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Commercial-in-Confidence

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PLAS COCH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

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GIFFORD
AND PARTNERS

PLAS COCH

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Scope of the Project

The project consisted of the archaeological excavation of an area of 6500m^2, divided into two areas known (somewhat confusingly) as Areas 1 and 3 (Area 2 was identified in the planning process but was not excavated - the archaeological remains there are being sealed by sand and geotextile and preserved under the planned car park). The excavation was followed by a programme of analysis, and the results will be published, along with the results of previous work on the site, as a *Britannia* monograph with S Grenter, N Jones and G A Wait as authors and S Grenter as editor.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 Planning Background

The Client proposed to develop the excavation area as additional car parking and a leisure development which will include a cinema, restaurant, and retail units.

It was assumed that all remaining archaeological deposits/features would be removed by the proposed development works and it was therefore agreed between the Client and Wrexham County Borough Council that an archaeological excavation of the site would carried out in advance of the development works in order to preserve the archaeological deposits as an archive of written, drawn, photographic and digital records, artefacts and ecofacts.

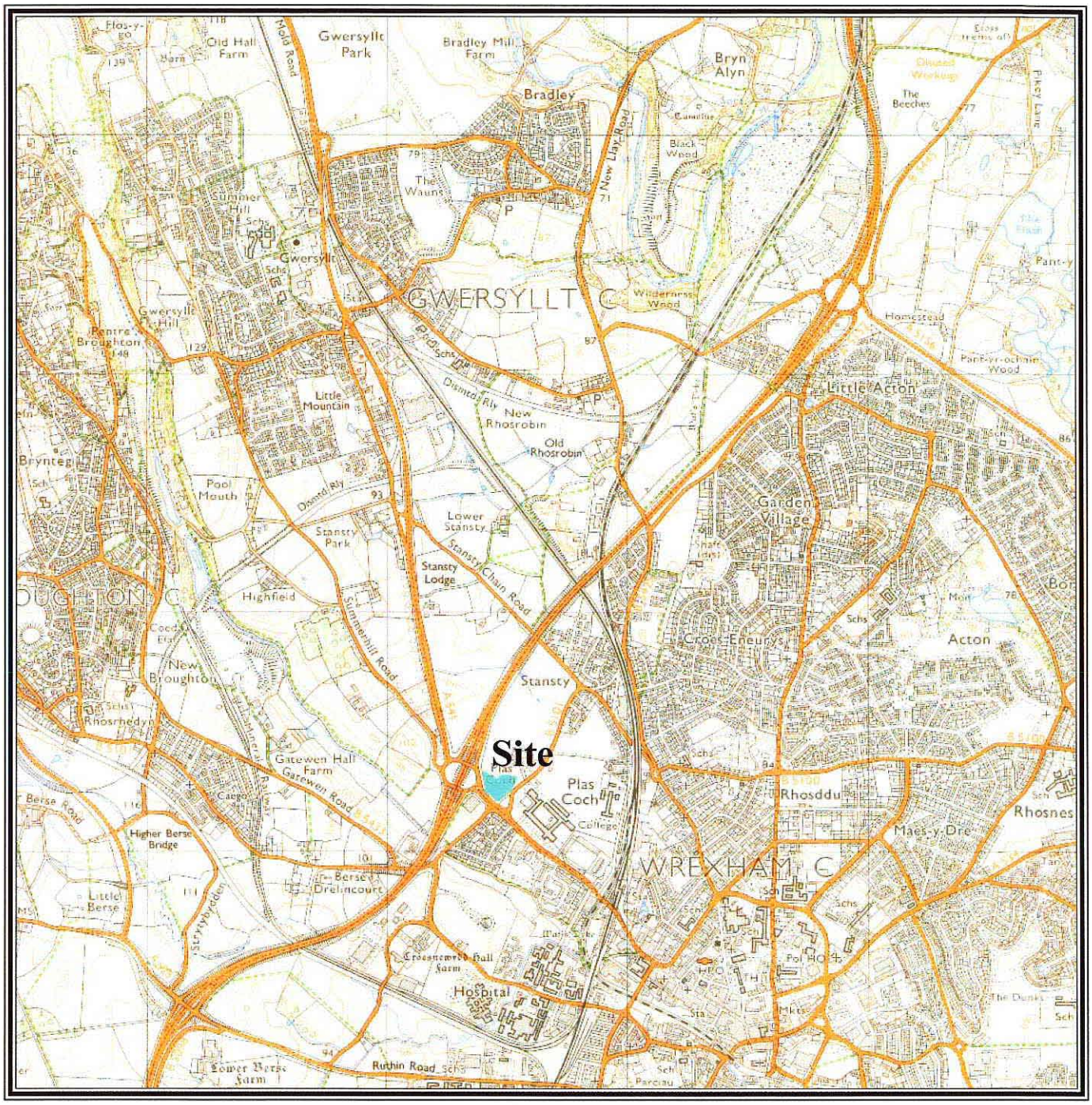
Archaeological excavation of the areas initially examined by the 1994 salvage excavation was completed and total excavation of areas previously not examined also occurred. The excavation was designed to analyse and interpret the archaeological deposits revealed, addressing the research aims set out below.

1.2.2 Location, Topography and Geology

The proposed development site is located at National Grid Reference SJ 326 515 on the western outskirts of Wrexham. The site consisted of areas of hard-core, a large mound of crushed tarmac waste, and the abandoned but unfinished excavation area of 1995. To the south the site is bound by the Aldi supermarket and car parks, to the west by the A483 trunk road and to the north by the Plas Coch primary school. The site extends over an area of *c.* 2.5 hectares and lies at *c.* 88m OD. The geology of the area is characterised as sands and gravels overlying Ruabon Marl (British Geological Survey, Sheet 121), which was borne out by the excavations.

1.3 Previous Work

Two phases of sample excavation were undertaken in 1994 and 1995. The results have appeared in Grenter, Jones and Slater (1994).



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Project Plas-Coch, Wrexham	**Drawn** AS	**Checked**	**Approved**	GIFFORD AND PARTNERS
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Some traces of Bronze Age occupation were recorded consisting of pot sherds and flint tools. The next phase of occupation began in the later first century AD and continued into the later third (or earlier fourth) century AD. Only two phases of occupation are posited, representing a rural agricultural settlement of one or more small farms set within a landscape of regular fields demarcated by ditches (and presumably hedges or fences). This regular landscape with small farms is likened to examples from across southern Britain. The artefactual collection is viewed as typical of Romano-British farmsteads.

In 1996 Gifford Archaeology undertook an archaeological Desk-based Assessment and geophysical survey on a nearby area (see Gifford report 7276.3R, dated 26 June 1996). This was followed by a Gifford Archaeology field evaluation focused on anomalies identified in the geophysical survey. On that occasion the anomalies were revealed to be post-Medieval walls and demolition spreads and variations in the natural sands and gravels.

1.4 Organisation of the Report

This report is formatted in accordance with the English Heritage document *Management of Archaeological Projects*, Second Edition, (1991) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Draft Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (1994).

2. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Prehistoric Period (before 55 BC)

2.1.1 The earliest human activity in North East Wales has been recorded in the northern part of the county at the cave sites of Pontnewedd, Cefn, Cae Gwyn and Ffynnon Bueno, where occupation has been dated to the early Palaeolithic, *c.* 200,000 BC. (Manley, Grenter and Gale 1991, 29). There is no record of any Palaeolithic activity in the vicinity of the assessment site.

2.1.2 Between *c.* 10000 BC and 6000 BC the climate of the region began to warm and the changes in the vegetation and sea temperature made available a greater variety of food resources for the groups of hunter-gatherers of the Mesolithic period (*c.* 8000 - 4300 BC) (Manley, Grenter and Gale 1991, 47). New hunting techniques were developed which included the use of small flint flakes called microliths which were employed as barbs and arrow points, knife blades and fish-hooks. The archaeological record of Mesolithic activity in North East Wales is characterised by the recovery of these stone artefacts and excavation of the temporary shelters and pits used by the Mesolithic population. The presence of Mesolithic groups in the Wrexham area is attested by the recovery of six flint artefacts from a garden in Borras, *c.* 2.5 km to the north-east of the assessment site.

2.1.3 The Neolithic Period (*c.* 4,300 - 3,200 BC) witnessed the adoption of farming when certain species of animal and crop were domesticated and the development of settled and well-structured community groups, such as those recorded at the settlement sites at Rhuddlan, Delyn, Dyserth Castle and Bryn Llwyn. The Neolithic period also marked the beginning of monumental funerary architecture in the form of long cairns and round cairns, which were used for the communal burial of certain members of society. Such monuments are recorded at Tyddyn Bleiddyn, Tan-y-Coed and Branas-uchaf (Manley, Grenter and Gale 1991, 59). No Neolithic remains have been recorded in the vicinity of the assessment site.

2.1.4 The Bronze Age (*c.* 2300 - 600 BC) is primarily characterised by the development of metalworking and the use of copper alloys for certain tools, weapons and ornaments. This period is also noted for the expansion of population in North East Wales and the extension of cultural contacts to the west and north-east (Manley, Grenter and Gale 1991, 65). There are four known Bronze Age sites in the vicinity of the assessment site. Round barrows, used for funerary purposes are recorded at Gatewan Hall Farm, *c.* 700m to the west of the assessment site; Bryn Alyn (Davies 1929, 155) *c.* 2.5km to the north and at Gwersyllt Park (Davies 1929, 134), *c.* 2.7km to the north-east. A hoard of bronze tools was recovered from a garden at Acton (Grimes 1951, 186), *c.* 2.3km to the east of the assessment site in 1875.

2.1.5 An abrupt change in settlement and economy is recorded during the Iron Age in North East Wales (*c.* 600 BC - 55 BC). The small settlements and field systems of the Bronze Age were superseded by the use of defended hill-forts and the contraction of available land for agriculture as the climate became wetter (Manley, Grenter and Gale 1991, 90). Society became tribal in its organisation and the assessment site appears to lie within the sphere of influence of the *Deceangli*, who controlled northern Wales and the *Ordovices* who controlled the southern part of the county (Cunliffe 1991, 188). Burial customs also changed and in the absence of any known Iron Age cemeteries it is believed that the dead were cremated in a pyre or exposed on the surface. Iron Age activity in the vicinity of the assessment site is recorded at the two hill-fort settlements at Bryn-y-Gaer (Davies 1929, 54), *c.* 2.7km to the north-east and Bryn Alyn, *c.* 2.4km to the north.

2.2 Romano-British Period (AD 43 - AD 410)

2.2.1 During the early years of the Roman occupation of Britain, military road and fort construction were major activities. Chester (*Deva*), St Asaph (*Varae*) and Caernarfon (*Segontium*) were all major centres linked by road (Margary 1973, 316). The nearest Roman road to the assessment site is that which links Chester to the settlement at Ffrith (Britnell 1990, 132) and beyond to the forts at Bala, Caer Gai and Brithdir. The road extends north-east to south-west *c.* 5.5km to the north of the assessment site. The poorly understood site at Rhyn Park is nearby, and may represent a half-legionary marching camp of the later 40's AD.

2.2.2 The presence of a southern spur from this road was suggested by the recent discovery of the extensive Romano-British settlement (comprising ditches, a corn drying kiln, a well and hearth which forms the subject of this report (cf. Grenter, Jones and Slater 1994, 54). The excavation and recording of this settlement, along with the discovery of a hoard of Roman silver coins by site staff associated with the construction of the petrol station adjacent to the site constitutes the evidence for Romano-British activity in the immediate vicinity. A single first century Roman coin has also been recovered to the south-east of the assessment site.

2.2.3 There is little doubt that the proposed excavation area is a site of national importance. The excavation represents a unique chance to examine, analyse and interpret a Romano-British rural settlement in north-west Britain, a relatively little known and poorly understood element of the Romano-British landscape. In particular there are no known Romano-British settlement sites in the Wrexham area.

2.2.4 Finds from the salvage excavation suggest prehistoric activity on the site. The site therefore has potential to elucidate the interaction between Roman and native in the early years of the Roman occupation of Britain. Any coherent and securely stratified archaeological evidence for pre-Roman activity at this time would be of great benefit to regional studies as little evidence of Iron-Age activity has been recovered in this area other than hill-forts. The affects of the Roman conquest on rural communities has been studied in southern Britain where there were significant changes in the rural economy, as well as elements of continuity. Only one major excavation has been undertaken of a rural settlement of this period in north-west Britain - at Irby on the Wirral peninsula. Here a considerable degree of continuity between late Iron-Age and Romano-British rural settlement is noted. Although elements of Roman material culture such as pottery and building materials were adopted there is no clear evidence that the economy and culture of the settlement changed in any very significant way (R Philpott *pers. comm.*).

2.2.5 Although evidence is as yet limited the pattern of settlement of Romano-British rural settlement in the Northwest is beginning to emerge through aerial reconnaissance and archaeological fieldwork which allows these ephemeral sites to be identified in advance of development. It is possible to tentatively group rural settlements of this period into three types:

- enclosed farmsteads
- extended settlements
- villas

2.2.6 Enclosed farmsteads are particularly common north of the Mersey where a number have been identified by aerial photography (Philpott 1994, 6-7) and sample excavation (Nevell 1994, 11-15).

2.2.7 South of the Mersey extended settlements seem to be more common, such as the examples of Irby and now Plas Coch. Since there is no obvious difference between the plains of south Lancashire and the plains of the Cheshire/Shropshire/Wrexham area it may be that there is a cultural difference between the tribe to the north of the Mersey referred to by Roman writers as the *Setanii* (perhaps a sub-division of the *Brigantes*) and the tribe in the Cheshire/Wrexham/Shropshire area, the *Cornovii*.

2.2.8 At Eaton-by-Tarporley in Cheshire there is a rare north-western example of a classic Roman villa, built in the classic Mediterranean style with stone wall footings, mosaic floors etc. The rarity of this type of site may be more apparent than real, as the only deliberate attempt to look for a villa did in fact find the Eaton site. Eaton may have been an agricultural complex supplying food to the Roman towns and/or army or simply the residence of a wealthy civil servant or military officer.

2.2.9 A possible example of an extended settlement has been located at Loushers Lane in Warrington on the south bank of the Mersey. It is published as a contiguous part of the nearby Romano-British industrial settlement (Hinchliffe and Williams 1992) but recent research by Gifford suggests that on topographical grounds the Loushers Lane settlement must be separate. The Loushers Lane settlement consists of what appears to have been a combination of an extended settlement with pre-Roman origins consisting of a series of enclosures containing buildings arranged along a lane. At some point during the late-first century a 'villa' type building with stone foundations, a courtyard and bath-house was appended to the settlement. Loushers Lane may therefore be a pre-Roman subsistence agricultural settlement which was adopted and adapted as a more commercial production estate supplying the nearby industrial settlement. At Tatton Hall, Higham (1993) also found a similar sequence of Iron Age and Roman.

2.2.10 Of these examples Plas Coch would appear to have most in common with Irby. Although it now lies administratively in Wales during the Roman period the nearest administrative centres were the Legionary fortress *Deva* at Chester and the tribal capital of the *Cornovii*, at *Urconium* (Wroxeter near Shrewsbury). Also, the legionary works depot at Holt in Cheshiren adds another, less well understood dimension to the discussion. Of these, Plas Coch could arguably have had more to do with the civilian centre at Wroxeter, although the possibility that the settlement supplied food to the military cannot be discounted (cf David Mason's work on *Prata legionis* at Chester and more generally - Mason 1986). Artefacts of specifically military style can indicate a military influence on the settlement as can ecofactual evidence of the types of agricultural production.

2.2.11 It will be important to determine the nature of agricultural production since this may reveal whether the settlement was concerned mainly with subsistence agriculture, commercial production, or indeed whether any other functions were served by the settlement. Since our picture of the Romano-British settlement pattern of the area is so incomplete it is impossible as yet to explain Plas Coch, but it is possible that these extended rural settlements served as central places for smaller farmsteads and had some market functions. The large number of coins already recovered certainly suggests some kind of monetary economy - although many or all of the coins could have originated from one hoard of an individuals wealth (ie. they are all close in date). It has been suggested (R White *pers comm.*) that the settlement might have functioned as a marketplace on the fringe of the settled lowland hinterland of the town at Wroxeter and the highland areas of North Wales where the non-urbanised tribes of North Wales such as the *Deceangli* could trade their own products such as furs and game for the manufactured products of southern Britain. The nature of any evidence for exchange of goods between Plas Coch and other settlements will clearly be an important area of study.

2.2.12 The end of the Roman Imperial administration of Britain did not see an immediate cessation of the Romano-British way of life. What later became known as England was gradually settled by the Anglo-Saxons who brought with them a different language and culture. Plas Coch lies on the very fringe of the settlement area and the vicinity of Wrexham still has predominantly native British (Welsh) place-names. It was not until the seventh century that the area saw the establishment of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Mercia in the Midlands. Excavation evidence from Wroxeter shows that the Romano-British civilian centre continued to function up to this time (R White *pers. comm.*) perhaps as a Christian Bishopric. What happened to the rural majority of the Romano-British population during this time is a fascinating subject for which evidence may be recovered from the excavation. It will be important to establish when the settlement was abandoned and if possible the nature of the abandonment. There may have been a gradual decline due to changing settlement patterns or a sudden abandonment due to fear of attack.

2.3 Post-Roman and Anglo-Saxon Periods (AD 410 - 1066)

2.3.1 After the collapse of centralised Roman authority in Britain the eastern part of North East Wales became part of the shifting territory between the native Britons to the west and the advancing English kingdoms to the east (Dodd 1957, 14), though it is likely that many sub-Roman kingdoms had their origins in the late Roman administative world (eg. Cleary 1989).. To the east of the Dee the kingdom of Mercia was established and by the seventh century had become a powerful threat to the kingdom of Powys. In order to demonstrate this power and subdue Welsh raiding of the fertile lands of the Vale of Clwyd the earth work barriers of Offa's Dyke and Wat's Dyke were constructed. The line of Wat's Dyke passes within *c.* 600m of the eastern boundary of the assessment site. Thus the site is situated in the land between the two Dykes, but the topographical and archaeological significance of this land between the earthworks and its political status has received little attention.

2.3.2 The assessment site is within the territory controlled by the English up to the early-eleventh century and is likely to have witnessed the development of the countryside along the Anglo-Saxon pattern of nucleated villages rather than the Welsh pattern of dispersed farmsteads (Owen 1989, 180). However, during the reign of the Welsh Prince Gryffyd ap Llewelyn ap Seisyll (AD 1037-63) the Welsh conquered a large area of territory to the east of Offa's Dyke which included the Wrexham area.

2.4 Medieval Period (AD 1066 - 1500)

2.4.1 Soon after the Norman Conquest much of north-east Wales was granted to Hugh, Earl of Chester and the area was the subject of constant disputes and warfare between the Anglo-Norman and Welsh warlords. There is no mention of Wrexham in the Domesday Book, but some activity in the Wrexham area must be considered, although it was either too insignificant to be included within the survey or lay within an insecurely held zone which could not be formally registered (Dodd 1957, 16).

2.4.2 This period of unrest is reflected in the high concentration of motte-and-bailey castles in the Dee area, an example of such a castle was built at Erdigg Park *c.* 2.4km to the south of the assessment area.. Moated homesteads, with a less effective defensive capability, are also known in the vicinity of the assessment site and the example at Lower Berse House, dated to the fourteenth century (but altered and added to in later periods), is located *c.* 1.6km to the south-west of the assessment site.

2.4.3 The English political and administrative infrastructure of the Wrexham area began to crystallise during this period when the Welsh border lordships fell under increasing pressure to conform. Wrexham itself is first mentioned in the twelfth century (Dodd 1957, 14) as the *maerdref* or chief manor of the Hundred of Bromfield in the lordship of Maelor (Palmer 1983, 1). Thomas de Sheffield conducted a survey of the village of Wrexham in 1315 AD which shows that there was an established community at Wrexham with a variety of trades and its own market (Ellis 1924, 48). The assessment site was within an area known as Wrexham Fawr, characterised as arable land. There was a church in Wrexham in 1220 (Smith 1988, 1) which was rebuilt in the late-fifteenth century and currently stands *c.* 1.3km to the south-east of the assessment site. The nascent iron and coal mining in the surrounding area developed during this period and the importance of coal extraction for the economy of the area is first noted in this period when a charter of 1411 permits the burgesses of Holt to mine for coal at Brymbo and Coedpoeth. This developing industrial base helped to offset the sharp economic decline experienced by many towns in the fifteenth century.

2.4.4 Wrexham was therefore situated in a ideal place to play an important role in the urban hierarchy of north-east Wales, acting as a centre for commerce and raw material production (Soulsby 1983, 269). By the fourteenth century Wrexham had outgrown the neighbouring boroughs of Holt, Chirk, Oswestry, Ellesmere and Hope.

2.5 Post-Medieval and Modern Periods (AD 1500 - present)

2.5.1 Wrexham continued to prosper as a market town into the post-Medieval period and the population of the town is estimated at *c.* 1000 in the mid sixteenth century (Davies 1990, 268; Owen 1959, 100). Its regional importance is reflected in the occupation of the town by Parliamentary forces in 1643. The fabric of the town did not, however, suffer as a result of the Civil War - the Parliamentarians retreating without an engagement before Royalist reinforcements from Ireland (Dodds 1957, 54). A fire did destroy a quarter of the town in 1643, but this is unlikely to have resulted directly from the military occupation.

2.5.2 The town served as an economic focus for the Denbighshire uplands and small industrial and commercial concerns developed to serve the community. In the parish register of 1703-1730 over one hundred occupations are listed including tanners, skinners, curriers, saddlers, weavers, felt makers, fullers, silk weavers, blacksmiths, brick makers and paper millers. The locations of three smithies and a mill from this period are known in the vicinity of the assessment site. Much of the area's work force, however, was still employed on the land as labourers, drovers and shepherds on estates such as that at Plas Coch, the manor house of which in 1670 is recorded as having nine hearths (Palmer 1903, 195). Coal was mined on an increasingly large scale at Brymbo and Broughton and lead was extracted at Minera (Thomas 1986, 103-4).

2.5.3 North-east Wales, with its close association with Merseyside, witnessed the evolution of a great number of industries in the early years of the industrial revolution (1770-1850). The metal works at Holywell, Bagillt and Whitford encouraged the expansion of the coal mining industry around Wrexham (Davies 1990, 325). The sites of Wrexham and Gatewan Collieries are within 1km of the assessment site. The Bersham iron works towards the south of Wrexham were smelting iron with coke from 1721 onwards and by the late eighteenth century Bersham was one of the leading iron foundries in Europe (Manley, Grenter and Gale 1991, 219; Morgan-Rees 1975, 243) The lesser iron works at Broughton Hall were located 1.8km to the west of the assessment site. Industrial and domestic demand led to the raising of 41 pits on the Brymbo estate by 1841, but by 1948 only six pits remained in the Wrexham area. Today there are no working pits in North Wales.

2.5.4 The progressiveness of the Wrexham area in terms of industrial development may be partly explained by the fact that this area of Wales was the first to address the problem of poor road communications. Five turnpike companies had been established by 1760 linking the main production centres of the region, including Wrexham to Shrewsbury, Chester and the English road network (Davies 1990, 325).

2.5.5 During the mid-nineteenth century Wrexham became a focus for the development of the railway system. The town was situated in a nodal point between the industrial production centres of north-eastern Wales and the markets in England. Between 1844 and 1895 lines were opened linking Wrexham to Saltney, Ruabon, Mold, Minera, Ellesmere, Connah's Quay, Shrewsbury and Chester (Boyd 1991, 96).

2.5.6 The glacial and alluvial clays of the Wrexham area have long been utilised as a building material. During the post-Medieval period increasing use was made of clay, with Ruabon becoming the centre for the production of brick, tile and terracotta (Manley, Grenter and Gale 1991, 227). This locally produced brick contributes to the distinctive red-brick appearance of the Wrexham area.

2.5.7 Wrexham continued as an urban, industrial centre and many of its factories were turned over to war production during the First and Second World Wars. During the post-war period the Marchwiel Ordnance Factory was converted to the Wrexham Industrial Estate - promoted by Churchill's Distribution of Industry Act (1942) which designated Wrexham as a Development Area. The town has had a measure of success in attracting investment by the producers of new technology thereby replacing the employment opportunities traditionally offered by the old extraction and processing industries (Davies 1990, 615). This success is reflected in the redevelopment of parts of the town, road improvements and the construction of new housing estates and retail developments on Wrexham's rural fringe.

