CPAT Report No 1121

The Jamesford Coin Hoard, Montgomery

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY AND EXCAVATION

THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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Report for Cadw

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In late June 2011 the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was alerted to the discovery of a hoard of Roman coins by the finder, Mr Adrian Simmons. The coins had been found on 28 June while using a metal detector on a pasture field at Jamesford (SO 21149 97513), 1.5km north-west of Montgomery. Initially, Mr Simmons identified a number of individual coins within the ploughsoil, concentrated within a relatively small area. Further use of the metal detector, however, revealed the remarkable find of a hoard of coins, of which around 900 were removed before it was evident that they had been placed within a redware jar. The remaining coins, together with the jar, were left undisturbed and, in line with the *Code of Practice for Responsible Metal Detecting in England and Wales*, Mr Simmons reported the find to CPAT under the Portable Antiquities Scheme, bringing the excavated coins with him. It is commendable that the majority of the hoard was left in situ so that its context and any associated material or deposits could be later investigated in a controlled manner.

1.2 With the co-operation of the owner, Mr Morris Jones, a small excavation was conducted by CPAT on 5 July 2011 with funding provided by Cadw. This investigated an area measuring 1.5m by 1.5m centred on the coin hoard, and involved the careful removal of the turf and topsoil by hand. The near drought conditions at the time of the excavation made the identification of different deposits extremely difficult and consequently it was not possible to distinguish the pit within which the hoard had presumably been placed. There was an indication, however, that the hoard might have been deposited within, or perhaps on the edge of, a larger feature.

Fig. 1 The coin hoard and container, partly excavated. Photo CPAT 3306-0004

1.3 It was immediately evident that the hoard had been disturbed by later ploughing and the rim of the pottery vessel was missing. The upper part of the hoard had therefore been spread by the plough within the immediate area, accounting for the individual coins which first drew attention to this particular location. The soil surrounding the pot was removed carefully to allow a supporting bandage to be applied around the vessel prior to it being lifted in an intact state. Spoil from the

excavations was sieved with the aid of several local school children who, coincidently, were on a short placement with CPAT as part of their work experience at the time of the discovery. This resulted in the recovery of five coins from the topsoil which had presumably been spread by the plough.

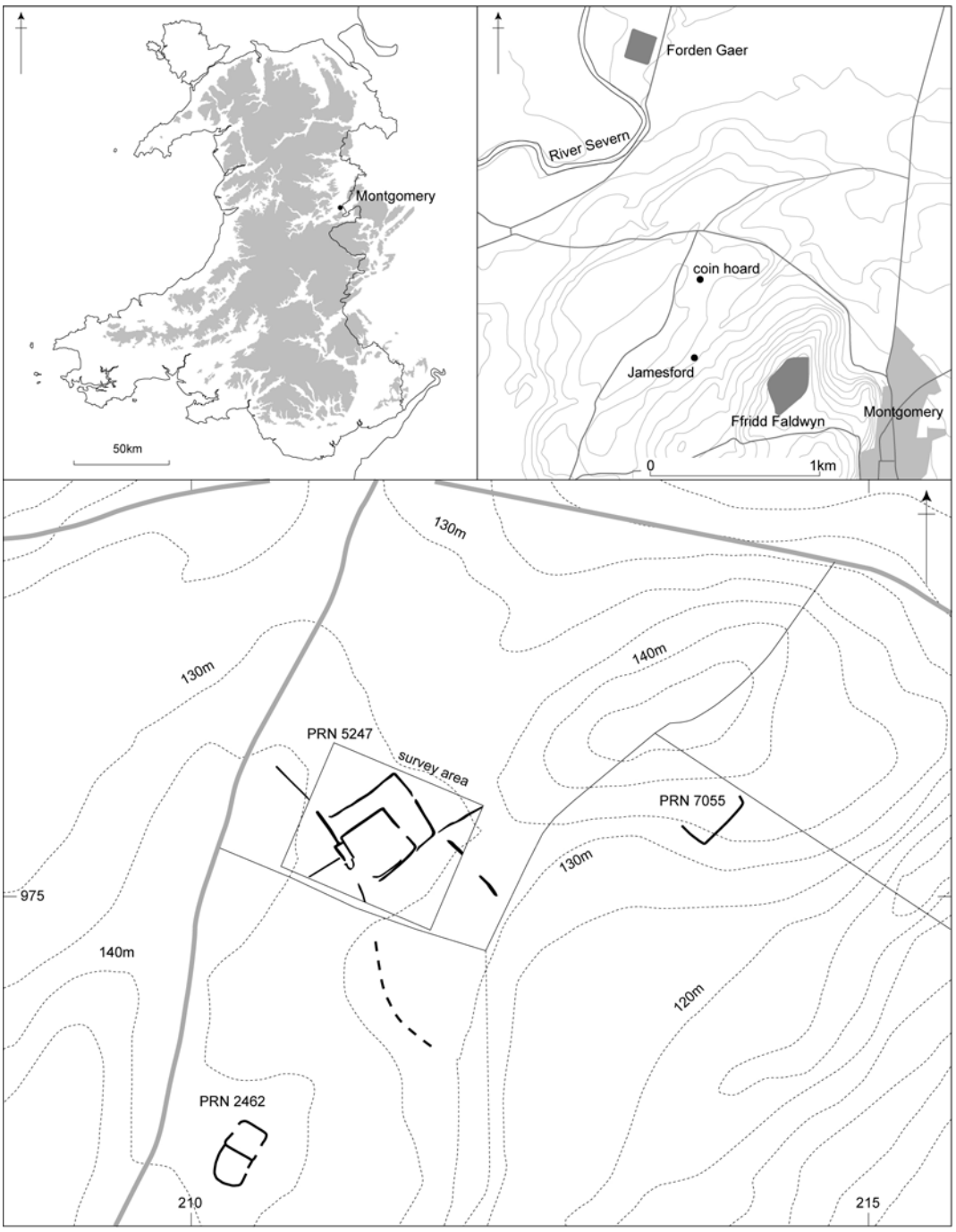

Fig. 2 The location of the coin hoard showing the survey area and nearby cropmark enclosures

1.4 At the same time that the excavation was being conducted (July 2011) a magnetometer survey was undertaken by Mr John Burman, who had volunteered his assistance. The regional Historic Environment Record (HER) already included a record for a possible enclosure (PRN 5247) within the area of the find, which had been identified as a cropmark from aerial photography (Fig. 2). The geophysical survey suggested that there might be a relationship

between the hoard and the south-eastern ditch of the enclosure, corroborating the results from the excavation.

