

FRONDEG TERRACE, LLANELLI ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPRAISAL



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FRONDEG TERRACE, LLANELLI ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPRAISAL

Gan / By

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Cover photograph. Site of possible chapel looking northwest.

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SUMMARY

This archaeological desk-based appraisal of a proposed development at Frondeg Terrace, Llanelli, has demonstrated that there is an archaeological dimension to plans to develop the site. A site of a possible medieval chapel lies within the proposed development area and southern edge of the development area is wetland, which may contain palaeoenvironmental evidence.

INTRODUCTION

Cambria Archaeology has undertaken this desk-based archaeological assessment at the request of Chelmor Property Limited. Carmarthenshire County Council required this archaeological desk-based appraisal as the first stage of an evaluation of the potential impacts of a proposed development.

THE STUDY AREA

The proposed development lies to the south of Frondeg Terrace, Llanelli (centred on SN520005). Capel Isaf farmhouse (now just a house) fronts onto Frondeg Terrace with a converted outbuilding immediately to its west (the converted outbuilding is excluded from the development). The old farmyard lies to the south of the farmhouse, on the western side of which lies a now ruined mid 19th century stone-built barn. A now gone building formerly lay on the south side of the farmyard - this is labelled 'Chapel (remains of)' on modern 1:10,000 scale Ordnance Survey maps. The rest of the proposed development is fields and gardens. These are very overgrown with brambles, and virtually impenetrable. At the southern edge of the proposed development the brambles fade into wetland, including bulrush vegetation. Owing to problems of access because of the brambles this wetland area was not examined in detail.

METHODOLOGY

This is essentially a desk-based study. The following sources have been consulted:

The Regional Historic Environment Record housed with Cambria Archaeology.

Cartographic sources and other material held by Cambria Archaeology.

Databases compiled by the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales (RCAHMW) and Cadw.

Vertical and oblique aerial photographs held by Cambria Archaeology.

A site visit was undertaken:

Review the current state of archaeological features and deposits identified during the documentary research.

Identify new archaeological features and deposits, or areas that may contain them.

Carry out rapid recording of archaeological sites, features and deposits by photography, site notes and sketch plans, if required.

Assess the vulnerability of archaeological sites, features and deposits to the proposed redevelopment of the site.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

Prehistoric sites

There are no recorded prehistoric sites within 500m of the proposed development.

Roman sites

There are no recorded Roman sites within 500m of the proposed development.

Medieval sites

A possible chapel, Capel Gunlet or Capel Gwynllyw (Primary Record No. 692 on the Regional Historic Environment Record) lies within the proposed development area. See below for a detailed description.

Post-medieval sites

Chapels and other 19th - 20th century buildings are recorded within 500m of the development area. However, in this period the archaeological resource should be viewed as a landscape, rather than a series of individual sites.

The historic landscape

The historic landscape of the area of Frondeg Terrace has not been researched. However, some useful comments can be made from sources examined for this report.

The earliest large-scale map, dating to 1814 (Map 2), shows an agricultural landscape, with very little industrial development. Chapel Isaf farm is shown sitting in fields. Interestingly the map shows some strip-field cultivation, with the strips apparently not separated by hedges or other boundaries. This strip or open field system of cultivation originated in the medieval period, probably introduced by the Anglo-Normans in the 12th century, and the 1814 map captures the very end of it. By 1814 most of the strips had been amalgamated into larger fields and surrounded by hedges. When the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1880 was published this process of amalgamation had been completed. The 1880 (Map 3) map still shows an agricultural landscape, albeit one that was increasingly encroached upon by industrialisation and urbanisation. By 1907 these two processes had accelerated, and by 1916 many new houses had been constructed along Frondeg Terrace and neighbouring roads (Maps 4 and 5). The latter part of the 20th century was essentially one of shrinking industrialisation and expanding housing.

Palaeoenvironmental deposits

The southern edge of the proposed development site consists of wetland deposits. It was not possible to characterise these in this short report. It is understood that some palaeoenvironmental analysis of these deposits has been undertaken, but this has not been confirmed.

