ARCHAEOLOGY BENEATH THE TOWANS
EXCAVATIONS AT GWITHIAN, CORNWALL 1949 – 1969

UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN
Design for assessment, analysis and publication

MARCH 2004

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Abbreviations used in this report

BA	Bronze Age
CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit
CCC	Cornwall County Council
CCRA	Cornwall Committee for Rescue Archaeology
CAU	Cornwall Archaeological Unit
E	East
IA	Iron Age
LBA	later Bronze Age
MBA	Middle Bronze Age
N	North
NW	North west
RB	Romano-British
RC	Romano-Cornish
S	South
SW	South West
W	West

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SUMMARY

This report presents an assessment of an exceptional programme of archaeological fieldwork undertaken in west Cornwall over a twenty year period in the 1950s and 1960s and sets out a programme for analysis and publication of the results.

Under the direction of Charles Thomas over 70 sites were investigated, ranging from Mesolithic through to post-medieval. The coastal sand dune environment of Gwithian has resulted in outstanding preservation and, through successive episodes of sand movement, in a well defined stratigraphic sequence. The assessment carried out during 2003 and 2004 has explored and documented the scale and potential of the project archive and demonstrated the scope for stratigraphic reconstruction and artefact analysis. Analysis will contribute to a detailed understanding of settlement, economy and crafts for a range of periods and provide well documented ceramic sequences. The following paragraph highlights some of the discoveries made so far.

It has now been suggested through ceramic evidence that the house excavated at site GM/XV is, in fact, Bronze Age rather than Beaker which is the interpretation given at present in publication. Work on the Bronze Age archive has also provided evidence that the 'layer 3' settlement could have been the site of a pottery production centre using gabbroic clay brought to the area as a raw material from the Lizard. It has now been confirmed that within the excavated sites there is little evidence for Iron Age settlement, and that the sites that were suspected to be Iron Age in date, are in fact Romano British. The Post Roman and Early Medieval site GMI (and associated sites) has thrown up evidence to show that it was an industrial site indicating that there is a need for reinterpretation. This is also the case with the Roman site of GT (Porth Godrevy), previously published as a Roman homestead, but now, in the light of this work (and with the identification of briquetage), open to reinterpretation as an industrial salt-making site. The medieval site of CG (Crane Godrevy) has the potential to further our understanding of medieval pottery sequences in Cornwall, as well as exploring the character of medieval settlement in lowland Cornwall.

A programme of analysis and preparation for publication is set out in nine stages, to run from July 2004 to March 2007.

- Stage 1: stratigraphic analysis of major sites; consolidation of site location plans; analysis of Mesolithic sites; creation of web site
- Stage 2: further assessments of selected classes of material
- Stage 3: review
- Stage 4: scientific dating programme – selection and submission of samples
- Stage 5: review of dating programme
- Stage 6: completion of stratigraphic analyses for remaining minor sites
- Stage 7: specialists' analyses
- Stage 8: collation of analyses into draft report
- Stage 9: draft report completed and submitted

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a rapid appraisal and assessment of the Gwithian archive carried out by the Cornwall Archaeological Unit and a team of specialists during 2003 - 2004. The appraisal was guided by a programme of specific tasks set out in the initial project design produced in 2003 (Nowakowski et al 2003).

The Gwithian archive comprises a large assemblage of inter-related documents, drawings, photographs and finds which were created during a long campaign of archaeological fieldwork directed by Charles Thomas at Gwithian, Hayle, Cornwall from 1949 to 1969. The archaeological work undertaken at Gwithian produced results of national and regional significance and was one of the first landscape projects carried out in the county. The full results of the work have never been comprehensively published and the aim of this current project has been to audit and catalogue the various components which make up the Gwithian archive and to assess the quality of the data with a view to designing a programme of further analysis and research within the context of up-to-date research.

The work carried out in 2003-2004 is the first stage of dealing with a very large archive. Ultimately the main objective is to make available the results of this significant project through publication.

1.1 Project background

The parish of Gwithian lies on the north coast of West Cornwall (Fig. 2). For over 20 years an area some 4 sq miles in extent became the focus for an ambitious archaeological venture aimed at charting the historical evolution of a specific tract of landscape through the application of extensive field survey and numerous excavations. The study was centred within a sand-duned (towans) landscape where historical evidence indicated that by 1000 AD the towans, had to a large degree, stabilised following previous centuries where major sand blows had buried extensive tracts of former land surfaces (Fowler and Thomas 1962, 73-74). With its special alkaline conditions this complex landscape presented a unique archaeological opportunity as excavations revealed an exceptional level of preservation of deeply buried archaeological deposits with a date range spanning the Mesolithic and post medieval periods. The project was initiated by a young archaeology graduate, (later to became Professor) Charles Thomas who had been taught by V. G. Childe and F. E. Zeuner at the Institute of Archaeology, London University. Conceived not solely as an academic study it also provided technical training for a generation of archaeological fieldworkers and by doing so became one of the major national archaeological field fixtures of the post-war era (see Longworth and Cherry 1986).

The history of archaeological fieldwork at Gwithian began in 1949 with the discovery of flint scatters at Godrevy Pond (GP/-) and Godrevy barrow (GB/-). This was followed by many long campaigns of excavations which commenced in 1954 at Godrevy midden (GM/I) and finally came to a close with the work at Crane Godrevy (CG/-) in 1969 (Thomas August 1985 memo in author's possession Lambessow MSS C.68). Sporadic fieldwork centred on recording and sampling flint scatters has continued right up to the present day (reference Thomas memo in Mesolithic file 2003). Throughout this extraordinary long campaign of archaeological field investigation over 70 sites dating from the Mesolithic right through to the post medieval periods were investigated on one level or another.

A detailed and updated diary of the sequence of fieldwork is presented in appendix 1. This has been substantially revised and replaces the earlier history of fieldwork which appeared in 2003 (Appendix A, Nowakowski et al 2003).

The entire Gwithian archive comprises records for 79 sites which were recorded through different scales of investigation. These are identified by unique code and listed in 1.3. This updated list replaces appendix B in the 2003 project design (Nowakowski et al 2003).

By 1958 – just after 10 years fieldwork – the project team were able to provide a detailed interim statement presented as a chronological landscape narrative (Thomas 1958). Although this is now largely out of date as it was written at a time before further major discoveries were made and initial impressions were revised, the summary report continues to provide a useful introduction and starting point to the achievements of this singular archaeological project and in particular, a working chronological framework.

1.2 List of all individual site investigations

Unique codes were given to each site or archaeological intervention. The codes equate to different scales of archaeological fieldwork and investigation from field survey, sampling through to section recording, trial pit and/or large excavation. The codes identify the site and form the main link between the material, documentary and graphic archives.
The following list comprises all sites recorded as part of the Gwithian project and are presented in alphabetic order.

Code	
AF	Material some from Gwithian, sectioned by the implement Petrology sub-committee of the SW Federation of Museum and Art galleries (cf, eg PPS 38 (1972), 235-275).
BZ	**Mesolithic** site – cliff-top exposure of **Mesolithic land surface**
CARWIN	**RB** camp at Carwin surveyed in 1956 (mobile team 17th April 1960).
Cliff Section	Quaternary section by mobile team 24th March 1958.
CG	Crane Godrevy: **RB** enclosed site and **medieval** settlement
CM	Callean farm: Memmoan Field. (Dense) **Mesolithic flint scatter**
CP	Carwin Camp: **RB** site- surveyed
Fishing Cove	Collection of flint beach pebbles as sample
GB	Godrevy Barrow: **preserved Mesolithic floor** and **BA** barrow-excavation
GBN	Section behind tractor barn, Godrevy farm: **Mesolithic layer**
GE	Godrevy exposure: Bare face on hillside 100 yards NW of GW Limited investigation.
GF	Godrevy Field. Shallow cuttings to test date of vestigal banks downhill of site Crane Godrevy in 1966. **No definite date** – probably **medieval**
GGN	**Mesolithic** material from GBN, spread by National Trust on Godrevy Green.
GH	Code used twice. Godrevy Hillside: **IA/RB** site excavated in 1958 in fields SE of Crane between Pencobben and Godrevy head. Also survey in 1963 of **IA/RB** field systems on Godrevy Headland
GJ	Supposed late house site by hedge between town and farm (downhill W from Crane Godrevy) : **Possible post- medieval feature (18th-19th cent.date)** by mobile team 7th April 1958
GK	Top of Garrack: Above DMV of Negosias ruined **medieval** site- survey and surface collection only
GLW	Godrevy Lower Weeth. Surface collection of **Medieval** and **post-medieval** finds in 2004- possible site of medieval farm buildings.
GM/A	Site associated with GM/I to the west of the GM/I cuttings **Post Roman/Early Medieval** 1955

GM/B	Site associated with GM/I to the west of the GM/I cuttings **Post Roman/Early Medieval** 1955
GM/C	Site associated with GM/I to the west of the GM/I cuttings **Post Roman/Early Medieval** Unexcavated
GM/D	Site associated with GM/I to the west of the GM/I cuttings **Post Roman/Early Medieval** Unexcavated
GM/E	Site associated with GM/I to the west of the GM/I cuttings **Post Roman/Early Medieval** 1955
GM/I	Gwithian stratified homestead with middens: Main **Post Roman/Early Medieval** site
GM/II	Stones on hillside north of centre of main 1960 grid: wall on N part of GM/X. Later superseded by GM/X cuttings 30 plus **modern feature**
GM/III	Horseshoe-shaped bank north of 1960 camp, sectioned in 1954 and found to be **modern.** Later superseded by GM/X cuttings
GM/IV	Probable industrial site NE of GM/I- excavated, 1956 **Post Roman/Early Medieval**
GM/V	**MBA** site, assumed to be a barrow, later revealed to be part of BA landscape, dug completely in 1955
GM/VI = NN	Code used twice: Stone pillar on Garrack dug in 1956=NN **period unknown.** Also subsidiary site of GMI excavated in 1954 **Post Roman.**
GM/VII	Code used twice: Former trial cuts on GM/I 1955 – all part of GMI **Post Roman/Early Medieval.** Also site of single cutting to the east of GMV excavated 1954 (location unknown) **BA**
GM/VIII	Former trial cuts on GMI 1955 – all part of GMI, later became part of GME **Post Roman/Early Medieval**

Main Bronze Age Sites

GM/IX	Area south centre of 1960 main grid, layers 3 and 5 **BA**
GM/X	Main **MBA** to **LAB** site layers 3 and 5, centre of 1960 grid
GM/XI	Mound (and later area) north west part of 1960 grid (also includes GM/XII and GM/XIII) **BA**
GM/XII	Mound, north west part of 1960 grid (when excavated, renamed GM/XI) **BA**
GM/XIII	Mound, north west part of 1960 grid (when excavated, renamed GM/XI) **BA**
GM/XIV	Mound, south west part of the same **BA**
GM/XV	Area comprising eastern six squares of 1960 grid, layers 7 and 8 houses **BA**
GM/XVI	A circular earthwork (ditched enclosure) sectioned in 1963, NE from GM/XV, layer 5? **BA**
GM/XVII, GM/XVIII and GM/XIX	*Codes not used*
GM/XX	Area south of GM/XV **Post Roman** large rectangular field- excavated
GM/XXI	Field, area of ridge and furrow some way west of GM/X **Post Roman and Medieval**- surveyed and excavated
GM/XXII	Midden in seasonal pond north of GM/1 **Post Roman**- excavated
GM/M	Site: geological cutting 30/6/1960 to 07/07/60 to find the main Mousterian beach by mobile team in 1960. **NW of site GM/I.**
GM/Y	(or 'Y') Cutting across raised land to NE of GM/I mound **Post Roman** (mobile team 2nd April 1960).
GO=GW	Godrevy outcrop: wall about 25 yards north of rifle butts. Replaced at once by code GW **BA**
Godrevy Farm	Extant Farm building survey by mobile team 3rd April 1958.

GP	Godrevy Pond: Flints from Godrevy pond: possible **Palaeolithic** and **early Mesolithic** "deposits"
GR	Raised beach section at GT/, **Mesolithic finds,** GR not used
GRR	**Post-medieval**? 7 cuttings excavated by CCRA in 1977 of a wall next to the Rifle Range butts.
GT	Code used twice: Porth Godrevy, **RB** excavated site and Gwithian clifftops, exposure in cliffs- **Mesolithic (considerable linear scatter)**
GU	Exposed **surface site**, **Mesolithic** former Caravan Park in NT carpark. Probably same land surface as that recorded at BZ and RR.
GW=GO	Gwithian wall: outcrop of wall 25' N of rifle butts, **BA**: sectioned.
Gwithian Green	Survey of whole green by mobile team 4th April 1958
GY	The Gilly, Weeth, Camborne: 1950-1951, flints and pebbles from a drainage trench – **Mesolithic flint scatter**
HeM	Hell's Mouth. Exposed **surface site**, **Mesolithic** in eroded path to Hell's Mouth.
HU	Hudder field area: finds: Dense **Mesolithic flint scatters – potential occupation/activity site** and **Neolithic,** and **BA** barrow site
HU/NE	NE area of Hudder field, 2003, Dense **Mesolithic flint scatters – potential occupation/activity site**
HU/SS	Southern area of Hudder field, 2003, **Mesolithic flint scatter**
HP	**Mesolithic, BA and Medieval** 'Hockins Pit', generally known as OLS/HP.
KY	Kynance field, Godrevy farm, now set-aside: **Mesolithic ?scatter**
MY	Abandoned code for GMXVI, Aug 1963 **BA**
NC	**Mesolithic and Neolithic** surface site found by HJ Berryman in 1990; 2 north cliff fields.
ND	End field at New Downs opposite HU/SS, surface **Mesolithic flint scatter**
NE	Pre-1990 code, now (2003) coded HU/NE, NE corner of Hudder field, **Mesolithic**
NE/O	1989 Outcrop surface, outside HU/NE on cliff path: **Mesolithic flint scatter**
OLS	Old land surface, including Hockin's pit, NE of SL: **Mesolithic, BA, Post Roman, and Medieval** – see also OLS/HP, OLS/WE.
PB	**Medieval or Post-medieval** parish boundary bank south of CG, excavated.
PC	Pencobben cliff field, surface: **Mesolithic flint scatter and Medieval**
PE	Pencobben cliff fields and fields around house: **Mesolithic flint scatter and Medieval**
PEH (or PH)	Pencobben, hillside, field below house: **Mesolithic flint scatter**
PS	Pencobben, Sandy Ground field: **Mesolithic flint scatter**
PT	Phillack Towans**: Mesolithic, BA, IA and Post-Roman** surface site (mobile team 6th April 1956).
RD	Reskajeage Downs, clifftop E of HU and ND; **BA** Barrow site in 1957 (mobile team 18th April 1957).
RDK	Kieve mill, Cuttings Hill, Reskadinnick, SWW pipeline 1998: **Mesolithic**
RR	Red River, steep bank on low cliff edge on north of river, near BZ and GU: **Mesolithic stratified scatters**
SL	Sandy Lane, site of Conarton, middens: **RB, post Roman and Medieval**
Trevoryan Round	Measured plan of **IA?RB site** by mobile team 31st March 1958

Trevarnon
Round — Measured plan of **IA?RB site** by mobile team 1st April 1958
UL — Site on path at Knavocks, found by Urs Leuzinger 1985: **Mesolithic probable scatter**
WE — Wheal Emily, Gwithian Towans, **minor surface exposures** of **Mesolithic flints, RB and possibly Post Roman**
WG — Withy Garden or Conerton hundred-pound, on Gwithian Common: **Medieval**
Y — Cutting across raised land to NE of GM/I, see under GM/ sites. Same as GM/Y **Post Roman**
GM/AA to GM/ZZ — Register of stone finds, all sites: Gwithian

1.3 Working Chronological framework

The numerous site investigations undertaken as part of the Gwithian project were divided between the ecclesiastical parishes of Gwithian and Camborne. Those investigated and/or excavated between 1950 and 1970, and indeed more recently, include in broad chronological order the following:

Early Mesolithic	**GP**
Late Mesolithic	**BZ, CM, GB, GBN, GGN, GT, GU, GY, HU, KY, NC, ND,**
NE/O,	**NE, OLS/HP, PC, PE, PEH, PS, PT, RDK, RR, UL OLS/WE** and two clusters of sites, "east" and "west" with outliers up the Red River valley (may overlap with the local Neolithic).
Neolithic/Beaker	**GM/X** and all contiguous numbered sites
Early Bronze Age	**GB** and **RD:** barrows; **GO** Godrevy outcrop; **GW** Gwithian wall. Part of **OLS/HP**.
Middle Bronze Age	**GM/V, GM/X** and all contiguous numbered sites
Late Bronze Age	**GM/X** and all contiguous numbered sites
Iron Age/RB	**GT, CG, GH** and part of **OLS**
Romano-British	**GT, CP, PT, WE.**
Post Roman	**GM/I** and contiguous numbered/lettered sites and **SL, GM/XX** field system, **GM/XXI** ridge and furrow, **GM/XXII** midden
Medieval	**CG, GK, GP, SL, WE, WG,** and minor sites. Part of **OLS/HP**.
Post medieval	**GRR, PB, PE, WG** Minor sites and some undated but recent.
Undated	**GJ, GE** exposure, **GF/-** field banks, **GM/M** geophysical cutting

General comments

- Some of these sites produced evidence for more than one chronological phase of activity (see section 2). The assessments carried out as part of this present project have highlighted areas where re-thinking some aspects of the chronological dates assigned to particular sites listed above is required.
- Currently all the sites (and their inter site phases) are dated by groups of diagnostic (datable) finds. Scientific dating (radiocarbon etc) was not routinely available during the 1950s and 1960s. However 3 attempts were undertaken to independently verify the 3rd and 2nd millennium BC dates for the Bronze Age sites at Gwithian during the early 1960s. Two archaeomagnetic dates were obtained for hearth deposits found at GM/XV and GM/X in 1962 (Aitken and Weaver 1962; 1964; Thomas memo. 12.04.03) and charcoal from layer 5 (see below, GM/X) also provided a date (Burgess 1976, 75; Thomas memo 12.04.03).
- Ultimately the work carried out at Gwithian evolved as a landscape study and as the years of fieldwork rolled by, an emergent landscape narrative became

apparent as presented in *TEN YEARS WORK* published in 1958 (Thomas 1958). By 1962, the gaps of knowledge for certain periods within this landscape setting and the potential for detailed commentaries for some periods and a certain unevenness for others had been realised (see Fowler and Thomas 1962).

2 PRINCIPAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Throughout this long period of fieldwork a number of major individual sites were examined.

In terms of site narratives four major investigations produced stratified sequences with clear evidence for marked chronological phases. These were the **Bronze Age sites** (GM/V to GM/XV inclusive), a **Romano-British farmstead** at Porth Godrevy (GT), **post-Roman sites** (GM/I, GM/A, GM/B, GM/E, GM/IV, GMXX and GMXXI inclusive) and the **medieval site** called Crane Godrevy (CG).

A significant assemblage of lithics recorded from over 20 sites in the study area and dating to the **Mesolithic period** has both national and regional significance (see 6.1) and provides a remarkable resource in terms of a landscape character study for this period. Several stratified deposits relating to the Mesolithic period were noted at Godrevy barrow (GB) and Porth Godrevy (GT) and several remain available for further study.

The work was carried out at a time when radiocarbon dating was still being developed and dating buried sequences relied upon diagnostic finds – principally ceramics. **Two major ceramic assemblages** were discovered during the work at Gwithian and these, dating to the **Bronze Age** and **post Roman periods**, continue to play defining roles in regional and national research for these periods.

The investigation of the **medieval site** of Crane Godrevy is a significant contribution to the regional study of medieval rural settlement.

Several minor sites which give general background commentary on the major periods have been identified from the whole range of investigations listed in section 1.3. These have been assessed in terms of their general value to add to the overall discussion and commentaries which arise from detailed study of the major excavations. They are discussed in section 7.

3 OVERALL AIMS OF THE RAPID ASSESSMENT AND ARCHIVE APPRAISAL

The overall aims of this present exercise (Nowakowski et al 2003) have been to:

- Produce a complete list of all sites which were investigated as part of the Gwithian project.
- Identify, quantify and list all the extant components of each individual site archive created during the Gwithian project.
- Rebag, rebox and rehouse all components of each individual site archive into archive approved storage containers.
- Conduct rapid assessments of all the major finds categories.
- Identify and make recommendations on conservation requirements for the archive.
- Conduct rapid assessments on the quality and further potential of individual site archives and make recommendations for further work.
- Quantify all material available for security copying.

- Present the results of this exercise and produce an updated project design which proposes a programme of detailed assessment and analysis directed towards the full publication of significant results.

3.1 Outline of the appraisal and rapid assessment report

This document presents the results of the rapid assessments and appraisals by selecting the key archives. Archive assessments were divided between major and minor sites. Individual sites archives have been collectively considered grouped by chronological date. Each overall section – defined by chronological phase – provides factual data on the sites, presents key results and provides comments on further work. A detailed stage programme of work is then presented.

The overall potential of the Gwithian archive is presented in 9. Key research agendas are presented linked to national and regional academic and research priorities. This is followed by the main stages of further work – presented as an overall programme. Specific method statements for key classes of data are presented within this overall future programme of work.

The presentation of the results of this exercise have been guided to a large degree by the framework set out by English Heritage's MAP2 (1991) and in "Notes for the Guidance of Organisations seeking funding" together with the document "Minimum Requirements for Project Designs" (English Heritage 1999).

4 SITE DOCUMENTATION AUDIT, INVENTORY & RAPID ASSESSMENT

The paper audit and assessment was carried out by Joanna Sturgess. Work on the paper and photographic archive took part in two stages:

1. A comprehensive audit and inventory of all archives for all sites.
2. A rapid assessment of the quality of the archives.

4.1 The Audit and inventory

The specific aims of site documentation audit which took place from April to July 2003 were to:

- List all paperwork and site documentation and create registers for archive boxes.
- List and catalogue extant photographic archives for all sites. Scan as digital images a selection of colour slides and store on CD-Rom.
- List and catalogue all field drawings, store by site and year in archive folders.

4.2 Quantities of site books, paper, field drawings

Overall the audit exercise listed c. 40 site notebooks, 15 - 20 files of paperwork (research archives, correspondence, memos, interim statements/reports), up to 400 field drawings. All are now stored in archive standard folders.

Detailed lists of all site documentation relating to specific site investigations have now been produced. These form part of the working research archive. Original documents have been numbered and carry a unique identification number. All the site documentation is now housed in standard archive boxes.

4.3 The Photographic Archive

The Gwithian Photographic archive comprises the following:

- Photograph albums relating to specific site investigations – mounted prints with captions and dates
- Rolls of uncut monochrome 35 mm film
- Packets of monochrome negatives (3½" x 2¼")
- Packets of monochrome negatives (2¼" x 2¼")
- Colour transparencies
- Black and white contact prints – many pasted into notebooks
- Black and white prints of different sizes
- Copies of B.W prints glued into some notebooks.

The photographic archive of approximately 5,000+ images (colour and monochrome) is enormous and a card index catalogue exists.

A selection of 40 excavation images have been scanned as digital images (currently as JPEGs). Further scanning of selected images (as TIFF format) for individual sites is recommended.

