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Edited by: DAVID H. WILLIAMS

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The cover illustration is a Dobunnic gold stater (*x2*) of ANTEÐRIC (Anted̆, 'King'); found at Tintern in 1969. The coin was first published by George C. Boon in *Monmouthshire Antiquary* III, 62-63.

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THE MONMOUTHSHIRE ANTIQUARY

Vol. XI 1995

OBITUARY
George C Boon FSA 1927-1994

By RICHARD BREWER

It is with great sadness that we must record the death of George Counsell Boon, until very recently our Chairman, on 31st August. When writing about the life not only of a former colleague but also of a close friend, memories naturally flood back. Most vivid is perhaps the excursion he led for the Association to his native Bristol on Saturday 11th September 1993. George, umbrella in hand and accompanied as usual by his wife Diana, guided us around Kingsweston Roman villa; a site which he had himself discovered and where, whilst still a student, he directed his first excavation. This was followed by a very pleasant picnic lunch taken in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, Henbury. Here George, with great excitement, stumbled on the grave of the Egyptologist Amelia Edwards, whose accounts of her expedition up the Nile in 1873-74 he had just read, and he delivered an impromptu discourse on this Victorian lady to those he could gather around; an incident which demonstrates George's wide interests. Altogether a splendid day.

George was one of the leading figures in Romano-British archaeology and numismatics of his generation. Growing up close to the Roman fort of Sea Mills, it is perhaps not surprising that George's enquiring mind was attracted to the study of the period even as a young schoolboy. His interest in coins was sparked, at an equally young age, when his attention was drawn to a pile of ancient silver coins in a shop window in Bristol; many years later he realised that they probably came from an English Civil War hoard. He was educated in Bristol at Fairfield Grammar School and at Bristol University where he achieved the degree of BA (Honours) in Latin. His first appointment was that of Archaeological Assistant at Reading Museum, a position that he held from 1950 to 1956. This was a formative phase and it was the breadth of experience to which this post exposed him which gave him his encyclopaedic knowledge over a wide range of periods and subjects. The post also offered the opportunity to study the Roman town of Silchester, a site which was to remain ever close to his heart. His books *Roman Silchester* (1957) and *Silchester: The Roman Town of Calleva* (1974) remain the standard works on the site.

George took up the position of Assistant Keeper with responsibility for Roman Archaeology at the National Museum of Wales on 1st January 1957. In Wales, Caerleon was to replace Silchester as the main subject of his studies and, within a few days of his arrival, he was conducting an emergency excavation on the site of barrack buildings within the legionary fortress. The condi-

George Boon at the opening ceremony of the Roman Legionary Museum, Caerleon in 1987. His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester is being presented with a medal and china plate, produced to commemorate the occasion, by the then President of the National Museum of Wales, Mr W A Twiston Davies. (*Plate: National Museum of Wales*).

tions were far from ideal, and the published report records that certain features 'may have been obscured by mud and snow'. George's next excavation at Caerleon, perhaps not surprisingly, took place in the month of June. Between 1957 and 1969 George undertook 18 excavations at Caerleon, several after persuading residents to allow investigations in their back gardens in pursuit of some detail to add to the plan of the fortress. The light thrown on the history and development of the fortress by his investigations and his re-evaluation of earlier evidence culminated in the writing of *Isca*, a comprehensive study published in 1972. The most significant investigations that George undertook were those which identified the Fortress Baths; between 1964 and 1969, a series of excavations gradually pieced together the plan of this building which covered over two acres of the fortress. After subsequent excavations by David Zienkiewicz, this great imperial edifice was preserved by government action, but only after much gentle persuasion from George.

George spent many long and happy hours studying at Caerleon in the 1960s. At that time the small museum, built by the Association, was open for only a limited number of hours, and it was not until the early 1970s that the opening hours were regularised. At the same time, George initiated the argu-

ment for extending the museum to house the rich collections that had grown rapidly during the previous decade, but it was still a distant dream. The National Museum of Wales had assumed responsibility for the Caerleon Museum and its collections in 1930. But, even the care of the National Museum could not preserve the old building for ever, and in 1983 the decision was taken to replace it with a much larger modern building, retaining the Doric porch of its predecessor. The new museum, which he masterminded and which was opened in 1987, is a fitting memorial to his work there. When George wrote a new edition of his *Isca* to coincide with the opening of the Legionary Museum, he produced what he described as a brief account. More recent excavations had produced startling results, especially with regard to the early Flavian phases of the fortress, which have encouraged a fundamental reconsideration of the evolution of *Isca*. This task he acknowledged would take some considerable time. He went on to write, 'each generation builds its own fortress, and each builds it differently'. Having said that, George's work over a 30 year period has laid very substantial foundations on which his successors can build.

George's wide expertise in Roman archaeology is, needless to say, just part of the complete story, for he was also a numismatist of considerable standing; almost single-handed creating the rich numismatic collection that the National Museum now holds. His antiquarian interests are also widely known. All aspects of his research were carried out to the highest scholarly standard, writing with equal authority, whatever the subject. In 1976 George became Keeper of the Department of Archaeology, and from 1987 as Curator he held wider responsibilities until his retirement in 1989. It would be difficult to exaggerate his contribution to the work of the National Museum of Wales during his 32 years there. Needless to say, George carried on pursuing his scholarly work, which gave him so much pleasure, during his retirement and a number of important works await posthumous publication.

George played a full part in the archaeological life of Wales, serving on the Ancient Monuments Board and as a member of the Royal Commission. He gave freely of his time to many learned Societies, both national and local, serving as a vice-President for the Society of Antiquaries of London and the Society for the Promotion of Roman Studies. In 1987, he was President of the Cambrian Archaeological Association, whose chain of office he wore with great pride at the opening of the Legionary Museum. In his retirement, he acted as Editor of the *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* with great aplomb and dedication. He was also a great supporter of our own Association, and was a frequent traveller, with Diana, on our enjoyable coach excursions. George joined the Committee of the Association in 1963 and became President in 1976, an office he held until 1982. He then stepped into the breach as Chairman on the death of his dear friend Cefni Barnett in 1987 and remained in this office until shortly before his death. He provided a scholarly *gravitas* to the Association which will be sorely missed and his high standards provided a model for all to follow. It is perhaps appropriate that these words appear, here, in this journal to which he attached so much importance.

EXCAVATIONS AT 19 CROSS STREET ABERGAVENNY 1986

By DAVID R. EVANS

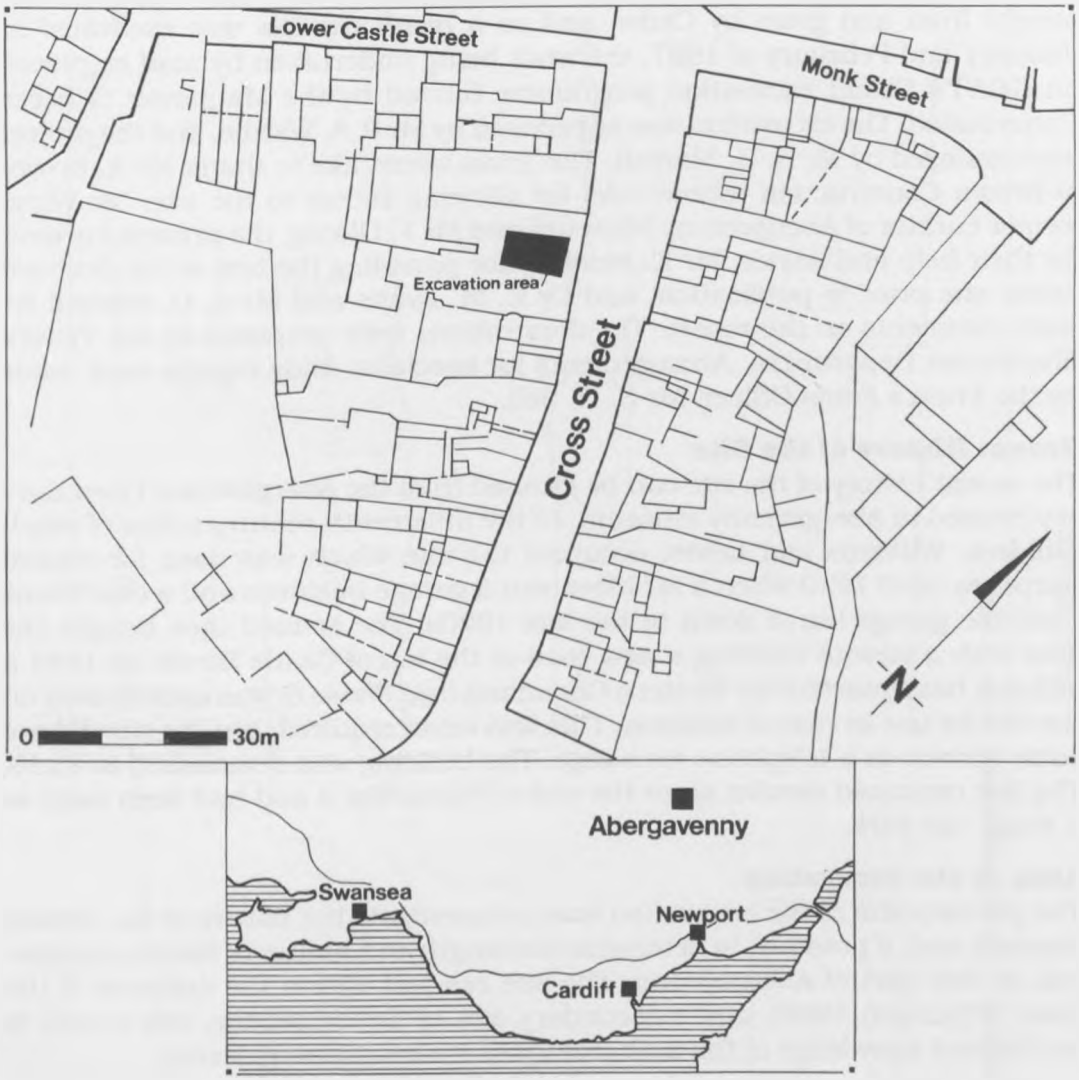


Fig. 1 LOCATION PLAN (*NGR: SO 3000 1407*)

INTRODUCTION (Fig. 1)

A proposal to redevelop a derelict site at 19 Cross Street, Abergavenny was received by the Planning Control section of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust in 1986. Although the site appeared to be outside the presumed limits of the fort at Abergavenny, its potential could not be ignored. In response

the Trust carried out trial excavations in December 1986. The results of this work showed that much of the archaeology had been destroyed by cellars and service trenches of recent date. One area, however, produced positive results and it was proposed to excavate fully an area *c.* 10 x 7m. Project approval was sought from and given by Cadw, and as a result the site was excavated in January and February of 1987, the work being undertaken by staff employed on GGAT's Gwent excavation programme funded by the Manpower Services Commission. The excavation was supervised by Mr P. A. Wardle, and the project was managed by Mr A. G. Marvell. The Trust would like to thank Mr A. Brown of Brown Construction (Ebbw Vale) for allowing access to the site; Mr Ware, former curator of Abergavenny Museum and Mr F. Olding, the present curator, for their help and advice, Mr K. Blockley for providing the text of the Orchard Street site prior to publication, and Dr E. M. Evans and Mr A. G. Marvell for their comments on the report. The illustrations were prepared by the Trust's Illustration Department. Arrangements for specialist finds reports were made by the Trust's Finds Officer, Mr S. H. Sell.

Recent History of the Site

The recent history of the site can be gleaned from the Abergavenny Town Survey housed in Abergavenny Museum. In the nineteenth century a firm of coach builders, Williams and Lewis, occupied the site which was used for related purposes until 1920 when a Mr Moon ran a garage business and a charabanc until the garage burnt down in the late 1920s. The council then bought the land with a view to building a new road to the top of Castle Street. In 1941 a fallback headquarters for Western Command (*see Phase 6*) was constructed on the site for use in case of invasion. This was never required, but the site did see some service as a telephone exchange. The building was demolished in 1945. The site remained derelict since the end of World War 2 and had been used as a rough car park.

Aims of the excavation

The primary aim of the excavation was to investigate the nature of the Roman deposits and, if possible, to determine the length and nature of Roman occupation in this part of Abergavenny. The site lies just within the defences of the town (Wilkinson 1989), and a secondary aim of the excavation was to add to our limited knowledge of the archaeology of Medieval Abergavenny.

Results of the excavation

A minimum of six periods of activity were uncovered of which four were of Roman date; a fifth is uncertain but probably post-Roman, with a sixth and final phase dating to 1941. In terms of structural evidence the results must remain equivocal, and in terms of the Roman sequence more has been gained from post excavation analysis of the finds than from the analysis of excavation records.

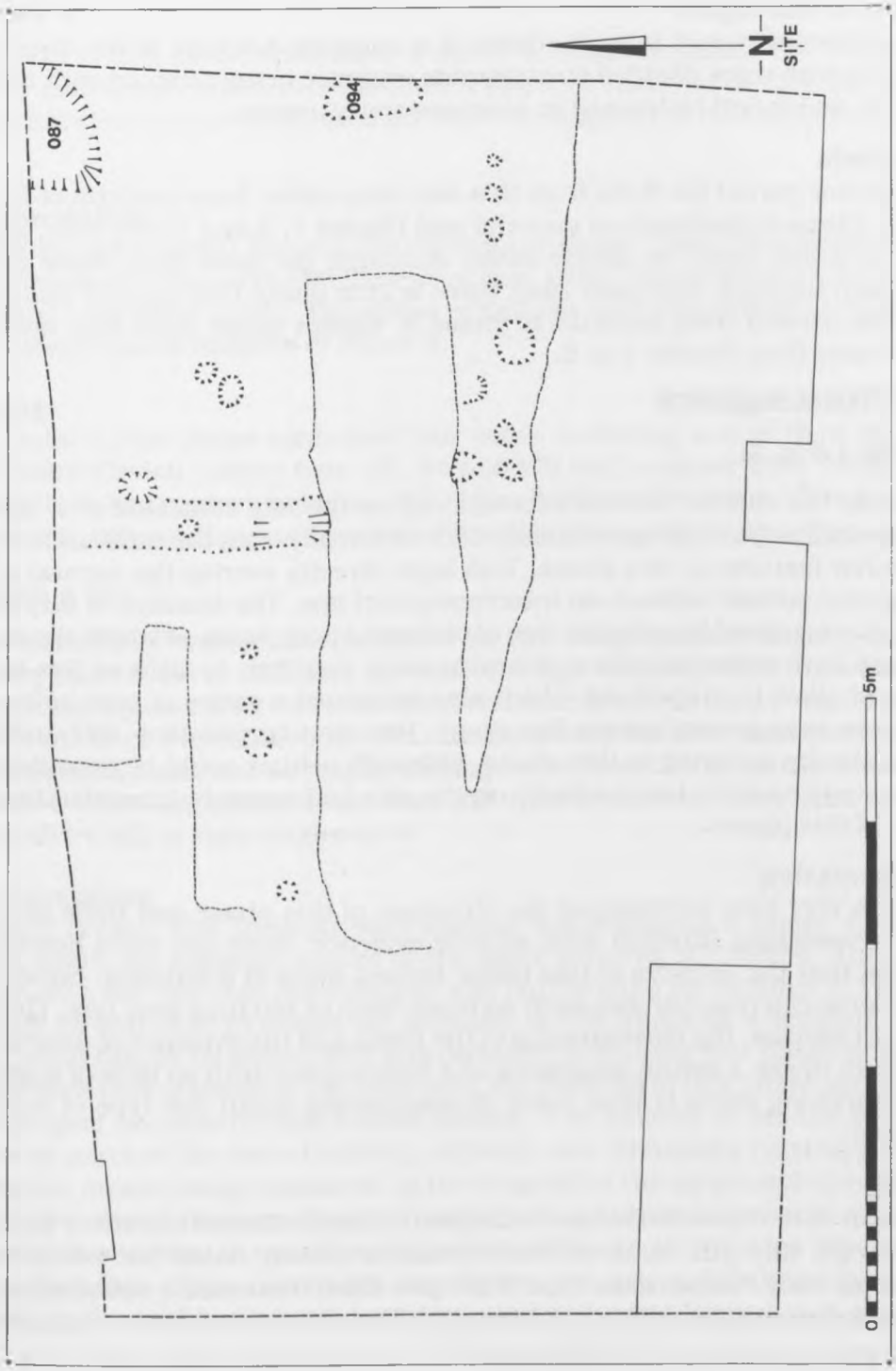


Fig 2 PHASE 1

Layout of the report
The published report is in the form of a synoptic account of the structural evidence with more detailed stratigraphic evidence being retained with the site archive, which will be housed in Abergavenny Museum.

The Finds
The greater part of the finds from this site came either from contexts of Phases 4 or 6, Phase 3 produced no material and Phases 1, 2 and 5 very little, almost none of which could be closely dated. Although the finds from Phase 6 were deposited between 1941 and 1945 there is little doubt that most of this material was derived from contexts of Phase 4. Except where otherwise noted all finds came from Phases 4 or 6.

STRUCTURAL SEQUENCE

PHASE 1 (Fig. 2)

Probably the earliest feature encountered on the site consisted of a layer of redeposited subsoil almost certainly derived directly from the excavation of pits and other features of this phase. This layer directly overlay the natural sands and gravel subsoil without an intervening turf line. The features of this phase were characterised by a double line of stake and post-holes, of which the southern line gave some indication of having been doubled. At right angles to this was a shallow U-shaped slot which also contained a series of post-holes. The two lines were approximately 2m. apart. Two circular pits (nos. 087 and 094) could also be assigned to this phase, although neither could be considered to be securely sealed. Later activity on the site had severely truncated the features of this phase.

Interpretation
There is very little surviving of the structure of this phase and there are hazards in assigning function with so little evidence; there are hints however to suggest that the features of this phase formed parts of a building rather that than some external element such as fence lines or hitching post line. The lack of a turf horizon, the close spacing of the posts and the evidence of destruction shown in phase 2 are all suggestive of a building but with so little of a ground plan surviving there is little point in speculating about the type of building involved.

Dating
The layer of re-deposited subsoil contained a small amount of pottery (nos. 21, 42, 55, 64, and 79), none of which could be closely dated but which could favour an early Flavian date. One of the pits (094) contained a substantial part of a Malvernian type cooking pot (no. 01). Vessels of this type are not usually dated earlier than the Flavian period.

PHASE 2

Contexts of this phase comprised a series of mixed deposits, the majority of which contained considerable amounts of burnt material. It is important to note that similar material formed the fill of the majority of the features of phase 1.

Interpretation

Although the material forming the contexts of Phase 2 may have been derived from the destruction of the Phase 1 structure, there is no evidence to show that burning took place *in situ*. The phase is perhaps best interpreted as clearance for the ephemeral features of Phase 3.

Dating

Contexts of this phase contained four coins including one of Nero (no. 08), Neronian/Flavian pottery (nos. 23, 94 and 95) and a copper alloy horse bit of mid to late first century type (no. 01). Other finds were a group of copper alloy studs (no. 08), an object of iron (no. 01) and a glass gaming piece (no. 09).

PHASE 3 (Fig. 3)

The features of this phase consisted of two irregular and slightly curving U-shaped slots (076, 062) and an area of rough cobbling (080). The slots lay approximately east-west but were offset and not parallel to each other. Although both slots were truncated, both had one end within the area excavated. The fill of these slots could not be readily distinguished from the fill of the features of Phase 4. While the northern slot was still open it seems to have been cut by a third slot (143) at right angles to it.

Interpretation

While it is clear that the slots were open at the beginning of Phase 4, none of them share the irregular nature of the other features of Phase 4. This, combined with the fact that the cobbling was cut through by features of Phase 4, should be sufficient to define the activities of this phase as a separate operation; what cannot be shown with any certainty is whether this phase was separated from that of Phase 2. On their own, the features of this phase are difficult to interpret because of their limited nature. It is difficult to see the two main slots as parts of the same building; although slot 076 might be structural, its irregular nature being explained by the removal of the structural element, the other slot, due to its more irregular and widening nature, is far more difficult to explain in this way. It could be suggested, although this carries little conviction, that this phase represents two drains cut into a lightly cobbled area; certainly the cobbling cannot be interpreted as having formed part of a road. The function of the third slot must remain enigmatic.

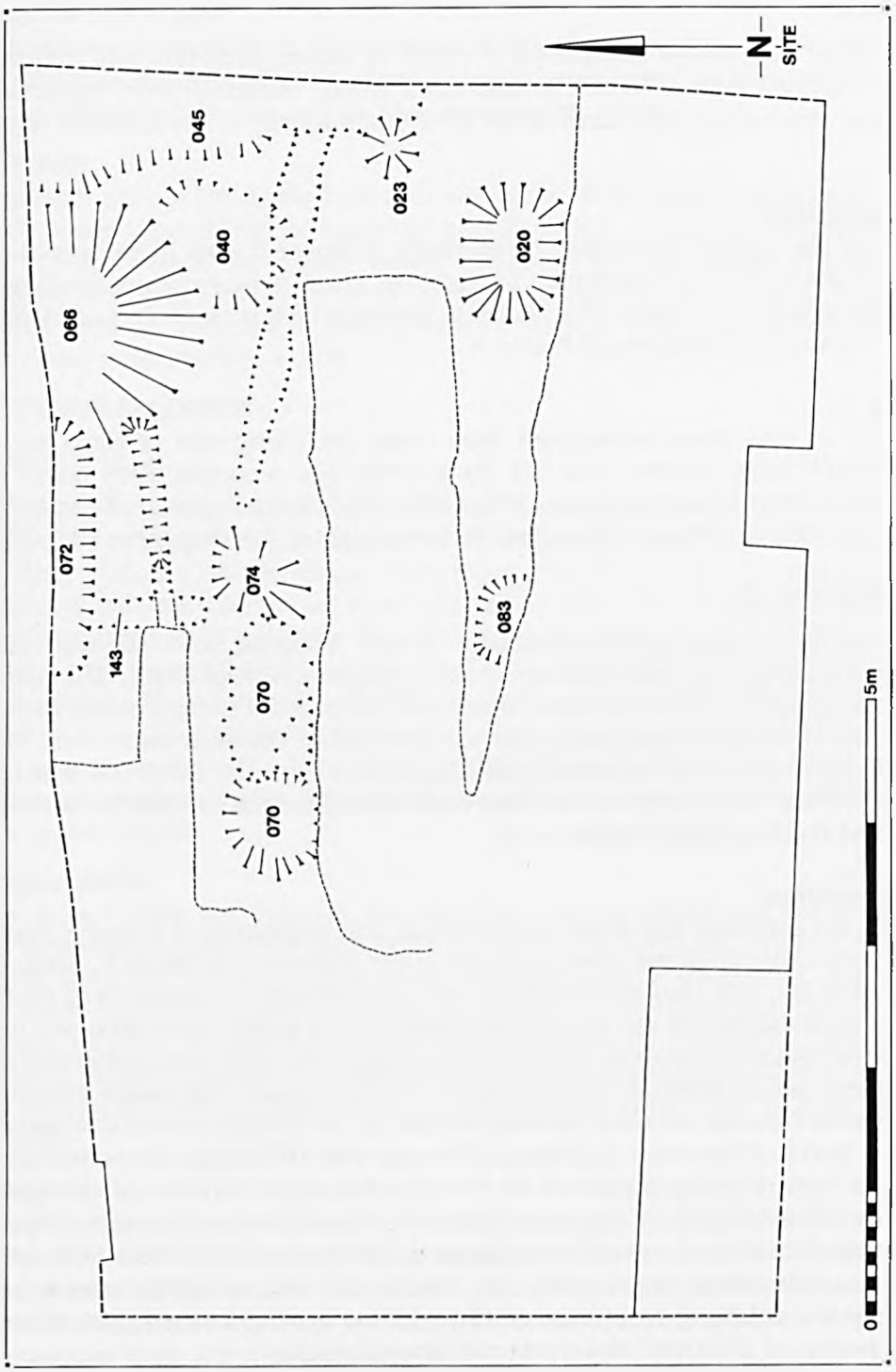


Fig 3 PHASES 3 and 4

Dating
Direct dating of this phase is absent and can only be given as occurring between Phases 2 and 4.

PHASE 4 (Fig. 3)

Activity connected with this phase comprised two separate operations, although they appear to have been connected. The first stage consisted of a series of apparently randomly spaced and intercutting pits (020, 023, 045, 066, 070, 072, 074, 083, 090), the second constituted the filling of these features, combined with general dumping (014, 033, 053, 056, 057, 058, 065, 067, 073). The fill and dump layers were of a heterogeneous nature, consisting of materials derived from the layers through which the pits were cut. The top of these deposits and many of the pits had been shaved off at some later date.

Interpretation
There is no simple explanation for the features of this phase. The very mixed nature of the pit fills, the finding of parts of the same pots spread among a number of the pits, and the almost complete absence of animal bone in spite of the fact that bone survived elsewhere on the site, all strongly suggest that the pits were not primarily intended for rubbish disposal. They are tentatively interpreted as sand/gravel pits. Analysis of the pottery suggests that the dumping took place as a single operation perhaps connected with site clearance or redevelopment.

Dating
Analysis of the finds dates the closing of phase 4 to *c.* AD 90-110. For a detailed discussion of this dating see the pottery report.

PHASE 5 (Fig. 4)

Cut into the top of the dump layers were two wall-foundations at right angles to each other forming an L-shape. Both were trench built and no superstructure survived. The longer east-west arm of the L (005) consisted of one, and in places two, courses of roughly dressed stone blocks (maximum size 0.35m x 0.14m). The core of the foundation was rubble with some river cobbles and was bonded throughout with a buff sandy mortar. It had been placed on a single levelling course of micaceous sandstone slabs which in turn rested on a rough layer of mortar. In one place the wall overlay a patch (*c.* 1.2m long) of pebbles and cobbles. Once the foundation turned north through a right angle two courses of stonework survived; much of the actual corner, and part of this section of foundation, had been partially cut away in Phase 6 leaving only the levelling slabs. It is clear, however, that the east-west foundation did not continue beyond this point; the eastern end of the east-west foundation similarly ended quite abruptly and regularly with faced blocks. A small section of walling (013)

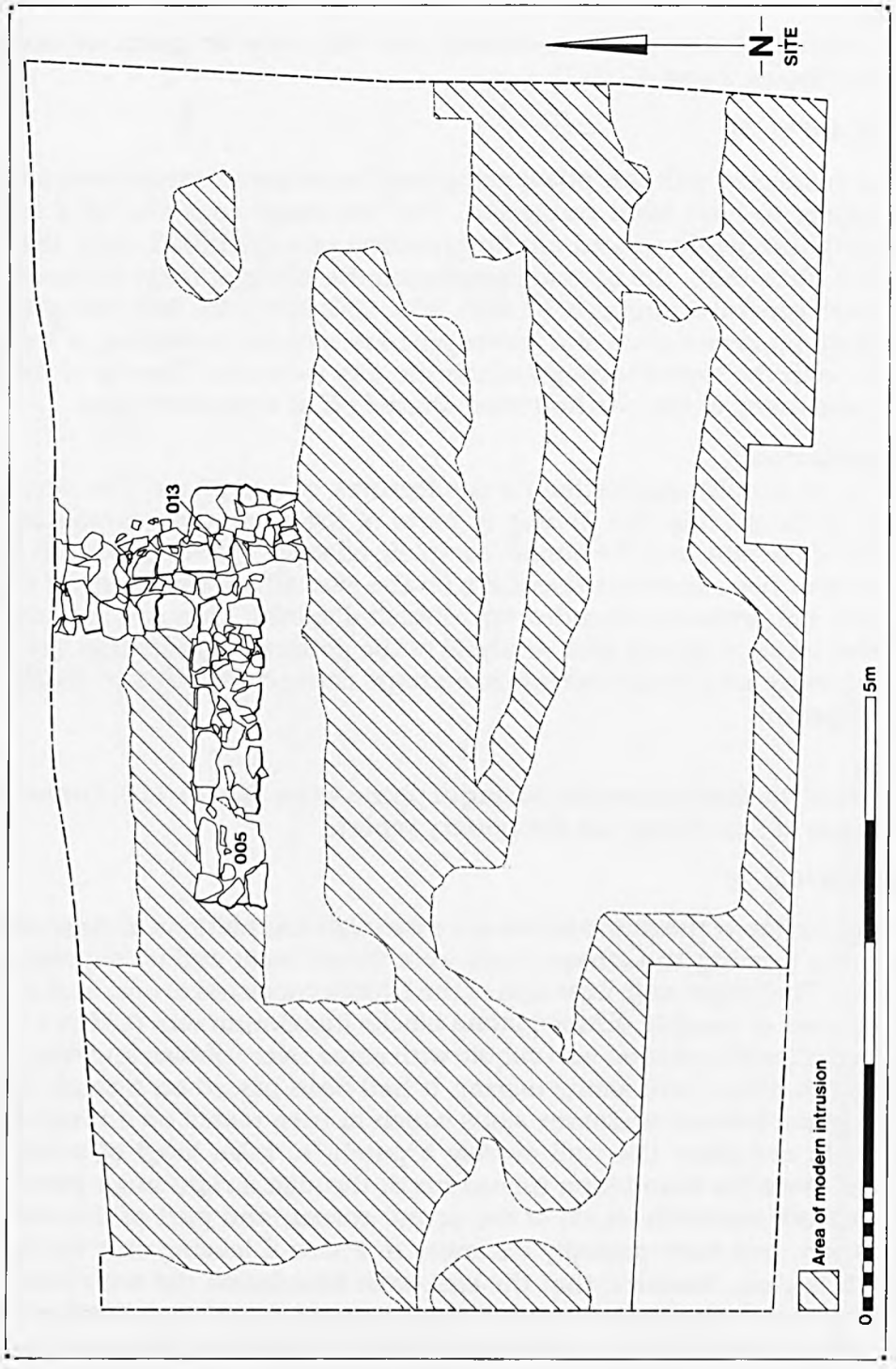


Fig 4 PHASE 5

abutted the corner of the foundations; it was not quite at right angles to the east-west foundation and was offset by 0.5m to the other. The wall itself consisted of two courses of rough stone cemented with a light brown sandy mortar, and had been keyed into the other walls. Approximately 0.2m of this wall was removed during initial trial work.

Interpretation
While the features of Phase 5 quite clearly represent the foundations of two walls and a ?buttress, there would seem to be little point in speculating on the function of features of such an insubstantial nature.

Dating
The walls and foundations of this phase contained a small quantity of Roman pottery (nos. 32, 43, 48, 50, 70 and 116), all of which would have been derived from earlier contexts. Little can be inferred from external evidence apart from the fact that the walls do not appear on the earliest Ordnance Survey maps. Although nothing in the method of construction would exclude the possibility that these features are of Roman date, the phase must remain undated.

PHASE 6

The most recent phase of activity encountered on the site consisted of a number of brick and concrete walls cut into the underlying stratigraphy together with pipe-trenches and an inspection chamber; parts of these structures reused walls of Phase 5, but this juxtaposition appeared to be purely fortuitous.

Interpretation
The features encountered formed parts of the Command Post, toilet block and associated services.

Dating
Reference to the Abergavenny Town Survey dates these structures to 1941.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

The site at Cross Street lies outside the postulated limits of the fort at Abergavenny. However the evidence for the limits of the fort (or forts) on this side can only be considered as an extrapolation based on topographical as much as excavated evidence. The evidence from the present excavation does little to advance this matter to any great degree. From the limited structural evidence it is not possible to be certain of the form of the building of Phase 1 which might have indicated how the site could have fitted into the layout of a fort, annex or civil settlement.

The date of the initial use of the site, depending as it does on an analysis of the finds (see below) will not be rehearsed here, but one or two general points can

be made. A fair proportion of the coins from the site are copies of Claudian issues, which are known to have been produced in the early years of the reign of Nero, when there was a dearth of official coinage. The presence of these coins, and the apparent redeposition of a cremation of Neronian date, merely confirms the dating of the foundation of the Roman settlement, to *c.* AD 60, a date which is better demonstrated at the Orchard site (Blockley 1993). Certainly the presence of the coins alone cannot directly affect the position of the limits of the fort. The main phase of the site is undoubtedly Flavian in date, which leaves us with the enigmatic structure of Phase 5. If this is indeed of Roman date it would not be beyond the bounds of possibility that it formed part of the bath-house postulated by Blockley (1993).

THE FINDS

Numbering system

Each published item is given a separate catalogue number which is supplemented by, where appropriate; archive number/context[s] (individual finds number).

THE POTTERY

By David R. Evans

Introduction

With the exception of a small number of vessels from Phases 1 and 3 the greater part of the pottery (of all types) comes from contexts included within Phases 4 or 6. Despite the limited area excavated and the fact that the material is very mixed and spread through a number of different contexts, there are a considerable number of joining sherds from a number of differing contexts. The weight of the evidence, even when including most of the material from Phase 6 contexts, forces the conclusion that the greater part of this material is a closely related group of vessels which were in use (or possibly in store) together shortly before their deposition. It should also be noted that a number of the vessels show signs of sooting and that some of the mortaria appear to be unused. It would, therefore, seem that the collection is the result of clearance which could include vessels recently arrived at Abergavenny. For a recent discussion of pottery lost in transit see Rhodes (1989), but the present material would not appear to entirely fulfil Rhodes' criteria as such a group, although it can be fairly compared with the equivocal group from Inchtuthil (Rhodes 1989, 55; Pitts and St Joseph 1985, 180-1 and 314-22).

SOURCES

Local wares

The oxidised and reduced vessels from this site are largely similar in fabric, most of the variation being a result either of firing conditions, or from damage

either during use or subsequently. This said, the reduced vessels can be separated into two groups, which are distinguished by their surface appearance and, to a lesser extent, by their hardness. Group A vessels are rough to the touch and often have a pimply appearance. Vessels of group B are invariably smooth both to the touch and in appearance. There is no apparent functional difference between the two groups and some types appear in both groups. The vessels are almost universally free of inclusions and any exception to this rule will be noted in the catalogue below. There is no apparent chronological difference between the two groups. Those of group B, however, are more closely related to the potting tradition known as south Wales grey ware (Webster 1981, 112) than those of group A; there is however no reason to believe that either group is other than 'local', and it seems probably that almost all the oxidized vessels and the group B vessels could have been produced at Usk.

Black Burnished Ware

Although classified as Black Burnished ware (BB1), the vessels, catalogued as such may better be called Durotrigian BB1, the immediate predecessor of vessels produced after the major expansion of the industry in the reign of Hadrian; all can be parallelled in first century levels at Exeter. A number of these vessels are in a fabric. which is becoming known as south western BB1 (N Holbrook, *pers comm*).

Malvernian ware

Although the there is no direct link between pre- (*c.* AD 1-40) and post-conquest (*c.* AD 40-100) vessels produced on or near the Malvern Hills, there can be little doubt that the vessel represented here is a successor to true Iron Age forms. Iron Age vessels are characterised by Duck Stamping and Linear Tooling (Peacock 1968, fig. 3). This vessel is perhaps one of the earliest stratified examples of the type known as 'tubby cooking pots'. The form developed little if at all from this type in examples which are found in mid to late second century contexts. The crude appearance of these vessels has meant that their appearance in second century contexts has occasionally led to their misdating to the pre-Claudian Iron Age, and their survival into Roman contexts is explained as residuality or backwardness of tradition in rural areas (eg. Wainwright 1971, 78). Some sort of army contract has been suggested for the distribution of these types (Peacock 1957-8) and although Roman examples are not confined to military sites in Wales, non-military finds are rare. There are examples from civil sites such as Walesland Rath (Wainwright 1971) which are at some distance from both the production area and military installations. The distribution is such that, although the expansion in distribution is not entirely military, military expansion almost certainly will have opened up more distant markets.

Native tradition

The term native tradition is unfortunate in that it tends to imply a pre-Claudian context for these vessels, but as far as can be established, while some of these vessels might have been produced and used in areas where Roman control was not complete, they cannot be used to establish an Iron Age context for their find spots. Indeed the early dating of these vessels at Whitton (Webster 1981, 111 and 116), based as it was on a small sample, is not entirely convincing. A date of *c.* AD 50-100 would probably cover their production period. They were never produced in quantity, and were soon pushed out of the market in particular areas of south and central Wales and what now form the English border counties by such fabrics as Severn Valley ware, Malvernian types and the developing south Wales grey wares, depending on area.

