CPAT Report No 1017

Brecon Gaer, Aberyscir, Powys

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Interim report

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

CPAT Report No 1017

Brecon Gaer, Aberyscir, Powys

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

Interim report

R Hankinson

November 2009

Report for Cadw

The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
7a Church Street, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DL
tel (01938) 553670, fax (01938) 552179

Cover photo: Brecon Gaer (bottom right) showing one of the possible Roman road alignments, running from bottom right to top left, and the location of the Coed Fenni-fach hillfort (in the woodland at top centre), from the west-north-west (Photo CPAT 05-C-0156)

CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In October 2009 the Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) carried out investigations in the environs of the Roman fort at Brecon Gaer, Aberyscir, near Brecon in Powys designed to explore the extent of the *vicus*, with financial assistance from Cadw.

1.2 The excavations comprised a total of fourteen small trenches, some of which were positioned as a result of evidence from geophysical surveys undertaken between 2005 and 2006 by CPAT with the initial involvement of the Gwynedd Archaeological Trust (Silvester, Hopewell and Grant 2005; Silvester and Hankinson 2006). These surveys covered ground outside the west, south and east gates of the fort, together with ground a little further to the north which was close to part of the local Roman road network. Significant anomalies were identified up to 300m to the north of the fort, but the results on the west, south and east sides lacked any convincing evidence of the presence of associated civilian settlement.

1.3 Metal detecting was carried out in the area of the *vicus* subsequent to the completion of the geophysics and this is referred to in outline in Section 4, for it was a further rason for the programme of work described here. The material recovered by the detectorists suggested that the vicus extended over a wider area than had been initially apparent.

2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The fort is centred at NGR SO 0033 2966, some 4km to the west of the town of Brecon, from which it takes its modern name, in southern Powys. The fort lies on a terrace which overlooks the confluence of the River Usk with its tributary the Afon Ysgir, at an altitude of about 170m OD. The ground around the fort slopes gently upwards to the north and east, but drops fairly abruptly on the south and west from the edge of the terrace down to the two watercourses which are about 25m lower in altitude. A small part of the area of the fort and rather more of its *vicus* are occupied by the farm house of Y Gaer and its associated agricultural buildings, the remainder occupying a series of fields which, at the present time, are used entirely for pasture. Some of the fields are known to have been in arable cultivation in the second half of the 20th century, and it seems likely that regular cultivation was carried out from at least the second half of the 19th century although their previous cultivation history remains uncertain.

2.2 The soils of the locality are deep well-drained reddish loamy soils belonging to the Oglethorpe Soil Association (1983 Soil Survey map and legend), and these are derived from the underlying Old Red Sandstone rocks, which in this immediate locality belong to the Pridoli Series of the late Silurian period (1994 Geological Survey map).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Brecon Gaer fort extends over nearly 3ha in area with the surviving remains comprising an earthen rampart with stone facing, incorporating stone-built gates on the west, south and east sides. The north gate has presumably been lost as its position is occupied by a post-medieval farm building. Full descriptions have been published in the Royal Commission's Inventory in 1986 and in the forthcoming revised version of the 'Roman Frontier in Wales' (Burnham & Davies, in preparation). Various inscriptions have been found at or near the fort which suggest the presence of a cavalry unit, specifically the *ala Hispanorum Vettonum civium Romanorum*, although it is not known if this was the primary garrison (Burnham and Davies,

in preparation). Stamped bricks bearing the name of the *Legio II Augusta* have also been recovered from excavations.

3.2 The fort was apparently referred to in documents as early as the 12th century, and there are records of Roman finds from the area from the 17th century onwards (RCAHMW 1986, 137). The fort is depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Brecknock 27.11, dated 1889; Fig. 1) and it is worth noting that 'traces of foundations', now no longer visible on the ground, are shown within the fort, as well as an undefined earthwork in the field to its north.

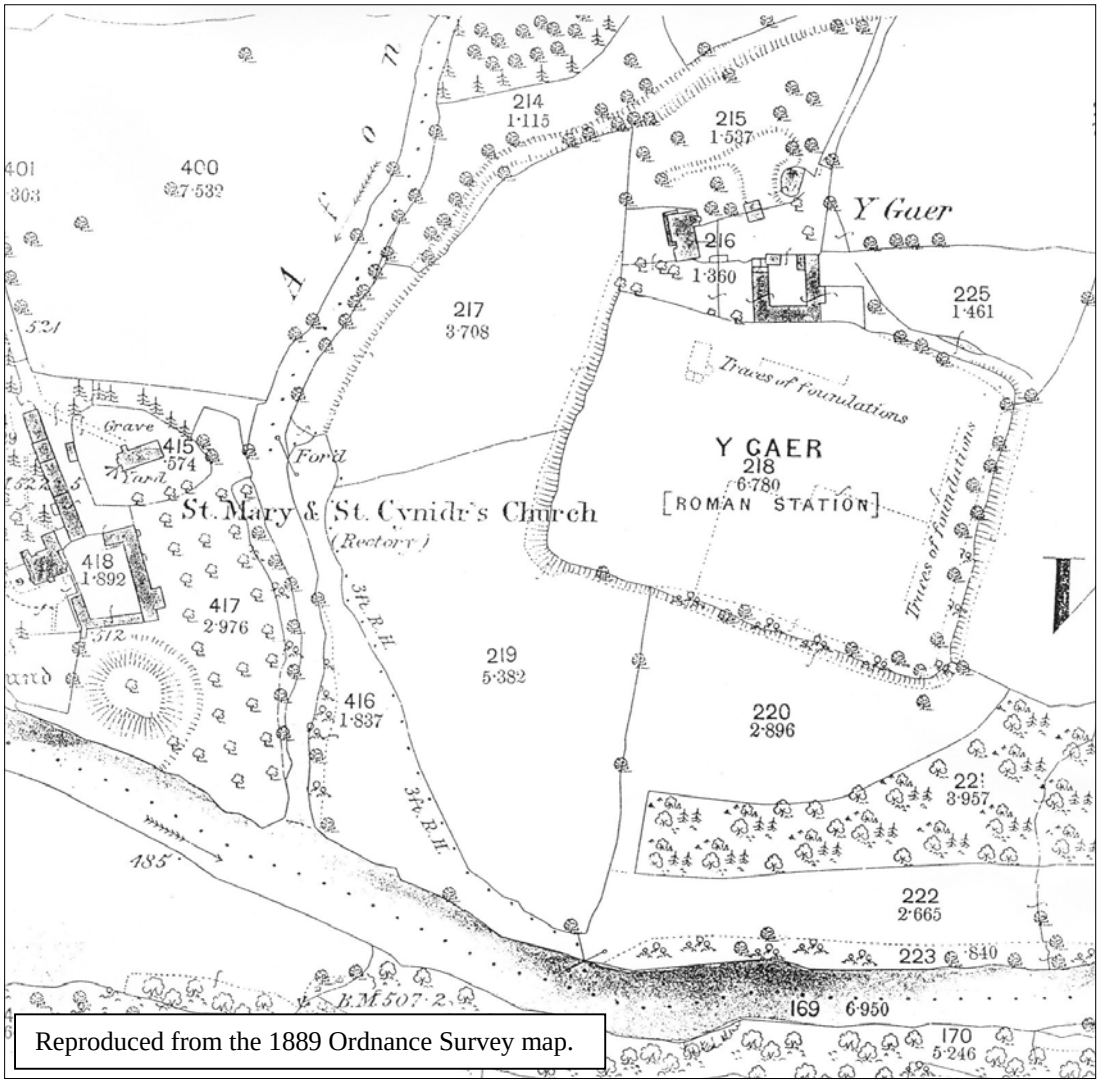

Fig. 1: Extract from the first edition Ordnance Survey map (Brecknock 27.11, of 1889)

3.3 The feature depicted on Fig. 1 in the north-west part of the fort is the second of two bath-houses believed to be present. This and other parts of the fort and its environs were the subject of the first detailed excavations carried out by Mortimer Wheeler in 1924-5 (see Fig 2). The excavations examined some of the interior and defensive structures of the fort as well as the flanks of the road that emerges from its north gate, finding evidence of at least three extra-mural stone-walled buildings in addition to post-built structures and clay floors which were thought to indicate further examples of Roman occupation, thereby demonstrating that the vicus extended north along the road for about 300m (RCAHMW 1986, 141-143).

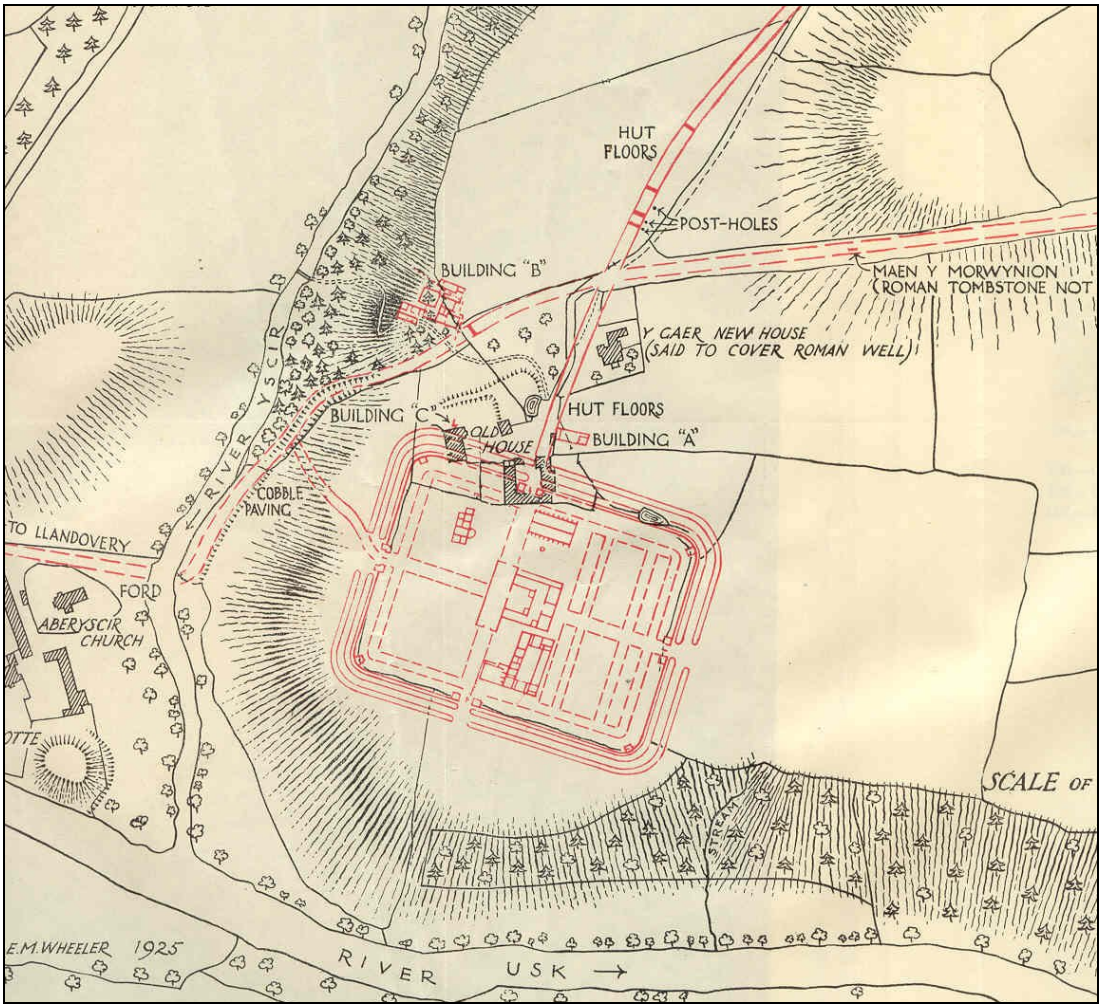

Fig. 2: Interpretative plan of the excavations at Brecon Gaer by Wheeler in 1924-5

3.4 Further important information was provided in excavations carried out by P.J. Casey in 1970 which examined the eastern defences of the fort and completed the investigative work begun by Wheeler on the north-east corner tower (Burnham and Davies, forthcoming). The results of the corner tower excavation suggested an Antonine dating (*c.* 140 AD) for the stone-built period II defences (RCAHMW 1986, 145). Outside the south-east corner of the fort, the opportunity to clean and record a section created by the machine excavation of a wildfowl pond in 1990 revealed a possible clay pit partially refilled with organic material and associated with fragments of Roman pottery and glass (Dorling 1990, 54).

