

Dwr-y-Felin School, Neath

Archaeological excavation

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A report for Neath Port Talbot County Borough
Council by Martin Tuck

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SUMMARY

An archaeological excavation was carried out by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust on behalf of Neath Port Talbot County Council on part of the playing fields of Dwr-y-Felin Comprehensive Upper School, Neath, prior to the construction of a new teaching and canteen block. The site lay immediately to the north of the Roman fortress at Neath where previous archaeological investigations had shown evidence of Roman deposits and structures. The excavation revealed that the site could be divided into four separate and distinct areas - an old watercourse, two areas of Roman activity and an expanse covering almost half of the available excavation area with almost no archaeological activity at all.

The channel of a former watercourse, probably natural, was found to cross the site and its effect, whether flowing during the Roman period or relict, influenced local settlement patterns as Roman features were found to respect its alignment; the two areas with Roman occupation deposits were separated by the watercourse. There was also a notable lack of artefacts and features in the western half of the excavation area but no indication of a physical division was observed to explain the dearth of material. It is possible that this absence of material was representative of a defined but not necessarily marked boundary.

Almost all of the Roman features were found on the eastern half of the site in the form of pits, post settings, stakeholes and a probable wooden structure. The finds were not remarkable for a Roman site and as might be expected pottery, made up of wares possibly connected with the cooking of food rather than its consumption, formed the greater part of the assemblage. The date range for the excavation area suggested from the pottery and diagnostic glassware was between the 1st and 2nd centuries, circa 75/85-130AD, between the Flavian and Hadrianic periods. Evidence for metalworking was found in the form of slag and hammerscale but the quantities of each were too small to imply anything other than possible nearby workings.

The excavation results did not cast much light on the nature of occupation in the northwest quadrant of the vicus except for the discovery of the likely boundary which possibly limited expansion of Roman occupation activity to the west of the excavation area until it met the area previously excavated in 1993. However, the results obtained may also indicate that the greater part of the northwest quarter was undeveloped as part of the vicus. That conclusion is based on the absence of features within half of the current excavation area and that only part of a stone building and ditches were found in eleven evaluation trenches excavated in 1993.

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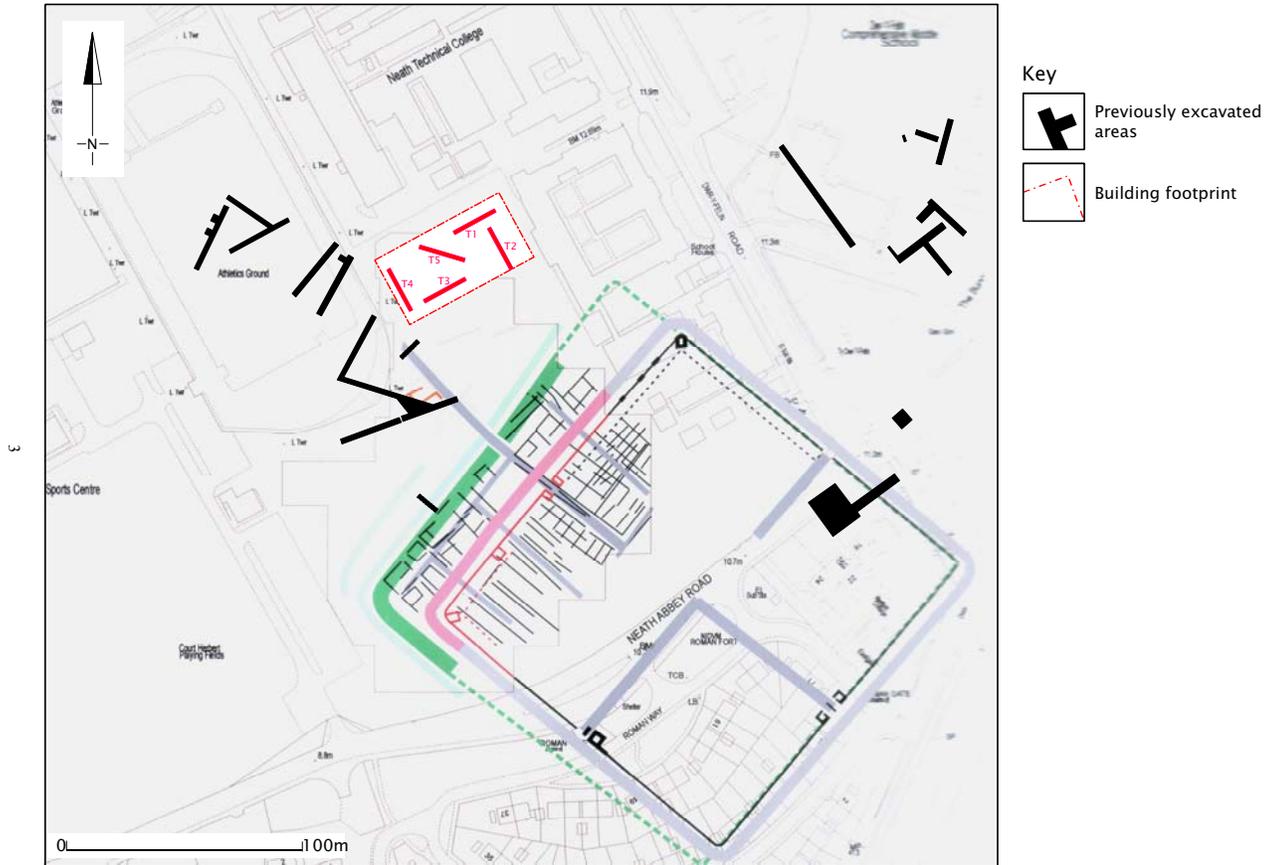
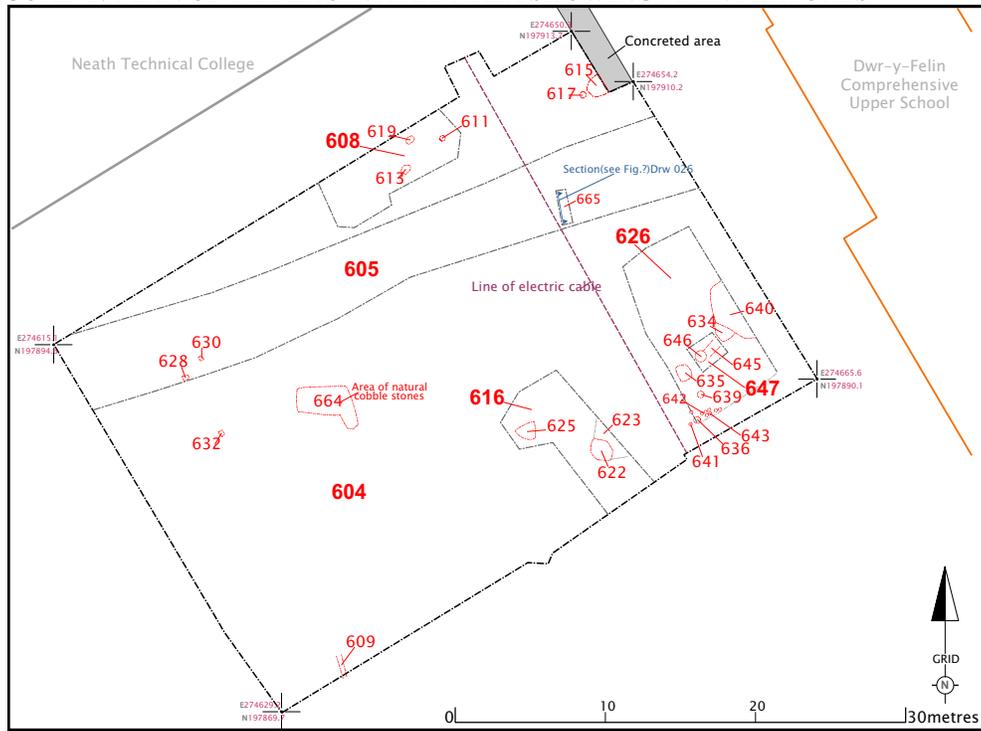


FIGURE 1: PLAN SHOWING THE EXCAVATION AREA, PREVIOUSLY EXCAVATED AREAS AND THE FORT

Dwr-y-Felin School, Neath, Neath Port Talbot: archaeological excavation

FIGURE 2: PLAN OF THE EXCAVATED AREA SHOWING MAIN FEATURES



Introduction

Development consent

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council submitted a planning application for construction of a new teaching and canteen block at Dwr-y-Felin Comprehensive Upper School, Neath (P/2005/1606). The site was located adjacent and close to the assumed position of the Roman road leading out of the northwest gate of the known Roman fort of *Nidum* (Neath). In order to establish the nature and importance of any archaeological features that might lie within the proposed development area, and thus inform determination of planning consent, the archaeological advisor to the Council recommended that an archaeological field evaluation be carried out prior to construction work commencing (NPT0209/1/200508/CNM).

The field evaluation demonstrated that Roman activity was low but not insignificant and as the nature of activity to the northwest of the fort was less well understood than the northeast side, full excavation within the building footprint was recommended before works began (Sell 2005); the full excavation was carried out in the early part of 2006.

Location

The site was centred on NGR SS 74641 97892, formerly part of the playing field to Dwr-y-Felin Comprehensive Upper School (Figure 1). The excavation took place on flattish grassed land, originally part of the floodplain of the Afon Nedd, at a height of approximately 10m Ordnance Datum (OD); the river is located approximately 350m to the southeast. The surface geology (drift) comprises fluvial-glacial sands and gravels whilst immediately to the north the solid geology consists of sandstone (GSGB 1972).

Historical and archaeological background

Pearson (2004) compiled a comprehensive account relating to the background of the fort at Neath and the following background data draws on that report.

The Roman fort was situated on a low plateau on the western bank of the River Neath. It now lies on the outskirts of the present town, partly overlain by housing (to the south of Neath Abbey Road), and partly by the playing fields of Dwr-y-Felin Comprehensive School (Figure 1). The fort was discovered in the late 1940s during excavations undertaken in advance of the construction of a housing estate by Nash-Williams (1950). Subsequent excavations, notably during the late 1950s and the 1980s, have further explored the defences and revealed parts of the interior plan and established a basic occupation sequence. More recent work has mainly concentrated on the area of the vicus.

Roman activity at Neath began during the 1st century AD and persisted sporadically through to the late 3rd or earlier 4th century (Table 1). The occupation history appears typical of many auxiliary sites in the region; most of the forts excavated to a sufficient extent demonstrate a pattern of inconstant use and continual refurbishment, the prime example being Loughor (Marvell & Owen-John 1997). Only at Cardiff is it presently thought that occupation could have been continuous from the mid 1st to the late 4th century (Webster 1981, 1990).

Table 1 Neath, an outline chronology

Neath I	Timber Fort <i>Period I</i>	Short-lived timber installation, in use <i>c</i> 75-80. Implied from several early-dated deposits relating to both the defences and to internal structures. Northwest defences imaged by geophysical survey
Neath II	Timber Fort <i>Period II</i>	Timber fort, smaller than its predecessor, built and initially occupied <i>c</i> 80-90.
	<i>Period III</i>	Minor refurbishment <i>c</i> 90-110/115 was followed by brief abandonment of the site
	Stone Fort <i>Period IV</i>	Fort rebuilt with stone defences and some internal reorganisation <i>c</i> 117-120/125. Another period of abandonment may well have followed, and after this date there never appears to be a great deal of activity on the site
	<i>Period V</i>	Evidence for limited reoccupation at some point during the broad period <i>c</i> 140-170, most probably around 155-160. At least one internal building belongs to this period. A lengthy abandonment follows
Post-fort	<i>Period VI</i>	Ceramic and numismatic evidence indicate a further period of occupation of unknown character, even whether military or civil, attested from all parts of the site <i>c</i> 275-320

1992 Period classification follows Heywood & Marvell, 288-292

Neath I

Since the first excavations of the site there has been an increasing body of evidence for a timber fort of pre-Flavian or early Flavian age (Neath I). A 'mixed charcoal and occupation soil' beneath the 'pink' rampart of the timber Neath II fort was found by Nash-Williams (1950a, 77) and interpreted as evidence of pre-Neath II activity, probably related to construction activities. However, later investigations have encountered the same deposit, which is now suggested to be the remnants of the Neath I rampart, whose line was adopted for the northeast defences of the subsequent forts (Heywood & Marvell 1992, 174). On the west there was the suspicion that the Neath I defences lay further out than those of Neath II, and indeed these may have been encountered in 1989 in the form of clay spreads that could be the truncated rampart (Heywood & Marvell 1992, 238 & 288). Within the fort the 1984-5 Dwr-y-Felin House excavations revealed a substantial timber framed (? courtyard) building, which even in modified form did not remain in use long after AD 80, and was thought to have origins in the AD 70s and thus to belong to the first fort phase (Heywood & Marvell 1992, 207-212 & 288). In more general terms, much of the samian pottery recovered from basal contexts across the site was considered to have an early 'feel', many types being uncommon by the Flavian period (Heywood & Marvell 1992, 174). The findings of the excavations albeit not yet conclusively, point to the existence of an early timber fort at Neath. The results obtained by recent geophysical survey add a significant weight to the existing evidence (Young 2003).

Neath II

Despite the various indications of an initial timber fort, the bulk of archaeological evidence from Neath belongs to its successor (Neath II), established c 80-90. The defences have been explored at several locations around the circuit, most intensively in 1958 near the north angle, but also near the east angle and at the southwest and southeast gates.

