

LAND ADJACENT TO GOLWG YR ALLT, TALLEY CARMARTHENSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



Report prepared
by
Dyfed Archaeological Trust
for
MYBA Developments



ymddiriedolaeth archaeolegol
DYFED
archaeological trust

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

REPORT NO. 2008/41
PROJECT RECORD NO. 64642

April 2008

LAND ADJACENT TO GOLWG YR ALLT, TALLEY CARMARTHENSHIRE: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

By

Simon Ratty

The report has been prepared for the specific use of the client. The Dyfed Archaeological Trust Ltd can accept no responsibility for its use by any other person or persons who may read it or rely on the information it contains.

YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL DYFED CYF

Neuadd y Sir, Stryd Caerfyrddin, Llandeilo
Sir Gaerfyrddin SA19 6AF
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Gwasanaethau Masnachol 01558 825986
Adran Rheoli Treftadaeth 01558 823131
Ffacs: 01558 823133
Epost: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Gwefan: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST LIMITED

The Shire Hall, Carmarthen Street, Llandeilo Carmarthenshire SA19 6AF
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Commercial Services 01558 825986
Heritage Management Section 01558 823131
Fax: 01558 823133
Email: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Website: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

Cwmni cyfyngedig (1198990) ynghyd ag elusen gofrestredig (504616) yw'r Ymddiriedolaeth.
The Trust is both a Limited Company (No. 1198990) and a Registered Charity (No. 504616)

CADEIRYDD CHAIRMAN: C R MUSSON MBE B Arch FSA MIFA. CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: K MURPHY BA MIFA

**LAND ADJACENT TO GOLWG YR ALLT, TALLEY
CARMARTHENSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

CONTENTS	PAGE
Summary	1
1. Introduction	2
2. Summary of the historic landscape development	3
3. Summary of archaeological evaluation results	4
4. Conclusions	
Sources	10
Figure 1: Location map of site development area in red	3
Figure 2: Extract from 1 st edition OS map showing development area bounded in red	4
Figure 3: Extract from 2 nd edition OS map showing development area bounded in red	4
Figure 4: Location plan of evaluation trench	4
Figure 5: South facing section of Features 1 and 2	8
Plate 1: East facing post excavation shot of evaluation trench.	6
Plate 2: North facing section of evaluation trench looking SW.	6
Plate 3: West facing pre excavation shot of [1002] also showing modern service trench to left.	7
Plate 4: North facing post excavation shot of [1002] showing (1003)	7
Plate 5: North facing post excavation shot of [1004] showing (1005)	8
Plate 6: East facing view of reinstated evaluation trench	9

**LAND ADJACENT TO GOLWG YR ALLT, TALLEY
CARMARTHENSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

SUMMARY

This report has been produced by Dyfed Archaeological Trust Field Services in response to a request from MYBA Developments to provide an archaeological evaluation on a plot of land adjacent to Golwg yr Allt, Talley, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN63653255) to evaluate the potential impact of a proposed residential development (planning reference number E/09983) on the archaeological resource.

A prior archaeological appraisal of the site has revealed it has the potential to contain archaeological features and deposits in the form of prehistoric burnt mounds. Additionally, the proposed development site is located in close proximity to two medieval chapel sites, which may have been the property of Talley Abbey, and suggests the possibility of the presence of a medieval secular settlement in the vicinity of the site.

Given the potential for archaeological features and deposits to be present within the proposed development site an archaeological evaluation was recommended to be undertaken, to assess the character and significance of any archaeological features or deposits which may be present within the site.

The evaluation consisted of a single trench measuring 20m by 2m, opened by machine and then cleaned by hand to prove the presence or absence of any archaeological features or deposits. One modern service trench was noted, but a further two features were excavated and recorded. The date and function of these features could not be established during the evaluation and it is not thought that they were archaeological in origin.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Commission

Plans to develop a plot of land (planning reference number E/09983) adjacent to Golwg yr Allt, Talley, Carmarthenshire (NGR SN63653255) required an archaeological evaluation be undertaken. The proposed development site contains no known archaeological features or deposits. However, the potential exists for the presence of archaeological features in the form of prehistoric burnt mounds to be encountered within the proposed development site. Additionally, the site lies in close proximity to the sites of two medieval chapels, which may once have been owned by Talley Abbey, and suggests the possibility of the presence of a medieval secular settlement in the vicinity.

