

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT WISTON ROMAN FORT, PEMBROKESHIRE 2013: INTERIM REPORT



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For Cadw



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SUMMARY

A possible Roman Fort had been suggested near Wiston in Pembrokeshire, following aerial photographic and Lidar data research. The site had previously been dismissed as a fort due to it being labelled as an 'old quarry' on Ordnance Survey maps, but the nature of the Lidar data was compelling enough to warrant further investigation. A geophysical survey was undertaken at the site in 2012, grant-aided by Cadw, which produced very interesting results and confirmed that the site was that of a fort with a series of at least three ditches around its perimeter. Another ditched trapezoidal enclosure was identified in the centre of the fort area which did not relate to the layout of the fort.

The geophysical survey results did not clearly indicate any internal layout to the fort, such as barrack blocks, road alignments or gateway features. It was considered that further work was needed at the site to determine if the fort had merely been laid out and ditches excavated, but never occupied for any length of time. Due to the almost total lack of evidence for the Roman military in Pembrokeshire, this was a distinct possibility.

In July and August 2013 four trenches were excavated within the area of the fort targeting the defensive ditches, the northern entrance, the trapezoidal enclosure and inside the southwestern corner of the fort.

The trenches confirmed the presence of three defensive ditches on the northern side of the fort, the internal of which was very substantial. The trench across the possible location of the entranceway uncovered the line of the internal ramparts and the location of the north entrance was unfortunately not identified. The trench across the trapezoidal enclosure indicated it was of Roman date, post-dating the use of the fort. Its function remains unclear.

The trench in the southwestern corner of the fort provided evidence for timber buildings in the form of substantial stone lined postholes, and probably indicating a number of phases of structures. The foundations for a substantial intervallum road were revealed. Further evidence for the ramparts on the southern side of the fort were identified, with the remains of structures built into their rear also present. Pottery indicates two main phases of Roman activity at the site, the first associated with the fort (late 1st to early 2nd century AD) and the second with later use of the site (mid 2nd to mid-3rd century AD).

The confirmation of an occupied fort at Wiston highlights the potential for further military sites to be present within Pembrokeshire and makes it far more likely that at least one Roman controlled port lay on the Pembrokeshire coast, perhaps at Milford Haven, Fishguard or Tenby. Confirmation of the fort at Wiston makes the probability of a fort at Whitland almost certain, lying as it does mid-way between Carmarthen and Wiston on the line of the Roman road.

INTRODUCTION

The site of a Roman fort had been confirmed at Wiston (SN 026 187), Pembrokeshire following a geophysical survey of the area in 2012 (Poucher 2013). The site had initially been dismissed as Roman due to it being the site of a known former quarry, as indicated on historic Ordnance Survey maps, although the maps did indicate that the quarried area consisted of a U-shaped feature with rounded corners. Following further aerial photographic and Lidar data analysis it could be seen that the earthworks continued to the west to form a roughly rectangular area with rounded corners, with the eastern side formed by the existing road from Wiston to Clarbeston Road. This formed a classic Roman fort 'playing card' shape and led to Cadw grant aiding the geophysical survey.

The line of the Roman road from Carmarthen had been identified as far west as Wiston previously through aerial photographic, cartographic and ground truthing surveys. No further evidence for the Roman military had been identified beyond Carmarthen until the confirmation of the fort at Wiston. This makes the site at Wiston one of very high significance. The results of the geophysical survey could not confirm the presence of the typical structures and layout associated with a Roman fort and it was suggested that perhaps it had been built but never finished. Intrusive excavation of the fort was thus essential to determine whether it had been occupied and for what period. Intrusive investigation was also necessary to ascertain more information on the character and date of the trapezoidal ditched enclosure that was shown on the survey within the centre of the fort.

In early 2013, a project design for grant-aid to undertake evaluation excavation of the fort area was accepted by Cadw. The design was for three trenches spread across key elements of the site with the intention of characterising the archaeological remains and potentially leading the scheduling of the area. During the works one of the trenches was split into two parts, leading to four trenches being excavated.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The following description of the site is taken from the geophysical survey report of 2012 and refers specifically to the results of that survey (Figure 1).

The geophysical survey revealed a complex range of archaeological activity throughout the surveyed area, these included features characteristic of the remains of a Roman Fort, namely the shape and size of the site along with its distinctive defensive ditches and possible central entranceways. These features appear convincing enough to confirm this as the site of a Roman fort.

A variety of archaeological features were revealed on the interior of the fort. Despite the clarity of the readings it is not immediately apparent as to what these various features relate to. There appears to be some possible structural remains, the suggestion of further internal defences and enclosures and the presence of several hearths or kilns amongst other unidentifiable features. Typical Roman fort features, such as barrack blocks, granaries and road layouts (amongst others), are not clearly represented on the geophysical survey results, although it is suggested that the central Principia may be identifiable.

A large (c.35m square) central enclosure was identified, not aligned with the fort defences, suggesting this represents post-Roman occupation of the site. The function and exact date of this enclosure is unknown. ... This re-use, and apparent ploughing marks within the fort, may have served to obscure some of the earlier Roman-period features.

The survey included a relatively small area to the north of the fort defences, within which some possible linear features may suggest the presence of a vicus. A trackway was also recorded, relating to the later quarry along the eastern side of the site. (Poucher 2012, p1)

The field has been in the ownership of the present landowner, Mr Morris's family for many years. It has always been used as a pasture / silage field and has never been deep ploughed in living memory. Whilst on the site it is possible to see that the fort area is relatively flat with very good views to the northeast, north and northwest across to the Preseli Mountains and western Carmarthenshire (Photo 1). The views in other directions are now obscured by tree cover along field boundaries. Depressions over the ditches of the fort are clear to the north, east and south. The line of the ditch to the west is covered by the road between Wiston and Clarbeston road. A possible rise around the inside of the fort could possibly represent the line of the ramparts around the inside of the fort.



Photo 1: View from the centre of the fort to the northeast corner showing views over the Preseli's, the level fort area and vegetation marking perimeter ditches

METHODOLOGY

The investigations were undertaken between 23rd July and 10th August 2013.

The trenches were located to target the inside of the southwestern corner of the fort (Trench 1), the trapezoidal enclosure (Trench 2), the defensive ditches (Trench 3A) and the northern entrance (Trench 3B) (Figure 1).

A mechanical excavator removed topsoil from the four trenches using a toothless bucket. The trenches were then cleaned using hand tools, planned and photographed. Sections were then excavated using hand tools through all features identified. One ditch section was not bottomed due to the depth of the ditch and nature of the fill.

Recording was done using DAT's recording manual.

Volunteers excavated the site under the supervision of experienced DAT staff.

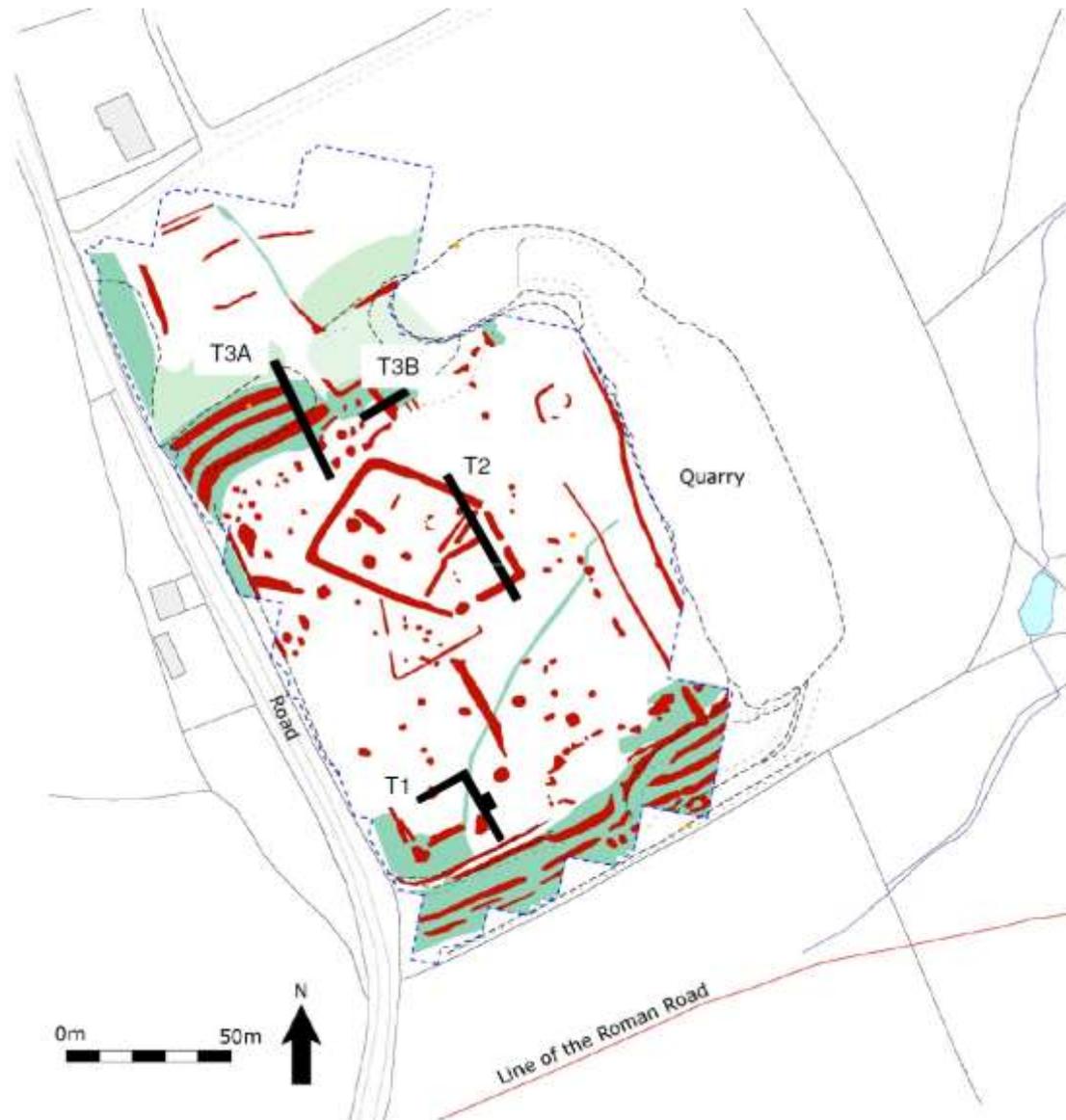


Figure 1: Trench location plan overlaid on geophysical survey interpretation plot

