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Penglais Farm, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion

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A report for Aberystwyth University
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Summary

The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, Projects Division (GGAT Projects) were commissioned by Aberystwyth University to undertake an assessment of the archaeological effects of a proposed development at Penglais and Frongoch Farm, Aberystwyth. The assessment reviewed information held by the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Monuments Record (NMR), as well as cartographic and documentary sources. Aerial photographs were examined and a site visit conducted.

A total of 21 sites of archaeological interest where identified within the study area. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the study area. Four of the identified sites have statutory protection as Grade II Listed Buildings, including Plas Penglais (LB10416), Plas Hendre (LB27002), the coach-house and stable at Plas Hendre (LB27003) and Penglais Road Milestone (LB10418).

A map regression exercise, combined with analysis of documentary sources and aerial photographs, has identified eight previously unrecorded sites of archaeological interest within the development area.

The effect of the development on Bank Barn (PF001) is considered to be 'severe' and as such should be mitigated by a Level 3 building survey conducted to the specifications laid out in English Heritage's Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice (2006) *in advance of any demolition or construction work at the site.*

At least three hedgerows meet the criterion of an 'important' hedgerow, as laid out in the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations (Statutory Instrument 1997 No. 1160), as they are shown on the 1845 Llanbadarn tithe map and potentially pre-date the Inclosure Acts. The present hedgerows flanking the road (PF007) leading to Penglais Farm/Bank Barn (PF001) from the B4572 and the trackway (PF008) between Bank Barn/Penglais Farm (PF001) and the original Penglais Farm (PF002) appear to be preserved in the modern landscape. The effect of the development on these boundaries is considered to be 'severe'. In order to ascertain their importance a survey of these hedgerows should be completed prior to their removal.

The proposed development area is within close proximity to Bryncarnedd Round Barrow (6182/90663), as such there may be potential for other similar, as yet unrecorded, prehistoric funerary, ritual and settlement features in the vicinity. Although the area has been subject to agricultural exploitation for centuries and it is possible that any visible remains above the ground surface have been severely damaged by ploughing, there is still a possibility that archaeologically significant features may still survive beneath the ground surface. The effect on any such potential features should be mitigated by an archaeological watching-brief during the course of any ground intrusive construction works.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Planning history

Aberystwyth University have submitted a pre-planning assessment for the development of a student village at Penglais and Frongoch Farm, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion. The Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust, Projects Division (GGAT Projects), have been commissioned by Aberystwyth University, through their agents Asbri Planning Ltd, to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment to provide baseline data and background detail on the archaeological resource of the development area to inform the determination of any future application.

1.2 Specification and methodology for study

The assessment comprises a review of existing information about the archaeological resource of an area 1.3km² situated on land in the area of Penglais Farm. The study area is centred on NGR SN 59816 82497 and is outlined in green in Figure 1. The assessment is intended to conform to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards in British Archaeology: Archaeological desk-based assessments (1994, amended 1999, 2001 an d 2008).*

Information recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) and National Monuments Record (NMR) was assessed. Cartographic and documentary sources were studied, along with relevant published information. Current Listed Building data and information on Scheduled Ancient Monuments and registered landscapes was obtained from Cadw. Collections of aerial photographs held by the Central Register of Air Photography for Wales (CRAPW) were examined and additional information requested from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW). A site visit was made on the 4th May 2011.

Detailed advice on archaeology in the planning process is contained in *Welsh Office Circular 60/96 Planning and the Historic Environment: Archaeology*. Works affecting an ancient monument and its setting are protected through implementation of the *Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. Detailed advice on Environmental Impact Assessment is contained within *Welsh Office Circular 11/99 Environmental Impact Assessment*, which forms part of the wider *Archaeology Planning Policy Wales (PPW)*. This document sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Assembly Government. *Planning Policy Wales* is supplemented by a series of TANs, and together with the Welsh Office Circulars comprise the *National Planning Policy.*

The *Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* sets out a presumption in favour of preservation *in-situ* concerning sites and monuments of national importance (scheduled), and there exists in the current *Planning Policy Wales (Chapter 6)* a presumption in favour of preservation *in-situ* of all types of archaeological sites and monuments.

1.3 Assessment criteria

The archaeological sites within the study area are categorised in accordance with the only available criteria that are nationally agreed; these values are set out in the Department of Transport/Welsh Office/Scottish Office Design Manual for Roads and Bridges paragraph 3.4 Vol. 11 Section 3 Part 2 (Cultural Heritage).

- Category A: national importance

- Category B: regional importance
- Category C: local importance
- Category D: low importance

To these an additional category has been added

- Category U: unknown

The assessment of the importance of individual sites is essentially a subjective exercise based upon the experience of the project team. The importance of certain sites will be implied by their status within the statutory framework. Scheduled Ancient Monuments will always be of national importance; Listed Buildings will be of at least regional importance. Values assigned to other sites are given both in relation to their individual importance and to their context within the wider landscape.

The **condition** of individual sites and the general overall condition of surviving remains has bearing on the value of the sites themselves and on the value that they impart within a wider landscape context. The condition of sites is recorded following the system used by the GGAT HER, using the following criteria:

- Intact: the site is intact
- Near intact: the site is nearly intact
- Damaged: the site has been moderately damaged
- Near destroyed: the site has nearly been destroyed
- Destroyed: the site has been destroyed
- Restored: the site has been restored
- Moved: the site has been moved (usually finds)
- Not known: the condition of the site is not known

For the purposes of desk-based assessments, **rarity** is assessed at regional level only. The following criteria are used:

- High: very few sites of this type are known
- Medium: the site is not unusual, but cannot be considered common
- Low: the site is quite common

Group association is where a connection between sites within the landscape can be demonstrated. These will usually be of the same period, but may include groups where the presence of an earlier site or sites has led to the formation of a later complex, or where an earlier site or sites can be shown to have acquired importance as part of a later complex. The criteria are as follows:

- High: the site forms part of an interconnected complex occupying a clearly definable landscape where little or no fragmentation has occurred
- Medium: the site is part of an interconnected complex, which is either limited in scope or badly fragmented
- Low: there are few or no other sites, which are associated

Historical association is where there is a link between the site and known historical or cultural persons or events. Prehistoric sites, which are by definition before historical evidence, cannot have any contemporary historical association, but they may acquire later associations. For the Roman and Early-medieval periods, where survival of historical evidence is poor and patchy, any contemporary documentation at all will be important. Two classifications are given for historical association, one reflecting the certainty of the identification, and the other its importance. Only sites with certain or possible association can be assessed for importance, and historical association can only increase the importance of a site; the absence of it will never decrease its importance.

Historical association- identification

- Certain
- Possible
- Unknown

Historical association- importance

- High
- Medium
- Low

The assignment of values to identified interests requires consideration of the reliability and accuracy of the source data, ranging from fully-recorded features seen in open excavation to antiquarian comments on finds of note from a poorly-defined location. The **confidence** with which the values have been assigned is noted, using the following criteria:

- High: existing information is reliable and detailed
- Medium: existing information is apparently reliable but limited in detail
- Low: existing information is too limited to allow its reliability to be assessed

The **effect** of the proposal on the archaeological resource has been assessed using the following criteria:

- Severe: total loss
- Major: significant loss, likely to result in a reduction of value of the surviving site
- Minor: loss unlikely to result in a reduction of value of the surviving site
- None: no identifiable effect
- Beneficial: development will protect, preserve or enhance the site better than if the development did not occur

2. Background

2.1 Location and topography

The town of Aberystwyth is located in Cardigan Bay on the west coast of Ceredigion at the confluence of the Rivers Ystwyth and Rheidol. The name Aberystwyth means 'mouth of the Ystwyth'. The core of the town is located near the coast. The study area is situated further inland at Penglais to the north of Aberystwyth University (Figure 1). The development area is centred on NGR SN 59816 82497, to the northeast of Pentre Jane Morgan, the present student accommodation. The surrounding area consists of enclosed fields on hillsides with Frongoch Farm and Bryncarnedd to the east.

2.2 Geology

The bedrock in the area is made up of the Aberystwyth grits Group, which comprises sandstone and mudstone. The overlaying deposits within the development area are Devensian glacial till including clay, silt, sand and gravel (SSEW 1983).

2.3 Walkover survey

A walkover survey was conducted on 4th May 2011. The area was photographed; all sites previously identified from a search of the regional Historic Environment Record (HER) and National Monuments Record (NMR) were visited in order to assess their current condition. A sample of photographs illustrating the current condition of the archaeological interests and the site in general can be seen in Appendix II. No previously unrecorded sites of archaeological interest were identified during the survey.

