LAND BETWEEN CRICKHOWELL ROAD AND WILLOWBROOK DRIVE TROWBRIDGE CARDIFF

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

For

CARDIFF CITY COUNCIL

CA REPORT: 05084

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CA PROJECT: 1945 **CA REPORT: 05084**

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SUMMARY

Site Name: Land between Crickhowell Road and Willowbrook Drive

Location: Trowbridge, Cardiff

NGR: ST 2354 8044

Type: Evaluation

Date: 14 April-13 May 2005

Planning Reference: 04/2620/R

Location of Archive: National Museum of Wales, Cardiff

Site Code: CRT 05

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology between 14 April and 13 May 2005 at the request of the Strategic Estates Division of Cardiff County Council. In compliance with an approved WSI (CA 2005), a total of 26 trenches were excavated across the proposed development area.

Archaeological features were identified across the majority of the site, however the most prominent discovery of the evaluation was a Roman ditched enclosure dated to the 3rd to 4th centuries AD. It would appear that a pre-existing ditch was utilised to form one side of the enclosure, which measures approximately 30m in width and at least 50m in length. Evidence of a substantial structure inside the enclosure was also revealed in the form of a number of large postholes. A significant amount of cultural material including pottery and animal bone associated with occupation of the settlement was recovered from the enclosure ditch. A possible trackway leading to the settlement was also identified. A series of Roman ditches revealed outside the enclosure is suggestive of a system of drainage, likely to be associated with cultivation of the land surrounding the settlement.

Several undated features, comprising mostly ditches, were also revealed across the site and are likely to be associated with the Roman drainage system. A number of later drainage ditches contained post-medieval and modern dating evidence.

A deep alluvial sequence, sealing a possible intertidal horizon, was revealed towards the southern extent of the site.

The evaluation has characterised the archaeological potential of the study area, and has indicated that Roman, post-medieval/modern and undated deposits survive at an average depth of 0.45m below the modern ground surface.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Between April and May 2005 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for the Strategic Estates Division of Cardiff County Council on land between Crickhowell Road and Willowbrook Drive, Trowbridge, Cardiff (the 'Site', centred on NGR: ST 2354 8044; Fig. 1). The evaluation was undertaken prior to determination of a planning application (ref: 04/2620/R) for residential development of the Site.
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief for archaeological evaluation prepared by the Curatorial Division of the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust (GGAT (Curatorial) 2005), the archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), and with a subsequent detailed WSI produced by CA (2005) and approved by the LPA acting on the advice of GGAT Curatorial. The fieldwork also followed the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1999) and the *Management of Archaeological Projects II* (EH 1991). It was monitored by Neil Maylan of GGAT Curatorial, including site visits on 21 April, 3 and 9 May 2005.

The site

- 1.3 The proposed development area measures approximately 5.5ha in extent. It is bounded to the north by Crickhowell Road, to the east by Willowbrook Drive, to the south by the Greenmeadow development and to the west by the rear gardens of the properties on Trebanog Crescent (Fig. 2). The Site is slightly undulating and lies at approximately 10m AOD, with a general slight drop off towards the south-west.
- 1.4 The underlying geology of the area is mapped as the St Maughans Formation of the Lower Devonian period, overlain by drift deposits of Glacial Till, except in the southernmost part of the Site, which is covered by Marine or Estuarine Alluvium of the Quaternary period (BGS 1989). This was confirmed by the evaluation trenching, which also identified the presence of alluvial layers sealing the archaeological horizon in places.
- 1.5 At the time of the evaluation, the Site was unused rough pasture.

Archaeological background

- 1.6 The Site is situated in an area of archaeological potential as fully outlined in the brief for archaeological evaluation (GGAT (Curatorial) 2005). Although there are no known archaeological remains recorded within the development area, it is positioned on the geological interface between the Old Red Sandstone and alluvial marshes of the Wentloog Level, and known medieval and Roman sites exist along the fen edge. These include recently discovered Roman occupation and structural deposits found approximately 250m to the south of the Site at Areas 9-12, St Mellons (CA 2004).
- 1.7 Documentary records refer to a group of farms situated on the solid geology to the west of the Site, which together with their surrounding lands, in the medieval period belonged to the manor of Rumney, whilst the landholding of Pwll-y-Plwcca was located on similar geology to the east. Greenmeadow Farm, situated immediately to the south of the Site, probably represents a later addition to the landscape, probably taking advantage of the post-medieval improvements to the drainage of the area.
- 1.8 The southern part of the proposed development area is low-lying and situated on the Wentloog Level. It was therefore possible that peat deposits similar to those recorded elsewhere on the Level, such as at nearby Trowbridge Mawr (CA 2003), and normally dating to the Bronze Age, may be found in this part of the Site.

Archaeological objectives

1.9 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide data on the date, character, quality, survival and extent of the archaeological deposits within the application area in order that an informed decision on their importance in a local, regional or national context can be made. This information will clarify whether any remains are of sufficient importance to warrant consideration for preservation *in situ*, or alternatively form the basis of mitigation measures that may seek to limit damage to significant remains.

Methodology

1.10 The fieldwork initially comprised the excavation of 20 trenches (Fig. 2; trenches 1-20), across the five fields (A-E) within the proposed development area. Each trench measured 25m in length and 1.8m in width. In addition, a short (4m) length of trench was excavated perpendicular to Trench 25 in order to define the extent of a certain

feature within the original trench. Due to the overgrown, extensive nature of the hedgerows and access considerations, and with the agreement of Neil Maylan, the location of four of the trenches (trenches 1, 5, 7 and 10) was revised slightly in the field, although the basic layout of the trenches remained much as specified within the original WSI.

- 1.11 The first phase of evaluation revealed features of archaeological significance and following consultation with Neil Maylan and Sue Singer of Cardiff County Council, a further six trenches (trenches 21-26; Fig. 2) of similar dimensions to the previous trenches were excavated to determine the extent of the main focus of this activity.
- 1.12 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Where archaeological deposits were encountered they were excavated by hand in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 1: *Excavation Recording Manual* (1996). All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with the CA Technical Manual 3: *Treatment of Finds Immediately After Excavation* (1995).
- 1.13 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the site archive (including artefacts) will be deposited with the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

2. RESULTS

- 2.1 The evaluation comprised a total of 26 trenches. Archaeological features were identified in 21 of the trenches. Roman features were identified in 12 of the trenches and eight contained post-medieval/modern deposits. Undated features were revealed in nine of the trenches, however a number of these may be associated with more securely dated contexts. Five trenches (trenches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 11), all situated towards the north-western extent of the Site, contained no deposits of archaeological significance.
- 2.2 This section provides an overview of the evaluation results, presented below in chronological order. Detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to

be found in appendices 1 and 2 respectively. Unless specified otherwise, the archaeological deposits described below were sealed directly in most cases by a layer of subsoil and then topsoil, the relevant depths of which can be found in Appendix 1.

Romano-British

2.3 Following the discovery of large, artefactually-rich ditch 1709 in Trench 17, further trenching was excavated to define its alignment and to identify any possible associated settlement activity in the vicinity. The contingency trenching confirmed that the large ditch continued to the south-east, and suggested that a rectangular enclosure was formed by the addition of a less substantial ditch around the remainder of the circuit.

The enclosure (Fig. 3)

- A large ditch (1709) was identified at the western end of Trench 17, cutting the natural orange gravely clay substrate 1703 (Fig. 5; Section FF). It measured approximately 2.5m in width and 1.3m in depth and contained two fills. The primary deposit 1708 contained a large amount of animal bone as well as other finds including 58 sherds of pottery dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD and five sherds of residual Late Iron Age/early Roman material. Overlying this material along the eastern side of the ditch was redeposited natural clay 1710 which contained five sherds of Late Iron Age/early Roman pottery and a quantity of animal bone. This material may represent material from a bank.
- 2.5 Overlying deposit 1710, and filling re-cut ditch 1707, was a dark, organic silty clay fill 1704 which contained pottery dated to the late 2nd to 3rd centuries AD, as well as ironworking slag, animal bone and a circular copper alloy band. Deposit 1704 also contained a concentration of stone, including large rounded cobbles and angular sandstone fragments.
- 2.6 Ditch 2106 (Fig. ??) in Trench 21 represents a continuation of ditch 1709. Cutting through a layer of orange/grey alluvium 2122, it truncated the terminus of an earlier steep-sided ditch 2104, which contained a single deposit of silty sand 2105 but no dating evidence.