Designated sites

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments or Listed Buildings within the proposed development area.

Capel Gunlet or Capel Gwynllyw

The first known reference to Capel Gunlet or Capel Gwynllyw (PRN 692) dates to 1552 (Royal Commission, 1917, 119) when a 'chapel of saynt gwnlet' is mentioned. It was probably a chapel of ease within Llanelli parish located in the hamlet of Westfa. It is also recorded in a survey of Duchy of Lancaster lands in 1609-1613 (Rees 1953). This source was used by Rees to compile his map *Wales and the Borders in the 14th century*. Therefore Rees' map cannot be used to demonstrate the medieval origins of the chapel. Saxton marks 'Capel Gunllo' on his small-scale map of 1578 and Bowen's map of 1729 names 'Capel' and 'ruins of Gunenllo'. However, it is not until 1814 that any source definitely associates the chapel with a building at Capel Isaf farm. This map (Howell's Plan - Map 2)

clearly names a farm building as 'old Chapel'. Later Ordnance Survey maps name this building as the chapel.

The Royal Commission in 1917 (p119) recorded 'a white-washed wall, 6 feet in length, now part of the cow-house, traditionally said to be part of the vanished chapel.'. By 1967 no remains of the chapel were visible within the cow-house (Ordnance Survey record card), and by 1987 the building was very ramshackle but contained what seemed to be several phases of masonry, although nothing definitely ecclesiastical. By 2007, the building had been levelled and the area incorporated into the yard of Capel Isaf farm.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED SCHEME ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

A range of criteria has been used to consider the importance of the archaeological resource and the likely impacts on that resource in order to determine the significance of the impact and suggest possible mitigation measures.

Importance

The importance of all sites visited will be categorised according to the following criteria:

- A** - sites of national importance - usually Scheduled Ancient Monuments and listed buildings
- B** - sites of regional or county importance
- C** - sites of district or local importance
- D** - minor sites or sites so badly damaged that too little now remains to justify their inclusion in a higher grade
- E** - sites about which insufficient is known to assign them to a higher grade

Likely impacts

The likely physical impacts of the proposed road on each site have been assessed according to the following criteria:

- Total** - complete destruction of the site
- Very severe** - loss of most of the major components of a site
- Severe** - loss of some of the major components of a site
- Medium** - loss of some components of a site
- Slight** - some loss of some minor components of a site
- None**
- Beneficial**
- Unknown**

Impact assessment

<i>Site PRN</i>	<i>Importance</i>	<i>Likely Impact of The development</i>	<i>Recommendation for further work</i>
692	E	Unknown	Evaluation

RECOMMENDATIONS

An evaluation comprising six 10m x 2m machine excavated trenches is recommended in accordance with a written scheme of works submitted to the Chelmor Property Limited. The provisional layout of these trenches is shown on Map 6.

In addition it is recommended that during the evaluation the depth of any peats in the wetland part of the development is investigated and that the results of any previous analysis of these deposits sought.

Note: prior to evaluation the bramble vegetation will have to be cleared from the site.

SOURCES

Databases

The Regional Sites and Monuments Record, housed with Cambria Archaeology

CARN - Core Archaeological Record Index hosted by the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales

