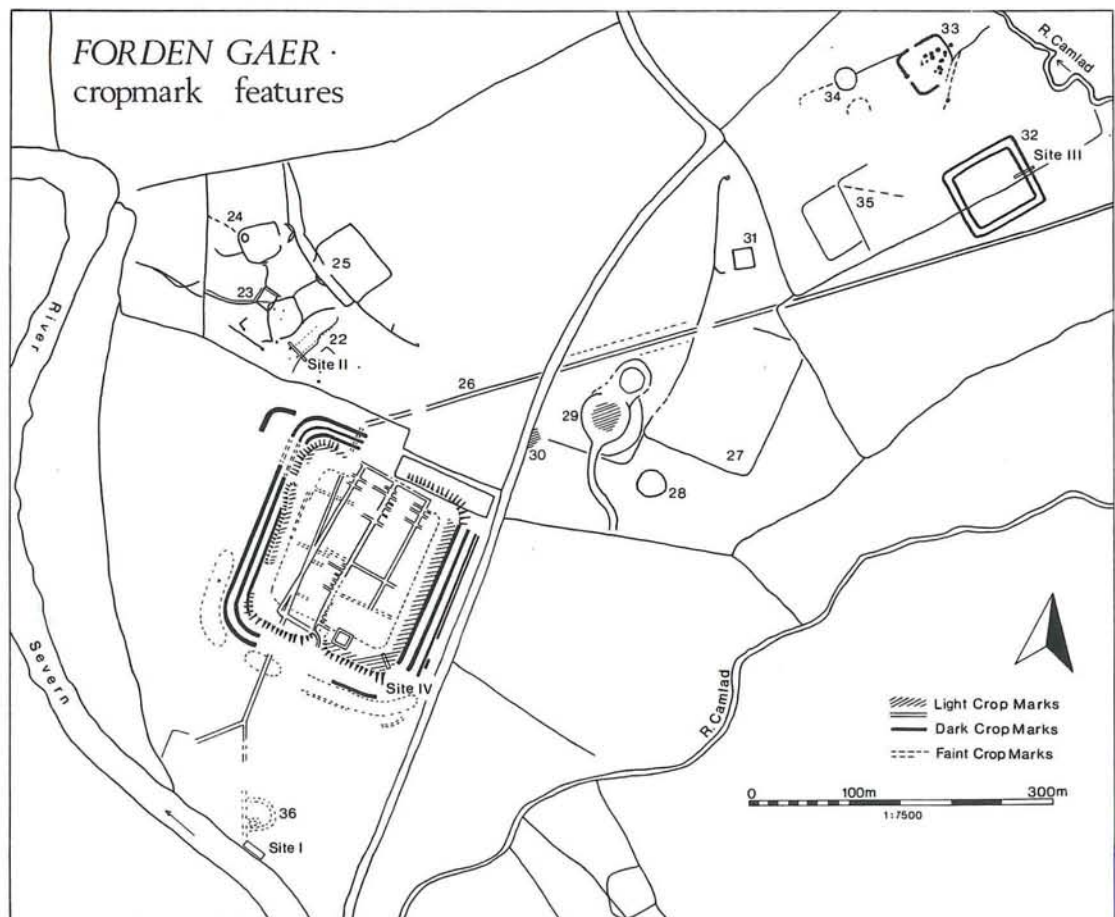


# Roman Military Sites in Mid and North-East Wales

## A Scoping Study



# **Roman Military Sites in Mid and North-East Wales**

## **A Scoping Study**

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Report for Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments

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Roman Military Sites ordered by Site Type

Roman Military Sites ordered by Name

Gazetteer of sites

## **Roman Military Sites in Central and North-East Wales**

### **A Scoping Study**

#### ***1 Introduction***

Over the last two and a half years, the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been involved in an assessment of the Roman roads that are known or thought to have traversed the region. Probably for the first time this has enabled a detailed picture of the intricate network of suggested road lines to emerge, the results from the desk-top analysis being presented in a report in early 2003 (Silvester and Owen 2003). Fieldwork is currently in progress to identify good surviving sections of road which might be given statutory protection.

The study of Roman military sites in the region is seen as a natural progression from that of Roman roads. The two are intimately associated for most of the major routes were established during the military occupation of Wales, even if they continued to be used for subsequent civil traffic. And rather like the roads, considerable effort has been expended on a range of known and putative military sites, much of it sporadic and not always finding its way into a finished publication.

Roman military activity must be anticipated throughout the region, if only because the military must have used eastern Wales as a corridor to be traversed for access to the western parts of the country. But the identification of known military foci is far from even, and more such sites must await discovery.

It was agreed with Cadw that as a next stage in the programme a scoping study should be conducted 'to define an extension to the project which would examine the related Roman forts and their *vici* under the heading of Roman Military Landscapes, bringing [the] Trust's project into line with those conducted by some other Trusts' (*CPAT Application for Grant Aid to Cadw, 2003/04*).

#### ***2 Background***

The regional Sites and Monuments Record contains well over 300 entries that relate directly or indirectly to military sites. A fair proportion of these are individual find spots, but more importantly in the present context, there is a range of records, of variable quality and brevity, referring to forts, fortlets, temporary camps, practice camps, works depots, *vici* and bath houses.

The scoping study has examined these records and attempted a preliminary rationalisation of the available data. It has sought to distinguish the well-known sites from those where the evidence is equivocal or ambivalent and suggests potential approaches to all these sites. What follows is a general assessment of the various categories of site and this is followed by a gazetteer of individual sites with information culled from the SMR. No attempt has been made to access original records or published reports, and full descriptive statements on individual sites were not considered to form a product of the study. While it is convenient to treat individually different types of site, in practice it may not necessarily be sensible to separate forts and their *vici*.

#### ***3 The Forts***

Thirteen Roman forts have been confirmed in the region, a figure that includes the two forts at Caersws and the putative fort at St Asaph which is generally agreed to have existed although no



substantive traces of it have ever come to light. In addition there are perhaps fifteen 'sites' where forts have been proposed, but where the evidence is either equivocal or where a later authority has attempted to disprove the fort's existence.

The remarkable, recent geophysical work in north-west Wales (Hopewell 2003) and at Dinefwr near Llandeilo (Carmarthenshire) has indicated just how much can be achieved in terms of plan recovery by non-interventionist techniques when soil and climatic conditions are right. From an academic viewpoint the use of geophysics can be justified for virtually every known Roman fort in the region as a mechanism for better understanding the internal layout of any particular fort and perhaps, too, for confirming the line of the defences. However, other than in exceptional circumstances - Forden Gaer (PRN 162) might be a case in principle, and also the enigmatic site of Caer Noddfa (PRN 919), while so little is known about Clyro fort (PRN 430) that any additional data would be useful - it is perhaps more difficult to justify the use of scarce resources on known fort sites which are already covered by statutory designations. Where, though there are uncertainties about the extent of a fort or its annexes, geophysics may have a fundamental role to play.

Occasionally, the data available for a particular fort are diverse as a result of episodic aerial photography, fieldwork, evaluation and even excavation, over a number of years. It is suggested that for some forts - Pen y Gaer (Brecs; PRN 658), for instance - the information should be pulled together to produce a more coherent picture, not necessarily in terms of the sort of detailed report that might result from say an excavation, but rather an overview of the current state of knowledge. In this respect the composite plans that already exist for Castell Collen (Britnell *et al* 1999, fig 2) and the admittedly out of date Caersws II (Jones 1993, fig 2) provide useful templates for what could be achieved elsewhere.

The list of uncertain forts is substantial and in most cases both the original identification and the subsequent dismissal go back several decades, while the current SMR record is frequently inadequate for an objective assessment to be made. The Clawdd Coch Roman fort near Llanymynech (Monts; PRN 21) and the putative marching camp of the same name (PRN 45908) represent a different situation. Examined by the late Barri Jones in the 1990s, the information on these sites has never properly entered the public domain (see also Sections 8 and 9, below). The Military Landscape Project arguably offers the best and perhaps only opportunity to assess all these data. This in turn might lead to further more detailed work, and would certainly enhance the regional SMR.

The extent of fort areas currently scheduled is an aspect that does require attention. Even a cursory examination on plan of the 'scheduling envelope' around Brecon Gaer (PRN 598) plainly shows that a portion of the fort defences on the east side inexplicably seem to fall outside the protected area. Two possible forts are scheduled: Caer Noddfa (Monts; PRN 919) *in toto* and part of the proposed fort at Prestatyn (Flints; PRN 101416). Both are in different ways atypical of the main group of unconfirmed forts.

*Table 1: Recommendations for future work on Roman forts*

	Forts	Possible forts
Total numbers	13	16
Scheduled site (whole or in part)	11	2
Geophysics	6	1
Assessment of available data	6	12
Scheduling/management assessment	2	
All evaluation opportunities	1	2



#### 4 The fortlets

A much smaller number of fortlets than forts have been identified in the region. Most will have had some specialist function. Harpton (Rads; PRN 34055), for instance, has been claimed as a signal station relating to the fort at Hindwell, while Penycrocbren (Monts; PRN 1378) has usually been considered to relate to local lead mining, there even being some doubt about its military origin.

Several sites - Penycrocbren, Gibbet Hill (Monts; PRN 106) and Pen Min Cae (Rads; PRN 1613) - have been known for many years, and further work at this stage seems unnecessary, although geophysics of Gibbet Hill might be productive, given that the date of this site has still not been satisfactorily established. Three sites, however, would benefit from an assessment of all the existing relevant data.

Table 2: Recommendations for future work on Roman fortlets

	Fortlets	Possible fortlets
Total numbers	4	1
Scheduled site (whole or in part)	3	
Geophysics	1	
Assessment of available data	2	1
Scheduling/management assessment	1	
All evaluation opportunities		

#### 5 The Vici

It can probably be assumed that all but the shortest-lived forts witnessed the development of *vici* around them. In some cases those *vici* may have survived as functioning entities only as long as the fort itself was occupied, but elsewhere a well-established *vicus* may have developed a life independent of the fort.

Inevitably, the *vicus* was not a fixed entity. It developed and contracted through time, and its limits were rarely if ever defined, other than by a natural barrier such as a river. Defining the overall spatial extent of a *vicus* can thus only be achieved through a considerable amount of work, using various techniques, while confirming its date range will be down almost entirely to excavation. Rarely – and Caerau (Brechs; PRN 5891) appears to be an exception here – do surface traces indicate the presence of a *vicus*. Furthermore, there are other extra-mural military elements that may be intercalated with the civilian features of a typical *vicus*. The military bath house, and the fort cemeteries immediately come to mind.

Caersws, specifically, is a fort where much information on the associated *vicus* has accumulated over many years, as a result of developments in the modern village on the site, while limited work at Brecon Gaer (Brechs; PRN 39815), Castell Collen (Rads; 39814) and Forden Gaer has demonstrated the presence of civilian settlement, even though its extent and often its date range remain uncertain.

The fort at Hindwell (Rads; PRN 80117) has demonstrated the potential for geophysical survey of *vici* in the region, matching the results from the north-west of Wales, and there has been limited work elsewhere, as at Castell Collen. Geophysics is at present, then, the most potentially significant mechanism for enhancing our understanding of *vici*, both where such civilian settlements have already been identified, and also where at present they can only be suspected.