The defences encountered during several excavations were initially of timber, backed by a clay rampart. Little is known of the internal arrangements of the fort, although certain roads or metalled surfaces have been identified that appear to date to this period (Dwr-y-Felin House site, Phase 4; Heywood & Marvell 1992, 215-17). Following a short period of abandonment around AD 110-115 the fort was refurbished, the defences and possibly also some of the internal buildings being reconstructed in stone. This latter event has been dated to c AD 117-120/5, but the reoccupation appears short-lived, with a probable abandonment of the site not later than AD 125. Pottery and coins attest to limited occupation at some point in the broad period AD 140-170, and Building 6 on the Dwr-y-Felin House site has been proposed as a barrack block (albeit of unusual design) associated with this period (Heywood & Marvell 1992, 228-31). As with other forts in the region, some form of late 3rd or early 4th century activity is known to have occurred, but whether military or civilian in character has not yet been proven.

The vicus

The majority of archaeological work in recent years has been on areas that lay beyond the defences in the vicus (Marvell 1993; Maynard 1993; Lawler & Marvell 1994; Yates 1996; Sell 1997; Howell 2001); the vicus is a district, suburb or quarter of a town or village adjacent to a Roman fort, under military control and with the lowest legal status accorded to a built up area. Archaeological works have revealed a variety of evidence for the vicus, both immediately to the northeast, northwest and southwest of the fort. Earth-cut features, which perhaps represented the remains of timber structures, have been discovered to the southeast of the fort through geophysical survey (Gater & Gaffney 1988).

The majority of discoveries relating to the vicus have been made in the area beyond the northeast gate, on land now occupied by Neath College. Knowledge of this part of Roman Neath is very fragmentary and there is no clear impression of the character of activity in this area. The most prominent feature on the northeast side of the fort is the road leading from the gate. Recent work in the same area has indicated the existence of a complex of buildings with an apparently industrial function, probably stretching along a corridor adjacent to the road (Yates 1996; Sell 1997; 2000). The remains of a possible road, masonry and floors were also detected to the northeast during the laying of a gas main in 1983 (GGAT 1982-3, 81).

Limited archaeological investigation has however taken place within the northwest quadrant. Prior to the construction of the athletics track, located immediately to the west of the present development area, a field evaluation undertaken in 1993 revealed part of a masonry building dating to the late 1st or early 2nd century in the southeast corner of the proposed development, and parts of at least two linear features further to the northwest. The building appears to have been of substantial size and high status, and was apparently constructed in at least two phases (Maynard 1993). Recent archaeological investigations between the track and the school have included

evaluation and geophysical survey. The geophysical survey in 2003 failed to locate this building, but did identify what was interpreted as the defences for the Phase I fort on a slightly different alignment from the later fort. The survey also located a linear feature interpreted as the road leading from the northwest gate of the later fort.

Subsequent excavation in 2004 (Figure 1, Trench 1 and Trench 2) to investigate the results of the geophysical survey appeared to confirm the presence of a slighted defensive system slightly to the northwest of the later fort, but the second trench failed to substantiate the existence of a road leading from the fort in a northwest direction (Trench 2, Evans 2005). Three features were however noted here, two areas of cobbling and a ditch all of probable Roman date; these may instead be connected with the substantial stone building noted in 1993. Not enough is as yet known to determine the nature of Roman occupation to the northwest of the fort, but the stone building has been tentatively identified as a *mansio* or official residence.

The proposed footprint of the new canteen block development had its southwest corner less than 20m from the second of the trenches excavated in 2004 (Figure 1), and it was therefore expected that there would be further evidence for Roman occupation; an archaeological field evaluation was undertaken to test for occupation deposits (Sell 2005) and the building footprint was later reduced in size before the full excavation took place. Of the five trenches excavated, positive evidence was found in only two trenches (T1 and T2) located toward the eastern boundary edge of the evaluation area whilst, of the remaining three trenches only Trench T4 on the western boundary had slight but inconclusive traces of Roman activity; there was an expanse between the trenches without Roman artefacts or materials. No substantial structures were discovered but sufficient Roman features including pits, a post setting and a concentration of fired clay, filling a hollow, were found to indicate the presence of a nearby timber building. However, it was also noted that Roman deposits were likely to have been truncated by post-medieval agricultural activity as the features occurred at the base of a general layer; 19th century mapping depicts the area as fields, the agrarian landscape was likely to have been in place many centuries beforehand. As a result of the evaluation findings a full excavation (the subject of this report) was undertaken.

Following the full excavation, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken whilst drainage works for the canteen building were completed (Sherman 2006). Only two Roman features were noted, a small pit and a charcoal spread. The date range for the pottery from the pit was mid 1st to mid 2nd century AD. This limited Roman activity was confined to the eastern part of the site is no doubt an extension of the areas discovered in the excavation.

Methodology

A rectangular area measuring approximately 43.3m by 30.6m (approximately 1325 m²) was excavated to the uppermost archaeological horizon by tracked machine using a grading bucket (Figure 1). This area encompassed the building footprint. Hand excavation was carried out once archaeological deposits had been identified. Maximum depth excavated was about 1m below ground level but generally excavation ceased at about 0.7m below existing ground level throughout the site where naturally occurring stone cobbles were discovered.

The excavated areas were related to published boundaries and correlated to the National Grid, and site datum related to Ordnance Datum (OBM north side Dwr-y-Felin School value 12.69m OD). The general ground level of the former grassed playing field before excavation was determined at 10.9m OD in the northeast which fell away gently to about 10.1m OD at the southwest; a slope of approximately 1 in 55. An arbitrary site grid was established with its origin (100m east/ 500m north, (National Grid co-ordinates 274631.60E, 197872.73N)) toward the southwest corner of the excavated area and orientated broadly northeast /southwest; the drawings are published with site grid co-ordinates. The excavation area was surveyed and related to existing boundaries using a Leica TCR407 total station. The National Grid co-ordinates of the excavation boundary edges were, 274650.3 Easting, 197913.7 Northing to 274652.6E, 197909.5N to 274654.2E, 197910.2N to 274665.6E, 197890.1N to 274629.2E, 197869.7N to 274615.1E, 197894.6N (Figure 2).

A written and photographic record was made of all archaeological deposits, in accordance with the GGAT *Manual of Excavation Recording Techniques*. Contexts were recorded using a single continuous numbering system summarised in Appendix I. Context numbering began at number 600, which followed on from the sequence already issued by Sell (2005) during the evaluation. Sections and plans were hand-drawn at appropriate scales, usually 1:10 scale for sections and 1:20 scale for plans. All significant contexts were photographed using a digital camera and also recorded with 35mm Black and White prints.

All classes of finds were retained, cleaned and catalogued, in line with the requirements of the Institute for Field Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2001) and in accordance with the GGAT *Manual of Excavation Recording Techniques*. When substantial quantities of modern material were recovered, an on-site policy of record and discard was implemented. Contexts considered to have potential for palaeo-environmental analysis were sampled.

Results

The excavation confirmed that the Roman deposits which were initially identified during the evaluation work continued across part of the excavation area. Roman features were found in the form of shallow pits, post settings and stake alignments, which survived at the base of the soil horizon and also cut into natural fluvial deposits of cobbles, pebbles and sandy silts. No differentiation could be made with regard to the mixed soil underlying the topsoil and overlying the natural cobbles; the scattered distribution of pottery within this soil attested to ploughing as the pottery was spread without apparent pattern and also showed signs of deterioration due to the action of soil movement. As a consequence of the inability to distinguish soil horizons, contexts were allocated to divide areas and thus provide spatial control for artefacts; this measure was taken to assist specialist advisors during analyses of artefacts where patterns or differences might be later identified.

The channel of a former watercourse was detected crossing the site and its effect, whether flowing during the Roman period or relict may have influenced local settlement patterns (Figure 2). In addition, a general lack of artefacts and features, post-setting **627** excepted, was observed in the western half of the excavation area but no suggestion of a physical division was observed to explain this apparent dearth of material; it is possible that this absence of material is representative of a defined but not necessarily marked boundary. Individual areas are described below and Appendix I provides further descriptive detail of contexts.

General excavation area

The natural sequence of deposits across the site comprised at base level undulating naturally deposited river cobbles and gravels (**604**), with sandy-clay silts filling depressions amongst the stone, overlain by humic mid-brown subsoil (**603**) and topsoil (**601**). An abundance of loose pebbles and abraded sherds were noted throughout **603** (Figure 27). The soils in general area numbers **608**, **616**, **626** and **647** were similar to that of **603**. The lack of distinguishable deposits between the natural cobbles and the topsoil is likely attributable to ploughing; given an absence of medieval finds Sell (2005) suggested that the ploughing was of post-medieval date.

Except for two medieval period tile sherds, finds from **602**, the interface between the topsoil and subsoil, were of post-medieval and modern periods and included 17th/18th and 20th century glass (bottle fragments), metalwork (a handle and a key) and local red coarseware pottery in the form of jars, bowls and perhaps dishes; Roman pottery dating from the 1st to 2nd centuries AD distributed within soil **603** was also the likely result of plough action (See Roman pottery Catalogue; samian and nos. 6 to 15).

In the southwestern quadrant of the site were raised patches of natural cobbles (**609**, **664**), of irregular shape but tending toward linear alignments; these cobble patches were slightly higher than the underlying and surrounding cobbles (Plate 1). Originally it was thought possible that they represented raised deposits perhaps to support timbers but as no structural evidence or finds were found in connection with these cobbles they are more likely to be natural features. It is possible that ploughing may have been a contributory factor in their current formation. In an evaluation trench carried out in 2004 (Evans, 2005) located to the southwest of the present site, a raised cobble bank was found and conjectured to be a path. However it may be possible that some of these raised banks were the result of fluvial activity whereby meandering streams cut shallow channels through the cobbles leaving raised patches. Continued

action of that nature and constant changes in direction possibly contributed to erosion and new formations of these banks until a permanent channel was formed, such as the watercourse in the excavation area (605).



Plate 1. Raised cobbles 664 in the western half of the site. The channel, 605, can be seen on the right hand side of the photograph. View to the west, scale 0.5m divisions

A swathe of clayey sand about 6 m wide marked the course of the former watercourse (605). Its edges appeared to be broadly parallel and on an ENE/WSW alignment (73 degrees National Grid bearing) but as the channel edge was formed by natural cobbles its edges were indistinct. Excavation showed the channel to be shallow up to 0.2m deep and flat bottomed. Its profile suggested that it was formed naturally by water action flowing through the area but not with sufficient force to cut a deep channel.

Supporting evidence for the watercourse 605, as a natural feature in the Roman landscape is the stone packed post setting (627, fill 628) found on the southern edge of the channel (Plate 2, Figures 5 to 8). This post setting appeared to be in isolation and its siting closely respected the channel edge. The sub-circular shaped post setting measured about 0.4m in diameter and had a maximum depth of 0.2m; the base, circular in shape, was flat and measured about 0.15m in diameter. The packing stone comprised cobbles and sandstone. In addition to the post the distribution of finds and features in the other areas also respected this channel alignment; features and finds did not encroach upon the line of the channel.



Plate 2. Post setting 627 and stone packing 628. View to the east, scale 0.2m divisions

Recent modern disturbance, cutting through to the natural cobble base, was recorded in the form of a trench to carry electrical cables (**606**, **607**). The presence of this trench was not detected until the cable was found due to the homogenous nature of the general subsoil. The service trench, broadly orientated on a northwest/southeast axis, cut across the excavation area and its depth below ground certainly indicated that archaeological deposits in its path had been destroyed; it is probable that context areas **616** and **626** were once connected. The cable which was subsequently proven to be disused is likely to continue outside the boundary of the present construction works (Figure 2). It is also likely that Sell (2005) encountered this cable trench during archaeological evaluation works (Trench T1, context 107) but as it was not excavated, the feature was postulated as a slot, drainage ditch or gully of likely Roman date.

Two other modern features were recorded in this area (**630** and **632**). Evidence of the former use of the field as a sport field was the discovery of a regular 0.25m square-shaped cut (**629**), the fill (**630**) of which contained plastics and nails (Figure 5). It is thought that this represented the former position of a rugby or football post. The second feature (**631**, fill **632**) was revealed as the imprint left from the foot used to level up a JCB machine; this feature probably dated from the time of the evaluation trenches (Figure 2).

Area 608

This area was located toward and on the northern boundary of the building footprint and its southern limit marked by channel **605**, which also included Trench T1 (Sell 2005), and electricity cable trench **606** to the east (Figure 2). Three features were noted in this area; pit **612**, post setting **618** and tree root **610** (Figure 9). A range of mid 1st century to the 2nd century AD Roman pottery was recovered from the general area and included fragments of Samian, a mortarium sherd, jars, bowls, and a lid; some of the fragments had been darkened by soot (See Roman pottery Catalogue samian and nos. 15 to 22).

The sub-circular shaped pit (**612**) measured about 0.68m (northeast/southwest) by 0.55m and was fairly shallow at about 0.17m in depth cut into the underlying cobbles **604** (Figures 9 to 11). It stepped in on its south side to form another sub-circular

shape about 0.48m by 0.23m with a flat base 0.3m by 0.15m. The sandy clay loam fill (613) of the pit contained a single charred cereal grain (spelt wheat) and charred unidentified organic material. In addition to the organic material a sherd of Roman pottery was possibly part of a flagon (neck) or the pedestal base of a Tazza (See Roman pottery Catalogue no. 23).

Structural evidence in the form of a fairly shallow post setting (618), at 0.2m deep, with packing stone (619) was found close to the northern excavation boundary (Plate 3, Figures 12 to 15). The packing stone for the post comprised two large angular limestones broadly set in the centre of the pit and smaller cobbles set neatly around three sides on the outer edge of the pit. The apparent linear arrangement of the packing stone suggested that a timber of rectangular shape, or perhaps of semicircular shape, with a flat base. No pottery was recovered from this post setting but it is likely to be of Roman date.



