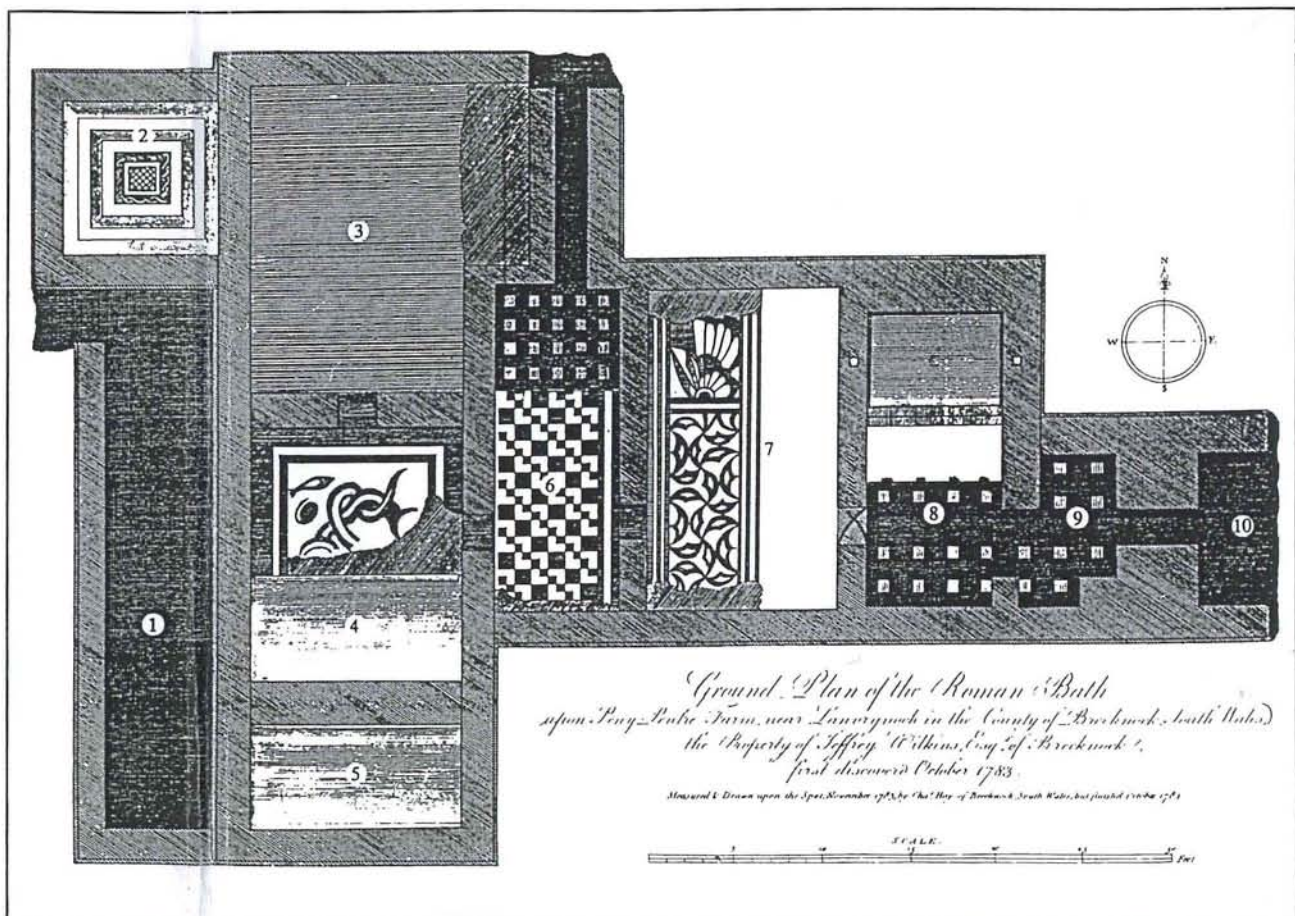


Roman Civil Settlements
in Southern Powys
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
Draft 2



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Report for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The main aim of the project was to reassess the current evidence for Roman civil settlement within the former counties of Brecknock and Radnorshire and hopefully provide some new insight into its nature and distribution. It was clear from existing data held within the SMR that the area contained a number of significant, if sometimes poorly recorded, civil sites, together with a wealth of military sites and finds.
- 1.2 The present study consisted of a combination of desk based research, together with a programme of field survey and assessment, leading to record enhancement, site management proposals and scheduling recommendations. Funding was provided by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The first stage consisted of a desk based study involving an initial interrogation of the Regional SMR to determine the number and type of sites to be included within the study, together with an examination of readily available published sources. It was clear that there was a heavy bias towards military sites and Roman roads, and whilst these have been included in fig. 1 for comparative purposes, they have not been included in the study itself. A project database was compiled by extracting from the SMR those site types of potential significance to Roman civil settlement within the study area. Each site was then critically assessed based on existing SMR information, together with any readily available published sources, and the database amended accordingly. The collections of Roman finds at the regional museums in Brecon and Llandrindod Wells were also examined, although these added little to the existing records. The resulting enhancements to the SMR have been used to produce the figures in Table 1, as well as the distribution maps accompanying the following text.

Table 1: Potential Roman Civil sites in Southern Powys by site type (source: Regional SMR)

Site type	no. of sites
Cemetery/tombstones	4
Cropmark enclosures	11
Finds and coin hoards	47
Fort Bath-houses (extra-mural)	5
Metalworking sites	3
Occupation site	1
Vici	4
Villas	1
Villa Bath-house	1
	77

- 2.2 The site types listed in Table 1 have been included in the study due to their potential relation to civil settlement. It must be understood, however, that at least some of these, notably chance finds, may just as likely have military associations. It is clear from the figures that there is generally very little direct evidence for civil settlement, with only one villa (the villa bath-house being associated with it), four known or suspected *vici*, and one occupation site within a cave. The extra-mural bath-houses have been included in the study as they may be indicative of a *vicus*, and indeed of the five sites recorded in the SMR, four have known or suspected *vici*, for which there is other corroborative evidence, while the fifth, at Pen-y-gaer, was the subject of trial excavations as part of the present project (see below). Of the 11 cropmark enclosures, only one, at Broad Heath, Presteigne, is known to be of Romano-British date, and although at least some of the remaining 10 are likely to be of similar date and function, this remains to be proved. Of the two recorded cemeteries, one consists of disturbed inhumations of Antonine date within a cave and the other is of dubious origin, while the two tombstones may more likely have military associations.

Distribution of sites

- 2.3 The general distribution of sites (fig. 1) does not lead to any obvious conclusions relating to the nature of civil settlement. It is apparent that there is a clustering of sites/finds in association with forts and Roman roads, although it would seem quite possible that this is more a reflection of the areas where more intensive study has occurred rather than a true picture of Roman settlement

patterns. The general scarcity of evidence shows how little is currently known of the nature and distribution of settlement within the Roman period, with the obvious exception of military sites.

Field Survey

- 2.4 Following an examination of the SMR, the second stage involved a series of field visits which it was hoped might reveal new information relating to the nature of certain finds. In particular, the location of querns was seen as potentially significant since being less portable than other objects they may therefore be associated with occupation sites. However, having visited all such find spots none produced any new evidence in the form of associated features or finds.

Excavation

- 2.5 The final stage of the project consisted of a series of small-scale trial excavations, concentrating on three sites: the Maesderwen villa complex, Broad Heath cropmark enclosure and Pen-y-gaer bath-house. The full results from each of these excavations are presented below.

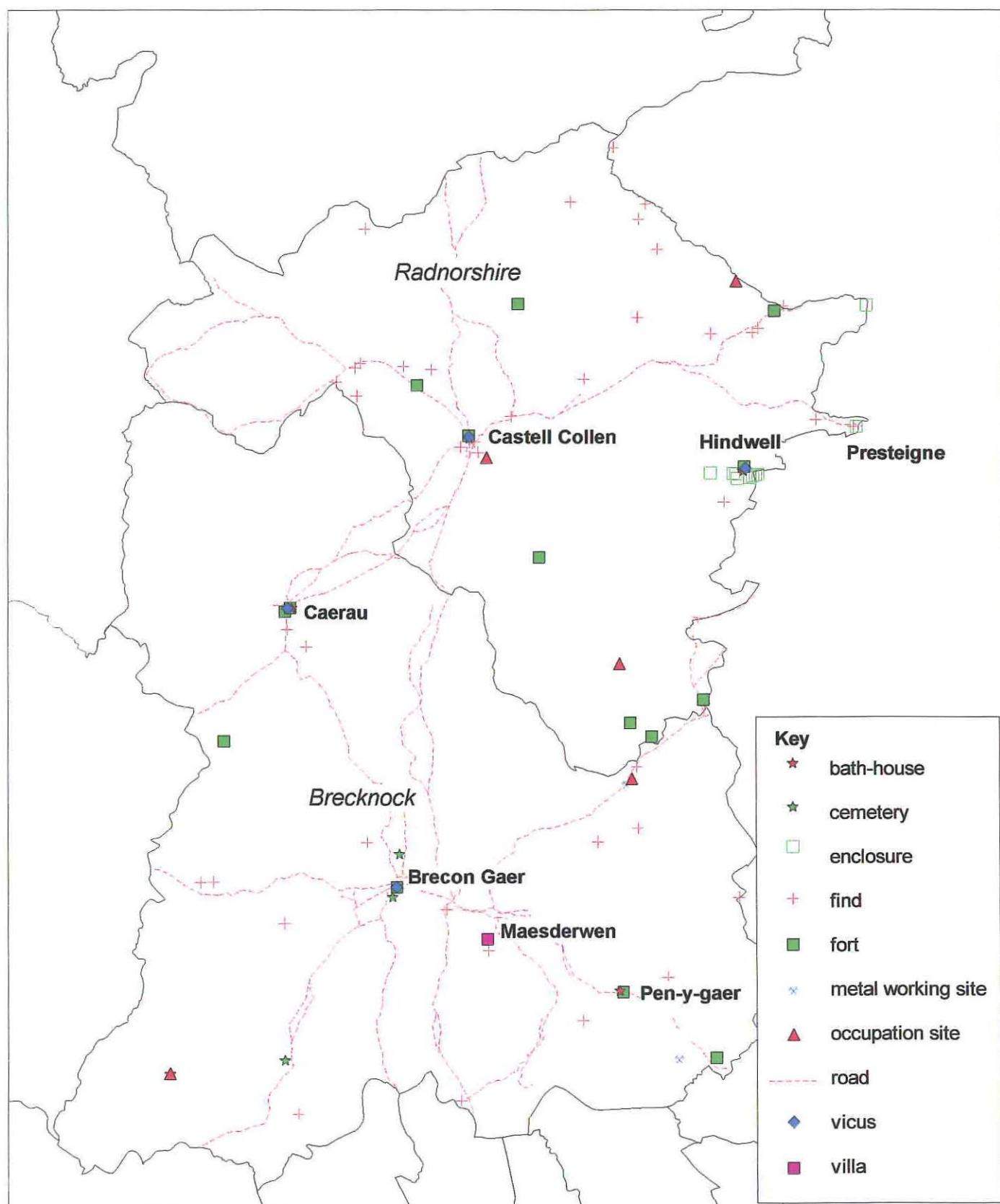


Fig. 1 Distribution of site types and Roman roads

3 CEMETERIES AND TOMBSTONES

- 3.1 There are two cemeteries and two tombstones are recorded in the SMR (Table 2; fig. 2), of which only Ogof-yr-esgryn need necessarily have any association with civil settlement.

Table 2. Cemeteries and tombstones within the study area.

PRN	Site name	NGR
3497	Corse y Beddau cemetery	SN9217
80118	Ogof-yr-esgryn Roman cemetery	SN83761601
468	Battle Fawr tombstone	SO00513215
595	Brecon Gaer tombstone	SO0029

Corse y Beddau (PRN 3497)

A Roman burial ground was reported at Corse y Beddau, being the site of a great battle (Poole 1886, 240), although the attribution and location remain suspect.

Ogof-yr-esgryn Roman cemetery (PRN 80118)

The remains of Roman occupation belonging to two separate phases, were discovered within the cave. The first is represented by disarticulated human bones of about 40 individuals found throughout the cave, but with a particular concentration against the N wall, and almost certainly belong to Roman period, probably from disturbed inhumation burials of mainly Antonine date c. 180 AD (RCAHMW 1986, 182).

Battle Fawr tombstone (PRN 468)

Part of a Roman tombstone was found at Battle Fawr in 1877 (Collingwood & Wright 1965) and is now in Brecon Museum.

Brecon Gaer tombstone (PRN 595)

Part of a 1st century tombstone was found close to Brecon Gaer during the 16th century and is now in the National Museum of Wales.

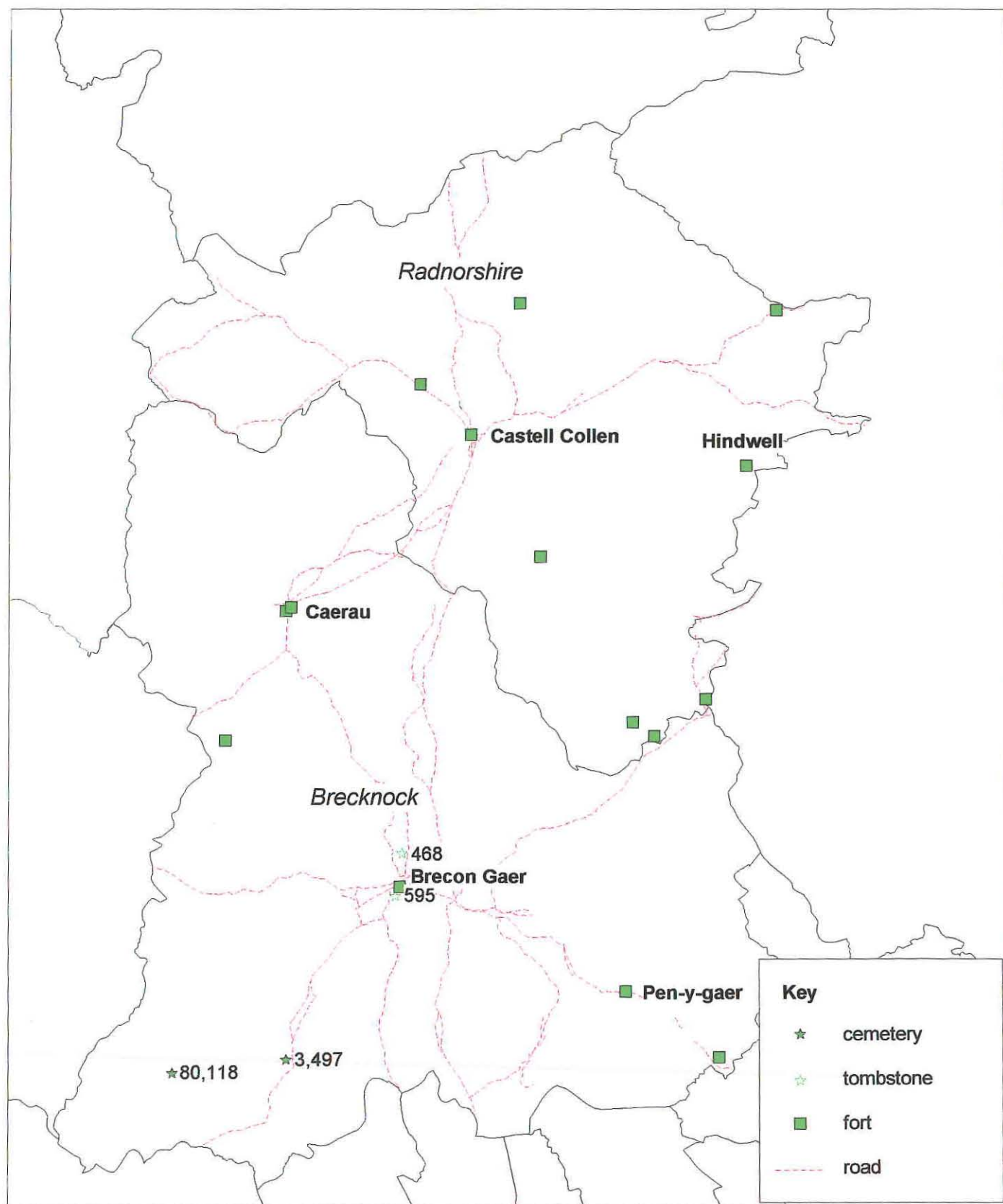


Fig. 2 Distribution of cemeteries and tombstones

4 CROPMARK ENCLOSURES

- 4.1 A total of 11 rectangular or sub-rectangular cropmark enclosures of possible Romano-British date have been identified (Table 3; fig. 3). Close to Presteigne, a large sub-rectangular enclosure at Broad Heath (PRN 23280) was the subject of trial excavations and geophysical survey during the current project, a full report on which is included below. A single enclosure has been identified in the Lugg valley east of Knighton (PRN 5138), while a series of at least nine rectangular and sub-rectangular enclosures have been identified within the Walton area, together with cropmarks of possible field systems. It is possible that some or all of these sites may be of Iron Age or Romano-British date, but this could only be confirmed by excavation. The concentration of sites in eastern Radnorshire reflects both the responsiveness of the soils to the production of cropmarks and the intensity with which the area has been flown. Similar sites are therefore likely to have existed elsewhere within the study area, but have yet to be identified.

Table 3. Cropmark enclosures within the study area.

PRN	Site name	NGR
4225	Garden House enclosure	SO23346011
5133	Walton cropmark I	SO25285970
5137	Summerville Bridge enclosure	SO25026009
5138	Heartsease enclosure	SO34787241
6121	Walton Green cropmark II	SO26225979
7116	Walton Green enclosure	SO26786000
19427	Walton Green cropmark III	SO26415987
19428	Walton Green cropmark IV	SO26615994
23280	Broad Heath Romano-British enclosure	SO340635
33127	Walton triangular enclosure	SO25176005
33134	Walton Green cropmark enclosure ?	SO26155977

Garden House enclosure (PRN 4225)

A single ditched sub-rectangular enclosure with a possible entrance gap to the north-west. Very indistinct on the aerial photograph, but apparently 60.7m north-west/south-east and 69.6m south-west/north-east. No dating evidence has been revealed and there are no visible traces of earthworks.

