

LLANFAIR-AR-Y-BRYN, LLANDOVERY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION,
JUNE-JULY 2006



Paratowyd gan Archaeoleg Cambria
Ar gyfer Cyngor Sir Gâr

Prepared by Cambria Archaeology
For Carmarthenshire County Council



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Gan / By

Nikki Cook

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SUMMARY

In May 2006 Carmarthenshire County Council commissioned Cambria Archaeology to undertake an archaeological field evaluation in the area affected by proposed improvements to the A483(T) at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn, Llandovery. Previous archaeological investigations showed that the suggested route for the new road corridor would run across the south-eastern corner of the first-phase Roman fort, as well as the vicus and road leading into both the first and second-phase forts at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn. It was therefore necessary to characterise and assess the archaeological remains in the area with a view to inform the scope of any further archaeological works needed to mitigate the impacts of the proposed road improvement scheme, or to recommend other mitigation strategies.

The evaluation comprised seven trenches, which were strategically placed using the results from an extensive geophysical survey of the area undertaken in 2004 and 2005. Excavation showed that both the quality and the quantity of archaeological remains across the whole site was extremely high, and that the construction of a new stretch of road along its current proposed route would have a significant impact on those remains. A comprehensive programme of archaeological mitigation works has therefore been suggested.

Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn Road Scheme: Archaeological Evaluation

Introduction

This report describes the results of the archaeological evaluation undertaken by Cambria Archaeology on behalf of Carmarthenshire County Council during June and July 2006, ahead of the proposed improvement of the A483 trunk road at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn, Llandovery. An earlier desk-based archaeological assessment of the suggested new road corridor was made in 2004 (Silvester 2004), whilst large-scale geophysical surveys were recently carried out as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment for this road scheme, and also as part of the Cadw-funded assessment of Roman military roads, forts and *vici* in southwest Wales (Hopewell 2004; Hopewell 2005; Schlee 2005).

The site (Figure 1)

At present the A483 (T) Llanfair Road, once past Llandovery Cottage Hospital, follows the line of the defences of what is now considered to be the later reduced Roman fort, bending in quick succession both to the left then the right at Llanfair House, where an unclassified road forks back to Llanfair Church. The trunk road then continues past the outbuildings to Llanfair House, straightening briefly as it approaches Llanfair Farm. The proposed improvement to the A483 has suggested a new road corridor of approximately 250m in length, running in a north-northeast direction from the point of the first bend, exiting just beyond Llanfair Farm. A roundabout is proposed at its mid-point both as a traffic-calming measure, and by way of giving access to the Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn dwellings and church. This improvement is designed to straighten the road as a matter of road safety.

The current proposed route for this segment of the road avoids the outbuildings belonging to Llanfair House, but intends to run through part of the orchard to the south of these buildings and across an area of pastureland with no visible above-ground archaeological features. However, the route directly crosses an area which doubled both as part of an early Roman fort and as an annexe to a later fort, as well as truncating a Roman road into both phases of the fort, and its associated *vicus* or settlement.

Archaeological background

The Roman fort at Llandovery occupied a strategic position overlooking the Tywi valley, and lay close to the head of the Usk valley. As such it appears to have been sited in a key location, and was linked by roads to numerous other forts and sites in south and west Wales, such as the forts and settlements at Llandeilo and Carmarthen to the west-southwest, the marching camp and fort at Y Pigwn and Brecon Gaer to the east-southeast, the forts and gold-mine at Pumsaint and Llanio to the northwest, and the practice camp and auxiliary forts at Caerau and Castell Collen to the northeast.

The fort at Llandovery, identified as *Alabum* in the Ravenna Cosmology, has been subject to little archaeological investigation in its history, although there has been a notable flurry of activity in the last two years, both in response to this proposed development and by coincidence in its overlap with the Cadw-funded Roman Fort Environs project, which involved an assessment of Roman military road, forts and *vici* across Wales.

An archaeological desk-based assessment (Silvester 2004) of the proposed development area highlighted a range of archaeological features in the locale, including the Roman fort and its associated components, in addition to potential medieval settlement around the possible pre-Norman church, as indicated by aerial photographic evidence for ridge-and-furrow arable agriculture to the NW and SE of the fort. However, it was only as a result of two phases of geophysical survey on the northeast side of the known fort at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn that the true extent of the Roman complex has become apparent.

In 2004, a substantial area of geophysical survey was carried out to the northwest of the A483, between Llanfair Church and Llanfair farm, as part of the Cadw-funded Roman Fort Environs project. Previously, the extent of the Roman fort at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn was thought to be represented by the earthworks visible within the field to the north of Llanfair House, and as such the scheduled area covered only these visible parts of the fort (see Figure 1).

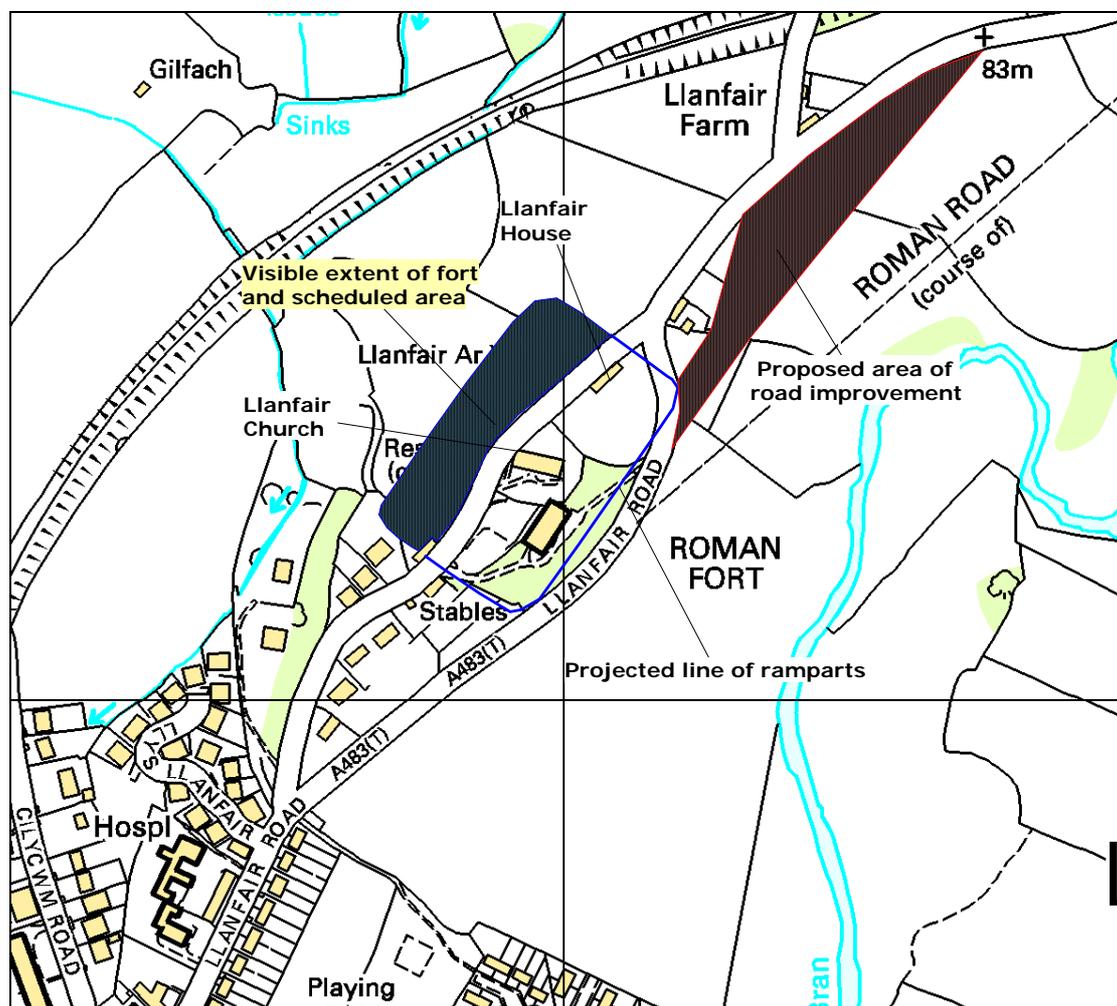


Figure 1 Site location and known extent of fort pre-2004

However, the 2004 geophysical survey hinted at the presence of a substantial annexe to the northeast of the visible fort, consisting of three parallel ditches and various other associated anomalies (see Figure 2). Hopewell (2004) suggested several phases of activity, with the possible array of ditches indicating the presence of a large early invasion fort comparable in size and function to Caersws

I, Powys, and Llanfor, near Bala, Gwynedd. There were also lines of strong anomalies which were thought to indicate a series of kilns or ovens, as well as rectangular structures, which suggested the presence of buildings, although not all are necessarily of Roman date. This area is now under consideration for scheduling.

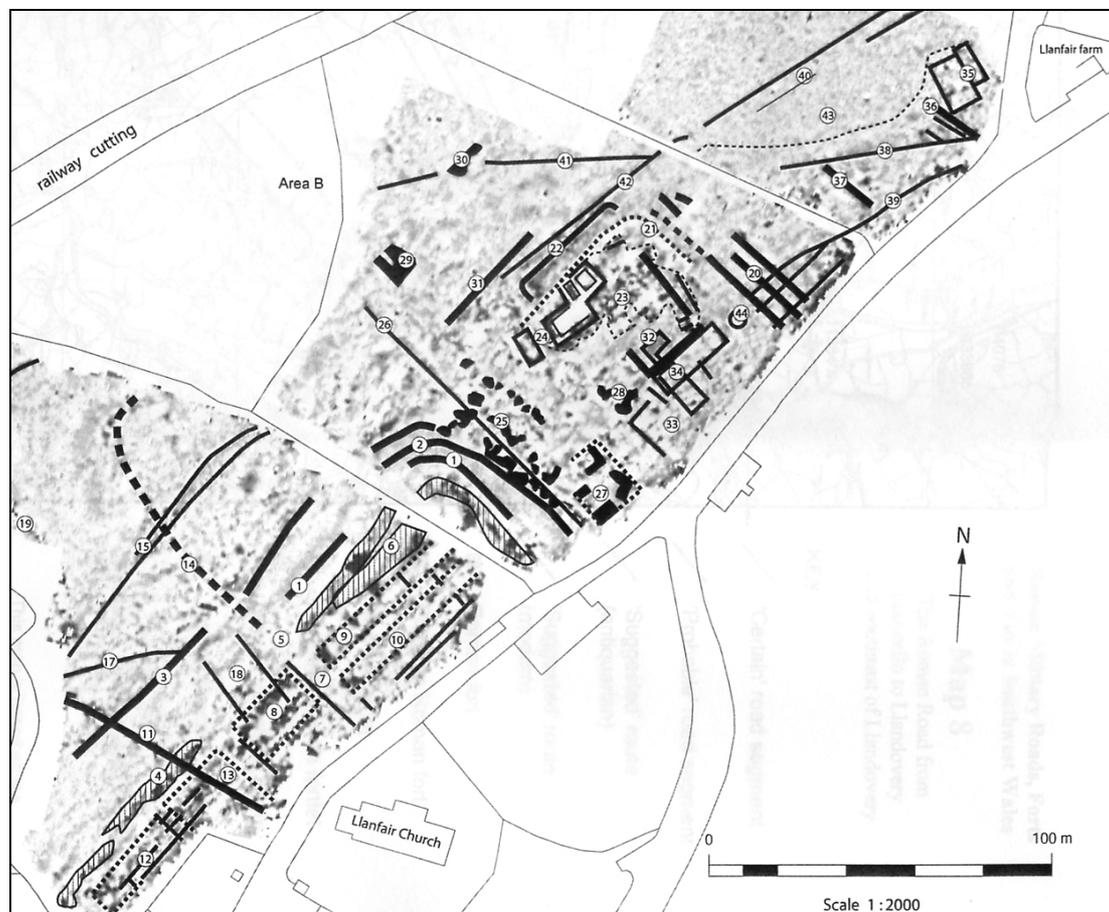


Figure 2 Results of the 2004 geophysical survey

In August 2005 an additional area of geophysical survey was carried out on the southeast side of the A483, as part of the archaeological assessment of the proposed road improvement catchment (Hopewell 2005). The results of this survey combined with the earlier 2004 survey clearly demonstrated the continuation of the parallel triple ditch system suggested by previous analyses, and also indicated the presence of a fourth outer ditch (see Figure 3). They also reinforced the view that the Roman fort at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn was originally a much larger playing-card shaped fort, which was subsequently reduced into a smaller auxiliary fort, with part of the earlier fort retained as an annexe. A similar arrangement has also been observed at Llandeilo, located a day's march away from Llandoverly (Hughes 2005), with both forts interconnected by an established road, RR623 (Schlee 2005). Equally too at Castell Collen, roughly 30 miles to the northeast near Llandrindod Wells, an earlier rectangular fort was subsequently reduced, and the earlier defences retained as an annexe (Collingwood 1930). Castell Collen was connected by road to Llandoverly via Caerau auxiliary fort, located 15 miles (a day's march) NE of Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn, and 13 miles WSW of Castell Collen, with Alabum and Castell Collen thus separated by a two day march. In the *Journal of Roman Studies* (XLVII, 1957, p.227, no.5) a stone

bearing the inscription 'Vexillatio Leg II Avg F' found at Castell Collen suggests that a flag section of the Second Augustan Legion built at least part of this fort, and may have been responsible also for the fort at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn.

The geophysical survey within the proposed development area therefore highlighted a number of key features: first, the triple ditch system noted above, which clearly demonstrated the presence of a much larger and earlier fort than has previously been assumed at Llandoverly. This triple ditch was also seemingly associated with a single outer fourth ditch, located 30m away, which followed the same line and curve as the trivallate defences of this initial campaigning fort. Most notably, there were also clear indications of a road leading off the main Via Julia Montana, which ran north-west before turning to run west-southwest and then southwest into the *porta praetoria* of both phases of the fort, part of which is overlain by the current A483 as it approaches Llanfair House from Llanfair Farm (see Figure 3).



Figure 3 Combined results of the 2004 and 2005 geophysical surveys

Until the recent evaluation by Cambria Archaeology, the only other archaeological excavation of the site had taken place in 1961 and 1962 under the supervision of the late Prof Mike Jarrett, although the results of his work were never fully published. However, brief entries about his investigations appeared in the *Journal of Roman Studies* (later to become *Britannia* in 1970) in both 1962 and 1963. In his re-working of Nash-William's *Roman Frontiers in Wales* (1969) Jarrett suggested that there were four principal phases of construction for the fort, including a possible reduction to a fortlet in its west corner. Although the extent of the fort

was uncertain, Jarrett estimated that it covered an area of c.2.38 hectares: it seems clear that he was referring to the visible fort, and therefore was not aware of the larger initial campaigning fort subsequently revealed by the geophysical survey. However, Jarrett did clearly note four phases of construction for the fort, with the earliest having been of earth and timber, and he suggested that some of the internal buildings associated with this phase had been destroyed by fire. This could very well be consistent with the abandonment and reduction of the larger fort to the smaller one, as Jarrett's excavations across the northwest defences would have cut through the triple-ditch defences of the early fort, which are likely to have been partially retained and re-used for the later second-phase fort. During the second-phase fort a stone revetment was added to the clay bank, and an interval tower and internal buildings were suggested by Jarrett to have been rebuilt in stone.

Two watching briefs have been carried out at the fort: one by Jarrett in 1969 and one in March 1983 by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, both in response to trenches dug by Welsh Water. Jarrett's observations were briefly noted in *Brittania* (vol.1, 1970), but more details can be found within his unpublished notes, maintained as an archive by Dr Peter Webster at the University of Wales, Cardiff. In these notes, Jarrett describes a series of three ditches, with a long gap to a fourth ditch, which he records as located 45m northeast of a hedgebank, just inside the northeast defence. It is tempting to think that Jarrett may have glimpsed the northeast defences of the first fort, but this cannot be assumed with any certainty, as there is no clear indication of where his watching brief took place. He certainly didn't revise in print his interpretation of the fort at Llandovery on the basis of what he saw, which might have been expected when he noted his observations in *Brittania*. In fact, he noted that the northeast-southwest running trench for the new water main provided a section through the northeast defences of the fort and across most of its interior, which agreed with the results obtained during his excavations on the northwest defences in 1961 and 1962. It seems likely that the 'northeast defences' referred to by Jarrett are actually those visible as upstanding earthworks in the field to the north of Llanfair House, and not the four ditches corresponding to the earlier fort as seen during the geophysical survey.

In March 1983 a trench was cut across part of the fort from the reservoir located opposite the church at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn. The trench ran in a northwest direction towards the railway cutting, and four major phases of occupation were recorded from the deeply stratified deposits visible (James, Murphy and Davies 1983). However, although the four phases that were identified accorded with those discovered by Jarrett, James *et al* considered that there were significant differences in the structural sequence compared with that suggested by Jarrett. Indeed, they found no evidence for the rampart having been cut back for a stone facing. A possible intervallum road across the rear of the rampart was sealed by a complex of layers, and a late third or fourth century Mortarium pottery vessel was recovered from the superficial deposits.

In June-July 2006 Cambria Archaeology undertook an archaeological trial trenching evaluation of the site as part of an initial mitigatory measure to assess the character and extent of the surviving archaeological features and deposits within the area to be affected by this proposed development. Figure 4 illustrates the extent of the evaluation area and plots the locations of these evaluation trial trenches excavated in relation to the various features indicated by the 2005 geophysical survey. The results of this evaluation are discussed in the following section.



Figure 4 Location of the evaluation trenches (overlying the results of the geophysical survey (Hopewell 2005))

Archaeological evaluation 2006: Summary of fieldwork results

A total of seven trenches, divided between two separate compounds fenced off for the purposes of the evaluation, were strategically located across the site with the aim of characterising the nature and extent of the known archaeological resource (see Figure 4). The trenches were specifically sited on the basis of the results from both the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey, and were designed to target both particular features and seemingly 'blank' areas as shown by the interpretation plan by Hopewell (2005), in order to assess the character and extent of any surviving archaeological deposits within the proposed land-take for the new road corridor.

Each trench was initially excavated by machine using a toothless bucket to the top of the archaeological deposits, after which each trench was individually cleaned and planned, and selected features excavated by hand. All trenches measured a single bucket width (2.2m).

Finds from the individual trenches and all recorded features/contexts are listed within Appendices 1-3 at the back of this report, and are discussed in more detail below where relevant. The identification and dating of the different pottery wares and forms were made by Dr Peter Webster.

Trench 1 (Figure 5)

This trench measured 30m in length and was positioned to investigate the west side of a ditched enclosure identified by the 2005 geophysical survey (Hopewell 2005). This enclosure was suggested to be contemporary with the side-road which led off from the Via Julia Montana Roman road (*ibid.*: p.6, anomalies 66 and 52), as it appeared to respect the road which ran into the *porta praetoria*, or front entrance, of both phases of the Roman fort. It was also intended that the trench should encounter anomaly 67, a possible building within the enclosure, as well as linear feature 73, possibly an old field boundary.

Archaeological deposits were encountered at a depth of c.0.2m, just below the topsoil. Immediate finds included a large iron roof nail, the rim of a Mortarium vessel, burnt bone, brick, tile, daub, areas of charcoal and other decorated pottery wares. All were of Roman date, with the exception of a few sherds of modern white-glaze pottery. These finds were consistent with those expected from an area of settlement, i.e. with evidence for buildings from the brick, tile and daub; and sherds from domestic pottery wares (Black Burnished and Mortarium) used for cooking, food preparation and storage. The paucity of modern finds from the area indicated that the archaeological deposits were likely to be largely intact and undisturbed, and there was no visible evidence for disturbance by ploughing across this part of the site.

The main features encountered within this evaluation trench were:

- a Roman military ditch (context 105)
- a beam-slot for a building (context 114)
- a metallised surface covering an earlier ditch (context 116)

with other features including a gully (context 111) and various post-holes (contexts 101, 107, 115), suggesting further built structures in the vicinity.

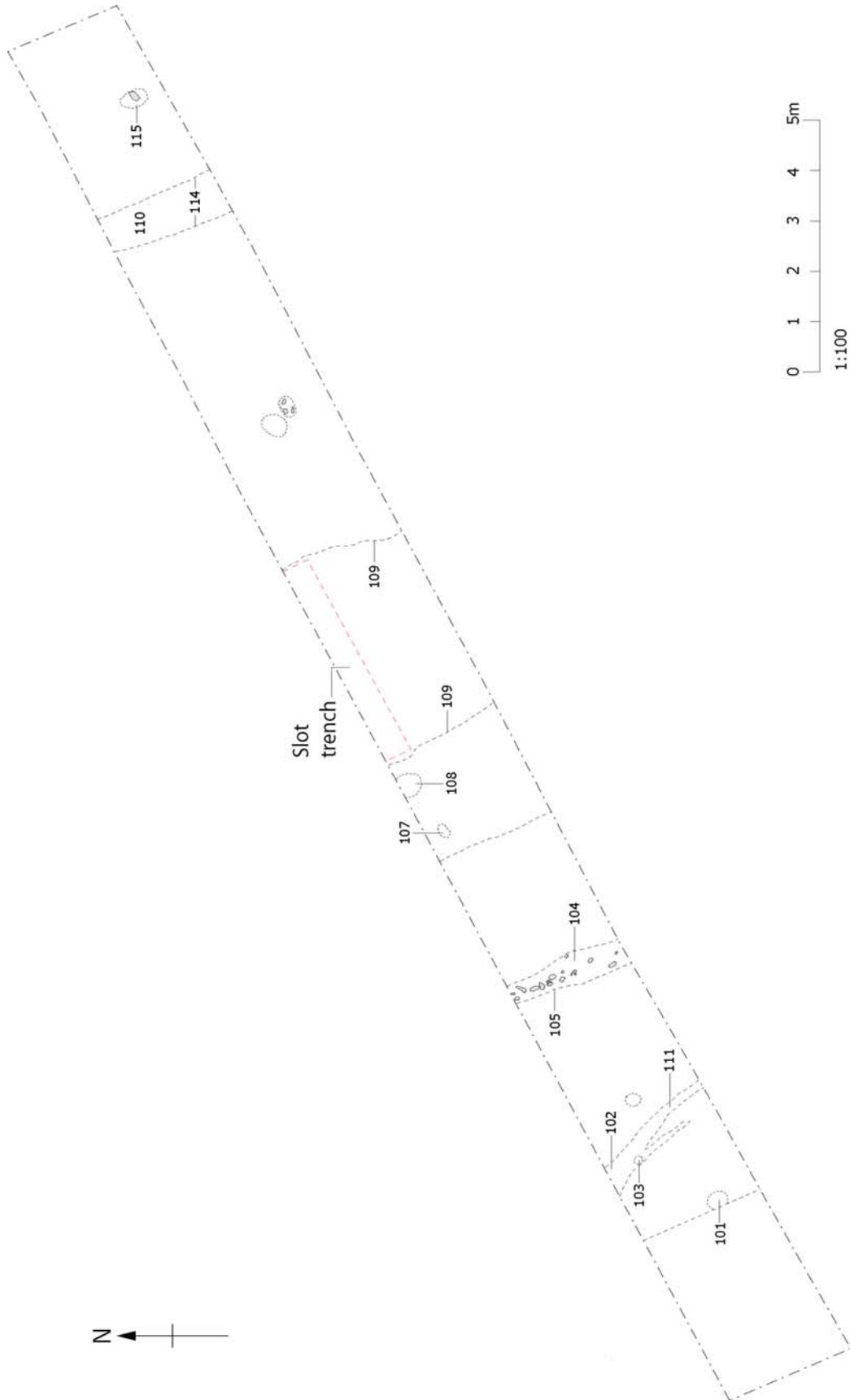


Figure 5 Plan of Trench 1 with context numbers

The Roman military ditch (context 105) (Figures 6-8; Plate 1)

Initially this feature was thought to be a stone-filled gully, c.0.4m wide, extending the full width of the trench, running in a NW-SE direction. However, excavation revealed this feature instead to be a substantial steep-sided ditch, 1.7m wide at the top, tapering to 0.33m at its base, and measuring 0.85m in depth (see Figure 6). The ditch contained two fills: 112, at the bottom of the cut, containing no finds and appearing to be the result of natural silting and weathering; and 104, chock-full with a variety of different pottery wares, and seemingly a deliberate back-fill of the ditch during a phase of fire and destruction in the vicinity.

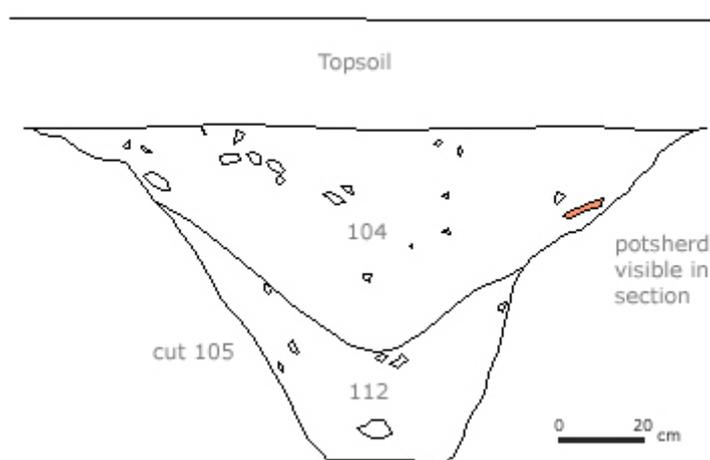


Figure 6 SE facing section of ditch 105

This ditch is likely to be the western side of anomaly 66, an enclosure identified by the 2005 geophysical survey (Hopewell 2005: 6), which may have extended further to the north and northwest in the area now overlain by Llanfair Farm. The size, shape and depth of the ditch, which was comparable to the ditches of the trivallate defences excavated within Trench 6, all indicate that this feature was of Roman military origin, and was associated with the occupation of the fort by the Roman army. Indeed, it is possible that this ditch in fact demarcated the area of a practice camp or parade ground associated with the fort, with a projected internal area of c.1.8 acres (see Figure 7). It may also have been re-used at a later date to enclose a bath-house or *mansio*. The ditch showed no sign of later re-cutting, and a deep layer of natural silt deposited within it (context 112) suggested this enclosure remained open for some time before being backfilled.

It was also interesting to note that this ditched enclosure appears to follow and respect the line of the side-road branching off from the Via Julia Montana leading into the fort, and therefore can be assumed to have been built at some point after the establishment of the road itself. The primary silting layer in the bottom of the ditch (context 112) had accumulated to a depth of c.28cm, and appeared to be the result of a natural weathering of the sides of the ditch whilst it was open. The main fill of the ditch (context 104) comprised a much darker and more humic material than the surrounding brown clay loam, and contained a significant quantity of both pottery and other finds. Pottery wares from within the limited excavated area alone included several sherds of at least two different Mortaria vessels, various sherds from a Black Burnished dish and bowl of 2nd century date and lots of 1st century Greyware sherds. Other wares included sherds from a Dressel 20 Spanish olive oil amphora, a Samian bowl/dish from Central Gaul and

an almost complete Severn-Valley storage jar. Two pieces of box-tile from a possible hypocaust system were also recovered.