3.5 Present knowledge suggests that the fort was constructed in 75-80 AD, with a bath-house apparently inserted in the north-western part of the fort about 100 AD, presumably replacing an earlier extra-mural one (RCAHMW 1986, 144). The rampart was then faced in stone about 140 AD, but activity in the later second century and following periods remains somewhat obscure at present, although numismatic and ceramic evidence suggests that the occupation of the fort, perhaps with a reduced garrison, was more or less continuous through the second and third centuries and extended well into the fourth century (Burnham & Davies, forthcoming). It has been suggested that the fort was reoccupied by a small force late in the third century (Nash-Williams & Jarrett, 1969, 51), and the presence of activity in this period is supported by the find of a coin of Carausius (emperor in Britain and northern Gaul from 286-293 AD) in the field to the north-west of Y Gaer house by the detectorists mentioned in Section 4. The last phase of the defences comprised the blocking of the south and east gates together with the re-casting of a substantial length of the defensive circuit (Burnham & Davies, forthcoming). This has been thought by some to belong to the post-Roman period, but remains undated.

3.6 The geophysics carried out in 2005 and 2006 is reported on in detail in Silvester, Hopewell and Grant 2005 and Silvester and Hankinson 2006, so no attempt to reproduce the discussion will be attempted here, but a composite plot of the results from both is reproduced as Fig. 2, to enable the results to be more easily appreciated.

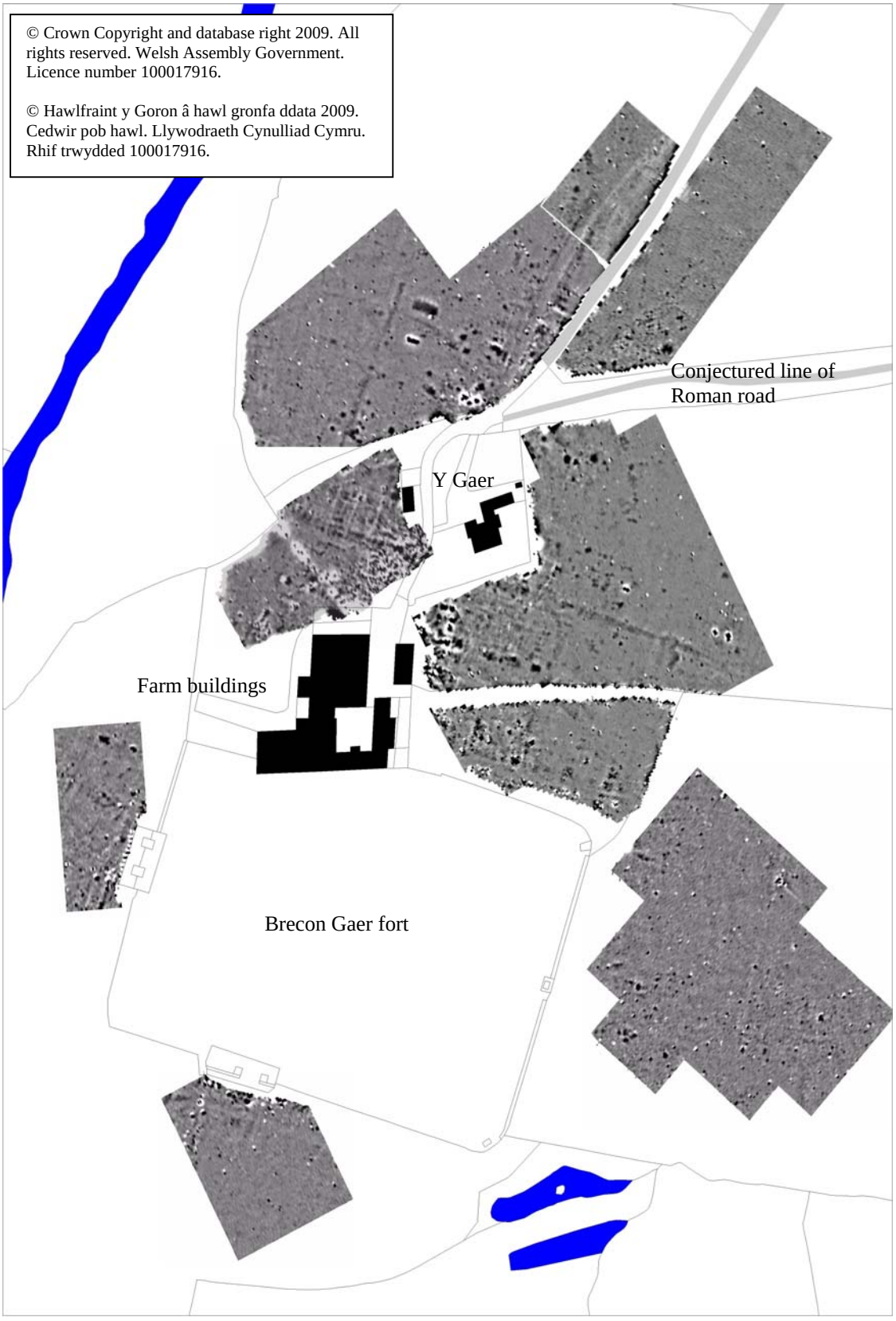

Fig. 3: Results of the 2005 and 2006 geophysics in relation to Brecon Gaer fort

3.7 While examining one of the aerial photographs (CPAT 05-C-0154) for evidence relating to the field on the east side of the fort, it was noticed that there could be evidence of a large anomaly, perhaps even a structure in the next field to the north. The nature of this possible structure remains somewhat obscure, but it was plotted in relation to the field boundaries which confirmed that it measures approximately 75m west-north-west/east-south-east by 33m and lay just outside one of the areas examined by geophysics in 2005 and 2006. The photograph is reproduced below with a plot of the marks in relation to the geophysics results.

Plate 1: Aerial photograph showing the possible structure (arrowed) to the north-east of the fort (Photo CPAT 05-C-0154)

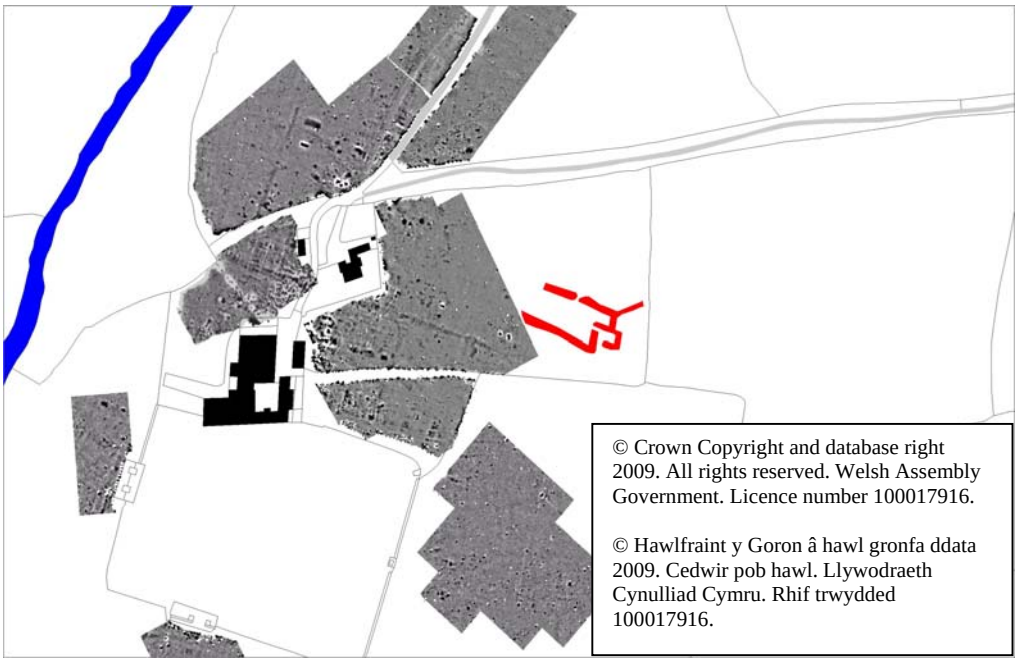

Fig. 4: Plot of the marks from the aerial photograph above in relation to the geophysics results

3.8 A number of potential Roman road alignments have been suggested in the vicinity of Brecon Gaer, some predicted and others which can be delineated with more certainty. An example of this is apparent on Fig. 3, where the line of the road extending from the north gate of the fort can be plainly seen in the geophysics results, curving to the north-east. The relationship of this road with the conjectured line also depicted on the plan remains uncertain at present, but it seems unlikely that there would be three routes heading generally east from the fort. The third route being that which presumably exited from the east gate of the fort; this seems readily apparent on Plate 2, below.

Plate 2: Brecon Gaer from the south-east showing the apparent road (arrowed) which exits from the east gate (Photo CPAT 05-C-0153)

4 METAL DETECTING

4.1 At some point after the geophysical surveys were completed in 2006, the owner of Brecon Gaer allowed a metal detectorist from the Cardiff region to work on the fields around the fort. This was completely legitimate and the owner advised the detectorist not to use his equipment within the fort or in the areas around its perimeter which had scheduled status. Finds from around Brecon Gaer were displayed at detecting club meetings in Cardiff where they were seen by Mark Lodwick of the National Museum Wales, and subsequently many of the metal finds, though not the coins, were lodged in the National Museum. Those discoveries made earlier in the work were not specifically located, but Mr Lodwick convinced the metal detectorist to use a GPS handset to position his later finds.

4.2 A second detectorist joined the first, and being local to the Brecon area, took his finds in to Brecon Museum for identification. It was as a result of these discoveries that CPAT became aware of the detecting work on the site. None of the finds made their way up to Welshpool for registration through the portable antiquities scheme, although finds by the local detectorist from other sites in the Brecon area did come to Welshpool. Particular circumstances meant that in general terms the finds locations provided by the second detectorist were not reliable, even though a GPS handset was available to him. Where locations have been registered for individual finds, the information has been correlated by

Mr Lodwick and this has been made available to CPAT. It is with his consent that Fig. 4 has been compiled.

