

PENRHOS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, LLANRHYSTUD, CEREDIGION: ARCHAEOLOGICAL APPRAISAL



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**PENRHOS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB, LLANRHYSTUD, CEREDIGION:
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SUMMARY

A planning application (A100232) has been submitted to Ceredigion County Council for the proposed construction of 10 log cabins at Penrhos Golf & Country Club, Llanrhystud, Ceredigion centred on NGR SN 54914 69619. The proposed development area lies in close proximity to Caer Penrhos Iron Age hillfort and Castell Cadwaladr medieval ringwork castle, designated together as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The importance of these sites led to a recommendation by the Local Planning Authority's archaeological advisors that an archaeological appraisal of the development area be undertaken, prior to the determination of the application, to provide further information regarding the archaeological potential of the site.

A search of the local Historic Environment Record has indicated that no known archaeological sites are located within the boundaries of the proposed development area itself. However, early map evidence, and observations made during a field visit to the proposed development site, highlighted the presence of a disused trackway situated along the length of the southwest boundary to the site. No other archaeological features were observed within the development area during either the field visit or during the research of available historic maps and aerial photographs.

Topographically, a greater part of the proposed development area comprises steeply sloping ground that would only be conducive to settlement after a certain amount of terracing or landscaping had been undertaken. No earthworks indicative of terracing or landscaping were observed on the site during the field visit and no cropmarks, parchmarks or other features were present on any of the available aerial photographs.

From the available information it is considered unlikely, therefore, that archaeologically significant features or deposits associated with the Caer Penrhos sites are present within the proposed development area that could be exposed, damaged or destroyed by groundworks associated with development. It should be noted that this document forms only a basic appraisal of the site area and that there is still a potential for hitherto unidentified archaeological remains to be present.

The impacts from the proposed development on the setting of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Caer Penrhos should be considered.

INTRODUCTION

Project Proposals and Commission

A proposed development (Planning Application number A100232) on land at Penrhos Golf & Country Club, Llanrhystud, Ceredigion (centred on NGR SN 54914 69619) has been submitted to Ceredigion County Council. The proposed development comprises the erection of ten log cabins within the site area, which lies in close proximity to two important archaeological sites recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record. The Local Planning Authority's archaeological advisors, Dyfed Archaeological Trust Heritage Management, recommended that a pre-determination archaeological appraisal of the site be carried out in order to provide further information on the potential archaeological resource within the site area. This information would be used to assist in the determination of whether any further archaeological works might be necessary at the site.

Duggan Planning Ltd., acting as agents for Mr. Rowland Rees-Evans, commissioned Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services to undertake the appraisal in June 2010.

Scope of the project

The appraisal consisted of the examination of available sources of information such as maps, published works and aerial photographs held in the Historic Environment Record¹ (HER) followed by a site visit. The results are intended to identify the extent and character of the known archaeological resource and identify the potential for hitherto unidentified remains to be present. The appraisal should be seen only as the first stage of the archaeological process and does not preclude the possibility that further archaeological input may be required prior to, or during, the proposed development.

Abbreviations used in this report

All sites recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR). Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM). Altitude is expressed to Ordnance Datum (OD).

Illustrations

Photographic images and printed map extracts are to be found at the back of the report. Note that the printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

¹ Held and managed by Dyfed Archaeological Trust, The Shire Hall, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire.

SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Penrhos Golf & Country Club is located at NGR SN 54914 69619 on the northeast side of the Afon Wyre Fach valley, about 1km east of the village of Llanrhystud, Ceredigion (**Fig. 1**). The Club comprises a static caravan park, which was developed in the late 1960s, and an extensive golf course that was opened in the early 1990s. The caravan park and the western end of the golf course utilise the relatively gentle sloping valley bottom between the 30m and 40m contours, not far from the confluence of the Afon Wyre and Afon Wyre Fach further to the west at the eastern edge of Llanrhystud. The higher ground of Y Foel (105m OD) overlooks the site steeply from the southwest, whilst the steeply sloping ground of Caer Penrhos (140m OD) overlooks the site from the east-northeast. The fairways and greens at the eastern end of the golf course occupy a plateau of undulating high ground (up to 150m OD) around the former Penrhos farmhouse to the southeast of Caer Penrhos.