1.5 On completion of the excavation the coin hoard was taken to the National Museum Wales (NMW), where it was investigated thoroughly, with each of the coins being removed and cleaned. The coins were then examined by the NMW's numismatist, Edward Besly, who confirmed that 4828 coins had been recovered, all of which were radiates with the exception of one bronze denarius. Most of the coins were made of copper alloy (although a few were silver) and dated to the mid-late 3rd century AD, having almost certainly been buried as a single deposit.

1.6 Following on from the initial recovery of the coin hoard a project proposal was submitted to Cadw to undertake a further stage of small-scale excavation, together with a more extensive and more detailed geophysical survey. Both elements were completed in November 2011 and are reported on below.

1.7 An additional five coins were later recovered by Mr Simmons from the same area in December 2011.

2 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

2.1 The geophysical survey was carried out using a dual-sensor Bartington Grad 601-2 magnetic gradiometer, which is capable of detecting slight variations in the earth's magnetic field caused by sub-surface archaeological features. The gradiometer has an on-board data logging device which enables readings to be taken at specific time intervals, and these readings are taken along parallel traverses within a grid of known size, which allows them to be correlated with geographical locations.

2.2 An area measuring 120m west-north-west/east-south-east by 100m wide was surveyed using a series of grids each measuring 20m by 20m. Within each grid, readings were taken along a series of parallel traverses, with intervals between the traverses of 0.5m, and the speed of each traverse was controlled so that readings could be taken every 0.25m, thereby giving a total of 3,200 readings per 400m^2 grid. The readings were downloaded and processed using ArcheoSurveyor software, and a greyscale plot (Fig. 3) produced showing the features revealed. The main functions of ArcheoSurveyor used to process the results were: *Despike* to remove the effects of near-surface iron objects, *Destripe* to remove any directional variation between traverses, and *Clip* which removes high and low readings, thereby allowing fine detail to be observed in the resulting plot.

2.3 The survey area was located in relation to nearby field boundaries by total station surveying and was then related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid as a best fit, which enabled the co-ordinates of fixed points on the survey grid to be determined. The greyscale image of the survey produced in ArcheoSurveyor could then be registered to the Ordnance Survey grid using these co-ordinates, allowing any features that were visible to be accurately mapped.

