

Small Finds of South Shields Roman Fort Notes

No. 3: finds from the *vicus* and cemetery

by A. Croom and D. Hutchinson

Version 1: 2020

Introduction

The whole of the fort and the majority of its *vicus* (civilian settlement) and cemetery fell within the property of Shields Heugh Farm (later called Field House Farm), which was owned by the Dean and Chapter of Durham Cathedral (Fig. 1b). It was part of the township of Westoe until 1850 when it became part of South Shields itself. The first recorded Roman finds from the site was found before 1680 and Blatt's 1768 map of the County Palatine of Durham shows the position of the 'Roman station' (although the scale of the map is such that the fort covers a very large area).

The farm was a mixed arable and dairy farm. The field containing the fort was called North Low Bank Field, as recorded on a map of 1768 and an 1841 tithe map. Rig and furrow have been seen during excavations in the fort although by 1841 it had become an arable field. In 1820 it was reported: 'The Station seems to have included several acres; and fragments of Roman bricks [and] pottery are turned up abundantly in a field adjoining the Lawe Hill when in tillage' (Surtees 1820, 101; Mackenzie and Ross 1834, 98). In 1840 the antiquarian John Hodgson recorded that stone robbing and 'constant cultivation in a very productive soil had done so much to smooth its site, that the lines of its ramparts and ditches can now scarcely be traced', although in 1851 Collingwood Bruce pointed out that 'the bold south-west rampart of the station may easily be detected' where the ballast railway from Salmon's Quay cut through it (Bruce 1853, 293). This rampart is shown on the 1st edition OS map, and notes 'Roman coins and pottery found here'.

By 1874 the lease on the farm had been bought by the Corporation of South Shields who sold plots of land for house-building so that the town could finally expand from its ribbon development along the river edge (Fig. 1). Two roads, Baring Street and Fort Street, were first built to divide the old farmland into four quadrants, with the site of the fort taking up much of the north-east quadrant (Hooppell 1878a, 4; pl. V). Pottery and a road were discovered outside the fort as Baring Street was built north from Ocean Road, and an almost complete samian dish was found in the building plot by the north-west corner of the fort at the top end of Baring Street. Soon afterwards local antiquarians arranged for the fort site to be excavated before it was lost beneath the streets of terraced houses, with the understanding that any finds would be given to the local museum. Even if the ramparts of the fort were no longer visible at that time the field containing the fort was probably known to have produced most of the Roman finds recovered from the ploughed fields, and in fact the excavations started by chance in the headquarters building right at the centre of the fort itself.

The excavations inside the fort were carried out between March and October 1875 and resumed briefly in the spring of 1876, and at the start were recorded in detail by local

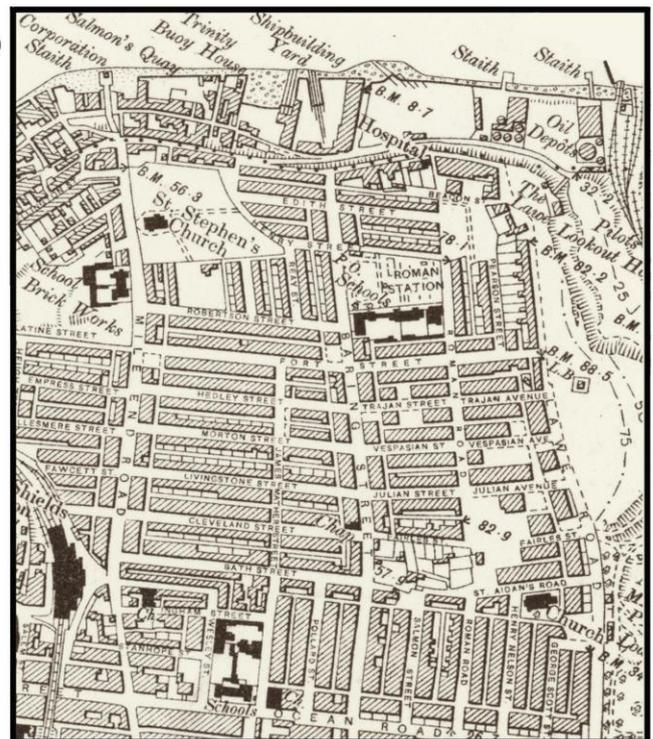
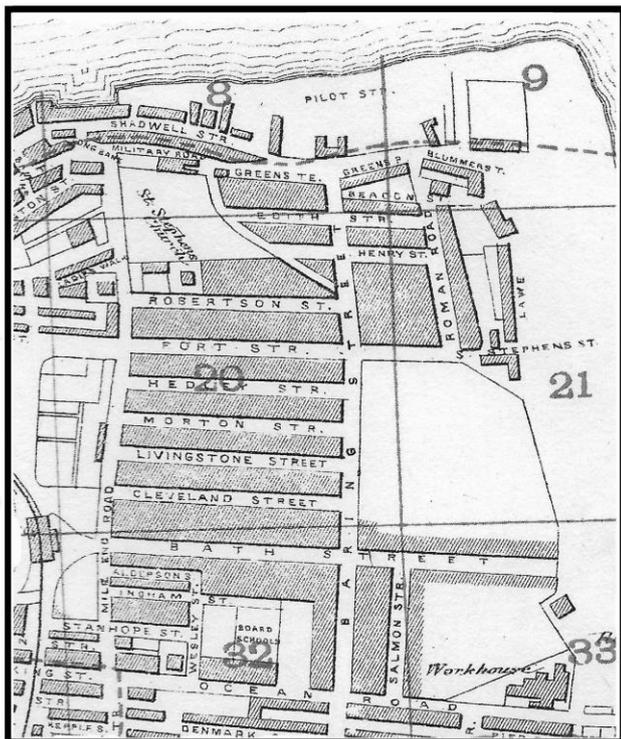
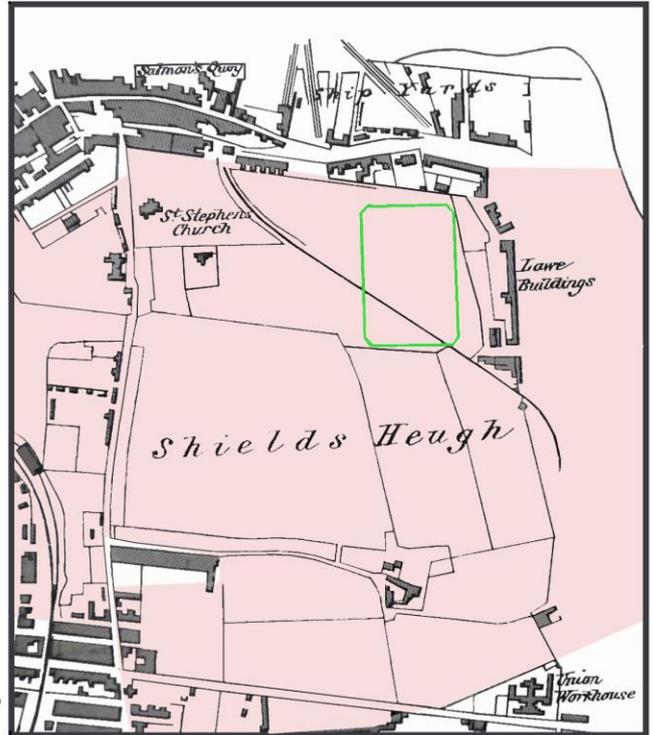
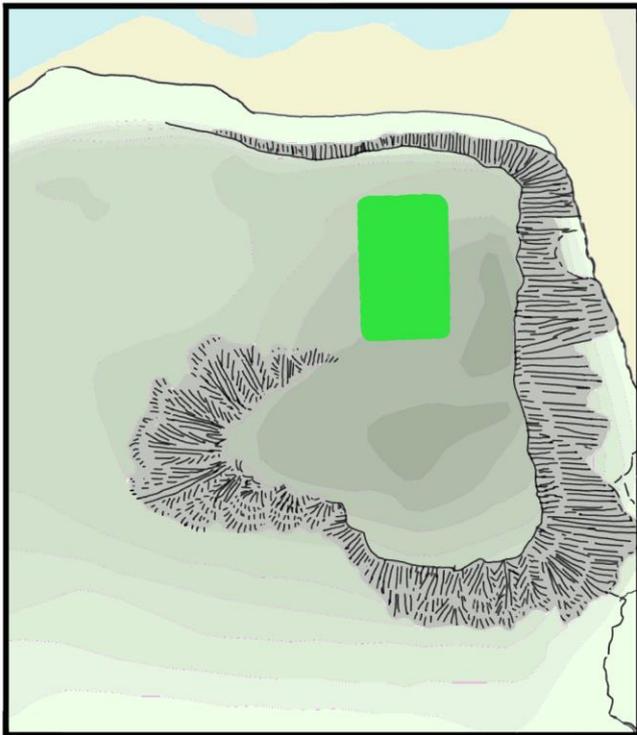


Fig. 1: A. The topography of the Lawe, sandbanks and river, partially based on Killwick Calver's 1838-1849 map of the Entrance to the River Tyne. The position of the Roman fort is shown in green; B. The area c.1875, taken from undated map (Blair 1957, 6). The approximate area of Shields Heugh Farm in 1841 is shown in pink; C. The area in 1880, taken from a map in Jackson's Trade Directory 1880; D. The area in 1894-5 (2nd edn OS map, published 1898, reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland, used under license CC-BY-NC-SA).

newspapers. From 1876 house-building took place in the area of the cemetery and civilian settlement outside the fort and workmen made additional finds; whether graves were reported probably depended on the interests on the builders. James Pollard, for example, helped to excavate some graves and donated the remains to the museum, but other builders may have ignored them. Any finds uncovered were sold to a number of local antiquarians, including Robert Blair, a local solicitor and later secretary to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, who produced a scrap book of newspaper-cuttings, drawings and notes relating to the excavations and chance finds at some date after 1900 (Blair 1957). Due to public interest in the Roman remains many of these later finds were also reported in the local newspapers, although reporting of finds diminished after c.1880, as few finds were recorded in the area between Fort Street and St Aidan's Road, where the houses were built later than those in the streets to the east (see Fig. 1c, d). While the exact position of the finds was rarely recorded beyond a street name or general area the reports do allow the extent of the civilian settlement and cemetery to be plotted.