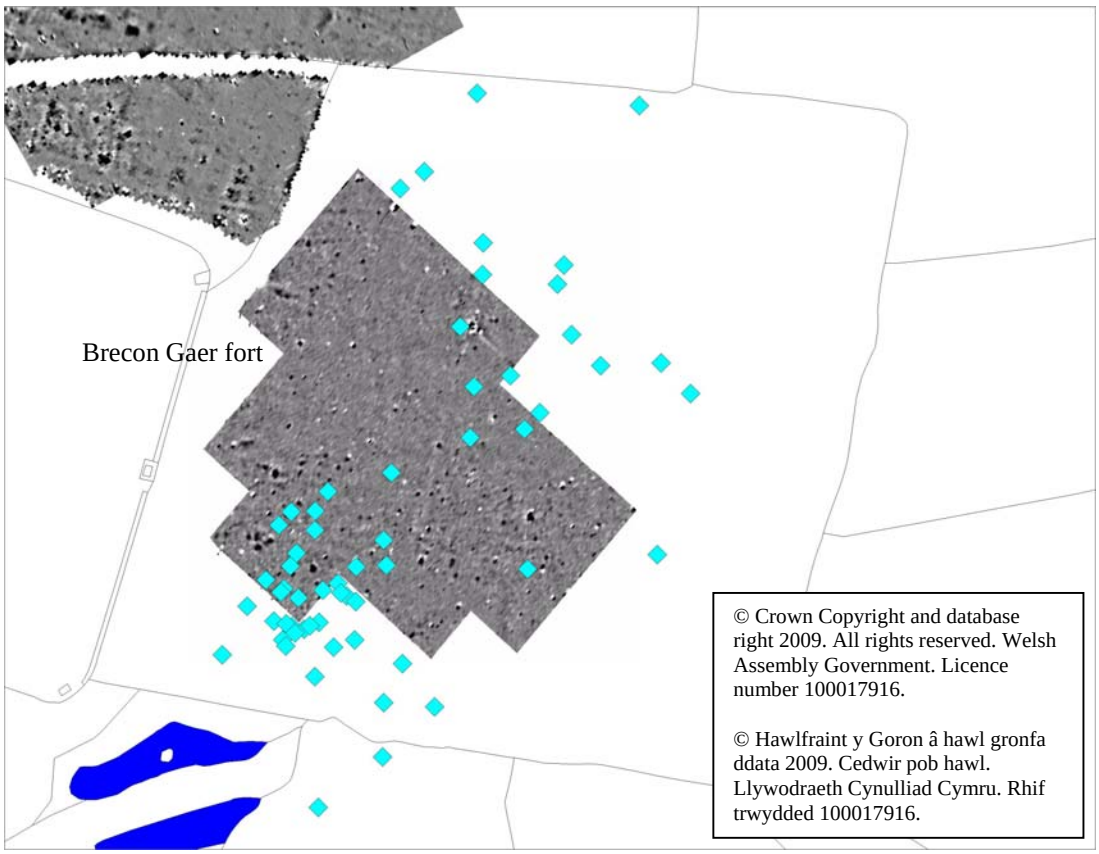

Fig. 5: Distribution plot of metal detector finds from the field to the east of Brecon Gaer

4.3 No analysis of the Brecon Gaer finds has yet been attempted, although it is understood that a student from Cardiff University under the supervision of Dr Peter Guest may study the material for an undergraduate dissertation during the coming year. What has become clear is that the metalwork represents a diverse and significant collection which includes items that could reflect local pre-Roman Iron Age metalworking traditions still current at the time of the Roman military penetration of Wales.

4.4 It is believed that, with the consent of the landowner, the finds other than the coins will pass to Brecon Museum in due course.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The primary aim of the investigations was to assess the extent of the *vicus* in the fields on the north and east of the fort, whilst keeping ground disturbance down to acceptable levels. To this end, a methodology was designed which, in the right circumstances, would allow the limits of Roman activity to be gauged without recourse to further geophysics or large-scale excavation. In particular, geophysics had proved to be satisfactory on lands to the north of the fort, yet in the field to the east of the fort there were few identifiable anomalies (see Fig. 1, above). The picture thus offered a significant contrast to the spread of finds from metal-detecting (Fig. 2) which appeared to indicate that the east field contained a significant archaeological presence.

5.2 The methods adopted were:

1. To cut a series of small trenches (each approximately 1m square) at intervals across selected fields in order to identify the presence or absence of layers and/or features of Roman origin. To all intents and purposes the approach is similar to that adopted for developer-funded evaluations where the emphasis is on minimal disturbance to the archaeology.

2. To use an auger to generate sets of small samples which will complement the evidence from the trenches, the latter offering some guidance as to the nature of the deposit encountered in the auger samples.

3. To locate each trench and each auger sample hole by EDM survey, thus establishing the precise position of each in relation to the local field boundaries, the accuracy of which is qualified only by the scale of the digital mapping available. This aside it should be possible to relocate any trench and probably the augering positions in the future from the archived data. Ten-figure national grid references for these have been created from the digital data.

5.3 In the case of each trench, the topsoil and ploughsoil were removed by hand down to the first significant archaeological horizon, or the natural subsoil if no archaeological horizon was identified. The resulting surface was then cleaned and examined to assess its potential, dependant on which a small amount of investigation was then carried out to elucidate the deposits and recover material which could assist in their dating, while having a minimal impact on their integrity. In one case (Trench 9), a trench was extended to enable a better assessment to be made of the deposits and features and this demonstrates the need for caution in making judgements regarding the nature of the features and deposits encountered, as the small size of the trenches makes interpretation problematical. The interpretations given in Section 6 of this report must therefore necessarily be provisional. Again, it should be understood that the aim of the work was to define the extent of the *vicus*, rather than investigate its nature and dating.

5.4 The positions chosen for the trenches were guided by a number of factors, one of which was the geophysics results from 2005 and 2006. However, the field to the east of the fort was relatively unproductive of geophysical anomalies so the trenches there were spread out over the field with the secondary intention of assessing areas in which finds had been recovered by the metal detectorists. Where Roman deposits petered out between trenches, a series of auger samples were taken at 10m intervals to see if the edge of the Roman deposits could be identified.

6 THE EXCAVATIONS

6.1 Each trench is considered separately in the descriptive text which follows, with the numbers in brackets referring to the context descriptions given to individual layers or features within the site archive. Reasonable amounts of pottery and glassware, together with lesser amounts of other Roman material, were revealed by the excavation, sufficient to confirm that the exposed deposits were of Roman origin. This material had only been subject to an initial assessment at the time that this report was prepared.

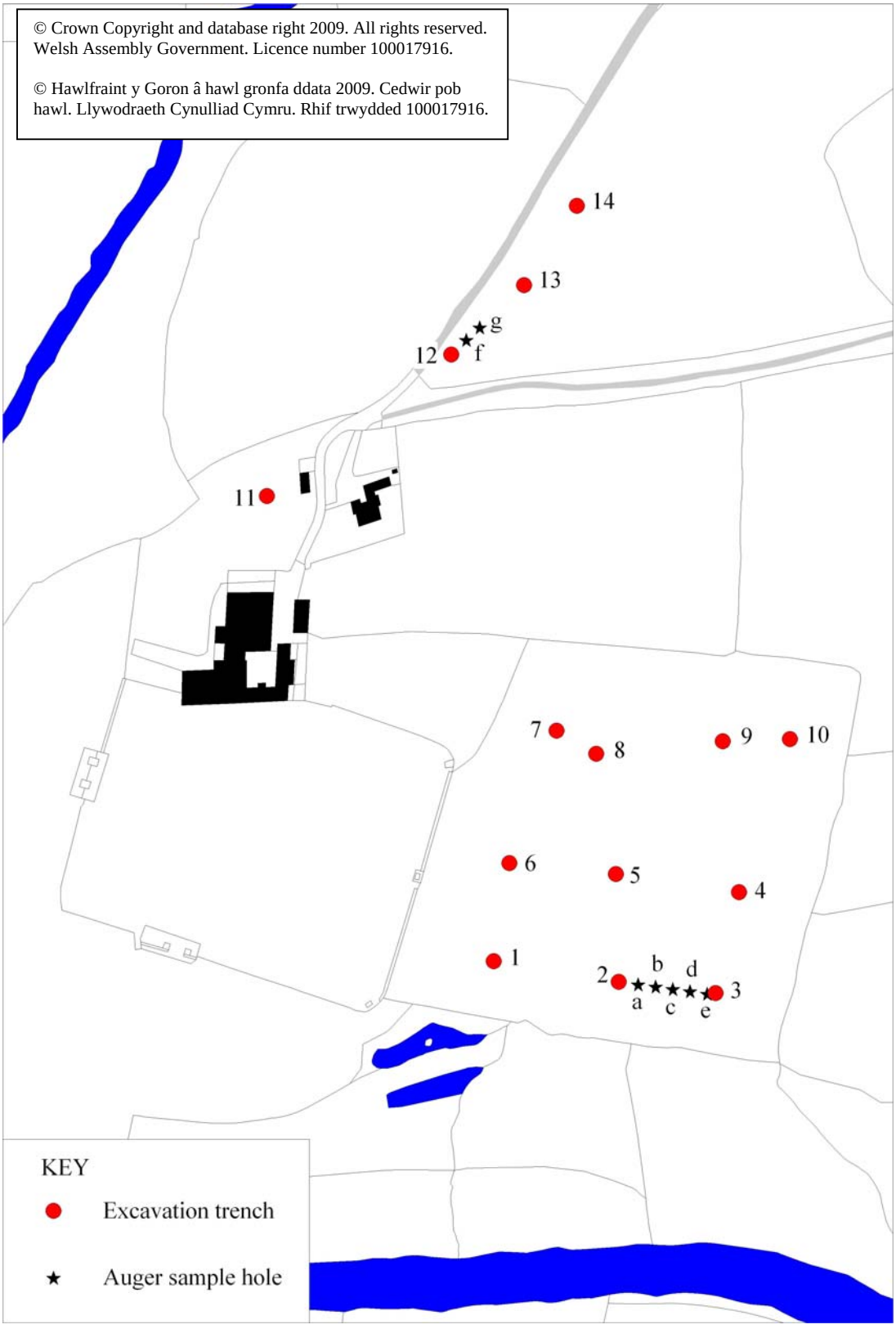

Fig. 6: Location of excavation trenches and auger sample holes

6.2 *Trench 1* (NGR SO 00475 29586; 1.1m east/west by 1.1m north/south; Fig. 7)

6.2.1 The trench was placed in an area from which a significant quantity of finds had been recovered by the metal detectorists and this was borne out by the fact that it intersected a hole (03), at least 0.3m wide, over 0.4m long, and up to 0.37m deep, excavated by them in recovering a metal object. The fill (04) of the hole contained a mixed deposit of material from the layers it had cut, the earliest of which (06) was composed of pale grey clay with a large amount charcoal throughout; it seems probable that the recovered object had originated in this layer, but the accuracy of the finds locations is not sufficiently precise to determine which find from this locality was recovered from the hole. The layer above 06 was a slightly stony, reddish clay silt (05), again with a large charcoal component, and approximately 0.12m in thickness; it seems certain that this layer was Roman in origin, but no artefactual material could be recovered as the layer was left in-situ.

6.2.2 On the eastern side of the trench, a possible cut (07) extended generally north-south and probably defined the edge of a feature disappearing beyond this section. Two possible fills were identified, an upper fill of brownish clay silt with red mottling (08) and a lower fill of angular local sandstone fragments (09), both probably of Roman origin. All of the above layers and features, except the detectorists' hole and its fill, were sealed by a 0.1m thick layer of mid grey clay silt (02), probably the ploughsoil, and an upper layer of slightly greyish-brown silt (01) which was 0.1m thick and comprised the topsoil in this part of the field to the east of the fort.