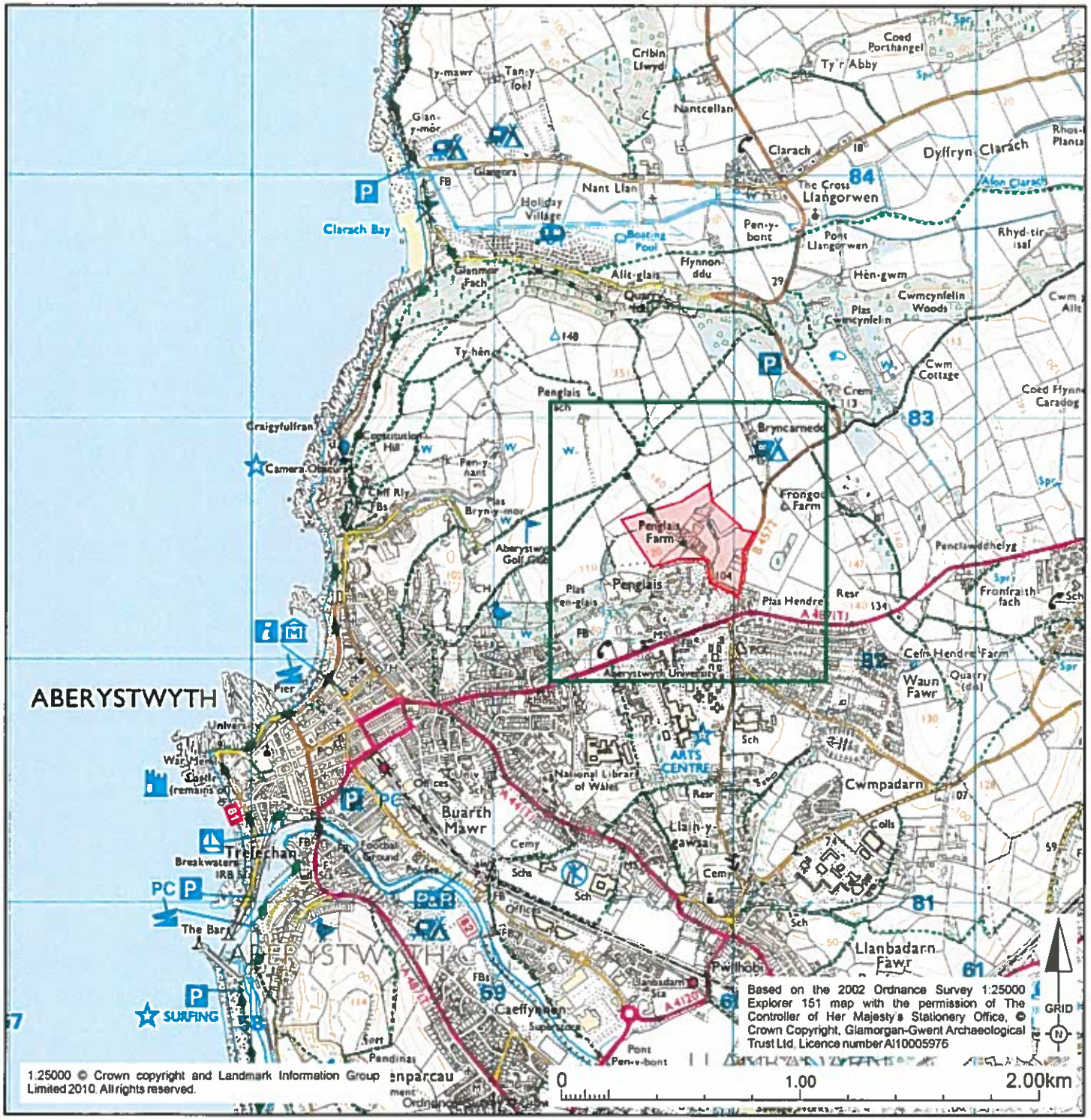

Figure 1. Location plan showing the development area (red) and study area (green).

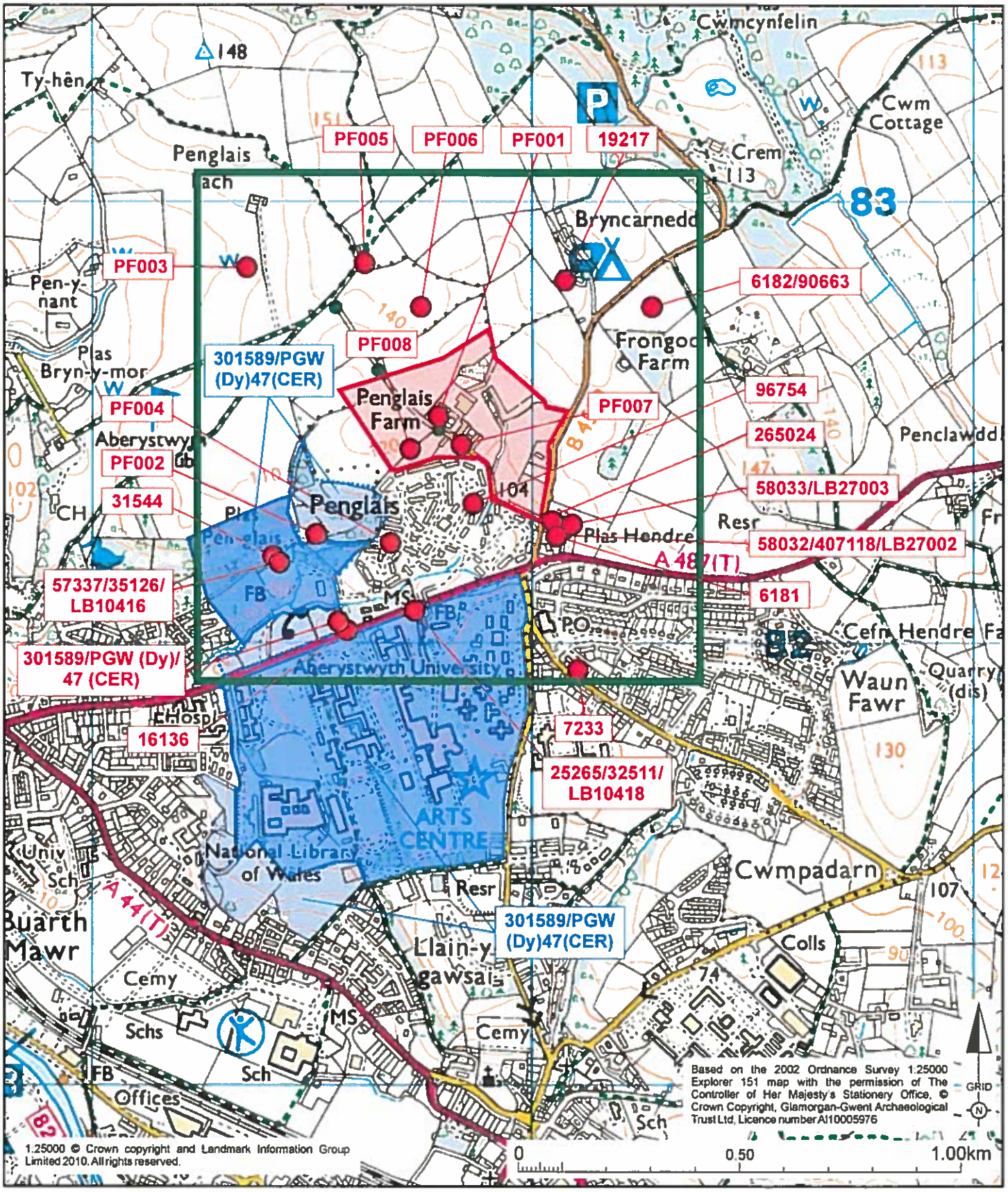

Figure 2. Location of development area (red), study area (green), archaeological interests (red), registered parks and gardens (blue) and their essential settings (light blue).

2.4 General historical and archaeological background

Prehistoric (up to AD43) and Roman AD43 – 410

A Neolithic stone axe found on Pen Dinas is one of the earlier pieces of archaeological evidence in the surrounding area of the period. One of the earliest known examples of human occupation in the study area itself is a Bronze Age Round Barrow (6182/90663) located 233m to the northeast of the development area. The barrow was constructed on the summit of a ridge *c*260m southeast of Bryncarnedd. The site was recorded by the RCAHMW as a circular parchmark in grassland alongside a modern fence boundary. The site was not identified on any of the sorties of the aerial photographic resource and the field appears to have been extensively ploughed. However, primary burials within this type of funerary monument are often found inserted into subterranean cists and therefore it is important to note that archaeologically significant features may still survive beneath the ploughsoil. A Bronze Age occupation site (8319) is also known at Ash Grange in Faenor over 1km to the east of the development area and 1.9km to the east is a Bronze Age burnt mound (12772), suggesting the potential for similar sites within the development area. A Bronze Age palstave and a triangular barbed and tanged arrowhead have also been found on Pen Dinas (DAT HER).

