

### DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LTD

### LLANDEILO EASTERN BYPASS 1994

REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

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Report by:

P Crane BA (Hons)

The Shire Hall, 8 Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Dyfed SA19 6AF Telephone (0558) 823121 Fax (0558) 823131

## Contents

Summary	
Purpose	1
Location	1
Site History	1
Aims and Objectives	
Methodologies and Results	
Desk-based Assessment and Reconnaissance	3
Geophysical Survey	3
Trial Trench Evaluation of Geophysical Survey Results	4
Assessment of Results	6
Discussion	7
Conclusion	7
Acknowledgements	
Archive Deposition	
Bibliography	
Appendices	
Appendix 1 - Survey Areas and Trench Areas	
Appendix 2 - Finds Policy	9
Appendix 3 - Aerial Photographs Examined	9
Appendix 4 - Documentary Sources for Llandeilo Northern and Eastern Bypasses	9
Appendix 5 - Ordnance Survey and Other Maps	9
Appendix 6 - Site Record Numbers	10
Appendix 7 - Extract from draft of Archaeology and the Trunk Road Programme	
in Wales: a Manual of Best Practice. 1994, Cadw.	10
Appendix 8 - Known Sites of Archaeological and Historical Interest	11
Figure 1 - Llandeilo: Location	16
Figure 2 - Llandeilo Eastern Bypass: Location of Geophysical Survey Areas	
with Sites 12 and 13	17
Figure 3 - Llandeilo: Location of SMR Provisional Record Numbers	18
Figure 4 - Llandeilo, Ffairfach and Surrounding Area: Location of SMR Provisional Record Numbers	
Figure 5 - Llandeilo Eastern Bypass: Survey Areas 1-5 with Trial-Trenches and	
Sites 12 and 13	20
Figure 6 - Llandeilo Eastern Bypass: Survey Areas 6-9 with Trial Trench	21
Figure 7 - Llandeilo Eastern Bypass: Survey Areas 10 and 11 with Trial Trench	22
Figure 8 - Llandeilo Eastern Bypass: Area 2 Features Indicated from	
Geophysical Survey	23
Figure 9 - Llandeilo Eastern Bypass: Area 2 Trial Trench	<b>2</b> 4
Figure 10 - Llandeilo Eastern Bypass: Area 5 Trial Trench	25

### Summary

After researching the history and archaeology of the area, consulting relevant maps and aerial photographs, and walking the route, eleven areas were targeted for investigation by geophysical survey; two other fields of probable interest were unavailable. Of the eleven areas surveyed, two areas indicated probable archaeological potential, two or three suggested possible potential, and two more areas showed earlier field boundaries.

These areas of archaeological potential, highlighted by the geophysical survey, were evaluated by the excavation of limited trial trenches. In one area the existence of a shallow ring ditch, of 40 metres diameter, was confirmed around a standing stone; adjacent to this were found five small pits containing burnt material. A second area was found to contain a number of features although none of these could be dated. No other areas were found to contain significant archaeological features. The two areas not available for geophysical survey were also trial trenched.

### Purpose

This project was undertaken to assess and evaluate potential archaeological features in advance of the proposed Llandeilo Eastern Bypass road scheme.

The initial task of the desk-top study was to look at the general archaeology and history of the area around Llandeilo and Ffairfach, with a specific emphasis on the fields through which the route was to pass. These fields were rapidly reconnoitred for any possibility of surface finds or features that could be of significance.

The implementation of limited geophysical survey was part of the initial research design. Until the features recorded in the geophysical survey were physically investigated, there could be no certainty that they were manmade, or if so, how old. Two areas of possible archaeological activity were not suitable or available at the time the geophysical work was undertaken, although they were later trial trenched during the test excavation phase.

The results of the geophysical survey and test excavations, combined with the desk-top assessment, permit an evaluation of whether further archaeological work is necessary and where to target it.

#### Location

Llandeilo lies 22 kilometres (14 miles) east of Carmarthen at Ordnance Survey grid reference SN 630 225 (figure 1). The town is situated on the east end of a hill. The river Towy flows south along its east side, before bending to the west on the south side of the town. Llandeilo Bridge, crossing the river Towy on the south side of the town, leads to the crossroads at the centre of the village of Ffairfach, before the road continues on south towards Ammanford. North of the town the hill slopes down to a small stream; directly north and towards the west this slope becomes more pronounced. To the west of the town lies Dynevor Park, and the seventeenth-century manor house known as Dynevor Castle, with the older medieval castle on the top of the hill to the south of the house. (Figures 1 and 2.)

The Eastern Bypass (figures 1 and 2) is to run from the Ammanford side of Ffairfach, starting at a point about 1 kilometre (0.6 miles) south of the crossroads on the A483 trunk road. The bypass is to fork to the north-west, over the stream and railway line, cutting into the brow of a hill, before descending to a new roundabout 0.5 kilometres (0.3 miles) to the west of the centre of Ffairfach and on the road to Cross Hands (the A476). From this junction the bypass is to curve round the north side of the village, passing close to the standing stone in the rear of the Auction Yard before crossing the A483 trunk road just south of the Llandeilo Bridge. From this point the road is to turn east before curving to the north as it crosses the River Towy, then running along the side of the railway line and cutting into the hill on the east of Llandeilo. The bypass then bends to the west and, at a point 1 kilometre (0.6 miles) to the north of Llandeilo, on the Llandovery side of the A40 trunk road, forms a junction with the planned Llandeilo Northern Bypass. The bypass with cuttings, embankments, roundabouts and a bridge will involve a wider corridor than just the new road.

### **Site History**

There is a little evidence for prehistoric activity around the Llandeilo area. To the east of the town, on the eastern side of the railway line, there is a round barrow (PRN 903) still visible, while a Neolithic chert axe (PRN 908) was found nearby (figure 3). On the south side of the River Towy there are the sites of two standing stones; one stone (PRN 4887) has now disappeared, while the other (PRN 12845) still stands in the back of the Auction Market car park (figure 4). The (formerly) two fields (now one) immediately to the east of the standing stone site PRN 4887 are known as CAER MAEN ("stone field"). This is probably due to the proximity of the standing stone, but could also indicate the memory of other standing stones within these field areas (Fair fach in Llandilofawr 1783, Golden Grove Estate Mapbook CRO C/V 8660). About 1 kilometre (0.6 miles) to the south of Ffairfach and slightly to the east a possible hearth has been found (PRN 885, figure 4).

Roman activity within the area has been known for some time, and there has been speculation about the presence of a fort in the Llandeilo area. A milestone (PRN 872), now lost, was recorded in 1697 built into a farmhouse near Dynevor; the inscription was a dedication to the Emperor Tacitus (AD 275-6). There was a single coin (PRN 875), an as of Tiberius (AD 10), found before 1920 at the junction of Alan and Latimer Roads, Llandeilo (figure 3). Some Roman finds, now lost, were recorded near Llandeilo Bridge (PRN 874, figure 4). A possible hoard of mid- to late third-century coins were known from Llandeilo (PRN 886). During field walking for this project, and in advance of a possible golf course planning application. Roman material (PRN 14750, 14759 and 14768) was recovered to the south of Dynevor Farm (figure 4). The pottery included fragments of amphorae, mortaria and samian and there were also two glass beads which could be of Roman date.

Other than fragments of two large Celtic-headed crosses (PRN 890 and 891) of ninth- or tenth-century date, and an inscribed stone (PRN 889), all probably from the area of the parish church of St. Teilo (figure 3), there is only documentary evidence for Dark Age activity. The two records relating to the earlier period are the Book of St Teilo, and the Book of Llandaff. It is probable that Saint Teilo was buried at Llandeilo in the sixth century. Llandeilo possibly became the headquarters of a bishop abbot, and although there was a later decline in spiritual significance, a religious community appears to survive into the medieval period. Dynevor was recorded by Gerald of Wales, in the late twelfth century, as held to be the royal seat of the princes of South Wales; however this may be more of a tradition than truth for the post-Roman period.

The history of the medieval towns of Dynevor (the upper old town around the castle, the lower, Newtown, probably situated near Dynevor Castle manor house) and the town of Llandeilo has been covered more fully elsewhere (Griffiths 1991). The evidence indicates that the original town, around the castle, was tenanted by the Welsh, while the new town was less indigenous. The town of Llandeilo was under the control of the bishop of St Davids. All three settlements were flourishing in the fourteenth century, the town of Llandeilo, with its fair and market days, complementing rather than rivalling Dynevor. However by the mid-1530s Dynevor town was ruinous except for the manor house. A major medieval dwelling, the site now known as The Grûg, a farmstead, is known from document sources (PRN 24988, figure 4).

Talley Abbey was founded by Lord Rhys of Dynevor around 1184-9 and had further endowments extended to it. Part of the sheltered lands around Llandeilo, that were probably used for winter grazing, can be identified as being on this bypass route. The land is recorded as adjoining the River Cennen as it flows into

the River Towy and associated with the farmstead Talhardd (PRN 894, figure 4) 2.4 kilometres (1.5 miles) to the south-west of Llandeilo (Owen 1893, 41). Talley Abbey appropriated the church of Llandeilo in the early 1200s and was also in control of the parish church, these links continuing up to the dissolution. Llandeilo parish church had one of the largest grave-yards in Wales before the Turnpike road divided it, giving an indication of both the church and town's importance in the medieval period.

