GLAMORGAN-GWENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST CONTRACTS SECTION

EXCAVATIONS AT ELM FARM, UNDY, GWENT

FEBRUARY 1993

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> Project No A51 Report No 93/013

ELM FARM, UNDY

CONTENTS	PAGE
Introduction	3
Results of archaeological excavation	5
Finds: The Roman Pottery by David R Evans The Medieval Pottery and Metal Work by P Courtney The Animal Bones by N A Page	11 13 17
Bibliography	18
Catalogue of excavation archive	
Figure One:- Location plan Figure Two:- Site plan showing earlier trial section excavated areas Figure Three:- Plan showing excavated features Figure Four:- Detail of structure in Area A Figure Five:- Southwest facing section of Area B Figure Six:- Roman pottery Figure Seven:- Medieval pottery	s and

Figure Seven:- Medieval pottery Figure Eight:- Medieval reap hook

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- 2 -

INTRODUCTION

The construction by Dwr Cymru of a pumping station, pipeline and storage lagoon at Elm Farm, Undy, Gwent, presented a significant risk to a moated enclosure (PRN 455g NGR 4395 8736), protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No. MM 198). In February 1992 the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust was commissioned to undertake a small-scale trial excavation to assess the likely impact of the proposals (Maynard and Marvell 1992).

This initial trial work identified several features in the area of the proposed pumping station. As a result, the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust carried out a rescue excavation between the middle of April and the end of May 1992 to record the features before their destruction.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust is grateful to Dwr Cymru (Welsh Water) and Monmouth Borough Council for financial support to carry out the excavations, and to staff at Gwent County Records Office, Cwmbran, and Newport Reference Library, for their assistance during documentary searches. The fieldwork was directed by C N Maylan and supervised by D J Maynard: they were assisted by R Edwards, R Linnard, D Williams and P Wright. The illustrations were prepared by P Jones. The report was prepared by N A Page in consultation with the fieldwork director C N Maylan.

LOCATION and TOPOGRAPHY

Undy, located c.16 kilometres east of Newport, Gwent (fig 1), lie's on the inland edge of the Caldicot Level at a height of 10m aOD. The Caldicot Level is one of several areas of reclaimed wetland along the shoreline of the Severn Estuary known collectively as the Severn Levels. The site was positioned at the point where the superficial, alluvial, deposits abut the solid "inland" geology, which at Undy is limestone, Dolomitic Conglomerate and Keuper Marl. Significantly the enclosure was situated on the alluvial deposits rather than the well-drained solid geology. This would suggest that the site was deliberately chosen to provide a wet moat.

The area surrounding Undy in common with the rest of the Levels, is crossed by drainage ditches (reens), resulting in the characteristic linear appearance of the field system on the Levels. The drainage of the Levels produced an extremely fertile environment which became an essential element of the economic production base of South Wales, until the rapid industrialisation of the post-medieval period,.

- 3 -

THE SITE

The site was situated c.0.5Km northeast of the main nucleus of the village of Undy in a field currently grazed by cattle. On the northern side of the site the ground sloped gently upwards for c.100m to the B4245, Magor to Caldicot road, whilst on the southern side of the site was a row of houses and gardens. To the east of the site lay the monument, and c.5m to the west of the site was Church Road.

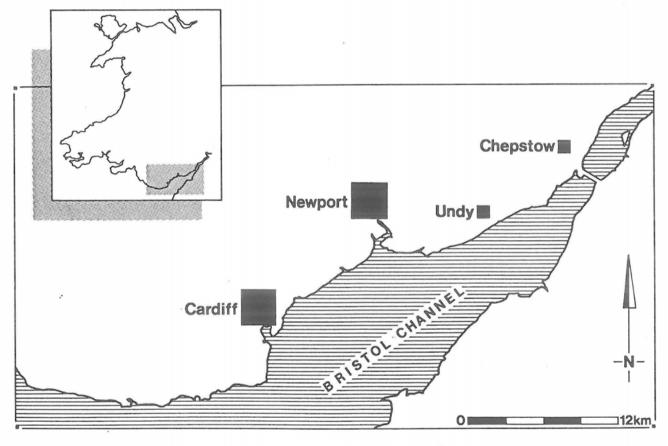


Figure One:- Location plan

- 4 -

THE EXCAVATION

Excavations were carried out in two areas: the first, Area A, was a 20m x 11m rectangular area within the proposed pumping station compound, the second, Area B, was a 2m wide trench along the line of the proposed pipeline. Archaeological features in Area A were excavated to bedrock, whilst Area B was only excavated to the depth of the new pipeline trench. Both areas revealed archaeological features associated with the moated enclosure and later periods of activity on the site.