An Iron Age hill fort is well documented at Pen Dinas (92236) and is the largest in Ceredigion. The fort is dominantly situated on a coastal hill to the south of the town. The location is easily defended and well placed to exploit the nearby trade routes. Archaeological excavation by Daryll Forde between 1933 and 1937 identified four main phases of occupation. The first phase of the fort was a simple defended site on the north summit, enclosed by a rampart of packed rubble and an outer ditch. The first fort was abandoned and second one was constructed on the higher summit to the south. This fort had elaborate gates and a substantial stone-walled rampart with an outer ditch, but eventually fell into partial ruin while parts of it were burnt. The third phase was the re-occupation of the south fort and the addition of new defences and the repair of the exiting rampart. The fourth and final phase saw the construction of further ramparts linking both summits and a new main gate. The stone-walled isthmus gate stood as high as a two-storey building and was crossed by a wooden bridge supported on four massive timber posts. Dyfed Archaeological Trust (DAT) records that the inside of the south fort has latterly been ploughed, but approximately a dozen round houses can still be seen. These take the form of circular or D-shaped scoops, cut into the bedrock providing a level building platform. DAT HER also records that at Pen Dinas' height (in the last decades before Christ) it was a masterpiece of Iron Age architecture and engineering. Datable evidence from the fort includes jar sherds with stamped decoration around the rim *c*100BC (DAT HER, Forde *et al.* 1963, 125).

The evidence for a Roman presence or at least contact with Roman culture, is suggested in the form of a late Roman coin of the emperor Maximian (AD 307) found at Pen Dinas, although the most substantial evidence from the Roman period is a fort (7719) near Cwmbrwyno. The site is situated on a ridge, which would have overlooked the point where the nearby Roman road crossed the Afon Rheidiol. The fort appears to have triple ditch defences with a double ditch annexe to the southwest and was identified using aerial photographic sources, but is no longer as clearly visible from the ground. Excavation at the site was unable to definitively date the demolition and abandonment of the fort, but the small amount of pottery found dated to a period after 120AD (DAT HER).

Early-medieval (410 to 1066)

The archaeological and documentary evidence for the Early-medieval period in Wales is generally sparse. The most significant archaeological evidence for the area during the period comes from Llanbadarn Fawr. The earliest documentary reference to the site dates to 988 and

states it was raided by Vikings (Edwards 2007, 136). A 'clas' or ecclesiastical community was supposedly formed in the locality by St Padarn as early as the sixth century and is latterly said to have 'nurtured a tradition of scholarship' (Evans 1992, 33). By the eleventh and early twelfth centuries it had become a renowned center of learning and is considered the most important monastic foundation in Ceredigion and possibly the seat of a bishop (Edwards 2007, 136). The Life of St David was composed at the site between 1064 and 1082 by Rhigyfarch, who appears to have been a monastic bishop (Ludlow 2002, 12). Within the grounds of the present church are two ninth to eleventh century inscribed stone crosses and St Padarn's parish was once the largest in Wales. The present church dates to the thirteenth century and is associated with the development of the town of Aberystwyth.

Medieval (1066 to 1485)

The first Norman castle to be built in Aberystwyth was an earthwork situated on Tanycastell Hill, south of the present town. The earthwork was reported to have been built by Gilbert fitz Richard in 1109 or 1110 but was destroyed in 1136 (Lloyd *et al* 2006, 401). The *Brut y Tywysogion* mentions Rhys ap Gruffudd breaching and burning a castle called Aber-rheidol in 1164 (Jones 1952) (Egloff and Graham 2009). A second castle named Aber-rheidiol was possibly built at Plas Crûg north of the Rheidiol. The third castle was founded by King Edward I in 1277 and was know as Llanbadarn Castle. Edward constructed it with the aim of strengthening the English presence in Ceredigion (Lloyd *et al* 2006, 401).

Post-medieval (1485 to 1901) and Modern (1901 to present)

The castle built by Edward I declined in the sixteenth century, but the town grew with the exploitation of lead and silver in the hills to the east (Egloff and Graham 2009). The prosperity of the lead mines in Cardiganshire eventually grew enough for Charles I to grant Thomas Bushell a licence to mint at Aberystwyth Castle in 1637. However, during the Civil War the castle came under siege, forcing production at the mint to halt (Dodd 1972, 108). The castle was then dismantled together with most of the town walls in 1649 (Lloyd *et al* 2006). The RCAHMW records that John Probert laid out the grounds in front of the castle as a series of walks in 1790. An excavation in 1902 demonstrated that the castle consisted of two wards (inner and outer) with both sets of walls forming a slightly irregular rectangle (Soulsby 1983, 70).

There is thought to have been little settlement expansion beyond the borough walls until the early nineteenth century when the prosperity of the lead mining, slate quarrying, herring fishing and ship building industries lead to the construction of Bath Street, Portland Street, North Parade and Marine Terrace. The town ousted Cardigan as the principal trading centre on the west coast in the same period (Soulsby 1983, 72). Accordingly the population expanded and the town became the largest in Mid Wales. Further expansion was notable with the establishment of the first University College of Wales in 1872 and the development of the town as a tourist attraction. The Aberystwyth Improvement Company initiated the construction of the Aberystwyth Cliff Railways and the Royal Pier Pavilion. The railway was the only cliff railway in Wales and was opened to the public in 1896 and the Pier was built shortly after (Jones, 1976-1979). It was the combination of mountain scenery and sea-bathing, which was known to have medicinal benefits that attracted many visitors to the town (Lewis, 1960-1963).

Another factor in the growth of the town was the university. It had previously maintained itself on voluntary contributions, as before 1880 any post-elementary education in Wales was self-reliant. The date marks the year when exchequer grants were accepted to support two colleges for north and south Wales respectively and latterly the existing institution at Aberystwyth was

also given grants (Dodd 1972, 155). The university comprises the Old College located near the sea front and the latter edition of Penglais Campus.

The National Library of Wales was constructed in Penglais in the early twentieth century, with the central block opening in 1937, and the final section opening in 1955 (RCAHMW); the building was designed by Sydney K. Greenslade (Lloyd et al 2006, 411). A campaign for a National Library began in 1873 and a committee to collect Welsh material and house it at the University College in Aberystwyth was established (National Library of Wales website).

The landscaping of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth campuses, particularly the earlier Penglais campus, is of exceptional historic interest as an important modern landscaping scheme in Wales, as such is has a grade II* status as a Registered Park and Garden (301589/PGW (Dy) 47(CER)). The sophisticated layout is sensitive to the character of the site. The planting is unusual and varied. One section of Penglais campus is a woodland garden designed by architect Brenda Colvin and is one of few of her schemes to have survived. The area also comprises a twentieth century botany garden. The grounds originally accompanied the Edwardian house Plas Penglais (57337/35126/LB10416). To the south of the road, extensive landscaping was undertaken in the late 1960s when the new University Campus moved up the hill from its earlier site in the town.

2.5 Specific historical and archaeological background

The development area comprises Penglais Farm (PF001) (Plate 1) and a number of fields associated with it. It is one of two farms named Penglais Farm in the area. The original Penglais Farm (PF002) is located to the west. The second Penglais Farm (PF001), forming the subject of the present report, was originally a barn called Bank Barn and was likely to have been associated with the first Penglais Farm (PF002) and the Penglais Estate. The barn is shown on the 1845 Llanbadarn tithe map and the 1st (1888-9) edition OS map as Bank Barn and comprises two small structures in an L shape (Figure 3). The 2nd (1905) edition OS map (Figure 4) shows an additional building to the northeast of the farm. By the publication of the 5th (1964-1974) edition OS map (Figure 5) a farmhouse has been built along with further ancillary structures and the property up to then known as Bank Barn was then renamed Penglais Farm. Some of the field boundaries to the north of the farm were also removed between 1969 (sortie 58 RAF 9372, frame 84-85) and 1974 (5th edition OS map) and some small pockets of woodland are grubbed out between 1950 (sortie 541 RAF 515, frame 3092) and the present.

The field to the south of the development area appears to comprise no features of archaeological interest, only modern structures (Plates 2 and 3). At least three of the field boundaries appear to meet the criterion of an 'important' hedgerow, as laid out in the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations (Statutory Instrument 1997 No. 1160). Though the field boundaries shown on the 1845 Llanbadarn tithe map have largely been destroyed, it is possible that several survive. The present hedgerows flanking the road (PF007) leading to Penglais Farm/Bank Barn (PF001) from the B4572 appear to be relatively unaltered from the tithe map, as does the trackway or greenlane (PF008) between Bank Barn/Penglais Farm (PF001) and the original Penglais Farm (PF002). Both hedgerows are shown on the 1845 Llanbadarn tithe map and the 1st (1888-9) edition OS map and appear to be preserved in the modern landscape. The field boundaries also potentially pre-date the Inclosure Acts between 1750 and 1850.

2.6 Review of Documentary, Cartographic and Aerial Resources:

Documentary Sources

Documentary evidence relating to the study area largely comprises information relating to the Estate of Plas Penglais, which included the house, grounds and additional properties in Llanbararnm Llangawsai and Aberystwyth and some twenty farms in the Rheidiol Valley, possibly including Bank Barn/Penglais Farm (PF001). The estate was governed from Plas Penglais which is a three bay villa dating to the mid to late eighteenth century (Lloyd *et al* 2006, 423). The Richardes family owned Penglais Estate and it remained in the family until the last male heir was killed in World War I. A distant blood relative in Gloucester then inherited the estate. By this time most of the farms had been sold due to economic pressures and the estate had now shrunk to Penglais Farm (PF002), Dan-y-Coed, Caemelyn and Elysian Grove areas (Colyer 1984-1987) and was bought by Aberystwyth University who donated Penglais Hill to the town of Aberystwyth. Ceredigion County Council created a nature reserve at Penglais in 1995 (Ceredigion County Council).

