

**DAWN PAC LIMITED, CROSS HANDS,
CARMARTHENSHIRE: NEW CAR PARK AND
ACCESS ROAD FROM LLWYN YR EOS
APRIL 2001**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
PRN 42679**



Report No. 2001/40

Report Prepared for: Dawn Pac Limited



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CAMBRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

REPORT NO. 2001/40
PROJECT RECORD NO. 42679

JULY 2001

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CARMARTHENSHIRE: NEW CAR PARK AND ACCESS
ROAD FROM LLWYN YR EOS, APRIL 2001
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By

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Cross Hands, Carmarthenshire on behalf of Dawn Pac Limited in advance of the preparation of a new access road and car park. The remains of a building were recorded. This was almost certainly the site of a house formerly known as 'The Meadows'. Artefactual evidence suggested that this building was not demolished until at least the 1960s. Other possible garden and landscape features were also recorded but all appeared to be of recent date. No archaeological features of any antiquity were identified.

INTRODUCTION

Cambria Archaeology Field Operations was commissioned by Dawn Pac Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the ground works associated with a new car park and access road at the Dawn Pac Factory within the Cross Hands Business Park. The work was required as part of planning application No S/02781 and commenced on 4 April 2001 and was completed on 9 April.

The site (NGR SN 5708 1212) is located on the south side of Meadows Road to the southeast of Cross Hands (Fig. 1). The site of the new car park is on the opposite side of the service road from the factory (Fig. 2). The area slopes gently to the south, and contained a number of level areas considered to be possible building platforms. To the east the ground drops steeply away to a stream. On the northeast side of the site are the remains of a probable well, possibly later used as a dovecot (recorded on the county Sites and Monuments record as PRN 39119). This feature is thought to date to at least the early part of the 19th century. Meadows Bridge (PRN 16866) crosses the stream to the northeast. The solid geology is Carboniferous Middle Coal Measures, overlain by drift deposits of Pleistocene boulder clay.

SITE HISTORY

The earliest cartographic evidence examined was the Tithe map of 1841 (Fig. 3). This clearly shows the presence of a house and another building that were formerly present in the northern area of the proposed new car park. The surrounding land use appears to be pasture. The house is shown in more detail on both the first (1891) and second (1907) edition Ordnance Survey maps (Figs 4 and 5). These maps also show the well (PRN 39119), a lodge to the northwest (PRN 16867) and various driveways. The second edition map indicates that the house had been extended to the northeast. However, neither this extension nor the well appears on the 1965 Ordnance Survey 1:10560 map (Fig. 1). The house is just visible on the RAF 1946 aerial reconnaissance photograph (RAF 106G/k/1400/3202) but little detail can be detected.

The archaeology of site and the immediate surrounding area is mainly post medieval, associated with agricultural enclosure, settlement and industrialisation from the 18th century onwards. Visually the area has changed a great deal in the last two decades

with the Cross Hands by-pass running adjacent to the site and the continuing development of the industrial park.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological features revealed during the ground works associated with the development and in particular to clarify the nature and date of the possible building platforms and any associated landscaping features. A copy of the brief is included as Appendix 1.

METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

The initial site visit was made on the 4th April after the turf and topsoil had been removed from most of the site. By the time of the visit, the cut for the access road to the car park had already been made and a layer of chippings put down. The cut for this access was approximately 1m deep, 8m wide and 50m long and the sections were examined. The natural light brown boulder clay was overlain by 150mm of dark grey brown clay loam with angular pebbles, charcoal, brick and angular stones and 150mm of topsoil and turf.

During subsequent visits on the 6th and 9th April the outline of a building and associated drive was recorded (Fig. 7). As no further ground disturbance in the area was planned, no excavation was undertaken. The north corner and northeastern wall were quite well-defined. However, the rest of the building, except for a 20th century quarry tile floor to the south (Fig. 6, under horizontal rod), was either obscured or did not survive. There were spreads of mortar on all but the southwest side and the full extent of the building has not necessarily been recorded. A short length of parallel wall to the northeast of the building was also recorded. However, whether this was a garden wall or the end wall of the extension suggested on the second edition OS map was uncertain. Finds of plastic, china and other artefacts indicated that the building was not demolished until at least the 1960s.

