This study uses artefact distribution analyses to investigate the activities that took place inside early Roman imperial military bases. Focusing especially on non-combat activities, it explores the lives of families and other support personnel who are widely assumed to have inhabited civilian settlements outside the fortification walls. Spatial analyses, in GIS-type environments, are used to develop fresh perspectives on the range of people who lived within the walls of these military establishments, the various industrial, commercial, domestic and leisure activities in which they and combat personnel were involved, and the socio-spatial organisation of these activities and these establishments. The book includes examples of both legionary fortresses and auxiliary forts from the German provinces to demonstrate that more material-cultural approaches to the artefact assemblages from these sites give greater insights into how these military communities operated and to demonstrate the problems of ascribing functions to buildings without investigating the full material record.

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People and Spaces in Roman Military Bases

PENEOPE M. ALLISON
Contents

List of figures  [page vii]
List of tables  [xvii]
Preface  [xix]

1 Introduction  [1]

2 Approaching Roman military communities  [12]

3 Studying Roman artefacts and social practice  [33]

4 Site selection and data processing  [50]

5 Categorising Roman artefacts  [65]

6 Vetera I  [109]
   Introduction  [109]
   Activity and identity categories for specific artefacts  [115]
   Analyses of artefact distribution  [121]

7 Rottweil (Ara Flaviae) – Forts I and II  [152]
   Introduction to Rottweil  [152]
   Introduction to Forts I and II  [154]
   Activity and identity categories for specific artefacts  [164]
   Analyses of artefact distribution  [166]

8 The fort at Oberstimm  [179]
   Introduction  [179]
   Activity and identity categories for specific artefacts  [188]
   Analyses of artefact distribution  [191]

9 The fort at Hesselbach  [222]
   Introduction  [222]
   Activity and identity categories for specific artefacts  [228]
   Analyses of artefact distribution  [229]

10 The fort at Ellingen  [232]
   Introduction  [232]
   Activity and identity categories for specific artefacts  [241]
   Analyses of artefact distribution  [245]

11 Inter-site spatial distribution of activities and use of space  [281]
Contents

12 Status and gender identity – the roles and impact of women and children [319]

13 Concluding comments [344]

APPENDICES

A Accessing and using the data and the distribution maps [359]
B Vetera I: preparation and assessment of the data [361]
C Rottweil Forts I and II: preparation and assessment of the data [383]
D Oberstimm: preparation and assessment of the data [399]
E Hesselbach: preparation and assessment of the data [415]
F Ellingen: preparation and assessment of the data [421]
G Drawings of artefacts [437]

Bibliography [453]
Index [481]
List of figures

1.1 Map of Germany showing locations of the sites in study. (Drawing P. A. Faulkner.) [page 8]

2.1 Tombstone of Dagvalda, mourned by his wife, Pusinna, from Cawfields on Hadrian’s Wall. (Courtesy of the Trustees of the Clayton Collection, Chesters Museum.) [21]

6.1 Map showing Xanten, Colonia Ulpia Traiania and Vetera I. (Adapted from Hanel 1995: pl. 1 by D. Miles-Williams.) [110]

6.2 Plan of Vetera I showing remains of all fortresses and numbering of buildings in last Claudian–Neronian fortress, including building underlying later Building F. (Adapted from Hanel 1995: plan 169 by S. Ellis and M. Sterry.) [111]

7.1 Location map for Rottweil. (Adapted from Franke 2003 fig. 3 by D. Miles-Williams.) [153]

7.2 Map showing position of Rottweil forts. (Adapted from Franke 2003: fig. 4 by D. Miles-Williams.) [153]

7.3 Plan of Rottweil Fort I showing excavation areas. (Adapted from Franke 2003 fig. 5 by D. Miles-Williams.) [155]

7.4 Plan of Rottweil Forts I and II indicating buildings excavated and reconstructed barrack buildings. (Adapted from various plans in Franke 2003 by D. Miles-Williams.) [156]

7.5 Artefacts potentially associated with women and children, as a percentage of artefacts in this study in each excavation area at Rottweil. [174]