1.2 Scope of the Project

The project was designed to identify and characterise the extent of any archaeological features and deposits that may be encountered within the proposed development site.

1.3 Report Outline

This report describes the location of the site along with its archaeological background (Section 2) before summarising the evaluation results and the conclusions based on those results (Section 3).

1.4 Abbreviations

Sites recorded on the Regional Historic Environment Record (HER¹) are identified by their Primary Record Number (PRN) and located by their National Grid Reference (NGR).

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

2. SUMMARY OF THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT

2.1 The Site Location

The proposed development site occupies a long narrow area of land to the southeast of Talley Abbey. The site slopes from the northeast to form a very shallow stream valley where it is very low lying and wet. The south of the site is bounded by mature trees and a stream, whilst the northern boundary consists of modern housing, as does that to the west. The eastern boundary being a fence line which surrounds a playing field.

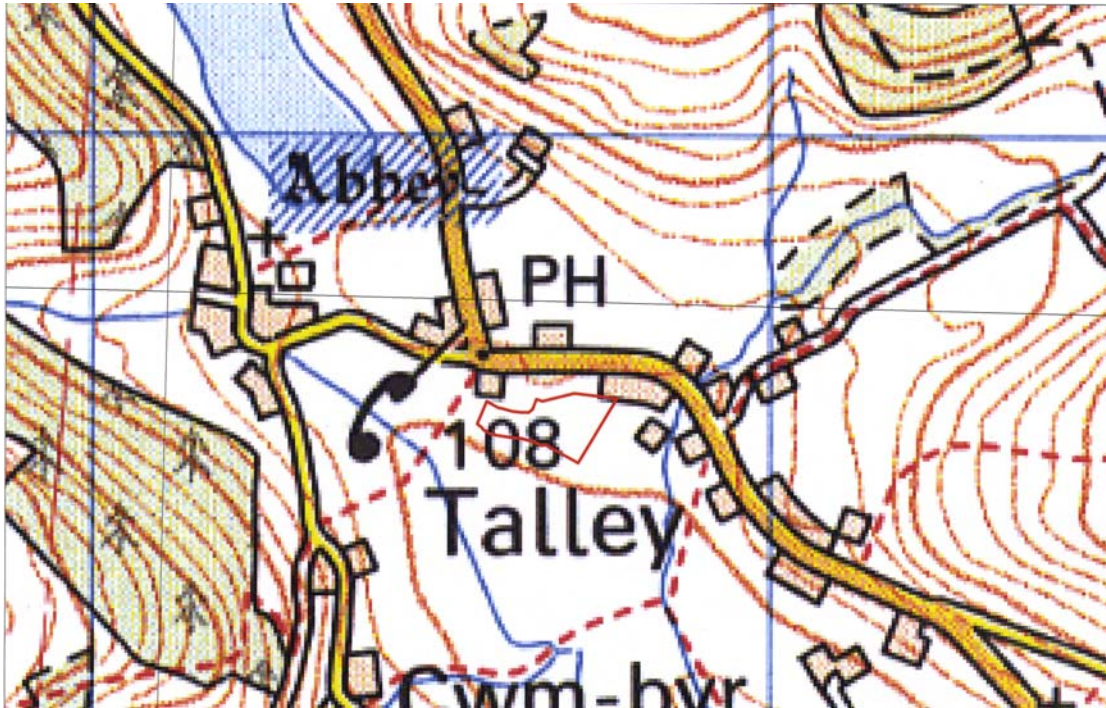


Figure 1: Location map of site. Development area in red.

Reproduced from the 2002 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

2.2 Landscape Development

Map regression has revealed that since at least the late 1800s the site has not been the subject of any significant development (Ordnance Survey (OS) 1888: 1906). The site was once subdivided into two fields with a boundary shown running northeast – southwest across the site on both the 1st and 2nd edition OS maps. No trace of this boundary was noted during the site visit.

To the north and west the landscape has been the subject of much modern development in the form of housing. Whilst to the east a playing field now occupies what was once agricultural land. A track was noted during the site visit but this is probably modern and associated with access to the playing field.

Developments such as the construction of the Edwinsford Arms public house, the Post Office and latterly modern housing within the vicinity of the proposed development site attest to the continuing development of Talley.