Area A (Figs 2 & 3)

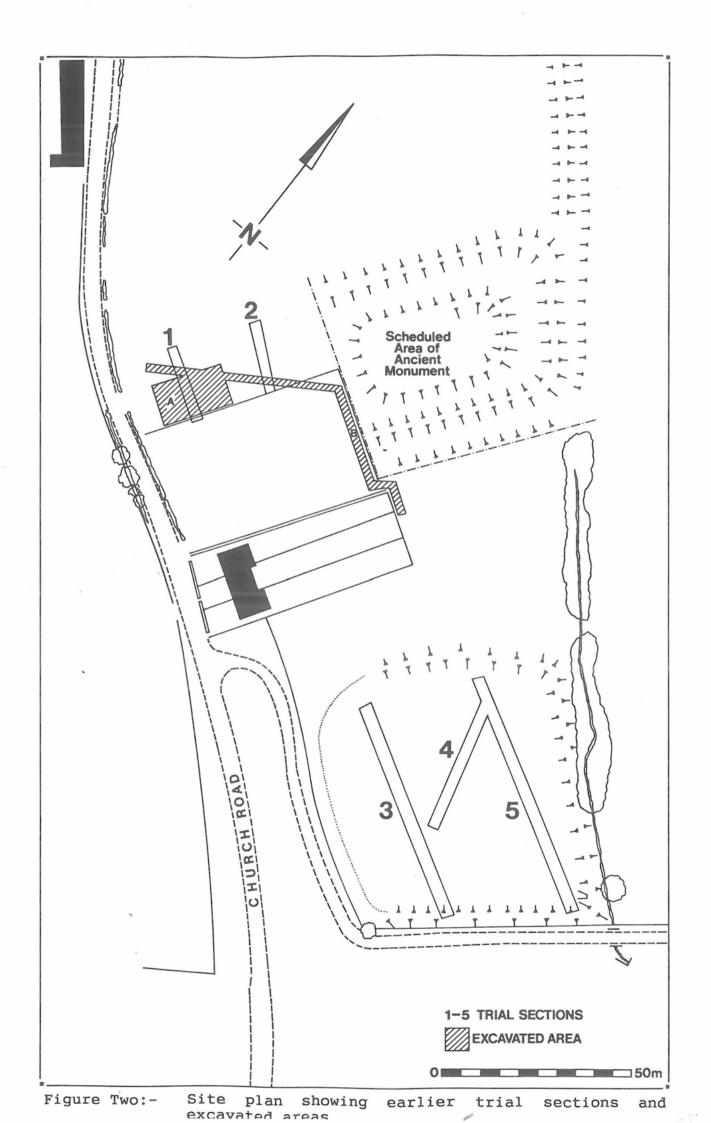
Removal of a c0.5m depth of topsoil (001) and overburden (002) in Area A revealed a number of archaeological and natural features cut into the limestone bedrock, some of which appear to be associated with the moated enclosure. The major feature encountered in Area A was an east-northeast - west-southwest ditch (006), 2m wide which extended across the southern half of the excavated area and beyond the eastern baulk, before reappearing in, and crossing, area B. The western end of the ditch terminated in a straight-cut end c.5m from the western baulk.

Ditch 006 and Associated Features (Figs 3 & 4)

The ditch itself appeared to be on a line that would have run into the northwestern corner of the main enclosure ditch, although a direct physical relationship between them was not established. On initial discovery the ditch was considered to be a leat or some other feature associated with water management. The permeable nature of the underlying limestone bedrock, however, would make this impossible unless some form of lining such as clay were employed. No traces of a lining were found during the excavation.

Whatever its original function the ditch was subjected to much subsequent activity. After it had partially filled with a layer of silty loam (054) accumulated through natural processes, a layer of loose stone and earth, 1.2m wide and 0.42m in depth (048), was deposited, apparently deliberately, along the bottom of the ditch parallel to the inside of the northern edge for distance of 14.2m. Although it had the appearance of deliberate deposition it is more likely that the layer originally filled the ditch and the southern side was subsequently partially dug out, resulting in a "bank-like" form. A small amount of Roman and medieval pottery recovered from these two layers dates this infilling to the medieval or post-medieval period.