Walton cropmark I (PRN 5133)

A single-ditched rectangular enclosure with no obvious entrance, measuring 58.3m west-south-west to east-north-east by 36.7m north-north-west/south-south-east, with an annex to the west-south-west. Possibly part of some extra-mural settlement relating to the Roman marching camps (PRNs 370, 371, 372) to north. A possible second enclosure abuts on east side. No dating evidence has been revealed and there are no visible traces of earthworks.

Summerville Bridge enclosure (PRN 5137)

A rectangular ditched enclosure some 70m east-west by 40m north/south, with a possible second ditch at the west end. No dating evidence has been revealed and there are no visible traces of earthworks.

Heartsease enclosure (PRN 5138)

An indistinct rectangular enclosure some 40m north/south by 30m east/west, adjacent to a hypothetical Roman road RRX 76a. No dating evidence has been revealed and there are no visible traces of earthworks.

Walton Green cropmark II (PRN 6121)

A sub-rectangular single ditched enclosure, 72.3m north-west/south-east by 85.3m south-west/north-east, with an intrenched entrance at its north-east corner. Internal features are also visible. The site overlies the Walton Green cursus (PRN5134). A further possible enclosure (PRN 33134) lies to the south-west. No dating evidence has been revealed and there are no visible traces of earthworks.

Walton Green enclosure (PRN 7116)

Part of a possible rectilinear enclosure which has yet to be confirmed.

Walton Green cropmark III (PRN 19427)

Rectangular enclosure measuring 60m south-west/north-east by 50m north-west/south-east, with no obvious entrance. No dating evidence has been revealed and there are no visible traces of earthworks.

Walton Green cropmark IV (PRN 19428)

Rectangular enclosure measuring 51m south-west/north-east by 36.9m north-west/south-east. No dating evidence has been revealed and there are no visible traces of earthworks.

Broad Heath Romano-British enclosure (PRN 23280)

The large sub-rectangular enclosure originally identified through aerial reconnaissance, has recently been investigated by excavation and geophysical survey as part of the current project. A substantial ditch encloses an area of about 96m by 80m across, within which are two parallel ditches defining an inner enclosure. Dating evidence suggests that the site was occupied between the mid-2nd and 4th centuries. See below for further details.

Walton triangular enclosure (PRN 33127)

A triangular enclosure close to the Walton Practice camps, measuring 57.7m north/south by 76.9m east/west, with a possible outer ditch on the north-west side and a possible entrance on the south side. No dating evidence has been revealed and there are no visible traces of earthworks.

Walton Green cropmark enclosure ? (PRN 33134)

Three sides of a possible enclosure to the south-west of PRN 6121. No dating evidence has been revealed and there are no visible traces of earthworks.

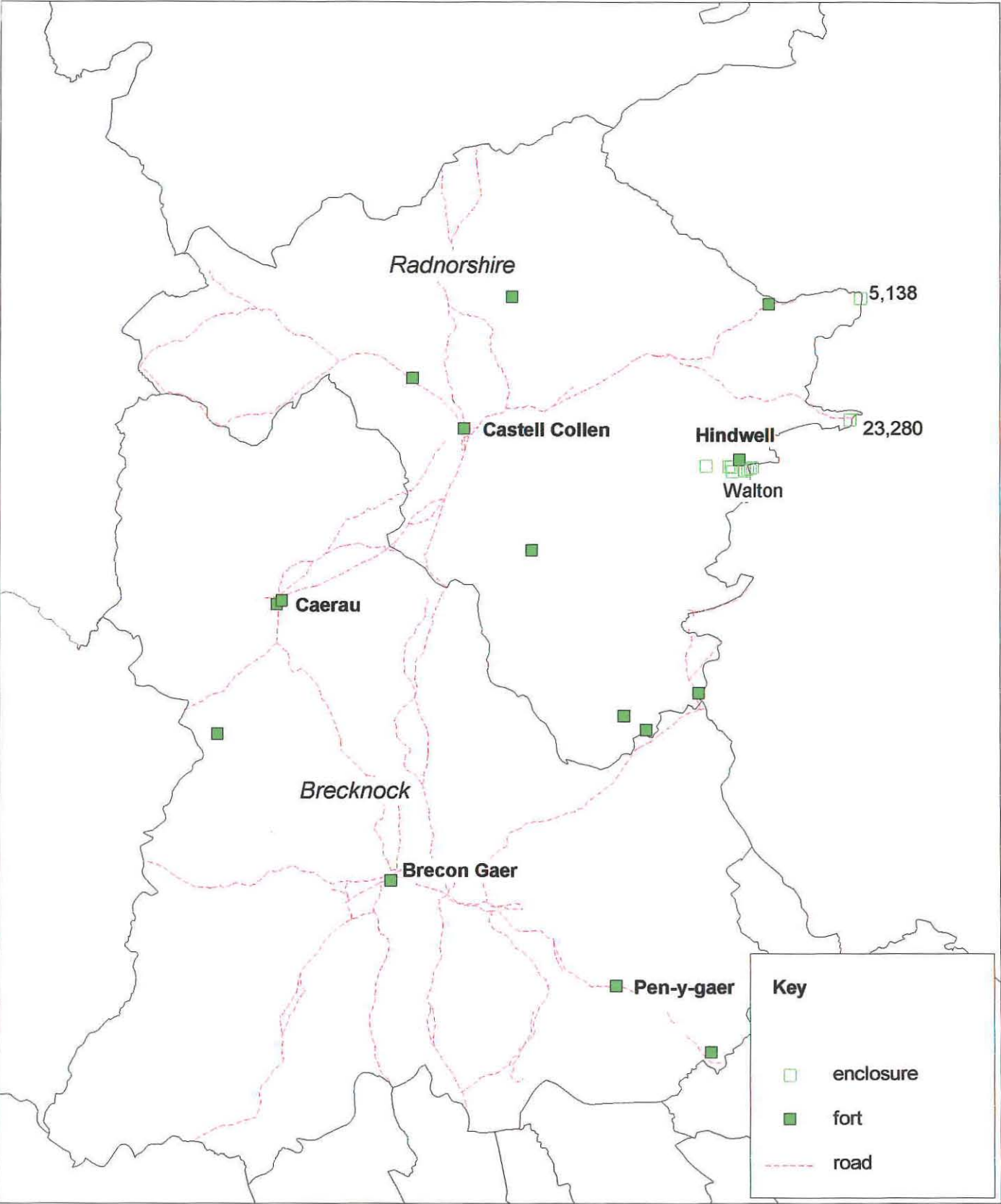


Fig. 3 Distribution of cropmark enclosures

5 FINDS AND COIN HOARDS

- 5.1 A total of 47 separate find spots are recorded by the SMR (Table 4; fig. 4). Of these, four relate to hoards of coins and/or metalwork, 10 are querns, some of which may not be Roman, and the remainder consist of single coins, small quantities of pottery, metal objects, glass, or building materials. All relate either to chance finds or to stray finds from excavations. Stratified finds from excavations which suggest more definite occupation are listed as occupation sites.

Table 4. Romano-British finds within the study area

Type	no. of sites
Building materials	1
Coins	8
Hoard	4
Glass	2
Metallic objects	7
Pottery	15
Querns	10
Totals	47

- 5.2 A significant quantity of finds (recorded as a single event in Table 4) are recorded from outside Castell Collen, suggesting the presence of a *vicus* (PRN 33819), and several coins were found at the site of Maesderwen villa (PRN 17616). Finds of Romano-British building materials are recorded from Coed y Polyn hillfort (PRN 526), and may be evidence of occupation although the provenance is uncertain.
- 5.3 The relatively small number of finds limits any interpretation of their distribution, although it is notable that many of the finds are located close to known Roman sites such as forts, or to Roman roads. Field visits to a number of find locations failed to identify any further artefacts or reveal any associated earthworks.

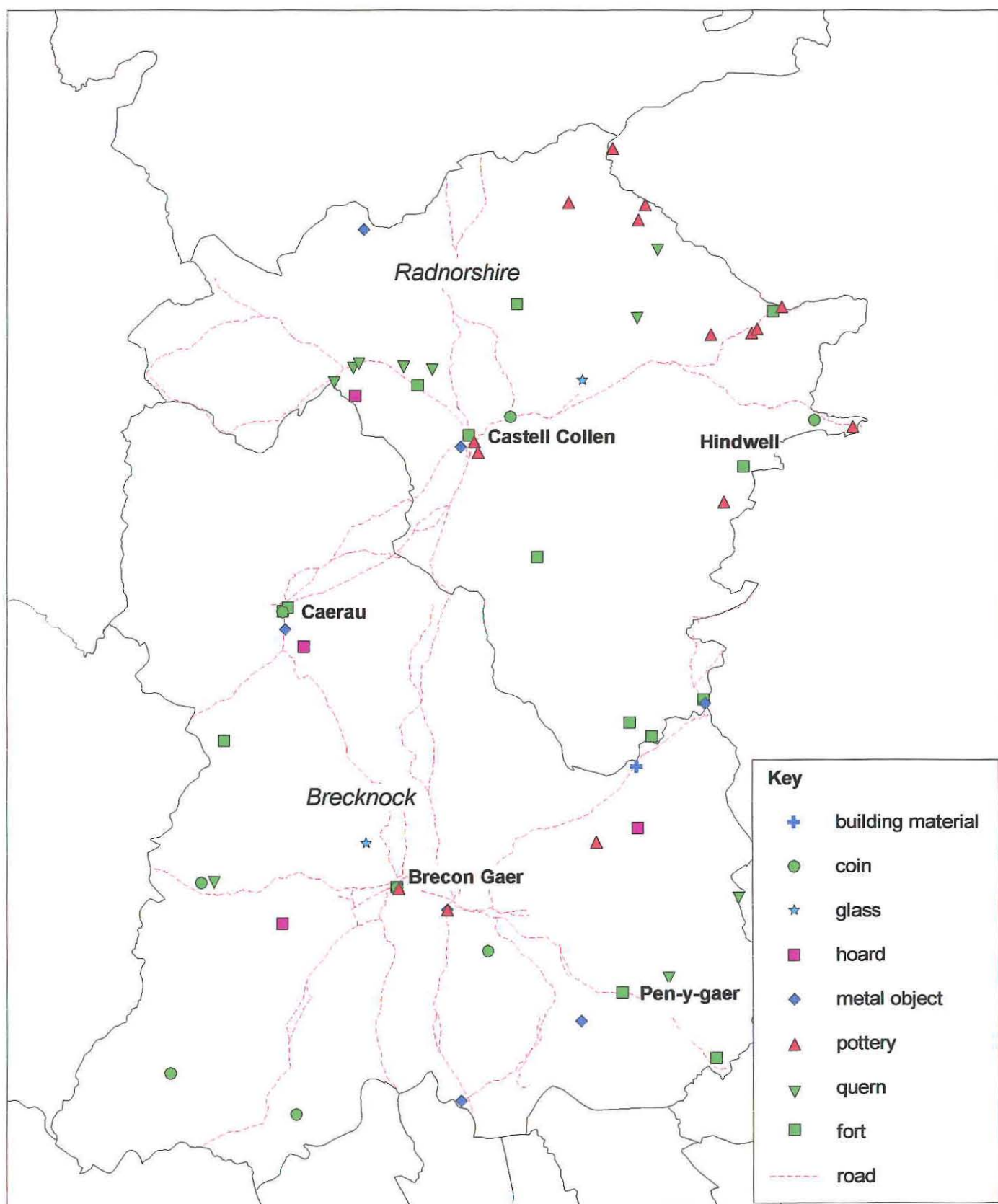


Fig. 4 Distribution of finds and coin hoards

6 METALWORKING SITES

- 6.1 Only three metalworking sites are recorded to date (Table 5; fig. 5), of which one is thought to be associated with the Maesderwen villa, while the other two are presumed to be associated with as yet unidentified settlements.

Table 5. Metalworking sites within the study area.

PRN	Site name	NGR
520	Gwernyfed Bloomery	SO17113724
701	Llangattock Bloomery	SO2117
80116	Maesderwen Roman metalworking site	SO06922585

Gwernyfed Bloomery (PRN 520)

Four Romano-British bowl or dome furnaces were excavated at Gwernyfed (PRN 520) in 1950 (Lloyd and Savory 1958). The site was probably abandoned in the early 2nd century A.D. and may have been sited on a late Iron Age site associated with Aberllynfi Gaer (PRN 494).

Llangattock Bloomery (PRN 701)

Antiquarian reports of ancient bloomeries and badly smelted iron in the Llangattock area (PRN 701) were attributed to the Romans (Jones 1809), although no further detail nor the exact location is known.

Maesderwen Roman metalworking site (PRN 80116)

Antiquarian reports of iron cinders, supposedly of Roman date, were recorded close to the Maesderwen villa (Thomas 1698; Hay 1784), suggesting the possibility of a metalworking site (PRN 80116) close by. The results from recent trial excavations (see below) have confirmed the presence of iron slag from a bloomery period iron smelting site, where primary smithing of the furnace bloom into a bar, billet or bun was taking place.

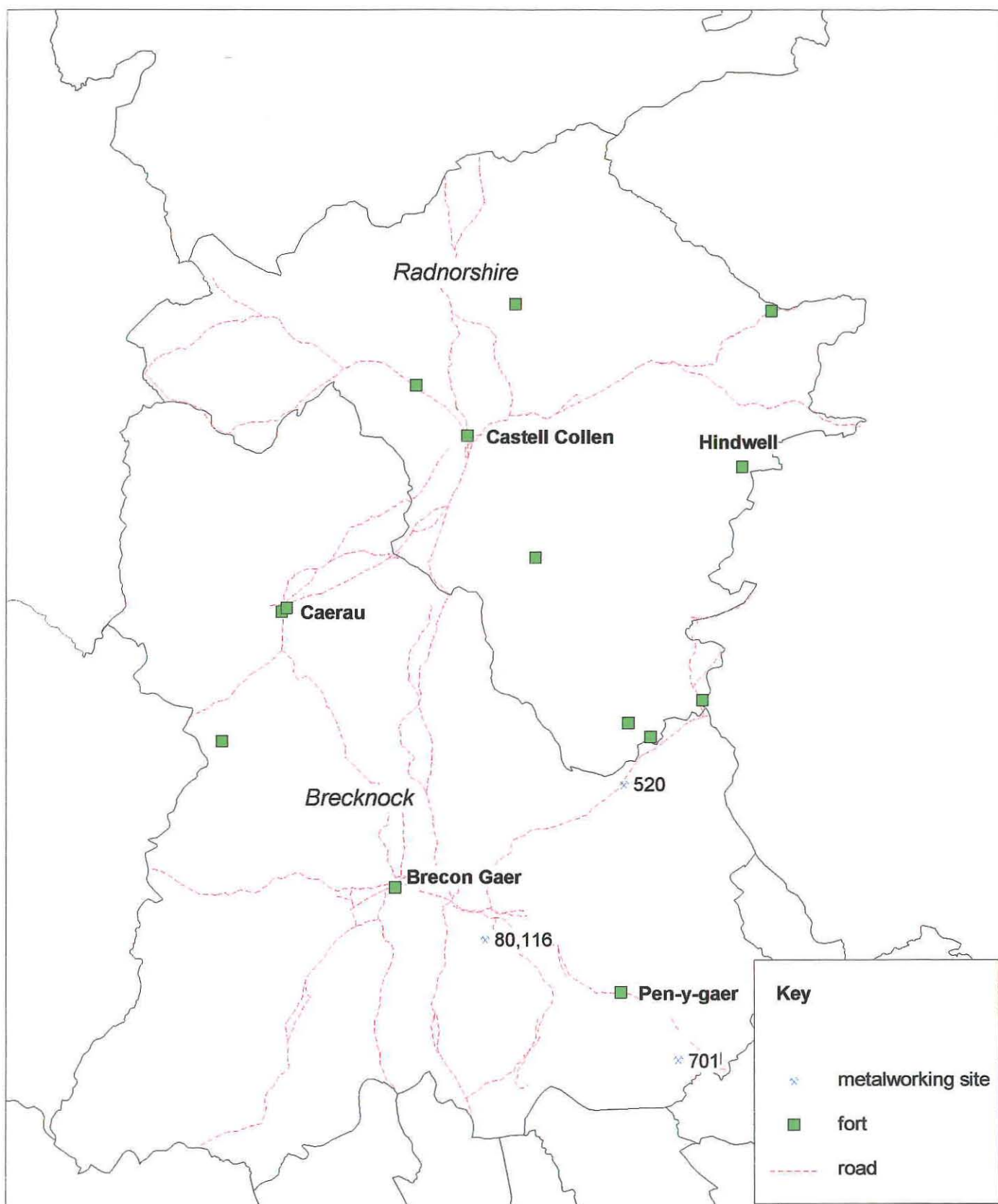


Fig. 5 Distribution of metalworking sites

7 OCCUPATION SITES

- 7.1 There are five sites recorded where significant finds, mostly from stratified deposits revealed during excavations, suggest the possibility of Roman civil occupation (Table 6; fig. 6).

Table 6. Occupation sites within the study area.

PRN	Site name	NGR
17229	Capel Maelog pits	SO06886126
50296	Painscastle Castle Mosaic pavement {S}	SO16634612
50377	Aberllynfi Gaer (Romano-British finds)	SO17543767
72158	Knucklas, Romano-British occupation	SO252742
80119	Ogof-yr-esgryn Roman occupation	SN83751601

Capel Maelog pits (PRN 17229)

Pits and ditches belonging to the late Roman/early Dark Age period were identified underlying the medieval church (Britnell 1986, 15).

