

Plwmp Development, Plwmp, Ceredigion

Strip Map Record

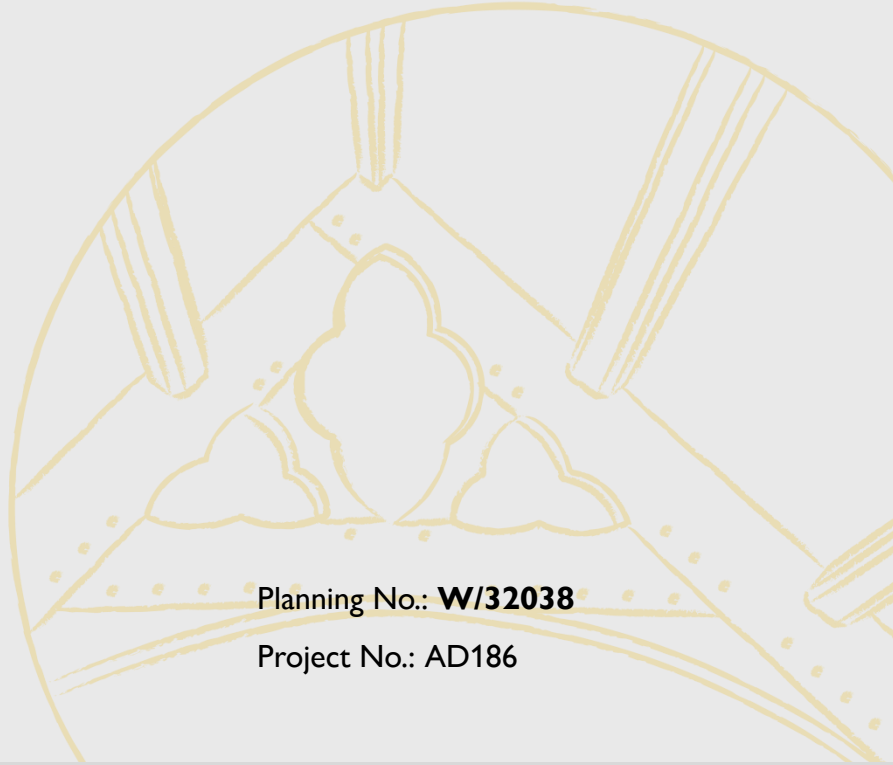
Ross Cook FSA

NGR: **SN 34851 10630**

Date: May 2024

Planning No.: **W/32038**

Project No.: AD186



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Version	Date
v1.0	03.05.2022

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Acknowledgements

With thanks to Matt Edwards and Delme Evans for commissioning this programme of archaeological investigation.

Abbreviations used in this report:

HER	- Historic Environment Record.
Heneb DM	- Heneb Development Management.
LPA	- Local Planning Authority.
NGR	- National Grid Reference.
NMR	- National Monuments Record.
OS	- Ordnance Survey.

All other abbreviations will be referred to in text.

Project Team

Ross Cook – A buildings archaeologist and dendrochronologist with a background in archaeology and buildings conservation. Ross graduated from the University of Wales, Lampeter, in 2008 and has been working in conservation and archaeology since this time. In 2012, he started work with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, where he worked as an Investigator specialising in historic buildings. In 2014, Ross left the Commission and started ArchaeoDomus, a practice specialising in the recording and interpretation of historic buildings and monuments in England and Wales, but also undertaking evaluations, and watching briefs. Through the practice, he has undertaken work on buildings from small peasant cottages to castles and cathedrals, and is now the Cathedral Archaeologist at St Davids, Pembrokeshire, and Consultant Archaeologist to Christchurch Priory, Dorset. He has worked at Winchester and Christ Church Cathedrals, Westminster Abbey, The Tower of London, Kensington Palace, Hampton Court Palace, and Ludlow, Chirk, and Usk Castles, amongst many others. Ross works regularly with Cadw and local authority archaeologists in both England and Wales.

Alongside ArchaeoDomus, Ross also works as an Associate Dendrochronologist with the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, through which he has undertaken work on sites such as Hampton Court Palace, Winchester Cathedral, Queens House Greenwich, The Tower of London, Christ Church and Magdalen College Oxford, Llwyn Celyn (Mons), and many other smaller listed buildings and scheduled sites throughout Wales and England.

Plwmp Development, Plwmp, Ceredigion

Strip Map Record

Summary

ArchaeoDomus was commissioned by Matthew Edwards to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation and undertake a Strip Map Record prior to the commencement of works associated with the development of three new dwellings at Plwmp, Ceredigion. The aim of this work has been to enable development whilst monitoring for any potential archaeological resource.

The plans propose the construction of three dwelling to be built along the northern boundary of a large field, currently use for grazing sheep. The archaeological advisors to Ceredigion Council Planning, Henneb Development Management, recommended archaeological conditions be applied to planning consent due to the location of the site near to several proposed prehistoric sites and the medieval settlement of Plwmp.