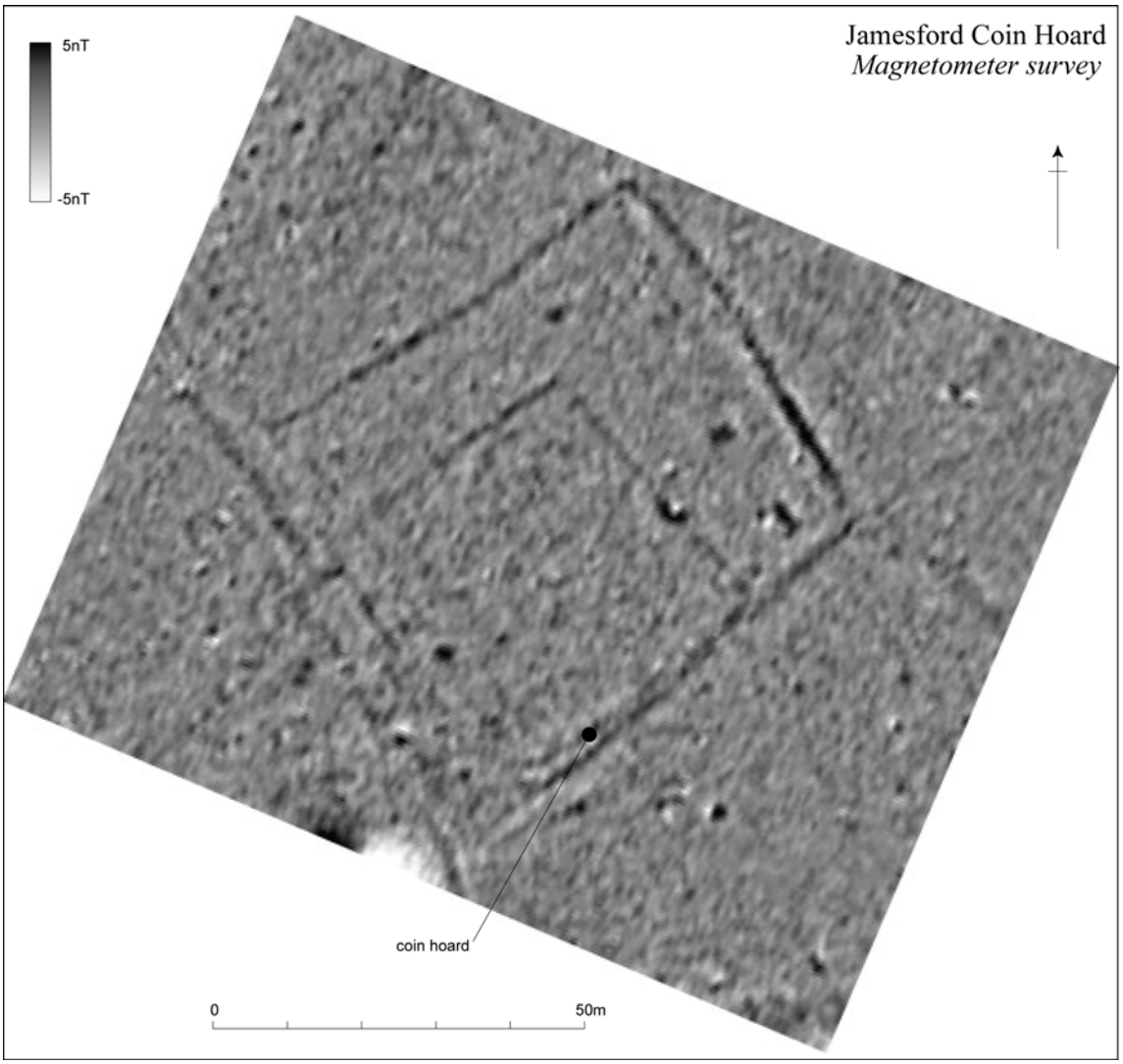

Fig. 3 Greyscale plot of the results from the magnetometer survey, showing the location of the coin hoard

Results

2.4 As can be seen from Fig. 3, the results showed that there were a number of linear anomalies in the locality which appeared to represent two near-square enclosures of similar alignment and a series of probable field boundaries which seemed to be contemporary with one or both enclosures. A detailed plan of the apparent layout of the identified magnetic anomalies is presented as Fig. 4, below, with the individual anomalies given identifying numbers. In the case of both enclosures, the defining ditch appears as a series of linear features which are not directly related, so each section has been given a discrete number to make the description more coherent, rather than attempting to combine all parts under one identifier.

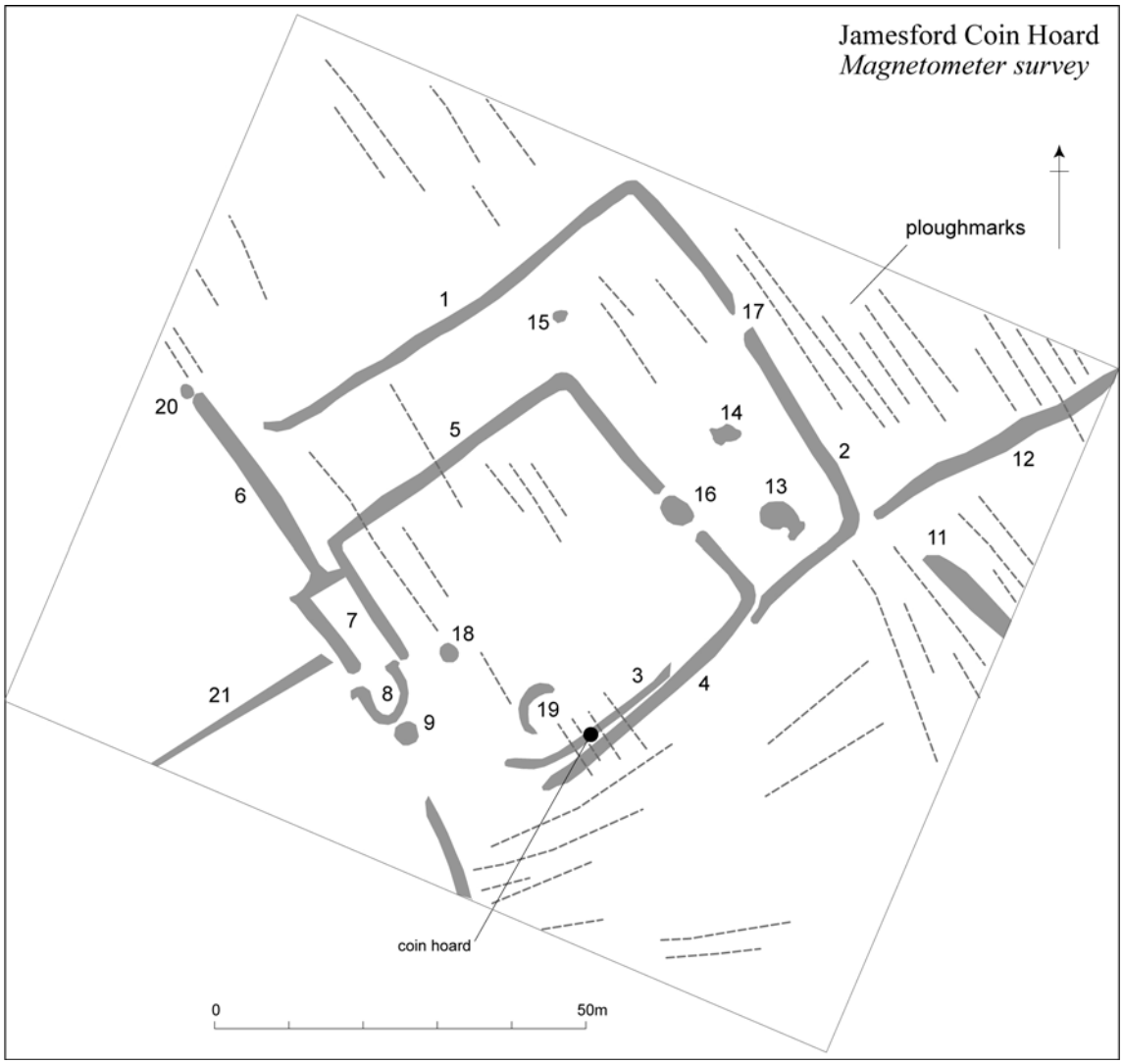

Fig. 4: Interpretation of the geophysics results

2.5 Of the two enclosures revealed by the geophysics, the larger appears to be the earlier, and combines anomalies 1, 2 and 3 to form a near-square enclosure measuring about 57m north-west/south-east by 60-65m north-east/south-west. Each anomaly represents a ditch between 1.0m and 1.5m wide. The uncertainty in the north-east/south-west dimension reflects the lack of concrete evidence for the south-west side of the enclosure. A gap between anomalies 1 and 2 on the north-east side of the enclosure may define an entrance (17), some 2.5m wide, or could just mean that the fill of this section of ditch has a similar magnetic response to the adjoining natural subsoil. At the west corner of the enclosure, ditch 1 appears to have an outward turn; again this may hint at an entrance.