Painscastle Castle Mosaic pavement {S} (PRN50296)

A tessellated pavement (PRN 50296), uncovered at Painscastle motte and bailey during the 19th century would suggest the existence of some form of Roman settlement, possibly a fort or villa, although in the absence of further evidence prevents any firm conclusion being drawn.

Aberllynfi Gaer (Romano-British finds) (PRN 50377)

Possible Romano-British occupation of hillfort attested by pottery sealed within the inner ditch, together with the possible deliberate destruction of the inner rampart during the 1st century AD (Lloyd & Savory, 1958).

Knucklas, Romano-British occupation (PRN 72158)

Possible Romano-British occupation discovered in 1999 consisting of a number of pits and ditches sealed beneath a layer of hillwash. These features were largely devoid of finds, but one ditch produced several sherds of Roman pottery, and another produced a stone showing cut marks which may have been a re-used piece of a quern stone (Appleton-Fox 1999).

Ogof-yr-esgryn Roman occupation (PRN 80119)

Roman occupation were discovered within the cave in 1923 and from 1938 onwards. The finds have been interpreted as belonging to two separate phases. The first is represented by disarticulated human bones of about 40 individuals almost certainly belonging to Roman period and probably from disturbed inhumation burials (PRN 80118) of mainly Antonine date. There appears to have been a gap in usage of the cave between 180 and 330 AD when renewed activity, apparently entirely domestic, is represented by a series of hearths near the entrance. (RCAHMMW 1986, 182).

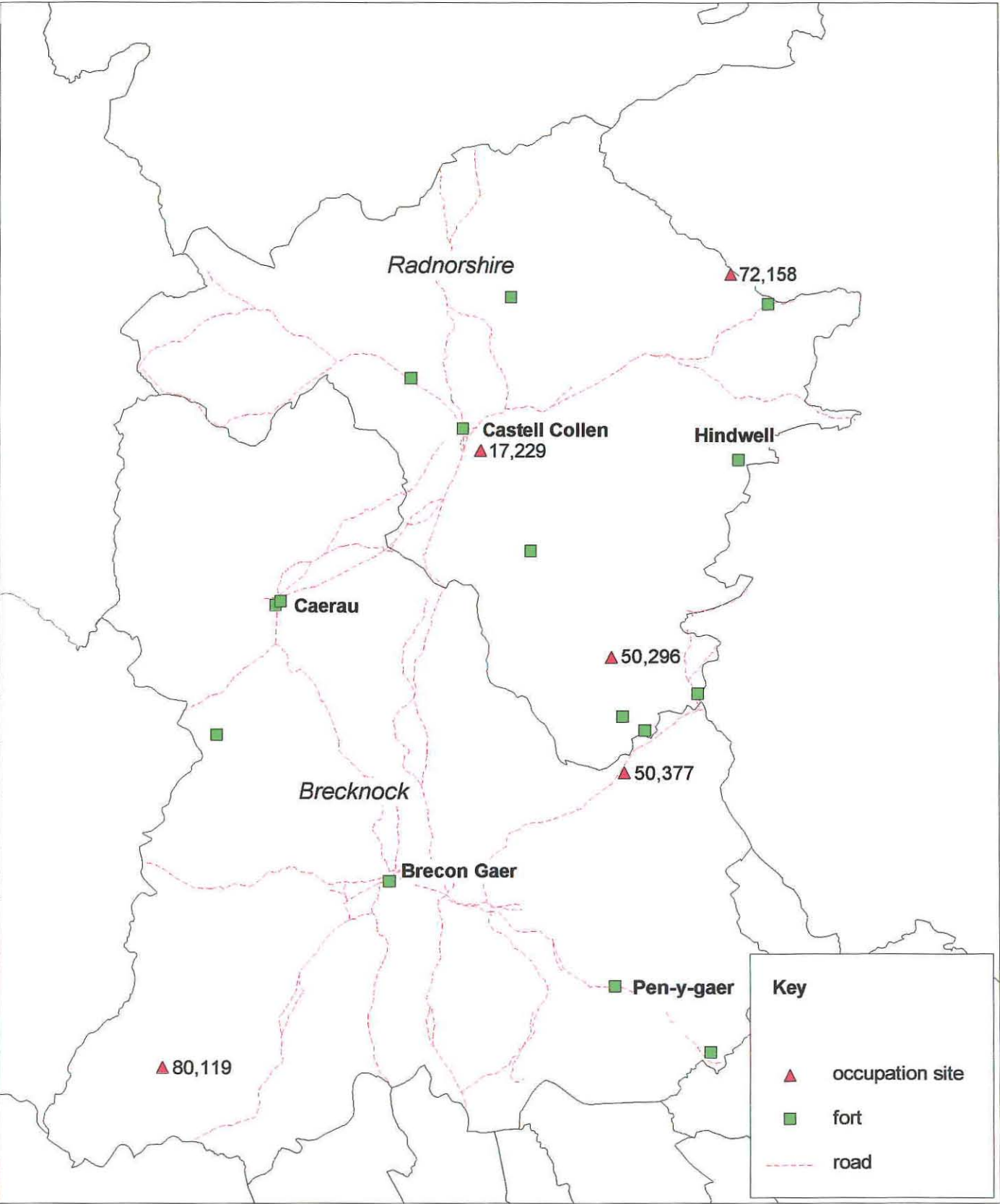


Fig. 6 Distribution of occupation sites

8 VICI

- 8.1 Of the 15 forts or possible forts recorded within the study area, four are thought to have a *vicus* (table 7; fig. 7). Evidence from excavation, geophysical survey or earthwork attests to *vicus* at Caerau, Brecon Gaer, and Hindwell, while a significant distribution of finds provides evidence for a *vicus* at Castell Collen. The presence of an extra-mural bath-house may be indicative of a *vicus*, and indeed of the five sites record in the SMR, four have known or suspected *vicus*, for which there is other corroborative evidence. The fifth, at Pen-y-gaer, was the subject of trial excavations as part of the present project but failed to produce any evidence for such a structure (see below).

Table 7. *Vici* within the study area. {S} denotes a scheduled site.

PRN	Site name	NGR
5891	Caerau Fort vicus {S}	SN922502
39814	Castell Collen vicus	SO05606280
39815	Brecon Gaer vicus	SO00302970
80117	Hindwell Fort vicus	SO25856050

- 8.2 The known or potential existence of military *vicus* presents a significant body of evidence for civilian settlement in Southern Powys. Military *vicus* are, by definition, settlements closely associated with a fort and which developed to serve its needs, the occupants consisting mainly of camp followers and perhaps later retired soldiers. These settlements may have under military, but the population, or *vicani*, were generally civilians who provided services and engaged in small scale industry, together with the families of soldiers. The size of *vicus* in Britain as a whole varies considerably, with some perhaps no more than a few buildings along one of the roads from the fort, while others developed into towns in their own right. However, none of those within the study area developed to that extent and perhaps only those at Castell Collen and Brecon Gaer grew to any appreciable extent.

Caerau Fort vicus (PRN 5891)

Seven possible building platforms have been identified adjacent to the NW side of the Roman fort, together with a possible extra-mural bath-house (PRN 867) (RCAHMW 1986, 130-134). Trial excavations have identified possible floor surfaces and have recovered Roman pottery and building material (Jones 1990).

Castell Collen vicus (PRN 39814)

Probable vicus suggested by a significant spread of metal detector finds to the south, west and south-east of the fort, and including the extra mural bath house (PRN 6341) (Britnell *et al.* forthcoming).

Brecon Gaer vicus (PRN 39815)

Excavations in 1924-5 on either side of the road from the north gate of the fort have shown it to be flanked for 275m by buildings represented by post-holes and clay-and-cobble floors. Buildings identified included a probable workshop and an oven or kiln which may be associated with small deposits of iron slag. The probable site of an extra-mural bath-house was also revealed below the north side of the old farmhouse (RCAHMW 1986, 141-143). A significant distribution of finds outside the fort is thought to provide further evidence for a *vicus*.

Hindwell Fort vicus (PRN 80117)

Recent geophysical survey at Hindwell fort has now confirmed the presence of a *vicus* (PRN 80117) to the east of the fort (Gibson forthcoming), the existence of which had previously been suspected in association with the extra-mural bath-house (PRN 316).

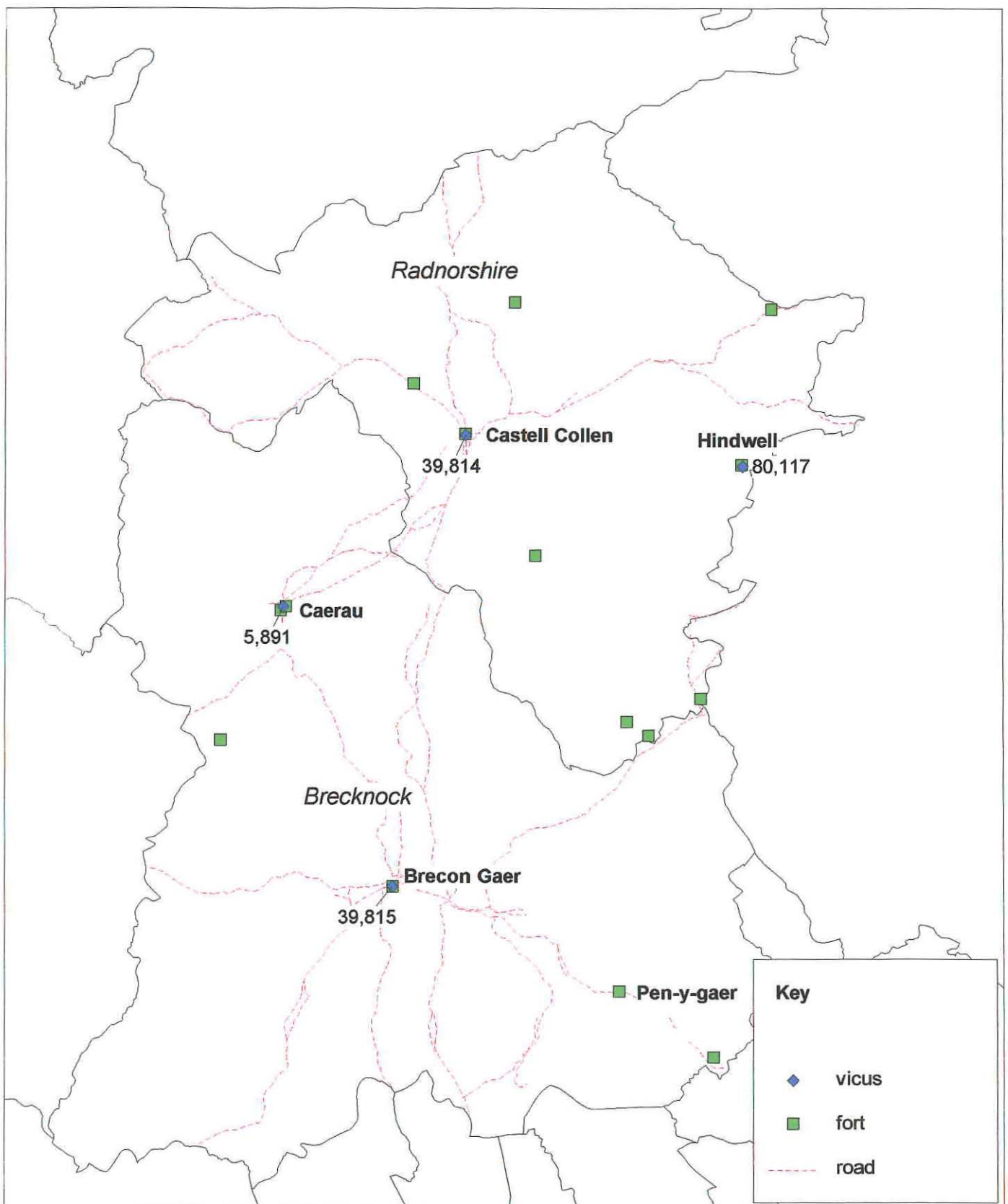


Fig. 7 Distribution of vici

9 VILLAS

- 9.1 The only recorded villa is at Maesderwen, Llanfrynach (fig. 8), where excavations in the late 18th century uncovered the bath-house (PRN 610) and a partial plan of another building (PRN 35177) (Hay 1783). The precise location of the discoveries was subsequently lost. The significance of this site and the obvious need for legislative protection led to a programme of excavation and assessment at Maesderwen as part of the present project, the full results of which are presented below.

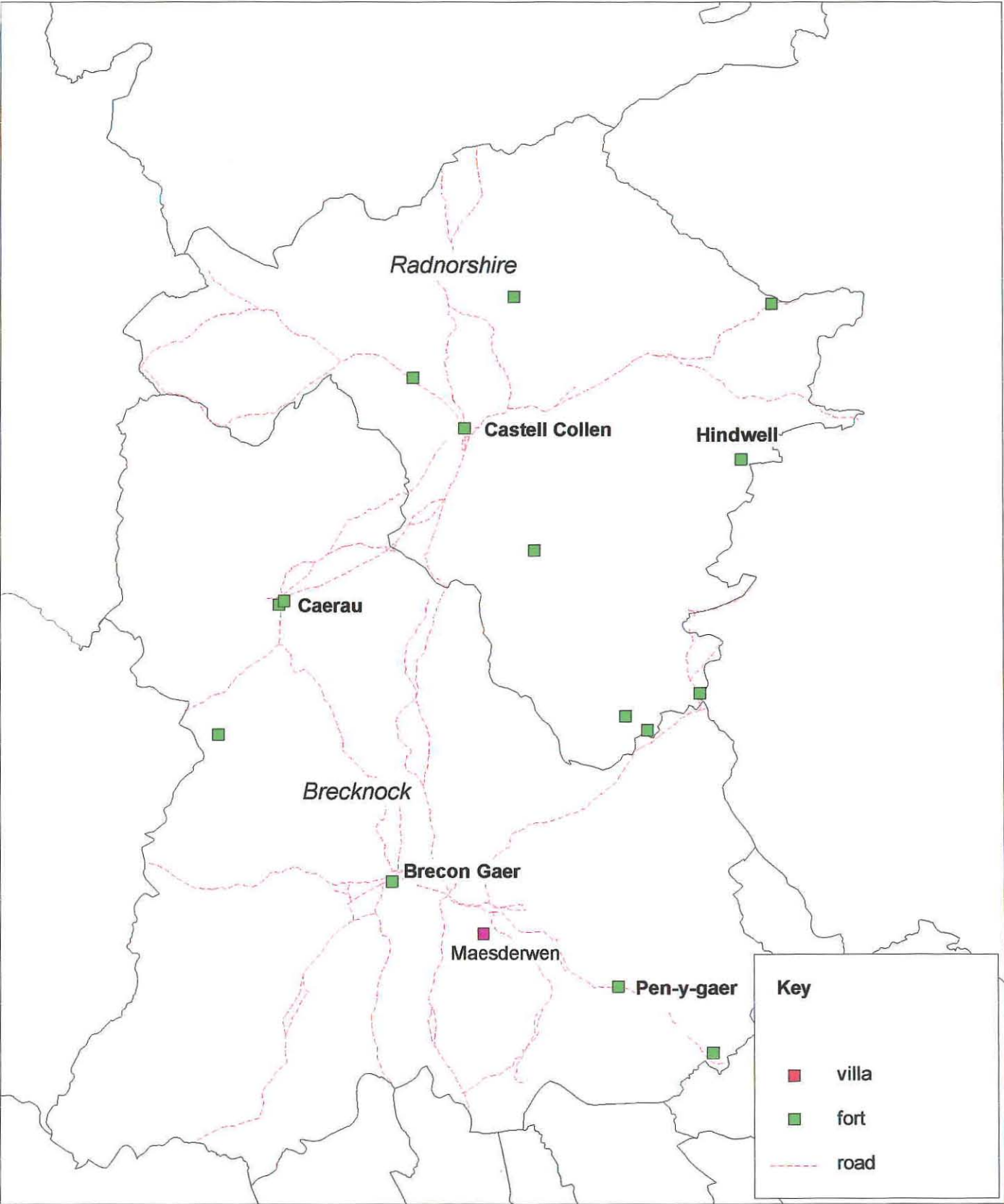


Fig. 8 Distribution of villas

10 MAESDERWEN ROMANO-BRITISH VILLA COMPLEX, LLANFRYNACH (PRN 17808)

10.1 Introduction

- 10.1.1 The Maesderwen Romano-British villa lies in former parkland belonging to a large early 19th century country house 0.5km to the west of Llanfrynach (SO 06922585). It lies between the Afon Cynrig and Nant Menasgin, at the base of a slope rising to the south-west. A programme of geophysical survey and small-scale excavation was undertaken during 1997, the main objectives of which were to determine the precise location of the villa bath-house, which was only approximately known, to learn more about the extent of the complex to which it belonged, and to assess the state of preservation of the site.
- 10.1.2 The earliest report of discoveries at Maesderwen is from 1698, when Hugh Thomas reported on finds of bricks and the ruins of walls in a field called Kearney Bach. The report claimed that about 20 years previously a pavement of small stones of various colours had been uncovered, together with pottery, Roman coins and a thin, broad iron chain. The owner at that time was Mr William Phillips whose father had bought the estate from Lyson Thomas about the year 1676. An adjoining field called Clos y Gevelin was largely covered with iron cinders also thought to be of Roman origin (Thomas 1698).
- 10.1.3 The site was rediscovered in 1783 when workmen clearing trees and brushwood from the corner of a field on the estate of Jeffrey Wilkins felled an ash tree, revealing small pillars 3ft 3in high, built with brick tile 7in square and 1in thick. The site was originally thought to be a bloomery, since in an adjoining field some years previously a quantity of iron cinders were found. When a piece of tile was shown to Charles Hay, however, he recognised it as Roman and encouraged them to clear and trace the outside wall. After further excavation revealed the extent of the bath-house, Hay published an account of the discoveries in *Archaeologia* (Hay 1785; RCAHMW 1986, 179-82).
- 10.1.4 The bath-house, accurately surveyed by Hay (fig. 9), measured 21.64m east to west and 14.48m north to south and consisted of a range of rooms, including four with mosaic pavements, one of which depicted a sea monster. A detailed interpretation and plan of the bath-house was been published by Nash-Williams (1950; see also the detailed description in RCAHMW 1986, 181). Hay's report also refers to the foundations of a second building located 80ft to the south, where the ground rises suddenly. Two skulls were found here, leading to the later suggestion that this may have been a mausoleum (RCAHMW 1986, 181). Hay records that some years prior to the rediscovery stone had been taken from there to build houses and walls in the neighbourhood.
- 10.1.5 The only reported finds from the site are two spoons of silvered or tinned bronze, now in Brecon Museum, and twelve coins ranging from a *denarius* of Severus Alexander A.D. 222-235 to a *nummus*, probably of Valentinian I A.D. 364-375 (RCAHMW 1986, 181).
- 10.1.6 No location plan was published by Hay, and unfortunately the following description which he gives is difficult to interpret today:
 By the hedge which now runs close by this foundation wall [the mausoleum] there plainly appears an old water course, and that they conveyed the water to the bath from springs at a mile distance, though a very large brook called "Munhaseyn". . . runs north, close by the field where the bath is, which is now a meadow, and where the foundations of buildings may still be easily traced by the eye, and where there was lately a mill for the grinding of corn It [the farm] is called "Pen y pentry". . . the field where the bath stands is called "Garnney Bach" . . . that now parted from it by a slight hedge towards the brook is called "Gwayn yr hendy" . . . and that where the cinders were taken from is called "Close y Gaveilion".
- 10.1.7 The field-names quoted by Hay were taken from a survey of 1761 which it has not been possible to trace. The earliest surviving map available for the area appears to be the Tithe Map of 1841, which identifies two of the fields mentioned by Hay: Close y Gobilan is shown on the north-east side of road, opposite Maesderwen, while Waun y Hendy Cae encompasses the presumed site of the bath-house and the fields immediately to the east and west, and is described as a meadow. However, there is no mention of Garnney Bach, the field where Hay identified the bath-house, although by 1841 this could have been incorporated with another field and the name subsequently lost. The Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25in (Brec. 34.2), surveyed in 1887, shows the site of 'Roman Baths, coins and sympulium found A.D. 1775', although it is uncertain where the Ordnance Survey derived this information, especially since the date is at odds with Hay's account.