The 2nd edition OS map, re-surveyed in 1894-5 and published in 1898 (Fig. 1d) shows the area after the majority of the house-building was completed; Field House and its garden plots were demolished and built over in 1900. Demolition and redevelopment from the 1960s onwards saw most of the western section of the old farm cleared of the terraced housing, so Figure 2 shows the general location of the finds and excavations on a modern map of the area.

The finds from the 1875-6 excavations were given to the Free Library in South Shields and now make up the core of the collection at Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort. The collections of two local antiquarians, T. Stephens and T. Vint, were also bought by the Free Library and Museum in 1881 (*Shields Daily Gazette*, 17 February 1881), and include finds from the *vicus* and cemetery areas. Large finds such as the Victor and Regina tombstones were also given to the Museum, and it is likely a few other smaller finds from outside the fort were also donated. Blair's large collection, and that of another collector, T. J. Bell, were acquired by the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne and are now in the Great North Museum: Hancock. The small finds held by these two museums have been published, but while the report will include finds from the *vicus* and cemetery, it is not always possible to identify them (Allason-Jones and Milet 1984).

The majority of the information about the finds in this list comes from contemporary newspaper reports. It is divided into four parts:

Section 1: finds certainly from the *vicus* and cemetery, although not all are certainly Roman in date

Section 2: items probably from the *vicus* and cemetery but whose exact finds-spot is unknown

Section 3: formal excavations carried out outside the fort

Sections 4-6: Roman or possibly Roman objects found outside the likely limit of the *vicus*, sometimes at a considerable distance from the fort. These are chance finds, and some, if not all, are unlikely to relate to Roman occupation in the area. Some, for example, come from the area of hills made up of dumped ballast brought from elsewhere by colliers and other ships (Bidwell 1997-8, 7).

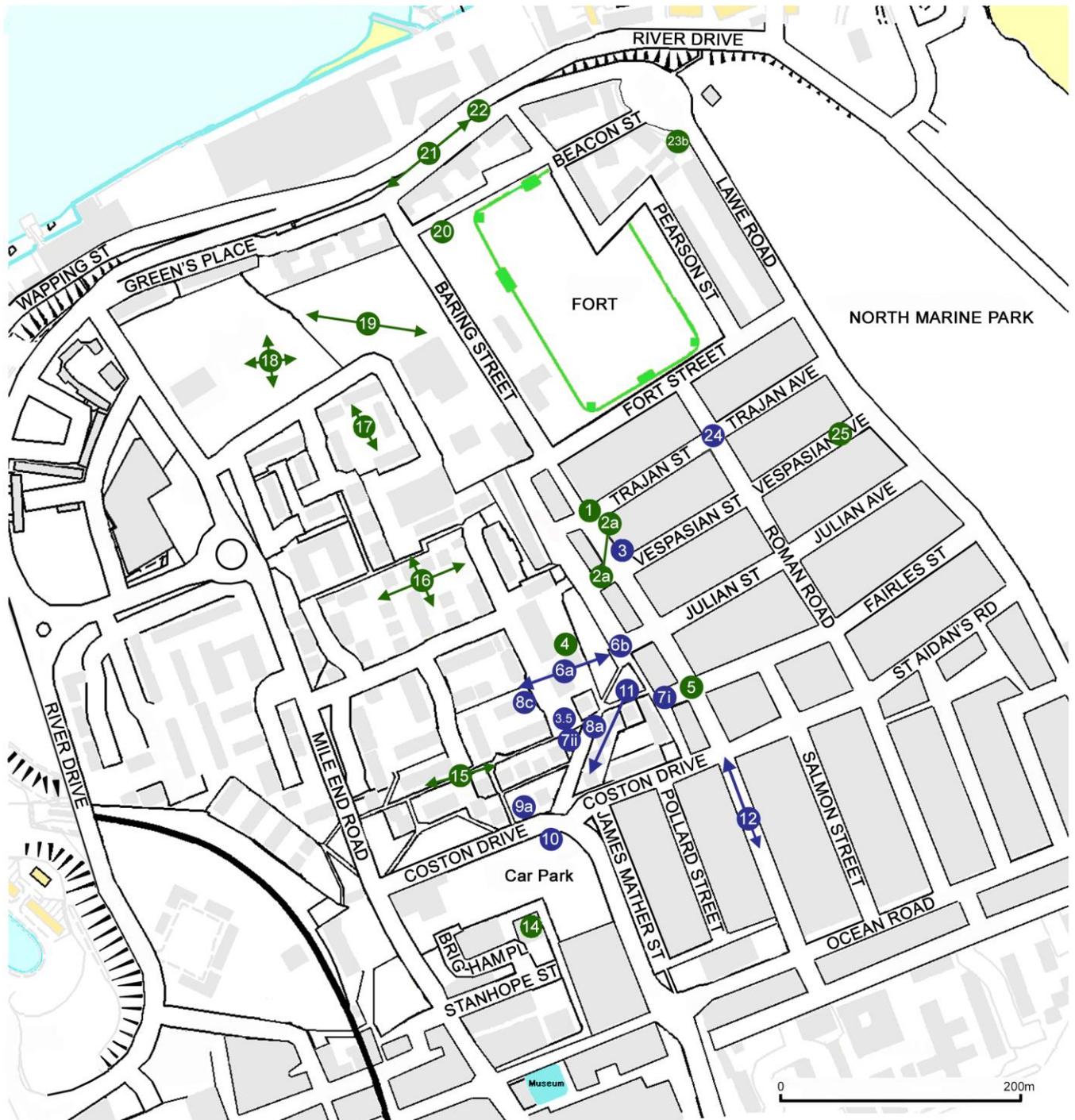


Fig. 2: The location of finds from the vicus and cemetery (all from Section 1 in list, apart from no. 3.5). The green circles are general finds and the blue are finds relating to the cemetery. Some of the locations are only approximate; see text for level of detail recorded for each entry.

Section 1: The *vicus* and cemetery (Fig. 2)

1.1 Altar

Reference: HER 892, *RIB* 1053

Description: Altar to Brigantia

Finds-spot: (a) 'On Monday last [8 April], a Roman altar was discovered in this town at the corner of Baring and Trajan Street, about 100 yards [91m] due south of the south west angle of the Roman Station' (*Academy*, 10 April 1895; Blair 1895-6, 44).

(b) 'A Roman altar ... was discovered yesterday morning at the junction of Baring and Trajan Streets, South Shields, while the ground was being prepared by Mr Aaron Robinson, the owner, for the erection of a dwelling house. The site of the discovery is about the line of the Roman road leaving the camp by its south gateway' (unidentified newspaper, c.9 April 1895; Blair 1957, 130).

GR: NZ 3650 6773

Found: 8 April 1895

Current location: Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort, acc. no. TWCMS: T712

1.2a Road

Reference: HER 1884

Description: 'Then a paved road was come to, (near c, c Plate V), the road I believe from Menevia to Tinae Ostia...' (Hooppell 1878a, 4).

Find-spot: 'In the course of the excavations necessary to make Baring Street' (Hooppell 1878a, 4; pl. V, c, c). It ran north-south across Baring Street, between the junctions of Trajan Street and Vespasian Street.

GR: NZ 36509 67711

Found: About October 1874

Current location: Presumed destroyed

1.2b Road

Reference: HER 1889

Description: 'it consisted of two parallel pavements or roads. The first or easterly pavement was 32 feet [9.8m], wide, and consisted of two ridged crowns with an unpaved space of 8 feet [2.4m], and then to the westward came another ridged pavement 13 feet [4m], wide. These seemed to be parallel roads leading to the Roman station, were paved chiefly with sandstone chippings and on the crown of the hill were not more than six inches [152mm] below the tilled surface' (Hodgson 1903, 29).

Finds-spot: (a) 'The late Thomas Lincoln has left on record how with Mr Blair and others, in July 1876, he measured a cross section of a road running from

the Roman Fort at the Lawe on a line nearly parallel with Baring Street but tending a little to the westward' (Hodgson 1903, 29).

(b) The exact position is unclear, but the 'crown of the hill' would put it in the general area of no. 1.2a. It was probably to the south of this, in the area of Mr Pollard's grounds, where graves had been excavated in the same month (see no. 1.8).

GR: Between NZ36554 67633 to NZ 36549 67641

Found: July 1876

Current location: Presumed destroyed

1.3a Tombstone and gold coin

Reference: HER 899, *CSIR* I.1, 251

Description: '...in the course of the last few months [has been found] a stone carved to imitate a fir cone' (*Shields Gazette*, 1 March 1875); a pillar tombstone with a fir cone finial.

Finds-spot: (a) 'The ground which belonged to the Ecclesiastical Commission was being laid out for building sites, and in the course of making the roads some very interesting relics were come upon. In particular there was an ornament in the shape of what his friend Mr Blair, who has taken a deep interest in the subject, described as a fir cone, sculptured and set upon a pedestal. Along with it a gold coin was also unearthed' (*Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, 4 March 1875).