Straddling the ditch c.2m from the western end and overlying the bank-like layer was a stone-built structure consisting of two walls. A well-built north-south wall (059), constructed from two



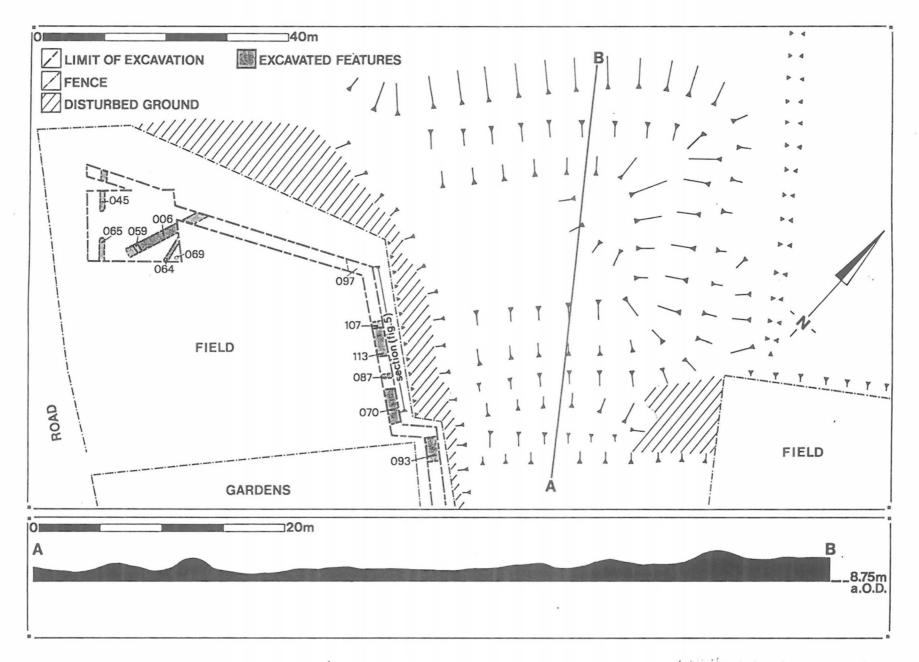


Figure Three: Plan showing excavated features

faces of large undressed limestone rubble blocks with a core of smaller rubble pieces, had an east-west wall of much lighter construction (056), consisting of three courses of limestone rubble blocks (maximum size of blocks $0.3m \times 0.3m \times 0.12m$), abutting the southern end of its eastern face. This smaller wall appeared to be acting as some form of revetment for a deposit on the southern side of the ditch which was very similar in nature to that between the loose stone and earth layer (048) and the northern edge of the ditch. Excavation revealed that both deposits were a part of the initial fill (054) which covered both sides and the bottom of the ditch.

Surrounding this structure were three areas of angular limestone (057, 058 and 060) which appeared to have been rubble deliberately laid, presumably to act as a firm surface. The unworn, angular nature of the rubble would, however, suggest that they were not heavily used. The removal of this rubble revealed that the two walls (056 & 059) and the loose stone and earth layer (048) formed a chamber (046) (fig 4) which was filled with several layers of silty loam. The basal fill was a grey/brown loam (083) which had within it frequent patches of silty blue/green clay. On initial examination these were considered to be cesspit deposits and the structure and chamber were interpreted as a latrine. The recovery of animal bone and a curved metal blade, possibly a reap-hook (fig), from the chamber fills indicates that some rubbish was deposited during infilling.

Further investigation of the structure formed by the walls and chamber, however, revealed several factors which made it unlikely that this was its intended purpose, although it may have been used as such later. The chamber, which was entirely contained within the initial fill (054) of the ditch was only 0.48m deep, which would have been too shallow for an effective or long-term cesspit; a purpose-built cesspit is likely to have been much deeper for sanitary reasons. The standard and scale of construction of the large wall (059) suggests that if it had been intended as part of a purpose built latrine an appropriately deep shaft would have been dug.

Other possible uses for the structure were considered, such as its use as some form of water control system: this, however, is extremely unlikely as ditch 006 was cut through permeable limestone. Its use as a corn drier, with the chamber acting as a heating chamber, was also considered, particularly as an area of charcoal (081) was recorded within the chamber. This one isolated deposit was not, however, considered to be reliable evidence that a fire had been lit inside, especially with the lack of fire damage to the surrounding deposits. Although regular cleaning would remove much of the evidence for fire it is likely that continued heating would be visible as scorching on the stories.

In the above interpretations it is assumed that the walls and chamber were contemporary and parts of the same structure.

Implicit also is the assumption that 059 was the west wall of any structure, which means that the structure would extend eastwards along the ditch and over the chamber. It is, however, possible that the structure extended towards the west end of 006, thus placing the chamber at the eastern end. This interpretation may also explain why there was only one wall across the ditch: wall 059 may have supported a sill-beam for a wooden framed building constructed over the western end of 006, the sill-beams for three sides would have been placed directly onto the bedrock surface, where they would have needed only a small amount of packing to After the removal of the sill-beams, the only level them. visible trace of such a building would be the foundation wall spanning the ditch. As no evidence to support this interpretation was found, however, it must remain conjectural.