3. RESEARCH AIMS

A number of research questions were highlighted as arising from previous work on the site in particular, and as more general questions pertaining to Romano-British sites in the north-west more generally. These included the need:

- to establish the date of the original occupation of the site
- to review the changes and modifications to the site and its context through time. The identification of closely datable artefacts and ecofacts was identified as important in achieving an answer to this question.
- to use artefact and ecofact data to better understand and interpret the site. In particular the identification of artefacts from specific sources or specific uses were important indicators of trade and other forms of social interaction, and the use and consumption of material goods
- the site potential to elucidate the interaction between the Roman military and native social groups in the early years of the Roman occupation of Britain
- to study the relationships to other sites in the region, based on morphology, dating and economy
- to determine the nature and changes of agricultural production, which may reveal whether the settlement was concerned mainly with subsistence agriculture, commercial production, or was a specialist producer
- to establish when the settlement was abandoned and if possible the nature of the abandonment

4. INTERIM STATEMENT OF RESULTS

4.1 Area 1

4.1.1 The excavations in Area 1 consisted of the completion of the partial excavation undertaken by Grenter in 1994 under rescue conditions. Thus nearly all the features had been sample excavated, and in some instances no stratigraphic relationship was left. A site plan with all known stratigraphic relationships was provided by N Jones at CPAT, and in some cases these relationships have been entered into the stratigraphic matrices.

4.1.2 The features in Area 1 consist of ditches forming a series of enclosures arranged on either side of an apparent trackway oriented north-west to south-east. The trackway was about 12 metes wide, and no surfacing material was observed. To the south-west of the trackway an enclosure contained one (and a possible second) corn-drying oven, and a large, deep well (excavated to c. 3.6 metres below ground level but bottom was not reached). This enclosure also contained a hearth and a dense cluster of post-holes (many fairly large post-holes with stone-packing in situ) but no structural pattern can be discerned. To the south of this enclosure was another without internal features, but a gap in the enclosing ditches was evidently furnished with a gate renewed on three occasions. To the north-east of the trackway the enclosure ditches had been re-cut on at least three occasions, one of which was also associated with a gate structure. Within and parallel with the enclosure ditch was a small gully formed of straight segments and a right angled return. In plan this would appear to be a beam-slot for a building, and though this remains the best interpretation it should be noted that in profile the slot was quite variable and not flat-bottomed as might be expected.

4.1.3 One notable peculiarity of Area 1 was that the ditches appear to be cut and re-cut in 12m long segments. No ready explanation for this is immediately apparent.

4.2 Area 3

4.2.1 The excavations in Area 3 focused on the small stubs of stone walling noticed during ground clearance works in 1995. After excavation these were revealed to be the fragmentary remains of a three-phased building. The first phase consisted of a post-built (or 'timber-framed') structure - no building plan can be deciphered from the seven post-holes identified. Subsequently, this building was replaced by a stone building (or a timber-framed building set upon dwarf stone walls or foundations) of which only a corner survived. The walls were c. 900mm wide, constructed of cobbles and quern fragments randomly packed into a shallow construction trench. In the third phase a second room was added to the exterior of the phase 2 building - this may have consisted of an apsidal room.

4.2.2 Outside and to the north-west of the stone building was another well, a number of ditches demarcating enclosures, and to the south a group of sub-square pits (consistency of size/shape/depth suggests some particular function - see also a couple more such pits in Area 1).

5. SUMMARY OF THE SITE ARCHIVE

5.1 Site Records

5.1.1 A total of 317 contexts were identified and recorded during the excavation. The context records sheets have been cross-referenced and indexed. A stratigraphic matrix of contexts has been completed.

5.1.2 A total of 167 drawings were made during the excavation including 70 plans and 97 sections (indexed on site). These drawings have been checked and cross-referenced with the context record.

5.1.3 A total of 662 levels were taken during the excavation and these are recorded in a levelling register and given in metres Ordnance Datum.

5.1.4 The photographic record comprises 411 monochrome negatives (developed as 14 contact sheets), 519 mounted colour slides, and 30 colour prints. The photographic record is indexed, labelled and packaged in suitable archive quality storage sleeves.

5.1.5 The stratigraphic and structural development of the site is comprehensively recorded in the written, graphic and photographic records. The data present in these records was collected and collated using the Gifford and Partners recording system based on that developed by the English Heritage, Central Archaeology Service.

5.2 Artefacts

5.2.1 Artefacts were recovered from a total of 127 contexts. All artefacts have been washed (as appropriate) bagged and boxed. All were recorded and cross-referenced by context number and finds group number. All have been recorded on Bulk Finds and Small Finds summary tables (see Appendix 6) and on Context Finds Record Sheets.

Summary of Site Archive

Material	*Quantity*	*Level of Preservation*	*Conservation Implications*
Pottery		good, stable	1
Glass	1	good	1
Iron	1	corrosion	2
Copper alloy	4	corrosion	2
Stone	1	quern - not on SF list	1
Fired clay	1, gaming counter	good	1
Worked flint	2	good	1
Building materials	none	n/a	none
Animal bones	none	n/a	none
Technological waste	none	n/a	none
GBS	12	good, in airtight plastic tubs	2 processed as assessment

1 The artefacts have been washed, marked with the project code and bagged for long-term storage. No specialist conservation treatment is required.

2 The artefacts have been identified by careful cleaning. The artefacts are stable and it is unlikely that further specialist conservation treatment will be necessary.

6. POTENTIAL OF THE DATA

6.1 The general aim of the fieldwork was to enhance our understanding of the prehistoric and historic occupation and land-use of the area proposed for development and to integrate this into regional and national interpretative frameworks for the chronological periods represented at Plas Coch.

6.2 The specific objectives of the project as stated in the Gifford Project Design were identified as follows:-

- To consider in particular the date and nature of the original settlement,
- To consider the date and nature of the abandonment of the settlement,
- To collect artefacts and ecofacts in order to provide information regarding the date and function of the archaeological features as well as evidence for activities such as farming practices, land management and trading/economic networks,
- To publish the results of the project in a regional or national journal.

6.3 It can be stated that the aims and objectives of the fieldwork element of the project were generally fulfilled.

6.4 Some conclusions can be drawn regarding the development of the land-use at this location and therefore enhance our understanding of prehistoric and historic activity in the region. It has been demonstrated by careful excavation, stratigraphic interpretation of the archaeological deposits and comparison of the recovered artefacts that the archaeological remains at Plas Coch belong to a Romano-British farmstead. This was occupied generally from the late first century AD until the early fourth century AD, probably based upon a mixed pastoral/arable economy. The farmstead appears on present (including coins, ceramics) evidence to be either wealthier, or more Romanised in nature (or both) than many of the known Romano-British farmsteads of the region.

6.5 The post-excavation aim to create a comprehensive project archive of data from the site has been met with the completion and collation of all site records in accordance with the Gifford and Partners Recording System as stated in the Project design (Gifford Document No. B0089.A.01R, dated September 1996). Site drawings, prepared on drafting film, are being transferred to a digital format in AutoCAD (release 12) to allow flexible reproduction and deposition in the original film format, on microfiche and on magnetic disc. The photographic record includes monochrome prints and negatives and colour slides. The photographic material is labelled, indexed and packed in archivally-secure media to preserve the visual record for long-term reference. Artefacts have been washed, marked and packed in suitable storage media to avoid deterioration and will form a permanent reference collection with accompanying record forms.

6.6 The site archive has the potential to address the specific site objectives by means of the detailed analysis currently in progress. The artefact assemblage recovered form the site spans the stratigraphic hierarchy of contexts from the earliest to the latest and includes closely dateable forms - especially the ceramic vessel fragments. The artefact assemblage and stratigraphic information therefore have a high potential to provide dating, technological, economic and functional evidence relating to the population of and land-use at this site during the Romano-British period.

7. STRATIGRAPHIC PHASING

7.1 Phase 1

Phase 1 is seen on the site only in Area 3 as a 'Roman' plough-soil, though it is dated by association and stratigraphy rather than by artefacts. This is found in the proximity of the stone buildings on the eastern side of the site, where the stone buildings protected the deposits from being destroyed. This early plough-soil is found inside and outside (ie. under) the buildings. The three parts of this plough-soil are not physically connected because they are cut by the walls, but they are in the same stratigraphic position. The plough soil is a very hard, compact light brown humic sandy clay. The early plough soil lies below 1217=1211 and 1236 (occupation layers built up around the wall).

Phase 1

Feature / Cut	Type	Fills
5	pit	1054, 1055, 1056, 1066, 1067
1269	layer	
1273	layer	
1310	layer	

7.2 Phase 2

In Phase 2 the first field system was laid out and in use. In Area 3 there is evidence of a post-built building. In general the features are dated by both pottery and stratigraphy

7.2.1 The First Post-built Building

The plough soils are cut by eight post holes which are interpreted as a timber framed building. This building has been placed in Phase 2 on the site. The post holes were on average relatively small, with a maximum surviving diameter of 0.5m and maximum depth 0.32m, (minimum dimensions were 0.15m by 0.06m). It is likely from the presence of a single silting fill (within 1246, 1289, 1313, 1315 and 1317) that some of the posts were deliberately removed prior to building in stone. The post in 1284 is thought to have rotted away because the cut through 1273 is clear. Two post holes (1313 and 1214) have surviving packing stones, with a large stone being present in the centre of 1313. Post holes 1315, 1246, 1289, and 1311, with gully 1317 at the end, are arranged in a passable line, not straight but no more curved than the stone walls. A rough right angle may be created by 1289, 1317 and 1298. Post holes 1313, 1284 are not in the line and not easily incorporated into a building plan. Post hole 1161 is likely to have been dug as part of the timber building, but did not get used for rubbish disposal until phase 4. The post had been robbed with a stone covering some of the post pipe. The material in this post hole is connected with the use of wall 1119.

7.2.2 Field System

In phase 2 the linear ditches and gullies of a presumably agricultural field-system were created. The field system is oriented north-east - south-west and north-west - south-east, and seems from the beginning to have had a central axial trackway running north-west to south-east. The areas of excavation were not large enough to give a clear idea of the sizes of the field enclosures thus created, with the exception of the postulated enclosure containing the stone building, which was approximately 50m north-west to south-east - its north-east side was beyond the area of excavation. It is possible to suggest a functional division, between the domestic building and possibly craft-focused pits to the north of the track, and agricultural/pastoral field enclosures to the south. The basic form, orientation and functions appear to remain unchanged through phases 3 and 4.

Beam slot 1189/1207 is a shallow linear ditch running NW-SE, with a depth of 0.2m and width 0.9m, (at the east), it is deeper (0.3m) but very narrow (0.06m) to the west; it is cut by post hole 1214. Its eastern end could be a beam slot associated with the post hole building, as some external feature associated with the structure as the alignment of the posts and the slot could be feasible, if not utterly convincing.

1177 is a long ditch, running north-east - south-west with a width of 0.62 m and depth of 0.29m. At its southern end it has sloping sides and a flat bottom The dimensions of 1177 are not known for its full length because it was re-cut at its northern end/eastern side by 1166 early in phase 4. The ditch contains a single silting fill which was probably the reason for the re-cut. The timing of the recut is based on the likelihood of having two active ditches running next to each other.

Gully 1221 is a shallow ditch 6m long running east-west. It is 0.44m wide and 0.1-0.05m deep. The ditch contains a single silting fill. It has a flat base and gently sloping sides. It was in-filled by phase 3, when cut by 1163. The association with 1177 appears deliberate, it could be some kind of feeder gully serving the craft area? Or if it marked some kind of boundary, its purpose could be to shield the building from the craft area.

To the south in Area 1, three other ditches appear to extend the field-system. Ditch 3 is oriented north-east - south-west; it has an average width of 1.1m and depth of 0.40m, with sloping sides and a u-shaped base. On plan ditch 31 appears to be a continuation of ditch 3, although narrower and shallower (0.5m x 0.2m). Ditch 58 is oriented south-east - north-west, nearly at right-angles to 3/31, with a gap of about 5m between the two (there were no traces of any gate structure). To the north, ditch 179 is roughly parallel with ditch 58 (south-east - north-west). Ditch 179 averages 0.65m wide and 0.15m deep, with shallow sloping sides and a flat base, containing two fills. The length is uncertain because 179 was cut and removed by the later ditches 153 and 106. Ditch 179 could have formed the north side of a trackway, with 58 forming the southern edge, as was certainly the case in the succeeding phase 3.

To the south and west of ditches 3 and 58; the well 7 was first dug during phase 2. The well shaft on the surface was about 5.6m in diameter, but only most irregularly ovoid in

shape. The well was excavated to a depth of 3.5m without reaching either bottom or waterlogged layers. Only the 'lowest' layers of the fills belong to phase 2 - these essentially were packing fills behind a now disappeared shaft structure (probably of wood some 0.80m in diameter) and are very clayey in nature.

Phase 2 also sees the original digging of well 1201. The well shaft overall measures 3.8m by 2.8m with an excavated depth 1.2m - its bottom was not reached. The well fills have not been permanently waterlogged so the environmental sample taken was poor. The well has three main sets of fills, which were deposited during periods 3 and 4. The earliest levels were clay packing intended to prevent the walls of the well from eroding. It is only in this phase that the water is likely to have been clean.

7.2.3 Miscellaneous Pits

Just to the north of the well was pit 56, irregular in shape and excavated by CPAT in 1994.

To the south of the post-built building in Area 3, are four pits clustered together. It is feasible that these pits 1243, 1296, 1303 and 1180 could be associated as a product of some 'craft' activities. Pit 1243 is a sub rectangular pit with width 0.74m and depth 0.35m, it was in-filled in phase 3. It has sharp concave sides and a flat base. It very near to the sub-oval pit 1184 (dug in phase 3). It contains two fills with high amounts of charcoal and some large stones in the upper fill (possible demolition material). Finds of pottery and ironwork are suggestive of use as a rubbish dump in phase 3. Pit 1296 is located next to gully 1221 but does not interfere with its line. It is a rectangular pit likely to have been dug in phase 2 with length 0.35m, width 0.2m and depth 0.2m. It contains a single homogenous fill, with a large amount of stones, random dumping or deliberate back filling in phase 3. Pit 1303 is a sub-oval pit aligned E-W and connected with 1305 to create a figure of eight shape. It is 0.85m long, 0.66m wide and 0.33m deep, with steep sides and a rounded bottom. There is a circular depression in the base of the pit (0.18m diameter, 0.16m deep). There is only a single fill, probably phase 3, but it has been disturbed by biotubation. The hole at the base could be from a post, but there are no packing stones. However, this is not unique on site as some of the building post-holes do not have packing stones. Pit 1180 is a roughly circular pit of diameter 0.9m and depth 0.25m, concave sides and base, the single fill with a charcoal lens was deposited in phase 3.

To west of the building, pit 1280 is a rectangular depression to the north of the well 1201. Its length was 1m, width 0.8m and depth 0.10m, it has gently sloping sides and a flat bottom (0.75m by 0.25m). It contains a single fill which is likely to belong to phase 3 (ceramic dating is contradictory).

Although ceramics were clearly in use on-site in this phase it has only entered the features as residual material, for example in the later fillings of the well, and in 1280.

Phase 2

Feature / Cut	Type	Fills
3	ditch	cut only
7	well	lower fills; 1142=1146=1147, 1130=1144=1145, 1192=1113=1135, 1112=1134
31	ditch	cut only
56	pit	cut only
58	ditch	cut only
149	post-hole	1012, 1006, 1004, 1005
179	ditch	1124, 1123
1214	post-hole	1216, 1214, 1173
1246	post-hole	1247
1284	post-hole	1285
1289	post-hole	1290
1291c	tree hollow or hedge-line	1292
1311	post-hole	1312
1313	post-hole	1314
1315	post-hole	1316
1317	gully	1318
New features:		
1177	ditch	1172=1179
1180	post hole	11181, 1196
1207=1189=1195	beam slot	1208=1190
1221	gully	1222
1243	pit	1245, 1249=1231=1244=1250
1296	pit	1297
1303	pit	1302

7.3 Phase 3

7.3.1 First Stone Building

The first stone building belongs to phase 3, with the foundation cut 1210 for dry stone wall 1209. The stone walls cut through the fills of three of the phase 2 post holes, with the stone walls being positioned close to the site of the posts, the other posts were situated within the buildings. This is suggestive of continuous occupation use with the same space being used for domestic building. The cut 1210 is 4m long by 1m wide with variable depth. Its base is roughly flat bottomed, but the profile is distorted by the stones present, the sides slope outwards slightly. The wall turns at approximately right angles, with the inside of the building to the East. 1209 is a dry stone wall with large stones and sandy clay filled in between them (there is no mortar). The wall survives only to foundation level within the cut, some facing stones exist. There is a gully beside the wall (1240) which is interpreted to be an original over-cut of the wall trench, as it has not been deliberately filled with stones. There is a probable doorway at the eastern end of the wall (after the bend) shown by the facing stones. The cut is shallower

to the north probably due to change of original surface level. The wall cuts through the fills of some of the earlier post holes. The tumble from the decay of the wall fell into the earlier hedge line /tree hole (1291), especially at the corner of the wall. There is at present no evidence by which to distinguish a building constructed entirely of stone (which has been largely robbed) from a building with stone foundations or dwarf-walls and a timber framed superstructure of wall plates and roof. The later is possibly the more likely form.

1236 is a layer (0.22m deep) associated with the stone walls. It is located within the line 1119 (foundation cut of wall 1253). Conversely 1236 is outside the line of 1210, but protected from ploughing by the buildings. The wall foundation cut 1119 is cut through into this layer 1236. The layer consists of moderately loose, grey-brown, pebbly clay silt with occasional flecks of charcoal. Large stones have been incorporated into this layer, artefacts and roofing slate were found in it. The layer 1236 is an occupation layer associated with the use of the first building (1210/1209). This layer would have been outside the wall (not an internal surface until wall 1119/1253 was built into and around this surface). The stones in this layer may have fallen-in later along with the general disuse and abandonment of the buildings.

7.3.2 Field System

Ditch 1163 is 0.6m wide by 0.15-0.25m deep. It has been heavily truncated, and is mostly flat bottomed with a clay silt fill and gravel especially at the base. This filling appears to be related to disuse as opposed to deliberate filling. This ditch only had a relatively short life, only being present in one phase. The upper end of 1163 was cut by 1166 in phase 4 (1166 is the re cutting of 1177).

Ditch, 1221 is likely to have been first cut in phase 2, then silted in phase 3. From its position it may be more closely connected with the 'craft' area to the south rather than with the building. Its eastern end is truncated by a modern service trench but on plan it does not look as if it was originally much longer, this cannot be proved or disproved because it is vertically truncated with a depth of only 0.05 to 0.1m deep.

Ditch 1177 was cut in phase 2. It silted up in this phase, with a single silting fill. Also in this phase it was re cut as 1166. 1163 and 1177 are present in the same phase, with 1177 being cut as 1163 was silting up and becoming unusable.

The ditch 1189 is likely to have been in-filled in this phase, with a single fill of dark yellow-brown silt, including charcoal and burnt daub. (this is likely to be from the demolition of the timber building) There is a rubble spread on top of the fill of this ditch which could be due to the destruction of the stone buildings.

To the south, well 7 continued in use and to fill with silts. This well appears to be in the corner of a field formed by ditches 3/31 (still in use from phase 2) and two new ditches, 16 and 9. Ditch 16 was partially excavated by CPAT in 1994, with excavation completed in 1996. Ditch 16 is oriented north-west - south-east, and was 0.40m wide

and 0.15m deep, with coarse gravelly basal fills giving way to firm silts above. A gap of 7m separates the south-east terminal of 16 from the north-west terminal of ditch 9 - a possible gate or access point (no trace of a gate structure). Ditch 9 is 1.9m wide and 0.70m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a narrow u-shaped base, with two silty fills. Ditch 9 may be later than the lower fills of ditch 58 based on the artefacts they contain, but no stratigraphic relationship was observed by CPAT in 1994. The line of ditches oriented north-west to south-east formed by 16, 9 and 58 is continued towards the south-east by ditch 95, which continues beyond the area of excavation. Ditches 3/31 form a right-angled return, perhaps comprising two fields. Gaps between 16 and 9, 31 and 9, and 58 and 95 would have provided access to the fields. Well 7 was in the corner of one field. About 10m north of ditch 58 was a deep vertical sided pit, probably another well. This was excavated to only 1.3m deep, revealing four silty layers on top of a very gravelly fill - the bottom was not reached.

Some 12m north-east of ditch 16 is the parallel ditch 116, which turns a right-angle corner to the north-east and then terminates just within the area of excavation. Ditch 116 (=153) was broad and shallow (0.7m wide and 0.3m deep) and seems to form the south-eastern corner of another field, located north and across a track-way from the two fields discussed above. Just within the area of excavation was the apparent small gully terminal 1127, which opposed the terminal of 116 with a gap of just over 1m between the two. The enclosure postulated to be formed by 116/1127 could have enclosed the stone building discussed above, with 116 possibly equating to 1177.

Concentric within the enclosure formed by ditch 116 is a second feature of a narrow, shallow gully or slot (118-120) with a markedly square right-angle return forming a southern corner. This feature contained few finds and is phased simply by association, but is nonetheless a 'real' feature. It may have been a slot for a palisade or fence of moderate dimensions. Feature 118/120 may very well be the same as feature 1163 in Area 3 as they have similar dimensions and fills. 1163 is securely dated to phase 3 whilst 118/120 contained no artefacts.

7.3.3 Miscellaneous pits

1260 is a sub rectangular pit, length 1.2m, width 0.76m and depth 0.5m. It has vertical sides and a flat base cut into compact natural red clay. The in-filling belongs to phase 4, but there was a large percentage of stone rubble in the upper of the two fills. Both fills contained Roman pottery and charcoal, and the lower one contained lead and iron finds. Possibly an initial craft function, then used a rubbish dump of deliberate backfilling.

1193 is a large sub rectangular pit, originally dug in phase 3 (1.28m by 0.87m and 0.28m deep). The pit contained large stones in three fills. The stones could be from a lined post pipe, but considering the shape of the pit, demolition debris is more convincing.

1235 is a round-ended linear slot, running south-east - north-west (2.8m by 0.5m and 0.37m deep). It is truncated at its western end by 1163 which is why its cutting has

been placed (early) in phase 3. It has an almost flat base with steeply sloping sides, the ends are rounded and sloping. The slot contains two fills also belonging to phase 3 due to their stratigraphic relationship with 1163. The fills are silting with grave and some charcoal. Some relationship is likely with the 'industrial complex' but its function is not clear, it could possibly be a beam slot but it seems rather short and too far from a building of any kind.

1305 is a sub circular pit which is situated next to and probably cutting 1303 (0.64m by 0.5m and 0.28m deep). It has steeply sloping sides and a rounded bottom. There is a single fill of loose dark brown sandy silt, and some pebbles. Sub oval pit 1303 has a single fill of brown silty sand and small stones. which has been disturbed by bioturbation.

Pit 1243 was cut in phase 2 and in-filled in phase 3, its two fills contained a large percentage of charcoal including some chunks up to 50mm square. The upper fill contained some large stones with finds of pottery and ironwork. A layer of disturbed soil overlies this pit and features 1184, 1243, 1193, 1207 and 1305 in phase 4. There is also some residual material in this pit of first-second century date.

Rectangular pit (1296) is next to gully 1221. It was probably dug in phase 2 and in-filled in phase 3 with a single homogenous fill, containing a large amount of stones. This fill could be random dumping or a deliberate back-filling.

1280 is a sub rectangular depression of unknown use. It contains a single fill which is likely to belong to phase 3 (dating is contradictory). There is a single fill of firm grey clay silt finds include charcoal, Samian, an amphora handle and corroded iron.

1180 is a roughly circular pit probably dug during phase 2. The fill is soft and crumbly with a lower lens of charcoal and some re-deposited natural.

The well 1201 was originally dug in phase 2. Its lower fills in phase 3 were intended to stabilise the sides. The lowest fill of the well consists of washed gravel and pot. Clay waterproofing was attempted by including large lumps of clay. The main fill by volume is soft silty sand which contained pottery. The upper fills of the well are sticky silt sand with some clay. There are fragments of charcoal in the well especially within 1295. At the sides of the well are two fills (two on each side of the section), these are silty with no coarse components for the upper levels and a clay silt below. Only the uppermost fill of the well is phase 4, but there is some residual matter in fill 1229 of a 1-2nd century date (where the rest of the fills are dated to C2+/Hadrianic-Antonine). Environmental samples were taken from the well, but the fills were not permanently waterlogged and the samples were not very informative (see Appendix 2).