Plate 3. Posthole 618 and stone packing 619. View to the north, scale 0.2m divisions

Another possible post setting was found close to 618 (Figure 9), but excavation of what appeared to be a possible post setting (610, fill 611) revealed that it was more likely to have been the result of rooting action or animal burrowing; the excavation showed that below the ground level it expanded outwards to be much wider than its original surface diameter with no discernable sidewalls.

In the northern corner of the site about 9m away from Area 608 was pit 614 (fill 615), measuring about 1m in length, 1m in width and with a depth of about 0.5m, orientated broadly on the same alignment as channel 605 and cut into the underlying cobbles (Figure 2, plate 4); this pit continued beyond the site boundary to the northeast.

The pit 614, probably a rubbish pit, contained a diverse range of typical Roman period artefacts including fragments of pottery (See Roman pottery Catalogue samian and nos. 24 to 26), window glass (date range up to 300AD), roof tile, iron nails, fired clay, slag, charred cereal grains (barley), charcoal and bone fragments (Figures 16 to 19).

A second much smaller pit (620) measuring about 0.4m diameter and only 0.1m deep was cut into the cobbles immediately west of 614 (Figure 16). This pit, almost a scoop, may have originally been part of the larger pit (614) but its upper level was possibly truncated during machining. There was, originally, a possibility that feature

620 represented a post setting but that is now considered unlikely as no packing stone was found and also because of its shallow depth in comparison with its diameter (Figure 20).



Plate 4. Section showing pit 614, cut through natural cobbles 604. View to the east, scale 0.5m divisions

Area 616

This largely arbitrarily defined area was located just east of the central part of the southern boundary and measured about 10m long (northwest/southeast) by about 5m wide (Figure 2). Its east boundary was broadly delimited by the electricity cable trench (606) and evaluation Trench 2. Two pits (621 and 624) and a deposit 623 have been ascribed to this area, with pit 621 cut into deposit 623 (Figure 21). In addition, a quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from the general soil (See Roman pottery Catalogue samian and nos. 27 to 29).

Pit 621 was sub-circular in shape measuring about 1.45m (northwest/southeast) by 1.2m (northeast/southwest) and was up to 0.15m in depth (Figures 22 and 23). The charcoal-rich fill (622) contained mostly Roman period artefacts including pottery (fragments of jars, bowls and a lead glazed beaker all dating from 1st to 2nd centuries AD, see Roman pottery Catalogue nos. 29 to 35), glass and metalwork but two pieces of medieval pottery were likely to be intrusive. Three melon beads found within this pit are similar to the unstratified fragmentary melon bead discovered in Trench 2 during the archaeological evaluation; these beads, items of jewellery, were common during the 1st century AD and became less so during the 2nd century.

Deposit 623, up to 0.15m deep, was sub-circular in shape, measured about 3.8m north/south and about 2m east/west and had indistinct edges, merging with the general soils; this pit contained a similar range of artefacts to pit 621. It is also likely that it was part of a large undefined pit encountered in the original evaluation (Trench T2) as pit 214 (fill 215) identified by Sell (2005).

Pit **624** was located to the northwest of pit **621** and deposit **623** (Figure 21). It was sub-circular in shape, measured 1.3m long (northwest/southeast) by 0.8m (northeast/southwest) and was up to 0.15m deep (Figures 24 to 26). Few artefacts were found in the fill (**625**) but it is likely that all were of Roman date and included a few fragments of Roman coarseware pottery and also iron fragments including hobnails.

The three deposits (**621**, **623** and **625**) in this area contained similar Roman pottery styles dating from the 1st century to the 2nd centuries AD. There is a likelihood that the pits in area **616** were a continuation of those deposits found in area **626** and also that they indicate the limits of the Roman occupation deposits to the west before those deposits were truncated by the electricity cable trench (**606**) and evaluation Trench T2.

Area 626, incorporating 647

This area measuring about 13m northwest/southeast by 7m northeast/southwest was located in the southeast corner of the site with its borders broadly defined as being the electricity trench (**606**) to the west and the channel (**605**) to the north (Figures 2 and 28). This corner of the site contained parts of a structure (**669**, **670**), evident in the form of stakeholes and a posthole, a possible stone pad (**635**) and as seen elsewhere on the site, pits. A sub-division, area **647**, within **626** was allocated to a central part of this area as most pits and features had very indistinct edges. This quadrant of the site contained many more Roman period features than any other part of the site, which is probably due to the presence of a structure and its attendant human activities. Roman pottery fragments (jars, bowls, dishes and lids) were also more frequently found in this area and the greater number datable to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD but a few jar fragments possibly belonged to the 2nd to 3rd century AD (See Roman pottery Catalogue samian and nos. 36 to 47). Notable also were small quantities of slag and hammerscale whose presence probably indicated a nearby metalworking site but not in the excavation area.

A number of similarly sized (60 to 70mm diameter) stakeholes (**641**, **642**, **643**, group **666**, **667** and **668**) were found in this area and all were located close to the southern site boundary (Figures 28 and 35). Significantly, the stakeholes provided evidence for a structure and are likely to represent walling. The first wall (**669**), on an orientation of about 62 degrees (National Grid), was about 2m in length and in the form of two parallel stakehole alignments (**642**, **643**) that terminated at a posthole **636** (Figures 29 to 31). A second probable wall alignment (**670**), heading south at a near right angle to the first, was indicated by another three stakeholes, one to the west and two south of the first wall (**641**, **667** and **668** respectively), but as only a short length of this wall, about 0.3m in length was recorded, it cannot be certain; the short length is due to the limit of the excavation boundary. However, supporting evidence for this north/south aligned wall is that a change of direction was likely to have occurred at a post setting (**636**) and further stakeholes were not detected to the west. It is postulated that the construction of the wall was based on two parallel lines of stakes set about 0.2m apart providing the vertical element for making a wattle frame; once formed the gap between them was likely filled with an insulation material, possibly bracken.

To the north of the wall **669** were a post setting **638**, fill **639** (Figures 28, 32 and 33) and stakeholes **649** to **659** (Figure 28). The post setting **638** (the post measuring about 0.15m in diameter), was located amongst the stakeholes and appeared to be isolated in regard to the structure however, its proximity about 1m away from wall **669** could

suggest it was part of the building as indeed could the surrounding stakeholes. The stakeholes were distributed in an apparent random pattern and although short alignments could be derived they did not appear to form a significant pattern. Four further stakeholes (660 to 663) were located away from the main cluster to the east of the structure but still within a 2.5m radius of the eastern end of wall 669; it is likely that wall 669 continued further eastward but the limitation of the excavation edge prevented further excavation. It is also possible that both the post setting and stakeholes were of the same period as the structure and indicated activity immediately outside the building. Speculatively, the stakes could have represented a fence perhaps to a small enclosure on the outside of the walls.

To the north of the structure (669, 670) was a 0.8m diameter sub-circular collection of cobbles and sandstone (635) possibly a stone pad (Plate 5, Figure 29). Although no similar collection of stone was noted elsewhere on the site during the excavation, a similar deposit of stone was found by Sell (2004, context 208) in evaluation Trench T2. Similarly, as with the feature discovered by Sell, there was insufficient evidence to ascribe a function to these stones or indeed evidence to positively identify them as an artificial feature as opposed to a natural deposit. Sell erred toward an artificial feature and postulated the deposit as a post pad based on an underlying stone deposit. Circumstantial evidence, based on their similar sizes and composition (cobbles and sandstone), together with their proximity to each other, are possibly indicative of some form of structural feature.



Plate 5. Stone pad 635. View to the east, scale 0.5m divisions

Two pits (634, 648), a gully (644) and a spread of charcoal (646) were found within a 6m radius to the north east of the structure. All features and deposits were of Roman date. Area number 647 was allocated to cover features 644 and 646; a small quantity of Roman pottery was recovered from the soil (See Roman pottery Catalogue nos. 66, 67).

The short length of gully (644) measuring 0.9m in length (oriented 41 degrees Nat. Grid, had been truncated by pit 633 to the east and apparently truncated by clay/charcoal deposit 646 to the west (Figures 28 and 34). The fill (645) comprised dark brown sandy clay loam with charcoal and small pebbles and fragments of jars

dating from the mid 1st to 2nd century AD (See Roman pottery Catalogue nos. 64, 65). Its shallow depth (about 40mm at best) and fairly narrow width (0.3m) would not suggest a feature built for long usage however, it may have been connected with charcoal rich deposit **646**; the charcoal and fragments of fired clay were contained within an irregularly shaped shallow depression measuring about 0.7m diameter. It is possibly best described as a gully but alternatively its profile could almost suggest a plank laid onto the ground and trodden in and upon removal the void becoming filled. The loose connection of the gully to the charcoal patch (**646**) is based on each having similar depths (both about 50mm) and similar fills and, that the alignment of the gully appears to head just south of the centre-line of deposit **646**. Not enough information was forthcoming to suggest an industrial feature for the gully and charcoal spread (**646**).

Two broadly sub-circular shaped pits **633** (fill **634**) and **648** (fill **640**) were found on the eastern side of the site to the northeast of the structure (Figures 28, and 36 to 38). The smaller pit **633**, measuring 1.2m north/south by about 0.8m east/west had probably been cut on its eastern side by a larger pit, **648**; lack of differentiation between similar fills (mid brown sandy clay loams) account for the uncertainty. The larger pit measured in excess of 2.6m north/south and in excess of 2m to the east where it likely continued beyond the excavation boundary. Both pits were cut to the same depth (about 0.25m) and both had similar fills (**634** and **640**) containing similar artefacts.

The Roman pottery recovered from the pits was datable to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD and included jars, bowls and dishes (See Roman pottery Catalogue nos. 35, 48 to 52 and 54 to 63). A diverse range of other materials were found in the pits including fragments of charcoal, slag, hammerscale, a small quantity of burnt bone, charred hazelnut shells, fired clay, sandstone fragments and cobbles; one notable difference in the fills however, was that pit **648** had a greater number of iron nails. The sandstone fragments were possibly broken roof tiles of Roman date and their distribution, at all angles of repose, particularly in pit **648**, together with the nails may suggest a pit filled with waste from a building.

The Finds

Finds from the Prehistoric period through to the post-medieval and modern periods were recovered from the site. However, as might be expected the greater number of finds related to the Roman period and to a far lesser extent from the post-medieval and modern periods. Three flint fragments recovered from Roman contexts provide evidence for human activity from the Prehistoric period. However, it is unlikely that they are representative of any prehistoric settlement and are more likely to be casual deposition. Evidence for the medieval period was lacking except for two tile sherds; these sherds were found in the upper soils (602) and were likely intrusive possibly moved by plough action. The post-medieval and modern finds of pottery and glassware were limited in number and perhaps suggest little activity in this area except perhaps as cultivated fields with occasional nightsoil deposition as manure; Ordnance Survey mapping from the 1800s shows the excavation area and its general surroundings as fields. Webster comments in his report on the Roman pottery that there were clear signs of the pottery surfaces having suffered due to soil action, possibly ploughing.

The interpretation of the plant remains did not offer anything other than a broad picture of the Roman economy due to the extremely limited quantity of material for analysis. At best, the presence of barley grain and spelt wheat (consistent with other Roman sites in Wales) indicated their usage but not whether it was locally grown or whether imported ready processed and, the lack of weed seed meant there was no evidence for the local Roman environment.

The Roman finds taken as a whole were not remarkable for a Roman site, and as might be expected, pottery formed the greater part of the assemblage however, there was a distinct lack of animal bone and also non-ferrous metals, except for a few undiagnostic lead fragments. Evidence for metalworking was found in the form of slag and hammerscale but the quantities of each were too small to imply anything other than possible nearby workings.

The greater part of the pottery collection was made up of wares used for cooking and Webster suggests that the excavation area was possibly connected with the cooking of food rather than its consumption. The date range for the excavation area suggested from the pottery and diagnostic glassware was between the first and second centuries, circa 75/85 - 130AD, between the Flavian and Hadrianic periods.

The specialist reports provide detailed information for the finds and also include material from the archaeological evaluation of the site.

Discussion

Evidence from previous archaeological works has provided evidence for a vicus located on three sides of the fort, the northeast, northwest and southwest sides. Excavation in the northeastern part of the vicus revealed elements of a substantial civilian settlement, with a likely industrial/supply function, possibly aligned along the northeastern road leading from the gate (Sell 1997). Analysis of the pottery assemblage recovered from the excavation suggested occupation dating from the 1st century up to the later 2nd century AD. To the northwest, a short length of the road leading out of the north gate has been found and also part of a masonry building dating to the 1st or 2nd century AD (Maynard 1993). In addition to the masonry building but located further north were two linear ditches; these three features possibly respected a projected alignment of the road leading out of the fortress and if so they would be located on its the western side. As a result of a geophysical survey (Young 2003) that showed the likely continuation of this road, a test trench was excavated but the investigation failed to prove the existence of the road (Evans 2005). The line of the road is still unproven but it is possible, given the absence of the road to the west that its line could deflect to the east of the previously investigated areas. (There also remains an unanswered question as to what gave rise to the positive resistivity results obtained by the geophysics survey if not a road).

The present excavation area was located broadly opposite and about 25m to the east of the 1993 trenches. The excavation revealed evidence of Roman structural and occupation deposits lying to the northeast of the Roman fortress. However, the results of the excavation also showed that activity in this area was probably restricted by other factors including both natural features and also perhaps man-made boundaries.