Maps

Bowen E 1729, *Map of South Wales*

Howell's Plan 1814 Plan 9 Llanelli Public Library

Ordnance Survey 1880 1st Edition 1:2500

Ordnance Survey 1907 2nd Edition 1:2500

Ordnance Survey 1916 3rd Edition 1:2500

Rees W 1932 *Wales and the Borders in the 14th Century*

Saxton C 1578 *Radnorshire, Brecknockshire, Cardiganshire and Carmarthenshire*

Aerial photographs

106G/UK/1629 2156-57 8 July 1946

Unpublished sources

Ordnance Survey Record Card SN 50 SW 3

Published sources

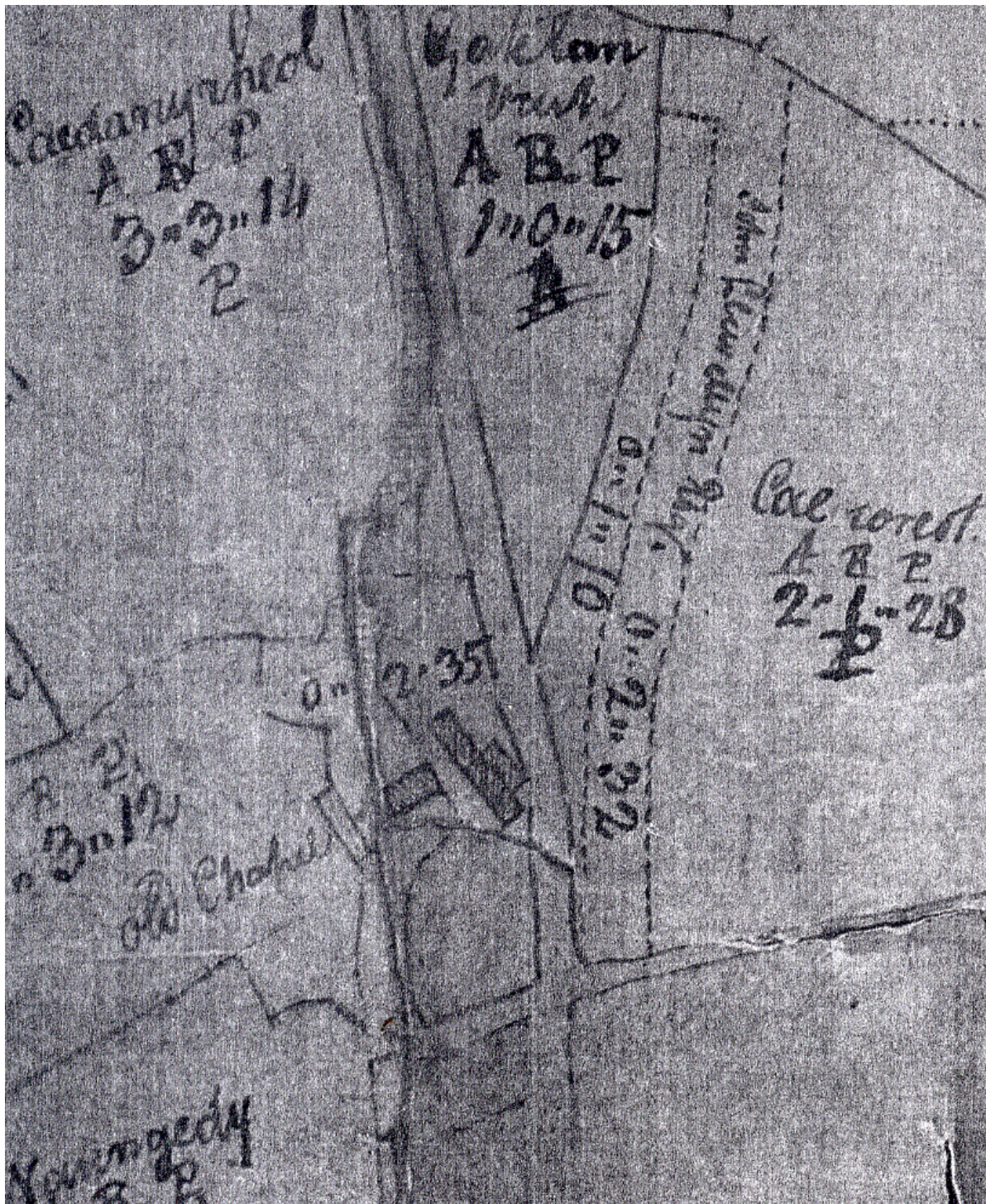
Rees W 1953 *A Survey of the Duchy of Lancaster Lordships in Wales 1609-1613*

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments and Constructions in Wales and Monmouthshire 1917 *V. County of Carmarthen*

