Project Reml 36857

ARCHAEOLEG CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

RICHMOND PARK, CARMARTHEN

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON THE FOOTBALL GROUND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

MAY-JUNE 1998

Report prepared for Carmarthen Town Council
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* Field Operations during extensive groundworks to install a new drainage improvement system at Carmarthen Town Football Club's ground, Richmond Park.

The site lies within the bounds of the Roman town of *Moridunum,* an area within which the presence of archaeological deposits has been well demonstrated by aerial photography, geophysical survey, and an archaeological evaluation undertaken by *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* in 1996 during the installation of floodlights at the ground (Ludlow, 1996). Indeed, the 1996 evaluation was intended to inform the works described herein and allow a work strategy which would minimise the extent of the damage to archaeological features or deposits. The archaeological importance of the site is further underlined by the protection afforded to it as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Carm 234). The value of the site as an archaeological resource cannot be over emphasised.

Unfortunately, the form and dimensions (average depth 0.70m) of the trenches, the method deployed in their excavation, and the contractors schedule did not allow truly effective characterisation and description of the encountered archaeology. It was possible only to obtain a general archaeological overview of the site.

Nevertheless, deposits relating to a Roman road known to cross the site from east-west, were revealed. Stiff clays derived from the rampart of the known Roman town defences occurred at the north-east corner of the site. Gravels along the western edge of the site may be associated with a possible north-south co-axial road, and further linear gravel deposits may represent trackways. The majority of the occupation deposits, typified by yellow-brown clay loams, appear to lie above, ie. post-date, the rampart and road(s), as observed elsewhere within the Roman town. The remainder of the evidence was less unequivocal. An extensive area of heat-reddened clay contained Roman brick/tile suggestive of an oven or furnace. Two parallel lines of gravel may represent sill wall foundations for a building, and some isolated stiff clay layers may have been structural; a layer of charcoal and tile was characteristic of burnt building debris. Further dispersed areas of gravel appear to be yard surfaces or hard stands. Buried soils occurred in the bottom of the drainage trenches in various parts of the site, but nowhere was the natural subsoil exposed.

The Roman deposits were exposed only in the northern two-thirds of the site where they were overlain, in the main, by ploughsoils and garden soils imported in the 19th century. The deposits occurred at an average depth of 0.50m from the present surface, but the east-west road surface across the centre of the site rose to 0.10m from the surface. Roman deposits lay below the level of the trenches in the southern third. Post-Roman deposits and structures were mainly post-medieval.

The site generally is of importance at a national level.

1.2 PLANNING HISTORY

Richmond Park - Carmarthen Town FC's football pitch - lies within a large area of the former Roman Town, protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Carm 234). Carmarthen Town Council wished to improve the pitch by the installation of a new drainage system.

In July 1995, *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* (then Dyfed Archaeological Trust) acted for Cadw in arranging for a geophysical survey of the pitch to be undertaken by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford. Discussions took place between Cadw, Dyfed Archaeological Trust and ADAS, acting as design engineers for the Town Council on possible modifications to the drainage scheme to reduce archaeological damage. It

was considered desirable to pursue the normal processes of archaeological assessment in order to decide the best modifications to the drainage scheme and to inform conditions likely to be attached to any Scheduled Monument Consent that the Secretary of State might be minded to grant by a further process of test pitting. Accordingly, when the Town Council applied to Cadw for SMC for a floodlighting scheme, full consultation was waived in view of the short timetable for the works. It was agreed by Cadw and Dyfed Archaeological Trust that the pits for the floodlight bases would also serve as archaeological evaluation pits, thus further reducing the additional costs that the Town Council might incur in satisfying the archaeological requirements for the proposed drainage works. The results of this evaluation were to be seen within a wider programme of archaeological assessment and evaluation of the possible adverse impact of the drainage scheme on the archaeological remains of the Roman town below the surface of the football pitch. Carmarthen Town Council and Carmarthenshire County Council were advised of this situation and of Dyfed Archaeological Trust's Heritage Management Section's response to Planning Application D4/26447/55 made by Carmarthen District Council and received by Dyfed Archaeological Trust on 15 April 1996.

The archaeological evaluation of the six pits for the floodlight bases, and two soakaway pits, was undertaken by *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* (Dyfed Archaeological Trust) Field Operations Section on 17 April 1996. The floodlight pits were machine dug to a depth of 1.1m and Roman deposits were encountered at an average depth of 0.85m, but in two pits they occurred at a depth of just 0.6m.

Carmarthen Town Council reapplied for Scheduled Monument Consent for the drainage scheme on 17 April 1998, with additional information including a plan of the drainage layout provided on 8 May. The Secretary of State was minded to grant SMC subject to the provision that 'an approved archaeologist shall be afforded adequate opportunity to record any features of archaeological interest revealed during excavation of the drainage trenches', through the maintenance of an archaeological watching brief. However, in the covering letter, Cadw (Welsh Historic Monuments) considered it 'unlikely that any significant archaeological features would be revealed during the drainage works', on the basis that the application stated that 'at only two locations within the scheduled area would the proposed depths for trenches exceed the level of 0.75m'.

The Field Operations Section of *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* was appointed as the watching archaeologist and was notified of Carmarthen Town Council's intention to commence groundworks for the drainage scheme on 20 May 1998. The excavations commenced on Wednesday 27 May 1998 and continued for a total of 6 days, finishing on Tuesday 2 June 1998.

1.3 Content and Scope of the Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during an operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons - normally a development or other construction project - within a specified area where archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

The watching brief is intended to allow, subject to resources, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits in advance of their disturbance or destruction; and to provide an opportunity, if necessary, for the watching archaeologist to alert all interested parties to the presence of an archaeological find for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are insufficient to support satisfactory treatment.

The watching brief is not intended as a substitute for contingent archaeological excavation.

The client will be supplied with three copies of an archaeological report of the findings of the watching brief. This report will be fully representative of all the information recovered. A copy of the report will also be deposited with Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record.

1.4 Purpose and Methodologies of the Watching Brief

The purpose of the watching brief is to undertake as complete a record as possible of any archaeological features affected by the client's scheme of works. In the case of larger archaeological sites it will seldom be possible or necessary to undertake a record of the entire site; the record will be undertaken only on those areas of the site that may be affected.

The primary stage of the watching brief for any scheme involves consultation of the Dyfed Sites and Monuments Record, which is maintained by *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* Heritage Management Section, the client will normally advise *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* Field Operations Section of any changes in the proposed works which may be affected by the scheme. The client will normally also provide the Field Operations Section with a proposed schedule of works in order that a full field study may be performed on any affected site prior to the commencement of the works.

Work on or around those affected sites will be subject to the watching brief. The work will be closely observed by an archaeologist from the Field Operations Section who will also undertake a full drawn, written and photographic record of any archaeological features which may be disturbed by the scheme, and any artefact or find exposed during the works. Recording will be carried out where necessary and when convenient; it is the Field Operations Section's aim to minimise any disruption to the client's schedule. However, if archaeological features may be lost during the scheme, it may be necessary for the Field Operations Section to request a postponement of the works in order that the archaeology may be recorded. Larger areas affected may require fuller excavation and/or survey.

2.0 RICHMOND PARK, CARMARTHEN

2.1 SITE LOCATION

Richmond Park lies at NGR SN 4145 2030, towards the east of the present town of Carmarthen. The general trend of the surrounding area is a very gentle downhill slope from south to north, averaging 20m above sea level; the football pitch itself is level. The solid geology is Ordovician shale, which is overlain by glacial boulder clays and gravels.

According to local oral sources, an intermittent spring is present on the east side of the pitch

2.2 SITE HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION (SEE FIG. 1)

Carmarthen is the site of the Roman settlement of *Moridunum*. Long thought to have represented just a fort, *Moridunum* has been demonstrated through excavation by GDB Jones in the 1960s, and more importantly by a long sequence of excavations and watching briefs performed by *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology*/Dyfed Archaeological Trust since 1978, to have been a town. Accounts of the Trust's work (and summaries of the earlier excavations) are to be found in James, 1980, and James, 1992. Below is a very short précis based on these two sources.