Fieldwork was commenced on 30th April 2024 and concluded the 1st May 2024.

The Strip Map Record revealed a thin deposit of turf and topsoil overlaying a freely draining, shale and clay subsoil. The removal of the banked hedgerow provided evidence to demonstrate that this was probably built sometime in 19th century when the road was improved. A single half round pine fence post was recovered from the drainage ditch to the north of the bank, resting on the subsoil. This was likely deposited shortly after the bank was complete.

No further archaeological features or deposits were identified.

Datblygiad Plwmp, Plwmp, Ceredigion

Cofnod Map Stribe

Crynodeb

Comisiynwyd ArchaeoDomus gan Matthew Edwards i baratoi Cynllun Ymchwilio Ysgrifenedig ac ymgymryd â Chofnod Map Strip cyn dechrau gwaith sy'n gysylltiedig â datblygu tri annedd newydd ym Plwmp, Ceredigion. Nod y gwaith hwn fu galluogi datblygiad tra'n monitro ar gyfer unrhyw adnodd archeolegol posibl.

Mae'r cynlluniau'n cynnig adeiladu tri annedd i'w hadeiladu ar hyd ffin ogleddol cae mawr, sydd ar hyn o bryd yn cael ei ddefnyddio ar gyfer defaid sy'n pori. Argymhellodd cynghorwyr archeolegol Cynllunio Cyngor Ceredigion, Rheoli Datblygu Heneb, fod amodau archeolegol yn cael eu cymhwyso i ganiatâd cynllunio oherwydd lleoliad y safle ger nifer o safleoedd cynhanesyddol arfaethedig ac anheddiad canoloesol Plwmp.

Dechreuwyd ar y gwaith maes ar 30 Ebrill 2024 a daeth i ben ar 1 Mai 2024.

Datgelodd y Cofnod Map Strip flaendal tenau o dywarchen a phridd toppridd sy'n gorgyffwrdd isbridd draenio, siâl a chlai yn rhydd. Roedd cael gwared â'r gwrychoedd sydd wedi ei fancio yn dystiolaeth i ddangos ei bod yn debygol y cafodd hyn ei hadeiladu rywbyrd yn y 19eg ganrif pan wellwyd y ffordd. Daethpwyd o hyd i un postyn ffens pinwydd hanner crwn o'r ffos draenio i'r gogledd o'r lan, gan orffwys ar yr isbridd. Mae'n debygol y bydd hyn yn cael ei adneuo yn fuan ar ôl i'r banc gael ei gwblhau.

Ni nodwyd unrhyw nodweddion na dyddodion archeolegol pellach.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 ArchaeoDomus was commissioned to undertake an archaeological programme of works prior to the development of land for the provision of three new dwelling at Plwmp, Ceredigion (hereafter also referred to as ‘the site’). This work included a Written Scheme of Investigation (ArchaeoDomus 2024) and a Strip Map Record (SMR). This project has been commissioned by Matthew Edwards of Castle Architectural Design Ltd.



Fig. 1 – Development area.

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 Planning permission was granted on the 21st June 2022 under number **A220454** from Ceredigion County Council. Permission allows for the ‘Residential development of up to three dwellings’. During consultation archaeological conditions were recommended by Heneb Development Management (Heneb DM) to the Local Planning Authority, in line with *Planning Policy Wales* section 6.5.7, and *TAN 24* sections 4.13 and 4.14. The condition was recommended as the development sits within the area of a proposed medieval settlement, and within the vicinity of several prehistoric sites. The conditions states:

10. *No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured agreement for a written scheme of historic environment mitigation which has been submitted by the application and approved in writing by the local planning authority. Thereafter, the programme of work will be fully carried out in accordance with the requirements and standards of the written scheme.*

Reason:

10. To ensure the protection of the historic environment interests whilst enabling development in line with Planning Policy Wales and The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

- 1.2.2 The Local Planning Authority is Ceredigion County Council, and the planning application number is **A220454**. Documentation relating to the application are available on request from the authority.
- 1.2.3 The purpose for the SMR is to provide information to Heneb Development Management and Ceredigion County Council with information regarding any archaeological resources on site. Requirements for this are set out in *Planning Policy Wales*, Section 6.1 (Edition 11, Dec 2021), and sections 4.13 and 4.14 of *TAN 24: The Historic Environment* (2017). This framework ensures that heritage assets, archaeological remains and deposits are fully investigated, recorded and catalogued if they are uncovered as a result of activities associated with the development.
- 1.2.4 The fieldwork was commenced 30th April 2024 and concluded on 1st May 2024. It was undertaken in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2024) and in line with the guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- 1.2.5 All work has been undertaken by a qualified archaeologist.
- 1.2.6 This report documents the results of the Strip Map Record.