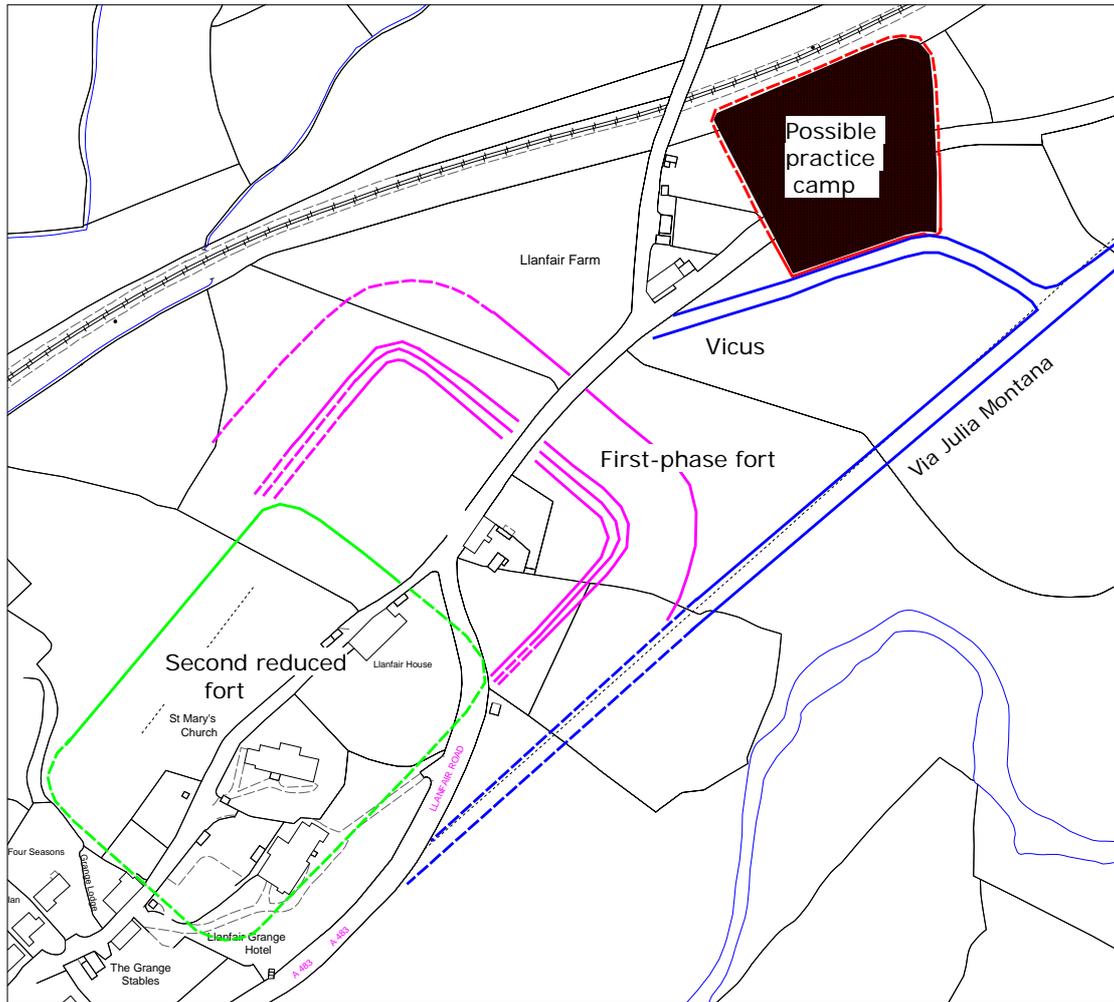


Figure 7 Projected practice camp, and its association with other Roman features



Plate 1 Severn-Valley ware pot *in situ* within the fill of the ditch (context 104)

Context 104 appeared to be the result of a deliberate back-filling of the ditch, perhaps associated with an episode of fire and subsequent destruction within the vicinity (e.g. as suggested by lumps of charcoal, burnt daub, oxidised pottery, etc., and the dark, humic nature of the fill in which these finds were found). The nature of the fill certainly appeared to be the result of a single event, as opposed to a gradual accumulation of debris and dumping over time.

Building slot (context 114) (Figure 8)

Located within the area defined by the Roman military ditch, c.16m inside the enclosure to the NE of the ditch, an elongated and rectangular-shaped gully or foundation trench was revealed, which was orientated NW-SE. The feature sloped at its top and was funnel-shaped in profile. At its base the trench measured c.0.3m and was flat-bottomed. Excavation suggested that this feature was initially a square-cut trench, possibly a beam-slot (a trench dug to contain a sill beam, a horizontal timber used as a foundation for the wall of a building), which had its top edges damaged and angled when the structure was destroyed. The trench contained two fills: 113, a silty clay containing a large sherd from a Malvernian pottery vessel; and 110, within which there were lumps of charcoal, crushed tile and brick, some iron nails, some lumps of slag and sherds from various pottery wares, suggesting destruction debris. This feature corresponds with the west side of a rectangular anomaly (no. 67) discovered during the 2005 geophysical survey and suggested to be a potential building within ditched enclosure 66 (Hopewell 2005:6) discussed above. The narrow 2.2m wide trenches opened during the 2006 evaluation did not expose enough of a surface area to indicate any additional features associated with potential building 114, and therefore the exact nature and purpose of this structure remains unknown. However, two pieces of box-tile recovered from the excavation in this area hints at the presence of a hypocaust in the vicinity, i.e. a heated building, possibly a bath-house or *mansio*. Such structures, built by the Roman army, would tie in with their enclosure within the substantial ditch excavated in this trench, and were not intended for civilian use, despite its location outside the confines of the fort and within the area occupied by the *vicus* settlement.

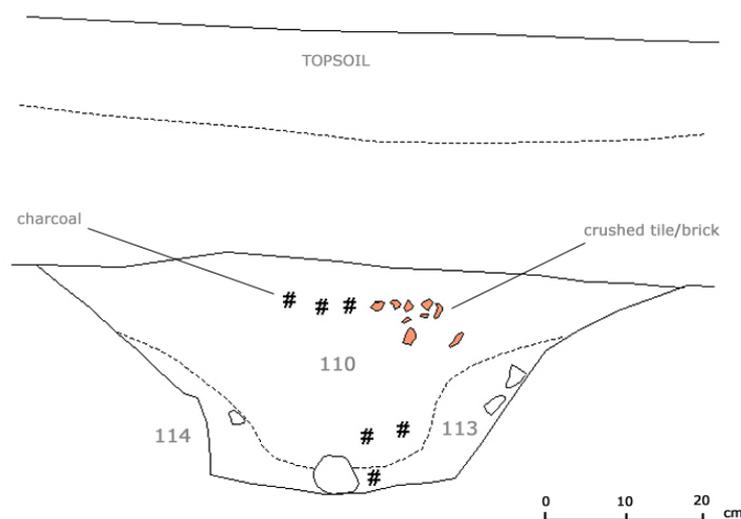


Figure 8 SE facing section of 114

The metallised surface overlying an earlier ditch (context 116) (Plate 2)

When Trench 1 was initially cleaned, the area in which this feature appeared was a spread of dark earth and stone, 4.5m wide and extending the full width of the trench, recorded as context 109. This corresponded with anomaly 73 identified during the 2005 geophysical survey, which was suggested to be an old grubbed-out field boundary (Hopewell 2005: 6).

A slot trench, 0.6m wide, was excavated across the SE-facing section and revealed a substantial and well-preserved metallised surface, below the topsoil at a depth of 0.24m (see Plate 2). The stone spread was c.4m wide and was slightly sunken at its centre to a maximum depth of c.0.3m, suggesting that this metallised surface perhaps overlay an earlier ditch. This feature was excavated to the top of the metallised surface only, and finds included some burnt daub, burnt bone, metal-working waste and three sherds from a Mortarium-like vessel dating from the late 1st-mid 2nd century, possibly a small serving dish. The metallising consisted of mainly small round-edged, flattish pebbles, with occasional larger stones, lying in a regular layer running in a roughly N-S direction. The stone surface was visible throughout the full width of the slot trench, and was assumed to extend across the whole of Trench 1 and beyond the excavation area in both directions. The metallised surface revealed by the slot trench was an unexpected discovery, and was clearly earlier and more substantial than the old field boundary suggested for this geophysical anomaly by Hopewell (*ibid.*). Further archaeological investigations are required to establish the exact nature and function of this area of metallising, and indeed to discover what may lie beneath. Hopewell had noted that anomaly 73 crossed the Roman road, but a closer inspection of the uninterpreted grey-scale plan in the report (*ibid.*: Fig.2) suggests that the road actually truncates this feature instead, or at least that the metallising meets with the road, and then possibly continues again on the other side.



Plate 2 Slot trench through 109 revealing metallised surface 116

Other features

A number of other features were also recorded during the excavations in Trench 1, and included a gully (context 111) located 3m to the SW of the enclosure ditch. This feature ran in a NW-SE alignment, parallel to the military ditch, and may have been a drainage channel associated with the enclosure or other buildings in the vicinity. A selection of possible post-holes (contexts 101, 107, 108 and 115) also suggest that there were a number of other buildings in this area, not just the building suggested by anomaly 67 and revealed within context 114.

Trench 2 (Figure 9)

This trench measured 20m in length and was positioned to investigate anomaly 52, a side-road leading off from the Via Julia Montana Roman road (Hopewell 2005: 6). This side-road led into the front entrance, or *porta praetoria*, of both the first and second-phase Roman fort and Trench 2 was therefore deliberately placed to encounter evidence for not only the road but also any associated road-side buildings. Any such buildings were likely to be part of a wider *vicus*, or settlement, and would represent the dwellings or commercial properties of the indigenous local population, thus providing evidence for the interaction between native peoples and their Roman invaders. These settlements, or *vici*, tended to grow outside most Roman military bases to cater to the needs of the soldiers and their money, and would often be focused alongside the roads which served the forts. Although likely to have been originally of a temporary nature, these settlements often quickly grew into communities, and often provide the first evidence for what later develop into a permanent towns. Trench 2 was also positioned to investigate anomaly 79, a linear feature of unknown date (*ibid.*: 7).

The main features revealed within this trench were:

- the side-road branching off the Via Julia Montana
- road-side *vicus* structures on both the N and S sides of the road

Roman road (Figure 10; Plate 3)

A well-maintained metalled road surface, shown as anomaly 52 on the 2005 geophysical survey (Hopewell 2005:6), and discovered 0.2m below ground level, immediately beneath the topsoil. The road ran in an ENE-WSW direction and measured c.6m in width, and was extremely well-preserved, showing no sign of plough-damage.

The road surface consisted of compacted small-medium rounded stones, suggested to be water worn pebbles brought up to the site from the river gravels of the Afon Bran downslope to the south. A number of features were clearly seen on either side of the road suggesting that built structures were immediately fronting onto the thoroughfare, themselves clear evidence for a *vicus* or settlement associated with the fort. Two possible parallel wheel-ruts were also initially noted within the surface of the road, but when the area was cleaned they were discounted. On the northern side of the road there was a clear camber visible sloping downwards into a possible roadside ditch (context 208). However, on the southern side of the road contexts 203-206 suggested that the structures on this side had actually encroached on to the road, even robbing some of the road surface as hard-standing.



Figure 9 Plan of Trench 2 with context numbers

Figure 10 demonstrates the complexity of features identified when a slot trench was dug along the east-facing section of the southern half of the road and *vicus*. The roadside ditch (context 220) was obscured on the south side of the road by layer 206, and had also been cut by post-pit 225, which contained post-pipe 215. The ditch had been infilled with two separate fills (contexts 221 and 222) and subsequently overlain by two separate stone layers: one, context 230, consisting of medium-sized angular and sub-angular stones, and the other, represented by the coloured area in Figure 10, which consisted of small, rounded stones which appeared to be robbed road metalling.

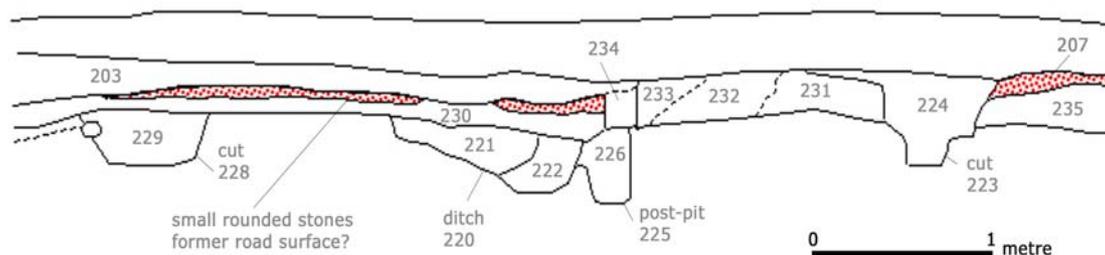


Figure 10 E facing section of slot trench A

Contexts 231-233 consisted of heavily disturbed road material, whilst linear cut 223 appeared to be a beam-slot for the front of a building, showing a clear encroachment of the *vicus* onto the road. Another beam-slot 3.1m to the south (context 228) appeared to represent a possible back wall or partition belonging to this roadside structure, which seems to have not only been built over the roadside ditch, but had deliberately robbed some of the road metalling to make a reasonably solid floor surface for the building. This was in turn overlain by the cobbling recorded as context 203. A post-hole lay directly in between these two beam-slots immediately adjacent to square post-hole pit 225; both would have probably contained timber posts, possibly supporting the roof of the structure. Finds from within this area included a large imbrex (roof-tile) fragment, sherds from an olive-oil (Dressel 20) amphora and lid, sherds of Black Burnished ware as well as some lumps of metal-working waste. The fill of beam-slot 223 also contained lumps of brick and tile.

Road-side structures: south side

On the south side of the road, slot trench A revealed a substantial encroachment onto the thoroughfare by the *vicus*, as discussed above, with part of a building overlying the former road-side ditch. Evidence for one or more buildings here was recovered in the form of two parallel beam-slots set 3m apart (contexts 223, 228), several post-holes (contexts 205, 215, 225), a pit/heath (context 204) and various layers of deposited material (contexts 201, 203, 206) associated with occupation and industrial/craft activity (e.g. metal-working). There were a number of phases of activity evidenced by the inter-cutting of features, the clear encroachment onto the road and the successive layers of deposited material.

Road-side structures: north side

On the north side of the road excavation also revealed the presence built structures associated with the development of a *vicus*, which similarly fronted directly onto the thoroughfare. However, in this area the *vicus* displayed less actual encroachment onto the road itself, with the building fronting the road in

this area not demonstrating quite the same level of phasing seen on the south side. However, a possible collapsed clay wall (context 210) was recorded towards the NW end of the trench, as a bank of compact yellow clay clearly running parallel to the orientation of the road. Another narrower band of similar yellow clay material (context 216) was recorded running alongside the northern edge of the road, with both deposits suggesting the remains of two parallel walls for a roadside building. As with the structure on the south side of the road, these walls were set c.3m apart, giving some indication as to the average size of the some of the dwellings and likely market-type stalls fronting the road in this area.



Plate 3 Oblique view of the road looking SW, after initial cleaning of Trench 2

Trench 3 (Figure 11)

Measuring 10m in length, this trench was positioned in a largely 'blank' area, in order to characterise any archaeological features not necessarily detected during the 2005 geophysical survey. A series of potential pits/hearths were noted by Hopewell in area 70, located between the outer ditch of the earlier fort (anomaly 37) and the south side of the road (anomaly 52) (Hopewell 2005: p.6). Unfortunately, fencing constraints faced during the evaluation (whereby the area had to be divided into two separate compounds) meant that this part could not be fully examined. However, Trench 3 was placed as far as possible away from the road and against the western extent of the compound in order to assess any potential archaeological features in the area.

The main features revealed within this trench were:

- a large pit with a number of associated post-holes
- evidence for further *vicus* activity

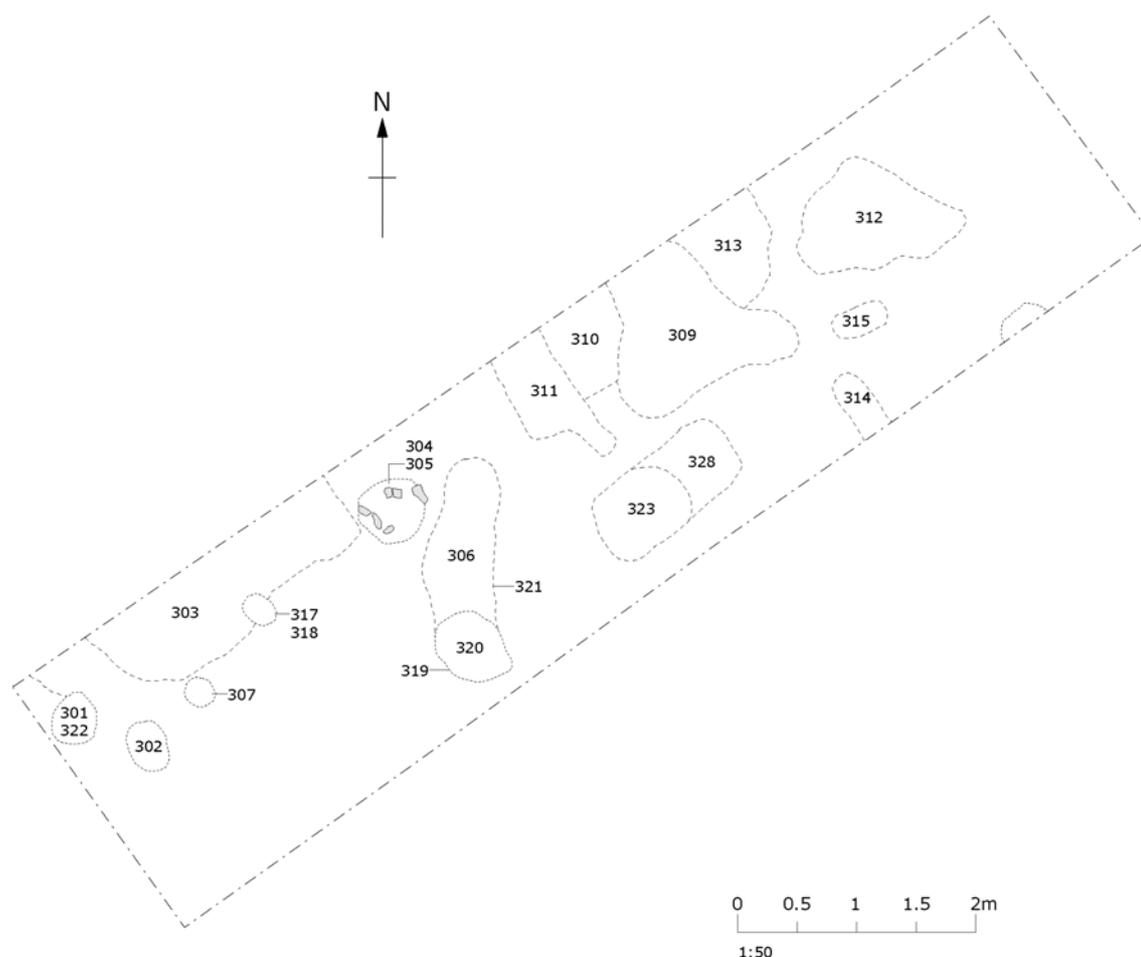


Figure 11 Plan of Trench 3 with context numbers

Large pit and associated post-holes

Within the SW end of Trench 3 a number of features were excavated, including a large pit (context 316) and four post-holes (contexts 304, 307, 318 and 322).

The pit, which was half-sectioned and part-excavated, was revealed to be an oval, concave feature, c.2.12m long and 0.33m deep. It was only partly exposed within the evaluation area, with its remaining part extending beyond the edge of the trench. The steep-sided pit had been cut on its SE side by a post-hole (context 318), with another post (context 322) located c.1.25m away to the WSW. Another post-hole (304) was located at a similar distance away to the ENE, with post-hole 322 0.4m to the SW. The excavated fill within the pit (context 303) contained three sherds from a Greyware jar, various lumps of brick and tile, some glass, nails and several large pieces of burnt bone. It is likely that this pit and the four close-set post-holes formed part of a *vicus* structure, situated alongside the road, although these features are set at least 9.5m back from the edge of the projected course of the road.



Plate 4 Post-hole 322 following partial excavation, with a lump of brick visible in the fill

Evidence for further *vicus* activity

A complex series of features were recorded throughout Trench 3, which appeared to be the remains of pits, post-holes and spreads of material associated with domestic/industrial/commercial activity occurring on the southern side of the road, in an area at least 8m back from the road itself (contexts 308-15, 306, 320). Finds recovered from Trench 3 as a whole included a large variety of different pottery wares and forms, including south Spanish olive oil amphoras, fine south Gaulish tablewares, Black Burnished and Greyware dishes and jars, and the pedestal base of a *tazza*, a shallow ornamental wine cup or vessel used for burning incense. Other finds included burnt bone, iron nails (of Roman date), burnt clay, daub and lumps of metal-working waste, as well as a sherd from a Roman square glass bottle.

The evidence for these *vicus* structures and associated material within this part of the evaluation area, set back some 10m from the edge of the road, clearly demonstrates the extent to which such plentiful and well-preserved archaeological deposits can be anticipated to occur, in an area largely 'blank' on the geophysics. It also demonstrates a continuation of *vicus* material in addition to that already exposed within Trench 2 30m away to the ENE, and further shows that the civilian *vicus* area encroached to within at least 50m of the fourth outer ditch of the trivallate defences of the first-phase fort.

Trench 4

This trench, measuring 10m in length, was originally positioned with the intention of investigating the long linear curving ditch, identified as anomaly 37 during the 2005 geophysical survey (Hopewell 2005: 6). This ditch clearly ran parallel to the triple defensive ditches of the earlier fort at a distance of c.30m, and was presumed to be of Roman date and thus associated with defences of the first

phase fort. However, due to constraints placed on the evaluation by the division of the evaluation area into two separate compounds Trench 4 had to be moved to the SW by a few metres, which resulted in the eastern end of the trench having missed this ditch by c.2.5m. Nonetheless, Trench 4 was still located within what was previously described as 'a largely featureless gap' (*ibid.*) between this outer ditch and the triple ditch system, and was therefore able to characterise the archaeological deposits within a seemingly 'blank' area on the geophysical survey.

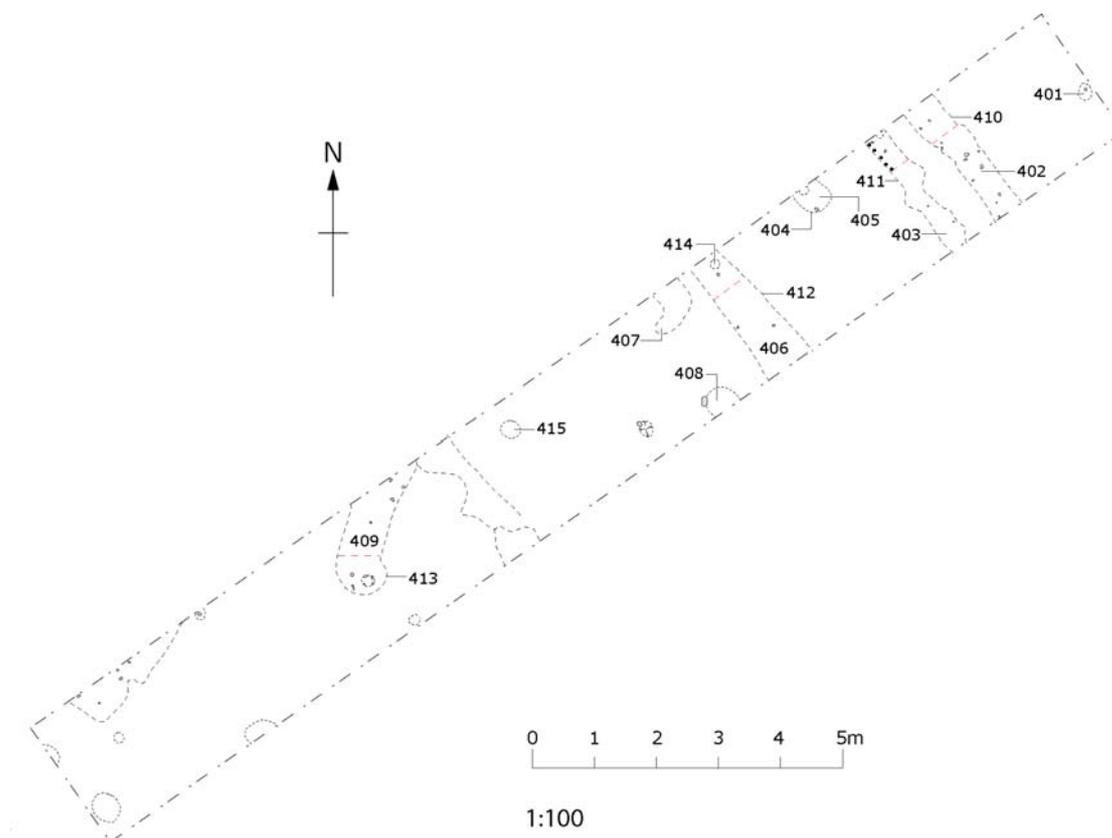


Figure 12 Plan of Trench 4 with context numbers

It is worth noting here the complete difference in the geological deposits within the trenches of this second compound compared with those encountered in Trenches 1, 2 and 3 in the first compound to the NE. Although archaeological deposits were encountered at the same depth in both areas (at c.0.2m beneath the existing ground level, just below the topsoil), in this compound the topsoil immediately overlay the degrading bedrock, suggesting a large degree of alluvial wash downslope. This was in direct contrast to the trenches in the first compound, where the natural appeared to be a yellowish-brown stiff clay, with no shale bedrock encountered. As a result all the archaeological features in this trench, and in Trenches 5 and 6, had been cut into the shale bedrock.

Far from being blank, this trench revealed evidence for built structures, including both post-holes, beam-slots and stake-holes. Some of these were quite shallow, suggesting that some of the structures in this area might have been of a more temporary or ephemeral nature. This gives a tantalising glimpse into the potential activity taking place in this 'liminal zone' between the outermost ditch and the triple ditch defences of the initial fort and later annexe, which was far from featureless. It is wholly possible that this 'liminal' zone in fact functioned as an

annexe for the first-phase fort, and there was no suggestion within any of the excavated contexts that these features were any later than the Roman period.

There were no finds recovered from any of the excavated features within Trench 4, although there were a number of interesting unstratified finds discovered during the topsoil strip and initial clean. These included a single white polished gaming piece of 1st or 2nd century date, and several sherds from a south Gaulish wine amphora, also dating from the 1st or 2nd century.

The main features revealed within this trench were:

- evidence for at least two rectangular buildings
- a gully with a hazel hurdle

with other features including pits, post-holes, an arc of stake-holes and a large irregular ditch, all cut into the underlying shale bedrock and presumed to be of Roman date.

Potential rectangular buildings (Plate 5)

Contexts 410 and 412 were part-excavated and revealed to be parallel linear features, set 3.8m apart, which ran in a NW-SE direction, following the same alignment as the defensive ditches of the first-phase fort.



Plate 5 Excavated post-hole within context 412

Context 410 consisted of a linear slot, 0.6m wide and 0.15m deep, with a vertically-cut SW edge. Its opposite edge was more sloping, although still steep-sided. The feature was flat-bottomed and was considered to be evidence for a beam-slot/construction trench, dug as a foundation for the wall of a building. The slot had been dug c.4.5m from the edge of the outer fourth ditch, and therefore lay just within the 'liminal' zone between the outer ditch and the trivallate defences. Within 0.4m of this slot, to the SW, there was another parallel gully

(context 411), discussed in more detail below, which seems likely to have been built in association with this structure.

