

# **LAND ADJACENT TO CEFNCOED, LLANEGWAD, CARMARTHENSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION (NGR SN 51810 21365)**



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
for: Mrs E Roberts





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# LAND ADJACENT TO CEFNCOED, LLANEGWAD, CARMARTHENSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Gan / By

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## **LAND ADJACENT TO CEFNCOED, LLANEGWAD, CARMARTHENSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

### **SUMMARY**

*An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Cefncoed, Llanegwad, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 51810 21365; Figure 1) in order to address a condition placed upon the planning permission for the proposed development plot (Planning Ref. E/28843).*

*The site is approximately 100 metres west of Llanegwad church (PRN 7370) and a similar distance to the east of a Norman motte and bailey castle (PRN 695). There are an additional 21 recorded sites of archaeological interest within 250 metres of the plot of which the majority are post-medieval buildings. However, there is also evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity in the area (Table 2).*

*The evaluation plan incorporated a single trench running for 30 metres west-southwest to east-northeast with a width of 3 metres. The trench crossed through the footprint of the proposed new dwelling and the parking area for the property. This was felt sufficient to reveal any features of archaeological interest.*

*A range of features were found in the trench, most of which were associated with a previously unrecorded structure. Two walls were found with limewash still apparent on parts of their internal and external surfaces. Other features associated with the structure were an area of hard-packed clay floor, evidence of burning in a discreet area, and another area with pieces of coal incorporated into the surface. The other notable feature at the site was a ditch which would have run straight down the slope, presumably for drainage purposes. It should be noted that in places the upper surface of the features was as little as 10cms below the current land surface.*

*In terms of artefacts, the overwhelming majority were fragments of ceramic datable from the early 19<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Some fragments may predate this but it is impossible to say with any degree of confidence. Other significant finds included some animal bones, nails, daub and mortar. Noting that the structure was absent from the 1888 Ordnance Survey map, the evidence suggests that this was a dwelling constructed in the early 19<sup>th</sup> or possibly late 18<sup>th</sup> century which was in a state of disuse sometime between the Tithe map of 1840 and 1888. No doubt some of the masonry was robbed to help construct other nearby structures, and it was eventually completely covered when the site was levelled in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century so that the Mount Pleasant Stores could be built on the site.*

*The proposed development of a single dwelling, with garage and associated car parking areas and services will impact upon the underlying archaeology at the site. Further archaeological mitigation is very likely to be required. This could take the form of further archaeological recording or excavation at the site, or alternatively options may be considered to preserve the archaeology at the site through raising ground levels or building on a raft foundation.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Project Proposal and Commission**

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Mrs E Roberts (the owner) to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site of a proposed dwelling on land adjacent to Cefncoed, Llanegwad, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 51810 21365; Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 A planning application Planning Ref. E/28843 for the development was submitted to Carmarthenshire County Council. The application was granted consent with a condition requiring archaeological works. The condition requires that *"No development shall take place until there has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority a programme of archaeological investigation for the site. Thereafter, the approved programme shall be implemented in all respects, unless the local planning authority agrees in writing to any variation. (Condition 7)."* Reason: *To protect historic environment interests whilst enabling development of the site.*
- 1.1.3 The condition was placed on the development following advice from the archaeological advisors to the local planning authority (Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Planning Services). This was required as the site lies close to a previous development which also had an archaeological condition imposed on it and which revealed features of significant archaeological interest.
- 1.1.4 The advice letter from Planning Services recommended the implementation of a trial trench evaluation prior to the development commencing.
- 1.1.5 A written scheme of investigation, detailing the archaeological works that DAT Archaeological Services proposed, was prepared and approved prior to the evaluation works commencing.

### **1.2 Scope of the Project**

- 1.2.1 The evaluation was designed to provide information on the character, extent, date, state of preservation and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the site area. The evaluation would record the identified remains and make a judgement in terms of whether a more detailed programme of archaeological work should be implemented in advance of the development proposals.
- 1.2.2 The evaluation plan comprised a single trench running for c.30 metres west southwest to east northeast with a width of c.3 metres. This was felt sufficient to reveal any features of archaeological interest that may be present within the proposed development plot.

### **1.3 Report Outline**

- 1.3.1 This report describes the location of the site along with its archaeological background, summarises the results of the evaluation and a discussion of the archaeological evaluation results. The report also makes a judgement on the need or otherwise for further archaeological investigation at the site.

## 1.4 Abbreviations

- 1.4.1 Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record<sup>1</sup> (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Levels will be expressed as above Ordnance Datum (OD).

## 1.5 Illustrations

- 1.5.1 Photographic images are to be found at the back of this report. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale.

## 1.6 Timeline

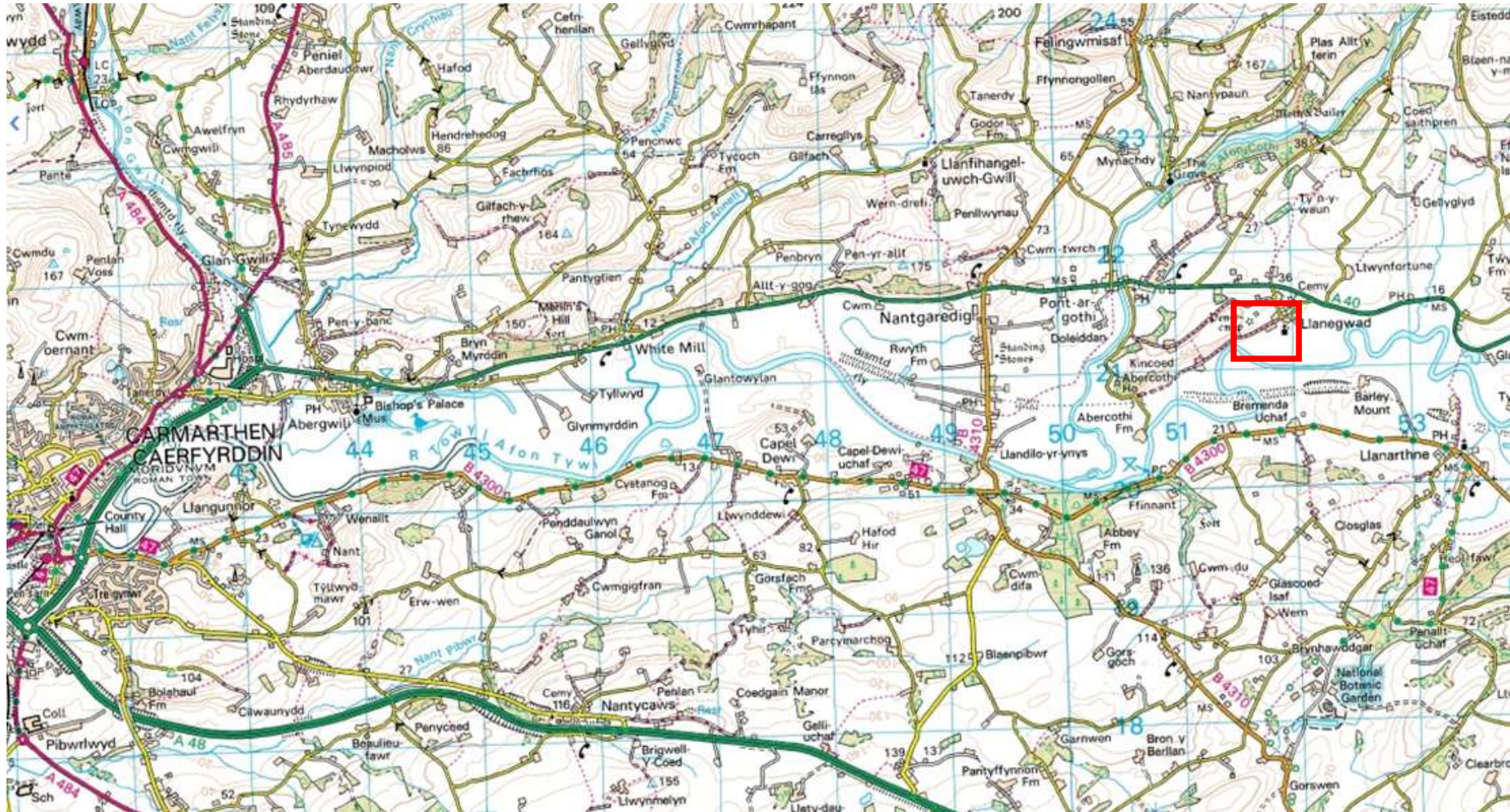
- 1.6.1 The following table illustrates the approximate dates for archaeological periods discussed in this report.