2 SITE AND LOCATION

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 The development is located on a greenfield site within the south-east corner of the small village of Plwmp, in the county of Ceredigion. It lies some 230m east-northeast of the centre of the village, on a small unnamed road. The site is bounded by the unnamed road to the north, open farmland to the east and south, and properties to the west. The nearest place of worship is Plwmp Chapel, located some 560m west of the development site. The nearest watercourse is the Nant Fothau, 960m to the north-west, which feeds into Bae Ceredigion (Cardigan Bay) at Cwmtedu. The site sits at 234m above sea level, and is centred around NGR SN 37145 52505 / Lat/Long 51°08'48"N, 004°22'54"W / What3Words line.whirlpool.expiring.



Fig. 2 – Location – Plwmp.
OpenStreetMap 2024. All rights reserved.



Fig. 3 – Location – Development Site
OpenStreetMap 2024. All rights reserved.

2.2 Geology

- 2.2.1 The underlying geology is a formation of an mudstone, known as the Claerwen Group (BGS) with no superficial deposits recorded (BGS). The local soil type is a freely draining, slightly acid loamy soil (UKSO) classified as a Cambisol (UKSO).

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3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This archaeological background has been compiled from readily available materials and information contained within the regional HER.
- 3.1.2 A HER search with a radius of 1000m showed there to be 0 Scheduled Monuments and 2 Listed Buildings.
- 3.1.3 The development site is located within the parish of Llandissiliogogo, in the medieval Welsh Commote of Caerwedros and Cantref of Is Aeron.

3.2 Previous Archaeological Events

- 3.2.1 There were no recorded archaeological events in the search area.

3.3 Bronze Age

- 3.3.1 The Bronze Age gives the first possible identification of local settlement within a defined time period. This is provided by Y Disgwylyfa (**PRN 1387**), which translates as 'lookout post', although its location is not known. It has been suggested that Y Disgwylyfa may have been a possible enclosure identified by the Ordnance Survey in 1973, but in more recent years this has also been in doubt.

3.4 Iron Age

- 3.4.1 No Iron Age sites were identified within the search area.

3.5 Roman

- 3.5.1 No Roman sites were identified within the search area.

3.6 Early Medieval

- 3.6.1 No Medieval site were recorded within the search area.

3.7 Medieval

- 3.7.1 There is little solid evidence for the medieval settlement within Plwmp. Three sites are recorded, all with no physical remains or known locations, but have placename evidence recorded historically. Two of these are possible settlements (house sites), Blaynbediu (**PRN 10947**) and Synod (**PRN 10948**). The third is a possible holy well, Fynnon-iwan (**PRN 10643**).

3.8 Post-Medieval

- 3.8.1 As with much of Wales, the post-medieval is the best represented in the historical record, with all farms in the search area having originated after 1500. Unfortunately, there are not buildings or structures from the early part of the period, but several may have origins earlier than the current properties might suggest.
- 3.8.2 The largest of the post-medieval developments in Plwmp is the turnpike road from Aberaeron to Cardigan (**PRN 109009**), established in 1770. The road formed part of the Cardiganshire South District (Cardigan) Road Board. Associated with the road is a milestone (**PRN 57673**) dating from the early 19th century, which bears the inscription 'TO CARDIGAN 13 MILES'.
- 3.8.3 The only religious building in Plwmp is Capel Pantycrugiau, an Independent Chapel founded in 1848, and subsequently rebuilt in 1858 and 1897.

3.9 Mapping

- 3.9.1 The first clear depiction of the development area appears on the Tithe Map of 1844 for the Parish of Llandissiliogogo. At this time, the large field in which the development area is located is shown as divided into four separate fields. The field in which the development is located is recorded in the Apportionment under entry 1317 as Crygie Lands of some 3 acres, 3 rood and 1 perch. It was owned by Rees David and leased by Thomas Thomas, with no individual tithe valuation given.
- 3.9.2 The 1887, 1904, and 1948, 6-inch maps show no change to the boundaries of the field from the production of the Tithe map. The First Edition of 1887 demonstrated that the banked hedgerow was in existence by this time.
- 3.9.3 The four fields shown of the earlier maps was removed sometime between 1948 and the present.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Strip Map Record

- 4.1.1 The aims of the SMR are in line with those of an archaeological excavation, as defined by the ClfA (2014; updated 2020) as:

“a programme of controlled, intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives, which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, in an inter-tidal zone or underwater. The records made and objects gathered during fieldwork are studied and the results of that study published in detail appropriate to the project design.

The purpose of excavation is to examine the archaeological resource within a given area or site within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek a better understanding of and compile a lasting record of that resource, to analyse and interpret the results, and disseminate them.’

- 4.1.2 To strip the development area to identify and record any potential archaeological resource in advance of the commencement of the construction programme.
- 4.1.3 Identify and record any archaeological resource that may help to improve our knowledge of the local historic environment.