The excavation area could be divided into four separate and distinct areas; the watercourse, two areas of Roman activity, one on each side of the channel, and an expanse covering about half of the excavation area which contained a single post setting alone (Figure 2); there was a notable absence of any artefacts in the latter area.

It seems likely that the line of the watercourse (**605**) cutting across the site was extant in the Roman period and thus provided a natural boundary between the Roman deposits to the north (**608**) and the deposits to the south of the channel (**616** and **626**). Evidence to support a stream present in the Roman landscape is supported by the lack of pits and features nearing the channel edge and also that the spread of pottery became less frequent toward the stream. This was particularly noticeable on the south side of the stream where the ground was slightly lower than the north and signs of activity stopped about 6m from the channel edge; a possible reason for this is that the ground conditions were much wetter underfoot.

The course of the stream has not been detected to the west or to the east of the site, however, there is a possibility that this watercourse was once a continuation of the stream that later fed the mill pond to the northeast of the site as depicted on 19th century OS mapping.

If the stream was a boundary division then it could be conjectured that there were two 'properties' in the area both sharing similar features namely pits and structural elements. The excavation area boundary fell between these probable properties and that combined with the stream crossing the site resulted in only a small area of each property being investigated.

The evidence for the structures was also limited due to their proximity to the excavation boundary edges. The northern property had a single post setting and as such little can be postulated, whilst in the southern property a short length of wattle walling was found. This wall incorporated a post setting and there was also an indication of a near right angle return centred on the corner post, shown by stakeholes. Not enough of this alignment could be substantiated because of the limits of the excavation boundary and similarly any likely internal features were also beyond the same boundary therefore, it is not known whether the structure was for human or animal use. Apart from isolated roofing tiles, nails and daub there was little in the way of other building materials found in the excavation area. It is possible that the pits and structures represent the rear (the back yards) of each property.

There was not enough evidence gained from either property to suggest their function and no distinct phasing could be gained from the general site area due to the extreme difficulty in defining layers. In addition, there was no differentiation within the pottery assemblage, dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries AD, to suggest any differences between the two areas; the pottery dates correspond to the main period of occupation of the fort (Neath II). A similar date range was derived for part of the settlement discovered by Sell in 1997 where it was thought that the occupants' business was involved in an industrial or supply capacity. No definite evidence was forthcoming from the present excavation to suggest industrial processes although metalworking residues found within the soils of the southern property were suggested to be from nearby industry. The only other evidence to suggest any kind of business activity is based on the pottery evidence alone and that was of an area used in the production of food but not its consumption.

The western half of the site revealed a near absence of Roman features apart from a post setting (628) and the division, on a northwest/southeast alignment, between the western and eastern halves was marked by an abrupt cessation of artefacts and features. This confirmed the findings of the evaluation carried out by Sell in 2004 where Trenches T3 and T5 were found to be archaeologically sterile and in Trench T4 only slight but inconclusive evidence was found. No clear indication of the purpose for the isolated post setting (628) was determined but its location on the southern edge of the stream suggests a close association with the stream itself and not perhaps part of any other structure.

It is possible that the absence of material is not coincidence but the result of a man-made boundary. The whole of this area was characterized by what appeared to be natural cobbles with occasional patches of raised cobbles. This swathe of undeveloped ground measured about 22m in width and that measurement if projected west toward the previous excavation areas (Maynard 1993 and Evans 2005) could be closer to 45m wide.

Speculation focuses on reasons for this absence whether geological, perhaps naturally wet ground, or simply that settlement did not encroach on this area but it might also be possible that it was a designated zone where no development was to take place. There remains a possibility that the alignment of the road leading out of the northwest gate passes through this area and that no development was allowed within its tract; there was no evidence for the road found in the current excavation area and its line remains unproven.

The excavation results did not cast much light on the nature of occupation in the northwest quadrant of the vicus except for the discovery of a likely boundary which

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limited expansion of Roman occupation activity to the west of the excavation area until it met the area previously excavated in 1993 (Maynard). However, the results may also indicate that the greater part of the northwest quarter was undeveloped as part of the vicus. That assumption is based on the absence of features within half of the current excavation area and that only part of a stone building and ditches were found in eleven evaluation trenches excavated in 1993.

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SPECIALIST REPORTS

ROMAN POTTERY

By Peter Webster

Introduction

The material reported upon here shows clear signs of having suffered due to soil action. Many sherds are lacking all or most of their surface and powdery abraded edges are common. The samian lacks a good deal of its decorated surface making the recognition of detail difficult.

The initial assessment of the material listed all sherds by broad fabric category and weight. This forms the basis of an archive list, which includes greater detail on forms and provides a link into the catalogue below. Significant or diagnostic sherds have been selected for cataloguing. Summaries and charts below are based upon the archive lists.

Sources and chronology

Sources of pottery are remarkably restricted. This is partly a reflection of a limited date range but also reflects a dearth of all fineware except samian. This can be seen in the following summary chart, which shows the likely number of vessels present in the assemblage:

<i>Fabric</i>		<i>Vessels</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
Fineware:					
	Samian	36	22.08		
	N.Gaul Roughcast	2	1.23		
	Local glazed	1	0.61		
				39	23.93
Mortaria	Verulamium	4	2.45		
	Local	2	1.23		
				6	3.68
Black-Burnished	BB1	24	14.72		
				24	14.72
Local fabrics	Local reduced	80	49.10		
	Local oxidised	12	7.36		
	Other reduced	2	1.23		
				94	57.67
Total		163	100.00	163	100.00

The chart excludes amphorae as it was not possible to estimate the number of vessels present in the absence of any rims.

Samian made up just over a fifth of all vessels identified and was the only common fineware in the assemblage. Some detail of the forms present in each context will be

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found in the catalogue and a number of decorated pieces are also included, but it seems worthwhile to summarise all samian information in the chart below.

	<i>Context</i>	100	206	603	608	615	616	617	622	626	634	640	<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>
Source	Form													
S.Gaul	18			2	1					1			4	
	18R			4									4	
	18/31		1	2		1							4	
	27			1	1	1				1			4	
	30									1			1	
	33									1			1	
	36				1								1	
	37			3			1						4	
	C.11			1									1	
	?inkwell			1									1	
Total SG													25	69.44
	Unident.	1		4					1	6		3	15	
Les Martres	18/31				1			1					2	
	27			1									1	
	37					1							1	
	Cup		1										1	
Total LMdV													5	13.89
C.Gaul	18/31			1						1		1	3	
	37			1*	1*							1	2	
	C.11										1		1	
Total CG													6	16.67
	Unident.			2								3	5	
Totals		1	2	22	4	3	1	1	1	11	1	8	36	100.00

***Joins**

A glance at the chart immediately shows the enormous preponderance of South Gaulish pieces (almost 70% of all samian). This alone suggests a site occupied mainly in the 1st or very early 2nd century. The assemblage of South Gaulish forms suggests that this occupation is Flavian and Trajanic. There are no characteristically pre-Flavian forms and even the common decorated form 29 which lasted into the mid Flavian period is missing. This might mean that the area excavated was not occupied as early as the Flavian advance along the south coast of Wales, generally ascribed to the mid 70s A.D. However, although it should be noted that decorated forms generally are poorly represented and we should be wary of placing too much weight on the absence of form 29. Taken as a whole the samian collection would accord with occupation starting in the later 70s or 80s A.D.

Looking at the other end of the chronological range, Central Gaulish forms are all of types found in the earlier part of the Lezoux exporting period and, as we have already

noted, form a remarkably small proportion of all samian. This would suggest occupation into the Hadrianic period but no later and there seems no good reason for suggesting that the latest samian was deposited later than c.A.D.130. Taken as a whole, therefore the collection is indicative of occupation between the Flavian and Hadrianic periods and a date range c.A.D.75/85-130 would fit the evidence.

Other fineware is extremely restricted. A few sherds of North Gaulish rough cast ware and local glazed ware have been noted, but it would seem that the bulk of fineware requirements were met by the samian manufacturers. Bearing in mind the dearth of decorated samian already noted and we may suggest that this area of Neath was not at the upper end of the local social hierarchy.

All other aspects of the collection seem to be heavily kitchen orientated.

Black Burnished Ware is present, although not in the quantities that one would expect from a site occupied into say the Antonine period. All the forms present would be appropriate for a site occupied in the later 1st and earlier 2nd centuries.

Mortaria are comparatively uncommon. There are a few sherds of Verulamium vessels and a number of pieces in red with white quartz trituration grits which are likely to be of comparatively local manufacture.

Amphorae are represented only by the common globular Dressel 20, South Spanish olive oil amphorae.

Local fabrics predominate in the assemblage. Most are in the grey fairly sandy fabric called here 'local reduced ware'. This is the 'South Wales Grey Ware' of the Usk report on local fabrics (Manning 1993, 232-255) and the 'South Wales Reduced Ware' of the National Reference Collection (Tomber & Dore 1998, 209 & Pl.174). There are variations within the overall fabric group. Some vessels are noticeably more sandy than others and more than one local source is likely. Although a local kiln in the settlement adjacent to Neath is not improbable, there are no clear indications in the form of distorted vessels or wasters.

Among the vessels listed, the most common are everted rim and simple curved rim jars and flanged bowls, all characteristic of the later 1st and earlier 2nd centuries. It is also noticeable that jars imitating the common 2nd century Black Burnished forms are comparatively rare and this is probably, again, an indication of occupation that did not extend into the middle of the century.

Taken as a whole, the collection bears out the chronology suggested by the samian assemblage. Occupation between the Flavian and early Hadrianic periods seems likely. The nature of that occupation is suggested by the lack of the more ornate samian wares and by the preponderance of cooking wares among the coarse pottery. We appear to be in an area more concerned with the preparation of food than its consumption.

Catalogue

Selected items are described in numerical order of context and their illustrations are included at the end of the catalogue (Figures 39 and 40).

Context 106:

1. Curved rim jar in a slightly micaceous light grey local reduced ware with a darker external surface; cf. Heywood & Marvell 1992, Fig.7, 8.
2. Flanged bowl or dish, with internal lip in light grey local reduced ware. The form derives from one introduced by the military in the mid 1st century (cf. Usk Fortress type 22, Manning 1993, Fig.6) and certainly produced into the 2nd century (Nash-Williams 1932, no.354; Evans 2000, Fig.54, 296). Probably mid 1st to mid 2nd century.

The context also included a sherd of rusticated decoration and a jar wall decorated with indentations possibly from a comb.

Context 207:

3. (Not illustrated). Rim fragment from a wide mouthed jar in grey with a brown core and dark grey surface. Probably a local product.

Context 600:

4. Jar in Black Burnished ware; cf. Gillam 1976, 1. Probably mid 1st to mid 2nd century in a south Wales context.

The context also included a Black Burnished Ware flanged bowl fragment (2nd century).

Context 602:

5. (Not illustrated). Flanged dish in Black Burnished ware. External wall is decorated with intersecting looped chevrons (as Gillam 1976, no. 65). 2nd century

Context 603:

Samian included: South Gaulish forms 18, 18R, 18/31, 27g, Curle 11 and a possible inkwell; Central Gaulish forms 18/31; also:

6. Form 37, South Gaulish (Plate A). Panel decoration lies below an ovolo frieze with trident tongue. Panels, from left to right are:
 - a) An arcade formed by an inverted wreathed festoon over columns (not in Hermet 1934) contains a figure, possibly a Venus. To the right, a stylised quadruple leaf is placed over a pendant 'baton' (Knorr 1919, Tb.12, lower right; Webster 1987, H30)
 - b) A pediment has vertically placed batons either side with others at a diagonal. It rests on columns with, between, a pair of grape carriers, O.597.
 - c) An unidentified ?male figure with 'grass' sprays below.

The size of panels and the poor quality of the piece both suggest a date later in the production of South Gaul, c. AD90-110.

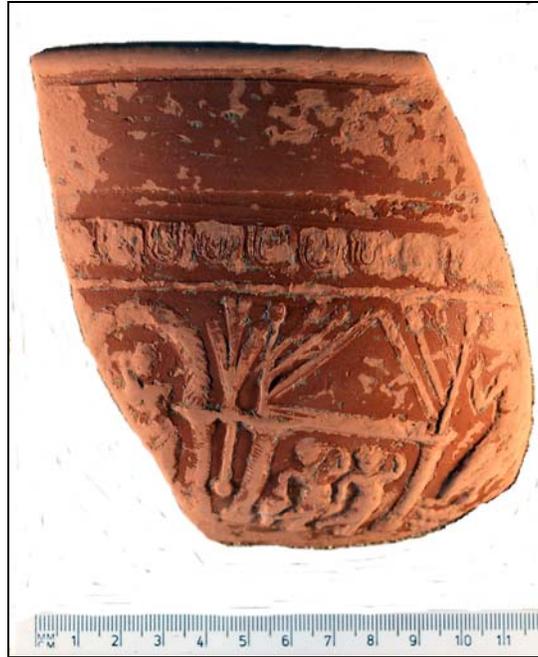


Plate A: Form 37, South Gaulish samian

7. Form 37, South Gaulish (Plate B). A bowl from a worn or dirty mould. The ovolo has a trident tongue but the detail of the 'egg' is unclear. Below is a panel decoration divided by wavy lines. The panel to the left contains a ?lion running to the left; that to the right includes a leaf spray, *c.*AD90-110.



Plate B: Form 37, South Gaulish samian

8. Bead rim jar in light grey local reduced ware, smoothed or burnished on the upper wall externally and with burnished acute angled lattice below. There is some external sooting. Cf. Usk, Manning 1993, Fig.108, 13.3. 1st to early 2nd century.

