

JUNIOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT

Excavation at Llandovery

To see what lies beneath 7, Clos Pluguen, Llandovery,
Carmarthenshire SA20 0AS

A summer holiday exercise

By Scarlett Levene and Sienna Levene

Guided and Observed by Kenny Owen BA Hons

Archaeology with Forensics

ARCHAEOLOGY REPORT



By Scarlett and Sienna Levene

Observed by Archaeologist Kenny Owen BA Hons

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT

Archaeologists: Team Leader – Kenny Owen BA Hons; Scarlett Levene; Sienna Levene.

Excavation Date: 17th – 29th July 2019

Location: 7 Clos Pluguen Llandoverly SA20 0AS

Grid reference: SN76250 33969 – Co-ords: 51° 59 25.3"N - 03° 48' 13.1"W

Note: Reference to all sheets in the Appendix.

Desk Based Assessment

Depression in the garden of 7 Clos Pluguen showing signs of possible burial or ditch. Surface cracking showing signs of a vertisol soil construction in a small area of the garden. Location behind council yard in an ancient river valley.

Expectation of finds

Due to the location of the excavation, council or building refuse is expected in the first two context layers along with modern debris. Lower context should prove to be silty/sandy deposit (Yr Allt formation deposit/silty mudstone).

Excavation

First Context Number: 01/2019

Top layer of six inches approximately removed showing evidence of post 1992 backfill. Probable date for context post 1995 due to crisp packed 'use by date' Oct 1995. A ten pence coin proves that the context is not older than 1992. Cement wash from mixing found in two areas as show on diagram for Context One (1). Finds listed below with some forensic analysis:

Note: Sample = S

S1 = Sus flat bone (Pig). Showing evidence of human activity with cut and animal gnaw marks. Some rodent teeth marks showing the original fragment had been butchered by man, discarded, then striation marks from possible dog and finally rodent attention.

S2 = A ten pence piece currently in circulation.

S3 = Chicken (*Oryctolagus*) femur not complete gnaw marks from rodents. Both proximal and distal epiphysis damage and removed. Probably discarded from a human lunch box meal.

S4 = Lego Man. From a child's playtime post 1995. House only lived in since 1995.

S5 = Chicken (*Oryctolagus*) femur not complete gnaw marks from rodents. Both proximal and distal epiphysis damage and removed. Probably discarded from a human lunch box meal.

S6 = Nail 2.5"

S7 = Flint fragments x 2. Larger fragments found in garden at different location found on surface. Unsure why these are here. Possibly old council material but uncertain.

S8 = Plastic extrusion

S9 = Pottery fragment. Unsure of type.

S10 = Crisp packet dated 1995 (October sell by date)

S11 = Pottery fragment. Unsure?

21st July 2019

Second Context Number 02/2019

As expected, further county council debris fill. The smell of burning is strong in the air as the dig commences. Probably ashes from the workman's fire when they boiled water in a billycan! Further cement wash and tarmacadam evidence found in context. A few small fragments of pottery and flint but nothing else of note. There is evidence of a separate later pit dug through the original debris fill to the east section containing plastic evidence which post-dates this layer to 1940?

S 1 = Pottery fragments.

S2 = Flint sherd.

S3 = Flint sherd.

22nd July 2019

Third Context Number 03/2019

S1 = Glass Bead

S2 = Ribbed brown pottery sherd

S3 = Pink pottery sherd

S4 = Crisp packet dated 1995. – Dates hole fill/depression.

S5 = Glass sherd

S6 = Pink fine edge pottery sherd

S7 = Pink pottery sherd

S8 = White pottery sherd (Plate foot)

S9 = Cream coloured pottery sherd.

S10 = Pottery sherd – Possibly Roman. Terracotta colour on outside face, rimmed and glaze inside.

S11 = Pottery sherd – Looks like Chinese writing on facial; further investigation shows dirt ingrained into the cracks of the glaze. Looks good though!

S12 = Same

S13 = Same

S14 = Pottery sherd grey in colour.

S15 = As 11 – 15

S16 = As 11 – 15.