The proposed development area, a roughly rectangular 1.7 hectare plot, lies on the southwest edge of the steeply sloping, west-southwest facing pasture field adjacent to the northeast boundary of the caravan park (**Fig. 2 Photo. 1 IMG 3038**). The part of the plot running closest to the caravan park boundary is less steep at its northwest end, becoming steeper to the southeast.

The underlying solid geology of the area is represented by Silurian mudstones, siltstones and greywacke of the Telychian Llandovery series (British Geological Survey 1985). The local soils are typical Brown Earths (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1975).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Designated Sites

No Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) lie within the boundaries of the proposed development site, however, Caer Penrhos Iron Age hillfort (PRN 1196; **Photo 2 IMG 3045**) encloses the top of the hill some 0.4km to the east of the development site at NGR SN 5520 6955 (140mOD). During the Middle Ages the monument appears to have been re-used as a bailey for a ringwork castle (**Photo 3 IMG 3040**) constructed within the southeast end of the enclosure (Castell Cadwaladr PRN 764). Both sites are in good condition and are protected together as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No. CER94). The situation of these monuments commands a wide view to the west, down onto the development area and beyond to the village of Llanrhystud and Cardigan Bay (**Photo 4 IMG 3036**).

Listed Buildings

No listed buildings lie within the boundaries of the proposed development site or within a 0.5km radius of the centre of the site.

Known Archaeological Remains and Historical Development

The following section includes the results of searches undertaken of the Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record listed by time period.

Palaeolithic (c.450,000 – 10,000 BC)

No known sites of Palaeolithic date have been identified within the boundaries of the proposed development area or within a 0.5km radius of its centre.

Mesolithic and Neolithic (c. 10,000 – 4500 BC)

No known sites of Mesolithic or Neolithic date have been identified within the boundaries of the proposed development area or within a 0.5km radius of its centre.

Bronze Age (c.2300 – 700 BC)

No known sites of Bronze Age date have been identified within the boundaries of the proposed development area or within a 0.5km radius of its centre.

Iron Age (c.700 BC – 43 AD)

No known sites of Iron Age date have been identified within the boundaries of the proposed development area, however, the previously noted hillfort of Caer Penrhos (PRN 1196; SAM CER94) lies 0.4km to the east of the site. The hillfort is considered to be of Iron Age date.

A circular defended enclosure (PRN 52096) of possible Iron Age date has been recorded as a cropmark some 0.3km due south of the site although this may now have been destroyed (see Aerial Photographs section below).

Roman (AD43 – c. AD410)

No known sites of Roman date have been identified within the boundaries of the proposed development area or within a 0.5km radius of its centre.

Early Medieval (c.AD410 – AD1066)

No known sites of Early Medieval date have been identified within the boundaries of the proposed development area or within a 0.5km radius of its centre.

Medieval (1066 – 1485)

No known sites of Medieval date have been identified within the boundaries of the proposed development area, however, the previously noted Ringwork Castell Cadwaladr (PRN 764; SAM CER94) lies upslope some 0.4km to the east of the site within Caer Penrhos.

Post Medieval (1485 – 1900)

No archaeologically significant sites of Post Medieval date have been identified within the boundaries of the proposed development area or within a 0.5km radius.

Modern (20th century to present)

No archaeologically significant sites of Modern date have been identified within the boundaries of the proposed development area or within a 0.5km radius.

Cartographic Information

The earliest cartographic source consulted for this appraisal was John Speed's map of 1610, which depicts only the village of Llanrhystud (as 'Llanrusted'), the church and Afon Wyre (as 'Weray') with no detail of the development area.

Emmanuel Bowen's Map of South Wales from 1729 (**Fig. 3**) shows the church and village of Llanrhystud and also the confluence of the Afon Wyre (as 'Gwyre Vawr') with Afon Wyre Fach (as 'Gwyre Vach'). The lack of detailed information on this or the earlier Speed map, does not mean that no features of archaeological and historical interest were present within the vicinity of the proposed development, but merely reflects the detail possible to include within the large areas covered by these maps.

The Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawings Map of 1820-21 (**Fig. 4**) shows some field boundary details in the vicinity of the development area and also depicts Caer Penrhos fort and Castle as an earthwork (labelled 'Y Gaer'), with a building enclosed close to the southeast edge of the monument. Afon Wyre is labelled as 'R Wirral' and there are details of field plots behind buildings fronting onto the roads in the village of Llanrhystud.