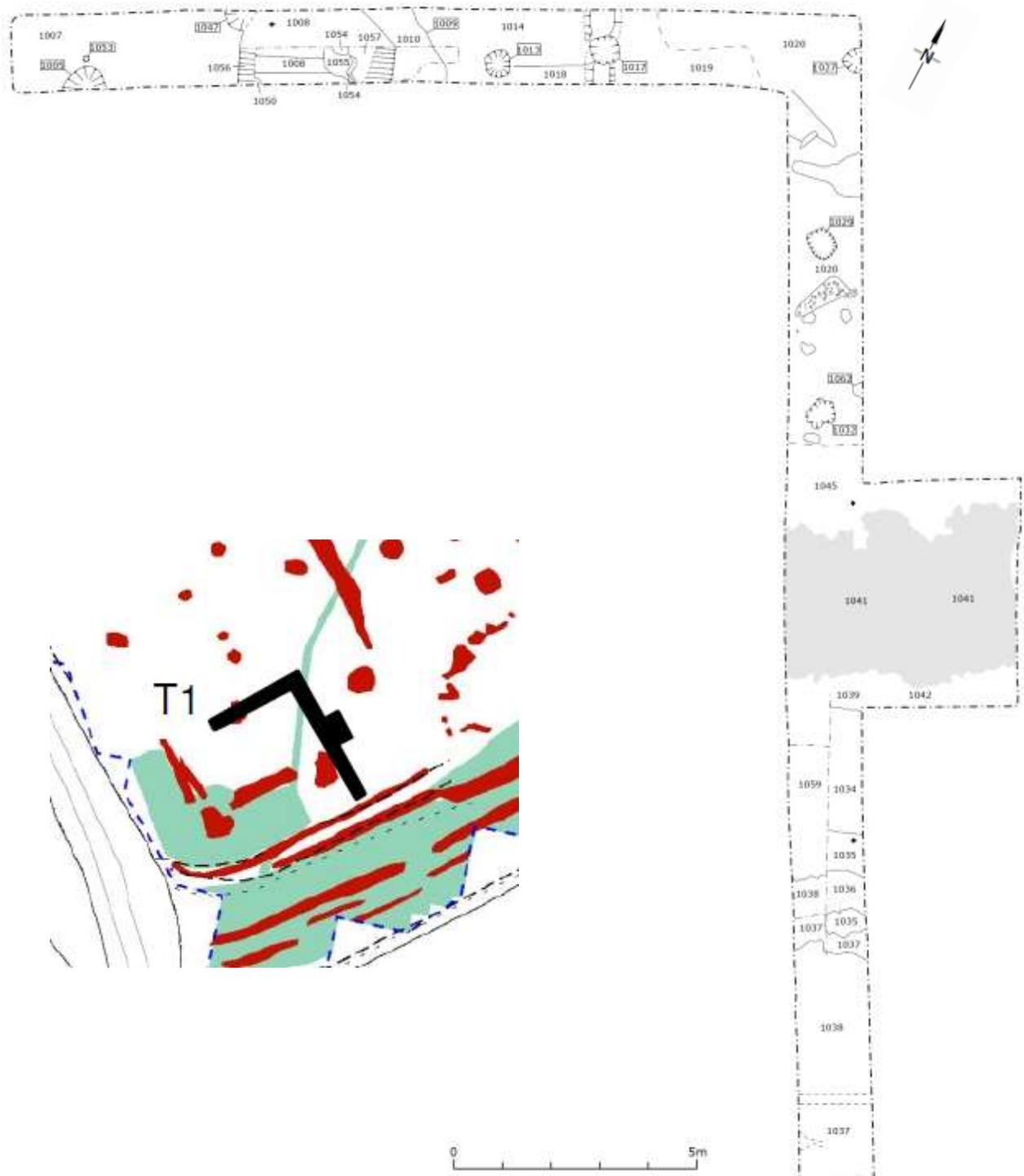


Figure 2: Plan of Trench 1, with inset showing location of trench in relation to geophysical survey interpretation plot (aligned to north)

EXCAVATION RESULTS

Trench 1 (Figure 2)

Trench 1 was L-shaped with the northeast to southwest arm measuring 17.5m x 1.6m and the northwest-southeast arm measuring 22m x 1.6m. The trench was located in the southwestern corner of the fort targeting geophysical survey anomalies including a large pit and areas indicating burning.

The northeast to southwest arm of the trench revealed the large pit seen on the geophysical survey, cut [1009] (Photo 2). The pit was excavated to a safe depth of around 1.2m but was not bottomed (Figure 3). It contained a number of fills indicating it had been used as a refuse pit, the base of the excavated area contained substantial amounts of stone. Clay lumps, some of which had been burnt, were seen in a tip line on the eastern side of the pit. Pottery was recovered.

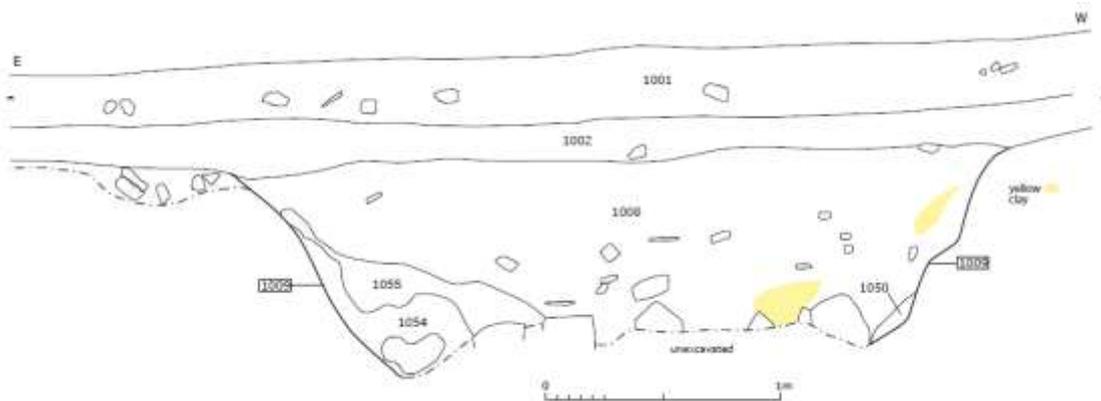


Figure 3: Section through pit cut [1009]

Also within this arm of the trench were 5 postholes, all of which had been stone-lined (cuts [1005], [1047], [1013], [1017] and [1027]). There were no clear alignments of these postholes. Posthole cut [1047] was located on the edge of pit cut [1009] and it appeared that the posthole was inserted after the pit had been backfilled as the stone lining had evidently been reinforced on the pit edge indicating the post had been slumping into the pit backfill. The stone lining (1012) of posthole cut [1013] and stone lining (1016) of posthole cut [1017] were very substantial implying large posts, or posts that would have taken a substantial weight (Figure 4; Photo 3).

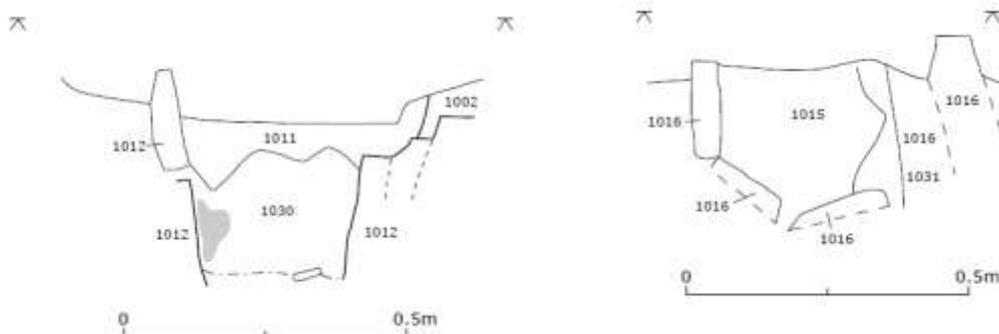


Figure 4: Sections through postholes cut [1013] (left) and cut [1017] (right) before stone lining was removed (1012) and (1016)



Photo 2: Pit cut [1009], viewing southeast



Photo 3: Stone lined postholes, cuts [1017] (front) and [1013] (rear)

Three postholes were also visible in the southeast to northwest arm of the trench, although these did not have stone lining (cuts [1029], [1032] and [1062]). The irregularity of the edges of cut [1032] could indicate that it did originally have a stone lining, but it had been removed. No clear building plans could be made of the postholes recorded in Trench 1 which could indicate they belong to different buildings or phases of building.

Midway along the southeast to northwest arm of the trench a substantial spread of stone was revealed lying around 0.20m below the ground surface (confirming the insubstantial depth of ploughing that had occurred over the field in recent years).. A 3m x 5m extension was added to the northeastern edge of the trench to expose more of the stonework (Photo 4). The stone spread was made of layers of small to medium sized local stone slabs laid roughly level (Photo 5). The spread could be seen to have quite clear edges to the northeast and southwest. The spread represents the foundations for the intervallum road running around the inside perimeter of the fort. Any original finishing surface on the road had been removed, probably by ploughing since the medieval period. The road did not show up on the geophysical survey as the stone used was sourced from the local bedrock and presumably had the same basic gradiometry reading as the surrounding natural and therefore could not be discerned as anomalous in the geophysical survey results. Layers to the northeast and southwest of the road suggested build up (silting?) of material on either side of the road which contained pottery. Pottery was also recovered from the surviving surface of the road.

To the southwest of the road an area comprising a number of different layers with an abundance of charcoal within were revealed. These covered a length of 5m along the trench from the intervallum road to an area of very compact, light grey clay in the southeastern end of the trench which have been interpreted as rampart material. Excavations through these layers (contexts (1059), (1034), (1035), (1036) and (1037)) recovered a number of finds, but no clear indications of their origin. At the southern end of these spreads was a layer formed of lumps of reddish clay, some of which had been burnt. These formed a clear line between the burnt layers and the compact, light grey clay of the ramparts to the southwest (Photo 6). Some of these clay lumps appeared to be roughly rectangular in shape, perhaps indicating air dried clay bricks of a structure built into the back of the ramparts. The clay bricks had become heat affected by whatever activity was undertaken within the structure between the rampart and the intervallum road.

An area of the surface of the very compact grey clay (1038) was excavated to determine if any structural elements to the rampart could be detected, such as timber lacing or outline of turfs/blocks, although none could be discerned. The compact grey material had the appearance of being imported deposits of clay that had been used to form the bulk of the rampart, but the possibility that they are podsolised turfs has also been suggested (G Wainwright pers. comm.).