There is no evidence for the survival of any medieval open field systems, and the field system that now survives would be classed as semi-regular (Rackham 1986). The field sizes in Dynevor Park are considerably larger than those around Llandeilo. Some of the fields to the south of the Towy around Ffairfach have been sub-divided or their boundaries removed, although these can still be traced on the ground. A field boundary in geophysical survey area 3 (figure 5), still just visible on the ground, had gone before the tithe and estate maps of the area were drawn. Another field boundary in geophysical survey area 9 (figure 6) is probably shown on pre-railway maps and could be part of the boundary of the lands belonging to White House, lying within the parish of Llandeilo (from estate maps dated 1664 and drawn 1749, CRO Derwydd M7), although because of the scale and quality of the recording this is uncertain. Surviving field boundaries shown on the tithe and estate maps probably existed from a much earlier date. Plant analyses of the hedge bank at the north-west end of survey area 2 (figure 5) (produced for the Consulting Engineers G. Maunsell and Partners by Environmental Research and Advisory Partnership, Penwortham, Preston) indicate that it is of some age, as are the hedges along and running off the west side of the A483 trunk road south of Ffairfach.

### Aims and Objectives

The aim of the project is to ascertain whether there are known archaeological features, or indications of such features, on or near to the proposed route of this bypass, and if possible to evaluate their importance and likely date. The objectives are to specify the following: archaeological sites that need to be preserved; sites where more work is necessary or desirable in advance of the road construction; and where and how any archaeological input should be targeted during the road construction.

### Methodologies and Results

This assessment was undertaken in four phases: a desk-based assessment along with a reconnaissance of the route; a geophysical survey of eleven limited areas (figure 2); evaluation of the geophysical survey results

by trial trenches; and finally an assessment of the results.

Considerable time was spent on gaining permission for access to the route for the reconnaissance, geophysical survey and finally the excavation of test trenches, with additional delay waiting for final arrangement of compensation payments. As a consequence the excavation work did not take place until February, when the conditions were far from ideal.

### Desk-based Assessment and Reconnaissance

At the beginning of this project research was undertaken for any recorded archaeological or historical evidence around the Llandeilo-Ffairfach area and specifically on the fields affected by the proposed route of the bypass. This background was gained from a variety of sources: journals and other published material; estate, tithe and Ordnance Survey maps; the Sites and Monuments Records held by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust; aerial photographs held by DAT, the Welsh Office in Cardiff, and those taken for G. Maunsell and Partners, the consulting engineers. Sources are listed in either the bibliography or in the appendices. This documentation provided the basis for the site history above.

Landowners and tenants along the proposed route of the bypass were contacted for permission for access to their lands, in order to reconnoitre the path of the road.

Most of the land was under hay or pasture which offered little opportunity for the recovery of surface artifacts. In the few places where this was possible only nineteenth- and twentieth-century material was seen.

The following features were noted during the reconnaissance:

- the standing stone PRN 12845 (figure 4), along with the suggestion of a later north-south field boundary incorporating the stone within its line (this was further confirmed by the geophysical survey);
- Llandeilo Bridge PRN 4890 (figure 4), a listed building, the access ramp of which will be partly removed by the construction of a bypass roundabout;
- a former field boundary is visible on the surface in geophysical survey Area 3 (figure 5) (this boundary still exists on the north side of the A476 former turnpike road);
- a wide undulation exists below the footpath to the north-east of geophysical survey Area 4 (figure 5), the line of which can be traced from Llandeilo Bridge, PRN 4890, south-westwards

through a post-medieval quarry, PRN 18801 (figure 4). This route predates the eighteenth-century turnpike road and could be a possible Roman road. This feature will not be affected by the present route of the bypass, although any alterations or additions, including environmental enhancement, to the road scheme should be made with due consideration for the probable importance of this feature.

The field boundaries that remain, on or near the bypass route, all appear to be on the earliest maps available. There was no visible evidence of any ridge and furrow cultivation.

From the environmental assessment undertaken for the consulting engineers (see Environmental Research and Advisory Partnership 1993), the hedges on the west side of Heol Cennen to the south of Ffairfach have a high species score, indicating that they are of some age. The oldest hedges are probably that between Area 2 and Site 12 (figure 5) and the continuation of this boundary southwards from its western end, together with another possibly reasonably old hedge running north-south to the west of Area 3 (figure 5). DAT did not undertake an independent species count of the hedges, but general observation appears to confirm these findings. However it is possible that some of the boundary hedges may have been replanted, thus giving a false impression of their likely date.

#### **Geophysical Survey**

Eleven areas were targeted for geophysical survey (figure 2). Two additional areas, Sites 12 and 13 (figures 2 and 5), were considered to have possible archaeological potential but were unsuitable for geophysical survey at the time. The survey was more successful than that carried out for the Llandeilo Northern Bypass, probably due to more suitable geological features and more accurate plotting of the results.

Area 1 (NGR: SN 621 209) (figure 5) was chosen as it was relatively level although dropping away to the River Cennen to the west. The results of the survey were disappointing, as a strong magnetic response from a pipe may have masked any indication of archaeological features. Because of the disturbance to the ground by the pipe trench no further action was thought necessary.

Area 2 (NGR: SN 627 211) (figure 5), located on a hilltop, is fairly level but with a number of small undulations. These features may well date from when this area was used as a nursery (circa 1887 from map evidence on the OS 1st ed 25" CARM XLI.3, but presumably later than 1783, as it is not indicated in

the Golden Grove Estate Mapbook); however this site was considered, because its hilltop situation and the suggested old boundary to the north suggested some archaeological potential.

Several ditch-type anomalies and a group of pit-like responses were detected which suggested possible settlement activity, probably extending outside Area 2. The broad anomalies in the central part of the survey may be geological in origin. Superimposed on this complex is a negative network of linear responses; these probably relate to the later nursery activity (figure 8).

Area 3 (NGR: SN 626 214) (figure 5) is located immediately to the south of the A476 road to the west of Ffairfach. The surface is relatively level with an indication of an earlier north-south field boundary. No features other than this boundary were indicated in the geophysical survey.

Area 4 (NGR: SN 626 216) (figure 5) is located in a level field to the north of a dismantled railway line and to the west of the area of the standing stone. A single pit-like anomaly was recorded. However, there were a number of ferrous responses in the data and the survey team considered a modern origin for this feature to be most likely.

Area 5 (NGR: SN 626 216) (figure 5) surrounds the area of a standing stone PRN 12845. The site was found to be magnetically noisy due to a scatter of modern ferrous debris, probably relating to the area currently being used as an auction market car park and occasional fairground.

A linear, ditch-like anomaly was recorded to the west of the standing stone. The survey team suggest that this may represent a modern drain.

There was a hint of a curvilinear response to the west of the standing stone but, due to the weakness of the anomaly and the level of disturbance, the survey team regarded an archaeological interpretation as tentative.

A weak linear anomaly was recorded corresponding to a low earthwork (probably a later, now redundant, field boundary).

Area 6 (NGR: SN 628 618) (figure 6) lies on the southern bank of the River Towy and to the north-east of Ffairfach. This area was randomly chosen on the flood plain meadow. A single possible pit-like response was recorded, interpretation being inconclusive.

Areas 7 and 8 (NGR: SN 631 220) (figure 6) lie on the flood plain meadow between the north bank of the River Towy and the south-east side of the town of Llandeilo. No features of archaeological significance were recorded.

Area 9 (NGR: SN 633 224) (figure 6) is located on sloping ground to the east of Llandeilo and adjacent to the west side of the railway. This site was found to be affected by strong magnetic interference from sewer pipes and drain covers. One possible ditch-type anomaly was recorded.

Area 10 (NGR: SN 633 232) (figure 7) is adjacent to the east side of the A40 road at the northern end of the bypass scheme. The sample area lies on a river terrace which may be formed from magnetic gravels, the possible cause of the high level of background response at this location. However, one pit-like anomaly was recorded.

Area 11 (NGR: SN 633 231) (figure 7) is situated in a field on a lower level and to the south-east of Area 10, and to the west of the railway. No features were recorded.

In summary, the results of the geophysical survey indicate two of the areas to have probable archaeological features (Areas 2 and 5, figure 5). Two more areas show probable earlier field boundaries (Areas 3 and 9, figures 5 and 6), and three areas indicate possible archaeological features (Areas 4, 6, and 10, figures 5, 6 and 7).

# Trial Trench Evaluation of Geophysical Survey Results

Fieldwork took the form of trial trenches. Where possible the topsoil was excavated by machine using a toothless ditching bucket, with the width of the bucket dictating the width of the trench (approximately 1.2 metres). The trench bottom was then hand cleaned and any underlying features investigated, with records of these and the trench made as necessary. These trenches were proposed to cover 2% of the total area geophysically surveyed, biased toward areas considered to be of greater interest or doubt. The final area excavated was 2.1% (or 1.7% if Sites 12 and 13 are excluded). Area/trench sizes and ratios are listed in Appendix 1.