4.4 A Rapid Assessment – Methods and results

From September through to December 2003 a rapid assessment of the quality of the Gwithian archives took place. This exercise was preceded by the collation of all known data for each site brought together in the form of an overall site summary record – a site inventory. The data compiled during the finds audit was brought together as part of this process. These summary records form the entry point to an accessible archive and are the most up-to-date records of all the Gwithian sites. They now replace any earlier records such as that held in the Cornwall and isles of Scilly Historic Environment Record (formerly the SMR).

The site summary records were used by the other members of the project team during their rapid assessments of different classes of finds.

On completion of the collation exercise the quality of each archive was assessed in terms of its potential to provide a clear statement of the results of that work and of its significance and specific contribution to a further detailed programme of analysis. Specific recommendations are listed in an archive evaluation report.

The general locations of all sites have been recorded and maps showing sites of different periods have been created using GIS (see landscape maps).

4.5 Overall statement on archaeological excavation methods and recording techniques at Gwithian

The main fieldwork was conducted at a time during which field techniques were being developed and the practise of open area excavation, as a rule, was not widespread. Sites were to a large degree investigated by box or rectangular cuttings and trenches and these were extended and adjacent areas were opened up when significant discoveries were made. All sites were hand-dug, trench plans and sections were regularly and systematically drawn to scale. All sites were given codes and finds were recorded by layer and sometimes by feature. The assessment has shown that quality of the record varies and this will to a large degree affect the amount of stratigraphic reconstruction that is feasible.

General points arising from the assessment

- The assessment found that individual site archives varied in size, components and quality.

- Records for all detailed levels of investigation – principally excavation – were well ordered, dated and systematically curated.

- Different methods of recording were employed throughout the life of the Gwithian project although excavation records generally became standardized as the project evolved.

- Surveys of the locations of all sites recorded during the Gwithian project were rudimentary.

5 THE FINDS AUDIT

Work on the finds was carried out by Carl Thorpe and Anna Lawson Jones. The specific aims of the finds audit which took place from February to September 2003 were to:

- Rebag and produce electronic records and tables for all classes of finds from all sites.
- To re-house finds by site, class and year in archive boxes.
- Conduct individual finds audit for each site and collate data from finds bags together with extant finds registers.
- Conduct an overall finds audit for the entire project.
- Quantify missing finds.
- Create digital images of selected finds and store on CD-Rom.
- Provide summary data to aid the rapid assessments of individual classes of finds by team specialists.

The initial effort concentrated on the Bronze Age sites (50 boxes). Many of the original boxes and packing material were in poor condition and showed evidence of collapse and nesting rodents. On completion of work on the Bronze Age finds, artefacts from the Romano-British site (Porth Godrevy), Post Roman sites (GM/I etc), the medieval site (CG/- Crane Godrevy) and all other minor sites took place (c. 100 boxes).

The Mesolithic archive comprises an estimated 20,000+ items – principally flint and pebble tools. These are from c. 20 individual sites and forms an exceptionally large archive in its own right. A great deal of the material has been classified and assessed in detail by Alison Roberts (see section 6). In 2003 the major part of this archive – which had been stored in Oxford – was returned to Truro. Most of this material has been reboxed and sorted although no detailed catalogues exist.

- The entire Gwithian archive (except the Mesolithic archive) is now reboxed in 200 standard-sized archive boxes. *This Mesolithic archive remains at Lambessow.*

All the finds were originally stored in paper bags and many of these had deteriorated. In the main, finds were recorded by bag number during the excavations at Gwithian and then listed in a finds register. The method of recording and listing finds did however evolve as the project progressed through the years with the result that finds records for sites do vary. All items of stonework and some of the metalwork, for example, were given alphabetic codes and listed in a separate stonework register.

As each bag of finds was emptied the artefacts were grouped by class, gently cleaned by brush and then rebagged. Approximately 70% of the finds were marked in black Indian ink. Once re-bagged into archive-standard plastic bags all context and site information on the original bags were transcribed onto the new bags as well as

written up on the electronic finds checklist record for each bag. The details of each class of artefact were recorded onto the electronic finds context checklist.

- Electronic finds registers for all sites have now been produced and form part of the primary record for each site.
- Finds are stored by site, year and class of object.
- 148 boxes have been transferred to the Royal Cornwall Museum. Fragile items such as worked bones and metalwork – iron and copper alloy – and the entire stonework and Mesolithic flint archive remain at Lambessow (house of Charles Thomas).
- A comprehensive box list of all finds has been produced.

5.1 Total quantities and specific classes of finds (September 2003)

On the completion of the finds audit and reboxing exercise it was possible to work out exact quantities of all extant finds of all classes and all periods recorded during the Gwithian project. The total number of finds catalogued (excluding the Mesolithic archives) during this exercise was 23,758+ items. The total number of each category of find as quantified during this project are presented below. This list does not include the finds which make up the specific Mesolithic sites.

6995	Animal bones
5059	early medieval ceramics
2947+	Bronze Age ceramics (includes EBA and possible Neolithic)
2025	medieval ceramics
1724	(worked) stone objects
1616	marine shells (includes some worked pieces)
826	sherds of RB pottery
392	post medieval pottery
334	pieces of ironwork
273	flints
250	pieces of fired clay
211	clay briquetage fragments
204	land snails
180	pieces of industrial debris
110	charcoal samples
92	worked bone objects/pieces
83	clay pipe fragments
76	soil samples
70	mortar samples
63	crustacea
63	copper alloy objects
45	pieces of glass
19	cremated (human and/or animal bone) bone deposits
17	clay mould fragments
13	coprolites
12	human bones
9	lead objects
5	shale objects
4	sherds of Iron Age pottery
4	bricks
4	egg shells
2	tin objects
1	piece of animal dung
1	complete infant skeleton

1 tobacco sample
1 sherd of modern pottery

The list above gives the details of all the finds audited by the team during 2003. Some adjustments to totals are likely now that the finds assessments have taken take place and some items are reclassified by class or period. This is particularly the case for some ceramics which may have been misidentified as well as those more ambiguous objects such as burnt and fired clay and metallurgical waste which during assessments may be re-classified. *The existing records created during this present exercise will have to be amended during future work on the archives*.

During the audit exercise digital images of a selection of individual finds were taken. Approximately 300 images were created and these are stored as JPEGs on CD-ROM.

A complete list of all missing finds has also been completed. This will be updated during future work on the archive as necessary.

At the end of the finds audit, context information together with summary details of the finds were collated in tables and helped guide the team of specialists carrying out rapid assessments. Together with the context finds checklists (see above) these tables (held as electronic files) now form part of the research archives for individual sites.

5.2 Scope of finds assessments 2003 – 2004

Up until the above exercises had been successfully carried out, a complete overview of the total quantity of all the finds and the range of material categories was not readily available. The original project design (Nowakowski et al, 2003) noted that on the completion of this exercise further finds specialists may be identified and be invited to join the project team pending time and available resources. This was duly carried out with the proviso that only larger collections of material would be rapidly looked at this stage and smaller miscellaneous finds assessed at a future phase. Catherine Freeman was invited to conduct an assessment of the medieval and post medieval ceramics and Jennifer Foster was asked for comment on all metalwork, clay moulds and briquetage fragments. Sue Watts kindly collaborated with Henrietta Quinnell, Roger Taylor, Raumes Gallois, Carl Thorpe and Charles Thomas on the stonework

It was recognised from the outset that the timetable for this project was tight and that this would affect the level of detail that finds assessments could achieve at this phase of the project. Discussion and agreement on the scope of the assessments took place at a project team meeting held at the offices in Truro on 28th October 2003.

Team members were instructed to

- Focus attention on stratified groups of material
- Provide overviews of residual and unstratified finds
- Provide broad comment on the overall condition and quality of the finds
- Outline potential further analysis.
- Provide a series of recommendations for further work which would be linked to national and regional research aims.

5.3 Factual Data - Main features of the finds assemblages

Mesolithic artefacts

- Lithics and stone pebble tools form the largest archive within the Gwithian archive as a whole and totals approximately c. 20,000 + items. This is a considerable lithic assemblage with great research potential (see 6 below).
- At the Bronze Age site GB (a barrow), the remains of a Mesolithic land surface with a dense concentration of lithics suggestive of occupational activities was excavated. This represents the only stratified data-set of material from this period.
- Lithics of Mesolithic date were found in banded occupation horizons on the main Bronze Age sites (eg GM/X sites and GT).

Prehistoric and Roman ceramics

- One of the most significant components of the Gwithian archive comprises a large collection of ceramics dating from the early Neolithic, possible Late Neolithic, Beaker, Bronze Age, later Iron Age and Roman periods. The largest prehistoric assemblage dates to the 2nd Millennium BC (c. 1500 – 1000 BC).
- Early Neolithic and possible Later Neolithic pottery has been identified from sites GM/X, GM/XV, GM/IX, GM/XVI.
- Beaker pottery has been identified from a number of the Bronze Age sites.
- Two major collections of Trevisker wares have been identified at the main sites GM/X, GM/IX and GM/XV. These are linked to two major occupation horizons: layers 3 and 5 (see below).
- Limited Later Iron Age pottery is represented in the collection – found principally at site GH (Godrevy Hillside).
- A substantial collection of ceramics dating to the Roman period were recorded from stratified deposits at Porth Godrevy (GT/-). A smaller collection was found at Crane Godrevy (CG/-).
- Residues on the Trevisker material have extensive potential for dating.

Post Roman ceramics 5th to 10th centuries AD

Key groups of Post Roman ceramics – provisionally dating from 5th to 10th centuries AD – were excavated from localised stratified sequences recorded at GM/I, and related sites GM/A, GM/B, GM/E (GMVIII) and GM/IV. Native and imported wares are represented.

- Three main ceramic styles have been identified at GM/I and related post Roman sites. These are:
  1. The Gwithian Style comprising vessels of gabbroic clays of a variety of forms provisionally dated to 5th to 6th centuries AD (layer C).
  2. Early grass-marked ware comprising platters and jars with the characteristic "grass-marked" traits – provisionally dated to 6th to 9th centuries AD (layer B)
  3. Grass-marked bar-lug ware – platters and straight-sided cooking pots – provisionally dated to 9th to 11th centuries AD (layer A).
- Smaller but related groups of Post Roman ceramics have been identified from at a number of sites found at Sandy Lane (SL/-), OLS and HP (Hockin's Pit). Unlike the principal Post Roman sites centred on GM/I (see above) these sites were not systematically excavated and the finds were recovered from exposures across eroding land surfaces and middens.
- A great deal of the principal ceramic groups from GM/I and related sites are in good condition suggesting good primary data-sets with the potential for conjoins and reconstruction.
- A degree of mixing of ceramic styles across the main 3 occupation phases identified at the main Post Roman sites (layers A, B and C) has been noted

during this rapid assessment and work on reconstruction of the stratigraphy is a prerequisite before further assessment and analysis takes place.
- Securely dated key ceramic groups from secure phased contexts is a key priority for this material. The potential for residue dating has been noted.

Early Medieval ceramics 11th to 12th centuries AD
Medieval ceramics 12th to 15th centuries AD
- Early Medieval, Medieval and early post-medieval ceramics were found at Sandy Lane (SL/-) and Crane Godrevy (CG/-).
- A significant collection of Early Medieval pottery (1763 sherds) and medieval pottery (761 sherds) was recovered from exposures in midden deposits discovered at the 3 coded Sandy Lane sites (SL/-, OLS and HP (Hockin's Pit). Here 3 distinctive styles have been identified: Sandy Lane 1, Sandy Lane 2 and Sandy Lane 3.
- As an assemblage alone, the sandy lane styles are an important key ceramic group for the study of grass-marked pottery.
- Diagnostic traits suggest the Sandy Lane styles date from the 11th to 13th centuries AD.
- Some of the ceramic forms at SL/- link to ceramics identified in the latest deposits excavated from the stratified post Roman sequence found at GM/I and related sites.
- Some early medieval pottery has been identified at Crane Godrevy (CG/-).

Post medieval ceramics – 16th to 18th century AD
- A box of post medieval ceramics is recorded from Crane Godrevy. The exact numbers of sherds could not be ascertained due to the unwashed character of the material. Joins between sherds were however noted.
- Some other forms of regional medieval and later styles – such as North Devon gravel-tempered, gravel-free and/or calcareous wares were noted in the medieval and post medieval assemblages from Crane Godrevy.
- The overall quality of the medieval and post medieval pottery from Crane Godrevy generally appears to be fairly low and some localised Cornish styles echoing North Devon post medieval styles and utilising North Devon clays are apparent.
- The apparent general lack of post 17th pottery from Crane Godrevy was noted and on preliminary evidence its absence may be taken as an indication of the end of occupation at the site, as indicated by documentary sources.

Animal bone assemblages
- Animal bones form the largest artefact category within the entire Gwithian archive.
- There are substantial groups of bones from stratified contexts from the Bronze Age (GM/IX, GM/X, GM/Xv), post Roman (GM/IV, GM/I, GM/A, GM/E) and medieval site (CG).
- Smaller collections from small-scale investigations have been audited during this current exercise but were not assessed. Their potential research value is likely to be anecdotal.
- Selective recovery and sampling processes bias the representation of larger animals but some smaller mammals, fish and bird bones have been recorded.
- Differential levels of preservation were noted between sites of different chronological periods. Preliminary impressions indicate that the post Roman and medieval material on the whole was in a much better state of condition than the earlier Bronze Age material.
- The presence of intrusive burrowing species was noted.

- Cattle bones dominated the Bronze Age and post Roman assemblages. Smaller numbers of sheep and pigs were noted.
- The medieval assemblage comprises sheep/goat, cattle and low numbers of pigs.
- Smaller numbers of other domestic and wild animals were noted: equids, red deer, dog, hares and rabbits, otter and rodents. Domestic fowl, fish and small sea birds were noted.
- The archive as a whole derives from an important localised sequence of occupation and past settlement whose further analysis will provide detailed commentaries on changing economic practices and the history of land-use within the Gwithian area for 3 main phases of settlement: the Bronze Age, the post Roman period and the medieval period.

Worked bone

- There are reasonably-sized worked bone assemblages within the Bronze Age archives, the post Roman archives and the medieval archives. The largest assemblage (63) was excavated from the Bronze Age sites.
- A wide range of worked bone tools have been identified and include pins, combs, needles, pot stamps, weaving shuttles, beads, a plaque, scoops/gouges and spindle whorls. The wide variety of tools for the Bronze Age sites makes this collection unique and future study will reveal a great deal about economic resources and on-site craft related activities such as leather-working, pottery manufacture, fishing etc.
- This category of find was not assessed during this present exercise.

Neolithic and Bronze Age Lithics – flint and chert

- A smaller assemblage of lithics diagnostic of Mesolithic/Neolithic and Bronze Age periods was excavated from stratified deposits during several of the major excavations. These are in addition to the large, principally surface collection of Mesolithic finds (see above).
- Primary data-sets have been identified from Bronze Age sites: GM/V, GM/IX, GM/X, GM/XI, GM/XIV and GM/XV.
- Residual data-sets have been recorded from post Roman sites: GM/IV, GM/I, GM/A and GM/B and medieval sites GM/XXI and CG.
- The largest and most significant key groups are Mesolithic/Neolithic and Bronze Age in date from the major Bronze Age sites and were found in layers 7 and 8, 3 and 5.
- Diagnostic traits have broadly identified two principal technologies which are likely to relate to 2 distinct chronological phases. These are noted for layers 7 and 8 and by layer 3. Activities based on blade and bladelette production where related cores have been noted characterise the material from layers 7 and 8. Knives, scrapers and flakes with limited waste tend to characterise material found in layer 3.
- Local pebble flint dominates the assemblage although some pieces of nodular flint and Portland Chert have been identified.
- On the whole the key groups from stratified contexts display various degrees of patination/cortication and wear. Material in pristine material was noted from layers 7 and 8 and 3. Material from these occupation horizons are broadly considered to be primarily *in situ*.

Shale

- A small collection of shale objects were found from Bronze Age sites GM/IX and GM/X. This collection is unique and forms an unparalleled data-set for sites of the MBA period for the South West.

- Kimmeridge shale (possible source being the Purbeck area of Dorset) has been identified in this collection and indicates resource exchange networks.
- Some evidence for the manufacture of shale or "shale-like" objects from layer 3 contexts at the BA sites has been noted. This is further suggested by the presence of one item of "local slate" BN87 (site GM/IX) which has been identified as part of an unfinished "bracelet". The probability of on-site craft production of shale objects seems likely for the main layer 3 occupation on the Bronze Age sites.

Metalwork – Copper alloy

- There are small assemblages of copper alloy objects from the main Bronze Age sites (10), the Roman site of Porth Godrevy (22), the main post Roman sites (9) and the medieval site of Crane Godrevy (22).
- Many different types of objects have been identified including brooches, coins, a buckle and pins. Fragments of other unidentified objects are also listed.
- All of the finds were found in stratified contexts.

Metalwork - Ironwork

- A large ironwork assemblage has been catalogued across the Gwithian archives from sites of different periods. These total 334 objects many of which have been identified and over which 97% were found in stratified contexts. There is a wide variety of tools including knife blades, agricultural tools, and horse shoes.
- 9 items listed for the main Bronze Age sites (GM/V and GM/X) are likely to be from intrusive contexts.
- 16 items of ironwork were excavated from stratified contexts on the Roman site – Porth Godrevy (GT).
- A substantial ironwork assemblage totalling 115 items was excavated from the main post Roman sites (CF, GM/IV, GM/XX, GM/A, GM/E). the majority were from stratified contexts.
- The largest ironwork assemblage (190) was excavated from the medieval site of Crane Godrevy. 95% of these were from stratified contexts.

Medieval and post-medieval window glass

- A small collection and fragments of window glass of probable medieval date was found from stratified contexts at the medieval site of Crane Godrevy (CG).
- This category of find was not assessed during this present exercise

Window leading

- Eight fragments of leading for windows was found from a stratified context at the medieval site of Crane Godrevy.
- This category of find was not assessed during this present exercise

Human bone/cremated burials

- Small deposits of alleged burnt human bone were listed from the main Bronze Age site GM/X. These were described as cremation deposits. Remains of adult males have been identified in 4 samples.
- One incomplete skeleton from an inhumation burial (neonate) was found in a low depression under the turf wall of one of the layer 3 houses (GM/X).

Prehistoric, Roman, Post Roman and Medieval stonework

- One of the largest classes of finds in the Gwithian archive is stonework, mostly unmodified. These were excavated from contexts from a wide date range – the Bronze Age, Roman, post Roman and medieval periods and found at most of the

sites. Such a large collection merited a separate coding system and during the project a stonework register was maintained.
- The largest stonework assemblage relates to the Bronze Age sites: GM/IX, GM/X and GM/XV – over 500 items.
- Across all periods an astonishing array of tool types have been identified – from cereal processing equipment, to leather-working tools, fishing equipment, pottery stamps (for making decoration on pots) and moulds used for the production of metalwork. The specific categories for each site are listed in tables in the assessment report. The variety is tremendous making this collection unique. It is of sufficient merit to warrant a detailed study emphasising the potential research value of stone objects from prehistoric, Roman and post Roman contexts.
- The striking absence of stone spindle whorls from any of the Gwithian sites is noted.
- The exceptional preservation of the objects has been noted and the potential for usewear studies is evident.
- Key groups of stonework have been identified for further specific study and a geological study is proposed as an apparent wide variety of locally sourced stone in addition to non-local stone have been noted.

Metallurgical waste material
- A small collection of metallurgical waste/debris – principally iron working waste products - has been identified from 3 main sites in the Gwithian archive. These were sites of different periods.
- Metallurgical waste was recorded from the Bronze Age site GM/V, the post Roman sites GM/I and GM/XX and the medieval site of Crane Godrevy (CG).
- The largest collection and most significant assemblage comprises fragments of run slag, tap slag, fuel ash slag and smithing hearth bottoms which have been identified from the post Roman sites GM/I and GM/XX. Iron-smelting and working on a small scale has been suggested.
- Iron working on a small-scale – probably smithing – may have taken place at Crane Godrevy during the medieval period.

Briquetage
- Several fragments of briquetage have now been identified from the Roman site of Porth Godrevy (GT). Pieces of trough for the drying of salt have been identified. This is new information for the interpretation of this site.

Prehistoric Baked clay
- Baked clay fragments and parts of objects were found in Bronze Age contexts (sites GM/IX and GM/X).
- Structural “daub” together with fragments of moulds (see below), weights and possible “kiln furniture” have been identified.
- Local sources of clay are suggested.

Clay moulds
- Several fragments of clay bronze casting moulds have been identified. The majority were found at the Bronze Age sites (GM/IX and GM/XV). 1 fragment was found at the post Roman site (GM/I).

Molluscs and Crustaceans
- Stratified deposits of marine molluscs were excavated from the 3 principal excavations and respectively date to the Bronze Age, post Roman and medieval periods.

- The notable absence of food waste in all of these assemblages may be the results of selective retention after excavation although this would still not wholly explain the paucity of edible marine shells from the archives.
- The largest assemblage (661) was excavated from site GM/X and these contain low numbers of the following gastropods: limpet, dog whelk, common whelk, together with parts of mussels and cockles. Crab claws and fragments of cuttlefish were noted. A notable number of the specimens have been modified by human agency – perforations and displaying signs of being worked. The majority are from stratified contexts.
- A significant number of perforated shells (some of which are perforated by natural processes and others by human hand) have been noted from the Bronze Age sites which is suggestive of deliberate resource gathering and exploitation beyond a primary economic requirement.
- Similar trends and processes outlined above were noted in the groups excavated from the post Roman sites – GM/I, GM/A, GM/B – which comprise similar species although with a greater abundance of oyster shells.
- Overall the assemblage from the medieval site is remarkably modest but comprises a large number of marine shells, 14 land snails and 36 crab shell fragments. Initial impressions show an overall difference in species from earlier chronological phases at Gwithian.

Charcoal

- The charcoal samples recovered during work at Gwithian form a surprisingly small collection in light of the extensive and numerous excavations which took place throughout the life of the project. 104 samples are listed and all were recovered by hand. Nonetheless, however small a collection, they comprise a valuable environmental and economic record for the major chronological phases recorded throughout the main sites.
- Samples were recovered from Bronze Age, Romano-British, post Roman and medieval contexts.
- The largest collection (53) were recovered from the post Roman excavations at GM/I and GM/E.
- Species identification has been possible and a wide range of taxa has been identified.
- All the samples were assessed for their potential for C14 dating.

Coprolites

- Fourteen coprolites have been listed. Three were from the BA site GM/X, 10 from the post Roman site GM/I and one was from the medieval site CG. None were assessed during this current exercise. Nine were from stratified deposits.

Soil samples

- The soil samples vary considerably in size and their potential value for useful and specific palaeo-environmental data is likely to be limited. None were assessed during this current exercise. There are 76 soil samples in total, most of which are from stratified deposits.

5.4 Conservation Report by Vanessa Fell

5.4.1 Introduction

This assessment report relates principally to the metalwork from Crane Godrevy, Porth Godrevy and Gwithian. A few other classes of material were rapidly scanned for possible conservation requirements during a visit 22-23 January 2004.

