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The Civil War Battlefield
at Montgomery, Powys
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT



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by M J Walters and K Hunnisett

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The English Civil War Battlefield of Montgomery - September 18th 1644

(An archaeological assessment of the battlefield location)

by

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Abstract

Using contemporary documentary references to the battle, cartographic evidence, records held on the County Sites and Monuments Record, the work of local historians and an intimate knowledge of the present topography of the battlefield area it was possible to propose a site for the battlefield on the eastern side of Montgomery below the present town. This hypothesis was tested using a controlled systematic metal detector survey on selected fields. A large number of metal objects, including many musket and pistol shot were located. These finds are interpreted as evidence of fighting on a mile long battle front.

The Historical Background

Throughout the duration of the Civil War up to 1644 Montgomery Castle had remained a neutral stronghold. The castle was the home of Lord Herbert of Chirbury and though suspected of Royalist tendencies he had refused to allow a garrison of either side to enter the castle and it is doubtful whether he supported either cause.

The town was poorly defended in the seventeenth century by a ruinous wall circuit of thirteenth century date. The wall circuit may not have been complete and an earthen bank and ditch is the only evidence for defences on the western side of the town. The 1610 John Speed plan of the town perhaps indicates that only the northern wall was built in stone with the rest of the wall being a timber construction at the top of a substantial bank. There were four gateways into the town.

The castle essentially guarded one of a number of river corridor gateways into the heart of Wales which straddle the Welsh borderland and was situated on an important north/south, east/west communication route. For the Parliamentarians the castle would have provided a good foothold from which to launch sorties into Royalist territory and disrupt communication and supply lines.

On September 4th 1644 Sir Thomas Myddleton, with the Parliamentary garrison from Oswestry, attacked the small Royalist garrison at Newtown with the intention of capturing gunpowder stored there. The powder was needed in the Parliamentary sieges of Shrewsbury, Chester and Liverpool. Having captured the garrison and powder Myddleton turned south towards Montgomery.

Montgomery was also reported to have held a substantial powder store and was approached on the same day by Myddleton's troops. The town was occupied, with no opposition, and terms of surrender of the castle were discussed with Lord Herbert. Failure to reply in the given time led to a small assault party, led by Lieutenant Colonel Till, crossing the outer ditch at nightfall and breaking through to the gatehouse of the middle ward whereupon, at pistol point, the occupants of the castle surrendered. Lord Herbert was allowed to remain in his residence under the terms agreed.

This action did not go un-noticed by the Royalists and was considered a sufficient threat to their supply of much needed gunpowder to warrant a counter attack. Myddleton had installed a small garrison in the castle under Col. Mytton which consisted of some 500 infantry. While on a foraging sortie with his cavalry and a small number of infantry Myddleton was surprised by a combined Royalist force dispatched by Sir Michael Ernely with horse and foot from the Shrewsbury garrison and other troops from surrounding Royalist garrisons. Myddleton's horse escaped to Oswestry to raise relief forces while the infantry under Mytton retreated back to Montgomery Castle. The castle was surrounded by Ernely's troops and besieged.

The siege of the castle between September 7th - 18th 1644 was largely directed at the more approachable western defences. The earthworks of the hillfort of Ffridd Ffaldwyn lay 350m to the west of the castle and were no doubt utilised as the siege camp. Defensive earthworks were thrown up by the Royalists and attack trenches were dug up to the western walls of the castle to effect a breach. The presence of artillery has not been confirmed. Other details of the siege are lacking but it is doubtful that, without relief, the Parliamentary garrison would have been able to hold the castle. A large amount of lead shot was found by metal-detectorists in fields on the western side of the castle in recent years close to SO22009678 (see Area 4 location). Sadly, these finds are now lost, but they attest to the intensity of action at this location.

While the Royalist siege was progressing Myddleton canvassed for support to raise a Parliamentary relief force. The Royalists were also requesting aid to force the surrender of Montgomery and to protect themselves from counter attack.

Many Royalist regiments were in the surrounding counties at this time following their defeat at the Battle of Marston Moor in Yorkshire on July 2nd 1644. They were slowly re-grouping and moving southward towards the Royalist headquarters at Oxford and Bristol. Royalist troops from North Wales and the Welsh bordering counties were re-directed towards Montgomery and a large force of some 4-5,000 troops slowly congregated at the town under the overall command of Lord Byron from Chester.

The Royalist forces included many regiments of elite and seasoned troops which had recently seen action and included the regiments of Lord Byron from Chester, Col. Michael Woodehouse's regiments from Ludlow, Prince Rupert's foot, Col. Marcus Trevor's regiment of horse, Col. Broughton's foot, Sir Michael Ernely's regiments of horse and foot from Shrewsbury, Col. Warren's regiment, Col. Ellis's regiment, Col. Washington's regiment of foot, Sir William Vaughan's regiment, Col. Tyler's regiment and Col. Huncke's regiment.

Through Myddleton's endeavours a Parliamentary force of some 3,000 troops, under the command of Sir John Meldrum, was also marching towards Montgomery. This army consisted of Sir William Brereton's Cheshire foot, Sir William Fairfax's Yorkshire regiments, Sir John Meldrum's Lancashire regiments, Myddleton's horse regiment and some troops from Staffordshire. The foot and horse were in roughly equal proportions of 1,500 men.