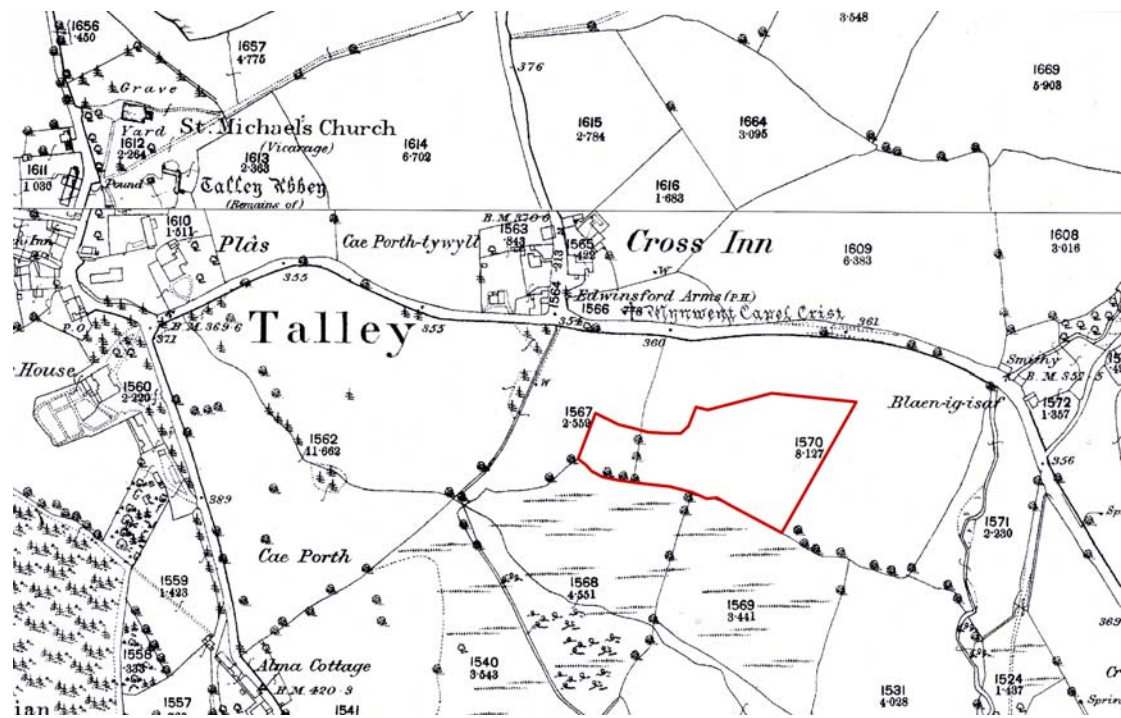


Figure 2: Extract from Ordnance Survey 1st edition 1:2500 map showing development area bounded in red (1888).

