

## Treasure Act 1996 (Case 18.04 Wales)

### Interim Treasure Report: An Iron Age burial group from Llanstadwell Community, Pembrokeshire

Adam Gwilt,<sup>1</sup> Mark Lodwick<sup>2</sup>, Dr. Mark Lewis<sup>3</sup>, Louise Mumford<sup>4</sup>, Ken Murphy<sup>5</sup> & Dr. Tim Young<sup>6</sup> (with Edward Besly<sup>7</sup> & Ekaterina Madrid<sup>8</sup>)

#### 1.0 Discovery (AG)

Eleven bronze artefacts, including a group of decorated Late Iron Age chariot fittings, were reported to Adam Gwilt at Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018. The artefact scatter was discovered by Mr. Mike Smith on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018, in one general area of a field, while metal detecting on ploughed farm land currently under pasture in the Community of Llanstadwell, Pembrokeshire.

A number of the artefacts were reported as being discovered within two detector pits located approximately 1.2m (4 feet) apart from each other. In one detector pit, four conjoining fragments of large decorated terret (part of No. 2, *below*), a decorated circular bridle-bit fitting (No. 4, *below*) and a complete bridle ring (No. 5, *below*) were discovered, at reported depths of 45-50cm (18-20 inches). In a second adjacent detector pit, located to the west of the first, a large decorated horse-brooch (No. 1, *below*) and a decorated rectangular strip fitting (No.7, *below*), were discovered at reported depths of 55cm (22 inches) depth. The bar fragment of the large decorated terret (part of No. 2, *below*), or rein-guide, was initially reported by the finder to be located in the same second detector pit, beside the large decorated horse brooch and decorated rectangular strip fitting. On subsequent reflection however, the finder considers that the terret bar fragment, which neatly forms a join with the rest of the terret, was probably actually retrieved from the first detector pit, in association with the rest of the same terret and at a similar buried depth of 45-50cm (18-20 inches).

Further artefacts were discovered at shallower depths and reported as found dispersed and some away from these two detector pits. A complete decorated quadrilobed strap-union (No. 3, *below*) was reported as discovered approximately 9m (30 feet) from the detector pits at a depth of 5-8cm (2-3 inches) beneath the ground surface. A half bridle-ring fragment (No.6, *below*) and possible vessel fitting (No. 8, *below*) were reported as also found dispersed approximately 9m (30feet) away from the central detector pit pair, but separated from and in a different location to the quadrilobate strap-union. They were reportedly found at depths of approximately 15cm (6 inches) beneath the surface. A small circular copper-alloy fitting

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<sup>1</sup> Principal Curator: Prehistory, Department of History & Archaeology, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

<sup>2</sup> Co-ordinator of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Wales (PAS Cymru)

<sup>3</sup> Senior Curator: Roman Archaeology, Department of History & Archaeology, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

<sup>4</sup> Senior Conservator, Archaeology, Department of Collections Services, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

<sup>5</sup> Director, Dyfed Archaeological Trust

<sup>6</sup> Director of GeoArch (geophysicist and archaeometallurgist)

<sup>7</sup> Formerly Numismatist (now retired), Department of History & Archaeology, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

<sup>8</sup> Post-graduate conservation student intern, University of Cardiff

(No.9, *below*) was discovered an estimated distance of 20-25m (65-85 feet) from the detector pit pair, at a depth of 12-15cm (5-6 inches), while a small decorated bow brooch (No. 10, *below*) was discovered an estimated 30-40m (100-130 feet) from the detector pit pair at a depth of 12-15cm (5-6 inches). A Roman coin (No. 11, *below*) was also discovered in the same field at an estimated 50m (160-170 feet) away from the detector pit pair, at an estimated depth of 12-18cm (5-7 inches). These initial reported locations and depths were subsequently modified and improved upon during the later preliminary archaeological survey and investigation of the find-locations.

The artefacts were handed over to Adam Gwilt and couriered to the National Museum Cardiff on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018, for safe-keeping and to permit identification and reporting of the finds. The discovery was first reported to H.M. Coroner for Pembrokeshire on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and a treasure receipt was subsequently sent to the Coroner on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

During the course of a subsequent archaeological excavation in June 2018, over the area of the two adjacent and focal metal-detector pits, by a small archaeological team comprising staff from Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, PAS Cymru and Dyfed Archaeological Trust, a series of further metal and non-metal artefact discoveries were made (Nos. 12-49, *below*). In addition, further metal-detector finds were made and reported at this time from the same field as the find-spot focus (Nos. 50-57, *below*). The decision was taken to cease the exploratory archaeological excavation, when it became apparent that the archaeology revealed was more complex and fragile than anticipated, and considerably beyond the existing available funding to excavate and retrieve to the highest professional standards. Therefore, associated artefacts are known to remain buried *in-situ* at the find-spot and these will be the subject of a separate second treasure case, to be progressed after excavation of the site has been completed.