9. Everted rim jar. The fabric is orange with a light grey core and burnished grey external surface. Probably a local reduced ware altered by subsequent burning. Cf. Usk, Manning 1993, Fig.108, 14.1. Mid 1st to early 2nd century. With another everted rim jar in grey fabric.
10. (Not illustrated). Small handled bowl or cup in orange-buff fabric with a white slip internally and partially over the exterior. The interior has a thin light grey glaze. The form would be unusual in a Roman context as would the technique of using both slip and glaze. It seems likely, therefore, that the vessel is intrusive and perhaps post-medieval vessel.
11. Mortarium in light red fabric with white angular quartz trituration grits. Probably a Caerleon product; cf. Usk, Manning 1993, Fig.194, 6 (early-mid 2nd century).
12. Flanged bowl in light grey local ware; cf. no.2 above. Mid 1st to mid 2nd century.
13. Flanged bowl in Black Burnished Ware; cf. Gillam 1976, no.36. Mid 2nd century.
14. Lid in a sandy fabric which has probably been burnt. The core is dark grey, the surface a dull pink.

Context 603 & 608:

15. Form 37, Central Gaulish (Plate C). 12 fragments, many joining come from two contexts, 603 and 608. The surface slip has all but disappeared making the identification of detail difficult. Sufficient, however, remains to allow us to see the main outlines of the decoration.

Panel decoration is divided by bead rows below an ovolo frieze, probably of Rogers 1974, B24. The overall design appears to have consisted of large panels as follows:

- a) Two double-bordered festoons are suspended from astragali. That to the left contains the bird O. 2214A; that to the right the pigmy with spear, O.698. Small circles are placed in the spandrels below the festoons. A ?leaf appears to be suspended on a bead row between the festoons. Below, is a running animal, possibly a horse, with, in the field, a portion of an acanthus spray, as Rogers 1999, Pl.136, 1 (Large-S Potter).
- b) To the left is the Perseus, O.234, with, to the right, the Pan, O.713 with small circles in the field. Below is the S-shaped motif used by the Large-S Potter and X-6, Rogers 1974, S71.
- c) As a) except that the animal below the festoons is the front portion of a leaping lion (as Rogers 1999, Pl.136, 1).

Large-S and X-6 are closely related potters, but this appears to be by the former, c. AD120-145.



Plate C: Form 37, Central Gaulish samian

Context 608:

Samian included fragments of no.15 above, South Gaulish forms 18, 27 and 36 and Central Gaulish form 18/31.

16. Jar in coarse dark grey fabric with crushed calcite filler burnt light brown to orange on the surface. The form and fabric span the Roman conquest of South Wales. For further discussion see Gwilt & Webster forthcoming. Mid and mid/late 1st century.
17. Everted rim jar in light grey local reduced ware with a darker grey external surface. Cf. Usk, Manning 1993, Figs.108-9, type 14. Mid 1st to early 2nd century.
18. Curved rim jar in light grey local fabric with traces of burnishing on the rim and some sooting. Cf. Usk, Manning 1993, Fig.109, 27.2. 2nd century. With two other curved rim jars.
19. Jar in Black Burnished ware, burnt grey-buff and with sooting on the neck; cf. Gillam 1976, no.1. Mid 1st to mid 2nd century in a South Wales context.
20. Flanged bowl in light grey local reduced ware; cf. Heywood & Marvell 1992, Fig.7, 26. Mid 1st to early 2nd century. One of three flanged bowls.
21. Mortarium flange. The sandy fabric has been burnt light grey but was originally probably buff. Source unknown but possibly Verulamium.
22. Lid in light grey local reduced ware. The upper surface, rim and adjacent part of the lower surface have been darkened by sooting.

Context 613:

23. Two joining fragments in orange-buff fabric. Although possibly a flagon neck, this could equally be the pedestal base of a Tazza; cf. Nash-Williams 1932, Fig.61, 422.

Context 615:

Samian included South Gaulish forms 18 or 18/31, 27 (with a fragmentary stamp ..]PO) and a Les Martres-de-Veyre form 37 rim and a small sherd of Central Gaulish form 37 (Plate D) with small double bordered medallion and the leaves Rogers 1974, J33.



Plate D: Form 37, Central Gaulish samian

24. Curved rim jar in light grey local reduced fabric sooted and darkened externally.
25. Mortar-like bowl in light orange fabric with sparse sandy inclusions and some fired clay; cf. Heywood & Marvell 1992, Fig.7, 28.
26. Flanged dish in Black Burnished Ware; cf. Gillam 1976, no.61 (mid 2nd century).

Context 616:

Samian included a South Gaulish form 37 with an abraded design, probably *c.A.D.*70-90.

27. Curved rim jar in light grey local reduced ware; possibly from a jar similar to Usk fortress type 11 (Manning 1993, Fig.4). Probably 1st century.
28. Mortar-like bowl in light red fabric with a grey core and a filler which included fired clay. Caerleon is a possible source. Probably 2nd century.

Contexts 616 & 622:

29. Shallow dish or, more probably, a lid in dark brown sandy fabric with a dark grey surface and some signs of sooting. A separate sherd appears to be from a knob or pedestal foot. Probably a local product; cf. Heywood & Marvell 1992, Fig.7, 13.

Context 622:

30. Narrow necked jar in light grey local reduced fabric.
31. (Not illustrated). Four fragments probably from the same jar in Black Burnished ware, all showing signs of burning. The vessel has been burnt a dull orange in places and has lost most of its surface. There are faint traces of a burnished lattice and although it is difficult to orient the sherds, an obtuse angles design seems probable, suggesting a late 3rd to 4th century date.
32. Everted rim jar in light grey local reduced ware.
33. Bowl in grey ware with little filler. Reminiscent of the samian form 37. Probably later 1st or 2nd century.

34. Jar in Black Burnished Ware with some signs of oxidisation around the neck. There are faint signs of zig-zag decoration on the neck; cf. Gillam 1976, no.2 (mid 2nd century).

Contexts 622 & 640:

35. Three fragments probably from the same small glazed beaker, in a thin light orange-red fabric with traces of a greeny gold lead glaze externally. The rim is everted. An impressed line on one piece may indicate indentation or (less probably) decoration in the form of circular bosses. Arthur's corpus of lead-glazed ware illustrates a number of everted rim beakers in his 'Usk/Caerleon' group (Arthur 1978, Fig.8.10, 5.1-5.8). Our beaker would appear to have been similar but smaller than those illustrated. A Flavian date seems likely.

Context 626:

- Samian included: South Gaulish forms 18 or 18/31, 27, 30 and 33; Central Gaulish form 18/31.
36. Rough cast beaker in peach coloured fabric with a grey-brown colour coat. A North Gaulish product; cf. Anderson 1981, Fig.19.3, 25-6. Late 1st to mid 2nd century.
37. Narrow-necked jar in light grey local reduced ware; cf. Usk, Manning 1993, Fig.107, type 7 (2nd century).
38. Everted rim jar in light grey local reduced ware; cf. Usk, Manning 1993, Fig. 108, 13.3. Mid 1st to early 2nd century.
39. Medium necked jar in light grey local reduced ware. The form is reminiscent of Black Burnished Ware jar forms; cf. Usk, Manning 1993, Fig. 109, 19.2. 2nd century.
40. Bead rim jar in Black Burnished Ware; cf. Usk, Manning 1993, Fig. 122, 5.1. Late 1st to late 2nd century. With another small bead rim jar in Black Burnished Ware.
41. (Not illustrated). Bead rim vessel in a fabric which has been burnt buff to pink. The filler includes fired clay and grit including quartz. The surface was originally fairly smooth but is largely lost. A bead rim dish resembling those found in Black Burnished ware seems probable (cf Gillam 1976, Nos 71-4, 2nd-3rd century).
42. Jar in granular grey fabric shading to light brown near the surface but with a dark grey burnished surface. The filler included crushed stone and lumps of quartz. Reminiscent of 2nd-3rd century Black Burnished jars and probably of similar date.
43. Flanged bowl in grey local reduced ware with sooting on the flange. One of the Mid 1st to early 2nd century flanged and carinated series.
44. Small mortar-like bowl in light orange fabric with a grey core.
45. Dish in light grey local reduced ware with a mid to dark grey surface. The form is derived from Gallo-Belgic forms such as Camulodunum types 7-8 (Hawkes & Hull 1947, pl.49) and ultimately from samian or Arretine forms. Cf. Usk, Manning 1993, Fig.116, 66.1. Probably 1st century.
46. Lid in grey local reduced fabric, darkened and sooted on the rim.

47. Lid in grey local reduced ware darkened externally.
A lid knob may come from a Black Burnished Ware lid. Mortaria included a fragment from Verulamium.

Context 634:

48. Narrow-necked jar in light grey local reduced ware; cf. Usk, Manning 1993, Fig.107, 7. Probably 1st-2nd century.
49. Curved rim jar in grey local reduced war with a darker surface.
50. Flanged bowl in grey local reduced ware with a darker surface; one of the mid 1st to early 2nd century flanged and carinated bowl series.
51. Flanged bowl in Black Burnished ware. 2nd century.
52. (Not illustrated). Sub-circular sherd from a light grey jar, probably fashioned to serve as a counter. The fabric is slightly micaceous with fine grit and fired clay filler. This is probably a local Roman reduced fabric but there are no surviving features which will allow close dating.

Context 639:

53. Flanged bowl in grey local reduced ware. The surface is darker especially around the flange. Cf. Heywood & Marvell 1992, Fig.7, 26.

Context 640:

54. Curved rim jar in light grey local reduced ware.
55. Everted rim jar in light grey local reduced ware.
56. Everted rim jar in light grey local reduced ware; cf. Usk, Manning 1993, Fig.109, type 14. Mid 1st to early 2nd century.
57. Curved rim jar in brownish-red fabric sooted on the rim.
58. Curved rim jar in light grey local reduced fabric.
59. Bowl in light grey local reduced ware. There appears to have been a deliberate attempt to imitate the samian form 30 as the internal grooves of that form are repeated here. As is usual with such derivative types, there has been no attempt to imitate the moulded decoration and, instead, rouletting has been substituted. 1st-2nd century.
60. Flanged bowl in grey local reduced fabric. One of the mid 1st to early 2nd century flanged and carinated bowl series. One of two flanged bowls of this general type.
61. Flanged dish in Black Burnished Ware; cf, Gillam 1976, no.57 (early-mid 2nd century).
62. Flanged dish with internal lip in brown fabric with a light grey core and dark grey surface.
63. Lid in grey local reduced fabric with a mid grey surface. There is some resemblance to Black Burnished ware lids.

Mortaria included fragments from a vessel from Verulamium. Also present was a small sherd of North Gaulish rough-cast beaker, cf. no.36 above.

Context 645:

64. Everted rim jar in light grey local reduced ware.
65. Jar in Black Burnished Ware. The rim is incomplete making it difficult to assess the curvature, but this is probably an example of Gillam 1976, no.1 (mid 1st to mid 2nd century in a South Wales context).

Context 647:

66. Narrow-necked storage jar in light grey local reduced ware; cf. Usk, Manning 1993, Fig.108, 8.3 (2nd century).
67. Everted rim jar in grey local reduced ware.
There was also a rim from a bowl reminiscent of the samian form 37.

FIGURE 39: ROMAN COARSE POTTERY

Pottery drawings 1

FIGURE 40: ROMAN COARSE POTTERY

Pottery drawings 2

THE GLASS

By Rowena Hart

The glass assemblage produced by the excavations at Dwr y Felin, Neath is a small one comprising 41 fragments, ten are post-medieval and 31 Roman. Most of the post-medieval fragments are from wine bottles and medicinal bottles. The Roman glass fragments are either window glass or fragments of utilitarian blue/green containers, common from the mid 1st to the mid 3rd centuries. The majority of the diagnostic pieces date the Roman assemblage to between the mid 1st century and the end of the 2nd century.

Post-medieval

Vessels

602/1 - The complete base of a blown, blue-green bottle with a bare iron pontil mark clearly visible. A small fragment of applied lettering can be seen on the vessel wall. Base diameter 31.2mm.

602/2 - A small body sherd of a medicinal bottle. Lettering can be seen on the fragment 'P O' probably from the word 'SPOON' which was often present on these medicine bottles to indicate dosage.

602/4 - An almost complete base of a late 17th century/early 18th century wine bottle. Its pontil scar is clear and the kick-up on the base relatively shallow and indicative of an early post-medieval date.

602/5 - A fragment of late 17th century/early 18th century wine bottle.

602/6 - A small fragment of the base of a wine bottle. There is suggestion that the bottle would have had a relatively shallow kick-up dating it the late 17th-early 18th century.

602/7; 623/1; 632/1 – Wine bottle body sherds.

602/8 - A body sherd from a wine bottle, part of the shoulder of the vessel survives on this fragment.

Undiagnostic body sherds

602/3 - Small body sherd of late post-medieval or early 20th century glass vessel.

Roman

Vessel fragments

200/1 - A small blue-green rod handle with no diagnostic body surviving (Figure 42). Due to its size and type it is likely to have been attached to a small convex cup. The date of these vessels is uncertain. Their main use is during the late 4th century although their presence in burials (and therefore their manufacture) is known from the mid 2nd century onward.

622/1 – A fragment (15%) of slightly turned out, blue-green, tubular rim with a double fold forming a concave collar (Figure 41). The acute angle between the neck and the body suggests that it is unlikely to be part of a square jar, but more likely from a convex jar (second half of 1st century - early/mid 2nd century).

