

References

- Barfield, L.H. (1991) Hot stones: hot food or hot baths? In Hodder, M.A. and Barfield, L.H. (eds.) *Burnt mounds and hot stone technology*, 59-68. Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, West Bromwich.
- Barker, P.P. (1999) *Trial Ground Probing Radar Survey at Cabot Park, Avonmouth*. Stratascan, Upton-on-Severn.
- Barker, P.P. and Mercer, E.J.F. (1999) *Geophysical survey at Cabot Park, Avonmouth*. Stratascan, Upton-on-Severn.
- Bell, M. (1990) *Brean Down excavations 1983-1987* (English Heritage archaeological report 15, London).
- Hughes, G. (1996) *The excavation of a Late Prehistoric and Romano-British settlement at Thornwell Farm, Chepstow, Gwent, 1992* (BAR British Series 244).
- Locock, M. (1998) *Geophysical survey at Little Googs: experimental use of magnetometry, summary and comments on the results*. GGAT report 98/049, Swansea.
- Locock, M., Robinson, S. and Yates, A. (1998) Late Bronze Age sites at Cabot Park, Avonmouth. *Archaeology in the Severn Estuary* 9, 31-36.
- Price, J. (1981) The glass. In Jarrett, M.G. and Wrathmell, S. (eds.) *Whitton: an Iron Age and Roman farmstead in South Glamorgan* (University of Wales Press, Cardiff), 149-162.
- Price, R. and Watts, L. (1980) Rescue excavations at Combe Hay, Somerset, 1968-1973. *Proc. of the Somerset Archaeol. and Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 124, 1-49.

Martin Locock
GGAT,
Ferryside Warehouse,
Bath Lane,
SWANSEA,
SA1 1RD

IRON AGE AND LATER FEATURES AT GREENMOOR ARCH, (GWENT EUROPARK), NEWPORT

Martin Locock

Excavations were carried out for Morrison Developments Ltd in advance of the construction of a building for Wilkinsons, on part of the Gwent Euro Park site, east of Llanwern steelworks, on the Caldicot Level during August-September 1999 (Locock 1999) (ST 400 866).

The buried topography of the alluvial deposits had been mapped in 1994 by boreholes (Lawler 1994a; 1994b), following a similar exercise on the Barland's Farm site to the southeast (Walker *et al.* 1998), and evaluation was targeted on the highest parts of the late prehistoric peat shelf. A sample of the upper peat was submitted for radiocarbon dating (Beta 133532). The conventional radiocarbon age was 2310 +/- 70 bp. Calibration (using CALIB 3.0) yields a calendar date of 525-195 cal BC at 2 sigma (95% probability), showing that peat growth continued for several centuries after the inundation

Figure 1: Greenmoor Arch Building 2 under excavation.



of the upper peat in Barland's Farm coffer dam 051.

Also located were two groups of structures. Each was rectangular, with rounded corners, and walling marked by double or triple rows of stakes, enclosing an area of brushwood flooring. Each building had one or two roof-supports. Building 1 was apparently isolated, but Buildings 2 and 3 lay only 10m apart, separated by an earlier ditch or channel. The floor level of Building 3 lay below the final peat, suggesting that Buildings 2 and 3 represent a sequence. Pottery suggested a Middle-Late Iron Age date for their use.

The buildings are closely comparable to those found on the peat shelf at Goldcliff, and presumably reflect the exploitation of the intertidal peat shelf in summer for pasture (cattle hoofprints were found around the buildings at both sites).

The peat surface proved to be cut by numerous pits, varying in size from 1.5m-2m diameter, and of a wide range of shapes. The pits had been rapidly filled with silty clay after they were cut. The horizon to which they relate could not be identified, but clearly lay within the overlying estuarine silts, thus implying that the pits were dug in intertidal conditions. In the absence of any evidence for function, and given the lack of washed-in peat in the fills, it is assumed that part at least of the purpose

was the removal of peat, presumably as a fuel or soil conditioner. The pits have not been directly dated; the only find was a calf skeleton from the upper fill of one of the pits. In general, though, a Roman date is proposed, and the long-term systematic exploitation of a tidal resource might suggest military involvement. The site lies only 500 m northwest (inland) from the structures and boat found at Barland's Farm in 1993 (Lawler and Nayling 1993; Nayling and McGrail 1994; Nayling *et al.* 1994), and must have been on the inland margin of the Roman coastal zone.

