

# **BANC TYNPYNFARCH, BONTGOCH, CEREDIGION: HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
For: Robert Edwards



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**BANC TYNPYNFARCH, BONTGOCH, CEREDIGION:  
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING  
AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

By

**Marion Shiner and Hubert Wilson**

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**BANC TYNPYNFARCH, BONTGOCH, CEREDIGION:  
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING  
AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

<b>Client</b>	Robert Edwards
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**Event Record No** 128848

<b>Report No</b>	2022-34
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**Project Code** FS21-055

<b>Report Prepared By</b>	Marion Shiner and Hubert Wilson
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**Fieldwork Undertaken By** Marion Shiner and Hubert Wilson

<b>Illustrated By</b>	--
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**Report Approved By** Frances Murphy

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**BANC TYNPYNFARCH, BONTGOCH, CEREDIGION:  
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**CONTENTS**

	<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>1.1 Project Commission</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>1.2 Scope of the Project</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>1.3 Report Outline</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>1.4 Abbreviations</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>1.5 Illustrations</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>1.6 Timeline</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>THE SITE</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>2.1 Location and topography</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>2.2 Archaeological and historical background</b>	<b>8</b>
	<b>2.3 Previous archaeological investigations</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>3.1 Historic building recording</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>3.2 Watching brief</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>3.3 Timetabling of fieldwork</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>3.4 Post-Fieldwork Reporting and Archiving</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>RESULTS</b>	<b>16</b>
	<b>4.1 Building recording results</b>	<b>16</b>
	<i>4.1.1 Exterior views</i>	<b>18</b>
	<i>4.1.2 Interior views – Bay 1</i>	<b>23</b>
	<i>4.1.3 Interior views – Bay 2</i>	<b>27</b>
	<b>4.2 Watching brief results</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>SOURCES</b>	<b>37</b>

**APPENDIX I: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION** 38

**TABLES**

<b>Table 1:</b>	Archaeological and Historical Timeline for Wales.	4
<b>Table 2:</b>	HER sites recorded in the vicinity of Banc Tynpynfarch	9

**FIGURES**

<b>Figure 1:</b>	Site location map	5
<b>Figure 2:</b>	Extent of site	6
<b>Figure 3:</b>	Existing ground floor and section	6
<b>Figure 4:</b>	Existing elevations	7
<b>Figure 5:</b>	Historic assets recorded in the HER	11
<b>Figure 6:</b>	Extract from the 1847 tithe map	12
<b>Figure 7:</b>	Extract from the 1891 Ordnance Survey Map	13
<b>Figure 8:</b>	Extract from the 1906 Ordnance Survey Map	13
<b>Figure 9:</b>	Building recording photo numbers and direction of shots	17
<b>Figure 10:</b>	Watching brief trench locations	32

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

<b>Photos 1–24</b>	18
<b>Photos 25–30:</b>	33

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake a scheme of historic building recording and an archaeological watching brief prior to, and during, the renovation and conversion of a ruined property known as Banc Tynpynfarch, Bontgoch, Ceredigion (NGR SN6651 8543). The development site is in an upland agricultural landscape that also contains extensive nineteenth century metal mining remains as well as prehistoric funerary and ritual sites. Groundworks associated with the proposed development were therefore considered to have the potential to impact upon underlying archaeological remains.*

*The building is a barn and is first seen on the 1891 (1<sup>st</sup> edition) Ordnance Survey map. Made-up ground was present across most of the development plot, and no stratified archaeological deposits were encountered during the watching brief except for a pre-1970s fence post.*

## **CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL**

*Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archeolegol YAD i ymgymryd â chynllun o gofnodi adeiladau hanesyddol a brîff gwylio archeolegol cyn, ac yn ystod, adnewyddu a thrawsnewid adeilad adfeiliedig o'r enw Banc Tynpynfarch, Bontgoch, Ceredigion (NGR SN6651 8543). Mae safle'r datblygiad mewn tirwedd amaethyddol uwchdir sydd hefyd yn cynnwys olion mwynloddio metel helaeth o'r bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg yn ogystal â safleoedd angladdol a defodol cynhanesyddol. Felly, ystyriwyd bod gan waith daear sy'n gysylltiedig â'r datblygiad arfaethedig y potensial i effeithio ar weddillion archeolegol gwaelodol.*

*Ysgubor yw'r adeilad ac fe'i gwelir gyntaf ar fap Arolwg Ordnans 1888 (argraffiad 1af). Roedd tir gwneuthuredig yn bresennol ar draws y rhan fwyaf o'r plot datblygu, ac ni ddaethpwyd ar draws unrhyw ddyddodion archeolegol haenedig yn ystod y brîff gwylio ac eithrio postyn ffens cyn y 1970au.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Commission**

1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned by Huw Evans on behalf of his client Robert Edwards to undertake an archaeological scheme of historic building recording and an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at a ruined property known as Banc Tynpynfarch, Bontgoch, Ceredigion (NGR SN6651 8543, Figures 1–4). The requirement for a scheme to record the building prior to its alteration, and to monitor groundworks, has been placed upon the development by Ceredigion County Council (Local Planning Authority) following advice from their archaeological advisors, Dyfed Archaeological Trust–Development Management (DAT-DM).

1.1.2 Planning permission has been granted for the proposed alterations to the building by Ceredigion County Council (Planning reference A210661). In response to the application, stated in a letter to Ceredigion County Council DAT-DM recommended that should permission be granted, then:

*No development shall take place until a qualified and competent archaeologist has submitted a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for approval in writing by the local planning authority. This WSI will describe the different stages of the work and demonstrate that it has been fully resourced and given adequate time. On behalf of the local planning authority, their archaeological advisors (DAT DM) will monitor all aspects of this work through to the final discharging of the condition. This work will not be deemed complete until all aspects of the WSI have been addressed and the final report submitted and approved.*

1.1.3 The development site is located within an agricultural landscape that contains extensive nineteenth century metal mining remains. The site is also within close proximity to a number of prehistoric funerary and ritual monuments.

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

1.2.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological watching brief was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services prior to the commencement of the works (Appendix 1). The WSI outlined the project objectives as:

- Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology for the watching brief which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake;
- A historic building recording scheme, undertaken to a Level 1 standard as defined in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (Historic England 2016);
- To monitor ground works in order to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits;
- To establish the state of preservation, character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits identified;
- Production of a report and an archive of the results.

1.2.2 The overall work was summarised as:

***A Level 1 building recording survey of the ruined property known as Banc Tynpynfarch, Bontgoch, Ceredigion, carried out in accordance***

***with guidelines provided by the Local Planning Authority's archaeological advisors – Dyfed Archaeological Trust Development Management. The resulting photographs to be approved by the planning authority prior to the commencement of development and deposited with the regional Historic Environment Record, held and maintained by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.***

***Archaeological attendance and recording during groundworks associated with the renovation and conversion of the ruined property known as Banc Tynpynfarch, Bontgoch, Ceredigion.***

- 1.2.3 The scheme of archaeological works is being undertaken prior to, and during, the renovation and conversion of a ruined property known as Banc Tynpynfarch, Bontgoch, Ceredigion.
- 1.2.4 The historic building recording has been undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological investigation and recording of Standing Buildings and Structures* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 1996, revised 2001 & 2008). The building recording was designed to record the existing fabric of the structures (at the time of the survey) through a combination of a photographic survey, along with site notes, drawings and historic research.
- 1.2.5 The watching brief on groundworks has been undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* and their codes of conduct (CIfA 2014). The purpose of the watching brief was to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits and to establish the state of preservation, character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits identified.

### **1.3 Report Outline**

- 1.3.1 This report describes the location of the site, its known archaeological and historical background and includes photographs of the site. It also provides a summary and discussion of the archaeological watching brief and its results. Sources are referenced within the text or as footnotes.

### **1.4 Abbreviations**

Regional Historic Environment Record – HER; Primary Record Number – PRN; National Grid Reference – NGR; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI.

### **1.5 Illustrations**

- 1.5.1 Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale. On maps, north is towards the top of the page unless otherwise indicated.

### **1.6 Timeline**

- 1.6.1 The following timeline (Table 1) is used within this report to give date ranges for the various archaeological periods that may be mentioned within the text.