This work was undertaken in February 1994. The ground was already saturated due to unusually wet weather, and these conditions continued, along with snow and sometimes freezing temperatures.

Areas 2, 4, 5, 9 and 10 of the geophysical survey were evaluated (figure 2). There were also two hand excavated test trenches in the upper part of the field at the top of the slope above Area 3 (Site 12, figure 5), and a machined trench in the field north of Area 5 (Site 13, figure 5); these last two sites were considered

to have possible archaeological potential, but were unsuitable for geophysical survey.

Area 1 (figure 5). Nothing was recorded on the geophysical survey to indicate any archaeology and with no other evidence for possible archaeology no further work was considered necessary.

Area 2 (figure 5). A "T"-shaped trench was excavated to investigate some of the possible pits and ditches indicated in the geophysical survey (figure 8). Some of these pits and ditches were found (figure 9), and in addition there appeared to be another shallow gully or trench and at least three postholes (two of which were modern). The features found in the northern arm of the trench were recorded but not excavated, due to weather conditions; in the other parts of the trench the features found were excavated. The large ditch-type feature in the southern arm of the trench was partly excavated by machine. This feature was thought by the geophysical survey team to be possibly geological in origin. The fill, however, was stony with flecks of charcoal throughout and occasional bone fragments near the base of the feature; this ditch section was possibly not bottomed.

No dating evidence was found for any of the features on the site. Although there was some charcoal from within the fill of some of the features, the quantity was thought to be insufficient for dating purposes.

The features, both indicated by survey and excavated, do appear to suggest a settlement site. However, as only a small proportion of the geophysical survey area was excavated and no dating evidence was found, the results of the evaluation on this area are inconclusive.

The total length of trench excavated was 100 metres, with the top of the "T" being 80 metres long and the upright part 20 metres long.

Area 3 (figure 5). The geophysical survey indicated only one feature, a former field boundary, which can still be seen as an undulation in the field. This former boundary is not shown on any maps that have been consulted; however a part of this boundary is still extant north of the A476 road and the southern part of this boundary in Area 3 probably went out of use when the turnpike road was constructed in the eighteenth century, or soon after. As the boundary north of the road will not be affected by the bypass and will be available for any future investigations no further work is considered necessary.

Area 4 (figure 5). This limited geophysical survey area lies to the west of the Auction Yard with the standing stone (Area 5), and is between this extant stone and another which stood further to the west. From previous experience, archaeological features relating to standing stones can be some distance from

them and it was considered advisable to investigate the single pit-like anomaly recorded in the survey within this area, and to see if there were other features that were not picked up in the survey. The pit feature was found to be within the topsoil and of modern date. No features of other than geological origin were seen. The area excavated here was double that originally indicated, with the trench excavated to twice the width. The geological natural in the bottom was to some extent mixed with patches of large stones.

The length of trench excavated was 20 metres and 2.5 metres wide.

Area 5 (figure 5). Due to this area being used as a temporary car park for the Auction Market, the site has a spread of modern ferrous debris, and this may have limited the results. The geophysical survey found a probable field boundary which is visible in the ground surface, a linear feature (probably a ditch, possibly recent) and, probably of some significance, a curvilinear response, probably with the standing stone as its centre point. An 80 metre trial trench was excavated, running approximately east-west, passing north of the standing stone and crossing the survey area, to investigate the anomalies recorded and to assess if there were other features in this area.

The trial trench revealed that there had been considerable disturbance on this site, probably in connection with its present use as a car park. The surface of the area appeared to have been reduced and, as the features recorded were sealed by a layer of disturbed subsoil, it would appear that this site has suffered some damage to the upper part of these features in the recent past. The west side of the ring ditch around the standing stone was confirmed (figure 10); the east side was not seen and may have been removed, although the eastern side of the trench filled with water, and could not therefore be further investigated. Of particular significance were five small pits containing burnt material, found adjacent to the stone (figure 10), which were possibly cremations or ritual offerings.

Area 6 (figure 6). A single possible pit was detected by the geophysical survey of this area. However given the low lying nature of this alluvial deposit this feature could be modern or natural. No trial trench was excavated.

Areas 7 and 8 (figure 6). Nothing of archaeological interest was recorded in the geophysical survey, and a trial trench was not considered necessary.

Area 9 (figure 6). The geophysical survey picked up a large amount of magnetic interference from sewer pipes and drain covers. However a possible ditch-type anomaly was located and this may relate to a crop mark seen on aerial photographs, which could be a boundary noted on a pre-railway map. Given the

proximity of this feature to the older part of Llandeilo, the Neolithic finds (PRN 908) and the round barrow (PRN 903), a trial trench was thought advisable to cut across this feature. Due to the slope and limited access to this field the trial trench (1 metre wide) was excavated by a small digging machine before hand cleaning. Some material from the eighteenth to twentieth centuries was found in the topsoil, but the only feature found in the subsoil was considered to be geological in origin.

Area 10 (figure 7). This area had a high background noise recorded in the geophysical survey and it is possible that this may have hidden archaeological features. One possible pit was recorded. In the geophysical survey of the Llandeilo Northern Bypass an area on the other side of the A40 road from Area 10 did record possible features. An east-west 40 metre trial trench was excavated across Area 10, but unfortunately missed the possible pit location. There were considerably mixed geological deposits in the subsoil.

**Area 11** (figure 7). No features were recorded by the geophysical survey in this very limited area and no trial trench was considered necessary.

Site 12 (NGR: SN 627 212) (figure 5). There are two or three possible platforms in the higher southern part of this field. It was considered advisable to investigate these with two 5 metre by 1 metre hand excavated trenches, as a machine would create too much disturbance due to the terrain and the water courses in the upper part of the field. The southern trench was cut through a bank, which was dated by pottery sherds in the primary make up in the bank to the nineteenth or twentieth century. The northern trench revealed one gully, another possible gully and a possible pit or posthole. These features were filled with the same or a very similar fill, containing pottery sherds of postmedieval date, and these could be associated with a possible trackway to the side of the trial trench. The activity recorded in this area may be related to the nursery recorded in Area 2, but there may also be underlying archaeology that could relate to the possible settlement also in that area.

Site 13 (NGR: SN 626 217) (figure 5). This area was under hay at the time of the geophysical survey, making it unavailable and unsuitable. Due to the proximity of this area to the standing stone in the Auction Yard it was considered advisable to see if there were any features of archaeological interest extending this far north from the stone. A trial trench 60 metres long was excavated. Two topsoil horizons were recorded, which may relate to a former tennis court in the south-west area of the field (OS 1st edn 6") in which this trench was excavated. A later pipe trench crossed part of the trial trench. The only feature of any possible archaeological significance was a

shallow flat-bottomed gully, although there was no indication of date.

#### Assessment of Results

The desk-based assessment and reconnaissance revealed that there are a small number of known archaeological sites lying on or very close to the proposed route of the bypass.

The major known site is that of the standing stone PRN 12845 in Area 5 (figures 4, 5 and 10). The possible existence of a ring ditch around this stone was revealed by the geophysical survey of Area 5 (figure 5). This was confirmed by the evaluation trial trench, which additionally discovered five small pits adjacent to the stone (figure 10), possibly for cremations or ritual offerings. Had this site not been damaged, then it could be classified as of Category A importance (see Cadw 1994); however the site is still relatively intact, fulfilling the criteria for Category B, which must include the area of the ring ditch.

There is a possibility of a Roman road to the west of this standing stone and, further again to the west, the site of a former standing stone PRN 4887 (figure 4). The bypass road does not affect the possible Roman road, but environmental enhancement or any drainage ditches could do so. All of the area to the north and west of the standing stone PRN 12845, and between this and the site of the former standing stone PRN 4887 (figure 4) is archaeologically sensitive.

Llandeilo Bridge PRN 4890 (figure 4) is a listed building (Cadw 1994, Category A). Here listed building consent must be obtained from Cadw before the commencement of any alterations, giving Cadw the opportunity to comment on the implications of the bypass on the structure, together with any additional recording that they may feel is necessary.

To the south of Llandeilo railway station and on the east side of the line there is the site of a probable round barrow PRN 903 (figure 3) (Cadw 1994, Category B). This should not be affected by the bypass as proposed.

For the bypass scheme it is proposed that Llandeilo railway station (Cadw 1994, Category C) be demolished. In the opinion of DAT this should be at least photographically recorded for archive purposes before it is destroyed.

Due to almost all of the proposed route being under grass for either hay or pasture, there was no possibility of locating any new site by surface collection of artifacts.

The geophysical survey found the possibility of a settlement site (Cadw 1994, Category E) in Area 2 (figures 5 and 8) and the existence of these features was confirmed by the trial trench evaluation (figure 9). The results were inconclusive as to date, but DAT consider that this should be classified as Category C rather than Category D (Cadw 1994). However a limited area excavation may be advisable before any large scale archaeological work is undertaken on this site. This work should take into account the fact that the extent of this site is not known.