Lord Byron's Royalist forces appear to have been encamped around Montgomery holding all of the major access routes. An encampment below the town with defensive trenches seems to be suggested by contemporary sources but its location is not certain. Recent aerial photographs taken by the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust appear to show a square earthwork on the Sarkley Road junction with the B4388 (PAR 172) at SO223097735. To the north and west of this enclosure is a large arcing bank and ditch (PAR 174) at SO21899752 with the apex facing the town. The function of this earthwork is uncertain and was presumed by the OS surveyors to be a park pale boundary but it may have been a

former Royalist siege trench/encampment facing the castle which was later occupied by Parliamentary troops. In c.1811 a flint lock musket (PAR 173) was found in the side of Sarkley Lane where excavation of the municipal dump was taking place (SO22219743). The musket may have dated to the Civil War period but is now lost having been deposited at Welshpool Museum. This again may be evidence of military activity below the castle during the siege and subsequent battle.

As the Parliamentary army approached on the evening of September 17th the Royalist army deserted its lowland positions and moved up above the town and 'placed themselves upon the mountain above the castle' (almost certainly Ffridd Ffaldwyn and the ridge of hills to the south). The Parliamentary forces occupied the former Royalist lowland positions, one of which included a strategic bridge (either the Salt Bridge or the County Boundary Bridge) which blocked a Royalist retreat to the north or east, and camped overnight.

On the morning of September 18th a third of the Parliamentary horse and some foot were sent on a sortie to gather provisions from the surrounding countryside. The Royalists, seeing an advantage in the depletion of the enemy force, decided to attack and formed up in a battle line below and to the north-east of the town. It is estimated that the Royalist battle line would have been approximately a mile long with cavalry on the wings and infantry in the centre, possibly supported by small artillery field pieces between or to the rear of the infantry ranks.

The Parliamentary army formed up, facing the advantageous Royalist upslope position, in a similar array. The whole of the Royalist force then appears to have attacked in unison with the cavalry engaging the enemy horse on the wings and the infantry coming to push of pike at the centre. Col. Marcus Trevor led the initial Royalist horse charge on a Parliamentary wing with great success, mortally wounding Sir William Fairfax in the process, and the Parliamentary horse started to fall back in disarray.

The main objective of the initial Royalist attack, according to Meldrum, was the capture of a bridge at the rear of the Parliamentary battle line which was an important route of retreat for the Parliamentary forces towards Oswestry. This bridge is most likely to have been a precursor to the Salt Bridge on the Camlad to the north. Previous battlefield researchers have therefore placed the battle close to this bridge. This initial attack failed however and the objective was clearly never gained by the Royalists. The strategic importance would then have swung to the capture of the County Boundary Bridge and the Royalist escape route to Shrewsbury.

At the castle the Parliamentary troops under Mytton sallied out of their defences and attacked and overran the Royalist siege trenches capturing a number of officers and men in the process. Although not mentioned after this action in contemporary records it is assumed that Mytton's troops would then have descended on the rear of the Royalist position.

Meanwhile, on the main battlefield, the infantry were at push of pike and the Parliamentary troops were starting to fall back. Colonels Broughton and Washington with their Royalist foot stood well against Brereton's and Meldrum's infantry. Sir William Vaughan seems to have held back from the main attack according to Arthur Trevor's account. Royalist success seemed assured but at this point the Royalist line wavered and started to give way. It is clear that a strong Parliamentary counter attack had taken place. The Parliamentary cavalry and infantry who had been foraging are thought to have returned at this critical point and the cavalry attacked the Lancashire horse, who are described as fleeing without taking part in the engagement. This success, and a rallying Parliamentary infantry counter attack from front and

rear, caused the Royalist line to break up and retreat. The Parliamentary cavalry pursued the retreating Royalists for at least three miles.

The battle had lasted only an hour and left between 4-500 Royalists dead on the battlefield and 1,200-1,500 taken prisoner. The Parliamentary side claim to have lost only 40 men and 60 wounded. Sir William Fairfax and Major Fitz Simmons both died of their wounds however. The best of the Royalist foot had been decimated and a large amount of arms, ammunition and gunpowder captured which would have aided the Royalist relief of sieges at Chester and Liverpool.

The Topography of the Battlefield

The town of Montgomery lies on the western edge of a wide agricultural plain which is bordered on the north, south and east extremes by the River Camlad with rising ground beyond and on all sides. The plain consists of dispersed farms amongst a largely arable landscape of gently rolling hills of not more than 150m above OD. The substantial earthworks of Offa's Dyke cross the plain from north to south just over half a mile east of Montgomery. Small watercourses rising from springs dissect the plain and ultimately coalesce into tributaries of the Camlad. These watercourses have in places cut deep channels.

Two of these water courses form important boundaries to the seventeenth century battlefield:

(1) A water course just over half a mile south of Montgomery descends eastward and feeds the Lymore Park pools which are supplemented by springs rising within the Park. These pools drain northward into the Camlad and give rise to the 4-5m wide stream which crosses the battlefield from north to south. Prior to drainage works in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries this area was very marshy.

(2) Springs rising north and south of Ffridd Ffaldwyn descend rapidly northwards and have cut a deep channel (in places up to 10-15m deep) through fields west of Pwll Farm around Sarkley. This channel has been greatly filled in and culverted over recent years (D.Evans pers.comm).

