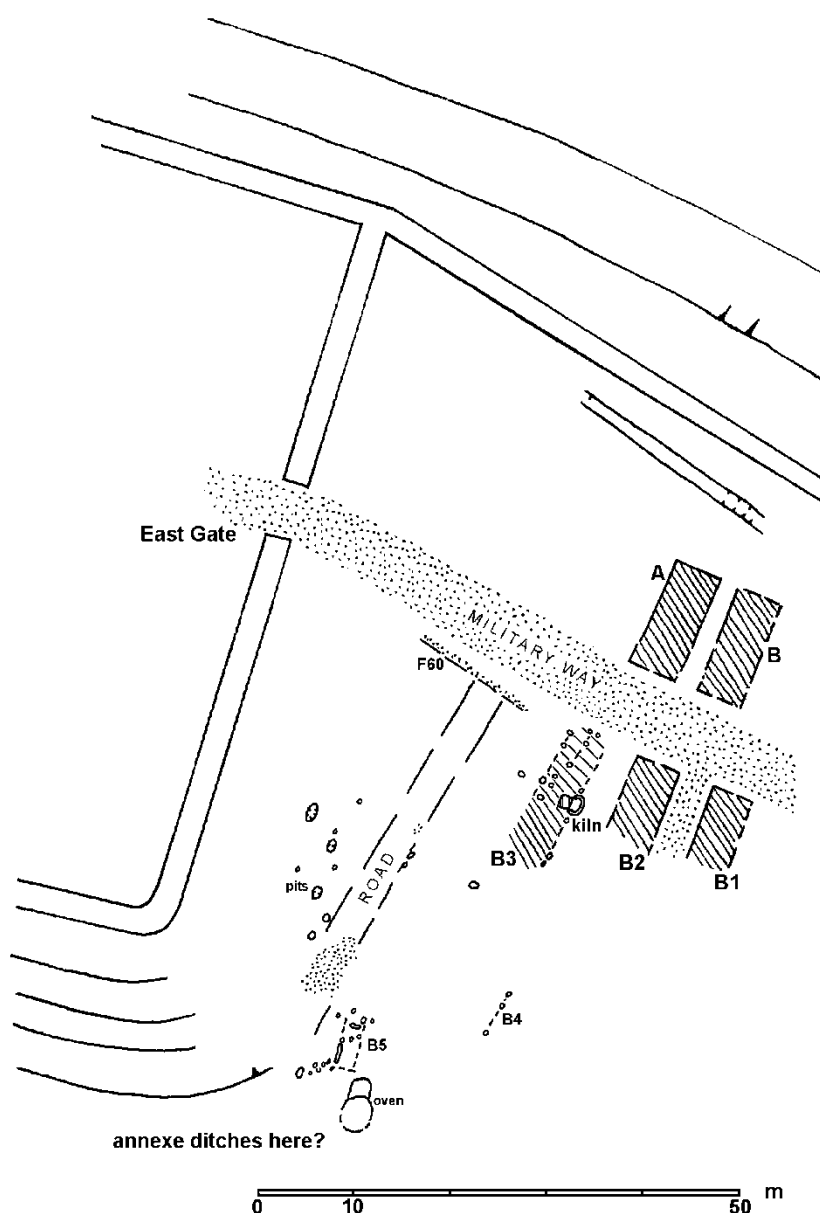
The area to the north of Buildings A and B and to the east of Ditch F20 was covered by a thin spread of mottled grey clay (F19) averaging only 0.04m thick. As noted above, this was quite even and

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compact suggesting trampling and eventually resulted in the formation of a layer of ironpanning. The clay must have been brought in to create this open floor. The gully F54 was placed to catch the run-off rainwater from this area.

Ditch F7 is a most curious feature. It clearly cut the fill of F16 and was itself deliberately backfilled with turf. For how far it shadowed the Antonine Rampart is not known. Further west a small trial trench near the door in the west gable of 16 Booth Place (Trench B – Bailey 2021, 433) located laid turf in a feature cut into the natural sand on this line. Its alignment within the confined space available was difficult to judge but it was deeper to the west than the east which would be consistent with an extension of F7. Although only 0.7m deep from the ground surface from which it was dug, the upcast was spread to either side increasing this to 1.0m. A conventional defensive ditch would normally have the material thrown to the outer side. It was not for drainage – the sandy soil obviates

such a need and in any case its scale is much too large. The only possibility that comes to mind is that it was to demarcate a “militarised” zone or cordon sanitaire behind the wall. This may have been as much a matter of preventing physical features from obstructing access to the rear of the Wall, such as buildings, as it was to keeping people out. West of Mumrills there seems to have been a tendency to create lean-to structures against the rear of the Rampart. The intervallum road in the fort provided a similar function. This, of course, assumes that the Rampart had a wall walk where it fronted the annexe.



Illus 27: Suggested layout of Phase IV.