## ***2.0 Summary listing of artefacts, samples and animal bone (AG)***

### **A. First reported metal-detector discoveries**

- 1. Large copper alloy horse-brooch with red glass decoration in late La Tène art style, with remains of iron pin** (early metal-detected find, western detector pit)
- 2. Large copper alloy flat-ringed terret with red glass decoration in late La Tène art style** (early metal-detected find, eastern detector pit)
- 3. Quadrilobed copper alloy strap-union, with red glass decoration in late La Tène art style – complete** (early metal-detected find, dispersed from focus pits)
- 4. Circular copper alloy terminal fragment of bridle-bit, with red glass decoration in late La Tène art style** (early metal-detected find, eastern detector pit)
- 5. Copper alloy bridle-ring – complete** (early metal-detector find, eastern detector pit)
- 6. Copper alloy bridle-ring – half fragment** (early metal-detector find, dispersed from focus pits)
- 7. Rectangular copper alloy harness fitting, with red glass decoration in late La Tène art style – large fragment** (early metal detected find, western detector pit)
- 8. Vessel handle** (early metal-detected find) – probably Post-Medieval
- 9. Roundel with lug** (early metal-detected find) – probably Post-Medieval

10. **Incomplete Roman trumpet-headed brooch with red and blue glass enamelling decoration (c. AD 100-150)**
11. **Coin, Roman Empire – brass sestertius – possibly Trajan (AD 98-117)**  
worn nearly flat with small circumference fragment missing

**B. Discoveries made during archaeological excavation in June 2018**

12. **Small copper alloy horse brooch fragment, with red glass decoration in late La Tène art style – petal motif and edge fragment**  
Backfill of metal detector pit – context 004; Small Find No. 3
13. **Small copper alloy horse brooch fragment, with red glass decoration in late La Tène art style – two petal motifs, internal**  
Backfill of metal detector pit – context 004; Small Find No. 4
14. **Small copper alloy horse brooch fragment, with red glass decoration in late La Tène art style – two petal motifs and edge fragment**  
Backfill of metal detector pit – context 004; Small Find No. 5
15. **Copper alloy two-link bridle bit, with terminal decorated with red glass in late La Tène art style – one circular terminal end and one bridle-ring missing – double opposed trumpet design on terminal – three conjoining fragments**  
Context 011 – excavation trench; north-eastern corner; Small Find No. 13.
16. **Copper alloy bridle-ring – three-quarters present, comprising three joining fragments**  
Base of ploughsoil (context 007) – excavation trench, south eastern corner (SF 7) & central-eastern side (SF 11); Small Find Nos. 7 & 11.
17. **Circular copper alloy terminal fragment of bridle-bit, with red glass decoration in late La Tène art style – double opposed trumpet design – two thirds of terminal fragment, broken at rear perforation**  
Base of ploughsoil (context 007) – excavation trench, south-eastern corner; Small Find No. 8
18. **Copper alloy fluted bridle-link fragment – half of link bar section, terminal and both ring-ends missing**  
Base of ploughsoil (context 007) – excavation trench, north-eastern corner; Small Find No. 9.
19. **Rectangular copper alloy harness fitting, with red glass decoration in late La Tène art style – two trumpet motifs – heavily eroded**  
Backfill of metal detector pit (context 002); Small Find No. 2
20. **Rectangular copper alloy harness fitting, with red glass decoration in late La Tène art style – two trumpet motifs – heavily eroded**  
Context 011 – excavation trench, north-eastern corner; Small Find No. 24
21. **Interior fragment of quadrilobed copper-alloy strap-union with red glass decoration in late La Tène art style – small fragment with no edges evident**  
Ploughsoil (context 007) – excavation trench, north-western baulk; Small Find No. 25; joins with and part of same artefact as Cat. 23, below.
22. **Edge fragment of quadrilobed copper alloy-strap-union with convex curved edge, with red glass decoration in late La Tène art style – small fragment**