Context 412 was a similar flat-bottomed feature to 410, also 0.6m wide, but was more shallow, having been cut to a depth of 0.07m through the shale. A circular post-hole (context 414), 0.18m in diameter, was visible within the base of this construction trench and had been cut to a further depth of 0.16m below the base of this beam-slot (see Plate 5).

Another possible small slot was suggested by context 407, although only part of this feature was visible within Trench 4. However, its location (within 0.3m of the SW edge of 412) suggests it was more likely to be a small drainage gully associated with 412, and therefore comparable with context 411.

An irregular, sub-rectangular linear ditch (context 413) may also be evidence of a later structure, although this was cut on a different N-S alignment. The SW terminus of this feature was excavated, which revealed a steep-sided gully with a largely flat bottom, which had been cut to a depth of 0.16m. Where visible this channel measured 1.65m long and was 0.7m wide, and may well evidence another beam-slot/construction trench.

Gully with hazel hurdle (Plate 6)

Context 411 lay immediately adjacent to beam-slot 410, and followed the same orientation to the NW-SE. When excavated, the feature was revealed to be 0.4m wide, running the full width of the trench, and although similarly cut into the bedrock, it was more irregular, suggesting its use as a gully rather than another beam-slot. The 0.6m slot excavated through the cut revealed a series of five close-set small stake-holes along its SW edge, with a post-hole, 0.16m in diameter, visible in the base of the feature towards its NE side. This line of stake-holes can potentially be interpreted as evidence for a possible hazel hurdle, perhaps acting as a fence or wind-break.



Plate 6 Showing excavated contexts 410 and 411, with the post-hole and row of stake-holes visible on the edge of 411

Other features

A number of other features were also recorded within Trench 4, including post-holes (contexts 401 and possibly 408), a pit (context 404) and an arc of stakes (context 415). All of these point towards there having been structures of some nature within this area between the outer ditch and trivallate defences, which may well be evidence of annexe activity associated with the earlier fort. This activity is likely to be Roman military in nature, as there is no clear evidence of civilian encroachment into fort annexes recorded from sites in Britain (Breeze 2002: 39).

Trench 5

This trench, measuring 20m in length, formed a T-shaped excavation area with Trench 6, and was located to run parallel with the triple defences of the fort/annexe. It was strategically positioned to target the area immediately in front of the trivallate defences, within the 'blank' area between the triple ditches and the outer fourth ditch. It was also placed to investigate strong rectangular anomaly 72 identified during the 2005 geophysical survey. This was suggested to be the remains of a modern shed, with the ground in this area having shown evidence for more recent disturbance (Hopewell 2005:6). However, no traces of any modern building were encountered during the evaluation, although it is likely that this part of the area has been shallow-ploughed at some time in the past. There was no plough-damage visible to any of the archaeological deposits within the NE compound housing Trenches 1, 2 and 3, and there were no plough-marks visible on the underlying bedrock in Trenches 4, 5 or 6. However, some of the features within this trench (e.g. possible cremation deposit 509; post-hole 538) appeared to have been truncated from above, which was presumed to be the result of ploughing, although it seems unlikely that this area was ever intensively cultivated because of the shallow soil cover.

As with Trench 4, the archaeological deposits were all encountered just below the topsoil and were cut into the degrading shale bedrock located immediately beneath. There were no individual finds recovered from any of the excavated contexts. All finds from Trench 5 were discovered during the initial topsoil strip and clean, and were therefore all unstratified. Among the items recovered was a large imbrex (roof-tile) piece, various undiagnostic lumps of brick/tile and a quarter of a large quernstone, all presumed to be of Roman date. Other finds were of post-medieval or modern date, including two sherds of a brown-glazed pot, blue and white glazed chinaware (four sherds), a piece of a clay pipe, and a broken brown glass bottle. The distinct lack of any domestic pottery assemblage suggests this area was not encroached upon by the civilian *vicus*, even following the reduction of the earlier fort, when this first-phase annexe area would have been decommissioned. It seems likely that this area remained a 'liminal' zone for the life-time of the fort, and perhaps fell out of use when the annexe of the later fort became focused within the trivallate defences as opposed to outside. A better understanding of this area is likely to be gained by excavating the outer ditch, to see if it was left open or re-cut during the second phase of occupation.

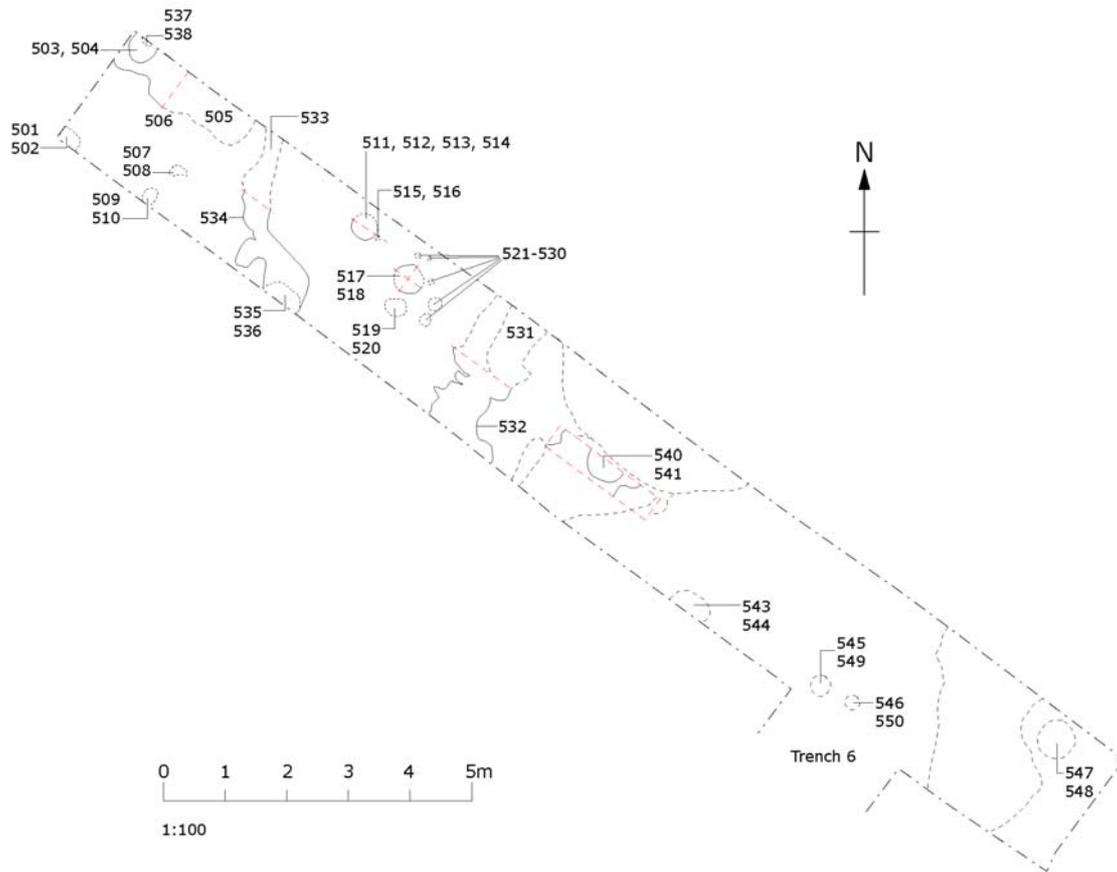


Figure 13 Plan of Trench 5 with context numbers

The main features revealed during the excavations in Trench 5 were:

- Numerous post-holes, pits and associated stake-holes, suggesting a series of built structures
- A large, deep pit in the centre of the trench (possible cess-pit)

with other features including shallow rock-cut pits, inter-cutting fills, further post-holes, and a possible cremation deposit.

Post-holes, stake-holes and other evidence for built structures (Fig. 14; Plate 7)

Within the 2.2m wide area within Trench 5 there were a number of post-holes (contexts 502, 514, 520, 528, 536, 538 and possibly 545-6), post-pits (contexts 504, 512, 518, 536 and 544) and stake-holes (contexts 508, 516, 522-530), all of which indicated the remains of possibly several buildings, or phases of construction. The majority of these features were excavated, and detailed descriptions of these contexts and fills can be found within Appendix 3.

Within the NW corner of the excavated area context 502 was a near-vertical post-hole, 0.2m in diameter and cut 0.3m into the bedrock. 2 metres away to the NE, in the opposite corner of the trench, another post-hole (538) was cut into a larger pit (context 504). Excavation showed this post-hole also to be vertically cut, measuring 0.2m in diameter and 0.26m deep, with a pointed base, its top truncated by the ploughsoil above. Post-pit 504 was cut into a linear, shallow-sided feature (context 506), a potential construction trench orientated NW-SE, although its shallow sides may favour an alternative interpretation as a gully.

Even so, this feature is likely to have been associated with the building indicated by post-hole 538, which may have also included 502.

Beyond linear cut 506 to the SE, another linear gully feature (context 534) extended into the trench in a roughly N-S direction, spanning the full width of the trench and measuring 0.2m wide and 0.1m deep. At the southern end of this gully, and extending beyond the excavated area, there was a post-hole, 0.16m x 0.11m x 0.1m deep, located within a steep-sided post-pit (context 536). Within the gully itself there were a series of stake-holes set 12cm apart, each measuring c.8cm in diameter, with all four following the arc of the gully. At the SW end of the line of stake-holes was a possible post-hole 23cm x 13cm x 18cm deep, which was located c.0.85m to the N of the post-hole cut within pit 536.

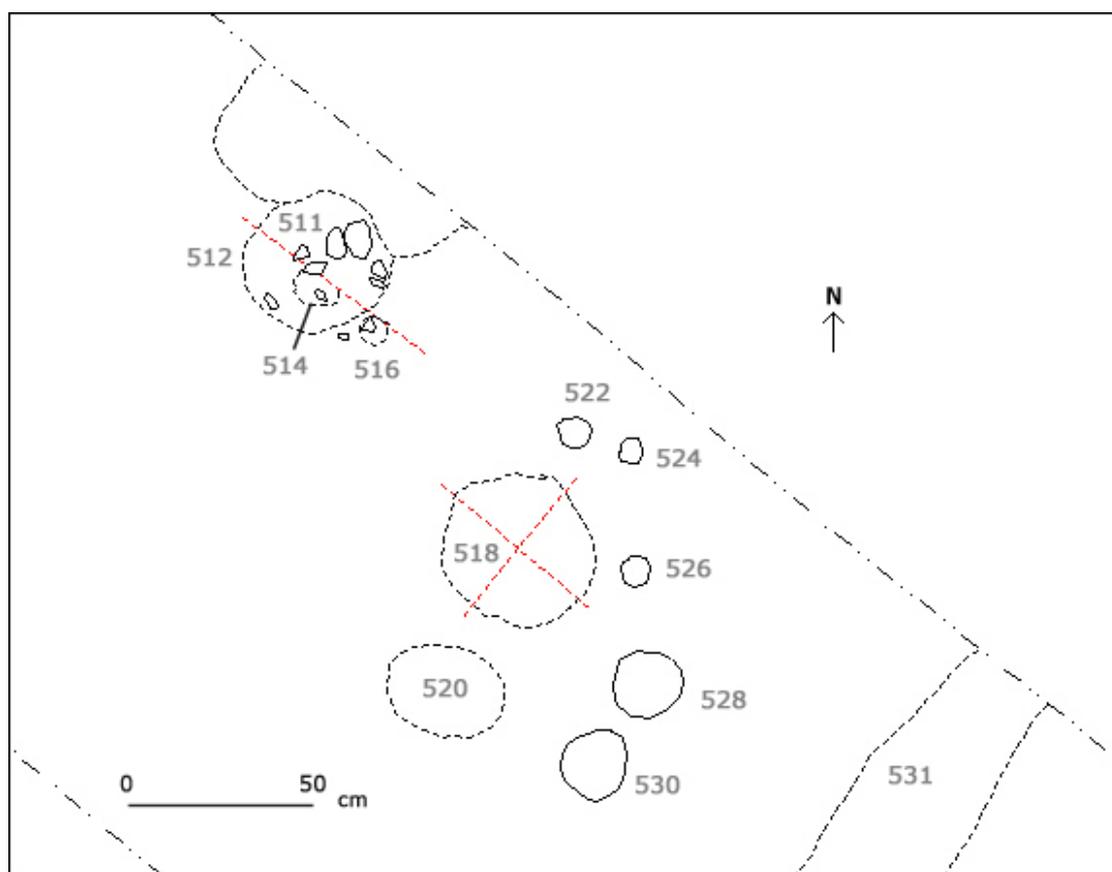


Figure 14 Detail of Trench 5, showing post-holes and arc of stake-holes

To the east of gully 534 there was a further concentration of post-holes, pits and stake-holes, as illustrated in Figure 14 and Plate 7. Post-pit 512 was filled by 511, a homogenous yellowish-brown sandy clay loam containing fragments of shattered shale, and cut by post-hole 514. This post-hole was more oval in plan, measuring 0.25m x 0.19m, and had been near-vertically cut into the bedrock to a depth of 0.3m. It was identical in profile to post-hole 538 located 4.5m to the NW, which also had a pointed base and had been cut to a similar depth. Just 12cm to the SE of post 514 there was a small, circular stake-hole (context 516), which excavation showed to have been driven into the ground at a very steep angle, with the stake leaning to the SE when *in situ*. Beyond this stake-hole, 0.6m to the SE there were two post-pits (518 and 520), both of which contained visible post impressions. Surrounding both pits on their E and NE sides there was an arc of small stake-holes (contexts 522-526) and two slightly larger stakes (contexts 528-30), possibly the remains of a hazel hurdle.



Plate 7 Post-holes and stake-holes in Trench 5 (contexts 511-530) looking NE

All these features suggest that within the area immediately outside the trivallate defences there were a series of perhaps temporary or more ephemeral wooden-post structures, with woven fences (hazel hurdles) erected to create wind-breaks or small paddocks, as suggested by the closely-set arcs of stake-holes. A comparable series of stake-holes have already been noted within context 411 in Trench 4, and were similarly located in a gully, closely associated with a more substantial post-hole, as seen here in context 534 and in contexts 511-30.

Further excavation is required to identify exact buildings with more certainty, but the individual contexts within Trenches 4 and 5 certainly point to there being built structures within this part of the fort, which may indeed be earlier than the fort itself, or perhaps part of an annexe serving the initial fort.

The possible cess-pit (Figure 15)

An area of intense burning was recorded within context 540, a rock-cut hollow seemingly filled with a layer of fire-reddened earth (context 541), and thought initially to be the site of a potential oven or hearth. However, when the feature was excavated this layer of burning was revealed to be one of a number of layers filling a deep, steep-sided pit, c.1.15m wide and 0.65m deep. This pit had been cut into the bedrock, and its irregular sides were thought to be the result of natural weathering and erosion while the pit was open. The main fill of the pit was a loose grey-brown silty clay loam (context 552), deposited to a depth of c.0.4m. This layer was then sealed by deposits of burnt clay and earth (contexts 551, 542 and 541). This feature appeared to be a cess-pit, probably of Roman date and could be related to the occupation of either phase of the fort at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn. It would certainly make sense to dump such waste deposits in an area away from the main fort accommodation, and this 'liminal' zone, immediately outside the trivallate defences but within the area bounded by the outer ditch, would have been an obvious choice.

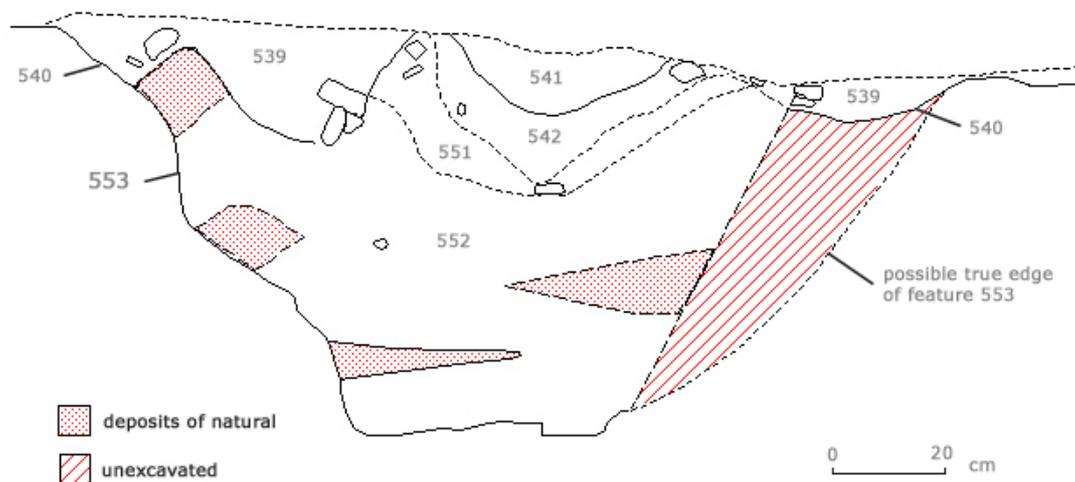


Figure 15 SW facing section through hollow 540 and large pit 553

Other features (Plate 8)

A number of other features were also encountered within Trench 5 which indicated the potential use of this area as an annexe to the earlier fort.

Context 547 appeared to be a shallow rock-cut pit at the SE end of Trench 5, whilst at the opposite end of the trench another shallow pit (context 510) was excavated. This pit appeared to have been truncated from above, and was originally quite steep-sided, with a flat base, and had been cut directly into the bedrock. The pit contained a possible cremation deposit, visible as a concentration of burnt bone on the surface of the trench prior to excavation, as seen within Plate 8.



Plate 8 Possible cremation deposit within pit 510

An amorphous linear feature (context 532) ran NE-SW across the full width of the trench, and contained a series of nebulous, inter-cutting pits, indistinguishable into separate contexts. The same fill (context 531) was apparent throughout all the pits, with evidence for an initial thin layer of silting, suggesting these areas were left open for a while before being filled. The cuts were reasonably steep-sided on the SE side, although were less so on the NW edge, and may be obscuring a possible gully or beam-slot.

Other possible post-holes were identified as contexts 545 and 546, with a potential post-hole pit to the NW of these (context 544).

Trench 6 (Figure 16)

Set at a right angle to, and adjoining, Trench 5, this trench was specifically positioned to investigate anomaly 20, identified during the 2005 geophysical survey as a series of three parallel ditches with rounded corners, continuing the triple ditched enclosure detected in an earlier survey on the NW side of the A483 and characteristically Roman in origin (Hopewell 2005:6). These were presumed to be the triple ditch defences of an initial playing-card shaped fort, and were also predicted to have been re-used as an annexe for the later, smaller fort when the larger fort was reduced. Trench 6 measured 30m in length and was aligned in a roughly NE-SW direction. The triple ditch system was immediately and clearly defined during the initial machining and hand-cleaning of the trench, and a number of other features were also discovered, including a probable building and associated oven located immediately behind the rampart material, and a series of inter-cutting pits with a typical 'plum-pudding' mix fill (dark earth with lumps of charcoal, brick, tile and pot inclusions visible).

The majority of pottery finds recovered from Trench 6 consisted of largely olive-oil amphora sherds, which had been dumped as part of the fills deposited within the series of inter-cutting pits located at the SW end of the excavated area (contexts 601, 605, 607 and 609), including a stamped handle bearing the mark of Asiatici (see Appendix 1). Other wares dumped here included sherds of Samian, Greyware and Mortarium.

The main features identified within this trench were:

- the trivallate defences and their various phases of use
- rampart material associated with the first-phase fort
- a building and associated oven/hearth immediately behind the rampart
- a series of inter-cutting pits
-

The trivallate defences (Figures 17 and 18)

The parallel triple-ditch system, which had been clearly indicated by the 2005 geophysical survey, was equally clearly visible within Trench 6 0.2m below the topsoil. Of the three defensive ditches, the innermost and middle ditch were half-sectioned and part-excavated.

The first cut of the innermost defensive ditch was recorded as context 614. Although unable to see the exact profile, the cut can be projected by comparison with the excavated middle ditch (context 616, Figure 18), and is likely to have steep sides, of a similar angle to those of 616, c.45°.

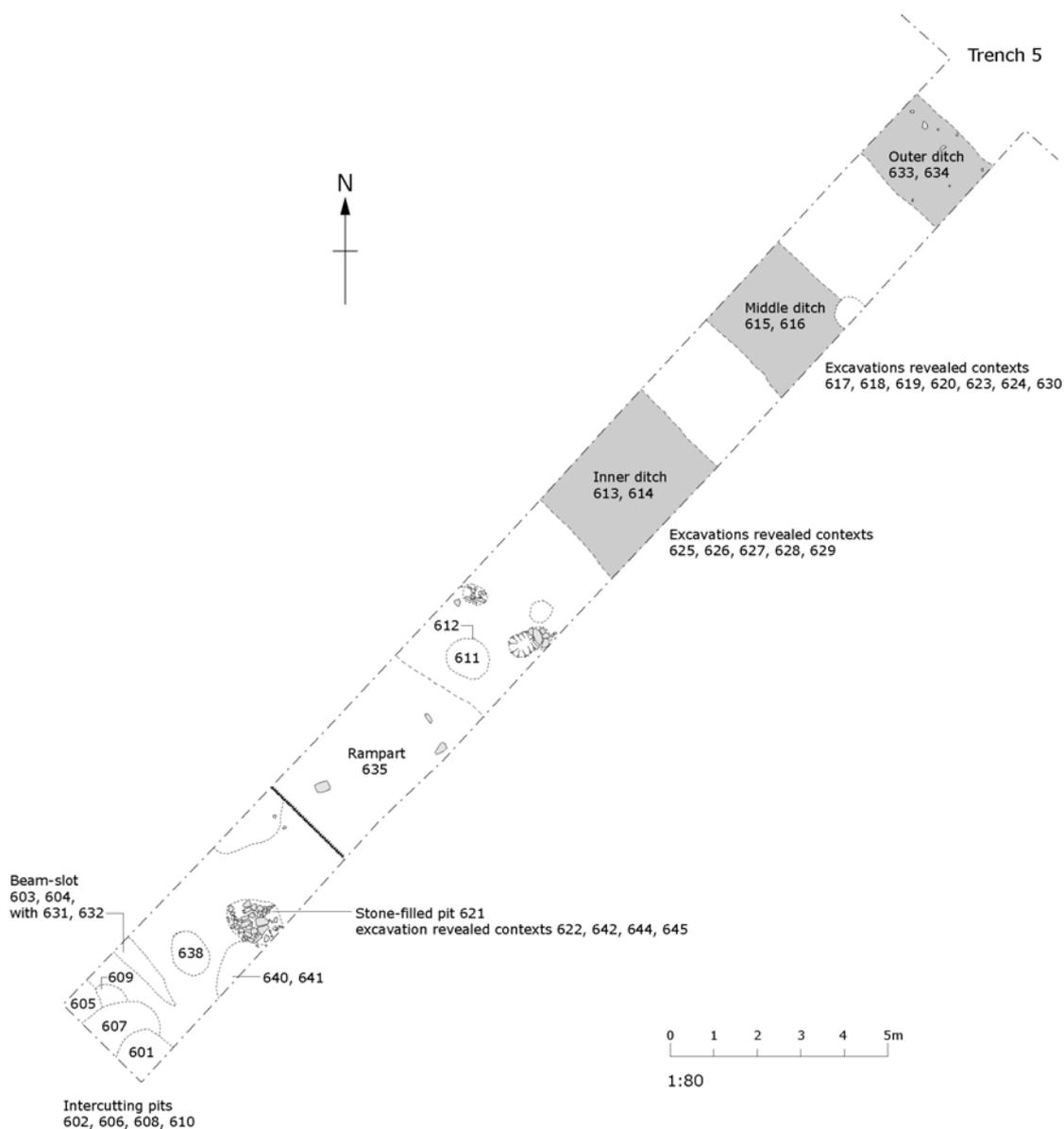


Figure 16 Plan of Trench 6 with context numbers

Figure 17 illustrates the sequence of features within the ditch, which appears to have been open long enough to allow a primary silt layer to form (context 627) before being backfilled by context 613, a dark yellowish-brown silty clay containing no charcoal and no finds. At a later date the ditch was re-cut (context 626) and backfilled with a charcoal-rich deposit, containing several sherds of pottery (context 625). The original cut of the ditch measured c.3m in overall estimated width (as visible on the surface of the trench), and had been cut to a depth of 0.88m, clearly seen within the section. The sequencing of cuts and fills within the inner defensive ditch was interpreted as follows: context 614 represented the initial cut of the ditch during the construction of the first-phase campaigning fort, which was later back-filled, presumably during the abandonment of this fort, by a clean silty clay (context 613), which contained no charcoal nor any other evidence which might suggest burning or destruction of structures in the vicinity. The back-filled ditch was then subsequently re-cut

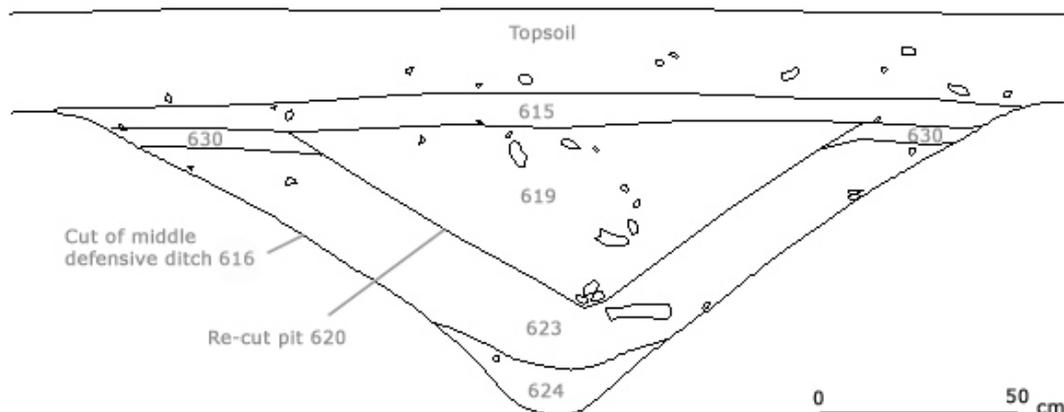


Figure 18 NW-facing section through middle defensive ditch 614

The fill of pit 620 (context 619) was very mixed and patchy, containing frequent lumps of charcoal, burnt daub, metal-working waste, burnt bone, some iron lumps and nails, and a lump of anthracite. There were also sherds from several different pottery vessels including Black Burnished, Greyware and Samian, as well as a sherd from a pre-Flavian vessel. The fill of this pit appeared to be a result of material being dumped in quick, successive phases rather than a single episode, and is likely to have been associated with the dumping of waste from activities associated with the use of the area as an annexe to the later fort. Post-hole 618 had been cut into the fill of the middle defensive ditch just 8cm from the edge of pit 620.

Outer ditch 634 was not excavated, but the band of fill within it (context 633) suggested a projected width of c.1.8m, although excavation may have shown the initial cut to be wider. This ditch lay c. 2.5m to the NE of the middle ditch, and was located c.30m SW of the fourth outer defensive ditch shown on the 2005 geophysical survey. It is likely that this ditch was backfilled in a similar fashion to the inner and middle defensive ditches, and may well contain a wealth of other features and finds associated with the abandonment, re-use and eventual decommissioning of both fort phases at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn.