626/1 - A short, blue-green, angular ribbon handle from a cylindrical, square or hexagonal bottle (Figure 43). The handle is reeded where it meets the vessel shoulder,

but plain through its length. It meets the neck beneath the rim where the glass has been folded over and drawn back along the upper surface of the handle. A small part of the neck survives and the internal diameter of this would have been approximately 20mm. Cylindrical bottles were common during the second half of the 1st century. The square bottles were in use for the longest of the bottle shapes, from the second half of the 1st to the end of the second century and dominate assemblages which extend beyond the 1st century. The least common are the hexagonal shaped bottles. This form also had a relatively short date range from the late 1st century through to the second quarter of the 2nd century.

626/2 - Fragment of a vessel neck. The neck and the shoulder meet at right angles.

647/1 - A body sherd with a single line of same colour trailed decoration.

Undiagnostic body sherds

608/2; 613/1; 616/1-4; 622/2-3; 625/1; 626/3,5,6; 634/1; 640/4-6.

640/2-3 - Two body sherd fragments with crizzling over their surfaces. This usually occurs due to an excess of alkali or a deficiency of a stabiliser during manufacture.

Window glass

203/1; 603/1; 608/1-3; 615/1-3; 626/4.

Eight pieces of window glass were recovered during the excavation. They are all a blue-green, cast matt/glossy variety, which were in use up until c. AD 300.

Glass waste

640/1 - A fragment of semi-opaque brown glass. The fragment is very angular and seems to have been broken from a larger piece. A small part of one surface is white with numerous pits, bubbles and fine inclusions of sand. This would have occurred before the glass cooled, maybe during pouring of the glass onto a surface.

The Faience

Three complete and one fragment of faience melon beads were recovered during excavation. These were very common during the 1st century AD, becoming less so during the 2nd century.

622/2 – A sub-spherical faience melon bead that has lost its glaze. It would have been turquoise in colour when the glaze was present with eleven vertical incisions on the exterior. The perforation has a diameter of 4.2mm.

622/3 - A sub-spherical faience melon bead that has lost its glaze. It would have been turquoise in colour when the glaze was present with twelve vertical incisions on the exterior. The perforation has a diameter of 4.1mm.

622/4 - A sub-spherical faience melon bead that has lost its glaze. It would have been turquoise in colour when the glaze was present with twelve angled incisions on the exterior. The perforation has a diameter of 4.8mm.

200/1 – A fragment (approximately 20%) of a faience melon bead. Its diameter when whole would be more than 14.4mm. Although the fragment has lost its glaze, the traces of colour that remain on the fragment suggest that it was a very dark turquoise or perhaps cobalt blue bead.

FIGURE 41 PART OF A TUBULAR RIM FROM A JAR

FIGURE 42 SMALL ROD HANDLE PROBABLY FROM A CUP

FIGURE 43 HANDLE FROM A CYLINDRICAL, SQUARE OR HEXAGONAL BOTTLE

Glass

drawings

Dwr-y-Felin School, Neath, Neath Port Talbot: archaeological excavation

Glass

Context	Piece no.	Weight (g)	Thickness (mm)	Rim Diameter (mm)	Base Diameter (mm)	Period	Colour	Description
200	1	4.2				Roman	Blue-green	A small blue-green rod handle with no diagnostic body surviving. Due to its size and type it is likely to have been attached to a small convex cup. The date of these vessels is uncertain. Their main use is during the late 4th century although their presence in burials is known from the mid 2nd century onward.
602	1	13.9			31.2mm	Post-medieval	Blue-green	The complete base of a blown, blue-green bottle with a bare iron pontil mark clearly visible. A small fragment of applied lettering can be seen on the vessel wall.
	2	4.1	2.5			Post-medieval	Clear	A small body sherd of a medicinal bottle. Lettering can be seen on the fragment 'P O' probably from the word 'SPOON' which was often present on these medicine bottles to indicate dosage.
	3	3.1	3.1			Post-medieval	Blue-green	Small body sherd.
	4	89			85.6mm	Post-medieval	Green	An almost complete base of a late 17th century/early 18th century wine bottle. Its pontil scar is clear and the kick-up on the base relatively shallow and indicative of an early post-medieval date.
	5	20.6	5.5(max)			Post-medieval	Green	A fragment of late 17th century/early 18th century wine bottle.
	6	44.9				Post-medieval	Olive-green	A small fragment of the base of a wine bottle. There is suggestion that the bottle would have had a relatively shallow kick-up dating it the late 17th-early 18th century.
	7	15.5	7.8			Post-medieval	Olive-green	Wine bottle body sherd.
	8	21	4			Post-medieval	Olive-green	A body sherd from a wine bottle, part of the shoulder of the vessel survives on this fragment.
603	1	3.4	5.9			Roman	Blue-green	Fragment of window glass.
608	1	1.7	4.1			Roman	Blue-green	Fragment of window glass.
	2	2.9	2.6			Roman	Blue-green	Undiagnostic body sherd.

Dwr-y-Felin School, Neath, Neath Port Talbot: archaeological excavation

Context	Piece no.	Weight (g)	Thickness (mm)	Rim Diameter (mm)	Base Diameter (mm)	Period	Colour	Description
	3	2.6	3.6			Roman	Blue-green	Fragment of window glass.
613	1	<0.1	0.5			Roman	Blue-green	A very small undiagnostic fragment.
615	1	16.5	6.7			Roman	Blue-green	Fragment of window glass.
	2	3.1	7.2			Roman	Blue-green	Fragment of window glass.
	3	2.1	6.4			Roman	Blue-green	Fragment of window glass.
616	1	17.2	5.8			Roman	Blue-green	Body sherd.
	2	2.4	3.4			Roman	Blue-green	Body sherd.
	3	0.1	3.3			Roman	Blue-green	Body sherd.
	4	<0.1	0.3			Roman	Clear	Body sherd.
622	1	7		80mm		Roman	Blue-green	A fragment (15%) of slightly turned out, blue-green, tubular rim with a double fold forming a concave collar. The acute angle between the neck and the body suggests that it is unlikely to be part of a square jar, but more likely from a convex jar (second half of 1st century - early/mid 2nd century).
	2	0.6	1.7			Roman	Blue-green	Undiagnostic body sherd.
	3	0.6	0.9			Roman	Blue-green	Undiagnostic body sherd.
623	1	1.1	2.9			Post-medieval	Green	A body sherd of a wine bottle.
625	1	1.1	3.1			Roman	Blue-green	Body sherd.

Dwr-y-Felin School, Neath, Neath Port Talbot: archaeological excavation

Context	Piece no.	Weight (g)	Thickness (mm)	Rim Diameter (mm)	Base Diameter (mm)	Period	Colour	Description
626	1	52.5				Roman	Blue-green	A short, blue-green, angular ribbon handle from a cylindrical, square or hexagonal bottle. The handle is reeded where it meets the vessel shoulder, but plain through its length. It meets the neck beneath the rim where the glass has been folded over and drawn back along the upper surface of the handle. A small part of the neck survives and the internal diameter of this would have been approximately 20mm. Cylindrical bottles were common during the second half of the 1st century. The square bottles were in use for the longest of the bottle shapes, from the second half of the 1st until the end of the second century and dominate and tend to dominate assemblages which extend beyond the 1 st century. The least common are the hexagonal shaped bottles. This form also had a relatively short date range from the late 1st century through to the second quarter of the 2nd century.
	2	5.7	3.8			Roman	Blue-green	Fragment of a vessel neck.
	3	4.3	3.0			Roman	Blue-green	Body sherd.
	4	1.4	5.6			Roman	Blue-green	Fragment of window glass.
	5	1.1	1.5			Roman	Blue-green	Body sherd.
	6	0.8	3.0			Roman	Blue-green	Body sherd.
632	1	2.8	1.6			Post-medieval	Olive-green	Wine bottle body sherd.
634	1	0.9	1.3			Roman	Blue-green	Body sherd.
640	1	5.1	10.6			Roman	Brown	A fragment of semi-opaque brown glass. The fragment is very angular and seems to have been broken from a larger piece. A small part of one surface is white with numerous pits, bubbles and fine inclusions of sand. This would have occurred before the glass cooled, maybe during pouring of the glass onto a surface. This fragment should not be thought of conclusively as industrial waste from this site as it could have been brought to the site in this condition as part of a much larger vessel.
	2	3	4.1			Roman	Blue-green	A body sherd fragment. The fragment has crizzling over 75% of the fragment. This usually occurs due to an excess of alkali or a deficiency of a stabiliser during manufacture.

Dwr-y-Felin School, Neath, Neath Port Talbot: archaeological excavation

Context	Piece no.	Weight (g)	Thickness (mm)	Rim diameter (mm)	Base Diameter (mm)	Period	Colour	Description
	3	2.4	2.9			Roman	Blue-green	A body sherd fragment. The fragment has crizzling over 10% of the fragment. This usually occurs due to an excess of alkali or a deficiency of a stabiliser during manufacture.
	4	2	2.9			Roman	Blue-green	A body sherd.
	5	0.7	1			Roman	Blue-green	A body sherd.
	6	0.1	1.1			Roman	Blue-green	A body sherd.
647	1	1.2	1.8			Roman	Blue-green	A body sherd with a single line of same colour trailed decoration.

Faience

Context	SFN	ID	Weight (g)	Diameter (mm)	Height (mm)	Period	Description
200		200/1	0.9			Roman	Fragment of a faience melon bead. Its diameter when whole would be more than 14.4mm. The traces of colour that remain on the fragment suggest that it was a very dark turquoise or perhaps cobalt blue.
622	2	622/2	1.3	12.3	11.3	Roman	Sub-spherical faience melon bead. 4.2mm diameter perforation. Only faint traces of the turquoise blue surface remain.
	3	622/3	0.9	11	9	Roman	Sub-spherical faience melon bead. 4.1mm diameter perforation. Only faint traces of the turquoise blue surface remain.
	4	622/4	0.6	12.2	7.3	Roman	Sub-spherical faience melon bead. 4.8mm diameter perforation. Only faint traces of the turquoise blue surface remain.

THE CHARRED PLANT REMAINS

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Introduction

Following an excavation at Dwr-y-Felin School, Neath, bulk samples were processed by the Trust and the plant remains recovered from four features were submitted to the University of Wales, Lampeter, for identification. The number of seeds from the whole assemblage was limited, as was the range of species.

Methods

All four of the samples were processed using a flotation technique. The flot and residue were recovered on a 1mm and 250µm mesh, air dried and sorted by GGAT. The seeds were sent for identification to the University of Wales, Lampeter. The seeds received were identified using a Wild M5 Stereomicroscope and modern reference material. All nomenclature for non-cereal remains follow Stace (1991).

Results

The results from the plant remains received are shown in Table 1. They consist of a small quantity of charred cereal grains and four hazelnut shell fragments (*Corylus avellana* L.). The predominant cereal was hulled barley (*Hordeum* sp.), of which both twisted and straight grains were present, as well as grains, which were not preserved well enough to distinguish whether they were straight or twisted. One wheat grain, possibly Spelt wheat (*Triticum* cf. *spelta*) was noted, and cereal fragments were also recorded though not further identifiable, due to their poor state of preservation. Amorphous charred organic material, not identifiable to family, was also noted.

Table 1: The charred plant remains from Dwr-y-Felin Roman site

Context	613 002	615 004	639 010	640 011	Total
Feature type	Pit	Pit	Post setting	Pit	
<i>Triticum</i> cf. <i>spelta</i> (Spelt wheat)	1	-	-	-	1
<i>Hordeum</i> sp (Hulled) Barley - straight grains	-	3	1	-	4
<i>Hordeum</i> sp - twisted	-	4	-	1	5
<i>Hordeum</i> sp - indet	-	4	-	-	4
<i>Corylus avellana</i> L. Hazel nut shell frags	-	-	-	4	4
<i>Cerealia</i> indet	-	6	-	-	6
Organic material indet.	5	8	-	-	13
Total	6	25	1	5	37

Discussion

The limited quantity of plant remains from the site makes any interpretation of the economy or the environment difficult. The predominance of barley and the presence of Spelt wheat,

however, is consistent with other Roman sites in Wales (Caseldine 1990). For example a large assemblage of barley grains, plus smaller quantities of Spelt wheat were recorded from the recent excavations at the Roman forts in Dinefwr Park, Llandeilo, (Hughes 2005).

The presence of twisted and straight barley grains suggests that six-row barley was being grown (Jacomet 2006). However, due to the lack of chaff remains, the presence of two-row barley cannot be ruled out. The overall lack of other plant remains such as cereal chaff and weed seeds, means that there is no indication of the economy of the site, i.e. whether the plant remains are from locally grown crops which were processed on site, or whether they are from crops brought in ready processed. The lack of weed seed also means that there is no evidence for the local environment during the Roman period.

The only plant remains present, other than cereal grains, are four hazelnut shell fragments. These may have been deliberately collected as a food source, or brought in to the site accidentally with wood for fuel.

METALLURGICAL RESIDUES

Dr T.P. Young

Abstract

The assemblage from Dwr-y-Felin comprises 9 pieces of macroscopic residue and 8 processed sieved samples.

The sieved samples are all dominated by brown sedimentary grains. These are probable sedimentary grains derived from ironstones, which are not normally magnetic; magnetic properties arising when the grains are heated. They are thus probably indicative of human activity, but not necessarily of metallurgical processes. Three samples (634, 635, 639) contain flakes of magnetic material that are probably rust. 615 has some small particles which are probably slag. Only 626 contains any true flake hammer scale, and that is restricted to a very small quantity.

The macroscopic material includes four pieces (from 615, 616, 623 and 626) which are clinker; the partly melted residue from the burning of impure coal. Such material need not be indicative of metallurgical processes, for clinker can be generated at relatively low temperatures.