24th July 2019

Fourth Context

It's believed that this context level is set in the 1700s and not believed to be of council yard debris. The council yard only existed here from 19?? There is strong evidence of human activity at this location from a fire pit and charcoal and coal fragments/pieces scattered over the whole context area. The firepit or ashes debris pit (McClellan & Kean, 1993) is located at the north west corner of the trench. This shows activity of people resting, cooking, settling down as around a camp fire. The discovery of clay pipe fragments relates to this description. Further excavation later should show the extent of the discovery.

Finds (also see Context four revisited below):

S1 = Clay pipe fragment

S3 = Glass fragment (Green)

S4 = Glass fragment (Green)

S5 = Pottery sherd – Possible Roman? Deteriorated on washing.

S6 – 7 = Various brick pieces

S8 = Pottery sherd – Glazed on one side. Roman?

S9 = Pottery sherd. (White)

S11 = Larger pottery sherd. (Brown ribbed – foot of vessel)

S13 – S16 = Coal pieces (not charcoal)

24th July 2019

Fifth Context

These layers/contexts descend into the foundation layers that the town of Llandovery was built on, a silty mudstone (Yr Allt Formation). These laid down after the last glaciation (Ice Age) from the meandering of the Towy and Bran rivers. Some charcoal evidence from bioturbation dynamics and iron smudging naturally formed in these layers (Romheld and Marschner, 1986). Iron smudging forms from root networks. Lambers *et al* (2011), explain soil formations.

24th July 2019

Four Context (Revisited)

A further cleaning of the fire pit area to investigate human activity. There is a clear context of coal deposit with a deposition depth of 90mm which reduces in size from the centre deposit. A further trench requires excavation to the north west. Shaw (1960) and Oswald (1961) gives us an understanding of clay pipes.

Finds:

S1 = Clay pipe (Shaft)

S2 = Clay pipe fragment (Shaft)

S10 = Pottery sherd (Brown/ribbed)

S17 = Clay pipe fragment. Small quarter size fragment.

25th July 2019

New Extended section Context Three B.

No finds.

New Extended Section Context Four B

Very interesting context which need careful analysis. Due to the thin crust above the silty sand/stone layer 10000 years (?) of archaeology is packed tightly together showing usual charcoal evidence. Evidence of human activity in this area shows nothing on map or in record and according to Dyfed Archaeology (2019). Here, the remains of an ancient fire have been discovered and recorded (Sheets four and six). At first, due to the scattering of charcoal and coal deposits it seemed that this may have been a dumping zone from the council yard. On further investigation the base of the fire, which measured 46cm with a 61cm scatter, and at its centre 9 cm deep lay on the sandy-silty layer. This begs the question how old is the fire and therefore any finds in the vicinity? Context 4B depth was 10cm and

the finds were all contained in this area as shown on the context sheet. Sample kept from area excavated but may be contaminated due to the over enthusiasm of the young workforce.

Finds:

S1 = Two tone tile fragment

S2 = Pottery sherd (Brown) 1cm

S3 = Pottery sherd (Cream) 2cms

S4 = Pottery sherd (Cream) 1.5cms

S5 = Green glass fragment (Bubbles in glass) 2cms

S6 = Pottery sherd (Brown glaze) 3cms

S7 = Glass sherd. Very fine and fragile! Clear glass coated with white substance? 1.3cms

S8 = Pottery sherd (Large glazed) Roman? 5.5cms

S9 = Glass sherd (Large with bubbles) Roman? 5cms

S10 = Clay pipe bowl fragment 2cms

S11 = Iron clinker from fire melt. 2cms

S12 = Quartz Hand Axe (Neolithic/Bronze Age?) 6cms

S13 = Pottery Sherd. 2.3cm

S14 = Pottery sherd glazed (Brown/ribbed) 2cm

S15 = Pottery sherd (part facia in place) 1.6cm

S16 = Pottery sherd – smooth facia with black centre (like Blackpoolrock!) 2cm

S17 = Rough pottery sherd/brick? 1.7 cm

S18 = Pottery sherd glazed with partial rim. 1.4cm

S19 = triangular pottery sherd. Brown and glaze with pattern? 2cm

S20 = Pottery sherd / blue willow pattern. Obviously this sherd from another higher context. 1.2cm.

