

GLAMORGAN-GWENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST  
CONTRACTS SECTION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT  
RAF CAERWENT

APRIL 1994

REPORT NO. 94/031  
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RAF CAERWENT

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## Summary

The survey area displays evidence for human occupation since the Neolithic period. Considerable amounts of fieldwork have been carried out in the past, and the present survey identified a further eight sites within the area to add to the twenty-one already noted. Of these sites, four are Scheduled Ancient Monuments and are thus afforded statutory protection.

## Acknowledgements

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Development proposal and commission

Monmouth Borough Council and the Ministry of Defence have commissioned Veryards to carry out a study of the RAF Caerwent Base to examine the existing problems of dereliction, assess the cost of remedial works, and put forward viable redevelopment options for the use of the site for non-military purposes. - Environmental Advisory Unit was subcontracted by Veryards to carry out the environmental sections of the survey, and they contracted GGAT Contracts to assess the archaeological implications.

### 1.2 Specification for the report

The specification for the original study (Report 94/011) was drawn up to fulfil the brief prepared by Monmouth Borough Council, incorporating a brief for the archaeological component drawn up by GGAT (Curatorial Section), acting as archaeological advisers to Monmouth Borough Council. The specifications are given in full below (see Appendix One): the work includes the collation of information on the county Sites and Monuments Record; study of documentary and map sources; checking of aerial photograph coverage; and a site visit.

Following the work detailed in Report 94/011, a more detailed set of archaeological constraints was drawn up to assist in the preparation of an outline feasibility study by Veryards Ltd. This set of constraints forms the basis of a revised Section 5 replacing the previous version in this report, but has been expanded to take into account the proposals put forward in the draft Options Report. A series of geotechnical test pits was also dug, and the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out on these pits are incorporated in the new Appendix Eight. These developments have resulted in modifications to Section 3 (Summary of archaeological resource) and Section 4- (Impact of development proposals on archaeological resource).

### 1.3 Layout of the report

The report describes the physical layout of the site (Section 2), and then summarises the archaeological resource (Section 3). An assessment of the likely implication of the proposal is made (Section 4), and appropriate mitigatory measures are identified (Section 5). Detailed data are given in a series of Appendices.

### 1.4 Abbreviations used in the report

Sites previously recorded in the county Sites and Monuments Record are referred to by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and the National Grid Reference (NGR). References to documents and published works are given in brackets: the full titles will be given in the bibliography. References to the Conservation Dossier are to a document on the history, archaeology, ecology and management of the area, compiled by the Ministry of Defence (MODnd).

## 2. Physical environment

### 2.1 Topography

Most of the survey area occupies gently rolling countryside, but at the north it rises sharply into the lower slopes of the hills between Newport and the Wye. These hill slopes are heavily wooded. On the western side the site is bounded by the Castrogi Brook, on the south by the A48 and on the east by the road between Crick and Shirenewton.

### 2.2 Surface geology

The geology of the site has been summarised in the Conservation Dossier (MOD nd, Section 2).

Much of the site lies over carboniferous limestone, with some outcrops of sandstone. In the south of the area this is overlain by Keuper Marl.

The drift geology is made up of alluvial sand and clay in the vicinity of Cas Troggy Brook and terrace deposits of the River Severn.

### 3. Summary of archaeological resource

#### 3.1 General

#### 3.2

The survey area has evidence of occupation from the Neolithic period onwards. There are sites from all periods, of which three are protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments: Llanmelin Wood forts (SAM Mm24), Crick barrow (SAM Mm151), and Whitewall Brake Roman villa (SAM Mm152).

#### 3.3 Prehistoric

Activity within the survey area in the prehistoric period, known before the start of the survey is represented by two unfinished Neolithic arrowheads (GP13 and GP14), Crick round barrow (Bronze Age) and the two earthworks known as Llanmelin Wood Hillfort (Iron Age). There are two other unexcavated round barrows, also presumed to be of Bronze Age date, close to the area (1031g, -1032g), and flint scatters have been found to the north of the area during a recent watching brief (Page forthcoming). The larger of the two Llanmelin Wood earthworks (PRN 1026g, SAM Mm24) is one of the finest hillforts in Gwent. The 'Outpost' is scheduled as part of the same SAM as the main camp/annexe (Mm24), - but has a separate PRN (4437g). In addition, archaeological monitoring of geotechnical trial pit no 48 produced at least one other worked flint.

#### 3.3 Roman

The larger of the two hillforts at Llanmelin Camp appears to have continued in occupation into the Roman period.

The survey area lies immediately to the north of the town of Caerwent (Venta Silurum), which was the civitas capital, or administrative centre, for the tribe of the Silures (Wacher 1974, 375-389) and thus roughly equivalent to the county town of more recent history. The main east-west South Wales coastal road (Margary's route 60a: Margary 1973, 324) forms the southern boundary of the site between the junction of A48 with the eastern end of the road leading through Caerwent village and the village of Crick. The south western corner of the survey area also touches this road. There is evidence for burials of the Roman period along the line of this road (PRN 1053g): Roman burials may also be associated with the round barrows noted above. Activity and artefacts (pottery, surfaces, pit or ditch) possibly connected with the Roman cemetery were found in geotechnical trial pits nos 49, 62 and 63.

The Roman remains at Whitewall Brake (PRN 2253g, SAM Mm152) appear to be those of a villa, possibly a 'satellite villa' to the town, with some sort of official function (Salway 1981, 597). The results of geotechnical trial pit 10 and the rapid survey of the surrounding area indicate that there is at least as spread of artefacts in the field to the east of the Scheduled area, and in the area of rough ground to the west, although confirmation as to whether structural remains extended into these areas would require further evaluation.

#### 3.4 Early Medieval and Medieval

Documentary evidence for the occupation of the surrounding area in the Early Medieval ('Dark Age') period is provided by accounts of the founding of a monastery at Caerwent by St Tathan (PRN1066g), but archaeological sites of this period are notoriously difficult to identify.

Buildings of 12th-13th century date were discovered by Nash-Williams in both the annexe to the main fort at Llanmelin and the 'Outpost'. Otherwise there is no definite evidence of medieval occupation in the survey area.

The survey area lay across the later medieval parishes of Caerwent, Dinham, Runston and Shirenewton. Dinham and Runston were later incorporated in Llanvair Discoed and Mathern-and-StPierre respectively. What information we have indicates that in the case of Caerwent, Runston and Shirenewton the main focus of these settlements lay elsewhere. The medieval village of Dinham may have lain in or between the areas later known as Great and Little Dinham, but definite evidence is lacking. It is possible that Manor House Cottage at Kilpale may have been on the site of a medieval manor house: the name Kilpale may be derived from a park pale (boundary), although no surviving trace of one has been observed (Bradney 1911, 140).

### 3.4 Post-medieval

#### 3.5

The use of the area in the post-medieval period seems to have been largely agricultural. Scattered farmhouses, cottages and agricultural buildings appear on the 1965 OS map: those in the south and east of the area post-date the surveys for the Tithe maps, and mostly also the 1st edition of the OS maps. The surviving buildings at the north and west of the area (Manor House Cottage Kilpale, PRN 1035g; the buildings at Great Dinham PRNs 1036g-1037g; a pair of cottages at Kilpale, PRN 2254g; Dolkins Wood Cottage Kilpale, PRN 2255g; Hill Barn Kilpale, PRN 3812g; Lower Llanmelin, PRN 3816g) have all been examined by RCAHMS and are mostly of 18th century date or later, although earlier material was preserved in situ in the easternmost of the row of cottages at Little Dinham (early 17th century) and the farmhouse at Lower Llanmelin (17th century).

