

Ysgol-Y-Deri, Cosmeston, Vale of Glamorgan

Archaeological Evaluation

April 2022

A report for HCUK

GGAT report no. 2022/024



Archaeological Services



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Summary

Planning permission is sought for the construction of a new primary school, Ysgol-Y-Deri, as well as associated car parking, access roads, pupil drop off area, and areas of hardstanding on a greenfield site at Cosmeston.

In order to inform a planning decision an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust to an agreed written scheme of investigation (WSI) provided by HCUK.

The fieldwork was carried out between the 16th of March and the 21st of March 2022. The works consisted of machine excavation of 14 trenches, each 30m long by 1.8m wide. Each trench was excavated to either the natural or the archaeological horizon. The maximum depth excavated was 0.45m and all deposits encountered within the trenches comprised similar silty clay topsoil overlying a clay and limestone natural.

Only a single archaeological feature was revealed during the evaluation, within Trench 1. This is interpreted as a post-medieval field boundary, and is visible on the tithe and 1st edition OS maps of the area.

A small assemblage of ceramics was recovered from the topsoil and subsoils, and apart from three small medieval sherds, the remainder were post-medieval with a broad date range of the 17th to 19th century AD, and the presence of several firmly-dated 17th century finds may indicate a similar 17th century date for all of the post-medieval material. No other significant archaeological features were discovered during the works.

The archaeological work was carried out to the professional standards laid down in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2014; updated 2020).

Crynodeb

Gofynnir am ganiatâd cynllunio ar gyfer adeiladau ysgol gynradd newydd, sef Ysgol y Deri, yn ogystal â manau parcio ceir, ffyrdd mynediad, man gollwng disgyblion, ac ardaloedd llawr caled cysylltiedig, a hynny ar safle tir glas yn Cosmeston.

Er mwyn llywio penderfyniad cynllunio, cynhaliwyd gwerthusiad archaeolegol gan Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Morgannwg-Gwent yn unol â chynllun ymchwilio ysgrifenedig cytunedig a ddarparwyd gan HCUK.

Gwnaed y gwaith maes rhwng 16 Mawrth a 21 Mawrth 2022. Roedd y gwaith yn cynnwys defnyddio peiriant i gloddio 14 o ffosydd, pob un yn 30 m o hyd ac 1.8 m o led. Cloddiwyd pob ffos naill ai i'r gorwel naturiol neu'r gorwel archaeolegol. Y dyfnder mwyaf a gloddiwyd oedd 0.45 m, ac roedd yr holl ddyddodion a ganfuwyd yn y ffosydd yn cynnwys uwchbridd tebyg o glai siltiog yn droshaen ar glai a chalchfaen naturiol.

Dim ond un nodwedd archaeolegol a ddaeth i'r amlwg yn ystod y gwerthusiad, ac yn ffos rhif un yr oedd hynny. Dehonglir y nodwedd hon i fod yn ffin cae ôl-ganoloesol, ac mae i'w gweld ar fapiau'r degwm ac ar argraffiad cyntaf mapiau Ordnans yr ardal.

Daethpwyd o hyd i gasgliad bach o seramig o'r uwchbridd a'r isbriddoedd, ac ar wahân i dri thelchyn canoloesol, roedd y gweddill yn ôl-ganoloesol ac yn perthyn i ystod eang o ddyddiadau rhwng yr 17eg ganrif a'r 19eg ganrif OC. Gallai presenoldeb nifer o ddarganfyddiadau o'r 17eg ganrif sydd wedi'u dyddio'n bendant ddynodi bod yr holl ddefnyddiau ôl-ganoloesol yn perthyn i ddyddiad tebyg yn yr 17eg ganrif.

Gwnaed y gwaith archaeolegol yn unol â'r safonau proffesiynol a bennir yng nghyhoeddiad Sefydliad Siartredig yr Archaeolegwyr, sef Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2014; diweddarwyd 2020).