- Ploughsoil (context 7) – excavation trench, western side; Small Find No. 6; probably part of same artefact as Cats. 21 & 23.
- 23. Lobe and crescent edge fragment of a quadrilobed copper alloy strap-union with convex curved edges and red glass decoration in late La Tène art style** – heavily eroded fragment with corrosion blister and surface cracking  
Base of ploughsoil, excavation trench, north-western area – Small Find No. 10; joins with and part of same artefact as Cat. 21, above.
- 24. Copper alloy - small sheet with red glass decoration in late La Tène art style** – small eroded and blistered fragment  
Base of ploughsoil (context 007) – excavation trench, south-eastern corner; Small Find No. 14.
- 25. Copper alloy – small sheet fragment with slight curvature of cross-section and presence of red glass decoration in late La Tène art style**  
Ploughsoil (context 7) – excavation trench, south-eastern corner; Small Find No. 12.
- 26. Iron blister fragments from chariot tyre (6)**  
Middle fill of grave (context 023) - excavation trench; north-western quadrant – northern tyre; Small Find. No. 22.
- 27. Small iron blister fragments from chariot tyre (15 +)**  
Clay capping deposit (Context 022) – excavation trench – south-western quadrant – southern tyre; Small Find. No. 23.
- 28. Iron circular socket fragments** – three fragments  
Clay capping deposit (Context 022) – excavation trench – south-western quadrant; Small Find. No. 20.
- 29. Iron circular sectioned tapering bar**  
Base of ploughsoil (context 007) – excavation trench, south-eastern corner; Small Find No. 16.
- 30. Iron fragment** – round shank section  
Ploughsoil (context 007) – excavation trench, western extension; Small Find No. 15.
- 31. Rectangular sectioned iron bar fragment**  
Ploughsoil (context 007) – excavation trench, metal-detector find in spoil.

#### **Non-metalwork finds and charcoal samples**

- 32. Worked flint flake** – prehistoric, probably Neolithic or Early Bronze Age  
Ploughsoil (context 007) – sieving of spoil from south-east corner of trench; Small Find No. 18.
- 33. Small white glazed china body sherd, with blue glaze linear pattern on internal surface** – modern – 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century  
Base of ploughsoil (context 007); excavation trench – location not-recorded; Small Find No. 17.
- 34. Small cream-glazed china rim fragment** – modern 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century.  
Base of ploughsoil (context 007) – sieving of spoil from south-east corner of trench.
- 35. Small white china body sherd with blue glaze decoration on external surface** – modern 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century.  
Ploughsoil (context 007); excavation trench – location not recorded.

36. **Green vessel glass neck fragment** – probably modern – 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century.  
Base of ploughsoil filling base of plough-furrow (context 006) – aligned north-north-west, to south-south-east on across eastern side of excavation trench.
37. **Green vessel glass body fragment** - probably modern – 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century.  
Base of ploughsoil filling base of plough-furrow (context 006) – aligned north-north-west, to south-south-east on across eastern side of excavation trench.
38. **Small green vessel glass body fragment** – probably modern – 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century.  
Base of ploughsoil filling base of plough furrow (context 009) – aligned north-north west to south-south-east across western side of excavation trench. .
39. **Flat sedimentary stone fragment, with linear plough scars in criss-cross pattern on upper surface**  
Ploughsoil (context 007)
40. **Small teeth fragments** – probably cow (4 small fragments) – probably modern 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century  
Base of ploughsoil filling base of plough furrow (context 009)
41. **Small slag fragment** – modern  
Ploughsoil (context 007) – excavation trench, eastern side.
42. **Vesicular slag fragment** – modern – 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century  
Base of ploughsoil (context 007) – sieving of spoil from south-east corner of trench.
43. **Small coal / coke fragments** (6 fragments) – modern – 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century  
Base of ploughsoil (context 007) – sieving of spoil from south-east corner of trench
44. **Small coal / coke fragments** (3 fragments) – modern – 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century  
Ploughsoil (context 007) – sieving of spoil from south-east corner of trench
45. **Charcoal sample** [Sample No. 1]  
Upper fill of ring ditch (context 014) – western extension.
46. **Charcoal sample** [Sample No. 2]  
Lower fill of ring-ditch (context 015) – western extension..
47. **Charcoal sample**  
Rocky layer in south-east corner (context 020/021)
48. **Charcoal sample**  
Angled stony layer beneath clay cap in south-east corner (context 020/021).
49. **Charcoal sample**  
Rubble fill in north-east corner (context 011)