Photo 4: View west-northwest along intervallum road foundations



Photo 5: Depth of road foundation deposits, viewing southeast



Photo 6: View southwest over area of possible clay brick wall built into the back of the grey clay rampart material (left)

Trench 2 (Figure 5)

Trench 2 measured 45m x 1.6m and was aligned roughly north-northwest to south-southeast. It was located in the centre of the fort area to target ditches relating to the trapezoidal enclosure and features associated with the possible Principia (Figure 5).

The northern ditch of the trapezoidal enclosure was present in the northern end of the trench aligned west-northwest – east-southeast, ditch cut [2003] (Figure 6; Photo 7). The excavated section was cut at an angle across the feature. The feature measured c.3m in width (the excavated section width around 3.8m) and 0.8m in depth (around 1.4m from the ground surface). The ditch contained a number of fills and tip lines indicating it had been backfilled rather than silted up. Finds included pottery, a glass bead, a coin, charcoal rich layers and patches of clay, possibly indicating bricks.

A small pit was also confirmed within the trench that had been seen on the geophysical survey, pit cut [2005]. The pit measured c.2m in width and c. 0.75m in depth, although the exact dimensions were difficult to confirm as the edges of the feature were not clear. Pottery was recovered from near the base of the pit.

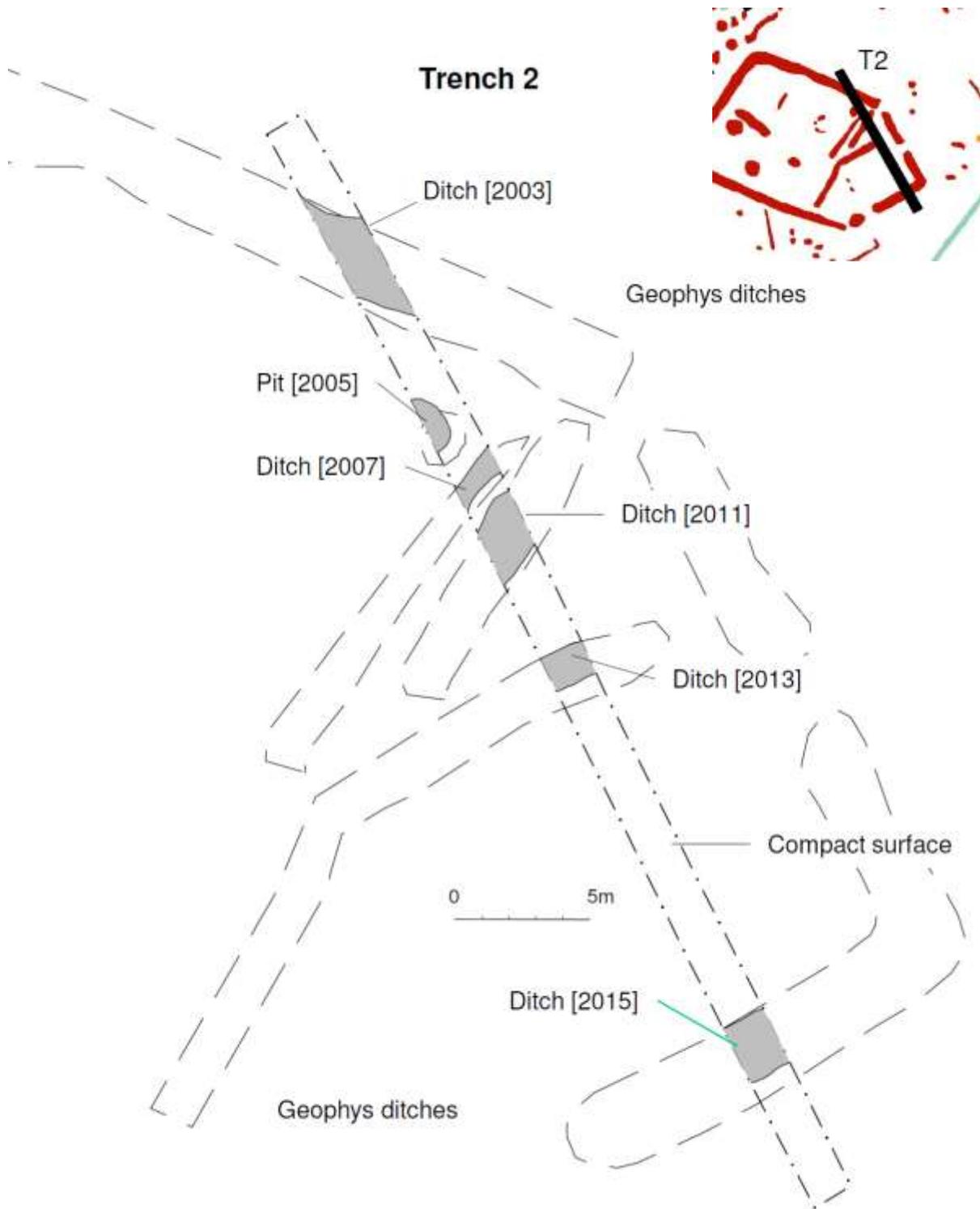


Figure 5: Plan of Trench 2, with inset showing location of trench in relation to anomalies identified from geophysical survey (dashed lines on main plan) (north to top)

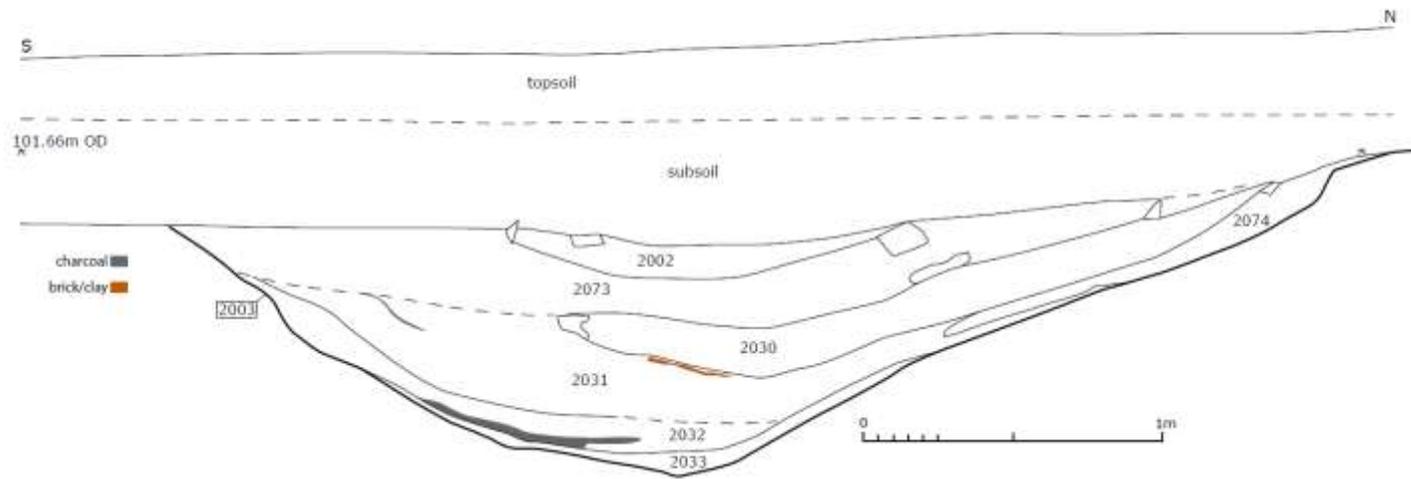


Figure 6: Section through ditch [2003], northeast facing section



Photo 7: Section through ditch [2003]

Two adjacent and parallel linear features lay to the southeast of the pit. These were aligned northeast to southwest and appeared to form a return to ditch cut [2003]. The northern of the two features was steep sided with a fairly level base, ditch cut [2007]. This measured 0.75m in width and 0.25m in depth. Pottery was recovered from the fill. The adjacent ditch to the south was far larger, with a V-shaped profile, ditch cut [2011]. This ditch measured c.2.1m in width (2.5m excavated section) and 1m in depth. It contained a number of fills indicating it had been backfilled as opposed to silted up. Pottery was recovered from a number of the fills in the feature. A possible recut was noted at the top of the excavated section cut [2009], which measured around 1m in width and 0.25m in depth, though the full profile of this recut was uncertain.

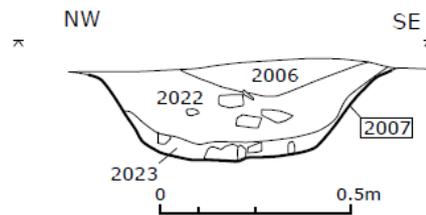


Figure 7: Linear feature cut [2007], southwest facing section



Photo 8: Plan view of linear feature cut [2007] following excavation of half section, northeast to top of photo

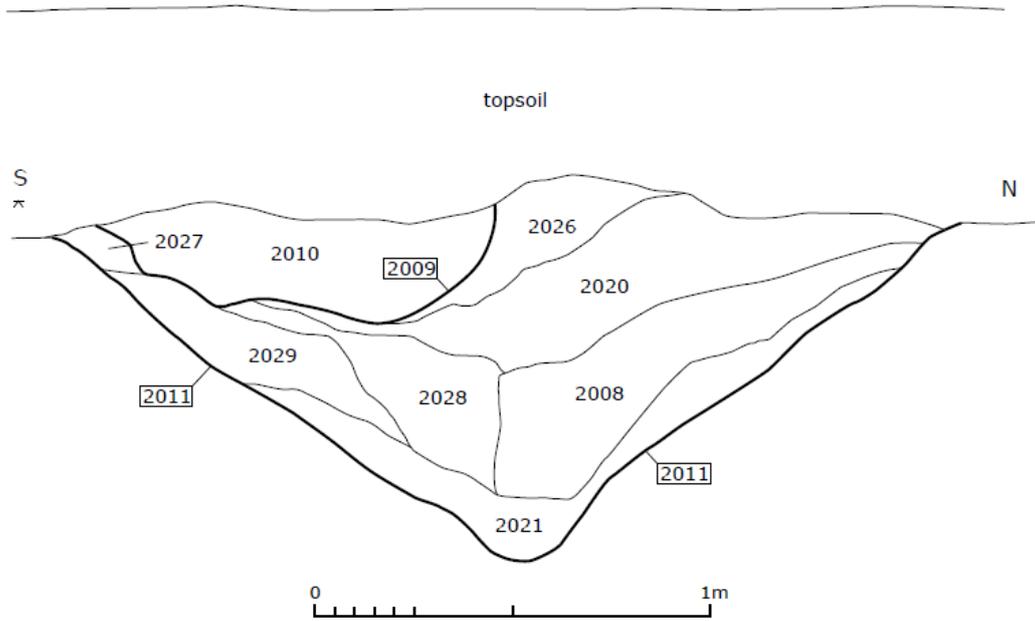


Figure 8: Ditch cut [2011] and recut [2009], northeast facing section



Photo 9: Ditch cut [2011], northeast facing section

A further ditch was excavated some 3.5m to the south of cut [2011], which was aligned with the fort, roughly west-southwest to east-northeast. The ditch had a clear V-shaped profile, ditch cut [2013]. This ditch measured c.1m in width and c.0.6m in depth. Pottery was recovered from the fills