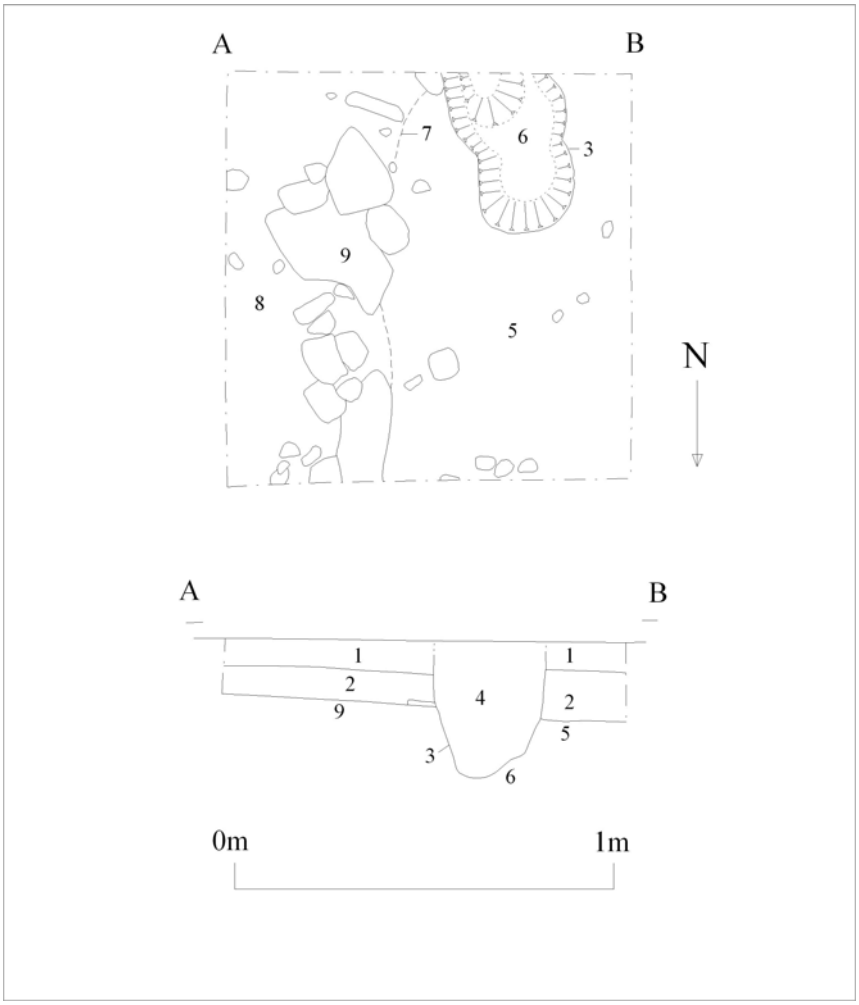

Fig. 7: Trench 1 plan and section at 1:20

Plate 3: Trench 1 showing hole excavated by detectorists into Roman layers, from east (photo CPAT 2966-007)

6.3 *Trench 2* (NGR SO 00547 29572; 1.2m east/west by 1.2m north/south)

6.3.1 The natural subsoil of firm reddish clay (16) was encountered in a sondage in the eastern half of the trench at a depth of 0.42m below the ground surface. The sondage was excavated through two thin layers which appeared to represent Roman occupation, the lowest of which was a compacted and perhaps trampled layer of pink or reddish clay (15), approximately 0.05m thick, which contained charcoal and Roman artefacts. The upper layer of light yellowish-brown silty clay (14), 0.07m thick, produced a single sherd of Samian ware, but might be immediately post-Roman. The topsoil and ploughsoil were undifferentiated in this trench, comprising a 0.3m thick layer of reddish-brown silty clay loam (13).

Plate 4: Trench 2 after excavation, from west (photo CPAT 2966-015)

6.4 *Trench 3* (NGR SO 00601 29564; 1.2m east/west by 1.2m north/south)

6.4.1 The top of the natural, pinkish-red stony clay silt subsoil (12) in this trench appeared at a depth of 0.27m below the ground surface. It was overlain by a probable ploughsoil of brownish-red stony clay silt (11), approximately 0.15m thick, itself covered by a 0.12m thick topsoil layer of reddish-brown silt (10). No Roman finds, layers or features were observed in this trench.

Plate 5: Trench 3 after excavation, from east (photo CPAT 2966-011)

6.5 *Trench 4* (SO 00613 29616; 1.1m east/west by 1.1m north/south)

Plate 6: Trench 4 after excavation, from south (photo CPAT 2966-014)

6.5.1 Natural, pinkish-red stony clay silt subsoil (19) in this trench was encountered at a depth of 0.33m below the ground surface. It was overlain by a probable ploughsoil deposit of pinkish grey-brown stony silt (18), approximately 0.20m thick, containing some heavily abraded Roman pottery and sandstone fragments, the latter randomly orientated. The greyish-brown silt topsoil (17) was 0.13m in thickness. No evidence of in-situ Roman layers or features was observed in this trench, although the Roman material in layer 18 suggests Roman occupation nearby.

6.6 *Trench 5* (SO 00543 29630; 1.1m east/west by 1.1m north/south; Fig. 8)

6.6.1 The natural subsoil of orange stony clay (23) in this trench was reached in a sondage on the east side of the trench at a depth of approximately 0.3m below the ground surface. The sondage was cut through an overlying layer of mixed grey, orange and yellow clay silt (26), approximately 0.12m thick and containing flecks of charcoal, which appeared to be the earliest Roman layer in this trench. Grey clay silt (22), containing charcoal and perhaps 0.03m thick, occupied the north-east part of the trench and overlay layer 26, where it was cut by the sondage. This might perhaps be the remnants of a Roman floor layer.

6.6.2 Potentially the most interesting feature revealed in the trench was a very shallow feature probably a gully (27), which was approximately 0.3m wide and only 0.03m deep, and filled with orange-red mottled brown clay silt (25). It was an apparently right-angled feature running west-north-west from the east section of the trench before turning south-south-west, although it extends beyond the north section of the trench and may exhibit a more complex character. The gully cut layers 22 and 26, while a layer of grey clay silt (24) appears to be the same as layer 22 on the far side of the gully.

Plate 7: Trench 5 after excavation, from west (photo CPAT 2966-019)

6.6.3 The Roman layers were sealed by a thin ploughsoil of grey-brown silt with occasional grey, orange and yellow mottling (21), which varied between 0.02m and 0.07m thick. The overlying topsoil was a grey-brown silt (20), 0.12m to 0.15m in thickness.

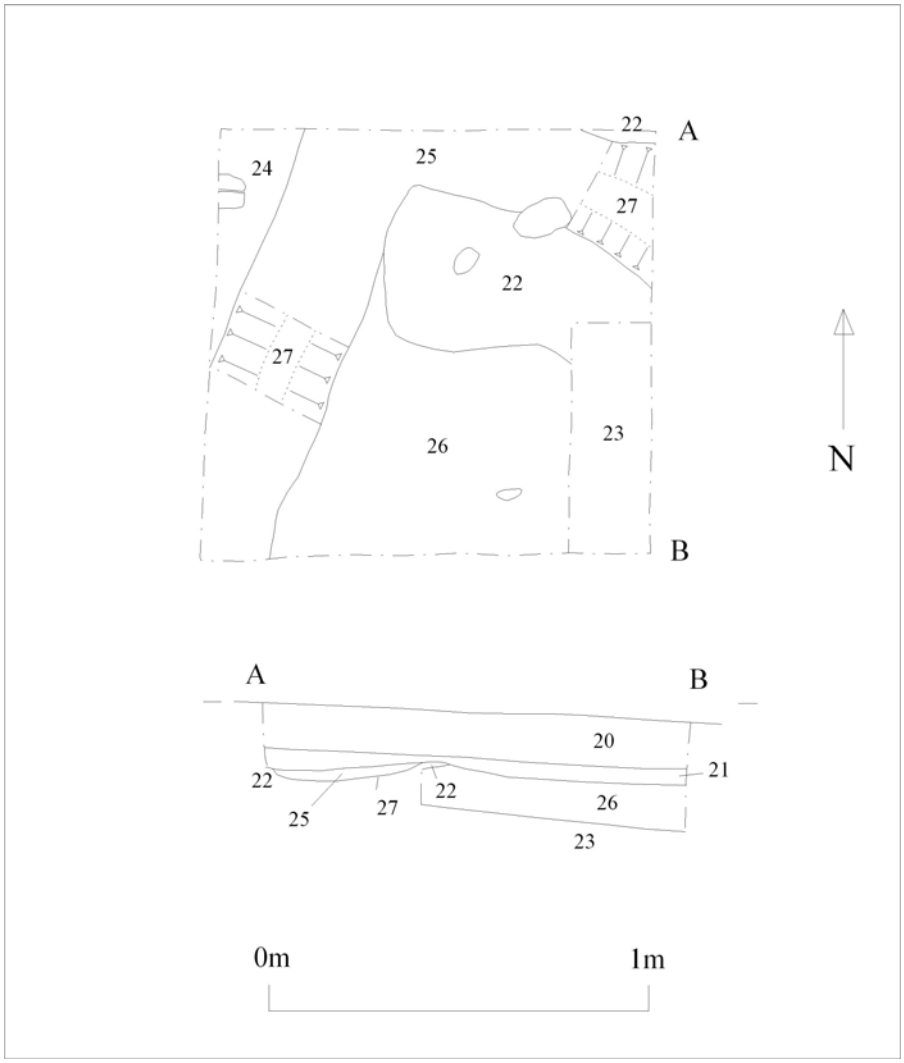

Fig. 8: Trench 5 plan and section at 1:20

6.7 *Trench 6* (SO 00482 29638; 1.1m east/west by 1.1m north/south)

6.7.1 The natural subsoil of reddish clay (32) appeared in a sondage in the north half of the trench at a depth of 0.26m below the ground surface. The sondage was excavated through yellowish/grey-brown silty clay (29), 0.06m in thickness, containing charcoal flecks throughout and a significant quantity of Roman finds. At the intersection of layers 29 and 32 the surface of the subsoil appeared trampled, with some charcoal impressed in it.

6.7.2 On the south side of the trench, a probable shallow gully (31), 0.03m deep, extended for at least 0.9m on a west-north-west/east-south-east alignment. Both its ends and its south-south-west side extended beyond the limit of excavation, but it had a minimum width of 0.2m. The fill of the gully was a loose pale greyish-brown silty clay (30), but no finds were recovered to aid in its dating.

Plate 8: Trench 6 after excavation, from west (photo CPAT 2966-020)

6.8 *Trench 7* (SO 00507 29707; 1.2m east/west by 1.1m north/south)

6.8.1 The natural subsoil was not exposed in this trench, the lower level being occupied throughout by a deposit of firm mottled yellow to pinkish-red silty clay (39), at least 0.08m in thickness and containing Roman material. Layer 39 extended to the south of an area of irregular sandstone rubble (40), with which it may have been intermingled. Conjecturally this might represent demolition rubble from a Roman building, but further work would be required to confirm or refute this hypothesis. At its nearest to the surface, the top of the rubble was at a depth of 0.06m below the ground. The whole was sealed by mid to light yellowish-brown silty clay topsoil (38), up to 0.15m in thickness.

Plate 9: Trench 7 after excavation, from west (photo CPAT 2966-023)

6.9 *Trench 8* (SO 00531 29695; 1.2m east/west by 1.2m north/south; Fig. 9)

6.9.1 Natural subsoil was not observed in this trench, the lowest layer examined being pinkish-brown clay silt (37), at least 0.25m thick, which also contained occasional charcoal flecks and some very small rounded stones. It appeared likely that Layer 37 was a deposit of Roman origin. The layer had been cut through by a feature (36) whose nature could not be fully determined owing to the restricted area of the trench, but was at least 0.75m in width and up to 0.23m deep where tested by sectioning against the west side of the trench. The fill of feature 36 was mixed orange-red clay and pale grey clay (35), containing stones up to 0.2m in length.