Other Features (Fig 3)

West of the terminal of ditch 006 were two opposing north-south ditches separated by a gap of c6m. The northern ditch (045) which extended south from the northern baulk for a distance of 2m was 1.1m wide and c0.5m deep and filled with a dark brown silty clay (044). The southern ditch (065), extending north for a distance of 3.2m from the southern baulk, was 1.2m wide and 0.46m deep, and filled with a grey clayey silt (066). The similar widths and depths of both ditches suggested that they were originally part of the same feature, possibly a boundary ditch. If this was the case the gap was a deliberate breach in the boundary, and thus an integral part of the design. It is likely, therefore, that it formed an entrance to an enclosure defined by the ditches, although no traces of any associated entrance structure were recorded (eg postholes or pivot-stones). Entrance structures are likely to have been constructed from timber and organic material which have not left any visible archaeological record.

The differing fills of these two ditches indicate that they were subjected to different processes of infilling: the grey clayey silt fill of the southernmost ditch is suggestive of natural silting, whilst the dark brown silty clay fill of the opposing ditch is similar to that present in other features across the site and appears to have been deposited quickly. However, whether it was deposited by human action or natural processes is uncertain. If the ditches were part of a boundary the differing fills may indicate a change in boundary position.

In the south-eastern corner of area A was a V-shaped ditch, 1.35m wide and 0.48m in depth (064) (fig 3), which extended from outside the eastern limits of Area A, crossed the extreme south-eastern corner of the excavated area and continued beyond its southern limits. The eastern terminal of this ditch appeared to lie under the unexcavated baulk between areas A and B, as the ditch did not reappear in area B. It could be that it was truncated by, or ran into, ditch (006) outside the excavated

- 7 -

area. Only a c.3m length of ditch was excavated and no evidence was recovered which would suggest a function.

Filling the ditch were a series of three clay fills, the middle one of which was a dark brown silty clay material (062) similar to that present in several other features on the site. To the southeast of this ditch was a circular post-hole, 0.3m in diameter and 0.24m deep (069) (fig 3), filled with the same dark brown silty clay (068) which contained a single sherd of Roman pottery. The extensive distribution of this material throughout a number of features on the site may be an indication of deliberate infilling and levelling.

The features cut into the bedrock in Area A were fairly shallow (the average depth is 0.5m) and they were not cut through the overlying topsoil deposit. Therefore it may be suggested that some time after the construction of the ditches the area was stripped to the bedrock, possibly to form a good, if rather uneven, yard or working surface. This would have removed any trace of the medieval ground level.

Area B (Figs 2 & 3)

Excavation of Area B revealed a number of ditches associated with the moated enclosure and later activity on the site. The earliest feature was the main enclosure ditch: both its previously unrecorded western section (097) and its southern section (113) were encountered in this area.

Main Enclosure Ditch and Associated Features

The western edge of 097 was discovered to be stepped to a depth of 1m: the eastern edge lay outside of the excavated area, so no complete profile was obtained. The lowest 0.5m of the ditch was filled by a layer of red/brown silty clay (096) which contained a small amount of exclusively Roman pottery, while the overlying layer of red/brown silty clay (095) contained both Roman and medieval pottery. Although it is possible that the lowest fill in this ditch and the fill of the posthole (069) in Area A are primary Roman deposits it is more likely that the sherds were redeposited.

The southern section of the main enclosure ditch (113) was steep-sided with a flat bottom, and was 0.76m deep. The clean silty nature of the lower fills of this ditch suggests that they were deposited by natural infilling processes, possibly during a period of disuse. It is likely that for many lords their land in southern Gwent would have been lesser holdings and therefore visited only periodically. Therefore for considerable periods the site may have been virtually unattended; in these circumstances the ditches might become silted up. However, the upper fill (088), which contained a large amount of pottery

- 8 -

ranging from Roman to post-medieval in date, was almost certainly deposited deliberately in order to level the ground above the ditch.

The northern edge of ditch 113 was truncated by the southern edge of a later, steep-sided east-west ditch, 0.52m wide and 0.58m deep (107) (figs 3 & 5), thus making it impossible to obtain a complete profile of this section of the ditch.

The fills on both sides of this later ditch were identical: however, only the section to the south of the later ditch corresponded with the surviving earthworks. Therefore it can be suggested that the later ditch was cut through the corner of the enclosure ditch, and that Area B was dug across the corner, exposing a section along the inside of the western length (097) and a section across the southern length (113) of the enclosure ditch (figs 2 & 3).