The specimen from 622 is a small ironstone pebble, and is probably of entirely natural origin.

Contexts 603, 608 and 640 yielded pieces of well-flown dense fayalitic slag, with upper lobate flow surfaces. Such material is similar to bloomery tap slag from early iron-smelting. However, caution must be exercised in this identification. The piece from 603 shows an unusually coarse-grained internal crystal structure and an extremely smooth surface. Such features may hint that this is an industrial period slag; fayalitic compositions can be found in both copper smelting slags and puddling slags of post-Medieval age. The piece from 640 also has a very shiny surface, but both it and the piece from 608 are too small for identification on the basis of morphology.

The piece of slag from 645 differs from the other slag material in being heavily weathered. It is likely to be ancient, but its origin is unclear; it is probably a slag produced on the wall of an iron-working hearth or smelting furnace.

Methods

All materials were examined under a low-powered binocular microscope and wherever possible identified on the basis of morphology. This approach is limited in its ability to provide firm identifications, particularly on extremely small microresidue material. This document therefore provides, an evaluation of the assemblage, but cannot always be definitive in identifications.

The summary catalogue is presented in Table 1.

Results

The material from 615, 616, 623 and 626 are all various forms of clinker (the residues from the burning of coal). The large piece from 626 shows an almost unaltered slab of coal measures shale with a coating of well-flown slaggy material. The other three are lobes of moderately well-flown residue with small inclusions of shale, in one case (615) the included material has almost completely melted, suggesting a fairly high temperature of formation.

The specimen from 622 is a small pebble of iron-rich rock (ironstone). It is well-polished, probably as a result of river transport. Such materials occur naturally in the area.

Slags from 603, 608 and 640 are pieces of well-flown, dense, fayalitic slag, with upper lobate flow surfaces. This material is similar to bloomery tap slag from early iron-smelting. The piece from 603, however, shows an unusually coarse-grained internal crystal structure and an extremely smooth surface. These features would indicate that this slag was generated from an extremely low viscosity flow at very high temperature and that it cooled slowly. This suggests the possibility that the slag was generated in an industrial-scale process, and may therefore be post-medieval. Compositions similar to those of bloomery slag are also seen in copper smelting slags and puddling slags. The piece from 640 also has a similar shiny surface, but both it and the piece from 608 are too small for certain identification on the basis of morphology. The piece from 640 is not however a tap slag flow lobe, but the dimpling indicates its cooling within a charcoal bed. Such textures may occur in both iron-smelting and iron-working slags.

The piece of slag from 645 is deeply weathered, and forms a strong contrast with the well preserved slags from 603, 608 and 640. The upper surface of this slag shows as slightly maroon and smoothly lobate. The body of the slag is highly vesicular and weathered to pale colours. The base shows some preserved patches with a finely dimpled wall contact in a pale glass with abundant sand grains derived from the wall fabric. Slags formed on the walls of iron-working hearths and iron-smelting-furnaces are not differentiable.

The sieved material is dominated by brown sand-grade sedimentary grains. These appear to be natural, although natural ironstones are not normally magnetic. It is likely that this material comprises grains derived from natural subsoil that have been heated. Many routes are possible for this, and the material is not indicative of metallurgical activity.

The samples from 615 and 628 contain small grains which are probably, but not certainly slag. Samples from 634, 639 and 640 contain probable fragments of rust. Certain determination of these materials is extremely difficult, for slag, rust and some natural weathering products may all comprise grey magnetite, and when the particle size is small diagnostic textures may not be visible.

Only the sample from subsoil 626 contained any true hammerscale, and that was restricted to just two small pieces of flake hammerscale.

Interpretation

The site has produced evidence for coal use from within the pits, and this potentially adds to the range of sites in South Wales from which early use of coal has been recorded.

A single piece of dense slag from pit 640 and a lower density weathered wall-slag block from channel 645 are both indicative of early metalworking. In neither case is the attribution certain, and both could be from either iron-working or iron-smelting. The evidence for smithing is supplemented by the small amount of hammerscale from 626. The small quantity of material suggests that smithing was taking place within the general area, but probably not within the limits of the excavation.

The two slag pieces from the upper deposits 603 and 608 may be evidence for early iron-smelting, but the texture of the larger piece suggests it derives from an industrial process.

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Table 1

Context	Context type	Sample	Label	Weight	Notes
603	ploughsoil		slag	70	tap slag-like flow with a large tubular(?) internal cavity with olivine “honeycomb” surface. Like a tap slag but very smooth surface and very coarse crystals – probably therefore industrial (could be copper slag or puddling slag)
608	plough/subsoil		slag	14.4	fragment of tap slag like flow, smooth lobate top, large internal vesicles
615	pit		slag	3	poorly flown lobate clinker bearing blebs of white melted shale
616	subsoil		slag frag	4.4	partially flown clinker, dull maroon lobes with contained shale, glassy slag is pale internally
622	pit		undiagnostic slag	4.5	ironstone pebble
623	pit		slag	37.9	slagged coal shale - clinker
626	subsoil		slag	4.6	moderately well flown vesicular clinker, pale internally maroon near surface, probable included shale
640	pit		slag	8.9	tap slag like dimpled lobe, very shiny surface, dense even slag slightly brownish - probably not a bloomery slag
645	channel		slag	52	very heavily weathered piece, top has lobate maroon smooth bumps, base has pale glassy dimpled texture. Internally a weathered vesicular slag, turned pale. Quite likely to be iron slag, but origin not clear - perhaps a smithing slag
613	pit	002	Fe/hammerscale		brown iron-rich granules
615	pit	004	Fe/hammerscale		brown iron-rich granules and possible slag fragments, no true hammerscale
622	pit	007	Fe/hammerscale		brown iron-rich granules
626	subsoil	006	Fe/hammerscale		brown iron-rich granules, with two possible flakes of hammerscale
628	post setting	008	hammerscale		brown iron-rich granules and possible slag fragments, no true hammerscale
634	pit	009	Fe/hammerscale		brown iron-rich granules, with one possible flake of hammerscale, but probably rust
639	possible post setting	010	Fe/hammerscale		brown iron-rich granules, some possible rust
640	pit	011	hammerscale		brown iron-rich granules, some possible rust

IRONWORK ASSESSMENT

By Dr Patrick Ottaway

Discussion

Some 150 iron objects were submitted for assessment (see table).

Almost all the objects were badly corroded and identification had to rely heavily on the X-radiographs. The majority of the contexts were thought to be Roman, but could not be dated with certainty. None of the iron objects is closely datable, except for the probable hobnails, which are Roman.

The vast majority of the iron objects were nails, made in manner which is typical of Roman and subsequent periods until the widespread use of cast iron in the eighteenth century. A tapering shank of rectangular cross-section with a wedge-shaped tip was fitted to a roughly rounded head. The nails from Dwr-y-Felin are largely incomplete, but were clearly fairly small, being unlikely, for the most part, to have been more than c.50mm in length. They were probably used in buildings and furniture, but there are no large structural nails of the sort which can occur on Roman sites.

Other objects include a cramp from Context 603. It resembles a large staple, having tapering arms (one missing) at each end of a wide flat head. This might have been used for holding two timbers together.

In addition, there are three incomplete fittings. Context 622 produced a small plate with a rounded end, pierced for attachment which may be part of a binding of some sort. From 625 there is a strip which appears to have a rounded terminal, pierced for attachment. Context 626 produced a similar item with an oval, pierced terminal. Both these could have been from some sort of bracket, possibly corner strengtheners on a box.

A tapering tube from Context 626 contains wood remains and may have been part of socketed handle.

There are few other broken plates of irregular form whose original function cannot be determined.

Probable hobnails, as used in Roman footwear, come from Contexts 615, 616, 626.

There are four objects of fairly recent date, two from Context 602: a drop handle made of cast iron, probably from an item of furniture, and a key with a moulded stem which is probably nineteenth century. There are two modern nails from Context 629.

Table of ironwork by context

Context	Notes
104	Plate fragment Part of nail head
201	Nail and nail shank
602	Drop handle – cast iron modern. L.80mm Key, bow largely missing, bit incomplete, moulded stem which projects beyond the bit.
603	Cramp, of which one arm missing. Arm: L. 42, head: L. 57mm Lump

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608	Strip. L.55, W.14, T.6mm Lump containing large nail Nails x3 Nail head Nail shanks x3 Plate (L.41, W.29, T.5mm) with nail shank fused on to it. Nail fragment Strip. L.68mm
615	Hobnail Nails x4 Nail shanks x4 Plate – twisted. L.64, W.31, T.2mm
616	Nails x 13 Nail head Nail shanks x5 Strip. L.53, W.23, T.5mm Two hobnail heads fused together c.10 other fragments
622	Nails x4 Pierced plate with one end rounded. L.52, W.23mm Plate fragments x 2
623	Nails x3 and shank fragment
625	Strip in two pieces, with ? pierced, rounded terminal. L.45mm Nail heads x2 Nail shanks x7
626	Hobnail Hobnail or tack fused to a small link Loop. L.28mm Nails x 14 (one fused to pot sherd) ?Nail shank and plate (fused to a big pebble) Nail head Nail shanks x 12 Strip with pierced, oval terminal. L.56mm Tube, incomplete, tapers; wood remains inside. L.49, Dia.18mm Other fragments
628	Nail shank
629	Nails x2 – modern
634	Nail and nail shanks x2
639	Nail shanks x2
640	Nails x 15 Nail heads x2 Nail shanks x5 (one in lump) Other fragments
647	Nail

THE POST-ROMAN POTTERY, BRICK and TILE and LITHICS

Pottery by Steve Sell

Medieval pottery

A few sherds could belong either to the Roman or medieval periods. Concerning this small group, Peter Webster writes: Context 613. A small sherd in gritty dark grey fabric. Possibly Roman, Black burnished ware.

Context 625. Four fragments, probably from the same vessel (probably a jar) in an eroded state. The fabric is light orange with a grey core with plentiful grit filler including rounded quartz. Although a medieval date is possible, there is no reason why this should not be Roman, and the thinness of the vessel wall would better suit a Roman vessel than a medieval vessel.

Post-medieval pottery

The majority of this assemblage was recovered from context 602, with only one sherd occurring elsewhere (603). The unstratified post-medieval ceramics from the initial evaluation have been included with this group.

Local red earthenwares (local coarsewares)

A small group (15 sherds/0.228kg) was recovered, ranging in date from the early 17th to ? late 19th century in date. Forms represented included jars, bowls and ?dishes, with a single basal sherd from a ?flowerpot apparently much the latest vessel in date.

Brick and tile, and other building materials by Dr Edith Evans

There was a small collection of fragments of brick and tile, almost all of which were poorly fired, badly eroded and powdery. Only three fragments, all from context 603, were definitely identifiable to type. These were two fragments of brick, with a maximum thickness of 52mm, and a fragment of tegula/half-box tile; there was also another possible fragment of tegula from the same context. None of the surfaces of any of the fragments survived well enough to reveal whether there had been any markings, deliberate or accidental.

Given the small size of the assemblage and its poor condition, it was not considered worthwhile to carry out any fabric identification work. Most of the examples were bright orange with a silty and slightly sandy feel, suggesting the presence of small sands mixed with the clay. Other inclusions were of red-brown rock, but there were some pieces which also contained larger sands around 0.5mm across.

The fragments of daub were also very eroded, and their appearance was consistent with having been made from the same clay. It was not always certain whether some more highly fired fragments were tile or daub.

Lithics Notes by Elizabeth Walker NMGW (Pers comm to S Sell).

Three flint flakes were recovered from the site dating to prehistoric periods; all were recovered from general areas.

Context 616 Grey unpatinated Prehistoric flint flake fragment

Context 619 Flint bladelet fragment, distal end with a feathered termination. Possibly dating to the Mesolithic period. Made of grey unpatinated flint

Context 623 White patinated Prehistoric flint flake fragment

Appendices

Appendix I Context Inventory

Context	Type	Location	Period	Description
600	US	All		Number allocated to unstratified finds
601	Deposit	All	Post-med	Topsoil. Generally clean dark brown sandy clay loam with greyish hue and with a few small stones. Disturbed toward east of site due to foundations for cricket practice area. Variable thickness generally 0.2m but up to 0.3m.
602	Interface	All	Post-med	The interface between topsoil and subsoil
603	Deposit	All	Post-med	Ploughsoil. Mid-brown coloured silty clay loam Contains occasional abraded sherds of pottery. No charcoal noted.
604	Deposit	All	Natural	Natural river gravels, sand and cobbles. Old river terrace. Undulates across site comprises occasional large (>0.2m) cobbles and smaller but mainly about 0.07m. Patches of sandy clay filling depressions
605	Natural		Natural	Former water channel. Approximately 6 metre wide linear swathe of clayey sand. Orientated on 76 degrees (magnetic Feb 2006)
606	Cut		Modern	Electricity cable trench. Straight-sided machine cut 0.5m wide and up to 0.8m in depth. Northwest/southeast alignment.
607	Deposit		Modern	Trench backfill associated with the electricity cable. Brick, clay, cobbles, slag and cinder/ash within mid-brown clay loam backfill. The two cables were overlain directly with 300mm by 150mm cement tiles butted together. The upper surface was dressed with a compacted mix of small cobbles and gravel.
608	Area		Roman	Area number to aid differentiation of features. As 603 soils.
609	Natural		Natural	Linear alignment of water smoothed pebbles, continued under excavation boundary. Compact linear spread of mostly small pebbles with isolated cobbles. No charcoal or pottery present and ploughsoil 603 noted between stone. Length 1.1m on 168/348 degrees magnetic (Feb 2006) and 0.3m to 0.4m wide.
610	Cut	608	Modern	Cut for possible post setting. Sub-circular shape measuring 240mm east/west by 170mm north/ south to 230mm deep. Probable tree or plant formation and less likely an animal burrow.
611	Deposit	608	Modern	Fill of 610. Greyish-black coloured clean friable gritty clayey sand with ash-slightly oily texture.
612	Cut	608	Roman	Pit. Sub circular flat-bottomed pit 0.68m wide E/W and 0.55m N/S and up to 0.17m maximum depth with gradual change of slope at the top and base. Excavation showed a smaller (0.3 by 0.15m sub-circular depression toward south side at base. Upper surface possibly truncated.
613	Deposit	608	Roman	Fill of pit 612. Occasional pebbles, potsherds and fired clay with moderate amounts of charcoal flecks and lumps within mid to dark-brown sandy clay loam. No deliberate infill pattern noted.
614	Cut	604	Roman	Pit cut, ovoid in shape 1.1m wide on section face and 1.1m to west. Upper surface possibly truncated to level of cobbles 604.