The National Library of Wales (NLW) holds a wealth of documents relating to sales of Penglais Estate and rentals throughout its history. Leasing of the Penglais estate from 1836 to 1844 survives in archives accumulated by John Parry, during his practice as a solicitor in Aberystwyth in the early nineteenth century. The document also comprises deeds relating to the Penglais estate (National Library of Wales).

The period of growth in Aberystwyth after World War II is well documented in the National Library of Wales. Many of the submissions to Aberystwyth Borough's Building Control Department have survived and are available at the NLW. Though planning laws were less rigid, applications had to be submitted to the planning authority with an architectural plan for approval, there are at least eight submissions in Penglais, two of which relate to the drainage and lodge of the NLW and the rest are from Penglais Road and sale of Penglais estate (Accession Number 1265). When the University of Wales purchased the estate the house and grounds were in a state of disrepair, it was decided that the Principles would reside there; as such the house was renovated (Colyer 1984-1987).

Cartographic Sources

William Rees' 1932 map of 'South Wales and the border in the Fourteenth Century' (north west sheet) shows a settlement at Aberystwyth called Llanpadarn, a priory and a church or chapel appropriated to a monastic house. However, nothing is shown in the development area.

Map regression clearly demonstrates the development of Penglais Estate from a series of enclosed fields, parkland and a few sparse farmsteads to a more densely populated area, with the establishment of Aberystwyth University and the National Library of Wales.

Early maps of the development area show a barn (PF001) at Penglais probably associated with Penglais Farm (PF002) as part of the Penglais Estate. The threshing barn is shown on the 1845 tithe map of Llanbadarn Fawr parish and the 1st (1888-9) edition OS map as Bank Barn and comprises two small structures adjacent structures forming an L shape and two small enclosures. By the publication of the 2nd (1905) edition OS map there is an additional building to the northeast of the farm. The 5th (1964-1974) edition OS map shows a considerable amount of development. A farmhouse has been constructed along with numerous outbuildings and the property has been renamed Penglais Farm. The original barn has been incorporated into more modern buildings.

The original Penglais Farm (PF002), to which Bank Barn (PF001) presumably belonged, was identified to the west and is delineated on the 1845 Llanbadarn tithe map and subsequent mapping. The layout of the latter farm appears unchanged on the tithe map and the 1st (1888-9) and 2nd (1905) edition OS maps and the 1920 map of Penglais Estate. The 5th (1964-1974) edition OS map suggests there has been slight alteration to some of the structures.

Two wells have been noted in the study area. Well PF003 is marked on the 1st (1888-9) edition OS map and is shown on subsequent mapping. Well PF004 is shown on the 1st (1888-9), 2nd (1905) and 5th (1964-1974) edition OS maps, but is not shown on subsequent mapping as the Pentre Jane Morgan student accommodation of Aberystwyth University has been built over the location. It is not known if the well survives.

A triangulation station (PF005) is shown on the 1st (1888-9) and 2nd (1905) edition OS maps but is not shown on subsequent mapping. As such its state of survival is not known.

A magazine (PF006) was identified on the 1st (1888-9) edition OS map and is shown on subsequent mapping. The magazine still stands but no longer has a roof.

Aerial Photography

The aerial photographic resource provides evidence for the expansion of Penglais in conjunction with the establishment of Aberystwyth University. Coverage of the area shows a proliferation of development between 1952 and 1972, including the present Pentre Jane Morgan accommodation and the construction of Maes Hendre, Rhos Hendre and Dan-y-Coed.

The development of Bank Barn into Penglais Farm (PF001) is clearly evidenced by aerial photographic coverage of the area. On sorties dating to 1950 (541 RAF 515) the farm still has the same layout as on the 2nd (1905) OS map but there are two ancillary structures. By 1952 (540 RAF 754) there are more additional buildings with minor changes in following years and by 1984 (MAFF, frame 291), the layout of the farm appears the same as it does on current mapping.

Coverage of the study area shows no visible evidence of Bryncarnedd Round Barrow (6182/90663), as the field has been extensively ploughed and no other Round barrows were identified in the area. A dark near oval shaped mark was noted in the corner of a field to the northwest of Penglais Farm (PF001) at NGR SN 59590 82670 on sorties taken in 1969 and 1984 (58 RAF 9372, frame 85 taken and MAFF, frame 291 respectively). However, coverage of the area in 1972 (OS 72 121, frame 21) shows an entrance near the location, suggesting the mark may be the result of agricultural practices.

The triangulation station (PF005) could not be identified on any of the aerial photographic coverage of the area.

The magazine (PF006) is visible on recent aerial photographs that show it no longer has a roof by coverage of 1994 (OS 94 519, frame 22). On coverage prior to 1994 the roof appears to be intact but it is difficult to ascertain on some sorties due to the scale.

Walkover survey

No additional sites were identified during the site visit, however, it was established that the threshing barn (Bank Barn see Plate 4) still survives at Penglais Farm (PF001). It is likely that Bank Barn (PF001) was associated with the original Penglais Farm (PF002) to the west, but was built closer to the grazing fields to provide a more easily accessible location for cereal

processing and a food storage area for livestock. The barn is fairly standard of the local vernacular and appears to have three bays, suggesting it was probably used for threshing. The southwestern elevation (Plate 5) has a stable size door slightly off centre and a much larger double door can be seen on the opposite northeastern elevation (Plate 4). This layout is fairly standard from the sixtieth century onwards. Usually the larger door faced the farmyard and was the main access to get the crop into the barn. The primary use of the barn was probably for threshing, which involved the beating of harvested crop with flails to separate the grain from the stalks and chaff. This took place on the threshing floor, which formed a through-passage between the two doors and could be used for winnowing (separating the grain from the chaff using the wind). The smaller door is well placed to provide a draught from the prevailing southwesterly wind for this purpose. There are a number of features that, if present, would indicate this process having taken place, including the threshing floor, flail hooks or partitions within the barn (Wiliam 1986, 152-170). The interior was not seen during the walkover survey.

The southwestern elevation has three small ventilation slit windows (Plate 4) that are mirrored on the northeastern elevation (Plate 5), and the northwestern elevation has two at the same level and one at a higher level near the apex of the roof (Plate 4). The southeatern elevation was not seen as a more modern brick built outbuilding has been constructed adjoining it. Remnants of an earlier adjoining structure visible to the southwest on the 1845 tithe map and the 1st edition OS map are still standing (Plates 6 and 7). Plate 7 also shows a possible chimney in the southwestern elevation of the adjoining structure, which may be a suggestion of domestic activity. The structure now has a modern corrugated metal roof (Plate 8).

The present farmhouse is brick built (Plate 1), as are most of the contemporary agricultural buildings (Plates 9 and 10), the rest appear to be 'Dutch barns'. The footpath visible on the 1st, 2nd and 5th edition OS maps (Figures 3, 4 and 5) is still in use as a track for farm vehicles.

3. Archaeological Interests

There are 21 sites of archaeological interest identified within the study area (Table 1). There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the study area. The total number of listed buildings in the area is four, namely Plas Penglais (LB10416), Plas Hendre (LB27002), the coach-house and stable at Plashendre (LB27003) and Penglais Road Milestone (LB10418). Further information relating to these interests can be found in the gazetteer in Appendix V.

Four and five digit numbers without a letter suffix are Primary Record Numbers (PRNs) in the regional Historic Environment Record (HER). Four, five and six figure numbers without a letter suffix are National Primary Record Numbers (NPRNs) of the National Monuments Record, as supplied to the HER under the ENDEX agreement. Numbers with a 'LB' prefix are Listed Buildings, as provided by Cadw. Numbers with a 'Gm' prefix are Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs). Numbers with a 'PF' prefix were identified during the present assessment.

Table 1: Identified archaeological interests

ID	Name	NGR	Period	Status	Value
16136	Lodge	SN 59580 82030	Post-medieval	None	C
19217	Quarry	SN 60080 82830	Post-medieval	None	C
25265/32511/ LB10418	Penglais Road Milestone	SN 59734 82074	Post-medieval	LB II	C
265024	Plas Hendre Garden	SN 60049 82279	Post-medieval	None	C
301589/PGW (Dy) 47(CER)	Plas Penglais Garden	SN 59560 82050	Post-medieval	PGW II*	A
31544	Plas Penglais outbuilding	SN 59410 82200	Post-medieval	None	C
~~57337~~/35126/ LB10416	Plas Penglais	SN 59424 82188	Post-medieval	LB II	B
58032/407118/ LB27002	Plashendre	SN 60073 82264	Post-medieval	LB II	B
58033/ LB27003	Coach-house and stable at Plashendre	SN 60092 82274	Post-medieval	LB II	B
6181	Plas Hendre	SN 60000 82000	Medieval	None	C
6182/90663	Bryncarnedd Round Barrow	SN 60280 82770	Bronze Age	None	B
7233	Waunfawr Methodist Sunday School	SN 60110 81940	Post-medieval	None	C
96754	Cherry Cross Cottage	SN 59870 82320	Post-medieval	None	C
PF001	Bank Barn (Penglais Farm)	SN 59820 82520	Post-medieval	None	C
PF002	Penglais Farm	SN 59510 82250	Post-medieval	None	C
PF003	Well	SN 59350 82860	Post-medieval	None	C
PF004	Well	SN 59680 82230	Post-medieval	None	C
PF005	Triangulation Station	SN 59750 82770	Post-medieval	None	C
PF006	Magazine	SN 59620 82870	Post-medieval	None	C
PF007	Field Boundary	SN 59840 82440	Post-medieval	None	C
PF008	Field Boundary	SN 59720 82450	Post-medieval	None	C

4. Assessment

4.1 Effect of the development on archaeological sites

A total of 21 sites have been identified within the study area, three of which (Bank Barn (PF001) and the Field Boundaries (PF007 and PF008)) could potentially be effected by the development. The potential impact of the proposed development on these sites has been assessed as 'severe'. The impact of the proposed development on the remaining eighteen sites situated within the study area has been assessed as 'none'.