It appears that when the first-phase fort was abandoned, the three parallel ditches were deliberately back-filled with a similar dark-yellowish brown material (contexts 613 and 623), which was notably charcoal free. However, when the fort was reduced and the smaller second-phase fort constructed it seems that only inner ditch 614 was re-cut, presumably to delimit the area re-used as an annexe by the later fort. The middle ditch was not re-cut during the second-phase fort, but did have later features cut into it, as evidenced by post-hole 618 and pit 620. Both these features were revealed within just the small metre-wide section dug through the ditch, and it is likely that a range of other features are present within the remaining unexcavated ditch material.

Rampart material (Plate 9)

The line of the rampart was evidenced by a layer of thick light-yellowish brown clay, seemingly imported to the site during the construction of the trivallate defences of the first-phase fort. The 4.1m band of ochre-coloured compact yet friable clay appeared as a homogenous layer containing occasional small, sub-rounded stones, and was likely to have been brought up to the site from the Afon

Bran downslope, with the stone inclusions being water-rolled pebbles imported within the clay dug out from the riverbank. This rampart material lay close to the surface, at a depth of 0.17m below the turf, and was located c.4m back from the edge of inner defensive ditch 614, and followed the same NW-SE orientation as the trivallate defences.



Plate 9 View NE along Trench 6 after cleaning, with rampart material visible at the centre of the photo

Plate 9 clearly shows this band of yellow clay material at the centre of the trench, with the inner and middle defensive ditches lying beyond it (indicated by the horizontal ranging rods). In the foreground, located SW of the rampart, there were a whole series of features, including the stone-filled pit visible in the photograph, and the other features discussed below.

Building and oven/hearth behind the rampart

A linear gully, averaging 0.45m wide and 0.13m deep, was discovered 4.5m behind the rampart material to the SW, and appeared to be the remains of a beam-slot for a building (context 604). The slot only partially extended into Trench 6 for 1.44m, and had been cut into the bedrock with a concave base. It was aligned NW-SE and thus run parallel to the line of the trivallate defences. A post-hole had been vertically cut into the southern terminus of the beam-slot (context 632) to a depth of 0.36m.

An oval spread of *in situ* burning 2.7m to the NE of the beam-slot was suggestive of a potential oven or hearth associated with this building. This area of fire-reddened earth, which also contained visible pottery sherds, charcoal, burnt daub and lumps of metal-working waste, was located immediately behind the rampart and was suggestive of an area of industrial activity, possibly relating to the later use of this area as an annexe to the later fort. Any features pertaining to the structures within the first-phase fort (such as barrack blocks or stores usually found within the front third of the fort layout (see Figure 22)) are likely to be overlain by the features evidenced here, which are more in keeping with later annexe activity associated with the second-phase fort.

Series of inter-cutting pits and fills (Figure 19)

Located immediately behind beam-slot 604 to the SW at the end of Trench 6 were a series of inter-cutting pits (contexts 602, 606, 608 and 610), which encroached to within 0.35m of the suggested building. Each pit was filled with a 'plum pudding' mixed deposit, although each deposit varied slightly in its density of inclusions. Detailed descriptions of these pits and fills can be found in Appendix 3. Metal-working waste and burnt daub were also found in addition to the various pottery sherds, lumps of charcoal and burnt clay within the pit fills, suggesting these features were largely dumps of material associated with industrial activity in the area, most likely dating to the later re-use of this area as an annexe by the reduced fort.



Figure 19 NE-facing section through inter-cutting pits

Although not visible within the NE-facing section of the trench as illustrated in Figure 19, pit 610 was the earliest pit in the group, cut into the bedrock 0.44m to the SW of beam-slot 604. Where visible, this pit measured 0.7m in width and appeared to be ovoid in shape. This pit was initially cut by pit 606 (filled with context 605), and cut again by pit 608, which also cut 606. Pit 602 was the last pit cut within the visible excavated area and cut pit 608. Only part of pit 602 was visible within the SW corner of Trench 6 but appeared to be steep-sided and with a concave base. When excavated two small stake-holes (context 643) were visible within the bottom of the pit and more stake-holes were likely to have been revealed within the unexcavated section of this pit to the SW.

Other features (Plate 10)

A series of other pits were also recorded and investigated within Trench 6. Just over 2m to the NE of the inter-cutting pits discussed above there was a stone-filled pit (context 622), which was steep-sided with an irregular flat base sloping slightly to the south. Excavation revealed that the stones filling this pit (context 621) were embedded within a more compact clay base (context 642), beneath which lay an earlier pit and fill (contexts 644 and 645). Another pit, 641, cut the stone-filled pit on its southern edge. A further pit (context 638) lay 0.25m to the NW of 641. These pits were all located within 1.7m of beam-slot 604 and may have been associated with the built structure and oven discussed earlier.



Plate 10 View of stone-filled pit 622 after excavation

Another large pit, context 612, was located in an area 3m to the SW of inner defensive ditch 614 and appeared to have been cut through the clay deposit to the NE of the rampart material. This pit had been cut through the top of a clayey deposit, possibly spread rampart material, and thus was likely to date from the second-phase use of the area as an annexe rather than being a feature associated with the earlier fort. No finds were recovered from the fill to indicate whether this pit was of Roman date or a later intrusion.

Trench 7 (Figure 20)

This trench was located further downslope and to the SW of Trench 6, in an area of orchard belonging to Llanfair House. The trench, which measured 20m in length, was placed to target an area within the defences of the first-phase fort, which was also subsequently used as an annexe for the later fort. During the 2005 geophysical survey a series of high magnetic responses were noted in the orchard area (anomalies 55 and 56), which potentially indicated the remains of kilns or ovens, whilst a band of reduced activity (anomaly 57) was suggested to hint at the presence of a road (Hopewell 2005:6). The triple defences of the fort were also thought to continue through the orchard, identified as anomalies 53 and 54 during the 2005 survey (*ibid.*).

Trench 7, illustrated in Figure 20, was a complex area stratigraphically, with a clear dark soil horizon from the garden overlying a brown subsoil and the deep, multi-layered archaeological deposits which lay beneath.

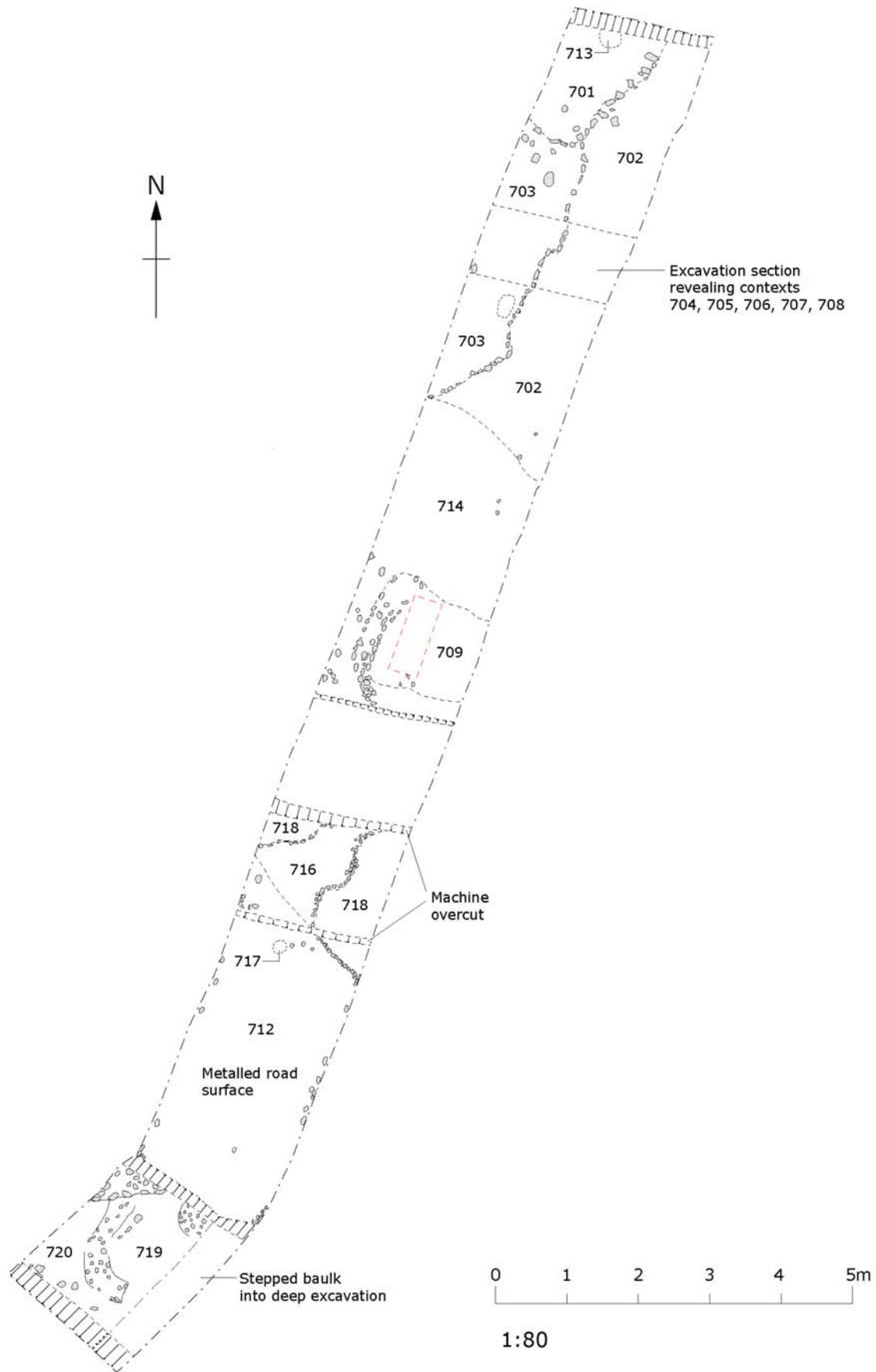


Figure 20 Plan of Trench 7 with context numbers

A huge amount of Roman material was recovered during the initial excavation and cleaning of the trench, including several kilos of building debris in the form of large lumps of brick and tile and a significant quantity of pottery sherds, representing a variety of different wares and forms. A metallated surface, similar to the road encountered within Trench 2 although not so well-maintained, was encountered in the SW end of the trench, and would appear to be one of the internal roads of the earlier fort, possibly serving the *Porta Principia Dextra* and corresponds with anomaly 57 identified by Hopewell (*ibid.*). Within the NW end of the trench were the quite definite remains of a building, and within this area especially a significant number of finds were recovered during the initial machining and cleaning of the trench (see Appendix 1 Context 700).

The main features recorded in this trench were:

- a metallated road surface
- well-preserved evidence for a building
- a stone-filled pit and gully

with other features including other large pit deposits and two post-holes.

The metallated road surface

A metallated road surface (context 712), c.4m wide and orientated NW-SE, was discovered towards the SW end of Trench 7 and had visible cambers on its NE and SW sides. This area of metallating corresponded with anomaly 57 identified during the 2005 geophysical survey and indeed suggested by Hopewell to hint at the presence of a road (Hopewell 2005:6). Although clearly a road surface, it was not as well-constructed or maintained as the main entrance road to the fort encountered within Trench 2, and was not as wide. However, its location and orientation suggests that it represents the remains of the *Via Principalis*, one of the internal roads within the earlier fort, which ran NW-SE through the interior of the fort to meet with the *Via Praetoria*, the road leading into the fort through its front entrance, and a continuation of the road encountered within Trench 2 (see the typical layout of a Roman fort illustrated in Figure 23). The *Via Principalis* would have pierced the trivallate defences through the fort on both its NW and SE sides through two gates, the *Porta Principalis Sinistra* on its NW side and the *Porta Principalis Dextra* to the SE.

Therefore, within the area of the orchard, and possibly only 5 metres or so to the SE of the road in Trench 7, the remains of the *Porta Principia Dextra* can be expected to be preserved beneath the topsoil. This presumption is made both on the basis of the (uninterpreted) geophysical survey results, which shows an apparent break in the line of defences, and the known quality and high preservation of the archaeological deposits within the evaluation area. Any development of this area during the construction of the proposed new road will have a major impact on these extremely significant archaeological remains, which have the potential to reveal a considerable amount of information about the structure and use of the earlier Roman fort at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn.

Building evidence (Figure 21; Plates 11 and 12)

At the top of Trench 7 in its NE corner there were a number of features which all indicated the remains of at least one building located in this area. Excavation of a 1m wide slot extending the full width of the trench revealed a number of well-preserved deposits, including a beam-slot (context 708), stake-holes and

deposits of material (contexts 705, 706, 707) suggesting the presence of a clay-walled structure. These features were all initially masked by context 702, which consisted of a thin spread of orangey-brown silty clay. Context 703, lying immediately to the NW of an area of stones, overlay and filled two shallow pits (context 704), with the stones thought to be an area of hard-standing creating a floor within the building. These contexts are illustrated in Figure 21 below.

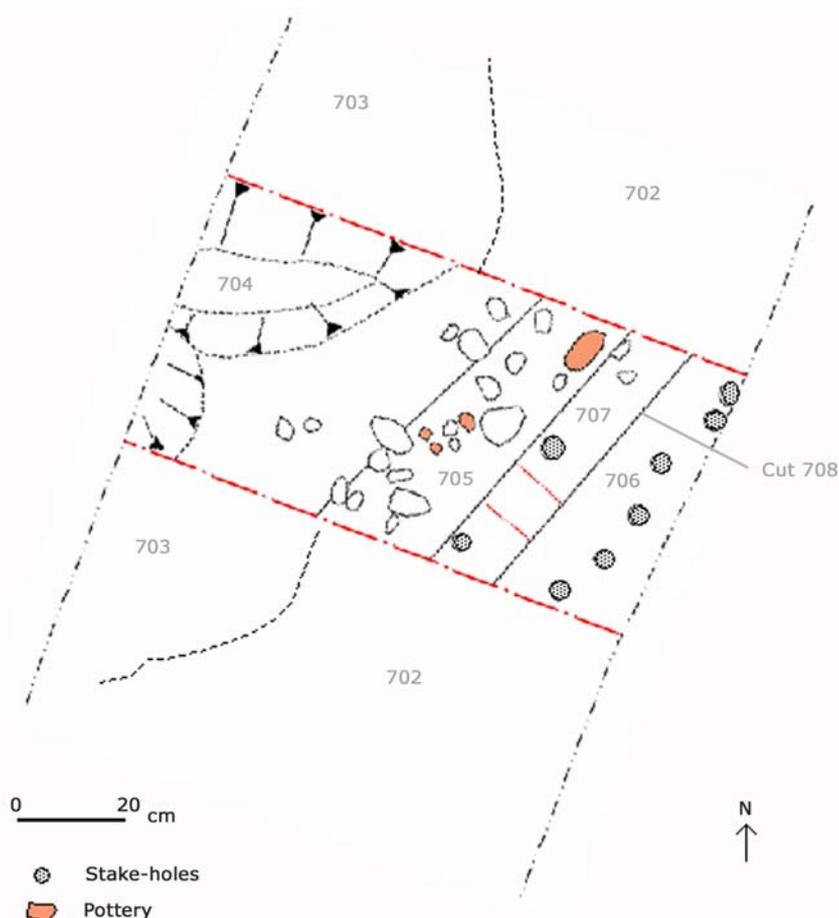


Figure 21 Detail of excavated section through 702 and 703

Beam-slot 708 was a steep-sided shallow cut with a sloping bottom, measuring between 0.06 and 0.09m deep. It was filled with a very clean layer of yellow clay (context 707), with at least two stake-holes visible along its length. This material was taken to be evidence of a clay wall, and was identical to the yellow clay material recorded within the *vicus* buildings in Trench 2. The beam-slot and wall were orientated NE-SW and appeared to run parallel to the projected line of the trivallate defences recorded during the 2005 geophysical survey. Plate 10 below illustrates the contrasting deposits located either side of the beam-slot, with context 706 visible as a spread of terracotta-coloured burnt clay to the right, and the mixed clay and stone deposit of 705 to the left.

Context 705 was a mix of compact yellow clay and dark yellowish-brown loam, containing occasional washed river pebbles and ran parallel to beam-slot 708 and its yellow-clay fill (707). It was thought that 705 might have been deposited as a result of a collapse of the adjacent clay wall when the building was either destroyed or fell into disrepair. Context 706 immediately the other side of the beam-slot appeared to be a layer of burnt clay and degrading brick/tile or daub,

with a number of stake-holes visible along its length set 0.12m apart, which possibly represented the remains of a hazel hurdle fence surrounding the building on its SE side.



Plate 11 Section through beam-slot 708 and fill 707

In the northernmost corner of the trench, 2.65m north of the excavated section shown in Figure 21, a probable post-hole 0.3m in diameter was recorded within context 701, a concretised layer of grey clay and gravel, which may also have been associated with the building evidenced by contexts 703-708. Finds recovered included sherds from a south Gaulish wine amphora and some late 2nd-early 3rd century Black Burnished ware, whilst amongst the unstratified deposits within the area of the building came a large sherd representing virtually a quarter of a Mortarium dish, dating to the late 1st-early 2nd century, complete with maker's stamp (Plate 12).

Stone-filled pit and gully (Plate 13)

Within the southernmost end of Trench 7 a deeper area was excavated to investigate features lying to the SW of the remains of the *Via Principalis*, the metalled road surface (context 712) thought to date to the first-phase fort.

Within this area there initially appeared to be a curvilinear spread of stones overlain by contexts 719 and 720, a grey silty brown clay displaying discrete patches of charcoal and occasional pottery sherds. The true nature of the features here were only revealed when the area was cleaned and partially excavated, revealing a large rectangular spread of stones (context 710) and a narrower, linear band of stones (context 711), as illustrated in Plate 12.



Plate 12 Large Mortarium dish sherd recovered from Trench 7

Context 710, only partially revealed within the excavated area, appeared to be a spread of stones filling the top of a large pit, at least 1.2m long and 0.8m wide (where visible) located immediately to the NE of linear stone spread 711. This large pit was overlain by the metalled road surface on its NE side, at a level 0.26m below the top of the road. It is possible that the spread of stones were deliberately placed into the top of the pit in order to create a solid surface to facilitate the construction of the overlying metalling. Further investigation is required in this area to discover the extent of this deposit and its related sequencing to the different fort phases.

Context 711 was revealed at the same level as spread 710, i.e. 0.26m below the surface of the road, and was characterised as a layer of stones, 0.3m wide and 1.4m long (where visible) which appeared to be filling a linear gully or beam-slot, orientated roughly N-S, extending beyond the excavated area to the S. This spread may indicate the remains of a former building in the area, although further work needed to establish the exact nature of this deposit.

Other features

Elsewhere within Trench 7 a number of other features were recorded, although their exact phasing and chronological relationships were not altogether clear. However, a spread of stone (context 716) appeared to be the result of some slippage of the road metalling onto another deposit (context 718), which consisted of an area of dark brown soil and charcoal, running parallel to the road and possibly the remains of the road-side ditch. A circular deposit of dark earth material (context 717) had been inserted into the edge of the road on its NE side, just before the camber. The 0.2m diameter fill contained some visible burnt bone fragments on its surface, and may have been a cremation deposit or the remains of a post-hole.



Plate 13 Stone-filled pit 710 and linear feature 711, looking SW

A section was also excavated through the area of silvery-grey clay (context 709) located halfway along the trench, in between the road (712) and building (708). The appearance of this particular spread of material was markedly different to other deposits within Trench 7, and contrasted especially with neighbouring deposit 714, an orangey-brown friable silty clay loam. Within the excavated section it appeared that the grey clay overlay a deposit of brown clayey silt, which was itself the fill of a large pit. The cut and the extent of the pit were not definable within the 1.2m long and 0.6m wide section, but where excavated it bottomed onto a possible clay natural at a depth of 0.55m below the grey clay, and contained some sherds of pottery, iron nails, lead pieces and charcoal within its fill.

Discussion and conclusions

With the information gained from the combined geophysical survey results (Hopewell 2005) and the recent archaeological evaluation, it has been possible to radically re-interpret the sequence of construction, use and eventual abandonment of the Roman fort at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn, as well as contribute to a

greater understanding of the Roman conquest of south-west Wales in its wider context.

Using information gleaned from previous archaeological investigations as detailed earlier in part 3 of this report, combined with the results from the current evaluation, it is clear that the Roman fort at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn was initially a large playing-card shaped fort, likely to date to an initial campaigning phase during the second half of the 1st century AD, with the fort undergoing a series of transformations during its lifetime. Pottery and other finds from the evaluation indicate a likely Flavian date, c.70-100 AD, for the initial establishment of the fort at Llandovery, with few finds indicating a usage of the fort beyond the late 2nd century (*pers. comm.* Peter Webster). The revised interpretation for this fort is illustrated in Figure 22, with the known lines of the defences and roads indicated by solid lines, and with projected lines dashed.

The first-phase fort at Llandovery consisted of a triple ditch defensive system, delimiting a projected internal area of some 3.5 hectares, with a fourth outer ditch running parallel to these trivallate defences at a distance of c.30m. The only other parallel for an outer ditch surrounding the defences of the earlier fort as seen at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn is known from Llwyn-y-Brain (Caersws I), located roughly 50 miles NNE of Llandovery near Newtown, Powys, and reached by road via Caerau and Castell Collen. Llwyn-y-Brain was a large campaigning fort and the presumed pre-cursor to the later Flavian fort lying $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile to the west beneath Caersws village (*pers. comm.* Jeff Davies). Confirmation of the triple ditch defences from both the geophysical survey and the evaluation results within Trench 6 enabled the plotting of a confident projection for the size and shape of the earlier fort at Llandovery, which was comparable to the first-phase fort at Llandeilo (Hughes 2005).

From the results obtained within Trenches 4 and 5, which indicated the presence of buildings and associated fencing, it would appear that the area between the fourth outer ditch and the three defensive ditches was most likely utilised as an annexe by the first-phase fort. The annexe provided an area outside the confines of the fort itself in which extra storage buildings could be placed, or where facilities such as workshops could be situated. The annexe would also offer protection for animals and wagons, goods in transit, or troops on the march (Breeze 2002:39), and was utilised solely by the army. The Via Julia Montana Roman road approached the fort on its SE side, and a well-maintained and well-constructed metalled road, revealed within Trench 2, branched off of this road to the NW, eventually turning to the SW and leading into the *Via Praetoria* through the *Porta Praetoria*, the front gate of the fort, which faced to the NE.

Outside of the defences a *vicus* was established alongside this road, the remnants of which were encountered in Trenches 2 and 3. This *vicus* is likely to have extended the full length of the side-road leading into the fort, with a concentration of activity also to be expected at the junction with the Via Julia Montana, as well as alongside the Via Julia Montana itself as it approached the SE side of the fort. This area would have been populated by a tight-knit community of merchants and craftsmen, engaged in metal-working and other crafts, as well as the dependants of the garrison, the 'wives' and families of serving soldiers or veterans (Davies 2000: 58).

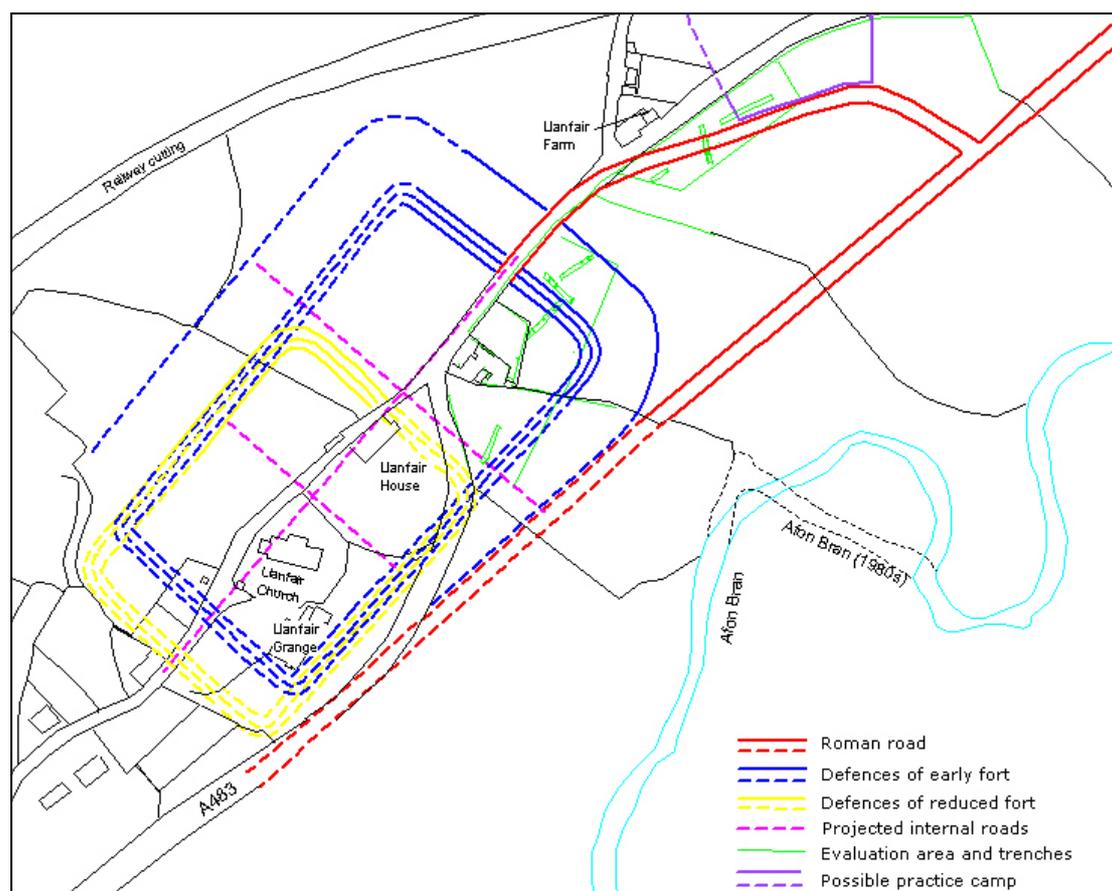


Figure 22 Revised interpretation of Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn Roman fort

The large Roman military ditch encountered in Trench 1 appeared to be demarcating a much larger enclosure containing built structures, as seen also within the results from the 2005 geophysical survey. The projected internal area of this enclosure is estimated to be c.1.8 acres and might represent the remains of a practice camp or parade ground. Its apparent respect of the branch road leading into the fort, and its location within the heart of the *vicus*, however, might equally point to something more recreational in nature, but it was clearly of Roman military origin.

Figure 23 demonstrates a typical lay-out of an auxiliary fort such as that found at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn. Roman forts usually faced the enemy, the line of march or east (Breeze 2002: 7), with the fort at Llanfair facing NE, towards Castell Collen, another auxiliary fort on a line of march. The interior of the fort was divided up by a series of internal roads and the placement of different buildings, with barrack blocks tending to occupy the front third of the fort's interior. The defences of the fort were pierced by four gates: the main *Porta Praetoria* at the front of the fort; the *Porta Decumana* at the rear of the fort; and the *Porta Principalis Dextra* and *Sinistra* on the opposite sides.

These latter two gates were connected by an internal road, the *Via Principalis*, with an intervallum road, the *Via Sagularis*, running round the whole circuit of the fort inside the rampart. Part of the *Via Principalis* was uncovered within Trench 7 during the evaluation at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn, and it seems likely that the *Porta Principalis Dextra* lay just a few metres to the SE within the orchard, within the proposed land-take for the new road corridor.