- 2.7 Ditch 2106 lay on the same alignment as, and was a similar width to, 1709 (2.5m) however it was shallower, measuring 0.6m in depth. It contained a primary deposit comprising silty sand 2107 which, towards the eastern side of the ditch, was overlain by dumped sandy clay deposit 2109. Overlying fill 2109 was a further silt deposit, 2108, from which a small amount of 2nd to 4th-century AD pottery and animal bone was recovered. Sandy deposit 2110 appears to represent a small dump of material overlying 2108. The ditch fills were finally sealed by a further silt deposit, 2112, which produced 41 sherds of pottery dated to the mid 2nd to early 3rd centuries AD, as well as a small amount of animal bone.
- 2.8 The south-eastern corner of the enclosure (2605) was revealed in Trench 26, cutting through the natural sandy gravel substrate 2603. It contained two silt fills. The primary fill, 2607, contained a single sherd of undiagnostic Roman greyware pottery together with a residual Late Neolithic/Bronze Age flint scraper, whilst the upper fill 2606 produced 10 sherds of pottery dated to the late 3rd to 4th centuries AD.
- 2.9 The enclosure ditch extended through trenches 24 and 25. Ditch 2404 in Trench 24 was similar in character to ditch 2605; it was 1.3m wide, 0.4m deep and contained two fills representing separate phases of silting. Ditch 2404 produced finds including three sherds of Roman pottery and six fragments of Roman brick or tile. In Trench 25, the profile of the ditch (2511) varied slightly (Fig. 5; Section II). It had a pronounced v-cut slot in the base and was wider (2.2m) and deeper (0.7m) than in trenches 26 and 24. It contained three fills (2512, 2513 and 2514), the earliest and latest of which represented general silting. The intermediate fill (2513) however, comprised mostly stone, varying from gravel to large cobbles and represents an intentional backfill. Finds recovered from the earliest and latest fills included pottery dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, as well as fragments of Roman ceramic roof tile.
- 2.10 The north-western extent of the enclosure was not identified by the evaluation and is likely to lie below the extensive hedgerow situated between trenches 22 and 23.

Inside the enclosure

2.11 A co-axial system of ditches, corresponding with the alignment of the enclosure ditch, was identified within the enclosure. Ditches 1705, 2114 and 2407 all had broad, shallow profiles, whilst 2506 was slightly deeper. Ditch 2124 was significantly larger than any of the other ditches within the enclosure.

- 2.12 Ditch 2124 (Fig. 5; Section HH) in Trench 21 ran parallel with enclosure ditch 2106 and was cut through the same alluvial layer. It measured 2m in width and 1m in depth and had an irregular V-shaped profile. It contained five separate fills. The primary fill 2132 represents general silting. It was overlain by deposit 2127 which contained a considerable amount of animal bone, similar to context 1708 in ditch 1707. Another layer of silt (2129) sealed the bone-rich deposit and above this was a shallow layer of sandy charcoal-rich material 2126 which contained frequent burnt bone fragments and produced two sherds of pottery dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. The latest fill, 2125, contained many stones including large cobbles, with dimensions up to 0.3m.
- 2.13 Shallow ditch 2114 cut through the latest fill of ditch 2124 and through undated ditch terminus 2117 before being cut by enclosure ditch 2106. Ditch 2114 was slightly sinuous and contained two fills; a primary silt deposit 2115 overlain by dark, almost black silty material 2121 which produced 29 sherds of pottery dated to the mid 3rd to 4th centuries AD, as well as a fragment of Roman ceramic roof tile and a small quantity of ironworking slag.
- 2.14 Ditches 1705 and 2407 were quite similar. They were both approximately 1.25m wide and contained a single stony fill (1706 and 2408 respectively), however ditch 2407 was slightly deeper than 1705. Two sherds of pottery were recovered from ditch 1705 and date to the mid 3rd to 4th centuries AD. Eleven sherds recovered from ditch 2407 are less diagnostic and date broadly to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD.
- 2.15 In Trench 25, rounded ditch terminus 2506 was aligned parallel to enclosure ditch 2511, approximately 3m to the south-west. It had a slightly irregular profile; the south-western side was very steep, whilst the north-eastern side sloped less abruptly, to a broad rounded base. The terminus contained two fills. Finds from the basal silt fill, 2507, included two sherds of pottery dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD, as well as two fragments of Roman ceramic roof tile. The latest fill (2508) contained a large amount of stone, including large cobbles. Finds from this deposit included pottery dated to the mid 3rd to 4th centuries AD as well as two more fragments of Roman ceramic roof tile.
- 2.16 A number of features identified in Trench 22 provided evidence of a structure or structures within the enclosure (Fig. 4). A cluster of eight postholes of varying size and shape were revealed towards the centre of the trench, three of which were

excavated. Each contained a large amount of stone, possibly representing packing material, and two sherds of pottery dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries were recovered from the fill of posthole 2206.

2.17 The cluster of postholes were bounded to the north-east by narrow gully 2211. An almost complete, burnt pottery vessel dated to the late 1st to 2nd centuries AD was recovered from its single stony fill 2212, which also contained frequent charcoal inclusions.

Beyond the enclosure

- 2.18 Features containing Roman pottery were identified in five trenches within the vicinity of the Roman enclosure. Several more features in the surrounding trenches, although producing no dating evidence, are also likely to be associated with this period.
- 2.19 In Trench 12 shallow ditch 1204 had an irregular, slightly rounded profile and contained a single silt deposit (1205) from which a large sherd of pottery dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD was recovered. Ditch 1310, in Trench 13, was also very shallow (<0.08m deep) and cut through mixed alluvial layer 1305 (Fig. 5; Section DD). Four sherds, some relatively large, of 2nd to 4th-century AD pottery were recovered from its silty fill 1311, which was sealed by a substantial layer of pink alluvium 1303, up to 0.4m thick.
- In Trench 14 ditch 1405 was steep sided, with a flat base. It contained a single silty fill 1404, from which two small sherds of pottery broadly dated as Roman were recovered. Ditch 1805 in Trench 18 cut through a layer of orange alluvium 1803 (Fig. ??). It had a broad, rounded profile and contained a single fill, 1806, representing general silting, from which a single sherd of abraded Roman pottery was recovered. Ditch 1805 cut the terminus of an earlier, undated ditch, 1807. Although this feature and two further ditches, including terminus 1812, contained no dating evidence, they were all cut from the same level as ditch 1805 and therefore may be broadly contemporary.
- 2.21 Shallow ditch 2312 cut alluvial layer 2311. Although it contained no artefactual material, it is likely that this feature represents a continuation of ditch 1310 in Trench 13, which contained pottery dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD. Similarly to that feature, ditch 2312 was also sealed by a layer of pink alluvium 2314. Further to the

north-east, gully 2307 would appear to represent a continuation of one of the narrow, undated features identified at the eastern end of Trench 13. The gully had a relatively steep V-shaped profile and contained a single silty fill (2308) from which one large sherd of an amphora dated to the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD (or later) was recovered.

2.22 Ditch 2515 ran along the north-western edge of Trench 25, turning or terminating to the north-east of the enclosure ditch 2511. Its silty fill 2516 was similar to the natural substrate and it produced three sherds of pottery dated to the 2nd to 4th centuries AD.

Late medieval/Post-medieval-modern

- 2.23 Trenches 6, 7 and 8 all cut across a co-axial system of drainage ditches that still survive as relatively substantial negative features at ground level. Investigations demonstrated that although quite broad, these features were relatively shallow.
- 2.24 Ditch 605 in Trench 6 cut through a layer of yellow alluvium 603. The ditch contained two fills representing separate episodes of silting. The latest fill contained a sherd of modern china. In Trench 7 it was clear that ditch 710 represented one of a series of similarly-aligned ditches draining into a perpendicularly-aligned feature represented by ditch 605 in Trench 6 and ditch 806 in Trench 8.
- 2.25 Trench 8 crossed the intersection of two of the drainage ditches and demonstrated that north-east/south-west aligned ditch 808 truncated north-west/south-east aligned ditch 806. Both features contained a single silt fill (809 and 807 respectively) and the fill of the later feature produced a single sherd of residual Roman pottery dated to the 2nd century AD, or later.
- 2.26 A series of three ditches, representing the original feature and two phases of recutting, was identified at the northern end of Trench 10 (Fig. 4). Although only the southern side of the two earliest ditches survived, it was evident that all three features had similar broad profiles. The earliest ditch 1012 was filled by a single silt deposit which contained no dating evidence. It was cut by ditch 1020, which contained two fills representing separate phases of silting. The earliest ditch contained no dating evidence, however a single sherd of earthenware dated to the

16th to 18th centuries AD or later, was recovered from the secondary fill of recut ditch 1020.

- 2.27 Ditches 1012 and 1020 were sealed by a layer of subsoil 1001, through which the latest ditch in the sequence, 1010, was cut. This feature was at least 2.4m wide and survived to a depth of 0.65m. It was filled by two silt deposits, the earliest of which (1011) contained a single residual sherd of Roman pottery dated to the 1st to 2nd century AD or later.
- 2.28 Shallow ditch 1605 in Trench 16 contained silty clay deposit 1606, from which a single sherd of modern china was recovered.