Consultation of a copy of the 1839 Tithe Map (**Fig. 5**) and Apportionment for the Parish of Llanrhystud (spelt 'Llanrhystid' on both the map and the apportionment) revealed that the proposed development area was within an enclosed field No. 739 and named as 'Cae Gwai Issaf', or lower hay field. The field was part of the Ystrad Teilo estate, then in the ownership of Phillip John Phillips and occupied by, although the script is unclear, one William Jenet (?).

The 1891 first edition 6" Ordnance Survey Map (**Fig. 6**) shows that the field boundaries in the proposed development area had changed little since those depicted on the tithe map. A trackway is marked running along the southwest boundary of the development area, perhaps leading to the disused 'Old Quarry' shown in the adjacent field to the southeast.

The 1906 second edition 6" Ordnance Survey Map (**Fig. 7**) records no change in the field boundary arrangements since the publication of the first edition map. The southwest boundary trackway is no longer marked, perhaps implying that it had fallen into disuse by this time.

Other than the trackway marked on the 1891 Ordnance Survey map no features of archaeological or historic interest are shown within the area of the proposed development on any of the early edition maps held in the HER.

Aerial Photographs

The HER holds seven oblique aerial photographs that focus on the Caer Penrhos monuments, four of which include incidental views of the development area. No features of archaeological interest appear within the development area on any of these photographs.

Two Royal Air Force vertical photographs of the area taken in 1946 also show no features within the development area that can be interpreted as being of archaeological significance.

Outside the proposed development area, some 0.35km to the south, a cropmark indicating the presence of an Iron Age bivallate circular defended enclosure (PRN 52096 at NGR SN 5494 6925) has been noted on a vertical aerial photograph taken in 1989 (Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs). It is thought that this site was either destroyed or buried during the landscaping carried out for the construction of the golf course in the early 1990s.

Site Walkover Survey

A site visit was undertaken on 23rd June 2010 following permission from Mr Rowland Rees-Evans. The visit comprised a walkover of the whole area of the proposed development and a visit to Caer Penrhos in order to get an overview of the site. Photographs were taken and field observations recorded in note form. The site is currently under pasture although there were no animals present in the field at the time of the site visit.

The proposed development area occupies approximately one third of the southwest facing, steeply sloping field adjacent to the caravan park's northeast boundary. The ground undulates gently across the contours, probably as a result of the natural drainage of the slope, which fall from about 75m OD down to 40m OD over a distance of approximately 80m or so. The ground becomes less steep along the caravan park boundary, which currently comprises a post and wire fence set along the former hedgeline, with occasional mature deciduous trees demarcating its line. The trackway noted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map runs along most of the field boundary and appears to have been terraced into the hillslope, reaching a depth of some 0.75m in places. The trackway is 3m wide and currently overgrown with bracken and disused. A shallow, c.0.5m wide ditch, probably modern, has been cut along the centre of the trackway, presumably for drainage. At the southeast boundary of the development area the track appears to turn and continue up the slope for some distance before gradually disappearing.

A roughly circular, c.50m diameter, area of dense gorse and blackthorn growth covers the hillslope towards the northwest end of the development area; at the time of the site visit this was impenetrable. Beyond the gorse, up to the northwest edge of the proposed site, the remaining ground is relatively level (**Photo IMG 3046**).

Other than the disused track way no other archaeological features were noted within the proposed development area during the site visit.

CONCLUSION

The archaeological assessment revealed that no archaeological or historical sites are recorded on the HER within the proposed development area. None of the archaeological sites recorded on the HER within the vicinity would be directly affected by the proposed development.

Cartographic research and the site visit revealed the presence of a trackway running along the southwest boundary of, and within, the development area. The trackway may be affected by the proposed development. The trackway is presumably of post-medieval date and may have been associated with a former quarry. It is shown only on the first edition Ordnance Survey map but was no longer indicated by the time of the second edition map.

Topographically, a greater part of the proposed development area comprises steeply sloping ground that would not be considered conducive to settlement without a certain amount of terracing or landscaping to have been undertaken to level the slope area. This would be true for almost any historic or prehistoric period from the Bronze Age onwards. No earthworks indicative of terracing or landscaping were observed on the site during the field visit and no cropmarks or parchmarks were present on any of the aerial photographs (which might indicate former prehistoric terracing).