8.1 Location map for the fort at Oberstimm. (Adapted from Schönberger, von Köhler and Simon 1989: fig. 2 by D. Miles-Williams.) [180]

8.2 Plan showing Schönberger’s excavations of the fort at Oberstimm. (Adapted from Schönberger 1978: fig. 2 by D. Miles-Williams.) [180]

8.3 Plan of Schönberger’s excavations of the fort at Oberstimm. (Adapted from Schönberger 1978: fig 3, by D. Miles-Williams.) [183]
List of figures

8.4 Plan of the fort at Oberstimm indicating buildings excavated and those reconstructed by Schönberger. (Adapted from various plans in Schönberger 1978, by S. Ellis and M. Sterry.) [184]

8.5 Distribution of animal bone in the fort at Oberstimm, by period. [204]

9.1 Location map for Hesselbach. (Adapted from Baatz 1973: fig. 1 by D. Miles-Williams.) [223]

9.2 Plan of the fort at Hesselbach. (Adapted from Baatz 1973: fig. 35 by S. Ellis.) [224]

10.1 Plan of fort at Ellingen showing building phases. (Adapted from Zanier 1992: Beilage 1 by D. Miles-Williams.) [233]

(In the distribution maps in the following figures in the Appendices, the plots outside the fort walls are of unprovenanced finds.)

B.1 Building areas as percentages of the total excavated area at Vetera I. [366]

B.2 Percentage of all artefacts in each building and street area at Vetera I. [367]

B.3 Density of all artefacts (per m²) in each building and street area at Vetera I. [368]

B.4 Distribution of coins at Vetera I, by date. [369]

B.5 Percentage of coins in each building and street area at Vetera I. [370]

B.6 Density of coins (per m²) in each building and street area at Vetera I. [371]

B.7 Distribution of fine ceramics at Vetera I. [372]

B.8 Percentage of the fine ceramics in each building and street area at Vetera I. [373]

B.9 Density of fine ceramics (per m²) in each building and street area at Vetera I. [374]

B.10 Distribution of utilitarian ceramics at Vetera I. [375]

B.11 Percentage of utilitarian ceramics in each building and street area at Vetera I. [376]

B.12 Density of utilitarian ceramics (per m²) in each building and street area at Vetera I. [376]

B.13 Correspondence analysis between buildings, with more than ten artefacts, and gendered categories. (Analysis by A. Fairbairn.) [379]
List of figures

B.14 Correspondence analysis between groups of functionally related buildings and areas, and gendered categories. (Analysis by A. Fairbairn.) [380]

C.1 Each excavation area on the Nikolausfeld, as a percentage of total excavated area of Forts I and II at Rottweil. [385]

C.2 Percentage of all artefacts from each excavation area of Forts I and II at Rottweil. [385]

C.3 Density of all artefacts (per m²) in each excavation area of Forts I and II at Rottweil. [386]

C.4 The distribution pattern of coins, by period, in the excavated areas of Forts I and II at Rottweil. [387]

C.5 Percentage of coins from each excavation area of Forts I and II at Rottweil. [388]

C.6 Density of coins (per m²) in each excavation area of Forts I and II at Rottweil. [388]

C.7 The distribution pattern of fine ceramics in the excavated areas of Forts I and II at Rottweil. [390]

C.8 Percentage of fine ceramics from each excavation area of Forts I and II at Rottweil. [391]

C.9 Density of fine ceramics (per m²) in each excavation area of Forts I and II at Rottweil. [391]

C.10 The distribution pattern of fine ceramics, by period, in the excavated areas of Forts I and II at Rottweil. [393]

C.11 The distribution pattern of utilitarian ceramics in the excavated areas of Forts I and II at Rottweil. [394]

C.12 Percentage of utilitarian ceramics from each excavation area of Forts I and II at Rottweil. [395]

C.13 Density of utilitarian ceramics (per m²) in each excavation area of Forts I and II at Rottweil. [395]

C.14 The distribution pattern of utilitarian ceramics, by period, in the excavated areas of Forts I and II at Rottweil. [396]

D.1 Excavated area of each building, fortifications, and street area as a percentage of the overall excavated area of the fort at Oberstimm. [400]