Table 2: Effect of the development on archaeological interests

ID	Name	NGR	Period	Value	Effect
PF001	Bank Barn (Penglais Farm)	SN 59820 82520	Post-medieval	C	Severe
PF007	Field Boundary	SN 59840 82440	Post-medieval	C	Severe
PF008	Field Boundary	SN 59720 82450	Post-medieval	C	Severe

5. Mitigation

The works associated with the proposed development include the demolition of Penglais Farm (PF001), resulting in a 'severe' effect on Bank Barn. In order to mitigate this effect the barn only should be subject to a Level 3 building survey conducted to the specifications laid out in English Heritage's *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice (2006)* in advance of any demolition or construction work at the site. The other buildings associated with the farm date to the mid to late twentieth century and as such are not considered to be of archaeological interest and therefore require no additional mitigation measures. However, a basic photographic record of the buildings prior to demolition would enhance the historic environment record and should be considered.

At least three hedgerows meet the criterion of an 'important' hedgerow, as laid out in the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations (Statutory Instrument 1997 No. 1160), as they are shown on the 1845 Llanbadarn tithe map and potentially pre-date the Inclosure Acts of 1896. The present hedgerows flanking the road (PF007) leading to Penglais Farm/Bank Barn (PF001) from the B4572 and the trackway (PF008) between Bank Barn/Penglais Farm (PF001) and the original Penglais Farm (PF002) appear to be preserved in the modern landscape. The effect of the development on these boundaries is considered to be 'severe'. In order to ascertain their importance a survey of these hedgerows should be completed prior to their demolition.

Given the proximity of the development to Bryncarnedd Round Barrow (6182/90663) there is potential for other, as yet unrecorded, prehistoric funerary activity in the vicinity. However, as the area has been subject to agricultural exploitation for centuries it is likely that any remains above the ground surface have been severely damaged by ploughing. There remains the possibility that archaeologically significant features may still survive beneath the ground surface and the effect on any such potential features should be mitigated by an archaeological watching-brief within the development area.

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Penglais Estate, Aberystwyth, 1:2500, surveyed by G.T. Bassett

Ordnance Survey 1: 2500, 1964-74, Fifth Edition

Ordnance Survey Explorer 1:25000

Appendix I
Map Regression

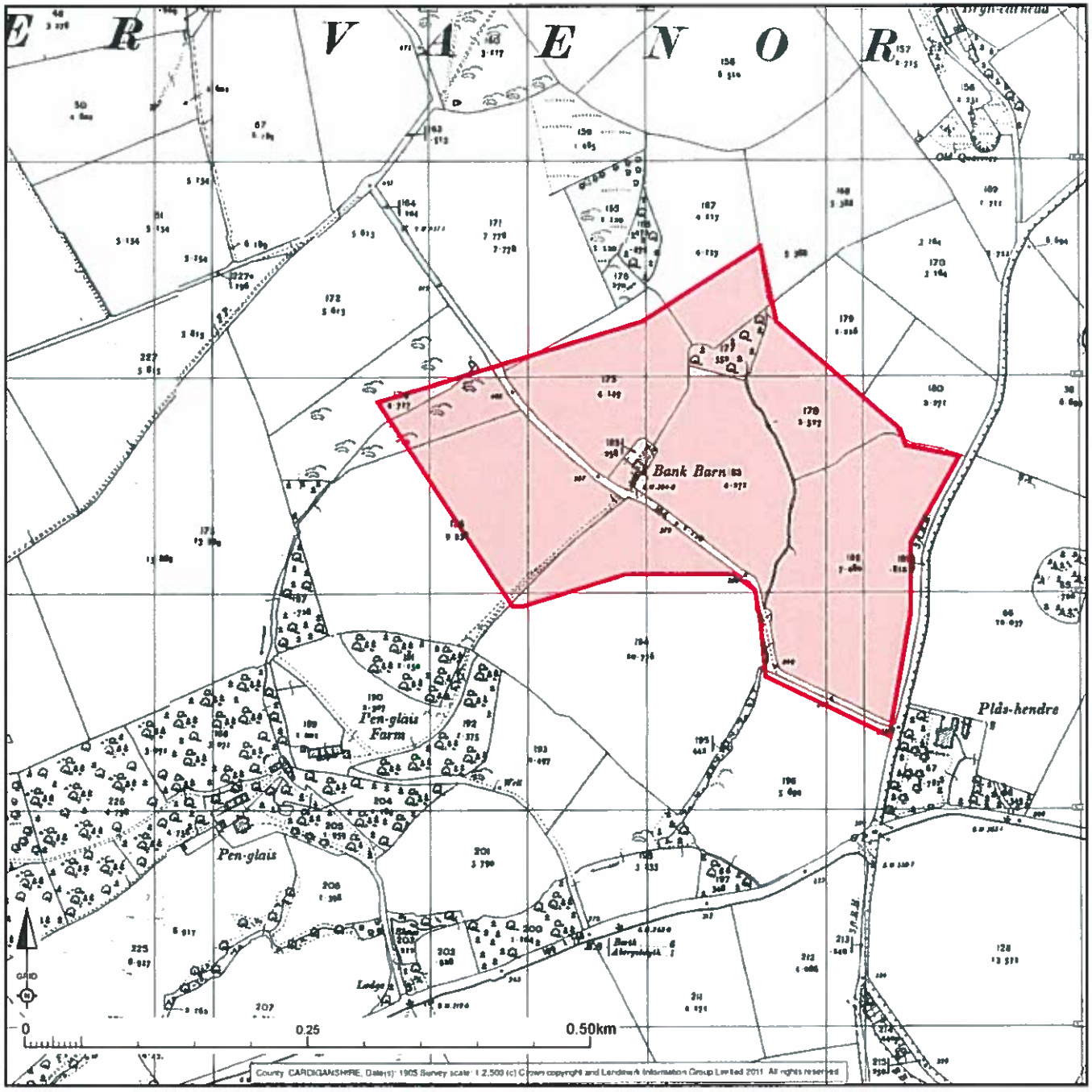

Figure 3. 1st edition (1888-1889) OS map with development area (red)

