

# **LLANSADWRN, CARMARTHENSHIRE, LAND FORMERLY PART OF HEDDFRYN: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**



Prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust  
For: Harold Metcalfe Partnership



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## DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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# LLANSADWRN, CARMARTHENSHIRE, LAND FORMERLY PART OF HEDDFRYN: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

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## **LLANSADWRN, CARMARTHENSHIRE, LAND FORMERLY PART OF HEDDFRYN: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION.**

### **Summary**

*A planning application (application number E/18750) was submitted proposing to build three new houses and a private drive on a plot of land in the village of Llansadwrn, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 6949 3151).*

*The proposed development site lies within the medieval settlement of Llansadwrn and is located immediately to the northwest of St Sadwrn's parish church (PRN 1903) and its associated churchyard (PRN 49301). The potential for the presence of significant archaeological features in such a location is high.*

*In order to protect the potential archaeological interests Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management, as advisors to the Planning Department of Pembrokeshire County Council, recommended that a predetermination archaeological evaluation condition be attached to the planning application following a geophysical survey of the proposed development site.*

*Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services were commissioned to carry out the archaeological evaluation, and four trial trenches were excavated in order to assess the character and extent of significant archaeological features and deposits on the site.*

*The archaeological evaluation returned positive results in the four trenches excavated. Trenches 1 and 4 revealed archaeological features of post medieval date that were not deemed to be of significance. Trench 2 also revealed post medieval features in the form of a possible field boundary and drainage ditch. Toward the northwest end of Trench 2 a further possible boundary was encountered but it was not possible to ascribe a date. A continuation of this possible boundary was identified in Trench 3.*

*Trench 3 also revealed the possible foundation trenches for a likely rectangular timber building along with a further isolated posthole, although no date could be ascribed to these features. In addition to the possible foundation trenches and posthole a possible drainage gully was identified. This appears to have been cut by the boundary ditch and foundation trenches, indicating it was the earliest feature identified in the trench.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Project Commission**

A planning application (application number E/18750) was submitted proposing to build three new houses and a private drive on a plot of land in the village of Llansadwrn, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN 6949 3151; Figures 1, 2 and 3).

The proposed development site lies within the medieval settlement of Llansadwrn and is located immediately to the northwest of St Sadwrn's parish church (PRN 1903) and its associated churchyard (PRN 49301). The site location is thus in an area where there is a high potential for the presence of associated significant archaeological features.

Given the site location, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management, as advisors to the Planning Department of Carmarthenshire County Council, recommended that an archaeological condition, in the form of a predetermination archaeological evaluation, be attached to the planning application in order to assess the presence, character and extent of any archaeological features or deposits within the proposed development area.

To comply with the condition Harold Metcalfe Partnership commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to carry out the archaeological evaluation in February 2009.

### **Scope of the Project**

The evaluation has been designed to provide information on the character, extent, date, state of preservation and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the site area, in order that an assessment of the impact from the development proposals on any remains can be determined. The results of the evaluation will be used to inform the scope of any further required archaeological works required in mitigation of the development impacts.

### **Report Outline**

This report describes the location of the site along with its archaeological background, summarises the potential impacts of the proposed development before providing a summary and discussion of the archaeological evaluation and its results.

### **Abbreviations**

Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record<sup>1</sup> (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

### **Illustrations**

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

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

## THE SITE

### Location

The proposed Llansadwrn development site occupies c.0.36ha (c.0.9 acres) of farmland and former playground area centred on NGR SN 6949 3151 (Figures 1, 2 and 3). The site is defined to the southeast by a hedged trackway around the boundary of St Sadwrn's church; to the southwest by property boundaries including part of that around Heddfryn; to the northeast by a fenceline boundary to Capel Ebenezer; and is currently unbounded to the northwest (although it lies within a field enclosed by hedge banks; Figure 2).

Topographically the site slopes gently to the southeast towards St Sadwrn's churchyard with views across the Towy valley to the hills and mountains beyond. The field currently lies under pasture with water collecting in the lower southeastern corner. A former playground occupies the southwestern corner, which is now an area of rough ground surrounded by a post and wire fence. There is a gated access to the site from the Chapel and farmyard to the northeast.

The solid geology is represented by sedimentary rocks from the Caradoc-Ashgill series of the Ordovician epoch (c.450 to 442 million years ago). This appears to be overlain by clays in this area (British Geological Survey, 1994).

### Archaeological Background

The medieval parish church of St Sadwrn (PRN 1903) and its associated churchyard (PRN 49301) are located immediately to the southeast of the proposed development site.

Nothing is known of the early history of the church, but the dedication to St Sadwrn, former knight and brother of St Illtyd, suggests a pre Anglo-Norman conquest foundation (which could potentially date from as early as the 6<sup>th</sup> century AD). In the post Anglo-Norman conquest period (some time during the 12<sup>th</sup> century) the church was originally a chapelry of the medieval Deanery of Stradtowy and not a parish church. The benefice, along with a further chapelry at nearby Llanwrda was conferred upon the Premonstratensian Canons of Talley Abbey by Rhys ap Gruffydd in 1176. When Talley Abbey was dissolved in 1536 it is unclear what happened to Llansadwrn church but by 1539 it appears to have become a parish church as it is described as '*rectoria de Llansadurne cum capella de Llanurda*' (Murphy, 2003).

The layout of any medieval settlement and early post medieval settlement at Llansadwrn is little understood at present but it is likely the church would have formed the nucleus for any such settlement. It is likely that any settlement may have extended around the church.

In 1830 the Ebenezer Chapel was constructed to the northeast of the proposed development site. The field boundaries of the proposed development area were in place by 1839 (Figure 4). In addition to the field boundaries an enclosure containing a range of structures is depicted in the northeast part of the proposed development area. The accompanying Apportionment to the Tithe Map records the structures as 'Sundry Cottages and Gardens' both owned and occupied by David Williams (Figure 4).

It is known that in 1875 the Ebenezer Chapel was rebuilt, but it is unclear whether the cottages were still in existence at this time as no maps were

available for this period. By the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 the cottages appear to have been demolished with only the enclosure boundary in which they once stood remaining (Figure 5). The proposed development area is unchanged on the Ordnance Survey map of 1906 (Figure 6).

By the time of the archaeological evaluation the enclosure boundary had been removed (Figure 2). However, a low L-shaped earthwork c.0.2m high was visible that appeared to correspond closely to the line of this former enclosure boundary and the range of cottages. An oblique aerial photograph of the area (DAT AP84 – 17.30, not illustrated) shows the area of the proposed development site, but no distinct earthworks are easily identifiable.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

### Methodology

Prior to the commencement of the trial trench evaluation a geophysical survey was undertaken by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services, the results of which were summarised within a short report prepared following the survey (Appendix 1).

Agreement was initially made between Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services and Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management, acting as advisors to the Local Planning Authority, for the machine excavation of three trenches of varying length. The trenches were positioned to target the results of the geophysical survey undertaken across the proposed development site (Figure 7; Appendix 1). Trench 1 was to measure 30m by 2m close to the church boundary, Trench 2 was to measure 40m by 2m and run at right angles to Trench 1, and Trench 3 was to measure 10m by 2m to investigate a specific geophysical anomaly.

Following excavation the trenches were hand cleaned where necessary to determine the presence or absence of any archaeological features or deposits. A site visit was made by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management and following discussions with the client Trench 3 was enlarged and a fourth trench was machine excavated.

Sufficient excavation was undertaken to determine the character of archaeological deposits within each evaluation trench to enable appropriate mitigation to be determined through consultation with the regional archaeological curator and the client.

### Results

#### Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned northeast-southwest and measured 29m x 1.8m and excavated to an average depth of 0.25m (Figures 2 and 8; Photo 1). This trench was located close to the current boundary of St Sadwrn's church in an attempt to pick up any remains of settlement surrounding the church in this area.

Within the trench an undated boundary ditch was revealed, aligned northwest-southeast [104], which had the remains of a former hedgebank on its southeastern side [105]. Two field drains were also recorded crossing the trench [106] which would be of post medieval or later date.

The trench partially filled with water soon after initial investigation and recording.

**Table 1:** Table of context descriptions from Trench 1

Context no.	Description	Depth
Layer 100	Topsoil. Deep dark grey-brown silty-clay of friable compaction containing rare small sub-angular stones.	0.14m
Layer 101	Subsoil. Deep mid grey-brown silty-clay of moderate compaction containing rare small sub-angular stone and rare charcoal flecks.	0.19m
Layer 102	Natural. Firm mid yellow-brown clay of firm compaction containing occasional small to medium sub-angular stone.	0.02m (min)

Layer 103	Fill of boundary ditch. Firm mid grey-brown silty-clay containing occasional small to medium sub-angular stone. Post medieval pottery and a single piece of slag recovered. Partially excavated.	0.3m
Layer 104	Boundary ditch. 1.84m wide northwest - southeast aligned linear cut with a depth of 0.3m. Moderately sloping sides with concave u-shaped base. Full extent of feature unknown as it continued beneath sides of evaluation trench.	0.3m
Layer 105	Hedgebank. c.1.5m wide with a visible length of 1.8m and aligned northwest - southeast consisting of a firm mid yellow-brown clay containing rare medium sub-angular stone.	
Layer 106	Field drain. c.0.35m wide with a visible length of 1.8m and aligned northwest - southeast. Feature not excavated.	Not excavated

## Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 37m x 1.8m with an average depth of 0.48m and was aligned northwest - southeast (Figure 2 and 9; Photos 2 - 5). Trench 2 was located to investigate the visible earthwork remains within the proposed development site, as well as investigating an area of activity shown on the parish tithe map of 1839.

A continuation of the boundary ditch identified in trench 1 [104] was revealed running along the north-eastern side of the trench [204], [206] along with a possible drainage ditch [209] which were of probable post medieval date (Photo 4). At the northwest end of the trench a further possible boundary ditch aligned northeast-southwest was revealed [211] (Photo 5), a single piece of slag was recovered from the fill of the feature but no dating evidence was found.

Sections of features investigated within Trench 3 are shown on Figure 11.

**Table 2:** Table of context descriptions from Trench 2

Context no.	Description	Depth
Layer 200	Topsoil. Friable dark grey-brown silty-clay containing rare small sub-angular stone.	0.2m
Layer 201	Subsoil. Friable mid grey-brown silty-clay containing occasional small sub-angular stone and charcoal flecks.	0.26m
Layer 202	Natural. Firm mid yellow-brown clay containing occasional small sub-angular stone.	0.02m (min)
Layer 203	Fill of boundary ditch [204] Firm mid grey-brown silty-clay containing moderate small sub-angular stone.	0.42m
Layer [204]	Boundary ditch (part of 206). Aligned northwest - southeast 0.64m wide with a depth of 0.42m linear cut with shallow sloping sides and concave U- shaped base. 1.34m long section excavated.	0.42m
Layer 205	Fill of drainage ditch. A firm mid grey-brown silty-clay with a depth of 0.29m and containing rare small to medium sub-angular stone.	0.29m
Layer [206]	Boundary ditch (forms part of 204). Aligned northwest - southeast a 0.64m wide, 0.29m deep linear, running parallel with 204. Sides of feature moderately sloping with a concave U-shaped base. 1.34m long section excavated.	0.29m
Layer 207	Fill of boundary ditch [206] Firm mid grey-brown silty-clay containing rare small to medium sub-angular stone	

Layer 208	Fill of drainage ditch [209] Firm mid grey-brown silty-clay containing rare small sub-angular stone. One post medieval clay tobacco pipe stem recovered.	0.19m
Layer [209]	Cut of drainage ditch (forms part of 206). 0.44m wide x 0.19m deep northwest – southeast aligned linear with moderately sloping sides and concave U-shaped base.	0.19m
Layer 210	Fill of boundary ditch [211]. Firm mid grey-brown silty-clay containing rare small to medium sub-angular stone, rare charcoal flecks. One piece of slag recovered.	0.2m
Layer [211]	Boundary ditch. 0.91m wide with a depth of 0.2m and visible length of 1.8m a northeast – southwest aligned linear. Probably forms part of boundary 314. .	0.2m

### Trench 3

Trench 3 was aligned northwest – southeast, originally measured 13.3m x 1.8m and was excavated to a depth of 0.37m (Figure 10; Plates 6-18). This trench was positioned to investigate a curvilinear feature identified through the geophysical survey that appeared to mirror the line of the church boundary.