10.2 Geophysical Survey

- 10.2.1 A geophysical survey was undertaken during March 1993 (Barker 1993), covering an area of 60 x 100m, centred on the antiquity symbol marked by the Ordnance Survey to either side of the curving drive leading to Maesderwen house. The survey employed both magnetometer and resistivity techniques, together with a series of transects with ground probing radar.
- 10.2.2 A complex series of magnetic and resistance anomalies were identified (fig. 10), which together with the results from the radar transects were provisionally interpreted as indicating the location of the bath-house. This was based on the assumption that a strong magnetic anomaly close to the position of the Ordnance Survey antiquity symbol represented the bath-house furnace room, while a resistance anomaly indicated other parts of the building, which was further suggested by features identified in a radar transect. Based on this interpretation, the suggested mausoleum was tentatively identified as both magnetic and resistance anomalies to the south, while areas of magnetic disturbance to the north and east were interpreted as possible spreads of iron cinders. A number of other anomalies were also identified, suggesting the possibility of further structures or building platforms. Subsequent trial work on the site of the assumed bath-house furnace (test pit A) revealed abundant wood charcoal which was said by the tenant farmer to have resulted from the clearance of the stump of a large oak tree in this area a number of years ago. This appeared to call into question the interpretation based on the geophysical evidence.

10.3 Trial Excavations

- 10.3.1 The field within which the evaluation was undertaken contained several slight earthworks which were recorded during a total station survey of the general area. These include the course of an earlier drive leading to Maesderwen house and two leats of presumed post-medieval date, one of which could be easily traced to its source at a sluice (SO 06862551) situated along the course of an extant leat running from a weir (SO 06822544) on the Nant Menasgin 300m to the south. Both leats could be traced into the adjoining field to the north-west where the earthwork remains ceased, and it is unknown where either was ultimately headed.
- 10.3.2 A series of trial pits were hand excavated to test the results of the geophysical survey. An initial phase was undertaken in June 1997, consisting of fourteen test pits, varying in size from 1.5 x 1.5m to 2 x 2m. Each was located to examine a particular geophysical anomaly, with the exception of G and H, which were positioned to investigate the tenant farmer's observation that an area of red brick was encountered while digging to erect fence posts in this area. Context numbers as they appear in the site archive and illustrations accompanying this report are given in brackets in the following text. Not all contexts numbered in the text appear on the illustrations. The site archive has been retained CPAT. Finds has been deposited with Brecon Museum.
- 10.3.3 The stratigraphy was similar in most of the test pits. The topsoil, which varied in thickness from 0.12m to 0.18m, consisted of a red-brown sandy loam with few small stones, beneath which was a layer of small angular stone up to 0.28m thick, containing some Roman pottery and brick. In general, a layer of stony sandy-silt layer below the stones and above the natural, which consisted of rounded river cobbles in a matrix of gravel and sand.
- 10.3.4 The stratigraphic sequence was more complex in five of this initial series of test pits. Test pit E, had been located to investigate a possible floor and wall identified by ground probing radar. Excavation revealed a densely packed layer of rounded cobbles (31) 0.38m thick, lying below the general spread of angular stone and above the natural subsoil. A single undated sherd of Oxford pottery was recovered. Although interpretation is difficult due to the limited size of the area investigated, it seems possible that the cobbles formed a solid foundation for a structure. Test pit J, located on rising ground at the south end of the field, contained a thick deposit of red-brown sandy loam (47) beneath the topsoil (46), extending for over 0.5m suggesting significant dumping of soil, possibly associated with landscaping of the gardens of Maesderwen to the south. The spread of iron cinders suggested by the geophysics was confirmed in two test pits. Beneath the topsoil (48) in test pit K, and lying directly above the natural, was a layer of red-brown sandy silt (49) 0.32m thick, which contained 21.5kg of iron slag. Test pit M contained a similar sequence but with far less slag (5.3kg). Test pit L, located to examine a linear resistance anomaly. Removal of 0.22m of topsoil (50) revealed a stony layer (51) similar to that in the majority of areas investigated. However, further excavation showed the layer to become increasingly voided on the southern, upslope side, with fragments of box flue and Roman pottery, together with small sherds of post-medieval pottery and clay pipe. A row of angular stone (60) followed the north-east edge of the voided stone layer, with a layer of brown sandy silt (58) butting against the stones and sealed beneath layer 51. Below this, a

layer of packed rounded stones was revealed, and although not fully excavated, some Roman pottery was recovered including sherds of a mortarium dated A.D. 240-300.

- 10.3.5 A second phase of excavation was undertaken during November 1997 to investigate the features revealed in test pit L, with the excavation of three further areas (fig. 11, P, Q and R). Trench P (about 8.2 x 1.35m) showed the voided material (51) identified in test pit L formed the backfill to a robber trench (108) c. 1m wide and up to 0.56m deep, aligned north-east to south-west. The robber trench had cut through a shallow pit (109) to the south-west, measuring at least 1.04m long and over 0.55m wide. In the base of the robber trench were fragments of split green sandstone suggesting that the original walls may have been constructed of this material. A layer of silty clay (127) lay beneath the sandstone and overlay a foundation trench (128) c. 1m wide, packed with rounded cobbles (129). At the north-eastern end of the trench a second foundation trench (131) was revealed, c. 0.8m wide and also packed with rounded cobbles (132). However, in this instance there was no evidence of a separate robber trench, suggesting that the wall may have been robbed in antiquity. The distance between the inner edges of the two foundation trenches was c. 5.20m. There was no clear evidence of surviving floor levels, although it is possible that the row of stones (60) first noted in test pit L might have been associated with a floor surface. Various layers (117, 126, 138, 140) excavated between the two foundations were generally quite mixed, containing exclusively Roman finds including pottery and tile, and may represent dumped material forming original floors. Other layers (115, 116) may be associated with robbing, possibly soon after the building fell into disuse.
- 10.3.6 Test pit Q (3 x 1.4m) to the north-west revealed the continuation of the robber trench (144), with a second trench (112) at right-angles to it and cut to a slightly lower level. Both trenches were filled with the same voided stone layer (107). Trench 112 extended beyond the limit of excavation and suggested a robbed return wall aligned north-east to south-west. The presumed continuation of this wall was investigated in test pit R, but no evidence was revealed, suggesting that any return wall must either butt-end and have been no more than 3.0m in length, or else formed a dog-leg and continued to the north-west. At the western end of both pits P and Q a layer of stony silt (103 and 106) containing frequent charcoal and some burnt stone, had been cut by the robber trenches. Pottery included late 3rd to early 4th century Black-burnished ware, as well as an Oxford mortarium dated A.D. 240-300.
- 10.3.7 A final test pit, O (1.0 x 1.0m) excavated c. 25m to the north revealed a single undated feature, possibly a posthole (124) at least 0.6m in diameter.

10.4 Finds

Romano-British Pottery

- 10.4.1 The identification and dating of the vessel forms was undertaken with the assistance of Peter Webster, with the exception of the mortaria, which were identified by Kay Hartley.
- 10.4.2 Some 1.074kg (87sherds) of Roman pottery was recovered from the excavations. All the sherds were examined and fabrics were identified macroscopically, according to petrological inclusions, with the aid of a x8 hand lens, and by comparing sherds with the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust's Fabric Type Series. The fabrics have been put into six main groupings, discussed below, but a more detailed quantification, by individual fabrics, is housed in the site archive.
- 10.4.3 The majority of the sherds (57 sherds weighing 640g) were recovered from various soil layers in test pits L, P and Q. Of the remainder, 3 came from the topsoil, 21 from a general spread of stone which lay beneath the topsoil in most areas investigated, and 6 sherds from a possible cobble foundation (31) in Trench E.
- 10.4.4 The following fabric groups have been distinguished, summarised in Table 8.

Table 8: Summary of the Roman pottery (percentages shown in brackets)

Fabric group	sherd no.		weight (g)	
Samian	1	(1)	2	(0.2)
Mortaria	6	(7)	97	(9.0)
Red wares	23	(26.5)	136	(12.7)
Black-burnished ware	42	(48.5)	477	(44.4)
Grey wares	8	(9)	125	(11.6)
Colour-coated/Fine wares	6	(7)	51	(4.8)
Amphora	1	(1)	186	(17.3)
Totals	87	(100)	1074	(100)

Samian ware

- 10.4.5 One sherd with barbotine decoration was recovered from an East Gaulish vessel, possibly form 72, dating to the second half of the 2nd century.

Mortaria by Kay Hartley

- 10.4.6 Only six sherds of mortaria were recovered, representing four vessels in three fabric types.
- 10.4.7 Fabric RO18. Cowley, Headington, Sandford etc., Oxford (Young 1977). Fairly fine-textured, cream to brownish-cream fabric, sometimes with pink core. Inclusions: some tiny inclusions of haematite stained quartz; rare black and red-brown mineral. Trituration grit: entirely transparent and translucent pink and brown quartz.
- 10.4.8 Fabric RO20. Oxford. Moderately hard, fine textured, orange fabric with grey core, containing no obvious inclusions. Samian-like red-brown slip. Trituration grit: entirely transparent and translucent pink and brown quartz.
- 10.4.9 Fabric RO21. Caerleon. Very smooth, micaceous, fine-textured, orange-brown fabric with rare, tiny quartz inclusions. Samian-like opaque orange-brown slip. Trituration grit: white quartz.
- 10.4.10 One body sherd from a stone layer (27) in test pit D was made at Caerleon within the period A.D.110-170+ (fabric RO21). The remainder were all from Oxford potteries and of forms identified and dated by Young (1977): one rim fragment from a stone layer (27) in test pit D, which has lost all traces of slip, form C100.2, A.D. 300-400 (fabric RO20); three joining sherds from wall foundation 59 in test pit L, giving an incomplete rim-section, probably of a version of M21, dated A.D. 240-300 (fabric RO18); incomplete rim-section from soil layer 103 in test pit P, probably form M17, dated A.D. 240-300 (fabric RO18).

Red wares

- 10.4.11 Severn Valley Ware accounted for almost half of all the red wares recovered. The fabrics vary a little in their hardness, sand content and other inclusions, and a small number of the sherds are slightly vesicular. Such variety may perhaps suggest more than one source of supply. The only vessel forms identified were jars, and possibly a tankard, but all vessels are too fragmentary to be datable. The remainder of the red ware fabrics occurred in small quantity and were mainly represented only by body sherds, the forms unidentifiable and undatable. One vessel stands out, having a small, almost bead rim (diameter 11cm) in a moderately hard-fired, smooth light orange fabric, with darker brown micaceous surfaces - perhaps a small jar.

Black-burnished ware

- 10.4.12 A small number of Black-burnished ware sherds were recovered. All the sherds are of Category 1 fabric (BB1), typically hard, rough, grey-black and with frequent quartz inclusions. Vessel forms identified include cooking pots decorated with obtuse angle lattice, flanged dishes/bowls, a grooved rim dish with intersecting arc decoration, and plain rim dishes decorated with a zigzag design. The decoration and forms suggest dates between the 3rd century and the late 3rd to 4th century.

Grey wares

- 10.4.13 Only eight grey ware sherds in fabrics other than Black-burnished ware were recovered. These included one jar in a moderately hard buff fabric with grey burnished, micaceous surfaces, probably of a similar date to the Black-burnished ware. The remaining seven grey ware sherds are in slightly

sandier grey fabrics, and include flanged bowls, one of them as Usk (Manning 1993, fig. 128, 28.5), and also jars.

Colour-coated wares

- 10.4.14 Several sherds from Oxford colour-coated vessels were recovered, but only one vessel form was identified - a bowl imitating samian form Drag. 38, Young type C51, dated A.D. 240-400. The fabric is fine, light orange, with no very obvious inclusions and traces of a reddish colour coat survive on the exterior surface.

Amphora

- 10.4.15 Just one body sherd from a Dressel 20 south Spanish olive oil amphora was recovered from a possible cobble foundation (31) in test pit E.

Roman Brick and Tile

- 10.4.16 A total of 497 fragments (17.9kg) of brick and tile were recovered, including fragments of box flue, imbrex and tegula. Of this, 13.5kg (75%) came from test pits L, P and Q, with a further 4.1kg (23%) from test pit A, showing a marked concentration towards the southern end of the area investigated.

Metallurgical Debris by Mark Walters

- 10.4.17 A total of 36kg of metallurgical debris were recovered, including fragments of fired and vitrified clay, together with large quantities of glassy slag. The majority came from test pits K (21.8kg, 61%) and M (5.3kg, 15%), located within areas identified by the geophysical survey as deposits of possible iron cinders, but with significant quantities also from E (1kg, 3%) and F (2.4kg, 7%) and P (2.1kg, 6%).
- 10.4.18 The collection is typical of tapped slag and associated material from a bloomery period iron smelting site where primary smithing of the furnace bloom into a bar, billet or bun was taking place. There is no evidence of smithing beyond this primary stage to forge the bar into a useable item.
- 10.4.19 In general, the slag is well sorted, particularly the smaller fragments less than 5cm in diameter. Fragments also display surface wear which may be suggestive of crushing for re-use as packing material or surfacing. The recorded removal of slags from the adjacent field (Clos y Gaveilion; Hay 1785) for smelting in Brecon may account for the fragmentary nature of the assemblage. The nearest geological source of iron ore is the Carboniferous Coal Measures and Limestones north-west of Tredegar, some 15km to the south. It is not possible to date the material with any certainty since the morphology of the assemblage only suggests a slag tapping technology which was used from the Iron Age through to the later medieval period, although given the immediate proximity of significant Roman occupation, it is reasonable to assume an association.
- 10.4.20 A small assemblage of vitrified material was also recovered in association with the building remains in test pits P and Q. These include baked clay, fine and medium-coarse grained sandstone rock and possible sandstone derived natural soils. The vitrification suggests contact with heat sources capable of reaching temperatures in excess of 1000^o C, which has caused silica in the baked clay and quartz in the sandstones to melt and vitrify. This temperature may have been achieved during a number of industrial activities and some domestic examples. Given the nearby presence of recovered iron smelting and bloom-smithing slags and the fact that some of the above material includes adhering fuel ash slag, it may be associated with this industry. However, none of the vitrified fragments have smelting or smithing slag as inclusions or on their vitrified surfaces and this suggests they were not in direct contact with the products of these processes. Some of the vitrification could result from the effect on surrounding soils and rock of the heat generated by a smithing hearth or smelting furnace below the tuyere level.

Ironwork

- 10.4.21 A total of 15 fragments of iron were recovered, 9 of which were nails, and one a modern key. The remainder were undiagnostic. None of the objects are certainly of Roman date, although some may be hobnails.

10.5 Discussion

- 10.5.1 The results from the trial excavations have not been entirely as anticipated. Based on the geophysical survey it had been assumed that limited small-scale trial pits would be sufficient to confirm the position of the bath-house and provide information about the remaining anomalies. However, it is now clear that many of the geophysical survey anomalies might have been in

response to changes in the natural subsoil since there was no evidence for any archaeological features within the majority of the trial pits.