On Hadrian's Wall the role of defining a military cordon has sometimes been attributed to the Vallum and it is usually noted that the early occupation interpreted as being civilian generally lies beyond it. It, however, had a very short life, but the concept may still have been

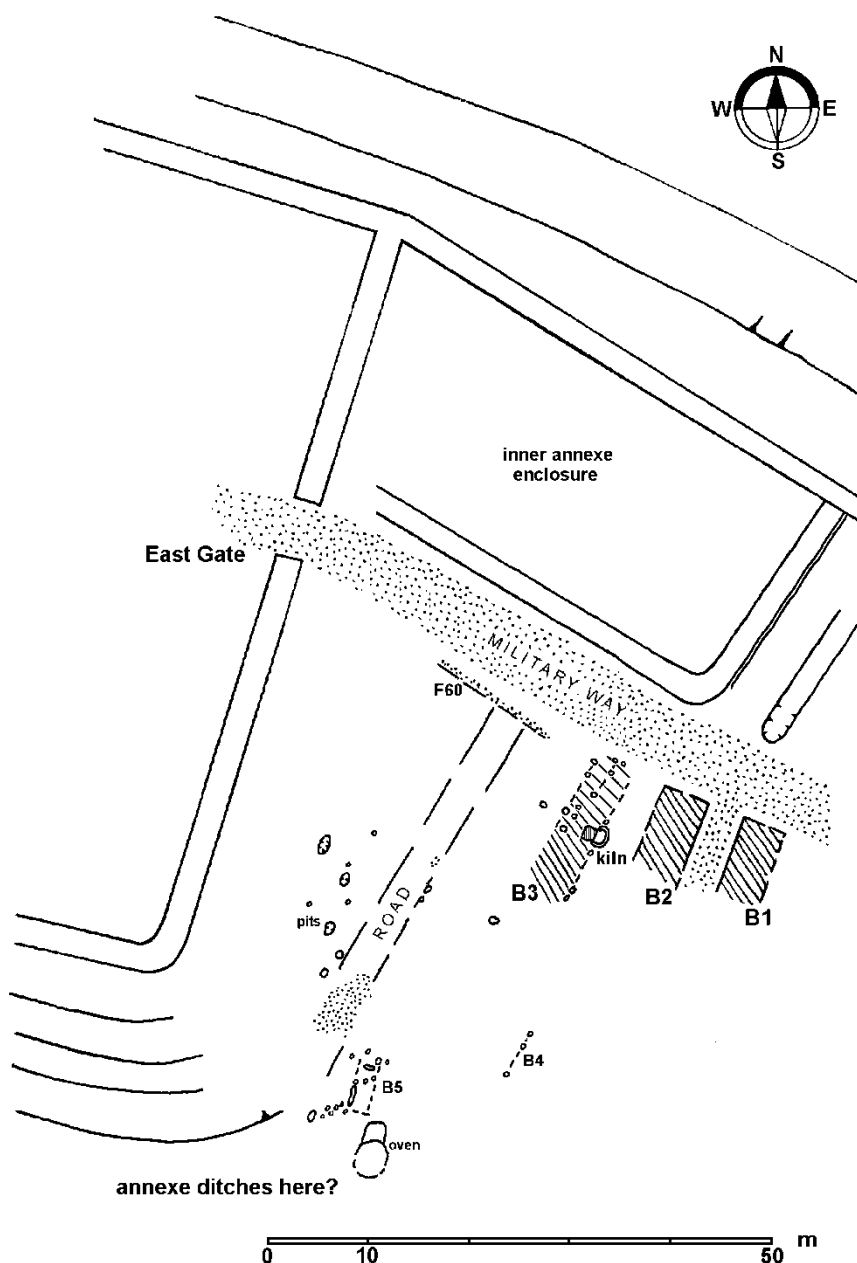
valid and formed part of a template for the new frontier. The construction of the Antonine Wall faced the Roman engineers with a number of new problems. The method of attaching a fort to a linear barrier had been explored on Hadrian's Wall and a successful solution was eventually found and adopted in the late 130s AD (Bailey 2021, 101-106) and then used on the Antonine frontier. The question of the provision of a Vallum must also have arisen and the unenclosed nature of the original “military” extramural areas of activity and the temporary provision of internal bathhouses might

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suggest that such a feature was intended for the Antonine frontier. Elsewhere I have suggested that a modified version was intended for the Antonine Wall (Bailey 1994) and that its final rejection some time after building work had begun led to the construction of the annexe defences. This would have led to a considerable saving in labour and time.

However, if these extramural settlements were in part occupied by civilians under the protection of the military the need for segregation of activities would again arise. To prevent access to the back of the Wall for these individuals a ditch such as F7 was required. This would only have been necessary within the annexes. As the interiors of annexes have been so little studied we have no way of knowing if Falkirk was unique. The existing geophysical surveys are of little help in this respect as they would have some difficulty in distinguishing a small ditch that had been deliberately backfilled in the shadow of the Rampart and many of the surveys do not even cover this area.

It should also be considered a possibility that the early date of Buildings A and B at Falkirk might mean that they belong to this first period of unenclosed extramural occupation. That they were there before the inner enclosure was added seems a reasonable assumption given the very close proximity of the turf dyke to Building A, as well as the short length of its associated ditches.



It is hard to see how the parallel ditch and the inner annexe enclosure could have co-existed. If this was the time that ditch F20 was filled in then we can say that pottery was made at Falkirk from an early date in the Roman occupation which was also an impression gained at the Scout Hall site. It is possible that this experiment in demarcation was soon abandoned or at least that there was a realisation that it was not necessary in the inner annexe enclosure. F7 was deliberately backfilled in this area and the enclosure restored on a slightly larger scale. The origin of this turf used to backfill F7 is not known. Rampart F29 had already been removed and it may have derived from the construction of the new rampart F55 nearby. It is also possible that it was at this time that the southern turf cheek of the Antonine Rampart was replaced with a cheek of clay.

Illus 28: Suggest layout of Phase V.

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The extra space required for the enlarged inner annexe enclosure was made available by demolishing Buildings A and B. That they were demolished in an orderly manner is suggested by the disposal of rubbish over their floor levels, many large unworn sherds of pottery, the mixed nature of the fill of the post-holes, and the careful disposal of rubbish in pits.