#### Discussion

Only the fields affected by the proposed route were closely scrutinised for map, documentary, and aerial photographic evidence. The rapid field walk-over reconnaissance was only conducted on the fields affected by the proposed bypass route. If the proposed route is amended, or there are additional works, such as contractors' compounds, soil dumps and soil borrow pits, not covered in the detailed area of this project, then further investigation will be necessary.

There is one apparent major archaeological feature on the proposed route of the bypass. This is a standing stone Provisional Record Number 12845, located at the rear of the Auction Market, Ffairfach, in the car parking area. The work undertaken by Dyfed Archaeological Trust indicated that the area around the stone was disturbed relatively recently. However, the work established the existence of a ring ditch, of 40 metres diameter, around the stone and it is recommended that the bypass boundary is moved slightly to the northwest, so that it remains at least 22 metres from the stone. This action should protect the integrity of the site, but if this is not possible then a large proportion or all of the area of the ring ditch and interior should be totally excavated.

The fields on the route of the bypass to the north and west of the standing stone PRN 12845 (referred to above) may contain archaeological material. There is a possible Roman road running south-west from Llandeilo Bridge on the line of the present footpath and, further to the west, the site of a former standing stone, PRN 4885. To the east of this former stone the field name may suggest that there could have been additional stones and therefore the possibility of associated ring ditches and pits. However the name probably just relates to the standing stone at PRN 4885. Hence it is recommended that during the road construction there is an intensive watching brief undertaken during the stripping of the topsoil in this area. Time should be allowed, within the tendering specifications for the bypass construction, for archaeological access, including cleaning of limited areas and possible small scale excavation. A delay of up to two weeks after the topsoil stripping should be allowed,

before further construction should take place. It would be envisaged that both then, and during all the period of topsoil stripping in this area, there would be an experienced archaeologist on site with an assistant.

Llandeilo Bridge PRN 4890 is a listed building. Here any alterations to the monument are for Cadw to assess along with any conditions, such as additional recording for archive purposes.

Dyfed Archaeological Trust recommend that Llandeilo Railway Station Building is photographically recorded prior to any alterations or demolition.

A possible settlement site was found, located on a hilltop to the south-west of Ffairfach (Area 2 in the report); as part of the work done in advance of this bypass. Although neither the extent of this activity nor date were established, the type of features recorded, the lack of dating evidence and its hilltop location, possibly suggest an Iron Age date. It would appear that a considerable proportion of this site would be removed by a large cutting for the new road. Here it is recommended that an area of the site is excavated, with sufficient time allowed for assessment of the results of the excavation, possibly followed by a full area excavation within the part to be destroyed by the bypass scheme.

As most of this route is under grass there was no opportunity to recover surface finds. It is therefore recommended that during topsoil stripping and excavation for the bypass that a general watching brief is undertaken, especially as the area around the town of Llandeilo could be of particular value. It would not be necessary for an archaeological presence on site at all times, provided the development contractors inform the archaeologist involved of their work programme and of any changes to it. This should be written into the tender requirements for the scheme.

It is recommended that the hedges to be partly or totally destroyed, and which are indicated in the Environmental Statement as older, should be dated by species count.

Only the fields on or adjacent to the route of this bypass were specifically examined as part of this assessment and evaluation. Areas such as those for the contractors' compound, soil dump areas, soil borrow pits, additional drainage cutting or environmental enhancement must be separately assessed, as should any changes in the route.

#### Conclusion

There can be no guarantee that there are not other archaeological sites on or adjacent to this proposed bypass route. Those that have accessible records within the sources consulted have been indicated. DAT consider it very unlikely that there are other recorded archaeological sites on this route. One unknown site was found in Area 2. Although no date was established for this possible settlement site, the lack of dating evidence and its topography suggest Iron Age or possibly earlier prehistoric activity. Features recorded around the standing stone PRN 12845 (Area 5) should be avoided by the bypass construction if possible. Where additional recording of archaeological features and further work is desirable, this has been outlined above in the discussion section of this report.

The delays prior to the excavation phase meant that the work could not start until February when conditions were far from ideal. More time should be allowed when permission has to be gained from landowners and tenants, and where compensation payments have not been arranged in advance.

DAT have not been informed of any possible contractors' compound sites, soil dump areas or borrow pits. It is considered important that sufficient time be allowed for archaeological assessment and possible evaluation of any such proposed locations.

### Acknowledgements

Ken Murphy of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust for help with the surveying and for comments. Sue Bishop, Sites and Monuments Record, DAT. Ian Darke and Hubert Wilson for carrying out the excavations. Louise Lane for editing the report. All the owners and tenants who gave us permission to undertake work on their lands.

### **Archive Deposition**

This will be with the RCAHM(Wales), Crown Buildings, Plas Crug, Aberystwyth SY23 1NJ.

### **Bibliography**

Davies W 1858 Llandeilo-Fawr and its Neighbourhood: Past and Present

Cadw 1994 Extract from draft of "Archaeology and the Trunk Road Programme in Wales: a Manual of Best Practice" (see Appendix 7)

Environmental Research and Advisory Partnership 1993 Llandeilo Eastern Bypass Ecological Statement. Report for G. Maunsell and Partners, Llandeilo Eastern Bypass Environmental Statement Griffiths R A 1991 A Tale of Two Towns: Llandeilo Fawr and Dinefore in the Middle Ages. *Sir Gâr: Studies in Carmarthenshire History*, Carmarthenshire Antiquarian Society, Monograph Series Vol 4

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Owen E 1893 1894 A contribution to the History of the Premonstratensian Abbey of Talley *Archaeologia Cambrensis* Vols 10 and 11

Rackham O 1986 The History of the Countryside

Samuel W 1868 Llandeilo Present and Past

### **Appendices**

## **Appendix 1 - Survey Areas and Trench Areas**

	Geophysical Survey Areas (sq metres)	Trench Areas (sq metres)	Trench/Survey Areas
Area I	1600	None	
Area 2	7160	120	1.7%
Area 3	1600	None	
Area 4	800	50	6.3%
Area 5	3400	96	2.8%
Area 6	800	None	
Area 7	800	None	
Area 8	800	None	
Area 9	1200	24	2.0%
Area 10	1600	48	3.0%
Area II	400	None	
Site 12		10	
Site 13		72	
Total*	20160	420	2.1%

<sup>\*</sup>This includes the trench areas of Sites 12 and 13. The trial trench area (338² metres) as a percentage of the total geophysical survey area (20160² metres) is 1.7%.

### Appendix 2 - Finds Policy

Landowners were approached before commencement of work to see if they were willing to donate any finds to the nearest approved museum that would take them (probably Carmarthen Museum). No artifacts other than modern material were recovered during this project. The modern material will be discarded.

#### Appendix 3 - Aerial Photographs Examined

RAF 1946 and Meridian 1955 for the area, held by

RAF 1946 and 1948 for the area, held by the Welsh Office

J A Story (Commercial Colour) 1985, held by the Welsh Office

1:3000 vertical, taken June 1991 for the Llandeilo Eastern Bypass, held by G. Maunsell and Partners, Consulting Engineers, Alexander House, Alexander Road, Swansea

### Appendix 4 - Documentary Sources for Llandeilo Northern and Eastern Bypasses

Estate Maps, Tithe Maps and Other Documents

Plan of Gwrey-Crug, Walh, Bank-y-beillau (Llandilo) 6"/mile N.D.

CRO SG (ADD)3

Plan of the town of Llandilo and lands in the county of Carmarthen

CRO DERWYDD CA52

Golden Grove Estate Vol II

Golden Grove Estate Mapbook

CRO C/V 8660

Dynevor Mapbook - Nant-y-Rhibo

Tygwyn in Llandeilofawr parish 1664

CRO DERWYDD M7

Map and reference of part of Love Lodge in the parish of Llandeilofawr 1810

CRO CAWDOR MAPS 122

Map of Love Lodge in the parish of Llandeilofawr c.1810

**CRO CAWDOR MAPS 123** 

Plan of Crug Farm, Llandeilo parish 1856

CRO DERWYDD D337

Map of Fair Fach and Llandilo fields in the parish of

Llandilofawr (n.d. 18th century)

CRO CAWDOR MAPS 140

Gwrey Manor, Llandeilofawr 1880-93

CRO BISHOP BOX 1,3

Gwrey 1879

**CRO SC 814** 

Nant-y-Rhibo 1879

**CRO SC 814** 

Ty Gwyn 1879

**CRO SC 814** 

Pen Rhiw 1879

CRO SC 816

Talardd Fach 1878

**CRO TRANT SC 2** 

Cefn Tir Esgib 1879

CRO SC 814

Map of the town of Llandeilo 1849

CRO ACC 4763 BU18

Sketch of the town of Llandilo c. 1850

CRO CAWDOR MAPS 23

Part of plan of Llandilo town. Goode, n.d.