(b) 'Then a paved road was come to, (near c, c Plate V) ... and close beside it a striking sculptured stone ... connected with some funeral monument' (Hooppell 1878a, 4-5).

GR: NZ 364 675

Found: About October 1874

Comments: 'found in the burial ground' (Bruce 1885b, 312); Bruce identifies the burial ground as 'two or three hundred yards [183m to 274m] to the south-west of the camp, and is traversed by the modern Bath Street' (*ibid.*, 239). Hooppell's 'striking sculptured stone', which he does not otherwise describe, is likely to be this phallic pillar tombstone.

Current location: Tombstone: Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort, acc. no. TWCMS: T776; coin: unknown

1.3b Trough

Reference: HER 1885

Description: 'shallow stone trough' (Hooppell 1878a, 5).

Finds-spot: 'Then a paved road was come to, (near c, c Plate V) ...and close beside it a striking sculptured stone ... connected with some funeral monument. Near it also were the remains of a shallow stone trough' (Hooppell 1878a, 4-5).

GR: NZ 3650 6770
Found: About October 1874
Comments: The 'striking sculptured stone' is the pillar tombstone (see no. 1.3a).
Current location: Unknown

1.4 Wall

Reference: HER 1887
Description: 'Wall of Roman tiles 8/1/80'
Finds-spot: The position is marked in pencil on a map in Blair 1957, on the north side of Livingstone Street between Baring Street and James Mather Street (Blair 1957, 6).
GR: NZ 3648 6761
Found: 8 January 1880
Comments: Not necessarily Roman.
Current location: Presumed destroyed

1.5 Samian pottery

Reference: HER 1891
Description: Numerous pieces of samian ware 'some of these were beautifully figured, and others had potters' marks' (Hooppell 1878, 4).
Finds-Spot: 'in the course of excavations necessary to make Baring Street ... near *b* on the General Plan, Plate V., and at many other points' (Hooppell 1878a, 4, pl. V, b; *British Architect*, 16 October 1874, 248).
Found: About October 1874
GR: NZ 3660 6759
Current location: Unknown

1.6 Burials in area of Livingstone Street (1880)

1.6a Possible inhumation burial

Description: 'stone coffin, which was broken. It did not appear to contain any human remains' (*Shields Daily News*, 16 April 1880).
Finds-spot: 'digging in connection with the foundation of a new house in Livingstone Street' (*ibid.*).
GR: NZ 364 675
Found: 14 April 1880
Current location: Unknown

1.6b Inhumation burial

Reference: HER 1888; Croom and Caffell 2005, 103, no. 12

Description: 'The remains of a female with whom had been buried five bronze bracelets of different patterns and small bronze ring' (*Shields Daily News*, 14 May 1880).

Finds-spot: 'A day or 2 ago a man engaged in levelling the east end of Livingstone Street, South Shields, (where building operations are now in progress), which formed a portion of the site of the cemetery attached to the Roman Station uncovered the remains of a female' (*Shields Daily News*, 14 May 1880).

GR: NZ 3655 6764

Found: 12 May 1880

Comments: 'A discovery of similar objects was made near the same spot a few months ago' (*Shields Daily News*, 14 May 1880). This seems to refer to three inhumations found in January (no. 1.11).

Current location: Unknown

1.6c Probable cremation vessel

Reference: Croom and Caffell 2010, no. 3.2

Description: Complete cooking pot, probably used as a cremation vessel.

Finds-spot: The Lawe

GR: NZ 365 676

Found: 10 May 1880 (marked on vessel)

Comment: Its date of discovery means it is possible this came from the Livingstone Street area (see nos 1.6a-b).

Current location: Great North Museum: Hancock, acc. no. NEWMA : 1956.128.118A

1.7 Tombstone

Reference: HER 897, *RIB* 1064

Description: Victor tombstone

Finds-spot: It was found in two pieces, about three years apart:

(a) the pediment: '... whilst digging the foundations of a house at the east end of Cleveland Street a day or two since the workmen came upon the top of a Roman tombstone' (*South Shields Gazette*, 27 January 1881).

(b) 'the remaining portion [of the tombstone has now been found], the pediment top having been found about three years ago, though at the same street (Cleveland Street) yet at a distance of more than 100 yards [91m] from the pediment from the same tombstone' (letter from Blair dated 24 January published in Anon. 1885, 195).

(c) Larger fragment was found when 'Workmen were removing the sand and other loose material which encumbered the ground at the intersection of James Mather Street and Cleveland Street, with a view to its being paved' (Bruce 1885b, 311).

(d) Larger fragment 'found on Corporation ground in Livingstone Street' (*Minutes of Free Library Committee*, 19 January 1885, 189). Livingstone Street is the parallel road north of Cleveland Street.

GR: NZ 3649 6755

Found: The pediment was found c.25-6 January 1881 and the rest 8 January 1885

Comments: The distances can only be approximate: a distance of '100 yards' or more [91m] from the junction of James Mather Street reaches the junction with Baring Street, yet this is not taken as a point of reference.

Current location: Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort, acc. no. TWCMS: T766

1.8 Burials in the 'sand pits' belonging to builder James Pollard found during 1876

Comments: Contemporary reports in 1876 often refer to the cemetery being near Bath Street. This road was in existence before Baring Street and Fort Street were constructed to aid house-building (Fig. 1b-c). In 1876 there was some housing south of the road but north were only some garden plots and a featureless large field, called Mill Field, that extended all the way up to about the position of later Fort Street; Bath Street was therefore the only feature that could be used as a reference point to the location of the graves. James Pollard's plot of land, originally used as a source of sand, was 'situated near to the end of Bath Street' (*Daily Journal*, 19 February 1876) and seems to have extended up to the later area of Cleveland and Livingstone Streets. Hooppell identifies the general area where these graves were found (Fig. 2, no. 9a; Hooppell 1878a, 42, pl. V, d).

Bruce says that 'seven or eight graves were noticed' in the sand pits (1880, 168). Blair recorded that the 1876 discoveries were made when workmen were 'digging for sand in a field about three hundred yards [274m] from the south-west corner of the station ... they came upon several skeletons, which, on exposure to the air, crumbled to pieces. The bodies were lying north-east and south-west, and had been placed in cists rudely built of flat pieces of sandstone' (letter by Blair dated 28 April 1876, in Anon. 1878c, 19; the newspaper reports suggest more variety in grave orientation).

1.8a Inhumation burials

Reference: Croom and Caffell 2005, 102, nos 1-3

Description: Two graves 'formed of stone slabs have been found which did not contain any bones or other remains. On Thursday afternoon a third grave which was found to contain human remains was come upon'. This 'lay north and south, the head being to the north and the feet to the south, the depth from the top of the cover to the surface of the grave being 2ft 6in [0.76m],

and length of the grave about 6ft' [1.8m]. Its construction is similar [to] those previously found – namely, bottom, sides and top of sandstone and limestone slabs ... the top ... was composed of two or three irregular layers. The sand filling was removed and 'there was then found to be the skull with the teeth in a state of excellent preservation and the bones of the arms, thighs, and legs, of a person of about average size' (*Shields Daily News*, 19 February 1876).

Finds-spot: 'During the past few days further interesting relics ... have been found in ground belong to Mr James Pollard, situated near to the end of Bath Street ... the grave, which is situated about 120 yards [110m] south-west of the paved way leading into the Roman Station' (*Daily Journal*, 19 February 1876).

GR: NZ 3652 6754

Found: (1) 11 February, (2) sometime 11-17 February; (3) 18 February (*Shields Daily News*, 12 and 19 February 1876)

Comments: The three graves were found at different times, the last on Thursday 18 February. Watkin (1877, 130) says that 'on the 19-20 February several tombs were exhumed'; it is unclear if the dates are a mistake or these are additional graves.

Current location: 'The remains were removed to the free library' (*Daily Journal*, 19 February 1876). The remains cannot now be identified.

1.8b Inhumation burial

Description: 'a grave similar to and in close proximity to those found about a fortnight ago ... upon the removal of the covering slabs, the grave was found to contain the remains of two human beings, one apparently less than the other ... the skeletons were so much decayed that it was found impossible to remove them, with the exception of two small portions, which Mr Pollard took to the museum of the Free Library' (*Sunderland Daily Echo*, 17 March 1876).

Finds-spot: 'in close proximity to those found about a fortnight ago in the sand pit, near Bath Street, which belongs to Mr Jas Pollard, builder' (*ibid.*); for approximate location see Fig. 2, no. 8a.

GR: NZ 3652 6754

Found: 16 March 1876

Current location: 'Two small portions' were given to the Museum, but these cannot now be identified in the Museum collection (the surviving human remains from the cemetery (see Croom and Caffell 2005) do not have any records identifying which grave they came from).

1.8c Inhumation burial

Reference: Croom and Caffell 2005, no. 4

Description: (a) 'A grave similar to those already found Upon the covering slabs being removed, a pretty perfect skeleton of a person about 5 feet 8 inches [1.7m] in height, was laid bare. The direction of the grave was about north-west by south-east, its length being 6 feet 3 inches [1.9m], by 21 inches [530mm] in width, and the distance from the surface of the grave 3½ feet [1.1m]' (*Shields Daily News*, 10 April 1876).

Finds-spot: (a) It 'was come upon in Mr Pollard's sand pit, near Bath Street' (*Shields Daily News*, 10 April 1876).

(b) 'Roman O British [sic] Burial disc[ove]red 100yd [91m] No[rth] of Bath St' (notation on a sketch of the grave in Blair 1957, 74). There is another sketch of what appears to be the same grave simply labelled 'Grave Cemetery' (Blair 1957, 9).

(c) In the graveyard about 300 yards [274m] to the south-west of the Roman Camp' (Anon. 1911-2, 137).