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

Period	Approximate date	
Palaeolithic –	c.450,000 – 10,000 BC	<b>Prehistoric</b>
Mesolithic –	c. 10,000 – 4400 BC	
Neolithic –	c.4400 – 2300 BC	
Bronze Age –	c.2300 – 700 BC	
Iron Age –	c.700 BC – AD 43	
Roman (Romano-British) Period –	AD 43 – c. AD 410	<b>Historic</b>
Post-Roman / Early Medieval Period –	c. AD 410 – AD 1086	
Medieval Period –	1086 – 1536	
Post-Medieval Period <sup>1</sup> –	1536 – 1750	
Industrial Period –	1750 – 1899	
Modern –	20th century onwards	

<sup>1</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

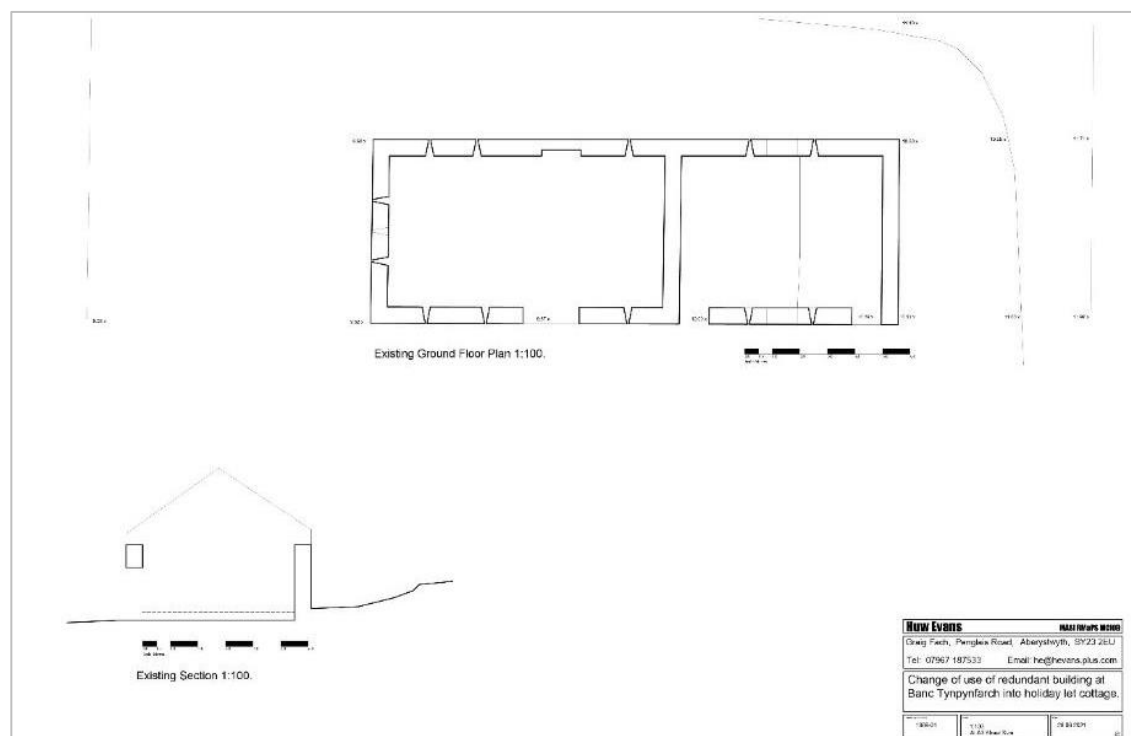


**Figure 1:** Site location map showing the proposed development area (in red).

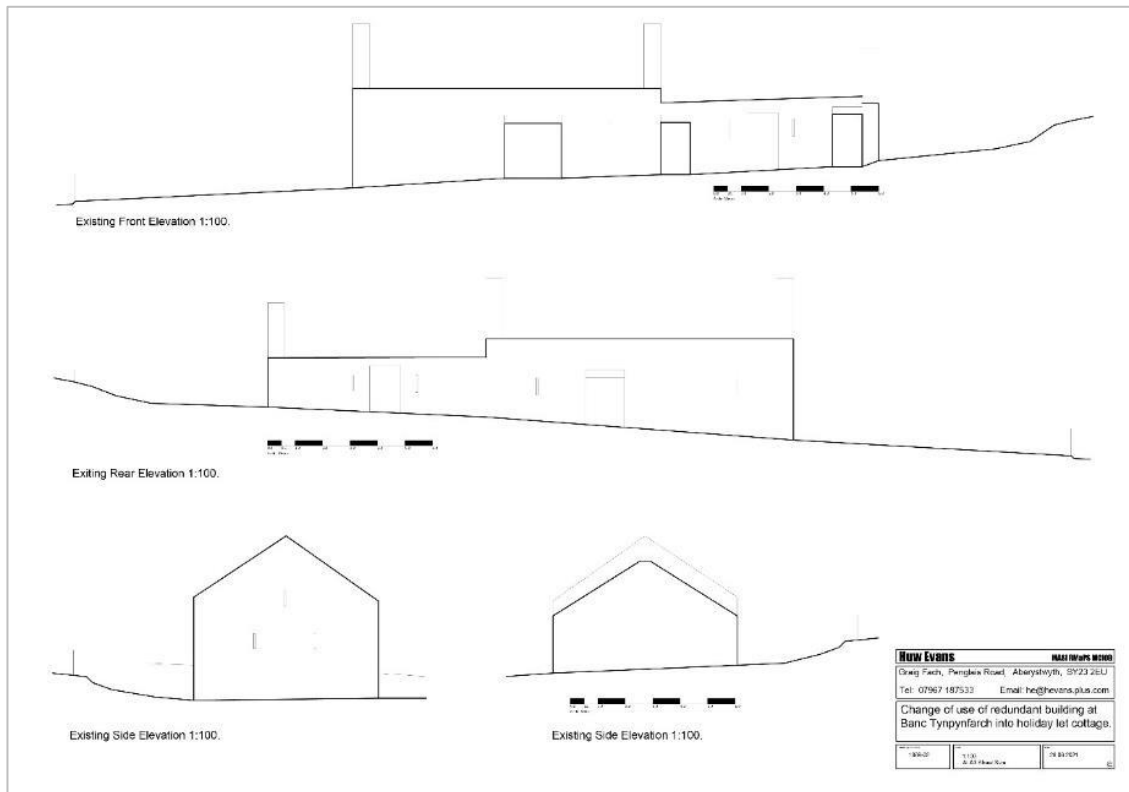
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**Figure 2:** Showing the extent of the site (red boundary). Plan supplied by the client.



**Figure 3:** Existing ground floor and section. Supplied by client.



**Figure 4:** Existing elevations. Supplied by client.

## **2. THE SITE**

### **2.1 Location, and topography**

2.1.1 The property known as Banc Tynpynfach is located close to the highest point of Banc Troedrhiwseiri a rounded, east-west aligned ridge that achieves its maximum elevation of 255m AOD 2km to the east. To the south, the land falls steeply away to the valley of the Afon Stewi at 50mAOD. To the north, the land also falls steeply to an unnamed river that feeds a disused reservoir to the east. A minor road along the summit of the ridge leads to the village of Penrhynoch, c.2.5km to the south-west. The nearest large town is Aberystwyth, c.9km to the south-west.

2.1.2 Banc Troedrhiwseiri forms part of the Upland Ceredigion Registered Historic Landscape (HLW (D) 2). In summary, the landscape character of Banc Troedrhiwseiri is described thus:

*Virtually the whole area is improved grazing, but there are hollows of peaty and rushy ground, and rougher land of bracken and gorse on the steeper slopes. The area has been divided into a series of very large enclosures by earth and stony banks, but these are now mostly redundant and wire fences form the stock-proof boundaries. Very occasional derelict hedges occur on some boundary banks, but this is essentially a treeless landscape apart from small stands of deciduous and conifer trees on the northern flanks. There are no inhabited settlements in the area. Remains of the lead mining industry include tips, a wheel pit, shafts, a reservoir and leats.*

*Other than the remains of the metal mining industry, Bronze Age monuments form the greater part of the archaeological record. Two standing stones and a possible third stone lie within the area, as do a ring barrow and a burnt mound or hearth - possibly indicative of a settlement site.*

*To the north and south this area is well defined by lower-lying enclosed land. To the east and west there is no clear boundary definition between this area and its neighbours. (Murphy et al. 1999).*

2.1.3 The underlying bedrock geology consists of the Devil's Bridge Formation – interbedded mudstone and sandstone. This is a sedimentary bedrock formed between 443.8 and 433.4 million years ago during the Silurian period. (BGS n.d.).

2.1.4 The land within the boundary of the property had been landscaped to create level ground. A short, narrow track to the east of the property led north to the road to Penrhynoch.

### **2.2 Archaeological and historical background**

A search of data held on several databases was made of historic assets within the vicinity of the development site. The regional HER maintained by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust records thirty-three known archaeological sites in close proximity (Table 2). The National Monument Record, maintained by RCAHMW, records one additional site. Figure 5 shows the locations of these thirty-four sites.

2.2.1 There are no recorded sites dating from the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic or Neolithic periods in the vicinity of the development site. The earliest recorded evidence for human activity in the area is represented by Bronze

Age funerary and other monuments comprising one probable and one certain funerary barrow (PRN 5400; NPRN 412712), one burnt mound (PRN 12874), one findspot (PRN 100649) and two standing stones (PRNs 5403 & 53097).