- 10.5.2 The most significant result from the trial work was the discovery of foundations for a building towards the southern end of the area. Cobble foundations and robber trenches defined part of a building consisting of parallel walls c. 5.2m apart internally, aligned north-west to south-east, and extending for over 6m, with the south-western wall incorporating either a dog-leg or a butt-ended wall at right-angles to it. The pattern of robbing would seem to be of some significance. The south-western wall had clearly been robbed during the post-medieval period, with the robbing trenches (108, 112 and 144) filled with voided stone containing some post-medieval finds. The north-eastern wall, however, had no associated post-medieval robber trench but with only the cobble foundations (132) surviving, suggesting that it may have been robbed in antiquity. The recovery of a significant quantity of Roman pottery, brick and tile from the excavations, indicates that the building may have had a hypocaust and tiled roof. However, although only a partial plan was revealed, the dimensions not match any of those of the bath-house recorded by Hay. It is possible that it represents the second building or 'mausoleum' identified by Hay, where two skulls were found. Hay records that this building lay 80ft to the south of the bath-house at a point where the land rose suddenly, and also that the leat supposedly supplying the bath-house could be traced close by. The present day topography does not entirely match Hay's description, though it is quite possible that extensive landscaping was undertaken following the construction of Maesderwen house in the early 19th century. The recently discovered foundations lie at the base of a slope rising to the south-west, with two leats following the contours upslope to the south-west, which as noted above appear to me post-medieval in origin, rather than Roman. Hay records that only a partial plan of this building was revealed and that stone had previously been taken from there to build houses and walls in the village of Llanfrynach, which may therefore date some of the robbing trenches identified during the recent excavation.
- 10.5.3 Based on the assumption that the foundation trenches in trenches P and Q represent the presumed mausoleum it is possible that the likely cobble foundations identified in test pit E may have been part of the bath-house, or at least of another sizeable structure, although the limited nature of the excavation prevent any firm conclusions being drawn. Further weight may be added to this hypothesis by the fact that the test pit E lay 85ft (26m) to the north-east of the identified foundations, Hay having recorded that the 'mausoleum' building lay 80ft to the south of the bath-house.
- 10.5.4 The precise location of the bath-house therefore remains somewhat uncertain. It seems likely, however, that the site was substantially levelled not long after its rediscovery in 1783. This is hinted at in a letter from Charles Hay to the Society of Antiquaries, dated 25 November 1784, in which he states that 'as Mr Wilkins is now clearing the field where the bath is in order to plough it, I believe you will never see a completer plan than I now send' (S. Briggs, pers comm.).
- 10.5.5 The general distribution of Roman finds across the site was mostly concentrated in the area surrounding the building foundations in test pits L, P and Q, and elsewhere was mostly in association with a stony layer beneath the topsoil, which suggests that this layer represents a spread of redeposited material derived from earlier excavations. The dating evidence from the recent excavations comes entirely from the pottery. Of the 30 datable sherds (35% of the assemblage), 27 were from vessels dated to the 3rd and 4th centuries, while only 3 came from 2nd century vessels. This ties in well with the coin evidence from earlier discoveries, which ranged in date from A.D. 222-235 to A.D. 364-75.
- 10.5.6 The confirmation of substantial deposits of iron slag suggested by the geophysical survey, together with the antiquarian references to iron cinders within the field called Clos y Gaveilion, suggests significant possibly Roman smithing activity within the immediate area. Although the location of the smithy is not currently known, more widespread geophysical survey might reveal more about its likely position, the extent of these smithing deposits, and further details of the complex to which the villa bath-house and 'mausoleum', belonged.
- 10.5.7 Geophysical survey and trial excavation has provided some evidence of the extent and state of preservation of Roman remains at Maesderwen, but has so far been unsuccessful in pin-pointing the precise location of the villa bath-house revealed in 1783. The site clearly still has considerable archaeological potential, even though there is evidence that some of the remains were carted away and levelled in the later 18th century and that parts of the site may have been landscaped in the early 19th century.

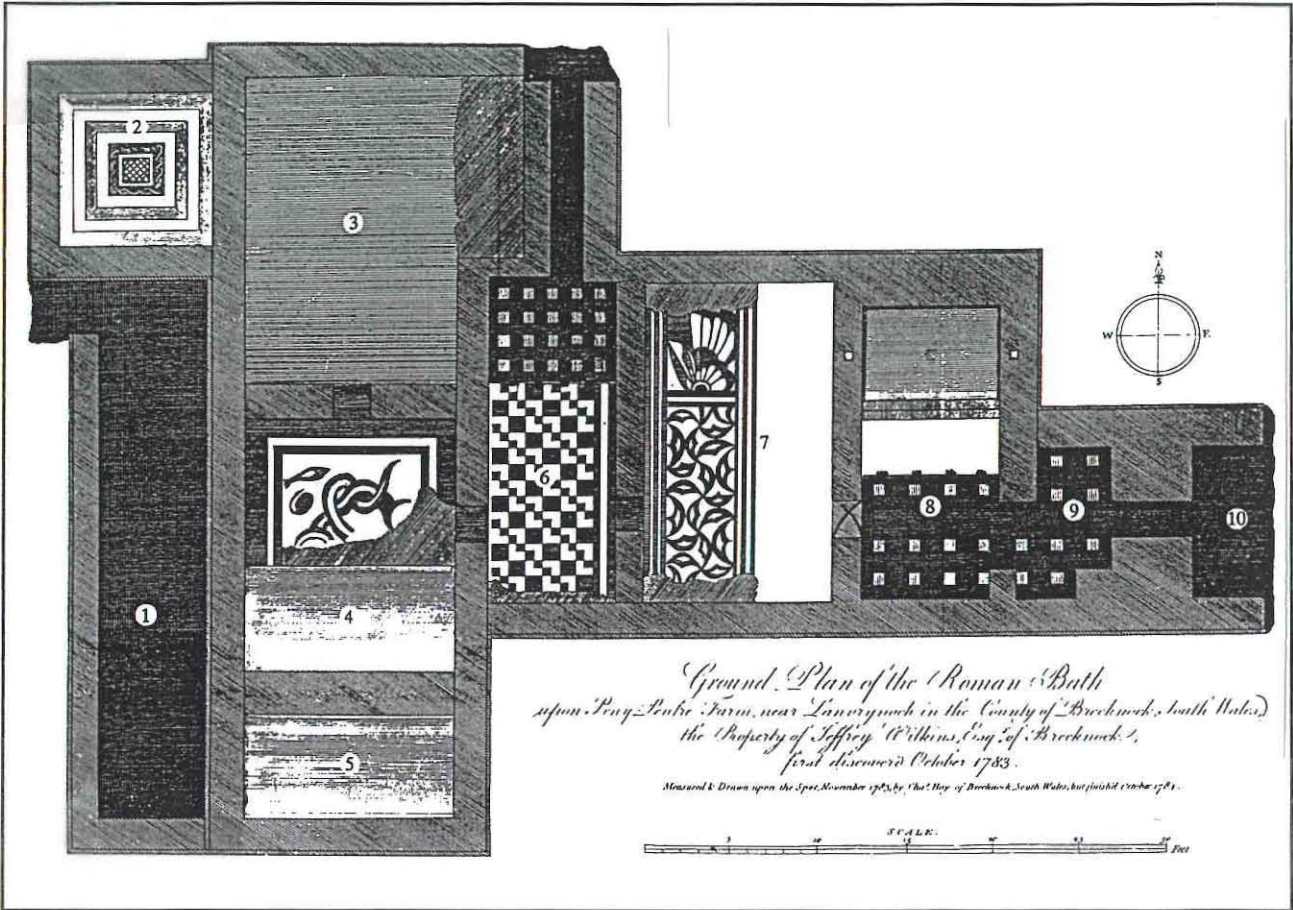


Fig. 9 Maesderwen Romano-British villa bath-house (after Hay 1783)

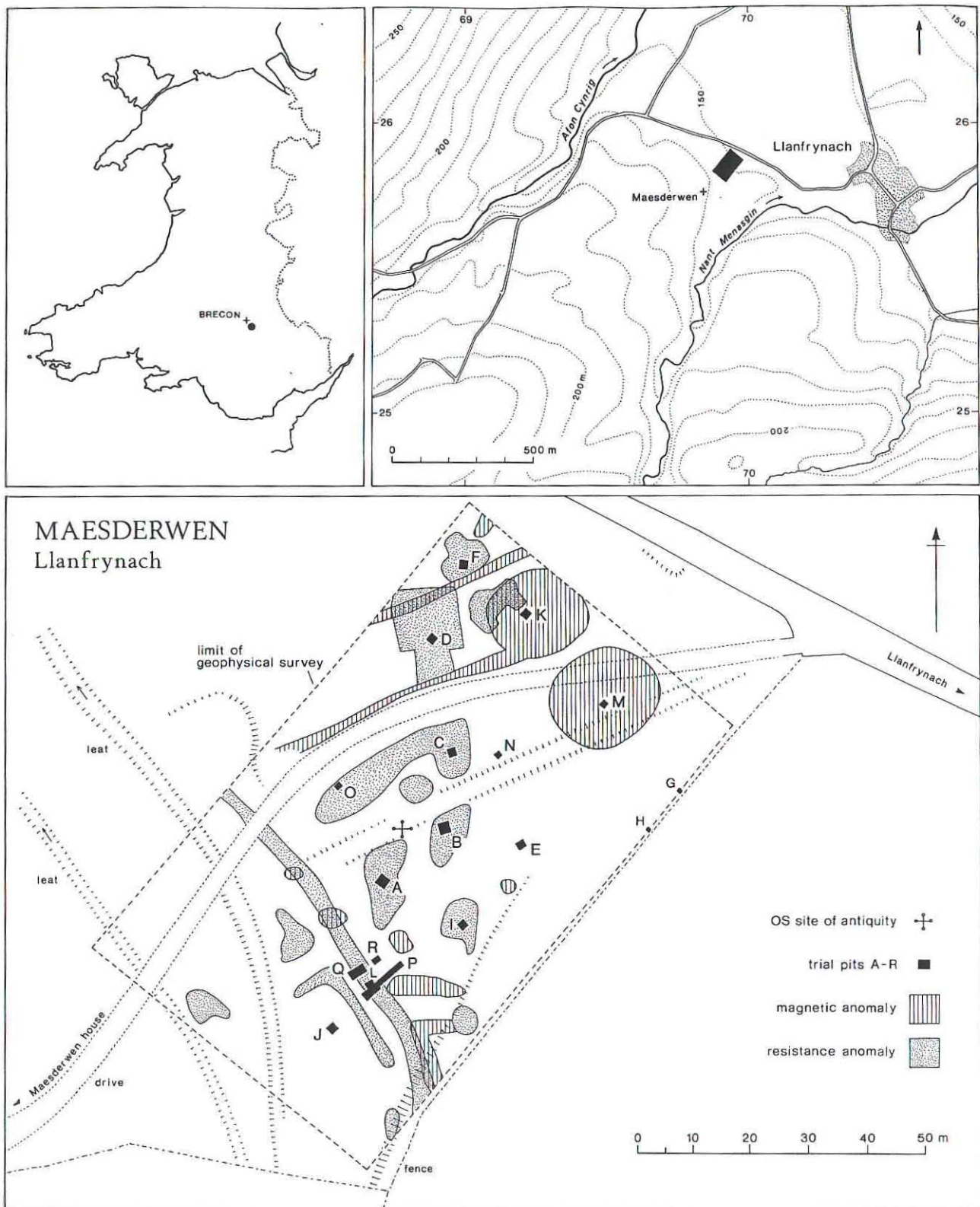


Fig. 10 Maesderwen site location, extent of geophysical survey and location of test pits

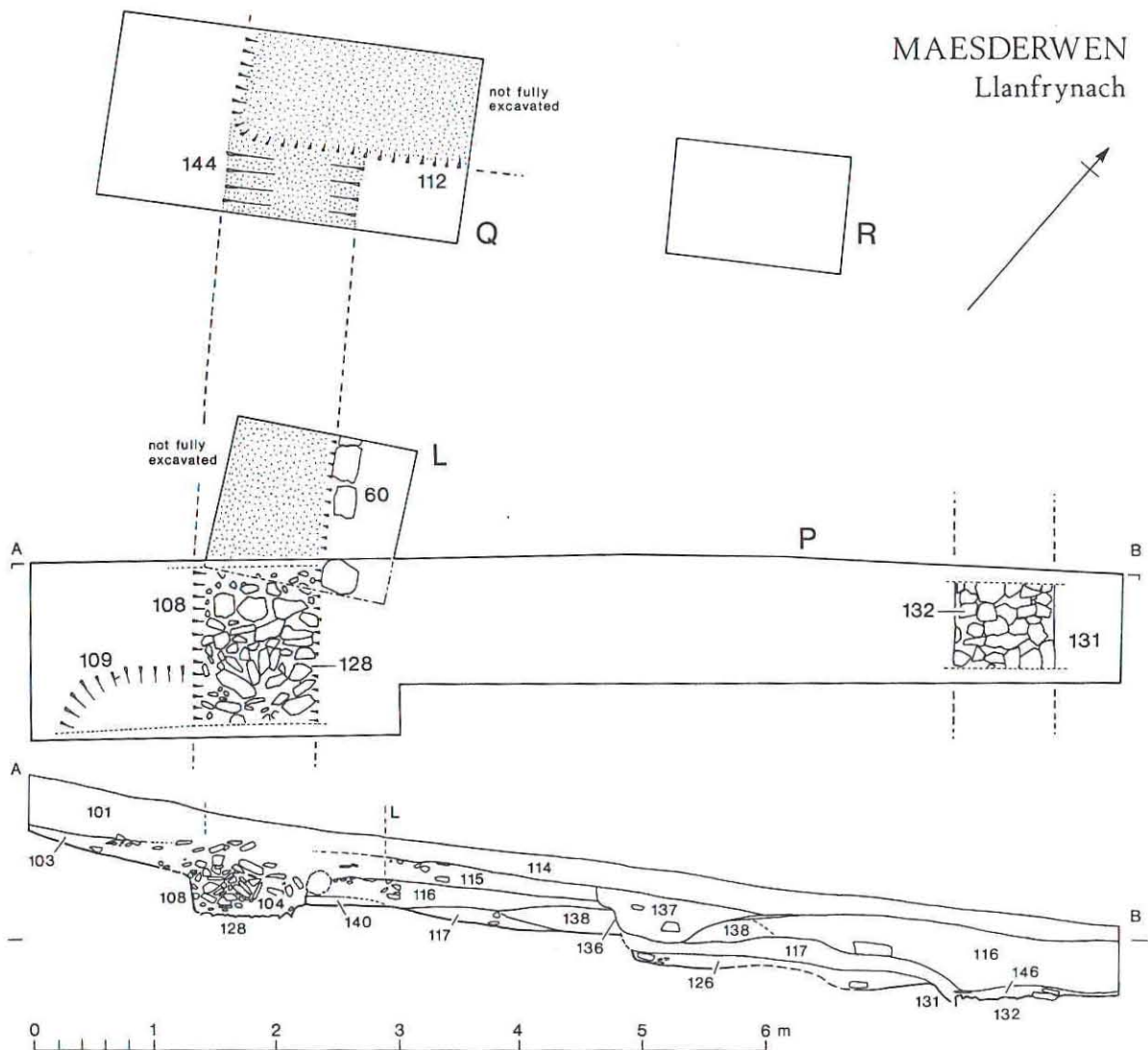


Fig. 11 Maesderwen, plan and section of trenches towards southern side of site

11 BROAD HEATH ENCLOSURE, PRESTEIGNE (PRN 23280)

11.1 Location

11.1.1 The site lies 3km east of Presteigne (SO 34206347) in a broad valley close to the confluence of the Hindwell Brook and the River Lugg (fig. 12). The field, which is currently under pasture, is bounded to the east by the English border and to the south by the Hindwell Brook. The site lies at a height of about 135m OD, with the ground sloping gently to the south-east. There is no visible evidence of surviving earthworks within the field, with the exception of a slight bank which relates to a former field boundary shown on earlier Ordnance Survey maps, but not indicated on the accompanying illustration.

11.1.2 A programme of trial excavation and geophysical survey was undertaken, the main objectives of which were to establish the date and nature of the site and assess its state of preservation. Context numbers as they appear in the site archive and illustrations accompanying this report are given in brackets in the following text. The site archive has been retained by CPAT. Finds have been deposited with Brecon Museum.

11.2 Background

11.2.1 The sub-rectangular enclosure with an entrance along the eastern side was discovered by aerial reconnaissance in 1995 by Chris Musson of the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales. Aerial photographs show a substantial ditch enclosing an area of about 96m by 80m across, within which are faint traces of further parallel linear features, possibly indicating a rectangular internal structure (fig. 12). A second possible enclosure was also visible as a cropmark to the south-east, within the same field, although only the south-west corner was apparent, with the feature extending into an adjacent field to the east where no cropmarks were visible. Surface finds of Romano-British pottery are recorded from fields within the immediate area, although not from the field in question.

11.3 Geophysical Survey (fig. 12)

11.3.1 A magnetometer survey was undertaken by Stratascan during May 1997 (Barker 1997), covering an area of 150 x 120m encompassing the main enclosure, with an adjoining area of 60 x 40m covering the second possible enclosure.

11.3.2 The southern and western sides of the main enclosure were clearly indicated (M1 and M2), while the northern and eastern sides (M3, M4, M5 and M6) are less clearly shown (fig. 12). Within the enclosure, a linear anomaly (M7) together with a weak feature (M8) may represent the internal features identified as cropmarks. The second possible enclosure was confirmed (M14), with a further weak linear anomaly (M15) to the south. Two parallel anomalies (M12 and M13) coincide with the former field boundary mentioned above.

11.4 Trial Excavation

11.4.1 A total station survey was undertaken to provide an accurate location for the trial excavations and to tie-in the geophysical survey. The resulting plot of the field boundaries was also used to provide base detail to enable a more accurate rectification of the aerial photograph.

11.4.2 Three trenches (fig. 13) were excavated in July 1997. The ploughsoil, which directly overlay the surface of the natural subsoil, was removed by machine, the remaining excavation being by hand. Trenches A and B were located to investigate the main enclosure, while Trench C was located to investigate the second possible enclosure to the south-east. The subsoil varied from fine clay silt to coarse gravel.