**C. Metal detector discoveries during June excavation from field (external to trench)**

50. **Copper alloy dome-headed stud or harness mount with iron fixing** – complete;  
Post-Medieval – seventeenth to nineteenth centuries AD  
Upper ploughsoil, to north of north-west corner of trench; Small Find No. 19.
51. **Copper alloy, flat sheet fragment with concave end and near parallel sides**  
Ploughsoil
52. **Copper alloy, circular button or stud** – complete head; Post-Medieval – 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries AD  
Ploughsoil; surveyed findspot – Ref. MF2

- 53. Copper alloy oval mount with rear attachment lug for leather** – near complete, with coke fragment adhering; Probably Post-Medieval  
Ploughsoil; surveyed findspot - Ref. MF1
- 54. Copper alloy, curved and tapering spur-shaped fragment** – not a brooch, but possibly Romano-British  
Ploughsoil – depth 4-5 inches; surveyed findspot – Ref. MF3.
- 55. Iron bar fragment with convex upper surface and flat reverse section**  
Ploughsoil – depth 15cm; surveyed find-spot NNE of focal metal-detector pits;  
Small Find No. 1
- 56. Large iron chain link or ring** – circular sectioned, continuous ring – probably modern  
Ploughsoil
- 57. Iron fragment**  
Ploughsoil

### **5.0 Summary identifications (AG, M. Lew., M. Lod., LM & EB)**

Amongst the group of artefacts discovered by the finder, and subsequently augmented by further discoveries during the preliminary excavation at the find-spot, are a coherent group of cast bronze and iron chariot and horse harness fittings of Late Iron Age date (Nos. 1-7; 12-27, *above*), which were probably made during the early to mid-first century AD in the decades immediately preceding the Roman invasion and during the period of early Campaigning of the Roman army in western Britain. Many are decorated with design motifs in the late La Tène art style, which can be identified as belonging to Styles/Stages V and VI (Stead 1985, 25-36; 1995, 95; 1996, 34-5; 2006, 15; Macdonald 2007; Davis & Gwilt 2008, 166-77), with negative recesses infilled with red glass decoration, a characteristic Iron Age technique (Hughes 1972; Henderson 1989, 47-9; Freestone *et al* 2004; Rigby 2006; Davis & Gwilt 2008, 155-6; Davis 2014; 2017). Elsewhere in Britain, groups and objects exhibiting Style VI art designs are dated to the first century AD (e.g. Stead 2006, 68-9; Davis & Gwilt 2008, 166-77). The absence of polychrome enamelling amongst these horse-pieces and the absence of early Roman cavalry fittings amongst this group provides a consistently Iron Age technology and signature for this material. Polychrome enamel appears in Britain around AD 50 at earliest, while the earliest burial of Roman cavalry fittings belongs to the invasion and Campaigning period of the Roman army in Wales from the late 40s AD until the late 70s AD.

The archaeological excavation undertaken over the focus find-spot convincingly demonstrated that these Late Iron Age chariot and horse harness fittings were buried together and at the same time, as part of a chariot burial. This was located in a grave at the centre of a circular ring-ditch burial monument, approximately 10-11m in diameter. During the Iron Age, chariot burials are occasional discoveries, and in Britain, their known distribution is restricted to Yorkshire and southern Scotland (e.g. Stead 1965; 1979; 1991; Dent 1985; Hill 2001; 2002; Boyle *et al* 2007; Carter *et al* 2010; Jay *et al* 2012; Yorkshire Post, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018). The chariot pieces were manufactured in a distinctively Late Iron Age style, either just before or during the period of early campaigning of the Roman army in Wales, around AD 25-75. At present, the date of the burial of this chariot and accompanying human burial has not been closely fixed and it is possible that the chariot and its fittings were in circulation for some decades before they were buried. However, for the purposes of this treasure report, it is



the date of manufacture of the horse and chariot fittings, together with their distinctively Iron Age style of decoration (i.e. prehistoric), that is relevant.