The prevalence of Roman material and features from the environs of all the known “*vicus*-less” forts and those forts that are suspected but not proven should also be assessed, in conjunction with all available aerial photography.

Table 3: Recommendations for future work on Roman *vici*

	Nos
Total number of forts and possible forts	13 + 16
Known evidence of associated <i>vicus</i>	6
Geophysics on known <i>vici</i>	4
Geophysics on suspected <i>vici</i>	2
Assessment of available data	23
Scheduling/management assessment	3

## 6 Bath houses

The bath houses associated with forts have in the past often been more fully examined than the interiors of the forts themselves. Two fort bath houses are relatively well known - Castell Collen (PRN 6341) and Caersws II (PRN 17263) - while the positions of Hindwell (PRN 316) and Brecon Gaer is attested by typical building materials, and excavated remains respectively, and those at Caerau and Pen y Gaer are suspected but not confirmed. In addition the bath house associated with the works depot at Holt (PRN 101251, but see PRN 101249) was excavated many years ago, and that at Melyd Avenue, Prestatyn (PRN 33853) is also assumed to be associated with an otherwise as yet ill-defined fort.

No specific recommendations are made for bath houses. Generally speaking they fall in areas within or close to forts’ *vici*, and the recommendations proposed for fuller assessment of the evidence for the *vici* would encapsulate the bath houses.

## 7 Marching Camps and Practice Camps

A significant number of marching camps have been recognised over the years in east and north-east, although as the very recent discovery of the fine earthworks of Pen Plaenau marching camp (PRN 85694) in the Berwyn Mountains demonstrate, others undoubtedly await detection. Twelve examples are known, including the Y Pigwn Marching Camps (Brecks; PRN 800) where one is superimposed on top of another. A further nine marching camps have been proposed, the evidence of varying credibility.

The distribution of practice camps in the region is dominated by the numerous small examples on Llandrindod Common (Rads; PRN 1086) which are associated with the fort at Castell Collen. One camp has been suggested at Aberyscir (Brecks; PRN 6039) near Brecon Gaer, and another on a different area of common land near Llandrindod Wells (Rads; PRN 7045) but both of these await confirmation.

Both of these types of temporary camp are currently being studied by Dr J Davies of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth with a view to a publication that will match that produced by English Heritage for the total stock of English examples a few years ago. In the circumstances it would thus



be premature to recommend any detailed recording or elucidation of these sites until that work is complete. However, an assessment of all of the unscheduled sites, using the scheduled examples as a yardstick should be undertaken. At present seven of the twelve known marching camps are scheduled, less than 60% of the known stock of a relatively rare monument type, while two of those examples awaiting final confirmation are also protected.

## **8 Works and Supply Depots**

There are two such sites known in the region. Of these the best known is undoubtedly Holt, on the Dee above Chester, which served the XXth legion stationed at the legionary fortress there. Much more poorly known is the supply base at Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain (Meliniog), which was examined by the late Barri Jones in the 1980s (Monts; PRN 5117). Other than occasional notes, little of this has appeared in print.

Various attempts have been made to re-commence work at Holt in the last decade or two, but without success, although it is believed that Wrexham County Borough's archaeologist is attempting to promote further geophysics on the site. What is clear is that although Holt is a well-established site in the literature, its potential is far from exhausted and probably not all of the site is statutorily protected. It is recommended that the proposals for further work put forward by CPAT some years ago be re-visited with a view to ascertaining what might be practicable on this site in the immediate future.

The base at Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain presents a different set of problems. Together with two other sites examined by Professor Jones (see Section 9, below), the information that is available from a potentially significant set of excavations is apparently both meager and dispersed. It seems unlikely that, at least as far as we can ascertain, anyone in the academic world will work on Professor Jones' admittedly sparse archive in the foreseeable future, and it is therefore recommended that as a matter of some urgency an attempt is made to correlate the data that are available to produce a discursive report on this and his other sites. It must be stressed that CPAT does not believe that it would be possible to produce a conventional and full excavation report on any of the sites from the surviving documentation.

## **9 Other sites**

The remaining sites form a heterogeneous collection. The Abertanat Roman Camp (Monts; PRN 17492) is classed as a siegeworks but like Barri Jones' other work at Clawdd Coch and Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain (above), the details of his work there in the 1990s remain vague. The Howey Hall blockhouse (Rads; PRN 1083) is an old discovery and how much credence should be attached to it remains unclear. Much the same can be said about the Maes Gwastad platform near Welshpool (Monts; PRN 5643), the Emral Hall earthwork in Maelor (Flints; PRN 100191) and two sites classed as non-antiquities on the basis of Ordnance Survey observations on earlier aerial photographic identifications, the Bush Wood enclosure (Rads; PRN 2273) and the so-called Heol y Gaer fort (Brecs; PRN 3420). There is also a possibility that a temporary construction camp has been signalled by the presence of a large military-style ditch immediately to the east of Caersws fort II (Jones 1993, 41). This early feature has yet to be adequately explained but the view that it housed and protected troops constructing the more permanent structures within the fort is an attractive one. Finally there is no doubt about the authenticity of the Roman site at Ffrith (Denbs; PRN 100020), but it remains an anomaly because of the quantity of military roof tiles on what is otherwise a civilian site.

In all these cases it is recommended that a re-assessment of the available evidence be conducted.



## ***10 Summary conclusions***

In summary the following recommendations are made:

- a discursive report be prepared on the three sites excavated by Professor Jones in northern Powys, based on published summaries and the very limited archives
- that geophysical survey be conducted on an agreed number of *vici*, as part of a rolling programme over several years
- that an assessment be undertaken of the known evidence for each of the possible forts and other potential military sites
- that the general map of all known features and archaeological interventions in Caersws be updated, and similar maps be prepared for Forden Gaer and Pen y Gaer, making full use of GIS technology.
- that an assessment of the agricultural threat to Forden Gaer be prepared.
- that the scheduled areas of some sites, particularly forts, be re-assessed in the light of current evidence.

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### *The Gazetteer - Introduction*

The gazetteer provides brief details of each known military site within the region. Brief descriptions are followed by references where these are readily available and also a statement of the scheduled status of the monument. Finally, there is a brief comment on recommendations. All references can be traced in the previous section of the report.

The gazetteer is ordered by site type and is preceded by a two lists, one giving the order of sites by site type, the other list by site name.



# **Roman Military Sites ordered by Site Type**

<i>Site Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>NGR</i>
Bath house	Caersws Fort II, bath house	17263	SO02929198
Bath house	Castell Collen Fort, bath house	6341	SO056627
Bath house	Hindwell Fort, bath house	316	SO25706032
Blockhouse	Howey Hall, blockhouse	1083	SO04705875
Defended enclosure	Caer Noddfa Fort	919	SN96269656
Depot	Holt Roman site	101249	SJ404546
Depot	Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain Suppl	5117	SJ22822061
Fair ?	Maes Gwastad Platform	5643	SJ22290701
Fort	Brecon Gaer fort	598	SO00332966
Fort	Cae Gaer Fort	230	SN82368189
Fort	Caerau Fort	50469	SN92405020
Fort	Caersws Fort I (Llwynybrain)	1575	SO04009250
Fort	Caersws Fort II	772	SO02929198
Fort	Castell Collen Fort	1159	SO0558462866
Fort	Clyro Fort	430	SO22824347
Fort	Colwyn Castle, Roman Fort	50273	SO1074253967
Fort	Forden Gaer, Roman fort	162	SO20809890
Fort	Gaer Dolau Fort	1150	SO01866655
Fort	Hindwell Fort	315	SO2579660582
Fort	Pen y Gaer Fort	658	SO16862195
Fort	Varis Roman fort	70922	SJ0374
Fort ?	Caer Crwyn possible fort	101392	SJ0643
Fort ?	Caerau Fort	804	SN877404
Fort ?	Clawdd Coch Roman Fort	21	SJ24822024
Fort ?	Cwrt y Gollen Fort	5275	SO23701710
Fort ?	Glanmilheli Fort	1051	SO157901
Fort ?	Hendidley Fort	5136	SO09739202
Fort ?	Howey Hall Fort	5271	SO04905857
Fort ?	Knighton Fort	5241	SO2872
Fort ?	Llwyn Cadwgan Fort	855	SN92024992
Fort ?	Prestatyn, Fforddisa Roman Site	101416	SJ05908210
Fort ?	Rhuallt, possible fort	72001	SJ078752
Fort ?	Ruthin Roman fort	17317	SJ130582
Fort ?	Ysgwd Ffordd Enclosure	2278	SO092725
Fort?	Llowes Fort	50321	SO1905640726
Fortlet	Gibbet Hill Fortlet	106	SJ10570440
Fortlet	Harpton signal Station	34055	SO235602
Fortlet	Pen Min Cae Fort	1613	SO0053753956
Fortlet	Penycrocbren Fortlet	1378	SN85609349
Fortlet ?	Llwyn Y Rhwd Enclosure	7128	SO16318825
Fulling mill ?	Emral Hall Earthwork	100191	SJ42144430
Marching camp	Bryn Tanat earthwork	17910	SJ24302120
Marching camp	Cefn Perfedd marching camp	826	SN923163
Marching camp	Esgair Perfedd marching camp	728	SN9237069916
Marching camp	Hindwell marching camp I	313	SO2502060810
Marching camp	Maendy fort	868	SN920508
Marching Camp	Pen Plaenau marching camp	85694	SJ11113632
Marching camp	Penrhos Roman camp	102689	SJ042427
Marching camp	Pigwn marching camps	800	SN82803123
Marching camp	T'yn-y-wern marching camp	17008	SJ126567
Marching camp	Walton marching camp I	370	SO2552759938
Marching camp	Walton marching camp II	371	SO2533559901
Marching camp	Walton marching camp III	372	SO2515059860
Marching camp ?	Clawdd Coch cropmark	4598	SJ25202017

<i>Site Type</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>NGR</i>
Marching camp ?	Clyro Boatside Farm marching ca	436	SO225430
Marching camp ?	Court Farm cropmark I	5291	SO2521960008
Marching camp ?	Cwm Nant marching camp	727	SN9851771744
Marching camp ?	Dolwen fort	726	SN99148518
Marching camp ?	Forden Gaer, cropmark	5040	SO20969882
Marching camp ?	Forden Gaer, Thornbury marching	5038	SO21209912
Marching camp ?	Hindwell marching camp II	710	SO25286040
Marching camp ?	Nantmel marching camp	17486	SO021681
Multiple site	Ffrith Roman site	100020	SJ28575529
Non antiquity	Bush Wood enclosure	2273	SO26176471
Non antiquity	Heol y Gaer fort	3420	SO184392
Occupation site	Painscastle Castle, mosaic pave	50296	SO1664346154
Practice camp	Llandrindod Common, Practice Ca	1086	SO05556155
Practice camp ?	Aberyscir Practice Camp	6039	SO000298
Practice camp ?	Llandrindod Golf Course Earthwo	7045	SO07425994
Siegework ?	Abertanat Roman Camp	17492	SJ248214
Vicus	Brecon Gaer Vicus	39815	SO00302970
Vicus	Caerau Fort, vicus	5891	SN922502
Vicus	Caersws Vicus	5869	SO0391
Vicus	Castell Collen Vicus	39814	SO055627
Vicus	Forden Gaer fort, vicus	4872	SO207987
Vicus	Hindwell Fort, vicus	80117	SO25856050