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	Prehistoric
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4000 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4000 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	Historic
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval Period –	1086 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period <sup>2</sup> –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20th Century onwards	

**Table 1:** Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.

<sup>1</sup> Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Llandeilo.

<sup>2</sup> The post-medieval and industrial periods are combined as the post-medieval period on the Regional Historic Environment Record as held by Dyfed Archaeological Trust



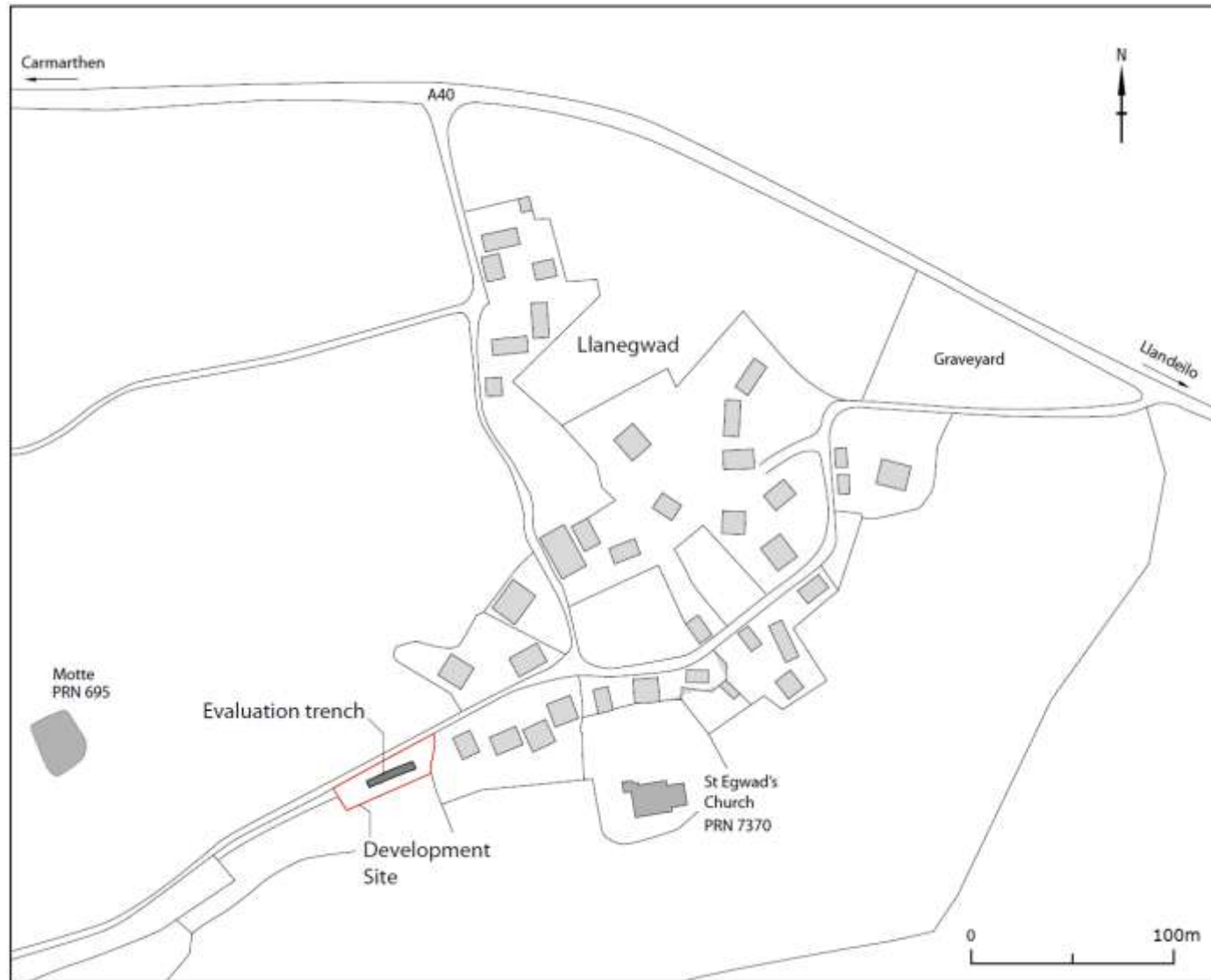
**Figure 1:** Location map of the development plot, Llanegwad, Carmarthenshire.

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Explorer 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd., The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No 1000209030



**Figure 2:** 1:25000 OS map showing position of plot. Notice that the former Mount Pleasant Stores building is still shown on the site.