To the south of, and running parallel to, the southern enclosure ditch was a bank (121) (fig 5), possibly constructed from upcast generated during the original construction of the enclosure. The bank, which was over 4m wide and survived to a height of 0.42m, overlay the original ground surface (120). A later narrow vertical-sided ditch, 0.60m wide and 0.45m deep (087), cut through the bank c1m from its southern end. This later ditch was filled with a dark brown silty clay (089), identical to that found in many other features in both Area A and Area B. The cutting of this ditch had isolated a mound (072) of the bank that comprised of two layers of clean dark brown silty clay (126 and 127) which contained Roman and medieval pottery.

Other features (Fig 3)

The southern edge of the bank had been truncated by a c3m wide ditch (070) (figs 3 & 5) which was aligned east-west running parallel to the southern side of the enclosure before continuing west, towards Church Road. The full depth of this ditch was not excavated as it was below the agreed depth (1.2m) for the base of the pipe-trench.

The southern side the ditch appeared to revetted by a layer of limestone rubble (071). This is unlikely, however, as the southern edge of the ditch was cut through bedrock; any revetment would have been more practically applied to the northern edge which was cut through subsoils. Excavation revealed that the northern edge showed no sign of slumping or instability, even though the lowest visible fill of the ditch (075) appeared to have been deposited by water action. Therefore it is extremely doubtful that the bedrock side of the ditch would have needed support. A more likely interpretation of this feature would be that the stones resulted from some form of gathering process such as field clearance and were simply dumped in the ditch for convenience.

- 9 -

Overlying both the basal fill (075) and the stone dump (071) was the main ditch fill, a layer of greenish-grey clayey loam with an organic component (074). Some animal bone was recovered from this layer, so it may be that domestic refuse was deposited in this area, although the relative absence of pottery does not support this idea. The pottery that was recovered was Roman and medieval in date. Since no post-medieval pottery was recovered from these ditch fills, it is likely that this ditch had completely silted up by the time the main enclosure ditch was infilled.

To the east of the excavated section the ditch turned at the south-eastern corner of the enclosure and ran north, parallel to the eastern side of the enclosure before continuing northwards away from the enclosure (figs 2 & 3). This northward-running ditch has previously been considered to be a leat (RCHAMW 1982, 82), but this is unlikely as the outer ditch does not join the main enclosure ditch. In addition the east-west section of the ditch cuts the southern bank of the main enclosure, suggesting it was not part of the initial construction. It would appear, therefore, that it formed part of a land boundary which postdates the construction of the enclosure.

An east-west ditch (093), 10m to the south of the monument, had a post-medieval land drain (092) constructed with a base of pitched limestone rubble overlain by flat-laid limestone slabs, parallel to the inside of the northern edge of the ditch on top of the lowest fill. The distance of this ditch from the monument suggests that it may have been a field boundary, and the exclusively medieval pottery recovered from the lowest fill (091) is of the same date as the suggested date for the use of the monument.

Overlaying the entire length of Area B was a layer of dark brown silty clay loam, up to 0.52m deep (094) (Fig 5). Containing pottery of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date it appears to have been deposited deliberately as land-fill, possibly during the planting of the later orchard.

The two later, smaller ditches (087 and 107) encountered in area B are possibly associated with the orchard which was recorded on the 1846 tithe map for Undy (GCRO ref D.917.5): indeed, the ridges of the raised orchard beds are still visible as areas of differential vegetation running east-west across the enclosure. Both ditches were considered to be too deep to have been furrows between the raised beds, so it is probable that they were drainage ditches used to stop the fruit tree roots from becoming waterlogged.