There is evidence for several limekilns within the area of the survey, some of which survive (PRNs 2253g and 3813g, AR1, AR2, AR3, AR9, AR10). These would have burned lime for use as a fertiliser (Courtney 1983, 297).

An undated feature showing on air photographs to the north of Nutstalks Wood, just outside the survey area, probably represents an early Post-medieval building.

### 3.6 Recent military

Following purchase of the site by the Admiralty in 1937, a Royal Naval Propellant Factory was constructed to supplement that produced by the original Royal Navy Cordite Factory at Holton Heath, Dorset. The factory was divided into two duplicate units, to minimise the effect of possible air attack, with a group of central buildings which were not duplicated. In 1956, a Picrite - Factory was constructed. In 1965, however, the closure of the RNPF was announced, and by 1968 the site had been decontaminated and dismantled. It was then handed over to RAF administration and the site was used as a US Army Reserve Storage Depot (MOD nd, Section 5).

The archaeology of recent military activity is a new field, in which it is difficult to assess relative importance. It is usual for aspects of fortifications, such as gun mountings, to be considered to be of more interest than structures for control; in turn, these are more significant than sites of manufacture; functions with less overtly military characteristics, such as housing and transportation, are of least interest. Nevertheless, it is widely recognised that much of the value of a site lies in the interaction of its components, so that all aspects are worthy of consideration. The main criterion for importance is therefore one of quality of survival.

A cursory inspection suggests that the fabric of the buildings is in reasonable condition, although those in the areas most affected by swallow holes may be affected by subsidence or collapse. No fittings remained in those buildings examined.

### 3.7 Known archaeological sites in the affected area

#### SAMs

1026	ST	4610	9257	Hillfort	IA/R/M
1034	ST	4753	9115	Building (villa)	R
1057	ST	4844	9025	Bell barrow	BA

#### Others

1035	ST	4686	9211	Manor house	PM
1036	ST	4789	9215	Barn	PM
1037	ST	4766	9214	Farmhouse	PM
1038	ST	4769	9213	Inscribed stone	M
1039	ST	4767	9214	Font	?M/PM
2253	ST	4749	9124	Limekiln	PM
2254	ST	4682	9207	Cottages	PM
2255	ST	4681	9219	Cottage	PM
2256	ST	4933	9221	Row of Cottages	PM
3812	ST	4667	9231	Barn	PM
3813	ST	4820	9058	Limekiln	PM
3816	ST	4604	9203	Farmhouse	PM
4437	ST	4630	9385	Earthwork	IA
GP07	ST	4630	9063	Possible path	?R
GP08	ST	4605	9228	Possible track	PM
GP09	ST	4634	9242	Possible track	?IA
GP13	ST	4607	9079	Flint arrowhead	N
GP14	ST	4583	9188	Flint arrowhead	N
AR1	ST	4659	9257	Limekiln	PM
AR2	ST	4799	9203	Limekiln	PM
AR3	ST	4626	9154	Limekiln	PM
AR4	ST	4855	9110	Quarry	PM
AR5	ST	4830	9085	Quarry	PM
AR6	ST	4865	9085	Quarry	PM
AR7	ST	4625	9155	Building	PM

### 3.8 Probable condition of archaeological resource at present

The recent land-use of the site can be characterised in two areas: the core area of activity, and the peripheral north and east parts of the site.

The core area, that occupied by the structures of the US Army Reserve Storage Depot, has been extensively disturbed by both the current features, and those of the earlier Royal Naval Propellant Factory. In addition to the actual sites of buildings, the construction of service trenches, communications links, and roadways is likely to have disturbed any archaeological deposits.

The peripheral area has been heavily wooded. Within these woods, it is unlikely that any below-ground deposits will have suffered non-arboreal disturbance, although root damage can have a significant impact on sensitive deposits. The Post-medieval buildings in this area are in a ruinous condition and have been deteriorating in the twelve years since they were surveyed by RCAHM. The Roman

site at Whitewall Brake has also deteriorated, but now seems to be in a relatively stable condition as is the Crick round barrow.

The condition of the fabric of the military buildings is probably best dealt with in the engineering section of the report. A full examination of all buildings would be necessary to ascertain whether any internal fittings survive.

4. Impact of development proposals on archaeological resource
5. 4.1 Status of the known sites within the survey area

#### Sites with statutory protection

There are three sites with statutory protection within the survey area. These are the Scheduled Ancient Monuments Llanmelin Wood forts (SAM Mm24), Crick barrow (SAM Mm151), and Whitewall Brake (SAM Mm152). No development can take place on these sites without the permission of the Secretary of State for Wales (Scheduled Monument Consent; or Scheduled Monument Clearance where the land is owned by the Crown). Any development in the vicinity of a Scheduled Ancient Monument may also be subject to Scheduled Monument Consent or Clearance. Current proposals do not include any land in the vicinity of the Llanmelin Wood forts, but may include land in the vicinity of the Whitewall Brake Roman site and the Crick barrow.

#### Other known sites

Twelve other sites within the survey area are included on the Gwent Sites and Monuments Record held by GGAT (Curatorial), adopted as the County Sites and Monuments Record by Gwent County Council in 1988 for the purposes of the General Development Order of 1988 and PPG16 (Wales) 1991. These are:

at Lower Llanmelin 3816 (farmhouse);  
at Kilpale 1035 (cottage/site of manor house), 2254 (a pair of cottages), 2255 (Dolkins Wood Cottage) 3812 (Hill Barn);  
at Little Dinham 2256 (row of cottages);  
at Great Dinham 1036 (stable), 1037 (site of farmhouse/manor house), 1038 (site of inscribed stone), 1039 (site of font)  
at Whitewall Brake 2253 (limekiln);  
east of Little Wood 3813 (limekiln).

The impact of development proposals on each of these sites is a material consideration in the determination of any planning application.

Five sites identified during work on the Caerwent to Earlswood gas pipeline, and seven sites identified by this survey have not as yet been entered on the county Sites and Monuments Record. These are:

On the line of the gas pipeline GP07 (Roman ?pathway), GP08(trackway), GP09 (trackway), GP13 (flint arrowhead), GP14 (flint arrowhead);  
Identified by this survey AR1 (limekiln), AR2 (limekiln), AR3(limekiln), AR4 (quarry), AR5 (quarry), AR6 (quarry), AR7(building), A8 (Royal Naval propellant factory and associated buildings).

In addition, four of the geotechnical trial pits produced archaeological data. These were pit 48 (worked flint), pit 49(?Roman surface), pit 62 (?prehistoric or Roman pit or ditch and surface) and pit 63 (Roman pottery).

#### Possible sites

No systematic programme of fieldwork has taken place on the areas which have not been extensively affected by earthmoving and building works connected with the recent military use of the site. It is possible that archaeological activity not reflected in the documentary evidence may be found in these areas, particularly.

#### 4.2 Development proposals

Outline proposals have been put forward for the development of the site as either a new settlement of c400 acres with strategic employment (c50 acres), or as a holiday village (between 50 and 400 acres). For neither of these options is it proposed to develop the northern fringe of the site: the Llanmelin hillforts and the Medieval/Post-medieval hamlets of Dinham and Kilpale and Lowe Llanmelin Farm will therefore not be directly affected, although changes in access to the area may have some effect upon them.