S21 = Pottery sherd. Worn but evidence of edging around rim? 2.3cm

S22 = Green glass sherd.

S23 = Pottery sherd. Probably from a higher context? White with pink motif. 1.4cm

S24 = Pottery sherd. Bottom of mug with probable food residue on inner side. Handle joining point visible. Brown in colour with ribbed base. 5.5cm.

S25 = Clay Pipe stem. 2.6cm (matches with S26)

S26 = Clay pipe stem. 2.3cm (matches with S25)

S27 = Clay pipe stem. 1.3cm

S28 = Pottery sherd. Roman grey glazed pot? Over fired and discarded! 5.5cm.

S29 = Dark coloured glass sherd, Roman? (Bubbles). 1.8cm

S30 = Pottery sherd (Brown glaze/white back) 1.3cm.

S31 = Pottery sherd (Brown/rim of vessel)1.2cm.

Note: On further analysis, the fire debris continues further through the west and east bulkheads. This for future excavation.

Summary

The desk-based assessment showed a small depression in the land surface with a gentle sloping from south to north and a rise in the opposite direction. This proved on excavation to be a small pit or probably a post hole. A larger trench which had been dug in an easterly direction had been cut through this depression; probably by the 1995 house build. No finds in the cross section were found. Each section/context show how the second and third context had also been disturbed probably by the construction period of the housing estate. The land surface to the silt/sandy stone layer (context five), the measurement for top soil varies significantly, this, as a result of skimming the surface to level the garden area during the construction process. Through construction, disturbance and bioturbation in these layers finds have been disturbed and mixed. There is no evidence of historic ploughing, although faunal grazing must have taken place. Context four is partially disturbed, although mainly in situ. Several large coal fragments, one measuring 5cm were scattered throughout context three and four with a single fragment one centimetre embossed into context five. Sherds of pottery and glass suggest Roman activity in context four, however, some located in context three probably through disturbance. Context four provided numerous finds including fragments of clay pipe, suggesting the artefact, in situ, dates in the 17th Century. The quartz hand tool lying on top of context five is still to be analysed by a lithics expert, which will result in an updated version of this report in the future. It is proposed that the fire pit may be post AD 43 and maybe the result of a pottery industry, with one sample of pottery being over fired suggesting this. Soil samples have been taken for analysis. Considering the history of Llandovery show little, if any, human activity in this area, although there must have been, it is intriguing to find what really went on here.

Scarlett and Sienna believe this excavation could show an epoch from present day, through Roman to Neolithic! Analysis of the finds may confirm their true identity, while future archaeologists may one day clarify the activity at the site.

Contexts and Explanation in Photography



After a desk-based assessment, the area for excavation was marked out at right angles. Surface turf was removed exposing the first context. This modern context containing several finds dating the layer to 1995. Crisp packet dating accurately to 1995, the year of the housing build. Probably a snack for a labourer.



Scarlett and Sienna learning archaeology. Cleaning the section for analysis, drawing and photographing. Finds are placed in the green bucket. Deckchair cushions are used for kneeling mats.



Sara supervising the dig of the first context.



Getting to grips with cleaning around possible artefacts and builder's debris.



The girls have successfully cleaned the section/context. Drawing and photography can begin. A soft section was removed proving that a cut had been filled at sometime in the past, the probable cause of the depression that lead to the section being chosen.



Tray of finds from context one.



Scarlett stringing out making a grid so that the context can be accurately recorded (See context sheet 001/2019).



Scarlett recording the finds and writing this report on a desk-based computer.

The Second Context



The second context trowelled and cleaned. Very little discovered here except some brick, tarmacadam, chippings, further cement wash, and various plastic debris all removed and disposed of in a recycle bin. The depression is now much larger and suggests a larger pit dug in the past. Some pottery and flint sherds found. Evidence suggests county council debris layer.