CRO DERWYDD M50

Plan of allotments nr. Llandilo town 1824

CRO DERWYDD M51

Plans of lands near the town of Llandilo proposed to be exchanged by the Rt. Hon. Lords Cawdor and

Dynevore 1812

**CRO CAWDOR MAPS 89** 

Sale Catalogue of Cae Crug Mawr building estate,

Llandeilo 1891

CRO BISHOP BOX 181, 7

Newton meadow c. 1790 - Rough drawing of Newton meadow showing the amount of land belonging to Mr.

Vaughan and Mr. Rice

CRO C/V 55/6217

Tregib - Plan re boundary between Tygwyn and Tregib 1851

CRO DERWYDD D165

Maps of Estates and Glebes with the boundaries of Manors and Parishes, the Tythes of which belong to

the Lord Bishop of St. Davids in Right of the See.

Situate in the several counties of Pembroke, Carmarthen, Cardigain, Glamorgan, Radnor and

Brecon, South Wales and County of Montgomery,

North Wales. William Carling, Carmarthen 1817

CRO ACC 4225

Tygwyn Estates, Llandeilo 1879

**CRO SC 183** 

Llandeilofawr Tithe Map

Llandyfeisant Tithe Map

### Appendix 5 - Ordnance Survey and Other Maps

OS 1st edition 6" CARM XXXIII SE (part)

OS 2nd edition 6" CARM XXXIII SE

CARM XLI NE

OS 1st edition 25" CARM XXXIII.11

CARM XXXIII.12

CARM XLI.3

CARM XLI.4

OS 2nd edition 25" CARM XXXIII.11

CARM XXXIII.12

CARM XXXIII.15

CARM XXXIII.16

OS Original Surveyors Drawings 2"

David and Charles reprint OS 1" CARMS. Sheet 41

Rees South Wales and Border in C14 - SW Sheet Plan of the Town of Llandilo and Lands in the County of Carmarthenshire (c1822) CRO DERWYDD CA52

### Appendix 6 - Site Record Numbers

Photographic 1-36 Context 101-150 Drawing 201-233

Appendix 7 - Extract from draft of Archaeology and the Trunk Road Programme in Wales: a Manual of Best Practice. 1994, Cadw.

Category A - Sites of National Importance
Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings,
Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, and those sites
which meet the criteria for scheduling or listing. The
presumption will be that sites in Category A will be
preserved and protected *in situ*.

### Category B - Sites of Regional or County Importance

Sites which do not quite meet the criteria for scheduling or listing, but which are nevertheless of particular importance within the region. Preservation in situ will be the preferred option for Category B sites, but if loss or damage cannot be avoided, appropriate detailed recording will be undertaken.

Category C - Sites of District or Local Importance Sites which are not of sufficient importance to justify preservation if threatened. Category C will merit adequate recording in advance of loss or damage.

### Category D - Minor and Damaged Sites

Sites of minor importance or so badly damaged that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category. For Category D sites rapid recording, either in advance or during destruction should be sufficient.

Category E - Sites Needing Further Investigation Sites whose importance could not be fully determined from the desk-top assessment and field search. These sites will be subject to field evaluation in Stage 3, before they can be assigned to Categories A-D.

### Appendix 8

### KNOWN SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL INTEREST INDEXED BY QUARTER SHRET COPYRIGHT: DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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		SH63032255 SH63392133		RIKOSHARN SIRBRI TREGEYB TREGIB	DARTTHE HOLSHVM	Post Hed Hediaeval Post Hed	Building/A Building/E	Building Building	LB2
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		2 SH62962224 1 SH6321	Llandeilo Llandeilofawr Rural	FFYNKON DEILO TRE-GIB TREGIB	HOLY WELL ROAD?	Hediaeval Roman?	O.Struct/U Documents	Barthwork-circular	
1101	5 SN622	3 SN628233	Llandeilofawr Rural	CRUG	NHKHCAH	Unknown	Earthwork?	ROLIUMOLK-CILCATOL	
		2 SH6322 2 SH643227	Llandeilo Llandellofawr Rural	YHYSTBILO HARS CWYH	GRANGR WATER HILL	Hediaeval Hediaeval	Documents Documents		
1273	7 SK632	3 SH6323	kurai Llandeilofawr Rural	RIKOSHABN	WATER HILL	Hediaeval	Documents		
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STATUS FORH/CONDITION DESCRIPTIVE TYPE PERIOD GENERIC TYPE CIVIL PARISH SITE HAME GRID REP PRN KHSO (1974) Documents Hediaeval SETTLEMENT LANDBUAYSAN Llandy[eisant 12780 SN6122 SN6122 0.Struct/B Monolith Bronze Age STANDING STONE? LLANDRILO HART STONE 12845 SH6221 SH62652159 Llandellofaur Rural Documents Hediaeval FULLING HILL **LYNDRITO** 12947 SH6322 SH6322 Llandeilo Earthwork/U Hound-oblong-5 Hediaeval? RADBIT WARREN DIHEVOR PARK Llandyfelsant 13237 SH6122 SH612223 Post Hed? **Barthwork/B Enclosure-oval** Unknown ENCLOSURE GROVE THE 14007 SH6422 SN648227 Llandeilofaur Bank-1 Rural Mediaeval Finds FINDS LLANDYFRISANT CHURCH 14396 SH6222 SH6222 Llandyfelsant Post Med Building/U LODGE 18792 SN6023 SN60912350 Llandyfeisant KINGS LODGE Earthwork/U CUARRY Post Hed 18793 SH6023 SH60052315 Llangathen Bullding Building/V Post Hed HAHSTON LLETYCLYD 18794 SN6121 SN61102198 Llandeilofakr Rural Earthwork/U Post Hed QUARRY 18795 SH6121 SH61502152 Llandyfeisant Earthwork/U Post Med QUARRY 18796 SH6122 SH61322219 Llandyfelsant Earthwork/U Post Med QUARRY 18797 SM6122 SM61452289 Llandyfeisant Rarthwork/U Post Med CUARRY 18798 SH6123 SH61502350 Llandyfeisant 0.Struct/U Post Med CEMBTERY 18799 SH6123 SH61212395 Llandeilofaur Rural Building/U Post Hed CHAPEL 18800 SN6124 SN61432402 Llandeilofaur STLOH Rural Earthwork/U QUARRY Post Med 18801 SH6220 SH62042080 Llandeilofawr Rural Building/V Post Med SCHOOL 18802 SK6221 SK62982151 Llandellofaur Rural Building/U Post Hed CHAPEL 18803 SN6221 SN62012130 Llandeilofawr TABERHACLE Rural Building/U Post Hed RAILWAY STATION 18804 SH6221 SH62892121 Llandeilofawr Rural 0.Struct/U Post Med BRIDGE 18805 SH6221 SH62882115 Llandeilofawr PORT GYLADYS Rurai 0.Struct/V Post Hed BRIDGE 18806 SN6321 SN63252170 Llandellofawr TAN-Y-BERLLAN Rural Barthwork/U Post Hed QUARRY 18807 SN6422 SH64402242 Llandeilofawr Rural Building/U Post Med LODGE 18808 SH6423 SH64802313 Llandeilofawr PRINTRE PARK LODGE Rural Building/V Post Med CHAPEL 10809 SN6323 SN63432342 Llandellofawr Rural Building/U SUNDAY SCHOOL Post Hed 18810 SN6323 SN63332321 Llandeilofawr CHURCH? Rural 0.Struct/U Post Hed **BRIDGE** 18811 SH6424 SH64682447 Llandellofaur PONT DULAIS Rurai Building/V Post Hed TANNERY 18812 SH6424 SH64122410 Llandeilofawr Rural Building/U Post Hed SAWHILL 18850 SN6222 SN62402298 Llandeilo Building/V Post Hed SCHOOL 18852 SM6322 SM63122285 Llandeilo