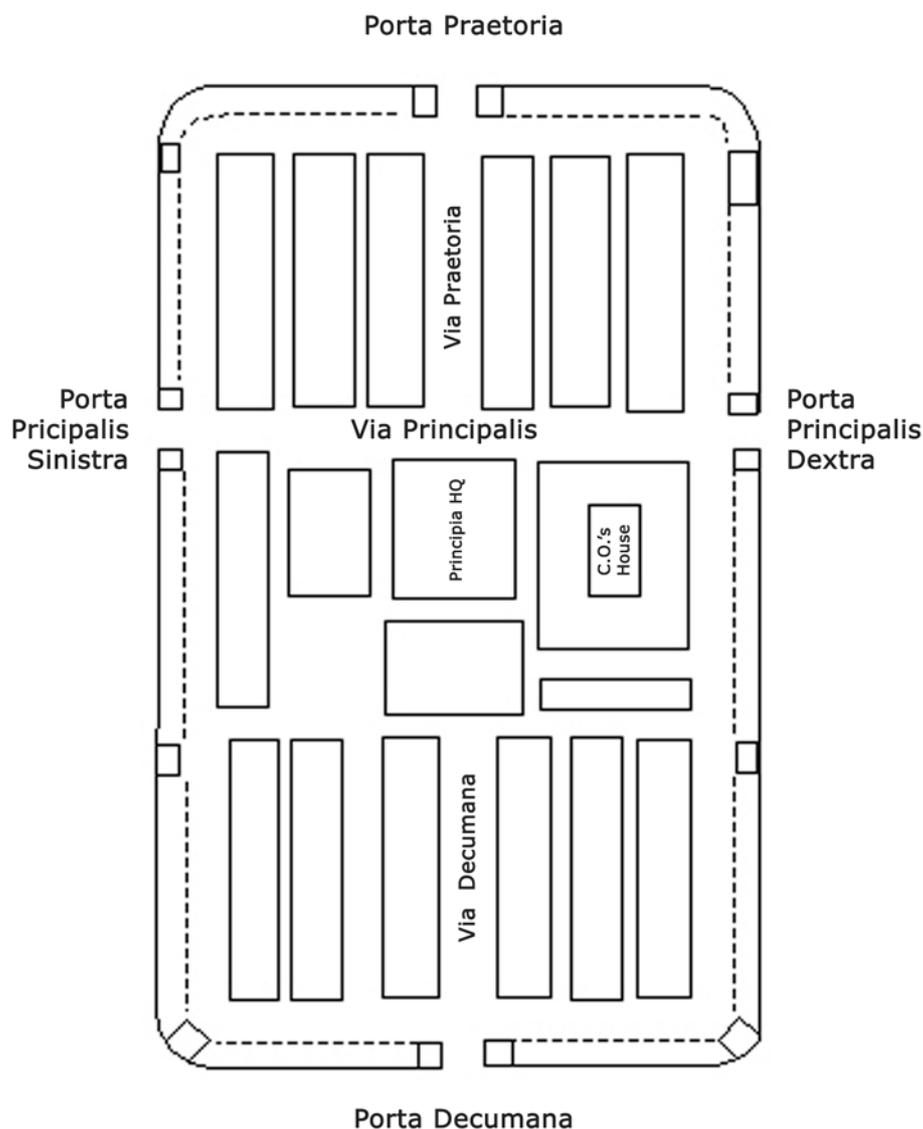


Figure 23 Typical lay-out of a Roman auxiliary fort (after Breeze 2002)

Within the central range of buildings in the interior of the fort were the *Principia* or headquarters buildings, which usually opened onto the *Via Principalis*. Adjacent to this was the commanding officer's house, the *Praetorium*, with a granary often flanking the *Principia* on its other side. At Llandoverly these buildings would have been situated in the area now occupied by Llanfair House and garden. At the rear of the fort there were further barrack blocks, storehouses and stables, in the area where the church now stands, with the *Porta Decumana* opening to the SW. Indeed, the current unclassified road leading to Llanfair Church appears to largely overlie the former *Via Praetoria* and *Via Decumana*, with the A483 itself respecting the line of defences of the reduced fort on its SE side.

At some point, possibly within just a few months or years, the large campaigning fort was abandoned and de-commissioned. Evidence from Trench 6 demonstrated the deliberate backfilling of the defensive ditches with a dark yellowish-brown silty clay, which overlay a deposit of natural silt which had accumulated in the bottom of the ditches through weathering and natural erosion whilst they were open. At a later date, possibly also after a period of just a few months, the fort

was re-established, but was reduced in size to c.2.2 hectares. This second-phase fort also shifted location slightly, maintaining the same orientation as the earlier fort but taking advantage of the natural topography, so that the new front defences and *Porta Praetoria* were located at the highest point in the landscape, just over 90m back (SW) from the original main gate. These defences are partly visible today as earthworks in the field to the north of Llanfair House, which itself lies just inside the projected location of the main gate-house for the reduced fort. It is probable that when the second fort was constructed, the backfilled defences of the earlier fort were re-cut and re-used as defences for the later fort, but this only seems to be the likely on its SE and NW sides. Indeed, new defensive ditches and ramparts were clearly raised at both the NE and SW ends of the fort. Within this later fort, the new *Porta Praetoria* lay behind the old *Via Principalis* of the earlier fort, and it is possible that this metalled surface was maintained and utilised for the duration of the fort's life, providing a useful surface and additional access road to the *Via Julia Montana* downslope. It seems likely that the foreshortened NE part of the earlier fort was re-commissioned as an annexe for the later fort, and this was evidenced by the re-cutting of the inner ditch of the trivallate defences seen within Trench 6. It is probable too that the series of inter-cutting pits revealed at the SW end of this trench represent industrial activity associated with the re-use of the fort in the 2nd century AD, and may cut or overlie the features dating to the initial phase of occupation, such as the barrack blocks and stores.

It now seems clear that Jarrett's excavations through the NW defences in 1961 and 1962 uncovered both the defences of the second-phase fort, as well as the earlier defences of the initial fort. Jarrett dug two trenches: one through the NW defences, presumably in a NW-SE direction, with a second trench set off from this trench and at a right angle to it (*pers. comm.* Jeff Davies). Jarrett concluded that the fort had been reduced to a fortlet on its western side, although he suggested that further works were required to confirm this (1969:96). It seems likely that the slight earth bank and V-shaped ditch mentioned by Jarrett as evidence for reduction to a fortlet (*ibid.*) was in fact one of the ditches of the early larger fort, which had been overlain by the interior of the later fort in the rear area of the *Via Decumana*.

A number of questions have been raised by the results from the evaluation, which would only be resolved by a larger open area excavation. Indeed, many of the anomalies identified during the 2005 geophysical survey remain uncharacterised, but the results from the evaluation show a wide and varied selection of well-preserved archaeological features. The complex chronology and relationships between the various features within Trenches 6 and 7 in particular may be resolved only when (or if) a larger area is exposed, in order to fully understand the sequences of construction, destruction and re-use of the ditches and rampart of the first fort, and their inclusion into the later fort at Llandovery. Within the area of the evaluation, and in Trenches 6 and 7 especially, the situation is complicated by the multi-phase use of the fort in these areas, first as a campaigning trivallate fort, and later as an annexe to the reduced auxiliary fort. The evaluation has revealed substantial and significant archaeological deposits within both of these areas, which are crucial to the understanding of the establishment and development of the Roman fort at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn. However, the archaeological remains from elsewhere in the evaluation area are no less significant in their potential to reveal substantial information about the Roman presence in the area, and their interaction with the indigenous Celts as represented by the *vicus* settlement evidenced in Trenches 2 and 3. Indeed, it is likely that this settlement evidence extends the full length of the side-road and along much of the *Via Julia Montana*, as noted earlier.

In terms of datable evidence gleaned during the evaluation, the 'find' with the earliest date came from a few sherds of a Lyon ware beaker found within context 619, a pit re-cut into the fill of ditch 623 (the middle of the three parallel defensive ditches attributed to the first-phase fort). Lyon ware is a central Gaullish pottery form which is pre-Flavian in date, c.40-70 AD, although vessels of this ware also survive into the AD 70s, and can therefore be found on Flavian forts (*pers. comm.* Peter Webster). One piece of Black Burnished ware from context 700 was identified as dating to the late 2nd or early 3rd century, and stood out from the rest of the pottery assemblage from across the site, which was quite clearly Flavian in date. However this piece came from Trench 7, which is located within the defences of the first-phase fort later re-used as an annexe to the second-phase auxiliary fort. During Jarrett's excavations in 1961 and 1962 in the area of the NW defences a Black Burnished ware bowl with lattice decoration dating to the early 3rd century (cf. Gillam 1976: 75, fig. 5, Form 72) was also discovered, despite the rest of the assemblage from the excavation dating from largely AD 70-160.

Although not datable, two pieces of box-tile from a possible hypocaust system were recovered from excavations in Trench 1 in the area of the ditched enclosure and potential building (contexts 104 and 110). It is tempting to think that the ditched enclosure structure, identified as anomaly 67 in the 2005 geophysical survey and excavated within Trench 1, might indeed be the remains of a bath-house or *mansio*, which until now had been presumed destroyed when the vicarage was constructed to the west of the fort in the 18th century (Jarrett 1969: 96). Clearly this structure was enclosed within the Roman military ditch, and therefore must have been associated in some way with the fort and its Roman occupation. The bath-house was normally placed outside the fort, often in the annexe, yet at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn this ditched enclosure lay just over 100m to the NE of the outer fourth ditch and is therefore an unlikely location. However, the way in which this ditched enclosure respected the side-road leading into the fort points more strongly to this being the possible remains of a *mansio*, a designated stopping-place along a road, for use by Roman military officials and those on official business. In such a *mansio*, an official traveller could find villa-like accommodation and refreshment, which was more salubrious than that offered within the fort itself. The fort at Llandovery was located at a point of convergence for a number of roads leading to the gold-mines at Dolaucothi to the NW, Caerau and Castell Collen to the NE, Y Pigwn and Brecon Gaer to the ESE and Llandeilo and Carmarthen to the WSW. As noted by Davies (2000: 39) the principal roads were utilised by the imperial courier service, which required post-stations or *mansiones* en route, and were also patrolled by outposted soldiers (*stationarii*) in the later Roman period who would also have required accommodation. The buildings and enclosure in Trench 1 may therefore relate to these activities, although more work is required in this area to reach more definite conclusions.

Even in areas which were suggested by the geophysical survey to be largely 'blank', excavation has shown that there are considerable and complex archaeological deposits within the land-take for the proposed road improvement scheme. For example, despite Trench 3 being located in a seemingly 'blank' area according to the geophysical survey, there were still considerable and complex archaeological deposits present within the evaluation trench. As such, no part of the proposed development site can be assumed to contain fewer archaeological remains than anywhere else on the basis of the geophysical survey alone.

Recommendations

Any development of the currently proposed road corridor area will have a significant impact on the known archaeological resource, and will require a full archaeological excavation prior to the commencement of any works. Well-preserved archaeological deposits are encountered at a depth of 0.2m or less, and any topsoil strip of the site will inevitably both reveal and compromise the archaeology of the Roman Fort and its associated features.

The archaeological features identified during the 2005 geophysical survey and sampled during the 2006 evaluation are of national importance, and are of schedulable quality. Preservation of remains is extremely high, and the archaeological deposits within the proposed development area are seemingly undisturbed by ploughing or other later activity. The wealth of material recovered from just the single trench in the orchard (Trench 7) demonstrated both the quality and complexity of the archaeological remains of the Roman fort at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn.

The fort at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn was clearly important strategically, located at a point where four different roads converged, linking it with other important Roman sites in the area. The importance of these remains cannot be emphasised enough, and any works undertaken in this area will require full excavation: engineering solutions in the form of terram matting and layers of embankment material may be insufficient mitigatory measures for the inevitable compaction impact on these significant archaeological deposits over time, and too little is known about methods of *in situ* preservation to guarantee the safety of these features in the future. Moreover, once buried beneath the road surface these features are essentially untouchable for at least the life-time of the road, if not longer, and are also vulnerable to later road works and invasive repairs.

Suggested mitigatory measures are threefold:

- Either 1) The proposed road development is abandoned completely, requiring no further archaeological works to take place
- Or 2) The current proposed route of the new road corridor is altered to take account of the archaeological remains and to avoid areas of high archaeological activity.
Any changes to the current proposed route will require a new archaeological evaluation to take place prior to any works commencing on the road scheme
- Or 3) The existing and evaluated road continues along its present suggested route, *requiring a full archaeological excavation within the area of land-take and associated features prior to works commencing on the road-scheme*

A full excavation of this section of the fort will provide an excellent opportunity to learn a great deal more about the expansion of the Roman empire into south-west Wales, and further advance our knowledge of the apparent phasing within the Roman conquest, as indicated by the construction of two forts both here, and elsewhere in the area, e.g. Llandeilo. A rare chance is available to increase our understandings of both military and civilian life in the Romano-British period, of which both the fort and *vicus* at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn clearly played an important part.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Pottery assessment

The pottery assemblage from the archaeological evaluation at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn was informally assessed by Dr Peter Webster, University of Wales Cardiff.

All pottery is of Roman date unless otherwise stated.

Trench 1

Context 100 (unstratified)

Black Burnished: 1 sherd

Mortarium: 1 body and 1 rim-herd: from one vessel, a Verulamium (St Albans) vessel, of late 1st or early 2nd century date

Samian: 1 sherd – very worn – South Gaullish
1 sherd – very worn – too worn for identification

Other: one large box-tile piece, flat and with lots of scoring on its surface, possibly from a hypocaust
several large lumps brick and tile
several small sherds/fragments of undiagnostic pottery
3 sherds modern white glazed pottery,
1 sherd black modern pottery
1 late medieval potsherd

Context 104

Amphora: sherds from a Dressel 20 (olive oil) vessel

Black Burnished: various sherds from a 2nd century dish and bowl

Greyware: several sherds, possibly all from one vessel, including a rimsherd, suggesting a vessel of 1st century date

Mortarium: one rimsherd from a mid-2nd century Mancetter-Hartshill vessel
several sherds from a Caerleon mortarium, of early-mid 2nd century date

Samian: 2 large and 2 small sherds from an 1831R vessel, from Central Gaul, dating to 120-150 AD

Severn-Valley: several large pieces and smaller sherds of a semi-complete vessel, seemingly burnt, of 1st or 2nd century date

Other: several oxidised sherds of unidentified red wares
one possible box-tile piece
several large lumps brick and tile

Context 109

3 sherds from a Mortarium-like bowl: the sherds suggest a vessel of similar shape to a Mortarium vessel, but without the grits in the fabric: possibly a small serving dish, dating from the late 1st-mid 2nd century

2 sherds unidentified pottery, although considered likely to be Roman

Context 110

Black Burnished: 6 sherds from a jar, decorated with lattice, possibly of 2nd century date

Greyware: 6 sherds

Samian: 2 small sherds from a Form 18 vessel, possibly South Gaulish, dating to c.70-90 AD

Context 113

Malvernian: 1 large sherd from a Malvernian vessel of mid 1st-2nd century date

Trench 2

Context 200 (unstratified)

Amphora: sherd from a battered Dressel 20 rim, dating to late 1st-early 2nd century

Black Burnished: everted-rim jar, c.70-150 AD

Greyware: rimsherd from a jar, 1st-2nd century

Malvernian: 8 sherds from a Malvernian jar

Mortarium: 3 sherds from a Verulamium vessel, c.70-early 2nd century AD

Samian: sherd from a south Gaulish 37, with zonal decoration, c.70-90 AD
sherd from a Form 36 south Gaulish, c.70-110 AD
sherd from an 1831 south Gaulish, c.90-110 AD
rimsherd from an 18 or 1831 south Gaulish vessel, c.90-110
sherd from a 22 or 23, flat/open salt-cellar: an unusual piece, dated to the early Flavian period, no later than 85-90 AD

Other: fine-ware sherd, possibly from a flagon
several large lumps and smaller pieces of brick and tile
oxidised pottery sherds
sherd of Barnstaple-North Devon gravel-tempered ware, post-medieval (17th century) date

Context 207

Amphora: sherd from a Dressel 20 vessel

Black Burnished: sherd from a jar, dating from early-mid 2nd century

Other: large roof-tile fragment (imbrex)
various small oxidised pottery sherds

Context 208

Amphora: sherds from a Dressel 20 vessel
handle from a flagon

Samian: 3 sherds from a Form 37 South Gaul decorated vessel, c.70-90 AD

Other: 2 large pieces brick and tile

Context 209

Malvernian: sherd from a Malvernian vessel

Mortarium: flange of 1st century date

Samian: rimsherd from a Form 37 vessel

Other: various small oxidised sherds (unidentified)

Context 210

Amphora: sherds from a Dressel 20 vessel

Black Burnished: one sherd

Other: 5 small worn sherds (unidentified)

Context 217

Amphora: sherds from a Dressel 20 vessel

Other: oxidised pottery, dating to 2nd century

Context 224

Amphora: sherd from Dressel 20 lid

Black Burnished: sherds from a BB vessel

Other: 5 small lumps brick and tile
2 small sherds unidentified pottery

Trench 3

Context 300 (unstratified)

Amphora: 1 sherd from a Dressel 20 vessel

Black Burnished ware: 2 sherds from a dish

Greyware: 4 small undiagnostic sherds

Mortarium: large sherd from a Verulanium mortarium vessel, c.80-120 AD

Samian: 2 adjoining base-sherds from a Form 37, south Gaul, 70-110 AD –
decoration worn away

Other: pedestal base of a *tazza* (a shallow ornamental wine cup or vessel
used for burning incense)
sherds from a white flagon, likely Roman date but not a local fabric
various small sherds and 1 large lump brick/tile
unidentified small sherds from various fine and coarse wares

Context 301

Amphora: 1 large sherd from a probable south Gaul wine amphora

Black Burnished ware: 1 sherd

Greyware: 1 sherd

Context 303

Black Burnished: 1 sherd from a jar

Greyware: 3 sherds from a jar

Samian: 1 sherd, possibly from a Form 18, c.70-90 AD

Other: various lumps brick/tile

Context 305

Amphora: 1 sherd from a Dressel 20 vessel

Context 319

Greyware: 2 sherds from an everted-rim jar, late 1st-early 2nd century

Trench 4

Context 400 (unstratified)

- Amphora: 5 buff-yellow sherds from a South Gaulish wine amphora, dating to the 1st/2nd century
sherd from a possible Dressel 20 amphora
- Other: 1 sherd post-medieval pottery
several modern glazed pottery sherds (from c.4 different vessels)
5 lumps brick/tile

Trench 5

Context 500 (unstratified)

- Other: roof-tile (imbrex) piece
various brick and tile lumps – too small to be diagnostic
5 sherds modern pottery (4 blue/white glazed ware, 1 black glaze)
4 sherds modern flowerpot
1 large and 2 small sherds post-medieval glazed pot

Trench 6

Context 600 (unstratified)

- Amphora: sherd from a Dressel 20 vessel
- Black Burnished: 1 sherd from a Dorset bowl, 2nd century date
1 sherd from a second vessel
(two separate vessels from two different sources)
- Greyware: 2 sherds from a local Greyware vessel
- Other: assorted sherds brick and tile – undiagnostic, but Roman
8 sherds modern white-glazed pottery
1 sherd post-medieval glazed pot

Context 601

- Amphora: two adjoining pieces of a Dressel 20 handle, 1st/2nd century date
- Greyware: 1 sherd from a bowl of unknown date
1 sherd from another vessel – up to 150 AD
- Mortarium: 1 sherd from possible Gaulish vessel, 1st-mid 2nd century date
- Samian: 1 sherd 1st century Lezoux ware, from Central Gaul
- Other: 1 sherd 18th century pot
lumps of brick and tile – undiagnostic, but Roman

Context 605

Samian: 1 sherd from a south Gaul 18 or 1831, mid 1st-110 AD
1 sherd from a south Gaul vessel 29, c.60-85 AD

Context 607

Amphora: Dressel 20 handle with stamp, "T A A S A C", dating c.50-110 AD*
Greyware: 1 rimsherd from a vessel derived from *Terra Negra*, likely to be Flavian in date, i.e. 2nd half of 1st century

* Stamped amphora handle

by Dr Peter Webster 18.vii.06

Dressel Form 20, south Spanish olive oil amphora.

The stamp reads T A A SI ATI CI, with the last seven letters ligated as indicated by the underlinings. The stamp has been identified by Funari at Colchester (Funari 1996, no.44a), but the clearest reading and dating of c.AD50-c.110 comes from Augst (Martin-Kilcher 1987, i., Abb.55, ST 16b, pp.100-101); see also Callendar 1965, no.1695 for other instances of stamps by Asiatici.



Slate graphite rubbing of stamp

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Context 619

Black Burnished: 1 sherd

Greyware: base-herd from a Greyware jar

Samian: sherd from a South Gaulish vessel 35, c.70-110 AD
another undiagnostic Samian sherd

Other: sherd from a Lyon ware beaker, pre-Flavian in date, but these tend to survive into the AD 70s, so are found on Flavian forts
various small/worn sherds, too small to identify

Context 625

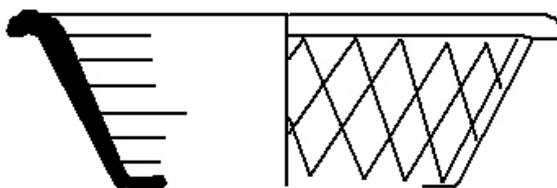
Sherds from jars, but too small to be diagnostic

Trench 7

Context 700 (unstratified)

Amphora: sherds from Dressel 20 vessels

Black Burnished: 2 sherds from a bowl, no decoration visible
2 small sherds, heavily burnt
1 sherd from a bowl, dating to the first half of the 2nd century AD, with lattice-work decoration
1 sherd from another 2nd century bowl, with lattice-work decoration
1 sherd from an additional bowl, not a form recognised by PVW, likely 2nd century date, with lattice-work decoration
1 sherd from a late 2nd-early 3rd century flat-rimmed bowl, Form 42, produced in Dorset (ref: Gillam, JP 1976 'Coarse Fumed Ware in North Britain and Beyond' in *Glasgow Archaeological Journal*, vol.4, pp.57-80)



Form 42 (after Gillam 1976)

Greyware: rimsherd from an everted-rim jar, c. mid 1st-early 2nd century AD

Mortarium: sherds of several Mortaria vessels, including a north Gaulish mortarium, c.70-110 AD
large sherd of a mortarium vessel with stamp, dating to the late 1st/early 2nd century AD

Samian: 1 sherd from a south Gaulish Form 37, date up to 110 AD
1 sherd from a south Gaulish Form 18R, c.70-90 AD
3 fragments of a vessel 67, a jar form, previously decorated and mainly Flavian in date, c.70-100 AD

Other: 1 sherd from a Black Burnished-like vessel, possibly an imitation
ware
imbrex roof tile
brick
19th century pottery

Context 701

Amphora: sherds from a south Gaullish wine amphora

Black Burnished: 3 sherds

Other: various sized fragments brick and tile

Context 704

Black Burnished: sherd from a probable 2nd century dish

Samian: unidentifiable sherds (too worn)

Other: brick
undiagnostic pottery sherds

Context 709

Amphora: 2 sherds from a Dressel 20 vessel

Black Burnished: sherd from a jar

Greyware: sherd, undiagnostic

Mortarium: sherds from a Mortarium bowl/dish

Samian: 3 worn sherds

Other: burnt brick
roof-tile
undiagnostic pottery sherds

Appendix 2 Other finds

All finds noted below are considered to be of Roman date unless otherwise stated.

Trench 1

Context 100 (unstratified)

1 small iron nail, 1 large iron nail plus two iron nail fragments
2 pieces and two fragments burnt bone
3 shards modern glass
3 lumps metal-working waste (slag)

Context 104

7 small, 3 small-medium, 3 medium and 1 large iron nail(s)
several lumps metal-working waste (slag)
4 pieces burnt bone
1 shard glass
honing stone
charcoal
burnt daub

Context 109

4 lumps metal-working waste (slag)
burnt daub
burnt bone

Context 110

stone with nail fused on surface
4 small iron nails
4 lumps metal-working waste
1 small piece burnt bone

Trench 2

Context 200 (unstratified)

1 lump lead waste
1 large nail, 1 nail head and 4 medium iron nails
4 fragments burnt bone
2 shards bluish-green glass
possible honing stone
1 piece 'polished' quartz
5 lumps metal-working waste (slag)

Context 207

2 large lumps metal-working waste (slag)
1 lump lead
honing stone

Context 208

burnt daub
metal-working waste (slag)
burnt bone
charcoal (1 lump attached to burnt daub)
2 shards bluish-green glass

Context 209

burnt bone
charcoal lumps
metal-working waste (slag)

Context 217

1 shard bluish-green glass

Trench 3

Context 300 (unstratified)

1 large, 1 medium and 3 small iron nails
1 piece lead
3 fragments and 1 large piece burnt bone
3 shards 17th-18th century glass
1 shard glass (from a Roman square glass bottle)
1 lump burnt stone
1 piece burnt white quartz

Context 301

burnt clay/daub
metal-working waste (slag)
3 fragments burnt bone
several small charcoal lumps

Context 303

7 small fragments and several large pieces burnt bone
1 shard glass
2 medium iron nails

Context 305

5 small lumps charcoal

Context 319

charcoal lumps
burnt clay/daub
2 large lumps metal-working waste (slag)
1 small fragment burnt bone

Trench 4

Context 400 (unstratified)

single polished gaming piece
1 small iron nail
1 small piece post-medieval clay pipe

Trench 5

Context 500 (unstratified)

burnt bone
one quarter large quernstone
1 large lump metal-working waste (slag)
1 piece post-medieval clay pipe
6 large shards brown post-medieval glass bottle

Trench 6

Context 600 (unstratified)

2 lumps metal-working waste (slag)
burnt white quartz stone

Context 601

2 small iron nails and 2 small iron lumps
2 medium pieces burnt bone
1 lump burnt clay/daub

Context 605

burnt clay/daub/metal-working waste

Context 607

burnt clay/daub/metal-working waste

Context 619

possible worked stone/building block
4 lumps metal-working waste (slag)
1 large piece burnt bone
5 lumps burnt daub
5 small iron nails and 1 iron lump
1 lump anthracite

Context 625

burnt clay/daub/metal-working waste

Trench 7

Context 700 (unstratified)

1 half-penny coin (19th-20th century)
animal bone (modern)
1 piece clay pipe
broken honing stone
4 lumps metal-working waste (slag)
1 medium and 3 small iron nails, plus 1 iron lump

Context 701

1 lump charcoal

Context 709

6 small iron nails, and 3 nail-heads
2 lumps of lead
1 small lump metal-working waste (slag)

Appendix 3 Contexts and features

All contexts recorded during the 2006 archaeological evaluation are described here in detail and relate to the numbers assigned to the various excavated and unexcavated features labelled within the individual trench plans.

Trench 1

Context 101

A stone-lined possible post-hole, 0.2m in diameter and circular in plan. Unexcavated.

Context 102 (deposit)

Fill of gully 111, consisting of <1% small sub-angular stones and <1% charcoal flecks.

Context 103 (deposit)

First appeared as a small circular accumulation of charcoal, thought to possibly be a post-hole, c.10m in diameter. Located within gully 111, at the point where the two 'branches' appear to converge, and excavation showed that this was not a post-hole but a high concentration of charcoal within fill 102.

