

CPAT Report No. 1470

Roman Deeside, Flintshire

Archaeological Assessment






Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS

CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Cover photo: Rescue excavations funded by Cadw in 2013. Photo Fiona Grant



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Summary

Following a series of significant discoveries in advance of and during recent development in the Pentre Ffwrndan area, between Flint and Oakenholt in Flintshire, an assessment has been conducted, with funding from Cadw, reviewing the existing evidence for Roman activity along the whole of the Deeside coastal strip.

There is now evidence for a substantial Roman ribbon settlement at Pentre Ffwrndan which was related closely to the lead industry and was set out along the coastal road between the legionary fortresses at Chester (*Deva*) and Caernarfon (*Segontium*). Elsewhere, chance finds and evidence from small-scale excavations indicate the presence of significant Roman activity at both Greenfield and Flint.

One of the primary aims of the project has been to enhance the regional Historic Environment Record to assist the process of Development Control in an area where continuing development is likely to put further pressure on the archaeological resource. The project has created and updated records for all known discoveries, mapped the location and extent of archaeological fieldwork and defined a broad area within which buried Roman deposits are likely to be present.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Deeside coastal strip includes what is now a well-attested Roman industrial ribbon settlement set out along the coastal road between the legionary fortresses at Chester (*Deva*) and Caernarfon (*Segontium*), including the scheduled sites at Pentre Bridge (SAM Fl 131) and Leadbrook Drive (SAM Fl 213).
- 1.2. Elements of this settlement have been known for some time, although the results from recent developer-funded archaeological investigations have added significantly to our knowledge. The development pressures on the Deeside coastal strip have, however, also highlighted the problems of managing this important archaeological resource within the planning process.
- 1.3. The current project, which has been funded by Cadw, was conceived in order to draw together the evidence for Roman activity along Deeside, review our understanding of the development of this landscape in the Roman period, and synthesise and augment recent developer-funded work in the area. The results have been integrated into the regional Historic Environment Record (HER), enhancing the baseline data available to assist with Development Control.
- 1.4. The project has drawn on the results from previous Cadw-funded projects, including studies of the Dee Estuary Historic Landscape (Jones 1998) and Roman Roads in Mid and North-east Wales (Silvester and Owen 2003).

2 Methodology

- 2.1. The study area focuses on the coastal strip, which has been defined using the 50m contour for all but the south-eastern part, near Broughton, where this would have taken the boundary too far inland. It extends for around 25km from Llanerch-y-mor in the north-west to the English border near Broughton in the south-east, taking in the modern-day settlements of Holywell/Greenfield, Flint, Connah's Quay/Shotton and Broughton. The main concentration of Roman activity, however, is centred on the Pentre Ffwrndan area between Flint and Oakenholt (Fig. 1).
- 2.2. At an early stage in the project discussions were held with the regional Development Control Archaeologists in order to identify the nature and extent of recent interventions within the study area, including both positive and negative results. While some of the information may remain commercially sensitive the intention has been to access all available data to assist with HER enhancement, while flagging new records as confidential where appropriate.
- 2.3. An extract was obtained from the HER to form the basis of the project dataset, which was managed and enhanced for later integration. The project reviewed all readily available desk-based material from mapped, published and unpublished sources to augment the existing record. Full use was also made of GIS to map the extent of known archaeology and identify areas considered to be of high, medium or low archaeological potential as an aid to Development Control.

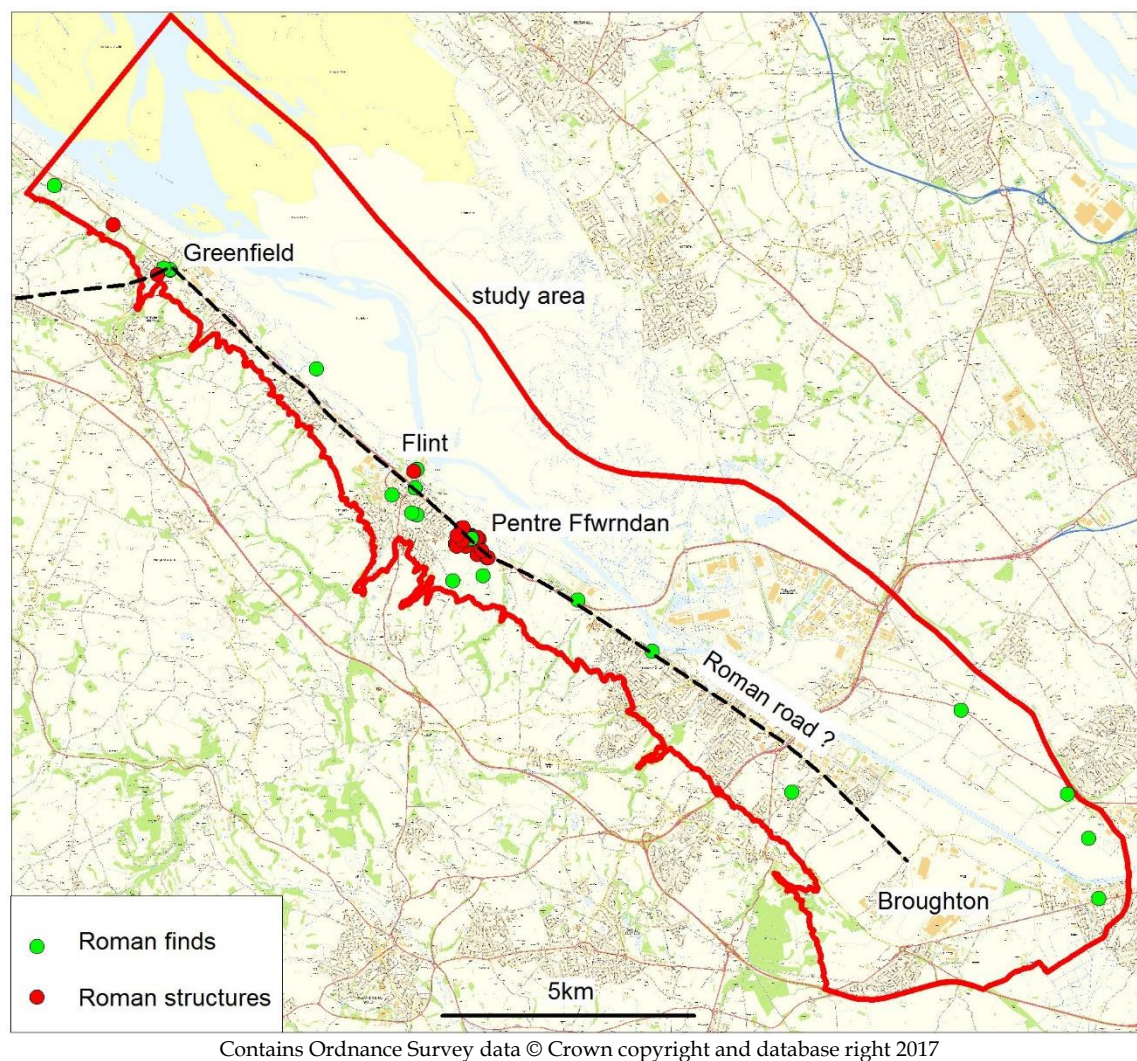


Fig. 1 The study area showing the distribution of Roman assets recorded in the regional HER.

3 Military Activity and Roads

- 3.1. Direct evidence for military activity along Deeside is surprisingly scarce, although the whole area would clearly have been under the overall control of substantial military presence at Chester from the Flavian period onwards. There are no confirmed military works associated with the early campaigns against the Deceanglii, although Ostorius Scapula launched a campaign against them, possibly as early as AD 48. Suetonius Paullinus mounted three campaigns in Wales in AD 58-60, perhaps utilising the Dee Estuary; the last of these reached Anglesey, although the success of the campaign was halted by the Boudican revolt (Jones and Mattingley 1990, 66-68, Map 4:8). It was Julius Agricola who finally subjugated north Wales during his first campaign in AD 78.
- 3.2. A fort may have been established at Chester by Paullinus, although this remains to be confirmed, while the construction of a legionary fortress here commenced in AD 74 (Burnham and Davies 2010, 172). The military base at Chester would have made full use of the Dee Estuary, the river remaining tidal beyond the fort.

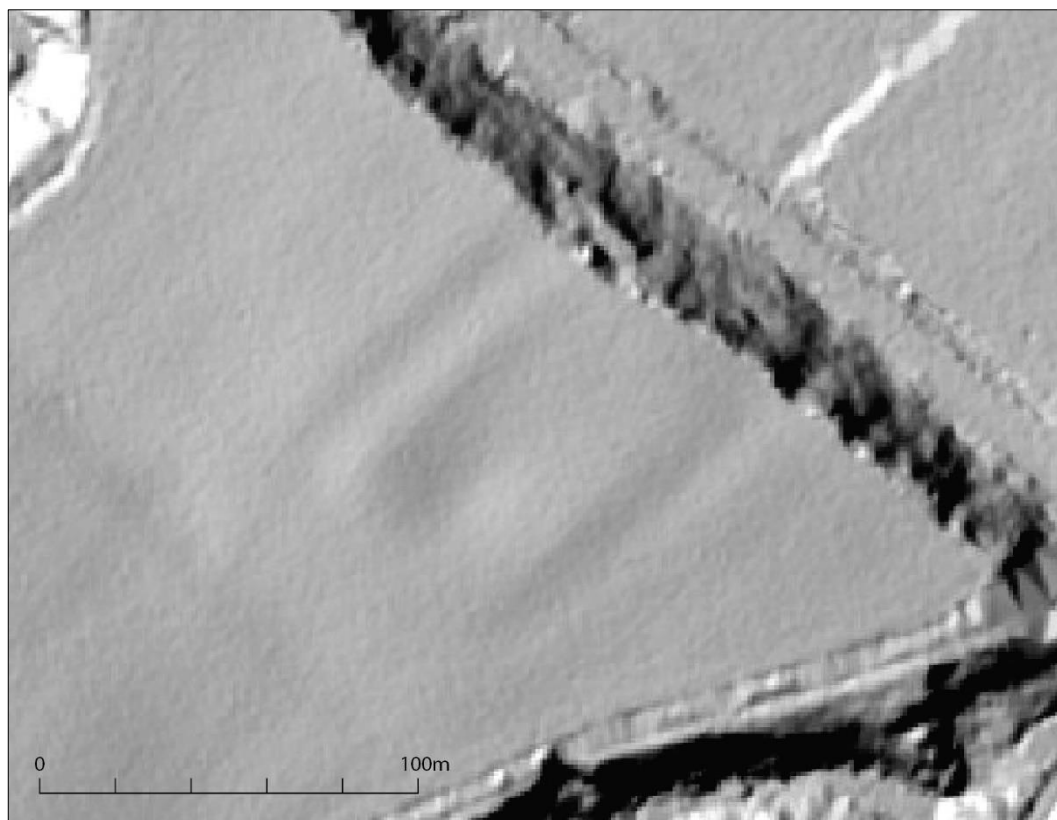


Fig. 2 The possible Roman fortlet near Greenfield, based on 1m LiDAR data accessed under the Open Government Licence for Public Sector Information. © Natural Resources Wales and Database Right.