The vessels in this calcareous fabric are almost wholly of a type which, though produced by 'native' potters, was almost exclusively produced during the period postdating the Roman invasion of Britain, although not necessarily in areas under direct Roman control; however even when found on their own they need not indicate a non-Roman element in the occupation of an area. The lack of vessels in Spencer's class B within a group of pottery (Spencer 1983) is also an indicator of the Roman date for such groups.

Native tradition vessels have previously been reported from Abergavenny (Savory 1968-9, 173; fig. 5, nos. 1-3), all from Roman contexts, but considered as pre-Roman as they were reported on before the continuation of such a ceramic tradition into the Roman period had been demonstrated (Spencer 1983).

Mortaria

Mortaria from these excavations are dominated by the products of the Hartley (1977) group II potterer. Only two other sources were represented and these accounted for only a single vessel each, one of which is from a source in South Wales and the other may be either Usk or perhaps Gloucester. The domination of one source of supply at this date is unusual as can be seen with the similarly dated groups at Loughor (Evans and Hartley in Marvell and Owen-John forthcoming), Neath (Evans in Marvell 1992) and Usk (Hartley in Evans and Metcalf 1989, 43-6). It is perhaps another indicator that the greater part of this group is composed of material in store at the time of deposition.

Amphorae

At least half of two of the three Baetican olive oil amphorae were present (see Sealey 1985, 73, for the ascription of these vessels). Changes in rim profile of these vessels was gradual but the examples shown here are at variance with the Claudio-Neronian vessels from Colchester, Sheepen (Sealey 1985, 67-76; fig. 10, 81-3, and fig. 11, 86, 92): none would be out of place within a Flavian to Trajanic group, *cf.* for example that from the fort of Loughor (Evans in Marvell

and Owen-John forthcoming). The presence of a large proportion of these two vessels may again help to sustain the argument that this group is of restricted date range and comprises mainly of material in store. One fish sauce Salazon amphora is present, as is a single sherd from an Italian amphora, neither can be closely dated.

'Fine wares'

Thin-walled vessels from continental sources which form an important part of the Usk collection (Greene 1979) are present only as small fragments from the present excavations.

Severn Valley ware

Only one vessel certainly in this tradition is represented in this collection, although a number of otherwise undiagnostic body sherds could very well be from other vessels of this fabric. The conclusions of Webster (1976) concerning the origins, chronology and distribution of the ware are still largely valid (see Timbey 1990); however, mention should be made of the large collection of Severn Valley vessels at Carmarthen (report in preparation). Although not entirely absent from military sites established in the early Flavian period, after the arrival of the second Augustan legion in south Wales, its almost total absence from the present group may perhaps help to reinforce the date range for the present collection as suggested below.

Samian

Apart from the occasional earlier piece, all the samian from this site can be considered as Flavian or perhaps Flavian/Trajanic. with the occasional piece from Les Matres being Trajanic and a single, unstratified Hadrianic, sherd, from Lezoux. The bulk of the stratified material accords well with the material from Inchtuthil (Hartley 1985) which is of Domitianic date. The occasional earlier pieces tend to pull the date range into the reign of Vespasian, but in many cases these pieces are clearly re-deposited. To reinforce the contention that much of the pottery collection come from a single dumping operation, it should be noted that three of the four stamped vessels (date range *c.* AD 65-100) were almost complete, although spread through a number of contexts. Except where stated, all the material is South Gaulish and comes from La Graufesenque. Due to the apparent homogeneity of this group the vessels are published by form rather than by context or phase.

CHRONOLOGY

Neronian

A small number of vessels, all unstratified, stand out from the rest of the material. Of these two vessels in particular, a pedestal beaker (no. 17) and a two handled flagon (no. 19) should be noted. It is not simply the fact that both are largely complete and date considerably earlier than the rest of the collection

which makes them stand out. The pedestal beaker is of a type which is rarely if ever found in domestic. context, being more characteristic of funerary finds (Stead and Rigby 1989, 175-8), and the second vessel, the flagon, was deliberately marred before firing. The practice of including poorly fired vessels in burial groups, as for example at Neatham, Hampshire (Millett and Graham 1986, 61) Chichester (Down and Rule 1971) and London (material with the Greater London Archaeological Unit) suggests that vessels were deliberately produced to a poor standard for burial furniture, although the exact mortuary significance of this practice remains unclear. The evidence is, I believe, sufficient to demonstrate the probability that these two vessels, and perhaps some of the other early vessels from the site, are derived from a disturbed burial of Neronian date. Support for this contention can be gained by the reference to the report on the copper alloy finds from this site which include a pierced coin, finds of which are not uncommon in funerary contexts.

Flavian/Trajanic

With the exception of the vessels just discussed, the majority of the coarse pottery from this site consists of a variety of forms which were current throughout the later part of the first century. Although the evidence from Usk (Quartermaine in Evans and Metcalf 1989, Greene and Webster forthcoming, Greene in Probert *et al.* 1968/9) shows that a number of what may be considered as new Flavian forms were well established in the Neronian period. The absence of Black Burnished ware vessels of Trajanic or later date defines the upper limits of the collection, so that taken alone the coarse pottery could be used to give a late Neronian/early Flavian date to this collection. Fortunately the coarse pottery is supplemented by a large group of samian the majority of which dates to the period AD 70-100 a date which can be refined to AD 90-110 by the inclusion of a large part of a vessel from Les Matres-de-Veyre (no. 108). This dating is reinforced by the inclusion within Phase 4 deposits of a coin of Domitian dating to AD 86. The mortaria cover a similar date range.

CATALOGUE

Malvernian

01. An almost complete tubby cooking pot in Malvernian fabric, A (see Peacock 1965-7 for the definition of the type and Peacock 1968 for the petrology). The rims on these vessels vary considerably but it is similar to a number of vessels from the "mound" at Croft Ambrey (Stanford 1974, fig. 72 45-62). The main published vessels of this form are Hadrianic to Antonine in date but some continuity from Iron Age forms, although not yet fully demonstrated, is to be expected (Peacock 1965-7; 1982, 82); which means that the occurrence of this vessel in a mid to late first century context forms a vital link in the development of this type. The form is clearly related to Spencer's class C. (Spencer 1983, fig. 2) and would not be out of place among a small number of like vessels from Caerleon, Jenkins Field (Nash-Williams 1929, nos. 1-5). A close parallel for the form can be seen at Brecon (Wheeler 1926, C17) where it can be

associated with a coin of Domitian, but as such coins are common well into the reign of Trajan, the Brecon vessel need not be as early as the piece under consideration. The present example is the second from Abergavenny, the first came from the fill of the Flannel Street ditch (Peacock 1965-7, fig. 1 no. 6; Boon 1968-9, 193 no. 36 fig. 5) which may date as late as *c.* AD 150. The present vessel predates the main collection from the site and is presumably Flavian although a slightly earlier but still Roman date is possible. (01/002,093), Phase 1.

Black Burnished Wares

02. Cooking pot in BB1 (cf. Bidwell 1977, fig. 13.1 no. 3). (04/056), Phase 4.

03. Cooking pot in BB1 (cf. Bidwell 1977, fig. 13.1 no. 4). (05/056), Phase 4.

04. Bead-rim jar in BB1 (cf. Bidwell 1977, fig. 13.1 no. 12). This vessel can also be parallelled at the Neronian fort at Nantstallon, Devon (Fox and Ravenhill 1972, 32 fig. 23), at St Mawgan in Pydar, Cornwall (Murray-Threipland 1957, fig. 17, 24) and Whitton, (Webster 1981, 160). (06/056), Phase 4.

05. Beaker in BB1, burnt (cf. Bidwell 1977, fig. 13.2 no. 17). (66/067), Phase 4.

06. Flat rimmed bowl in BB1 (cf. Bidwell 1977, fig. 13.2 no. 23). (02/056,066), Phase 4.

07. Flat rimmed dish or bowl in BB1 (cf. Bidwell 1977, fig. 13.2 no. 23). (07/056,057), Phase 4.

08. Flat rimmed dish or bowl in slipped BB1 (cf. Bidwell 1979, 65.1a). (90/066), Phase 4.

Fine Ware

09. Small body sherd in Lyon ware. This ware is mainly pre-Flavian but occasional vessels are found at Flavian foundations both in Wales (the examples now includes Carmarthen, material with Dyfed Archaeological Trust) and north Britain (see Bishop and Dore 1988, 248 for examples from north Britain). (Not illustrated). (08/002).

10. Small body sherd in Central Gaulish Colour Coated ware. (Not illustrated). (09/056), Phase 4.

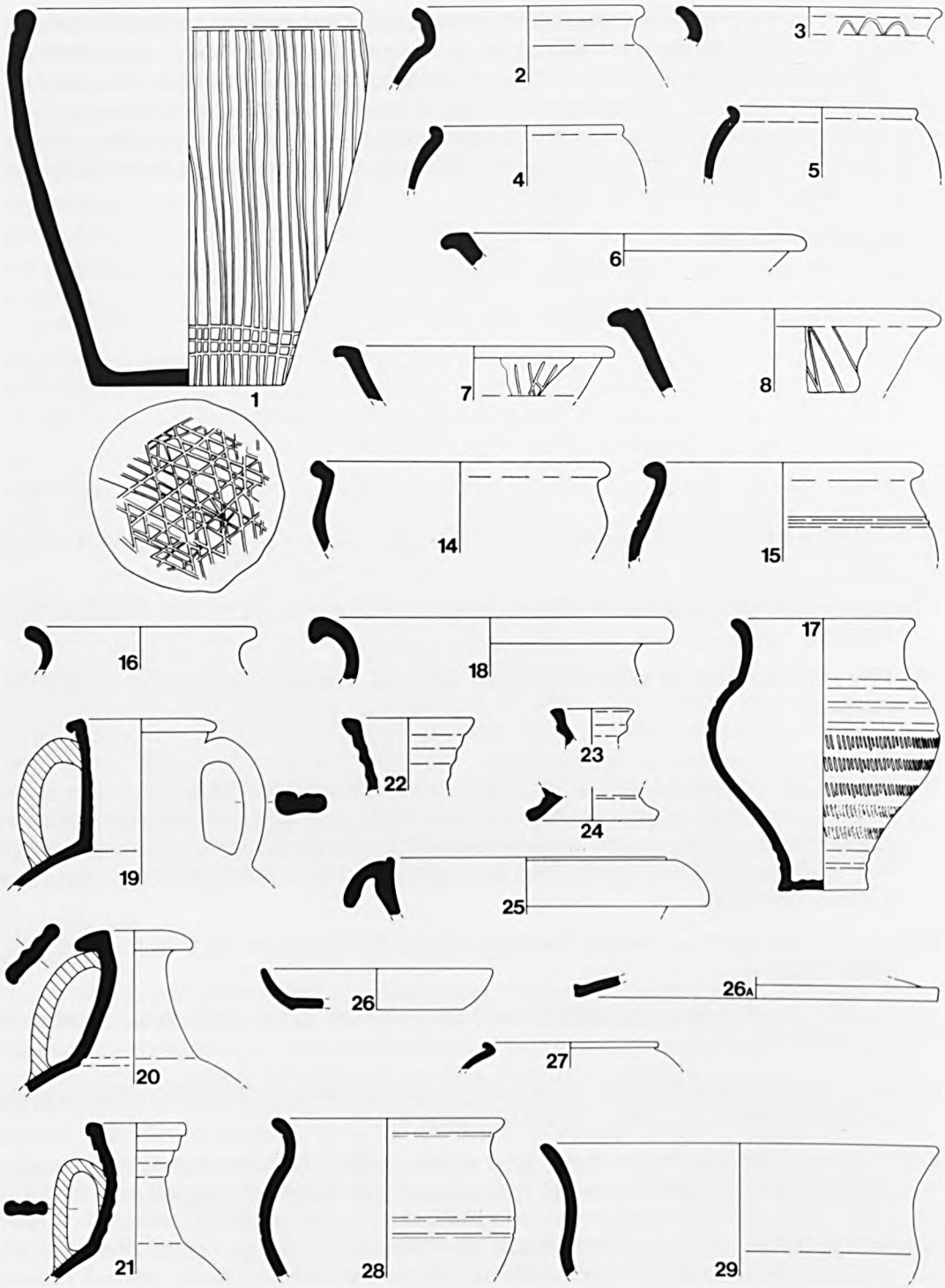
11. Small body sherds in eggshell Terra Nigra (Greene 1979, 107). (Not illustrated). (10/057), Phase 4.

12. Mica Dusted Ware (Greene 1979,129). fragments only perhaps from two vessels. (Not illustrated). (11/057; 12/067), Phase 4.

13. A small body sherd in a light grey fabric, with a buff to orange colour coat, eggshell ware, origin uncertain. (Not illustrated). (13/057), Phase 4.

Native Tradition

14. Bowl. (14/003).



Coarse Pottery: Nos. 1-8, 14-29 (Scale 1 : 4)

15. Jar (15/056), Phase 4.

16. Jar (16/067), Phase 4.

Oxidized Wares

17. Almost complete pedestal beaker in an orange micaceous fabric. with a thin drab grey core and traces of a white colour coat. Much of the rim is missing and shows clear signs of violent blows of a pick, which were presumably inflicted during redeposition. The upper part of the body is decorated with cordons and the lower has traces of acute vertical combing. The vessel has sagged during drying, originally an accidental side effect of production which seems to have developed into a deliberate feature in certain areas of production for the type (Hawkes and Hull 1947, 257). This type is commonly found in the south east of Britain as, for example, at the Iron Age cemetery site at King Harry Lane, Verulamium, where both imported and locally produced examples can be seen (see Stead and Rigby 1989, 175-8, and references) and at Camulodunum (Hawkes and Hull, Type 202-3). The vessel has similarities to ones from the Pas-de-Calais area of northern France (cf. for example Tuffeau-Liber 1980, 87, type VIIIa fig 26, no. 3) which can be dated to the middle of the first century, the area where the type first evolved by the end of later second century BC. Such an exotic production site is improbable for this vessel and it may have been made no further away than Gloucester or perhaps Wroxeter. Although not precisely paralleled at King Harry Lane, the present vessel comes closest to Type 2E4 (Stead and Rigby 1989, 175-8) - pear-shaped with high rounded shoulder tapering to a marked constriction with a flat based or dish-shaped foot and a beaded upright rim with a cordon at the base of the neck which is dated to the Claudio-Neronian period and it may be that this vessel is a slightly later development of the type, although production into the Flavian period seems unlikely. Although pedestal beakers are to be found occasionally in domestic contexts, their main function was funerary. It is almost certain that the vessel under discussion was whole when originally deposited and, because it need not have travelled far during redeposition, I do not feel that it is an unwarranted conjecture to suggest that this item was initially deposited in a grave outside the limits of any Neronian establishment at Abergavenny and that the dead man had been recruited in an area of the south east of Britain in the early years following the conquest. (78/041).

18. Storage jar in Severn Valley Ware (cf. Webster 1976, fig. 1 no. 3). A mid-first to second century form. This is the only true example of Severn Valley Ware from the site although most of the vessels in oxidised fabrics would not be out of place in the Severn Valley tradition. Possibly from the presumed burial group. (17/001).

19. Two-handled flagon in a dull orange fabric with a yellowish surface and a thin grey core in places. One side of the rim and art of the neck has been somewhat marred before firing in such a way as to affect the appearance of the finished vessel. One of the Usk Fortress series (Manning 1981, 204, no. 8 fig. 93). Mainly

Neronian but the form continues into the Flavian period. From the presumed burial group. (079/002).

20. Disc-necked flagon in a hard orange fabric with a grey core. There is a lack of sand filler which may indicate that this vessel is not an Usk product. The vessel is probably of Neronian date. A number of similar vessels are to be found associated with a kiln at Eccles, Kent (Detsicas 1977, fig. 3.3, 62-8) which can be dated to *c.* AD 65. Possibly from the presumed burial group. (18/002).

21. Ring-necked flagon in a slightly powdery orange fabric, an Usk product. Flavian or just possibly later. (19/002).

22. Two non-joining sherds from a ring-necked flagon. There are traces of a white slip and the slightly powdery fabric probably indicates an Usk product. Flavian. (20/053), Phase 4.

23. Fragment from the rim of a Hoffheim (type 50) derivative flagon (cf. Gose 1984, 363 and 364). This type is predominantly pre-Flavian but some extension into the Flavian period is not in doubt. The fragment is very small and the complete vessel might have been intended to imitate a Central Gaulish Glazed Wares form (Type 2/3 cf. Greene 1979, 91 fig. 40, nos. 2 and 3). (21/004), Phase 2.

24. Section of the base of a pedestal beaker. Possibly from the presumed burial group. Neronian. (22/001).

25. Deep bowl with a curved flange and a bead on the top of the rim. The fabric is orange with a grey core; there are numerous white flecks in the fabric and there are occasional gaps left by burnt out vegetation, ferruginous lumps are also present. The vessel was originally mica dusted, although this tends to survive only under the flange. See Marsh (1978 type 34) for the continental derivation of this type. The fabric is close to that found on sites in Gloucestershire. (23/057), Phase 4.

26. Platter in Pompeian Red ware fabric. 1 (see Peacock 1977) and Inchtuthil (Darling 1985, 329-30). Neronian-Flavian. (24/010), Phase 1.

26A. Fragment of a lid in a light pink, slightly micaceous fabric. (25/056), Phase 4.

27. Small beaker in a slightly gritty, buff fabric. (26/056), Phase 4

28. Wide-mouthed bowl with a relic cordon. The fabric is orange but with a grey core; it has a slightly rough feel due to the inclusion of much fine sand. Possibly from the presumed burial group (28/002).

29. Carinated bowl in a smooth orange fabric, originally coated (?)all-over with a white slip. Possibly from the presumed burial group. Neronian. (29/001).

30. Large wide-mouthed jar with a slight cordon slightly below the rim and two more indicated by incised lines on, and just below, the shoulder. The fabric is identical with that of a mortarium (no. 79) from this site. The shoulder and

neck are darker than the main body of the vessel and there is a lightly incised line decoration, between the two lower cordons, which is also highlighted in black. This effect appears to be the result of smoke damage. (30/057), Phase 4.

31. Fragment from the rim of a jar similar to, and in the same fabric as, no. 30. (80/002).

32. Large wide-mouthed jar in the same fabric as no. 29, with the remains of an all-over white slip. (32/013), Phase 5.

33. Tankard in the same fabric as no. 30. Similar vessels can be seen from period 1b at Gloucester (Darling 1977, fig. 6.10 1-2). (34/001).

34. Thin walled jar in an orange fabric with a grey core in all other aspects similar to vessels of group B below. (35/057), Phase 4.

35. Large two-handled flagon in a slightly sandy, micaceous fabric. with a slate grey core. (76/051).

36. Fragments from the neck of a cordoned vessel in the same fabric as no. 30. (27/002,056), Phase 4.
Also present was a cordoned jar with lightly impressed cross-hatching, probably originally similar to a vessel from earlier excavations (Boon 1968-9, no. 12).

Reduced Wares
Group A

37. Spout possibly from some form of strainer. It is, however, somewhat short when compared with other such vessels (eg Niblett 1985, fig. 33, no. 2; Marsh 1978, type 46), therefore the function of this item must remain in doubt. (36/073), Phase 4.

38. Reed-rimmed bowl. The fabric contains an occasional piece of quartz. The fabric is laminar, with a very dark almost black surface due to burning both in use and after breakage. (43/056), Phase 4.

39. Reed-rimmed bowl. Similar to a vessel from earlier excavations at Abergavenny (Boon 1968-9, no. 30). The fabric is slightly micaceous. (44/054).

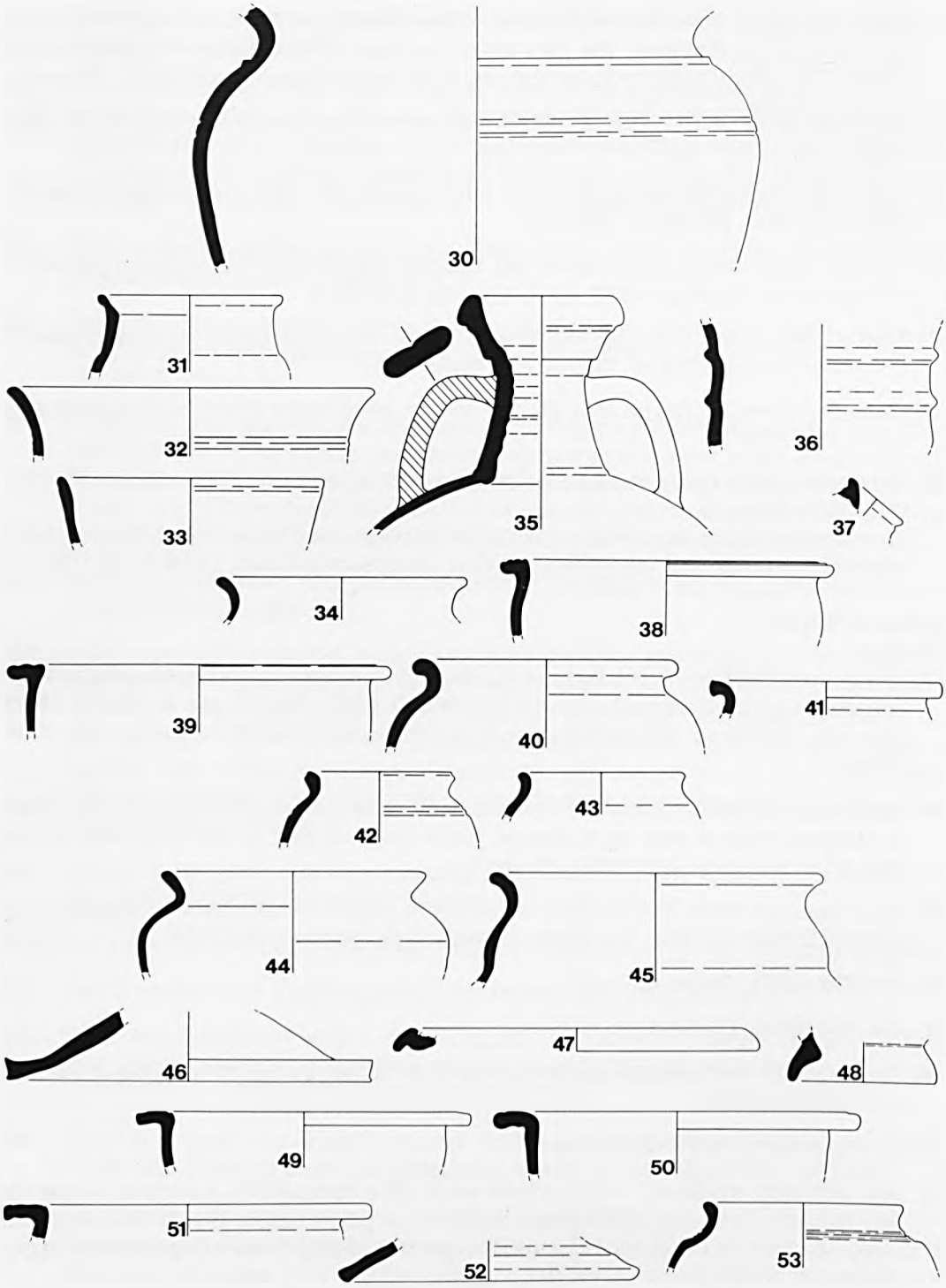
40. Jar. (52/057), Phase 4.

41. Jar. (54/058), Phase 4.

42. Cordoned jar with a slight groove on the edge of the rim (cf. Boon 1968-9, no. 15). (70/009), Phase 2.

43. Jar or beaker. (69/052), Phase 5.

44. Jar, probably originally with a black wash (fire damage(?)). A section of the rim has been pushed down, an event which took place before firing, therefore this vessel cannot be considered as a kiln reject. Probably from the presumed burial group. (72/037).



Coarse Pottery: Nos. 30-53, (Scale 1 : 4)

45. Jar, light grey but with a brown core. (73/066), Phase 4.

46. Lid. The fabric has the occasional piece of quartz. (48/056), Phase 4.

47. Fragmentary flange with a double carination. Unfortunately the vessel has broken in such a way that it is difficult to assess the form of the original vessel, but some form of platter may have been intended. (38/056), Phase 4.

Group B

48. Pedestal foot ring. Possibly but not certainly from a tazza. (37/013), Phase 5.

49. Reed-rimmed bowl. (40/002).

50. Reed-rimmed bowl. (41/052), Phase 5.

51. Reed-rimmed bowl. (45/057), Phase 4.

52. Lid. Two non-joining sherds, one of which has lost its surface. (46/002).

53. Shouldered jar. (49/067), Phase 4.

54. Jar. (50/002).

55. Jar. The surface is highly burnished, it is similar to a vessel from the earlier excavations (Boon 1968-9, no. 19). (53/010), Phase 1.

56. Jar. (55/057), Phase 4.

57. Lid seated jar. The shoulder is decorated with a 'pecked' pattern and there are slight traces of a cordon. The interior of this vessel has a dark wash and the whole vessel was probably treated in the same way. (56/056).

58. Beaker. Self-coloured with a band of combed decoration. One of a group of vessels known as ring and dot beakers. The general dating is the period either side of *c.* AD 75 (Greene 1977). (57/056), Phase 4.

59. Jar. Probably originally burnished. (58/002).

60. Jar. Decorated with rouletting, such treatment is common on vessels in the second half of the first century. The interior of this vessel is very light grey, due to its position in the kiln. (59/002).

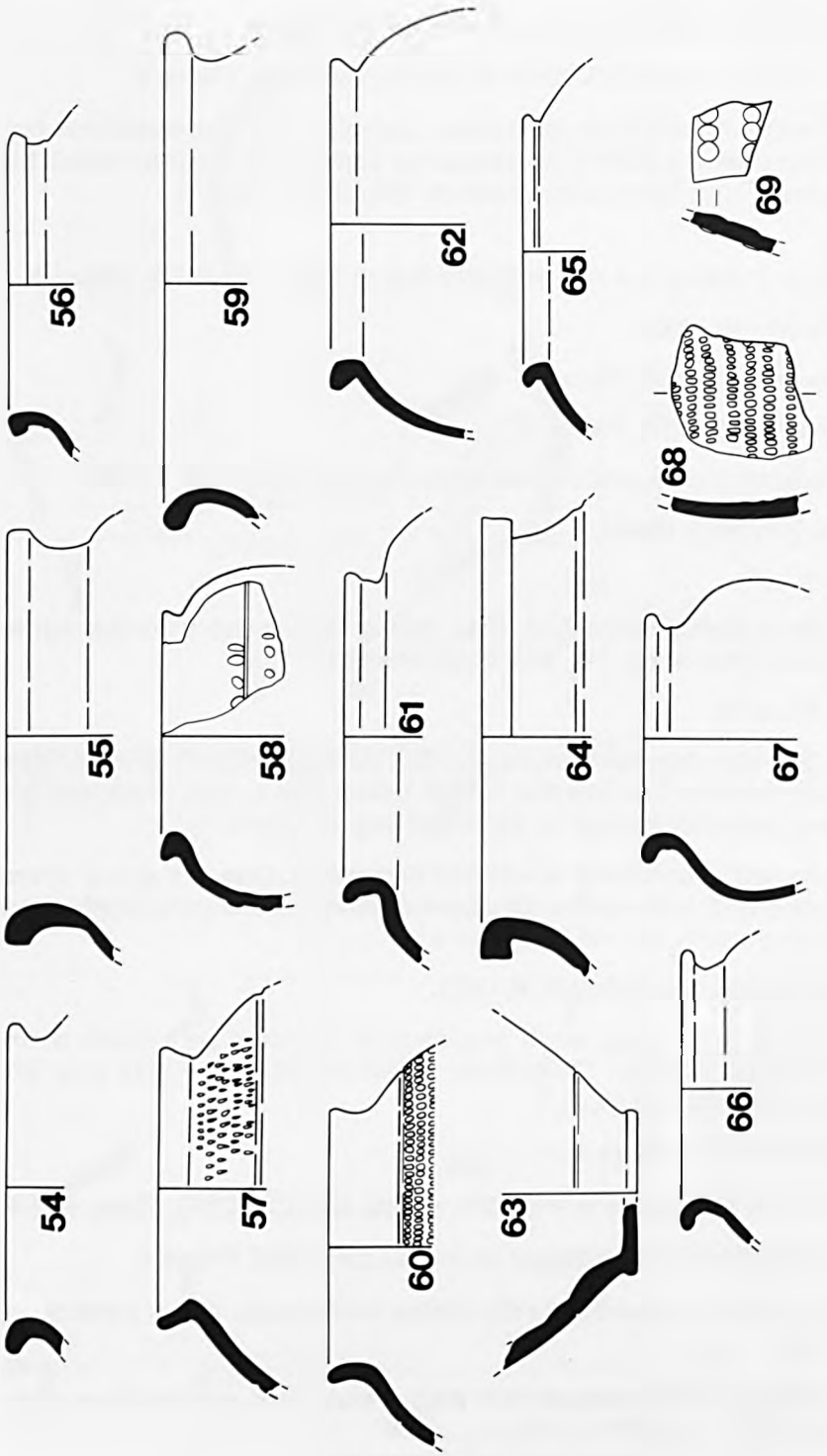
61. Shouldered jar. (60/067), Phase 4.

62. Cornice-rimmed jar. The vessel is very thin walled. (61/056,057), Phase 4.

63. Base, almost certainly the same vessel as no. 62. (39/056), Phase 4.

64. Jar. It is very similar to a vessel from the earlier excavations (Boon 1968-9, no. 6). (62/085), Phase 1.

65. Beaker. The fabric is slightly micaceous with a very dark grey surface and a lighter core. (63/066), Phase 4.



Coarse Pottery: Nos. 54-70 (Scale 1 : 4)

66. Jar. The fabric is slightly gritty, almost certainly due to the loss of its surface. (64/033).

67. Jar. Very thin walled. (67/056), Phase 4.

68. Body sherd showing bands of rouletting. (74/002).

69. Body sherd decorated with dots, barbotined rather than combed. (77/002).

Also present were body sherds of a jar or jars with acute cross-hatching.

The following vessels do not fit into either group A or B:

70. Jar. Wheel thrown, in a gritty grey fabric probably intended to imitate pre-Hadrianic. BB1 forms. (03/013), Phase 5.

71. Corniced rimmed beaker. Fragments only, the fabric is finer and the vessel is slightly lower fired than is usual. (Not illu-strated). (65/056), Phase 4.

Vessels in both oxidized and reduced fabrics which can be closely parallelled in the Usk type series (Manning 1981 group II, nos. 17(002), 18(056) and 20(057)) were present but are not illustrated.

Mortaria

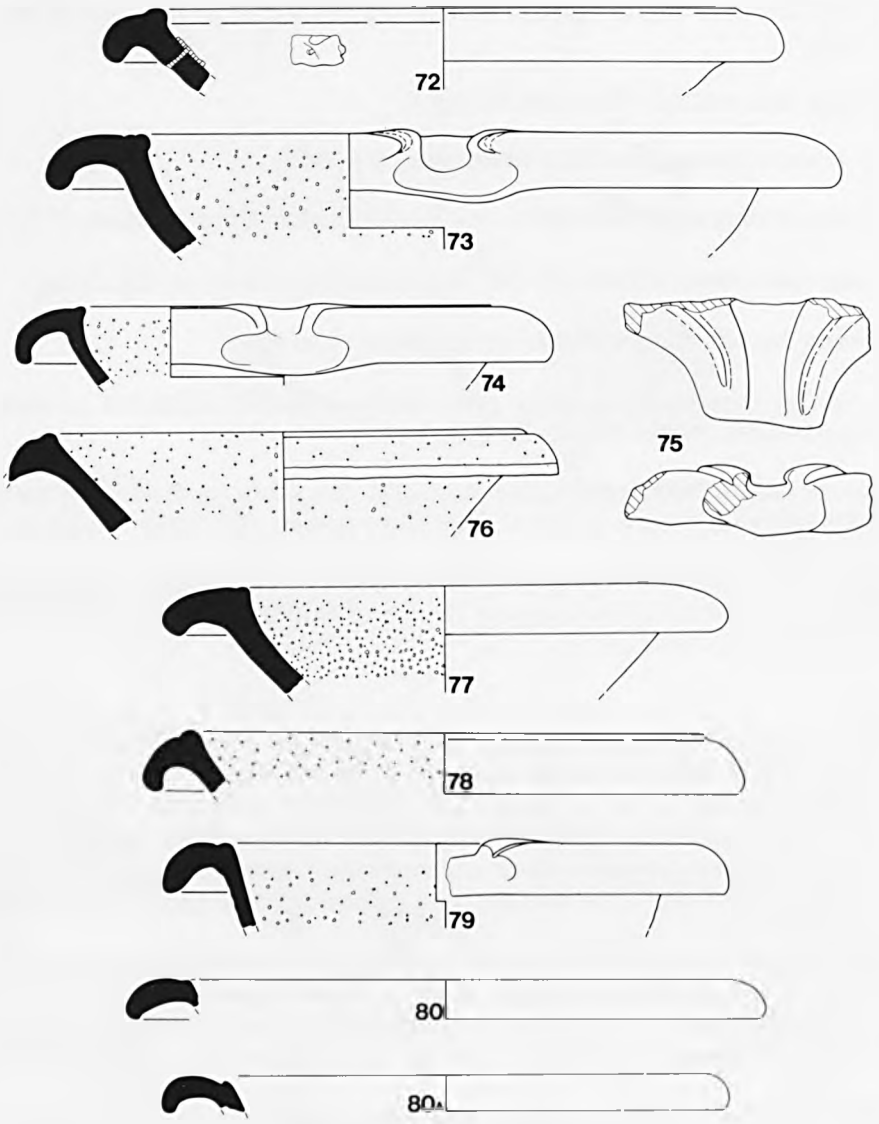
72. Hartley group I 55-85. Fine-textured, sometimes softish, cream or yellowish-cream fabric, sometimes with pink core and with a little very finely fragmented tempering similar to the trituration grit which is composed of transparent and white quartz, and flint. These mortaria may all have been made in north and north-east France but more than one workshop is certainly involved. The vessel has been riveted, and this riveting may extend its date range. (M02/002).

73. Approximately one third of the rim, including the spout of a mortarium in a fine buff fabric with occasional opaque white quartz tempering which also forms the trituration (Gillam 1970, 238). Almost certainly a product of Q Valerius Veranius and made at Bavai (Hartley 1977, group II). *c.* AD 65-100+. (M09/057), Phase 4.

74. About one third of the rim and a complete spout including the edge of a badly worn stamp. Fabric as no. 72. *c.* AD 65-100. (M03/057(027)).

75. Spout in the same fabric and of the same origin as the two above. (M04/002).

76. Rim in a soft, very fine-textured, cream fabric often with pink core. The fabric is sparsely peppered throughout with largish 'grains' of white and transparent quartz giving it a pimply appearance. Extra grits of similar type but with occasional particles of gold mica and feldspar may also have been added to the internal surfaces; it was sometimes added to all the outside surfaces. Origin is work-shops in central France. Hartley group II *c.* AD 65-100+. (M05/056), Phase 4.