This revealed a number of archaeological features. Following a site visit by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management the trench was widened to 3.6m.

A single possible posthole was identified in the southeast corner of the trench [304] (photo 7) from which no dating evidence was retrieved. In addition to the possible posthole possible foundation trenches for a building [306], [308], [310] and [312] were revealed but again it was not possible to assign a date to them given that no finds were made (Photos 8-12).

A possible drainage gully [326], [316] was also identified running broadly northwest–south east (Photos 13, 17 and 18) . This possible gully appeared to be the earliest feature encountered as it was truncated by the possible foundation trench and a northeast – south west boundary ditch [318], [314] (Photo 14 and 15) that appears to be a continuation of that encountered in trench 2 [211].

Sections of features investigated within Trench 3 are shown on Figures 12 and 13.

**Table 3:** Table of context descriptions from Trench 3

Context no.	Description	Depth
Layer 300	Topsoil. Friable mid brown silty-clay containing rare small sub-angular stone and rare charcoal flecks.	0.16m
Layer 301	Subsoil. Mid brown firm silty-clay containing occasional small sub-angular stone and rare charcoal flecks.	0.13m
Layer 302	Natural. Firm mid yellow-brown clay containing rare small to medium sub-angular stone.	0.08m (min)
Layer 303	Fill of posthole.(?) [304] Friable mid grey-brown silty-clay containing occasional charcoal flecks.	0.08m
Layer [304]	Posthole (?) Sub-circular 0.35m long 0.08m deep cut with a visible width of 0.19m due to it continuing beyond edge of evaluation trench. Cut had moderately sloping sides and concave U-shaped base.	0.08m
Layer 305	Fill of foundation trench (?) [306] Firm dark grey-brown silty-clay containing rare small sub-angular stone and rare charcoal flecks.	0.19m



Layer [306]	Foundation trench (?). L-shaped feature with a maximum length of 2.1m axis. 0.6m long section excavated revealing a 0.42m wide x 0.19m deep profile with steep sloping sides, concave U-shaped base and rounded terminal.	0.19m
Layer 307	Fill of foundation trench (?) [308]. Firm dark grey-brown silty-clay containing rare small sub-angular stone and rare charcoal fleck (same as 305).	0.08m
Layer [308]	Foundation trench (?). L-shaped 0.47m wide possible foundation trench with a depth of 0.08m. Moderately sloping sides with concave U-shaped base and square terminal. 0.92m long section excavated. (forms part of 306).	0.08m
Layer 309	Fill of foundation trench (?) [310]. Firm dark grey-brown silty-clay containing rare small to medium sub-angular stone and rare charcoal flecks.	0.05m
Layer [310]	Foundation trench (?). Sub-rectangular 1.26m x 0.49m pit with a depth of 0.05m. Side of pit were moderately sloping with a shallow concave U-shaped base. 0.72m wide section excavated.	0.05m
Layer 311	Fill of pit [312]. Firm mid grey-brown silty-clay containing rare charcoal fleck and rare small sub-angular stone.	0.19m
Layer [312]	Pit. Sub-oval 0.4m x 0.39m cut with a depth of 0.19m. Steep sloping sides with concave U-shaped base.	0.19m
Layer 313	Fill of boundary ditch [314] (same as 317). Firm mid grey-brown silty-clay containing rare charcoal flecks.	0.2m
Layer [314]	Boundary ditch. Linear cut aligned northeast – southwest measuring 0.89m x 0.2m deep. Sides of feature moderately sloping sides and concave U-shaped base. Full extent of feature unknown as it continued beyond both sides of trench. Cut forms part of boundary ditch 318 and appears to be a continuation of 211.	0.2m
Layer 315	Fill of drainage gully [316] (?). Firm mid grey-brown silty-clay containing no visible inclusions.	0.2m
Layer [316]	Drainage gully (?). Northeast – southwest aligned gully 0.33m wide with a depth of 0.2m. Sides of gully moderately sloping to V-shaped base. Full extent of gully unknown as it continued beneath sides of evaluation trench. Gully appeared to have been cut by foundation trench 310 and boundary ditch 313.	0.2m
Layer 317	Fill of boundary ditch [318] (same as 313). Firm mid grey-brown silty-clay containing rare charcoal flecks.	0.25m
Layer [318]	Boundary ditch. 0.73m wide with a depth of 0.25m a northeast – southwest aligned linear. Sides of feature moderately sloping sides and concave U-shaped base. Full extent of feature unknown as it continued beyond both sides of trench. Cut forms part of boundary ditch 314 and appears to be a continuation of 211.	0.25m
Layer 319	Fill of field drain [320] Fill of modern field drain containing large sub-angular stone.	0.22m
Layer [320]	Field Drain Modern field drain. Visible length of 3.6m with a depth of 0.22m and width of 0.4m. Drain appears to cut boundary ditch sections 314 and 318.	0.22m
Layer 321	Fill of drainage gully [322] (?). Firm mid grey-brown silty-clay containing occasional charcoal flecks.	0.1m
Layer [322]	Drainage gully (?). Linear feature with a width of 0.32m and depth of 0.1m. Sides moderately sloping with concave U-shaped base.	0.1m
Layer 323	Not used	
Layer 324	Not used	
Layer 325	Fill of drainage gully [326] (?). Friable mid brown silty-clay containing rare charcoal flecks and rare small sub-angular stone.	0.1m
Layer [326]	Drainage gully (?). Aligned northwest – southeast an irregular 0.53m wide 0.1m deep	0.1m

	linear. A 0.94m long section excavated.	
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#### **Trench 4**

Trench 4 was aligned northeast – southwest and measured 6.6m x 1.8m and excavated to a depth of 0.61m (Figure 2; Photos 19 and 20). This trench was positioned to investigate further the area of ‘cottages’ as depicted on the parish tithe map of 1839.

The only archaeological feature revealed was a layer of late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century dumping [403] (photo 20).

Trench 4 as with trench 1 quickly flooded and following excavation and recording was abandoned.

**Table 4:** Table of context descriptions from Trench 4

<b>Context no.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Depth</b>
Layer 400	Topsoil. Friable dark grey-brown silty-clay containing rare small sub-angular stone and rare coal ash.	0.26m
Layer 401	Subsoil. Mid brown firm silty clay containing occasional small sub-angular stone and rare charcoal flecks.	0.28m
Layer 402	Natural. Mid yellow-brown firm clay	0.07m (min)
Layer 403	Dump. 1.5m long layer of dark grey-brown silty-clay of friable compaction containing rare small sub-angular stone that appeared to continue beyond both sides of evaluation trench. Post medieval pottery and fragments of late 19 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century glass recovered but not retained.	0.26m

## **CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS**

The archaeological evaluation undertaken at Llansadwrn revealed positive results with the four trenches excavated containing archaeological features and deposits.

Trench 1 revealed the presence of a former probable field boundary of post medieval date [104]. Further evidence for this boundary was revealed in Trench 2 [204], [206], along with a fronting possible drainage ditch [209], also of post medieval date. These features were not deemed to be of archaeological significance. A post medieval dump [403] was identified in trench 4 but again this was not deemed to be archaeologically significant.

A further possible boundary ditch was found at the northwestern end of Trench 2 [211] and continued into Trench 3 [314], [318]. No dating evidence was recovered from the three sections excavated in the feature so it was not possible to ascribe a date to it.

Trench 3 revealed the most archaeologically significant results in that a series of possible foundation trenches for a building were revealed [306], [308], [310], [312]. Excavation of these features revealed no dating material but they are interpreted as evidence of a rectangular timber structure of unknown date on the site. The lack of finds, the shape of the building and its location within Llansadwrn may be seen to suggest that the building is of pre-Anglo-Norman date, although this cannot be confirmed at this stage.

A single isolated possible posthole [304] was also identified, again of unknown date, which indicates other structural activity in the vicinity of the rectangular building, although it cannot be confirmed that the two are contemporary.

The earliest feature revealed in trench 3 was a possible drainage gully [316], [326], excavation revealed that this had been cut by both the possible boundary ditch [314], [318] and possible foundation trench [312], the date of the feature was again unknown given the absence of any finds.

Given the presence of archaeological features and deposits within the proposed development area, in particular those identified within Trench 3 it is suggested that a controlled topsoil strip of the proposed development site be undertaken under the supervision of an archaeologist as part of the initial groundworks for the development. This should be undertaken using a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. Following the site strip an appropriate scheme of mapping and investigation of any revealed archaeological features should be undertaken prior to the commencement of development at the site. Analysis, preparation of a report and archive of the results would also be required. The required scope of work should be discussed with the local authority's archaeological planning advisers.

## **SOURCES**

### **Map**

British Geological Survey, 1994 1:250000 Geological Map of Wales 1st edition  
Solid

Ordnance Survey 1887 1:10560 Carmarthenshire Sheet XXVI NW

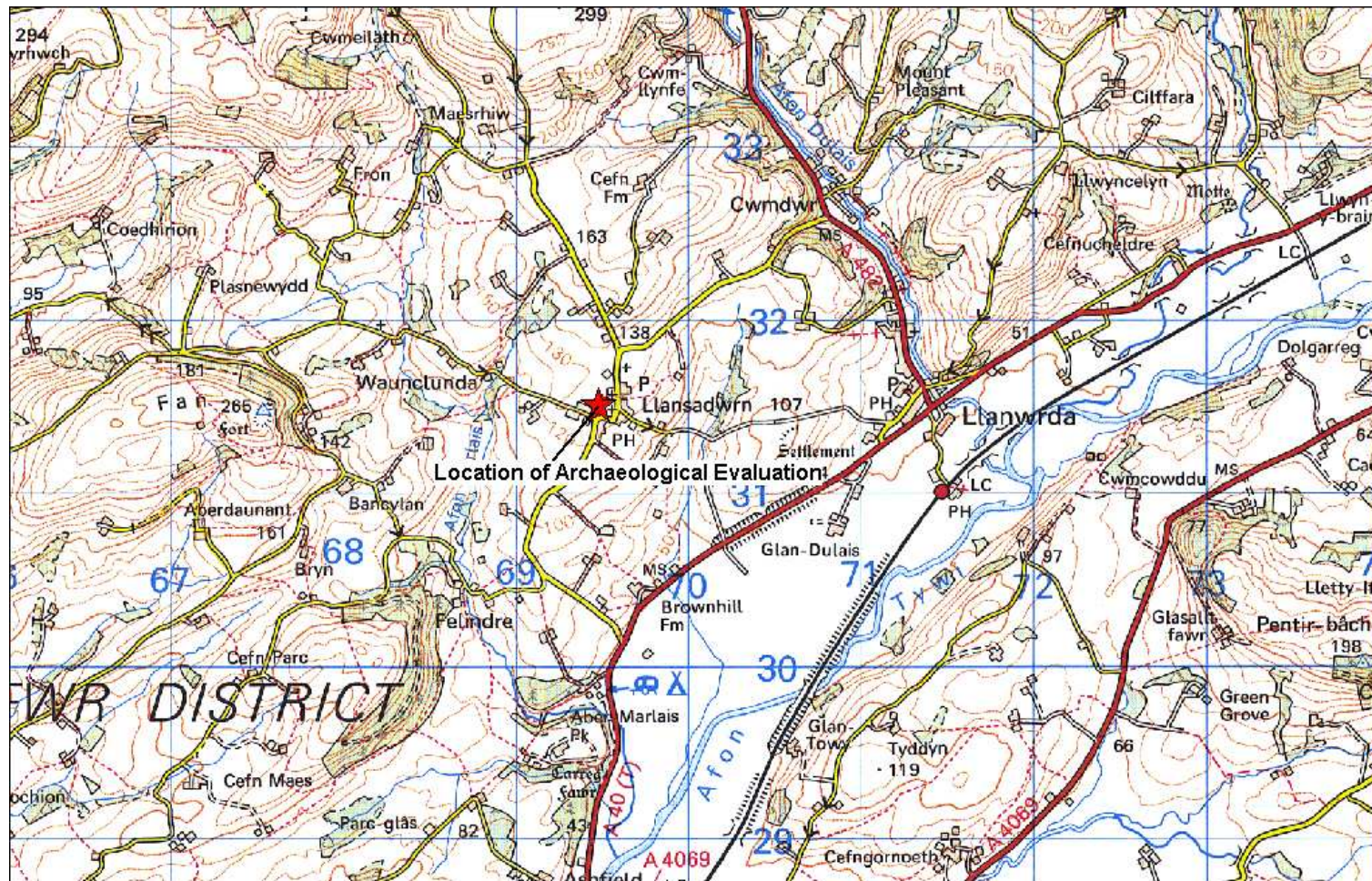
Ordnance Survey 1906 1:10560 Carmarthenshire Sheet XXVI NW.