4.2 Results

- 4.2.1 To communicate the results of the archaeological investigation to the client in the form of an illustrated report, and to provide digital copies to Heneb Development Management, Regional HER and the NMRW.
- 4.2.2 To prepare a digital archive of the projects report, photographic archive, all drawn elements for deposition with the National Monuments Record of Wales and Regional HER held by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.
- 4.2.3 To safely store all material finds in a secure location on site for future detailed recording and analysis, and specialist reporting.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 All archaeological works have been conducted by a qualified archaeologist in accordance with the methodology set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2024) and in accordance with the *Universal guidance for an archaeological evaluation* (2023) from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

5.2 Strip Map Record

- 5.2.1 All excavations were undertaken by 360° tracked excavator, under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. Topsoil was removed to reveal the natural subsoil. The generated spoil was visually inspected to maximise the recovery of archaeological artefacts.
- 5.2.2 Areas of potential archaeological features were cleaned by hand to determine their existence and extent.
- 5.2.3 A general photographic record was made using a Pixel 5 12-megapixel camera, with ranging rods used where required.
- 5.2.4 The site archive will be held by ArchaeoDomus.
- 5.2.5 For the full methodology refer to the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2024).

5.3 Recording

- 5.3.1 A digital photographic record was maintained throughout with a Pixel 8 Pro 48-megapixel camera. 2 x 1m ranging rods or smaller photo scales were used for scale where appropriate.
- 5.3.2 All photographs have been named using the project code, in this instance AD186, which are followed by a reference and number. Where applicable, the following reference codes have been used:

❖ SMR – Strip Map Record

- 5.3.3 All photographs in this report are watermarked with the photograph's name, code, and number.

5.4 Reinstatement

- 5.4.1 On completion of the excavations, topsoil will be reinstated, with excess carted away.

5.5 Documentary Research

- 5.5.1 Documentary research was undertaken using readily available resources with additional research aided by map regression and Tithe Map searches. Historic trade directories were used to help establish a timeline of events for the building. Further research was undertaken using unpublished and published sources.

6 Reporting

- 6.1.1 This report has been written and compiled by Ross Cook, according to the guidance laid down in the ClfA's *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014; updated 2020).
- 6.1.2 This report has been written in Microsoft Word 2016 and uses Adobe Garamond Pro as its typeface.

6.2 Health and Safety

- 6.2.1 All work was conducted in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974* and *Health and Safety Advice in Archaeology* (BAJR 2005).

7 FIELDWORK RESULTS

7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 The SMR was commenced on 30th April 2024 and concluded on 1st May 2024.
- 7.1.2 In this section, the results of the SMR are presented. The extent of the excavations is shown in **Appendix II**, and the photographic archive in **Appendix III**.
- 7.1.3 The SMR exposed an area of *circa* 2,870m².
- 7.1.4 All excavations were undertaken by a 360° tracked excavator, with toothless grading bucket.
- 7.1.5 Excavations were monitored for archaeological deposits, finds, and features by a qualified archaeologist.

7.2 Stratigraphy

- 7.2.1 The stratigraphic sequence for the site is presented in **Appendix IV**.
- 7.2.2 The stratigraphy within the development area was natural, with some plough disturbance.

7.3 Archaeological Result

- 7.3.1 An area of *circa* 61 x 47m was opened during the course of the SMR. The area was aligned to the unnamed road immediately to the sites north. The area of excavation is presented in **Appendix II**.
- 7.3.2 Excavations removed the turf and humus (**101**), and brown topsoil (**102**), which exposed the natural brown to orange shaley subsoil (**103**).
- 7.3.3 Removal of the banked hedgerow [**104**] showed this to be formed of turf and humus (**101**) overlaying a banked deposit of subsoil (**105**). This sat on a historic ground surface (**106**). To the north and south of the hedgerow were drainage ditches [**108; 109**]. Within [**108**] was a thin deposit of fine earth and silt.
- 7.3.4 *No further archaeological materials or deposits were identified.*

7.4 Finds

- 7.4.1 A half round pine fencepost (**Plates 8-9**) was recovered from the drainage ditch to the north of the banked hedge.
- 7.4.2 *No further archaeological finds were found or recovered during the SMR.*

7.5 Environmental

- 7.5.1 *No environmental deposits for sampling were identified during the SMR.*

8 DISCUSSION

- 8.1.1 The strip map record demonstrated that there were no significant archaeological features or deposits within the development.
- 8.1.2 Stratigraphic evidence suggests the banked hedgerow **[104]** and its associated drainage ditches were formed sometime in the 19th century. The mound of subsoil **(105)** to create the bank sat on a deposit of topsoil, similar in depth to the rest of the field, and suggests this was a late, rather than early, development. Its construction from subsoil, with no other material intermixed. This may have come from materials excavated for the improvement of the adjacent road, though this is speculative.
- 8.1.3 The drainage ditch **[108]** to the south of the banked hedgerow was not visible before excavation, and was shown to be broad and relatively shallow, measuring c.680cm wide by c.400mm deep. The drainage ditch contained no obvious stratigraphy, other than a thin lens of fine earth/silt across its bottom.
- 8.1.4 The drainage ditch **[109]** to the north of the banked hedgerow was clear before excavation and had been maintained for drainage.
- 8.1.5 The half round pine fencepost was found in drainage ditch to the south of the banked hedgerow, where it was found resting on the subsoil **(103)**. The posts form suggests it is of 19th or 20th century origin.
- 8.1.6 *No further mitigation for the historic environment is recommended.*