The other main areas of potential archaeological interest are along the eastern boundary of the site around the Castroggi brook and along the southern boundary of the site adjacent to the Roman road. The watching brief on the geotechnical test pits tended to confirm the archaeological interest of these areas.

The Roman site at Whitewall Brake is more likely to lie within the area chosen for development. The known remains which lie within the wood enjoy statutory protection (see above), but the current state of archaeological knowledge is not sufficient to determine whether the site would have extended to the north, south and west.

## 5. Recommendations

The current proposals for development exclude the escarpment at the northern side of the site. Consequently these recommendations are drawn up on the assumption that there will be no major disturbance of these areas. However, since we are mindful that the development options put forward here are not for immediate implementation and that circumstances may

The extensive programme of earthmoving which took place when this establishment was built is likely to have completely destroyed any archaeology in the areas affected. No useful purpose will be served by any further evaluation in this area.

### 5.1 Sites with statutory protection

The Scheduled Ancient Monuments and the areas surrounding them should be excluded from any programme of development. However, development of the site will inevitably alter access to these areas, and consideration should be given to the question as to whether public access to these monuments should be encouraged. Any plans to do so will be subject to the approval of the Secretary of State for Wales, and contact should be made with them to discuss the proposals.

#### Whitewall Brake Roman site (SAM Mm152)

This is the monument whose surroundings are most likely to be affected by any development. The Scheduled area is co-terminous with the wood, but it is possible that the site may have extended beyond it. The residential core of a villa would have been surrounded by outbuildings and would have been in the centre of a field-system. Most if not all of this wider setting will have been destroyed by the earthmoving undertaken in conjunction with the construction of the Propellant Factory buildings, but it is possible that the field to the east of the Scheduled area and the rough ground to its west may still contain archaeological features. It is recommended that if at all possible, these areas should be retained as an open space. If this is not possible, a programme of archaeological evaluation, to a brief set by the LPA and its archaeological advisors, should be undertaken to determine the extent of any archaeology so that suitable mitigatory measures can be devised. In addition, Cadw should be consulted to see whether Scheduled Monument Consent will be required.

This site is not in its present condition likely to be attractive to visitors.

#### Crick barrow (SAM Mm151)

The Scheduled area extends slightly beyond the mound to the east, west and south. The northern part of the mound has been cutaway, but the Scheduled area follows the original extent of the monument. It is difficult to determine whether this barrow was originally one of a group. The results from geotechnical trial pit no 62 could possibly be interpreted as the ditch of a ploughed-out barrow (see below, Appendix Eight), though this is not the favoured interpretation. These findings, however, make it desirable that the area between the barrow and the trial pit, and immediately west of the trial pit, should if at all possible be retained as an open space. If any construction works should be proposed for this area, they should be preceded by a programme of archaeological evaluation to a brief set by the LPA and its archaeological advisors. In addition, Cadw should be consulted to see whether Scheduled Monument Consent will be required.

This site is not likely to be attractive to visitors.

Llanmelin Wood forts (SAM Mm24)

This lies outside the area currently being considered for development, and therefore any effect will be related to access only. Of the Scheduled sites, this is the one with greatest visitor potential. It is already accessible via footpaths through Forestry Commission land from the Llanvair Discoed-Shirenewton road. However, if visitors are to be encouraged, care must be taken to ensure that the monument does not suffer from erosion.

We understand, however, that there has been some dispute over ownership of the land between MOD and Cadw, which will have to be resolved.

## 5.2 Unscheduled sites on the county SMR

Area of Great Dinham and Little Dinham 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 2256) and Kilpale (PRNs 1035, 2254, 2255)

This area is excluded from the current development programme, and is therefore not under threat. Outline proposals were drawn up in an earlier draft to deal with development in this area, but in view of the current situation they have been removed from the main body of the report and are to be found in Appendix Ten.

The buildings of Great Dinham are completely ruinous. Those of Little Dinham are in a better condition, but they will inevitably deteriorate if no steps are taken to preserve them (they are not in a condition to warrant Listing). Consideration should be given to sympathetic restoration, if they are in a sufficiently good structural state and such work can be done within the provisions of the Monmouth Borough Council Local Plan section H7. The same applies to Kilpale. Any such restoration should be accompanied by a watching brief on any digging of trenches for services or other ground disturbances, to a brief drawn up by the LPA and its archaeological advisors.

## 5.3

### Other known sites

Prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the Castrogi brook

The presence of unfinished flints at GP13 and GP14 and TP48 suggests that there may have been some sort of activity around the Castrogi Brook in the Neolithic period. Any development in this area should be preceded by a programme of archaeological field evaluation devised in accordance with a brief set by the LPA and its archaeological advisors.

Roman cemetery in the area to the north of the Roman road (now the A48)

The results the watching brief on the geotechnical test pits tend to confirm that Roman cemetery activity is present along the northern side of the Roman road (now the A48 except where the modern main road bypasses Caerwent village). As far as possible, this area should be avoided in the development. Any development within it should be preceded by a programme of archaeological field evaluation devised in accordance with a brief set by the LPA and its archaeological advisors.

Royal Naval Propellant Factory

This monument should be fully recorded. We understand that this work is to be included in the forthcoming programme of RCAHM(Wales), but a check should be made prior to any development work which might affect these buildings and earthworks to establish whether this has been completed. We are informed by - Cadw that buildings relating to the factory are under consideration for Listing. When development happens, therefore, a check should be made with Cadw to ascertain whether any of the buildings likely to be affected by the development have been Listed.

#### 5.5 Unknown sites

Further evaluation, in the form of a programme of fieldwork, is required in those areas which have not been extensively affected earthmoving and building works connected with the recent military use of the site. In particular, two possible areas of archaeological potential are indicated by place name evidence. These are a possible standing stone at evidenced by the field-name CAE Main in the area ventured on ST 4900 9130 (see Appendix Three). Although a geophysical test pit in this area failed to find evidence for prehistoric activity, the percentage of the area dug was too small to provide any conclusive results. The other is the possible earthworks evidenced by the placename 'The Ridges/Riches ' centred on ST 4675 9180 (see Appendix Three). Any development in these areas should be preceded by a programme of intensive archaeological field evaluation devised in accordance with a brief set by the LPA and its archaeological advisors.

#### 5.6 Personnel

Any further archaeological work should be carried out by qualified archaeological personnel.

## Appendix One: Specifications

### Definition of Study

The project will conform to the Standard in British Archaeology for Archaeological Desk-Based Studies, issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in September 1993, and will be carried out in accordance with the GGAT Contracts Guidelines for the Execution of Assessment Projects.

#### 1. Objectives

1.1 Assessment of existing information to determine the extent, character and significance of archaeological interests, in local, regional, and wider contexts, and the likely effects of the proposed development on such interests, by means of documentary study and field visit.

1.2 Identification of areas or features requiring further assessment where present archaeological knowledge is insufficient for informed decisions to be made during the planning process.

#### 2. Documentary Searches

2.1 Collation of information about sites recorded in County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).

2.2 Search of cartographic sources for additional archaeological information, and collation of information relating to archaeological interests.

2.3 Analysis of aerial photographic coverage held by the Central Register of Air Photography for Wales for additional archaeological information, and collation of information relating to archaeological interests.

2.4 Analysis of relevant primary historic documents and published sources for additional archaeological information, and collation of information relating to archaeological interests.