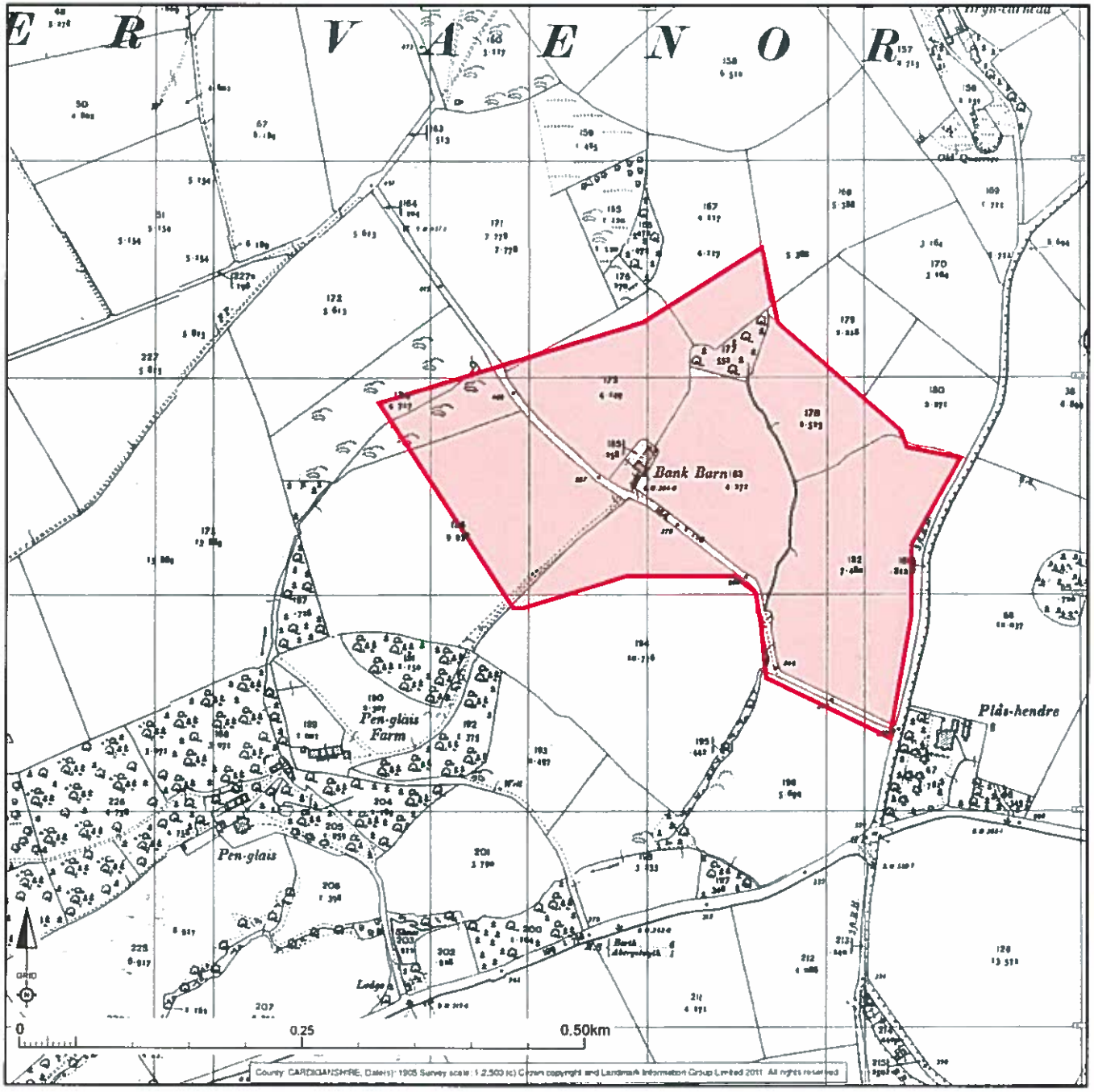

Figure 4. 2nd edition (1905) OS map with development area (red)

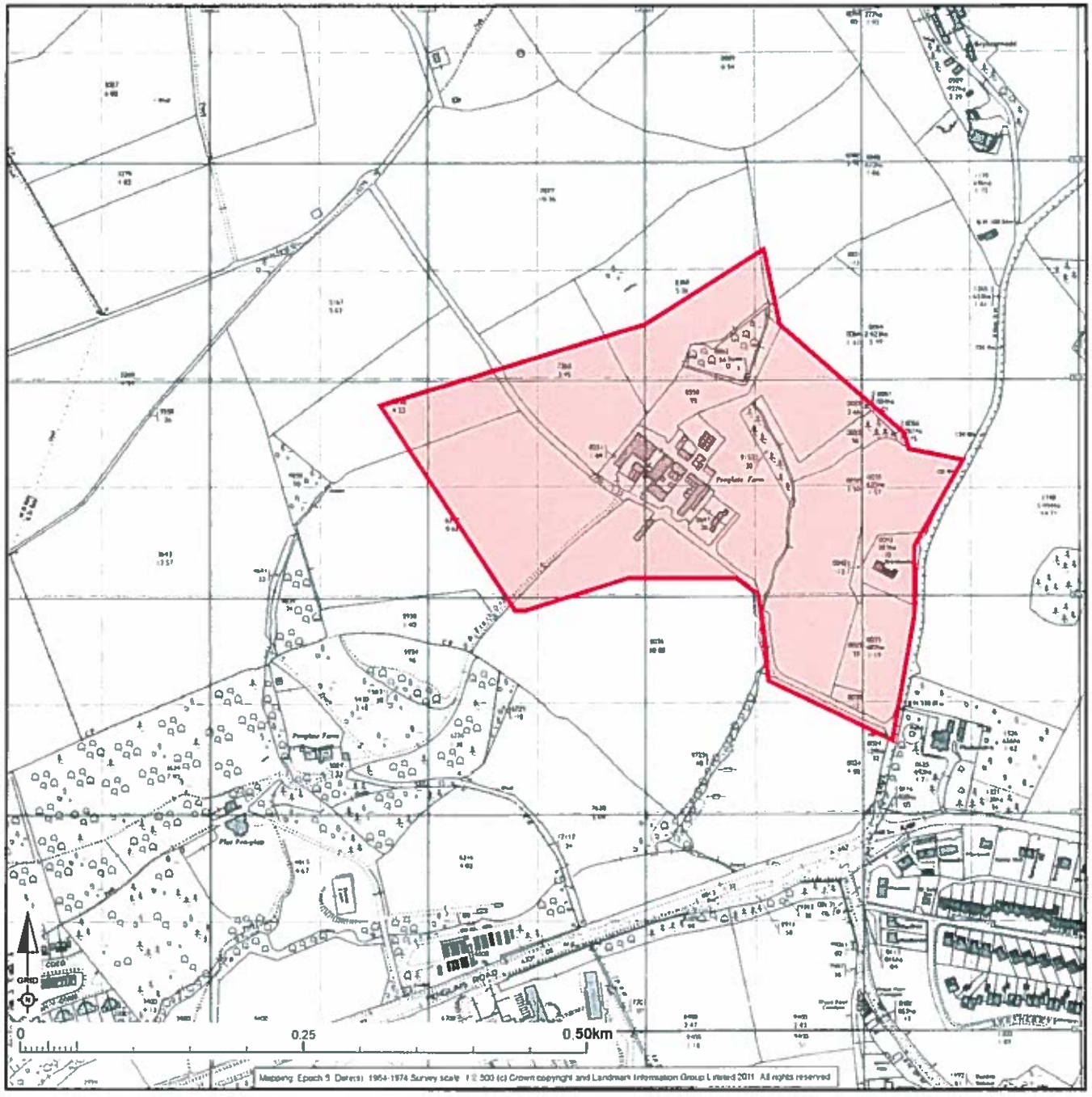

Figure 5. 5th edition (1964-1974) OS map with development area (red)

Appendix II

Walkover Survey

Plate 1: View to the north showing Penglais Farm (PF001)

Plate 2: View to the southwest of modern structure in a field to the south of Penglais Farm (PF001)

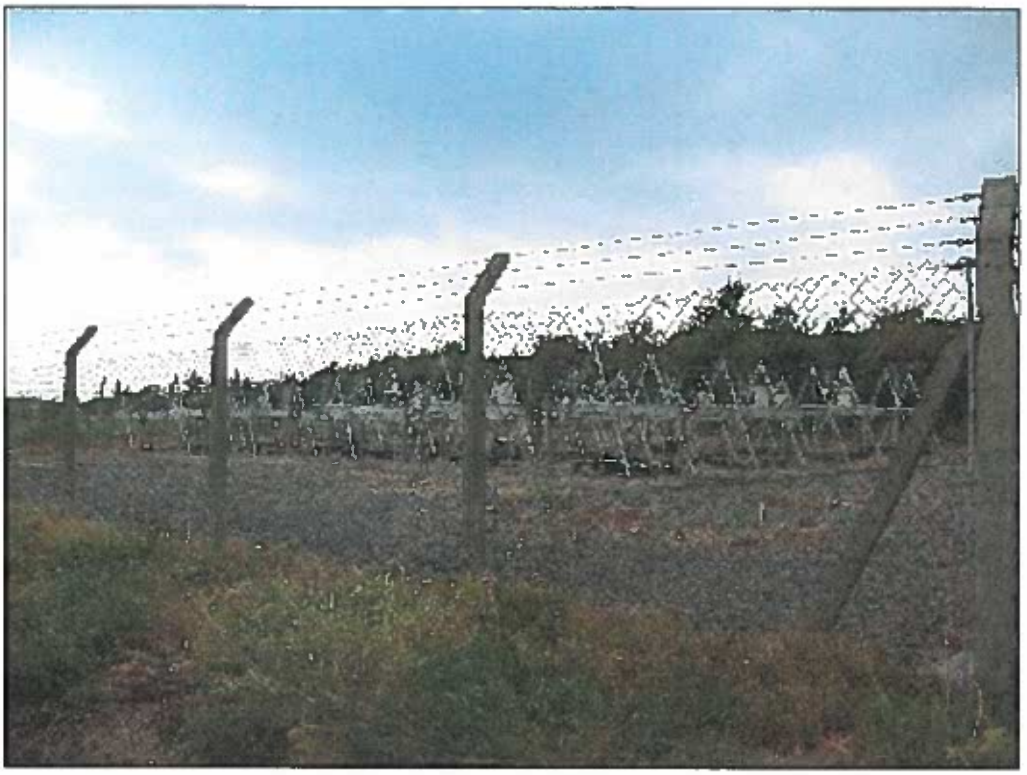

Plate 3:View to the west of field to the south of Penglais Farm (PF001)

Plate 4: View to the south showing northwest and northeast elevation of Bank Barn (PF001)

Plate 5: View to the northeast showing southwestern elevation of Bank Barn (PF001)

Plate 6: View to the southeast of structure adjoining Bank Barn (PF001) the southwestern elevation of which can be seen to the left