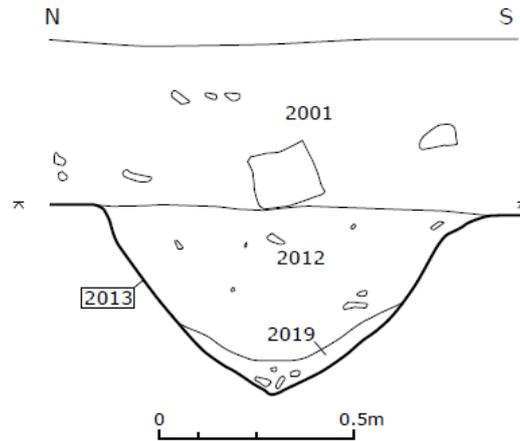


Figure 9: Ditch cut [2013], northeast facing section



Photo 10: Plan view of ditch cut [2013] following full excavation, northeast to top

Between ditch cut [2013] and the southern ditch revealed in the trench, ditch cut [2015], also aligned with the fort, was a spread of compacted crushed stone. This appeared to form a surface clearly discerned by the machine driver as the trench was excavated. Overall the surface had a yellowish appearance perhaps formed from natural crushed stone and the yellowish clay natural. Whether the stone had been imported and crushed, or was merely a stony area in the natural which had become compacted through use / design is uncertain. Areas of material comprising less stone but more clay were noted at either end of this surface.

The southernmost ditch within Trench 2 was ditch cut [2015], located at the southeastern end of the compacted surface. The ditch was aligned with the fort, roughly north-northeast to south-southwest. It measured 2.2m in width and at least 0.80m in depth. A possible recut was visible in the ditch. Pottery, charcoal and a single very fragmented Roman coin were recovered from the ditch.

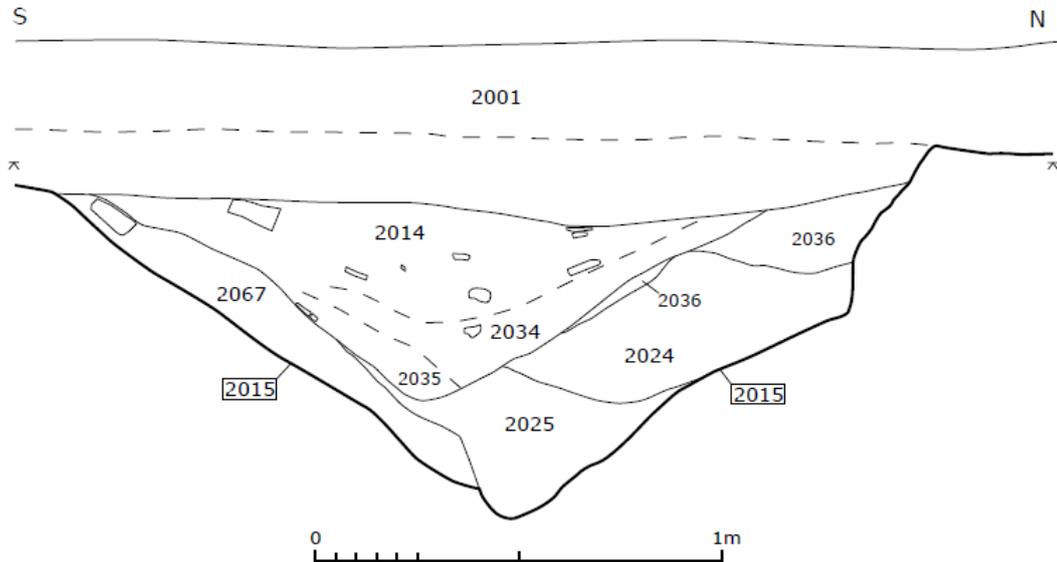


Figure 10: Ditch cut [2015], northeast facing section



Photo 11: Ditch cut [2015], northeast facing section

Trench 3A (Figure 11)

Trench 3A crossed the three defensive ditches of the fort. It measured 40m x 1.6m aligned roughly north-northwest to south-southeast.

All three ditches seen on the geophysical survey could be easily discerned within the trench (Photo 12). The trench was extended to the south further than originally anticipated to determine the relationship between the ditches and any internal ramparts. The base of rampart material was recorded within the southern part of the trench, but it did not extend into the occupied area of the fort.

The inner of the three ditches, ditch cut [3004], was of considerable size, measuring c.6.5m in width (Photo 12). It was only possible to excavate the ditch cut to a maximum depth of 1m within the time available. The excavated part of the section contained a single fill of very compact clay and had very steep sides. Pottery was recovered from the fill

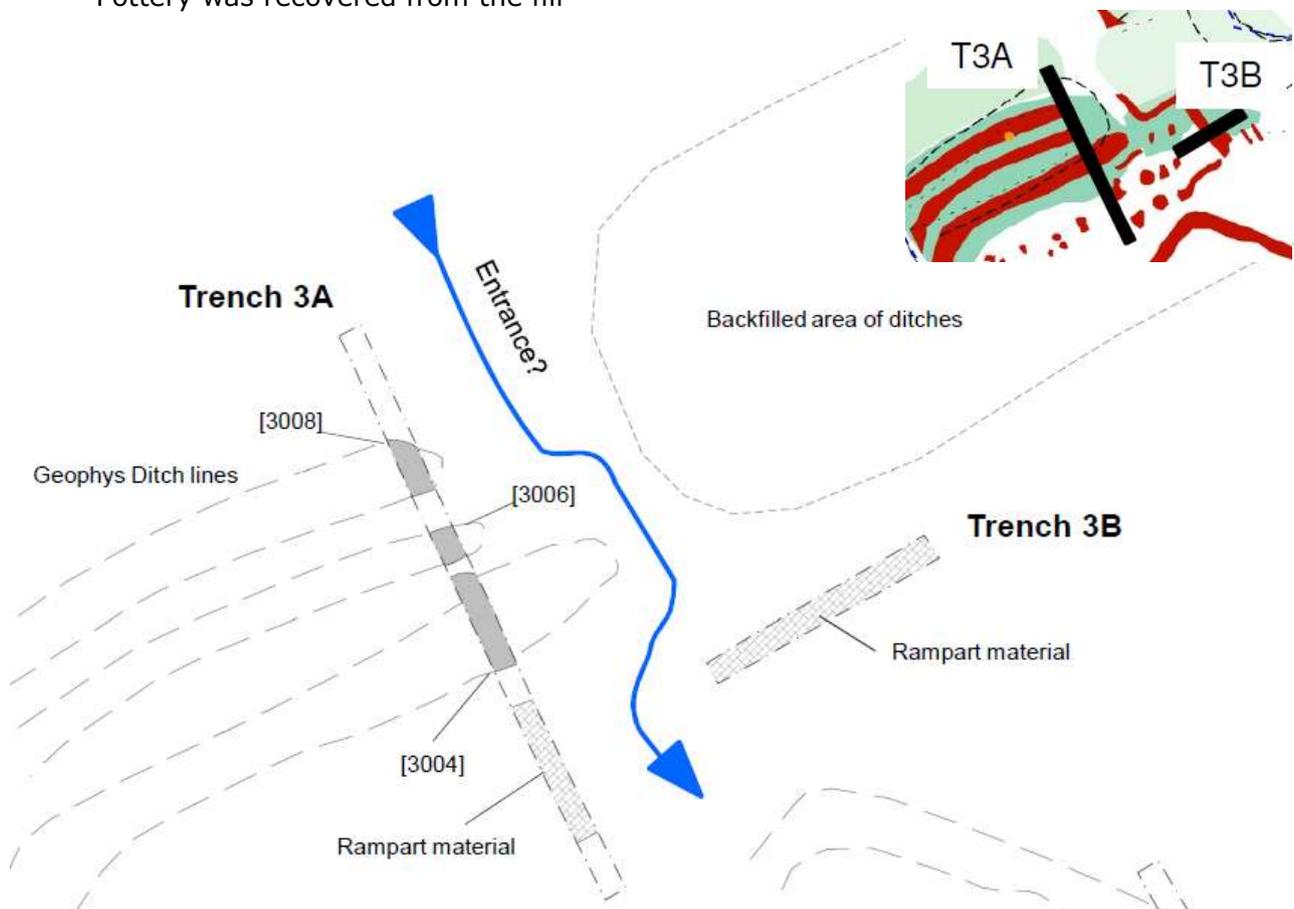


Figure 11: Plan of Trench 3A and 3B in relation to geophysical anomalies (inset and dashed lines)

The central ditch, cut [3006], was roughly V-shaped in section with a slightly flatter base (Figure 12; Photos 12 & 13). The feature measured c.2.3m in width and 0.70m in depth. The inside and outside edges of the ditch comprised very compact clays and stone. The bottom of the feature was particularly stony and

difficult to excavate, and it was not certain that the feature had been fully bottomed. The main fills of the ditch were quite homogenous and probably indicate that although some silting or collapse occurred on the edges, the main ditch was backfilled.

The outer ditch, cut [3008], could be seen on the geophysical survey results to be butt-ending just after the eastern edge of the trench. The excavated section confirmed this to be the case and also provided evidence that the butt-end turned slightly to the south (Figure 13; Photos 12 & 14). The excavated section through this ditch was 3.6m in width and around 0.80m in depth. The layout of the fills would indicate that some collapse of the edges occurred and some later silting, but that the main body was again backfilled.