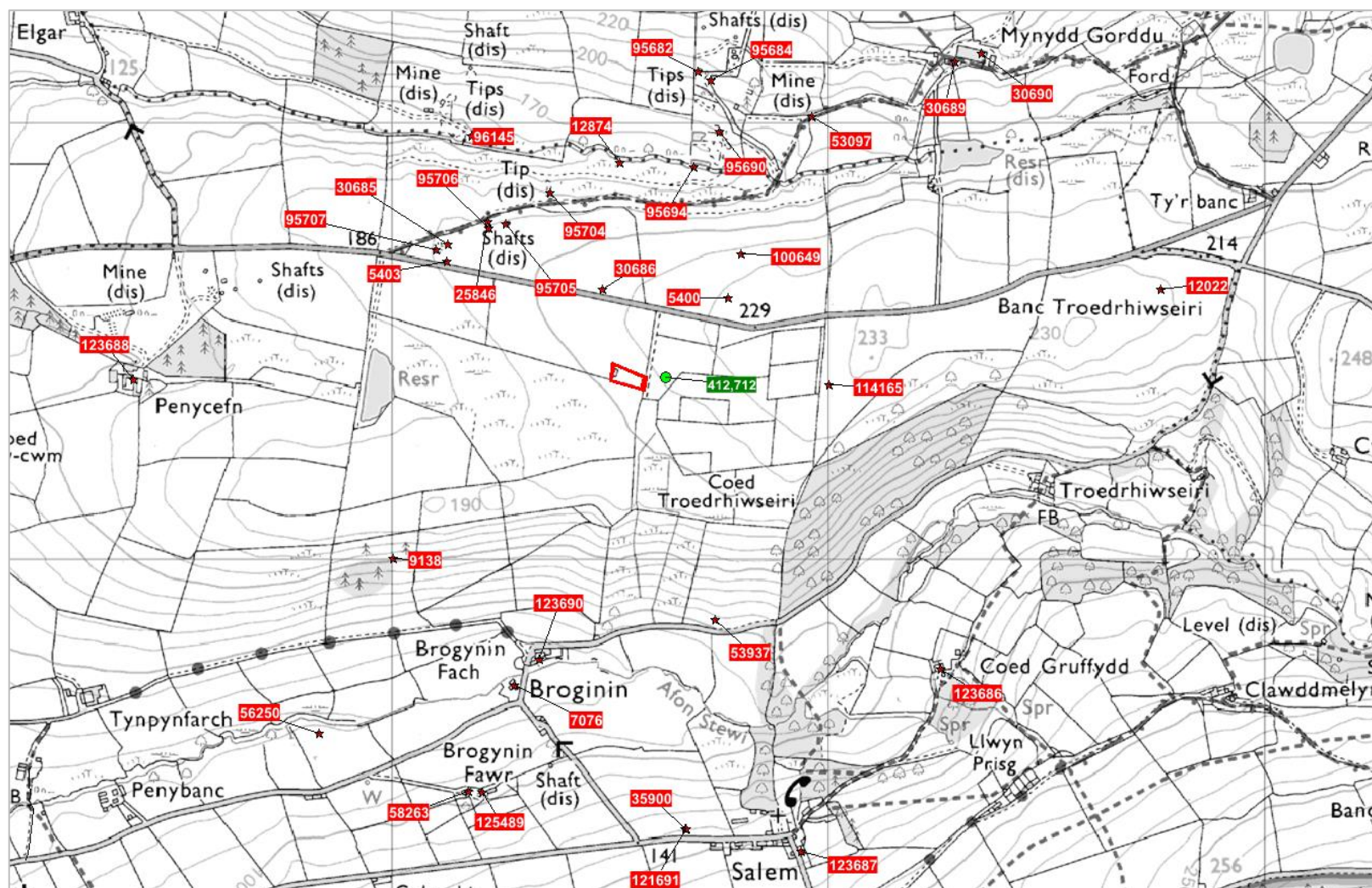
- 2.2.2 The Iron Age and Roman periods are not represented within the development site. However, a little over 1km to the east, closer to the summit of Banc Troedrhiwseiri, lie the ploughed out remains of a small Iron Age defended enclosure (PRN 12022). Another small enclosure (PRN 56250) located 1km to the south-east, in the valley of the Afon Stewi, may also have Iron Age origins. Across the Stewi valley, 1km to the south of the development site, two discoveries of Roman coins are evidence for activity in the area during the second half of the third century AD (PRNs 35900 & 121691).
- 2.2.3 The medieval period is not represented except for a deserted settlement (PRN 30685) that appears on a late eighteenth century estate map, but not on the mid-nineteenth century parish tithe map, and could be of medieval origin. This site is located 500m north-west of the development site.
- 2.2.4 The majority of recorded sites in close proximity to the development site, and also in the wider landscape, date from the post-medieval period and relate to extensive metal mining in the area during the nineteenth century. The names of three mines are recorded: Penycefn Mine East, Mynydd Gorddu Mine and Elgar Mine. Within 500m of the development site are the remains of shafts, levels and a waterwheel pit associated with Penycefn Mine East (PRNs 25846 & 95704 – 95707) and slime pits associated with Mynydd Gorddu Mine (PRN 95694).

**Table 2:** Historic assets recorded in the vicinity of Banc Tynpynfarch – mapped in Figure 5.

PRN	SITE NAME	SITE TYPE	PERIOD	NGR
123690		FARMSTEAD	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN6633684770
125489		FARMSTEAD	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN6620484464
30685		DESERTED RURAL SETTLEMENT	MEDIEVAL;POST-MEDIEVAL	SN6612785723
53097		STANDING STONE	BRONZE AGE	SN6696186015
95682	BANC MYNYDD-GORDDU;MON YDD GORDDU;MYNYDD GORDDU MINE	MINE BUILDING	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN66708612
95684	BANC MYNYDD-GORDDU;MON YDD GORDDU;MYNYDD GORDDU MINE	MINE BUILDING	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN66738610
95690	BANC MYNYDD-GORDDU;MON YDD GORDDU;MYNYDD GORDDU MINE	ROCK CRUSHER HOUSE	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN66758598

PRN	SITE NAME	SITE TYPE	PERIOD	NGR
95694	BANC MYNYDD- GORDDU;MON YDD GORDDU;MYNY DD GORDDU MINE	PIT	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN66698590
12022	BANC TROED RHIW SEIRI	DEFENDED ENCLOSURE	IRON AGE	SN6776285618
5403	BANC TROED RHIW SEIRI	STANDING STONE	BRONZE AGE	SN6612585682
100649	BANC TROED- RHIW-SEIRI, TIRYMYNACH	FINDSPOT	BRONZE AGE	SN668857
5400	BANC TROED- RHIW- SEIRI;BWLCH TROED-RHIW- SEIRI	RING BARROW	BRONZE AGE	SN66778560
56250	BROGININ ENCLOSURE	ENCLOSURE	IRON AGE?;ROMAN;UN KNOWN;PREHIST ORIC?	SN65838460
53937	BROGYNIN FACH (EAST)	FARMSTEAD	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN6674084860
58263	BROGYNIN FAWR	FARMHOUSE	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN6617284466
123686	COED- GRIFFITH	FARMSTEAD	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN6725784747
96145	ELGAR MINE;BANC MYNYDD GORDDU	MINE BUILDING	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN66188597
30689	MYNYDD GORDDU	FARMSTEAD	MEDIEVAL;POST- MEDIEVAL	SN67298614
12874	MYNYDD- GORDDU	BURNT MOUND	BRONZE AGE	SN66528591
30690	MYNYDD- GORDDU	FARMSTEAD	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN67358616
123688	PEN-Y-CEFN	FARMSTEAD	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN6540485411
25846	PENYCEFN MINE EAST	LEAD MINE	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN6621885773
95704	PENYCEFN MINE EAST	LEVEL	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN66368584
95705	PENYCEFN MINE EAST	MINE SHAFT	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN66268577
95706	PENYCEFN MINE EAST	WATERWHEEL PIT	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN66228576
95707	PENYCEFN MINE EAST	MINE SHAFT	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN66108571
35900	SALEM	HOARD	ROMAN	SN66678438
121691	TREFEURIG	FINDSPOT	ROMAN	SN6667284379
7076	TY DAFYDD AP GWILYM	DWELLING	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN66288471
123687		FARMSTEAD	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN6693684328
30686		POUND	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN66488562
114165	BANC TROEDRHIWSE IRI	LANDSCAPE	NOT APPLICABLE	SN670854
9138	TIRYMYNACH	LEAT	POST-MEDIEVAL	SN6600085000