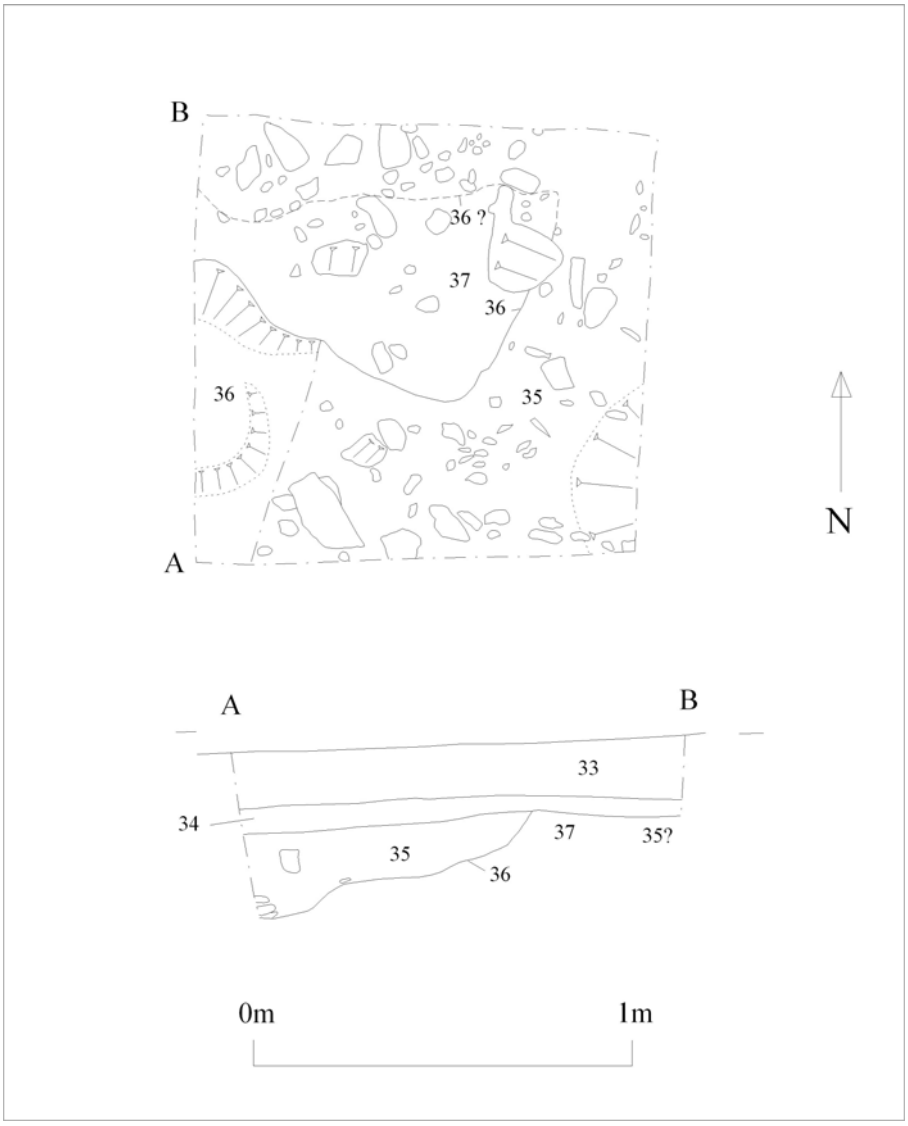

Fig. 9: Trench 8 plan and section at 1:20

6.9.2 A possible alteration in the direction of feature 36 was observed at the south-east corner of the trench, seeming to describe a right-angle with the sides running west-north-west and north-north-east. At the north-east corner of the trench, fill 35 appeared to extend westward towards the north-west corner of the trench, but the nature of the deposits on the north side of the trench were not tested so the course taken by feature 36 on this side of the trench must remain conjectural.

6.9.3 The probable Roman occupation layers and features were covered by ploughsoil (34), between 0.05m and 0.07m in thickness, comprising greyish-brown clay silt which also contained occasional lumps of orange-red clay, material that was almost certainly dispersed

from the underlying features by the action of ploughing. The topsoil was a mid grey-brown silt (33), approximately 0.15m thick, with some iron staining.

Plate 10: Trench 8 after removal of the ploughsoil, from east (photo CPAT 2966-022)

6.10 *Trench 9* (SO 00603 29698; 1.1m east/west by 1.8m north/south; Fig. 10)

6.10.1 The trench was initially sized at 1.1m east/west by 1.1m north/south, but it was discovered on removing the topsoil/ploughsoil that a feature crossed the trench at its southern end and it was decided to extend the trench there by 0.7m. The natural subsoil of firm pinkish-red clay (56) appeared in a section excavated through the deposits on the east side.

Plate 11: Trench 9 after excavation, from west (photo CPAT 2966-042)

6.10.2 The earliest recognisable feature in the trench was a small ditch (50), 1.37m wide and 0.42m deep, cutting into the natural subsoil and running approximately east/west. Its base had a step down at about half its depth on the north side and had been modified by a later drainage feature (54), on its south. The lowest ditch fill of soft yellowish-brown silty clay (58), between 0.03m and 0.06m thick, extended beyond the feature to the north, suggesting that its origin was due to a depositional event which had occurred in this area when the ditch was open, but was more widespread than the confines of the ditch.

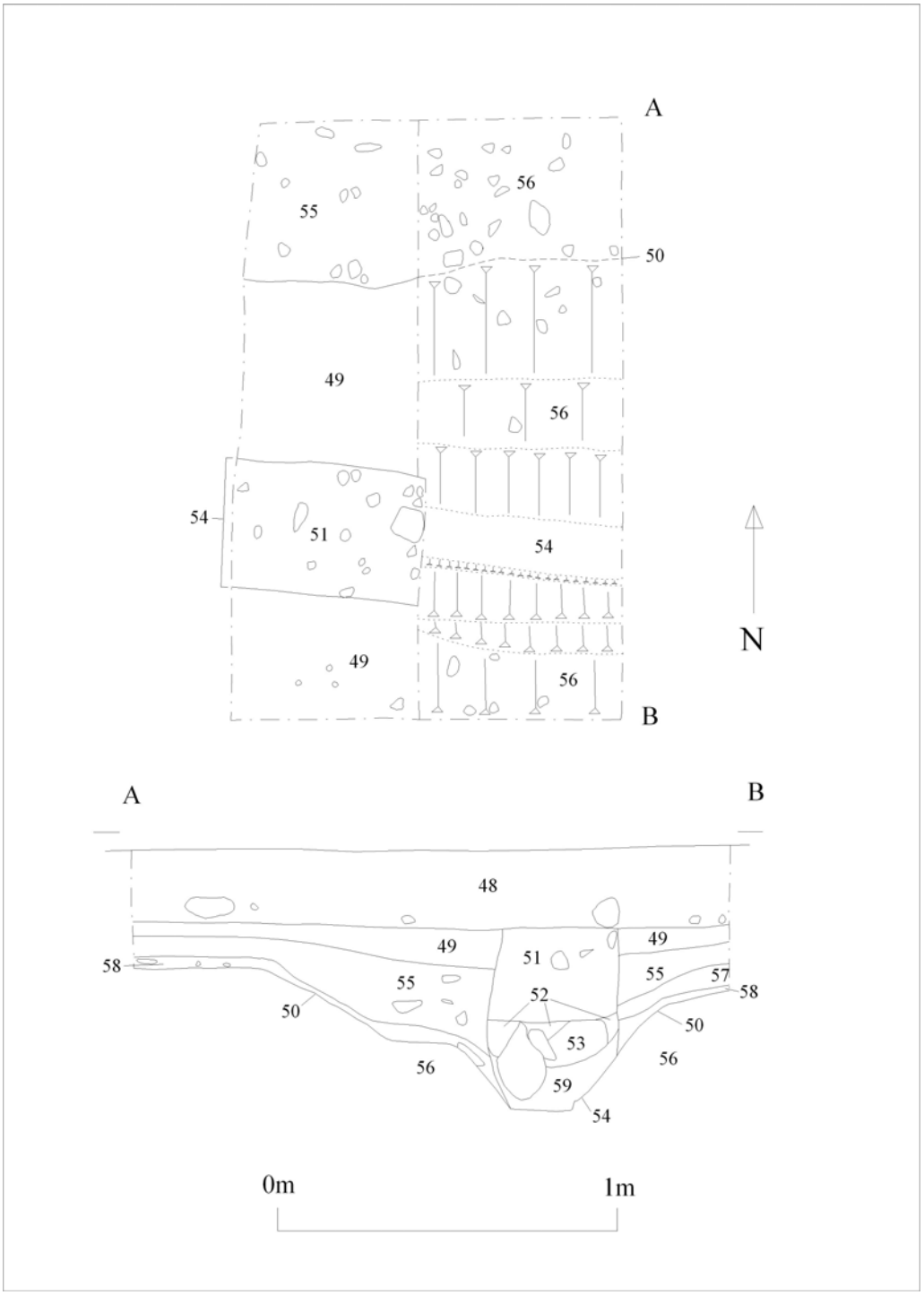

Fig. 10: Trench 9 plan and section at 1:20

6.10.3 Subsequent to layer 58, a layer of firm pinkish clay (57), up to 0.05m thick, with some charcoal flecking, was deposited on the south side of ditch 50, but was not evident on the north side. Above was a deposit of light yellow-brown silty clay (55), between 0.05m and 0.25m thick, which extended to the north of ditch 50, as was the case with layer 58. The lower part of the layer was cleaner and more pinkish in colour, while the upper 0.05m contained plentiful Roman material, small fragments of blackened sandstone, and charcoal. The succeeding layer of light yellow-brown silty clay (49), between 0.05m and 0.1m in thickness, appeared to be a more general layer which had been deposited across the area in the post-Roman period and had infilled the remains of ditch 50.

6.10.4 The drainage feature (54) referred to above was a land drain of probable post-medieval date, measuring 0.35m wide and 0.54m deep which ran east/west. Its lowest fill was a soft light brown silty clay (59), 0.14m thick, which was covered by a layer of variable-sized sandstone boulders (53), around 0.15m in overall thickness. At the top of the layer, the gaps between stones were filled by a soft buff silty clay (52), up to 0.1m thick, sealed by a 0.27m thick layer of mottled pinkish-red silty clay (51) containing redeposited Roman material. All of the layers were sealed by the undifferentiated topsoil/ploughsoil (48) composed of light brown silty clay.

6.10.5 The only in-situ layer in ditch 50 which contained Roman material was the upper part of layer 55. It is evident, however, that the ditch had been open for some time prior to the deposition of this material and this may suggest that the ditch was particularly early in date.

6.11 *Trench 10* (SO 00641 29699; 1.2m east/west by 1.2m north/south; Fig. 11)

6.11.1 The natural subsoil of firm pinkish-red clay (47), containing stones up to 0.2m long, was revealed in a sondage against the east section of the trench. It was sealed by a 0.04m thick layer of orangey-brown clay silt (44), the origin of which was not clear.

Plate 12: Trench 10 after excavation onto stony layer (43), from south
(photo CPAT 2966-031)

6.11.2 The main layer which represented Roman activity was a layer of small stones set in a slightly orangey-brown clay silt (43), 0.05m thick, which was exposed in a right-angled sondage against the north and west sections. Charcoal and blackened sandstone were present, together with various Roman artefacts. This silt was sealed by slightly reddish-brown clay silt (42), up to 0.1m thick, which separated the Roman activity from the undifferentiated topsoil/ploughsoil comprising slightly pink, reddish-brown silt (41), 0.2m thick.

6.11.3 In the southern part of the trench, all the layers except the topsoil/ploughsoil were cut by a redundant land drain (45), up to 0.35m wide and over 0.55m deep, on an east-north-east/west-south-west alignment. The fill (46) of the drain comprised a lower band of sandstone rubble beneath red clay and smooth brownish silt, much the same in size and appearance as the land drain encountered in Trench 9.