Authorship and Acknowledgements

The project was managed by Martin Tuck MCIfA (Head of Archaeological Services). The fieldwork was undertaken by Mike Jones, Isaac Derbyshire, Jon Burton and Sean Owen (Project Archaeologists). The report was prepared by Mike Jones and the illustrations prepared by Paul Jones (Senior Illustrator).

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Abbreviations

EXXXXXX:	Archaeological investigation (or 'event') in HER (e.g. E000201)
GGAT:	Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust
HER:	Historic Environment Record (curated by GGAT HER)
ICON	Institute of Conservation
LB:	Listed Building reference number (e.g. LB 14084)
NGR:	National Grid Reference
NMR:	National Monuments Record (curated by RCAHMW)
NPRN:	National Primary Record Number (in NMR, e.g. 301355)
OS:	Ordnance Survey
PRN:	Primary Record Number (in HER - indicated by a letter suffix 's', 'g', 'm' or 'w' depending on the asset's location)
RCAHMW:	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales
SM:	Scheduled Monument reference number (e.g. GM205)
WSI:	Written Scheme of Investigation

1. Introduction

1.1 Commission background

- 1.1.1 Planning permission is sought for the construction of a new primary school, Ysgol-Y-Deri, as well as associated car parking, access roads, pupil drop off area, and areas of hardstanding.
- 1.1.2 In order to inform planning decisions, a programme of trial trenching was commissioned by HCUK and carried out by the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust to an agreed archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (Vallance 2022, HCUK Group) and method statement (Jones 2022), which provided the framework for the archaeological works reported within the present document

1.2 Site location and description

- 1.2.1 The site is located to the southwest of Penarth opposite Cosmeston Medieval Village and centred on NGR 317874 168839. The site, which is a greenfield site, occupies an area of 2.18ha. The topography of the site gently slopes down from southeast to northwest at approximately 20m AOD to 13m AOD. The site is bounded by Lower Cosmeston Farm and a field on the northeast, a belt of woodland and rail embankment on the higher ground to the southeast, Fort Road along its southwest edge and Lavernock Road to the northwest, which separates it from the medieval village site (Figure 1).

1.3 Geology and soils

- 1.3.1 The British Geological Survey (BGS) records the underlying bedrock geology across the northern part of the Site as being Mary's Well Bay Member limestone and mudstone. The southern part of Site comprises Lavernock Shales Member mudstone.
- 1.3.2 There are no recorded superficial deposits within the Site boundary, although a band of alluvium lies directly to the north of the Site (www.bgs.ac.uk).

1.4 HER Data Search

- 1.4.1 An HER enquiry was conducted to inform this project: search ref. 6762 and based on a 1km radius centred on NGR: 317874 168839.

2. Historical and Archaeological Background

2.1 Previous archaeological work on or close to the site

- 2.1.1 An archaeological Desk-based Assessment and Heritage Impact Assessment was produced for the site by HCUK Group (Meek 2021), a summary of which has been reproduced below.
- 2.1.2 The earliest records in the 1km study area include a Palaeolithic (c. 450,000 - 12,000 BC) find to the south of the site (02750s), and four flint scatters dating to the Mesolithic (c. 12,000 – 4000 BC) and Neolithic period (c. 4000 – 1800 BC) (00775s; 00776s; and 03570s) respectively but none within the site boundary.
- 2.1.3 A Roman enclosure is recorded at Cog Farm located approximately 920m to the west of the Site (05131s, 420070).
- 2.1.4 There are no known records of early medieval (c. 410 – 1066 AD) assets within the area.
- 2.1.5 There are 12 records for medieval assets within the study area, but outside the boundary of the site. The closest of these assets lies 25m to the north which include St Lawrence's Church (00588s; LB24060), its churchyard (03733s), as well as a sunken medieval settlement (00647s; 2718s) and associated dovecote and garden enclosure (301002). The remains of Cosmeston Castle (00592s) are located 150m northwest of site. Excavations at the castle site revealed material dating to the second half of the 17th century.
- 2.1.6 The medieval settlement (00647s; 2718s) has been subject to archaeological excavation (00948s, 15278 and 406400). Several buildings, including two farmsteads and bakehouse were found, and dated to the late 13th or early 14th century.
- 2.1.7 The lane (now called Fort Road) which forms the site's southwestern boundary is likely to have medieval origins, connecting to the medieval settlement at Lavernock, approximately 900m southeast of the site.
- 2.1.8 A number of post-medieval farmhouses are recorded within the study area but not within the site. The closest of these is Lower Cosmeston Farm (414346), located immediately northeast of the Site. The earliest building within the farm complex is Lower Cosmeston Farmhouse (87852), currently being put forward as a Grade II building. The farmhouse is a multi-period house built during the 16th or 17th century, either originally end-entry or with a lateral chimney which was later truncated. A number of modern barns and sheds have since been constructed around the farm.
- 2.1.9 Other farms within the area include Upper Cosmeston Farm to the north (01602s), Sutton Farmhouse, Sully (01599s) to the south, and Lavernock House and Grounds, near Swanbridge (05608s, 265858).
- 2.1.10 Relict field boundaries of post medieval date are recorded west of Roundbush Rocks (309271).
- 2.1.11 There is a single scheduled monument within the 1km study area, that of the Anti-aircraft and Coastal Battery West of Lavernock Point (SM Reference GM448). The monument itself lies approximately 700m south of the Site.