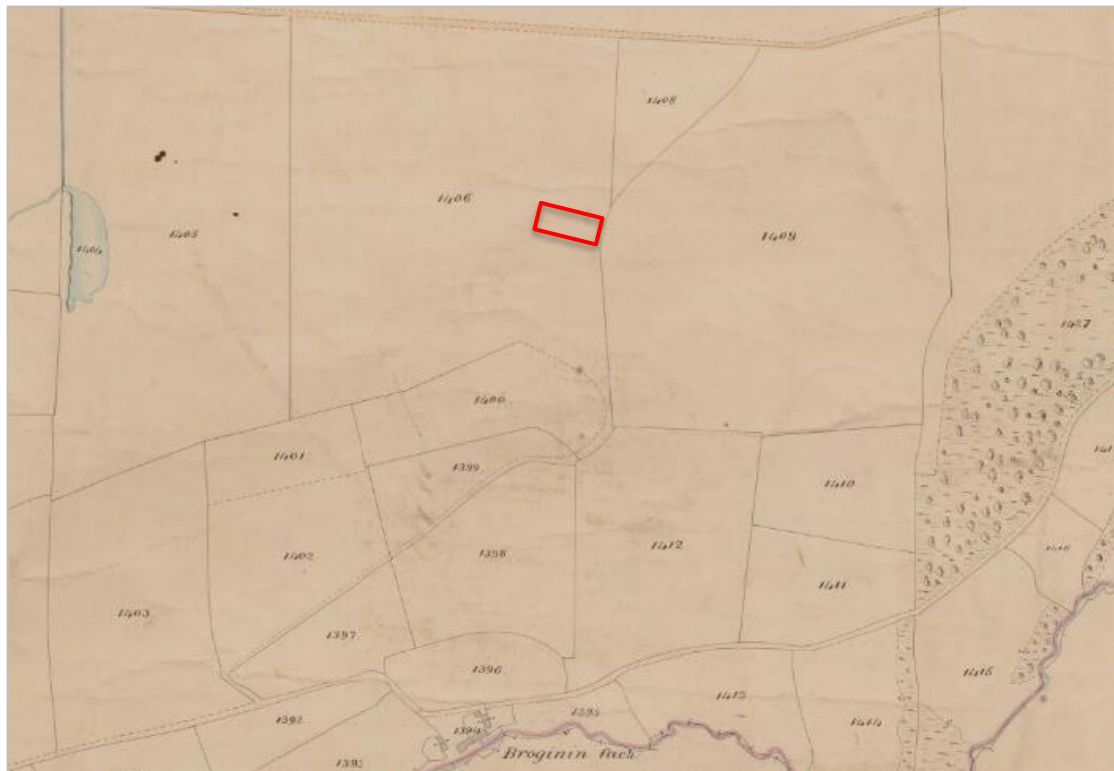


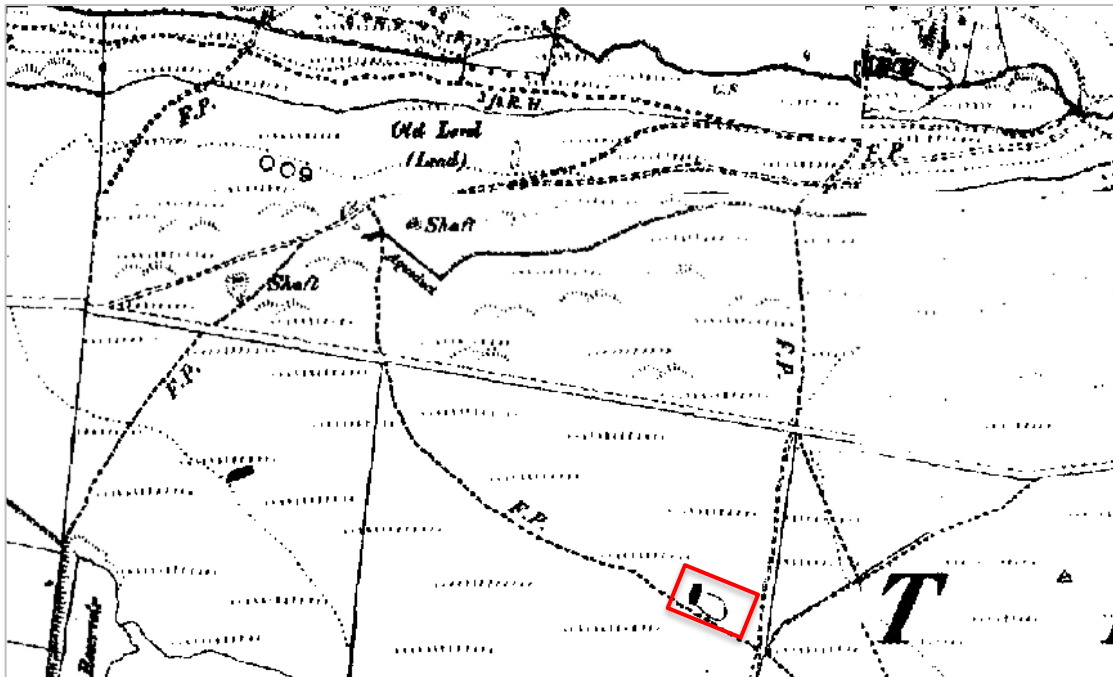
**Figure 5:** Historic assets recorded on the HER (red) and NMR (green) in the vicinity of the development (red rectangle). Listed in Table 2.

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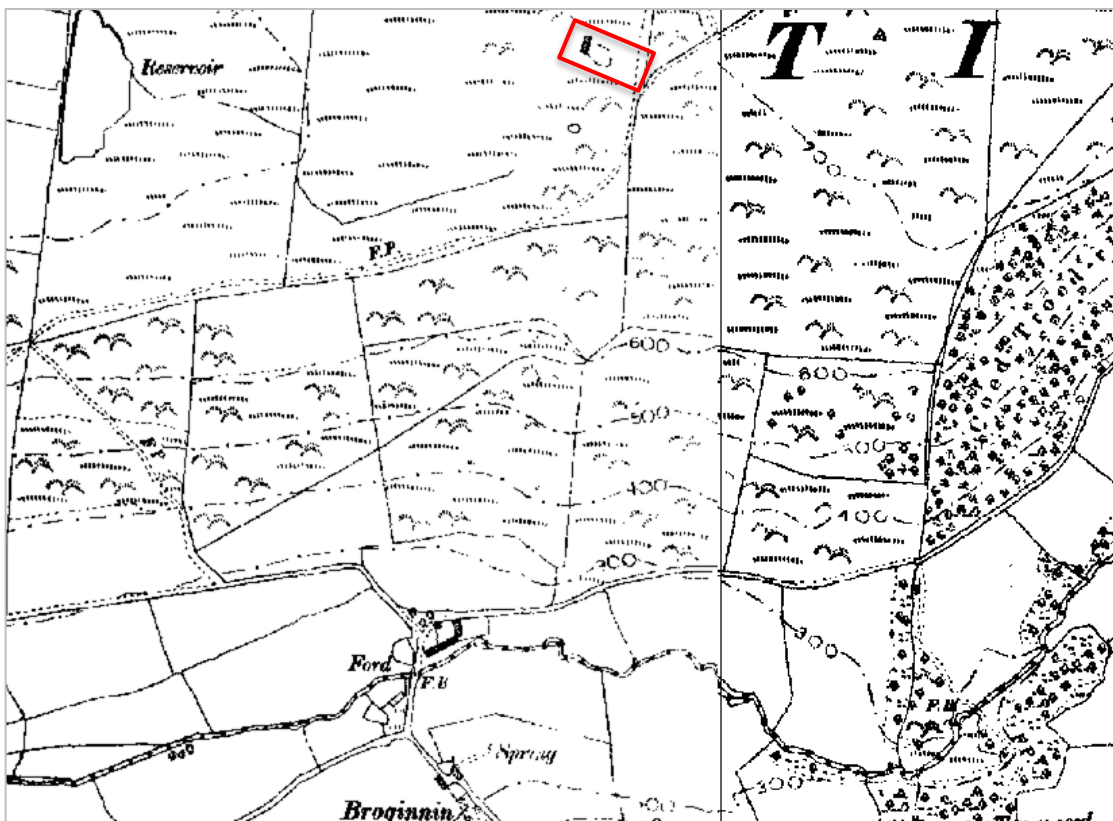
- 2.2.5 The property known as Banc Tynpynfarch is one of a number of post-medieval buildings in the vicinity. Most are either mine buildings (PRNs 95682, 95684, 95690 & 96145) or farmhouses and associated agricultural buildings (PRNs 123687, 123690, 125489, 58263, 123686, 30689, 30690 & 123688). Across the Afon Stewi, 750m south-east of the development site, a ruinous dwelling known as Ty Dafydd ap Gwilym (PRN 7076) is reputedly the birthplace of the medieval Welsh poet, although no material pre-dating the seventeenth century has been found at the site.
- 2.2.6 Banc Tynpynfarch itself is not depicted on the mid-nineteenth century tithe map for the parish of Llanfihangel Geneu'r Glyn (Figure 6). The accompanying tithe apportionment of 1845 states that at this time, the land was part of 'Broginin Fach', which was owned by the Earl of Lisburn and occupied by a John Richard. The ruinous farmstead of Broginin Fach (PRN 53937) is located c.660m south-south-east of Banc Tynpynfarch. In 1845 Broginin Fach also owned land up to 350m north of the barn and it's possible that the barn was built to serve this tract of land owned by the farm.





**Figure 7:** Extract from the first edition (1891) 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map (development site in red).

2.2.8. There is little alteration shown on the second edition OS map published in 1906 (Figure 8). Banc Tynpynfarch is still roofed, but the footpath leading to Elgar mine is no longer depicted. The path which connected the building with Brogynin Fach, 'Broginnin' on the map, is still shown.



**Figure 8:** Extract from the second edition (1906) 1:10,000 Ordnance Survey map (development site in red).

## **2.3 Previous archaeological investigations.**

- 2.3.1 One previous archaeological investigation has been carried out in the vicinity of the development site. This was a desk-based assessment carried out by DAT Curatorial Section in 1992 (DAT 1992). This piece of work recorded many of the sites mentioned in section 2.2.

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Historic building recording**

- 3.1.1 The historic building recording scheme has been undertaken to a Level 1 standard as defined in the Historic England 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' (2016). This level of recording is described thus:

*Level 1 is essentially a basic visual record, supplemented by the minimum of information needed to identify the building's location, age and type. This is the simplest record, not normally an end in itself but contributing to a wider aim. Typically, it will be undertaken when the objective is to gather basic information about a large number of buildings – for statistical sampling, for area assessments or historic landscape characterisation, for a pilot project, to identify buildings for planning purposes, or whenever resources are limited and much ground has to be covered in a short time. It may also serve to identify buildings requiring more detailed attention at a later date.*

*Level 1 surveys will generally be of exteriors only, although they may include superficial interior inspection for significant features. Only if circumstances and objectives allow will any drawings be produced, and these are likely to take the form of sketches.*

- 3.1.2 To supplement the on-site survey a review of information held at the DAT HER and local studies library was undertaken. The on-site survey will then complete the relevant tasks outlined below, where possible, to ensure that the record is completed to the Level 1 guidelines, building on the known information. Only photos taken during this survey will be included within the site archive and report.
- 3.1.3 Based on the Level 1 survey as defined in the Historic England guidelines (2016) the following has been undertaken:

#### **Written record**

- The building's precise location, as a National Grid reference and in address form.
- A note of any statutory designation (listing, scheduling or conservation area). Non-statutory designations (historic parks and gardens registers, local lists etc.) may be added.
- The date of the record, the name(s) of the recorder(s) and, if an archive has been created, its location.