Just over a mile to the north-west of Montgomery lies the course of the River Severn and the site of an old bridge crossing close to Caerhowel at S020809835

This landscape has changed little since the mid seventeenth century except for enclosure of the fields. The field boundaries would have been less of an obstacle in the open-field agricultural tradition of the time and the ground would have been suitable for both cavalry and infantry action. The major boundaries to the battlefield would have been Offa's Dyke to the east. The River Camlad and the deep Sarkley watercourse to the north and north-west. Montgomery itself and the hills above to the west. And, in the south, the marshy area around the Lymore Pools and the deeply cut watercourse approaching the County Bridge on the Chirbury Road.

The two main roads approaching the battlefield from the north (B4388) and east (B4386) cross into the battlefield area over bridges at S023349739 (County Bridge) and S022689942 (Salt Bridge). Of these two routes of approach the northern is the most recent being a turnpike road of late eighteenth century date. However an earlier route is suggested on the same alignment by the finding of timber bridge supports in the channel of the Camlad close to Salt Bridge by workers cleaning out the channel earlier this century (D. Evans pers.comm.). The dating of the Chirbury Road is less certain but probably much older as it approaches the site of a medieval gate into the town and is deeply

cut in the form of a hollow-way close to the County Bridge. The northern road also approaches a former gateway into the medieval town (Arthur's Gate) but the main approach to this gate is believed to have diverted from its medieval course and was formerly along the narrow Sarkley Lane to the north-west.

Bearing the above geographical confines in mind a hypothesis for the locations of array of the troops of each side in the battle line can be proposed and tested:

The Parliamentary Array

The Parliamentary relief force would have approached from the east and north, probably along the Chirbury Road and possibly also along an earlier northern route crossing near the Salt Bridge. Travel and access overland between these routes would also have been possible in the seventeenth century and the road corridors were probably not the only points of access to the battlefield. Troops would have been stationed at the bridge crossing points as they were key routes of retreat. The south-east wing of the Parliamentary array on the day of battle would have utilised a combination of geographical factors guarding their flank and included the marshy Lymore Park ground, the deep cut of the Lymore stream approaching the County Bridge and Offa's Dyke immediately at their rear. In the event of a retreat the earthworks of Offa's Dyke would have proved a useful defensive firing line and rallying point. A position behind the Dyke was probably the site of the baggage train.

From this cavalry position on the south flank an infantry line extended for just under a mile across the flat open ground west of Offa's Dyke and the Lymore stream. The other cavalry flank position to the north-west would have utilised the Hen Domen Ridge and ground immediately to the south-west. It is unlikely that troops were positioned west of the Sarkley Brook as this was a very deep feature cutting northward across the fields and effectively acted as a deterrent to enemy flank attack on this side. Artillery action is not directly referred to by the documentary sources but an indirect reference suggests that the Parliamentary artillery were positioned at the back of the army with Brereton (State Papers Domestic, Oct/Nov 1644). Three iron cannon balls have been found by metal detectorists, one of them to the south-east of the County Bridge. The latter find is shot from a Falcon artillery piece.

The Parliamentary line is therefore considered to have been arrayed between S023509709 and S022099818.

The Royalist Array

On the morning of the battle Royalist troops were probably stationed in two main locations:

(a) In the siege trenches facing the western side of the castle and on Ffridd Ffaldwyn.

(b) On the hills to the south of Ffridd Ffaldwyn above the town and castle.

Leaving a small number of infantry to guard the siege trenches the army moved downhill from Ffridd Ffaldwyn to form up on the slopes at the edge of the plain facing the Parliamentary army. A distinct low ridge facing the plain runs on a north-west (S022199757) to south-east (S023009666) alignment at the foot of the slopes leading down from the town. The top of the ridge provides the first unbroken view of the Parliamentary position in the flat plain which was just under half a mile to the north-east. The slightly elevated position

THE CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD AT MONTGOMERY SEPTEMBER 18th 1644



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of the Royalists was useful for observation of the Parliamentary array. It also added increased range to any field artillery the Royalists may have been using and the downslope would further have given impetus to a cavalry charge on the flanks.

The north-west and south-east flanks of the Royalist army were confined by the same geographical constraints as those described for the Parliamentary array. The Royalist army is therefore considered to have been aligned between S023009659 in the south-east and S021889772 in the north-west.

The Metal Detector Survey

Methodology

In order to test the hypothesis for the location of the battle front given above it was decided that two fields would be selected for intensive survey on the outer extremes of the alignment of the Parliamentary array. The Parliamentary alignment was chosen because this effectively became the skirmish line when the Royalists moved downslope. The ground here was therefore most likely to be productive in terms of metal objects lost during the battle.

The choice of fields to survey was constrained by the arable agricultural regime in progress at the time of the survey. While many fields had been ploughed a number were also actively being rotavated and seeded. On the advice of the landowner and tenant farmer two seeded fields were chosen. The seed had been planted only days before commencement of the survey and damage to the final crop would not occur as long as the survey was finished before seedling shoots were starting to appear.

The two fields chosen were:

(a) Centred on S022479782. A large field of 9ha in size on the north-west of the Parliamentary array close to flanking cavalry and right wing infantry positions.