- 10 -

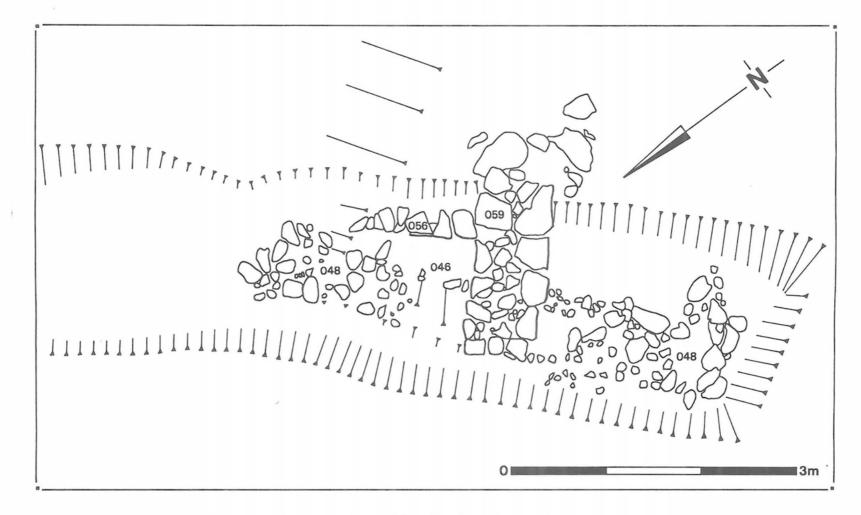
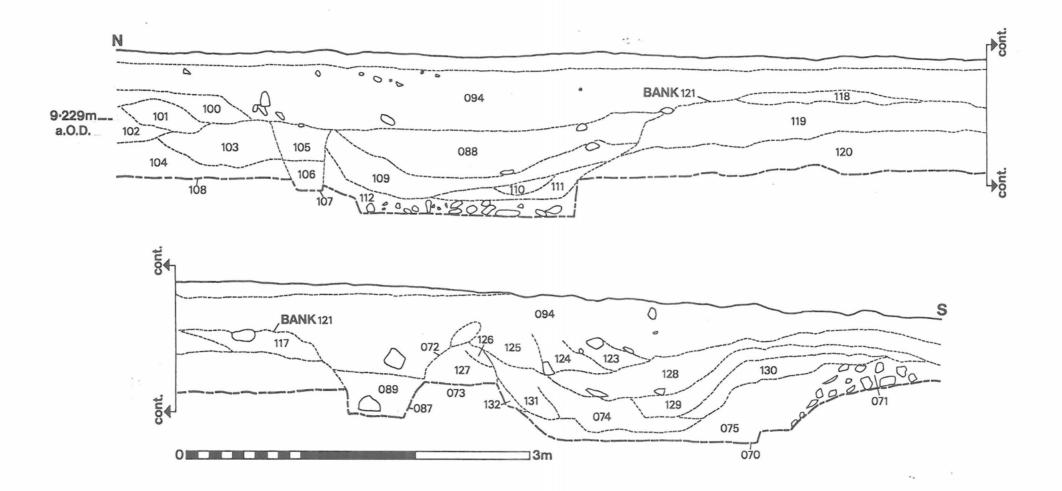


Figure Four:- Detail of structure in area A



11

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Figure Five:- Southwest facing section of Area B

The Roman Pottery by David R Evans

Discussion

Although much of the material is badly weathered, one or two sherds may come from primary contexts. The sources of the material cause no surprises with most of the sherds coming from the Caldicot kilns (Barnett et al 1990), the rest being made up of occasional sherds of Black Burnished ware, Oxfordshire ware, so-called native tradition and tiny fragments of samian (both South and Central Gaul are represented). A storage jar (Cat No 11), possibly from Somerset, will be discussed below. A possible flange fragment from a Caerleon ware mortarium and a body sherd from a Baetican amphora complete this collection. With such a small collection dating may have little significance but the fact that the bulk of the pottery comes from the Caldicot kilns indicates a bias to the later part of the Roman period, possibly as late as the fourth century.

CATALOGUE

01. 072 Rim of a thin-walled bowl in Durotrigian Black Burnished ware similar to Bidwell (1979) 43.7. This type is based on the so-called war cemetery bowl found in some numbers at Maiden Castle (Wheeler 1943) and is generally first century date.

02. 036 Fragment from the rim of a plain-rimmed bowl or dish in Black Burnished ware. Probably originally similar to Gillam (1976) 78-9. Of generally third century date. (Not illustrated.)

03. 088 Incomplete rimsherd of a jar in Black Burnished ware. Probably of third century date. (Not illustrated.)

04. 047 Fragmentary rim of a jar in Black Burnished ware. Too little survives to attempt dating.

05. 096 Rim in so-called native tradition. A member of Spencer's (1983) Class A, esp Nos.8-10. Vessels in this limestone-tempered fabric are common at both Sudbrook (Nash-Williams 1939) and Llanmellin (Nash-Williams 1933) and at a number of other Gwent sites. The dating of these vessels to the first century AD is now generally accepted. In Gwent, however, a slightly earlier date might be sustained.

06. 015 Fragment from the rim of a wide-mouthed jar in Caldicot ware (cf Barnett et al 1990 fig 7 No 28).

07. 072 Incomplete rim sherd from a jar in Caldicot ware. Probably originally similar to Barnett et al (1990) Nos 20-3. (Not illustrated.)

- 11 -

08. 026 Rim from a dish or lid in a Caldicot fabric with a black wash. Lids are uncommon both at the kilns (where dishes are very common) and the Caldicot settlement, therefore the dish form is favoured (cf Spencer 1988 fig 47 Nos 37-41).

09. 047 Fragment from a badly eroded jar in Caldicot ware. Probably originally similar to Barnett et al (1990) No 16. (Not illustrated.)

10. 047 Fragment from the rim of a jar. Perhaps originally similar to Barnett et al (1990) No. 24. (Not illustrated.)