#### **Photographic record**

- A general view or views of the building (in its wider setting or landscape).
- The building's external appearance. Typically, a series of oblique views will show all external elevations of the building and give an overall impression of its size and shape.
- The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas.

### **3.2 Watching brief**

- 3.2.1 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (CIfA 2014).
- 3.2.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) detailing the proposed archaeological works was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services (Appendix 1).
- 3.2.3 Recording of all archaeological features or deposits conformed to best current professional practice and was carried out in accordance with the Recording Manual<sup>2</sup> used by DAT Archaeological Services. A written, drawn and photographic record was maintained throughout this watching brief. All contexts encountered during this watching brief were recorded.
- 3.2.4 The service trenches were excavated by 8 tonne 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, with the spoil removed to a safe distance adjacent to the trenches.

### **3.3 Timetabling of fieldwork**

- 3.3.1 The building recording took place over one day on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021. The watching brief took place over one day on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022. During the watching brief, the weather was overcast but dry.

### **3.4 Post-fieldwork reporting and archiving**

- 3.4.1 All data recovered during the fieldwork will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with specifications in Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 3.4.2 The results of the fieldwork have been assessed in local, regional and wider contexts. The report includes a desk-based research element to ensure that the site is placed within its wider archaeological context.
- 3.4.3 A report fully representative of the results of the fieldwork has been prepared.

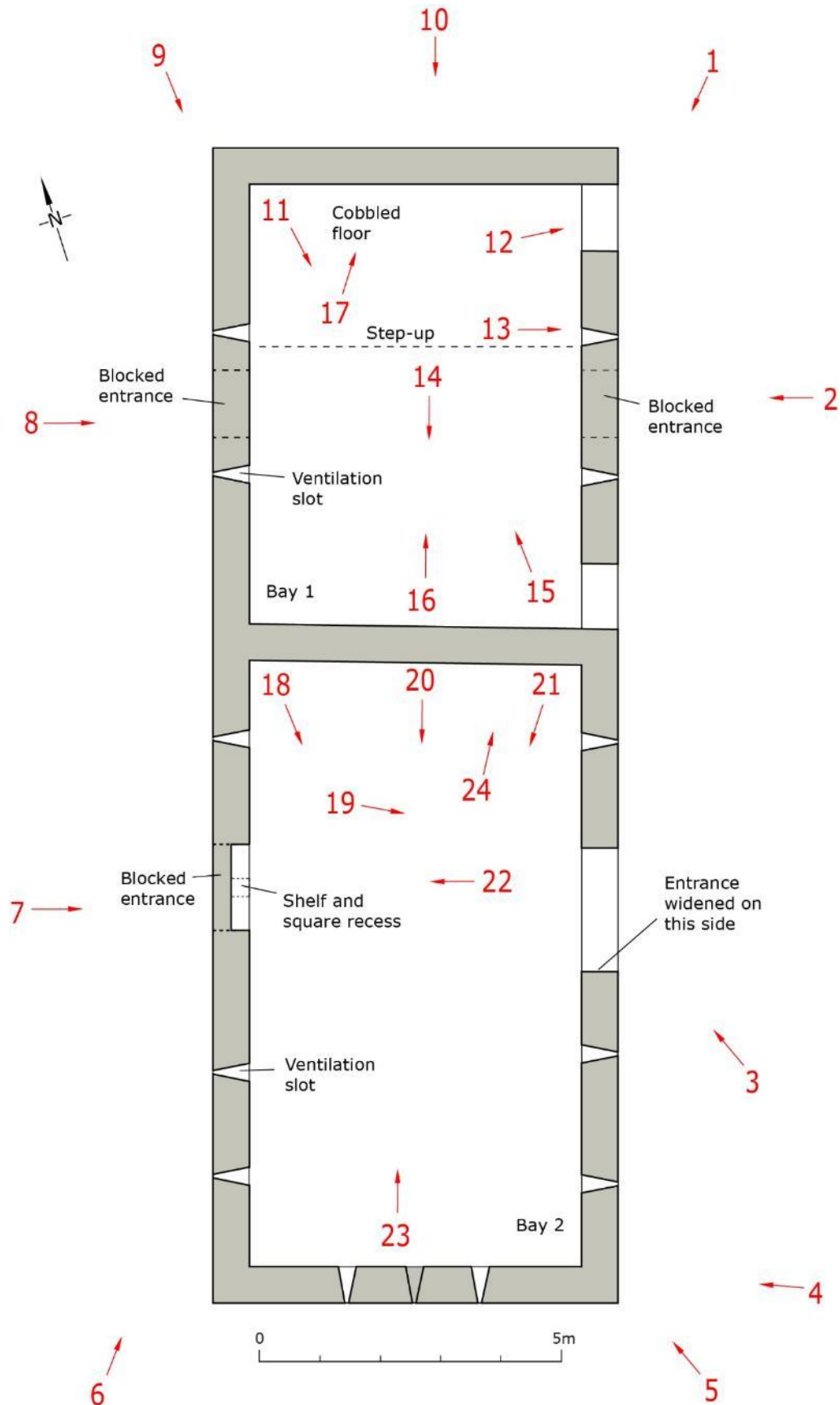
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<sup>2</sup> DAT Archaeological Services have adopted the Recording Manual developed by English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A copy will be available on-site for inspection if required.

#### **4. RESULTS**

##### **4.1 Building recording results (photographs 1–24)**

- 4.1 The building is agricultural and not a dwelling. There are no windows or fireplaces although, inexplicably, there is a chimney pot on the floor of Bay 2. On the evidence of the two opposing entrances in both bays and the ventilation slots it is interpreted as a threshing or winnowing barn.
- 4.2 The building was constructed in one phase. It measures c.19.1m by 6.65m, with 0.55m – 0.6m wide walls constructed of un-coursed rubble. It is now roofless, but once had a slate tiled roof with ceramic roof ridges. The building is divided into two bays with no interconnecting door. The roof line in Bay 1 is lower than in Bay 2. Openings and external corners are quoined.
- 4.3 The northernmost bay (Bay 1) measures c. 7.3m x 5.5m and contains three entrances in the east wall with the middle entrance having been blocked. The west wall contains one blocked entrance; this is aligned with the blocked entrance in the east wall. There are four ventilation slots of similar dimensions to those in Bay 2. Approximately 2.7m from the north wall the floor steps up around 0.1m, and remnants of cobbling are visible in this area.
- 4.4 The southernmost bay (Bay 2), which is the larger of the two bays, measures c. 10.05m x 5.5m and had two entrances, one of which (the west entrance) is blocked; a slate shelf below a square recess has been incorporated into the blocking. The east entrance was originally 1.4m wide (the same as the blocked west entrance) but has been widened to c. 1.6m on the south side. This is evidenced by a change in the voussoirs. Both entrances were originally aligned with each other. The bay contains nine ventilation slots measuring c. 0.6m high and splaying from c. 0.02m to c. 0.3m. Each slot and entrance have a timber lintel. There are remnants of a cobbled floor showing through the vegetation.