# **Roman Military Sites ordered by Name**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Site Type</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>NGR</i>
Abertanat Roman Camp	Siege work ?	17492	SJ248214
Aberyscir Practice Camp	Practice camp ?	6039	SO000298
Brecon Gaer fort	Fort	598	SO00332966
Brecon Gaer Vicus	Vicus	39815	SO00302970
Bryn Tanat earthwork	Marching camp	17910	SJ24302120
Bush Wood enclosure	Non antiquity	2273	SO26176471
Cae Gaer Fort	Fort	230	SN82368189
Caer Crwyn possible fort	Fort ?	101392	SJ0643
Caer Noddfa Fort	Defended enclosure	919	SN96269656
Caerau Fort	Fort	50469	SN92405020
Caerau Fort	Fort ?	804	SN877404
Caerau Fort, vicus	Vicus	5891	SN922502
Caersws Fort I (Llwynybrain)	Fort	1575	SO04009250
Caersws Fort II	Fort	772	SO02929198
Caersws Fort II, bath house	Bath house	17263	SO02929198
Caersws Vicus	Vicus	5869	SO0391
Castell Collen Fort	Fort	1159	SO0558462866
Castell Collen Fort, bath house	Bath house	6341	SO056627
Castell Collen Vicus	Vicus	39814	SO055627
Cefn Perfedd marching camp	Marching camp	826	SN923163
Clawdd Coch cropmark	Marching camp ?	4598	SJ25202017
Clawdd Coch Roman Fort	Fort ?	21	SJ24822024
Clyro Boatside Farm marching ca	Marching camp ?	436	SO225430
Clyro Fort	Fort	430	SO22824347
Colwyn Castle, Roman Fort	Fort	50273	SO1074253967
Court Farm cropmark I	Marching camp ?	5291	SO2521960008
Cwm Nant marching camp	Marching camp ?	727	SN9851771744
Cwrt y Gollen Fort	Fort ?	5275	SO23701710
Dolwen fort	Marching camp ?	726	SN99148518
Emral Hall Earthwork	Fulling mill ?	100191	SJ42144430
Esgair Perfedd marching camp	Marching camp	728	SN9237069916
Ffrith Roman site	Multiple site	100020	SJ28575529
Forden Gaer fort, vicus	Vicus	4872	SO207987
Forden Gaer, cropmark	Marching camp ?	5040	SO20969882
Forden Gaer, Roman fort	Fort	162	SO20809890
Forden Gaer, Thornbury marching	Marching camp ?	5038	SO21209912
Gaer Dolau Fort	Fort	1150	SO01866655
Gibbet Hill Fortlet	Fortlet	106	SJ10570440
Glanmilheli Fort	Fort ?	1051	SO157901
Harpton signal Station	Fortlet	34055	SO235602
Hendidley Fort	Fort ?	5136	SO09739202
Heol y Gaer fort	Non antiquity	3420	SO184392
Hindwell Fort	Fort	315	SO2579660582
Hindwell Fort, bath house	Bath house	316	SO25706032
Hindwell Fort, vicus	Vicus	80117	SO25856050
Hindwell marching camp I	Marching camp	313	SO2502060810
Hindwell marching camp II	Marching camp ?	710	SO25286040
Holt Roman site	Depot	101249	SJ404546
Howey Hall Fort	Fort ?	5271	SO04905857
Howey Hall, blockhouse	Blockhouse	1083	SO04705875
Knighton Fort	Fort ?	5241	SO2872
Llandrindod Common, Practice Ca	Practice camp	1086	SO05556155
Llandrindod Golf Course Earthwo	Practice camp ?	7045	SO07425994
Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain Suppl	Depot	5117	SJ22822061

<i>Name</i>	<i>Site Type</i>	<i>PRN</i>	<i>NGR</i>
Llowes Fort	Fort?	50321	SO1905640726
Llwyn Cadwgan Fort	Fort ?	855	SN92024992
Llwyn Y Rhwd Enclosure	Fortlet ?	7128	SO16318825
Maendy fort	Marching camp	868	SN920508
Maes Gwastad Platform	Fair ?	5643	SJ22290701
Nantmel marching camp	Marching camp ?	17486	SO021681
Painscastle Castle, mosaic pave	Occupation site	50296	SO1664346154
Pen Min Cae Fort	Fortlet	1613	SO0053753956
Pen Plaenau marching camp	Marching Camp	85694	SJ11113632
Pen y Gaer Fort	Fort	658	SO16862195
Penrhos Roman camp	Marching camp	102689	SJ042427
Penycrocbren Fortlet	Fortlet	1378	SN85609349
Pigwn marching camps	Marching camp	800	SN82803123
Prestatyn, Fforddisa Roman Site	Fort ?	101416	SJ05908210
Rhuallt, possible fort	Fort ?	72001	SJ078752
Ruthin Roman fort	Fort ?	17317	SJ130582
T'yn-y-wern marching camp	Marching camp	17008	SJ126567
Varis Roman fort	Fort	70922	SJ0374
Walton marching camp I	Marching camp	370	SO2552759938
Walton marching camp II	Marching camp	371	SO2533559901
Walton marching camp III	Marching camp	372	SO2515059860
Ysgwd Ffordd Enclosure	Fort ?	2278	SO092725

## Roman Military Sites

*Name:* **Caersws Fort II, bath house**

*Site Type:* **Bath house**

*PRN:* **17263**

*NGR:* **SO02929198**

### *Description*

Excavation of a bath house outside the fort known as Caersws II dated the structure to the 1st century (Flavian period).

### *Work/references*

Undated excavations by D Davies (Jones 1993, 90).

Geophysics in 1993 revealed anomalies which could be interpreted as wall foundations and a possible floor (Barker 1993; Jones 1993, 64; Burnham 1994, 248).

### *Status*

Not scheduled.

### *Recommendations*

None recommended.

*Name:* **Castell Collen Fort, bath house**

*Site Type:* **Bath house**

*PRN:* **6341**

*NGR:* **SO056627**

### *Description*

A bath-house outside and to the south of the Roman fort was found in 1955 and subsequently excavated to reveal hot rooms, a large apodyterium and a long latrine. Several structural phases were apparent.

### *Work/references*

Excavation in 1955-7.

### *Status*

Site included within the fort schedule (Rd001).

### *Recommendations*

None recommended

*Name:* **Hindwell Fort, bath house**

*Site Type:* **Bath house**

*PRN:* **316**

*NGR:* **SO25706032**

### *Description*

The probable site of extra-mural bath-house is attested by finds including flue and hypocaust tiles and an artificial clay basin.



*Work/references*

Finds in 1956 and 1969.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

General assessment of Hindwell fort and its environs.

*Name:* **Howey Hall, blockhouse**

*Site Type:* **Blockhouse**

*PRN:* **1083**

*NGR:* **SO04705875**

*Description*

The remains of a rectangular enclosure, some 135ft by 80ft and divided internally by two longitudinal banks and also having sections of walling apparently containing Roman cement and tile, was noted as a possible Roman blockhouse.

A later statement in the SMR records that though this is perhaps more likely to be a mill site, it appears that the Ordnance Survey field investigator and (subsequent references) have mis-interpreted the sketch map in the original report and have consequently all visited the wrong location (i.e. SO 04265877). They have inspected what appears to be a medieval or later mill site (par 6283) and thus not visited the site of the original discovery. That sketch map appears to show the site at SO 04705874.

*Work/references*

Report: Saunders & Saunders 1919

SMR: statement

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of the existing data.

*Name:* **Caer Noddfa Fort**

*Site Type:* **Defended enclosure**

*PRN:* **919**

*NGR:* **SN96269656**

*Description*

The trapezoidal enclosure at Carno, known as Caer Noddfa, has dimensions of 123m north-west/south-east by 77m, in area about 0.95ha. Much of its south-east side has gone which should account for the apparent absence of an entrance.

The date of origin of the earthwork has defied archaeologists in the past.

Excavation has revealed a Roman-type V-shaped enclosure ditch and what was probably a medieval stone

building associated with 14th/15th-century pottery, traditionally the site of the medieval hospitium. The standard explanation is that a Roman fortification was later re-used, but as yet no Roman material has been located here.

Much of the earthwork lies under pasture.

#### *Work/references*

Excavations in 1909.

Excavations in 1964/65 (Putnam).

#### *Status*

The scheduled area (Mg 052) takes in most although perhaps not all of this enigmatic earthwork.

#### *Recommendations*

Geophysics within the area of the earthwork.

*Name:* **Holt Roman site**

*Site Type:* **Depot**

*PRN:* **101249**

*NGR:* **SJ404546**

#### *Description*

Lying upstream of Chester on the Dee, this was a, and probably the, works depot of the Chester-based XXth Legion. It was in use from the end of the 1st century AD through perhaps to the end of the 3rd century. According to Nash-Williams and Jarrett its interest lies in the exceptionally full information it provides concerning the arrangement of a legionary works-depot. It is now usually equated with the Bovium of the Antonine Itinerary

Elements of the depot, known from excavation, include barracks, a bath house, an L-shaped house, a workshop, a drying shed and eight kilns enclosed by a boundary wall. The extent of the site is unknown.

These structures extend over an area of approximately 8ha on the west bank of the Dee, the location favourable for transport, communications and raw materials.

#### *Work/references*

Excavations by T A Acton between 1907 and 1914: Grimes 1930; Stephens 1984; 1989, 224.

Report: Nash Williams and Jarrett 1969, 43; Rivet and Smith 1979, 274.

Some finds are in the National Museum & Gallery of Wales.

An attempt in the mid 1990s to initiate a Holt Study group under the chairmanship of Professor W Manning floundered, but, in some form, Chester Archaeology continued with the study of the ceramics.

#### *Status*

Parts of three different but contiguous fields are scheduled (De 013). How much of the Holt Roman military industrial complex is thus protected cannot be gauged, but it does include the barrack blocks, the bath house, workshops, a kiln and an L-shaped building.

### *Recommendations*

The true extent of this site remains to be determined and the irregularity of the scheduled areas surely indicates that further attention needs to be the spatial elements of this site.

Definition of full extent of site by geophysics, aerial photography and fieldwalking.

*Name:* **Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain Supply Base**

*Site Type:* **Depot**

*PRN:* **5117**

*NGR:* **SJ22822061**

### *Description*

The depot at Llansantffraid shows as a polygonal, double-ditched straight-sided enclosure with possible entrances on the north and south sides. It has been shown to be a probable supply depot by trial excavation in 1987. One small excavation in the north part of the interior revealed a probable granary and cobbled surfaces. Two cuttings through the defences identified a probable double ditch and rampart, confirmed the position of the western angle and the south-western side. Subsequently, a timber building, probably a barrack block, was identified, 5.6m wide by at least 16m long. The granary was supported on a grid of posts and measured 22.2m by 7m with a loading platform, c.2m wide at the south end. It had been demolished after use.