(b) Centred on S023359752. A field of 4ha immediately north of the County Bridge and on the south-east of the Parliamentary array in a flanking cavalry position. Here, we also wanted to test the theory that this was the bridge crossing and line of retreat that the Royalists were trying to capture in the documentary references. It would have been an area of heavy fighting and there would be an anticipated corresponding high loss concentration of metal finds (see Fig.2; Area 3 and Appendix 2)

Baselines were surveyed in across the centre of each field from which find locations could be accurately measured in by offsets. Running parallel to the baseline 4 metre wide transects were metal detected using up to five discriminating machines in line. The four metre transect was defined by the arc of swing of a standard metal detector sweep with allowance of a metre either side to prevent crossover of signals and interference between machines. Discriminator settings were set to locate larger ferrous items and all non ferrous objects. Rejection settings were designed to weed out smaller ferrous 'rubbish' such as nails and fuel ash slag from coal fires or coke from steam ploughs, which was found to be common on both fields.

Find signals generally registered at depths of up to ten inches max. on both fields with most finds being found in the top 6 inches. At no time during the extraction of any of the finds was the bottom of the plough layer seen. This indicates that none of the finds were in-situ in a subsoil horizon and had all

been moved over an unknown distance from their original deposition locations by ploughing.

The extracted finds were mapped onto 1:2500 base maps taken into the field and the finds were immediately sealed in individual bags marked with the measured location of the find from the baseline and an individual code indicating the field number, find type and an individual number within the find type classification (eg.MB1 = Musket Ball 1). This code was also entered by the find spot on the base maps.

Discussion of the Military Finds from Fields 1 and 2

The Shot

In total 40 items were recovered which can be definitely assigned to military activity. Of these finds 38 consisted of various calibres and types of shot which have been classified on size and weight.

The lead spherical shot cast in single or multiple moulds at the manufacturing source, or in the field, are typical of calibres recovered from other Civil War battlefields in Britain, notably Naseby and Marston Moor. Shot of this type did not change its morphology significantly until the 19th century with the advent of rifled barrels. It is therefore possible that some of the shot recovered could have been deposited by later activities such as vermin/game hunting or target practice. The positional clustering, associated finds and mix of shot types however still strongly suggest a civil war military context.

Five types of shot have been identified. The three spherical shot types are typical of the ammunition fired by the common firearms of the Civil War period which included infantry muskets and cavalry pistols and carbines.

Three distinct calibres are represented in the Montgomery finds:

- (1) Musket Shot with diameters between 17mm - 20mm and weights of 20g - 35g
- (2) Carbine Shot with diameters between 14mm - 16mm and weights of 14g - 19g
- (3) Pistol Shot with diameters between 10.5mm - 13mm and weights of 7g - 13g

Eight of the shot finds have been impact damaged to varying degrees. One of the musket shot (MB23) has clear signs of being modified. In the Civil War period this form of modification was referred to as 'chewing' or 'poisoning' the bullet and it was widely condemned as inhumane and an act of barbarity by both sides. Lead shot were literally placed in the mouth and chewed in some cases, or cut with a blade to produce a rough indented surface. When this type of shot struck flesh it disintegrated and sent sharp lead fragments throughout the impact area causing a much more severe wound from which the victim was unlikely to recover or be successfully medically treated. Finds of such shot are rare and this is a good example showing clear impressions of teeth.

The 'double' musket shot (F2 MB3) is an example of an attempt to fire multiple rounds from a standard musket. Multiple shot were sometimes tamped down and fired in the hope that the individual shot would separate in flight and thereby increase the potential of hitting multiple targets. This example clearly did not separate and the two shot have become conjoined by the initial firing impact of the confined shot in the musket.

The square (or dice) and rectangular (or bar) shot have been recorded on other Civil War battlefields including Naseby, Goodrich Castle and Marston Moor.

Their precise means of firing is not recorded and such shot could have been successfully used in a number of weapons including:

- (1) Large bore firearms such as blunderbusses and tripod mounted 'murderers', fired loose or in cloth bags at close range multiple targets.
- (2) Fired from field artillery pieces wrapped in material or fired as case shot in improvised containers at medium range multiple targets.
- (3) Packed into hollow mortar shells for long range multiple targets with the shell exploding from above or amongst enemy troops at ground level with a longer fuse setting.

This type of multiple shot was an indiscriminate weapon which was designed to have the maximum effect on multiple targets packed closely together in a formation. It could be used with equal effect on infantry or cavalry targets.

The two surveyed fields show different calibre concentrations with a predominance of pistol and carbine shot close to the County Bridge site and a predominance of musket shot at the Pwll Farm end of the battlefield. This suggests increased cavalry action in the area around the County Bridge and infantry action close to Pwll Farm.

The Sword Pommel

Located amongst the musket shot concentration in field 1 the brass pommel was initially thought to be from a dagger type weapon. However close examination of a Civil War backsword in the Powysland Museum, and other published examples, shows that it compares favourably in size with a sword pommel from mass produced 'ammunition quality' swords of the time. The underside of the pommel has a square cut hole 11mm square for receiving the tang of the sword blade and the opposite side has an ovoid hole 9.5mmx8mm onto which the terminal nut would have been fixed. The surface around the square cut end has clear diagonal filing abrasion marks from the manufacturing process. The metal thickness is 2mm. One side of the mounting has clearly received a severe blow which may have resulted from battle damage.

The Lead Button

This is typical of buttons on Civil War period clothes which were more frequently made of wood. A number of examples have been recovered from Civil War battlefields. The example found was probably worn on a doublet.

Miscellaneous Buckles and Buttons (17th century)

A number of the buckles and buttons described in the catalogue below fall broadly within a seventeenth century date range but are not diagnostic enough to be placed firmly within a Civil War military context. As such items were not specifically mass produced for the war effort it is possible that some of the recovered examples could have been lost during the battle.