3. Methodology

3.1 Standards

3.1.1 The archaeological work was carried out to the professional standards laid down in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014; updated 2020).

3.2 Scope

3.2.1 The original evaluation scope was specified as follows:

- Machine excavation of 14 trenches, each 30m long and 1.8m wide. Each trench excavated to either the natural or the archaeological horizon (see Figure 1).

3.2.2 Trench 5 was relocated approximately 6m north as it was originally located across the field access point which had been subject to extensive rutting from farm machinery. The alignment for Trench 5 was also shifted to east-west in order to ascertain a possible continuation of the feature found in Trench 1. Trench 7 was relocated approximately 3m west and 2m south in order to avoid a potential anomaly detected by CAT scanner.

3.3 Recording

3.3.1 A full written, drawn and photographic record was made of all archaeological contexts, in accordance with the GGAT *Manual of Excavation Recording Techniques*. Contexts were recorded using a single continuous numbering system, and are summarised in Appendix 1. All significant contexts were photographed using a Kodak Pixpro (16mp) digital camera.

3.4 Archive

3.4.1 An archive of archaeological records relating to the fieldwork has been prepared to the specifications in ICON's guidelines and *The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales* (National Panel for Archaeological Archives in Wales 2017). This includes the artefacts and ecofacts recovered from the site, subject to the agreement of the site owners. No objects subject to the Treasure Act (1996) and/or Treasure Order (2002) were recovered.

3.4.2 After an appropriate period has elapsed a digital copy of the report and full archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record, RCAHMW, Aberystwyth, and a digital copy of the report and archive index will be deposited with the regional Historic Environment Record, curated by the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust.

3.5 Field work dates

3.5.1 The fieldwork was carried out from 16th of March 2022 to the 21st of March 2022.

3.5.2 The weather conditions were wet on the first day (16/03), but dry and clear on subsequent days. Ground conditions were waterlogged in the northern trenches, but largely dry in the southern area of the site.

4. Results

4.1.1 The locations of the trenches described below are shown on Figure 1.

4.2 Natural sequence

4.2.1 The natural stratigraphy across the site consisted of a grey-brown, silty clay topsoil with occasional rooting and no inclusions. Directly underlying this deposit was a firm, yellow-brown clay natural with areas of limestone bedrock visible.

4.3 Trench descriptions

4.3.1 A full list of the contexts can be found in Appendix 1, and in Appendix 2, finds information.

Trench 1

4.3.2 Trench 1 was aligned northwest–southeast, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.38m. The average depth of the trench was 0.35m.

4.3.3 The natural sequence was encountered, with a thin layer of grey-brown silty clay subsoil present at a depth of 0.2-0.3m below ground level.