2.6 The smaller enclosure, combining anomalies 4 and 5, is also near-square, measuring about 45m north-west/south-east by 42m north-east/south-west and is defined by a ditch approximately 1.5m wide. Significantly, the detailed results suggest that the ditch of the smaller enclosure cuts obliquely across the ditch of the larger enclosure on its south-east side, thereby providing a direct relationship. This interpretation should be taken with some caution, and can only be confirmed through excavation. The ditches for both enclosures seem rather narrow to have protected a house or farm, and are perhaps more likely to have enclosed a field.

2.7 Although some doubt is expressed here regarding the extent of the larger enclosure on its south-west side, this is distinguished by a rather confusing series of anomalies (6-10). Anomaly 6 defines a ditch, 30m long (north-west/south-east) by 2m wide, which merges into a right-angled section of a second ditch (7), the latter appearing to enclose a rectangular area measuring about 12m north-west/south-east by 5m wide, set against the outer side of the ditch (5) that forms this side of the smaller enclosure; it is possible that this might denote the site of a building. At the south-east end of the rectangular area is a curious horseshoe-shaped anomaly (8), about 7m across and open to the north-west, whose nature and origin remains unexplained; a similar anomaly (19), comprising an arc forming the west side of a circle about 7m in diameter, lies in the south corner of the enclosures. At the south-east end of anomaly 8, there appears to be a large pit (9), 3m in diameter, with some thermo-remnant magnetism, and further to the south-east another ditch (10), perhaps 1.5m wide, runs south-east for at least 15m before leaving the survey area. This north-west/south-east axis of anomalies seems significant in any interpretation of the archaeology, as it appears to be respected by all of the sub-surface linear features identified by the survey.

2.8 Three further ditches are visible in the survey, two of which (11 and 12) approach the east corner of the larger enclosure and may define elements of an associated field system that extends beyond the survey area. Anomaly 11 is about 2.5m wide and extends for at least 15m north-west/south-east, while 12 is no more than 2m wide and at least 38m long (north-east/south-west). The remaining ditch (21) lies on the south-west side of the rectangular enclosed area defined by ditches 5 and 7; it extends for at least 27m to the south-west and is up to 1.8m wide.

2.9 The survey also revealed a number of discrete anomalies, the nature of most of which remains unexplained. On the north-east and north of the smaller enclosure, but still within the larger enclosure, there are three irregular anomalies (13-15) up to 5m across, none of which has any trace of thermo-remnant magnetism; it seems that all represent pits. A similar feature (18) lies in the south-west part of the smaller enclosure and is about 2.5m in diameter. There is an area of thermo-remnant magnetism (16) on the line of the north-east ditch of the smaller enclosure, which either masks part of the ditch or lies within an entrance, but its true nature cannot be confirmed from the survey alone. Lastly, there is a small pit or feature (20) with thermo-remnant magnetism at the north-west end of ditch 6, measuring about 1.5m in diameter.

2.10 Traces of ploughing, consisting of lines of increased magnetic response were probably caused by the presence of slight furrows containing a greater thickness of topsoil. The minimum separation of the ploughmarks is little more than 2m and their general alignment is north-west/south-east, respecting that of the enclosures, although some traces aligned north-east/south-west are present to the south-east of the enclosures. It is interesting that the ploughing traces are found to the north-east of the line of anomalies 6-10, but not to its south-west, possibly implying both that these were still visible in the landscape when the ploughing took place and that they may have collectively acted as a division between different agricultural regimes. It is worth noting that traces of presumed early medieval ploughing were found beneath the earthworks of the medieval motte and bailey castle at Hen Domen, less than 500m to the north-north-east (Barker and Lawson, 1971), but attributing a date to the Jamesford plough marks is very much more difficult.

3 EXCAVATION

3.1 The excavation, which was conducted entirely by hand, was undertaken between 21 and 25 November 2011, and comprised a single trench measuring 5m by 2m, centred on the location of the coin hoard and extending across both ditches identified by the geophysical survey (Fig. 4). A full written, drawn and photographic record was maintained during the excavation and numbers in brackets in the following text refer to individual contexts recorded in the site archive.