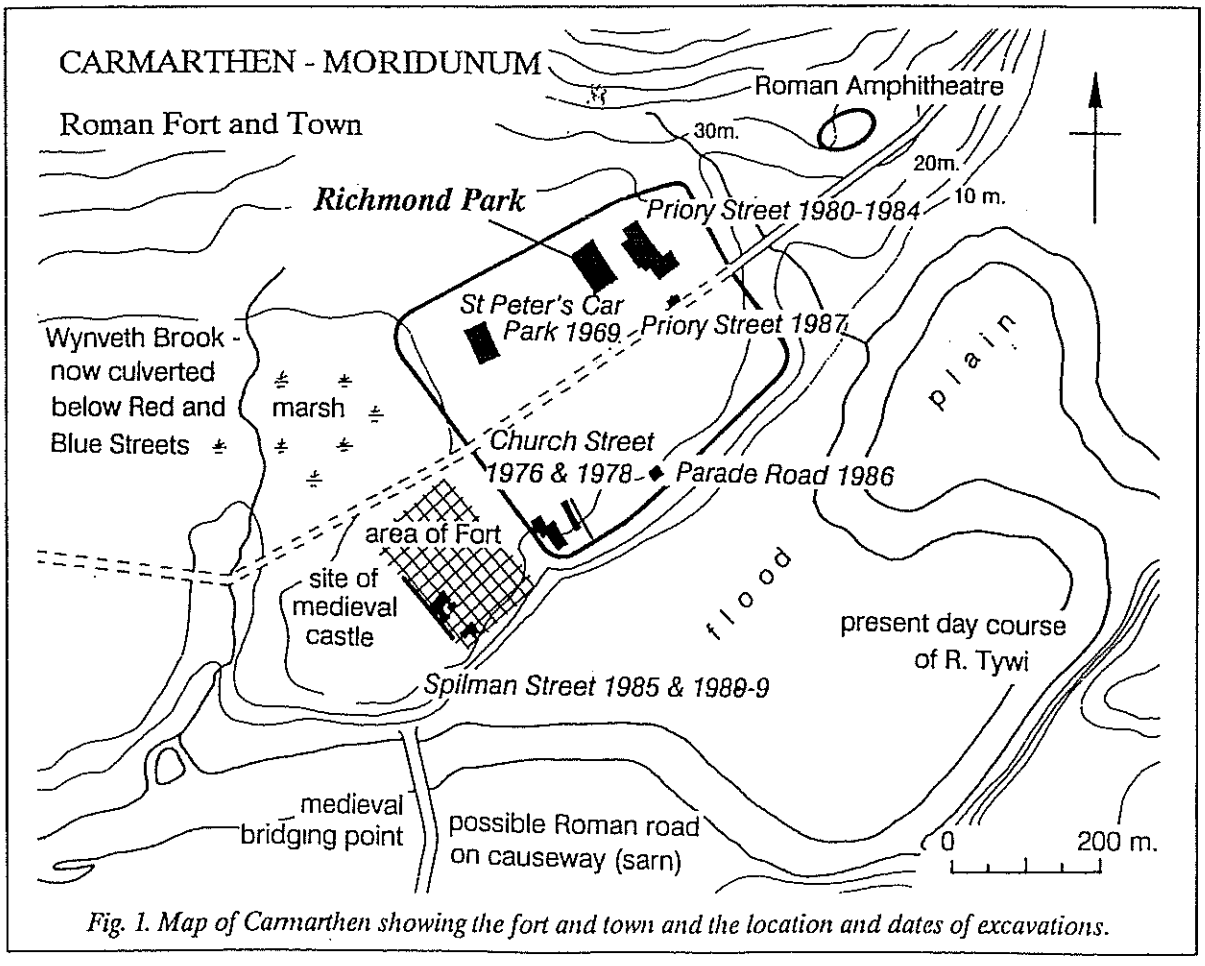


Fig. 1. Map of Carmarthen showing the fort and town and the location and dates of excavations.

Roman occupation began with the construction of a fort in the King Street/Spilman Street area which was occupied AD 75-c.AD 100. A town was formally laid out by c.AD 110. It was defended by a clay rampart in the late 2nd-3rd century AD, supplemented by a masonry wall in the later 3rd-4th century AD. The course of the Roman defences is preserved in the lines of Little Water Street, Richmond Terrace, Old Oak Lane, the footpath known as Llwybr-yr-ardd, The Esplanade, The Parade, and Parade Road (fig. 2). At least two well metalled streets ran through the defended area from east to west, the southern roughly on the line of Priory Street. A large area in the north-east quarter of the defended area, excavated by Dyfed Archaeological Trust 1980-84, revealed a sequence of timber buildings, a temple, evidence for ironworking, and two metalled roads, including a section of the northern east-west road that ran the length of the town. Urban life in the Roman tradition had collapsed by the 5th century AD, but some form of occupation may have persisted at Carmarthen.

The Richmond Park football pitch site lies at its closest point just 70m west of the 1980-84 excavations. It is an open and undeveloped area through which the excavated east-west road can be seen to continue as a parchmark in aerial photographs (fig. 3). The Richmond Park pitch, and the smaller field to the east, were accordingly subject to geophysical survey in 1995.

Fig. 2 Carmarthen Roman town looking NNW in 1985

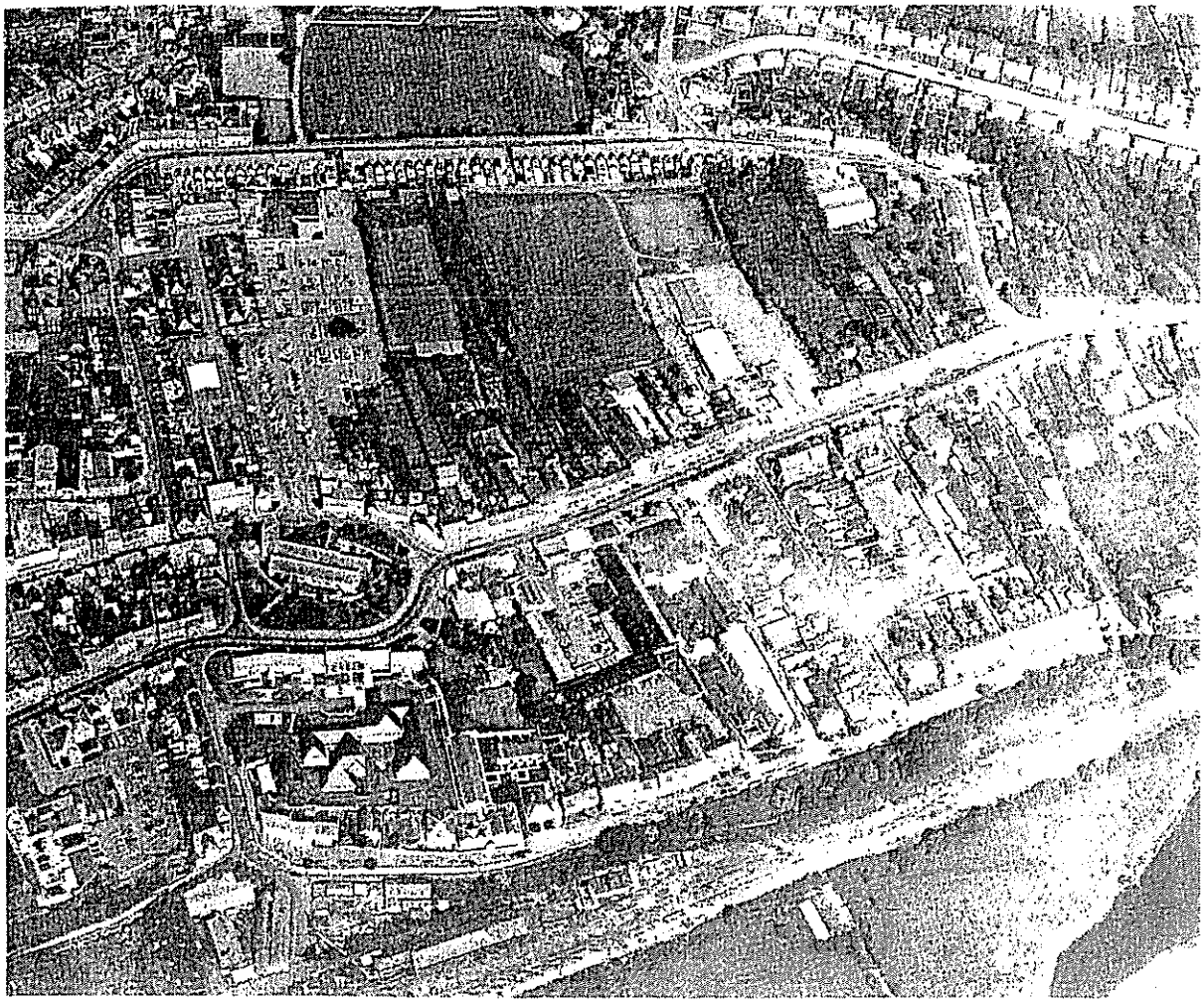
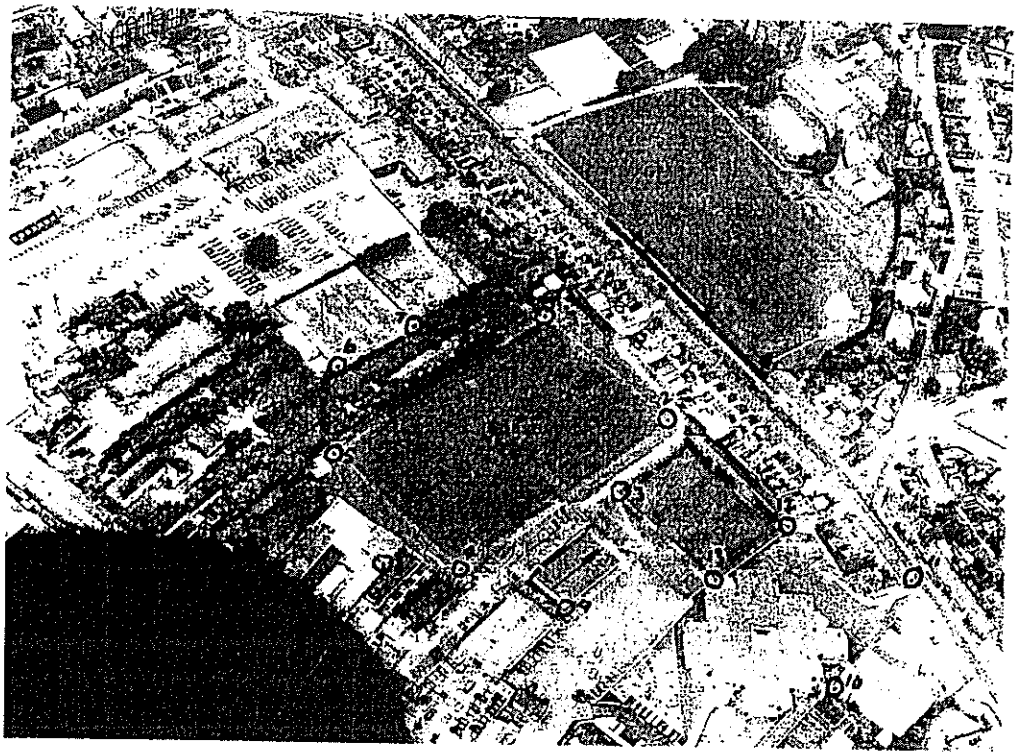


Fig. 3 Carmarthen Richmond Park: aerial photograph showing parchmark of Roman road, 1989



2.3 THE GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY, 1995 (SEE APPENDIX 9.2)

A synthesis of the results of the geophysical survey, undertaken by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford in August 1995, is shown in Appendix 6.1.