The present rapid appraisal will probably also fulfil most of the requirements for the assessment report without an additional visit to examine the material.

5.4.2 Method of assessment

All metal finds were individually examined, visually and rapidly, in conjunction with Jennifer Foster and Carl Thorpe.

Material examined and quantification

The finds were examined at two locations: at Charles Thomas's house, Lambessow and at the Royal Cornwall Museum, Truro. The principal groups examined were:

At Lambessow:

Crane Godrevy (CG), medieval	1 copper alloy
Porth Godrevy (GT) IA/Romano	2 copper alloy
Gwithian Bronze Age	10 copper alloy
Gwithian Midden (GM) post-Roman/Dark Age	5 copper alloy
	1 lead alloy
	c. 28 iron

At Royal Cornwall Museum:

c. 300 iron finds and a few copper alloy and lead, from the following groups:

Crane Godrevy Boxes CG 25, 26, 27, 28, + misc
Porth Godrevy Box GT misc
Gwithian Box GM 27

Records of previous treatments

Apparently many finds including pottery and metalwork were coated and consolidated with polyvinyl acetate solutions (PVA) by Charles Thomas and his team. Some other metal finds were sent to 'hist arch' for conservation according to a note on one sheet of drawings. The details of these treatments are not known.

5.4.3 Metalwork at Lambessow

These are some of the better preserved and more important items, spanning Bronze Age to medieval periods. They are currently packed in cotton wool within matchboxes or similar, or are loose in a tray, and are normally stored at ambient conditions. All or most have been illustrated in the past, some as outline drawings, and a few have been provisionally published or included in interim reports.

Copper alloy

Several of the copper alloy are whole objects which are robust and in excellent condition. Two at least have been stripped to metal but others are well patinated and all appear to be stable. These objects have been coated with consolidants.

Of the items not treated, nine objects (8 bags) are probably Bronze Age and include a length of rapier blade which is in the condition as found. The others are very small fragments of sheet metal, plus a metal spillage and bar of small cross-section. There are also six fragments of sheet from post-Roman contexts.

The rapier blade has a patinated blade which is disturbed by areas of severe (warty) corrosion. There are also shelly deposits on the surface. One end has a recent fracture showing a core of cuprite, suggesting that the condition along the length may not be very robust. In addition, there are a few fine cracks running longitudinally. It is not advised that the accretions are removed because this could disfigure the surface and destabilise the artefact. For the purpose of illustration, the cross-section can be obtained from the blade and from the fracture.

Lead alloy

A post-Roman dagger hilt (GM/M/84) may be made of lead or tin-lead alloy. The condition is very corroded but it is stable and robust.

Iron

In general the condition of the ironwork is fairly good despite some items appearing to have flaked superficially. In a few cases there are recent fissures or fractures but modern corrosion damage is not a great problem for the group. Most items are coated with PVA or other consolidants and this has held the flakes together. A few items look as if they have been chemically or electrolytically stripped in the distant past (possibly these are finds treated by 'hist arch' noted above). Others may have had surface soil and other deposits removed mechanically. The accretions that remain are in general not thick or too obscuring. Generally the artefacts seem to be stable.

5.4.4 Finds in the Royal Cornwall Museum

Copper alloy

Porth Godrevy coins

The coins are flaking at the edges and are very fragile. None has been cleaned although some are clearly radiates. The surfaces are obscured by superficial accretions of copper corrosion products mixed with soil/shelly deposits.

Other copper alloy

There are few other copper alloy finds and these appear to be stable and not obscured by accretions.

Lead alloy

Window cames are clean, consolidated, and appear to be stable.

Iron

Some of the iron finds are flaking or are fissured but the majority seem to be reasonably stable. In particular this applies to the finds which are of small cross-section and thus are likely to be totally corroded. Many items have been coated with a consolidant and to some extent this must be holding together those which have fractured. In general, the corrosion layers are not thick, possibly because loose soil and other accretions were removed at the time of excavation.

Some finds, perhaps about 10 or 20 percent and mainly nails, are very fragmentary and have shattered. Finds in this condition are unlikely to repair satisfactorily because shattered ironwork has usually expanded in size and does not repair fully. Nor will these items survive much handling or travelling. For these reasons, radiography is not a sensible option because little information would be gained.

Glass (Crane Godrevy)

Small sherds of glass, mainly window glass from the manor house, are friable and fragmentary and have deteriorated during storage. However, these are not painted sherds and are of not of great significance to the understanding of the site. There are also a few sherds of vessel glass, which, on the basis of their condition, are probably post-medieval or even modern. (Some of these glass sherds were originally catalogued as 'horn'.)

Pottery

A few reconstructed vessels were examined briefly. CAU has already decided not to take down and reconstruct those vessels where original constructions are now seen as inaccurate.

Apparently the collection has numerous sherds of pottery with food residues including many sherds which have not been over cleaned or consolidated. These sherds will probably form the principal type of C14 dateable material.

5.4.5 Long-Term Storage Requirements

Metalwork at Lambessow

The need for repackaging and boxing of the small finds is known to Cornwall Archaeological Unit but the finds are in the landowner's possession. Possibly this task could be taken on by CAU during the finds archive preparation and consolidation. Or perhaps the owner could be encouraged to repackage and rebox these items himself, using for example acid-free tissue and polystyrene ('crystal') boxes.

Finds in the Royal Cornwall Museum

The finds and their labels have been transferred from paper packets into new polythene bags and into archival acid-free storage boxes. Many of the metal and other small finds are still within the original matchbox or similar box of card, wood or metal. These inner boxes have usually been retained in order to limit the disruption to flaking and fragile objects, some of which are balanced together by the original cotton wool. About half of the iron objects, the glass sherds and some other finds (not the coins) are currently stored this way.

For longer-term storage, these boxes should be replaced with more stable materials, such as polystyrene ('crystal') boxes with acid-free tissue or foam as support materials.

Because the metalwork has been stored at ambient humidity for some decades, none has been placed in desiccated storage in order to avoid physical shock. At present this is probably a wise decision but should probably be reviewed after a few years.

6 FACTUAL DATA ON THE GWITHIAN SITES – CHRONOLOGY, STRUCTURE & STRATIGRAPHY – Major sites

The following section provides synthetic accounts and overviews of the principal sites investigated during the Gwithian project. The archives are large and contain a great deal of data which can only, within the current remit of this present exercise, be presented in summary. Detailed assessment reports are presented in the appendices.

6.1 Mesolithic archive – the sites – an overview

A large number of sites have been identified as primarily Mesolithic in date within the Gwithian study area. To date at least 20 "sites" have been identified.

The main sites are:

- BZ
- CM
- GB
- GBN
- GP
- GT
- GU
- GY
- HU
- HU/NE
- HU/SS
- KY
- ND
- OLS/Hockin's pit
- OLS/WE
- PEH
- PT
- RDK
- RR
- UL

Their locations are shown on Fig. 5

6.1.1 Main features

The character and scales of these sites vary but all have been identified through the discovery of dense distributions of flints and pebble tools. A considered overview of the varied character of Mesolithic sites has been produced (Unpubd memo, Thomas 5th March 2003).

Artefacts of Mesolithic date have been collected as part of the Gwithian project since the 1950s. The majority of collections from identified sites have been accumulated through field walking and examination of exposures of former land surfaces. Opportunities throughout the 1980s, 90s and more recently in 2002-2003 to monitor and revisit documented sites have added to the larger numbers of flints within the individual site archives (see especially HU sites). A smaller collection of material has been recorded during the excavations of major sites of later periods – such as GB (Godrevy Barrow), at the RB site at Porth Godrevy (GT).

A striking aspect of the Gwithian Mesolithic sites is that the majority appear to be well-preserved and in situ. The potential for further palaeo-environmental sampling is high (see below).

At the HU sites systematic gridded collections of flints following occasional episodes of ploughing took place in 1998-9 and 2003.

The largest collection of Mesolithic date has been recorded from the HU sites. This amounts to12,000+ items: flints and pebble-tools.

6.1.2 History of research to date

The importance of the growing collection of material of this period was clearly recognised during the major 1950s campaign and summary statements on the Mesolithic were published (Thomas 1958a and Thomas 1958b). Some of the sites were listed in Wymer and Bonsall's gazetteer produced for the CBA in 1977 (Wymer & Bonsall). Analysis of at least 8 sites from Gwithian was undertaken by Roger Jacobi in the 1970s (Jacobi 1975, 1979) when a Later Mesolithic date was proposed. Susan Palmer referred to the Hudder Field archive as a major "type-site" (Palmer 1977 *Mesolithic Cultures of Britain*). In the 1986 overview of the Cornish Mesolithic produced by Peter Berridge and Alison Roberts, the importance of the Gwithian collection is clearly stated (Berridge and Roberts 1986, 7 – 34).

Preliminary analysis of sixteen sites was conducted by Alison Roberts in the mid. 1980s as part of a postgraduate programme of research (Roberts 1985-1986 and forms one chapter as a case study in her unpublished PhD, Roberts pers.com). These two studies comprise more detailed work on the material and currently form the latest statements on material from this period from Gwithian.

6.1.3 Principal results

1. The sixteen studied assemblages (Roberts 1985-1986) comprise flint and chert resources very likely to have derived from small beach pebbles. Another dominant feature of the assemblage are "pebble-tools" or bevelled pebbles (Roberts 1985-1986, 6).
2. A marked uniformity in lithic and chert technology was noted across 16 sites (Roberts 1985-1986, 6-7). Knapping activities appeared evident "on most if not all of the sites" (Roberts 1985-1986, 7). It was concluded that flint and chert were brought as whole items to the various locations to be worked into tools. Waste products (debitage and "unfinished" beach (flint & chert)) pebbles are a common feature of all the assemblages.
3. Of the sixteen sites examined by Roberts – retouched tools were noted. These included end scrapers, microliths, occasional transverse arrowheads, microburins and a number of miscellaneous (unclassified items) (Roberts 1985-1986, 7).
4. Overall the evidence points to a prosperous location rich in resources for "repeated visits" by gatherer-hunter groups. Within current thinking a substantial presence (probably) during the later Mesolithic period seems evident.
5. Different scales of activity are evident with some sites appearing to be more major than others although the actual extent of many are hard to determine. The largest archive – from Hudder field – suggests a major activity area. Possible stratification may be extant at the Hudder Field sites as indeed three sites: GT, BZ and RR.

6.1.4 Highlighting potential for further fieldwork and management recommendations

Whilst it is recognised that this present project proposal is focused on the study and publication of results already achieved to date it is also important to highlight the potential to conduct further systematic fieldwork on these Mesolithic sites within the Gwithian study area. In particular some Mesolithic sites have been recorded as exposures and have been provisionally interpreted as former (buried and *in situ*) relict land surfaces. Such level of preservation has been noted at the following sites:

- GT – where stratification is visible
- HU – where stratification may exist
- BZ – a brown soil layer producing shell, flint and pebbles
- RR – stratification may exist. In 1999 “a small stone structure or hearth” was noted (Thomas 2003).

These sites continue to be vulnerable to erosion by climatic and human agencies. Some are currently in National Trust ownership and some small-scale fieldwork to confirm their actual significance is recommended in order to mitigate against further erosion and prevent long – term damage.

- Geomorphological sampling together with radiometric and/or OLS dating is recommended at a number of the sites listed above (see Fig 5).

- Site HU is a particularly significant site where over the past decade or so the largest quantities and densities of lithics and pebble tools have been collected during systematic fieldwalking. A small-scale evaluation exercise centred on a few well targeted trenches would confirm whether significant buried surfaces are present here and aid interpretation of the character of the enormous lithic and stone-tool archive for this site. Successful results here are likely to sharpen the focus of interpretation on date and character of other Mesolithic sites found in the Gwithian study area.

6.2 Bronze Age Sites

Clearly one of the major phases of human occupation and activity in the Gwithian study area relates to the 2nd Millennium BC. The evidence for this covers a large number of distinct sites which are inter-related and whose full study will collectively provide detailed commentary on the history of settlement for this period.

The following section discusses the major results of work on each site and provides summaries of the main features which have arisen from the rapid assessments conducted by the specialists on the team who were requested to focus on significant data-sets. Specific tasks for further work are presented in the methods statement section of this report.

6.2.1 Godrevy Barrow – GB

Godrevy Barrow was one of the first sites to be investigated on the Gwithian project (Fig. 7). Two seasons of work here during 1950 and 1952 centrally revealed a fairly disturbed barrow mound. Consequently only partial excavation of the barrow mound took place. A well-preserved and *in situ* Mesolithic flint scatter was discovered beneath the mound. The E-W section was re-excavated in 1958.

ARTEFACTS

The following finds were found during work at GB: a copper alloy brooch, flints dating to the Mesolithic period. Fragmented cremated bone was recorded as having been excavated from an associated pit as well as quartz pebbles.

Main points arising from the finds assessments

GB flints

1. A small but unquantified assemblage of flints dating to the Mesolithic period. These were not assessed during this current exercise although the material was excavated from a sealed Mesolithic ground surface under the barrow mound.

GB copper alloy

1. A small copper alloy penannular brooch of probable Roman date *c.* 2nd to 3rd centuries AD has been suggested (Fowler 1962, 76). The find was from a topsoil context and has been published (Fowler 1962, 76). It is recorded as having bee lost by the RIC in the 1950s.

All the GB finds (1950-52 and 58) were re-bagged and marked in 1990 and together with the archive, including drawings and photographs, are stored at Lambessow in three large boxes. An incomplete draft report on the work has been produced.

6.2.2 Overall comment on archive

The quality of the extant paper record will permit the full details of this investigation to be written up. Further fieldwork would add to the accuracy of the extant information and a total station survey is required. A published account of work at this site is recommended to add to overall commentary on history of land use for the Bronze Age period at Gwithian. Assessment of Mesolithic archive is required.

6.3 Bronze Age Settlement And Fields. Sites: GM/V, GM/IX, GM/X, GM/XI (includes GM/XII, GM/XIII), GM/XIV, GM/XV and GM/XVI.

At a number of sites evidence for a major phase of occupation dating to the 2nd Millennium BC was discovered over the course of 10 years fieldwork which began with the investigation of an alleged barrow in 1955 (site GM/V). This was the first investigation where the main stratigraphic sequence (see below) was encountered and where the Gwithian team were to discover the well-preserved potential of the Gwithian sites in general. GM/V was initially interpreted and furthermore discussed in print as a barrow (Thomas 1958), but it was re-interpreted some years later following the discoveries of work at nearby sites GM/XIV, GM/X and GM/XI. Over the course of many seasons work on sites GM/IX, GM/X, GM/XI, GM/XII, GM/XIII, GM/XIV, GM/XV and GM/XVI, a detailed picture of evidence for two main phases of Bronze Age settlement began to emerge. Wooden and stone built structures were found alongside field ditches, fields with the surviving shadows of the spade and plough, ditched enclosures, cremation pits and middens. Much of the remains uncovered was found to be extraordinary in its well-preserved state and a great deal was entirely new to British prehistory: direct evidence for agrarian activities in the form of fields, surfaces imprinted with plough and spade marks, stone and wooden houses dating to this period in particular, had not been found in Britain before.

6.3.1 Structure and stratigraphy – state of interpretation 1962

On the conclusion of the 1962 season an assessment was made of the results of all work on the **main Bronze Age sites** where a distinctive stratigraphic sequence had been recorded – that is sites GM/V, GM/IX, GM/X and GM/XV and other contiguous sites (memo by Charles Thomas dated 12.04.03). This distinctive sequence comprised 9 horizontal layers which were equated to 9 distinctive episodes of alternative occupation and abandonment. The chronological dates of these occupation horizons were tied into distinctive and diagnostic ceramic assemblages.

Top down the layers were identified as the following and have recently been summarised by Charles Thomas (ibid. 2003) as:

Layer 1 Present short turf, grass, thyme etc with minimal subsoil

Layer 2 Sterile fine blown sand with land snails. Depth varied from 1 to 10 feet. A discontinuous Aeolian sand mass which had formed over last three millennia. Some tramlines – narrow bands – representing minor regeneration episodes between major sand blows where recorded in several sites. One was dated by pottery to 10-11th century AD and another to 14th century AD.

Layer 3 Dark brown occupation horizon – varied from 6 to 12" in depth. Stone walled agricultural building on GM/IX dated by pottery to late Bronze Age. Major Bronze Age horizon.

Layer 4 Sterile wind blown sand.

Layer 5 Ginger brown occupation horizon. "Farm" with ard-cultivated fields, lynchets, spade marks and rectilinear field system of 4 or 5 small "fields". Major Bronze Age horizon. Dated by pottery to Middle Bronze Age.

Note: In 1963 charcoal from cremation fire in 4 pits from this layer produced a radiocarbon date of 3070 $\pm$ 103 (Radiocarbon 5 1963, 36)1000 BC. This was re-assessed and calibrated by Burgess in 1976 as c. 1300 cal BC (Burgess 1976, 75).

Layer 6 Sterile wind blown sand.

Layer 7 Narrow brown layer. Vegetation cloaked by sand layer above it. Some "Beaker" style pottery with hint of short-lived occupation above the GM/XV house found in layer 8. *Note*: published by Megaw in 1976 as early Bronze Age occupation.

Layer 8 Reddish-brown and compact layer – notably context of two-phase layer 8, GM/XV, house of Beaker and late Neolithic date (published by Megaw in 1976). Dated by pottery to Late Neolithic/EBA. Thin depth to layer 8 when recorded and possibility that it contained earlier Mesolithic flint and pebble tools when encountered has been noted.

Note in 1963 Aitken produced an archaeomagnetic date from the hearth pit in house 8 (2nd phase) c. 1700 BC (Aitken and Weaver 1962, 1964)

Layer 9 Bedrock. Devonian slate locally known as killas. Archaeologically sterile.

6.3.2 Current working interpretations 2003 and main recommendation

The above banded sequence represents the key structural episodes and former land surfaces detected by the Gwithian team during their work on the principal Bronze Age sites. These layers are the key stratigraphic sequence and context unit and form the vital link between the paper and material archives. The assessment has shown that the physical extent of these layers can be determined across the many

sites/cuttings which make up the Bronze Age sites in the available documentation and it is apparent that layer 3, in particular, was not laterally extensive.

Two main Bronze Age occupation horizons
These distinctive cultural horizons have been dated by diagnostic ceramics at a time when research into domestic ceramics for the 2nd Millennium BC was in its infancy. The generic ceramic style "Trevisker" ware (typified by cord-impressed and incised pottery) had not yet been fully adopted and recognised as ApSimon and Greenfield's excavation at the "site type" ran concurrently with the Gwithian project. The key type series – Trevisker - that was to established this regional ceramic tradition for the Bronze Age period was only published some 20 years later (see ApSimon and Greenfield 1972). The ceramic assessment in 2003 confirmed that the assemblages from layers 5 and 3 in particular were very distinctive and formed separate individually coherent groups – recognisably within the Trevisker tradition. The implication being that there was conclusive evidence for at least 2 very marked episodes of occupation during the Bronze Age at Gwithian.

Reviewing former interpretations
The finds assessments in 2003 have highlighted new areas of information on the character and life-histories of the main two phases of occupation at Gwithian during the Bronze Age presenting us with the opportunity to reconsider past interpretations and present new ideas.

Those which have emerged during this initial phase of work on the archive are presented in summary below. It is anticipated that further ideas will emerge during future detailed work on the material.

- Evidence for a late Neolithic/Beaker presence at the site rested upon the evidence recorded at those sites where layer 7/8 were recorded. However it is now apparent that the layer 7/8 occupation horizon was not so clearly understood. This is particularly so for the ceramics associated with contexts assigned to a Beaker phase and linked to the "Beaker" house and it is now evident that a critical review of Megaw's interpretation of the structure found at GM/XV and published during the 1970s as a layer 7/8 house of Beaker date (Megaw 1976), will form a major aim of future post excavation work. Ceramics dating to the early Neolithic and Beaker periods have been noted during the ceramics assessment in 2003 although these were not directly related to the round building, while there was a good range of Trevisker sherds in association with it. Whilst some indication of activities relating to the 3rd Millennium BC is evident at Gwithian, detailed commentary of the character of these phases of activities, on the basis of current understanding, appears unlikely.
- A specialised character to the nature of occupation at Gwithian during the layer 3 phase (see above) is now likely. The ceramic assessment has identified evidence for the manufacture of pottery on-site. This is the first ceramic production site dating to the 2nd millennium BC found in the South West. In addition a high degree of specialised craft activities is also evident in the shale, stone and worked bone archives. In this light some reconsideration of features initially interpreted as "cremation mounds" is required as current assessments have shown that no human bone was identified in these contexts. The possibility that they were related to ceramic production and other low-scale industrial activities should now be considered.
- The distinctive ceramic assemblage from layer 5 contexts display marked differences in stylistic forms from that ascribed to layer 3. The implications of

this are still not quite clear but could suggest that the character of settlement during the layer 5 phase was of a completely different nature to that of the succeeding layer 3 occupation horizon.

A dating programme

The need for independent verification through scientific dating of these 3 major occupation horizons (that is layer 7/8, 5 and 3) is all too clear. It is recommended that spot dating from suitable material from horizons 7/8, 5 and 3 forms part of an initial dating programme once work on stratigraphic reconstruction is completed. In the first instance this should take place on the completion of the proposed reconstruction of layer 3 (see below) when the identification of specific samples from sealed contexts for accelerator dating takes place.

Stratigraphic reconstruction

It is proposed that the next phase of work on the structural and stratigraphic record for the Bronze Age sites, in the first instance, is confined to the reconstruction of layer 3 on the two main sites: **GM/IX** and **GM/X**. These sites were immediately adjacent to each other and together contained the layer 3 settlement. They have the largest archives and it is suggested that the apparent coherence of the ceramic groups from layer 3 from each site will provide some clear indication of the extent and history of settlement occupation at Gwithian for the 2nd Millennium BC (see below).

The reconstruction of site **GM/XV** is recommended as a separate exercise.

6.3.3. Key points arising from the finds assessments – all sites

The factual information relating to all classes of data from these sites are presented in the collated details for each site as well as the assessment reports presented in the appendices. The following summaries list the key features of the individual finds assessments.

Prehistoric Ceramics from all Bronze Age sites

1. Early Neolithic and possible Late Neolithic Grooved ware have been identified from sites **GM/X, GM/XV** and **GM/IX** from layers 8, 3, 2/5. These represent a small abraded collection of material from mixed layers suggesting residuality.
2. A small collection of abraded Beaker material was identified from a number of extensively spread locations across the Bronze Age sites which hints at residuality. It is apparent that there is no conclusive evidence that the round structure found at **GM/XV** is of Beaker date as previously interpreted (Megaw 1976 and see 4 below).
3. The largest ceramic assemblage c. 3000 sherds are Trevisker styles dating to the 2nd Millennium BC. Sites **GM/X** and **GM/IX** produced the largest collection principally from layer 3. This layer 3 Trevisker assemblage was very distinctive in character and, although of gabbroic fabric, had features indicating on-site manufacture. Note that an unfired sample of gabbroic clay was recovered.
4. A sizeable collection (221) of Trevisker sherds were recovered from site **GM/XV** and were associated with the round structure (previously considered to be of Beaker date, Megaw, *ibid* and see above).
5. The Trevisker ceramic assemblage now found to be confidently associated with the round structure found at **GM/XV** (layer 5) (see 4 above) displays a notably varied qualitative character in contrast to other comparative groups from other contexts across the Bronze Age sites. Some consideration of the site formation processes and issues surrounding deposition and context are likely to richly inform contextual analysis.