D.2 Percentage of all artefacts in each building and area of the fort at Oberstimm. [402]

D.3 Density of all artefacts (per m²) in each building and area of the fort at Oberstimm (excluding Building 9). [402]

D.4 Distribution of coins in the fort at Oberstimm. [404]

D.5 Distribution of coins in the fort at Oberstimm, by period. [405]
List of figures

D.6 Percentage of coins in each building and area of the fort at Oberstimm. [406]
D.7 Density of coins (per m²) in each building and area of the fort at Oberstimm. [406]
D.8 Distribution of fine ceramics in the fort at Oberstimm. [408]
D.9 Distribution of fine ceramics in the fort at Oberstimm, by period. [409]
D.10 Percentage of fine ceramics in each building and area in the fort at Oberstimm. [410]
D.11 Density of fine ceramics (per m²) in each building or area of the fort at Oberstimm (excluding Building 9). [410]
D.12 Distribution of utilitarian ceramics in the fort at Oberstimm. [412]
D.13 Distribution of utilitarian ceramics in the fort at Oberstimm, by period. [413]
D.14 Percentage of utilitarian ceramics in each building and area in the fort at Oberstimm. [414]
D.15 Density of utilitarian ceramics (per m²) in each building and area in the fort at Oberstimm (excluding Building 9). [414]
E.1 Distribution of fine ceramics in the fort at Hesselbach. [417]
E.2 Distribution of fine ceramics in the fort at Hesselbach, by period. [418]
E.3 Distribution of utilitarian ceramics in the fort at Hesselbach. [419]
E.4 Distribution of utilitarian ceramics in the fort at Hesselbach by period. [419]
F.1 Building area as a percentage of the overall area of the fort at Ellingen. [424]
F.2 Percentage of all artefacts in each building and area inside the fort at Ellingen (excluding strays). [425]
F.3 Density of all artefacts (per m²) in each building and area inside the fort at Ellingen (excluding Wells 1 and 4). [425]
F.4 Percentage of coins in each building and area inside the fort at Ellingen. [426]
F.5 Density of coins (per m²) in each area building and inside the fort at Ellingen. [427]
F.6 Distribution of coins in the fort at Ellingen, by period. [428]
F.7 Percentage of fine ceramics in each building and area inside the fort at Ellingen. [430]
F.8 Density of fine ceramics (per m²) in each building and area inside the fort at Ellingen. [430]
F.9 Distribution of fine ceramics in the fort at Ellingen. [431]
F.10 Distribution of fine ceramics in the fort at Ellingen, by period. [432]

F.11 Percentage of utilitarian ceramics in each building and area inside the fort at Ellingen. [433]

F.12 Density of utilitarian ceramics (per m²) in each building and area inside the fort at Ellingen (excluding Wells 1 and 4). [434]

F.13 Distribution of utilitarian ceramics in the fort at Ellingen. [435]

F.14 Distribution of utilitarian ceramics in the fort at Ellingen, by period. [436]

Appendix G


G.1 Pendant from room 35, Casa del Menandro, Pompeii (for scale: Allison 2006a: fig. 48.3, cat. no. 671ii, drawing by P. Allison). [437]

G.2 Pendant from room 35, Casa del Menandro, Pompeii (for scale: Allison 2006a: fig. 48.2, cat. no. 671iii, drawing by P. Allison). [437]

G.3 Bone spindles with spindle whorls from room 2, Casa del Fabbro, Pompeii (Allison 2006a: pl. 70.9, cat. nos. 1048–9, photo J. Agee). [437]

G.4 Bone stylus from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. J1). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [437]

G.5 Bone spindle whorl(?) from Ellingen (Zanier 1992: cat. no. G45). (Reproduced with permission from W. Zanier.) [438]

G.6 Bronze cuirass remains with hinge from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: pl. 7, cat. no. B142). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [438]


G.8 Drop handle from Vetera I (Hanel 1995 cat. no. B389). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [438]

G.9 Drop handles from room 7, Casa degli Amanti, Pompeii (Allison 2006a: pl. 109.9, cat. no. 1769, photo J. Agee). [439]