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615	Deposit	604	Roman	Fill of pit 614 comprising very sandy light-brown to buff coloured clay with lesser loam content. Inclusions comprise frequent charcoal lumps and flecks, and occasional rounded pebbles, all evenly distributed throughout matrix. In addition, partially fired orange coloured clay (denser to the southeast) and isolated potsherds and burnt bone were noted throughout the fill.
616	Area		Roman	Area number to account for number of possible pits. Soil similar to 603.
617	Deposit	608	Roman	Fill of 620. Mid-brown sandy clay loam containing occasional pebbles, a moderate amount of charcoal flecks and lumps, and isolated lumps of under-fired clay. No certain upper edge to the pit could be seen; probably truncated.
618	Cut	608	Roman	Post-hole cut. Ovoid shape 0.6m east/west by 0.4m north/south, depth 0.2m. Sharp break of slope (between 65-75 degrees) at top except for the east side (about 20 degrees); the base had a gradual break of slope. Basal dimensions of probable post position were near circular 300mm east/west by 250mm north/south.
619	Deposit	608	Roman	Packing stones for post setting. The stone, of two types angular sandstone and limestone cobbles (100mm to 70mm), were closely packed around the north, west and south sides of the pit whilst the east appeared to be soil; the soil was sandy clay with isolated charcoal flecks. Two larger angular stones were located toward the centre of the feature and the one to the north was almost vertical. The minimum gap between these latter larger stones was 60mm but tapered outward to 100mm at the west. The central packing stone would suggest a rectangular or tapering plank perhaps a semi-circular post but and not a circular one.
620	Cut	608	Roman	Pit sub-circular 0.4m diameter, depth to 0.11m. Possible post-setting.
621	Cut	616	Roman	Sub-circular pit measuring max 1.7m NW/SE by 1.4m NE/SW and depth to 0.13m. Probably truncated. The base broadly flat and breaks of slope gradual to imperceptible.
622	Deposit	616	Roman	Fill of pit 621. Charcoal rich mid-brown coloured sandy clay loam with occasional lumps of pinkish-brown clay and stone. The stone comprises cobbles (100mm and less) and small angular sandstone fragments (100mm and less).
623	Deposit	616	Roman	Occupation spread immediately east of 621. Mid-brown to buff sandy clay loam with denser spread of charcoal than 622. The clay is darker than 603 and no sandstone fragments were noted. This area was cut through by evaluation trench 2.
624	Cut	616	Roman	Elliptical shaped pit 1.3m NW/SE by 0.8m NE/SW. Max depth 0.13m, flattish base. Imperceptible break of slope at top and base. Upper surface probably truncated.
625	Deposit	616	Roman	Fill of 624 comprising mid-brown sandy clay loam and occasional pebbles. Pottery and iron within matrix. Similar to 603 but not silty.
626	Area		Roman	Area number to account for a concentration of pottery in SE corner of site. Soil as 603.
627	Cut	603	? Roman	Cut for a post-setting (identified by stone packing). Sub-circular in shape 0.44m NW/SE by 0.4m NE/SW., depth to 0.2m. Sharp break of slope at top to gradual at the base; the base was flat diameter around 150mm

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628	Deposit	603	? Roman	Pit fill of mid-brown sandy clay loam with occasional charcoal flecking and packing stone. Six stones (four stone originally showing two sandstone the remainder cobbles at surface) all of similar size (between 250mm and 150mm length) were set on edge and grouped toward the SW. The group of stone measured about 270mm diameter and post-excavation suggests a post no larger than 150mm.
629	Cut	603	Modern	Square cut post setting with 0.26m sides. Probably associated with playing field fittings such as goal posts.
630	Deposit	603	Modern	Fill of 629, dark brown sandy clay loam with charcoal, slate, ash and cinder, nails and modern plastic at base.
631	Cut	603	Modern	Sub-circular depression 0.35m. Probable machine footpad formed during evaluation phase or connected with installation of the nearby borehole.
632	Deposit	603	Modern	Dark brown sandy clay loam fill of 631. Grass discovered at base confirmed recent date for feature
633	Cut	626	Roman	Pit cut. Irregular shape (approximately 1.2m N/S by 0.7m E/W) tending to sub-circular with occasional straight edges. Sharp break of slope at top to gradual at bottom with a flat base dipping to NE.
634	Deposit	626	Roman	Fill of 633 mid to dark-brown sandy clay loam. Inclusions include patches of whitish –grey sandy clay, charcoal lumps and flecks (denser toward its base), isolated fragments of burnt bone, occasional potsherds, fired clay and pebbles and a moderate amount of sandstone. The stone was at varying angles of repose.
635	Deposit	626	Roman	Collection of cobbles and sandstone in dark brown sandy clay loam with charcoal flecking broadly sub-circular in shape and about 0.8m diameter. Surface spread of stone depth only to 100mm (one stone deep). Similar feature to that found in evaluation trench 2 (208) possibly representative of a postpad but no definitive evidence was forthcoming.
636	Cut	626	Roman	Post setting, elliptical in plan 0.35m N/S by 0.3m E/W and depth to 0.13m. Sharp break of slope at top, gradual at base, flat bottomed. Maximum size of post 150mm. Probable corner post between walls 669 and 670
637	Deposit	626	Roman	Fill/packing of post-setting 636. Mid brown with greyish hue sandy clay loam fill with isolated charcoal flecks and small sandstone. Packing stone at surface comprised broken cobble (0.15 by 0.12 by 0.05m). Stones around 45 degree angle and generally set toward the south edge.
638	Cut	626	Roman	Sub-circular post setting 0.3m E/W by 0.28m NE/SW and depth to 0.25m. Gradual break of slope to gradual break at bottom but near vertical to within 50mm of bottom where it then tapered to the NW. Maximum post size estimated at 150mm circular with 100m taper to a blunt 60mm diameter point.
639	Deposit	626	Roman	Light to mid-brown compact sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and lumps (charcoal to 0.12m of the surface). Flecks of pottery and a few small pebbles noted.
640	Deposit	626	Roman	Irregular shaped deposit containing pottery, cobbles, sandstone, charcoal, nails, burnt bone and slag within mid to dark-brown sandy clay loam. Sandstone from 0.13m by 0.13m by 0.03m and smaller at all angles of repose. Cobbles from 0.12m to 0.05m rounded. Possible contamination from adjacent section material.

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641	Structure	626	Roman	Stakehole. Between 70 and 60mm diameter circular stake setting. The fill comprised dark-brown sandy clay loam and contained charcoal flecks and small pebbles. Excavation showed the hole tapered over a distance of 150mm to a flat 20mm diameter tip. Stakeholes 649 to 663 are similar.
642	Structure	626	Roman	Alignment of 5 stakeholes, similar in size to 641 and 643. Straight for overall distance of 1.1m and broadly evenly spaced; linear separation distance between stakeholes ranging from 0.2m to 0.3m. Broadly parallel to 643. Orientation ne/sw.
643	Structure	626	Roman	Alignment of 4 stakeholes, similar in size to 641 and 642. Near straight alignment overall 1.2m long, separation distance between 0.2m and 0.45m. Located parallel to 642 and offset 0.25m to the south. Orientation ne/sw.
644	Cut	647	Roman	Shallow almost straight-sided channel 0.9m in length and only 0.04m deep, tapering width from 190mm at the east to 130mm at west. Probably truncated to east by 633 and west by 646.
645	Deposit	647	Roman	Dark brown sandy clay loam fill of channel 644, contained charcoal, pottery and small pebbles.
646	Deposit	647	Roman	Irregular rounded spread of dark brown sandy clay loam measuring max 0.7m in width and shallow depth to 0.05m. The soil contains charcoal and patches of fired clay and occasional cobbles and pebbles.
647	Area		Roman	Area number within 626 to aid differentiation of features
648	Cut	626	Roman	Cur for pit, fill 640. Measured in excess of 2.6m N/S and 2m E/W broadly sub-circular in shape. The break of slope at the top was gradual but feathery and the bottom imperceptible. Only partially explored due to section probably continued to the east.
649	Structure	626	Roman	Stakehole as 641
650	Structure	626	Roman	Stakehole as 641
651	Structure	626	Roman	Stakehole as 641
652	Structure	626	Roman	Stakehole as 641
653	Structure	626	Roman	Stakehole as 641
654	Structure	626	Roman	Stakehole as 641
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656	Structure	626	Roman	Stakehole as 641
657	Structure	626	Roman	Stakehole as 641
658	Structure	626	Roman	Stakehole as 641
659	Structure	626	Roman	Stakehole as 641
660	Structure	626	Roman	Stakehole as 641
661	Structure	626	Roman	Stakehole as 641
662	Structure	626	Roman	Stakehole as 641
663	Structure	626	Roman	Stakehole as 641
664	Area	604	Natural	Spread of high level cobbles
665	Area	605	Natural	Trench through 605 to test channel depth
666	Structure	626	Roman	Group number for stakeholes 649 to 663
667	Structure	626	Roman	Stakehole as 641
668	Structure	626	Roman	Stakehole as 641
669	Structure	626	Roman	Wattle wall formed by two rows of stakeholes 642 and 643. The wall is based on two parallel wattle frames with the gap (about 0.2m) between them perhaps filled with an insulation material, perhaps bracken. Length about 2m, width to outside edges of stakeholes about 0.3m. Orientation about 62 degrees Nat Grid
670	Structure	626	Roman	Possible wattle wall formed by stakeholes 641, 667 and 668. Likely similar construction to 669

FIGURE 3: LIST OF DRAWING CONVENTIONS

FIGURE 4: SECTION THROUGH PART OF WATERCOURSE 605

FIGURE 5: PLAN OF POSTHOLE 627 AND MODERN FEATURE 629

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FIGURE 6: PLAN OF POSTHOLE 627 AFTER PARTIAL EXCAVATION

FIGURE 7: PLAN OF POSTHOLE 627 FULLY EXCAVATED

FIGURE 8: SECTION THROUGH POSTHOLE 627

FIGURE 9: AREA 608, PLAN OF FEATURES 610, 612 AND 618

FIGURE 10: PLAN OF PIT 612 FULLY EXCAVATED

FIGURE 11: NORTH FACING SECTION THROUGH PIT 612

FIGURE 12: PLAN OF POST SETTING 618

FIGURE 13: PLAN OF POST SETTING 618 FULLY EXCAVATED

Dwr-y-Felin School, Neath, Neath Port Talbot: archaeological excavation

FIGURE 14: WEST-EAST PROFILE THROUGH POST SETTING 618

FIGURE 15: NORTH-SOUTH PROFILE THROUGH POST SETTING 618

Dwr-y-Felin School, Neath, Neath Port Talbot: archaeological excavation

FIGURE 16: PLAN OF PITS 614 AND 620

FIGURE 17: PLAN OF PITS 614 AND 620 FULLY EXCAVATED

FIGURE 18: NORTH-SOUTH SECTION THROUGH PIT 614

Dwr-y-Felin School, Neath, Neath Port Talbot: archaeological excavation

FIGURE 19: WEST-EAST SECTION THROUGH PIT 614

FIGURE 20: EAST-WEST SECTION THROUGH PIT 620

FIGURE 21: AREA 616, PLAN OF PITS 621, 623 AND 624

FIGURE 22: WEST-EAST SECTION THROUGH PIT 621

FIGURE 23: PLAN OF PIT 621 FULLY EXCAVATED

FIGURE 24: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION THROUGH PIT 624

FIGURE 25: PROFILE THROUGH PIT 624

FIGURE 26: PLAN OF PIT 624 FULLY EXCAVATED

FIGURE 27: AREA 616 SECTION SHOWING GENERAL DEPOSITS

FIGURE 28: PLAN OF AREAS 626 AND 647

FIGURE 29: PLAN OF POST SETTING 636 FULLY EXCAVATED

FIGURE 30: EAST-WEST SECTION THROUGH POST SETTING 636

FIGURE 31: SOUTH-NORTH PROFILE THROUGH POST SETTING 636

FIGURE 32: WEST-EAST SECTION THROUGH POST SETTING 638

FIGURE 33: NORTH-SOUTH PROFILE THROUGH 638

FIGURE 34: AREA 647 SECTION THROUGH GULLY 644

FIGURE 35: SECTION THROUGH TYPICAL STAKEHOLE (641)

FIGURE 36: SECTION THROUGH PIT 633

FIGURE 37: SECTIONS THROUGH PIT 640

FIGURE 38: PLAN OF PITS 633 AND 644 FULLY EXCAVATED