4.3.4 A single feature [1004] was encountered towards the centre of the trench. This feature consisted of an ephemeral cut with a moderate break of slope (top), into moderately sloped sides and an irregular flat base (Figure 2). It measured 0.75m width, 0.24m in depth, and had a visible length of 15m (Figure 3). The feature [1004] contained a single fill (1005) comprised of a firm grey clay with frequent medium to large sub-angular stone.

Trench 2

4.3.5 Trench 2 was aligned east-west, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m. The average depth of the trench was 0.35m.

4.3.6 The natural sequence was encountered, with no features of archaeological significance present. A thin layer of light brown, clay subsoil (2002) was present at a depth of 0.25-0.35m.

4.3.7 A ceramic fragment recovered from subsoil (2002), appeared to be an edge fragment from a roofing tile of post-medieval date.

Trench 3

4.3.8 Trench 3 was aligned broadly north–south, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.42m. The average depth of the trench was 0.40m.

4.3.9 The natural sequence was observed, with no features of archaeological significance present. A single find included an unstratified ceramic sherd, impressed with four circular dimples, which was possibly part of a crested roof tile, or a decorated jug of either medieval or post-medieval date.

Trench 4

- 4.3.10 Trench 4 was aligned broadly north-south, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m. The average depth of the trench was 0.40m.
- 4.3.11 The natural sequence was observed, with no finds or features of archaeological significance present.

Trench 5

- 4.3.12 Trench 5 was relocated approximately 6m north and realigned east-west in order to ascertain the continuation of the feature [1004] found in Trench 1. The trench itself measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.42m. The average depth of the trench was 0.40m.
- 4.3.13 Feature [1004] was not revealed in Trench 5 suggesting either a sharp turn, or termination within intervening ground. If it turns, it is probably toward the east as it was not revealed in trenches T2 or T4 to the west of T1.
- 4.3.14 The natural sequence was observed, with no finds or features of archaeological significance present.

Trench 6

- 4.3.15 Trench 6 was aligned east-west, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m. The average depth of the trench was 0.35m.
- 4.3.16 The natural sequence was observed, with no finds or features of archaeological significance present.

Trench 7

- 4.3.17 Trench 7 was aligned east-west, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m. The average depth of the trench was 0.35m.
- 4.3.18 The natural sequence was observed, with no finds or features of archaeological significance present.

Trench 8

- 4.3.19 Trench 8 was aligned northwest-southeast, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.42m. The average depth of the trench was 0.40m.
- 4.3.20 The natural sequence was observed, with no finds or features of archaeological significance present.

Trench 9

- 4.3.21 Trench 9 was aligned east-west, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m. The average depth of the trench was 0.31m.
- 4.3.22 The natural sequence was observed, with no features of archaeological significance present.

4.3.23 Finds included three small sherds of medieval pottery; two rim sherds from subsoil (9002) were from an incurved dish, and a small sherd from topsoil (9001) may well also be from the base of an incurved dish. There were also two sherds of post medieval pottery.

Trench 10

4.3.24 Trench 10 was aligned northeast-southwest, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.28m. The average depth of the trench was 0.25m.

4.3.25 The natural sequence was observed, with no finds or features of archaeological significance present.

Trench 11

4.3.26 Trench 11 was aligned southeast-northwest, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m. The average depth of the trench was 0.4m.

4.3.27 The natural sequence was observed, with no finds or features of archaeological significance present.

Trench 12

4.3.28 Trench 12 was aligned east-west, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.25m. The average depth of the trench was 0.25m.

4.3.29 The natural sequence was observed, with no finds or features of archaeological significance present.

Trench 13

4.3.30 Trench 13 was aligned east-west, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m. The average depth of the trench was 0.35m.

4.3.31 The natural sequence was observed, with no finds or features of archaeological significance present.

Trench 14

4.3.32 Trench 14 was aligned north-south, measured 30m by 2m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m. The average depth of the trench was 0.35m.

4.3.33 The natural sequence was observed, with no features of archaeological significance present.

4.3.34 Finds included several sherds of ceramic dating to the post-medieval period, a single body sherd of dark green bottle glass probably from a wine bottle, two clay tobacco pipe bowls, an animal bone and a curved iron fragment, with a single narrow rib running across the surface probably derived from a cooking vessel (cauldron).