Ordnance Survey 1995 1:50000 Landranger.

Tithe Map and Apportionment 1839 Llansadwrn Parish.

### **Unpublished Sources**

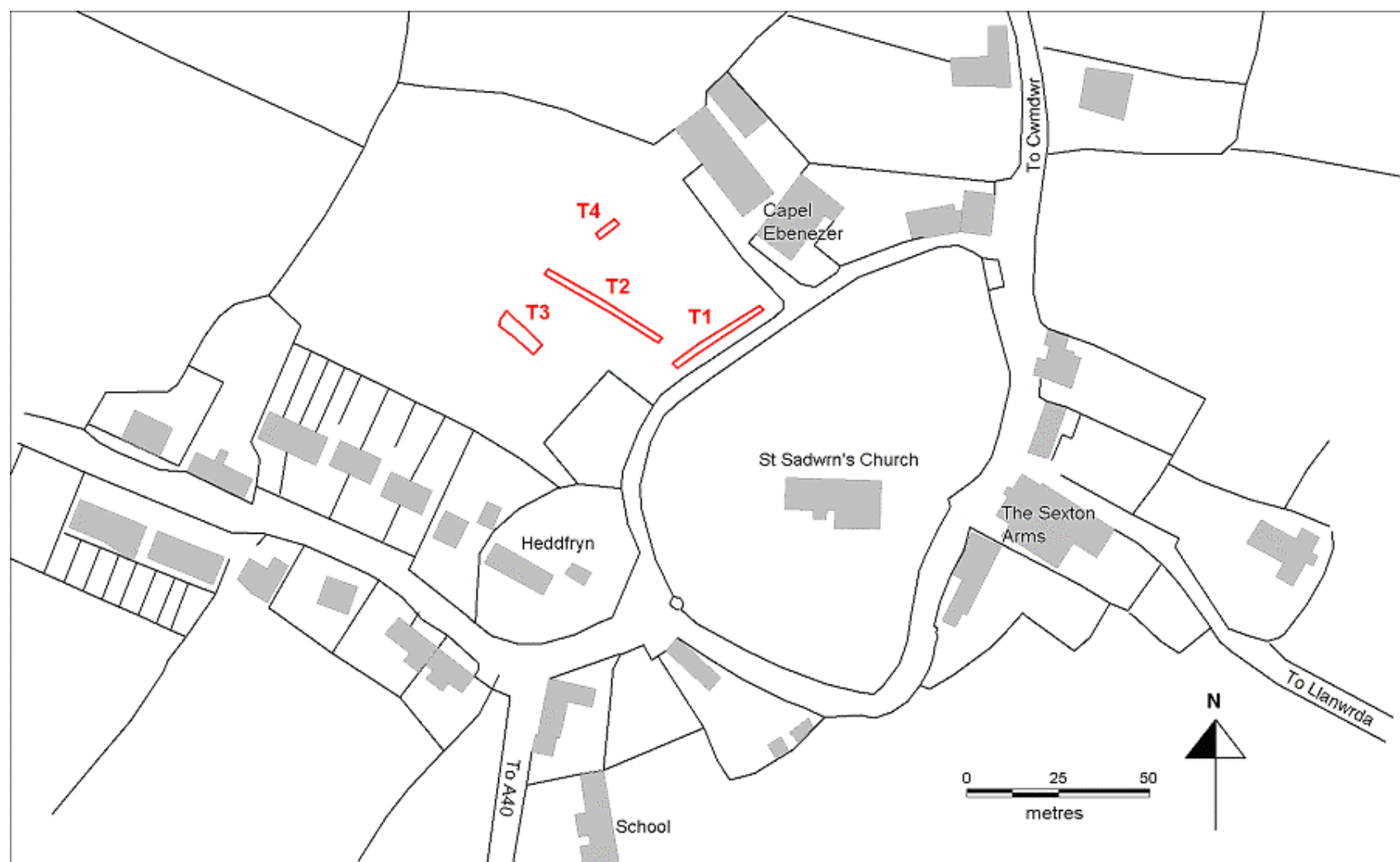
Poucher P 2009 *Llansadwrn, Carmarthenshire Land Formerly Part of Heddfryn: Geophysical Results and Trench Locations.*



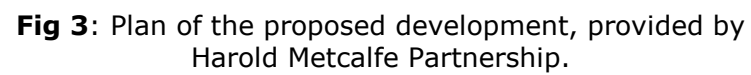
**Fig 1.** Location map, based on the Ordnance Survey.