In summary, the survey confirmed that a Roman road crosses the Football Pitch site, just north of the centre line, indicated as a resistance anomaly approximately 4m wide interrupted in the middle by modern disturbance. Further resistance anomalies resolve as complexes of possible masonry walling (buildings?), and also indicate recent drainage beneath the pitch. Gradiometer results indicate the existence of magnetic anomalies representing archaeological features such as pits etc. and probable ferrous material (from ironworking activity?). Whilst these features may not all represent Roman activity, the evidence suggests the presence of a significant below ground archaeological deposits.

2.4 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 1996 (SEE FIG 4 AND APPENDIX 9.3)

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken, at short notice, by *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology*/Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Operations Section on 17 April 1996 on the excavation of six pits intended for floodlight bases, and two soakaway pits. The floodlight pits were machine dug to a depth of 1.1m, in north-south rows either side of the pitch.

Roman deposits, where present, were encountered at an average depth of 0.85m, but in two pits occurred at just 0.6m. They lay beneath the considerable depth of topsoil that characterised the 1980-84 excavated area and which appears to have been deliberately imported into this part of Carmarthen as garden soil.

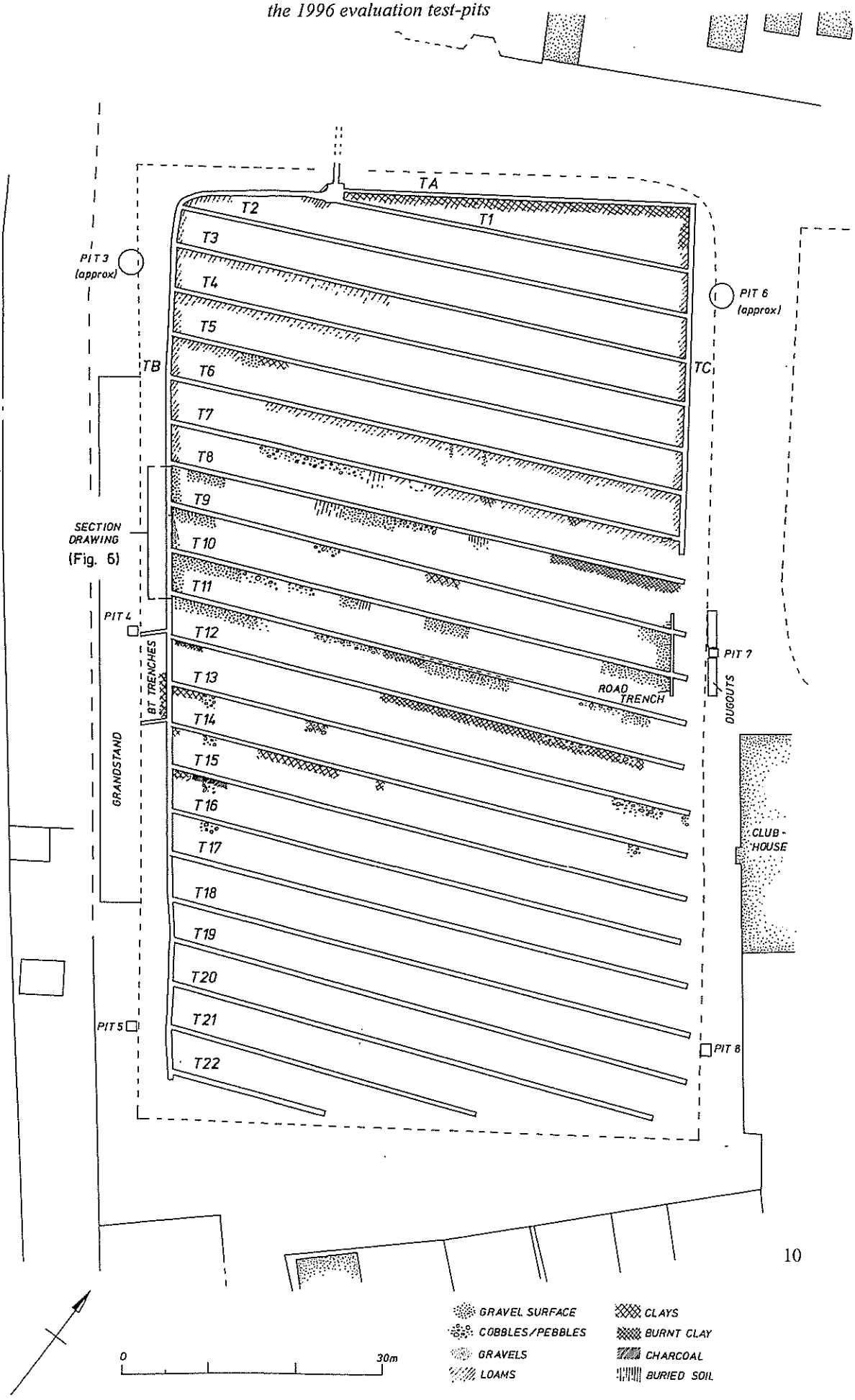
Roman deposits were thin or absent from the pits on the western side of the football pitch, where the natural soils occurred at a higher level probably reflecting a slight natural uphill slope from east to west. A hedgebank runs north-south immediately to the west of these pits; it may represent a long-standing boundary that possibly existed in a variety of forms - a ditch, for example, may have truncated any Roman deposits in their entirety.

However, the pits to the east of the pitch appeared to be cutting into the top of Roman deposits of unknown depth. Their upper levels were disturbed, possibly by medieval/post-medieval ploughing, but evidence suggests that this is superficial and undisturbed deposits lie below. All three pits displayed Roman roofing tile (*tegulae*). The north-east Pit 6 displayed a very pure white clay which may represent rampart clay spread from the Roman town defences just over 10m to the north; alternately, the deposit overlying the clay may be Roman occupational material formed over a rampart tail some distance further south here than has been previously assumed. Some soil development had occurred beneath the Roman deposits in Pits 5 and 7.

However, there was little archaeological stratification within the deposits and no evidence of features. Neither was there any evidence for the road, which should lie very close to the two central pits, nor of the complex archaeological features/structures suggested by the geophysics. Perhaps this was just due to the disturbed nature of the deposits at this level, but the restricted size of the pits must be stressed.

Detailed descriptions of the archaeological features encountered within the pits are included as Appendix 9.2 of this report.

Fig. 4 Carmarthen Richmond Park:
The 1998 watching brief showing trenches, schematic representations of archaeological deposits and the 1996 evaluation test-pits



3.0 METHODOLOGIES AND RESULTS

3.1 DESCRIPTION OF GROUNDWORKS (SEE FIGS. 4 & 5)

The football pitch has been subject to a previous drainage system which showed up particularly well in the geophysical survey (see Appendix 9.2). However, these drains were installed at a relatively shallow level and have had little destructive effect on the underlying archaeology. Various other *ad hoc* drainage works have been undertaken including the provision of gravel soakaways at the centre of the pitch and in the two goalmouth areas, that in the southern goal being relatively deep; these again show as geophysical evidence.

The 1998 drainage scheme comprised the excavation of three trenches around the northern, western and eastern periphery of the football pitch, and 22 transverse trenches across the pitch. All were excavated by a 360° mechanical digger using a 'V'-shaped 'tiling' bucket.

The northern trench (*Trench A*) occupied the full width of the pitch along the goal-line. Its width at the surface was 0.40m, narrowing to 0.12m at the bottom. Its depth, at the west end, was 0.80m, and at the east end was 0.60m; it was deepest at the centre where it joined an existing outlet trench leading north towards Richmond Terrace, at 0.85m.

The western trench (*Trench B*) occupied the full length of the pitch along the western touch-line. Its width at the surface was similarly 0.40m, narrowing to 0.12m at the bottom. It was 0.80m deep at the north end, rising to 0.60m at the south end.

The eastern trench (*Trench C*) occupied the northern half of the eastern touch-line, and it too had a surface width of 0.40m, narrowing to 0.12m at the bottom. At the north end it was 0.60m deep, rising to 0.55m at the south end.

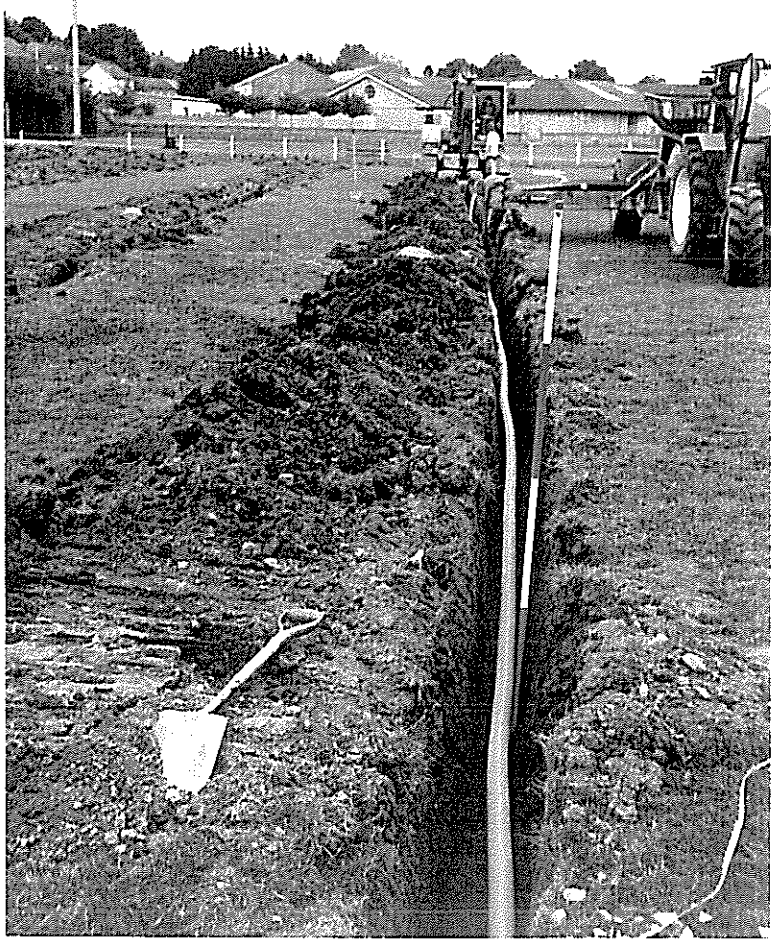
The 22 transverse trenches (*Trenches 1 - 22*) were all 0.40m wide at the surface and 0.10m wide at the bottom, and averaged 0.75m in depth at their west ends rising to 0.60m depth at their east ends. They were aligned slightly obliquely to the axis of the pitch and, with the exception of the northernmost (*Trench 1*) and the two southernmost (*Trenches 21 and 22*) all occupied the full width of the pitch, averaging 60m in length.