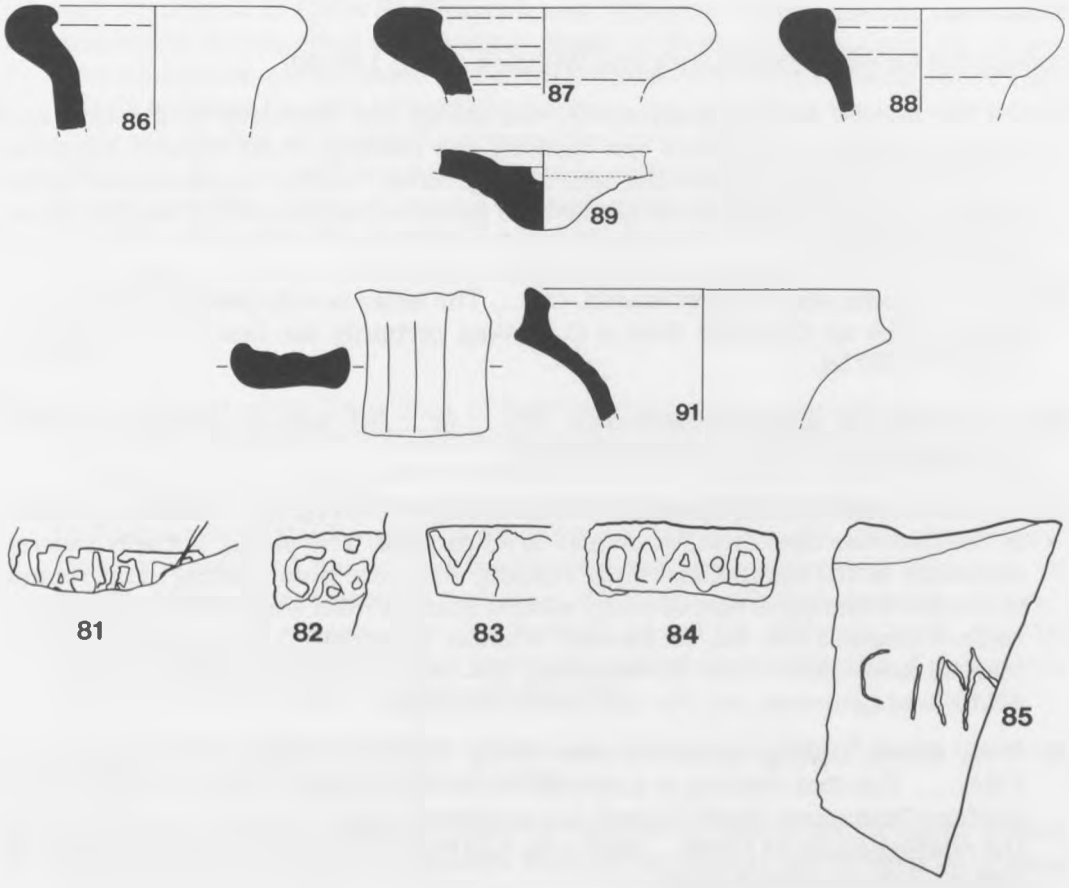


Mortaria Nos. 72-80A (Scale 1 : 4)

77. Incomplete rim sherd. Fabric as no. 76. Hartley group II. AD 65-100+. (M06/056), Phase 4.

78. Rim in the same fabric as no. 76. Origin is workshops in central France. Hartley group II *c.* AD 65-100+. (M08/056), Phase 4.

79. About one third of the circumference, including part of the spout. There is a noticeable absence of wear on this example but this may be because the extant



Amphorae (Scale 1 : 4)
(Nos. 86-89, 91)

Amphorae Stamps (1 : 4)
(Nos. 81-85)

section comprises the upper part of the vessel. Hard (can be scratched with a knife) brick red fabric, very slightly micaceous and with traces of a white slip. The vessel appears to be unused. The trituration grit is of white quartz. From a production centre in South Wales the fabric is similar to that from a number of vessels from the fort at Loughor (Evans & Hartley in Marvell and Owen-John forthcoming, Fabric C3) *c.* AD 60-100. (M01/066), Phase 4.

80. Incomplete rim sherd. The fabric is rough, the surfaces are light orange with a thick grey core. There is much fine sand and numerous non calcareous white specs. No trituration grit survives. (M07/010), Phase 1.

80A. Incomplete rim sherd. Burnt, but probably in the same fabric as no. 79. (M10/056), Phase 4.

Amphorae

Stamps (all on class 25 (Peacock and Williams 1986, 136-40)

81. On the handle reading downwards: the stamp has fractured lengthways and though some of the letters are distinct the reading must remain doubtful. CANTA(?)S[..., the C&A and the N&T are ligatured. Possibly a place name rather than an *officina*, but there is no obvious place in Baetica with a similar name. (A01/057(030)).

82. On the handle reading downwards. O [..... The letter is only partly preserved but seems to be an O rather than a C. Almost certainly the first part of *officina*. (A02/002 (071)).

83. On the handle reading downwards. .]V[...,. or ....]N[. Almost certainly from the same vessel as no. 86. (A03/057 (038)).

84. On the handle reading upwards. Either CANQ or CANTQ (or ? ONA.O), in either of the first two cases the AN or ANT are ligatured. The stamp is badly blurred especially in the middle, but if the reading is correct (this reading must remain in doubt) then this is one of many similar stamps from south Wales, (Caerleon, Nash-Williams 1932, no. 1a; Brecon, Wheeler 1926, 246, 1-2; Loughor, Evans in Marvell and Owen-John forthcoming, no. 00). Callender (1965) no. 243, C. AN(tonius) Q(uietus). AD 70-120. (A13/053 (009).

85. Body sherd. Lightly scratched after firing. CINN[..., CINA[.... NA ligatured, or CIM[.....,. The first reading is preferred because it would form a personal name such as Cinnamus. Mark Hassall has suggested (without much conviction) that the reading could be CHM[..., with only half the M extant (see now Britannia 20, 342 no. 59). (A14/037 (003)).

Class 25

86. Complete rim. (A04/054).

87. Almost complete rim. (A05/002).

88. Fragment of a rim but from a different vessel from no. 87. (A06/029).

89. Base ?from the same vessel as no. 87. (A07/002).

90. Handle. (A08/002).

Unclassified A

91. Vessel, presumably an amphora in a hard, creamy white fabric with a greenish tinge. The presence of high density inclusions give it a gritty feel. Under a hand lens tiny white quartz fragments, rock fragments, gold mica and black sand (augite?) are visible. The badly flaked nature of the surviving sherds make it difficult to decide if a rim or shoulder is present. If a rim is represented the vessel

may be related to Class 31 (Peacock and Williams 1986, 149-50), Dressel 28. Amphorae of this class were mainly made in Tarraconensis, but the present vessel lacks the calcite noted in Tarraconensian vessels (Keay and Jones 1982) and its is unlike Gaulish or Baetican fabrics. Assuming that a rim is represented there are vessels of similar form from The 'Hall', Caerleon (Murray-Threipland 1969, fig. 10, no. 14) from material which, although it cannot be closely dated, almost certainly does not extend much beyond *c.* AD 100; from Fishbourne (Cunliffe 1971, type 156.1) which is dated AD 43-75 and the Kingsholm, Gloucester site (Timby, in Hurst 1985, type 122) again with a mainly Flavian date range. (A12/002,056,057).

Samian

92. Form 29, part of the lower zone of festoons containing a hare (D944=O2104) as on a bowl stamped by Volusenus (cf. Knorr (1919) taf 82H) and a similar arrangement in the upper zone to a vessel from the Caerleon, Prysg Field excavation (Nash-Williams 1932, no 61). Also from the upper zone is a vessel stamped by Rufinus from the Pompeii hoard (Atkinson 1914, no. 35). The vessel comes from an uncleaned mould and the festoon had been impressed twice into the mould. The hare was used by a number of Flavian potters and can be seen on a number of other vessels from the Pompeii hoard (cf. ibid nos. 6, 7, 18). The condition of the mould probably indicates a date towards the end of the production period of the type. *c.* 70-85. (DS06/002).

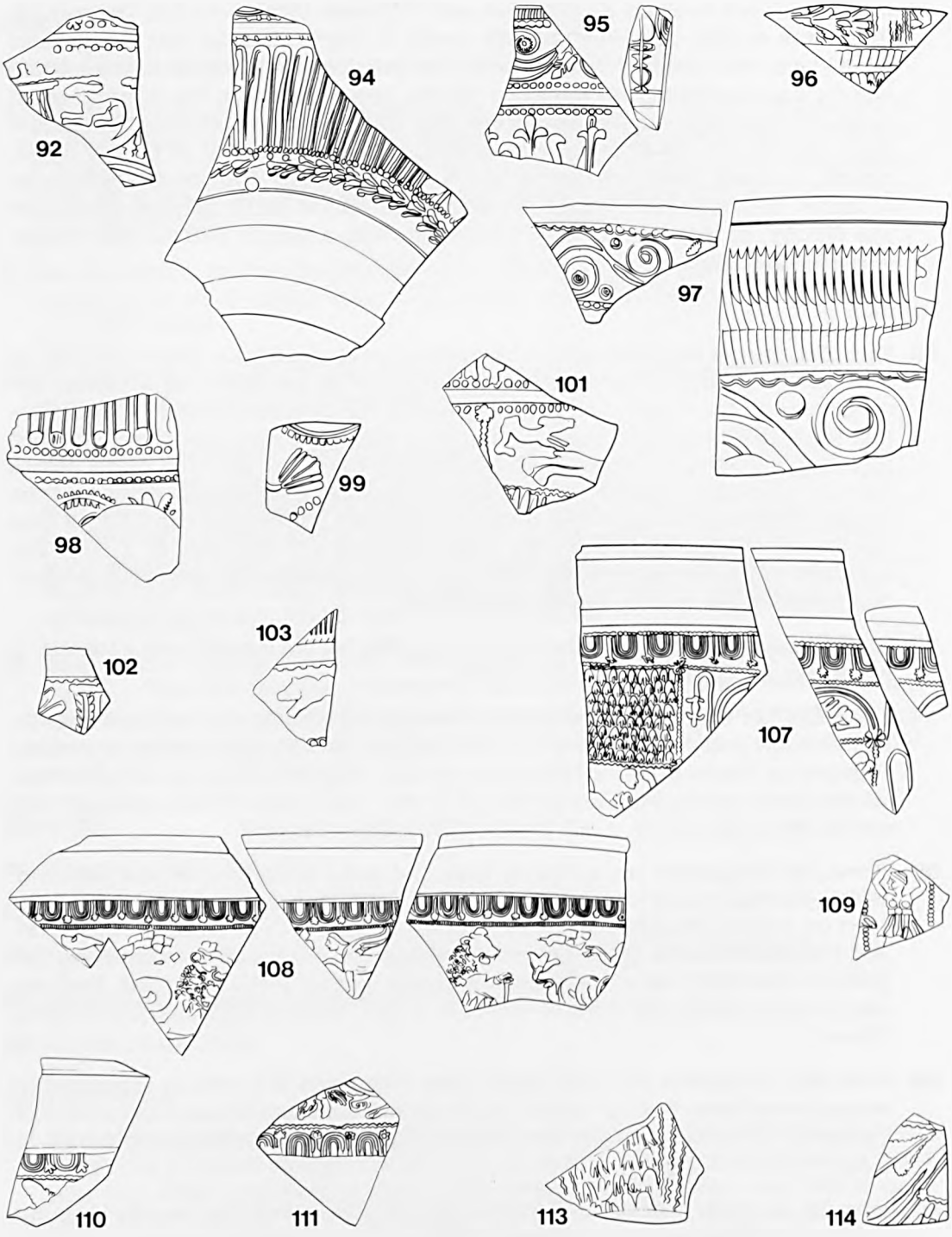
93. Form 29, small fragment of the upper zone with part of a scroll and a rosette. *c.* AD 60-85. (DS03/002). (Not illustrated).

94. Form 29, the lower zone composed of straight gadroons over a basal wreath. The arrangement and the gadroons, but not the wreath can be seen on a vessel stamped by Vitalis from the Pompeii hoard (cf. Atkinson 1914, no. 29). The vessel has been drilled from the inside for a rivet which would have extended the useful life of this vessel. *c.* AD 70-85. (DS24/009), Phase 2.

95. These two fragments are probably from the same form 29, the leaf detail, of which the upper part can be seen on DS32 and the lower part (DS25) can be seen on a form 30 stamped by the Flavian potter M. Crestio (Knorr 1919, taf. 39), the bud terminal in the upper zone (DS32), is also known to be among this potter's repertoire, on a vessel from Kempten (Knorr 1952, taf. 18H). Both are also known among the work of Vitalis ii. *c.* AD 70-85. (DS25/010;DS32/061), Phase 1.

96. Form 29, a fragment from the upper zone composed of a wreath separated by vertical wavy lines. Such a layout, although not the exact design can be seen on a number of vessels from the Pompeii hoard (for example Atkinson 1914, pl. 1). *c.* AD 70-85. (DS27/041).

97. Form 29, an upper zone of scroll work in Hermet's so-called Canrucatus-Vegenius style *i.e.* Cabucatus-Regnus (Hermet 1934, pl. 104, 27-31). These two potters



Samian Nos. 92, 94-99, 101-103, 107-111, 113-114 (Scale 1 : 2)

overlapped and used the same mould maker for a while (See Dickinson in Evans and Metcalf 1989, no. 3) their range is *c.* AD 55-85, but this vessel is probably *c.* AD 70-85. (DS09/057).

98. Form 29, part of the upper zone composed of festoons containing scrolls with dependent tassels used for example by the Vitalis group (Knorr 1919, 83D). The lower zone is composed of gadroons perhaps originally similar to a vessel from the Caerleon Fortress Baths (Boon 1986, no 5). *c.* AD 70-85. (DS11/002).

99. A fragment from the lower zone from form 29, all that remains is part of a cogged medallion (Hermet 1934, pl. 32 13) and a leaf tip. What little can be seen would not make this vessel look out of place in the Pompeii hoard (Atkinson 1914). *c.* AD 70-85. (DS12/066).

100. Form 29, only a small part of the lower zone is extant which shows a small amount of a leaf and some scroll work. *c.* AD 60-85. (DS13/053). (Not illustrated).

101. Form 29, a panel with two dogs from the ?lower zone: both are very blurred but the upper may be O1963=D918 (cf. Hermet 1934, pl. 20, 26; Knorr 1919, 89J), the lower may be O1927 (cf. Knorr 1919, taf 17 E). Below this panel is a second which may contain leaf tips. *c.* AD 70-85. (DS16/066).

102. Form 29, fragment from the upper zone made up of festoons (Hermet 1934, pl. 31, no. 14) containing leaves. *c.* AD 45-85. (DS20/057).

103. Form 29, a badly blurred boar to the left, possibly O1690 which was used by a number of Claudio-Neronian potters (cf. Hermet 1934, pl. 27, no. 45) but the finish on this vessel almost certainly indicates a Flavian date. *c.* AD 70-85. (DS23/053).

104. A fragment possibly of form 29, the detail is badly blurred but the arrangement was that of birds within plain festoons. A possibly similar arrangement can be seen on a vessel from Jenkins Field (Nash-Williams 1929 no. 104). *c.* AD 70-85. (DS21/057) (Not illustrated).

105. Tiny fragment from the ?upper zone of form 29, *c.* AD 60-85. (DS22/066) (Not illustrated).

106. Form 29, badly blurred fragment of the upper zone; only part of a leaf fan and the front paw of an unidentified animal survives. *c.* AD 70-85. (DS33/067) (Not illustrated).

107. Form 30, panelled design with arcades alternating with panels of leaf tips over figured panels. The rabbit in the arcade is O2100 which was used by a number of South Gaulish potters including Masculis on form 30, and the leaf to the left of the arcade was used on form 29 stamped by Vitalis (Knorr 1919, taf 82 no. 12). Similar rosette-tongued ovolos can be seen on a number of vessels from

Pompeii (e.g: Atkinson 1914, pl. 9, especially no. 47, which also has a similar leaf). The wavy line below the ovolo is a common feature of Flavian vessels of this form. Only a fragment of the figure below the leaf tips is preserved but it may be Bacchus holding a staff (similar to the reverse poinçion of O580). Although all elements were well impressed into the mould, there are signs of long use on the resultant vessel. Although the pieces overlap rather than join, sufficient remains for the upper part of the arcade to be reconstructed. Panelled designs on form 30 tend to be repetitive and a panel of leaf tips may be expected to the right of the arcade. *c.* AD 80-100/10. (DS08/053,066,067).

108. Form 30, from Les Matres-de-Veyre. The ovolo is probably Rogers B14 assigned to Sacer and X13 and the neat bead row is Rogers A1 also used by X13. There are four large sherds forming two groups making up just under one half of a vessel of this form employing a freestyle design. On the larger section there is part of a sea monster O18 used mainly at Lezoux in the Hadrianic period but also seen on work in the style of Sacer from La Matres-de-Veyre (Terrisse 1968, pl. 47, 191) and on the so-called Donnaucus style (S&S pl. 45, 525; Terrisse 1968, pl. 34, 417). The animal to the left of the sea monster is some what blurred and perhaps overstamped with another figure, but appears to be based on a leaping panther (O1520/1 and cf. for example Terrisse pl. 6, 161 & 175). The sphinx to the left is probably O857=D497 which was used by a number of Central Gaulish potters, including Ioenalis, most of whom worked at Lezoux. The sphinx to the right is a common motif in the Donnaucus style (cf. Terrisse 1968, pl. 33, 458; S&S pl. 44, 502). On the smaller section the panther is repeated but the sphinx is replaced by a dog-headed sea-monster, perhaps that seen on the work of the potter of the rosette (*cf.* Terrisse 1968, pl. 19, 371), a figure which may also be present on the work on X13 or one of his associates (cf. Terrisse 1968, pl. 34, 417). One repeating element of the design is the 'rock' ornament, two are quite clear, a fragment of a third is to the left of the sphinx, (S&S fig. 11, no. 14, Rogers U141 comet's tail(?)) here used upside down. The use of this 'rock' ornament is perhaps the critical factor, rather than the fabric or form, in assigning this vessel to X13 rather than the later potters such as Attianus for example. Attianus may have added a snake (S&S fig. 86, nos. 12 & 15), but even this layout might be a later arrangement by X13 (cf. Terrisse 1968, pl. 34, 417 also on form 30 and, perhaps a later version of the design on the present vessel). Another possible potter, Sacer, did not use this ornament although his layouts are similar, and he can therefore be excluded from contention; *c.* AD 100-120. (DS02/002,067).

109. Small fragment from the wall of a form 37, from Les-Matres-de-Veyre. The figure type, a Tambourine Dancer (O368), appears on pots in the Ioenalis style (Terrisse 1968, pl. 29, 506, 517). The bead row (Rogers A2) was used by a number of potters including Ioenalis. *c.* AD 100-120. (DS29/033).

110. Form 37, rim with a triple-tongued ovolo such as became common in the Flavian period, and the head of an indistinct animal. The design is in such low relief

that the line cutting off the ovolo from the animal may have been either a bead or a wavy line. *c.* AD 70-100. (DS04/002).

111. Form 37, the ovolo is Rogers B7 used by the potter X-13 (part of the so-called Donnacus style) and by Attianus. Only part of two birds can be distinguished, one which shows the neck and wings is perhaps O2315A which comes from a bowl in the so called Donnacus style; it was also used by Attianus. The fabric is that of Lezoux and Attianus should be favoured. *c.* AD 125-150. (DS05/001).

112. Form 37(?) tiny fragment. (DS07/002) (Not illustrated).

113. Form 37, an eroded lower zone displaying part of a panel of arrows bordered by a triple wavy line. Such a layout would indicate a date of *c.* AD 70-85. (DS26/029).

114. Form 37, part of a scroll, the upper concavity contains a panel of what may be leaf tips and the lower concavity has a leaf. The general layout of the vessel can be seen on the work of Calvus and the leaf is probably that used by Musculus (Knorr 1919, taf 98A) *c.* AD 80-100. (DS28/033).

115. Form 37, a number of fragments, some joining, from near the base showing S shaped gadroons above which is a vegetal scroll. The fabric and glaze of this piece suggest a Flavian date. (DS30/049).

116. Form 37, fragment from near the base. The detail is worn but the design is part of a St Andrews cross arrangement and is probably Flavian. (DS31/052), Phase 5.

117. Form 37, with a triple tongued ovolo as used by the associates of Germanus above a panel of diagonal wavy lines above arrowheads. A similar layout can be seen on a vessel from Verulamium (Dickinson in Frere 1984, D45) which has been assigned to M Crestio. *c.* AD 80-100. (DS10/053,056).

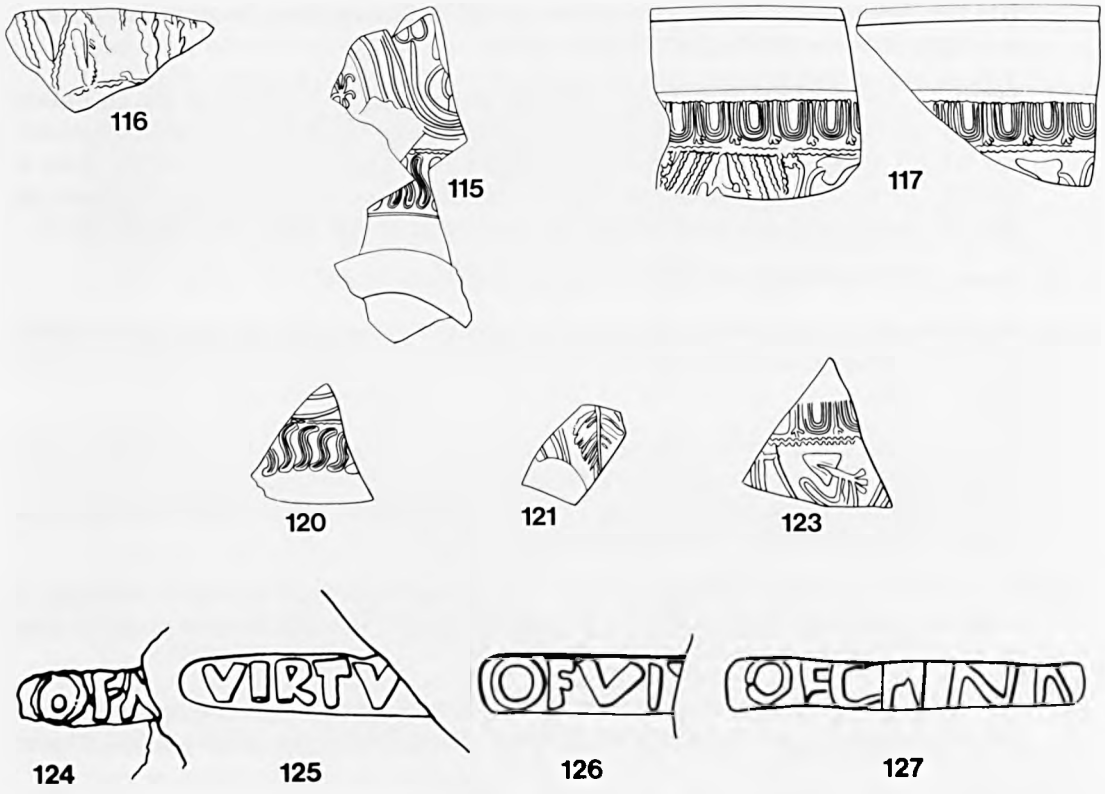
118. Form 37, only part of the basal wreath and what is possibly part of a scroll is visible. *c.* AD 70-100; (DS14/066) (Not illustrated).

119. Form 37?, a small part of a figure can be seen below a bead row. *c.* AD 70-100. (DS15/056) (Not illustrated).

120. Form 37, A row of S shaped gadroons from the bottom of the vessel above which is a trace of a scroll (cf. Hermet 1934, pl. 119 no. 9 for the possible layout of the vessel). S shaped gadroons are uncommon before the period of Domitian. *c.* AD 80-100. (DS17/057).

121. Form 37?, a small fragment showing a leaf and part of a scroll, ? *c.* AD 70-100. (DS18/066).

122. Form 37, a small part of the ovolo used by L Cosi (Knorr 1919 Taf. 25 no. 34). The design is badly blurred so that details cannot be easily assigned. *c.* AD 80-100. (DS19/066) (Not illustrated).



(top) Samian (Scale 1 : 2) (base) Samian Stamps (Scale 2 : 1)

123. Form 37, This layout can be directly parallelled elsewhere (Billingsgate, de la Bédoyère 1986, SG 19; Knorr 1919 taf 55) on form 29 by Medillus who worked *c.* AD 60-80, it also employs the triple tongued ovolo of the Flavian period (for example Billings-gate, de la Bédoyère 1986, SG 36). *c.* AD 70-85. (DS01/067).

STAMPS

by Brenda Dickinson

124. FN[IGRV on form 18: Niger ii of La Graufesenque, Die 4a'. This stamp is from a die on which the O originally had no stop. A stamp from the earliest version occurs in the Cirencester Fort Ditch material of *c.* AD 55-65 (Hartley & Dickinson 1982, 132, S 29). Examples from the modified die appear at Caerleon and on Ritterling 8. *c.* AD 60-70. (1.053(004)).

125. VIRTV[TISV on form 15/17 or 18: Virtus i of La Graufesenque, Die 8b. A few of Virtus's stamps are pre-Flavian, but this comes from a die almost certainly not used before *c.* AD 70. Examples have been noted from Caerleon Camelon Chester and York c. AD 70-90. (2.053(003)).

126. OFVI[TALIV on form 18R: Vitalis ii of La Graufesenque, where the die (5b) is known to have been used. The O has a central dot. There is little site dating for this stamp, though examples are known from Rottweil and the Nijmegen fortress. It is just possible, though unlikely, that the die was in use in the mid 60s, when Vitalis started work. *c.* AD 65-90. (3.002(066)).

127. OFCI!N! on form 18: Censor i of La Graufesenque, die 2c'. This comes from a die which originally gave OFCENS, but recutting of the letters has made it almost unrecognisable as a stamp of Censor. The original version occurs at Caerleon. The modified version comes from Caersws and the main site at Corbridge; *c.* AD 75-100. (4.033,057.067(013)).

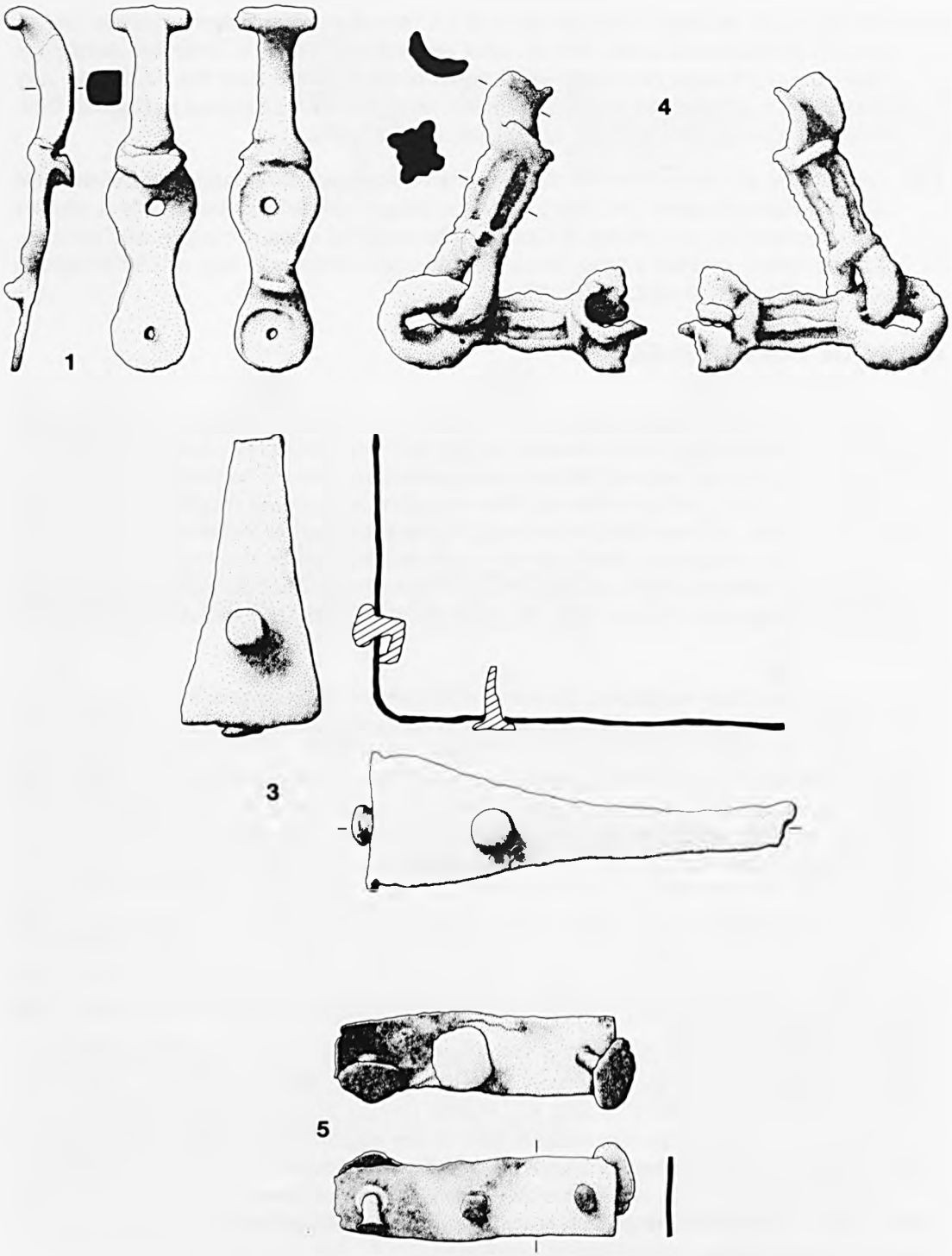
ITEMS OF COPPER ALLOY

by G. Lloyd Morgan

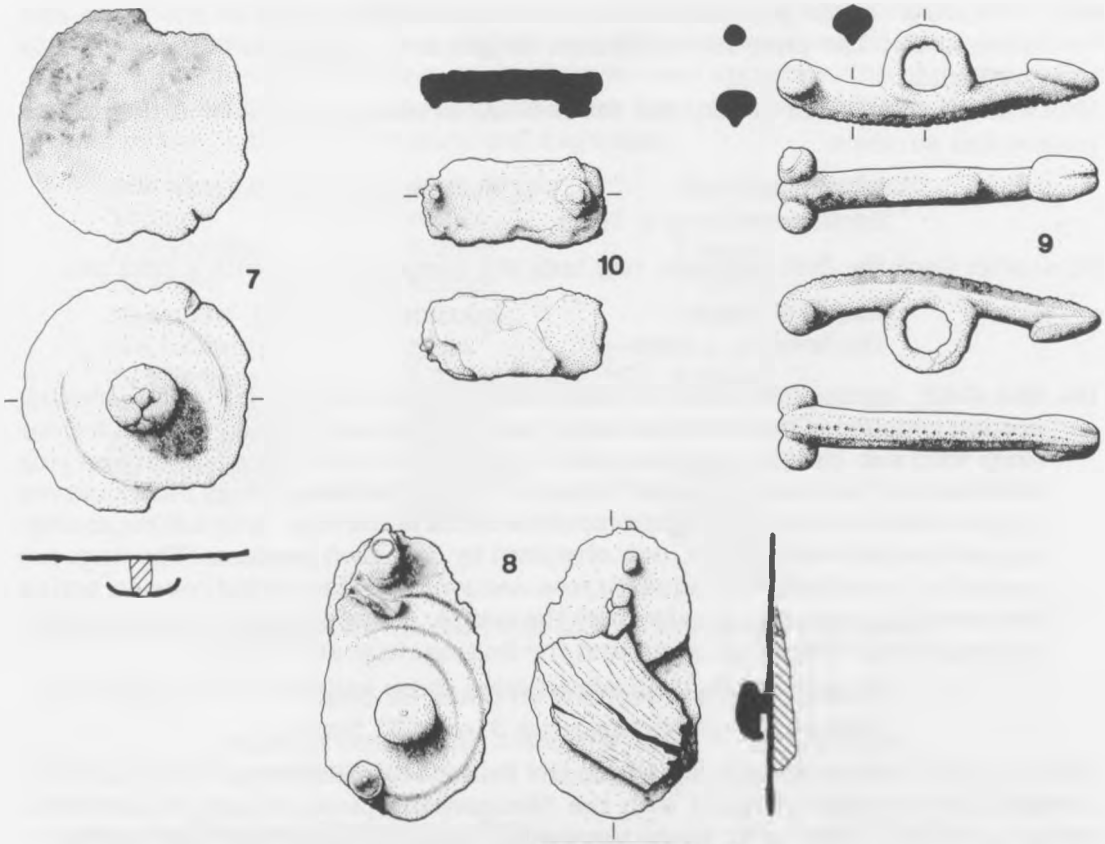
The presence of the Roman army on or near the site, is attested by the military fastener (no. 1) and the phallic amulet (no. 9), further examples of which have been found on other military sites in Britain and elsewhere. The incomplete bridle bit (no. 4) of mid to late first century date can be compared with a tiny fragment of another, similar, bit found at Bear Field, Cowbridge (Lloyd-Morgan & Webster, forthcoming, no. 17) and may suggest a small cavalry unit placed within the region. Other less well preserved finds may also be military in use and origin, as for example the discs and other fittings (no. 7) and (no. 8), and possibly (no. 11) and the rectangular plaque (no. 10).

The first century date suggested by some of the small finds appears to be borne out by the copper alloy coinage which covers the reigns of Claudius to Domitian with an issue of AD 86. Both coins and the small finds may well have continued in use and circulation into the early years of the second century. Although there are only thirteen coins, several of which are too poorly preserved for full identification, seven are copies of Claudian issues made with varying degrees of competence, and have been graded along the lines indicated by Boon (1982, 11-14; 1988, 118-24 pl. III-IV). It is interesting to note that he quotes Sutherland on figures from several military sites such as Richborough, Cirencester, Lincoln and Hod Hill, where the Claudian copies are represented by roughly half the coin finds (Boon 1982, 11). From this site in Abergavenny, the same rough percentage, 54% Claudian copies out of the total finds obtains, though with such small numbers the result can have little more than interest value at present.

The pierced coin can be parallelled by other examples; many have been found in burials, as for instance the Neronian coin in the St Pancras Cemetery, Chichester (Down & Rule 1971, 113, 115 and 81, Burial Group 228 item M).; and the earlier finds made by Faussett in the second half of the eighteenth century (1856, Gilton Town Grave 31, 14, AE issue of Diocletian; Kingston Down Grave 229, 92, Claudian As with Minerva reverse, as RIC. I 2nd ed 100). In all cases it seems that these pieces were used as lucky pieces or amulets, pierced to take a cord, or thong, for wear as a pendant to a necklace or bracelet.



Bronze Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5 (All 1 : 1, except No. 4 - 1 : 2)



Bronze Nos. 7-10 (Scale 1 : 1)

01. 053 (010) T-shaped connector, one section of the fastening used on cavalry harness or the military baldric. The lower section is a figure-of-eight shape with two holes to take the domed headed rivets for attaching the piece to the leather strap. The T-shaped section curves upwards and is complete:

length 55mm maximum width 14mm.

Compare the piece from Silchester described as a 'bronze toggle' (Boon 1969, 45, fig. 5, no. 17); another from Verulamium (Webster 1958, 91, fig. 7, no. 208); and the closely related piece from Brecon Gaer, which has four smaller rivets, rather than the two larger ones (Wheeler 1926, 116, fig. 5, no. 15).

02. 057 (028) Hollow dome-headed stud with pin, a little worn and damaged, undecorated:

diameter head 11.1mm height 11.6mm.

(not illustrated).

03. 003 (034) Angle piece from a box or casket, now broken at the angle and incomplete. The piece has maximum height at the angle and tapers towards each end.

(i) one small tack is still *in situ*, and the remains of another nail hole at the broken narrow end survives:

length 63.5mm maximum width 19.7mm.
thickness of strip c. 1mm

(ii) shorter than the first fragment, one tack still remains *in situ* with a bent pin:

length 45.3mm maximum width 21.3mm.
thickness *c.* 1.1mm

04. 004 (042) Incomplete bridle bit with single jointed snaffle. The only surviving portion consists of two identical linked sections of the bit joined by two circular rings with sub-circular cross-section. At the end of each piece is a broken ring which would have been attached to the rein ring. The broken rings have a curved angular cross-section with lightly moulded detail at the edge, with further mouldings within the concave face, now obscured by corrosion products. The rings are connected by a shaft with square cross-section, each face being concave with a low moulding running laterally down the centre. A ring shaped moulding marks the junctions between the shaft and the linking rings at each end:

present length of sections 80.5mm; 82.5mm
diameter of connecting rings 31mm; 32.5mm

The bit can be compared with finds from the Polden Hill, Somerset, hoard, six items of which are virtually identical with the Abergavenny piece, though in somewhat better condition. These are now in the British Museum (Brailsford 1975, 224, pl. XXd, fig. 2b; Palk 1984, 45, no. SJ 17, fig. C.34, and SJ 18, fig. C36: Brailsford 1975, 224, fig. 2a pl XXb; Palk 1984, 45, SJ19, fig. C35 and SJ20, fig. C36.2). The Polden Hills hoard was dated by Ward-Perkins to the second quarter of the first century AD (1939 174-6); Brailsford dates it to the mid first century AD (1975 232, 234), whereas Palk would see the date range for these particular bits as ranging from the mid to late first century AD (1984 81, fig. 17). Phase 2.