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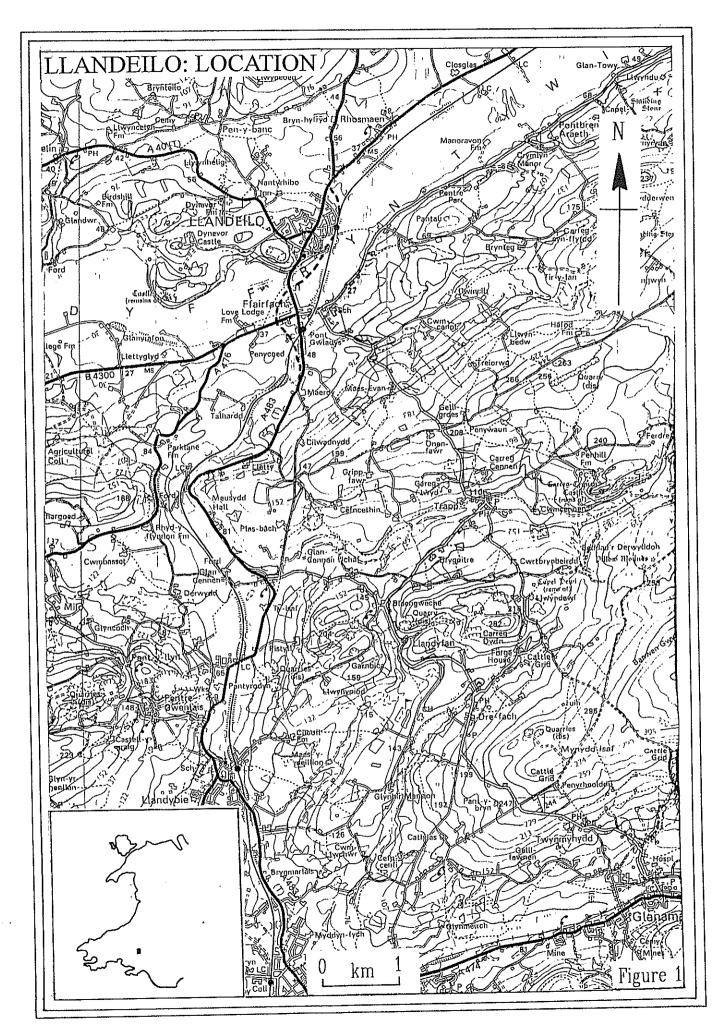
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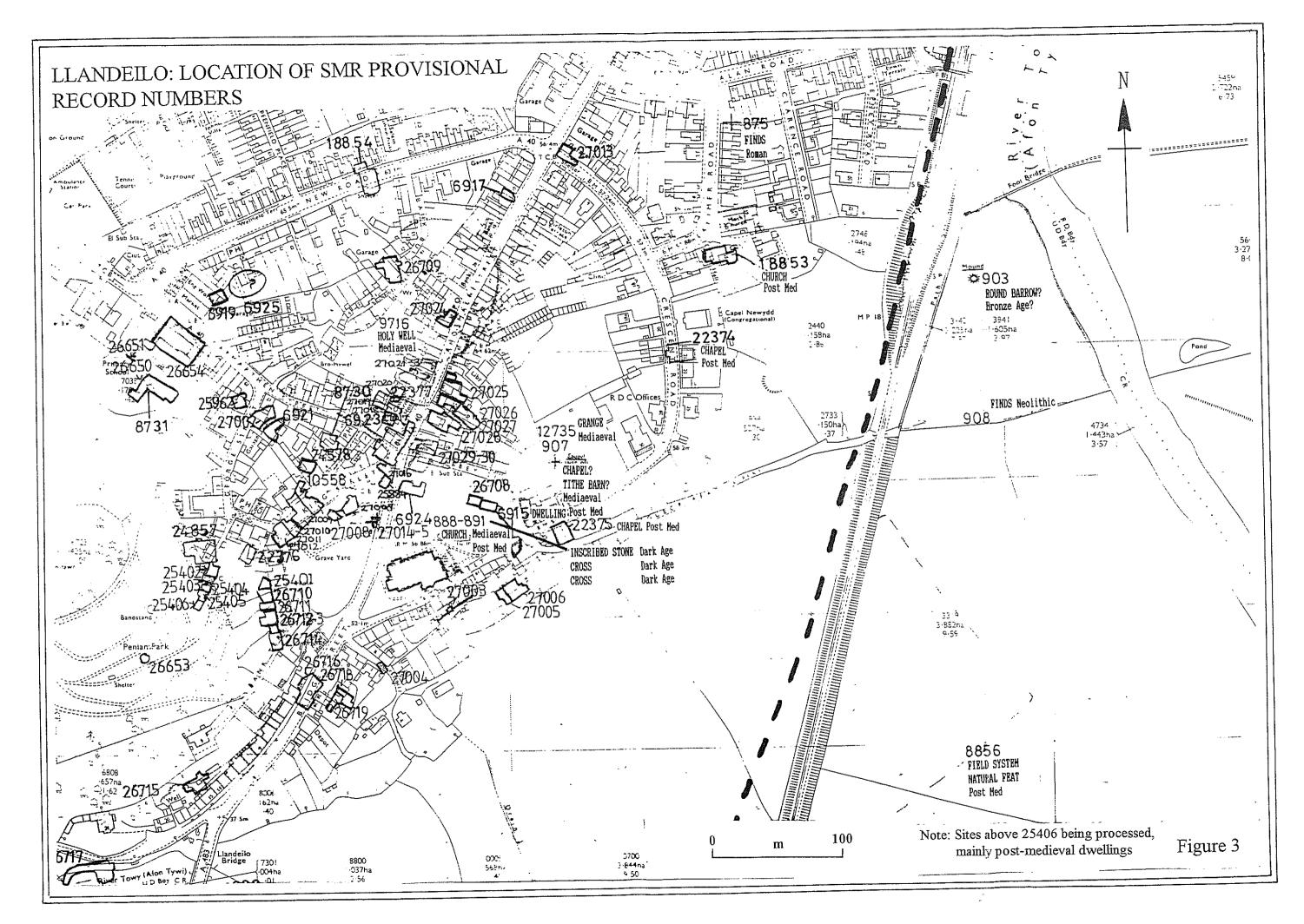
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20945	SH6223		Llandeilofawr Rural	CURREY HANOR	MANSION MAJOR DUBLLING FA	Post Med	Building/U Doc	Building	
21059	SN5221	SN520218	Llanegwad	CAB QUARRE	QUARRY	Post Med	Place-name		
		SN63152242	Llandeilo		******		Building/U		
		SH63052228			CHAPEL	•	Building/U		
22376	SH6222	SH62802228	Llandello	LLANDBILO CONCRECATIONAL CHAPE	•,	Post Hed	Building/U		
		SN62912238		LIVHORITO CHALBE	*,	Post Hed	Building/V		
			Llandellofaur	NEW INH SHOP	SHOP	Post Hed	Documents		
22429	SN6324	SH63602475	Rural Llandeilofawr Rural		TOLLGATE HOUSE	Post Hed	Documents		
22430	SN6124	SH61572402	Llandeilofawr Rural	PEN Y BANC	SHITHY	Post Med	Documents		
22431	SH6224	SH62272445	Llandeilofawr Rural	TIR CLAI	COTTAGE?	Post Hed	Documents		
22432	SN6424	SN64122405	Llandeilofawr Rural	CIL WERN FAWR	COTTAGE?	Post Hed	Documents		
22433	SN6424	SH64122405	Llandeilofawr Rural	RIHOSHABN	CORM HILL	Post Hed	Documents		
22434	SH6424	SH64082403	Llandeilofawr Rural	RHOSHAEN	FOXCE	Post Med	Documents		
22435	SN6422	SN64002263	Llandellofawr Rural	TY NEWYDD	PUBLIC HOUSE	Post Hed	Documents		
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			'Llandeilofawr Rural	UNION WORKHOUSE	WORKHOUSE	Post Med	Documents		
22440	SH6221	SH62752115	Llangathen	LLANDRILO BRIDGE	RAILWAY STATION	Post Hed	Documents		
22441	SN6022	SH60682274	Llandellofawr Rural	PARC LLWYH	COTTAGE?	Post Hed			
22442	SN6223	SH62392351	l Llandeilofawr Rural	CORREY	HILL	Post Hed	Documents  Documents		
22443	SH6020	SN60732026	5 Llandeilofaur Rural	BLUE LODGE	LODGE	Post Hed			
22444	SH6120	) SN6119206(	) Llandeilofaur		BRICKWORKS TILEWORKS	Post Hed	Documents		
22445	SH632	I SR6396211:	3 Llandeilofawr Rural	FACTORY HOUSE	FACTORY?	Post Hed	Documents		
22448	SH602	3 SH6076237	O Llandeilofaur	HANORAVON LODGE	LODGR	Post Hed	Documents		