- 3.3. Recent LiDAR data, however, has revealed a possible Roman fortlet (PRN 123918) around 1.3km north-west of Greenfield, located on the edge of higher ground, overlooking the coastal plain. Aerial photography by RCAHMMW confirms the presence of a spread bank and broad ditch defining a rectangular enclosure with rounded corners, measuring 90m by 110m overall.
- 3.4. The only Roman road (RR67a) to be confirmed within the study area is that linking *Deva* (Chester) with the unlocated fort at *Varis* which appeared in the Antonine Itinerary on *Iter XI*. The standard authorities, Rivet and Smith, were happy to follow others in placing *Varis* at St Asaph, particularly as the mileage in *Iter XI* was exact, even though indications of the fort were and remain elusive (Rivet and Smith 1979, 487).
- 3.5. The route as generally perceived leaves Chester, and then swings north-westwards along the edge of the Dee Estuary. At Holywell, it alters direction, the Greenfield Valley allowing access to the higher ground and enabling the road to follow a western course across the northern tail of the Clwydians to drop down into the Vale of Clwyd and a river crossing of the Clwyd itself at St Asaph. Much of the course of this road is speculative, however, with the straight post-medieval coastal road (now the A548) assumed to be on the course of a predecessor (see Pritchard 1964, 75).
- 3.6. At Oakenholt a section of road surface was examined on the north side of the A548 in 1993 (though at a point where the main road curves inland slightly). It had no side

ditches, but a cambered surface constrained by edge stones (Fig. 3). Though not certainly dated it is a firm contender for a Roman road and was traced by augering for about 100m where its alignment shifted (Greuter n.d.). With a width of 2.9m the road is too narrow to be the RR67a and it is perhaps more likely that, assuming that it formed a side road, apparently heading towards the estuary and perhaps therefore servicing a quay.



Fig. 3 A section of the possible Roman side road at Oakenholt excavated in 1993

- 3.7. Around 160m west-north-west a further section of road was uncovered in 2007 during an evaluation and subsequent excavation along the line of a new sewage pipe. However, this section of road was considerably wider at around 12m (Dodd 2007).
- 3.8. To the south of A548 a possible section of Roman road was photographed by Professor GDB Jones in 1977 (Frere 1977, 358). Although the published grid reference (SJ 255 723) is only accurate to 100m and there is no reference to indicate which photograph the cropmark appeared on it seems likely that it identified part of the road excavated by Earthworks Archaeology during development of the area in 2013. This identified a well-preserved Roman road extending in a slight curve from around 130m, to either side of which were a series of buildings forming a ribbon settlement associated with the lead industry.
- 3.9. The projected course of the Roman road extended into an adjacent development plot to the east, which was subsequently investigated by geophysics in 2014. This confirmed the presence of a Roman road within the plot, along with intensive roadside activity (Wardell Armstrong 2014). A review of the 1m-resolution LiDAR data has confirmed that the road survives as a slight earthwork, aligned north-west to south-east.
- 3.10. There is currently no evidence to suggest the line of the road further to the south-east, although it is clear that it is heading away from the estuary, rather than following its edge, as had been surmised previously. It is possible that this line was adopted to avoid the area around Broughton, which is likely to have been salt marsh during the Roman period. That said, a section of what might be a Roman road (PRN 17839) was identified through resistivity survey in advance of development at

Broughton in 1993. The road was around 4-5m wide, aligned north/south, and had flanking ditches (Owen 1993).

4 Settlement and Industry

- 4.1. There is now a growing body of evidence for a Roman ribbon settlement set out along the coastal road between the legionary fortresses at Chester and Caernarfon (Segontium). The settlement occupation spans the later 1st to early 4th centuries and extends for at least 800m between Pentre Farm and Leadbrook Drive. Chance finds and antiquarian reports also suggest the possibility of Roman settlement at both Flint and Greenfield, although the principal focus appears to have been Pentre Ffwrndan.
- 4.2. There is an inseparable link along Deeside between settlement and industry, with the evidence suggesting that much of the known Roman activity is related in some way to the lead industry.
- 4.3. The earliest record of Roman finds in the area comes from Thomas Pennant in *A Tour in Wales*, originally published in three parts between 1778 and 1783. He records 'various antique instruments and coins found near Flint' (Pennant 1991, 52-3 and 69; Fig. 4), noting:

'There is a tradition, that in very old times stood a large town at this place; and it is said the foundations of buildings have been frequently turned up by the plough. But what is most remarkable, are the great quantities of scoria of lead, bits of lead ore, and fragments of melted lead, discovered in several spots here, and along the country, just above the shore, in the adjoining parish of *Northop*. These have of late been discovered to contain such quantities of lead, as to encourage the washers of ore to farm the spots. In this tract, numbers of tons have been gotten within a small time, especially at *Pentre Ffwrn-dan*, or the *place of the fiery furnace*; a name it was always known by, and which evinces the antiquity of smelting in these parts; but the etymology was never confirmed, till by means of these recent discoveries . . . the multitudes of *Roman* coins, *Fibulae*, and variety of antique instruments, lately discovered by the workmen in the old washes of this and the next parish.'



Fig. 4 Some of the Roman artefacts recovered from near Flint in the 18th century (after Pennant 1991, vol 1, Plate VIII).

- 4.4. The tradition of an earlier settlement in this area can in fact be traced back two centuries before Pennant's observations. Writing of the Croes-ati area in 1574 the scholar John Dee noted that 'in ancient tyme stode a town . . . now utterly defaced, no ruyn thereof or monument appearing'. Edward Lhuyd, a second scholar of Welsh descent, writing in 1699 said that 'according to tradition there stood a Church heretofore at Pentre Attiscrosse half a mile from Flint; for Gravestones have been found here'.

Pentre Farm

- 4.5. Until recently the only substantial area excavations were those conducted by CPAT near Pentre Farm between 1976 and 1981 (O'Leary *et al.* 1989). While some of the finds noted by antiquarians may have come from this area, the first real indication of substantial Roman buildings was the discovery of the corner of a building in 1960 (PRN 128768), along the north-east side of Chester Road, during the excavation of a trench for an electricity cable. This was followed by a small excavation in the adjacent field in 1961 which revealed a length of masonry walling ending in a pillar base constructed from roof tiles, as well as uncovering fragments of floor and roof tiles and wall plaster (Hayes 1961).



Fig. 5 Excavations at Pentre Farm, showing the Phase 7 building plan. Photo CPAT

- 4.6. Following proposals to develop the site an exploratory excavation was conducted by Professor GDB Jones in June 1976, which confirmed the presence of significant Roman remains dating to the late 1st and 2nd centuries AD. This was followed by larger scale excavations by CPAT which identified eight phases of building (O'Leary *et al.* 1989; Fig. 6):

Phase 1. The initial phase of the complex is represented by three ranges of buildings of clay and timber construction built soon after AD 120. A yard, incorporating a D-shaped ornamental pool, lay in the heart of the complex. It is possible that an eastern range may have been built (outside the limit of excavation) to produce a symmetrical layout (see Fig. 1).

Phase 2. Few changes were undertaken save new rooms being added to the West Range.

Phase 3. In the Antonine period the verandah and external corridors were removed from the South Range, part of which was used for lead working, and parts of the West Range were demolished.

Phase 4. This phase saw considerable rebuilding of the complex sometime in the late 2nd century. The North Range and part of the West Range were demolished and a masonry building (the North-west Range) was constructed with a corridor running the length of the building.

Phase 5. An additional stone building (the North Range) was built and the remaining section of the West Range was replaced by a heated room. The timber South Range remained standing.

Phase 6. Some minor alterations were undertaken, in the late 2nd to early 3rd centuries, on the existing buildings. The heated room was replaced by a bath-house, comprising four main rooms, one containing a plunge bath. The bath-house was the building which Hayes first identified in 1961.

Phase 7. In the early to mid 3rd century the complex saw the demolition of the South Range and the addition of three rooms, one in timber and two of masonry construction, on the south side of the North-west Range. The central room may have been a tower, providing an imposing front elevation.

Phase 8. The majority of the complex was robbed of its stone in the mid 3rd century, although additional floors and walls in some of the southern rooms indicate a continuation of occupation.

- 4.7. The complex is thought to represent an official residence associated with lead mining in the district. While it may not be entirely military, the combination of plan-form, size, method of construction, type of bath-house and the presence of stamped military tiles certainly suggests a strong military connection.