GR: NZ 3652 6754

Found: 8 April 1876

Comments: This is the grave photographed by J. Haggitt, which was then used as the basis for the engraving in Hooppell 1878a, pl. XII. The location as shown in Fig. 2 is only very approximate, since it depends on what part of Bath Street it should be measured from.

Current location: The skull was donated to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, now the Great North Museum: Hancock (Anon. 1911-2, 137); possibly NEWMA : 1956.128.113.A, although this is just a fragment of skull.

1.8d Inhumation burial

Description: A grave 'was found to contain the skeleton of a human being, in a capital state of preservation' (*Shields Daily News*, 9 June 1876); 'the body was lying with its head to the north-east, the usual direction being south-east' (*Sunderland Daily Echo*, 10 June 1876).

Finds-spot: Found by 'Mr John Hinde, of South Shields, while examining the sand pit in a field behind Bath Street' (*Sunderland Daily Echo*, 10 June 1876).

GR: NZ 3652 6754

Found: 9 June 1876

Comments: 'This is the seventh coffin found in the locality, and is the best specimen that has yet been found' (*Sunderland Daily Echo*, 10 June 1876). The newspaper reports previous to this record only six graves (although one with two sets of remains: see nos 1.8a-c above) and Watkin (1877, 130) mentions graves excavated on 19-20 February that were not reported in the newspapers (if these dates are, in fact, correct).

Current location: 'the remains were carefully exhumed, and conveyed to the Roman Remains Museum, Free Library' (*Sunderland Daily Echo*, 10 June 1876). They cannot now be identified (the surviving human remains from the cemetery (see Croom and Caffell 2005) do not have any records identifying which grave they came from).

1.8e Tombstone

Reference: HER 896, *RIB* 1063

Description: Fragment of tombstone reading 'D. M. IVL'.

Finds-spot: (a) 'On Saturday morning a Roman monument stone ... was found in the sand hill in which the graves above [no. 1.8a above] were found' (*Daily Journal*, 19 February 1876).

(b) 'in a field opposite to Bath-street, South Shields, and about the same locality where the Roman coffin was found on Friday' (*Sunderland Echo*, 21 February 1876).

(c) 'on ground belonging to Mr James Pollard near the end of Bath Street'. The tombstone fragment was found 'near to' the graves (Watkin 1877, 130).

GR: NZ 36568 67496

Found: 19 February 1876

Current location: Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort, acc. no. TWCMS: T714

1.8f Inhumation?

Reference: Croom and Caffell 2005, 103, no. 5

Description: Possible cist grave or graves.

Finds-spot: 'No[rth] of Bath St' (notation on sketch map, Blair 1957, 9)

GR: NZ 365 675

Found: Recorded on 8 October 1876

Comments: On the back of a sketch of a cist grave that looks like that found on 8 April 1876 (no. 1.8c), Blair has drawn a rough pencil sketch map of the 'site of burials' (1957, 9), with a possible 'x' marking where a 'head of body found', with the date '8/10/76' written under it. The sketch places the site just north of Bath Street, either just beyond the garden plots that originally lined the road or the marked-out plots for the new houses, so it cannot refer to burial shown on the front of the sketch, which was found much further to the north. Another sketch shows a skeleton with an apparent north-east/south-west orientation (which again distinguishes it from the 8 April burial). It is unclear if this a new burial found in October, or if it refers to one of the earlier burials, some of which had the same orientation.

Current location: Unknown

1.8g Inhumation burial and inscription

Reference: Croom and Caffell 2005, no. 6

Description: 'A monument composed of seven upright stones, which had been dovetailed together, standing about 18" [457mm] high, was at the head of the grave. This was covered with a slab bearing an inscription, but this slab was taken away' (*Shields Gazette*, 3 August 1876).

Finds-spot: 'On Monday, the most remarkable grave yet found at the Roman Remains, was dug out of Mr Pollard's ground' (*Shields Gazette*, 3 August 1876).

GR: NZ 365 674

Found: 31 July 1876

Current location: Unknown. The inscription was taken away before the site foreman arrived, and a request was made for its return, but it is unclear if this happened (*Shields Gazette*, 3 August 1876).

1.9 Cremation burials found near Bath Street

Comments: An unknown number of cremations were found during 1876 at the same time as the inhumation burials (see no. 1.8), with further examples recovered in 1883.

1.9a Cremation burials and possible cremation sites

Reference: Croom and Caffell 2005, 101, nos 1-2; Croom and Caffell 2010, nos 1.5, 1.6, 1.8, 3.1, 6.1 - 6.3, 7.1 - 7.4

Description: (a) 'many urns also with calcined ashes within, and marks of fire around' (Hooppell 1878a, 42, pl. V, d).

(b) 'several urns with ashes' (Hooppell 1878b, 381).

Finds-spot: 'one or both sides of the [Roman] road', marked on Hooppell's map (*ibid.*), in same vicinity as the cist burials.

GR: NZ 3636 6753

Found: 1876

Current location: Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort and Great North Museum: Hancock have some cremation urns and accessory vessels in their collections; see Croom and Caffell 2010 for details.

1.9b Cremation burial

Reference: Croom and Caffell 2005, 101, no. 3; Croom and Caffell 2010, nos 1.4 and 2.3

Description: Cremation in cooking pot with accessory vessel dish.

Finds-spot: Bath Street (Blair n.d., vol. 3, 266)

GR: NZ 365 675

Found: June 1883

Current location: Unknown

1.9c Cremation or accessory vessel from burial

Reference: Croom and Caffell 2010, no. 6.4; fig. 7

Description: Complete flagon

Finds-spot: 'Roman cemetery' (Blair, n.d., 269)

Found: June 1883

Comments: Its exact finds-spot is unclear, but the 1883 date suggests it could be from near Bath Street.

Current location: Unknown

1.9d Cremation burial with coin

Reference: Croom and Caffell 2005, 101, no. 4

Description: 'An illegible coin, possibly Domitian' (Bruce 1885a, 277).

Finds-spot: 'This coin found in an urn near Bath Street' (Bruce 1885a, 277).

GR: NZ 365 675

Found: Before 1884

Comments: This cremation could possibly be any of those found in 1876 (no. 1.9a) or 1883 (nos 1.9b-c) already described above.

Current location: Unknown

1.10 Tombstone

Reference: HER 898, *RIB* 1065

Description: Regina tombstone

Finds-Spot: (a) 'On Saturday, some workmen in the employment of Messrs A. and P. Marshall, builders, were engaged in excavating for the foundation of a wall in connection with Mr J Grieve's soda water manufactory, Bath Street when the pick of one struck upon stone. The earth having been removed, the stone was laid bare, its face being uppermost. Although the pick did no damage of any consequence the stone was found to be in four pieces, which, upon being laid together, proved to be what is apparently a nearly perfect memorial stone of a Roman lady ... some time ago two graves, containing human remains, were come upon in the immediate vicinity' (*Newcastle Journal*, 22 October 1878). It is unclear if these two graves were amongst those uncovered in 1876, or additional ones not recorded in the newspapers.

(b) 'The Shields Daily Gazette states that on Saturday week, while some workmen were engaged in digging out the foundations of a building at the back of some premises in Bath Street, ... they unearthed what has apparently been a gravestone' (*Academy*, 2 November 1878).

(c) 'It was casually discovered by some workmen who were making excavations rather deeper than are usually made here for the purpose, for foundations for a garden-wall' (letter from R. Blair, quoted in de Gray Birch 1878, 489).

(d) Found when digging 'for the foundations of some cottages at the back of Bath Street' (Anon. 1878b, 504).

GR: NZ 3649 6748

Found: 19 October 1878

Comments: The wall is said to have been from Grieve's manufactory, for a garden wall (de Gray Birch 1878, 489) and for some cottages at the back of Bath Street. The first seems to be correct, as the tombstone was given to the Museum by Mr Grieves (*Newcastle Journal*, 22 October 1878; *Shields Gazette*, 28 October 1878). Trade directories for 1878 puts the manufactory in Ingham Street, just to the south of Bath Street, which would explain the references to 'the back of Bath Street' (see Fig. 1, c-d). Although the Journal says the stone was in four pieces when found, the *Gazette* said it broke when being lifted (*Newcastle Journal*, 22 October 1878; *Shields Gazette*, 21 October 1878).

Current location: Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort, acc. no. TWCMS: T765

1.11 Inhumation burials

Reference: Croom and Caffell 2005, 103, nos 8-10

Description: Three graves: 'The bodies seem to have been simply buried in the ground, with a stone at the head and another at the feet. One of them, a female, had four bracelets on her right wrist, and near were discovered five or six small beads of various colours, which may have formed a necklet; a fragment of bone, which probably is a portion of a comb, was also found with this body. With the other two bodies apparently of strong well-made men, there was no trace of anything buried' (Anon. 1880, 113-4).

Finds-spot: (a) 'The *locus in quo* is not many yards away from the place where the Palmyrene tombstone was unearthed some time ago' [i.e. Regina tombstone, no. 1.10] (letter from Blair in Anon. 1880, 113-14).

(b) The burial with bracelets found on 12 May 1880 (no. 1.6b) was said to have been found near a grave with 'similar objects' uncovered 'a few months ago' (*Shields Daily News*, 14 May 1880). If this is a reference to these January discoveries, then this places the three graves north of the Regina tombstone finds-spot. As at least two burials uncovered in 1880 came from Livingstone Street it seems possible this burial also came from near there, although this would make Blair's 'not many yards' over 100 yards [91m].

GR: NZ 3649 6748

Found: Late January 1880. A letter read out at a meeting of the British Archaeological Association on 4 February said they had been found 'within the last seven days' (Anon. 1880, 113).