Context 104 (deposit)

Fill of context 105. Initially appeared as a distinct band of medium-large angular and sub-angular stones, running NW-SE and extending the full width of Trench 1, with a patch of brick/tile visible on the NW edge of the trench. When excavated it became clear that the stones initially thought to be filling 105 were actually just the top of a tip line within a much deeper fill, with 105 itself a much more substantial ditch than had first appeared. This fill comprised a much darker and more humic material than the surrounding brown clay loam, and contained a significant quantity of both pottery and other finds. Pottery wares from within the limited excavated area alone included several sherds of at least two different mortaria vessels, various sherds from a Black Burnished dish and bowl of 2nd century date, lots of 1st century Greyware sherds, and sherds from a Dressel 20 olive oil amphora from Spain, a Samian bowl/dish from Central Gaul and an almost complete Severn-Valley storage jar. Two pieces of box-tile from a possible hypocaust system were also recovered. Context 104 appeared to be the result of a deliberate back-filling of the ditch, perhaps associated with an episode of fire and subsequent destruction within the vicinity (e.g. as suggested by lumps of charcoal, burnt daub, oxidised pottery, etc., and the dark, humic nature of the fill in which these finds were found). The nature of the fill appeared to be the result of a single event, as opposed to a gradual accumulation of debris and dumping over time.

Context 105 (cut)

Half-sectioned and excavated. Initially thought to be a stone-filled gully, c.0.4m wide, extending the full width of the trench, running in a NW-SE direction. However, excavation revealed this feature to be a substantial steep-sided ditch, 1.7m wide at the top, tapering to 0.33m at its base, and measuring 0.85m in depth (see Figure 6). The ditch contained two fills: 112, at the bottom of the cut, containing no finds and appearing to be the result of natural silting and weathering; and 104, chock-full with a variety of different pottery wares, and seemingly a deliberate back-fill of the ditch during a phase of fire and destruction in the vicinity. This ditch is likely to be the western side of anomaly 66, an enclosure identified by the 2005 geophysical survey (Hopewell 2005: 6).

Context 106 (deposit)

Fill of possible post-hole 107. Unexcavated.

Context 107 (cut)

Possible post-hole, slightly oval in plan, measuring 0.25m x 0.17m, oriented NE-SW. Unexcavated.

Context 108 (cut)

Possible pit or large post-hole, measuring 0.5m in diameter and located on the north side of Trench 1. Unexcavated.

Context 109 (deposit)

When Trench 1 was initially cleaned, this feature appeared as a spread of dark earth and stone, 4.5m wide and extending the full width of the trench. This corresponded with anomaly 73 identified during the 2005 geophysical survey, which was suggested to be an old grubbed-out field boundary (Hopewell 2005: 6). A slot trench, 0.6m wide, was excavated across the SE-facing section and revealed a substantial and well-preserved metalled surface, below the topsoil at a depth of 0.24m (context 116). The stone spread was c.4m wide and was slightly sunken at its centre to a maximum depth of c.0.3m, suggesting that the metalled surface perhaps overlay an earlier ditch. This feature was excavated to the top of the metalled surface only, and finds included some burnt daub, burnt bone, metal-working waste and three sherds from a Mortarium-like vessel dating from the late 1st-mid 2nd century, possibly a small serving dish.

Context 110 (deposit)

One of two deposits within cut 114. The fill consisted of a dark brown silty clay loam containing small sub-angular stones, charcoal, visible brick/tile/pot fragments, as well as some lumps of slag. Several iron nails were recovered as well as burnt daub, and it was considered that this fill represented a phase of destruction in the vicinity, possibly of the building suggested by anomaly 67 on the 2005 geophysical survey, of which 114 might have been a part.

Context 111 (cut)

Half-sectioned and excavated. Located in an area of more compact orangey-brown clay, and filled by contexts 102 and 103. A steep-sided and flattish-bottomed gully, extending the full width of Trench 1 and orientated NW-SE, splitting into two sinuous channels halfway across the trench. The larger channel measured 0.24m in width, and the smaller 'branch' 0.1m. The two branches converged at context 103.

Context 112 (deposit)

Layer of fill at the bottom of ditch 105, and thought to be from silting and weathering of the sides whilst the ditch was open.

Context 113 (deposit)

Bottom layer fill of cut 114. Comprised a friable, yellowish-brown silt containing 1% small angular pebbles, which appeared to be a result of the natural silting/weathering of the original square-cut trench. Overlain by fill 110, seemingly the result of a single phase of destruction in the vicinity.

Context 114 (cut)

Half-sectioned and excavated. An elongated and rectangular-shaped gully or foundation trench, orientated NW-SE, sloping at its top and funnel-shaped in profile. At its base the trench measures c.0.3m and is flat-bottomed. Excavation suggested that this feature was initially a square-cut trench, possibly a beam-slot for a building, which had its top edges damaged and angled when the structure was destroyed. The trench contained two fills: 113, a silty clay containing a large

sherd from a Malvernian pottery vessel; and 110, within which there were lumps of charcoal, crushed tile and brick, some iron nails, some lumps of slag and sherds from various pottery wares. This feature corresponds with the west side of a rectangular anomaly (no. 67) discovered during the 2005 geophysical survey and suggested to be a potential building within ditched enclosure 66 (Hopewell 2005: 6), the western side of which was excavated and recorded as context 105.

Context 115 (deposit)

Fill of unexcavated potential stone-lined post-hole 101.

Context 116 (deposit)

A sunken metallised surface revealed by excavation of a slot trench through context 109. The feature consisted of mainly small round-edged, flattish pebbles, with occasional larger stones, lying in a regular layer within a sunken depression. The metallising extended for a width of c.4m and was visible throughout the slot trench, and was assumed to extend the full width of Trench 1. This feature appeared to correspond to anomaly 73 identified during the 2005 geophysical survey, where it was suggested to be an old field boundary (Hopewell 2005: 6). The metallised surface ran in a roughly N-S direction and appeared to be sunken into the top of a large earlier feature, presumed to be a former ditch. Excavation extended only to the top of the metallised surface, which was itself overlain by a natural soil build-up (context 109) containing occupation debris (burnt bone and daub, a few lumps of metalworking waste and some pottery sherds).

Trench 2

Context 201 (deposit)

A general spread of dark brown silty clay loam, containing occasional large and small sub-angular stones, flecks of charcoal and visible fragments of brick, tile and pot. Located on the south side of the metallised road (context 207), to the south of the areas of burning and cobbling represented by contexts 203 and 204. Part-excavated within a slot trench across the southern portion of the road (207) and its adjoining features (contexts 203, 220-235).

Context 202 (deposit)

An oval patch of orange-yellow silty clay, 0.6m x 0.3m, orientated ENE-WSW, visible within dark brown context 201 on the south side of metallised road 207. Unexcavated.

Context 203 (deposit)

An area of cobbling noted to the south of road 207 and gully 206. When Trench 2 was initially cleaned this area consisted of a spread of medium-large sub-angular stones and smaller rounded pebbles, appearing to run parallel to the more compacted and distinct road surface (207), and separated from the road by a disturbed area (context 206), thought to be a roadside gully. The spread measured 2m in length and 1.2m wide, and was orientated ENE-WSW. A slot trench 0.6m wide and 6.2m long was dug through the southern half of the road and its adjoining features, which revealed a complex series of cuts and deposits lying beneath the cobbling, included some seemingly robbed road material and a straight-sided linear cut (context 228), indicative of a beam-slot for a building fronting the road (see Figure 10).

Context 204 (deposit)

A patch of burnt red clay, 0.85m x 0.65m, only partly visible in the trench on its south side. Contained c.5% visible charcoal flecks and appeared to be a possible hearth or fire-pit associated with the cobbling of context 203. Unexcavated.

Context 205

Lying immediately to the south of burnt clay area 204, this feature appeared as a distinct circular patch of charcoal, 0.2m in diameter, and with surface area inclusions of c.40% charcoal, with some fragments of burnt bone also visible. Possible post-hole. Unexcavated.

Context 206 (deposit)

After initial cleaning this feature appeared as an irregular linear spread of dark charcoal-flecked soil, running parallel to the road in a ENE-WSW direction, measuring 0.46m in width. One or two sherds of brick/tile were visible on the surface within an otherwise largely stone-free area, which suggested this feature may be a road-side gully. Part-excavated when a slot trench was excavated through the southern half of the road (207) and its associated features.

Context 207 (deposit)

Well-maintained metalled road surface, shown as anomaly 52 on the 2005 geophysical survey (Hopewell 2005:6), and discovered 0.2m below ground level, immediately beneath the topsoil. The road ran in an ENE-WSW direction and measured c.6m in width, and was extremely well-preserved, showing no sign of plough-damage. The road surface consisted of compacted small-medium rounded stones, suggested to be water worn pebbles brought up to the site from the river gravels of the Afon Bran downslope to the south. A number of features were clearly seen on either side of the road suggesting that built structures were immediately fronting onto the thoroughfare, themselves clear evidence for a *vicus* or settlement associated with the fort. Two possible parallel wheel-ruts were also noted within the surface of the road. On the northern side of the road there was a clear camber visible sloping downwards into a possible roadside ditch (context 208). However, on the southern side of the road contexts 203-206 suggested that the structures on this side had actually encroached on to the road, even robbing some of the road surface as hard-standing. Figure 9 demonstrates the complexity of features identified when a slot trench was dug along the east-facing section of the southern half of the road and *vicus*. The roadside ditch (context 220), clearly visible as context 208 on the northern side of the road, was obscured on the south side by layer 206, and had also been cut by post-pit 225, which contained post-pipe 215. The ditch had been infilled with two separate fills (contexts 221 and 222) and subsequently overlain by two separate stone layers: one, context 230, consisting of medium-sized angular and sub-angular stones, and the other, represented by the coloured area, which consisted of small, rounded stones which appeared to be robbed road metalling.

Context 208 (deposit)

A clearly visible linear deposit running parallel to the road on its northern side, and thought initially to be the fill of a roadside ditch. A slot trench, 6m long and 1m wide, was excavated along the east-facing section of Trench 2 on the north side of the road, and revealed that this dark brown silty clay in fact overlay a thin layer of charcoal rich material (context 217). This was revealed to be filling a slight hollow in context 218, which itself transpired to be a continuation in the metalled camber of the road. On the surface, the material within 208 contained a few stones, some flecks of charcoal and some visible brick and tile fragments, but when excavated yielded several sherds of pottery, including the handle of an amphora, three sherds from a decorated Samian bowl, as well as two large chunks of brick and tile. Lying above 208, running parallel with, and adjacent to, the road was a small band of yellow clay (context 216), which was the same

material as context 210, presumed to be a collapsed clay or clay wall. It seems that on this side of the road, as on the southern side, the structures of the *vicus* were built with their frontage immediately opening onto the road surface, although on this side at least there had been less actual encroachment.

Context 209 (deposit)

An area of material c.3m wide, lying between contexts 208 and 210. The deposit consisted of c.15-20% small stone inclusions, with visible charcoal flecks and brick/tile/pottery fragments visible on the surface prior to excavation. Part-excavated when slot trench B was dug through the northern side of the road, and appeared to be the floor area of a roadside building. Within the excavated material were several sherds of pottery from a variety of wares, including Malvernian and Mortarium (used for food cooking and preparation), as well a rimsherd from a decorated Samian bowl, a fine tableware used for food consumption.

Context 210 (deposit)

A yellow-clay bank, 1.3m wide, which extended the full width of the trench and which initially seemed to correspond with linear anomaly 79 identified during the 2005 geophysical survey. However, excavation revealed that this compact clay deposit appeared instead to be the remains of a collapsed clay wall, forming the rear of a c.3m deep building fronting the road on its northern side. Indeed, a narrow band of exactly the same clay material was found running parallel with the road (context 216), and thought to be the front of the same building. A similar band of clay (context 707) was recovered from a beam-slot in Trench 7 (context 708), and which also appeared to be the result of a collapse of material during the destruction of a building. Finds recovered from within the excavated section of 210 included various pottery sherds, one from a Black Burnished vessel, and others from a south Spanish olive oil amphora (Dressel 20).

Context 211 (deposit)

Located to the north of collapsed clay wall 210, an area of yellow-brown clayey material, with occasional charcoal flecks and fragments of brick and tile visible on its surface. Similar to neighbouring context 212, although slightly more stony. Unexcavated. Likely to be sealing other deposits beneath.

Context 212 (deposit)

A dark brown spread of material, 1.3m wide, located immediately behind collapsed clay wall 210 and adjacent to context 211. Although this material is less stony than 211 it contains a greater density of charcoal and fragments of brick and tile. Unexcavated. Likely to be sealing other deposits beneath associated with the *vicus*.

Context 213 (deposit)

A compacted yellow clay layer, c.0.4m wide and extending the full width of Trench 2, deposited between cobbling 203 and dark charcoal layer 206, lying on/adjacent to the road on its southern side. Appeared to be the same material as that found at the front and rear of the structure immediately opposite on the northern side of the road, and may be evidence of clay used to partially construct the *vicus* buildings.

Context 214 (deposit)

Soft earthy fill of post-pipe 215, and contained some fragments of burnt bone. Fully excavated.

Context 215 (cut)

A circular post-pipe, 0.13m in diameter and 0.24m deep, located immediately adjacent to another, larger square post-hole (context 225). The hole was stone-

lined and packing stones were visible at its base. This feature would have most likely contained a wooden post, and appears to have been part of the *vicus* structure which encroached onto the road immediately on its south side.

Context 216 (deposit)

A narrow band of yellow clay located alongside the edge of the road on its northern side, just overlying context 208. The material appears the same as the collapsed clay wall 3m to the north (context 210), as well as the yellow clay identified in context 213, and therefore seems to relate to the materials used for the construction of the roadside *vicus* buildings on both sides of the road. A similar clay was also found within beam-slot 708 in Trench 7.

Context 217 (deposit)

A layer of charcoal-rich material filling a slight hollow in the surface of the underlying metalling (context 218). Inclusions comprised c.40% charcoal flecks and fragments, 10% burnt daub, and less than 1% small sub-angular stones and fragments of brick and tile. Finds from this context included sherds from a Dressel 20 amphora, a shard of bluish-green glass, as well as oxidised pottery of 2nd century date, and are consistent with a domestic assemblage.

Context 218 (deposit)

A compact layer of sub-angular and rounded stones, overlain by contexts 216, 208 and 217. This metalling appears to be a continuation of the roadside camber on the north side of the road, which has been gradually encroached by occupation layers relating to the *vicus*. The surface was revealed during excavations in slot trench B after the partial removal of layer 217 but remains unexcavated.

Context 219 (deposit)

An oval deposit of brown silty clay, 0.5m x 0.3m, lying immediately behind clay wall 210 within context 211. Unexcavated.

Context 220 (cut)

Roadside ditch on the south side of 207. The ditch measured c.1m in width, with gradually sloping sides until reaching a flat-bottomed base, 0.2m wide. The ditch had been infilled by contexts 221 and 222, as well as being cut by post-holes 215 and 225. As discussed within context 207, it appears that the *vicus* structure on the south side of the road deliberately infilled the ditch and robbed metalling from the road surface to create an area of hard-standing, and therefore considerably encroached onto the road on this side.

Context 221 (deposit)

A mottled grey/green/orange-brown clay layer, partly infilling ditch 220.

Context 222 (deposit)

A dark brown silty clay loam containing 80% medium-sized angular and sub-angular stones, with occasional charcoal flecks also visible. This material is very similar to that within contexts 230 and 235, and appears to be possible road foundation material which had slipped (or been pushed) into the roadside ditch.

Context 223 (cut)

An irregular linear cut, flat-bottomed and measuring c.0.14m at its base, steep sided and widening to c.0.44m, with a depth of c.0.36m. Suggested to be a possible beam-slot for a *vicus* building fronting onto the road on its south side, which has been cut through the road surface and thus encroaches onto the road.

Context 224 (fill)

Fill of 223. A dark brown silty clay loam, with inclusions of 10% small sub-angular and rounded stones and 2% charcoal flecks. Within the fill were various pottery sherds of domestic wares, as well as some small lumps of brick and tile.

Context 225 (cut)

A vertical-sided, square post-hole, c.0.2m wide and at least 0.3m deep, cut through the northern edge of roadside ditch 220 and part of the *vicus* structure encroaching onto the road on its southern side.

Context 226 (fill)

Fill of post-hole 225. A dark brown silty clay loam with visible occasional charcoal flecks and c.2% small sub-angular and rounded stones.

Context 227 (deposit)

Illustrated in red on Figure 9, in the area beneath context 203. A layer of small rounded stones and river gravels, thought to be robbed material from the former road surface, used to create an area of rough metalling for the floor within the *vicus* building, encroaching onto the south side of the road.

Context 228 (cut)

A steep-sided linear cut feature, c.38m wide at its base and c.0.54m wide at its top, partially overlain by contexts 230 and 227, discovered beneath cobbling 203. A possible beam-slot for the rear wall or a partition of the *vicus* structure fronting the road on its south side.

Context 229 (deposit)

Fill of 228. A dark brown-yellow clay and silty loam deposit, with less than 1% visible charcoal flecks and small sub-angular stones.

Context 230 (deposit)

A layer of medium angular and sub-angular stones, similar to the road foundation material beneath 207 (context 235) and found also as context 222 within the road-side ditch 220. Likely to be the result of partially robbed material used to make a rough stony floor for the interior of the *vicus* building fronting, and encroaching, the road on its southern side.

Context 231 (deposit)

A deposit of medium angular and sub-angular stones, identical to the road-foundation material visible as context 235. It appears that possible beam-slot 223 cut through this road-foundation material as part of the encroachment of the *vicus* onto the south side of the road.

Context 232 (deposit)

An area of small sub-angular and rounded stones, a likely mix of road foundation material and road metalling, with a camber visible sloping gently towards roadside ditch 220.

Context 233 (deposit)

As 232, but the stony material is clearly disturbed, presumably as a result of the cuts made by post-pipe 215 and post-hole 225.

Context 234 (deposit)

A dark brown silty clay loam, comprising at least 20% visible charcoal flecks and less than 2% small rounded stones. Possibly the upper fill of post-hole 225, or part of layer 206.

Context 235 (deposit)

Medium angular and sub-angular stones serving as road foundation material: on top of this layer context 207 was placed, which consisted of the small rounded stones and river gravels which characterised the metallised surface of the road serving the fort.

Trench 3

Context 301 (deposit)

After the initial clean of Trench 3 this feature showed as a possible post-hole with a stone and pottery/brick/tile filling with evidence of burning. The feature was half-sectioned and was revealed to be a circular, vertically-sided posthole (context 322), with context 301 assigned to its fill. Within the fill was a large sherd from a south Gaul wine amphora, as well as single sherds from a Black Burnished and Greyware vessel. Other finds included burnt clay/daub, lumps of slag, burnt bone and several lumps of charcoal.

Context 302 (deposit)

Initially appeared to be a possible small oval pit, c.0.48m long x 0.36m wide, containing occasional charcoal flecks and small stones. However, excavation revealed the feature was an amorphous shallow hollow.

Context 303 (deposit)

Fill of large oval pit 316. Half-sectioned and sampled. The fill was a dark yellowish brown, homogenous silty clay loam, containing c.15% small rounded and sub-angular stones, charcoal lumps and flecks, several potsherds of three different wares, two iron nails and some large pieces of burnt bone. There were also various lumps of brick and tile. The pit was cut by a post-hole (context 318) on its southern side, with another post-hole (322) located c.1.25m away to the WSW. Another post-hole (context 304) was located a similar distance away to the ENE, and it is likely that all three post-holes formed part of a *vicus* structure, associated with pit 322 and its fill.

Context 304 (cut)

Post-hole pit, oval in plan, measuring 0.66m long x 0.47m wide, orientated ENE-WSW. Half-sectioned and excavated. The feature was revealed to be a substantial post-pit, which contained packing stones surrounding a vertically-cut post-pipe, 0.15m in diameter and 0.25m deep. Filled with context 305.

Context 305 (deposit)

Fill of post-hole and pit 304. Within pit 304 the fill was a dark brown silty clay loam containing occasional charcoal flecks and lumps, and one visible potsherd (from a Dressel 20 olive oil amphora). There was c.20% angular and sub-angular stones within the fill, which comprised the packing material around the post-hole itself. The fill from within the post-hole was the same dark brown earth, but soft and stone-free.

Context 306

Fill of 321. A pit (context 319) lies within linear feature 321 and appears to cut its fill. The fill consists of a dark brown silty clay loam, similar to the fills within 303 and 305, i.e. occasional small stones and charcoal flecks. Unexcavated.

Context 307 (deposit)

A possible post-hole, c.0.22m in diameter, located 0.7m east of post-hole 322, and 0.4m to the SW of another post-hole, 318. This feature lay within 8cm of the edge of pit 316 on its southern side and was discernible as a circular deposit of dark brown silty clay loam, distinct from the surrounding material, which was a

more yellow-ish and less friable clay-like soil, into which the surrounding features in Trench 3 were cut. Unexcavated.

Context 308 (deposit)

An area of dark brown silty clay loam, which showed as a sub-rectangular feature, c.1.35m long x 0.6m wide after the initial cleaning of Trench 3. The deposit was very similar to context 306 located 0.8m to the west, although there were more charcoal flecks and brick/tile fragments visible. During the course of the evaluation, as this feature dried out, a second oval pit (context 323) was recognised within context 308. Unexcavated.

Context 309 (deposit)

An irregular shaped spread of dark brown, friable material, 1.1m long, consisting of 5% small and medium sub-angular stones, 3% flecks of charcoal and a few visible sherds of brick/tile/pot. Possibly associated with context 310 and 311. Unexcavated.

Context 310 (deposit)

A distinct patch of orangey-brown silty clay, sub-rectangular in plan, measuring c.0.8m x 0.6m (where visible) on the northern side of Trench 3 and aligned NE-SW. This context lay between 309 and 311, which were both deposits of darker brown material similar to other those found within other contexts in the excavated area (e.g. 305, 306, 308). There was an absence of visible charcoal flecks from this orangey clay deposit, which marked it as different from those in the surrounding area. Unexcavated.

Context 311 (deposit)

Very similar deposit to that within context 309. This feature showed as a sub-rectangular spread of dark brown, friable, silty clay loam, containing very occasional small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks, with one or two fragments of brick/tile also visible. This feature was separated from context 309 by an orangey-brown patch (310), with both 309 and 311 sharing the same NE-SW orientation. 311 also measured c.1.1m in length.

Context 312 (deposit)

A sub-angular and irregular shaped feature, noted for its higher percentage of stone compared with other contexts within Trench 3. The deposit was the same dark brown silty clay loam seen elsewhere within the trench, but contained frequent small, sub-angular stones, as well as occasional charcoal flecks and sherds of brick/tile. Unexcavated.

Context 313 (deposit)

A distinct patch of orange-brown silty clay, very similar to context 310 located 0.8m to the SW, with the two separated by deposit 309. There were quite frequent small sub-angular stones within the clay, but no visible charcoal flecks, nor any fragments of brick or tile. The feature measured c.0.7m long x 0.6m wide and was sub-rectangular, orientated NE-SW, with a series of stones along its NW edge where it met context 309. Unexcavated.

Context 314 (deposit)

A small linear finger of dark brown, friable material, 0.7m long and 0.25m wide (where visible), protruding from the southern edge of Trench 3. The deposit contained very occasional small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks, and was orientated NW-SE. Unexcavated.

Context 315 (deposit)

An oval shaped feature, 0.7m long x 0.3m wide, orientated E-W containing a dark brown, silty clay loam with occasional small sub-angular stones and charcoal flecks, and one or two fragments of brick/tile visible. Unexcavated.

Context 316 (cut)

A concave, oval pit, 2.12m long, 0.79m wide (where visible) and 0.33m deep, orientated NE-SW. Half-sectioned. Filled by context 303, which contained pottery sherds and lumps of brick and tile. This cut feature continued beyond the edge of the excavation area to the NW of Trench 3, and so the exact extent of its width is unknown. Excavation revealed the pit to be reasonably steep-sided with a flat base. It had been cut by post-hole 318.

Context 317 (fill)

Fill of post-hole 318. Partially excavated. A homogenous friable silty clay soil, containing frequent charcoal flecks, small angular, rounded and sub-angular stones and occasional flecks of brick/tile, with one large stone lying at the top of the fill (a possible packing stone).

Context 318 (cut)

A steep-sided cut, 0.3m in diameter and c.0.15m deep, representing the remains of a post-hole. The feature was partially excavated during the half-sectioning of pit 316, and was shown to be cutting pit 316 and its fill 303. The post-hole lay directly in between two other post-holes, with 304 c.1.1m to the ENE and 322 c.1.25m to the WSW.

Context 319 (cut)

An oval pit, 0.71m long, 0.54m wide and 0.13m deep, aligned NE-SW and lying at the southern terminus of large linear cut 321. The pit was half-sectioned and excavated on its northern side which revealed that the feature cut context 321 and its fill 306. Filled by 320.

Context 320 (deposit)

Fill of pit 319, cutting 321 and 306. The fill consisted of a homogenous dark yellowish-brown silty clay soil, containing c.15% small stones, with three larger stones from towards the middle of the pit. There were also occasional charcoal flecks. The only pottery finds recovered were two sherds from an everted-rim Greyware jar, dating from the late 1st or early 2nd century. However, there were also some lumps of burnt clay/daub, 2 large lumps metal-working waste (slag) and one small fragment of burnt bone.

Context 321 (cut)

A large and irregular linear cut feature, c.1.9m long x 0.5m wide, aligned N-S and cut at its southern terminus by pit 319. Filled by 306. Unexcavated.

Context 322 (cut)

A circular post-hole, vertically sided, containing fill 301. Half-sectioned and excavated. The cut contained stone packing material for the post as well as several lumps of charcoal and other finds. The post-hole measured 0.35m in diameter and c.0.23m deep. This feature appears to be a post for a built structure, likely to be associated with the *vicus* alongside the road into the fort, even though it is set back c.6m from the southern edge of the thoroughfare.

Context 323 (cut)

An oval pit, 0.84m long x 0.56m wide, orientated NE-SW, and revealed by differential drying within sub-rectangular feature 308. The pit fill was characterised by visible burnt daub charcoal flecks and frequent small angular and sub-angular stones, and appeared to be cutting 308. Unexcavated.

Trench 4

Context 401 (deposit)

A possible post-hole, located at the NE end of Trench 4. The feature was circular in plan, measuring c.0.2m in diameter and was characterised by a dark brown silty clay loam fill, which differentiated it from the surrounding degrading shale bedrock. Unexcavated.

Context 402 (deposit)

Fill of cut 410. Deposit consists of a dark brown silty clay loam with inclusions including c.80% shattered shale fragments. No charcoal or brick/tile visible. Part-excavated.

Context 403 (deposit)

Fill of cut 411. Identical deposit to that within context 402, i.e. 80% fragments shattered shale, <1% small-medium sub-angular stones. No charcoal or brick/tile visible. Part-excavated.

Context 404 (cut)

Only part of this feature is visible, the rest continuing outside the excavated area on the NW side of Trench 4. The feature appears to be an oval pit, 0.6m wide and 0.6m long (where visible), cut into the bedrock and lying between linear features 411 and 412, sharing the same alignment. Within the pit at the very edge of the excavated area there was a post-hole, c.0.18m in diameter, which lay almost centrally between two other post-holes of similar size located within features 411 and 412 to the NE and SW respectively.

Context 405

Fill of pit 404. Similar material to the backfilled shale within contexts 401, 402 and 403, which comprises a dark brown silty clay loam with c.80% inclusions of shattered shale fragments, 1% small-medium angular stones, and no visible charcoal or brick/tile.

Context 406 (deposit)

Fill of probable construction trench 412. Consists of the same dark brown silty clay loam and shattered shale fragments as found within contexts 401, 402, 403 and 405.