Plate 7: View to the south of structure adjoining Bank Barn (PF001)

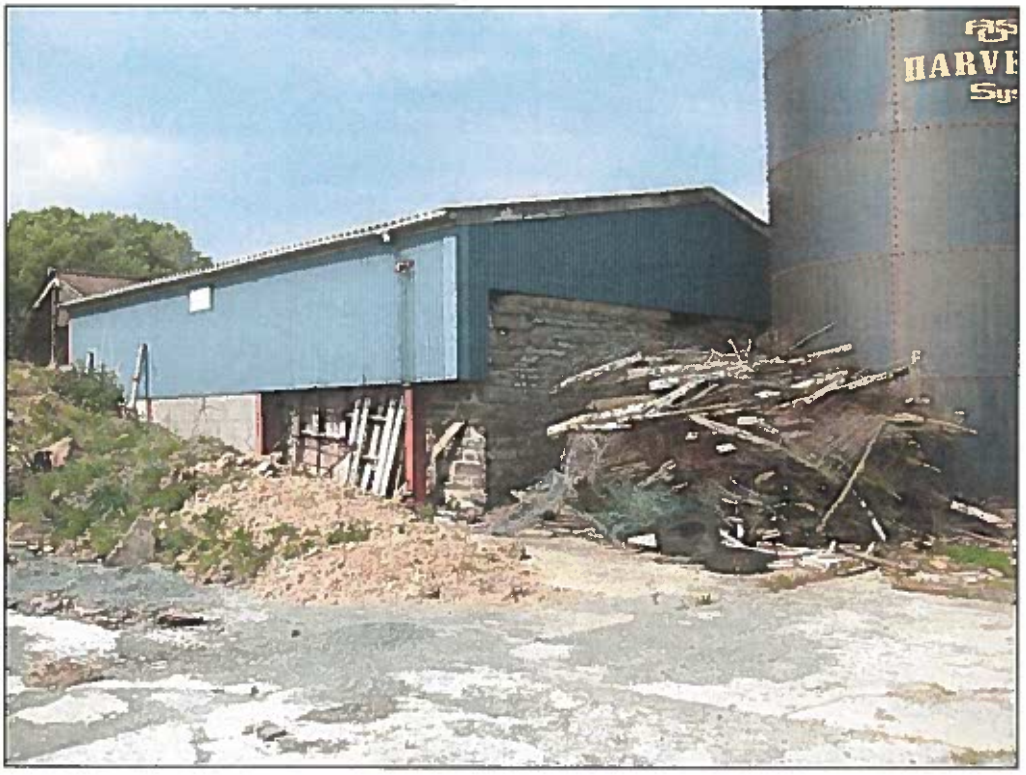

Plate 8: View to the north of structure adjoining Bank Barn (PF001) showing modern roof

Plate 9: View to the northeast of brick built outbuildings associated with Penglais Farm (PF001)

Plate 10: View to the northwest of brick built outbuildings associated with Penglais Farm (PF001)

Appendix III

Aerial Photographs with Coverage of the Evaluation Area

The following is a list of the aerial photographs with coverage of the study area held by the Central Registry of Air Photography for Wales. No additional sites of archaeological interest were identified from aerial photographic coverage of the area.

Sortie	Scale	Air Survey Org.	Date	Frames
541 RAF 515	1:9600	RAF	11/05/1950	4062-63, 3092-93
540 RAF 754	1:20000	RAF	23/05/1952	5013-14
58 RAF 9372	1:22000	RAF	17/02/1969	F44: 84-85
OS 72 121	1:7500	OS	14/05/1972	20-22
OS 72 389	1:7400	OS	15/09/1972	93-94, 335-336
OS 72 419	1:7500	OS	05/10/1972	334-335
OS 75 110	1:24000	OS	18/05/1975	6-7
OS 78 008	1:24000	OS	07/04/1978	109
OS 82 023	1:8000	OS	13/04/1982	1-2
MAFF	1:13000	MAFF	08/06/1984	196: 290-292
1 PRU RAF	1:25150	RAF	06/07/1992	303-04
OS 94 519	1:8500	OS	10/10/1994	22-23
Getmapping	1:10000	Getmapping	01/01/2000	On screen
COWI	1:10000	COWI	01/06/2006	On screen
Getmapping	No scale	Getmapping	01/01/2009	On screen

Appendix IV

Apportionments relating to the parish of Llanbadarn Fawr Tithe Map, 1845

Parcel number	Land owner	Occupier	Name and description of parcel	Cultivation and land use
129	Matthew Davies	Thomas Roberts	-	-
131	Richard Roderick	Robert Jones	Field	May and pasture
132	Richard Roderick	William Harries	Garden	Arable
135	Corporation of the Borough of Aberystwyth	James Sheldon	Part of marsh	May
136	X? and Lesse?	James Davies	Part of marsh	-
137	Corporation of the Borough of Aberystwyth	Rev. Thomas Roberts	Part of marsh	Pasture

Note:
? = Estimation of correct entry if tithe apportionment is illegible
X?= Tithe apportionment is illegible

ID
25265/32511/LB10418
Name Penglais Road Milestone
NGR SN 59734 82074 **Period** Post-medieval

Full description
The milestone dates to the nineteenth century and is freestanding and is white washed and triangular in shape. The distances are inscribed in black lettering on both sides.

Type	Condition	Status
Milestone	Intact	LB II
Rarity	**Group association**	**Historical association**
Low	Medium	Certain-Low
Confidence	**Value**	**Effect**
High	C	None

ID
265024
Name Plas Hendre Garden
NGR SN 60049 82279 **Period** Post-medieval

Full description
Plas Hendre garden is depicted on the 2nd (1905) edition OS map. The main features delineated on the map are possible isolated geometric copses, parterres, walk and terrace.

Type	Condition	Status
Garden	Not known	None
Rarity	**Group association**	**Historical association**
Low	High	Certain-Low
Confidence	**Value**	**Effect**
Medium	C	None

ID
301589/PGW (Dy) 47(CER)
Name Plas Penglais Garden
NGR SN 59560 82050 **Period** Post-medieval

Full description
The landscaping of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth campuses, particularly the earlier Penglais campus, is of exceptional historic interest as an important modern landscaping scheme in Wales. The sophisticated layout is sensitive to the character of the site. The planting is unusual and varied. One section of Penglais campus is a woodland garden designed by architect Brenda Colvin and is one of few of her schemes to have survived. The area also comprises a twentieth century botany garden. The grounds originally accompanied the Edwardian house Plas Penglais (57337/35126/LB10416). To the south of the road, extensive landscaping was undertaken in the late 1960s when the new University Campus moved up the hill from its earlier site in the town.

Type	**Condition**	**Status**
Garden	Damaged	PGW II*
Rarity	**Group association**	**Historical association**
Medium	High	Certain-High
Confidence	**Value**	**Effect**
High	A	None

ID
31544
Name Plas Penglais outbuilding
NGR SN 59410 82200 **Period** Post-medieval

Full description
The broad three bay outbuilding is situated to the rear of Plas Penglais. The walls are of coursed rubble and the roof is of slate. The advanced central bay has a blind gable roundel over a tripartite semi-circular window. The outer bays have arched openings with square headed doorways.

Type	**Condition**	**Status**
Building	Not known	None
Rarity	**Group association**	**Historical association**
Low	High	Certain-Medium
Confidence	**Value**	**Effect**
Medium	C	None

ID
57337/35126/LB10416
Name Plas Penglais
NGR SN 59424 82188 **Period** Post-medieval

Full description
Plas Penglais is late Georgian in date with two storeys and an attic and basement. The main elevation has three windows. The roof is hipped slate with wide bracket eaves and dormers. The left rear extension has brick chimney tacks. The windows are horned sashes and the doorcase is plain with stepped lintel. A later two storey roughcast range extends to the left, with single storey bay window. The building is associated with Plas Penglais gardens (301589/PGW (Dy) 47(CER)), the outbuildings (31544) and Aberystwyth University (309001). Since World War II Plas Henglais has housed Principles of the University of Wales, Aberystwyth. Prior to that the house was part of the Penglais Estate, including the house, grounds and additional properties in Llanbadarn Llangawsai and Aberystwyth and some twenty farms in the Rheidiol Valley (Colyer 1984-1987).

Type	**Condition**	**Status**
Building	Intact	LB II
Rarity	**Group association**	**Historical association**
Medium	High	Certain-Medium
Confidence	**Value**	**Effect**
High	B	None

ID
58032/407118/LB27002
Name Plas Hendre
NGR SN 60073 82264 **Period** Post-medieval

Full description
Plas Hendre is a villa dating to *c*1885 and was probably built for a Mr Roberts, an Aberystwyth timber merchant. It is a remarkably unaltered late Victorian house, of an eccentric and indefinable style, quintessentially Victorian, with complete surviving interior detail, also mixed in influences. The house is built of local rubble stone with dressings in moulded yellow Ruabon brick and some grey sandstone. The later Victorian large windows, complex roofs and bays are to no particular style. The balcony has cast-iron posts.