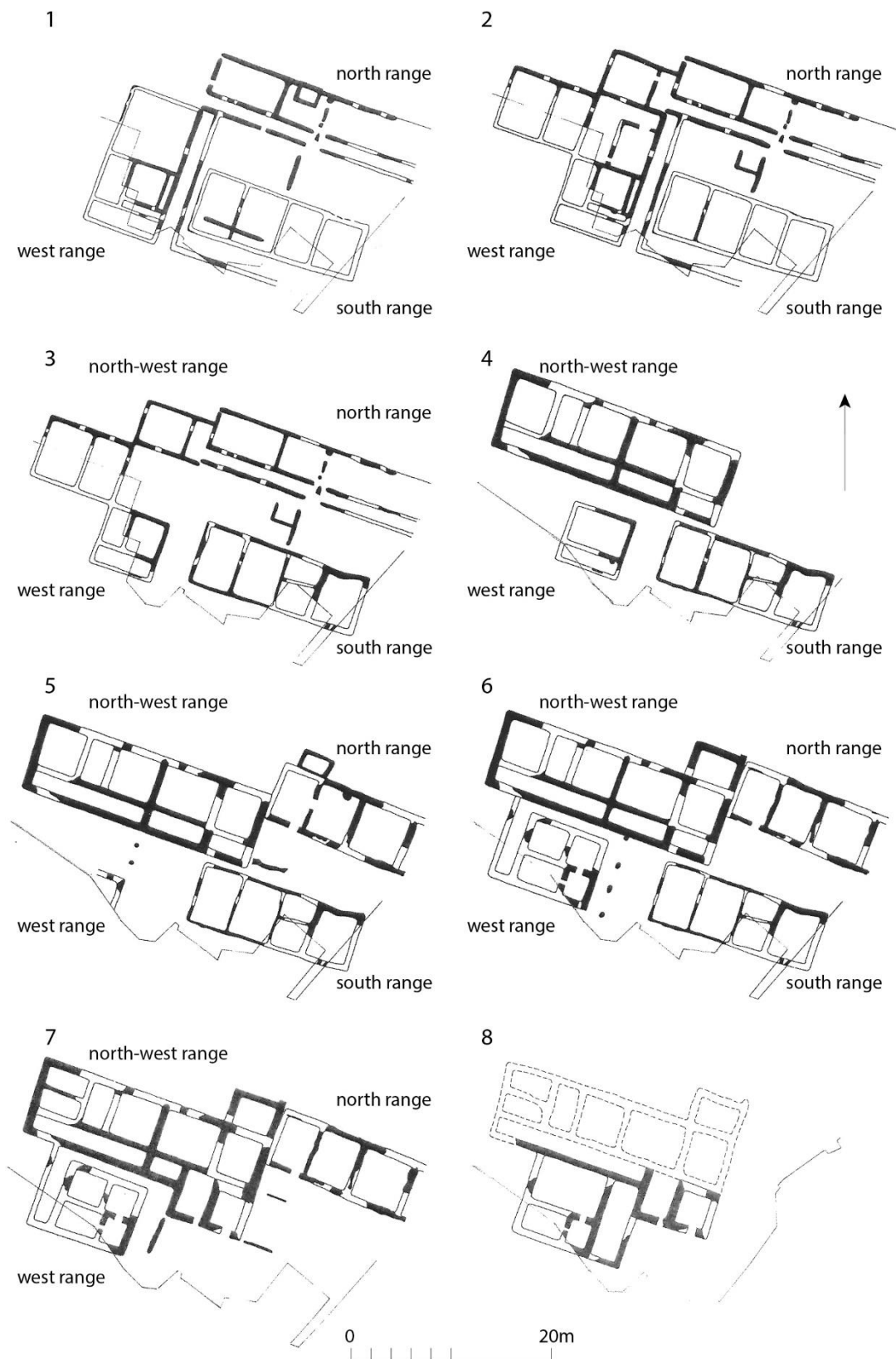


Fig. 6 Phase plans of the complex excavated at Pentre Farm 1976-81 (after O'Leary *et al.* 1989, fig. 5)

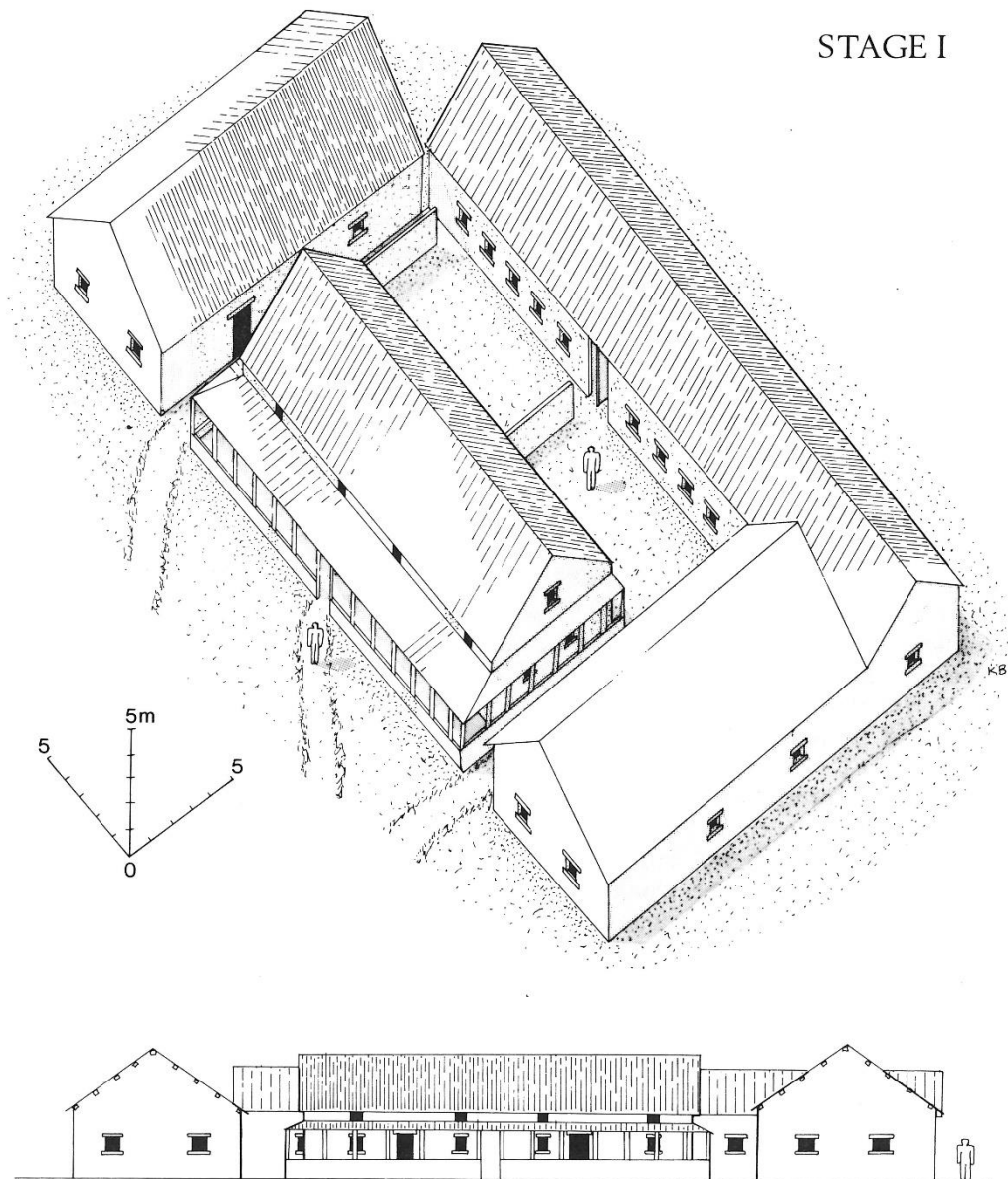


Fig. 7 Tentative reconstruction of the Phase 1 building at Pentre Farm (after O'Leary *et al.* 1989, fig. 7)

Pentre Ffwrndan (see Fig. 14)

- 4.8. In the mid-19th century finds were reported by Wynne Ffoulkes (1856) in Ship Field, north-east of Chester Road in Pentre Ffwrndan, together with a number of burials (see below): 'Towards the north-western end of the field was discovered a rude wall, made of stone, cemented with a rather tenacious clay, obtainable, I believe, in the neighbourhood. In a southerly direction this wall seemed to run in a straight line for fifty-four feet, while at each end it formed an angle with walls pointing in an easterly direction. Not far from this wall was what appeared to be a well, about five or six feet deep, with the same rude flagging; the sides had fallen in, and when they had been cleared out, and the bottom taken out, the water rose in it. This hole, be it what it may, was sunk to the rammel, and the floor laid upon it. It is difficult to form an opinion as to its use; it may have been a well . . .'

-
- 4.9. While not well located it is perhaps likely that these remains were the same as those identified during excavations in 1923-4, although this was discounted by the excavators (Atkinson and Taylor 1924; Petch and Taylor 1925). Evidence was revealed for two buildings, the larger of which comprised a wall aligned north/south which extended for 12.5m, with a right angle at the southern end, extending eastwards for 5.3m. The wall, which was 0.6m wide and stood to three courses, had a foundation up to 0.9m wide, with all of the masonry being clay-bonded. Some samian and the rim of a mortarium were found in association with the wall, the pottery being 2nd-century in date.
- 4.10. The small structure comprised an L-shaped length of walling 0.6m wide, 3m long north/south and 0.75m east/west, with no foundation. The building may have been open-sided to the east, with a roof, which was not tiled, supported on posts. Areas of paving were associated with both structures and the presence of at least seven lead-smelting furnaces in the same area (see below) suggest that these were industrial buildings, or at least associated with the lead industry.
- 4.11. A number of small furnaces have been recorded at Pentre Ffwrndan on either side of the Roman road, the earliest record dating from 1840 (Davies 1949, 130), and subsequently as a result of excavations in 1923-4 which revealed several furnaces, some of which were in association with lead ore and slag.
- 4.12. Further excavations were undertaken in 1933-4 on the opposite side of Chester Road, recovering the partial plan of another stone building which extended beneath the road. This included the complete plan of a room measuring 11.7m by 6.4m, part of another room and an adjacent paved area. The walls survived to two courses and was 0.6m wide, built on a footing course. The floor consisted of sandstone slabs laid on cement and rubble. A further, unconnected length of wall, surviving for around 14m, was also uncovered further to the south. Pottery indicated that occupation may date from the late 1st century to the end of the 2nd century AD (Petch 1936). Parts of the building were later re-examined during trial excavations in 1986 (Wheetman 1986).
- 4.13. More recent excavations by Earthworks Archaeology in connection with a housing development to the south of Chester Road have uncovered extensive remains which, together with previous discoveries, indicate the presence of a ribbon settlement along the Roman road. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, the only report currently available relates to an initial phase of assessment and reports remain outstanding for two areas which were subsequently excavated in detail.
- 4.14. In early 2013 a watching brief was undertaken on the roundabout area providing access for the new development. This immediately located a well-preserved Roman road surface which appeared to be largely intact with upper metalling and a camber plus small lateral drainage ditches and is assumed to be a continuation of the road seen in the sewage pumping main investigation area to the north of the A548 in 2007. The excavations also revealed an extensive area of roadside settlement extending for up to 130m in plots stretching for up to 20m either side of the road (Fig. 8).
- 4.15. Timber-framed buildings associated with industrial activity were aligned in narrow plots typically laid out at right angles to the road frontage. The activity appeared to be predominantly associated with lead ore processing, including stone-based

washing tanks, small hearths and lead waste and slag, together with fragments of *galena*, the unprocessed lead ore. Other features included a stone-lined well and a timber-lined cistern, both containing waterlogged deposits; these micro-environments resulted in the preservation of artefacts made from leather and wood, as well as the preservation of important palaeoenvironmental evidence (Dodd 2016). The settlement appears to have been in use from the late 1st to the late 3rd centuries AD, with a possibility of some 4th-century or later activity at the upper levels which has been partly damaged by later ploughing. The archaeology was well preserved in general with multiple phases and a large assemblage of artefacts was recovered.