Lynchets noted by the Ordnance Survey in 1981 are probably related to site.

### *Work/references*

Aerial photography: 1986

Geophysics in 1987?

Excavations: Jones 1987a; 1987b; Jones and Reynolds 1987, 21; Frere 1987, 304; 1988, 47; 1989, 260

### *Status*

The polygonal enclosure representing the supply depot is scheduled (Mg 216) but it is impossible to determine on current evidence whether all of its protected.

### *Recommendations*

Assessment of all existing evidence.

*Name:* **Maes Gwastad Platform**

*Site Type:* **Fair ?**

*PRN:* **5643**

*NGR:* **SJ22290701**

### *Description*

This level platform some 55m square by 1.1m high with a trace of an adjoining enclosure on the north-east, its scarp 0.7m high on the north-west and a bank 0.1m high on the north-east.

It is believed to be a medieval feature, perhaps a fairground, although it does bear a remarkable resemblance to a Roman fort.

### *Work/references*

SMR only.



#### *Status*

Not scheduled.

#### *Recommendations*

Assessment of the evidence.

*Name:* **Brecon Gaer fort**

*Site Type:* **Fort**

*PRN:* **598**

*NGR:* **SO00332966**

#### *Description*

Brecon Gaer extends over 204m west-north-west/east-south-east by 154m, covering an area of 3.14ha, and as such is one of the largest forts in Wales.

A Flavian earthen fort of c. AD 75, was reconstituted with stone walls in the Antonine period around AD 140.

Four entrances are known and angle turrets. Internally the principia and a double granary were examined through excavation, and aerial photography shows internal buildings that include a large rectangular building between them. A small bath house had been inserted within the fort at a later date. Timber barracks and stables are known, but largely unsubstantiated.

Two military tombstones have come to light in the distant past, one at Battle Fawr and another somewhere near Brecon Gaer. The former is in Brecon Museum, the latter in the national Museum in Cardiff.

#### *Work/references*

Excavations by M Wheeler in 1924-5.

Nash-Williams and Jarrett 1969, 49.

Maxwell and Wilson 1987, 10.

#### *Status*

The whole area of the fort is scheduled (Br001) except for some earthworks of the defences on the east side which fall in a different field. The scheduling perimeter, however, is drawn tightly around the fort.

A second, much smaller area lies close to the first and to the north-east of the farm buildings. Its relates to the bath house identified by Wheeler.

A third scheduled area lies to the north-east of the farm.

#### *Recommendations*

The scheduling envelope should be re-assessed, for even a cursory desk-top examination indicates that some earthworks fall outside it.

Geophysics in and around the fort.

*Name:* **Cae Gaer Fort**

*Site Type:* **Fort**

PRN: 230

NGR: SN82368189

*Description*

Cae Gaer has been termed a parallelogrammic fort, with defences 115m north to south by 83m and covering an area of 1.07ha. Original entrances exist on the north and south and, more questionably the west. It is enclosed by a single bank with ditch with a counterscarp

Turf rampart with a palisade on top of it. Timber gate and corner towers, evidenced by post-holes.

The interior has been very badly damaged, with waterlogged peat resulting from poor drainage and aggravated by the surrounding forestry. On the south the entrance and part of the rampart have been destroyed through the pressure of water from the bog to the south.

*Work/references*

Excavations in 1913. No Roman material.

*Status*

The whole of the fort is scheduled, the area extending over seemingly featureless ground to the south (Mg 057).

*Recommendations*

None recommended.

*Name:* **Caerau Fort**

*Site Type:* **Fort**

*PRN:* **50469**

*NGR:* **SN92405020**

*Description*

Caerau fort, between Castell Collen and Llandovery, is some 170m north-east/south-west by 117m north-west/south-east, with a sub-division visible 58m from north-east end, revealing a retraction of the fortified area. The original fort thus extended over 1.7ha, its successor 1.2ha. Twin ditches were replaced by new single ditch.

Adjoining the exterior of the north-east rampart is a ledge or platform c.44.2m north-west/south-east by 22.9m north-east/south-west, which has been postulated as the site for a bath house.

A medieval motte is superimposed on south-west end.

*Work/references*

Bath house (Jones & Thompson 1958).

Excavations in 1965 (Jones & Birley 1965, 15).

*Status*

Much of Caerau fort is scheduled (Br148), except for the buildings and yard of the eponymous farm. Within this area Twdin motte is separately scheduled as Br130.

The scheduled area extends north-eastwards to take in further ground where a putative bath house was identified in 1958, and the next field of some 3ha to the north-west, because of the presence of structures

relating to a vicus.

#### *Recommendations*

Assessment of available data.

**Name: Caersws Fort I (Llwynybrain)**

**Site Type: Fort**

**PRN: 1575**

**NGR: SO04009250**

#### *Description*

First recognised on aerial photography, this large fort is estimated to extend over c.220m west-south-west/east-north-east by c.170m and cover about 3.8ha. The photos show triple ditches on the south-east.

The fort commands the Severn from a spur to the north-east of Caersws village, and as has been pointed out it is of great potential interest for with Caersws II it exemplifies how changing tactical needs and different auxiliary units led to changes in the siting of forts (Nash-Williams and Jarrett 1969, 66).

#### *Work/references*

Fieldwalking in c.1983 produced early Roman material (Dawson 1983).

A watching brief in 2002 during the decommissioning of sewage treatment works in the south-west corner of the fort revealed no archaeological deposits (Jones and Owen 2002).

#### *Status*

The scheduling 'envelope' takes in the fort and its annexe (Mg 161). On the south side, in particular, the envelope has been drawn very tightly against the projected line of the site.

#### *Recommendations*

Can it be assumed that Caersws I is correctly identified as a fort? Nothing is known of its internal arrangements.

Geophysics recommended for at least a sample area.

**Name: Caersws Fort II**

**Site Type: Fort**

**PRN: 772**

**NGR: SO02929198**

#### *Description*

Caersws II is amongst the largest of the forts in Wales with a size of 3.1ha. It is rectangular, about 180m x 173m, with three ditches. Pendref Farm lies at the centre of it, but despite the proximity of the village of Caersws much of the fort lies beneath agricultural land.

Three main building phases have been identified from the pre-Flavian to Antonine periods. But activity of some form continued into the 4th century.

Internally timber buildings have been identified, as has the principia, the praetorium, a granary and part of a bath house.



#### *Work/references*

Bosanquet excavated in the first decade of the 20th century but did not publish his findings. An edited version of his notes appeared in 1940 (Pryce 1931).

Further excavations in 1966-7 and in 1990-1992 (Frere 1991, 224; Frere 1992, 258; Burnham 1993, 273).

A series of small excavations and watching briefs in recent years (1986, 2003).

#### *Status*

A large part of the fort known as Caersws II is scheduled (Mg 001), although the farm buildings and yard of Pendref have been excluded.

#### *Recommendations*

None recommended for the present.

**Name: Castell Collen Fort**

**Site Type: Fort**

**PRN: 1159**

**NGR: SO0558462866**

#### *Description*

This Roman auxiliary fort on the west side of the River Ithon and north of Llandrindod Wells, was originally rectangular, its defences enclosing about 2.04ha. This initial phase seems to be from 75-80 AD. Probably around 140 AD, it was reduced in size to c.1.44ha and the gates and internal structures were rebuilt in stone.

Four phases of activity have been revealed by excavation, including refurbishment of the defences and gates in the late 3rd or 4th century. However, the sequence is not entirely clear and different viewpoints emerge from different authorities.

The buildings inside the fort were originally in wood but the principia, praetorium and granary were rebuilt in stone and are probably of early 2nd century date.

An external bath house was examined in the 1950s.

All of the fort lies under farmland, with woodland abutting the south-east side.

#### *Work/references*

Excavations in 1911 and 1913 (Evelyn-White 1914).

Further excavations in 1954-7 (Alcock, 1964).

#### *Status*

The scheduled 'envelope' covers the whole of the fort and its north-western annexe, together with a more generous than usual protection zone on three sides which includes the bath house (Rd 001).

#### *Recommendations*

None recommended for the moment.

*Name:* **Clyro Fort**

*Site Type:* **Fort**

*PRN:* **430**

*NGR:* **SO22824347**

*Description*

Clyro Roman fort is of large size, 396m north-east/south-west by 262m, enclosing 10.4 ha.

The defences show two phases, a timber-revetted turf rampart replaced by a simple bank, and both accompanied by a rock-cut ditch. This may indicate two forts of different sizes for on the north-east side there are two ditches some 30m apart.

Excavation revealed only ovens and Jarrett argued that the accommodation might have been tents, implying a short-lived occupation. Finds were predominantly pre-Flavian, but the precise date of the military occupation unknown.

Virtually all of the site is under farmland.

*Work/references*

Excavations by M Jarrett in 1964.

*Status*

All but the south-east corner - where Boatside Farm overlies the defences - is scheduled (Rd 124). No allowance has been made for any extra-mural features in the scheduling definition.

*Recommendations*

Geophysics of sample areas within and beyond the fort.

*Name:* **Colwyn Castle, Roman Fort**

*Site Type:* **Fort**

*PRN:* **50273**

*NGR:* **SO1074253967**

*Description*

The probable Roman fort at Colwyn is delimited by a single bank and ditch, c.180m square. Surviving earthworks are a scarp on the south-west and south-east sides. The north-east side is overlain by a medieval motte that utilises the fort as its bailey.

Some very limited interventions have been recorded since the site's identification.

*Work/references*

Trial excavations in 1975.

Watching brief in 1982.

Investigations of animal disturbance in 2003.

*Status*

The whole of the fort has been included in the scheduled 'envelope', except for the yard and buildings of Fforest Farm (Rd 035). A wide zone outside the fort defences on the north-west and south-west has been included within the scheduling.

### *Recommendations*

Assessment of currently available evidence.

Assessment of geophysics potential.

*Name:* **Forden Gaer, Roman fort**

*Site Type:* **Fort**

*PRN:* **162**

*NGR:* **SO20809890**

### *Description*

The fort at Forden Gaer is 186m by 167m, enclosing an area of 3.11 ha. It is situated on the east bank of the Severn and is possibly the Lavobrinta of the Ravenna Cosmography (Richmond and Crawford 1949; Jarrett, M G 1969).

Its occupation lasted from mid-Flavian times (although a pre-Flavian fort has been mooted) and continued (but not continuously) until the second half of 4th century when the final phase included the refurbishment of the ramparts and the relaying of major roads. At least three phases of activity have been adduced.

The internal buildings were probably of stone, but there is no evidence for stone walls in the defences. Part of the western ditch was thought by Simpson to belong to an earlier and larger fort (Simpson 1962) but Jarrett (1969) and Pryce & Davies Pryce (the excavators) believed it was a flood bank contemporary with the occupation.

No gateways have been identified in the east and west ramparts, while the Via Praetoria ran without interruption from the north to the south gate. Cropmarks suggest its extension across the outer bank.