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**Figure 3:** Llanegwad showing the development site location and evaluation trench

## **2 THE SITE**

### **2.1 Location**

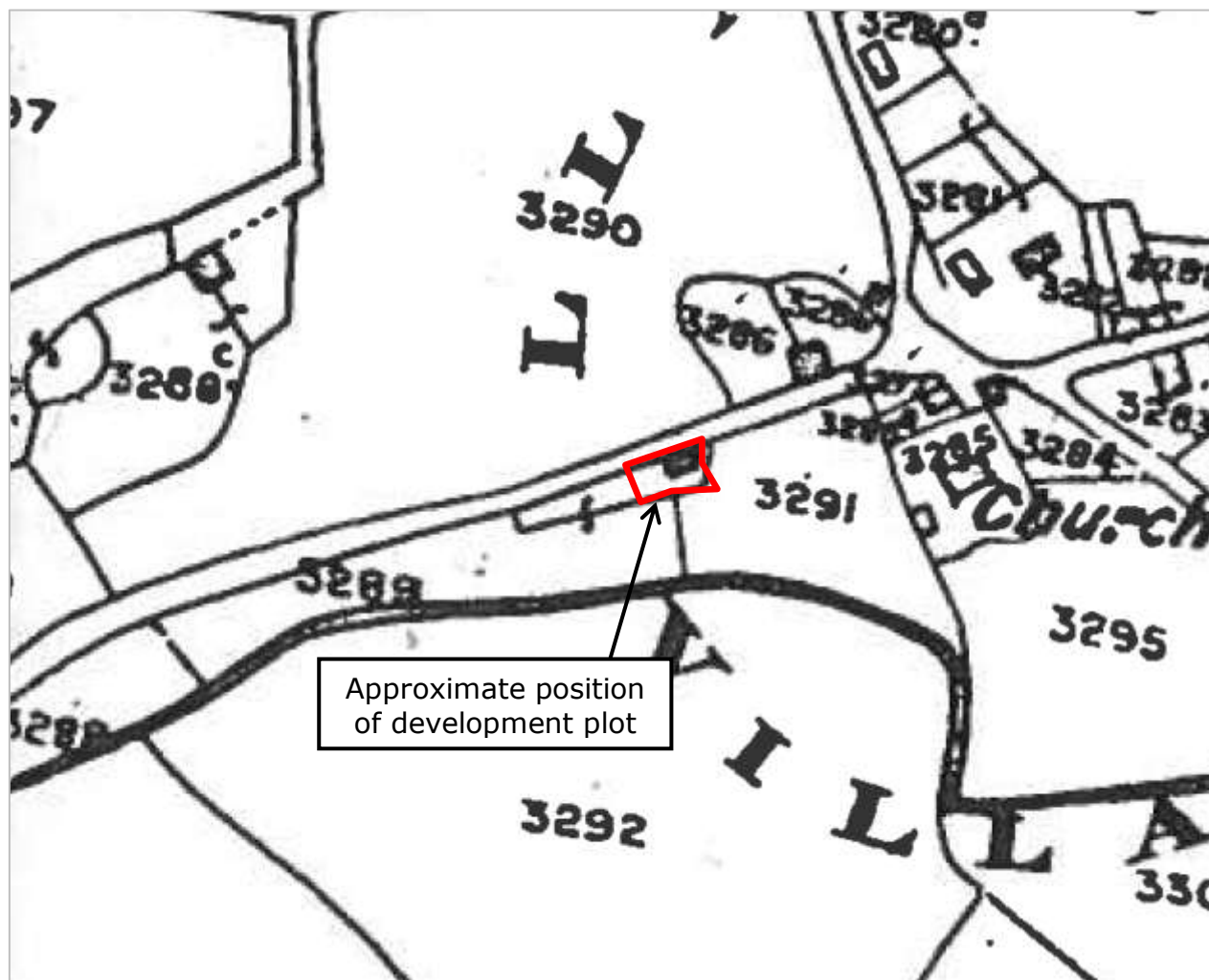
- 2.1.1 The development plot is located on the western fringe of Llanegwad immediately adjacent to the house named Cefncoed (Figures 1, 2 and 3).
- 2.1.2 Topographically the plot is situated on a terrace of levelled ground towards the top of the east-west ridge which leads from Llanegwad to the Towy/Cothi confluence. Downslope, facing south-southeast, the ground steepens considerably before meeting the Towy valley floor.
- 2.1.3 The underlying geology is the Nantmel Mudstones Formation. This is sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 444 to 451 million years ago during the Ordovician Period in a deep sea basin. The drift geology is composed of a clay loam topsoil with downslope alluvial/colluvial processes contributing silty elements in places.

### **2.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

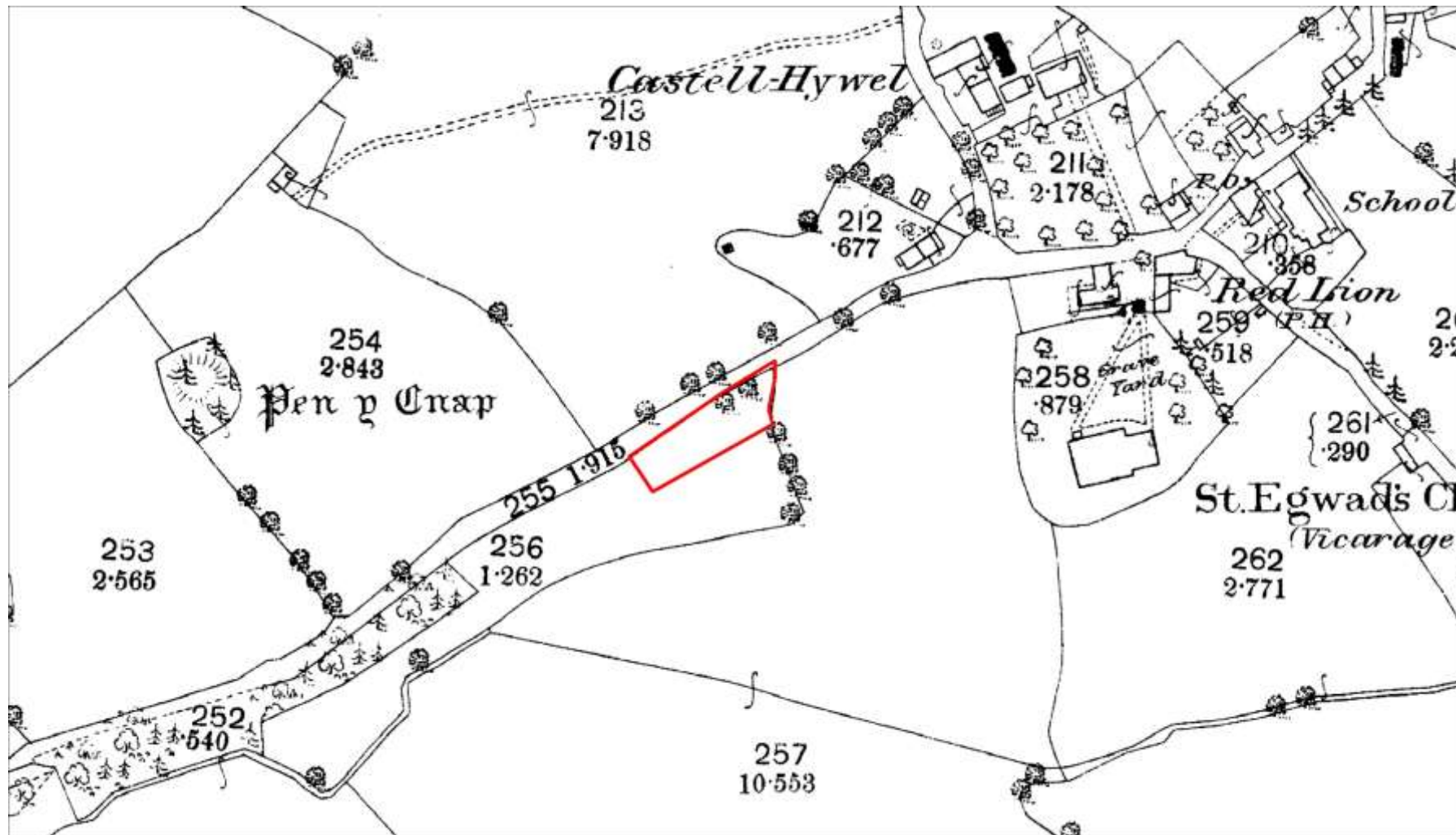
- 2.2.1 The development plot lies approximately 100m directly due west of Llanegwad church (PRNs 7370, 17392 & 49274). Continuing on the same bearing, 100m further west is the motte and bailey castle referred to as Pen-y-Cnap (PRN 695).
- 2.2.2 The regional historic environment record lists 22 sites within a 250m radius of the proposed development site (Table 2). Many of these are post-medieval in date and associated with more recent development of the village.
- 2.2.3 St. Egwad's Church is considered to have early medieval origins and the dedication to a 'Celtic' saint, St. Egwad, suggests a pre-Norman foundation. It is thought that an earlier church may lie 120 metres to the southwest where aerial photography has revealed features which could indicate buried structures.
- 2.2.4 By the time of the tithe map of c.1840 (Figure 4) the church is shown in its current location, in what appears to be an almost square enclosure. It was entirely rebuilt on the same site in 1849 with further repairs in 1902.
- 2.2.5 Little is known about the history of the motte and bailey castle, whether it is earlier than, or contemporary to, the core of the medieval settlement and church in Llanegwad. Such earthen mottes are characteristic of early earth and timber castles introduced during the Norman incursions into this area during the late 11th to mid-12th century. The castle is mentioned in the Brut y Tywysogion (Red Book of Hengist version) in 1203, when it was attacked and taken by Rhys Ieuanc.
- 2.2.6 It is possible that Llanegwad may also have played host to an English army in 1287 as it moved up from Carmarthen to lay siege to Dryslwyn castle (Lewis), in the wake of Rhys ap Iorwerth's revolt. The besieging army, complete with siege engines, is said to have consisted of over 11,000 men and camped in the valley for some time as it surrounded the castle.
- 2.2.7 It is possible that the evidence of medieval industrial processes taking place in the village, found during an excavation in 2007 on a development plot to the east may be related to this event.
- 2.2.8 Apart from the above, there are four listed buildings in the village (all post-medieval), several Bronze Age sites in the vicinity (albeit they are rather tenuous assertions), and the Carmarthen-Llandeilo Roman road