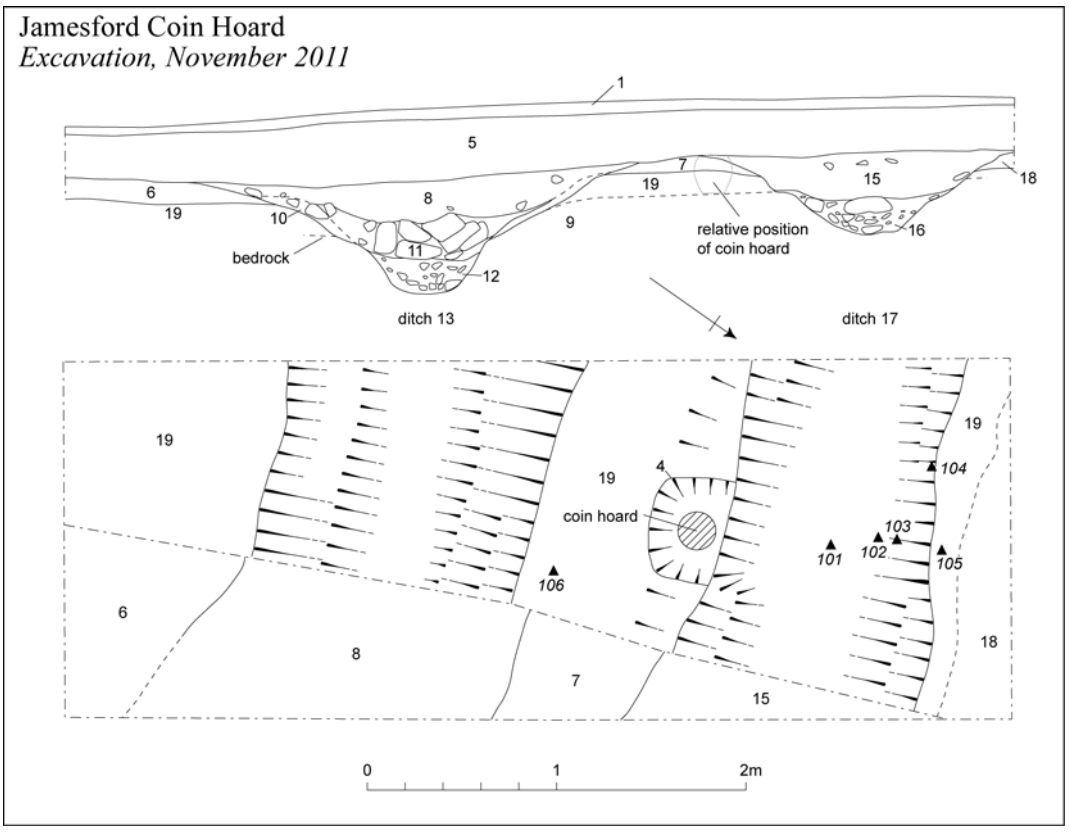

Fig. 4 Plan and section of the excavation showing the location of the coin hoard

3.2 The removal of the topsoil (1) and underlying ploughsoil, a deposit of firm, mid-brown silty clay up to 0.3m thick (5), uncovered the original excavation trench from July 2011, consisting of a pit (4) around 0.6m in diameter, from which the coin hoard was recovered.

3.3 As with the excavations in July, the dry ground conditions made it difficult to distinguish the interface between the lower ploughsoil and the underlying deposits. Two sherds of probable medieval pottery were found at a depth of 0.3m, and is reasonable to assume that they may be associated with the ploughing activity identified in the geophysical survey. Further removal of the lower ploughsoil (5) revealed the faint outline of two broad, linear ditches (13, 17), 0.9m apart and orientated south-west to north-east (Figs 4-5).

Fig. 5 The excavated ditches viewed from the north-east, with the ditch 13 on the left and the ditch 17 on the right. Photo CPAT 3385-0067

3.4 A number of artefacts were recovered from the general area overlying ditch 17 including nine copper alloy coins (Fig. 4, Finds 101-106), six small sherds of Severn Valley ware, three possible hobnails, a fragment of worked flint, and a fragment of white quartz which may be part of a counter. The distribution of the coins suggests that they had been spread from the top of the coin hoard to the north-west and south-east by ploughing, the direction corresponding to evidence of ploughing identified by the geophysical survey. A further thirteen copper alloy coins were recovered from the excavation spoil, following the removal of the ploughsoil and topsoil, through the use of metal detectors by Mr Adrian Simmons and his father. Two sherds of Severn Valley ware were also found on the surface of the ground, close to the location of the hoard, during the geophysical survey and it is assumed that these were disturbed from the container at the time the hoard was first identified.

3.5 Both ditches had been cut through the undisturbed natural subsoils; a firm, pale grey silty clay (19) overlying shattered shale bedrock (14). The north-western ditch (17) was up to 1.3m wide and 0.32m deep, with concave sides and a shallow, rock-cut base. The ditch contained a basal fill (16), 0.15m thick, which was composed predominantly of loose, re-deposited shattered bedrock, mixed with a light grey, gritty, silty clay flecked with charcoal. Five sherds of Roman pottery were found within the fill, including body sherds of Severn Valley ware, grey-ware, and Black-burnished ware vessels. The upper fill (15) consisted of a very firm, orange-brown silty clay, around 0.2m thick, which contained occasional fragments of shattered bedrock and large, river-rounded cobbles. Five body sherds and a single rim sherd of Severn Valley ware were recovered from the upper fill.

3.6 Two similar deposits were identified on either side of the ditch (7 and 18), both consisting of firm, orange-brown silty clay and re-deposited natural subsoil, which were partially sealed by the uppermost fill of the ditch. The dry conditions made it difficult to interpret these deposits, although they may represent the ploughed down remains of bank material associated with one or both ditches.

3.7 The relationship between the coin hoard and ditch 17 was also difficult to ascertain, owing to the extremely dry conditions, subsequent disturbance by ploughing, and also the position of the hoard close to the edge of the ditch (Fig. 6). Although at the time the hoard was recovered it was not possible to distinguish a pit within which it might have been placed, a difference was noted between two deposits within the excavated area which suggested that the hoard might have been placed on the side of a larger feature, possibly a ditch. The available evidence indicates that the hoard may have been placed within a feature that had been cut into the upper fill (15) of ditch 17 and also through deposit 7, which may be associated bank material.