Photo 12: View from edge of outer ditch across the three defensive ditches, viewing southeast. Note the curving base of ditch in foreground, indicating start of butt-end

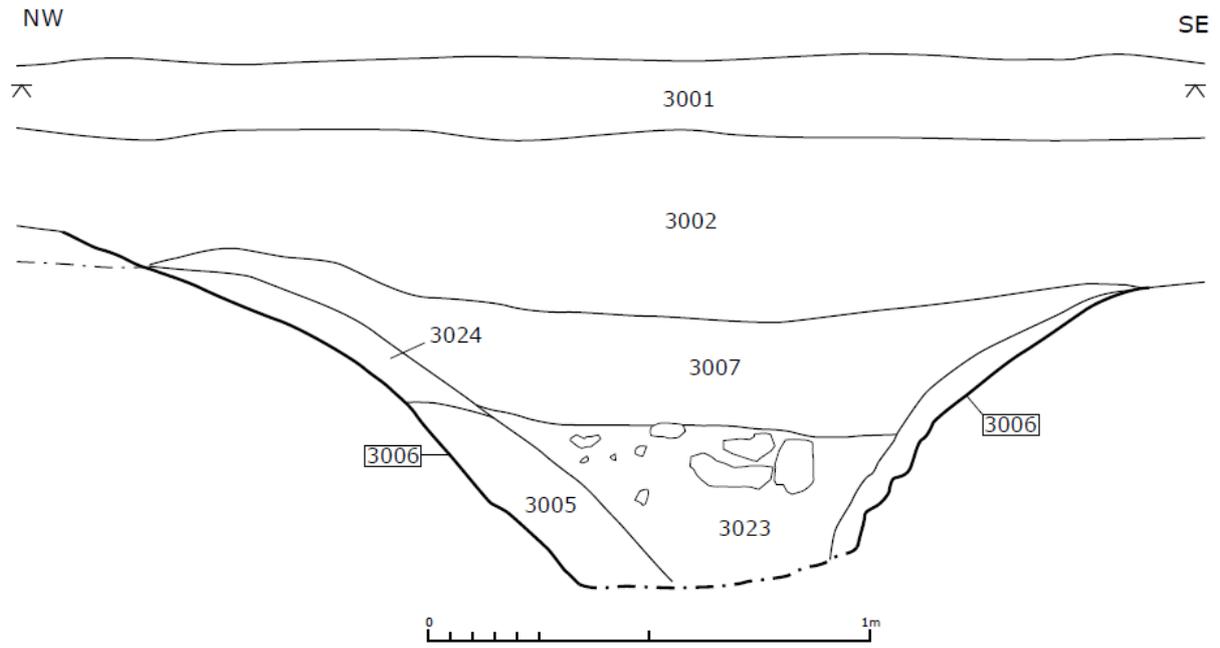


Figure 12: Central defensive ditch cut [3006], northwest facing section



Photo 13: Central defensive ditch cut [3006], northwest facing section

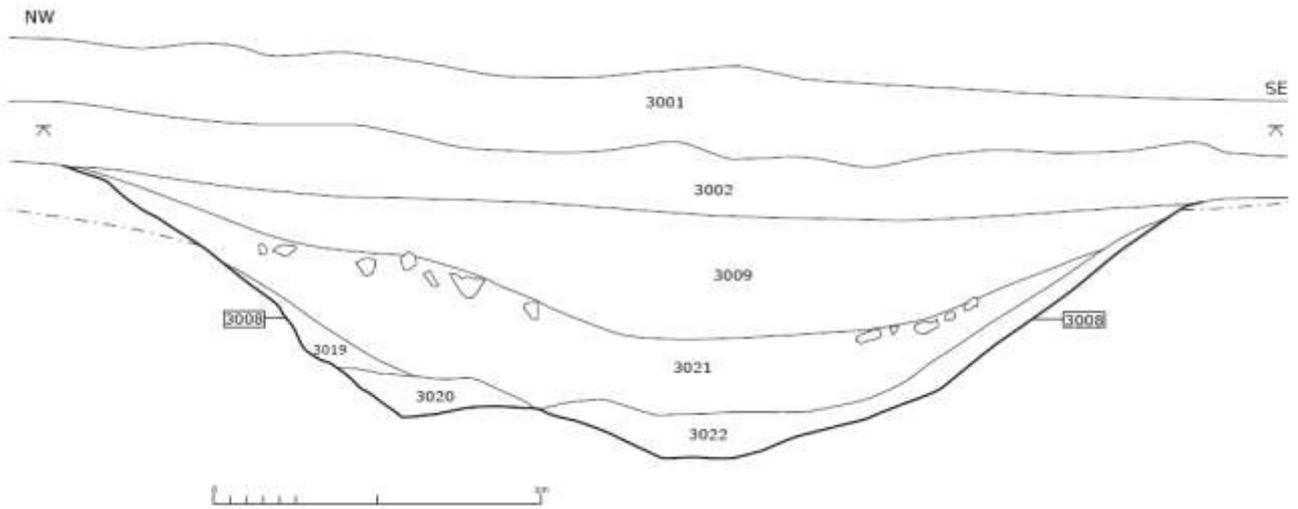


Figure 13: Outer defensive ditch cut [3008], northwest facing section



Photo 14: Outer defensive ditch cut [3008], northwest facing section

At the southern end of the trench an area of darker, more compact material was visible lying on top of the natural clays. This material was similar to a layer recorded in Trench 3B which has been interpreted as turf and vegetation material that was deposited around the perimeter of the fort site.

Trench 3B (Figures 11 and 14)

Trench 3B was located to cross the area where the possible northern entrance to the fort was considered to lie. The trench measured 16m x 1.6m, aligned roughly northeast - southwest. Originally it was to be joined to Trench 3A in an L-shape, but was altered once Trench 3A was extended to the south.

Although the trench was meant to cross the entrance, it was evident that it ran along the line of the ramparts on the inside of the fort. Two main layers were recorded below the topsoil throughout the length of the trench, comprising an upper layer of mottled light grey clay material and a dark brown, compact layer below (Figure 14; Photo 15).

The colour and texture of the clay material was almost identical to that seen at the southern end of Trench 1. This appeared to be a layer of imported clay material used for the ramparts (3011). The darker soil below this contained striations (mineralization and iron-panning) and other indications of former vegetation and possible lines indicating cut turfs (3012). This material was very similar to that seen within a layer at the southern end of Trench 3. Some areas of the trench were machined slightly deeper into the natural clays below (3013).

No dating evidence was recovered from this trench.



Photo 15: Representative photo of section of Trench 3B showing the clear distinctions between the light grey clay layer and buried darker soil below

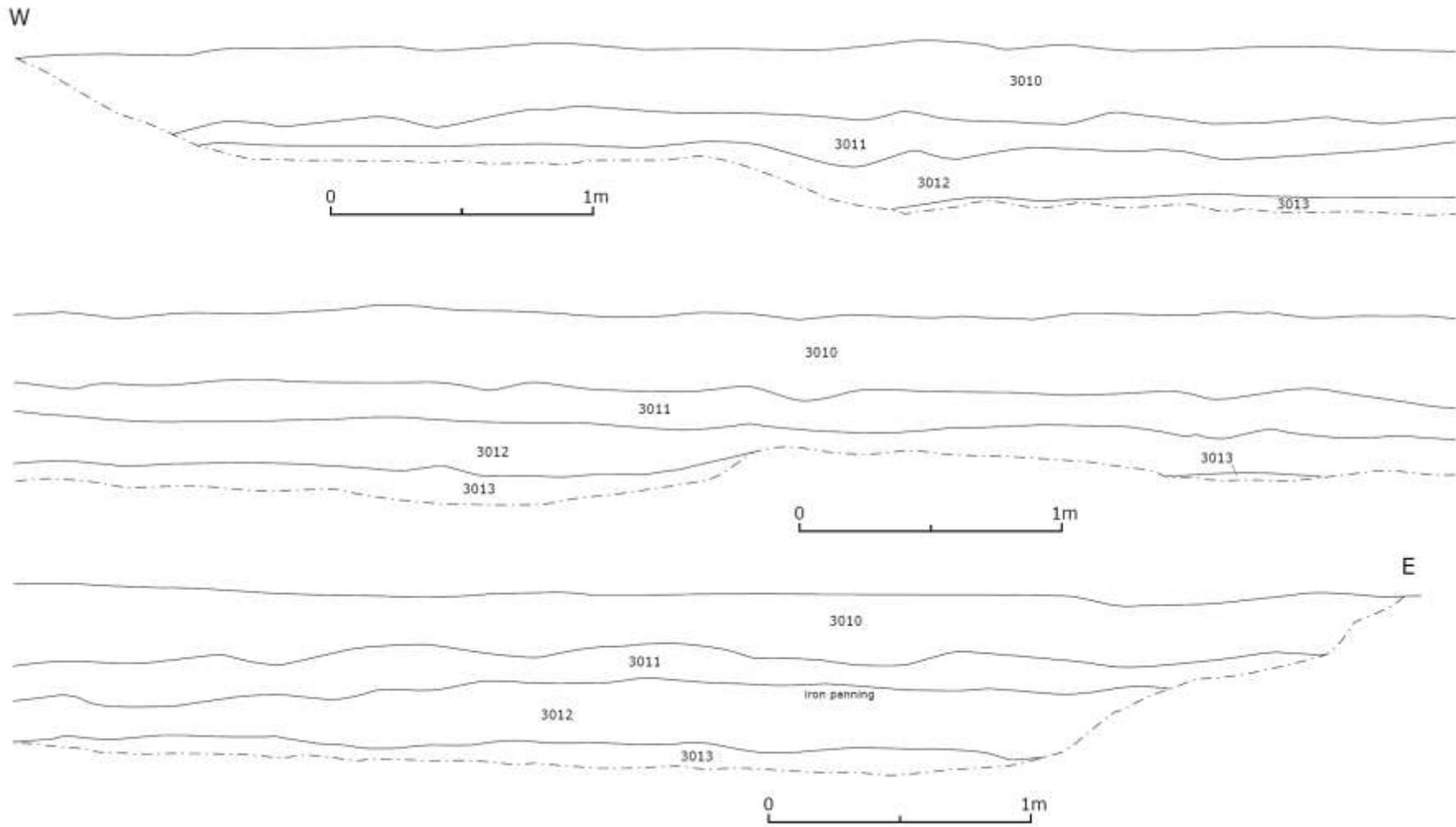


Figure 14: Southwest facing section of Trench 3B through surviving rampart material (3011) and (3012), with natural (3013)

Summary of pottery analysis (Appendix 1) and other finds

The pottery has been analysed by Peter Webster, which indicates there are at least two main phases of activity at the fort. The first phase covers the period from the late first to early second century AD, the Roman fort period. It is typically represented by common fabrics used by the military including lots of imported wares. The second phase dates to the late 2nd to mid-3rd century. The wares are mostly British manufactured black burnished wares or similar styles of vessels.

A metal detector survey was undertaken by the Pembrokeshire Prospectors across the interior of the fort and within the trenches. Almost all of the finds were of post-medieval date associated with agricultural activity. This is seen to be as a result of the lack of ploughing of the site area, resulting in far less movement of finds from features below ground and into the topsoil. It is considered most likely that Roman finds remains sealed below ground within features and ditches below the depth to which the detectors can prospect.

CONCLUSIONS

The investigations have provided further evidence that the site at Wiston is that of a Roman fort. It is of national significance and therefore of schedulable quality.