Finds from context two.

The Third Context



Looking at the south east corner of the trench, a small conglomeration of river gravel can be seen. This is believed to be a fill from an old trench/pit. The depression in the north east corner can be seen clearly. The whole surface of this context was covered on charcoal with some coal fragments. Flora and faunal bioturbation play a major part in the contamination of context here.



Southern face showing high levels of faunal and flora bioturbation. Charcoal is abound along the context floor.



Finds from the third context. Notice the crisp packet which should have been found in the first context. This shows the ground has during the building process mixed three layers of soil. One must be careful not to date context incorrectly due to these dynamics.

Fourth and Fifth Contexts



The layer in the foreground is context three with the charcoal, now sectioned through to reveal contexts four to the left of the photo and context five the pit area made up totally of Yr Allt Formations. Context four shows clearly the shallow fire pit (top left corner) although at this point in excavation it was believed to be old council deposit. Understanding of the context became clear after excavation and further cleaning with trowel. The thin crust of soil can be



The fire pit can be clearly seen from the east. Only partially exposed.



The trench sectioned for drawing once again.



Fire pit removed for analysis (see sheet four (4)). Cracking in the Yr Allt Formation probably from ancient cryoturbation?



Finds from context four. Notice the clay pipe (stem) fragments in the bottom right of the finds collection. This dates the fire pit to probably the 17th Century (Oswald, 1961). Much of the pottery sherds are of mixed variety with probable Roman pottery in the centre row (left).

Context Extension Three and Four



Context three. There were no finds in excavating the new extension down to context three.



Context four extension, however, proved a very different affair. Sheet four shows the extent of fire pit and surrounding area where coal fragments were found. The surprise was cleaning down to context five. Away from the area of the firepit and approximately five cm lay a fragment of quartz, believed to be a used and discarded hand axe probably from the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. Analysis of the artefact should date the piece and prove interesting for the history of Llandovery.



Scarlett and Sienna cleaning out down to context five. A small bulkhead was left in the centre of this section and excavated later. The centre bulk head was where the quartz hand axe was located on context five surface.



Scarlett and Sienna cleaning the section.



Labels mark where the find the axe and a sherd of Roman pottery had been found earlier in context four during excavation. X marks the spot! The edges of the trench clearly show the extent of the fire pit remains. These will remain in situ until further excavation is required in the future.



Finds from context four extension all listed on sheet six.

CONTEXT ONE (MODERN)
Dated 1960s - 1995

SHEET NO 1

DRAWN BY: Kenny Owen Battons
Scarlett Levene
Sienna Levene.

SITE: 7, CLOS PLUGUEN
LLANDOVERY
CARMS SAZODAS

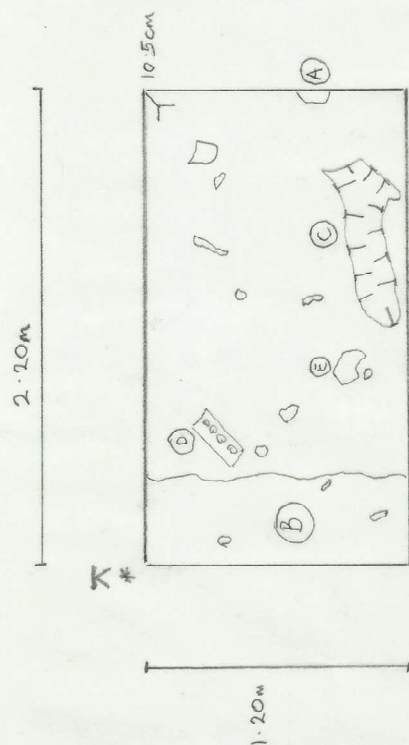
DATE: 17th May 2019

SCALE 1:20

12

(A) cement wash.
(B) Probable cut/ditch
(C) CWT / DITCH ?
(D) Back (Council)
(E) TARNAGAM

CONTEXT DEPTH 10.5cm



GRID REFERENCE: SN 76250 33969

Co-ords: $51^{\circ} 59' 25.3'' N$
 $03^{\circ} 48' 13.1'' W$

EVIDENCE FROM SURFACE CONTEXT
MODERN DEBRIS

CONTEXT TWO POST 1940?