runs just to the north roughly coinciding with the current route of the A40. A Roman findspot is recorded just south of Llanegwad (PRN 744) but the nature of the item is not specified.

- 2.2.9 The 1840 Tithe map of Llanegwad (Figure 4) was the earliest map consulted for this report. It shows the development area with a single structure within it at its eastern end. The structure lies within a larger plot of land (numbered 3289 on the map) and is described in the tithe apportionment as Church Lands, with no occupier given. The description for 3289 which includes the larger plot of land and the smaller area around the structure, records it as two cottages and gardens. The field to the west is also recorded as church lands (waundanyreglwys).
- 2.2.10 The 1888 Ordnance Survey map of the site area (Figure 5) shows no buildings within the development area. The implication is that the two cottages recorded on the 1840 tithe map were either unoccupied or ruinous by this time.
- 2.2.11 Up until a few years ago the majority of the site area was occupied by a structure known as the Mount Pleasant Stores. The building is said to have been built of timber on breeze block and concrete foundations, possibly clad in galvanised and corrugated steel sheets. The building is shown on the 1:2500 1975 Ordnance Survey map of the area but not on the 1964 1:10560 Ordnance Survey map (Old-Maps.co.uk).



**Figure 4:** 1840 Tithe map showing approximate position of development plot and structure lying within it.



**Figure 5:** Extract from the 1888 1:2500 First Edition Ordnance Survey map, with development area marked

PRN	Site Name	Summary	Period	Status	Grade	NGR
695	Pen-Y-Cnap	Motte and bailey castle.	Medieval	scheduled ancient monument		SN51642138
697	Llanegwad Parish Church Stone	Inscribed stone.  A stone bearing an inscription was recovered during the restoration of the church during the 1940s (Brunker 1961, 3), but this appears probably not to have been an ECM and was not included by Dr N Edwards in her recent survey of ECMs (Edwards forthcoming).	Unknown			SN51942135
744	Castell Hywel	Findspot.  Unspecified Roman artefact.	Roman			SN51952145
4753	Cae Garn; Pen Y Garn	Round barrow.	Bronze Age			SN518216
7370	Llanegwad Parish Church; St Egwad's	Documentary sources for the medieval Llanegwad parish church. It was entirely rebuilt as PRN 17392, on the same site, in 1849 with additions from 1902. See churchyard PRN 49274 for description of site, discussion and management recommendations. NDL 2003	Medieval	listed building	2	SN5193821354
11022	Caegarn	Round barrow.	Bronze Age			SN520215
12777	Lanogwade; Llanegwad	Town.	Post-medieval, Medieval			SN518213
16974	School	School.	Post-medieval			SN52002143
17392	St Egwad's	Church.	Post-medieval	listed building	2*	SN51932132
21091	Red Lion	Malt house.	Post-medieval			SN520213
21096	Unknown	House in Llanegwad village shown on tithe map. Present condition unknown. RPS October 2001	Post-medieval			SN517213
21098	Castell Howell House	House in Llanegwad village shown on tithe map. Present condition unknown. RPS October 2001	Post-medieval			SN51902147

21293	Farmers Arms	Public house.	Post-medieval			SN520214
21327	Unknown	Pair of cottages shown on tithe map but not shown on late 20th century OS maps. RPS October 2001	Post-medieval			SN5168121270
29740	Oak House	Post Office during 20th century though building stood by time of 1888 OS map. P.Sambrook 1995.	Post-medieval			SN51932141
29741	Y Plas	Original Post Office in village now a private dwelling. P.Sambrook 1995.	Post-medieval			SN51982144
29742	Tyllandre	Private dwelling showing some signs of decay externally but still in use. P.Sambrook 1995.	Post-medieval	listed building	2	SN5196321436
29772	Llanegwad Church Hall	Not shown on 1888 1:2500 OS map (Carms XL.3). Early or mid-20th century building. P.Sambrook 1995.	Post-medieval			SN519214
49274	Llanegwad Parish Church; St Egwad's	Early medieval C site, i.e. low-probability early medieval origins. Churchyard occupied by the medieval Llanegwad parish church PRN 7370, which was rebuilt in 1849 (as PRN 17392). Lands (and chapelries?) that now lie within the parish mentioned in texts.	Early Medieval			SN51942135
49275	Llanegwad; Waun Dan Yr Eglwys	Cropmarks of enclosure(s) and a possible building are visible, on aerial photographs, in a field adjoining Llanegwad churchyard PRN 49274, 120m SW of the church. They appear to comprise a rectilinear enclosure, approx. 70m square, containing a rectangular feature.	Unknown			SN51852124
61555	Mounting Block at N Entrance to Llanegwad Churchyard	Grade II listed mounting block.	Post-medieval	listed building	2	SN5194921412
61556	Red Lion	Grade II listed public house.	Post-medieval	listed building	2	SN5195921414