### *Work/references*

Excavations in 1927-29: Pryce and Davies 1927, 1929, 1930

Geophysics in 1971-72

Trial excavations in 1975: Conrell 1974

Excavations in 1987: Blockley 1990

A trench was dug across the rampart near the north gate in c.1975 without permission.

Consistently the target of aerial photography.

### *Status*

An initial scheduling envelope around the fort (Mg 012) has been extended (Mg 145) to take in adjoining ground on the south, north and north-east, to cover the vicus including cropmark sites and some lengths of contemporary road.

### *Recommendations*

Geophysics of the interior of the fort. Enhanced AP plotting.

The management of the whole Forden Gaer complex requires assessment.



*Name:* **Gaer Dolau Fort**

*Site Type:* **Fort**

*PRN:* **1150**

*NGR:* **SO01866655**

*Description*

This earthwork is variously described as a fort (SMR) and a fortlet (Jarrett). It covers 137m north-east/south-west by 122m, an area of 1.7ha. It lies some 5km to the north-north-west of Castell Collen.

Lengths of the north-west and south-west sides are visible on the ground, but a stream lies to the north-east and the full circuit of the defences has not yet been identified. The defences comprise a turf-revetted rampart with a V-shaped ditch.

Most if not all of the site is in farmland.

*Work/references*

Excavation in 1965, by Jarrett and Jones.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Geophysics within the interior.

Full assessment of the AP stock and any other relevant information.

*Name:* **Hindwell Fort**

*Site Type:* **Fort**

*PRN:* **315**

*NGR:* **SO2579660582**

*Description*

The Roman fort measures 160m east to west by 143m. Its defences are visible on the east, north and west sides and there is a suggestion that part of the east side has probably reconstructed. Work in 1998, however, showed that the fort had two phases surviving as earthworks on slightly different alignments. This was confirmed by geophysics.

The only internal feature known from excavation is an oven at the rear of levelled rampart. The finds are unknown other than the fragment of a bronze brooch. The 1998 geophysics also which also provided details of the internal arrangements of the fort.

*Work/references*

Minor excavation in advance of building work in 1961 and after.

Excavation of ditch and adjacent area in 1976 (R Pye and R Cain).

Physical and geophysical survey in 1998 (Gibson 1997, 38; Gibson 1999, 66).

*Status*

The whole of this auxiliary fort is scheduled (Rd 136).

*Recommendations*

Assess current state of knowledge of fort and its environs.

*Name:* **Pen y Gaer Fort**

*Site Type:* **Fort**

*PRN:* **658** *NGR:* **SO16862195**

*Description*

Pen--y-gaer fort covers an area variously put at 1.25ha and 1.5ha.

Its defences survive with the rampart to 1.7m high on the east side, but virtually nothing is known of its internal layout. However, recent evaluations have recorded both finds and features. Mid-1st century pottery has been found, as has imported mid to late 2nd-century pottery.

The site is occupied by two farms and orchards.

The possible site of the bath house associated with the fort appears as a mound or terrace where it is reported that large stones and Roman finds were found during the 19th century. Wall foundations are still visible leading westwards, but a 1997 magnetometer survey and trial trenching failed to find any archaeological features or deposits

*Work/references*

Excavation in 1966.

Report: RCAHMW 1986, 147

Visit: Cox and Webster 1987, 44

Evaluations in 1995: Williams 1995

Evaluation and geophysics in 1997: Burnham 1998, 374

Evaluations in 2001: Monmouth Archaeology .

*Status*

The scheduling envelope (Br174) is drawn tightly to the line of the earthworks of the fort. Small portions of the fort bank are excluded from the protected area at the north-west and south-east corners and along the east side. If a ditch exists, most of it will fall outside the 'envelope', and any bath house, vicus or other extra-mural feature will be wholly unprotected.

*Recommendations*

Assimilation of existing information on the site including aerial photographs.

Geophysics within the fort.

*Name:* **Varis Roman fort**

*Site Type:* **Fort**

*PRN:* **70922** *NGR:* **SJ0374**

### *Description*

The Roman fort of Varae/Varis is known to have been located in the Conwy valley, some 32 Roman miles from Deva and 18 Roman miles from Caerhun. Its exact location is not known but there has been considerable speculation over its location. The most widely held view is that it lies somewhere under St Asaph (Rivet and Smith 1979, 487).

Excavations in 1952 on surviving earthworks turned up only medieval or later material in an area prone to flooding.

Early in the 1980s it was proposed that the boundary of the canonry garden represented the Roman fort perimeter. In 1982, an excavation trench located a ditch which was claimed to have dimensions comparable with Roman forts. From that it was then suggested that the modern crossroads where Mount Street, Chester Street, Denbigh Road and High Street meet in the centre of St Asaph may reflect the original layout of the fort, with the Cathedral lying within the boundaries of the fort.

Small quantity of Roman coarse pottery and tile fragments were found during housing development west of a main road in St Asaph. Probably this was the A525 although the SMR gives it as the A541. The pottery is thought to have been in the possession of the late Barri Jones.

### *Work/references*

Excavations in 1952.

Excavations in 1981 and 1982 (E Waddelove 1991, 16).

### *Status*

Not scheduled.

### *Recommendations*

Assessment of existing data.

Every opportunity should be taken during development works in the centre of St Asaph.

**Name: Caer Crwyn possible fort**

**Site Type: Fort ?**

**PRN: 101392**

**NGR: SJ0643**

### *Description*

There is a confused report of intense burning of clay and stones on a site on the Rug to Corwen road. Nothing is known today of this site but there is an aerial photograph that may be relevant.

### *Work/references*

None known.

### *Status*

Not scheduled.

### *Recommendations*

Assessment of available evidence.



*Name:* **Caerau Fort**

*PRN:* **804**

*NGR:* **SN877404**

*Site Type:* **Fort ?**

*Description*

A rectangular earthwork, some 253m by 238m, and defined by a partially turf-covered bank, some 5m wide by 1m high and an outer ditch, 4m wide and 0.5m deep, was initially claimed as a Roman fort. It was subsequently rejected by the Ordnance Survey in 1976 as a fortuitous arrangement of natural and other non archaeological features.

*Work/references*

Field visit in 1976.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

The records of this feature need to be assessed in the light of current knowledge, and regardless of its date and function, a fuller record created.

*Name:* **Clawdd Coch Roman Fort**

*PRN:* **21**

*NGR:* **SJ24822024**

*Site Type:* **Fort ?**

*Description*

The supposed Roman fort at Clawdd Coch, referred to as camp B to distinguish it from the nearby marching camp, was first identified on aerial photographs.

CPAT staff visited in 1978 and concluded that the site appeared to be the result of river terracing accentuated on the north-east by a holloway of unknown date. The only finds were three much abraded sherds of medieval pottery.

Excavation in 1991 by Prof. Jones (Manchester) revealed a series of clay-filled ditched and a possible timber box rampart. Two field ovens were also unearthed (Jones, G D B 1992 unpublished; Frere, S S 1992, 256).

In subsequent years the ditches and field ovens were examined.

Geophysical work confirmed two further presumed field ovens, while ploughing revealed a bank of red clay to the east of the present farm, running on a north to south alignment N/S, which was possibly the eastern defences.

Excavation also revealed a ditch, 19m west of the entrance, measuring 2.2m in width and 1m deep.

The camp is said to be at least 5ha in size.

The function and siting of the Clawdd Coch and Abertanat forts were discussed in British Archaeological News in June 1994, 4.

*Work/references*

Excavations in 1991 (B Jones).

Excavations in 1992 (B Jones).

Geophysics in 1993.

Excavations in 1994.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of existing data including aerial photographs.

*Name:* **Cwrt y Gollen Fort**

*Site Type:* **Fort ?**

*PRN:* **5275**

*NGR:* **SO23701710**

*Description*

The cropmark of a rounded right-angled ditch might be the north-west corner of a Roman fort.

No further details have been established.

*Work/references*

Report: CPAT archive.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of existing evidence.

*Name:* **Glanmilheli Fort**

*Site Type:* **Fort ?**

*PRN:* **1051**

*NGR:* **SO157901**

*Description*

A Roman camp was identified from aerial photographs at Glanmilheli . It is said to be visible on the ground as a slight ridge, running north to south through the centre of the field. Partial excavation on the east side revealed a 'v-shaped' ditch some 1.07m wide by 0.76m deep.

*Work/references*

Aerial photography: St Joseph 1973.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of all existing evidence.

*Name:* **Hendidley Fort**

*Site Type:* **Fort ?**

*PRN:* **5136**

*NGR:* **SO09739202**

*Description*

Recognised from the air, the cropmark of the north-east portion of a rectangular ditched enclosure with a rounded corner One side is some 60m long but much of its is obscure.

It occupies a spur ridge location and has been suggested as a possible roman fortlet.

*Work/references*

Aerial photography.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of existing data.

*Name:* **Howey Hall Fort**

*Site Type:* **Fort ?**

*PRN:* **5271**

*NGR:* **SO04905857**

*Description*

A square enclosure with rounded corners some 60m across; single banked with an entrance on the north side.

It is sited adjacent to a Roman road (RR623) and about one kilometre from the Llandrindod Common practice camps.

*Work/references*

None known.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assess all information sources, particularly aerial photographs.

*Name:* **Knighton Fort**

*Site Type:* **Fort ?**

*PRN:* **5241**

*NGR:* **SO2872**



*Description*

A possible Roman fort has been claimed for Knighton but no details are available.

*Work/references**Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assess source information if available.

**Name: Llwyn Cadwgan Fort**

**Site Type: Fort ?**

**PRN: 855 NGR: SN92024992**

*Description*

The Llwyn Cadwgan enclosure is square and univallate, with rounded corners; it is about 60m across, with entrances on the north and east. It is adjacent to and co-axial with Roman road RR623 which probably indicates a Roman origin as a fortlet.

*Work/references*

No report known.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of all existing evidence.

**Name: Prestatyn, Fforddisa Roman Site**

**Site Type: Fort ?**

**PRN: 101416 NGR: SJ05908210**

*Description*

The possibility that a Roman fort exists at Prestatyn has a fairly long pedigree. The first excavations in the locality were sited immediately to the south of a house called Claremont (by Smith and Newstead in 1934-5, and by Newstead alone in 1936-7). Several sections through a ditch and the investigation of lower-lying ground to the south produced numerous tiles of the Twentieth Legion were recovered, and between 1935-7 the investigation of three masonry buildings. The interim report on the excavations mentions a trial trench excavated for approximately 50m north-west from the 'south-east angle of the Roman ditch' and therefore within the putative enclosure formed by that ditch, although 'no trace of Roman occupation was found'.

Further excavations carried out in the locality by G Webster (in 1951) and Tobias (in 1955), went unpublished and no results are known. During the 1970s two excavations were carried out nearby: Barret, Kenworthy and Stevenson recorded building rubble 'not later than c. AD 150' in the south-east corner of the Meadows Estate in 1973, while Professor G.D.B Jones recorded 'one outer and two inner ditches . . . fronting

a substantial clay rampart' in a small trench near Ffordd Isa, further to the north-west, in 1976. This cropmark site, first identified by Jones, is now scheduled as a putative Roman fort.