In the south-western corner of the area of excavation was a small cluster of three features. Pit 139 was a short (1.7m) linear feature (maximum width 0.80m by 0.30m deep) with a bulbous northern end formed by a pit (1013) which was 1.50m in diameter and 0.40m deep (no stratigraphic relationship between 139 and 1013 was discernible). Immediately west of the bulbous end was post-hole 149, 0.50m in diameter. Midway

along the southern side of 139 was the second feature (160/1001) also 1.10m long and 0.78m wide and 0.30m deep (a much smaller feature was excavated by CPAT in 1994, apparently comprising the second/upper fills of 1001). Neither shape nor fills give any indication of function for these features.

Phase 3

Feature / Cut	Type	Fills
3	ditch	1029
7	well	1143, 1065, 1018=1020
9	ditch	cut only
16	ditch	1153=1160, 1033=1022=1009
31	ditch	1046
58	ditch	1052=1064, 1053=1063, 1062
95	ditch	cut only
110	well	cut only
116=153	ditch	1098=1085=1094
139	pit	cut only
149	post-hole	1012, 1006, 1004, 1005
160=1001	pit	cut only
1013	pit	cut only
1127	gully	cut only
new cuts		
1163	ditch	1170=1169=1232=1251=1256,1165, 1164=1169=1231=1250=1249, 1212, 1248
1175	ditch	1183=1255, 1182, 1176=1254
1184	pit	1198, 1185
1193	pit	1197, 1191, 1120, 1194
1235	beam slot	1234,1233
1236	layer	
1260	pit	1265, 1264
1305	pit	1304
1305	pit	1304
1210=1240	wall	1242,1209=1241
Fills within features of earlier phases		
1177	ditch	1172=1179
1180	post-hole	1196,1181
1201	well	1299,1301,1295,1258,1261,1259,1262,1294,1288,1230,1229,1228, 1263,1227,1205,1204,1203
1207=1189=1195	beam-slot	1208=1190
1221	gully	1222
1243	pit	1245,1249
1280	sub-rectangular pit	1293.
1296	pit	1297
1303	pit	1302

7.4 Phase 4

In phase 4 the 'stone building' was extended by the addition of an apsidal room to its southern end. A post-built building of unknown function was inserted into the enclosure 70m to the south, adjacent to the well 7.

7.4.1 Second Stone Building

The second stone wall (1253) The wall runs E-W, and the foundation cut (1119) is 0.45m wide by 0.3m.deep with an uneven profile (stony). It is a dry stone wall with clayey silt and pebbles filled in between the stones. This wall was built while wall 1209 was still standing, seen because of the neatness of join, and because the fill inside the area bounded by wall 1253 is not full of rubble. This wall protected the Roman plough soil (1310) and also the phase 3 build up of occupation in layer 1236, which wall 1119 cuts into. Wall 1209 was still standing in phase 4 because wall 1253 is built up against it.

7.4.2 Timber Building

To the south of well 7 in the southern part of the excavation, a dense cluster of post-holes is interpreted as a building. Most were half (or wholly) excavated by CPAT in 1994. There was very little dating evidence recovered from the features, but the meagre artefacts and stratigraphy suggest a phase 4 date. The cluster has no discernible pattern or form. The post-holes include: 18, 22, 209, 1041, 12, 126, 128, 53, 112, 187, 1034, 189, 194 (=1049). They vary widely in size and depth. In the midst of this cluster is feature 124, excavated by CPAT and interpreted as a hearth.

7.4.3 Associated structures - wells and corn-driers

The final filling of the well 1201 took place in phase 4.

Within the southern field system, just a few metres north-west of Well 7, were two corn-driers. Feature 34 was largely destroyed prior to excavations by CPAT, and is poorly known. Feature 132 was extensively excavated by CPAT and the basal fills and remnants of stone structure excavated by Gifford. The form is the classic sub-rectangular drying chamber connected by a short flue to a much-disturbed stoke-hole in which some of the stone lining survived. The CPAT excavations removed the fills from the stoke hole and important archaeobotanical remains were recovered.

7.4.4 Field System

1166 is the re cut of 1177. 1116 is a long ditch running NE-SW, almost parallel to, then cutting through 1163 at its northern end. It has a varying V and U shaped profile and is 0.6m wide (when it joins 1163) and 0.55m deep. This ditch was in-filled in phase 4 with a clay and gravel silting layer, humic loam and large quantities of lots of slate and tile, interpreted as debris from the buildings.

In the southern part of the excavations (Area 1) the field-system originating in earlier phases is perpetuated insofar as the features were open and presumably in use, but were not apparently re-cut. The south-west - north-east oriented ditch 3/31 continued to fill, as did the north-west - south-east oriented series of ditches 43, 1106, and 1107 which perpetuate the alignment of ditch 16 from phase 3 but in the form of three short ditch lengths, 9, 58 and 95. In phase 4 the gap between ditches 58 and 95 was controlled by a gate structure made up of post-holes 1092, 1081, 1079, 1089 and 1083. The gate was clearly renewed on one occasion. The gate was hinged on an upright post set in the south-eastern side of the gap.

Ditch 106, interpreted as forming an enclosure around the stone building, continued to fill during this phase. Near the northern edge of Area 1 the excavation of ditch 106 was terminated, close to a cobbled surface 1126 which may have served as a metalling in the entrance to the enclosure. Also associated with the possible entrance were several pits and post-holes 133, 135, 137, and 201, 203, 205, 207, and a narrow gully 1127. Following the arguments in phase 3 above, in which 116 equates to 1177, it becomes necessary to postulate that the later ditch 106 must terminate under the modern road as it does not appear in Area 3. This would mean that a second entrance to this enclosure existed, roughly opposite the known entrance in the north-east corner of Area 1.

7.4.5 Miscellaneous Pits and Post-holes

Just to the north-east of the gap between ditches 16 and 9 there was a square pit 41, measuring 2.15m by 1.15m by 0.45m deep, with near vertical sides and a flat base. Just to the south of ditch 43 was the traces of another pit 14, excavated by CPAT in 1994.

Gully 65 is a sinuous, shallow ephemeral feature south of the junction of ditches 9 and 58. It may not be a 'real' archaeological feature.

Just within the southern edge of Area 1 was feature 144, a 'kidney-bean' shaped shallow pit (2.44m by 1.0m by 0.08m deep). This apparently cut the smaller pit/post-hole 1047 (0.50m by 0.45m by 0.14m deep). Nearby, gully/pit 139 (and pit 1013, 1.5m diameter and 0.40m deep) and pit/post-hole 160, both dug in the preceding phase, were completely in-filled in phase 4.

Near the eastern edge of Area 1 was the small sub-rectangular pit 108 (1.80m by 0.95m by 0.63m deep). It contained no finds and is assigned to this phase for convenience.

1307 is a small circular post hole with steep, near vertical sides and a flat base, its diameter is 0.4m and its depth is 0.24m. The post hole lies within (and is overlain by) the disturbed area 1257 It contains a single fill. (there is no dating evidence to confirm this. 1257 is a layer of disturbed soil associated with features 1184,1243, 1193,1207 and 1305. It is approximately 3m square, and 0.10-0.15m deep. It is a fairly compact silt clay, as opposed to stones and is interpreted as natural clay disturbed by tree roots.

1309 is a small sub-rectangular post hole with near vertical sides and a flat bottom (0.33m by 0.26m by 0.24m deep). It is sited near to 1303 and 1193. At the eastern side of the post hole is a circular depression which could be the impression of a post. The post hole has a single firm fill, the stones in the fill could have been packing stones as they are up to 100mm long.

1200 is a shallow oval pit of dimensions, length 1.4m, width 1.35m and depth 0.25-3m. The single fill has been affected by animal activity.

1286 is a roughly circular pit lying off to the west of the site, near to 1276 and 1207 it has a diameter of 0.7m and depth 0.10-0.12m. The profile showed nearly vertical concave sides and a mostly flat base. There is only a single fill with tiny amounts of charcoal and daub, the quantity found correlates with its distance from the buildings.

1276 is another small roughly circular pit, with a diameter of 0.6m, and depth of 0.12m. Its profile has an undulating bottom and gently sloping sides, as there is only a single fill bioturbation is likely.

Post hole 1214 is covered by layer 1173. 1173 is a stone spread which lies over some of the fills of 1189 and hid post hole 1214. Probable tumble dragged from the stone buildings by ploughing.

Beam slot 1175 is in-filled in phase 4 with a loose clayey silt and some large stones. This material is possibly demolition material or capping, but capping is more likely as it is rather close to wall 1253.

1184 is a sub oval pit probably dug in phase 3. The pit contained two fills both of which contained reasonable amounts of charcoal and stones. (Some contradiction exists over its dating of the BB1, from *c*160+ to the third century AD)

1193 is a large sub rectangular pit dug in phase 3. It contained large stones in three silty clay fills, and so could be interpreted as a post hole with a lined post pipe or more possibly a pit with demolition rubbish in it.

1260 is a sub rectangular pit dug in phase 3, with two silt clay fills and a large percentage of stone rubble in the upper fill. Finds included pottery, charcoal, lead and iron finds.

Phase 4

Feature / Cut	Type	Fills
118-120	beam-slot	1125=1133=1129=1128= 1131
9	ditch	1024=1026, 1023=1025
12	post-hole	a
14	pit	a
18	post-hole	a
22 .	post-hole	a
34	corn drier	a
41	pit	1088, 1075
43	ditch	1008, 1010
53	post-hole	a
65	gully	a
95	ditch	1060, 1073
106	ditch	1100=1099=1091=1096= 1095=1111=1097
108	pit	1078, 1077
112	post-hole	a
126	post-hole	a
128	post-hole	a
132	corn drier	a
133	post-hole	a
135	pit	1102, 1101
137	pit	1117, 1116, 1118
139	ditch	1014
144	pit	1038, 1037
160=1001	pit	1003, 1037
187	post-hole	a
189	post-hole	1031
194=1049	post-hole	1050, 1043=1058
201	post-hole	a
203	post-hole	a
205	gully	a
207	post-hole	a
209	post-hole	1039, 1040
1013	pit	1014
1034	post-hole	1035, 1036
1041	post-hole	1042
1047	pit	1048
1079	post-hole	1080
1081	post-hole	1082
1083	post-hole	1084
1086	ditch	1104, 1105, 1103
1089	post-hole	1090
1092	post-hole	1048
1107	ditch	1156=1158=1050, 1155=1151=1149, 1148
1126	cobbled surface	
1127	gully	1122

New cuts:		
1119	second wall	1253,1252=1213
1166	recut of ditch	1226=1224=1171=1178,1225=1223=1167=1174
1257	layer	
1307	post hole	1306
Undated cuts		
1200		1206
1276		1277
1286		1287
1309		1308
Fills within features of earlier phases:		
1161		1298
1166		1266=1224=1171=1178,1255=1223=1167=1174
1175		1185=1255,1182,1176=1254
1184		1198,1185
1193		1197,1191,1120,1194
1201		1202
1210	wall	
1214		1173
1260		1265,1264

7.5 Phase 5

Phase 5 is characterised by the hollows of earlier, disused features silting up, with relatively little or no new activity on site.

Demolition debris (layer 1217=1211) collected within and next to the stone buildings. Its survival is due to the presence of the building stones which protected it from being eroded away. 1211 is outside the buildings and is loose, 1217 was inside the building and is more compact with slate and daub. A diligent search was made to seek even the most ephemeral late/post-Roman features, but none could be discerned.

Elsewhere on site the hollow of well 7 was finally filled in, as were the remaining hollows of ditches 9, 43, and 95. It is curious but not immediately explicable that the final Roman activity on site all occurs in this area.

Phase 5

Feature / Cut	Type	Fills
7	well	top fills 1051=1019, 1017, 1059
9	ditch	top fills
43	ditch	top fill 1007
95	ditch	top fill
1217=1211	demolition debris	

7.6 Phase 6

7.6.1 Post-Medieval

Ditch 1186 (=1237=1266) is oriented north-west - south-east across Area 3 - it also extends into CPAT Area 2 as their context 85. The ditch width varies from 0.95 to 1.47m, and its depth from 0.47 to 0.55m it has a with a V-shaped profile, with a noticeably clayey fill. Not surprisingly it contains frequent sherds of Roman pottery, but the recovery of an unusual and indisputably Medieval figured sherd from a primary fill dates the ditch securely to the 17th century or later. It almost certainly served as a field boundary ditch.

In Area 1 there were two post-Medieval land drain slots, both markedly straight and narrow.

7.6.2 Modern

Prior to the arrival of CPAT on-site in 1994, a pond was in-filled near the north-western edge of the development site. This pond appeared on early historic maps and there was even speculation that it might have had a Roman origin. This feature 1274 was sectioned, fills recorded and artefacts collected. The majority of the fill were clearly post-Medieval, and probably 18th century and later in date. The basal clay-silts are undated by artefacts but the relatively thin layers argues against any great antiquity for the pond overall.

In Area 3 a curving narrow slot contained a lead pipe. In Area 1 two linear soak-aways were observed which originated in the construction site compound of 1993-94, and there was a dispersed scatter of shallow and amorphous features probably arising out of excavating machinery working on-site.

8. SYNTHESIS AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 In the discussion that follows, two points should be borne in mind. The first is that the conclusions are being written with the complete CPAT report in hand, and thus with the benefits of their analysis and synthesis readily available.

8.2 Second, the Gifford excavations revealed a much larger area of the site than was available to CPAT, and commensurately a larger collection of ceramics for analysis - some 60% of the total ceramic collection came from the Gifford excavations. Consequently it is not surprising that different conclusions are reached.

8.3 The general picture of the site resulting from the analysis is simple and similar to that reached by CPAT. Structurally and stratigraphically the site would appear to be a fairly Romanised and prosperous farming settlement founded in the late first to early second century AD, though probably on a site that had been part of a nearby earlier settlement. The settlement, once founded, remained essentially unchanged until its decline and abandonment in the later 3rd century or early fourth century - caution is needed because of the effects of economic long waves (Going 1992). The settlement consisted of a series of fields pendant upon a trackway oriented north-west to south-east, with a timber-built post-founded building in the early years. This building was replaced by a stone building, or more likely a building with dwarf stone walls and a half-timbered superstructure, sometime in the early or middle years of the 3rd century. This building was added to in the middle of the 3rd century, before going out of use probably in the 4th century. In the south-east of England this type of site would probably be called a small 'villa'. Wrexham however is far outside the (presently known) general distribution of villas, the nearest examples being one near Shrewsbury and a second at Eaton in Cheshire.

8.4 Consideration of the artefact collection, and especially the ceramics, leads however to greater differences of interpretation. CPAT conclude by characterising the site as a rural Romanised farming settlement. The artefacts/ceramics from the Gifford excavations suggest a type of site out of the ordinary for Romanised rural farms. Several aspects of the ceramic collection, such as the numbers of amphorae, Black Burnished Ware I, and fine 'tablewares' generally, fall in the ranges typical of small towns and or sites with a semi-official function (ie military or administrative). The coins from this site are also atypical of farms in the north-west of the province, but do fit the urban/small-town distributions (although again a site with 'official' or 'military' connections is a close fit).

8.5 This leads to a paradox, in which the interpretation of artefacts and features do not fit happily together. It seems clear that the artefacts are extending the information revealed by the structures rather than that the two are actually in conflict. The preferred conclusion is that the wider site (extending beyond the limited area excavated) is more than a small albeit fairly prosperous and Romanised farm, and should be characterised as either a 'small town' or possibly a site with some alternative form of official stimulus status. Given the accepted characterisation of the surrounding countryside a 'small town' seems less likely, thus making an official settlement more likely. The locally available resources of coal and iron formed the basis of the late- and post-Medieval development of Wrexham - was there a Roman exploitation of these resources? If so, was this managed from a centre at or near to the Plas Coch site? An interesting potential parallel with the Cornwall and Devon area may be mentioned. In the south-western peninsula it seems clear that Roman exploiters supported by military detachments were penetrating into the interior via rivers seeking minerals for several years before the area was officially conquered (K Ray pers. comm.). Was something similar happening at Wrexham? Or do we have a glimpse of a more straightforward post-conquest development of a settlement, civilian or imperial, to manage the exploitation of coal and/or iron resources?

The Plas Coch site also fits another widely recognised pattern. This involves an origin of the site in the later first or early second century (Flavio-Trajanic) , followed by a later decline in prosperity/activity, and a marked renewal in the Severan period of the early third century. This pattern has been discussed in detail in the context of the Roman defences of *Deva* Chester (Le Quesne forthcoming).

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10. APPENDIX 1: CONCORDANCE OF FEATURES

Dates in italic type are derived from G Evans analysis, dates in regular type from C Going, x denotes no dating evidence obtained from a fill (where dating material obtained from other fills within a cut), fills are listed earliest (deepest) first.

Cut Area 1	cut same as	cuts fills of	Fills	Description	Phase	Date
3			1029, 1030=1051	Ditch running NE-SW in the south of Area 1. Length 15m+, width 1.1m an depth 0.38m. It has concave sloping sides and a concave base: U shaped. On plan cut 31 appears to be a continuation of cut 3. The ditch contains two fills. The lower is dark brown fine grainy silt with stones, it appears to be a silting level. The upper fill is compact fine silt, containing lots of Roman pot. In the southern end of the ditch only a single fill is present, (1051) and the ditch is slightly smaller, 1m wide and 0.25 m deep. The finds in the ditch were largely in tact. Occupation close to the ditch expected.	5	x,c2,3,4,med *c4, post med. 1051is lc3*
5			1054,1055,1056, (1066,1067)	Sub square pit. V shaped profile. Truncated by modern change in ground level. Fills- grey-white soft sand (bottom fill) quite thick in places. Compact dark grey silt charcoal flecking and sandstone inclusions (1055)-softer at base. Compact orange-brown silt inc pebbles +stones. Upper layer cut into by 1066.(see below)	1	x, x, Roman, x, x, Iron Age
7			1142=1146=1147, 1130=1144=1145, 1113=1135=1192, 1112=1134,1143, 1065,1018=1020, 1057=1019, 1017,1059	Large well. Diameter 4m Had been sectioned in 1994, down to a depth of 1m. Re-excavated revealing core to depth of 2.5m. The well was back filled in 1994 with a mixed deposit of clay, silt, charcoal, modern rubbish and building debris and RB sherds. Well has distinct clay packing material at its sides and base, this is slightly plastic with occasional lenses of silt and gravel but no dating evidence The probable central core of the in filling of the well is silt, clay with 50% gravel/stone and finds of 1 shard RB pot. and an amphora shard. Above this is a firm deposit of silt, fine gravel and stones 70%stones. likely tumble material, finds include 1 shard amphorae. and burnt daub Above this is a uniform silt-clay, large % charcoal, 30 sherds pot - slump material?,	4 5	x, x, c2,x,x,c3,c2,c2,c2-3,c3,c1-2 Large quantities of ceramic found. in the upper fills - nothing in the clay linings. The earliest statigraphical context to be dated shows c2+ *1017=c3+.1019=220-*

Cut Area 1	cut same as	cuts fills of	Fills	Description	Phase	Date
				The charcoal is only deposited on one side of the well. Above this is a uniform deposit of firm silt clay, with charcoal inclusions and 70sherds pot+2 glass +1 bone, some metal. Above this is a uniform compact silt-clay, some small pebbles, ceramic and daub, glass, stone. There are 2 clay packing fills at the edge and one at the base. They are (upper) plastic silty clay, edged with iron staining- clay packing.- to stop gravel sliding, and (lower), greyish silty clay-iron staining. no dating. The packing at the base is a firm silty clay with pea gravel and silty gravel pockets in it. The clay packing fills indicate use as a well, but have no dating evidence.		*3001192=c1-2*
9			1024=1026, 1023=1025	Ditch 1.9 m wide by 0.7m deep. U shaped base and steep sides. Largely excavated by CPAT in 1994.	4 5	c2=c3,c3=c2 odd. *1024=Had+. 1023=lc3.* *1026=ec3/ 1025=lc2-ec3*
12			A	Pit. Excavated 1994. No longer visible. Located at southern edge of machined area.		No dating evidence
14			A	Pit completely excavated in 1994. Located between 34 and 56 on the northern edge of the machined area.		No dating evidence
16			1153=1160,? not sound same. 1033=1022=1009, 1141=1159=1162= =1032=1021.	Shallow ditch running NW-SE to the west of the machined area. Three main fills, fills cut by ditch 43 at the eastern end. Length 7m+, width 0.4m, and depth 0.15m. There is a silting level of coarse gravel with clay lumps at the very base of the ditch, and a firm silty clay above this. The upper fill is a combined silting and debris layer of firm silty sand with some stones at the bottom. and some charcoal, only 2-3 sherds of pottery(1159). Roman pottery was present in this layer (1032)	5	x,c3=c2,c2+,200+= BB1 150+ CPAT . c2-4 *1159=lc3-4*
18			A	Post hole excavated 1994, no longer visible on the ground, was originally in a line with ditches 22 and 12.at the southern edge of the machined area.		No dating evidence
20	1140,1139		1154, modern un- excavated.	Service ditch 0.45m across, running N-S at western edge of site, it crosses the machined area.	6	c3, modern

Cut Area 1	cut same as	cuts fills of	Fills	Description	Phase	Date
22			A	Post hole excavated in 1994. Located on plan at southern edge of machined area. No longer visible.		No dating evidence
31			1046	Linear ditch running NE-SW, rounded end to NE. Length 2m, width 0.5m, depth 0.2m, length is truncated by machined area. Profile shows shallow sloping sides, but they can be quite sharply cut in places, with squared off corners. The ditch has a single compact silt fill with charcoal flecks and pieces of burnt clay. This ditch is likely to be a continuation of 3.	3	*Had* +
34			A	Probable corn drier, lying on north of machined area. Completely excavated 1994.		No dating evidence
41			1088,1075,1074	Sub rectangular pit lying to the north of the machined area, near to ditch 16. Length 2.15m, width 1.15m and depth 0.45m. Profile shows near vertical sides, especially on the SW, base is relatively flat; undulating to the SW. Fills include a clay silt and charcoal layer. Charcoal chunks up to 50-60mm square. A layer of burnt clay which covers the side and base of the cut. The upper fill is sity sand with pebbles.	4	x, c2,c2 *1075=c1-3*
43			1010,1008,1007	Oval shaped feature running NW-SE. links in with ditch 16. Length 5.3m, width 0.6m, depth 0.5m. Steep sides with an undulating base., U shaped. Upper fill is disturbed silty loam (tree root action) below is a silty loam washed in fill, includes Roman pot. Primary fill is sandy clay with charcoal inclusions.	5	x, Roman,c3 CPAT,c1-2,3-4
51			A	Modern disturbance.	6	CPAT.c3/4
53			A	Post hole fully excavated 1994, truncated by edge of machined area.		No dating evidence
56			A	Pit completely excavated 1994. Located on northern edge of machined area.	3	cpat.c2
58			1052=1064, 1053=1063,1062	Ditch running NW-SE, joining end of 9. Length 10m, width 0.6m and depth 0.8m. Profile is U shaped. The ditch has a butt end to the SE, which is likely to be linked to that of 95, an entrance way in an enclosure? Ditch filled with silt clay. At the base of the ditch the soil is compact with lots of charcoal inclusions, while the upper fills are loose, with less charcoal and lots of pebbles.	4	c2+,c2+,160+ Had-Ant

Cut Area 1	cut same as	cuts fills of	Fills	Description	Phase	Date
65			A	Ditch-gully completely excavated 1994. Located to the west of 58, perpendicular to it.		No dating evidence
95			1073,1060,1061	Ditch running NW-SE with rounded end, its southern end is truncated by the edge of the excavation area. Length 5.5m, width 0.5m and depth 0.6m, profile is U shaped. Some relationship likely with 58. Lowest fill is gritty clay (40%pebbles)with tile and charcoal. middle fill is probably silting or deliberated dumping. There is a large amount of burnt clay at the E end..	4	x, c2,c3. CPAT,c1-2,3-4 *1060=l3+, 1061=m-lc3*
104			A	Modern field drain, 0.2m wide running E-W across northern half of the site.	6	Modern
106			1100=1099=1091=1096 =1095=1111=1097	Butt ended ditch, with curved right angle bend. Located in northern part of area, length is truncated by edge of site. Maximum width 0.8m, depth 0.4m. Profile shows a shallow ditch with concave base and sloping sides. Ditch 116 follows a similar route. Single main fill of silty sand, with inclusions of charcoal, burnt earth and pebbles. Small amount of Roman pottery.	4	c1-2 and c2. *1100=Had+. 1091=e-mc3. 1095=Had-Ant. 1097=c2*
108			1078,1077	Sub rectangular pit, angled NE-SW. Width 0.95, depth 0.63m. It has steep sides .and a mostly flat bottom. Fills are sandy silt, with some pebbles, greater concentration at the base.		No dating evidence
110			1072, 1071, 1070, 1069, 1068	Well, with diameter 1.4m, located by eastern edge of the site. It has a circular top and almost vertical sides. Was only excavated to 1.3m (depth allowed without shoring), at that depth five fills were seen. Lowest fill is loose sitly sand with lots of gravel. All of the other fills are silty clay, there is a packing deposit, a non organic tumble, a waterlogged plastic deposit, and the top fill is firm silty clay. Inclusions in the well include sandstone fragments, coal and charcoal.	3 (cut) 5 (fills)	SAMc2, x, x, c2, c1-2. *1072=Had-Ant. 1069= Had-Ant*
112			A	Post hole excavated 1994. No longer visible. Located at eastern edge of excavated area, on plan as a ditch.		No dating evidence
114			A	Services. Ditch width 0.45m, running SW-NE across southern part of the site. Contains a modern ceramic pipe.	6	Modern
116	153		1098=1085=1094=1039	Linear ditch in north part of the area. Long ditch with a curving right angle	3 (cut)	c1-2 CPAT.c2