2.5 Analysis of borehole data, geotechnical studies, etc., for additional information, and collation of information relating to archaeological interests.

#### 3. Fieldwork

3.1 Site visit to check the present condition of archaeological features identified by 2.1 - 2.5, and to assess factors that may have influenced the condition or visibility of these features.

3.2 Identification of previously-unknown archaeological features.

3.3 Rapid recording of archaeological features (e.g. sketch plotting and photographs).

#### 4. Assessment

4.1 Assessment of the information acquired from the execution of 2 and 3.

4.2 Assessment of the impact of the development proposals on the defined archaeological interests.

## 5. Reports

The results of the study will be reported in a series of reports.

5.1 Client - A bound report comprising a synthesis of data gathered through the execution of 2-4, placing the archaeological resource within its wider context, with supporting evidence in appendices, and identification of features of archaeological interest onto scale drawings, or listing of such features by eight-figure National Grid References. The identification of legal constraints (e.g. scheduled ancient monuments, listed buildings) relating to archaeological interests. A copy of this report will be deposited with the county Sites and Monuments Record.

5.2 Academic - A digest report of significant archaeological information in an appropriate outlet (e.g. regional/national academic journal).

## 6. Archive

6.1 Preparation of an ordered archive of records made during the assessment in accordance with NMR cataloguing procedures.

6.2 Deposition of the assessment archive with an appropriate organisation (usually GGAT Contracts records).

6.3 Submission of a copy of the report for inclusion in the county SMR, within 6 months of the completion of the work.

## 7. Staff

7.1 The project will be managed by the Principal Archaeological Officer (Contracts), AG Marvell BA MIFA, and Projects Manager (Assessments), M Locock BA AIFA, and carried out by one of the Contracts Section's Project Officers, all of whom have wide experience of such work.

## 8. Insurance

8.1 GGAT Contracts holds insurance cover for all risks involved in this type of project, including substantial Professional Indemnity cover.

## 9. Scope of the work

9.1 The work outlined in this specification will be carried out to the highest professional standards, and the conclusions drawn will be based on a considered review of the evidence available. However, the archaeological resource is unpredictable, and the encountering of unexpected archaeological deposits on the site cannot be ruled out.

Appendix Two:  
 Sites listed on the county Sites and Monuments Record, held at GGAT, Swansea

In the survey area

PRN	NGR	Description	
1026g	ST 4610 9257	Hillfort	IA/R/M
1034g	ST 4753 9115	Building (villa)	R
1035g	ST 4686 9211	Manor house	PM
1036g	ST 4789 9215	Barn	PM
1037g	ST 4766 9214	Farmhouse	PM
1038g	ST 4769 9213	Inscribed stone	M
1039g	ST 4767 9214	Font	?M/PM
1057g	ST 4844 9025	Bell barrow	BA
2253g	ST 4749 9124	Limekiln	PM
2254g	ST 4682 9207	Cottages	PM
2255g	ST 4681 9219	Cottage	PM
2256g	ST 4933 9221	Row of Cottages	PM
3812g	ST 4667 9231	Barn	PM
3813g	ST 4820 9058	Limekiln	PM
3816g	ST 4604 9203	Farmhouse	PM
4437g	ST 4630 9385	Earthwork	IA

In the immediate vicinity

1029g	ST 4594 9272	Watermill	?M/PM
1030g	ST 4617 9305	Farmhouse	PM
1031g	ST 4507 9091	Round barrow	BA (?R)
1032g	ST 4501 9090	Round barrow	BA (?R)
1033g	ST 4557 9228	Farmhouse	?M/PM
1040g	ST 4977 9141	Holy well	?M
1041g	ST 4952 9160	Chapel	M
1042g	ST 4952 9163	Castle	M
1043g	ST 4960 9157	Deserted medieval village	M
1048g	ST 49 91 Pound	?M/PM	
1049g	ST 4802 9234	Castle	M
1050g	ST 4935 9230	Enclosure	U
1051g	ST 4938 9227	Building	U
1053g	ST 4581 9066	Inhumation	R
1055g	ST 468 905 Town	R	
1056g	ST 4955 9050	Round barrow	BA (?R)
1059g	ST 4903 9026	Manor house	?M/PM
1060g	ST 4905 9027	Chapel: barn	M
1061g	ST 4900 9033	Moated site	M
1064g	ST 4688 9048	Church	M
1065g	ST 4689 9053	Church	DA
1066g	ST 4716 9045	?Monastery/Clas	DA
1067g	ST 46 90 Lead works	PM	
1068g	ST 46 90 Almshouses	PM	
1069g	ST 4679 9052	Cemetery	?IA:DA
1070g	ST 4718 9055	Inhumations	DA
1071g	ST 4707 9031	Motte	M
1072g	ST 4692 9044	Cross	M
1073g	ST 4695 9057	Dovecote	?M/PM
1074g	ST 4682 9046	Inhumation	?DA
1075g	ST 4688 9056	Gallows	?M/PM
1076g	ST 4757 9027	Manor house	?M/PM

1082g	ST	4687	9087	Cross	M	
2224g	ST	4990	9110	Flints		P
2345g	ST	4724	9042	Ditch	M	
2461g	ST	470	905	Town ditch	R/DA	
2857g	ST	4688	9056	Inscribed stone		R
2863g	ST	468	905	Inscribed stone	R	
2980g	ST	49	90	Finds	R	
2983g	ST	46	90	Coin hoard	R	
2984g	ST	46	90	Coin hoard	R	
2985g	ST	46	90	Coin hoard	R	
3001g	ST	4600	9000	Sculptured stone	DA	
3173g	ST	4718	9046	Cemetery	DA/?M	
3751g	ST	4718	9046	Building	R	
3993g	ST	495	916	Finds	M	
4385g	ST	4355	9214	Find	R	
A01	ST	4800	9027	Road	R	

Archaeological features and artefacts located during the construction of the Caerwent to Earlswood high-pressure gas pipeline and lying within the survey area (Maylan 1991, 8, 17 and fig 1)

GP07	ST	4630	9063	Possible path	?R	
GP08	ST	4605	9228	Possible track	PM	
GP09	ST	4634	9242	Possible track	?IA	
GP13	ST	4607	9079	Flint arrowhead	N	
GP14	ST	4583	9188	Flint arrowhead	N	

#### Sites located by this survey

AR1	ST	4659	9257	Limekiln	PM	
AR2	ST	4799	9203	Limekiln	PM	
AR3	ST	4626	9154	Limekiln	PM	
AR4	ST	4855	9110	Quarry	PM	
AR5	ST	4830	9085	Quarry	PM	
AR6	ST	4865	9085	Quarry	PM	
AR7	ST	4625	9155	Building	PM	
A8	ST	4650	9150	Royal Naval propellant factory		PM

#### Outside area

AR9	ST	4860	9265	Limekiln	PM	
AR10	ST	4875	9270	Limekiln	PM	
AR11	ST	4860	9275	Quarry	PM	
AR12	ST	4828	9264	Cropmark?	?PM	

#### Not archaeological sites

AR13	ST	4750	9230	Previously believed to be standing stones		
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#### Abbreviations and periods

BA	Bronze Age (2000 BC - 700 BC)
DA	Dark Age (400 AD - 1100 AD)
M	Medieval
Meso	Mesolithic (8000 BC - 4000 BC)
Neo	Neolithic (4000 BC - 2000 BC)
PM	Post-medieval (1500 AD - 1900 AD)
Roman	(43 AD - 410 AD)
PRN	Primary Record number in Sites and Monuments Record, suffixed g for Gwent
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
SSSI	within Site of Special Scientific Interest

### Appendix Three: Cartographic and documentary evidence

Documentary material held by Gwent County Record Office (GRO), the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth (NLW), and Newport Reference Library and Museum (NRL) was consulted.