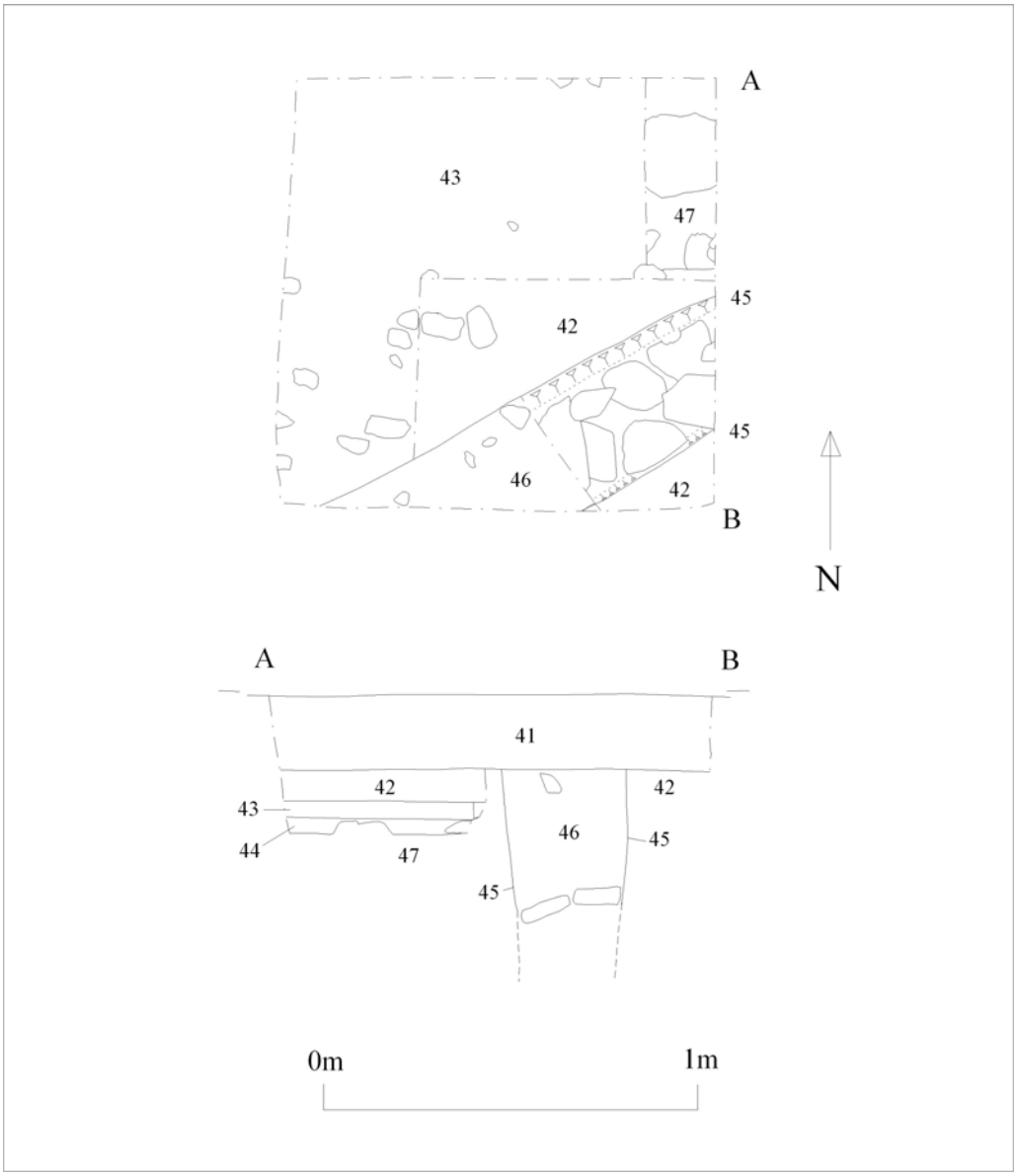

Fig. 11: Trench 10 plan and section at 1:20

6.12 *Trench 11* (SO 00340 29841; 1.2m east/west by 1.2m north/south; Fig. 12)

6.12.1 The trench was located in the small field to the west of Y Gaer house and was placed to reveal two of the more marked linear anomalies distinguished in the geophysics, in an attempt to elucidate the results. The natural subsoil was not revealed in the trench.

6.12.2 The main feature of the trench was a potentially T-shaped area of sandstone rubble (62) with one section aligned approximately north-north-east/south-south-west and at least 0.73m wide, and another, about 0.53m wide, running west-north-west. Roman material was recovered from the rubble layer which might represent robbed-out walling, although this would need to be confirmed over a larger area as no facing stones were evident. The interstices between stones were occasionally filled with pinkish gritty clay silt which might have been clay bonding used between stones. To either side of the west-north-west section, the possible remains of walling were butted by grey-brown silt (63), whose thickness was not tested, and which may represent layers within the putative building.

6.12.3 Up to 0.3m of dark reddish-grey gritty silt (61), which contained plentiful Roman material, overlay the rubble. This was, in turn, sealed by a 0.15m thick layer of mid reddish-brown clay silt (60) topsoil.

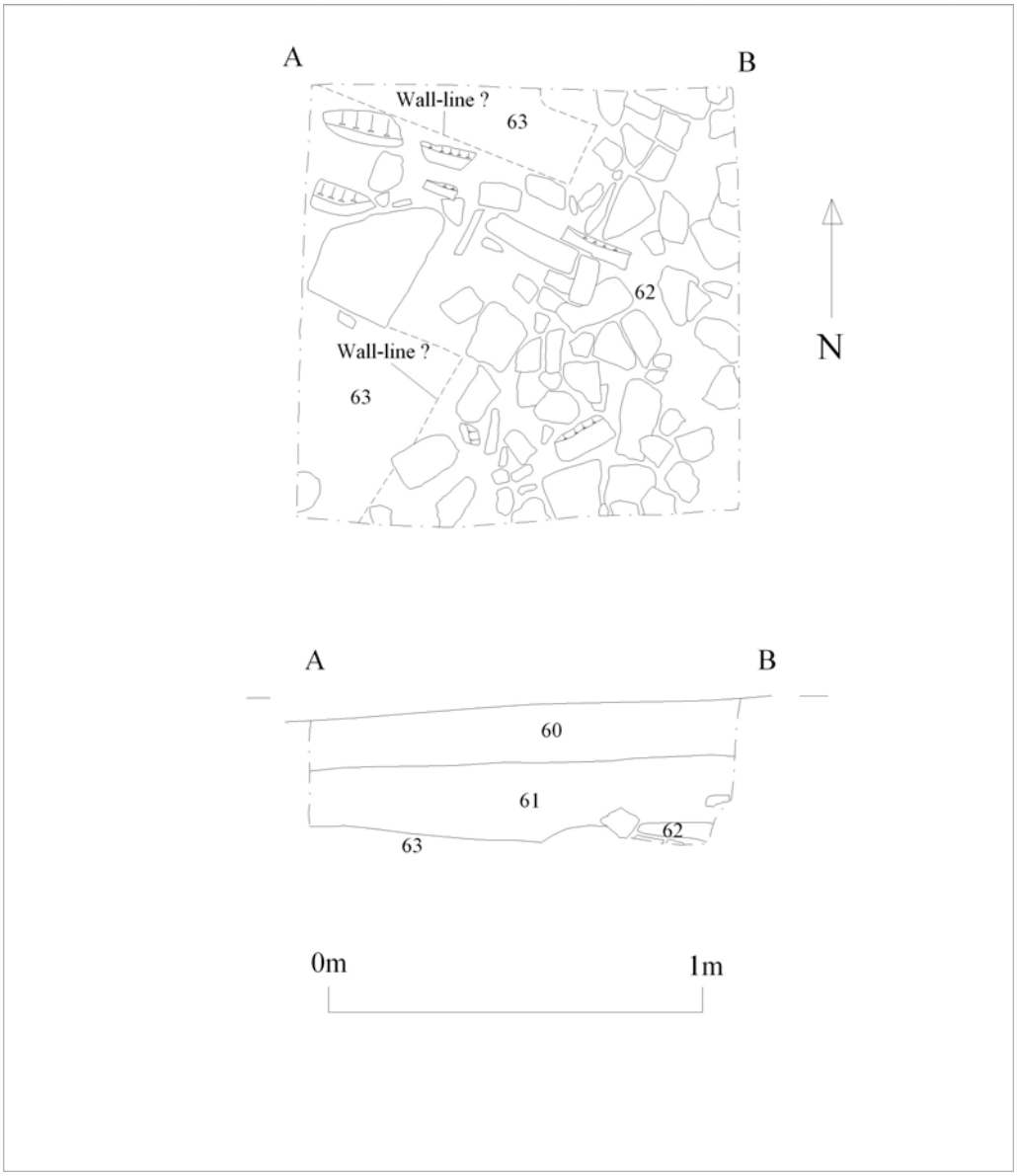

Fig. 12: Trench 11 plan and section at 1:20

Plate 13: Trench 11 after excavation, from north (photo CPAT 2966-046)

6.13 *Trench 12* (SO 00443 29913; 1.2m north-east/south-west by 1.1m north-west/south-east)

6.13.1 This and the following two trenches were excavated in the field to the south-east of the road leading to Y Gaer farm from the north-east. Undisturbed natural subsoil was not encountered in this trench, the lowest exposed layer being a deposit of mixed reddish-pink stony clay, orangey-brown silt and dark grey silt (66), at least 0.3m in thickness, and containing plentiful Roman material. The reddish-pink clay may be redeposited natural subsoil. The overlying reddish-brown clay silt (65), was approximately 0.3m thick and appeared to be the local ploughsoil. Above it, the slightly reddish-brown silt (64) topsoil was between 0.15m and 0.2m thick.

Plate 14: Trench 12 after excavation, from south-west (photo CPAT 2966-051)

6.14 *Trench 13* (SO 00485 29948; 1.2m north-east/south-west by 1.2m north-west/south-east)

6.14.1 The natural subsoil was friable sandstone in a pinkish-red clay silt matrix (73), and this was successively covered by 0.05m of pinkish-brown gritty silt (72), *c.*0.13m of pinkish-brown clay silt (71) ploughsoil, and 0.12m reddish-brown silt topsoil. No in-situ Roman material was found.

Plate 15: Trench 13 after excavation, from east (photo CPAT 2966-055)

6.15 *Trench 14* (SO 00513 29990; 1.2m north-east/south-west by 1.2m north-west/south-east)

6.15.1 The natural subsoil was friable sandstone in a pinkish-red clay silt matrix (69), and this was covered by a layer of ploughsoil comprising pinkish-brown stony clay silt (68), 0.15m thick and reddish-brown silt topsoil (67), 0.12m thick. No Roman material was found.

Plate 16: Trench 14 after excavation, from south-west (photo CPAT 2966-053)

7 AUGER SAMPLING RESULTS

7.1 Auger samples were taken in two areas, the field to the east of the fort and the field to the south-east of the road leading towards Y Gaer farm from the north-east (see Figs. 6 & 13). In the field to the east of the fort, Trench 2 revealed evidence of occupation but nothing was evident in Trench 3, so a series of five auger holes (a-e) were taken between the two trenches to determine where the edge of Roman activity lay. In the event all five auger samples contained material thought to be related to Roman activity, so it was assumed that the edge of occupation lay between the last sample location (sample e) and Trench 3.

7.2 In the second field, evidence of Roman occupation was found in Trench 12 but no in-situ deposits of definite Roman origin were observed in Trenches 13 and 14, so a series of auger samples were taken starting from 10m north-east of Trench 12. Only the first sample (f) revealed a probable Roman layer, the second sample (g) being devoid of a similar deposit, which suggested the edge of occupation lay somewhere between the two auger holes.

7.3 *Table 1 Auger sampling results*

Auger hole location	Layer 1	Layer 2	Layer 3
a – field to E of fort	0-0.39m Grey-brown silt (Topsoil/ploughsoil)	0.39-0.52m Pale grey-brown clay silt (Layer showing Roman activity)	0.52-0.60m+ Reddish-pink stony clay (Natural subsoil)
b – field to E of fort	0-0.34m Grey-brown silt (Topsoil/ploughsoil)	0.34-0.53m Pale grey-brown clay silt (Layer showing Roman activity)	0.53-0.60m+ Reddish-pink stony clay (Natural subsoil)
c – field to E of fort	0-0.30m Grey-brown silt (Topsoil/ploughsoil)	0.30-0.47m Pale grey-brown clay silt (Layer showing Roman activity) – black flecked at junction with Layer 3	0.47-0.60m+ Reddish-pink stony clay (Natural subsoil)
d – field to E of fort	0-0.30m Grey-brown silt (Topsoil/ploughsoil)	0.30-0.42m Pale grey-brown clay silt (Layer showing Roman activity)	0.42-0.60m+ Reddish-pink stony clay (Natural subsoil)
e – field to E of fort	0-0.39m Grey-brown silt (Topsoil/ploughsoil)	0.39-0.50m Pale grey-brown clay silt (Layer showing Roman activity)	0.50-0.60m+ Reddish-pink stony clay (Natural subsoil)
f – field to SE of road leading to Y Gaer	0-0.31m Pinkish-brown silt (Topsoil/ploughsoil)	0.31-0.40m Pinkish grey-brown silt with small stones (Layer showing possible Roman activity)	0.40-0.60m+ Reddish-pink clay silt with sandstone fragments (Natural subsoil)
g – field to SE of road leading to Y Gaer	0-0.31m Pinkish-brown silt (Topsoil/ploughsoil)	0.31-0.55m+ Reddish-pink clay silt with sandstone fragments (Natural subsoil)	

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 The results of the excavations can be summarised with reference to the following plan which is designed to show where in-situ deposits of probable Roman date were encountered in the fourteen trenches excavated supplemented by the seven auger samples.