SHEET N° 2

Drawn by Kenny Owen Ballons
Scarlett Levene
Sienna Levene.

SITE: 7 CLOS PLUGUEN
LANDOUVEY
CARRMS SARO OAS

DATE: 17th JULY 2019

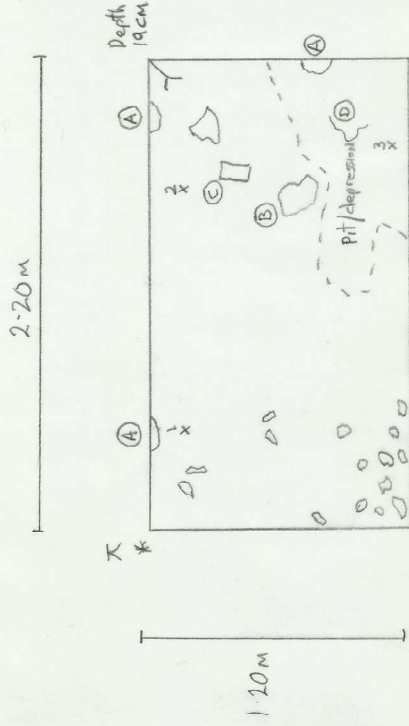
Scale 1:20

1m

Key: (A) Cement work
(B) Tarmac/adam
(C) Brick.
(D) Plastic strip (recycled)

FINDS 1x POTTERY shard
2x Potter shard (Blue)
3x Flint shard.

CONTEXT DEPTH 19cms.



Evidence: County Council/Bulldozer debris

* GRID Ref: SN 76250 33969
Coords: 51° 59' 25.3" N
03° 48' 13.1" W

CONTEXT THREE

Dated: ?

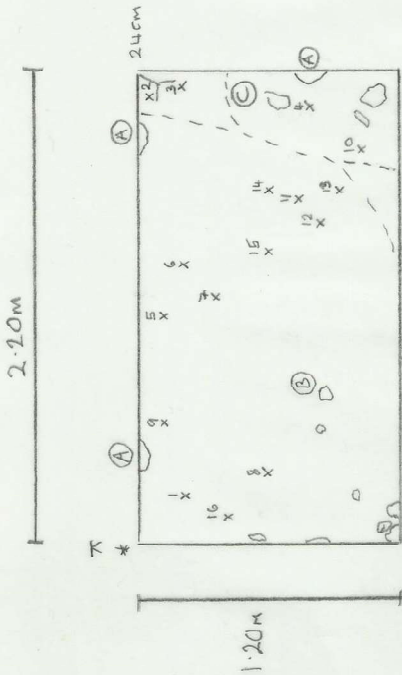
SHEET N° 3

DRAWN BY: KERRY OWEN BATHONS
SCARLETT LEVENE
SIENNA LEVENE.

Site: 7 CLOS PUGUEV
LLANDOVERY
CARMS SARDOAS

Dated: 22nd July 2019

Scale 1:20



GRID REF: SN 76250 33969
Co-ords: 51° 59' 25.3" N
03° 48' 13.1" W

Evidence:

(C) Looks like modern cut/ditch through older context.

x 11 Pottery Sherd white.
12 " " "
13 " " "
14 " " gray colour.
15 Pottery Sherd white.
16 " " "

Key: (A) Cement wash.
(B) Coal Fragment (large)
(C) Probable modern trench?
NOTE: Context base covered in coal

x 1 Grass seed.
2 Pottery Sherd ribbed.
3 Pink Pottery Sherd.
4 Crisp pocket (1995) !
5 Grass sherd.
6 Pink Fine edge pottery Sherd
7 " " "
8 Pottery Sherd (white)
9 " " (cream)
10 " " (Terracotta) Roman?

CONTEXT DEPTH 24cm

CONTEXTS FOUR + FIVE

SHEET N° 4

DRAWN BY Kenny Owen BA Hons
Scoutt Levene
Sienna Levene.