#### Estate Maps

The following estate maps were examined:

From a book entitled 'Plans of Estates...belonging to Mark Wood Esq, surveyed by Meredith Jones in the year 1751 (reproduced in the Conservation Dossier)

In a book entitled 'Maps of Estates belonging to Morgan Lewis of St Peer in the County of Monmouth Esq 1765 (GRO D501.1332)

Broad Well Estate 1772

Map of an estate at Crick in the parish of Runstone and Mathern 1788

In a sale catalogue

(1906) (GRO D163.0001)

Great Llanmelin Farm

#### Tithe Maps

The survey area extends across four parishes: Caerwent (1841), Llanfair Discoed (1840), Mathern (1839) (NLW Map A/C 701) and Shirenewton (1841) (GRO D396.102 & D 317). Those sections of the maps of Caerwent and Llanvair Discoed parishes covering the survey areas have been reproduced in the Conservation Dossier: the relevant extracts of the apportionment are transcribed in accompanying documentation.

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 Sheets XXX 2, 3, 6: 1882, 1901: 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 1921: 2, 3, 6, 7, 8

1:10560 sheet 49SE 1967

#### Documentary sources

St Pierre Estate (GRO D501; NLW St Pierre 61/B.20.1)

Tredegar Park collection (NLW Tredegar Park)

#### Summary of cartographic and documentary evidence

The earliest maps (1751) depict a situation in which open fields are still recognisable in some cases. This allows us to establish that the -shaped field northwest of Round Bush Farm on the OS maps is the result of the enclosure of unusually-grouped strips and is not likely to reflect other archaeological considerations.

A complex of buildings is shown at ST 4625 9155 on the Caerwent Tithe map (AR7).

## Field names

The majority of the field names do not appear to reflect any previously unrecorded features of archaeological interest. The exceptions are the following:

Cae Skibor centred on ST 4650 9200. This may represent the position of an earlier barn (Welsh ysgubor). Caerwent tithe map, field no 289.

Cae Pwlth centred on ST 4620 9140. This may represent the position of a quarry (Welsh pwill - pit, pool). Caerwent tithe map, field no 264.

Limekiln Ground centred on ST 4605 9105. This may represent the position of a limekiln. Broadwell estate map, field no 21.

Cae Main centred on ST 4900 9130. The 'Main' of the name is probably Welsh maen = stone, but without further work it is not possible to determine whether this refers to(a) stone of archaeological or geological origin. - Broadwell estate map, field no 24.

In the Lockwood estate maps, the field names White Stony Acre(centred around ST 4695 9105) and the open field Whiteland Field(centred around 4660 9100) are suspiciously similar in formation to White Walls (Llanvair Discoed tithe map no 8), the site of the Roman villa. Although the names may simply derive from the presence of limestone close to the surface, they may repay further investigation.

Warren or Old Orchard (Llanvair Discoed title map no 33) Other warrens in the area including the manorial warren of Runston on Barrell's Hill (NLW St Pierre 61/B.20.1, Terrier c. 1600),probably an artificial managed rabbit warren.

In addition, documents of 1666, 1676 and 1694/5 in the Lewis collection (GRO D501.511, 250, 256, 262, 263) refer to a parcel of land called 'The Ridges', probably to be identified with the field called 'The Riches' on the Caerwent tithe map (field no286, centred on ST 4675 9180). If the original form of the name is 'The Ridges', this may indicate that there may have been earthworks in this field. The east part of this plot is now a wood known as "Rich's Brake"; this may represent an explanation of the name's origin as a personal name, or may be a later "rationalisation" of a name whose origin had become obscured.

Three of the boundaries of 'The Riches' are described in these documents as 'the way leading from the faire oak towards Dynham, the way leading from the faire oak towards Runston and the way leading from Caerwent towards Killpale'. It is most unlikely that at least the first two of these 'ways' would have been systematically surfaced (the third was later adopted as a lane leading from Caerwent to join the Llanmelin to Shirenewton road),but it is possible that dumps of stone may have been made in places to deal with muddy patches. The same is true of the other paths which survived long enough to be recorded by the OS.

Farms

Dating of farms shown on maps

	pre OS	1st ed OS	2nd ed OS	1950 OS
Walks Farm	na	Walks Cottages	Walks Farm	
White Walls Farm		na	not shown	shown-----
Ash Tree Farm		na	not shown	shown-----
Building N of				
Castle Tump		na	shown-----	
Great Dinham Manor		shown-----		
Little Dinham	shown-----			
Buildings E of				
Great Dinham			not shown	shown-----
Dinwood Cottage		not shown	shown-----	
Dinham Castle		walls shown-----		
Coalpits	shown-----			
Round bush Farm		not shown	shown-----	
Kilpale	shown-----			
Lower Llanmelin	shown-----			

na = not available

Discussion

On the basis of the map evidence, it is clear that the pattern of dispersed isolated farms shown on the OS 2nd edition (published 1950s) was a recent development; prior to 1900, only Lower Llanmelin, Great Dinham, Little Dinham, Coalpits and Kilpale are likely farm units, with Walks Cottages probably being farm labourer's accommodation.

Lime kilns and quarries

Lime kilns

Grid reference	Date	Survey number
ST 4659 9257	Shown on 1901	AR1
ST 4799 9203	"Old" on 1901	AR2
ST 4626 9154	"Old" on 1901	AR3
ST 4743 9120	Shown on 1901	2253g
ST 4827 9055	Disused on 1950	3813g
ST 4860 9265	"Old" on 1881	AR9
ST 4875 9270	"Old" on 1881	AR10

Other features

Type	Grid reference	Date	Survey number
Quarry	ST 4855 9110	shown on 1839; not on 1901	AR4
Quarry	ST 4830 9085	shown on 1881	AR5
Quarry	ST 4865 9085	shown on 1839	AR6
Quarry	ST 4860 9275	"Old" on 1881	AR11

## Discussion

The widespread construction of lime kilns on farms dates to the 19th century, when the small-scale excavation and burning of lime for fertiliser was an important part of agricultural practice. As cheap commercial chemical fertilisers became available in the late 19th century, lime burning became less vital. Thus the pattern of widespread disuse of kilns by the turn of the century is to be expected.

The quarries are shown by the tithe map evidence to have a longer history, and although only that in Slidyhill Wood is of any size, all are probably commercial operations for building stone rather than lime.

#### Appendix Four: Aerial Photographs Evidence

The aerial photographs held by the Central Register of Air Photography for Wales were examined for possible additional sites by M Locock (cover search ref. W-AP-PR-94-019). Because the site has until recently been of a militarily sensitive nature, this was the first opportunity for an archaeologist to examine the aerial photographs. The results were disappointing; the military activity has masked, and probably disturbed, any underlying sites. No additional features were observed in the vicinity of the previously-known sites.

The only possible site identified from the air was a cropmark seen in the 1972 coverage, a rectangular feature in the field north of Nutsalks Wood, at ST 4828 9264. From its size, it would seem to be the foundations of a simple post-medieval building(AR12).