FIGURE 1 - FIELD 1 DISTRIBUTION OF MILITARY FINDS

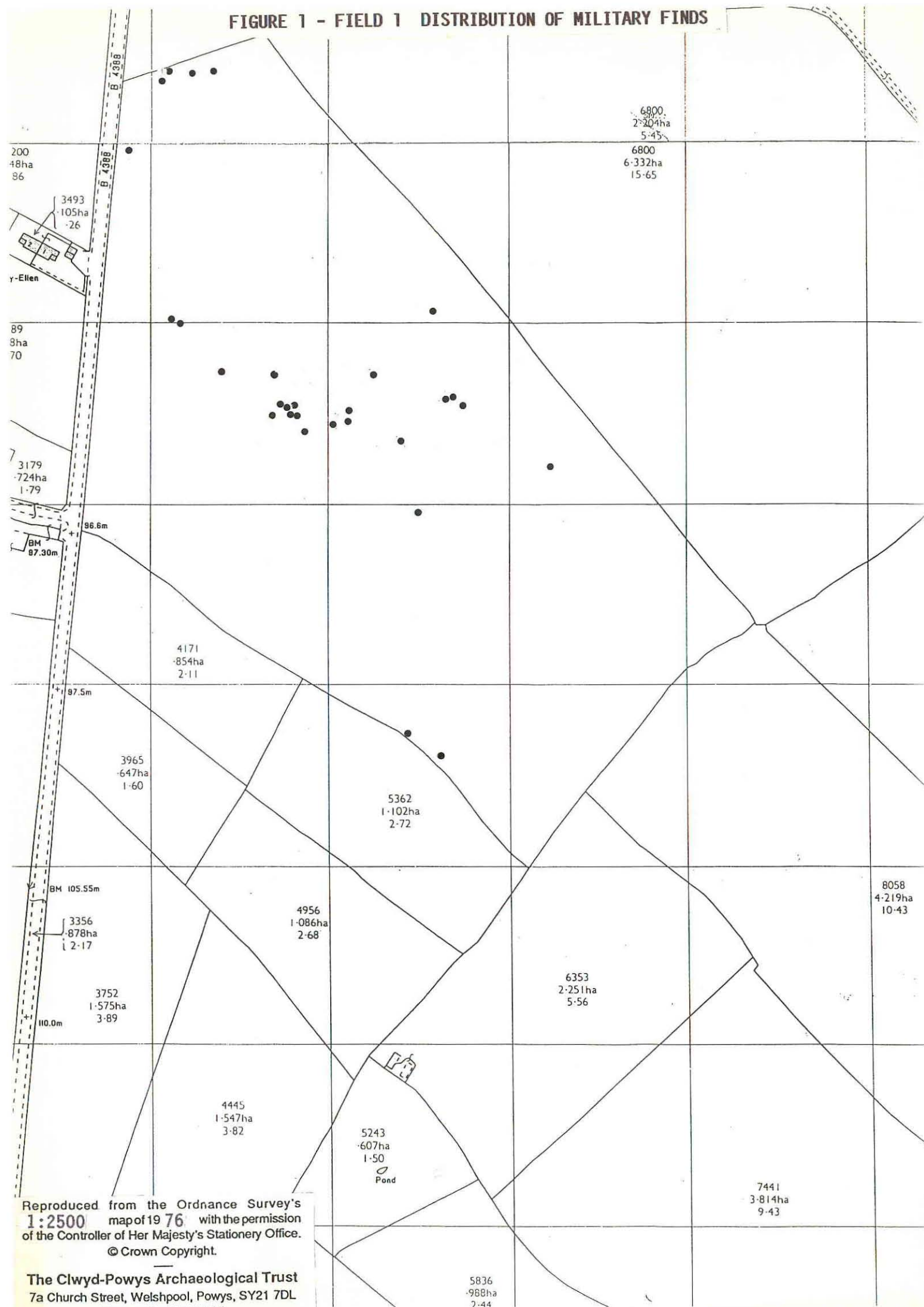
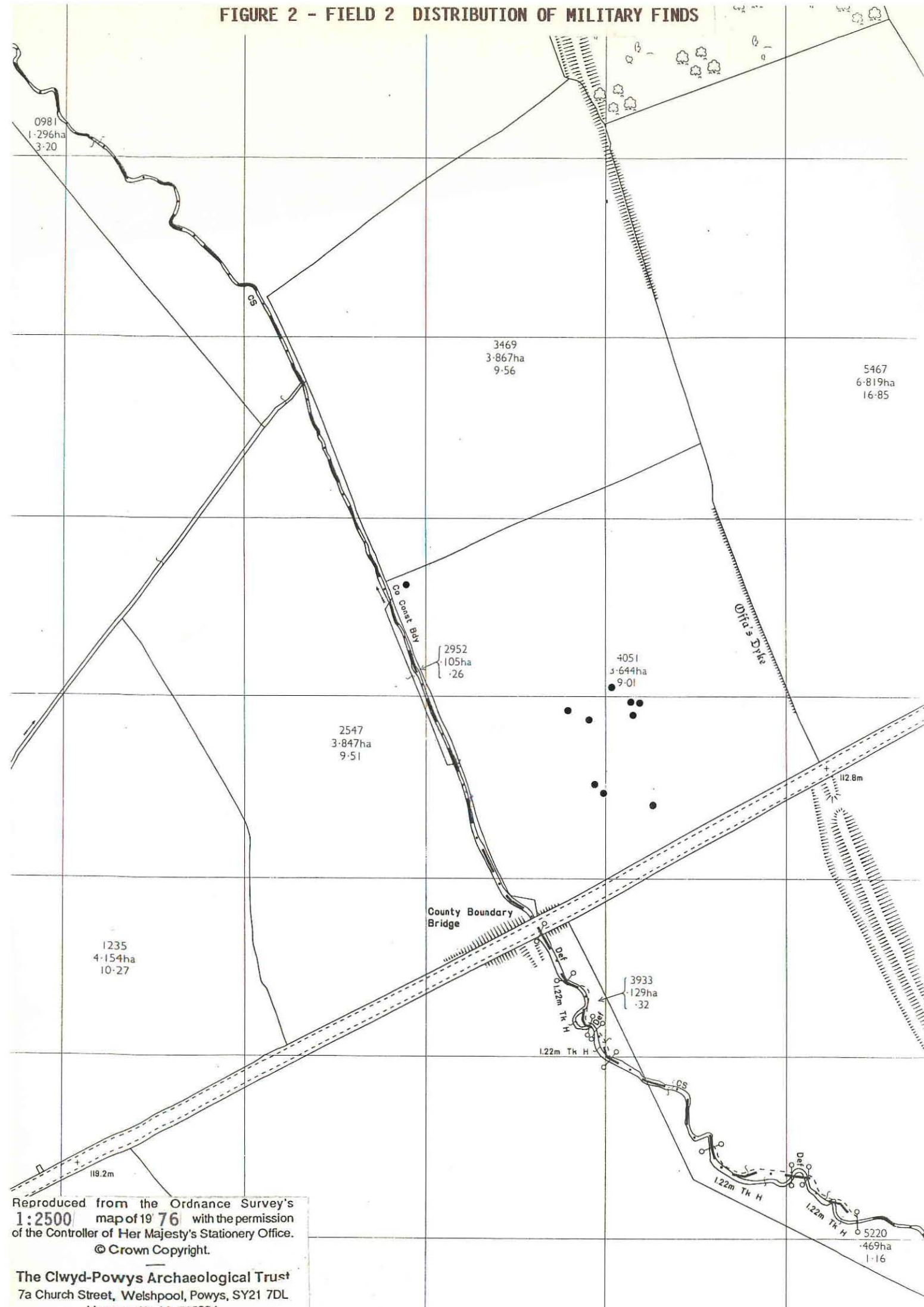