Undated features

Ditches and gullies

- 2.29 Ditch 504 was cut through alluvial layer 505 in Trench 5 and was steep-sided with a slightly rounded base. The ditch contained a single silt fill (503) containing frequent stones, varying in size from pebbles to cobbles. Ditch 804 in Trench 8 was also relatively steep-sided, with a flat base. It contained a single sandy silt fill (805) which was cut by later ditch 806.
- 2.30 In Trench 9 ditch 907 cut a layer of blue-grey alluvium 904 and had a slightly irregular profile. It was filled by sterile silty deposit 908. The original ditch was recut by smaller ditch 909, which had a distinct V-shaped profile. The later ditch was filled by silty material 910 which contained frequent mineral staining indicative of waterlogged conditions. The ditches were sealed by a thin layer of yellow orange alluvium 903, which in turn was partially overlain by a further insubstantial layer blue-grey alluvium 912. To the north-west of the ditch, the subsoil and the uppermost layer of alluvium (903) had been truncated and the topsoil was significantly deeper, suggesting that ploughing had been carried out on this side of the ditches, but not on the opposite side. Finds of post-medieval pottery, as well as residual Roman pottery and a Late Neolithic/Bronze Age flint scraper were recovered from ploughsoil 901 on the north-western side of the ditches.
- 2.31 Six ditches were revealed in Trench 10, arranged on a co-axial alignment (Fig. 4). Intercutting ditches 1010, 1012 and 1020 are likely be post-medieval in date, so it is probable that the remaining features in Trench 10 also belong to that phase of

activity. Ditches 1004, 1008 and 1017 all cut alluvial layer 1006. Ditch 1004 contained two sterile silty fills, 1003 and 1005. Ditch 1008 was still visible as a negative feature at ground level. It survived to 1.5m wide and 0.45m deep and contained a sterile pink clay fill 1015. Ditch 1008 was adjoined by perpendicularly-aligned smaller ditch 1017 which contained two clay fills and appears to be contemporary with ditch 1008.

- 2.32 Two small gullies were revealed at the eastern end of Trench 13 (Fig. 5; Section EE). Gully 1306 was straight whilst gully 1308 clearly curved within the trench. Both features had relatively steep sides and narrow, flat bases and both contained basal fills of grey-pink silt (1307 and 1309). Both features were sealed by alluvial layer 1303 which also sealed Roman ditch 1310 at the opposite end of the trench. Broad, shallow ditch 1312 cut through alluvium 1303 and gully 1306, and represents the same ditch as 1008 in Trench 10 and ditch 2309 in Trench 23.
- 2.33 Ditch 1505 in Trench 15 had moderately-sloping sides and a broad, flat base. It contained a single homogeneous sandy silt fill 1504 which contained many stones, from pebble to cobble size.
- 2.34 Four undated ditches, including two terminals, were identified in Trench 18 (Fig. ??). All lay on a broadly-similar north-east/south-west alignment and three of the features were cut from the same level as Roman ditch 1805. Ditch 1805 cut the terminus of earlier, undated ditch 1807. Ditch terminus 1812 was filled by basal deposit 1810, containing lumps of redeposited natural gravelly clay, indicative of dumping or intentional backfilling, overlain by a deposit more indicative of natural silting (1811). Ditch 1814 had steep, slightly irregularly-cut sides and was almost V-shaped. It contained a shallow basal fill 1815 comprising gritty clay and stone, overlain by mixed clays with inclusions of charcoal, sandstone and possible cess (1816).
- 2.35 The north-western side of ditch 1817 sloped very gradually, whilst the south-eastern side was relatively steep. It was filled by gritty clay 1818 which was sealed by alluvial layer 1803, the deposit that the remaining features within the trench were cut through. Ditches 1807, 1809, 1814 and 1817 were all cut from the same level as Roman ditch 1805 and therefore appear to be broadly contemporary with it.
- 2.36 Two intercutting ditches, 2303 and 2305, were identified in Trench 23. Ditch 2303 was curvilinear in shape and was filled by distinct brown-grey leached clay deposit

2304 which contained frequent stone, from gravel to cobble size. It was cut by ditch 2305, which contained single clay deposit 2306. Shallow, irregularly cut ditch 2608 in Trench 26 contained a single humic fill (2609).

The alluvial sequence and the trackway

- 2.37 The natural mudstone substrate 1910 was revealed at a depth of approximately 1.2m below present ground level in Trench 19. It was overlain by loose, waterlogged deposit 1909, comprising dark grey sand and organic material, including reeds, twigs and sections of branch. This material was overlain by five layers of alluvium (1904, 1905, 1906, 1907 and 1908), comprising clays of varying colour. The thickness of these deposits varied from 0.1m to 0.21m. This sequence was sealed by a layer of pink alluvium 1903, up to 0.12m thick and similar to the alluvium recorded in trenches 5, 13 and 23.
- 2.38 The pink alluvium also sealed possible trackway 1911 (Fig. 5; Section GG). This feature comprised a deposit of rounded cobbles, some up to 0.4m in size, laid up to two stones deep and which had apparently sunk into alluvial layer 1904, below. The trackway was aligned north-east/south-west and measured 2.7m across and 0.2m deep.
- 2.39 The natural substrate within Trench 20 comprised mixed dark grey-brown sand and gravel towards the southern end of the trench and mudstone at the northern end. It was encountered at an average depth of approximately 1.3m and was overlain by the same organic material recorded in Trench 19. This layer was then sealed by the same alluvial sequence present in Trench 19.

Postholes

A small number of undated postholes were recorded in the evaluation. The majority lay within Trench 22 the similarity of their fills to Roman posthole 2206 (Fig. 4; Section BB) suggests that they too belong to that period of activity. Elsewhere, posthole 1206 in Trench 12 contained a similar fill to that of nearby Roman ditch 1204, also suggesting a degree of contemporaneity. Two shallow postholes, 2504 and 2517, were identified at the north-eastern end of Trench 25. Both were filled by similar homogeneous silty deposits (2505 and 2518 respectively).

The Finds

- 2.41 Details of the recovered artefactual material, comprising quantities of Roman pottery and tile, worked stone, metallurgical residues and metal items, together with the faunal remains, appear in Appendix 2. Pottery fabric codes in parenthesis, below, refer to types listed within the quantification table (appendix 2).
- A total of 660 sherds of pottery (8.5kg) was recovered. Condition of this material is good, reflected in a high average sherd weight of 12.9g. Of note is a substantially complete, but burnt, greyware jar from gully fill 2212. The earliest pottery recovered consists of sherds of a handmade limestone-tempered fabric (Is temp) from lower ditch fills 1710 and 1708. Such material compares to other 'native type' pottery from South-East Wales (Spencer 1983) and probably dates to the Late Iron Age to the 'earliest' Roman period (1st century BC/AD). Material of this type from 1708 occurs with 2nd to 3rd century Roman pottery and would seem to be residual.
- 2.43 The larger part of the Roman group comprises coarse sandy reduced wares (types SWA RE and misc GW/BS) of the long-lived South Wales greyware tradition. Represented forms are typical of the class (Webster 1993, 232-5), comprising wide-mouthed jars frequently with combed-wavy line decoration and smaller numbers of flat-rimmed bowls, plain-rimmed dishes and lids. Little among the local reduced pottery is precisely dateable, although sherds of rusticated barbotine-decorated jars, a cordon-decorated jar from 2121 and bead-rimmed dishes imitating BB1 types (2112) are of likely 2nd century date. Similar dating is probable for two sherds of Central Gaulish samian (LEZ SA), a lead-glazed sherd (LOC G) and two sherds of Baetican (BAT AM) amphora. Dorset Black-Burnished ware sherds (DOR BB1), which are present in most contexts, provide the best evidence for chronology and include forms typical of earlier Roman (c. AD 120-250) and Late Roman (after c. AD 250) date.
- 2.44 Little among the non-pottery finds is noteworthy. Flint scrapers from 902 and 2607 are residual but illustrative of Late Neolithic to Bronze Age activity in the area. The single copper-alloy artefact, from (Roman) ditch fill 1704 consists of six joining fragments forming a circular band with curving section and possibly represents binding or decoration for a wooden or other perishable vessel. Metallurgical residues are not plentiful and are probably representative of small-scale smithing activity.

Quartz conglomerate and probable Old Red series sandstone quern fragments, both likely from the Forest of Dean area, are typical of the Iron Age and Roman periods.

- 2.45 A total of 4420 fragments of animal bone weighing 3154g were recovered from 14 contexts. The animal bone was in a poor state of preservation with advanced weathering visible on many specimens. Cattle was the dominant taxa, skull and tooth fragments were most common although upper limb, lower limb, metapodial and foot bones were also identified. A significant part of the assemblage was derived from a single context 1708 which contained 1505 animal bone fragments most of which were identified as cattle although, sheep/goat and pig were also present. Some of the animal bone had been burnt at a relatively high temperature as indicated by the white colouration. Some of the larger fragments of cattle bone such as a radius from 1710 and a tibia from 1708 had been chopped.
- 2.46 A small quantity of charcoal was recovered along with the hand collected finds in contexts 1704 and 1708.