Trench A (fig. 13)

11.4.3 The removal of 0.35m of topsoil (15) and old ploughsoil (16) revealed the surface of the natural along the whole trench. Only two features were visible cut into the natural. The main feature was a U-profile ditch (17), 1.54m wide and 0.48m deep, aligned north-south. Its position coincided with the linear anomaly (M7) identified by the geophysical survey, as well as a faint ditch which was visible as a cropmark. The fill (18) was composed of a brown clay silt with occasional small stones, from which a substantial quantity of Romano-British pottery was recovered, the majority of which ranged in date from mid 2nd to mid 3rd century, although it also contained a single sherd of late 3rd or 4th-century Black-burnished ware. A shallow pit (23), measuring 0.8m wide and 0.12m deep, lay c. 2.0m to the east of the ditch and extended beyond the excavation to the south. No finds were recovered from the fill, which consisted of yellow-brown clay-silt (24).

Trench B (fig. 13)

11.4.4 The removal by machine of up to 0.37m of topsoil (10) and old ploughsoil (11) revealed the main enclosure ditch (12) to be 3.95m wide and 1.45m deep, with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. The nature of the fills would suggest an internal bank, as indicated by a layer of silty clay (44) lying against the north side of the ditch which had the appearance of primary material possibly washed from a bank. However, no other evidence was found to confirm the position or indicate the likely width of the bank. The upper layers of the ditch fill appear to have been truncated by ploughing, suggesting that the original enclosure bank has also been levelled in this way. The primary silting (40) consisted of a layer of gravel in a clay matrix, which had presumably been eroded from the ditch sides. The layers of secondary silting (43, 42, 20, 41) consisted of a series of silts and clayey silts, with the final silting (13) consisting of a layer of silty loam. Against the south side of the ditch a thin layer of silty clay with charcoal flecks (45) may have resulted from the erosion of the outer edge of the ditch. Finds recovered from the ditch included pottery of late 2nd to late 3rd-century date (not illustrated) from the secondary fill (20), which included a mortarium dated A.D. 130-170 (fig. 14, no.1). A shallow curving gully (37) up to 0.52m wide and 0.22m deep was identified to the interior of the ditch, possibly forming a drain, the only dating evidence being a single sherd of prehistoric pottery.

11.4.5 Two other ditches were excavated in the interior of the enclosure, lying 6.5m apart and coinciding with the parallel linear features visible as cropmarks. The outermost ditch (25) was 1.40m wide and up to 0.45m deep, lying 3.2m from the inner edge of the main enclosure ditch (12). The ditch had a generally rounded profile with a basal fill (39) consisting of a yellow brown stiff silty clay with frequent stones, above which was a layer of brown firm silt (26). No pottery was recovered from the ditch, although there were several fragments of burnt stone within the fill. These were generally rounded and of fine grained sedimentary rock which had been cracked as a result of burning. The innermost, ditch 14, would appear from cropmark evidence to be a continuation of ditch 17 in Trench A. The profile was generally rounded, 0.95m wide and up to 0.35m deep, filled by a layer of dark brown, firm silty loam (19), from which sherds of 3rd to 4th-century pottery were recovered, including an Oxford mortarium dated A.D. 200-400 (not illustrated).

Trench C (fig. 13)

11.4.6 The removal by machine of up to 0.40m of topsoil (1) and old ploughsoil (2) revealed two ditches towards the western end of the trench, cut into the natural gravels. Ditch 8 had previously been identified as a linear cropmark and by the geophysical survey (M14), which suggested that it might form the south-west corner of a second enclosure. The ditch was 1.70m wide and 0.70m deep, generally V-shaped with a rounded base. A single sherd of Romano-British pottery was recovered from the main fill (9), which consisted of a brown firm silty loam, above a basal fill (36) of yellow brown silty clay with frequent stones. The second ditch (6), which did not appear as a cropmark and was also not revealed by the geophysical survey, lay 4.1m to the east and followed a slightly different alignment. The ditch was 1.40m wide and 0.60m deep, V-shaped with a rounded base, and filled by a dark brown silty loam (7). Several sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the ditch, although none are closely datable.

11.4.7 A number of features were identified at the eastern end of the trench, all cut into the natural gravels, but with no indication of a relationship with either ditch. The most significant features were two small hearths (3, 30), both lined with clay and stone which would presumably have formed a domed roof to the structures. Both were cut into the gravel with their upper sections having been lost to ploughing. Hearth 3 was roughly circular, 0.60m in diameter with a stokehole on the eastern side. The fill (4) had frequent charcoal flecks and produced a single sherd of medieval pottery. The other hearth (30) was better preserved, but lay in the corner of the excavated area, extending beyond the section to the south-east. The bowl was also 0.60m in diameter, cut 0.30m into the natural gravel, which showed signs of burning surrounding both features.

11.4.8 Adjacent to the hearths, and cutting slightly into the south side of hearth 3, was a shallow elongated scoop (27), aligned east-west. The feature was rounded at both ends and measured 1.46m in length, 0.56m wide and up to 0.15m deep below the surface of the natural gravel. A single angular stone c. 0.20m across lay on the base of the feature towards the eastern end, and two sherds of Romano-British pottery were recovered from the fill. A second scoop (33) was identified just to the north of hearth 3, although this had been damaged by machining and was no longer clearly discernible. A third possible feature (46) 1.34m in length, also aligned east-west, was seen in section to the west, having been removed by machine within the trench itself. A possible posthole

(21), 0.40m in diameter and 0.15m deep, was identified just to the west, although its function could not be confirmed.

11.5 Finds

Prehistoric pottery by Alex Gibson

- 11.5.1 A single sherd of prehistoric pottery weighing 6g was recovered from the fill of gully 37, Trench B. The sherd may belong to the Middle Bronze Age Urn tradition, c. 1400-1000 BC.

Romano British Pottery by Wendy Owen

- 11.5.2 Thanks are due to Peter Webster for assisting with the identification and dating of the vessel forms.
- 11.5.3 Some 4kg (176 sherds) of Roman pottery was recovered from the excavations. All the sherds were examined and fabrics were identified macroscopically, according to petrological inclusions, with the aid of a x8 hand lens, and by comparing sherds with the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust's Fabric Type Series. The fabrics have been put into seven main groupings, discussed below, but a more detailed quantification, by individual fabrics, is housed in the site archive.
- 11.5.4 The majority of the sherds were recovered from three ditches within the main enclosure in Trenches A and B: 46 sherds (638g) from ditch 12; 12 sherds (238g) from ditch 14; 92 sherds (2436g) from ditch 17. Trench C produced 18 sherds (603g) from ditch 6 and a single sherd from ditch 8, together with 2 sherds from pit 27. The remaining 5 sherds were unstratified.

Fabric Groups

- 11.5.5 The following fabric groups have been distinguished. Table 9 shows a summary of the quantities recovered of each group.

Table 9: Summary of the Roman pottery (percentages shown in brackets)

Fabric group	sherds no.		weight (g)	
Samian	1	(0.6)	15	(0.4)
Mortaria	2	(1.1)	84	(2.1)
Red wares	136	(77.3)	3408	(85.7)
Black-burnished ware	20	(11.4)	125	(3.2)
Grey wares	12	(6.8)	323	(8.1)
White wares	3	(1.7)	12	(0.3)
Colour-coated/Fine wares	2	(1.1)	8	(0.2)
Totals	176		3975	

Samian ware

- 11.5.6 One sherd was recovered from a vessel of form 18/31 from Central Gaul. This dates to the first half of the 2nd century.

Mortaria identified by Kay Hartley

- 11.5.7 Only two sherds from mortaria were recovered, representing two vessels in different fabric types.
- 11.5.8 Fabric RO 19. Balsdon, Cowley, Dorchester, Sandford etc., Oxford (Young 1977). Fine-textured, micaceous, red-brown fabric, sometimes with grey core; some tiny quartz and sparse red-brown inclusions. Trituration grit: entirely transparent and translucent pink and brown quartz. This fabric usually has a thin white slip. One body sherd (not illustrated) from ditch 14, dated A.D. 200-400.
- 11.5.9 Fabric RO22. Hard, orange fabric with grey core, fairly frequent quartz and rare black inclusions. Cream slip. Trituration grit: quartz and red-brown sandstone. This fabric close to one made in the south-east Gloucestershire/north Wiltshire area, perhaps near Wanborough (Manning 1993, 392, Fabric 20), and with a similar trituration grit. One rim sherd from ditch 20 with a profile marginally different from this source, and it is likely that it was made in South Wales during the 2nd century, probably within the period A.D. 130-170 (fig. 14, no. 1).

Red wares

- 11.5.10 Severn Valley Ware accounted for almost of all the red wares recovered. The fabrics vary a little in their hardness, sand content and other inclusions, and a considerable number (around 40%) of the sherds are slightly vesicular. Such variety may perhaps suggest more than one source of supply. The vessel forms identified were almost all jars and included some wide-mouthed examples as well as some with 'double rims' (as Webster 1976, no. 9). In addition to surface burnishing, decoration often consists of double grooves on the shoulder of the vessel, but one vessel is decorated with a panel of parallel oblique burnished lines bordered by double grooves. Just one tankard was identified. The vessel forms show a range in date from the 2nd to the 4th century. The remainder of the red ware sherds were mostly soft, worn and powdery, but one vessel in a harder fired, fairly rough, sandy fabric was identifiable - a small flask or unguent pot (fig. 14, no. 5).

Black-burnished ware

- 11.5.11 A small number of Black-burnished ware sherds were recovered. All the sherds are of Category 1 fabric (BB1), typically hard, rough, grey-black and with frequent quartz inclusions. Vessel forms identified included cooking pots and dishes/bowls. The decoration and rim forms suggest dates between the early to mid 3rd century and the late 3rd or 4th century.

Grey wares

- 11.5.12 Only twelve grey ware sherds in fabrics other than Black-burnished ware were recovered. Of these, seven sherds are in a fairly hard, rough, brownish-grey fabric containing broken up stone, with a dark grey burnished exterior surface, and lattice decoration. Six of these sherds form the base and lower part of a jar, and although the fabric appears similar to Malvernian vessels, the form and decoration of the jar identified is closer to Black-burnished ware forms. Of the remaining five grey ware sherds, one vessel (fig. 14, no. 6) appears to imitate samian ware forms 18 and 44 (forms dating to the second half of the 2nd century) but the rest are small body sherds and not identifiable.

White wares

- 11.5.13 Only one vessel was recovered, a flagon (represented by three body sherds) in a fairly hard granular greyish-cream fabric, similar to that of Verulamium.

Colour-coated wares

- 11.5.14 The base of one colour-coated Oxford bowl was recovered. The form imitates samian form 31. The fabric is a fine, light orange fabric with no very obvious inclusions and traces of a reddish colour coat on the exterior surface.

Catalogue of illustrated vessels (fig. 14)

- 1 Mortarium in orange fabric with grey core. Traces of cream slip survive on exterior surface and flange. Fabric RO22, possible from South Wales. 2nd century, probably A.D. 130-170. Secondary fill of enclosure ditch 12 (20), Trench B.
- 2 Double rim jar in fairly soft, smooth, orange fabric with grey core. Severn Valley Ware, as Webster 1976, nos 9-10. 3rd-4th century. Ditch 14 (19), Trench B.
- 3 Double rim jar in fairly soft, smooth, orange fabric with grey core. Severn Valley Ware, as Webster 1976, no.10. 3rd-4th century. Ditch 14 (19), Trench B.
- 4 Wide mouth jar in fairly soft, orange fabric with traces of burnishing surviving on exterior. Severn Valley Ware, similar to Webster 1976, no. 31, also Hunter 1963, no.15. 4th century. Ditch 14 (19), Trench B.
- 5 Small flask or unguent pot in hard-fired, sandy reddish-orange fabric. Vessel appears to have undergone strong heating and much of the surface has been lost. Ditch 17 (18), Trench A.
- 6 Jar in soft, smooth, light grey fabric with micaceous surfaces, originally darker grey (but only surviving in small patches), imitating Samian forms 18 and 44. Second half of 2nd century. Ditch 17 (18), Trench A.
- 7 Tankard in soft smooth micaceous orange fabric. The exterior surface appears to have been burnished. Severn Valley Ware, as Kenyon 1954, fig. 15, no. 1 and Walker 1958, no. 32. Mid to late 2nd century. Ditch 17 (18), Trench A.
- 8 Wide mouth jar in moderately hard, fine, smooth orange fabric with burnished exterior surface. Severn Valley Ware, as Webster 1976, no. 24. Late 2nd to late 3rd century. Ditch 17 (18), Trench A.
- 9 Wide mouth jar in fairly hard but smooth, vesicular, light orange fabric with double groove shoulder decoration. Severn Valley Ware, as Webster 1976, no. 21. 2nd century. Ditch 17 (18), Trench A.

Medieval pottery

- 11.5.15 A single body sherd of a medieval jug was recovered from the fill of hearth 3 (4), Trench C. The sherd was of a hard sandy micaceous fabric with oxidised surfaces and a reduced core. Comparison with the Clwyd-Powys Medieval Pottery Fabric Type Series showed a close similarity to a fabric (MB 15) from excavations at Pool Road, Montgomery (Britnell and Jones 1989, 64-66), with inclusions of rounded angular rock fragments, rounded to angular quartz, soft red iron minerals and fine quartz and muscovite, which is thought to be of local derivation.

Quern?

- 11.5.16 Four small fragments of a possible Romano-British lava quern were recovered from the fill of ditch 17 (18), Trench A.

The Charred Plant Remains by Astrid E Caseldine and Kate Barrow¹

- 11.5.17 Comparatively little evidence is available about the agricultural economy and crop processing activity during the Romano-British period from sites on the Welsh borders (see Caseldine 1990). The excavations at Broad Heath therefore provided an opportunity to recover further information. Samples were taken from ditch, hearth and pit contexts. Details of the contexts sampled are given in Table 10 apart from sample 9 from ditch 8 and sample 19 from ditch 14 both of which, after an initial assessment, contained so few remains that further processing and examination was abandoned.

Methods

- 11.5.18 The samples were processed using a simple wash-over technique. Hydrogen peroxide was added to the samples to help break up the sediment and aid flotation. The flots were retained in a stack of sieves with the finest mesh being 250 microns. The residues were washed through the sieves after flotation. A Wild M5 stereo-microscope was used for sorting and identification. Identification was by comparison with modern reference material and standard identification texts (eg Schoch *et al.* 1988). Nomenclature follows Stace (1991) for non-cereal remains. The results are presented in Table 10 apart from the assessment results from ditch 8 (9) and ditch 14 (19), which consisted of a grain of *Triticum spelta* and a thorn and a Poaceae caryopsis, respectively,

Results

- 11.5.19 The remains were present in relatively low concentrations and a similar range of material was present in all the samples. Cereal grain and chaff predominated with the occasional weed seed present. Wheat (*Triticum*) was the commonest cereal represented and when the grain or chaff could be identified to species level it mostly appeared to be spelt wheat (*T. spelta*). A number of glume bases and a spikelet fork could only be assigned to an emmer/spelt (*T. dicoccum/T. spelta*) category because of poor preservation, and the possibility of there being some emmer at the site cannot be ruled out. Bread wheat (*T. aestivum* s.l.) was also probably present in one or two samples. Hulled barley (*Hordeum sativum*) and oat (*Avena*) were also represented, but without the presence of chaff it is uncertain as to whether the oat was cultivated or wild. Weed seeds included brome (*Bromus* sp.), docks (*Rumex* sp.), wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), and grasses (Poaceae), whilst other remains included fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) and fragments of bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*) leaves.

Discussion of the charred plant remains

- 11.5.20 Although pottery from the site indicates differences in date in the contexts and features sampled, the archaeobotanical evidence does not suggest any marked change in agricultural practice over the period covered. Grain and chaff of wheat predominate in fill 18 of ditch 17 which produced pottery mainly of mid 2nd to mid 3rd-century date. The sample does differ from the others in that remains other than cereals, although scarce, are more frequent. It is the only sample which produced any bracken. Wheat also dominates the assemblage from layer 20 from the main enclosure ditch (12) which yielded pottery of late 2nd to late 3rd-century date. Barley is absent from this sample and from the other samples from Trench B, but the amount of material recovered is so small it is not necessarily representative, and may or may not reflect a change in crop husbandry at some period or a spatial difference in activity at the site. Unfortunately, the results from the initial assessment of the fill (19) of the innermost ditch (14) were so poor that further work was not undertaken on this sample, although pottery indicates a later date, 3rd to 4th century, which, if plant remains had been preserved, could have indicated whether or not agricultural practices remained the same. The plant remains from ditch 25, also from Trench B, were scarce and there is nothing to

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distinguish them from the other samples. The remaining samples were all from Trench C. Initial assessment of the sample from ditch 8 produced next to nothing and further material was not examined. The remaining samples from ditch 6, hearths 3 and 30, and pit 27 all contained small quantities of remains, mainly wheat glume bases. There is no significant difference in the assemblage from these samples to that from the others and this may support the view that the single sherd of medieval pot recovered from hearth 3 was intrusive.

- 11.5.21 The samples from the ditches and the pit are similar to those from the hearths which suggests that all the assemblages represent waste material used as fuel, although some of the grain could have been accidentally charred during cooking activities. In general chaff, notably glume bases, is frequent in the samples and probably represents the by-product from crop processing used as fuel. Similarly, some of the weed seeds such as scentless mayweed, wild radish and brome are typically found on cultivated ground and probably also reflect processing activity, but it is possible that others, for example the grasses and ribwort plantain, could be derived from hay. The bracken could have been originally used as animal bedding. The leaf buds and thorns tend to confirm the fuel interpretation. The evidence suggests that wheat, probably spelt wheat, was the dominant cereal in the local economy, but there may be some bias in the results because of the differing susceptibility to charring of the different crops (Boardman and Jones 1990). There is insufficient evidence to comment further about activity at the site, the significance of crop husbandry in the local economy or the status of the site.
- 11.5.22 The predominance of spelt at Broad Heath is consistent with the majority of results from other sites in the Welsh borders, including a Romano-British settlement at Plas Coch, Wrexham (Caseldine and Barrow forthcoming) and the Roman fort (Caseldine 1993) and vicus (Caseldine 1996) at Caersws. Spelt was also recorded from Arddleen (Jones and Milles 1984), along with emmer, six-row barley and oats. In contrast at Collfryn (Jones and Milles 1989) a Romano-British sample consisted of large quantities of bread/club wheat, suggesting some variation in crop husbandry in the borders.