The area of the 1930s excavations was re-assessed in a trial excavation by CPAT in 1980. With the exception of the Roman ditch found in the 1930s at the north end of the Melyd Avenue site, this area was devoid of Roman material, but it was noted, however, that Roman deposits were better preserved further downslope to the south. The excavation also revealed that the Roman ditch ran south-south-east from its eastern end and it is therefore probable that the enclosure which it defines could be associated with the Melyd Avenue bath-house, rather than with a putative Roman fort on the plateau to the north.

A detailed examination of the area of the 1930s excavations was carried out in 1984-5. This revealed Iron Age occupation, succeeded by extensive Roman occupation dating from AD 70 to the early 4th century, including industrial structures as well as the bath-house already mentioned. A research excavation covering a total of 108m<sup>2</sup> and a subsequent resistivity survey were also carried out by CPAT between 1984 and 1986 in the grounds of Ysgol y Llys, with a view to providing further information regarding the Roman fort postulated by Smith and by Jones in 1934 and 1976 respectively (Weetman 1986; Blockley 1989, 4). The results revealed no evidence for a Roman fort, or any indication of other Roman occupation in that area.

In 2001 trial excavations in the grounds of Claremont produced no evidence for any Roman occupation.

In 2003, further evaluation trenches within the grounds of Ysgol y Llys identified no Roman features or material.

#### *Work/references*

Excavations 1934-1937: Newstead 1937, 221; Blockley 1989

Excavations 1951: unpublished

Excavations 1955: unpublished

Excavations 1973: Blockley 1989, 3

Excavations 1976

Evaluation 1980: Brassil 1989, 11.

Excavations 1984-5: Blockley 1989

Evaluation 2001: Hankinson 2001

Evaluation 2003.

#### *Status*

A large scheduled area has been defined on the south side of Prestatyn where a fort has been postulated (FI094). What proportion of the putative fort is thus protected cannot be ascertained.

A further area, a single field, has also been scheduled some 50m to the north-west of the first (FI 138). On the basis of cropmark evidence this may be part of a fort.

#### *Recommendations*

Not specific recommendations for further work are proposed. Any development within and outside the scheduled area should be the subject of evaluation.

*Name:* **Rhuallt, possible fort**

*Site Type:* **Fort ?**

*PRN:* **72001**

*NGR:* **SJ078752**

*Description*

A record exists of a possible fort at Rhuallt, built to guard the entrance to a narrow pass. It was claimed to be 70 paces in circumference, and 12 to 20 feet high [sic].

No further information is available, but it is now cut into by the banking of the modern A55 Expressway.

*Work/references*

Record by D R Thomas.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of existing evidence.

*Name:* **Ruthin Roman fort**

*Site Type:* **Fort ?**

*PRN:* **17317**

*NGR:* **SJ130582**

*Description*

The plateau to the east of the River Clwyd and central Ruthin appears to have been the scene of considerable activity in the past.

Roman cremations have been uncovered in two different places, in 1981 when a Flavian/Trajanic cremation urn was discovered on the site of the hospital and in 1989 when several creations and perhaps a mausoleum came to light.

Investigations in the autumn of 1989 (PRN 64190) in Brynhyfryd Park revealed traces of a multiple ditch system on a north-south alignment. These were interpreted as the defences of a Roman fort and also comprised a timber box-rampart of pink clay to the east of the close-set ditches. The scale of the ditches was small. The innermost was 1.6m wide and the others 1.5m and 0.9m across; all three were shallow, being cut only some 0.5m into the subsoil. Other excavations in the immediate vicinity failed to locate any overtly military features of Roman date, but did reveal ditches and the like of Roman date with material from the late 1st century to the 4th-century in date.

Other more recent works, primarily evaluation and watching briefs, in the same general area on the plateau has produced nothing of military significance.

*Work/references*

Excavations in 1989 by Barri Jones and Ted Waddelove (Waddelove et al, 1989; 1990)

Excavations, also in 1999, by CPAT (Jones 1992, 91.

Watching brief in 1991 (Frere 1992, 256).

Evaluation and watching brief by CPAT in 2003



Evaluation by Giffords at Howells School in 2003.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

There is circumstantial evidence for a Roman fort on the plateau, together perhaps with a vicus. At present however, its precise location cannot be established (pace Waddelove et al).

No specific recommendations are therefore proposed, but all opportunities should be taken during future development works.

*Name:* **Ysgwd Ffordd Enclosure**

*Site Type:* **Fort ?**

*PRN:* **2278**

*NGR:* **SO092725**

*Description*

A rectilinear enclosure with an annexe, its true extent unclear, has been suggested as a possible Roman fort.

No trace could be seen on the ground by the Ordnance Survey in 1980.

*Work/references*

Report: CPAT archive.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of existing data.

*Name:* **Llowes Fort**

*Site Type:* **Fort?**

*PRN:* **50321**

*NGR:* **SO1905640726**

*Description*

Aerial photographs taken by CUCAP in 1977 revealed the north-east and south-east sides of a rectangular enclosure with a rounded angle on the east. The possibility of some evidence for a north-west side was advanced.

This enclosure conjoined the motte known as Castle Tump (SAM Rd 135), and was flagged as a possible Roman fort, possibly re-used as a bailey.

Fieldwork by CPAT in 1990 indicated that there was a stony bank with accompanying ditch, both now removed as part of field rationalisation. Fieldwalking in good conditions and to fairly intensive standards produced nothing other than post-medieval pottery in the field where the visible soil mark showed on aerial photos, and nothing at all in the field to the west where an extension might have been anticipated..

In the absence of any other evidence this enclosure is currently to be a post-medieval feature, Until evidence to the contrary emerges, no argument for a Roman site can be put forward.

*Work/references*

*Status*

Not scheduled, but adjacent area with 'motte' is Rd 135.

*Recommendations*

No recommendations.

*Name:* **Gibbet Hill Fortlet**

*Site Type:* **Fortlet**

*PRN:* **106** *NGR:* **SJ10570440**

*Description*

Gibbet Hill has been identified as a fortlet of probable Roman fortlet origin.

Measuring 51m north/south by 46m and covering 0.24ha it has a V-shaped ditch and a turf-faced rampart. No dating evidence has emerged from excavation (pace RCAHMW 1911).

*Work/references*

Excavation in 1857.

Excavation in 1962.

Illegal pits dug in interior in 1980.

*Status*

The whole of the fortlet is protected, but the scheduling envelope (Mg 009) has been drawn extremely tightly around the earthworks.

*Recommendations*

Field examination.

Geophysics of the interior.

Scheduling revision.

*Name:* **Harpton signal Station**

*Site Type:* **Fortlet**

*PRN:* **34055** *NGR:* **SO235602**

*Description*

The possible signal station, on a small knoll, was recently discovered from the air. Two ditches, one inside the other, form a rectangular enclosure, almost 20m square. The inner ditch is much broader than the outer. It lies

2.25km west-south-west of the fort at Hindwell.

*Work/references*

Aerial photography in 1996: Gibson 1997, 27.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assess existing aerial photography for fuller description?

*Name:* **Pen Min Cae Fort**

*Site Type:* **Fortlet**

*PRN:* **1613** *NGR:* **SO0053753956**

*Description*

A Roman fort, some 42.6m north-west/south-east by 30.5m is defined by a single rampart, 8m wide and more than 1m high. Its entrance is in the centre of the north-west side. There are reports of surface finds.

It is located on level ground adjacent to the River Wye.

*Work/references*

Aerial photography: St Joseph 1973.

Report: Cadw 1998.

*Status*

The whole of this small fort is scheduled (Rd 137).

*Recommendations*

Assessment of existing data.

*Name:* **Penycrocbren Fortlet**

*Site Type:* **Fortlet**

*PRN:* **1378** *NGR:* **SN85609349**

*Description*

A parallelogrammic Roman fortlet c 23m by 20m with an area of 0.05ha.

It has a turf rampart, c0.6m high, but no ditch, and a single gateway, 3m wide, in the north side. The interior was covered by a flooring of chippings.

The Cadw field monument warden claimed it might be too small for a fortlet, and was perhaps a structure associated with lead-mining (Cadw 1998).

The site lies in rough pasture.



*Work/references*

Excavation in 1961 by W Putnam.

*Status*

The whole fortlet is scheduled (Mg 106), and this 'envelope' abuts a much larger, but irregular scheduled area on its south which covers the Dyfngwm/Castle Rock lead mine (Mg 247). The Roman origin of the mines here has yet to be proved.

*Recommendations*

No recommendations

*Name:* **Llwyn Y Rhwd Enclosure**

*Site Type:* **Fortlet ?**

*PRN:* **7128**

*NGR:* **SO16318825**

*Description*

A square, single-ditched enclosure, some 60m across, has been suggested as a Roman fortlet., sited on the edge of valley scarp.

No further information is available.

*Work/references*

Report: unknown.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of existing evidence.

*Name:* **Emral Hall Earthwork**

*Site Type:* **Fulling mill ?**

*PRN:* **100191**

*NGR:* **SJ42144430**

*Description*

In 1888 Lee noted a large Roman camp which he termed Caer Felin on the north side of the avenue leading to Emral Hall. Davies in 1949 recorded low banks which formed a right angled corner but he thought a fulling mill was a more likely explanation.

*Work/references*

Description in Lee 1888 and Davies 1949.

*Status*

#### *Recommendations*

Assess the existing evidence.

*Name:* **Bryn Tanat earthwork**

*Site Type:* **Marching camp**

*PRN:* **17910**

*NGR:* **SJ24302120**

#### *Description*

Suggested as a possible marching camp, the cropmark and possible rectangular earthwork enclosure is poorly recorded. The south-west corner is said to be visible.

#### *Work/references*

#### *Status*

Not scheduled.

#### *Recommendations*

Assessment of existing data.

*Name:* **Cefn Perfedd marching camp**

*Site Type:* **Marching camp**

*PRN:* **826**

*NGR:* **SN923163**

#### *Description*

The Cefn Perfedd marching camp measures c.390m east-west by 240m north-south. A turf rampart 2m wide by 0.6m high survives on all sides. The ditch is 0.4m deep at the south-east corner.

In 1995 the north-west corner of the earthwork was newly planted with spruce. The north side was in good condition, but the north-east corner was dissected by the main forestry access and poorly preserved. The east side was within a narrow forest ride through spruce and was dissected by two stream courses which had eroded the site. The south side and south-east corner were also within forestry rides, the south bank being actively eroded by a stream. The interior was planted with mature spruce.

#### *Work/references*

Excavation in 1964 (Jones 1965).

Fieldwork by Ordnance Survey in 1976.

Pollen site (Caseldine 1990, 129).

Fieldwork by CPAT in 1995.

#### *Status*

The scheduled area (Br162) is presumed to incorporate the whole of the marching camp which survives as an earthwork.

Occasional records indicate that much of the site is covered by a conifer plantation.

*Recommendations*

No recommendations.