Thus the suggested chronology runs as follows:

- Buildings A and B built to front the Military Way just beyond the upcast of the ditches of the fort as part of an unenclosed settlement or vicus. Phase IIA.
- The fort ditches to the north of the Military Way infilled and an inner enclosure created adjacent to Building A. Phase IIB.
- Inner enclosure ditch replaced by one slightly further west to keep its associated turf dyke away from Building A. Phase III.
- The remaining fort ditches to the south of the Military Way filled using material dug from new ditches enclosing the settlement as part of a lightly-defended annexe (Bailey 2021 409, 428).
- Inner enclosure removed and a small demarcation ditch dug along the south side of the Antonine Wall within the annexe to separate its occupants or its buildings from that military structure. Phase IV.
- Inner enclosure reinstated and the demarcation ditch filled in within it. Buildings A and B demolished. Phase V.
- Wall abandoned and Rampart collapses.

The extension to the inner enclosure is represented by the new turf dyke (F55) set in a slight terrace and a ditch, only the upcast from which was seen in the present excavation piled up against the foot of that dyke. The new set up meant that the accompanying ditch could reach the Military Way and there is a hint in the disposition of the upcast that it may have turned west to front that road in the same manner as did the ditch at Rough Castle. The old turf dyke (F29/41) was fronted on the east by a slot (F40) and so was the new dyke (F55 fronted by F67). These flat-bottomed slots presumably held timber frameworks to face the dykes (at Rough Castle Macdonald proposed a wooden fence based upon a series of postholes).

It is noteworthy that the turf blocks used in the “ramparts” of the inner annexe enclosure had a high-clay substrate which is not found in the immediate area. The source of the turf was evidently selected to produce coherent blocks and must have been brought to the site in carts. Clay was also imported for use in the ovens, hearths and furnaces, and for the clay floor in the open space behind Buildings A and B. The superstructures of these buildings would also have incorporated large quantities of this material. It could have been quarried from the carseland a mile to the north-east but a more convenient source would have been the Hill of Falkirk to the south-west; convenient because its transport would have been downhill. In the post-medieval period the feuars of the town had the right to excavate clay from this area for building purposes. They also took divots for the same reason. Small quantities of high-quality coal were also found in the Roman levels at 14 Booth Place and from previous such finds it is clear that the Romans at Falkirk were using it as a fuel. It too could have come from the Hill of Falkirk near South Bantaskine, though a source near Laurieston is more likely.

The next event recorded in the stratigraphy was the collapse of the southern clay face of the Antonine Wall onto the area of the infilled ditches (Section 3, layer 4). There was no indication of the length of time that elapsed between that and the previous construction work. There is then a lengthy silence during which a large quantity of red-brown clay loam accumulated. This soil could have been derived from the core of the Roman Ramparts and material brought in as fertiliser. The soil, although poor in quality, is mixed suggesting that it was a cultivation soil. The next feature on the site was a broad furrow which was observed in the eastern half of T5. This was part of a rigg and furrow system observed at the Scout Hall site. Its upper fill contained 17th century material, but typologically it would date to the 13-14th century and may have been in used for centuries. Riggs were part of the

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agrarian system which parcelled out plots of land near settlements on a periodic basis and led to little improvement in soil structure.

By the end of the 18th century the land was being parcelled up into individual holdings and a large area eventually fell into the hands of the Booth family. Advanced intensive horticultural practices led to a great improvement in soil quality and the area provided a large proportion of the town's requirements for vegetables and fruit. The cultivation beds belong to this period. By the end of that century it was also producing saplings for the enclosure of fields on the local estates. It continued to do so into the 19th century and the family gained an international reputation. However, the growth of the town and competition from outside meant that food became less profitable. Peter Booth, the last of the family to own this part of the nursery, was trained as a solicitor and acted as the town clerk. In 1850 he arranged for the construction of a new road leading westward from Cow Wynd and a few years later the eastern end was built up (Bailey 2017). However, it was the 1920s before the bungalows to the south of Booth Place were constructed.

The discovery of a Lewis Gun emplacement is of particular interest to Second World War studies. Even though it was known that Rosehall House had been occupied by the Home Guard during the war it was an unexpected find as this area was no longer in the grounds of that mansion at the time. Its location is interesting as it occupies the high ground and would have given a clear line of fire through the gardens to the south and east, but not to the west or north. It was part of the defence in depth of the town and in particular of one of the principal approaches from the south. It was designed to stop flanking movements by infantry troops of the post at Rosehall. Falkirk was one of only two places in the district which in 1944 were to be defended to the last bullet and the last man – the other nodal point being Slamannan.

In the light of the allied discovery of a Z-trench we need also to review the work of 1991 (Bailey 2021, 415). There the single Z-trench was considered to be part of the same training exercise as the multiplicity of slit trenches in the same area. However, the fact that it appears to have extended north into the garden of 14 Booth Place strongly suggests that it formed part of a perimeter defence of Rosehall, which in turn would have been part of the perimeter defences of the town.

FINDS

1. Sestertius

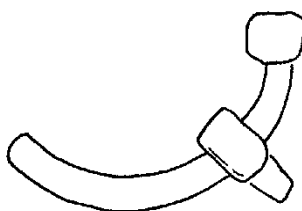
Bronze coin of Trajan, 114-117AD. Obverse: laureate head right - IMP CAES NER TRAIANO OPTIMO AVG GER DAC PARTHICO P M TR P COS VI P P. Reverse: Providentia standing left with right hand pointing at a large globe below, left elbow resting on a column and holding a vertical sceptre.