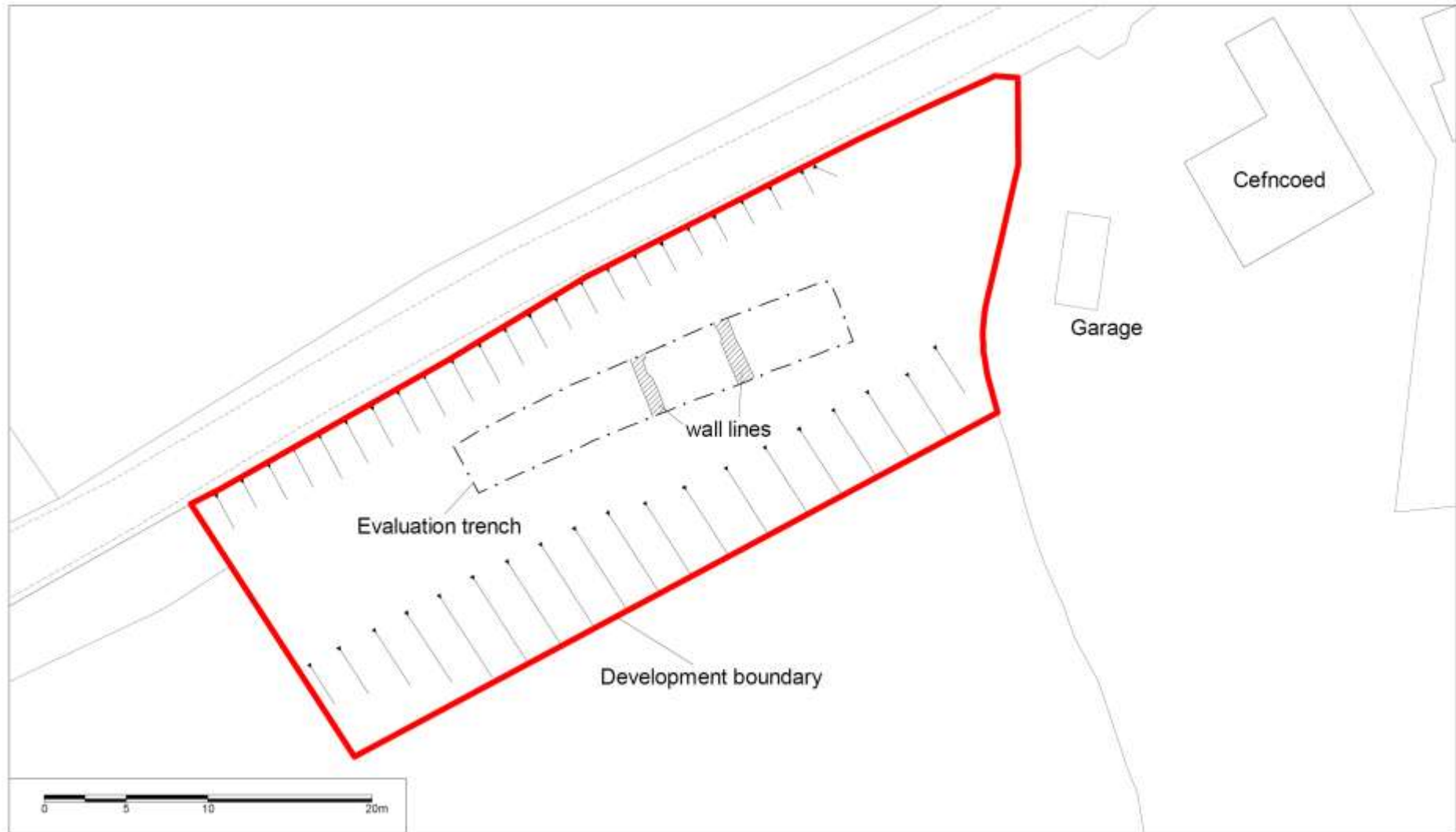
**Table 2:** Sites recorded on the Dyfed Historic Environment Record HER within 250m of the development site.

### **3. METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 The proposed scheme of evaluation included the preparation of a written scheme of investigation, which was prepared and approved prior to the works commencing.
- 3.2 A single trench was opened across the footprint of the proposed building and garage site (Figure 4). It was excavated using a tracked mini-digger fitted with a flat bladed bucket. All non-archaeologically significant overburden was removed and the trench was excavated down onto archaeological levels.
- 3.3 Following machine excavation, the trench was hand cleaned using trowels to expose the character, distribution and extent of the archaeological remains. Sample excavation was undertaken of the archaeological features.
- 3.4 All deposits were recorded by archaeological context record sheet, scale drawing and photographs. All individual deposits were numbered using the open-ended numbering system in accordance with DAT Archaeological Services Recording Manual<sup>3</sup>. The trench plan was recorded by means of measured drawings and sketches. A photographic record was maintained using digital cameras.
- 3.5 The trench was located in relation to surrounding features and buildings using a Trimble TST and the results imported into GIS.
- 3.6 As part of the preparation of the report a short desk-based element was undertaken to provide further information on the area and its archaeological and historic background. An assessment of significance of the remains and the impact that the development proposals would have upon them is included.
- 3.7 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

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<sup>3</sup> Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services use the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available for inspection if required.



**Figure 6:** Detailed trench location plan, showing Cefncoed, Trench, development boundary and wall lines identified during the evaluation

#### **4. RESULTS OF EVALUATION**

- 4.1 Descriptions of the archaeological contexts recorded in the trench can be found in Table 3 and illustrated in Figures 6 and 7.
- 4.2 Working from west to east the features revealed were as follows.
- 4.3 At the WSW end of the trench was an expanse of natural deposits bounded on its southern edge by a spread of rubbish, context (105). This was largely composed of small fragments of pottery, brick and charcoal with some stones of various sizes. It is unclear as to whether this layer was a distinct context or whether it was an unexcavated remnant of the topsoil. At its eastern end the rubbish layer abutted a rubble layer, (104).



**Photo 1:** Oblique view of ditch towards WSW end of trench, contexts [102] and (103).

- 4.2 Cut [102] was a ditch containing fill (103), a silty clay containing some stone and occasional small fragments of charcoal. It was not fully excavated and yielded only one artefact, a piece of Devon Gravel Tempered Ware. It was possible to discern the corresponding cut on the other side of the ditch showing the width of the feature to be approximately 3m. It ran across the trench directly downslope and may have been a drainage channel (Photos 1 and 2).