FIGURE 2 - FIELD 2 DISTRIBUTION OF MILITARY FINDS



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The Metal Finds

(Full Descriptive Catalogue)

Field 1 (S022479782) - Military Items

Musket Shot	Diam.(max)	Weight(g)	Desc.	Location
MB1	17mm	27	Complete	S02246497850
MB2	18mm	20	Impact Damage	S02247397858
MB3	18.6mm	34	Complete	S02247297858
MB4	17.9mm	31	Impact Damage	S02254097833
MB5	20mm	34	Impact Damage	S02255997907
MB6	18mm	34	Impact Damage	S02257597858
MB7	18mm	34	Complete	S02262697823
MB8	17mm	27	Complete	S02250997847
MB9	16mm	26	Complete	S02247797854
MB10	17.5mm	33	Complete	S02240698043
MB11	18mm	35	Complete	S02241298041
MB12	15mm	20	Complete	S02248097845
MB13	14mm	9	Impact Damage	S02244197874
MB14	15.7mm	22	Complete	S02247997857
MB15	20mm	34	Impact Damage	S02250097843
MB16	15.5mm	20	Complete	S02241297901
MB17	17.1mm	28	Complete	S02251097851
MB18	16.8mm	27	Complete	S02248097870
MB19	17mm	27	Complete	S02247097869
MB20	16mm	23	Complete	S02252597869
MB21	16.5mm	26	Complete	S02256597857
MB22	17.8mm	32	Complete	S02256797857
MB23(L2)	23mm	32	Chewed	S02254297672

Pistol Shot	Diam.(max)	Weight(g)	Desc.	Location
PS1	12mm	9	Complete	S02242598040
PS2	13mm	12	Complete	S02241697900

Square Shot	Diam.(max)	Weight(g)	Desc.	Location
L10	10.5x13mm	14	Complete	S02247298011

Bar Shot	Diam.(max)	Weight(g)	Desc.	Location
L6	10x10x36.5mm	33	Complete	S02254997796
L9	11.5x11.5x28mm	29	Complete	S02243898041

Sword Pommel	Diam.(max)	Desc.	Location
P1	28mm	Complete/Brass	S02247997849
Lead Button	Diam.(max)	Desc.	Location
LB	16.8mm	Complete/Pierced	S02255797762

Field 1 (S022479782) - Non-Military Items

Buckles	Length.(max)	Desc.	Location
BB2	48mm	Brass?/Rectangular 2 piece/20th C.?	S02242797814
BB3	38mm	Bronze/Shield Shape/Harness/18thc.	S02248797873
BB4	20mm	Cu Alloy/Sub-square/Spur/17th-18th c.	S02247797891
BB5	44mm	Bronze/Floriata-square Belt/17th c.?	S02241598014
BB6	57mm	Bronze/Square/Harness 19th c.?	S02243097765

Coins	Diam.(max)	Desc.	Location
C1	21.5mm	Copper/Illegible Late 17th-18th c.	S02243297831
C2	28mm	Copper/Illegible 18th c.	S02248597882