**Figure 9:** Photo numbers and direction of shots



4.1.1 Exterior views (1m scale throughout).



**Photo 1:** View towards NE corner.



**Photo 2:** View of three entrances (one blocked) in east elevation of Bay 1.





**Photo 3:** Widened entrance in Bay 2.



**Photo 4:** Ventilation slits and quoins in the east elevation of Bay 2.





**Photo 5:** South gable elevation.



**Photo 6:** View towards south-west corner of building.





**Photo 7:** Ventilation slit and blocked entrance in Bay 2, east elevation.



**Photo 8:** Ventilation slits and blocked entrance in Bay 1, east elevation.





**Photo 9:** View towards north-west corner of building.



**Photo 10:** North elevation.



*4.1.2 Interior views - Bay 1 (1m scale throughout).*



**Photo 11:** East wall.



**Photo 12:** Detail of timber lintel in entrance.





**Photo 13:** Close-up of ventilation slit and timber lintel.



**Photo 14:** South gable wall and roof scar.





**Photo 15:** Blocked entrance and ventilation slits in west wall.



**Photo 16:** North gable wall; 1m scale in approximate location of step-up.





**Photo 17:** Remains of cobbled floor in NW corner.



4.1.3 Interior views – Bay 2 (1m scale throughout)



**Photo 18:** East wall.



**Photo 19:** Lintel, inner voussoirs and base at south side missing





**Photo 20:** South gable wall and ventilation slits.



**Photo 21:** West wall, blocked entrance (with slate shelf) and ventilation slits.





**Photo 22:** Close-up of shelf and square recess incorporated into blocked entrance.



**Photo 23:** North gable wall.

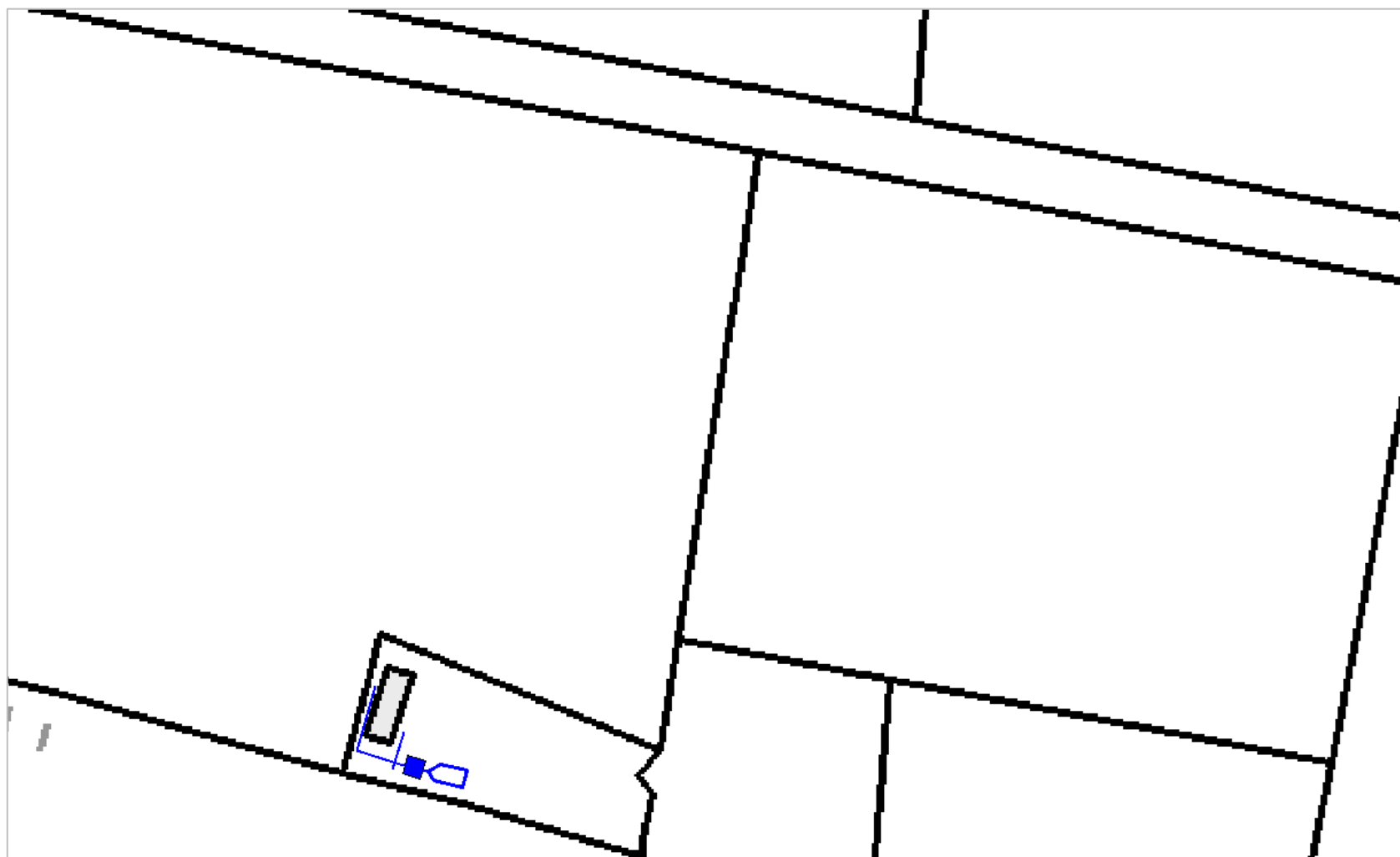




**Photo 24:** Remains of flag floor near NW corner.

## **4.2 Watching brief results (Photographs 25–30)**

- 4.2.1 An L-shaped service trench measuring c.20m north-east/southwest and c.13m west-northwest/east-south-east and c.0.5m wide x c.0.7m deep was excavated adjacent to the rear (north-west facing) elevation and the south-west facing gable elevation of the property (Figure 10 & Photos 25 & 26). Below a thin turf layer to the rear of the property, the trench contained a mid-brown, friable silty clay with frequent medium to large sub-angular stones and two unidentifiable lengths of corroded iron, each c.0.4m long.
- 4.2.2 Below the turf layer adjacent to the south-west facing gable elevation of the property, the trench was found to contain a c.0.4m to 0.5m deep layer of aggregate comprising small to medium sub-angular stones in a dry, extremely silty, mid-grey matrix. This overlay a c.0.15m deep, mid-brown, friable silty clay with frequent medium to large sub-angular stones. That in turn overlay the natural, a light yellow, friable clay with occasional small to medium stones and occasional bands of shale. No artefacts were present except for the lower section of a wooden stake, revealed in section. The top of this was below the aggregate layer but had penetrated both the silty clay layer and the natural (Figure 10 & Photo 27). According to the landowner, it is one of a line of fence posts that formerly ran in a south-easterly direction from the corner of the building.
- 4.2.3 At the eastern end of the 13m trench a c.2.5m x 2.5m square, 0.9m deep trench to accommodate a foul sewage treatment plant was excavated (Figure 10 & Photo 28). The deposits in this were identical to those seen where the trench ran alongside the gable elevation of the building i.e., aggregate over a silty clay, over the natural. No artefacts were present.
- 4.2.4 To the east of the foul sewage treatment plant trench, a trench surrounding a lozenge-shaped area of land was excavated. This will accommodate soakaways from roof surface water and field drainage. Below the turf layer in the northernmost arm of the trench the deposits were identical to those seen in the trench adjacent to the gable elevation of the building (aggregate over silty clay over natural) (Figure 10 & Photos 29–30). Below the turf layer in the southernmost arm of the trench the deposits were identical to those seen in the trench to the rear (west) of the property, comprising a mid-brown silty clay with medium to large, sub-angular stones, overlying the natural clay and shale. No artefacts were present anywhere in the trench.
- 4.2.5 The final trench to be excavated bisected that adjacent to the building on an approximately north/south alignment and continued to approximately 2m from the front (east) elevation of the building (Figure 10, not photographed). Below the turf layer, this trench also contained deposits of aggregate and silty clay over the natural. No artefacts were present.



**Figure 10:** Showing approximate trench locations (blue lines)

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**Photo 25:** Showing the service trench excavated adjacent to the north-west facing wall of the property. Looking south-west, 1m scale.



**Photo 26:** Showing the service trench excavated adjacent to the south-west facing gable wall of the property. Looking north-west, 1m scale.





**Photo 27:** Showing the remains of a fence post within deposits below the aggregate in the trench adjacent to the southern gable elevation. Looking north, 0.5m scale.



**Photo 28:** Showing the foul sewage treatment plant trench. Looking west, 1m & 0.5m scales.





**Photo 29:** Showing the northernmost arm of the soakaway trench. Looking west, 1m scale.



**Photo 30:** Showing the southernmost arm of the soakaway trench. Looking west, 1m scale.



## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 An archaeological historic building recording and archaeological watching brief were undertaken prior to, and during, works associated with the renovation and conversion of a ruined property known as Banc Tynpynfarch, Bontgoch, Ceredigion (NGR SN6651 8543).
- 5.2 The development site comprises a historic building located in an upland agricultural landscape, in close proximity to extensive nineteenth century metal mining remains and a number of prehistoric funerary and ritual sites. Therefore, in addition to alterations to an historic building, it was considered highly likely that features or deposits relating to the prehistoric or the post-medieval periods might be present below-ground within the area, with the potential that they might be damaged or destroyed by intrusive activity. As a result, the archaeological advisors to Ceredigion County Council (DAT-DM) requested an archaeological historic building recording prior to renovation and conversion, and an archaeological watching brief during associated groundworks.
- 5.3 The building was revealed to be a barn that was probably used for threshing or winnowing.
- 5.4 The land around the eastern and southern elevations of the barn was found to have been made-up in the past with a deposit of aggregate approximately half a meter deep. According to the developer, the land was previously owned by the nearby Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER), who had used the building as a store and who deposited the aggregate to improve vehicle access and drainage.
- 5.5 No archaeological features relating to prehistoric funerary activity or post-medieval mining were revealed during the watching brief. However, there is still the potential for such evidence to survive below ground in the vicinity.

## 6. SOURCES

BGS. n.d. Geology Viewer [online] available at  
<<https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk/>> Accessed 14.07.2022

CIfA. 1996. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological investigation and recording of Standing Buildings and Structures*, Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2008 revision)

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DAT. 1992. *Bontgoch Storage Reservoir Scheme - An Archaeological Assessment*, Unpublished Dyfed Archaeological Trust Report

Historic England. 2016. *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*.