6. Smaller groups of Trevisker pottery were found at a number of "minor" sites relating to the Bronze Age investigations at Gwithian. These were from sites **GM/V** (15 sherds), **GM/XI** (2 sherds), **GM/XIV** (6 sherds), **GMXVI** (9 sherds), **GMXXI** (13 sherds) and **GW** (6 sherds). All of these sites produced material of mixed date and these small data-sets are therefore secondary contexts with the possible exception of site **GM/XI** where 2 "fresh" sherds may suggest a primary deposit.
7. Grain impressions were noted on several prehistoric sherds and these form important indirect evidence for arable practice given the absence of macroplant fossils from Bronze Age contexts.
8.. A handful of Trevisker sherds were found within the midden deposits recorded at Sandy Lane (site **SL**, see section 7.4). These were found together with material of Roman and medieval date and are from residual and redeposited contexts. There presence at Sandy Lane is of general interest in highlighting the possible extent of Bronze Age activities with the general local landscape at Gwithian.

Prehistoric Baked Clay from all Bronze Age sites

1. Approximately 208 pieces of baked clay were found from layer 3 at sites **GM/IX** and **GM/X**.
2. Some baked fragments appear to be broken bits of larger objects – possibly loomweights or even "kiln furniture" used in the processes of ceramic production.
3. Fragments of "structural daub" have been identified. Local clay sources are suggested.
4. Several clay mould fragments and an unusual "sand" mould have been recorded.
5. The absence of baked clay from contexts associated with the round building found at **GM/XV** is striking. This further highlights contrasts and differences already perceived between the two main phases of Bronze Age activities at Gwithian.

Clay mould fragment from GM/IX

1. A two-piece clay casting mould of a possible rapier (**GMIX** bag 46 cutting 2/3 layer 3/5) has been identified.

Lithics from all Bronze Age sites

1. 22 lithics were found at site **GM/IX** (table 1). 141 lithics were found at site **GM/X** (table 1).
2. The majority of flints from **GM/IX** were excavated from layer 3.
3. The majority of flints from site **GM/X** were excavated from layer 3 with smaller proportions from layers 2, 7 and 8 and 5 and 6. Those from layers 2 and 6 are likely to be residual whilst others may be most closely associated with primary contexts.
4. Bladelet production may have taken place in earlier phases of activity (layers 7 and 8) although the majority of the assemblage is characterised by knives and scrapers of poor and largely re-worked quality (layers 3 and 5).
5. The general absence of classic flint tools in the form of distinctive scrapers and knives and awls is noted although it is also noted that this small repertoire of lithic tools appear to be contemporary with a wide variety of worked bone and stone implements which may have been used in related activities such as leather and wood working.

Shale from all Bronze Age sites

1. 7 fragments of shale objects have been identified from sites **GM/X** and **GM/IX** (see table HQ1).
2. All appear to be parts of "bracelets".
3. 5 are of Kimmeridge shale and the remaining 2 of "local slates".
4. At least one item (**GMX** layer 3?) is part of a bracelet of Roman date and is therefore likely to be a intrusive find.
5. The remaining 6 shale fragments are of MBA date and display unusual traits. One (BN87) appears to be the fragment of a finished bracelet whilst the other 5 are parts of unfinished bracelets.
6. The on-site manufacture of shale objects is suggested and this would appear to form part of small-scale craft activities during the main layer 3 occupation.

Stonework from all Bronze Age sites

1. c. 330 stone objects were recorded from site **GM/X** (see table HQ2) and just under 60 recorded from site **GM/IX** (see table HQ3).
2. At both sites a large variety of tool types have been identified and the largest groups are from layer 3 (see tables HQ2 and HQ3).
3. Initial impressions are that this collection (from **GM/X** and **GM/IX**) differs in quality and variety from that found at site **GM/XV** (see below).
4. A stone mould was found at **GM/X** layer 3 and has been published by Colin Burgess "Appendix II. The Gwithian mould and forerunners of South Welsh Axes" in Megaw (ibid 1976, p 69-75, fig. 4.8c).

Animal bone from all Bronze Age sites

1. The largest group of animal bones within the Gwithian archive are from the Bronze Age sites: **GM/V, GM/IX, GM/X** and **GM/XV**.
2. 38 animal bone fragments from stratified contexts were excavated at **GM/V.**
3. 223 stratified animal bone fragments and 712 unstratified animal bone fragments were excavated from site **GM/IX**.
4. 290 stratified animal bones fragments and 984 unstratified bones were found at **GM/X**.
5. 281 stratified animal bone fragments were excavated at **GM/XV**.
6. The overall poor quality and condition of the BA animal bone has been noted and this requires some consideration through study to determine whether this was due to the use and exploitation of the various animal groups identified , site formation and taphonomic processes.

Worked animal bone from all Bronze Age sites

1. Worked animal bone objects were a characteristic find of the Bronze Age sites and comprised many tools including bone pins, needles and pot stamps. 63 worked bone items have been listed and 90% of the assemblage are from stratified contexts.
2. 16 worked bone items are listed for site **GM/IX** – the majority are from stratified contexts.
3. 42 worked bone items are listed for site **GM/X** – all except 2 are from stratified contexts.
4. 1 unstratified worked bone object is listed from site **GM/XII**

Copper alloy objects from all Bronze Age sites

1. Four copper alloy objects of copper alloy were recorded at **GM/X**. 3 were fragments of objects (bags 389, layer 3: bag 7744 – layer 5) and the fourth was a pin (bag 556 layer 3). The pin is decorated and dates to the Bronze Age and has been published (Rowlands in Megaw 1976, 67, Fig. 4.8b).
2. Four copper alloy objects from stratified contexts were excavated at site **GM/IX**. One is a decorated pin head (bag 24, layer 3), another a possible

rivet (bag 169, layer 3) and 2 are thin fragments of cylindrical wire (bag 189 layer 3b-c). All are diagnostic and Bronze Age in date. The decorated pin head has been published (Rowlands in Megaw 1976, 67, fig. 4.8a)

3. Two copper alloy objects were recorded from stratified deposits at **GM/XV**. One has been identified as an "awl" (bag 85 layer 8) and the other a "spatula-shaped" object (bag 205 layer 5a).

Ironwork

1. There are 4 iron objects listed from site **GM/X** from stratified contexts. These are likely to be intrusive.

Human bone and cremated burials from all Bronze Age sites

1. Small deposits of alleged burnt human bone were listed as being excavated at **GM/X**. These were described as cremation deposits. The assessment has shown that of the 22 samples listed only 4 contained relatively large quantities of charcoal-stained human bone and were likely to be the remains of cremated burials. All cremated bone was found to belong to adult males. One incomplete skeleton (neonate) from an inhumation burial was found in a low depression under the wall of one of the layer 3 houses (**GM/X**).

Industrial waste

1. 1 sample identified from **GM/X** is likely to be residual.

Charcoal from all Bronze Age sites

1. 6 charcoal samples from layer 3 were recorded at site **GM/IX**. These were associated with a house and are all likely to be remnants of domestic fuel. Oak, alder, blackthorn and hawthorn have been identified. 3 samples are suitable for dating.
2. 30 charcoal samples from layers 2,3,5,7 and 8 were recorded at **GM/X**. These were associated with occupation and cremation activities. Oak, alder, blackthorn, hawthorn, holly, elder, hazel, gorse and/or broom, willow and/or poplar and birch have been identified. 22 samples are suitable for dating.

Marine molluscs/gastropods

1. The largest group of marine molluscs and gastropods (661) was excavated from **GM/X**. A further group of non-marine shells (155) have been recognised. Just under 50% of the material derives from stratified contexts. These comprised low numbers of the following gastropods: limpet, dog whelk, common whelk, together with parts of mussels and cockles. Crab claws and fragments of cuttlefish were noted.
2. 242 marine shells and 18 land snails were noted from **GM/XV**. They contained a similar range of species noted at GM/X.
3. 95 marine shells and 12 land snails were noted from **GM/IX**. They contained a similar range of species noted at GM/X.
4. A particular feature of the Bronze Age sites is the high number of worked shell – perforated as if to make decorative items and those which display signs of being worked.

Coprolites

1. 3 coprolites have been identified from site **GM/X**. All were found in stratified deposits and these should be assessed once stratigraphic reconstruction has been completed.

Soil samples

1. 13 soil samples are listed from site **GM/V** and 35 from site **GM/X**. All were excavated from stratified deposits. Their scientific and environmental value is unknown and these should be assessed once stratigraphic reconstruction is completed.

6.4 Bronze Age Sites - Specific Recommendations Sites GM/IX and GM/X.

Sites **GM/IX** and **GM/X** need to be considered together as these two "sites" produced the structural evidence for "domestic" settlement in the form of houses, "cremation" mounds, midden(s) (found at **GM/X**), structures, a "granary" building, ring ditch, hearth pits, midden(s) and former land surfaces with traces of plough-marks (site **GM/IX**). All main stratigraphic layers (1 to 9 inclusive) were found at **GM/X** whilst only layers 1 to 6 (inclusive) were found at **GM/IX** and this is because in some areas the excavations appeared to have gone no deeper at layer 6. These two sites hold the key sequence to the two main phases of Bronze Age occupation discovered at Gwithian (layers 3 and 5 respectively).

ARTEFACTS – SITE GM/IX

The following classes of artefacts from GM/IX have been listed: Neolithic and BA pottery (816); Stonework (62); Flint (22); Animal bone (951); Marine shells (95):Land shells (12): Charcoal (7): Metalwork (4): Shale (4) and Clay moulds (1).

ARTEFACTS – SITE GM/X

The following classes of artefacts from GM/IX have been listed: Neolithic and BA Pottery (1714+): Animal bone (1274): Worked bone (42): Human bone (12 + 1 skeleton): Cremated bone samples (19): Stonework (342): Flint (141): Marine shells (661): Land snails (155): Charcoal (28): Fired clay (210+): Crustacean (14): Shale (2): Metal objects (8): Industrial waste (1): Coprolites (3) and soil samples (35)

6.4.1 Site GM/IX Overall comment on the archive

The overall sections recording the main stratigraphic sequence at **GM/IX** ties well into that for site **GM/X** and the quality of the paper record will permit a full stratigraphic narrative to be written up and linked to site **GM/X**. As noted above it is recommended that work on the stratigraphy of both these sites takes place at the same time.

6.4.2 Site GM/X Overall comment on the archive

Work on **GM/X** was the longest campaign and produced the largest site archive. There were six seasons of work commencing with trial explorations in 1955 to fuller seasons of work from 1956 through to 1961. The record for work in 1955 is limited. Overall, however, the quality of the record is good and a full stratigraphic narrative can be produced. At **GM/X** the full stratigraphic sequence (layers 1 to 9) was recorded. Clarity on stratigraphy has been aided within the present assessment of the ceramics – particularly layer 3 – although it appears that some stratigraphic relationships require further clarity with further work in conjunction with diagnostic finds (particularly those recorded as having been recovered from principally "barren" layer 2). This major site produced the most extensive evidence for domestic structures and fields. Reviewing all the data and reworking the interpretative text is recommended. The potential for contextual analysis is considered high.

6.5 Site GM/V

Prior to total excavation in 1955 Site **GM/V** was initially considered to be a mound representing a Bronze Age barrow (see above). Layers 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 (see above)

were recorded at this site. It was as not until 1960 -1961 that a re-interpretation of the site was feasible with the discovery of cross-ploughing detected at the base of layer 5 (site **GMXIV**) in 1960. Similar evidence in the form of cross-ploughmarks in the sand had earlier been discovered at **GM/V** when it was originally interpreted as a collapsed timber platform for a barrow which lay over two "ritual" "burial" pits (Thomas, 1958; Nowakowski 1989, 8). No human remains were however found.

ARTEFACTS – GM/V
The following classes of artefacts from **GM/V** have been listed: BA Pottery (15); Amphora sherd (1); Early medieval (2); Animal bone (38); Stonework (11); Flint (2); Charcoal (1); Metalwork (47); Fired clay (7); Soil samples (13).

6.5.1 Specific points arising from the finds assessments

The factual information relating to all classes of data from these sites are presented in the collated details for each site as well as the assessment reports presented in the appendices. The following summaries list the key features of the individual finds assessments.

GM/V BA Ceramics

1. The Bronze Age pottery (15) from this site is mixed up with material of Roman and early medieval date. The material needs to be looked at in close association with context details to assess residuality.

GM/V post prehistoric ceramics

1. 1 Bii amphora sherd and 2 early medieval sherds excavated from **GM/V** are likely to be intrusive. The discovery of a Bii sherd is of interest.

GM/V Animal bone

1. All the animal bone fragments (38) excavated at **GM/V** were from stratified deposits and will require analysis.

GM/V Stonework

1. The eleven stonework items listed from **GM/V** were not assessed during this exercise.

GM/V Flint (2)

1. 2 pieces of flint – one a pebble ?scraper and the other a bladelette were found at **GM/V**.

GM/V Charcoal

1. A single charcoal sample identified as oak is listed for this site. It is not suitable for dating purposes.

GM/V Ironwork

1. 5 ironwork objects are listed from stratified contexts at site **GM/V**. these are likely to be residual. The objects should be classified.

GM/V Metalwork – metallurgical debris

1. Despite 47 items of metallurgical waste being listed none were identified during assessment as clear waste material. Burnt clay and compacted sand was identified alongside a stone rich in iron but not considered of sufficient quality for iron-working.

GM/V Fired clay

1. Of the 7 samples initially identified as fired clay , on assessment 2 were found to be concreted sand and the remaining 5 were very friable and fragmentary.

GM/V Soil samples

1. Thirteen soil samples are listed for site **GM/V**. The scientific value of these requires assessment once stratigraphic reconstruction has been completed.

6.5.2 GM/V Overall comment on the archive

The results of work at GM/V need to be comprehensively revisited in the light of confusing published detail (see Thomas 1958 and 1961). The overall quality of the data in the paper record should permit a full stratigraphic narrative to be written up and the results here linked to the major sequences found at sites **GM/X** and **GM/IX**. Given that this was the first site to be excavated and only later linked to the main stratigraphic sequence (see above) it would be wise to complete work on sites **GM/X and GM/IX first** *before* stratigraphic reconstruction was attempted here.

6.6 Site GM/XI includes GM/XII and GM/XIII

The main discoveries across these 3 sites were layer 5, plough and spade marks and boundary ditches with turf banks.

ARTEFACTS – SITE GM/XI (1960 only)

The following classes of artefacts from **GM/V** have been listed: BA pottery (2), Stonework (2); Flint (2); Marine shells (5).

ARTEFACTS – SITE GM/XII

Only one find is recorded from **GM/XII**: a worked bone fragment (1) – surface find

*Note***:** No artefacts are recorded for site **GM/XIII**.

6.6.1 Specific points arising from the finds assessments

The factual information relating to all classes of data from these sites are presented in the collated details for each site as well as the assessment reports presented in the appendices. The following summaries list the key features of the individual finds assessments.

GM/XI Ceramics

1. The Bronze Age pottery (2) from this site is associated with a “wall cutting”. The freshness of this material suggest it is from a primary context.

GM/XI Stonework (2)

1. 2 conjoining fragments of a saddle quern have been identified and were assigned to layer 3. Since layer 3 is absent at this site the finds are regarded as unstratified.

GM/XI Flint (2)

1. 2 pieces of a possible projectile point were found in layer 8.

GM/XI Marine shells (5)

1. This small group of marine shells were not assessed during this current exercise.

GM/XII worked bone

1. 1 unstratified worked bone object is listed from site GM/XII.

6.6.2 Site GM/XI includes GM/XII and GM/XIII Overall Comment on the archives

This evidence is highly significant and further work on the data is the key to a comprehensive picture of domestic activities at Gwithian during the 2nd Millennium BC. Layer 3 was noticeably absent in this part of the site. Some clarity on stratigraphic relationships is required although generally the record is less good for these sites – having been only recorded in note form and the distinct lack of section drawings may make full stratigraphic reconstruction fairly problematic.

6.7 Site GM/XIV

The major layers of the principal (Bronze Age) stratigraphic sequence (see above) was recorded at GM/XIV with the apparent exception of layer 3. Ploughmarks were discovered in this part of the site following confirmation that the site was indeed not a barrow as originally suspected in 1956 (Thomas 1958).

ARTEFACTS – SITE GM/XIV

The following classes of artefacts from **GM/XIV** have been listed: Pottery, Flint and charcoal.

6.7.1 Specific points arising from the finds assessments

The factual information relating to all classes of data from these sites are presented in the collated details for each site as well as the assessment reports presented in the appendices. The following summaries list the key features of the individual finds assessments.

GM/XIV Ceramics

1. The Bronze Age pottery (6) from this site was excavated from layers 5,7 and 8. It is likely that they are from secondary – residual layers. These sherds need to be further assessed once stratigraphic reconstruction is completed.

GM/XIV Flint

1. Fractured blades (2), bladelettes (2) and flint knives (4) were found in layers 7 and 8.

GM/XIV Charcoal

1. 1 sample from a disturbed marine sand which was too degraded to be identified.

6.7.2 GM/XIV Overall comment on the archive

The archive is not up to the standard of other sites although some degree of stratigraphic reconstruction is likely following full assessment of the finds – particularly the pottery. There do not appear to be any measured plans only sketch sections in the notebooks.

6.8 Site GM/XV

A very significant discovery was made at GM/XV in 1961 following several seasons of work on the site from 1958. This was the remains of a two-phase wooden structure set in a stake-built enclosure interpreted and published 15 years later as a house of Beaker date by Vincent Megaw (Megaw 1976). Whilst the full (Bronze Age) stratigraphic sequence was not recorded at GM/XV (layer 3 did not appear to extend this far), layers 7 and 8 to which the structure was assigned was reported to have produced Beaker pottery.

ARTEFACTS – SITE GM/XV

The following classes of artefacts from **GM/XV** have been listed: BA Pottery (341); Medieval pottery (2); Stonework (125); Flint (89); Animal bone (285); Marine shells (242); Land shells (18); Crustacea (9); Metalwork (2); Charcoal (1), clay mould fragments (3) and worked bone (4).

6.8.1 Specific points arising from the finds assessments

The factual information relating to all classes of data from these sites are presented in the collated details for each site as well as the assessment reports presented in the appendices. The following summaries list the key features of the individual finds assessments.

GM/XV Neolithic and Bronze Age ceramics (341)

1. Neolithic and Bronze Age ceramics have been identified from site **GM/XV**. The largest group are of Trevisker styles (221) and were associated with the round house initially interpreted as a Beaker House (see above 6.3.3).
2. The overall distinctive condition of the main Trevisker assemblage from **GM/XV** displays marked contrasts with that from the main **GM/X** sites (see above) and the potential for on-site contextual analysis of this pottery is high.

GM/XV Medieval pottery

1. Two sherds of medieval date have been identified. These are likely to be intrusive and their contexts require checking.

GM/XV Stonework

1. 125 objects of worked stone have been recorded for site **GM/XV** and these are classified and listed in table HQ4.
2. Initial impressions note the overall “better” quality of this material and the absence of certain “tool types” in contrast to the larger collections from layer 3 at sites **GM/IX** and **GM/X**.

GM/XV Charcoal

1. A single sample of charcoal identified as oak was found in a posthole in layer 8. This is suitable for dating.

GM/XV Clay mould fragments

1. 3 fragments of clay bronze casting moulds have been identified. (GM/XV bag 28 cutting 4 layer 3: 1 frag. GM/XV no provenance: 2 frags.)

GM/XV Copper alloy objects

1. One copper alloy “awl” (bag 85, layer 8) and I “spatula-shaped “ object (bag 205, layer 5a) was found. Both are probably from sealed contexts.

GM/XV Flint

1. 88 lithics principally from layers 8, 7/8 and 5 were excavated at GM/XV. These represent recognisable tools such as scraper/knives, bladelettes and modified flakes and other primary and secondary waste material.

GM/XV Worked bone

1. 4 worked bone tools from stratified contexts were recorded at site GM/XV.

GM/XV Animal bone

1. 285 fragments of animal bone were excavated from stratified contexts and will require analysis.

GM/XV Marine shells/gastropods

1. 242 marine shells and 18 land snails were noted from **GM/XV**. The contained a similar range of species noted at GM/X.

6.8.2 GM/XV Overall comment on the archive

Some re-interpretation of the structures found here is required following a review of the pottery from layers 7 and 8 during this present exercise. Reconstruction of the stratigraphy should be fairly unproblematic as the record is reasonably good although this should be attempted *only after* the artefacts recovered from the key horizons are fully assessed. A key priority will be to identify material suitable for scientific dating.

6.9 Site GM/XVI

A circular earthwork (ditched enclosure) was discovered in 1961 and the aim of two trial sections cut across the ditch in 1963 was to assess the extent of the layer 5 settlement. The site was interpreted as a late Bronze Age enclosure (Thomas memo dated 12.04.03).

ARTEFACTS – SITE GM/XVI

The following classes of artefacts from **GM/XVI** have been listed: Neolithic/Beaker/BA pottery (8);Medieval pottery (1).

6.9.1 Specific points arising from the finds assessments

The factual information relating to all classes of data from these sites are presented in the collated details for each site as well as the assessment reports presented in the appendices. The following summaries list the key features of the individual finds assessments.

GM/XVI Ceramics

1. The small ceramic assemblage is mixed Early Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery with 1 sherd of medieval date. This high degree of mixing suggests the material is residual. Only one fresh fragment of BA Trevisker was found in the ditch fill.

6.9.2 GM/XVI Overall comment on the archive

No conclusive evidence was found as the nature of the work at GM/XVI was small-scale and exploratory. Ditch fills did however “resemble layers 5 and 7” as identified at GM/X but there was only a small handful of finds. The assessment does suggest that prehistoric pottery found in the ditch was from a secondary deposit.

The site still has enormous potential for future fieldwork: “*Site GM/XVI has enormous potential. There are enough records to write up what has been done, but not enough at the moment to say with certainty what XVI represents*” (Thomas memo dated 12.04.03). The extant archive is limited to notes and sketch plans. A limited narrative giving speculative background commentary on the Bronze landscape is only available here. The site has potential for further targeted fieldwork which may provide more conclusive evidence of its date and function which remains hypothetical on present available data.

- A full scale detailed total station survey of the site is recommended. Precise location of cuttings dug in 1963 is required. Some vegetation clearance would need to take place in advance of such work.

- Further targeted excavation is recommended focused on the discovery of buried well-sealed stratigraphy for dating and palaeo-environmental sampling. The most suitable target would be through a well-preserved section of bank and ditch.
- Some advice on suitability of using geophysical techniques may be helpful.
- The area of, and around, GM/XVI has since 1960 become heavily overgrown with gorse (ulex europaeus) to the detriment of the grassland characterising the SSSI. Discussions with English Nature (ACT January 2004) suggest systematic clearance by burning and shredding is now desirable and possible and will commence later in 2004. The 1963 cuttings and visible ditch were all accurately survey and tied to the existing C19th hedge that bisects the site.