05. 066 (043) Rectangular strip with three plain flat headed nails or rivets *in situ*. The strip is now rather twisted and distorted, but the distance between the heads of the rivets and the plaque would suggest that it may have come from a modest piece of furniture, perhaps a small box or casket:

length of strip *c.* 41mm width 12-15mm.
diameter rivet heads 10.7mm; 10.1mm; 10.1mm.
distance between rivet heads and strip 6.2mm; 5.8mm; *c.* 6mm.

06. 066 (044) Incomplete fitting with openwork (?) figure of eight design, a little damaged and encrusted:

20.4x26.1mm depth c2.4mm.

(Not illustrated).

07. 003 (047) Approximately eight studs or rivets with a slightly concave head to the upper side. The underside has a slightly raised moulded concentric circle just inside the edge. Small domed washers or rivets have been applied to the end of the short pin. Most of the studs are damaged and there are remains of further, less well preserved pieces, with the other surviving fragments.

diameter	*stud height*	*diameter rivet head*
31.2mm	*c*6mm	-
27.8x22.6mm	5.2mm	7.8mm
30.4mm	4.5mm	7.5mm
32.4mm	-	7mm
*c*16.5x26.8mm	5mm	-
26.9x18mm	6.1mm	7.5mm
26.6x29.3mm	5mm	-
28.6x22.6mm	4.6mm	-
29.2x26.9mm	4.2mm	8mm
-	5mm	8.3mm
-	-	8.4mm
-	-	8.2mm

depth between the head of the stud and base of the rivet is *c*.2.5mm.

Small hollow dome headed studs associated with the above items:

diameter head 4mm; 4.4mm; 4.4mm; 4.4mm;4.4mm.
height 3.6mm; 4.2mm; 7.1mm; 3mm; 5.8mm.

Fragment of sheet metal, perhaps a fragment of mirror?

37 x 24mm thickness *c*.1mm.

All items are poorly preserved, encrusted with earth and grits, with some further thirty or more tiny fragments of sheet or bits broken from the larger disc headed studs. For discussion see below.

08. 004 (052) Further remains of studs with domed headed washers or rivets, identical to the items above. One incomplete stud has part of a second one overlapping in part.

stud diameter	height	rivet head diameter
c.34mm	-	*c.* 7mm
19x17mm	42mm	fragment
25.6x19.5mm	-	encrusted
fragment	4.8mm	*c.* 8mm
"	4.3mm	*c.* 8mm

a further stud with slightly domed head,

diameter 8.4mm height 3.2mm.

tiny stud: head diameter 3.7mm height 2.6mm.

with eleven further fragments of sheet, and disc fragments. Some of these pieces, like one of the larger studs above, are encrusted with carbonised wood, bone fragments and other debris.
Five silver studs were found in the late Iron Age Lexden Tumulus, Colchester, and were thought to have been used as decoration for the chain mail shirt that had survived in part (Foster 1986, 86, 88, fig. 31).

The diameter of these studs was *c.* 22-4mm, with a pin or tang some 13mm in length. The pieces from Abergavenny have, in comparison, a larger head and a much shorter pin. There are no obvious traces of iron staining or corrosion products. The short length of the pins to the Abergavenny studs, with the light washer, makes it seem unlikely that these pieces were attached to a mail shirt. The small traces of carbonised wood and bone suggest that the studs, perhaps with a slightly domed cover, may have been attached to or closely associated with organic material. One possible interpretation might be that they were attached to leather strapping for decoration, either in a civilian or military context. In the latter case either harness decoration, or the leather straps of the 'military apron' seems most feasible. Phase 2.

09. 056 (048) Pendant phallic amulet cast in a two piece mould with central ring for suspension. The testes and glans penis are clearly defined. The underside has a curious ridged moulding, triangular in cross-section, with serrate decoration. Some slight corrosion and damage, but with a generally good pale green patina:

length 42.2mm height 13.1mm.
maximum width 10.8mm.

Compare the incomplete example from the Deanery Field, Chester (Droop & Newstead 1931, 133, pl. XLVI, no. 38) with further examples in the Colchester Museum and from Wall, Staffs. (Webster 1958, 78, fig. 5, no. 84; and 94, fig. 8, no. 223 respectively). Another piece, with a broken loop, was found during early excavations at the fort of Birrens, Dumfriesshire (Robertson 1975, 120, no. 98, fig. 38, no. 5, length 40mm) with further closely related unprovenanced examples, possibly from the region of Nijmegen (Zadoks-Josephus Jitta, *et al* 1973, 58-60, no. 97, 98, 100, 101; lengths ranging between 33 and 46mm).

10. 066 (057) Damaged rectangular fitting with a rivet at each narrow end, and no traces of decoration; ?Military:

length 24.2mm width c. 11mm.
height 5.6mm.

11. 056 Four fragments of fittings etc.

(i) 11x8.5mm thickness 1.2mm.

perhaps from a military fitting or ornament? slight incised detail. (Not illustrated).

12. 059 Fitting or belt plaque in four major fragments and four smaller ones, three of which fit together, with a pin or rivet at one end. Perhaps originally rectangular: minimum length *c.*47mm width *c.*20.6mm.

THE COINS

		issuer	*denomination*	*ref*	*date*	*mint*
01.	071(035)	"Claudius"	Dupondius	as RIC 110	50-4	-
02.	009(045)	"Claudius"	Dupondius	as RIC 110	50-4	-
03.	084(051)	"Claudius"	As	As RIC 100	50-4	-
04.	071(054)	"Claudius"	As	As RIC 100	50-4	-
05.	084(059)	"Claudius"	As	As RIC 100	50-4	-
07.	009(060)	"Claudius"	As	as RIC 100	50-4	-
07.	081(067)	"Claudius"	As	As RIC 92	50-4	-
08.	004(001)	Nero	Dupondius	indet	64-7	Lyon
09.	057(022)	Vespasian	As	indet	69-79	-
10.	066(039)	Titus Caes	Dupondius	RIC 775(a)	77-8	Lyon
11.	056(008)	Domitian	As	RIC333	86	Rome
12.	010(055)	indet	-	-	-	-
13.	058(021)	Indet	-	-	-	-

Coins 02, 06, 07, and 08 came from contexts of Phase 2.

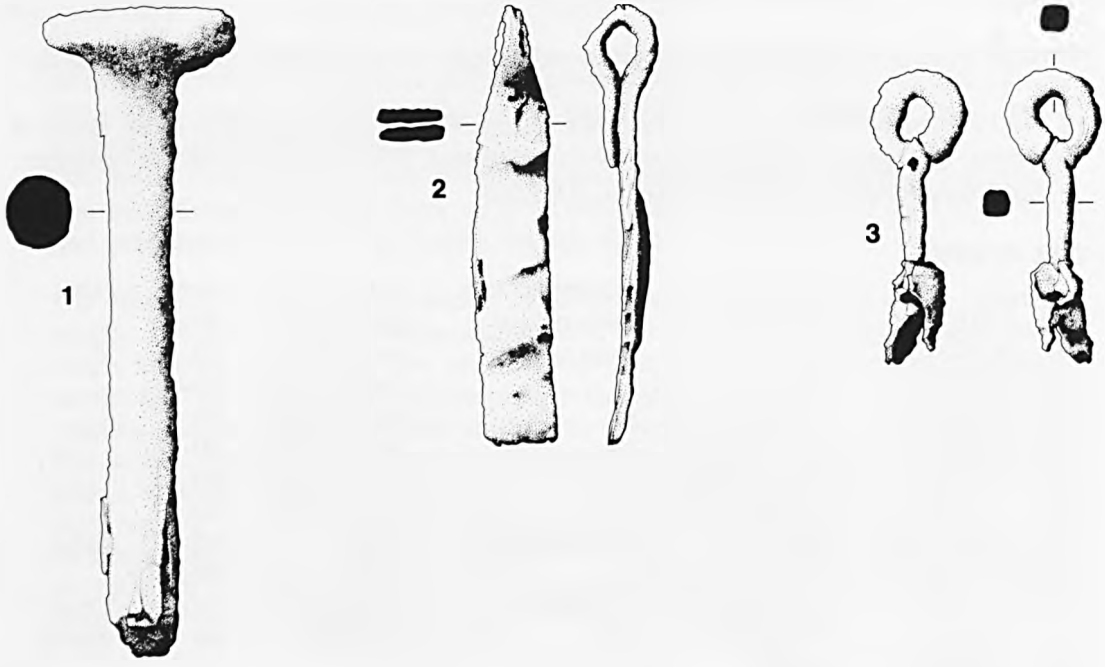
IRONWORK
by I. R. Scott

01. 009 (063) Pintle, or bolt, with a shank of circular cross-section, and a flat circular head. The resemblance to a nail is superficial; the shank is circular and does not taper, and the circular head is quite thick and has rounded edges. The end of the shank is missing:

Length 170mm Diameter 17-20mm Diameter of head 48mm.

Probably used to secure a hinged joint; the bolt would have dropped vertically. If the end of the shank were originally pierced, it could have been secured by a peg, or split pin. Possibly a cart fitting. A comparable piece comes from Hod Hill (Manning 1985, 126; pl. 58 R6). Phase 2.

02. 083 (062) Junction loop, or strap hinge, consisting of an elongated rectangular strap of very thin cross-section, with a rolled-over loop at one end. The loop is of sub-rectangular cross-section, and is secured to the back of the plate by means



Iron Nos. 1-3 (Scale 1 : 2)

of a rivet through the flattened end. There is a second rivet, or nail, hole through the opposite end of the strap.

Length 115mm.

This fitting may have linked to a ring as part of a junction from harness or trace, in which case the rivets, or nails, will have served to secure the fitting to a leather strap. Alternatively it may be a hinge for a small door, or part of a strip that was attached to a small shaft as a link, or junction.

03. 054 (081) Link from a bit, formed from a bar of square section. One end is rolled over to form a loop, and the other is flattened and rolled into a tube, or collar. The latter is damaged and corroded. Badly mineralised and fragmentary:

Length *c.* 80mm

Half of the jointed mouth bar of a snaffle bit. The looped end attached to the loop of a similar bar. The collars at the outer ends were fixed to rings attached to the reins.

THE GLASS
by D. Brennan

During the excavation 51 fragments of Roman vessel glass, 2 fragments of window glass and 5 glass objects were found. The entire assemblage is of first and second century date. Thirty-five fragments come from natural-coloured blue and bluish-green vessels, typical of the first and second centuries. Thirteen of these are featureless body fragments and could come from a number of different vessels. Of the containers that were common during the first and second centuries, only fragments from cylindrical bottles (Isings 1957, Form 51) were identified. One multi-ribbed handle fragment was found, which could be from either a square mould-blown or a cylindrical bottle. Other vessel forms in natural coloured glass include pillar-moulded bowls and bowls with hollow tubular rims.

The cast pillar-moulded bowl (Isings 1957, Form 3) occurs frequently on British sites, from first and early second century contexts. At Cross Street, it is the earliest and seemingly most common vessel form. There are 13 fragments, 9 are bluish-green and 4 are deep blue. Fragments, though often small and featureless are easily recognised because of their distinctive surface finish, and fragments from coarsely made bowls are thicker and therefore more durable than blown vessels. Harden (1947, 288) has suggested that, for these two reasons, the pillar-moulded bowl might not be as common on sites as sometimes believed. The bluish-green pillar-moulded bowls are all thick walled, with prominent vertical ribs tapering towards the base (no. 01). Each one is wheel-polished on the interior and on the rim exterior where it survives, the rest of the exterior is fire polished. Numerous parallells can be cited, as at Fishbourne (Harden and Price 1971, fig. 137, no. 19) and Verulamium (Charlesworth. 1972, fig. 74, no. 4). The deep blue body fragments are possibly all from one vessel (no. 02). Dark blue vessels are less numerous, compare a similar vessel from Whitton (Price 1981, fig. 66, no. 3). The bluish-green bowls were in use during the mid first century and continued in production to the late first or early second century. Pillar-moulded bowls in coloured glass were no longer produced after the mid-first century.

Two fragments from bowls with tubular rims were found, both in pale blue glass (no. 03). Bowls and jars with hollow tubular rims were favourites throughout the Roman period. It was not possible to be certain of the shape of either vessel, but the colour of the glass points to a first or second century date. For a similar bowl compare Verulamium (Charlesworth 1972, fig. 74, no. 9). Other vessels were found in small numbers. They include nine fragments from ribbed bowls and jugs; three are pale green, six are deep blue coloured glass (no. 05). All nine fragments are from blown vessels typical of the first century. Also found were one deep blue and three pale green indeterminate body fragments, which almost certainly come from first century vessels.

Only two fragments of window glass were recovered. They come from matt/glossy panes, having one rough and one smooth surface. This type of window glass was in

use from the first to the early third centuries (Boon 1966). The objects consists of two glass counters (nos. 08 and 09), two complete melon beads and one melon bead fragment, (no. 10). Counters and melon beads are common finds on Roman sites throughout the period, but especially from first and second century contexts.

Catalogue

Vessel Glass

01. 057 (032) Fragment from rim and upper body of pillar-moulded bowl, bluish-green. Prominent vertical rib tapering towards base. Mould mark visible on top of rib. Cast, wheel polished on interior and on outside of rim, rest of exterior is fire polished.

Rim diameter not established thickness 3-6mm.

02. 002 (016) Fragment from the rim and upper body of pillar-moulded bowl, translucent deep blue. Parts of two vertical ribs extant, ribs tapering towards base. Finish as no. 01.

Rim diameter 160-80mm.

03. 057 (018) Fragment from rim and upper body of bowl, pale blue. Blown. Hollow tubular rim, folded out, over and in. Shape uncertain.

Rim diameter 210mm thickness 2mm.

04. 056 Two fragments from body of ribbed bowl, translucent pale green. Blown. Parts of two vertical optic-blown ribs.

Thickness 1mm.
(Not illustrated).

05. 056 (011) Fragment from the body of ribbed jug, translucent deep blue. Blown. Part of two vertical optic-blown ribs.

Thickness 1.5mm.

Bottle Glass

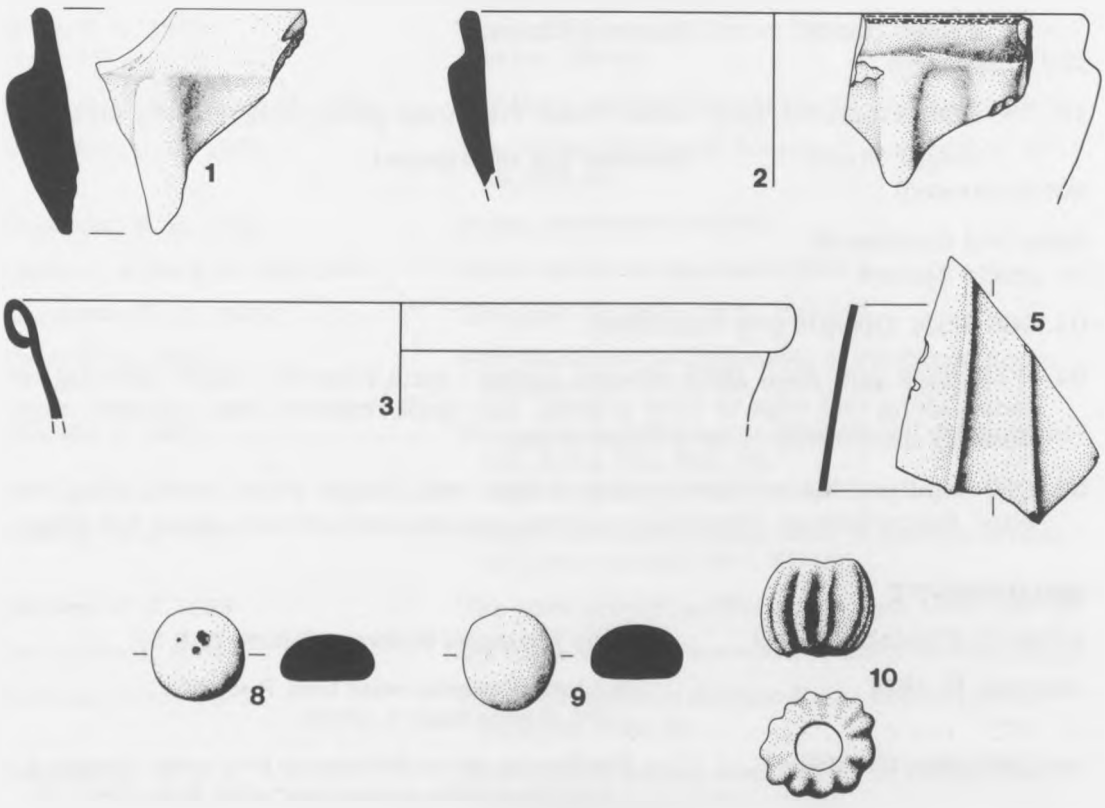
06. 014 Fragment from handle of mould-blown bottle, bluish-green. Applied multi-ribbed, angular handle, with parts of thirteen ribs extant. Ribs form fine pointed claws which grip the body.

Present length 32mm width extant 40mm.
(Not illustrated).

Window Glass

07. 057 Window glass, bluish-green. Matt/glossy type, cast moulded.

Thickness 3mm.
(Not illustrated).



Glass (Scale 1 : 2)
(Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5)

Glass Beads (1 : 1)
(Nos. 8, 9, 10)

Glass Objects

08. 002 (007) Monochrome gaming piece or counter, opaque white. Plano-convex with rough flattened base and polished domed top.

Maximum height 5mm diameter 12mm.

09. 004 (037) Monochrome gaming piece or counter, opaque dark green, almost black. As no. 08.

Maximum height 7mm diameter c. 12mm.

Phase 2.

10. 003 (036) Melon bead, turquoise glass paste. Heavily abraded.

Height 11mm diameter 13mm.

11. 003 (088) Melon bead, turquoise glass paste. Heavily abraded.

Height 10mm diameter 13mm.
(Not illustrated).

12. 058 (029) Fragment, large melon bead. Turquoise glass paste. Heavily abraded.

Height 11mm diameter not established.
Not illustrated).

Flint (Not illustrated)
By Ursilla Spence

01. 066 (053) Opaque grey flint/chert.

02. 002 Black grey flint, thick smooth cortex - pink (?burnt). Slight nibbling retouch along one edge to form a point, one spall removed from opposite edge, possibly deliberately or as a result of use.

03. 009 Semitranslucent honey-coloured flint, with deeply pitted cortex along one edge. Soapy texture. Triangular in cross-section, with retouch along 3/4 edges.

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THE MONMOUTH HOARD OF ÆTHELRED II COINS

By STEPHEN CLARKE

+ ÆDELRÆD REX ANGLOR

+ ÆLFSIGE M-O BARDA
(Aelfsige, Barnstaple)
(Plates: National Museum of Wales

In 1991 a hoard, of 11 silver pennies and a cut halfpenny of Æthelred II (979-1016) was discovered in woodland on a hillside overlooking Monmouth[1]. The find was made by Mr. David Streatley, unconnected with any local society, whilst digging for prehistoric flints. The author saw these coins, which were all of the Crux type short cross pennies (BMC 3A) issued c. 991-97 A.D; and a note on the find was published, without detail, in a new book on the region's archaeology[2]. The four Gloucester and Hereford pieces listed below are exactly what would be expected in a small hoard just inside the Welsh border at Monmouth.

Before the coins could be examined by a specialist they were stolen, but, recognising the importance of the hoard, the finder has agreed to the publication of a list of his own identifications of the coins - as given to the author before the theft. Although the loss of the coins means that the identifications remain unconfirmed by a numismatist, it is felt that the discovery is of such great importance that the list should be published but treated with caution. It is, however, possible for a numismatist to check the readings, and the late Mr George Boon kindly did this below, retaining the order of the original list.

1. **GOD M-O LVNDO** (London)
2. **ÆDELFINE M-O OXNA** (Oxford)
3. **LEOFSIGE M-O GLEA** (Gloucester)
4. **TVN[EMAN M-]O SVÐBY** (Southwark/Sudbury)
5. **OSFOLD M-O SNOT** (Nottingham)
6. **ÆLFGET M-O HERE** (Hereford)
7. **[DAF]IN M-O EO[FRFIC]** (York)
8. **ÆLFRIC M-O SVÐBYR** (Southwark/Sudbury).
9. **GO[D M-O LVN] DO ?** (London,
10. **PI[HTSIGE]E M-O GLEA** (Gloucester)
11. **BYRHSTAN M-O HERE** (Hereford)
12. **LEOFRIC M-O GIEL** (Ilchester)

Mr Boon commented that there was little obviously wrong with Mr Streatley's list. A careful comparison of the indicated moneyer and mint-readings with the lists in Bror Emil Hildebrand's *Anglosachsiska Mynt* (Stockholm, 1881) and various fascicules of the *Sylloge of coins of the British Isles* makes this quite plain, and the mis-spelling GIEL for GIFEL in No. 12, which corresponds with Hildebrand's No. 1034 as to moneyer and type, goes far to settle any doubts as to the sole type represented: [M-O: monetarius or moneyer].

For another account of this hoard, see: Besly, E., 'Recent Coin Hoards From Wales, 1985-1992', *The British Numismatic Journal* 63 (1993; publ. 1994) 84-85 (No. 1).

NOTES

1. The National Grid Reference, and other details, are being deposited in Monmouth Museum and the National Museum of Wales.
2. Walters, B., *The Archaeology and History of Ancient Dean and The Wye Valley* (Thornhill Press, Cheltenham,1992) 134.

(The author is indebted to the late Mr. George Boon for his interest, and to the National Museum for supplying photographs of coins similar in type to some of those stolen.)

EXCAVATIONS BEHIND BANK STREET, CHEPSTOW; 1992

By MARTIN LOCOCK

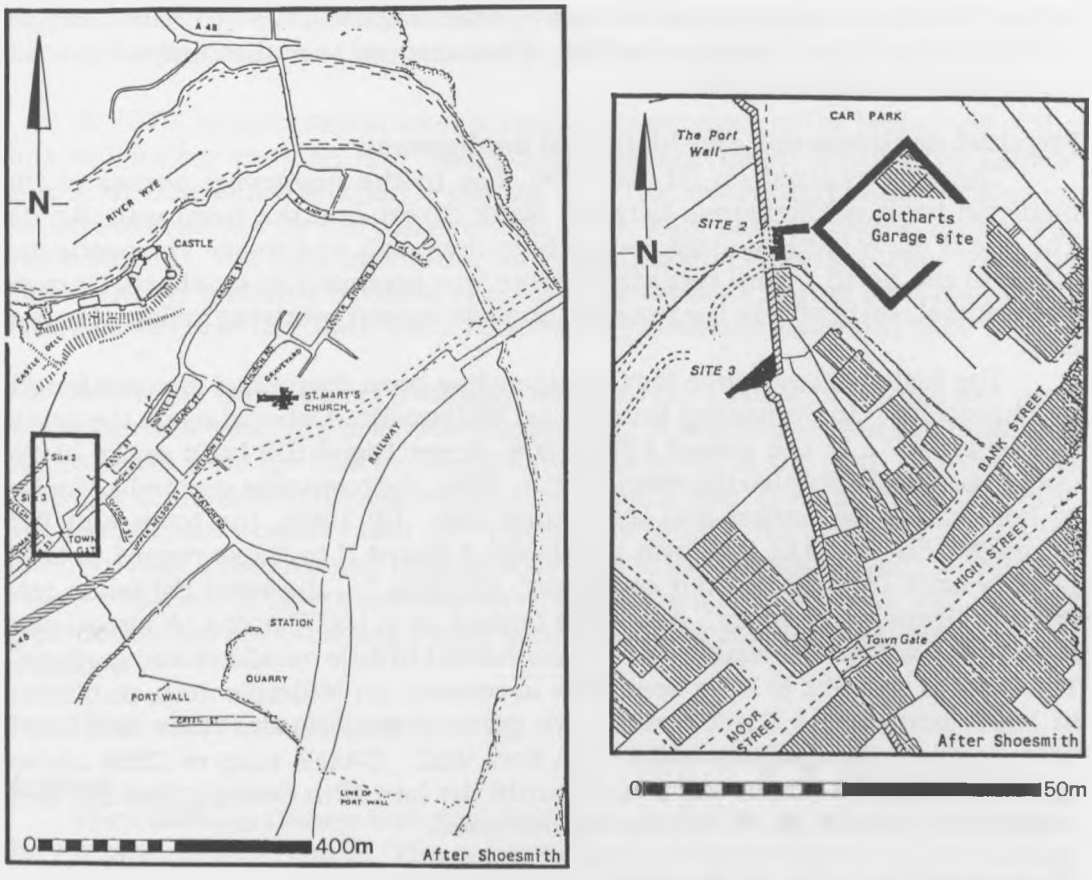

Fig. 1 Location map

Summary

An excavation was undertaken on the Coltharts Garage site, just inside the Port Wall in the northwest part of Chepstow. The central part of the site contained a feature identified as an 18th century quarry. To the west, a group of medieval and post-medieval features were revealed, including a medieval foundation trench and pit. In the eastern part of the site, a cess-pit, part of a cobbled surface, and a flimsy wall, all of post-medieval date, were found. The evidence for 13th century activity and boundaries from the site confirms recent theories concerning the market place of Chepstow.

Introduction

Gwent County Council proposed to use the site of Coltharts Garage, off Bank Street, Chepstow for a new library building. A brief investigation in 1988 had identified a sequence of stratified archaeological deposits. In 1992, Gwent County Council began to implement the proposed development, and commissioned the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust to carry out an archaeological excavation on the site. This account is a summary of the full report prepared by the Trust.

Physical environment and historical background

The site, centred on ST 533 939, lies in the northwest corner of the medieval town of Chepstow, between Bank Street and the town wall (fig. 1). The site is fairly level, sloping up gently to the north and west. The castle lies 100m to the north. Until recently the site was occupied by Coltharts Garage. The natural soil profile in the area is a shallow topsoil overlying yellow clay and Lias.

The historical evidence for Chepstow has been discussed at some length by Shoesmith.[1] In Domesday Book, "Earl William [fitz-Osborn] made the castle of Estrighoiel". In the period 1270-1306, Roger Bigod (III) built much of the castle, and probably also the town wall; in 1294, the town was granted a charter to hold a weekly market and an annual fair. By 1306, the town had 308 burgages, but in 1311 the town petitioned Edward II to "have regard to their poverty until God mend their condition". In 1524 "... the town [is] fallen into great indigence and decay", and John Leland, in c.1537, noted "A [great] part of cumpace withyn the waulles is no[w con]verted to little meadows and gardens". The town is thought to have been slow to recover: on Millerd's map, published in 1686, houses line Bank Street, with gardens behind, and there is a blank area north of the gardens within the Port Wall. Coxe's map of 1801 shows gardens filling the blank, but it is not until the late 19th century that the area of the town was known to be densely occupied.

Archaeological sites in the area

There have been enough Roman finds from Chepstow to suggest that a settlement lay in the area. Just south of the Castle, a Roman gold coin was found; two further Roman coins were found just outside the Port Wall, south of Moor Street, in the 19th century. Three cremations were excavated on the Cattle Market site in the 1970s.[2]

The medieval landscape of Chepstow is still clearly visible in the present layout of the town, with the High Street running down to the bridge across the Wye. The growth of the town was preceded by the construction of the castle, in the 1070s, during the Norman conquest of south Wales. The castle became the centre of the lordship of Striguil. A market town grew up south of the

castle, and was granted a market charter in 1294. Butler[3] and Courtney[4] have suggested that the High Street/Bank Street block represents a planned market place of the 13th century which has since been infilled, that extended to the southwest of the later Port Wall. The town was walled in the late 13th century, enclosing a large area (53 ha.). It has been suggested that this area was much larger than the settlement,[5] but more recent studies have concluded that the town extended as far as the wall and probably beyond.[6]

In 1972, an excavation was carried out in advance of the breaching of the Port Wall for car-park access. This site lay just northwest of Coltharts Garage (Site 2 in Shoesmith's report[7]; see fig. 1). The excavation concentrated on structural evidence for the construction of the wall, and a possible stair-tower was revealed. The area inside the wall revealed no evidence earlier than the 17th century, probably because of removal of deposits during levelling at that date. Elsewhere in the town, 13th-15th century domestic waste has been noted.[8]

When the Bank Street frontages south of the Coltharts Garage site were redeveloped, a watching brief was carried out. It was found that the buildings on the street frontage had been extensively cellared in the 19th century, and no earlier undisturbed deposits were seen. To the rear, rubbish pits with 18th- and 19th-century pottery and clay pipes were found. No medieval finds were noted. In May 1988, a small trial pit was dug on the northwest part of the site. A deep sequence of layers was revealed, including a late medieval wall, and an apparent buried soil overlying a layer containing coarse pottery, possibly Roman in date.

The 1992 excavation (fig. 2)

Method

The Coltharts Garage buildings had been demolished to ground level when the excavation took place. The concrete and tarmac surfaces of the garage apron were removed by a mechanical excavator; subsequent excavation was mainly by hand, though the central feature's lower fills were excavated mechanically. Five trenches were excavated; Trenches 5, 1 and 3 formed a single transect running east-west across the centre of the site; Trench 2 was a north-south trench running from Trench 1 to the north edge of the site; Trench 4 was a small test-pit dug at the south edge of the site.

Trench 1 (fig. 3, plate 1)

This 8m x 2m trench ran east-west across the centre of the site, and was extended by machine to locate the limits of quarry 013. The subsoil in this area was horizontally-bedded lias with layers of clay (014). Cut into the lias

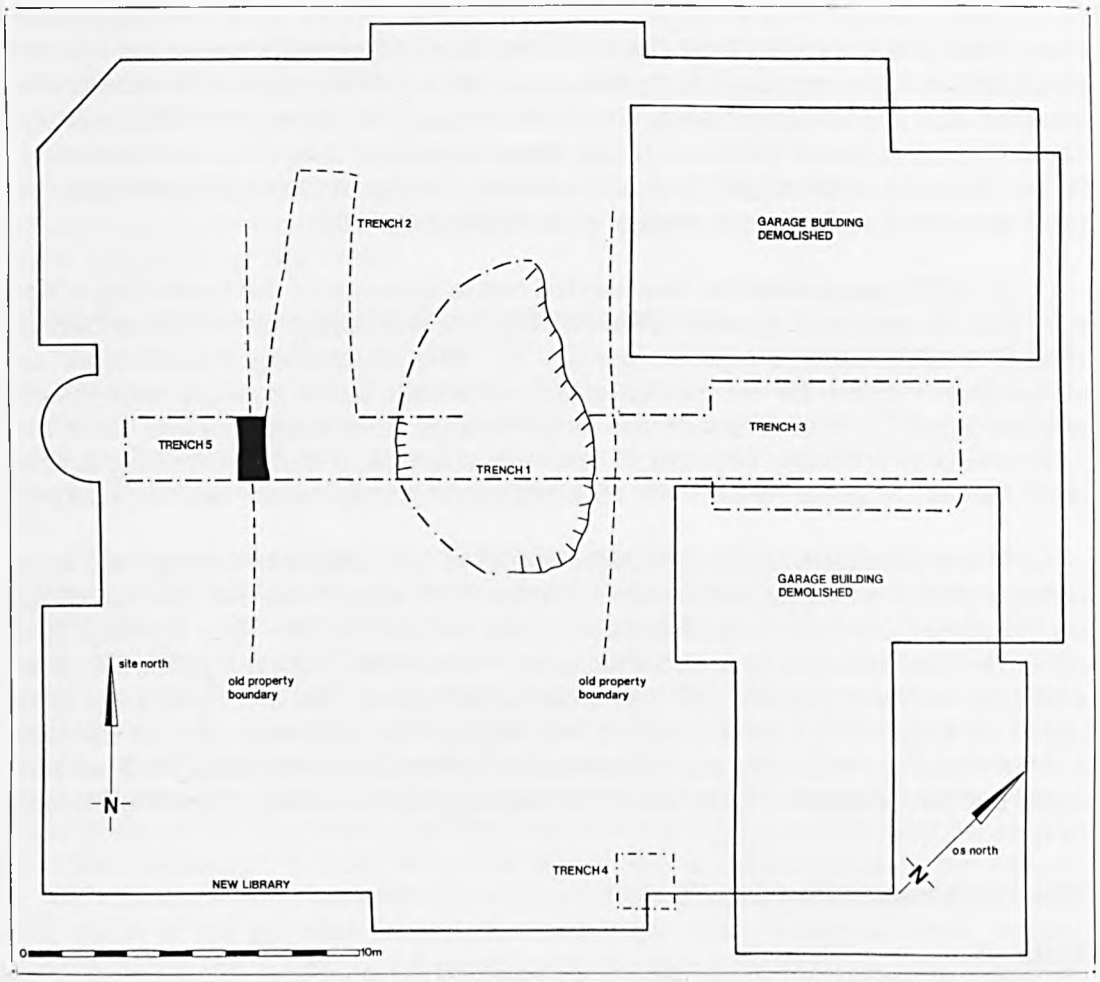

Fig. 2: Plan of site, showing Trenches 1-5

was a large oval feature (013), 9m north-south x 6m east-west x 3m deep, filled by clay 012. The fill had slumped in the centre, forming depression 011, which had then been filled with building debris 003, including numerous damaged stone roof-tiles and finds. At the west end of Trench 1, the lias was cut by a steep-sided semi-circular pit (021), 1.5m diameter x 1m deep, filled by grey clay loam 020; this pit respected the boundary line on which wall 032 (in Trench 5) was built. The fill contained numerous medieval pottery sherds and charcoal flecks, and a few fragments of iron slag; the finds are of 13th century date.

Trench 1: pit 021 (excavated section to right), looking west, showing later wall on boundary line

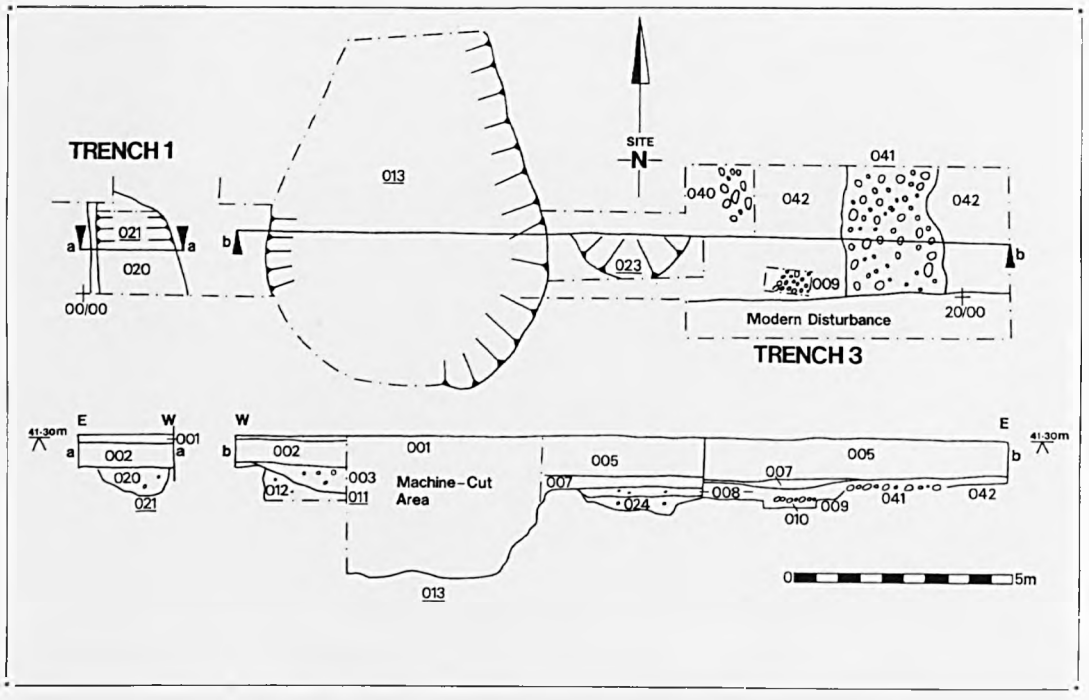

Fig. 3: Trenches 1 and 3: plan and sections

Trench 2 (fig. 4)

This 7m x 2m trench ran approximately north from the east end of Trench 1 to the north edge of the site. The natural subsoil in this area was yellow clay with some outcrops of lias (018). Cut into the lias was a linear feature (019), running north-northwest, 7m long x 1m wide x 0.5m deep, with a square butt-end at the south: the northern butt-end was disturbed by a later feature. The fill of 019 was a compacted brown clay (017) with numerous large stones. A shallow square post-hole (030), 0.25m long x 0.25m wide x 0.10m deep, lay 0.20m northeast of the linear feature 019; the fill (031) contained a sherd of medieval pottery. A shallow irregular cut (029), 1m across x 0.15m deep, was dug at the north end of the trench, filled by clay loam with sand 022.