3. DISCUSSION

- 3.1 The evaluation has identified a Roman farmstead of apparently relatively low status, seemingly typical of settlement in the fertile reclaimed Levels. The structural evidence suggests a substantial building, or buildings within the enclosure, possibly with a tiled roof. A small amount of residual, slightly earlier artefactual material indicates that the main phase of activity may have followed a slightly earlier phase. The significant amounts of artefactual material recovered from the enclosure ditch and from the features within, as opposed to the relative dearth of material beyond, shows that domestic refuse associated with occupation of the farmstead was deposited in the immediate vicinity of the settlement. Further deposits to the northwest and south-east of the enclosure indicate that the focus of the settlement may extend along the boundary between the solid geology and the area of alluvium that lies along the southern end of the Site and beyond.
- 3.2 Ditches found around the enclosure indicate a drainage system concerned with maintaining fields suitable for farming. Once this system went out of use at the end of the Roman occupation, there is no evidence for drainage of the Site until the establishment of a new ditch system in the late medieval/post-medieval period.

- 3.3 Archaeological deposits were found in 20 of the 26 trenches excavated during the excavation. The majority of the features are dated to the Roman period, and it is likely that many of the undated features also date to this period. Although no deposits pre-dating the Roman activity were identified during the fieldwork, except perhaps undated ditch 1817 in Trench 18, residual Late Neolithic/Bronze Age flint scrapers from Trenches 9 and 26, as well as pottery likely to date to the 1st century BC/AD found in conjunction with later Roman pottery indicates activity in the vicinity pre-dating the main phases of Roman activity identified in the evaluation. No artefactual evidence for the use of the Site between the Roman and late medieval/post-medieval periods was recovered, suggesting that the Site was not actually occupied in this time, however it may have continued to be farmed.
- 3.4 It is clear that the local topography and geology had direct influence on the location of the focus of activity in the Roman period. Figure 2 shows the presence of alluvium recorded in the trenching across the Site. The large majority of features cut through alluvium, which is typically yellow/grey/orange in colour. It can be seen that there are two distinct areas that are devoid of alluvium, and these correspond with areas of higher geology. The focus of activity clearly sits at the south-western end of a higher area towards the centre of the Site, at approximately 9m AOD. The accumulations of alluvium in trenches 19 and 20 illustrate that the land would probably originally have dropped off quite dramatically towards the south-west, into a more marginal, marshy area. Roman settlement was recorded in a similar position at nearby Areas 9-12, Trowbridge Road, St Mellons (CA, 2004). Interestingly, there was no evidence of any archaeological activity on the other higher area at the north-western extent of the Site, where a more solid geological substrate was identified.
- 3.5 Given the location of the Site, it would seem no coincidence that the large majority of the features were ditches. The proposed development lies directly on the edge of the Wentloog Level, marginal wetland thought to have been reclaimed provisionally in the Roman period, with a perennial water-table at or near to the ground surface (Rippon 1997). An efficient drainage system would have been necessary in order to avoid flooding of both settlement areas and farmland.

Roman

3.6 The most prominent discovery of the evaluation was the ditched enclosure. Although its north-western extent was not defined, it can be postulated that the enclosure measures approximately 30m in width and at least 50m in length, and would appear

to be rectangular in shape A ditched enclosure of similar size and shape was excavated at Biglis, South Glamorgan (Parkhouse 1988). Part of a rectangular ditched farmstead (together with a cobbled causeway), which may also share similarities with the current example, was excavated further to the north-east along the Levels, at Caldicot (Insole 1997).

- 3.7 It is apparent that the ditch along the south-western side of the enclosure is much larger than that around the remainder of the circuit, and only along this length was there evidence of any bank material. It is possible therefore that a pre-existing boundary was utilised to form one side of the enclosure, with a shallower ditch forming the remaining three sides.
- 3.8 The similarity in shape and scale of ditches 1709 in Trench 17 and 2124 in Trench 21, together with the presence of large quantities of animal bone in their early fills, suggests that they represent the same feature and that, in Trench 17, recut ditch 1707 represents the enclosure ditch cutting through the earlier, deeper feature. The projected alignment of the earlier ditch varies from that of the enclosure ditch and may suggest that there are in fact two phases to the enclosure, and a degree of shifting. The undiagnostic nature of the ceramic assemblage however prohibits any definitive phasing.
- 3.9 Inside the enclosure, the distinct cluster of postholes identified in Trench 22 undoubtedly indicates the location of a building or buildings, although from the limited evidence it is not possible to define a ground plan for such a structure or structures. A number of the postholes were of substantial size, perhaps reflecting the scale of the building(s). It is also noteworthy that although not recovered in significant quantities, the only fragments of Roman ceramic roof tile recovered from the Site were found in the nearby ditches at the south-western end of Trench 25. The cluster of postholes in Trench 22 are bounded to the north-east by a gully, from which a near-complete, burnt greyware jar was recovered. This feature may represent a drip-gully surrounding a building.
- 3.10 The ditches internal to the enclosure were all aligned on a co-axial system corresponding with that of the enclosure ditch. These are likely to represent internal divisions, perhaps defining paddocks and separating the domestic area from that concerned with livestock.

- 3.11 Although there is evidence of earlier activity in the form of residual Late Iron Age/early Roman (1st century BC/AD) within the ditch fills, the artefactual evidence suggests that the enclosure may have been occupied between the 2nd and 4th centuries. The majority of the pottery from the north-eastern length of enclosure ditch and the internal ditches dates to the mid to late 3rd to 4th centuries. Abandonment of this type of enclosed site in south Wales by the mid 4th century was common, perhaps as a result of social, political and economic instability (Insole 1997, 74)
- 3.12 Small amounts of ironworking slag, mostly from the deeper ditches in trenches 17 and 21, were recovered and suggest that small-scale smithing may have been carried out on the Site, probably only occasionally, to meet the needs of the farmstead.
- 3.13 Outside the enclosure, although undated, the alignment of the probable trackway or causeway in Trench 19 suggests that it heads directly towards the enclosure, perhaps indicating an entrance along the south-western side. The size and form of the trackway is similar to that recorded at Church Farm, Caldicot (Insole 1997, 72-73).
- 3.14 A number of ditches outside the enclosure contained small amounts of Roman pottery. Most had very similar profiles, with relatively steep sides and flat bases, and the majority contained single fills indicative of general silting or alluviation. Many of the fills were gleyed, indicating waterlogged conditions. Although a number of the ditches appear to correspond with the alignment of the enclosure, including ditches 2515 in Trench 25, ditch 1204 in Trench 12, ditch 2312 in Trench 23 etc., from the limited evidence it is not possible to define an actual pattern to the system, if indeed the features are all contemporary. The undated ditches in trenches 5 and 9 bear similarities to the Roman ditches and may also belong to this phase of activity. If this is so, it interestingly suggests that a boundary of some sort survived along the line of ditch 907 in Trench 9 until at least the post-medieval period, where it can clearly be seen that ploughing took place on one side and not the other.
- 3.15 More concentrated areas of activity outside the enclosure are indicated to the north-west and south-east by a number of features identified in Trenches 13, 23 and 18. The undated curvilinear ditch 2303 is clearly cut by Roman gully 2305 and may relate to an earlier period of activity. The series of gullies in trenches 23 and 13

appear to be related, however from the limited evidence it is difficult to interpret their function. The same applies to the features in Trench 18. Their similar alignments and the fact that, apart from ditch 1817, they are all cut from the same level, suggests a degree of contemporaneity. Indeed, it is possible that the two ditch terminals represent some kind of entrance.

Post-Roman

- 3.16 The absence of artefactual material between the abandonment of the settlement in the 4th century AD and the late medieval/post-medieval period corresponds with a general lack of both archaeological and documentary evidence for this period for the Levels in general (Rippon 1996, 35). From the 5th century the extensive and well-maintained Roman drainage systems fell into disrepair, resulting in widespread flooding and the deposition of substantial amounts of alluvium. It is likely therefore that the alluvial deposits sealing features in trenches 5, 9, 13, 19 and 20 relate to these inundations, although the nature of the pink alluvium recorded in the majority of these trenches may suggest a riverine origin, perhaps from the water course that flows along the western edge of the Site, rather than a marine one (Neil Maylan, pers. comm.).
- 3.17 Although the later drainage sytem(s) identified in the evaluation produced only post-medieval and modern dating evidence, it is possible that the ditches have an earlier, possibly medieval, origin and that the relatively frequent cleaning of the features that would be necessary to maintain their efficiency has removed any evidence of their earlier use.

Post-medieval/modern

3.18 Features dated to the post-medieval/modern period comprised a number of drainage ditches. Many of these survived as linear hollows at present ground level, especially in the field where trenches 6, 7 and 8 were located and where the co-axial ditch system was most prominent. Artefactual material was sparse, indicating a primarily agricultural use of the Site, in common with much of the Levels following reclamation undertaken once more from the medieval period onwards.

4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Mark Brett, assisted by Lesley Cross, David Cudlip, Sue Diamond, Emily King, Andrew Loader, Darren Muddiman, Andrew Phelps, James Tongue, Jon Webster and Allen Wright. The report was written by Mark Brett, assisted by Allen Wright. Finds reports were prepared by Ed McSloy and Sylvia Warman. The illustrations were prepared by Lorna Grey. The archive has been compiled by Mark Brett, and prepared for deposition by Sam Inder. The project was managed for CA by Mary Alexander and Mark Collard.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

Present ground level: 12.15m to 12.56m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
101	Layer. Topsoil. Mid pinkish brown silty clay. Contains	0.3
	occasional cobble inclusions and rare charcoal flecks.	
102	Layer. Subsoil. Light pinkish brown silty clay with occasional	0.25
	small cobble inclusions	
103	Natural substrate. Mid brownish pink silty clay with cobble	-
	inclusions and frequent manganese flecks.	