Cut Area 1	cut same as	cuts fills of	Fills	Description	Phase	Date
				bend. It has a butt end and cuts 106. Length of ditch is 7.6m, maximum width 0.7m and maximum depth 0.3m. Single fill of silt sand and silt clay, with pebbles. Natural ditch silting.		*1098=Had+. 1085=Had-Ant*
118	120		1125=1133=1129=1128 =1131	Shallow slot. 0.3m wide, 0.05-0.15m deep (shallower to the west). Located in north of area. The ditch turns at right angles, both of its ends are hidden by the edge of the site. The slot has a flattened U shaped profile. Fill is silt-sand with pebbles- slow silting. Possible hedge line as fine fibrous roots found.		No dating evidence
120	118		see 118	Possible hedge line.		No dating evidence
124	152, 191		A	Hearth, fully excavated 1994. Located to the south of the machined area.		No dating evidence
126			1028,1027	Suspected post hole. Length 0.54m, width 0.9m and depth 0.29m. It has concave sides and a concave base. Located in association with 192,189 and 187.		No dating evidence
128			1045,1044	Sub oval post hole. Located in association with 12,18 and 209. Length 0.5m, width 0.8m and depth 0.29m. Profile shows concave sides and a gently concave bottom. Filled with compact silt-clay and a large stone.		No dating evidence
132			1137,1136, 1138.	Corn drier . Length 3.65m, width 1.2 to 2.56m, depth 0.57m. Shape is sub rectangular with a protrusion in the centre with a slightly hooked end, base of the feature undulates. Partly excavated 1994, remaining fills left are compact clay packing fills. There was a stone in the centre of the corn drier.		No dating evidence
133			A	Large post hole, concave sides and relatively flat concave base. 1.5m long, 1m wide. Related to outer ditch 1063. Fully excavated 1994.		No dating evidence
135			1102,1101	A sub oval pit with steep sides and a flat base. Length 1.2m, width 0.8m, depth 0.2m. There are stones in the north half, could be base of a post hole. Located between the ends of 116 and 106., in the north of the area. Fills are loose clay-silt with large stones. Looks like a post hole..		No dating evidence
137			1117,1116,1118	Oval shaped pit, 1.6m long, 1.55m wide, 0.65m deep. Profile shows steeply sloping side, and a sloping base. Truncated by edge of the excavated area. Fills are compact silty sand with pebbles, charcoal and burnt earth.		No dating evidence

Cut Area 1	cut same as	cuts fills of	Fills	Description	Phase	Date
139	1013		1015,1014	Linear ditch with a bulbous end (N), and narrowing at the (S) end. Profile shows concave sides and a channel running alon g the base. Length 1.7m, width 0.8m, depth 0.3m Bulbous end pit is cut 1013. Fill is compact silty sand with pebbles and a large stone. Amphora fragment. Inclusions of charcoal and daub, mortar and pot in the upper fill. Possible beam slot.	4	c1-2,c3 *1014=c3*
144		1047	1038,1037	Kidney shaped pit lying at the southern edge of the site. Length 2.44m, width 1m, depth 0.08m. Edges are not well defined, base is undulating. Fill of pit is compact clay and lumps of burnt clay, with some charcoal flecking Cuts fill of cut 1047, a small pit in the SE corner. Purpose? dump for clay-daub.		No dating evidence
149			1012,1006,1004,1005	Oval post hole, with steep sides and a flat base, bottom slopes slightly to the west. Located near bulbous end of 139. Post hole with stone packing of a post pipe. Fills are compact clay silt (post pipe). Inclusions of pebbles, charcoal, daub and pottery. Large stones are used for the packing.	3	c1-2,c2+,c2+,c2+ *1005=Had+*
152	124,191		A see 124	Hollow in S of area, associated with hearth 124.		No dating evidence
153	116		see116	Continuation of ditch 116, where it turns the corner, it lies next to the bend of 106. Concave sides and a flat base, width 0.85m and depth 0.28m	3	
160	1001		1003,1002	Sub- oval pit, at N end of 139. Length 1.44m, width 0.79m, depth 0.27m. U shaped profile. Fills are silty clay with some red daub and flecks of charcoal, and a compact silty clay.	4	x.,c3
179			1124, 1123	Rounded end of a ditch, at turning point of 116, 160. Length 1.2m, width 0.65, depth 0.15m, length truncated by 153/116. Profile shows concave sides and a flat base. Fills are compact silt- clay at base and silty sand (the upper fill). Tree disturbance.		No dating evidence
181			A	Post hole, excavated 1994. Located next to hearth 124. No longer visible.		No dating evidence
187			A	Post hole, fully excavated 1994. Diameter 0.55m, depth 0.35m Located next to hearth 124		No dating evidence
189			1031	Oval post hole. Length 0.93m, width 0.66m, depth 0.58m. Steep sides and		No dating evidence

Cut Area 1	cut same as	cuts fills of	Fills	Description	Phase	Date
				impression of a post in the base. Contained packing stones.		
191	124,152			Hollow in S area 1, associated with hearth 124.		No dating evidence
192			A	Sub oval pit associated with hearth 124, excavated 1994, no longer visible.		No dating evidence
194	1049		1050,1058=1043	Roughly oval post hole. Diameter 1m, depth 0.58m. Post at end of slot. Fill has stones at the surface and angular stones within the pit.		No dating evidence
196				Un excavated cut revealed in cleaning. Modern shale, pebble and grit filled linear ditch. 8m long and 0.5m wide. Located in southern part of area 1	6	Modern
198	1151	16	A,1152	Partially excavated ditch, contains some Roman material (cuts into fill 1011) but mainly modern rubbish fills. Mechanically excavated- Fill is mixed clay topsoil.	6	c2+modern
201			A	Oval post hole, diameter 0.4m, depth 0.1m. Fully excavated 1994. Located in associated on with ends of 116 and 106. Joined with 203, but as excavated relationship not seen		No dating evidence
203			A	Oval post hole, diameter 0.4m, depth 0.1m. Fully excavated 1994. Located in associated on with ends of 116 and 106. Joined with 201, but as excavated relationship not seen.		No dating evidence
205			A	Sub oval pit, diameter 0.4m, depth 0.2m with a shallow concave base. Excavated 1994. Located in association with 1127, they are two separate features.		No dating evidence
207			A	Sub oval post hole, diameter 0.4m, depth 0.1m. Previously excavated 1994.		No dating evidence
209			1040	Likely post hole. Concave sides and base, U shaped profile. Located in southern half of area 1, near 128, 22 and 12. Compact clay fills surrounding a small hole.	4	No dating evidence
1001	160		see 160	Pit.		c3
1011	1076		natural	Compact clay yellow-red, has some iron panning and lenses of gravel.		-
1013	139		see 139	Pit at the end of 139. Diameter 1.5mm, depth 0.4m. Profile shows a gently curving base. Could be a rubbish pit, contained organic staining, daub, pottery, iron and charcoal..	4	c1-2+, SAM,BB1.200+

Cut Area 1	cut same as	cuts fills of	Fills	Description	Phase	Date
1016			un-stratified	modern	6	med./post med.
1034			1036,1035	Circular post hole positioned next to 1041and 187. Diameter 0.6m and depth 0.33m. Fills are clay with pebbles at the base and silt with flecks of charcoal.		No dating evidence
1041			1042	Sub square post hole located next to 1034. Sides 0.36m by 0.36m, depth 0.25m. Stones on the surface. Fill is compact silt with pebbles, charcoal 2 pieces pot.	4	c2+
1047			1048	Sub oval pit length 0.5m, width 0.45m, depth 0.14m. Located under the spread of 144. Fill is silt clay, very like fill of 144. Pit not visible until fill of 144 removed.		No dating evidence
1049	194		see 194	Sub oval pit		No dating evidence
1066		5	1067	Re cut of 5. Length 0.6m, width 1m, depth 0.46m. V shaped cut. Cut into the northern side of 5, relationship slightly obscured by the baulk. Single fill of compact grey-brown silt with pebbles and charcoal flecking.		No dating evidence
1076	1011		see 1011	natural		
1079		1081	1080	Sub rectangular post hole, located near 95 and 9. Length 0.34m, width 0.3m, depth 0.2m Fill is firm gritty silty loam, very stony(40%), with some stone packing including a large stone..		No dating evidence
1081			1082	Rectangular post hole cut by 1079and 1089. Length 0.3m, width 0.15m, depth 0.12m. Hole blocked by packing stone of 1079.. Fill is homogenous brown silt.		No dating evidence
1083			1084	Irregular shaped post hole, placed with 1079and 1081. Diameter 0.35m, depth 0.15m surviving. Fill is firm silt with a small amount of pebbles and a large packing stone in situ. Silting after removal of post, homogenous fill.		No dating evidence
1089	not on plan.		1090	Shallow, flat bottomed cut for packing stone for 1081, is to the north of 1081- not on plan. .Length 0.2m, width 0.25m, depth 0.06m. Firm silty fill to wedge post in 1081.		No dating evidence
1092			1093	Rectangular post hole. Lying near 58/9. Very compact brown fill, with jammed in packing stones, packed in heavily to the SE.		No dating evidence

Cut Area 1	cut same as	cuts fills of	Fills	Description	Phase	Date
1106		16	1104,1105,1103	Ditch, running NW-SE. It is within the NW end of 16. Length 3m, width 1.38m and depth 0.6m. The profile is V/U shaped with concave sides. It has a butt end to the SE. High percentage of pottery in fill near butt end. Could be for drainage, there is a large amount of stone aggregate and plastic silt-clay. Silting layers above.	4	SAM190++200+c3+,c2+, c2+
1107		16	1156=1158=1150, 1155=1157=1149,1148	Ditch running NW-SE, running within the line of 16. It has a butt end to the north. Length 8.4m, width 1.2m and depth 0.35m. It is a re cut through the base of 16. Fills are compact silty sand with charcoal inclusions. Lots of pot finds. There are tow silting layers with pebbles present in the upper layer.	4	c3,c2=c1-2,c2 1150=m-lc3
1114		where?	1115	Mechanically excavated test pit, width 0.46m, depth 0.35m.		No dating evidence
1126			layer	Area of cobbled surface. 2m by 2m. In NE corner of site at end of ditches 106 and 116. Metalled surface at entrance way?		No dating evidence
1127			1122	Gully. 1m long, 0.5m wide and 0.15m deep. Concave base and straight edges. Lies next to spead 11126 and 137. Fill is soft silt with pebbles, charcoal and pieces of daub.	4	c2 *lc3*
1139	20,1140		see 20	-Modern services.	6	
1140	20,1139		1154 +modern,196	Modern services. Not excavated.	6	c3, modern
1151	198		see 198	-		c2 and modern

Area 3 Cuts	cut is same as no	cuts fills of:	Fills	Description direction: dimension: shape general fills.	Phase	Date
1108			layer	Modern demolition	6	m/ post medieval
1109			layer	Undulating geological subsoil, mostly brown-yellow silty clay	-	- geology
1110			layer	Turf	6	modern
1119		1210, 1311, 1289	1253 (wall), 1252=1213	Cut for wall foundation. Running W-E.0.45m wide by 0.3m.deep with an uneven profile (stony).Dark humic Clayey silt with pebbles filled in between the stones of the wall. Possibly 2 walls next to each other.	4	C2+, SAM 200+. Had
1137			layer	Layer of stone spread over and within fill of 1189 and 1187 (fill of cut 1186). Layer also obscures post hole 1214. Tumble dragged by plough	-	
1161			1298	Small post hole, diameter, 0..25m, depth 0.2m. Single fill of dark silty clay and stones. Post pipe had stone over it- Post robbed. Probably connected with wall 1253 (wall cut 1119).	4	BB1,Dr20 200ad+
1163		1221	1170=1169=1232=1251= 1256, 1165, 1164=1168=1231=1250= 1249, 1212,1248	Long ditch running NE-SW, 0.6m wide and depth of 0.15-0.25m (it has been heavily truncated). Its northern end has been re cut. It is mostly flat bottomed. The ditch is filled with friable brown clay silt, with some gravel inclusions, greater concentration at the base of the ditch.	3	x, c1-2= c2+, c2+
1166		1177, 1163	1226=1224=1171=1178, 1225=1223=1167=1174 Not entirely convinced- they could be different lenses.	Long ditch running NE-SW, almost parallel to, then joining with 1163 at its northern end. The ditch is a re cut of 1177. It has a varying V and U shaped profile. It is 0.6m wide (when it joins 1163)and 0.55m deep. It is filled with silty humic loam with lots of slate and roofing tile inclusions, this overlies a clay silting layer and a gravel rich fill at base of the re cut.	4	c2+,Had SAM,f37BB1c2+=c3 Had is slate medieval?
1173			layer	Layer of stone spread over and within context and fill 1189 and 1187. No pattern.	4	no.
1175			1183=1255, 1182, 1176=1254	Linear ditch running E-W, width 0.78m, depth 0.39m. The profile has slightly concave, steep sides and a flat base (width 0.2m). The ditch has a curved butt end to the NW adjacent to 1163. The ditch had some large stones in it, possible demolition material or capping, most of the fill is a	4	c2+=c3 c2+, c2+=c3 Had-Ant

Area 3 Cuts	cut is same as no	cuts fills of:	Fills	Description direction: dimension: shape general fills.	Phase	Date
				loose clayey silt.. Possible sill beam trench.		
1177			1172=1179	Long ditch, running NE-SW with a width of 0.62 m and depth of 0.29m at its southern end. The ditch has been re-cut at its northern end/eastern side by 1166, so the dimensions there are not known. The ditch has flat sloping sides and a flat bottom. The fill is a friable clay silt. The silting was the probable reason for the re-cut.	3	No dating evidence
1180			1196, where is it on the plan? 1181	Roughly circular pit of diameter 0.9m and depth 0.25m, concave sides and base. Fill is soft and crumbly with a lower lens of charcoal and some re-deposited natural.	3	SAM,BB1.c2+
1184		shown as 1189 on plan.	1198,1185	Sub oval pit, length 1.3m, width 0.8m and depth 0.25-0.3m. The pit contained two fills, the upper was a loose, stony dark brown silt with charcoal inclusions, the lower was paler silt with less stones but more charcoal. The upper fill contained lots of iron	4 5	x, BB1c160+ C3
1186	1237,1270,1266	1166	1268=1272=1239=1218=1188,1271=1267=1238=1199=1187,1220,1219	A long ditch running NW-SE. The depth and width vary along its length, width from 0.95-1.47m, depth 0.47-0.55m. It has a roughly V shaped profile and a concave base. Post medieval ditch. It contains two main fills. (It is not safe to equate the fills at its point of intersection with 1177 where the line of the ditch becomes irregular). The upper fill is a firm yellow-brown silty clay (Roman +modern), the lower is similar but with more clay and stones(50per cent) (includes worked flint). Difference between fills is not obvious. Small copper alloy coin found in fil1199-(SF 2049). Ditch could be a boundary.	6	200+,m/post med_pipe,x,c1-2+
1189	1207,1195		1208=1190	Shallow linear ditch running NW-SE, depth 0.2m, width 0.9m. at east and 0.3m wide by 0.06m deep to the west. The profile has sloping sides and a concave base, slightly W shaped. There is a slight S shape along its eastern end, to the west it is a straight line (1207 on plan). The ditch runs almost parallel to 1175 at its eastern end, and parallel to 1186 towards the west. The ditch contains a single fill, of dark yellow-brown silt with inclusions of	3	BB1c2+

Area 3 Cuts	cut is same as no	cuts fills of:	Fills	Description direction: dimension: shape general fills.	Phase	Date
				charcoal and burnt daub. Base is not very flat at east end, it has a flatter base to west. Ditch is next to post hole 1214. Possible beam slot.		
1193			1197,1191,1120,1194.	Large sub rectangular pit. Length 1.28m, width 0.87m and depth 0.28m. The pit contained large stones in three silty clay fills. post hole with a lined post pipe or more possibly a pit with demolition rubbish in it.	5	c200+, x, c2+, c2+
1195	1189,1207		see 1189	beam slot?	3	
1200			1206	Shallow oval pit. Length 1.4m, width 1.35m and depth 0.25-3m. The fill has been affected by animal activity. The fill is a dark yellow-brown silt, with no finds.	-	No dating evidence.
1201			1299,1301,1295,1258, 1259.,1261,1262,1294, 1288,1230,1229,1228, 1263,1227, 1205,1204, 1203, 1202	A sub oval well. Length 3.8m, width 2.8m and depth 1.2m. has not been permanently waterlogged - environmental sample poor.. The well has three main sets of fills, a large centre portion consisting of layers of silt clay and sand with the proportions varying. There is a layer with a higher proportion of clay which could be attempts at waterproofing. The main fill by volume is soft silty sand from which Roman and possible medieval pot were found.(1229) Gerry Evans doubted that it was medieval. The upper fills of the well are sticky silt sand with some clay. The lowest fill of the well consists of a washed in fill with gravel and pot. Directly above this is a fill including large lumps of clay in a clay and silt mix, these could have fallen or been thrown in as preliminary waterproofing. There are fragments of charcoal in the well especially within 1295. At the sides of the well are two fills (two on each side of the section), these are silty with no coarse components for the uppers and a clay silt below.	3 4 5	x, Had-Ant+(2+), c2+, Roman, ., x, ,x, x, m/post med,c1-2+, x, , x,Had-Ant,c2,c2,c2 Had,Traj,c3,no med found.
1207	1189,1159		see 1189	beam slot.?	3	
1210	1240	1313, 1315	1242 (1241),1209	Foundation. Cut for wall. 4m long, 1m wide with variable depth. Its base is roughly flat bottomed, but the profile is distorted by the stones present, the	3	x, c1-2

Area 3 Cuts	cut is same as no	cuts fills of:	Fills	Description direction: dimension: shape general fills.	Phase	Date
				sides slope outwards slightly. The wall turns at approximately right angles. The fill consists of large stones and humic sandy clay. (dry stone wall) The wall survives as a foundation within the cut, with remains of a first course disturbed by ploughing, but the facing stones remain. Wall in cut 1119 is the extension to this wall. There is a probable doorway at the eastern end of the wall (after the bend) shown by the facing stones.. Cut is shallower to the north possibly due to change of original surface level.		
1211	1269		layer	Roman plough soil in spread around the wall (western side- out side the building). Loose humic sandy clayey silt. The soil is similar to 1217 and 1273 but would not been protected by flooring.	5	m-lc3
1214			1216,1215,1173	Circular post hole, with stone packing, hidden by stone tumble (1173) at the edge of 1189. Diameter 0.5m, depth 0.25m. The post hole contains two fills . The lower fill of the post hole is soft silt, with a few pebbles and occasional pieces of daub and flecks of charcoal. Stones are packed inside this fill in a circular pattern.	2	No dating evidence
1217	1310		layer	Spread of demolition debris within the line of the walls. Length 3m, width 1.5m and depth 0.04m. The spread does not survive outside the line of the walls. Spread of gritty sandy clay, very compact. This spread contains much slate and daub.	5	Sam f37Had-Ant mid to latec3
1221			1222	A shallow ditch 6m long running E-W of width 0.44m and depth varying between 0.1-0.05m. It has a flat base and gently sloping sides. It is cut by 1163 and truncated by1177. The ditch contains one fill, a brown sitly clay with a few small pebbles. Could be some kind of gully associated with 1163 or 1177, purpose is unclear.	3	Grey.180+
1235			1234,1233	A rounded er led linear slot (fat cigar shaped), running SE-NW. Length 2.8m, width 0.5m and depth 0.37m. It is truncated at its western end by 1163. It has an almost flat base with steeply sloping sides, the ends are apsidal and sloping. The cut contains two fills, of dark yellow-brown silty	-	x, Roman

Area 3 Cuts	cut is same as no	cuts fills of:	Fills	Description direction: dimension: shape general fills.	Phase	Date
				clay, the lower one contains some gravel , the upper fill is more friable with bigger pebbles and a small amount of charcoal flecking. The slot could be some form of beam slot but appears to be rather short.		
1236			layer	A layer 0.22m deep associated with wall cut 1119. The layer consists of moderately loose, grey-brown, pebbly clay silt with occasional flecks of charcoal. Large stones have fallen into this layer. There is no visible cut between this layer and the stones from the wall surrounding it. Artefacts and roofing slate were found. It could be a demolition layer or occupational material or a suspended floor.	3	c2+
1237	1270, 1266, 1186			see 1186	6	
1240	1210	1210	1241=1242	Shallow, narrow gully running alongside the outside of wall cut 1210. Depth 0.10m and width 0.15m, but is not very well defined but it is there. There is little difference between the soil here and 1213 or 1211, so is probably just silting (loose humic sandy silt.) Could possibly be an eaves drip gully, it cuts 1211, the later butting up against the wall.	3	No dating evidence
1243			1245, 1249=1231=1244=1250	A pit with width 0.74m and depth 0.35m, with sharp concave sides and a flat base. It very near to the sub oval pit 1184. It contains two fills of very loose dark brown silt, which both contained a large percentage of charcoal including some chunks up to 50mm square. The upper fill contained some large stones. Finds of pottery and ironwork, suggestions made for a stoking pit.	3	x, 150+ =c1-2+
1246		1291	1247	Possible post hole inside line of wall cut 1210. Roughly rectangular with length 0.2m, width 0.3m, and a flat bottom. The fill is firm and silty, the fill is like 1217, but is slightly more silty and less stony. It could be a post hole but there is no post pipe or packing; the fill is homogenous, could be a deliberate removal of the post.	2	No dating evidence

Area 3 Cuts	cut is same as no	cuts fills of:	Fills	Description direction: dimension: shape general fills.	Phase	Date
1257		1305	layer.	A layer of disturbed soil associated with features 1184,1243, 1193,1207 and 1305. It is approximately 3m square, and 0.10-0.15m deep. It is a fairly compact yellow-brown silt clay. Natural disturbed by tree roots? Could be some form of demolition area.	5	No dating evidence
1260			1265,1264	A sub rectangular pit, length 1.2m, width 0.76m and depth 0.5m. It has vertical sides and a flat base cut into compact red clay version of the natural. The pit contains two fills, dark grey-brown silt clay with a large percentage of stone rubble in the upper fill. Both fills contained Roman pottery and charcoal, and the lower one contained lead and iron finds. Some relationship likely with 1193 and 1243.	4	180+,x.
1266	1237, 1270, 1186			see 1186	6	
1269			layer	Layer outside to west of building 1119, pre construction plough soil. Overlain by 1211	1	
1270	1237, 1266, 1186			see 1186	6	
1273			layer, below 1217	Layer of firm dark red-brown humic sandy clay . 4mlong, 1m wide and 0.2m deep. It is below and to the east of wall cut 1210, and below layer 1217. Similar soil is found in the area bounded by 1119. Suggestions of an early plough soil. Predates stone building.	1	No dating evidence. Predates stone building.
1274			1279,1278,1275	A broad, shallow pond. It is at the westernmost end of the site. Length 19.4m, depth 1.10m. The pond contains three fills, the upper one is 0.5m thick, soft and crumbly silty sand: silting and Post-Medieval rubbish disposal, the central fill is compact clay, probable pond lining. The base of the pond is filed with black compact clay and stones :drainage or thrown in.	6	Modern
1276			1277	Small roughly circular pit, diameter 0.6m, depth 0.12m. Profile has an	-	No dating evidence.