Acknowledgements

The excavations were funded by Morrison Developments Ltd. The project was managed by Gareth Dowdell and Andrew Marvell for GGAT, and directed by Martin Lawler, Martin Locock, Richard Roberts, Steve Sell and Adam Yates.

The Trust is grateful to the project consultants, Alison Borthwick (for Morrison Developments) and Nigel Nayling (University of Wales, Lampeter), and to Mike Walker (University of Wales, Lampeter), Peter Webster (University of Wales, Cardiff) and Beta Radiocarbon Dating Facility, Florida for specialist input.

The Trust is also grateful to Martin Bell (University of Reading), Bob Trett and Kate Hunter (Newport Museums), Mike Yates, Rick Turner and Kate Roberts

Figure 2: Greenmoor Arch: The peat extraction pits.



(Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments), Joshua Pollard (University of Wales, Newport), Jenny Mitchum (Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust), Mark Noel (GeoQuest Associates) for their help, and to Dwr Cymru, Noel Fitzpatrick, Walters Civil Engineering and National Museums and Galleries of Wales for their practical support.

Bibliography

- Lawler, M. (1994a) *Archaeological monitoring of preliminary investigations at Gwent Euro Park, Llandeenny*. GGAT report 94/034, Swansea.
- Lawler, M. (1994b) *Stage 1(b) archaeological investigations at Gwent Euro Park, Llandeenny*. GGAT report 94/078, Swansea.
- Lawler, M. and Nayling, N. (1993) Investigations at Barland's Farm, Magor, 1993. *Archaeology in the Severn Estuary* 4, 109-112.
- Locock, M. (1999) *Archaeological evaluation (Stage 2), Wilkinson site, Gwent Europark, Llandeenny, Newport*. GGAT report 99/055, Swansea.
- Nayling, N., and McGrail, S. (1994) Barland's Farm, Magor: a Romano-Celtic boat find. *Archaeology in the Severn Estuary* 5, 59-66.
- Nayling, N., McGrail, S., and Maynard, D. J. (1994) Barland's Farm, Magor, Gwent: a Romano-Celtic boat. *Antiquity* 68 (no. 260), 596-603.
- Walker, M. J. C., Bell, M., Caseldine, A. E., Cameron, N. G., Hunter, K. L., James, J. H., Johnson, S., and Smith, D. N. (1998) Palaeoecological investigations of middle and late Flandrian buried peats on the Caldicot Levels, Severn Estuary, Wales. *Proceedings of the Geologists' Association*, 109, 51-78.

Martin Locock
GGAT
Ferryside Warehouse
Bath Lane
SWANSEA
SA1 1RD

MAGOR PILL MULTIPERIOD SITE: THE ROMANO- BRITISH POTTERY, AND STATUS AS A PORT. A POSTSCRIPT

by J.R.L. Allen

The intertidal zone at Magor Pill, on the exposed coast of the Caldicot Level (Grid Ref. ST 43 84), affords important assemblages of pottery and other artefacts of Iron Age (Whittle *et al.* 1989; Allen 1998a), Romano-British (Allen 1998b), medieval and early post-medieval dates (Allen 1999). These materials, released from lost activity/occupation sites through prolonged coastal erosion, are largely found as weathered and abraded 'archaeological pebbles' in association with semi-mobile gravels, but a few similar artefacts, some clearly restratified, also occur sealed in the fill of a large late Holocene palaeochannel at the locality (Allen and Rippon 1997; Nayling 1998).

The Romano-British pottery assemblage (2513 sherds) is more diverse than might be expected of a wetland site (Allen 1998b). It includes elements suggesting connections, probably by water, with the military town of Caerleon on the Usk to the west.

The harsh environment at Magor Pill makes work on the pottery of all ages difficult. Typically, sherds are small, weathered, abraded and commonly stained, delicate surface coatings and decoration, and some glazes, having been damaged or completely destroyed. Consequently, some fabric groups, especially if small, are difficult if not impossible to diagnose. One of these is now identified as Roman, following the chance find of a distinctive rim sherd after the main report was completed. The recognition of this fabric strengthens the Magor Pill-Caerleon connection.

Represented by a small group of eight body sherds (bowls, a beaker) and one rim sherd, the fabric is identified as Caerleon ('Legionary') Ware (AD 90/100-180). It is soft to moderately soft and orange in colour, in some instances with a slightly darker core, no surface coatings having survived. The feel is distinctly silty and there is common to abundant