In addition, two short trenches of similar dimensions were dug from *Trench B* into the grandstand area for BT cabling, a 2.30m x 1.60m pit was dug to a depth of 1.10m at the junction of *Trench A* with the outlet to Richmond Terrace, and a narrow trench was dug to a depth of 0.60m across the area occupied by the known Roman Road.

The method deployed to excavate the trenches, and indeed the form and dimensions of the trenches, did not allow truly effective characterisation and description of the archaeology. Too often, where meaningful archaeological deposits were revealed at or near to the bottom of the excavated trenches, the trenches were too narrow (at 0.10m wide) at their base and the deposits too compacted by the flat ended V-wedge shape of the mechanical digger's bucket to enable clear description; and even the minimal description which this method did allow was curtailed somewhat by the speed with which the drainage pipes were being laid and then back-filled with limestone chippings. Assessment of any stratigraphical relationships was near-impossible.

In addition, insufficient time was available within the client's programme of works to adequately record most of the deposits. In particular, it was possible to draw only one section, towards the north of *Trench B*, reproduced within this report as Fig. 6.

Fig. 5 Carmarthen Richmond Park:
Two views of the 1998 drainage trenches showing their extent and method of mechanical excavation.



3.2 OBSERVATIONS

3.2.1 Summary of deposits

Roman deposits were encountered throughout the northern two-thirds of the site, except within the two northernmost transverse trenches *Trench 1* and *Trench 2* which appear to have been too shallow to disturb underlying Roman levels. None were present in the southernmost seven trenches, *Trench 16 - Trench 22*, and Roman levels may similarly lie just below the trench bottoms - Roman deposits were encountered at a depth of 0.80m - 1.00m in the two floodlight pits (*Pit 5* and *Pit 8*) excavated in the southern corners of the pitch in 1996.

Roman deposits rose towards the centre of the pitch area and were most evident in *Trenches 10 to 12* inclusive, and the adjacent section of *Trench B*, where they were encountered as little as 0.10m below the present ground level. This is the area occupied by the known east-west Roman road and associated features.

The Roman deposits fall into 6 main categories -

Yellow/white rampart clay
Gravels, some of which are road surfaces and some possibly hard-stand areas
Cobble/pebble horizons
Burnt clay layers
Other clay deposits
Yellow-brown clay loams - occupational?

In addition, a charcoal layer was present, deposits relating to a Roman oven or furnace and a pair of possible sill-wall foundations. No clearly recognisable cut features were observed apart from those recorded in Fig. 6, due largely to the constraints of the contractor's scheme of works.

Only those deposits and features which may be Roman are dealt with in Section 3.2.2 below. See Appendix 9.1 for detailed descriptions of all features and deposits, including ?medieval and post-medieval features and deposits.

3.2.2 Discussion of Roman deposits

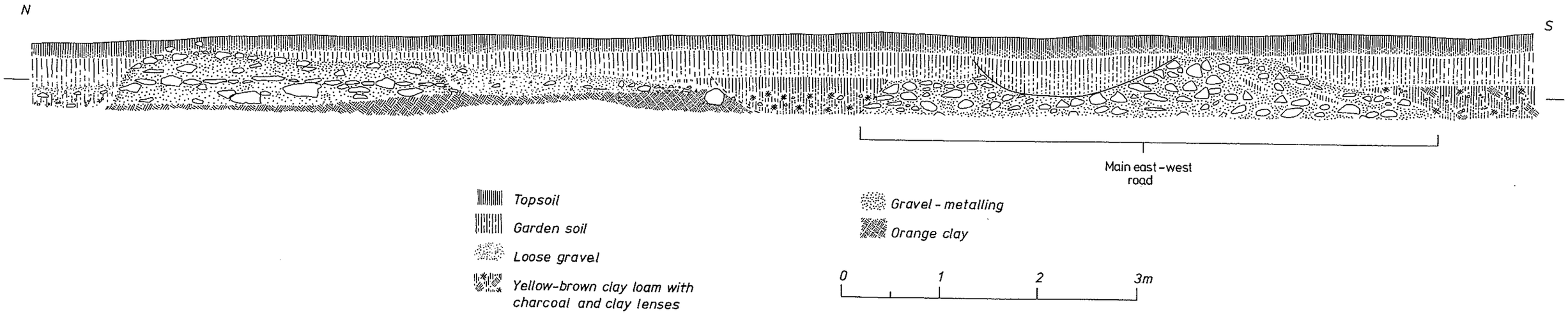
Rampart clay

Stiff, pure white and yellow clays were encountered in the eastern two-thirds of *Trench A* and the northernmost 5m of *Trench C* where they rose to within 0.25m of the surface. In *Trench C* they appeared to lie below yellow-brown clay loams which may represent Roman occupation deposits; the latter were deeper, at 0.70m, the clays rising to a higher level. This fact, taken with the location of the clays in an area known to lie close to the line of the Roman town defences, and their composition, suggests that the clays represent rampart material. The rampart has evidently not spread, being overlain by the occupation deposits, and the clays therefore represent the *bona fide* south end of the rampart tail.

Gravels

Gravel deposits were encountered at a number of dispersed locations across the northern part of the site. Some peripheral deposits could not be fully characterised but in a number of trenches, the gravels were seen to relate to Roman roads and deliberate hard stands.

Fig. 6 Section drawing of part of Trench B, facing east
(see Fig. 4 for location)



Gravel layers representing the known east-west Roman road were observed within *Trenches 9 - 11*, but were not continuous and appeared as disparate areas. However, the road was seen in section in *Trench B* where extensive post-medieval robbing was indicated and the geophysical survey suggested that much disturbance had occurred towards the centre of the pitch area. The section within *Trench B* (Fig. 6) showed a 0.60m thickness of gravel and cobbles, not bottomed, with a pronounced camber and a width of at least 6.00m (north-south). The northern edge may be disturbed by an intrusive feature, or like the southern edge, lie beneath yellow-brown clay loams with charcoal and clay inclusions, of probable Roman date. The road was observed towards the middle of *Trenches 10* and *11*; in *Trench 10*, a 5m length, 0.30m thick, lay at a depth of 0.20m - 0.30m above a buried soil, while in *Trench 11* a 10m length was observed in the southern section only at a depth of 0.30m. The road was encountered again at the east ends of *Trenches 9* and *10*, but the narrow observation trench excavated here was too restricted to permit meaningful recording.

It will be seen from a comparison of the site plan in Fig. 4 with the plan of the geophysical evidence in Appendix 9.2 that the gravel deposits herein assigned to the east-west road occupy a somewhat wider area than the geophysical anomaly. However, the gravels visible in the centre of, and at the east end of *Trench 11* are thinnish (0.10m), lie 4-5m south of the geophysical anomaly and may represent a hard stand not associated with the road, possibly a yard surface?.

A north-south gravel surface at the west end of *Trenches 8 - 11* appeared to represent a co-axial north-south road with east and west edges that both appeared to be defined. However the width of the surface varied from 5m - 10m and it was not encountered within *Trench 7*. It did not, moreover, appear as a geophysical anomaly and it may be a floor surface or surfaces. It is not possible to ascertain how the surface(s) relates to that seen immediately to the west in *Trench B*; here, a 0.5m thickness of alternating gravel and cobble layers, measuring 3.5m north-south, rose to within 0.10m of the surface with a pronounced camber (Fig. 6). Like the east-west road it lay beneath yellow-brown clay loams with charcoal and clay inclusions which were observed to the north; to the south lay a spread of fine, ?alluvial gravel which may also be a Roman deposit. The surfaces themselves lay above an orange clay deposit which may also run beneath the east-west road here - it was observed further south in *Trench B* (see below).

The strongly cambered area of stratified gravels and cobbles seen in Fig 6 just north of the east-west road in *Trench B*, which like the roads overlie orange clay deposits, would appear, from its restricted north-south dimension of 3.5m, not to represent an oblique section through the north-south road but may be cut through either an east-west road that led westwards from it, or through an associated hard stand.

A deepish gravel deposit (depth unknown) towards the centre of *Trench 11*, measuring 8m from east-west, may represent a hard stand or part of a yard surface; it was only seen in the southern trench section and its northern edge may therefore have corresponded with the trench. It overlay a reddish mixed clay (see below).

There was a further gravel layer of unknown nature at the west end of *Trench 5*.

Cobble/pebble horizons

Cobbling, again representing deliberate hard surfacing of Roman date, occurs at a number of locations within the northern part of the site. These do not occur as geophysical anomalies (see Appendix 9.2) and follow no resolvable pattern. However, a compact, dense stone spread towards the west end of *Trench 7*, measuring 12.5m from east-west, 0.50m thick and overlying yellow-brown clay loams with much gravel, is edged to the east by orange clays and charcoal, and contained an iron nail of Roman date. An identical sequence was seen in *Trench 8* where it lay somewhat further east, was very deep and associated with a gravel deposit. The cobble deposit appears to represent a much-used surface - a floor?. The small area of adjacent cobbling in *Trench 9* may be an outlier from the same deposit.

A linear association of cobble deposits occurred at the west ends of *Trenches 13 - 16*. All averaged 2m from east-west, were 0.25m thick, and overlay orange clay loams containing much charcoal. The linear nature of the deposit suggests a trackway.

A further possible association of 2 deposits was observed at the east ends of *Trenches 13 & 14*, both comprising medium-large rounded stones with a thickness of 0.25m. That in Trench 13 measured 6m from east-west but that in Trench 14 was considerably smaller at 1.10m; both however may represent the same context. They may be associated with the linear spread of cobbling that ran from north-south towards the east end of *Trench 12*, was 0.28m wide, 0.22 thick and was overlain by loose gravel; it formed a discrete feature that survived within the ploughsoil - a trackway?.