Trench 3 (fig. 3)

This east-west trench ran across the centre of the site, continuing the line of Trench 1 eastwards. The trench was originally cut by machine, 8m x 1m, through the demolition rubble from the garage (005), down to the overall black layer 007, and a small test-pit was dug by hand at the east end. Subsequently the area was opened out by machine, to a width of 4m, and the layer 007 was removed. The features were exposed and recorded but not excavated.

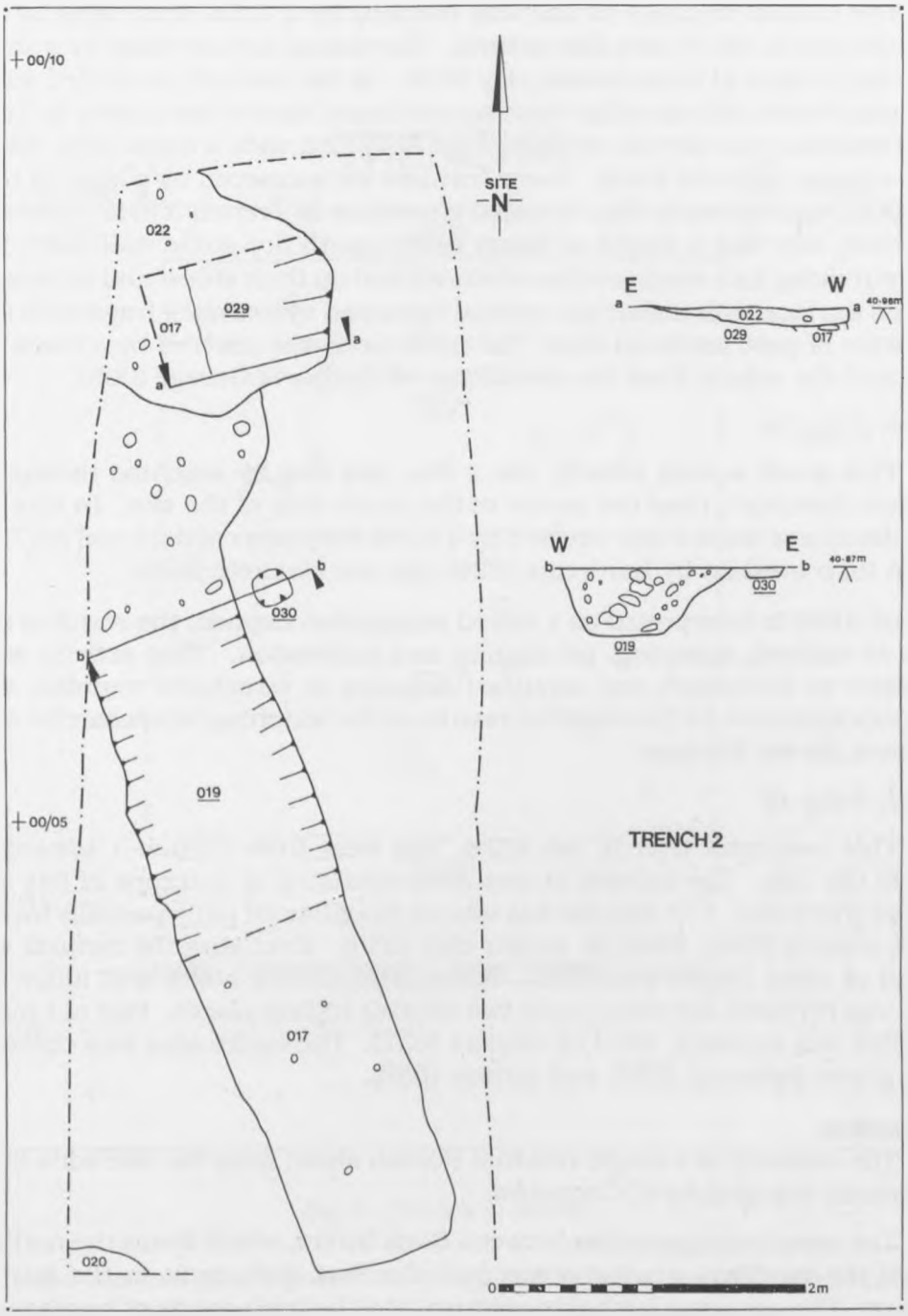

Fig. 4: Trench 2: plan and section

The natural bedrock of lias was overlain by a 0.3m deep layer of blue-green clay (015), which was also natural. This was in turn overlain by a shallow (0.1m deep) layer of clean brown clay (010). In the test-pit, a cobbled surface (009) was found, with an edge running northeast; east of the quarry in Trench 1, the machine-cut section revealed a pit (023), 2m wide x 0.4m deep, filled by black organic material (024). These features were covered by a layer of brown clay (008), equivalent to that revealed elsewhere in Trench 3 (042). Overlying the brown clay was a length of flimsy north-south dry-stone wall (040), 0.6m wide, surviving as a single course of stones laid on their sides, and an irregular cobbled surface with numerous animal bone and oyster shell fragments (041); both were of post-medieval date. The entire area was covered by a black layer (007) and the rubble from the demolition of Coltharts Garage (005).

Trench 4 (fig. 5)

This small square trench, 2m x 2m, was dug by machine through the concrete forecourt, near the centre of the south side of the site. In this area, the subsoil was sand (028), covered by a 0.5m deep layer of dark soil (027); this was in turn overlain by hard-core (026) and the concrete (025).

The soil (028) is interpreted as a mixed occupation deposit, the result of many years of rubbish dumping, pit-digging and cultivation. This activity was so extensive as to disturb any stratified deposits or structural remains, which probably accounts for the negative results of the watching briefs carried out on the Bank Street frontage.

Trench 5 (fig. 6)

This east-west trench, 4m x 2m, ran west from Trench 1 towards the edge of the site. The subsoil in this area consisted of outcrops of lias and a layer of green clay. Cut into the lias was an irregular pit (only partially included in the trench) (034), filled by brown clay (035). Overlying the natural was a spread of clean brown clay (043). A north-south dry-stone wall (032), 0.8m wide, was revealed, surviving up to two courses high in places. Part of a modern cut (036) was exposed, filled by cinders (037). The entire area was covered by loose gravel make-up (038) and tarmac (039).

Discussion

The recovery of a single residual Roman sherd from the site adds little to the Roman topography of Chepstow.

The area investigated lies between Bank Street, which forms the northwest side of the medieval market-place, and the Port Wall, built in the late 13th century. The area was probably split up into the back-yards of burgage plots lining Bank Street. The position of the features discovered by excavation suggests that three plots lay in the affected area.

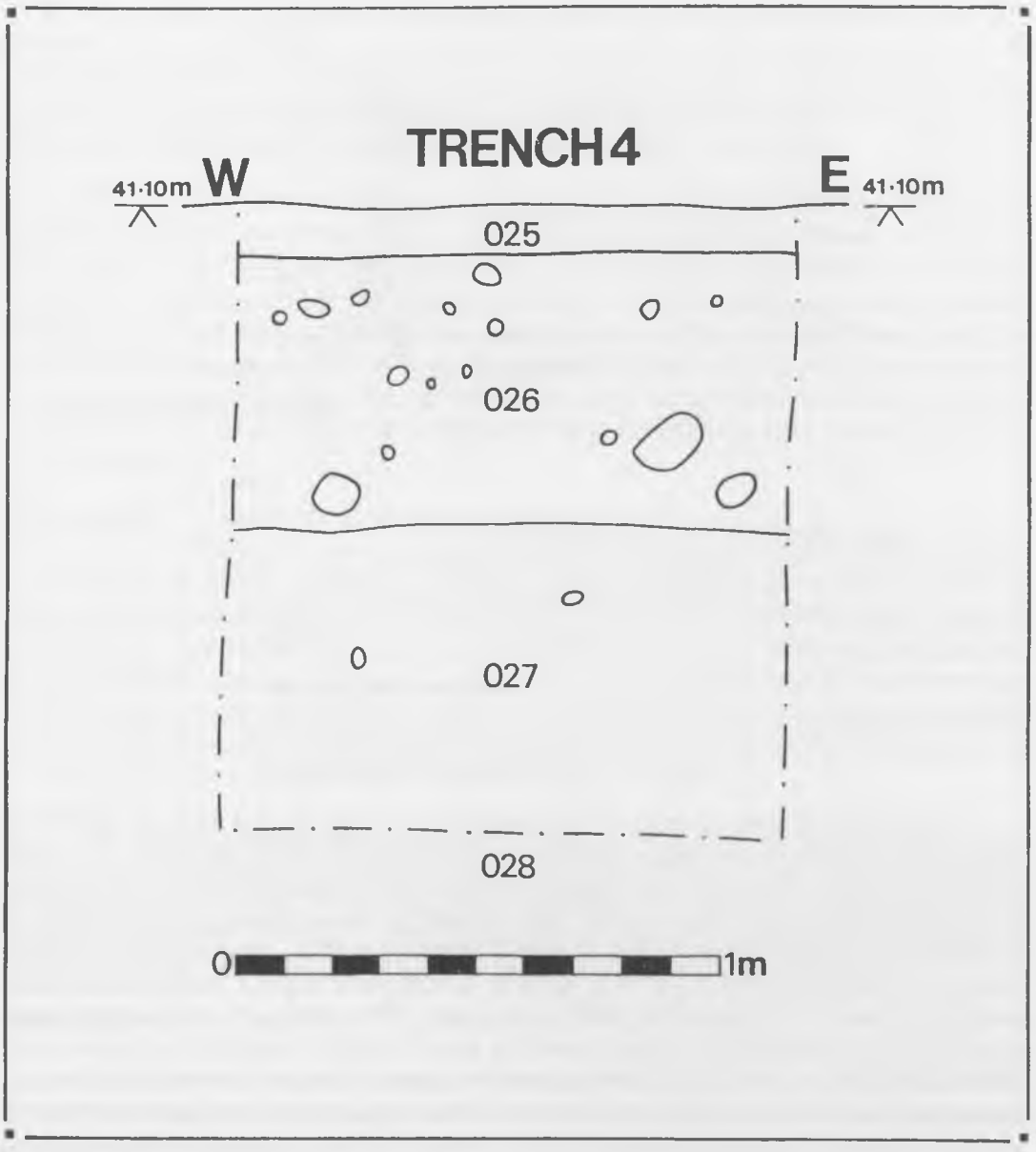

Fig. 5: Trench 4: section

In the western plot, a post-medieval pit was the only old feature identified. The excavated wall is apparently of post-medieval date, and lies on the pre-1970 property boundary. It would seem that it was a garden wall built on an earlier line.

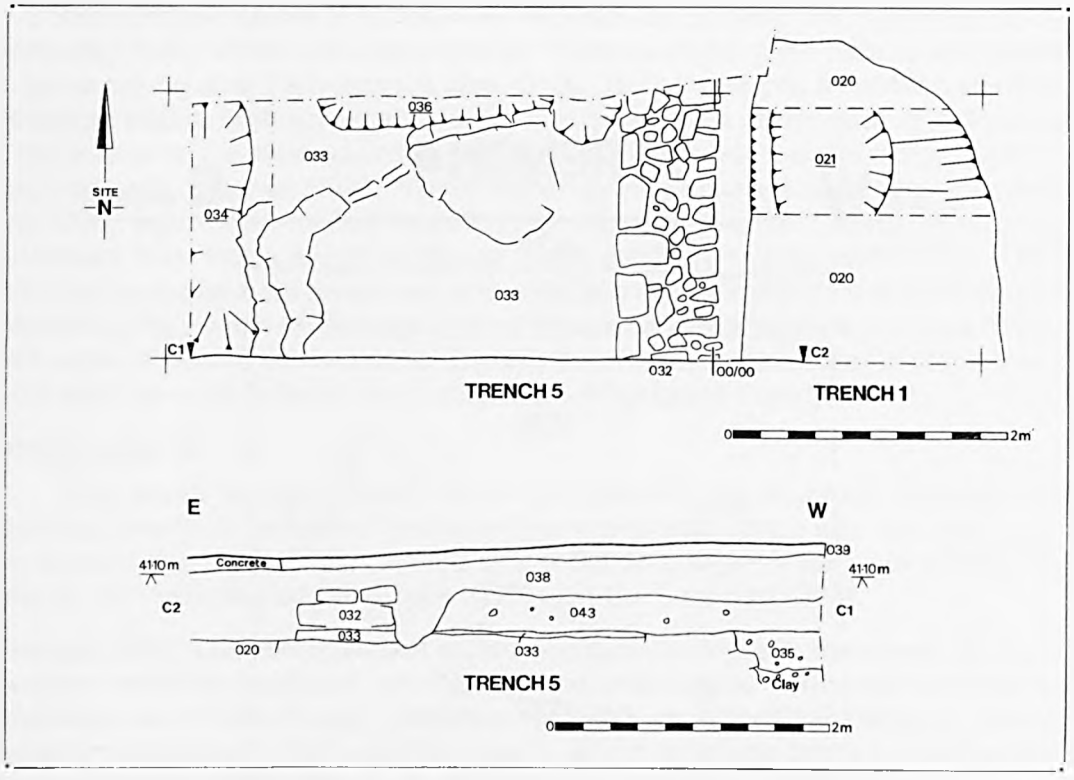

Fig. 6 Trench 5: plan and section

The central plot apparently contained a substantial timber building, perhaps used for industrial purposes; a rubbish-pit was also dug. The size and shape of the feature 019 suggests that it is a foundation trench. In cutting it, the bedrock had to be removed. This would be unnecessary for the laying of a stone foundation, since bedrock would be more stable. It seems more likely, therefore, that the trench was cut to allow the positioning of a timber structure, packed in soil and stones to hold it in place. The difficulty of cutting more conventional post-holes is illustrated by post-hole 030, which can have done little more than provide a shallow socket for a post. Trench 019 would therefore seem to show that a substantial timber-framed structure occupied this part of the site. Since the contemporary pit 021 respects the boundary to the west, it would seem that the plot boundaries had become fixed by the 13th century. This means that any structure including 019 must have extended to the east rather than to the west.

In the post-medieval period the area was dominated by cut 013. From its size and character, the most likely interpretation is that it was a quarry in the back-plot of the Bank Street properties. Such quasi-industrial activity is typical

of urban areas in the early post-medieval period. The primary fill 012 would appear to be re-deposited spoil from the quarrying. The building debris 003 includes a variety of material, perhaps implying that the parts of the source building dated to late medieval times; the most likely location for this building was on the Bank Street frontage on the south side of the plot.

The eastern plot contained evidence of back-yard activities. In the first phase (early post-medieval), there was a pit and cobbled surface; the second has a wall and a larger cobbled surface. The pit (023) is probably a cess-pit; the early cobbled surface may be a pathway. The later features are probably related: the wall was probably the footing for a light timber frame, and the cobbled surface seemed to be a work area, perhaps for butchery (as suggested by the animal bone finds). The cobbled area may have been the floor of an area protected from the weather by a light covering attached to the frame resting on the stub wall.

Conclusion

The late 17th-century town shown by Millerd, in which space was not at a premium, may have been the result of a decline from the late medieval period. The area enclosed by the Port Wall may in fact have been relatively densely occupied at one time. The use of the central plot for a building behind the street frontage at such an early date also suggests that the medieval town had reached the upper side of the castle in the 13th century, implying that the large planned market-place was at least partly occupied before being cut by the line of the Port Wall.

The post-medieval features indicate the variety of uses made of the back-plot areas. Although the earliest map of Chepstow (Millerd's map, 1694) shows only garden areas here, it is clear that there was other, more intensive, activity behind the street frontage, and the continuing value placed on the land is reflected in the survival and respecting of the old boundaries.

The Finds: By P. Courtney, M. Locock and S. H. Sell, (fig. 7)

The finds were examined and catalogued by GGAT: the record of finds by context and a detailed catalogue will be found in the site archive, deposited in Chepstow Museum.

A total of 511 sherds of pottery (examined by Dr P Courtney) and 692 animal bone fragments was recovered (examined by M Locock). A collection of building material was also found, including stone roof tiles and 4.5kg of ceramic building material (brick and tile), mostly from post-medieval contexts. Glass, clay pipes and a small quantity of metalwork were also present (examined by S. Sell). The material was retrieved from 14 contexts.

003 Medieval and post-medieval finds are represented, with a terminus towards the end of the 18th century. Most of the wine bottles are of the cylindrical type, belonging to the last part of the 18th century, or a little later. One example had been used to store lead shot - presumably a secondary usage. A clay pipe bowl is of a type first produced in the late 17th century. Much of the finer ceramic material, which includes Staffordshire buffwares and salt-glazed stonewares, and tin-glazed earthenwares, fits easily between these dates, as do the coarse red earthenwares, both "local" types (some with white slip decoration, perhaps from the kilns at Stroat in the Forest of Dean) and products of the North Devon industries.

Tablewares and storage/cooking vessels are equally represented within the medieval assemblage. Products of the Redcliffe and Tudor Green industries are present, and there is a variety of green-glazed whitewares from the Ham Green industry of the 15th and 16th centuries and from an unidentified, probably Coal Measures, source.

Modern contamination was shown by the presence of asbestos tile.

A date of c.1680-1760 is most probable for this assemblage.

007 A few fragments of medieval pottery, both glazed (including two sherds of a Ham Green jug) and plain, were noted, along with a piece of lead-glazed floor tile of later date (17th or early 18th century). A sherd of green-glazed roof-tile could belong to the medieval period, or may be a little later. Animal bone included sheep/goat, cow, horse, pig and rabbit/hare. The number of identifiable bones is too small to allow statistical analysis, but are consistent with primary butchery waste.

008 This context contains medieval pottery, most of it unglazed. A basal sherd from a tripod pitcher from North Wiltshire could belong to the 12th century. Animal bone included a dorsal fragment from a thornback ray, and similar species to 007.

009 One nail only was noted.

012 This context contained a small quantity of ceramic types with a date of c.1680-1760; a small quantity of medieval pottery (from a Ham Green jug, a jug of a pink sandy fabric, perhaps from the Forest of Dean, and an oxidised Malvern ware sherd) was also present.

017 Most of the datable finds were of the medieval period, with glazed wares predominating (Redcliffe, Ham Green, Vale of Gloucester and possible Forest of Dean). Late medieval products of the Saintonge (southwest France) and Merida (west Spain) were also noted. A single sherd of redware may be Roman, from the Oxfordshire industries. A single sherd of blackware, 16th-17th century in date, was also found. Large numbers of animal bone fragments were recovered. The species present, in descending importance, were cow, horse, sheep/goat, pig and rabbit/hare, and are consistent with primary butchery waste.

020 This context produced a sizeable group of unglazed medieval pottery, together with a handful of glazed wares of the period. A minimum of nine unglazed vessels were present; most were probably of local origin, but some products of the Ham Green

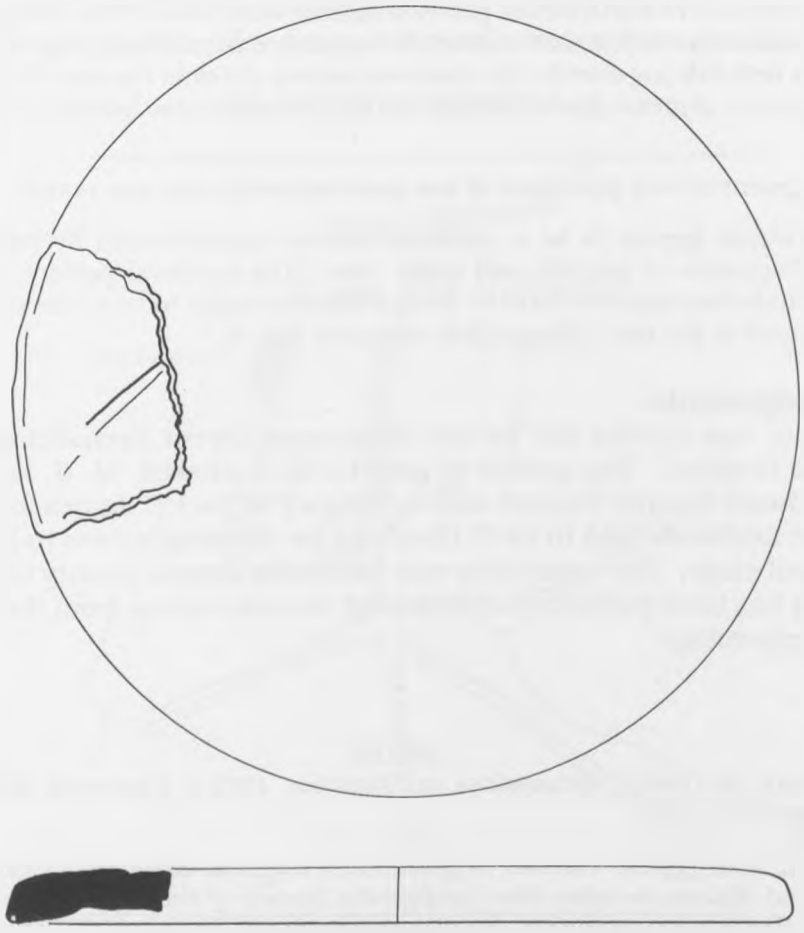

Fig. 7: The finds: Vale of Gloucester ware lid from 042

industry, and a sherd of a North Wiltshire tripod pitcher were also present. An early to mid 13th century is implied by the presence of the Ham Green and North Wiltshire sherds and the absence of Redcliffe jugs. This context contained similar animal bone to 017.

024 A small quantity of residual medieval pottery (including Redcliffe jug sherds) was noted, alongside a sherd from an "onion" bottle and a clay pipe stem which are both likely to be of 17th century date; the rims of a large pan with external thumbed cordon beneath the rim, and of a chafing dish, probably also belong to the 17th or early 18th century. The animal bone was similar to 007.

031 Three fragments of unglazed medieval pottery were noted.

033 A small quantity of both unglazed and glazed (Redcliffe and Ham Green) medieval pottery was present, as were sherds from vessels of probable 17th or early 18th century date.

035 One fragment of North Devon gravel-tempered ware was noted, alongside a small group of medieval pottery, which included a bodysherd from a Saintonge monochrome jug and two Redcliffe jug sherds; the medieval pottery dates to the late 13th century or later. Fragments of green-glazed roof tile (as in 007) might also belong to the medieval period.

037 A fragment of clay pipe stem of late post-medieval date was noted.

042 This would appear to be a medieval context contaminated by later material, including fragments of pan-tile and sewer pipe. The medieval pottery, some thirty sherds, included an unusual form, a lid in a fabric thought to be a Vale of Gloucester type, produced in the late 11th or 12th centuries (fig. 7).

Acknowledgements

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EXCAVATIONS AT TRELECH, GWENT, 1991-93: an investigation of a decayed medieval urban settlement

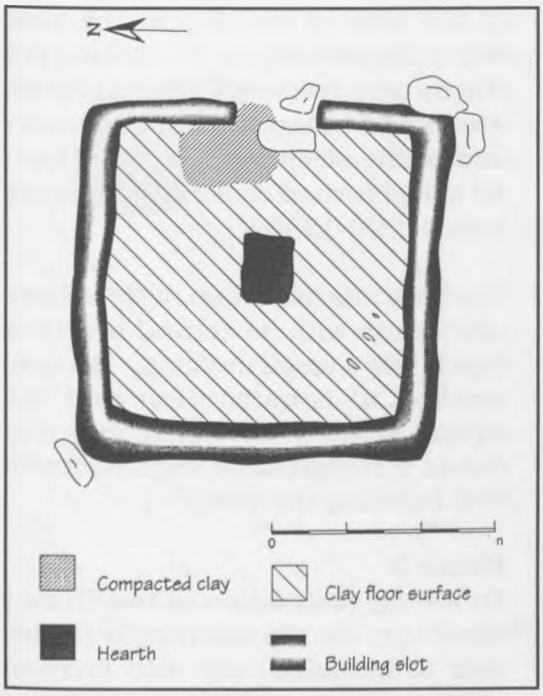
By RAYMOND HOWELL

The Historical Background

Trelech is a less than fully understood but clearly very important example of a decayed medieval urban settlement in Wales. Limited but consistent documentary evidence indicates that, in the thirteenth and early fourteenth century, Trelech was among the largest towns in Wales.[1] The town developed around a motte and bailey castle which was first documented in 1231[2] and soon enjoyed borough status and its own market.[3] By 1288 the town was flourishing as records suggest that it had no fewer than 378 burgages.[4] This remarkable total made Trelech, for a short time at least, the second largest, and conceivably the largest, urban centre in Wales.[5] Even if this conclusion is viewed with some caution, there is still sufficient historical evidence to confirm a substantial population, albeit a declining one after 1295 when fire destroyed 102 burgages in the town.[6] There were 271 burgages in Trelech in 1306 and 265 in 1314, totals which still placed the town among the eight largest in Wales.[7]

Trelech declined as an urban centre during the second half of the fourteenth century. A reduction in population was in part a consequence of the plague, with a particularly serious outbreak in the town and surrounding area in 1369. Fighting in support of Owain Glyndŵr who won a major victory at nearby Craig y Dorth in 1404 may also have been a contributory factor.[8] A growing body of archaeological evidence, however, indicates that the decline was already well advanced by the mid fourteenth century. Given the geographical difficulties associated with the site of Trelech, it has generally been thought easier to explain the decline of the town than to account either for its original foundation or subsequent success as an urban centre. Most successful medieval towns in Wales were river and/or coastal ports. Trelech, landlocked on a plateau, seems a singularly unlikely location for a major population centre. The foundation of the town, however, can be explained as a speculative de Clare implantation, at least in part with the "colonial" objective of increasing Marcher authority in the Welshry.[9] It is only within this historical context that the economy and subsequent success of Trelech as a major town can be understood.

Because the historical evidence relating to medieval Trelech is limited, archaeological investigation of the town was begun in 1987 in an effort to clarify the picture. Research excavations initially consisted of a series of test trenches on the periphery of the town which confirmed industrial processes, especially iron production, in "extra mural" areas beyond the assumed boundaries of medieval Trelech.[10] Evidence of iron smelting on a large scale complemented the results of an earlier rescue excavation within the town.[11] The success of these early investigations encouraged a more systematic excavation programme which is now being undertaken by the Gwent College of Higher Education in Caerleon employing students on the college's B.A. Combined Studies degree course. In the summers of 1991, 1992 and 1993, presumed burgage plots in the centre of the medieval town were excavated. The site was in a small field owned by Mr. and Mrs. Alan Poulter who supported the excavation at all stages. Located between the church and the tump of the motte and bailey castle, the site offered an excellent opportunity to explore the development of a central portion of the town. The results of that excavation are discussed in this report. In the conclusions, a model to explain the early development and subsequent growth of Trelech will be suggested. The interpretation is consistent with the archaeological and historical information now available and may explain what would otherwise seem a particularly unlikely urban implantation.



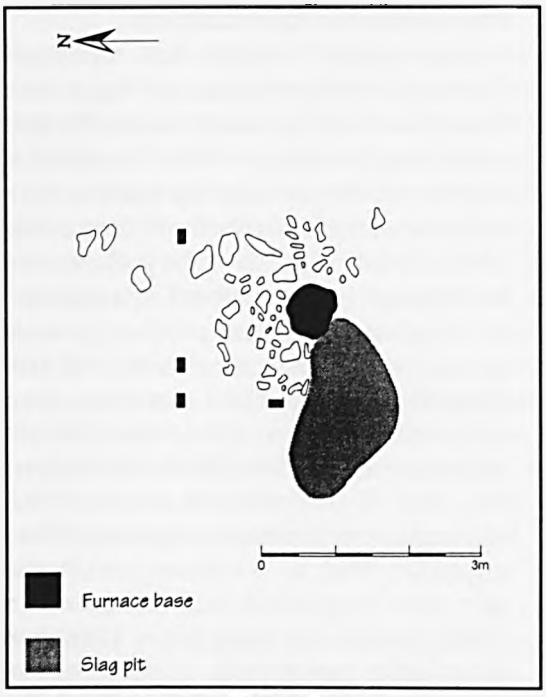
Phase 1

The 1991-92 Excavations

It is generally thought that medieval Trelech developed around two main streets with the area between the two providing the site for both the church and the motte and bailey castle. One of these streets survives as the modern road from Chepstow to Monmouth. The second is assumed to lie along the line of the present unpaved access road west of the church yard. In 1991, an open area excavation, 5m x 12m, was undertaken to explore faint field marks near the line of this second street. The excavation revealed a sequence of occupation and, as a consequence, the site was re-opened and extended in 1992 so that an area 8m x 12m was eventually excavated. A sequence of development can be determined despite shallow ploughing and erosion on the site.[12] The excavation revealed what was assumed to have been a burgage plot in the medieval town and appears to have confirmed the line of the street. A second plot with evidence of occupation, to the south of the fully excavated area, was carefully back filled and investigated more fully in 1993. The sequence of occupation revealed on the site is reported by phases.

Phase 1

At a depth of approximately 0.38m, building slots confirmed a small, almost square structure. There was a colour change to dark brown in the slots; external dimensions of the structure were 4.8m x 4.6m. Enclosed by the slots was a compacted clay floor surface approximately 4m square. In the centre of the structure scorching in the floor surface presented a well defined rectangular area (0.7m x 0.45m) indicating a hearth. The east facing threshold was marked by two flat stones and very hard, compacted clay. Fragments of burned daub and charcoal overlay the excavated area. The only other features clearly associated with this Phase I structure were two parallel depressions, approximately 0.45m apart, in the floor surface. Between 4-6mm in depth and approximately 11mm in length, these features could have been produced by a weight standing on the floor. They could, on the other hand, have been caused by falling roof timbers. Whatever the interpretation of these features, the overall evidence points to destruction of the structure by fire.



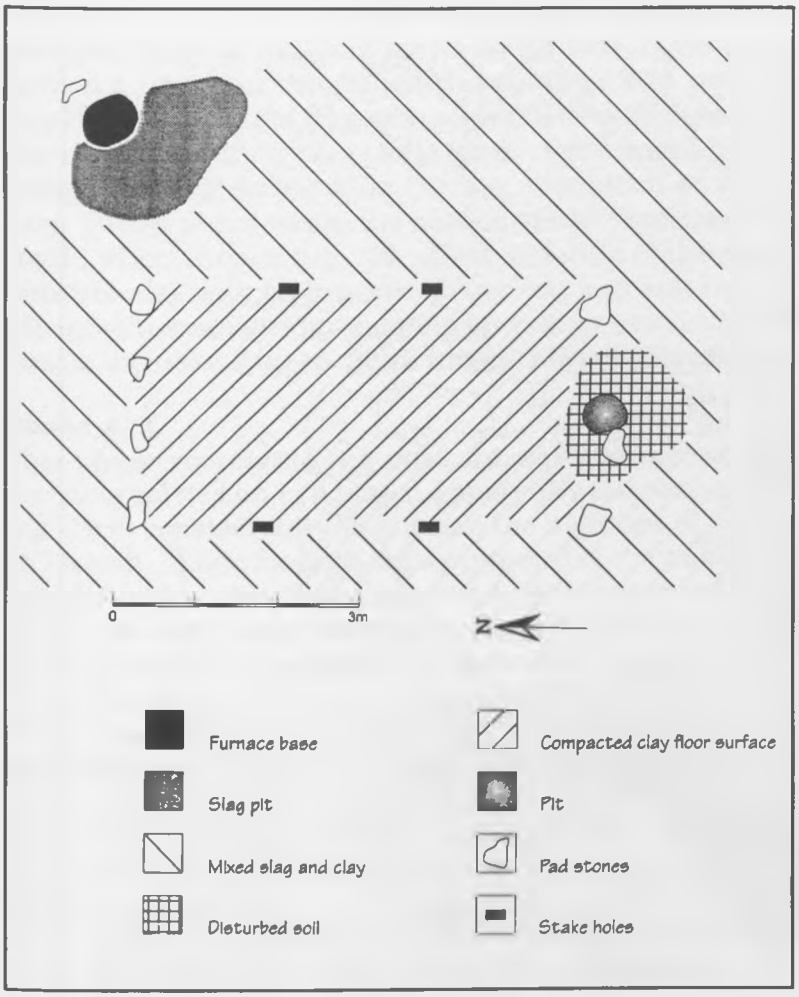
Phase 2

At the base of the slot on the west side of this structure, 17 cooking pot sherds were recovered. These sherds, which had beensealed by the insertion of the sleeper beam, were from A3 wheel turned cooking pots dating from c1200-1230.[13]

The best interpretation of this Phase I structure with its central hearth is that it was a small dwelling. The size, method of construction and the square shape of the house may represent a recognizable regional medieval building tradition.[14]

Phase 2

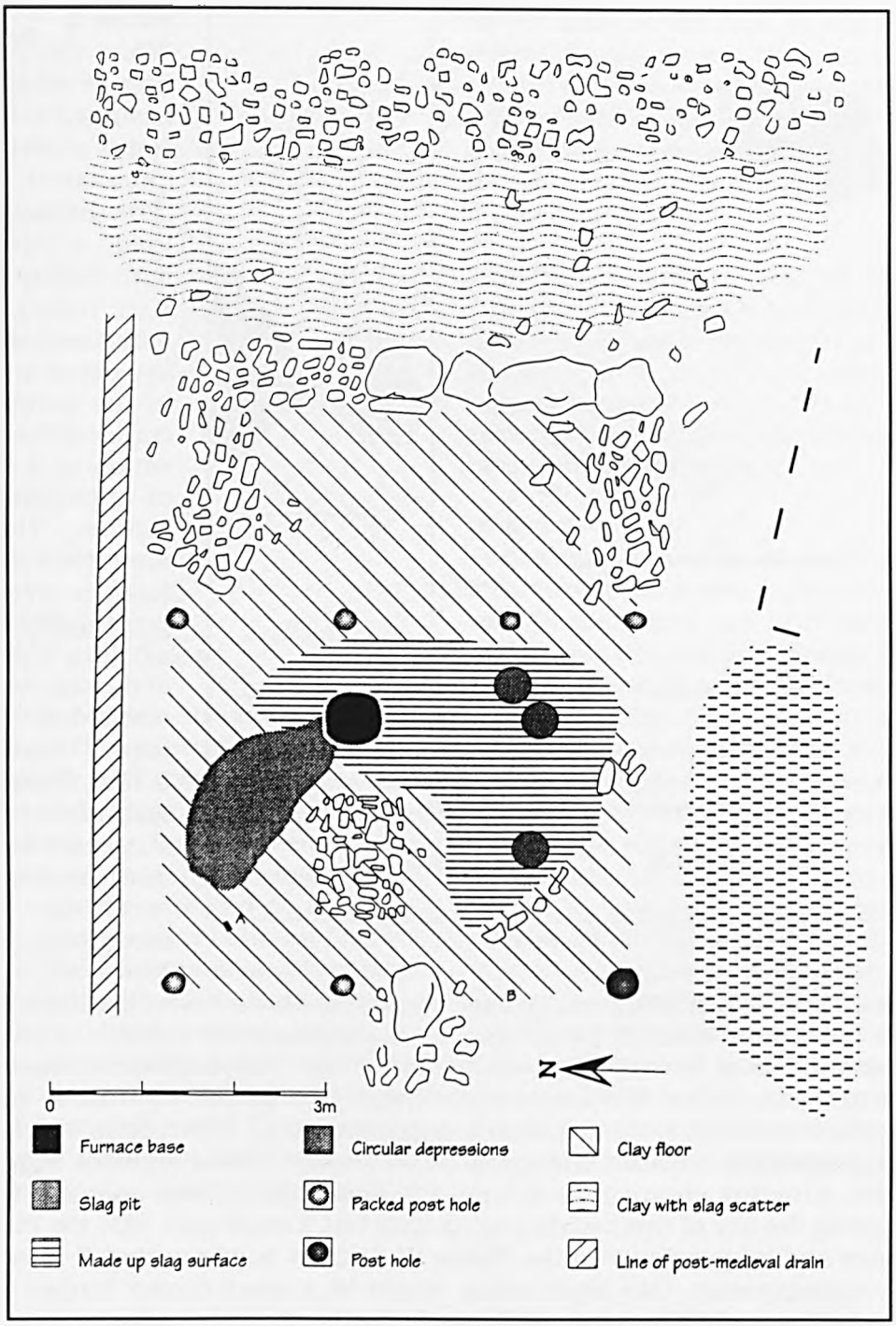
Following destruction of the Phase I structure, the site was rapidly turned over to industrial use with increasingly sophisticated iron smelting activities. Phase II consisted of a smelting furnace which measured approximately 0.8m x 0.7m. The superstructure of this, as the other furnaces on the site, had been destroyed but the form of the furnace and waste deposits show that slag was tapped and an associated slag pit underlay a larger slag accumulation associated with Phase IV occupation. In the interface between these features, a single jug sherd was recovered. This A5 jug with complex rouletting has affinities with examples from Monmouth where coins from sealed deposits date the type to post 1240 and suggests a date for the interface between Phase II and Phase IV at c1240-1270.[15] Only the base of the furnace remained; vitrified linings were recovered. A stone scatter on the north side of the furnace may indicate that it was backed by a stone or stone lined superstructure. Particularly interesting were four associated stake holes. These stake holes, which appeared approximately 0.36m below the surface, were well defined rectangular features, 7.5cm x 5cm, with a colour change to pink/brown. The stakes formed a right angle partially enclosing the furnace and suggest that some sort of wooden structure was associated either with its construction or operation.