The proposed development is likely to involve landscaping works, construction of roadways, service installation and foundations construction, all of which could lead to any underlying archaeological remains to be exposed, damaged or destroyed. With the above assessment of the site it is considered unlikely that archaeologically significant features or deposits associated with the Caer Penrhos sites would be present within the proposed development area. As with any assessment, there is still the potential for hitherto unknown archaeological remains to be present within the site area, although the overall potential for this is considered low to very low.

The impacts from the proposed development on the setting of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Caer Penrhos should be considered. Discussion with Cadw may be considered appropriate (no such discussions have been undertaken as part of this appraisal).

SOURCES

Database

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Historic Environment Record, housed with Dyfed Archaeological Trust in The Shire Hall, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire, SA19 6AF

Cartographic

Bowen, E *A New and Accurate Map of South Wales* 1729

John Speed's Map of Cardiganshire 1610 (after Saxton 1580?)

Tithe Map and Apportionment for the Parish of Llanrhystud 1839

Ordnance Survey Old Series 1 inch to 1 mile Sheet 57 1834

Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawings 1820-21

Ordnance Survey 1:10560 Cardigan Sheet XIV SE 1891

Ordnance Survey 1:10560 Cardigan Sheet XIV SE 1906

Ordnance Survey 1:10560 Quarter Sheet SN56NW 1963

Ordnance Survey 1:10560 Quarter Sheet SN56NE 1963

Ordnance Survey 1:10560 Quarter Sheet SN57SW 1963

Ordnance Survey 1:10560 Quarter Sheet SN57SE 1963

Rees, W *South Wales and the Border in the 14th Century* NW Sheet 1932

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1:1000000 scale map 1975

British Geological Survey *The Rocks of Wales* 1:250000 scale 1st Edition solid

Published

Lewis, S 1833 *A Topographical Dictionary of Wales*

Llwyd, Rheinallt (Editor) 2004 *Llanrhystud Llandeiniol* Llanrhystud Local Historical Society.

Rees, S 1992 *Dyfed: A Guide to Ancient and Historic Wales* CADW HMSO

Unpublished

Ludlow, N 2000 *CADW Welsh Historic Churches Project: Ceredigion Churches*
Dyfed Archaeological Trust Report (DAT 48) for CADW Welsh Historic Monuments

Aerial photographs

DAT Oblique SN5569 87-MB-1114 8/12/87

DAT Oblique SN5569 87-MB-1115 8/12/87

DAT Oblique SN5569 87-MB-1116 8/12/87

DAT Oblique SN5569 87-MB-1119 8/12/87

DAT Oblique SN5569 Neg.Ref. AP89-H20

DAT Oblique SN5569 Neg.Ref. AP92-013.24

DAT Oblique SN5569 Neg.Ref. AP92-013.25

RAF Vertical 106G-UK-1457 Frames 3416 and 3417

Vertical CUCAP RC8 knca 78 Cambridge University Collection June 1989



Figure 1: Location Map based on the Ordnance Survey.

Reproduced from the 1987 Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale Landranger Map with the permission of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown Copyright Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd., The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF. Licence No AL51842A