9 ARCHIVING

- 9.1.1 The results of the Watching Brief are this written report, interpreted survey, and photographic archive. The final report and site archive will be held by ArchaeoDomus. The digital report will be deposited with the regional HER and the NMR. A PDF copy of the report will be made available from www.archaeodomus.co.uk.
- 9.1.2 The small finds archive will be held by ArchaeoDomus, with the site archive and a copy of this report.
- 9.1.3 The Data Management Plan and Archive for this project will include:
- ❖ Retention within the project archive of relevant preliminary/planning information (eg this WSI and the project brief if provided, drawings by the architect and others, site and/or topographical surveys where available)
 - ❖ Retention within the project archive of all primary project physical records (site surveys, drawings such as plans and sections, context records, site notes, index lists etc);
 - ❖ Digital copying of primary project physical records where appropriate (eg drawings);
 - ❖ Retention within the project archive of all primary project digital records (survey data, photographs, scans/3D models where relevant) along with printed copies of selected material (eg digital photographs) as appropriate;
 - ❖ Secondary information such as research papers, published work on the site and its surrounding, data on designated heritage assets/the National Monuments Record for Wales/Historic Environment Record will be noted and recorded within the archive but will not usually be retained as part of it.
 - ❖ The project report(s) will always form part of the project archive in digital format (usually a PDF file) and in hard copy where appropriate. Publications, if relevant, will also form part of project archive in digital format (PDF) and in hard copy where appropriate.
 - ❖ The digital project archive will be submitted to the National Monuments Record for Wales.

10 SOURCES

10.1 Written Sources

- 10.1.1 **Welsh Government** 2017, *Planning Policy Wales: Technical Advice Notice 24: The Historic Environment*.
- 10.1.2 **Welsh Government** 2016, *Planning Policy Wales*
- 10.1.3 **CIfA** 2023, *Standard for Archaeological Excavation*
- 10.1.4 **CIfA** 2023, *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Excavations*
- 10.1.5 **CIfA** 2023, *Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*
- 10.1.6 **CIfA** 2023, *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*

10.2 Online Sources

- 10.2.1 **British Geological Survey**
Accessed: April 2024
www.bsg.ac.uk
- 10.2.2 **UK Soil Observatory**
Accessed: April 2024
www.ukso.org.uk
- 10.2.3 **Welsh Tithe Maps**
Accessed: April 2024
places.library.wales

10.3 Maps

- 10.3.1 1887 OS 6 Inch to One Mile Map First Edition
- 10.3.2 1904 OS 6 Inch to One Mile Map Second Edition