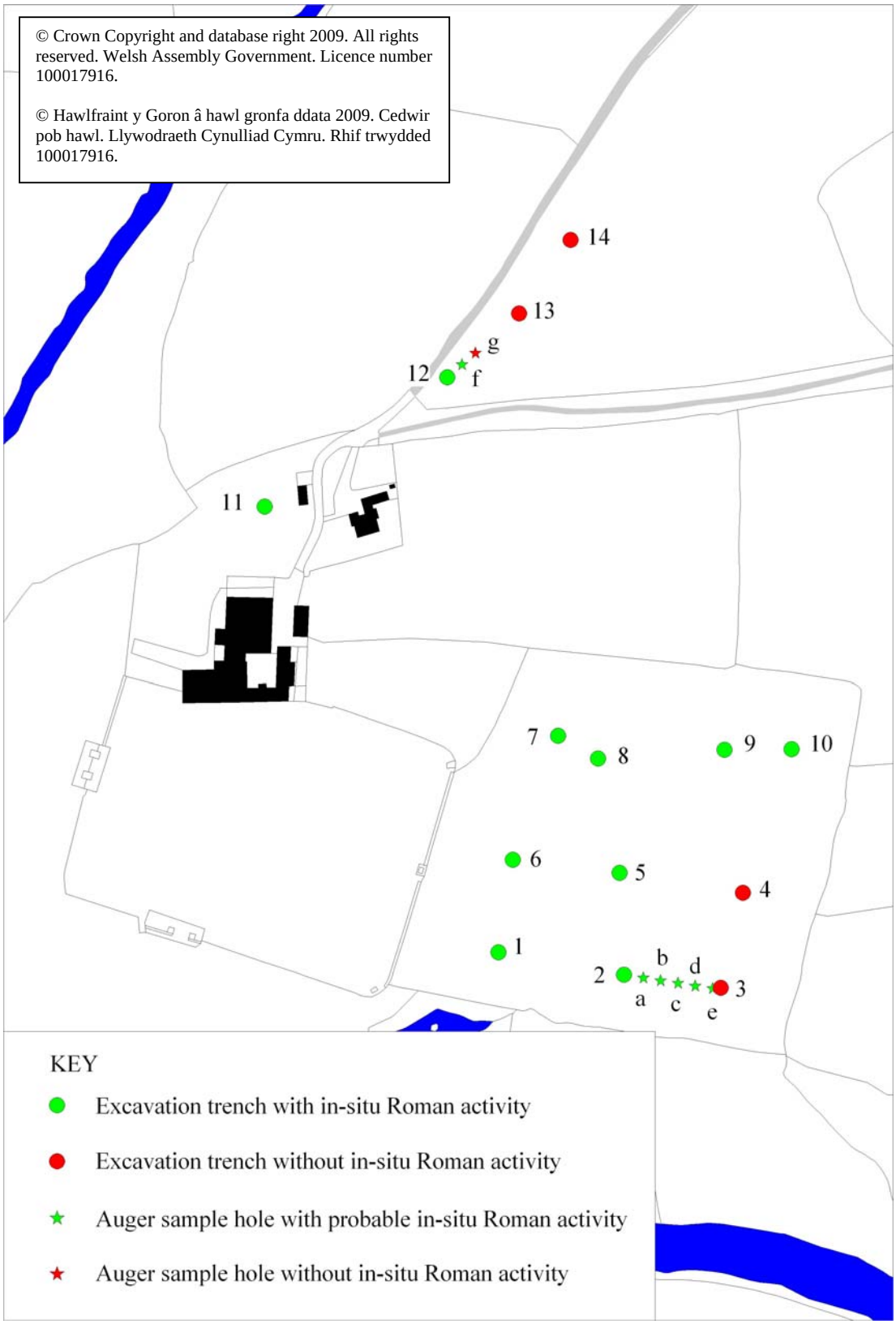

Fig. 13: Trenches and auger samples where in-situ Roman material was encountered

8.2 In the field to the east of the fort, Roman occupation appears to be present in most areas, with the exception of the extreme south-eastern part of the field. Even in Trench 4, where no in-situ Roman material was found, secondary Roman finds were present in the ploughsoil suggesting the edge of the *vicus* was nearby. The auger sampling between Trenches 2 and 3 also suggested that the edge of Roman occupation was close to the eastern edge of the field, despite not being evident in Trench 3.

8.3 The field to the south-east of the road leading to Y Gaer farm from the north-east had only a single trench and one auger hole which revealed evidence of Roman activity so it seems likely that only the extreme south-west end of this field falls within the area of the *vicus*. The remaining small field where excavation was carried out, to the west of Y Gaer house, contained features which seemed to represent the robbed-out walling of a building of Roman date, a possibility which had been signalled by the results of the geophysical surveys carried out around the fort in 2005 and 2006.

8.4 In addition to the primary object of the excavations, namely to define the extent of the *vicus*, some possibilities were raised regarding the nature of the occupation in the field to the east of the fort, although, as has been stated earlier, the scale of the excavations was generally not sufficient to determine precisely the function of any feature revealed. Despite this, some evidence which perhaps implied that structures dating to the Roman period were present was found in Trenches 1, 5, 6, 7 and 8. Of perhaps more interest, from the point of view of the reason why the fort was built in this rather restricted location in the first place, was the discovery of a ditch/gully in Trench 9 where the Roman occupation layer formed one of the later fills, thereby suggesting that the ditch was very early in date. Whether this belongs to the early period of Roman activity, or perhaps even pre-Roman activity, remains unclear. The nearest Iron Age settlement in the area is the hillfort in Coed Fenni-fach, a wood which overlooks the fort on its east side, less than 1km distant.

9 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

9.1 The writer would like to thank the following colleagues at CPAT for their assistance during the project: Mr I Grant for his assistance with the excavation; Ms W Owen, for her assistance with the excavation and preparation of a preliminary catalogue of the finds; and Mr J Spencer, for information regarding the work of the metal detectorists. Further information regarding the work carried out by the detectorists and the finds recovered was kindly provided by Mr M Lodwick of the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

9.2 The writer would particularly like to thank Mr E Jones, the landowner, for his interest and permission to carry out the excavation.

10 REFERENCES

10.1 Published sources

Burnham, B, & Davies, J, forthcoming, *The Roman Frontier in Wales*

Dorling, P, 1990. 'Brecon Gaer, Fennifach', *Archaeology in Wales*, 30, 54.

Hankinson, R, & Silvester, R, 2006. *Roman Military Sites in Powys*, CPAT Report No 767.

Nash-Williams, V E, & Jarrett, M G, 1969. *The Roman Frontier in Wales*, Cardiff: UWP

RCAHMW, 1986. *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Brecknock (Brycheiniog): The Prehistoric and Roman Monuments Part ii: Hill-forts and Roman Remains*, London: HMSO, 135-145.

Silvester, R, Hopewell, D & Grant, I, 2005. *Roman Fort Environs in Powys I*, CPAT Report No 702.

10.2 Cartographic sources

1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales map (Sheet 2 - Wales) and Legend (1:250,000 scale)

1994 British Geological Survey map of Wales (Solid edition at 1:250,000 scale)

APPENDIX 1

SITE ARCHIVE

56 digital photographs, CPAT Film No 2966
Photographic catalogue
73 context description forms
Contexts register
Drawings register
Finds register
Auger sample hole descriptions
Correspondence

Digital data
Topographical surveys to locate trenches – Brecgr1.pts, Brecgr2.pts, Brecgr3.pts (Penmap survey software)
Digitised site drawings for trenches 1, 5, 8, 9, 10, and 11

Contexts Register

Context (Trench)	Type	Comment
01 (Trench 1)	Layer	Topsoil
02 (Trench 1)	Layer	Ploughsoil
03 (Trench 1)	Feature	Metal detectorists hole
04 (Trench 1)	Fill	Fill of metal detectorists hole
05 (Trench 1)	Layer	In-situ Roman layer
06 (Trench 1)	Layer	Probable in-situ Roman layer, only seen in base of context 03
07 (Trench 1)	Cut ?	Possible cut, filled by contexts 08 & 09
08 (Trench 1)	Fill	Possible upper fill of potential cut 07; Roman artefacts
09 (Trench 1)	Fill	Possible lower fill of potential cut 07
10 (Trench 3)	Layer	Topsoil
11 (Trench 3)	Layer	Ploughsoil
12 (Trench 3)	Layer	Natural subsoil
13 (Trench 2)	Layer	Undifferentiated topsoil/ploughsoil
14 (Trench 2)	Layer	Possibly Roman or immediately post-Roman
15 (Trench 2)	Layer	In-situ Roman layer
16 (Trench 2)	Layer	Natural subsoil
17 (Trench 4)	Layer	Topsoil
18 (Trench 4)	Layer	Ploughsoil, with some abraded Roman material
19 (Trench 4)	Layer	Natural subsoil
20 (Trench 5)	Layer	Topsoil
21 (Trench 5)	Layer	Ploughsoil
22 (Trench 5)	Layer	Thin Roman layer – remnant floor ?
23 (Trench 5)	Layer	Natural subsoil
24 (Trench 5)	Layer	Perhaps the same as context 22
25 (Trench 5)	Fill	Fill of context 27
26 (Trench 5)	Layer	Earliest apparent Roman layer in this trench
27 (Trench 5)	Gully	Shallow right-angled gully filled by context 25
28 (Trench 6)	Layer	Undifferentiated topsoil/ploughsoil
29 (Trench 6)	Layer	In-situ Roman layer
30 (Trench 6)	Fill	Fill of context 31