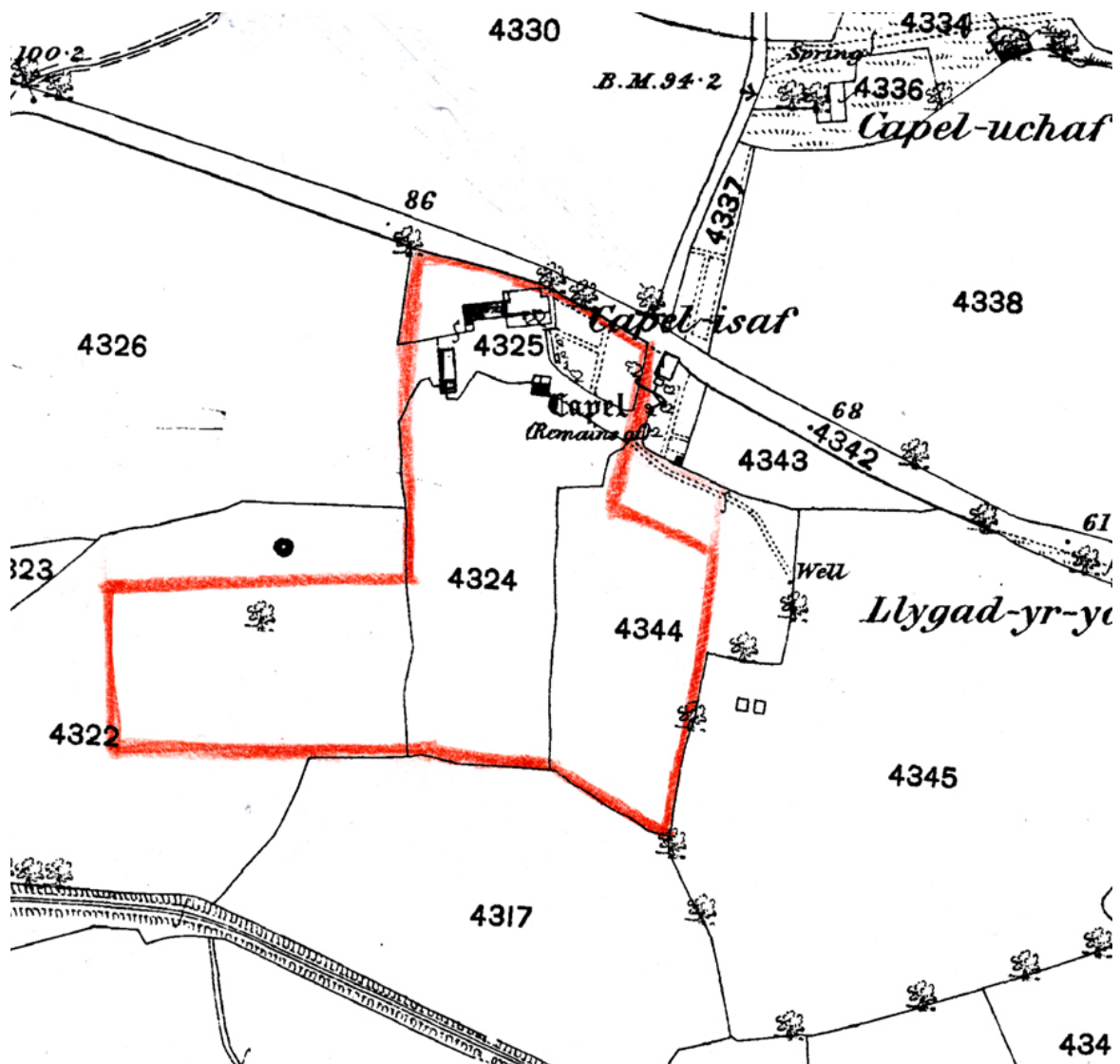


Map 1. Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey.