10.3.3 1948 OS 6 Inch to One Mile Map

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APPENDIX I

Historic Mapping

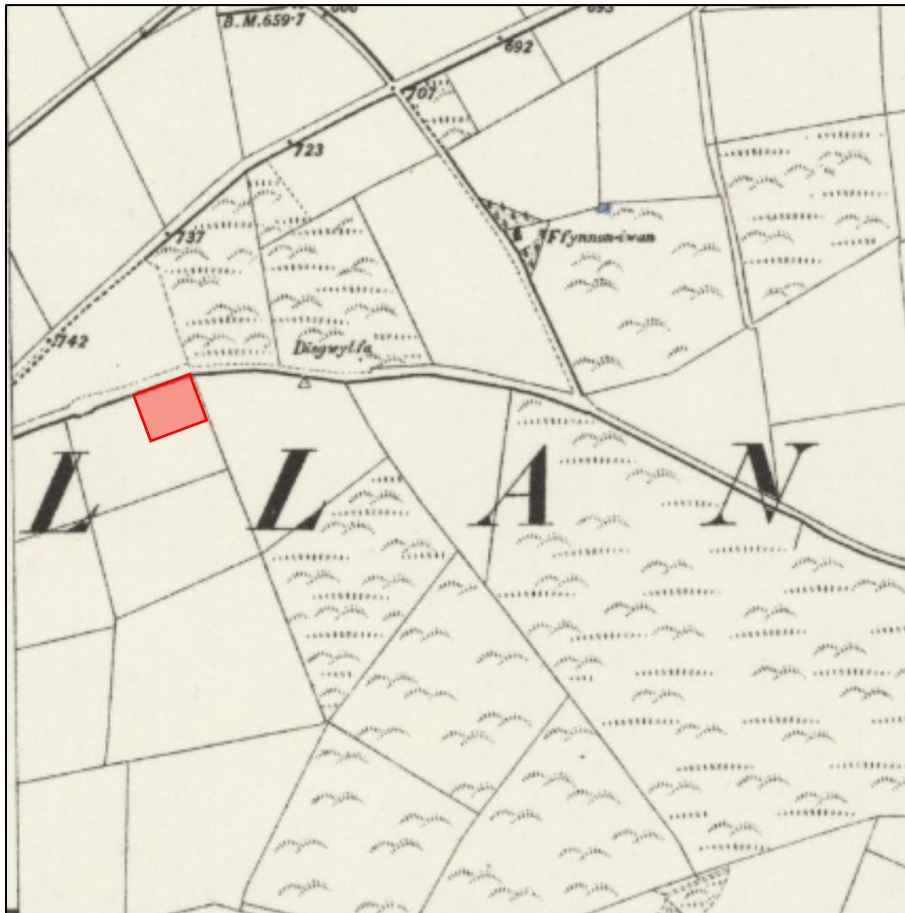


Fig. 5 – 1887, 6 Inch to One Mile, OS. Development area shown.
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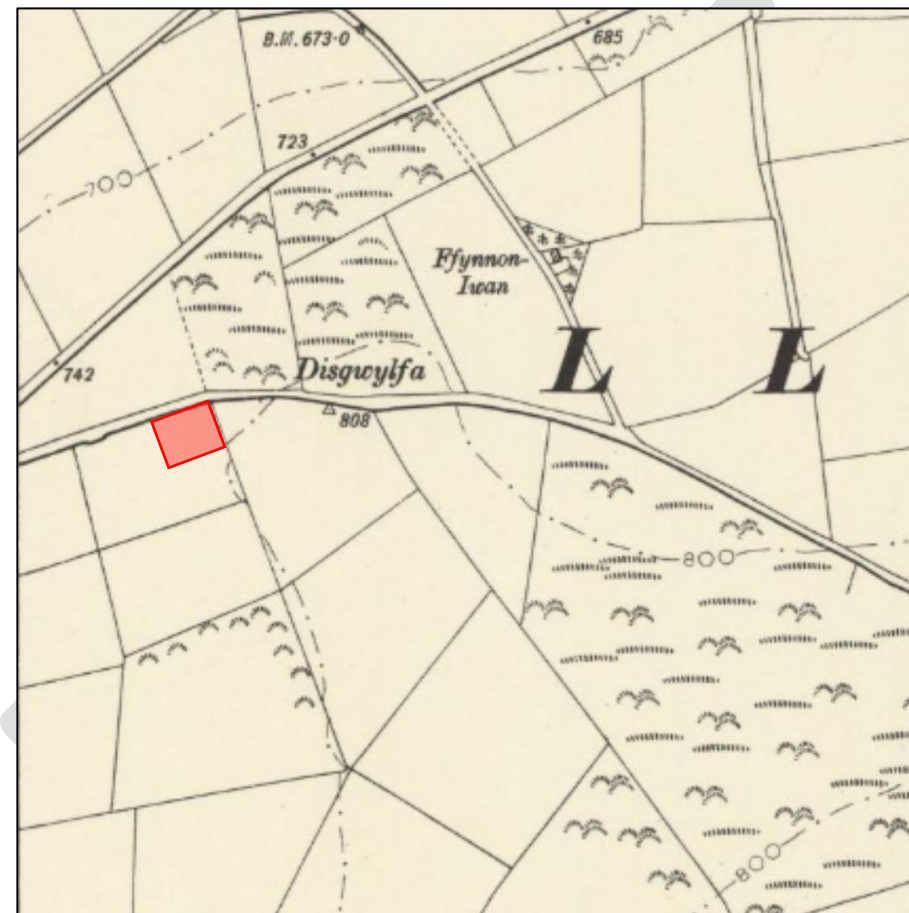