The well (PRN 39119) lay outside the area of groundworks and is thought to be early 19th century in date. It is obviously deteriorating and will be in need of maintenance if it is to survive for any length of time. The upper part of the structure has been made to look like, or acted as, a dovecot. The roof appears to be much later in date.

The area to the south was lowered slightly by the contractors. This area was inspected and only modern features were visible - concrete or breezeblocks were seen. No additional features of any archaeological significance were identified.

DISCUSSION

The site appeared to contain few, if any, remains of any antiquity that had not been compromised by the demolition and "landscaping" that has occurred since 1960. The

recorded structure was almost certainly the remains of the building formerly known as 'The Meadows' (PRN 42680) and it appears that this was not demolished until at least the 1960s. The remains of this building have effectively been preserved *in situ* under the new car park. Although it was unfortunate that the site could not be surveyed for features prior to turf and topsoil stripping, the garden features that were recorded all appeared to be of recent origin and probably date to the 19th century or later.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Richard Ramsey for undertaking the map searches.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Published Maps

British Geological Survey 1977, Geological Map, Ammanford Sheet 230, 1:50000 Series, Drift

British Geological Survey 1977, Geological Map, Ammanford Sheet 230, 1:50000 Series, Solid

Ordnance Survey 1891, 1:10560, Carmarthenshire Sheet XLVIII NW, First Edition 1891 (Surveyed 1876)

Ordnance Survey 1907, 1:10560, Carmarthenshire Sheet XLVIII NW, Second Edition 1907 (Revision 1905 from 1876 surveyed)

Ordnance Survey 1965, 1:10560, Quarter Sheet SN51SE

Manuscript Map

Llanon Parish Tithe Map 1841, National Library of Wales

APPENDIX 1: COPY OF BRIEF

Brief for Archaeological Recording - January 2001

Site: New Car Park and Access Road from Llwyn yr Eos, Cross Hands Business Park

Prepared for: Dawn Pac Limited.

Site Location: NGR SN 57080 12120

Planning Application No: S/02781

This design brief is only valid for six months from the above date. After this period Cambria Archaeology- Heritage Management should be contacted. Any specification resulting from this brief will only be considered for the same period. Please note that this document is written for archaeological project managers to facilitate the production of an archaeological specification of works, it is not a tender document. Any response to this brief should follow IFA Standards and Guidelines.

The project manager is strongly advised to visit the site before completing their specification, as there may be implications for accurately costing the project. The project manager must consult the County Sites and Monuments Record held by Cambria Archaeology Heritage Management as part of the assessment.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Following submission of a planning application to Carmarthenshire County Council for the above scheme Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management were consulted regarding the potential archaeological implications of the proposed development. Initial appraisal of the site using information readily available from the Regional Sites and Monuments Record identified the presence of a number of archaeological features in the immediate vicinity of the proposed car park.

2.0 Site Description

2.1 The site of the proposed car park lies 1 km south of the Cross Hands, (NGR SN 5642 1298) within the Cross Hands Business Park, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 5647 1298).

2.2 The proposed car park will be situated to the east of the Dawn Pac Limited processing plant NGR SN 5717 1200 and covers an area of approximately 1.3 ha. The proposed new car park is intended to reduce traffic congestion in Parc Menter and Meadows Roads.

2.3 The known archaeology surrounding the proposed site within a 1.5 km radius is mainly post medieval and associated with settlement and industrialisation of the 18th to 20th century.

2.4 The site includes remains of a substantial dwelling, outbuildings and landscaped grounds known to date from at least the early 19th century. The architectural form of the one surviving structure suggests a date of the early 19th century. It is believed to have functioned as a 'well house' (PRN 39119), as it lies in the approximate position of the well identified on the Ordnance Survey maps of both 1st and 2nd edition. It may have also functioned as a dovecote with a single row of dove holes at the top of the exterior wall. Map evidence identifies buildings within the proposed application boundary from the early 19th century (Llannon Parish tithe of 1841). The sequence of map evidence shows the area surrounding the house was developed as formal gardens.

2.5 The site was visited on the 12/12/2000. From this visit it is possible to discern the existence of a possible house platform a few metres to the west of the 'well house'. Other features of interest within the boundaries are a metalled trackway in close proximity to the platform, shown on the OS maps. Possible archaeological features also include remains of garden features, trackways and ancillary buildings.