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

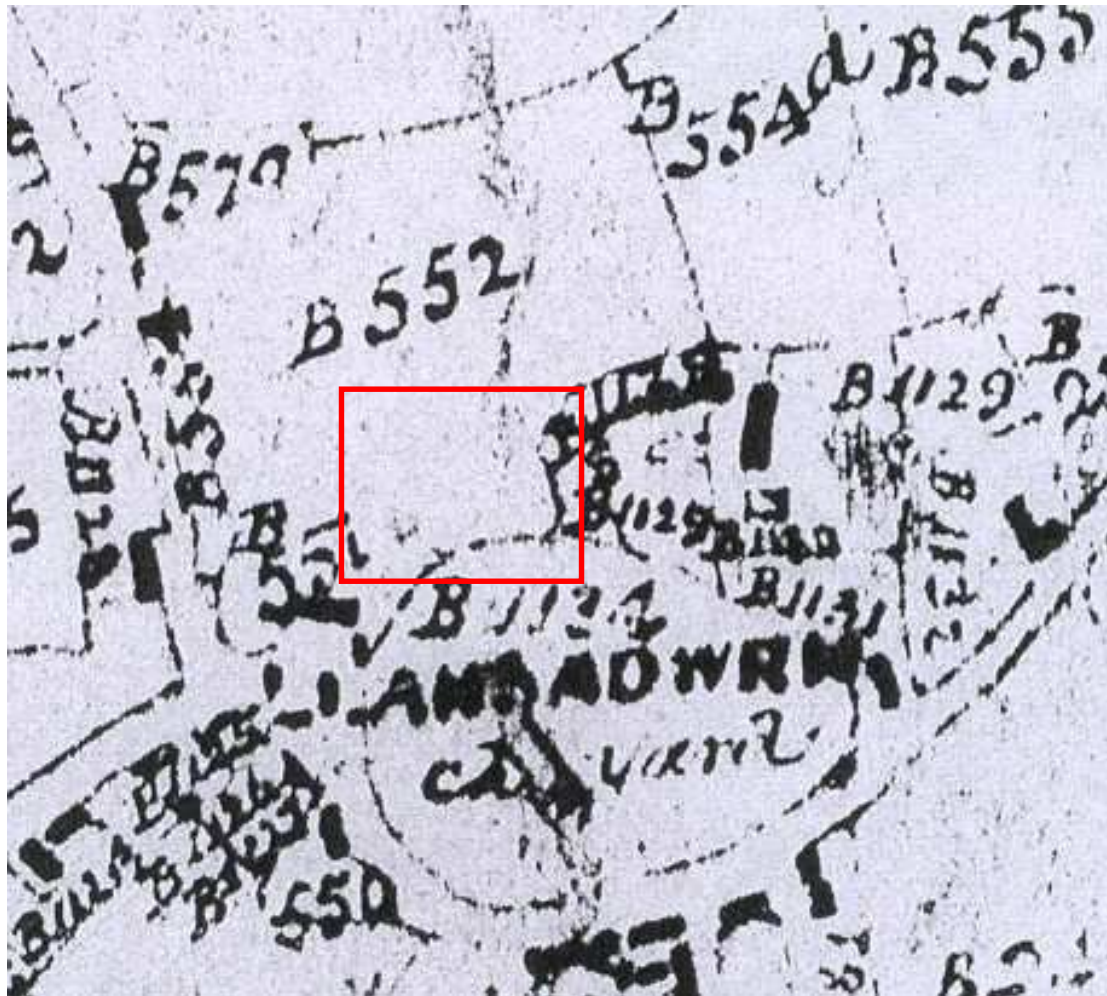




**Fig 2:** Location plan showing the village of Llansadwrn and the location of the trenches (in red).

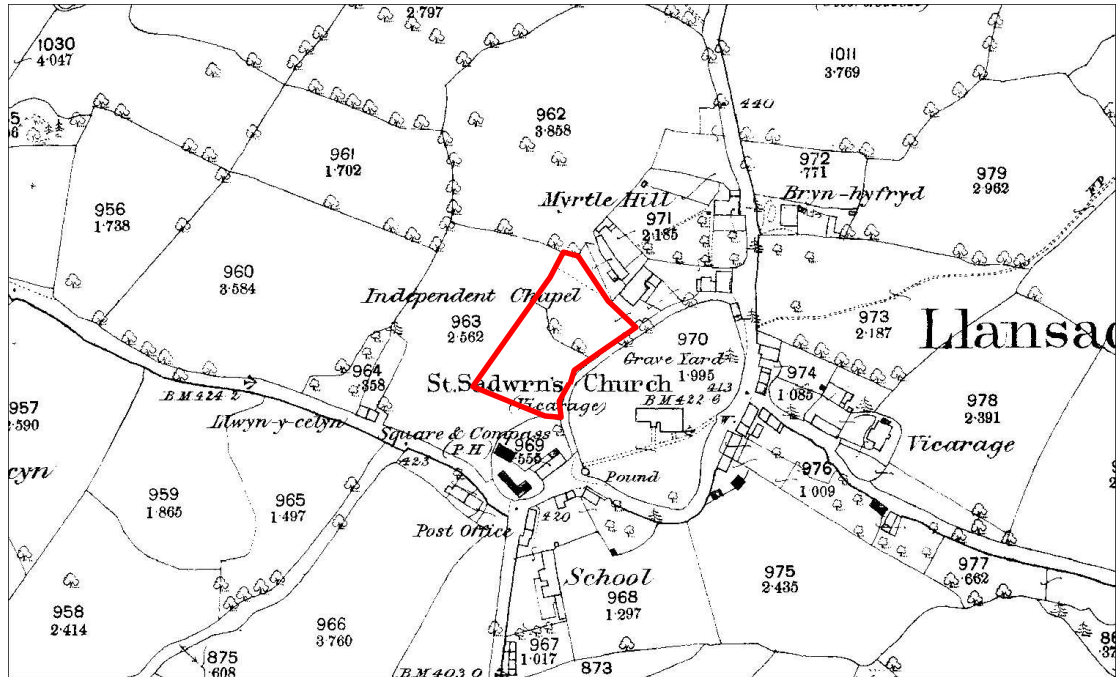




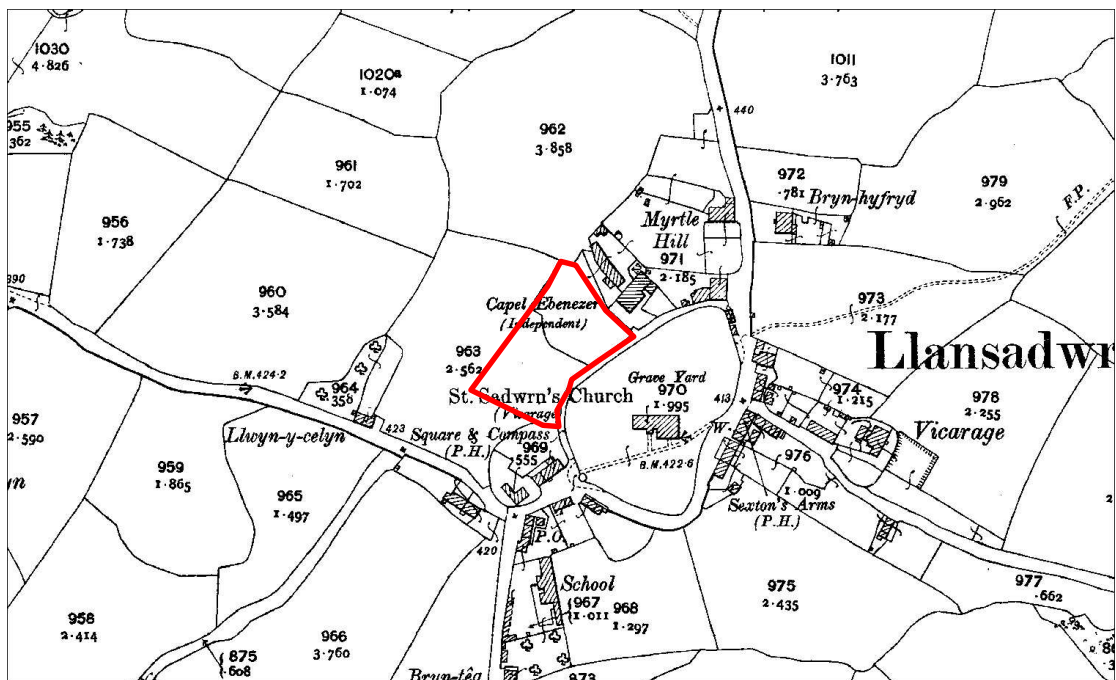


LANDOWNERS.	OCCUPIERS.	Numbers referring to Plan with the a/b/c, &c. joined.	Name and Description of Lands and Premises.	Quantities in Statute Measure.		Amount of Rent Charge apportioned upon the several Lands and payable to the							
						Vicar.				Impropriators.			
Marion & David	James	B 1129	House & garden	732	0	30	36	13	9	10	7	3	
William & David	James	B 301 to B 316	Peniarth & garden	29	0	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	
William & Margaret	James	B 370 a & b	Peniarth & garden	101	2	12	1	1	2	3	3	6	

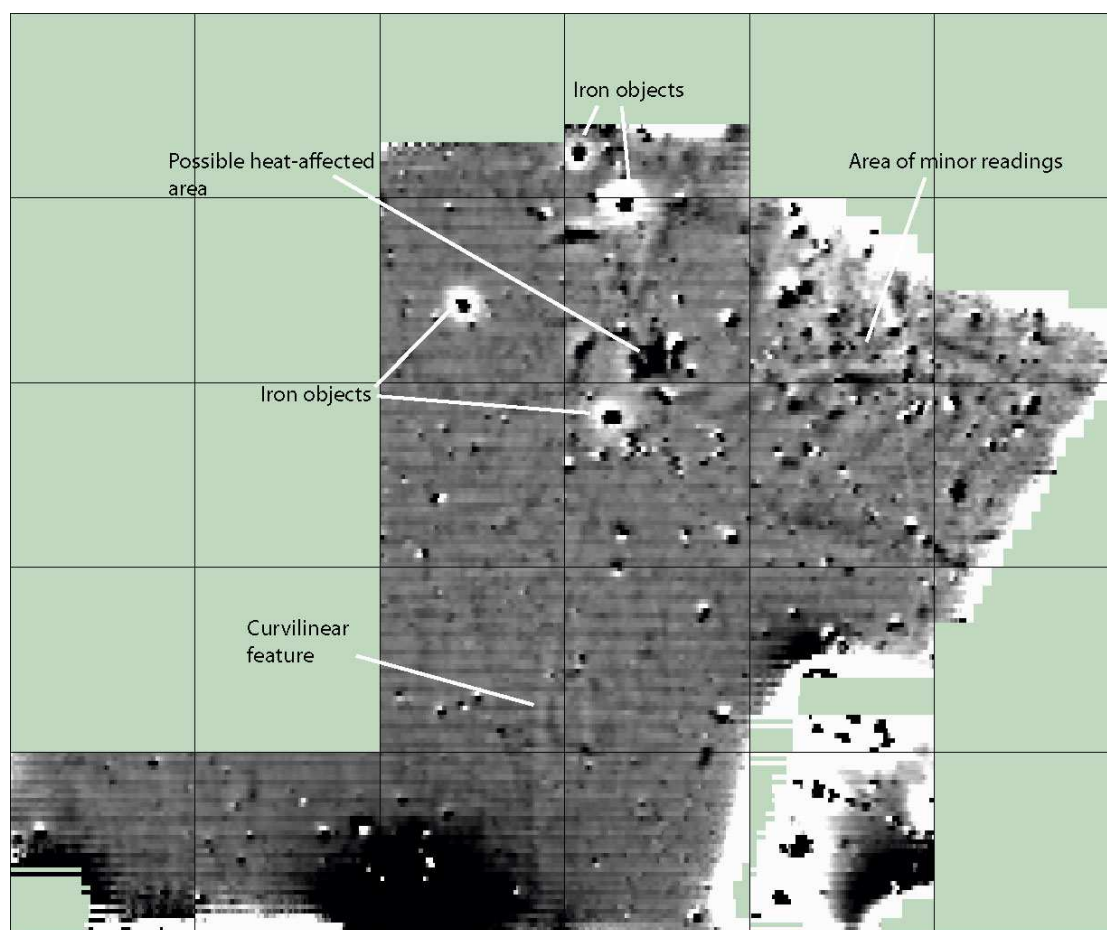
**Fig 4:** A copy of the Llansadwrn Parish tithe map of 1839 showing the field (labelled B552) that contains the proposed development site, with the enclosure and cottages in the lower corner (labelled B1129). Below is an extract from the tithe apportionments relating to enclosure B1129. The approximate evaluation area is shown in red.



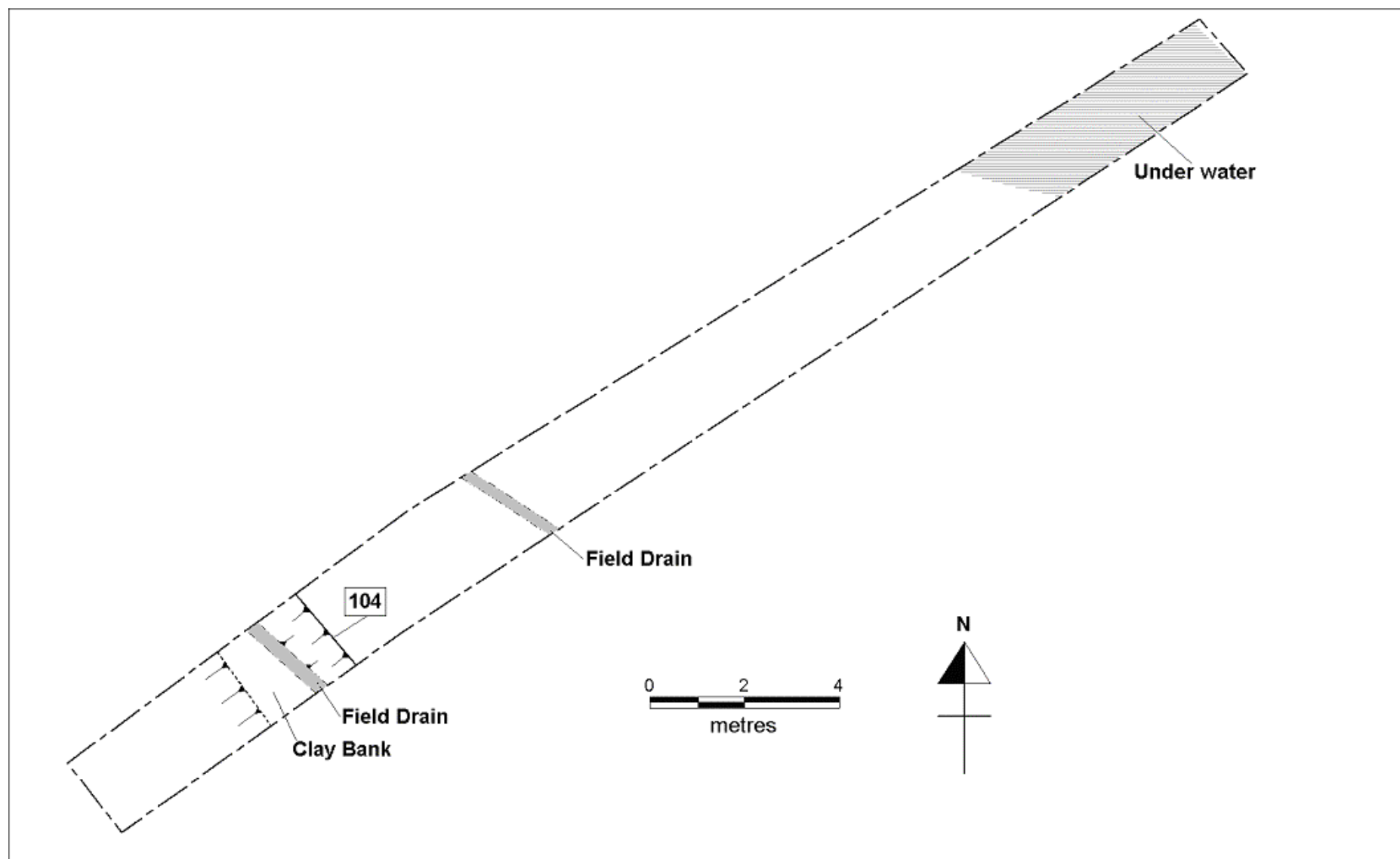
**Fig 5:** A copy of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887. The field containing the proposed development site is labelled 963. Approximate evaluation area outlined in red.