Fig. 8 Rescue excavations alongside Chester Road, funded by Cadw in 2013. Photo Fiona Grant

- 4.16. In 2013 an evaluation comprising 15 trenches was conducted to the south of the A458 and while a negative results was forthcoming from most of the trenches one area revealed a previously unsuspected Roman building (Dodd 2013). Although originally interpreted as a possible rectangular building subsequent excavations later that year determined that this was an ovoid structure, measuring perhaps 10.5m by 8.6m, aligned north-west to south-east. The west side of the building is likely to have comprised timber framing set on a curving masonry sleeper wall, while the east wall was founded on earth-fast posts. The roof supports appear to have lain along the centre axis of the building and the absence of ceramic roofing material suggests that the roof was either of thatch or timber shingles. Pottery evidence suggests that this building was occupied during the 2nd century and was abandoned in the late 2nd or early 3rd centuries. This date is comparable with the early phase of the nearby industrial roadside settlement uncovered in February 2013 during road improvement works associated with the same development (Dodd 2016).
- 4.17. The building has been interpreted as a probable workshop or recycling centre associated with the 2nd-century industrial settlement located alongside Chester Road,

and similar to a postulated industrial workshop building excavated at the Lousher's Lane site at Wilderspool, near Warrington, Cheshire (Hinchliffe and Williams 1992, 108-110).

- 4.18. It is now clear that the roadside settlement extends further to the east, having been identified through geophysical survey and subsequently confirmed during trial excavations. The geophysics indicated the presence of property boundaries, structures and possible industrial activity extending up to c.20m either side of the road. Pottery evidence indicates activity from the late 1st century to the 3rd century AD. Of particular significance was the discovery of a small cremation cemetery alongside the road (Wardell Armstrong 2014; 2015). The site has now been afforded statutory protection as SAM Fl 213.
- 4.19. The ribbon development at Pentre Ffwrndan has close parallels with the settlement at Heronbridge, 2km south of the legionary fortress at Chester, which straddles Watling Street close to the banks of the River Dee. From its origins around AD80 the timber buildings were replaced in stone in the Hadrianic period, the buildings measuring around 30m by 8m, arranged in blocks of three separated by side streets, possibly laid out to a grid of plots one *actus* (36.6m) square (Mason 2010).
- 4.20. The industrial settlement at Pentre Ffwrndan appears to have been sited on the shores of the Dee estuary in order to take advantage of transport by both sea and land. Other factors which may have influenced the siting of the settlement were the availability of water from the stream entering the Dee at Pentre Ffwrndan, and the availability of fuel. Until the later 17th century lead smelting remained heavily dependent upon the use of charcoal and it is likely that the felling of local woodland had a significant and perhaps long-lasting impact upon the environment at this period.
- 4.21. Lead had a wide range of uses in the Roman period, including for water-pipes, water-tanks and coffins. Lead from the Flintshire orefields contains a relatively high proportion of silver which could be extracted by the process known as cupellation. This would have added considerably to its value, perhaps explaining the possible presence of a high-ranking Roman official at the settlement. Flintshire lead and silver would have had a ready market in Chester, and from there would have been traded further afield. Lead ingots of up to 70kg were cast in moulds; such bars marked DECEANGL (an abbreviation of the Iron Age tribal name in the phrase *Deceanglicum plumbum* ('Deceanglian lead')) have been found not only in Chester but also as far as the village of Hints in south Staffordshire, over 100 miles away.

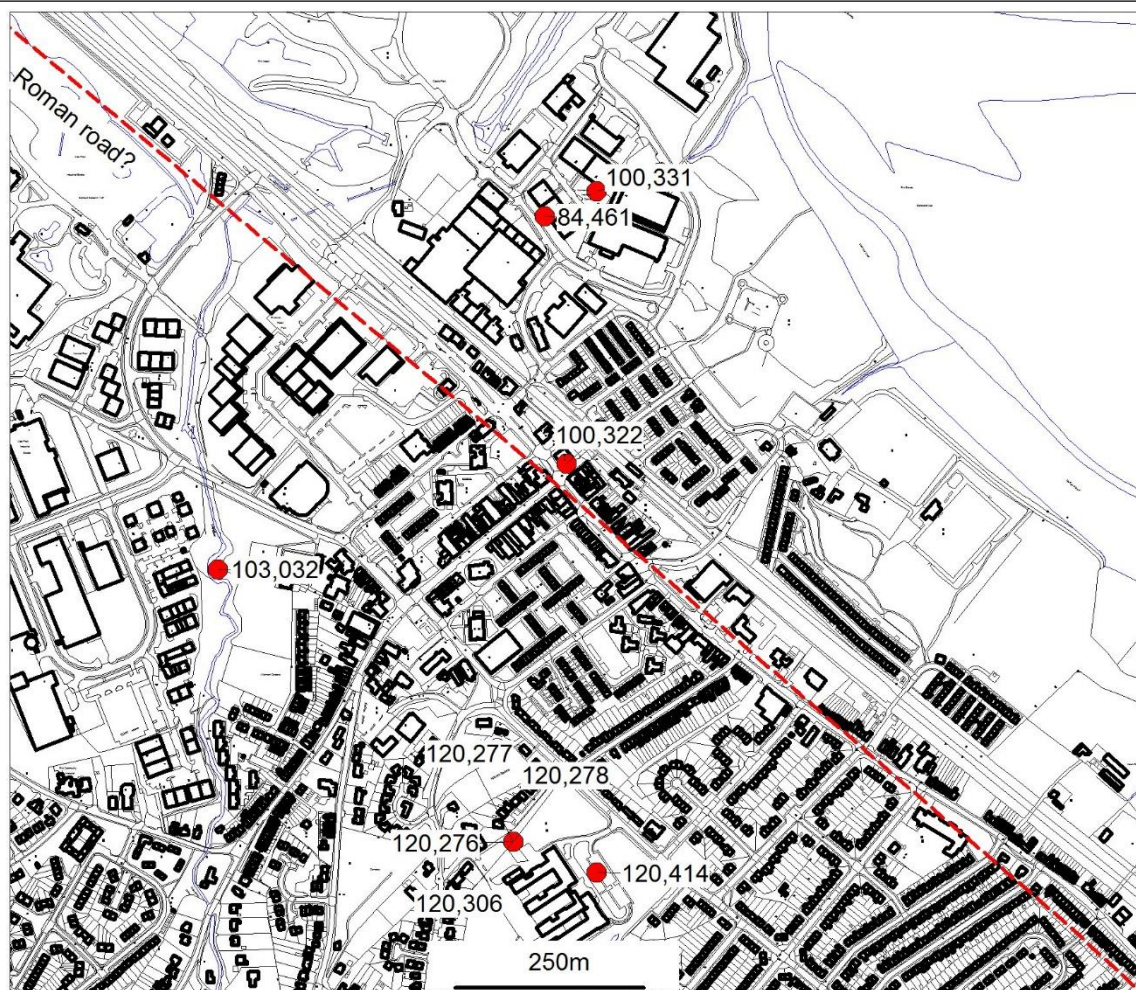
Flint

- 4.22. Antiquarian references allude to likely Roman activity at Flint, comprising a 'hypocaust, or hot-bath' found in 'about the year 1700 whilst digging the foundations of a copper-works' (PRN 84461), while in the early 19th century Roman tiles and bricks were also found in the same area (PRN 100331) (Taylor 1883). The site was subject to several phases of industrial redevelopment during the 19th and 20th centuries and the Roman remains are assumed to have been destroyed.
- 4.23. A number of Roman finds (PRN 100322) have also come to light discovered during the construction of the Flint Council Chamber in 1840 (Davies 1949, 147):

-
- 1 A large brass coin of Antoninus Pius, much corroded. On the *reverse*, a temple of eight columns, in which are two sedent figures, s.c
 - 2 A middle brass coin of Constantine, much rubbed, *reverse*, GENIO POP ROM, genius before an altar sacrificing; in the exergue PLC.
 - 3 Small brass coin. *Obverse*, laureated head without epigraphe; *reverse*, CONSTANTINVS AUG - SMPS
 - 4 Small brass coin. *Obverse*, FL IVL CONSTANTIVS NOB c; *reverse*, GLORIA EXERCITVS, two soldiers, between them a standard
 - 5 Small brass coin. The *reverse* as the last, except that there are two standards. In the exergue PLC; 4. URBS
 - 6 ROMA, a galeated female head. *Reverse*, the wolf and the twins
 - 7 CONSTANTINOPOLIS, a galeated female head. *Reverse*, a winged female figure with spear and shield.

4.24. Other Roman finds recorded from Flint in the regional HER include:

1. A Denarius of Domitian, date AD 90, 90 found near Flint sometime before 1982 (PRN 103032)
2. A complete but poorly preserved copper-alloy vessel escutcheon or mount, probably from a bucket or similar vessel dated to the later Iron Age or Roman period c. 50 BC – AD 300 (PRN 120306)
3. An incomplete cast copper alloy Roman trumpet brooch / trumpet derivative brooch dating from AD 75 - 175 (PRN 120276)
4. A spindle whorl (PRN 120277)
5. A cast copper alloy tool, possibly a wedge or punch, of unknown date, possibly Roman or Medieval (PRN 120278)