Several further stone spreads are scattered through the site.

The sill wall foundations

Trench 6 exhibited, within its central area, 2 narrow, parallel lines of small stones, 4m apart and running north-south. These appeared to represent timber sill-wall foundations, and correspond with areas of possible walling/structural debris indicated by the geophysics (see Appendix 9.2), but there was no further evidence for the remainder of the building that the survey suggested lay in this area. The foundations lay above the yellow-brown clay loams (see below).

The possible oven/furnace

An extensive area of heat-reddened clay occurred in the eastern quarter of *Trench 8*, in an area that did not register as a geophysical anomaly. The deposit occupied the easternmost 16m of the trench and possibly extends further east, lay at a depth of 0.40m and was not bottomed. It featured a significant amount of Roman brick/tile in a proportion that resembled the material used in the construction of ovens and furnaces that have been fully excavated elsewhere in Roman Carmarthen. Unfortunately, the nature of the 1998 groundworks prohibited the observation of any associated structural features such as post-holes or stakeholes, and no hearth or channel was seen.

Other burnt clay layers

Extensive areas of burnt or ferrous material were indicated by the geophysical survey (see Appendix 9.2). None of these were, however, observed during the watching brief. Apart from the ?oven/furnace, only small areas were encountered.

Within *Trench 7* lay 2 areas of heat-reddened clay. That to the east appears to represent a ?Roman deposit upcast through later activity (medieval ploughing?) and occurred at a depth of 0.60m; that to the west comprised orange-brown clay loam, with much charcoal, forming a low mound rising to 0.40m but not bottomed.

A dirty clay layer towards the west of *Trench 10* measured 4.4m from east-west and was 0.10m thick, it contained charcoal and heat-reddened clay and lay beneath a similar thickness of cobbling.

A deposit of mixed, ?heat-reddened clay occurred beneath the gravel deposit in the central area of *Trench 11*, but the nature of the gravel is unknown (road surface or yard etc). At the west end of *Trench 12* was a small spread of burnt reddish clay, 3.10m from east-west but not bottomed.

A disturbed stony layer towards the west of *Trench 13* overlay an area of compact white clays, rather shaly in character and containing lenses of pinkish, possibly burnt clay, measuring 1.8m from east-west. Two similar areas of stiff white clays were observed at the bottom of the adjacent area of *Trench 14*; the layers may represent surfacing or structural clays.

The charcoal layers

A largish area of charcoal containing much Roman tile was observed beneath the cobble ?trackway at the west end of *Trench 15*, extending to the east as a layer measuring 5m from east-west. Its character suggests

that it was derived from a burnt structure but whether the burning was a deliberate clearance cannot be ascertained, not the significance of its lying beneath a trackway.

A second, smaller discrete charcoal layer lay beneath a stony spread towards the west end of *Trench 10*, measuring 3.2m from east-west.

Other clay deposits

In the spoilheap towards the east end of *Trench 10* was observed large fragments of stiff clay, 0.06 - 0.08m thick, which were thought to possibly represent part of a clay floor.

An extensive area of orange clay was seen in the bottom of *Trench B* beneath the east-west road (see Fig. 6) and in the adjacent area of *Trenches 13 & 14*, again at the trench bottom. A similar deposit occupied the east and central parts of *Trench 12* at the bottom of the trench, largely overlain by ploughsoil but with 2 intervening Roman stony layers.

Buried soil was seen beneath the gravel deposit towards the west end of *Trench 8*, and an orange-brown clay loam occurring at the bottom of the centre of *Trench 9*, containing charcoal and some bone, may also represent a buried soil. Similar possible soils lay beneath the dirty clay layer towards the west of *Trench 10* and the charcoal layer towards the west end of *Trench 10* (see above).

Yellow-brown clay loams

Towards the north of the site, these formed the bulk of the deposits that could be characterised as broadly Roman, and were typical in their colour, texture and constituents to occupation layers seen throughout previous excavations within the Roman town. They undoubtedly contained much stratification, but the nature of the 1998 groundworks precluded any resolution into individual contexts.

The clay loams occurred at a higher level towards the east and west, dipping beneath the level of the trench bottoms in their central areas. Where they were observed in relation with other Roman contexts the clay loams appeared generally to be later; for instance, the rampart clays, and gravel surfaces recorded in *Trench B* and depicted in Fig. 6, are overlain by clay loams, suggesting that the laying out of the defences and the roads, if not the metalled yards, were primary events in the Roman development of the area, and that the clay loams are occupational.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

This section will be treated in conjunction with the results of the 1995 geophysical survey.

Roman deposits were encontered throughout the northern two thirds of the site, at an average depth of 0.50m. At the centre of the site, however, they rose to 0.10m from the surface.

The presence, and form, of the east-west road observed in both the geophysics and aerial photography, were established. Metalling for a possible co-axial north-south road was observed along the western edge of the site, in *Trench B* and *Trenches 8 - 11*; it may be that the possible trackway cobbling present in *Trenches 13 - 16* represents a southwards continuation of the same surface, lost in *Trench 12*. The possibility of a second east-west road leading westwards from the north-south road is suggested between *Trenches 8 & 9*.

There are varying degrees of correlation between the remainder of the archaeological evidence obtained from the watching brief and the geophysical survey. Indeed, the excavated evidence was at odds with the geophysics in many important respects. The extensive deposits of burnt clay suggested by the latter were not observed, and the largest concentration of burnt clay observed in 1998 - the possible oven/furnace - did not register as a geophysical anomaly. Several important gravel/cobble areas also failed to register as anomalies; for instance the possible north-south road along the western edge of the site, the various trackways and hard stands. Nor did these features appear as possible structural evidence in the survey.

Moreover, the possible walls and rubble spreads indicated by the geophysics, in particular in the centres and west ends of *Trenches 6 - 8*, were not observed during the watching brief. Only one possible building indicated by the survey corresponded to the physical evidence encountered during the watching brief, and was represented by 2 sill foundations in *Trench 6*; a large boulder encountered at the west end of *Trench 10,* and the stiff white clay deposits in *Trenches 10, 13, 14 & 15*, may be related to structures. The area of the large building that was suggested at the east end of these trenches was partly occupied by the ?oven/furnace in *Trench 8*, but this exhibited no masonry, or other structural evidence. The yellow/brown clay loams that occupied this area, moreover, are occupational deposits that continued to the bottom of the trench, and represent the kind of occupation deposits within which structural evidence would normally lie (see below). The absence of these structures must, at this stage, therefore remain unresolved. The evidence for the building, suggested by the geophysics as occupying the centres of *Trenches 14 & 15*, may be present beneath the level of the trench bottoms.

Those gravels that can be reasonably interpreted as road metalling, and the rampart clay at the north end of the site, both, in the areas where they were observed, lay beneath the yellow-brown clay loam deposits. These clay loams were typical in character of occupation layers seen elsewhere within the Roman town (see above) which suggests that, on the football pitch site at least, the establishment of the earthwork town defences and the street grid was succeeded by a long period of occupational build-up. The same sequence has been observed in excavations elsewhere within the Roman town, but the evidence from the 1980-84 excavations to the east of the site suggested that the street-grid was laid down in AD 120-150 while the defences were constructed later in the second century following a period of depositional build-up. The precise relationship between the remainder of the gravel surfaces/hard stands to the clay loams could not be established.

The remainder of the evidence obtained from the watching brief is disparate and cannot be interpreted with any real validity. Worth noting, however, is the possible burnt structure represented by the charcoal and tile layer at the west end of *Trench 15* but this cannot be tied into any sequence in the development of the Roman town.

No clearly recognisable cut features were observed apart from those recorded in Fig. 6; evidence from previous excavations, and the location of the site, suggest that more were present but were not recognised due to the constraints of the contractor's scheme of works.

The absence of Roman deposits from the southern third of the site, where they lie at a slightly lower level than the trench bottoms which averaged 0.70m in depth, runs counter to the general trend of the natural topography in this part of Carmarthen. Elsewhere, the line of Priory Street appears to follow a natural ridge with the ground falling away either side, and deposits might have been expected at a *higher* level within the southern third of the site.

Buried soils occurred in the bottom of the drainage trenches in various parts of the site, but nowhere was the natural subsoil exposed.

5.0 THE FINDS

Although finds of Roman, and later date, were recovered, it was not possible within the limitations of the project to fully process and analyse them. The finds were retained and are held at the offices of *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology* at Llandeilo, but is unlikely that funding will be released for any processing.

All are, by implication, unstratified, most having been recovered from the spoil-tips, and therefore cannot be regarded as representing any more than a fraction of the total assemblage disturbed by the scheme of works. However, much Roman brick and tile was recovered, and the pottery included a number of sherds of Roman Samian ware.

In addition, a number of samples were taken and are also held at the offices of *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology*, but their future management is similarly constrained.

6.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

The archive, which will be indexed according to the National Monuments Record (NMR) material categories, is held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, Llandeilo, and will contain the following:-

A. Copy of the final report and disk

B. Field notes

C. Copies of planning specifications

D. Monochrome and colour print photographs

G. List of references

J. Final drawings

L. General administrative notes

M. Project correspondence

There is no material for classes **E, F, H, I, K** and **N**.

7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The fieldwork was undertaken by R Ramsey, assisted by H James and N D Ludlow, all of *Archaeoleg CAMBRIA Archaeology*. This report was complied by N D Ludlow, assisted by R Ramsey. Acknowledgements also to Peter Hughes Griffiths and Malcolm Williams of Carmarthen AFC, and to the contractors Julian Mousley & Sons of St Clears in particular the machine operator Dyfrig Williams.

8.0 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX 9.1

DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF TRENCH SECTIONS

Lateral trenches

All averaged 0.80m deep. Roman deposits were encountered at an average depth of 0.60m but rose to 0.15m from the surface in the centre of Trench B. Trench A ran east-west, like the transverse trenches, and all measurements are given from the west end. Trenches B and C ran north-south and measurements are given from the north ends. Trench B was the most archaeologically destructive.