**Photo 2:** View of section across ditch facing NNW, contexts [102] and (103).

- 4.3 The rubble layer (104) was approximately 11m in length but was mainly excavated by the digger to enable access to the features beneath. It largely followed the contours of these features and was composed of 50% stones with charcoal, brick, and roofing slate in a silty clay loam matrix. Most of the artefacts recovered came from this layer (Photos 3 and 4).



**Photo 3:** Part of rubble layer, context (104).



**Photo 4:** Partial section of rubble layer (104). The mortar rubble layer (107) is visible as pale specks along its base.

- 4.4 Context (106) was a small patch of what appeared to be packed or rammed clay. Initial interpretation was that it might be a remnant of flooring (Photo 3).
- 4.5 Context (108) was an area of heat-affected material containing small fragments of charcoal. The red tint to this layer is derived from inclusions which cannot be securely identified but could be stone, brick, pottery or any combination of the three (Photo 5).



**Photo 5:** Spread of heat-affected material, context (108).

- 4.6 Context (107) was a layer of silt much modified by mortar rubble, fragments of plaster and stones resulting in a loose matrix. At its western extremity it underlay the rubble layer (104) and the heat-affected material (108). At its eastern extremity it abutted a masonry wall (109), (Photos 6 and 7).



**Photo 6:** Mortar rubble layer (107) abutting external surface of WSW wall (109).



**Photo 7:** Internal surface of WSW wall, context (109).

- 4.7 This western wall (109), though lacking cohesive structure in places, clearly showed a north-northwestern/south-southeastern alignment running across the full width of the trench. There were also traces of limewash on its outer, western face, and on a small section running at right angles to its overall trend. The mortar was clearly visible and was largely homogenous in character lacking any inclusions. Its upper surface was indistinct towards the southern end and may have incorporated part of the overlying rubble layer (104), (Photos 6 and 7).
- 4.8 To the east of the western wall the most extensive feature recorded was a packed / rammed clay floor, context (110). Initially only a small section was visible and it was so compacted that it gave the impression of being a slate slab floor. Hand excavation revealed its true composition and a small selection of artefacts were recovered from the layer, some of which implied domestic activities. At its southern side the floor became less distinct and it is possible that deeper excavation would have shown it to extend throughout the entire area. It was noticeable that, while this context did yield some artefacts, they were relatively sparse compared with the overlying rubble layer, context (104). Conjoining pieces of a ceramic vessel were found in context (104) and also in the underlying floor layer (110) which indicated downwards contamination from the rubble context. The lack of artefacts would be typical of a clay floor within the interior of a dwelling, i.e. a living space that was kept clear of household waste and debris (Photo 8).



**Photo 8:** Packed / rammed clay floor, context (110).

- 4.9 In the southwestern corner of the structure adjacent to the western wall was a small spread of charcoal, context (111). Many fragments of varying sizes of coal were apparent suggesting that this area may have been used for storing fuel or was a dump of waste material from a nearby hearth or fire. No other artefacts were found in this layer.

- 4.10 Immediately to the east-southeast of this layer was an area of stones set into the exposed surface, context (112), which formed a small level platform. A large rock appeared to be in alignment with this feature as though it continued under the edge of the trench towards the south-southeast (Photos 9 and 10).



**Photo 9:** Ambiguous feature composed of set masonry, context (112).



**Photo 10:** Hole where large rock was situated immediately adjacent to masonry, context (112).

- 4.11 To the east of the stones was small area containing heat-affected materials and a slab of slate laid flat on the surface. Some artefacts were recovered during cleaning – bone, daub, ceramic and mortar – but no clues were forthcoming as to the exact purpose of this area (Photo 11).



**Photo 11:** Spread of heat affected material within building, context (115).

- 4.12 The next feature examined was a wall, context (113). It retained more structural cohesion than its counterpart further to the west with both internal and external faces clearly discernible. Layers of limewash were apparent on the inner surface showing multiple phases of redecoration. The mortar was clearly visible and was largely homogenous in character lacking any inclusions. Towards the southern end the wall took a 90° turn to the west and it was briefly considered that it might be part of the same structure as context (112). However, cleaning did not reveal any other stones or slabs on the same alignment. It is possible that deeper excavations might reveal a connection but at present this has to remain unverified (Photos 12, 13, 14, 15).
- 4.13 To the eastern side of this wall was a cut, context [114], with an associated fill, context (116). The latter context was largely homogenous in character and gave evidence of downslope alluvial / colluvial processes involving sediments higher up the hill being redeposited them against the outside of the building, thus filling the eastern end of the terrace. These features were not fully excavated and so their relationship to the wall cannot be fully established (Photo 16).
- 4.14 The final feature of note was context (117) – a modern concrete structure at the eastern extremity of the trench. Fragments of what appeared to be a similar structure were apparent just outside the north-eastern corner of the trench.



**Photo 12:** Internal surface of wall towards ENE end of trench, context (113).



**Photo 13:** Close up of limewash on internal surface of ENE wall. It can clearly be seen how it changes direction by 90° just to the right of the scale.