Trench 2

Present ground level: 11.91m to 12.35m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
200	Layer. Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silty clay. Contains occasional cobble and rare charcoal flecks.	>0.25
201	Layer. Subsoil. Mid pinkish brown silty clay with infrequent pebbles.	>0.4
202	Natural substrate. Mid orange brown friable/firm sand silt clay mixed with gravel of rounded and sub-angular form and inclusions of dark brown flecks.	-

Trench 3

Present ground level: 11.36m to 12.05m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
300	Layer. Topsoil. Mid pinkish brown silty clay. Contains	0.23
	occasional cobble and rare charcoal flecks.	
301	Layer. Subsoil. Mid orangish grey-brown silty clay with	>0.28
	infrequent pebbles.	
302	Natural substrate. Mid orange brown friable/firm sand silt clay	-
	mixed with gravel of rounded and sub-angular form.	

Trench 4

Present ground level: 11.43m to 11.64m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
400	Layer. Topsoil. Mid pinkish brown silty clay. Contains	>0.22
	occasional cobble and rare charcoal flecks.	
401	Layer. Subsoil Mid pinkish brown silty clay with infrequent	>0.24
	pebbles.	
402	Natural substrate. Mid orange brown friable/firm sand silt clay mixed with gravel of rounded and sub-angular form and	_
	inclusions of dark brown flecks.	

Trench 5

Present ground level: 11.00m to 11.10m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
500	Layer. Topsoil. Dark grey brown sandy silt. Contains	0.1
	occasional cobble inclusions and rare charcoal flecks.	
501	Layer. Subsoil. Mid brownish grey soft sandy silt with rare	0.1
	pebble inclusions.	
502	Layer. Alluvium. Pinkish brown silty sand with occasional	0.1
	charcoal flecks.	
503	Deposit. Fill of gully 504. Light brownish grey firm silty sand	0.5
	with frequent water borne stone inclusions at northern end.	
504	Cut. Drainage gully. Steep sides and concave base. Aligned	0.5
	N/S. 0.6m wide.	
505	Layer. Alluvium. Light brown firm silty sand with rare charcoal	0.5
	flecks.	
506	Natural substrate. Pink clay with pebbles	-

Trench 6Present ground level: 10.68m to 10.84m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
601	Layer. Topsoil. Mid pinkish brown silty clay. Contains	0.18
	occasional cobbles and rare charcoal flecks.	
602	Layer. Subsoil. Light greyish orange firm silty sand.	0.19
603	Layer. Alluvial. Light greyish orange firm silty sand	0.47
604	Natural substrate. Light greyish red firm silty clay.	-
605	Cut. Post medieval drainage ditch. Gentle sloping sides and	0.46
	flat base. Running NW-SE. 1.8m wide.	
606	Deposit. Primary fill of 605. Light bluish grey firm silty clay.	0.2
607	Deposit. Secondary fill of 605. Mid greyish blue firm silty	0.3
	sand.	

Trench 7Present ground level: 9.83m to 10.36m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
701	Layer. Topsoil. Dark black brown silty clay. Contains	0.4-
	occasional cobble and rare charcoal flecks.	
702	Layer. Alluvium mid orange brown silty clay.	<0.25
703	Natural substrate. Dark orange brown clayey silt.	•
704	Layer. Subsoil. Light greyish brown silty clay.	0.2
705	Geological sub rounded feature.	0.49
706	Fill of 705. Light greyish brown silty clay.	0.49
707	Treebole. Irregular ovoid with steep sides and concave base.	0.58
708	Fill of 707. Sterile mid greyish brown silty clay, with	0.58
	infrequent charcoal flecks and pieces of sandstone.	
709	Fill of 712. Not excavated.	=
710	Cut. Drainage ditch. Aligned SE-NW. Not excavated. 3.2m	-
	wide.	
711	Deposit. Fill of 710. Not excavated.	-
712	Cut. Drainage ditch. SE-NW alignment. Not excavated.	-

Trench 8Present ground level: 9.53m to 9.71m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
801	Layer. Topsoil. Dark black brown silty clay. Contains	<0.3
	occasional cobble and rare charcoal flecks.	
802	Layer. Subsoil. Mid orange brown clayey silt.	<0.6
803	Natural substrate. Dark orange brown clayey silt.	-
804	Cut. Ditch. Steeply sloped sides with flat base. SW/NE	0.35
	alignment. 0.85m wide.	
805	Fill of 804. Light orange grey silty clay with frequent charcoal	0.35
	flecking.	
806	Cut. Drainage ditch. Shallow gently sloping sides. Base was	0.17
	not excavated. NW/SE aligned. 0.37m wide.	
807	Fill of 806. Mid reddish brown silty clay with small pebble	0.17
	inclusions.	
808	Cut. Modern ditch. Shallow gently sloping sides. Base was	0.18
	not excavated. NE/SW alignment. 0.31m wide.	
809	Fill of 808. Mid reddish brown silty clay with small pebble	0.18
	inclusions. (1m x 0.31)	

Trench 9
Present ground level: 10.29m to 10.73m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
901	Layer. Topsoil. Mid brownish grey silty clay. Contains	0.2
	occasional cobble and rare charcoal flecks.	
902	Layer. Subsoil. Mid brownish grey silty clay. Occasional	0.15
	charcoal flecks throughout.	
903	Layer. Alluvium. Light yellowish orange silty clay.	0.1
904	Layer. Light bluish grey silty clay.	0.2
905	Natural substrate. Light greyish orange silty clay. Occasional	-
	inclusions of pebbles and cobbles.	

906	Natural substrate. Possible palaeo-channel. Light greyish blue silty clay. Inclusions of boulders and smaller rocks.	-
907	Cut. Ditch. Concave sides and base. NW/SE aligned. 1.4m wide.	0.35
908	Fill of 907. Light bluish grey sandy silt. Infrequent pebble inclusions.	0.35
909	Re-cut ditch. V-shaped; regular steep sides and a sharply concave base. NE/SW aligned. 0.85m wide.	0.35
910	Fill of 909. Light greyish brown silty clay with mineral staining throughout.	0.35
911	Plough scar.	-
912	Same as 904.	0.2
913	Layer. Light yellowish orange silty clay. No visible inclusions.	0.2
914	Same as 913.	0.2

Present ground level: 10.02m to 10.29m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
1000	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown silty clay. Contains occasional cobble and rare charcoal flecks.	0.22
1001	Subsoil. Mid greyish orange silty clay.	0.3
1002	Natural substrate. Yellowish grey sandy silt with pebble inclusions.	-
1003	Secondary fill of 1004. Mid/light bluish grey sandy clay with frequent orange clay mottling.	0.22
1004	Cut. Boundary/drainage ditch. Concave sides fairly steep. Flat base. 1.05m wide.	0.42
1005	Primary fill of 1004. Greyish pink soft sandy clay with occasional lenses of yellow-green sands.	0.3
1006	Layer. Alluvium. Mid grey clay with orange clay mottle.	0.16
1007	Fill of 1008. Mid orange grey clayey silt.	0.12
1008	Cut. Boundary/drainage ditch Regular sides, fairly steep, concave and regular; concave base. 0.8m wide.	0.23
1009	Secondary fill of 1010. Mid reddish brown clayey silt. With occasional charcoal flecking.	0.89
1010	Re-cut of 1012. Regular sides fairly steep, concave and regular concave base. 2.6m wide.	0.85
1011	Deposit. Primary fill of 1010. Deep reddish brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal fragments.	0.18
1012	Cut. Ditch. Regular sides fairly steep, concave and regular concave base. NE /SW aligned. 2.7m wide.	0.5
1013	Deposit. Primary fill of 1012. Dark yellowish brown clayey silt. No visible inclusions.	0.30
1014	Deposit. Secondary fill of 1020. Dark yellowish brown clayey silt. No visible inclusions.	0.33
1015	Deposit. Primary fill of 1008. Mid pinkish grey sandy clay. Occasional pinkish grey clay mottle.	0.38
1016	Layer. Same as 1001.	0.3
1017	Cut. Gully. Concave sides and base. Regular. NE/SW aligned. 0.6m wide.	0.23
1018	Deposit. Primary fill of 1017. Mid reddish grey sandy clay with no inclusions.	0.23
1019	Deposit. Secondary fill of 1017. Mid pinkish grey sandy clay with no inclusions.	0.3
1020	First Re-cut of 1012. Steeply sided and concave base. NE/SW alignment. >1.7m wide.	0.2
1021	Deposit. Primary Fill of 1020. Dark greyish brown clayey silt with no inclusions.	0.2

Trench 11

Present ground level: 10.35m to 10.52m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
1100	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown soft silty clay.	0.17
1101	Subsoil. Mid greyish brown soft silty clay with orange flecks.	0.25

1102	Layer. Mottled mid grey yellow soft sandy silt, with various inclusions of sandstone.	0.27
1103	Natural substrate. Mid grey-pink firm clay with frequent black	-
	flecks and small inclusions of sandstone.	