5. Conclusion

- 5.1.1 During the field evaluation a single linear feature [1004] was revealed within Trench 1, on a north-south alignment (Figures 2 and 3). Investigation of the feature revealed that no distinct cut mark was present and that its fill (1005) comprised stone that had been pushed into the soft clays. There was no continuation of the linear feature in Trench 5 to the south of Trench 1, where there was a possibility that feature 1004 would intersect with Trench 5 if it maintained a similar alignment to the south; the feature could however still continue southwards on the eastern side of Trench 5.
- 5.1.2 The general area surrounding both Trench 5 in its original planned position and just west of Trench 8 was wet which coincided with a marked northwest-southeast depression in the field and remnant post and wire fence on the west side of the depression.
- 5.1.3 Ordnance Survey mapping of the area, dating from as early as 1878, depicts a field boundary on the same alignment to that discovered in this location. However, the boundary on the historic mapping also indicates a continuation across the whole field.
- 5.1.4 It was originally postulated that the feature 1004 could be a drystone wall foundation of some form; however from map evidence and given that there are no neighbouring drystone walls as field boundaries, a hedge and probably related ditch is more likely, and one where the hedge has been removed and the ditch subsequently infilled.
- 5.1.5 The 1845 tithe map depicts a narrow field, noted as a meadow, but by 1879 Ordnance Survey mapping shows that the field boundary has gone, to leave a larger field comparable to its present state. The latter map also shows a watercourse and hedge which starts at the south of the field, heads east and turns northwest broadly along the existing eastern boundary; there are no springs annotated. The watercourse would not have necessarily been shown on the earlier tithe mapping as that was not its purpose but there is a strong possibility that water originally ran along the western boundary of the narrow field and which when the field was enlarged was diverted eastward. If so and to maximise use of the enlarged field, the ditch (feature 1004) was infilled as a 'french drain' to offset any possible water problems arising from the diversion. Elements of the earlier boundaries are preserved by a depression in the field and post and wire fencing.
- 5.1.6 There was nothing encountered in the evaluation area to directly link the site with the medieval village site directly to the northwest. The finds, which were few, (mainly ceramics, with isolated glass, bone, clay pipes and a fragment of metal cauldron) were mainly of post-medieval origin (17th to 19th centuries). However, there were also three small sherds of medieval origin within Trench 9, which are dated from early/mid 12th into the 16th century. Of note, is that the greater amount of finds were from Trenches 9 and 14 toward the west and south of the evaluation area. All of these finds point towards an increased presence within this area during the medieval and post-medieval periods. However, none of the finds recovered came from archaeological features, instead they were spread throughout the topsoil and subsoil which made it difficult to assign any context to their presence.

6. Sources consulted

6.1 Legislation, planning and guidance

Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Cadw, 2011, Conservation Principles for the sustainable management of the historic environment in Wales.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 (updated 2020), *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*.

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6.2 Textual Sources

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Meek, J, 2021, *Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment, Ysgol Y Deri, Fort Road, Cosmeston, Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 3RP*. HCUK Group, Project Ref 06365A.

Vallance, C, 2022, *Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation, Ysgol Y Deri, Fort Road, Cosmeston, Vale of Glamorgan, CF64 3RP*. HCUK Group, Project Ref 06365E.