Murphy, K. et al. 1999. *Upland Ceredigion: Historic Landscape Characterisation* [online] available at  
<<http://www.walesher1974.org/herumd.php?group=DAT&level=3&docid=301373365>> Accessed 14.07.2022

## APPENDIX I:

**BANC TYNPYNFARCH, BONTGOCH, CEREDIGION:  
PLANNING APPLICATION NO A210661  
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING  
AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been prepared by DAT Archaeological Services in response to a request from Huw Evans, on behalf of his client Robert Edwards, to provide an archaeological scheme of archaeological mitigation during the renovation and conversion of the ruined property known as Banc Tynpynfarch, Bontgoch, Ceredigion (SN6653 8542, Figure 1).
- 1.2 The ruined property in question is recorded on the 1889 first edition Ordnance Survey map for Cardiganshire, indicating it is a vernacular cottage of some age. It also lies within proximity to the site of a cropmark which may represent the remains of a prehistoric Bronze Age round barrow, recorded through aerial photograph by the RCAHMW in 2006 (Bont-goch round barrow, NPRN 412712). The RCAHMW consider that the cropmark represents the position of an upstanding Early Bronze Age round barrow approx. 25m diameter, visible as an earthwork from the road to the north. This barrow is probably associated with the nearby scheduled monument of Banc Troed Rhiw Seiri round barrow (CD238, PRN 5400) that lies some 230m northeast (Figure 2).
- 1.3 The Cadw description for Banc Troed Rhiw Seiri round barrow (CD238) reads:
- The monument comprises the remains of a prehistoric ring barrow, which dates to the Bronze Age (c. 2300 - 800 BC). It is located on a slight terrace on a NW-facing slope. The visible structure consists of a low, turf-covered earthen bank measuring c. 16m in diameter. The bank is circular in shape on plan and measures c. 0.75m in height and 2m in width. The interior of the barrow is the focus of modern stone dumping. Partial excavation in 1955 revealed the barrow to be of an unusual double-banked construction with single ditch. The outer bank was not continuous and is no longer visible. The inner bank was stabilised by a concentric ring of wooden posts. A central shallow pit contained a cremation burial, together with fragments of a pottery Beaker, a retouched flint and two barbed-and-tanged arrowheads. A later Bronze Age cremation, including a Pygmy cup, was inserted into the fill of the primary burial.*
- Excavation has demonstrated that it retains significant archaeological potential, with a strong probability of the presence of further ritual deposits, together with structural evidence. The scheduled area comprises the remains described and an area around within which related evidence may be expected to survive. It is circular in shape and measures 30m in diameter.*
- 1.4 The requirement for archaeological mitigation has been placed upon the development by Ceredigion County Council (Local Planning Authority) following advice from their archaeological advisor; Dyfed Archaeological Trust- Development Management (DAT-DM), as it is considered possible

that buried deposits, may extend into the application area and become damaged or destroyed.

Condition 9 on the planning decision notice (Planning reference A210661) states:

*No development shall take place until a qualified and competent archaeologist has submitted a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for approval in writing by the local planning authority. This WSI will describe the different stages of the work and demonstrate that it has been fully resourced and given adequate time. On behalf of the local planning authority, their archaeological advisors (DAT DM) will monitor all aspects of this work through to the final discharging of the condition. This work will not be deemed complete until all aspects of the WSI have been addressed and the final report submitted and approved.*

*Reason: to protect historic environment interests whilst enabling development*

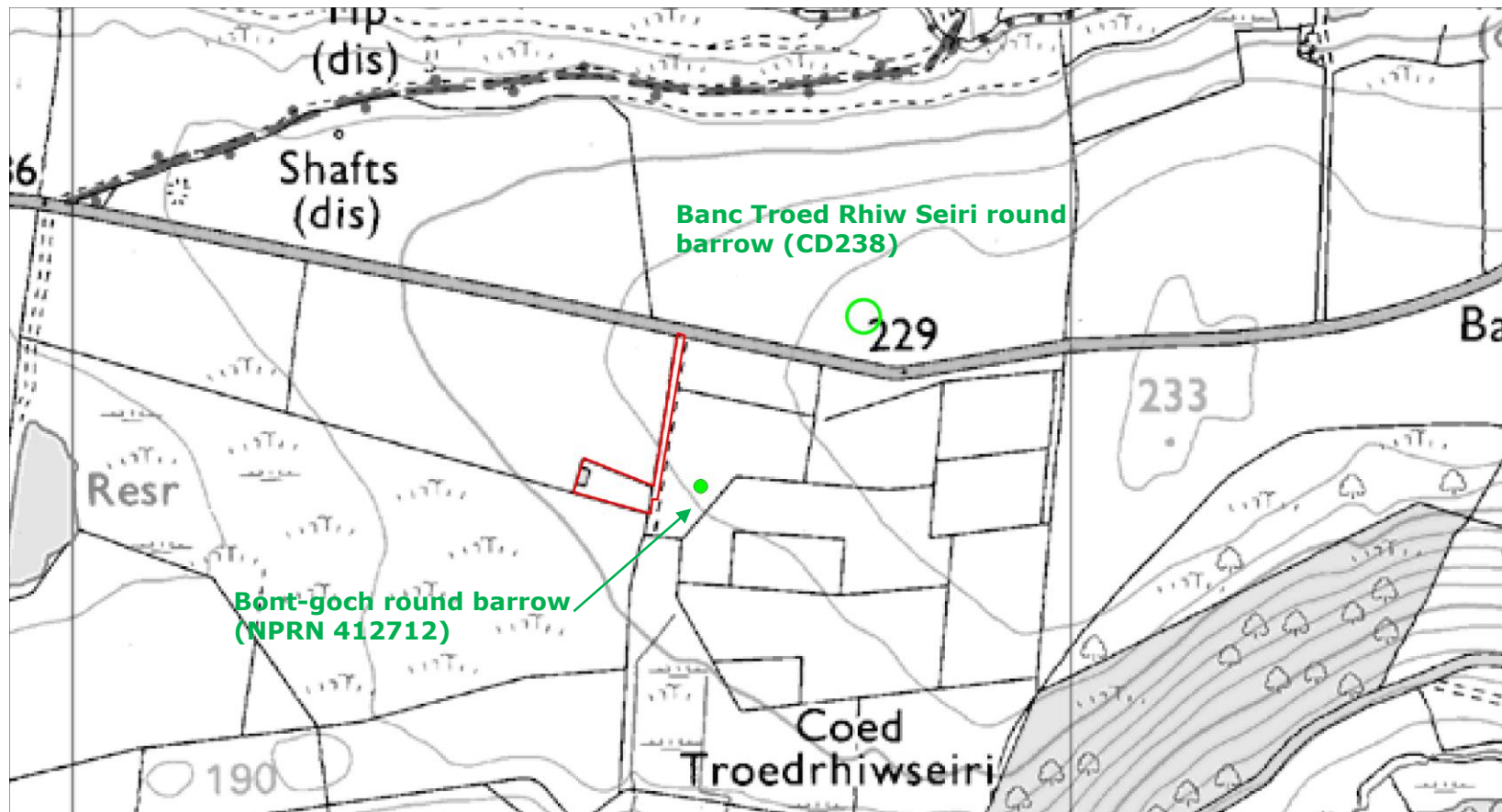
- 1.5 A discussion with the archaeological advisor to the LPA has revealed that in this instance the required archaeological mitigation comprises:
  - A Level 1 building record, as defined in Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to best recording practice (Historic England 2016). This level of record is essentially a basic visual record, with annotated floor plans, supplemented by information needed to identify the building's location, age and type.
  - An archaeological watching brief during development groundworks at the site, which have the potential to expose, damage or destroy archaeological remains.
- 1.6 The following written scheme of investigation outlines the methodology by which DAT Archaeological Services would undertake the archaeological works required to fulfil this condition and comply with the required building recording level.
- 1.7 The approval of the written scheme of investigation and its successful implementation will be required in order to satisfy the archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority.
- 1.8 The written scheme of investigation is in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological investigation and recording of Standing Buildings and Structures* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 1996, revised 2001 & 2008). DAT Archaeological Services has considerable experience of this type of project and always operates to best professional practice.
- 1.9 Dyfed Archaeological Trust has its own Health and Safety Policy, and all works are covered by appropriate Employer's Liability and Public Liability Insurances. Copies of all are available on request.
- 1.10 ***Dyfed Archaeological Trust is an CIfA Registered Archaeological Organisation.***



**Figure 1:** Site location plan (NGR SN6653 8542). The development area is outlined in red.

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**Figure 2:** Site plan showing development area outlined in red and location of recorded remains of Bronze Age round barrows.

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## 2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Provision of a written scheme of investigation to outline the methodology by which DAT Archaeological Services will undertake the historic building recording and archaeological watching brief.
- 2.2 To carry out historic building recording to a Level 1 standard as defined in the English Heritage 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' (2006).
- 2.3 To monitor groundworks through an archaeological watching brief in order to identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- 2.4 To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed groundworks.
- 2.5 To appropriately investigate and record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the groundworks.
- 2.6 To produce an archive and report of all the results.
- 2.7 This document provides a scheme of works for:

***Archaeological historic building recording prior to and attendance and recording during groundworks associated with the renovation and conversion of the ruined property known as Banc Tynpynfarch, Bontgoch, Ceredigion.***

## 3. HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

- 3.1 The historic building recording scheme would be undertaken to a Level 1 standard as defined in the English Heritage 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' (2006). This level of recording is described thus:

*Level 1 is essentially a basic visual record, supplemented by the minimum of information needed to identify the building's location, age and type. This is the simplest record, not normally an end in itself but contributing to a wider aim. Typically, it will be undertaken when the objective is to gather basic information about a large number of buildings – for statistical sampling, for area assessments or historic landscape characterisation, for a pilot project, to identify buildings for planning purposes, or whenever resources are limited and much ground has to be covered in a short time. It may also serve to identify buildings requiring more detailed attention at a later date.*

*Level 1 surveys will generally be of exteriors only, although they may include superficial interior inspection for significant features. Only if circumstances and objectives allow will any drawings be produced, and these are likely to take the form of sketches.*

- 3.2 To supplement the on-site survey a review of information held at the DAT HER and local studies library will be undertaken. The on-site survey will then complete the relevant tasks outlined below, where possible, to ensure that the record is completed to the Level 1 guidelines, building on the known information. Only photos taken during this survey will be included within the site archive and report.
- 3.3 Based on the Level 1 record as defined in the English Heritage guidelines (2006) the following will be undertaken:

### **Drawn Record**

- Sketched plan, section, elevation or detail drawings (if a more thorough drawn record is not made). Sketches may be roughly dimensioned.