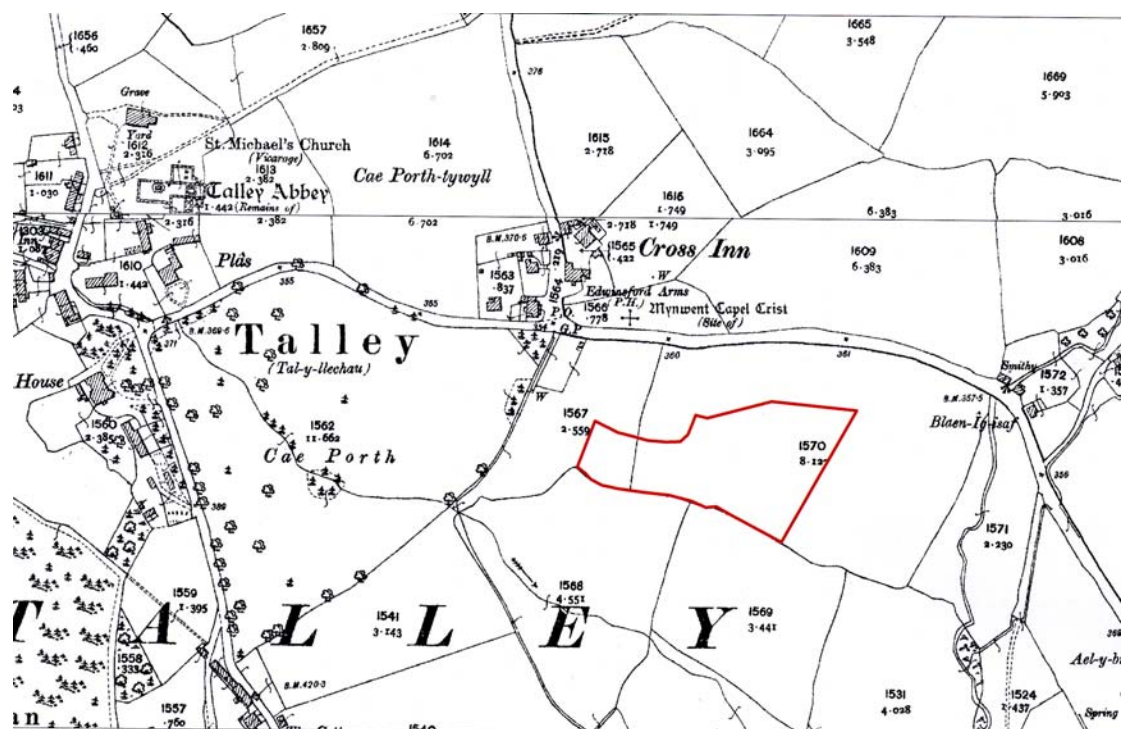


Figure 3: Extract from Ordnance Survey 2nd edition 1:2500 map showing development area bounded in red (1906).

3. SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

3.1 Archaeological Evaluation Methodology

The archaeological evaluation comprised a single 20m x 2m trench mechanically excavated using a toothless grading bucket.

Excavation was undertaken to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon. Once this had been reached the trench was cleaned by hand to prove the presence or absence of any archaeological features or deposits.

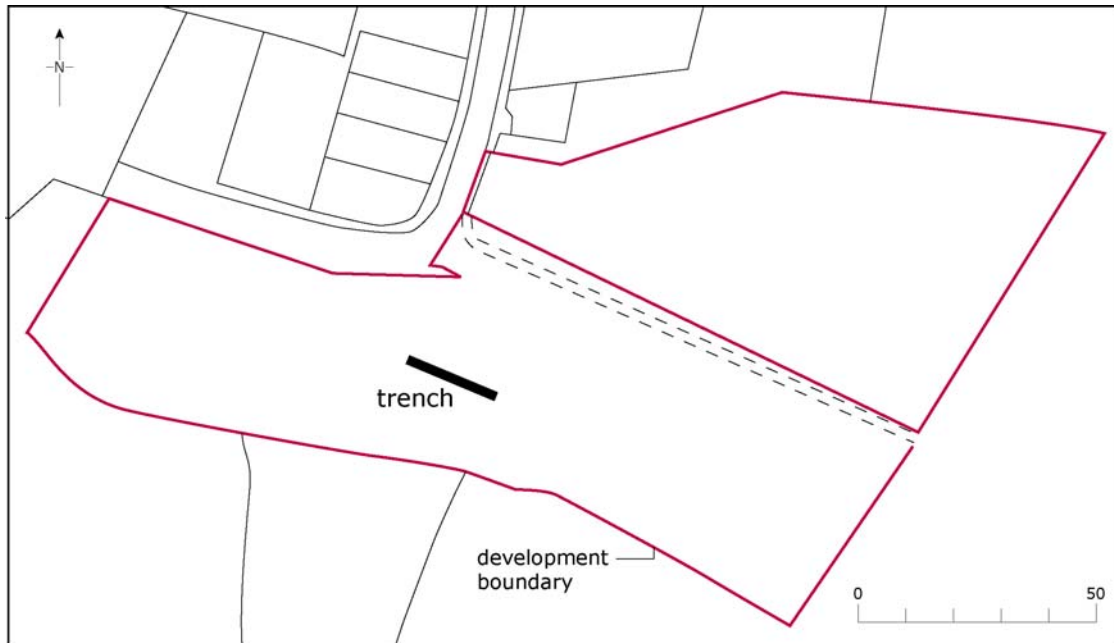


Figure 4: Location plan of evaluation trench.

3.2 Results

The evaluation trench was orientated east - west and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.42m. It was noted the topsoil horizon (1000) comprised of a dark reddish brown clay silt of moderate compaction containing circa 10% small sub-angular stone and having a maximum depth of 0.31m. This overlay a natural horizon (1001) of mid grey clay of firm compaction and having inclusions in the form of circa 15% medium sub-angular stone. A number of features were noted cutting into this horizon. One linear feature orientated northeast - southwest was noted and on investigation was found to be a modern service trench. However, two further features were recorded and these are discussed below.



Plate 1: East facing post excavation shot of evaluation trench



Plate 2: North facing section of evaluation trench looking southeast.