Fig 6. Ditch 17 viewed from the north-west with the small excavation (4) in the opposite side marking the position from where the coin hoard was recovered. Photo CPAT 3386-0036

3.8 Ditch 13 was located 0.9m south-east of ditch 17 and measured up to 1.4m wide and 0.55m deep, with steep, rock-cut sides and a narrow, rounded slot at the base. The basal fill (12), 0.15m thick, consisted of loose re-deposited shattered shale bedrock within a light grey, gritty, silty clay matrix, which contained a small fragment of pottery, possibly Severn Valley ware. Thin deposits on either side of the ditch (9 and 10) have been interpreted as possible redeposited bank material. The secondary ditch fill (11) consisted of a 0.2m-thick deposit of stony, yellow-brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecking, containing a central band of large, rounded, river cobbles. These stones have been interpreted as material possibly derived from field clearance. The fill produced two body sherds of possible Severn Valley ware, together with a sherd from a different vessel and a fragment of grit-stone, possibly part of a quern. The upper ditch fill consisted of a 0.25m-thick deposit of firm, light orange brown silty clay (8).

4 **COIN HOARD** identified by Edward Besly

4.1 A total of 4854 coins have now been recovered from the hoard, including 21 coins found during the more recent excavation, which also produced part of one coin that had been found previously. The hoard includes coins issued by both the Gallic and Central empires, with the earliest belonging to Gordian III, AD 238-244, and the latest Aurelian, AD 270-275. The majority, however, are coins of Postumus and Victorinus, representing 25% and 30% of the total respectively. With the exception of a bronze denarius of Gallienus, all are radiates. A summary of the hoard's composition is provided in Table 1.

Fig. 7 The initial discovery of around 900 coins, recovered prior to the first excavation. Photo CPAT 3308-0079.

4.2 The composition of the hoard suggests a date of deposition in the early to mid-270s. Just under two-thirds of the coins are issues of the 'Romano-Gallic' empire, established by the usurper Postumus in AD 260, which encompassed Gaul and Britain. The latest coins belong to the Tetrici, the last of the Gallic rulers, *c*. AD 271-4; eight specimens of their final issue have been noted to date, a 'weak' ending which suggests that the hoard was probably buried during the course of this issue. The hoard therefore appears to provide a snapshot of the circulating medium in this part of Roman Britain in AD 273-4; the Gallic state was re-absorbed into the Roman Empire in the spring of 274. It is likely that this was a collection of coins which may have been accrued over a relatively short period of time and deposited in a single event with the intention of collection at a later date. The hoard contains several rare coins including five of Laelian who usurped emperor Postumus at Mainz in AD 269.

4.3 The coins comprise debased alloys of silver. In the course of the third century, successive debasements took the fineness from around 50% precious metal down to around 1-2%. The

coins in the hoard span most of this period, with typical fineness likely to range from 35-40% silver down to only 1-2% silver.

Table 1: summary of the coin hoard by reign

Reign		***Total***	**%**	***By reign***	**%**	**Typical fineness** (Ag, %)
Gordian III (238-44)		9	*0.19*	9	*0.19*	35-40
Philip I (244-9)	Philip I	14	*0.29*			
	Philip II	6	*0.12*			
	Otacilia Severa	4	*0.08*	24	*0.49*	35-40
Trajan Decius (249-51)	Decius	4	*0.08*			
	Herennia Etruscilla	3	*0.06*			
	Herennius Etruscus	3	*0.06*			
	Hostilian	1	*0.02*			
	Divus Pius	1	*0.02*	12	*025*	
Trebonianus Galius (251-3)	Galius	11	*0.23*			
	Volusian	7	*0.14*	18	*0.37*	20-25
Aemilian (253)		2	*0.04*	2	*0.04*	
Joint Reign (253-60)	Valerian	129	2.66			
	Diva Mariniana	4	*0.08*			
	Gallienus	117	2.41			
	Salonina	63	*1.30*			
	Valerian II	49	*1.01*			
	Saloninus	35	*0.72*	397	8.18	15-20
Sole Reign (260-8)	Gallienus	553	*11.39*			
	Salonina	73	1.50	626	12.90	10-15/ 2.5-5
Claudius II (268-70)		401	8.26	401	8.26	2-4
Quintillus (270)		51	*1.05*	51	*1.05*	2-3
Divus Claudius (c.270)		22	*0.45*	22	*0.45*	
Aurelian (270-5)		7	*0.14*	7	*0.14*	
Postumus (260-9)		1222	25.18	1222	25.18	15-20/ 5-8
Laelian (269)		5	*0.10*	5	*0.10*	
Marius (269)		14	*0.29*	14	*0.29*	
Victorinus (269-71)		1488	*30.66*	1488	*30.66*	1-4
Tetrici (271-4)	Divus Victorinus	1	*0.02*			
	Tetricus I	412	*8.49*			
	Tetricus II	90	1.85	503	*10.36*	1-2
Uncertain		26	*0.54*	26	*0.54*	
Irregular		27	*0.56*	27	*0.56*	
		4854	99.99	**4854**	*100*	

5 ROMAN POTTERY by Peter Webster

5.1 When found, the hoard was enclosed by a pottery vessel which was intact up to the top of the compacted coin mass, a height of 375mm. Above this, some fragments of pottery survived, but the vessel lacked its most diagnostic features, the neck and rim. The vessel is in an orange fabric with sparse inclusions of grit and what are probably clay pellets. Both interior and exterior surfaces show signs of finger rilling, although the vessel has been smoothed near the base externally, perhaps in the process of removing surplus clay from this area. There are no signs of external decoration, apart from what may be a fragment of cordon on one of the loose fragments, but the vessel still retains its external accretions so these cannot be entirely ruled out.