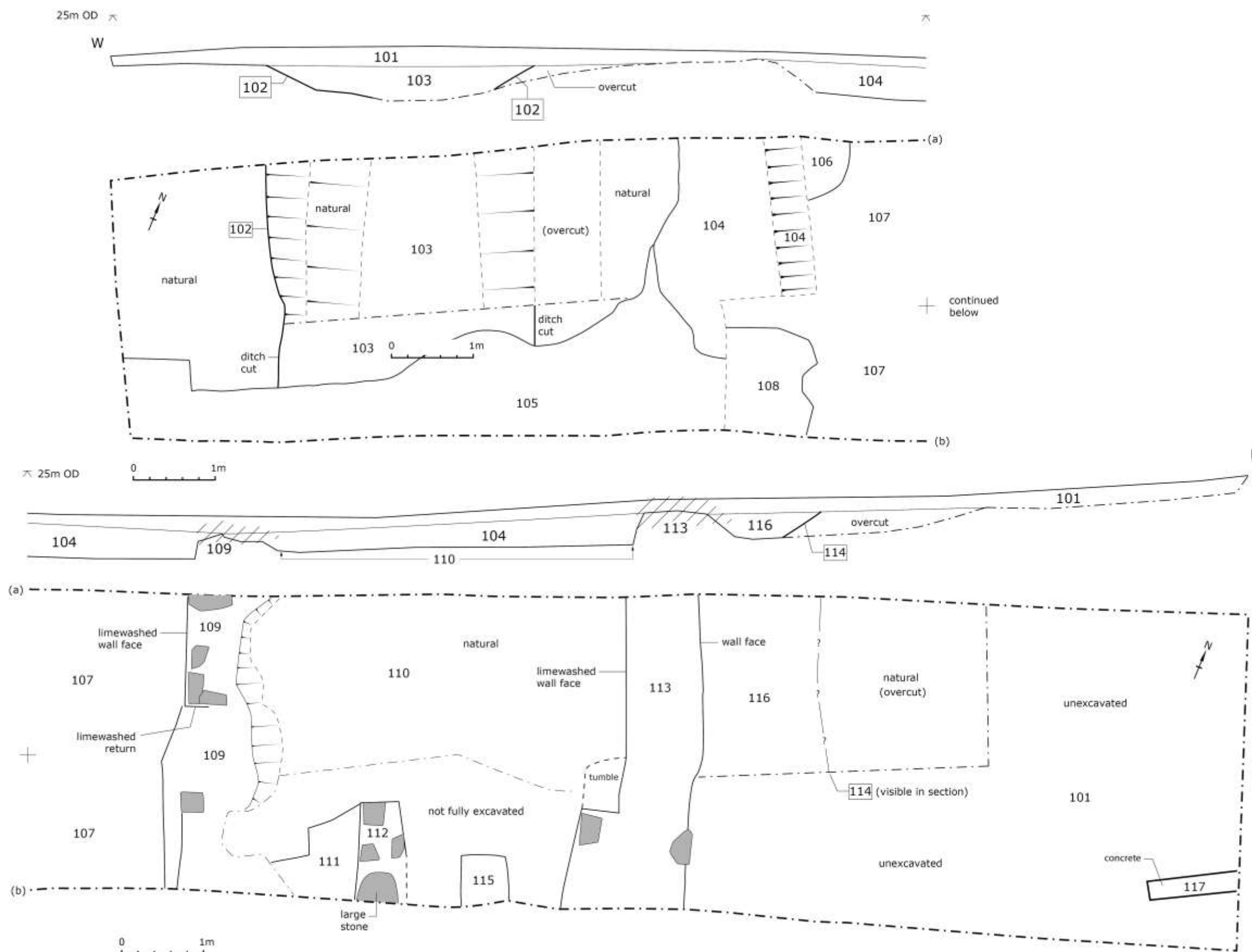
**Photo 14:** External surface of ENE wall.



**Photo 15:** Large slate slab in ENE wall.



**Photo 16:** Platform cut [114] left, with tumble external to ENE wall on the right.



**Figure 7:** Plan view of trench with south facing section.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 This evaluation has provided conclusive archaeological evidence of activity at the site from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.2 However, the activity may extend back in time even into the medieval period. The ditch at the western end of the trench was quite large at 3m across and, running straight downslope towards the valley floor, and it probably extends further upslope under the road into the fields beyond. This may be a remnant of a medieval drainage system but only further excavation and supporting artefactual evidence could confirm this.
- 5.3 The stratigraphic data indicate that the development plot has been modified at some point by creating a level platform or terrace upon which a dwelling was built. At the eastern end of the trench, cut [114] gives evidence of this while at the western end one might expect to find a similar cut underlying the rubble layer, context (104). This was impossible to verify in the field but further excavation might shed light on the matter.
- 5.4 It is impossible to accurately gauge the date of construction of the dwelling. Ceramic artefacts found during excavation of the floor layers suggest activity in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century or possibly the late 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards. Artefactual evidence for this is based on the ceramic items found at the site - many of the patterned pieces were transfer printed, a technique developed in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. The ceramic material can only be used to date the areas of floor layers excavated and the material deposited at the end of the buildings life. It is possible that the structure has much earlier, possibly even medieval origins, although this is conjectural and cannot be confirmed. The mortar used in the construction of the walls, having the characteristics of a pre-19<sup>th</sup> century build, certainly suggests that the building may be older than the artefacts indicate.
- 5.5 The structure is recorded on the 1840 Tithe map and the apportionment as two cottages. From the information recorded on-site it is possible these comprised a main living space on the ground floor, with loft above for sleeping. It is clear that the structure was no longer in use by 1888 as it is absent from the first edition Ordnance Survey map, possibly it was either a ruin by then or had been demolished and the stone from the walls removed for reuse elsewhere.
- 5.6 Following disuse of the building the site appears to have been levelled using rubble which contained a lot of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century artefacts (mainly ceramic). It seems likely that this was derived from a waste-tip either on or near the site. It is notable that the rubble layer does not extend the full length of the trench but fills the interior of the building and part of the platform it was constructed upon, thus making the ground up to the same level as that around it.
- 5.7 The ceramic artefacts are largely from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, i.e. after the building had become disused. The rubble layer is, in places, immediately above the mortar rubble layer associated with the decay / collapse of the disused building.
- 5.8 The probable sequence of events as suggested by the artefactual and stratigraphic evidence is as follows –
  - i. A platform or terrace is cut into the slope upon which the dwelling is built (date uncertain but likely pre-19<sup>th</sup> century);
  - ii. After an unspecified number of decades of use the building is abandoned (pre-1888);

- iii. The building is partially robbed of masonry which is then probably used to construct other structures in the village (post-1840 to c.1900). The key evidence for this is that there is little tumbled masonry at the site – it has all been removed to some unknown destination.
  - iv. At some point in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century the site is subject to another phase of development. The rubble/waste layer is added to level the site in preparation for a new structure – the Mount Pleasant Stores. The concrete structures on site (probably footings) are all that remains of this building, predominantly constructed from corrugated iron, which can still be seen on the 1:25000 OS map and also on Google Maps street view.
- 5.8 The development proposals indicate that the western third of the site area will be utilised as gardens, which is likely to cause little disturbance to any below ground remains. The eastern part of the development plot will be used as parking for the new house, which could require some ground disturbance although this will be located on top of existing car park material. Disturbance to below ground remains could occur here. The proposed dwelling lies within the centre of the site area, directly on top of the recorded structure. Ground disturbance of the surviving remains of the cottages is very likely to occur from the erection of the new dwelling, although the extent of this would depend upon the method of construction used (Figure 8).
- 5.9 The evaluation has revealed the presence of remains of a former domestic structure on the site. In 1840 this structure was split into two cottages, belonging to the church. The footprint of the western cottage seems to have been revealed within the evaluation trench, but that to the east was less well defined and may have been disturbed during the erection of the former Mount Pleasant Stores. By 1888 these two cottages were no longer in use and may have been demolished. Within the limitations imposed by an evaluation excavation much has been learned about the structure and its development, but further investigation is likely to be necessary prior to development in order to learn more about its date, character and function, as well as to record any earlier remains that could be present pre-dating it.