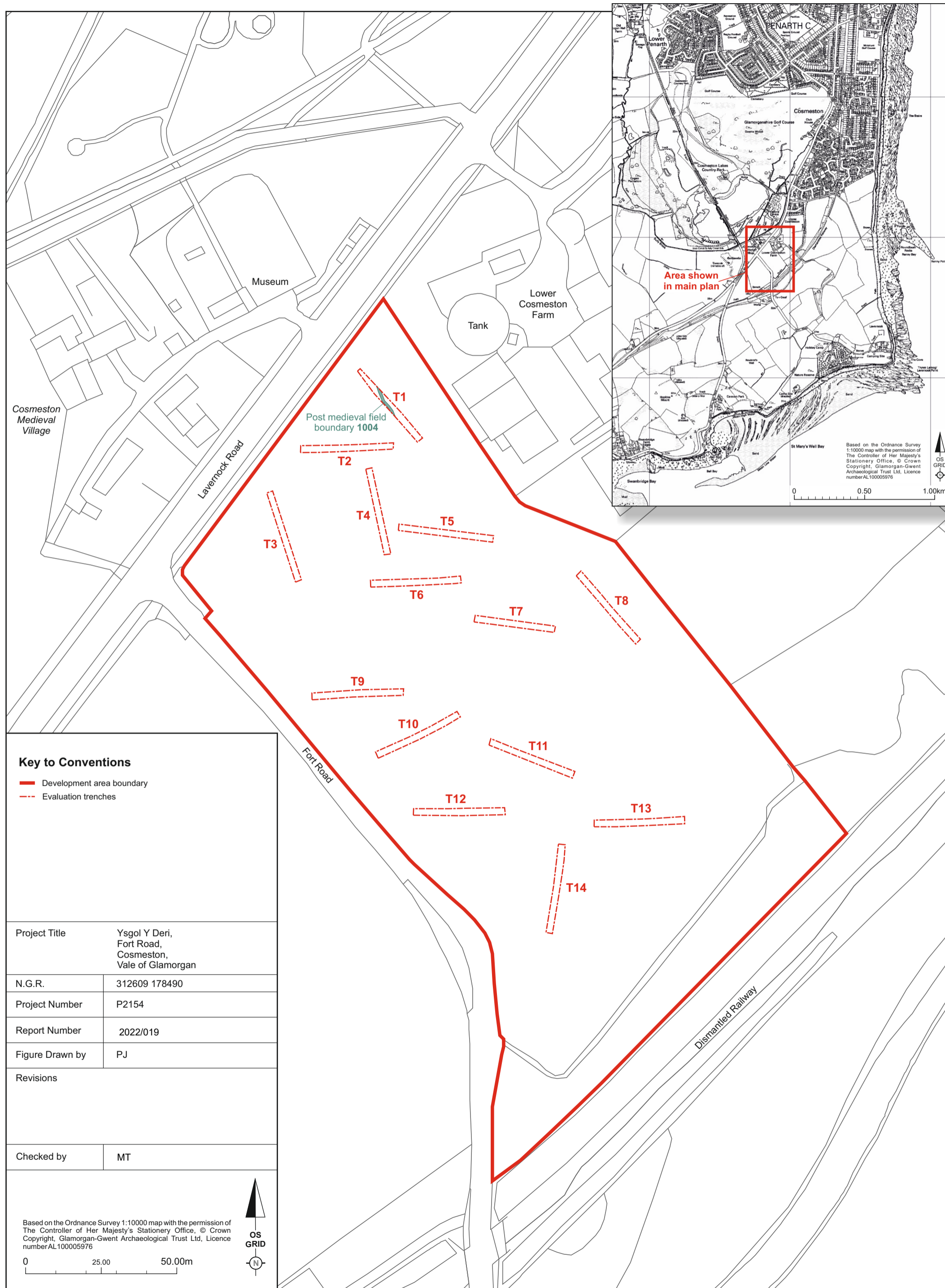
6.3 Cartographic sources

Date	Description	Scale
1845	Tithe map of Lavernock	
1878	Glamorgan XLVII.15 (25" series)	1:2,500
1901	Glamorgan XLVII.SE (25" series)	1:2,500
1936	Glamorgan XLVII.SE (25" series)	1:2,500

6.4 Websites

BGS Geology of Britain viewer: <https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain>. Accessed 04/01/2022.

National Library of Scotland: <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/find/#zoom=18&lat=51.41327&lon=-3.18260&layers=298&b=4&z=0&point=51.41348,-3.18241&i=102342664> Accessed 29/03/2022



Key to Conventions

- Development area boundary
- - - Evaluation trenches

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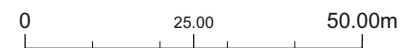


Figure 1. General location of site (top right), development area boundary and Trenches 1 - 14.