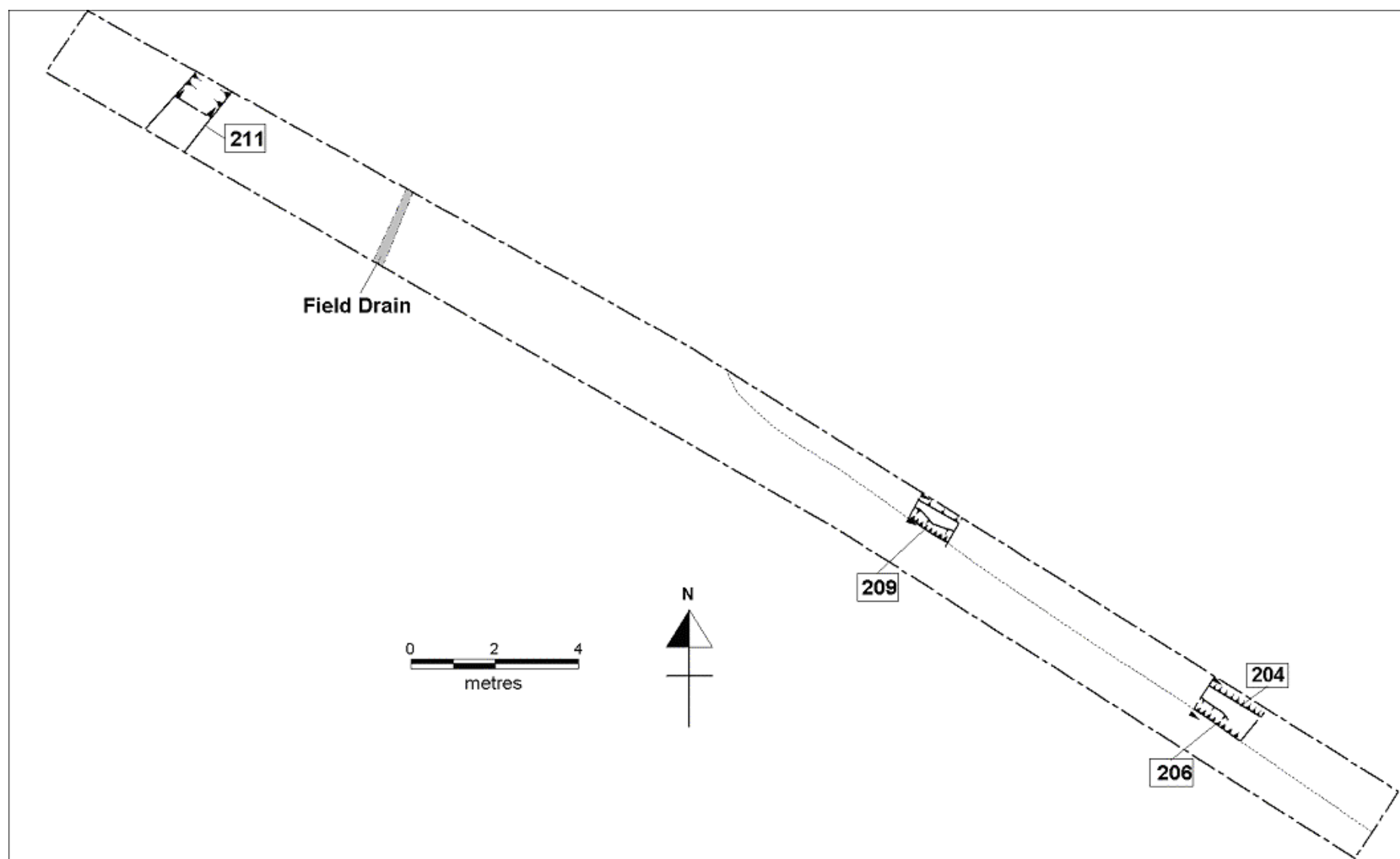
**Fig 6:** A copy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1906. The field containing the proposed development site is labelled 963. Approximate evaluation area outlined in red.