SITE: 7 CLOS PLUGHEN
LLANABRY
CARNIS S420 OAS

DATE: 24th JULY 2019

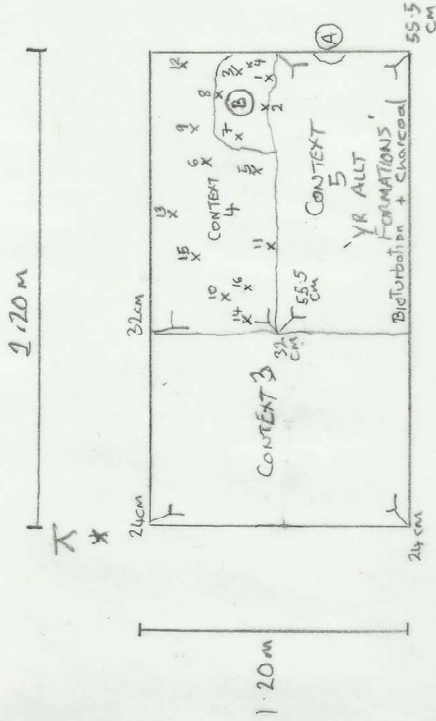
SCALE 1:20

1M

Key: A Cement walk
B Fire Pit C1700s?

Finds: 1 Clay Pipe Fragment.

- 2 " " " "
- 3 Glass Fragment (green)
- 4 " " " "
- 5 Pottery Shard (Terracotta)
- 6-7 Various Pottery/Brick? Shards
- 8 Pottery shard glazed (grey ware)?
- 9 Pottery Shard (white)
- 10 " " (brown) ridge marks
- 11 " " Large
- 12 " "
- 13-16 Coal pieces/Fragments



Grid reference
SN 76250 33969
Co-ords: 51° 59' 25.3 N
03° 48' 13.1 W

Context Depths

- 3 = 24 cm
- 4 = 32 cm
- 5 = 55.5 cm

Evidence from context 4 suggests
Some Contamination but dates to late
17th Century

CONTEXT 5 YR ALUT FORMATION (mainly)

CONTEXT THREE B (TRENCH EXTENSION)

SHEET N° 5

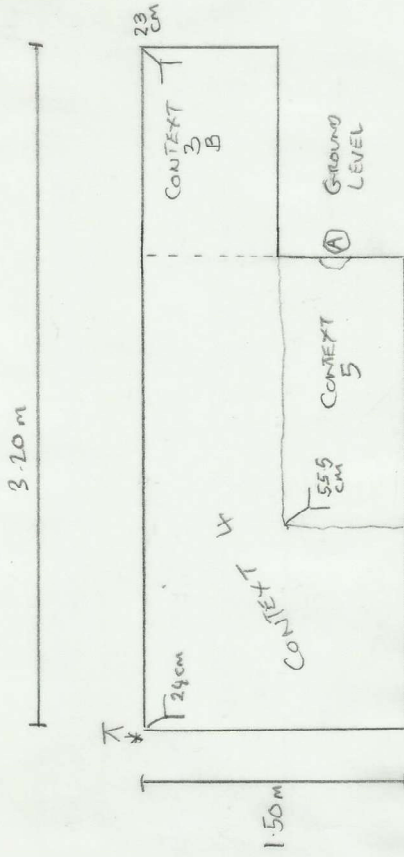
Drawn by Kemy Owen BAHONS
Sokketh Levee
Siema Levee.

Site: Fclās Pucum
CLANDOUENT
CAMMAR-THENS KIRE
SAZD OAS

Date: 25th July 2019

Scale 1:20

1m



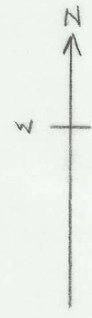
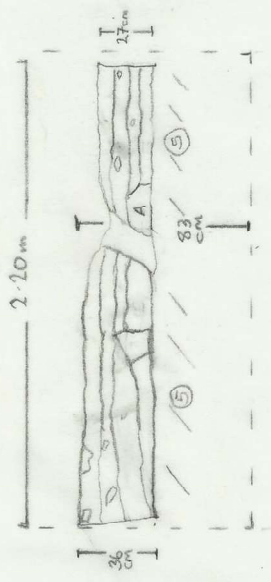
Grid Reference:
SN 76250 33969
Coordinates:
51° 59' 25.3" N
03° 48' 13.1" W

Find: None of note.