#### Coverage examined

Sorties:	Scale:	Date:	Frame Numbers:
CPE UK 1828 513	1:9840	1946	3087-3096; 4087-4092
CPE UK 1885 525	1:9800	1946	3034-3038; 4034-4041
CPE UK 1871 541	1:10000	1946	4217-4224
CPE UK 1997 589	1:9500	1947	1010-1017; 3010-3016
39 RAF 3764 2312	1:13500	1971	F41 0110; F42 0109-0110; F44 0091-0092
BKS Monmouthshire	1:12000	1971/2	167016-167020;158035-158039
Geonex Gwent	1:10500	1991	5991 017-022; 6090 010-021

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#### Appendix Five: Previous fieldwork in the area

Whitewall Brake (Castle Tump) (PRN 2253g, SAM Mm152)

Excavated in the latter half of the 19th century by G Colston. Unpublished, but a plan was deposited at the National Museum of Wales.

Llanmelin Wood earthworks (PRNs 1026g and 4437g, SAM Mm24)

Surveys by EA Downham in 1914 (Downham 1916.)

Survey plans and short descriptions were produced separately for the main Hillfort with its annexe (no 11, Llanmelin Wood) and the 'Outpost' (no 16, Little Llanmelin Wood). Downham's description of Little Llanmelin Wood is quoted in the Conservation Dossier (6-9A-1, para 2) as a third earthwork at Llanmelin: the compiler of this section did not apparently realise that the site had already been dealt with as the 'Outpost' (para 1b).

Excavation by VE Nash-Williams, National Museum of Wales, between 1930 and 1932 (Nash-Williams 1933.)

#### Initial occupation

The main hillfort was multivallate. The enclosure was roughly elliptical, measuring c230 x 150m, with a secondary rectangular multivallate annexe (c40m x 21m) against the southeast long side and a single in-turned entrance immediately south of junction between main part and annexe. The ditches were rock-cut and the banks mainly formed from up-cast, although on the northeast side the innermost bank was built wholly of rubble, faced with roughly coursed masonry both internally (a vertical face) and externally (battered). SW bank rubble revetment. At least one inner earthwork of annexe secondary.

The earlier of the two phases identified in the defences was of early Iron Age date. The final one, cAD50, involved an extensive remodelling and strengthening of the entrance. A trackway, probably contemporary (but outside the Scheduled area), led from close to the south corner of the annexe westwards obliquely down the hill.

The 'Outpost' was also multivallate. It was apparently designed as a satellite to the main fort, and an integral part of its defences (Forde-Johnson 1962, 83).

Very little in the way of recognisable occupation deposits were found within the defences of either of the earthworks. Early Iron Age and Roman pottery was found, none of the latter later than cAD75. On this basis, Nash-Williams confidently asserted that Roman occupation cannot have extended beyond AD 75, but the extremely small percentage of the fort which was excavated means that, although the site was clearly occupied into the Roman period, it would be unwise to give any cut-off date for this occupation.

#### Reoccupation

Both the annexe to the main fort and the 'Outpost', contained medieval buildings associated with late 12th - early 13th century pottery. They took the form of one-roomed structures of rectangular plan with rounded corners, a type recorded in South Wales throughout the medieval period, and used for buildings on manorial sites as well as for peasants' cottages (Robinson 1982, 103-104).

Professor W Rees, in a note on the history of medieval Llanmelin appended to the excavation report, identifies the modern Llanmelin with the Llan(y)gelli of the medieval documents, which was part of the lord of Shirenewton's demesne lands- (Nash-Williams 1933, 310-311). No evidence is cited to support this statement. He further suggests that Llanmelin may be the site of a church pre-dating that at Shirenewton, on the basis of the placename 'llan' which usually refers to an ecclesiastical enclosure.

#### Crick Round Barrow (PRN 1057g, SAM Mm151)

Excavated by Dr HN Savory, National Museum of Wales, in 1940 (Savory 1940).

A bell barrow of the Middle Bronze Age, incorporating within the barrow a ring of stones, two of them with cupmarks. The primary burial, with no grave goods, was located in a pit within the barrow. A secondary burial, accompanied by two flints of early Middle Bronze Age date, had been dug into the side of the mound. Roman material was found 'near the foot' of the partially excavated Bronze Age bell barrow PRN 1057g (NMW accession number 39.481.17, though not reported upon in Savory 1940), suggesting that it may have been re-used in the Roman period.

## Survey of standing Post-medieval buildings

Carried out by AJ Parkinson, RCAHM Wales, in 1982 (MOD nd).

### Four terraced cottages at Little Dinham (PRN 2256)

They were constructed of rough limestone rubble bonded with clay and quailed with sandstone. The eastern cottage is probably of early 17th century origin, probably extended in the 18th century when the remaining cottages were added, originally as agricultural buildings. They were converted to dwellings in the 19th century.

### Stable, barn and other outbuildings at Great Dinham (PRNs 1036 and 1037)

The stable was built of coursed squared rubble in mixed limestone and sandstone, with a pantiled roof. The trefoil-headed windows in the north wall which had been noted on the OS card had disappeared by the time this survey was carried out: the other windows incorporated reused medieval stonework, probably from the castle. The present building is possibly of 18th century date incorporating reused medieval. The footings however may be those of an earlier building on the same site. The barn is of similar masonry, possibly also incorporating reused medieval details. It also is probably of 18th century date, extended in the 19th century.

A stable/coach-house on the site of the demolished Great Dinham Manor was also constructed of squared rubble masonry with lime and clay mortar, quoined with large square blocks. Reused masonry also appears in this building, which is also probably 18th century. A second stable dates probably to c 1800. The so-called Bishop's Stone (1038) and font (1039) recorded as being at Great Dio

### Hill Barn, Dolkins Wood Cottage, Manor House Cottage and pair of cottages at Kilpale (PRNs 3812, 2255, 1035, 2254)

The first two of these buildings were constructed of limestone and sandstone rubble in clay and lime mortar. The barn and byre complex at Hill Barn is similar to others in the area and is probably of 18th century date, modified in the 19th century. Dolkins Wood Cottage appears to be a late rebuilding of an undatable earlier building. Manor House Cottage, of limestone rubble with clay mortar and lime pointing, incorporates a winding stair in a recess next to the fireplace and may be of 17th-18th century date. The remaining pair of cottages may be 18th century in date, with the western cottage somewhat later than the eastern one.

### Lower Llanmelin Farm (PRN 3816)

This building (now demolished) was of 17th century origin, modified and enlarged in the 19th century. The 19th century rebuild concealed 17th century details, which were preserved in the roof timbers, ceiling timbers in the ground floor, a doorway with its frame in the attic, and the upper part of the staircase in a gabled turret.

### Limekilns SW of Little Wood and at Whitewall Brake (PRNs 3813 and 2253)

The former, possibly of 18th century date, was more or less intact at the time of the survey. The latter, which had collapsed, was probably 19th century.

Watching brief on a water main along the south side of the A48

Carried out by C Nickson, GGAT, in 1982-3 (Nickson 1983).

This water main was inserted along the southern edge of the A48. Nothing of archaeological interest was noted.

Excavation and watching brief on a gas pipeline between Caerwent and Earlswood

Carried out by CN Maylan (GGAT) in 1991 (Maylan 1991).

The excavation was carried out on the presumed line of the trackway leading to the main hillfort at Llanmelin from the west, noted by Nash-Williams (see above). This trackway has now been obliterated on the ground but may still be recognisable if the topsoil is removed (GP09).