Area 3 Cuts	cut is same as no	cuts fills of:	Fills	Description direction: dimension: shape general fills.	Phase	Date
				undulating bottom and gently sloping sides. Fill is moderately firm silt clay. Probably bioturbation as opposed to a post hole.		
1280			1293	Sub rectangular depression. Length 1m, width 0.8m and depth 0.10m, it has gently sloping sides and a flat bottom (0.75m by 0.25m). There is a single fill of firm grey clay silt. Inclusions include charcoal remains, samian, an amphora handle and corroded iron. Unknown use.	3	c2+ c1-3
1281		where?	1283,1282.	Hole with diameter 0.3m and depth 0.15m. Two predominant edges formed by two stones, spaces between filled with topsoil and washed in silt. Natural feature as opposed to a post hole.	-	No dating evidence.
1284		layer 1237	1285	Post hole 0.2m wide, 0.32m deep but length truncated by edge of excavation area. It lies within the area bounded by wall cut 1210, it cuts layer 1273 and the natural. There is a single silt clay fill, which is red brown near the surface and turns greyer towards the base.(on the S side). Possibly post rotted in situ because cut through 1273 is defined.	2	No dating evidence.
1286			1287	Roughly circular pit lying near to 1276 and 1207. Diameter 0.7m and depth 0.10-0.12m. Profile showed nearly vertical concave sides and a mostly flat base. The fill is a fairly loose clay silt, with some stones. Inclusions were two small pieces of charcoal and a tiny piece of daub.	-	No dating evidence.
1289		layer 1237	1290	Circular flat bottomed post hole truncated (and lies under) wall cut 1119, cuts layer 1273. Length 0.15m, width 0.11m and depth 0.06m. Single fill of firm red-brown silty clay, probable silting.	2	No dating evidence. Predates stone building.
1291			1292	Roughly linear irregular depression running NE-SW. Building 1209 (cut is 1210) subsides into the fill. Length 2m, width 0.3m depth 0.1m. Fill is firm, mottled brown-grey sandy clay with stone tumble. It could be a hedge line truncated by building 1209. This does not really work with the dating. 1209 is c1-2 and this is 2+. Tumble of building fell into the depression.	2	c2+ Had-Ant
1296			1297	Rectangular pit, lying at edge of spread 1257. Length 0.35m, width 0.2m and depth 0.2m. Single homogenous fill, with a large amount of stones,	3	c2+

Area 3 Cuts	cut is same as no	cuts fills of:	Fills	Description direction: dimension: shape general fills.	Phase	Date
				random dumping or deliberate back filling.		
1303			1302	Sub oval pit aligned E-W. Length 0.85m, width 0.66m and depth 0.33m, it has steep sides and a rounded bottom. There is a circular depression in the base of the pit (0.18m diameter, 0.16m deep). The pit is cut on its western side by 1305. The pit has a single fill of brown silty sand and small stones. The fill has been disturbed by biotubation. The hole at the base could be from a post, but there are no packing stones.	3	SAM,BB1c2+Had+
1305			1304	Sub circular pit situated next to and probably cutting 1303. Length 0.64m, width 0.5m and depth 0.28m. It has steeply sloping sides and a rounded bottom. There is a single fill of loose dark brown sandy silt, and some pebbles.	3?	No dating evidence
1307			1306	Small circular post hole. It is within the disturbed area 1257, near to 1184. Steep, near vertical sides and a flat base. Diameter 0.4m and depth 0.24m. It contains a single fill, of friable sandy silt with pebble inclusions.	-	No dating evidence
1309			1308	Small sub-rectangular post hole with near vertical sides and a flat bottom. Length 0.33m, width 0.26m and depth 0.24m. It is sited near to 1303 and 1193. At the eastern side of the post hole is a circular depression which could be the impression of a post. The post hole has a single fill, of firm slightly plastic clayey sandy silt with pebble inclusions and stones. The stones in the fill could have been packing stones, they are up to 0.1m in length.	-	No dating evidence
1310			layer	Layer of very hard, compact light brown gritty-sandy-clay. Lies below 1217. Roman plough soil.	1	
1311		1237		Circular post hole diameter 0.35, depth 0.2m. It lies adjacent to 1289. It cuts 1273 and is cut by 1119 (the wall cut). It has a single fill of firm dark grey-brown sandy clay, probable silting.	2	No dating evidence Predates stone building
1313			1314	Circular post hole. Diameter .0.3m and depth 0.25m. It is cut by 1210, it lies by the western edge of the wall. It profile shows steep sides and a flat	2	No dating evidence Predates stone building

Area 3 Cuts	cut is same as no	cuts fills of:	Fills	Description direction: dimension: shape general fills.	Phase	Date
				base. It has a single fill of loose clayey silt and occasional pebbles. There were also a number of stones in the fill including a large stone in the centre of the hole.		
1315			1316	Circular post hole. Diameter 0.35m and depth 0.2m. This lies by the wall cut 1210 and was hidden by layer 1273. It has a single gritty silt fill, which is identical to the layer 1273. Their fill is silting.	2	No dating evidence
1317			1318	Linear gully following the outer edge of 1119 and is cut by 1119; it terminates in post hole 1311. The fill of the gully is indistinguishable from 1273: humic sandy clay. The fill is silting.	2	No dating evidence. Predated stone building.

11. APPENDIX 2: ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

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Project 1369, Report 537

11.1 Summary

An assessment of environmental remains has been carried out on behalf of Gifford and Partners as part of an excavation in advance of the construction of a car park and leisure development. Three samples of Romano-British date were studied from wells. Small quantities of environmental remains were recovered, including for example, occasional charred cereal crop remains, from which spelt wheat could be identified, fragmented animal bone and charcoal. However, the site lies in an area for which little is known about the rural settlement pattern and agricultural economy during the Romano-British period. Despite the sparsity of remains from the samples assessed, it is considered important to briefly examine further deposits in order to recover charred cereal remains

11.2 Introduction and archaeological background

The following information has been taken from Wait (1996). The site at Plas Coch, Wrexham (NGR SJ 326 515) is characterised as a Roman farmstead, and is known from previous excavations in 1994 and 1995 by Clwyd Archaeological Trust and Wrexham District Council. Further excavation has been undertaken by Gifford and Partners Ltd in 1996 on behalf of Audley Developments Ltd.

The excavations revealed the small surviving portions of a two-phased two-roomed Roman building set in an enclosure, possibly beside a trackway. Portions of several other enclosures were also visible, with two wells, and one (and a probable second) corn-drying oven. One area with a dense concentration of postholes and a hearth was examined in detail but no clear building structure could be discerned. It is also clear that the stone farm building was preceded by a post-built structure, but again, too little of the structure survived for its form to be clear. These three building phases are paralleled by numerous re-cut ditches. Assessment of ceramic finds suggest a provisional date range from the early 2nd century into the 4th century AD.

A total of twelve environmental samples were taken during excavation, from which three were selected by Gifford and Partners for assessment. The latter include contexts 1017 and 1018 from a well (7), and context 1288 from a second well (1201). These samples were selected as environmental remains are often well preserved in features of this type.

11.3 Aims

The aims of the assessment were to determine the state of preservation of environmental remains within selected deposits, the basic categories of remains present and their significance. The purpose of this was to establish their potential for further analysis, and in particular, the potential to provide information on the nature and changes of agricultural production, which may reveal whether the settlement was concerned mainly with subsistence agriculture, commercial production, or was a specialist producer (Gifford and Partners 1996).

11.4 Methods

11.4.1 Processing and analysis

The samples were processed by flotation followed by wet-sieving using a Siraf tank. The flot was collected on a 500μm sieve and the residue retained on a 1mm mesh. This allows for the recovery of items such as small animal bones, molluscs and seeds.

The residues were fully sorted by eye and the abundance of each category of environmental remains estimated. The flots were scanned using a low-power EMT light microscope and remains identified using modern reference specimens housed at the County Archaeological Service.

11.4.2 Analysis

A limited quantity of environmental remains was recovered from the three samples selected for assessment. Although all three samples contained a relatively high clay content, and appeared to have been waterlogged at sometime in the past, there was little evidence for survival of organic material.

Contexts 1017 and 1018, well 7
A small quantity of charred plant remains were recovered from context 1017. Grains of an unidentifiable cereal, and possible brome grass (*Bromus* sp) were found in association with cereal chaff fragments including a glume base of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) and a grass or cereal culm node. These remains are likely to have been burnt during crop processing or as a result of their use as fuel for fires, and are commonly a component of mixed domestic debris. Small fragments tentatively identified as bark were also present.

With the exception of a small unidentifiable fragment of animal bone, the environmental remains from context 1018 consisted of fragmented charcoal and moderately abundant charred root or stem fragments. These remains suggest that fuel consisting of plant debris (rather than wood or charcoal which is generally the predominant component of fuel) had been used on fires.

Context 1288, well 1201
Only one fragment of oak (*Quercus* sp) charcoal was recovered from this sample.

11.5 Discussion

The assessment has demonstrated poor preservation of environmental remains from the samples selected. These were relatively clayey, and in context 1288, dark mottling may indicate the presence of humic material resulting from decayed organic debris. Organic remains are likely to have decayed if the deposits were not permanently waterlogged. The three samples assessed (on account of the low level of remains recovered), do not merit further analysis.

One of the aims of the post-excavation work was to determine the nature of agricultural production since this may reveal whether the settlement was concerned mainly with subsistence agriculture or commercial production. In order to address such a question it is necessary to recover and record charred cereal crop remains. Although few charred cereal remains have been recovered from the samples selected, it may be possible to recover such remains from the remaining nine samples. These were taken from a variety of feature types (for example, pits, ditches, and postholes) in which charred cereal crop waste is frequently deposited. Samples were not available from the corndriers which had been excavated as part of a previous project (Gerry Wait pers comm).

In the light of the lack of information on the Romano-British settlement of this area, it would be useful to examine these samples in order to determine the level and pattern of crop waste disposal on settlement sites of this type in the locality. However, should preservation of environmental remains be poor over the entire site, it will not be possible to answer the question of whether the site was operating at a subsistence level of agriculture or involved in commercial production at this stage. Comparison of data from a number of sites acquired over time would be necessary to establish the pattern of crop waste deposition in relation to settlement type and the extent to which the local soils have affected the survival of environmental remains.

The local soils of the Wick 1 Association (Ragg *et al* 1984) can be expected to support fairly intensive arable cultivation, an activity which would have produced large quantities of crop processing debris. In the County of Hereford and Worcester, the pattern of deposition of charred crop remains on unenclosed Romano-British farmstead sites tends to be a thin scattering of debris over the site, with occasional concentrations of fine-sieving residues from the processing of cereal crops. Sites showing this pattern are located at Norton-Juxta-Kempsey (Jackson *et al* 1995), Strensham (Jackson *et al* 1996a, and Norton and Lenchwick (Jackson *et al* 1996b). The site at Plas Coch may well show similar results if arable farming was a significant part of the economy.

11.6 Statement of potential and recommendations

The assessment has shown a low level of environmental remains in the three samples from the well deposits. However, one of the aims of the excavation is to provide information on the nature of the agricultural economy of the site, of which little is known generally for this area during the Romano-British period. The collection of samples from a variety of feature types provides the potential to recover charred cereal remains which will contribute towards discussion of this issue. As the aim at this stage is to establish the pattern of disposal of cereal crop waste, it is felt that a basic level of recording is most appropriate for these samples.

It is therefore recommended that samples from pit, ditch and posthole features are processed and the resulting residues and flots subjected to a rapid scanning exercise. Relative abundance of the major components of a charred cereal crop assemblage (that is, grain, chaff and weed seed) and species can be recorded.

11.7 The archive

The archive consists of: 3 Sample records AS17, 1 Box of environmental remains/flots, and 1 Computer disc.

11.8 Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Dr Gerry Wait of Gifford and Partners for his kind assistance in the successful conclusion of this project, and to Simon Woodiwiss for editing this report.

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Table 1 **List of environmental samples**

Context no	Sample no	Type	Period	Sample Size (l)	Vol. processed
1017	3003	well	Roman	15	15
1018	3006	well	Roman	15	15
1288	3010	well	Roman	15	15

Table 2 **Summary of results from selected samples**

Context no	Sample no	Type	Large mammal bone	charred plant	waterl. plants	comments
1017	3003	well		occ	occ	
1018	3006	well	occ	abt	occ	charred root/twig
1288	3010	well		occ		

key:
occ = occasional; abt = abundant

12. APPENDIX 3: ROMAN POTTERY FROM PLAS COCH WREXHAM

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with contributions from A Silver, B Dickinson and R Reece

1.1 Introduction

Some 3,596 sherds of Roman pottery (wt 51.782kg) were recovered from the site. These have all been recorded by count, weight, minimum numbers of rims, rim equivalent (RE) and estimated vessel equivalent (EVE). The soil on the site would appear to be acid and most of the material is quite heavily eroded and rather friable. Tables of fabric proportions by phase are given in Appendix 1 and the occurrence of forms by phase (by minimum numbers of rims per context) is given in Appendix 2. The report is arrange by ware class and each fabric type is discussed within these classes. Fabrics are arrange hierarchically within each ware class in units of ten number blocks following the Warwickshire Museum fabric series structure devised by Paul Booth, with each number block generally defined by the major temper type, eg O11-O14 are Severn Valley wares and O21-O24 sandy oxidised wares, whilst O31-O32 are heavily grog tempered fabrics.

1.2 Fabric Descriptions

Class A, amphorae

A11 Dressel 20 amphora. Buff-orange fabric with common sand temper c0.3-0.5mm and occasional silver and gold mica. Source Guadalquivir valley in southern Spain.

A21 A buff amphora fabric with some sand temper c0.3-0.5mm and common gold mica c0.3-1mm. A variant of the Pelichét 47, South Gaulish fabric.

A31 South Gaulish amphorae (Pelichét 47 etc). A buff amphora fabric with some fine sand <0.1mm and occasional white limestone sand inclusions and occasional fine silver mica.

Class B, Black Burnished wares

B11 Dorset BB1, see Williams (1977).

Class C, calcareously tempered wares

C11 Southern Shell-tempered ware. A wheelmade reduced shell-tempered ware probably made from a shell-bearing clay, with abundant shell c1-10mm. Source probably Harrold, Bedfordshire or another nearby site.

Class F, colour-coated and mica-dusted wares

F11 Nene Valley colour-coated ware with an oxidised fabric. (CPAT fabric RF26)

F12 Nene Valley colour-coated ware with a parchment ware fabric. (CPAT fabric RF11)

F13 Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (Young 1974).

F14 'Rhenish' ware, with a pale grey core, pale orange margins and black glossy colour-coat. Source, probably Trier. (CPAT fabric RF22)

F20 mica-dusted wares

F21 An oxidised mica-dusted ware with some-common moderate-coarse sand temper c0.3-0.4mm with fine gold mica dusting. The fabric appears similar to O24. Probably Holt.

F31 Wilderspool painted ware. A 'clean' oxidised 'soapy' textured fabric with occasional moderate sand temper c0.3mm. Interior red slipped, exterior decorated with oblique slipped lines. Source Wilderspool (Hartley 1981), cAD 110-60.

F41 An oxidised fabric with a thin grey core and orange margins with a dark brown-black matt colour-coat, some moderate sand temper c0.3mm. Probably from Wilderspool, (W. Owen pers. comm.). (CPAT fabric RF24)

Class M, mortaria

M01 A white slipped oxidised mortarium fabric with a pale grey core, orange margins and white-slipped surfaces. The fabric has some moderate sand temper c0.3mm and occasional larger quartz c1mm. No visible trituration grits. Probably from Holt.

M11 A very hard oxidised mortarium fabric with blue-grey core and orange margins and surfaces (possibly overfired) with occasional sand temper c0.2-0.3mm. Angular white non-calcareous trituration grits (which break under thumbnail pressure) c2-8mm. Probably from the same source as M12 but lacking its coarse sand. Source, Holt. (Chester fabric FA532)

M12 An oxidised mortarium fabric with an orange core, margins and surfaces with common sand temper c0.4mm and common rounded brown stone inclusions c0.5-2mm. Angular white trituration grits as in M11 cc2-6mm. Probably from the same source as M11, ie Holt. (Probably Chester fabric FA139)

M13 An oxidised mortarium fabric (type sherd burnt grey) with common sand temper c0.4mm and occasional quartz c1mm. Fabric similar to M01 nut no evidence of slipping. No visible trituration grits. Possibly similar to M12. Probably from Holt.

M21 Mancetter-Hartshill mortaria. A white pipeclay fabric with black and red angular grog trituration grits c1-6mm.

Class O, oxidised wares

O10 'clean' fabrics

O11 A soft oxidised Severn Valley ware with some organic temper voids c0.5-2mm and occasional rounded, white, non-calcareous inclusions c0.5-2mm. The fabric falls within the, admittedly fairly wide, range of Malvernian Severn Valley wares, and such a source may be possibly for at least some pieces in this group. (CPAT fabrics RR8, RR28, RR34)

O12 A soft, oxidised Severn Valley ware with a 'soapy' texture and no visible temper. Both here and in the CPAT collection several pieces are burnt and slightly wastered. A very local source seems likely. (CPAT fabrics RR40, RR16?) **ADD tile //s**
(Chester fabric FA 516)

O13 An oxidised Severn Valley ware with common fine sand temper <0.1mm, surfaces appear finely

micaceous. (CPAT fabric RR13)

O14 An oxidised Severn Valley ware with abundant oraganic temper voids c0.5-2mm.

O20 Sandy fabrics

O21 An orange oxidised ware with common moderate sand temper c0.3mm and occasional brown rounded stone inclusions (as in M12) c1-3mm. Probably from the same source as O22, O24, M11, M12 and Q11, ie Holt. (CPAT fabrics RR10, RR4) (Chester fabric FA152, Holt)

O22 An orange oxidised fabric with abundant sand temper c0.4-0.5mm, occasional quartz c2mm, and abundant rounded brown stone inclusions c1-2mm (as in O21, O24 and M12). Fabric probably from the same source as O21, O24, M11, M12 and Q11, ie Holt. (CPAT fabric RR6) (No match in the Chester fabric series.)

O23 An orange oxidised fabric with common moderate sand temper c0.3mm. The flagon forms this fabric shares with O21 might suggest Holt as a source again, but the typical brown stone inclusions seem to be absent. Fabric appears identical to Chester fabric FA151, ?Wilderspool.

O24 An orange oxidised fabric with some moderate-coarse sand temper c0.3-0.4mm, occasional rounded white, non-calcareous, inclusions c0.5-1mm, and very occasional brown rounded stone inclusions c1-2mm (as in O21, O22 and M12). Probably from the same source as O21, O22, M11, M12 and Q11. Cheshire Plain ware, (W. Owen pers. comm.) some of this group may also originate at Holt. This group does not match the Chester examples of Wilderspool material. (CPAT fabric RR4)

O30 grogged fabrics

O31 Pink grogged ware (Booth and Green 1989). A soft, 'soapy' fabric with a grey core and oxidised buff-orange margins and surfaces with abundant angular grog temper c1-3mm. Source the Milton Keynes area.

O32 A Severn Valley ware, usually with a grey core and orange margins and surfaces with common angular grog temper c0.5-2mm and common organic temper c0.5-2mm.

Class P, handmade fabrics

P01 A handmade oxidised fabric with a dark grey core and orange brown margins and surfaces with some large white stone inclusions (non-calcareous, breaking under pressure from thumbnail) c3-4mm and some brown ?grog inclusions c0.5-1mm. Possibly Bronze Age.

Class Q, white slipped flagon fabrics

Q11 A white slipped oxidised fabric with common moderate sand temper c0.3mm and occasional rounded brown stone inclusions. Fabric basically as O21 and likely to be from the same source, ie Holt.

Q21 A white slipped oxidised fabric with little visible sand temper, very occasional sand c0.2mm.

Class R, greywares

R11 A greyware with a mid grey core, margins and surfaces, with some-common moderate sand temper c0.3mm. (CPAT fabrics RG40, RG25)

R12 A greyware, often with a grey core, oxidised margins and mid-dark grey to black surfaces with common-abundant moderate sand temper c0.3mm. (CPAT fabrics RG5, RG34, RG42)

R13 A greyware with mid grey core, margins and surfaces, with little visible temper, some fine sand c0.2mm. (The type sherd has a large rounded stone inclusion of granite-like appearance.)

R21 A greyware with some rounded ironstone inclusions c0.5-2mm and common organic temper voids c0.5-1mm. (CPAT fabric RG30)

R31 A reduced ware with a black core, margins and surfaces with abundant fine silver mica and abundant fine sand <0.1mm.

R32 A reduced ware with grey core and black margins and surfaces with common sand temper c0.2-0.3mm and common, fine silver mica.

Class S, samian ware

S20 South Gaulish samian ware

S30 Central Gaulish samian ware

S32 Les Martres-de-Veyre Central Gaulish samian ware

S41 Rheinzabern East Gaulish samian ware.

Class W, whitewares

W01 A buff-white flagon fabric with occasional moderate sand c0.3mm and occasional fine silver and gold mica.

W02 A buff fabric, probably a flagon fabric, with occasional-some moderate sand c0.3mm.

1.3 Dating evidence

Phase 1

There is but a single sherd from this phase of fabric P01 from context 1056. This is probably prehistoric and may be Bronze Age (Owen pers. comm.).

Phase 2

There is a very small group of material from this phase, five sherds. The only closely datable item is a sherd of Central Gaulish samian from context 1292 of Hadrianic-Antonine date. This gives a Hadrianic or later date to the principal posthole structure in area 3 The overall site evidence from the samian list

suggests there may have been a little later 1st century activity on the site although most of this comes from features excavated by CPAT in area 1, rather than from these excavations.

Phase 3

The most significant dating evidence from phase 3 comes from the fills of ditches 1163 and 116+153. Ditch 1163 includes a Central Gaulish samian Dr31 of Antonine data from 1244 and a BB1 acute lattice decorated bodysherd and an M12 mortarium rim of Hadrianic-Antonine and earlier 2nd century dates from 1168. Ditch fill 116=153 includes a BB1 dish with intersecting arc decoration of later 2nd century date from 1098 and a Central Gaulish Dr37 rim of Casurius II, dated AD 160-90 from 1985. Other material includes a BB1 sherd of Hadrianic or later date from 1236, and a 1st to 3rd century Dressel 20 sherd from the fill of wall 1210, both features sealing the phase 2 posthole building. Ditch 16 includes amongst its primary fill 1033 an early to mid 2nd century mortarium rim (M21.1).

Phase 4

The key groups from phase 4 are material associated with the second wall 1119, which seals the first wall, 1210 of phase 3, the upper ditch fills of phase 3 ditch 16 and the subsequent ditches 1106 and 1107, and the fills of ditch 106, which cuts ditch 116=153 of phase 3. Material associated with wall 1119 includes a Rheinzabern Dr 31 of mid-late Antonine date from 1213. The upper fills of ditch 16 include a 3rd century BB copy jar from 1159 (R12.1) and a mid-late Antonine Dr33 rim from 1021, whilst fill 1150 of ditch 1107 contains nine BB1 jars (B11.3) of early 3rd century date and two (B11.5) of mid to late 3rd century date, and fill 1104 of ditch 1106 includes a Nene Valley indented scale beaker of early 3rd century date (F12.1) and an incipient beaded and flanged BB1 bowl (B11.9) of early to mid 3rd century date. Ditch 106 includes several BB1 obtuse lattice decorated sherds and two BB1 jars (B11.3) of early 3rd century date from context 1091.

Phase 5

There are few features in phase 5 but they tend to contain much larger pottery assemblages than most in earlier phases. Pit 1193 contains a later 3rd to early 4th century Southern Shell-tempered ware jar (C11.1) in fill 1197. Upper well fill 1202 contains a later 3rd to mid 4th century BB1 jar (B11.6). Upper ditch fills 1030 and 1051 contained a later 3rd to 4th century developed beaded and flanged bowl (B11.11) and later 3rd to 4th century BB1 jars (B11.6). Upper well fill 1057 contains a developed beaded and flanged bowel of later 3rd to mid 4th century date. A later 3rd to mid 4th century range would be consistent with this phase. Minimally pottery deposition on the site could end by the end of the 3rd century, although the ceramic evidence only indicates a lack of material datable to the later 4th century. It should be noted, however, that many rural sites in Shropshire, and rural sites and small towns in the Wroxeter hinterland seem to show evidence of a lack of later 4th century occupation, a pattern also true of north Welsh rural sites, and the absence of pottery evidence may relate to difficulties of supply (or demand) rather than a lack of occupation (cf Going 1992).