Current location: Unknown

1.12 Inhumation burial

Reference: HER 1890; Croom and Caffell 2005, 103, no. 11

Description: 'A stone coffin, which contained a skeleton in perfect condition' (*Shields Gazette*, 5 February 1880).

Finds-spot: 'this morning, while some workmen were engaged in laying water pipes, at the south end of Baring Street, South Shields' (*Shields Gazette*, 5 February 1880).

GR: NZ 3664 6746

Found: 5 February 1880

Comments: It is likely this refers to another cist burial, as these were occasionally called a 'coffin' in newspaper reports: see nos 1.8d and 1.8e above. Depending on how close it was to the 'south end' of the very long street this could place it near the burials near Bath Street (nos 1.9- 1.10) or Livingstone Street (no. 1.6); it was found only a few days after three other graves were found within the cemetery area (see no. 1.11).

Current location: Unknown

1.13 Inhumation burial

Reference: Croom and Caffell 2005, 103-4, no. 14

Description: 'parts of a thigh bone, leg bones, forearm and a spinal bone, apparently of an adult' (*Shields Gazette*, 23 October 1933).

Finds-spot: 'digging a trench in James Mather Street'; the exact spot on this long street is unclear, but it crosses the area of the Roman cemetery (the road is longer than appears in Fig. 2; see Fig. 1d for the length of the original road).

Found: 21 October 1933

Current location: Unknown

1.14 Coin

Description: Coin of Hadrian (AD 134-8)

Finds-spot: Found during construction of new Masonic Hall in Ingham Street (*pers. comm.* Hadrian Lodge officials).

GR: NZ 3645 6739

Found: 1884

Current location: Freemasons Hall, Ingham Street

1.15 Glass sphere ('linen smoother') and mortarium

Reference: HER 923; Allason-Jones and Milet 1984, 4.55

Description: A dark green, glass sphere of unknown date, identified as being a possible linen-smoother, found with an 'Antonine mortarium'.

Finds-spot: Cleveland Street (Cowen 1933–4, 355-7); exact location within the street unclear.

GR: NZ 364 675

Found: c.1877

Current location: Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort, acc. no. TWCMS : T2831

1.16 Coin

Reference: HER 1892

Description: Silver coin of Titus

Finds-spot: 'This coin found at back of Hedley Street' (Bruce 1885, 276).

GR: NZ 3635 6769

Found: Before 1884

Current location: Unknown

1.17 Altar

Reference: HER 894, *RIB* 1055

Description: Altar to Mars Alator

Finds-spot: (a) 'digging a trench for pipes in Cockburn Street ... a new street recently formed and a little to the west of the castrum there' (Blair 1887-8, 41; 'water (or gas) pipes': Watkins 1888, 171).

(b) 'About a week ago, there was discovered a little to the west of the Roman Station at South Shields by men digging a trench for a pipe, a Roman altar 2ft 6inches [0.76m] high by 12 inches broad [305mm], with a dish and ewer on one side [was found]' (*Tyne Mercury*, 30 April 1887; *Shields Gazette*, 30 April 1887).

GR: NZ 36294 67821

Found: c.20 April 1887 (when it was drawn by Blair; Blair n.d., vol 5, 161B)

Current location: Great North Museum: Hancock: NEWMA : 1896.7.4

1.18 Finds from St Stephen's churchyard

1.18a Samian pottery

Reference: HER 919

Description: A fragment of samian, bearing the potter's stamp MASCILLIO, was reported to the Society of Antiquaries (Anon. 1893-4, 140; Blair 1957, 163: hand-written note).

Finds-spot: 'in St. Stephens's church yard' (Anon. 1893-4, 140).

GR: NZ 362 679

Found: Before 1893

Current location: Unknown

1.18b Samian pottery

Reference: HER 919

Description: A fragment of samian with traces of a stamp, D-----VS.

Finds-spot: 'from St. Stephen's churchyard' (Anon. 1903-4, 270).

GR: NZ 362 679

Found: Before 26 October 1904

Current location: Donated to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle, so in collection of Great North Museum: Hancock.

1.18c Amphora sherd

Reference: HER 919

Description: A large amphora handle.

Finds-spot: 'from St. Stephen's churchyard' (Anon. 1903-4, 270).

GR: NZ 362 679

Found: Before 26 October 1904

Current location: Donated to the Society of Antiquaries, so in collection of Great North Museum: Hancock.

1.18d Coins

Reference: HER 918

Description: Coins of Gallienus, Marcus Aurelius, 'first brass of Lucius Verus and a first brass of the empress Faustina the Younger'.

Finds-spot: (a) The coins of Gallienus and Marcus Aurelius were 'found by grave digger 4ft [1.2m] below ground in St Stephens ch[urch]y[ar]d while recently digging a grave' (Blair 1957, 95: handwritten note and rubbing of both coins dated 11 April 1899).

(b) The coin of Lucius Verus was found 'in St. Stephen's churchyard' (Anon. 1903-4, 49).

(c) The coin of Faustina 'was dug up in St Stephen's churchyard ... while grave marking on 9th August last' (Anon. 1903-4, 258).

GR: NZ 362 679

Found: (a) Before 11 April 1899 (b) before 28 May 1903 (c) 9 August 1904.

Current location: Unknown

1.19 Road

Description: 'the ancient military way, called Wreken Dyke' and some 'bones and antlers of deer' (*Newcastle Courant*, 24 October 1845); 'some vestiges of the old causeway, military road, or Wrekin dyke' (Brockie 1853).

Finds-spot: (a) The road led 'from the Roman station, discovered in the same field, near the Lawe' by workmen 'excavating the railroad' [i.e. Salmon's ballast railway] (*Newcastle Courant*, 24 October 1845).

(b) 'under the large ballast heap ... facing the station on the west; this proves it [the road] had crossed the marsh at an angle between seventy and a hundred yards [64m to 91m] back from the ruin' (Brockie 1853). The 'ballast heap' presumably refers to the embankment of the ballast railway.

Found: Before October 1845

Current location: (Bones) unknown

1.20 Samian bowl

Reference: HER 1895; HER 1896

Description: A samian bowl (form 31) stamped GENITOR

(a) 'a dish of samian ware of large size and nearly perfect' (Hooppell writing in *South Shields Gazette*, 20 February 1875).

(b) 'A beautiful patera of Samian ware, perfect, except one piece which had been broken and of the side, showing the potter's mark, and a scratched inscription' (Hooppell 1878a, 5; see also 27, no. 2, stamp GENMORF).

Finds-spot: (a) 'found a little to S of Green's Terrace and north & to E of Baring St' (Blair 1957, 117A; handwritten note and sketch dated 'Feby 18 [1875]').

(b) 'A few days ago, a dish of samian ware of large size and nearly perfect was found in excavating for the cellar of a house just commenced erecting. This is in the possession of Mr Brown, grocer, Green's Place, and may be seen by the curious in the window of his shop ... This interesting relic was found at a depth of seven feet [2.1m] below the surface'. The author, Hooppell, talks of the chance of finding more remains 'higher up the rising ground' (*South Shields Gazette*, 20 February 1875).

(c) 'A fortnight ago a very perfect kind of dish was found by a person who had bought the site [a building plot], and came across it in excavating for a cellar, the maker's name upon it being "Genmore"' (*Newcastle Chronicle*, 4 March 1875).

(d) 'the purchaser of the site already mentioned, (a, Plate V), came [across it], at a depth of about seven feet [2.1m] below the present surface of the ground' (Hooppell 1878a, 5; pl. V, a). This puts it outside the north-west corner of the fort.

GR: NZ 36352 67975

Found: About 17 February 1875

Comments: The stamp itself is worn, which is why there were different readings of it. The HER records a stamped samian dish by the potter Genitor (HER 1895) and a stamped samian dish with a scratched inscription (HER 1896). However it is now clear from the description of the recovery of the second vessel that Hooppell (1878, 5) is referring to the Genitor bowl, and that his mention of the graffito inscription is a mistake (he was perhaps confusing it with another dish in the collection that does have a graffito; see, for example, no. 4.8 below).

Current location: Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort, acc. no. TWCMS : T731

1.21 Structural remains and finds

Reference: HER 1897

Description: Two walls, pottery and painted plaster seen in a service trench (Snape *et al*/2010, fig. 2).

Finds-spot: 'a trench for new services ... dug along Green's Place from its junction with Baring Street to the large Georgian House [presumably Bone's Hall]' (South Shields Fort Excavations Day Book, 16 and 27 March 1984).

GR: NZ 3633 6798

Found: March 1984

Current location: (Finds) unknown

1.22 Drains

Reference: HER 1898

Description: 'two drains formed of tiles 2 inches [51mm] thick' (Steer 1938, 276).

Finds-spot: Found during 'repairs to the sea-wall opposite the Pilot Office, Green's Place [Bone's Hall]. Some 25 feet [7.6m] below the modern street level' (Steer 1938, 276).

GR: NZ 3638 6805

Found: Early months of 1937.

Comment: The drains 'seem to have emanated from the north angle of the fort and to have discharged into the river' (Steer 1938, 276). Possibly not of Roman date.