Trench A (= North end (goal) trench)
In a manhole pit excavated to a depth of 1.20m at the centre of *Trench A* (see plan), Roman deposits were seen to at a depth of 0.70m, the natural boulder clay occurring at 1.00m.

Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil over 19th century imported garden soil and make-up deposits.
Footings, 0.40m deep, for modern brick building 6.50m - 14.00m from west end.
Roman: Yellow-brown clay loam, 0.30m thick, 18.00m - 20.00m from west end at 0.70m depth; overlies natural boulder clay, and rampart clay?.
Rampart material, of yellow and white, compact clay, 0.45m thick, 20.00m - 65.00m from north end at 0.25m depth.

Trench B (= West side (grandstand) trench)
Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil over 19th century imported garden soil and make-up deposits.
Roman: Yellow-brown clay loam, 0.30m thick, 0.00m - 30.00m from north end; 0.70m deep at north end rising to 0.25m depth at 30.00m mark, where it overlay gravelly clay.
Surface, of thick (total 0.60m) stratified deposits of cobbles and gravels, with camber, 30.00m - 34.20m from north end, at 0.15m depth; E-W road?. Overlay orange clay.
Loose yellow gravel (alluvial?), 0.15m thick, overlying both gravel surfaces, 34.20m - 39.00m from north end; overlay orange clay.
Surface, of thick (total 0.80m) stratified deposits of cobbles and gravels, with camber, 39.00m - 44.00m from north end, at 0.10m depth but partly robbed; E-W road. Overlay orange clay which continued south to 49.00m from north end, at 0.40m depth.
Mid-brown, clayey gravel with lenses of orange clay, 0.10m+ thick, 54.00m - 59.00m from north end, at 0.50m depth; edges observed, and layer appears to be a surface running N-S; Roman tile in spoil.

Trench C (= East side (touchline) trench)
Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil over 19th century imported garden soil.
Rampart material, of yellow and white, compact clay, 0.45m thick, 00.00m - 5.00m from west end at 0.25m depth.
Yellow-brown clay loam, 5.00m - 40.00m from north end at 0.70m depth; overlies rampart clay?.

Transverse trenches

All 0.70m - 0.50m deep W-E. Roman deposits were encountered at an average depth of 0.60m, but at a higher level in the central trenches, up to 0.40m. The trenches are numbered consecutively from north to south ie *Trench 1, Trench 2* etc., and all measurements are given from the west end. Trench 10 was the most archaeologically destructive.

Trench 1
Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil over 19th century imported garden soil.

Trench 2
Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil over 19th century imported garden soil.

Trench 3
Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil over 19th century imported garden soil.
Roman: Westernmost 25m with yellow-brown clay loam at 0.30m depth, dipping to east.

Trench 4
Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil over 19th century imported garden soil.
Suggestion of N-S boundary 18m from west end.
Roman: Westernmost 22m with yellow-brown clay loam at 0.30m depth, dipping to east.

Trench 5
Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil over 19th century imported garden soil.
N-S boundary slabs, 1.20m wide, 18m from west end.
Roman: Yellow-brown clay loam with much gravel began 8.00m-10.00m from west end, at 0.60m depth; gave way to yellowish mixed clay dipping below section at 13.00m from west end.

Trench 6
Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil over 19th century imported garden soil.
N-S boundary slabs, 1.00m wide, 17.50m from west end, base at 0.50m depth.
Roman: Yellow-brown clay loam with much gravel began 25.00m from west end, at 0.50m - 0.60m depth.
Concentrations of small stones at 33.00m and 37.00m from west end, timber sill foundations?

Trench 7
Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil over 19th century imported garden soil.
Loose angular stones, 0.10m from west end, drainage trench fill?
Possible stone line, 10.00m from west end.
Possible large post-hole, with fill of large angular pitched stones, 28.70 from west end at c.0.60m depth.
? Medieval: Stony area and upcast reddish clay, possibly cutting across earlier drainage trench, 37.00m from west end, at 0.60m depth.
Roman: Yellow-brown clay loam with much gravel 10.00m from west end, with dense layer of stone above, at 0.60m depth, dipping below section at 25.00m from west end . Lay above buried soil at 23.50m.
Contained Roman nail.
Orange-brown clay loam with much charcoal 46.00m - 47.00m from west end, rising to 0.40m depth, dipping below section; low mound of material?.
Disturbed gravels at 47.70m from west end, at 0.5m depth, cut by lead pipe. Grade into larger, angular stones to east.

Trench 8
Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil over 19th century imported garden soil.
Slate and ORS slabbed N-S drain 5.70m from west end, at 0.40m depth.
Slate-lined N-S drain 10.00m from west end, at c.0.40m depth.
Orange clays, disturbed Roman deposits?, with pebbles, charcoal and brick, 35.00m from west end at 0.30m depth.
Roman: Yellow-brown clay loam with much gravel 2.00m from west end, with dense layer of stone above between 2.00m and 2.50m - floor surface?, at 0.60m depth; 'edged' by less compact orange yellow clay with much charcoal flecking 6.20m from west end, dipping below section.
Weathered top of buried soil, 17.00m from west end, at 0.45m depth, appears to be rising to east.

?Deep gravel layer with charcoal lenses, 20.00m from west end at 0.40m depth.
Cobble layer, 26.00m from west end at 0.60m depth; dips below section at 31.00m from west end.
Buried soil, 35m from west end, at 0.60m depth.
Oven/furnace, of heat-reddened clay, 44.00m - 60.00m from west end, at 0.40m depth. Contained Roman brick. Sampled.

Trench 9

Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil, over 19th century imported garden soil for western 30.00m.
Modern N-S drain at 14m from west end.
Modern N-S drain at 36m from west end.
Mound of stony gravel 41.00m from west end, at 0.5m depth; upcast from trench?

? Medieval: Brown, stony soil, 43.00m - 60.00m from west end at 0.25m depth

Roman: ?N-S Road, of large-medium cobbles and gravel 0.00m from west end, at 0.30m depth and to bottom of trench, some red clay lenses above; downwards camber to 5.00m from west end, dipping below section.
Stoney layer, 17.00m - 20.00m from west end, at 0.70m depth.
Orange-brown clay loam containing charcoal and some bone, 20.00m - 30.00m from west end; buried soil?
Gravels, gritty sands and clay, some heat-reddened, 30.00m - 34.00 from west end at 0.25m depth; possible N edge of E-W road?; grade into more clayey soils at 34.00m, edge of road?
Stony soil, with some large rubble, 55.00m - 60.00m from west end - road? N-S?

Trench 10

Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil, over 19th century imported garden soil.
Cut, robbing of Roman Road?, between 0.00m and 0.20m from west end.

Roman: ?N-S Road, of large-medium cobbles and gravel 0.00m - 8.00m from west end, at 0.30m depth and to bottom of trench.
Large boulder 2.00m from west end, stone building?.
?Stone spread above dirty clay layer, with charcoal and heat-reddened clay, 8.00m - 12.40m from west end, both layers c.0.10m thick, at 0.40m - 0.60m depth; above buried soil.
Stone spread above discrete charcoal layer, 13.8m - 17m from west end, both layers c.0.10m thick, at 0.30m - 0.40m depth; above buried soil.
Medium-large rounded stones and some gravel in dark brown soil, above clayey lenses, 20.00m - 22.00m from west end, at 0.20m depth; above buried soil. Buried soil begins dipping to east at 23.50m.
Gravel surface, 30.00 - 35.00 from west end, at 0.20m - 0.30m depth; above buried soil proper at c.0.60m depth
Clay ?flooring in spoilheap, 0.06m - 0.08m thick, 35.00m from west end.
Road surface gravel, 51.00m from west end, 0.10m thick; above 0.30 - 0.60m depth of buried soil, rising to east.

Trench 11

Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil, over 19th century imported garden soil to 0.40m depth.

?Medieval: Ploughsoil, 12.00m - 15.00m from west end, 0.70m deep.

Roman: ?N-S Road, of large-medium cobbles and gravel 0.00m - 10.00m from west end, at 0.30m depth and to bottom of trench. Thins out 10.00m - 12.00m from west end.
Gravel ?surface, inc. cobbling, 17.00m - 25.00m from west end, at 0.58m depth; overlies reddish mixed clay.
Thin, dark soil layer, 0.08m thick, overlying reddish mixed clay, 25.00m - 30.00m from west end, at 0.50m depth.
?E-W Road, of large rounded cobbles, only on southern section, 30.00m - 40.00m from west end, at 0.30m depth.

Layer of medium rounded pebbles, 0.20m thick, 48.00m - 53.00m from west end at 0.30m depth. Thins out into 0.10 thickness of gravel continuing to 56.00m from west end, appearing to spread further south; Samian sherd in spoil.

Trench 12

Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil, over 19th century imported garden soil to 0.40m depth.
Very stoney soil below topsoil, containing much charcoal, brick and Roman pottery, 0.00m - 8.00m from west end
N-S drain, stone-lined and 0.40m wide, 8.00m from west end.
Possible N-S drain 18.00m from west end.
Cut, stone-filled, 0.40m wide and at least 0.60m deep, 27.60m from west end; cuts through topsoil - modern drainage?

?Medieval: Ploughsoil, 8.00m - 18.00m from west end, 0.70m deep; occurs again 28.00 - 43.00m from west end (and beyond).

Roman: Burnt reddish clay spread, 0.40m - 3.50m from west end at 0.45m depth and to bottom of trench.
Orange clay, 25.00m - c.55.00m from west end, at 0.65 - 0.70m depth.
Stony layer, 0.25m thick, 43.00m - 45.00m from west end, at 0.35m depth; overlies orange clay; similar layer 46.00m - 49.00m from west end.
Cobble layer, 0.22m thick, overlain by 0.15m of yellow-grey gravel (alluvial?), 2.80m wide and running true N-S, 53.00 - 55.80m from west and at 0.40m depth; overlies limited reddish clay; together form discrete feature surviving within ploughsoil.