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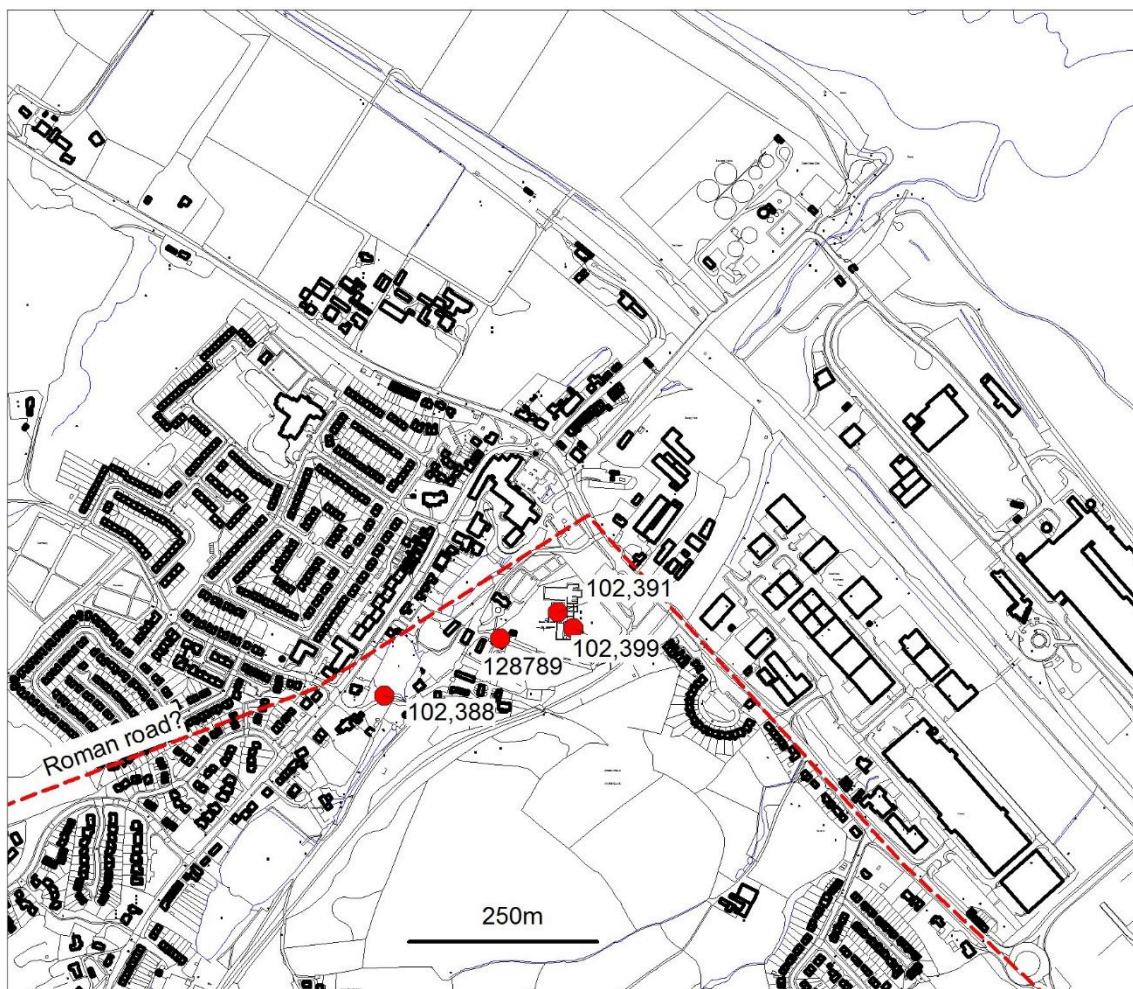
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Fig. 9 Roman finds in the area of Flint

Greenfield

- 4.25. Thomas Pennant (1796, 207) records 'an antient Roman hypocaust furnished with various flues, with the superincumbent tiles of a fine red colour' found while 'digging the foundations for the brass melting-houses' belonging to the Greenfield Copper and Brass Company. Later opinion has been divided as to whether the remains were part of a hypocaust (PRN 102388), or perhaps related to a medieval tile kiln associated with Basingwerk Abbey (Davies 1949, 188-9). There is however, no doubt regarding sherds of Roman pottery (PRN 102391) collected by workmen in the course of clearing the site of the abbey for H.M. Office of Works in 1924-26. The pottery included sherds of samian dating to the late 1st and early 2nd centuries, as well as redwares, greywares and black-burnished ware. A Roman coin (PRN 102399) is also known from the abbey, having been found in 1876, and reported as a third brass of Constantine II (Caesar 317, Augustus 337-46), minted in Lyon. The obverse has the head of Constantine II to the right with the legend CONSTANTINUVS IV[NIOR] NOB [ILIS] C[AESAR], while the reverse has two standards flanked by two soldiers holding spears (Davies 1949, 189-191).

- 4.26. More conclusive evidence for Roman occupation was provided by an evaluation in 2015 adjacent to the visitor centre for Greenfield Heritage Centre. This revealed traces of a timber building (PRN 128789) associated with pottery dating from the late 1st to mid 2nd centuries AD (Dodds 2015). It is worth noting that the Roman road is thought to have turned inland at this point and Greenfield may also have presented the potential of a harbour during the Roman period.



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Fig. 10 Roman finds in the area of Greenfield

5 Harbours and Shipping

- 5.1. The identification of a Roman timber-revetted tidal channel (PRN 128779; Fig. 11) north-east of Pentre Ffwrndan, during excavations associated with a sewage pipeline in 2007, suggest the likelihood of a Roman wharf along the inlet, presumably servicing the lead industry. While this now lies several hundred metres from the mean high water mark it should be noted that significant areas along this side of the estuary were enclosed and reclaimed during the 18th and 19th centuries. During the

Roman period the character of the Dee Estuary would have been markedly different than today. The waterway was clearly a significant transport route during the Roman period, the river remaining tidal and navigable as far as Chester. The Dee was still an important waterway in the late 13th century, when Flint castle and borough were founded; however as early as the 15th century silting was becoming a problem.. The issue was finally resolved with the creation of the River Dee New Cut in 1737 (Jones 2002).



Fig. 11 Part of the timber-revetted tidal channel uncovered in 2007. Photo CPAT

- 5.2. Taylor (1923, 72) notes that the Roman remains at Pentre are 'on the bank of a stream which joins the river Dee at a point where there is an outcrop of rock known as the Pentre Rock and consequently at one time a channel deep enough to provide a waterway and small harbour.' Indeed, the Ordnance Survey Surveyors' Drawing of 1834 shows a wharf (PRN 37823) at the point where the stream meets the estuary, while Pentre Rock was recorded in 1736/7 on a plan of the estuary by Fearon and Eyes (FRO D/LA/65).
- 5.3. The area to the north-east of the railway was occupied during the 19th century by the Flint Alkali Works (PRN 103985), which resulted in significant dumping of spoil on either side of the steam, along the edge of the estuary, and this could have had an impact on Roman deposits, assuming that they extended this far.

- 5.4. Pentre Farm would have utilised the Dee Estuary to give access to military markets in, around and beyond Chester and the presence of stamped tiles of Legio XX indicate potentially close military associations (Burnham and Davies 2010, 125).
- 5.5. It is also likely that Roman wharfs also existed along similar tidal inlets at Flint and Greenfield, although in both cases later industrial development is likely to have removed all traces.
- 5.6. It is worth noting that there may be significant potential for Roman shipwrecks as well as palaeoenvironmental evidence buried beneath the estuarine silts in area of the estuary which have since been reclaimed. There is, however, currently no data available from which to deduce their locations, although any development on land which has been reclaimed has the potential to disturb important buried remains.

6 Funerary

- 6.1. Roman burials were first noted in 1856, having been discovered during exploratory diggings for lead in the 'Ship Field', on the north-east side of Chester Road, Pentre Fwrndan, the discoveries being reported by Wynne Ffoulkes (1856): 'Near the hedge along the road, and towards the southern corner of the field, five skeletons (PRN 128750) were discovered, imbedded in soil mixed a good deal with charcoal. Two of them lay nearly parallel with each other, a few yards apart . . . The other skeletons (PRN 128751) were found eastward of these two, buried with the faces upper-most; and they, as well as the former two, were laid with their feet to the east. Nothing whatever was found with these skeletons and no trace of coffins or ornaments; some kind of walling, as though to form something of a cist, was found on either side of them, and some stones were placed over them from the head as far as the waist.' Further skeletons are recorded by the Ordnance Survey (PRN 128752) around 125m to the east, although no further details are known.
- 6.2. Two inhumations were uncovered immediately north of Pentre Farm during the construction of a garage, both aligned north/south, with the heads to the south. Hawarden sandstone was used to line one of the graves while tiles lined the other, both material suggesting a date of c. AD 150 or later, in association with Phase IV of the complex (O'Leary *et al.* 1989, 46).
- 6.3. More recently another burial was uncovered during an evaluation in 2007, in connection with a new sewage pipeline (Fig. 12). There is, however, no suggestion of a coherent cemetery here, although there is clearly a preference for burial alongside the road.



Fig. 12 A burial alongside the Roman road discovered during the construction of a new sewage pipeline in 2007. Photo CPAT

- 6.4. Recent geophysics and evaluation in advance of potential development around 350m to the south-east have revealed a more organised cremation cemetery, again focusing on the Roman road. Seven individual cremations were recorded, one placed within an urn, together with evidence for possible cremation pyres, as well as two possible square barrows, each around 8m across (Wardell Armstrong 2014; 2015). The site has now been afforded statutory protection as SAM FI 213.
- 6.5. Of the two burial practices, cremation was by far the most common in the first two centuries AD. Both practices co-existed in the 3rd century, with inhumation becoming progressively more common and practically exclusive by the 4th century (Carroll 2006).
- 6.6. Roman cemeteries were often placed on the edge of a settlement and alongside a road. The roadside position of the cremation cemetery at Pentre Ffwrndan is likely to indicate that the settlement does not extend further to the east.

7 Finds Scatters

- 7.1. The majority of records in the HER relate to chance finds, but include a hoard of coins from within or near Flint Castle (PRN 100322; Davies 1949, 147) and another of 20 coins from Fir Tree Farm, Saltney (PRN 12020; Guest and Wells 2007). Chance finds are, however, few and offer no indication of previously unidentified settlement other than activity at Flint and Greenfield where building remains have also been found.

8 Conclusions

- 8.1. While recent discoveries have enhanced significantly our understanding of the Roman archaeology of Deeside there is still no clear indication of the extent of Roman settlement and industry, while evidence for military activity is confined to one possible fortlet. Chance finds and evidence from small-scale excavations indicate the presence of significant Roman activity at both Greenfield and Flint, although the main focus appears to have been in the Pentre Ffwrndan area, where settlement developed in association with the lead industry. There is no doubt that occupation here was focused along the Roman road, sections of which have now been confirmed through excavation, while the projected line to the north-west is assumed to more or less underlie the A548 Chester Road.