11. 088 Rim of a storage jar in a hard light grey fabric. The absence of crushed quartz almost certainly indicates that this vessel is not a product of the Caldicot kilns. It is, however, similar to the products of the Congesbury Industry (material in Bristol City Museum) and might be a short-distance import from Somerset.

12. 088 Rim fragment from a vessel in a hard buff brown very gritty fabric with much crushed quartz. Although a Caldicot product is likely, the vessel is probably a crucible (cf Barford in Evans and Metcalf 1992, 196 No. 2).

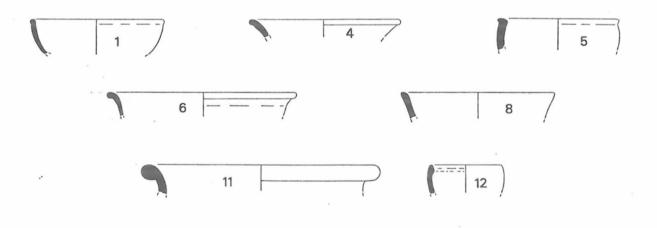


Fig 6 The Roman Pottery - Scale 1:4

The Medieval Pottery by Paul Courtney

Discussion

The assemblage comprised a total of 1192 sherds weighing approximately 10.3Kg. The ceramics were dominated by sandy micaceous wares, especially cooking pots, almost certainly of south Gwent origin. Most striking was the low proportion of jugs. Unfortunately the lack of any sizeable assemblages from rural localities in south Gwent does not enable comparisons to be made. The only non-local wares were two sherds of Bristol Redcliffe jug and a single sherd from a North Wiltshire pitcher. It is difficult to ascribe a date range to this assemblage. The North Wiltshire sherd from a tripod pitcher is probably 12th or 13th century in date; while the Bristol jugs could date from the mid 13th to 15th centuries. None of the oxidised Malvern wares so typical of south Gwent assemblages in the late 15th and 16th centuries were identified.

Fabric A Sandy micaceous coarse wares. Cooking pots/jars with sagging bases predominated in soft fabrics ranging from reduced to oxidised. The wares were often highly friable and some sherds Inclusions included abundant, ill-sorted, were tiny in size. rounded to angular quartz up to 0.5mm (occasionally up to 1mm), fine muscovite mica plates and red iron minerals with a few sandstone fragments. One bowl rim (No 8) with incised decoration was identified in this fabric. Sooting of the cooking pot/jars was common suggesting they were used for cooking rather than storage. At least some of the cooking pot/jars were wheel-thrown (eg No 2), though the fragmented nature of the pots made it hard to assess the degree of coil-manufacture. Decorative features were uncommon but included rouletting (No 12), combing (No 11) and applied thumb strips (No 9). This ware is distinct from petrologically similar fabrics at Chepstow (Vince 1991), Caerleon (Evans 1982), Penhow kiln and castle (Wrathmell 1981 and 1992), Langstone (Courtney in prep) and Newport (Courtney 1987 and 1992). A kiln (or possibly kilns) with a very localised distribution seems likely.

<u>Fabric B</u> Sandy micaceous jugs. This group comprised jugs with inclusions similar to fabric A. The fabrics were generally oxidised on the surface with reduced cores. The fabric hardness varied but were mostly soft. There was considerable variation, however, in the amount and coarseness of sand tempering. Some jugs were virtually identical to fabric A (eg No 1) and are almost certainly from the same source. At the other extreme some jugs had virtually no sand tempering and are smooth to the touch. Several sources are probably represented but it was thought impracticable to break down such a small assemblage into subgroups.

- 13 -

Fabric C Bristol Redcliffe wheel-thrown jugs.

Fabric D North Wiltshire tripod pitcher (limestone tempered).

Catalogue

Fabric B

01. 020 Jug with horizontal applied, thumbed strip. Patchily glazed. 12 sherds and 019: 2 sherds

02. 036 Wheel-thrown cooking pot/jar with sooting on underside of rim and on exterior of body. 7 sherds

03. 026 Cooking pot/jar rim with exterior sooting.

04. 026 Cooking pot/jar rim.

05. 026 Cooking pot/jar rim with exterior sooting.

06. 026 Cooking pot/jar rim.

07. 026 Cooking pot/jar rim with exterior sooting.

08. Bowl rim with interior incised decoration

09. 039 Cooking pot/jar with applied horizontal, thumbed strip. Sooting on underside of rim and exterior of body. 7 sherds

10. 047 Cooking pot/jar.

11. 047 Cooking pot/jar with exterior sooting and combed decoration. 5 sherds

12. 047 Cooking pot/jar with rouletted decoration. 3 sherds

13. 091 Cooking pot/jar with incised wavy decoration.