Trench 13

Post-medieval: 0.30m thickness of topsoil, over 19th century imported garden soil.
Possible N-S drain, filled by large rounded pebbles, 1.00m wide and 0.25m deep, 7.50m - 8.50m from west end at 0.35m depth.
Gravel/pebble fill inc. 1 large slate slab, 0.17m deep, 10.50m - 12.00m from west end at 0.35m depth.
Cut, 2.00m wide and 0.50m deep, with stony fill; cut through topsoil - modern drainage?
Cut, 1.00m wide and 0.50m deep, with disturbed stony fill; cut through topsoil.

Roman: Orange mixed clay, 0.00m - 3.60m from west end, at 0.50m depth.
Medium-large angular stones, and small pebbles, 0.25m thick, 3.60m - 5.10m from west end, at 0.30m depth; overlie orange clay loam with much charcoal and charcoal flecking (*see Trench 14*).
Disturbed stony layer 16.10m - 18.00m from west end, at 0.50m depth; overlies compact shaly white clays, with orange and pink (?burnt) lenses, to bottom of trench.
Area of large rounded stones, 52.00m - 58.00m from west end, at 0.40m depth.
Cobbles, possible drain?, 0.48m wide, 60.00m from west end at 0.50m depth.

Trench 14

Post-medieval: 0.30m thickness of topsoil, over 19th century imported garden soil.

Roman: Red/orange (?burnt) clay, 0.00m from west end at 0.60m depth.
Medium-large angular stones, and small pebbles, 0.25m thick, 3.60m - 5.10m from west end, at 0.30m depth; overlie orange clay loam with much charcoal and charcoal flecking (*see Trench 13*).
Compact pale shaly clay layer, 10.20m - 11.00m from west end, at 0.60m depth, to bottom of trench. Similar layer 11.00 - 20.00m from west end at trench bottom.
Shaly clay layer, 24.50m - 25.10m from west end, at bottom of trench.
Area of medium-large rounded stones, 0.25m thick, 54.00 - 55.10m from west end, at 0.40m depth.

Trench 15

Post-medieval: 0.30m thickness of topsoil, over 19th century imported garden soil.
?Building debris, 56.50m - 58.00m from west end, in topsoil and garden soil (*see Trench 16*).

?Medieval: ?Ploughsoil, 7.00m - 39.00m from west end, to bottom of trench.

Roman: Shaly gravels in clay matrix, 0.00m - 2.40m from west end of trench, at 0.60m depth to bottom of trench (*see Trench 16*). Gives way to charcoal layer, with much tile, up to 6.40m from west end.

Trench 16

Post-medieval: 0.30m thickness of topsoil, over 19th century imported garden soil.
?Building debris, 55.00m - 58.00m from west end, in topsoil and garden soil (*see Trench 15*).

Roman: Shaly gravels in clay matrix, 0.00m - 2.40m from west end of trench, at 0.60m depth to bottom of trench (*see Trench 15*).

Trench 17

Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil, over 19th century imported garden soil.
Large slate slabs just below surface, 19.00m - 20.00m from west end; modern N-S drain (see *Trenches 18, 19, 20 & 21*).
Slate slabs 35.20m - 35.70m at 0.55m depth; post-med drain?
Modern building debris in topsoil 57.00m - 61.00m from west end.

Trench 18 (largely backfilled prior to observation)

Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil, over 19th century imported garden soil.
Large slate slabs just below surface, 18.00m - 20.00m from west end; modern N-S drain (see *Trench 17*).
Modern building debris in topsoil 57.00m - 61.20m from west end.

Trench 19

Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil, over 19th century imported garden soil.
Large slate slabs just below surface, 18.50m - 20.00m from west end; modern N-S drain (see *Trench 17*).
Modern building debris in topsoil 57.00m - 60.00m from west end.

Trench 20

Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil, over 19th century imported garden soil.
Large slate slabs, 18.00m - 19.00m from west end, 0.50m deep; modern N-S drain (see *Trench 17*).
Large limestone block drain, 0.50m wide, 29.70m - 30.20m from west end, at 0.30m depth (see *Trench 21*).
Modern building debris in topsoil 48.00m - 58.00m from west end.

Trench 21

Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil, over 19th century imported garden soil.
Large slate slabs, 18.00m - 20.80m from west end, 0.50m deep; modern N-S drain (see *Trench 17*).
Damaged limestone block drain, 27.50m - 31.50m from west end, at 0.30m depth (see *Trench 20*).
Modern building debris in topsoil 48.00m - 58.00m from west end.

Trench 22

Post-medieval: 0.25m thickness of topsoil, over 19th century imported garden soil.

APPENDIX 9.2

2.4 Observations during the evaluation (see fig. 4)

6 pits, all measuring 1.1m x 1.1m x 1.1m deep, were machine excavated for the floodlight bases. The pits are in a series of 3 along each of the long (east and west) sides of the pitch, located at the corners and approximately on the centre-line.

In addition, 2 soakaway pits were dug either end of, and close into, the stand. The northern soakaway pit was of the same dimensions as the floodlight pits, while the southern was excavated to the greater depth of 1.7m.

The locations of all pits are shown in fig. 4.

The sections of all pits were cleaned down and photographed and, with the exception of Pits 1 & 3, one section was drawn at a scale of 1:20 and labelled.

Pit 1 - the N soakaway

Pit 1 was excavated to 1.1m x 1.1m x 1.1 m deep. It lay hard under the north end of the stand and close into the adjacent hedgebank. The section was not drawn.

The section comprised a 1m thickness of topsoil dump, lying over a disturbed mid-brown clay loam horizon discernible in the bottom of the pit. The soil may represent a ploughsoil formed on, and disturbing the Roman levels.

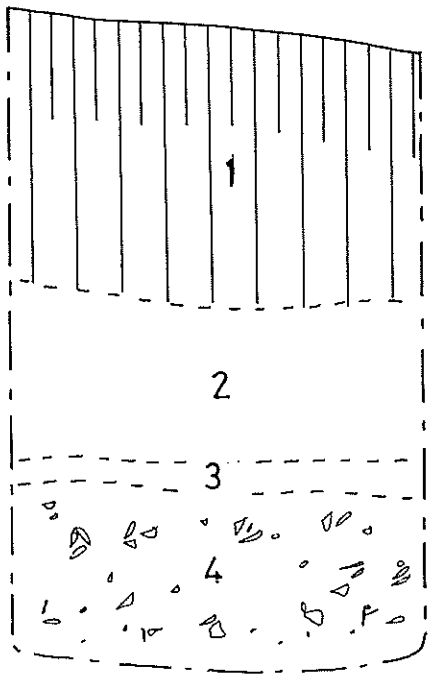
No finds were present in Pit 1.

Pit 2 - the S soakaway

Pit 2 was excavated to 1.1m x 1.1m x 1.7m deep. It lay hard under the south end of the stand and close into the adjacent hedgebank. The section is shown below.

Pit 2 - South section

E W

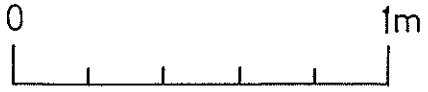


1 - Topsoil dump

2 - mid-brown clay loam, disturbed, with lighter brown lenses. Some charcoal flecking and tile fragments. Medieval plough disturbance of Roman levels?

3 - light brown clay loam, some orange lenses (burnt clay?) - Roman?

4 - Compact shale gravels - natural



Pit 3 - the NW floodlight pit

Pit 3 was excavated to 1.1m x 1.1m x 1.1m deep. It lay at the NW corner of the pitch in open ground.The section was not drawn.

The section displayed topsoil dump throughout most of its depth. A disturbed natural soil 'B' horizon was present just above the bottom, seen as an undisturbed 'B' horizon in the pit bottom itself.

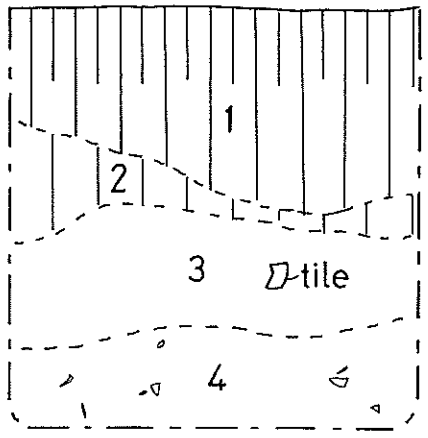
No archaeological deposits were present in Pit 3, nor any finds.

Pit 4 - the W central floodlight pit

Pit 4 was excavated to 1.1m x 1.1m x 1.7m deep. It lay up against the breeze-block/concrete sill wall of the east side of the stand, near the centre-line of the pitch. The section is shown below.

Pit 4 - East section

S N

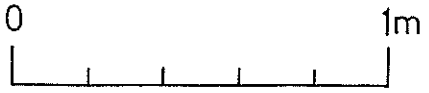


1 - topsoil dump

2 - dark brown loose loam, with coal - earlier topsoil dump?

3 - light brown/orange clay loam, fine textured, with charcoal flecks and Roman tile - Roman?

4 - like 3 but with angular shale fragments

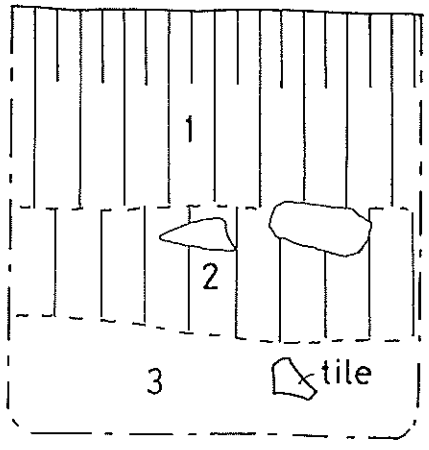


Pit 5 - the SW floodlight pit

Pit 5 was excavated to 1.1m x 1.1m x 1.7m deep. It lay at the SW corner of the pitch in open ground. The section is shown below.

Pit 5 - South section

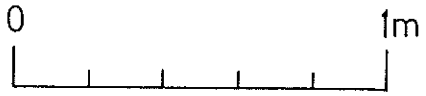
E W



1 - topsoil dump

2 - dark brown loose loam, with coal - earlier topsoil dump?