**Fig 7:** Labelled results of the geophysical survey (Crane 2009).

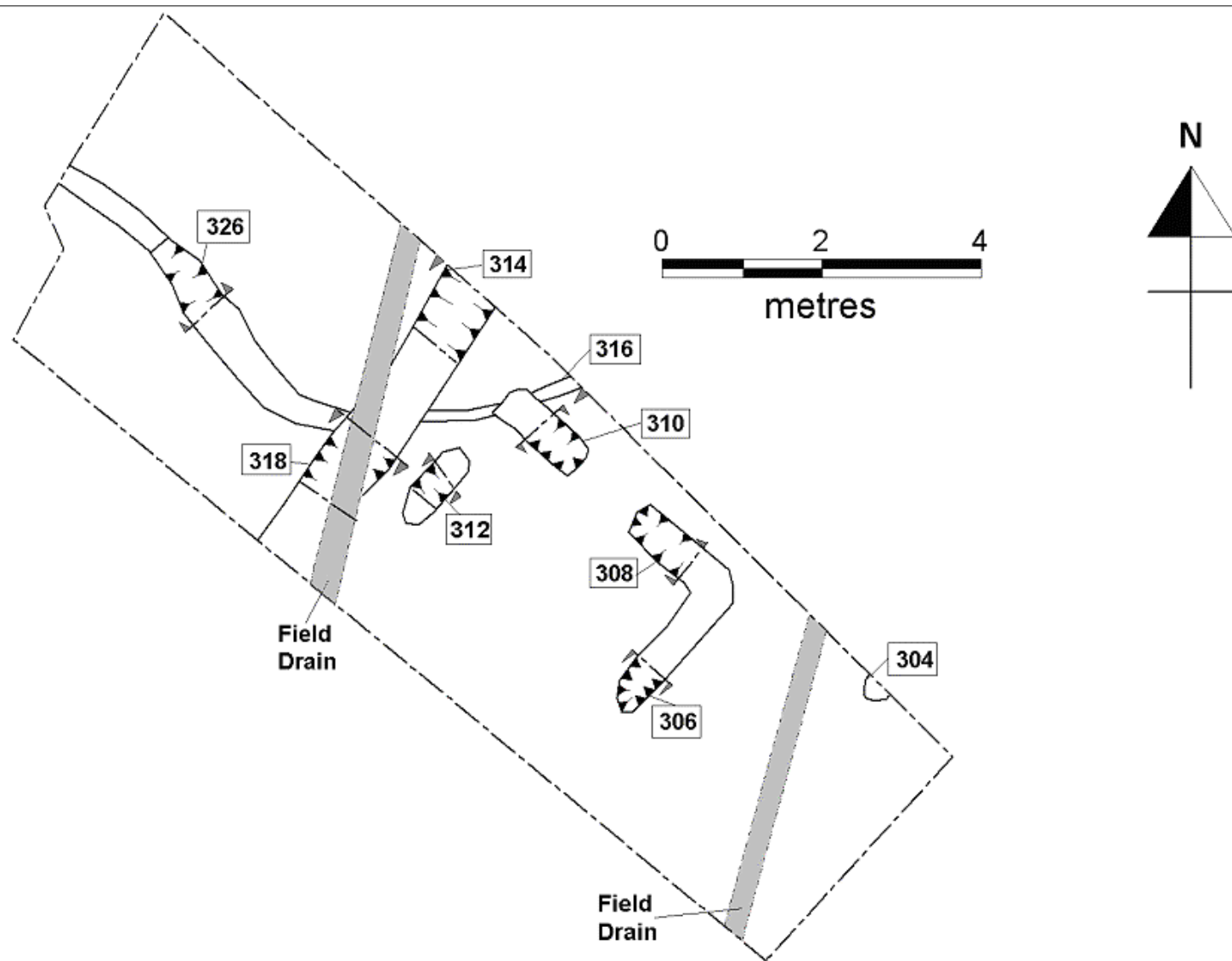


**Fig 8:** Plan of Trench 1

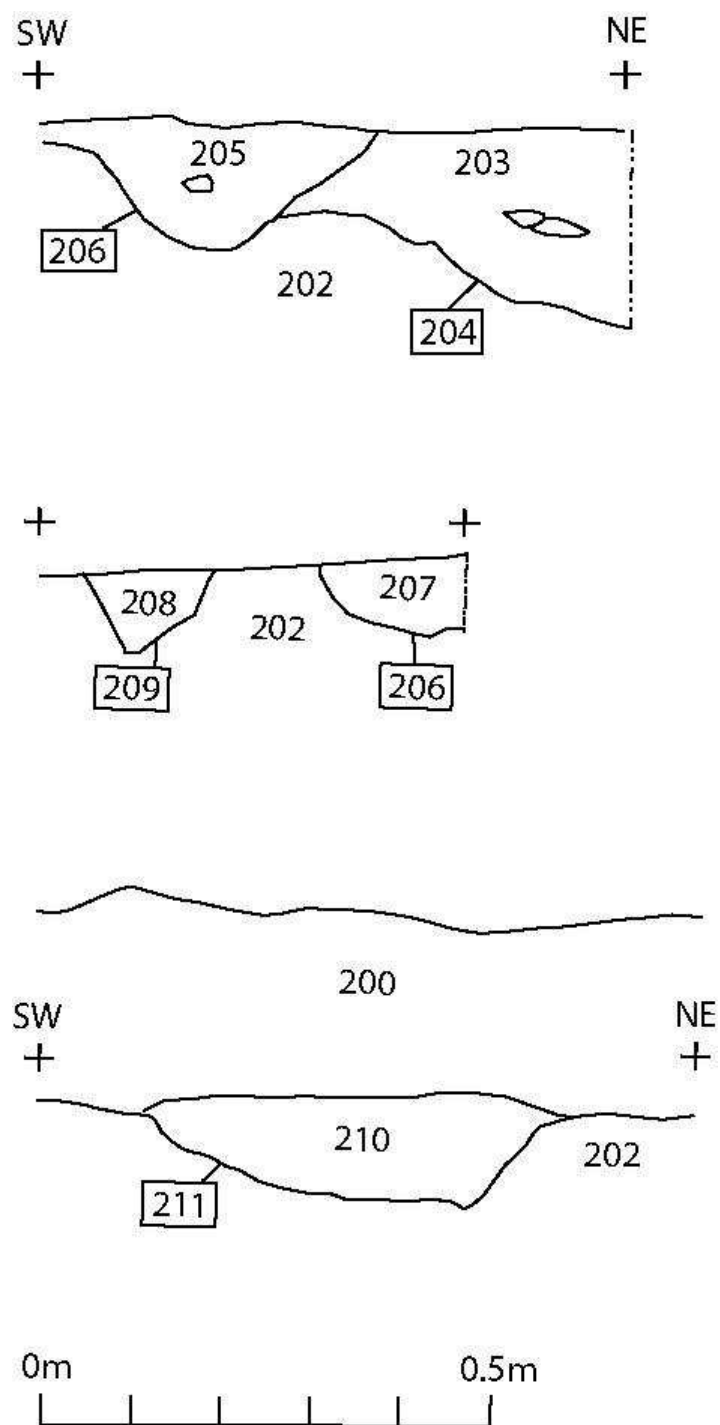


**Fig 9:** Plan of Trench 2



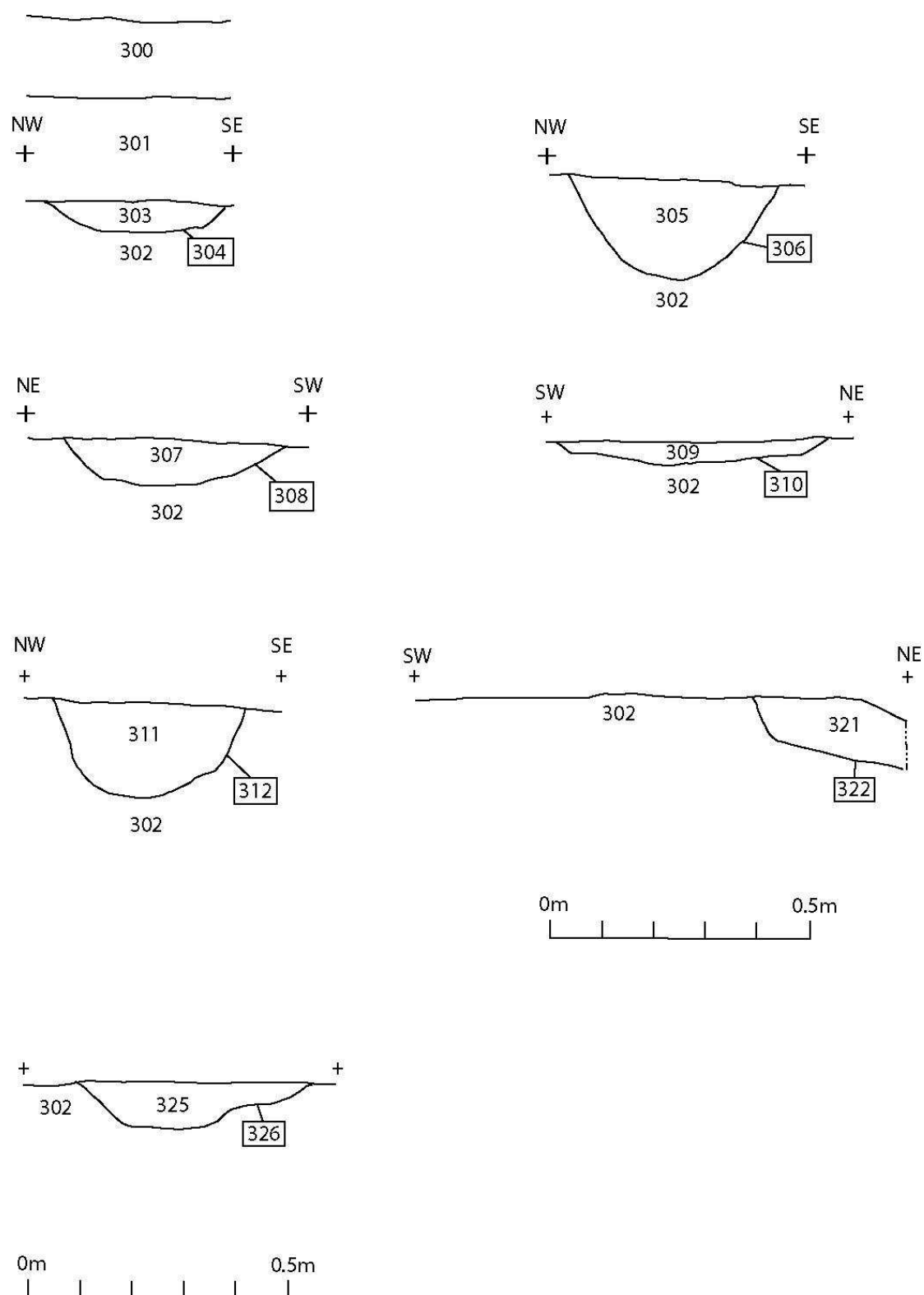


**Fig 10:** Plan of Trench 3

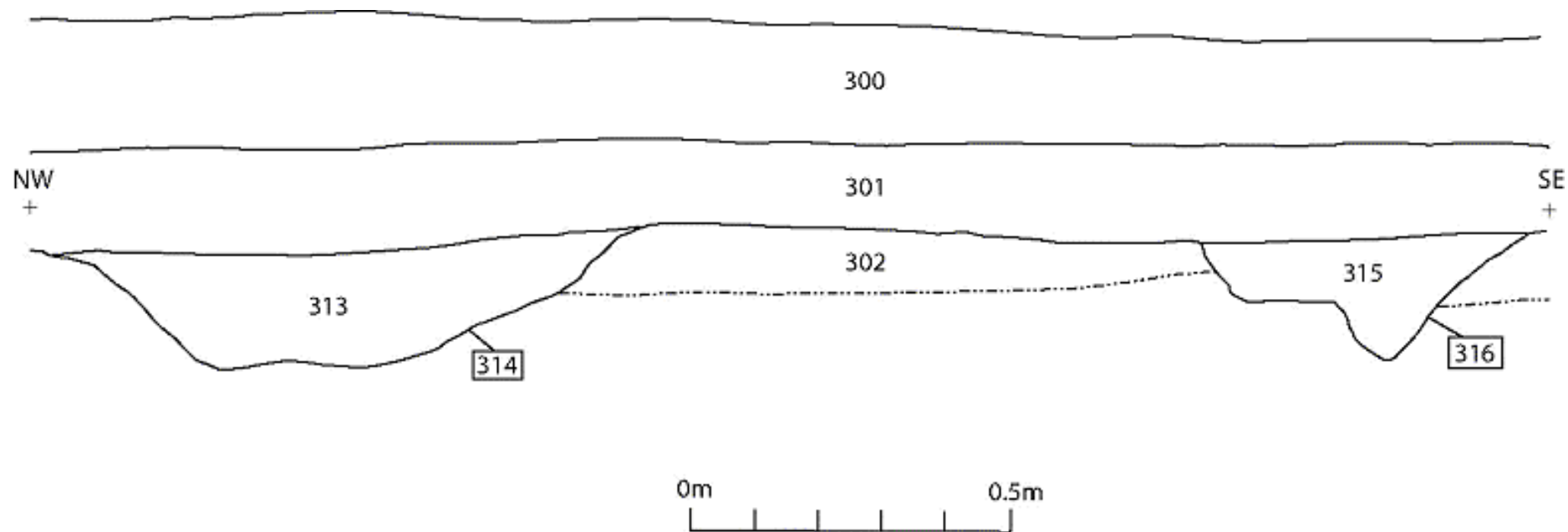


**Fig 11:** Sections of features within Trench 2





**Fig 12:** Sections of features within Trench 3.



**Fig 13:** Section of the side of Trench 3, also showing features [314] and [316].



**Photo 1:** Trench 1 northeast facing view.



**Photo 2:** Trench 2 northwest facing view.





**Photo 3:** Southeast facing section of boundary ditch [204] (right) and drainage ditch [206].



**Photo 4:** Southeast facing section of boundary ditch [206] (right) and drainage ditch [209].





**Photo 5:** Southwest facing section of boundary ditch [211].



**Photo 6:** Trench 3 northwest facing view.





**Photo 7:** Southwest facing section of posthole [304].



**Photo 8:** Northeast facing view of possible foundation trenches.





**Photo 9:** Southwest facing section of foundation trench [306].



**Photo 10:** Northwest facing section of foundation trench [308].





**Photo 11:** Southeast facing section of foundation trench [310].



**Photo 12:** Southwest facing section of pit [312].





**Photo 13:** Southwest facing section of drainage gully [316].



**Photo 14:** Southwest facing section of boundary ditch [314].





**Photo 15:** Northeast facing section of boundary ditch [318] also showing later post medieval drain.

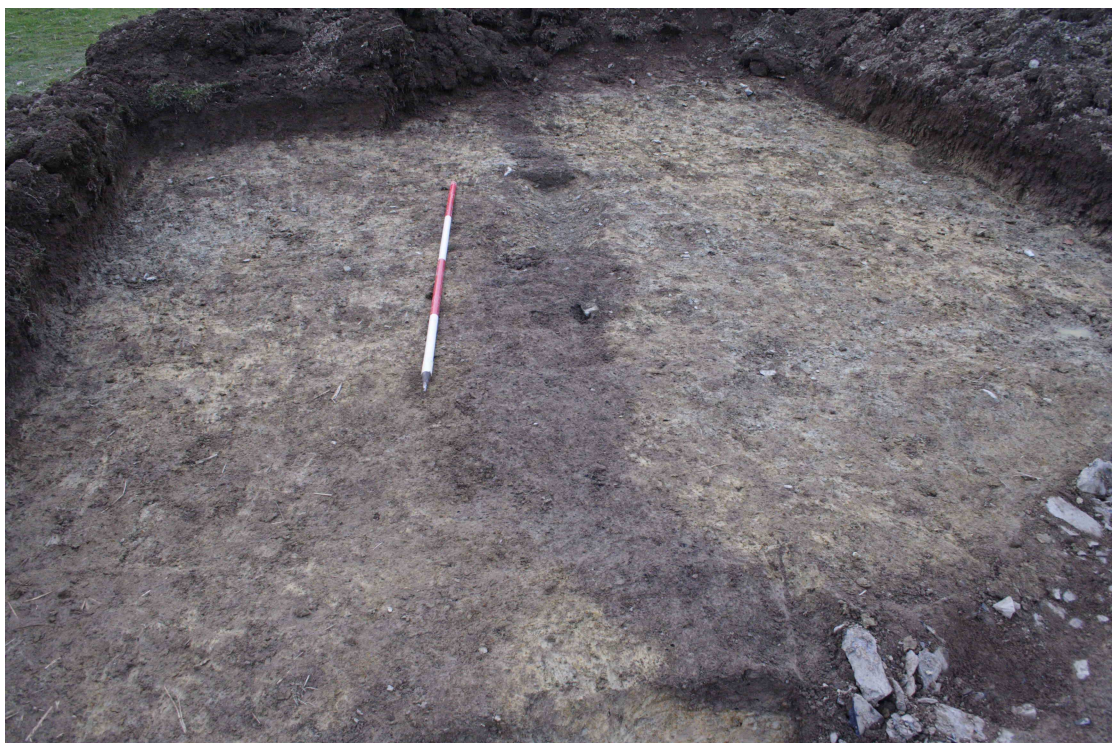


**Photo 16:** Northeast facing view of boundary ditch cutting drainage gully.





**Photo 17:** Northwest facing section of drainage gully [326].



**Photo 18:** Northwest facing view of drainage gully [326].





**Photo 19:** Trench 4 northeast facing view.



**Photo 20:** Southeast facing section of trench 4 showing dump layer 403.

## **APPENDIX 1:**

**LLANSADWRN, CARMARTHENSHIRE  
LAND FORMERLY PART OF HEDDFRYN**

**GEOPHYSICAL RESULTS AND PROPOSED TRENCH LOCATIONS**

**INTRODUCTION**

The geophysical survey of land at Llansadwrn, Carmarthenshire was undertaken by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services on 27/01/09 in response to a request from Harold Metcalf Partnership to undertake an archaeological evaluation ahead of a proposed new development (Planning application number E/18750) consisting of three houses and a private drive lies in the village of Llansadwrn, Carmarthenshire (SN 6949 3151).

The geophysical survey was undertaken as stage 2 in a 4 stage process as laid out in the *Brief for an Archaeological Field Evaluation (with Geophysical Survey)* prepared by Dyfed Archaeological Trust-Heritage Management acting as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority.

A brief summary of the results from stage 1 (Documentary Research) and stage 2 (geophysical survey) of the archaeological evaluation are presented below. Based on these results the locations of the trenches as part of stage 3 (intrusive field evaluation) have been proposed. These trench locations are presented here to be agreed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust-Heritage Management.