List of figures

G.11 ‘Button-and-loop’ fastener from room 2, Casa del Fabbro, Pompeii. (For scale: Allison 2006a: fig. 49.9, cat. no. 1041, drawing by P. Allison.) [439]


G.13 Wire (Draht) brooch, Almgren 15, from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B12). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [439]

G.14 Aucissa brooch from corridor 16 in the Casa del Menandro, Pompeii. (For scale: Allison 2006a: fig. 49.8, cat. no. 311, drawing by P. Allison). [439]

G.15 Aucissa brooch with protuberances (Fortsätzen) from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B105). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [440]

G.16 Augenfibel (eye brooch) from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B24). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [440]

G.17 Omega-shaped brooch from Ellingen (Zanier 1992: cat. no. C3). (Reproduced with permission from W. Zanier.) [440]


G.20 Trompetenfibel (trumpet brooch), Almgren 101, from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B44). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [440]

G.21 Distelfibeln (thistle-shaped brooch), Almgren 240, from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B50). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [441]

G.22 Kragenfibel (collar brooch) from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B45). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [441]

G.23 Langton-Down brooch from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B46). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [441]

G.24 Spiral brooch, Almgren 16, from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B15). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [441]

G.25 Enamelled disc brooch from Oberstimm (Böhme in Schönberger 1978: cat. no. B395). (Reproduced with permission from A. Böhme-Schönberger.) [441]

G.26 Bone hairpin with decorated head from Rottweil (Franke 2003: pl. 2, cat. no. 18). (Reproduced with permission from R. Franke.) [441]
G.27 Military belt plate from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B186). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [442]
G.28 Woman’s leather sandal in the Saalburg Museum (photo by P. Allison, courtesy Saalburg Museum). [442]
G.32 Bronze chain necklace with blue glass beads from Ellingen (Zanier 1992: cat. no. B159). (Reproduced with permission from W. Zanier.) [442]
G.34 Glass paste melon bead from Oberstimm (Böhme in Schönberger 1978: cat. no. F41). (Reproduced with permission from A. Böhme-Schönberger.) [443]
G.35 Glass paste melon beads from skeleton in room 19 in the Casa del Menandro, Pompeii (Allison 2006a: pl. 23.4, cat. no. 343; photo by P. Allison). [443]
G.36 Lead disc from Ellingen (Zanier 1992: cat. no. D3). (Reproduced with permission from W. Zanier.) [443]
G.37 Bronze pendant from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B231). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [443]
G.38 Bone pin from Ellingen (Zanier 1992: cat. no. G3). (Reproduced with permission from W. Zanier.) [443]
G.39 Bronze shield nails from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B854). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [444]
G.40 Bronze furniture fittings found in the atrium of the Casa del Fabbro, Pompeii (Allison 2006a: pl. 74.5, cat. nos. 1109–10, photo J. Agee). [444]
G.41 Iron stylus from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B953). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [444]
G.43 Facetted bronze rod from Oberstimm (Böhme in Schönberger 1978: cat. no. B450). (Reproduced with permission from A. Böhme-Schönberger.) [444]
List of figures

G.44 Ceramic spindle whorl from Ellingen (Zanier 1992: cat. no. E1702). (Reproduced with permission from W. Zanier.) [444]


G.46 Clay weight (diam. 98 mm) from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. K21). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [445]

G.47 Remains of tweezers (?) from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B284). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [445]

G.48 Horizontal handle from a bronze basin from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B354). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [445]

G.49 Hemispherical bronze basin with horizontal handles from room 43 in the Casa del Menandro, Pompeii (Allison 2006a: pl. 61.12, cat. no. 845, photo J. Agee). [445]

G.50 Handle from bronze bucket with swan's head terminal from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B339). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [445]

G.51 Small glass bottle from Oberstimm (Böhme in Schönberger 1978: cat. no. E40). (Reproduced with permission from A. Böhme-Schönberger.) [446]

G.52 Small squat glass bottle (aryballos) from Ellingen (Zanier 1992: cat. no. F43). (Reproduced with permission from W. Zanier.) [446]

G.53 Small glass bowl from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. E117). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [446]