Present ground level: 9.90m to 10.02m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
1201	Topsoil. Mid orange grey silty clay.	0.25
1202	Subsoil. Light greyish brown silty clay.	0.17
1203	Natural substrate. Mixed light grey silty sand with riverwashed pebble inclusions.	-
1204	Cut. Ditch. Gently sloping, regular sides with a flat base. NE/SW aligned. 0.87m wide.	0.16
1205	Deposit. Single fill of ditch 1204. Light bluish grey silty clay with few inclusions. It probably built up through natural soil processes.	0.16
1206	Cut. Posthole. Oval in plan with steep sides and a sharply concave base. 0.35m diameter.	0.13
1207	Deposit. Fill of 1206. Light bluish-grey silty clay with organic inclusions.	0.13

Trench 13

Present ground level: 9.55m to 9.64m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
1301	Topsoil. Mid greyish-brown silty clay.	0.25
1302	Subsoil. Mid pinkish-orange silty clay with frequent mineral and sandstone inclusions.	0.2
1303	Layer. Alluvium. Mid pinkish brown gritty silty clay with small mineral and charcoal inclusions.	<0.4
1304	Layer. Alluvium. Mottled light greyish orange gritty clay with mineral and pebble inclusions.	-
1305	Layer. Alluvium. Mottled mid blue grey/dark orange/mid orange brown clay sand occasional pieces of hardened clay.	-
1306	Cut. Drainage ditch. Regular, steep sides and a flat base. NE/SW alignment. 0.7m wide.	0.2
1307	Deposit. Fill of 1306. Same as 1309 (1.8m x 0.7m)	0.12
1308	Cut. Ditch. Very steep concave sides and a concave base. It curves from E-S. 0.77m wide.	0.21
1309	Deposit. Fill of 1308. Mid greyish pink sandy silt with rare inclusions of sub rounded pebbles.	0.21
1310	Cut. Boundary/drainage ditch. Very steep (almost vertical) irregular sides with an irregular but concave base. NW/SE alignment. 0.54m wide.	0.08
1311	Deposit. Fill of 1310. Light reddish grey sandy clay with occasional river-washed pebble and charcoal inclusions throughout.	0.08
1312	Cut. Drainage ditch. Regular fairly steep concave sides with a concave base. Can be seen from surface. N/S alignment. 1.5m wide.	0.25
1313	Deposit. Fill of 1312. Mid pinkish brown sandy clay. Occasional river-washed pebble inclusions.	0.25

Trench 14

Present ground level: 9.93m to 10.01m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
1401	Topsoil. Mid pinkish brown sandy silt with occasional	0.3
	charcoal flecks.	
1402	Subsoil. Light-mid pinkish brown sandy silt with occasional	0.3
	pebble and charcoal inclusions.	
1403	Natural Substrate. Light grey-yellow and brownish pink mixed	-
	sandy clay and clayey silt.	
1404	Deposit. Fill of 1405. Light yellowish grey sandy silt with rare	0.35
	charcoal inclusions.	

1405	Cut. Boundary/drainage ditch. Very steep sides (which get	0.35
	steeper toward the base) and concave base. SW/NE	
	alignment. 0.75m wide.	

Present ground level: 9.87m to 9.96m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
1501	Topsoil. Mid orange brown silty clay.	0.27
1502	Subsoil. Mid reddish brown soft silty clay, with occasional river-washed pebbles.	0.37
1503	Natural substrate. Mid reddish brown clay with occasional cobbles.	-
1504	Deposit. Fill of 1505. Mid pinkish brown sandy silt with occasional river-washed pebble inclusions.	0.3
1505	Cut. Drainage ditch. Very steep regular sides and flat base. N/S alignment. 1m wide.	0.3

Trench 16

Present ground level: 8.94m to 9.16m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
1601	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown silty clay.	0.15
1602	Subsoil. Light brownish grey silty sand	0.22
1603	Layer. Alluvial. Light orange grey silty clay occasional mid orange flecks of mineral. Inclusions.	0.43
1604	Natural mudstone substrate.	-
1605	Cut. Drainage ditch. Gently sloping sides with a flat base. NE/SW alignment. 0.6m wide.	0.07
1606	Deposit. Fill of 1605. Mid bluish grey silty clay. No visible inclusions.	0.07

Trench 17

Present ground level: 9.05m to 9.29m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
1701	Topsoil. Dark brown clay silt.	0.1
1702	Subsoil. Dark orange brown clayey silt.	0.25
1703	Natural substrate. Mid orange brown clay silt with occasional sand lenses.	-
1704	Deposit. Upper fill of 1707. Very dark brown silty clay. Rare charcoal flecks and frequent large pebble inclusions.	0.42
1705	Cut. Drainage gully. Vary shallow sides leading almost immediately to a flat base. NW/SE alignment. 1.23m wide.	0.15
1706	Deposit. Fill of 1705. Light brown silty clay with rare charcoal flecks and occasional large rounded pebbles.	0.15
1707	Re-cut of ditch 1709. Steep sides with a slightly concave base. NW/SE alignment. 2.7m wide.	0.85
1708	Deposit. Primary fill of 1709. Mid greyish brown silty clay with charcoal flecks and small river-washed pebble inclusions.	0.85
1709	Cut. Ditch. Steep sides with a slightly concave base. NW/SE alignment. 3.4m wide.	1.45
1710	Deposit. Secondary fill of 1709. Orange brown gritty clay mix with flecks of charcoal and small river-washed pebble inclusions.	0.42

Trench 18

Present ground level: 8.46m to 9.24m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
1801	Topsoil. Deep greyish brown sandy silt.	0.2
1802	Subsoil. Mid brownish grey silty sand. No visible inclusions.	0.25
1803	Layer. Alluvial layer. Light orange red, silty sand and clay.	>0.28
1804	Natural substrate. Mid orange brown clay silt with occasional	-
	sand lenses.	
1805	Cut. Ditch. Gently sloping sides with a flat base. N/S alignment. 0.85m wide.	0.25
1806	Deposit. Fill of 1805. Light orange grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.	0.25

1807	Cut. Ditch. Circular terminus with steep sides and a flat base. N/S Alignment. >0.6m wide.	0.29
1808	Deposit. Fill of 1807. Light orange grey silty sand with few inclusions.	0.29
1809	Cut. Gully. Gently sloping sides getting steeper at base, which is sharply concave. NE/SW alignment. 0.95m wide.	0.45
1810	Deposit. Primary fill of 1809. Light pinkish grey silty clay with occasional pebble inclusions.	0.31
1811	Deposit. Secondary fill of 1809. Light pinkish grey silty clay with rare pebble inclusions.	0.1
1812	Cut. Gully terminus. Shallow sides and concave base. NE point of NE/SW alignment. 0.34m wide.	0.07
1813	Deposit. Fill of 1809. Light pinkish grey silty clay with occasional pebble inclusions.	0.07
1814	Cut. Ditch. Steep sides with concave base. N/S alignment. 1.1m wide.	0.7
1815	Deposit. Primary fill of 1814. Mid grey brown gritty clay with occasional charcoal lumps and pebble inclusions. Split limestone was laid along the cut edge in the base.	0.3
1816	Deposit. Secondary fill of 1814. Mid grey silty clay with charcoal lumps and occasional red stone.	0.41
1817	Cut. Ditch. Very steep sides with a "U" shape base. N/S alignment. 1m wide.	0.36
1818	Deposit. Fill of 1817. Reddish brown gritty clay with flecks of charcoal and occasional river-washed pebble inclusions.	0.36
1819	Layer. Alluvium. Orange grey silt.	0.13

Present ground level: 8.21m to 8.52m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
1901	Topsoil. Deep brown clayey silt occasional sandstone inclusions.	0.1
1902	Subsoil. Light greyish orange sandy silt. Occasional sandstone inclusions.	0.12
1903	Layer. Alluvium. Mid brownish pink clay with frequent black mineral staining.	0.11
1904	Layer. Alluvium. Mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent inclusions of pink clay.	0.11
1905	Layer. Alluvium. Mottled light pinkish grey clay and occasional fragments of charcoal.	0.1
1906	Layer. Alluvium. Mottled light grey silty clay with frequent lenses of light grey and light pink sand.	0.21
1907	Layer. Alluvium. Mid brownish grey silty clay with occasional dark orange mineral staining.	0.1
1908	Layer. Alluvium. Deep brown silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions.	0.15
1909	Layer. Alluvium. Deep brownish grey sand and organic material (small twigs to branches). Frequent black flecks throughout.	0.2
1910	Natural Substrate.	-
1911	Deposit. Fill of 1912. Bluish grey silty clay. Occasional riverwashed pebbles and rare charcoal flecks.	0.23
1912	Trackway 'cut'. Steep regular sides with a flat base. NE/SW alignment. 2.4m wide.	0.23

Trench 20

Present ground level: 7.43m to 8.03m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
2001	Topsoil Deep brown clayey silt occasional sandstone	0.15
	inclusions.	
2002	Subsoil. Light greyish orange sandy silt. Occasional	0.15
	sandstone inclusions.	
2003	Alluvium layer. Mottled pinkish brown silty clay with small	0.1
	pebbles.	