The results from Trench 1 have indicated the presence of timber buildings, through a series of postholes. Many of these postholes were stone lined and seemed to be relatively substantial. Through the limitations of trial trenching it has not been possible to identify any building layouts or plans. Different phasing of buildings is thought to be indicated as the postholes do not seem to be regularly aligned and by the fact that one of the postholes appeared to be slumping into an earlier backfilled pit.

The substantial intervallum road is likely to be present around the entire fort with other roads of similar construction also located within the fort area. Although no finishing road surface survives, the evidence indicates that the roads were well built, constructed on bedding layers of local stone slabs.

Trench 1 also provided evidence for surviving ramparts around the inside of the fort area. At least one structure is indicated built into the back of the rampart, lying on the outside of the road. Such locations would be typical for kilns, ovens or other similar activities, divided by the intervallum road from the main body of internal buildings (the road acting as a safety measure firebreak in case of accidents).

The defensive ditches around the fort recorded in Trench 3 are quite substantial. It cannot be confirmed that they are all of a single phase, as no such evidence could be gleaned from the excavated sections. The substantial width of the internal ditch could indicate that it is made up of a number of phases, although it was not possible to confirm this within the confines of the trench. It is typical that when a Roman fort was abandoned, the defences were slighted. The material found within the internal ditch was similar in its composition to the clay rampart material, although of a darker colour. It is possible that the clay within

this ditch indicates the abandonment of the fort with the ramparts taken down and the ditch backfilled with the material. All three ditches have indications of backfilling as opposed to silting up, where the ditches would have been left open.

Trench 2 targeted the trapezoidal enclosure and possible remains of the Principia. No clear evidence for a central Principia was found, although the compacted surface found at the southern end of the trench could be indicative of a surface for a courtyard which may have been associated with such a structure. No structural evidence was found, although the possible areas of clay found at either end of the compacted surface could conceivably be the much eroded remains of clay brick walls onto which a timber structure was built or partially built upon. The lack of any postholes revealed may just be due to the positioning of the trench, being only 1.6m wide and aligned with the layout of the fort. No evidence for any stone structures, other than the road, were revealed in any of the trenches.

The trapezoidal enclosure was evidently a later addition and presumably constructed after the abandonment of the fort. The recorded evidence failed to determine the function of this enclosure, nor was it able to confirm whether all of the ditches were associated with the enclosure or whether some were remnants of the fort phase of activity.

Pottery recovered from Trench 1 was mostly of late 1st and early 2nd century AD date. Many of the wares are imported from the continent. This would cover the main phase of Roman military activity in southwest Wales. The spread of material tied in with the archaeological evidence confirms that the fort area was occupied and possibly for a number of decades. This is the first clear evidence of an organised Roman military presence within Pembrokeshire as yet discovered.

The pottery recovered from the later phase of activity at the site, and specifically the majority of ditch features in the area of the trapezoidal enclosure, date from the mid-2nd century to mid-3rd century AD. The pottery could be described as typical domestic wares, similar to that found in a number of Iron Age enclosures that continued to be occupied into the Romano-British period. It is not possible to determine if this later phase of activity was associated with a farmstead that replaces the fort or some other superseding Roman administrative or military function. What is still evident is that pottery is being imported from the Roman Empire in what is now England (Black burnished wares).

The Wiston Roman Fort significantly alters our conception of the Roman military in southwest Wales. It would suggest that there must be a Roman fort at Whitland as well as opening the possibilities of controlled ports or harbours around the coast. Roman coin hoards and other Roman finds from Fishguard, Milford Haven and Tenby would make all of these distinct possibilities for port sites. Wiston Roman Fort would also make the likelihood of the Roman military advancing from the west through Pembrokeshire towards Carmarthen a distinct possibility.

Further Roman remains must lie in the vicinity of Wiston Roman Fort, such as an associated vicus and organised agricultural administration sites. There is also the possibility of an associated bath house, perhaps located close to the stream to the southeast of the fort where the landowner has noted probable masonry just below the ground surface during ploughing. Numerous questions remain about the

about the internal layout of the fort area itself. Building layouts and alignments are not fully understood. The layout of internal roads has yet to be confirmed. The function of the trapezoidal enclosure remains unknown. Further open area excavations within the fort to answer some of these questions would be very beneficial.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Photos 16 – 22: Various working shots of volunteers, Pembrokeshire Prospectors and staff throughout the works

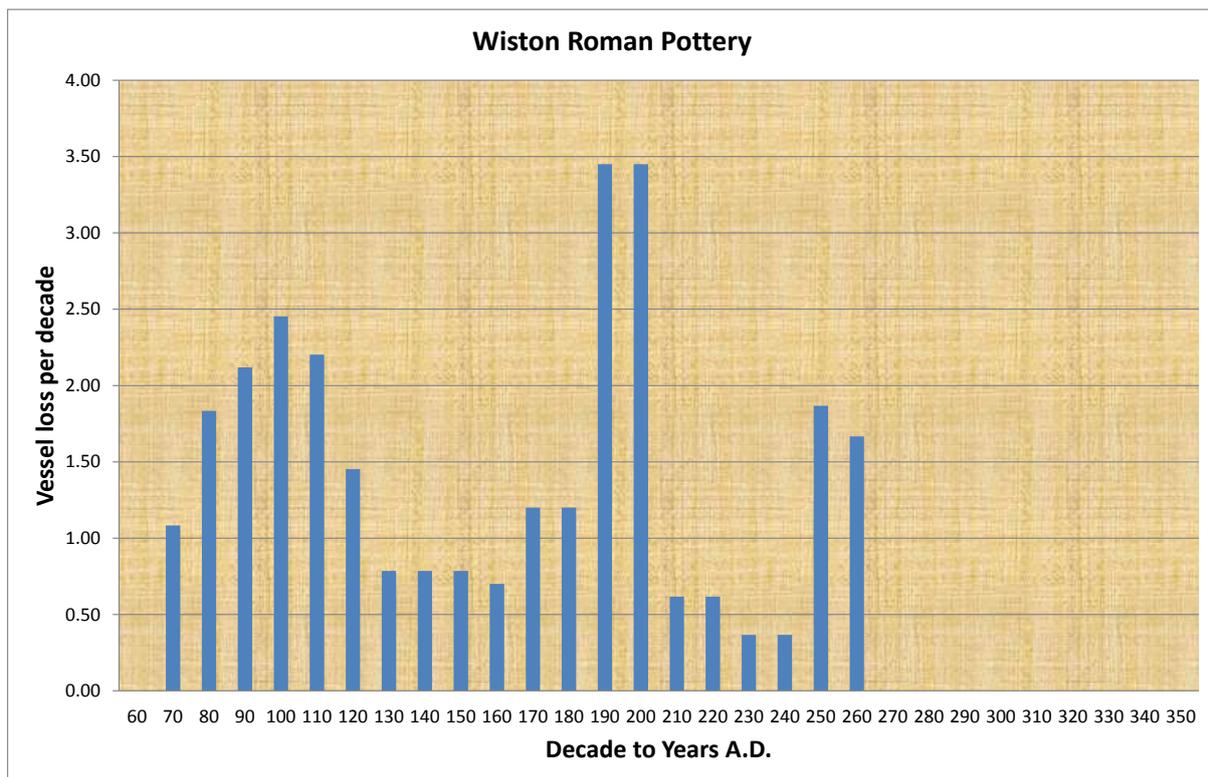
APPENDIX 1: WISTON ROMAN FORT POTTERY ANALYSIS (Peter Webster)

The excavations yielded approximately 239 sherds, weighing 2.929 Kg – approximately 8 post-medieval (0.120Kg), 15 medieval (0.155 Kg), and the remainder Roman or probably Roman. All sherds have been listed by fabric and weight in an archive list which forms the basis for comments here.

Although more than adequate as an initial sample from the site, the pottery assemblage is not large and is likely to give pointers as to the history and occupation of the site rather than clear indicators. In the discussion that follows it must be born in mind that the total number of vessels represented is small and that this must be reflected in the conclusions to be drawn from them.

Chronology

The Roman material is spread across a period from the mid 1st century to at least the middle 3rd century. There are a number of pieces which could date to the mid 1st century but one would expect more if the site pre-dated the Flavian conquest of West Wales. At the other end of the range, there are two vessels likely to come from the Oxfordshire kilns and to date to the 240s or later. We need to be aware that there are only some 29 Roman vessels with dating which is in any way precise. However, it is worth plotting these as a histogram using the end date indicated.



This suggests maximum deposition in the later 1st- early 2nd century and the very late 2nd century with some distortion at the very end of the occupation period due to the presence of the two vessels the start-date for which is c.A.D.240 – normally the data for these would be spread across the remainder of the century but here they have been 'compressed' into a couple of decades. If we remove vessels which can only be dated to a single century and present the remainder (24 vessels) as a chart showing the likely

date range of each and assume both the start and end dates suggested we can see that deposition does indeed concentrate in two clusters.

Decade to	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	240	250	260	
Context																				
1001									█	█	█	█	█	█						
1008	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█											
1034	█	█	█	█	█	█														
1041	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█												
1042	█	█	█	█	█	█														
2002									█	█	█	█	█	█						
2004	█	█	█											█	█	█	█	█	█	█
2010	█	█	█																	
2012	█	█	█	█	█	█														
2014																			█	█
										█	█	█	█	█						
										█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
										█	█	█	█	█	█					
2021	█	█	█	█	█	█														
2022	█	█	█							█	█	█	█	█	█					
3005																			█	█

This may suggest that there were two separate occupations, the first (presumably the fort) produces material which could all date c.A.D.75-100 and a second (perhaps a farm) which could date to the late 2nd and early 3rd century with activity up to the middle of the century. On such a small sample these suggestions have to be tentative, but they produce a viable model which can be tested against future excavation.

Post-Roman material also falls within two distinct periods. Medieval pottery consists mainly of Dyfed Gravel tempered ware. The one diagnostic rim is probably 12th-13th century but there is also a glazed roof tile which is likely to be later. A 12th-14th century date for medieval deposition would be appropriate. Post-medieval pieces are probably 18th-19th century and surprisingly scarce, perhaps indicating that the area was largely pasture in recent centuries.