31 (Trench 6)	Gully	Shallow gully filled by context 30
32 (Trench 6)	Layer	Natural subsoil
33 (Trench 8)	Layer	Topsoil
34 (Trench 8)	Layer	Ploughsoil
35 (Trench 8)	Fill	Fill of feature 36
36 (Trench 8)	Feature	Feature filled by context 35 – nature not confirmed
37 (Trench 8)	Layer	Probable in-situ Roman layer
38 (Trench 7)	Layer	Undifferentiated topsoil/ploughsoil
39 (Trench 7)	Layer	Probable Roman layer
40 (Trench 7)	Layer	Possible Roman demolition rubble
41 (Trench 10)	Layer	Undifferentiated topsoil/ploughsoil
42 (Trench 10)	Layer	Post-Roman soil ?
43 (Trench 10)	Layer	In-situ stony layer of Roman date
44 (Trench 10)	Layer	Layer between Roman activity and natural subsoil
45 (Trench 10)	Feature	Old land drain
46 (Trench 10)	Fill	Fill of context 45, lower part comprises sandstone rubble
47 (Trench 10)	Layer	Natural subsoil
48 (Trench 9)	Layer	Undifferentiated topsoil/ploughsoil
49 (Trench 9)	Layer	Possible post-Roman soil; final covering of ditch 50
50 (Trench 9)	Ditch	Early ditch
51 (Trench 9)	Fill	Final fill of land drain 54
52 (Trench 9)	Fill	Intermediate fill of land drain 54
53 (Trench 9)	Fill	Stone fill of land drain 54
54 (Trench 9)	Feature	Old land drain
55 (Trench 9)	Fill	Intermediate fill of ditch 50 with upper 0.05m containing plentiful Roman material. Extends beyond ditch to north
56 (Trench 9)	Layer	Natural subsoil
57 (Trench 9)	Fill	Intermediate fill of ditch 50, only present in south side
58 (Trench 9)	Fill	Initial fill of ditch 50, extends beyond its confines to north
59 (Trench 9)	Fill	Initial fill of land drain 54
60 (Trench 11)	Layer	Topsoil
61 (Trench 11)	Layer	Probable Roman layer covering context 62
62 (Trench 11)	Wall ?	Area of rubble probably denoting robbed walling
63 (Trench 11)	Layer	Possible layer within Roman structure
64 (Trench 12)	Layer	Topsoil
65 (Trench 12)	Layer	Ploughsoil
66 (Trench 12)	Layer	In-situ Roman layer
67 (Trench 14)	Layer	Topsoil
68 (Trench 14)	Layer	Ploughsoil
69 (Trench 14)	Layer	Natural subsoil
70 (Trench 13)	Layer	Topsoil
71 (Trench 13)	Layer	Ploughsoil
72 (Trench 13)	Layer	Layer between ploughsoil and natural subsoil, origin uncertain
73 (Trench 13)	Layer	Natural subsoil

Drawings Register

No	Scale	Contexts	Comment
1	1:10	01-09	Post-excavation plan and N-facing section of Trench 1
2	1:10	13-16	W-facing section of Trench 2
3	1:10	20-27	Post-excavation plan and W-facing section of Trench 5
4	1:10	28-32	Post-excavation plan and W-facing section of Trench 6
5	1:10	39 & 40	Post-excavation plan of Trench 7
6	1:10	33-37	Post-excavation plan and E-facing section of Trench 8
7	1:10	49-56	Intermediate plan of Trench 9
8	1:10	48-59	Post-excavation plan and W-facing section of Trench 9
9	1:10	41-47	Post-excavation plan and W-facing section of Trench 10
10	1:10	61 & 62	Intermediate plan of Trench 11
11	1:10	60-63	Post-excavation plan and S-facing section of Trench 11
12	1:10	64-66	Post-excavation plan and SW-facing section of Trench 12

Finds catalogue

Roman Pottery

Trench	Context	Fabric	Form	No	Weight (g)	Comments
1	01	RG9	Cooking pot/jar	1	4.0	
1	01	RG9	Dish/bowl	1	10.0	Base sherd
1	01	RG19		1	5.0	
1	01	RA?	Amphora?	1	36.0	No match in CPAT fabric series
1	02	RS		1	2.0	
1	02	RO?	Mortarium?	1 .	6.0	Quartz grits & grog on flange
1	02	RG5		1	1.0	Small ?burnt sherd
1	04	RG26?	Jar?	1	3.0	Rim sherd in hard smooth fabric. RG26 or RG41
1	08	RS	Cup. Form 27?	2	24.0	Stamped on interior
1	08	RG6		1	1.0	Dark possibly burnished surfaces
1	08	RG11		1	5.0	
1	08	RG18		1	2.0	Sherd stained orange perhaps by soil
2	14	RS		1	1.0	
2	15	RS		3	1.0	Tiny fragments
2	15	RG9?		1	1.0	Poss BB1. Abraded and probably burnt
2	15	RG9?		1	2.0	Burnt cracked sherd
2	15 .	RF?		1	0.5	Light orange fabric. Dark cc. Oxford or Lezoux ?
4	18	RG9		2	4.0	Small very worn body sherds
4	18	RR36		2	4.0	Worn sherds
5	20	RS		1	1.0	Tiny scrap
5	21	RG28		1	3.0	Probably burnt
6	28	RG9	Dish/bowl	1	4.0	
6	28	RG9	Cooking pot/jar	1	4.0	

6	29	RS		1	1.0	
6	29	RG9	Dish/bowl Flat rim (flanged)	2	19.0	Joining sherds. No decoration apparent
6	29	RG9	Dish/bowl	4	18.0	Joining sherds. Lattice decoration
6	29	RG9	Dish/bowl	1	4.0	
6	29	RG9		14	21.0	Burnt body sherds
6	29	RG9	Cooking pot/jar	1	4.0	Shoulder/neck sherd. Burnt
6	29	RG25		1	5.0	
6	29	RG5		1	5.0	Burnt sherd with worn surface & concretions
7	39	RR39		1	1.0	Micaceous on surface. Perhaps a slip
8	35	RS		1	5.0	
8	35	RR1		1	4.0	?pottery. Very worn, shapeless lump
9	48	RS		2	1.0	?rim and other small fragment
9	49	RS		1	9.0	Decorated ?
9	49	RS		1	1.0	Small scrap
9	51	RG9	Cooking pot/jar	2	7.0	
9	53	RS		1	2.0	
9	53	RS		1	0.5	Tiny flake
9	53	RA3?	Amphora?	1	15.0	Fabric RA3 or RA4?
9	53	RG?	Jar?	4	12.0	Crude rouletted decoration. Pale cc? Or burnt
9	53	RG9?	Dish/bowl	4	11.0	Burnt BB1?
9	53	RR10		1	2.0	
9	53	RR10		3	9.0	Joining body sherds
9	53	RR31		2	7.0	Soft worn fabric
9	53	RR37		1	4.0	Very sandy fabric with concretions
9	55	RS		1	7.0	Footring
9	55	RS	Cup/bowl	1	2.0	Flange
9	55	RS		1	8.0	Decorated
9	55	RS		1	4.0	Decorated
10	41	RR36		1	2.0	Flake off a flange?
10	46	RR39		1	2.0	Abraded sherd
11	60	RR10		2	4.0	Small & very worn scraps
11	60	RR10		1	3.0	
11	61	RA3	Amphora. Dressel 20	4	29.0	
11	61	RC11	Flagon?	1	38.0	Base sherd. Orangey buff slip
11	61	RR13	Flagon	1	5.0	Worn ?neck sherd
11	61	RA3	Amphora. Dressel 20	1	35.0	?burnt reddish fabric
11	61	RW9		1	5.0	
11	61	RW7	Lid?/Dish?	1	3.0	Rim sherd ?
11	61	RW13		1	2.0	Small worn sherd possibly from a mortarium
11	61	RS		4	2.0	Tiny fragments. One decorated

11	61	RR25?	Jar [everted rim]	2	6.0	?burnt. Unclear if originally red or grey fabric
11	61	RF1	Beaker	1	1.0	North Gaul fabric 1? 1st/2nd C
11	61	RG9	Dish/bowl Flat rim (flanged)	1	19.0	Worn uneven rim. Diameter uncertain
11	61	RG9	Dish/bowl	1	8.0	Overlapping inverted chevron decoration
11	61	RG9	Dish/bowl	7	43.0	Base sherds. probably all from dishes/bowls
11	61	RG9		10	19.0	Small abraded body sherds
11	61	RG5		1	3.0	Similar to BB1 but fabric less sandy
11	61	RR28		1	2.0	Flange? or lid?. Possibly Severn Valley ware
11	61	RR13		4	14.0	
11	61	RR10		1	1.0	Fragment of base
11	61	RR10		2	3.0	
11	61	RG9		1	11.0	Probably BB1 but much abraded and concretions
11	62	RG9	Dish/bowl	1	3.0	Burnt
11	62	RG6		1	10.0	Base. Terra Nigra type fabric
12	65	RA3	Amphora. Dressel 20	1	6.0	
12	65	RS		2	2.0	No surface surviving
12	65	RR8		3	7.0	Vesicular Severn Valley ware
12	65	RW9		1	1.0	
12	65	RR10		2	3.0	Tiny abraded fragments
12	66	RA3	Amphora. Dressel 20	1	28.0	
12	66	RF17?	Jar (everted rim)	1	9.0	Mica dusted surface. Double groove on shoulder. Holt ?
12	66	RG28	Jar/bowl (everted rim)	3	8.0	2 joining rim sherds
12	66	RG5	Jar?	1	18.0	Body sherd in hard sandy fabric
12	66	RG5		1	15.0	Burnished exterior surface
12	66	RC?		1	1.0	Fine buff-orange fabric. CC int & ext. Oxford ?
12	66	RS?		1	1.0	Fragment of footring?
12	66	RR28		1	2.0	Severn Valley ware?
12	66	RG8		2	14.0	?Malvern. Joining sherds
12	66	RG?		1	10.0	Burnished & lattice decoration. Calcite gritted/Malvern
13	71	RS		1	1.0	
14	68	RS?		1	1.0	Samian ?

Other finds

Trench	Context	Material	No of sherds	Weight (g)	Comment
1	01	Tile	1	4.0	Possible field drain
1	02	Glass counter	1	2.0	Black gaming counter
1	02	Burnt bone	5	2.0	
1	08	Slag	1	1.0	
2	13	Slag	4	17.0	
5	20	Glass	1	1.0	Fine blue-green
5	20	Glass (vessel)	1	2.0	Turquoise
5	22	Glass (vessel)	1	2.0	Turquoise
5	26	Glass (vessel)	1	2.0	Turquoise
8	34	Brick/tile	1	42.0	
8	35	Glass (vessel)	1	9.0	Turquoise moulded glass
9	48	Slag	2	32.0	
9	48	Glass	1	2.0	Clear ?window glass. Modern ?
9	49	Sandstone	2	43.0	Burnt?
9	49	Glass (vessel)	2	1.0	Rim. Light blue-green. V fine
9	49	Glass (vessel)	2	2.0	Turquoise
9	53	Brick/tile	1	5.0	
10	43	Slag	1	15.0	
10	43	Brick/tile	1	7.0	
10	43	Glass (vessel)	1	0.5	Fine
10	43	Glass	1	4.0	Thick green-blue
10	43	Burnt bone	1	1.0	
11	60	Clay pigeon	3	7.0	
11	60	Clay pipe	1	4.0	Stem fragment
11	60	Brick/tile	4	34.0	
14	67	Post-medieval pot	1	5.0	White fabric & white glaze

Auger sample hole descriptions

Auger hole	Layer 1	Layer 2	Layer 3
a	0-0.39m Grey-brown silt (Topsoil/ploughsoil)	0.39-0.52m Pale grey-brown clay silt (Roman occupation layer)	0.52-0.60m+ Reddish-pink stony clay (Natural subsoil)
b	0-0.34m Grey-brown silt (Topsoil/ploughsoil)	0.34-0.53m Pale grey-brown clay silt (Roman occupation layer)	0.53-0.60m+ Reddish-pink stony clay (Natural subsoil)
c	0-0.30m Grey-brown silt (Topsoil/ploughsoil)	0.30-0.47m Pale grey-brown clay silt (Roman occupation layer) – black flecked at junction with Layer 3	0.47-0.60m+ Reddish-pink stony clay (Natural subsoil)
d	0-0.30m Grey-brown silt (Topsoil/ploughsoil)	0.30-0.42m Pale grey-brown clay silt (Roman occupation layer)	0.42-0.60m+ Reddish-pink stony clay (Natural subsoil)
e	0-0.39m Grey-brown silt (Topsoil/ploughsoil)	0.39-0.50m Pale grey-brown clay silt (Roman occupation layer)	0.50-0.60m+ Reddish-pink stony clay (Natural subsoil)

f	0-0.31m Pinkish-brown silt (Topsoil/ploughsoil)	0.31-0.40m Pinkish grey-brown silt with small stones (possible Roman occupation layer ?)	0.40-0.60m+ Reddish-pink clay silt with sandstone fragments (Natural subsoil)
g	0-0.31m Pinkish-brown silt (Topsoil/ploughsoil)	0.31-0.55m+ Reddish-pink clay silt with sandstone fragments (Natural subsoil)	