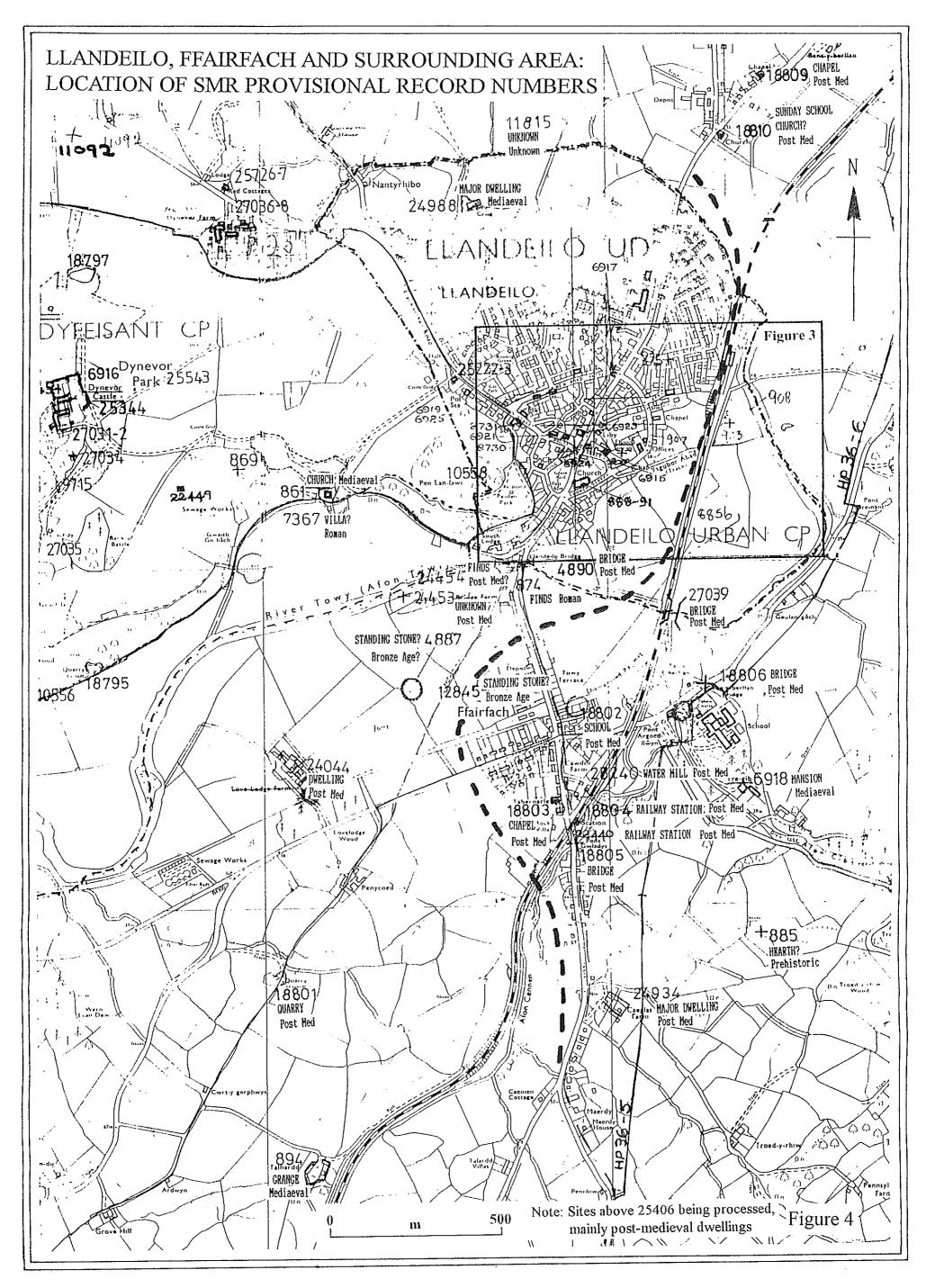
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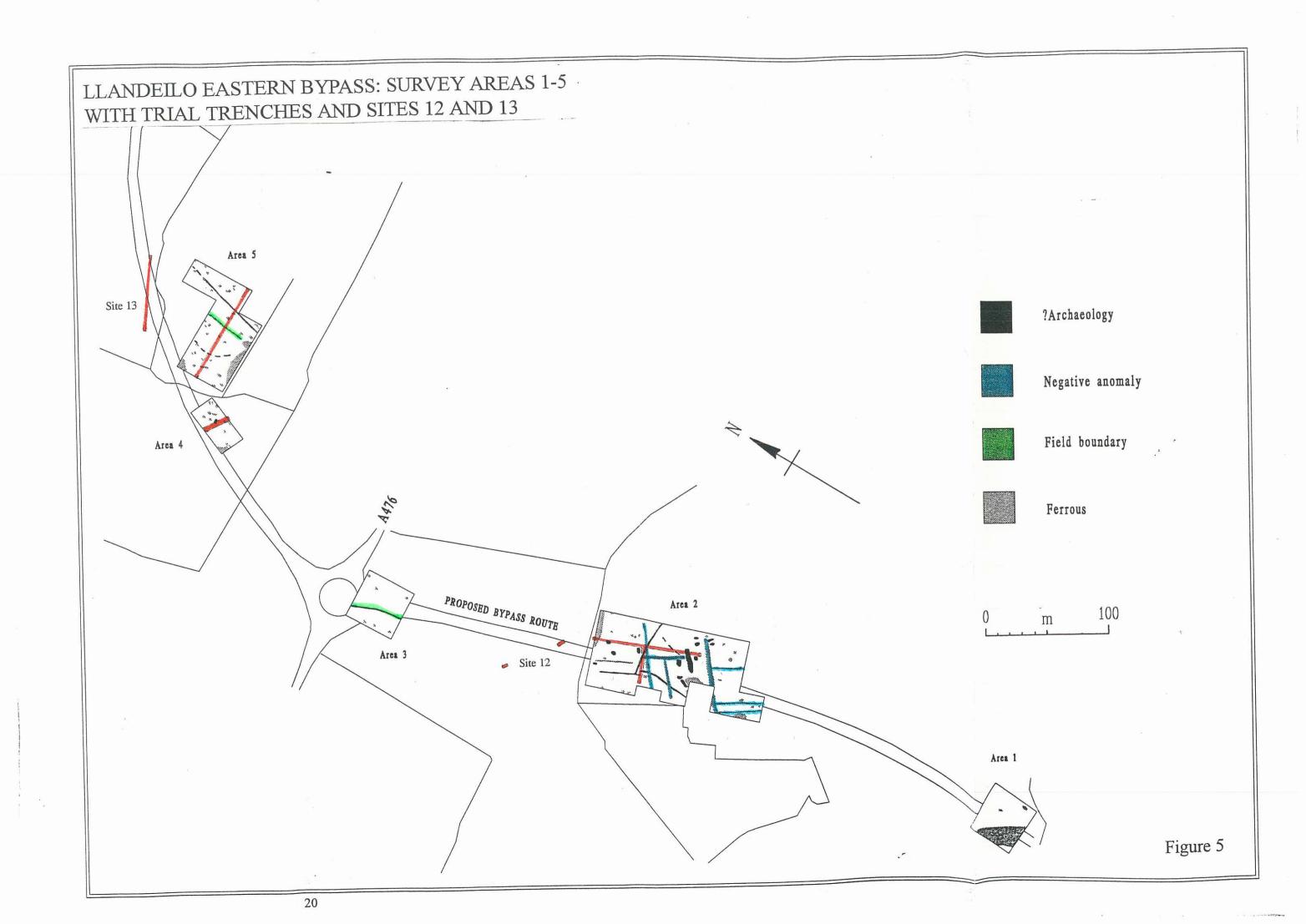
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23265	SN62SV	SH62SW	Llandeilofaur Rural	LLANDBILOFANR SCHOOLS	SCHOOL	Fost Hed	Documents		
24044	SH6221	SN62062138	Llandeilofaur Rural	LOVE LODGE LLETTY CARIAD	WELLING	Post Hed	Doc	Building	
24411	SN6122	SN613B2278	Llandyfeisant	DYHEVOR PARK	ICE HOUSE	Post Hed	Building/V		
			Llandeilofawr Rural	BRIDGE FARM AFON TYMI	UNIKIKOVII *	Post Hed	0.Struct/U	Stone Structure-linear	
24454	SN6221	SH624218	Llandellofawr Rural	BRIDGE FARK AFON TYWI	FINDS	Post Med?	0.Struct/C		
21027	ดมลววว	SH627223	Llandeilo	GEORGE ST NO.1	DWELLING	Post Hed	Building/8	Building	LB2
24934	SH6220	SN62982064		CAEGLAS	NAJOR DWELLING	Post Med	Building/V Doc	Building	
21088	SN6223	SH62572306	Llandeilo	CRUG	HAJOR DWELLING	Kediaeval	Building/V	Building	
21700	DIIOEES	DIOZO1 12000	D101140110		FARHSTRAD	Post Hed	Doc	n.:11!	
25222	SK6222	SH62552253	Llandeilo	DYNEVOR LODGE	LODGE	Post Med	Building/A	Building	
		SH62552253		EAST LODGE	LODGE	Post Med	Building/A	Building	
		SH624214	Llandeilofawr Rural	WHITE HILL	WATER HILL	Post Med	Building/M Bui	Building	LB2
25344	SN6122	SH614224	Llandyfeisant	PLAS DIREFUR	WALE GATE	Post Med	0.Struct/V		LB2
25345	SN6122	SN614224	Llandyfeisant	PLAS DINEFUR	FOUNTAIN	Post Hed	0.Struct/A		LB2
		SN63553268		TALLEY	TELEPHONE CALL BOX	Post Hed	0.Struct/A	n:14t	LB2
		SH63273271		PLAS Y	DARTFING	Post Hed	Building/V	Building	LB2
		SH62812226		GEORGE HILL NO.1	DWELLING	Post Hed	Building/V	Building	102 102
25402	SN6222	SH62782227	'I.landeilo	GEORGE STREET NO.5	DWELLING	Post Hed	Bullding/U	Building	LB2
25402	SN6222	SH62772226	i.landeilo	GEORGE HILL NO.6	DWELLING	Post Hed	Building/U	Building	L82
		SH62772226		GEORGE HILL NO.7	DWELLING	Post Hed	Building/U	Building	LB2
25404	CN6222	SH62772225	ilandeilo	GEORGE HILL NO.8	DWBLLING	Post Hed	Building/U	Building	LB2
		SN62762224		GEORGE HILL NO.9	DVELLING	Post Med	Building/V	Building	504
		SHEET: SN625 I SH625V	SW;SN62SE Several	TOWY VALLEY ROAD	ROAD	Roman	Documents		