Sources of Roman pottery

Sources of Roman pottery are typical for the period. If we are correct in supposing a late 1st and a late 2nd to mid 3rd century occupation, then the first phase will have seen South Gaulish samian and Köln roughcast ware imported from abroad, while Dressel 20 South Spanish olive oil amphorae indicate other imported commodities. The moulded lamp from context 2021, ditch 2011 is probably also an import. The hard thin fabric akin to 'eggshell' ware (from contexts 1001 and 1034) is unlikely to have been made near the site but whether it is British or continental is unknown. British sources include Verulamium mortarium and possibly Black-burnished ware from South Dorset. One possible Severn Valley Ware sherd may also be noted. Red and grey wares could have been more local in origin and, indeed the slight distortion on the rim of the flanged bowl or dish no. 12 below, might indicate a source sufficiently close to the site to be marketing the slightly imperfect there. The putative second phase includes imported Central Gaulish samian and also evidence that this was not in such ample supply that it was not worth the owner having some of it repaired, either due to its overall scarcity or because it continued in use after the cessation of Central Gaulish imports at the end of the second century. Some Dressel 20 fragments could belong to this phase but are more likely to belong to the earlier one. Otherwise the later phase is dominated by Black-burnished ware from South Dorset, the major cooking ware of the later 2nd to 4th century throughout southern Wales. We may also note Oxfordshire products, both colour coated ware a mortarium from an industry marketing into Wales from the middle third century onwards. Again red and grey wares are likely to be local

Functional, economic or social deductions from such a small assemblage must of necessity be both broad and tentative. Both fineware and cooking wares are present in both our putative phases. The greater variety both of sources and types is found in the earlier phase and would be entirely compatible with a military presence. Later sources seem restricted and would not be out of place in an agricultural establishment. One would expect greater variety in the later years of the site if this were a military or a better class civilian site, but both the small extent of the excavation and the relatively small quantity of the finds may account for this.

CATALOGUE

In the catalogue below, material is grouped by feature with the great majority of vessels with rims extant selected for illustration. Features are listed by trench and in an order which approximates to their date, starting with what appears to be the earliest.

Trench 1

Large Pit 1009

With a large fragment of Dressel 20, South Spanish olive oil amphora and a possible Severn Valley Ware sherd:

1. Necked jar in light red fabric with a beaded rim and small lug handle (probably one of two). The position and size of the handle suggests that it was designed to receive a tie holding a lid in place. This allies the vessel to the so-called 'honey-pot', a recurrent, though not prolific, element of earlier military assemblages. Darling illustrates a range of jars from Gloucester which have affinities with our

vessel (Darling 1977, Fig.6.11, 15 & 21-2). A 1st century date can be tentatively suggested.

The Intervallum Road 1041

Medieval and later Roman sherds indicate that this was far from a closed context. However, the following indicates that it also included earlier material:

2. Flange and part of the spout of a mortarium in fine granular fabric, probably from the Verulamium area. The two spout fragments do not include a full profile of the flange, but another fragment from unstratified levels in the southern part of trench 1 (context 1001) is likely to be part of the flange of this vessel and suggests a profile similar to Frere 1984, nos. 2646-8, also Frere 1972, no.372. A small flange fragment from a burnt layer south of the road (1039) may also be from this vessel. Late 1st to mid 2nd century

Directly North of the Road (1043):

3. Necked jar in grey fabric with an orange-buff surface, The filler appears to be clay pellets. There is some similarity to jars from the Severn valley but the piece is too abraded and incomplete for certainty. A 1st-2nd century date seems likely but not certain.

Directly South of the road (1042):

4. Jar in very abraded Black-burnished ware. The small amount of rim suggests a gently curving rim as Gillam 1976, no.1. Gillam dates the type's occurrence in northern Britain to the early to mid 2nd century. However, in South Wales this type of early rim can occur from the conquest period onwards, although most belong to the period of increased Black-burnished ware importation in the 2nd century.

Context 1044, Posthole 1029: The sole piece of pottery was a rim fragment of Central Gaulish samian, form 37, c.A.D.120-200.

Context 1011, Posthole 1013: With a sherd of Roman pottery was a fragment of a grey wheel-thrown vessel with a corrugated surface and green glaze. Although Roman glazed vessels are not unknown in South Wales they are very rare and the gravel tempering in this piece suggests a medieval date.

Unstratified contexts and topsoil:

Upper levels contained a small amount of post-medieval pottery and some medieval Dyfed Gravel Tempered Ware. Roman fabrics included a hard thin buff fabric reminiscent of 'egg-shell' ware (from 1001 with a further fragment among burnt material, south of the road, context 1034). Samian ware from the south end of the trench included a small fragment of panel decorated Central Gaulish form 37 (probably Antonine, from the south end of the trench, and:

5. Rim and wall of a Central Gaulish bowl, form 31 with two lead-filled rivet holes. The form was imported c.A.D.150-200 but the rivets imply an attempt to prolong the life of the bowl so that its survival into the 3rd century is not unlikely.
6. Abraded mortarium in granular white fabric with grey stone, ?flint and some iron rich inclusions and probably trituration grits. Probably a product of the Verulamium region, cf. Frere 1984, Fig.111, 2650. Late 1st to mid 2nd century.

Trench 2

Context 2021, Ditch 2011:

7. Ring-necked flagon in orange fabric. The rings are even as in early versions of this form, Usk Fortress type 4, (discussed by Greene in Manning 1993, 19). However, this version is more flared than the classic mid 1st century Usk form discussed by Greene and, although it does occur in the Usk fortress, is best seen as a slightly later development (cf. Webster in Manning 1993, 317-8). A further fragment comes from Context 2044. Mid to mid/late 1st century.
8. Two joining fragments of mould formed lamp in hard orange-red fabric. The underside carries one end of a stamp,]S of possibly S[. The most likely expansion is the name 'Fortis'; Bailey (1988, 155) records a number of Fortis lamps all of which he dates to the last quarter of the first or the earlier 2nd century.
9. South Gaulish samian dish, form 15/17. Although appearing from the conquest of South Wales to the early 2nd century, the form is most common in the earlier part of this period. Probably mid to mid/late 1st century.

Upper levels over Ditch 2011 included a substantial fragment of Dressel 20, South Spanish olive oil amphora.

Context 2010, Ditch 2011:

10. Cup in South Gaulish samian, probably form 27. The form appears from the conquest of South Wales to the early 2nd century, but small cups like this were particularly most common in the earlier part of this period. Flavian.

Context 2004, Pit 2005:

11. Eight beaker fragments in thin white fabric with roughcast decoration and grey-brown colour coat. A Köln product. A small rim fragment suggests a grooved rim as Anderson's (1981) earlier type, Fig.19.1, 1 which she dates c.A.D.40-80/5. A Flavian date would suit a Welsh context.

Context 2012, Ditch 2013:

12. Flanged bowl or dish in orange fabric. A particularly solid version of the common mid-first to early-second century flanged and carinated bowl is most likely, but a flanged dish of similar date seems possible.

Context 2002, Ditch 2003:

With two joining fragments of Central Gaulish samian form 31 (c.A.D.150-200) was:

13. Flanged bowl in Black-burnished ware with intersecting looped chevron decoration. The flange has a very faint groove, allying it to Gillam 1976, no.42 (late 2nd to early 3rd century). If the groove may be regarded as tentative rather than just carelessly executed then a date early in the development of the form might be suggested.
14. Two joining fragments of jar in Black-burnished ware with a wavy line on the neck; cf. Gillam 1976, no.3 (mid-late 2nd century).
15. Jar in Black-burnished ware; cf. Gillam 1976, no.7 (early-mid 3rd century).

Context 2022, Ditch 2007:

16. Jar in Black-burnished ware, Gillam 1976, no.5 (late 2nd-early 3rd century).
17. Straight sided dish in a heavily sooted coarse grey fabric. The rim expands to a wedge shape with a flat top and slightly beaded outer edge. This suggests a form influenced by 2nd century Black-burnished ware flanged bowls and dishes.

Context 2014, Ditch 2015:

This produced one of the large collections of material. A small fragment of gravel tempered fabric suggests the possibility of slight intrusions, while a fragment of very abraded South Gaulish form 37 (probably later 1st to early 2nd century) shows some early material in the area. Otherwise the collection is remarkably consistent and spans the later 2nd to mid 3rd century.

18. Flagon neck in light red fabric with a grey-brown colour coat. An Oxfordshire product. Mid 3rd century or later.
19. Jar in Black-burnished ware with faint acute angled lattice decoration. Cf. Gillam 1976, no.7 (Late 2nd century).
20. Seven jar fragments in Black-burnished ware. A rim fragment is probably from a vessel as Gillam 1976, no.4 (late 2nd century). A wall fragment with open obtuse angled lattice could be later. Late 2nd to mid 3rd century.
21. Jar with obtuse angled lattice decoration; cf. Gillam 1976, nos.6 & 10. 3rd century.
22. Thirteen fragments, probably all from the same flanged bowl; cf. Gillam 1976, no.65 (late 2nd century).

Trench 3

Context 3005, Ditch 3004:

With fragments of Dressel 20, South Spanish olive oil amphora:

23. Mortarium in granular white fabric missing its flange. An Oxford product, probably Young 1977, M17 or 22. Mid 3rd century or later.

POTTERY CATALOGUE

Trench 1

Context	Description	Fabric	Sherds	Wt	Comment/Date
U/S	Spoil heap	Red with internal green glaze	1	6g	Post-Medieval
		Burnt BB1	1	4g	Probably 2nd-4th cent.
		Dyfed Gravel Tempered = DGT	2	4g	Medieval
1001	U/S South part of trench	Dressel 20 amphora	1	85g	1st-2nd century
		Black-burnished ware	1	27g	Flanged bowl, very similar to the bowl in 2002 and with the same faint groove. Probably late 2nd century
		Mortarium rim in burnt buff.	1	36g	Probably part of the Verulamium mortarium from 1041.
1001	U/S over Road	Dressel 20 Amphora handle	1	145g	Probably 1st-2nd century
		Gravel Tempered	5	61g	Probably Post-Med
1001	U/S South end of trench	Central Gaulish samian, form 31. <i>Catalogue no.5.</i>	1	32g	With lead-filled holes for two rivets. The form dates c.A.D.150-200. The rivets imply an attempt to prolong the usage of the bowl.
		Central Gaulish samian bowl.	1	7g	Probably not part of the 31 above. C. A.D.120-200.
		Central Gaulish samian form 37	1	3g	A small fragment of panel decoration separated by bead rows. One panel contained a single bordered medallion or more likely festoon. Probably 2nd half of 2nd century.
		Hard thin buff fabric	2	5g	Almost an 'eggshell' fabric, possibly related to a fabric which appears at Caerleon and elsewhere in the late 1st and earlier 2nd century.
1001	Machining unlocated	Oxidised	4	19g	Probably Roman
		DGT	1	4g	Medieval
1001	Topsoil over road 1042	Granular white mortarium; <i>Catalogue no.6.</i>	1	88g	Probably a very abraded Verulamium mortarium; cf. Frere 1984, Fig.111, 2650. Late 1st-mid 2nd century.
		Black-burnished ware	2	27g	Flanged bowl or dish; 2nd century.
		Granular light brown to grey	1	36g	Probably a burnt Dressel 20 amphora handle. 1st-2nd century
1002	Cleaning	Gravel tempered	1	9g	Possibly but not necessarily Medieval