G.54 Small glass bowls from above room 7 in the Casa del Fabbro, Pompeii (Allison 2006a: pl. 93.1, cat. nos. 1418–19, photo J. Agee). [446]

G.55 Bronze spoon from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. E424). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [446]

G.56 Glass counters from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B312). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [446]

G.57 Inlaid hinged, winged brooch from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B109). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [447]

G.58 Belt fitting from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B110). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [447]

G.59 Bronze belt hook from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B115). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [447]

G.60 Globular bead, decorated with masks, from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. E409). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [447]

G.61 Figured glass disc from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. E391). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [447]
List of figures

G.62 Twisted bronze ring with knobbed ends from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B505). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [447]

G.63 Conical lead weight from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. B1775). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [448]

G.64 Spout from a vase in the shape of a bird’s head from Vetera I (Hanel 1995: cat. no. C8242). (Reproduced with permission from N. Hanel.) [448]

G.65 Hinged brooch from Rottweil (Franke 2003: cat. no. 136). (Reproduced with permission from R. Franke.) [448]

G.66 Equilateral disc brooch from Rottweil (Franke 2003: cat. no. 873). (Reproduced with permission from R. Franke.) [448]

G.67 Equilateral disc brooch from Rottweil (Franke 2003: cat. no. 919). (Reproduced with permission from R. Franke.) [448]

G.68 Hinged brooch from Rottweil (Franke 2003: cat. no. 1048). (Reproduced with permission from R. Franke.) [448]

G.69 Silvered mirror casing, decorated with a cupid, from Rottweil (Franke 2003: cat. no. 225). (Reproduced with permission from R. Franke.) [449]

G.70 Glass pestle with bird’s head terminal from Rottweil (Franke 2003: cat. no. 1187). (Reproduced with permission from R. Franke.) [449]

G.71 Small decorated bronze handle of an arm and hand from Rottweil (Franke 2003: cat. no. 603). (Reproduced with permission from R. Franke.) [449]

G.72 Almgren 236 brooch from Oberstimm (Böhme in Schönberger 1978: cat. no. B370). (Reproduced with permission from A. Böhme-Schönberger.) [449]

G.73 Hinged spiral brooch from Oberstimm (Böhme in Schönberger 1978: cat. no. B374). (Reproduced with permission from A. Böhme-Schönberger.) [449]

G.74 Bronze hairpin from Oberstimm (Böhme in Schönberger 1978: cat. no. B404). (Reproduced with permission from A. Böhme-Schönberger.) [450]

G.75 Bronze belt attachment from Oberstimm (Böhme in Schönberger 1978: cat. no. B139). (Reproduced with permission from A. Böhme-Schönberger.) [450]

G.76 Spiral brooch with head plate, Böhme Form 27, from Ellingen (Zanier 1992: cat. no. B6). (Reproduced with permission from W. Zanier.) [450]
List of figures

G.77 Brooch in the form of a swastika, Böhme Form 49a, from Ellingen (Zanier 1992: cat. no. B11). (Reproduced with permission from W. Zanier.) [450]

G.78 Hinged arm brooches with wide hinges, Böhme Form 28f and Riha Type 6.4.2/3, from Ellingen (Zanier 1992: cat. no. B7). (Reproduced with permission from W. Zanier.) [450]


G.81 Disc brooch with a sunken disc with pronounced rim to take a decorative coating, Böhme Form 44a, from Ellingen (Zanier 1992: cat. no. B10). (Reproduced with permission from W. Zanier.) [451]

G.82 Disc brooch similar to a Tutulus disc brooch, from Ellingen (Zanier 1992: cat. no. B21). (Reproduced with permission from W. Zanier.) [451]


G.84 Iron ring buckle with spiral rolled ends from Ellingen (Zanier 1992: cat. no. C147). (Reproduced with permission from W. Zanier.) [451]

G.85 Bronze disc with eight-rayed decoration and square central hole, from Ellingen (Zanier 1992: cat. no. B30). (Reproduced with permission from W. Zanier.) [451]


G.87 Enamelled pendant(?), from Ellingen (Zanier 1992: fig. 73, cat. no. 240). (Reproduced with permission from W. Zanier.) [452]