Current location: Presumed destroyed

1.23 Coins and worked stone

Reference: HER 1899, HER 1900

Description: (a) 1791 finds: 'Lately some labourers were employed to level the top of the hill at the lower end of South Shields, near the Law House. They had not proceeded far in the work, until they discovered a round flat stone of about two and a half feet [0.76m] in diameter, which bore the marks of

fire on the upper side, and which was supported by rude pillars of about ten inches [250mm] in height; a quantity of earth resembling red ashes, was found under the stone, and on a level with the bottom of the pillars was a sort of circular pavement of flat freestones extending about two feet [0.6m] from the verge of the said stone. It is difficult to conjecture to what use this edifice has been put; probably to light a fire upon for the purpose of a signal to ships in former times; whether it has been erected by the Romans or Danes cannot now be inferred ... In the usurpation of Oliver Cromwell, a fort was erected on this spot to command the entrance to the river, and to annoy the King's troops placed in Tynemouth Castle, and in the batteries adjoining it. The labourers this week have found several cannon balls, some of them of a small size, and some twelve and eighteen pounders. They also discovered the foundations of walls here and there, and part of a house, with a fire-place complete' (*Newcastle Courant*, 8 Oct 1791). These buildings are recorded in a sketch map by the local tenant, N. Fairles, which still survives (Blair 1957, 5a).

(b) 1798 finds: 'Several Roman coins, altars, and other relics, have late been found at the Law House, South Shields, the property of N. Fairless, esq. The following are the descriptions of two of the coins:

1. Imp. Claudius Aug. (caput Claudii Gothici) Marti Pacifero. Figura militaris stans, destra remum oleae portendens, sinistra hastam – circiter A.D. 268;

2. Q. D. N. Valentinianus P. F. Aug. (caput Valentinian) Gloria Romanorum. Figura militaris, destra captivum cinibus trahens, sinistra labarum tenens – circiter A.D. 371' (Anon. 1798, 229)

(c) A much later report refers to 'various Roman coins, [and] broken inscriptions' (*Shields Gazette*, 12 April 1850).

Finds-spot: (a) 1791: 'near the Law House' (*Newcastle Courant*, 8 Oct 1791); see also the original sketch map by Nicolas Fairles (Blair 1957, 5a).

(b) 1789: 'at the Law House' (Anon. 1798, 229).

(c) Law House was built on land between the east wall of the fort and the coast. The sketch map shows that the structures found in 1791 were to the east of Law House.

GR: NZ 3662 6804, NZ 3661 6797

Found: 1791 and 1798

Comments: The original descriptions of the 1791 discoveries do not mention any Roman remains and instead refer to the civil war fort known to have been built in the area. The 1798 discoveries refer to finds, all of Roman date, and no structures. As early as 1803 these two separate discoveries had been conflated: 'recent discoveries: as various Roman coins, broken inscriptions, and the remains of an Hypocaust, or Sudatory, were dug up here in the beginning of the year 1798: a slight drawing of the latter is in the possession of Nicholas Fairles, Esq. of this town, as well as some fragments of the building, and several coins; particularly a small gold one,

in very high preservation, of Marcus Aurelius Antoninus' (Brayley and Britton 1803, 158).

The 'slight drawing' mentioned above survives in Blair 1957; it is undated but clearly shows the buildings of 1791. Notations on the drawing refer to stones brought from the shore, still with barnacles upon them (often mentioned in later reports of the 1798 finds). The earliest report on these buildings indicate that no Roman finds were recovered and the descriptions written on the drawing indicate most were brick buildings with fireplaces. The circular feature with red ash is presumably what is later described as a hypocaust.

These buildings and 'hypocaust' are likely to be the buildings considered to be 'villas' 'on the strip of level land between the eastern wall and the seaward edge of the Lawe' later mentioned by Hodgson (1903, 17; HER 1900). Currently there is no evidence for Roman buildings in this area.

Current location: Buildings presumed destroyed; location of finds unknown, apart from the gold coin, which somehow entered the collection of Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort, acc. no. TWCMS : Q10.

1.24 Human remains and coin

Reference: HER 1886

Description: Coin of Constantine, 'skull and human remains also found'.

Finds Spot: 'at the crossing of Trajan Street and Roman Road ... whilst laying gas pipes' (Blair 1957, 96; handwritten note dated 24 August 1892).

GR: NZ 3660 6779

Found: August 1892

Current location: Unknown

1.25 Altar

Reference: HER 895, *RIB* 1057

Description: Altar dedicated by Julius Verax.

Finds-spot: 'A day or two ago, during some building operations on the east end of Vespasian Avenue', the workmen came upon a Roman altar' (letter from Blair dated 22 December 1897 in Anon. 1899, 37).

GR: NZ 3673 6781

Found: About 20 December 1897

Comments: It was presented to the Museum by 'its finder, Mr Yellowley, builder' (Anon. 1897-9).

Current location: Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort, acc. no. TWCMS : T706

Section 2: Exact location unknown

The exact finds-spot of the following is unknown, and although they are likely to come from outside the fort, there is a possibility some come from inside the fort itself.

2.1 Altar

Reference: HER 893, *RIB* 1054, *CSIR* I.1, 182

Description: Large altar dedicated to the Preservers

Finds-spot: 'near the Sheilds' [sic], referring to South Shields.

Found: By 1672 according to *RIB* and *CSIR*, although the source of this information is unknown. Lister lived and worked in York from 1670 to 1683; he says the altar was found 'but a very few years' before 1683 (Lister 1683, 70).

Comments: This is the first recorded find from the site, being acquired by Martin Lister in the seventeenth century. He wrote: 'I have with much trouble got into my hands a Piece of Roman Antiquity, which was but a very few years ago discovered upon the South Bank of the River Tine, near the Sheilds [sic] in Bishoprick' (Lister 1683, 70; at this time the village of South Shields was about 1km away from the site of the fort). He was writing for a non-local audience so the 'South Bank' refers to the location of the village, not a detailed finds-spot for the altar. Lister donated the altar to the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford in 1683. It is unclear if it came from inside or outside the fort.

Current location: Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort, acc. no. TWCMS : T711, on loan from the Ashmolean Museum (acc. no. ANChandler.3.3).

2.2 Altar

Description: No details given.

Finds-spot: 'As I am informed, [it] was built up in a quay-wall about 40 years ago, and now is not to be come at' (Horsley 1732, 287).

Found: c.1690

Current location: Unknown

2.3 Altar

Reference: *RIB* 1058, *CSIR* I.1 301

Description: Buff sandstone altar, on the left side is a jug, on the right a patera and on the back a knife. It may have been once inscribed but since its discovery it has not been legible.

Finds-spot: 'This altar was (when I took the draught of it) upon the spot, where the station had been, lying at the north-west corner' (Horsley 1732, 286, I; illustration: 192, no. 54).

GR: NZ 36402 67969

Found: Before 1732

Comments: At this period the earthworks of the west side of the fort were still visible in the fields, and the altar could have come from inside the fort. In 1875 Blair wrote that this altar was found when 'making a cutting through the site when the ballast railway was in course of construction' (*Shields Gazette*, 1 March 1875, repeated in Hooppell 1878a, 44). This is incorrect as the earliest of the two ballast railways that crossed the site did not go close to the north-west corner of the fort (HER 2349), and the later one was not built until the 1830s (HER 2447).

Current location: Durham Cathedral Library, Museum of Archaeology: DURMA 1989.14.1

2.4 Inhumation burial

Description: 'an entire human skeleton' (*Shields Gazette*, 23 January 1880).

Finds-spot: 'near the site of the fort ... about a foot and a half [457mm] beneath the present surface'.

Found: 22 January 1880

Comments: The report says it was unclear if this was Roman or from the Civil War, but thought, as it was laid out east-west and apparently above the Roman layers it was more likely the latter. There was a Civil War fort on the Lawe, although its exact location is unknown.

Current location: Unknown

2.5 Possible inhumation burial and coins

Description: (a) 'number of very fine Roman coins [of] copper and silver: and also some human remains, in a fine state of preservation' (*Shields Daily News*, 22 July 1880).

(b) 'Human skeleton, in an excellent state of preservation, together with a number of Roman silver and copper coins' (*Edinburgh Evening News*, 26 July 1880).

Finds-spot: 'at the Roman remains': no further details given.

Found: About 19-21 July 1880

Comments: It is possible this comes from the area round Livingstone Street, where a number of inhumation burials were found during 1880.

Current location: Unknown

2.6 Tombstone

Reference: HER 901, *RIB* 1066

Description: Buff sandstone tombstone with a partial inscription 'To the spirits of the departed ...'

'This is a fragment lately discovered [before 1727, when Horsley toured the area]. I believe by the remains of the pediment which has been at the top, and the imperfect letter which is visible, that it has been sepulchral' (Horsley 1732, 287, III; illustration: 192, no. 54).

Finds-spot: Precise location unknown.

Found: Before 1727

Comments: This must have originated from outside the fort, although, like tombstone no. 2.7 it is possible it was re-used inside the fort as building material.

Current location: Unknown

2.7 Tombstone

Reference: HER 900, *RIB* 1062

Description: Tombstone of Au[...]dus

Finds-spot: 'found within the walls of the castrum last week' (*Shields Gazette*, 14 June 1881; Anon. 1881, 228).

GR: NZ 364 675

Found: 9 June 1881

Comments: Although *RIB* has this as being found 'south-west of the fort' (i.e. in the known location of the cemetery) contemporary newspapers record it as being found inside the fort where it had presumably been reused as building material.

Current location: Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort: TWCMS: T713

2.8 Coin hoard

Description: (a) 'A small hoard of Roman coins consisting of ten *aurei* and from 130 to 140 *denarii*. The latter were agglutinated by the oxide of copper from one or two copper coins which were discovered with the mass. Mr Robert Blair, who became possessed of four of the *aurei*, and about seventy-five of the *denarii*, informs us that the earliest he has seen, is an *aureus* of Nero, and the latest a *denarius* of Commodus. An *aureus* of Claudius "restored" by Trajan is amongst them. Of the *denarii* in his possession, Mr Blair has only separated and cleaned twenty, leaving the remainder *en masse* as found" (Anon. 1878a, 100).