Buttons	Diam.(max)	Desc.	Location
Bt1	13mm	Cu Alloy/Silvered face/Fastening loop 17th-18th c?	S02239597899
Bt2	27mm	Cu Alloy/Plain face/Fastening stud 17th c?	S02249897871
Bt3	27.5mm	Cu Alloy/Circular band decoration/Fastening stud. 17th-18th c.	S02243797897
Bt4	34mm	Cu Alloy/Gold plated/Engraved design/gold inlay/Fastening loop 18th c.	S02252197885
Bt5	11mm	Cu alloy/Plain/Domed Fe shank missing 17th c	S02252997852

Misc.Cu Alloy Objects	Length(max)	Desc.	Location
B1	40mm	Brass/Acorn neck halter terminal 19th c.?	S02248397842
B2	21mm	Bronze disc/Possible Roman contemporary coin forgery/Illegible	S02242397905

B3	39mm	Bronze Jew's Harp Incomplete/18th c	S02242697814
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Misc. Pb Objects	Length(max)	Weight(g)	Desc.	Location
L1	49mm	24	Folded lead strip	S02253997672
L3	40mm	30	Sub-square lead sheet	S02248597708
L4	35mm	7	Folded lead strip	S02261497608
L5	33mm	15	Folded lead sheet Possible impacted shot	S02254997667
L7	16mm square	50	Square 2oz weight	S02238897995
L8	34mm	/	Unidentified/Pewter?	S02259097772
L11	34mm	17	Rectangular lead sheet	S02237797912
L12	162mm	252	Rectangular lead sheet with 27mm diam. circular hole	S02251797854
L13	15mm diam.	/	Lead spindle whorl	S02242398047

Field 2 (S023409750) - Military Items

Musket Shot	Diam.(max)	Weight(g)	Desc.	Location
MB1	28mm	35	Complete	S02342497496
MB2	17mm	25	Complete	S02329097560

Double Musket Shot

MB3	16&18mm	52	Impact Damaged	S02337797487
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Pistol Shot

PS1	12mm	11	Complete	S02339297489
PS2 (Carbine?)	14mm	16	Complete	S02341497490
PS3	11mm	9	Complete	S02341597489
PS4	12mm	13	Complete	S02341997496
PS5	12mm	11	Complete	S02339997450
PS6	10.5mm	7	Complete	S02342597440
PS7	13.5mm	12	Impact Damaged	S02339097451

Field 2 (S023409750) - Non Military Items

Buckles	Diam.(max)	Length	Desc.	Location
B1	29.5mm	/	Incomplete/Bronze Plain/Circular	S02341097415
B2	/	24mm	Incomplete/Cu Alloy Horse-Shoe shaped with raised studs. Black polish ?. 17th- 18th c. Shoe	S02341497490
B3	/	26mm	Incomplete/Cu Alloy Shoe/17th-18th	S02344697535
B4	/	55mm	Incomplete/Bronze/ Belt/Harness	S02341697445
Misc. Finds				
017	/	78mm	Pewter Tankard Handle Incomplete	S02342497497
018	11.5mm	/	Cu Alloy Stud	S02339597425
Pewter Button				
PB1	22mm	/	Circular band of chevron decoration	S02341697445
Lead Objects		Weight(g)		
L1	22mm	8	Impacted Pistol Shot?	S02338297564
		Length		
L2	/	48mm	Lead Strip	S02341297421
		Weight(g)		
L3	27mm	8	Impacted Pistol Shot?	S02338997435
		Length		
L4	41mm	41mm	Folded Lead Strip	S02339097505
L5	/	59.5mm	Lead with Fe inclusions. Weight 128g	S02338597450
L6	/	32mm	Lead droplet	S02342099743
L7	/	32mm	Lead sheet	S02341697445

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Mark Smith - A volunteer Metal Detectorist.

Appendix 1

The Lymore Park Civil War Armour

In 1860 while draining a pool near Lymore House (SO23089623, demolished c.1930) the workmen retrieved from the bottom a helmet containing a skull and quilted fabric lining together with a breastplate. These were deposited with the Powysland Museum, Welshpool, in the 1930's but the helmet and skull were subsequently removed to the Royal Armouries collection in the Tower of London where they currently reside.

The helmet is made of high quality steel and in origin the main one piece cranial 'pot' was a late fifteenth century Italian sallet possibly manufactured by the Missaglias of Milan. The skull-piece was modified at some time during the Civil War by the addition of a triple barred, hinged visor and five tail plates to guard the neck. Cheek pieces were also riveted to the original helmet but are now both missing. The difference in age and steel quality is instantly recognisable in the different colouring of the metal from each period of manufacture.

The triple bar 'lobster pot' was the standard cavalry helmet for both sides during the Civil War. The preservation of the lining is rare and owes its survival to the waterlogged conditions of the find.

The breastplate was believed to be lost but there is an unattributed example in the Powysland Museum which would appear to date to the Civil War period and it would seem reasonable to conclude that this is in fact the Lymore breastplate.

The location of the find is curious. It is possible that in the final phase of the battle the Parliamentary rout of the fleeing Royalists involved the pursuit of a Royalist cavalry unit in this direction. The Lymore Park area was almost certainly marshier in the seventeenth century with poor drainage and would have been unfavourable ground for cavalry action. It would seem that an individual was wounded or killed close to one of the pools and was carried into the pond by his fleeing mount. It is unlikely the body was deliberately dumped in the pond as the armour would have been retrieved.