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Fig. 13 Archaeologically sensitive areas in the Pentre Ffwrndan area

- 8.2. The evidence suggests that a ribbon settlement developed along the road over a distance of at least 900m, extending between the complex of buildings at Pentre Farm

-
- in the north-west, thought to be an official residence associated with lead mining in the district, to a small cremation cemetery near Leadbrook Drive in the south-east. Negative evidence from excavations and watching briefs indicates that the activity was not continuous and may in part have developed on a piecemeal basis, although the roadside settlement discovered in 2013 to the south of Chester Road suggests a degree of formal planning. On the basis of current evidence an area of archaeological sensitivity has been defined within which buried Roman deposits are thought likely to be encountered (Fig. 13)
- 8.3. The evidence for Roman activity in the Pentre Ffwrndan area is based on chance finds, targeted excavations and development-led evaluation, the distribution of which presents a far from comprehensive coverage (Fig. 14, on page 38). While much of the area has already been developed there remains considerable potential for further discoveries, not least within the gardens, allotments and other green spaces within the modern settlement.
- 8.4. Recent discoveries have added considerably to our knowledge and understanding of the Pentre Ffwrndan area, although at the time of writing little detail was available for the most significant discovery, the roadside settlement excavated in 2013. This represents the largest single excavation undertaken in the area since the excavations at Pentre Farm in 1976-81 and as such the results are of regional, if not national importance. It is to be hoped that this important excavation archive will receive the detailed study which it deserves. The current assessment has demonstrated the significance of this and other recent discoveries and there is clearly now a need for full publication of these results which would also provide the opportunity for a more detailed synthesis than that presented here.
- 8.5. From the point of view of Development Control the Pentre Ffwrndan area provides an interesting case study, demonstrating how the management of the archaeological resource is dependent on accurate baseline data. Until recent years the evidence for a Roman settlement associated with the lead industry was very much focused in the area between Pentre Farm and the cluster of metalworking sites at Pentre Ffwrndan, on either side of Chester road. There was, however, no evidence for a continuation of this activity further to the east, towards Oakenholt.
- 8.6. With the continuing development of the coastal strip a large housing development was proposed in an area where no archaeological investigations had been undertaken previously. A programme of trial trenching was therefore undertaken at the pre-determination stage, which revealed little archaeological potential, with the exception of a small, isolated, Roman structure at some distance from both the known focus of activity and the assumed line of the Roman road, beneath Chester Road. On the basis of these results planning consent was approved with a condition allowing for further investigation of the structure and a watching brief during the initial phases of the development. Unexpectedly the watching brief revealed not only the Roman road, lying to the south of Chester Road, but also the roadside settlement noted above, leading to a programme of rescue excavation before the development could proceed. Following discussions with the developer it was possible to refine the layout of the development in order to preserve *in situ* the main focus of the settlement within a green space.

- 8.7. In contrast when a subsequent proposal was submitted to develop the adjacent area to the east there was now already evidence for the Roman road extending into the plot and a much more robust process of pre-planning investigation was required, comprising both geophysics and trial trenching, the results from which demonstrated that the roadside settlement continued into this area which was also found to contain a cremation cemetery. Consequently, the area was afforded statutory protection.
- 8.8. The importance of the present study is clear, providing for the first time a comprehensive review of archaeological evidence for the area which, together with GIS data which has been incorporated into the regional HER, will provide a valuable tool to assist with future Development Control. The baseline dataset is, of course, continually evolving as further archaeological investigations and discoveries are made and it is worth noting that in some instances negative evidence can be as useful as the discovery of archaeological remains, since both assist in predicting areas of archaeological potential.
- 8.9. For future planning applications within and immediately adjacent to the archaeologically sensitive area there would be a requirement for pre-application consultation with the regional Development Control Officer to advise on potential impacts and apply suitable mitigation at an early stage.
- 8.10. Further development along Deeside may include a new bypass for Flint, together with other infrastructure improvements which may affect the archaeologically sensitive area, as well as crossing large areas for which there is currently little baseline data so that a thorough programme of archaeological assessment would be required.

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Appendix 1: Gazetteer

17811 Flint Roman site, Pentre Ffwrndan, Roman road **NGR SJ2584071910**

A cambered, linear, stone surface discovered at SJ25847191, measuring 2.9m wide, with no detected side ditches. The road was on an east-west alignment and was traced by means of a hand auger eastwards for a distance of around 100m before turning to a south easterly alignment passing under the eastern boundary of the field at SJ25967190

Greuter n.d.

17839 Broughton, Bretton Road, Roman road **NGR SJ3500064000**

Resistivity survey 1993 indicated a probable roadway 4-5m wide with flanking ditches. The road was c220m west of the conjectured line of a Roman road (RR76A), Holt to Flint.

Burnham 1994

Owen 1993, 59

Stratascan 1993

17875 Green End Farm (Roman road) **NGR SJ3389063080**

Part of supposed Roman road Chester to St Asaph (67a) seen in ditch during road construction in 1984. Cobbled surface 3.6m wide.

Frere *et al.* 1985, 254

17883 Broughton Roman Road I **NGR SJ3342063310**

No description

17884 Broughton Roman Road II **NGR SJ3285063370**

Part of Roman road Chester to Ruthin (66a):450m west of SJ32856337 cropmark of ditch observed on ground and on aerial photos

Burnham 1993, 271

23108 Flint Roman site, Oakenholt Roman Road **NGR SJ2589071920**

Excavation of part of Roman road by Clwyd County Council (1995).

35003 Broughton Roman road IV **NGR SJ3283063250**

Line of Roman road identified as cobbled surface visible in side of stream.

Burnham 1996, 390

46800 Deva-Varae Roman Road **NGR SJ1963077600**

Predicted line of Roman road.

46801 Chester - St Asaph Roman Road **NGR SJ3417065760**

Predicted line of Roman road. No visible trace.

46802 Chester - St Asaph Roman Road **NGR SJ3299667016**

Predicted line of roman road. No information available; road believed to be followed by more recent road.

46803 Chester - St Asaph Roman Road **NGR SJ1929477363**

Predicted line of roman road. Hints of agger in places.

47804 Balderton - Holywell Roman Road **NGR SJ3257765224**

Predicted line of roman road. No visible trace.

47805 Balderton - Holywell Roman Road **NGR SJ3273164988**

Predicted line of roman road. No visible trace.

47806 Balderton - Holywell Roman Road **NGR SJ3330764449**

Predicted line of roman road. No visible trace.

47807 Balderton - Holywell Roman Road **NGR SJ3344664315**

Predicted line of roman road. No trace of Roman road in fields to either side.

47808 Balderton - Holywell Roman Road **NGR SJ3518663434**

Predicted line of roman road. Presence of possible road line seen in geophysical survey (CPAT 35989) during construction of retail park some 500m to north.

57649 Flint, Croes Atti Roman site **NGR SJ2550072100**

Numerous Roman finds and reported structures (particularly furnaces and metal working debris) in the Croes Atti area. Presumably attest area of Roman metal working and possible settlement.

Excavations by J. Petch in 1934 at the junction of Croes Atti Lane and Chester Road prior to housing development, uncovered the remains of two Roman buildings, paved areas and finds of Roman date.

Twenty one small exploratory trenches were opened in 1986 by Weetman, extending up to 200m from main road. Stone-footed and timber structures were located. Traces of a furnace with lead ore and slag. Late 1st/2nd century finds with evidence in 3rd/4th century

Atkinson and Taylor 1924

Davies 1949, 124-44

Frere 1987, 302-303

Gardiner 2001, 11

Griffiths 1948, 118

Hayes 1961, 93-5

Jones 1989

Pennant 1991, 68-9

Petch 1936

Petch and Taylor 1925

Weetman, 1986, 15-16

57652 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, Croes Atti Lane, building NGR SJ2553972159

Roman building of sandstone, first uncovered in 1933 by Petch. Aligned NE-SW with one large room visible measuring 21ft by 38ft 6in. An additional room and paved area of sandstone slabs were also identified to the SE. Further confirmed in 1986 by Weetman. Additional walls were identified in 1986 to the SE on a similar alignment

Petch 1936

Weetman 1896

57653 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, Croes Atti Lane, furnace NGR SJ2555072136

Fragments of a possible furnace, furnace lining, lead ore and slag found during excavations in 1986.

Weetman 1986

57710 Flint Roman site, Pentre Bridge, pottery find NGR SJ2547172092

Evaluation of Roman site in 1995 comprising four trenches. Recovered a single piece of possible Roman pottery.

Morgan 1995

84461 Flint Smelting Works, Roman Building NGR SJ2443173467

Record published in 1883 as follows: 'About the year 1700 whilst digging the foundations of a copper-works, a Roman hypocaust, or hot-bath was discovered here'.

Taylor 1883, 9

86731 Flint Roman site, Pentre Bridge, New House, structure NGR SJ2555872119

A number of sandstone slabs, possibly representing the remains of a demolished Roman structure identified in 1992. Found in association with Roman black-burnished, Samian and grey ware pottery sherds and smelting slag.

Owen 1992

86956 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, Roman road NGR SJ2556071980

Cropmark c3m wide comprising different growths of grass types. Overlies a field boundary shown on the Tithe map of 1840, but its width possibly suggests that the boundary may have been sited on a Roman road.

Lancaster University Archaeological Unit 1999

86961 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, furnace NGR SJ2528071980

Area of ferrous disturbance recorded during a geophysical survey in 1999. May represent the remains of a furnace.

Lancaster University Archaeological Unit 1999

86962 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, ditch NGR SJ2526072030

A well-defined linear feature picked up during geophysical survey in 1999. May represent the course of a ditch. Roman origin not confirmed but is equally likely to be a relatively recent field boundary or drainage ditch.

Lancaster University Archaeological Unit 1999

89556 Pentre Ffwrndan marker stone**NGR SJ2569372160**

Sandstone almost buried. 0.18m visible above ground. Situated within Roman settlement site. Dimensions: 0.35m in width and with a depth of 0.10m.

89569 Quarry Farm Post Medieval, road**NGR SJ2576271792**

Ditches and banks observed of a road 2.2m wide and extending 24m. Local knowledge stated not ploughed for at least 400 years. 2.2m (at widest point) extending for 24m, becoming indistinct to the W (Clwyd County Council 1979).

100131 Flint Roman site, Pentre Ffwrndan, furnace**NGR SJ2545771988**

'Site of an Ancient Furnace (Discovered 1840)' marked on 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

100132 Flint Roman site, Pentre Ffwrndan, metal working site**NGR SJ2550072100**

Lead slag and possible smelting furnaces recorded in this area in 1856 by Judge W. Wynne Ffoulkes. Found in association with Roman pottery and coins of late 1st and 2nd centuries.

Ffoulkes 1856

100133 Flint Roman site, Pentre Farm**NGR SJ2538072330**

Excavations in 1976-77 and 1981 revealed an early 2nd century timber villa building with partitioned courtyard. The villa was later rebuilt in stone and abandoned by the mid 3rd century. It was associated with lead workings and a burial with a lead cover. Excavation in 1961 by P. Hayes revealed part of the hypocaust of a bath house, which was excavated further in the 1976-81.

Evaluation trench at SJ253723 revealed no trace of Roman occupation.

Evaluation trench at SJ254723 revealed two sill-beam slots and possible Roman occupation.