	northwest wing of trench				
		Oxidised	1	4g	Roman
1002	Cleaning southeast wing of trench	DGT	1	14g	Jar rim. Form suggests 12th-13th century.
		DGT	1	4g	Medieval
		Light red	1	6g	Jug spout. Roman
		Light red	1	1g	Roman
1008	Large pit cut [1009]	Dressel 20 amphora	1	383	Upper wall and base of handle. 1st-2nd century
1008	Large pit cut [1009]	Light red; <i>Catalogue no.1.</i>	6	79g	Necked jar with a beaded rim and small lug handle (probably one of two). The handles suggest a vessel designed to have a lid tied in place and this allies the vessel with the so called 'honey pots'. Darling illustrates a range of jars from military levels at Gloucester which have affinities with our vessel (1977, Fig.6.11, 15 & 21-2) and a 1st century date can be very tentatively suggested.
1008	Large pit cut [1009]	Orange with grey core	1	16g	Possibly Severn Valley ware
		Oxidised	5	75g	Roman from at least 3 vessels
1011	Post hole cut [1013]	Grey, burnt pink in places	1	5g	Roman
		Grey with a corrugated exterior which has a green glaze.	1	7g	Although green lead glazed were occasionally used on Roman vessels and are not unknown in South Wales, the fabric of this piece which is gravel tempered makes it more likely to be a medieval piece.
1034	Burnt material south of road	Orange-red	1	5g	Roman
		Thin buff	1	2g	Almost 'eggshell'. Probably the same vessel as from 1001 above. Perhaps late 1st- earlier 2nd century.
1039	Burnt material south of Road	Black-burnished ware burnt	3	13g	Probably 2nd-4th century.
		White?cream	1	6g	A fabric similar to that from 1041 and possibly from the same vessel. Probably late 1st to mid 2nd century.
1041	Intervallum Road from surface	Cream/white; <i>Catalogue no.2.</i>	2	52g	Flange and part of the spout, both broken, in a fine granular fabric which is most probably from the Verulamium area. It is broken off too close to the spout to allow for a profile to be drawn but it seems possible that the flange fragment from 1039 is from the same vessel. Cf. Frere 1984, nos. 2646-8; also 1972, no. 372. Late 1st to mid 2nd century.

		?Black-burnished ware much abraded	1	2g	Probably 2nd-4th century
		Red with angular inclusions	1	1g	Possibly medieval
1042	Directly south of road	Very abraded Black-burnished ware; <i>Catalogue no.4.</i>	1	4g	The small amount of surviving rim suggests a gently curving rim as Gillam 1976, no.,1 and thus a Mid 1st, or more probably an early 2nd century to mid 2nd century date.
1043	Directly north of road	Grey with an orange-buff surface; <i>Catalogue no.3.</i>	1	17g	Necked jar in grey fabric with a pink-buff surface. The filler appears to be clay pellets. There is some similarity to jars from the Severn Valley but the piece is too abraded and incomplete for certainty. A 1st or 2nd century date seems reasonable but not certain.
1044	Posthole cut [1029]	Central Gaulish samian	1	7g	Form 37 rim. 2nd century

Trench 2

Context	Description	Fabric	Sherds	Wt	Comment/Date
2001	U/S	Red with internal green glaze	2	53g	Post-Medieval pan
		Red with traces of green glaze	1	53g	Medieval roofing tile
		DGT	1	1g	
		Central Gaulish samian, very worn	1	1g	2nd century
2001	Over Ditch cut [2011]	Dressel 20 amphora	13	312g	1st-2nd century
2002	Ditch cut [2003]	Central Gaulish samian form 31	2	14g	2 joining c.150-200
		Black-burnished ware; <i>Catalogue no.13.</i>	2	66g	Flanged bowl with intersecting looped chevron decoration. The flange has a very faint groove, linking this to Gillam 1976, no.42. A late 2nd century date seems likely.
		Black-burnished ware; <i>Catalogue no.14.</i>	2	40g	2 joining fragments of jar with wavy line decoration on the neck; cf. Gillam 1976, no.3 (mid-late 2nd century).
		Black-burnished ware	2	5g	jar fragments
2002	Ditch cut [2003]	Black-burnished ware; <i>Catalogue no.15.</i>	2	28g	Jar; cf. Gillam 1976, no.7 (early-mid 3rd century).
		Black-burnished ware	2	17g	jar fragments including lattice decoration which is almost right angled. Probably part of

					the 3rd century jar above.
		Grey with orange surface	1	10g	Roman
2002	Ditch cut [2003]	Orange with grey core	1	13g	Roman jar
2002	Ditch cut [2003]	Samian, Central Gaulish	1	13g	Form 31 or 18/31. 120-200
2004	Pit [2005]	Roughcast - white fabric with a roughcast exterior and grey-brown colour coat; <i>Catalogue no.11.</i>	8		A Köln product. Anderson (1981) suggests a mid Flavian to early Antonine date for the importation for the most common versions of this class seen in Wales. However, a small rim fragment is very abraded but suggests a grooved rim as Anderson's earlier type, 1981, Fig.19.1, 1 but is too abraded for certainty. A mid to late 1st century date may be suggested.
2010	Ditch cut [2011]	Samian, South Gaulish; <i>Catalogue no.10.</i>	3	8g	Cup, probably form 27. c.70-110.
2012	Ditch cut [2013]	Orange; <i>Catalogue no.12.</i>	1	43g	Flanged bowl or dish. A particularly solid version of the common Mid 1st to early 2nd century flanged and carinated bowl is most likely, but a flanged dish of the same period is possible.
2014	Ditch cut [2015]	Grey	1	3	Jar fragment. Roman
		Red with black slip	1	1g	Abraded and possibly burnt. Probably either a Lezoux colour coat or burnt samian. 2nd century.
		Gravel tempered	2	3g	Possible Medieval
2014	Ditch cut [2015]	Flagon neck in red fabric with a grey-brown colour coat; <i>Catalogue no.18.</i>	3	20g	An Oxfordshire product, mid 3rd to late 4th century.
2014	Ditch cut [2015]	'Wet & fragile'. Black-burnished ware; <i>Catalogue no.19.</i>	4	61g	Jar with faint acute angled lattice but a rim similar to Gillam 1976, no.7. Probably late 2nd century.
2014	Ditch cut [2015]	Samian South Gaulish	1	4g	Form 37 with decoration which had almost entirely lost its surface slip. The ovolo tongue protruded well below the 'egg' but lacks any detail. Probably late 1st-early 2nd century
2014	Ditch cut [2015]	Black-burnished ware	7	12g	Probably part of the 2nd-3rd century jars from this deposit
2014	Ditch cut [2015]	Black-burnished ware; <i>Catalogue no.21.</i>	3	57g	Jar, with obtuse angled lattice decoration; cf. Gillam 1976, nos.6 and 10. 3rd century.
		Black-burnished ware	2	29g	Basal fragments of a bowl or dish.

2014	Ditch cut [2015]	Black-burnished ware	32	104g	Jar fragments. A wall fragment with obtuse angled lattice should be mid 3rd century or later.
2014	Ditch cut [2015]	Black-burnished ware; <i>Catalogue no.22.</i>	13	151g	Fragments, all probably from the same flanged dish; cf. Gillam 1976, no.65. Late 2nd century.
		Black-burnished ware; <i>Catalogue no.20.</i>	7	36g	Jar fragments. A rim fragment is probably from a vessel as Gillam 1976, no.4 (late 2nd century). A wall fragment with open otuse angled lattice could be slightly later.
2021	Ditch cut [2011]	Orange	9	99g	Ring-necked flagon. The rings are even as in early versions of this form (cf. Greene in Manning 1993, Fotress type 4, p.19) but more flared. This version is discussed by Webster in Manning 1993 (317-8) and a mid to mid/late 1st century date suggested.
2021	Ditch cut [2011]	Hard orange	2	9g	Two joining fragments of a lamp. The underside carries one end of a stamp JS. The most likely expansion is FORTIS. Date?
2021	Ditch cut [2011]	South Gaulish samian	1	6g	Form 15/17. Although made throughout the period from the mid 1st century to the early 2nd, the form is commonest in the mid and mid/late 1st century.
2022	Ditch cut [2007]	Coarse grey, very sooted; <i>Catalogue no.17.</i>	9	151g	A dish with a straight side expanding at the rim to a flat-topped wedge shape with a slightly beaded outer edge. A form influenced by 2nd century Black-burnished dish forms seems most likely.
		Black-burnished ware; <i>Catalogue no.16.</i>	1	18g	Jar; Gillam 1976, no.5 (late 2nd-early 3rd century).
		Black-burnished ware	2	5g	Jar wall fragments probably from the above.
2025	Ditch cut [2015]	Orange-red with a grey core	12	27g	Roman
		Light grey	3	5g	Roman
		Cream	1	2g	Probably Roman
		?burnt daub	1	3g	
2034	Ditch cut [2015]	Light red	4	7g	Probably Roman
2044	Ditch cut [2011]	Light red	1	3g	Flagon rim - probably part of the flagon in 2021/2011
2045	Pit cut [2005]	Grey to pink	1	29g	Jar base. Roman

Trench 3

Context	Description	Fabric	Sherds	Wt	Comment/Date
3001	U/s spoil heap	DGT	1	21g	Cooking pot rim. 12th-13th century.
3005	Ditch cut [3004]	Granular buff	1	11g	Probably Dressel 20 amphora
		Gritty buff with grey core	2	22g	Probably Roman
		Off white mortarium	1	12g	Oxford mortarium. The flange has broken off but this is probably Young 1977, type 17 or 22. Mid 3rd to late 4th century
		Wheel-thrown grey with a green glaze externally.	1	13g	A Roman date seems possible but medieval is more likely in view of the absence of internal glaze.
3005	Ditch cut [3004]	Granular buff	3	2g	Fragments probably of Dressel 20 amphora.

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EXCAVATION AT CRUGIAU CEMMAES 2012: INTERIM REPORT

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RHIF Y DIGWYLLIAD / PROJECT RECORD NO. 105815
Cadw Project No. DAT 122

Rhagfyr 2013
December 2013

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by J Meek

Swydd / Position: Head of Field Services

Llofnod / Signature



.... Dyddiad / Date 6 January 2014

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith
This report has been checked and approved by K Murphy

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Trust Director

Llofnod / Signature



Dyddiad / Date 6 January 2014

Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau
sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any
comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report



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