Dia: 32mm; W: 11g; axis: 180 degrees. RIC 663

Condition: centre poor and hence the very low weight. Very little wear. From F47.



2. Brooch; penannular



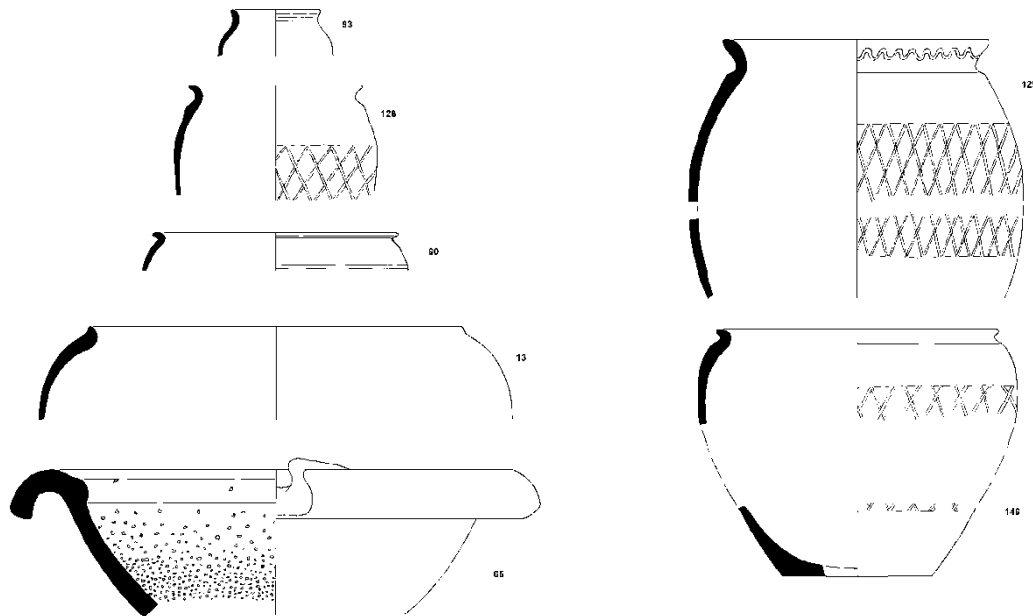
Knob terminal and pin loop of copper alloy from a penannular brooch in very poor condition – the patina has sheared away from the surface. The internal diameter is 21mm. F58

4. Whetstone

Roughly rectangular slab of micaceous sandstone, c22cm x 14cm and 18mm thick, with 8 diagonal incisions across one corner. Adjacent to these the surface has been worn away as the result of polishing. The stone was found lying almost vertically against the side of the rectangular hollow cut for the sub-floor of Building 1, F56.



5. Pottery



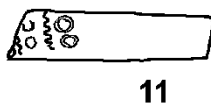
Illus: Roman pottery. For description see the reference number in the catalogue below. Scale 1:4.

Samian

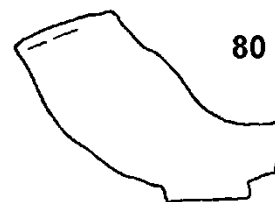


Illus: Decorated samian, scale 1:1.

Tobacco pipes



124



80

Illus: Tobacco pipes, scale 1:1.

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Full catalogue

Date terms used:

R – Roman; PM – post-medieval

Ref	name	description	date	context
1	sestertius	Bronze coin of Trajan, 114-117AD. Obverse: laureate head right - IMP CAES NER TRAIANO OPTIMO AVG GER DAC PARTHICO P M TR P COS VI P P. Reverse: Providentia standing left with right hand pointing at a large globe below, left elbow resting on a column and holding a vertical sceptre. Dia: 32mm; W: 11g; axis: 180 degrees. RIC 663 Condition: centre poor and hence the very low weight.	R	F47
2	brooch, penannular	Terminal and pin loop of copper alloy penannular brooch in very poor condition.	R	F58
3	pipe; tobacco	Bowl of a clay tobacco pipe with a star stamp on the spur indicating that it was made in Stirling, 1640-1660	PM	F2
4	whetstone	Roughly rectangular slab of micaceous sandstone, c22cm x 14cm and 18mm thick, with 8 diagonal incisions across one corner. Adjacent to these the surface has been worn away as the result of polishing.	R	F56
5	samian	body sherd with ribbed interior, Form 27. L.48mm.	R	F65
6	iron object	lump of iron. L.42mm.	R	F65
7	amphora	1 body shed of a Dr 22. W124g.	R	F2 in T5
8	oxidised ware	2 body sherds of a thin-walled bulbous bowl/beaker.	R	F2 in T5
9	green-glazed ware; oxidised	1 rim sherd from a flanged bowl; 5 body sherds.	PM	F2 in T5
10	green-glazed ware; reduced	3 body sherds.	PM	F2 in T5
11	pipe; tobacco	5 plain stem fragments and one with rouletted pattern. The latter has a pink tint and may be Dutch. The design consists of alternating bands of a narrow wavy lines and rings.	PM	F2 in T5
12	flagon	5 joining and 9 other body sherds from a flagon in orange fabric with cream external slip. The narrow grooves on the outside were probably meant to be decorative.	R	F68
13	black-burnished ware	2 joining base sherds, 11 body sherds with lattice decoration from jars; and 1 rim sherd from a different closed-neck jar with external sooting (illus).	R	F68
14	beaker	1 small body sherd in thin dark grey fabric in a silky fabric from a poppyhead beaker. L.28mm.	R	F68
15	beaker	beaker – 1 small body sherd from a beaker in micaceous orange-brown fabric with grey slip. L.	R	F68
16.	daub	daub – 4 pieces of daub, w80g.	R	F68
17	coal	coal – 2 pieces of good quality coal.	R	F68
18	mortarium	mortarium rim in hard cream fabric. L.69mm.	R	F65
19	black-burnished ware	1 rim shed from a jar with chunky everted rim; 1 rim sherd from a jar with heavily sooted cavetto rim; 1 rim sherd from a small bowl (cf 5.34 no 23); 1 base	R	F65