2.6 The area of interest is identified on the attached map extract

3.0 The nature of the proposed development and archaeological requirements.

3.1. The development proposal includes the stripping of topsoil from the car park site and levelling.

3.2 A condition has been attached to the planning consent, which requires a scheme of archaeological works to be agreed prior to development commencing. A watching brief and rapid archaeological survey of any archaeology exposed during the soil stripping process, will be required for the area identified above in 2.6.

3.3 The archaeological programme of works will comprise assessment of documentary information already available as well as recording the revealed archaeological deposits and structures.

3.4 Desk-top assessment - This research should:

- 1 - Collate and assess relevant information held in the Regional Sites and Monuments Record
- 2 - Collate and assess all available cartographic information relevant to the area
- 3 - Assess the topography and land use of the area through maps and site visits
- 4 - Provide a detailed assessment of areas of a high archaeological potential.

3.5 Archaeological Recording

The archaeological works will normally include:

- i) The archaeological monitoring of topsoil clearance
- ii) Inspection of subsoil for archaeological features
- iii) Recording of archaeological feature in plan
- iv) Rapid sample excavation to investigate features
- v) Subsoil stripping under archaeological supervision
- vi) Further inspection to identify archaeological features and recording
- vi) Report production.

4.0 Objectives

4.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are:

- i) To ensure that any archaeological features exposed during the ground works are recorded and interpreted to an acceptable standard.
- ii) To ensure that the significant discoveries of artefacts are recorded and analysed to an acceptable standard

4.2 Should extensive remains be identified a review meeting will be held between the site engineer, archaeological project manager and Cambria Archaeology - Heritage Management (as regional archaeological curator) to agree an appropriate sampling strategy.

4.4 The contractor should be aware that a watching brief is designed to minimise disruption to the proposed development whilst examining and recording archaeological evidence. A watching brief is also designed to minimise the cost implications of archaeology on development.

5.0 Requirements

5.1 The project must be undertaken by an archaeological team/contractor of recognised competence, fully experienced in work of this character and acknowledged by CA-HM, advisors to Carmarthenshire County Council. Details, including the name, qualifications and experience of the project director and all other key project personnel (including specialist staff) will be communicated to CA-HM as part of a project specification. The contractor will be expected to produce a reasonably detailed project specification although a full programme of works will not be required.

This specification must:

1. be supported by a research design which sets out the site specific objectives of the archaeological works.
2. Detail the proposed works as precisely as is reasonably possible, indicating clearly on plan their location and extent.
3. Provide a timetable for the proposed works including a safety margin in the event of bad weather or any other unforeseen circumstances that may effect this time-tabling.

5.2 The archaeological project manager must satisfy themselves that all constraints to groundworks have been identified, including the siting of live services, drainage pipework, Tree Preservation Orders and public footpaths. CA-HM takes no responsibility for the inclusion or exclusion of such information within this brief.

5.3 Human remains must be left in situ, covered and protected when discovered. No further investigation should normally be permitted and CA-HM and the local Coroner must be informed immediately. If removal is essential it can only take place under the appropriate Home Office and Environmental Health regulations.

5.4 All aspects of the Watching brief shall be conducted in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologist's Code of Conduct and the IFA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations.

5.5 Arrangements of the long term storage and deposition of all artefacts must be agreed with the landowner and CA-HM before the commencement of fieldwork.

5.6 The site archive should conform to the National Monuments Record (Wales) agreed structure (guidelines available) and be deposited within an approved store (normally this will be the appropriate local museum and/or NMR) on completion of site analysis and report production.

5.7 A full report of the results should be prepared and presented to CA-HM within 6 weeks of the completion of site works. The report must include the following:-

1. A concise non-technical summary of the project results.
2. Location plan of trenches and other fieldwork in relation to the proposed development.
3. Where relevant, section and plan drawings showing depth of deposits including present ground level with Ordinance Datum, vertical and horizontal scale.
4. Written descriptions of all features and deposits revealed and investigated, and their considered interpretation.
5. Statement of the local and regional context of archaeological remains identified.
6. Full specialist descriptions of artefacts and ecofacts discoveries made during the works.
7. A model detailing surviving archaeological deposits.

5.8 In addition two copies of the final report should be provided for the Sites and Monuments Record

5.9 CA-HM is responsible for monitoring all archaeological work within Carmarthenshire. The contractor must inform CA-HM in writing detailing proposed start dates for the project. Once notified a Project Record Number will be allocated prior to on site work commencing, to be used in all site records.