Table 10 Charred plant remains from Broad Heath

Trench Feature Context Volume (litres) Taxa	Trench A Ditch 17 18 21.5	Trench B Ditch 12 20 38	Trench B Ditch 25 26 16	Trench C Ditch 6 7 15	Trench C Hearth 3 4 12	Trench C Hearth 30 31 9	Trench C Pit 27 28 5
Cereals							
<i>T. dicoccum</i> / <i>T. spelta</i> - spikelet fork (emmer/spelt)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>Triticum dicoccum/spelta</i> - glume base	8	2	2	7	8	7	12
<i>T. spelta</i> - grain (spelt)	2	2	-	5	-	3	1
<i>T. spelta</i> - rachis	-	1	1	2	2	-	-
<i>T. spelta</i> - spikelet fork	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
<i>T. spelta</i> - glume base	8	7	2	6	13	2	9
<i>T. cf. aestivum</i> s. l. - grain (bread/club wheat)	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
<i>T. aestivum</i> s. l. - rachis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Triticum</i> sp. - grain (wheat)	1	2	-	2	3	-	1
<i>Triticum</i> sp. - rachis	3	-	1	1	-	1	1
<i>Triticum</i> sp. - glume base	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Hordeum sativum</i> - grain (hulled barley)	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
<i>H. sativum</i> - rachis	-	-	-	2	3	-	1
<i>Avena</i> sp. - grain (oat)	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Avena</i> sp. - awn frags	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Avena/Bromus</i> (oat/bromes)	2	3	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Avena/Poaceae</i> (oat/large grasses)	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
Cerealia indet. - grain	8	10	-	4	-	-	-
Cerealia indet. - rachis	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cerealia/Poaceae	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Cereal/large grasses	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other plants							
<i>Ranunculus repens</i> type (creeping buttercup)	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. - frags (hazel)	1	1	1	1	2	1	-
Chenopodiaceae (goosefoot family)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Rumex crispus</i> type (curled dock)	2	1	-	-	-	-	-

<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i> type (clustered dock)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Rumex</i> sp. (docks)	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Brassica/Sinapis arvensis</i> (cabbage/charlock)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> L. (radish)	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<i>Prunus spinosa</i> type - thorn (blackthorn)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Trifolium</i> sp. (clover)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Genista/Ulex</i> (greenweed/gorse)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Small <i>Vicia</i> sp. (vetch)	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> L. (ribwort plantain)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Galium aparine</i> L. (cleavers)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> (L.) Schultz-Bip. (scentless mayweed)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asteraceae (daisy family)	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Bromus</i> sp. (bromes)	3	2	-	-	1	1	1
<i>Bromus/Poaceae</i> (bromes/grasses)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poaceae (grasses)	6	4	-	1	-	1	2
Rhizome frags	6	9	8	-	-	1	-
Thorn indet.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leaf buds	12	2	-	2	-	-	-
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> (L.) Kuhn leaf frags. (Bracken)	7	-	-	-	-	-	-

11.6 Discussion

- 11.6.1 The results from the trial excavations have confirmed much of the evidence revealed by aerial reconnaissance and geophysical survey, as well as identifying further features and recovering significant dating evidence and other finds. A comparison of the evidence from the three investigation techniques shows a generally good correlation, with the exception of the north-east corner of the enclosure where the geophysical survey suggests that the corner is cut off, whereas the aerial photographic evidence indicates a more acute angle.
- 11.6.2 An arc of a curving ditch found just inside the enclosure ditch in Trench B produced a single sherd of prehistoric pottery and appears to represent a drainage ditch, possibly associated with an earlier building structure.
- 11.6.3 The excavations have shown the main enclosure was defended by a substantial ditch originally over 4.5m wide at ground level, which would presumably have been associated with an imposing internal bank, possibly topped by a palisade. The general nature of the site suggests that it was probably a settlement or farmstead. The dating evidence provided by the pottery has generally indicated fairly close but separate grouping within the various ditches. Pottery from the secondary fill of the main enclosure ditch suggests that the site had been established by at least the middle of to late 2nd century. A pattern of narrower internal ditches probably belong to several different periods, having produced pottery ranging in date between mid 2nd to 3rd century and 4th century. The function of these ditches is uncertain, although they appear to represent a series of internal enclosures or subdivisions within the main enclosure, or possibly drainage ditches associated with a sequence of rectangular buildings towards the centre of the enclosure. No evidence of building structures has been identified within the enclosure, but the absence of building stone, brick or tile suggests that had there been buildings within the enclosure these were probably timber.
- 11.6.3 The right-angled ditch identified as a cropmark and geophysical anomaly to the south-east of the main enclosure may represent the south-west corner of a second enclosure, or possibly part of a field system, as may ditch 6. The two hearths excavated in Trench C may indicate small-scale metalworking, although no evidence of metallurgical waste was recovered. The only dating evidence for this activity was a single sherd of medieval pottery from one hearth, although this may have been intrusive. The three shallow linear scoops identified close to the hearths are of unknown date and function, although their shape, size and alignment are suggestive of graves.
- 11.6.5 The analysis of charred plant remains from the ditch fills and hearths has produced some evidence relating to the local economy, although the generally low concentrations of the remains has limited the conclusions which could be drawn. It appears that soil conditions at the site have not favoured the preservation of bone. Cereal grain and chaff predominated within the samples analysed, suggesting that wheat, probably spelt wheat, was the dominant cereal in the local economy, although barley was also cultivated. The assemblage would suggest that there was little change in agricultural practice throughout the occupation of the site.

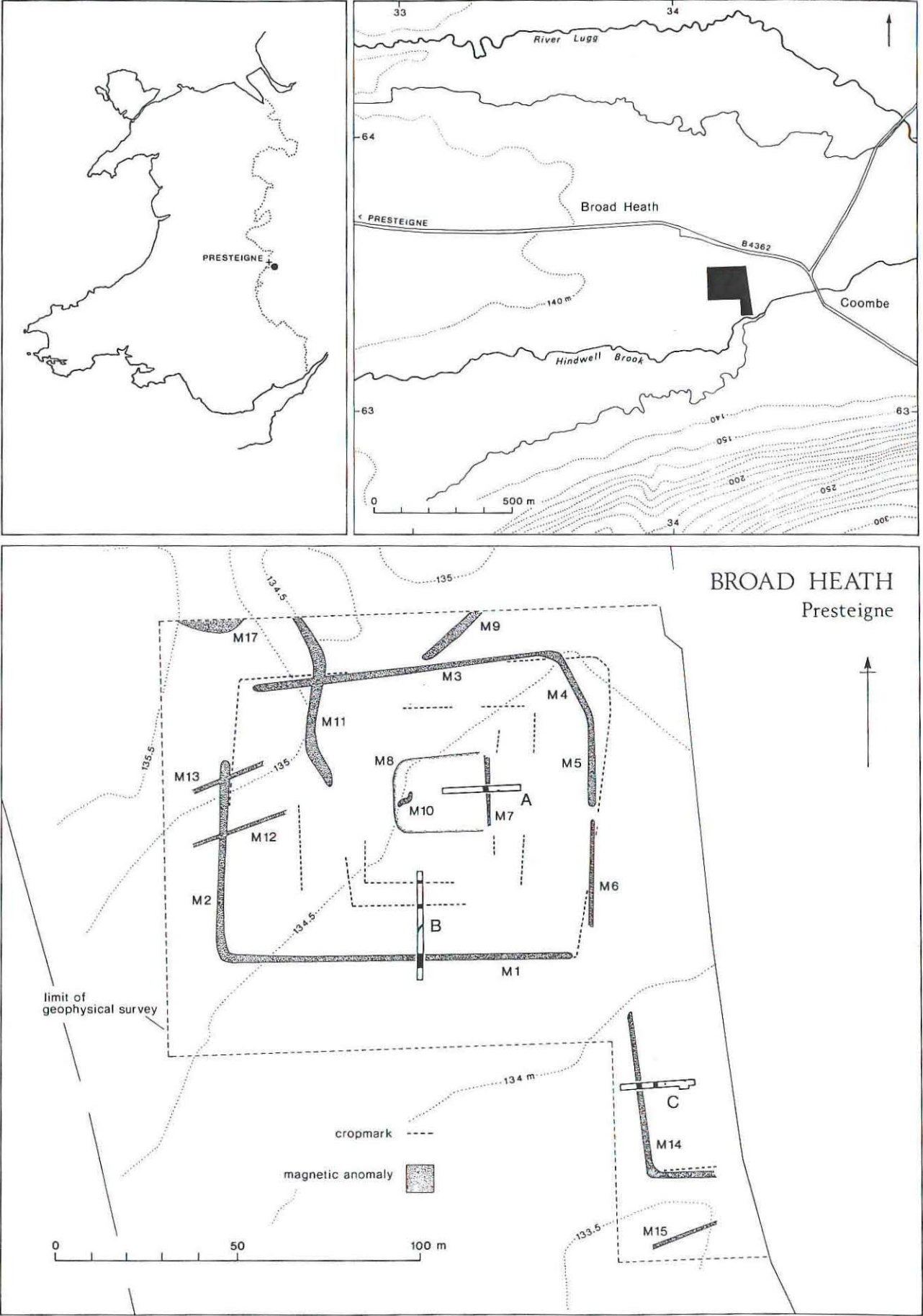


Fig. 12 Broad Heath site location; location of trenches, cropmark evidence and geophysical survey

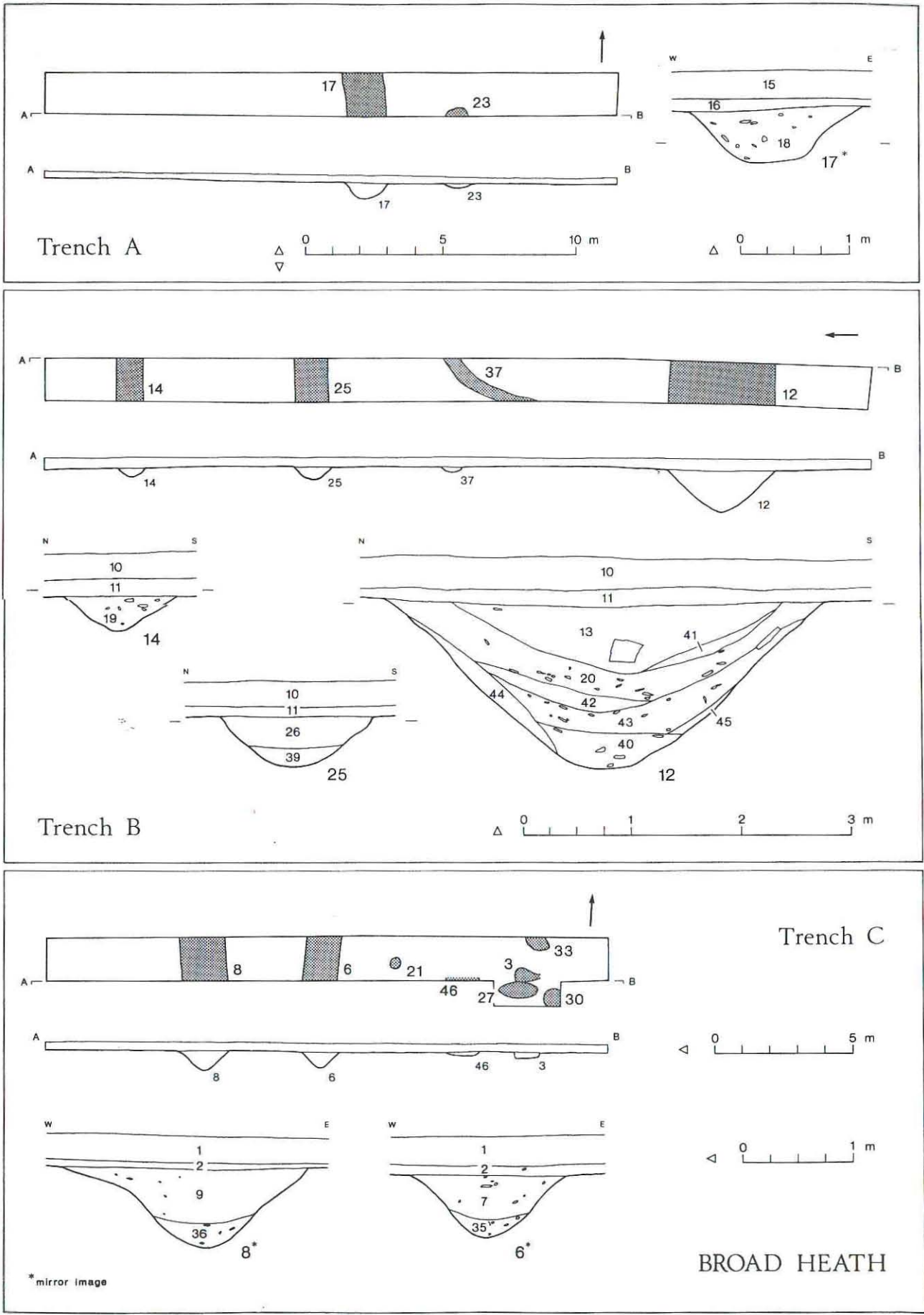


Fig. 13 Broad Heath excavation plans and sections

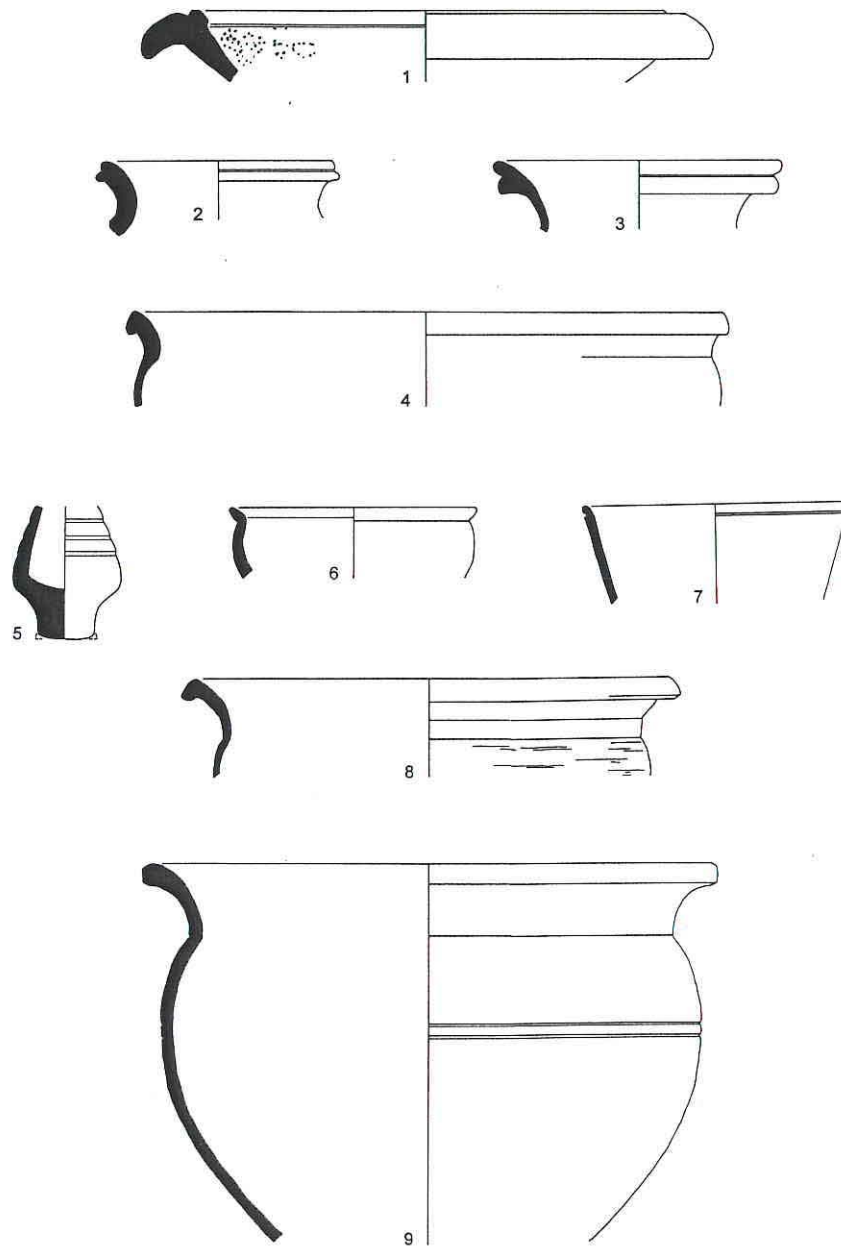


Fig. 14 Broad Heath Romano-British pottery. Scale 1:4

12 PEN-Y-GAER BATH-HOUSE, CWMDU (PRN 33875, SO 16602205)

12.1 Introduction

12.1.1 The Roman fort at Pen-y-gaer occupies a low ridge in the bottom of the Ewyn valley where it broadens to join the Rhiangoll. Excavations in 1966 indicated a date of occupation of between c. A.D. 70 and A.D. 130-140 (Crossley 1968). West-north-west of the fort a survey of 1803 records the site of a building behind Maes Llechau farm, from which large stones 'having the appearance of Hearth Stones and Chimney Pieces', pottery and 'two paterae of mixed metal' had been recovered (Payne 1831). A semi-circular scarped terrace had been identified by Stephen Briggs as the probable location of these discoveries, which, he postulated, might be a suitable location for the fort bath-house (fig. 15; RCAHMW 1986, 148).

12.1.2 A programme of trial excavation and geophysical survey was undertaken during 1997, the main objectives of which were to establish the nature of the postulated bath-house site and assess its state of preservation. Context numbers as they appear in the site archive and illustrations accompanying this report are given in brackets in the following text. The site archive has been retained by CPAT.