Brassil 1981

O'Leary *et al.* 1989

Frere 1992, 256

Hayes 1961

Jones 1991

Jones and Brassil 1991

Parry 1991

Parry and Silvester 1991

100135 Greenacres Roman Coin**NGR SJ2768070910**

A worn as of Claudius 41-54 AD found in 1969 in spoil from nearby road widening.

Guest and Wells 2007

100158 Mancot Roman Coin**NGR SJ31926711**

Sestertius of Caracalla dated AD 215 and minted at Emisa in Asia Minor. Found in 1953 in a Mancot back garden and now in National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

Guest and Wells 2007

Webster 1955

100170 Bank Farm Roman Coin

NGR SJ3738067070

Gold Aureus of Tiberius found during the lifting of cauliflowers in 1952.

Guest and Wells 2007

100175 Saltney Roman Coin

NGR SJ3800065000

An as of Domitian of uncertain date with Salus Augusti on reverse with alter. Found at Saltney sometime before 1945.

Guest and Wells 2007

100322 Flint, Old Town Hall II, coin hoard

NGR SJ2446073140

Roman coins found around 1840 during building.

Davies 1949, 147

Guest and Wells 2007

Taylor 1883, 203

100331 Castle Works Roman Finds

NGR SJ24507350

Taylor says Roman tiles and bricks were found here in the early 19th century. In 1700 a Roman hypocaust was found presumably at the same site which is now covered by a factory.

Davies 1949, 144

Lewis 1833

Taylor 1883, 9

102388 Greenfield Hypocaust

NGR SJ1936077360

Alleged Roman hypocaust mentioned by Pennant, found whilst digging foundations for a metalworks at Greenfield. Alternatively suggested as a possible medieval tile kiln.

Davies 1949, 187-8

Lewis 1999, 228

Pennant 1991, 206-7

Taylor 1922, 80-1

102391 Basingwerk Abbey Roman finds

NGR SJ1959077470

Sherds of 1st and 2nd century Roman pottery found in a grave within the church. Mostly Samian with some coarseware.

Davies 1949, 189-91

Lynch 1986, 79

O'Neil 1936, 144-5

O'Neil 1945, 256-8

102392 Llannerch y Mor Find**NGR SJ1731079130**

Roman coin found 1911-12 in debris. Now lost.

Davies 1949, 399

Guest and Wells 2007

102399 Basingwerk Abbey Roman coin**NGR SJ1961077450**

Coin of Constantine, 11 AD 337-46. Found in about 1876 in the grounds of Basingwerk Abbey.

Guest and Wells 2007

102810 Flint, Pentre furnace**NGR SJ2530072200**

Roman furnace identified in the 1970's by Professor GDB Jones. The furnace comprised two bowls about 1m in diameter, charged with limestone chips and charcoal. Found during a housing development.

Frere *et al.* 1976, 358**102988 Connah's Quay Roman Coin****NGR SJ2915169901**

Bronze coin of Licinius I. Minted in London and dated to mid AD 310 to late 213.

Guest and Wells 2007

Lloyd-Morgan 1983

103032 Flint roman coin**NGR SJ2400073000**

Denarius of AD 90.

Guest and Wells 2007

104569 Deva-Varae Roman Road RR67a**NGR SJ3500064870**

Line of Chester to St Asaph Roman road thought to run through Gorstella before turning towards Shotton and along the coast to Greenfield. No evidence on ground.

104570 Deva-Varae Roman Road RR67a**NGR SJ3490065000**

Possible line of Roman Road as suggested by Margary. Exact position unknown.

104571 Deva-Varae Roman Road RR67a**NGR SJ3417065760**

Possible line of Roman Road to Varae, probably beneath A458 and Hawarden Airfield.

104572 Deva-Varae Roman Road RR67a**NGR SJ3350066500**

Possible line of Roman Road to Varae, probably beneath A458.

104573 Deva-Varae Roman Road RR67a**NGR SJ3036069070**

Possible line of Roman Road to Varae, probably beneath A458.

104574 Deva-Varae Roman Road RR67a**NGR SJ3000069300**

Possible line of Roman Road to Varae, probably beneath A458.

104575 Deva-Varae Roman Road RR67a**NGR SJ2897068996**

Possible line of Roman Road to Varae, probably beneath A458.

104576 Deva-Varae Roman Road RR67a	NGR SJ2718071240
Possible line of Roman Road to Varae, probably beneath A458.	
104577 Deva-Varae Roman Road RR67a	NGR SJ2593071680
Possible line of Roman Road to Varae, probably to south of A458.	
104578 Deva-Varae Roman Road RR67a	NGR SJ2563071820
Linear parchmark and cropmark running NW-SE, thought to be a stretch of RR67a running south of the present A548.	
104579 Deva-Varae Roman Road RR67a	NGR SJ2544071930
Possible stretch of RR67a visible as a linear parchmark and cropmark on aerial photographs running NW-SE.	
104580 Deva-Varae Roman Road RR67a	NGR SJ2500072270
Possible line of RR67a to Varae. Thought to run south of present A548 on a line possibly marked by footpaths and field boundaries. Passes to south of Pentre Farm villa.	
104581 Deva-Varae Roman Road RR67a	NGR SJ2400073160
Possible line of RR67a to Varae. Thought to run south of present A548. No visible evidence.	
104582 Deva-Varae Roman Road RR67a	NGR SJ2236075000
Possible line of Roman road RR67a to Varae. Thought to run south of present A548 and possibly beneath it. No evidence.	
104583 Deva-Varae Roman Road RR67a	NGR SJ2047076750
Approximate line of Roman road to Varae. Thought to run along coast as far as Greenfield. No evidence on ground.	
104584 Deva-Varae Roman Road RR67a	NGR SJ2000077200
Approximate line of Roman road to Varae. Thought to turn west in Greenfield and run towards Carmel, then on to St Asaph.	
104585 Deva-Varae Roman Road RR67a	NGR SJ1963077600
Approximate line of Roman road to Varae. Thought to turn west in Greenfield and run towards Carmel, then on to St Asaph.	
104586 Deva-Varae Roman Road RR67a	NGR SJ1927077370
No trace of Roman road through Greenfield Valley.	
106435 Basingwerk Roman Coin	NGR SJ1948077490
Roman coin of Bronze dated to c.300AD – Emperor Maximianus. Minted at Aquileia near Trieste.	
Guest and Wells 2007	
120020 Fir Tree Farm, Coin Hoard	NGR SJ3780066200
Twenty coins found at Fir Tree Farm in 2004.	
Guest and Wells 2007	

120276 Flint, Trumpet Brooch**NGR SJ2439072641**

An incomplete cast copper alloy Roman trumpet brooch / trumpet derivative brooch dating from late first or second century (75 - 175) AD.

120277 Flint, Spindlewhorl**NGR SJ2439072641**

Cast lead or lead alloy bi-convex decorated spindle whorl of Roman to Post Medieval date (1 - 1650 AD - probably Roman 50 - 450AD).

120278 Flint, Wedge**NGR SJ2439072641**

Cast copper alloy tool, possibly a wedge or punch, of unknown date, possibly Roman or medieval.

120306 Flint, Vessel**NGR SJ2439072641**

A complete but poorly preserved copper-alloy vessel escutcheon or mount, probably from a bucket or similar vessel dated to the later Iron Age or Roman period c. 50 BC - AD 300.

120328 Oakenholt, Bow Brooch**NGR SJ2580071400**

Cast copper alloy Roman bow brooch which has been mis-cast in the production. It probably dates from the 1st - mid-3rd centuries AD.

120367 Bagilt, Brooch**NGR SJ2250075500**

Cast copper alloy crossbow brooch dating to the Roman period. The object is cross-shaped in plan.

120371 Fir Tree Farm, Roman Coins**NGR SJ3526768738**

Twenty Roman coins dating from the 1st - 5th centuries found by Thomas McCormick & George between March and May 2004.

120377 Roberts Farm, Coed Onn Road, Coin I**NGR SJ2520071300**

Sestertius of Balbinus (AD 238), PROVIDENTIA DEORVM, minted in Rome.

120411 Chester Road, Flint, Roman Coin**NGR SJ2550072200**

A single Roman coin.

Guest and Wells 2007

120412 Flint, Ship Field, Roman Coin**NGR SJ2557572139**

A single coin found in Ship Field close to five inhumation burials.

Guest and Wells 2007

120414 Flint, Coins**NGR SJ2450072600**

Ten Roman coins found in the area of Flint.

Guest and Wells 2007

123918 Holywell, Coedmawr Roman site**NGR SJ1848078360**

Possible Roman fortlet of two banks with rounded corners and presumably two ditches defining a square enclosure. Faint traces of internal features also visible.

128750 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, burials I**NGR SJ2557672140**

Five skeletons discovered in 1856 during exploratory diggings for lead in 'Ship Field'. The skeletons were reported by reported by Wynne Ffoulkes (1856): 'Near the hedge along the road, and towards the southern corner of the field, five skeletons were discovered, imbedded in soil mixed a good deal with charcoal. Two of them lay nearly parallel with each other, a few yards apart.'

128751 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, burials II **NGR SJ2560172141**

Skeletons discovered in 1856 during exploratory diggings for lead in 'Ship Field'. The skeletons were reported by reported by Wynne Ffoulkes as buried with the faces upper-most and were laid with their feet to the east.

Ffoulkes 1856

128752 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, burials III **NGR SJ2572772123**

Burials marked on Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" mapping. Recorded as 'skeletons found'.

128754 Flint Roman site, Pentre Farm, burials **NGR SJ2540872350**

Two inhumations discovered during excavations between 1976-81. Both were located in close proximity and aligned north-south in lined graves with heads to the south. A date of c AD150 was suggested

O'Leary 1989

128755 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, furnace I **NGR SJ2556472202**

Furnace identified during an excavation in 1923.

Atkinson and Taylor 1924

128756 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, furnace II **NGR SJ2557072185**

Furnace identified during an excavation in 1923.

Atkinson and Taylor 1924

128757 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, furnace III **NGR SJ2557672172**

Furnace identified during an excavation in 1923.

Atkinson and Taylor 1924

128759 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, possible furnace I **NGR SJ2554472204**

Possible furnace identified during an excavation in 1923.

Atkinson and Taylor 1924

128760 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, possible furnace II **NGR SJ2556272185**

Possible furnace identified during an excavation in 1923 by Atkinson and Taylor.

128761 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, possible furnace III **NGR SJ2558672176**

Possible furnace identified during an excavation in 1923.

Atkinson and Taylor 1924

128762 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, possible furnace IV **NGR SJ2559172148**

Possible furnace identified during an excavation in 1923.