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		sherd.		
20	Falkirk Ware	1 body sherd from the shoulder of a jar. L36mm.	R	F65
21.	rod; clay	short length of twisted ceramic rod in orange-brown fabric with grey core. L.34mm.	R	F65
22	daub	daub – 10 small pieces of burnt daub. W168g.	R	F65
23	iron object	iron object – an L-shaped wrought iron object with a square section, 40mm and 60mm in length.	R	F65
24	charcoal	Charcoal – fragments of burned wood.	R	F65
25	shoe	shoe – corroded mass of hobnails.	R	F67
26	daub	daub – 1 piece of burnt clay, w.23g	R	F67
27	grey ware	1 body sherd in hard grey fabric with external sooting; 1 small body sherd in grey fabric with lattice decoration.	R	F67
28	black-burnished ware	1 small body sherd, L. 32mm.	R	F67
29	black-burnished ware	3 joining base sherds from a jar; 2 small body sherds.	R	F64
30	grey ware	1 almost complete base sherd of a jar, 1 shoulder sherd.	R	F64
31	Falkirk ware	1 body sherd. L.24mm.	R	F64
32	beaker	1 body sherd with dimples from a poppyhead beaker. L.29mm.	R	F64
33	iron object	Heavy rectangular object of wrought iron, 80 x 26 x 5mm.	R	F64
34	daub	8 pieces of daub including a cylindrical one. W.54g.	R	F64
35	slag	a piece of iron slag.	R	F64
36	pipe; tobacco	1 stem fragment – 17 th century; 1 stem fragment with spur – 19 th century.	PM	F22
37	green-glazed ware; oxidised	1 strap handle sherd.	PM	F22
38	green-glazed ware; reduced	2 body sherds.	PM	F22
39	green-glazed ware; oxidised	1 corrugated rim sherd from a jar; 1 everted rim sherd from a small beaker.	PM	F11
40	green-glazed ware; reduced	1 large body sherd and 2 small ones.	PM	F11
41	pipe; tobacco	1 stem fragment – 17 th century; 1 burnt stem fragment – 19 th century.	PM	F11
42	black-burnished ware	1 cavetto rim sherd from a small jar, burnt; 2 body sherds.	R	F56
43	daub	2 pieces of burnt clay, w.48g	R	F56
44	daub	4 pieces of burnt clay, w.30g	R	F57
45	nail	1 very corroded nail and a lump of iron	R	F57
46	black-burnished ware	1 base sherd	R	F57
47	Falkirk Ware	5 very small body sherds.	R	F57
48	mortarium	1 large rim sherd with half of the pouring spout of a mortarium in white fabric with an orange-brown slip. The trituration grit are predominantly angular red, with angular grey.	R	F31
49	samian; decorated	1 small body sherd of Form 37.	R	F56
50	black-	1 small body sherd.	R	F56

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	burnished ware			
51	Falkirk Ware	1 small body sherd from the shoulder of a jar.	R	F56
52	daub	2 pieces of burnt clay. W.14g.	R	F56
53	nail	2 nails with round heads and square shanks; 5 small lumps of wrought iron.	R	F65
54	bone	2 fragments of burnt bone.	R	F65
55	charcoal	Small sample of burnt wood.	R	F65
56	denarius	Heavily burnt silver denarius turned purple by the heat. Dia.17mm. The broad bust suggests Trajan.	R	F65
57	black-burnished ware	9 body sherds of black-burnished ware with external sooting.	R	F65
58	Falkirk Ware	1 heavily burnt body sherd with lattice decoration – is this a waster?	R	F65
59	oxidised ware	2 small joining body sherds.	R	F65
60	beaker	1 rim sherd in fawn fabric with dark grey-brown slip – Rhenish? Two grooves on the shoulder.	R	F65
61	green-glazed ware; oxidised	5 body sherds.	PM	F69
62	green-glazed ware; oxidised	1 large body sherd of a large jar with green glaze on both sides. Wavy line decoration.	PM	F69.
63	slip ware	1 body sherd in thin hard brick red fabric with brown glaze and a yellow streak.	PM	F69
64	pipe; tobacco	1 short stem fragment – 17 th century	PM	F10
65	Iron object	13 pieces of rod-shaped iron of small diameter.	PM	F10 above iron panning
66	amphora	1 body sherd in slightly pink fabric with cream slip, w.55g	R	F55 top of
67	Falkirk Ware	1 base and 1 body sherd.	R	F55 top of
68	black-burnished ware	3 body sherds, sooted.	R	F55 top of
69	oxidised ware	2 thin body sherds in orange fabric with cream external slip.	R	F55 top of
70	daub	8 pieces of burnt clay, w.100g.	R	F55 top of
71	iron	Very corroded fragments of a shoe and nails	R	F55 top of
72	bone	1 small piece of calcined bone.	R	F55 top of
73	beaker	1 small body sherd of a poppyhead beaker with barbotine decoration.	R	F55 top of
74	pipe; tobacco	5 stem fragments	PM	F32
75	green-glazed ware; reduced	2 body and 1 strap handle sherd.	PM	F32
76	oxidised ware	1 broad rim sherd from an oval dish – medieval	M	F32
77	mortarium	1 rim sherd in white fabric	R	F1
78	black-burnished ware	1 cavetto rim sherd with angled shoulder. Burnt. L.61mm.	R	F1
79	stopper	White ceramic internal screw chisel type stopper for an aerated water bottle – rubber ring perished. The thread is widely spaced showing that this is an early model. “W GOW” in green along the top. “C PATENT” on side difficult to read due to glaze.	Modern	F2
80	pipe; tobacco	Complete bowl, c1660-1680. No stamp or lettering.	PM	F2
81	pipe; tobacco	7 stem fragments; 1 stem/mouthpiece fragment with brown glaze.	PM	F2