12.2 Ground Survey (fig. 16)

12.2.1 A total station survey was undertaken of the whole field behind Maes Llechau farm, which is itself now derelict although the farm buildings are still in use. The survey clearly shows a terrace up to 70m long and 36m wide, on which are slight irregular earthworks. The slope behind the terrace is cut by a small valley, now dry, near the head of which is a small level area possibly indicating a former springhead. A spring now issues some distance below the terrace, providing water for nearby farms.

12.3 Geophysical Survey

12.3.1 A magnetometer survey was undertaken in June 1997 over an area of 0.45ha (Jordan 1997). Readings were taken every 0.25m along transects 1m apart. It had been hoped that the survey would reveal structural detail which might relate to the supposed bath-house, and thereby help to determine the location of trial excavations. The results were disappointing, however, with only a small number of vague, weak linear anomalies identified. The low magnetic susceptibility of the bedrock and soil produced a very 'quiet' magnetic background, against which the strong anomalies one might expect from brick, tile or hearths would be clearly identified. No such anomalies were identified, suggesting that either burnt or brick structures were not present, or that they may be at a depth below the penetration of the survey at 1.5m. It was suggested that walls constructed of the local Devonian sandstone might have magnetic properties similar to the local geology, and therefore produce only weak anomalies. Those linear anomalies which were tentatively identified (fig. 16) were positioned at the western end of the terrace, at an angle to its axis and extending beyond its limits. As a result, it was subsequently considered unlikely that these anomalies represented any archaeological features.

12.4 Trial Excavation (fig. 16)

12.4.1 Four hand excavated trial trenches were positioned to investigate the visible earthworks in the main area of the terrace and one geophysical anomaly at the western end.

Trench A (3.0 x 1.5m)

12.4.2 Located at the western end of the terrace, the trench was positioned to investigate the linear anomaly tentatively identified by the geophysical survey. Removal of 0.18m of topsoil (1) and a further 0.16m of hillwash (2), revealed a layer of stiff silty clay (4) with angular stones. A concentration of stones in the south-east corner of the trench (3) appeared to be random, with no evidence of a structure. Layer 4 was investigated by a sondage at the western end of the trench, where it extended beyond 0.5m in depth with the quantity of stone increasing. It would seem likely that this represents the make-up of the terrace. No finds were recovered.

Trench B (2 x 2m)

12.4.3 Removal of 0.12m of topsoil (5) revealed a layer of small stones in a silty loam matrix (6) which appeared to be filling a shallow linear depression aligned roughly north-south, which was just visible from the surface. Beneath layer 6 a layer of red-brown firm sandy silt (7) extended beyond the base of the excavation. Further investigation by augering revealed the layer to be at least 0.85m thick. Neither the layers or the slight depression gave the appearance of being anything other than of natural origin.

Trench C (2 x 2m)

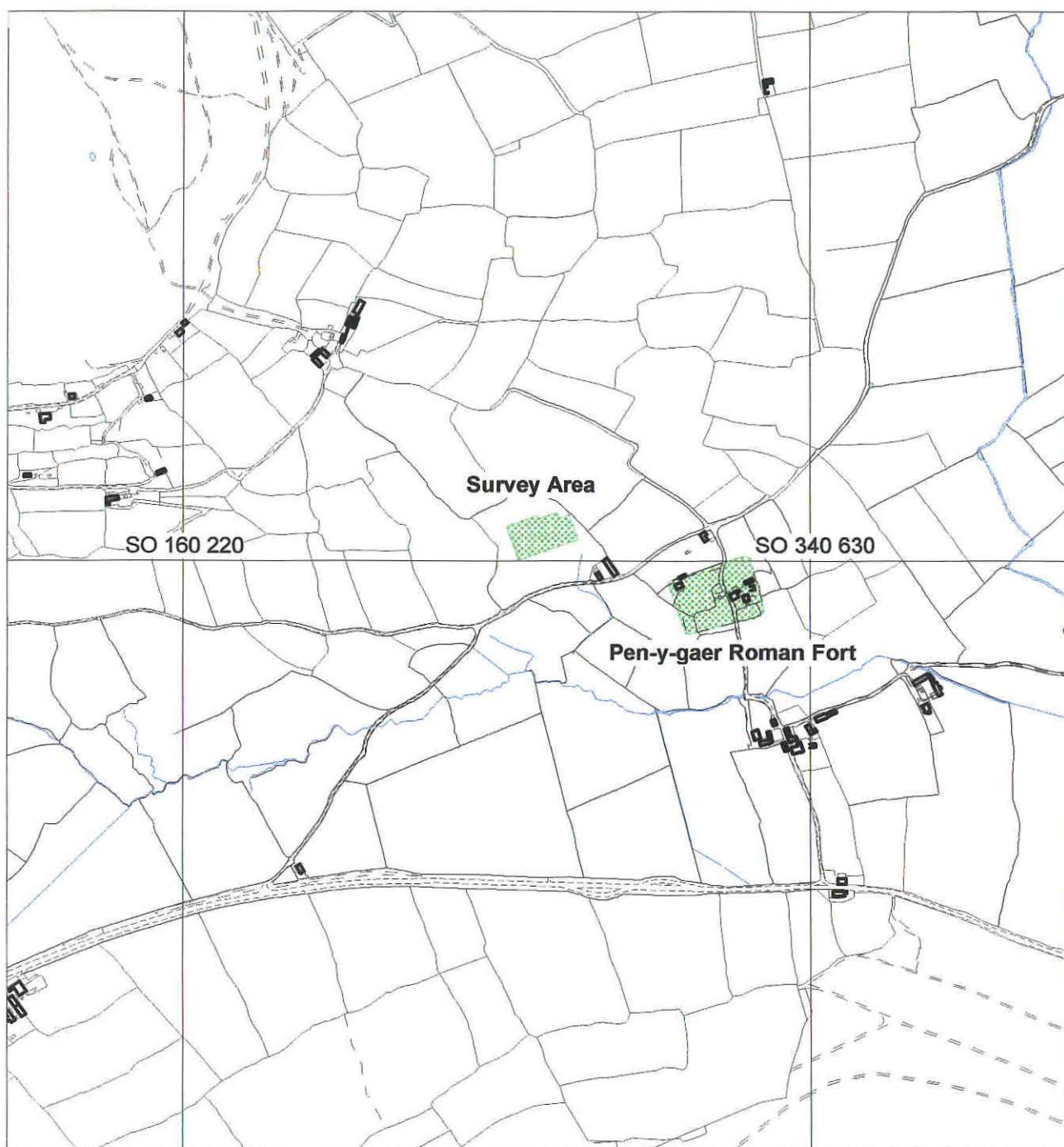
- 12.4.4 Beneath 0.14m of topsoil (8), a layer of small stones (9) 0.16m thick lay above a layer of red-brown, firm sandy silt (10). This layer extended beyond the base of the trench and was investigated further by augering, showing a thickness of at least 0.70m. The stratigraphic sequence would appear to be the same as revealed in Trench B and again no finds were recovered from any of the layers

Trench D (1.5 x 1.5m)

- 12.4.5 The removal of 0.13m of topsoil (11) revealed a layer of red-brown firm clay silt with occasional stones (12). This layer extended beyond the base of the excavation and was investigated further by augering, showing a thickness of at least 0.80m. No finds were recovered.

12.5 Discussion

- 12.5.1 Despite the evidence from the 1803 survey and the existence of a substantial apparently man-made terrace, the evaluation failed to find any evidence of archaeological features or deposits. The results from Trench A, located at the higher western end of the terrace, would appear to show that the terrace itself is composed of a solid silty clay matrix containing random stone. There was no evidence to suggest whether this was of natural or man-made origin. The results from Trenches B and C would suggest that the slight earthworks are of natural origin, possibly resulting from a spread of water-borne debris deposited by a stream flowing down the small valley to the north and across the platform, within the slight depression observed in Trench B. The lower layers in Trenches B, C and D (7, 10 and 12) seem to show a consistent deposition, possibly hillwash.
- 12.5.2 Although the terrace would appear to be that shown in the 1803 survey, the surrounding area containing no other candidates, this therefore raises questions regarding the nature of those reported discoveries. Unfortunately, there is no published account of the circumstances under which the discoveries were made, or an indication of the depth of deposits. It would seem improbable that excavations were undertaken at this location without some previous discovery having been made. One possibility which might be considered relates to the spring which now issues some distance below the platform. The topography and evidence from the excavations would suggest that at some point a stream flowed down the shallow valley to the north and across terrace. It is possible that some works were undertaken to improve the water supply, during which the reported discoveries were made. However, this remains unsubstantiated.



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Fig. 15 Pen-y-gaer location, scale 1:10,000



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Fig. 16 Pen-y-gaer geophysical survey and excavation, scale 1:1,000

13 CONCLUSIONS

- 13.1 The review of existing data for Roman civil settlement has revealed more about the state of current knowledge than the likely extent and patterns of settlement. With so few potential sites recorded it is clear that the record contains major deficiencies due to lack of evidence. The sites which are recorded tend to be those which are either associated with military sites (ie *vici*), chance finds, or the results of aerial reconnaissance. The occurrence of cropmarks is generally limited to the major valleys where a broad floodplain, often on river gravels, is now largely under arable cultivation, the areas surrounding Walton and Presteigne being the most notable. This in part explains the general lack of similar sites recorded elsewhere, but also suggests a second trend. It would seem likely that during the Romano-British period, as today, these floodplains presented the most desirable agricultural land and were, therefore, the areas most likely to be settled. As this situation has persisted through the centuries, agriculture has gradually removed all visible earthwork evidence for Roman civil settlement, leaving us to rely on cropmarks and chance discoveries.
- 13.2 The study area contains no known Roman civil towns, and it is likely that the only sizeable settlements were *vici* associated with the important auxiliary forts of Brecon Gaer, Castell Collen, Caerau and Hindwell. Although other forts may also have had some form of extra-mural settlement, there is currently no evidence to support this. Until at least the Hadrianic period the area fell under direct military rule, and it is possible that this situation continued throughout the Roman period (RCAHMW 1986, 179). It would seem probable that with the exception of the *vici*, much of the population was rural and dependent on agriculture. The study area contains only one villa, at Maesderwen, Llanfrynach, and although other discoveries may be forthcoming it is likely that the majority of the rural population occupied farmsteads, some possibly in small groups, together with small defended enclosures such as that at Broad Heath.
- 13.3 The results from the series of trial excavations have provided new evidence regarding the nature and dating of those sites investigated. The Broad Heath enclosure would seem to be a civilian settlement of late 2nd to 4th century date, with evidence for further, probably associated activities within the surrounding area, including possible metal working. The site of the bath-house and suspected villa at Maesderwen has proved elusive, although the excavations have revealed the partial plan of a building and tentatively suggested the location of the bath-house. The excavations have demonstrated that significant Roman remains lie within the area and it must be presumed that further evidence survives within the immediate vicinity. The evaluation of the supposed bath-house at Pen-y-gaer provided no evidence for any structure or occupation within the limited areas investigated, although it is possible that features may have been buried beneath a substantial depth of hillwash.

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APPENDIX 1**SITE ARCHIVE****MAESDERWEN**

10 A4 site drawings

209 Context record forms (nos 1-62 and 100-146)

Black and white neg films/contacts and archive prints: 599, 600, 677, 678

Colour slide films: CS97/34, CS97/35, CS97/60

Photographic catalogue

EDM Survey

ACAD Drawings

Geophysical Survey Report: Barker, P., 1993. *Geophysical Survey of Maesderwen Roman Villa, Llanfrynach*.

Finds

263 sherds (5049g) Romano-British Pottery

21 frags Ironwork

497 frags (17952g) Brick/Tile/Daub

30 sherds modern pottery

181 frags (34035g) slag

27 frags fired/vitrified clay

1 flint

17 frags modern glass

3 frags slate

4 frags stone

4 frags clay pipe

11 frags animal bone

Finds catalogues and specialist reports

BROAD HEATH

7 A4 site drawings

47 Context record forms

Black and white neg films/contacts and archive prints: films 608-611

Colour slide films: CS97/22, CS97/39, CS97/40, CS97/41

Photographic catalogue

EDM Survey

ACAD Drawings

Geophysical Survey Report: Barker, P., 1997. *Geophysical Survey at Broad Heath, Presteigne*.

Finds

176 sherds (3975g) Romano-British Pottery

33 bags Soil Samples

1 sherd Bronze Age pottery

2 sherds medieval pottery

4 sherds post medieval pottery

3 frags glass

Finds catalogues and specialist reports

PEN-Y-GAER

3 A4 site drawings

12 Context record forms

Black and white neg films/contacts and archive prints: 592, 608

Colour slide films: CS97/22, CS97/34, CS97/35, CS97/39

Photographic catalogue

EDM Survey

ACAD Drawings

Geophysical Survey Report: Jordan, D., 1997. *Geophysical Survey at Pen-y-Gaer, Cwmdu*.

APPENDIX 2: GAZETTEER OF SITES BY TYPE

PRN	Grid ref	Site name
Bath-house		
316	SO25706032	Hindwell Fort Bath House {S}
610	SO06922584	Maesderwen Roman Bath-house
6341	SO056627	Castell Collen Bath House {S}
33875	SO16582208	Pen y Gaer Fort Bath house
33876	SO00292978	Brecon Gaer Fort Bath house
867	SN92505024	Caerau Fort Bath House {S}
Building		
35177	SO06922584	Maesderwen Mausoleum
Cemetery		
3497	SN9217	Corse y Beddau Cemetery
80118	SN83751601	Ogof-yr-esgryn Roman cemetery
Enclosure		
4225	SO23346011	Garden House enclosure
5133	SO25285970	Walton cropmark I
5137	SO25026009	Summergeil Bridge enclosure
5138	SO34787241	Heartsease Enclosure
6121	SO26215979	Walton Green cropmark II
7116	SO26786000	Walton Green enclosure
19427	SO26415987	Walton Green cropmark III
19428	SO26615994	Walton Green cropmark IV
23280	SO340635	Broad Heath Romano-British enclosure
33127	SO25176005	Walton triangular enclosure
33134	SO26155977	Walton Green cropmark
Find		
258	SN97616814	Rhayader Find I
262	SN95836676	Neuadd Find
319	SO3164	Presteigne High Street Find
324	SO338635	Broadheath Roman Find
526	SO179385	Coed y Polyn Settlement
746	SN8630	Maesgwyn Find
837	SN9313	Ystradfellte Find
856	SN92204860	Dol y Gaer Find
956	SO060624	Llandrindod Waterworks Finds
1017	SO13028000	Trefoel Hill Finds
1027	SO16238395	Turgy Finds
1059	SO202230	Pen Gloch y Pibwr Find
1101	SO181787	Rhoshay Finds I
1130	SO23407030	Cribyn Llwyd Finds
1134	SO28657233	Knighton Station Road) Find
1138	SO264704	Gwernafel Excavation Finds
1140	SO268707	Gwernafel Find
1970	SO18607982	Beguildy Church House Finds
2014	SO00826790	Neuadd Lwyd Find I
2054	SO063616	Llanfawr Quarry Find
3332	SO0514	Dol y Gaer Find
3341	SO13871985	Dan y Graig Lock Find
3506	SO18007150	Maylord Farm Find
3564	SN9878	Bryn Hir Find
4142	SO24325799	Dolyhir Finds
4183	SO25352890	Blaen y Cwm Find
4213	SO1467	Dolau Find
4385	SN86953003	Llywel Church (St David) quern

5273	SO195765	Fron Meadow Find
5692	SO0428	Brecon Find I
5699	SO0428	Brecon Find II
5830	SO1533	Talgarth Find
5874	SN920499	Llwyn Cadwgan Find
6118	SN98123296	Cilgwyn Find II
17534	SN972678	Rhayader Find (quern II)
17535	SO029677	Nantmel Llwyn Farm Find
17615	SN83751601	Dan yr Ogof Roman Coins
17616	SO0725	Llanfrynach Roman Coins
17618	SO00332966	Brecon Gaer Roman Coins
19397	SO229432	Hay-on-Wye Find
33819	SO0562	Castell Collen metal detector find
35029	SO08686426	Church House Farm Coins
35080	SO00452957	Brecon Gaer Roman pit

Fort

315	SO25796058	Hindwell Fort {S}
430	SO22824347	Clyro Fort {S}
598	SO00332966	Brecon Gaer Fort {S}
658	SO16862195	Pen y Gaer Fort {S}
1150	SO01866655	Gaer Dolau Fort
1159	SO05626285	Castell Collen Fort {S}
50273	SO10695392	Colwyn Castle Roman Fort
50469	SN92405020	Caerau Roman Fort {S}
404	SO17434177	Gaer Fort
804	SN877404	Caerau Fort
855	SN92024992	Llwyn Cadwgan Fort
2278	SO092725	Ysgwd Ffordd Enclosure
5241	SO2872	Knighton Fort
5275	SO23701710	Cwrt y Gollen Fort
50321	SO19034073	Llowes Fort

Hoard

266	SN97356573	Carreg Gwynion Find
571	SN9227	Devynock Hoard
5827	SO1834	Ty Du Coin Hoard
854	SN936473	Llangammarch Wells Station Hoard

Metal working site

520	SO17113724	Gwernyfed Bloomery
701	SO2117	Llangattock Bloomeries
80116	SO06922585	Maesderwen Roman metalworking site

Occupation site

17229	SO06886126	Capel Maelog pits
50296	SO16634612	Painscastle Castle Mosaic pavement {S}
50377	SO17543767	Aberllynfi Gaer (Romano-British finds)
72158	SO252742	Knucklas Romano-British occupation
80119	SN83751601	Ogof-yr-esgyrn Roman occupation

Tomb

468	SO00513215	Battle Fawr Tombstone
595	SO0029	Brecon Gaer Tombstone; Maen y Morwynion Tombstone

Vicus

5891	SN922502	Caerau Fort Vicus {S}
39814	SO05606280	Castell Collen Vicus
39815	SO00302970	Brecon Gaer Vicus
80117	SO25856050	Hindwell Fort vicus

Villa

17808 SO06922585 Maesderwen Roman Villa