5.10 Any changes to the specification that the contractor may wish to make after approval should be communicated to the CA-HM and approved on behalf of the Carmarthenshire County Council.

5.11 CA-HM should be kept regularly informed about development both during the site works and subsequent post-excavation work.

As part of our desire to provide a quality service to all our clients we would welcome any comments you may have on the content or presentation of this design brief. Please address them to the author below.

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APPENDIX 2: CATALOGUE OF WATCHING BRIEF ARCHIVE

The project archive has been indexed and catalogued according to National Monument Record (NMR) categories and contains the following:

- A. Copy of final report.
- B. Site records, including context record sheets and site notebook.
- C. Drawing catalogue and site drawings.
- D. Site photographs - catalogue, colour slide and B/W contact sheets.
- G. List of references, including primary and secondary sources.
- I. Archive report and draft copies of final report.
- J. Publication drawings.
- M. Miscellaneous correspondence.

There is no material in categories E, F, H, K, L and N.

The archive is currently held by Cambria Archaeology Field Operations, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, as project record number 42679 .

**FIGURE 1: LOCATION OF DAWN PAC FACTORY ON
ORDNANCE SURVEY 1965, 1:10560**

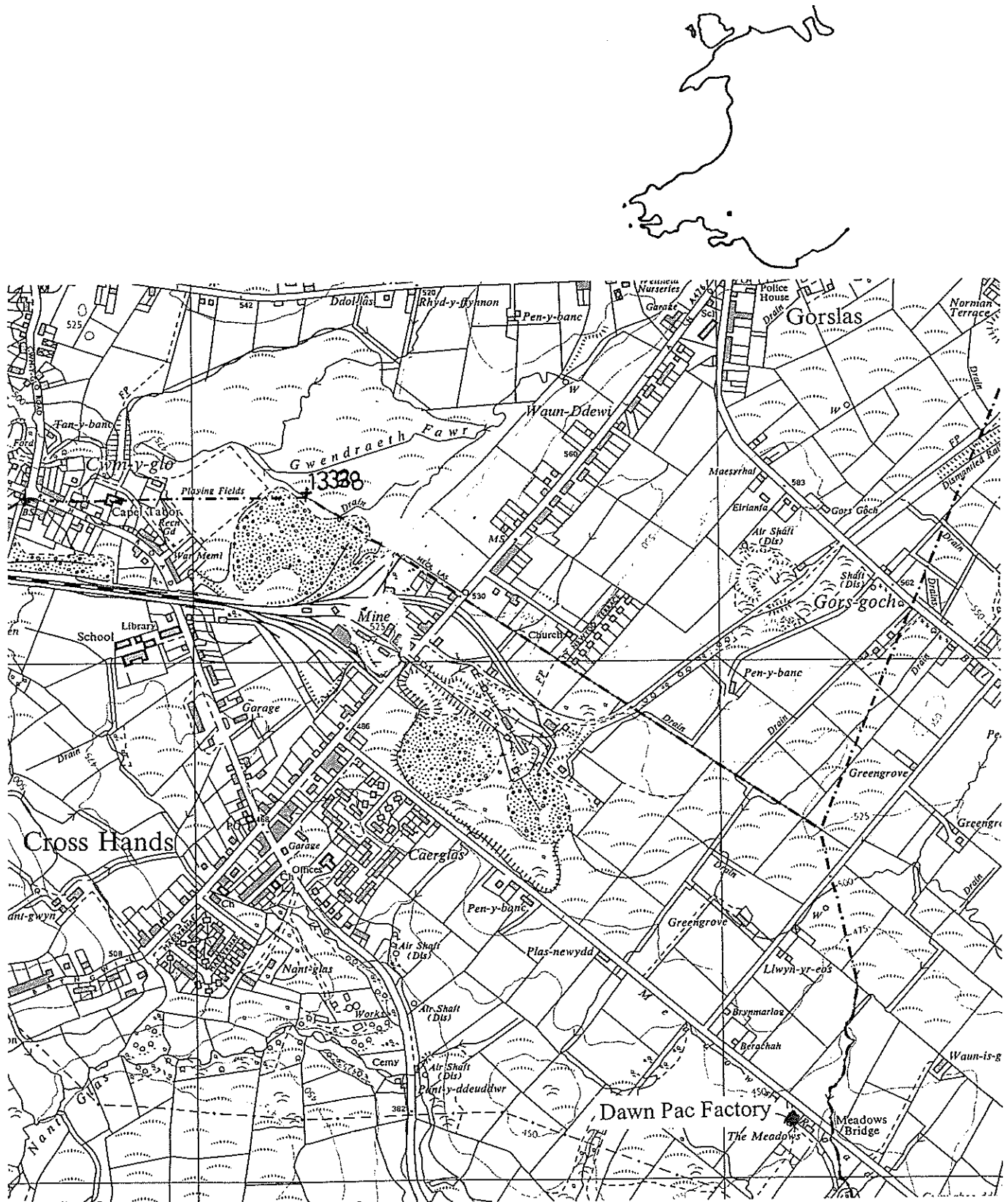


FIGURE 2: APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF FEATURES

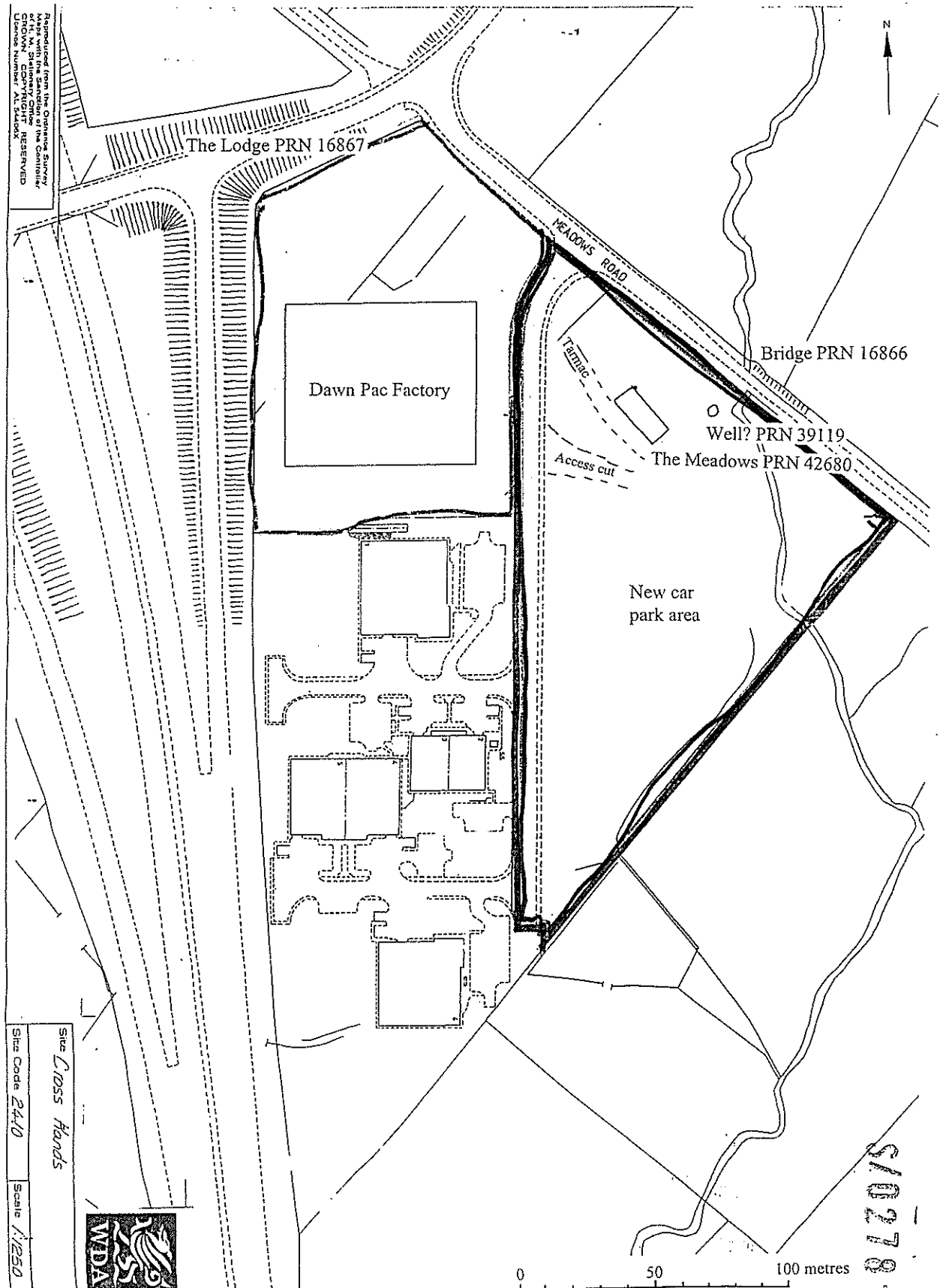


FIGURE 3: LLANON PARISH 1841: TITHE MAP

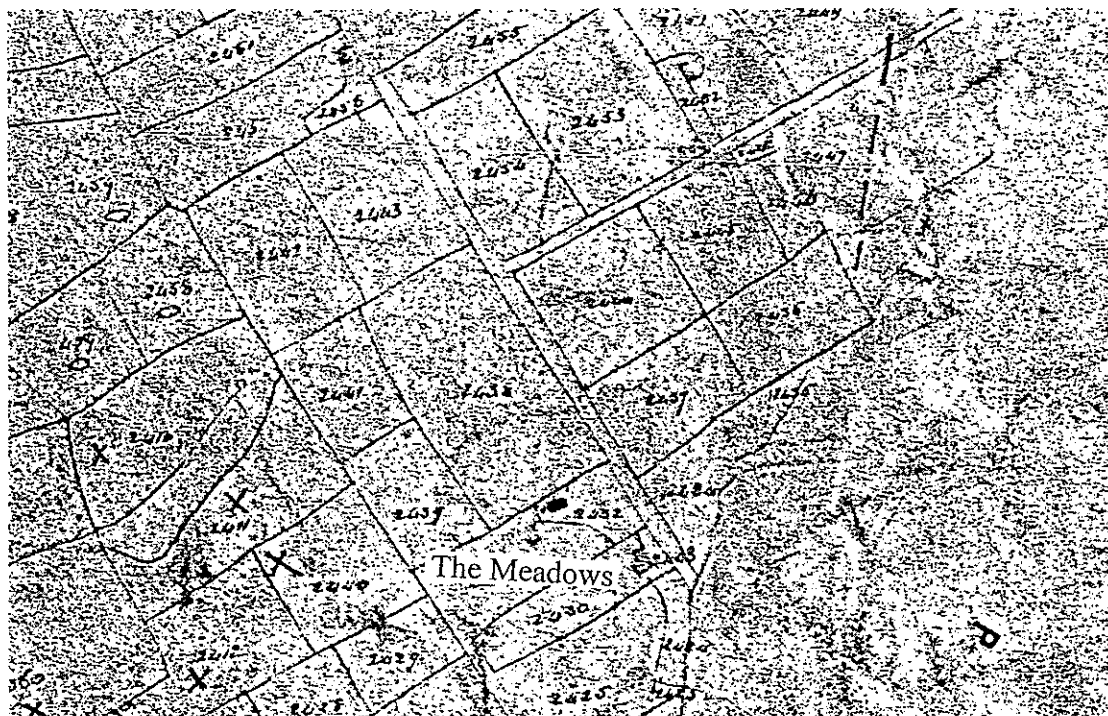
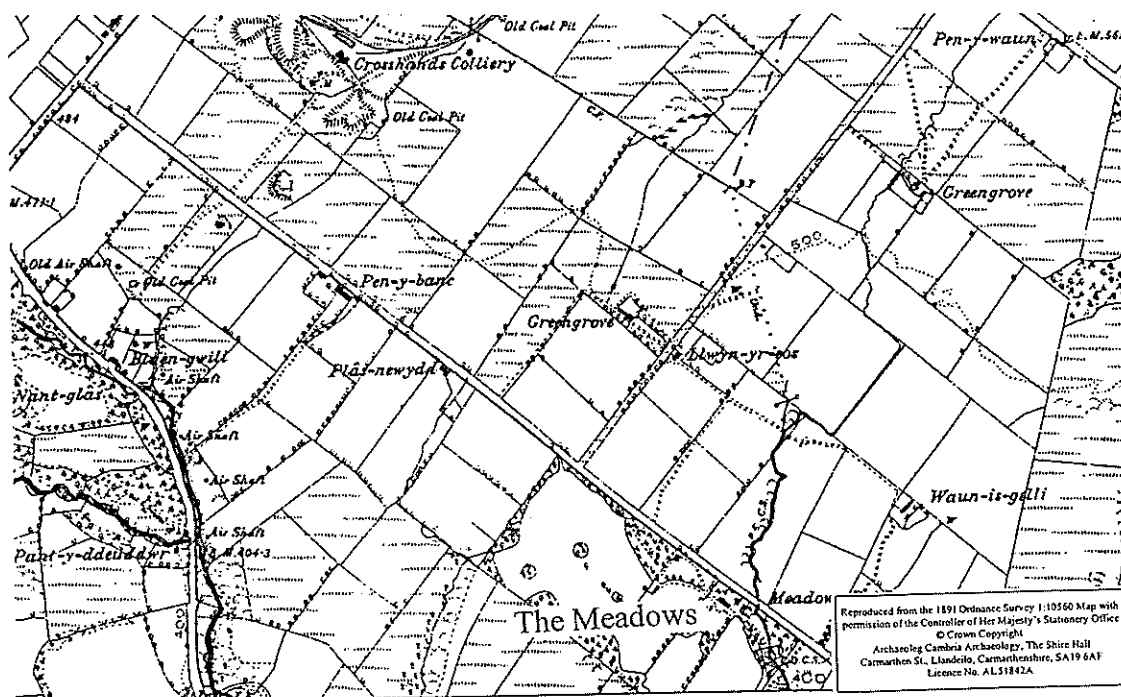