Context 407 (deposit)

Fill of a possible small slot. Only part of this feature was visible within the excavation area, with the rest continuing beneath the NW edge of Trench 4. The cut appeared to be horse-shoe shaped, of which only half was visible. Dark brown silty clay loam fill, containing 80% shattered shale fragments. Unexcavated.

Context 408 (deposit)

A possible pit or post-hole, appearing to be c.0.3m in diameter where visible. Part of the feature continues outside of the excavation area beneath the SE edge of Trench 4. Unexcavated. This feature was noted to retain moisture better than other features within Trench 4, which might suggest it is of greater depth than some of the other contexts.

Context 409 (deposit)

Fill of cut 413. The deposit was of a similar dark brown silty clay loam to other fills within Trench 4, comprising also the 80% shattered shale fragments and 1 %

small-medium sub-angular stones. However, this context was slightly different in that there were occasional charcoal flecks also visible within the surface of the fill, Part-excavated and sampled when the SW terminus of cut 413 was half-sectioned, with the fill revealed to be considerably charcoal-rich.

Context 410 (cut)

A linear feature, 0.6m wide, cut into the bedrock and extending the full width of Trench 4. The cut appears to continue outside the excavated area on both sides of the trench, and is orientated in a NW-SE direction, identical to the line of the trivallate defences and outer ditch, and parallel also to neighbouring cut 411 located 0.4m to the SW. Another linear feature (context 412) was located 3.8m away, also to the SW, and followed the same orientation. A 0.6m wide slot was excavated within this feature along the NW edge of the trench, which revealed that its SW edge was vertical, although its opposite side was more sloping. The feature was flat-bottomed, and possibly represented the remains of a beam-slot (a trench dug to contain a sill beam, a horizontal timber used as a foundation for the wall of a building). Post-hole fill sampled for flotation.

Context 411 (cut)

Located 0.4m to the SW of context 410. Another linear feature running in a NW-SE direction, slightly narrower than 410, measuring c.0.4m in width, and running the full width of the trench. This feature, similarly cut into the bedrock, was more irregular than neighbouring context 210. As with 210 a 0.6m wide slot was excavated, which revealed a series of 5 close-set, small stake-holes along its SW edge with a post-hole, c.0.16m in diameter, visible in the base of the feature towards its NE side (see Plate 4). It appears that this linear feature may have been a gully with a possible hazel hurdle represented by the stake-holes.

Context 412 (cut)

Located 3m to the SW of linear cut 411. A flat-bottomed shallow gully, possibly a construction trench for a timber-post building. The gully measured 0.6m wide, extending the full width of the trench and running parallel to neighbouring cut features 410 and 411 in a NW-SE direction. A 0.6m wide slot was excavated through this feature, which had been cut into the bedrock. A large post-hole (context 414) was visible in the base of the construction trench, located 3.3m to the SW of the post-hole within gully 411. Another post-hole, also c.0.18m in diameter, lay between the two gullies within feature 404, 1.7m to the NE.

Context 413 (cut)

An irregular sub-rectangular ditch, orientated N-S, measuring 1.65m long (where visible) and 0.7m wide, with part of the feature continuing outside the excavated area on the northern side of Trench 4. The SW terminus of the feature was half-sectioned and revealed to be steep-sided, and cut into the bedrock with a flattish bottom and a charcoal rich fill (409).

Context 414 (cut)

A post-hole, 0.18m in diameter and 0.24m deep, cut into the bedrock, and visible within the base of gully/construction trench 412. Vertical sided cut, with a flat bottomed base onto shale bedrock. Excavated.

Context 415 (cut)

Located c.1.6m to the NE of cut 413. When cleaned back, what had at first appeared to be a possible post-hole was instead revealed to be a semi-circular arc of three small stake-holes, each measuring 6cm in diameter and cut into the bedrock. It is possible that the arc continues outside the excavated area to the north of Trench 4.

Context 416 (deposit)

Fill of post-hole 414, comprising a friable, dark brown silty clay loam, containing less than 20% sub-angular and sub-rounded stones, and with c.10% occasional charcoal flecks and lumps.

Trench 5

Context 501 (deposit)

Homogenous friable dark brown silty clay filling post-hole 502. The fill contained 30% small-medium angular and sub-angular stones, with frequent charcoal flecks also visible. Fill sampled.

Context 502 (cut)

Post-hole, half-sectioned. This feature was cut into the solid shale, and was located within the NW corner of the excavated area, continuing beyond the extent of Trench 5. When excavated the feature was revealed to be a near-vertical steep-sided cut, 0.3m deep and c.0.2m in diameter containing homogenous fill 501.

Context 503 (deposit)

Post-packing material filling post-pit 504 and surrounding post-pipe 538. The fill consists of a light yellow-brown sandy clay loam, which was a lighter yellow-brown when compared to neighbouring context 537 (fill of post-pipe 538). It was also more compact than 537 and contained 45-50% rounded and sub-angular medium sized stone inclusions, with 10% small stones.

Context 504 (cut)

A post-hole pit, 0.56m long x 0.26m wide (where visible), which extends beyond the area of the excavation to the NW and NE of Trench 5. This pit was cut into linear feature 506, and was itself cut by post-pipe 538. The pit displayed a gradual rather than vertical cut, at an angle of c.45°, which was slightly steeper on its SW side. The pit was quite shallow, c.0.12m deep at most, but may have been truncated during possible ploughing in the area.

Context 505 (deposit)

Fill of linear feature 506. Half-sectioned. A friable light yellow-brown silty clay loam, same as the soil within 503, but with less stone, c.30% small angular stones.

Context 506 (cut)

An irregular linear feature, c.2.36m long x 0.7m wide at its maximum, orientated NW-SE. Half-sectioned. Excavation revealed that the amorphous feature was shallow sided, with a flat base, cut into the bedrock and measuring 0.1m deep. The feature became more shallow towards its SE end. Post pit 504 lay within the N corner of the feature, which appeared to continue beyond the extent of the excavated area of Trench 5.

Context 507 (deposit)

Fill of hollow and stake-hole 508. A friable brown sandy clay loam, with occasional flecks of charcoal visible. Excavated.

Context 508 (cut)

A vertically-cut stake-hole, 8cm in diameter and 0.11m deep, flat-bottomed and cut into the bedrock. The stake-hole is set into a slightly larger, shallow pit/hollow measuring 0.3m x 0.2m, and contains deposit 507, which fills both the hollow and

the stake-hole. The stake-hole is located 2m south of post-pipe 538 and 2m E of post-hole 502.

Context 509 (deposit)

Fill of 510. Excavated, with 100% sample taken. A dark yellowish-brown silty clay deposit, containing some large fragments of burnt bone (c.1cm), which were visible on the surface of the deposit following the initial clean of Trench 5. Initially thought to be the remnants of a possible cremation deposit, but when excavated there was no charcoal within the fill, which might usually be expected. The fill comprised c.10% burnt bone and 10% small stone within the friable soft silty clay loam, with one larger sub-rounded stone (9cm x 6cm x 1cm) located at a 45° angle within the deposit.

Context 510 (cut)

Shallow rock-cut pit containing possible cremation 509. Excavated. The sub-circular pit was orientated N-S and measured 0.24m x 0.18m, with a depth of 0.07m. The pit had an almost flat base and was steep-sided, with the whole directly cut into the bedrock. Possibly truncated and disturbed from above by ploughing.

Context 511 (deposit)

Fill of post-pit 512. A homogenous yellowish-brown sandy clay loam containing c.20% small angular fragments of shattered shale visible on the surface, with some small pebbles also within the fill when it was excavated. Very similar to fill 503 within context 506.

Context 512 (cut)

Post-pit, filled by 511 and cut by post-hole 514. Half-sectioned. A near circular post-pit, 0.39m x 0.34m, with a depth of 0.3m, cut into the bedrock. The cut of the pit is vertical on its SE and SW sides, and steep-sided on its NW side (c.60° angle).

Context 513 (deposit)

Fill of post-pipe 514. A homogenous dark yellowish-brown silty clay, containing 25% shattered shale fragments, 20% small and medium rounded stones and occasional charcoal flecks. The small pebbles within the fill appeared to be the remains of packing material, with the fill extending to the base of the cut.

Context 514 (cut)

Post-pipe, cut into the near-middle of pit 512. Half-sectioned. The oval post-pipe measured 0.25m x 0.19m and was orientated NE-SW. It was near-vertically cut into the bedrock, and was pointed, with a flat base at the bottom 3cm wide. Post-pipe 538 displayed a very similar profile, and was located c.4.5m away to the NE.

Context 515 (deposit)

Fill of stake-hole 516. A homogenous dark yellowish-brown silty clay, the same material as in context 513. The fill comprised shattered shale fragments with occasional charcoal flecks.

Context 516 (cut)

A small circular stake-hole, steep-sided and near-vertical, which had been driven into the ground at a very steep angle. The pointed base of the stake had been driven into the ground so that it would have leaned to the SE. The stake-hole measured 9cm in diameter and was 0.13m deep, with a pointed base 2.5cm in diameter. The stake-hole was situated just 4cm to the SE of post-pit 512 and 0.12m from the edge of post-pipe 514.

Context 517 (deposit)

Fill of post-pit 518. A homogenous dark yellowish-brown silty clay, the same material as found within other post-pit fills in Trench 5 (e.g. 503, 511, 513, 515), although with slightly less stone (c.30% shattered shale fragments). Some root action visible.

Context 518 (cut)

A circular pit, thought to be a possible post-pit, 0.4m in diameter and 0.18m deep, partly cut into bedrock and partly into a natural clay layer formed by the degrading shale. Quadrant excavated. The pit had steeply-sloping sides (c. 45° angle), which on the N side levelled out at a depth of 8cm to form a small ledge, 12cm wide, from which the pit was then cut near vertically to a depth of c.0.1m. The pit was near-circular at its base, measuring c.0.12m in diameter, with the remains of a possible post impression visible. Another possible post-hole pit (520) lay immediately to the SW c.0.3m away, whilst surrounding both pits on their eastern side was an arc of five stake-holes (contexts 521-30), possibly the remains of a hazel hurdle (see Figure 14).

Context 519 (deposit)

Fill of possible post-pit/post-hole 520. Contains a slightly lighter fill colour compared to neighbouring contexts, with the fill a yellowish-brown silty clay loam containing 30% small fragments of shattered shale and occasional flecks of charcoal. Homogenous. Some root action visible.

Context 520 (cut)

A near-circular post-pit/post-hole, 0.18m in diameter, cut into the unstable degrading bedrock to a depth of c.8cm. The cut is steep-sided although not vertical and was thought to represent the possible base of a post. Excavated.

Context 521 (deposit)

Fill of stake-hole 522. Same as fill within 519, i.e. yellowish-brown silty clay containing c.30% shattered shale fragments.

Context 522 (cut)

A near-circular stake-hole, 6cm in diameter, and one of an arc of five stake-holes surrounding post-holes 518 and 520 on their eastern sides. The hole was steep-sided, though not quite vertical and was cut into the bedrock to a depth of 0.04m, with a flat base 0.02m in diameter. Feature likely to have been truncated from above. Filled by 521.

Context 523 (deposit)

Fill of stake-hole 524. Yellowish-brown silty clay containing fragments of shattered shale. Same as fills 521, 525, 527 and 529.

Context 524 (cut)

An oval, steep-sided cut, 0.1m x 0.05m, orientated N-S, and the remains of a stake-hole. A pointed stake had been driven into the bedrock to a depth of 0.06m, and at a sharp angle, which means the stake itself would have leaned to the N. Filled by 523.

Context 525 (deposit)

Fill of stake-hole 526. Yellowish-brown silty clay containing fragments of shattered shale. Same as fills 521, 523, 527 and 529.

Context 526 (cut)

A near-circular and near-vertical cut, 8cm in diameter and 5cm deep, with a flat base 3cm in diameter. The hole is slightly less steeply cut on its E side. The likely remains of a stake-hole and one of an arc of five, with contexts 522, 524, 528 and 530.

Context 527 (deposit)

Fill of stake-hole hollow 528. Yellowish-brown silty clay containing fragments of shattered shale. Same as fills 521, 523, 525 and 529.

Context 528 (cut)

A near-circular hollow/pit, 0.25m in diameter and 0.05m deep, cut into the bedrock. The hollow has gradual sloping sides which conjoin to form a centrally-located flat base, 7cm in diameter, cut into the natural. Excavated and thought to be the remains of a post/stake-hole.

Context 529 (deposit)

Fill of stake-hole 530. Yellowish-brown silty clay containing fragments of shattered shale. Same as fills 521, 523, 525 and 527.

Context 530 (cut)

Possible post-hole/stake-hole, c.0.15m in diameter. Unexcavated.

Context 531 (deposit)

Fill of linear amorphous feature 532. Part-excavated when 532 was half-sectioned. The fill consisted of a homogenous layer of dark yellowish brown sandy clay, containing small angular fragments of shattered shale, with fine root material also visible within the soil. This seemed to lie above a primary yellowish-brown layer 0.06m deep and differentiated at the base of context 532, with less stone and root material visible within it, which was also a lighter colour than the layer above. It is possible that this primary layer indicated the silting of features within 532, prior to being filled.

Context 532 (cut)

An amorphous linear feature, running in a NE-SW direction and extending the full width of the trench and beyond the excavated area in both directions. The feature was half-sectioned and excavated, and appeared to be a series of nebulous, inter-cutting pits, indistinguishable into separate contexts. The same fill (531) was apparent throughout all the possible pits, with evidence for an initial silting. The cuts were reasonably steep-sided on the SE side (c.45°), although less steep on the NW side (c.25-30°). The inter-cutting pits may obscure the potential for a curvilinear cut feature.

Context 533 (deposit)

Fill of gully 534, which contained an arc of stake-holes and a possible post-hole. The fill was a dark yellowish-brown sandy clay loam containing 20% small angular fragments of shattered shale, with some possible packing stones around the stake holes (pebbles averaging 9cm x 7cm x 1cm) also comprising 20% of the fill.

Context 534 (cut)

A curvilinear gully cut into the natural bedrock, half-sectioned and excavated on its SW side. The gully measured c.0.2m wide, with a depth of 0.1m, and was orientated in a roughly N-S direction. At the southern end of this feature and extending beyond the excavated area there was a post-hole, 0.16m x 0.11m x 0.1m deep, located within a steep-sided post-pit (context 536). Within the gully itself there were a series of stake-holes set 12cm apart, each measuring c.8cm in diameter, with all four following the arc of the gully. At the SW end of the line of stake-holes was a possible post-hole 23cm x 13cm x 18cm deep, located c.0.85m to the N of another post-hole cut within pit 536. These features (and those from contexts 511-530) suggest that within the area outside the trivallate defences, between the triple ditches and the fourth outer ditch, there were a series of perhaps temporary or more ephemeral wooden-post structures, with the remains of woven fences (hazel hurdles) used to create wind-breaks or small paddocks.

The series of stake-holes within context 411 in Trench 4 were similarly located in a gully, and were also closely associated with a more substantial post-hole, as in 534.

Context 535 (deposit)

Fill of post-pit and post-hole 536. A similar fill to 533, comprising a dark yellowish-brown sandy clay, with c.20% small angular shattered shale fragments. Excavated.

Context 536 (cut)

A possible post-hole, 16cm x 11cm x 10cm deep (as excavated), located within a steep-sided post-pit, 0.42m x 0.17m x 0.07m deep. The post-pit appeared sub-rectangular in plan where visible, with the feature continuing outside the excavated area of Trench 5 on its SW side, and was cut near-vertical at its NW end. The post-hole within this pit was located c.1.6m from post-holes 514 and 520 (located to the NE and E respectively), and 0.8m south of the post-hole at the SW end of the arc of stake-holes within gully 534, into which this pit was cut. Another post-hole (518) lay c.1.9m to the ENE, surrounded also by an arc of stake-holes.

Context 537 (deposit)

Fill of post-pipe 538. A yellowish-brown sandy clay homogenous fill, containing 35% small angular gravel-like stones, with some occasional small stones. No charcoal visible. Some root material visible within the fill.

Context 538 (cut)

A post-pipe, 0.2m in diameter and 0.26m deep, cut into post-pit 504. This feature was excavated when linear feature 506 was half-sectioned and was revealed to be a vertically-sided post-pipe with a pointed base, with its top truncated by the ploughsoil above.

Context 539 (deposit)

Fill of hollow 540. A dark yellowish-brown sandy clay containing 25-30% small angular fragments of shattered shale, occasional medium-sized sub-angular and rounded stones (averaging 8cm x 4cm x 1cm), and occasional charcoal flecks. The fill is homogenous until the red earth of context 541, which is possibly the same material, only fire-reddened.

Context 540 (cut)

A hollow, through which an exploratory slot trench, 0.4m wide, was excavated. Where excavated, the hollow measured 1.8m in width and varied in depth from 7cm to 12cm. The hollow was shallow-sided on its SE side but near-vertical in places on its NW side, and had been cut into the bedrock. Within the hollow was a spread of burnt earth (context 541), which when excavated was revealed to be part of much more substantial and complex deposit within context 553 (see Figure 15).

Context 541 (deposit)

A layer of burnt earth, filling a hollow (542) initially thought to be a hearth, but which was revealed by deep excavation to be yet another layer within context 553. The deposit was a reddish brown friable sandy clay loam, c.10cm deep, with c.60% small angular fragments of shattered shale, a notably higher percentage than any other context within Trench 4. Sampled.

Context 542 (deposit)

Initially thought to be a hearth cut into hollow 540 and filled with fire-reddened earth 541. Excavation revealed that this was a compact layer of mixed orange, red and yellow clay, c.12cm deep, virtually stone-free, with less than 1% very

small pebble inclusions. The layer appeared to be burnt clay, and lay beneath the darker red-brown earth of context 541, within a larger feature (context 553). Sampled.

Context 543 (deposit)

Fill of possible post-hole pit 544. A dark yellowish brown, friable silty clay. Unexcavated.

Context 544 (cut)

Only half-visible within the excavated area of the trench, the remainder of the feature continuing beyond the SW extent of Trench 5. Unexcavated. The feature appeared to be a circular pit, c.0.62m in diameter, extending for 0.28m into the trench, and may have been a post-pit for a timber upright.

Context 545 (cut)

Unexcavated. A circular feature, c.0.3m in diameter, with another smaller circular feature (context 546) located 0.32m away to the E. Filled by 549.

Context 546 (cut)

Unexcavated. A circular feature, c.0.21m in diameter, located 0.3m to the E of context 545. Filled by 550.

Context 547 (cut)

An oval-shaped feature located at the SE end of Trench 4, measuring c.0.55m x 0.32m, orientated E-W. Unexcavated.

Context 548

Fill of 547. A patch of darker earth material with differential drying. Unexcavated.

Context 549 (deposit)

Fill of 545. A patch of dark brown earth, with differential drying suggesting a soft and reasonably deep fill. Possibly the remains of a post-hole. Unexcavated.

Context 550 (deposit)

Fill of 546. A patch of dark brown earth, with differential drying suggesting a soft and reasonably deep fill. Possibly the remains of a post-hole. Unexcavated.

Context 551 (deposit)

Layer of fill within 553, located beneath 542 and above 551 (see Figure 14). This layer consisted of a compact layer of burnt clay, maroon-purple in colour, and virtually stone-free, with just 1% small pebble inclusions. Fill deposited to a depth of c.8cm.

Context 552 (deposit)

Lower layer of fill within context 553, beneath layer 551. This deposit differed to the two layers above it (551 and 542) which were both compacted burnt clay. Instead, this fill consisted of a loose grey-brown silty loam, with some layers of eroded natural interleaving through the deposit. Sampled.

Context 553 (cut)

A large, deep steep-sided pit, semi-circular and measuring c.1.15m wide and 0.65m deep, cut into the bedrock and containing a variety of layered deposits. Interpreted as a cess-pit, with its irregular sides due to possible erosion when opened, and which was later sealed by layers of burnt clay and earth (551, 542 and 541). The main fill of the pit was a loose grey brown silty loam (context 552), deposited to a depth of c.0.4m.

Trench 6

Context 601 (deposit)

Fill of pit 602. Comprises a 'plum pudding' mixture, similar to the fill of neighbouring pit 608 (context 607), i.e. a dark yellowish-brown sandy clay with a high percentage of small shattered shale fragments and pea-grit, frequent flecks of charcoal and burnt daub, suggesting debris from burning. Excavated. A variety of pottery sherds were recovered from the fill, including two adjoining pieces of a Dressel 20 amphora handle, sherds from two Greyware vessels, single sherds from Mortarium and Samian vessels, as well as lumps of brick and tile and some iron nails.

Context 602 (cut)

One of a series of inter-cutting pits located at the SW end of Trench 6. This pit seems to be the later of the group exposed within the excavated area, having cut pit 608. Only part of the pit was visible within the corner of Trench 6, with the feature continuing beyond the extent of the excavation. Where visible, the pit measured 0.8m wide, 1m long, and had a maximum depth of 0.65m, and was apparently steep-sided with a concave base. When the feature was sectioned and excavated two small stake-holes were visible within the bottom of the pit (context 643), which appeared to have been driven through the fill (601) from above.

Context 603 (deposit)

Fill of possible construction slot 604. The fill was notably different to the 'plum-pudding' mix within the inter-cutting pits located c.0.5m to the SW, and consisted of a dark yellowish-brown sandy clay loam, containing 30% small angular fragments of shattered shale, occasional larger rounded stones and occasional charcoal flecks. The fill was homogenous and also displayed quite a lot of flecks of iron-panning. No finds were recorded within the fill.

Context 604 (cut)

A possible beam-slot, 1.44m long (where visible) and averaging 0.45m wide and 0.13m deep. The linear feature extends beyond the extent of the excavation trench to the NW, and was aligned in a NW-SE direction, parallel to the three defensive ditches (contexts 613-6, 633-4). This feature was half-sectioned and excavated, which demonstrated that it was steep-sided (c.45°), with a concave base, and had been cut into the bedrock. Excavation also revealed a post-hole (context 632) cutting the slot at its southern terminus. It seems likely that this feature represents a construction trench/beam-slot for a building, set behind the rampart material and associated with oven/hearth 637. The inter-cutting pits also respect the same alignment and encroach to within 0.35m of the structure.

Context 605 (fill)

Fill of pit 606, which consists of the same 'plum pudding' mixture apparent throughout the fills of the other inter-cutting pits. However, within this fill there was a notably larger density of burnt daub and brick inclusions when compared to neighbouring fill 607, which may be evidence for debris associated with the destruction of buildings in the vicinity, possibly when the first-phase fort was abandoned and/or reduced. Finds included lumps of apparent metal-working waste, as well as two sherds from two separate Samian vessels, one dating to c.60-85 AD and the other to 60-110 AD.

Context 606 (cut)

One of a series of inter-cutting pits at the SW end of Trench 6. This pit cuts earlier pit 610, and is itself cut by pit 608. Located in the corner of the trench, this feature extends beyond the extent of the excavation, so its size and shape is

uncertain, although it appears to have been quite substantial, with an estimated width of c.1.5m (as projected from the section), having been cut to a depth of c.0.6m through the bedrock. On its visible edge the pit appears steep-sided with a rounded base c. 0.2m wide.

Context 607 (deposit)

Fill of large pit 608. A 'plum-pudding' type fill, consisting of burnt daub, charcoal, metal-working waste and lots of very small stones (pea-gravel). As with the other pits in this area, the fill is extremely mixed and demonstrated a high burnt content, suggesting a possible destruction phase, or the remnants of intensive industrial activity. It was noted that there was a greater amount of clay visible at the base and on top of the fill in this pit, possibly suggesting that the pit had been left open for a while before being filled and later re-cut. Pottery finds from this context included a Greyware rimsherd, dated to 70-100 AD, and the stamped handle of a Dressel 20 amphora (see Appendix 1).

Context 608 (cut)

A large ovoid pit continuing beyond the extent of the SW end of Trench 6, and one of a series of pits in this part of the excavated area. Where visible the pit protrudes into the trench for 1.3m at its longest, and it appears to have a NE-SW orientation. Of all the pits here, this one has encroached most closely to the potential building evidenced by beam-slot 604, and has been cut just 0.35m away from the edge of 604. Pit 608 cuts both neighbouring pits 606 and 610 and when excavated appeared to be steep-sided, with a concave base cut through the degraded shale bedrock to a depth of 0.43m. This pit was filled by 607, and was in turn cut by pit 602.

Context 609 (deposit)

Fill of 610. Contained a 'plum pudding' mix fill, similar to that within neighbouring pits 602, 606, and 608 (fills 601, 605 and 607). No finds were recorded from this fill, although it had been truncated on both sides by 606 and 608 and largely destroyed when these pits were dug.

Context 610 (cut)

Seemingly the first pit dug into the bedrock, located 0.44m to the SW of beam-slot 604. Where visible, the pit measured c.0.7m in width and appeared to be ovoid in shape. It was initially cut by pit 606, and subsequently cut by 608 (which also cut 606). Excavated.

Context 611 (deposit)

Fill of pit 612. A dark brown silty clay loam. Half-sectioned and pit fill sampled for floatation.

Context 612 (cut)

A large, near-circular pit, 0.9m x 0.8m, located in an area 3m to the SW of the innermost ditch of the trivallate defences and appearing to have been cut through the clay deposit to the NE of the rampart material (context 635). Half-sectioned.

Context 613 (deposit)

Primary fill of inner defensive ditch 614. Consists of a dark yellowish brown silty clay, containing 40% small angular and sub-angular fragment of shattered shale, 15% medium stones, and 1 very large stone (0.34m x 0.18m) within the fill, with pea-grit (small, sub-rounded gravels) also visible. There was no charcoal and no finds. This deposit appears to represent the first backfill of the ditch, which was later re-cut and re-filled (contexts 625-6). It overlies an earlier layer (context 627), which appears to be evidence for the primary silting of the ditch whilst it was open and before it was backfilled by 613.

Context 614 (cut)

The first cut of the innermost defensive ditch of the trivallate defences of the large, earlier Roman fort at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn. Part-excavated. Although unable to see the exact profile, the cut can be projected by comparison with the excavated middle ditch (context 616, Figure 18), and is likely to have steep sides, of a similar angle to those of 616, c.45°. Figure 17 illustrates the sequence of features within the ditch, which appears to have been open long enough to allow a primary silt layer to form (context 627) before being backfilled by context 613. At a later date the ditch was re-cut (context 626) and backfilled with a charcoal-rich deposit, containing several sherds of pottery (context 625). The original cut of the ditch measured c.3m in overall estimated width (as visible on the surface of the trench), and had been cut to a depth of 0.88m, clearly seen within the section.

Context 615 (deposit)

Uppermost layer of fill visible within middle defensive ditch 616. When excavated the fill consisted of a reasonably shallow layer of dark yellowish-brown silty clay, deposited to a visible depth of 0.2m on the SE-facing section and 0.15m on the NW section. The fill contained c.15% medium sub-angular and rounded stones and occasional charcoal flecks, and lay above context 630, which was the top of the ditch fill subsequently re-cut by post-hole 618 and pit 620.