A possible Post-medieval track was also noted (GP08).

During the watching brief, two unfinished Neolithic flints were noted (GP 13 and 14). Although no structural remains were noted in association with either, their presence suggests some sort of activity in the Castrogi valley (Maylan 1991, 8).

A linear spread of rubble incorporating Roman tile (GP07) was also found. This was tentatively interpreted as the base of a ditch, but comparisons with the cemeteries at Caerleon suggests that it is likely to represent a path or metalled surface within the cemetery area of Caerwent (cf Evans et al

1993, 10; 17; 20).

Desktop study at Shirenewton

Undertaken by HF Beamish, Wessex Archaeology in 1993 (Beamish1993).

The area of this study lay immediately to the north of the current survey area. The results obtained do not have implications for the current study. However, between the time at which the desktop study was carried out for RAF Caerwent and the preparation of this draft of the report, a watching brief has been carried out by GGAT (Page forthcoming) in which two scatters of flint have been discovered.

Possible standing stones at ST 4750 9230

(AR13)

These are briefly described in the Conservation Dossier (6-4B-1), but no details are given as to the circumstances in which they were first noted.

This does not appear to be an archaeological site (see below: site visit).

Appendix Six: Site visit



A site visit was undertaken in order to establish the condition of the known monuments and to determine whether any of those located in the documentary research were visible on the ground. The possible standing stones (AR13) noted in the Conservation Dossier (6-4B-1) was also examined so that their nature could be determined.

It was not possible in the time available for the visit to inspect all known or possible sites. A number of the standing buildings recorded in the county Sites and Monuments Record were examined, and the character of the terrain over the based was assessed in order to determine the likelihood that any earlier remains would have survived the construction of the MOD base.

The condition of the Roman villa at Whitewall Brake has deteriorated considerably since the last Cadw Field Monument Warden inspection was carried out in 1987. No masonry is now visible above ground. D Hill of the MOD Conservation Staff has had discussions with the Department of Archaeology at Bournemouth about the feasibility of carrying out geophysical survey on the site, but it is unlikely that satisfactory results will be obtained.

The condition of the buildings at Little and Great Dinham has deteriorated since the RCAHMS survey in 1982.

The extensive earthmoving which has taken place over the whole site apart from the periphery means that it is unlikely that any earlier archaeology will have survived in the areas where there are modern buildings.

The sandstones at ST 4750 9230 (AR13) are not prehistoric, and an archaeological origin seems most unlikely. They are probably to be identified as part of the outcrop of lower Drybrook Sandstone which is noted as crossing this part of the survey area(Conservation Dossier, 1-2-1; 1-2-5).

R 65,T 23

Appendix Seven: Sources consulted

In accordance with the Standard in British Archaeology: Archaeological Desk-based Studies

, issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists in 1993, the sources consulted are listed below,

SOURCES CONSULTED

Maps:

OS

Tithe

Estate

Documentary:

NLW

Tredegar Park        Schedule I; VIII

84/73 Map of an estate in the parish of Mathern 1769

157/382-391 Plans of lots in sale, 1800

St Pierre        61/B.20.1 Terrier of demesne of Runstone, c.1600

GRO

St Pierre        D501.1332 Maps of estates belonging to Morgan Lewis of St Peer,  
1765

D501. 511, 250, 256, 263 Miscellaneous deeds 1666-95

Great Llanmellin Farm    GRO D163.0001 Sale catalogue

, 1906

SOURCES NOT CONSULTED

No other aerial photographs were consulted. No documents were consulted at the Public record Office or other depository other than the National Library of Wales, Gwent Record Office, Newport Museum and Newport Reference Library. No previous geotechnical data was available.

R 65,T 5 19

Appendix Eight: Results of fieldwork

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on fourteen of the geotechnical trial pits which were in locations either known to be archaeologically sensitive or considered to have possible archaeological potential. In addition the area around the Whitewall Brake Roman site was examined to determine, if possible, how much of the area surrounding the Scheduled site is likely to be archaeologically sensitive.

Watching brief on geotechnical trial pits

The full list of pits proposed in these locations is 9, 10, 32, 42, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 69, 70. Of these, nos 42, 47, 50, 57, 65 and 70 were in the event not dug because of problems of access. It should be noted that although archaeological useful information was provided by some of these pits, none of them was sited with archaeological considerations in mind, and the archaeological results are therefore limited.

Pit no 10 was immediately adjacent to the Roman site of Whitewall Brake; no 32 was in the area which in the Tithe Map was known as Cae Main; nos 42, 47, 48, 50, 69, 70 lay in the vicinity of the area from which unfinished flints were recovered in 1991; and nos 9, 45, 49, 50, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65 lay alongside the Roman road, within the possible cemetery area (no 62 also lay fairly close to the Crick barrow, and no 63 behind the medieval settlement of Crick). Nos 9, 58, 59, 61 and 64 produced no evidence for any human activity, as did also pit 59 with the exception of a fragment of modern brick. Very slight traces of human activity, in the shape of occasional flecks of charcoal under the topsoil, were noted in pits 45 and 69. The remaining pits, nos 10, 32, 48, 49, 62, 63 are reported upon here, though the activity represented in pit 32 is probably 20th century in date.

Trial pit 10

Examined to determine whether activity associated with the Roman villa site extended into the adjoining field to the east.

Stratigraphy

No	Depth	Description
005	PGL-0.3/0.6m	Turf and topsoil
006	0.3/0.6m+	Limestone and conglomerate rubble, grading into conglomerate bedrock. Immediately south of the pit, 006 lay immediately under the turf.

Artefacts

\*

Conclusions

The limestone rubble may part of spread of debris from the villa, but as there was no obviously worked stone, mortar or tile in this layer, it could equally well be of natural origin.

Trial pit 32

Examined to see whether any evidence for prehistoric activity could be seen.

Stratigraphy

No	Depth	Description
001	PGL-0.2m	Turf and topsoil
002	0.2-0.35m	Orange brown clay with worn angular limestone rubble.
003	0.35-0.45	Greyish-brown clay laminated with lenses of orange. Occasional flecks of charcoal.
004	0.45m+	Orange-brown clay; a small piece of coke was noted in this, but otherwise it was undisturbed.

Artefacts

A tiny piece (<10mm) of brick/tile was noted from 003.

Conclusions

The stratigraphy in this pit probably represents the dumping of spoil when the cutting around adjacent building was dug.

Trial pit 48

Examined to see whether any further evidence for prehistoric activity in this area could be seen.

Stratigraphy

No	Depth	Description
010	PGL-0.3m	Turf and topsoil
011	0.3-0.6	Sand with some clay and gravel, grading into:
012	0.6+	Sand and gravel

Artefacts

Nine flints were recovered from 011. These have yet to be submitted for expert examination, but at least one of them has been worked.

Conclusions

No structural evidence was noted, but the presence of at least one worked flint reinforces the hypothesis that prehistoric activity was taking place near this area.

Trial pit 49

Examined to determine whether evidence of any activity associated with the Roman cemetery was present.

Stratigraphy

No	Depth	Description
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016 PGL-0.1/0.2m Turf and topsoil  
017 0.0-0.15 Metalled surface of pebbles, normally 1 pebble thick and with an approximate density of 30-40%; occasional flecks of charcoal. Visible only at the edge of the pit in the SE corner. Measurement NS >0.2m, EW 0.4m.  
018 0.15/0.2-0.45 Mid brown sandy clay.  
0.9 0.45m+ Red-brown sandy clay.