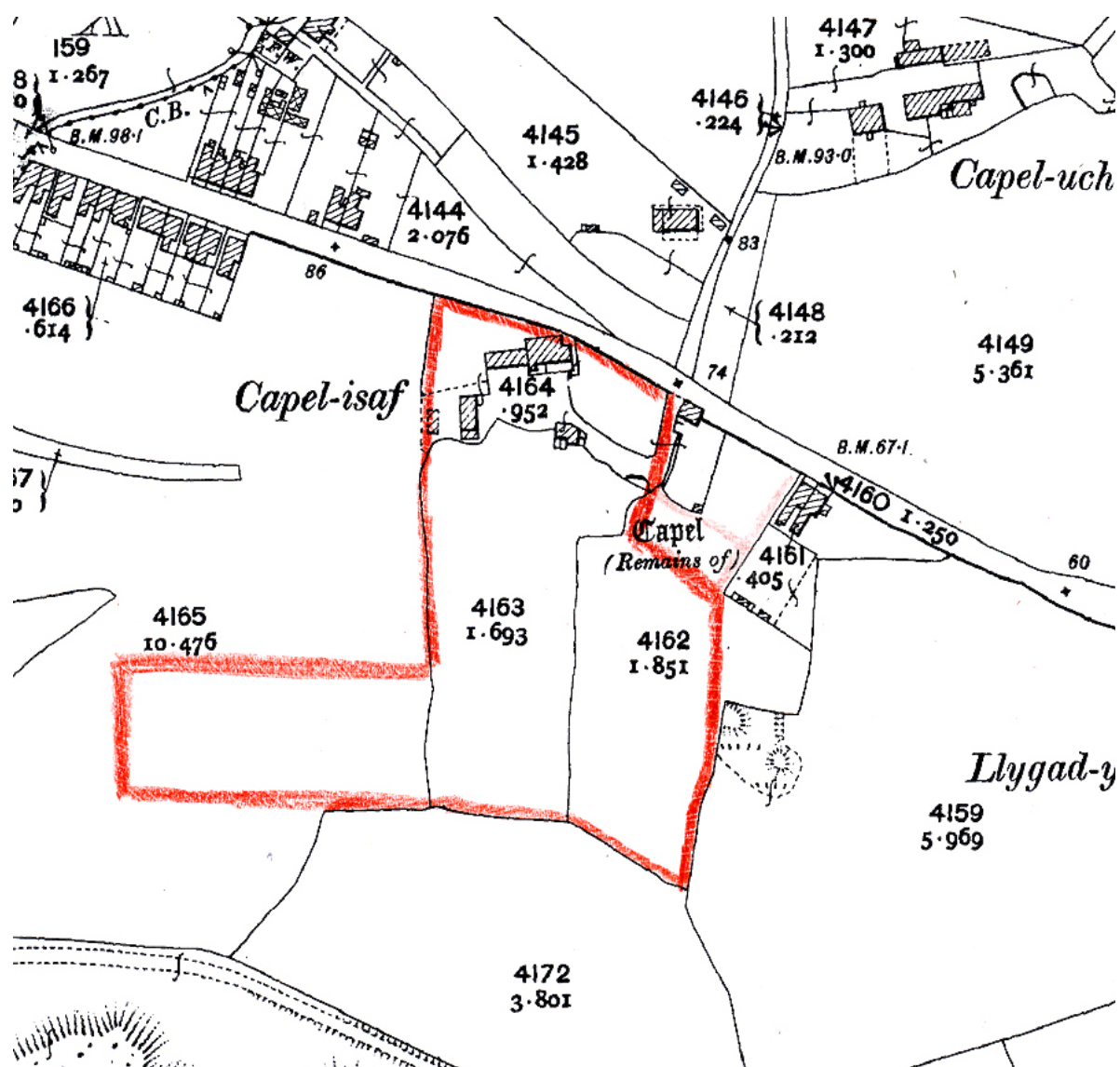
Reproduced from the 1995 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Cambria Archaeology, The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A