2004	Alluvium layer. Mottled light orange silty clay with small pebbles.	0.25
2005	Alluvium layer. Mottled pinkish brown silty clay with frequent dark brown mineral stains.	0.27
2006	Alluvium layer. Light grey clay with fairly frequent mid orange mottled clay and charcoal fleck inclusions. Friable and plastic.	0.16
2007	Alluvium layer. Mid orange clay with frequent light grey mottles. Friable and plastic.	0.08
2008	Alluvium layer. Mid greyish brown sand with occasional black and orange flecking.	0.07
2009	Layer. Buried land surface. Deep brownish grey sand and organic material (small twigs to branches). Frequent black flecks throughout.	0.1
2010	Natural Substrate. Dark grey brown sand and gravel mix with frequent organic material throughout including wood and charcoal.	-

Present ground level: 8.54m to 9.30m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)	
2101	Topsoil. Deep reddish brown silty clay.	0.34	
2102	Subsoil. Deep yellow brown clayey silt.	0.12	
2103	Natural substrate. Mid yellowish brown silty sand.	-	
2104	Cut. Ditch terminus. Very steep sides with a concave base.		
2.0.	NW/SE alignment. 0.24m wide.	0.10	
2105	Deposit. Fill of 2104. Light brownish grey silty sand with	0.48	
	frequent charcoal flecking throughout.	00	
2106	Cut. Boundary ditch. Steep sides with a concave base.	0.6	
	NW/SE alignment. 2.38m wide.		
2107	Deposit. Primary fill of 2106. Light grey silty sand with	0.4	
	occasional charcoal flecking.	-	
2108	Deposit. Fill of 2106. Light reddish grey silty sand with	0.16	
	occasional charcoal flecking.		
2109	Deposit. Fill of 2106. Light grey/red brown sandy clay with	0.22	
	occasional charcoal flecking. Appears to be deliberately		
	dumped.		
2110	Deposit. Fill of 2106. Pale greyish brown silty sand with	0.06	
	occasional charcoal flecking.		
2111	Deposit. Fill of 2106. Light grey/red brown sandy clay with	0.18	
	occasional charcoal flecking.		
2112	Deposit. Fill of 2106. Mid reddish brown sandy silt with	0.32	
	frequent charcoal flecking.		
2113	Deposit. Fill of 2106. Light greyish brown sandy silt with	0.4	
	frequent charcoal flecking.		
2114	Cut. Gully. Shallow sides and slightly concave base. NE/SW	0.14	
	alignment. 0.3m wide. Same as 2119 and 2130.		
2115	Deposit. Fill of 2114. Deep reddish brown sandy silt with	0.14	
	occasional charcoal flecking. Same as 2120.		
2116	Layer. Alluvium. Mid orange grey sandy silt with occasional		
	charcoal flecking.		
2117	Cut. Ditch. Steep sides and gently concave base. SE/NW	0.2	
	alignment. 0.5m wide.		
2118	Deposit. Fill of 2117. Deep orange brown sandy silt with	0.2	
	occasional charcoal flecking throughout.		
2119	Cut. Gully. Very steep sides and a sharply concave base.	0.42	
	NE/SW alignment. 1.28m wide. Same as 2114 and 2130.		
2120	Deposit. Primary fill of 2119. Deep reddish brown sandy silt	0.42	
0/0/	with occasional charcoal flecking. Same as 2115.	0.00	
2121	Deposit. Secondary fill of 2119. Deep blackish red sandy silt	0.32	
	with occasional charcoal flecking and rare river-washed		
0400	pebbles throughout. Same as 2131.	0.00	
2122	Layer. Alluvium. Light orange grey sandy silt with occasional	0.06	
	charcoal flecking.	<u>l</u>	

2123	Layer. Alluvium. Mid orange grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecking.	0.24
2124	Cut. Ditch. Steep sides; almost V-shaped profile. 1.9m wide.	1.0
2125	Deposit. Final fill of 2124. Mid greenish grey silty sand with occasional large cobbles throughout.	0.5
2126	Deposit. Fill of 2124. Mid greenish grey silty sand with gravel inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks.	0.05
2127	Deposit. Fill of 2124. Deep slightly brownish grey sandy silt. Frequent small pebble inclusions throughout.	0.2
2128	Layer. Alluvium. Light yellowish grey sandy silt with occasional river-washed pebble inclusions.	0.2
2129	Deposit. Fill of 2124. Mid pinkish grey sandy silt with rare inclusions of small pebbles and occasional charcoal flecking.	0.1
2130	Cut. Same as 2114 and 2119. 0.61m wide.	0.19
2131	Deposit. Fill of 2130. Same as 2121. Same as 2121.	0.19
2132	Deposit. Primary fill of 2124. Mid reddish grey sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecking.	0.2

Trench 22

Present ground level: 8.89m to 9.55m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
2201	Topsoil. Deep greyish brown silty clay with infrequent inclusions.	0.25
2202	Subsoil. Mid orange brown silty clay with no visible inclusions.	0.2
2203	Deposit. Fill of 2204. Mid orange brown sandy clay with frequent inclusions of large flat cobbles and small pebbles.	0.16
2204	Cut. Posthole. Steep concave sides and concave base. 0.46m diameter.	0.16
2205	Deposit. Fill of 2206. Dark grey silty clay with very frequent rounded pebbles-cobbles.	0.55
2206	Cut. Posthole. Sides were nearly vertical and very deep. The base was slightly concave. 0.7m diameter.	0.55
2207	Deposit. Fill of 2208. Deep greyish brown silty clay with very frequent inclusions of cobbles and large pebbles throughout. Stones were very tightly packed towards the base. 0.7m diameter.	-
2208	Cut. Posthole. Not excavated. 0.9m wide.	-
2209	Deposit. Fill of 2210. Deep greyish brown silty clay with very frequent inclusions of cobbles and large pebbles. Not excavated.	-
2210	Cut. Posthole. Not excavated. 0.7m wide.	-
2211	Cut. Gully. Shallow but almost vertical sides into a flat base. N/S alignment, though appears to curve slightly. 0.29m wide.	0.17
2212	Deposit. Fill of 2211. Mid greyish brown clayey silt with frequent pebble inclusions and flecks of charcoal throughout. It contained an almost complete pottery vessel (small find \$\triangle 1\$).	0.17
2213	Deposit. Part of 2214. Deep blackish brown silty clay with rare river-washed pebble inclusions. Remains of a single very rapid deposition – perhaps fire ashes. 0.4m diameter.	0.1
2214	Layer. Alluvium. Mid reddish brown silt clay with riverwashed pebble inclusions.	0.1
2215	Cut. Oval posthole. Sides regular and nearly vertical. Base is irregular. 0.37 diameter.	0.37
2216	Deposit. Fill of 2215. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. Frequent pebbles and cobbles throughout with a few charcoal flecks. The larger stones are densely packed towards the base of the cut.	0.37
2217	Layer. Natural substrate. Mid orange brown clay silt with frequent pebble inclusions.	-

Trench 23Present ground level: 10.78m to 10.90m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
2301	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown clayey silt. Infrequent pebble inclusions	0.25
2302	Subsoil. Mid reddish brown clayey silt with infrequent gravel inclusions	0.3
2303	Cut. Curved gully. The sides are regular gentle sloping to a gentle concave base. 0.65m wide.	0.3
2304	Deposit. Fill of 2303. Leached mid brownish grey silty clay. Frequent inclusions of cobbles and pebbles throughout.	0.3
2305	Cut. Gully. Regular steep sides with an almost flat base. E/W alignment. 0.9m wide.	0.3
2306	Deposit. Fill of 2305. Deep greyish red silty clay with infrequent inclusions.	0.3
2307	Cut. Gully. Very steep regular sides into a sharply concave V-shaped base. 0.6m wide.	0.3
2308	Deposit. Fill of 2307. Mid greyish brown silty clay with rare pebble inclusions.	0.3
2309	Cut. Ditch. Not excavated. 1.5m wide.	•
2310	Deposit. Fill of 2309. Not excavated.	-
2311	Natural substrate. Light yellowish grey sandy clay with no visible inclusions.	-
2312	Cut. Gully. Regular gently sloping sides with a flat base. SE/NW alignment. 1.15m wide.	0.18
2313	Deposit. Fill of 2312. Mid greyish red silty clay with no visible inclusions.	0.18
2314	Layer. Alluvium. Deep orange red alluvial silt with no visible inclusions.	0.26
2315	Layer. Light orange red alluvial silt/silty clay mix with no visible inclusions. This layer appears to be a mix of 2314 and 2302.	0.15