Type	**Condition**	**Status**
Building	Intact	LB II
Rarity	**Group association**	**Historical association**
Medium	High	Certain-Medium
Confidence	**Value**	**Effect**
High	B	None

ID
58033/LB27003
Name Coach-house and stable at Plashendre
NGR SN 60092 82274 **Period** Post-medieval

Full description
Former coach-house and stable to Plas Hendre (58032/407118/LB27002) said to have been built in 1880s for a Mr Roberts, an Aberystwyth timber merchant. The ceilings of the stable and coach-house are plain plastered. Some stable fittings have been retained along with the cobble and grooved brick paving. The saddle room has a corner fireplace. The buildings are constructed of rubble stone with yellow brick dressings and a slate roof. They have two storeys.

Type	Condition	Status
Coach house	Near intact	LB II
Rarity	**Group association**	**Historical association**
Medium	High	Certain-Medium
Confidence	**Value**	**Effect**
High	B	None

ID
6181
Name Plas Hendre
NGR SN 60060 82250 **Period** Medieval

Full description
The name Plashendre is recorded as either medieval or post-medieval in origin (DAT HER). The meaning of 'hen dre' in English is old settlement, suggesting an earlier occupation of the site than the current house at Plas Hendre.

Type	Condition	Status
Placename	Not known	None
Rarity	**Group association**	**Historical association**
Low	Medium	Possible-Medium
Confidence	**Value**	**Effect**
Low	C	None

ID
6182/90663
Name Bryncarnedd Round Barrow
NGR SN 60280 82770 **Period** Bronze Age

Full description
The site consists of a single round barrow on the summit of a ridge, northwest of Frongoch farm, *c*260m southeast of Bryncarnedd. The site appears as circular parchmark in grassland alongside a modern fence boundary. Other faint linear geological markings have been noted in the vicinity. Recorded on RCAHMW air photograph 955140-51.

Type	**Condition**	**Status**
Round Barrow	Not known	None
Rarity	**Group association**	**Historical association**
Medium	Low	Unknown
Confidence	**Value**	**Effect**
Low	B	None

ID
7233
Name Waunfawr Methodist Sunday School
NGR SN 60110 81940 **Period** Post-medieval

Full description
Waunfawr Methodist Sunday School, demolished by 1996.

Type	**Condition**	**Status**
Sunday school	Near destroyed	None
Rarity	**Group association**	**Historical association**
Low	Low	Certain-Medium
Confidence	**Value**	**Effect**
High	C	None

ID
96754
Name Cherry Cross Cottage
NGR SN 59870 82320 **Period** Post-medieval

Full description
Cherry Cross Cottage is shown on the 1st (1888-9) edition OS and on the 2001OS map.

Type	Condition	Status
Cottage	Not known	None
Rarity	**Group association**	**Historical association**
Low	Low	Certain-Low
Confidence	**Value**	**Effect**
High	C	None

ID
PF001
Name Bank Barn (Penglais Farm)
NGR SN 59820 82520 **Period** Post-medieval

Full description
Penglais Farm is the second of its name in the area, the original Penglais Farm (PF002) is situated to the west. This second farm was formerly a barn associated with the first Penglais Farm (PF002) until it developed into a farmstead in its own right. The 1845 Llanbadarn tithe map and the 1st (1888-9) edition OS map show Bank Barn at the location. It comprises two small structures in an L shape. The 2nd (1905) edition OS map shows an additional building to the northeast of the farm. By the publication of the 5th (1964-1974) edition OS map the property has been renamed Penglais Farm and had grown considerably. Bank Barn was built to the east of the original Penglais Farm (PF002) to be closer to the grazing fields providing a more easily accessible food storage area for livestock. A footpath is visible connecting the two on the 1st, 2nd and 5th edition OS maps and is still in use as a track for farm vehicles. The barn was identified during the walkover survey located in the now more modern farmyard. It appears to have three bays and as such was probably used for crop storage and threshing. The barn has a stable size door slightly off centre of the southwestern elevation and a much larger double door opposite on the northeastern elevation. This layout is fairly standard from the sixteenth century onwards. Usually the larger door faced the farmyard and was the main access to get the crop into the barn. The smaller door is specifically placed to provide a draught from the prevailing southwesterly wind, possibly for winnowing. The layout of the barn is fairly standard of the local vernacular, constructed in stone with the southwestern elevation having three small slit windows that are mirrored on the northeastern elevation, and the northwestern elevation having two at the same level and one at a higher level near the apex of the roof. The southeastern elevation was not seen as a more modern brick built outbuilding has been constructed adjoining it. Remnants of the adjoining structure visible to the southwest on the 1845 tithe map and the 1st edition OS map are still standing. The structure now has a modern corrugated metal roof. The present farmhouse is brick built, as are most of the contemporary agricultural buildings and the remainder appear to be 'Dutch barns'.

Type	Condition	Status
Farm	Damaged	None
Rarity	**Group association**	**Historical association**
Low	Low	Certain-Low
Confidence	**Value**	**Effect**
High	C	Severe

ID
PF002
Name Penglais Farm
NGR SN 59510 82250 **Period** Post-medieval

Full description
Penglais Farm is delineated on the 1845 Llanbadarn tithe map and subsequent mapping. The farm was part of the Penglais Estate and was probably associated with Bank Barn (PF001), which has latterly developed into a second Penglais Farm. The layout of the original farm appears unchanged on the 1st (1888-9) and 2nd (1905) edition OS maps, but has been altered by the publication of the 5th (1964-1974) with the demolition of some of the structures.

Type	**Condition**	**Status**
Farm	Not known	None
Rarity	**Group association**	**Historical association**
Low	Low	Certain-Low
Confidence	**Value**	**Effect**
Medium	C	None

ID
PF003
Name Well
NGR SN 59350 82860 **Period** Post-medieval

Full description
A well is shown on the 1st (1888-9) edition OS map and is shown on subsequent mapping.

Type	**Condition**	**Status**
Well	Intact	None
Rarity	**Group association**	**Historical association**
Low	Low	Certain-Low
Confidence	**Value**	**Effect**
High	C	None

ID
PF004
Name Well
NGR SN 59680 82230 **Period** Post-medieval

Full description
A well is shown on the 1st (1888-9), 2nd (1905) and 5th (1964-1974) edition OS maps but is not shown on subsequent mapping as the Pentre Jane Morgan student accommodation of Aberystwyth University has been built over the location. It is not known if the well survives.

Type	Condition	Status
Well	Not known	None
Rarity	**Group association**	**Historical association**
Low	Low	Certain-Low
Confidence	**Value**	**Effect**
Low	C	None

ID
PF005
Name Triangulation Station
NGR SN 59750 82770 **Period** Post-medieval

Full description
A triangulation station is shown on the 1st (1888-9) and 2nd (1905) edition OS maps but is not shown on subsequent mapping. The triangulation station (PF005) could not be identified on any of the aerial photographic coverage of the area.

Type	Condition	Status
Triangulation Point	Not known	None
Rarity	**Group association**	**Historical association**
Low	High	Certain-High
Confidence	**Value**	**Effect**
Low	C	None

ID
PF006
Name Magazine
NGR SN 59620 82870 **Period** Post-medieval

Full description
A magazine was identified on the 1st (1888-9) edition OS map and is shown on subsequent mapping. The magazine is visible on recent aerial photograph with no roof, all coverage of the area prior to 1994 where the sortie (OS 94 519, frame 22). The magazine is possibly associated with hunting on the Penglais estate. Ceredgion Museum holds two stuffed pheasants shot in Penglais wood c1910 (National Library of Wales catalogue number 6042).

Type	**Condition**	**Status**
Magazine	Damaged	None
Rarity	**Group association**	**Historical association**
Medium	High	Possible-Medium
Confidence	**Value**	**Effect**
Medium	C	None

PF007
Name Field Boundary
NGR SN 59840 82440 **Period** Post-medieval

Full description
A field boundary is shown on the 1845 Llanbadarn tithe map and subsequent mapping. The field boundary flanks the road leading in a northwestern direction to Bank Barn/Penglais Farm (PF001) from the B4572. The two hedgerows appear to be nearly intact along the stretch closest to the farm.

Type	**Condition**	**Status**
Field Boundary	Near intact	None
Rarity	**Group association**	**Historical association**
Low	Medium	Possible-Medium
Confidence	**Value**	**Effect**
Medium	C	None

ID
PF008
Name Field Boundary
NGR SN 59720 82450 **Period** Post-medieval

Full description
A field boundary is shown on the 1845 Llanbadarn tithe map and subsequent mapping. The hedgerow lines one side of a trackway or greenlane between Bank Barn (PF001) and the original Penglais Farm (PF002).

Type Field Boundary	**Condition** Near intact	**Status** None
Rarity Low	**Group association** Medium	**Historical association** Possible-Medium
Confidence Medium	**Value** C	**Effect** None

Penglais Farm, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion: archaeological desk-based assessment

REPORT NUMBER: 2011/044

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Report prepared by Fay Bowen

Position Project Archaeologist

Signature Date 18/05/2011

Report checked and authorised by Richard Lewis

Position Head of Projects

Signature Date 18/05/2011

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

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