***Dyfed Archaeological Trust is an IFA Registered Archaeological Organisation.***

**All Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services staff are CSCS<sup>1</sup> registered.**

**DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH**

A desk-based assessment of readily available primary and secondary documentary, cartographic, pictorial, aerial/ground photographic sources held at the Historic Environment Record was undertaken to provide the historical framework for any surviving archaeological remains, to help locate the subsequent trial trenches and provide a sufficient framework to place the findings from the geophysical survey and trial trenching in an historical context. Following is a brief summary of the findings from the documentary research, a fuller summary will be provided in the final report.

The proposed development site lies within the medieval settlement of Llansadwrn and is located immediately to the northwest of St Sadwrn's parish church (PRN 1903) and its associated churchyard (PRN 49301). St Sadwrn's church may have its origins in the early medieval period, but is first recorded as a chapelry in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, becoming the parish by the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The church is likely to have been a central feature in the medieval settlement and there is the possibility that medieval settlement activity may have extended all the way around the boundary of the church. The layout of the medieval and early post-medieval settlement is little understood at present, but by the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century the tithe map (1839) shows the current field boundaries on this side of the church had been laid out and an enclosure had been established in the north-eastern corner. On closer examination the tithe map shows a range of buildings along the north-

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<sup>1</sup> Construction Skills Certification Scheme (Health and Safety Tested)

western boundary of this enclosure. The tithe apportionments are difficult to read but appear to describe the enclosure as 'Sundry? Cott's & Gardens', indicating more than one cottage with accompanying gardens, both owned and occupied by David Williams. A copy of the tithe map and apportionments are included to the rear. By the time of the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887 the range of buildings had gone although the former enclosure boundary remained.

Today the enclosure boundary has been removed and a gateway gives access to the neighbouring farmstead at this point. A low L-shaped earthwork roughly 0.2m high is still visible in this corner of the current field that appears to correspond closely to the line of this former enclosure boundary and its building range. An oblique aerial photograph (DAT AP84 -17.30) shows the area in question and is included to the rear, but no distinct earthworks are easily identifiable.

## **GEOPHYSICAL RESULTS**

The survey was carried out using a Bartington Grad601-2 dual Fluxgate Gradiometer. This uses a pair of Grad-01-100 sensors. These are high stability fluxgate gradient sensors with a 1.0m separation between the sensing elements, giving a strong response to deeper anomalies.

The gradiometer can detect anomalies down to a depth of approximately one metre. The magnetic variations are measured in nanoTeslas (nT). The earth's magnetic field strength is about 48,000 nT, typical archaeological features produce readings of below 15nT although burnt features and iron objects can result in changes of several hundred nT. The instrument is capable of detecting changes as low as 0.1nT.

The data was transferred from the data-logger on the Fluxgate Gradiometer to a computer where it was compiled and processed using ArchaeoSurveyor 2 software. The data is presented as a grey-scale plot where data values are represented by modulation of the intensity of a grey scale within a rectangular area corresponding to the data collection point within the grid. This produces a plan view of the survey and allows subtle changes in the data to be displayed.

The full results will be presented in a subsequent report but an annotated image of the results is presented to the rear, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> version overlaid by features identified during the documentary research and the proposed housing development plan. Following is a brief summary of the features identified on the geophysical survey.

- In the northeastern corner of the site are a series of scattered and mixed minor readings. This area corresponds with an enclosure depicted on the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century tithe map with building ranges aligned along the edge of the enclosure, but it also occurs in front of a modern gateway in the northern field boundary giving access to a farm yard. These results are therefore believed likely to represent either an area of general activity within the enclosure depicted on the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century tithe map, or an area of general post-medieval and modern farming detritus spread from the neighbouring farmyard through the gateway.
- Towards the northern end of the study area is an area of possible burning activity. This may be associated with the former range of buildings as depicted on the tithe map.
- Towards the north-eastern corner of the study area several possible iron objects have been identified. These objects appear scattered and may be associated with general agricultural activity.



- Running centrally through the study area are traces of a curvilinear feature, possibly representing the ploughed out remains of a boundary. This feature is not depicted on historic map sources and the curvilinear nature of this feature is of interest especially given the proximity to the boundary of nearby St Sadwrns Church. It is possible this feature may represent an earlier church enclosure boundary or relate to medieval activity around the church.

## **PROPOSED EVALUATION TRENCH LOCATIONS**

In the initial Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Dyfed Archaeological Trust-Field Services it was proposed that the fieldwork would consist of the excavation of four evaluation trenches, each measuring c.20m x 2m. The trenches will be positioned, to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information, to reflect the likely areas of maximum impact of the proposed development and in consideration of any constraints that may exist on the site (such as live services).

In light of the documentary research and results of the geophysical survey it is now proposed to open three trenches of varying lengths, but with two trenches forming a 'T' shape to examine the area of possible medieval activity and mid 19<sup>th</sup> century farmstead. It was hoped to position a trench along the proposed access route to the site, unfortunately due to the presence of electrical services and problems with getting access to this area by machine this will not prove possible.

- Trench 1 measuring c.30m by 2m will be positioned close to the current boundary of St Sadwrns church and over the line of the proposed access road. This trench is positioned to investigate the area close to the church boundary that has the greatest potential for revealing evidence of any former medieval settlement of churchyard activity. The trench will also enable an examination of part of the former farmstead enclosure and its boundary.
- Trench 2 measuring c.40m by 2m will be positioned to run at a near-right angle to trench 1 midway along its length, forming a larger 'T' shaped trench. This trench will also partly cover the footprint of a proposed house development. This trench is positioned to investigate both the area of potential medieval activity as well as the area of the farmstead enclosure depicted on the tithe map. The trench will overlie a former building range as depicted on the tithe map and incorporate the northern boundary of this enclosure, as well as investigating the general area of minor readings picked up from the geophysical survey. The earthworks are particularly visible at this location and the trench will be positioned to ensure it investigates these earthworks.
- Trench 3 measuring c.10m by 2m will be positioned towards the south-eastern end of the proposed development area. This trench is positioned to investigate the curvilinear feature identified during the geophysical survey.

The evaluation trenches will initially be excavated to the top of any archaeological deposits, or to the top of the undisturbed subsoil or to the maximum depth allowed under health and safety regulations, by mechanical excavator. Mechanical excavation will be carried out using a toothless grading or ditching bucket.

Following mechanical excavation the evaluation trench will be cleaned by hand in order to determine the presence and extent of any archaeological features or deposits.

The minimum number of features required to determine the character of any archaeological deposits will be hand excavated and recorded.

Features containing deposits of environmental or technological significance will be sampled. The samples will be retained in stable conditions until specialist analysis can be arranged.

In the event of the discovery of human remains they will, where possible, be left *in situ*: if removal is necessary it will only take place following the granting of permissions by the relevant authorities.

In the event that stratified deposits are encountered, parts of the trenches will be excavated to ascertain the depth of archaeological deposits and the natural horizons across the site.

All deposits will be recorded by archaeological context record sheet, scale drawing, photography and site notebooks. All deposits will be numbered using the open-ended numbering system in accordance with Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services' Recording Manual<sup>2</sup>. 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 photographic record will be maintained using 35mm monochrome and digital formats

All artefacts, ecofacts and samples will be retained and, where possible, related to the contexts from which they derived. Sensitive material will be stored in appropriately stable conditions. All finds, excepting those deemed to be Treasure Trove, shall remain the property of the landowner.

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

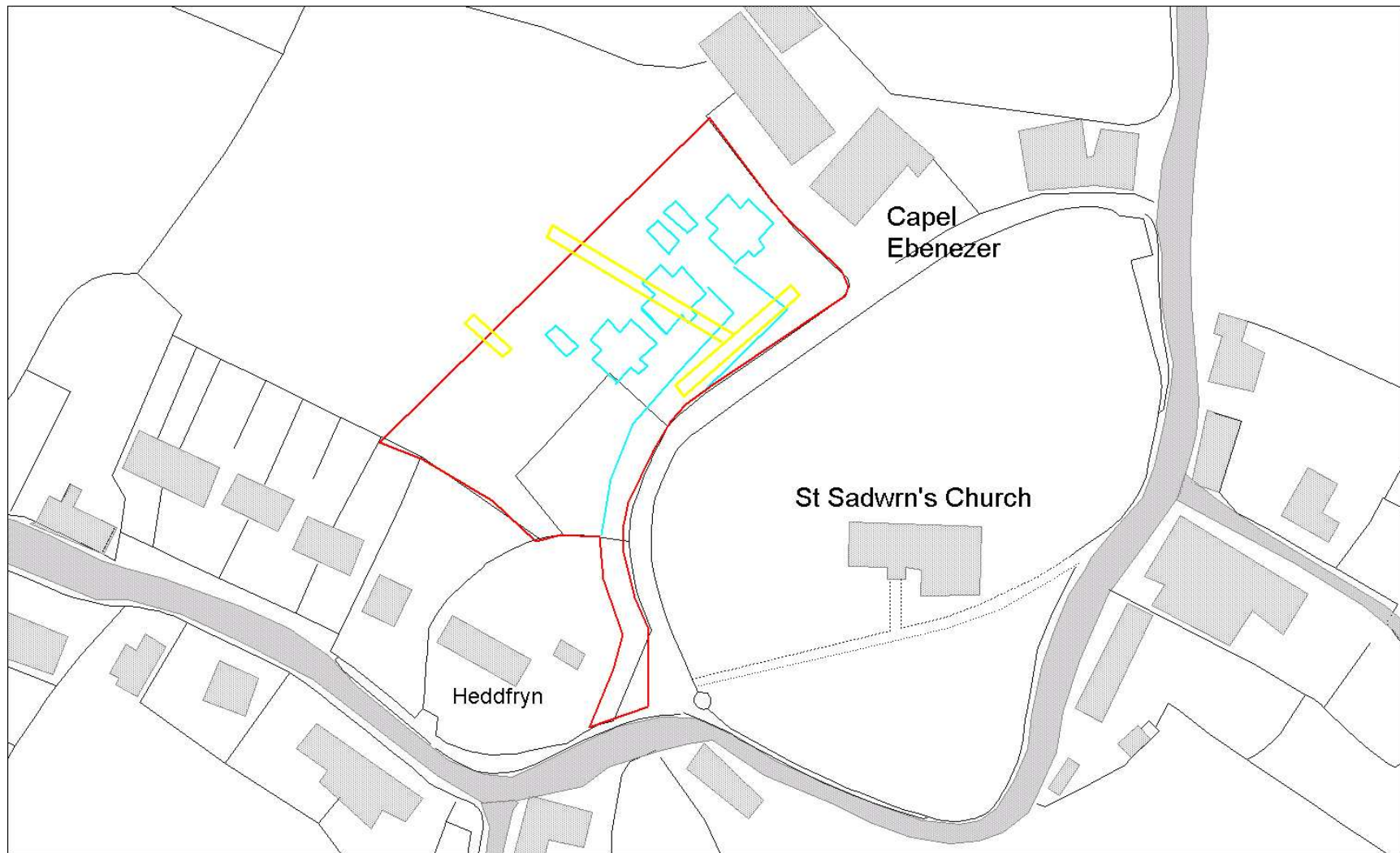


Fig 1. Trench locations (in yellow) and the plan of proposed housing development (in blue) overlaid onto modern mapping.