FIGURE 4: ORDNANCE SURVEY FIRST EDITION 1891, 1:10560



**FIGURE 5: ORDNANCE SURVEY SECOND EDITION 1907,
1:10560**

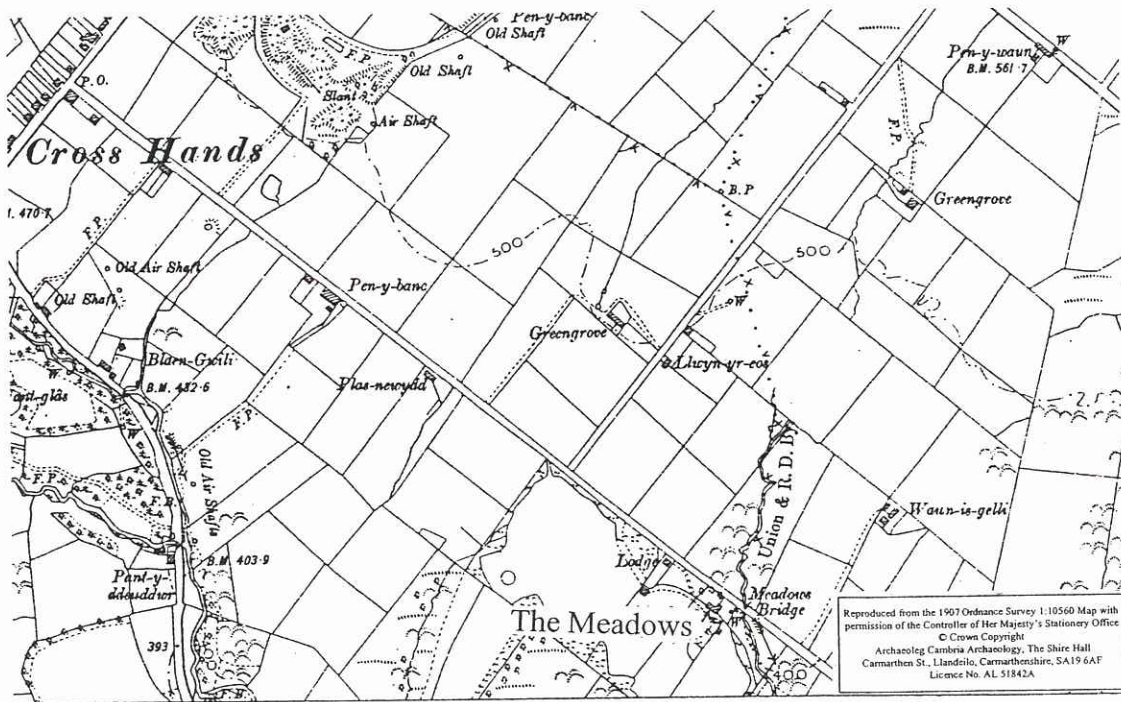
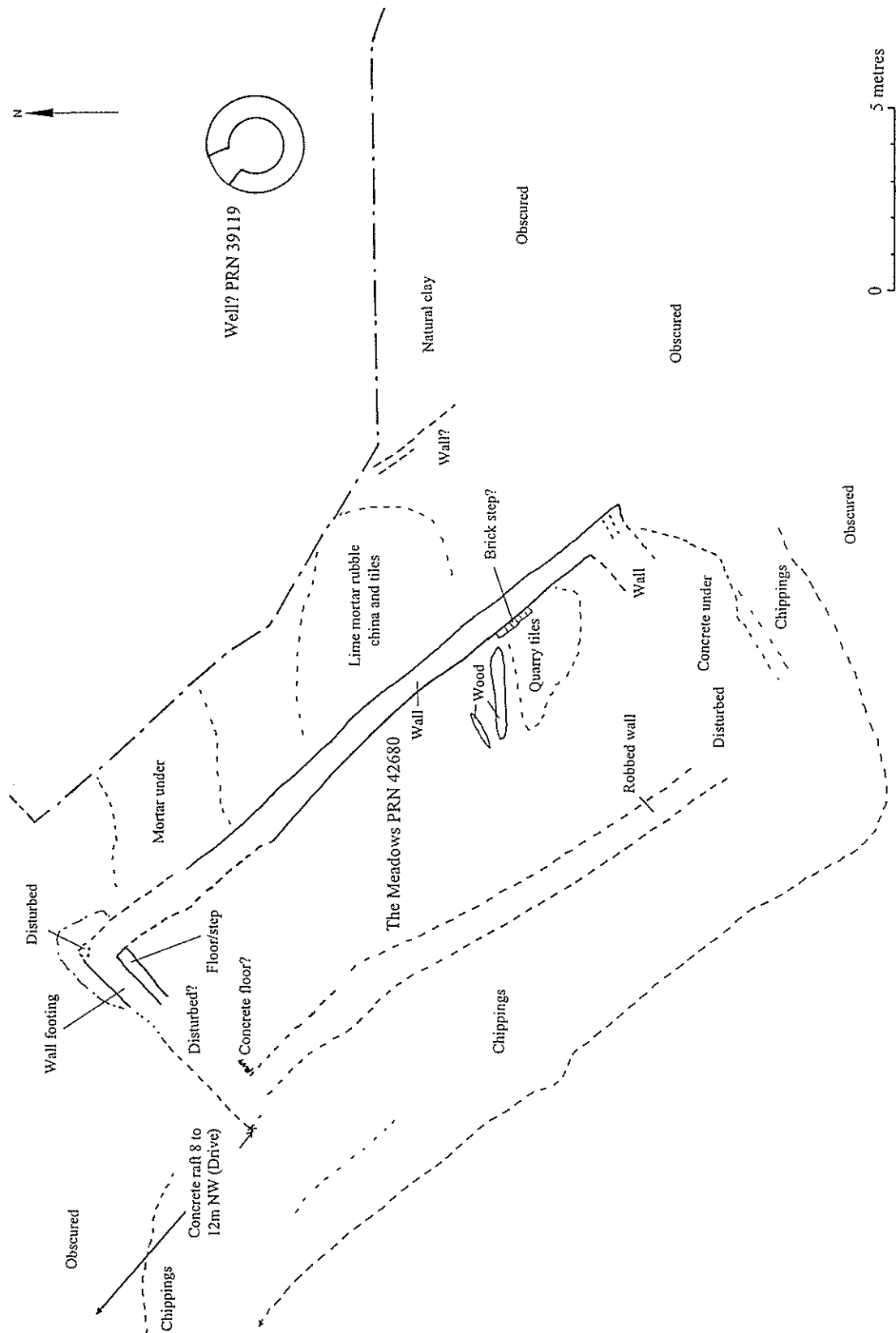


FIGURE 6: HOUSE SITE



View NW, 1 metre rods at corners

FIGURE 7: HOUSE PLAN AS SEEN




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NEW CAR PARK AND ACCESS ROAD FROM LLWYN YR EOS
APRIL 2001**

REPORT NUMBER 2001/40

JULY 2001


This report has been prepared by: Pete Crane

Position: Senior Archaeologist

Signature  Date 31/07/2001

This report has been checked and approved by Gwilym Hughes on behalf of Cambria
Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Position Trust Director

Signature  Date..... 31/07/01

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