1.4 Fabric supply

Class A, amphorae, 5.2%

Amphora sherds are surprisingly common in the Plas Coch assemblage amounting to 5.2% of the assemblage by count or 24.1% by weight, although no rimsherds are present. As usual the assemblage is dominated by Baetican Dressel 20s (A11), but South Gaulish material (A31) is also present (including

an unusual fabric variant, A21). The quantity of amphorae declines with time on the site, as might be expected given the 1st to 3rd century range for Dressel 20s, with 12.2% by count (42.5% by weight) in phase 3 (mid 2nd century), 6.9% (30.3% by weight) from phase 4 (late 2nd to mid 3rd centuries) and 2.4 (6.4% by weight) from phase 5 (later 3rd to 4th centuries).

On rural sites Dressel 20 is usually the only fabric represented, and amphorae are usually only present at levels well below 1% of the assemblage, for example the rural and later villa site at Salford Priors, Warks, produced 0.5% of amphorae (all Dressel 20). The quantity of amphora at Plas Coch, therefore, suggests it is something other than a rural site, perhaps a small town, the quantity of amphora seems too small for a military site, and the archaeology is hardly compatible with this.

1.5 Catalogue

Fabric A11

A11.1 Context 1293. A Dressel 20 handle.

Class B, Black Burnished ware, 19.3%

BB1 is also comparatively common at Plas Coch, comprising 19.3% of the assemblage by count and 18.2% by weight. Further south in the Severn Valley region BB1 becomes commoner in the 3rd century, and in northern England its supply seems to reach a peak in the later 3rd century, so the chronological range of this site will tend to heighten the levels recorded compared with a site in continuous occupation throughout the Roman period. This can be seen in the proportion of BB1 by phase with 7.1% (5.3% by weight) in phase 3, 20.3% (19.9% by wt) in phase 4 and 24.0% (21.2% by wt) in phase 5. The chronological weight of the collection being on the later Roman period is also shown by the frequency of occurrence of lattice types on BB1 jars, with only one Hadrianic-Antonine acute lattice decorated sherd to 28 3rd to 4th century obtuse lattice decorated sherds.

The levels of BB1 at Plas Coch fall into the chronological regional pattern described above. The regional distribution of BB1 has recently been discussed by Allen and Fulford (1996) although the value of this study is hampered by its achronological approach and its use of some very poor quality data. Fulford and Allen (1996, 245) suggest an outlier of BB1 distribution to the west of Wroxeter at levels of over 20%, and the Plas Coch data are consistent with this, although this depends strongly on the date of the groups. In the vicinity of the small town of Alcester in Warwickshire, and elsewhere, the quantity of BB1 is notably larger on urban than rural sites. For example 3rd century urban groups at Alcester (Evans 1996b) produce BB1 level of 20-40% whereas local rural sites at Salford Priors (Evans forthcoming a) produced 3.5%, Bidford Grange 10% (Evans forthcoming b), and Abbots Salford 7.1% (Evans unpublished). In the Wroxeter outlier the sites at Meole Brace and Wall are urban or militar whilst the Breiddin hillfort is anomalous, leaving only Duncote Farm as a rural site (the level of BB1 here is not noticeably lower than on the urban and military sites, but it is very close to Wroxeter). The evidence is, therefore, unclear, but the level of BB1 at Plas Coch is certainly consistent with it being a site of urban character.

Table 001 shows a functional analysis of the BB1 from the site.

Table 001 Functional analysis of BB1 vessels

Jars	Bowls	Dishes	Beakers
59.5%	11.5%	27.5%	1.5%

n = 131

Jars dominate the BB1 assemblage, as is often the case. This author (Evans forthcoming c) has suggested that dishes and bowls generally only outnumber jars in BB1 on sites with a high BB1 supply where demand is saturated. This seems to be borne out at Plas Coch where BB1 supply clearly did not meet demand (see Rivets below) as demonstrated by the disproportionate riveting of vessels in this fabric.

B11.1 Jar with everted, fairly vertical rim, some with wavy line decoration, cf Gillam 1976, nos 1-6, Hadrianic-Antonine.

B11.2 Jar with short, everted, fairly vertical rim, cf Gillam 1976, no 21, probably Hadrianic-Antonine.

B11.3 Jar with everted rim and obtuse lattice decoration, cf Gillam 1976, no 7, early 3rd century.

B11.4 Cavetto rimmed jar with obtuse lattice decoration, cf Gillam 1976, no 8, perhaps mid 3rd century.

B11.5 Jar with everted rim and obtuse lattice decoration, cf Gillam 1976, no 9, mid-late 3rd century.

B11.6 Jar with everted rim which exceeds the vessel's maximum girth, cf Gillam 1976, nos 10-12, later 3rd to 4th century.

B11.7 Beaker, possibly handled, cf Gillam 1976, nos 19 and 24-29, Hadrianic-Antonine.

B11.8 Flange rimmed bowl, cf Gillam 1976, nos 37-41, Hadrianic to early 3rd century (Evans 1996, 72).

B11.9 Incipient beaded and flanged bowl, cf Gillam 1976, nos 43-44, early-mid 3rd century.

B11.10 Developed beaded and flanged bowl, cf Gillam 1976, nos 45-9, later 3rd to 4th century.

B11.11 Developed beaded and flanged bowl with very broad flange, later 3rd to 4th century.

B11.12 Slightly grooved rimmed dish, perhaps cf Gillam 1976, no 70, perhaps 2nd century.

B11.13 Simple rimmed dish, cf Gillam 1976, nos 75-84, Hadrianic to 4th century. The drawn example is later 2nd to 4th century.

B11.14 Dish with slightly grooved rim, Hadrianic to 4th century.

B11.15 A bead rimmed dish.

B11.16 Context 1062, phase 3, A square counter c 16 x 16mm.

Class C, calcareously tempered wares, 0.1%

There are but two shell-tempered sherds from the site, both of which appear to be Southern Shell-tempered ware, probably from Harrold and very likely from Northamptonshire. This fabric becomes the dominant cooking ware in much of central England north of the Thames in the later 4th century and is used in quantity at Wroxeter and even Segontium. The one rimsherd from this site is of the earlier jar form and perhaps dates to the later 3rd or early 4th century when the fabric rarely travelled as far as this. Both sherds occur in phase 5 (later 3rd to 4th century) and amount to 0.1% of that group.

C11.1 Shouldered jar with beaded rim, not undercut, later 3rd to earlier 4th century.

Class F, colour-coated wares, 1.5%

A number of finewares occur in small quantity at Plas Coch amounting to 1.5% of the total assemblage. The largest group of finewares are Nene Valley sherds (fabrics F11 and F12) at 0.6%, followed by Trier?, Rhenish ware sherds (F14) at 0.5%, Holt, mica-dusted ware (F21) at 0.4%, various Wilderspool wares (F31 and F41) at 0.2%, and a scrap of Oxfordshire colour-coated ware (F13). The forms suggest that 2nd century finewares were mainly supplied by Holt and Wilderspool with Nene Valley and Rhenish material supplying most of the 3rd century material. Similarly only the Holt and Wilderspool fabrics are represented in the phase 3 (mid 2nd century) assemblage, with Nene Valley ware appearing in phase 4 (late 2nd to mid 3rd century), and Rhenish ware appearing in phase 5 (where it is probably residual).

Fabric F12

F12.1 An indented scale beaker, cf Howe et al (1980) no 36, early 3rd century.

Fabric F13

F13.1 An Oxfordshire Dr38 copy bowl flange fragment (not illustrated), Young (1974) type C51, AD240-400+.

Fabric F14

F14.1 Context 1030, phase 4, a ?Trier indented beaker body.

Fabric F21

F21.1 A Drag37 copy bowl, probably Trajanic-Antonine.
F21.2 A bead rimmed curving walled bowl.

Fabric F31

F31.1 A collared bowl probably copying Drag44, perhaps cAD 110-60, cf Hartley (1981) fig 29, no 10.

Class M, Mortaria, 1.1%

Mortaria are not strongly represented on the site, amounting to only 1.1% of the total assemblage.

Although the material has been divided into a number of visually distinct fabrics only two sources are represented, Holt (fabrics M01, M11, M12 and M13) and Mancetter-Hartshill (fabric M21). All of the Holt material would seem likely to date from the early to mid 2nd century with Mancetter taking over supply in the late 2nd century. Holt is the only mortarium fabric represented in phase 3 (mid 2nd century) with Mancetter material appearing from phase 4, although Holt material is commoner than Mancetter in phase 4 and just so in phase 5.

Fabric M01

M01.1 Flanged mortarium with flange rising above bead, perhaps later 1st or early 2nd century.

Fabric M11

M11.1 Flanged mortarium with flange rising above bead, perhaps later 1st or early 2nd century.

Fabric M12

M12.1 Flanged mortarium with flange rising above bead, perhaps later 1st or early 2nd century.

M12.2 Flanged mortarium with bead above flange, perhaps early to mid 2nd century.

M12.3 Flanged mortarium with bead above fairly broad flange, perhaps early to mid 2nd century.

Fabric M13

M13.1 Flanged mortarium with flange rising above bead, perhaps later 1st or early 2nd century.

Fabric M21

M21.1 Mortarium with fairly straight, oblique angled flange, cf Evans (forthcoming d) class M, probably last quarter of 2nd century.

M21.2 A reeded hammerhead mortarium, cAD 220-350.

Class O, oxidised wares, 56.3%

Oxidised wares provide a large proportion of the Plas Coch assemblage. The two principal groups amongst the oxidised wares are Severn Valley wares (fabrics O11-O14 and O32) and sandy oxidised wares, generically described by Webster (1979) as Cheshire Plain wares (fabrics O21-O24). A general trend is apparent in the occurrence of the two fabric groups (Table 002) with the Cheshire Plain wares dominant in the 2nd century being replaced by Severn Valley wares in the 3rd.

Table 002 The incidence of oxidised wares by phase (by sherd count)

Fabric	Severn Valley wares				Holt		Wilders-pool	Cheshire Plain	Severn Valley
	011	012	013	014	021	022	023	024	032
Phase 3 (mC2nd)	2.5%	3.5%	0.5%	1.5%	14.4%	0.3%	13.2%	4.1%	0.5%
Phase 4 (lC2-mC3)	9.1%	19.6%	3.5%	0.2%	15.5%	1.2%	1.8%	1.6%	0.2%
Phase 5 (lC3-mC4)	3.8%	19.5%	5.2%	0	24.2%	0	3.4%	3.8%	0

* - All other methods apart from count give values of below 12% for this fabric in this phase and the low average sherd weight of this fabric in the phase suggests that the count figure is reflecting a large number of small residual sherds.

Fabric O11, a Severn Valley ware with white, non-calcareous inclusions, seems principally to be of later 2nd to early 3rd century date, both by its occurrence (Table 002) and by the forms it occurs in (see form catalogue below). This fabric is visually similar to Warwickshire Museum fabric O27 which probably has a Malvernian source and the presence of a dish in Malvernian Metamorphic rock tempered ware from the CPAT site here certainly strengthens the possibility that this may be a Malvernian fabric. This is the only Severn Valley ware here where tankards are common, as they are amongst most Severn Valley ware fabrics in Warwickshire and the lower Severn Valley.

Fabric O12, a smooth, 'clean', 'soapy' Severn Valley ware is the principal Severn Valley ware on the site. Several examples here and on the CPAT excavations are partly reduced owing to misfiring and a few are slightly wastered. The fabric appears equivalent to one of the major Severn Valley wares found at Chester (Chester Museum fabric FA 516). The possibility must be entertained that the source of this fabric is either at Plas Coch or in its immediate vicinity. The functional analysis of this fabric (Table 003) highlights the very high proportion of constricted-necked jars in its repertoire. These are of distinctive form with bifid or trifid rims, often with slashed or impressed decoration. These forms are common in Chester and in the North-West (Webster 1991), but much rarer further south in the Severn Valley. That many of these forms in the North-West are from the same source must be a possibility, however, a kiln has recently been discovered producing these forms at Walton-le-Dale in a fabric better described as a Cheshire Plain ware. Fabric O12 is present on the site from around the mid 2nd century but it only becomes common in the later 2nd or early 3rd century, and appears to remain so until the mid 4th century.

Fabric O13 is similar to O12, but common very fine sand is barely visible and its surfaces appears finely micaceous. It appears on the site from the mid 2nd century, but again is commoner in the 3rd and earlier 4th centuries. Only a single form was recorded in the fabric, a bowl with later 3rd to 4th century parallels.

Fabric O14 is a heavily organically tempered Severn Valley ware. Unlike the other Severn Valley ware this fabric was commoner on the site in the 2nd century and is absent from phase 5. This is a susal pattern further south in the Severn Valley for heavily organically tempered fabrics. Only a single form was recorded in this fabric, a constricted-necked jar.

Table 003 Functional analysis of oxidised wares (by minimum numbers of rims per context)

Fabric	Wide-mouthed jars	Other jars	Constricted - necked jars	Flagons & jugs	Tankards	Beakers	Bowls	Dishes	Colander	N
O11	14.3%	0	28.6%	0	28.6%	0	14.3%	0	14.3%	7
O12	24.1%	3.5%	58.6%	0	0	3.5%	10.3%	0	0	29
O21	13.3%	20.0%	16.7%	13.3%	0	3.3%	13.3%	16.7%	3.3%	30
O23	12.5%	50.0%	12.5%	25.0%	0	0	0	0	0	8

Fabric O21, a sandy oxidised ware, is very likely a group of Holt products. It is a major supplier to the site in the mid 2nd century phase 3 and appears to continue to remain so into the later 3rd century. This contrasts rather with evidence from the kiln site which suggests predominantly later 1st and 2nd century production (Grimes 1930). The Holt site coin list, however, (Shotter 1979, 7) does not show serious weakness until period XIII, AD259-75. The Pompeian redware dish copy, JB1.1, would seem likely to date to the 1st century, and confirms some activity at this date despite the very small amount of South Gaulish samian (perhaps the focus of settlement at this time was elsewhere on the site). The jugs and flagons at Plas Coch are linked to Holt by O21.3 (as does the flagon handle in the CPAT group from context 28, drawing no 66) which shows an elaborate handle derived from metal prototypes, as many at Holt, but exact parallels are difficult to find. Table 003 shows the wide functional range found in this fabric, principally of tableware forms, and with quite a heavy emphasis on flagons, jugs and constricted-necked jars, all liquid containers. The forms which seem most aberrant in their attribution to this group are the bowls and wide-mouthed jars apparently copying Severn Valley ware types. There is no published evidence from the kiln site for production of these at Holt, but neither is there of products of this date from the site, although the coin list may suggest some continuing activity there, but the fabric of these sherds does seem to be well within the range of the O21 group.

Fabric O22 is another Holt fabric with common coarse tempering. This is a minor fabric and does seem limited to the 2nd to early 3rd centuries. Forms are limited to two jars and a bowl. The nature of the distribution of Holt products is not yet well known. As a 'legionary ware' a parallel could be sought with the Ebor wares used at York. There Ebor wares are not distributed in any quantity beyond the fortress and colonia, although occasional individual vessels may travel much further. If Holt wares were to be similarly distributed then their presence at Plas Coch might imply some official connections with the military supply network, however, until more is known of the distribution of Holt products this can but remain a speculation.

Fabric O23 is a common moderate sand tempered fabric with reasonably parallels to Wilderspool material. The fabric is common in the phase 3 mid 2nd century group, but of minor significance after that and it is probably residual form phase 4 onwards. This dating also reflects the date of the Wilderspool kilns and the forms have some good parallels so that at least a major part of this group seems likely to be from that source.

Fabric O24 is a minor fabric group which shows no clear chronological trends here. It falls into the range of Cheshire Plain wares, and some pieces may have Holt or Wilderspool origins. Forms comprise four jars and two wide-mouthed bowls/jars.

Fabric O31 is worth mentioning, although there is only a single unstratified sherd present, as it is Milton Keynes pink grogged ware and is on the edge of its distribution (Booth and Green 1989).

Fabric O11

O11.1 A constricted necked jar with an everted, undercut rim, cf Webster (1976), no 6, 2nd to 3rd century and Webster (1991), fig 3, nos 19-20, 2nd to 3rd century.

O11.2 A wide-mouthed jar with everted, rising rim, cf Webster (1976) no 21, mid-late 2nd century.

O11.3 A bead rimmed tankard with outsloping walls, cf Webster (1976) no 43, later 2nd to 3rd century.

O11.4 A bead rimmed tankard with splaying walls, cf Webster (1976) no 42, 2nd to 3rd century.

O11.5 A curving walled bowl with bead rim, cf Webster (1976) nos 34-5, 2nd to 4th century.

O11.6 A Dr 37 copy bowl, cf Webster (1976) no 61, later 1st to 2nd century.

O11.7 A colander with carinated wall and outcurving rim. No parallel in Webster (1976). This could possibly be a Holt vessel.

Fabric O12

O12.1 A narrow constricted-necked jar with pulley rim, cf Webster (1976) nos 10-11, 3rd to 4th century and Webster (1991) fig 3, nos 9-12, 3rd to 4th century.

O12.2 A medium-mouthed constricted necked jar with pulley rim, cf Webster (1976) nos 10-11, 3rd to 4th century and Webster (1991) fig 3, nos 9-12, 3rd to 4th century.

O12.3 A triple cordoned rimmed constricted-necked jar with frilled cordon, perhaps cf Webster (1976) no 13, 3rd to 4th century.

O12.4 A pulley rimmed constricted-necked jar with frilled cordon, cf Webster (1976) no 13, 3rd to 4th century and Webster (1991), fig 3, nos 13-14, 3rd to 4th century. The drawn example is misfired.

O12.5 A triple cordoned rimmed constricted-necked jar, cf Webster (1976) no 12, 2nd to 4th century. The drawn example is misfired and slightly wastered.

O12.6 A constricted-necked jar with everted rim, cf Webster (1976) no 4, 2nd to 4th century.

O12.7 A medium-mouthed jar with everted rising rim and cordoned shoulder, perhaps cf Webster (1976) no 19, 1st to early 2nd centruy.

O12.8 A medium-mouthed jar with beaded, slightly undercut rim.

O12.9 A medium-mouthed jar with everted outcurving rim, cf Webster (1976) no 17.

O12.10 A wide-mouthed jar with triangular-sectioned rim, cf Webster (1976) no 22, 2nd to 3rd century.

O12.11 A wide-mouthed jar with triangular-sectioned, undercut, rim, cf Webster (1976) nos 27-8, later 3rd to 4th century.

O12.12 A wide-mouthed jar with beaded rim, perhaps cf Webster (1976) no 22, 2nd to 3rd century.

O12.13 A waisted beaker with everted, outcurving rim.

O12.14 A Dr37 copy bowl, cf Webster (1976) no 61, later 1st to 2nd century.

O12.15 A reeded rimmed, curving walled bowl, perhaps cf Webster (1976) no 53, later 3rd to 4th

century.

Fabric O13

O13.1 A wide-mouthed bowl with horizontal, slightly undercut, rim, cf Webster (1976) nos 50-51, later 2nd to 3rd century.

Fabric O14

O14.1 A constricted-necked jar with outcurving rim, cf Webster (1976) no 1, 1st to 4th century and Webster (1991) fig 3, nos 2-3, 3rd century.

Fabric O21

O21.1 A flagon or jug rim with an everted, lid-seated rim.

O21.2 A flagon with a collared, cordoned rim.

O21.3 A lid-seated jug, or flagon, rim, cf Grimes (1930) no 121 for the unusually elaborate handle.

O21.4A constricted-necked jar with everted, slightly undercut, rim, apparently a Severn Valley ware type.

O21.5 A shouldered jar with a beaded rim, perhaps cf Grimes (1930) no 71.

O21.6 A shouldered jar with wedge-shaped, slightly undercut, rim.

O21.8 A jar with outcurving rim and cordoned shoulder.

O21.9 A wide-mouthed jar with triangular-sectioned, undercut rim, a Severn Valley ware type, cf Webster (1976) nos 23-5, 2nd to 3rd century. The drawn example from context 1017 has a black deposit on the interior, possibly the remains of a ?pitch treatment for waterproofing.

O21.10 A wide-mouthed jar(?) with outcurving rim, perhaps a Severn Valley ware type, perhaps cf Webster (1976) no 21, mid to late 2nd century.

O21.11 A necked globular beaker with beaded rim.

O21.12 A carinated bowl, perhaps a Dr29 copy.

O21.13 A curving walled bowl with stubby, everted rim, a Severn Valley ware type, cf Webster (1976), nos 34-5, 2nd to 4th century.

O21.14 A bead rimmed bowl with cordoned shoulder, probably a Dr37 copy, cf Grimes (1930) nos 153-4.

O21.15 A very wide-mouthed, lid-seated, bowl(?), no parallel for a vessel of this size but cf Grimes (1930) no 69 for a jar with this rim form.

O21.16 A simple rimmed dish.

O21.17 A curving walled dish, perhaps a copy of Pompeian redware dishes, cf Grimes (1930) nos 134-7.

O21.18 A handled colander with everted rim.

O21.19 Context 1167, phase 4, a circular counter, diam 32 x 28mm.

O21.20 Context 1167, phase 4, a circular counter fragment, diameter c 26mm.

Fabric O22

O22.1 A shouldered jar with a beaded rim.

O22.2 An everted, lid-seated, jar(?) rim.

O22.3 A flange rimmed bowl, probably a BB copy, perhaps Hadrianic to early 3rd century.

Fabric O23

O23.1 A jug or flagon rim with an everted, lid-seated, rim, cf Wilderspool (Hartley and Webster 1973) no 38.

O23.2 A trefoil mouthed jug with slight lid-seating.

O23.3 A medium-mouthed jar with an everted, slightly undercut, rim, cf Wilderspool (Hartley and Webster 1973) nos 9-10.

O23.4 A beaded globular jar, part of a triple vase, cf Wilderspool (Hartley and Webster 1973) no 70.

O23.5 A globular jar with a cornice rim, perhaps cf Wilderspool (Hartley and Webster 1973) nos 31 and 33.

O23.6 A storage jar (or wide-mouthed jar) with everted, horizontal rim, perhaps cf Wilderspool (Hartley and Webster (1973) no 46.

O23.7 Context 1205, phase 4, a flagon neck.

Fabric O24

O24.1 A handled lid-seated jug?

O24.2 A cornice rimmed globular jar, as form O23.5.

O24.3 A lid-seated necked jar with cordoned shoulder.

O24.4 A wide-mouthed bowl with lid-seating, perhaps cf Wilderspool, (Webster 1992) no 621.

Class P, Iron Age tradition fabrics, 0.03%

There is a single sherd of fabric P01 from phase 1. This may be a Bronze Age fabric (CPAT pers. comm.) and suggests some prehistoric activity here.

Class Q, white-slipped flagon fabrics, 1.2%

White-slipped flagon fabrics are not common on the site, comprising 1.2% of the total assemblage. As usual they are clearly early, providing 6.3% of phase 3, 0.8% of phase 4 and 0.2% of phase 5, and probably residual after phase 3. Fabric Q11 appears to be a white-slipped version of fabric O21 and is probably a Holt product. The source of fabric Q21 is unknown.

Fabric Q11

Q11.1 A ring-necked flagon rim fragment with prominently beaded rim.

Q11.2 An everted rimmed lid-seated constricted-necked jar or jug.

Q11.3 Context 1301, phase 3, a flagon neck.

Fabric Q21

Q21.1 A constricted-necked jar with wedge-shaped rim.

Q21.2 A curving walled bowl(?) with a collared, reeded rim.

Class R, reduced wares, 10.0%

Reduced wares do not make up a very great proportion of the assemblage here, although they are often the commonest Romano-British fabric class. Overall they are commonest in the mid 2nd century, when they made up 26.0% of the assemblage, declining to 10.6% in the late 2nd to mid 3rd century and 6.6% in the later 3rd to 4th century. Although this is the overall pattern for the reduced wares it is not the pattern for all of the individual fabrics. Fabrics R11, R13 and R21 are commonest in the 2nd century, but fabric R12 is commoner in the later 2nd to mid 3rd century. This is borne out by the forms the fabrics appear in with R12 being chiefly composed of 3rd century BB copy jars, whereas the other fabrics are in 1st to 2nd century forms.

Table 004 The incidence of reduced wares by phase (by sherd count)

Fabric	R11	R12	R13	R14	R21	R31	R32
Phase 3 (mC2nd)	11.1%	2.5%	0.5%	0	11.9%	0	0
Phase 4 (lC2-mC3)	2.1%	7.5%	0.5%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%
Phase 5 (lC3-mC4)	1.1%	5.5%	0	0	0	0	0

The functional composition of the commoner greyware fabrics is given in Table 005. Both R11 and R12 are chiefly used for jars, which may well have been cooking pots, with a small range of tablewares accompanying them.