Fig. 6 – 1904 6 Inch to One Mile, OS. Development area shown.
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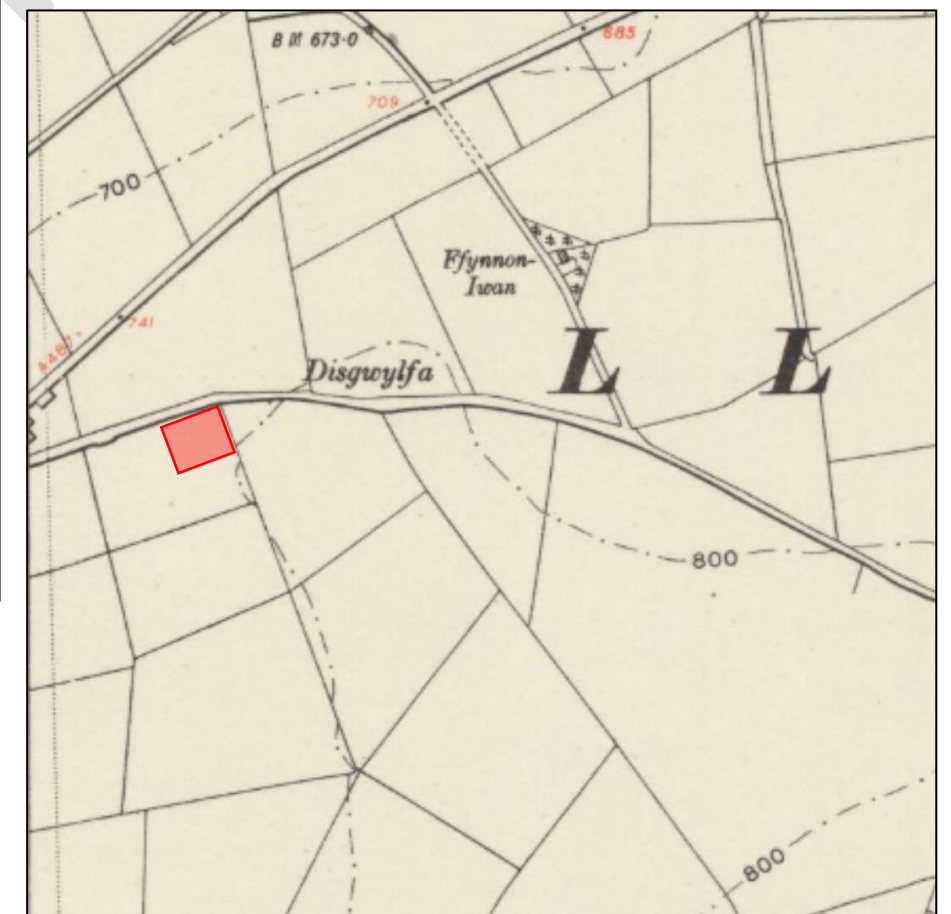


Fig. 4 – 1948 6 Inch to One Mile, OS. Development area shown.
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APPENDIX II

Plans

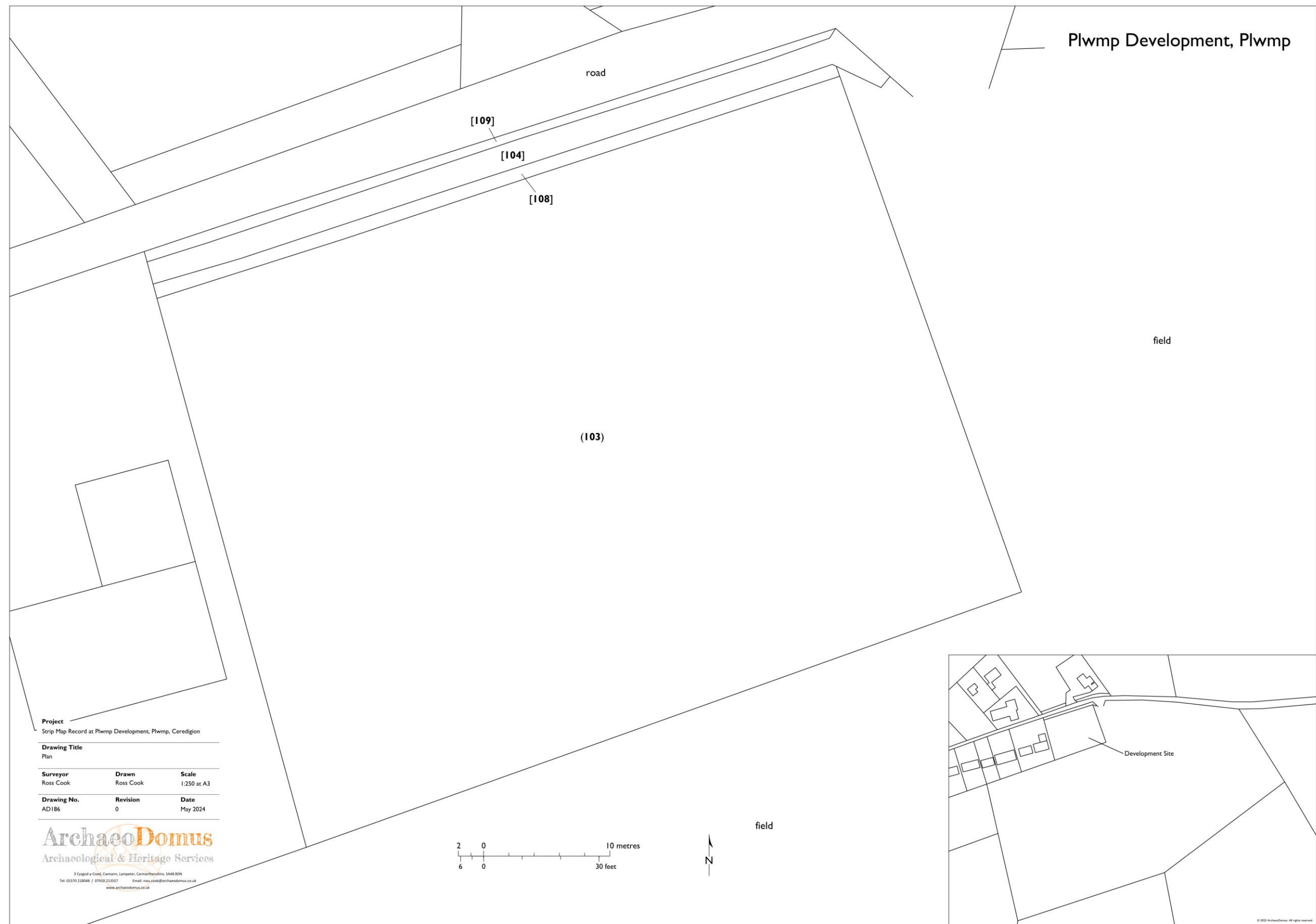
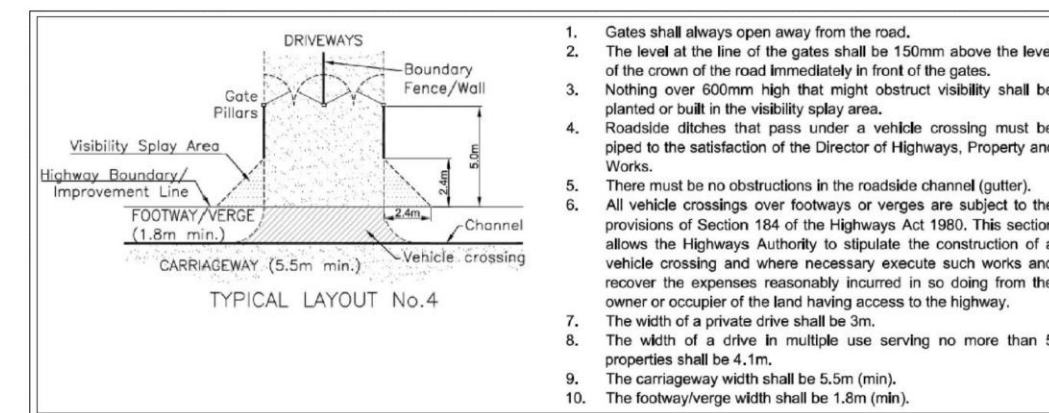