Phase 3

Phase 3

When the metalling of what was assumed to be the town street was excavated (see 'The Street' below), a furnace with highly vitrified lining was found underlaying the paved surface in the north east corner of the excavation at a depth of approximately 0.35m. The dimensions of the furnace were approximately 0.7m x 0.75m. This area of the site was excavated to a uniform depth of 0.75m. There was no evidence of any superstructure due to subsequent levelling and metalling. Slag, however, was tapped. Near this furnace and partly overlaying Phase I were padstones and stake holes from a small structure. Four padstones at a depth of between 0.35m and 0.36m formed a line on the north side. Two padstones remained in place at the south but this area was disturbed by a pit (see Context 94 below). To the east and west were stake holes, approximately 7.5cm x 5cm, which were distinguished by a colour change to pink/brown. These features suggest a wooden structure approximately 5.8m x 3.05m in size. There was no evidence indicating the use of this building or its date but it must post date the Phase II furnace and its proximity to the Phase III furnace suggests that it may have been contemporary. One explanation would be a small timber framed storehouse which could also have provided shelter for the iron workers.


A
B
N
0
3m
Furnace base
Slag pit
Made up slag surface
Circular depressions
Packed post hole
Post hole
Clay floor
Clay with slag scatter
Line of post-medieval drain

Phase 4

Context 94 was a pit, approximately 32cm x 42cm and 24cm deep, which cut into the Phase III building on its south side. One padstone was moved and formed a lining for the pit which contained two vessels crushed together. A significant number of fragments from both vessels was recovered. A total of 26 sherds, representing most of the vessel, were from a bulbous carinated Monnow Valley Ware jug dating from the late thirteenth or very early fourteenth century. Twelve sherds from the second vessel represented the lower portion of a small, wheel thrown jug. The off white fabric of the second vessel consisted of iron free clay with inclusions of rounded and sub rounded clay pellets generally 0.5mm or smaller but ranging up to 2mm in size. There were also subangular quartz inclusions up to .3mm in size with occasional organic voids.[16]

Phase 4

This phase represents the most intensive industrial activity on the site with smelting carried on in a larger, apparently purpose-built structure. The building offers considerable insight into the methods of production being employed at Trelech. Stone footings define one end of the building with a combination of four large stone blocks in line and a rubble core indicating the remainder of a wall base. Full stone wall construction is unlikely; composite dwarf walls carrying a wooden superstructure represent the best interpretation of this feature. The west end of the building, which contained the main smelting operation, was carried on posts set in holes. With one exception, the post holes were approximately 22cm in diameter with padstones at a depth of approximately 15cm below floor level. The posts were packed with stone and slag. The one exception to this pattern was a large, circular post hole, 32 cm in diameter, at the southwest corner of the building. With this feature, there was no padstone. Instead, the post was set onto a uniform base of very small (approximately 1cm) stones. The dimensions of the resulting building, which varied in depth from approximately 0.33m to 0.3m, was 5.2m x 7.3m.

The west facing threshold was marked by a large, flat stone with the suggestion of cobbling on the exterior side. The most central of four large stones on the east side of the building, with a smaller flat stone abutting, probably represents the threshold in this direction. On the north side, between the building and the street, there was a uniform layer of compacted clay and slag which seems to have been a made-up surface. In the interior, near the centre of the building, was the base of a bloomery furnace, 0.8m x 0.78m. No super structure remained but slag was clearly tapped into an adjoining pit (See plan, Phase 4). A wide slag scatter around the furnace formed the floor of much of the southwest end of the building and appears to have been a made-up working surface. The surface was partially bounded by stone and there were three shallow, darkened circular depressions near the periphery of this feature. Approximately 0.4m from the furnace base was a well-made rectangular stone

platform 1.5m x 1.1m. The platform consisted of small cobbles overlaying a base of larger stone with the whole feature bonded by clay. Approximately 0.8m from the platform was a carefully contrived, small (9cm x 4.5cm) stone lined feature. Four flat stones created a cavity pointing at a 45 degree angle toward the platform. It is likely that this feature was associated with the return mechanism for a bellows mounted on the stone platform. No tuyeres or evidence of blowing holes were found but in associated debris were two good examples of slag plugs which had flowed down the blowing hole.[17] There is a suggestion of possible iron roasting at the southwest corner of the excavation.

As this Phase 4 structure was excavated, the slag from the pit and working surface was removed and weighed. It should be noted that the measured slag did not include the made up surface between the building and the street which was itself laid on a slag base. Similarly, Phase II slags are not included in the total. The weight of Phase IV slag recovered was over 1100kg. There was no direct evidence confirming the use of the east end of the building or explaining the differences in wall construction. The explanation for both could be as simple as storage of materials with special concern for drainage to keep fuel stocks dry. Questions also arise concerning the southwest corner of the building where the post hole differs from the others in this phase. A "missing" post hole, B in the plan, seems never to have been made. It is interesting to speculate, however, that a weather boarded wall with a large, hinged door, perhaps with a smaller opening at the threshold, could have improved access for heavy materials and would explain these excavated features. Stratified sherds associated with Phase IV include Bristol Redcliff wares and sherds from carinated A5 jugs which point to construction c.1270-1290.[18]

Phase 4A - The 'Street'

The northeast section of the excavation, for a width of approximately 1m., was made up of metalling which continued under the trench edge. This feature seems to confirm the line of the second main medieval street of Trelech. Excavation revealed at least three levels of paving with small stone cobbling placed on a layer of larger stone set on a base of compacted slag. The depth of this feature ranged from 7cm to 28cm.

All the available evidence suggests that this feature is the medieval street. This assumption can be confirmed by further excavation. It is significant, however, that the Phase III furnace base underlay this surface. Consequently, it follows that if this is confirmed as the street, it was first laid, was widened or its line was shifted to the west during the second half of the thirteenth century. It may transpire that one or more of these developments was associated with the Phase 4 smelting operation.

Phase 4B - The Drains

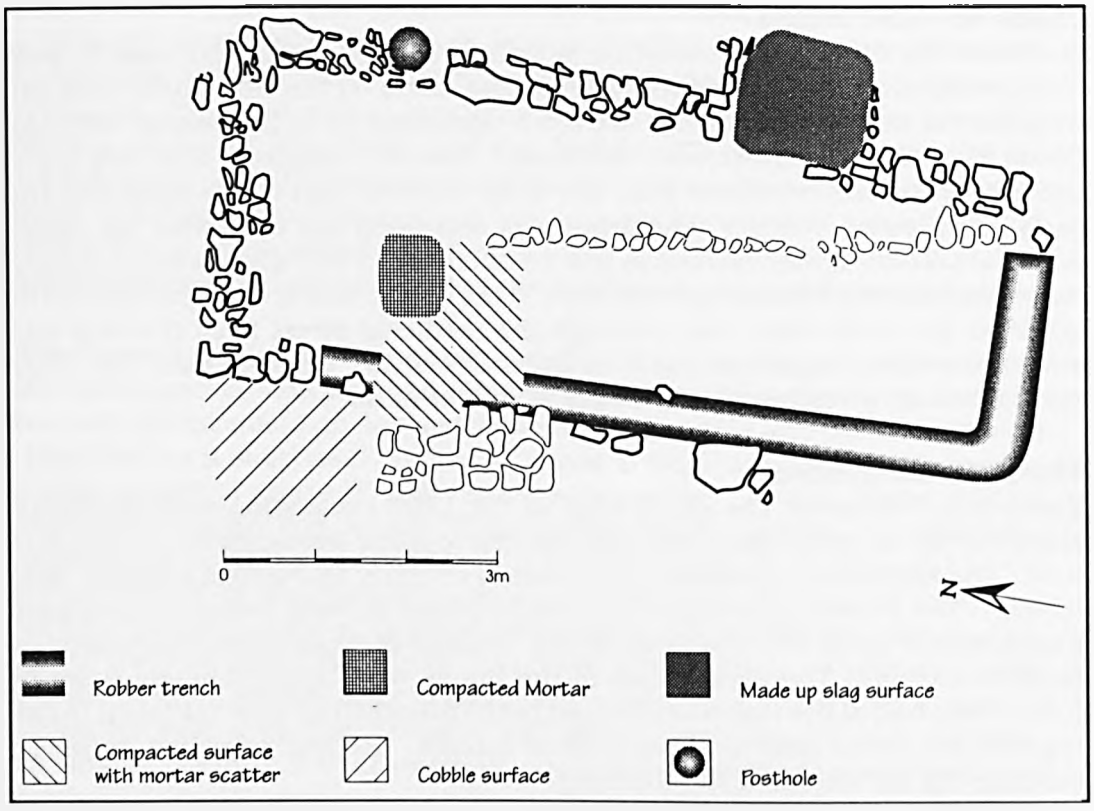
On the north side of the excavation, a well-layed stone drain ran east to west for approximately 8m. Its depth ranged from 19cm on the east to 48cm on the west. Given its close proximity, the drain appeared to be associated with the Phase IV building. Subsequent excavation, however, suggests that this is not the case. Artefacts recovered from the drain confirm that it was open into the early seventeenth century. The drain was sectioned but otherwise left intact and this section of the excavation was re-opened in 1993 when a second, even more sophisticated drain, was revealed. This drain, which runs parallel to the other on the north side, cuts through the medieval street from the east and stratified pottery fragments point to fifteenth century construction. The drain system will be investigated more fully at a later date.

The 1993 Excavation

Stone foundations on the south edge of the 1992 excavation were backfilled and in 1993 an area 10m x 6m was opened to allow investigation of this feature. The foundations proved to be those of an early fourteenth century "long house". The house represented the middle phase in what seems to have been a sequence of up to five buildings on the site and is consequently identified as Structure C. (19) The dimensions of the house were approximately 9.3m by 3.8m. Over half of the floor surface had been disturbed by post medieval building and the south and west walls were robbed. Robber trenches, however, indicate the full extent of the building.

A post medieval agricultural building cut into Structure C from the south. A well made stone platform abutting and mortar debris suggest that this was a lofted structure with stairs providing end-on access from the north. The arrangement of this building, Structure D, was probably not dissimilar to the surviving farm barn on the east of the present Chepstow to Monmouth road opposite the Village Green Inn.[20] A small cobbled area lay to the north of this feature. There appears to have been at least one major phase of re-building and the resultant Structure E stood into the early nineteenth century.[21] Whereas Structure C tended to follow the existing contour of the field, the post medieval builders attempted to level the ground, thereby destroying much of the medieval floor surface. The alignment of Structures D and E approximates that of nearby surviving farm buildings. Structure C, however, was built on a more southwesterly axis, an alignment which may follow that of the medieval street. The street would almost certainly have turned toward the southwest as it approached the castle bailey.

The medieval floor surface which survived in the north and northeast of Structure C produced a considerable number of medieval sherds and some ash



1993 Excavation

suggesting that this end of the house provided family accommodation. There was an enlarged opening in the east wall near its south end. Here a made up slag surface improved access. An apparent threshold stone on the line of the robbed south wall may mark the other end of a cross passage. The medieval surface was too disturbed in this area to draw any conclusion about the use of the south end of the building although accommodation for animals seems likely.[22] A large post hole cutting into the east wall suggests structural repairs to the longhouse at some stage in its history.

Time did not permit complete excavation of this site but the walls and medieval floor surface of Structure C were sectioned. These sections suggest that an earlier structure erected on sleeper beams underlay the longhouse. On the north side at least, Structure C seems to have been built on the line of an earlier structure, Structure B. An even earlier building, Structure A, is suggested by a section through the floor surface.[23] Plastic sheets have been placed over excavated features before backfilling and Structures A and B will be investigated more fully in future excavation.

Discussion

This excavation represents the first detailed examination of the centre of Trelech. The sequence of development on the site is interesting and the intense industrialisation revealed points to an explanation for urban expansion at Trelech. Moreover, relatively rapid re-development and changing land use suggests an economy in transition, probably in response to the unsettled political situation in the region.

The first phase of occupation was represented by at least one small timber framed house with a central hearth built in the early thirteenth century, probably before 1230. This house, which may have been one of several such structures, was destroyed by fire and the site was rapidly given over to industrial use with increasingly sophisticated iron smelting operations. The first two furnaces on the site may have had stone linings with small timber structures associated. The Phase II and Phase III furnaces are not contemporary features but both must date from the middle decades of the thirteenth century. It seems likely that the Phase II furnace was active c.1240 or shortly after with Phase III having ended before c.1270.

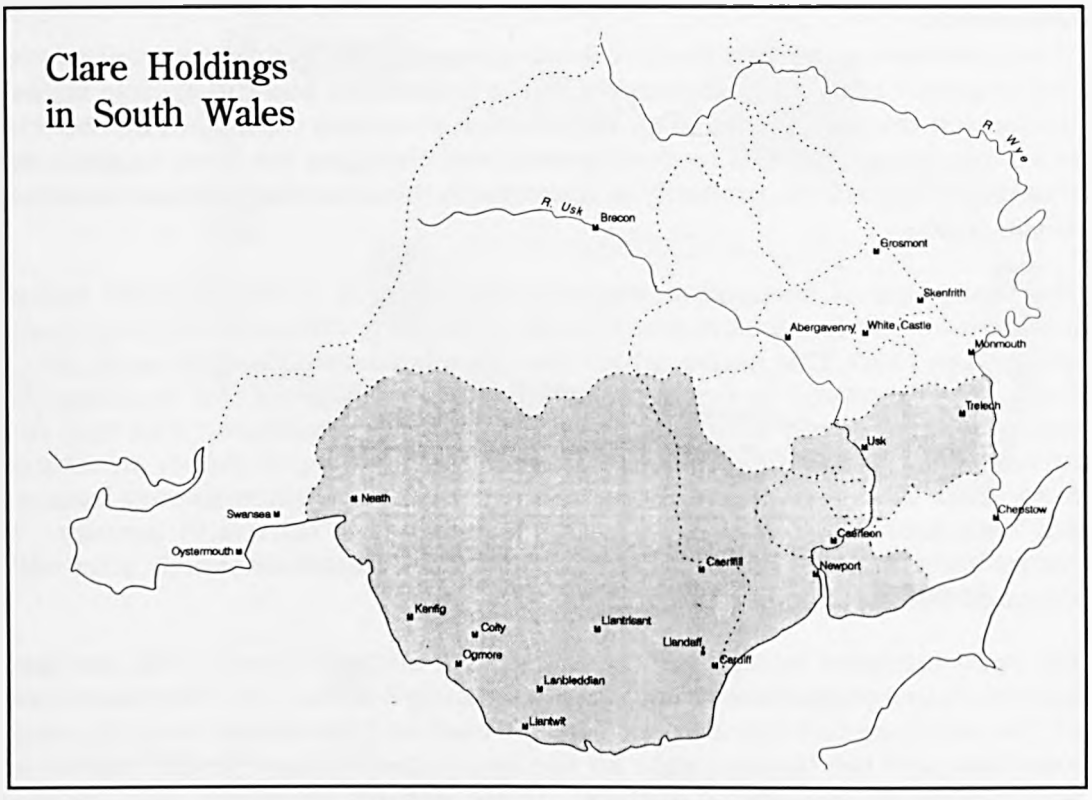
The most intensive iron production took place during Phase IV with smelting carried on in a purpose-built building measuring 5.2m x 7.3m. The excavation of this structure has revealed the furnace base and associated slag pit, a bellows base and the housing case for the return mechanism for the bellows as well as a made-up working surface. These features combined with the slag plugs from the blowing hole allow a full reconstruction of the production process and confirm a sophisticated and large-scale iron production centre. This centre seems to have been in production in or soon after c.1270.

Structure C in the 1993 excavation helps us understand subsequent development on the site and may suggest a transition to an economy more dependent on agricultural production in the fourteenth century.

The sequence of development provides us with a fascinating glimpse of medieval Trelech. The details recovered from the Phase IV smelting operation are of particular interest. Also of special interest is the possibility of placing the developments on this site into an established historical context. Caution is clearly necessary and the excavated area may not have been typical of the town as a whole. Nevertheless, the sequence revealed in this excavation does seem to parallel important developments in the history of thirteenth century Wales.

Trelech - *Caput de Clare*

The de Clares, who had an early and significant stake in the Marches of Wales,



Clare Holdings in South Wales

were among the most powerful of the English baronial families.[24] Richard fitz Gilbert, better known as "Strongbow" built a power base in the southern marches before leading the Norman invasion of Ireland. Strongbow died in 1176 and in 1189 his inheritance, including strongholds in southeast Wales such as Chepstow, passed to William Marshal who had married Strongbow's daughter Isabel. Marshal expanded his holdings through attacks on his Welsh neighbours, taking important centres like Caerleon.[25]

Marshal's extensive holdings were passed to each of his sons in turn and the Clare links were renewed and strengthened. For example, Gilbert de Clare, from 1217 earl of Gloucester, married his cousin Isabel, the daughter and eventual coheiress of William Marshal. Gilbert was not only earl of Gloucester but also lord of Glamorgan and South Wales became increasingly important in maintaining the Clare pre-eminence. This may partially explain why Gilbert's sister, Matilda, took as her second husband Rhys Gryg, Rhys ap Rhys ap Gruffydd. It certainly explains open warfare between Gilbert and Welsh leaders including Morgan Gam of Afan, Hywel ap Maredudd of Meisgyn and Morgan ap Cadwallon of Glynrhondda. All three Welsh leaders allied themselves with

Llywelyn Fawr who attacked Clare holdings including Kenfig in 1231.[26] Gilbert died in 1230 when his son Richard was only eight years old. When Richard Fitz Gilbert came of age in 1243, he was anxious to assert his influence in Wales. That influence soon became even greater than his father's had been as the death of the last Marshal son in 1245 led to the partition of the Marshal holdings and, in 1246, brought Caerleon, Usk and Trelech into Richard's hands. The acquisitions did nothing to reduce Welsh hostility to the imposition of Marcher rule and Clare holdings were under constant threat. In 1243, for example, Hywel ap Maredudd attacked Kenfig. Richard responded in 1248 by building the castle at Llantrisant in an attempt to control Glamorgan from Senghenydd to Afan. Even in Gwent, however, he could not feel secure as the deposed lords of Caerleon, still strong in Machen, were determined to regain their lands from the Clares.[27]

A key date in the turbulent history of thirteenth century Wales was 1258, the year in which Llywelyn ap Gruffydd claimed the title Prince of Wales. Among his first targets in making that claim real were the more vulnerable Clare holdings in Glamorgan. Richard de Clare, until his death in 1262, was constantly at war with Llywelyn and his allies. On the death of Richard, his nineteen year old son, Gilbert the "Red Earl", took up his father's battles. There were, however, a range of other problems including the fact that Usk and Trelech were temporarily granted in dower to Richard's second wife Maud.[28] The growing importance of Trelech is confirmed by the fact that the receivership for these holdings was transferred from Usk to Trelech. When Gilbert recovered the castles and boroughs in 1266, he retained a receiver at Trelech. [29]

The middle years of the 1260s were complicated by Gilbert's shifting attitudes to Simon de Montfort as well as his continuing confrontation with Llywelyn. By 1268, however, he moved to secure his Glamorgan holdings with a major new castle at Caerffili. His plans were temporarily thwarted when Llywelyn attacked and destroyed the castle in 1270. Nevertheless, work on the great concentric castle resumed, and it was effectively completed by 1272. Despite Caerffili, however, Gilbert continued to face fierce Welsh opposition, even after the death of Llywelyn at Cilmeri in 1282. During the 1290s he also found himself in conflict with Humphry de Bohun, a conflict which led to royal intervention and a temporary loss of the lordships. The southern March exploded into warfare again in 1294 with the revolt of Morgan ap Maredudd, the heir to Caerleon, who threatened boroughs like Cardiff and who attacked and destroyed 102 burgages in Trelech.[30] The Welsh remained unvanquished at the time of Gilbert's death in 1295. Gilbert's heir, also Gilbert de Clare, was not old enough to inherit until 1307. When he died at the battle of Bannockburn in 1314 the de Clares were extinguished in the male line and priorities in the March changed dramatically as a consequence.[31]

This brief review of de Clare influence and of the continuing conflict in South Wales helps to explain the urban role of Trelech. In the thirteenth century, the Clares saw themselves first and foremost as lords of the March. They spent much of their time in Wales and directed most of their energies to controlling Wales. Despite their best efforts, however, their marcher holdings were never secure. Cardiff and Caerleon were attacked at various times and western strongholds were constantly under threat. Even Usk could not be viewed as wholly secure. There was, however, one borough in the holdings which might be thought a safe haven. Located on a plateau on the eastern border of the marcher lordship, Trelech must have seemed the one safe Welsh bastion for the de Clares. Moreover, it was well placed to be supplied from Gloucester and was near to the Forest of Dean which was already providing iron ore for use in Gloucester. The Clares required a safe industrial base, producing iron, to support their continuing initiatives in Wales. Trelech must have seemed an attractive location for that base. Even if the assumptions of safety were proved wrong during the revolt of Morgan ap Maredudd, it seems likely that the Clares encouraged industrial development in Trelech and that this industrialisation stimulated the rapid growth of the town.

This model answers many of the questions which have hung over Trelech as an urban centre. By conventional economic criteria, Trelech is a most unlikely location for a medieval town. South Wales in the thirteenth century, however, was not a conventional economy. It was a war zone with constant conflict and shifting alignments. It is possible to visualize the Clare holdings in South Wales as a huge, embattled motte and bailey castle. Secure on its eastern plateau, Trelech can be imagined as the motte, the safest place in the Clare domain. It would become an obvious *caput* in times of crisis and, in this context, an excellent location for an urban centre which could thrive because of the chaotic political/military situation whichsurrounded it. In 1314, however, the grand design of the Clares collapsed and Trelech's special role disappeared. While the town clearly survived for some time, it enjoyed no special advantages and its location began to tell against it. By mid-century, urban Trelech would have been in terminal decline.

Dating for features revealed in this excavation is approximate and efforts will be made to refine date sequences further. Nevertheless, it is interesting to see how well the tentative dates assigned fit into the known historical picture. The first industrial phase seems to coincide with the acquisition of Trelech by Richard de Clare in 1243. Periods of heavy fighting coincide with Phases II and III of the excavation. The climax of industrial development, Phase IV, seems to occur at the time of renewed conflict orchestrated by Gilbert the Red. The large-scale smelting operation may even parallel the events associated with the construction of Caerffili castle. The possibility that these features correlate

with Clare military initiatives must now be examined carefully. If the association proves to be accurate, the possibilities for refining the dating of pottery sequences, etc. are exciting. Trade patterns based on lordship organization must be a related area for investigation. Certainly, the potential for enhancing our understanding of the development of southeast Wales in the thirteenth century through further archaeological/historical investigation of Trelech seems considerable and research excavations will continue.

NOTES

1. PRO (Chancery Lane) SC6/1242/21 and PRO C133/130. See also Beresford, M., *New Towns of the Middle Ages* (Alan Sutton: 1988) Table IX.2, 255-256.
2. *Cal. Patent Rolls*, 1225-32, 427.
3. PRO SC 6/920/18, 1247/21, and 925/30. See also Soulsby, I., *The Towns of Medieval Wales* (Southampton: 1983).
4. PRO SC 6/1247/21. See also PRO SC 6/927/2, 1247/29 and 925/30.
5. Beresford, op.cit. Cardiff had 421 burgage plots in 1296.
6. PRO C 133/77/3. See also: Jones, T. (edit.), *Brut y Tywysogyon* (Peniarth Ms. 20) 1294. (Cardiff: 1952).
7. PRO C 134/43.
8. See Howell, R., *A History of Gwent* (Gomer: 1988) especially pp. 60 and 90-95.
9. Ibid. The foundation clearly pre-dates the partition of the Marshal holdings but the de Clare influence was crucial.
10. Howell, R., 'A Report of the Excavation of a Medieval Industrial Site in Trelech, Gwent', *Medieval & Later Pottery in Wales*, **11**, 1989, 62-80.
11. Clarke, S., Owen-John, H. and Knight, J., 'Medieval Iron-working at Trellech: A Small Salvage Excavation, with a list of Early Bloomery Sites in the Monmouth-Trellech Area', *Monm. Antiq.* IV, Parts III and IV (1981-82), 45-49.
12. Concurrent excavations which were conducted in Trelech church will be reported separately, see Taylor, F., forthcoming
13. Trelech ceramic finds are being assessed in conjunction with related finds from Monmouth. Consequently, the identification system devised by Steve Clarke for the Monmouth material has been adopted for this report. For background, see, Clarke, S. 'Monnow Valley Ware', *Monmouth Archaeology*, **12**, pp. 2-7.
14. See, for example, Stanford, S. *The Archaeology of the Welsh Marches* (London: 1980), especially pp. 185-186.
15. Discussions, Steve Clarke.
16. A detailed study of pottery is in progress and a full Finds report will follow in due course. The proper classification and origin of the small off white jug is at present uncertain. It differs from Bristol wares generally found in and near Trelech. The carinated Monnow Valley ware jug, however, is very similar to two fused kiln wasters found at Trelech and may well have been manufactured in the town. See, Clarke, S. 'Decorated Monnow Valley Ware', *Studies in Medieval and Later Pottery in Wales* (1987).
17. Discussions, Peter Crew
18. Discussions, Steve Clarke.
19. Investigations conducted in 1994 are reported separately.

20. For background, see Wiliam, E. *Adeiladau Fferm Traddodiadol yng Nghymru* (National Museum of Wales: 1973), especially p. 8.
21. The building is shown on the Tithe map of 1848. See Gwent CRO D1579.38.
22. Examples showing industrial activity in the lower end of some long houses must be kept in mind, especially on a site such as Trelech. There was, however, no archaeological indication that Structure C comes into this category.
23. It is impossible at this stage to speculate about possible associations between Structure A and earlier phases from the 1991-92 excavations. Possible parallels with Phase I, for example, must be fully explored in subsequent investigations.
24. For an assessment of the influence of the de Clares, see Altschul, M., *A Baronial Family in Medieval England: The Clares, 1217-1314* (Johns Hopkins: 1965) See also Altschul, M., 'The Lordship of Glamorgan and Morgannwg, 1217-1317', *Glamorgan County History*, III, 45-86.
25. *Brut*, 1216. For background, see Howell, R., *A History of Gwent*, especially pp. 49-63.
26. See ibid and Altschul; *Annales de Margan* (Rolls Ser., London, 1864), I, 39 and *Brut* 1232. A previous attack on Kenfig had been mounted by Hywel ap Maredudd in 1229. See *Annales*, I, 37.
27. Ibid.
28. PRO SC 11/610m, SC6/1202/1, and C Misc C 47/9/25; *Cal. Inquisitions Post Mortem*, IV, 435.
29. PRO SC 6/925/21; 6/926/30; 6/1247/21; 6/925/22 and 6/926/31.
30. The revolt in South Wales was part of a wider Welsh rebellion led by Madog ap Llywelyn.
31. Brut; Altschul; Howell, *A History of Gwent*; and *Cal. Inquisitions Post Mortem*, V, no 538.

Note: Plans for this report are presented as computer images. All plans and sections from the Trelech excavations are being entered on computer in the Gwent College of Higher Education, Caerleon. It is hoped that this data base will facilitate continuing research excavations and that computer imaging can help explore possible building variations in the medieval town.

Acknowledgements: Among those who have provided specialist expertise for this report are Steve Clarke, ceramics; Peter Crew, metallurgy and David Zienkiewicz, excavation strategies. Mrs. Felicity Taylor has provided invaluable assistance throughout. Her report on associated excavations in the church at Trelech is forthcoming. Stephanie and Alan Poulter, who own the sites investigated, have offered every assistance to the excavation teams. Nigel Edmundson has brought photographic and computer skills to the Trelech study. Special thanks also go to the students of the Gwent College of Higher Education and to local volunteers who have made up the digging teams.

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THE EARLIEST WRITTEN ENGLISH IN MONMOUTHSHIRE? The Herbert bailiff's account. 1463

By ANTHONY HOPKINS

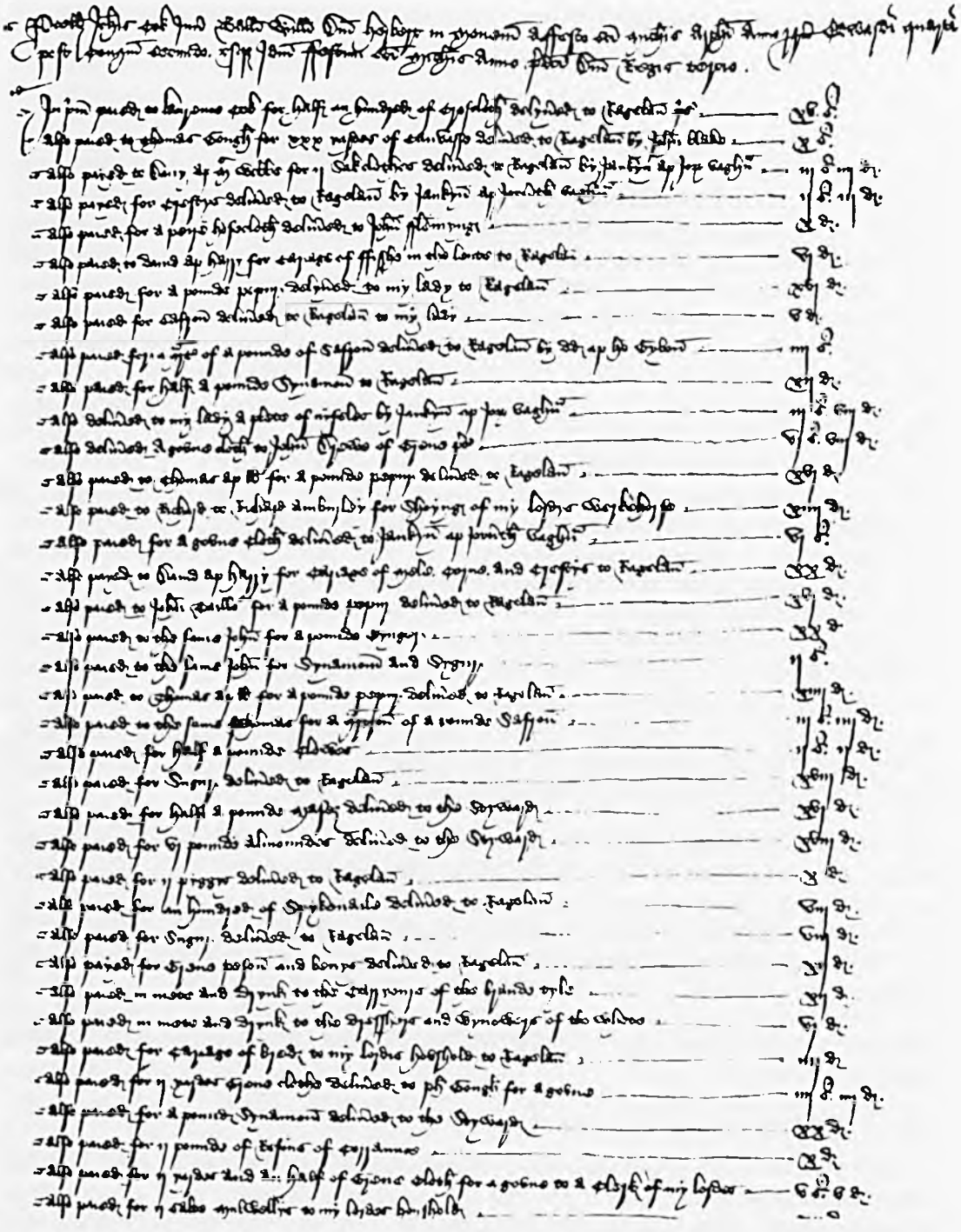
Some time after Michaelmas 1463 John Cok, bailiff to William Herbert, accounted for his lord's possessions in the area of Wyesham and Monmouth for the financial year beginning at Michaelmas 1462. Cok's *compotus* survives among the Beaufort papers at the National Library of Wales as Badminton Manorial 1583. As bailiff, Cok was charged with the task of recording income and expenditure arising out of his lord's estates in the area for which he was responsible. The resulting account is little more than routinely interesting. Appended to the formal account, however, is a series of schedules several of which are worthy of close scrutiny. The majority of these schedules detail the expenditure incurred on William Herbert's behalf during the accounting year. They were submitted, it need hardly be said, in expectation of repayment from the Herbert coffers. As appendages to the official account, however, they do not form part of the formal record which was written as per custom in Latin but instead are set down largely in English. Admittedly some of the vocabulary in the schedules is derived from Latin but their language is manifestly English, nonetheless, which must rank them amongst the earliest surviving records in the vernacular for the region. This, coupled with the richness of their detail, justifies exact transcription although there has not been room to include all of the schedules. Each schedule transcribed is complete and its NLW reference is provided. It should be noted that the NLW has now given a sub-number to each schedule, which presumably supersedes the letters used as identifiers in the catalogue (NLW, Badminton Manorial II, *Monmouthshire*, pp. 8-9).

Abbreviations in the text have been extended silently except where uncertainty exists. Doubtful extensions have been placed in square brackets while personal and place-names have been left in suspension indicated by an apostrophe. The runic thorn, equivalent to the English *th*, has throughout the text been expressed as *y*. Editorial interpolations have been placed in square brackets.

The author is grateful for permision from the National Library of Wales to publish this Manuscript.

NLW Badminton Manorial 1583/5

Parcelle Johannis Cok junioris ballivi Wilhelmi Domini Herbert in Monem' a Festo Sancti Michaelis Archangeli anno regni regis Edwardi quarti post conquestum secundo usque idem Festum Sancti Michaelis anno predicti domini regis tercio [1462-3].