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82	salt glaze	1 body sherd of a salt-glazed jug, such as a bellarmine.	PM	F2
83	green-glazed ware; reduced	1 base, 1 rod handle, 10 body and 3 rim sherds (2 of which are bulbous bowls).	PM	F2
84	slip ware	2 rim sherds of bowls, 1 thin body sherd with brown glaze and yellow runs.	PM	F2
85	amphora	1 body sherd of Dressel 22. W.159g.	R	F69
86	black-burnished ware	1 tiny body sherd.	R	F69
87	hobnail	2 corroded hobnails.	R	F69
88	shoe	3 pieces of iron corrosion containing hobnails.	R	F7
89	black-burnished ware	1 everted rim sherd of a large bowl, 1 body sherd of a jar, 5 sherds from the basal angle of a thick bowl, 2 heavily burnt body sherds.	R	F7
90	nail	Small wrought iron nail.	R	F7
91	coke	A piece of fired coal.	R	F7
92	flagon	2 large joining base sherds and a body sherd in pale orange fabric with cream external slip. Cf No.69.	R	F70
93	beaker	1 rim sherd in thin brown-orange fabric. L.25mm.	R	F70
94	slag	2 lumps of aerated iron slag.	R	F70
95	glass	5 small thick pieces of aquamarine glass from the base of a square bottle.	R	F70
96	daub	4 pieces of fires clay. w.96g.	R	F70
97	nail	1 bent nail L.65mm.	R	F70
98	beaker	1 complete base and 6 body sherds (one with barbotine dots) from a poppyhead beaker.	R	F70
99	Falkirk Ware	1 cavetto rim sherd with wavy line decoration and a square shoulder, plus 10 body sherds from the same jar.	R	F70
100	grey ware	5 body sherds.	R	F70
101	black-burnished ware	1 everted rim sherd from a bowl, 2 joining rim sherds from a plain closed-neck jar, 2 joining rim sherds from a flanged bowl, 2 joining rim cavetto rim sherds from a jar, 2 base and 7 small body sherds – some heavily burnt.	R	F70
102	amphora	4 joining sherds forming a complete rim of a Dr 22. From the base of the ditch. W.508g.	R	F16
103	mortarium	1 small rim sherd from a small mortarium in white fabric. L.27mm.	R	F71
104	black-burnished ware	1 small body sherd.	R	F71
105	mortarium	1 small & 1 tiny body sherds of a mortarium in white fabric with angular red trituration grit.	R	F27
106	mortarium	1 large rim sherd of a mortarium in white fabric with angular red trituration grit and some grey. Same as Nos. 48, 105. L.218mm.	R	F49
107	black-burnished ware	3 body sherds, burnt.	R	F49
108	green-glazed ware; reduced	4 small body sherds	PM	F49
109	slip ware	1 rim sherd and 1 plain body sherd.	PM	F49
110	pipe; tobacco	4 stem fragments.	PM	F49
111	green-glazed	1 small body sherd with wavy line decoration.	PM	F58

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	ware			
112	black-burnished ware	1 body sherd, burnt.	R	F58
113	pipe; tobacco	11 stem fragments & 1 fragment from a 17 th century bowl.	PM	F2
114	green-glazed ware; reduced	8 body sherds.	PM	F2
115	thimble	Copper alloy thimble with fine lattice grooves and ribbed dome top. H20mm, dia.17mm.	PM	F2
116	pipe; tobacco	3 fragments of bowls and 11 stems.	PM	F2
117	green-glazed ware; reduced	9 body sherds.	PM	F2
118	green-glazed ware; oxidised	1 rim and 4 body sherds.	PM	F2
119	slip ware	1 body sherd in brown glaze with yellow trails.	PM	F2
120	flagon	1 ribbed strap handle and three thin body sherds from a small flagon in soft cream fabric.	R	F59
121	black-burnished ware	2 joining angular cavetto rim sherds with sooting, 4 body sherds.	R	F59
122	daub	2 pieces of burnt clay. w.18g.	R	F59
123	bone	1 fragment of long bone.	R	F59
124	pipe; tobacco	Fragment of a clay tobacco pipe bowl with floral relief decoration. L.22mm. The style suggests early 19 th century.	PM	F59
125	beaker	1 body sherd in black fabric with grey interior, barbotine dots, poppyhead beaker.	R	F59
122	black-burnished ware	2 small body sherds.	R	F72
123	bone	Calcined bone, L.63mm.	R	F72
124	fired clay	1 small piece of fired clay.	R	F72
125	black-burnished ware	1 cavetto rim sherd, 9 small body sherds.	R	F47
126	Falkirk Ware	1 rim sherd of a small jar (illus), 2 small body sherds. Joins No. 131.	R	F47
127	iron object	Corroded iron bar, L.91mm.	R	F47
128	bone	1 small fragment of calcined bone.	R	F47
129	Falkirk Ware	5 rim and 2 body sherds from a cavetto-rimmed jar. Wavy line decoration under the rim and lattice on the body. From the bottom of the ditch.	R	F20
130	daub	2 small pieces of burnt clay. w.8g.	R	F20
131	beaker	1 rim and 1 body sherd of a small jar or beaker in hard orange fabric with black/brown burnished exterior – Falkirk Ware? Joins No. 126	R	F44
132	beaker	Body sherd in thin orange-brown fabric.	R	F44
133	black-burnished ware	1 tiny body sherd.	R	F44
134	bone	5 small pieces of calcined bone.	R	F44
135	stoneware	1 large body sherd from a large jar with ribbed shoulder and brown external glaze. L.114mm.	PM	F2
136	green-glazed ware	1 body sherd & 1 rim sherd.	PM	F2
137	pipe; tobacco	2 tobacco pipe stems. The pinkish-brown one may be Dutch.	PM	F2