Table 005 Functional analysis of reduced wares (by minimum numbers of rims per context)

Fabric	Wide-mouthed jars	Other jars	Constricted-necked jars	Flagons & jugs	Tankards	Beakers	Bowls	Dishes	Colander	n
R11	0	66.8%	0	0	0	16.7%	0	16.7%	0	6
R12	0	78.3%	0	0	0	4.4%	17.4%	0	0	23

Fabric R11

R11.1	A shouldered jar with lozenge-sectioned rim.
R11.2	A globular jar with everted, thickened rim.
R11.3	A globular jar with everted rim.
R11.4	A beaker(?) with everted rim.
R11.5	A bead rimmed dish.

Fabric R12

R12.1	A BB copy jar with everted rim, probably 3rd century.
R12.2	A BB copy jar with outcurving rim, probably 3rd century.
R12.3	A beaker, probably bag-shaped, with an everted horizontal rim.
R12.4	A globular jar with everted rim, form very similar to fabric R11.3.
R12.5	A flange rimmed bowl, probably a 2nd to early 3rd century BB copy.
R12.6	A Dr37 copy bowl.

Fabric R13

R13.1	A Dr29 copy bowl rim, the fabric is reminiscent of 'London ware'.
R13.2	A bead rimmed curving walled bowl, possibly a Dr37 copy.

Fabric R21

R21.1	A globular jar with everted, thickened rim, form as R11.2.
R21.2	A globular jar with a short, everted rim.

Class S, samian ware, 4.0%

1.6 The Plas Coch Samian Ware

by Brenda Dickinson

Discussion

The excavation produced 158 sherds of samian, representing a maximum of 110 vessels. The material ranges from the Flavian-Trajanic period to the late second century or the first half of the third. Table 006 shows the sources of the samian ware at Plas Coch.

Table 006 Sources of the samian ware at Plas Coch

South Gaul	0.9%
Central Gaul (Les Martres-de-Veyre)	2.7%
Central Gaul (Lezoux)	87.0%
East Gaul	10.0%

Table 007 shows the incidence of form by fabric for the site.

Table 007 The incidence of samian forms at Plas Coch

Form	SG	CG;MdV	CG;LZ	EG	TOTAL
18/31 or 31	-	-	7	-	7
18/31R	-	-	1	-	1
30 or 37	1	-	2	1	4
31	-	-	15	2	17
31 or 31R	-	-	1	1	2
31R	-	-	6	3	9
33	-	1	12	1	14
35	-	-	1	-	1
35 or 36	-	-	1	-	1
36	-	-	1	-	1
37	-	1	15	-	16
38	-	-	1	-	1
38 or 44	-	-	3	-	3
79	-	-	1	-	1
Curle 23	-	-	3	-	3
Dish	-	-	6	-	6
Rouletted dish	-	-	1	-	1
Dish or bowl	-	-	9	1	10
Bowl	-	-	1	-	1
indet	-	1	9	1	11
TOTAL	1	3	96	10	110

The scarcity of South Gaulish ware, here represented by a single vessel, contrasts sharply with the material from the excavations at Plas Coch by CPAT, in which 7% of the samian came from La Graufesenque.

The predominance of Lezoux ware indicates that the highest proportion of discarded samian is either Hadrianic or Antonine, but the single example of form 18/31R and the absence of Central Gaulish cups of form 27 highlight the predominance of the Antonine material. The Lezoux ware goes down to the later 2nd century, with forms such as 31R and 79, which were introduced cAD 160, and many of the other vessels are typologically mid- to late-Antonine. The proportion of East Gaulish ware, a respectable 10%, hints at the continued use of samian into the third century.

Only two East Gaulish factories are represented, Rheinzabern with nine examples and Trier with one.

The nature of the occupation reflected by this assemblage is not easy to assess. The absence of gritted mortaria in a collection of predominantly later second century material may be significant, though two bowls might have been used for grinding; certainly, culinary activity was taking place on a different part of the site, that covered by CPAT's excavations. However, a community of at least modest prosperity and a fair degree of Romanization may be assumed from the proportion of decorated ware, 18% (with an even higher 33% from CPAT's excavations). In addition, there is no great evidence of the riveting of vessels or the reuse of sherds as tools.

Catalogue of decorated ware

D1 Context 1176. Dr 37, Central Gaulish. A scroll bowl with a large vine leaf (Rogers H62), flanked by birds (O.2239B). The tendrils are bound by a long astralagus, here very blurred. The decoration is matched on a bowl from Carlisle with the ovolo of the Cerialis ii-Cinnamus ii group. The uncommon leaf is on bowl from Aldborough and Amiens, both with small mould-stamps of Cinnamus, which he used in the earlier part of his career. cAD 135-70

D2 Context 1104. Dr 37, Central Gaulish. A bowl in the style of Cinnamus ii, with his distinctive ring terminals and panels with: 1A) a single festoon with bird to left; 2B) athlete (D.403=O.). 2) Double medallion with lozenge (Rogers U33). The bird (O.2295A variant?) is on a bowl in Cinnamus' style from Haltonchesters, without the right wing. The other details are all common features of his bowls. cAD 150-80.

D3 Context 1167. Dr 37, Central Gaulish. A bowl in the style of Cinnamus ii, with his Ovolo 3 (Rogers B143) and a winding scroll with a medallion in a lower concavity, containing a sea-lion (D.38 = O.46). All the details are on stamped Cinnamus bowls from Alcester and Amiens. cAD 150-80. (Not illustrated.)

D4 Context 1085. Dr 37, Central Gaulish. Sixteen sherds from a bowl in the style of Casurius ii, with ovolo Rogers B208 and panels: 1) man with chlamys (D.344 = O.638) and a leaf (Rogers J40). 2) Figure (D.334 = O.633) on a pedestal. 3) Cogged festoon (Rogers F47). Another block of panels gives the other side of the festoon, with a hare to the left (D.950a = O.2116), over a sea-horse (D.33 = O.33), then the man with chlamys and an old slave on a pedestal (D.369 = O.599). Stamped bowls of Casurius have the hare, leaf and slave (S. & S. 1958, pl 133, 19, from Naples) and the man with the chlamys and the sea-horse (S. & S. 1958, 20, from York). The festoon is on a bowl in his style from Corbridge (S. & S. 1958, pl 134, 31). The figure in panel 2 is not known for Casurius, but was used by Docilis, who also used the ovolo. The figure or motif on a detached sherd is apparently also unknown for Casurius. cAD 160-90.

D5 Context 1062. Dr 30/37, Central Gaulish, in the style of Do(v)eccus i of Lezoux, with his ovolo (Rogers B161) and large beads (Rogers A3). cAD 165-200. (Not illustrated.)

D6 Context 1104. Dr 37, Central Gaulish. A freestyle bowl, with ovolo Rogers B114, wavy line (Rogers

A23), dog to right (D.919 = O.1940), stag to left (O.1822N?), panther to left (D.794 = O.1540) and plant (Rogers L22, partly impressed). Almost certainly by Butrio, who regularly used the ovolo and border. The dog is on a stamped bowl from Lancaster (S. & S. 1958, pl 57, 653). He is also known to have used the plant (on a bowl from unpublished excavations at Lezoux) and the panther. cAD 125-45. (Not illustrated.)

Potters' stamps

S1 Context 1072. Dr 31, Central Gaulish, stamped [MOXI]MA: **[to change A to an inverted V, ie a capital A without a cross-bar]**Moxius v of Lezoux, Die 1a. This stamp was used in the later second century, on plain bowls of form 31R and on the rims of decorated bowls, including ones in the styles of Do(v)eccus i and the Paternus v group. It has been noted from Chesters (S. & S. 1958, pl 152, 2) and South Shields. cAD 160-200. (Not illustrated.)

S2 Context 1110. Dr 33, Central Gaulish, stamped]MINI or]MINF. Antonine

Class W, White Wares, 0.5%

Whitewares are rare on the site, comprising only 0.5% of the total assemblage. They occur in phase 4 and phase 5 and seem commonest in the latter phase. No forms were identified in these fabrics.

1.7 Functional Analysis

Table 008 shows a functional analysis of material from Plas Coch by minimum numbers of rims (and Table 009 the same by RE, although the discussion will revolve around Table 008 as there are many more comparative data by this method). Table 010, for comparison, shows a functional analysis of a typical north Warwickshire rural site, Crewe Farm (Booth forthcoming). The overall level of jars at Plas Coch, 42.1% (constricted necked jars are regarded as more likely liquid containers along with flagons), is fairly low and that of dishes and bowls quite high at 34.6%. Drinking vessels are modestly represented, as noted above, there is a surprising lack of tankards, owing to their poor representation amongst the Severn Valley wares. Flagons are reasonably represented, and constricted-necked jars well so, resulting in an unusually high level of possible liquid storage and serving vessels. Tables 008 and 009 below show that this is a constant feature of the assemblage. These levels are much higher than those found in northern England (Evans 1993) and higher than those on most sites in the Midlands (Evans 1996b).

Although no amphora rims are present, amphora bodysherds are common on the site, in contrast to the usual situation on rural sites where, if present at all, they normally amount to only a few sherds. One of the most striking illustrations of the usual lack of amphorae on basic rural sites comes from Stanwick, Northants, where over 400 boxes of pottery from the village and later villa site resulted in but a single box of amphora sherds. The quantity of amphora sherds alone from this site would seem to rule out its being a basic rural site (as at Meole Brace, near Wroxeter (Evans, Jane 1994)), and there is little evidence that villas generally were well supplied with such, their only being common on urban and especially military sites. Fig 001 compares the jar and tableware ratio from Plas Coch with those from a series of sites in the West Midlands and the south-west. Here Plas Coch phases 3 and 4 falls well within the urban range well separated from villa and rural sites. Interestingly phase 5, by which time the military coin supply has ceased (see Reece below), falls between the rural and urban sites and suggests some change in the settlement to a more rural pattern. (The other urban sites which overlap with rural ones (ALC1-3 - the

Alchester suburbs in the 1st to 2nd century and SI.D, the Silchester defences in the 1st century) are all town-edge and early sites where rural style activity seems likely.)

Table 008 Functional analysis of the Plas Coch assemblage (by minimum numbers of rims)

Site & phase	Storage jars	Wide-mouthed jars	Other Jars	Constricted-necked jars	Flagons	Bowls	Dishes	Dish/ Bowl	Tankards	Beakers/ cups	Lids	Mortaria	Amph-orae	Other	n
All site	0.3%	4.3%	37.5%	9.5%	4.0%	18.1%	15.8%	0.7%	0.7%	5.6%	0	3.6%	0	0.7%	304
Area 1	0.4%	4.2%	40.7%	8.9%	3.4%	16.1%	16.1%	0	0.4%	6.4%	0	3.0%	0	0.4%	236
Area 3	0	4.2%	31.9%	8.3%	4.2%	27.8%	12.5%	0	1.4%	2.8%	0	5.6%	0	1.4%	72
Phase 3	0	0	37.5%	0	12.5%	25.0%	18.8%	0	0	0	0	6.3%	0	0	16
Phase 4	0.8%	3.1%	28.2%	8.4%	4.6%	20.6%	22.1%	0	1.5%	6.9%	0	3.1%	0	0.8%	131
Phase 5	0	5.8%	46.8%	10.8%	2.2%	15.8%	10.1%	0	0	4.3%	0	3.6%	0	0.7%	139

The chronological trend in the function figures at Plas Coch is interesting. Jar levels start off in phase 3 at 37.5%, fall to 32.1% in phase 4 then rise sharply to 52.6% in phase 5 with dishes and bowls showing high levels in phase 3, 40.3% and phase 4, 42.7%, and then falling to 25.9% in phase 5. The RE figures are slightly different (Table 009) with no fall in jar levels in phase 4, but show the same basic trend of a marked rise in jars and decline in tablewares in phase 5. The standard pattern through time is of a fall in jar levels from fairly high early levels with time and a rise in tablewares (Evans 1993), but many northern towns show a different pattern of low initial tableware levels which rise markedly in the 4th century. Plas Coch seems to be following the northern pattern. This is one shared by many northern towns and forts, a good example of which can be found at Segontium (Webster in Casey et al 1993, 254). This author interprets this pattern as one indicating urban communities with strong immigrant and military connections where 'Roman' use of ceramics was already well known in the 1st and 2nd centuries at their foundation (Evans 1993). The rise of jar levels in the 4th century is a pattern seen across the north of England and seems to indicate a growing trend of 'de-Romanisation' which affects all non-rural sites.

Table 009 Functional analysis of the Plas Coch assemblage (by RE)

Site & phase	Storage jars	Wide-mouthed jars	Other jars	Constricted necked jars	Flagons	Bowls	Dishes	Dish /Bowl	Tankards	Beakers	Lids	Mortaria	Amph-orae	Other	n
All site	0.1%	4.5%	40.6%	14.9%	6.0%	12.6%	10.3%	0.1%	0.2%	6.1%	0	3.4%	0	1.1%	4265
Area 1	0.2%	5.0%	44.0%	13.8%	6.7%	10.1%	8.9%	0	0.1%	7.6%	0	3.2%	0	0.5%	3330
Area 3	0	2.5%	38.0%	13.5%	5.4%	20.8%	12.1%	0	0.5%	0.5%	0	3.8%	0	3.1%	1062
Phase 3	0	0	38.3%	0	16.1%	16.8%	26.3%	0	0	0	0	2.5%	0	0	285
Phase 4	0.3%	5.2%	32.9%	14.3%	6.1%	18.7%	12.4%	0	0.5%	4.9%	0	2.9%	0	1.8%	1842
Phase 5	0	4.2%	50.5%	15.5%	5.8%	6.4%	5.7%	0	0	7.2%	0	3.9%	0	0.7%	2088

Tables 008 and 009 also show some differences between areas 1 and 3. Area 3 having more mortaria and tablewares and fewer jars and beakers than area 1. Finewares occur at similar levels on both areas, but amphorae are also noticeably commoner on area 3, at 10.1% compared with 3.3% on area 1. The differences may well owe most to chronological emphases, BB1 is much commoner on area 1 and there seems to be proportionately more later Roman material in this area.

Table 010 Functional analysis of the Crewe Farm assemblage (by minimum numbers of rims (after Booth forthcoming))

Site & phase	Storage jars	Wide-mouthed jars	Other jars	Constricted necked jars	Flagons	Bowls	Dishes	Dish /Bowl	Tankards	Beakers	Lids	Mortaria	Amphorae	Other	n
All site	0	3.7	70.0	2.3	0.9	5.5	3.2	3.2	1.4	3.7	0	0.9	5.0	0	218

Finewares

The overall level of finewares from the site is 5.5% (4.0% out of this being samian ware). This is within the range of northern villas and rural sites (Evans 1993), but it is well above that on rural sites in Warwickshire and the south-west, where fineware levels do not exceed 2% (Evans 1996; Evans forthcoming a), and above the 2.1% at Duncote Farm, near Wroxeter (Evans, Jane 1994; the 11.6% of finewares from Meole Brace near Wroxeter are not discussed here as this author (like S Esmonde-Cleary (pers. comm.)) does not consider that to be a rural site). On balance the fineware levels here seem rather too high for a basic rural site and a villa or small town might fit the data better.

By phase finewares decline slightly in the late Roman period with 6.7% in phase 3, 6.8% in phase 4, and 4.6% in phase 5. All of the material in phase 5 ought to be residual although the state of the material hardly indicates this. Central Gaulish samian has an average sherd weight of 8.4g in phase 3, compared with 18.7g for the assemblage as a whole, but 15.5g compared with 18.3g for the whole assemblage in phase 4, and 11.7g compared with 11.1g in phase 5.

Graffiti

Two graffiti have been recovered from the site, Fig 000 **[EDITOR TO INSERT WHEN DRAWINGS MOUNTED]**, giving a rate of occurrence of graffiti here at 1:1798 sherds. This is quite a high rate of occurrence, comparable with urban incidences of 1:1,825 from Gas House Lane, Alcester, and 1:1,400-1,500 and 1:1676 from CEU sites 46 and 240 at Catterick and 1:5,028 from a rural town edge site there. It is much higher than the rural incidences of 1:10,585 at Thornwell Farm, Chepstow, 1:12,500 from the rural village at Catsgore and 1:5135 from the villa site at Salford Priors, Warwickshire.

Catalogue of graffiti

GR1) Context 1030, phase 4, a BB1 bodysherd, riveted, with part of a ?lozenge shaped illiterate graffito.

GR2) Context 1019, phase 5, a bodysherd of fabric O12 with a fragmentary incised graffito, possibly originally literate.

Rivets

Some 21 sherds from the site show evidence of riveting, of which 16 sherds are of BB1, and 5 of samian ware. All the rivets holes are of the circular drilled type and all probably contained lead rivets, several of which remained in situ, none of the X-type rivets were used, although this is usually the commoner type for repairing samian ware, and there is no evidence of the use of iron rivets, found on several north Welsh sites. The occurrence of riveted sherds is 0.58% (by sherd count).

The riveting of coarsewares, as opposed to samian and mortaria, is fairly unusual on sites in lowland England although common on sites in north Wales where access to ceramics seems to have been

limited. The rate of riveting at 0.58% is high compared with 0.16 per cent at the urban northern site of Bainesse Farm, Catterick, 0.19% at the Warwickshire small town of Alcester, 0.08% at the rural site of Thornwell Farm, Chepstow, 0.0008% on a series of rural sites in West Yorkshire, and 0.1 per cent at the rural site of Worberry Gate, Somerset. It seems to be comparable with the 2.5 per cent, 0.6 per cent and 0.24 per cent from three north Welsh rural sites (Evans forthcoming A) and tends to suggest poor access to pottery supplies, or more specifically BB1, relative to demand.

Sherd size and assemblage size

The average sherd weight from the site is 14.4g (and the average RE per vessel 14.02%). This is within the range of 10-30g found on northern forts, vici, urban sites, and rural sites in Yorkshire (Evans 1985; Evans forthcoming). It contrasts with some north Welsh rural sites, which produce figures of 7.0g, 7.0g and 4.3g and the other evidence that low average sherd weights are more generally a feature of 'highland zone' rural sites. Again this tends to suggest a more urban than rural pattern for this site.

The quantity of pottery at Plas Coch is of note. Comparative evidence is available for three rural sites in Shropshire (Booth forthcoming b) which produced 224 sherds (Ellesmere Road, Shrewsbury), c280 sherds (Sharpstones Hill site E) and 166 sherds (Eardington, Bridgnorth) all from enclosed settlement sites and reasonably sized excavations of c1600 to 2100 square metres. These are probably not untypical rural assemblages for the region, and can be compared with similarly small assemblages from rural sites in north Wales (Evans forthcoming c) and elsewhere in the highland zone. The large assemblage site at Plas Coch strongly suggests that it was not a basic rural site.

1.8 Conclusions

Supply to Plas Coch seems to have been predominantly fairly local. The bulk of the Severn Valley wares (fabric O12) seem to have come from a very local source and could have been produced here, whilst the second major source of oxidised ware are the kilns at Holt, only a few kilometres away. The possibly Malvernian Severn Valley ware (O11) and the Malvernian Metamorphic ware dish from the CPAT excavations show a small flow of ceramics coming up the Severn Valley, whilst in the second century material also seems to be coming south from Wilderspool in Cheshire. The high level of BB1 supply both tends to reinforce the suggested urban character of the site and shows the site had good connections to larger scale supply mechanisms as do the amphorae and the reasonable supply of finewares. The repair of BB1, however, suggests that supply failed to meet demand for this product.

The very scale of the pottery assemblage from this site, when compared with assemblage size from rural sites in the highland zone in general (cf Evans forthcoming c), or those from Shropshire sites (Booth forthcoming b and c) suggests this must be more than a basic rural site, whilst the functional analysis, the level of finewares and the amphora supply here all strongly point to a low level urban settlement, ie some form of small town or vicus. When this evidence is combined with the site's very odd coin list **(EDITOR TO CROSS REFERENCE CPAT TEXT xxx)** with its great 2nd century peaks some official connections seem likely. Very speculatively it might be suggested that the settlement started from some role in mining administration or servicing. In order to test this hypothesis Richard Reece was asked if he would comment on the composition of the site coin list (see The Plas coch coins: a note, below). The coin list can now be seen to confirm an official

supply to the site in the 1st and 2nd centuries and the site must be viewed as starting as an administrative centre or a military vicus.

Although there is clear evidence of 1st century material amongst the assemblage there is little sign of 1st century activity on this part of the site. The samian list from these excavations is predominantly Antonine, although the features excavated by CPAT produced noticeably more 1st century material. In contrast to the overall Plas Coch coin list (**EDITOR TO CROSS REF CPAT TEXT**) the vast bulk of pottery deposition here is of 3rd to early 4th century date. Minimally pottery deposition could have ceased by the end of the 3rd century, although an end to pottery deposition on the site in the earlier 4th century is, perhaps, more likely. For the reasons outlined above this does not necessarily mean an end to occupation here at that date, although it may be likely.

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A note on the coins from Plas Coch
Richard Reece

Given that the very few Plas Coch stratified coins seem to have a similar composition to the metal detected coin list an examination was made to see if the overall list was credible and to what sort of site it might be similar. Leaving aside the caveats the Plas Coch list groups itself with very military sites or military phases of sites (Fig 001; see Reece (1995, 179-206) for the method). The list is very similar in composition to that from Coventina's Well, ie it does not really get going until the late Flavian period, is strongest in the middle of the 2nd century, and then collapses. It has just two likely radiates to give it a slight push in the 3rd century. All the other sites it is compared with in Fig 001 owe their humps to a disastrous showing after AD 260. In other words they seem to have been on the army supply route up to the 3rd century, but not from AD 294 onwards.