Extract of Badminton Manorial 1583 *(Plate: National Library of Wales)*

in primis paied to Laurence Cok for half an hundred of croscloth delyvered to Ragelan p[ri]c[e]	xv s
also paied to Thomas Gough for xxx yardes of canvasse delivered to Ragelan by John Blake	x s
also payed to Davy ap M'c Webbe for ij sakclothes delivered to Ragelan by Jankyn ap Jor' Vaughan	iij s iiij d
also payed for crestys delivered to Ragelan by Jankyn ap Jorv'th Vaughan	ij s iij d
also paied for a peire hosecloth delivered to John Flemyng	x d
also paied to David ap Harry for cariage of fishe in the lente (*in Lent*) to Ragelan	vj d
also paied for a pounde pepur delyvered to my lady to Ragelan	xvj d
also paied for safron delivered to Ragelan to my lady	v d
also paied for a quarter of a pounde of safron delivered to Ragelan by David ap Ho' Gybon	iiij s
also paied for half a pounde synamon to Ragelan	xij d
also delivered to my lady a plete of nyfeles by Jankyn ap Jor' Vaughan	iij s viij d
also delivered a goune cloth to John Drewe of grene price	vj s viij d
also paied to Thomas ap Ll' for a pounde pepur delivered to Ragelan	xvj d
also paied to Richard Amburley for shoyng of my lordys werkehorse	xiiij d
also paied for a goune cloth delivered to Jankyn ap Jorv'th Vaughan	vj s
also payed to David ap Harry for cariage of mele, corne and crestys to Ragelan	xx d
also paied to John Taillo' for a pounde pepur delivered to Ragelan	xvj d
also paied to the same John for a pounde gynger	xx d
also paied to the same John for synamon and sygur	ij s
also paied to Thomas ap Ll' for a pounde pepur delivered to Ragelan	iiij d
also paied to the same Thomas for a quarteron of a pounde safron	iij s iv d

also paied for half a pounde clowes	ij s ij d
also paied for sugur delivered to Ragelan	xviij d
also paied for half a pounde masez delivered to the styward	xvj d
also paied for vj pounde almoundes delivered to the styward	xviij d
also paied for ij pyggys delivered to Ragelan	x d
also paied for an hundred of spykenaile delivered to Ragelan	viij d
also paied for sugur delivered to Ragelan	viij d
also paied for grene peson' and benys delivered to Ragelan	xij d
also paied in mete and drynk to the carryours of the brande tyle	xij d
also paied in mete and drynk to the dreshers and wynewers of the whete	vj d
also paied for cariage of bred to my lordis houshold to Ragelan	iiij d
also paied for ij yardes grene clothe delivered to Ph' Gough for a goune	iij s iiij d
also paied for a pounde synamon delivered to the styward	xx d
also paied for ij pounde of resins of corraunts	x d
also paied for ij yardes and an half of grene cloth for a goune to a clerk of my lordes	v s v d
also paied for ij salte mulwellys to my lordes houshold	xij d
also paied for pescoddes delivered to Ragelan	ij d
also paied to the dreshers and to the wynewers in money	xix d
also payed for j C [100] spykenaile delivered to Ragelan	viij d
also paied for ij yardes grene for a goune cloth to Watkyn ap Thomas	vj s
also paied for the hyre of ix horse to Ragelan with brauned tyle	ij s iij d
also paied for ij yardes and an half of grene for a goune clothe to Willym ap David ap Ho' Coyde	v s iij d
also paied for safron delivered to my lordes houshold by Piers Taillo'	ij d
also paied to John Taillo' for ij unces safron delivered to the styward	ij s
also paied for ij unces clowes delivered to ye said styward	xij d

also paied for a pounde pepur to the same John delivered to the styward xiiij d

also delivered to Jankyn ap Jorv'th Vaughan and David ap Ho' Gebon a moton to my lordes house ij s iiij d

also delivered in perys to my lady v d

also delivered in pescoddes to my lordes houshold vj d

also delivered to the stiward ij copule of salt fishe to the houshold ij s

also paied to Elizabet Hosier for iij kirtelclothes to the deyes of Brongwen, Lantelio and Rudesawen [*presumably Bryngwyn, Llantilio Crossenny and (possibly) Rhyd y wern*] xiiij s

also delivered to Howell ap Grono ap Ho' ij yardes and 1 quarter of grene clothe price vj s

also delivered to Ragelan xxxiij yardes of canvasse price of 1 yarde iiij d xj s

also payed to William Warderope for bordenaile, hachenaile and cloutenaile delivered to Ragelan iij s

also paied to ye same William Warderope for v C bordenaile and iij C tak naile ij s vij d

also delivered in carre ropes to the use of my lorde xvij d

also paied to Lewys Smyth for an hundred of spikes viij d

also paied for small lyne for drawe beddys to Ragelan xij d

[...ms mutilated; approx 16 lines torn]

1583/6

[marginated] Monemouth
reparaciones domorum et palatorum Willelmi domini Herbert facta infra villam et burgum de Monem' per Johannem Cok juniorem ballivum remanens ibidem anno regni regis Edwardi iiij^ti^ post conquestum tercio [1463-4].

in primis paied to Jankyn Gwyneth and his felowys for makyng of a pale in my lordes court iiij s vj d

also paied to the same Jankyn for makyng of an othur pale in my lordes courte and iiij bordez xviij d

also paied for whete, bakyng spicez and waxe of the church cake of Monem' (*Monmouth*) ij s ij d

also paied to Lewys Smyth for forneis naile to the deyeng place xij d

also paied to John Hoper for nailyng of ye same furneys	vj d
also paied for cloutenaile and hachenaile to ye same werke	ij d
also paied to Jeuan Mason for settyng of ye same furneys by ij dayes	x d
also paied for stones to the same furneys	iiij d
also paied to Letice Dyer for an oke for diversez reparacionz	iij s iiij d
also paied for sawyng of ye same oke	iij s
also paied for iij lokkes and iij stapulez	xiij d
also paied to John Tiler for iij C tile stones	ij s iij d
also paied to John Tiler in tilyng of my lordez housez by x dayes takyng by the day v d	iiij s ij d
also paied to John for makyng of ye house in Seint Mary Strete to tax	v s
also paied to John Tiler in tilyng of my lordez housyng by x daies every day v d	iiij s ij d
also paied for an hundred tile stones	x d
also paied to the same John Tiler for daubyng and teryng of the house in Sent Mar[y Street]	iij s iiij d
also paied for cariage of v dosen erth to ye same werke	xv d
also paied for lathez and tilyng of diversez placez in Monem'	ij d
also paied in lathenaile to ye same werke	iij d
also paied in bordenaile and hachenaile	vj d
also paied in bordes to the house in Sent Mari Strete	xij d
also paied for crestez to ye same house	ij d
also paied to John Tiler for tilyng of ye same house by iij dayes and an half	xvij d
also paied to Mathewe Watte and to his sone for hewyng cariage of loggys and stakes and makyng of ye foldys	iij s
also paied to Lewys Gwyneth for makyng and cariage of viij dosen pale	ij s iiij d
also paied for a borde to amende a dore in Sent Mary Strete and hire and nailez	iiij d
also paied for a lok and a staple to ye same dore	vj d

also paied for ij semys lyme to the reparacion
of my lordes housyng x d

also paied to John Hay for dawbyng pargettyng and washyng
of the house late maister John Brid' by v dayes
takyng by the day v d ij s j d

also paied for lyme ij d cariage of erth ij d and yardes j d
to reparacion of the said house v d

also paied for wrytyng of all manere parcell
wreton at divers tymes this same yere iij s iiij d

summa lx s viij d computum et allocatum
est in compoto Johannis Cokke
junioris ballivi

1583/7

Thes byn the reparacions y don by Phot' Kedyn apon my lord ys bruerne aqua brytte the thredd yere of King Edward the fourth [1463-4].

In primis for ij bechenys to the bruerne ij s viij d

item for ij ladepaylys to the same v s

item for the reparyng of ij vates vj d

item for ij churnas to seyd bruerne xx d

item for a payle to the same bruerne iiij d

item for the settyng of the furneys xij d

item for the hopyng of ij bechynnas iiij d

item for the tylyng and ye reparyng of the
place ye Phot' Kedyn dwellyth yn iiij s

item for a dosen crestys to the seyd place x d

item for a C tyle stones to the seyd [place] xij d

item for lyme to the same xx d

item for a new cowle to the same x d

item for iiij hopus to the grett watys viij d

item for the hopyng of a cowle and a galun iij d

item for ij new keys to the seyd place iiij d

item for bourdys to make beddys withyn ye same xij d

item for ij bollys to the seyd bruerne ij d

item for a gutter to the seyd bruerne	xx d
item for eves bourds to the seyd place	iiij d
	xix s viij d
item for a herseve	xiij d
item for a ij pechers	xij d
item for tymber to make hopes and the makyng of the same	ix d
item iiij hopes for stondes	ij d
item for ij peces of tymber to sett under stondes	ij d
item iiij hopes for ij watervates	iiij d
item iiij hopes for ij bechynnys	iiij d
item for a new ladepayle	ij d
item for a pipe to make watervates	xiij d

summa xxiiij s ix d computum
et allocatum est in compoto
Johanne Cokke ballivi

1583/8

Thes byn the parcell y payd by Thomas Spens late bailiff to my lord Herbert of his arrears the thred yere of King Edward the fourth [1463-4].

item payd David ap Ho' and Jenkyn Yor'	xl s
item payd for vj ^{xx} yardys of crosse cloth price of iij d a yarde y delivered by David ap Ho' and Jenkin ap Yor'	xxx s
item payd Ric' Tussen for his ij horses and his man to Ragalan with Thom' Gough	vj d
item payd John Hop' for the bourdyng of ye howse ande Wyn Jenk' ap Gli' ys place	viij d
item for a C naylis and *dimidi* [*half, i.e. 150 in total*] to the same howse	jx d
item payd for bourdys to make wyndowes and to amend ders in David Dyer is howse and for naylis	xvj d
item payd John Hop' for the makeyng of the same	v d
item for a peck salt to Ragalan	v d

item for Thom' Spens is costs to Kaerm'dyn (*Carmarthen*) by my lorde ys command	iiij s ix d
item for hors hire that same tyme	xij d
item for a stike fostyan y delivered the nourse of Haddenok (*Hadnock, Monmouth*)	vij d
item for a peck salt to Ragalan	iiij d
item payd Lewys Smyth for yrne ware to Ragalan	xij d ob
item payd for Jenk' ap Yor' is costs and myn in Irchynfeld	ij d
item for a peck salt to Ragalan	iiij d
item for a copull hennys to Ragalan	iiij d
item for the careyng of capones and appelis to Ragalan	iiij d
item for my costs to Glouseder (*Gloucester*) to by cloth by my lord ys command	xiiij d
item for hors hire that same [time]	viij d
item for a pecke salt	iiij d
item payd William Wardrop' for m^{el} [*mille* i.e. 1000] cloute nayle y delivered Hugh Godwer	ij s vj d
item payd John ap Morgan for careyng of brede to Ragalan	iiij d
item payd Hopkyn Daw for a seme sadyll	xvj d
item for gurthes to the same sadull	iiij d
item for the stoppyng of a oder sadull	iij d
item for counter segles to the same	iij d
item for dyvers spise to make a drege to my lord hervest	v d
item payd Rog' Glou' for iij daies werchyng in ye hervest ye [same time]	vj d
item payd Ho'ell of Haddenok for iij daes ye same tyme	vj d
item payd John ap M'c for vj daes ye same tyme	xviij d
item payd Ric' Tussen for wax y [delivered] by David ap Hoell and Jenk' ap Yor'	xiij s x d
item payd for iij mattras delivered by David and Jenk'	xiij s iiij d

<redditus Johannis ap Jenk' ap Phot'	xxxs>
[<...> line struck through with *vacat* (void) superscript]	
redditus David Dyer qui solvit pro j vate	x s
item payd for iij C tilestones to Phot' Kedyn is howse	iij s
item payd John Tiler for viij daes tilyng apon David Dier ys howse takyng by the dae v d	iij s iiij d
item for herelyme to ye same howse	vj d
item for a C tile stones and di' to the same	xviij d
item payd John Tiler for iij daes tilyng the howse by Wy bruge takyng by the da v d	xv d
item for tilestones to the same howse	xij d
item payd for a coule to David Dyer ys howse	xij d
item for a lade payle to the same	iij d
item for ij keys to the same howse	iiij d
item for naylis to the same	ij d
item for the tilyng of John Glou' ys howse	xij d
item for the mendyng of a chymney in John is howse	vj d
item for stones and careage yereto	xj d
item payd Jeuan ap M'c ap Llne' by the bedyng of David ap Hoell and Jenk' ap Yor' to pay for bests over xl s payd byfore	iij s iiij d
item payd for parchment and pauper to mak dedys by twex my lorde and John ap Jenk' Pers	vj d

summa huius billam vij li viij s ix d ob

computum et allocatum est in compoto
Johannis Cokke ballivi

Glossary
bechenys, bechynnas - basins
benys - beans
bollys - bowls
brytte - brewing, drinking (-water)
bruerne - brew-house
carre (ropes) - a wheeled vehicle
church cake - wax [for candles]
cloute (-naile) - a metal plate
clowes - cloves
cowle, coule - a small vat or cask
crestys - crest-tiles
croscloth - a linen head-cloth
deye - a dairy-house
draw beddys - draw-beds: extendable beds
drege - dredge: a sweet-meat; a preparation made of spices
fostyan - fustian
hache (-naile) - a wooden door
herelyme - lime and hair: a kind of plasterer's cement
herseve - hair-sieve: a sieve of finely-woven hair usually for straining liquid
hopus - hoops
hosecloth - clothing for the leg
kirtelcloths - kirtle: a tunic or coat
ladepayle - lade (to draw water)-pail
lathe (-naile) - a strip of wood
masez - mace: spice derived from nutmeg
moton - mutton
mulwellys - cod
nyffels - trifles
oder - other
pechers - pitchers
pepur - pepper
perys - pears
pescoddes - peasecods: pea-pods
pesson - peas
segles - fastenings
seme (saddle) - a pack-horse load
semys (of lime) - loads
stike - stick: a roll of material
unces - ounces
wattys - vats
yrne - iron

GWENT SEALS : VII
A Shirenewton Seal

By DAVID H. WILLIAMS

Seal of Adam the smith.

x1.5

Obverse *Reverse* *Impression*

13th C. (perhaps earlier rather than later). Lead, circular, 28 mm. diam.

+ S' ADE : FERRATORIS · (Lombardic Capitals)

During field-walking in mid-April 1994 at Home Farm, Shirenewton, prior to the construction of a golf-course, Mr Roger Linnard, of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, discovered this lead seal matrix at NGR: ST 47649257. It has for device a decorative double fleur-de-lis. [Information of Mr S. Sell, of the Trust: Site 250 ▲ 0010).

Six Medieval Seal Matrices from Gwent and one from Gloucestershire

By JEREMY P. DAVIS

The discovery, by the author, of a medieval seal matrix on a building site near Cwmbrân in early 1994 led to enquiries amonst other metal-detector users in Gwent, working I hasten to add well away from any scheduled site. The outcome was the revelation that this was not the only as yet unreported specimen. With the kind co-operation of the individuals concerned (credited later as finders), I was able to weigh, draw, photograph, and take impressions of these matrices, which are here presented along with brief descriptions of their find-sites. The matrix from Gloucestershire is included, having been found on land held by Tintern Abbey at the time of its usage. Three of the matrices concerned have now been acquired by Newport Museum.

1. Seal of Thomas de Ang...

Date: ? Early 14th C. *Find-spot:* NGR: ST 524982

Copper alloy matrix, pointed oval, 36 x 22 mm., 9.27 gm; with a suspension loop on reverse. Corrosion had rendered much of the legend indistinct. The central device appears to be a bird at rest.

S'THOME DE ANG..L. (Lombardic Capitals)

The matrix was found by Mr. V. Thomas of Cwmbrân in 1988 at Porthcaseg Farm, Chepstow, Gwent, on the boundary of land once belonging to Tintern Abbey. The home manor of Porthcaseg took its name from this property. The settlement today is represented by a farm-house, probably of the late Georgian period and adjacent farm buildings, with two nearby cottages. Some undulating ground in a pasture field to the north with remnants of stone footings and several possible house platforms may indicate the original site of the manor's nucleus.

Location: Newport Museum; Acc. No: 94.49.

2. Seal of Richard Bench.

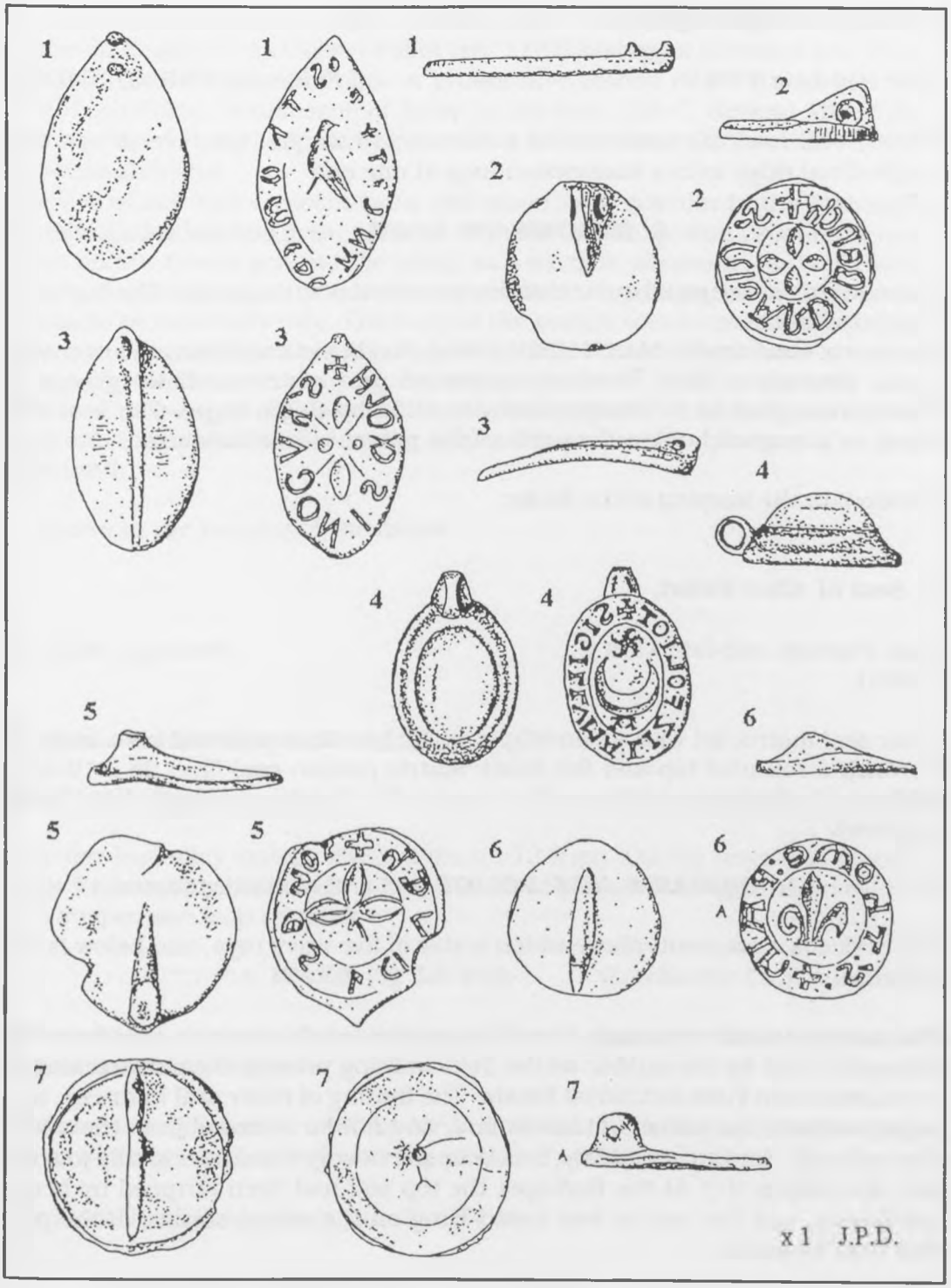
Date: Mid-Late 13th C. *Find-spot:* NGR: ST 526908.

Circular lead alloy matrix; 25 mm. diam., 10.95 gm. On the reverse is an off-set triangular ridge perforated to allow suspension.

+ S' RICARDI BENCH (Lombardic Capitals)

The matrix was found in Mathern, Gwent, in 1989, by Mr. A. Berrow of Cwmbrân. The motif is a simple quatrefoil device, a common design featuring on other seals found in Wales. Mathern, close to a principal medieval routeway, was later to be the site of a residence of the bishops of Llandaff. For another seal found in the parish of Mathern, see: Williams, D.H., *Catalogue of Seals in the National Museum of Wales* I (1993) p. 57 (No. W 358).

Location: In the possession of the finder.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x1 J.P.D.

3. Seal of Hugh Cogh (?).

Date: Mid-Late 13th C. *Find-spot:* NGR: ST 598995.

Pointed-oval lead alloy matrix, 34 x 22 mm; 11.23 gm. On reverse is a low longitudinal ridge with a suspension loop at one end.

+ S' HVGONIS (?) COGH (Lombardic Capitals)

The motif is an elongated quatrefoil design with linear diagonals. The legend is largely indistinct.
The matrix was found in March 1990 by Mr J. Fosdick of Cwmbrân at Plusterwine Farm, Woolaston, Glos. Plusterwine formed part of the medieval grange of Aluredeston granted to Tintern Abbey in 1302 by Roger Bigod. The seal was found on ploughed land to the north of the present farm buildings.

Location: In the keeping of the finder.

4. Seal of Alice Foliot.

Date: Perhaps mid-late 13th C. *Find-spot:* NGR: ST 299931.

Silver seal matrix set with an amethyst which has been polished 'en cabochon' (i.e: with a rounded top and flat base). Matrix proper: oval face, 25 x 19 mm; 8.52 gm. A suspension loop on the reverse. The design and legend are finely engraved.

+ SIGILLVM ALIZ FOLIOT (Lombardic Capitals)

The device is a crescent, above which a star of five wavy rays, and below is the initial: **A**.

The matrix, which seemingly formed part of a lady's pendant, was found in February 1994 by the author whilst field-walking prior to the construction of the Llantarnam Park Industrial Estate. The finding of other seal matrices, and papal *bullae* in the parish of Llantarnam, and not far removed from the site of the medieval Llantarnam Abbey, has been previously discussed in this journal *(Vol. X [1994] p. 21)*. At the find-spot the top soil had been stripped by heavy machinery, and the matrix was found lying on the rutted surface of the pale clay thus exposed.

The name Foliot (Foliott, Follet; in Old French: 'little fool') was widespread in medieval England - as Gilbert Foliot (ob. 1187) bishop of Hereford and later of London; Canon Reginald Foliot, a prospective bishop of St. David's in 1198; and Hugh Foliot, archdeacon of Salop in the mid-13th C. Several Alice Foliots can be traced , but the known seals of two of them bear devices different from those on this seal.
The use of star and crescent ('sun and moon') was popular in the Plantagenet period, as witness the great seals of Richard I. Perhaps the prominent use of them on our Gwent seal can be taken as a mark of allegiance to the Crown?
To present the stone in the reverse of the matrix , forming a decorative pendant, seems to be extremely rare. The body of the matrix was formed of two pieces of silver; the engraved base is flat, approximately 1.5 mm. thick, and is soldered to a collar of thinner metal which retains the stone. The suspension loop is soldered to the apex of this collar. Dr. M. Redknap (National Museum of Wales) suggests that a work of this quality may well have been the product of a London goldsmith.

Location: in the keeping of the finder.

5. Seal of John Leuch (Lewkin).

Date: Late 13th-Early 14th C. *Find-spot:* NGR: ST 526906.

Circular lead alloy matrix, 28 mm. diam., 13.9 gm. On the reverse is an off-set ridge for handling. This matrix has sustained plough damage and no evidence of a suspension loop remains.

+ IOhES (?) LE.VCh (Lombardic Capitals mostly).

The motif is a quatrefoil floral design, shallowly engraved. The surname in the legend is open to debate.

The matrix was found in 1989 by Mr V. Thomas of Cwmbrân, in the parisah of St. Arvan's, on the borders with the parish of Mathern.

Location: Newport Museum, Acc. No: 94.48.

6. Seal of Thomas Pain.

Date: Late 13th-Early 14th C. *Find-spot:* NGR: ST 520909.

Circular lead alloy matrix, 23 mm. diam., 7.78. gm. On the reverse is a longitudinal ridge for handling, which may have included a loop for suspension but of which no evidence remains.

\+ **S! ThOME : PAIN** (Lombardic Capitals mostly)

The motif is a single fleur-de-lis, a common device on seals of the period; for other examples found in Gwent, see last year's journal *(Vol. X [1994] p. 21).*

The matrix was found by Mr V. Thomas again in the parish of Mathern.

Location: Newport Museum, Acc. No: 94.47.

7. Blank Seal Matrix.

Date: ? 13th-14th C. *Find-spot:* NGR: ST 495955.

An unfinished lead alloy matrix, the reverse retaining its suspension loop. Circular, 29 mm. diam., 9.78. gm. Some preparatory engraving of the blank face has taken place, namely a pair of concentric circles around a small well-defined central indentation that indicates the use of a lathe or compass. There is possibly an incomplete floral design. An unengraved matrix in bronze is described in: *Salisbury and South Wiltshire Medieval Catalogue* I (No. 25), p. 54. For a mould for producing blank seal matrices, found by A.G. Mein at Trostrey, near Usk, see this journal *(Vol. VIII [1992] p.25).*
The present specimen was found by Mr J. Fosdick at Home Farm, Itton, on the eastern slopes of a field east of Itton Church, where there is some evidence for earlier buildings, and below earthworks perhaps representing the remains of formal gardens. In this areas a number of Roman coins have been recorded.

Location: In the keeping of the finder.

THE EVIDENCES OF THE PEOPLE: THE ARCHIVES OF THE COUNTY OF GWENT

By DAVID RIMMER

Text of an inaugural lecture by the County Archivist, delivered at County Hall, Cwmbrân, Gwent on 10 September 1994.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Public archive services in Great Britain are a recent development, archivists; are members of a young profession. Fifty years ago there were few archive repositories in the British Isles apart from the Public Record Office. Today the whole country is covered by a network of county and city record offices, which hold the archival treasures of the nation. The provision of public archive services has, in the main, been a public relations success. Today record offices are used by the world and his wife, by scholars, schoolchildren, local historians, administrators, students, family historians and members of the public using documents for practical purposes, to name but some. The list is endless. The words, archivist and archives are often used, sometimes misused, on television, on the radio and in the press. Yet despite this seeming success and a genuine heightening of public awareness of the existence and potential of the nation's archival treasures, once and only once has a recently appointed head of repository, the City Archivist of Portsmouth, given an inaugural lecture. This was in 1976. Then money was more plentiful, the pattern of central government and a recently reorganised local government more assured. Archives as an essential part of civilised life, the life of the people, appeared to have a bright future. Now, with radical proposals to change local government being brought into effect, the future seems less secure. There is a real possibility of excellent county record offices being squeezed, either being broken up as part of the process of local government reorganisation or having their limited resources reduced through ceaseless governmental attempts to secure economies in public spending.

I felt, for this reason, because of the uncertain future of public archive services, that it was my duty to deliver this inaugural lecture as County Archivist of Gwent. I do so to pay tribute to the work of my predecessors at Gwent County Record Office and to the many who have supported and do support the work of the County Record Office; to tell you of my beliefs as a professional archivist, historian and above all public servant and, finally, to outline plans for the future development of the County Record Office. While it is my earnest hope that these ideas will be accepted, it would be a sad anti-climax if they were to be approved in a passive, bland, quiet or uncritical way. My greatest pleasure will be if the ideas expressed today, arouse interest, lead to discussion and provoke lively public debate.

The tradition with inaugural lectures is that tribute is paid by the lecturer to the work of his predecessors. Monmouthshire County Council was a leader in Wales and in Great Britain where archives were concerned, being one of the few authorities to appoint an archivist before the Second World War. The late Dr. James Conway Davies, later reader in palaeography at Durham University, was appointed archivist in 1938. The pioneering work he carried out on the Quarter Sessions archives at Sessions House, Usk, and their removal to Monmouthshire County Hall in Newport in 1952, laid the foundations from which the County Record Office has developed. He cleaned, sorted, listed and indexed an enormous quantity of archives. The task which faced him was daunting in the extreme and I have taken this opportunity to quote from Dr. Conway Davies' first report. "The records ..... were ..... in a deplorable state of confusion, neglect and dirt. A few were scattered promiscuously in other rooms. A fair proportion was so perished and obliterated by damp that it was almost impossible to separate the individual documents from the coagulated mass ..... The floors of the muniment rooms were littered by burst sacks and bundles of records. The sacking had perished and portions of the jute adhered firmly to the documents. At some time the hot water system had leaked with the result that some, even of the comparatively recent records, had been reduced to a brownish pulp". It is clear that the task faced by Conway Davies was not one for a person with a queasy stomach and apart from hard work, organisational ability and intellectual grasp, the grit needed to work in dirty and, might I add, disgusting conditions, was paramount.

His successor Bill Baker, appointed County Archivist in 1952, became synonymous with Monmouthshire and later with Gwent County Record Office. It is impossible to enumerate all his achievements during a long tenure of office, from 1952 to 1982, but I must attempt, however imperfectly, to select some of the main developments. Gwent County Record Office now holds collections of archives second to none in Wales and the lion's share of important archives deposited here came in between 1952 and 1982. These include the large archives of landed families such as Rolls of the Hendre, Lewis of St. Pierre and Herbert of Llanover; records of trade unions; of hospitals; of businesses; and maritime archives such as crew lists for Newport and Chepstow and the archives of Newport Harbour Commissioners and the Newport Pilot Boat Company. In 1976 Gwent County Record Office was appointed as a repository for ecclesiastical parish records of the diocese of Monmouth and parts of the dioceses of Brecon and Swansea of the Church in Wales. The registers and other records of the great majority of the ecclesiastical parishes in the county are now held in the secure premises of Gwent County Record Office and are available for consultation by family and by local historian alike.

Perhaps the greatest achievement took place in the context of the Local Government Act, 1972, when the new districts, created by that Act, deposited virtually all of the pre 1974 archives of the boroughs, the urban districts and the rural districts, their predecessor authorities, with the County Record Office as part of Bill Baker's Uni-

fied Records Service. A records management unit was established to process all documentation generated within County Hall and by County Council departments located elsewhere.

This massive intake of local government, public and non governmental archives and records could not have been planned, managed, sustained or completed without radical progress being achieved in other areas. It is sufficient to state that the County Record Office moved into a new purpose-built record office in 1974 and a very extensive purpose-built records centre in 1979, both of these new premises replaced the temporary converted accommodation at the old County Hall in Newport, at Queen's Hill and at Stelvio, which had outlived their usefulness. Bill Baker had to work by himself when first appointed; when he retired the staff had grown to twelve comprising archivists, a trained and experienced conservator, records assistants and a clerk/typist. Finally, by 1982, the County Record Office provided both public and official user services. Bill Baker retired in 1982 and was succeeded as County Archivist by his deputy, Delwyn Tibbott, who, with tenacity, maintained the developments and achievements of the previous thirty years, despite growing problems facing Gwent County Council's services initially caused by the need to retrench and more recently through the considerable uncertainty generated by the proposals to reorganise local government in Wales. Little could have been achieved, however, without the hard work, skill, dedication and above all the humour of all of the members of staff, both past and present, of Monmouthshire and more recently of Gwent County Record Offices. Much is owed to them, much credit is due.

Gwent County Record Office could hardly have developed as it did without the consistent interest and support of those with ultimate political and official responsibility. I owe a special debt of gratitude to County Councillor Graham Powell, Chairman of Policy and Review Committee for his interest and for his committed support of that which I have attempted since my appointment and to Mr. Perry, the Chief Executive Officer and Mr. Davies, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer. Such support and guidance has indeed existed from those distant days when the joint Monmouthshire Archives Committee, comprising elected members of both Monmouthshire County Council and Newport County Borough Council was successively chaired *ex officio* by the Lords Lieutenant and Keepers of the Rolls, the previous Lord Raglan and Colonel Roderick Hill. Before 1974 ultimate official responsibility lay with Mr. Vernon Lawrence, followed by Mr. Ken Walker, then Clerks of the Peace and Monmouthshire County Council and with Mr. John Iles, then Town Clerk of Newport. Then Mr. James Bray, from 1974 Gwent County Council's first Chief Executive Officer, maintained this role, providing both guidance and support, as the County Record Office settled into its new premises and evolved as a progressive and innovative repository.

Now that past achievements have been reviewed, the circumstances of the present with its problems, controversies, challenges and opportunities and of the future with its needs, involve tasks which have to be identified and resolved.

The French Revolution was midwife to archive services in the modern sense, as we understand them today. Those who founded the *Archives Nationales* in Paris in 1790 did so to preserve the documents of the past so as to protect the civil liberties and property rights of the people. The key concept, an idea still generous and forward thinking today, was that archives were the evidences of the people. This idea, even now, is strong meat to the layman who often automatically knows that archives and archivists are dusty, fusty, introverted and essentially far removed from the real world. After all, are not record offices the privileged preserve of the favoured few? To understand this misconception, one needs to know how archive services developed in Britain and how some parts of the British archives profession managed and in a few areas still manages to project a negative public image.

The British response to the French initiative was more staid, measured and perhaps even conservative (with a small c of course). Following commissions, reports and committees spread out over many years the Public Record Office in London was eventually founded in 1838. Whilst this event was haltingly part and parcel of Britain's own administrative revolution of the mid-nineteenth century, part of the process of Benthamite reform, of an idea that public administration, even the keeping of archives should be properly carried out in a utilitarian fashion, there was a crucial difference. The French had linked the foundation of a national archives directly to the good of the people. The British were not so positive; their idea lacked the vital element of direct benefit to the public. The idea prevalent in this country was and is that the keeping of archives is not directly linked to clear public benefit. Sir Hilary Jenkinson, the doyen of British archivists wrote in 1922, defining archives as being "drawn up or used in the course of an administrative or executive transaction (whether public or private) of which itself formed a part; and subsequently preserved in their own custody for their own information by the person or persons responsible for that transaction and their legitimate successors". Jenkinson had a functional and a custodial view of the creation and purpose of archives. Since archives were created as part of an administrative transaction and retained for legal purposes and internal reference, then he (Jenkinson) was justified in excluding public user considerations, even the use of archives as historical evidence, from his reasoning. No attempt was made to analyse archive provision as a public service or the role of the record office as a service provider. I might be so bold as to state now that thinking within the archives profession in Great Britain about a user philosophy for archives has moved very little over the seventy years which have passed since Jenkinson wrote his seminal work *The Administration Of Archives*. The British archives profession still has no user philosophy.

This is the strangest of circumstances, we are truly in the world of the sleepwalker. British and Welsh archivists have in the real world done so much to promote the use of archives and bring the holdings of their repositories to the widest public. Most record offices are fully equipped to meet the needs of family historians, all are fully able to answer national and local historical enquiries, some have trained teachers attached to provide educational services and others not only manage the accruing

records of their own local authorities, but also provide good official information services. Many archivists publicise their repositories to great effect, so that the county or the city record office is accepted as a part of the fabric of every day life and use has increased in various repositories, five, ten or even twenty times over the past twenty years. Yet professional archivists scarcely have a user philosophy at all, let alone a reasoned, researched concept of the range of public and official services which a record office does or ought to provide. Needless to add this is not my view of how things ought to be.

To have no clear user philosophy is to court danger in a world where public funding is under eternal pressure, where every activity of every public body now has to be costed and justified in terms of direct quantifiable public benefit, where all markets have to be identified and all public services have to be marketed (not promoted or publicised), business plans have to be drawn up and outcomes (I mean results) justified in terms of performance indicators (that is to say statistics). Faced with this approach, the senior archivist who attempts to argue his or her case solely in custodial terms stands no chance of success and little of survival as public funds are remorselessly reduced. The inadequacy of the custodial archives philosophy has left a void. This gap has been partly filled by the concept of the local studies centre.

The idea is simple and is as follows. Record offices, museums and local studies libraries are concerned with local history; why not combine them to form a local studies centre? I am certainly not an opponent of local studies libraries, rather the reverse, having managed one as part of a record office for six years myself, yet this user concept is unsound for three reasons.