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138	Falkirk Ware	3 rim and 15 body sherds from the same jar as No.129.	R	F20
139	slag	1 piece of slag from the lining of a furnace.	R	F2
140	coarseware	2 base sherds in burnt grey fabric . Roman?	R	F2
141	daub	1 piece of burnt clay. w.10g.	R	F47
142	bone	1 small piece of burnt bone.	R	F47
143	slag	1 piece of slag from a furnace lining with a glassy outer face and curved internal face. The centre has the appearance of coke.	R	F47
144	black-burnished ware	4 everted rim sherds from three different bowls, 3 cavetto rim sherds from two jars, 18 small body sherds.	R	F47
145	grey ware	1 complete base sherd, 3 thick body sherds in a micaceous grey fabric.	R	F47
146	Falkirk Ware	5 rim, 1 base and 12 body sherds from a small jar; 2 base and 3 body sherds from a burnt jar with thin walls.	R	F47
147	samian; stamped	1 base sherd with part of the stamp “—SFX2.” Small base – probably a Form 27. L.28mm.	R	F72
148	beaker	1 small body sherd in thin buff coloured fabric with orange interior and brown/grey external slip. Coloured coated beaker from the Rhineland.	R	F72
149	black-burnished ware	Cavetto rim sherd with wavy line decoration. 1 body sherd.	R	F72
150	oxidised ware	1 body sherd in buff fabric with orange faces.	R	F72
151	daub	1 small piece of fired clay. w.2g.	R	F72
152	coal	Lump of coal.	R	F72
153	pipe; tobacco	7 stem fragments.	PM	F2
154	green-glazed ware; reduced	1 strap handle and 7 body sherds.	PM	F2
155	green-glazed ware; oxidised	1 large base sherd from a jar.	PM	F2
156	amphora	1 body sherd of Dr 22.w.174g	R	F47
157	grey ware	5 body sherds from a large jar in thick dark grey fabric.	R	F47
158	black-burnished ware	1 everted rim and 6 base sherds from a bowl, 2 cavetto rims and 3 sooted body sherds from a jar with wavy line decoration,	R	F47
159	Falkirk Ware	3 rim sherds and 5 body sherds in thin hard orange fabric with brown faces (same as 131 & 126); 3 rim sherds and 6 body sherds from a jar with a cavetto rim.	R	F47
160	flagon	4 body sherds in cream fabric.	R	F47
161	pot lid	Flat piece of sandstone roughly shaped into a circle for use as a pot lid.	R	F47
162	iron object	Splayed iron bar resembling the foot of a tripod.	R	F47
163	nail	9 pieces of wrought iron from nails.	R	F47
164	coin?	Decayed metal object.	R	F47
165	pot lid	Rim sherd of a pot lid in orange-brown fabric. Dia. 16cm.	R	F17
166	bone	2 small pieces of burnt bone.	R	F17
167	charcoal	Sample of spongy charcoal.	R	F17
168	daub	29 pieces of burnt clay, 420g. One has straw	R	F17

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		impressions on the face.		
169	daub	10 small pieces. 82g.	R	F55 lower
170	black-burnished ware	1 body sherd, burnt.	R	F55 lower
171	flagon	1 body sherd in thin cream fabric. Same as No.120.	R	F55 lower
172	daub	6 pieces of burnt clay. 56g	R	F54
173	Falkirk Ware	1 cavetto rim sherd with wavy line decoration and joining body sherd.	R	F54
174	black-burnished ware	Cavetto rim sherd. L.47mm.	R	F54
175	bone	1 tiny piece of calcined bone.	R	F54
176	slag	Piece of iron slag attached to a burnt sandstone slab.	R	F54
177	black-burnished ware	1 complete section of a dish with an everted rim; 3 joining base sherds of a jar.	R	F57
178	daub	5 pieces of burnt clay. The largest has straw lines on the surface and is very thick (55mm) and heavily fired suggesting that it comes from a furnace lining. 411g.	R	F16
179	daub	Burnt clay with straw impressions from a furnace lining. 11 – 414; 24 – 1086g	R	F16
180	nail	1 corroded nail.	R	F44
181	grey ware	2 joining body sherds with external sooting.	R	F44
182	bone	1 small piece of calcined bone.	R	F44
183	nail	3 wrought iron nails.	R	F73
184	hobnail	23 hobnails from a shoe.	R	F73
185	bone	Fragments from a tooth of a large animal.	R	F73
186	iron object	A large wrought iron bar, 59cm in length, of 20mm round(?) section is slightly offset 15cm from one end. Here a second slightly curving bar has been fashioned to create a two-pronged fork. The opposite end swells slightly and appears to have possessed a socket, probably for a wooden handle. It may have functioned as a rake for a hearth.	R	F47

Excavations at 14 Booth Place, Falkirk, 2021

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Photos by Richard.