3.2.1 Feature 1 [1002] (1003)

An irregular sub circular feature was noted at the western end of the evaluation trench and orientated east – west, measuring 0.63 x 0.41m and cut into the natural clay (1001). The feature was half sectioned with the southern portion of the fill being removed. The singular fill (1003) was found to be of a friable dark brown silty clay containing negligible inclusions. Excavation also revealed the feature had moderately sloping sides tapering to an irregular concave base and was cut to a depth of 0.20m. No dating evidence was recovered during the excavation. It is possible this feature may have been caused by root disturbance from former vegetation on the site.



Plate 3: West facing pre excavation shot of [1002] also showing modern service trench to left.



Plate 4: North facing post excavation shot of [1002] showing (1003).

3.2.2 Feature 2 [1004] (1005)

A second irregular sub circular feature was noted circa 14.60m from the western limit of the evaluation trench and appeared to continue below the northern section. The visible dimensions of the feature, which like Feature 1 appeared to be orientated east – west, measured 1.11m x 0.40m, although it is quite possible it may be larger. On excavation it was found the feature was cut [1004] to a depth of 0.15m and was visible in section cutting both the lower levels of (1000) and into (1001). Excavation of the feature revealed it to contain a single fill (1005) comprising of a dark reddish brown silty clay of moderate compaction and having inclusions in the form circa 5% small sub-angular stone. In addition to this a very small proportion circa 1% charcoal flecks were noted. As with feature 1, no dating evidence was recovered. The purpose and date of the feature remains unclear, but it may also be the result of root disturbance from former vegetation.



Plate 5: North facing post excavation shot of [1004] showing (1005).

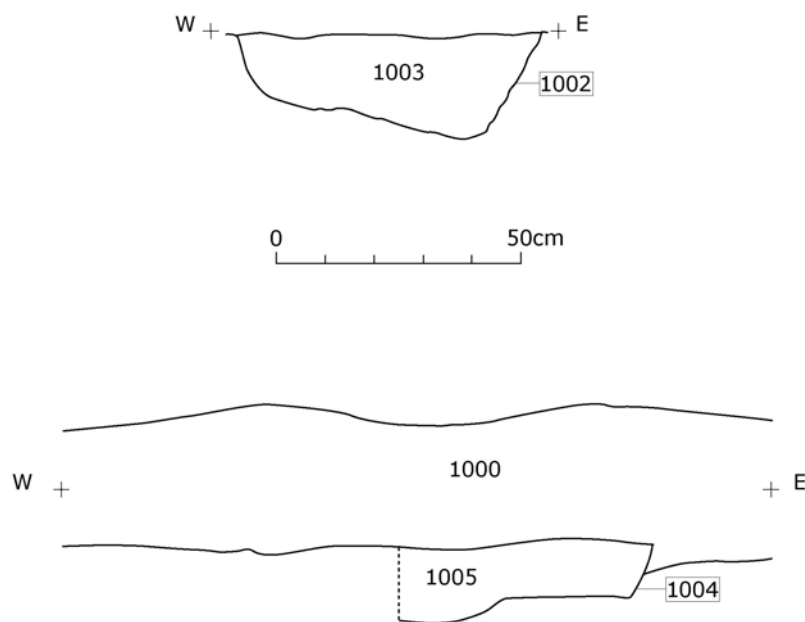


Figure 5: Sections of Features 1 and 2.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological evaluation carried out on the proposed development site adjacent to Golwg yr Allt, Talley, Carmarthenshire revealed hitherto unknown features within the site, although these are considered to be most likely former root boles and not archaeological in origin.



Plate 6: East facing view of reinstated evaluation trench.

SOURCES

Map

Ordnance Survey 1888 Carmarthenshire Sheet XXV NE 1:2500.

Ordnance Survey 1906 Carmarthenshire Sheet XXV NE 1:2500.

Ordnance Survey 2002 Landranger 1:50000.

Unpublished Sources

Ratty S 2008 *Land Adjacent to Golwg yr Allt, Talley, Carmarthenshire: Archaeological Appraisal*. Report Number 2008/22. Project Record Number 63951
Unpublished report.

DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

**LAND ADJACENT TO GOLWG YR ALLT, TALLEY
CARMARTHENSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
REPORT NUMBER 2008/41**

April 2008

This report has been prepared by Simon Ratty

Position: Archaeologist

Signature Date

This report has been checked and approved by Nigel Page
on behalf of Cambria Archaeology, Dyfed Archaeological Trust.

Position: Head of Field Services

Signature Date

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