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Appendix 1: Fabric proportions by phase

Phase 2

Fabric	% count	% wt	% Min rims	% EVE
A11	20			
O11	20			
O21	20			
O23	20			
S30	20			
n	5			

Phase 3

Fabric	% count	% wt	% Min rims	% EVE
A11	12.2	42.5	0	0
B11	7.1	5.3	25.0	18.7
F21	0.8	0.9	6.3	1.9
F41	0.3	0.2	0	4.7
M12	0.8	0.6	6.3	1.3
O11	2.5	2.3	0	0
O12	3.5	1.6	0	0
O13	0.5	0.3	0	0
O14	1.5	1.2	0	0
O21	14.4	13.1	12.5	34.0
O22	0.3	0.1	0	0
O23	13.2	5.6	0	0
O24	4.1	1.7	6.3	3.6
O32	0.5	0.3	0	0
Q11	2.0	1.8	6.3	6.5
Q21	4.3	0.7	0	0
R11	11.1	7.8	12.5	8.4
R12	2.5	1.3	6.3	5.6
R13	0.5	0.2	6.3	1.3
R21	11.9	8.2	6.3	5.4
S20	0.3	0.1	0	0
S30	5.3	2.4	6.3	8.6
Z30	0.5	1.8	0	
n	395	7396	16	535

Phase 4

Fabric	% count	% wt	% Min rims	% EVE
A11	6.9	30.3	0	0
A31	0.1	1.1	0	0
B11	20.3	19.9	44.3	36.6
F11	0.1	0.0	0	0
F12	0.3	0.3	0.8	0
F13	0.1	0.2	0	0
F21	0.6	1.3	1.5	1.5
F31	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.3
F41	0.1	0.1	0	0.7
M01	0.1	0.3	0.8	0.7
M11	0.1	0.1	0	0
M12	1.1	3.3	2.3	1.3
M21	0.1	0.6	0	0.5
O11	9.1	4.9	3.8	5.3
O12	19.6	6.8	6.1	8.8
O13	3.5	1.1	0.8	0.7
O14	0.2	0.1	0.8	0.3
O21	15.5	12.5	9.9	7.5
O22	1.2	1.3	1.5	4.2
O23	1.8	1.6	1.5	1.2
O24	1.6	1.9	2.3	0.9
O32	0.2	0.1	0	0
Q11	0.6	0.4	0.8	0.3
Q21	0.2	0.2	1.5	1.2
R11	2.1	1.4	0.8	1.2
R12	7.5	4.1	5.3	10.5
R13	0.5	0.5	0.8	1.6
R14	0.1	0.2	0	0
R21	0.2	0.4	0.8	1.2
R31	0.1	0.1	0	0
R32	0.1	0.2	0	0
S30	5.2	4.4	12.2	12.7
S32	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.9
S41	0.1	0.0	0	0
W01	0.1	0.1	0	0
Z30	0.1	0.0	0	0
n	1454	26532	131	3620

Phase 5

Fabric	% count	% wt	% Min rims	% EVE
A11	2.0	6.4	0	0
A21	0.4	0.4	0	0
B11	24.0	21.2	40.3	27.4
C11	0.1	0.3	0.7	0.5
F11	0.6	0.3	0	0
F12	0.3	0.3	0	0
F13	0.1	0.0	0.7	0.2
F14	1.2	0.3	0	0
M11	0.4	3.2	0.7	1.3
M12	0.1	1.4	0.7	0.4
M13	0.1	0.4	0.7	0.3
M21	0.5	3.1	1.4	1.4
O11	3.8	4.6	1.4	1.8
O12	19.5	21.2	15.1	23.0
O13	5.2	6.0	0	2.5
O21	24.2	11.9	8.6	9.3
O23	3.4	5.6	4.3	9.0
O24	3.8	4.2	2.9	1.6
Q11	0.2	0.1	0	0
R11	1.1	0.8	2.2	1.4
R12	5.5	4.7	10.1	14.4
S30	1.8	1.9	7.2	4.5
S32	0.1	0.0	0	0
S41	0.4	0.5	2.2	0.9
S43	0.1	0.2	0.7	0.2
W01	0.2	0.1	0	0
W02	1.0	0.7	0	0
Z30	0.1	0.0	0	0
N	1419	15781	139	3227

Appendix 2: Form occurrence by phase

Phase 3	
Fabric	**Forms**
B11	B11.1B11.8B11.13B11.14
F21	F21.1
M12	MORTARIUM
O21	O21.1O21.17
O24	O24.3
Q11	Q11.1
R11	R11.2(x2)
R12	R12.4
R13	R13.1
R21	R21.2
S30	DR37
Phase 4	
B11	B11.2(x6)B11.3(x13)B11.4B11.5(x4)JARB11.7B11.8(x3)B11.9(x3)DISHB11.12B 11.13(x15)B11.14(x6)B11.15
F12	F12.1
F21	F21.1(x2)
F31	F31.1
M01	M01.1
M12	M12.2M12.3
O11	O11.1(x2)O11.3O11.4O11.5
O12	O12.1O12.2(x3)O12.4O12.5O12.9O12.10O12.12O12.14
O13	O13.1
O14	O14.1
O21	O21.1O21.2O21.3O21.4O21.5O21.10O21.13O21.14(x2)O21.16O21.18
O22	O22.1O22.2
O23	O23.4O23.6
O24	O24.3(x2)O24.4
Q11	Q11.2
Q21	Q21.1Q21.2
R11	R11.4
R12	R12.2(x3)R12.5(x2)
R13	R13.2
R21	R21.1
S30	DR35DR33(x3)DR31(x2)DR31R(x2)DR37DR38(x2)DR38/44JARDR79CURLE2 3
S32	DR33
Phase 5	
B11	JAR(x6)B11.3(x14)B11.4(x2)B11.5(x17)B11.6(x3)B11.7B11.8(x2)B11.9B11.10(x 2B11.11B11.13(x8)B11.14
C11	C11.1
F13	F13.1
M11	M11.1

M12	M12.1M12.2
M13	M13.1
M21	M21.1M21.2
O11	O11.2O11.7
O12	O12.1O12.2(x3)O12.3(x2)O12.4(x4)O12.5O12.6(x2)O12.10(x2)O12.11(x3)O12.1 BOWLO12.15
O21	O21.3O21.4O21.6O21.8(x4)O21.9(x2)O21.11O21.161(x3)
O23	O23.1(x2)O23.21O23.3O23.4O23.5(x2)
O24	O24.3JARO24.4
R11	R11.1R11.3R11.5
R12	R12.4(x2)R12.1(x6)R12.2(x4)R12.3R12.5R12.6
R21	R21.1
S30	DR33(x2)CURLE23DR18/31/31(x2)DR30/37DR31(x4)DR18/31R
S41	DR31DR33DR18/31R
S43	DR31R

1.10 The Plas Coch ceramic and stone tile

J Evans and S Rátkai

There are some 34 stone tile fragments from stratified Roman deposits on the site, all of siltstone, and two with nail holes. Table 001 shows their distribution on the site. The vast majority are from Area 3 and there seems little doubt that the structure with the stone tiled roof was in this area. Since the majority of the stone tile in Area 3 comes from phase 4 the structure presumably was roofed in this manner in phase 3.

Table 001 The distribution of stone tile at Plas Coch

Phase	Area 1		Area 3		Comment
	No	Wt(g)	No	Wt(g)	
Phase 2	0	0	0	0	-
Phase 3	0	0	1	5	-
Phase 4	3	105	18	2430	1 has nail hole
Phase 5	0	0	12	465	-

There are some 242 fragments of ceramic tile from the site, all apparently either tegula or imbrex. A majority of the tile comes from area 1, 51% compared with 27% from area 3, but the same is true with the pottery and the tile is in reality evenly spread over the site. Roofing tile appears on the site from phase 3 and the quantitiy of tile relative to the quantity of pottery is fairly constant in phases 3 and 4 (0.06:1 and 0.07:1) but then falls in phase 5 to 0.03:1. This may suggest a lessening of tile use in phase 5 and it could be that all the tile is residual in that phase.

Table 002 shows the overall tile fabric proportions from the site and Table 003 (Fiche p000) tile ocurrence by phase.

Table 002 The proportions of tile fabric types from stratified deposits at Plas Coch

Fabric	% by count	% by Wt
1	25%	31%
2	53%	49%
3	22%	17%
3A	1%	3%
n	236	6365

Fabrics

Four tile fabrics occur on the site;

Fabric 1 - A fabric with an orange core, margins and surfaces (10R 5/8), fairly 'clean' with occasional to some fine sand c0.1-0.2mm and occasional rounded white, non-calcareous inclusions c0.1mm. Possibly from the same source as fabric 2. Both fabrics 1 and 2 have some similarity to fabric O12, and could possibly be from a similar source, but this is far from clear.

Fabric 2 - A fabric with a buff-orange core, margins and surfaces (5YR 6/8), fairly 'clean', poorly

levigated with common clay pelletts c1-3mm and occasional fine sand c0.2mm.

Fabric 3 - A fabric with a purplish-brownish-orange core, margins and surfaces (10R 6/6), with abundant rounded white inclusions c0.1-0.5mm which appear calcareous but do not react with HCl, also vety occasional white, quartz-like inclusions which appear similar to Holt mortarium trituration grits. Possibly a Holt fabric.

Fabric 3A - A fabric with an orange-brown core, margins and surfaces (10R 5/8-4/8) with common moderate sand c0.3mm, occasional sandstone inclusions of cemented sand grains c2-3mm, and very occasional angular brown stone inclusions c5mm, apparently similar to inclusions in Holt fabrics, also very occasional white calcareous-like inclusions c2mm. Perhaps from a similar source to fabric 3, possibly Holt.

Fabrics 1 - 3 are the principle fabrics here, fabrics 1 and 2 remaining at a constant level in the assemblage from phase 3, but fabric 3 becoming much rarer in phase 5, when it seems possible that it had ceased to be produced. This would be consistent with the possible Holt origin for fabrics 3 and 3A.

Fiche

Table 003 The proportions of tile fabric types from stratified deposits by phase

Phase 3		
Fabric	% by count	% by Wt
1	38%	31%
2	38%	46%
3	21%	23%
3A	4%	0%
n	24	1375
Phase 4		
1	25%	45%
2	34%	27%
3	40%	19%
3A	1%	9%
n	95	2270
Phase 5		
1	49%	43%
2	44%	57%
3	7%	1%
n	45	1095

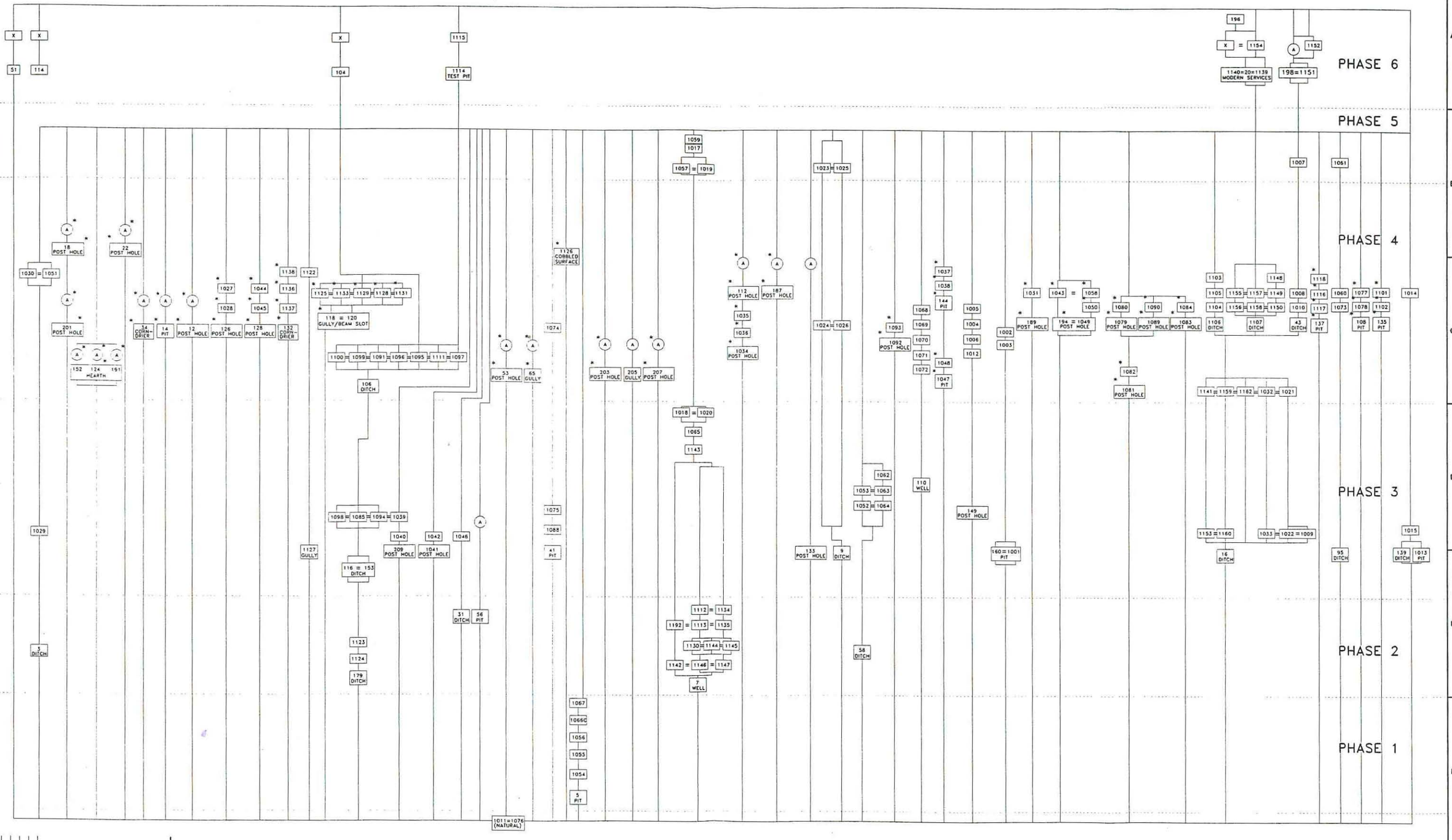
Fiche
Plas Coch; daub
Jeremy Evans

Table 001 shows the distribution of daub on the site. The quantities are small but most comes from phase 4. The ratios of the quantity of daub relative to the quantity of pottery from the site (phase 3, 0.01:1, phase 4, 0.02:1, phase 5, 0.003:1) possibly suggest that the material might have been contemporary in pahses 3 and 4 and residual in phase 5.

Table 001 The distribution of daub by phase

Phase	Sand tempered No.	Wt.	Organically tempered No.	Wt.	'Clean' No.	Wt.
3	1	16	3	11	0	0
4	1	10	19	165	5	32
5	3	7	0	0	1	5

13. APPENDIX 4: SITE MATRICES



KEY:

(A) =FILL EXCAVATED 1994

[X] =UNEXCAVATED MODERN FILL

* =NO DATE GIVEN

PHASE 6 = POST MED +
PHASE 5 = LATE 3rd–4th CENT.
PHASE 4 = LATE 2nd–MID 3rd CENT.
PHASE 3 = MID – LATE 2nd CENT.
PHASE 2 = EARLY 2nd CENT.
PHASE 1 = 1ST CENT.

rev.	drawn	chkd.	apprvd	date	description

Project Title: B0089 PLAS COCH WREXHAM

Drawing Title: AREA 1 STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX

GIFFORD AND PARTNERS
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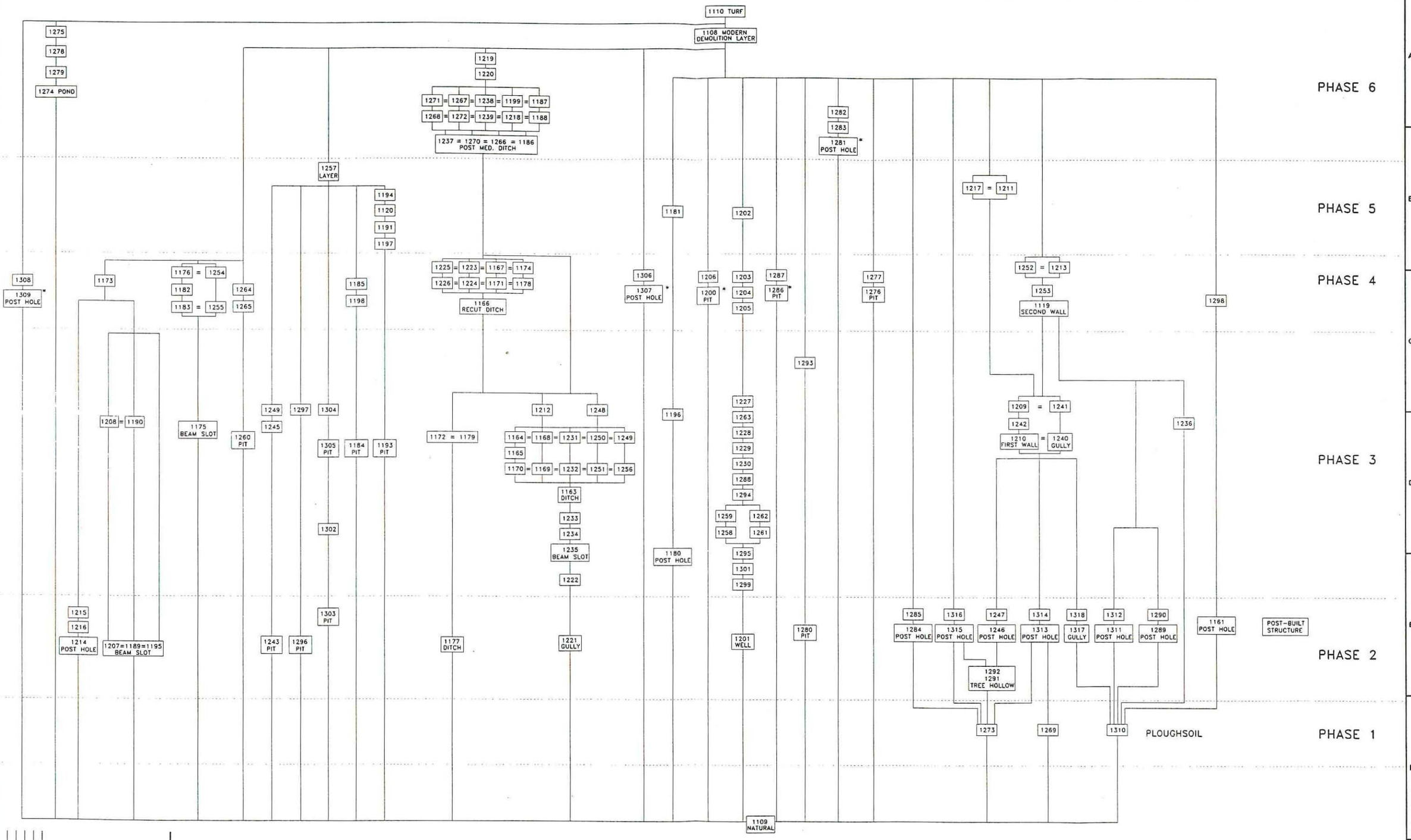
date	drawn	checked	approved
DEC 96	J.B.		

scale: N.T.S.

status | org. no: B0089.163 D | rev

ORIGINAL DRAWING SIZE B41 x 594

10 0 10 20 50 100mm NATURAL SCALE



PHASE 6 = POST MED +
PHASE 5 = LATE 3rd–4th CENT.
PHASE 4 = LATE 2nd–MID 3rd CENT.
PHASE 3 = MID – LATE 2nd CENT.
PHASE 2 = EARLY 2nd CENT.
PHASE 1 = 1ST CENT.

KEY:
* =NO DATE GIVEN

rev.	drawn	chkd.	apprvd	date	description

Project Title: B0089 PLAS COCH WREXHAM

Drawing Title: AREA 3 STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX

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date	drawn	checked	approved
DEC 96	J.B.		

scale: N.T.S.

status	drg. no.	rev.
	B0089.164 D	

ORIGINAL DRAWING SIZE 841 x 594

10 0 10 20 50 100mm NATURAL SCALE

A1

14. APPENDIX 5: PHASED SITE PLANS

15. APPENDIX 6: BULK AND SMALL FIND REGISTERS

GIFFORD

Small Finds Register

PROJECT NAME PLAS COCH									PROJECT CODE BOO89							
Small find no.	Context	Cua	Fe	Pb	Nu	GI	Le	Ce	Am	Mt	Sa	St	Tx	WF	Wo	Box
2025	1051	_														17
2026	1051		_													17
2027	1030							_								11
2028	1019							_								11
2033	1051							_								11
2034	1051			_10 box				_								11
2036	1051							_								11
2038	1062	_														17
2039	1030							_								11
2041	1016					_										17
2046	1085							_								11
2049	1199	_														17
2087	1159							_								11
2088	1161							_								11
2091	1167							_								11
2095	1174							_								11
2096	1176							_								11
2103	1159							_								11
2107	1157							_								16
2108	1190	_														17
2114	1104							_								11
2115	1104							_								11
2118	1205							_								11
2121	1238							_								11
2132	1238													_		17
2152	1301							_								10
2154	1222							_								10
2160	1293							_								10
2161	1217							_								10

GIFFORD

Bulk Finds Record

PROJECT CODE: BOO89

CONTEXT	FINDS GROUP NO.	PROVISIONAL DATING	BONE WEIGHT	Bo	H Bo	Ce	CP	Fc	BM	GL	Cua	Fe	Pb	Sl	Sh	St	WF	
1002	2008					3		15g				1						
1004	2012					1												
1005	2010					1		5g								1		
1006	2011					4		5g										
1007	2002					49		30g				2						
1008	2006					1												
1009	2003					8												
1010	2005					17												
1012	2009					4												
1014	2014					35		1.5kg				1				3		charc. 10g
1015	2013					8		10g								burnt10g		
1016	2007					88		40g		1								10 tile
1017	2004					194		450g		7		3	1			7		4red tile
1018	2023					16								10g				1red tile
1019	2020			1		80		20g		2		9				1		1tile, 10g charc.

CONTEXT	FINDS GROUP NO.	PROVISIONAL DATING	BONE WEIGHT	Bo	H Bo	Ce	CP	Fc	BM	GL	Cua	Fe	Pb	Sl	Sh	St	WF	
1020	2018			1		9												
1021	2015					11		20g										
1023	2017					37		20g		1		1				1		
1024	2030					25		90g				1						
1025	2029					23												
1026	2031					46		90g										1 roof tile
1028	2019											1						
1030	2016					241		220g				2		90 g				6 tiles
1032	2022					14		10g										1 red tile
1033	2021					1												
1042	2024					2												
1046	2032					15												
1051	2035					428		330g			3							4 tiles 5g charc.
1053	2042					2												10g charc.
1056	2044					1												
1057	2040					49		100g				1						
1059	2045			2		32		100g		1	1							5g wood
1060	2048					33		200g										
1061	2050					102		2400									2	5 tiles

CONTEXT	FINDS GROUP NO.	PROVISIONAL DATING	BONE WEIGHT	Bo	H Bo	Ce	CP	Fc	BM	GL	Cua	Fe	Pb	Sl	Sh	St	WF	
								g										
1062	2037					19		20g				1		5g		7		10g charc.
1065	2051					9		750g										
1068	2052					8												
1069	2058					1												
1072	2054					1												
1073	2055							10g										
1074	2056					5				1		1						
1075	2057					1				1								40gcharc.
1080	2063					1		5g										8 red tiles
1084	2065											2						
1085	2066					8												
1087	2069					1												
1091	2047					33		20g	40g			2				950 g		
1095	2053					6												
1097	2068			5g		18		40g				2						
1098	2061					1		10g										
1099	2067							30g										
1100	2064					6		30g										
1103	2071					41		20g										

CONTEXT	FINDS GROUP NO.	PROVISIONAL DATING	BONE WEIGHT	Bo	H Bo	Ce	CP	Fc	BM	GL	Cua	Fe	Pb	Sl	Sh	St	WF	
1104	2113					386		20g				2						
1105	2070					20												
1108	2080					2		50g										slate 1050g
1110	2111			170 g		113	2			3		3					1	135redtile 70gcharc.
1111	2072					2				1								
1120	2073									1				3				
1122	2060					3												
1141	2074					3												
1143	2075					2												
1148	2076			15g		6		20g										
1149	2078							420g										
1150	2079			_		173		260g										
1152	2082					22												
1154	2083					5		20g										
1155	2084					4		80g										
1157	2085					13		30g				2						105gtile 80gclinker
1158	2146					1												
1159	2086					25		20g										
1161	2089					29												

CONTEXT	FINDS GROUP NO.	PROVISIONAL DATING	BONE WEIGHT	Bo	H Bo	Ce	CP	Fc	BM	GL	Cua	Fe	Pb	Sl	Sh	St	WF	
1167	2090					55		200g								1		1200gslate
1168	2092			10g		6		200g										
1169	2094							10g										
1174	2081					45		600g				1				1		2400gslate
1176	2099					13		50g										
1181	2097					6												100gslate
1182	2102			5g		10		30g										
1183	2098							15g										
1185	2100					30		300g				4						
1187	2101									1								
1190	2109			10g		92		700g				3						800gredtile
1191	2093															2		
1192	2104					9		50g										
1194	2106					2		10g										20gslate
1197	2105					15		30g				1						200gslate
1202	2116					19		220g										
1203	2110					47		55g		2		1						320gtile 100gslate
1204	2112					87		55g				2	1					
1205	2117			5g		19												145gtile
1209	2158					22												

CONTEXT	FINDS GROUP NO.	PROVISIONAL DATING	BONE WEIGHT	Bo	H Bo	Ce	CP	Fc	BM	GL	Cua	Fe	Pb	Sl	Sh	St	WF	
1213	2119					35	2			1								70gredtile 220gslate
1217	2124					14		480g										130gslate
1219	2120					9												240gtile
1222	2123			3g		16												40gdaub
1223	2126			2		117		140g	600g			2						900gslate
1224	2122					5												50gslate
1227	2133			100 g														
1229	2125					11		200g										450gtile
1230	2134			90g		10												
1231	2136					7		300g										
1233	2137					20		135g				1						20gcoal
1236	2141					2		15g										90gslate
1238	2131					13						1						500gslate 150gcoal
1239	2142			5g		1												
1244	2148					44										1		
1249	2140					1												35gtile
1250	2127					2												
1252	2128					7		30g		1								120gslate 1chert

CONTEXT	FINDS GROUP NO.	PROVISIONAL DATING	BONE WEIGHT	Bo	H Bo	Ce	CP	Fc	BM	GL	Cua	Fe	Pb	Sl	Sh	St	WF	
1253	2143					5										1 quern		50gslate
1254	2138					11		55g										
1255	2144					8		45g				2				380g		
1258	2139					3						1						
1265	2129					17		40g				5	1					
1267	2149			2		5		140g										410gslate
1271	2149			20g		10	2	160g									2	100gslate 150gcoal
1275	2147					23	1		1	11		2						
1280	2145					17						2						
1287	2159							10g										
1292	2162					5												
1295	2135					8												
1297	2151					2								80g				
1298	2150					30												
1301	2153					1												
1302	2156					2												10gcoal 5gslate
1308	2157											1						