Post Excavation (task 22)
- A much fuller record is required here as although the detail of the past investigation can be written up with available details, the results would remain inclusive and speculative without further targeted fieldwork.

6.10 Roman Site

Roman site Porth Godrevy – GT/-

Work at site GT commenced in 1956 when the site was discovered and surveyed. It was fully excavated over 3 seasons (1956 to 1958) when it was found to be a small and relatively well-preserved stone (and wooden) structure of Roman date. It was published in 1962 and therefore is the only fully published sites of the Gwithian archive (Fowler 1962). At the time it was principally dated by pottery to the RB period (c. 2nd to 3rd centuries AD). Two major phases of activity within this small unusual building was recorded and these were revealed as stratified occupation deposits associated with numerous hearth-pits and stone-lined drains. The structure was embraced within an enclosure wall and remains of associated field walls were found. A highly unusual aspect of the structure was the presence of a large number of interior hearth pits and drainage channels which suggested some specialised function although this was not fully considered in print. Briquetage has now been recognised in the material archive (see below) and a reappraisal of the results of this work is recommended in the light of new information relating to function and date.

Note: A Mesolithic working floor was reported discovered at this site during excavation although the data relating to this distinct phase was not reported in the published report in 1962.

Some limited medieval and post medieval activities were reported from finds (pot sherds) recovered from topsoil and disturbed deposits (Fowler 1962, 22).

ARTEFACTS – GT/-

The following artefacts from this excavation have been listed: Mesolithic flints (?), RB pottery (748), medieval and Post medieval pottery (?), Metalwork (iron and copper alloy) (38), Stonework (82), Animal bone (3), Charcoal (3) and Briquetage (206).

6.10.1 Key points arising from the finds assessments

The factual information relating to all classes of data from these sites are presented in the collated details for each site as well as the assessment reports presented in the appendices. The following summaries list the key features of the individual finds assessments.

GT- Lithics – Mesolithic assemblage

1. The quantity and quality of the flint which was found during excavation and interpreted as a Mesolithic "flint-working area" (Fowler 1962, 22) was not assessed during this current exercise.

GT - Roman Ceramics

1. The assemblage of just over 700 sherds is a sizeable and important collection.
2. The majority of diagnostic Roman forms and fabrics are 3rd century AD. A smaller handful of material dating to the Later Iron Age and early Roman period was also identified.
3. Some imported material including Spanish material, amphorae (Dressel 20) has been identified.
4. The survival of two virtually complete jars discovered embedded into the floor of the Roman building is an unusual feature of the site which requires some re-consideration of its overall function.
5. The ceramic assemblage was published in 1962 (Fowler 1962). However this assessment has recommended that the entire ceramic archive is re-appraised in the light of recent research. Many of the published profiles of pot sherds are incorrectly drawn.
6. This assemblage is directly comparable to the small Romano-Cornish assemblage excavated at Crane Godrevy and future discussion of this site should be considered in the light of results from Crane Godrevy (see appendix 2).

GT - Later medieval and post medieval ceramics

1. A probable small but unknown quantity of medieval and post medieval ceramics are recorded from the excavation and were reported as having been recovered from topsoil and disturbed deposits (Fowler 1962, 22). A rapid assessment of the significance of this material in the context of a discussion from the main ceramic collections of this period from Crane Godrevy is recommended.

GT- Roman period Stonework

1. 82 stone objects have been listed for GT and a wide variety of tool types classified (see Table HQ6).
2. Stone tools including large whetstones, greisen bowls and rotary querns were present.
3. Whilst some of this material has been published – a critical review of all the stonework is required in the light of inaccurate identifications in the published text and a reinterpretation of the function of the building excavated at Porth Godrevy. It is apparent that the full range of stone tools found at the site have not been fully discussed in the 1962 article.

GT- Copper alloy objects

1. 22 copper alloy objects which include 12 Roman coins were found in stratified deposits at Porth Godrevy. Other objects include a bow brooch, a bronze stud, fragment of a bronze bracelet (all of which are published but not all illustrated in Fowler 1962, 51-53). The bow brooch has been dated to c. 2nd century AD (Fowler *ibid*).
2. The coins have been identified as barbarous radiates dating to the 3rd century AD.

GT- Ironwork objects

1. 16 iron objects were found in stratified deposits at Porth Godrevy. Some were written up in the published report (Fowler 1962, 53-54) but not illustrated. A

small number were from topsoil deposits whilst the remainder - mainly nail fragments and probable bits of agricultural tools were identified.

2. The majority of the collection was assessed as being in an overall good and stable condition – many items had been conserved (with PVA) during the 1960s.

GT- Briquetage

1. Briquetage has now been identified at this site. At least 3 pieces of trough have been identified (perhaps for the drying of salt).

GT- Animal bone

1. Only a small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from Roman deposits – 10 stratified bone have been listed. The general scarcity of this class of material together with a striking absence of shell was attributed by Fowler to the acidity of the soil and on-site formation processes with domestic waste being removed and disposed off-site (Fowler 1962, 59). Further detailed study other than the listing of species is not recommended.

GT - Charcoal

1. Three charcoal samples were listed from this site. Material was collected from the hearth and from the insides of a pot.
2. Species identified were oak, hazel, gorse and/or broom, willow and/or poplar. All are suitable for radiocarbon dating.

6.10.2 GT/- Overall comment on the archive

The assessment of supporting primary excavations records – notebooks, sketch drawings, photographs – has concluded that it should be possible to reconstruct the stratigraphic sequence for site GT. There are however some problems with the existing record – principally the lack of section drawings (other than those published in the 1962 report) and the lack of a trench location plan. It has been noted that the numbers allocated to trenches published on the site location as Figure 6 in the 1962 report were not the same as those which exist in the primary site records. Some additional work to correlate these is required and it is hoped that the original excavator – Professor Peter Fowler – may be able to give help here. Information about localised sequences in some of the trenches is lacking but it should be relatively straightforward to reconstruct from the available record the principal internal stratigraphic relationships between the two major phases of occupation during the Roman period.

6.11 Post Roman sites – GM/I, GM/A, GM/B, GM/E (same as GM/VIII), GM/IV, and minor sites GMXX, GMXXI

A small but significant farmstead/settlement was discovered at a group of related major sites GM/I, GM/A, GM/B and GM/E (GM/VIII) and dated by pottery to the post Roman period. Stratified occupation horizons with stone and wooden structures, stone hearths and apparently associated industrial features (perhaps iron-smelting) together with domestic middens. Remains of an associated field system were surveyed and sampled through selective excavation. Good evidence for industrial activities – iron smelting – in the form of pits, hearths and industrial slag were found at related site GM/IV. A possible industrial “kiln” was found between round houses located at GM/I. Remains of an associated field system were investigated at sites GMXX and GMXXI.

Related minor sites GMXX and GMXXI
SITE GMXX Post Roman ridge and furrow

This site was located within an area where ridge and furrow had been noted immediately to the south of GMXV. Small-scale excavations took place here in 1960 and 1961. Excavation revealed that the ridge and furrow lay within a large rectangular field and that the plough marks which were found probably relate to the main phase of post Roman occupation within the landscape. The stratigraphy found here was tied into that recorded at the main Bronze Age sites and a post Roman layer overlying probable BA layer 5 was found. This site was published in 1962 (Fowler and Thomas 1962, 61- 80) and was interpreted as a later part of the post-Roman fieldscape of the post Roman settlement centred on GM/I (see above).

SITE GMXXI Post Roman ridge and furrow
Ridge and furrow of alleged post Roman date was found during a small-scale investigation in a rectangular plot of land located to the north-west of GM/I in 1961. Underlying BA Age layers (7 and 8) containing a small handful of BA sherds were found during this exercise. This site was published in 1962 (Fowler and Thomas 1962, 61-80) and was interpreted as a later part of the post-Roman fieldscape of the post Roman settlement centred on GM/I (see above).

6.11.1 History of background research and general significance of post Roman evidence at Gwithian GM/I and related sites and Sandy Lane (SL/-)

(Summary below is based on information kindly supplied by Charles Thomas memo dated October 2003 "A Ceramic sequence at Gwithian, Ist Millennium AD and beyond: Preliminary assessment and a challenge").

Early medieval or post Roman artefacts were first detected at Gwithian in the early 20th century by Walter Rogers (Rogers 1910). Most were surface finds picked up on the towans or open sand dunes areas of the north Cornish coast and finds of this period were made at Gwithian and Perran Sands. Rogers' exploration of the lower part of a hundred-acre "rabbit warren" on Godrevy and Hellow Towans from 1909 resulted in significant concentrations of bone, shell, flint and pot sherds. This, a long low ridge choked by sand and riddled with rabbits, Rogers' so-called "kitchen-midden", became the site of the Gwithian team's first exploration in 1953. This became site GM/I. Remains of stone walls together with occupation deposits were quickly located below turf and subsoil deposits. By 1955 – as more excavation cuttings were opened up – three main occupation horizons coded A, B and C (top to bottom respectively) were revealed. All were separated by bands of "sterile" blown sand. Work continued in cuttings GM/A, GM/B, GM/E and GM/Y over the years and revealed that the stratified horizons were not laterally extensive along the entire ridge. It was observed that settlement/occupation activities centred on small-stone oval and sub-rectangular structures appeared to laterally shift between the three main phases of occupation (c. 5th to 10th centuries AD). By 1955 the three key ceramic groups had been identified (see below) and these correlated to the main occupation phases. Smaller quantities of imported wares including Roman styles and Gaulish E Wares were also being to be identified in these significant sequences.

By the late 1950s surface collections of related post Roman ceramics were detected to the south area of the tidal estuary – c. ½ mile from the main GM/I sites (see Fig 9). At a site called Sandy Lane (SL/-) the partially exposed surfaces of former buried land surfaces and midden deposits yielded large collections of finds. Surface finds have been collected from this site and other related nearby sites: OLS and HP (Hockin's Pit) since then and right up to the 1990s. From the 1970s the location has been subject to industrial sand extraction rendering the actual location of earlier find spots difficult to detect. No detailed, systematic excavation has taken place at SL,

OLS or HP although the material recovered from these sites are significant to the general study of the localised ceramic sequence recorded at the GM/I and related sites. At Sandy Lane three distinctive styles have been noted and these (Sandy Lane I, Sandy Lane 2 and Sandy Lane 3) are vital in the study of the key ceramic groups excavated at GM/I. Sandy Lane forms have also been noted from contexts excavated at the main medieval site of Crane Godrevy (CG/-) during the 1960s

6.11.2 Overall comment - Proposed review and dating programme

This group of site investigations (at GM/I etc) related to the presence of a substantial phase of occupation at Gwithian within the post Roman period. Three major occupation horizons were recorded and these were coded layer A, layer B and layer C. These were provisionally dated by ceramics to 400-600 AD (layer C), 600-800 AD (layer B) and 800-900 AD (layer A). Minor episodes/ phases were coded layers D and E. All occupation horizons were separated by layers of blown sand. This phasing is based on diagnostic ceramics as understood in the 1950s and 1960s but require to be tested with a scientific dating programme. Details of the results of this work have never been fully published but a complete review of his data alongside up to date research is a major priority as the well-preserved sequence of post Roman activities presented here at Gwithian has considerable significance for research for this period in the south west.

6.11.3 Artefacts – all sites

ARTEFACTS – SITE GM/I

The following classes of finds were excavated from GM/I: Pottery (2868); Daub/fired clay (16); Glass (1); Metalwork (79); Slag and ore (2450+); Stonework (429 + 130 pebbles); Flint (8); Animal bone (1094); ?tin object (2); Charcoal (43); Coprolites (6); Shell (land and marine) (156); Soil samples (20) and worked bone (7).

ARTEFACTS – SITE GM/A

The following classes of finds were excavated from GM/A: Pottery (178); Daub (3); Metalwork (18); Slag and ore (14); Stonework (35); Flint (1); Animal bone (401); Charcoal (7); Shell marine (22 + 1 sample); Soil samples (1) and worked bone (2).

ARTEFACTS – SITE GM/B

The following classes of finds were excavated from GM/B :Pottery (12); Slag (1); Stonework (10); animal bone (29); Shell (1); Flint (1) and worked bone (1).

ARTEFACTS – SITE GM/E (same as GM/VIII).

The following classes of finds were excavated from GM/E: Pottery (18); Slag (1); Stonework (22); Metalwork (3); Animal bone (305); Charcoal (4); Soil samples (5) and worked bone (1).

ARTEFACTS – SITE GM/IV

The following classes of finds were excavated from GM/IV: Pottery (35);Metalwork (3); Slag and ore (9); Stonework (6); Flint (1); Animal bone (337); Charcoal (4) and Soil samples (2).

ARTEFACTS – SITE GMXX

The following classes of finds were excavated from GM/XX: BA pottery (1); post Roman pottery (121); animal bones (89); fired clay (1); metalwork debris (14); molluscs (14); stonework (12).

ARTEFACTS – SITE GMXXI

The following classes of finds were excavated from GM/XXI: BA pottery (13);post Roman pottery (5); animal bones (9); flints (19); molluscs (3); modern pottery (1); stonework (16).

6.11.4 Key points arising from the post-Roman/ early medieval finds assessments

The factual information relating to all classes of data from these sites are presented in the collated details for each site as well as the assessment reports presented in the appendices. The following summaries list the key features of the individual finds assessments.

GM/I, GM/XXI and GM/XXI prehistoric ceramics

1. A small collection of possible prehistoric ceramics were noted from one major post Roman site (**GM/I**) and two minor sites. All are likely to be residual and these should be reviewed on the completion of stratigraphic reconstruction.

GM/I, GM/A, GM/B, GME/VIII, GMXX and GMXXI Post Roman ceramics

1. The ceramics from this group of related sites are very significant. They comprise local wares and imported wares. The association of imported ware with a long stratified sequence of local, post Roman and early medieval styles makes this a unique collection for Cornwall.
2. 211 imported wares of post Roman date have been identified.
3. The local wares fall into 3 distinctive key groups: The Gwithian Style, Early Grass-marked pottery, and Grass-marked bar-lug ware.
4 Gabbro fabrics have been identified.
5. A key priority for this collection is the establishment of independent scientific dating for each main group of local pottery. Residues have been noted on some sherds and the potential for dating is high.
6. Some intermixing of the three key groups of ceramic styles was noted during this present rapid assessment exercise and work on the stratigraphic reconstruction of the main post Roman sites need to take place *prior to further assessment* and analysis of the pottery.

GM/I Clay mould fragment 1955 Excavation

1. 1 fragment of a clay bronze casting mould has been identified (GM/I bag 168).

GM/I Fired clay/daub/?briquetage

1. 5 items of probable fired clay/daub perhaps even briquetage have been listed from stratified deposits at **GM/I.** These require further assessment on the completion of stratigraphic reconstruction.
2. Small numbers of fired clay have been listed from **GM/A** (3) and **GM/XX** (1).

GM/I, GM/A, GM/B and GMXXI flints

1. Small collections of flints were excavated from stratified deposits (layers A, B and C) at the 3 of the post Roman sites. Some prehistoric tool types were identified. These are likely to be residual finds.

GM/I Glass – early medieval?

1. 2 pieces of probable early medieval glass were excavated from **GM/I**. I was recovered from a stratified deposit. *These were not assessed during this current exercise* and require assessment following completion of stratigraphic reconstruction.

GM/I, GM/A, GME/VIII Stonework

1. 429 stone objects are listed from **GM/I**. 35 are listed for site **GM/A** and 22 from sites **GME/VIII**. A wide variety of tool types have been identified (see tables HQ7,8 and 9).
2. Initial impressions are that much of the GM/I and related sites are dominated by whetstones and flensing tools – that is tools of industry - with cereal processing equipment – querns – being reused as structural fittings such as hearth stones.
3. The whetstones found here are notably large.
4. Some slate discs found at these sites may have had specific functions.

GM/I, GM/A and GM/B, GM/XXI Flint

1. 10 tools of pebble flint and chert from ploughsoil layer and occupation horizons A, B and C across these post Roman sites are prehistoric in date and likely to be residual.

GM/I, GM/A and GM/IV copper alloy

1. A bronze fragment of an unidentified and undiagnostic object (GM/M/110) was excavated from a stratified context at **GM/A**. (*This is held at Lambessow*).
2. Seven copper alloy objects were found in stratified contexts on site **GM/I**. These include a bronze awl (GM/M/44), piece of sheet bronze (GM/M/34), a Bronze scrap (GM/M/65), a folded bronze decorative strip (GM/M/85), an unidentifiable bronze object (GM/M/93) and a bronze strip (GM/M/95). *All are held at Lambessow.*
3. Part of a bronze harpoon (GM/M/90) was found at site **GM/IV** in 1955.

GM/IV, GM/A, GM/E, GM/I and GM/XX ironwork

1. An iron plate (GM/M/1) and an iron pin (GM/M/10) were found in stratified contexts at **GM/IV**.
2. Seventeen iron objects were recorded from stratified contexts at site **GM/A**. These included heads of iron pins (GM/M/56), fragments of knife blades (GM/M/58, 70 and 72), part of a bill hook blade (GM/M/104), a punch/awl (GM/M/106) together nails and other unidentifiable objects.
   Note: Some pieces of ironwork from site GM/A were discarded in 1957.
3. Three iron objects were found from stratified contexts at Site **GM/E**. These included a fragment of a spur (GM/M/52), a tanged knife (GM/M/53) and 4 fragments of a tanged knife (GM/M/54).
4. The largest collection of ironwork - 70 items - came from stratified contexts at Site **GM/I**. This is an impressive assemblage which comprises a variety of tools: fragments of hooks, saws, blades, pins, nails, tweezers, chisels and/or gouges. All can be assigned to layers A, B and C. *Note: Some items were recorded but discarded during excavation.*
5. Four iron objects (bag 25 cutting 5) from topsoil at site **GM/XX** are probably modern.

GM/I and GM/XX metallurgical debris/waste

1. The largest collection of metallurgical waste and fragments of the bases of smithing hearths were found at two sites: **GM/I** (2540 items) and **GM/XX** (97). A total of 2547 fragments.
2. These comprised run, tap, fuel ash slags together with fragments of hearth bases. Industrial activities – albeit on a small-scale – centred on iron smelting and smithing activities is suggested for the post Roman period.
3. The material from site **GM/XX** was notably abraded.

GM/I Tin objects

1. 2 tin objects have been listed for **GM/I**. *These were not assessed during the current exercise and require assessment*. Both are recorded from stratified contexts.

GM/IV, GM/A, GM/B, GM/I and GM/VII *(latter is trial pit of GM/I)* - **Worked bone**

1. Twelve worked bone finds were excavated from the main post Roman sites and included a range of tools from bone points to gouges. *These require assessment*. 9 of these items were recovered from stratified contexts.

GM/IV, GM/A, GM/B. GM/E, GM/I, GM/XX and GM/XXI animal bone

1. All of the major and minor sites related to post Roman activities at Gwithian produced animal bone. This forms a unique collection for this period.
2. Two key groups of well preserved animal bone from stratified contexts at **GM/I** and **GM/E** have been noted and these will form the major focus for further analysis pending completion of stratigraphic reconstruction.
3. The other smaller groups of animal bone can be listed to provide general background commentary.

GM/A, GM/B, GM/I, GM/VII, GM/XX and GM/XXI, Marine molluscs

1. The marine shells assemblages from post Roman sites vary in quantities and quality although collectively the assemblage has much potential comprising both marine shell and crustacea. The largest group is from **GM/I**. Approximately over 50% of the material is from stratified contexts.
2. The post Roman assemblage is dominated by the Limpet, common mussel, dog whelk, dog cockle, prickly cockle, smooth cockle – all types recognised in earlier prehistoric deposits although there is a noticeable absence of oyster shells and an apparent absence of perforated shells.
3. The excellent state of preservation of most of the material was noted.

GM/I coprolites

1. A small number of coprolites (10) were found during the excavation at GM/I. *They were not assessed during this current exercise*.
2. Assessment of the value of these samples should be undertaken following stratigraphic reconstruction and arrangements made for further analysis if needed.

GM/I, GM/A and GME/VIII Charcoal

1. 47 charcoal samples are listed from sites **GM/I** and **GME/VIII**. These were recovered from layers A, B and C and relate to the main phases of occupation on these sites.
2. Species identified include: oak, hazel, blackthorn, gorse and/or broom, elder, heather, birch and alder.
3. 36 samples are suitable for radiocarbon dating.
4. A small number of samples (7) from GM/A – *missed out during this current exercise* – require assessment on completion on stratigraphic reconstruction.

GM/IV, GM/A, GM/E, GM/I soil samples

1. A small number of soil samples were retained during the excavation of the post Roman sites. *They were not assessed during this current exercise*. Two are listed for **GM/IV**, 1 for **GM/A**, 5 for **GM/E** and 20 for **GM/I**.
2. Assessment of the value of these samples should be undertaken following stratigraphic reconstruction.

6.11.5 Overall comments on post Roman archives

The assessment of supporting documentation primary excavation notes and records, measured and sketch drawings has concluded that work on the reconstruction of stratigraphy of the major inter-related sites: GM/I, GM/A, GM/B etc presents problems. This was one of the first major sequences to be excavated at Gwithian from 1955 onwards and throughout subsequent seasons different layers were recorded simultaneously in different trenches. The trenches were excavated by different teams at different rates with the result that overall phases – same horizons - were never seen across the sites at the same time. Plans were made although sections do not appear to have been drawn. However records are available for phase plans to be created with the aim of reconstructing localised sequences across the major related sites GM/I, GM/A, GM/B and GM/E. It is recognised that there may be some confusion and complications regarding specific data for layers B and C which were often indistinguishable from each other with no clear layers of dividing windblown sand. For this reason it has been proposed that a trial run on the reconstruction of the sequence across 4 related cuttings at site GM/A should be the first stage on stratigraphic reconstruction (see below). If successful then this should be followed up by the spatial reconstruction of occupation horizons across other related sites.

The minor sites GMXX and GMXXI have been published and following successful work on all the data relating to the major post Roman sites, the results from these related excavations may be reviewed and drawn into the overall discussion for this major chronological phase of activity at Gwithian.

6.11.6 Stage 1 Stratigraphic Reconstruction - Main recommendation

These sites were among the first to be extensively excavated when the record systems employed was still evolving. This has meant that a straightforward reconstruction of the stratigraphy is fraught with problems. The ceramic assessment has shown this as there appears to be an intermixing of ceramic styles between the distinctive sequence of 3 key horizons – layers A, B and C (see above).

- An initial “dry run” attempting to reconstruct the extent of all layers across four site cuttings is recommended. It is anticipated that this will help gauge the time required to reconstruct the entire post Roman stratigraphic sequence recorded at related sites.
- Followed by the reconstruction of localised sequence in other major related sites.