Figure 2. Section through field boundary [1004] facing south
Scale 0.5m divisions



Figure 3. General view of field boundary [1004] looking north
Scale 0.5m divisions.

Appendix 1. Inventory of Contexts

Key to abbreviations

CBM:	Ceramic building material
D:	Deposit
N/F:	Negative feature (ditch, pit, etc)
nb:	Not bottomed

'Depth' refers to the depth of the feature below the modern ground surface.

Trench 1

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Period
1001	D	Brown silty clay topsoil	0.00-0.2m	Natural
1002	D	Grey-brown silty clay subsoil	0.2-0.3m	Natural
1003	D	Yellow-brown natural clay	-	Natural
1004	N/F	Possible post-med field boundary, encountered 0.3m below ground level, aligned N-S	0.3 – 0.54m	Post-medieval
1005	D	Grey-brown silty clay, frequent small to medium sub-angular stone inclusions.	0.3 – 0.54m	Post-medieval

Trench 2

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Period
2001	D	Brown silty clay topsoil	0.00 – 0.25	Natural
2002	D	Light brown clay subsoil	0.25 – 0.35	Natural
2003	D	Yellow-brown clay and limestone bedrock	-	Natural

Trench 3

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Period
3001	D	Brown silty clay topsoil	0.00-0.3m	Natural
3002	D	Yellow-brown clay	-	Natural

Trench 4

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Period
4001	D	Mid-brown silty clay topsoil	0.00-0.25m	Natural
4002	D	Yellow-brown clay natural	-	Natural

Trench 5

Context	Type	Description	Depth (m)	Period
5001	D	Grey-brown silty clay topsoil	0.00-0.36m	Natural
5002	D	Yellow-brown clay natural	-	Natural

Trench 6

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Period
6001	D	Grey-brown silty clay topsoil	0.00 – 0.3m	Natural
6002	D	Yellow-brown clay natural	-	Natural

Trench 7

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Period
7001	D	Brown silty clay topsoil	0.00 – 0.24m	Natural
7002	D	Yellow-brown clay natural	-	Natural

Trench 8

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Period
8001	D	Grey-brown silty clay topsoil	0.00 – 0.3m	Natural
8002	D	Yellow-brown clay natural	-	Natural

Trench 9

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Period
9001	D	Grey-brown silty clay topsoil	0.00 – 0.26m	Natural
9002	D	Yellow-grey clay natural	-	Natural

Trench 10

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Period
10001	D	Grey-brown silty clay topsoil	0.00 – 0.25m	Natural
10002	D	Yellow-brown clay natural	-	Natural

Trench 11

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Period
11001	D	Mid-light brown silty clay topsoil	0.0- 0.3m	Natural
11002	D	Yellow-brown clay with natural	-	Natural

Trench 12

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Period
12001	D	Mid brown silty clay topsoil	0.00 – 0.25m	Natural
12002	D	Yellow-brown clay natural	-	Natural

Trench 13

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Period
13001	D	Grey-brown silty clay topsoil	0.00 – 0.24m	Natural
13002	D	Yellow-brown clay natural	-	Natural

Trench 14

Context	Type	Description	Depth	Period
14001	D	Grey-brown silty clay topsoil	0.00 – 0.24	Natural
14002	D	Yellow-brown clay natural	-	Natural

Appendix 2. Finds Report

Finds report by Joyce Compton (08/04/22)

Introduction and Methodology

A range of finds, mainly pottery, is described by category below. All of the finds have been counted and weighed (in grams) by context and type, and the data entered onto an Excel spreadsheet which forms part of the archive. Most of the finds are fragmented but in relatively good surface condition.