### **Photographic Record**

- A general view or views of the building (in its wider setting or landscape).
- The building's external appearance. Typically, a series of oblique views will show all external elevations of the building and give an overall impression of its size and shape.
- The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas.

### **Written Record**

- The building's precise location, as a National Grid reference and in address form.
- A note of any statutory designation (listing, scheduling or conservation area). Non-statutory designations (historic parks and gardens registers, local lists etc) may be added.
- The date of the record, the name(s) of the recorder(s) and, if an archive has been created, its location.
- 

## **4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY**

- 4.1 The definition of an archaeological watching brief, taken from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA S&G: AWB 2014) is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive.

- 4.2 The purpose of a watching brief, as laid down in the CIfA S&G AWB is:

*to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.*

*To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment.*

- 4.3 A watching brief will be maintained during groundworks associated with the renovation and conversion of the ruined property known as Banc Tynpynfarch, Bontgoch, Ceredigion where there is the potential for archaeological remains to be exposed, damaged or destroyed. These groundworks could include but are not limited to, ground clearance, levelling, and foundation excavations.
- 4.4 The archaeologist would monitor the groundworks works and aim to identify any archaeological remains that may be present. They will have the authority to halt groundworks in areas where archaeological remains are identified until they have been further investigated and recorded.
- 4.5 Adequate time must be made available to the visiting archaeologist to ensure that appropriate recording can be undertaken of any archaeological features or deposits exposed during the watching brief.

- 4.6 Features containing deposits of environmental significance will be sampled. The samples will be retained in stable conditions until analysis can be arranged.
- 4.7 All deposits will be recorded by archaeological context record sheet, scale drawing, photography and site notebooks. All individual deposits will be numbered using the open-ended numbering system in accordance with a recognised system, such as the DAT Archaeological Services' Recording Manual. Significant deposits will be recorded by scale drawing (no less than 1:20); drawn plans will be related to Ordnance Datum and, where possible, known boundaries. A digital photographic record will be maintained as a minimum using a high-resolution camera, with photographic information recorded for all photographs taken.
- 4.8 All archaeologically significant artefacts, ecofacts and samples will be retained and, where possible, related to the contexts from which they derived. Sensitive materials will be stored in appropriately stable conditions. Finds will be temporarily stored by DAT Archaeological Services in stable conditions. All finds, except those deemed to be Treasure, will remain the property of the landowner, but it is assumed that permission will have been given by the landowner for these to be stored as part of the archive in a suitable repository (ownership will still be with the landowner).
- 4.9 Under the 1996 Treasure Act, "treasure" can be summarised as:
- Any object other than a coin containing at least 10% gold or silver and at least 300 years old;
  - Any prehistoric assemblage of base metal;
  - Coins found together which contain 10% gold or silver (but no single coins) and groups of at least 10 coins of other metals, provided they are at least 300 years old;
  - Any object found associated with treasure except unworked natural objects; and
  - Any object which would have been Treasure Trove before the 1996 Act but not covered above.
- 4.10 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the development, or where unexpected archaeological remains of high significance are exposed, the appointed archaeological contractor will have the power to halt any ground works and shall inform the client and Development Management – Dyfed Archaeological Trust and prepare a written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by all parties, if required, a contingency scheme for salvage excavation of affected archaeological features may need to be implemented. This event would need to be covered by contingency financial arrangements within the project budgets.
- 4.11 In the event of the discovery of human remains, all remains will be left in situ. If removal is necessary, it will only take place following the granting of all permissions in writing by the relevant authorities (a burial licence granted from the Ministry of Justice).

## **5. POST-FIELDWORK REPORTING AND ARCHIVING**

- 5.1 An archive will be prepared if it meets the requirements of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust archive retention policy (2018). If it does, then data recovered during the watching brief will be collated into a site archive structured in accordance with the specifications in Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (Brown 2011), and the procedures recommended by the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth. The National Standards for Wales for Collecting and Depositing

Archaeological Archives produced by the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales will also be adhered to. Digital archives will be collated using the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales systems (2015) and deposited with the RCAHMS. The Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) shall be followed.

5.2 The results of the fieldwork will be assessed in local, regional and wider contexts.

5.3 The results will be used to inform subsequent design considerations of the proposed development so that they can aim to avoid impacts upon any archaeological remains or that further archaeological mitigation can be implemented before such remains are disturbed.

5.4 The project archive, including all significant artefacts and ecofacts (excepting those which may be deemed to be Treasure) will be deposited with an appropriate body following agreement with the landowner (if retained and containing more than just digital information).

5.5 DAT Archaeological Services will arrange for the deposition of finds, and ascertain the costs of storage and deposition, with an approved body before the project commences and inform the curator of the arrangement which has been made.

5.6 A summary of the project results, excluding any confidential information, may be prepared for wider dissemination (e.g. Archaeology in Wales and special interest and period-specific journals).

5.7 The report will be prepared to follow the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA S&G: AWB 2014).

5.8 Digital copies of the report will be provided to the client, as well as the Dyfed Archaeological Trust - Development Management.

5.9 Appropriate specialists to be used by DAT Archaeological Services include:

- **Industrial Archaeology** –Jennifer Protheroe-Jones, Principal Curator – Industry, National Waterfront Museum, Swansea
- **Post-medieval / medieval pottery** – Dee Brennan (local independent specialist)
- **Prehistoric Pottery** – Dr Alex Gibson (formerly of University of Bradford / now independent pottery specialist)
- **Prehistoric Flint** – Dr Andrew David (formerly of English Heritage, now independent lithics specialist)
- **Radiocarbon dating** - Beta Analytic
- **Animal Bones** – Worcester Archaeology
- **Fish bones** – Jennifer Browning (University of Leicester Archaeological Services)
- **Environmental / Pollen analysis** – Worcester Archaeology

## 6. STAFF

6.1 The project will be managed by Fran Murphy MCIfA, Head of DAT Archaeological Services.

6.2 The on-site works will be undertaken by experienced archaeologists, from DAT Archaeological Services.

## 7. QUALITY ASSURANCE

- 7.1 DAT Archaeological Services has considerable experience of undertaking all categories of archaeological fieldwork and always operates to best professional practice; adhering to CIfA guidelines where appropriate. The Trust is a Registered Organisation with CIfA and all staff abide by their code of conduct and adhere to their relevant standards and guidance.
- 7.2 DAT Archaeological Services operate robust internal monitoring procedures that ensure that the standard of each project is maintained from commencement to completion.

## **8. MONITORING**

- 8.1 The watching brief may require monitoring by the archaeological advisor to the planning authority, Dyfed Archaeological Trust – Development Management, who should be told of the commencement of the works. The fieldwork may also need to be monitored by the Head of DAT Archaeological Services.
- 8.2 All parties should be provided with free access to the site at any time during the watching brief works.

## **9. HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 9.1 All DAT Archaeological Services staff are CSCS<sup>3</sup> registered.
- 9.2 DAT Archaeological Services will carry out a health and safety risk assessment to ensure that all potential risks are minimised.
- 9.3 All known health and safety risk and the presence of any services etc must be made known to the attending archaeologist at the start of any ground works by the client/site contractor.
- 9.4 All relevant health and safety regulations must be followed, including compliance with Welsh Government guidelines on working practices during the current Covid-19 Pandemic, and guidance issued by CIfA.
- 9.5 CIfA advise that Registered Organisations should ensure they are familiar with the latest *Site Operating Procedures*, published by the Construction Leadership Council (Version 4, updated 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020) and the latest *Covid-19 Working Advice Ver.1.1*, published by Prospect (5<sup>th</sup> May 2020), which addresses potential issues relating to archaeological site work. These procedures will be attached to the project risk assessment. If the site cannot operate in line with this guidance then the project archaeologist will not be allowed to attend.
- 9.6 The project risk assessment details the precautions put in place to reduce the spread of Covid-19 Coronavirus during fieldwork.
- 9.7 All site inductions, H&S procedures and site rules of the site contractor will be made known to DAT Archaeological Services staff prior to them commencing work on-site.
- 9.8 Safety helmets, high visibility vests and boots are to be used by all site personnel as necessary. The site contractors will make all archaeological staff aware of any other PPE<sup>4</sup> that may be required and provide them. Archaeological staff must not enter any area where there is a considered to be a health and safety risk that has not or is not being appropriately mitigated against.
- 9.9 DAT Archaeological Services staff must ensure that their presence on site is communicated to all relevant site staff, especially machine operators.

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<sup>3</sup> Construction Skills Certification Scheme (Health and Safety Tested)

<sup>4</sup> Personal Protection Equipment

**10. ARBITRATION**

- 10.1 Any dispute or disagreement arising out of a contract in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision to the Chartered Institute of Archaeologist's arbitration scheme.