Atkinson and Taylor 1924

128764 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, pit**NGR SJ2559172148**

A short dig in the garden of a New House in 1958 by P. Hayes, revealing a shallow pit. No further information.

Hayes 1961

128765 Flint, 185 Chester Road, road surface**NGR SJ2532572375**

Surface of an old road, noted at a depth of 18" by a MANWEB employee during trench excavations across the modern road in 1958.

Jones 1961

128766 Flint, Chester Road, old road surface**NGR SJ2553472195**

Surface of an old road, noted at a depth of 18" by a MANWEB employee during trench excavations across the modern road at two points near St David's Church in 1958.

Jones 1961

128768 Flint Roman Site, Pentre Farm, hypocaust**NGR SJ2536572340**

Two walls, one of stone and one of tile, appearing to converge into a corner. Uncovered by an employee of MANWEB in 1960 and found in association with Roman tile and pottery.

In order to ascertain whether the walls extended under the field bordering the road opposite the stone barn of Pentre Farm, P. Hayes cut a small trench in the field in 1961 and penetrated the hypocaust of a bath house which was later investigated as part of a larger excavation by CPAT

Jones 1961

O'Leary 1989

128769 Flint Roman Site, Croes Atti, furnaces

Furnaces suggested by anomalies identified in a geophysical survey by the University of Manchester in 1987. These were not confirmed by subsequent trial excavation and no additional Roman remains were identified in the immediate area during the course of the housing development that took place in 1988

O'Leary 1989

128770 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, wall I**NGR SJ2554972138**

Section of Roman walling measuring 0.5m wide and made of small sandstone blocks. Identified during excavations in 1986. The wall was located to the SE of a larger Roman building first identified by Petch in the 1930's. It lies on a similar alignment and is likely to be associated.

Weetman 1986

128771 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, wall II**NGR SJ2554572146**

Poorly preserved wall, thought to be of Roman date, identified during excavations in 1986. The wall lies on the same alignment and to the SE of a larger Roman building, which was first identified in the 1930's by Petch.

128772 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, timber structure **NGR SJ2554572131**

Possible timber structure identified during trial excavations in 1986. A large posthole was exposed with a surrounding layer of partly burnt clay, suggesting a floor.

Weetman 1986

128773 Chester - St Asaph, Roman Road **NGR SJ2577271879**

Section of the Chester to St Asaph Roman road, aligned NE-SW, uncovered during a watching brief by Earthworks Archaeological Services in February 2013. The road survived to its full height with the remains of strip buildings typically laid out at right angles to the road and tight up against its edge.

128775 Flint Roman site, building **NGR SJ2568771822**

An ovoid timber-framed building with one side founded on a stone sleeper wall and the other on earth-fast posts. Interpreted as a small workshop, probably associated with the nearby lead industry. Occupied during the late 1st to 2nd centuries (c. AD 90-120).

Dodd 2013

Dodd 2016

128779 Flint Roman site, quay **NGR SJ2568472148**

A small inlet from the Dee estuary with a timber revetment and good waterlogged Romano-British finds. Identified during a watching brief by Earthworks Archaeology in 2006 in connection with a new sewage pipeline installation. No further details or precise location.

128780 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, burial IV **NGR SJ2568771991**

Skeleton identified during watching brief by Earthworks Archaeology in 2006. No further details or precise location.

128781 Chester-St Asaph, Roman road **NGR SJ2570371977**

Section of Roman road identified during a watching brief for a sewage pipeline by Earthworks Archaeology in 2006. No further details or precise location.

128782 Flint Roman site, settlement **NGR SJ2577971891**

Extensive Romano-British settlement located alongside a well preserved road alignment (PRN 128773) with timber-framed buildings associated with lead ore processing aligned in narrow plots along the road frontages. Late 1st to the late 3rd century AD with the possibility of some 4th-century or later activity at upper levels.

128787 Flint Roman site, Quarry Farm, enclosure **NGR SJ2590071760**

Enclosure, or possible square barrow around 10m across with ditches up to 1.5m wide. Roman pottery (mid to late 2nd century AD) and smithing waste identified within ditch fills.

Moore 2015

128788 Flint Roman site, Quarry Farm, cremation cemetery **NGR SJ2587671759**

Seven cremations identified in 2015 during an archaeological evaluation by Wardell Armstrong. Six of the cremations were un-urned, while one was found in a vessel of 1st to

early 2nd century AD. Another appeared to be in a small stone cist. Two possible square barrows also identified within the same field.

Moore 2015

128789 Greenfield Valley Heritage Park, Roman activity **NGR SJ1951177436**

Roman activity in the form of a probable post-hole and a cut pit-like feature with associated 1st to 2nd century AD Roman pottery. The features were identified at the level of the natural geology by Earthworks Archaeology in a 2015 Evaluation.

Dodd 2015

128793 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, pit **NGR SJ2558572195**

A shallow pit identified during excavations in 1923 by Atkinson and Taylor. The pit measured 3ft 8 inches deep and 10ft from north to south. It contained a few fragments of pottery and the same stone used to construct the Roman furnaces located nearby.

Atkinson and Taylor 1924

128797 Flint Roman site, 261 Chester Road, building **NGR SJ2542572319**

Two 30-40cm possible sill beam slots identified during an evaluation by CPAT in 1991. The beam slots were on a similar alignment to other nearby Roman structures.

Parry and Silvester 1991

128798 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, Ship Field building I **NGR SJ2555272182**

One of two buildings identified during an excavation in 1924 by Petch and Taylor. The building comprised a wall aligned north/south which extended for 12.5m, with a right angle at the southern end, extending eastwards for 5.3m. The wall was 0.6m wide and stood to three courses with a foundation up to 0.9m wide, with all of the masonry being clay-bonded. Some 2nd century Roman pottery was found in association with the wall. The building is likely to represent the buildings remains that were reported in 1856 by Wynne Ffoulkes.

Areas of paving were associated with both structures and the presence of at least seven lead-smelting furnaces in the same area suggest that these were industrial buildings, or at least associated with the lead industry.

Atkinson and Taylor 1924

Ffoulkes 1856

Petch and Taylor 1925

128799 Flint Roman site, Croes Atti, Ship Field building II **NGR SJ2556572194**

One of two buildings identified during an excavation in 1924 by Petch and Taylor. This, the smaller of the two structures, comprised an L-shaped length of walling 0.6m wide, 3m long north/south and 0.75m east/west, with no foundation. The building may have been open-sided to the east, with a roof, which was not tiled, supported on posts. Areas of paving were associated with both structures and the presence of at least seven lead-smelting furnaces in the same area suggest that these were industrial buildings, or at least associated with the lead industry.

Petch and Taylor 1925

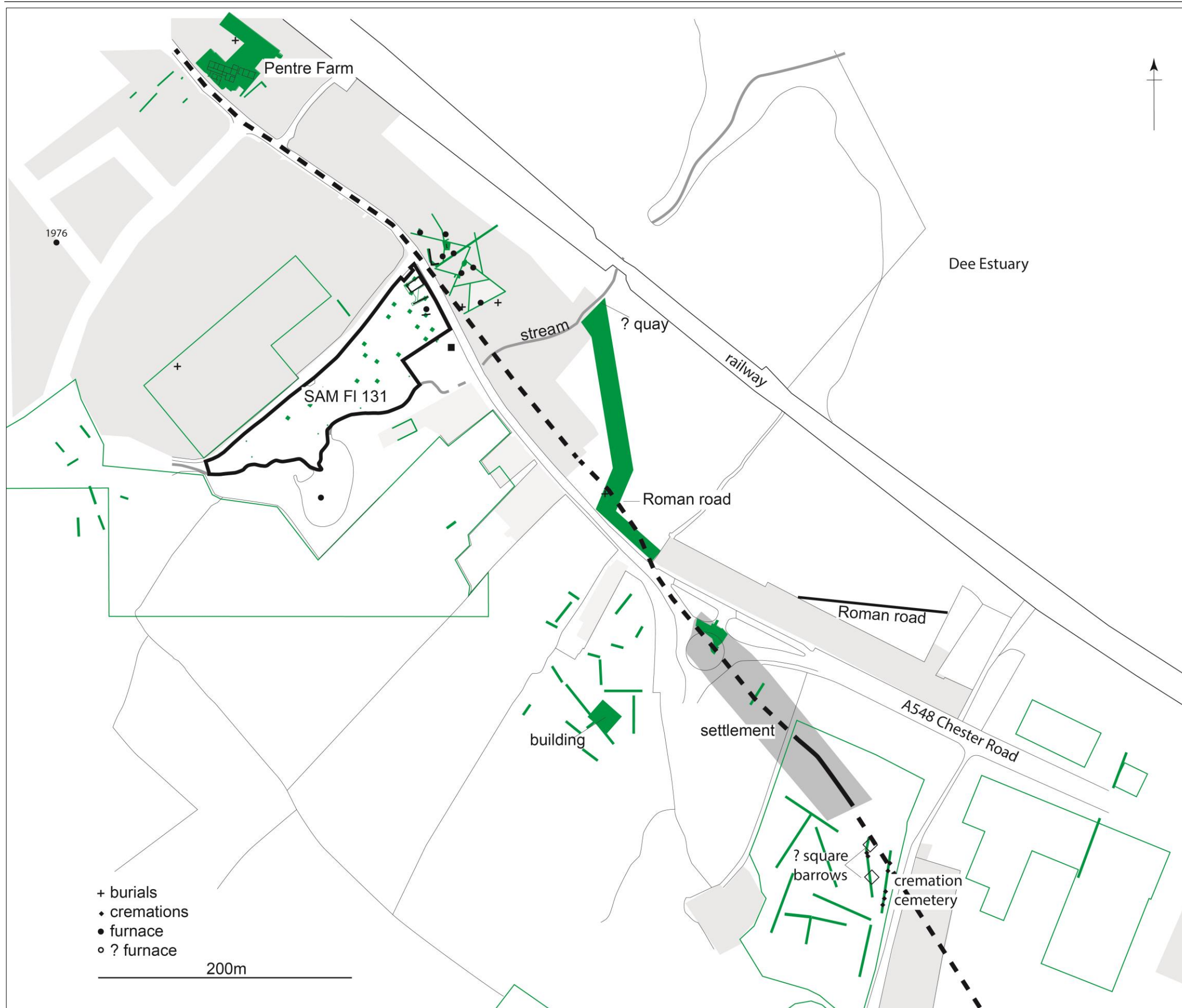


Fig. 14 Archaeological events and Roman remains in the Pentre Ffwrndan area