**Figure 8:** Development proposals overlaid on trench plan

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS AND ARTEFACT REPORT

Context No.	Description	Dimensions	Artefacts where recovered/Notes
101	Topsoil Loose, dark brown, clay loam Occasional medium and large sub-rounded stones	30m x 3m	3x fragments of iron (small, a nail/bolt?), 7x 20 <sup>th</sup> century ceramic, 9x Devon Gravel Tempered Ware, 4x daub, 2x heat-affected stone.
102	Cut Linear, orientated NNW-SSE i.e. straight across trench heading downslope Not fully excavated so profile unknown	W 3 metres+? Depth and Length unknown	N/A
103	Fill Friable, light orangeish brown, silty clay Frequent small angular stones, occasional large sub-rounded stones, occasional flecks and small charcoal	W 3 metres+? Depth and Length unknown	1x sherd of Devon Gravel Tempered Ware.
104	Rubble layer Friable, mid brown, silt clay loam 50% subangular and sub rounded stones between 0.8m and 0.25m in length, frequent small charcoal, occasional brick fragments, occasional roof slate fragments	11m x 3m	The layer extended along most of the trench but was largely excavated by the digger to enable access to underlying features. A possible explanation for this layer was that it was deposited on top of the ruin and the platform it sat on to level the site ready for other usage. At its WSW end it seems to abut the natural deposits and must therefore be concealing one of the platform cuts. At the ENE end it disappears just above the eastern wall of the building and does not meet the cut, possibly as levelling was unnecessary due to hillwash deposits building up against the external surface of the wall thus levelling this part of the site naturally.  3x iron nails, 6x sherds of Devon Gravel Tempered Ware, 1x brick fragment, 1x heat-affected stone, 2x animal bone (1x scapula), 3x 20 <sup>th</sup> century ceramic, 1x ceramic not identified, 2x heat affected stone, 1x iron nail/bolt, 31x fragments of blue

			and white ware, 9x fragments of degraded brick/daub, 1x fragment of heat-affected stone with mortar, 3x fragments of glass, 2x fragments of coal, 2x fragments of dark brown glazed ceramic, 2x fragments of creamy hand-painted ceramic, 2x fragments of brown glazed ceramic, 2x mortar, 3x brick fragments (1x heat-affected), 1x piece of coal, 1x brown/grey glazed pot.
105	Spread of rubbish Friable, light yellowish brown, silt clay 10% flecks and small charcoal/coal, 10% small fragments of degraded pot/brick, 10% small, medium and large sub rounded stones, occasional fragments of pottery	7.5m x 2.2m in trench	
106	Spread of packed clay Compact, light brownish yellow, clay Occasional medium sub rounded stones	0.5m x 0.7m in trench	
107	Mortar rubble Loose, light whitish brown, silty 30% crushed mortar, occasional fragments of wall plaster, 5% subangular and sub rounded stones between 0.08m and 0.25m in length	Uncertain – extends throughout inside of building, possibly underlying packed clay layer, and outside walls including under the rubble layer	4x sherds modern ceramic, 2x brick fragments, 5x degraded pot fragments, 1x degraded plaster fragment
108	Heat-affected spread Loose, mid brown, silty	1.20m x 1.20m in trench	

	20% heat-affected flecks and small stones/brick/pottery?, 20% flecks and small charcoal		
109	Wall (WSWestern) Left <i>in situ</i> including tumble and possibly some of the rubble layer (104) overlying it	Approx 0.70m wide towards NNW side of trench where structure still retains some cohesion, approx 1.60m wide at the SSE end	The mortar component of the wall has few inclusions. 18 <sup>th</sup> century mortars usually contained crushed coal and ash, the implication being that this structure pre-dates the 19 <sup>th</sup> century. There is even the possibility that it is a medieval construction.
110	Floor Hard, light yellow in places but mostly dark grey Compacted clay and the grey areas are gritty	4.70m x 2.6m in trench	Possibly not fully excavated in SSE section of room as mortar rubble (107) still evident here. However, this layer seems to extend underneath the packed clay – further investigation would be required.  1x animal bone (bovine femur head), 2x fragments of brick, 3x fragments of modern ceramic, 4x fragments of blue and white ware (possibly early 19 <sup>th</sup> century), 2x fragments of degraded pottery, 3 x fragments of heat-affected daub.
111	Charcoal spread Friable, dark greyish brown, silty clay 50% flecks, small, medium and large charcoal/coal, occasional fragments of roofing slate, occasional small sub rounded stones	1.10m x 0.78m in trench	
112	Wall(?)/slabs Left <i>in situ</i>	0.74m x 0.62m in trench	An ambiguous structure composed of flat slabs set into a possible floor surface. Immediately to the SSE on the same alignment was a large rock (dislodged and removed by the digger) which may have been connected structurally.
113	Wall (ENEeastern)	Up to 1.50m	Has curious right-angle on inner face which aligns well with

	Left <i>in situ</i> including tumble and possibly some of the rubble layer (104) overlying it	wide in trench	(112). However, no evidence could be found that they are part of the same structure.  The mortar component of the wall has few inclusions. 18 <sup>th</sup> century mortars usually contained crushed coal and ash, the implication being that this structure pre-dates the 19 <sup>th</sup> century. There is even the possibility that it is a medieval construction.
114	Cut Linear, aligned roughly NW-SE across trench	Impossible to gauge	Only partially excavated so impossible to give precise dimensions. Initial interpretation was that a flat platform was cut into the hillside upon which the structure was built, this feature being the ENE end of the platform where it rises up.
115	Heat-affected spread Compact, mid brown, silt clay Occasional large angular stones, frequent flecks and small charcoal, 1 large stone slab laid flat	0.56m x 0.62m in trench	3x fragments of heat-affected daub, 1x fragment of Devon Gravel Tempered Ware, 1x fragment of mortar, 1x animal bone.
116	Fill Friable, mid brown, silty clay Occasional flecks and small charcoal, occasional small angular stones, occasional fragments of roof slate	0.70m wide in trench but not fully excavated	Alluvium / colluvium washed downslope against the exterior of the building filling the eastern end of the terrace.
117	Concrete slab	Not recorded	Modern concrete slab probably associated with shed that used to be on site.

**Table 3:** Context descriptions with artefact report

**LAND ADJACENT TO CEFNCOED, LLANEGWAD,  
CARMARTHENSHIRE:  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**RHIF YR ADRODDIAD / REPORT NUMBER 2015/04  
RHIF YR DIGWYLLIAD / EVENT RECORD NUMBER 107549**

**Ionawr 2015  
January 2015**

Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by  
**Rhodri Kemp**

Swydd / Position: **Archaeologist**

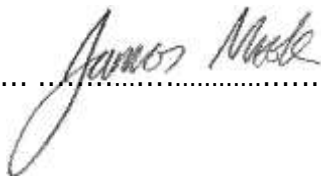
Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / Date 19/01/15

Mae'r adroddiad hwn wedi ei gael yn gywir a derbyn sêl bendith  
This report has been checked and approved by

ar ran Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.  
on behalf of Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Head of DAT Archaeological Services

Llofnod / Signature ..... Dyddiad / Date 19/01/15



Yn unol â'n nôd i roddi gwasanaeth o ansawdd uchel, croesawn unrhyw sylwadau  
sydd gennych ar gynnwys neu strwythur yr adroddiad hwn

As part of our desire to provide a quality service we would welcome any  
comments you may have on the content or presentation of this report