The dispersal of two of the chariot fittings some distance away from the burial focus and into ploughsoil, indicates that these artefacts had been disturbed and moved in recent times, through deep ploughing over the grave. Efforts taken to survey in the approximate find-spot of the quadrilobed strap-union (No. 3) indicate that it was found approximately 35-38m to the north-north-west of the central excavation trench and grave focus. Similarly, the half harness ring fragment, discovered as a metal detecting find (No. 6, *above*), was located approximately 38-40m to the north-north-east of the central excavation and grave focus. These relative locations were observed to follow the approximate alignment of ploughing in this field, as observed on the geophysics plot, in the alignment of revealed plough furrows in the excavation trench and in conversation with the landowner farmer. Although this artefact had been displaced some distance, and up-slope from the grave focus, this is consistent with the object having been disturbed from its original burial place by recent deep ploughing activity, linked with planting the field with potatoes and moving the object up into the ploughsoil layer. Evidence for disturbance of the artefacts within the grave was also clearly observed during the archaeological excavation, when a number of fragments of decorated chariot fittings (Nos. 16-18; 21-25) were observed within ploughsoil and some distance from their original burial location

Amongst the metal-detector finds first reported by the finder is included a decorated brooch fragment of Roman form with red and blue enamel insets (Cat. 10, *above*). This may be identified as a trumpet-headed brooch, grouped by Mackreth within his Mainstream Trumpet, sub-type 1.2b3 (2011, 119) and by Bayley and Butcher within their Group D, decorated trumpet-headed brooches (2004, 93-4, 163-4). Dating the manufacture and currency of this type of trumpet-headed brooch is complex and largely reliant upon a widespread review of known examples in Britain found in secure archaeological contexts of known date. It is generally agreed that they were in widespread use during the later first century AD and into the second century AD (Bayley & Butcher 2004, 163-4; Mackreth 2011, 119-20). As probably lost during the early second century AD, it is probable, though admittedly not certain, that this brooch was not buried in direct association with the chariot fittings in the grave. Its burial depth and spatial relationship with the chariot fittings are also consistent with this interpretation. It is most likely, therefore, that it was deposited as part of the general early Roman occupation activity around and in the vicinity a known nearby promontory fort.

A brass Roman coin was included amongst the metal-detected finds reported from the field (No. 11). This can be identified as a *sestertius* of the Roman Empire, which has been worn nearly flat. Careful inspection (EB), has led to the view that this could be a coin of Trajan (AD 98-117) minted in the early second century AD. However, given its heavily worn state and the known period of circulation of these coins as currency, it is likely that the coin was not buried until the late second or third centuries AD. Given this later date of manufacture and extended possible circulation, it is clear that this coin was not buried in association with the chariot pieces. It was probably deposited as part of the general early to mid-Roman occupation activity around and in the vicinity of a known nearby promontory fort.

A copper alloy vessel handle with a fan-shaped 'head' (No. 8, *above*) was reported amongst the early metal-detector finds from the field. Given the strong Iron Age and early Roman

associations of this group of finds, the possibilities that this might represent a Romano-British trumpet brooch, an Iron Age to Roman tankard handle or a Roman vessel handle from a jug, ewer or flagon were carefully considered, in turn. However, this artefact did not find any close stylistic parallels with these known artefact classes and of these dates, in the relevant comparative literature. It was observed that this artefact had a markedly different corrosion and patination compared with the other Iron Age and Roman artefacts from the field, suggesting a different life history in the soil. The adhering copper corrosion products have incorporated flecks of coal dust, strongly suggesting a much more recent, post-medieval date, probably of nineteenth century date, belonging to the Industrial period. The sharp carination of the handle, opposing 'thumb stop' moulding, and fan-shaped 'head' may equally support this, recent, period of production and deposition, finding parallel with certain post-medieval vessel fragments recorded via the PAS database in recent years (e.g. Collins 2014; McIntosh 2008). Similarities with nineteenth century ceramic tea cup handles, tea pots and coffee pots may also be made. As an artefact of probable Post-Medieval date, this is not of prehistoric date and was not buried in direct association with the Late Iron Age artefacts included within the reported find.

A small white metal roundel with a possible lug (No. 9, *above*) is represented amongst the metal-detected group first reported by the finder. A degree of care and skill has been taken to make this small and intricate item, which appears to have been designed to be viewed from both faces. The central 'target' design on each face of this roundel appears stylistically consistent with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD enamelled roundels found on trumpet derivative brooches, belt plates, harness mounts, junction loops, pendants, studs, seal box lids. The potential zoomorphic design element and double-sided decorative scheme, might *potentially* support an early Roman, first or second century AD date. In reviewing the possible options spanning the Late Iron Age and into the early Roman period, double-sided roundels on strap-unions, with projections, roundels on tankard handles, button and loop fasteners and sword mounts have been considered. However, no clear archaeological parallel of Iron Age or Roman date can yet be found for the artefact. Qualitative XRF analysis of this artefact suggest that this roundel with appendage has a very high proportion of tin. This unusual, very high tin composition provides tentative evidence in support of a Post-Medieval and possibly modern date for the artefact. On a balance of probability, and on the basis of the evidence currently available, it is probable that this artefact is not contemporary with the Iron Age chariot fittings of Late Iron Age date and was not buried in direct association with this group within the grave.