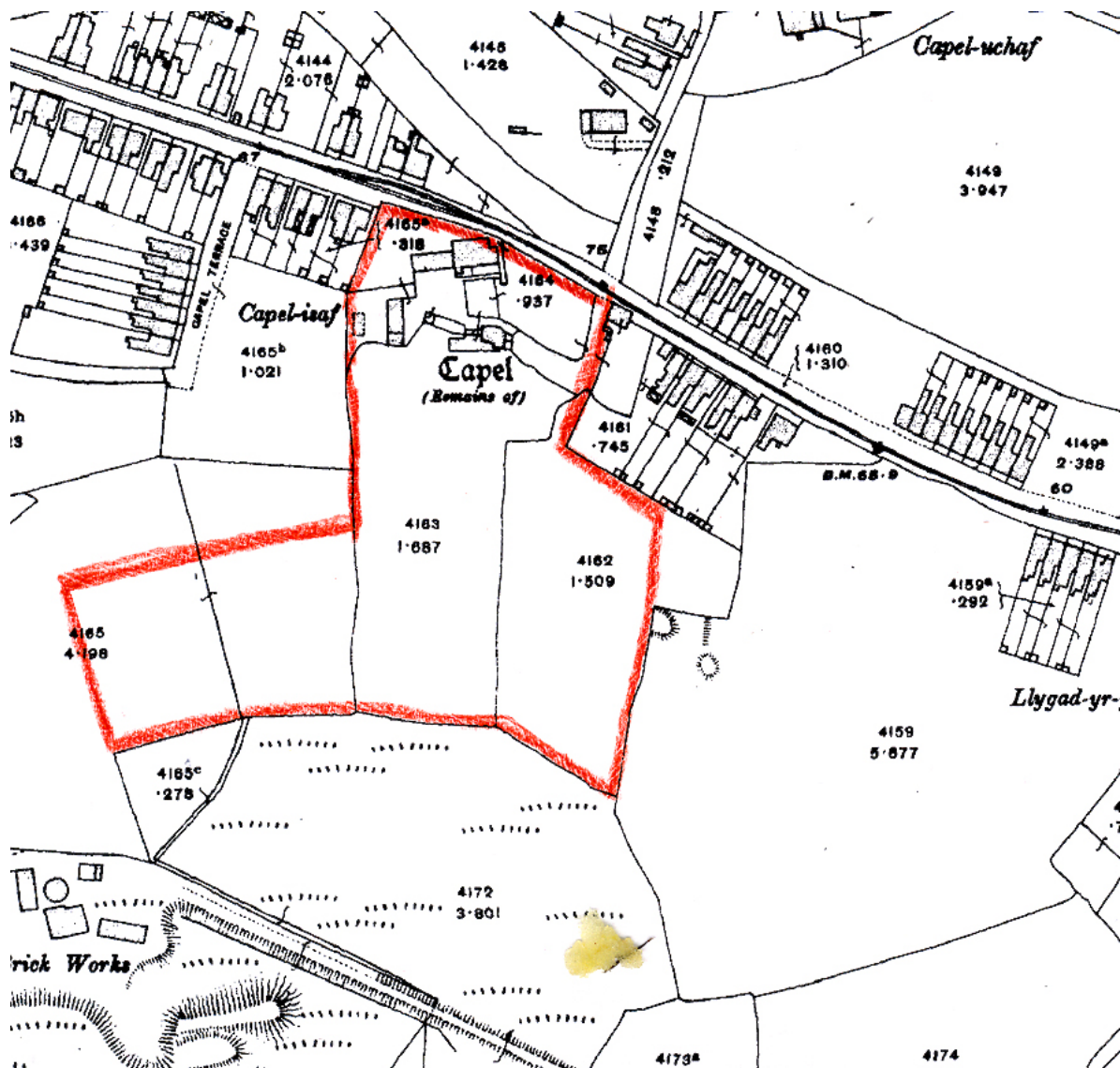
Map 2. Extract from the 1814 'Howell's Plan'