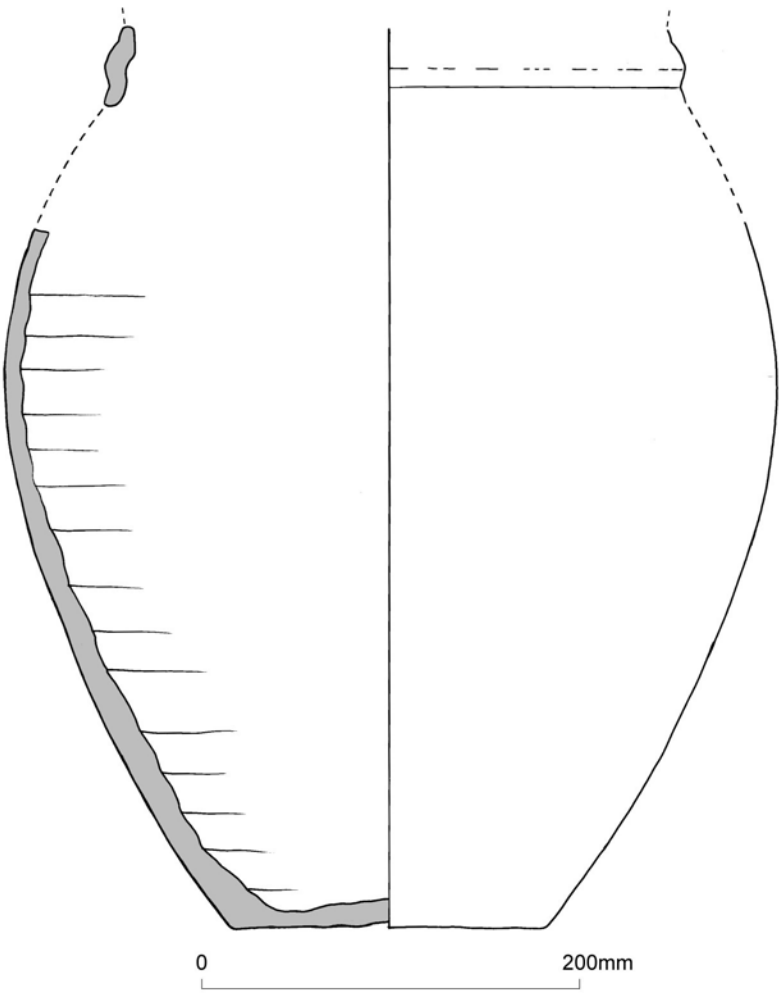

Fig. 8 The Severn Valley ware jar within which the hoard had been placed
(drawing by Tony Daly, courtesy of NMW)

5.2 The fabric appears to be one allied to Severn Valley Ware and is likely to be fairly local in origin. Any restoration of the overall form is a difficult matter. The pot swells out from a narrow base 160mm in diameter to a girth of 375mm. The surviving curvature would suit either a medium-mouthed or narrow-mouthed jar. We might suggest that the hoard filled most of the vessel and that, as the upper layers of it do not appear to have been scattered any distance, the pot did not rise much above the extant portion. A small version of Webster 1976, no.8, itself the container of a large, late third-century coin hoard seems a possibility, but this is no more than conjecture unless more of the upper vessel comes to light.

5.3 In addition, two fragments of pottery were recovered from contexts 17 and 13 (Finds 18 and 15) which seem likely to be from the same Severn Valley Ware jar. Together they give the upper profile of a necked jar with a cordon on the shoulder/neck junction. This appears to belong to Webster 1976, type 10, although on our piece the thickness of the rim is slighter than on the type vessel. A third to fourth-century date may be suggested. If we may consider the thinner 'pulley' type rim as perhaps an early feature before the development of the wider rim and its variants, then a third-century date might be preferred.

5.4 The excavations also produced a further17 small body sherds and one base sherd in Severn Valley Ware type fabrics, one sherd from a Black-burnished ware jar, probably of second to third century date, and two small, worn body sherds in grey ware fabrics.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 The discovery of such a large hoard of Roman coins is clearly a matter of considerable significance and the circumstances of the find and its subsequent reporting are an example of how metal detectorists and archaeologists can work together. As a result of the archaeological investigations which followed the discovery, there is now some evidence which allows us to view the hoard not just as an individual feature, but helps to place it in a wider context.

6.2 Prior to the discovery there was already evidence from cropmarks visible on a number of aerial photographs which suggested the presence of a roughly square, ditched enclosure at this location. As a result of the geophysical survey it is now clear that there are at least two phases of activity, the earliest of which consists of a large enclosure around 60-65m across which appears to be part of a wider field system and was later replaced by a smaller enclosure measuring around 45m across. Although the excavation produced no conclusive evidence for the position of the associated bank in the smaller enclosure if one were to assume that this was internal, then the enclosed area would measure around 35.5m across, equating to one Roman *actus*, the standard unit for Roman land division.

6.3 Although it was not possible to determine with certainty the relationship of the coin hoard with the enclosures the most convincing interpretation is that it was placed in a small pit which may have been cut through the tail of a bank associated with the smaller enclosure at a time when the earlier enclosure ditch had fallen out of use. The nature of the hoard indicates that it was probably deposited as a single event, presumably for safe-keeping, with the intention of recovery at a later date.

6.4 The site of the hoard lies around 1.4km south-south-east of the Roman fort at Forden Gaer, which is probably the *Lavobrinta* of the Ravenna Cosmography, lying on the line of the Roman road between Wroxeter (*Viroconium*) and Caersws. Evidence from excavations in the 1920s suggests that the fort was occupied in least four main phases between the late first century and the second half of the fourth century. There are, however, no confirmed Romano-British sites within the immediate area of the hoard, even though the existence of a field system at Jamesford clearly suggests the presence of settlement nearby. Indeed, the geophysical survey identified several anomalies on the south-west side of the enclosure which could be associated with structures, although these remain unconfirmed.

6.5 The geophysical survey also identified ploughmarks which respect the alignment of the enclosures, although it is was not possible to determine a direct relationship. The alignment matches the distribution of coins redeposited from the top of the hoard and is contrary to the direction of modern ploughing. The presence of ploughmarks invites comparison with the evidence for pre-Norman ploughing found beneath the earthworks of the medieval motte and bailey castle at Hen Domen, less than 500m to the north-north-east (Barker and Lawson, 1971), but attributing a date to the Jamesford plough marks is very much more difficult.