Trench 24Present ground level: 9.45m to 9.96m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
2401	Topsoil. Mid brown silt with frequent sandstone lumps and	0.3
	other modern inclusions.	
2402	Subsoil. Mid orange/ pink-brown silt.	0.2
2403	Natural Substrate. Mid orange brown silty sand with frequent sandstone pebbles and cobbles throughout.	-
2404	Cut. Boundary ditch. Regular steep sides with a concave base. NW/SE alignment. 1.3m wide.	0.4
2405	Deposit. Secondary fill of 2404. Mid brown sandy silt with frequent sandstone inclusions and charcoal flecks throughout.	0.23
2406	Deposit. Primary fill of 2404. Mid greyish pink silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.	0.18
2407	Cut. Ditch. Shallow but broad with regular steep sides and an irregular though essentially flat base. NW/SE alignment. 1.25m wide.	0.28
2408	Deposit. Fill of 2407. Mid greyish pink silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks.	0.28

Trench 25Present ground level: 9.46m to 9.97m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
2501	Topsoil. Deep reddish brown sandy silt.	0.25
2502	Subsoil. Deep brownish red sandy silt.	0.3
2503	Natural substrate. Deep brownish red silty clay.	-
2504	Cut. Circular posthole. Steep sides and a concave base. 0.37m diameter.	0.12
2505	Deposit. Fill of 2504. Deep reddish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecking throughout.	0.12

2506	Cut. Ditch. Possible terminus with steep sides and wide irregular (though essentially flat) base. NW/SE alignment. 1.28m wide.	0.39
2507	Deposit. Primary fill of 2506. Mid pinkish brown silty clay with frequent river-washed pebble inclusions.	0.13
2508	Deposit. Secondary fill of 2506. Mid pinkish orange-brown silty clay with very rare charcoal flecking throughout.	0.26
2509	Cut. Ditch. Shallow sloping sides with a flat base. SW/NE alignment. 1.4m wide.	0.18
2510	Deposit. Fill of 2509. Mid orange grey silty clay with no visible inclusions.	0.18
2511	Cut. Boundary ditch. Regular sides; the eastern edge is steep to the base whilst the western edge steps in, though just as steeply. Base is concave. NW/SE alignment. 2.2m wide.	0.7
2512	Deposit. Primary fill of 2511. Deep brownish grey silty clay with frequent gravel, river-washed pebble and cobble inclusions.	0.45
2513	Deposit. Secondary fill of 2511. Mid greyish brown stony silt made up of mainly large cobbles. Infrequent inclusions otherwise.	0.35
2514	Deposit. Tertiary fill of 2511. Mid brownish grey silty clay with fairly frequent inclusions of river-washed pebbles.	0.2
2515	Cut. Ditch. Steep sides with a concave base. NE/SW alignment. 0.6m wide.	0.27
2516	Deposit. Fill of 2515. Deep red brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecking throughout.	0.27
2517	Cut. Circular posthole. Steep sides with a concave base. 0.2m diameter.	0.12
2518	Deposit. Fill of 2517. Deep reddish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecking.	0.12
2519	Cut. Ditch. Steep sides with a concave base. NE/SW alignment. 0.6m wide.	0.25
2520	Deposit. Fill of 2519. Deep red brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecking throughout.	0.25
2521	Cut. Ditch. Steep sides with a concave base. NE/SW alignment. 0.6m wide.	0.3
2522	Deposit. Fill of 2522 Deep red brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecking throughout.	0.3

Trench 26
Present ground level: 8.83m to 9.24m AOD

Context No	Description	Depth/thickness (m)
2601	Topsoil. Mid brown silt with frequent pebble and charcoal	0.3
	inclusions.	
2602	Subsoil. Mid orange brown silt with frequent dark orange	0.1
	mottles. More frequent pebble inclusions than 2601.	
2603	Layer. Natural substrate. Deep orange sandstone with	-
	coarse gravel and frequent large cobble inclusions.	
2604	Layer. Alluvial. Deep yellow/ orange light grey fine sand.	0.1
2605	Cut. Boundary ditch. Steep sides into a broad concave base.	0.45
	NNE/SSW alignment. 1.6m wide.	
2606	Deposit. Secondary fill of 2605. Mid orange brown gritty silt	0.33
	with frequent sandstone pebble inclusions.	
2607	Deposit. Primary fill of 2605. Mid pinkish grey-brown gritty silt	0.11
	with frequent sandstone cobbles and patches of mineral	
	staining.	
2608	Cut. Ditch. Steep sides with a concave base N/S alignment.	0.14
	1.68m wide.	
2609	Deposit. Fill of 2608. Deep greyish brown sandy silt with	0.14
	occasional charcoal flecking throughout.	

APPENDIX 2: THE FINDS

Context	Description*	Count	Wt (g)	Spot-date
607	Modern pottery: china	1	1	C19-C20
809	Roman pottery: LEZ SA	1	15	C2+
901	Roman pottery: SWA RE	1	7	C16-C18+
	Post-med pottery: glazed red earthenware	2	86	
	Flint scraper	1	1	
1011	Roman pottery: oxid, lead-glazed	1	5	LC1-C2+
1014	Post-med pottery: glazed read earthenware	1	16	C16-C18+
1205	Roman pottery: SWA RE	1	42	C2-C4
1302	Iron object	1	_	-
1311	Roman pottery: SWA RE	4	162	C2-C4
1313	Animal bone; cow	2	3	
1404	Roman pottery: SWA RE	2	2	C2-C4
1606	Modern pottery: china	<u>-</u> 1	2	C19-C20
1704	Roman pottery: SWA RE; DOR BB1; misc BS; misc	209	2493	LC2-C3
1704	OX; BAT AM	1	2433	LO2-03
	Copper alloy obj		452	
	Ironworking slag	63	159	
	Animal bone; cow, sheep/goat	11	8	
	charcoal			
1706	Roman pottery: SWA RE; DOR BB1	2	7	MC3-C4
1700	Ironworking slag	2	10	10103-04
1708	LIA/eRB pottery: limestone-tempered	5	26	C2-C4
1706	Roman pottery: SWA RE; DOR BB1 misc BS	5 58	1210	02-04
	Worked stone: guern fragment	56 1	1210	
		•	1700	
	Animal bone; cow, pig, sheep/goat	1505	1723	
1710	Charcoal	15 3	5	C4
1710	LIA/eRB pottery: limestone-tempered	3	106	C1
	Burnt stone	-	430	
1000	Animal bone; cow, sheep/goat	118	418	
1806	Roman pottery: misc OX	1	7	RB
2108	Roman pottery: SWA RE	2	13	C2-C4
0110	Animal bone	14	18	1400 500
2112	Roman pottery: SWA RE; DOR BB1 misc BS	41	550	MC2-EC3
	Animal bone; cow	12	22	
2113	Roman pottery: SWA RE; DOR BB1 misc BS	95	1128	MC3-C4
	Fired clay	12	124	
	Ironworking slag	-	45	
	Animal bone; cow, sheep/goat	3	16	
2120	Roman pottery: SWA RE	1	9	RB
2121	Roman pottery: SWA RE; DOR BB1 misc BS	18	244	MC3-C4
2125	Roman pottery: SWA RE; DOR BB1	25	440	C2-C4
2126	Roman pottery: SWA RE; DOR BB1	2	2	C2-C4
2131	Roman pottery: SWA RE; DOR BB1	11	141	C2-C4
	Roman tile	1	20	
	Ironworking slag	-	15	
2207	Roman pottery: DOR BB1; LEZ SA	2	18	C2-C4
2212	Roman pottery: misc reduced	30	770	LC1-C2
	Fired clay	1	2	
	Animal bone; cow	26	9	
	Worked stone: quern frag	1	_	
2213	Roman pottery: SWA RE; DOR BB1	11	97	MC3-C4
2214	LIA/eRB pottery: limestone-tempered	1	3	LC2-C3
	Roman pottery: SWA RE; misc BS	62	327	=====
	Animal bone; cow	2	3	
2308	Roman pottery: BAT AM	1	60	C2-C3+
2405	Roman pottery: SWA RE; misc OX	2	8	RB
2400	Roman brick/tile	6	107	170
2406		1	7	RB
Z400	Roman pottery: SWA RE	2	43	LD
2400	Fired clay			C2 C4
2408	Roman pottery: SWA RE; DOR BB1	11	43	C2-C4

2507	Roman pottery: DOR BB1; SWA RE	2	27	C2-C4
	Roman tile	2	427	
2508	Roman pottery: DOR BB1	6	50	MC3-C4
	Roman tile	2	36	
2512	Roman pottery: DOR BB1; SWA RE	21	124	C3-C4
2514	Roman pottery: DOR BB1; SWA RE	8	135	C2-C3
	Roman tile	6	426	
2516	Roman pottery: misc OX; SWA RE	2	63	C2-C4
2522	Roman pottery: misc OX;	1	2	RB
2606	Roman pottery: DOR BB1	10	107	LC3-C4
2607	Roman pottery: SWA RE	1	15	RB
	Flint scraper	1	-	

^{*}Fabric codes are described in main report. Types LEZ SA, BAT AM, DOR BB1 and SWA RE refer to the National Roman Fabric Reference Collection (Tomber and Dore 1998).