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APPENDIX I – Soil contexts at a glance

2 topsoil

Trench 1

3 Lower topsoil.

4 Pale grey/white clay over F7 at the east end of the trench – collapsed cheek from the Antonine Wall.

5 coarse yellow sand over the south half of T1 overlying F16 and F19.

6 Square post-hole, 0.25 x 0.23m, 0.22m deep. Partner to F 33 – garden gate.

7 W/E ditch.

8 Circular pit, 0.73m diameter, cutting F11. Partner to F9.

9 Roughly circular pit, 0.7m diameter. Partner to F8.

10 red-brown sandy loam into which F11 are cut, pre-late 18th century cultivation soil.

11 Late 18th century cultivation beds.

13 F10 immediately above iron panning.

15 Brown-grey silty sand above natural – IA soil.

16 N/S ditch.

17 Burnt layer in F16.

18 Early pit cut by F7 and F16.

19 Thin layer, 0.03-0.06m thick, of mottled grey clay loam set above first layer of ironpanning and under the coarse yellow sand F5.

Trench 2

20 N/S ditch in T2

21 modern pit containing building material from the 1920s

22 modern pit containing 20th century material.

23 late 18th century cultivation trench.

24 channel in east side of F20, originally thought to be an erosion channel but found under F25.

25 Cream and grey clay loam over F26 in SE corner of T2. c0.15m thick.

26 Brown-grey silty loam – IA soil.

27 Coarse yellow sand over western side of T2 overlying F28.

28 “occupation” or demolition layer – thin layer of dark soil containing charcoal, overlying F29.

29 patches of grey, cream and white clay – turf?

30 Pre-19th century cultivation soil – mottled orange-brown clay loam.

31 Stone filled pit/posthole in the north section of T2. Modern.

32 Circular pit filled with brown sandy loam with spade marks around the circumference at the base - Lewis Gun pit.

33 Square post-hole against the east balk containing topsoil – partner to F6 – garden gate.

Trench 3

40 flat-bottomed slot 0.3m wide and c 0.08m deep running NE-SW in T3. Underlying F41 and containing similar material to it.

41 mottled cream, grey and white clay over NW side of T3 overlying F40.

42 Pit cut into east side of F40, 0.24m wide, 0.40m long and 0.30m deep, containing mottled grey sand.

43 edge of rectangular patch of orange sand similar on the surface to F42.

44 area of burning containing charcoal and oxidised sand, c0.37m in diameter, with an area of brown sandy loam around it containing some charcoal. The base of this feature undulated and its depth was between 0.03 and 0.08m. Finds include fragments of burnt bone suggesting this was an oven/cooking hearth.

45 Narrow and shallow ill-defined slot/gulley in NE corner of T3. The north side was sharp but the south edge was patchy. Grey-brown silty sand.

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- 46 Broad thin band of grey clay-loam east of F40.
- 47 0.02-0.06m thick layer of dark brown clay loam with charcoal containing Roman pottery, coins and an iron object – occupation/demolition layer.
- 48 Late 18th century cultivation beds.
- 49 Pre-19th century cultivation soil – mottled orange-brown clay loam.
- F50 Parallel lines of soil on east side of F40.

Trench 4

- 54 W/E gully in NW corner of T4. Mottled orange-brown sandy loam.
- 55 mottled cream and grey and orange clay lumps in grey clay loam – rampart base?
- 56 Mid grey clay loam in sub-floor of building 1.
- 57 brown sandy loam with fragments of fired clay and charcoal - occupation level north of F56.
- 58 brown-orange clay loam – pre-late 18th century cultivation soil.
- 59 orange-brown silty clay loam over east end of T4, above F55 – medieval rig.

Trench 5

- 64 Patchy clay in north end of T5 above F65 – extends into T4.
- 65 dark brown sandy loam with much charcoal – demolition/occupation level.
- 66 grey-brown silty sand – IA soil.
- 67 Flat-bottomed gully/slot running SW/NE at north end of T5. Grey-brown sandy loam fill with stones adjacent to F68.
- 68 medium sized metallised surface at north end of T5. With slightly large stones beneath.
- 69 brown-orange clay loam cut by cultivation beds - 18th century and earlier cultivation soil.
- 70 brown sandy loam above stone metalling at N end of T5. Part of F65.
- 71 clay lined pit.
- 72 Brown sandy loam overlying the redeposited yellow sand running along the east side of T5, originally thought to be a ditch-like feature but later identified as a tip line.
- 73 circular pit in SE corner of T5, patchy yellow sand and dark brown sandy loam fill with some charcoal.
- 74 Soft pink clay south of F68 with charcoal at south end.
- 75 Post-hole at south end of T5 in west balk.
- 76 Post-hole west of F71.
- 77 Small gravel metalling south of hearth F74.
- 78 Linear band of charcoal c0.25m wide, to west of hearth F74.
- 79 redeposited coarse yellow sand under F72 and over F80 and F65.

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