The approximate find-spot locations of the Roman brooch, Roman coin, vessel handle and roundel (Nos. 8-11) were surveyed in relation to the excavation trench and chariot grave. Further support for their not being associated with the Late Iron Age chariot artefacts was found in their comparative distances and directions from the burial focus. Whereas the quadrilobed strap-union (No. 3) and the half harness ring (No. 6) were located 35-40m north of the excavation trench and broadly in alignment with the plough furrows in the field, the vessel fitting, roundel and brooch were located approximately 55m to the north-north-east, approximately 55m to the north-east and approximately 75m to the north-east of the excavation trench and grave focus, respectively. The coin was located approximately 42m to the west of the excavation trench. These are both further away, but also in directions running across the alignment of the prevailing ploughing pattern in the field. As such, the Roman coin



and brooch better indicate a background artefact scatter relating to the general Roman occupation around and in the vicinity of the known nearby promontory fort.

Four additional iron artefacts were retrieved during archaeological excavation (Nos. 28-31, *above*). These were X-rayed, in order to determine whether any diagnostic technological or typological characteristics could be observed as surviving beneath the surface obscuring corrosion deposits. Fragments of a circular socketed tool (No. 28, *above*) containing surviving remains of wood, once belonging to a handle and a central iron tang or rod, were identified, however the preservation state of the organic wood within an aerated ploughsoil (rather than mineralised replacement deposits) indicated that this artefact was modern and probably a nineteenth or twentieth century agricultural tool fragment. Although discovered within the top of the clay capping deposit (context 022) in the south-western quadrant of the grave, it is probable that this modern artefact had been impressed into the top interface of this grave capping layer. The remaining three iron bar and shank fragments (Nos. 29-31, *above*) were made of wrought iron, but no distinctive features could be determined from the X-rays produced and none could be paralleled with known artefacts of Late Iron Age date. Therefore, it is highly probable that these artefact fragments are pieces of agricultural metalwork deposited within the upper ploughsoil layer during the nineteenth or twentieth centuries AD.

From within ploughsoil (context 007) and basal plough furrow fills (contexts 006 & 009), a few small sherds of china and vessel glass were retrieved (Nos. 33-8, *above*), all modern and dating to the eighteenth to twentieth centuries AD. These were incorporated into the ploughsoil through middening and dumping activities in the recent past. In addition, a plough scarred stone (No. 39, *above*) was retrieved, also created through recent ploughing activity. Surprisingly, a prehistoric worked flint flake (No. 32, *above*) was retrieved from ploughsoil in the excavation trench. Although not highly diagnostic as an artefact type, it has struck facets and a bulb of percussion, indicating it was a struck flake created during the making of a flint tool. The general flint technology suggests this dates to either the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age, created at some time between 4000BC and 1800BC. It suggests background human occupation evidence for this general landscape locality, long before the fort and burial monument were created. Therefore, this flake was not deposited at the same time, nor in association, with the decorated bronze Late Iron Age chariot pieces.

The cow's teeth fragments, slag, coal and coke fragments (Nos. 40-4, *above*) retrieved during the excavation from ploughsoil (context 007) and basal plough furrow fill (context 009) contexts have been listed, for the purpose of completeness and as part of the excavation assemblage. However, they are not considered to be artefacts in relation to treasure, and are modern additions to the ploughsoil, relating to dumping and agricultural ploughing during the industrial period of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The charcoal samples retrieved from archaeological contexts to permit future scientific analysis (Nos. 45-9, *above*), while incorporated during or soon after the construction of the burial monument and grave, are equally not considered to be artefacts in relation to treasure, but form part of the excavation assemblage.