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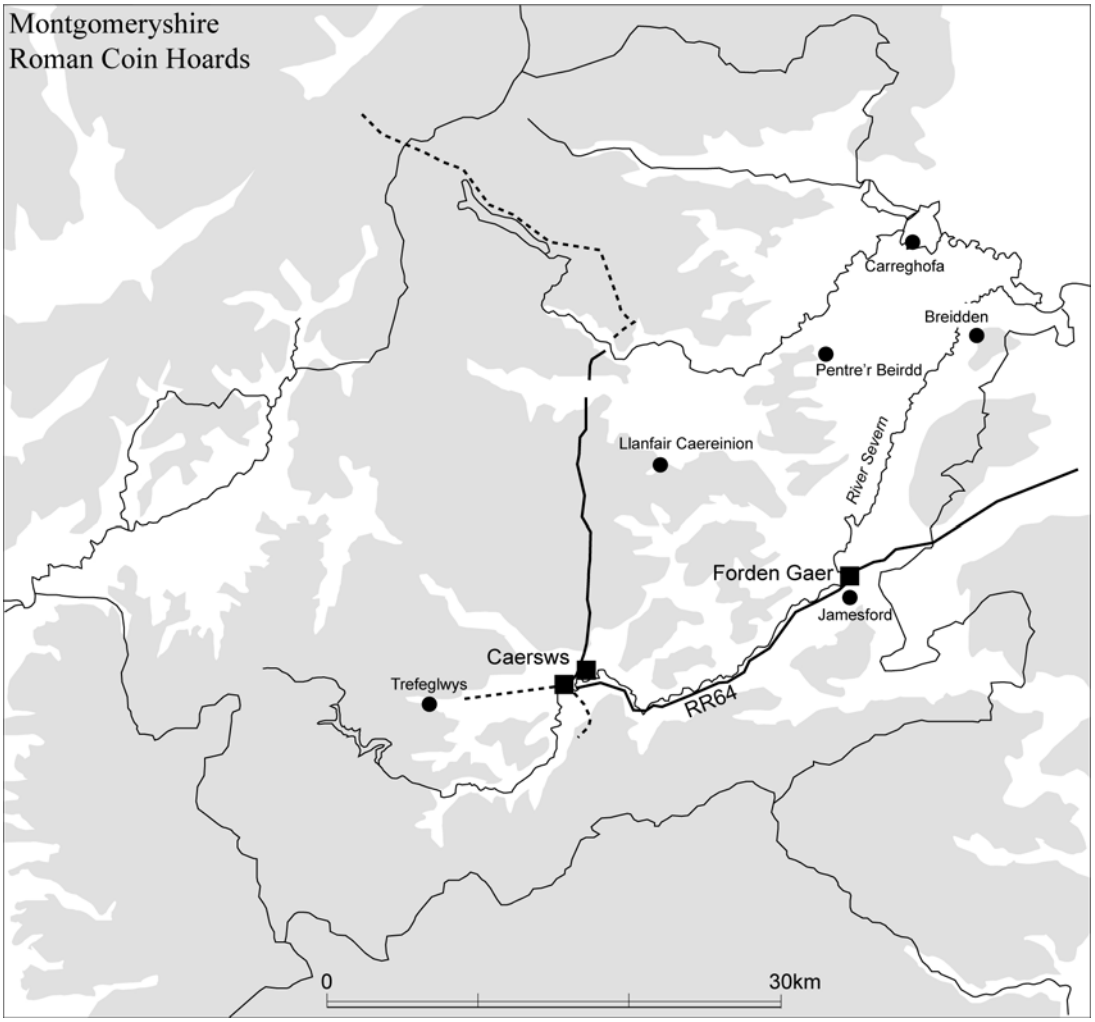

Fig. 9 Roman coin hoards in Montgomeryshire

6.6 A number of other Roman coin hoards are known within Montgomeryshire (Fig. 9), the largest of which is a hoard of Constantinian coins which was found within two pottery vessels near Pentre'r Beirdd. A total of 5005 coins were recorded ranging in date from AD 318 to AD 328, having been discovered on three separate occasions in 1935, 1937 and 1981 (Guest and Wells 2007). A somewhat smaller hoard of 382 coins was found in 1740 in a field close to the River Banwy, near Llanfair Caereinion, having been placed within a broken urn. The dates range from AD 138 to AD 350 but are mostly *c*. fourth-century (RCAHM 1911). Another hoard of moderate size was found on Cil Haul Farm, near Trefeglwys, around 1835. The size of the hoard is not known, although there appear to have been at least 200 coins of which ten denarii were dated to AD 41-180 (Guest and Wells 2007). Two other hoards are recorded, although there is some uncertainty about their size and composition. An urn containing an unknown number of coins was found at Carreghofa sometime before 1878, while radiates and fourth-century bronze coins were found on the west side of Breidden during the 1860s, with more being recovered in 1910 (Guest and Wells 2007). Finally, two coins of Constantine II together with one of Victorinus and another too defaced to identify were found on the opposite side of the hill, having been placed in a rock fissure.

6.7 In a Welsh context the hoard from Jamesford is of some significance and is the best 'radiate' hoard to have come to light in recent years. Although not the largest hoard in Wales it does provide an interesting 'snapshot' of the currency in the region at a reasonably precise moment

(*c.* 273-4), before all of the earlier silver coinage had disappeared. Part of its significance, however, must be attributed to the manner of its discovery which enabled the hoard to be archaeologically excavated under controlled conditions. Over 500 hoards of Roman coins dating from the mid-late third century AD have been recorded in Britain as a whole. This appears to have been a period of both economic and political instability.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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8 REFERENCES

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