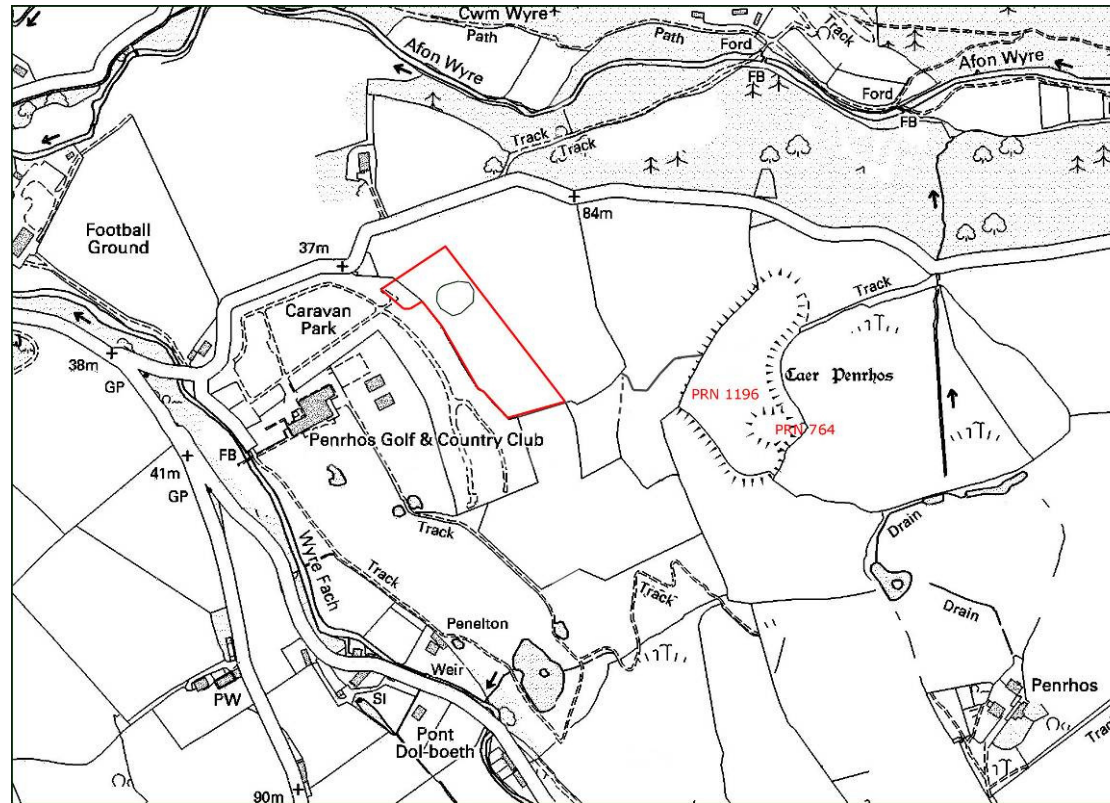


Figure 2: The location of the proposed development area, outlined in red, based on the Ordnance Survey.

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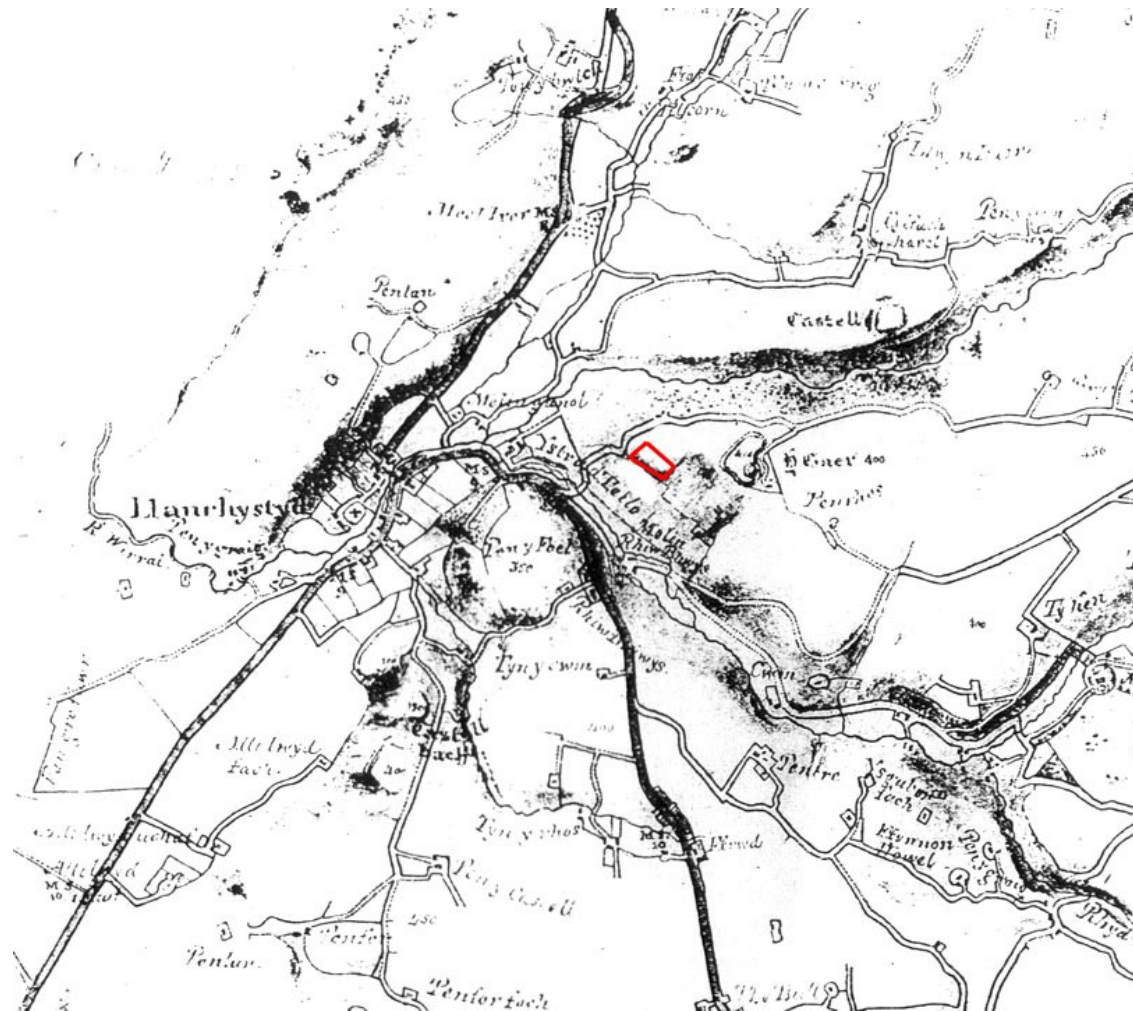