6.12 Medieval Site – Crane Godrevy – Site CG/-

The medieval site of Crane Godrevy was discovered in 1951. Excavations began at the site of CG/- in 1952 and continued over consecutive seasons from 1955 until 1958 and ended with a short final season in 1969. This was the final large-scale excavation undertaken by the Gwithian team. By 1956 it was realised that the medieval settlement lay within an earlier later prehistoric enclosure. Subsequent excavations revealed this to be a sub-triangular enclosure encompassing an acre or more of land and which was defined by a V-shaped ditch with an internal berm and bank. An entrance way was found on western side of the site. A pre-medieval building (possibly dating to c. 11th century AD) was found under the main stone-built long house and manor buildings all of which appear to be located within the later prehistoric enclosure (an “Iron Age” round). The ceramic assessment in 2003 suggests that the round may have an origin in the Roman period (see below). Grass-marked pottery found in the occupation levels of this earlier structure appears to link with early activity at this location to those associated with post Roman sites (GM/I etc, see above). A long low sub-rectangular building – perhaps dating to the 12th-13th

centuries AD was built across the earlier building (see above) and this comprised 2 cells – a cowshed (shippon or *pen isaf*) and a hall/living space (*pen uchaf*). A cross passage lined by a wooden screen was later replaced by a stone cross wall (around c. 1400 AD). An additional annexe – perhaps a dairy – was added later (c. 1400 AD). The site became the manor house of Godrevy (Thomas 1958, 28-29) before being abandoned – sometime in the 16th century.

ARTEFACTS – CG/-
The following classes of finds were found: RB pottery (59); early medieval pottery (?); medieval pottery (?); later medieval pottery (?); Roman and medieval stonework (128); Metallurgical waste (635); prehistoric flint (2); charcoal (12); worked bone (17); fired clay (7); window lead (18+); medieval and post medieval window glass (25); ironwork (190+); copper alloy objects (22); marine shells, land snails and crustacean (253, 14, and 36 respectively); animal bone (865): brick (4); clay mortar samples (70); clay pipe fragments (80); tobacco sample (1); eggshells (4) and 1 dung sample.

6.12.1 Key points arising from the Crane Godrevy finds assessments

The factual information relating to all classes of data from these sites are presented in the collated details for each site as well as the assessment reports presented in the appendices. The following summaries list the key features of the individual finds assessments.

CG/- Romano-Cornish ceramics

1. The small Roman period collection of pottery (c.59 sherds) from Crane Godrevy is largely 3rd to 4th century AD in date.
2. The material would all appear to derive from an upper ditch fill and is likely to be a secondary deposit.
3. The recovery of material of this date from the earliest “structural” feature recorded at Crane Godrevy does suggest a Roman origin for the enclosure (see above). The absence of later Iron Age South Western ware is noted.
4. Whilst the ceramic assemblage is small it does have intrinsic value for further study and can be discussed in connection with broadly contemporary material found at Porth Godrevy (site GT/-, see 6.10 above).

CG/- Early Medieval ceramics

1. A small group of early medieval ceramics have been noted. Exact quantities need to be worked out following further assessment once stratigraphic reconstruction is completed and certain key groups with stratigraphic integrity are identified.

CG/- Medieval ceramics

1. Ceramics, particularly excavated from later stages of the work at Crane Godrevy, appears on current initial rapid assessment to be diagnostically medieval in date. Exact quantities need to be worked out following further assessment once stratigraphic reconstruction is completed and certain key groups with stratigraphic integrity are identified.

CG/- Later Medieval ceramics

1. Initial rapid assessment has shown that much of the ceramic assemblage appears to be later (post medieval in date) – ie, C16th AD. Exact quantities need to be worked out following further assessment once stratigraphic reconstruction is completed and certain key groups with stratigraphic integrity are identified.

CG/- Prehistoric, Roman and medieval stonework

1. Worked stone from all periods were found at Crane Godrevy and these comprise 128 items (see table HQ5).
2. A wide variety of types have been identified and range from worked pebbles, whetstones, hammerstones to cereal processing tools such as querns (see table HQ5).
3. Given the wide date range of items within this collection it is very likely that many items have been reused and prehistoric and Roman objects in particular are derived from earlier phases of activities within the vicinity of the site.
4. Initial impression is a selective use of different stone being selected for particular tools – eg lapstones – than that noted one sites of earlier periods at Gwithian.
5. Some unique finds are noted: part of a bakestone, a net or line sinker and a slate block with an incised depiction of a moored boat (graffiti). These are likely to be medieval in date.
6. All this material needs to be assessed and analysed in detail once full stratigraphic detail is available.

CG/- Fired clay

1. 7 fired clay objects from stratified deposits have been listed. *These were not assessed during this current exercise.*

CG/- Copper alloy objects

1. Twenty two copper alloy objects were excavated at Crane Godrevy. All were excavated from stratified contexts.
2. Finds identified include an early medieval bronze buckle (Bag 34) found within the lower fill of the enclosure ditch (currently held at Lambessow), an undated bronze button (bag 1956) and another dating *c*. 18th century AD (bag 179, from topsoil deposits). Fragments of bronze strips are also recorded.
3. A bronze Charles II coin dated *c*. 1672/5 was found at the base of a sand blow (bag 38).
4. Of particular note was the discovery of a finely decorated copper alloy buckle was found in the upper fill of the ditch and dates to *c*. 5th century AD. (CG/- bag 11, cutting 1, 1969). The object has never been fully published but a photograph was published in Thomas 1971, 21, Fig. 11. *This is currently held at Lambessow*.
5. A rapid assessment of these items took place during this present exercise and further assessment is required once all the stratigraphic detail through site reconstruction is available.

CG/- Ironwork

1. The large ironwork assemblage of *c*. 190 objects from Crane Godrevy all, with one exception, come from stratified contexts.
2. This is an impressive collection of a variety of different tools and objects and includes complete and/or fragments of nails, hooks, knife blades, scythe blades, horse shoes, drill bits, bolts, keys, hinge hooks, candle holders, rings, spikes and many unidentifiable objects.
3. A rapid assessment of these items took place during this present exercise and further assessment is required once all the stratigraphic detail through site reconstruction is available.

CG/- Window leading

1. 18 fragments of window leading of probable medieval date from a stratified deposit (bag 168, cutting P3). Three fragments from floor of the cattle shed (bag 184, cutting P2).
2. One Lead "plate" was found in a stratified context at CG (bag 195, cuttings P2 and P3.)
3. Other lead fragments – a small handful – were also recorded from stratified contexts (bag 255, cutting P5, 1958).
4. None of the above were assessed during this present exercise.

CG/- Medieval and post medieval glass

1. 25 fragments of probable medieval and post medieval window glass were found from stratified deposits: *18* in bag 162 cutting P3; *5* in bag 313, pen isaf cutting; *1* in bag 321 cutting north room; *1* in bag 327, pen isaf.
2. These were not assessed during this present exercise.

CG/- Flint

1. 2 prehistoric flints were found in topsoil and redeposited deposits.

CG/- Animal bone

1. A reasonably large animal bone assemblage (865) was excavated from Crane Godrevy: Over 98% were from stratified contexts and the rest from unstratified contexts.
2. Much of the material was found to be in good condition.
3. Assessment showed that sheep/goat, cattle and low numbers of pigs were represented.
4. Large faunal assemblages from stratified deposits of this period are relatively scarce for the South West.

CG/- Worked bone

1. 17 worked bone objects were excavated from stratified contexts. Many tool types have been identified. *These were not assessed during this present exercise.*

CG/- Metallurgical waste/debris

1. Material identified as fragments (247) of hearth bases alongside other undiagnostic products (388) of small-scale iron working activities have been identified at Crane Godrevy.
2. This limited evidence does suggest small-scale industrial activities relating principally to iron-smithing during the medieval period.

CG/- Brick

1. 4 fragments of clay brick have been listed from stratified contexts. *These were not assessed during this current exercise.*

CG/- Clay – mortar

1. 70 pieces of clay mortar have been listed from stratified contexts. *These were not assessed during this current exercise.*

CG/- Clay pipes

1. 80 fragments of clay pipes have been listed: 55 from stratified contexts and 25 from unstratified contexts. *These were not assessed during the current exercise.*

CG/- Tobacco

1. One tobacco sample has been listed from a stratified context. *This has not assessed during the current exercise.*

CG/- Marine molluscs, Crustacea and land snails

1. 253 marine molluscs, 36 crab shell fragments and 14 land snails were excavated from Crane Godrevy. In contrast to assemblages from earlier periods the most common species were dog whelks and edible species such as the limpet and mussel.

CG/- Charcoal

1. 12 charcoal samples from RB and later contexts are listed. Gorse, broom, oak and ash have been identified. The interesting addition of an exotic species of pine (*Pinus* sp.) is likely to indicate some marine salvaging as driftwood. 10 samples are suitable for dating.

CG/- Eggshell

1. 4 fragments of egg shell of unknown origin have been listed from stratified contexts. *These were not assessed during the current exercise.*

CG/- Dung

1. 1 sample of dung has been listed from a stratified context its date is unknown. *This was not assessed during the current exercise.*

6.12.2 CG/- Overall comment on the archive

The site archive comprises notebooks for each year of excavation alongside finds registers, photographs (mounted and captioned in an album) and a large number of plans and section field drawings. All are listed and well ordered. The method of excavation and in particular, recording, evolved over the various seasons which means that the recording was not as consistent throughout the campaign and it is clear that for the first series of yearly investigations from 1952 through to 1956 various cuttings – all dug by hand – were numbered sequentially 1, 2 , 3 etc respectively for each year. This means that to reconcile the notebooks and the cuttings care needs to be taken that each cutting is securely identified by year. The locations of all cuttings are however documented and are shown on a series of location plans. The records for seasons 1956, 1957 and 1958 are available but only drawings exist for years 1952, some in 1955 and 1969 which will make the processes of stratigraphic reconstruction challenging. Inside the site, notebooks and drawings recording the major features should make reconstruction of the stratigraphy feasible although a lack of certain section drawings may cause problems. The recording of layers here was not tied into other recorded sequences found on the lower Bronze Age and post Roman sites. This simplifies things as this means that the individual descriptions of deposits and features in the site notebooks can be extracted and allocated the single context recording system. The creation of a site record from the descriptive records will take time but be an important first step in creating an accessible archive. Following this the present finds records can be amended as necessary.

There are a number of key chronological phases at the site which need to be stratigraphically reconstructed before any further work takes place on the finds archive. A total station survey to locate the cuttings/trenches and even standing walls which are still visible should form the first stage in stratigraphic reconstruction.

7. FACTUAL DATA ON GWITHIAN SITES – CHRONOLOGY, STRUCTURE & STRATIGRAPHY MINOR SITES OF DIFFERENT PERIODS

Throughout the life of the Gwithian project the team conducted work on a number of minor sites with the aim of identifying potential sites which may help fill in gaps in the chronological framework presented by the major sites where deep stratigraphic sequences were discovered. The following section considers *only those* investigations which have the potential to add further information to the broader narratives from the major excavations and thus contributing to an overview of the history of land-use and settlement in the study area.

They are:

- Work at **GO=GW** related to major Bronze Age sites GM/X etc.
- Work at **RD – barrow** related to general discussion of BA at Gwithian
- Work at **GH/-** related to Roman site Porth Godrevy and pre-Roman activities at Crane Godrevy
- Work at **SL- Sandy Lane** related to work on medieval site of Crane Godrevy.

7.1 Bronze Age Minor Sites

7.1.1 Site GO=GW

Work at site GO=GW (Godrevy/Gwithian outcrop) was exploratory in nature in 1963 and limited to a trial trench cut across a stone bank. A handful of BA sherds were found in a layer which was identified as one of the major occupation horizons – layer 5 (see above).

ARTEFACTS – SITE GO=GW

BA Pottery (6)

7.1.2 Specific points arising from the finds assessments

The factual information relating to all classes of data from these sites are presented in the collated details for each site as well as the assessment reports presented in the appendices. The following summaries list the key features of the individual finds assessments.

GO=GW Ceramics

1. The small ceramic assemblage (6) is of Bronze Age date.

7.1.3 GO=GW General comment on the archive

As it stands there is limited detailed information about this site and the available evidence would provide just a descriptive narrative of the evaluation work undertaken in 1963. This site could be revisited and if is would be a prime candidate for some further evaluation in the form of a small-scale targeted excavation in order to provide more information on its exact date and character. Given that layer 5 is said to have been recorded here it would be useful to determine its relative position to the main area of Bronze Age settlement focused on sites GM/IX and GM/X.

7.2 Site RD Bronze Age Barrow

Rapid recording work was carried out by a member of the Gwithian mobile team in April 1957 at the site of a plough-damaged barrow on Reskajeage Downs (Fig.7). This was one barrow within a barrow cemetery. The excavation was partial and limited structural details of the site exist. A cremated burial accompanied by a possible copper alloy object were found but are now lost.

ARTEFACTS
Listed but now missing are:

- Cremated bone deposit – assumed to be human
- Copper alloy object indicated by a green stain.

7.2.1 Overall comment on the archive

The archive for this exercise comprises a sketch plan with notes and none of the finds have survived.

7.3 Roman Minor Site

7.3.1 Site GH – Field system

Note: The code for work at this site was used twice. 1. *Godrevy Hillside*: **IA/RB** site excavated in 1958 in fields SE of Crane between Pencobben and Godrevy head. 2. Also survey in 1963 of **IA/RB** field systems on *Godrevy Headland*.

EXCAVATION The work at site GH in 1958 comprised a series of 7 cuttings on Godrevy hillside designed to examine and date a small field system discovered to the south-east of Crane Godrevy. It was suggested that these fields were related to earlier RB activity at the enclosure discovered at Crane Godrevy. A mixed finds assemblage was found including IA and RB pottery (Fowler and Thomas 1962, 80).

SURVEY The work at site GH (Godrevy Headland) in 1962 and 63 centred on the survey of a field system of presumed prehistoric date. This was not examined by excavation but surveyed and a note published in 1962 (Fowler and Thomas 1962, 80-81).

ARTEFACTS LISTED FOR GH 1958
The following classes of finds were excavated : RB pottery (13);Post Roman pottery (1);Post medieval pottery (2);Industrial debris (1);Stonework (3);Animal bone (3) and Marine shell (14).

7.3.2 Key points arising from the finds assessments

The factual information relating to all classes of data from these sites are presented in the collated details for each site as well as the assessment reports presented in the appendices. The following summaries list the key features of the individual finds assessments.

GH - Prehistoric and Roman ceramics

1. Mixed sherds of Later Iron Age and late Roman (and medieval and later) date were recovered from deposits recorded at Godrevy Hillside in 1958. They indicate a certain degree of intermixing of contexts.
2. The identification of a rim of a later Iron Age jar (c. 4th to 2nd centuries BC) is of interest as it suggests some degree of later Iron Age activity in the area although this does not tie directly into a specific site.
3. No detailed commentary of the character of later Iron Age activities at Gwithian is likely although the small collection of sherds can be discussed in relation to the material recovered from the ditch at Crane Godrevy (see above).

GH – stonework

1. A small insignificant and undiagnostic collection comprising 1 whetstone and 2 pebbles.

GH - Industrial waste

1. I piece of undiagnostic industrial waste has been identified.

GH - Animal bone

1. 3 fragments of animal bone were not assessed during this current exercise. Given the small-scale nature of the investigation these are unlikely to have potential for further analysis.

GH – Marine shell

1. Three marine shells are listed. These were not assessed during this current exercise as all were from residual contexts.

7.3.3 GH/- Overall comment on the archive

Stratigraphic layers (layers 1 to 6) were recorded during excavation work in 1958. Banks, ditches and occupation layers were recorded, although the cuttings (7 in total) do not appear to have been plotted, and so their precise location remains unclear. Sections drawings exist for two cuttings (5 and 6) and notes exist for the remainder of the other trenches. Adequate detail is present in the present archive to draw together a descriptive record of the work and draw up plans.
The key supporting data is the small assemblage of later prehistoric ceramics whose further study will contribute to a broader discussion of later prehistoric activity at Gwithian compared with Roman phases at Porth Godrevy and pre-medieval phases at Crane Godrevy. Remaining finds from this exercise have no potential for further analysis.

7.4 Minor Medieval Sites

7.4.1 Sandy Lane SL/-, OLS and HP

Work at Sandy Lane (SL/-) and related sites OLS and HP was of an exploratory nature as no main excavations took place at these sites. However the recording of a substantial well-preserved midden deposit by the Gwithian team in August 1963 produced a substantial archive of finds – the key data set being medieval ceramics which have a direct relationship with ceramic groups found at the main sites of Crane Godrevy. The midden was only selectively excavated and sampled and found to comprise at least 4 layers intercalcated with sand. The lowest 2 appeared to lay below an old land surface.

ARTEFACTS

The following classes of finds were listed: Ceramics (2616); ironwork (18); stonework (14); animal bone (57); fired clay (2); clay pipe fragments (1); charcoal (1); land snails (1) and marine shells (1).

7.4.2 Key points arising from the finds assessments

The factual data on the finds is presented in accompanying specialist reports. The following summary lists the key features of the individual finds assessments.

Medieval and later medieval ceramics

1. Three distinctive styles of medieval ceramics have been identified in the Sandy Lane assemblage. Known in the text as Sandy Lane styles 1, 2 and 3.
2. Listed during this exercise are 761 medieval sherds from stratified contexts and 69 post medieval sherds from stratified contexts.
3. Preliminary examination of the medieval material suggests a date range from 11th to 13th centuries AD.

Note *No other finds assemblages have been assessed during this present exercise as much of the material to date has been considered as potentially unstratified data-sets. Work on the stratigraphic reconstruction principally guided by a through sorting*

of the ceramic assemblages is likely to change this and further potential assessments principally on main related groups – the ironwork and animal bone – may be considered useful and contribute to results achieved at Crane Godrevy and the main post Roman sites (GM/I etc) .

7.4.3 Overall comment on the archive

Records of work undertaken at Sandy Lane do exist but need to be collated in consultation with Charles Thomas so that stratigraphic reconstruction of clear sequences at Sandy Lane may take place. The stratigraphic record at Sandy Lane requires close reconstruction which would usefully take place in conjunction with work on the large medieval and later ceramic assemblages.

UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

8 PROJECT PROPOSAL – SCOPE, AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

8.1 Project Scope

The overall scope of this proposed further stage of work on the Gwithian archive is to build up on the results achieved to date and pursue a greater depth of analysis on certain aspects of the archive so that the results of this significant archaeological project may reach a wider audience. It is intended that this project will take place under Programme 4: Dissemination of information from backlog projects, sub programme 4.1 External projects, *Exploring Our Past 1998: Implementation Plan* (1998 and revised version January 2003). This key priority emphases the value of researching past unpublished archaeological archives where good preservation of localised sequences and the potential for dating and revisiting and updating former large collections of primary data-sets has been demonstrated.

The final outcome of this work as set out in this present proposed programme of work will be a draft text for publication. It is also intended that interim progress reports on the post excavation programme will be posted onto the project website which will be set up at the commencement of the next stage of work.

8.2 National research aims

It is apparent that the Gwithian archive has enormous potential to make significant contributions of many areas of archaeological research. Future academic research aims are listed below and are linked to regional and national research priorities. Overall national research aims are set out in the *Research Agenda* produced by the English Heritage Archaeology Research Division (draft 1997) and those listed in the document *Exploring Our Past: Implementation Plan* (1998 and revised version January 2003) (EoP98).

This rapid appraisal of the Gwithian archive has concluded that future work may feed into key programmes of research identified by EoP98. These are (in addition to programme 4.1, see above):

Programme 3 Synthetic Projects

- programme 3.1 artefact and material reviews
- programme 3.2 archaeotechnology review
- programme 3.3 thematic syntheses

Programme 9 Research projects

- programme 9.4 The antiquity of dairying
- programme 9.5 Anglo-Saxon England c. 570 – 720AD: the chronological basis

Programme 11 Local Archaeology and Public Involvement

- programme 11.2 Local projects to develop the monitoring, recording and understanding of historic landscapes

Programme 17 Methodological and Technical Development

- programme 17.3 refining archaeological chronologies through scientific dating

8.3 Academic research aims

The specific academic research aims (identified in English Heritage *Research Agenda* 1997) which further analysis of the Gwithian archive will contribute are:

- Promotion and dissemination of appropriate archaeological information: **A3**
- Chronological priorities – Iron Age hillforts, enclosures and settlement:**P8**
- Settlement study – rural settlement:**T3**
- Landscape study – regional chronologies: **L3** and test extant models based on historic landscape assessment: **L4**
- Processes of change: **PC2** change and diversification in farming communities c. 3000 – 2000 BC. **PC3** communal monuments into settlement and field landscapes c. 2000-300 BC and **PC4** Briton into Roman (c.300-200 AD).
- Management of the known resource: **MR4** – specifically updating existing knowledge.

Additional national research aims have been consulted as work on the archive appraisal has progressed. These include the Medieval Pottery Research Group (Mellor 1994) and *Britons and Romans: advancing an archaeological agenda* (James and Millett 2001) and *Prehistoric Britain – The Ceramic Basis* compiled by Woodward and Hill for the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group (2002). Other reviews have been consulted: period overview articles setting out regional research priorities published in the Silver Jubilee volume of *Cornish Archaeology* **25**, 1986.

8.4 Statement of potential

In the following section the aims of proposed future work are linked to local and regional research priorities (RRP) and national objectives (NRP – see above). Some of the specific research aims were presented in the initial project design (Nowakowski et al 2003) and these have been revisited and revised.

8.4.1 Regional research aims

There are certain key areas where the Gwithian data remains outstanding and unique in its contribution to major advances in regional (and national) knowledge. The discovery and excavation of many well-preserved archaeological sequences within this unique landscape have tremendous potential through further study to contribute to unique contextual archaeological narratives for particular chronological periods. Of particular importance in this respect are the data sets for the Mesolithic, Bronze Age, Roman, Post Roman and medieval sites.

8.4.2 RRP1 (linked to NRP – programme 17.3) Advances in regional chronologies – scientific dating

The assessment has shown that there are four key groups of diagnostic finds whose detailed study and independent scientific dating will have the potential to make significant contributions to our current understanding of the region for the following cultural periods:

- The Bronze Age - 2nd Millennium BC
- Roman period - 1st Millennium AD
- Post Roman period - 1st Millennium AD
- Medieval period – 11th to 16th centuries AD

8.4.3 RRP2 (linked to NRP – programme 3.3 and programme 11.2 with L3). Advances in regional chronologies – understanding coastal landscapes and landscape history and opportunities for wider presentation

The main chronological phases of human settlement and activity have considerable potential to contribute to the landscape history of a significant and distinctive coastal

character within the region. Substantial period narratives exist within the Gwithian archive for the following cultural periods:

- Mesolithic period
- The Bronze Age - 2nd Millennium BC
- Roman period - 1st Millennium AD
- Post Roman period - 1st Millennium AD
- Medieval and later medieval periods – 11th to 16th centuries AD

Dissemination of these results as a landscape study through a proposed variety of media – academic monograph, academic and popular articles and a project website – are opportunities to inform a wider public.

8.4.4 RRP3 (linked to NRP L3 and MR4) Landscape case study and future management of the known resource –specifically updating existing knowledge.

It is clear that the existing record for documented work as presented through published texts and summarised in the regional HER (Historic Environment Record) is incomplete, patchy and sometimes confusing. This present exercise has been an opportunity to correct many misunderstandings about the specific details of the long campaign of archaeological work at Gwithian. The dissemination of these results is a key priority for countryside managers and advisors as many of the Gwithian sites are in designated and protected areas and it is intended that full presentation of the significance of extant upstanding and buried archaeological deposits will aid the guidance of future long-term conservation and management programmes as well as correct present misleading knowledge. The programme will provide an outstanding case study of the character and potential of coastal sand dunes and coastal rough ground as historic character types.