Context 616 (cut)

Middle ditch of the trivallate defences of the first-phase Roman fort. A 1m wide section was excavated through this ditch on the SE side of the trench, which revealed that although a pit (620) and substantial post-hole (618) had been dug into the backfilled ditch deposit (context 623), the ditch itself had not been re-cut, unlike inner defensive ditch 614. Figure 17 illustrates the NW-facing section excavated through the middle ditch and its respective fills. Together with evidence from ditch 614, it appears that when the first-phase fort was abandoned, the three defensive ditches were deliberately back-filled with a similar dark-yellowish brown material (contexts 613 and 623). However, when the fort was reduced and the smaller second-phase fort constructed it seems that inner ditch 614 was the only one to be re-cut, presumably to delimit the area re-used as an annexe by the later fort. The middle ditch was not re-cut during the second-phase fort, but did have later features cut into it, as evidenced by 618 and 620. Both these features were revealed within the small metre-wide section dug through the ditch, and it is likely that a whole range of other features are present within the remaining unexcavated ditch material. When sectioned, the original cut of the middle ditch was revealed to be V-shaped in profile, of typical Roman military style, and measured 2.57m wide and 0.87m deep.

Context 617

Fill of post-hole/pit 618. Excavated and sampled. The deposit consisted of a friable yellowish-brown clean silty clay earth, with three very large stones within the deposit, thought to be packing stones for a timber post.

Context 618

Post-hole pit re-cut into the top of middle defensive ditch 616. The ovoid pit measured c.0.5m x 0.4m x 0.3m deep, with its edge set 0.08m to the NW of pit 620. The fill (617) was a clean soft earth, with three very large stones also present, representing the possible packing material for the wooden upright. Fully excavated. In profile the pit was a steep-sided cut with a relatively flat base, 0.2m in diameter, although it was cut very steeply on its N side but less so on its other sides, creating an off-centre base. Orientated NW-SE.

Context 619 (deposit)

Fill of pit 620, re-cut into the fill of middle defensive ditch 616. A very mixed and patchy fill containing frequent charcoal lumps and burnt daub, as well as clay patches and fragments of shattered shale and other stones (c.20%). The dark yellowish-brown sandy silt fill was similar to the 'plum pudding' mixture encountered within the series of inter-cutting pits in the SW end of Trench 6, and in direct contrast to the primary fill of 616 (context 623). A number of finds were recovered from this fill, including a variety of pottery wares (Black Burnished, Greyware, Samian), as well as a sherd from a pre-Flavian vessel. There was also a lot of 'debris' material, including several lumps of metal-working waste, iron nails, lumps of burnt daub, anthracite and iron, burnt bone and a possible worked stone/building block. Such finds point to a possible dump of industrial waste material associated with the later re-use of this part of the fort as an annexe, where industrial-type activities (smelting, ovens, kilns etc.) tended to be conducted and focused away from the rest of the fort buildings. These activities posed a potential fire-hazard and were therefore often marginalized, and located outside of the main fort within an annexe-type area.

Context 620 (cut)

A large sub-rectangular pit, re-cut into the top of middle defensive ditch 616 through fills 623 and 630. This feature continued to the SE beyond the area of the excavation, but where visible, the pit measured between 0.2m and 0.37m wide x 1.1m long, and with a maximum depth of 0.32m at its NW end. The pit was orientated NE-SW at a right angle to the alignment of ditch 616. The edge of the feature lay 8cm to the SE of post-hole 618, and when excavated appeared less steep on its NE side, with its SW edge steep-sided at 45°. The pit had a relatively flat base, although was square-edged on its SE side. Filled with a 'plum pudding' mix fill 619, and overlain with a narrow band of dark yellowish brown silty clay (615), which sealed this deposit.

Context 621

Fill of pit 622. The fill consisted primarily of tightly compacted small, medium and large river-washed rounded stones (70%) within a dark yellowish-brown friable sandy clay, with charcoal also visible amongst the fill, including at least one large lump (sampled). Part-excavated.

Context 622

Oval shaped pit, filled with large stones, measuring (where visible) 1.16m long x 0.9m wide and 0.22m deep. Half-sectioned. A steep-sided, vertically cut pit with an irregular flat base, sloping slightly to the south. Beneath the stony fill of the pit lay a more compact clay base (context 642), with a 'plum pudding' mix appearance, and beneath this lay an earlier pit and fill (contexts 644 and 645).

Context 623 (deposit)

Fill of middle defensive ditch 616, overlying primary silting layer 624, and re-cut by contexts 618 and 620. This layer is also overlain by a narrow band (context 630), which was also cut by 618 and 620. The fill consists of a similar friable dark yellowish-brown clay to the underlying silt, but is marginally darker in colour and contained a greater percentage of small angular stone inclusions, with occasional clay patches and flecks of iron-panning also visible throughout the deposit. There was no charcoal present, which contrasts markedly with the fill of pit 620 (context 619) cutting the deposit as seen in the section.

Context 624 (deposit)

Primary silt fill of middle defensive ditch 616. Overlain by context 623, a deliberate backfill of the ditch. The fill was a concave layer of dark yellowish-brown silty clay, deposited to a depth of 0.12m, and virtually stone-free, containing only a few very small pea-grit stones. This material was identical to context 627, the deposit filling the bottom of inner defensive ditch 614, and both

were thought to be the result of natural weathering and silting of the ditches during the time they were open and exposed, prior to their deliberate back-filling.

Context 625 (deposit)

Fill of re-cut ditch 626, which had been re-cut into the backfilled deposit 623 within inner defensive ditch 614. A markedly different fill to 623, this deposit was extremely charcoal-rich, with burnt daub and metal-working waste also visible within the layer. A number of pottery sherds were recovered but were too small to be diagnostic, although they were of Roman date. 625 was itself re-cut at a later date by pit 629.

Context 626 (cut)

The later re-cut of inner defensive ditch 614. Part excavated. When the back-filled inner defensive ditch was re-cut, presumably when the earlier abandoned fort was re-occupied and reduced, it seems that only this ditch of the trivallate defences was resurrected, and re-dug to delimit the annexe of the later fort. When re-cut, the ditch was initially not so steep, sloping at c.30° to a depth of 0.3m from where it suddenly dropped to a much sharper angle (as illustrated within Figure 16), with the ditch cut to an overall depth of c.0.7m. Subsequently the re-cut ditch was back-filled with charcoal-rich deposit 625, which appears to indicate a phase of burning and destruction, possibly representing the decommissioning of the fort and its annexe.

Context 627 (deposit)

A 0.17m deep layer of relatively stone-free silty clay at the bottom of inner defensive ditch 614, and evidencing the likely primary silting of the ditch. Although the layer is similar to 613 which lies above it (i.e. a dark yellowish-brown) there is a noticeable reduction in pea-grit and stone inclusions, which marks this layer as different. It is likely to represent the natural wash off the ditch when it was open, and before it was backfilled with 613.

Context 628 (fill)

Fill of pit 629, seemingly re-cut into backfilled re-cut ditch 626. The fill comprised a medium-dark brown friable silty clay, with 3% small stones and occasional charcoal flecks visible.

Context 629 (cut)

The partial remains of a pit, revealed during the excavation of inner defensive ditch 614. The feature continued beyond the extent of the excavated area, and part of it was excavated during the sectioning of 614. However, from the plan and section 629 appeared to be a round-bottomed steep-sided pit, cut into back-filled re-cut ditch 626, orientated NE-SW. Where visible the pit protruded c.0.3m into the trench and appeared to measure c.0.9m in width, with a depth of c.0.12m.

Context 630 (deposit)

A narrow band of light yellowish-brown sandy clay, 0.22m deep at its maximum, forming the top of the ditch fill in middle defensive ditch 616, prior to post-hole 618 and pit 620 being cut into the ditch and its fill. This layer, which was sealed by context 615, contained flecks of red brick fragments and occasional charcoal, as well as small fragments of shattered shale and other small-medium stones.

Context 631 (deposit)

Fill of post-hole 632. A soft, homogenous light yellowish-brown fill, uniform throughout the 0.36m deep cut. Fully excavated.

Context 632 (cut)

Post-hole cut into the southern terminus of possible beam-slot 604. Fully excavated. The post-hole was filled by 631 but sealed by 603, and did not cut through this fill. The vertically-cut post-hole measured 0.15m in diameter and was cut to a depth of 0.36m, with a reasonably flat base. This feature is likely to have held a timber post integral to the building indicated by beam-slot 604.

Context 633 (deposit)

Fill of outer defensive ditch 634. Unexcavated.

Context 634

The outer defensive ditch of the triple ditch system associated with the earlier fort. Unexcavated. This ditch appeared less substantial on the surface compared with neighbouring ditches 614 and 616, with a projected width of c.1.8m (compared to 3m for 614 and 2.57m for 616). This ditch lay c.30m back from the outer fourth ditch which ran parallel to the trivallate defences, and was located at the NE end of Trench 6, less than a metre from its junction with Trench 5. Although unexcavated, it is likely that this ditch was backfilled in a similar fashion to 614 and 616, and may well contain a wealth of other features and finds associated with the abandonment, re-use and eventual decommissioning of both fort phases at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn.

Context 635 (deposit)

A layer of thick light-yellowish brown clay, presumed to be the remnants of the rampart material, seemingly imported to the site during the construction of the trivallate defences of the first-phase fort. The 4.1m band of ochre-coloured compact yet friable clay appeared as a homogenous layer containing occasional small, sub-rounded stones, and was likely to have been brought up to the site from the Afon Bran downslope, with the stone inclusions being water-rolled pebbles imported within the clay dug out from the riverbank. This rampart material lay close to the surface, at a depth of 0.17m below the turf, and was located c.4m back from the edge of inner defensive ditch 614, following the same NW-SE orientation as the trivallate defences. Unexcavated.

Context 636 (deposit)

Fill of oven/hearth 637. Unexcavated. Surface analysis suggested that the fill showed areas of intensive burning around the edges of the feature, with a high content of charcoal flecks visible throughout, and a reddening of surrounding earth. Burnt daub/metal-working waste was also visible throughout the fill, which also had a large sherd of pottery (possibly from an amphora) protruding through the surface. The fill consisted of a dark reddish-brown sandy clay loam, containing shattered shale fragments and medium-small stones and pebbles amongst the other inclusions.

Context 637 (cut)

An oval-shaped area of potential *in situ* burning, indicating the potential remains of a hearth or oven. Part of the feature continues beyond the extent of Trench 6 to the NW. Where visible the feature protrudes 0.7m SE from the edge of the trench, and measures 1.8m in length until truncated by the machine-cut into the rampart material 635. This feature backs immediately onto the rampart and is located tight against it, giving the oven/hearth an overall length of 2.06m, as seen in the SE-facing section. Unexcavated.

Context 638 (deposit)

Fill of pit 639. A 'plum pudding' mix of dark yellowish-brown sandy clay, containing frequent charcoal flecks, medium sized stones and small angular

fragments of shattered shale, with flecks of possible burnt daub/tile/brick also visible on the surface. Unexcavated.

Context 639 (cut)

An oval pit, located behind the rampart and 1.2m SW of oven/hearth 637, with stone-filled pit 622 c.0.6m to the ENE. Unexcavated. On the surface the pit appears to extend 0.9m x 0.66m, aligned NNW-SSE, and containing 'plum pudding' fill 638.

Context 640

Fill of pit 641. A dark yellowish-brown sandy clay loam with frequent charcoal flecks, small angular fragments of shattered shale, rounded small pebbles and flecks of iron oxide visible. Unexcavated.

Context 641 (cut)

A seemingly oval pit which appears to cut stone-filled pit 622 on its S edge. Unexcavated. The feature extends beyond the extent of the excavation in Trench 6, so its exact size and shape could not be determined. Where visible, the pit protrudes 0.6m into the trench on its SE side, and is visible for a length of 1.4m within the section, with an apparent N-S orientation. Filled with 641.

Context 642 (deposit)

A 'plum pudding' mix deposit, very similar to the fills within inter-cutting pits 602, 606, 608 and 610, and revealed when the stony fill of pit 622 was excavated and removed. In fact, the stones of fill 621 had left impressions in the top of this deposit. The dark yellowish-brown sandy clay fill contained visible lumps and flecks of charcoal, burnt daub, and angular shattered shale fragments, and was located 2.6m NE of the series of inter-cutting pits, 1.8m SW of the back of the rampart material and 1.2m south of oven/hearth 637. This deposit was excavated and found to overlie another layer, context 644, the fill of an earlier pit (645) cut by 622.

Context 643 (cut)

Two 10cm diameter stake-holes set 0.1m apart and visible within the base of pit 602. Excavated. Both stake-holes only appeared as small, circular depressions after the fill of pit 602 had been removed, and there were no previous surface indications for them in fill 601. Nonetheless, they had clearly cut the base of the pit and therefore must have been driven through the fill of 602 from above. It is possible that more stake-holes would be revealed beneath the unexcavated section of this pit to the SW.

Context 644 (deposit)

Fill of earlier pit 645, which was overlain by deposit 642 and possibly cut by pit 622. A dark yellowish-brown sandy clay fill containing c.35% small angular fragments of shattered shale. Part-excavated.

Context 645 (cut)

An earlier pit located beneath pit 622, and only partially revealed when pit 622 was half-sectioned and investigated, and overlying deposit 642 was removed. Although not fully revealed this pit appeared to be ovoid in plan, and was steep-sided and near-vertically cut. The feature seems to continue to the NNW beneath the layer through which pit 622 was cut. It was partially excavated to a depth of 0.22m below the base of 622, although the feature was not bottomed.

Trench 7

Context 701 (deposit)

An area of 'concretised' compacted grey clay and gravel, which was overlain by loose rounded gravel/river-washed stone. The feature extended beyond the excavation area within Trench 7 to the N and NW, but where visible the spread measured c.1.9m x 1.2m (maximum) and appeared to be orientated NE-SW. Cut into this layer was possible post-hole 713. Part-excavated. Finds included sherds from a south Gaulish wine amphora and some Black Burnished ware.

Context 702 (deposit)

A dark orange-brown silty clay spread, consisting of a homogenous friable soil with 40% small and medium rounded and sub-rounded stone inclusions, with frequent visible charcoal flecks. A 1m wide slot was excavated through this material and neighbouring context 703, and removal of this thin layer of deposit revealed contexts 705-708 (see Figure 19), which evidenced the walls and remains of a building orientated NE-SW running parallel to the trivallate defences. Context 702 merged into context 714, a spread of similar dark orange-brown clay, although this latter deposit contained 10% less stone inclusions and only occasional charcoal flecks.

Context 703

A spread of stones, appearing as an area of hard-standing potentially utilised as a stone floor within the building evidenced by contexts 705-708. A 1m wide slot was excavated the full width of the trench through part of this material, beneath which there were two shallow pits containing a dark brown loam deposit with pottery sherds, charcoal and brick/tile fragment inclusions (context 704).

Context 704 (deposit)

A dark brown, charcoal-rich loam, with brick/tile fragments, pottery and 5% small rounded stones visible within the deposit. Pottery sherds recovered included sherds of Black Burnished and Samian ware, although the latter were too worn to allow identification.

Context 705 (deposit)

Possible building debris lying as a linear feature, running NW-SE and parallel with context 707. The deposit consists of a mixture of compact yellow clay and dark yellowish-brown loam, containing occasional small river-washed pebbles. This clay is similar to rampart material 635 recorded in Trench 6 and the collapsed clay or clom wall in Trench 2 (context 210), and is likely to have been imported to the site from the same source, i.e. the riverbank of the Afon Bran located downslope to the SE. This deposit may be the result of a collapse of the adjacent clay wall evidenced in contexts 707 and 708, when the building was destroyed or fell into disrepair.

Context 706 (deposit)

A layer of possible burnt clay and decaying brick/tile or daub, directly adjoining context 707 on its SE side. Patches of dark brown silty loam, possibly representing stake-holes, are visible throughout the layer, which also contains frequent visible charcoal flecks. In total six possible stake-holes were recognised during excavation of a 1m wide slot through the deposit, with these stake-holes measuring c.0.08m in diameter and running parallel to context 708, a probable beam-slot for a directly adjacent clay-walled building. These stakes were each set roughly 0.12m apart, and could represent a hazel hurdle fencing surrounding the building on its SE side. The overall deposit appears to be the result of an episode of burning, possibly associated with the destruction of the adjacent building.

Context 707 (deposit)

A very clean layer of compact yellow clay, with at least two stake-holes visible along its length. The deposit lay within cut 708, orientated NE-SW and the likely clay wall of a building running parallel to the trivallate defences. Similar material, also thought to be evidence for a collapsed clay wall, was recorded in Trench 3 (context 210). A small section 0.15m wide was cut through the deposit to characterise the depth and profile of both this and context 708. Plate 10 illustrates the contrasting deposits located either side of the beam-slot, with 706 visible as a spread of terracotta-coloured burnt clay to the right, and the mixed clay and stone deposit of 705 to the left.

Context 708 (cut)

A possible beam-slot, profiled as a steep-sided shallow cut with a sloping bottom, measuring between 0.06 and 0.09m deep and orientated in a roughly NE-SW orientation, matching the alignment of the trivallate defences. A small slot, 0.15m wide, was excavated through the slot to characterise the feature. The cut was filled with a compact clean, yellow clay (context 707), which may be evidence for a clay wall. This and neighbouring contexts 705-707 appear to be remnants of a building located immediately behind the defences of the early fort, and c.8m back from the innermost defensive ditch. As seen within Trench 6, this was the only ditch of the triple ditch system to be re-cut, presumably during the construction of the second-phase fort, when this area was re-used as an annexe. Evidence from the evaluation was inconclusive in attempts to date this building to either the first or second-phase activity at the fort, although the depth of deposits in this area suggest that a range of buildings may have been built and re-built here a number of times. It seems probable that this particular building dates to the later use of the area as an annexe, but it is likely to overlie structures and features associated with the initial campaigning fort, sealed beneath these upper level deposits, which remain untouched and unexcavated.

Context 709 (deposit)

A spread of silvery grey clay, markedly different to adjacent dark orange-brown deposit 714. A section 1.2m x 0.6m was excavated through this material, beneath which lay a deposit of brown clayey silt, comprising 20% rounded stones, plus charcoal, pottery, iron nails and lead pieces, possibly representing the fill of a large pit. The cut and extent of the pit was not defined within the sectioned area, but where excavated the feature bottomed onto natural (clay) at a depth of 0.55m below the machine-cut surface.

Context 710 (deposit)

A roughly rectangular spread of medium-sized pebbles, lying over, and embedded into, the top of an earlier, unexcavated deposit. This spread of stones was initially visible as a seemingly curvilinear spread of stones partially overlain by contexts 719 and 720, a grey-brown silty clay displaying discrete patches of charcoal. The true shape of this feature was only revealed when the area was cleaned and partially excavated. It appeared that the spread of stones may be filling a large pit, at least 1.2m long and 0.8m wide where visible, located immediately NE of stone-filled linear feature 711, as seen in Plate 6, and seemingly overlain by metalled road surface 712 on its NE side, c.0.26m below the surface of the road. It is possible that these stones were deliberately placed into the top of this earlier pit in order to create a solid surface to facilitate the construction of the overlying road.

Context 711 (deposit)

A roughly linear layer of pebbles at the western end of Trench 7, possibly extending beyond the excavation area, orientated N/NNE-S/SSW. These pebbles appear to be lying over, and embedded into, the top of an earlier feature, possibly filling a gully or beam-slot. This feature was revealed when layer 719

was removed and the previous, seemingly curvilinear, spread of stones were cleaned back. Excavation revealed that the earlier curvilinear spread seen in Figure 18 appeared to divide into two separate cobbled areas, with 710 a roughly rectangular area of stones and context 711 a markedly linear deposit, c.0.3m wide and 1.4m long (where visible) as seen in Plate 12.

Context 712 (deposit)

Metalled road surface, c.4m wide, orientated NW-SE and with visible slight cambers on its NE and SW sides. This area of metalling corresponded with anomaly 57 identified during the 2005 geophysical survey and indeed suggested by Hopewell to hint at the presence of a road (Hopewell 2005:6). Although clearly a road surface, it was not as well-constructed or maintained as the main entrance road to the fort encountered within Trench 2, and was not as wide. However, its location and orientation suggests that it represents the remains of the *Via Principalis*, one of the internal roads within the earlier fort, which ran NW-SE through the interior of the fort to meet with the *Via Praetoria*, the road leading into the fort through its front entrance, and a continuation of the road encountered within Trench 2. The *Via Principalis* would have pierced the trivallate defences through the fort on both its NW and SE sides through two gates, the *Porta Principalis Sinistra* on its NW side and the *Porta Principalis Dextra* to the SE. Therefore, within the area of the orchard, and possibly only 5 metres or so to the SE of the road in Trench 7, the remains of the *Porta Principia Dextra* can be expected to be preserved beneath the topsoil. This presumption is made both on the basis of the (uninterpreted) geophysical survey results, which shows an apparent break in the line of defences, and the known quality and high preservation of the archaeological deposits within the evaluation area. Any development of this area during the construction of the proposed new road will have a major impact on these extremely significant archaeological remains, which have the potential to reveal a considerable amount of information about the structure and use of the earlier Roman fort at Llanfair-ar-y-Bryn.

Context 713 (deposit)

Possible post-hole visible within, and cut into, the surface of spread 701. The post-hole measured c.0.3m in diameter and contained a soft, friable charcoal-rich fill of dark brown earth. Unexcavated.

Context 714 (deposit)

A homogenous spread of dark orange-brown friable silty clay, with c.30% small and medium rounded and sub-rounded stone inclusions, with occasional charcoal flecks also visible. Unexcavated. This spread extended the full width of the trench and appeared to be orientated in a NW-SE direction, sharing the same alignment as metalled road surface 712.

Context 715 (deposit)

A concentrated patch of burnt material visible within the spread of 703, measuring c.0.34m x 0.1m, and orientated roughly NE-SW. There was a high percentage of charcoal flecks visible on the surface of the deposit. Unexcavated.

Context 716 (deposit)

A spread of stones to the NE of metalled road surface 712, which appeared to be the result of a slippage of road material, overlying context 718. Unexcavated.

Context 717 (deposit)

A circular deposit of dark earth material, 0.2m in diameter, with visible burnt bone fragments on the surface of the fill. A possible post-hole or cremation deposit inserted into the edge of the metalled road 712 on its NE side, just before the camber slopes off the road to the NE. Unexcavated.

Context 718 (deposit)

A spread of relatively stone-free, dark brown soil containing frequent visible charcoal flecks, overlain in part by slipped road surface material 716. This spread appears to run parallel to the metalled road surface 712, and may be evidencing a road-side ditch into which burnt waste material and debris was dumped. Unexcavated.

Context 719 (deposit)

A deposit of grey-brown silty clay containing brown mottling and discrete patches of charcoal, partially overlying context 710. Part-excavated, revealing stone-filled pit 710 and gully/beam-slot 711.

Context 720 (deposit)

Separated from 719 by linear stone spread 711. A grey-brown silty clay deposit, similar to 719 but with occasional small stone inclusions and sherds of pottery visible within the layer. Unexcavated.

Appendix 4 Sample record

<u>Trench</u>	<u>Context</u>	<u>Sample no.</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
T1	104	15	Possible cremation
T1	104	16	Fill of ditch-analysis of material
T2	206	04	Charcoal for ID plant remains
T2	217	10	ID of burnt daub/other materials
T2	226	14	
T3	303	20	Sample of pit fill
T4	409	09	Charcoal ID/C14 from fill of 409
T4	410	06	Post-hole fill flotation
T5	501	07	
T5	509	05	Analysis of cremation deposit
T5	541	11	
T5	542	12	
T5	544/552	13	
T6	601	01	
T6	605	02	
T6	607	03	
T6	611	08	Flotation of pit fill
T6	617	21	
T6	619	18	
T6	642	19	
T6	644	17	

Appendix 5 Catalogue of evaluation archive

The project archive has been catalogued and indexed according to National Monument Record (NMR) categories and contains the following:

		Present
A. REPORTS		
A.1	Final report, whether published or not	Yes
A.2	Interim reports, whether published or not	Yes
A.3	Related articles	Yes
A.4	Report(s)disc	Yes
B. SITE WRITTEN DATA		
B.1	Context records - paper	Yes
B.2	Context records - disc	Yes
B.3	Computer generated contest list - paper	Yes
B.4	Field notes, notebooks	Yes
B.5	Survey data - paper	Yes
B.6	Survey data - disk	Yes
C. DRAWINGS – NON PUBLICATION		
C.1	Catalogue of all drawings	Yes
C.2	Site drawings	Yes
C.3	Survey drawings	Yes
D. PHOTOGRAPHS		
D.1	Catalogue(s) of photographs, including those of finds	Yes
D.2	Colour slides, including those of finds	N/a
D.3	Black and white negatives & contact prints, including those of finds	Yes
D.4	Press photographs	N/a
D.5	Old photographs	N/a
D.6	Video film	N/a
D.7	Digital photographs - disc	Yes
E. FINDS DATA		
E.1	Catalogue of boxed finds	Yes
E.2	Catalogue of unboxed finds	N/a
E.3	Index to storage location of finds	N/a
E.4	Context finds record	Yes
E.5	Context finds database	Yes
E.6	Computer generated list of finds by material	Yes
E.7	List of object/special finds	N/a
E.8	Object record base	N/a
E.9	Object database	N/a
E.10	Computer generated list of objects	N/a
E.11	Conservation forms	N/a

	E.12	X-radiographs	N/a
	E.13	Pottery records	Yes
	E.14	Specialist correspondence and notes	Yes
	E.15	Unpublished finds analyses	Yes
	E.16	Unpublished finds drawings	N/a
	E.17	Unpublished pottery drawings	N/a
F. ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL DATA			
	F.1	Sample forms	Yes
	F.2	List of preserved samples	Yes
	F.3	Location of specimens	Yes
	F.4	Unpublished analyses	N/a
	F.5	C14 reports	N/a
	F.6	Unpublished drawings	N/a
G. DOCUMENTARY DATA			
	G.1	List of references	Yes
	G.2	Correspondence on archaeological matters	Yes
H. HUMAN REMAINS			
	H.1	Skeleton forms	N/a
	H.2	Location of remains	N/a
	H.3	Unpublished analyses	N/a
	H.4	Unpublished drawings	N/a
I. DRAFT REPORTS			
	I.1	Archive reports – manuscript	Yes
	I.2	Archive reports –typescript	Yes
	I.3	Archive reports -disc	Yes
	I.4	Final report – manuscript	Yes
	I.5	Final report – typescript	Yes
	I.6	Final report – disc	Yes
	I.7	Proofs	Yes
	I.8	Paste-ups	N/a
J. DRAWINGS - PUBLICATION			
	J.1	Final publication drawings	N/a
	J.2	Interim and other publication drawings	N/a
K.1 PUBLIC RELATIONS			
	K.1	Press cuttings/press releases	N/a
	K.2	Exhibition drawings and photographs	N/a
	K.3	Posters/leaflets/handouts	N/a
	K.4	Audio and/or visual material	N/a
	K.5	Guide books	N/a
L. PRE- AND POST – EXCAVATION DESIGN			
	L.1	Project research design/specification	Yes
	L.2	Assessment documents	Yes
	L.3	Post excavation research design	Yes
	L.4	General administration	Yes

	L.5	General financial	Yes
M. CORRESPONDENCE			
	M.1	Correspondence not pertaining to archaeological matters	N/a
N. GENERAL MISCELLANEOUS			
	N.1	Reviews	N/a
	N.2	Parallels	N/a
	N.3	Other	N/a

**LLANFAIR-AR-Y-BRYN, LLANDOVERY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION
JUNE-JULY 2006**

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**Awst 2006
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Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by Nikki Cook

Swydd / Position: Project Manager

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date 21/08/2006

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

Nigel Page

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Swydd / Position: Senior Project Manager

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date 21/08/2006

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

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