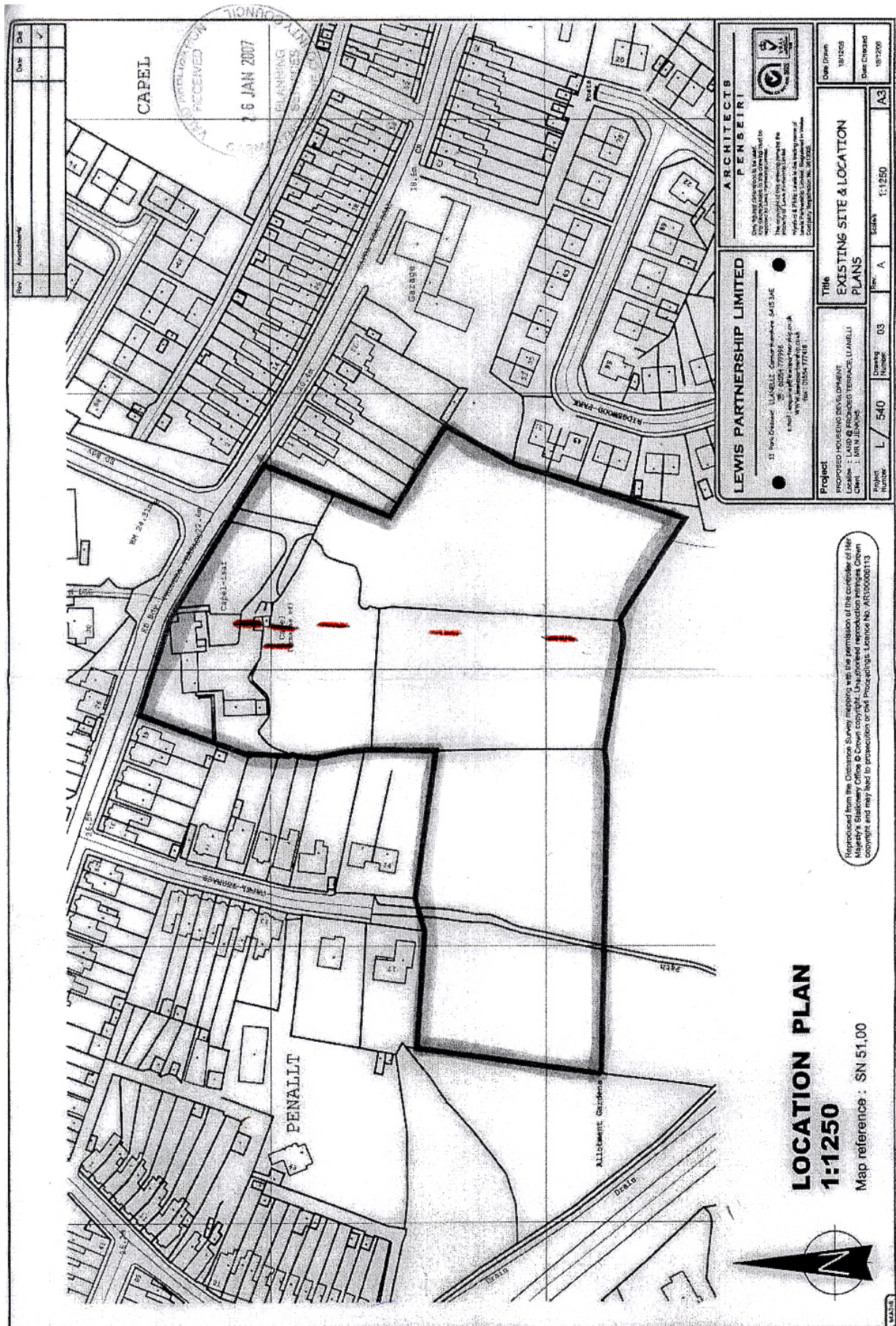
Map 3. Extract from the 1880 Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1:2500 map



Map 4. Extract from the 1907 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:2500 map



Map 5. Extract from the 1916 Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition 1:2500 map



Map 6. Location of proposed evaluation trenches



Photo 1. Looking west over site of possible chapel.

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Paratowyd yr adroddiad hwn gan / This report has been prepared by K Murphy

Swydd / Position: Principal Archaeologist

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

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

ar ran Archaeoleg Cambria, Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf.
on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd.

Swydd / Position: Director

Llofnod / Signature Dyddiad / Date

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

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