(b) 'several gold coins of Marcus Aurelius, Hadrian and other Emperors, together with a mass of silver coins fastened together and weighing more than half-a-pound' (*Shields[?] Daily News*, 10 June[?] 1878: clipping in Blair 1957, 91)

(c) Blair 1957 contains some pages of a diary belonging to the finder, a pilot called Lyal Wilson. For a full discussion of the hoard see SFofSSRFN no. 3.

Finds-spot: (a) 'near the site of the Roman station' (Anon. 1878a, 100).

(b) 'in Roman Camp' (Blair 1957, 102A).

Found: 18 April 1878

Current location: Divided between Alnwick Castle and Great North Museum: Hancock; possibly some in the collection of Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort; location of the rest unknown.

2.9 Quern

Reference: HER 1901

Description: Quern 'in an excellent state of preservation' (*Portsmouth Evening News*, 12 April 1881).

Finds-spot: (a) 'A Roman corn mill or quern has recently been picked up within the vicinity of the Roman remains at the Lawe, South Shields, by workman of Mr. Wm Wylie, Slater of South Shields' (*Tyne Mercury*, 9 April 1881).

(b) 'On Saturday, while Councillor Wylie was engaged in his business avocations in the locality of the Roman remains, South Shields, he discovered an ancient corn mill or quern, use by the Romans in grinding their corn. The relic has been placed in the Public Free museum at the Free Library' (*Portsmouth Evening News*, 12 April 1881).

GR: NZ 3661 6807

Found: 9 April 1881

Current location: It was donated to the museum in the Free Library (now South Shields Museum and Art Gallery) and the Roman material was later transferred to Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort, but it cannot now be identified amongst those querns without a specific date of discovery.

Section 3: Excavations

A list of the formal excavations carried out in the area of the *vicus* and cemetery.

3.1 Excavations (1959): site of temple with three altars

Reference: Site: HER 904 ('parade ground')

Altar: HER 905, *RIB* 3270, *CSIR* I.1 302

Statue: HER 906 ('parade ground' and statue) and HER 14016 (statue only), *CSIR* I.1 110

Description: Altar set up by Cassius Virus, fragments of a second altar, three altar bases, statue of Mars and a moulded panel (Thornborrow 1959, 9-10; Croom 2010), plus 17 coins (Thornborrow 1959, 24).

Finds-spot: 'The site of the Beacon Street excavation lies in the north-east corner of the Lawe, South Shields, at a distance of 66 yards [60m] north-east of the north-east corner of the Roman fort' (Thornborrow 1959, 8).

GR: NZ 3652 6805

Found: 1959

Comments: Originally thought to be altars set up beside a parade ground (see HER 904), but now considered to be a temple.

Current location: Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort: acc. nos TWCMS : T778 (statue); complete altar (TWCMS : T780), fragmentary altar (TWCMS : 1993.2636), panel (TWCMS : T788)

3.2 Excavations (1970)

Description: A few small finds and some pottery.

Finds-spot: Outside north-west corner of the fort, in the area of Edith Street. Excavation records lost (Snape *et al* 2010, fig. 2).

3.3 Excavations (1973, 1988 and 2002): buildings and associated finds

Finds-spot: Outside south-west gate of fort. See Snape *et al* 2010 for full details. Includes HER 921 (pipeclay figurine) and HER 1893 (well).

3.4 Excavations (1987-1988): road and associated finds

Finds-spot: Outside south-west gate of fort. See Croom 2014.

3.5 Excavations (1993): cremations and inhumations

Finds-spot: Morton Walk. See Snape 1994 and McKelvey 1995.

3.6 Excavations (2003): Regina project

Finds-spot: Area south-west of fort. Roads or paths with gullies in the *vicus* and cemetery.

3.7 Excavations (2004): Time Team

Finds-spot: Area south-west of fort. Gullies and possible grave cists in the area of the cemetery.

3.8 Excavations (2009-2016): buildings and associated finds

Finds-spot: Outside west corner of the fort. Not yet published.



Fig. 3: The location of chance finds made outside the area of vicus and cemetery. Map © OpenStreetMap.org contributors, used under license CC-BY-SA, desaturated from original and with additions.

Section 4: Finds from outside the probable area of the *vicus* (Fig. 3)

4 To the west and along the river

4.1 Mortar

Reference: HER 1894

Description: '18-inch [457mm] high stone slab with [a] smoothed out hollow' (*Shields Gazette*, 1 July 1974).

Finds-spot: (a) 'A Roman mortar – probably 1800 years old – has been found by members of the South Shields Boat Angling Club in Wapping Street. The home of the club is thought to have once been a Roman quayside. It was whilst the men were constructing an area for new foundations that they found the [mortar]' (*ibid.*).

(b) 360m west of fort.

GR: NZ 36019 67907

Found: June 1974

Comments: Stone mortars were used from the Iron Age up until the post-medieval period. There is no reason to assume this is Roman.

Current location: Unknown

4.2 Coin

Reference: HER 6898

Description: Coin of Constantius II (AD 324-361)

Finds-spot: (a) Found in back yard of 184 Mile End Road, near site of St Stephen's School (Museum enquiry).

(b) *c.*300m west of fort.

GR: NZ 362 677

Found: *c.*1900

Current location: Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort, acc. no. TWCMS : 2005.2957

4.3 Coin

Reference: HER 920

Description: Gold coin of Magnus Maximus, AD 387.

Finds-spot: (a) 'on the site of a new council housing estate at Palatine Street' (*Newcastle Journal*, 17 June 1976); 'at a council building site in Mile End Road' (*Newcastle Journal*, 26 May 1976). The two roads meet, but it is unclear if the site was north or south of Palatine Street.

(b) 'a seven foot [2m] deep trench for drainage on the Palatine Street building site, between Mile End Road and Baring Street ... some 2 foot

[610mm] below the surface' (*Newcastle Evening Chronicle*, 13 September 1976); Museum Accessions Book (Palatine Street does not lie between these two roads).

(c) 'In 1976 a gold solidus of Magnus Maximus, minted in London in 387 A.D., was found on a building-site in Palatine Street. The site lies probably outside the *vicus* but near a suspected Roman road' (*Shields Gazette*, 17 June 1976, from HER Record).

(d) c.330m west of fort.

GR: NZ 3616 6766

Found: Before 26 May 1976

Comments: The coin was found in a 2m deep trench dug for drainage, but the coin itself was only 610mm from the surface, and fell out when the finder pulled a piece of pottery (type or date not described) from the side of the trench. Two other coins were found at the same time, although it is not clear if they were closely associated with the Roman coin. These coins were an 1853 French coin of Napoleon II and an 1853 Indian half-*anna*.

The Roman coin was declared Treasure Trove and bought by South Tyneside Council while the finder retained the other two coins (*Newcastle Journal*, 17 June 1976).

Palatine Street was the line of an early ballast railway that went out of use by 1845 (HER 2349), raised on a high embankment where it crossed Mile End Road. There were open fields, small garden plots and cottages to either side, and just to the north was St Stephen's Board School, built in 1853 (cf. the dates of non-Roman coins).

Current location: Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort, acc. no. TWCMS : Q7602

4.4 Coin

Reference: HER 1903

Description: Coin of Valentinian I

Finds-spot: (a) 'Found in soil in area of Pigeon Lofts off River Drive, now site of new houses on ballast hill behind Metro, between Salem St. and Palatine St.' (Museum Enquiry, 3 September 1982). The fact it was found on a ballast hill means it is unlikely to have come from South Shields originally.

(b) 600m south-west of fort.

GR: NZ 3620 6737

Found: 1982

Current location: Unknown

4.5 Paved area

Description: 'elevated pavement'

Finds-spot: 'Two elevated pavements in the River Tyne, one at the west end of South Shields and the other on the north side of the river, near to the end of the Roman Wall' (from a letter written by Dr Hunter to Roger Gale dated 17 May 1735: Anon. 1883, 139; Hutchinson 1823, 611). The 'west end' of South Shields in 1735 would be below St Hilda's Church and Mill Dam.

GR: NZ 36 66

Found: Before 1735

Comments: This was compared to a similar 'pavement' at Wallsend, where the stones, if Roman, might have come from the monument at the end of the Branch Wall. That at South Shields may not be Roman in date; no reasoning is given for this dating.

Current location: Presumed destroyed

4.6 Coins

Description: Three bronze coins, one of Vespasian and one on Domitian.

Finds-spot: (a) 'This coin [of Vespasian] found with two others on clay, about eight feet [2.4m] below present surface, near Thornton Street, and a little to the east of [the] road leading to Tyne Dock' (Bruce 1885a, 276).

(b) 'This coin with Middle Brass of Vespasian and another found near Thornton Street' (Bruce 1885a, 277).

(c) 2km south-west of fort.

GR: NZ 3559 6599

Found: Before 1884

Current location: Unknown

4.7 Coin

Description: Coin of Maximianus (286-308)

Finds-spot: (a) 'This coin found in Haddock Street, Temple Town' (Bruce 1885a, 298).

(b) 'south of the railway in Haddock Street and therefore near the position of Cade's Quay' (Hodgson 1903, 29-30).

(c) 2.2km south-west of fort.

GR: NZ 3558 6585

Found: Before 1884

Current location: Unknown

4.8 Samian dish

Description: Samian dish (of form Walters 79) stamped MARTIOM, with graffito 'XII'. 'Exposure to the air is crumbling the glaze' (Hooppell 1878a, 27, no. 1).

Finds-spot: 'found on shore of river by boys'. Exact location unknown; could be at mouth of river.