8.4.5 RRP4 (linked to NRP PC3) New information on the character of settlement during the 2nd Millennium BC

The well-preserved settlement structures together with the evidence for related field enclosures dated by pottery to the 2nd millennium BC found at Gwithian was a unique and exciting discovery of great national importance during the late 1950 and early 1960s. At the time Gwithian was one of only a handful of sites discovered in Britain where such qualitative data had been found and whose contribution to the then relatively new study of Bronze Age settlement research has continued to remain legendary. Yet only parts of the available data reached wider dissemination through publication (eg Megaw 1976) and many of the interim statements produced during and immediately after fieldwork (eg Thomas 1956, 1957 and 1958) presented a rather confused picture. Fifty years on and research on lowland Bronze Age settlement in Cornwall has made great advances with the excavations at Trevisker Round (ApSimon and Greenfield 1972), Trethellan Farm (Nowakowski 1991), Penhale Moor and Penhale Round (Nowakowski 1998 and 2001). Nevertheless the data from Gwithian remains significant in presenting unique aspects to the study of the variability of lowland settlement for this period in the South West. The evident succession of occupation and abandonment at the site over a period of perhaps several generations is a unique sequence whose full study will ultimately reveal new insights into the biographies of settlement that are evidently so varied for this period (*cf* Brück and Goodman 1999). In addition the re-interpretation of the specialised character of occupation as represented through the layer 3 horizon provides an exciting and new insight into the emergent variety of settlement in lowland Cornwall for this period. Bronze Age Gwithian has some unique aspects to contribute national research agendas on settlement studies for this period.

8.4.6 RRP5 (linked to NRP – PC4, T3 and programme 9.5) Study of Roman and post Roman settlement

Two of the major excavations – one at the Roman site of Porth Godrevy and the other of the main post Roman sites GM/I etc – have produced results of regional and national significance. Both sites presented well-preserved localised stratigraphic sequences whose full study have considerable scope to provide detailed commentaries of the varied character of sites for these periods when considered against a background of current understanding and research (*cf* James and Millett 2001). The Roman "farmstead" of Porth Godrevy appears to have had a specialist function and the unique sets of structures found at the major GM/I sites also suggest a unique type of settlement.

8.4.7 RRP6 (linked to NRP – A3 and T3) Study of new architectural building forms

The ground plans of structures dating to the Bronze Age (sites GM/X, GM/XV), the Roman period (GT/-), and the post Roman sites (GM/I – E) are remarkably distinctive, unique and without parallel in the south-western archaeological record. Their full study will not only enhance existing knowledge but also provide new evidence for the variability of vernacular architecture for these periods in the South West (see for example Quinnell 2004). Excavations of upstanding medieval buildings excavated at Crane Godrevy are currently without close parallel in the region and the record from this site has much research potential for the study of rural medieval settlement (see Preston-Jones and Rose 1986, 139).

8.4.8 RRP7 (linked to NRP-A3, programmes 3.1 and 3.3, programme 9.4). Advances in artefact studies – providing new information on ceramics – form, fabric, manufacture and exchange networks

The importance of new information available through comprehensive and detailed study of the key ceramic assemblages for the Bronze Age, Roman, post Roman and medieval periods from the major stratified sites excavated at Gwithian can not be understated. These collections will provide new data on form, fabric, function and manufacturing technologies and resource networks. This assessment has shown that there is new information about the Bronze Age ceramics in particular which presents a unique opportunity for the study of regional ceramic manufacture and technology drawing in associated themes of resource exchange, trade and issues of cultural identity. The same opportunity is evident in the post Roman ceramic assemblages, which comprises a unique collection for the south-west and their full study will have much to contribute to regional and national research agendas (*cf* Woodward and Hill 2002). The importance of the post Roman ceramic sequence discovered at Gwithian can not be understated as this material has particular regional importance for our current understanding of ceramic traditions for the post Roman period.

8.4.9 RRP8 (linked to NRP - A3, T3) Advances in artefact studies – understanding local ceramic sequences and technology in the medieval periods by Catherine Freeman

The substantial assemblages of medieval ceramics from Crane Godrevy present a long awaited opportunity to establish a pottery sequence with absolute rather than relative dating in an area where research has been notably lacking. The west of England has been highlighted as the least investigated and understood region of medieval Britain (Mellor in a review of Medieval Pottery Research Group for EH, 1994, 44 and 76). In a synthetic regional overview by Preston Jones and Rose in 1986 the issue of dating Sandy Lane styles has been raised and the benefits of a full assessment of this and the medieval pottery at Crane Godrevy has been stated

(1986, 177). Full studies of both major assemblages would directly link into national and regional research priorities for this period.

8.4.10 RRP9 (linked to NRP - A3, T3, programme 3.2). Advances in artefact studies – technology and small-scale craft and industry – across major periods

Key groups of finds from a variety of chronological periods in the archive have been identified and their full study will contribute substantial comment to the character and nature of small-scale craft and related industries. The "bevelled stone pebble tools" recorded so characteristic of the Gwithian Mesolithic archive forms a distinctive and unparalleled collection and is suggestive of a localised cultural tradition and industry. The unique collection of ceramics identified from a major occupation horizon on the Bronze Age sites (that is layer 3) remains an anomalous and unique collection when measured against other Trevisker assemblages for the 2nd Millennium BC. The on-site manufacture of Trevisker pottery in Gabbroic clay has considerable implications both for the site itself and for understanding of exchange systems in the Middle Bronze Age. Equally the worked bone, shale, the clay and stone moulds, marine shell and stonework from the Bronze Age deposits display unique traits suggestive of strategic and pragmatic resource gathering and skill/s specialisation. The evidence for metalworking found at the post Roman sites suggests that specialised industry had a role to play in the lives of the communities who lived at Gwithian as indeed the discovery of briquetage from Roman Porth Godrevy which suggests an otherwise previously overlooked salt-making industry. The Roman stonework assemblage from Porth Godrevy should be reviewed. All these sets of data have much potential to reveal the unique human relationship of place and its link to local and regional resources through a series of detailed snapshots at particular periods.

8.4.11 RRP10 (linked to NRP-T3 and potentially programme 9.3) Advances in the study of local economies, local environment and land-use and animal husbandry regimes, marine resource exploitation and woodland

The archaeological significance of ecofactual data was not routinely recognised during the immediate and later post-war periods and sampling strategies were therefore not rigorously employed. The overall absence of macroplant remains from all sites of all periods is particularly regrettable and for insights into food and farming practises discussion rest on indirect evidence in the form of the fields, plough and spade marks (the Bronze Age and Roman site), ceramic residues (sites of all periods), Roman, post Roman and medieval agricultural iron tools, prehistoric and later stone and worked bone tools. Some evidence for fishing is apparent in the variety of worked bone and stone line winder pebble tools (suggestive of hand-lining) which have identified in the Bronze Age archives.

Nonetheless there are important data-sets of direct data such as the animal bone from the Bronze Age, post Roman and medieval sites from Gwithian which are available for study will provide commentaries on husbandry regimes and land use in the study area. It should be stressed that stratified faunal assemblages for all these periods are particularly scarce for the South West and their full research potential must be realised. Equally the extant assemblages of marine shells and gastropods from the Bronze Age, post Roman and medieval sites are available for insights into resource gathering strategies within this coastal setting. The extant charcoal assemblages from all the major excavations have also the potential to provide commentaries on the local environment for the Bronze Age, post Roman and medieval periods.

8.4.12 RRP11 (linked to NRP – programme 3.1) site formation processes and issues of cultural curation, abandonment, discard and refuse behaviour

Site formation processes are particularly exciting area of research which can make significant contributions to the study of cultural practise, routine and ritual when focused on the multiple roles, uses and histories of material objects (*cf* Woodward and Hill 2002). Given the well-preserved character of the main stratified sequences documented principally at the main Bronze Age settlement, the post Roman settlement and to some degree at the Roman site of Porth Godrevy, initial impressions gained through this current exercise is that there are certain data-sets relating to the major occupation phases which have the potential for on-site behaviour and contextual analysis. This research aim will guide analyses on certain classes of data as work on the archive continues and it is anticipated will make significant contributions to site interpretations.

8.4.13 RRP12 (linked to NRP – programme 11, T3 and MR4) Study of medieval rural settlement

There is a major absence of comprehensive excavations of medieval rural settlements in Cornwall (*cf* Preston Jones and Rose 1986) and this is particularly so for West Cornwall. The opportunity to study a more of less intact and abandoned site is rare. The work at Crane Godrevy was a unique opportunity as the site was not reoccupied after the 16th century and so the preservation of earlier phases of settlement were undisturbed. The excavation revealed a wide range of data whose full study will make a useful contribution to the overall study of settlement for this period.

9. STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

Overall comment

This project has identified a number of key sites within the Gwithian archive which have substantial potential for further levels of analyses leading to the dissemination of the results of this landscape study through publication. These are principally the major period sites dating to the Mesolithic, the Bronze Age, the Roman, the post Roman and the medieval periods. Each major archive has been assessed in terms of its potential value to contribute to the series of research aims presented above.

In the following section a general statement on the key sites with potential for work on structure and stratigraphy is presented followed by general statements on major finds presented in summary. This is then followed by **specific statements** on the potential of individual data-sets from the 6 major archives.

9.1 Structure and Stratigraphy – Bronze Age, Roman, Post Roman and Medieval Sites

The assessment has demonstrated that the overall quality of the site records extant within individual archives for the reconstruction of the structure and stratigraphy at the main period sites is of a standard for further work to take place. Work on all these sites *will contribute to all the research aims set out in section 8*.

Initial work on reconstructing the stratigraphy at all these sites is the necessary foundation for further targeted work on all associated data-sets. Once completed then a scientific dating programme focused on dating the major chronological phases is a key priority. The outcome will be updated stratigraphic archive reports for all the major sites which will guide future work for the specialist (finds) team.

9.2 General Statements on the Potential Of Major Finds Groups

The assessment has revealed a number of *major finds groups* with great research potential and the following brief summaries highlight these.

Mesolithic flints

The flint archive for the Mesolithic period has considerable research potential for aims: **RRP3** and **RRP9**.

Prehistoric ceramics

Key groups of prehistoric ceramics dating from the Neolithic to Bronze Age have been identified from all Bronze Age sites GM/X etc. Key MBA assemblages from layer 5 and 3 at GM/X, GM/IX and GM/XV presented considerable potential to contribute to many research aims: **RRP1, RRP7, RRP9** and **RRP11**.

Bronze Age Shale

A unique collection of shale artefacts excavated from the Bronze Age sites have a substantial contribution to make to research aim: **RRP 9**.

Roman ceramics

Key groups of Roman ceramics have been identified from sites GT – Porth Godrevy and (CG/-) Crane Godrevy and present considerable potential to contribute to many research aims: **RRP1, RRP5, RRP7** and **RRP 11**.

Post Roman ceramics

Key and substantial assemblage of post Roman ceramics from the major post Roman excavations – GM/I, GM/A etc., - is a unique collection presenting considerable potential to contribute to major research aims: **RRP1, RRP5** and **RRP7**.

Medieval and later ceramics
Substantial assemblages of medieval and later medieval ceramics from the sites SL/- Sandy Lane and Crane Godrevy (CG/-) is an important regional collection unique collection presenting considerable potential to contribute to major research aim: **RRP8.**

Worked bone assemblages
There are significant key groups of worked bone objects for the Bronze Age and Post Roman sites which present considerable research potential to contribute to research aims: **RRP9** and **RRP10**.

Animal bone assemblages
There are significant key groups of animal bones for the Bronze Age, post Roman and the medieval sites which present considerable research potential to contribute to research aims: **RRP2, RRP4, RRP9** and **RRP10**.

Prehistoric stonework
Key assemblages of prehistoric stonework have been identified from all the Bronze Age sites and their full study offers considerable research potential to contribute to many research aims: **RRP4, RRP9** and **RRP10**.

Roman stonework
Key assemblages of Roman period stonework have been identified from Porth Godrevy. Full study offers considerable research potential to contribute to research aim: **RRP5**.

Roman, post Roman, medieval and later medieval metalwork – ironwork
Key assemblages of roman period ironwork from Porth Godrevy, post Roman iron objects from the post Roman sites, medieval and later medieval ironwork from Crane Godrevy have been identified. Full study offers considerable research potential to contribute to research aims: **RRP9** and **RRP10**.

Prehistoric marine assemblages
A striking collection of worked and unworked marine shells from Bronze Age and post Roman sites form a unique collection for study and will contribute to research aims: **RRP9** and **RRP10**.

9.3 Mesolithic Archive- Statement of Potential

1. The large concentration of principally well-preserved sites containing Mesolithic material within the Gwithian study area makes the entire archive a unique collection whose further detailed study will contribute a significant chapter on the character of early land use in the study area. As a whole the collection has an important contribution to regional research aims for this period (**RRP2** and **RRP9**).

2. For the majority of sites however the collection strategy has been sporadic and many not systematically recorded and the potential for on-site spatial analysis is limited. At only two sites – GB and GT – were clear Mesolithic stratified deposits recorded with lithics forming discreet localised concentrations. The potential for further analysis centring on the spatial distribution of this material exists. There maybe further localised spreads of material found at the main GM/X sites and this would require a review (see below). The results gained from this type of detailed analyses would help

situate the results from broader overviews of the Gwithian Mesolithic material in general within the context of a landscape study. Material collected from Hudder field – site HU – has been systematically plotted within a fixed grid system and this collection offers the most potential for on-site spatial analysis. (**RRP2).**

3. Some further detailed work on the large collection of "bevelled pebbles"/ pebble-tools is recommended. This would appear to be a singularly unique part of the Gwithian Mesolithic archive underpinning the value of further detailed study within a present research framework for this period (**RRP9**).

4. Whilst further fieldwork is understood not to be within the present remit of this current project, the potential for further fieldwork within the study area is high and some future programmes of small-scale targeted field investigations at sites with the potential for datable surfaces has been outlined above.

5. On present knowledge an overview of the varied character of Mesolithic activities within the study area exists (see section 6). A detailed summary of this work is feasible following further work on the present archive.

9.4 Bronze Age Archives - Statement Of Potential

9.4.1 Major Sites - Structure And Stratigraphy And Dating

The rich range of structural and broad wealth of material culture found associated with well-preserved Bronze Age occupation horizons during the Gwithian campaign is exceptional despite recent advances into research on settlement dating to the 2nd Millennium BC in the South West (see for example Nowakowski 2001). There is much at Gwithian – further underlined by the results of this present assessment – which is unique for this period and slightly anomalous in the light of our current understanding about the nature of settlement for the period. The range of wooden and stone structures which were discovered at Gwithian does not conform to the otherwise contemporary and "typical" round wooden houses sunk within hollows found elsewhere in lowland contexts (see for example Trethellan Farm, Nowakowski 1991, and Trevisker ApSimon and Greenfield 1972). The clear evidence for field boundaries, enclosures together with the juxtaposition of human cremated burials, an inhumation burial and the new evidence for on-site manufacture of pots makes the whole range of data from the sites unique offering potentially new and exciting areas for detailed analysis. The assessment has demonstrated that the quality of the archive will permit structure and stratigraphy to be usefully reconstructed and the potential for dating is high. Further work on the results of this important excavation will make a key contribution to research on BA settlement and contribute a qualitative narrative to the history of settlement and land-use in the Gwithian area: **RRP1**, **RRP3** and **RRP 4**.

9.4.2 Major Sites - Finds

Prehistoric Ceramics

- The largest collection of prehistoric ceramics *c*. 3000 sherds of Trevisker styles dating to the 2nd Millennium BC were from sites GM/X and GM/IX - principally from layer 3. This assemblage has considerable potential for further study and will contribute to research aims. **RRP1, RRP7, RRP9** and **RRP11**.
- The Trevisker style assemblage appeared in a variety of archaeological contexts – structures, pits as well as middens. Some evidence for intentional deposition has been noted and there is potential for contextual analysis following stratigraphic reconstruction (**RRP11**).

- The rapid assessment of the fabrics in the largest Middle Bronze Age assemblage (principally layer 3 and 5) suggests a complex picture. Gabbro fabrics dominate though granitic fabrics are also present. The scope for a comprehensive fabric study is considerable and this work will form a key part of further analysis and assessment of this material (**RRP7** and **RRP9**).
- A key MBA assemblage and the most coherent derives from layer 3 sites **GM/X** and **GM/IX.** This comprises incised motifs on straight-walled vessels and the absence of cord-impressed wares is striking. This assemblage is of singular significance and being well-preserved with large unabraded sherds offers the opportunity for conjoins and complete vessel forms to be published. Fabrics are gabbro and the general "lumpy" and highly fired appearance of the majority of the sherds points to on-site firing of pots. Unfired gabbro clay has also been identified and this represents convincing on-site data for the manufacture of pots during layer 3 occupation. The implications of this are all too clear and this is what makes this collection unique. In short there will be much to gain from a comprehensive study of this material as the results will feed into a variety of significant academic research areas for this period: namely ceramic technology and manufacture, craft specialisation, regional resource exchange networks, chronology, settlement study and issues of cultural identity and tradition (**RRP7** and **RRP9**).
- The ceramic assemblage from layer 5 is equally distinctive and forms a contrasted picture to that from layer 3 (see above). Those groups from sites **GM/IX, GMX** and **GM/XV** are generally better-made, comprise both incised and cord-impressed decorated vessels whose forms are more "typical" of the Trevisker/Trethellan Farm repertoire (ApSimon and Greenfield 1972: Nowakowski 1991). Initial impressions suggest that this material is more laterally spread across the sites suggesting deposition perhaps over long periods of time and some may have been intentionally deposited as household waste (see above) (**RRP11**).
- The Trevisker ceramic assemblage now found to be confidently associated with the round structure found at **GM/XV** (layer 5) displays a notably varied qualitative character in contrast to other comparative groups from other contexts across the Bronze Age sites. Some consideration of the site formation processes and issues surrounding deposition and context are likely to richly inform contextual analysis (**RRP11**).
- The potential for dating residues on selected material from site **GM/X** and **GM/IX** is high. This collection is unique and spot dating to more securely fix this chronological horizon will be a key priority aiding on-site interpretation as well allowing us to situate layer 3 occupation at Gwithian within the developing chronological framework for the MBA in the South West (**RRP1** and **RRP10**).

Prehistoric Baked Clay from all Bronze Age sites

- Some baked fragments appear to be broken bits of larger objects – possibly loomweights or even "kiln furniture" used in the processes of ceramic production. This appears to be unique supporting evidence for the making of ceramics on the site and further study will contribute research aims: **RRP7** and **RRP9.**
- A fragment of a clay casting mould from GM/X together with the stone mould from GM/X does suggest small-scale evidence for metalworking. Further study will contribute to research aim: **RRP9**.

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Lithics from all Bronze Age sites

- The lithic assemblages for these sites are generally small although distinct tool types may be correlated with occupation layers. Bladelet production may have taken place in earlier phases of activity (layers 7 and 8) although the majority of

the assemblage is characterised by knives and scrapers of poor and largely re-worked quality (layers 3 and 5). Their general study will contribute to an overall picture of resource exploitation and on-site contextual analysis **RRP9**.

- The general absence of classic flint tools in the form of distinctive scrapers and knives and awls is noted although it is also noted that this small repertoire of lithic tools appear to be contemporary with a wide variety of worked bone and stone implements which may have been used in related activities such as leather and wood working **RRP9**.

Shale from all Bronze Age sites

- Seven fragments of shale objects have been identified from sites **GM/X** and **GM/IX** (see table HQI).The on-site manufacture of shale objects is suggested and this would appear to form part of small-scale craft activities during the main layer 3 occupation. The presence of Kimmeridge shale from southern Britain at Gwithian is unparalleled for sites of this period in the region and the collection is unique and their full study would contribute significant new data to research aim: **RRP9**.

Worked stone from all Bronze Age sites

- A large variety of tool types have been identified from sites GM/IX and GM/X and the largest groups are from layer 3 (see tables HQ2 and HQ3). Many on-site craft and/or industrial activities are suggested by the variety which reveal economic farming and fishing activities, production of pots, shale, worked bone and metalwork. Their full study will contribute to research aims: **RRP9**.

Animal bones and worked (animal bone) objects

- The largest group of animal bones within the Gwithian archive are from the Bronze Age sites. The assemblage offers the potential for further analysis and providing useful data on husbandry regimes and the use and exploitation of animal resources. It was noted that animal bones from BA sites were on the whole in poor condition and some discussion on the condition of this material may be useful towards on-site interpretation and site formation activities and processes. A collection of worked animal bones are unique and together further study of this class of find can contribute to research aims: **RRP9, RRP10** and **RRP11.**

Copper alloy objects

- Few copper alloy objects have been found in stratified contexts of contemporary BA sites in the region and so this collection is particularly unique. Some review of the published items may be useful pending further dating and review of former site interpretations. Their re-study will contribute to research aims: **RRP1** and **RRP4**.

Human bone – cremated material

- The discovery of cremated human bone deposits alongside a child inhumation burial at the Bronze Age site **GM/X** is of some significance. The juxtaposition of funerary and secular activities within a "domestic" context is not without precedence for the later Bronze Age (cf Brück 1995) yet still remains largely unusual for the earlier periods in the South West. Only one other association of this nature has been found in county to date - part of an inhumed adult skeleton was found within a MBA house under the hearth at Trethellan Farm (Nowakowski 1991, 203 – 204). Further study will contribute to research aims: **RRP4** and **RRP11**.

Charcoal from all Bronze Age sites

- A variety of tree and shrub species has been identified from the few charcoal samples from sites GM/IX and GM/X. There is potential for dating and analysis to contribute to research aims: **RRP1** and **RRP10**

Marine molluscs/gastropods

- Large groups of marine molluscs and gastropods were excavated from the Bronze Age sites. A particular feature of the Bronze Age sites is the high number of worked shell – perforated as if to make decorative items and those which display signs of being worked. As a whole the collection is quite unique and present high potential for further analysis and will make significant contributions to research aims: **RRP9** and **RRP10**.

9.4.3 Bronze Age Minor Sites - Statement Of Potential

Godrevy Barrow – GB

Godrevy Barrow was one of the first sites to be investigated on the Gwithian project (Fig 7). Three seasons of work here during 1950, 1952 and 1958 revealed a fairly disturbed barrow mound. Consequently only partial excavation of the barrow mound took place. A well-preserved and *in situ* Mesolithic flint scatter was discovered beneath the mound. No detailed work on the BA archive is recommended here other than a descriptive summary of the work. This will contribute to the overall landscape narrative of the Gwithian study area: **RRP2.**

There is however the potential for a spatial reconstruction of the earlier Mesolithic working floor and this would contribute to an overall of Mesolithic activities in the project area: **RRP2**.