Post-medieval pottery

This is a small group amounting to seventeen sherds, weighing 618g (average sherd weight 36.4g) and forms 95% of the total pottery by weight. There are four post-medieval pottery types represented; local red earthenware (six sherds, 140g), North Devon gravel-tempered ware (six sherds, 123g), West Country slipwares (four sherds, 296g) and Westerwald stoneware (one sherd, 59g). The local red earthenware and gravel-tempered ware are both dated broadly to the 17th to 19th centuries. Vessels represented appear to be utilitarian types with internal glazes. The West Country slipwares are of the same date, or perhaps slightly earlier, and belong to large platters or shallow dishes. One sherd, from context 1401, has sgraffito decoration internally. Two large joining sherds, also from context 1401, could be locally-made, rather than imported from across the Bristol Channel. Context 1402 produced a base sherd, perhaps from a grey salt-glaze tankard, in Westerwald stoneware. There are rows of raised beading, interspersed with lines of cobalt decoration, on the lower body. The Westerwald stoneware industry in western Germany flourished in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Medieval pottery

There are three small sherds (29g) of medieval pottery, all from Trench 9. All three are in Vale Fabric 1, which has an extended date range of early/mid 12th into the 16th century (Papazian 1990, 30). Two joining rim sherds from context 902 are from an incurved dish, as described by Sell (1984, 53-4, fig.1). Incurved dishes occur on nearly every medieval site in the eastern part of the Vale of Glamorgan, with a concentration in the Barry area (Papazian 1990, fig.3), and were the commonest vessel type in Property 3 at Cosmeston (Price and Newman 1985, 13). The small sherd from context 901, although abraded, is flat and may well be from the base of an incurved dish. Price and Newman (1985, 13) noted that base sherds tend to break into small pieces and are usually identified as deriving from incurved dishes by their flatness.

Ironwork

A curved iron fragment (weight 93g), with a single narrow rib running across the surface, was found in context 1401. There is a thin coating of corrosion products. The rib and the curvature of the fragment suggest it probably derives from a cooking vessel (cauldron). The association with other post-medieval material may indicate a similar post-medieval date for the fragment, but it could just as easily be from a medieval vessel.

Post-medieval glass

A single body sherd of dark green bottle glass (17g) was recorded in context 1401. This probably derives from a wine bottle and the pitted surface condition indicates an earlier post-medieval date for the sherd, perhaps 17th century.

Clay tobacco pipes

There are two clay tobacco pipe bowls, one each in contexts 1401 and 1402. Both are Broseley-type pipes with a tailed heel, as Peacey Type N dated 1680-1720 (Peacey and Shoesmith 1985, microfiche M8. A6:B13). Using the typology in Oswald (1975) the date of the pipe in context 1401 could be refined to 1660-80 (Oswald Type 6) and that in context 1402 to 1640-60 (Oswald Type 5). The first pipe has a plain flat heel but the second has a blurred three-line stamp, perhaps reading RIC / ?? / ?RT. With the eye of faith, the stamp could be compared to a three-line stamp on a Broseley type 5 pipe heel from Llanmaes, dated 1680-1720 and identified as Richard Upton (Newman and Price 1986-7, 46, fig.3, no.62). An expert in clay pipes may be able to provide confirmation and further information.

Ceramic material

Context 202 produced an edge fragment, weighing 18g, from a roofing tile of post-medieval date. A second ceramic sherd was found unstratified in Trench 3. The sherd is small (weight 7g) and abraded, with one flat surface. There is a tiny fleck of green glaze on the opposing uneven surface. The flat surface is impressed with four circular dimples, each c.5mm in diameter and c.1.5mm deep. The sherd is too small to determine whether these are for decoration or for a practical purpose, such as to allow water vapour to escape during firing. The sherd is also too small for certain identification of either the date or the form. It's possible the sherd is part of a crested roof tile, although the dimples are perhaps more regular than those found on ridge tiles. Alternatively, the sherd may derive from the base of a decorated jug spout or handle, of either medieval or early post-medieval date.

Animal bone

A single fragment of animal bone (22g) came from context 1401. This is a fragment of long bone from a large mammal.

Conclusion

This is a small collection of finds of primarily post-medieval date. There is nothing modern among the datable finds. Although most of the post-medieval pottery has a broad date range of 17th to 19th century, the presence of several firmly-dated 17th century finds may indicate a similar 17th century date for all of the post-medieval material.

References

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