Figure 4: Extract from Ordnance Survey Original Surveyors Drawings Map, surveyed 1820-21.

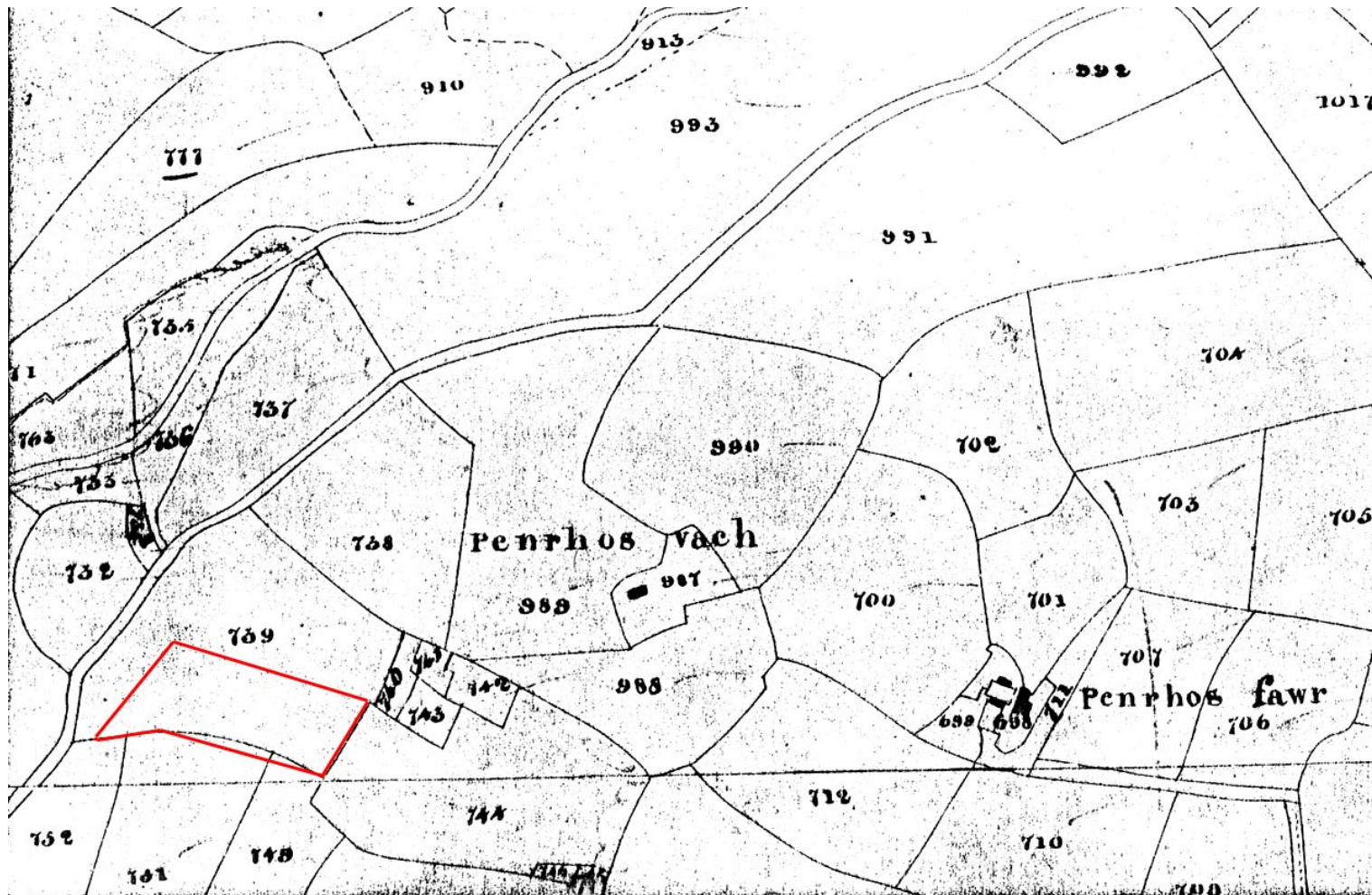
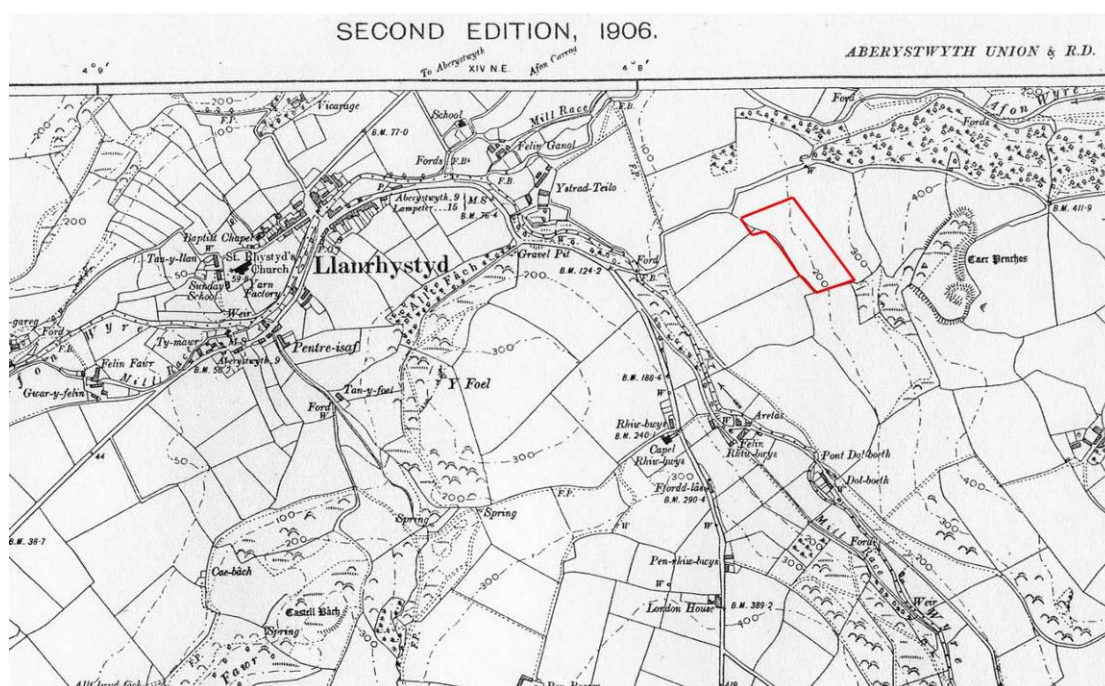


Figure 5: Extract from the 1839 Llanrhystud Parish Tithe Map.



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PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1: Overview of proposed development site from Caer Penrhos, view WNW.



Photo. 2: The northeast ramparts of Caer Penrhos hillfort (PRN 1196) looking WSW



Photo 3: View of Castell Cadwaladr ringwork (PRN 764) looking east.



Photo 4: Commanding view to the west across the development area to Cardigan Bay from Caer Penrhos hillfort



Photo 5: View NNW along the disused trackway, 1m scale



Photo 6: View SE along the disused trackway at its deepest point, 1m scale.