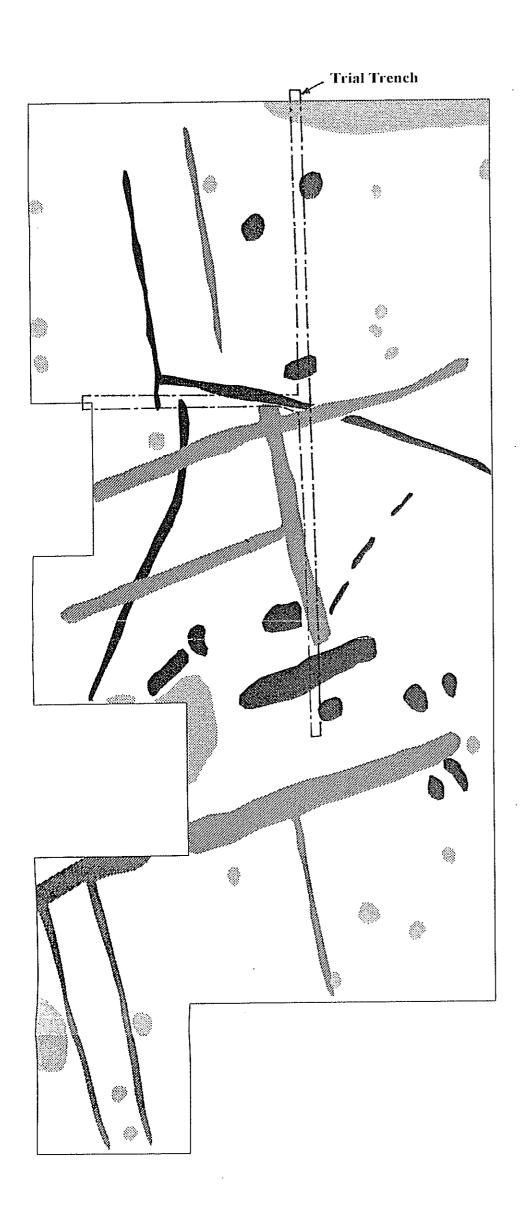




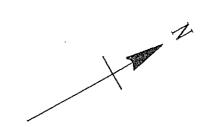




# LLANDEILO EASTERN BYPASS: AREA 2 FEATURES INDICATED FROM GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY



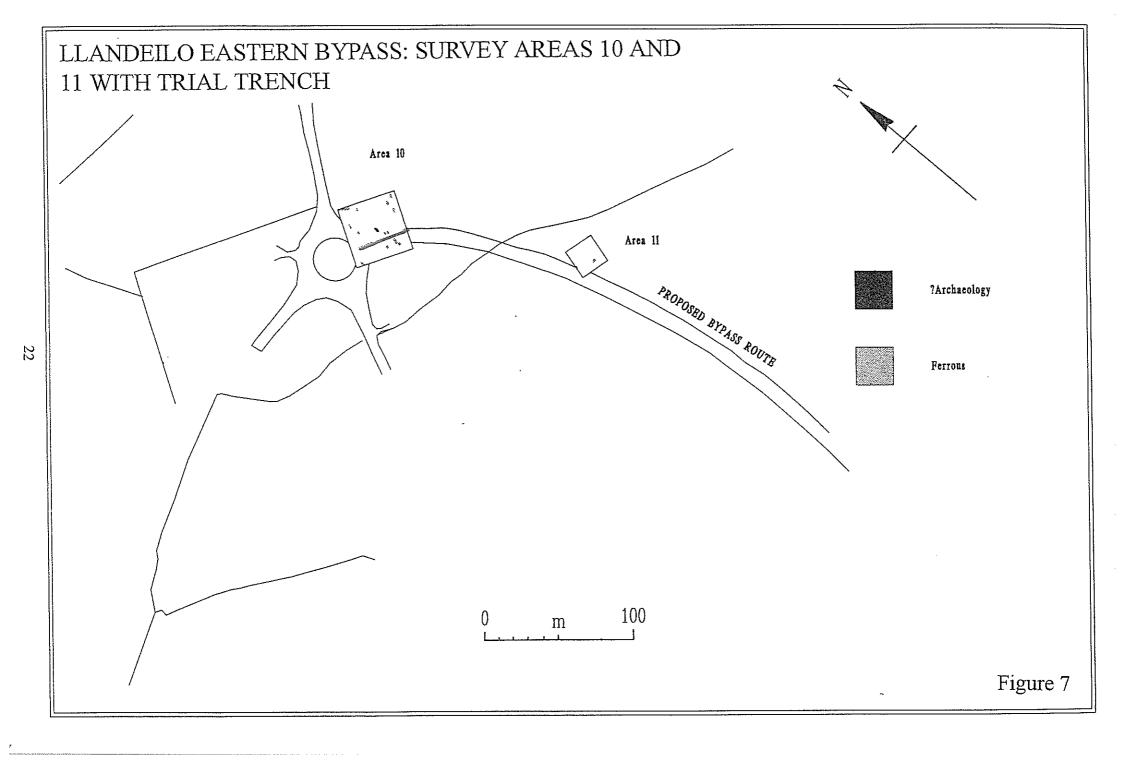
23



- ?Archaeology
- Ferrous
- ?Cultivation Trends

0 m 50

Figure 8



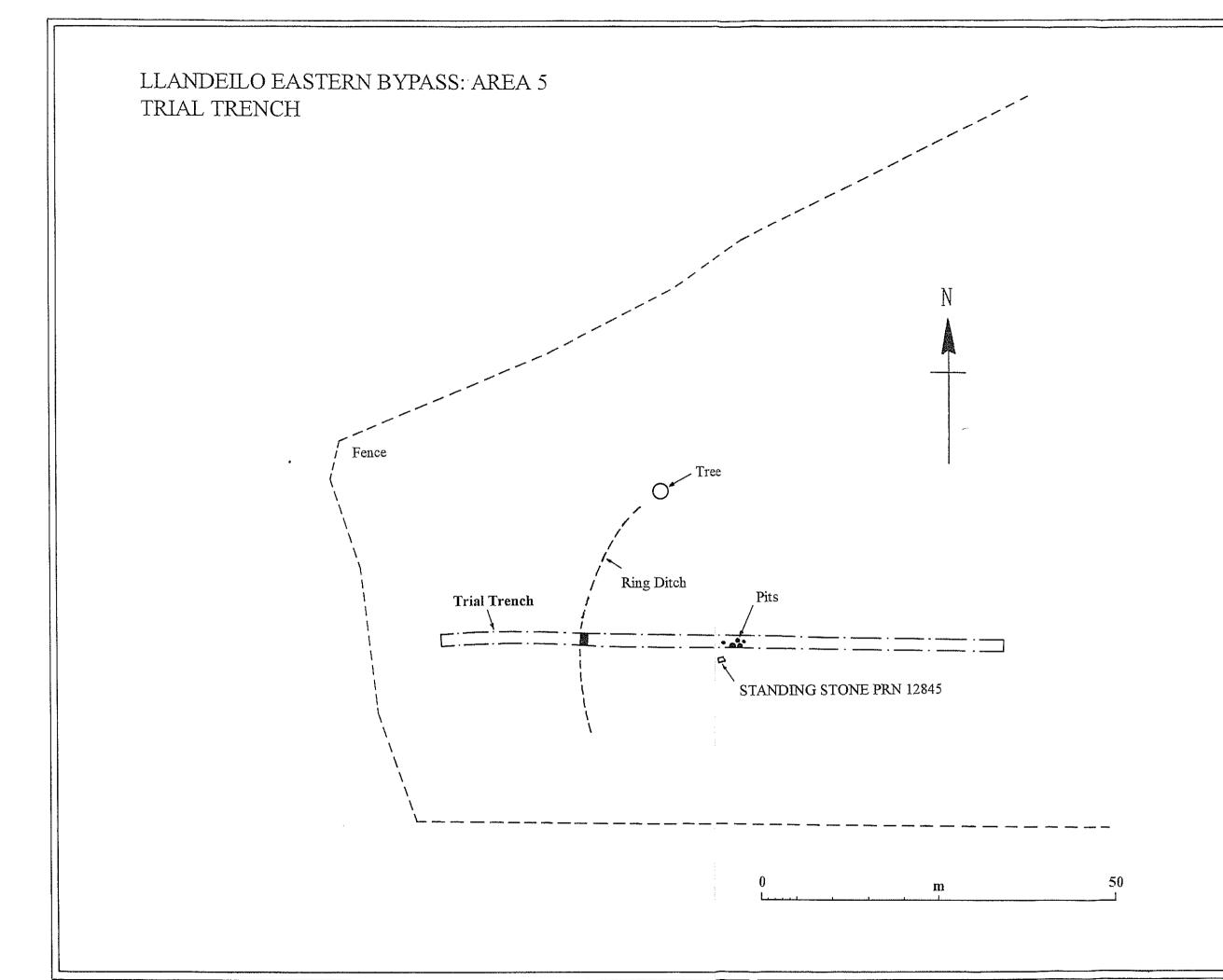


Figure 10