During the week of excavation, the finder and trusted metal-detecting partners were authorised to metal-detect away from the excavation trench, but within the field. Five copper alloy and three iron artefact finds were made and reported (Nos. 50-7, *above*) and were

analysed to understand the compositions of the copper alloy artefacts and to see any technological or typological features beneath iron corrosion products on the iron artefacts. A copper alloy, curved and tapering spur-shaped fragment (No. 54, *above*) is heavily corroded and the thin tapering end exhibits a clean break, suggesting that the artefact originally extended further in this direction. The hollow, flared, end of the artefact and the tapering curved section, suggest the possibility of it once having been a fragment of a trumpet-headed brooch, handle or fitting. Its form, corrosion products and find location are consistent with a late-1<sup>st</sup> to early-2<sup>nd</sup> century AD date. Qualitative analysis of this artefact indicated the presence of copper, zinc, lead and tin, which is consistent with a brass and this Roman date range, or later. The find-spot of this object was surveyed (MF3) and was approximately 150m west-south-west of the excavation trench. As probably later in date than the Late Iron Age chariot artefacts and found some considerable distance away from the find-spot focus, this artefact was not buried in direct association with artefacts in the grave and was probably deposited as part of the general early to mid-Roman occupation activity in the general landscape vicinity of the nearby promontory fort.

Two further diagnostic copper alloy artefacts were retrieved, both Post-Medieval in date. A button (No. 52, *above*) made of leaded gunmetal was identified as a version of a 'tombac' button was discovered approximately 100m to the south west of the excavation focus (MF2). Buttons of this form are common metal-detecting finds and published widely, commonly dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries AD (Bailey, 2004, 40-74). In addition a dome-headed cast stud or harness mount (No. 50, *above*) with a probable iron threaded fitting, made of brass or gunmetal was discovered approximately 1.0m north of the northern baulk of the excavation trench. Very similar horse harness mounts have been recorded via the Portable Antiquities Scheme from Codsall Parish, South Staffordshire and Alciston Parish, East Sussex (Burnett 2008; Leahy 2018) and are dated to the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. Slightly less diagnostic was an oval mount (No. 53, *above*), found to be of leaded gunmetal, with a rear attachment lug, probably to attach to leather and probably of Post-Medieval date. This was discovered approximately 135m to the west-south-west of the main excavation focus (MF1). A flat sheet fragment with a concave shaped end and near parallel sides (No. 51, *above*), is also thought to be of Post-Medieval date (its find-spot was not surveyed). Therefore, none of these five copper alloy artefacts may be considered as of contemporary date, nor associated with the Late Iron Age chariot fittings.

X-ray analysis and study of three iron artefacts (Nos. 55-7, *above*) all retrieved in ploughsoil, through metal-detecting in the field during the week of excavation, have revealed that an iron bar fragment with a convex upper surface and flat reverse section (No. 55) is made of cast iron, having a homogenous structure. Therefore, it must be industrial in date, probably dating to the nineteenth or twentieth centuries AD. No additional diagnostic features were revealed in the X-rays of the other two artefacts, a large iron chain-link (No. 56) and iron fragment (No. 57), both made of wrought iron. However, it is probable that these are nineteenth or twentieth century in date and are fragments of agricultural machinery, dumped and incorporated into the ploughsoil during ploughing activity.

Having identified all of the existing known metal-detected and excavated artefacts, which may be considered as artefacts once buried in direct association within this Late Iron Age grave (i.e. Nos. 1-7; 12-27), it must be noted that there are additional artefacts still buried in the ground and still to be excavated. By virtue of their association with the Late Iron Age

copper-alloy chariot pieces already discovered, all further metal (including copper-alloy, precious metal and iron), organic, ceramic and stone artefacts discovered within this grave will also be considered as treasure items and part of this find. Further dispersed and scattered metal-detected finds are also possible, and each of these would also constitute treasure, if identifiable as of the same date as the other known artefacts. The artefact finds yet to be discovered, during intended further archaeological excavation of the find-spot, will be considered as part of a second treasure case and as an addendum to this report.

## **6.0 Recommendations**

It is my opinion that all the metal-detected and excavated artefacts retrieved and identified as being horse or chariot fittings of Late Iron Age date (Nos. 1-7, 12-25) may be considered as treasure within the reviewed definition of treasure (Treasure Act 1996 and the Treasure (Designation) Order 2002). The grounds for arguing this are that these have all been identified as prehistoric base-metal artefacts of contemporary Late Iron Age manufacture dating to the early to mid-first century AD, and decorated in the same late La Tène art styles. Although some of these artefacts were discovered in the same field and scattered some distance away from the burial focus, they were once buried in direct association, and were disturbed, fragmented and displaced through recent deep ploughing activity. *Please refer to Section C, Paragraphs 6, 11 & 14 of the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (Revised) (DCMS 2002).*