Firstly, the bringing together of all local history functions, in the long term results in all or some of these services being performed badly, and is one of the reasons why early centres of this type such as those at North Tyneside and Birmingham were dismantled, their functions being reconstituted as separate record offices and local studies libraries. In any case the services provided by museums, record offices and local studies libraries are all significantly different and local studies centres can suffer for this reason from dispersed objectives, whilst the multidisciplinary staffing structure of such a unit, in my opinion, presents the manager with unnecessary problems of coordination and of giving such a unit adequate direction.

Secondly, and this point must not be overstated, the centralising of management control of local studies resources is possibly an encroachment on academic freedom. I do not want to accuse those running local studies centres of being Stalinist or anything like that, yet controversy and debate over history is an important facet in the life of an open society. The bringing together of independent historical units into a single bureaucracy can stultify and undermine independent historical research. It undermines the professional freedom of archivists, local studies librarians and museum officers, all of whom have something special and unique to offer

in respect of their professional contribution to the writing of history and this independent viewpoint can so easily be lost when former independent units are mere links within the chain of a single organisation. This point must be taken into account at a time when so many small freedoms seem to be subject to encroachment to the detriment of the life of the soul.

My final reservation presents the solution and my personal user philosophy in which I believe local studies is an important aspect, yet an aspect only of the full range of user services which a good county record office should provide. The good archivist should be aware of, read and keep up to date on the local studies of his or her county, yet this should be part of a far wider remit, a much broader vision of the true potential of the full use of the record office. I shall explain.

Much of the potential of a county record office lies in archives collections having a national rather than a local significance. The papers of the first Lord Raglan, held at Gwent County Record Office, are a vital source for historians researching the Napoleonic and the Crimean Wars, archives of the early entrepreneurs, such documents as the Crawshay letter book, are important to those studying the Industrial Revolution; and the archives of Bedwellty Board of Guardians are of national significance, as they provide evidence of that authority's resistance to the Means Test in the pre-war Depression. There are other examples of archives held in county or city record offices which are of national importance, the archive of Charles the First's great minister Lord Strafford, which are held by Sheffield City Record Office; the records of the Vickers Armstrong shipbuilding company, held by Tyne and Wear County Archives Service; and the archives of famous motor vehicle manufacturing firms, such as Alvis Limited and the Daimler Motor Company, held at Coventry City Record Office. These are a few of many. Some records of specific localities have a national as well as local significance. Schoolchildren and students use the archives of Monmouth or Pontypool Boards of Guardians to understand the life of the poor in the last century, the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, Less Eligibility, the New Bastilles; the minute books of Chepstow, Cwmtillery or Cwmyoy School Boards can be used to trace the effects of Forster's Education Act of 1870 and the rise of popular, public education during the Victorian Era; the archives of the County Medical Officer of Health or of Abertillery and District Hospital provide evidence of the effects of the medical revolution, of modern surgery, antiseptics, the magic bullet, the decline of epidemic disease, the increase in life expectancy.

Family history is a national not merely a local past-time. Family historians from distant parts of the British Isles come to the County Record Office to trace their ancestors, to trace families and individuals who moved to or from Monmouthshire. Our ancestors no more stayed in one place than we do today. People moved in and out of Tudor, Stuart, Georgian and Victorian Monmouthshire, just as they leave or settle in present day Gwent.

Much of the use of a county record office is functional. Officials of the county and of other local authorities visit the Record Office to consult minute books, deeds, files

and plans as part of their day to day work. Building control plans, often dating from the last century, are a unique record of all structures built or planned to be built in all communities. They are used on one hand by major consultants such as Ove Arup planning to rebuild a factory or an office block; or on the other hand, by the troubled householder seeking to trace a drainage plan so he can find the cause of an overflow of sewage; the do it yourself man who wants to know if a particular wall between his lounge and dining room, which he wants to demolish, is load bearing or whether he should acquire rolled steel joists for this particular piece of home improvement.

Educational use is different again. Local studies play an important part in the use of archives in the class room, in the G.C.S.E. and 'A' level syllabuses, in the National Curriculum, yet the use of archives for educational purposes has a deeper and broader purpose than mere antiquarian curiosity, of being merely to teach children about their community. It is to teach children how to use their own minds, to interpret evidence for themselves by using archives, rather than by merely passing on facts in 'Gradgrind' fashion from this or that history text book. Use of archives can induce thought in the young; it makes reality of the past.

The traditional reasons for archive services still retain their validity - I would be distorting the truth if I claimed that this were otherwise. Legal custody and interest in researching the locality are very important parts of the range of services provided by the record office and must either be maintained or encouraged and expanded. Some classes of records and archives are closed to public access for long periods of time, and with reason. The law of the land, the Public Records Acts and Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, for example, exist to protect the rights and privacy of the individual citizen. This might seem negative; after all in the fullness of time court books, coroners' files and patients' records cards will be used for research. Yet there would be an outcry at a blatant breach of common decency if individual records of suicide, criminality or of illnesses both physical and mental were to be immediately made available to be browsed over by anyone, whether they are connected with the individual concerned or not. Denial of access is a significant, necessary and onerous public responsibility of the archivist. Conversely, the promotion of local history has to be developed by every means possible; the staging of exhibitions, holding of local history fairs, publicising of new collections received in the record office, giving of talks, and encouragement of historical publications. The record office's role is significant. History is a portable muse, I stress that relationships with museums and local studies libraries need to be close, yet flexibility needs to be retained by letting each institution develop independently. Local history is an area of rapidly changing fashions and interests, this is its glory, and record offices can best stimulate, encourage and meet research needs by keeping their freedom of manoeuvre.

In truth the progressive county record office justifies its role in the community not merely by preserving archives for custodial and legal reasons, or by concentrating

on a narrow but important service devoted mainly to historical research of a locality or localities but by providing a broad range of services: to official searchers, public users needing to use documents for practical reasons, schools, academic researchers, students, local historians, national historians, genealogists amongst others. The successive British concerns, firstly with custody and secondly with local research, if left to themselves as the only services acknowledged to be provided by a record office, serve to marginalise the public role of the record office, so that it fails to operate at the centre of public life, as it should. The concept of the founders of the *Archives Nationales*, that of preserving archives as the evidences of the people, implied a broader role for the archives repository than is publicly accepted today. By taking the revolutionary concept of an archive service as existing for the good of the people and identifying a range of services to benefit all the community, the archives service can achieve its goal of preserving the evidences of the people for the good of the people.

How shall this be achieved? In a way I have to exercise discretion. New initiatives involving the use of resources paid for by local government require the sanction of the controlling authority. Some innovations, however, are so intimately bound up with the relationship between the Record Office and users that a little market research, by testing the public response to these new developments needs to take place. This is what I am doing today.

Barriers exist between the record office as supplier and the public as a user. The long tradition of the custodial record office is understandable; there is a need to preserve unique and irreplaceable documents from unlicensed access, from theft and from damage. The price paid for this outlook, for these safeguards, is the prevalence amongst many citizens of the idea that record offices are dry, forbidding places, where the public are discouraged, even intimidated. Many users feel, that however useful or valid their reasons, they are too gauche, inferior or unintelligent to enter the portals of their record office. Sadly, this is a common state of mind which benefits neither the potential user or those providing the service. Better publicity is an obvious remedy, the use of talks, exhibitions, promotion through publishing and by the use of the media. These activities involve the people as passive recipients. There is also a second way, the removal of the barrier between the record office and public through active participation. I shall discuss two such initiatives in turn, the creation of a 'friends of the record office' organisation and oral history. Both have been tried successfully elsewhere.

'Friends of the record office' organisations now exist in many counties and some cities: in Essex, Kent, Leicestershire, Warwickshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, East Sussex and Portsmouth. Other record offices have similar linked organisations which serve a similar purpose, the Hampshire Archives Trust and the Northamptonshire Record Society are good examples. The purposes they serve are many and important. Friends of the record office organisations can act as public pressure groups seeking to improve the services provided by the record offices. They can hold social events to stimulate interest in use of the archives and in the intellectual

life of the county. Reduction in public expenditure has increased the value of the 'Friends' organisations. The limitations on procurement budgets and the rising price of much equipment such as, reader printers, exhibition equipment and some conservation equipment has driven such items beyond the reach of many archive repositories. 'Friends organisations', through fund raising activities, can make the one off purchase of such expensive items possible. You have seen an example today. A large exhibition has been staged, yet the display cabinets, although sturdy and distinguished in appearance, in some ways are dated and no longer suitable for staging exhibitions. Money does not exist for their replacement. Again, when the owner of valuable archives puts his collection on the market, the price demanded can be so high that even with the help of grants in aid from funds such as the Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund, insufficient money is available to compete with the long purses of the well heeled collectors, of whom there is a growing number in this country. Money raised for lesser purchases can be used to relieve pressure on the overworked budgets of a record office.

'Friends of record offices' organisations can help with the work of a record office. In some record offices the Friends have provided volunteers to carry out simpler tasks such as indexing. In one midland county record office, its 'Friends' organisation helps the limited staff available when the office is open to the public after office hours by assisting with the manning of the search room.

These are some ideas only; there could well be other potential ways in which a 'Friends' organisation may, by helping the Record Office, help the public it serves.

There are limits however, and a delicate balance will have to be maintained. If a 'Friends' organisation is established it has to be created independently. Its value as a pressure group will be reduced to insignificance if it has no independence from its record office. They would say that wouldn't they! Furthermore it has to run itself. The reason a 'Friends' organisation is brought into existence is to help the record office and it would confound this aim if it became yet a further demand on the time of the small number of staff working at the record office. Resources no longer exist in record offices to provide 'Friends' organisations with typing, mailing or similar facilities.

On the other hand the constitution and actions of a 'Friends' organisation have to be framed and considered so as not to encroach on, or to undermine the work of the salaried archives staff. The right of the salaried staff to work, free from the dictates of a self-appointed outside body, however good and honourable its purposes, must be respected.

For these reasons it is vital that detailed and well considered informal discussions between interested individuals and the county archivist and his or her staff take place before the 'Friends' organisation is established and that the controlling local authority approves the formal relationship between friends organisation and record office.

Oral history, the tape recording of the accounts by individuals of their past, is just the sort of interactive initiative which could be taken up by a 'Friends' organisation.

It is a fascinating subject in its own right. A few major national institutions, such as the Imperial War Museum, have been able to provide specific permanent funding for their own oral history schemes and the maintenance and use of their own collections of tape recordings.

It is ironic, yet in local government a tradition has grown up that oral history is not an area suitable for permanent funding. Yet oral history is an extremely labour intensive activity. The making of a single recording, if undertaken using techniques of the type pioneered by the Imperial War Museum, involves researching the individual and his or her background and environment, a preliminary discussion, the interview or interviews, transcribing the tape, transferring the recording from the reel to reel master copy on to cassette and finally making and updating a list and indexes to the growing collection.

Yet despite this, oral history schemes in the world of local government have been maintained by *ad hoc* means; after hours voluntary work by the permanent member of staff to whom this work is a hobby, pilot schemes carried out by volunteers or work by teams which had been temporarily funded by the use of Manpower Services Commission resources. A number of record offices, notably at Suffolk, Swansea, Northumberland and Coventry have built up significant collections of tape recordings. The criticism which can be directed against such evidence is that of subjectivity or bias. Yet if the individual was directly involved in the Depression, coal-mining, the steel industry, the Second World War or the planning of Cwmbrân New Town, does not this bias enhance the value of the recording as historical evidence. Oral history is of value as very often it supplements existing evidence and it preserves evidence which might otherwise be lost. The minutes and agenda papers of a committee meeting tell only a part of the story of how a decision was reached; evidence of the negotiations, bargaining and compromises may only survive as oral testimony. Experience has shown that good oral history collections have opened up whole new areas of twentieth century history to the student. Oral testimony has a pedigree stretching back to the time of Herodotus, yet only in this century, in the age of the tape recorder, has it come of age.

Oral history is not a passive activity, its essence is interaction, the skill of the interviewer on one hand, the verbal powers, reasoning and recall of the interviewee on the other. It is the sort of act which brings history to life and because of the inter-reaction between the people concerned it is, in itself, a living process, a form of communication which breaks down constraint and can become part of the process of removing barriers between the record office and the community. Some years ago, a retired miner came into the searchroom of the record office where I worked. He was tracing men who had worked with him down a colliery which had closed long ago. I produced archives of this colliery; cottage rentals and production ledg-

ers as far as I can remember. When the man read these books he talked to me about what he found; the names of the men who lived in the cottages, their jobs, families, place in the community, all came to life. When he left I decided, that if the opportunity to start an oral history scheme presented itself, he would certainly be interviewed. A few years later all this happened. I never knew that before Nationalisation, the miner had to buy everything; lamp, picks, tadges, moleskins, everything apart from the explosives. Many of you will know this, but it is a broadening of education to people who were never part of a mining community or to those too young, to whom the mining industry is soon to become part of their past, part of their heritage, but not part of their experience.

Oral history has many benefits, but there are drawbacks. I can remember meeting a lady of ninety-seven who had been a pioneering member of the local Labour party. She had been a member of a midlands city council some time before the Second World War. Although in an old folks home, she was not senile; in fact, she was very active mentally. I told the supervisor of the then Oral History Team, about her. He visited the old folks home to interview her, but she had a depression that day, as sometimes is the case with the very old; further progress was impossible. Oral history can be a game of chance and hazard. Equipment is quite expensive, as it involves the provision of reel to reel tape recorders, cassette recorders, of good quality tapes, both reel to reel and cassette, of transcribers and of other equipment. Once made, the tapes have to be periodically re-wound. Nevertheless this form of evidence, this activity, can be a valuable way not only of preserving the past, but also of helping to create the right sort of user community and could well be the sort of initiative which could be undertaken by a 'Friends' of the record office organisation.

The role of the archivist has changed rapidly over recent years, as have public expectations. A change I would like to see happen is that the relationship between user and archivist becomes more of a two-way process. A case in point concerns the deposit of archives. One of the problems which bedevils the archivist is how to cope with the man or woman who brings large quantities of valueless documents to the record office, expecting that they will be preserved as a deposit! The archivist has a problem, he or she does not wish these papers to take up valuable shelf space, or to waste time listing and indexing them. They are certainly never going to be of use to anyone. On the other hand, to say to this public spirited citizen "take them away, they are no use", could cause personal offence, worse still it could lead to the person never depositing any other records, even if they are of great historic value, with the record office and spreading the bad news round amongst his or her friends. This has been a problem always. In these more enlightened times it should be possible to end the image of the record office as a dumping ground for waste paper. Instead of the owner of a collection of papers saying to himself or herself, "I have some old papers, I shall take them to the Record Office", in future owners of papers, deeds or maps may think in terms of, "these documents may be of research value, I shall consult an archivist". I hope this idea will spread and that members of the

public owning papers will not be discouraged; one set of papers may worthless, but another collection could well be of great historical value. The process, in any case, will be one of education and an owner of records who has had one collection rejected will, in all probability, have a much better idea as to what is valuable and what is not, next time round.

There are other professional issues which will be raised as time goes on. The Record Office is obliged to maintain its efficiency by records management, processes which prevent an archive repository from being swamped with documents of short term value, of ephemera and duplicates. The effectiveness of the present arrangements will be examined with a view to extending the scheme to all local authority and other official organisations in Gwent.

The County Record Office is the only archives repository in the county, yet in the past very important archive collections, which relate solely to Gwent had been donated to or deposited with repositories far away from the county and sometimes the deposit of such collections had been solicited by the repository concerned. This problem is not unique to Gwent or to Wales, it is part of the great British archival free for all. Most of this activity, which I understand is called poaching, has happened through historical accident rather than malice. In a country where there is now a complete network of record offices, there is no need for it. The results are undesirable for all concerned. The user is grossly inconvenienced, long journeys have to be made to distant towns, collections are divided needlessly. The collection policies of record offices are distorted, a policy of negotiating for some collections can be put to one side and valuable archives can be put at risk of being destroyed because priority has been given to the acquisition of archives which are at risk of being solicited by a rival repository. Quantities of archives can be acquired, far beyond the capacity of the record office to list, conserve and make available for use, out of fear that if they are not brought in, they may go elsewhere. Finally, this situation is undignified and does little for the public image of the archives profession. It is intended that a climate of opinion is further nurtured to allow such residual competition to gradually die away.

The final initiative which has been selected is that of microform records. The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (the Mormons), for reasons connected with its tenets of faith, microfilms all documents of genealogical interest, so long as it can obtain the agreement of the owner and within this agreement, provides free copies of all microform to the repository holding the originals. This is of enormous benefit to both user and archivist, as these microforms prevent wear and tear to the unique and irreplaceable originals. I shall make arrangements with the Mormons to obtain such copies where agreement can be obtained from the owners, and seek to change the views of the owners of such archives of genealogical value, where they are at present disinclined to accept such an agreement. The provision of self service microform facilities is common in record offices today, and enables a better service to be provided for large number of users through its essential informality, but also, assists in the removal of the barrier between user and archivist.

There are many other issues of public concern which could have been included in this lecture; they have not been raised because it is my intention to stimulate interest, encourage and create controversy. Local government reorganisation has however created a climate where a degree of uncertainty has been introduced where the future of all county record offices, both in Wales and England is concerned. It is not my place to involve myself in the politics of the process, but the exposition of some practical issues can be illuminating. Record offices are cheap to run in local government terms. Collections of archives are acquired by gift or deposit, the large procurement funds needed to pay functions such as highway maintenance or the purchase of public library bookstock are not needed. Payroll costs are low, as in staffing terms archives repositories are small units employing small numbers of officers. The total yearly revenue costs of each South Wales repository is below half a million pounds, in Gwent's case well below this figure. The real danger is that, given the pressure on local government expenditure and the disruption caused by change, the local authorities will cease to provide funding. The monies involved are small, savings would be nugatory. Effective and sustained public pressure could be instrumental in ensuring that the excellent record offices in existence are not only retained but developed. The risk to archives provision is more likely to occur through those with responsibility construing silence as consent.

Country-wide archival provision has been effectively provided for by the developing of a network of county record offices nationwide, a framework of professional provision and care. In contrast, other models have been less successful. There were very many county boroughs in England and Wales before 1974, a handful only: Bristol, Coventry, Chester, Southampton and Portsmouth, were prepared to provide identifiable archives services; most provided none at all. Most metropolitan districts have populations and resources comparable to shire counties; although many provide archive services, these are very small, lacking specialist provision such as conservation, records management, or trained staff to man the searchroom. A significant number of metropolitan authorities provided no archive service even where no metropolitan county record offices existed and only a few such as Sheffield and Coventry developed record offices comparable to county record offices. This background needs to be taken into consideration in the context of future archives provision.

The idea of the record office is not always easy to understand. It, like Janus, has two faces. It is rooted in administration, it relates to the administrations which create the archive for which it cares, the hardware is administrative. The public face is different; it has many facets, services are provided to officials, scholars, schoolchildren, genealogists, local historians and citizens all of whom use archives and records for practical purposes. The ideals and ideas expressed today will form the core of intent for the actions which will evolve into a programme for the development of Gwent County Record Office. There is much to do and in some areas improvements will not become apparent overnight. It is intended that the archive service shall be developed to benefit the citizens of Gwent in such a way that, whatever constraints exist, the improvements will still be possible, although their attain-

ment may not always be easy. If they do not happen in the long term, then I shall, quite reasonably, be open to the charge of administrative cowardice. The need for the County Record Office to be developed to keep the evidences of the people of Gwent, to use them to provide the best possible service for the good of the people, is such that it deserves a public statement of intent and commitment.

REVIEWS

Guide to the Department of Manuscripts and Records: The National Library of Wales. Edited by Daniel Huws. viii + 227 pp., 225 x 153 mm. (Aberystwyth, National Library of Wales: 1994). ISBN: 0-907158-80-3. £ 15-00 (£ 17-50, by post).

The wealth of the manuscript and archival holdings of the National Library of Wales is well known. But in their range and complexity they have often seemed perplexing even to the experienced researcher. This *Guide* provides for the first time a comprehensive survey of all the resources of the Department of Manuscripts and Records. So far as Gwent is concerned pride of place must go to the Badminton and Tredegar collections of deeds and other documents. The Monmouthshire content of the *Badminton* papers (recently purchased by the Library, hitherto they had been on deposit with restricted access), was reviewed at length in this journal *(Vol. I: Pt. 3)* in 1963. The extent of the Beaufort estates in our county are reflected in the wide-ranging resource of ecclesiastical and manorial records in the collection. Of especial note are the borough charters (often copies) of Monmouth and Newport, a valuable series of manorial court rolls pertaining to the lands of Tintern Abbey, and a wealth of information relating to early industry - particularly in the Wye Valley. The nineteenth century growth of Newport is also well documented in the *Tredegar* records; 'a very large archive' indeed, as the *Guide* points out. They, too, contain records of industrial interests, mainly coal and iron, as well as a fine series of estate rentals. The Morgan family of Tredegar is well represented with the transcripts of letters from the Crimea from Godfrey Charles Morgan and Frederick Courtney Morgan, as well as the electioneering diaries - and much other information, concerning that nineteenth-century stalwart of our Association, Octavius Morgan.

Ecclesiastical concerns are to the fore in those *Records of the Church in Wales* relating to the Diocese of Llandaff (of which, until 1921, Monmouthshire formed part). These include parochial registers deposited by parishes, as well as early wills and other probate records. Borough history (of Monmouth) is to be sought in the *Monmouth Manor* and *M.P. Watkins* collections. The latter also contains the records of the Monmouthshire Turnpike Trust. Political considerations are found in the papers of *Sir L. Twiston Davies* (relating to parliamentary elections from 1818 to 1885), and the records of the *Monmouth Conservative Association* (1903-88). Access to the latter is 'conditional' - generally this means that especial permission to view is necessary and it as as well to consult the Department well in advance of an intended visit. The same restriction applies to the papers of *Leo Abse* (M.P. for Pontypool, 1958-87) and of *Jeffrey Thomas* (M.P. for Abertillery, 1970-83). No such condition appears to apply to the papers of Ron Evans, the Labour Party agent in Ebbw Vale to Aneurin Bevan and Michael Foot (1951-77). Antiquarians will find much help in the notes made by that formidable Monmouthshire historian, *Sir Joseph Bradney* (1859-1933).

Other collections with a greater or lesser Gwent component include: *Abergavenny* (rentals and deeds of the lordship of Abergavenny); *P.M. Barnard* and *Holland* (deeds relating to the Kemeys family of Bertholey);*Bute* (manorial records from 14th C. on); *Carter* (deeds concerning the Morgan and Carter families of Chepstow); *Clytha* (early modern estate

records); *Courtfield* (estate records of the Vaughan family); *Cymreigyddion y Fenni* (literary works submitted to the Abergavenny Eisteddfod, 1834-53); *(Baker) Gabb* and *The Chain* (primarily papers and records of the Baker-Gabb family of Abergavenny);*Glen A. Taylor* (deeds of the family of Morgan of Pencreeg); *Hadnock* (deeds, 1641-1775); *John Lloyd* (including records relating to the Beaufort ironworks); *Kemeys-Tynte* (records of the family at Cefn Mabli); *Kyrle Fletcher* (early modern Gwent deeds); *Llangibby Castle* (deeds and letters, but also including a collection of literary and historical manuscripts); *Llanover MSS* (collected or compiled by Edward Williams, 'Iolo Morgannwg'); *Llanover Papers* (notably of Lady Llanover, 1802-96); *Mather Jackson* (deeds of the family of Lewis of Llantilio Crossenny); *Milborne* (estate and other records of the families of Gunter of Abergavenny and Milborne of Wonastow); *Newton Jackson* (deeds mainly concerning the hundred of Skenfrith); *Penralley* (including papers relating to the Revd. Jonah Bowen Evans, sometime curate of Cwmyoy (1833-38); founder member of, and prize winner at, the Abergavenny Eisteddfod);and *Talbot of Hensol* (estate records relating to Gwent). Reference should also be had by Gwent researchers to the *NLW MSS*, *NLW ex*, *NLW Deeds*,*NLW Rolls*, and *NLW Facsimiles*; these are briefly outlined on pp. 6-10 of the *Guide*. Some collections of deeds have been returned to their original depositors, as *Arundel* (records relating to Gwynllŵg, 1500-16) to Arundel, and those of *Monmouthshire County Council* (dealing with Poor Law administration) to Gwent County Record Office.

Several scholars (Nia Henson, Tudor Barnes, Mary Davies, Philip Wyn Davies, Glyn Parry, and Robert Davies) collaborated with the editor to produce this fine *Guide*, a timely publication - perhaps some might say long over-due, clearly invaluable to students of the history of Gwent as well as those interested in genealogical research. The *Guide* has throughout valuable cross-references to (i) material from the same collection preserved in other departments of the Library, and (ii) to material relevant to the same subject contained in other record repositories. Those, for example. who make use of the *Badminton* MSS and Deeds will very probably wish to consult at some stage the fine eighteenth-century volumes of estate plans preserved in the Map Room. A student of local history making use of the *St. Pierre* deeds will find other such material in Gwent County Record Office. Finally, your reviewer has used the resources of the Department of Manuscripts and Records for almost forty years, and in this volume he finds much of interest that he has previously missed.

David H. Williams.

Report on the Excavations at Usk 1965-76: Medieval and Later Usk. By Paul Courtney. xx + 165 pp., 65 figs. and 25 plates., 292 x 233 mm. (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, on behalf of the Board of Celtic Studies, 1994). ISBN: 0-7083-1245-4. £ 30-00.

The excavations at Usk, directed by W.H. Manning, the editor of the series, were initiated primarily as a response to the threat to the archaeology of the Roman military occupation of the site. Naturally, with the importance of Usk in the medieval and later periods, the project was bound to come across some structural and material evidence pertaining to these times. It is, therefore, to the credit of all parties concerned that the excavated evidence for medieval and later Usk should form one of the volumes of the excavation report when it could easily have been argued that the series should be devoted solely to the Roman evidence. In fact Courtney's writing up of the excavations could have been assigned to an archaeological journal, for the actual archaeology (excavation report and

the finds) is not particularly long. However, the decision to include the topics covered by the final two chapters ('The history and topography of medieval and later Usk' and 'Urbanism and marketing in medieval and early modern Gwent') is to be applauded, and I would imagine most people interested in the history of this county, and of Usk itself, will want to acquire the book primarily for these two chapters.

The first chapter covers the excavations themselves, including the town defences and the evidence for the first 'gaol' (part of the exercise yard of the 1840's house of correction). The next three chapters are devoted to the environmental evidence, the ceramics and the small finds respectively. One of the more interesting features of the excavations was the later 17th Century stone-lined cesspit found in 1976 (Maryport Street). Many of the finds indicated that original ownership was by someone of some standing, judging by the ceramics and also the glass. The study of the environmental evidence from the pit provided evidence for cockfighting, in the words of Barbara Noddle *(p.40)* 'a rare and remarkable find'. The remains of several domestic fowl (988 bones representing a minimum of 45 birds) were uncovered, all of which had been thrown into the pit as whole carcasses, mainly cock birds or castrates, and all the evidence would seem to support the conclusion that the birds had formed part of the Usk entertainment industry. As well as a quantity of clay pipes, mainly later 17th Century, the pit contained a pin cushion containing a minimum of 23 copper alloy pins still *in situ.*

The book is a very useful contribution to the archaeology of south-east Wales. It is well illustrated, and the index appears to be thorough. Greater care could have been taken over the bibliography as several entries are listed under the used forename of some authors; for example, Jack, Perks and Radford, are cited under Ian, Clifford and Ralegh respectively. Also, Crossley's report on Kimmeridge is in the *Archaeological Journal*, not the *Antiquaries Journal*. Finally, how the University of Wales Press allowed the author to get away with the spelling 'Llewellyn' *(pp.120, 123)* as opposed to the correct form 'Llywelyn' (or 'Llewelyn') is hard to understand.

John R. Kenyon

Monnow Bridge and Gate. By M.L.J. Rowlands. 152 pp., 81 figs. 219 x 153mm. (Stroud, Alan Sutton Publishing; in association with Monmouth Museum, 1994). ISBN: 0-7509-0415-1. £ 9-99.

Monnow Bridge, familiar to every visitor to Monmouth, is both a unique survivor in British medieval military architecture, and a symbol of the town. Drawn by every significant topographical artist, reproduced in every kind of medium, from paper bags to mineral water bottles to white china (with the borough arms) and stained glass, the bridge has now found its definitive historian. Dr. Rowlands tells the story of the bridge, from it first building to present day conservation and controversy, in scholarly detail with a wealth of illustrations.

An earlier timber bridge of *c.*1170-80 preceded the present one, which may be dated by royal murage grants of 1297 and 1315, though a persistent earlier tradition, perhaps from some lost source, prefers 1272. Thereafter, its story has been one of almost continuous alteration, as Dr. Rowlands'drawing of it in its original state *(fig.3)* shows. Originally the width of the present roadway, its main external features, the machicolation (medieval)

and the arches (modern) are additions. The account of how the bridge has reached its present structural form through various stages of conservation and repair is perhaps the most important aspect of the book. It is all too easy to regard a medieval building as an untouched original structure. This fluently written and generously illustrated book is an important addition to the literature of medieval fortifications in Gwent and in Wales.

Jeremy K. Knight

Vanished Abergavenny : Y Fenni Ddiflanedig (The Old Photograph Series). By Frank Olding. 128 pp., monochrome photographs with text. 165 x 235 mm. (Bath, Alan Sutton Ltd; 1994). ISBN: 0-7524-0034-7. £ 7-99.

Between 1957 and 1968 many of the older parts of Abergavenny were destroyed when the then Monmouthshire County Council decided to re-route the A40 around the western side of the town. The proposed route was along Mill Street, via the Castle Bank into Castle Street and through Tudor Street. This development was abandoned, but the precedent was set and the old Abergavenny Borough Council continued with its "slum clearance" schemes in these and adjacent areas. Many splendid and interesting buildings were destroyed. Fortunately, several local photographers and historians, notably Mr. D..M. Duggan-Thacker, were able to record many features of the buildings before and during demolition. It is their work, clearly and concisely brought together by Mr. Olding which comprises the larger part of this book.

L. A. Probert

The County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil (The Old Photograph Series). By Carolyn Jacob, Stephen Done and Simon Eckley. 128 pp., illustrated throughout. 235 x 165 mm. (Bath, Alan Sutton Ltd; 1994). ISBN: 0-7524-0012-6. £ 7-99.

This compilation of historic photographs is presented as a celebration of Merthyr's return to County Borough status. It is an open question whether imminent changes in the structure of local government actually give rise for celebration. The book itself, however, is an enjoyable pictorial presentation of the recent history of a town which has been pivotal in the development of South Wales.

Naturally, iron, steel and coal enjoy prominence although it is proper that the book begins with "rural roots". It is likely that for many readers photographs recording less obvious aspects of life in Merthyr will have the greatest impact. The remarkable stable of motorised tricycles owned by the Webley family in 1905, for example, is a case in point.

The Quaker's Yard Truant School, also pictured in 1905, does not look a happy band of children. A pleasant contrast is the photograph of the 1950's Christmas party at Gellifaelog School, Penydarren. Gellifaelog subsequently became a Welsh medium school.

Such collections of old photographs have become very popular in recent years and rightly so. They provide a graphic historical record as well as a pleasant diversion for readers.

Raymond Howell

FIELD EXCURSIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES, 1994

Day Outing: July 16th, to Carew.

We undertook only one day outing this year, as many of our members were to be involved in two busy occasions later in the summer. We spent a delightful, sunny day at the village of Carew in Pembrokeshire, where there was more than enough to keep us busy. We arrived in time for lunch, and members either enjoyed a picnic by the millpond or sampled the local hostelries. During the afternoon, we explored the millpond, and traced its development from the Norman fortress of Gerald de Windsor to the handsome Elizabethan country house of Sir John Perrot. We then watched the current excavation on the site, conducted by Dr. David Austin of St. David's University College, Lampeter, and enthusiastically interpreted for us by the young site director, who rejoiced in the name of Quentin Crew. The team has so far uncovered evidence of Iron Age, Romano-British and possibly Dark Age occupation. We managed to see the fine Early Christian stone cross, commemorating the death in 1035 of Maredudd ab Edwin, ruler of Deheubarth, and also to visit the last complete tidal mill in Wales, before demolishing a hearty home-made tea in the flower garden of the French Mill House. A visit to Carew church, where several early owners of the castle lie buried, concluded our day in Carew.

Evening visits.

In spite of a varied programme, intended to cater for all tastes, the first two visits were very poorly attended. Pentwyn hillfort, overlooking the junction of the Monnow and Honddu rivers, and looking down on the rooftops of Trewyn, which we visited later in the season, was explored with much enjoyment by Mr. Alan Probert, our guide for the evening, the Honorary Secretary and two new members. At the National Museum of Wales, on a rather damp Saturday afternoon, a tiny group of us looked at the beautiful flower collages of Mrs. Delany, friend of George III and Queen Charlotte, which were later donated to the British Museum by her relative, Lady Llanover. Trewyn proved to be a popular choice. Said to be one of the oldest houses in the county, taking its name from Sir Gwyn ap Gwaethfoed, lord of White Castle at the Norman Conquest, it is being extensively renovated as a family home by the present owner, Mr. Gerald Harford. Members responded happily to his invitation to explore at will, despite the risk of meeting a bespotted daughter of the house, laid low with chickenpox - or was it measles? We visited two early iron-making sites in the Forest of Dean, under the expert guidance of Mr. Philip Riden. At Whitecliff Furnace, near Coleford, a coke-fired furnace was established in 1800. At Gunn's Mill, near Flaxley, we saw the best preserved charcoal-fired furnace in southern Britain, which operated between 1635 and 1740. Mr. Parker, the owner of this amazing place, gave us an insight into the problems of owning a historic site. Our final visit of the season was to Piercefield near Chepstow. A small but hardy group congregated in heavy rain to be escorted by Mr Keith Underwood along part of the famous walk created by Valentine Morris of Piercefield in the eighteenth century, now being re-discovered and restored, through the woods on the cliff overlooking the Wye, from which breathtaking views

could be enjoyed. When it became too dark to continue our magical journey of discovery, we made Mr. Underwood promise to "do the other half in 1995". I am happy to say he agreed most readily.

Cambrian Archaeological Association.
The Cambrians held their Summer Meeting in Gwent in August, 1994, and the Association honoured the occasion by entertaining them to tea at Caerwent, before their visit to the excavation of the Roman forum and basilica being carried out by Mr. Richard Brewer. Their President for the year was our own Honorary Editor, Rev. Dr. David Williams (a native of Newport), who thanked us warmly on their behalf.

Chateau Gaillard International Conference on Medieval Castle Fortifications.
September found us busy entertaining once more, this time, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Humphreys, in the delightful garden of Usk Castle, on a balmy afternoon when our learned guests seemed more inclined to bask in the sunshine, savouring their tea and marvelling at finding themselves in a castle inhabited by a real family, than to press on to their next appointment.

These two events were arranged by a small, hard-working sub-committee, who were thrilled (and relieved) by the generous response of so many of the ladies of the Association, who cooked and served with a will, thus contributing to two happy and memorable occasions.

Autumn Public Lecture; October 29th, in the Endowed Schools, Caerleon.
Mr. Stephen Clarke reviewed the work of the Monmouth Archaeological Society which grew from a few small boys who had been inspired by Mr K. Kissack and Mr A. L. Sockett. It is now recognised as one of the leading amateur societies in Britain. The group has been active for nearly forty years, but only came to national attention following the discovery of a Norman town beneath Monmouth's main street. This discovery was followed by the unearthing of the Monmouth pre-Flavian fort of the mid-1st Century A.D. The team has also found a structure believed to pre-date the Norman Conquest. Other finds have included: pottery kilns, medieval forges, a tile kiln, a bell foundry, a cobbler's waste pit, other medieval domestic and industrial sites, and many prehistoric and Roman sites including two other Roman forts. Most of the Society's time has been spent carrying out rescue work on sites in Monmouth that were threatened by development. The society is now taking on some paid professional contracts in line with new Government guide-lines. The Society won in 1988 two of the highest awards in British archaeology: the Pitt-Rivers Award (for the best voluntary work) and the Legal and General Silver Trowel (for the greatest initiative in British archaeology). In 1992 it was a runner-up for the Pitt-Rivers Award.

G.V.J.