GO=GW

The site has useful background data to contribute to an overall discussion of the Bronze Age history of settlement at Gwithian. No detailed work on the archive is recommended here other than a descriptive summary of the work including a summary of the Bronze Age pottery. This will contribute to the overall landscape narrative of the Gwithian study area: **RRP2.**

RD – barrow

The site has useful background data to contribute to an overall discussion of the Bronze Age history of settlement at Gwithian. No detailed work on the archive is recommended here other than a descriptive summary of the work written for publication. This will contribute to the overall landscape narrative of the Gwithian study area: **RRP2.**

9.5 Roman Site – Statement Of Potential

9.5.1 Major Site - Structure And Stratigraphy And Dating

GT – Porth Godrevy – Roman farmstead/settlement

Overall this appraisal has concluded that the excavations at Porth Godrevy should be comprehensively revisited. New information with the discovery of briquetage and salt-making equipment now recognised in the material archive potentially adds a completely different dimension to our current understanding of the character of Roman coastal sites in the county. Together with the discovery of pits set into the floor these are some of unusual aspects of the site which underpin a strong case for a comprehensive revisit. The structural information and ceramic assemblages require reviews and reinterpretations. Porth Godrevy remains an important site for our current understanding of the variety of settlement data available for the Romano-

British period in West Cornwall as indeed the entire county (Research aims: **RRP2, RRP5** and **RRP6).**

Potential for scientific dating
There may be limited available material suitable for radiocarbon dating although this needs to be reviewed once work on the stratigraphic reconstruction has taken place. Charcoal analysis has noted 3 samples suitable for C14 dating although the value of these dates is dependant upon the stratigraphic integrity of the samples. If suitable material is found within the assemblage then a selection of dates would be desirable to securely fix the main phases of occupation at the site not only in terms of site narrative but also within the general framework of the history of settlement within the Gwithian area. In addition any such dates here would usefully contribute to our current regional chronological picture for the south western Roman period (**Research aim RRP1).**

9.5.2 Major Roman Site - Finds

Mesolithic lithic assemblage

- The finds relating to an initial phase of Mesolithic activity require further assessment to determine the potential of the data for contextual analysis.

Roman ceramics by Henrietta Quinnell
The importance of the assemblage (Research aim RRP7).

- The initial publication of the site over 40 years ago needs revision now that the general character of structures in Roman Cornwall is better understood (Quinnell 2004 , Chapters 10 & 11). The probable presence of briquetage and the complete jars set in the floor indicate a special function for Porth Godrevy relating to exploitation of coastline resources such as salt. While the assemblage is not large, it should allow some comparison with those from other coastal sites connected with salt production such as Trebarveth T3 (Peacock 1969a) and Carngoon Bank (McAvoy 1980) as well as those from farming settlements situated in rounds such as Trethurgy (Quinnell 2004). The latter publication includes a full examination of current knowledge of ceramics in Roman Cornwall and provides the background against which the Porth Godrevy assemblage should be reassessed. Revised publication of the Porth Godrevy assemblage will provide a comprehensive statement based on current knowledge about the chronology and function of the site, its place in the Gwithian landscape, and its relationship to the round at Crane Godrevy.

Roman stonework by Henrietta Quinnell
The assemblage from Porth Godrevy (GT) **(Research aim RRP9).**

- The structure at Porth Godrevy was published by Fowler (1962). However it is important that the stone artefacts are re-examined as part of the sequence of stone material from Gwithian. Their study should contribute to the reassessment of the function of the site. Review of the artefacts against modern standards shows that the illustrations (Fowler 1962, Fig 14) do not have the detail to correctly convey artefact function and that some are based on misinterpretations: some objects not originally depicted need illustration to convey the full range of the assemblage. A paragraph in the excavation report (ibid, 58) suggests that a quantity of pebbles was not retained because they had only slight, or no apparent, traces of use. Discard of material is confirmed by Professor Thomas. Two large artefacts described in the report, a slate slab with a pivot hole (ibid, 56) and a mortar stone (ibid, 56, Fig 7b) appear to have been left on site.

Roman Copper Alloy objects (based on notes by Jennifer Foster and Vanessa Fell)

- The copper alloy collection from Porth Godrevy is small and those items of note have been published (Fowler 1962). XRF analysis of some items (brooch128) may be useful. The collection of Roman coins could repay further study following X-radiography and cleaning to aid further analysis. This study may form a useful contribution to current knowledge about Roman coinage in the South West **(Research aim RRP5)** although the full significance of the assemblage requires a further level of assessment following work on the stratigraphy.

Roman Ironwork (based on notes by Jennifer Foster and Vanessa Fell)

- A complete review of all the ironwork from Porth Godrevy would be considered valuable given potentially new evidence for a specialised function and interpretation of the site. The material should be fully listed to gain a complete overview of the range of tool types and some X-radiography will aid further analysis. This study may form a useful contribution to current knowledge about the importance of iron tools and technology during the Roman period in the South West **(Research aim RRP10)** the full significance of the material requires a further level of assessment following work on the stratigraphy.

Briquetage by Henrietta Quinnell and Jennifer Foster

- The identification of a small group of briquetage fragments during this current exercise has added new information about the potentially specialised nature of occupation at Porth Godrevy during the Roman period. Detailed analysis of this material will contribute to our current understanding of the salt-making period in the South West **(Research aim RRP9)** and the results here can be compared with data from other Roman sites found on the Lizard such as Trebarveth (Peacock 1969a) and Carngoon Bank (McAvoy 1980).

9.5.3 Minor Roman Sites

GH/- STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

Stratigraphic reconstruction

- Adequate detail is present in the present archive to draw together a descriptive record of the work and draw up plans. The results of this work is relevant to the Roman phases of settlement at Porth Godrevy and the pre-medieval phases at Crane Godrevy (**RRP 5** and **RRP 2**).

Later prehistoric and Roman ceramics

- The key supporting data is the small assemblage of later prehistoric ceramics from GH whose further study will contribute to a broader discussion of later prehistoric activity at Gwithian compared with Roman phases at Porth Godrevy and pre-medieval phases at Crane Godrevy (**RRP5**).

9.6 Post Roman Sites – Major

9.6.1 Major Site - Structure And Stratigraphy And Dating GM/I, GM/A, GM/B, GM/E and GM/IV Statement Of Potential

Site narrative and history of land use at Gwithian

The post Roman archive as a whole documents an important localised sequence of occupation and past settlement whose further analysis will provide detailed commentaries on changing economic practices and the history of land-use within the Gwithian area. The evidence covers a major phase of settlement for the study area

and its full study has the potential to contribute a distinctive narrative on a rather unique form of settlement for this period (**RRP2**).

Major settlement type for post Roman South West research
This group of related excavations where a major localised sequence of activity at Gwithian for the post Roman period was uncovered is currently without parallel in the region and therefore remains a key site for our current understanding of the varied character of post Roman period in the South West. A unique set of small stone buildings together with some evidence for on-site iron-working and an associated field system with related midden deposits were found. The work has never been fully published and the importance of the ceramic and animal bone assemblage in particular means that the results here have considerable research potential and a significant contribution to make to current post Roman research. The structural information and our current understanding of the ceramic assemblage require comprehensive reviews and both main sets of data have considerable contribution and commentaries to make on the date and character of settlement for this period (**RRP2** and **RRP5**).

Potential for scientific dating
Material suitable for radiocarbon dating exists within the archive – pot residues and charcoal. Although selection of secure samples can only take place once stratigraphic reconstruction has taken place. Securely dated ceramic groups from secure contexts is a key priority here. If suitable material is found within the assemblage then a selection of dates would be desirable to securely fix the main phases of occupation at the site not only in terms of site narrative but also within the general framework of the history of settlement within the Gwithian area. Any such dates here would usefully contribute to our current regional chronological picture for the south western post Roman period (**RRP1).**

9.6.2 Major Post Roman Sites – Finds

Post Roman ceramics

- This collection of post Roman ceramics as a whole is unique and of extreme significance for our understanding of the chronology and knowledge of ceramic production and manufacture for this period in the South West (*cf* Rose and Preston Jones 1986, 175). Provisional dates are currently based on diagnostic traits and a localised sequence is inferred on correlation with distinct banded occupation horizons recorded at the main GM/I sites. In addition the association of recognised imported wares is of great significance. The key factor here is that the assemblage is a localised and derived from a well-preserved occupational sequence and its research potential is high presenting the opportunity for form, fabric, scientific dating and residue studies, as well as its significant contribution to make to our current understanding of post Roman ceramic manufacture, trade and technologies **(Research aim: RRP7).**

Animal bone assemblages with worked bone objects (based on report by Andy Hammon)

- The groups of animal bones from stratified sequences found at the post Roman sites present considerable potential for further analysis. These data-sets have considerable contributions to make to local, regional and national research aims into economic practices, husbandry regimes and on-site related craft and/or small-scale industrial activities. This is especially so given the general scarcity of faunal assemblages from stratified archaeological deposits in the South West. (Research aim **RRPP10**).

Post Roman Ironwork (based on notes by Jennifer Foster and Vanessa Fell)

- A complete review of all the ironwork from these related post Roman sites would add greatly to an understanding of the character of settlement here during this period. Potentially new evidence for a specialised character of on-site activities here may exist and this would aid overall interpretation of the site. Limited but clear evidence for iron-working has been noted by the assessment of the metallurgical debris. The ironwork itself should be fully listed to gain a complete overview of the range of tool types and some X-radiography will aid further analysis. This study has the potential to form a significant contribution to current knowledge about the importance of iron tools and technology during the post Roman period in the South West **(Research aim: RRP9).** The full significance of the material requires a further level of assessment following work on the stratigraphy.

Metallurgical waste material (based on report by Gareth Hatton)

- The post Roman sites (GM/I and GM/XX) produced direct evidence for on site iron-smelting and smithing. This further adds to the impression of a probable specialised nature of occupation and settlement during the post Roman period. No further analysis is recommended although the data will be brought into a general discussion of the character of settlement integrating other classes of data. A descriptive summary here of the data would contribute to overall site interpretation (**RRP2** and **RRP9**).

Post Roman stonework (based on report by Henrietta Quinnell)

- A variety of stone tools have been noted during the assessment and initial impressions show a dominance of whetstones and flensing tools which could suggest specialised craft and small-scale industrial activities. Further detailed assessment and study of this large collection has much to contribute to interpretation of on-site narratives as indeed to overall research of finds of this category for post Roman period **(Research aim: RRP9).**

Marine shells (based on report by Jan Light)

- There is a unique and substantial assemblage of marine molluscs from the main post Roman site GM/I. The general paucity of food waste and the presence of worked shells and selected species would appear to present form an intriguing insight into the exploitation of the rich sea resources beyond purely economic and food-gathering activities. In this way the assemblage presents real opportunities for some considered study and will contribute to aims: **RRP5**, **RRP9 and RRP10**.

Coprolites, soil samples and Charcoal

- The post Roman sites sadly lack a complete ecofactual archive with the only direct data giving information on local environment available for study through the molluscan and charcoal assemblage (potentially with the coprolites). *The potential of the coprolites and a few soil samples have yet to be assessed once their stratigraphic integrity is known.* Charcoal assessments have shown that the species range is wide including many trees. Material suitable for dating has been identified and the charcoal can provide broad statements about the local environment and woodland resources exploited in the local area. Some potential for examining material selected and used as industrial fuel is probable (aims: **RRP 1** and **RRP10**).

9.7 Major Medieval Site – Statement Of Potential

9.7.1 CG/- Crane Godrevy – Structure and stratigraphy and dating

The work at Crane Godrevy represents one of the most comprehensive excavations of a medieval rural site undertaken to date in Cornwall. Few medieval settlements have been comprehensively studied in the county and the best preserved sites are generally found in upland areas such as Bodmin Moor. Crane Godrevy therefore provides a rare example of a well preserved settlement in lowland Cornwall. The localised stratigraphic sequence evident here permits some useful study of the changing fortunes of medieval rural life apparently evident in the substantive structural changes and phases uncovered during excavation. The wide range of material culture associated with the main phases of settlement is extraordinary and further study will provide important new information on the character and status of sites for this period. The settlement will also be related to the remains of field systems surveyed in the surrounding area. The site represents one of the major phases of the history or occupation and land-use in the Gwithian area and this site narrative contributes a substantial chapter to the overall history of settlement in the study area (**RRP2 and RRP12**).

Overall Site history

One of the key results of this work was the identification of a pre-medieval and post Roman phase of activity at the main site. The remains of this – principally an enclosure – were only partially explored but nonetheless can provide some detailed commentary on the nature and potentially long histories of enclosed sites (*cf* Trethurgy Quinnell forthcoming and Penhale Round, Nowakowski 1998). A considered analysis of the available evidence centred on a discussion of the structural evidence together with the material evidence (which has never been published before) is recommended as this has the potential to contribute to useful discussion on the changing nature of rounds (**RRP5**).

Dating potential by Catherine Freeman

Note these comments apply to SANDY LANE and CRANE GODREVY

Scientific analysis using modern techniques could help establish an independent Cornish pottery form and fabric sequence for the medieval and early post-medieval periods (1200-1600). This would use a combination of traditional binocular examination of fabrics and thin-sectioning with ICP-AES (for an example of how this can be used see Allan 1999) and possibly RC dating from residues. This could determine when gabbroic clays stopped being used and place other fabrics more precisely within the broad tradition of South-west Micaceous wares. At present dating of Cornish pottery relies strongly on evidence from Devon, as there has been no local dating evidence, but this may be entirely wrong. Cornwall, consisting largely of coastline, is open to a wide variety of other influences, and surely is capable of generating its own pottery traditions. Thus there is a need for dating evidence (for start of wheel-thrown jugs, jars, bowls, glaze etc.), independent of Devon. The presence of a large grass-marked hand-made bowl at Crane Godrevy is a glaring example of this. At present this appears to be an anomaly, as bowl forms are not found until the C16th in Devon. There is good documentary evidence for medieval and post-medieval potters in Cornwall (Douch 1969) and a background of petrological work of matching sherds to known production centres such as Lostwithiel and St. Germans against which to place new work (Taylor 1998-9).

The quality of Cornish medieval and early post-medieval pottery appears to have been fairly low, with either slip or glaze or decoration, rarely a combination, and the only decoration wavy or horizontal incised lines. There appear to be Cornish versions of standard North Devon post-medieval products, using imported North Devon clay with added tempering.

9.7.2 Major Medieval Site - Finds

Romano-British ceramics by Henrietta Quinnell

The importance of the Crane Godrevy assemblage

- The assemblage is important because it relates to the round at Crane Godrevy. Rounds are the predominant settlement type during the Later Iron Age and Roman periods in Cornwall but more common in the latter. Although there has been excavation, generally small scale, on nearly 20 of these sites in Cornwall (Quinnell 2004, Table 12.1), chronological information is still sparse. Further study of date of the Crane Godrevy assemblage should both provide more accurate chronological data for activity at the round, and, within the Gwithian landscape, the relationship of the round, presumptively one of some status, to the structure at Porth Godrevy. Initial study of the assemblages from the two sites suggests at least some overlap in use (**RRP2** and **RRP5**).

Medieval and later medieval ceramic assemblages

- The early medieval and medieval pottery form key data-sets from stratified deposits at Crane Godrevy which have considerable research potential. This material has never been comprehensively studied or published. Those ceramics principally dating to the early medieval period and found at Crane Godrevy contain traits which cross-over into the medieval period and there is a significant collection of material from Crane Godrevy (CG/-) whose further detailed study will significantly contribute to knowledge about ceramic manufacture and distribution during the transition between the early medieval and medieval periods in the South West. *Stratigraphic reconstruction will need to proceed before any further work takes place on the collection*. The results here will be discussed in conjunction with work undertaken on the material from Sandy Lane (SL/-). (research aim: **RRP8**).

Medieval Animal bone assemblage

- Substantial and qualitative faunal bone assemblages excavated from stratified deposits on sites of the medieval period in the county are particularly rare. The archive as a whole derives from an important localised sequence of occupation and past settlement whose further analysis will provide detailed commentaries on changing economic practices and the history of land-use within the Gwithian area for the medieval period. (**RRP10**).

Medieval ironwork

- There is an impressive and very large collection of iron artefacts from Crane Godrevy – the largest archive of its class and date in the South west. Further detailed analysis has much to contribute to the use and range of agricultural tools and whose further study will provide some commentary on the relative wealth and status of the occupants during the medieval period. This discussion would potentially draw in some of the observations made from the study of other “exotic” objects such as window glass, the copper alloy objects, fragments of window leading and non-local ceramic wares - all of which were found during the excavations. (**RRP9**).

Medieval stonework

- The assemblage indicated continuance of local traditions of usage for objects such as whetstones which were made of local materials. Significant features were the presence of Delabole roofing slate and the graffiti of two moored boats on a building stone.

9.7.3 Minor Medieval Site Statement Of Potential Sandy Lane

SL/- Sandy Lane and related sites

Sandy Lane and related nearby sites OLS and HP are still threatened with extraction and erosion and the significance of the rich potential of buried archaeology here although summarily published (eg Thomas 1964 and Thomas 1968) needs to be promoted through further detailed study of the extant archive – principally the ceramic groups. This is a key collection of material for study (see below). A full account of all the work undertaken here is recommended. Work here will help guide and inform future and long – term conservation and site management as well as substantially contribute to the narratives of the history of settlement and land use in the Gwithian area (**RRP2**).

9.7.4 Medieval Minor Sites – Finds

SL/- Ceramics assemblage by Catherine Freeman

STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL - SANDY LANE

- This material is vital to the necessary re-assessment of grass-marked pottery and Sandy Lane Styles 1-3, and consideration of whether the three styles could be contemporary. The division into 51 bags should be retained if it may reflect some order in which the material was dug. There were apparently at least 4 layers intercalated with sand. Reference is made (Thomas 1964 p 50) to Style 3 sherds being collected from the surface of the midden but there is no way of knowing which bags these are in. A quantity of the SL pottery is not gabbroic but of thin-walled oxidised jug sherds (similar to Stuffle fabric A4). Illustrated sherds SL 1 and SL 2 (which are marked with these numbers and can be identified) are amongst this material and recorded as coming from the surface of the midden (Thomas 1964 p 58, Fig.19 p 59).

- There may now be no records for the stratigraphy of the Sandy Lane midden, but the excavators obviously knew the order in which the material was dug, and created a sequence from a selection of what they observed. Identifying illustrated vessels and relating these to bag numbers may be the only way of recreating this order. Only a few of the illustrated vessels are marked with the numbers in the report (Thomas 1964), and it is possible that some sherds are missing from the present collection.

- The sequence of Styles 1, 2 and 3 has now been confirmed on evidence from many other sites in the area and is generally accepted by Cornish archaeologists.

  In barest summary the styles are:

1 Small bucket-shaped vessels with grass-marked bases. C11th
2 Everted-rimmed cooking-pots with grass-marked bases. C12th
3 Everted and other-rimmed cooking-pots with sagging bases. Late C12th-early C13th

All 3 Styles may have decorated rims.

- There are some variations in different publications (eg as to grass-marking of Style 2 and wheel-throwing of Style 3) but this is not surprising as ideas have changed over the many years since the site was excavated and more material has become available from other sites. The use of the name SANDY LANE is questionable, especially in the case of Style 3, which appears to encompass a broad range of material, but it is now indelible, and will remain

in the literature, evoking happy summer days. The division into Styles is an attempt to impose precision and order on medieval pottery manufacture, which cannot always respond to it, generated as it was out of poverty and circumstance, subject to vagaries of weather and available materials.

Overall importance of the assemblage

Grass-marking is still little understood and the phenomenon of pots with grass-marks partway up the exterior walls and even on the rims (Thomas 1991) particularly hard to understand with the current explanation that the pots were laid on grass to dry. Is it possible that grass (wood being scarce) was the fuel used? Pots resting *in* the fuel will have marks on the bases and lower walls, *on* the fuel on the bases only. 'Decoration' may be confined to the rims because this is in fact grooving where an upper layer (of consequently ungrass-marked and possibly 'undecorated' pots) can rest. Some pots may have been inverted on the grass, or fallen over in the firing process, resulting in grass-marked rims. The atmosphere created by burning possibly damp possibly salty grass may be responsible for creating the brown colour characteristic of this pottery, an unusual colour shared by Stuffle B5, one vessel of which is found at Old Lanyon with a grass-marked base (O'Mahoney 1994 p156).

This use of grass for fuel, for other uses as well as firing pottery, could explain why 'the coastal dunes, bereft for some reason of the thin grass cover which had stabilised them, were moving inland, covering arable and choking entire settlements' (Thomas 1964 p51), and the exhaustion of this grass could also explain the end of grass-marking.

10 OVERALL RESEARCH DESIGN

The overall aim of the next stages of this project is to carry out a programme of further assessments, full analyses leading to the production of a draft text for publication. The principal objective will be to present the significant results of the work carried out at Gwithian as a landscape narrative and situate the discoveries made within a framework of current thinking and up to date research. These results will be discussed in relation to current understanding of broadly contemporary sites in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly as well as those within the national scene. In addition this remarkable campaign of work has its own story to tell and a section detailing the history and development of fieldwork at Gwithian has much to contribute to the history of archaeology in the region.

Specific research aims cross several broad themes presented in outline below. These will be developed as further work on the archive takes place and will guide analytical approaches.

Chronology and Landscape history
Overall discussion of chronology and a history of land use and settlement at Gwthian.

Settlement research themes
Analysis and discussion of principal features of the main settlements – the Bronze Age, Roman, post Roman and medieval. Architecture, agricultural and economic practices, lifestyles and ritual.

Craft and Industry
Settlement character and the significance and role/s of craft and technology within the cultural lives of the communities.

Trade and exchange networks
Local innovation, regional networks and outside influences. The significance of contact and resource gathering beyond the sphere of settlement.

Location and significance of place
Significance of location and the importance of the coast in the economic and cultural lives of the communities through time – snap-shots through time. Settlement biographies – issues of abandonment, change and reoccupation.

10.1 Proposed Publication and Presentation

The results will be presented as a monograph which can be produced in-house at CCC. Other smaller articles and synthetic papers – including popular articles – will be produced alongside this. Results arising out of analyses will also be posted on the project website.

Only an outline summary of the main proposed publication can be produced at this stage.

Working Title:
Gwithian, Cornwall – Archaeology beneath the Dunes. A full account of the excavations from 1949 to 1969
By Charles Thomas and supporting authors

1. Introduction
2. Location of the study area
3. Geology and topography

4. History of archaeological work at Gwithian
5. The story of the excavations – aims, methods, strategies, challenges, surprises, trials and tribulations, the people
6. Principal results by 1969
7. Revisiting Gwithian 60 years later
8. Overall results of work in 21st century - the contribution to recent archaeological research
9. Overall landscape history – the sites in their settings
10. Life at Gwithian in the Mesolithic period (to include specialist reports)
11. Gwithian in the 4th and 3rd millennium BC (to include specialist reports)
12. Life at Gwithian in the 2nd millennium BC (to include specialist reports)
13. Gwithian during the 1st millennium BC (to include specialist reports)
14. Roman times at Gwithian (to include specialist reports)
15. Post Roman settlement at Gwithian (to include specialist reports)
16. Medieval Crane Godrevy (to include specialist reports)
17. Overview of landscape study and overall significance of work
18. Gwithian – the future

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Illustrations – finds, photographs and plans

Further thought will be given to the presentation of major features, artefact and ecofact groups which may not be easily discussed in chronological format.