Six hundred other fragments of pikemans armour were excavated in the inner ditch of Montgomery castle in 1967-8 and have been attributed to Italian manufacture in the mid to late sixteenth century. They are considered to be remains of armour collected from the battlefield. It would appear that the most useful pieces of the armour such as the helmets and cuirass were kept while the arm, shoulder, thigh and neck protecting plates were discarded in the ditch at some time prior to the slighting of the castle walls in 1647.

Appendix 2

Catalogue of unprovenanced military finds recovered by metal detectorists from fields centred on S023479733, S023639692 and S023369716 (AREA 3) and S022009678 (AREA 4)

Musket Shot	Weight(g)	Diam.(max)	Desc.	Location
MB1	32	17mm	Complete	N/A
MB2	35	19mm	Impact Damaged	N/A
MB3	24	16mm	Complete	N/A
MB4	23	16mm	Complete	N/A
MB5	30	17mm	Complete	N/A
MB6	32	17mm	Complete	N/A
MB7	35	17mm	Impact Damaged	N/A
MB8	29	17mm	Complete	N/A
MB9	30	16.5mm	Impact Damaged	N/A
MB10	33	18mm	Complete	N/A
MB11	32	19mm	Impact Damaged	
			Chewed?	N/A
MB12	30	17mm	Complete	N/A
MB13	36	20mm	Complete	N/A
MB14	25	17mm	Complete	N/A
MB15	31	19mm	Complete	N/A
MB16	26	18mm	Impact Damaged	N/A
MB17	35	18.5mm	Complete	N/A
MB18	30	18.5mm	Complete	N/A
MB19	35	19.5mm	Complete	N/A
MB20	22	15mm	Complete/Poss.	
			Carbine Shot	N/A
MB21	21	15.5mm	Complete/Poss.	
			Carbine Shot	N/A
MB22	23	16mm	Complete	N/A
MB23	24	17mm	Complete	N/A
MB24	43	20mm	Complete & with 5mm long casting sprue	
Pistol Shot	Weight(g)	Diam.(max)	Desc.	Location
PS1	11	14mm	Complete	N/A
PS2	11	12mm	Complete	N/A
PS3	8	10.5mm	Complete	N/A
PS4	7	10mm	Complete	N/A
PS5	6	9mm	Complete	N/A
PS6	5	9mm	Complete	N/A
PS7	8	11.5mm	Impact Damaged	N/A
			3mm casting sprue	N/A
Carbine Shot	Weight(g)	Diam.(max)	Desc.	Location
CS1	20	15mm	Complete	N/A
			Chewed	
CS2	18	15mm	Complete	N/A
CS3	17	15.5mm	Complete	N/A
CS4	16	15mm	Complete	N/A
CS5	16	14.5mm	Complete	N/A
CS6	16	14mm	Complete	N/A

Split Shot	Weight(g)	Diam.(max)	Desc.	Location
SS1	55	25mm	Complete	N/A
SS2	10	15mm	Complete	N/A

Bar Shot(Sq)	Weight(g)	Diam.(max)	Desc.	Location
BS1	35	25x11x12mm	Complete	N/A

Misc. Shot	Weight(g)	Diam.(max)	Desc.	Location
MS1	33	15.5mm	Complete Round Bar	N/A
MS2	22	16.5mm	Impact Damaged Probable Musket Shot	
MS3	13	16mm	Ovoid Shape Complete	N/A
MS4	25	18.5mm	Round Bar	N/A
MS5	16	16mm	Sub-circular Impact Damage ?	N/A
MS6	21	22mm	Impact Damaged Round Bar ?	N/A
MS7	6	9mm	Round Bar Complete	N/A
MS8	11	24mm	Impact Damage ? Round Bar ?	N/A
MS9	18	12mm	Impact Damage Round Bar	N/A
MS10	16	12mm	Impact Damage Round Bar	N/A
MS11	13	14mm	Impact Damage Round Bar	N/A

Artillery Shot	Weight(g)	Diam.(max)	Desc.	Location
AS1	824	60mm	Cast Iron/Single mould joint scar Possible impact damage	S023339735

Lead Button	Weight(g)	Length(max)	Desc.	Location
LB1	14	37mm	Probable buff coat toggle/Complete/ Pierced	N/A

Discussion of Unprovenanced Military Finds

A total of 53 items have been recorded which are considered to be of military origin. Many more finds made by metal detectorists have come from these areas which are thought to be of Civil War date but it has not been possible to trace their current whereabouts. It is known that the finds included a considerable number of horse trappings, dress buckles and other military items. The finds recorded below are those handed over to the landowner by metal detectorists.

The high incidence of shot close to the County Bridge and castle attest to the intensity of fighting at these locations. From the shot types present it would seem that combined infantry and cavalry action was taking place close to the County Bridge in Area 3. The artillery shot is one of three known to have come from the battlefield area and suggests Royalist artillery firing on a Parliamentary position close to the County Bridge. A quarter of the lead shot display impact damage. The round bar shot and split shot may have been fired by large bore firearms or artillery pieces.

These finds together with the Field 2 military finds to the north are good evidence of a concerted attempt to take the bridge crossing that existed at County Bridge in the seventeenth century. Cavalry and infantry troops of both sides were engaged in the action at this location. The shot which may have come from Area 4 close to the castle are almost certainly related to the Royalist siege of the castle.