

COMMENT

AUTHORITY

Excavations in the retentura of this large auxiliary fort, approximately half-way between the NE gate (porta decumana) and the N corner showed that ploughing had completely destroyed all archaeological deposits, if such had existed. A solitary post-hole and fragments of burnt daub at the base of the ploughsoil suggest the former existence of timber-framed buildings in the vicinity. No Romano-British artefacts were recovered.

The examination of the innermost of the two ditches at the site of the porta decumana demonstrated the existence of an unexcavated causeway 9.25 m wide opposite the gate, traversed by a shallow drain which emptied into the northern outer ditch-terminal. The latter was 2.5 m wide, 1.45 m deep;

rock-cut, with a square-cut cleaning-out channel. The ditch at this point had been deliberately filled with a fine, turfy clay and stones, and capped with burnt debris following relatively slight silting. A small group of coarse-ware vessels had been deposited concurrently with these backfilling deposits which presumably relate to the demolition of the defences upon the abandonment of the fort. These, however, do not provide a precise date for this event within the period circa AD 75-120. The broad chronology of the fort remains uncertain, but the apparent lack of any modification to the defences noted in the excavations of 1977 (Britannia, IX, 1978, 408) suggests an attenuated occupation.

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1983.