CONTEXT
 WEST SECTION
 SHEET SEVEN
 DRAWN BY: K. OWEN
 DATE: 31 JULY 2019
 TIME: 16:10 HRS
 SCALE: 1:20

1M

KEY:
 A = FIRE PT.



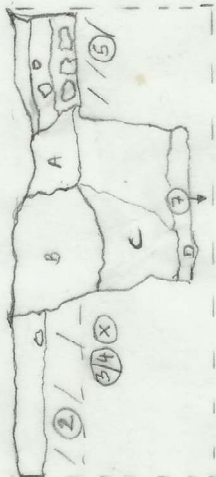
LOCATION:
 7 CLDS PLUGGERS
 LLANDOVERY
 SAZD OAS
 GRAV REF:
 SN 76250 33969

CONTEXT EAST SECTION

DRAWN BY: K. OWEN
DATE: 31 JULY 2014
TIME: 16:33
SCALE 1:20

1 m

2.20 m



83 cm



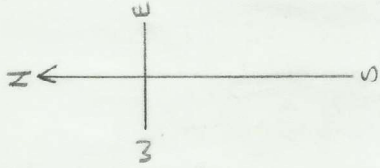
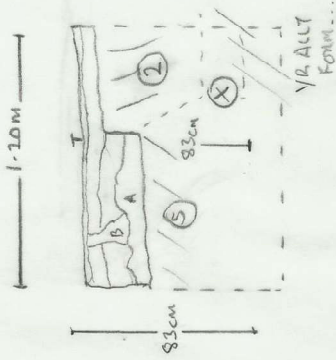
LOCATION
7 CLOS RUCHEAS
LLANDUWERY
SAND OAS

grid ref:
SN 76250 33969

KEY:
A POST HOLE / DITCH ?
B DITCH / HOLE
C CLAY CHANGE
⊗ FIRE PIT IN CONTEXTS
D CHANGE IN CLAY

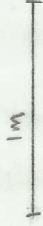
LOCATION
7 CLBS RUGVEN
LLANDOVELY
SA20 045

GRID
Ref: 76250 33969



CONTEXT
NORTH SECTION

DRAWN BY: K. OWEN
DATE: 31 JULY 2019.
TIME: 17:17 HRS.
SCALE 1:20



KEY:

A = FIRE PIT SOUTHER LEVEL
X = FIRE PIT 3/4
B = CUT ?

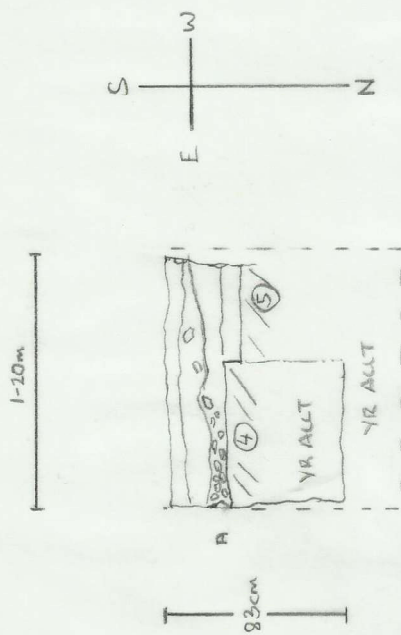
CONTEXT SOUTH SECTION

Location:
7 CLOS PUGUEN
LAMPUGUEN
SAZO OAS
Opiv Rel: 76250 33969

DRAWN BY KOWEN
DATE: 31ST JULY 2019
TIME: 16:50 HRS
SCALE 1:20

1m

KEY:
A = STONE FILL



References

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