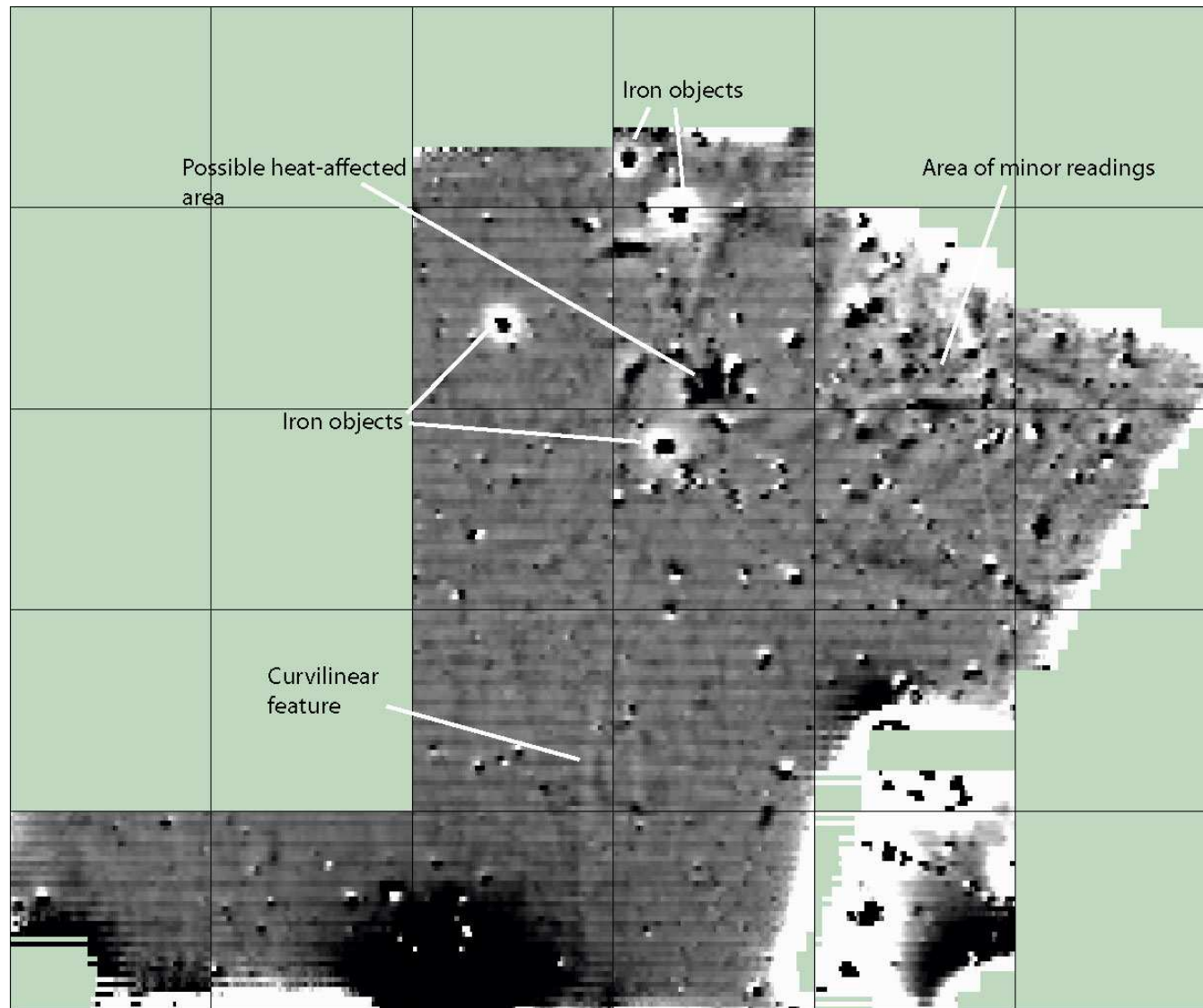


Fig 2. The geophysical survey results.

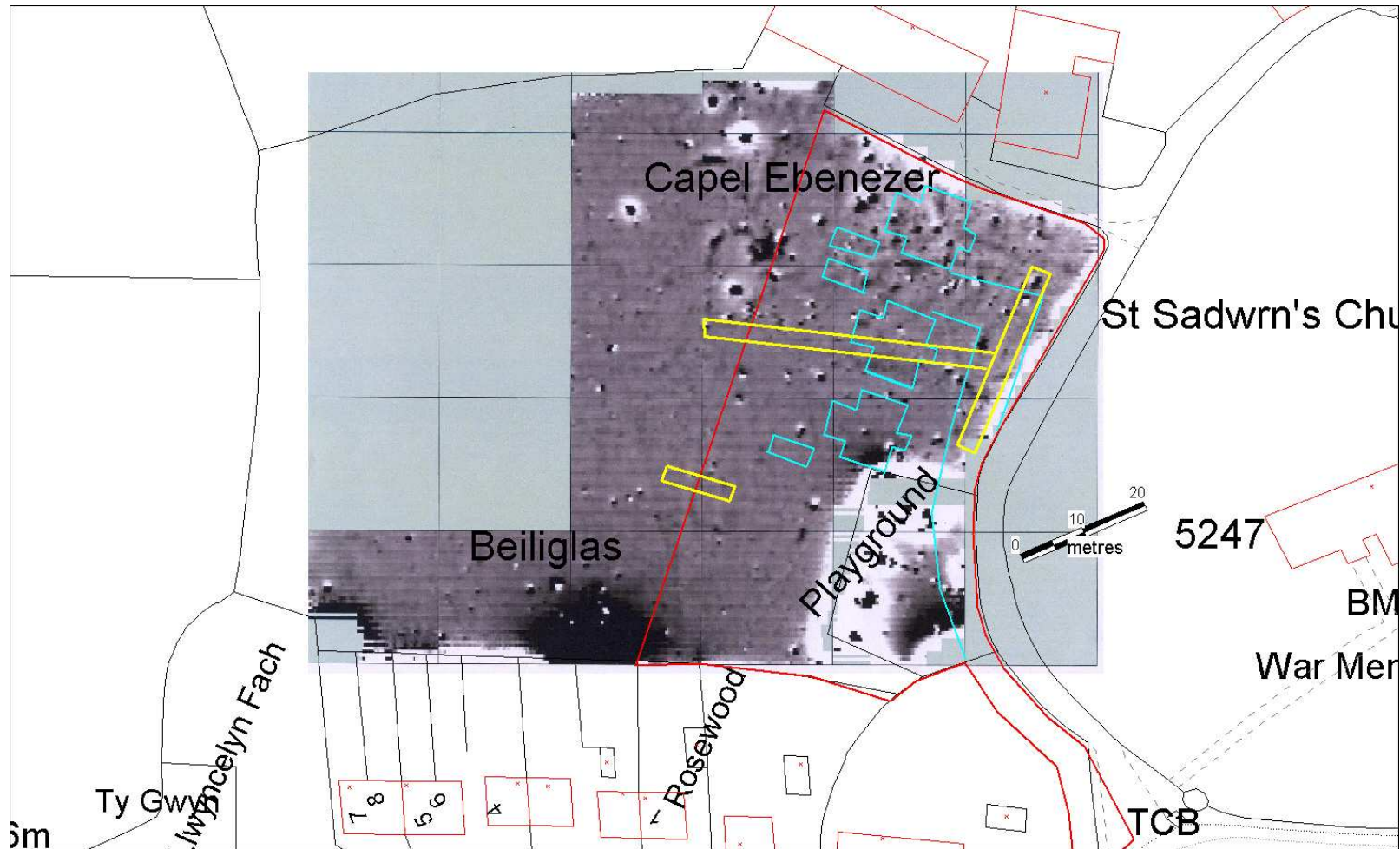


Fig 3. The geophysical results registered on to current mapping. Overlaid on these results are the proposed housing development plans, with building outlines and the access road depicted in blue and the boundary of the proposed development area outlined in red. The proposed trench locations are outlined in yellow.





LANDOWNERS.	OCCUPIERS.	Numbers referring to Plan with the <i>allotment</i> adjoined.	Name and Description of Lands and Premises.
William Daniel Tithe Land	himself	B 1129	Brought forward Tundry Cots & gardens

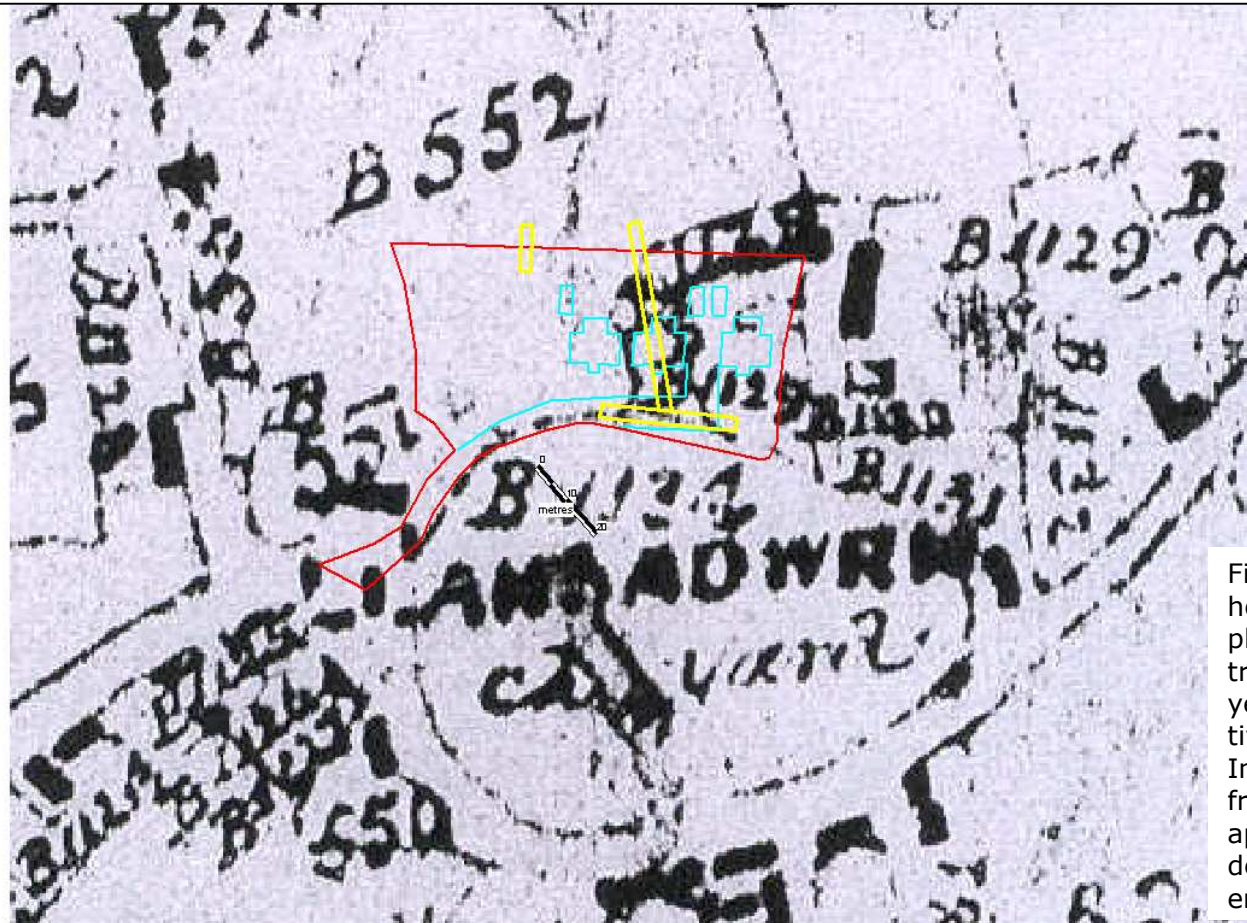


Fig 4. The proposed housing development plans and proposed trench locations (in yellow) overlaid on the tithe map of 1839. Inset is the fragment from the tithe apportionments describing the enclosure.





Fig 5. Oblique aerial photograph of Llansadwrn. The area of proposed development lies in the field on the right side of the large central church enclosure.