Fig. 7 – Context Plan



C	3 Plots	06-10-23
B	Plot Size Amended	13-06-22
A	First Issue	08-06-22

acstro	
Yr Hen Farchnod, Unit 19, Carmarthen Street, Llanelli SA19 6BJ E-mail: mail@acstro.com www.acstro.com Tel: 01558 624021	
Project:	LAND OPPOSITE BRYNHEDYDD, PLWMP
Drawing:	PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 3 PLOTS
Drawing No.:	1565-ACS-XX-ZZ-DR-T-002-C
Scale:	1:200 @ A1

Fig. 8 – Block Plan

APPENDIX III

Strip Map Record Photographic Archive



Plate 1 – View south-west, showing development site.



Plate 2 – View north-west, showing development site.



Plate 3 – View north-west, showing development site.



Plate 4 – View north-east, showing development site.



Plate 5 – View east, showing banked hedgerow section.



Plate 6 – View east, showing banked hedgerow section and ditch cut into subsoil.



Plate 7 – View east, showing banked hedgerow section.



Plate 8 – Half round pine fencepost, cut face.



Plate 9 – Half round pine fencepost.

APPENDIX IV

Context Register

Area 1				
Context	Type	Depth	Description	Period
101	Deposit	0.00-0.06m	Turf and humus. Dark brown to black. Over entire excavated area.	Natural
102	Deposit	0.05-0.20m	Topsoil. Brown. Small subangular stone inclusions.	Natural
103	Deposit	0.20-NB	Subsoil. Yellow clay and shale. Small to large angular and stone inclusions. Undisturbed.	Natural
104	Structure	0.00-1.09m	Banked hedgerow. Formed of 101, 105.	19 th Century
105	Deposit	0.15-1.09m	Redeposited subsoil. Yellow clay and shale. Small to large angular and stone inclusions.	19 th Century
106	Feature	1.09-1.24m	Buried ground surface. Topsoil. Brown. Small subangular stone inclusions.	Natural
107	Deposit	0.19-0.20m	Fine earth deposit, silty. Above 107.	Natural
108	Cut	0.20m	Drainage ditch. South of bank.	19 th Century
109	Cut	0.25m	Drainage ditch. North of bank.	19 th Century

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