Artefacts

017 contained a very abraded fragment of burnt clay, a small piece of slag and a small piece of cinder.

Conclusions

The presence of cinder tends to suggest that this pebble surface may be modern, but this is not conclusive.

Trial pit 62

Examined to determine whether evidence of any activity associated with the Roman cemetery was present.

Stratigraphy

No	Depth	Description
032	PGL-0.2m	Turf and topsoil.
033	0.2-0.4m	Orange-brown sandy clay.
034	0.2-0.23m	Band of pebbles 0.4m wide, normally 1 pebble thick, with an approximate density of 40-50%, set into the top of 035, its SE side 0.9m from the SE end of the pit.
035	0.4m+	Light orange brown sandy clay, lighter in colour and more compact than 033.
036	0.4-0.6m	Orange-brown sandy clay, identical in appearance to 033, but containing occasional flecks of charcoal. Fill of cut feature 037, but seems to have continued beyond it to the SE, since 033 in the area between 037 and 034 and overlying the latter was also noted to contain occasional flecks of charcoal.
037	0.4-0.6m	Pit or ditch cut into 035 and extending beyond the trial pit in all directions except for the SE. The SE side is cut at an angle of c60°

to a depth of 0.55m below PGL, the base then slopes gently to reach a maximum depth of 0.6mbelow PGL at a point 1.3m from the SE edge of the feature.

Summary of stratigraphy

032

033

Ⓛ

034

036  
037

Ⓛ

035

Artefacts

None

Conclusions

This pit is the only one which produced unequivocal evidence for archaeological activity, consisting of the digging of a pit or ditch, with a narrow metalled band 0.5m to the SE of its SE side, which was the only edge encountered in the trial pit. The absence of artefacts makes the dating of this activity difficult. Similar features were encountered on the Abbeyfield site at Caerleon, part of the Lodge Hill Roman cemetery, where some of the ditches were also devoid of finds (Evans et al

1993, 6, 7, 10, 15, 16, 36). Alternatively the features may be related to the Crick barrow, which is situated in the adjoining field. Bell-barrows are sometimes found in groups, and it is possible that the cut feature 037 might represent the ditch of a ploughed-out barrow, though as far as could be ascertained from the trial pit, this feature was shallower and less regularly cut than the ditch surrounding the Crick barrow (Savory 1940, 179 and fig 9).

Trial pit 63

Examined to determine whether evidence of any activity associated with the Roman cemetery was present.

Stratigraphy

No	Depth	Description
029	PGL-0.2m	Turf and topsoil
030	0.2-0.6m	Orange-brown sandy clay
031	0.6m+	Red-brown sandy clay and pebbles with patches of light fawn clay sand.

Artefacts

030 produced a single sherd of Roman pottery.

Conclusions

No structural evidence was noted, and the sherd of pottery was very abraded and thus not in its original place of deposition.

#### Rapid survey of area around Whitewall Brake site

The Scheduled area is co-terminus with the small wood (Whitewall Brake), but the plan of the 19th century excavation shows that the whole of the building complex was not uncovered, and there is a high possibility that the Roman buildings would originally have covered a larger area. In addition, a Roman villa would normally be expected to stand at the centre of a field-system.

The difficulty lies in determining how much of the Roman buildings/landscape survives over a wider area. The 1841 Tithe Award show that the surrounding areas were arable, and damage is therefore likely to have been caused to shallowly-buried or insubstantial feature by ploughing. In addition, construction works and earth-moving associated with the construction of the Royal Naval Propellant Factory is likely to have caused further damage, particularly on the north and south sides.

The villa occupies an outcrop of rock raised above the surrounding area on all sides except the north. On the north, modern building extends to within 10m of the northern side of the Scheduled area. On the south, the natural fall of the ground is steepest, masked to some extent now by the railway line, which is here embanked. It is not possible to determine whether the villa would originally have continued downslope under the embankment.

On the west side of the villa, a considerable amount of small limestone rubble was noted among the roots of a belt of trees running roughly N-S some 50m west of the wood (probably representing the line of the boundary between the fields known as Cae Gore and Limekiln Piece on the 1841 Tithe Award), and a lesser amount among the trees between this belt and the wood. It was not possible to determine whether most of this stone was natural in origin or had been derived from the Roman building, but a wedge-shaped piece of tufa from the N-S trees (043) is likely to have come from a Roman vault or arch. Nothing was noted in the area between the trees and the wood, but the vegetation cover was virtually complete.

On the east side of the wood is the field in which trial pit no 10 was dug. The trial pit was just below the crest of a slight 'platform' which continued into the wood. Before the trial pit was dug, it was thought that this 'platform' might represent a continuation of the Roman building, but the results of the pit suggest that it is geological in origin. A small piece of tufa was picked up from a wheel-rut near the SW corner of the field (044), but on the E side of the hollow which runs N-S across the field.

In order to ensure both that there is unlikely to be any damage to any continuation of the Roman site, and that its physical position can still be appreciated, it is desirable to exclude from development the area W of the wood, including the N-S belt of trees, and extending as far W as the shallow cutting (?previous road) running approximately NE-SW. On the E side it would be desirable to exclude the SW quadrant of the field in which trial pit 10 was dug.

Appendix Nine: Catalogue of research archive

The research archive is held at GGAT, Swansea, and is classified according to the NMR archive material categories, and includes the following:

- A. Copy of the report
- B. Notes from site visit
- C. Photocopies of OS maps at various scales, annotated by researcher
- G. Notes made during research, including transcripts of relevant documents and notes from secondary sources
- I. Annotated drafts of the report
- L. Brief and specification for the report
- M. Correspondence and notes from meetings with specialists

Appendix Ten: Recommendations for treatment of archaeological resource other than in areas under active consideration for development in 1994

The recommendations outlined in Section 5 of this report deal only with those areas which are currently under consideration for development. However, outline recommendations for the whole archaeological resource of the site were drawn up at an earlier stage, and it is considered desirable to include here those which have been excluded from this draft. This will ensure that they will be on public record should the proposals be modified at anytime in the future to include additional areas.

Llanmelin Wood forts (SAM Mm24)

The area around this monument should if at all possible be retained as an open space. Any development which should be contemplated in the area surrounding it should be preceded by a programme of archaeological field evaluation devised in accordance with a brief set by the LPA and its archaeological advisors. In addition, Cadw should be consulted to see whether Scheduled Monument Consent will be required.

Area of Great Dinham and Little Dinham 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 2256)

The original focus of the settlement of Dinham is unknown. It may have lain within the survey area, but the present vegetation cover is such that it is not possible to confirm or deny this on the basis of surface inspection. Any development in the area of Little Dinham, Great Dinham, the area between the two, and the area between Great Dinham and Dinham Castle should be preceded by a programme of archaeological field evaluation devised in accordance with a brief set by the LPA and its archaeological advisors.

Areas of Kilpale and Lower Llanmelin (PRNs 1035, 2254, 2255, 3816)

Lower Llanmelin and Kilpale hamlet are both Post-medieval settlement sites (the Hill Barn has been omitted as it is almost certainly an isolated field barn). It is possible, particularly in the case of Kilpale, that the buildings recorded by RCAHMW were preceded by other, earlier buildings. Any development on either or both of these sites should be preceded by a programme of archaeological field evaluation devised in accordance with a brief set by the LPA and its archaeological advisors.

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