In addition, the two chariot tyre blisters of iron (Nos. 26-7) are recommended as treasure, by virtue of their direct association with the copper alloy artefacts in the grave. Furthermore, the two iron chariot-tyres and all artefacts associated within the grave and yet to be excavated, retrieved and to be considered as the subject of a future treasure case (including copper alloy, iron and organic artefacts), will also be recommended as similarly satisfying the definition of treasure. *Please refer to Section C, Paragraph 14 of the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (Revised) (DCMS 2002).*

Following careful consideration, the Roman enamelled brooch (No. 10) and Roman coin (No. 11) are considered as probably having been lost at a later date than the horse and chariot pieces and therefore not in direct association with the artefacts in the grave. Instead, they are likely to reveal the general presence of early Roman occupation in the vicinity of a nearby Iron Age promontory fort. On the basis of the available evidence, it is argued that the probable vessel handle fragment (No. 8) and small circular fitting (No. 9) are, on a balance of probability, Post-Medieval or modern in date and therefore are not contemporary with or associated with the artefacts in the chariot grave. Therefore, it is recommended that these four artefacts, reported as part of the initial metal-detected find group, are not treasure and do not match the definition criteria required.

The additional iron artefacts discovered during the preliminary excavation (Nos. 28-31) have all been X-rayed and carefully considered. One of these, a circular tapering bar (No. 29) is made of cast iron, therefore must be Post-Medieval in date, while the iron socket fragments (No. 28) have been observed to have wood still preserved inside the socket, in a manner indicative of a nineteenth or twentieth century date. X-ray analysis of the other two fragments (Nos. 30-1) reveals no diagnostic features permitting their identification as belonging to

recognisable artefacts of Late Iron Age date. Therefore, on the basis of the evidence available, they are also probably of modern date and represent pieces of farm equipment more recently incorporated into the ploughsoil. Therefore, it is recommended that these four artefacts, discovered during the excavation above the grave, are not treasure and do not match the definition criteria required.

The worked flint fragment (No. 32) discovered in ploughsoil within the excavation trench is of prehistoric date, however this may be confidently dated to the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age (*ca.* 4000-1500 BC) rather than the Late Iron Age. It was therefore not contemporary with and buried beside the other objects in the grave group. It is likely that this attests to a back-scatter of earlier human occupation in the general landscape vicinity, the flint being disturbed from the underlying sub-soil and dragged into the ploughsoil by recent ploughing activity. It is recommended that this artefact is not treasure.

None of the other non-metalwork artefacts discovered during the excavation, the pottery, glass and stone objects (Nos. 33-9), may be dated to the Iron Age and instead date to the eighteenth to twentieth centuries. They were incorporated into the ploughsoil through middening and ploughing activities in recent times. The slag, coke and tooth fragments (Nos. 40-4) are all of modern date and are not strictly artefacts, having been incorporated into the ploughsoil through recent dumping and ploughing events. On this basis, they are all recommended as not treasure.

The charcoal fragments (Nos. 45-9) are probably prehistoric in date and contemporary with the construction of the burial monument and grave, however they are samples not artefacts, forming part of the excavation archive and permitting future analysis. Therefore, it is recommended that these may not be deemed treasure and do not match the definition criteria.

None of the copper-alloy or iron artefacts discovered during metal-detecting activity at the time of the excavation and in the same field as the grave (Nos. 50-7) have been identified as diagnostic artefacts of Late Iron Age date. It is possible that the spur shaped fragment (No. 54) may be of Roman date, although this fragment is difficult to identify with certainty to a known artefact type. If correct, it is likely to be part of the general Roman occupation in the vicinity of the Iron Age promontory fort. Three copper alloy artefacts (Nos. 50, 52 & 53) are Post-Medieval in date, including a dome headed stud or harness mount and button. A final shaped sheet object (No. 51), though not identifiable to artefact type is also probably of Post-Medieval date. Finally, it is probable that the chain link, iron bar and iron fragment (Nos. 55-7) are all nineteenth or twentieth centuries in date and represent pieces of farm equipment more recently incorporated into the ploughsoil. It is recommended that these objects are not considered to be treasure, as of later date and not directly associated with the horse and chariot pieces of Late Iron Age date.

## ***7.0 Declaration of interest***

If declared as treasure, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales would seek to acquire all artefacts that were once buried in direct association within the Llanstadwell Community chariot grave, including the finds of Late Iron Age date first discovered through metal-detecting, the additional artefacts of Late Iron Age date discovered during the preliminary archaeological excavation *and all the associated artefacts still located in the ground within*

*the incompletely excavated burial monument and grave* (to be the subject of a separate treasure case and addendum to the first find).

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