List of tables

5.1 Activity categories. [page 67]
5.2 Identity categories. [67]
5.3 Table showing graves in the Flur ‘Kapellenösch’ cemetery at Rottweil which contained ceramic unguentaria, glass balsamaria, or glass aryballoi, and the quantity and anthropological identification of the individuals in each grave. [102]
7.1 Areas of excavation at Rottweil, and parts of Forts I and II excavated in these areas. [164]
9.1 Schematic table of the phases of the fortifications and the inner buildings at Hesselbach. (Adapted from table: Baatz 1973: 67.) [226]
10.1 Building phases of fort at Ellingen. [236]
10.2 Excavated levels in Building C in the fort at Ellingen. [238]
11.1 Percentages of combat-related items at the four main sites. [285]
11.2 Percentages of writing-related items at the four main sites. [287]
11.3 Percentages of writing-related items at the four main sites and in thirty Pompeian houses. [288]
11.4 Percentages of industrial material at the four main sites. [289]
11.5 Percentages of cloth-working items at the four main sites, compared with those in thirty Pompeian houses. [292]
11.6 Percentages of commercial material at the five sites in this study. [294]
11.7 Percentages of gaming items in the four main sites and thirty Pompeian houses. [299]
11.8 Percentages of personal material at the five sites in this study. [302]
12.1 Percentages of women’s and children’s items potentially associated with each different activity spheres across these sites. [321]
12.2 Percentages of female- and child-related items as indications of potential numbers of women and children in these military bases. [336]
12.3 Numbers and ratios of men’s and women’s brooches as indications of potential numbers of women and children in these forts. [338]
B.1 Trenches not included in Hanel’s plans of Vetera I. [362]
List of tables

B.2 Artefacts excavated from within the foundations of Building A, Vetera I. [364]
B.3 Dress items from trenches with unknown locations and from unrecorded provenances, Vetera I. [365]
C.1 Building phases of Forts I and II (Rottweil) and relevant codes used in this study. [384]
F.1 Codes for building phases for the fort at Ellingen, as used in analyses and GIS maps. [423]
Preface

I was first introduced to the world of Roman military studies when I taught Professor Keith Branigan’s courses at the University of Sheffield in 1997. To me the study of the north-west provinces seemed overwhelmingly concerned with soldiers and the military, somewhat at odds with my Mediterranean Romans and their domestic spaces. At the same time there was much shared material culture between these different contexts of the early Roman Empire. I became interested in reconciling my concerns for the material culture and social contexts of Roman urban domestic space with that of Roman military bases during the first and second centuries CE.

An Australian Research Council Queen Elizabeth II Fellowship (2001–6) provided me with the opportunity to carry out the research project, Engendering Roman Spaces, in the School of Archaeology and Anthropology at the Australian National University. I am grateful to my research team at the Australian National University: Drs Andrew Fairbairn and Patrick Faulkner (now University of Queensland) and Dr Steven Ellis (now University of Cincinnati). I am also grateful to Chris Blackall (formerly of the Centre for Cross-Cultural Studies, Australian National University) for his technical advice and to Karl Nissan (Department of Geography, Australian National University) for his advice and support in using ArcGIS. I was awarded a British Academy Small Grant in 2007 to prepare the GIS maps for online publication on the Archaeological Data Service. I would like to thank Dr Paul Newson (now American University of Beirut) for assisting in their preparation, and for preparation of distribution maps included in this volume; Dr Martin Sterry (University of Leicester) for assistance with corrections; and Catherine Hardman and Michael Charno (ADS) for support and advice in publishing these maps. The College of Arts, Humanities and Law, University of Leicester granted me study leave in 2012, which has allowed me to bring this project to completion, and also funds to complete the illustrations for this monograph. Here I am again grateful to the team at ADS for updating the maps, to Ken Walton and to Sue Willett (Joint Library of the Hellenic & Roman Societies, London), for their assistance with the illustrations of artefacts, and to Debbie Miles-Williams (University of Leicester) for redrawing a number of the plans. For permission to reproduce these illustrations I am
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