Found: Before 1878

Current location: Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort, acc. no. TWCMS : T3282

5 Mouth of the river

5.1 Coins, *paterae*, cheek-piece, shield-boss

Reference: HER 907, HER 908, HER 911, HER 912, HER 913, HER 927, HER 928, HER 6840

Finds-spot: Found on the beaches and in the river

GR: NZ367682, NZ378673, NZ376686, NZ372679

Comments: See Bidwell 1997-8 for full details.

Current location: in the collections of Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort, Great North Museum: Hancock, British Museum, private ownership and unknown

6 To the south and along the coast

6.1 Coin

Reference: HER 489

Description: 'A Roman coin, probably of the emperor Valens (364 - 375 A.D.), with his bust on the obverse' (HER Record).

Finds-spot: (a) 'Found in a gas main trench at the junction of Beach Road and Woodbine Road' [this should in fact read Woodbine Street] (Anon. 2004, 9, no. 1).

(b) 'Registered at South Shields Roman Fort Museum on 8 April 1991 by P.T. Bidwell and retained by the finder' (HER record).

(c) 840m south of fort.

GR: NZ 3685 6704

Found: Before 1991

Current location: Unknown

6.2 Coarse ware pot

Description: (a) 'A Roman Urn or "olla" of the second century' (*Shields Gazette*, 24 October 1933, with photo).

(b) 'urn of brick-red unglazed ware', missing most of its rim (Anon. 1933-4, 200).

Finds-spot: (a) 'unearthed in an allotment on the southern side of the extensions to Harton Cemetery' (*Shields Gazette*, 24 October 1933).
(b) 'south of the South Wall of the cemetery at South Shields on the course of the old "Letch" on clay about two feet [0.6m] below the modern surface' (Anon. 1933-4, 200).
(c) 2.8km south-east of fort.

GR: NZ 3765 6539

Found: Mid October 1933

Current location: It was lent to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle in 1934 (Anon. 1933-4, 200), but its current location is unknown.

6.3 Coins, pottery, harness fittings and a brooch

Finds-spot: For these finds from along the coast south to Whitburn see Anon. 2004, 9-10.

Abbreviations

acc. no.	accession number
<i>CSIR</i>	<i>Corpus Signorum Imperii Romani</i>
DURMA	Object in collection of Durham University Museum of Archaeology
GR	Ordnance Survey Grid Reference
HER	Historic Environment Records (available via www.twsitelines.info)
NEWMA	Objects in collection of Great North Museum: Hancock
<i>RIB</i>	<i>Roman Inscriptions of Britain</i> = Collingwood and Wright 1965
SFSSRFN	Small Finds of South Shields Roman Fort Notes (available from www.arbsoc.org.uk)
TWCMS	Objects in collection of Arbeia South Shields Roman Fort

Bibliography

- Allason-Jones, L. and Milet, R., 1984 *The Catalogue of Small Finds from South Shields Roman Fort*, Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne Monograph **2**
- Anon. 1798 'Provincial occurrences, Northumberland and Durham', *Monthly Magazine and British Register* **5.1**, 229
- Anon. 1878a 'Archaeological intelligence'; 'Proceedings of June 7, 1878' *Archaeological Journal* **35**, 100-2, 402-5
- Anon. 1878b 'Proceedings of the Association, Wednesday, November 20, 1878', *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* **34**, 501-28

- Anon. 1878c 'Proceedings of the Society, Thursday, May 4th, 1876', *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London*, 2 ser. **7**, 16-24
- Anon. 1880 'Proceedings of the Association, Wednesday, February 4, 1880', *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* **36**, 113-114
- Anon. 1881 'Antiquarian intelligence', *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* **37**, 221-228
- Anon. 1883 'Letters and extracts from diaries of William Stukeley, Roger Gale, and other eminent men of the early part of the eighteenth century: letter from Dr Hunter, of Durham, to Roger Gale', *Publications of the Surtees Society* **76**, 139-140
- Anon. 1885 'Proceedings of the Society, Thursday, February 5, 1885', *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London*, 2 ser. **10**, 194-7
- Anon. 1893-4 'Miscellanea (meeting of 31 January 1894)', *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 2 ser. **6**, 140
- Anon. 1899 'Proceedings of the Society, Thursday, January 20th, 1898', *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London*, 2 ser. **17**, 37-8
- Anon. 1903-4 'Exhibited' (meeting of 28 May 1903); 'Exhibited' (meeting of 28 September 1904); 'Donations to the museum' (meeting 26 October 1904), *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 3 ser. **1**, 49, 257-8, 270
- Anon. 1911-2 'Donations to the museum' (meeting of 29 November 1911), *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 3 ser. **5**, 137-8
- Anon. 1933-4 'Donations, Exhibit and Loan' (meeting of 31 January 1934), *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 4 ser. **6**, 200
- Anon. 2004 *The Coast from South Shields to Whitburn, Archaeology and History*, South Shields
- Bidwell, P., 1997-8 'A probable Roman shipwreck on the Herd Sands at South Shields', *Arbeia Journal* **6-7**, 1-23
- Blair, R., 1887-8, 'Proceedings' (meeting of 27 April 1887), *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 2 ser. **3**, 37-46
- Blair, R., 1895-6 'A newly discovered Roman altar at South Shields', *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 2 ser. **7**, 44-46
- Blair, R., 1957 *Collectanea by the late Robert Blair M.A., F.S.A. Contemporary Sketches, Photographs, Correspondence, Reports, and News Cuttings, etc, of the Explorations of the Roman Fort at South Shields*, bound album held by The National Centre for the Written Word, South Shields
- Blair, R., n.d., Blair's notebooks owned by Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland Archives SANT/BEQ/2/1
- Brayley, E. W. and Britton, J., 1803 *The Beauties of England and Wales, Vol. 5*, London
- Brockie, W. 1853 Letter of 28 June 1853 to J. Collingwood Bruce, in copy of *The Roman Wall* (2 edn) kept in Palace Green Library, Durham
- Bruce, J. C., 1880 'The excavations at South Shields, Durham', *Archaeologia* **46**, 163-170

- Bruce, J. C., 1885a 'On the recent discoveries in the Roman Camp on the Lawe, South Shields', *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 2 ser. **10**, 223-311
- Bruce, J. C., 1885b 'Later discoveries at the Lawe, South Shields', *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 2 ser. **10**, 311-8
- Collingwood, R. G. and Wright, R. P., 1995 *The Roman Inscriptions of Britain. Volume I Inscriptions on Stone* (2 edn), Stroud
- Cowen, J. D., 1933-4 'A Roman glass linen-smoother', *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*, 4 ser. **6**, 355-7
- Croom, A., 2010 'A fragmentary altar from outside South Shields Roman fort', *Arbeia Journal* **9**, 159-60
- Croom, A., 2014 'A group of finds from outside the south-west gate of South Shields Roman Fort', in Collins, R. and McIntosh, F. (eds), *Life in the Limes*, Oxford
- Croom, A., and Caffell, A., 2005 'Human remains from South Shields Roman and its cemetery', *Arbeia Journal* **8**, 101-118
- Croom, A., and Caffell, A., 2010 'Further finds and human remains from the cemetery outside South Shields Roman fort'. *Arbeia Journal* **9**, 139-150
- de Gray Birch, W., 1878 'The Palmyrene monument discovered at South Shields', *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* **34**, 489-95
- Hodgson G. B., 1903 *The Borough of South Shields*, Newcastle upon Tyne
- Hooppell, R. E., 1878a *On the Discovery and Exploration of the Roman Remains at South Shields in the Years 1875-6*, London (reprint of *Natural History Transactions of Northumberland, Durham, and Newcastle upon Tyne* **7**, 126-167)
- Hooppell, R., 1878b 'On the results of the recent exploration of the Roman station at South Shields', *Journal of the British Archaeological Association* **34**, 373-83
- Horsley, J., 1732 *Britannia Romana*, London
- Hutchinson, W., 1823 *The History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham, Volume 2*, Durham
- Lister, M., 1683 'An account of a Roman monument found in the Bishoprick of Durham, and of some Roman antiquities at York, sent in a letter from Martin Lister Esq.' *Philosophical Transactions* **13**, 70-74
- Mackenzie, E. and Ross, M., 1834 *An Historical, Topographical and Descriptive View of the County Palatine of Durham, Volume I*, Newcastle upon Tyne
- McKelvey, J., 1995 'Excavations undertaken by Tyne and Wear Museums Archaeology Department in 1994-5; Morton Walk, South Shields', *Arbeia Journal* **4**, 64-5
- Snape, M., 1994 'An excavation in the Roman cemetery at South Shields', *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 5 ser. **22**, 43-66
- Snape, M., Bidwell, P. and Stobbs, G., 2010 'Excavations in the military *vicus* south-west of the Roman Fort at South Shields in 1973, 1988 and 2002', *Arbeia Journal* **9**, 43-132
- Steer K. A., 1938 *The Archaeology of Roman Durham*, unpublished PhD thesis, Durham University, available from: <http://etheses.dur.ac.uk/683/> [accessed 15 April 2020]

Surtees, R., 1820 *The History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham: Volume 2, Chester Ward*, London, 1820, available from: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/antiquities-durham/vol2/pp94-104> [accessed 1 February 2019]

Thornborrow, J.W., 1959 'Report on excavations at Beacon Street, South Shields', *South Shields Archaeological and Historical Society Papers* **1**, no. 7, 8-25

Watkin, W. T., 1877 'Britanno Roman Inscriptions discovered in 1876', *Archaeological Journal* **34**, 130-148

Watkin, W.T., 1888 'Roman inscriptions found in Britain in 1887', *Archaeological Journal* **45**, 167-186