Overall Quantification of Medieval Pottery (percentages in brackets)

	sherds	weight (Kg)	eve's
Fabric A Fabric B Fabric C Fabric D	1121 (94) 68 (6) 2 1	9.376 (91) 0.923 (9) 0.021 0.012	3.11 (95) 0.18 (5)
TOTAL	1192	10.332	3.29

- 14 -

Post-Medieval Pottery

Fifteen sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered. The sherds seem to have come from bowls and jugs in mostly oxidised sandy micaceous fabrics, with green or brown lead glazes. They are probably of local manufacture and of 17th-18th century date.

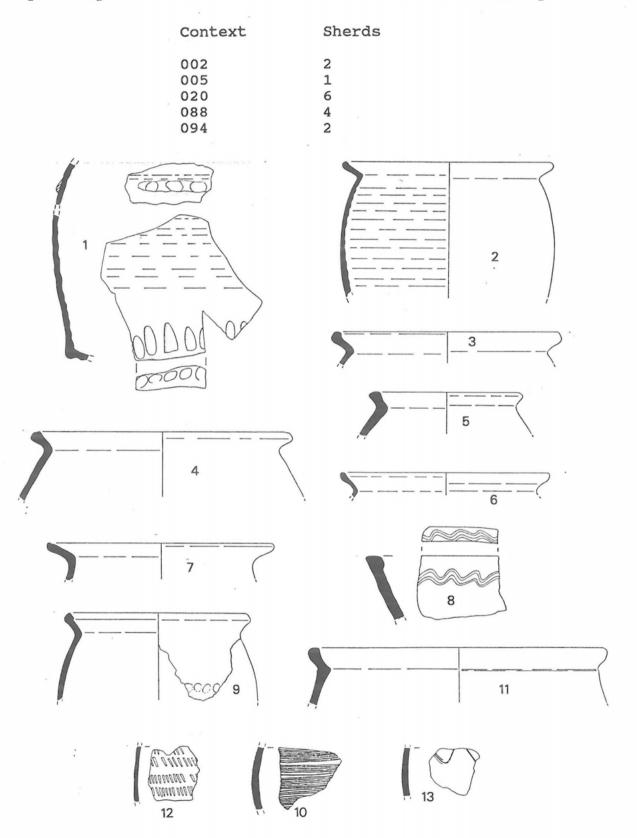


Fig 7 The Medieval Pottery - Scale 1:4

- 15 -

The Metalwork by P Courtney

01. 082 Reaping hook with square sectioned tang and curving broken blade. Such tools were used to cut corn at harvest but appear to have been much rarer than the balanced sickle (with its blade curving back from the handle) in the middle ages. A published medieval parallel comes from Portchester Castle (Hinton 1977, Fig 109, No 69).

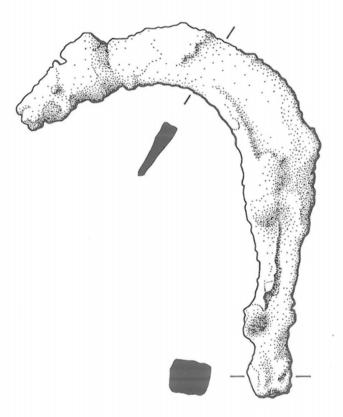


Fig 8 Medieval Reap Hook - Scale 1:1

The Animal Bone by N A Page

Animal bone from eighteen contexts was presented for analysis, including seven contexts from the initial field evaluation. The bone was examined as one assemblage.

The small size and fragmentary nature of the assemblage made any study beyond a basic identification of species impossible. The species present caused no surprises with all the major domesticated animals, cattle, sheep, pig and horse represented. The bones were mainly from areas of the skeleton regarded as having a low meat return, such as the head and limb extremities, indicating the assemblage was probably derived from primary butchery waste.

Although the bones were largely from ditch fills, many displayed signs of weathering which suggests that they been exposed on the surface at some time, which made the absence of carnivore tooth marks surprising. Butchery marks on the bones, including knife marks on a cow mandible, show that meat collection was fairly intensive.

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- 19 -

Catalogue of excavation archive

1. Reports

- i) Excavation report
- ii) Initial field evaluation report
- iii) Annotated drafts of excavation report
- 2. Site Context Records

i) Site context recordsii) Site notebook

3. Photographic Record

i) Monochrome (35mm) original negatives and contact printsii) Colour Slide (35mm) original negatives (unmounted)

4. Site Drawings

i) Plans 11 (includes 3 from initial field evaluation)ii) Sections 12 (includes 4 from initial field evaluation)iii) Site levels record (1 book)

- 5. Finds
- i) Finds context records
- ii) Finds stored by context (? boxes)
- iii) Finds reports (including interim and annotated drafts)
- 6. Correspondence
- i) Documents relating to the fieldwork (excluding financial and contractual information)