**Name: Esgair Perfedd marching camp**

**Site Type: Marching camp**

**PRN: 728**

**NGR: SN9237069916**

*Description*

The Esgair Perfedd marching camp is 270m by 235m, with a turf-covered rampart approximately 0.4m high and 2m to 3m wide. Entrances, perhaps of later origin, on the north and east sides are intersected by three trackways with banks about 1m high. A small enclosure, 10m square, lies on the south-east side.

*Work/references*

*Status*

The marching camp is scheduled as Rd 131. It is assumed that the scheduling envelope covers the whole of the feature.

*Recommendations*

No recommendations.

**Name: Hindwell marching camp I**

**Site Type: Marching camp**

**PRN: 313**

**NGR: SO2502060810**

*Description*

The Hindwell I marching camp is 478m NW-SE by 368m SW-NE. It has no distinct entrances, although there may be one in the east side). Not all of the circuit is complete, but the line of an internal palisade is visible on the south-west and north-west.

A rim sherd of Severn Valley Ware was recovered after ploughing.

*Work/references*

Aerial photography.

Field visit in 1992.

Geophysics in 1998.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*



Assessment of existing evidence.

*Name:* **Maendy fort**

*Site Type:* **Marching camp**

*PRN:* **868**

*NGR:* **SN920508**

*Description*

A Roman marching camp, about 400m square. Banks are visible on the north, west and east sides, with clavicula entrances on the north and west. and a possible entrance on the east. The fort lies c.500m north-west of Caerau fort.

*Work/references*

No report known.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of existing data.

*Name:* **Pen Plaenau marching camp**

*Site Type:* **Marching Camp**

*PRN:* **85694**

*NGR:* **SJ11113632**

*Description*

Marching camp, very largely complete as earthwork, 18.4 ha in extent with sides of 540m and 340m. Three clavicula entrances. Partially obscured by heather.

*Work/references*

Aerial photography in 2003

Fieldwork in 2003

*Status*

Not scheduled

*Recommendations*

Assessment of area for scheduling.

*Name:* **Penrhos Roman camp**

*Site Type:* **Marching camp**

*PRN:* **102689**

*NGR:* **SJ042427**

*Description*

A large marching camp, but incompletely known. Considerable lengths of its east, north and west sides have, however, been recorded. It is estimated to measure approximately 312m east to west by 440m.

*Work/references*

No report known.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of existing evidence.

**Name: Pigwn marching camps**

**Site Type: Marching camp**

**PRN: 800 NGR: SN82803123**

*Description*

The Pigwn camps are two roughly concentric, superimposed but not axially aligned, sub-rectangular marching camps. The earlier one is c.424m north-west/south-east by 358m wide. The latter is c. 340m on the north-west, 374m on the south-east, 287m on the south-west and 302m on the north-east. Clavicularae are apparent on all sides of both camps.

*Work/references**Status*

Both marching camps (Br003) are scheduled, the scheduling 'envelope' drawn fairly tightly around the larger of the two.

*Recommendations*

No recommendations proposed.

**Name: T'yn-y-wern marching camp**

**Site Type: Marching camp**

**PRN: 17008 NGR: SJ126567**

*Description*

This has been identified as a possible marching camp, having been recognised on aerial photographs. It forms an irregular rectangle with sides of c.125m, c.77m and 185m, rounded corners and an enclosed area of c.4.5 acres. No entrances are visible.

There are traces of a possible second camp within the first, but the marks are vague.

The sites occupy the flat top of a small gravel ridge which provides natural defences.

*Work/references*

Report: Waddelove 1983; Frere et al 1983, 280

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of the existing evidence.

*Name:* **Walton marching camp I**

*Site Type:* **Marching camp**

*PRN:* **370** *NGR:* **SO2552759938**

*Description*

The cropmark of Walton marching camp I - one of three in a line - reveals it to be 167m WSW-ENE by 120m NNW-SSE. Entrances are visible on the north-north-west, east-north-east and west-south-west sides. The fourth side is overlain by Walton village.

Geophysical survey on the eastern side of this camp, identified the continuation of the ditch of the camp, and an entrance showing as a 6m-wide gap in the ditch, suggesting an entrance at this point.

*Work/references*

Geophysical survey in 1995.

*Status*

All three marching camps are scheduled except for areas under modern roads and houses and a small portion of the south-west corner of camp I (Rd 138).

*Recommendations*

No recommendations for further work at present.

*Name:* **Walton marching camp II**

*Site Type:* **Marching camp**

*PRN:* **371** *NGR:* **SO2533559901**

*Description*

The cropmark of Walton marching camp II indicates an enclosure of 161m north-west/south-east by 190m south-west/north-east. Four entrances have been identified.

*Work/references*

Aerial photography in 1973.

*Status*

Scheduled as Rd138.



#### *Recommendations*

No recommendations for further work at present.

**Name: Walton marching camp III**

**Site Type: Marching camp**

**PRN: 372**

**NGR: SO2515059860**

#### *Description*

Walton marching camp III shows as a cropmark, covering some 167m by 143m. Three gates have been identified on the aerial photography.

This is one of three adjacent camps.

#### *Work/references*

#### *Status*

Scheduled as Rd138.

#### *Recommendations*

No recommendations for further work at present.

**Name: Clawdd Coch cropmark**

**Site Type: Marching camp ?**

**PRN: 4598**

**NGR: SJ25202017**

#### *Description*

Two linear cropmarks, representing ditches and conjoining to form an elongated Y-shape, c .220m long, were identified on aerial photos.

The Clawdd Coch cropmark, otherwise known as Camp A to distinguish it from the proposed fort of the same name (see PRN 21), has been claimed as a Roman marching camp.

Excavations by Barri Jones in 1991 revealed a ditch which he believed to be part of the marching camp. The "inner ditch" which was filled with silt and measured 2.2m wide by 0.70m deep. A gravel box rampart c. 2.15m in width was also located (Jones, G D B 1992a; Frere 1992, 256).

Further work in 1992 examined the ditch and "rampart" (Burnham, B C 1993, 271).

#### *Work/references*

Excavations by B Jones in 1991 and 1992.

#### *Status*

Not scheduled.

#### *Recommendations*

Assessment of existing data including aerial photographs.

*Name:* **Clyro Boatside Farm marching camp**  
*PRN:* **436** *NGR:* **SO225430**

*Site Type:* **Marching camp ?**

*Description*

Aerial photographs taken by J K S St Joseph in 1969 depicted two straight lengths of ditch, c. 243m in overall length, with a rounded angle between them.

This has been seen as a possible marching camp.

*Work/references*

Aerial photography in 1969.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of data.

*Name:* **Court Farm cropmark I**  
*PRN:* **5291** *NGR:* **SO2521960008**

*Site Type:* **Marching camp ?**

*Description*

Two possible marching camps have been noted on aerial photographs at Court Farm in the Walton Basin.

Court Farm Camp II comprises a linear ditch, 90m north-north-west/south-south-east.

A circular cropmark enclosure, some 100m in diameter, was allegedly a gyros or training ground associated with the two camps, but present thinking would see it as one of the many prehistoric features in the Walton Basin.

*Work/references*

Aerial photography.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Re-assessment of evidence.

*Name:* **Cwm Nant marching camp**  
*PRN:* **727** *NGR:* **SN9851771744**

*Site Type:* **Marching camp ?**

*Description*

A marching camp of which only the south end remains intact as a low bank, a clavicula at its mid point. The

three other sides are fragmentary, but the north angle and two stretches of rampart on the west are still extant. The south angle shows evidence of an outer ditch.

*Work/references*

Scheduling report: Cadw 2000

*Status*

Only the southern end of this site is scheduled (Rd 133). The remainder is assumed to have been destroyed by ploughing.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of existing evidence.

*Name:* **Dolwen fort**

*Site Type:* **Marching camp ?**

*PRN:* **726**

*NGR:* **SN99148518**

*Description*

The cropmark of a ditch turning through a rounded corner seen on aerial photography. It is sited on the flood plain of the River Severn and may be part of a Roman marching camp or fort. No traces can be recognised on the ground.

*Work/references*

Undated aerial photography.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of existing evidence.

*Name:* **Forden Gaer, cropmark**

*Site Type:* **Marching camp ?**

*PRN:* **5040**

*NGR:* **SO20969882**

*Description*

An apparent ditch turning through right angles may result from drainage - it appears on only one photograph. It might, however, be part of a marching camp.

*Work/references*

Aerial photography in 1980.

*Status*

Not scheduled.



*Recommendations*

Assess as part of the Forden Gaer environs programme.

*Name:* **Forden Gaer, Thornbury marching camp**

*PRN:* **5038**

*NGR:* **SO21209912**

*Site Type:* **Marching camp ?**

*Description*

A series of superimposed cropmarks include single ditches turning through rounded normal angles. These may represent a field system but could indicate successive marching camps.

A possible large enclosure, perhaps a marching camp (marching camp?) has been identified. Its dimensions are c. 94m by 147m.

*Work/references*

Aerial photograph plotting in 1998 (Thomas 1998).

*Status*

Scheduled as Mg 145.

*Recommendations*

Assess as part of the Forden Gaer environs programme.

*Name:* **Hindwell marching camp II**

*PRN:* **710**

*NGR:* **SO25286040**

*Site Type:* **Marching camp ?**

*Description*

Hindwell marching camp II comprises a straight ditch, 12m long and showing as a cropmark.

It was not accepted as authentic by the Ordnance Survey in 1980.

However, in 1998 geophysics recorded the rounded corner of another possible marching camp, although it is not currently evident whether this ties in with previous records.

*Work/references*

Aerial photography in 1973.

Geophysics in 1998 (Gibson 1999, 67).

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of validity of site.

*Name:* **Nantmel marching camp**  
*PRN:* **17486** *NGR:* **SO021681**

*Site Type:* **Marching camp ?**

*Description*

Two sides of a rectilinear enclosure were noted on aerial photos and this survives as an earthwork on its north side, with a shallow external ditch. 300m of the west side and 230m of the north side remain, with rounded corner angle which is visible on aerial photos.

*Work/references*

Report: Browne and Hogg 1987, 23

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of the evidence.

*Name:* **Ffrith Roman site**  
*PRN:* **100020** *NGR:* **SJ28575529**

*Site Type:* **Multiple site**

*Description*

Over the last four centuries, a significant quantity of Roman material and building evidence has come from around the modern village of Ffrith, with William Camden recording a hypocaust at the end of the 16th century.

Excavations in the late 1960s recorded a complex stratigraphy with masonry buildings over timber predecessors.

The settlement is presumed to be a civil one, although the quantity of XX Legion tiles suggest a military connection.

Geophysical survey suggests the presence of a row of structures aligned east to west, while aerial photographs have revealed the Roman road from Chester and cropmarks of a rectangular earthwork at SJ 28884548. Subsequent fieldwork confirmed the line of the Roman road and also identified what was claimed as a fort platform, 108m by c130m, with a possible vicus to east. In addition a bath house was known under the modern village.

Excavations of a section through Offa's Dyke revealed Roman levels including a road or hard standing.

*Work/references*

Excavations in 1967-9.

Geophysics in 1987: Frere 1988, 416.