3 - yellow-brown clay loam, grading into red-brown ('B' horizon?) at bottom, with charcoal flecks and Roman tile - Roman?



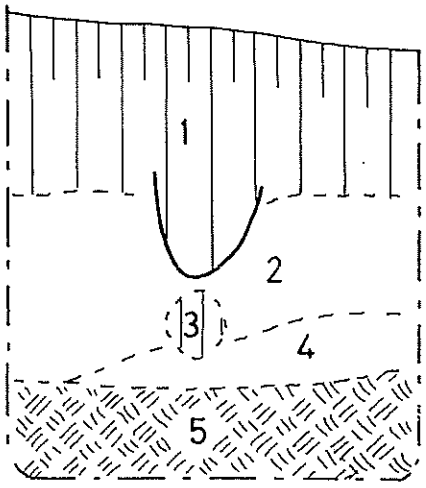
Pit 6 - the NE floodlight pit

Pit 6 was excavated to 1.1m x 1.1m x 1.1m deep. It lay at the NE corner of the pitch in open ground. The section is shown below.

No finds were present in Pit 6 but note the clay - spread Roman rampart clay from the town defences to the north?

Pit 6 - West section

S N



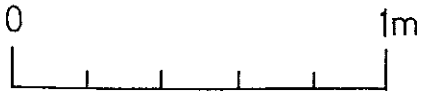
1 - topsoil dump

2 - mid-light brown clay loam with charcoal flecks and fragments of burnt clay/ceramic - Roman?

3 - lens of dark brown loam - animal disturbance?

4 - as 2 but markedly clayey - Roman?

5 - Stiff, very pure white clay with some charcoal flecking - spread Roman rampart?

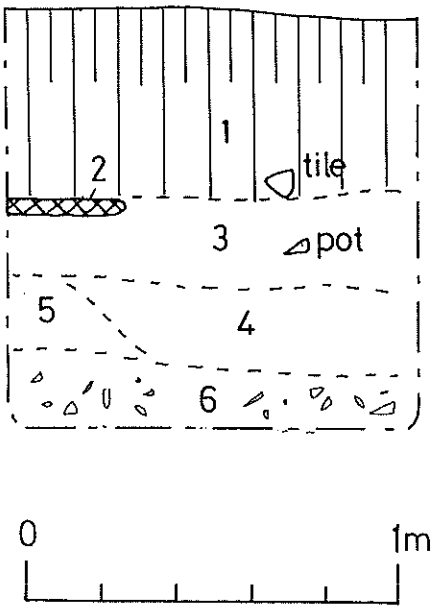


Pit 7 - the E central floodlight pit

Pit 7 was excavated to 1.1m x 1.1m x 1.1m deep. It lay in open ground alongside the east of the pitch near the centre-line. The section is shown below.

Pit 7 - West section

S N



1 - topsoil dump

2 - C20 water pipe

3 - mid-brown clay loam, with charcoal flecks and lenses of yellow clay loam. Post-medieval roofing tile at top of layer, sherd of Samian ware lower down. Plough disturbance of Roman levels?

4 - disturbed light brown clay loam, with lenses of darker brown clay loam and some burning - probably Roman

5 - red-brown natural 'B' horizon

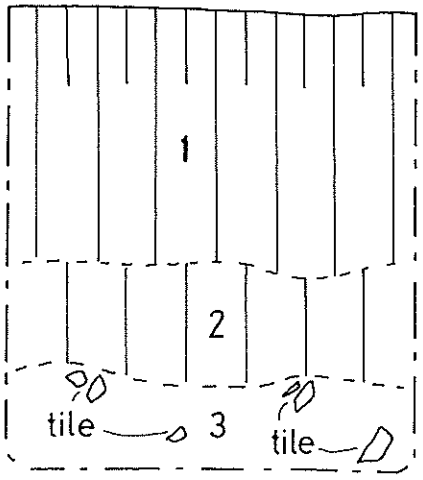
6 - shale fragments in clay matrix - natural

Pit 8 - the SE floodlight pit

Pit 8 was excavated to 1.1m x 1.1m x 1.7m deep. It lay at the SE corner of the pitch in open ground. The section is shown below.

Pit 8 - East section

N S



1 - topsoil dump

2 - dark brown loose loam, with coal and large ORS stones - earlier topsoil dump?

3 - yellow-brown clay loam, with charcoal flecks, burnt clay and much Roman tile - Roman, and may be top of deeper deposits

Roman deposits, where present, were encountered at an average depth of 1m and lay beneath the considerable depth of topsoil that characterised the 1980-84 excavated area and appears to have been deliberately imported into this part of carmarthen as garden soil.

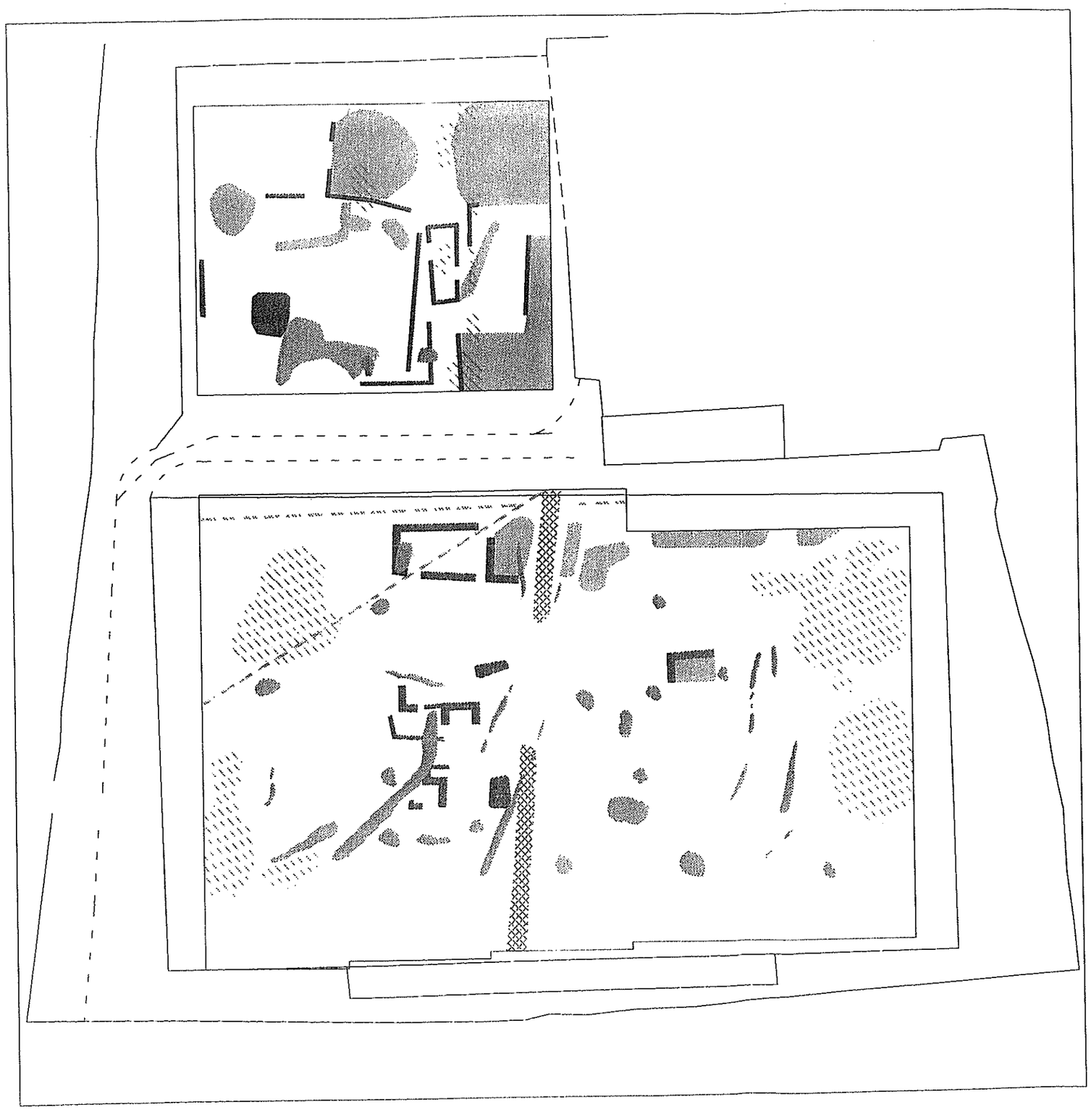
Roman deposits are thin or absent from the pits on the western side of the football pitch, where the natural soils occur at a higher level probably reflecting a slight natural uphill slope from east to west. A hedgebank runs north-south immediately to the west of these pits; it may represent a long-standing boundary that possibly existed in a variety of forms - a ditch, for example, may have truncated any Roman deposits in their entirety.

However, the pits to the east of the pitch appear to just be cutting into the top of Roman deposits of unknown depth. Their upper levels are disturbed, possibly by medieval/post-medieval ploughing, but evidence suggests that this is supreficial and undisturbed deposits lie below. All 3 pits display Roman roofing tile (*tegulae*). The NE Pit 6 displays a very pure white clay which may be rampart clay spread from the Roman town defences just over 10m to the north; alternately, the deposit overlying the clay may be Roman occupational material formed over a rampart tail some distance further south here than has been previously assumed. Some soil development had occurred beneath the Roman deposits in pits 5 and 7.

However, there is little archaeology; no stratification was evident within the deposits and no evidence of features. Neither was there any evidence for the road, which should lie very close to the 2 central pits, nor of the complex archaeological features/structures suggested by the geophysics. Perhaps this is just due to the disturbed nature of the deposits at this level.

The site generally is of importance at a national level.

APPENDIX 9.3



GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS OF BRADFORD

PROJECT: CARMARTHEN TOWN FOOTBALL PITCH

TITLE: Summary Interpretation

Based on a plan supplied by Dyfed Archaeological Trust

Gradiometer Anomalies

?Archaeology

?Burnt/Fired/Ferrous

Resistance Anomalies

?Walls\Rubble

Roman Road

Pipe/Cable

?Drains

Modern Disturbance

0 metres 20

Figure 4