Fieldwork in 1988: Frere 1989, 258.

Excavations: Frere 1991, 222.

*Status*

Two discrete areas within the village of Ffrith have been scheduled as FI 164. The settlement here is thought to have been a civil one, but tiles suggest a military connection or antecedents.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of existing data.

*Name:* **Bush Wood enclosure**

*Site Type:* **Non antiquity**

*PRN:* **2273**

*NGR:* **SO26176471**

*Description*

The rectangular Bush Wood enclosure was formerly noted as a possible Roman fort by Professor J K S St Joseph, but was dismissed by the Ordnance Survey in 1981 as a disused field.

*Work/references*

None known.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assess source information if available.

*Name:* **Heol y Gaer fort**

*Site Type:* **Non antiquity**

*PRN:* **3420**

*NGR:* **SO184392**

*Description*

In 1958 this was noted as a possible Roman fort by Barri Jones, an enclosure covering approximately 10 ha with a smaller enclosure inside it. It has since been discounted by the Ordnance Survey.

*Work/references*

Jones 1958a; 1958b

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of existing evidence.

*Name:* **Painscastle Castle, mosaic pavement**

*Site Type:* **Occupation site**



PRN: 50296

NGR: SO1664346154

*Description*

A tessellated pavement was uncovered during work on the earthwork castle at Painscastle during the 19th century and subsequently reburied.

Taken at face value this suggests Roman occupation, and in the past a Roman fort has been postulated by staff of the RCAHMW, because of the bold right-angled scarp forming the north-west corner of the castle defences.

*Work/references*

Report: Dawson 1923

Notes: OS 1979

*Status*

The scheduled area of the motte and bailey includes what has been postulated as the north-west corner of a fort (Rd 006).

*Recommendations*

Assessment of existing data.

**Name: Llandrindod Common, Practice Camps**

**Site Type: Practice camp**

**PRN: 1086**

**NGR: SO05556155**

*Description*

A group of at least 19 practice camps lie on Llandrindod Common to the south of the fort at Castell Collen. The number has risen slightly since the Reverend Thomas Price first recorded them in 1811, and several have been destroyed as Llandrindod Wells has developed. Together they represent the largest but not the best-preserved group in Wales.

All are approximately square and had entrances protected by tutuli.

*Work/references*

First recorded at the beginning of the 19th century by Rev T Price (1814).

*Status*

Ten are scheduled altogether, either as Rd126 or Rd134.

*Recommendations*

Assess the schedule and determine whether it is sufficiently full.

**Name: Aberyscir Practice Camp**

**Site Type: Practice camp ?**

**PRN: 6039**

**NGR: SO000298**

*Description*

The cropmark of a sub-square univallate enclosure with rounded corners and sides of 27-30m in length. No surface traces evident.

It is sited on a level river terrace to the west of the River Usk, some 200m from Brecon Gaer and may be a Roman practice work.

*Work/references*

Aerial photography: Davies 1981.

Statement: Frere et al 1983, 280.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of the evidence.

**Name: Llandrindod Golf Course Earthwork**

**Site Type: Practice camp ?**

**PRN: 7045**

**NGR: SO07425994**

*Description*

A small rectilinear structure near Llandrindod has been suggested as a possible Roman practice camp. The enclosure adjoins linear structures which are possibly field boundaries.

No further information.

*Work/references*

Report: none known

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

Assessment of existing data.

**Name: Abertanat Roman Camp**

**Site Type: Siegework ?**

**PRN: 17492**

**NGR: SJ248214**

*Description*

Features, recognised from 1976 aerial photos, form parts of two Roman camps and a length of ditch.

Excavation on an almost annual basis from 1984 through to 1991 increased the level of information about these sites.

For Camp A, only the north-east corner and parts of two sides with an entrance in one side were visible. A

1.8m-wide defensive ditch, a timber gate, a box rampart and tutulum. This was over an earlier marching camp, and was estimated at 4 acres in extent. The existence of a timber-revetted rampart each side of the secondary gateway was proved in 1988

Camp B lies to the south of A. Only the north-east corner and parts of the north and east sides were visible on aerial photographs. It was believed to be 8 acres in area, with a double v-sectioned ditch 4.4m across. There was a possibility that the two camps may have been conjoined (Jones 1987, 54; Frere 1988, 417). Indications of a gravel rampart were found in 1988 and the ditch was identified at the south-east corner (Frere 1989, 259).

Excavation in 1989 and 1990 revealed six timber buildings, four of which may have been barracks. The buildings were c.4.25m wide with internal divisions. A ditch and what may have been the remains of a rampart were also identified (Frere 1991, 223). In the following year four buildings (possible barrack blocks) and a possible stores structure were examined by Barri Jones (Frere 1992, 256).

A planning application was submitted in 1991 for the proposed reconstruction of the gateway and rampart. This is reported to have been built.

#### *Work/references*

Aerial photography from 1976

Excavations, 1984-1991 by Prof Barri Jones. Interim reports: Jones, 1987, 54; Frere, 1988, 417; 1989, 259; 1991, 223; 1992, 256

#### *Status*

Unscheduled and unprotected.

#### *Recommendations*

Assessment of the surviving documentation for the site.

**Name: Brecon Gaer Vicus**

**Site Type: Vicus**

**PRN: 39815**

**NGR: SO00302970**

#### *Description*

The vicus is known largely from excavation. The road from the north gate of the fort was flanked by buildings for 275m and 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.

A significant spread of finds outside the fort is thought to provide further evidence for a vicus.

#### *Work/references*

Excavations in 1924-5.

Statement on bath house (RCAHMW 1986, 141).

A pit of Roman date, possibly for clay extraction, was revealed when a wildfowl pond was dug in 1990 outside the fort (Dorling 1990a, 54; Frere 1991, 224). Burnham 1994, 246).



*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

The primary aim of any further work should be to identify as far as possible the extent of the vicus at Brecon Gaer.

As elsewhere aerial photography might be helpful in certain years. But as long as ground conditions are suitable, geophysics seems to be the most realistic approach.

*Name:* **Caerau Fort, vicus**

*Site Type:* **Vicus**

*PRN:* **5891**

*NGR:* **SN922502**

*Description*

The identification (and subsequent scheduling) of the vicus is due to the observation of up to seven building platforms in the fields to the north-west of the fort.

*Work/references*

Jones & Thompson 1958.

Field observations by Jones and Birley in 1965 backed up collection of Roman pottery and building material from the area.

Test pitting in 1990 in response to a scheduled ancient monument revealed the Roman road and the compacted floors of the building platforms where these were examined Jones 1990, 54; Frere 1991, 224).

*Status*

Part scheduled as Br148.

*Recommendations*

The primary aim should be to identify as far as possible the extent of the vicus at Caerau, and particularly whether it is restricted spacially to the western side of the fort.

Aerial photography might be helpful in certain years. But as long as ground conditions are suitable, geophysics seems to be the most realistic approach.

*Name:* **Caersws Vicus**

*Site Type:* **Vicus**

*PRN:* **5869**

*NGR:* **SO0391**

*Description*

The Caersws vicus extends under much of the modern settlement and tends to lie to the north and west of the fort. Currently it is considered to have spread over 7 hectares.

A considerable number of excavations and watching briefs have occurred within the modern settlement,

presenting a sporadic picture of activity from the 1st century AD to the second half of the 3rd century and perhaps beyond.

A cremation urn found near Caersws bridge on the south bank of the Severn before 1869 (Barnwell 1870) may well indicate this is part of a larger cemetery although a prehistoric origin can not be ruled out.

#### *Work/references*

Cremation (Barnwell 1870).

Much excavation over the last thirty years (see Daniels et al 1970; Britnell 1989; Jones 1993; Jones 1996; (Hankinson & Jones 2003; Grant 2003).

#### *Status*

Areas of the vicus on the north-west and north-east of the fort are protected within SAM Mg001, and additional but discrete areas of both fort and vicus have subsequently received protection as Mg 222, Mg 242 and Mg 244.

#### *Recommendations*

Assess whether existing scheduling is representative.

**Name: Castell Collen Vicus**

**Site Type: Vicus**

**PRN: 39814**

**NGR: SO055627**

#### *Description*

The vicus at Castell Collen is predicted to lie to the south and east of the fort, between it and the river.

There is some inferential evidence for the roads entering the fort on the north and perhaps the west. And in the woodland to the east of the fort are banks and hollows, perhaps related to the vicus, for areas of laid metalling and clay 'floors' were noted after tree blows in 1987. One or two other levelled areas have been noted, one just to the south-west of the south gate, and another, larger one, perhaps to the west of the fort, and Flavian deposits were revealed beneath the fort's extra-mural bath house.

In 1995-6 metal detecting beyond the west, south and east of the scheduled area turned up material. A total of 95 coins were found and approx 45 other finds or groups of finds. Coins date from the Republican era through to the late 3rd century. Possible evidence of metal working, religious activities and stone-masonry.

In 1997 geophysics was conducted to the north, west and south of the fort.

#### *Work/references*

Metal detecting in 1995/6 (Britnell et al 1999).

Geophysics in 1997.

#### *Status*

Some of the vicus may be included within the fort scheduling.

#### *Recommendations*

Assessment of the geophysics evidence. Should more be undertaken.

Assessment of scheduled area.

*Name:* **Forden Gaer fort, vicus**

*Site Type:* **Vicus**

*PRN:* **4872**

*NGR:* **SO207987**

*Description*

Part of the vicus may have been situated close to the Severn at SO 207987 where RB pottery and burnt material has been found in the river bank.

Roman occupation was identified c.150m south of the fort where stone footings and a clay floor together with a pit one metre in diameter and 1.5m deep was recorded in 1975. Also possible iron working. Presumably extra-mural settlement of fort.

Site 1 of Blockley's excavations examined a stretch of metalled road and adjacent features. These suggested an undeveloped vicus, expanding in the second half of the 2nd century and shrinking again after early 3rd century.

A road running in from the north-east towards the north part of the fort at Forden Gaer is visible as a parchmark. It appears to underlie the major phase of the fort.

Other cropmarks have been identified in the area around the fort.

*Work/references*

Finds in 1962 (Putnam 1962).

Excavation in 1975 (Conrell 1975).

Excavations in 1987 (Blockley et al 1990, 17).

*Status*

Some features are scheduled as Mg145.

*Recommendations*

An assessment of the immediate environs of Forden Gaer is required. This would include the sporadic evidence of a vicus as well as the enclosure (PRN 163) where Roman pottery was unearthed in 1987; and a much smaller enclosure (PRN 173).

Geophysics of at least some of vicus area.

*Name:* **Hindwell Fort, vicus**

*Site Type:* **Vicus**

*PRN:* **80117**

*NGR:* **SO25856050**

*Description*

Geophysical survey undertaken in 1998 revealed evidence of the Hindwell vicus in the form of rows of presumably timber buildings flanking either side of the road leading eastwards from the fort.



A double ditched Roman road also runs from the west gate of the fort for well over 100m.

*Work/references*

Geophysics in 1998.

*Status*

Not scheduled.

*Recommendations*

See Hindwell Fort (PRN 315).